

## HOW DOES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AFFECT PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET?

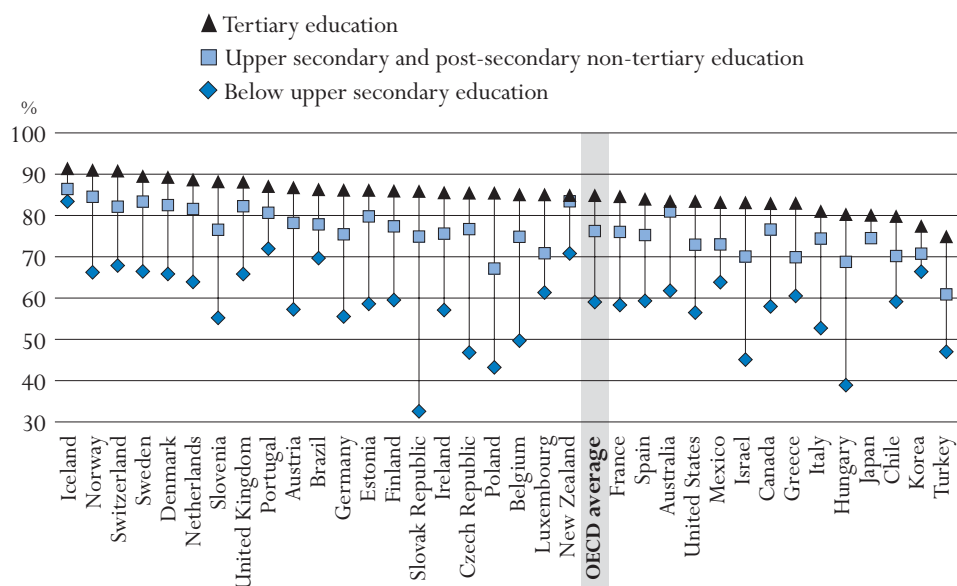
This indicator examines the relation between educational attainment and labour force status. Gender differences are given particular focus. Taken together, information on employment and unemployment provides a complete picture of labour market participation, while trend data on labour force status over time provide a good basis for assessing variation in employment and unemployment risks among groups with different levels of educational attainment.

### Key results

#### Chart A6.1. Positive relation between education and employment (2008)

*This chart shows the percentage of 25-64 year-olds in employment, by level of educational attainment.*

In all OECD countries, individuals with a tertiary-level degree have a greater chance of being employed than those who lack such a degree. On average, 85% of the population with tertiary education is employed. In Iceland, Norway and Switzerland the share is above 90%. Also in all countries, persons with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education are much more likely to be employed than those with less education. In Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Turkey, and in the partner country Israel, more than half of those with less than upper secondary education are not employed. Overall, employment rates are more than 25 points higher for those with tertiary education than for those who have not completed an upper secondary education. This indicates the magnitude of the economic benefits that flows from additional schooling.



Countries are ranked in descending order of the employment rate of 25-64 year-olds with tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Table A6.3a. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

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### *Other highlights of this indicator*

- Those with low educational attainment are both less likely to be labour force participants and more likely to be unemployed. On average among OECD countries, males without upper secondary education are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as males with upper secondary education and three times as likely to be unemployed as males with tertiary education.
- Higher education improves job prospects in general and the likelihood of remaining employed in times of economic hardship. On average across OECD countries, unemployment rates of those with tertiary-level attainment have stayed at or below 4%, upper secondary unemployment rates have stayed below 7%, while unemployment rates for those with less than upper secondary education have breached 10% several times since 1997.
- Differences in employment rates between males and females are wider among groups with less education. Chances of being employed are close to 23 percentage points higher for males than for females among those without upper secondary qualification but only 10 points higher for the most highly qualified.

## Policy context

OECD countries' economies and labour markets depend upon a sufficient supply of well-educated workers for their economic development. Indicators related to labour market outcomes by educational attainment show how well the supply of skills matches demand. However, most education programmes have a long time horizon, while shifts in the demand for labour can occur rapidly. These and other factors need to be considered when interpreting the current labour market.

In times of economic downturn, governments can help to cushion hardship and prepare the workforce for the jobs that will become available when economic activity picks up. A key objective for any government is to ensure that cyclical unemployment does not become structural unemployment, or worse, that a large part of the population is forced out of the labour market. When this occurs, it has proven difficult to reintegrate that population.

Higher levels of educational attainment typically lead to higher employment rates. This is principally because a more competitive position in the labour market but also because those with higher levels of education have made a larger investment in their human capital and need to recoup the investment. However, between country variations also reflect cultural differences, varying economic structures, and differences in labour participation rates of females. They also reflect family size and age spread, parenting choices and engagement in other activities, such as study. They may also be influenced by economic circumstances and extent of joblessness.

Unemployment rates are generally lower for more educated individuals, typically because higher educational attainment makes an individual more attractive in the labour market. Unemployment rates therefore indicate both individuals' desire to work and their attractiveness to potential employers.

In a sense, employment rates are more closely tied to supply while unemployment rates are more closely tied to demand. Time series on both measures thus carry important information for policy makers about the supply, and potential supply, of skills available to the labour market and about employers' demand for these skills.

There is a link between these two measures as the supply of labour also depends on the prospects of actually finding a job. High unemployment rates typically discourage new entrants to the labour market, particularly if unemployment rates have been high over a long period of time. Active education and training policies are thus important for reducing unemployment.

## Evidence and explanations

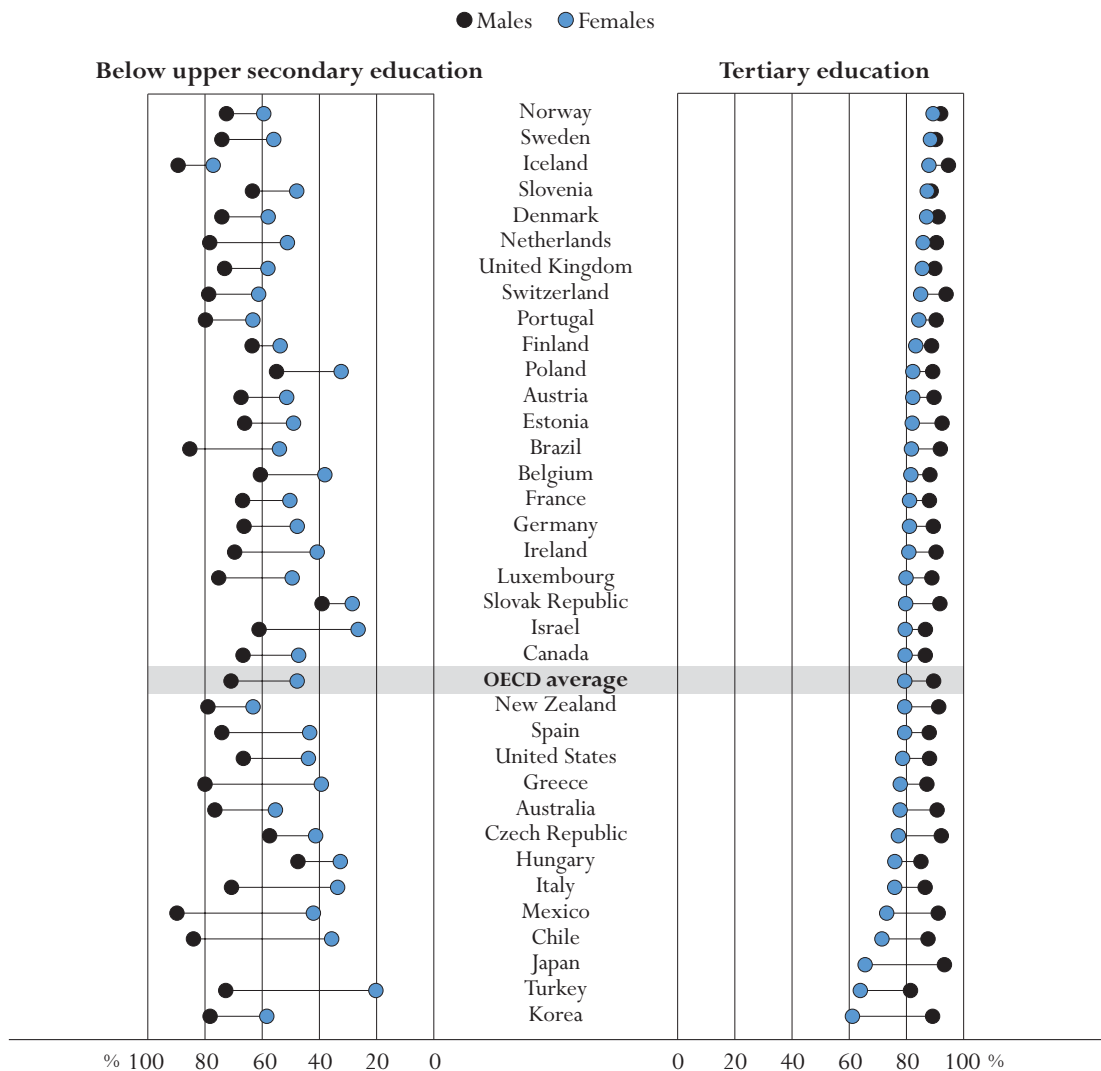
### Employment

Education has a substantial impact on the prospect of being employed. Employment rates for males and females across OECD countries increase from an average of 73.9% for males and 50.1% for females with lower secondary qualifications to an average of 89.8% for males and 79.9% for females with tertiary-type A qualifications. Employment rates for females with lower secondary education are particularly low and below 40% in Chile, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Turkey. Employment rates for females with tertiary-type A attainment equal or exceed 75% everywhere except Chile, Japan, Korea, Mexico and Turkey, but remain below those of males in all countries (Table A6.1a).

Apart from education, variations in the female employment rate thus contribute to differences in overall employment rates among countries. The countries with the highest overall rate of employment for 25-64 year-olds – Denmark, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland – also have among the highest female employment rates (Table A6.1a).

Nevertheless, employment increases substantially with higher levels of education and the gap between male and female employment rates typically narrows considerably with higher educational attainment (Chart A6.2). The gap in the employment rates of males and females with tertiary education is five percentage points or less in Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the partner country Slovenia.

**Chart A6.2. Difference between employment rates of females and males, by level of educational attainment (2008)**



Countries are ranked in descending order of the employment rate of females with tertiary education.

Source: OECD. Tables A6.3b and A6.3c. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

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In all countries except Korea and the Slovak Republic, differences in employment between males and females are smaller for those with tertiary education than for those who have not completed upper secondary education. In all but seven countries employment rates of females with tertiary education are higher than those of males who have not completed upper secondary education. On average, more highly educated females have an employment rate that is 8.5 percentage points higher than that of males with less than upper secondary education.

On average among OECD countries, for those with less than upper secondary education female employment rates are 23 percentage points lower than those of males. At the tertiary level this gap is reduced to 10 percentage points (see Tables A6.3b and A6.3c, available on line).

In Italy, the Slovak Republic and the partner country Israel, employment rates for 25-64 year-old females with upper secondary education are at least 30 percentage points higher than for those with less than upper secondary education. Females with tertiary education appear to be particularly advantaged in Turkey, with employment rates 35 percentage points higher than those of females with upper secondary education (see Table A6.3c, available on line).

Similarly, in the group of males aged 25 to 64, there is a particularly wide gap in employment rates between those who are upper secondary graduates and those who are not. The extreme cases are the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic, where employment rates for males who have completed upper secondary education are at least 25 percentage points higher than for males who have not. The gap in employment rates between males with and without an upper secondary education is four percentage points or less in Iceland, Luxembourg, Mexico and Portugal (see Chart A6.2 and Table A6.3b, available on line).

Employment rates for male tertiary graduates are also higher – above 5 percentage points on average for OECD countries – than for male upper secondary graduates. In 2008, the difference between these two groups ranges from a few percentage points to 10 percentage points or more in Hungary, Luxembourg, Poland and the partner country Israel (see Table A6.3b, available on line).

While there have been some large changes over time in employment rates of educational groups within countries, the overall differences between educational groups have narrowed marginally in recent years. Employment rates for the less educated groups have increased, while tertiary rates have remained fairly constant. As employment prospects for less educated individuals are more sensitive to changes in economic conditions and business cycles, these differences are likely to widen again (Table A6.3a).

### **Unemployment rates fall with higher educational attainment**

The employment prospects of individuals with different educational attainment depend largely on the requirements of labour markets and on the supply of workers with different skills. Unemployment rates therefore signal the match between what the education system produces and the skills demanded in the labour market. Those with lower educational qualifications are at particular risk of economic marginalisation since they are both less likely to be labour force participants and more likely to be without a job even if they actively seek one.

Table A6.2a shows unemployment rates for different educational groups, by gender. On average across OECD countries, unemployment rates decrease as educational attainment increases for

both males and females. Unemployment rates for those with a tertiary type-A qualification are less than 4% in most OECD countries (on average 2.9% and 3.6% for males and females, respectively). Unemployment rates for those with lower secondary education jump to 8.5% for males and 10% for females. Females and males with lower secondary education are particularly vulnerable in the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic where their unemployment rates are 15% or more. This is also the case for females in Greece, Spain and Turkey as well as for males in Germany.

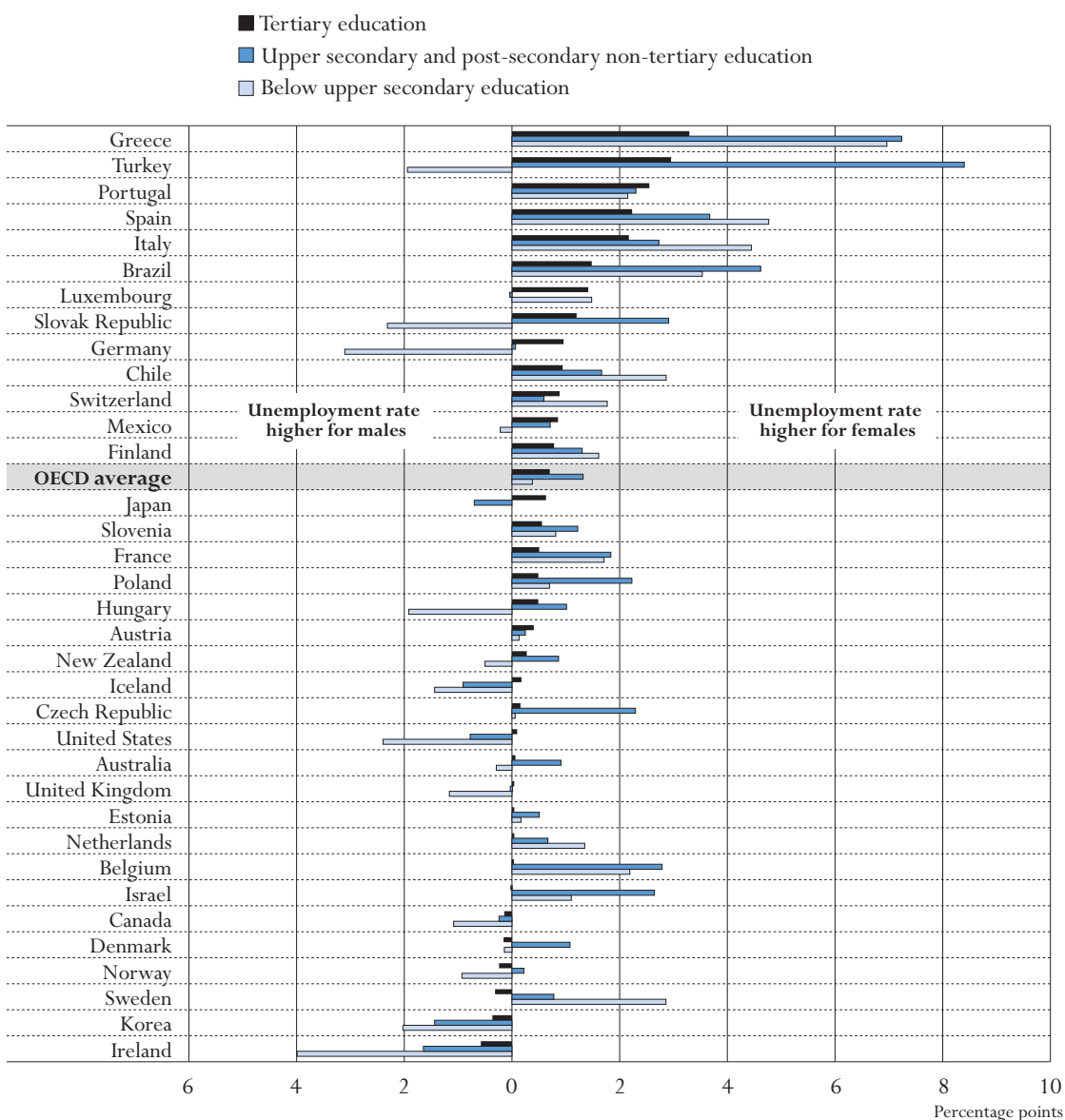
Among OECD countries, an upper secondary education is typically considered the minimum for a competitive position in the labour market. On average, the rate of unemployment among those who have completed an upper secondary education is close to four percentage points lower than among those who have not completed this level (Table A6.4a). The unemployment risk associated with the lack of an upper secondary level of education depends upon a country's industry composition and level of economic development.

The risk of unemployment for those without upper secondary education is high in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Spain and the United States (10% or more), and is particularly high in the Slovak Republic (36.3%). Only in Chile, Greece, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico and the partner country Brazil is the lack of upper secondary education not associated with a higher risk of unemployment: in these countries the unemployment rate is lower for those with below upper secondary education than for those with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.

On average among OECD countries, male labour force participants aged 25 to 64 with less than upper secondary education are twice as likely to be unemployed as those with upper secondary education and three times as likely as those with tertiary education (see Table A6.4b, available on line). The negative association between unemployment and educational attainment is similar, but somewhat less marked, for females (see Table A6.4c, available on line).

Differences in unemployment rates for males and females are smallest among those with tertiary education (Chart A6.3). Among females the unemployment rate is two percentage points higher than for males only in Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. While overall unemployment rates are considerably below those for females with lower secondary education, females with upper secondary education have generally somewhat higher unemployment rates than males with the same education. In 15 OECD countries, unemployment rates for males with less than upper secondary education are higher than for females with the same educational level.

In OECD countries between 1997 and 2008, unemployment rates for those with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education decreased on average by 1.8 percentage points (Table A6.4a). For those with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, they improved by five percentage points or more in Finland, Spain and Sweden. For those who had not completed upper secondary education, they also decreased by six percentage points or more in Finland, Ireland and Spain. However, for those with less than upper secondary education they rose by more than five percentage points in the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Turkey, leaving the overall improvement in unemployment rates for this group at 1.4 percentage points over the period. For those with tertiary education, the decrease in the unemployment rate was 0.8 of a percentage point.

**Chart A6.3. Difference between unemployment rates of females and males, by level of educational attainment (2008)**

Countries are ranked in descending order of the difference in unemployment rates of females and males who have completed tertiary education.

Source: OECD, Tables A6.4b and A6.4c. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

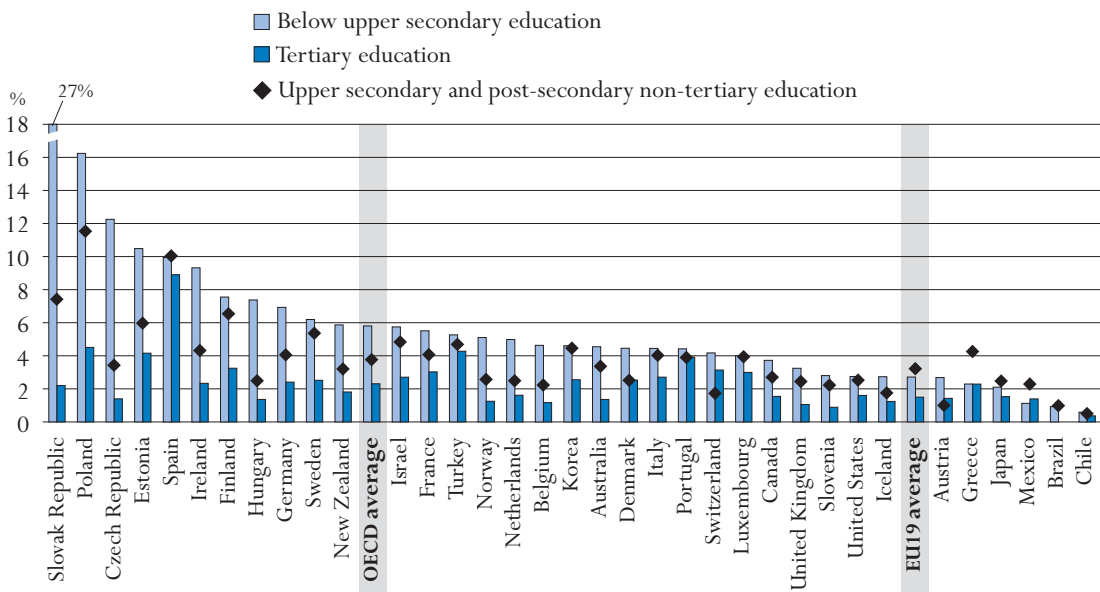
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Although differences in unemployment rates among educational groups have narrowed somewhat over the past decade, they also reflect the sensitivity of different educational groups to shifts in overall demand for labour. In all countries except Greece, Japan and Mexico, unemployment rates for those without upper secondary education vary more than for those with tertiary education, and substantially so in many countries (Chart A6.4).

Higher education improves job prospects in general and the likelihood of remaining employed in times of economic hardship. On average across OECD countries, unemployment rates of those with tertiary-level attainment have stayed at or below 4%, upper secondary unemployment rates have stayed below 7%, while unemployment rates for those with less than upper secondary education have breached 10% several times since 1997 (Table A6.4a).

Across the OECD, unemployment rates for individuals with less than upper secondary education reached 10.5% in 2005 and have since fallen to 8.7%. There is considerable variation for this group. In the Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Spain, unemployment rates have varied by more than 8 percentage points over the period.

**Chart A6.4. Difference between highest and lowest unemployment rates for below upper secondary and tertiary educated 25-64 year-old individuals (1997-2008)**



Countries are ranked in descending order of the difference between highest and lowest unemployment rates of 25-64 year-olds with below upper secondary education.

Source: OECD, Table A6.4a. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

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The less educated are thus the most vulnerable group, and it is likely that unemployment rates for those with less than upper secondary education will increase sharply in the coming years. This is already evident in countries that entered the recession early. Unemployment rates for those without upper secondary education have increased substantially more than for those with tertiary education in Ireland, Spain and the United States in the past year.

The weaker labour market participation of those with less education is also evident in the link between unemployment and employment rates. Countries with high unemployment rates typically also have a large portion of the population out of the labour force (Tables A6.3a and A6.4a).



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Since the risk of being unemployed in difficult economic times is typically greater for less educated individuals, it is for this group that cyclical unemployment can become a structural problem, with large parts of the working-age population neither in the labour market nor actively seeking employment.

Once individuals are out of the labour force for an extended period, it is, in many instances, difficult for them to re-enter because of skill obsolescence, deteriorating incentives to seek employment, and other barriers to labour market re-entry. Many jobs that are lost will not reappear once the economy returns to growth, particularly in the lower skills segment. With over 40% of those without upper secondary education not employed and unemployment rates close to 10% across the OECD (Tables A6.3a and A6.4a), few countries can afford not to address the issue of further education and training to improve this group's job prospects.

When jobs are scarce, the price for retraining individuals is lower as the opportunity costs are often negligible. Incentives to invest in education and training, and to prepare the workforce for the new jobs that will emerge from the downturn are thus strong in many countries.

Higher unemployment rates in general, and widening unemployment rates between educational groups in particular, also provide individuals with a greater incentive to invest in education. First, because foregone earnings as a consequence of higher unemployment will be lower while they study. As foregone earnings are a major cost component in most countries, labour market conditions have an influence on the decision to invest in education. Second, because better employment prospects for more educated groups will add to the benefit-side of the investment equation. It is thus important for education systems to respond to this opportunity of high demand and low investment costs by increasing access to and resources for educational institutions.

### Definition and methodologies

Under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and their conferences of labour statisticians, concepts and definitions for measuring labour force participation were established and are now used as a common reference (ILO, 1982).

The employment rate refers to the number of persons in employment as a percentage of the population of working age.

The unemployment rate refers to unemployed persons as a percentage of the civil labour force.

The unemployed are defined as individuals who are, during the survey reference week, without work, actively seeking employment and currently available to start work. The employed are defined as those who, during the survey reference week: *i*) work for pay (employees) or profit (self-employed and unpaid family workers) for at least one hour; or *ii*) have a job but are temporarily not at work (through injury, illness, holiday, strike or lock-out, educational or training leave, maternity or parental leave, etc.).

### Further references

The following additional material relevant to this indicator is available on line at:

**StatLink**  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932310187>

- *Table A6.1b. Employment rates and educational attainment (2008)*
- *Table A6.2b. Unemployment rates and educational attainment (2008)*
- *Table A6.3b. Trends in employment rates of 25-64 year-old males, by educational attainment (1997-2008)*
- *Table A6.3c. Trends in employment rates of 25-64 year-old females, by educational attainment (1997-2008)*
- *Table A6.4b. Trends in unemployment rates of males, by educational attainment (1997-2008)*
- *Table A6.4c. Trends in unemployment rates of females, by educational attainment (1997-2008)*

Table A6.1a.

**Employment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2008)***Number of 25-64 year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender*

			Pre- primary and primary education	Lower secondary education	ISCED 3C short	Upper secondary education		Post- secondary non- tertiary education	Tertiary education		All levels of education
						ISCED 3C long/3B	ISCED 3A		Type B	Type A and advanced research programmes	
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
OECD countries	Australia	Males	65.0	80.7	x(5)	x(5)	88.2	93.4	88.4	91.5	86.0
		Females	28.0	57.2	x(5)	x(5)	68.4	78.3	70.3	79.7	65.9
	Austria	Males	x(2)	66.7	78.4	82.7	79.3	90.0	87.4	91.4	82.6
		Females	x(2)	50.2	62.9	70.2	70.3	81.8	83.0	81.7	68.7
	Belgium	Males	46.9	69.8	a	80.9	81.8	88.5	87.2	88.9	77.4
		Females	27.6	47.2	a	63.6	67.4	76.2	80.6	82.7	63.1
	Canada	Males	53.8	71.6	a	x(5)	81.0	83.0	86.9	86.0	81.7
		Females	32.4	54.0	a	x(5)	69.1	74.2	79.2	79.6	72.4
	Chile	Males	84.8	75.9	x(5)	89.8	88.1	a	90.7	86.5	86.9
		Females	36.5	29.1	x(5)	57.7	50.3	a	67.1	73.6	51.3
	Czech Republic	Males	c	59.6	a	84.2	88.5	x(5)	x(8)	92.2	85.2
		Females	c	41.7	a	61.7	70.5	x(5)	x(8)	77.2	64.9
	Denmark	Males	62.0	75.0	78.0	86.6	83.7	96.6	91.8	91.2	85.1
		Females	44.7	58.9	70.5	80.0	75.2	84.8	85.2	87.8	76.8
	Finland	Males	51.3	75.2	a	a	80.3	96.8	84.7	91.1	79.4
		Females	45.7	61.3	a	a	73.2	96.3	82.4	83.9	74.4
	France	Males	52.3	75.2	a	79.8	82.2	c	90.3	86.7	78.5
		Females	38.6	58.4	a	70.0	72.9	c	82.3	80.2	67.4
	Germany	Males	57.0	69.4	a	81.4	63.5	86.2	88.1	90.1	81.7
		Females	34.6	51.1	a	69.2	54.2	78.6	80.7	81.2	68.4
	Greece	Males	75.5	87.2	83.2	90.0	84.7	87.1	85.0	88.1	83.8
		Females	36.4	45.3	63.2	61.1	51.1	67.2	75.2	78.8	54.4
	Hungary	Males	17.3	50.1	a	72.9	77.9	82.8	87.7	85.0	72.1
		Females	5.4	34.9	a	56.0	64.7	69.2	81.3	75.8	57.8
	Iceland	Males	86.2	89.6	89.4	91.9	84.4	95.1	94.0	94.7	91.7
		Females	c	77.2	82.1	84.4	71.8	84.7	83.5	88.6	81.2
	Ireland	Males	59.0	78.1	c	a	86.0	88.1	89.3	90.8	82.0
		Females	31.8	48.0	c	a	64.0	66.2	77.0	83.1	64.1
	Italy	Males	50.3	77.0	82.5	84.4	83.8	86.4	82.2	86.6	78.0
		Females	16.3	42.4	57.5	60.3	65.2	71.9	68.2	76.1	52.2
	Japan	Males	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	87.6	a	92.9	93.4	90.1
		Females	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	61.7	a	64.8	66.9	63.3
	Korea	Males	74.8	80.7	a	x(5)	84.2	a	89.8	88.9	85.3
		Females	58.4	58.4	a	x(5)	56.8	a	62.0	60.7	58.6
	Luxembourg	Males	69.6	82.5	82.1	79.0	77.9	76.6	87.4	89.3	80.5
		Females	49.3	44.2	56.0	55.5	65.1	75.8	77.2	81.2	62.2
	Mexico	Males	88.4	92.6	a	90.4	92.5	a	91.1	91.1	90.4
		Females	39.3	48.8	a	59.3	55.4	a	72.7	73.1	49.1
	Netherlands	Males	66.1	82.8	x(4)	83.6	90.1	84.3	86.2	90.8	86.1
		Females	38.7	55.5	x(4)	71.2	78.6	78.6	80.6	86.3	71.7
	New Zealand	Males	x(2)	76.3	87.7	88.0	90.1	91.4	90.1	91.8	87.6
		Females	x(2)	59.4	72.8	72.4	76.8	72.8	77.8	80.5	73.3
	Norway	Males	c	73.1	a	87.8	85.1	93.4	93.4	91.8	86.2
		Females	c	60.3	a	80.0	79.8	87.1	94.1	89.1	79.9
	Poland	Males	x(2)	55.0	a	73.8	79.2	80.8	x(8)	89.2	75.7
		Females	x(2)	32.4	a	52.3	59.6	67.7	x(8)	82.2	59.6
	Portugal	Males	77.8	85.7	x(5)	x(5)	83.7	86.6	x(8)	90.4	81.6
		Females	60.2	72.7	x(5)	x(5)	77.9	64.5	x(8)	84.3	68.8
	Slovak Republic	Males	c	42.6	x(4)	78.6	87.9	a	71.2	92.4	81.0
		Females	c	29.7	x(4)	60.3	70.1	a	74.4	80.1	63.4
	Spain	Males	64.3	81.0	a	85.5	82.5	90.6	88.0	88.0	80.2
		Females	33.0	52.3	a	64.7	67.8	c	74.1	81.3	59.2
	Sweden	Males	64.3	78.9	a	x(5)	86.7	87.2	88.0	90.9	85.6
		Females	42.4	64.6	a	x(5)	79.1	80.5	85.8	89.4	79.5
	Switzerland	Males	75.6	79.6	88.0	89.6	80.7	91.3	94.9	93.3	90.0
		Females	54.8	61.7	69.4	76.6	71.1	82.3	89.4	83.3	76.0
	Turkey	Males	71.7	76.8	a	82.6	79.0	a	x(8)	81.4	75.6
		Females	20.5	18.3	a	30.2	27.8	a	x(8)	63.9	26.0
	United Kingdom	Males	c	61.3	82.3	85.8	86.8	c	89.3	90.1	83.5
		Females	c	42.8	69.6	77.5	77.9	c	83.7	86.3	74.0
	United States	Males	68.5	65.5	x(5)	x(5)	78.8	x(5)	83.5	89.3	80.9
		Females	40.0	46.1	x(5)	x(5)	66.8	x(5)	77.5	79.0	69.6
Partner countries	OECD average	Males	64.5	73.9	83.5	84.1	83.4	88.4	88.1	89.8	83.0
		Females	37.0	50.1	67.1	65.2	66.5	76.9	78.2	79.9	65.1
	EU19 average	Males	58.1	71.2	81.1	81.9	82.5	87.2	86.5	89.7	81.1
		Females	36.1	49.1	63.3	64.9	68.7	75.7	79.5	82.1	65.8
	Brazil	Males	84.6	87.4	x(5)	x(5)	89.5	a	x(8)	91.9	87.1
		Females	52.3	58.9	x(5)	x(5)	67.7	a	x(8)	81.7	61.3
	Estonia	Males	34.7	69.1	a	72.8	84.8	89.5	89.7	93.6	84.0
		Females	c	49.9	a	59.7	74.3	80.5	80.1	83.2	75.1
	Israel	Males	55.4	67.5	a	81.3	74.5	a	84.9	87.6	77.5
		Females	19.3	40.8	a	64.6	62.5	a	73.1	83.0	64.5
	Slovenia	Males	39.6	67.7	a	78.8	83.0	a	85.4	91.6	79.5
		Females	28.0	50.2	a	66.6	73.7	a	83.1	91.1	70.7

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)). Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


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Table A6.2a.

## Unemployment rates and educational attainment, by gender (2008)

Number of 25-64 year-olds in unemployment as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of education attained and gender

		Pre- primary and primary education	Lower secondary education	ISCED 3C short	Upper secondary education		Post- secondary non- tertiary education	Tertiary education		All levels of education
		(1)	(2)	(3)	ISCED 3C long/3B	ISCED 3A	(6)	Type B	Type A and advanced research programmes	(9)
OECD countries	Australia	Males 7.0	4.8	x(5)	x(5)	2.5	c	3.0	1.8	3.0
	Females	4.5	5.2	x(5)	x(5)	3.7	c	3.0	1.8	3.2
	Austria	Males x(2)	6.6	c	2.9	c	2.1	c	2.0	2.9
	Females	x(2)	6.9	c	3.3	c	2.2	c	2.2	3.5
	Belgium	Males 14.6	7.7	a	5.8	4.1	c	3.1	3.3	5.4
	Females	13.7	11.4	a	8.4	7.0	c	2.7	3.7	6.5
	Canada	Males 11.5	9.0	a	x(5)	5.6	5.6	4.5	4.0	5.4
	Females	11.2	7.6	a	x(5)	5.4	5.1	4.0	4.1	4.8
	Chile	Males 4.6	0.8	x(5)	5.8	6.0	a	5.3	5.0	5.3
	Females	7.4	5.1	x(5)	7.8	7.6	a	8.0	4.8	7.0
	Czech Republic	Males c	17.3	a	2.8	1.7	x(8)	x(8)	1.5	2.9
	Females	c	17.3	a	6.6	3.2	x(8)	x(8)	1.6	5.3
	Denmark	Males 7.7	3.4	7.5	1.6	2.9	c	1.8	2.5	2.3
	Females	8.7	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.0	c	2.1	2.2	2.7
	Finland	Males 8.1	7.0	a	a	4.9	c	2.9	2.8	4.6
	Females	8.0	9.8	a	a	6.3	c	3.6	3.7	5.3
	France	Males 9.8	8.6	a	4.7	5.0	c	2.9	4.3	5.5
	Females	10.8	10.6	a	6.8	6.1	c	3.9	4.5	6.8
	Germany	Males 23.7	16.4	a	7.5	8.4	4.5	2.9	3.0	7.1
	Females	22.7	13.5	a	7.8	6.9	4.0	3.7	4.0	7.4
	Greece	Males 4.2	4.5	c	c	3.5	5.5	5.2	3.7	4.3
	Females	9.4	15.3	c	19.9	9.9	12.9	11.2	6.2	10.1
	Hungary	Males 37.1	17.6	a	7.0	4.3	c	c	2.0	6.7
	Females	57.9	15.3	a	9.0	5.6	7.2	c	2.5	7.2
	Iceland	Males c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	2.1
	Females	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	Ireland	Males 10.6	8.8	c	a	5.5	5.4	4.2	2.9	5.9
	Females	5.7	5.3	c	a	3.5	4.7	3.1	2.5	3.6
	Italy	Males 8.0	5.5	7.1	2.8	3.5	6.8	3.6	3.1	4.5
	Females	11.6	10.1	12.7	6.6	5.9	8.2	4.2	5.3	7.3
	Japan	Males x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	4.7	a	4.0	2.5	3.8
	Females	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	x(5)	4.0	a	3.6	3.2	3.8
	Korea	Males 3.3	3.7	a	x(5)	3.9	a	3.3	2.5	3.3
	Females	1.4	1.6	a	x(5)	2.5	a	2.7	2.2	2.2
	Luxembourg	Males 3.9	5.6	c	c	9.1	c	c	c	3.7
	Females	7.1	c	c	6.8	4.3	c	c	3.2	4.5
	Mexico	Males 2.5	2.5	a	2.2	2.7	a	1.5	3.0	2.6
	Females	2.1	2.7	a	2.1	4.5	a	3.0	3.9	2.8
	Netherlands	Males 4.6	2.3	x(4)	2.2	1.6	1.9	2.5	1.5	2.0
	Females	4.9	4.0	x(4)	2.7	2.4	1.8	2.2	1.5	2.5
	New Zealand	Males x(2)	4.4	2.5	3.1	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.0	2.6
	Females	x(2)	4.1	1.9	3.5	2.3	3.8	2.8	2.3	2.9
	Norway	Males c	4.1	a	c	c	c	c	1.5	1.8
	Females	c	c	a	c	c	c	c	c	1.6
	Poland	Males x(2)	11.2	a	6.1	4.3	5.3	x(8)	2.9	5.4
	Females	x(2)	11.9	a	9.0	6.8	6.7	x(8)	3.4	6.7
	Portugal	Males 6.8	6.3	x(5)	x(5)	5.5	c	x(8)	4.3	6.2
	Females	7.9	11.0	x(5)	x(5)	7.6	c	x(8)	6.8	8.2
	Slovak Republic	Males c	37.1	x(4)	8.2	3.9	a	c	2.5	7.2
	Females	c	34.8	x(4)	13.2	6.5	a	c	3.5	10.2
	Spain	Males 14.0	10.0	a	7.0	8.0	c	5.1	4.5	8.6
	Females	17.2	15.7	a	11.5	11.2	c	9.3	6.2	11.5
	Sweden	Males 7.0	5.7	a	x(5)	3.7	4.3	4.0	3.2	4.0
	Females	13.4	6.9	a	x(5)	4.5	4.9	3.7	2.9	4.4
	Switzerland	Males c	5.2	c	2.4	c	c	c	1.8	2.3
	Females	c	6.4	c	2.9	4.9	c	c	2.9	3.4
	Turkey	Males 10.2	9.5	a	6.8	8.4	x(8)	x(8)	6.3	9.0
	Females	7.1	17.0	a	16.3	15.8	x(8)	x(8)	9.3	9.8
	United Kingdom	Males c	8.5	5.7	3.9	3.0	c	2.4	1.9	3.9
	Females	c	8.2	4.3	3.6	3.9	c	2.3	1.9	3.5
	United States	Males 10.2	11.3	x(5)	x(5)	5.6	x(5)	3.7	2.0	4.9
	Females	6.1	9.7	x(5)	x(5)	4.9	x(5)	3.5	2.1	4.0
Partner countries	OECD average	Males 10.0	8.5	5.7	4.6	4.6	4.3	3.4	2.9	4.5
	Females	11.4	10.0	5.5	7.5	5.7	5.6	4.1	3.6	5.4
	EU19 average	Males 11.4	10.0	6.7	4.8	4.6	4.5	3.4	2.9	4.9
	Females	14.2	11.7	6.6	7.9	5.8	5.8	4.3	3.6	6.2
	Brazil	Males 3.0	3.9	x(5)	x(5)	3.9	a	x(8)	2.4	3.4
	Females	6.1	8.6	x(5)	x(5)	8.5	a	x(8)	3.9	6.9
Partner countries	Estonia	Males c	9.8	a	c	5.0	c	c	2.3	4.9
	Females	c	9.6	a	c	5.5	c	3.3	2.5	4.6
	Israel	Males 11.1	8.0	a	4.4	4.7	a	4.6	3.3	5.0
	Females	11.0	10.3	a	7.5	7.2	a	4.6	3.3	5.5
	Slovenia	Males 11.3	4.8	a	3.2	2.8	a	3.0	2.6	3.3
	Females	13.7	5.8	a	4.8	3.9	a	3.2	3.5	4.3

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for a description of ISCED-97 levels, ISCED-97 country mappings and national data sources ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)). Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


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Table A6.3a.

**Trends in employment rates of 25–64 year-olds, by educational attainment (1997–2008)***Number of 25–64 year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment*

OECD countries		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	Below upper secondary	59.5	59.5	59.1	60.8	59.9	60.0	61.0	60.6	62.9	63.5	63.9	61.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	76.1	75.9	76.2	76.7	78.0	77.8	78.7	78.8	79.8	80.4	80.5	80.9
	Tertiary education	83.4	83.8	82.0	82.9	83.1	83.5	83.2	83.3	84.4	84.4	84.8	83.1
Austria	Below upper secondary	52.8	52.6	53.3	53.7	53.5	54.4	55.0	52.2	53.3	55.7	57.9	57.0
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75.6	75.0	75.6	74.8	74.8	75.3	75.6	73.9	74.3	75.8	76.9	78.1
	Tertiary education	86.0	85.8	86.2	87.5	86.6	86.0	85.0	82.5	84.5	85.9	86.8	86.4
Belgium	Below upper secondary	47.5	47.5	49.1	50.5	49.0	48.8	48.9	48.8	49.0	49.0	49.8	49.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	73.4	72.0	74.5	75.1	73.9	73.8	72.8	73.1	74.0	73.2	74.2	74.7
	Tertiary education	83.9	84.3	85.4	85.3	84.5	83.7	83.6	83.9	84.2	83.6	84.9	84.7
Canada	Below upper secondary	52.5	53.5	54.4	55.0	54.4	55.3	56.4	57.1	56.4	56.9	57.3	57.7
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	73.9	74.5	75.4	76.1	75.4	75.9	76.3	76.7	76.3	76.0	76.5	76.5
	Tertiary education	81.7	82.3	82.4	82.7	81.9	82.0	82.0	82.2	82.2	82.6	82.9	82.6
Chile	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	59.4	58.9
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	69.3	70.1
	Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	77.9	79.5
Czech Republic	Below upper secondary	51.1	49.5	46.9	46.9	46.7	45.3	46.0	42.3	41.2	43.9	45.7	46.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	79.7	78.2	76.4	75.5	75.7	76.2	75.8	74.8	75.5	75.6	76.1	76.6
	Tertiary education	89.3	88.7	87.4	86.8	87.8	87.1	86.5	86.4	85.8	85.1	85.2	85.1
Denmark	Below upper secondary	m	60.9	61.7	62.2	61.5	61.2	62.6	61.7	61.5	62.8	66.6	66.9
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	79.1	80.7	81.0	81.0	80.3	79.8	79.9	79.9	81.3	82.5	83.2
	Tertiary education	m	87.5	87.9	88.6	87.2	86.0	85.2	85.5	86.4	87.4	87.8	89.2
Finland	Below upper secondary	54.7	56.2	58.6	57.3	58.2	57.7	57.9	57.1	57.9	58.4	58.6	59.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	72.2	73.1	74.3	74.9	75.5	74.4	74.4	74.4	75.2	75.6	76.2	77.3
	Tertiary education	82.6	83.2	84.7	84.4	85.1	85.1	85.0	84.2	84.1	85.0	85.2	85.6
France	Below upper secondary	56.3	56.3	56.4	57.0	57.7	57.8	58.9	59.1	58.6	58.1	57.8	58.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75.0	75.0	75.1	75.8	76.5	76.7	76.3	75.7	75.7	75.6	75.8	75.9
	Tertiary education	81.3	81.6	81.8	83.1	83.7	83.3	83.3	82.9	83.0	83.0	83.5	84.3
Germany	Below upper secondary	45.7	46.1	48.7	50.6	51.8	50.9	50.2	48.6	51.6	53.8	54.6	55.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	68.2	67.9	69.9	70.4	70.5	70.3	69.7	69.5	70.6	72.5	74.4	75.3
	Tertiary education	82.3	82.2	83.0	83.4	83.4	83.6	83.0	82.7	82.9	84.3	85.5	85.8
Greece	Below upper secondary	57.4	57.1	57.0	57.5	57.2	58.3	59.7	57.9	59.1	59.5	59.9	60.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	63.3	64.8	64.6	64.6	65.0	65.3	66.8	68.1	68.7	69.7	69.4	69.8
	Tertiary education	80.2	80.5	80.7	80.9	80.3	81.2	81.5	81.4	81.8	83.1	82.6	82.6
Hungary	Below upper secondary	36.2	36.2	35.8	35.8	36.6	36.7	37.4	36.9	38.1	38.2	38.5	38.7
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	70.7	70.9	72.1	72.1	71.9	71.7	71.4	70.9	70.4	70.4	70.2	68.7
	Tertiary education	81.4	81.0	82.1	82.4	82.6	82.0	82.7	82.9	83.0	81.8	80.4	79.9
Iceland	Below upper secondary	83.8	85.6	87.2	87.3	87.2	86.4	83.7	81.6	83.0	83.6	84.1	83.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	88.0	88.6	90.5	89.0	89.7	89.4	88.7	87.8	88.2	88.6	88.6	86.3
	Tertiary education	94.6	94.7	95.1	95.0	94.7	95.4	92.7	92.0	92.0	92.0	92.2	91.0
Ireland	Below upper secondary	50.3	53.4	54.4	60.7	58.4	56.7	56.6	57.5	58.4	58.7	58.7	56.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	68.7	71.7	74.8	77.0	77.3	76.6	75.6	75.9	76.7	77.3	77.1	75.5
	Tertiary education	81.9	85.2	87.2	87.2	87.0	86.3	86.1	86.2	86.8	86.5	86.7	85.2
Italy	Below upper secondary	m	47.8	48.0	48.6	49.4	50.5	50.7	51.7	51.7	52.5	52.8	52.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	70.1	70.3	71.2	72.1	72.3	72.4	73.5	73.5	74.4	74.5	74.3
	Tertiary education	m	80.8	80.7	81.4	81.6	82.2	82.0	81.2	80.4	80.6	80.2	80.7
Japan	Below upper secondary	69.4	68.8	68.2	67.1	67.6	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75.3	75.8	74.2	73.8	74.3	71.8	72.0	72.3	73.2	74.4	74.4	74.4
	Tertiary education	80.7	79.5	79.2	79.0	79.9	79.2	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.8	80.1	79.7
Korea	Below upper secondary	71.2	66.1	66.9	68.0	67.8	68.4	66.5	66.4	65.9	66.2	66.0	66.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	71.7	66.5	66.4	68.7	69.3	70.5	69.6	70.1	70.1	70.3	70.7	70.7
	Tertiary education	80.2	76.1	74.6	75.4	75.7	76.1	76.4	76.7	76.8	77.2	77.2	77.1
Luxembourg	Below upper secondary	m	m	56.5	58.3	60.0	59.3	60.3	59.1	61.8	60.8	62.3	61.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	73.9	74.6	74.8	73.6	73.3	72.6	71.7	73.4	73.9	70.7
	Tertiary education	m	m	85.0	84.3	85.5	85.2	82.3	84.1	84.0	85.2	84.5	84.7
Mexico	Below upper secondary	61.8	61.3	61.4	60.7	60.5	61.3	60.9	62.2	65.4	67.0	63.0	63.6
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	70.1	69.1	69.1	70.7	69.8	69.7	69.5	70.3	69.2	61.1	73.5	72.9
	Tertiary education	83.2	83.2	82.0	82.5	80.9	80.9	81.2	81.4	96.8	97.2	83.0	82.8
Netherlands	Below upper secondary	m	55.3	60.7	57.6	58.8	60.7	59.4	59.4	59.5	60.6	61.9	63.7
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	76.8	79.5	79.4	80.0	79.8	78.8	77.9	77.9	79.1	80.3	81.5
	Tertiary education	m	85.4	87.2	86.3	86.3	86.5	85.9	85.3	85.6	86.4	87.7	88.3

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


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Table A6.3a. (continued)  
**Trends in employment rates of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment (1997-2008)**  
*Number of 25-64 year-olds in employment as a percentage of the population aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment*

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
OECD countries	New Zealand	Below upper secondary	63.1	62.4	63.6	64.8	65.9	67.0	67.4	68.9	70.0	70.4	71.0	70.5
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	80.3	79.1	79.7	80.0	80.1	81.2	81.4	82.7	84.2	84.2	84.6	83.3
		Tertiary education	82.3	81.5	81.9	82.2	83.7	83.0	82.7	83.3	84.1	84.5	83.7	84.5
	Norway	Below upper secondary	66.7	67.7	67.1	65.3	63.3	64.2	64.1	62.1	64.3	64.7	66.3	66.0
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	83.3	83.9	82.9	82.7	82.7	81.5	79.6	78.8	82.4	83.1	84.0	84.4
		Tertiary education	90.2	90.2	90.2	89.9	89.6	89.5	88.8	89.3	88.8	89.2	90.4	90.6
	Poland	Below upper secondary	50.3	49.1	46.6	42.8	41.5	39.1	38.2	37.5	37.7	38.6	41.0	43.0
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	70.7	71.1	69.7	66.6	64.8	62.5	61.6	61.3	61.7	62.9	65.2	67.0
		Tertiary education	86.7	87.2	86.6	84.5	84.1	83.1	82.6	82.3	82.7	83.5	84.5	85.1
	Portugal	Below upper secondary	m	71.6	71.8	72.8	73.1	73.0	72.4	71.9	71.5	71.7	71.6	71.7
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	80.1	81.9	83.3	82.7	82.2	81.5	80.3	79.3	80.2	79.8	80.6
		Tertiary education	m	89.4	90.0	90.6	90.8	88.6	87.5	88.0	87.3	86.4	85.9	86.7
	Slovak Republic	Below upper secondary	38.9	37.4	33.2	30.9	30.5	28.2	28.5	26.6	26.3	28.9	29.1	32.3
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75.9	75.1	72.5	70.6	70.2	70.5	71.2	70.3	70.8	71.9	73.2	74.8
		Tertiary education	89.8	88.6	87.0	85.6	86.7	86.6	87.1	83.6	84.0	84.9	84.2	85.5
	Spain	Below upper secondary	48.2	49.5	51.0	53.8	55.1	55.7	56.6	57.6	58.6	59.8	60.5	59.1
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	66.6	67.5	69.6	72.1	71.8	71.6	72.4	73.2	74.7	75.9	76.3	75.2
		Tertiary education	75.5	76.3	77.6	79.7	80.7	80.8	81.6	81.9	82.4	83.4	84.4	83.6
	Sweden	Below upper secondary	67.2	66.4	66.5	68.0	68.8	68.2	67.5	67.0	66.1	66.9	66.6	66.2
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	78.6	79.3	79.6	81.7	81.9	81.8	81.3	80.7	81.3	81.9	83.1	83.3
		Tertiary education	85.0	85.5	85.6	86.7	86.9	86.5	85.8	85.4	87.3	87.3	88.6	89.2
	Switzerland	Below upper secondary	68.0	68.8	68.3	64.5	69.6	68.2	66.3	65.4	65.3	64.5	66.0	67.6
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	79.6	80.8	80.9	81.4	81.3	81.1	80.5	79.9	80.0	80.2	81.1	82.0
		Tertiary education	89.1	90.3	90.7	90.4	91.3	90.6	89.7	89.7	90.0	90.2	90.0	90.5
	Turkey	Below upper secondary	56.9	57.4	55.8	53.1	51.9	50.5	49.1	50.1	49.1	49.0	46.9	46.7
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	66.8	66.0	63.9	64.0	62.4	61.8	61.1	61.5	63.2	62.7	61.0	60.8
		Tertiary education	81.7	81.3	79.0	78.5	78.3	76.3	74.9	75.2	76.1	75.5	74.6	74.6
	United Kingdom	Below upper secondary	64.7	64.5	65.0	65.3	65.5	65.3	66.0	65.4	65.5	65.2	64.9	65.6
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	79.2	80.1	80.5	81.1	80.9	81.1	81.5	81.2	81.6	81.3	80.9	82.1
		Tertiary education	87.2	87.1	87.7	87.8	88.1	87.6	87.8	87.7	88.0	88.1	87.8	87.8
	United States	Below upper secondary	55.2	57.6	57.8	57.8	58.4	57.0	57.8	56.5	57.2	58.0	58.3	56.2
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	75.7	75.8	76.2	76.7	76.2	74.0	73.3	72.8	72.8	73.3	73.6	72.8
		Tertiary education	85.4	85.3	84.6	85.0	84.4	83.2	82.2	82.0	82.5	82.7	83.3	83.1
OECD average	Below upper secondary	57.2	57.4	57.7	57.8	58.0	57.4	57.4	56.9	57.5	58.2	58.7	58.7	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	74.3	74.6	75.0	75.4	75.4	75.0	74.8	74.6	74.7	75.4	76.1	76.1	
	Tertiary education	84.2	84.4	84.5	84.7	84.7	84.4	83.9	83.7	84.6	84.9	84.4	84.5	
EU19 average	Below upper secondary	51.5	53.2	53.7	54.2	54.4	54.1	54.4	53.6	54.1	54.9	55.7	56.0	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	72.7	73.8	74.5	74.8	74.8	74.5	74.3	74.1	74.4	75.2	75.8	76.0	
	Tertiary education	83.8	84.5	84.9	85.1	85.2	84.8	84.4	84.1	84.4	84.8	85.1	85.3	
Partner countries	Brazil	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	68.8	69.4
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	76.9	77.7
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	85.8	86.0
	Estonia	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	44.1	49.0	50.9	50.0	56.5	56.7	58.3
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	71.9	72.9	72.6	73.6	78.1	79.4	79.7
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	81.6	80.3	82.4	84.5	87.7	87.4	85.8
	Israel	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	43.5	42.7	40.4	41.2	41.8	42.7	44.8
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	66.6	65.9	66.4	66.6	67.5	69.2	70.0
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	79.1	79.3	79.2	80.3	81.2	83.0	82.8
	Slovenia	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	55.6	54.2	55.9	56.1	55.9	56.2	55.0
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	74.0	72.7	74.4	74.6	74.1	75.1	76.4
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	86.1	86.1	86.8	87.0	88.2	87.7	87.9

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932310187>

Table A6.4a.

**Trends in unemployment rates of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment (1997-2008)***Number of 25-64 year-olds unemployed as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment*

OECD countries		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	Below upper secondary	9.6	9.0	8.4	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.0	6.2	6.3	5.6	5.1	5.2
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.1	5.8	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.4	3.8	3.0	2.6	2.6
	Tertiary education	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1
Austria	Below upper secondary	6.6	6.8	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.7	7.8	7.8	8.6	7.9	7.4	6.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.3	3.7	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.3	2.9
	Tertiary education	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.7
Belgium	Below upper secondary	12.5	13.1	12.0	9.8	8.5	10.3	10.7	11.7	12.4	12.3	11.3	10.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.7	7.4	6.6	5.3	5.5	6.0	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.2	5.7
	Tertiary education	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.2
Canada	Below upper secondary	12.9	11.9	10.8	10.2	10.5	11.0	10.9	10.2	9.8	9.3	9.5	9.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.1	7.5	6.7	5.9	6.3	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.5
	Tertiary education	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.1
Chile	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	4.6	5.2
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	6.0	6.6
	Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	6.0	5.5
Czech Republic	Below upper secondary	12.1	14.5	18.8	19.3	19.2	18.8	18.3	23.0	24.4	22.3	19.1	17.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.4	4.6	6.5	6.7	6.2	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.2	5.5	4.3	3.3
	Tertiary education	1.2	1.9	2.6	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.5	1.5
Denmark	Below upper secondary	m	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.2	6.4	6.7	8.2	6.5	5.5	4.2	3.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.8	4.0	2.7	2.5	2.2
	Tertiary education	m	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.6	3.9	4.7	4.4	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.3
Finland	Below upper secondary	15.6	13.8	13.1	12.1	11.4	12.2	11.2	11.3	10.7	10.1	8.9	8.1
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	11.9	10.6	9.5	8.9	8.5	8.8	8.3	7.9	7.4	7.0	6.1	5.4
	Tertiary education	6.5	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.4	3.7	3.6	3.3
France	Below upper secondary	15.0	14.9	15.3	13.9	11.9	11.8	10.4	10.7	11.1	11.0	10.2	9.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.6	9.6	9.2	7.9	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.0	5.6
	Tertiary education	7.0	6.6	6.1	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.0
Germany	Below upper secondary	15.4	15.4	15.9	13.9	13.5	15.3	18.0	20.4	20.2	19.9	18.0	16.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.9	10.3	8.8	8.1	8.2	9.0	10.2	11.2	11.0	9.9	8.3	7.2
	Tertiary education	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.2	4.2	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.5	4.8	3.8	3.3
Greece	Below upper secondary	6.5	7.7	8.8	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.2	8.7	8.3	7.2	7.0	6.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.6	10.7	11.5	11.2	10.4	10.5	10.1	10.0	9.6	8.9	8.2	7.2
	Tertiary education	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.5	7.2	6.8	6.5	7.4	7.1	6.3	6.1	5.7
Hungary	Below upper secondary	12.6	11.4	11.1	9.9	10.0	10.5	10.6	10.8	12.4	14.8	16.0	17.3
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.9	6.2	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.8	5.0	6.0	6.1	5.9	6.3
	Tertiary education	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.3
Iceland	Below upper secondary	4.4	3.2	2.0	2.6	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.5	2.3	c	c	2.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.7	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	Tertiary education	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Ireland	Below upper secondary	14.5	11.6	9.2	5.6	5.2	5.9	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.7	6.1	8.2
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.5	4.5	3.5	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.5	4.8
	Tertiary education	4.0	3.0	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.0
Italy	Below upper secondary	m	10.8	10.6	10.0	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.2	7.8	6.9	6.3	7.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	8.1	7.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.4	5.2	4.6	4.1	4.6
	Tertiary education	m	6.9	6.9	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	4.8	4.2	4.3
Japan	Below upper secondary	3.9	4.3	5.6	6.0	5.9	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.4	3.3	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.4
	Tertiary education	2.3	2.6	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.1
Korea	Below upper secondary	1.4	6.0	5.4	3.7	3.1	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.5
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	2.4	6.8	6.4	4.1	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.3
	Tertiary education	2.3	4.9	4.7	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.6
Luxembourg	Below upper secondary	m	m	3.4	3.1	1.7	3.8	3.3	5.7	5.1	4.9	4.1	4.8
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.2	2.6	3.7	3.2	3.8	2.8	4.9
	Tertiary education	m	m	c	c	c	1.8	4.0	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.2
Mexico	Below upper secondary	2.6	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.4	3.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	3.8	3.4	2.8	2.9
	Tertiary education	2.8	3.1	3.5	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.7	2.6	2.3	3.6	3.3
Netherlands	Below upper secondary	m	0.9	4.3	3.9	2.9	3.0	4.5	5.5	5.8	4.8	4.0	3.4
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	1.7	2.3	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.8	3.8	4.1	3.5	2.7	2.1
	Tertiary education	m	m	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.3	1.8	1.6

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.


StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932310187>




Table A6.4a. (continued)  
**Trends in unemployment rates of 25-64 year-olds, by educational attainment (1997-2008)**  
 Number of 25-64 year-olds unemployed as a percentage of the labour force aged 25 to 64, by level of educational attainment

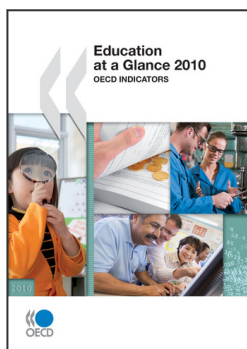
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
OECD countries	New Zealand	Below upper secondary	7.6	8.9	7.8	6.6	5.8	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.7
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.4	5.1	5.0	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.6
		Tertiary education	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.4
	Norway	Below upper secondary	4.0	2.9	2.5	2.2	3.4	3.4	3.9	4.0	7.3	4.7	3.3	3.8
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.1	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.6	3.8	2.6	2.1	1.3	1.3
		Tertiary education	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.3
	Poland	Below upper secondary	13.8	13.9	16.4	20.6	22.6	25.2	25.9	27.8	27.1	21.5	15.5	11.5
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.9	9.1	10.7	13.9	15.9	17.8	17.8	17.4	16.6	12.7	8.7	6.3
		Tertiary education	2.1	2.5	3.1	4.3	5.0	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.2	5.0	3.8	3.1
	Portugal	Below upper secondary	m	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	4.4	5.7	6.4	7.5	7.6	8.0	7.6
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	5.1	4.5	3.5	3.3	4.4	5.3	5.6	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.6
		Tertiary education	m	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.9	4.9	4.4	5.4	5.4	6.6	5.8
	Slovak Republic	Below upper secondary	22.4	24.3	30.3	36.3	38.7	42.3	44.9	47.7	49.2	44.0	41.3	36.3
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.5	8.8	11.9	14.3	14.8	14.2	13.5	14.6	12.7	10.0	8.5	7.4
		Tertiary education	2.8	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.8	4.4	2.6	3.3	3.1
	Spain	Below upper secondary	18.9	17.0	14.7	13.7	10.2	11.2	11.3	11.0	9.3	9.0	9.0	13.2
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	16.8	15.3	12.9	10.9	8.4	9.4	9.5	9.4	7.3	6.9	6.8	9.3
		Tertiary education	13.7	13.1	11.1	9.5	6.9	7.7	7.7	7.3	6.1	5.5	4.8	5.8
	Sweden	Below upper secondary	11.9	10.4	9.0	8.0	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.5	8.5	7.3	7.0	7.1
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	9.4	7.8	6.5	5.3	4.6	4.6	5.2	5.8	6.0	5.1	4.2	4.1
		Tertiary education	5.2	4.4	3.9	3.0	2.6	3.0	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.2	3.4	3.3
	Switzerland	Below upper secondary	6.0	5.7	4.7	4.8	3.4	4.3	5.9	7.1	7.2	7.5	6.7	6.0
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.9
		Tertiary education	4.4	2.8	1.7	1.4	1.3	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.8
	Turkey	Below upper secondary	4.4	4.4	5.3	4.6	6.7	8.5	8.8	8.1	8.7	8.3	8.6	9.6
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.3	6.6	8.2	5.5	7.4	8.7	7.8	10.1	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.3
		Tertiary education	3.9	4.8	5.1	3.9	4.7	7.5	6.9	8.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.3
	United Kingdom	Below upper secondary	8.4	7.5	7.1	6.6	6.1	6.0	5.2	5.3	5.1	6.3	6.5	6.2
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	5.5	4.4	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	3.7
		Tertiary education	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.0
	United States	Below upper secondary	10.4	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.1	10.2	9.9	10.5	9.0	8.3	8.5	10.1
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	4.8	4.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.5	5.3
		Tertiary education	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.1	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.4
OECD average	Below upper secondary	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.7	9.4	9.7	10.3	10.5	10.0	9.1	8.7	
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	6.7	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.0	5.5	4.9	4.9	
	Tertiary education	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	
	EU19 average	Below upper secondary	13.3	11.4	11.4	11.1	10.6	11.4	11.7	12.8	13.0	12.1	11.0	10.6
	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	8.4	7.4	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.2	5.4	5.3	
	Tertiary education	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.2	
Partner countries	Brazil	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	5.6	4.7	
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	7.0	6.1
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	3.3	3.3
	Estonia	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	19.0	14.8	15.4	13.0	11.7	8.6	9.7
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	10.5	9.5	9.5	8.4	5.7	4.6	5.2
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	5.8	6.5	5.0	3.8	3.2	2.4	2.8
	Israel	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	14.0	15.2	15.6	14.0	12.8	12.4	9.8
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	9.8	10.3	10.6	9.5	8.7	7.2	5.8
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.1	4.5	3.8	3.7
	Slovenia	Below upper secondary	m	m	m	m	m	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.7	7.0	6.5	5.9
		Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	m	m	m	m	m	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.6	4.3	3.5
		Tertiary education	m	m	m	m	m	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1

Source: OECD. See Annex 3 for notes ([www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2010)).

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning the symbols replacing missing data.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932310187>





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