

Economic empowerment

## Brazil: youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)



## Key points

- In Brazil, 23% of young people (30% of young women and 19% of young men) were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2018.
- Since 2012, there has been a 15% growth in the proportion of youth classified as NEET, with a much larger increase among young men (25%) than young women (8%), mainly due to an overall increase in unemployment during the same period.
- NEET rates varied across regions within the country, and are lower in more developed regions, including differences by colour/race. Black or brown women had a higher NEET rate (32%) than white women (24%), and double the rate recorded among white men (16%).

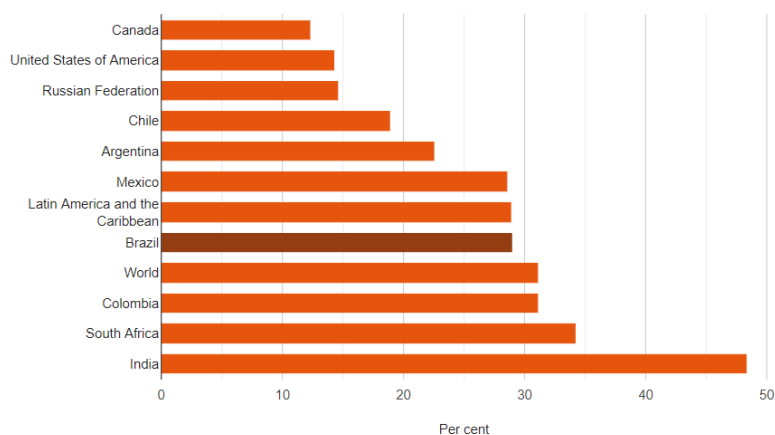
## Background

The proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training (the "NEET rate") is an important indicator for addressing a broad set of vulnerabilities among youth, such as unemployment, early school leaving and a widespread sense of discouragement about finding paid work (so-called labour market discouragement).<sup>1</sup> From a gender perspective, this indicator is crucial for monitoring how upcoming generations of young women are being affected by the traditional challenges faced by women, namely the balance between paid work and unpaid domestic and care work at home, including, for this specific cohort, the impact of the NEET rate on their opportunities to attain higher educational and professional qualifications.

## Almost one in four young people in Brazil were in the NEET group, with higher rates recorded for young women than young men

In 2018, there were around 32.4 million people in the youth population (aged 15–24) in Brazil; of that total, 7.3 million people (23%) were included in the NEET group. Young women comprised 49% of the youth population, but 59% of the NEET group. In addition, considering the NEET rate by sex, almost 30% of young women were not employed, engaged in education or training compared to 19% of young men. Estimates provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) reveal that the Brazilian rate is similar to rates observed for young women globally, but that the rate in Brazil is higher than that in other countries in the same region, such as Argentina (23%) and Chile (19%) (see figure I).

**Figure I:** Proportion of women (aged 15-24) not in education, employment or training, by selected countries: 2018 (Percentage)



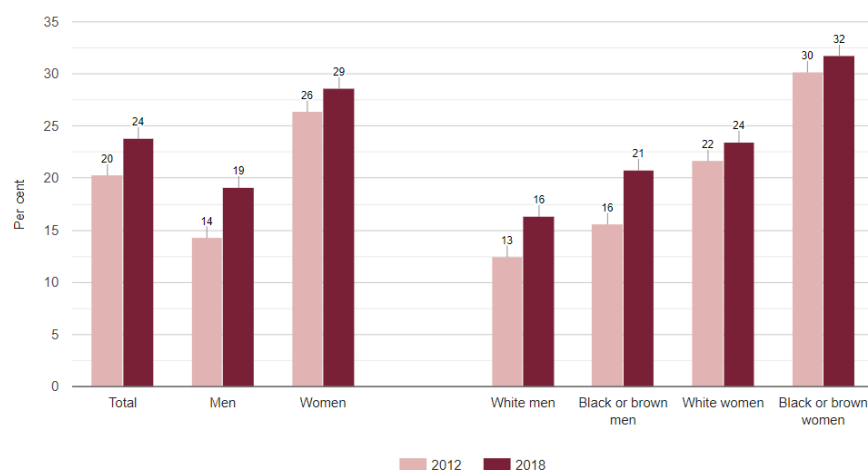
**Sources:** International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates; and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Statistics Division, Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>) (last accessed on 3 August 2020).

**Note:** Data refer to 2018 with the exception of data for the Russian Federation (2016), global data (2019) and data for the Latin America and the Caribbean region (2019).

## NEET rates varied across regions and/or by colour/race

Because Brazil covers a huge territory, which is highly heterogeneous and socially unequal, further data disaggregation and analysis are crucial for gaining a better understanding of the NEET rate in the country. The difference in NEET rates among regions reaches up to 12 percentage points. In 2018, the proportion of NEET was 29% in the northeast (the least developed region of the country) and 17% in the southeast (a more developed region). In addition to regional differences, black or brown women had a higher NEET rate (32%) than white women (24%), and double that of white men (16%).

**Figure II:** Share of the population not in employment, education or training by colour/race and by sex in Brazil: 2012 and 2018 (Percentage)



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Continuous National Household Sample Survey (2012 and 2018) (<https://www.ibge.gov.br/en/statistics/social/labor/16833-monthly-dissemination-pnad1.html?=&t=o-que-e>).

There has been a 15% growth in the proportion of the NEET population since 2012,<sup>2</sup> with a higher rate of increase among young men (25%) than young women (8%), mainly due to an overall increase in unemployment during the same time period (unemployed individuals are considered to be part of the NEET group). The gender difference in NEET rates, which was 12 percentage points in 2012, had decreased to 9 percentage points in 2018, although it remained significantly higher for women (see figure II).

It is important to highlight that carrying out **domestic chores and caring for family** members is historically affected by traditional gender roles, which affect the entry and retainment of women in the labour market. In Brazil, 93% of women and 80% of men over age 14 reported doing some unpaid domestic chores and unpaid care work activities in 2018. Moreover, the amount of this unpaid work done by women and men was also markedly different: on average, 21 hours a week for women and 11 hours for men. Among youth, the inequality in the distribution of this undervalued and unpaid work was even more unfavorable to women: 88% of young women reported carrying out such work versus 67% of young men.

## About the data

### Definitions

- **The proportion of youth (aged 15–24) in Brazil who are not in employment, education or training (also known as "the youth NEET rate"):** This indicator refers to young people in that age cohort who are not employed and who are outside the educational system, that is, not enrolled in formal/regular education or in training to gain entry to tertiary education or technical education or to obtain professional qualifications.

### Coverage

Youth population aged 15–24.

### Availability

Data are available from national and subnational indicators.

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## Footnotes

1. International Labour Organization (ILO), Key Indicators of the Labour Market, ninth edition, Geneva, 2016.
2. Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Continuous National Household Sample Survey (which replaced the previous National Household Sample Survey in 2012).