

4. SELF-SUFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Youth neither in employment, education nor training (NEETs)

Participation in employment, education or training is important for youth to become established in the labour market and achieve self-sufficiency. Record high unemployment rates in a number of countries have hit youth especially hard. In addition, inactivity rates of youth are substantial in many countries, meaning that they are neither employed, nor registered as unemployed, in education or in training.

More than 20% of all youth aged 15/16-24 were unemployed or inactive, and neither in education nor in training (NEET) in Greece, Italy, Mexico and Turkey in the fourth quarter of 2012 (Figure 4.7, Panel A). The lowest rates were observed in Denmark, Iceland, the Netherlands and Switzerland, with rates of 6% or lower. The average NEET rate in the OECD area was about 13%.

The NEET rate has increased in most OECD countries since the onset of the economic crisis (Figure 4.7, Panel B). From the fourth quarter of 2007 to the fourth quarter of 2012, the increase was strongest in Greece, Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy and Spain. On the other hand, there were also some countries where the NEET rates dropped. The decrease was particularly strong in the Czech Republic and Turkey. The higher NEET rates in many countries can mainly be explained by increased unemployment. At the average OECD level, the inactivity rate declined by 1 percentage point, and in most countries the rate declined or increased moderately.

On average across OECD countries, the NEET rates for the broader 15-29 age group are higher for people with low education levels than for those with high education (Figure 4.8). The gap is highest in Belgium, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

The share of 15-24 year-olds who are unemployed or inactive and neither in education nor in training is higher for foreign-born than for natives (Figure 4.9). Exceptions are Hungary, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The impact of the crises on the NEET rates is relatively similar for foreign-born and natives in most countries. In the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway and Slovenia, were the relative change in the rates for foreign-born larger than for natives.

The NEET rates in emerging economies are generally high (Figure 4.7, Panel A). In India, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, more than 20% of the population aged 15/16-24 were

unemployed or inactive and neither in education nor in training in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Definitions and measurement

The so-called NEET population refers to youth population who is neither in employment, education nor training. Data refer to OECD estimates based on national labour force surveys. National definitions broadly conform to this generic definition, but may vary depending on national circumstances.

NEET rates are presented by status of inactivity (unemployed or inactive), completed level of education and migrant status.

Data for some countries (such as Iceland) should be interpreted carefully due to relatively small sample size.

Further reading

OECD (2013a), *OECD Employment Outlook 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/empl_outlook-2013-en.

OECD (2013b), *Education at a Glance 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2013-en>.

OECD (2013c), *International Migration Outlook 2013*, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2013-en.

Figure notes

Figure 4.7: Detailed data are not available for South Africa. Argentina and Brazil: Selected urban areas only. Saudi Arabia and China: May include some unemployed people who are students.

Figure 4.8: For Japan, data refer to 15-24 year-olds.

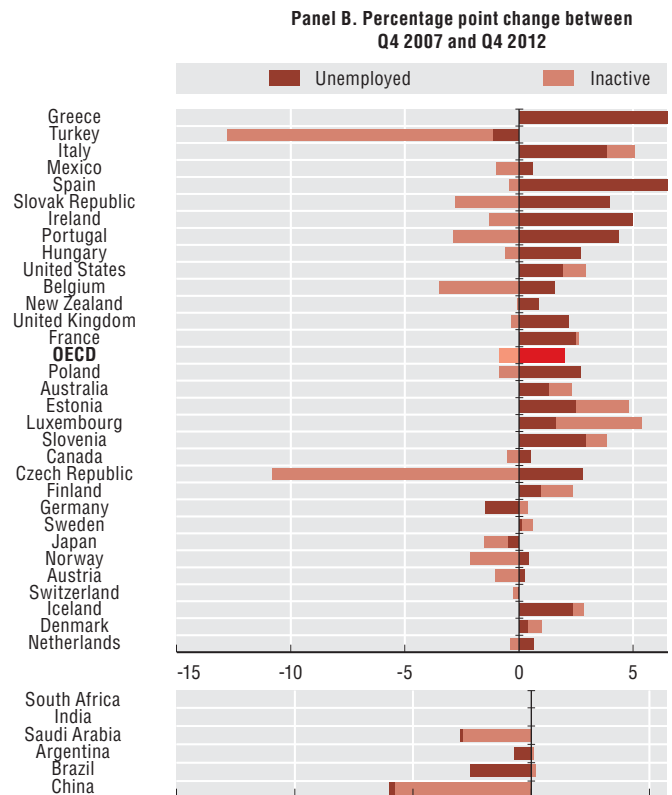
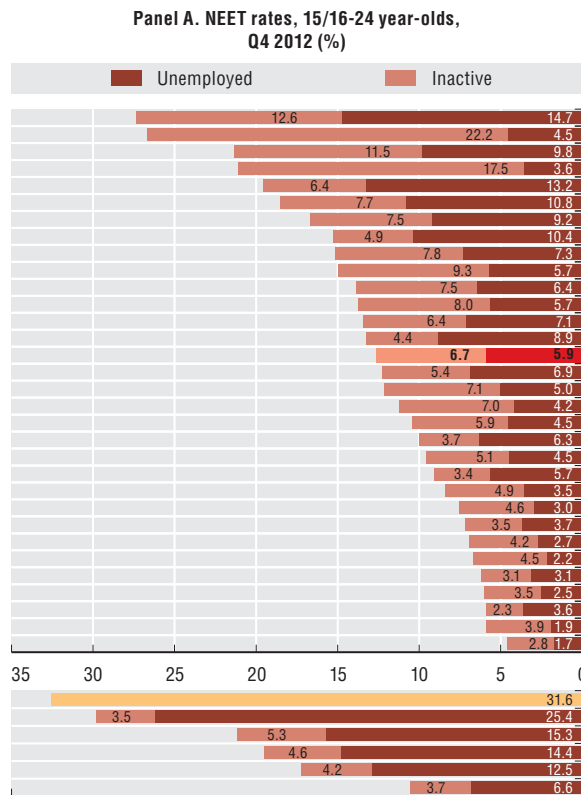
Figure 4.9: The results for NEET in Europe are overestimated because they are based on three quarters, including summertime, when under declaration of school enrolment of students is commonly observed. Data are sorted by increasing rate of unemployment for the foreign-born population.

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

4. SELF-SUFFICIENCY INDICATORS

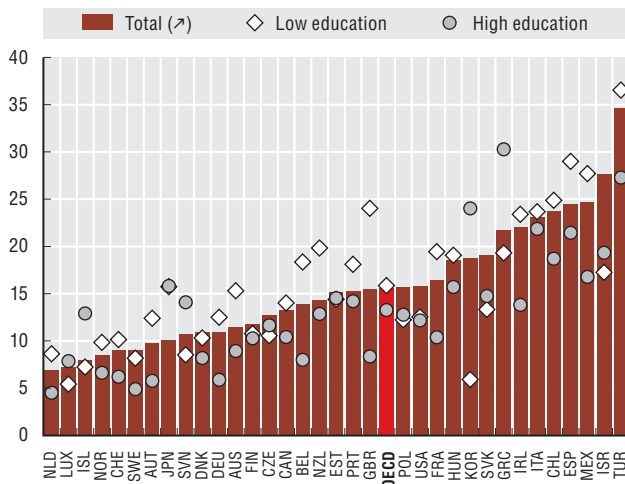
Youth neither in employment, education nor training (NEETs)

4.7. More young people are unemployed or inactive and not in education nor in training (NEET)



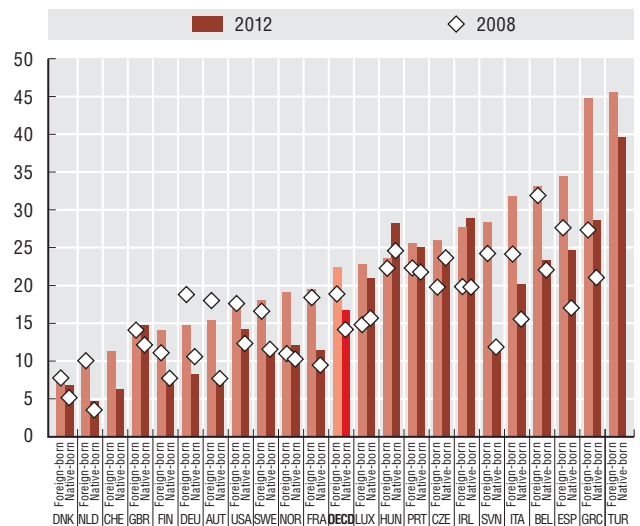
4.8. Young people with low education are more likely to be NEET

Percentage of 15-29 year-olds not in education and not employed by completed level of education, 2011



4.9. Immigrant youth are more likely to be NEET

NEET rates by place of birth in selected OECD countries, 2008 and 2012



Source: OECD estimates based on national labour force surveys; OECD Short-Term Labour Market Statistics; OECD Employment Outlook 2013 (www.oecd.org/els/emp/oecdemploymentoutlook.htm); Education at a Glance 2013 (www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm); International Migration Outlook 2013 (www.oecd.org/els/mig/imo2013.htm); for European countries: Labour force surveys (Eurostat), Q1-Q3 2008, Q1-Q3 2011, Q1-Q3 2012; United States: Monthly Current Population Surveys, 2007, 2011 and 2012.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932966409>



From:
Society at a Glance 2014
OECD Social Indicators

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/soc_glance-2014-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "Youth neither in employment, education nor training (NEETs)", in *Society at a Glance 2014: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/soc_glance-2014-14-en

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.