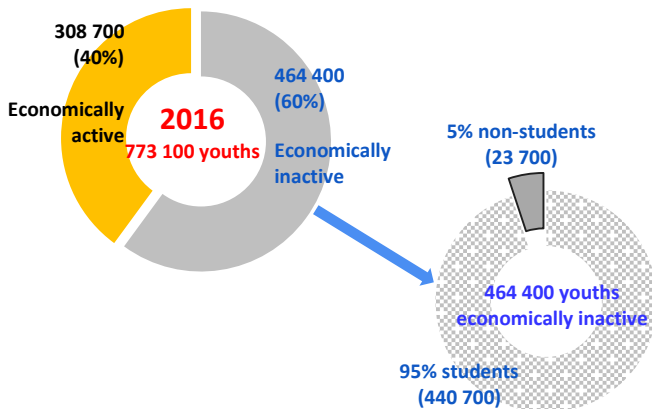




Youth employment

Figure 1 – Economic status of youths aged 15-24



Highlights

- In Hong Kong, there were 773 000 youths aged 15-24 in 2016, accounting for 11% of the local population. As a majority of these youths were still studying in secondary schools or tertiary institutions, just about 40% of them (308 700) participated in the labour force, accounting for 9% of the local labour force (**Figure 1**).
- Hence, the labour force participation rate ("LFPR") of youths aged 15-24, which stood at 40% in 2016, was lower than the respective figure of 59% for the overall labour force. However, after graduation from their studies, the LFPR of the older youths aged 25-34 shot up to over 86% in 2016 (**Figure 2**).
- Youths generally face greater challenge in finding suitable jobs, due to their lack of work experience and low skill levels. Youth unemployment rate thus hovered around double-digit level during most of the years in the past decade, standing at 10.1% in 2016, almost thrice the respective figure of 3.7% of the overall labour force (**Figure 3**). The median duration of unemployment of the youths was 67 days in 2016, five days shorter than that of all the unemployed persons. Based on overseas experience, improved vocational training and better career education for youths can smooth their transition from schools to work.

Figure 2 – Youths aged 15-24 participating in the labour force

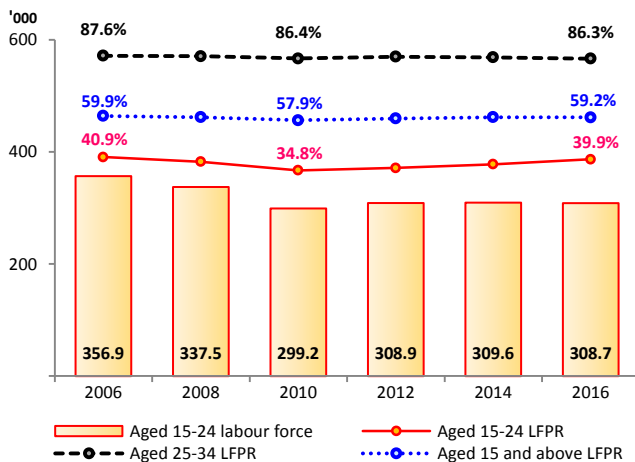
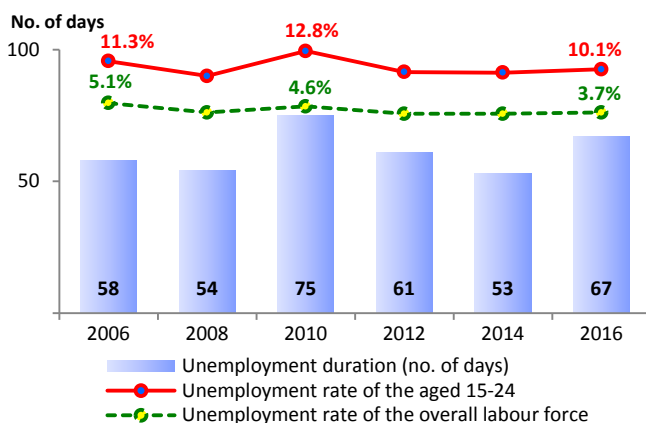


Figure 3 – Unemployment of youths aged 15-24



Youth employment (cont'd)

Figure 4 – Educational attainment and occupations of young workers

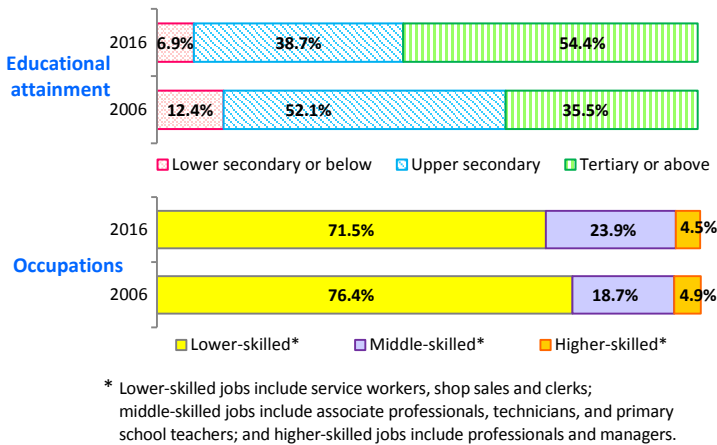


Figure 5 – Median monthly earnings of young workers

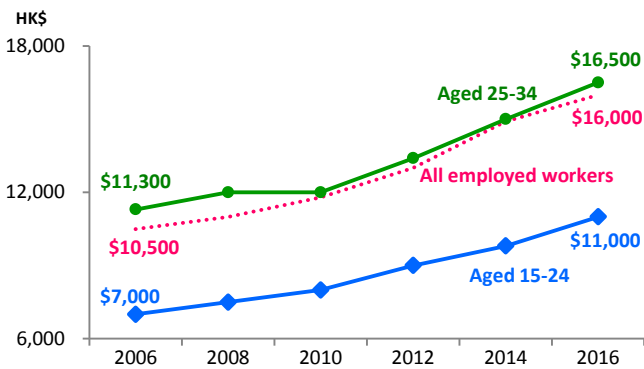


Figure 6 – Part-time employment of young workers

	Young workers		All workers
	2006	2016	2016
Proportion of workers engaged in part-time work	14%	27%	10%
Part-time work by economic sector			
Retail, accommodation and food services	31%	39%	25%
Social and personal services	51%	42%	28%
Reasons for part-time work			
Too busy with personal business, schoolwork and housework	63%	78%	47%
Underemployment	21%	9%	16%

Highlights

- As the proportion of young workers aged 15-24 with tertiary education increased from 36% to 54% over the last decade, an increasing proportion of them worked at the middle and higher-skilled occupations. In 2016, 28% were engaged in associate professional and professional jobs, compared with that of 24% in 2006. However, more than 70% of the young workers still took up jobs with lower skill levels such as service workers, shop sales and clerks in 2016 (Figure 4).
- In spite of enhanced education level, with lower skill level and less work experience, the median monthly employment earnings of young workers were only HK\$11,000 in 2016, 31% below the respective figure of the entire workforce. However, they could climb up the earnings ladder quite rapidly upon accumulation of work experience. For older youths aged 25-34, their monthly income rose to HK\$16,500, 3% higher than the entire workforce (Figure 5).
- In 2016, 27% of young employees aged 15-24 worked part-time (with less than 35 working hours per week), almost twice the corresponding figure in 2006. In 2016, the majority (81%) of these young part-timers worked in retail, food as well as social and personal services. When asked the reasons for not taking up full-time jobs, most of them (78%) cited voluntary factor such as engagement in schoolwork and housework, while 9% cited an involuntary factor of underemployment (Figure 6).

Data source: Latest figures from Census and Statistics Department.

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