



EUROPEAN SEMESTER THEMATIC FICHE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The economic crisis has hit young people hardest in terms of jobs. Despite recent positive trends, in many Member States, record numbers of young people are unemployed, or not in education or training. Considerable differences remain across the EU. While these problems are largely due to the overall economic situation, they are also rooted in structural problems specifically affecting young people. These include, among other things, poor-performing education and training systems, segmented labour markets, and a low capacity of public employment services to provide tailored services to young people.

Unemployment, inactivity and lost productivity among young people have a high cost and call for targeted policies. Experiencing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, at the beginning of someone's career, can have negative long-term consequences in terms of future earnings and employment prospects. Through the Youth Guarantee¹, Member States committed to ensure that all young people up to 25 receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within four months of leaving education or becoming unemployed: in 2014, nearly one in eight young people were not in education, employment or training, and reducing this figure is a key objective.

In the 2015 Annual Growth Survey, the Commission called for determined action to improve the labour market situation of young people, with the Youth Guarantee representing an ambitious way to combine different instruments to address youth unemployment effectively.

1. Key statistical indicators

At EU level, the **youth unemployment rate** is more than twice as high as the overall unemployment rate (21.1% in comparison to 9.8% in February 2015). Young people who have only completed lower secondary education bear the highest risk of unemployment. In 2014, the unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 was 21.9%, but reached 29.8% for low-skilled young people of the same age².

In total, 7.1 million people aged 15 to 24 are **not in employment, education or training (NEETs)**. In 2014, 12.4% of young people were NEETs, up from 10.9% in 2008. 6% of young people in this age group are inactive NEETs.

¹ Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee of 22 April 2013.

² Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (lfsa_urgaed).

The youth **unemployment ratio**, i.e. the share of unemployed among the overall population aged 15-24, varied between 3.9% (Germany) and 19% (Spain) in 2014, the EU average standing at 9.1%³.

Young people are over-represented in **temporary and part-time work**: 43.3% of young employees (15-24) were on temporary contracts in 2014, compared to 14% of the overall working age population. 31.9% had part-time jobs, compared to 19.6% of workers overall. This reflects segmented labour markets, with young people at particular risk of being trapped in the lower end of the labour market, with less on-the-job training, lower wage levels and weaker long-term employment and career prospects. In a number of countries, there is a high rate of involuntary temporary contracts, and low transitions to a regular job.

Other indicators, such as those that try to capture the performance of education and training systems and school-to-work transitions (see below), provide valuable information for the design and implementation of the policy responses needed to support youth employment.

There are currently few indicators related to the provision of specific, tailored services to young people. An Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Youth Guarantee⁴ has been developed and will yield data on some of these aspects over time. Regular data collection will start in 2015.

2. Assessment of Member States' challenges

Currently, more than one in five young people available for the labour market cannot find a job. Many may decide to extend or return to studies and invest in their future job prospects. There is also a large number of young people neither working nor studying. Being unemployed at a young age has a long-lasting negative impact⁵. Young people might be trapped at the lower end of the labour market. Young people aged 25-29 with higher education also find it harder to access jobs in line with their qualifications. Although the low-skilled overall still face the highest risk of unemployment, the young high-skilled have suffered the biggest drop in employment.

Labour market attachment

In 2014, a majority of Member States (18) faced a **youth unemployment rate** over 20%: in six Member States, the rate was over 30% (Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Portugal). Only in five Member States (Denmark, Germany, Malta, The Netherlands, Austria) were the rates lower than 15% (see figure 1).

Overall **employment rates**⁶ for young people fell by 4.8 percentage points between 2008 and 2014 (from 37.3% to 32.5%) – falling about eight times as much as for adults.

³ Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (yth_empl_140).

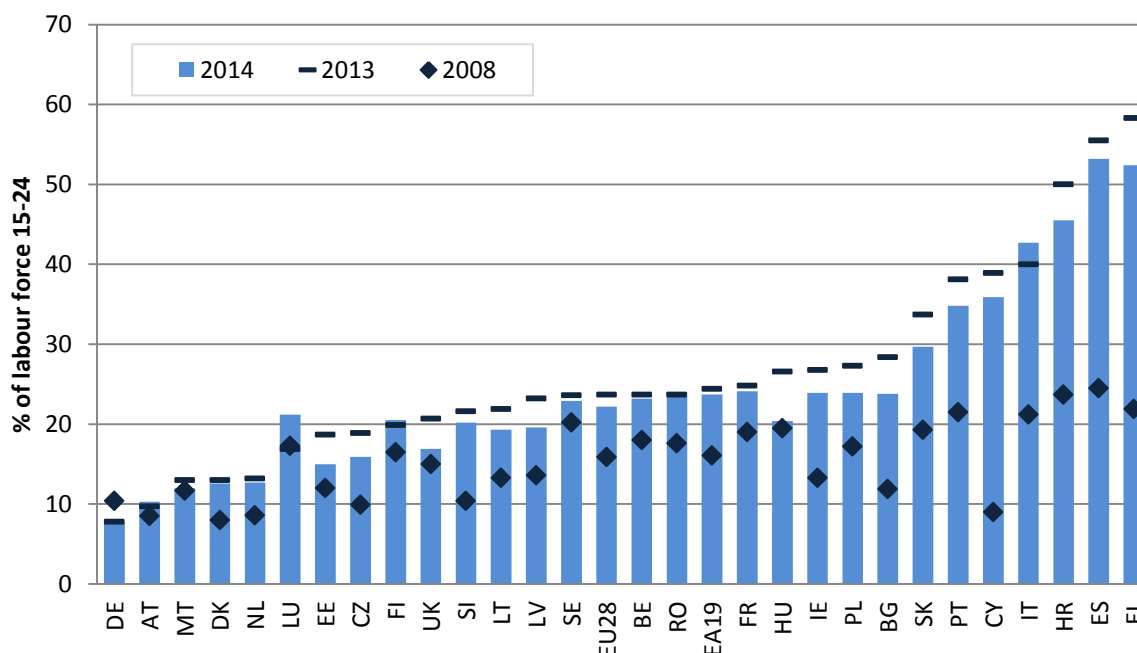
⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/contentAdmin/BlobServlet?docId=13402&langId=en>.

⁵ Eurofound estimated that in 2011, the cost of young people's unemployment or inactivity (i.e. the costs of young people being considered to be NEET) was the equivalent of 1.21% of GDP, i.e. an annual loss of €153 billion for the EU. The re-integration into employment of just 10% of these young people would create a yearly gain of more than €15 billion.

⁶ Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, annual data (lfsa_ergan). Youth aged 15-24, adults 25-64.

Figure 1:

Youth unemployment rates (15-24 years old) for the EU Member States
2008, 2013 and 2014



Source: Eurostat, LFS [une_rt_a].

Long-term youth unemployment is still at record highs. The long-term unemployment rate increased by 4.2 percentage points (to 7.7% of the young labour force) between 2008 and 2014⁷, compared with a 2.5 percentage point increase for the total population (to 5.1%)⁸.

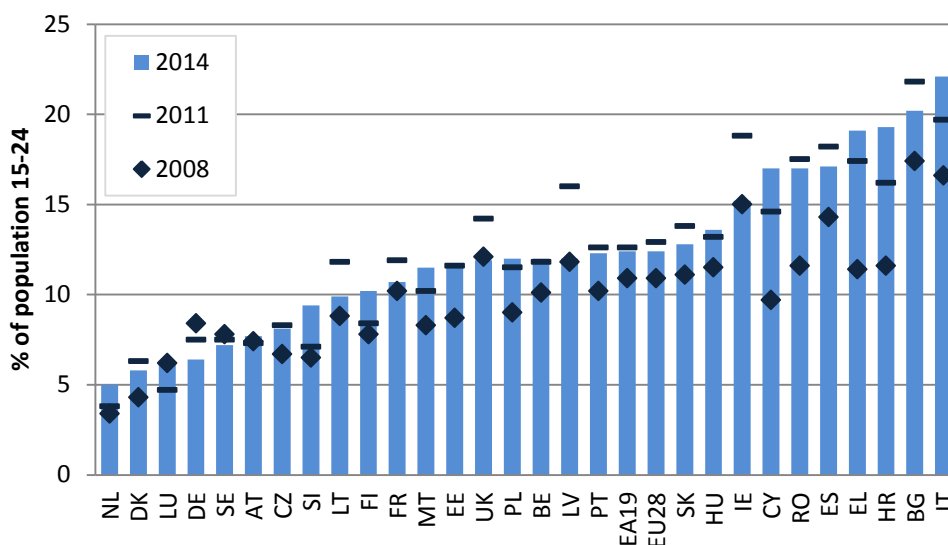
In total, in 2014, 7.1 million people aged 15 to 24 were **not in employment, education or training (NEETs)**. The share was over 15% in Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Romania (see figure 2). Despite a slight improvement in the last year, NEETs rates are well above pre-crisis levels in Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Romania. Some positive trends are recorded in Estonia, Ireland, France, Latvia and Lithuania.

7 Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (yth_empl_120), 15-24.

8 Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (une_ltu_a).

Figure 2:

Young people (15-24 years old) not in employment, education or training (NEET) for EU Member States, 2008, 2011 and 2014



Source: Eurostat, LFS, table: edat_lfse_20.

Young people are typically over-represented in temporary and part-time work. This can reflect **segmented labour markets**, with young people occupying fewer and less permanent jobs. In 2014, 43.4% of young workers were employed on a temporary contract⁹, and 31.5% part time¹⁰, both figures being much higher than for the overall working-age population. In countries with high labour market segmentation, young people are at particular risk of being trapped in precarious employment, with less on-the-job training, lower wage levels and weaker long-term employment and career prospects. An increasingly high number of young workers with high qualifications are employed in jobs below their qualification levels¹¹.

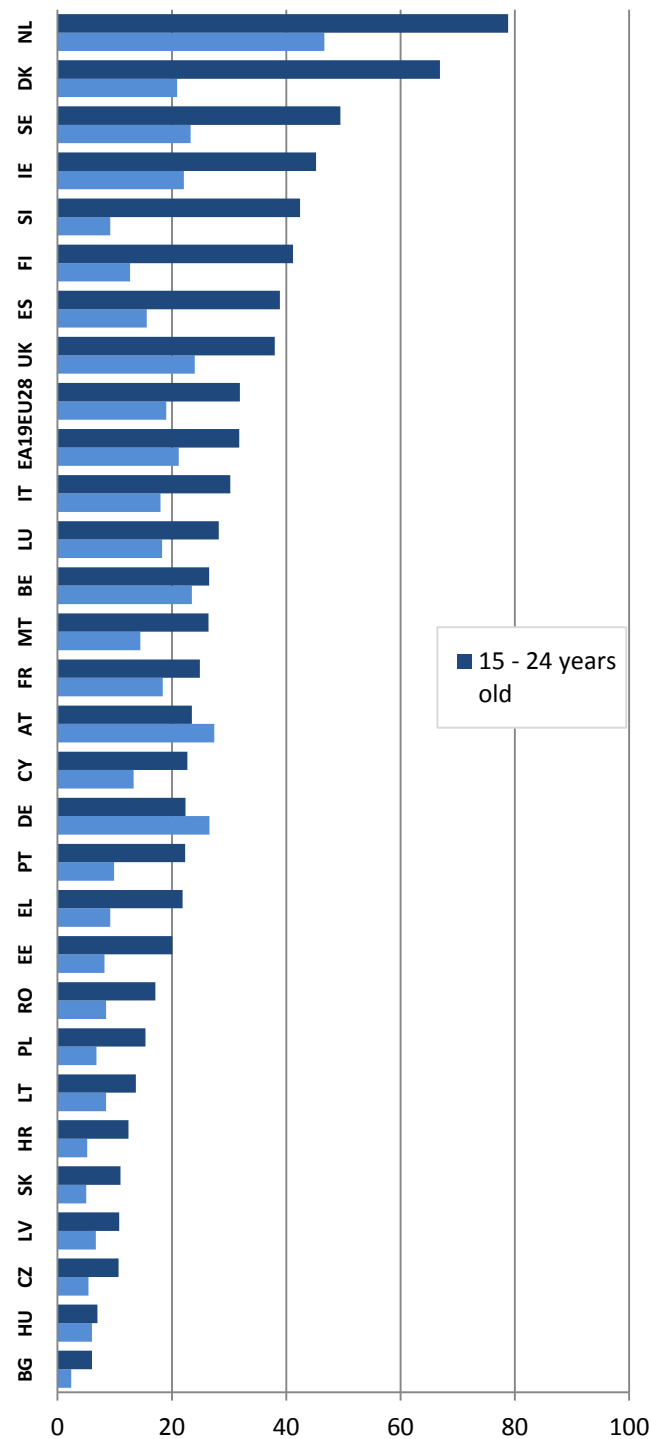
⁹ Eurostat Youth Employment, (yth_empl_050).

¹⁰ Eurostat Youth Employment, (yth_empl_060).

¹¹ See Eurofound, Working conditions of young entrants to the labour market, 2013, http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/studies/tn1306013s/tn1306013s_1.htm.

Figure 3:

Percentage of young people in temporary employment compared with average working population, by country, 2014¹²



Source: Eurostat, LFS [lfsa_etpga].

¹² In some countries, however (e.g. DE), a high share of part time employment also reflects the importance of apprenticeships.

In a number of countries (e.g. AT, MT, UK), temporary employment acts as a stepping stone and supports successful school-to-work transitions¹³. However, rates of involuntary temporary contracts among young people are high in many other Member States and are often coupled with a low transition from temporary to permanent jobs.

Performance of education and training systems and school to work transitions

The rate of **early-school leavers** (young people aged 18-24 who have only lower secondary education or less, and who are no longer in education or training) was 11.1% in 2014. This is above the target set at EU level under the Europe 2020 strategy—to reduce the EU average rate to less than 10% by 2020—but represents good progress compared to 17% in the early 2000s. Yet this can be partly explained by the low attractiveness of the labour market in the crisis. The OECD estimates that 30-40% of early school leavers risk facing persistent difficulties in accessing stable employment, with the risk of marginalisation over time¹⁴.

Graduates of post-secondary education have a consistently higher **employment rate** than those with primary education or less; and graduates of tertiary education higher still. Member States' performance varies significantly: in CZ, DK, DE, LU, MT, NL, AT, SE and UK, employment rates for graduates with at least upper post-secondary education are over 80%, while they remain below 65% in EL, ES, HR, IT, CY and RO¹⁵.

Availability of quality work experience

Quality apprenticeships and traineeships can support the smooth transition from school to work, helping young people gain practical work experience before taking up a regular job.

Apprenticeships which offer "dual learning experience"—in the school and in a company—substantially increase the likelihood of successfully moving from school to work. According to a recent study¹⁶, for most apprenticeship programmes, an average 60-70% find a job immediately on finishing. However, some countries which offer an overall high proportion of vocational and educational training offer very little combination of work-based and school learning (such as BE, SI, SE)¹⁷.

Provision of tailored services and support to young people

Many countries have been reforming their **Public Employment Services** over recent years to increase their capacity and/or streamline and personalise the service they offer to young

¹³ Apprenticeship contracts are considered as temporary contracts, so this data needs to be read in context.

¹⁴ S. Scarpetta, A. Sonnet and T. Manfredi (2010) "Rising youth unemployment during the crisis: how to prevent negative long-term consequences on a generation?", OECD Social, Employment and Migration Papers, No. 106, <http://www.oecd.org/employment/youthforum/44986030.pdf>.

¹⁵ The indicator measures the share of all young people (20-34) who graduate from at least upper secondary education in the last three years excluding those still enrolled in further education and training (edat_ifse_24).

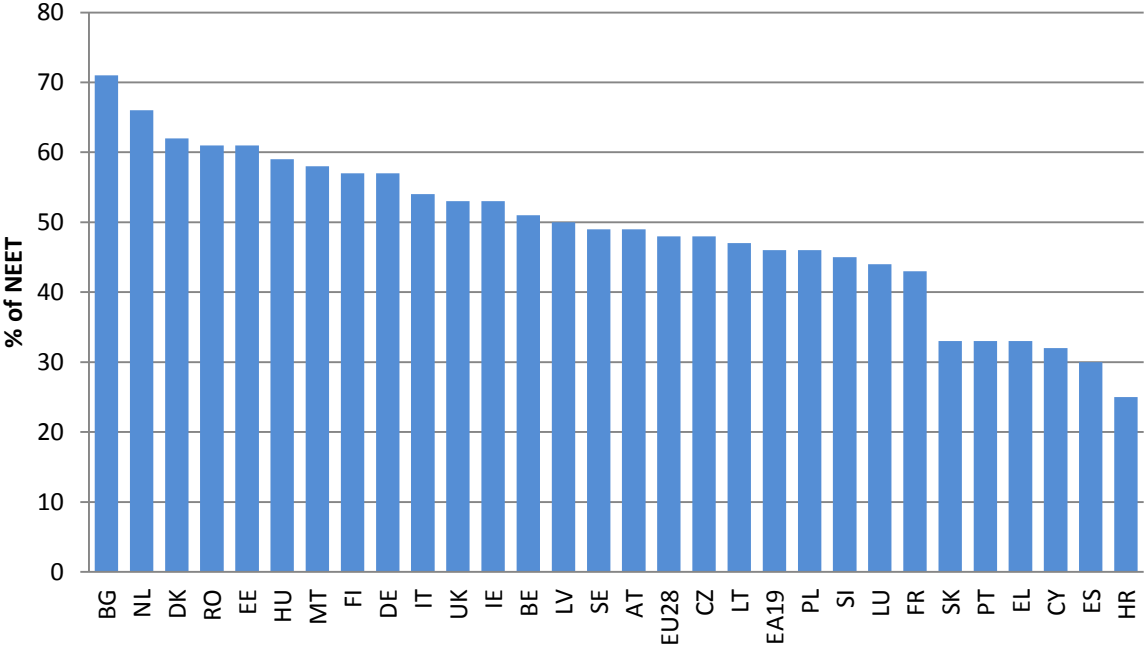
¹⁶ "Apprenticeship and Traineeship Schemes in EU27: Key Success Factors", 2013 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=11348&langId=en>.

¹⁷ CEDEFOP. On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies, 2013. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/21373.aspx>.

people.¹⁸ However, in many Member States capacity is still too weak to provide personalised and individualised counselling, or adequate active labour market measures according to the various jobseeker profiles. Public Employment Services also play a key role in setting up partnerships with key players involved with the Youth Guarantee (such as schools, social partners, employers, youth organisations and civil society)¹⁹.

Spending time as NEET may lead to a wide range of social disadvantages, such as disaffection, insecure and poor future employment, youth offending, and mental and physical health problems. It is estimated that a significant proportion of young people eligible for the Youth Guarantee are **not registered with a Public Employment Service**. Identifying different sub-groups among vulnerable NEETs²⁰ is a big challenge. In some Member States **inactive NEET rates are over one in ten**, representing a very high proportion of young people very far from the labour market (EU average 2013: 6%); and the share of inactive NEETs among total NEETs varies substantially among Member States.

Figure 4:
Share of inactive NEETs (15-24 years old) among total NEETs in EU Member States in 2014 (%)



Source: Eurostat [edat_ifse_20].

¹⁸ See the LABREF database for a detailed recording of ALMP measures adopted in the EU28 over recent years. Database available at: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/labref/index_en.htm.

¹⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1100&langId=en>.

²⁰ For example, NEETs who are resource-rich, voluntarily on a gap year, or prolonging care periods with a breadwinning partner need not be a source of policy concern.

3. The European response to the challenge

A strong European response is required. As recognised in the 2015 Annual Growth Survey (AGS) and in the European Council's Youth Employment Initiative, there is a continuous need for strong and accelerated efforts to reduce youth unemployment and to promote young people's participation in the labour market.

In April 2013, EU Member States made a commitment to ensure young people's successful transition into work by establishing **Youth Guarantee** schemes. Under the Youth Guarantee, Member States should ensure that, within four months of leaving school or losing a job, young people under 25 can either find a good-quality job suited to their education, skills and experience; or acquire the education, skills and experience required to find a job in the future through an apprenticeship, traineeship or continued education. The Youth Guarantee is both a structural reform to drastically improve school-to-work transitions and a measure to immediately support jobs for young people. All Member States presented Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans (YGIPs) by May 2014.

In addition to "supply-side" measures such as activation through job search guidance or training courses, the Youth Guarantee encourages the use of a wide range of proactive measures helping to boost employment of young people. These measures, such as temporary and well-targeted wage or recruitment subsidies or apprenticeship and traineeship grants, may often be needed to successfully integrate young people into the labour market. They are a "social investment", enabling young people to put their skills to productive use and to further develop them, as opposed to the skills deterioration and de-motivation which results from protracted unemployment and inactivity.

Two other EU initiatives are closely related to the Youth Guarantee. The Council Recommendation on a **Quality Framework for Traineeships (QFT)**²¹ proposes guidelines for traineeships outside formal education to provide high-quality learning and fair working conditions, so that traineeships support the move from education to work and increase the employability of trainees. The QFT also contains guidelines on transparency regarding compensation and social security coverage, as well as hiring chances.

The **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** aims to increase the quality and supply of apprenticeships across Europe and to change mind-sets towards this type of learning. It is a platform that brings together public authorities, business and social partners, vocational education and training providers, youth representatives and other key players such as Chambers, to coordinate and scale up different initiatives for successful apprenticeships and similar schemes, as well as to promote national partnerships for dual vocational training systems. Nearly all Member States have submitted concrete commitments and some 45 organisations (Chambers, businesses, and vocational education and training providers) pledged to take concrete action, including to exchange best practices, raise awareness and increase quality and supply of apprenticeships.

²¹ COM(2013)857 final of 4.12.2013.

Substantial **EU financial support** for youth employment is provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative. During the 2014-20 financial cycle, both of these resources will invest at least €12.7 billion directly for youth labour market integration. In addition, the ESF invests in modernising labour market institutions and reforming education, which also impact on youth employment. To accelerate the spending under the Youth Employment Initiative, the Commission has recently proposed to advance pre-financing payments to the Member States eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative.

The Commission is monitoring the necessary reforms for the implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes. It will draw on the Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Youth Guarantee, developed within the Employment Committee.

ANNEX: Statistical indicators

Youth unemployment rate, for population under 25, in Member States, 2003 – 2014 % of active population under 25

GEO/TIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	18.8	19.2	19.0	17.7	15.9	15.9	20.3	21.4	21.7	23.3	23.7	22.2
Belgium	21.8	21.2	21.5	20.5	18.8	18.0	21.9	22.4	18.7	19.8	23.7	23.2
Bulgaria	26.6	24.3	21.0	18.3	14.1	11.9	15.1	21.8	25.0	28.1	28.4	23.8
Czech Republic	17.6	20.4	19.3	17.5	10.7	9.9	16.6	18.3	18.1	19.5	18.9	15.9
Denmark	9.2	8.2	8.6	7.7	7.5	8.0	11.8	13.9	14.2	14.1	13.0	12.6
Germany	11.5	13.7	15.4	13.6	11.8	10.4	11.1	9.8	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.7
Estonia	20.9	23.9	15.1	12.1	10.1	12.0	27.4	32.9	22.4	20.9	18.7	15.0
Ireland	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	9.1	13.3	24.0	27.6	29.1	30.4	26.8	23.9
Greece	26.8	26.5	25.8	25.0	22.7	21.9	25.7	33.0	44.7	55.3	58.3	52.4
Spain	22.7	22.0	19.6	17.9	18.1	24.5	37.7	41.5	46.2	52.9	55.5	53.2
France	18.9	20.5	21.0	22.0	19.5	19.0	23.6	23.3	22.6	24.4	24.8	24.1
Croatia	34.7	32.8	31.9	28.8	25.2	23.7	25.2	32.4	36.7	42.1	50.0	45.5
Italy	23.6	23.5	24.1	21.8	20.4	21.2	25.3	27.9	29.2	35.3	40.0	42.7
Cyprus	8.8	10.2	13.9	10.0	10.2	9.0	13.8	16.6	22.4	27.7	38.9	35.9
Latvia	19.6	20.0	15.1	13.6	10.6	13.6	33.3	36.2	31.0	28.5	23.2	19.6
Lithuania	24.8	21.8	15.8	10.0	8.4	13.3	29.6	35.7	32.6	26.7	21.9	19.3
Luxembourg	11.2	16.4	14.6	15.5	15.6	17.3	16.5	15.8	16.4	18.0	16.9	21.2
Hungary	13.2	15.5	19.4	19.1	18.1	19.5	26.4	26.4	26.0	28.2	26.6	20.4
Malta	17.4	16.6	16.1	15.5	13.5	11.7	14.5	13.2	13.3	14.1	13.0	12.0
Netherlands	9.9	11.4	11.8	10.0	9.4	8.6	10.2	11.1	10.0	11.7	13.2	12.7
Austria	8.1	10.5	11.0	9.8	9.4	8.5	10.7	9.5	8.9	9.4	9.7	10.3
Poland	41.9	39.6	36.9	29.8	21.6	17.2	20.6	23.7	25.8	26.5	27.3	23.9
Portugal	18.6	19.8	20.7	21.1	21.5	21.5	25.3	27.9	30.3	37.9	38.1	34.8
Romania	18.5	20.5	19.1	20.2	19.3	17.6	20.0	22.1	23.9	22.6	23.7	24.0
Slovenia	17.3	16.1	15.9	13.9	10.1	10.4	13.6	14.7	15.7	20.6	21.6	20.2
Slovakia	33.8	33.4	30.4	27.0	20.6	19.3	27.6	33.9	33.7	34.0	33.7	29.7
Finland	21.8	20.7	20.1	18.7	16.5	16.5	21.5	21.4	20.1	19.0	19.9	20.5
Sweden	17.4	20.4	22.6	21.5	19.2	20.2	25.0	24.8	22.8	23.7	23.6	22.9
United Kingdom	12.2	12.0	12.8	13.9	14.3	15.0	19.1	19.9	21.3	21.2	20.7	16.9

Source: Eurostat, Unemployment rate by sex and age groups - annual average, % [une_rt_a].

NEET rate for population aged 15-24 in Member States, 2003 – 2014
 % of population 15-24

GEO/TIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	13.1	12.9	12.7	11.7	10.9	10.9	12.4	12.7	12.9	13.1	13.0	12.4
Belgium	17.8	15.4	13.0	11.2	11.2	10.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	12.3	12.7	12.0
Bulgaria	29.0	26.4	25.1	22.2	19.1	17.4	19.5	21.8	21.8	21.5	21.6	20.2
Czech Republic	13.7	13.7	13.3	9.2	6.9	6.7	8.5	8.8	8.3	8.9	9.1	8.1
Denmark	5.2	5.1	4.3	3.6	4.3	4.3	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.0	5.8
Germany	10.0	10.1	10.9	9.6	8.9	8.4	8.8	8.3	7.5	7.1	6.3	6.4
Estonia	10.5	12.5	10.6	8.8	8.9	8.7	14.5	14.0	11.6	12.2	11.3	11.7
Ireland	11.7	11.9	10.9	10.1	10.8	15.0	18.6	19.2	18.8	18.7	16.1	15.2
Greece	18.0	16.6	15.9	12.0	11.3	11.4	12.4	14.8	17.4	20.2	20.4	19.1
Spain	12.5	12.5	13.0	11.8	12.0	14.3	18.1	17.8	18.2	18.6	18.6	17.1
France	10.0	10.6	10.9	11.0	10.3	10.2	12.4	12.3	11.9	12.1	11.2	10.7
Croatia	18.0	17.1	16.7	14.2	12.9	11.6	13.4	15.7	16.2	16.6	19.6	19.3
Italy	16.6	16.8	17.1	16.8	16.1	16.6	17.6	19.0	19.7	21.0	22.2	22.1
Cyprus	8.9	9.4	19.5	10.7	9.0	9.7	9.9	11.7	14.6	16.0	18.7	17.0
Latvia	12.9	12.4	10.6	11.5	11.9	11.8	17.5	17.8	16.0	14.9	13.0	12.0
Lithuania	10.3	10.6	8.8	8.3	7.1	8.8	12.1	13.2	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.9
Luxembourg	5.1	6.3	5.5	6.7	5.7	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.7	5.9	5.0	6.3
Hungary	12.6	12.7	12.9	12.4	11.5	11.5	13.6	12.6	13.2	14.8	15.5	13.6
Malta	19.4	13.1	11.9	10.3	11.5	8.3	9.9	9.5	10.2	10.6	9.9	11.5
Netherlands	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.0	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.3	5.1	5.0
Austria	6.1	9.1	8.6	7.8	7.4	7.4	8.2	7.4	7.3	6.8	7.3	7.7
Poland	16.7	15.0	13.9	12.6	10.6	9.0	10.1	10.8	11.5	11.8	12.2	12.0
Portugal	11.2	11.2	11.1	10.6	11.2	10.2	11.2	11.4	12.6	13.9	14.1	12.3
Romania	20.3	19.8	16.8	14.8	13.3	11.6	13.9	16.6	17.5	16.8	17.0	17.0
Slovenia	8.0	7.5	8.9	8.5	6.7	6.5	7.5	7.1	7.1	9.3	9.2	9.4
Slovakia	18.2	17.9	15.8	14.4	12.5	11.1	12.5	14.1	13.8	13.8	13.7	12.8
Finland	9.6	9.1	7.8	7.7	7.0	7.8	9.9	9.0	8.4	8.6	9.3	10.2
Sweden	6.8	7.6	10.5	9.3	7.5	7.8	9.6	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.2
United Kingdom	9.0	8.4	8.4	8.5	11.9	12.1	13.2	13.6	14.2	13.9	13.2	11.9

Source: Eurostat, Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex and age (NEET rates) [edat_lfse_20].

Youth unemployment ratio, for population aged 15-24, in Member States, 2003 – 2014
 % of total population aged 15-24

GEO/TIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.7	6.9	6.9	8.7	9.0	9.2	9.8	9.9	9.1
Belgium	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.1	6.4	6.0	7.1	7.3	6.0	6.2	7.3	7.0
Bulgaria	8.1	7.5	6.2	5.6	4.4	3.8	4.8	6.7	7.4	8.5	8.4	6.5
Czech Republic	6.8	7.4	6.5	5.9	3.4	3.1	5.3	5.7	5.4	6.1	6.0	5.1
Denmark	6.0	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.8	8.4	9.4	9.6	9.1	8.1	7.8
Germany	5.8	6.0	7.7	6.9	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.9
Estonia	8.1	8.9	5.5	4.3	3.8	4.9	10.7	12.4	9.0	8.5	7.4	5.9
Ireland	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	5.1	7.1	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.3	10.6	8.9
Greece	9.2	9.7	8.7	8.0	7.0	6.6	7.9	9.9	13.0	16.1	16.5	14.7
Spain	10.2	10.0	9.4	8.6	8.7	11.7	17.0	17.7	18.9	20.6	21.0	19.0
France	7.0	7.6	7.8	8.2	7.3	7.1	9.2	8.9	8.4	8.9	8.9	8.5
Croatia	13.9	13.1	12.3	10.4	9.2	8.7	9.2	11.6	11.9	12.7	14.9	15.3
Italy	9.4	8.5	8.2	7.0	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.8	7.9	10.1	10.9	11.6
Cyprus	3.7	4.9	5.9	4.1	4.2	3.8	5.6	6.7	8.7	10.8	14.9	14.5
Latvia	7.5	7.6	5.8	5.6	4.5	5.8	13.7	14.4	11.6	11.5	9.1	7.9
Lithuania	7.5	5.7	4.0	2.6	2.3	4.0	8.7	10.2	9.2	7.8	6.9	6.6
Luxembourg	3.3	4.7	3.9	4.5	4.0	5.2	5.5	3.5	4.2	5.0	4.0	6.0
Hungary	4.1	4.3	5.2	5.1	4.6	4.9	6.5	6.6	6.3	7.2	7.3	6.0
Malta	9.3	9.2	8.6	8.2	7.3	6.1	7.5	6.7	6.9	7.2	6.9	6.2
Netherlands	4.6	5.7	5.8	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.8	6.0	5.3	6.6	7.7	7.1
Austria	3.9	5.9	6.4	5.7	5.6	5.1	6.4	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.7	6.0
Poland	15.2	14.2	13.2	10.2	7.1	5.7	7.0	8.2	8.6	8.9	9.1	8.1
Portugal	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.9	8.2	11.5	14.1	13.3	11.9
Romania	6.5	7.8	6.3	6.6	6.1	5.7	6.4	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.1
Slovenia	6.1	6.5	6.5	5.6	4.2	4.5	5.6	5.9	5.9	7.1	7.3	6.8
Slovakia	13.7	13.0	11.0	9.4	7.0	6.2	8.6	10.4	10.1	10.4	10.4	9.2
Finland	11.0	10.3	10.2	9.7	8.8	8.8	10.9	10.6	10.1	9.8	10.3	10.7
Sweden	6.5	8.0	11.5	11.0	10.1	10.7	12.8	12.8	12.1	12.4	12.8	12.7
United Kingdom	7.8	7.6	8.0	8.7	8.8	9.2	11.3	11.6	12.4	12.4	12.1	9.8

Source: Eurostat, Population, activity and inactivity - annual averages [lfsi_act_a].

**Youth long-term unemployment rate (12 months or longer), for population aged 15-24,
in Member States, 2003 – 2014**
% of active population aged 15-24

GEO/TIME	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.0	4.0	3.5	4.6	6.0	6.5	7.4	7.9	7.7
Belgium	5.5	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.6	4.9	5.7	6.7	6.0	5.8	7.3	8.0
Bulgaria	14.7	11.4	10.9	8.1	6.3	5.0	5.2	9.7	12.1	13.8	13.2	11.7
Czech Republic	5.2	7.4	7.4	6.6	3.5	3.1	3.3	5.8	5.3	6.5	6.2	4.4
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1
Germany	2.7	3.4	4.8	4.5	3.7	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8
Estonia	8.3	8.2	5.3	:	3.1	2.9	7.0	12.2	8.8	6.2	6.5	4.4
Ireland	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.5	6.1	11.5	13.4	14.5	10.9	9.2
Greece	12.3	12.5	11.6	12.0	9.4	7.8	7.9	11.7	18.9	27.1	30.3	31.5
Spain	5.1	5.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.5	6.9	12.1	15.0	18.9	21.9	21.5
France	3.8	4.3	4.8	5.4	4.5	4.4	5.8	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.4	6.6
Croatia	18.0	13.8	13.9	12.8	11.6	10.5	11.0	16.0	19.9	23.2	25.3	22.6
Italy	14.8	10.7	10.5	9.3	8.2	8.0	10.1	12.3	13.7	17.3	21.0	25.1
Cyprus	2.4	1.6	1.7	:	2.4	:	1.3	2.8	3.9	6.9	12.7	10.7
Latvia	:	5.2	3.4	2.5	1.2	1.8	6.9	12.0	10.2	8.9	6.8	4.7
Lithuania	5.6	7.6	:	:	:	:	5.2	10.8	11.1	6.8	4.4	4.4
Luxembourg	:	:	:	4.9	:	3.9	:	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	:
Hungary	4.3	4.9	6.7	7.0	6.5	6.2	7.8	10.3	9.3	9.1	8.6	6.7
Malta	:	6.5	6.0	3.3	3.7	3.2	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.5	3.2	3.2
Netherlands	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.9
Austria	1.0	2.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
Poland	19.0	17.6	16.5	12.6	7.5	3.8	4.4	4.8	6.8	8.0	8.7	7.4
Portugal	2.4	4.2	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.2	5.4	6.9	8.0	11.7	13.8	12.6
Romania	9.9	10.3	10.1	10.7	9.7	8.1	6.1	7.2	9.5	9.4	9.0	8.7
Slovenia	8.1	6.3	5.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	2.8	4.9	5.5	6.6	8.5	7.6
Slovakia	18.2	17.4	18.1	16.4	11.6	10.0	11.4	18.4	18.2	19.2	20.6	17.0
Finland	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9	:	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Sweden	0.8	1.0	:	:	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3
United Kingdom	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.4	3.6	4.7	5.2	5.8	5.9	4.7

Source: Eurostat, Youth long-term unemployment rate (12 months or longer) by sex and age [youth_empl_120].

NEET rate by activity status for population aged 15-24 in Member States, 2014
 % of population 15-24

GEO/WSTATUS	NEET	Unemployed	Inactive
EU 28	12.4	6.4	6.0
Belgium	12.0	5.9	6.2
Bulgaria	20.2	5.8	14.4
Czech Republic	8.1	4.2	3.9
Denmark	5.8	2.2	3.6
Germany	6.4	2.7	3.6
Estonia	11.7	4.5	7.2
Ireland	15.2	7.1	8.1
Greece	19.1	12.8	6.3
Spain	17.1	12.0	5.2
France	10.7	6.1	4.6
Croatia	19.3	14.5	4.8
Italy	22.1	10.2	11.9
Cyprus	17.0	11.6	5.4
Latvia	12.0	6.0	6.0
Lithuania	9.9	5.3	4.6
Luxembourg	6.3	3.5	2.8
Hungary	13.6	5.6	8.0
Malta	11.5	4.8	6.7
Netherlands	5.0	1.7	3.3
Austria	7.7	3.9	3.8
Poland	12.0	6.5	5.5
Portugal	12.3	8.2	4.1
Romania	17.0	6.6	10.5
Slovenia	9.4	5.2	4.3
Slovakia	12.8	8.6	4.2
Finland	10.2	4.4	5.8
Sweden	7.2	3.7	3.5
United Kingdom	11.9	5.6	6.2

Source: Eurostat, Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex and age (NEET rates) [edat_ifse_20].