



August 2024

# Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### Key points

- ▶ The lack of productive and decent jobs remains the largest labour market challenge for young people in Sub-Saharan Africa. At 21.9 per cent in 2023, the youth NEET (not in employment, education, or training) rate in sub-Saharan Africa exceeded the global rate (at 20.4 per cent). The region is one of only three global regions judged to be “off track” in its SDG commitment (under target 8.6) to lower numbers of young NEETs.
- ▶ Young women face significant additional barriers when trying to enter the labour market. Three in five young NEETs in sub-Saharan Africa were women in 2023, and the gender gap in youth NEET rates was 10 percentage points (at 27 per cent and 16.9 per cent, respectively).
- ▶ The quality of jobs available to young people in sub-Saharan Africa is a significant concern. In 2023, nearly three in four (71.7 per cent) of young adult workers (aged 25 to 29) were in a form of work deemed “insecure”, representing a decrease of just 0.6 percentage points over the past 20 years.
- ▶ The youth unemployment rate, at 8.9 per cent in 2023, was 0.6 percentage points below the rate in the pre-pandemic year 2019.
- ▶ The timid recovery from COVID-19 shocks in the labour market has not been equally beneficial for young men and young women. The unemployment rate for young women remained, on average, 1.5 percentage points higher than that of young men, and this gap increased since the pre-COVID-19 pandemic period.
- ▶ Political instability and conflict have a significant impact on young people in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2022, there were approximately 8.9 million young people living in close proximity to conflicts, representing a peak over the past two decades.
- ▶ Agriculture remains the primary source of employment for young workers in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 60 per cent of employment in 2021, the highest share of all the world’s regions.

## ► Introduction

This regional outlook is based on the [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024: Decent work, brighter futures](#) (hereafter GET Youth 2024).<sup>1</sup> For two decades, the *GET Youth* reports have striven to provide timely and relevant information on how well young people are doing in their ambitions to attain decent work. In so doing the report has investigated the where, why and how of young people's labour market vulnerabilities, and highlighted the policy measures and interventions that aim to support youth job creation and effectively set young people on the pathway to a bright future of work.

As an anniversary edition, the *GET Youth 2024* looks back on what has been achieved since the dawn of the twenty-first century while also looking ahead to what may lay in store for youth employment in an era characterized by crises and uncertainties.

This Regional Brief accompanies the main report with a more in-depth analysis of the key labour market indicators for youth in the Asia and the Pacific region, based on ILO modelled estimates and available national labour market statistics.

## ► Regional outlook for youth in the labour market

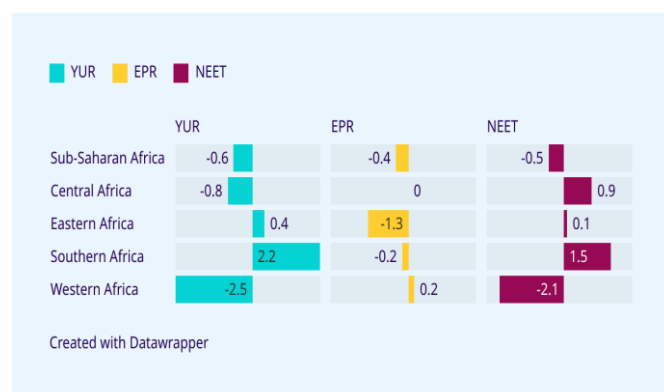
**Youth NEET rates remain at a high level and there has been little progress in the decrease of shares over time.**

In 2023, 53 million youth in sub-Saharan Africa were NEET (not in employment, education or training). That means that more than 1 in 5 youth (21.9 per cent) in the region were in NEET status, just slightly above the global youth NEET rate of 20.4 per cent. The share had come down slightly (by 0.5 points) from that of the pre-pandemic year 2019 (at 22.4 per cent) (figure 1).

In 2015, the youth NEET rate was adopted as SDG target 8.6, with countries pledging to substantially decrease their numbers of young NEETs. In 2015, the youth NEET rate in the region was actually below its current rate, so the region has shown a regression (annex table 3). For this reason, sub-Saharan Africa is one of only three regions (with the Arab States and North Africa) found to be “off track” toward the achievement of SDG target 8.6.

At the sub-regional level, only Western Africa (at 19.2 per cent in 2023) registered progress on the youth NEET rate, with a decline of 2.1 percentage points from 2019. At 34 per cent, the youth NEET rate in Southern Africa was not just the highest among the subregions but also the subregion showing the highest increase over 2019.

► **Figure 1. Change in key youth labour market indicators, by sub-Saharan Africa subregion, 2019–23**



Note: YUR = youth unemployment rate; EPR = (youth) employment-to-population ratio; NEET = (youth) not in employment, education or training. Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023 (EPR), May 2024 (YUR) and August 2024 (NEET).

The gender gap in NEETs is much larger than that of the unemployment rate or EPR, pointing to the continuing disadvantages that young women face in both access to education and to jobs. Three in five young NEETs in sub-Saharan Africa are women, and the NEET rate of young

<sup>1</sup> The term “youth” is typically considered to encompass the age group of 15 to 24 years old, with “adults” considered to be those aged 25 and over. However, when possible, the discussion is expanded to cover the broader age range of 15 to 29 years old. Data are presented by subregion and by country income group level and are disaggregated by sex. ILO regions and

subregions are defined in Appendix A of ILO, [World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024](#), and country income groupings are defined according to the [World Bank's income classification](#).

women was 10 percentage points higher than the male rate, at 27 per cent and 16.9 per cent respectively in 2023.<sup>2</sup>

**Mild recovery in youth unemployment at the regional level but with regional and country level heterogeneity.**

In sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, the youth unemployment rate, at 8.9 per cent in 2023, fell below that of the pre-COVID-19 pandemic year 2019 (at 9.5 per cent). Demographic trends influenced this positive trend, with the increase of 400,000 unemployed youth (the numerator in the youth unemployment rate) a small number compared to scale of the 10 million additional youth in the labour force (as denominator) (main report, figure 1.5).

The aggregate performance masks large heterogeneity: 27 out of 47 countries in the region experienced an increase in the youth unemployment rate between 2019 and 2023 (main report, figure 1.1). By subregion, rates declined in Western Africa (by 2.5 percentage points) and Central Africa (by 0.8 point; figure 1). In contrast, the youth unemployment rates increased slightly in Eastern Africa (by 0.4 percentage points) and by a significant amount in Southern Africa (by 2.2 percentage points).

This timid recovery in the labour market and the country level heterogeneity reflects the economic instability that characterizes the region. Many countries were facing high levels of inflation, tightening financial conditions, and increasing public debt levels. This growth deficit tends to weigh on job creation in countries with a fast-growing population.

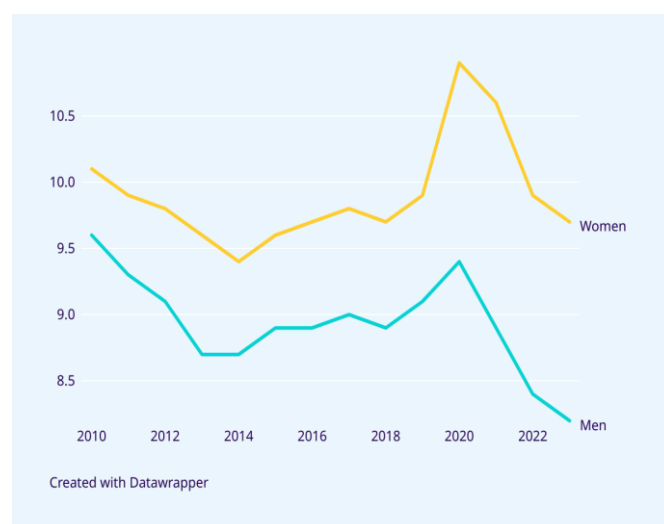
At 40.5 per cent in 2023, the youth employment-to-population ratio (EPR) was above the global average (35 per cent). This seemingly positive trend is tempered by the reality of decent work deficits (discussed below) and also when assessed against the still-limited numbers of young Africans able to stay in school.<sup>3</sup>

**The employment situation of young women has not benefited from the recovery in the labour market.**

The slightly improved labour market situation in sub-Saharan Africa has mainly benefited young men. Contrastingly, the situation of young women has deteriorated.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the unemployment rate for young women is on average higher than that of young men by 1.5 percentage points (figure 2 and annex table 1). The gap has increased since the pre-pandemic period. In addition, the gender gap with respect to the youth employment-to-population ratio has remained constant throughout the period and has shown no sign of reduction. In 2023, 38.2 per cent of young women were in employment compared to 42.6 per cent of young men.

► **Figure 2. Youth unemployment rate by sex, sub-Saharan Africa, 2010–23 (percentage)**



Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, May 2024.

**Outlook for 2024 and 2025: jobless growth prevails.**

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the economic outlook for sub-Saharan Africa is regaining strength after the financial instability and inflationary pressures from the post-Covid-19 period. Growth is expected to consolidate at 3.8 per cent in 2024 from 3.4 per cent in 2023 and growth is projected at 4 per cent in 2025.<sup>4</sup> However, this positive growth projection is expected to have little impact on the youth unemployment rate given the situation of the region's "youth bulge" (see section below).

The ILO projects the youth unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa will hold steady at 8.9 per cent in 2024 and 2025. Similarly, the employment-to-population ratio in 2025 is projected at 40.4 per cent, the same as in 2023,

<sup>2</sup> See also ILO, "[African youth face pressing challenges in the transition from school to work](#)", ILO blog, 10 August 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Leora KlapperMansi and Vipin Panchamia, "[The high price of education in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)", World Bank blog, 13 March 2023.

<sup>4</sup> IMF, [Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa](#), April 2024.

while the youth NEET rate is expected to see a nominal decrease to 21.8 per cent (from 21.9 per cent in 2023).

### **Job worries and a rise in conflicts raise anxiety levels among youth.**

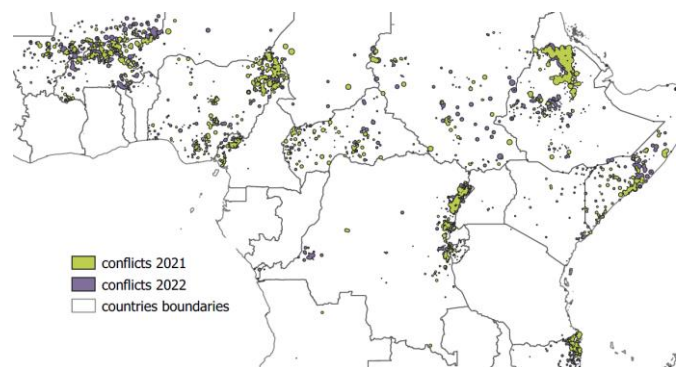
Checking in with young people can reveal a sense of disconnect between the labour market statistics and the perceptions that young people share about their futures. The *GET Youth 2024* report notes that it is the region with the highest share of young people feeling worried about job loss. It is also the region with the lowest share of the population stating that they felt economic opportunities in their country to be sufficient.<sup>5</sup>

Political instability and a deterioration of security in many African countries can be linked to young people's sense of anxiety about their futures. Globally, the number of conflicts (violent incidences) has more than doubled since 2010, with 200 incidences accounted for in 2022 (main report, figure 2.23). Many conflict areas are concentrated in the sub-Saharan African region (figure 3). The number of young persons estimated to live in the vicinity of conflicts in the region was 8.9 million in 2022.

Population displacement is one impact of conflict. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), there were 68.3 million people living in displacement across 66 countries and territories due to

conflict and violence at the end of 2023.<sup>6</sup> Young people are increasingly concerned about the risk of their own countries becoming involved in a war. The latest round of the World Values Survey indicated that more than 83 per cent of young persons in sub-Saharan Africa were concerned about the possibility of war involving their countries, up by 12 percentage points compared to the previous survey round of ten years earlier.

### ► **Figure 3. Conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, 2021 and 2022**



Note. The boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the ILO.

Source: Authors' calculations based on satellite imagery from Landsat and Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP).

## ► **A changing landscape of youth employment**

In the spirit of the anniversary of the *GET Youth* series, the 2024 report brings updated evidence to various topics of relevance to the current dialogue on youth employment. To the extent possible, the aim is to highlight how the landscape that connects young people's prospects to labour market outcomes has changed since the beginning of the millennium. This brief summarizes the main points relevant to the region.

### **Lack of decent and productive employment remains the largest labour market challenge for sub-Saharan youth: informality and self-employment are the norm.**

Across sub-Saharan Africa, indicators measuring the quality of jobs point toward a substantial deficit in the number of decent jobs available to young people, a deficit

that has shown no improvement since the start of the millennium.

The share of young adults aged 25–29 in insecure categories of work (either as own-account worker, contributing family worker or in a temporary paid job) reached 72 per cent in 2023, down by less than 1 percentage points since 2000. This means that regular wage-paying jobs covered by labour standards remains still the exception for young workers in Africa and that the competition among youth for these more secure jobs is therefore steep.

The subsistence type of work that are available to young workers is further confirmed in the incidence of low-paid employment. In seven sub-Saharan African countries for

<sup>5</sup> The source of perceptions on job losses is the *World Values Survey*, Wave 7 (2017–22). The question on perception of economic opportunity is based on Gallup International, "75 Years Jubilee Poll", August–October 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement: Internal Displacement and Food Security*, 2024.

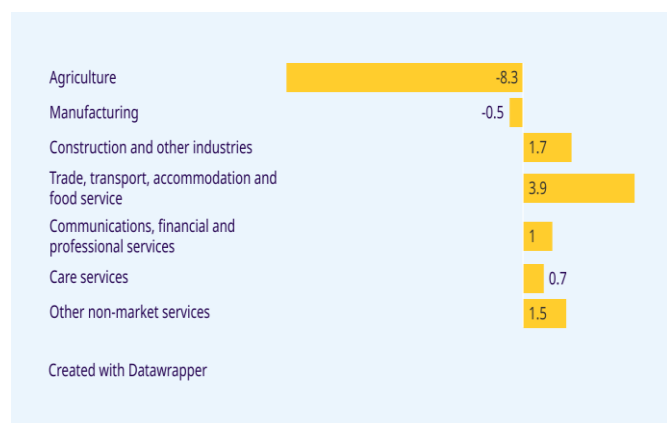


which wage data are available, the incidence of low paid employment is around 32 per cent in 2023 and on the rise.<sup>7</sup>

### The agricultural sector still employs the largest share of employment of youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

While the share of employment in agriculture has been declining steadily, the sector remains the main employer of youth in sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 60 per cent of youth employment was in the agricultural sector in 2021, the highest share of all regions. The region also experienced the slowest decline among developing regions in its share of agricultural employment among youth over time. In the two-decade period from 2001 to 2021, the share of agricultural employment among youth decreased by 8 percentage points (figure 4). For comparison, and demonstrating the much more limited structural transformation in Africa versus Asia, the share declined by 21 points in South Asia in the same period.

► **Figure 4. Change in sectoral share of youth employment between 2001 and 2021 (percentage points)**



Source: ILO modelled sectoral estimates, November 2022 (unpublished).

The shift away from agriculture did not benefit manufacturing at the aggregate level; the sector's employment share remained almost constant and was only 6.4 per cent in 2021. Rather, the slow decline in agricultural employment was offset by the growth in youth employment in the services sector. In total, services jobs increased by 7 per centage points over the period 2001–21 with the largest number of jobs added in the primarily low productivity areas of trade, transport, accommodation, and food service subsectors. This shift

from agricultural subsistence activities to low productivity service activities is often described as structural transformation without industrialization.

The trend of industrialization in Africa is a point of contention in the economic literature. Some authors like Rodrik (2016) point to sign of early deindustrialization, while others like Mensah (2020) find evidence of an industrial renaissance using newer data. The reality is likely somewhere in between with successful industrial employment growth in some areas of Africa, despite the aggregate decline. Regardless, the sector is a long way away from being a primary source of employment for young Africans.

### More young people are able to attend school or training, but educational mismatches remain problematic.

Among 17 sub-Saharan African countries with sufficient time-series data, the average share of 15–19 year-olds who were attending school in the early 2000s was 58 per cent compared to 67 per cent approximately 20 years later (latest year nearing 2023).<sup>8</sup> The *GET Youth 2024* report does not make the calculations by region, but does show (in section 2.5) that there was an increase in the share of youth attending school over time for all country income groups, with the exception of low-income countries. The increase was particularly pronounced in in lower-middle- and low-income countries (LMLIC), which are the income groupings covering the majority of young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

The report investigates the question of whether higher education improves the chances of youth to access jobs, and answers with a clear “yes”. The evidence shows that the tertiary-educated young adult aged 25 to 29 has a much lower chance to fall into the status of NEET compared to those with lower levels of education. Likewise, the report shows that in high-income countries and upper-middle-income countries, having a tertiary education also decreases the chance that a young adult falls in a situation of labour underutilization, that is, either being unemployed or in time-related underemployment. However, the same correlation does not hold for the higher-educated young adult in LMLICs.

These results reflect in part the limited capacity of economies in LMLICs to create high-skilled jobs at a pace

<sup>7</sup> Low paid employment is a relative measure defined as wages falling below two-thirds of the median monthly wage.

<sup>8</sup> Calculations based on annual data in ILOSTAT, YouthSTATS database.

sufficient to meet the growing supply of tertiary graduates. For young adults in the developing economies of sub-Saharan Africa, the benefits of attaining a tertiary education emerge in the resulting quality of employment (lower incidences of both informal work and low-paid work), rather than in the quantity of employment. The outcome is a situation in which two thirds of young adult workers in LMLICs hold qualifications that do not match well to the jobs that they do.<sup>9</sup> Shares of overeducated young workers – whereby a young worker holding a higher-level degree than expected for the occupation – have increased in LMLICs in the past 20 years.

While shares of undereducated young workers have decreased since the early 2000s, still a lot more remains to be done to improve education and training rates of young people in the region, and in so doing, positively influence labour productivity in the region.

### Demographic challenges and opportunities

The global demographic divide is increasingly impacting youth labour market outcomes, with Africa having the world's lowest median age and highest population growth. By 2050, one in three young people will be of African origin, presenting challenges for decent job creation.

How to create a sufficient number of productive and decent jobs for this growing youth population is a pressing concern for policymakers and economist alike. Demographic pressures consume the continent: between 2023 and 2050, the cumulative growth in the youth labour force in sub-Saharan is estimated at 72.6 million (main report, figure 2.22). On a positive note, with the rest of the world ageing, the dynamic population growth in sub-Saharan Africa could create opportunities for the region to become a future powerhouse of production.



Training center in Diego, Madagascar. Photo Marcel Crozet / ILO

## ► Moving ahead

In sub-Saharan Africa, the main concern is not youth unemployment, which consistently shows rates that are among the world's lowest – 8.9 per cent in 2023. Few young people can afford to forgo some form of income generation through work. In 2023, as in the early 2000s, nearly three in four working young adults in sub-Saharan Africa were in insecure forms of work; one in three paid workers earned less than the median wage; and more than one in two working youth eked out a living in the agricultural sector.

With the region's youth population fast increasing, economies are under intense pressure to create productive and decent employment. The large number of new entrants in the labour market reduces the probability of young workers to find decent work when jobs in high

value-added sectors and occupations remain few. The lack of decent work opportunities and the situation of unequal access reflected in high shares of young NEETs negatively impact on the motivation and wellbeing of young people in the region. The rise in conflicts is another factor behind young people's rising anxiety levels. Political instability translates into economic instability, further limiting young people's job opportunities and standards of living.

Despite some positive signals about growth and jobs recovery, young people today show signs of growing levels of anxiety about their future. Surveys highlighted in [GET Youth 2024](#) report indicate that many young people today feel stressed about job loss and job stability, the state of the economy, increasing violence and conflicts,

<sup>9</sup> A worker in a situation of “educational mismatch” is one who is either overeducated (with highest level of education above the ISCO educational

requirements for their occupation) or undereducated (with highest level of education below the ISCO educational requirements for their occupation).

not to mention the many other known stressors like climate change and technological progress. Whether borne out by reality or not, young people's perceptions about the future play a significant role in their personal well-being and motivation levels and in shaping their decisions about future educational, labour market and civic engagement.

To help ease youth anxieties, labour market institutions will need to guide young people through the complexities of the school-to-work and youth-to-adulthood transitions. Helping young people to keep their hopes alive must become a shared mission involving all segments of society.

Bringing decent work to all young people and setting them on pathways to bright futures requires scaled-up action of multiple fronts and a long-term “real” commitment on the part of policymakers to work with social partners and young people themselves on an integrated approach to youth employment.

**The African Union/ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa: driving action for decent jobs for young people.<sup>10</sup>**

As young people face significant labour market challenges in Africa, the ILO and African Union (AU) have – in consultation with member states – developed a joint youth

employment strategy for Africa that includes the following priority actions:

- Champion “economic solutions for economic problems”. Boost structural transformation of economies through pro-youth employment policy frameworks, including gender-responsive macroeconomic and sectoral policies, public and private investment strategies and (inter-continental) trade.
- Accelerate the implementation of labour and social protection, and in turn, boost the transition to formal employment and the transformation of jobs to decent work.
- Continue to invest in demand-driven education and skills development systems for young people to ensure that as higher productivity job opportunities emerge young people are adequately prepared.
- Keep youth in the driver's seat of policymaking and promote and strengthen the institutions of youth-inclusive social dialogue.
- Across all action areas, prioritize the ultimate creation of decent jobs through a theory of change that convincingly captures how policies and programmes will trigger employment growth.

<sup>10</sup> The AU/ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa was developed together with tripartite constituents and young people. It was endorsed by

the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment in August 2024.

## ► Annex: Additional tables

► Table 1. Youth unemployment rate by sex, sub-Saharan region and subregions, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion/country income group	2000–04 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.1	9.3	9.5	10.1	9.7	9.1	8.9	8.9	8.9
Central Africa	13.6	14.6	14.3	15.4	14.6	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.5
Eastern Africa	7.2	6.4	6.8	7.9	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.2
Southern Africa	36.0	42.5	45.3	42.6	47.9	47.9	47.5	47.5	48.2
Western Africa	7.6	7.5	7.6	8.0	6.7	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.0
World	12.6	14.2	13.8	15.6	14.4	13.3	13.0	12.8	12.8
<b>Women</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.2	9.7	9.9	10.9	10.6	9.9	9.7	9.7	9.7
Central Africa	12.7	13.5	12.9	14.0	13.2	12.2	12.1	12.2	12.2
Eastern Africa	7.3	7.0	7.4	9.1	9.0	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.3
Southern Africa	40.3	47.5	49.6	47.7	53.2	52.8	51.9	51.8	52.5
Western Africa	7.3	8.0	8.1	8.9	7.6	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.8
World	12.5	13.6	13.4	15.5	14.3	13.4	12.9	12.9	12.8
<b>Men</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.1	9.0	9.1	9.4	8.9	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.1
Central Africa	14.5	15.8	15.8	16.9	16.2	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.7
Eastern Africa	7.1	5.9	6.1	6.8	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1
Southern Africa	32.5	38.6	41.8	38.6	43.5	44.1	43.9	44.1	44.8
Western Africa	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.1	4.9	4.5	4.4	4.3

► Table 2. Youth employment -to-population ratio by sex, sub-Saharan region and subregions, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion/country income group	2000–04 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	46.0	41.5	40.8	40.0	40.0	40.3	40.4	40.5	40.4
Central Africa	44.2	35.6	35.3	34.4	34.8	35.1	35.3	35.3	35.3
Eastern Africa	58.4	55.5	54.4	53.4	53.0	53.0	53.1	53.2	53.2
Southern Africa	25.5	17.9	16.6	15.6	14.4	15.9	16.4	16.1	15.9
Western Africa	37.8	31.6	31.0	30.4	30.8	31.1	31.2	31.3	31.4
World	44.1	35.8	35.2	33.2	34.1	34.7	35.0	34.6	34.6
<b>Women</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	44.5	39.6	38.8	37.9	37.9	38.1	38.2	38.2	38.2
Central Africa	46.7	36.6	36.5	35.6	35.9	36.3	36.3	36.3	36.2
Eastern Africa	56.7	53.1	52.0	50.8	50.3	50.4	50.5	50.6	50.6
Southern Africa	20.9	14.6	13.9	12.9	12.0	13.0	13.5	13.2	13.0
Western Africa	35.6	29.0	28.0	27.2	27.6	27.9	28.0	28.0	28.0
World	36.3	28.8	28.3	26.3	27.1	27.6	28.2	27.9	27.9
<b>Men</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	47.5	43.4	42.7	42.1	42.2	42.4	42.6	42.7	42.7
Central Africa	41.7	34.6	34.0	33.3	33.7	33.9	34.2	34.4	34.4
Eastern Africa	60.2	58.0	56.7	56.0	55.7	55.6	55.8	55.8	55.8
Southern Africa	30.0	21.2	19.3	18.3	16.8	18.8	19.2	18.9	18.7
Western Africa	40.0	34.2	33.9	33.5	33.9	34.1	34.4	34.6	34.7
World	51.5	42.3	41.7	39.6	40.6	41.3	41.3	40.9	40.9

Note: 2024 and 2025 are projections.

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023.



► Table 3. Youth NEET rate by sex, sub-Saharan region and subregions, select periods and 2019–25 (percentage)

Region/subregion	2005–09 (average)	2015–19 (average)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	20.3	21.7	22.4	23.2	22.4	22.1	21.9	21.9	21.8
Central Africa	21.8	26.2	28.1	29.4	29.3	29.0	29.0	28.9	28.8
Eastern Africa	17.9	19.0	19.9	20.8	20.2	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Southern Africa	33.6	31.7	32.5	32.8	33.1	35.1	34.0	34.0	34.0
Western Africa	19.3	21.3	21.3	21.7	20.4	19.5	19.2	19.2	19.2
World	22.4	21.4	21.4	23.2	21.8	20.9	20.4	20.4	20.4
<b>Women</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.5	27.2	27.9	28.7	27.8	27.3	27.0	26.9	26.9
Central Africa	27.4	31.3	32.6	33.9	33.2	33.0	33.0	33.0	32.9
Eastern Africa	22.5	24.1	25.3	26.5	25.8	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5
Southern Africa	38.6	34.5	34.7	34.6	35.2	36.9	36.0	35.9	35.9
Western Africa	25.1	27.7	27.7	28.2	26.5	25.4	24.7	24.7	24.7
World	32.3	30.1	29.8	31.1	29.8	29.1	28.1	28.2	28.2
<b>Men</b>									
Sub-Saharan Africa	15.0	16.4	17.1	17.7	17.2	16.9	16.9	16.8	16.8
Central Africa	16.2	21.2	23.7	24.9	25.5	25.1	25.0	24.9	24.8
Eastern Africa	13.2	13.9	14.6	15.1	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.5
Southern Africa	28.6	28.9	30.4	31.1	31.0	33.3	32.2	32.1	32.1
Western Africa	13.6	15.1	15.1	15.5	14.5	13.8	13.9	13.9	13.8
World	13.1	13.3	13.6	15.8	14.3	13.3	13.1	13.1	13.1

Note: 2024 and 2025 are projections. Global and regional estimates for NEET rates are available from 2005.

Source: ILOSTAT, ILO modelled estimates, November 2023.

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<https://doi.org/10.54394/QJUV5544>