

5. Employment rate of recent graduates

BENCHMARK 2020: 82% of recent graduates from upper secondary to tertiary education (age group 20-34) who are no longer in education or training should be in employment.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Malta, Germany, Netherlands
MOST PROGRESS 2009-2018: Latvia, Estonia, Hungary

	2018 Total	Trend	2018	
			ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
EU	81.6	3.3	76.8	85.5
Belgium	83.4	2.4	70.0	90.3
Bulgaria	78.6	5.0	67.8	84.5
Czechia	89.6	5.1	87.4	91.5
Denmark	85.9	-2.0	83.4	87.8
Germany	92.1	6.8	90.3	94.3
Estonia	81.7	14.0	74.5	89.0
Ireland	84.3	7.0	74.4	89.5
Greece	55.3	-9.9	49.1	59.0
Spain	75.4	2.4	68.2	77.9
France	77.7	0.4	68.0	84.4
Croatia	71.2	-5.1	66.3	75.2
Italy	56.5	-4.1	50.3	62.8
Cyprus	78.9	-2.2	68.4	81.3
Latvia	84.1	14.4	75.0	91.3
Lithuania	84.7	11.7	77.9	90.4
Luxembourg	87.9	2.4	78.5	94.0
Hungary	87.5	12.0	84.0	91.5
Malta	94.8	1.9	91.1	96.7
Netherlands	92.0	-0.3	88.1	94.8
Austria	88.6	0.7	86.8	90.1
Poland	83.1b	4.7	77.1b	88.9b
Portugal	80.6	-1.8	75.0	85.9
Romania	77.4	-0.2	67.7	88.9
Slovenia	84.2	1.9	82.4	85.3
Slovakia	83.4	9.0	84.6	82.4
Finland	81.7	3.9	76.7	88.3
Sweden	88.5	6.9	83.6	92.5
UK	86.7	6.6	83.1	88.4
Iceland	94.4	10.0	92.7	95.8
Norway	90.9	:	85.4	94.8
Switzerland	88.3	1.6	84.2	92.3
Montenegro	61.2	:	54.0	65.6
North Macedonia	49.2	4.6	40.7	55.3
Serbia	64.3	:	58.3	68.9
Turkey	61.5	3.4	53.1	64.2

A CLOSER LOOK: There is recovery in the employment rates of recent graduates, bringing Europe close to pre-crisis levels. Tertiary graduates enjoy a higher employment rate (85.5%) than secondary graduates. Among the latter, graduates from vocational orientation education fare better than those from general programmes.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS), online data code [edat_lfs_e_24]. Note: the indicator measures the employment rate of persons aged 20-34, who graduated from ISCED 3-8 one to three years earlier and who are no longer in education or training. The trend depicted refers to the 2009-2018 change in percentage points.

6. Adult participation in learning

BENCHMARK 2020: An average of at least 15% of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in formal or non-formal learning.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Sweden, Finland, Denmark
MOST PROGRESS 2009-2018: France, Estonia, Sweden

	2018 Total	Trend	2018		
			ISCED 0-2	ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
EU	11.1	1.6	4.3	8.8	19.0
Belgium	8.5	1.4	3.2	6.1	13.7
Bulgaria	2.5	0.9	0.7u	2.1	4.3
Czechia	8.5	1.4	2.4	6.4	16.1
Denmark	23.5	-7.8	14.9	21.3	29.6
Germany	8.2	0.2	4.3	7.0	12.4
Estonia	19.7	9.2	7.4	14.7	28.8
Ireland	12.5	5.9	4.4	9.3	18.1
Greece	4.5	1.0	0.8	4.6	7.5
Spain	10.5	-0.3	3.7	10.8	17.6
France	18.6	12.9	7.1	14.8	29.3
Croatia	2.9	-0.1	0.5u	2.1	6.1
Italy	8.1	2.1	2.0	8.8	18.7
Cyprus	6.7	-1.6	1.5u	4.3	10.9
Latvia	6.7	1.1	2.5	4.6	11.3
Lithuania	6.6	2.0	2.4u	3.3	11.4
Luxembourg	18.0	4.2	7.3	13.5	26.3
Hungary	6.0	3.0	2.9	4.7	11.1
Malta	10.8	4.6	4.1	10.8	22.6
Netherlands	19.1	2.0	9.9	18.5	25.5
Austria	15.1	1.2	5.6	11.2	25.7
Poland	5.7b	1.0	1.0b	2.8b	12.6b
Portugal	10.3	3.9	4.7	11.2	20.7
Romania	0.9	-0.9	:	0.9	2.2
Slovenia	11.4	-3.4	2.8u	8.5	19.5
Slovakia	4.0	0.9	0.9u	3.0	7.8
Finland	28.5	6.4	15.6	23.8	36.4
Sweden	29.2	6.7	20.7	24.0	37.0
UK	14.6	-6.1	5.8	12.3	20.6
Iceland	21.5	-3.6	12.8	19.9	27.2
Norway	19.7	1.2	13.5	16.0	25.4
Switzerland	31.6	7.7	10.1	25.4	43.8
Montenegro	3.2	:	:	3.4	4.2
North Macedonia	2.4	-1.1	0.2u	3.0	3.9
Serbia	4.1	:	0.2u	3.8	7.7
Turkey	6.2	3.6	3.0	8.6	14.1

A CLOSER LOOK: Over the years, there has been some growth in adult learning – from 7.1% in 2002, to 9.5% in 2008, to 11.1% in 2018. However, despite promising examples in a number of countries, overall progress on this indicator has been slow.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS), online data code [trng_lfs_02]. Note: the indicator covers formal and non-formal learning but excludes informal learning. The trend depicted refers to the 2009-2018 change in percentage points.

General notes:

The percentage point trends and progress shown in this leaflet are calculated with 1-decimal figures and do not exclude any intermediate breaks in series.

() = low reliability

: = data either not available or not reliable due to very small sample size

b = break in time series

d = definition differs

Member States that have reached EU benchmark at national level for the given year

ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education (2011)

0 Early childhood education

1 Primary education

2 Lower secondary education

3 Upper secondary education

4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education

5 Short-cycle tertiary education

6 Bachelor's or equivalent level

7 Master's or equivalent level

8 Doctoral or equivalent level

For further descriptions, analysis and notes see the Education and Training Monitor 2019 (ec.europa.eu/education/monitor)



ec.europa.eu/education/monitor

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Education and Training MONITOR 2019

EU targets for 2020



1. Early leavers from education and training

EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET: The share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Croatia, Slovenia, Lithuania
MOST PROGRESS 2009–2018: Portugal, Spain, Greece

	2018 Total	Trend	2018	
			Males	Females
EU	10.6	-3.6	12.2	8.9
Belgium	8.6	-2.5	10.6	6.5
Bulgaria	12.7	-2.0	12.6	12.8
Czechia	6.2	0.8	6.4	6.1
Denmark	10.2	-1.1	12.5	7.8
Germany	10.3	-0.8	11.5	9.1
Estonia	11.3	-2.2	16.1	6.4
Ireland	5.0	-6.8	6.1	3.9
Greece	4.7	-9.5	5.7	3.6
Spain	17.9	-13.0	21.7	14.0
France	8.9	-3.5	10.8	6.9
Croatia	3.3	-1.9	3.5u	3.1u
Italy	14.5	-4.6	16.5	12.3
Cyprus	7.8	-3.9	9.9	6.0
Latvia	8.3	-6.0	11.4	5.0
Lithuania	4.6	-4.1	6.1	3.0u
Luxembourg	6.3	-1.4	6.8	5.9
Hungary	12.5	1.0	12.6	12.3
Malta	17.5	-8.2	19.4	15.5
Netherlands	7.3	-4.0	9.3	5.3
Austria	7.3	-1.5	8.9	5.7
Poland	4.8b	-0.5	5.8b	3.7b
Portugal	11.8	-19.1	14.7	8.7
Romania	16.4	-0.2	16.7	16.1
Slovenia	4.2	-1.1	5.3u	3.0u
Slovakia	8.6	3.7	8.3	8.8
Finland	8.3	-1.6	9.2	7.4
Sweden	9.3	2.3	10.4	8.0
UK	10.7	-5.0	12.2	9.1
Iceland	21.5	0.2	27.6	14.5
Norway	9.9	-7.7	12.3	7.3
Switzerland	4.4	-4.7	5.4	3.3
Montenegro	4.6	:	4.4u	4.9u
North Macedonia	7.1	-9.1	5.6	8.5
Serbia	6.8	:	6.8	6.8
Turkey	31.0	-13.3	30.4	31.6

A CLOSER LOOK: Those who leave education without an upper secondary qualification struggle with lower employment rates, and lower participation in adult learning. Early school leaving is higher among men than women; and among the foreign-born population than among native born young adults.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS), online data code [edat_lfse_14]. Note: the indicator covers 18 to 24 year-olds with ISCED 2 at most and who are no longer in formal or non-formal education and training. The trend depicted refers to the 2009–2018 change in percentage points.

2. Tertiary educational attainment

EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET: The share of 30 to 34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Lithuania, Cyprus, Ireland
MOST PROGRESS 2009–2018: Slovakia, Greece, Austria

	2018 Total	Trend	2018	
			Males	Females
EU	40.7	8.4	35.7	45.8
Belgium	47.6	5.6	40.6	54.5
Bulgaria	33.7	5.8	27.0	40.8
Czechia	33.7	16.2	27.3	40.6
Denmark	49.1	8.4	41.8	56.6
Germany	34.9	5.5	34.5	35.4
Estonia	47.2	10.9	37.7	57.5
Ireland	56.3	5.9	51.7	60.4
Greece	44.3	17.7	37.5	51.3
Spain	42.4	1.7	36.1	48.6
France	46.2	3.2	41.0	51.2
Croatia	34.1	12.8	26.5	41.9
Italy	27.8	8.8	21.7	34.0
Cyprus	57.1	12.1	49.2	64.4
Latvia	42.7	12.2	30.6	55.2
Lithuania	57.6	17.2	47.5	68.2
Luxembourg	56.2	9.6	52.5	59.8
Hungary	33.7	9.7	27.3	40.5
Malta	34.2	12.3	31.7	37.0
Netherlands	49.4	11.1	46.2	52.6
Austria	40.7	17.3	37.2	44.2
Poland	45.7	12.9	36.3	55.5
Portugal	33.5	12.2	24.1	42.5
Romania	24.6	7.8	21.4	28.1
Slovenia	42.7	11.1	31.6	56.3
Slovakia	37.7	20.1	31.1	44.6
Finland	44.2	-1.7	36.2	52.5
Sweden	52.0	8.1	45.3	59.1
UK	48.8	7.4	45.5	52.0
Iceland	51.7	10.0	41.2	63.6
Norway	50.6	3.6	44.8	56.6
Switzerland	55.0	11.6	55.1	54.9
Montenegro	32.4	:	29.3	35.5
North Macedonia	33.3	19.0	26.4	40.4
Serbia	32.8	:	26.4	39.4
Turkey	28.8	14.1	30.2	27.4

A CLOSER LOOK: The EU met its target of raising the rate of tertiary educational attainment to at least 40% of the 30–34 year-old population. On average in Europe, there is a large gap between the tertiary educational attainment rate of women and men, in favour of the former.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS), online data code [edat_lfse_03]. Note: the indicator covers 30 to 34 year-olds having successfully completed ISCED 5 to 8. The trend depicted refers to the 2009–2018 change in percentage points.

3. Early childhood education

BENCHMARK 2020: At least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in education.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: France, Ireland, United Kingdom,
MOST PROGRESS 2009–2017: Ireland, Poland, Finland

	2017 Total	Trend	2017	
			Age 4	Age 5+
EU	95.4d	4.6	94.6d	96.2d
Belgium	98.7	-0.6	98.6	98.7
Bulgaria	83.9	-0.3	75.7	88.0
Czechia	92.0	1.4	88.4	95.6
Denmark	98.0	6.1	98.0	98.0
Germany	96.4	0.4	95.1	97.6
Estonia	92.9	-3.2	91.8	93.4
Ireland	100.0d	26.4	100.0d	100.0
Greece	81.5	:	70.5	92.0
Spain	97.4	-1.0	97.7	97.1
France	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Croatia	82.8	13.6	67.5	90.4
Italy	95.1	-4.7	94.5	95.7
Cyprus	92.0	7.3	88.5	95.6
Latvia	96.3	4.6	93.6	97.7
Lithuania	91.9	7.6	85.5	95.1
Luxembourg	96.6b	2.0	95.1b	98.2b
Hungary	95.6	0.8	95.6	95.5
Malta	96.5	1.9	96.5	:
Netherlands	97.6	-1.9	96.1	99.0
Austria	95.6	4.3	93.5	97.8
Poland	91.9	21.0	84.6	95.4
Portugal	94.2	4.1	92.7	95.7
Romania	89.6	1.6	89.2	90.0
Slovenia	92.1	4.4	90.5	93.7
Slovakia	78.2	0.8	78.5	77.8
Finland	87.8	15.9	79.7	91.9
Sweden	96.3	1.6	94.3	97.3
UK	100.0	2.7	100.0	:
Iceland	97.7	2.6	97.5	97.9
Norway	97.3	0.7	97.2	97.5
Switzerland	73.1	-4.8	48.1	98.4
Montenegro	70.4	:	64.7	76.1
North Macedonia	39.5	11.0	33.5	45.7
Serbia	68.6	:	55.2	75.4
Turkey	54.7	22.2	36.6	73.4

A CLOSER LOOK: The attendance of children from the age of 3 in early childhood education is, by now, almost universal – but not for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. High-quality education in the early years of life correlates with better learning outcomes, and particularly so for children from socio-economically disadvantaged homes.

Source: Eurostat (UOE), online data code [educ_uae_enra10; educ_uae_enra19 (age4); educ_uae_enra18 (age5+)]. Note: the age for starting compulsory primary education is different from country to country. See Section 5.1 of the Education and Training Monitor 2019 for more information (ec.europa.eu/education/monitor). The trend depicted refers to the 2009–2017 change in percentage points.

4. Underachievement in reading, maths and science

BENCHMARK 2020: The share of 15 year-olds with underachievement in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS:
 Reading: Ireland, Estonia, Finland
 Maths: Estonia, Denmark, Finland
 Science: Estonia, Finland, Slovenia

	2015 Reading	Trend	2015 Maths	Trend	2015 Science	Trend
Belgium	19.5	1.8	20.1	1.0	19.8	1.8
Bulgaria	41.5	0.5	42.1	-5.0	37.9	-0.9
Czechia	22.0	-1.1	21.7	-0.7	20.7	3.4
Denmark	15.0	-0.2	13.6	-3.5	15.9	-0.7
Germany	16.2	-2.3	17.2	-1.5	17.0	2.2
Estonia	10.6	-2.7	11.2	-1.5	8.8	0.5
Ireland	10.2	-7.0	15.0	-5.9	15.3	0.1
Greece	27.3	6.0	35.8	5.4	32.7	7.4
Spain	16.2	-3.4	22.2	-1.6	18.3	0.1
France	21.5	1.7	23.5	1.0	22.1	2.8
Croatia	19.9	-2.5	32.0	-1.2	24.6	6.1
Italy	21.0	0.0	23.3	-1.7	23.2	2.6
Cyprus	35.6	2.8	42.6	0.6	42.1	4.1
Latvia	17.7	0.1	21.4	-1.2	17.2	2.5
Lithuania	25.1	0.7	25.4	-1.0	24.7	7.7
Luxembourg	25.6	-0.4	25.8	1.9	25.9	2.2
Hungary	27.5	9.9	28.0	5.7	26.0	11.9
Malta	35.6	-0.7	29.1	-4.6	32.5	0.0
Netherlands	18.1	3.8	16.7	3.3	18.5	5.3
Austria	22.5	-5.1	21.8	-1.5	20.8	-0.1
Poland	14.4	-0.6	17.2	-3.3	16.3	3.2
Portugal	17.2	-0.4	23.8	0.0	17.4	0.9
Romania	38.7	-1.7	39.9	-7.1	38.5	-2.9
Slovenia	15.1	-6.1	16.1	-4.3	15.0	0.2
Slovakia	32.1	9.9	27.7	6.7	30.7	11.4
Finland	11.1	3.0	13.6	5.7	11.5	5.5
Sweden	18.4	1.0	20.8	-0.3	21.6	2.5
UK	17.9	-0.5	21.9	1.7	17.4	2.4
Iceland	22.1	5.3	23.6	6.6	25.3	7.4
Norway	14.9	-0.1	17.1	-1.1	18.7	2.9
Switzerland	20.0	3.2	15.8	2.3	18.5	4.5
Montenegro	41.9	-7.6	51.9	-6.6	51.0	-2.6
North Macedonia	70.7	:	70.2	:	62.9	:
Albania	50.3	-6.4	53.3	-14.4	41.7	-15.6
Serbia	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	40.0	15.5	51.4	9.2	44.5	14.5

A CLOSER LOOK: Reducing the number of underachieving pupils remains a challenge. In most countries, students with a migrant background tend to perform worse than students without, signalling that investing in equal opportunities for all students remains a top-level priority in the EU.

Source: OECD (PISA 2009, 2015). Cyprus: PISA 2012, 2015. Note: underachievement means failing Level 2 on the PISA scale for reading, mathematics or science. The trend depicted refers to the 2009–2015 change in percentage points.