

Action taken to settle job market

Young people struggling to find employment in uncertain, changing economic conditions

By CHENG SI
chengsi@chinadaily.com.cn

Central government departments have strengthened their efforts to combat the employment challenges faced by the nation's young people, as economic uncertainties, educational mismatches and the rise of disrupting technology continue to unsettle the job market.

The youth unemployment rate peaked for the year last month at 17.1 percent among those aged between 16 and 24, up 3.9 percentage points from the figure in June, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The unemployment rate for those aged between 25 to 29 was 6.5 percent in July, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. These calculations didn't include students in school.

Liu Aihua, the NBS spokeswoman, said at a recent news conference that the increase in the jobless rate last month was because the traditional graduation season falls in July and a large number of new graduates poured into the labor market.

Before July, the youth unemployment rate was declining in part due to the nation's efforts in encouraging companies to offer more internship opportunities and support for youth entrepreneurship.

Figures from the NBS show that the youth jobless rate — those aged between 16 to 24 — was 13.2 percent in June, down 1 percent point from May. The urban unemployment rate for those aged between 25 and 29 was 6.4 percent, down 0.2 percentage points. These calculations also didn't include students in school.

As the country creates an increasing number of college graduates each year, with roughly 11.79 million new graduates this year, the central government has prioritized the employment of this group.

In mid-May, three central departments, including the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance, released a notice to urge local authorities to better support employment and entrepreneurship for young people, especially college graduates.

"I've worked as an intern at a company from late June after I got my master's degree. I'm still looking for a permanent job though it's time-consuming," said Li Jiaqian, 25, from Shanxi province, who has taken up a short-term internship at a media company in Beijing.

She said that most of her peers received job offers before graduation, and she had been upset about her situation and worried about her career. "But I won myself the internship beating many other good rivals. I get meager pay as an intern but I've gained much experience on the job. I think it's a transitional period for me and I will find a good job soon or later."

In the notice issued in May, the government will grant financial subsidies to companies hiring new graduates, those who've been unable to find employment for 2 years after graduation and those aged 16 to 24 who've been laid off from work.

Companies can receive one-time subsidies of 1,500 yuan (\$210) for each young person they



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

“
Young people can use high-tech tools, for example, to better understand recruiting standards and optimize their resume with the help of artificial intelligence products.”

Zhang Yuejia, president of recruitment portal Zhaopin

hire upon paying their social insurance for 3 months, with the policy expiring on Dec 31, 2025.

The notice calls for no fewer than 1 million intern positions to be posted each year, from this year to next, in both the public and private sectors, with relevant subsidies provided.

The government is also organizing skills training programs and releasing favorable policies to encourage entrepreneurship.

The notice said local authorities are encouraged to expand recruitment for grassroots positions covering healthcare, elderly care, judicial officials and assistants for scientific research programs.

College graduates taking these grassroots positions will be offered promotion prospects and adequate financial remuneration.

The government, according to the notice, will provide comprehensive guidance to young people planning to start their own busi-

nesses, and young entrepreneurs will receive one-time financial subsidies to give them a leg up.

Those with difficulty finding work due to family financial challenges or disability won't be left behind either, the notice said, with the government providing at least one comprehensive policy explanation, three job recommendations and skills training or internship opportunities.

The government will also increase scrutiny on human resources departments and crack down on illegal behaviors such as fraudulent hiring and unauthorized fee charging. Cautionary warnings, typical cases and reporting channels will be accessible at job fairs on campuses to enhance awareness among students about protecting themselves, according to the notice.

Wang Xiaoping, minister of human resources and social security, said in a recent interview with People's Daily, the nation still has

lots of work to do regarding a huge and increasing labor force.

She said the government still prioritizes the employment of young people, especially college graduates, by offering them high-quality services in job hunting, prospects for promotion and career guidance.

Zhang Yuejia, president of recruitment portal Zhaopin, said young people should hone their core competitiveness and gain as many skills as possible to increase their chances in the job market.

"Young people can use high-tech tools, for example, to better understand recruiting standards and optimize their resume with the help of artificial intelligence products," he said.

He added that in addition to industry titans or government bodies, small and medium-sized companies and opportunities in smaller cities can also offer young people careers with good prospects.

Policy Digest

Campaign to boost elderly healthcare

The National Health Commission and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine have launched a campaign running until 2027, aiming to improve necessary medical and health services for the elderly who are unable to take care of themselves.

A circular was issued requiring eligible medical and health institutions, principally primary-level institutions, as well as nurseries and rehabilitation centers, to offer basic health services, health consultation and guidance for the transfer treatment of the elderly aged 65 and above who have applied for such services.

It asked healthcare institutions to provide at least one assessment of their lifestyle and health condition, one physical examination as well as guidance on keeping healthy each year.

They should dispatch at least two professionals to give door-to-door services, the circular noted, urging the safeguarding of the rights and interests of the elderly.

As of the end of last year, China had 297 million citizens aged 60 and above and 217 million aged 65 and above.

Country's individual businesses top 125 million

The number of China's registered individual businesses has reached 125 million, accounting for 66.9 percent of all business entities in the country, an official with the country's top market watchdog said at a news conference in Beijing on Friday.

Speaking at the conference, Pu Chun, deputy head of the State Administration for Market Regulation, said that the "numerous and widespread" individual businesses had played a positive role in stabilizing employment, promoting development and benefiting people's livelihoods.

The administration will continue to improve institutional measures for the business group, such as formulating regulations on promoting the development and standardizing the registration of individual businesses, Pu said.

Crackdown targets scenic spot ticket scalpers

In response to public complaints, the country will increase efforts to crack down on scenic spot ticket scalping, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said on Friday.

Culture and tourism departments across the country have been advised to collaborate with public security, market supervision and cyberspace affairs authorities to clean up the market environment, the ministry said in an online reply to internet comments.

Regarding complaints about online reservation requirements for tourist attractions, the ministry's resource development department said it had requested flexibility in handling the issue, such as retaining certain spots for on-site ticket sales and ensuring the entry of seniors.

The ministry advised popular venues with sufficient capacity to simply cancel reservations.

The public was also invited to share their opinions on optimizing the reservation procedure.

TCM to better integrate digital technologies

China will promote the integration of digital technologies into the development of traditional Chinese medicine in the next 3 to 5 years, according to state regulators.

Technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence can facilitate the sharing of TCM data and help build "digital and smart TCM", said the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The NATCM and the National Data Administration recently issued a guideline encouraging TCM-based medical institutions to digitize their services, develop digital medical records and build intelligent TCM pharmacies.

The institutions have been asked to share digital records and recognize test results from each other, the guideline noted.

It also outlined arrangements for TCM talent nurturing, innovative development and cultural communication to be enabled by digitization.

In addition, the document pledged support for building databases for TCM-related ancient books, cultural relics and knowledge.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

Global youth unemployment falls, but challenges persist

By CHENG SI

Despite the global aggregated youth unemployment rate falling to a 15-year low last year, labor organizations say there needs to be better quality, more regular and secure jobs for young people.

The International Labor Organization, a United Nations agency focusing on employment, recently released a report, detailing that the unemployment rate of those aged between 15 to 24 globally was 13 percent last year — accounting for roughly 64.9 million people and representing a 15-year low and a fall from the pre-pandemic rate of 13.8 percent in 2019. The organization estimated that the rate will fur-

ther decline to 12.8 percent this year and the following year.

The organization concluded that although the unemployment rate is falling, problems still exist such as limited job opportunities in the sectors of modern services and manufacturing, and there being not enough high-skilled jobs for those well-educated.

It said the youth struggle to access decent jobs, productive jobs with fair pay, safe working conditions and social security and good career prospects.

According to the report, more than half of young employees globally have taken on informal jobs. In high and upper-middle-income economies, their young people are

more likely to get secure and regular jobs. In low-income economies, three-quarters of young people are either self-employed or working temporary jobs.

The organization called for "increased and more effective investment" and "improved international cooperation, public-private partnerships and financing for development" to tackle global employment inequality so that young people worldwide can be more confident about their future prospects.

For China's part, it has taken steps in recent years to lower the jobless rate among young people by diversifying opportunities in the job market.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security launched a 100-day campaign in June, aiming to accumulate over 10 million youth job openings, especially for new graduates.

The campaign received a positive response from local authorities. Tianjin — a port city in China's north, has organized some 200 job fairs and accumulated nearly 100,000 vacancies from 3,962 companies. The eastern province of Jiangsu has collected over 1,300 internship vacancies in the digital economy for college graduates.

Guo Sheng, CEO of recruitment portal Zhaopin, said that the younger generation is pursuing a fairer relationship with employ-

ers. These employers need to explain not only the company's remuneration and working culture, but also their industry's prospects and the company's operating practices.

"Young people can have clear job-hunting targets and a good understanding of personal skills and advantages. They can pay closer attention to the market, knowing employers' recruiting standards and what kind of talent they most want," he said.

He suggested young job seekers attain more practical experience from internships and learn to use modern tools such as artificial intelligence to help with their resumes and interview skills.