

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The ILO Work4Youth project worked with the Russian Federal State Statistics Service to implement two rounds of the School-to-work transition survey (SWTS) in 2012 (July) and 2015 (March). Although no national reports were produced, the results of the first survey was highlighted in the regional synthesis report, S. Elder et al. (2015): *Labour market transitions of young women and men in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, Work4Youth Publication Series No. 28 (Geneva, ILO). The objective of this country note is to offer a general summary of youth labour market trends in the Russian Federation based on the SWTS. Youth is defined as 15–29.

Main findings of the ILO SWTS

Human capital and mismatch

- All surveyed youth had attended school or a training programme at some point in their lives. Nearly six in ten (57.7 per cent) of the youth population had completed school in 2015, while 38.9 per cent was still enrolled. A small proportion of the youth population (3.4 per cent) had dropped out of school before completion. Young women in the Russian Federation have equal opportunities to young men in terms of access to education.
- SWTS results show a correlation between the levels of education and a young person's labour market transition: in 2012, a young person with tertiary education was able to complete the transition from school to a stable/satisfactory job in 4.8 months, as compared to 22.4 months for youth with secondary education.
- The majority of employed youth were adequately educated for the job they were doing (74.7 per cent of young workers with qualifications matching to those expected for the occupation in 2015). Yet given the high levels of educational attainment in the country, not all educated youth is able to find a job that matched their level of qualifications; 18.1 per cent of working youth were overeducated for their job in 2015, while only 7.2 per cent of young workers were classified as undereducated.
- A third (31.7 per cent) of current students in the Russian Federation showed a preference for future work in the government/public sector in 2015. While the attraction of public sector employment is understandable given concerns with job security, the ability of the sector to absorb a significant number of young workers is limited. At the same time, more than one-third (38.4 per cent) expressed the ambition to start their own business.

The ILO **School-to-work transitions surveys (SWTS)** are implemented as an outcome of the Work4Youth (W4Y) project, a partnership between the ILO and The MasterCard Foundation. The project has a budget of US\$14.6 million and will run for five years to mid-2016. Its aim is to “promote decent work opportunities for young men and women through knowledge and action”. The immediate objective of the partnership is to produce more and better labour market information specific to youth in developing countries, focusing in particular on transition paths to the labour market.

See the website www.ilo.org/w4y for more information.

Underutilization of the youth labour potential remains a top concern

- The youth labour underutilization rate in the Russian Federation was low at 21.4 per cent in 2015, well below the regional trend. The share of underutilized labour potential consists of 5.3 per cent of the youth population in irregular employment (either in self-employment or paid employment with contract of less than 12 months), 8.2 per cent unemployed and 7.9 per cent inactive non-students.
- The youth unemployment rate decreased from 11.7 per cent in 2012 to 10.3 per cent in 2015, remaining well below the EU-28 average of 16.1 per cent in the latter year (Eurostat, youth aged 15-29).
- The most disadvantaged in finding work are those with the secondary (general) level of educational attainment; the unemployment rate of a young person who finished school at the general secondary level was 16.5 per cent compared to 6.1 per cent for youth with university education and 6.6 per cent for youth with primary only education in 2015. The unemployment rate of youth emerging from the vocational system falls in between at around 8 per cent.
- While unemployment rates facing youth in the Russian Federation are not overly high, many youth who are unemployed are looking for work for long periods of time. More than one in five (21.5 per cent) unemployed youth had been looking for work for longer than one year in 2015, up from 18 per cent in 2012.
- The share of youth neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) in the Russian Federation was 14.3 per cent in 2015. The share among young women was almost double that of young men (at 18.4 and 10.4 per cent, respectively). More NEETs are inactive non-students than unemployed.

Employment rates for youth are above regional levels

- More than half (53.6 per cent) of the youth in the Russian Federation was employed in 2015. Young men are somewhat more likely to work than young women (employment ratios are 58.6 and 48.5 per cent, respectively).
- The clear majority of young workers are in paid employment (91.3 per cent), but a small number remained in vulnerable employment as own-account workers (7.2 per cent), while only one in a hundred were employed as unpaid family workers (1.1 per cent). At the same time, more than nine out of ten youth in paid employment were engaged with a written contract (94.1 per cent) and only 1.7 per cent had a contract of duration less than one year.
- The services sector absorbs the largest portion of the Russian Federation's young workers (53.8 per cent of young male workers and 79.3 per cent of young female workers in 2015), followed by industry (38.7 per cent of young male workers and 15.7 per cent of young female workers) and agriculture (7.5 and 5.0 per cent, respectively).
- Informal employment affected one-half (51 per cent) of young workers in the Russian Federation in 2015 (50.9 per cent in 2012). Only a small segment (3.2 per cent) of employed youth worked less than 20 hours during the reference week in 2014, and an even smaller segment (1.8 per cent) worked excessively long hours (more than 50 hours per week).

Selection of data tables

Table 1. Youth population by educational status, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Educational status	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Never attended school	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dropped-out before graduation or completion of school	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.5	2.5	3.4
Currently attending school	36.1	37.5	36.1	36.1	36.1	38.9
Education completed	61.2	59.1	60.9	60.4	61.4	57.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2. Key youth labour market indicators – traditional distribution, 2012 and 2015 (%)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Employed	53.6	53.6	58.7	58.6	48.7	48.5
Unemployed (strict definition)	7.1	6.2	7.7	6.8	6.4	5.5
Inactive	39.3	40.2	33.6	34.6	44.9	46.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Youth labour force participation rate	60.7	59.8	66.4	65.4	55.1	54.0
Youth unemployment rate (strict definition)	11.7	10.3	11.7	10.4	11.6	10.2

Note: The "strict" definition of unemployment refers to persons without work, available to work and actively engaged in a job search. The "broad" definition excludes the job search criteria. The youth unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons divided by the youth labour force (employed plus unemployed).

Table 3. Key youth labour market indicators – alternative distribution, 2012 and 2015 (%)

	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
In regular employment	47.4	48.3	50.5	51.9	44.4	44.6
In irregular employment	6.0	5.3	7.7	6.7	4.4	3.9
Unemployed (broad definition)	10.2	8.2	10.4	8.7	10.1	7.6
Inactive students	28.0	30.4	27.8	29.4	28.1	31.3
Inactive non-students	8.3	7.9	3.6	3.4	12.9	12.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Youth labour force participation rate (broad definition)	63.7	61.7	68.5	67.2	59.0	56.2
Youth unemployment rate (broad definition)	10.2	8.2	10.4	8.7	10.1	7.6
Youth labour underutilization rate	24.6	21.4	21.7	18.7	27.4	24.1

Table 4. Distribution of NEET youth by composition, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Sex	2012			2015		
	NEET rate	of which:		NEET rate	of which:	
		Inactive non-students	Unemployed non-students		Inactive non-students	Unemployed non-students
Total	15.6	10.1	5.5	14.3	9.1	5.2
Male	10.6	4.5	6.1	10.4	4.4	6.0
Female	20.5	15.5	5.0	18.4	13.9	4.4

Table 5. Employed youth by status in employment, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Status in employment	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Wage and salaried workers (employees)	90.6	91.3	88.9	89.7	92.5	93.2
Employers	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1
Own-account workers	7.9	7.2	9.0	8.3	6.6	5.8
Contributing (unpaid) family workers	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.4	0.4	0.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 9. Employed youth by overeducation, undereducation or matching qualifications, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Qualifications match	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Undereducated	10.1	7.2	10.9	9.2	9.0	4.7
Overeducated	18.5	18.1	20.2	17.2	16.5	19.1
Matching qualifications	68.7	74.7	65.2	73.5	73.1	76.2
Not classifiable	2.7	-	3.7	-	1.4	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10. Youth unemployment rates by level of completed educational attainment, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Educational attainment	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Primary	16.8	6.6	13.5	8.4	24.2	0
Secondary vocational	8.5	8.4	6.6	7.8	12.5	9.7
Secondary general	13.2	16.5	13.6	14.7	12.5	19.9
Post-secondary vocational	8.4	8.8	8.9	8.8	7.9	8.9
University and postgraduate studies	9.4	6.1	10.6	7.9	8.6	4.7

Table 11. Unemployed youth by duration of job search, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Duration of job search	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Less than a week	36.3	10.8	36.5	11.4	36.2	10.0
1 week to less than 1 month	19.7	27.7	22.5	28.3	16.4	27.0
1 month to less than 3 months	13.6	19.7	11.3	23.4	16.3	15.2
3 months to less than 6 months	5.2	12.5	3.9	10.9	6.8	14.4
6 months to less than 1 year	7.2	7.9	7.8	7.0	6.6	8.9
More than a year	18.0	21.5	18.2	19.1	17.7	24.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 12. Youth population by stages and subcategories of transition, 2012 and 2015 (%)

Stage of transitions	Total		Male		Female	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Total transited	44.0	45.4	48.1	50.1	39.9	40.7
Transited to stable employment	41.9	42.9	44.7	46.8	39.1	38.9
Transited to satisfactory temporary employment	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.8
Transited to satisfactory self-employment	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.5	0.5	1.0
In transition	22.2	19.8	21.8	18.1	22.5	21.5
Unemployed (broad definition)	7.5	6.5	7.1	7.1	7.8	6.0
In non-satisfactory temporary employment	2.0	1.1	2.4	1.4	1.6	0.8
In non-satisfactory self-employment	1.0	0.8	1.8	1.1	0.3	0.4
Active students	8.4	7.3	8.8	6.9	8.1	7.7
Inactive non-students with aim to work in the future	3.2	4.1	1.7	1.6	4.6	6.6
Transition not yet started	33.9	34.7	30.1	31.7	37.6	37.8
Inactive students	28.5	30.8	28.1	29.9	28.9	31.8
Inactive non-students with no plans to work in the future	5.3	3.9	1.9	1.8	8.6	6.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Unless other specified, the categories exclude current students.