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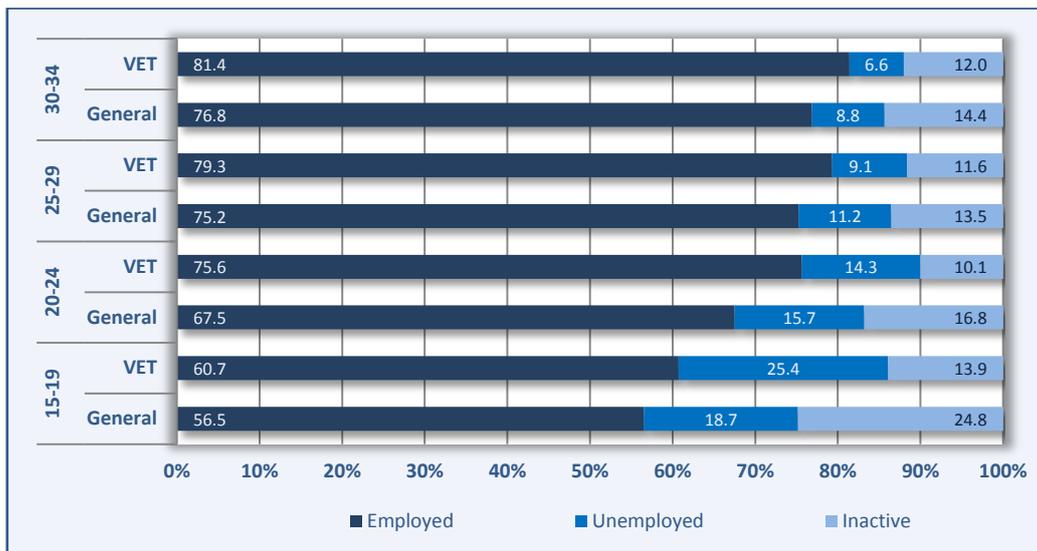
For young people, vocational education is a better route to employment

Vocational education graduates of upper-secondary or post-secondary schools have a greater chance of being employed than graduates of general education at the same level. They are also less likely to spend prolonged periods without work, and more likely to stay on in their first job for more than four years.

These are among the findings of a new Cedefop report, [From education to working life: the labour market outcomes of vocational education and training](#).

Comparing young graduates of 20-24 years of age shows a considerable gap in employment prospects between vocational and general streams. Almost **76 % of 20-24 year olds with secondary or post-secondary vocational education were working compared with 67 % for general graduates.**

Employment status of medium-level graduates no longer in education by orientation and age, EU-27+, 2009



At present about 23 million young people (aged 25-34) in the European Union are graduates of upper secondary and post-secondary vocational programmes – a figure higher than the population of Romania.

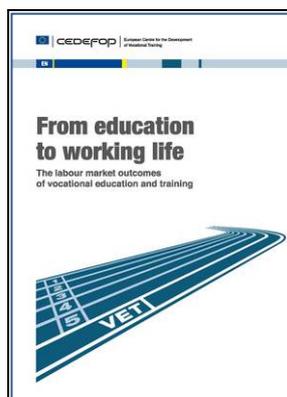
Although short-term employment prospects are better for vocational graduates, project Manager Alex Stimpson warns against complacency. 'There are worrying

signs in Cedefop's [medium-term skill forecast](#). While there will still be many jobs for these graduates in 2020, fewer of these will be entirely new jobs compared to those available to higher education graduates. Most of this employment will come from replacing departing workers. This suggests slower or negative growth in these fields overall, particularly in crafts. So in the longer-term, vocational education graduates would be well advised to continue to train and to make sure that their skills are up to date."

Alex Stimpson is presenting the findings of the report at the conference accompanying the [EuroSkills competition](#) in Spa, Belgium, on 4 October 2012.

[EuroSkills conference](#)

[Download the report](#)



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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. www.cedefop.europa.eu



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