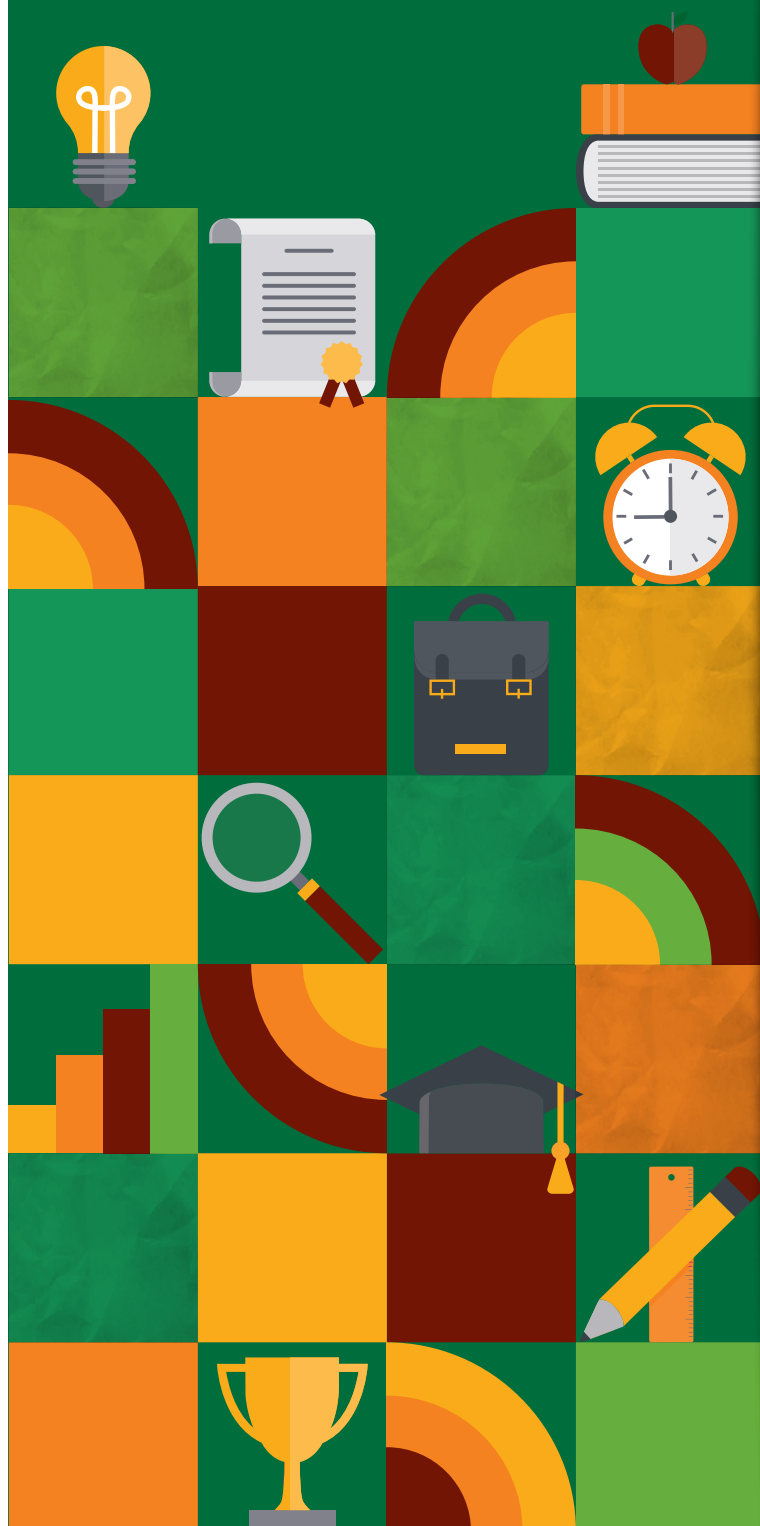


MARCH 2023

## FACT SHEET



# PERSONS WHO ARE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING (NEETS)



## BACKGROUND

Unemployment levels in South Africa are among the highest in the world, and have remained that way for more than 15 years. In quarter 3 of 2022 (2022:Q3), the overall unemployment rate stood at 32.9%, recovering from 34.9% in 2021, when the impact of the Covid-19 global health pandemic on economic activity was still being felt. More alarming is that over one-third (3.5 million)<sup>1</sup> of young people aged 15–24 years are currently not in employment, education or training (NEET). Most young people who are NEET are based in disadvantaged areas, including rural communities, where opportunities for employment are limited. The persistently high numbers of persons who are NEET in South Africa illustrates a socially explosive situation that requires urgent attention. Since youth are a fundamental asset to South Africa, it is crucial to provide them with the skills needed for sound economic and social development, and for the future sustainability of the country.



higher education  
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Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## PEOPLE AGED 15–60 YEARS WHO ARE NEET, BY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 2022:Q3

**38 794**

Number of persons aged  
15–60 years (thousands)

**17 136**

Number of persons aged 15–60 years  
who are NEET (thousands)



**44.2%**

NEET rate (%)



## PURPOSE

This Fact Sheet provides a detailed profile of people who are NEET, in order to support decision-making in the PSET system. Information about people who are NEET assists the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Community Education and Training (CET) colleges, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about PSET provisioning. In particular, NEET data provides the DHET and its stakeholders with evidence that can be used to inform the development of policy, strategies and plans, and the setting of appropriate targets and effective budgeting.



## METHODOLOGY

The statistical data used in this publication are drawn from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), which is conducted quarterly by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). This data cover a period of eight years, from 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3. Q3 data (as opposed to Q1, Q2 or Q4) was selected for this publication, since it represents the latest available data for 2022 at the time of preparing this Fact Sheet. More importantly, this period also considers the economic and labour market effects of Covid-19 in 2020 and its extension into 2022, thus providing a more realistic picture of the current NEET challenge in South Africa. International comparative data was obtained from International Labour Organization (ILO) publications. Many countries use people aged 15–24 years as the unit of analysis for understanding NEETs. However, this Fact Sheet provides NEET data for a broader age range of people in consideration of the DHET's mandate, which includes adult learners as opposed to merely young people.



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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section presents an overview of the extent, trends and patterns of the NEET challenge in South Africa.

The following statistics demonstrate the NEET trends in South Africa for the period under review. According to Table 1, over 17.1 million people aged 15–60 years were NEET in 2022. The proportion of persons aged 15–60 years who were NEET worsened from 37.5% in 2015 (13.1 million people) to 44.2% in 2022 (17.1 million people). This translates to an increase of over 4.0 million people who were NEET over the past eight years.

More positively, a decrease by over half a million (585 000) persons aged 15–60 years who were NEET was recorded between 2021 and 2022, resulting in a NEET rate of 44.2% in 2022 and a year-on-year decrease of –3.3%. This statistic could be attributed to the recovery of the economy from the detrimental effects of the Covid-19 pandemic after most industries resumed business.

**TABLE 1:** Total number and percentage of persons aged 15–60 who were NEET, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3

YEAR	 Total number of persons aged 15–60 years (thousands)	 Number of persons aged 15–60 years who were NEET, (thousands)	 NEET rate (%)	 Year-on-year % change of persons who were NEET
2015	34 948	13 103	37.5%	
2016	35 526	13 668	↑ 38.5%	4.3%
2017	36 094	13 933	↑ 38.6%	1.9%
2018	36 687	14 345	↑ 39.1%	3.0%
2019	37 217	14 876	↑ 40.0%	3.7%
2020	37 736	16 696	↑ 44.2%	12.2%
2021	38 243	17 721	↑ 46.3%	6.1%
2022	38 794	17 136	↓ 44.2%	–3.3%


Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note 1: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note 2: ↑ Indicates an increase in the number of people who were NEET, and ↓ indicates a decline in the number of people who were NEET.

However, as shown in Table 2, the number of persons aged 15–24 years who were NEET gradually increased over the past eight years from about 3.0 million in 2015 to about 3.5 million in 2022, while the biggest increase was among those aged 35–60 years (about 2.1 million). Within the NEET population aged 15–60 years, more than half (53.2%) of NEETs in 2022 were 15–34 years old.

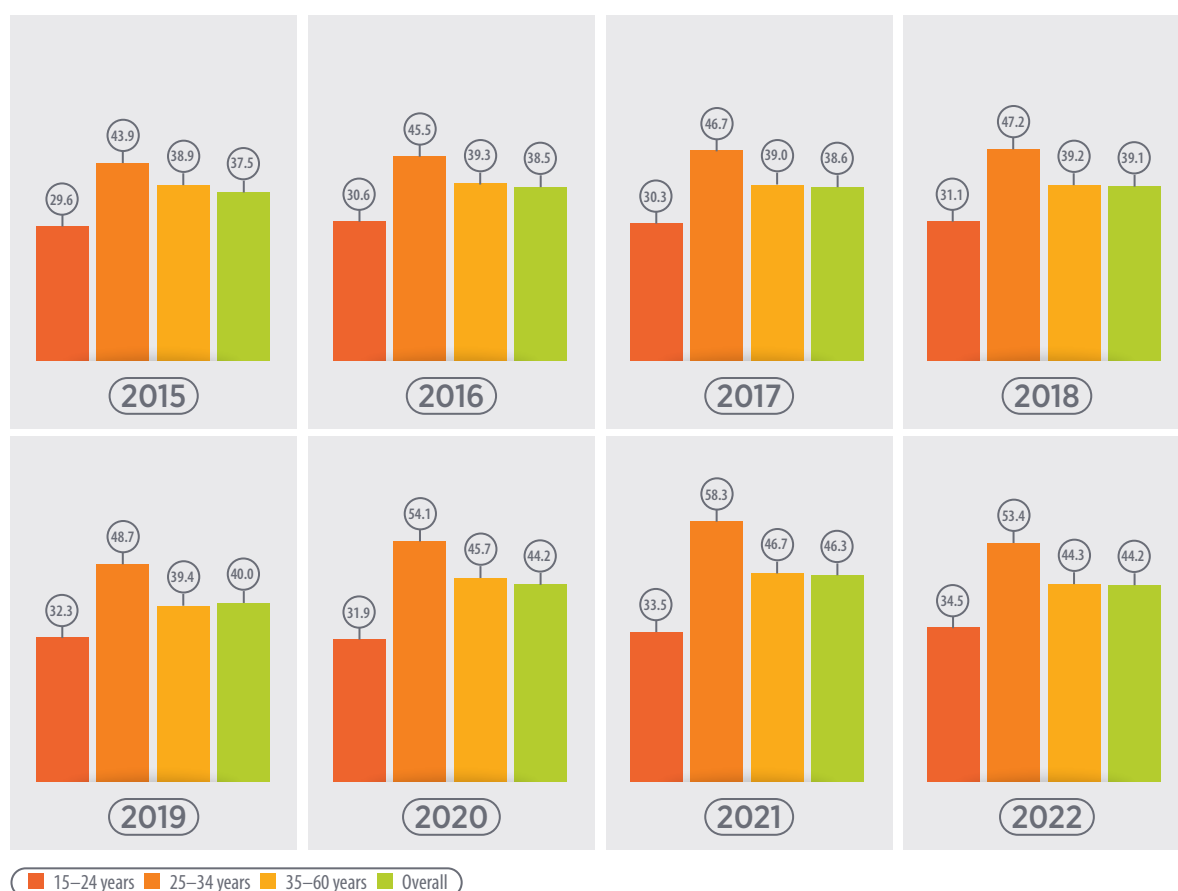
**TABLE 2: Total number of NEETs, by age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

AGE GROUP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		THOUSANDS							
	15–24 years	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432	3 524
	25–34 years	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044	5 593
	35–60 years	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245	8 019
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13 103</b>	<b>13 668</b>	<b>13 933</b>	<b>14 345</b>	<b>14 876</b>	<b>16 696</b>	<b>17 721</b>	<b>17 136</b>

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

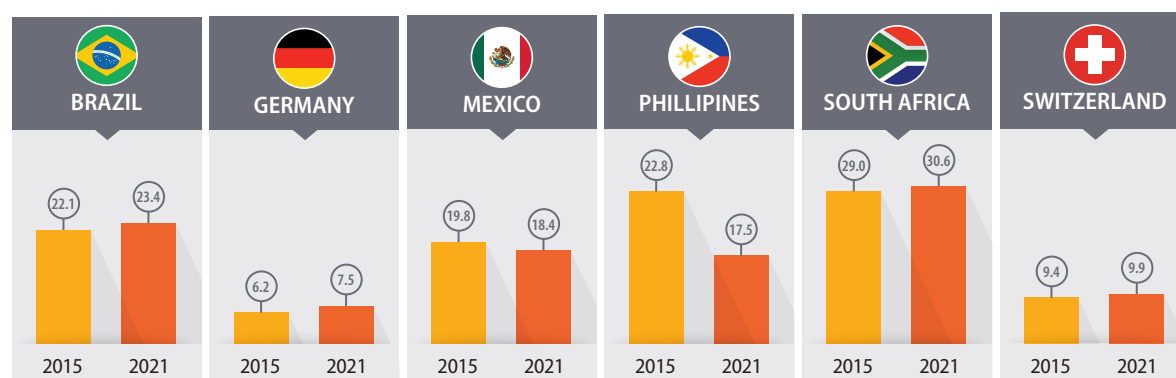
Figure 1 shows that in 2022, the NEET rate was highest among those aged 25–34 years (53.4%) and lowest among those aged 15–24 years (34.5%). There was a decrease in the NEET rate between 2019 and 2020 for persons aged 15–24 years; however, this decline was short-lived, as the NEET rate increased to 33.5% and 34.5% in 2021 and 2022, respectively. The increase can be explained by the upsurge in the number of new entrants to the labour market within an economy whose conditions were not conducive to absorb the high number of unemployed people.

**FIGURE 1: NEET rates by age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

The South African NEET rate for persons aged 15–24 years remained relatively high compared with countries such as Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines, as shown in Table 1. In 2021, the NEET rate for South Africa stood at 30.6%, followed by Brazil (23.4%), Mexico (18.4%) and the Philippines (17.5%).

**FIGURE 2: NEET rates (%) for persons aged 15–24 by country, 2015 and 2021**









Source: ILO

Note 1: Data downloaded from the ILO Department of Statistics (ILOSTAT) on 15 December 2022.

Note 2: The 2021 NEET rate for South Africa differs from that provided in Figure 1, because the rate reported in Figure 2 is an annual average, whereas the rate reported in Figure 1 is a quarterly figure.

When considering the labour-market status of persons aged 15–60 years who were NEET in 2022, the majority (56.0%) were not actively looking for employment. The analysis of persons who were NEET by labour-market status (active and inactive), as shown in Table 3, indicates that the majority of persons who were NEET in 2022 were not actively looking for employment, except for those in the 25–34-year age group.

**TABLE 3: Number of NEETs by labour-market status (active and inactive), 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

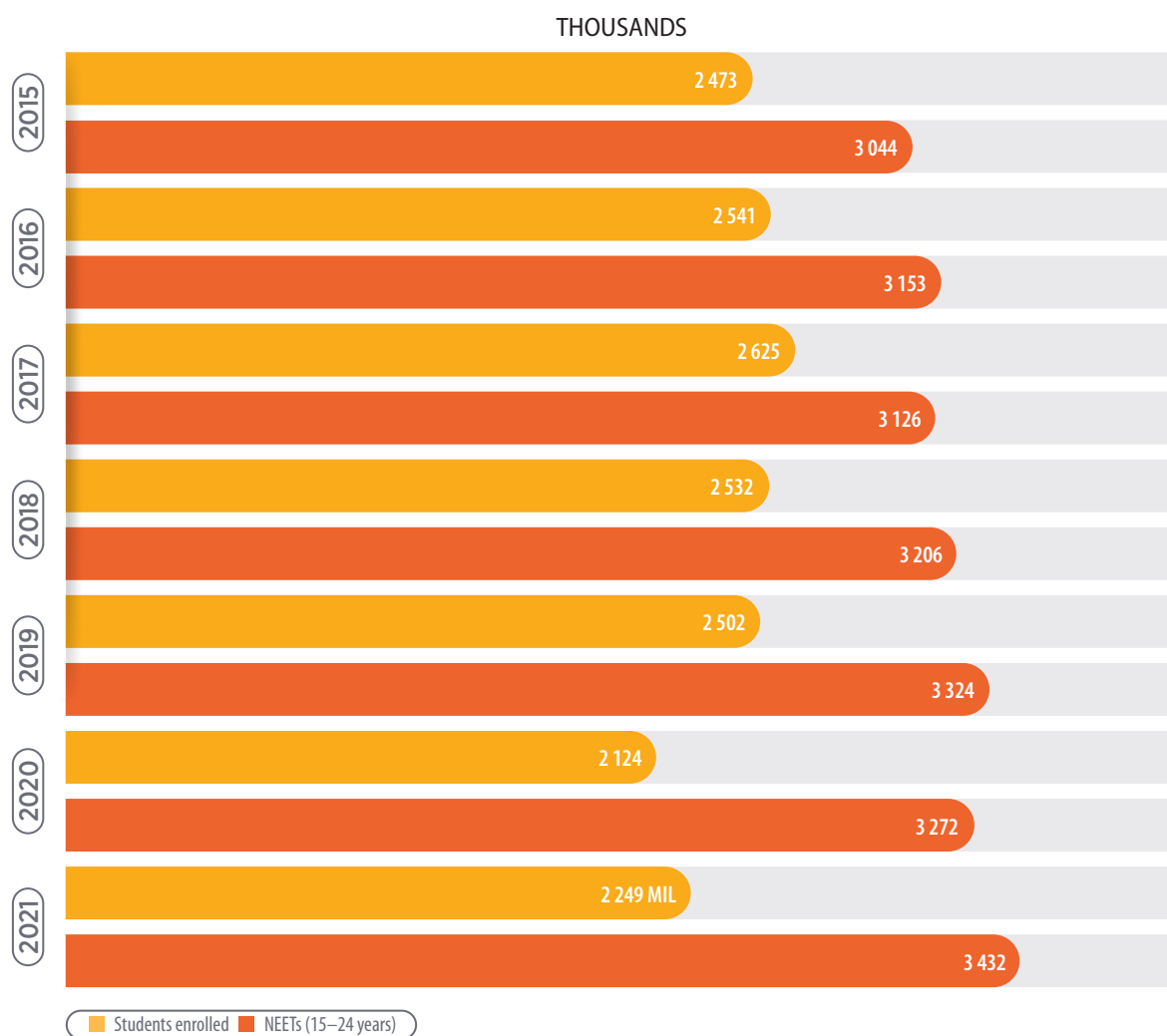
LABOUR MARKET STATUS BY AGE GROUP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	THOUSANDS							
<b>15–24 YEARS</b>	<b>3 044</b>	<b>3 153</b>	<b>3 126</b>	<b>3 206</b>	<b>3 324</b>	<b>3 272</b>	<b>3 432</b>	<b>3 524</b>
 Active	1 310	1 431	1 394	1 350	1 478	1 227	1 433	1 502
 Inactive	1 734	1 722	1 732	1 856	1 846	2 045	1 999	2 023
<b>24–34 YEARS</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>4 403</b>	<b>4 581</b>	<b>4 701</b>	<b>4 919</b>	<b>5 539</b>	<b>6 044</b>	<b>5 593</b>
 Active	2 104	2 286	2 415	2 459	2 664	2 565	3 032	2 944
 Inactive	2 070	2 117	2 165	2 242	2 255	2 974	3 011	2 648
<b>35–60 YEARS</b>	<b>5 885</b>	<b>6 112</b>	<b>6 226</b>	<b>6 438</b>	<b>6 633</b>	<b>7 885</b>	<b>8 245</b>	<b>8 019</b>
 Active	1 851	2 029	2 287	2 267	2 446	2 644	3 071	3 095
 Inactive	4 034	4 082	3 939	4 171	4 187	5 241	5 174	4 924
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13 103</b>	<b>13 668</b>	<b>13 933</b>	<b>14 345</b>	<b>14 876</b>	<b>16 696</b>	<b>17 721</b>	<b>17 136</b>

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Enrolment in PSET has generally been on a downward trend from 2017 to 2020, exacerbated by the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions that disrupted teaching and learning in 2020. This has further widened the gap between the NEETs aged 15–24 years and students enrolled in PSET institutions (irrespective of age). According to Figure 3, in 2021, about 2.2 million students were enrolled in PSET institutions irrespective of age, while the number of NEETs aged 15–24 years was marginally above 3.4 million.

**FIGURE 3:** Total number of students (all age groups) who attended a PSET institution versus the number of NEETs (15–24-year olds), 2015 and 2021




Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.; DHET; Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Note 1: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note 2: Number of students enrolled includes: public and private higher education institutions (HEIs); Colleges (TVET, CET and private colleges); and SETA-supported work-based learning (WBL).

Table 4 shows that, from the perspective of gender, more women than men were NEET in 2022, accounting for 55.6% of total NEETs. The highest number of NEET persons were in the 35–60-year age group, followed by those in the 25–34-year age group, within the period under review. Consistent with demographic profiles by gender in the country, women made up the majority share of NEET persons in the respective age groups.

**TABLE 4:** Total number of NEETs, by gender and age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3

GENDER BY AGE GROUP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		THOUSANDS							
15–24 YEARS		3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432	3 524
	Men	1 394	1 429	1 429	1 481	1 566	1 590	1 647	1 661
	Women	1 650	1 724	1 698	1 725	1 758	1 682	1 785	1 863
25–34 YEARS		4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044	5 593
	Men	1 796	1 869	2 055	2 114	2 236	2 552	2 772	2 579
	Women	2 378	2 534	2 526	2 587	2 683	2 987	3 271	3 014
35–60 YEARS		5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245	8 019
	Men	2 244	2 368	2 431	2 527	2 639	3 237	3 430	3 373
	Women	3 641	3 743	3 795	3 911	3 994	4 648	4 815	4 647
TOTAL		13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721	17 136

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.



The overwhelming majority of persons who were NEET in 2022 were black Africans, representing 86.7% of the total NEET group. The distribution of persons who were NEET by age group and race, as shown in Table 5, indicates that the largest number of NEETs were black Africans, followed by coloureds, across all age groups.

**TABLE 5: Number of NEETs by race and age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

RACE BY AGE GROUP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
THOUSANDS								
<b>15–24 YEARS</b>	<b>3 044</b>	<b>3 153</b>	<b>3 126</b>	<b>3 206</b>	<b>3 324</b>	<b>3 272</b>	<b>3 432</b>	<b>3 524</b>
Black African	2 655	2 734	2 721	2 786	2 923	2 850	2 995	3 070
Coloured	272	296	290	290	285	292	317	310
Indian/Asian	43	50	42	43	40	45	52	50
White	73	74	74	86	77	85	68	95
<b>25–34 YEARS</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>4 403</b>	<b>4 581</b>	<b>4 701</b>	<b>4 919</b>	<b>5 539</b>	<b>6 044</b>	<b>5 593</b>
Black African	3 737	3 927	4 085	4 233	4 416	4 921	5 414	5 054
Coloured	297	291	320	291	311	414	456	363
Indian/Asian	66	75	69	77	76	93	102	79
White	74	110	106	100	116	112	71	97
<b>35–60 YEARS</b>	<b>5 885</b>	<b>6 112</b>	<b>6 226</b>	<b>6 438</b>	<b>6 633</b>	<b>7 885</b>	<b>8 245</b>	<b>8 019</b>
Black African	4 671	4 883	4 990	5 214	5 446	6 456	6 789	6 737
Coloured	610	623	643	653	622	775	818	747
Indian/Asian	201	191	197	180	191	237	246	194
White	403	414	396	392	374	417	393	341
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13 103</b>	<b>13 668</b>	<b>13 933</b>	<b>14 345</b>	<b>14 876</b>	<b>16 696</b>	<b>17 721</b>	<b>17 136</b>

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.







Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Low levels of education and skills intensify the risk of a person being NEET. In 2022, the share of NEET persons aged 35–60 years increased from 44.9% in 2015 to 46.8%, as indicated in Table 6. Across all age groups, the largest shares of NEETs had secondary less than Grade 12 as their highest educational qualification, followed by those with Grade 12.

In 2022, 58.4% of persons aged 15–60 years who were NEET had education levels below Grade 12, followed by those with Grade 12 (33.8%). Persons with tertiary education made up 6.7% of the total number of persons who were NEET.

**TABLE 6:** Share of NEETs, by highest level of educational attainment, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL BY AGE GROUP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		SHARES							
<b>15–24 YEARS</b>		<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>
	No schooling	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.1
	Primary and less	11.2	11.5	10.6	9.8	9.1	7.4	7.3	7.5
	Secondary less than Grade 12	47.7	48.2	46.3	46.0	44.6	42.0	40.0	40.5
	Grade 12	34.6	33.9	37.1	37.9	40.2	43.6	45.7	48.1
	Tertiary	4.2	4.1	3.6	4.2	4.1	5.1	4.6	4.6
	Other	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0
<b>24–34 YEARS</b>		<b>31.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>32.6</b>
	No schooling	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.9	1.0
	Primary and less	10.2	10.3	9.2	8.6	7.8	5.7	5.6	5.7
	Secondary less than Grade 12	50.1	51.8	49.1	49.7	51.4	47.2	48.7	43.7
	Grade 12	30.4	28.7	31.5	32.5	30.1	36.8	35.5	33.2
	Tertiary	6.5	6.7	7.8	6.9	8.3	8.7	8.9	8.0
	Other	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.0

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL BY AGE GROUP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		THOUSANDS							
35–60 YEARS		44.9	44.7	44.7	44.9	44.6	47.2	46.5	46.8
	No schooling	8.1	7.2	6.4	6.4	5.8	3.9	3.9	3.8
	Primary and less	25.1	24.0	22.8	21.7	20.3	17.6	16.5	16.3
	Secondary less than Grade 12	41.1	42.4	42.6	42.8	42.8	44.8	46.2	43.8
	Grade 12	19.1	19.8	20.7	21.9	23.6	25.7	25.9	25.9
	Tertiary	5.8	5.7	6.6	6.0	6.5	6.9	6.4	6.1
	Other and unspecified	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
TOTAL		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7 indicates the total number of persons who were NEET by province and age group. Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape recorded the highest number of people who were NEET across all the age groups within the eight years under review.

**TABLE 7: Total number of NEETs, by province and age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

PROVINCE AND AGE GROUP		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		THOUSANDS							
15–24 YEARS		3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432	3 524
	Western Cape	281	292	296	299	304	288	323	320
	Eastern Cape	421	420	464	455	486	404	424	464
	Northern Cape	84	84	90	75	88	108	100	89
	Free State	158	167	162	150	144	147	170	152
	KwaZulu-Natal	627	680	675	705	750	776	691	726
	North West	225	242	258	251	253	233	300	330
	Gauteng	639	687	627	669	672	697	768	841
	Mpumalanga	270	265	252	287	287	249	287	284
	Limpopo	339	315	303	314	340	371	369	321

PROVINCE AND AGE GROUP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	THOUSANDS							
<b>25–34 YEARS</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>4 403</b>	<b>4 581</b>	<b>4 701</b>	<b>4 919</b>	<b>5 539</b>	<b>6 044</b>	<b>5 593</b>
Western Cape	351	353	408	375	416	490	476	484
Eastern Cape	578	572	605	675	635	735	816	719
Northern Cape	95	92	105	104	104	99	118	122
Free State	243	247	215	241	275	253	292	256
KwaZulu-Natal	869	955	975	993	1 012	1 176	1 320	1 196
North West	307	350	320	309	353	370	416	408
Gauteng	956	1 019	1 080	1 116	1 134	1 354	1 401	1 294
Mpumalanga	332	358	392	386	423	446	474	460
Limpopo	441	457	480	501	565	615	731	653
<b>35–60 YEARS</b>	<b>5 885</b>	<b>6 112</b>	<b>6 226</b>	<b>6 438</b>	<b>6 633</b>	<b>7 885</b>	<b>8 245</b>	<b>8 019</b>
Western Cape	674	704	699	717	713	931	980	892
Eastern Cape	735	703	768	811	787	908	916	969
Northern Cape	159	164	158	165	154	180	198	175
Free State	304	329	307	337	338	386	371	371
KwaZulu-Natal	1 126	1 173	1 198	1 177	1 246	1 436	1 484	1 462
North West	492	497	479	519	532	580	621	635
Gauteng	1 484	1 569	1 649	1 719	1 775	2 213	2 318	2 140
Mpumalanga	400	429	434	432	475	537	565	584
Limpopo	510	542	534	560	614	714	792	790
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13 103</b>	<b>13 668</b>	<b>13 933</b>	<b>14 345</b>	<b>14 876</b>	<b>16 696</b>	<b>17 721</b>	<b>17 136</b>

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

With regards to the reason for being NEET, Table 8 shows that the highest number of 15–34-year-olds who were NEET in 2022 were new entrants to the labour market, followed by discouraged work-seekers, homemakers and job losers.

On the other hand, the highest number of older persons (35–60 years) who were NEET between 2015 and 2020 were homemakers, followed by those who stated health reasons, discouraged work-seekers and job losers. There were marginal decreases in the numbers of discouraged work-seekers and job losers between 2021 and 2022, possibly due to economic recovery from the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**TABLE 8: Total number of NEETs, by reason and age group, 2015:Q3 to 2022:Q3**

REASON AND AGE GROUP	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
THOUSANDS								
<b>15–24 YEARS</b>	<b>3 044</b>	<b>3 153</b>	<b>3 126</b>	<b>3 206</b>	<b>3 324</b>	<b>3 272</b>	<b>3 432</b>	<b>3 524</b>
Job loser	256	288	299	252	310	203	223	200
Job leaver	63	50	54	41	44	43	40	18
New entrant	930	1 027	983	982	1 048	914	1 108	1 234
Re-entrant	49	44	43	45	57	38	38	22
Other – last worked >5 years ago	13	22	15	29	20	29	24	27
Homemaker	441	487	436	428	418	347	348	367
Health reasons	139	128	134	127	118	147	171	130
Too young/old/retired	40	46	68	65	50	45	73	80
Discouraged work-seekers	587	563	608	674	698	588	778	728
Other not economically active	526	498	486	562	563	919	628	719
<b>25–34 YEARS</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>4 403</b>	<b>4 581</b>	<b>4 701</b>	<b>4 919</b>	<b>5 539</b>	<b>6 044</b>	<b>5 593</b>
Job loser	779	771	814	831	897	794	894	833
Job leaver	146	138	133	147	144	174	93	34
New entrant	807	952	978	1 050	1 071	1 133	1 471	1 458
Re-entrant	104	129	141	103	127	123	86	108
Other – last worked >5 years ago	269	297	349	328	426	340	488	512
Homemaker	709	731	710	708	687	736	817	713
Health reasons	280	281	269	272	268	233	254	324
Too young/old/retired	4	3	6	4	7	5	5	8
Discouraged work-seekers	826	837	930	996	1 026	992	1 465	1 230
Other not economically active	252	264	251	262	267	1 009	471	374
<b>35–60 YEARS</b>	<b>4 034</b>	<b>6 112</b>	<b>6 226</b>	<b>6 438</b>	<b>6 633</b>	<b>7 885</b>	<b>8 245</b>	<b>8 019</b>
Job loser	721	764	892	840	868	954	1 115	970
Job leaver	135	126	140	115	110	271	149	94
New entrant	323	281	299	402	336	388	519	728
Re-entrant	81	142	131	101	144	152	169	97
Other – last worked >5 years ago	591	717	826	809	987	879	1 120	1 206
Homemaker	1 390	1 371	1 313	1 337	1 421	1 420	1 552	1 411
Health reasons	1 158	1 161	1 104	1 088	1 009	1 027	1 102	1 025
Too young/old/retired	494	504	477	476	526	477	515	611
Discouraged work-seekers	749	812	833	997	1 001	1 074	1 560	1 507
Other not economically active	245	234	212	273	229	1 243	445	369
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11 253</b>	<b>13 668</b>	<b>13 933</b>	<b>14 345</b>	<b>14 876</b>	<b>16 696</b>	<b>17 721</b>	<b>17 136</b>

Source: Own calculations, based on Stats SA, QLFS Nesstar.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.



## CONCLUSION

This Fact Sheet offers a profile and analysis of trends of people who were NEET over the past eight years. The Fact Sheet confirms that South Africa has one of the highest NEET rates in the world. The ever-increasing NEET rate presents a serious problem for South Africa's social stability. It is pleasing, however, to note the decline in the NEET rate in 2022 – the first time in eight years that it has shown a sign of shifting from its consistent incline. Hopefully, this positive change continues into the future.

Nonetheless, the PSET system must continue to play a critical role in curbing the number of NEETs by improving access to PSET institutions, and ensuring that the kind of education and training provided is relevant and responsive to the social and economic needs of the country. Promoting skills for entrepreneurship development is key to the reduction of the NEET rate. Moreover, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), TVET colleges and CET colleges remain crucial in enabling the attainment of basic skills, including reskilling and upskilling.



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

#### NEET

NEET refers to people who are not in employment, education or training. There are two categories of persons who are NEET, namely, inactive NEETs and active NEETs. The term **inactive NEETs** refers to persons who are NEET and not looking for work. According to Stats SA, a person can be classified as an inactive NEET for various reasons, such as managing a home (homemaker), for health reasons, being too young/too old/retired, being a discouraged work-seeker and other unmentioned reasons. **Active NEETs** are persons who are NEET but are actively seeking employment and are available to start work. This Fact Sheet reports data on the combination of both inactive and active NEETs.

#### NEET RATE

The NEET rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons who are NEET in a given age group by the total population in the same age group. For instance, the NEET rate for youth is calculated as the number of persons aged 15–24 years who are NEET divided by the number of persons aged 15–24 in the population. The calculation of the NEET rate in this Fact Sheet is based on both inactive and active NEETs.

## YOUTH

In South Africa, the official definition of 'youth' refers to persons aged 15–34 years. The advantage of looking at this broad age range is that it includes the growing share of individuals who remain in education for longer and only enter the labour market in their late 20s.

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

Tertiary education refers to the following qualifications:

- undergraduate degree;
- postgraduate degree;
- diploma;
- postgraduate diploma;
- higher certificate (upon completion of matric); and
- advanced diploma or advanced certificate.



## ENDNOTES

1. Statistics South Africa. 2022. Quarterly Labour Force Survey (3rd Quarter).



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