

Indicator (definition)	Youth education attainment level (total, females, males): The percentage of young people aged 20-24 years having attained at least upper secondary education attainment level (i.e. with an education level ISCED 3a, 3b or 3c long minimum) as a proportion of the total population of the same age group.
Eurostat Unit	Labour Market
Other Commission DGs	DG EMPL; DG EAC
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	Employment Statistics
Date	December 2010

1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability (Description of quality grades under the following link: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d)

A
 B
 C
 Indicator to be Developed

Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology (European Union Labour Force Survey).

2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

The indicator measures the qualification level of the population aged 20-24 years in terms of formal educational degrees. In so far it provides a measure for the “supply” of human capital of that age group and for the output of education systems in terms of graduates. In 2015 around 30% of jobs are expected to require higher education (tertiary level) qualifications and almost half of all jobs will require at least medium-level (equivalent to upper secondary education level) qualifications.

Education and training have an important place in the integrated guidelines for delivering the revised Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth. The completion of upper secondary education is one of the five benchmarks for the Lisbon strategy in the field of education: In 2010 a rate of 85% of upper secondary attainment of young people (aged 20-24) by 2010 should be achieved.

Completed upper secondary education is generally considered to be the minimum level required for successful participation in a knowledge-based society. It is increasingly important not just for successful entry into the labour market, but also to allow students access to learning and training opportunities offered by higher education.

Restriction of the indicator’s relevance and other characteristics which may lead to restrictions in using it in monitoring and reporting

Selection of the age group (20-24 years) excludes persons who complete upper secondary education at a higher age.

3. Data availability:

(**t₁**: earliest reference year available; **t₂**: latest reference year available in December 2010)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA
t ₁	1992: BE, DK, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, LU, PT, UK 1993: FR 1995: AT, FI, SE 1996: NL, SI 1997: HU, PL, RO 1998: CZ, EE, LT, LV, SK 1999: CY 2000: BG, MT	1999: IS 2000: TR 2002: HR 2006: MK	-	1996: NO, CH

t ₂	2009: All Member States	2009: IS, HR, MK, TR	-	2009: NO, CH
----------------	-------------------------	----------------------	---	--------------

Comments: Missing values for DE (1998), IE (1998), LU (1998) and UK (1998).

4. Overall accuracy

High



The indicator stems from the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS), a household survey based on European legislation. The question on highest completed level of education and training includes both general and vocational education. Subject to detailed quality screening both at national level and by Eurostat, figures on educational attainment fulfill the Eurostat requirements concerning reliability. The age group 20-24 was selected as a proxy for the political target age 22 on the basis of optimal variance and sample size (reliability). The results are based on a sample of population (sampling rates vary between 0.3% and 3.3%) and are therefore subject to the usual types of errors associated with sampling techniques and interviews. Non response and proxy interviews constitute the major risks of potential bias in the results. The results do not cover persons living in institutional households and persons carrying out military service. Data are categorised to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

Restricted



(sources, errors, methodology, etc.)

5. Comparability across countries

High



Comparability across countries is achieved in the European Labour Force Survey (LFS) through various regulations ensuring harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methodologies for all EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries. In November 2006, the transition to the use of annual averages instead of one unique reference quarter in spring improved the comparability of data: the end of regular education schemes varies across countries which implied minor under-coverage for some countries in the past. In CY, students usually living in the country but studying abroad are not yet covered by the survey. - The coverage of vocational training may slightly differ depending on the country. There is no comparable data for the US and Japan using similar education levels.

Restricted



6. Comparability over time

High



The comparability over time of the series increased significantly in the last years. From 2004 onwards the series can be considered as highly comparable over time as only two breaks in series are signaled (2005 in Germany and 2007 in Denmark).

Restricted



7. Development perspective for improving the quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of the burden on Member States and respondents.)

From 2005 onwards, the EU LFS is conducted on a quarterly basis in all countries allowing the coverage of the 52 weeks of the year. Annual averages presenting results from 2005 (and back series from 2000 for most countries) are implemented from November 2006. This improves the representativity and reliability of results (better distribution and size of the sample), and comparability across countries.

8. Contribution to the coherence of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

The indicator is extracted from the same survey as the main EU employment and unemployment indicators which guarantees a high degree of coherence.

A closely related indicator is the structural indicator on Early school-leavers from education and training, which is also calculated from LFS data. However, the two indicators on youth education attainment level and early school-leavers do not add up to 100 percent for two reasons. The first is the

different age groups; the second is that early school-leavers are only those that are currently not in education or training, whereas for the indicator on youth education attainment level, both persons in education or training and those currently not in education or training are taken into account.

Relevant European legislation:

General regulations

Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 77/3).

Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 October 2002 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 308/1).

Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2003 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (OJ No L 336/6).

Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 315/42)

Implementation regulations

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1022/2009 of 29 October 2009 amending Regulations (EC) No 1738/2005, (EC) No 698/2006 and (EC) No 377/2008 as regards the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters (OJ No L 114/57)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 973/2007 of 20 August 2007 amending certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains implementing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 (OJ No L 216/10)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 of 15 March 2005 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2006 onwards and the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 of 19 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2001 onwards (OJ No L 181/16).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 of 7 September 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the operational definition of unemployment (OJ No L 228/18).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2104/2002 of 28 November 2002 adapting Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 as far as the list of education and training variables and their codification to be used for data transmission from 2003 onwards are concerned