

The entry of young people into the labour market

Istat presents the main results of the survey “The entry of young people into the labour market.” The aim of the ad hoc module, issued in the second quarter of 2009 during the Labour force survey and in agreement with the European Community, is to gain additional information on the times and methods used to insert young people into work.

Jobs, internships, training while studying

Approximately one out of three 15-34 year olds from the total population (13,982,000 units in the second quarter of 2009) has at least one paid job and/or is on a work-study programme (training, internship, apprenticeship) during their studies in formal education. In particular, 15.1% of young people (2,115,000 units) have held at least one paid job during their studies and 18% (2,508,000 units) have been on at least one study-work programme.

In Southern Italy the situation is more critical: only 9.2% of young people have worked during their studies in formal education and 9.6% have participated in study-work programmes.

Young people not in education

The attempt to continue studying

Around 1.5 million young people up to 34 years of age who abandoned education processes tried subsequently to continue with their schooling. More precisely: 794 thousand young people, equal to 24.7% of those with a lower secondary school leaving certificate, did not finish upper secondary school; 620 thousand young people, 13.5% of those with a diploma, interrupted their degree course; 43 thousand abandoned specialisation undertaken after obtaining a university certificate.

Young people who already have lower secondary school certificates indicate difficulty in studying as the main reason for not continuing their education; among those with diplomas, the start of a working activity is the most important reason for abandoning a degree course.

The first job

Approximately 73% (6,713,000 units) of young people between 15 and 34 years of age after coming out of the formal education system have had at least one job experience lasting more than three consecutive months, in other words a significant experience. Of these, about 900,000 units were already working at the time of leaving their studies.

During the second quarter of 2009, around 89% of the young people who had matured professional experience remained employed, the majority in the same job, while one third of cases were occupied in a different job than before.

Young people 15-34 year-olds not in education with or without a first significant job by current employment status, gender, geographical area, level of education attained – II quarter 2009 (*absolute values and percentages*)

	With a first significant job (a)				Without a first significant job				Total
	Total	Current employment status			Total	Current employment status			
		Employed (a)	Unemployed	Inactive		Employed (b)	Unemployed	Inactive	
GENDER									
Males	79.8	73.9	3.6	2.3	20.2	2.9	6.1	11.2	100.0
Females	65.5	54.7	3.5	7.3	34.5	2.8	6.9	24.8	100.0
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA									
North	84.4	77.2	3.4	3.8	15.6	2.8	3.8	9.0	100.0
Centre	80.6	72.2	3.9	4.5	19.4	2.7	6.0	10.7	100.0
South and the Islands	55.6	46.3	3.5	5.8	44.4	3.0	10.0	31.4	100.0
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL									
Primary-lower secondary	64.3	54.4	4.2	5.7	35.7	2.5	6.5	26.7	100.0
Upper secondary	77.8	69.7	3.5	4.6	22.2	2.7	6.5	13.0	100.0
Tertiary	76.8	71.9	2.2	2.7	23.2	4.3	6.8	12.1	100.0
Total	72.9	64.7	3.5	4.7	27.1	2.9	6.5	17.7	100.0
GENDER									
Males	56.8	59.4	52.7	24.9	38.7	52.1	48.8	32.9	51.9
Females	43.2	40.6	47.3	75.1	61.3	47.9	51.2	67.1	48.1
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA									
North	51.3	52.9	42.7	36.0	25.6	43.4	25.7	22.6	44.3
Centre	20.0	20.2	20.2	17.1	13.0	16.9	16.8	11.0	18.1
South and the Islands	28.7	26.9	37.1	46.9	61.4	39.7	57.5	66.4	37.6
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL									
Primary-lower secondary	30.9	29.5	41.6	42.0	46.1	30.2	34.8	52.8	35.0
Upper secondary	53.2	53.8	48.9	49.4	40.9	46.9	49.5	36.8	49.9
Tertiary	15.9	16.7	9.5	8.6	13.0	22.9	15.7	10.4	15.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Absolute values (thousands)	6,713	5,954	325	434	2,494	263	601	1,630	9,207

(a) More than three months (b) from no more than three months

Following their studies, more than two million young people have not yet obtained work experience lasting more than three months. Above and beyond those 10% who were occupied for less than three months, this aggregate presents the same characteristics of the so-called *Neet (Not in education, employment or training)*, in other words young people who do not work and who are not studying. Sixty percent of this group is represented by women who, together with young people from Southern Italy, have the greatest obstacles regarding insertion in the labour market. In Southern Italy one young person in two is without professional experience matured after schooling.

Method to find the first job

The difficulties of entrance into the labour market are determined, at least in part, by the scarcity of information and above all the inefficiencies of the public intermediation system. The majority of the first entries into the labour market occurs, in fact, thanks to traditional communication methods that make use of direct knowledge: approximately 55% of young people find their first job through tips from their parents and friends. Little less than five percent of the total of young people find a job through the intermediation of Public Employment Services and Job agencies.

Entry times

Approximately 29% (2,595,000 units) of 15-34 year olds experiment their first significant job experience within one year after leaving the school system. Moreover, one young person out of ten starts their first job lasting more than three months before leaving regular education. Net of this group, the quota of young people with significant experience over one year reduces to 22 percent.

Young people 15-34 year-olds employed within one year from leaving regular education by first job starting time, gender, geographical area, level of education attained and cohort of exit from educational system II quarter 2009 (*incidence percentages and absolute values*)

	First job starting time			Total	Total 15-34 year-olds not in education (thousands)	
	Before leaving regular education	After leaving regular education				
		Within 3 months	From 4 to 12 months	Total		
GENDER						
Males	9.9	8.9	12.1	21.0	30.9	4,596
Females	9.8	7.7	10.3	18.0	27.8	4,224
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA						
North	12.5	12.3	13.9	26.2	38.7	3,923
Centre	12.1	9.3	13.5	22.8	34.9	1,584
South and the Islands	5.7	3.1	7.0	10.1	15.8	3,313
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL						
Primary-lower secondary	4.5	5.5	7.4	12.9	17.4	3,165
Upper secondary	11.7	9.2	12.6	21.8	33.5	4,403
Tertiary	16.9	12.1	16.3	28.4	45.3	1,252
COHORT OF EXIT FROM EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM						
II quart. 2006-II quart. 2008	16.2	12.0	18.0	30.0	46.2	1,053
II quart. 2004-II quart. 2006	15.0	9.7	12.3	22.0	37.0	1,033
II quart. 2002-II quart. 2004	13.0	9.2	12.4	21.6	34.6	1,008
II quart. 2000-II quart. 2002	10.9	9.9	11.6	21.5	32.4	1,006
Total	9.9	8.3	11.2	19.5	29.4	8,820

The share of young people from Southern Italy who entered in the labour market within one year from terminating their studies in formal education (15.8% of the total) is clearly lower than the shares in the North and Centre (38.7% and 34.9% respectively). The distances remain significant for both men and women.

Overeducation

During the second quarter of 2009, approximately 2.2 million young people up to 34 years of age no longer in education and with a degree or diploma (47.1% of the total) in their first job had a qualification that was superior to the one mainly requested for job performance.

The unsuitability of the first job to the level of instruction is widespread over the whole national territory, and pervades both the permanent jobs (1,242,000 units, being 48.3% of people with degrees and diplomas with the same characteristics) and the work contracts of limited duration (770 thousand units, being 51.2% of people with degrees and diplomas having the same characteristics) .

People in the same job and the condition after the first job

Among those young people who declare a significant work experience, about 57% (3,817,000 units) continues working with the same employer they started with.

Among the young people who declare a first working experience longer than three consecutive months, 2,869,000 people (about 43% of the total) ended that experience and found themselves, in the second

quarter of 2009, in another situation, namely they have a different job than the first one or they are not employed.

At the labour market entry point, the atypical jobs involves half the young people who ended their first job experience. Five years are required before the probability of moving from a first temporary job to a stable one involves half the young people who have entered the labour market with a temporary contract.

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