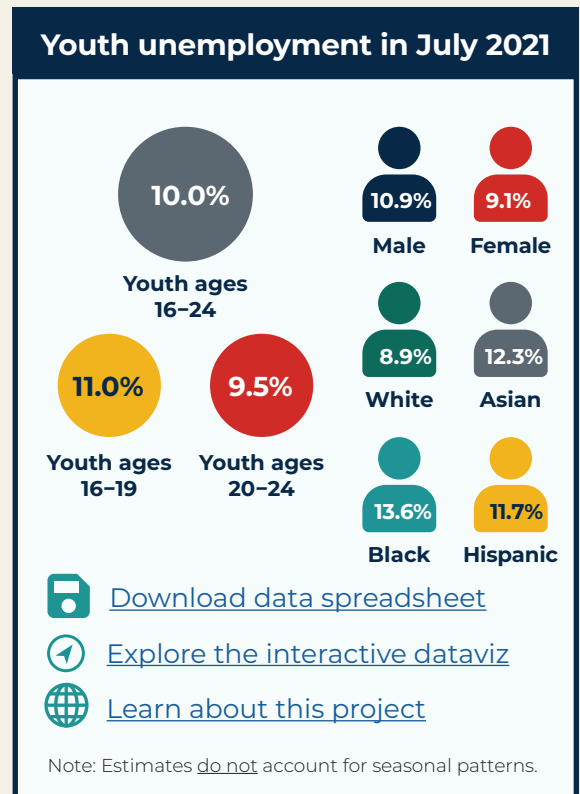
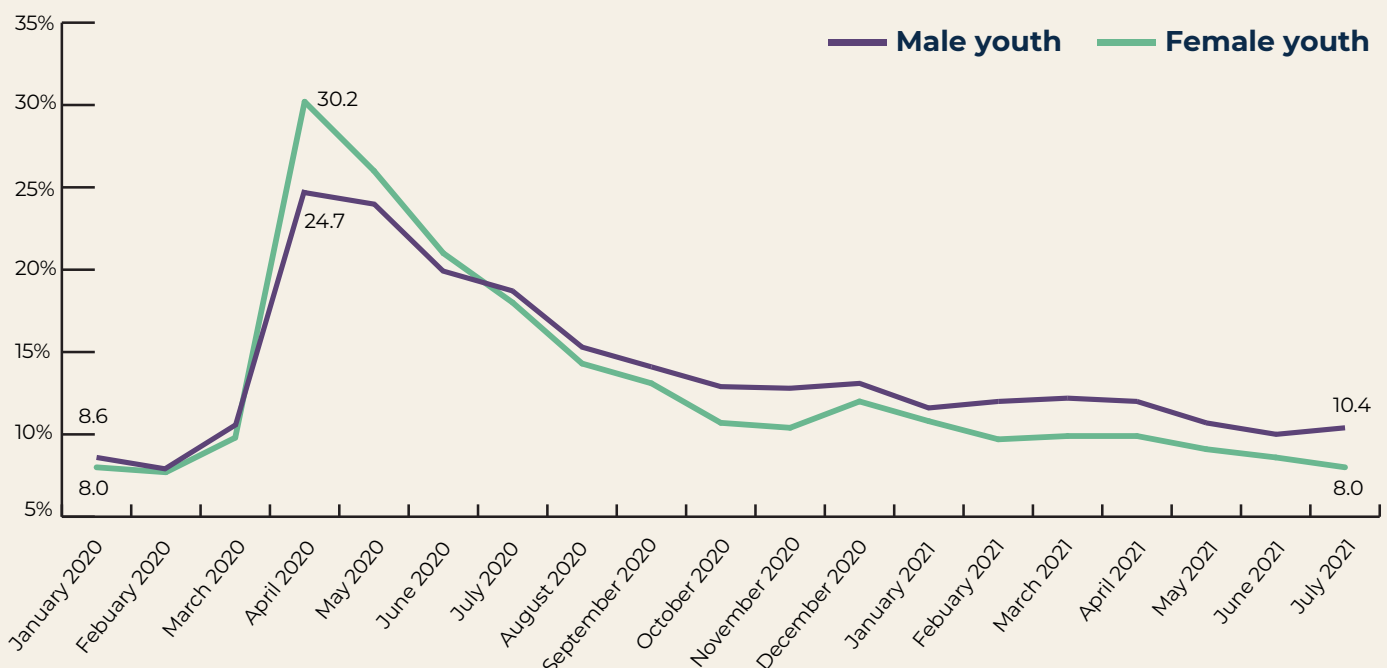


Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth Unemployment Rates, by Gender

- Until the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment among male youth has been higher than it is among female youth. However, the pandemic caused non-essential businesses to close, which primarily affected industries dominated by female workers such as leisure, hospitality, childcare, education and retail. In April 2020, at the highest peak of unemployment during the pandemic, unemployment rates among female youth (30.2 percent) were higher than among male youth (24.7 percent).
- Over the past year, unemployment among youth has steadily declined and shifted back to historical trends, in which male youth unemployment has remained higher than female youth unemployment since July 2020.
- In July 2021, [the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that](#) employers added 943,000 jobs to the economy. Most of these jobs spanned industries dominated by female workers that were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Industries with the highest job gains included leisure and hospitality, child care, and education. Of the 943,000 jobs added, [68.8 percent](#) of those jobs were occupied by female workers, marking the largest job growth for this demographic since August 2020. Consequently, in July 2021, female youth experienced the lowest unemployment rate (8.0 percent) since the start of the pandemic, whereas the male youth unemployment rate remained at 10.4 percent.
- The continual decline in unemployment rates across female youth [shows economic recovery proceeding](#) despite the new delta variant, lingering vaccine hesitancy particularly among youth, and changing public health protocols. Concerns remain about sustaining job growth and continual employment for those female worker-dominated industries primarily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and thus most likely to be affected by subsequent closures due to the new delta variant.



Monthly youth unemployment rate by gender, January 2020 through July 2021



Source: Mathematica compilation based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly LaborForce Statistics from the Current Population Survey (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/data.htm>).

Note: Estimates account for seasonal patterns.