

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [China's Defeated Youth](#)

Article Link: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2023/08/17/chinas-defeated-youth>

Author(s)	Economist Staff
Publication	The Economist
Publication Date	August 17, 2023

Tweet: [Analysis of Chinese social media posts by @TheEconomist shows increasingly negative sentiment among people born in the 1990s.](#)

Summary: Unemployment among urban Chinese aged 16 to 24 has been running at over 20% for months, about double the age group's pre-pandemic level. Our calculations show that in 2021 over 70% of those unemployed youngsters were graduates. To get a sense of how young people feel, we have interviewed dozens of them. Their message is strikingly consistent. "We have no hope," says a 27-year-old in Huizhou. The malaise felt by him and his cohort has led to the emergence of a new nihilistic vocabulary, featuring phrases such as tangping (lying flat) and bailan (letting it rot). Using sentiment-analysis tools to extract feelings from text on social media, we found that the mood of young Chinese is growing ever darker. A surprising number of young couples are not even having sex. In a survey conducted in 2020, 14.6% and 10.1% of partnered men and women born between 1995 and 2003 reported having had no sex in the past year. Related: [China Urges Jobless Graduates To 'Roll Up Their Sleeves' and Try Manual Work](#) and [Chinese Youth Suicide Rate Quadruples In Over A Decade](#) and [China's Singles Fight Family Pressure to Get Married as Population Declines](#) and [China's Collapsing Birth and Marriage Rates Reflect a People's Deep Pessimism](#) and [A Revolution Is Coming for China's Families](#)

Primary Topic: China

Topics: China, Demographics, Family/Marriage, News article, Politics, Unemployment/Participation, Workforce

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/analysis-of-chinese-social-media-posts-by-theeconomist-shows-increasingly-negative-sentiment-among-people-born-in-the-1990s?view=detail>

Featured Image

Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/China-Is-Sad.png>