

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Gen Z Really Does Have a Work Ethic Problem](#)

Article Link: <https://jeanmtwenge.substack.com/p/gen-z-really-does-have-a-work-ethic>

Author(s)	Jean Twenge
Publication	Generation Tech
Publication Date	November 15, 2023

Tweet: The self-reported work ethic of US high school seniors has plummeted: 54% of 18-year-olds were willing to work overtime at the start of 2020. This dropped to 36% by 2022, the lowest level in the 46-year history of the survey. @jean_twenge

Summary: What was each generation's work ethic like when they were young? Nationally representative surveys like Monitoring the Future can show us this – it has asked U.S. 12th graders, most of whom are 18 years old, about their work attitudes since 1976. Up until a few years ago, the work ethic news was positive for Gen Z (those born 1995-2012, and 18 years old 2013-2030). After declining from Boomers to Millennials, work ethic made a comeback among Gen Z 18-year-olds in the 2010s. Until it didn't. The number of 18-year-olds who said they wanted to do their best in their job "even if this sometimes means working overtime" suddenly plummeted in 2021 and 2022. In early 2020, 54% of 18-year-olds said they were willing to work overtime. By 2022, it was 36%. That's a (relative) drop of 33% in just two years. Related: Young Men Are Gaming More. Are They Working Less? and Is Technology Changing the Value of Leisure? and Do 60 Percent Of American Workers Have Insecure Jobs?

Primary Topic: Unemployment/Participation

Topics: Op-Ed/Blog Post, Unemployment/Participation, Weekly, Workforce

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/the-self-reported-work-ethic-of-us-high-school-seniors-has-plummeted-54-of-18-year-olds-were-willing-to-work-overtime-at-the-start-of-2020-this-dropped-to-36-by-2022-the-lowest-level-in-the-46-year?view=detail>

Featured Image

Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Work-Ethic.png>