

# Labour market statistics in the European Neighbourhood Policy-East countries

2020 edition



COMPACT  
GUIDES

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## Background information

This short guide presents the latest data available for the **European Union (EU)** and the **European Neighbourhood Policy-East (ENP-East)** countries concerning the labour force.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was initiated in 2004. The main objective of the ENP was to avoid the emergence of dividing lines between an enlarged EU and its closest neighbours. The ENP is complemented by regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives, for example, the Eastern Partnership. On 18 November 2015, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission jointly presented a '[Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#)' (SWD(2015) 500 final) which underlined a new approach for the EU in relation to its eastern and southern neighbours, based on stabilising the region in political, economic, and security-related terms.

There are currently 16 neighbours within the ENP, of which six in the East, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Data shown for Georgia exclude the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia over which Georgia does not exercise control and the data shown for Moldova exclude areas over which the government of the Republic of Moldova does not exercise control. The latest data for Ukraine generally exclude the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol and the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government. For this reason tables and figures providing a time series of data for Ukraine have a footnote indicating a change in coverage.

The European Commission supports the ENP-East countries through technical assistance programmes to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic developments. Eurostat coordinates the EU's efforts to increase the capacity of the ENP-East countries to produce good quality statistics and to promote the use of European and internationally recognised standards through technical assistance and direct support to national statistical authorities, with the goal of improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data. These data are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website.

### Symbols

: not available

*italics* value is an estimate, provisional or a forecast

## Background indicators: GDP, inflation and population

Gross domestic product per capita increased (in euro terms, see Table 1) between 2013 and 2018 in Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, while falls were recorded elsewhere, most notably in Azerbaijan. The average annual inflation rate during the period from 2013 to 2018 was lower than during the preceding five-year period (2008-2013) in Belarus, Armenia and Moldova, while the reverse was true in the three other ENP-East countries.

Among the six ENP countries shown in Table 1 inflation rates during the most recent five-year period were below 5.0 % per year in Georgia, Moldova and Armenia, while the highest rate was observed in Ukraine (2013-2017).

**Table 1: GDP per capita and inflation**

	GDP per capita (EUR)		Average inflation rate (% per annum)	
	2013	2018	2008-2013	2013-2018
<b>EU-28<sup>(1)</sup></b>	26 850	30 960	2.1	0.9
<b>Armenia</b>	2 771	3 544	5.5	1.7
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	6 005	4 044	3.7	6.5
<b>Belarus</b>	6 013	5 329	28.6	10.8
<b>Georgia</b>	3 269	3 607	3.1	3.6
<b>Moldova</b>	2 008	2 733	4.8	3.1
<b>Ukraine<sup>(2)</sup></b>	3 154	2 619	6.6	21.4

*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 consumer price index 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.

<sup>(1)</sup> Average inflation: based on a harmonised index of consumer prices.

<sup>(2)</sup> 2014-2018: excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. Average inflation: 2013-2017 instead of 2013-2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [nama\\_10\\_pc](#) and [prc\\_hicp\\_aind](#))

The total population of the six ENP-East countries was 72.0 million persons in 2018, which was equivalent to approximately 14 % of the total number of inhabitants in the EU-28 (see Table 2). Ukraine was the most populous of the ENP-East countries with 42.4 million inhabitants in 2018, while Azerbaijan (9.9 million) and Belarus (9.5 million) had the second and third largest populations. Georgia, Moldova and Armenia had the smallest populations, with 3.7 million, 3.5 million and 3.0 million inhabitants respectively. To give some idea of the relative size of the ENP-East countries, the population of Ukraine was between those of Poland and Spain, while the size of the populations in Azerbaijan and Belarus were either side of that of Hungary, and the size of the populations in Georgia, Moldova and Armenia lay between those of Lithuania and Croatia.

In 2018, the share of people aged 65 years and over in the ENP-East countries ranged from 11.2 % in Moldova (2017 data) to 16.5 % in Ukraine, with Azerbaijan (6.5 %) well below this range. As such, this share was lower in all of the ENP-East countries than in the EU-28.

**Table 2: Population and population structure, 1 January 2013 and 2018**

	Total population (millions)		Structure of population, 2018 (%)		
	2013	2018	<15 years	15-64 years	≥ 65 years
<b>EU-28 (¹)</b>	505.2	512.4	15.6	64.7	19.7
Armenia	3.0	3.0	20.2	68.2	11.6
Azerbaijan	9.4	9.9	22.6	70.9	6.5
Belarus	9.5	9.5	16.8	68.2	15.0
Georgia (²)	4.5	3.7	20.0	65.4	14.6
Moldova (³)	3.6	3.5	16.0	72.9	11.2
Ukraine (¹)	45.4	42.4	15.5	68.0	16.5

*Population figures compiled by Eurostat refer to 1 January of each year. The recommended definition is the usual resident population. 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.*

Note: the sum of population shares may differ from 100 % due to rounding effects.

(¹) Total population: break in series.

(²) 2014 instead of 2013.

(³) Structure of population: 2017.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo\\_gind](#) and [demo\\_pjanbroad](#))

## Labour force

In 2018, just under three quarters (73.2 %) of people aged 20-64 years in the EU-28 were employed (see Table 3). Belarus and Azerbaijan were the only ENP-East countries to report higher rates, with respectively 79.5 % and 73.9 % of people of this age in employment. Armenia and Moldova reported employment rates that were clearly lower than in the other ENP-East countries. Employment rates were lower in 2018 than they had been in 2013 in Armenia and Ukraine (note that there is a break in series), while in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova they were higher.

In all ENP-East countries, as well as in the EU-28, employment rates were higher for men than for women (see Figure 1). Among the ENP-East countries, the largest gender gaps in 2018 were recorded in Armenia and Georgia, while Moldova had a particularly low gender gap. Between 2013 and 2018, the gender gap narrowed marginally in the EU-28 and more noticeably in nearly all of the ENP-East countries for which data are shown in Table 3: the gender gap widened in Armenia.

**Table 3: Employment rates (persons aged 20-64 years) by sex, 2013 and 2018**

(%)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018
<b>EU-28</b>	68.4	73.2	74.3	79.0	62.6	67.4
Armenia	60.3	52.1	71.2	63.1	51.8	43.0
Azerbaijan	73.0	73.9	77.3	77.7	69.0	70.3
Belarus	:	79.5	:	82.7	:	76.5
Georgia	62.9	64.9	70.8	72.2	55.8	58.2
Moldova	47.4	49.2	49.0	50.2	45.8	48.2
Ukraine (¹)	67.4	65.6	73.3	70.5	62.0	61.0

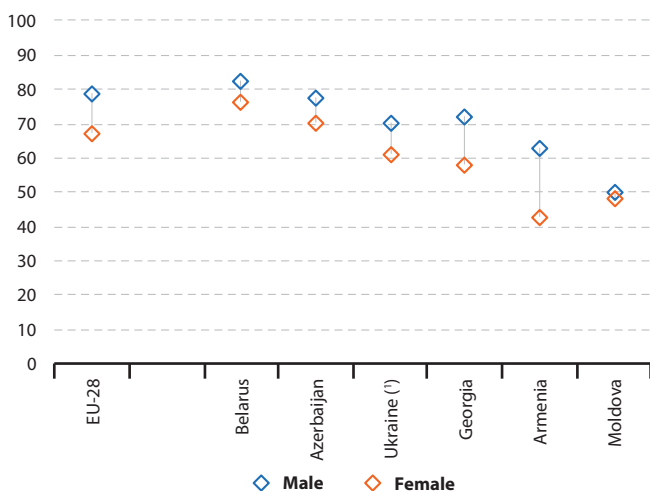
The **employment rate** is the percentage of employed persons in relation to the comparable total population. For the overall employment rate, the comparison is made with the population of working-age, but employment rates can also be calculated for a particular age group and/or gender in a specific geographical area (for example, the male employment rate for those aged 55-64 years in a single EU Member State).

(¹) 2018: excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsi\\_emp\\_a](#))

**Figure 1: Employment rates (persons aged 20-64 years) by sex, 2018**

(%)



Note: ranked on the total rate (for both sexes).

(¹) Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsi\\_emp\\_a](#))

The employment rate of older workers (aged 55-64 years) in the EU-28 was 58.7 % in 2018, 14.5 percentage points lower than for all workers aged 20-64 years (see Figure 2). A larger difference was observed in Belarus, Azerbaijan and Ukraine while in the other half of the ENP-East countries a smaller gap was observed, most notably in Georgia where the rate for older workers was in fact higher than the rate for all workers aged 20-64 years.

**Figure 2: Employment rates by age, 2018**

Note: ranked on the rate for older workers.

(¹) Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsi\\_emp\\_a](#))

Services employed just over 7 out of every 10 persons (71.9 %) in the EU-28's workforce in 2018, while industry had the second largest workforce with just over one sixth of those employed (17.5 %); the shares of total employment in construction (6.9 %) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (3.7 %) were much lower (see Table 4 and Figure 3).

**Table 4: Employment by sector (persons aged 15 years and over), 2013 and 2018**

(%)

	Agriculture, forestry & fishing		Industry		Construction		Services	
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018
<b>EU-28</b>	4.5	3.7	17.6	17.5	7.0	6.9	70.9	71.9
Armenia (¹)	36.3	23.1	11.3	13.3	5.7	9.1	46.7	54.5
Azerbaijan	37.1	36.3	7.1	7.4	7.2	7.3	48.6	49.0
Belarus (²)	9.4	11.3	25.2	22.7	8.1	7.9	57.3	58.0
Georgia (³)	47.1	38.9	7.4	8.3	:	:	45.5	52.8
Moldova	28.8	36.1	12.1	11.8	5.5	4.7	53.5	47.4
Ukraine (⁴)	20.0	14.9	18.7	17.8	6.1	6.5	55.2	60.8

(¹) 2013: persons aged 15-75 years.

(²) Break in series. 2018: persons aged 15-74 years.

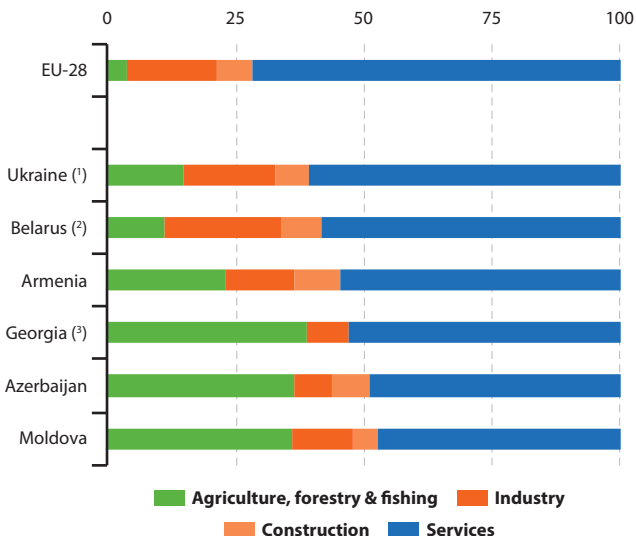
(³) Services: also includes construction.

(⁴) Persons aged 15-70 years. 2018: excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa\\_egan2](#))

The relative weight of services in the ENP-East countries was lower than in the EU-28. Services accounted for less than half of the workforce in Moldova and Azerbaijan and this share peaked at 60.8 % in Ukraine. By contrast, the relative share of employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing was considerably higher in all of the ENP-East countries than it was in the EU-28: between one third and two fifths of the workforce in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova was employed in these activities; in Armenia the share was close to one quarter; in Ukraine and Belarus the share was over one tenth.

**Figure 3: Employment by sector (persons aged 15 years and over), 2018**  
(%)



Note: ranked on services.

(¹) Persons aged 15-70 years. Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

(²) Persons aged 15-74 years.

(³) Services: also includes construction.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa\\_egan2](#))

The highest unemployment rates in the ENP-East countries were recorded in Armenia, where just over one fifth (20.5 %) of the labour force was without work in 2018; unemployment rates above the EU-28 average of 6.8 % were also recorded in Georgia and Ukraine. By comparison, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Moldova all reported unemployment rates below 5.0 %.

The EU-28's unemployment rate in 2013 was 10.9 %, having increased during the global financial and economic crisis from a low of 7.0 % in 2008. After its 2013 peak, it fell back to 6.8 % by 2018 (see Table 5). Comparing unemployment rates for 2013 and 2018, the situation in the ENP-East countries was more heterogeneous. In Georgia, the unemployment rate fell 4.3 percentage points during these five years, a similar level to the fall registered in the EU-28. Smaller falls were observed in Moldova (down 2.1 points) and Azerbaijan (0.1 points). The unemployment rate grew by 1.6 points in Ukraine (note that there is a break in series) and by 3.6 points in Armenia. 2013 and 2018 data for Belarus are not comparable due to a major change in methodology.

**Table 5: Unemployment rates (persons aged 15-74 years) by sex, 2013 and 2018**

(%)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018
<b>EU-28</b>	10.9	6.8	10.8	6.6	10.9	7.1
Armenia (1)	16.9	20.5	14.9	20.1	18.8	21.0
Azerbaijan	5.0	4.9	4.0	4.1	5.9	5.8
Belarus (2)	0.5	4.8	0.6	5.9	0.4	3.6
Georgia (3)	16.9	12.7	19.0	13.9	14.6	11.2
Moldova	5.1	3.0	6.0	3.5	4.1	2.5
Ukraine (4)	7.2	8.8	8.0	10.0	6.2	7.4

An *unemployed person* is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as: someone aged 15-74 years; 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 persons in work and persons who are unemployed.

(1) Persons aged 15-75 years.

(2) 2013: registered unemployment.

(3) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(4) Persons aged 15-70 years. 2018: excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [une\\_rt\\_a](#))

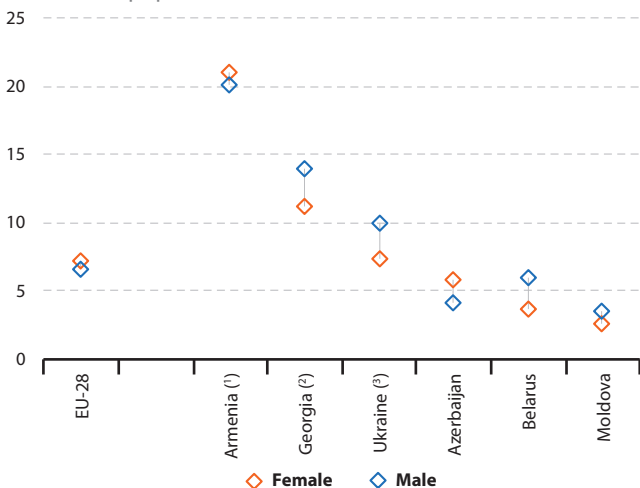
In the EU-28, Azerbaijan and Armenia, unemployment rates for women in 2018 were higher than rates for men (see Figure 4). Unemployment rates for men were higher than for women elsewhere, with the difference exceeding 2.0 percentage points in Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus.

More than one seventh (15.2 %) of the EU-28's labour force aged 15-24 years was without work in 2018 (see Table 6). In Armenia, the youth unemployment rate exceeded one third (37.2 %), while it was close to this level in Georgia (29.9 %). Ukraine also recorded a youth unemployment rate (17.9 %) that was above the EU-28 average, while elsewhere lower rates were recorded, most notably in Moldova where the rate was 7.4 %. In the EU-28 and across the ENP-East



**Figure 4: Unemployment rates (persons aged 15-74 years) by sex, 2018**

(% of active population)



Note: ranked on the total rate (for both sexes).

(1) Persons aged 15-75 years.

(2) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(3) Persons aged 15-70 years. Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [une\\_rt\\_a](#))

countries, youth unemployment rates were consistently higher than overall unemployment rates (see Figure 5), between 1.8 and 2.6 times as high.

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 unemployment rate was 12.5 % in 2018, more than three times the rate (3.9 %) for tertiary education graduates (see Figure 6). A similar pattern was observed for Azerbaijan and Belarus, whereas in Georgia the unemployment rate for tertiary graduates was higher than for people having completed at most lower secondary education and in Moldova the two rates were almost the same.

The long-term unemployment rate — persons unemployed for 12 months or longer — in the EU-28 was 2.9 % of the labour force in 2017, just over two fifths (42.6 %) of the overall unemployment rate (see Figure 7). Armenia and Georgia recorded long-term unemployment rates in 2018 that were clearly above the EU-28 average, while the rate in Azerbaijan was marginally above the EU-28 average. The three remaining ENP-East countries — Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova — reported lower long-term unemployment rates, between 0.8 % and 1.9 %.

The relative difference between the overall and long-term unemployment rates was smaller in Azerbaijan and Armenia than in the EU-28 (indicating that a larger share of the unemployed had been out of work for at least a year). By contrast, just over one fifth of the unemployed in Ukraine had been unemployed for at least a year as had around one quarter in Belarus and Moldova, compared with just over two fifths in the EU-28.

**Table 6: Analysis of selected unemployment rates, 2013 and 2018**  
(% of active population)

	Youth (persons aged < 25years)		Long-term (≥ 12 months) (persons aged 15-74 years)		With tertiary education (persons aged 25-64 years)	
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018
<b>EU-28<sup>(1)</sup></b>	23.8	15.2	5.1	2.9	5.9	3.9
Armenia	36.1	37.2	8.4	11.1	:	:
Azerbaijan	13.7	12.7	3.3	3.0	4.8	4.1
Belarus <sup>(2)</sup>	:	10.7	0.0	1.2	:	2.9
Georgia <sup>(3)</sup>	38.9	29.9	7.3	5.1	20.4	12.6
Moldova	12.2	7.4	1.3	0.8	4.1	2.9
Ukraine <sup>(4)</sup>	17.4	17.9	1.5	1.9	5.6	7.2

The **youth unemployment rate** is the number of persons aged 15-24 years who are unemployed as a percentage of the number of persons in the labour force aged 15-24 years. It should be remembered that a large share of people between these ages are outside the labour force (since many people are studying full-time and thus are not available for work).

**Long-term unemployment** refers to 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).

The **international standard classification of education (ISCED)** is an instrument for compiling and analysing education statistics. Data by levels of education/educational attainment are classified according to ISCED 2011:

- ISCED levels 0-2: at most lower secondary education, comprising early childhood education, primary education and lower secondary education;
- ISCED levels 3 and 4: upper secondary education and post-secondary non-tertiary education;
- ISCED levels 5-8: tertiary education.

(<sup>1</sup>) Tertiary education: break in series.

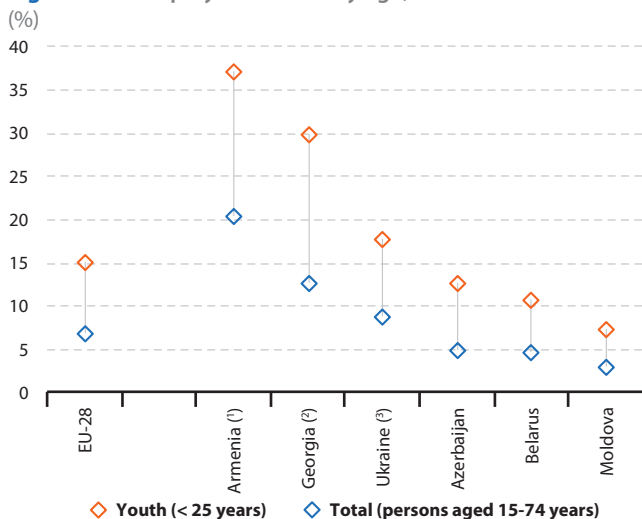
(<sup>2</sup>) 2013: registered unemployment.

(<sup>3</sup>) Long-term: persons aged 15 years and over.

(<sup>4</sup>) Long-term: persons aged 15-70 years. 2018: excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une\\_rt\\_a](#), [une\\_ltu\\_a](#) and [lfsa\\_urgaed](#))

**Figure 5: Unemployment rates by age, 2018**



Note: ranked on the total rate (for both sexes).

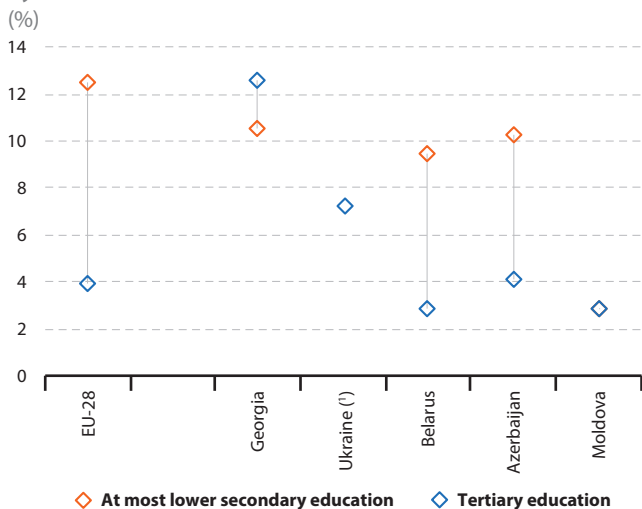
(<sup>1</sup>) Persons aged 15-75 years.

(<sup>2</sup>) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(<sup>3</sup>) Persons aged 15-70 years. Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [une\\_rt\\_a](#))

**Figure 6: Unemployment rates (persons aged 25-64 years), by education level, 2018**

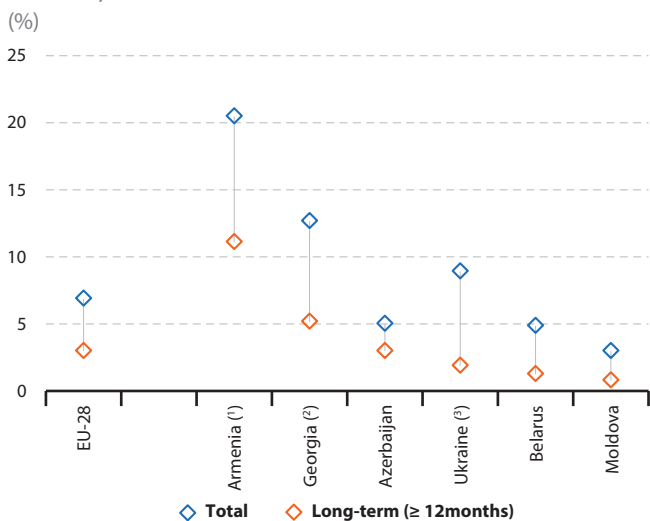


Note: ranked on the overall unemployment rate for persons aged 25-74 years. Armenia: not available.

(1) At most lower secondary: not available. Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa\\_urgaed](#))

**Figure 7: Unemployment rates (persons aged 15-74 years) by duration, 2018**



Note: ranked on long-term rate.

(1) Persons aged 15-75 years.

(2) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(3) Persons aged 15-70 years. Excluding the territories which are not under control of the Ukrainian government and the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [une\\_rt\\_a](#) and [une\\_ltu\\_a](#))

# Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat's mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe. Eurostat collects data from national statistical authorities.

## Further information

### Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<https://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 (<https://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 ENP countries:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European\\_Neighbourhood\\_Policy\\_countries\\_-\\_statistical\\_overview](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview)

### **Background information on the ENP:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical\\_cooperation\\_-\\_European\\_Neighbourhood\\_Policy](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy)

## National statistical authorities of the ENP-East countries

<b>Armenia</b>	<a href="https://www.armstat.am/en/">https://www.armstat.am/en/</a>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<a href="https://www.stat.gov.az/?lang=en">https://www.stat.gov.az/?lang=en</a>
<b>Belarus</b>	<a href="http://www.belstat.gov.by/en/">http://www.belstat.gov.by/en/</a>
<b>Georgia</b>	<a href="https://www.geostat.ge/en">https://www.geostat.ge/en</a>
<b>Moldova</b>	<a href="http://www.statistica.md/index.php?!=en">http://www.statistica.md/index.php?!=en</a>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<a href="http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/">http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/</a>

Data were extracted on 26 November 2019.

## Contact details

Eurostat – Unit B3: Enlargement, neighbourhood and development cooperation  
5, rue Alphonse Weicker  
2721 Luxembourg  
LUXEMBOURG  
E-mail: [estat-statistical-cooperation@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-statistical-cooperation@ec.europa.eu)

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