

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex (NEET) (sdg_08_20)

ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP)
Compiling agency: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

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Eurostat Quality Profile	
4.5. Source data	EU (LFS)
5.1. Frequency of dissemination	Every year
5.2. Timeliness	T+1 year
6.1. Reference area	All EU MS
6.2. Comparability - geographical	All EU MS
6.3. Coverage - Time	> 10 years
6.4. Comparability - over time	> 4 data points

Description of Eurostat quality grading system under the following [link](#).

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [Eurostat user support](#)

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1. Contact		Top
1.1. Contact organisation	Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union	
1.2. Contact organisation unit	E2: Environmental statistics and accounts; sustainable development	
1.5. Contact mail address	e-mail contact: ESTAT-SDG-MONITORING@ec.europa.eu	

2. Metadata update	Top
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2.1. Metadata last certified	30/04/2024
2.2. Metadata last posted	30/04/2024
2.3. Metadata last update	30/04/2024

3. Relevance

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The indicator is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and quality education for all; which are embedded in the European Commission's Priorities under the 'European Green Deal', 'A Europe fit for a digital age', 'An economy that works for people' and 'Promoting our European way of life'.

SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs and the achievement of global prosperity. SDG 8 draws particular attention to creating opportunities for the youth who are not in education, employment and training in order to prevent future erosion of skills and job discouragement. SDG 4 seeks to ensure that people have access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life, from early childhood education and care, through primary and secondary schooling, to technical, vocational training and tertiary education.

This indicator can be considered as identical with global SDG indicator 8.6.1 "Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training". Furthermore, it is included as main indicator in the Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The EU supports growth, job creation and competitiveness through funding instruments such as the [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#), the [European Social Fund](#) and its successor, the [European Social Fund Plus](#), the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#), [Horizon 2020](#), the [Programme for Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\)](#), the [Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises \(COSME\)](#), the [Emergency Support Instrument](#), the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) and the [Creative Europe Programme \(CAP\)](#).

The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), jointly proclaimed by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council in 2017, sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. The [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#), adopted in 2021, turns the Principles into concrete actions to benefit citizens. It also proposes an ambitious employment target of 78 % of the population aged 20 to 64 for the EU to reach by 2030. In support of this, the Action Plan proposes to halve the gender employment gap by 2030 compared with 2019 and to decrease the rate of young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) aged 15 to 29 to 9 % by 2030.

The breakdown of the indicator by citizenship is presented as a separate table, **sdg_08_20a**. It is used to monitor progress towards the social inclusion of migrants within the scope of SDG 10 on reducing inequalities.

4. Statistical Indicator

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4.1. Data description

The indicator measures the share of the population aged 15 to 29 who is not employed and not involved in education or training.

The numerator of the indicator refers to persons who meet the following two conditions: (a) they are not employed (i.e. unemployed or outside the labour force according to the International Labour Organisation definition) and (b) they have not received any education or training (i.e. neither formal nor non-formal) in the four weeks preceding the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

In table **sdg_08_20**, the denominator includes the total population aged 15 to 29. In table **sdg_08_20a**, the denominator includes the total population aged 15 to 29 (excluding those who did not answer the questions on 'participation in regular (formal) education and training').

The separate table **sdg_08_20a** shows the breakdown of the people at risk of poverty by citizenship. It shows the shares for citizens of the reporting country, for foreigners from EU countries and non-EU citizens.

4.2. Unit of measure

% of the population aged 15 to 29

4.3. Reference Period

Calendar year

4.4. Accuracy - overall

The indicator is produced according to the high-level quality standards of European Statistics. Details on accuracy can be found in the metadata of the source datasets (see link to related metadata).

4.5. Source data

EU (LFS)

Data source: EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)

Data provider: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, based on data reported by the countries.

5. Frequency and Timeliness of dissemination [Top](#)

5.1. Frequency of dissemination

Every year

The indicator is updated annually in April. Complete and updated ESS data release information can be accessed via [Eurostat release calendar](#).

5.2. Timeliness

T+1 year

New data points are disseminated within one year after the reference year.

6. Coverage and comparability [Top](#)

6.1. Reference area

All EU MS

Data are presented for all EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, North Macedonia and Türkiye.

6.2. Comparability - geographical

All EU MS

Data are comparable between all EU Member States respectively other presented countries.

6.3. Coverage - Time

> 10 years

sdg08_20 Presented times series (including EU aggregates) starts in 2009.

sdg08_20a Presented times series (including EU aggregates) starts in 2004.

For sdg08_20a: Break in time series in 2021 was due to the entry into force of the [Integrated European Social Statistics Framework Regulation \(Regulation \(EU\)](#)

[2019/1700](#)) and is fully detailed in the Eurostat dedicated article [LFS – correction for breaks in time series](#)

6.4. Comparability - over time

> 4 data points

Fully comparable since 2009 for the EU aggregate with some exceptions at the country level over the years for sdg_08_20.

Length of comparable time series without methodological break is less than 3 data points for sdg_08_20a.

Table **sdg_08_20a**: Break in time series in 2021 was due to the entry into force of the [Integrated European Social Statistics Framework Regulation \(Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1700\)](#) and is fully detailed in the Eurostat dedicated article [LFS – correction for breaks in time series](#)

7. Accessibility and clarity [Top](#)

7.1. Dissemination format - Publications

Analysis of these indicators are presented in Eurostat's annual monitoring report on Sustainable development in the EU (progress towards SDGs in the EU context).

7.2. Dissemination format - online database

see tables [sdg_08_20](#) and [sdg_08_20a](#)

7.3. Dissemination format - other

Eurostat dedicated section on SDGs: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>

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Related metadata [Top](#)

[edat1_esms](#) - Educational attainment level and transition from education to work (based on EU-LFS)

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[Table sdg_08_20: lfsi_esms - LFS main indicators](#)

[Table sdg_08_20a: edat1_esms - Educational attainment level and transition from education to work \(based on EU-LFS\)](#)

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