

## YOUTH INACTIVITY

Young people who are neither in employment nor in education and training (the “NEET” population) are at risk of becoming socially excluded – individuals with income below the poverty-line and lacking the skills to improve their economic situation. To improve the transition from school to work, regardless of the economic climate, education systems should work to ensure that individuals have the skills that are needed in the labour market, and reduce the proportion of young adults who are neither in school nor in work.

### Definition

The indicator presents the share of young people who are neither in education and training nor in employment, as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group. Young people in education include those attending part-time as well as full-time education, but exclude those in non-formal education and in educational activities of very short duration. Employment is defined according to the ILO Guidelines and covers all those who have been in paid work for at least one hour in the reference week of the survey or were temporarily absent from such work.

### Comparability

The length and the quality of the schooling individuals receive have an impact on students’ transition from education to work; so do labour-market conditions, the economic environment and demographics. National traditions also play an important role. For example, in

some countries, young people traditionally complete schooling before they look for work; in others, education and employment are concurrent. In some countries, there is little difference between how young women and men experience their transitions from school to work, while in other countries, significant proportions of young women raise families full-time after leaving the education system and do not enter employment. The ageing of the population in OECD countries should favour employment among young adults, as, theoretically, when older people leave the labour market, their jobs are made available to the young. However, during recessionary periods, high general unemployment rates make the transition from school to work substantially more difficult for young people, as those with more work experience are favoured over new entrants into the labour market. In addition, when labour-market conditions are unfavourable, younger people often tend to stay in education longer, because high unemployment rates drive down the opportunity costs of education.

### Overview

On average across OECD countries, 18.4% of the 20-24 year-olds and 8.3% of the 15-19 year-olds were neither in school nor at work in 2011. For OECD countries as a whole, the proportion of the 20-24 year-olds who were neither in employment nor in education increased by 2.4 percentage points between 2008 and 2011, whereas it decreased by 1.6 percentage points between 2000 and 2008. The share of 15-19 year-olds who were not in employment nor in education also declined between 2000 and 2008 (by 1.5 percentage points), while between 2008 and 2011 it increased by only 0.5 percentage points.

Differences across countries are large: in Luxembourg and the Netherlands less than 9% of young people in the age group 20-24 belonged to the NEET population. The ratio is substantially higher in Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico and Spain, where this figure exceeded 25%, and in Turkey, where the share reaches almost 40%. The ageing of the population and the declining size of the population of 15-19 year-olds in OECD countries should favour employment among young adults.

### Sources

- OECD (2013), *Education at a Glance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2013), *OECD Economic Outlook*, OECD Publishing.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD, et al. (2013), *African Economic Outlook 2013*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2013), *OECD Education Working Papers*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2013), *OECD Skills Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2010), *Jobs for Youth*, OECD Publishing.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2011), *Society at a Glance: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing.

#### Online databases

- OECD Education Statistics.

#### Websites

- OECD Education at a Glance (supplementary material), [www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm).



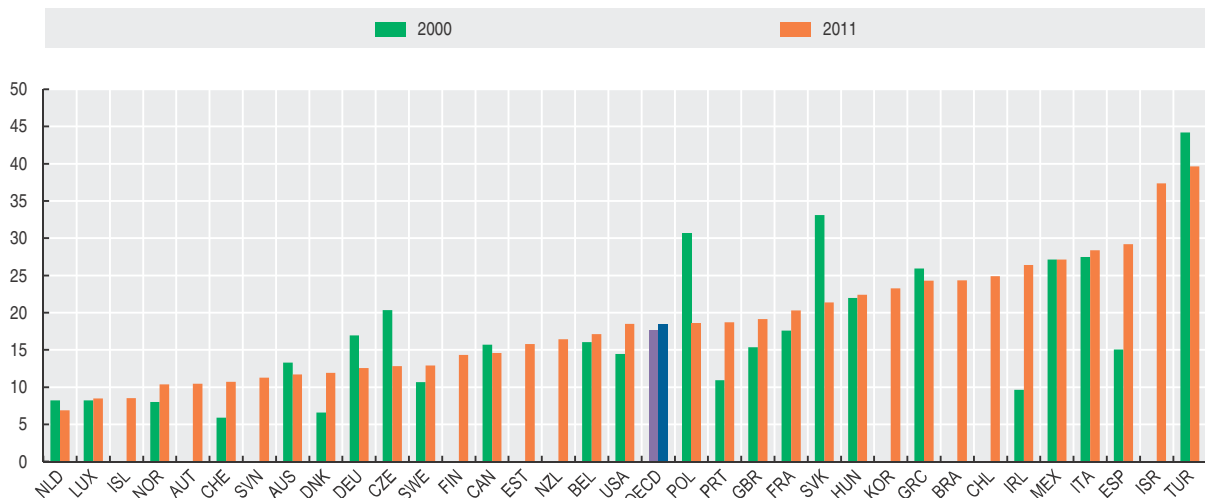
YOUTH INACTIVITY

**Youth who are not in education nor in employment**  
As a percentage of persons in that age group

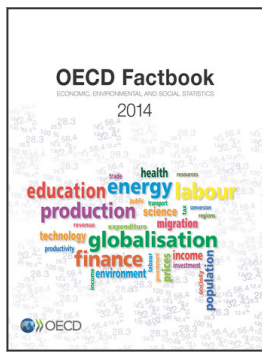
	Youth aged between 15 and 19					Youth aged between 20 and 24						
	2000	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2000	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Australia	6.8	6.5	6.3	8.3	8.1	7.8	13.3	10.7	10.7	11.6	11.2	11.7
Austria	..	5.3	5.6	6.5	5.3	5.5	..	11.0	11.4	11.8	12.6	10.5
Belgium	6.5	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	16.0	15.4	14.1	16.1	18.0	17.1
Canada	8.2	7.3	7.3	8.1	8.2	7.7	15.7	13.7	13.0	15.2	15.3	14.6
Chile	..	..	..	..	..	21.4	..	..	..	..	..	24.9
Czech Republic	7.9	2.9	2.7	3.5	3.8	3.7	20.3	11.0	10.6	13.1	13.6	12.8
Denmark	2.7	4.1	4.0	5.0	5.5	5.3	6.6	8.0	8.2	10.1	12.1	11.9
Estonia	..	5.7	4.9	8.0	6.1	6.4	..	15.3	10.7	19.8	22.4	15.8
Finland	..	3.5	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	..	13.3	12.0	15.1	15.8	14.3
France	7.0	6.3	5.8	6.8	7.9	7.1	17.6	17.9	16.6	20.0	20.6	20.3
Germany	5.7	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.5	16.9	15.2	14.0	13.7	13.7	12.6
Greece	9.3	8.5	8.4	7.9	7.5	8.3	25.9	17.7	17.1	18.2	21.6	24.3
Hungary	8.6	5.0	5.7	5.6	4.6	4.8	22.0	16.9	18.4	20.9	21.5	22.4
Iceland	..	..	..	..	5.5	..	..	6.4	..	9.4	10.5	8.5
Ireland	4.4	5.1	8.5	11.0	10.4	9.4	9.7	12.1	14.6	20.8	26.4	26.4
Israel	..	25.7	22.2	24.7	22.5	24.2	..	39.6	37.5	37.5	36.9	37.4
Italy	13.1	10.2	9.6	11.2	12.5	11.4	27.5	22.6	22.0	24.8	27.1	28.4
Japan	8.8	7.6	7.4	8.5	9.9	10.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea	..	..	7.0	7.0	8.5	8.7	..	..	22.2	23.0	23.5	23.3
Luxembourg	..	2.9	2.1	2.7	6.3	2.3	8.2	9.2	9.8	8.7	7.5	8.5
Mexico	18.3	17.5	17.8	18.4	18.7	18.9	27.1	26.5	26.5	27.6	26.9	27.2
Netherlands	3.7	3.6	2.1	3.6	3.1	3.4	8.2	6.9	5.6	7.9	7.4	6.9
New Zealand	..	7.5	7.0	9.5	8.6	8.6	..	13.6	14.1	17.7	17.8	16.5
Norway	..	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.5	3.2	8.0	8.8	7.0	9.4	9.0	10.4
Poland	4.5	2.5	2.4	3.6	3.6	3.9	30.8	18.3	15.6	16.4	17.7	18.7
Portugal	7.7	8.6	7.1	6.9	7.4	8.0	11.0	15.2	13.5	15.7	16.4	18.7
Slovak Republic	26.3	5.4	5.7	4.5	4.6	5.3	33.1	19.9	16.6	17.1	22.1	21.4
Slovenia	..	4.3	4.4	2.5	3.2	3.4	..	10.4	10.3	11.4	9.3	11.3
Spain	8.0	10.9	10.5	13.4	12.8	12.0	15.0	17.2	19.4	26.3	27.4	29.2
Sweden	3.6	5.4	4.4	5.5	5.4	4.2	10.7	13.1	12.9	16.5	14.3	12.9
Switzerland	7.9	8.2	9.4	7.9	4.8	5.0	5.9	10.4	9.1	10.7	11.1	10.7
Turkey	31.2	34.5	37.1	28.7	25.6	24.8	44.2	46.3	46.1	46.1	43.7	39.6
United Kingdom	8.0	10.7	9.8	9.6	10.0	9.5	15.4	18.1	18.3	19.1	19.3	19.1
United States	7.0	6.3	7.2	8.8	7.6	7.1	14.4	16.2	17.2	20.1	19.4	18.5
EU 28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
OECD	9.4	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.2	17.7	16.1	15.7	17.8	18.5	18.5
Brazil	..	14.7	13.8	14.0	..	13.1	..	23.4	22.5	23.3	..	24.3
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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**Youth aged between 20 and 24 who are not in education nor in employment**  
As a percentage of persons in that age group



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