



Youth Unemployment as a Factor Affecting the Health

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Dear Editor-in-Chief

Young people are one of the most vulnerable groups in the labour market because of their age, socio-psychological and professional characteristics. The high level of youth unemployment is dangerous for economic and social consequences, which affect not only the interests of young people, but also the state as a whole. Since the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, the government has paid special attention to education, health, professional competitiveness and the

successful introduction of the younger generation into labor relations.

After the transition of the country to the path of market relations, the shortage of skilled labor was replaced by a shortage of jobs, which led to unemployment. The modern labor market in Kazakhstan is aging - for the year the share of young people among the employed population has decreased from 27% to 24.6% (1,2) (Fig.1).

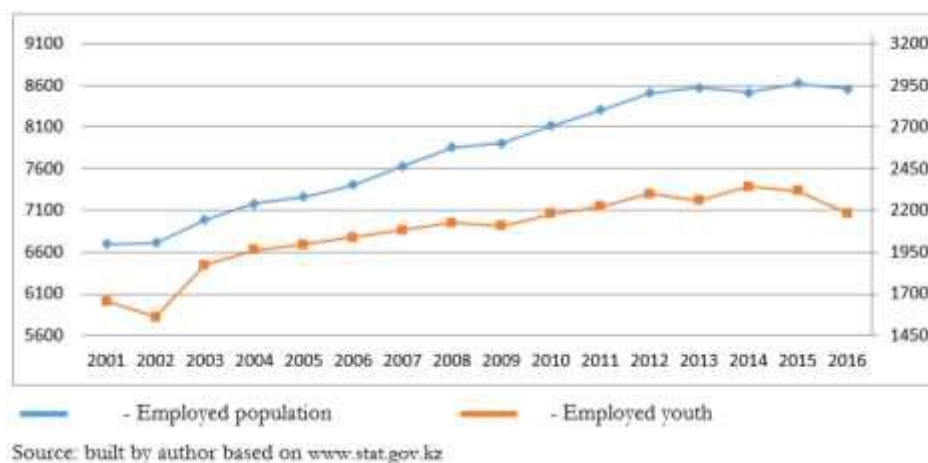


Fig. 1: Number of employed population and employed youth of Kazakhstan 2001-2016 (thousand people)

The decline in the proportion of young people in the total employed population can be attributed

to a decline in the labour force between the ages of 15 and 28, and hence employment among the

population at that age. According to the official statistics of the Committee of Statistics of Ministry of National Economics of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CS MNE RK), the proportion of young people in the total employed population directly depends on the size of the labour force between the ages of 15 and 28 year.

Currently, young people are moving away from enterprise and doubtful about the prospects of the free market. Working more and more young people prefer hired labour than self-employment. In recent years, there has been a clear trend: young professionals go into hired labour and fear enterprise (Fig. 2) (1,2).

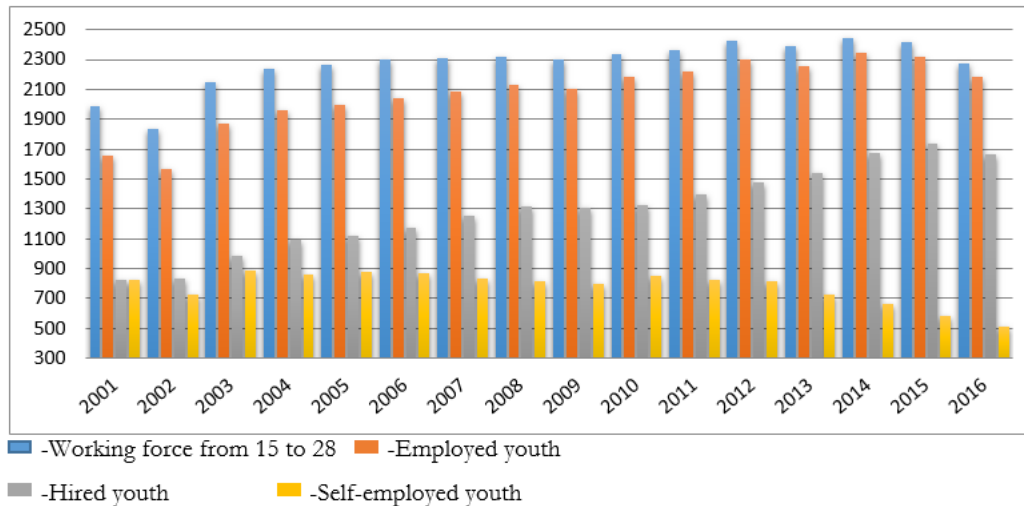


Fig. 2: Youth labor market of Kazakhstan 2001-2016 (thousand people)

This distribution of the employed population can be explained by the fact that students and professionals born in the 1980s-mid-1990s are increasingly thinking about their future, begin to appreciate the stability of their work. Now young professionals around the world are most concerned about the problems of crime, corruption, military conflicts and political tension. Currently, the goal of Kazakhstan's specialists is stable and reliable employment. Its presence employees value much more than, for example, the balance between freedom and privacy or autonomy and independence.

According to the official statistics of the CS MNE RK for the period under review, the youth unemployment rate decreased by 4 times (from 16.6% in 2001 to 4.1% in 2016). The low level of youth unemployment in developing countries is because young people must often work in poor-quality and low-paid jobs, to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families (3).

Speaking of social problems, the health state of employees before awareness about the termination of the employment agreement had normal blood pressure, while after the dismissal it increased and remained high as long as they are not found a job. The stresses caused by unemployment can reduce life expectancy and thus increase mortality. There are studies, according to which the year of unemployment shortens a person's life by 5 years (4). Children in families of the unemployed more often, than in families of workers, have variations in behavior, violation of the gastrointestinal tract and insomnia. Symptoms of depression occur in every second unemployed. Little is known about the "threshold of tolerance" when family members of an unemployed person retain the ability to care for each other. The stress associated with unemployment reduces this ability, resulting in adolescents often run away from home, dependents have to be placed in institutions of social security system. The re-

sults of the study showed that 43% of the surveyed unemployed have a negative emotional state associated with the experience of losing their jobs (5).

Speaking of state measures aimed at regulating youth unemployment, the effectiveness of the implementation of the state youth policy largely depends on the creation of conditions for the full-fledged spiritual, cultural, educational, profes-

sional and physical development of young people, participation in the decision-making process, successful socialization and the direction of its potential for the further development of the country. As a result of the state youth policy, we see a positive trend towards a decrease in the level of youth unemployment (Fig. 3), which demonstrates the effectiveness of the policy.

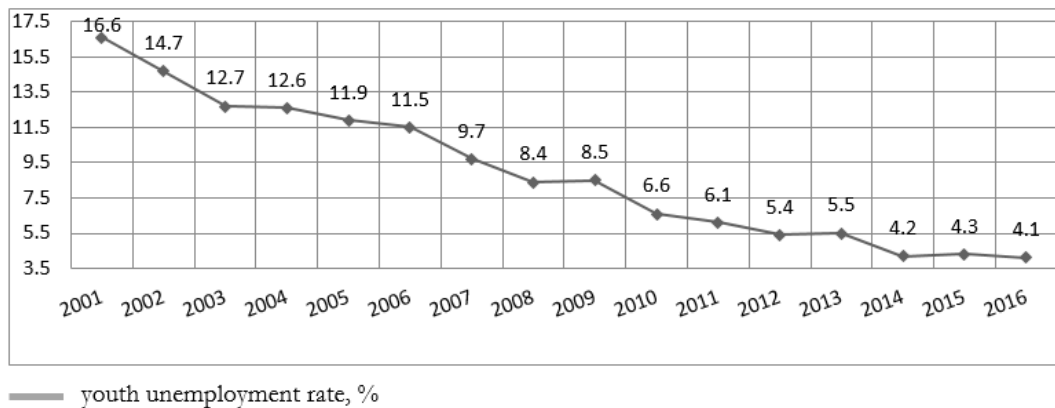


Fig. 3: Changes in the level of youth unemployment in Kazakhstan in 2001-2016

The decrease in the unemployment rate among young people indicated that interest of young people in self-development and self-realization increased. There was a modernization of the education system, which allowed to expand the possibilities of applying the acquired knowledge and formed a kind of cult of knowledge, which allowed young people to become more competitive and improve their scientific and technical potential.

Thus, based on statistical data, the effectiveness of the measures taken by the state to reduce the level of youth unemployment was evaluated.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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