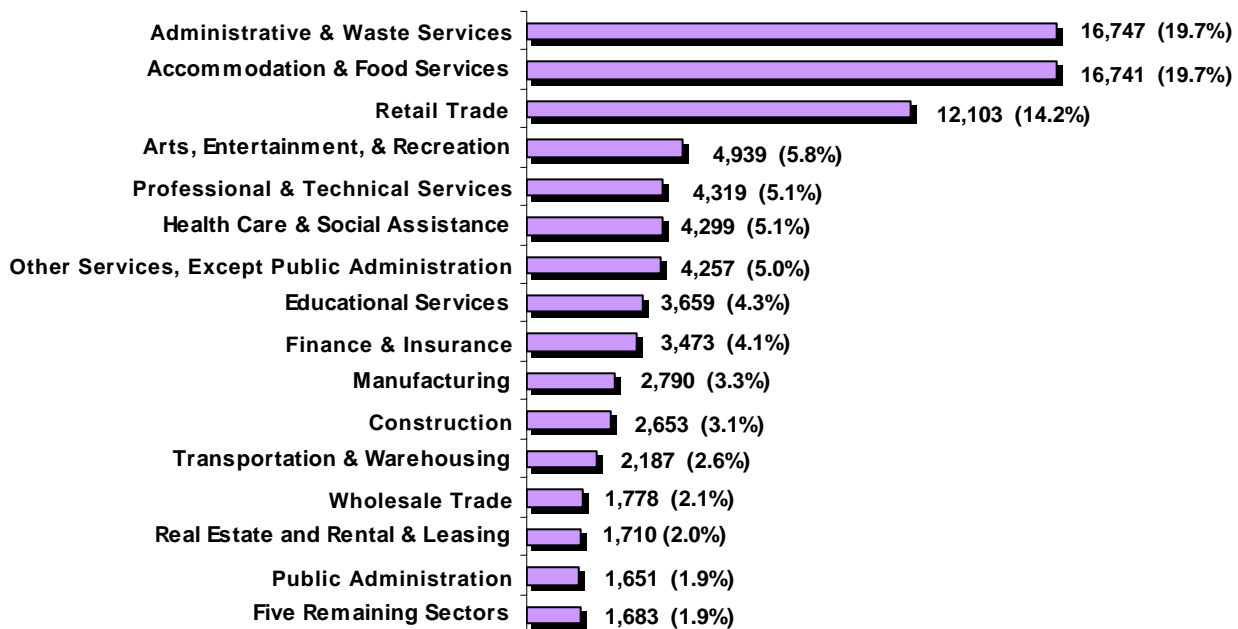




This profile uses Local Employment Dynamics (LED) data to highlight some of the hiring patterns and sector trends associated with youth summer employment. Although LED does not track “summer” as such, the profile uses 2nd and 3rd quarter data to approximate activity for the summer period. The data selected show several looks at the hiring of youth (age 14-21), including hiring by sector, sector hiring by age sub-group, and annual trends in the hiring of youth.

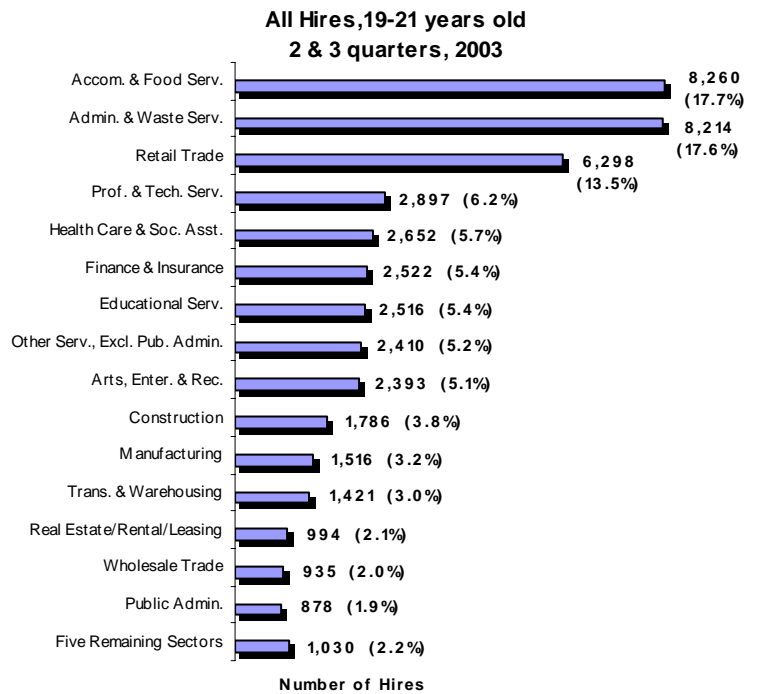
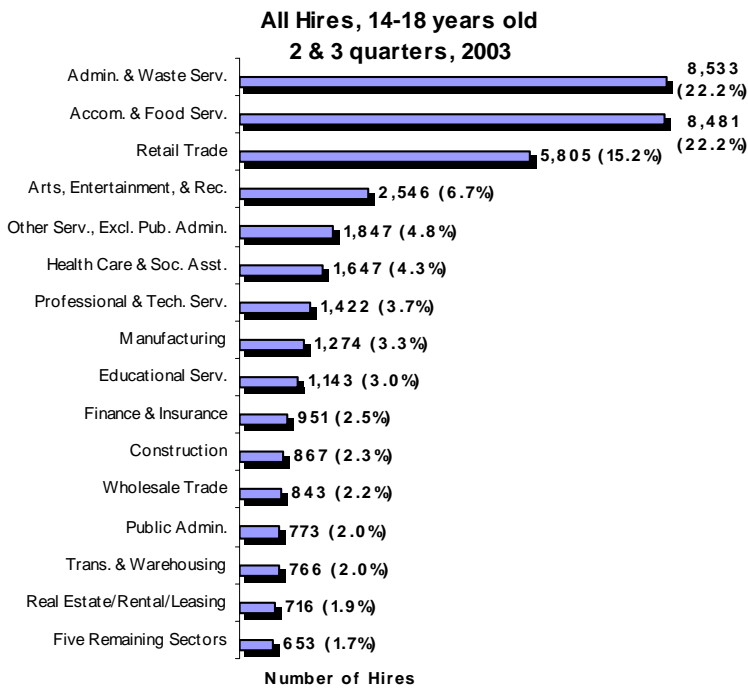
City of Chicago Youth (14-21) Hires, 2nd and 3rd quarters, 2003



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Data from 2005

Over half (54%) of youth hired during the 2nd and 3rd quarters in 2003 ended up in one of three sectors—Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services, Accommodation & Food Services, and Retail Trade. Other youth hires were spread widely over the other sectors, with “tiers” emerging among the hiring levels. Four sectors hired between five and six percent of youth, four hired between three and 4.5 percent, and four others hired between 1.9 and 2.6 percent. The five remaining sectors all hired less than one percent each.

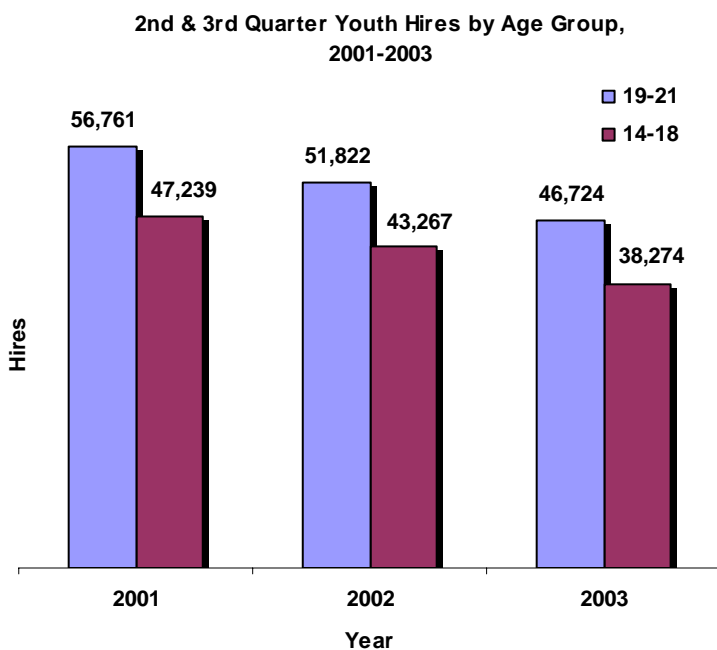
The disparity between those top three sectors and the other seventeen highlights a challenge to examine outreach strategies with businesses that are hiring fewer youth. In an area the size of Chicago, the ability to increase a sector’s investment in hiring by even a small amount means employment for hundreds of additional youth.



LED Data from 2005

LED Data from 2005

In breaking down youth hiring further by age, the same three sectors dominate each sub-group. However, a pattern emerges that distinguishes the groups from each other. The top three hiring sectors account for a much larger proportion of hires among 14-18 year olds (60%) than among 19-21 year olds (49%). In the remaining sectors, there appear to be consistently more opportunities for 19-21 year olds. Six of the remaining sectors hired more than five percent of youth in the group, compared to only one within 14-18 year olds. This trend underscores the notion of limited opportunities for younger youth, but also highlights the need to encourage hiring investment within a large number of sectors.



LED Data from 2005

A 9% decline from 2001 to 2002 in the total number of youth hired during the 2nd and 3rd quarters, followed by an 11% decline from 2002 to 2003, supports the commonly held belief that youth employment opportunities are decreasing. Although this was thought to be particularly true for younger youth, these data don't bear that out. Fourteen to eighteen year olds account for a rather constant proportion of total youth hires (about 45%) in each year, and the annual decline for the number of 14-18 year old hires generally mirrors that for all youth.

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