



# THE CONNECTION

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Economic Development and Our Community

*DFW's Young Labor Force:  
Residents and Workers  
Under 25 Years Old*

Published April 27, 2021

The Dallas-Fort Worth metro is poised to benefit from a very young labor force, relative to other large metros. From 2015 to 2019, residents between the ages of 16 and 24 constituted **16%** of a total working-age population (aged 16 and over) of **more than 5.5 million** -- the highest percentage of any of the 10 largest metros. Furthermore, **59%** of the 16 to 24 year-old population was active in the labor force – either working or searching for work – making up **14%** of the DFW labor force. The unemployment rate for young workers was just **10%**, the lowest of the large metros (*slide 3*).

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rates varied by age group. Just under **90%** of the DFW population between the ages of 16 and 19 were enrolled in school\*, and **37%** were in the workforce (*slide 4*). Meanwhile, a smaller percentage (**38%**) of 20 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in school, and **77%** were in the workforce, with just **8%** unemployed, compared with over 10% in many large metros.

The DFW labor force comprised almost 3 times as many 16 to 24 year-old workers (**13%**) as workers 65 and over (**5%**), indicating that the younger generation has the capacity to fill openings left by retirees (*slide 5*). Young workers are likely to constitute an even larger share of the labor force as more of DFW's **400 thousand** 16 to 19 year-olds finish school and join the workforce (*slide 6*).

\*School includes both K-12 and higher education institutions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Communities Survey*, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

# Employment Status of 16 to 24 Year-Old Population in the United States' 10 Largest Metros

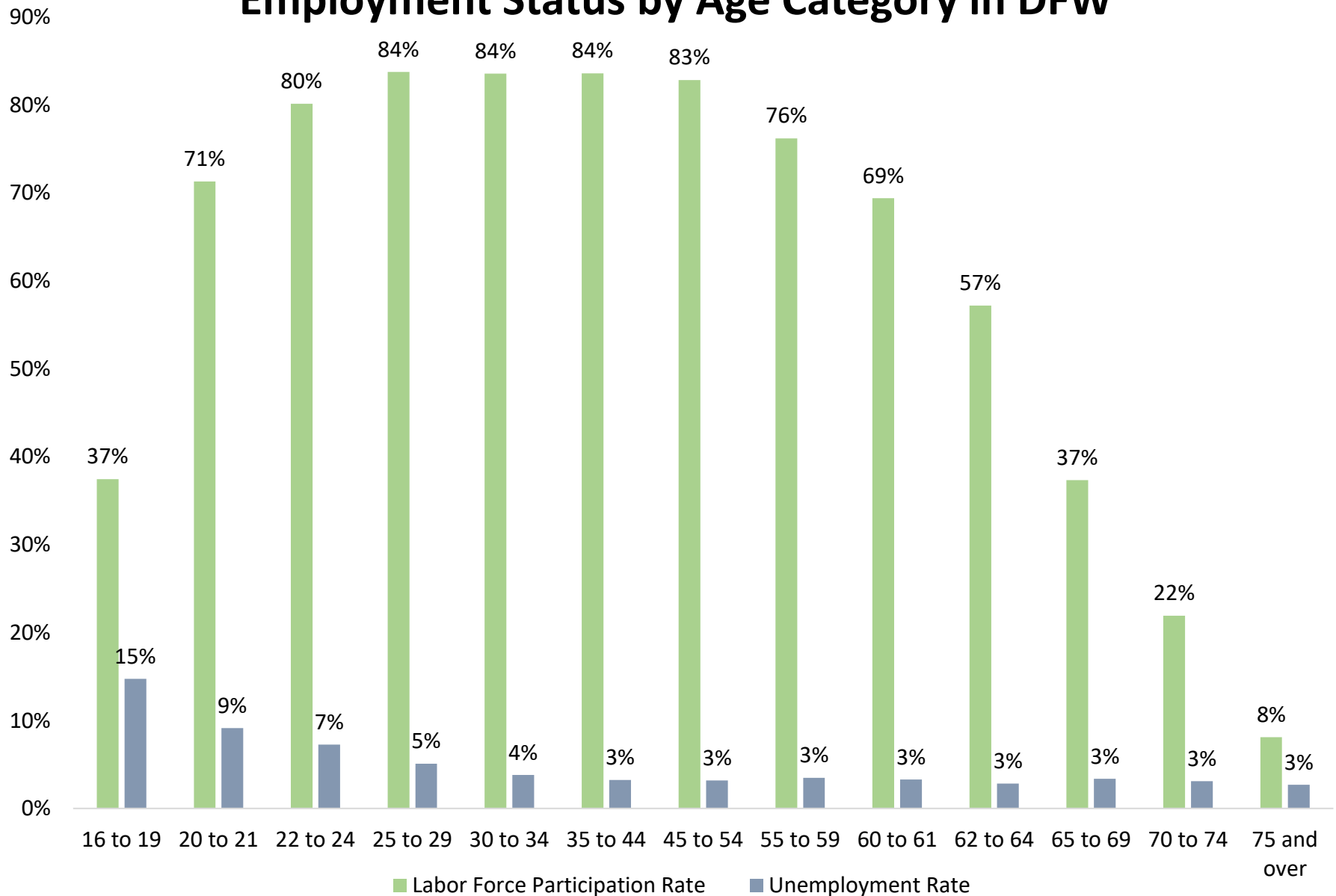
	Share of Working-Age Population	Share of Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate
Dallas-Fort Worth	16%	14%	59%	10%
Houston	16%	13%	55%	13%
Atlanta	15%	13%	55%	12%
Boston	15%	14%	62%	10%
Los Angeles	15%	12%	52%	13%
Chicago	15%	13%	60%	14%
Philadelphia	14%	13%	58%	13%
Washington D.C.	14%	12%	59%	12%
New York	14%	11%	51%	13%
Miami	13%	11%	53%	13%

Note: Working-age population comprises total population 16 years and over. Labor Force Participation Rate is the Labor Force (Employed + Unemployed) divided by the Total Population in Each Age Group; Unemployment Rate is the Unemployed divided by the Labor Force (Employed + Unemployed).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Communities Survey*, 2015-2019 averages.



# Employment Status by Age Category in DFW

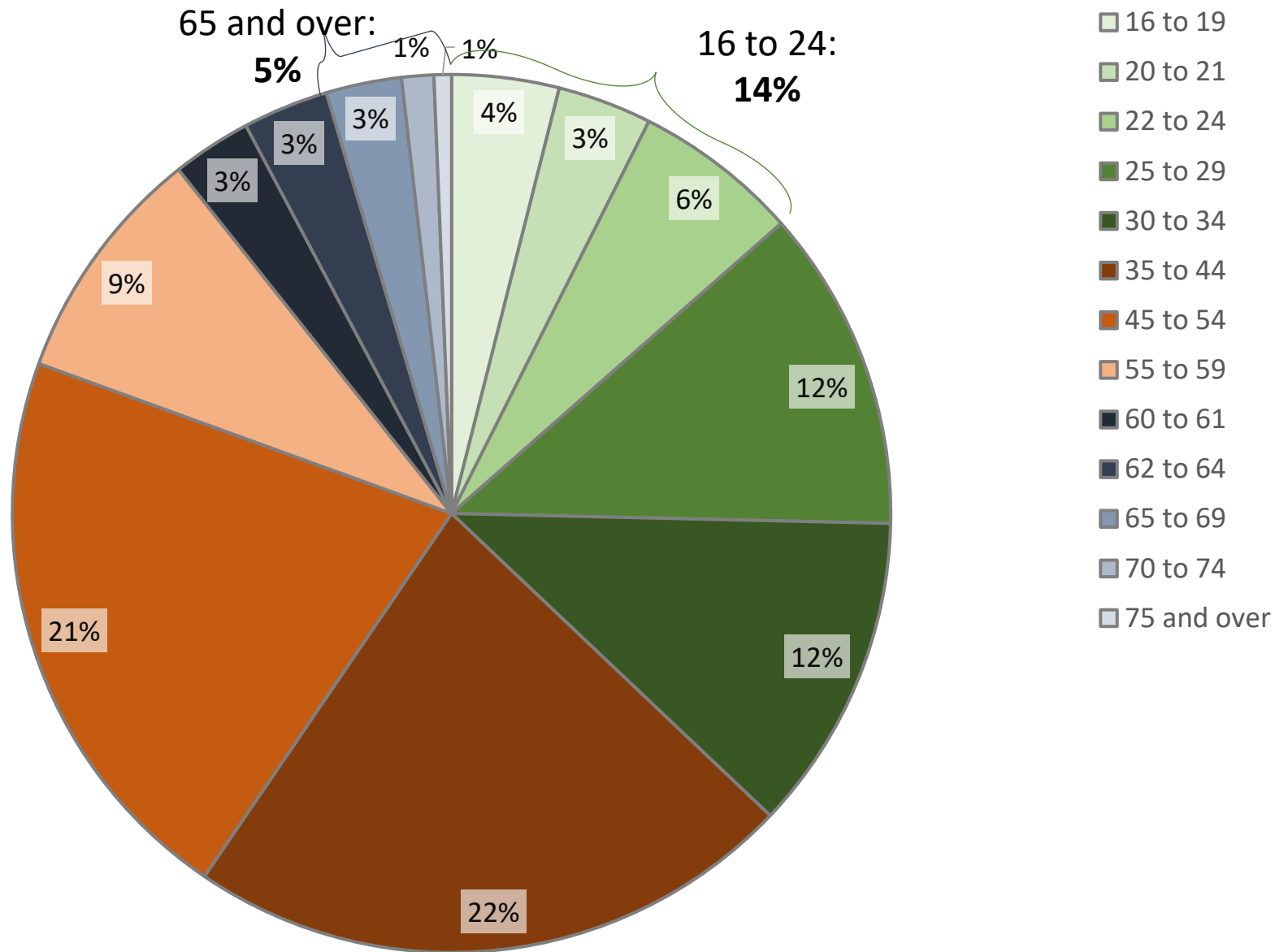


Notes: Labor Force Participation Rate is the Labor Force (Employed + Unemployed) divided by the Total Population in Each Age Group; Unemployment Rate is the Unemployed divided by the Labor Force (Employed + Unemployed).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Communities Survey*, 2015-2019 averages.



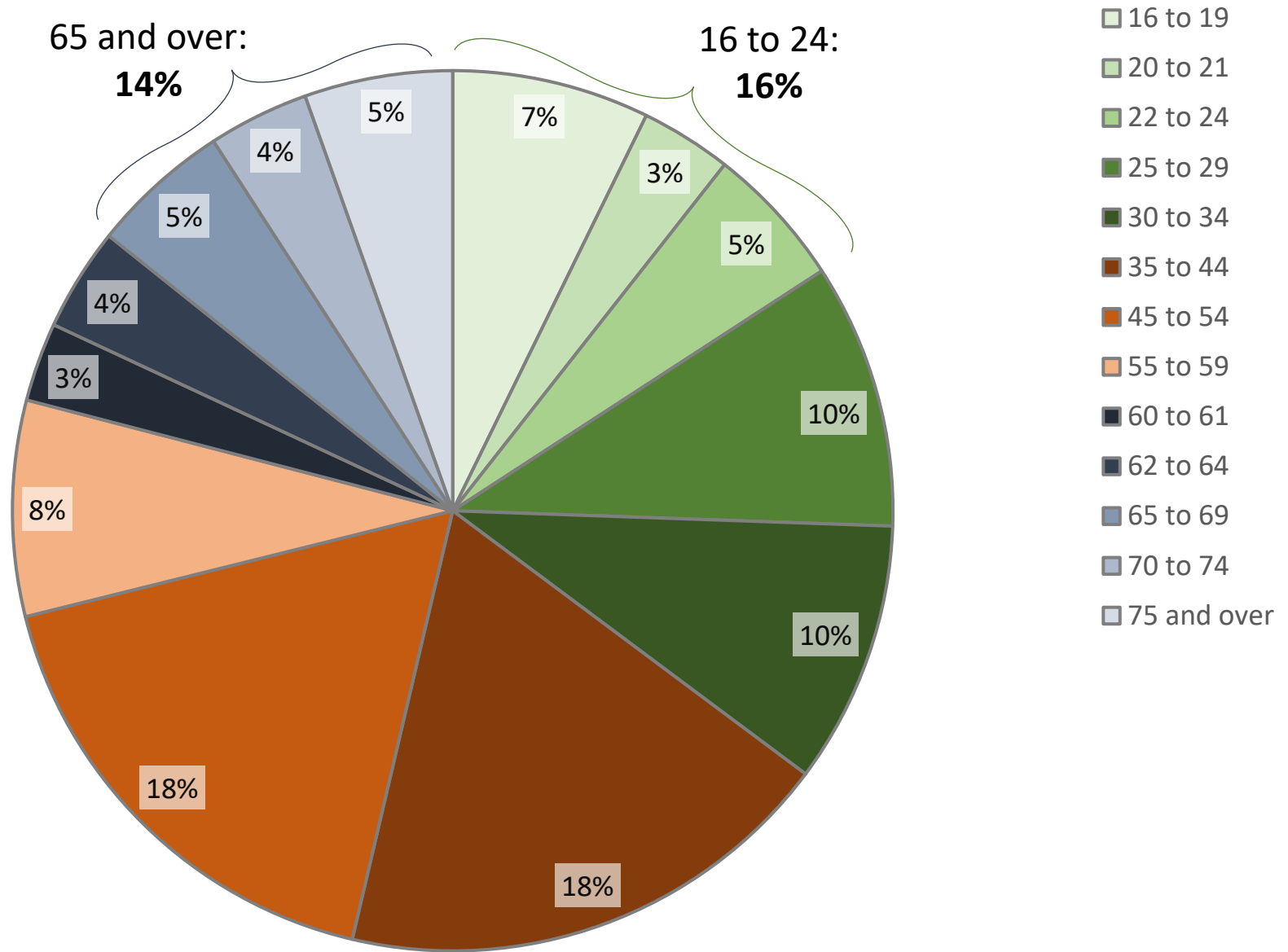
# Age Composition of the DFW Labor Force



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Communities Survey*, 2015-2019 averages.



# Age Composition of the DFW Working-Age Population



Note: Working-age population comprises total population 16 years and over.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Communities Survey*, 2015-2019 averages.



## Questions?

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