

Share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population) (modeled ILO estimate)

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Information on metadata

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Metadata for Share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population) (modeled ILO estimate)

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META_WB_WDI_SL_UEM_NEET_ME_ZS

Metadata producers

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Development Economics Data Group	DECDG	World Bank

Version

1.1.1

Version notes

Updated metadata ID for consistency with indicator code.

Version date

2026-05-06

Indicator description

Title statement

Indicator code

WB_WDI_SL_UEM_NEET_ME_ZS

Indicator name

Share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population) (modeled ILO estimate)

Alternate identifiers

Type	Identifier	Database	URL	Notes
Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) by sex (%) - ILO modeled estimates	EIP_2EET_SEX_RT	ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST). ILOSTAT	https://ilostat ilo.org/data/bulk/	
DCS code	SL.UEM.NEET.ME.ZS	DCS		Identifier in DCS database

Database ID

WB_WDI

Database name

World Development Indicators (WDI)

Language

Name	Code
English	EN

Version date

2026-07-01

Description**Definition**

The share of youth not in education, employment or training (also known as “the NEET rate”) conveys the number of young persons not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth population. Youth not in education are those who were neither enrolled in school nor in a formal training program (e.g. vocational training). For the purposes of this indicator, youth is defined as all persons between the ages of 15 and 24 (inclusive).

Definition references

Source	URL
Labor Force Statistics (LFS, STLFS, RURBAN databases). ILOSTAT.	https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/description-labour-force-statistics/

Development relevance

Unemployment and total employment are the broadest indicators of economic activity as reflected by the labor market. The International Labour Organization(ILO) defines the unemployed as members of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs or who have voluntarily left work. Some unemployment is unavoidable. At any time some workers are temporarily unemployed - between jobs as employers look for the right workers and workers search for better jobs. Such unemployment, often called frictional unemployment, results from the normal operation of labor markets.

Youth unemployment is an important policy issue for many economies. Young men and women today face increasing uncertainty in their hopes of undergoing a satisfactory transition in the labour market, and this uncertainty and disillusionment can, in turn, have damaging effects on individuals, communities, economies and society at large. Unemployed or underemployed youth are less able to contribute effectively to national development and have fewer opportunities to exercise their rights as citizens. They have less to spend as consumers, less to invest as savers and often have no "voice" to bring about change in their lives and communities. Widespread youth unemployment and underemployment also prevents

companies and countries from innovating and developing competitive advantages based on human capital investment, thus undermining future prospects.

The NEET group is particularly at risk of both labour market and social exclusion, because this group is neither improving their future employability through investment in skills nor gaining experience through employment, . In addition, the NEET group is already in a disadvantaged position due to lower levels of education and lower household incomes. In view of the fact that the NEET group includes unemployed youth as well as economically inactive youth, the NEET rate provides important complementary information to labour force participation rates and unemployment rates. For example, if youth participation rates decrease during an economic downturn due to discouragement, this may be reflected in an upward movement in the NEET rate. More generally, a high NEET rate and a low youth unemployment may indicate significant discouragement of young people. A high NEET rate for young women suggests their engagement in household chores, and/or the presence of strong institutional barriers limiting female participation in labour markets.

Measurement unit

% of female youth population

Dimensions

Label	Description
Year	
Geographic area	Country/economy, country group, region

Periodicity

Annual

Topics

ID	Label	Parent ID	Vocabulary
	Social Protection & Labor: Unemployment		WDI topics
P3	Prosperity		WB Practice Groups
P3_000001	Economic Policy	P3	Data360 Topic L1
P3_000007	Growth and Jobs	P3_000001	Data360 Topic L2

Acronyms

Acronym	Expansion
NEET	Not in Employment, Education, or Training

Links

Type	Description	URL
WDI API	Data in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/sl.uem.neet.fe.zs?date=1976:2022&format=json
WDI API	Data in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/countries/all/indicators/sl.uem.neet.fe.zs?date=1976:2022
WDI API	Metadata in JSON	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/sl.uem.neet.fe.zs/metadata?format=json

WDI API	Metadata in XML	https://api.worldbank.org/v2/sources/2/series/sl.uem.neet.fe.zs/metadata
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Quality

Quality checks

Values were validated to ensure they fell within expected ranges. The updated data was also compared with historical values to spot any inconsistencies or anomalies over time.

Quality note

Imputed observations are not based on national data, are subject to high uncertainty and should not be used for country comparisons or rankings.

Limitations

When differing from international standards, the operational criteria used to define employment and the participation in education or training will naturally affect the comparability of the resulting statistics, as will the coverage of the source of statistics (geographical coverage, population coverage, age coverage, etc.). NEET rates are calculated preferably for youth defined as persons aged 15 to 24, but when studying these rates it is important to keep in mind that not all persons complete their education by the age of 24.

Concepts and methods

Statistical concept

For the purposes of these indicators, persons will be considered in education if they are in formal or non-formal education, but excluding informal learning.

Employment comprises all persons of working age who during a specified brief period, such as one week or one day, were in the following categories: a) paid employment (whether at work or with a job but not at work); or b) self-employment (whether at work or with an enterprise but not at work).

Persons are considered to be in training if they are in a nonacademic learning activity through which they acquire specific skills intended for vocational or technical jobs. Vocational training prepares trainees for jobs that are based on manual or practical activities, and for skilled operative jobs, both blue and white collar related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation. Technical training on the other hand imparts learning that can be applied in intermediate-level jobs, in particular those of technicians and middle managers. The coverage of vocational and technical training includes only programmes that are solely school-based vocational and technical training. Employer-based training is, by definition, excluded from the scope of this indicator.

Concept references

Source	URL
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Labor Force Statistics (LFS, STLFS, RURBAN databases). ILOSTAT.	https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/description-labour-force-statistics/
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Methodology

The youth NEET rate is calculated as follows: $\text{NEET rate} = (\text{Youth} - \text{Youth in employment} - \text{Youth not in employment but in education or training}) / \text{Youth} \times 100$.

It is important to note here that youth both in employment and education or training simultaneously should not be double counted when subtracted from the total number of youth. The formula can also be expressed as: $\text{NEET rate} = [(\text{Unemployed youth} + \text{Youth outside the labor force}) - (\text{Unemployed youth in education or training} + \text{Youth outside the labor force in education or training})] / \text{Youth} \times 100$.

The calculation of this indicator requires having reliable information on both the labor market status and the participation in education or training of youth. The quality of such information is heavily dependent on the questionnaire design, the sample size and design and the accuracy of respondents' answers. To avoid misinterpreting this indicator, it is important to bear in mind that it is composed of two different sub-groups (unemployed youth not in education or training and youth outside the labor force not in education or training). The prevalence and composition of each sub-group would have policy implications, and thus should also be considered when analyzing the NEET rate.

The preferred official national data source for this indicator is a household-based labor force survey. In the absence of a labor force survey, a population census and/or other type of household survey with an appropriate employment module may be used to obtain the required data.

Methodology references

Source	URL
ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST database)	https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/ilo-modelled-estimates/

Imputation

ILO modeled estimates series use multivariate regression and cross-validation techniques to impute missing values at the country level

Imputation references

Source	URL
ILO Modelled Estimates (ILOEST database)	https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/ilo-modelled-estimates/

Aggregation method

Weighted average

Related indicators

Code	Name	Relationship	Type
SL.UEM.NEET.MA.ME.ZS	Share of youth not in education, employment or training, male (% of male youth population) (modeled ILO estimate)	child	disaggregation
SL.UEM.NEET.FE.ME.ZS	Share of youth not in education, employment or training, female (% of female youth population) (modeled ILO estimate)	child	disaggregation
SL.UEM.1524.ZS	Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate)		concept

Geographic and time coverage

Time coverage

Start	End
2005	2025

Economies

Name	Code
Afghanistan	AFG
Angola	AGO
Albania	ALB
Argentina	ARG
United Arab Emirates	ARE
Armenia	ARM
Australia	AUS
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Burundi	BDI
Benin	BEN
Belgium	BEL
Burkina Faso	BFA
Bangladesh	BGD
Bulgaria	BGR
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Bahamas, The	BHS
Belarus	BLR
Belize	BLZ
Bolivia	BOL
Bahrain	BHR
Brazil	BRA

Barbados	BRB
Brunei Darussalam	BRN
Bhutan	BTN
Botswana	BWA
Central African Republic	CAF
Canada	CAN
Channel Islands	CHI
China	CHN
Chile	CHL
Switzerland	CHE
Cameroon	CMR
Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
Colombia	COL
Comoros	COM
Cabo Verde	CPV
Cuba	CUB
Cyprus	CYP
Czechia	CZE
Germany	DEU
Djibouti	DJI
Congo, Dem. Rep.	COD
Costa Rica	CRI
Congo, Rep.	COG
Denmark	DNK
Dominican Republic	DOM
Ecuador	ECU
Egypt, Arab Rep.	EGY
Eritrea	ERI
Algeria	DZA
Estonia	EST
Spain	ESP
France	FRA
Fiji	FJI
Gabon	GAB
Guinea	GIN
Georgia	GEO
Gambia, The	GMB
Finland	FIN
Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
Ethiopia	ETH
Guinea-Bissau	GNB
Guam	GUM

United Kingdom	GBR
Greece	GRC
Guatemala	GTM
Guyana	GUY
Ghana	GHA
Hong Kong SAR, China	HKG
Croatia	HRV
Haiti	HTI
Honduras	HND
Indonesia	IDN
Hungary	HUN
Ireland	IRL
Iran, Islamic Rep.	IRN
Israel	ISR
India	IND
Iraq	IRQ
Iceland	ISL
Kazakhstan	KAZ
Italy	ITA
Jordan	JOR
Jamaica	JAM
Japan	JPN
Cambodia	KHM
Kenya	KEN
Kyrgyz Republic	KGZ
Liberia	LBR
Korea, Rep.	KOR
Lao PDR	LAO
Kuwait	KWT
Lebanon	LBN
Libya	LBY
Sri Lanka	LKA
Luxembourg	LUX
Latvia	LVA
Morocco	MAR
Lithuania	LTU
Macao SAR, China	MAC
St. Lucia	LCA
Mali	MLI
Moldova	MDA
Mexico	MEX
Maldives	MDV

Lesotho	LSO
Myanmar	MMR
North Macedonia	MKD
Malta	MLT
Mauritania	MRT
Mozambique	MOZ
Montenegro	MNE
Mongolia	MNG
Namibia	NAM
Mauritius	MUS
Madagascar	MDG
Malawi	MWI
Malaysia	MYS
Nicaragua	NIC
Niger	NER
New Caledonia	NCL
Nigeria	NGA
Netherlands	NLD
Norway	NOR
New Zealand	NZL
Nepal	NPL
Oman	OMN
Pakistan	PAK
Papua New Guinea	PNG
Panama	PAN
Philippines	PHL
Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	PRK
Paraguay	PRY
Puerto Rico	PRI
Romania	ROU
Russian Federation	RUS
Portugal	PRT
West Bank and Gaza	PSE
Saudi Arabia	SAU
Sudan	SDN
French Polynesia	PYF
Singapore	SGP
Qatar	QAT
Peru	PER
Rwanda	RWA
Poland	POL
Senegal	SEN

Sierra Leone	SLE
Solomon Islands	SLB
El Salvador	SLV
Somalia, Federal Republic of	SOM
Serbia	SRB
São Tomé and Príncipe	STP
Sweden	SWE
Slovenia	SVN
South Sudan	SSD
Suriname	SUR
Togo	TGO
Eswatini	SWZ
Turkmenistan	TKM
Tajikistan	TJK
Thailand	THA
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
Chad	TCD
Slovak Republic	SVK
Tunisia	TUN
Timor-Leste	TLS
Türkiye	TUR
Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
Uzbekistan	UZB
Uruguay	URY
Uganda	UGA
United States	USA
Tanzania	TZA
Vietnam	VNM
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT
Vanuatu	VUT
Venezuela, RB	VEN
Tonga	TON
Ukraine	UKR
Samoa	WSM
Yemen, Rep.	YEM
Zambia	ZMB
Zimbabwe	ZWE
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	VIR
South Africa	ZAF

Geographic areas

Name	Code
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Africa Eastern and Southern	AFE
Africa Western and Central	AFW
Arab World	ARB
Central Europe and the Baltics	CEB
Caribbean small states	CSS
East Asia & Pacific (excluding high income)	EAP
East Asia & Pacific	EAS
Early-demographic dividend	EAR
Europe & Central Asia	ECS
Euro area	EMU
European Union	EUU
Europe & Central Asia (excluding high income)	ECA
Fragile and conflict affected situations	FCS
High income	HIC
IBRD only	IBD
IDA & IBRD total	IBT
IDA total	IDA
IDA blend	IDB
IDA only	IDX
Heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)	HPC
Latin America & Caribbean (excluding high income)	LAC
Low income	LIC
Latin America & Caribbean	LCN
Least developed countries: UN classification	LDC
Late-demographic dividend	LTE
Lower middle income	LMC
Low & middle income	LMY
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (excluding high income)	MNA
Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan	MEA
Middle income	MIC
North America	NAC
OECD members	OED
Other small states	OSS
Pacific island small states	PSS
Post-demographic dividend	PST
Pre-demographic dividend	PRE
South Asia	SAS
Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding high income)	SSA
Sub-Saharan Africa	SSF
Small states	SST
East Asia & Pacific (IDA & IBRD)	TEA
Europe & Central Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TEC

Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan & Pakistan (IDA & IBRD)	TMN
Latin America & Caribbean (IDA & IBRD)	TLA
South Asia (IDA & IBRD)	TSA
Upper middle income	UMC
World	WLD
Sub-Saharan Africa (IDA & IBRD)	TSS

Standards and frameworks

Standards

Name	Abbreviation	Custodian	URL
13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians	ICLS	ILO	https://ilostat.ilo.org/about/standards/icls/?playlist=4194a13&video=38313ec

Frameworks

Frameworks

Name

Sustainable Development Goals

Abbreviation

SDG

Custodian

UN Statistics Division - the United Nations

Goal ID

8

Goal name

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target ID

8.6

Target name

By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Indicator ID

8.6.1

Indicator name

Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training

Access and use

License

Name	URL
CC BY-4.0	https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Confidentiality status

PU

API documentation

Description	URL
Developer Information webpage (detailed documentation of the WDI API)	https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/topics/125589-developer-information

Sources and citation

Authoring entity

Name	Affiliation	URL
ILOSTAT	International Labour Organization Department of Statistics	https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/
World Bank Sustainable Development Statistics Team	World Bank Development Economics Data Group	https://data.worldbank.org/

Sources of data

Sources of data

Title

ILO Modelled Estimates database (ILOEST)

Author (Organization)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Publisher

ILOSTAT

Electronic location or identifier

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/bulk/>

Date of retrieval

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