

How successful are students in moving from education to work?

- About 15% of people aged 15-29 are not employed nor in education and training (NEET) on average in OECD countries; women are more likely to be NEET than men.
- The proportion of 15-29 year-olds not in education who had a job shrank from 41% in 2008 to 36% in 2012, on average among OECD countries.
- On average among OECD countries, about 40% of 15-29 year-olds working part time would like to work more.

Significance

This section illustrates the difficulty of moving from education to work for the younger generation today. During recessionary periods, fewer job vacancies 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. This section looks at the number of years young people can be expected to spend in education, employment and non-employment. To improve the transition of young people from school to work, regardless of the economic climate, education systems should work to ensure that people have the skills that are needed in the labour market.

Findings

Almost half (49%) of 15-29 year-olds were in education on average among OECD countries in 2012. Of the remaining 51%, 36% held a job, 7% were unemployed and 8% were outside the labour force. In Chile, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Turkey, more than 20% of 15-29 year-olds are neither employed nor in education and training.

A typical 15-year-old in an OECD country in 2012 could expect to spend about 7 additional years in formal education during the next 15 years. In addition, before turning 30, he or she could expect to hold a job for over five years, to be unemployed for nearly one year, and to be out of the labour force – that is, neither in education nor seeking work – for over one year.

About one in two 15-29 year-olds in OECD countries is employed. Some 8% of these young people work part time while studying; 5% work part time but are no longer studying; 6% work full time while studying; and 30% work full time and are no longer in education.

Women between 15 and 29 years old are twice as likely as men of the same age to be completely out of the labour force. They can expect to spend 1.7 years in this situation, compared to 0.8 years for men.

Trends

Efforts by governments to raise people's level of education have led to significant changes in educational participa-

tion. In 2000, an average of 41% of 15-29 year-olds in OECD countries were in education; by 2012, that proportion had risen to 49%. While the percentage of individuals in education increased steadily between 2000 and 2012, trends in youth employment have been marked by two periods of large drops: between 2000 and 2003 (-3.3 percentage points) and between 2008 and 2012 (-4.4 percentage points). These decreases in youth employment coincided with the slowdown in economic activity in the early 2000s and the recession triggered by the global financial crisis in 2008. The proportion of 15-29 year-olds not employed nor in education or training (NEET) remained stable at around 15% between 2000 and 2012.

Definitions

Employed refers to individuals who have a job or are at work for one hour or more in paid employment or self-employment. Full-time worker refers to those working usually 30 hours or more on their main job. Data for most countries are taken from OECD and Eurostat databases, which are compiled from National Labour Force Surveys by the OECD LSO (Labour Market and Social Outcomes of Learning) Network, and usually refer to the first quarter, or the average of the first three months of the calendar year. Some discrepancies may exist in the data collected.

Information on data for Israel:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

Going further

For additional material, notes and a full explanation of sourcing and methodologies, see *Education at a Glance 2014* (Indicator C5).

Areas covered include:

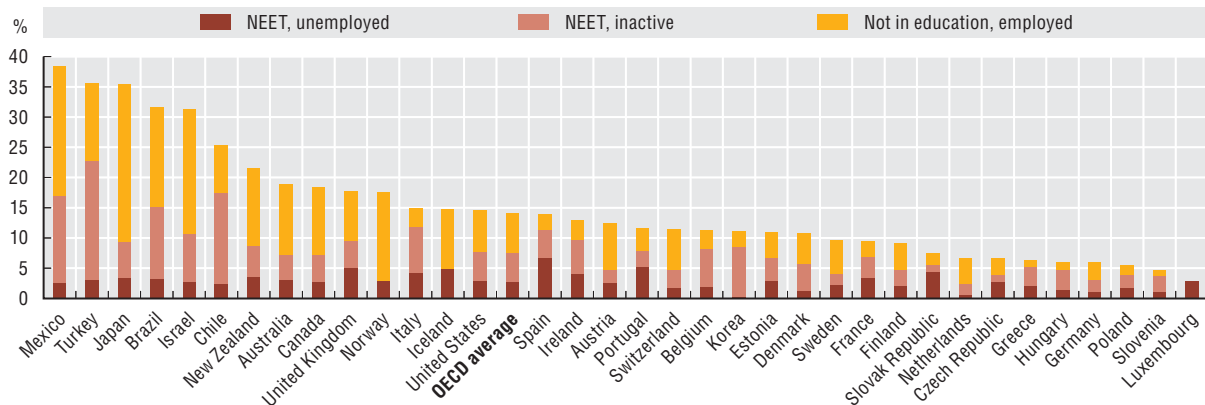
- Expected years in education and not in education for 15-29 year-olds, as well as trends and gender differences.
- Transition from school to work for different age groups.
- Voluntary/involuntary part-time work.

Further reading from OECD

OECD (2012), *Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives: A Strategic Approach to Skills Policies*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264177338-en>.

Figure 2.7. **Young people not in education by labour market status, 2012**

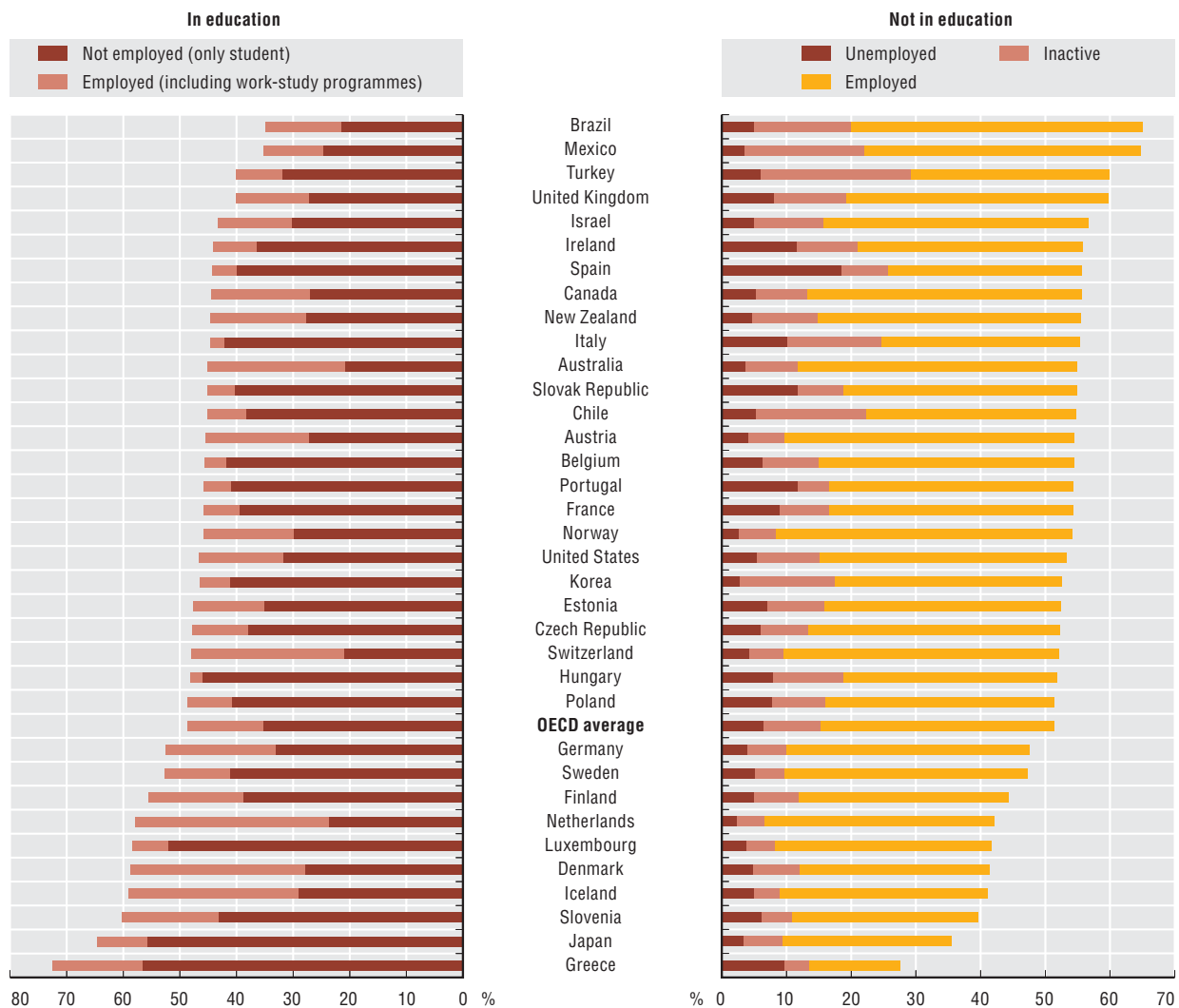
This figure shows the work status of 15-19 year-olds not in education or training.



Source: OECD (2014), Education at a Glance 2014, Chart C5.3, available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933119055>.

Figure 2.8. **Education and employment among young people, 2012**

These figures show the work status of 15-29 year-olds.



Source: OECD (2014), Education at a Glance 2014, Chart C5.2, available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933119036>.



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