

Facts & Figures of Youth Development in China

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of
the World Programme of Action for Youth
and the 10th Anniversary of the Medium
and Long-Term Youth Development Plan of China

2025

All-China Youth Federation

Facts & Figures of Youth Development in China

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth
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The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the 30th anniversary of the implementation of the *World Programme of Action for Youth* (WPAY). In 1995, the UN General Assembly adopted the *World Programme of Action for Youth*, the first action plan on policies and programmes for youth. It provides countries with a valuable policy framework and practical guidance for improving the well-being of young people. During the past 30 years, youth policies have been continuously refined, and positive progress has been made in youth development in various countries under the guidance of WPAY.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to young people and youth work, and has launched the

Medium and Long-Term Youth Development Plan (2016–2025), which sets out development goals and measures in 10 areas, including education, health, employment and entrepreneurship, social integration and social participation. It provides important guidance for youth work across all departments and regions. Since the implementation of the Plan over the past 10 years, a youth development policy system and working mechanism with Chinese characteristics have been established, and the environment for youth development has been continuously optimized. In the new era, the youth development has achieved all-round progress, and Chinese youth enjoy better development conditions, richer growth opportunities and a broader stage for life.

Part I: Youth Work in China

■ The youth development planning and policy system has basically taken form

Up to now, all provincial, 254 municipal and 645 county level youth development special plans have been developed, and more than 300 policies at the national level and over 31,000 at the local level have been enacted.



9 provinces, 112 cities and 627 counties have set up special chapters for youth development in their 14th five-year plans



All provincial, 254 municipal and 645 county level youth development special plans have been developed



The work reports of the Party committees and governments at 19 provincial, 207 municipal, and 1,462 county levels have incorporated arrangements for youth development



More than 300 Youth development policies at the national level and 31,000 policies at the local level have been enacted

■ The coordination mechanism for youth work has been broadly established

A joint youth work coordination mechanism has been generally established across the national, provincial, municipal and county levels.

At the end of 2018, the inter-ministries meeting mechanism was established.



By the end of 2021, the joint meeting mechanism of youth work at the national, provincial, municipal and county levels has achieved 100% coverage.

■ The youth development-oriented cities has been widely promoted

In 45 cities and 99 counties, the pilot work of youth development-oriented city has been carried out, promoting more than 200 cities and 500 counties to participate.

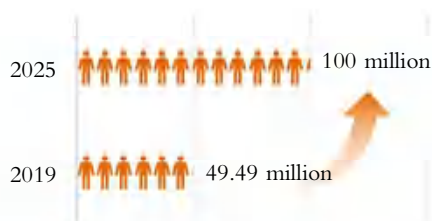
Number of Youth Development-Oriented Cities



■ Chinese Young Volunteers Service has been carried out in depth

More than 100 million young volunteers are registered nationwide. Young volunteer associations at the provincial, municipal, and county levels, as well as those in colleges, have basically achieved full coverage.

Number of registered young volunteers nationwide



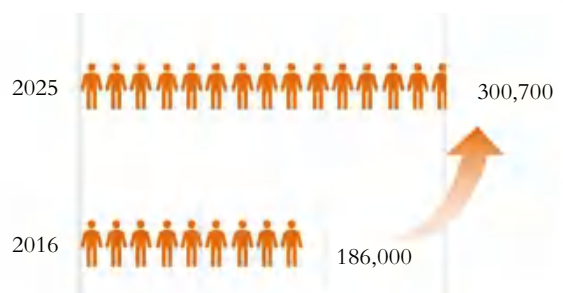
Young volunteers have been dispatched to 53 countries, including United Nations branches in 38 countries.



■ A team of professional social workers in youth affairs is gradually expanding

Over the past decade, a team of approximately 300,700 professional social workers specializing in youth affairs has been formed.

Number of Professional Social Workers in Youth Affairs



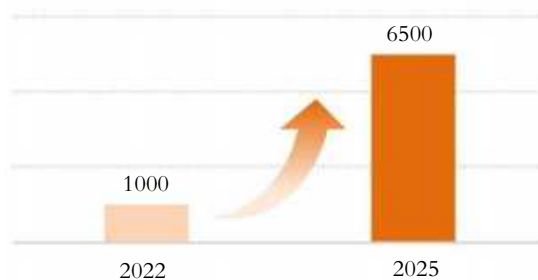
■ Youth development has become a core agenda in international youth affairs

For four consecutive years, China has hosted the World Youth Development Forum, attracting over 6,500 youth delegates from more than 160 countries and international organizations. Additionally, more than 1,000 exchange programs and activities have been carried out under the China Youth Global Partnership Initiative.

Covering over 160 countries and international organizations across six continents



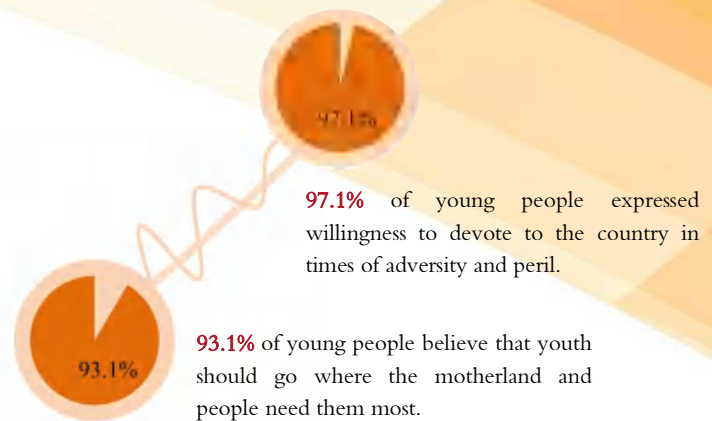
Cumulative Global Youth Participation in the World Youth Development Forum



Part II: Youth Development in China

■ The younger generation is becoming more optimistic and motivated

Chinese youth possess a strong sense of national pride and patriotic sentiment, and are eager to contribute to their country and nation.



(Data source: China Youth Research Center, *Comprehensive Survey Research Report on Chinese Youth Development Status 2024*)

■ The quality of youth human resources has been improved

1. Decline in the total youth population

Against the backdrop of an aging population and declining birth rates, the total number and proportion of young people in China have both declined. From 2016 to 2023, the youth population decreased by more than 51 million, with its share of the total population dropping by over 4 percentage points. In 2023, the youth population was 381.59 million, accounting for 27.07% of the total population.

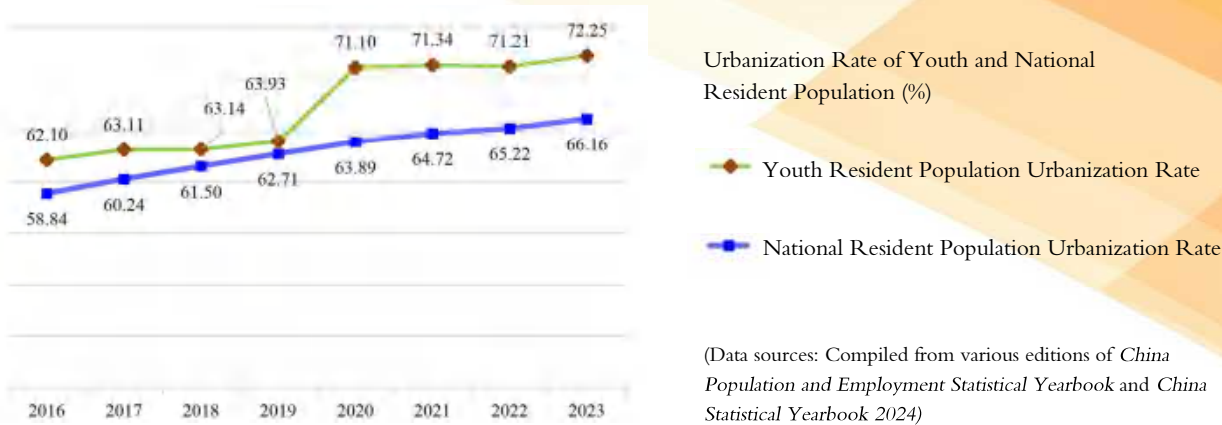


National Youth Population (10,000 persons) and Proportion (%)

— Total Population
— Youth Population
— Youth Proportion

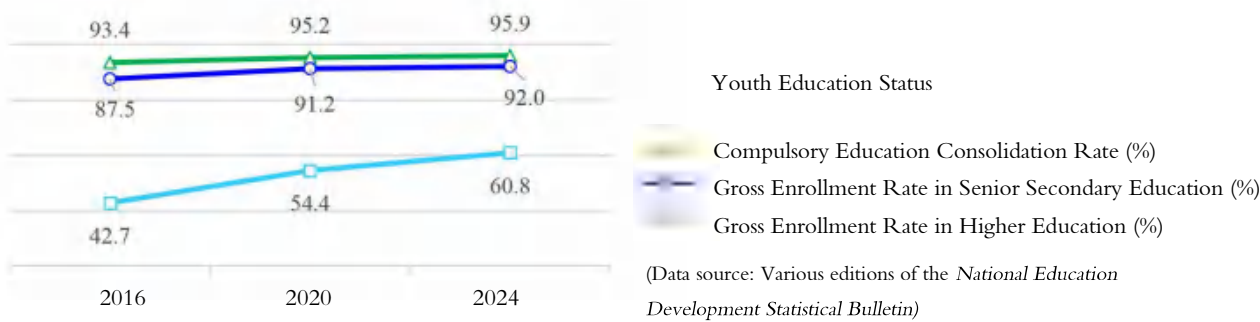
(Data sources: Compiled from various editions of *China Population and Employment Statistical Yearbook* and *China Population Census Yearbook 2020*)

The urbanization rate of the youth resident population has risen markedly. In 2020, it exceeded 70% for the first time, reaching 72.25% in 2023, surpassing the overall urbanization rate of the total resident population nationwide.

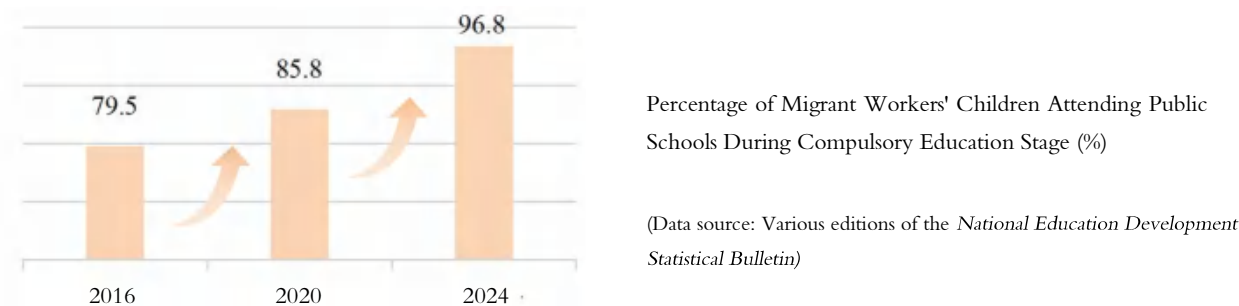


2.The overall level of educational development among the youth population has reached an upper-middle level globally.

In 2024, the consolidation rate of nine-year compulsory education reached 95.9%, the gross enrollment rate in senior secondary education was 92.0%, and the gross enrollment rate in higher education surpassed 60.8%.

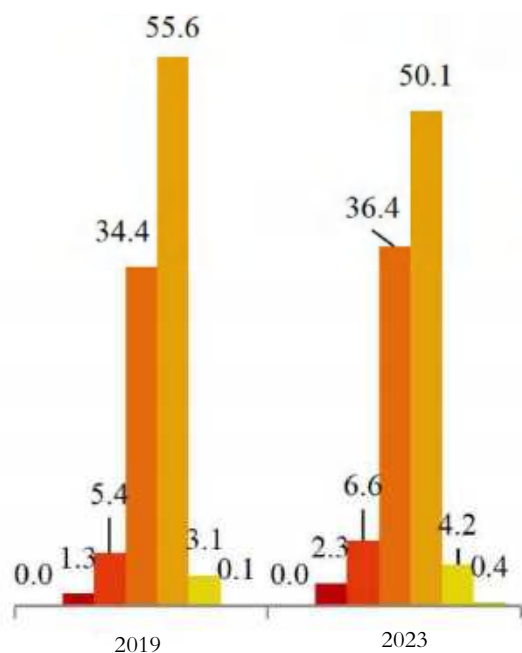


The percentage of migrant workers' children attending public schools during the compulsory education stage was 96.8%.

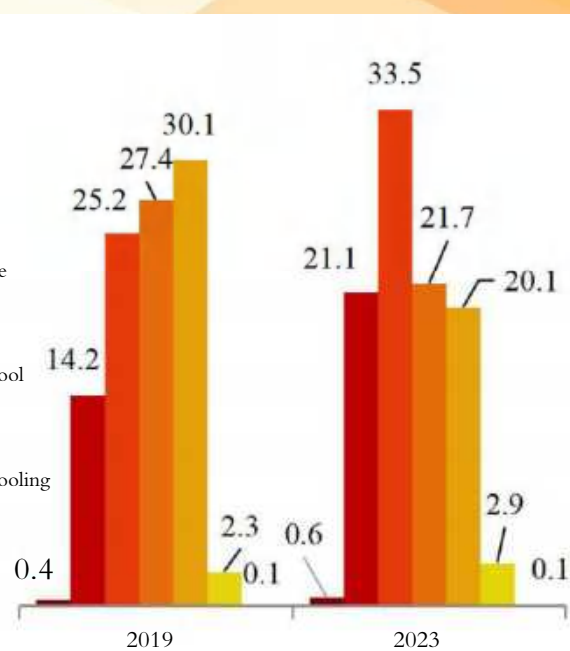


3. The average years of education among new labor force entrants continues to increase.

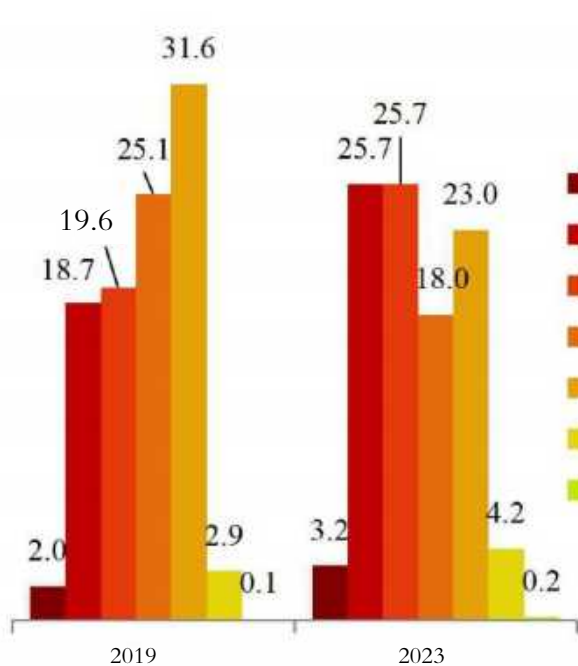
Educational Attainment Composition of
Employed Persons Aged 16–19 (%)



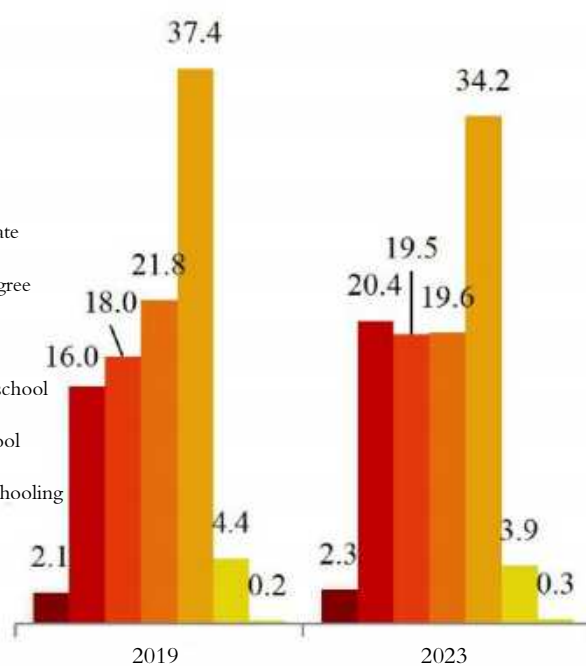
Educational Attainment Composition of
Employed Persons Aged 20–24 (%)



Educational Attainment Composition of
Employed Persons Aged 25–29 (%)

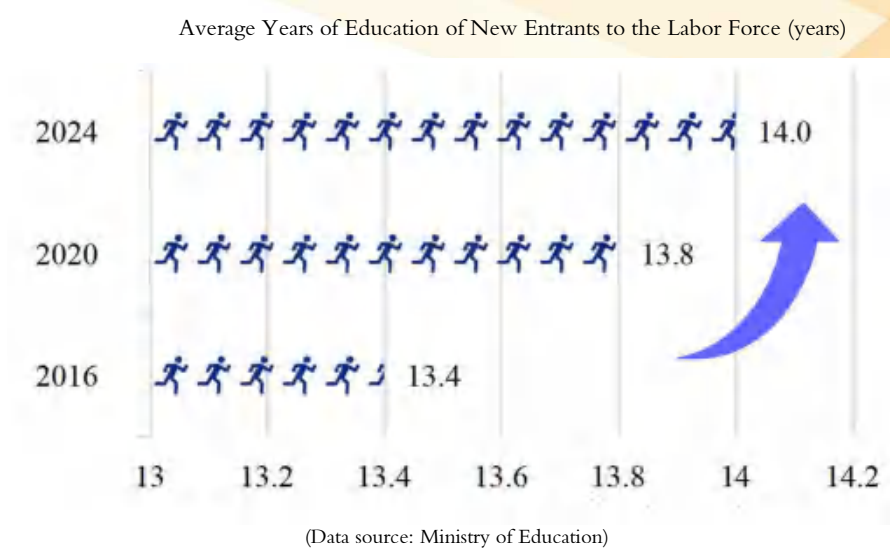


Educational Attainment Composition of
Employed Persons Aged 30–34 (%)

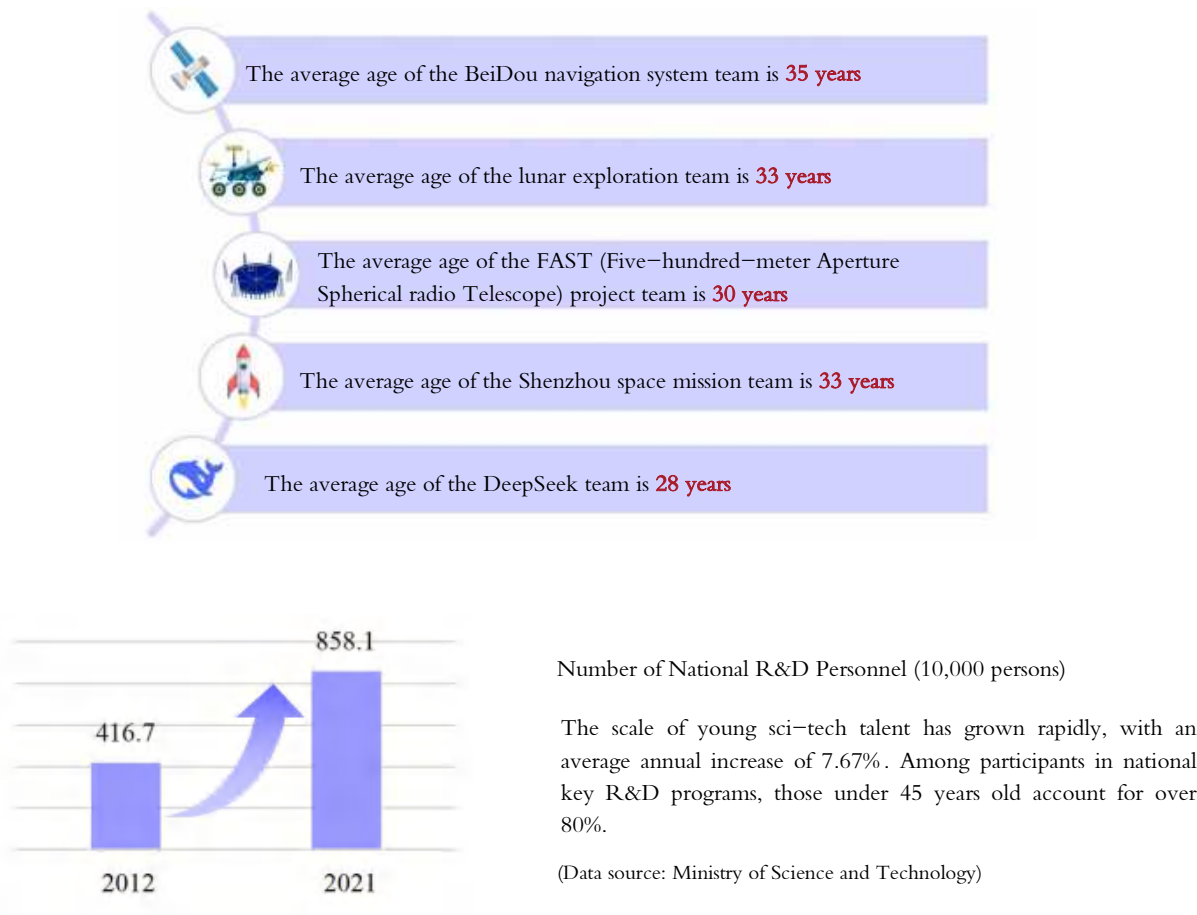


(Data source: Various editions of *China Population and Employment Statistical Yearbook*)

China has entered a critical period during which the demographic dividend is rapidly shifting toward a talent dividend, fostering high-quality development. In 2024, the average years of education for new entrants to the labor force exceeded 14.0 years.



4.Youth has become a vital force driving scientific and technological innovation.



■ Youth health literacy is on a positive upward trend

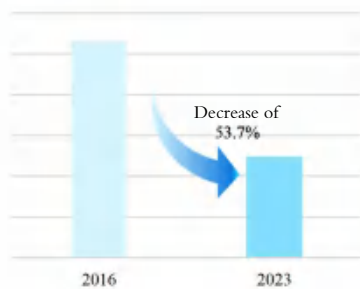
1.The average height of young people continues to rise.



(Data sources: 2014 National Fitness Survey Bulletin, Fifth National Fitness Survey Bulletin (national fitness surveys are conducted every five years))

2.The incidence of occupational diseases among young people in 2023 decreased by 53.7% compared to 2016.

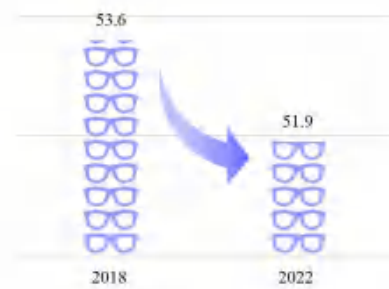
National Incidence of Occupational Diseases Among Youth (%)



(Data source: National Health Commission)

3.The overall myopia rate among children and adolescents nationwide has declined by 1.7 percentage points since 2018.

National Overall Myopia Rate Among Children and Adolescents (%)

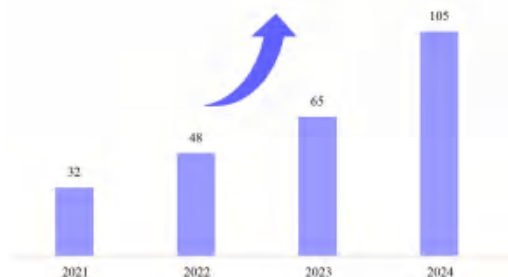


(Data source: Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

4.Education and services for adolescent physical and mental health have been continuously enhanced

Attention has been given to adolescent mental health issues, and efforts have been made to strengthen and improve the 12355 Youth Service Platform. In 2024, the platform provided 1.05 million counseling sessions, including 550,000 psychological counseling sessions.

12355 Counseling Service User Count (in 10,000 sessions)



■ Youth employment issues have received considerable attention

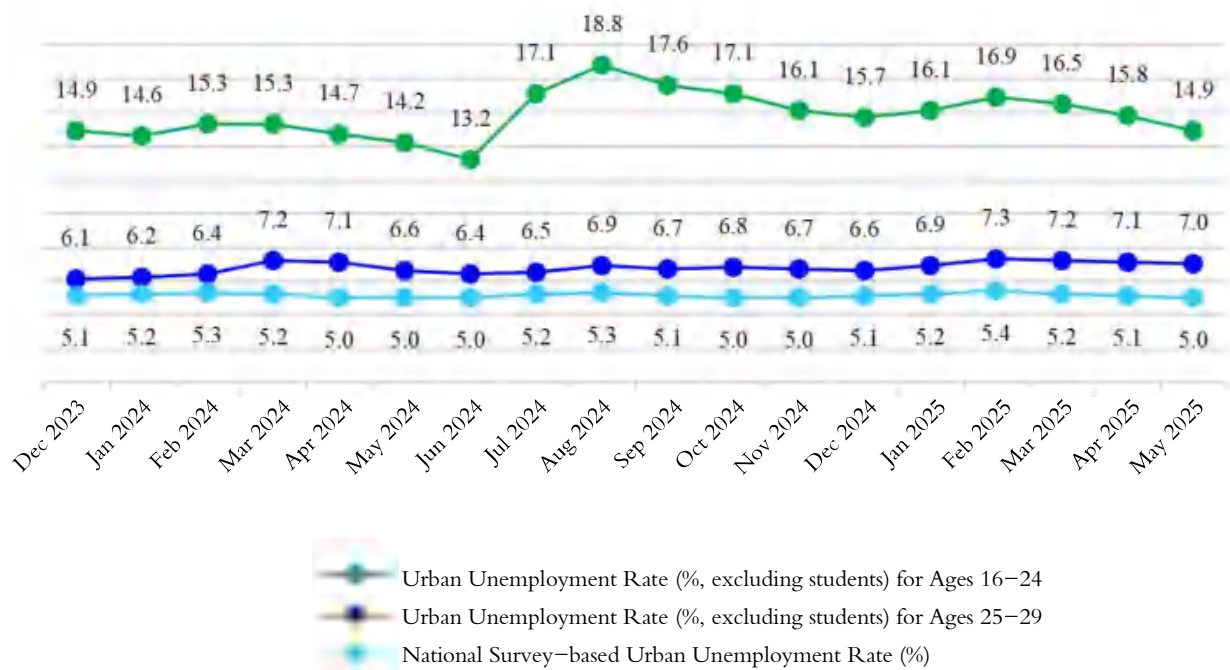
Youth employment faces pressure, as the unemployment rate among young people remains high. Ensuring employment for key youth groups remains a top priority. In 2025, the number of graduates from regular higher education institutions nationwide reaches 12.22 million.

Number of Graduates from Regular Higher Education Institutions Nationwide (10,000 persons)



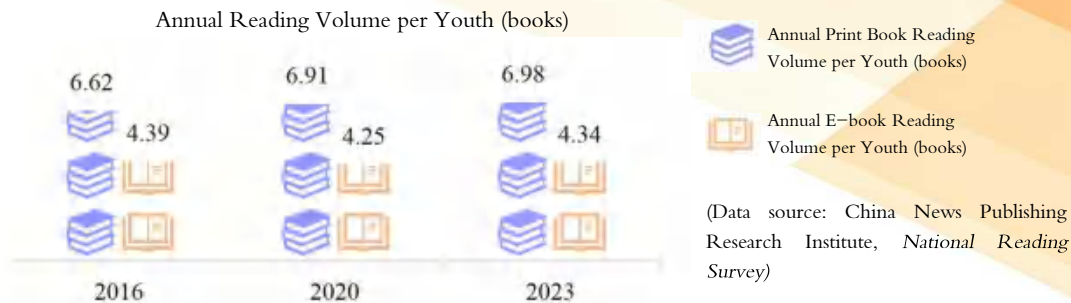
In May 2025, the urban unemployment rate for the labor force aged 16–24 (excluding students) was 14.9%.

Urban Unemployment Rate (% , excluding students)



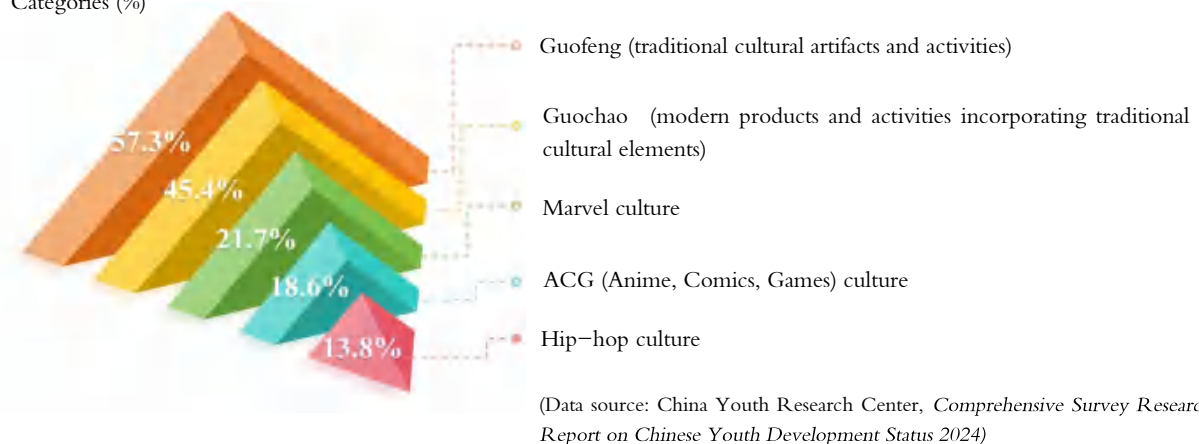
■ Youth cultural literacy has significantly improved

1. Reading has become a daily habit among young people.



2. Young people's cultural confidence has grown significantly, with "Guofeng" (national style) and "Guochao" (national trend) emerging as their most fashionable forms of cultural expression.

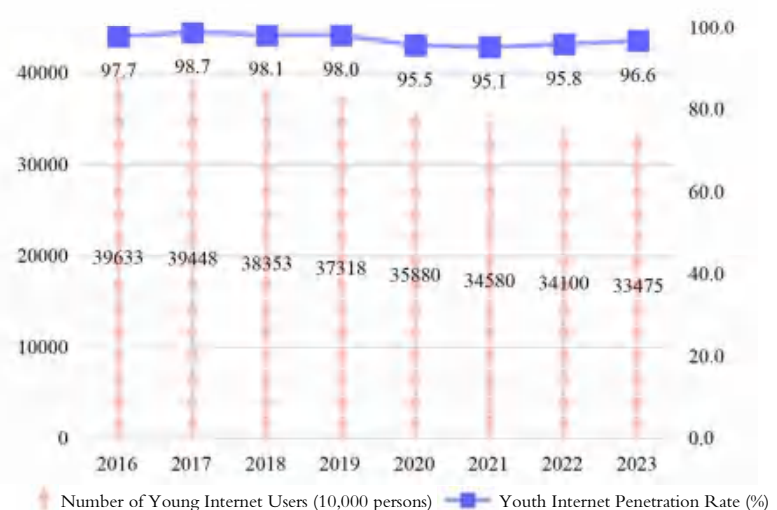
Percentage of Youth Preference for Various Cultural Categories (%)



3. Youth internet penetration rate has increased.

The internet has become an essential platform for young people's work, daily life, and education. The internet penetration rate among youth has remained steadily above 95%. In 2023, the number of young internet users reached 334.75 million, accounting for 96.6% of all internet users.

Number of Young Internet Users (10,000 persons) and Youth Internet Penetration Rate (%)



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