International Labour Organization

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Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024

Middle East and North Africa

Key points

- While lower than the pre-pandemic rate, the youth unemployment rate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, at 24.4 per cent in 2023, is almost double the global average.
- There is heterogeneity in labour market outcomes within the region, with the youth unemployment rate in North Africa lower in 2023 than the pre-pandemic rate whereas it had yet to return to its pre-pandemic level in the Arab States.
- At 18.5 per cent in 2023, the youth employment-to-population ratio was the lowest among the world's regions, highlighting the immense difficulties young people in the region have in accessing decent jobs. The region's EPR was half that of the global rate.
- Almost one in three young people (31.5 per cent) in the MENA region was not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2023, and the youth NEET rate had yet to fall below its pre-pandemic level. The region is one of only two global regions judged to be "off track" in its SDG commitment (under target 8.6) to lower numbers of young NEETs.
- More than two in five (44.2 per cent) young women in the region were in NEET status in 2023 and the NEET rate of young women was more than double that of young men. Such trends point to an urgent advancement in policies that can challenge the gender norms around education, labour market participation and household care responsibilities.
- In 2024, the youth unemployment rate in the MENA region is projected to rise slightly to 24.5 per cent, partly as a result of oil production cuts and persistent conflicts. In 2025, the rate is projected to fall back again to 24.2 per cent.
- Political instability and conflict have a significant impact on young people in the region. In 2022, there were approximately 10 million young people living in close proximity to conflicts, representing a peak over the past two decades.
- The share of young workers in paid employment has risen in the past two decades and accounted for two-thirds of total youth employment in 2022. Nonetheless, the vast majority of young people in paid employment are working informally in the region.
- Structural transformation in the past two decades in the region has been predominantly towards traditional services such as trade, transport and accommodation and non-market services rather than to the relatively more modern and higher-productivity services.
- The MENA region is one of only two regions (with sub-Saharan Africa) globally that is projected to see an increase in the youth labour force between 2023 and 2050, which increases the pressures on the objective of decent job creation for young people.

Introduction

This regional outlook is based on the *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Decent work, brighter futures* (hereafter GET Youth 2024).[1] For two decades, the biennial *GET Youth* series of reports have provided timely and relevant information on how well young people are doing in their ambitions to attain decent work. In so doing, the reports have investigated the where, why and how of young people's labour market vulnerabilities, and highlighted policy measures and interventions that can support youth job creation and effectively set young people on the pathway to a bright future of work.

As an anniversary edition, the *GET Youth 2024* looks back on what has been achieved since the dawn of the twenty-first century while also looking ahead to what may lay in store for youth employment in an era characterized by crises and uncertainties.

This Regional Brief accompanies the main report with a more in-depth analysis of the key labour market indicators for youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, based on ILO modelled estimates and available national labour market statistics.[2]

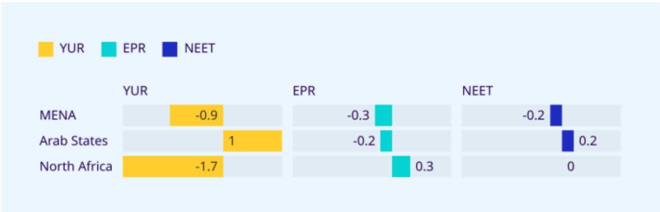
Regional outlook for youth in the labour market

One in four economically active youth in the region is unemployed.

The youth unemployment rate in the MENA region remains critically elevated. At 24.4 per cent in 2023, the rate doubled the global average of 13.0 per cent and was the highest among all regions. More positively, the 2023 youth unemployment rate had come down by more than 2 percentage points from the pre-pandemic period (2015–19) (Annex table 1).

Within the MENA region, there are important differences between the subregions. North Africa has both a lower rate than the Arab States – at 22.3 per cent and 28 per cent respectively in 2023 – and showed a declining trend from the pre-pandemic period (figure 1). The rate in the Arab States, on the other hand, was below the peak rate of the COVID-19 crisis but had not yet settled below what it had been in the pre-pandemic period. Within the subregion, youth unemployment remained especially challenging in the non- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.[3]

Figure 1. Change in key youth labour market indicators, 2019-23 (percentage point)



Note: YUR = youth unemployment rate; (youth) EPR = employment-to-population ratio; NEET = share of youth not in employment, education or training.
Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023 (EPR); May 2024 (UR); August 2024 (NEET).

Young women are severely disadvantaged

Within the MENA region, there are also important differences by gender. The female youth unemployment rate was more than 1.5 times that of the male rate in 2023, at 35.4 per cent and 21.5 per cent (Annex table 1). The gender gap in the youth unemployment rate has declined slightly over time, but there is an evident uptick from 2021 which implies that some young women who

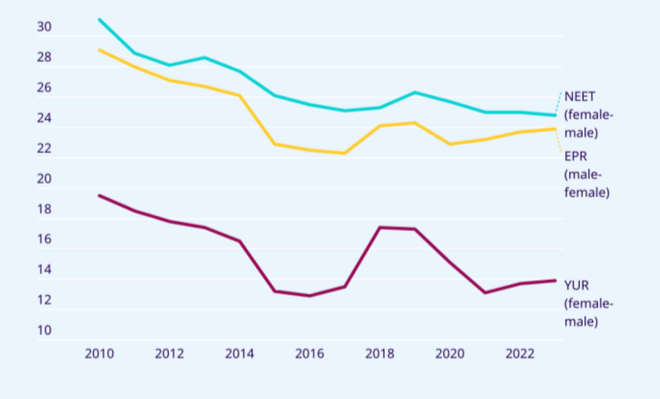
[1] The term "youth" is typically considered to encompass the age group of 15 to 24 years old, with "adults" considered to be those aged 25 and over. However, when possible, the discussion is expanded to cover the broader age range of 15 to 29 years old. Data are presented by subregion and by country income group level and are disaggregated by sex. ILO regions and subregions are defined in Appendix A of ILO, World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024, and country income groupings are defined according to the World Bank's income classification.

[2] The GET Youth 2024 report includes data and analyses for the global regions of the Arab States and North Africa. This Regional Brief adds the aggregation of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), while also maintaining data and analyses on the individual regions of the Arab States and North Africa. The combined MENA is not a perfect combination of the Arab States and North Africa, because it includes the Islamic Republic of Iran (otherwise included in the ILO regional grouping of South Asia) and excludes the Occupied Palestinian Territory (otherwise included in the ILO regional grouping of the Arab States) and Western Sahara (otherwise included in the ILO regional grouping of North Africa).

[3] For a more detailed discussion on differences between labour market outcomes in GCC and non-GCC states within the Arab States, see ILO, *Arab States Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2024, Promoting social justice through a just transition*, 2024.

gave up on the job search during the crisis have now re-engaged their labour market engagement but without finding work (figure 2).

▶ **Figure 2. Gender gaps in key youth labour market indicators, 2010-23 (percentage point)**



Note: YUR = youth unemployment rate; (youth) EPR = employment-to-population ratio; NEET = share of youth not in employment, education or training. The direction of the gap (female-to-male or male-to-female) is indicated in parenthesis.
Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023 (EPR); May 2024 (UR); August 2024 (NEET).

Few jobs for young people, and worsening prospects for young women.

The MENA region has the lowest youth employment-to-population ratio (EPR) globally, pointing to the immense youth employment challenge in the region. The EPR in 2023, at 18.5 per cent, was almost half of the global average (35.0 per cent) and represented a decrease of 0.3 percentage points relative to the rate in 2019 (Annex table 2 and figure 1).

It is primarily young women who are excluded from employment in the region – fewer than one in ten (6.4 per cent) young women was working in 2023. The female youth EPR declined between 2019 and 2023, which reversed the declining gender gap seen to that point (figure 2). The fall in the aggregate MENA female youth EPR was led by North Africa (Annex table 1). While in other regions, a declining youth EPR could be a positive signal of more young people engaging in education, when the rate is a low as it is in the MENA region, a further decrease for young women can only mean the situation facing young women's and their opportunities for labour market attachment are reaching a critical states.

The *GET Youth 2024* report (box 1) includes an estimate of "missing" young workers in an exercise of a hypothesized "ideal" youth EPR of 40 per cent.[4] The exercise finds there is a deficit of almost 10 million jobs for young workers in the Arab States and almost 7 million in North Africa, with three-quarters of the deficit being women in both subregions. While the sheer number of "missing female workers" was largest in the South Asia region (45 million young women), it was in the Arab States and North Africa that the rates of change required to overcome the deficit in youth EPR were greatest. In the Arab States, employment among young women would need to increase sixfold and in North Africa fivefold to reach the state of regional and gender equity.

The youth NEET in the MENA region is the world's highest; nearly one in three youth being NEET.

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal target 8.6 to reduce the share of young people in NEET status in the MENA region is "off track". The youth NEET rate in the region, at 31.5 per cent in 2023, had decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the pre-pandemic rate. Nonetheless, there has been limited progress in reducing the rate since 2015, when the 2023 Sustainable Development Agenda was adopted. At 33.2 per cent in 2023, the NEET rate the Arab States was slightly higher than the rate in North Africa (31.2 per cent).

The rate for young women in the MENA region, at 44.2 per cent in 2023, was more than twice as high as the rate for young men (19.4 per cent). The high shares of NEET among young women in the region reflects the limited ability of young women in the MENA region to pursue either education or employment due to the disproportionate share of domestic and caregiving responsibilities placed in them.

Outlook for 2024 and 2025

Economic growth in the MENA region in 2024 is projected at 2.2 per cent.[5] This represents a return to pre-pandemic levels but was significantly lower than the projection for emerging markets and middle-income economies, where

[4] The exercise applies a youth EPR of 40 per cent (similar to the rate in high-income countries) to existing population estimates to generate a hypothesized employment figure. The gap is then calculated as the difference between the hypothesized employment number and the "actual" employment estimate for young men and young women separately.

[5] IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update: The Global Economy in a Sticky Spot*, July 2024.

growth is projected at 4.2 per cent. The subdued rate of growth reflects in part oil production cuts and persistent conflicts in the region. In 2025, economic growth in the MENA region is forecast to rise to 4.0 per cent in 2025, closer to the rate of 4.2 per cent projected for emerging markets and middle-income economies.

In particular, the war in Gaza has heightened uncertainty and geopolitical risks in the region, and economic and labour market prospects both in the region and globally will deteriorate substantially if the war spills over to other fronts. Already, there have been almost daily exchanges of fire around the Lebanon border and disruptions in the global shipping routes of the Red Sea.

In 2024, the youth unemployment rate in the MENA region is projected to rise slightly to 24.5 per cent, before falling to 24.2 per cent in 2025. The NEET rate in MENA is projected to decrease by 0.1 percentage points in 2024 to 31.4 per cent and fall another 0.1 percentage points in 2025 to 31.3 per cent.

Ensuring social mobility across generations through decent jobs for youth critical

One of the greatest challenges for the region remains raising economic growth rates and making growth more inclusive so as to raise living standards. The *GET Youth 2024* reports on results of the latest wave of the World Values Survey, finding that only 40.1 per cent of young people aged 15–29 in the Arab States, the lowest across regions, felt their standards of living to be better than their parents.[6] The share rises to 46.8 per cent in North Africa, below the global average of 53.4 per cent. Also based on the World Values Survey, results show a majority of young people in the region were worried about losing their jobs; 64.6 per cent of young people in the Arab States and 68.1 per cent of young people in North Africa. Such worries are occurring in a context where people feel that there are insufficient opportunities in their countries in recent times. According to a recent Gallup poll, 72 per cent of respondents in the MENA region pointed to such insufficiencies compared to a global average of 64 per cent.[7]

A changing landscape of youth employment

In the spirit of the anniversary of the GET Youth publication, the report brings updated evidence to various topics of relevance to the current dialogue on youth employment. To the extent possible, the aim is to highlight how the landscape that connects young people's prospects to labour market outcomes has changed since the beginning of the millennium. This brief summarizes the main points relevant to the region.

Too many young people start their labour market transitions in situations of conflicts

There has been a rising incidence of conflicts across the globe, including in the MENA region. In 2022, some 57 million young people around the globe were estimated to be living in areas affected by conflict.[8] Of this total, 10 million were in the MENA region, predominantly in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Linking conflict data to employment data, the ILO estimates that around 2 million jobs for youth are at risk across the MENA region due to proximity to conflicts. This total does not include the jobs lost in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a result of the war in Gaza.

Even prior to the war which erupted in October 2023, young people in Gaza faced colossal labour market challenges as a result of the occupation and blockade the enclave has endured for almost two decades.[9] The incidence of unemployment among youth stood at 59.3 per cent prior to war, with the rate among young women at 86.7 per cent. Prior to the war, the share of young people not in employment, education or training was estimated at 35.7 per cent, but schools in Gaza have been closed since October 2023, and every young person in Gaza today is practically NEET. Young people in the West Bank have not been spared either, with the youth unemployment rate increasing from 24.1 to 41.8 per cent.

[6] The World Values Survey, Wave 7 (2017–22).

[7] Gallup International, "75 Years Jubilee Poll", August–October 2022.

[8] Based on data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP).

[9] For a more detailed discussion on the impacts of the occupation on the labour market of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, see ILO, *The Situation of Workers of the Occupied Arab Territories* (ILC.112/DG/APP), 2024.

Some progress on improving the quality of jobs but informal employment is still rampant.

Paid employment is the predominant type of job in the MENA region, accounting for more than two-thirds of total youth employment in 2022 and having steadily increased from 57.3 per cent in 2000.[10] Conversely, the share of self-employment among youth decreased in the region, driven by a decrease in the share of contributing family members whereas the share of youth own-account workers increased. The share of young people in paid employment in the Arab States was higher, at 76.3 per cent in 2022 compared to 62.8 per cent in North Africa. Between 2000 and 2022, however, the share of youth in paid employment grew by over 12 percentage points in North Africa compared to a rise of 8 percentage points in the Arab States. Nonetheless, it is clear that many young people in paid employment are also working informally. Young people in the Arab States are more likely to be informally employed than their adult counterparts.[11]

Structural transformation of economies away from agriculture occurs but with limited growth in the modern sector where educated youth prefer to work.

Over the past two decades, significant shifts have taken place in terms of the sectors in which young people are employed, highlighting the structural transformations in economies that have taken place. In 2001, agriculture accounted for the largest share of youth employment in both the Arab States and North Africa. By 2021, the share of agriculture in total youth employment had fallen by more than 10 percentage points in both subregions, but the sector continued to be the largest employer in North Africa. In the Arab States, the largest sector for young workers in 2021 was in the "traditional" services sectors including trade, transport, accommodation and food serving activities. The same sector showed the largest increase in share over the two-decade period in both subregions (figure 3). In both subregions, the share of employment in manufacturing, which is typically job-intensive and characterized by higher productivity levels, declined.

▶ Figure 3. Change in sectoral share of youth employment between 2001 and 2021 (percentage point)

Source: ILO modelled sectoral estimates, November 2022 (unpublished).

Consequences of the sectoral composition of job growth in the region and the increasing levels of educational attainment among youth are an increase in educational mismatches and rising rates of graduate unemployment. The main report (section 2.5) investigates the question of whether higher education improves the chances of youth to access jobs, and answers with a clear "yes". The evidence shows that the tertiary-educated young adult aged 25 to 29 has a much lower chance to fall into the status of NEET compared to those with lower levels of education. Likewise, the report shows that in high-income countries and upper-middle-income countries, having a tertiary education also decreases the chance that a young adult falls in a situation of labour underutilization, that is, either being unemployed or in time-related underemployment. However, the same correlation does not hold for the higher-educated young adult in a lower-middle- and low-income country (LMLIC).

These results reflect in part the limited capacity of economies in LMLICs in the MENA region to create high-skilled jobs at a pace sufficient to meet the growing supply of tertiary graduates. For young adults, the benefits of attaining a tertiary education emerge in the resulting quality of employment (lower incidences of both informal work and low-paid work), rather than in the quantity of employment. The outcome is a situation in which two thirds of young adult workers in LMLICs hold qualifications that do not match well to the jobs they do.

[10] Data from ILOSTAT, employment by status, modelled estimates, November 2023. The share of paid employment in total employment provides a vague indication on the quality of employment as these jobs are typically better protected from economic risks. Persons in self-employment are more prone to informal work arrangements and are less likely to have social security coverage and to benefit from social dialogue. Nonetheless, the temporary nature of paid employment, which the main report shows is increasing for many young workers, can offset the supposed benefits.

[11] ILO, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Update*, 2023.

Moving ahead

Many of the challenges described in this Brief, including high incidences of youth unemployment and NEETs, and limited availability of decent work, are closely linked and are rooted in the lack of diversification and structural transformation towards higher productivity sectors and to the unstable political situations and continuing conflicts in the region.

In the MENA region, the traditional development pathway characterized by a sectoral reallocation of labour from the low-productivity agricultural sector to the relatively more productive manufacturing activities, which is often driven by new labour force entrants and in which in the process raises the aggregate productivity of the economy, has been limited. Instead, the sectoral reallocation has been towards more predominantly towards traditional services such as trade, transport and accommodation and non-market services rather than to the relatively more modern and higher-productivity services. This calls for heightened efforts to diversify economic structures, including through gender-responsive pro-employment macroeconomic policies and sectoral policies aimed at stimulating employment generation in growing and dynamic sectors. This challenge is all the more important as the region is one of only two that will continue to see an increasing young labour force into 2050 (with sub-Saharan Africa) (main report, figure 2.22).

The MENA region is also characterized by stark gender inequalities in the labour markets. Strengthening policies to change social norms around education, labour market participation and household care responsibilities will be critical in narrowing gender gaps in the region over time.

Despite some positive signals about growth and jobs recovery, young people today show signs of growing levels of anxiety about their future. Surveys highlighted in this report indicate that many young people today feel stressed about job loss and job stability, the state of the economy, increasing violence and conflicts, not to mention the many other known stressors like climate change and technological progress that are not directly addressed here. Whether borne out by reality or not, young people's perceptions about the future play a significant role in their personal well-being and motivation levels and in shaping their decisions about future educational, labour market and civic engagement.

To help ease youth anxieties, institutions will need to guide young people through the complexities of the school-to-work and youth-to-adulthood transitions. Helping young people to keep their hopes alive must become a shared mission involving all segments of society.

Bringing decent work to all young people and setting them on pathways to bright futures requires scaled-up action of multiple fronts and a long-term "real" commitment on the part of policymakers to work with social partners and young people themselves on the integrated approach to youth employment. Without repeating the policy implications of the main report, the following are a few priority areas of action that are especially relevant to supporting youth employment in the MENA region:

- Expand demand-side policies aimed at stimulating employment generation in growing and dynamic sectors. In particular, demand-side interventions need to directly target the creation of jobs for young women.
- Concurrently ensure that education and skills policies, including technical and vocational training, are adaptive to the needs of the economy, including in inclusion of green, digital and soft skills.
- Address labour market challenges through public-private partnerships and adequate financing, including through international cooperation, public–private partnerships and financing for development.
- In all action areas, keep youth in the driver's seat of policymaking, and promote and strengthen the institutions of youth-inclusive social dialogue.

Subregional summaries

Arab States

- The youth unemployment rate in the Arab States was the world's highest at 28.0 per cent in 2023 – a decrease of 3.3 percentage points from the high of 31.3 per cent in 2020, and 1 percentage point above the pre-pandemic level of 27.0 per cent in 2019. Forecasts suggest a decline in the rate only from 2025 to 27.7 per cent from 28.6 per cent in 2024.
- The unemployment rate of young women was 1.5 times higher than that of young men, at 38.5 per cent and 25.7 per cent, in 2023. With rates of young men projected to decline in the next two years while the rate for young women increases, a worsening of the gender gap in youth unemployment rate is expected.
- The Arab States have the largest gender disparity in employment-to-population ratios of any subregion in the world, with young women nearly completely excluded from the youth labour force. In 2023, the youth EPR stood at 31.9 per cent for men compared to 6.0 per cent for women.
- At 33.2 per cent in 2023, the share of youth in NEET status was the highest of any subregion and more than 10 percentage points higher than the global average of 20.4 per cent. It is one of only three of the world's regions deemed to be "off track" in its progress to meet SDG target 8.6 to lower the number of young NEETs. Nearly one in two (46.3 per cent) young women in 2023 were NEET, a share that was twice that of young men (at 21.1 per cent).
- Young people tend to work in paid but informal jobs. Of the working youth, 76.3 per cent were in paid employment in 2022, while a minority were self-employed. Eight in 10 youth aged 15-24 were informally employed compared to 6 in 10 for young adults aged 25-29.
- The share of youth working in the agriculture sector fell more than 10 percentage points from 2001 to 2021. Trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities overtook the agricultural sector as the largest youth employer during the two-decade period, growing by 8.4 percentage points. Care services and communications, financial and professional services also grew, while the share in manufacturing fell.

North Africa

- Youth unemployment in North Africa was 22.3 per cent in 2023, up about 1 percentage point on the year prior but down 1.7 percentage points from 2019. The same rate is projected in 2025, after rising to 22.5 per cent in 2024.
- The unemployment rate of young women was 1.8 times higher than that of young men, at 34 per cent and 18.8 per cent, in 2023.
- The youth employment-to-population ratio stood at 18.3 per cent in 2023. Young women also face significant barriers to employment relative to men in the region, with the EPR for young women at 6.9 per cent, among the lowest for all subregions, compared to a rate of 29.4 per cent for young men.
- The NEET rate was 31.2 per cent in 2023, among the highest of all global subregions and marking one of only three of the world's regions deemed to be "off track" in its progress to meet SDG target 8.6 to lower the number of young NEETs. The youth NEET rate of young women was more than double that of young men, at 44.1 per cent and 18.8 per cent, respectively, in 2023.
- Young people in the region tend to work in paid employment, which accounts for 62.8 per cent of all youth employment and grew by over 12 percentage points in share from 2000 to 2022.
- The share of youth working in the agriculture sector fell more than 10 percentage points from 2001 to 2021 although it remained the largest employer. Trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities was the sector showing the largest growth in youth employment, by over 6 percentage points, in the two-decade period. The share of youth employment in manufacturing fell.

Annex: Additional tables

▶ Table 1. Youth unemployment rate by sex, MENA region and subregion, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion/country income group	2000–04 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total									
MENA	25.1	26.9	25.3	26.8	25.7	24.0	24.4	24.5	24.2
Arab States	19.2	25.6	27.0	31.3	30.1	27.9	28.0	28.6	27.7
North Africa	29.2	28.0	24.0	24.4	23.0	21.4	22.3	22.5	22.3
World	12.6	14.2	13.8	15.6	14.4	13.3	13.0	12.8	12.8
Women									
MENA	32.0	38.5	39.0	38.9	36.1	34.9	35.4	36.2	36.2
Arab States	24.7	41.1	43.3	45.5	41.1	38.9	38.5	39.7	39.3
North Africa	33.8	37.2	37.4	36.4	33.7	32.6	34.0	34.7	34.7
World	12.5	13.6	13.4	15.5	14.3	13.4	12.9	12.9	12.8
Men									
MENA	22.9	23.6	21.7	23.8	23.0	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.2
Arab States	17.9	22.8	24.0	28.4	27.9	25.5	25.7	26.2	25.2
North Africa	27.4	24.5	19.7	20.9	19.8	18.0	18.8	18.8	18.5
World	12.6	14.5	14.1	15.7	14.5	13.3	13.0	12.8	12.8

Note: 2024 and 2025 are projections.
Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, May 2024.

▶ Table 2. Youth employment -to-population ratio by sex, MENA region and subregion, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion/country income group	2000–04 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total									
MENA	25.0	19.5	18.8	17.3	17.9	18.5	18.5	18.6	18.7
Arab States	26.4	20.3	19.5	17.5	18.2	19.1	19.3	19.3	19.4
North Africa	23.8	19.1	18.0	17.2	18.0	18.5	18.3	18.4	18.5
World	44.1	35.8	35.2	33.2	34.1	34.7	35.0	34.6	34.6
Women									
MENA	11.3	7.6	6.2	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4
Arab States	9.6	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.4	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.8
North Africa	12.8	9.3	6.9	6.1	6.5	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.0
World	36.3	28.8	28.3	26.3	27.1	27.6	28.2	27.9	27.9
Men									
MENA	37.9	30.8	30.5	28.5	29.2	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.6
Arab States	41.5	33.7	32.6	29.2	30.0	31.4	31.9	32.1	32.3
North Africa	34.1	28.5	28.8	27.9	29.0	29.7	29.4	29.4	29.7
World	51.5	42.3	41.7	39.6	40.6	41.3	41.3	40.9	40.9

Note: 2024 and 2025 are projections.
Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023.

▶ Table 3. Youth NEET rate by sex, MENA region and subregion, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion	2005–09 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total									
MENA	33.4	31.6	31.7	33.2	32.1	31.4	31.5	31.4	31.3
Arab States	34.5	33.2	33.0	34.7	33.7	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.1
North Africa	31.9	30.4	31.2	33.2	32.2	31.2	31.2	31.1	31.0
World	22.4	21.4	21.4	23.2	21.8	20.9	20.4	20.4	20.4
Women									
MENA	49.1	44.9	45.3	46.4	45.0	44.3	44.2	44.2	44.1
Arab States	52.1	48.6	47.6	48.1	46.7	46.4	46.3	46.4	46.4
North Africa	47.0	42.0	44.0	46.4	45.2	44.3	44.1	44.0	43.8
World	32.3	30.1	29.8	31.1	29.8	29.1	28.1	28.2	28.2
Men									
MENA	18.9	19.2	19.0	20.8	20.0	19.3	19.4	19.3	19.2
Arab States	19.4	19.5	19.7	22.4	21.8	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.0
North Africa	17.4	19.4	18.9	20.4	19.6	18.6	18.8	18.6	18.5
World	13.1	13.3	13.6	15.8	14.3	13.3	13.1	13.1	13.1

Note: 2024 and 2025 are projections. Global and regional estimates for NEET rates are available from 2005.
Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, August 2024.

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