# Finished With School? Now What?

Freshly out of school, you might be wondering, what now? A job? Well, if you’re not lucky enough, you might be part of the 14.2 percent.

In the EU 14.2 precent of all youth, people aged between 15 and 24, are unemployed. This unemployment rate differs massively across Europe, ranging from Greece’s rate of 33 percent to just 5.1 percent in the Czech Republic. Austria sits comfortably in the lower end with 9.9% in between the United Kingdom and Malta.

Looking at these rates through an Austrian perspective, one might not worry much about not being able to find a job here. Many people I know found a job in less than 4 months. Our youth unemployment rate is below the EU average. It’s starts becoming more worrying if you’re in one of the countries with a higher rate, like Greece, Italy, Spain, or Croatia. There, you only have a less than 1 in 5 chance of finding a job, which isn’t very promising for many young, bright minds that just finished their education.

Of course, this also depends on your career choices. Technicians, engineers, or any job related to software development will, most likely, always be wanted in some capacity. Why? Electronics and software have become the backbone of today’s society, and this is unlikely to change any time soon.

These technical jobs require knowledge many people aren’t willing to learn because it’s hard. This is especially true for software engineers specializing in older programming languages like Pascal or COBOL. Governments and older companies often have internal software that’s written in these languages and either needs to be maintained or replaced. As a Pascal or COBOL developer you will have an easy time finding work, since there are few people who know how to use those.

Overall, the unemployment situation in some countries is concerning, but for more technical jobs, your chances of finding work improve a lot. Exponentially so, if you can work with an ancient programming language some company or government still relies on.