

Labour force statistics for the Mediterranean region

2016 edition



COMPACT
GUIDES

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Background information

The accession of any country to the EU requires that country to respect a range of democratic values, as well as the consent of the EU institutions, all of the EU Member States and the citizens of the new Member State (through their national parliament or a referendum). As of August 2016, the EU had granted the perspective of membership to seven countries: Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Turkey are candidate countries; Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (¹) are potential candidates. The process of ensuring compliance with the EU's standards and rules (the EU *acquis* or the body of EU law) is divided into different policy fields, including statistics. Eurostat monitors the progress of enlargement countries in complying with the EU *acquis* in the field of statistics, collecting a wide range of data from each country.

These data are considered essential for measuring the progress of reforms, while they are also used to gauge the effectiveness of enlargement policies and assistance programmes. The data collected are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website. In return, Eurostat provides technical assistance and support to national statistical authorities. The ultimate goal is the provision of harmonised, high quality data that conforms to European and international standards. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/eu-enlargement_en.

The ENP-South region covers 10 non-EU Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine (²), Syria and Tunisia; note that cooperation with Syria is currently suspended and very difficult with Libya and as a result no data for these two countries are shown. On 18 November 2015, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy set out a joint Communication providing a 'Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy' (JOIN(2015) 50 final) in response to some radical changes in several of the countries that surround the EU.

The European Commission supports the development of statistics in the ENP South countries through a technical assistance programme called Medstat, a Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation programme. The overall objective of Medstat IV, which runs from 2016 to 2019, is to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic development by improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data in the ENP-South countries. Indeed, the ENP countries and Eurostat exchange a wide range of harmonised indicators on a voluntary, annual basis. For more information: <http://eeas.europa.eu/enp>.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) regroups the EU Member States, most of the enlargement countries (but not Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo), the ENP-South countries (Libya is an observer and

(¹) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

(²) This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

Syria suspended its membership in 2011), as well as Monaco and Mauritania. More information about the UfM is available at <http://ufmsecretariat.org/>.

General information

This compact guide presents the latest data available for the EU, candidate countries, potential candidates and the European Neighbourhood Policy-South (ENP-South) countries in relation to labour force statistics; while it focuses on employment and unemployment, Tables 1 and 2 provide a few key background indicators.

Table 1: GDP per capita and inflation

	GDP per capita (EUR)		Average inflation rate (%)	
	2010	2015	2006–10	2011–15
EU-28 (1)	25 400	28 700	2.3	1.5
Montenegro (2)(3)	5 011	5 436	3.8	1.8
FYR of Macedonia (4)	3 500	3 900	2.9	1.9
Albania (2)(5)	3 088	3 440	3.0	1.7
Serbia (2)	4 100	4 700	8.9	6.2
Turkey (1)(2)	7 483	7 819	8.7	7.9
Bosnia & Herzegovina (2)	3 310	3 641	3.3	0.7
Kosovo (4)(6)	2 480	2 935	3.0	2.3
Algeria	3 359	3 772	4.1	4.8
Egypt (2)	2 085	2 466	11.6	9.4
Israel (2)(7)	23 337	28 051	2.6	1.3
Jordan	2 985	3 620	5.7	3.1
Lebanon (4)(8)	6 667	6 720	5.7	4.7
Morocco	2 206	2 695	2.3	1.4
Palestine	1 764	2 583	4.4	2.1
Tunisia (2)	3 163	3 330	4.1	5.1

Note: gross domestic product (GDP) is a basic measure of a country's overall economic health. As an aggregate measure of production, it is equal to the sum of the gross value added of all resident institutional units engaged in production, plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs. Gross value added is the difference between output and intermediate consumption.

GDP is also equal to:

- the sum of the final uses of goods and services (all uses except intermediate consumption) measured in purchasers' prices, minus the value of imports of goods and services;
- the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units.

Inflation is an increase in the general price level of goods and services. When there is inflation in an economy, the value of money decreases because a given amount will buy fewer goods and services than before. The inflation rate is calculated as the percentage change in the HICP for a given period compared with that recorded in a previous period; it is usually calculated on a year-on-year or annual basis. The consumer price index (CPI) measures the change over time in the price of consumer goods and services (acquired, used or paid for by households). CPIs aim to cover the whole set of goods and services consumed within the territory of a country by the population. To do this, a representative consumer basket is selected; many of these goods and services are bought frequently or consumed on a daily basis.

(1) Average inflation rate based on harmonised index of consumer prices.

(2) GDP per capita: 2014 instead of 2015.

(3) Average inflation rate: 2011–14 instead of 2011–15.

(4) GDP per capita: 2013 instead of 2015.

(5) Average inflation rate: 2006–09 based on index at year's end.

(6) Average inflation rate: harmonised index of consumer prices for 2015.

(7) Average inflation rate: based on index at year's end.

(8) Average inflation rate: 2011–13 instead of 2011–15.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [nama_10_pc](#), [prc_hicp_aind](#), [cpc_ecnagdp](#), [cpc_sigeb](#), [med_ec1](#) and [med_ec8](#))

Gross domestic product per capita increased (in euro terms, see Table 1) between 2010 and 2015 in all enlargement and ENP-South countries, most notably in Palestine, Jordan, Israel (2010–14) and Egypt (2010–14). The average inflation rate per annum during the period from 2011 to 2015 was generally lower than during the preceding five-year period (2006–10), the only exceptions being Algeria and Tunisia (in both cases the difference was no more than a single percentage point). Among the countries shown in Table 1 inflation rates during the most recent five-year period were generally below 5.0 % per annum, although Egypt, Turkey, Serbia and Tunisia reported somewhat higher rates.

In population terms (see Table 2), the largest enlargement country by far is Turkey, with a population of 77.7 million as of 1 January 2015, only slightly smaller than that of Germany, while Serbia was the only other enlargement country with a population over 4.0 million. Among the ENP-South countries, Egypt's population of 88.0 million was greater than that of any EU Member State, while the 40.4 million inhabitants of Algeria just outnumbered the total number of inhabitants of Poland and the 33.3 million inhabitants of Morocco outnumbered the combined population of the three Benelux countries. The share of young people (aged less than 15) in Palestine, Jordan and Egypt was at least double the equivalent share in the EU-28 (15.6 %); by contrast, the share of older people (aged 65 and over) was highest in the EU-28 (18.9 %).

Table 2: Population and population structure, 1 January 2015

	Total population (millions)	Structure of population (%)		
		<15 years	15–64 years	≥ 65 years
EU-28	508.5	15.6	65.5	18.9
Montenegro	0.6	18.5	67.8	13.7
FYR of Macedonia	2.1	16.8	70.5	12.7
Albania ⁽¹⁾	2.9	18.6	69.0	12.5
Serbia	7.1	14.4	67.1	18.5
Turkey ⁽¹⁾	77.7	24.3	67.8	8.0
Bosnia & Herzegovina ⁽²⁾	3.8	16.4	67.8	15.8
Kosovo ⁽²⁾	1.8	28.1	65.1	6.8
Algeria	40.4	29.0	65.1	5.9
Egypt	88.0	31.3	64.4	4.3
Israel	8.3	28.3	60.9	10.8
Jordan	8.8	34.3	62.0	3.7
Lebanon ⁽³⁾	3.8	21.5	67.3	11.2
Morocco ⁽²⁾	33.3	25.9	67.9	6.2
Palestine	4.6	39.6	57.5	2.9
Tunisia ⁽⁴⁾	11.0	22.9	69.7	7.4

Note: population figures compiled by Eurostat refer to 1 January of each year. The recommended definition is the usual resident population, representing the number of inhabitants of a given area on 1 January of the year in question. The population can be based on data from the most recent census adjusted by the components of population change produced since the last census, or based on population registers.

The **average population** during a calendar year is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the population on 1 January of two consecutive years. The average population is used primarily for 'per capita' indicators.

⁽¹⁾ The sum of population shares may differ from 100 % due to rounding effects.

⁽²⁾ 1 January 2014.

⁽³⁾ 1 January 2012.

⁽⁴⁾ Mid-year population for 2014.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_pjan](#), [demo_pjanbroad](#), [cpc_psdemo](#) and [med_ps112](#))

In 2015, just under two thirds (65.6 %) of people aged 15–64 in the EU-28 were employed, a share that rose to 70.0 % among people aged 20–64 (see Table 3). These rates were higher than those reported in any of the enlargement or ENP South countries, with the exception of Israel. Employment rates were higher in 2015 than they had been in 2010 for each country for which data are shown in Table 3, other than Albania, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

In all enlargement and ENP-South countries, as well as in the EU-28, employment rates were higher for men than for women (see Figure 1). Among the enlargement countries, the largest gender gaps in 2015 were recorded in Kosovo and Turkey; among the ENP-South countries, female employment rates were particularly low and gender gaps were subsequently large, although this gap was somewhat narrower in Jordan and considerably narrower in Israel. Between 2010 and 2015, the gender gap narrowed in the EU-28 and in all countries for which data are shown in Table 3 with the exceptions of Palestine, Israel and Tunisia (2010–13).

The employment rate of older workers (aged 55–64) in the EU-28 was 53.3 % in 2015, 16.7 percentage points lower than for all workers aged 20–64 (see Figure 2). A similar difference was observed in Montenegro, with a larger gap in Turkey and Serbia; in the other enlargement countries a smaller gap was observed, most notably in Kosovo where the rate for older workers was only slightly lower than the rate for all workers aged 20–64 (2014 data).

Table 3: Employment rates by sex, 2010 and 2015 (1)
(%)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
EU-28 (15–64 years)	64.1	65.6	70.1	70.8	58.2	60.4
EU-28 (20–64 years)	68.6	70.0	75.1	75.8	62.1	64.2
Montenegro	:	56.7	:	61.9	:	51.5
FYR of Macedonia	48.1	51.9	58.4	61.5	37.5	42.1
Albania	60.3	59.3	71.5	68.1	49.8	50.7
Serbia	51.4	56.0	59.5	63.7	43.5	48.3
Turkey	50.0	53.9	72.7	75.3	28.0	32.6
Bosnia & Herzegovina	42.8	43.2	54.6	53.9	31.2	32.4
Kosovo (2)	29.7	31.3	46.6	48.4	12.4	14.5
Algeria	37.1	39.9	62.5	64.7	11.4	14.7
Egypt	44.5	41.0	70.7	64.0	18.0	17.4
Israel (3)	60.2	68.3	63.4	72.1	56.9	64.6
Jordan	21.7	20.9	35.5	34.6	7.3	6.9
Lebanon (4)	47.6	49.2	73.7	73.3	22.3	28.7
Morocco	43.4	41.2	65.4	62.4	22.7	21.4
Palestine	32.6	35.2	53.0	57.4	11.3	12.1
Tunisia (5)	43.8	44.0	66.3	66.8	21.9	21.8

Note: the **employment rate** is the percentage of employed persons in relation to the comparable total population. For the overall employment rate, the comparison is made with the population of working-age; but employment rates can also be calculated for a particular age group and/or gender in a specific geographical area (for example, the male employment rate for those aged 15–24 in a single EU Member State).

(1) Candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 20–64. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64.

(2) 2012 instead of 2010. 2014 instead of 2015.

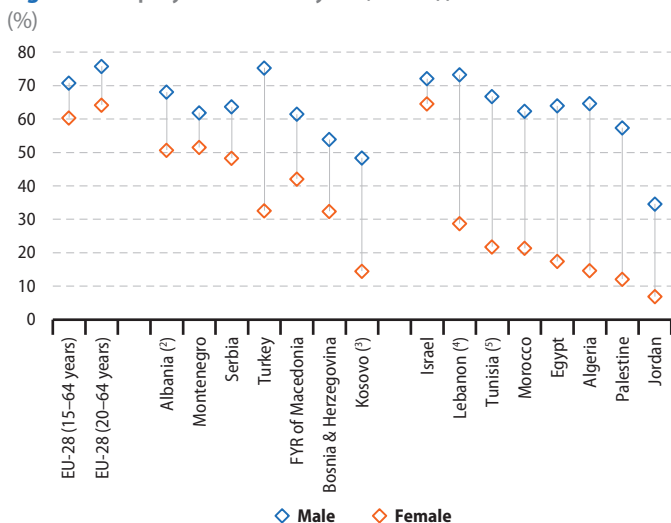
(3) Break in series.

(4) 2009 instead of 2010. 2012 instead of 2015.

(5) 2013 instead of 2015.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_ergan](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps413](#))

Figure 1: Employment rates by sex, 2015 (1)



(1) Ranked on the total rate. Candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 20-64. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15-64.

(2) Estimates.

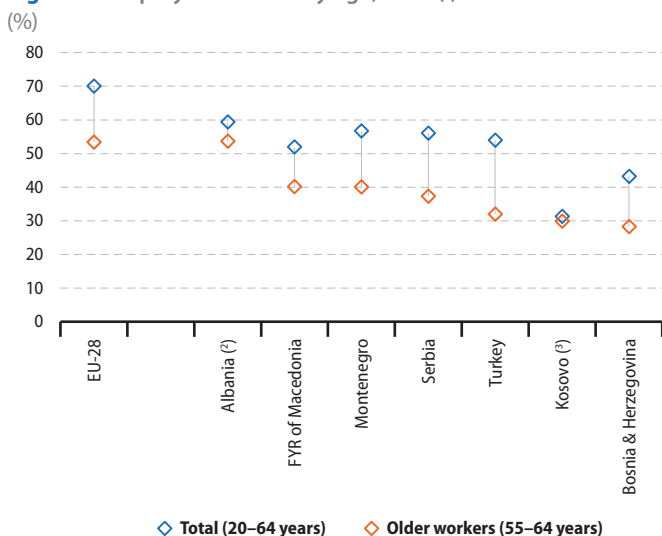
(3) 2014.

(4) 2012.

(5) 2013.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_ergan](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps413](#))

Figure 2: Employment rates by age, 2015 (1)



(1) Ranked on older workers. ENP-South countries: not available.

(2) Estimates.

(3) 2014.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_ergan](#) and [cpc_siemp](#))

Services employed just over 7 out of every 10 persons in the EU-28's workforce in 2015, while industry had the second largest workforce with just under one fifth of those employed; the shares of total employment in construction (6.8 %) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (4.2 %) were much lower (see Table 4 and Figure 3 overleaf).

The relative weight of services in the enlargement and ENP-South countries was generally lower than in the EU-28; Israel, Montenegro and Lebanon (2012 data) were the only exceptions. Services accounted for less than half of the workforce in Albania, Morocco and Egypt (2014 data). By contrast, the relative share of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing was often considerably higher than in the EU-28: for example, around two fifths of the workforce in Albania and Morocco was employed in these activities; in Egypt (2014 data) and Turkey the share was around one quarter; in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the share was around one fifth.

Across the enlargement countries, the share of those employed in industry was often slightly higher than the share recorded for the EU-28 (Albania and Montenegro were the only exceptions), while among the ENP-South countries it was generally lower (Tunisia was the only exception; 2013 data).

The highest unemployment rates in the enlargement and ENP-South countries were recorded in Kosovo, where just over one third of the labour

Table 4: Employment by sector, 2010 and 2015
(%)

	Agriculture, forestry & fishing		Industry		Construction		Services	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
EU-28	4.7	4.2	17.7	17.4	7.7	6.8	69.2	70.9
Montenegro ⁽¹⁾	5.6	7.7	13.0	10.8	6.0	6.6	75.5	74.8
FYR of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	18.7	17.9	23.8	23.4	6.2	7.1	51.1	51.6
Albania ⁽¹⁾	45.4	41.3	10.6	11.6	8.2	6.9	35.7	40.2
Serbia	22.2	19.4	21.0	19.9	5.0	4.5	51.8	56.1
Turkey	25.2	20.6	19.9	20.0	6.3	7.2	48.6	52.2
Bosnia & Herzegovina ⁽³⁾	20.6	17.9	21.5	22.0	8.9	7.5	48.9	52.4
Kosovo ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	4.6	2.6	19.0	17.7	9.5	10.9	65.0	67.2
Algeria	11.7	8.7	13.7	13.0	19.4	16.8	55.2	61.5
Egypt ⁽⁴⁾	28.3	27.5	14.1	13.1	11.3	11.3	46.3	48.0
Israel ⁽⁵⁾	1.6	1.1	15.0	12.7	5.4	5.1	78.0	81.2
Jordan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Lebanon ⁽⁶⁾	6.3	4.5	12.1	11.8	8.9	7.5	72.7	76.3
Morocco	40.3	39.0	12.2	11.2	9.9	9.4	37.6	40.4
Palestine ⁽⁷⁾	11.8	8.7	11.8	13.6	13.2	15.5	63.2	62.2
Tunisia ⁽⁸⁾	17.7	15.4	19.4	20.2	13.6	13.3	49.3	51.2

⁽¹⁾ 2011 instead of 2010.

⁽²⁾ 2011 instead of 2010; 2011: low reliability.

⁽³⁾ 2012 instead of 2010.

⁽⁴⁾ 2014 instead of 2015.

⁽⁵⁾ Break in series.

⁽⁶⁾ 2009 instead of 2010. 2012 instead of 2015.

⁽⁷⁾ Domestic employment.

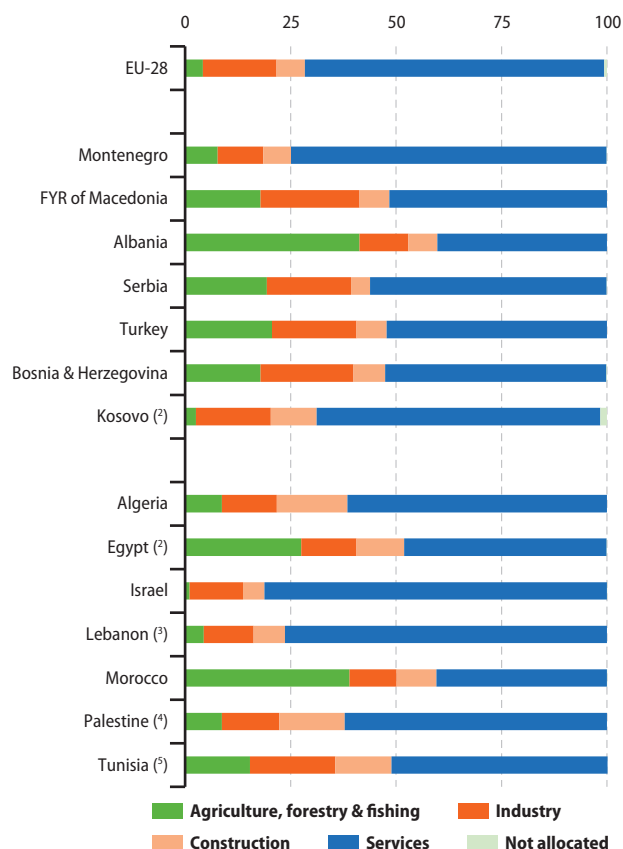
⁽⁸⁾ 2013 instead of 2015.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsa_egan2, cpc_pslm and med_ps414)

force were without work in 2014; unemployment rates above 25 % were also recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Palestine in 2015. By comparison, the rate in the EU-28 was 9.4 %, with Israel (5.3 %) the only enlargement or ENP-South country recording a rate below this level.

The EU-28's unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.6 %, having increased from a low of 7.0 % in 2008 during the global financial and economic crisis. It increased again, peaking at 10.9 % in 2013 before falling back to 9.4 % by 2015 (see Table 5). Comparing unemployment rates for 2010 and 2015, the situation in the enlargement and ENP-South countries was more heterogeneous. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the unemployment rate fell 5.9 percentage points during these five years, with smaller falls in Montenegro, Serbia, Israel (note that there was a

Figure 3: Employment by sector, 2015 (¹)
(%)



(¹) Jordan: not available.

(²) 2014.

(³) 2012.

(⁴) Domestic employment.

(⁵) 2013.

break in series) and Turkey. The unemployment rate grew most notably in Kosovo (2012–14) and Egypt (2010–14), rising by 4.4 percentage points and 3.9 points respectively.

In the EU-28, ENP-South countries and most enlargement countries, female unemployment rates were higher than male rates (see Figure 4), the exceptions being Albania (where there was no gender gap), as well as Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (where male unemployment rates were slightly higher). Palestine and Egypt (2014 data) reported particularly large gender gaps for the unemployment rate.

An indicator that has received a great deal of attention in recent years is the youth unemployment rate: more than one fifth of the EU-28's labour force aged 15–24 was without work in 2015 (see Table 6). In Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in Kosovo (2014 data), the youth unemployment rate exceeded 60.0 %, while it was below 10.0 % in Israel. In the EU-28 and across the enlargement and ENP-South countries, youth unemployment rates were consistently higher than overall unemployment rates (see Figure 5), generally about twice as high, although in Jordan the youth rate was 2.7 times as high as the overall rate.

Table 5: Unemployment rates by sex, 2010 and 2015 (¹)
(% of active population)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
EU-28	9.6	9.4	9.7	9.3	9.6	9.5
Montenegro	19.7	17.5	18.9	17.7	20.7	17.3
FYR of Macedonia	32.0	26.1	31.9	26.7	32.2	25.1
Albania	14.0	17.1	12.6	17.1	15.9	17.1
Serbia	19.2	17.6	18.4	16.8	20.2	18.7
Turkey	10.8	10.3	10.5	9.2	11.6	12.6
Bosnia & Herzegovina	27.3	27.9	25.6	25.9	29.9	30.9
Kosovo (²)	30.9	35.3	28.1	33.1	40.0	41.6
Algeria (³)	10.0	11.2	8.1	9.9	19.1	16.6
Egypt (⁴)	9.1	13.0	5.0	9.6	22.8	24.0
Israel (⁵)	6.8	5.3	6.9	5.2	6.6	5.5
Jordan	12.5	13.0	10.4	11.0	21.7	22.5
Lebanon (⁶)	6.4	9.7	5.0	7.7	10.4	13.8
Morocco	9.1	9.7	8.9	9.4	9.6	10.5
Palestine	23.7	26.1	23.1	22.6	26.8	39.5
Tunisia (⁷)	13.0	15.9	10.9	13.3	18.9	23.0

Note: an **unemployed person** is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as: someone aged 15–74 years old; without work during the reference week; available to start work within the next two weeks (or has already found a job to start within the next three months); actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the total labour force, in other words, the sum of those persons in work and those persons who are unemployed.

(¹) EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 15–74. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64.

(²) 2012 instead of 2010. 2014 instead of 2015.

(³) Persons aged 16–59.

(⁴) 2014 instead of 2015.

(⁵) Break in series.

(⁶) 2009 instead of 2010. 2012 instead of 2015.

(⁷) 2013 instead of 2015.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps421](#))

Within the EU-28, there is a considerable difference in unemployment rates by education level: among people aged 25–64 having completed at most lower secondary education the rate was 16.3 % in 2015, more than three times the rate (5.2 %) for tertiary education graduates (see Figure 6). A similar pattern was observed for half of the enlargement countries, as in Albania the unemployment rate for tertiary graduates was considerably higher, while in Serbia and Turkey it was slightly higher than for people having completed at most lower secondary education.

Among the ENP-South countries, the situation was generally reversed (see Figure 7), with the unemployment rate for people with a tertiary level of education generally higher than for other sub-populations, with exceptions of Israel and Lebanon (2012 data).

Table 6: Analysis of selected unemployment rates, 2010 and 2015
(% of active population)

	Youth (< 25 years)		Long-term (≥ 12 months) ⁽¹⁾		With tertiary education (25–64 years) ⁽²⁾	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
EU-28	21.4	20.3	3.8	4.5	4.9	5.2
Montenegro ⁽³⁾	43.7	37.6	15.5	13.6	:	9.4
FYR of Macedonia	53.7	47.3	26.7	21.3	19.3	18.9
Albania	30.5	39.8	10.6	11.3	7.9	15.9
Serbia	46.1	43.2	13.3	11.3	12.0	14.4
Turkey	19.9	18.4	3.0	2.2	7.2	8.4
Bosnia & Herzegovina	57.5	62.3	22.3	22.8	13.2	16.4
Kosovo ⁽⁴⁾	55.3	61.0	18.5	26.1	:	:
Algeria ⁽⁵⁾	21.5	30.0	6.4	8.4	20.3	14.1
Egypt ⁽⁶⁾	24.8	26.5	7.7	11.8	18.9	20.0
Israel ⁽⁷⁾	13.7	9.3	1.6	0.7	4.4	3.8
Jordan	33.0	32.1	:	:	:	:
Lebanon ⁽⁸⁾	16.8	:	:	:	8.8	11.4
Morocco	17.6	20.8	5.7	6.3	17.4	21.1
Palestine	38.8	40.7	12.4	15.5	24.1	31.8
Tunisia ⁽⁹⁾	29.4	34.7	:	:	22.9	30.2

Note: the **youth unemployment rate** is the percentage of the unemployed in the age group 15–24 years old compared with the total labour force among those aged 15–24. It should be remembered that a large share of people between these ages are outside the labour market (since many people are studying full time and thus are not available for work), which explains — at least in part — why youth unemployment rates are often higher than overall unemployment rates.

Long-term unemployment refers to the number of people who are out of work and have been actively seeking employment for at least a year. The unemployment period is defined as the duration of a job search, or as the length of time since the last job was held (if shorter than the time spent on a job search).

⁽¹⁾ EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 15–74. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64.

⁽²⁾ EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 25–64. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64.

⁽³⁾ Youth unemployment rate: 2012 instead of 2010.

⁽⁴⁾ 2012 instead of 2010. 2014 instead of 2015.

⁽⁵⁾ Youth unemployment rate: persons aged 16–24. Long-term unemployment rate and unemployment rate for persons with tertiary education: persons aged 16–59.

⁽⁶⁾ 2014 instead of 2015.

⁽⁷⁾ Break in series.

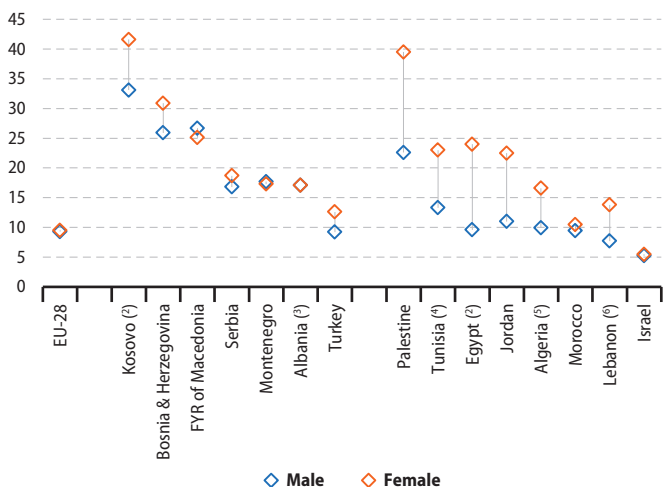
⁽⁸⁾ 2009 instead of 2010. 2012 instead of 2015.

⁽⁹⁾ 2013 instead of 2015.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [une_ltu_a](#), [lfsa_urgaed](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps421](#))

Figure 4: Unemployment rates by sex, 2015 (1)

(% of active population)



(1) Ranked on the total rate. EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 15–74. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64.

(2) 2014.

(3) Estimates.

(4) 2013.

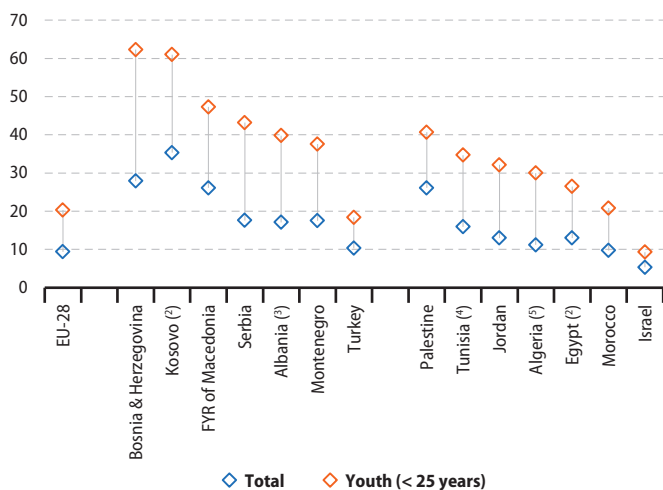
(5) Persons aged 16–59.

(6) 2012.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps421](#))

Figure 5: Unemployment rates by age, 2015 (1)

(% of active population)



(1) Ranked on the youth rate. Total unemployment rate: EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates, persons aged 15–74; ENP-South countries, persons aged 15–64. Lebanon: youth unemployment rate, not available.

(2) 2014.

(3) Estimates.

(4) 2013.

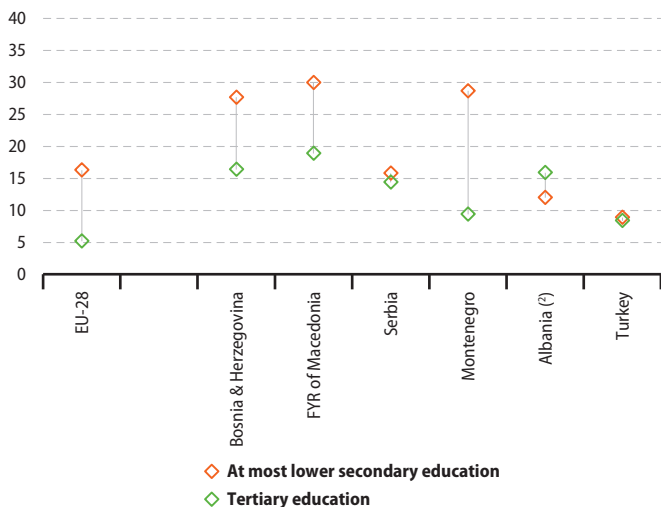
(5) Total unemployment rate: persons aged 16–59. Youth unemployment rate: persons aged 16–24.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps421](#))

The long-term unemployment rate — persons unemployed for 12 months or longer — in the EU-28 was 4.5 % of the labour force in 2015, just under half the overall unemployment rate (see Table 6 and Figure 8). Turkey and Israel were the only enlargement and ENP-South countries to record long-term unemployment rates in 2015 that were below the EU-28 average. These two countries were also the only ones where the relative difference between the long-term and overall unemployment rates was greater than in the EU-28 (indicating that a smaller share of the unemployed had been out of work for at least a year).

Figure 6: Unemployment rates among persons aged 25–64 years, by education level, 2015 ⁽¹⁾

(% of active population)



Note: the **international standard classification of education (ISCED)**, is an instrument for compiling education statistics. Data by levels of education/educational attainment are classified according to either ISCED 1997 or ISCED 2011.

ISCED 2011 has nine levels of education:

- ISCED 0: Early childhood education
- ISCED 1: Primary education
- ISCED 2: Lower secondary education
- ISCED 3: Upper secondary education
- ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- ISCED 5: Short-cycle tertiary education
- ISCED 6: Bachelor's or equivalent level
- ISCED 7: Master's or equivalent level
- ISCED 8: Doctoral or equivalent level

ISCED 1997 has seven levels of education:

- ISCED 0: Pre-primary education
- ISCED 1: Primary education or first stage of basic education
- ISCED 2: Lower secondary or second stage of basic education
- ISCED 3: (Upper) secondary education
- ISCED 4: Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- ISCED 5: First stage of tertiary education
- ISCED 6: Second stage of tertiary education

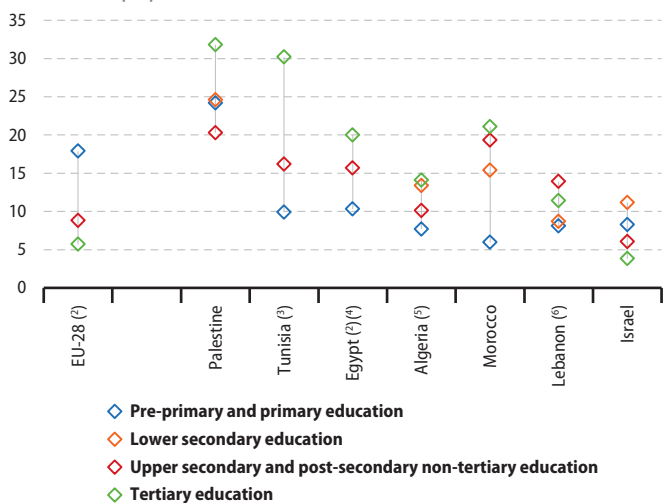
⁽¹⁾ Ranked on overall unemployment rate. Kosovo: not available.

⁽²⁾ Estimates.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [lfsa_urgaed](#) and [cpc_pslm](#))

Figure 7: Unemployment rates among persons aged 15–64 years, by education level, 2015 ⁽¹⁾

(% of active population)



⁽¹⁾ Jordan: not available.

⁽²⁾ Pre-primary and primary education: includes also lower secondary education.

⁽³⁾ Pre-primary and primary education: not available.

⁽⁴⁾ 2014.

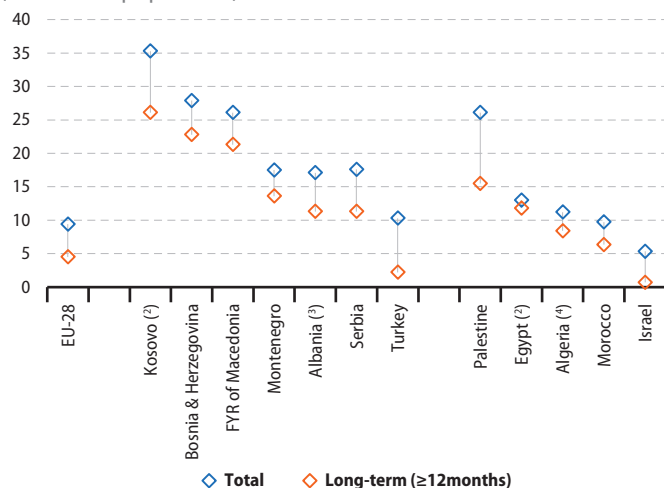
⁽⁵⁾ Persons aged 16–59.

⁽⁶⁾ 2012.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [lfsa_urgaed](#) and [med_ps422](#))

Figure 8: Unemployment rates by duration, 2015 ⁽¹⁾

(% of active population)



⁽¹⁾ Ranked on long-term rate. EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates: persons aged 15–74 years. ENP-South countries: persons aged 15–64 years. Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia: long-term unemployment rate, not available.

⁽²⁾ 2014.

⁽³⁾ Estimates.

⁽⁴⁾ Persons aged 16–59.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une_rt_a](#), [une_ltu_a](#), [cpc_pslm](#) and [med_ps421](#))

Further information

Data were extracted on 12 July (EU-28, candidate countries and potential candidates) and 8 August 2016 (ENP-South countries).

Symbols

:	not available
Billion	1 000 million
FYR of Macedonia	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<i>Italics</i>	value is either an estimate or provisional

Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) provides free access to its statistics; it is available in German, English and French.

Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table or figure, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>) is Eurostat's wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way.

Statistical articles on enlargement countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement_countries_-_statistical_overview

Statistical articles on ENP countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview

Background information:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/International_statistical_cooperation

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