

## Young people scramble for jobs

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Keith Dixon is looking for a job.

He is 16 and a student at Sunset High School in the Kendall area of Miami.

"It is hard but I need to earn money this summer to pay for my senior year," said Dixon. "I want to go to the prom and Grad Nite and I want some nice clothes. I have been applying to stores and restaurants."

Mary Waters has a position at Publix in North Miami Beach. "I feel lucky to have a position. I know a lot of people are looking for work," said Waters.

Many young people are now seeking employment. And it can be hard for a younger person to break into the workforce. In March, the unemployment rate for 16 to 19 year olds was nearly 24 percent compared with 19.9 percent in March 2009.

Teen employment is expected to improve some this summer over last year, according to Challenger, Gray and Christmas. The firm reported that in summer 2009, hiring fell by 11 percent.

Sandy Jakubow, director of career development at Florida Atlantic University has found that many companies are willing to give young people an unpaid internship. She has found that summer internships are hard to find.

Sammi Rossin, of Florida International University Career services said that many students won't take an unpaid internship because they need to work at a paying job. And under federal law, for-profit companies can't ask people to work for no money.

## Author



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