

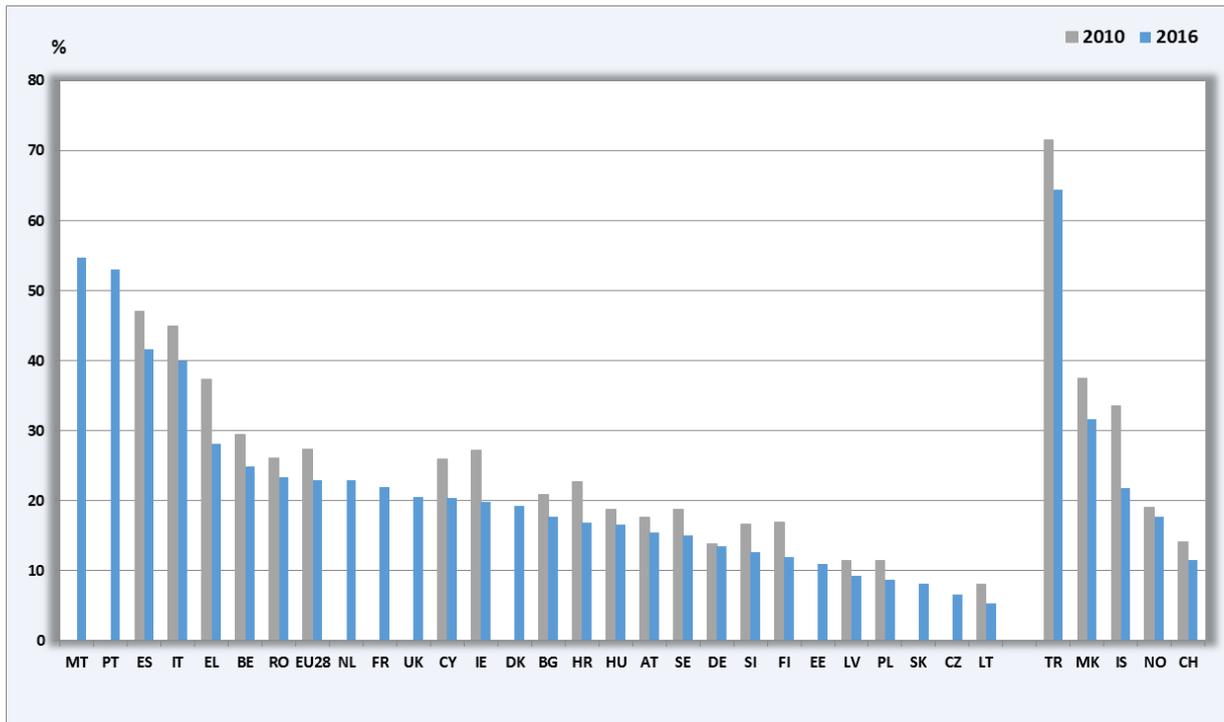
33. How many adults have a low level of education?

Indicator 3050: adults with lower level education attainment

Education attainment, measured by qualifications obtained, is an important factor determining, amongst other things, both the chances of being in employment and wage levels.

The indicator reported here is defined as the share of adults (aged 25-64) with low education (i.e. at most a lower secondary qualification, ISCED 2 or below).

Figure 33 Adults with lower level of educational attainment (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Key points

In 2016, 23.0% of people aged 25-64 in the EU had a low level of education attainment, at or below ISCED 2. In 2016, Malta had the highest percentage of adults with low education attainment at 54.8%, followed by Portugal (53.1%). Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Latvia had the lowest percentages of low-educated adults (below 10% in 2016).

Between 2010 and 2016 the EU percentage of adults (25-64) with low education attainment fell by 4.3 percentage points. This positive trend was observed in all EU Member States.

Among the non-EU countries for which data are available, Turkey (at 64.4% in 2016) had a high share of low-educated adults, higher than any of the EU Member States.

Table 1 Adults with lower level of educational attainment (%)

Country code	Country	2010		2016		Recent change			
		Value	Flag	Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28	
EU28	European Union (28)	27.3		23.0		'10-'16	↘	-4.3	
BE	Belgium	29.5		24.9		'10-'16	↘	-4.6	↘ -4.3
BG	Bulgaria	20.9		17.7		'10-'16	↘	-3.2	↘ -4.3
CZ	Czech Republic			6.6	b	'11-'16	↘	-1.1	↘ -3.6
DK	Denmark			19.3	b				
DE	Germany	13.9		13.5		'10-'16	↘	-0.4	↘ -4.3
EE	Estonia			10.9	b	'14-'16	↘	-0.9	↘ -1.1
IE	Ireland	27.2		19.9		'10-'16	↘	-7.3	↘ -4.3
EL	Greece	37.3		28.2		'10-'16	↘	-9.1	↘ -4.3
ES	Spain	47.1		41.7		'10-'16	↘	-5.4	↘ -4.3
FR	France			21.9	b	'13-'16	↘	-3.1	↘ -1.8
HR	Croatia	22.7		16.9		'10-'16	↘	-5.8	↘ -4.3
IT	Italy	44.9		39.9		'10-'16	↘	-5.0	↘ -4.3
CY	Cyprus	26.0		20.4		'10-'16	↘	-5.6	↘ -4.3
LV	Latvia	11.4		9.3		'10-'16	↘	-2.1	↘ -4.3
LT	Lithuania	8.1		5.4		'10-'16	↘	-2.7	↘ -4.3
LU	Luxembourg			21.6	b u				
HU	Hungary	18.8		16.6		'10-'16	↘	-2.2	↘ -4.3
MT	Malta			54.8	b	'11-'16	↘	-9.7	↘ -3.6
NL	Netherlands			22.9	b	'13-'16	↘	-1.3	↘ -1.8
AT	Austria	17.6		15.5		'10-'16	↘	-2.1	↘ -4.3
PL	Poland	11.5		8.7		'10-'16	↘	-2.8	↘ -4.3
PT	Portugal			53.1	b	'11-'16	↘	-12.3	↘ -3.6
RO	Romania	26.1		23.3		'10-'16	↘	-2.8	↘ -4.3
SI	Slovenia	16.7		12.7		'10-'16	↘	-4.0	↘ -4.3
SK	Slovakia			8.1	b	'11-'16	↘	-0.6	↘ -3.6
FI	Finland	17.0		11.9		'10-'16	↘	-5.1	↘ -4.3
SE	Sweden	18.8		15.0		'10-'16	↘	-3.8	↘ -4.3
UK	United Kingdom			20.5	b	'11-'16	↘	-3.1	↘ -3.6
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	37.5		31.6		'10-'16	↘	-5.9	↘ -4.3
IS	Iceland	33.5		21.8		'10-'16	↘	-11.7	↘ -4.3
NO	Norway	19.1		17.7		'10-'16	↘	-1.4	↘ -4.3
CH	Switzerland	14.2		11.5		'10-'16	↘	-2.7	↘ -4.3
TR	Turkey	71.6		64.4		'10-'16	↘	-7.2	↘ -4.3

Arrows ↗ or ↘ signal a positive or negative change. Arrow → indicates: no change.

The 2014 "b" flags in the Eurostat online tables have been ignored, except for Estonia, on the basis of other relevant Eurostat metadata.

(b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included. (u) Eurostat: "low reliability".

Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

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