

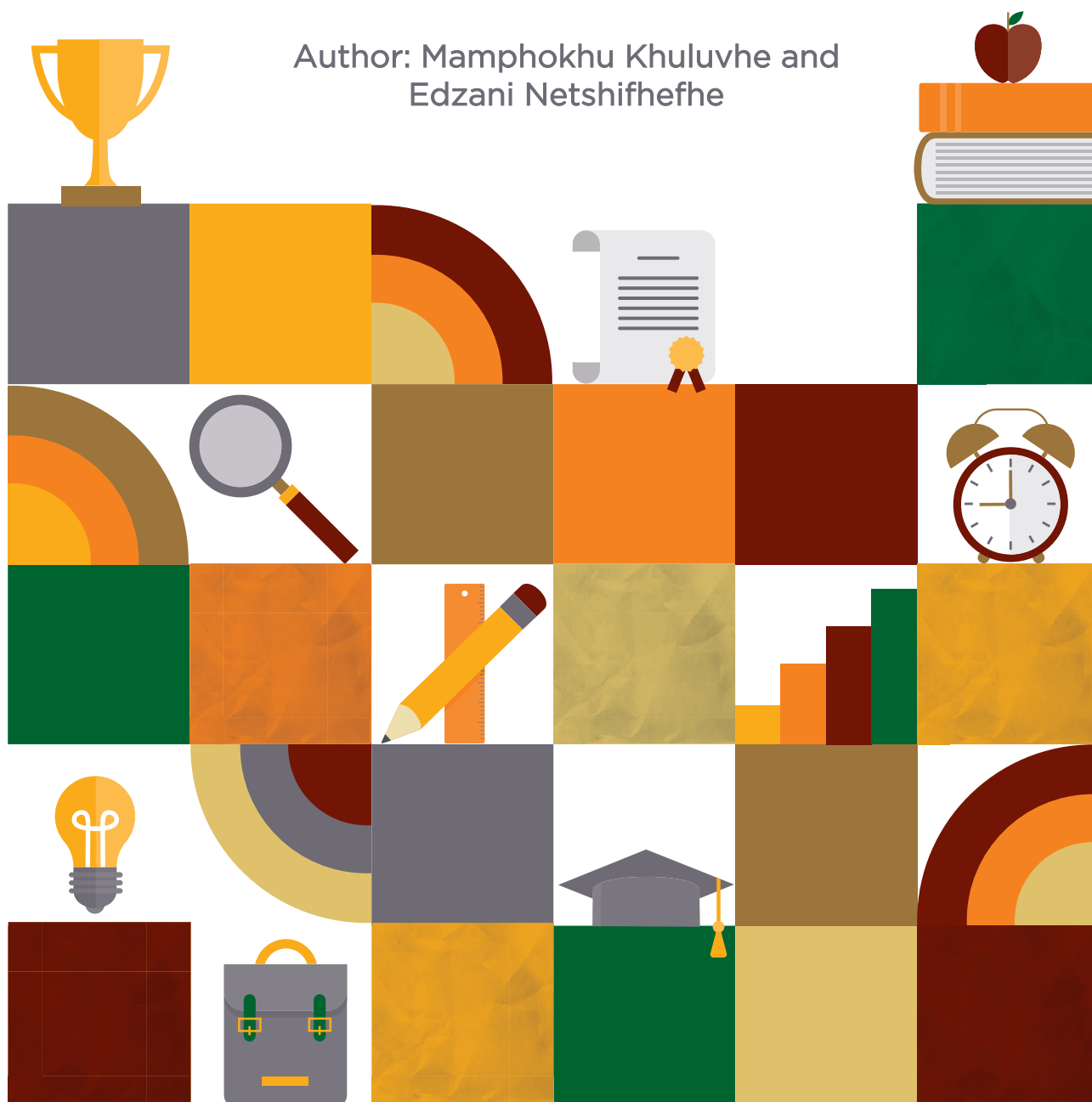
MARCH 2022

FACTSHEET

FACT SHEET ON “NEETS”

(Persons who are not in employment, education or training)

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higher education
& training

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1. BACKGROUND

The unemployment levels in South Africa are among the highest in the world and have remained consistently high over the past 15 years. The overall unemployment rate worsened to 34.9% in 2021 as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its massive impact on economic activity and social security. More alarming is that over one-third (3.5 million)¹ of young people aged 15–24 years are currently not in employment, education or training (NEET). Many of the young people who are NEET are in disadvantaged areas, including rural communities where opportunities for employment are limited. The persistently high levels of NEET in South Africa present itself as a socially explosive situation that requires urgent attention from all of society. Since youth are a fundamental asset for South Africa, it is crucial to provide them with skills needed for sound economic and social development, and for the future sustainability of our country.

The Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system has a crucial role to play in expanding access to post-school education and training opportunities beyond current provisioning levels to accommodate the growing number of people who are NEET, and to reskill and upskill millions of workers who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This requires PSET institutions to offer a diversity of programmes, not only to take account of the needs of the youth who completed schooling, but also for those who did not complete their schooling as well as those who require education and training opportunities to live more productive lives as workers and citizens. The monitoring of NEET trends through a Fact Sheet of this nature is critical as it alerts policy makers to the extent of the NEET problem and provide insights into the characteristics of those who are NEET. This Fact Sheet is therefore an essential information resource for policy makers as well as for education and training providers to guide improvements in the design and implementation of education and training policies that can respond to the NEET challenge in the country.

2. PURPOSE

This Fact Sheet provides a detailed profile of people who are NEET in order to support decision-making in the PSET system. Information about NEETs assists the DHET, Community Education and Training (CET) colleges, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about PSET provisioning. In particular, NEET data provides the Department and its stakeholders with evidence that can be used to inform the development of policy, strategies and plans, the setting of appropriate targets and effective budgeting.

¹ Stats SA (2021). Quarterly Labour Force Survey (3rd Quarter)

3. METHODOLOGY

The statistics used in this publication are drawn from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), which is conducted quarterly by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). They cover a period of 8 years from Quarter 3 (Q3): 2014 to Quarter 3 (Q3): 2021. Quarter 3 data (as opposed to Q1, 2 or 4) was selected for this publication since it represents the latest available data for 2021 at the time of preparing this Fact Sheet. More importantly, the selected period also considers the economic and labour market effects of COVID-19 in 2020 and its extension into 2021, thus providing a more realistic picture of the current NEET challenge in South Africa.

International comparative data was obtained from International Labour Organisation (ILO) publications. Many countries use people aged 15 to 24 years as the unit of analysis for understanding NEETs. However, this Fact Sheet provides NEET data for a wider age range of people in consideration of the Department of Higher Education and Training's mandate which includes adult learners as opposed to merely young people.

4. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

4.1. NEET

NEET refers to people who are not in employment, education or training. There are two categories of NEETs, namely, inactive NEETs and unemployed NEETs. **Inactive NEETs** refers to persons who are neither in employment, education or training and not looking for work. According to Stats SA, a person can be classified as an inactive NEET for various reasons such as managing a home (home maker), health reasons, too young/too old/retired/, discouraged work-seeker and other unmentioned reasons. **Unemployed NEETs** refers to the number of people who are neither in employment, education or training but actively seeking employment, and available to start work. This fact sheet reports data on the combination of both inactive and unemployed NEETs.

4.2 NEET rate

The NEET rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons in a given age group who are NEET, by the total population in the same age group. For instance, the NEET rate for youth is calculated as the number of persons aged 15-24 years who are NEET, divided by the number of persons aged 15 -24 in the population. The calculation of the NEET rate in this Fact Sheet is based on both active and inactive NEETs.

4.3 Youth

In South Africa, the official definition for “youth” refers to persons aged 15-34 years. The advantage of looking at this broad age range is that it includes the growing share of individuals who remain in education for longer and only enter the labour market in their late 20s.

4.4 Tertiary education

Tertiary education refers to the following qualifications:

- an undergraduate degree;
- a post-graduate degree;
- a diploma;
- a post-graduate diploma;
- a Higher Certificate (upon completion of matric); and
- an advanced Diploma or advanced Certificate

5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section presents an overview of the extent, trends and patterns of the NEET challenge in South Africa. The actual Tables and Figures depicting the findings are presented in section 6 of this report.

Status of the current NEET challenge in South Africa is as follows:

- Over 17.7 million of people aged 15-60 years were NEET in 2021. This translates to 46.3% of the total population aged 15-60 years (Table 1).
- More females than males were NEET in 2021, representing 55.7% of the total NEET group (Table 1).
- The overwhelming majority of persons who are NEET in South Africa are Black African, representing 85.8% of the total NEET group. This figure represents more than the Black African share of the population, which stands at 81%. (Table 1).
- In 2021, more than half (53.5%) of persons who are NEETs were 15-34 years old (Table 1).
- Low levels of education and skills heighten the risk of a person being NEET. Close to 60% of persons aged 15-60 years who were NEET had education levels below Grade 12 in 2021, followed by those with Grade 12 (33%). Persons with tertiary education made up 7% of the total number of persons who were NEET (Table 1).
- When considering the labour market status of persons aged 15-60 years who are NEET, the majority (57.5%) were not actively looking for employment (Table 1).

NEET trends are as follows:

- The number of persons aged 15-60 years who are NEET worsened from 38.8% in 2014 (14.9 million people) to 46.3% in 2021 (17.7 million people). This translates to an increase of over 4.4 million people over the past 8 years. This significant jump could be attributed largely to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 2).
- More disturbingly, an increase of over 1 million persons who are NEET was recorded between 2020 and 2021 resulting in a year-on-year increase of 6.1%. This statistic shows that even though most industries have re-opened and that even though COVID-19 restrictions have eased, the COVID-19 pandemic is having persistent effects. (Table 2).
- The number of persons aged 15-24 years who are NEET has remained stable at just over 3 million throughout the eight years under review, while the number of NEETs in the older age groups (25-60 years) have increased drastically. The biggest increase was amongst those aged 35-60 years (around 2.4 million persons), followed by those aged 25-34 years (about 1.8 million persons) from 2014 to 2021 (Table 3).
- The 2021 NEET rate is the highest among persons aged 25-34 years (58.3%), followed by those aged 35-60 years (46.7%) in 2021, while the NEET rate for those aged 15-24 years was the lowest (33.5%) (Figure 1).
- The decrease in the NEET rate observed between 2019 and 2020 for persons aged 15-24 years was short-lived as the NEET rate increased to 33.5% in 2021. The increase can be explained by the increase in the number of new entrants that entered the labour market while the conditions in the economy were not conducive to absorb the high number of unemployed people (Figure 1).
- The South African NEET rate for persons aged 15-24 years has remained relatively high compared to its BRICS counterparts (Brazil) and peer countries like Malaysia (Figure 2). In 2019, the NEET rate for South Africa stood at 32.5%, followed by Brazil (24.1%), Mexico (18.3%) and Malaysia (11.4%).
- As indicated above, the majority of persons who were NEET in 2021 were not actively looking for employment except for those in the 25-34 year age group. However, in 2020, most persons aged 25-34 years who were NEET did not actively look for employment due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions (Table 4).
- Enrolment in PSET has been on a downward trend from 2017 to 2021 exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions that disrupted teaching and learning. This has further widened the gap between the NEETs aged 15-24 years and students enrolled in PSET institutions (irrespective of age). In 2020, only 2.1 million students were enrolled in PSET

institutions irrespective of age while the number of NEETs aged 15-24 years were over 3.4 million (Figure 3).

- Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and Eastern Cape recorded the highest number of people who are NEET across all the age groups over the eight years under review (Table 8).
- The highest number of 15–34-year-old persons who were NEET in 2021 were new entrants in the labour market, followed by discouraged work-seekers, home makers and job losers (Table 9).
- On the other hand, the highest number of the older persons (35-60 years) who were NEET were home makers, those who have stated health reasons, discouraged work-seekers and job losers from 2014 to 2019. There was an increase in the number of discouraged work-seekers and job losers in 2020 and 2021 due the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 9).

6. STATISTICS ON NEET IN SOUTH AFRICA

Table 1: People aged 15-60 years who are NEET by demographic characteristics, 2021-Q3

Number of persons aged 15-60 years (Thousand)	Number of persons aged 15-60 years who are NEET (Thousand)	NEET rate (%)
38 243	17 721	46.3%
Demographics	Number of persons who are NEET (Thousand)	Share of persons who are NEET (%)
Gender	17 721	100.0
Male (15-60 years)	7 849	44.3
Female (15-60 years)	9 871	55.7
Population group	17 721	100.0
Black African (15-60 years)	15 198	85.8
Coloured (15-60 years)	1 591	9.0
Indian/Asian (15-60 years)	400	2.3
White (15-60 years)	531	3.0
Age group	17 721	100.0
15-24	3 432	19.4
25-34	6 044	34.1
35-60	8 245	46.5
Highest level of educational attainment	17 721	100.0
No Schooling (15-60 years)	431	2.4
Primary and less (15-60 years)	1 949	11.0
Secondary less than Grade 12 (15-60 years)	8 127	45.9
Grade 12 (15-60 years)	5 848	33.0
Tertiary (15-60 years)	1 229	6.9
Other (15-60 years)	136	0.8
Labour market status	17 721	100.0
Unemployed (15-60 years)	7 536	42.5
Inactive (15-60 years)	10 184	57.5
Reason	17 721	100.0
Job loser (15-60 years)	2 232	12.6
Job leaver (15-60 years)	281	1.6
New entrant (15-60 years)	3 098	17.5
Re-entrant (15-60 years)	293	1.7
Other – last worked >5 years ago (15-60 years)	1 632	9.2
Home maker (15-60 years)	2 717	15.3
Health reasons (15-60 years)	1 527	8.6
Too young/old/retired (15-60 years)	594	3.4
Discouraged work-seeker ² (15-60 years)	3 804	21.5
Other not economically active (15-60 years)	1 543	8.7

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

² Discouraged work-seeker is a person who was not employed during the reference period, wanted to work, was available to work/start a business but did not take active steps to find work during the last four weeks, provided that the main reason given for not seeking work was any of the following: no jobs available in the area; unable to find work requiring his/her skills; lost hope of finding any kind of work (Stats SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey).

Table 2: Total number and percentage of persons aged 15-60 who are NEET, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Year	Total number of persons aged 15-60 years, in thousands	Number of persons aged 15-60 years who are NEET, in thousands	NEET rate (%)	Year-on-year % change of persons who are NEET
2014	34 333	13 307	38.8%	
2015	34 948	13 103	↓ 37.5%	-1.5%
2016	35 526	13 668	↑ 38.5%	4.3%
2017	36 094	13 933	↑ 38.6%	1.9%
2018	36 687	14 345	↑ 39.1%	3.0%
2019	37 217	14 876	↑ 40.0%	3.7%
2020	37 736	16 696	↑ 44.2%	12.2%
2021	38 243	17 721	↑ 46.3%	6.1%

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

↑ - Increase in the number of people who are NEET. ↓ - Decline in the number of people who are NEET.

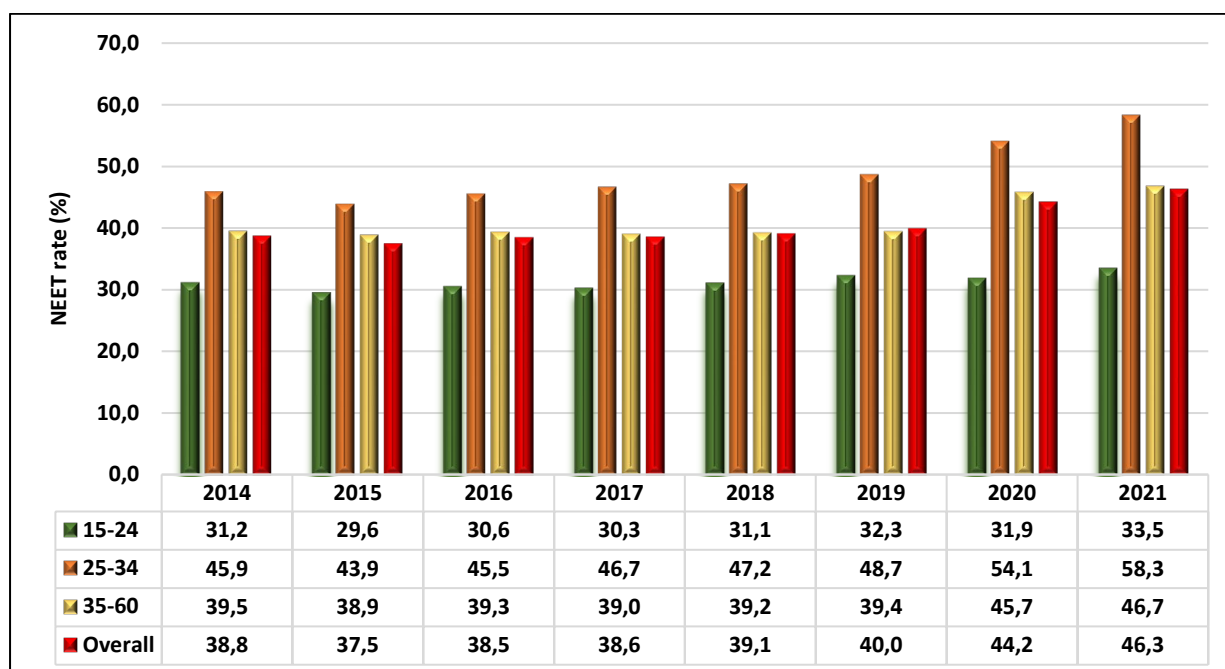
Table 3: Total number of NEETs by age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

NEET	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
25-34	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
35-60	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Total	13 307	13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

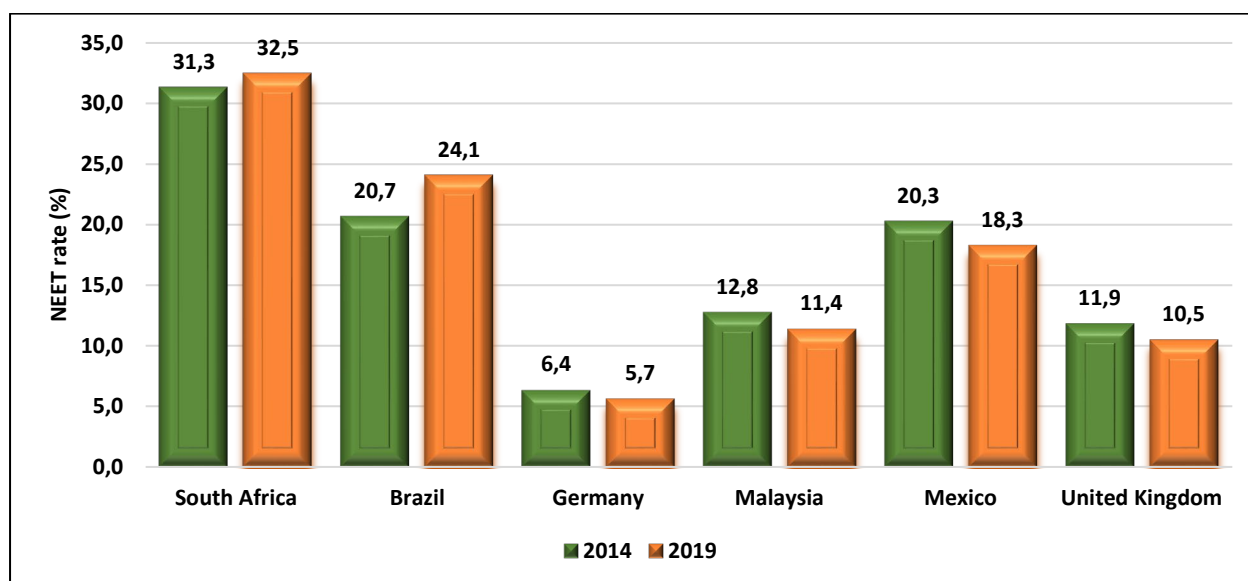
Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Figure 1: NEET rates by age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3



Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Figure 2: NEET rates for the persons aged 15-24 by country, 2014 and 2019



Source: International Labour Organisation

Note: Data downloaded from ILOSTAT on 15/12/20

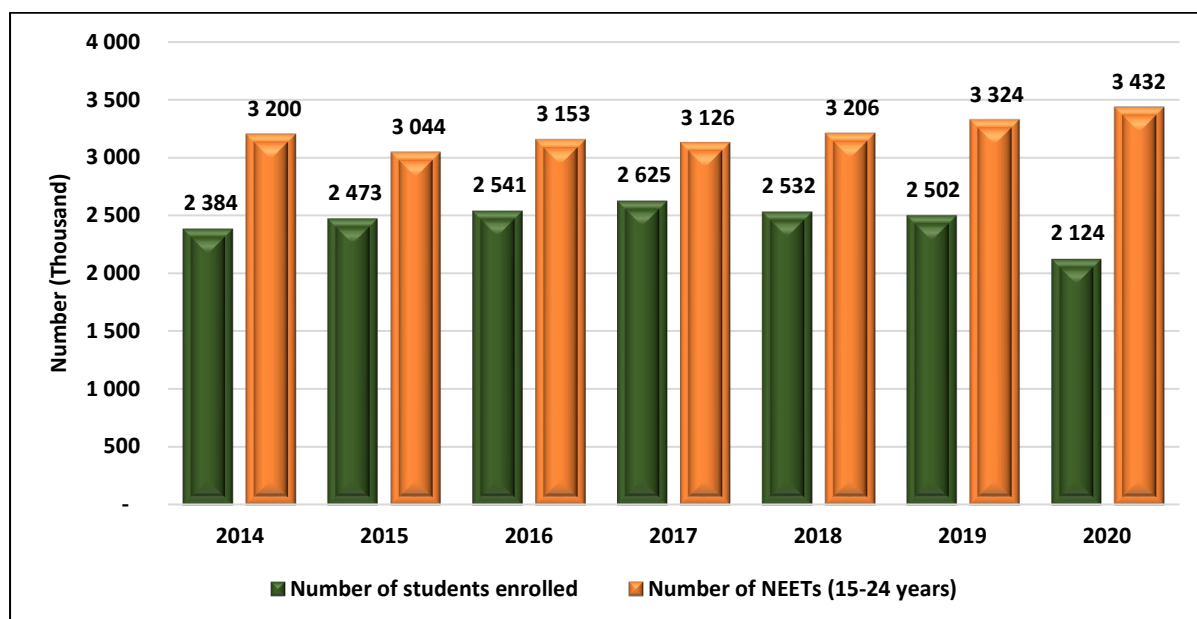
Table 4: Number of NEETs by labour market status (unemployed and inactive), 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Labour market status	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24 years	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
Unemployed	1 277	1 310	1 431	1 394	1 350	1 478	1 227	1 433
Inactive	1 923	1 734	1 722	1 732	1 856	1 846	2 045	1 999
25-34	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
Unemployed	2 129	2 104	2 286	2 415	2 459	2 664	2 565	3 032
Inactive	2 164	2 070	2 117	2 165	2 242	2 255	2 974	3 011
35-60	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Unemployed	1 660	1 851	2 029	2 287	2 267	2 446	2 644	3 071
Inactive	4 154	4 034	4 082	3 939	4 171	4 187	5 241	5 174
Total	13 307	13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Figure 3: Total number of students (all age groups) attending a PSET institution versus the number of NEETs (15-24-year olds), 2014 and 2020



Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar
Department of Higher Education and Training, Statistics on Post School Education and Training in South, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Note 1: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note 2: Number of students enrolled includes: Public and Private Higher Education Institutions; Colleges (TVET, CET and Private colleges); and SETA supported WBL

Table 5: Total number of NEETs by gender and age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24 years	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
Male	1 444	1 394	1 429	1 429	1 481	1 566	1 590	1 647
Female	1 756	1 650	1 724	1 698	1 725	1 758	1 682	1 785
25-34 years	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
Male	1 843	1 796	1 869	2 055	2 114	2 236	2 552	2 772
Female	2 450	2 378	2 534	2 526	2 587	2 683	2 987	3 271
35-60 years	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Male	2 191	2 244	2 368	2 431	2 527	2 639	3 237	3 430
Female	3 623	3 641	3 743	3 795	3 911	3 994	4 648	4 815
Total	13 307	13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6: Number of NEETs by race and age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Race group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24 years	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
Black African	2 751	2 655	2 734	2 721	2 786	2 923	2 850	2 995
Coloured	298	272	296	290	290	285	292	317
Indian/Asian	58	43	50	42	43	40	45	52
White	93	73	74	74	86	77	85	68
25-34 years	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
Black African	3 819	3 737	3 927	4 085	4 233	4 416	4 921	5 414
Coloured	284	297	291	320	291	311	414	456
Indian/Asian	68	66	75	69	77	76	93	102
White	122	74	110	106	100	116	112	71
35-60 years	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Black African	4 619	4 671	4 883	4 990	5 214	5 446	6 456	6 789
Coloured	581	610	623	643	653	622	775	818
Indian/Asian	181	201	191	197	180	191	237	246
White	434	403	414	396	392	374	417	393
Total	13 307	13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7: Share of NEETs by highest level of education attainment, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Educational Level	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	%							
15-24 years	24.0	23.2	23.1	22.4	22.3	22.3	19.6	19.4
No Schooling	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.5
Primary and less	10.9	11.2	11.5	10.6	9.8	9.1	7.4	7.3
Secondary less than grade 12	49.3	47.7	48.2	46.3	46.0	44.6	42.0	40.0
Grade 12	33.9	34.6	33.9	37.1	37.9	40.2	43.6	45.7
Tertiary	3.5	4.2	4.1	3.6	4.2	4.1	5.1	4.6
Other	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9
25-34 years	32.3	31.9	32.2	32.9	32.8	33.1	33.2	34.1
No Schooling	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.9
Primary and less	9.4	10.2	10.3	9.2	8.6	7.8	5.7	5.6
Secondary less than grade 12	51.3	50.1	51.8	49.1	49.7	51.4	47.2	48.7
Grade 12	29.7	30.4	28.7	31.5	32.5	30.1	36.8	35.5
Tertiary	7.2	6.5	6.7	7.8	6.9	8.3	8.7	8.9
Other	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.4
35-60 years	43.7	44.9	44.7	44.7	44.9	44.6	47.2	46.5
No Schooling	8.3	8.1	7.2	6.4	6.4	5.8	3.9	3.9
Primary and less	25.7	25.1	24.0	22.8	21.7	20.3	17.6	16.5
Secondary less than grade 12	40.9	41.1	42.4	42.6	42.8	42.8	44.8	46.2
Grade 12	18.7	19.1	19.8	20.7	21.9	23.6	25.7	25.9
Tertiary	5.3	5.8	5.7	6.6	6.0	6.5	6.9	6.4
Other and unspecified	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Total number of NEETs by province and age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Province	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24 years	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
Western Cape	317	281	292	296	299	304	288	323
Eastern Cape	484	421	420	464	455	486	404	424
Northern Cape	82	84	84	90	75	88	108	100
Free State	172	158	167	162	150	144	147	170
KwaZulu-Natal	666	627	680	675	705	750	776	691
North West	255	225	242	258	251	253	233	300
Gauteng	608	639	687	627	669	672	697	768
Mpumalanga	269	270	265	252	287	287	249	287
Limpopo	346	339	315	303	314	340	371	369
25-34 years	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
Western Cape	389	351	353	408	375	416	490	476
Eastern Cape	561	578	572	605	675	635	735	816
Northern Cape	88	95	92	105	104	104	99	118
Free State	246	243	247	215	241	275	253	292
KwaZulu-Natal	900	869	955	975	993	1 012	1 176	1 320
North West	297	307	350	320	309	353	370	416
Gauteng	927	956	1 019	1 080	1 116	1 134	1 354	1 401
Mpumalanga	399	332	358	392	386	423	446	474
Limpopo	486	441	457	480	501	565	615	731
35-60 years	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Western Cape	669	674	704	699	717	713	931	980
Eastern Cape	712	735	703	768	811	787	908	916
Northern Cape	143	159	164	158	165	154	180	198
Free State	319	304	329	307	337	338	386	371
KwaZulu-Natal	1 119	1 126	1 173	1 198	1 177	1 246	1 436	1 484
North West	468	492	497	479	519	532	580	621
Gauteng	1 446	1 484	1 569	1 649	1 719	1 775	2 213	2 318
Mpumalanga	390	400	429	434	432	475	537	565
Limpopo	548	510	542	534	560	614	714	792
Total	13 307	13 103	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 9: Total number of NEETs by reason and age group, 2014-Q3 to 2021-Q3

Reason	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Thousand							
15-24 years	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272	3 432
Job loser	285	256	288	299	252	310	203	223
Job leaver	61	63	50	54	41	44	43	40
New entrant	869	930	1 027	983	982	1 048	914	1 108
Re-entrant	40	49	44	43	45	57	38	38
Other - last worked >5 years ago	21	13	22	15	29	20	29	24
Home-maker	477	441	487	436	428	418	347	348
Health reasons	136	139	128	134	127	118	147	171
Too young/old/retired	49	40	46	68	65	50	45	73
Discouraged work-seekers	694	587	563	608	674	698	588	778
Other not economically active	567	526	498	486	562	563	919	628
25-34 years	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539	6 044
Job loser	758	779	771	814	831	897	794	894
Job leaver	145	146	138	133	147	144	174	93
New entrant	824	807	952	978	1 050	1 071	1 133	1 471
Re-entrant	115	104	129	141	103	127	123	86
Other - last worked >5 years ago	287	269	297	349	328	426	340	488
Home-maker	781	709	731	710	708	687	736	817
Health reasons	278	280	281	269	272	268	233	254
Too young/old/retired	5	4	3	6	4	7	5	5
Discouraged work-seekers	857	826	837	930	996	1 026	992	1 465
Other not economically active	242	252	264	251	262	267	1 009	471
35-60 years	5 814	4 034	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885	8 245
Job loser	652	721	764	892	840	868	954	1 115
Job leaver	122	135	126	140	115	110	271	149
New entrant	218	323	281	299	402	336	388	519
Re-entrant	90	81	142	131	101	144	152	169
Other - last worked >5 years ago	578	591	717	826	809	987	879	1 120
Home-maker	1 470	1 390	1 371	1 313	1 337	1 421	1 420	1 552
Health reasons	1 149	1 158	1 161	1 104	1 088	1 009	1 027	1 102
Too young/old/retired	392	494	504	477	476	526	477	515
Discouraged work-seekers	890	749	812	833	997	1 001	1 074	1 560
Other not economically active	253	245	234	212	273	229	1 243	445
Total	13 307	11 253	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696	17 721

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey Nesstar, calculations by Authors.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

7. CONCLUSION

This fact sheet provides a trend profile of people who were NEET over the past 8 years. The Fact Sheet confirms that South Africa has one of the highest NEET rates in the world. Most notably is the ever-increasing NEET rate which present a serious problem for South Africa's social stability. The post-school education and training needs to play a critical role in curbing the increasing number of NEETs by improving access and ensure that the kind of education and training that is provided is relevant and responsive to the needs of social and economic development. Most importantly, the promotion of skills for entrepreneurship development is key to the reduction of the NEET rate. The Sector Education and Training Authorities, TVET colleges and Community Education and Training colleges are crucial in enabling the attainment of basic skills, including reskilling and upskilling.