

Macro Roundup Article

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

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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.

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Primary Topic: China

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