

Where Have All The Workers Gone? It's A Mystery!



There is a McDonald's down the street from me that has two drive through lines. But half the time only one is working because they can't find enough workers to run both lines. Since the 1950s, McDonald's has been a place where a teen could learn to work. They learned the importance of getting to work on time. They learned how to follow directions and do their job. They learned to work with others as a team. And they earned some money of their own.

The table below lists the average hourly wage being paid by McDonald's in 2022 for several positions. Calculate the biweekly gross pay for each position based on the hours worked.

Employee / Job Title	Hourly Rate	Hours Week 1	Week 2 Hours (% of Week 1 hours)	Biweekly Gross Pay
Janice / Crew Member	\$11.48	10	120%	
Roberto / Cook/Server	\$11.51	16	150%	
Cheryl / Cashier	\$11.53	10	140%	
Aaron / Food Service Worker	\$11.68	16	75%	
Eric / Grill Cook	\$11.73	20	120%	
Rachel / Crew Trainer	\$12.51	25	80%	
Rayvan / Swing Manager	\$12.53	30	90%	

Today, McDonald's is paying as much as \$15 an hour in some locations and they still can't find enough workers. I am amazed that a teen won't work for \$12, \$13, \$14 or \$15 an hour. What's going on? Are they being abducted by aliens? Are they making their money day trading crypto?

We know the labor force participation rate is declining as people leave the work force. The question is WHY? What do you think is causing the worker shortage and how can we solve it?
