

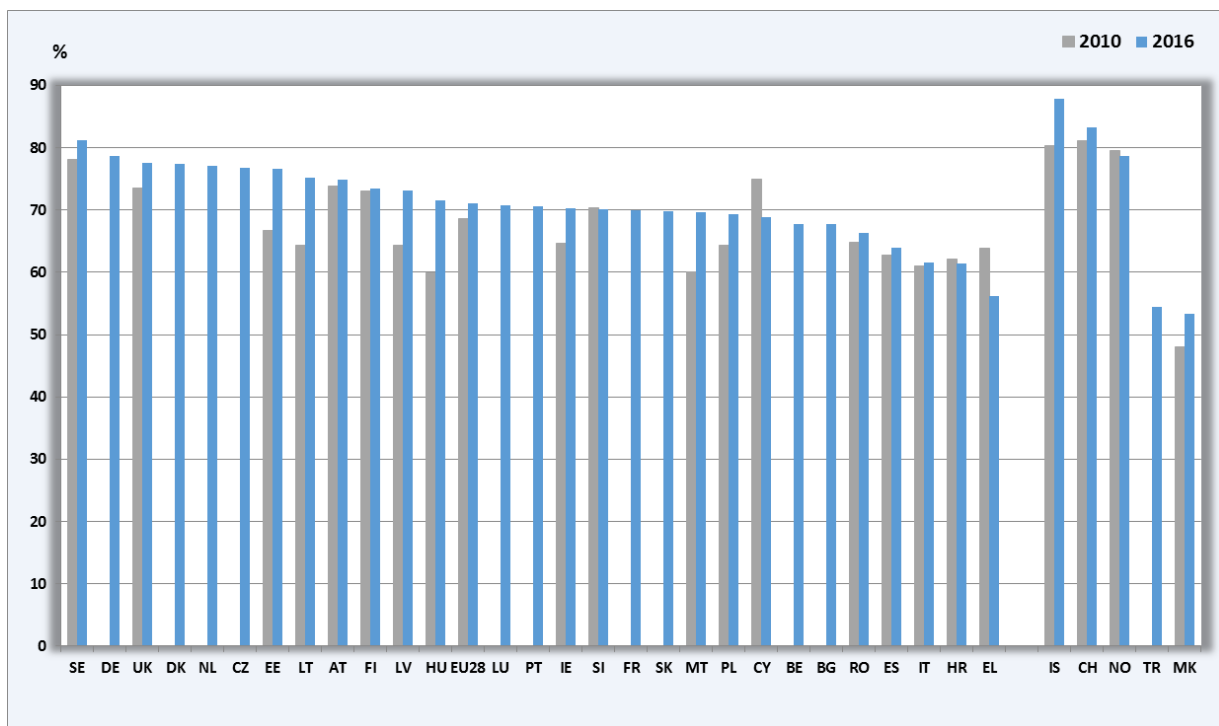
34. How many adults are employed?

Indicator 3060: employment rate for 20-64 year-olds

VET can equip people with labour market relevant skills. In combination with job-rich economic growth, it can contribute to raising employment levels. Raising the EU average employment rate for 20-64 year-olds to at least 75% is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy to which VET can contribute.

The indicator below is the percentage of the population aged 20-64 who are employed. The employed population consists of those persons who, during the reference week, did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.

Figure 34 Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Key points

In 2016, the EU average employment rate was 71.0%, 4 percentage points below the Europe 2020 target of 75%. In 2016, Sweden had the highest employment rate at 81.2%, followed by Germany (78.7%). The rate was lowest in Greece (56.2%). Several countries have national targets. By 2016, seven countries had reached their national target (the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden).

Between 2010 and 2016 the EU employment rate has increased by 2.4 percentage points. This EU average change covers quite large differences between Member States: over the same period, Hungary reported the largest rise (by 11.6 percentage points) in the employment rate, while Greece experienced the sharpest drop (by 7.6 percentage points).

Among the non-EU countries for which data are available, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (53.3%) and Turkey (54.4%) had the lowest employment rates (below the rate in Greece), while Iceland (87.8%) and Switzerland (83.3%) had employment rates higher than any of the EU Member States.

Table 34 Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds (%)

Country code	Country	2010		2016		Recent change			Target		
		Value	Flag	Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28			
EU28	European Union (28)	68.6		71.0		'10-'16	↗	2.4		75.0	
BE	Belgium			67.7	b	'11-'16	↗	0.4	↗	2.4	73.2
BG	Bulgaria			67.7	b	'11-'16	↗	4.8	↗	2.4	76.0
CZ	Czech Republic			76.7	b	'11-'16	↗	5.8	↗	2.4	75.0
DK	Denmark			77.4	b						80.0
DE	Germany			78.7	b	'11-'16	↗	2.2	↗	2.4	77.0
EE	Estonia	66.8		76.6		'10-'16	↗	9.8	↗	2.4	76.0
IE	Ireland	64.6		70.3		'10-'16	↗	5.7	↗	2.4	T
EL	Greece	63.8		56.2		'10-'16	↘	-7.6	↗	2.4	70.0
ES	Spain	62.8		63.9		'10-'16	↗	1.1	↗	2.4	74.0
FR	France			70.0	b	'14-'16	↗	0.7	↗	1.8	75.0
HR	Croatia	62.1		61.4		'10-'16	↘	-0.7	↗	2.4	62.9
IT	Italy	61.0		61.6		'10-'16	↗	0.6	↗	2.4	T
CY	Cyprus	75.0		68.8		'10-'16	↘	-6.2	↗	2.4	T
LV	Latvia	64.3		73.2		'10-'16	↗	8.9	↗	2.4	73.0
LT	Lithuania	64.3		75.2		'10-'16	↗	10.9	↗	2.4	72.8
LU	Luxembourg			70.7	b	'15-'16	↘	-0.2	↗	1.0	73.0
HU	Hungary	59.9		71.5		'10-'16	↗	11.6	↗	2.4	75.0
MT	Malta	60.1		69.6		'10-'16	↗	9.5	↗	2.4	70.0
NL	Netherlands			77.1	b	'11-'16	↗	0.7	↗	2.4	80.0
AT	Austria	73.9		74.8		'10-'16	↗	0.9	↗	2.4	T
PL	Poland	64.3		69.3		'10-'16	↗	5.0	↗	2.4	71.0
PT	Portugal			70.6	b	'11-'16	↗	1.8	↗	2.4	75.0
RO	Romania	64.8		66.3		'10-'16	↗	1.5	↗	2.4	70.0
SI	Slovenia	70.3		70.1		'10-'16	↘	-0.2	↗	2.4	75.0
SK	Slovakia			69.8	b	'11-'16	↗	4.8	↗	2.4	72.0
FI	Finland	73.0		73.4		'10-'16	↗	0.4	↗	2.4	78.0
SE	Sweden	78.1		81.2		'10-'16	↗	3.1	↗	2.4	80.0
UK	United Kingdom	73.5		77.6		'10-'16	↗	4.1	↗	2.4	
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	48.1		53.3		'10-'16	↗	5.2	↗	2.4	
IS	Iceland	80.4		87.8		'10-'16	↗	7.4	↗	2.4	
NO	Norway	79.6		78.6		'10-'16	↘	-1.0	↗	2.4	
CH	Switzerland	81.1		83.3		'10-'16	↗	2.2	↗	2.4	
TR	Turkey			54.4	b	'14-'16	↗	1.2	↗	1.8	

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

(b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included. (T) IE: target 69-71%; IT: target 67-69%; CY: target 75-77%; AT: target 77-78%.

Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

Please cite this document as: Cedefop (2018). 34. How many adults are employed? Indicator 3060: employment rate for 20-64 year-olds, (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/34-how-many-adults-are>