

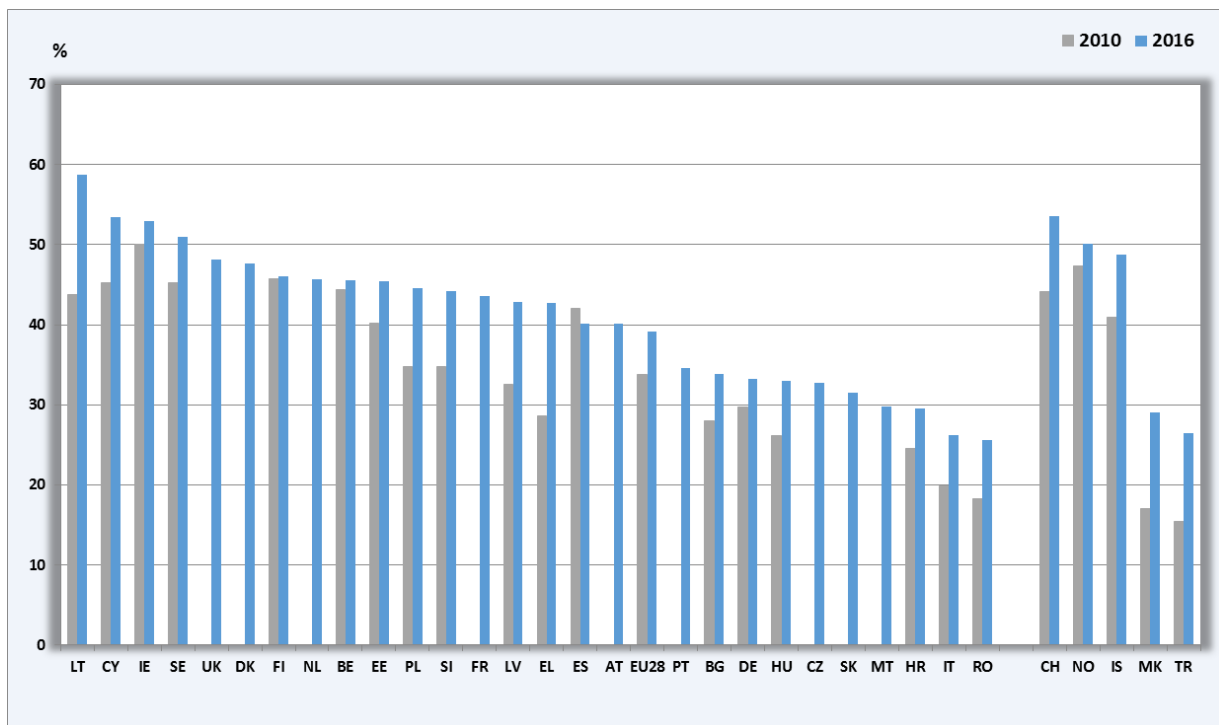
29. How many young people have a tertiary level qualification?

Indicator 3020: 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment

Increasing the share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary level education attainment is one of the specific objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. A benchmark of at least 40% has been agreed for the EU average. While acknowledging the equal importance of medium-level vocational education and training, raising tertiary education attainment among young people will accompany and support the targeted research and innovation oriented smart growth. This will also help meet the increasing demand for a highly qualified work force.

The indicator is defined as the percentage of the population aged 30-34 who have successfully completed tertiary-level education. Tertiary level education programmes are defined as those classified to ISCED 5-8.

Figure 29 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Key points

In 2016, 39.1% of people aged 30-34 had attained tertiary level education in the EU. At this level, an increase of 0.9 percentage points will be sufficient to meet the Europe 2020 target of 40%. The highest levels of tertiary education attainment are reported in Lithuania, Cyprus, Ireland, and Sweden (above 50% in 2016). In contrast, in Malta, Croatia, Italy, and Romania fewer than 30% of 30-34 year-olds had tertiary level attainment (in 2016).

Several countries have national targets. By 2016, thirteen countries had reached their national target (Denmark, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania,

Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia, and Sweden). Finland was also above its 42% national target which is based on a narrower national definition.

The share of 30-34 year-olds with high-level education attainment has increased, from 33.8% in 2010 to 39.1% in 2016 across the EU. An increase has occurred in almost all EU Member States but has been particularly marked in Greece and Lithuania. Spain is an exception, where the share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment slightly decreased over the same period.

Among non-EU countries, the share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment in 2016 was highest in Switzerland (at 53.5%), and lowest in Turkey (at 26.5%).

Table 29 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (%)

Country code	Country	2010		2016		Recent change			Target
		Value	Flag	Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28	
EU28	European Union (28)	33.8		39.1		'10-'16	↗	5.3	40.0
BE	Belgium	44.4		45.6		'10-'16	↗	1.2	↗ 5.3
BG	Bulgaria	28.0		33.8		'10-'16	↗	5.8	↗ 5.3
CZ	Czech Republic			32.8	b	'11-'16	↗	9.1	↗ 4.3
DK	Denmark			47.7	b				40.0
DE	Germany	29.7		33.2		'10-'16	↗	3.5	↗ 5.3
EE	Estonia	40.2		45.4		'10-'16	↗	5.2	↗ 5.3
IE	Ireland	50.1		52.9		'10-'16	↗	2.8	↗ 5.3
EL	Greece	28.6		42.7		'10-'16	↗	14.1	↗ 5.3
ES	Spain	42.0		40.1		'10-'16	↘	-1.9	↗ 5.3
FR	France			43.6	b	'13-'16	↘	-0.4	↗ 2.0
HR	Croatia	24.5		29.5		'10-'16	↗	5.0	↗ 5.3
IT	Italy	19.9		26.2		'10-'16	↗	6.3	↗ 5.3
CY	Cyprus	45.3		53.4		'10-'16	↗	8.1	↗ 5.3
LV	Latvia	32.6		42.8		'10-'16	↗	10.2	↗ 5.3
LT	Lithuania	43.8		58.7		'10-'16	↗	14.9	↗ 5.3
LU	Luxembourg			54.6	b u				66.0
HU	Hungary	26.1		33.0		'10-'16	↗	6.9	↗ 5.3
MT	Malta			29.8	b	'11-'16	↗	6.4	↗ 4.3
NL	Netherlands			45.7	b	'13-'16	↗	2.5	↗ 2.0
AT	Austria			40.1	b	'14-'16	↗	0.1	↗ 1.2
PL	Poland	34.8		44.6		'10-'16	↗	9.8	↗ 5.3
PT	Portugal			34.6	b	'11-'16	↗	7.9	↗ 4.3
RO	Romania	18.3		25.6		'10-'16	↗	7.3	↗ 5.3
SI	Slovenia	34.8		44.2		'10-'16	↗	9.4	↗ 5.3
SK	Slovakia			31.5	b	'11-'16	↗	8.3	↗ 4.3
FI	Finland	45.7		46.1		'10-'16	↗	0.4	↗ 5.3
SE	Sweden	45.3		51.0		'10-'16	↗	5.7	↗ 5.3
UK	United Kingdom			48.1	b	'11-'16	↗	2.6	↗ 4.3
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17.1		29.1		'10-'16	↗	12.0	↗ 5.3
IS	Iceland	40.9		48.8		'10-'16	↗	7.9	↗ 5.3
NO	Norway	47.3		50.1		'10-'16	↗	2.8	↗ 5.3
CH	Switzerland	44.2		53.5		'10-'16	↗	9.3	↗ 5.3
TR	Turkey	15.5		26.5		'10-'16	↗	11.0	↗ 5.3

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 Austria, on the basis of other relevant Eurostat (b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included. (u) Eurostat: "low reliability". (T) DE: target 42% (including ISCED 4); FR: target 50% (17-33 year-olds); IT: target 26-27%; LV: target 34-36%; AT: target 38% (including ISCED 4); FI: target 42% (narrow national definition); SE: target 40-45%.

Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Please cite this document as: Cedefop (2018). 29. How many young people have a tertiary level qualification? Indicator 3020: 30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment, (2017 update) In: Cedefop. *Statistics and indicators: Statistics and graphs*. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/statistics-and-indicators/statistics-and-graphs/29-how-many-young-people>