



Bringing you snippets of youth trends and issues compiled from diverse sources such as news reports, journals and press releases. Y+ is a bi-monthly e-newsletter that aims to help you stay in touch with the constantly evolving youth scene.

YOUTH AND CONCERNS

The world economy had not been rosy in recent years, and global unemployment situation stayed dire in many countries ([United Nations, 2014](#)). In a [Huffington Post report](#) on youths and employment, youth unemployment among those under the age of 25 was estimated to approximately 75 million worldwide. It is unsurprising therefore that unemployment and financial worries are among the top concerns of youths in many countries. Unemployment, for example, was cited by youths aged 16 to 25 as one of their biggest concerns in a recent survey carried out in four countries by [Credit Suisse](#). A 2013 [survey](#) by Mission Australia similarly found young Australians worried about how they could make a living and prosper in a tight labour market. In Hong Kong, disillusioned youths had considered [migrating](#) for a better life. Locally, the National Youth Survey 2010 found “uncertainty about their future” (41%) as the top stressor among youths aged 15 to 34 in Singapore, followed closely by finances (38%) and emerging adult responsibility (37%). A more recent survey conducted by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) indicated that students from local universities and polytechnics were primarily concerned about finances, career prospects and pursuing their passions. This issue of Y+ brings to you selected articles on the top concerns of young people around the world.

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1. Finances and Careers Top Worries of Youth Facing 'Quarter-Life' Crisis [Singapore]

According to a recent survey conducted by a group of final year students from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), building a career, finances, and pursuing their passions were among the top post graduation concerns of students from local universities and polytechnics surveyed. Referring to the young people's predicament as "quarter-life crisis", NTU Assistant Professor Albert Lee explained that the anxiety and uncertainty is linked to the generation's expectations versus reality. To help them deal with pertinent financial and work-related crisis, four final year undergraduates from NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information initiated a social campaign called "[The Next Stop](#)". The campaign was done in partnership with DBS Bank and supported by the National Youth Council and Health Promotion Board.

(Source: XINmsn website. Accessed on 12 March 2014)

<http://news.xin.msn.com/en/singapore/finances-and-careers-top-worries-of-youth-facing-quarter-life-crisis-1>

2. Youth Survey 2013 [Australia]

Mission Australia's annual Youth Survey surveys young Australians aged 15 to 19 on their concerns, values and support received. Results from the 2013 survey found that "coping with stress" (38.3%), "school or study problems" (37.4%) and "body image" (30.8%) were the top three concerns of young Australians. Around 1 in 5 respondents expressed being "extremely concerned" or "very concerned" about "depression" and "family conflict". The top three issues youths perceived as most important in Australia were "economy and financial matters" (26.2%), "politics and societal values" (24.6%) and "equity and discrimination" (24.1%) for 2013. The report noted that mental health, education and employment had been increasingly identified by youths as main issues in Australia. Friendships (78.0%) and family relationships (75.7%) were most highly valued; and friends and family were the main sources of advice and support for the young Australians. Read more about the study [here](#).

(Source: Mission Australia website. Accessed on 12 March 2014)

https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/2020-strategy-page/doc_download/198-mission-australia-youth-survey-2013

3. 6 in 10 Young Singaporeans Have Considered Leaving the Country to Fulfil Their Dreams [Singapore]

A recent survey conducted by Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Media and Communication (DMC) found '*financial stability*', '*strong family relationships*' and '*work-life balance*' as the top three aspirations of youths in Singapore. Contrary to popular perceptions that youths today are mainly concerned about material wealth, the survey found 'happiness', 'peace of mind' and 'friendships' as youths' top three concerns. Interestingly, the study also identified two groups of youths – a group who is keen to pursue their dreams overseas (61.5%) and a group firmly rooted in Singapore (38.5%). Youths who are rooted in Singapore have a greater desire to get married and start a family.

(Source: Asia One website. Accessed on 11 March 2014)

<http://news.asiaone.com/news/edvantage/6-10-young-singaporeans-have-considered-leaving-country-fulfill-their-dreams>

4. The Worried Generation: Perspectives of Global Youth [Switzerland, Brazil, United States and Singapore]

This article highlights findings from the *Credit Suisse Youth Barometer*, a survey which aims to gain insights into the lifestyles and views of young people aged 16 to 25. In 2013, approximately 4,025 young people were surveyed online and in person in Switzerland, Brazil, the United States (U.S.) and for the first time, Singapore. Unemployment featured as a major concern for young people across all four countries. It was the top concern among youths in the U.S. and Singapore. Top concerns for Brazil and Switzerland were 'corruption' (63%) and 'foreigners, integration and freedom of movement' (50%) respectively. In Singapore, youths surveyed were also very concerned about the cost of living. 'Inflation and prices' and 'wages' took the second and third spots on the list of six most important problems respectively. The full research article can be accessed [here](#).

(Source: The Financialist, Credit Suisse website. Accessed on 12 March 2014)

<http://www.thefinancialist.com/the-worried-generation-perspectives-of-global-youth/>

5. Economic Pessimism but Generational Optimism: Australian Perspectives Towards 2014 [Australia]

The rising cost of living was the number one concern for many Australians according to a recent McCrindle study. The top three concerns of Generation Y (aged 19 to 33), Generation X (aged 34 to 48) and Baby Boomers (aged 49 to 67) were the same - 'Rising Living Costs', 'Economic Instability' and 'Gun Crime & Violence'. The younger Australians were found to be more positive about Australia's economy and their personal prospects in 2014 compared to the older Australians. Read more about the findings [here](#).

(Source: McCrindle website. Accessed on 11 March 2014)

http://www.mccrindle.com.au/ResearchSummaries/2013/Economic-Pessimism-Generational-Optimism_McCrindle-Research.pdf

6. Hong Kong Youth Frustrated with Politics and Property Prices Look to Emigrate [Hong Kong]

Young people frustrated with soaring property prices, a fast-paced lifestyle and the constant social and political conflicts and scandals were looking to emigrate. Among students who were considering emigration, Australia was the top destination (21%) followed by the United Kingdom (20%), United States (13%) and Canada (12%).



(Source: The Huffington Post website. Accessed on 12 March 2014)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/16/hong-kong-emigration_n_4282361.html

7. Think You Know the Next Gen Investor? Think Again. [United States]

Contrary to popular belief, Millennials were more conservative financially compared to other generation according to a new survey conducted by UBS Wealth Management Americas. The survey found that Millennials held more assets in cash compared to the other generations - 52% of their assets were held in cash with less than one-third (28%) in equities. Their top concerns were their financial needs in retirement (39%); their responsibility towards their aging parents and their parents' financial stability (30%); and the affordability of healthcare/ support in old age (28%). Interestingly, one quarter of the parents of Millennials were similarly concerned about their children's financial stability and were inclined to help them get there.

(Source: UBS website. Accessed on 11 March 2014)

<http://www.ubs.com/content/dam/WealthManagementAmericas/documents/investor-watch-1Q2014-report.pdf>

8. What the Future is Like for Our Youth [Singapore]

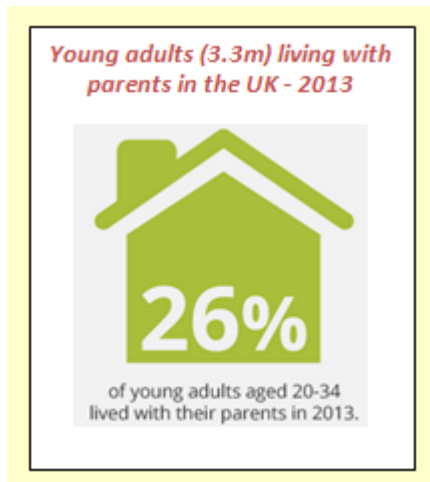
In an interview with The Independent Singapore, Donald Low, an academic at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy shared his perspectives on the future of youths in Singapore and their concerns. He felt that young people in Singapore would be affected by rising house prices, job security and opportunities and wages inequality in time to come. Read more about his views [here](#).

(Source: The Independent website. Accessed on 11 March 2014)

<http://theindependent.sg/what-the-future-is-like-for-our-youth/>

9. Further Readings

- [Anxious Youth, Then and Now](#)
- [Generation Jobless](#)
- [Unemployment Plagues Young People Around the World](#)
- [Gen Y Struggles in Expensive Housing, Rental Market](#)
- [Large Increase in 20-34 year olds Living with Parents since 1996](#)



- [Marriage Bombard Wears Down Young at New Year](#)

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