

Profile of the Youth



48%

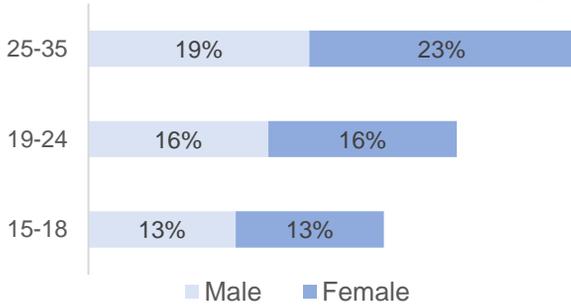


52%

Like the working-age population (15 years and above), **women outnumbered men**.

Six out of ten youths live in urban areas, this rate is similar to that of the working-age population.

Distribution of the youth by sex and age group

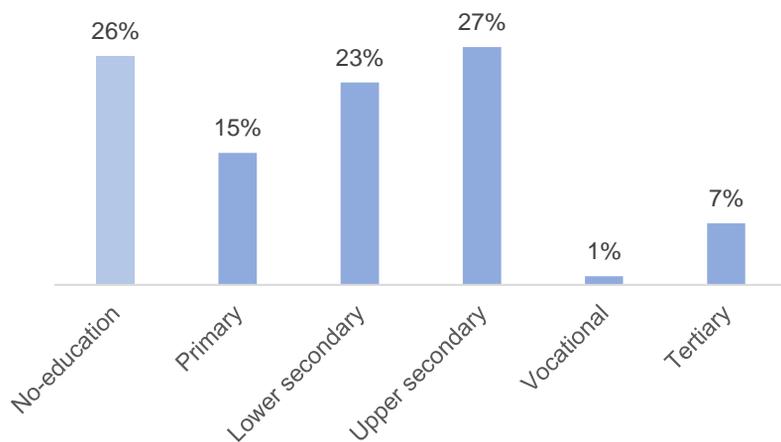


Four out of ten youths are aged 25 to 35 years (42%), with predominance of women that could be due to male migration. However, there is no difference between sexes across the younger age groups.

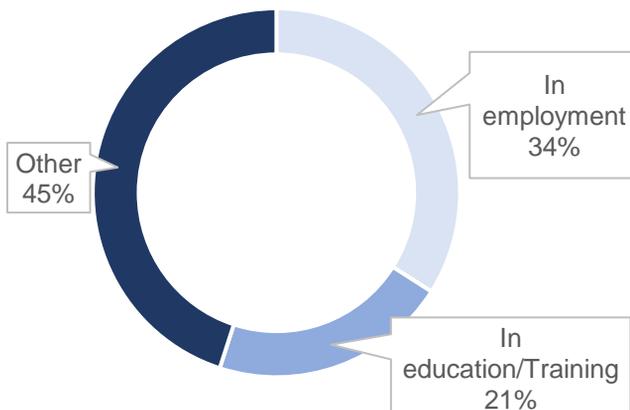
Whilst education is a success factor, 41% of the youth have never attained formal education or only attained primary education.

One in two youths have attained secondary education. Tertiary educated youths account for 7% of the youth population. Vocational training remains very limited, calling on policy formulation to boost employability.

Youth educational attainment



One-third of the youths are having a job and a fifth are studying or attending a training. Almost half of them were in another situation, for instance performing volunteer or unpaid trainee work, A very small proportion of young people were working while still studying (3%).



Youth participation in the labour market



38%

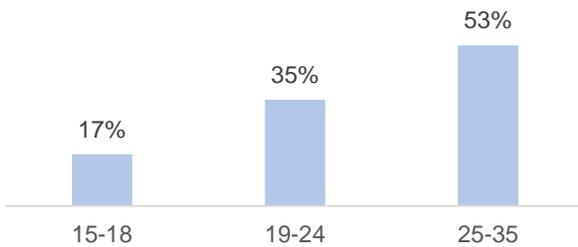
The **labour force participation rate** is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available. **Less than four out of ten youths are actively participating in the labour market.** The level of labour force participation is primarily dependent on the employment opportunities.

As typically observed, **women are less engaged in the labour market.** This can be due to lower education levels as well as cultural norms. The gender gap in the labour force participation stands at 7 percentage points.

Labour force participation rate by sex



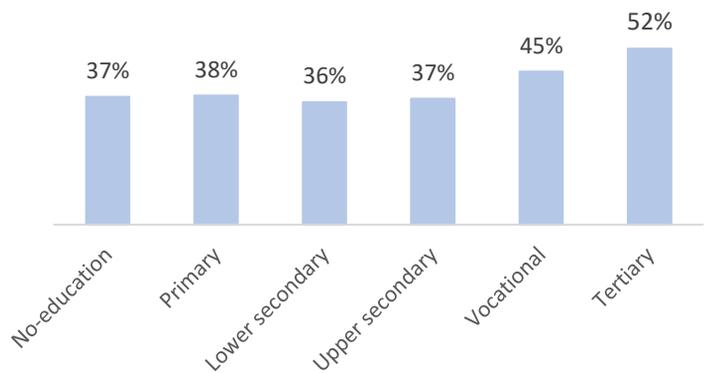
Labour force participation by age group



The labour market participation rate reaches the maximum in the age group 25-35 years. Late entry could be due to longer education or the difficulty to transitioning from school to work because of lack of opportunities.

Youth who completed tertiary and to a lesser extent vocational education are more likely to be active, showing the positive impact of educational attainment on the participation in the labour market.

Labour force participation rate by educational attainment



No difference is observed between rural and urban locations. The result could be due to the survey period, from January to March 2023, at a time when the agricultural season was over.

Job quality



84%

The vast majority of youths work in informal employment. Informal employment comprises workers employed within the informal sector and workers employed in the formal sector who do not benefit from social protection (pension funds, paid annual leave and sick leave). The informal sector regroups private businesses that are not registered with the Gambia Revenue Authority or that do not have complete set accounts.

The predominance of informal employment derived from the structure of the economy. Agriculture and market services are the leading providers of jobs.



39%



24%



37%

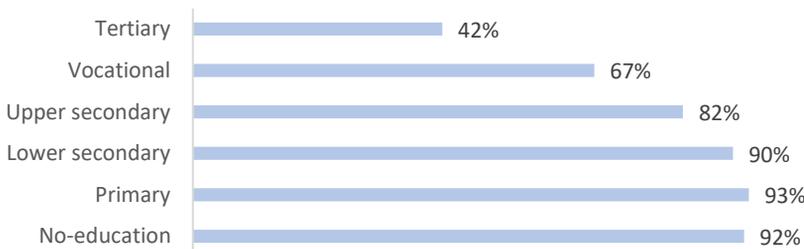
Agriculture (a sector predominantly informal) accounts for 67% of employment in the rural area. Nearly half of the women are engaged in agriculture (49%). Farming is mostly performed by the youngest cohort (64%) and by workers without any education (50%) or only primary education (48%). **Market services** absorb over a third of the workers, who are generally older and better educated. **Industry** gathers one fourth of the jobs. Workers consist of male (37%) and tend to be older but their education level is similar to that of the youth population.

Women and the youngest workers are more likely to hold low quality jobs. Informal employment is predominant among the youngest cohorts.

Informal employment by sex and age group



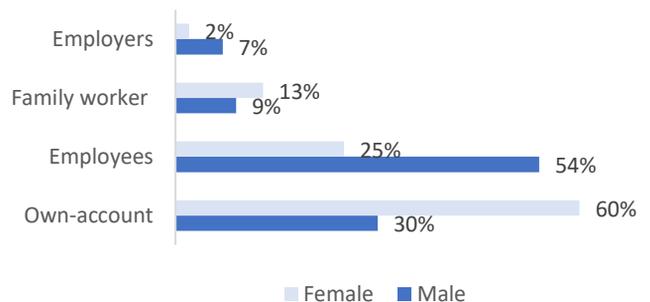
Informal employment by educational attainment



Education pays off, tertiary educated youths get better quality jobs. The share of informal employment goes down as the level of education ascends and is twice lower among tertiary educated youths.

More than half of the workers are own-account workers or contributing family workers. Employees represent 4 out of 10 workers. Gender imbalance is significant, nearly six out of ten women are self-employed, a share almost twice higher than that of men. On the opposite male predominantly consist of employees.

Status in employment by sex



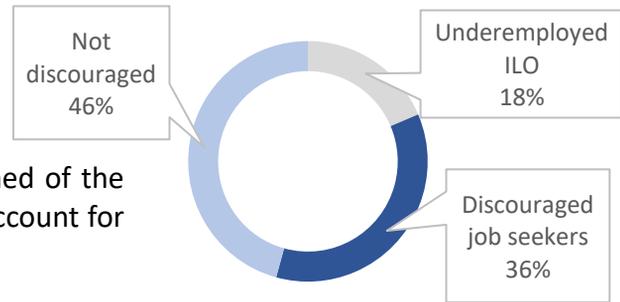
Labour underutilization

The **unemployment rate** as defined by the ILO does not reflect the unmet needs for employment in low income countries. The ILO developed the concept of **labour underutilization (LU)**, the indicator **LU3** is considered as a **proxy for unemployment**. LU3 combines the unemployed and the potential labour force. ILO qualifies as **unemployed**, persons who are not employed, who are available to start a job within the next two weeks and who have been actively seeking employment in the last four weeks. The **potential labour force** consists of jobless persons who have a strong attachment to the labour market. They are (i) either seeking employment but are not available to start a job in the next two weeks (illness, study, housework, ...), (ii) or want to work but have not been seeking a job (discouraged job seekers, lack of skills or experience,...).

LU3 Nearly 4 youths out of 10 are **underutilized**, in other words in a situation of unemployment.

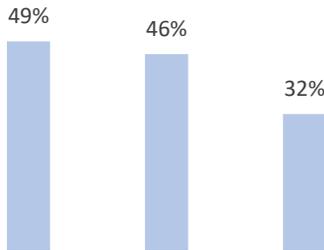
39%

Composition of LU3



The greater majority of the youth underutilized is formed of the potential labour force (82%). Discouraged job seekers account for nearly 4 in 10 unemployed.

LU3 by age group



Women are more affected by the scarcity of job opportunities (45%) compared with their male counterparts (32%). The picture is bleaker in rural communities (42%) compared with cities (36%).

Younger age groups face higher labour underutilisation rates.

Youth economic disengagement

Youth that are not in education, employment, or training (*NEET population*) reflects their *economic disengagement*. The NEET is an SDG indicator under Goal 8 'Decent work and economic growth' and part of the monitoring framework of the National Development Plan 2023-2027.



45%

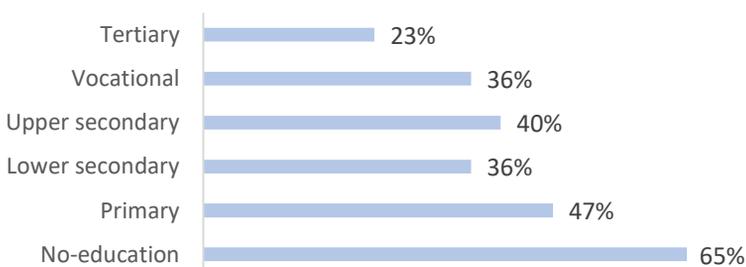
Nearly half of the youths are in NEET. This does not mean that half of the youth is idle, they may be involved in other forms of work, such as such as volunteer work or unpaid trainee work. The gap between men (43%) and women (47%) is not as big as expected and could result from female engagement in unpaid work (subsistence farming, domestic work, ...).

NEET by age group



The NEET rate increases with age to affect one out of two young people aged 19 years and above. This highlights the difficulties faced by the youths to enter the labour market.

NEET by educational attainment



Education and training are key to reducing the NEET rate. Nearly seven out of ten young people who never attended formal education have NEET status. The proportion falls to almost one in two among the youths with primary education.

Source: The 2022-23 Gambia Labour Force Survey is a nationally representative household-based sample survey. The sample consisted of 6,595 households and 48,300 individuals aged 15 years and above. The data collection was carried out from January to March 2023.