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FACT SHEET

“NEETS”

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

Authors: Mamphokhu Khuluvhe and Vusani Negogogo



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Higher Education and Training

123 Francis Baard Street
Pretoria
South Africa

Private Bag X174
Pretoria
0001

Tel.: 0800 87 22 22

www.dhet.gov.za

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Enquiries:

Tel.: 012 312 5465/5826

Fax: 086 457 0289

Email: Khuluvhe.m@dhet.gov.za / Negogogo.v@dhet.gov.za

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1. BACKGROUND

Expanding access and diversifying education and training provision, as well as improving its quality and responsiveness to the world of work are the main policy objectives of the Post-School Education and Training system (White Paper for PSET, 2013). However, attainment of these objectives remain challenging as South Africa continues to face an ever-increasing number of people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). In respect of the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system, the upsurge in the number of NEET suggests the need to expand access to post-school education and training opportunities in the system beyond current provisioning levels in order to accommodate such growing number of people who are NEET. 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.

During this current epoch of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PSET system has a crucial role to play in reskilling and upskilling millions of workers who lost their jobs, and those who have to work differently. It is therefore equally important to cater for the needs of older people, including those who never attended school, as well as those who require education and training opportunities in order 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 can alert 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 and 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.

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 (StatsSA). They cover a period of 8 years - from Quarter 3 (Q3): 2013 to Quarter 3 (Q3): 2020. Quarter 3 data (as opposed to Q1, 2 or 4) was selected for this publication since it represented the latest available data for 2020 at the time of preparing this Fact

Sheet. More importantly, the 2020 Q3 data also takes into account the economic and labour market effects of COVID-19 in 2020, 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. Internationally, many countries use young 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 the number of 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 StatsSA, 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, number of persons aged 15-24 years who are NEET, divided by the number of persons aged 15 -24 in the population.

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. Where findings refer to a different age range or a subset of youth (e.g. only the 15-24 year-olds), this is explicitly noted.

4.4 Tertiary education

Tertiary education refers to the following qualifications:

- an undergraduate degree;
- a post-graduate degree;
- a 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 persons who are NEET in South Africa by describing their personal characteristics. 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:

- Close to 17 million people aged 15-60 were NEET in the latter part of 2020. This figure comprises 44% of the total 15 – 60 aged population (Table 1).
- In 2020, the majority of NEETs in the 15-60-year age group were female (55.8%) and African (85.2%) (Table 1).
- More than half of the approximately 17 million NEET persons referred to above were younger than 35 years (Table 1).
- Low levels of education and skills heighten the risk of a person being NEET. About 59% of people aged 15 – 60 who were NEET had education levels below matric in 2020, followed by those with matric at about 34%. Persons who had a tertiary qualification accounted for only 7% of NEETs (Table 1).
- The labour market status of persons aged 15-60 who were NEET in 2020 indicates that the majority (~ 62%) were not actively seeking employment (Table 1).

NEET trends are as follows:

- Predictably, the share of persons aged 15-60 who were NEET was much higher in 2020 compared to analogous periods in preceding years. The proportion of NEETs in the 15-60-year-old population grew from 38% in 2013 to 44% in 2020. This translates to an increase of close to 4 million people (Table 2).
- Unsurprisingly, COVID-19 had a dramatic effect on the size of the South African NEET population in 2020. The number of persons aged 15-60 who were NEET increased significantly from 15 million in 2019 to 17 million in 2020, an increase of 12% (Table 2).
- The proportion of adults who were NEET increased significantly more over the past 8 years, than the proportion of youth who were NEET during this period (Table 3).
- Between 2013 and 2020, the proportion of NEET youth (15-34 year olds) increased by 20%; on the other hand, the proportion of NEET adults (35 - 60 year olds) increased by 41% (twice that of the NEET youth) (Table 3). This trend is most likely due to older workers who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.
- However, despite greater increases in the adult NEET rate, the actual NEET rate remains highest amongst youth aged 25-34 years over the entire period 2013 to 2020 (Table 4).

- The NEET rate of youth aged 15-24 years has remained relatively stable at between 30% and 32% over the past 8 years (Table 4). Surprisingly, there was a 0.4 percentage point drop in the NEET rate between 2019 and 2020, from 32.3% to 31.9%. Given increased levels of unemployment during this same period, the drop in the NEET numbers was due to a decline in the population of this age group, from 10 286 366 in 2019 to 10 259 498 in 2020. Additionally, it can be assumed that the drop in NEET numbers could be due to improved participation in education and training.
- Although the South African NEET rate for the persons aged 15-24 has remained fairly stable from 2013 to 2018, it remains remarkably higher than its BRICS counterparts and peer countries such as Malaysia (Figure 1).
- A breakdown of NEETs into unemployed and inactive shows that the majority of NEETs are inactive and not looking for work, with the exception of the NEETs aged 25-34 years who were mostly unemployed between 2015 and 2019 (Table 5). The observed increase in the number of unemployed NEETs is most likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enrolment in PSET institutions is increasing year-on-year, but the increase is not sufficient enough to curb the high numbers of people who are NEET in the country. In 2018, only 2.5 million students of all age groups are enrolled in PSET institutions, yet 3.2 million youth aged 15-24 year olds are in the NEET category (Figure 2).
- Numbers of people who were NEET by province indicate that Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape had the highest numbers of NEETs recorded across all age groups over the entire period under review (Table 9).
- Various reasons were noted as factors causing people being NEET. For persons aged 15-34 years, being new entrants into the labour market, discouraged job seekers, home makers, job losers and health reasons were the major reasons for being NEET over the period 2013 to 2020. Concomitantly, reasons attributed to persons aged 35-60 years being NEET include being a home maker and health reasons (Table 10).
- Section 6 below presents the tables and figures containing the main results from a detailed profile of persons who are NEET in South Africa.

6. TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: NEET by demographic characteristics, 2020-Q3

Number of persons aged 15-60 years	No. of persons aged 15-60 years who are NEET, in thousands	NEET rate (%)
37 736	16 696	44.2%
	No. of persons who are NEET, in thousands	Share of persons who are NEET, %
By gender	16 696	100.0%
Male	7 379	44.2%
Female	9 317	55.8%
By race	16 696	100.0%
Black African	14 227	85.2%
Coloured	1 481	8.9%
Indian/Asian	375	2.2%
White	614	3.7%
By age group	16 696	100.0%
15-24	3 272	19.6%
25-34	5 539	33.2%
35-60	7 885	47.2%
By highest level of educational attainment	16 696	100.0%
No Schooling	389	2.3%
Primary and less	1 951	11.7%
Secondary less than grade 12	7 520	45.0%
Grade 12	5 494	32.9%
Tertiary	1 192	7.1%
Other and unspecified	151	0.9%
By labour market status	16 696	100.0%
Unemployed	6 436	38.5%
Inactive	10 260	61.5%
By reason	16 696	100.0%
Job losers	1 951	11.7%
New entrants	2 435	14.6%
Re-entrants	313	1.9%
Other unemployed ^[1]	1 737	10.4%
Home maker	2 503	15.0%
Health reasons	1 407	8.4%
Too young/old/retired	5 27	3.2%
Discouraged job-seeker	2 654	15.9%
Other not economically active	3 171	19.0%

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 2: Total number and percentage of persons aged 15-60 who are NEET, 2013-Q3 to 2020-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 % Δ of persons who are NEET
2013	33 764	12 913	38.2%	
2014	34 333	13 307	↑ 38.8%	3.1%
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%

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, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

NEET	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	'000'							
15-24	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
25-34	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
35-60	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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

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

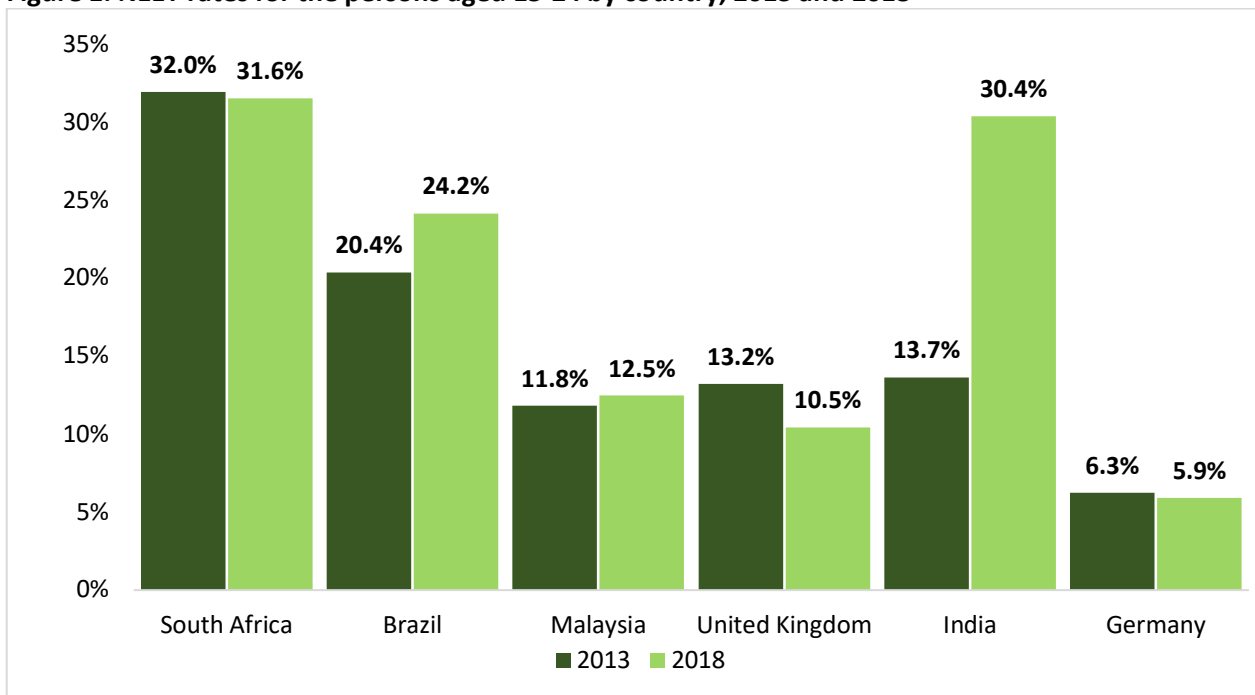
Table 4: NEET rates by age group, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

NEET	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15-24	31.4%	31.1%	29.6%	30.6%	30.3%	31.1%	32.3%	31.9%
25-34	44.9%	45.9%	43.9%	45.6%	46.7%	47.2%	48.7%	54.1%
35-60	38.9%	39.5%	38.9%	39.3%	39.0%	39.2%	39.4%	45.7%
Overall	38.2%	38.8%	37.5%	38.5%	38.6%	39.1%	40.0%	44.2%

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 for the persons aged 15-24 by country, 2013 and 2018



Source: International Labour Organisation

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

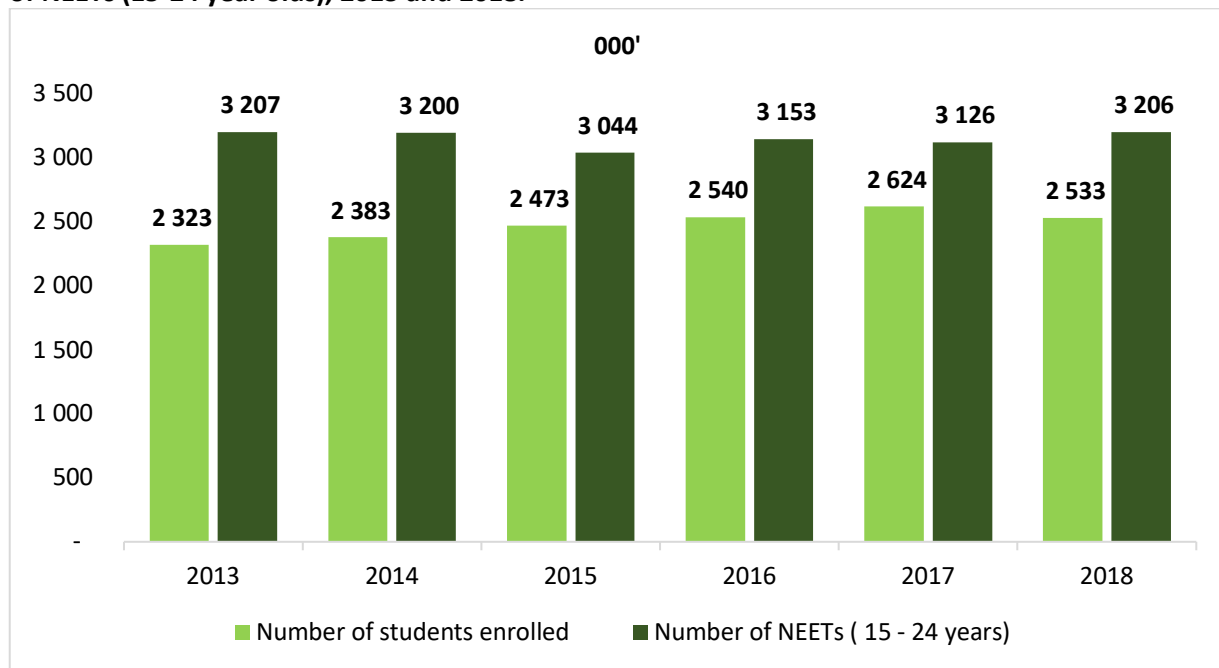
Table 5: Number of NEETs by labour market status (unemployed and inactive), 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Reason	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	'000'							
15-24 years	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
Unemployed	1 284	1 277	1 310	1 431	1 394	1 350	1 478	1 227
Inactive	1 923	1 923	1 734	1 722	1 732	1 856	1 846	2 045
25-34	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
Unemployed	1 890	2 129	2 104	2 286	2 415	2 459	2 664	2 565
Inactive	2 231	2 164	2 070	2 117	2 165	2 242	2 255	2 974
35-60	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Unemployed	1 590	1 660	1 851	2 029	2 287	2 267	2 446	2 644
Inactive	3 994	4 154	4 034	4 082	3 939	4 171	4 187	5 241
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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 2: Total number of students (all age groups) attending a PSET institution versus the number of NEETs (15-24 year olds), 2013 and 2018.



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 and 2018

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

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

Table 6: Total number of NEETs by gender and age group, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Gender	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
000'								
15-24 years	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
Male	1 511	1 444	1 394	1 429	1 429	1 481	1 566	1 590
Female	1 696	1 756	1 650	1 724	1 698	1 725	1 758	1 682
25-34 years	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
Male	1 783	1 843	1 796	1 869	2 055	2 114	2 236	2 552
Female	2 339	2 450	2 378	2 368	2 526	2 587	2 683	2 987
35-60 years	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Male	2 127	2 191	2 244	2 534	2 431	2 527	2 639	3 237
Female	3 457	3 623	3 641	3 744	3 795	3 911	3 994	4 648
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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: Number of NEETs by race and age group, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Race group	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
000'								
15-24 years	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
Black African	2 799	2 751	2 655	2 734	2 721	2 786	2 923	2 850
Coloured	287	298	272	296	290	290	285	292
Indian/Asian	44	58	43	50	42	43	40	45
White	78	93	73	74	74	86	75	85
25-34	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
Black African	3 660	3 819	3 737	3 927	4 085	4 233	4 416	4 921
Coloured	294	284	297	291 7	320	291	311	414
Indian/Asian	67	68	66	75	69	77	76	93
White	101	122	74	110	106	100	116	112
35-60	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Black African	4 394	4 619	4 671	4 883	4 990	5 214	5 446	6 456
Coloured	588	581	610	623	643	653	622	775
Indian/Asian	178	181	201 0	191	197	180	191	237
White	423	434	403	414	396	392	374	417
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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: Share of NEETs by highest level of education attainment, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Educational Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
%								
15-24 years	24,8%	24,0%	23,2%	23,1%	22,4%	22,3%	22,3%	19,6%
No Schooling	1,4%	1,7%	1,6%	1,5%	1,5%	1,4%	1,3%	1,0%
Primary and less	11,3%	10,9%	11,2%	11,5%	10,6%	9,8%	9,1%	7,4%
Secondary less than grade 12	50,0%	49,3%	47,7%	48,2%	46,3%	46,0%	44,6%	42,0%
Grade 12	32,6%	33,9%	34,6%	33,9%	37,1%	37,9%	40,2%	43,6%
Tertiary	4,4%	3,5%	4,2%	4,1%	3,6%	4,2%	4,1%	5,1%
Other and unspecified	0,3%	0,7%	0,7%	0,8%	0,8%	0,7%	0,6%	0,9%
25-34 years	31,9%	32,3%	31,9%	32,2%	32,9%	32,8%	33,1%	33,2%
No Schooling	2,0%	1,8%	2,2%	1,8%	1,7%	1,7%	1,5%	0,9%
Primary and less	10,3%	9,4%	10,2%	10,3%	9,2%	8,6%	7,8%	5,7%
Secondary less than grade 12	51,8%	51,3%	50,1%	51,8%	49,1%	49,7%	51,4%	47,2%
Grade 12	29,4%	29,7%	30,4%	28,7%	31,5%	32,5%	30,1%	36,8%
Tertiary	5,8%	7,2%	6,5%	6,7%	7,8%	6,9%	8,3%	8,7%
Other and unspecified	0,7%	0,6%	0,7%	0,7%	0,7%	0,6%	0,9%	0,6%
35-60 years	43,2%	43,7%	44,9%	44,7%	44,7%	44,9%	44,6%	47,2%
No Schooling	8,4%	8,3%	8,1%	7,2%	6,4%	6,4%	5,8%	3,9%
Primary and less	27,2%	25,7%	25,1%	24,0%	22,8%	21,7%	20,3%	17,6%
Secondary less than grade 12	40,7%	40,9%	41,1%	42,4%	42,6%	42,8%	42,8%	44,8%
Grade 12	17,9%	18,7%	19,1%	19,8%	20,7%	21,9%	23,6%	25,7%
Tertiary	4,9%	5,3%	5,8%	5,7%	6,6%	6,0%	6,5%	6,9%
Other and unspecified	0,9%	1,1%	0,9%	1,0%	1,0%	1,1%	1,0%	1,1%
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 9: Total number of NEETs by province and age group, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Province	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15-24 years	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
Western Cape	303	317	281	292	296	299	304	288
Eastern Cape	480	484	421	420	464	455	486	404
Northern Cape	69	82	84	84	90	75	88	108
Free State	167	172	158	167	162	150	144	147
KwaZulu-Natal	623	666	627	680	675	705	750	776
North West	255	255	224	242	258	251	253	233
Gauteng	654	608	639	687	627	669	672	697
Mpumalanga	274	269	270	265	252	287	287	249
Limpopo	383	346	339	315	303	314	340	37
25-34	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
Western Cape	361	389	351	353	408	375	416	490
Eastern Cape	577	562	578	572	605	675	635	735
Northern Cape	93	88	95	92	105	104	104	99
Free State	245	246	243	247	215	241	275	253
KwaZulu-Natal	841	900	869	955	975	993	1 012	1 176
North West	303	297	307	350	320	309	353	370
Gauteng	908	927	956	1 019	1 080	1 116	1 134	1 354
Mpumalanga	317	399	332	358	392	386	423	446
Limpopo	477	486	441	457	480	501	565	615
35-60	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Western Cape	669	667	674	704	699	717	713	931
Eastern Cape	724	702	735	703	768	811	787	908
Northern Cape	138	145	160	164	158	165	154	180
Free State	327	320	304	329	307	337	338	386
KwaZulu-Natal	1 035	1 121	1 126	1 173	1 198	1 177	1 246	1 436
North West	471	470	492	497	479	519	532	580
Gauteng	1 338	1 439	1 484	1 569	1 649	1 719	1 775	2 213
Mpumalanga	367	388	400	429	434	432	475	537
Limpopo	515	553	510	542	534	560	614	714
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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 10: Total number of NEETs by reason and age group, 2013-Q3 to 2020-Q3

Reason	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	000'							
15 – 24 years	3 207	3 200	3 044	3 153	3 126	3 206	3 324	3 272
Job losers	260	285	256	288	299	252	310	203
New entrants	903	869	930	1 027	983	982	1 048	914
Re-entrants	56	40	49	44	43	45	57	38
Other unemployed ¹	66	82	76	72	69	71	64	72
Home maker	496	477	441	487	436	428	418	347
Health reasons	131	136	139	128	134	127	118	147
Too young/old/retired	38	49	40	46	68	65	50	45
Discouraged job-seeker	661	694	587	563	608	674	699	588
Other not economically active	598	567	526	498	486	562	563	919
25-34 years	4 121	4 293	4 175	4 403	4 581	4 701	4 919	5 539
Job losers	652	758	779	771	814	831	897	794
New entrants	724	824	807	952	978	1 050	1 071	1 133
Re-entrants	110	115	104	129	141	103	127	123
Other unemployed	404	432	414	434	482	475	570	515
Home maker	818	781	709	731	710	708	687	736
Health reasons	300	278	280	281	269	272	268	233
Too young/old/retired	2	5	4	3	6	4	7	5
Discouraged job-seeker	819	857	826	837	930	996	1 026	992
Other not economically active	292	242	252	264	251	262	267	1 009
35-60 years	5 584	5 814	5 885	6 112	6 226	6 438	6 633	7 885
Job losers	620	652	721	764	892	840	868	954
New entrants	213	218	323	281	299	402	336	388
Re-entrants	67	90	81	142	131	101	144	152
Other unemployed	690	700	726	842	966	924	1 097	1 150
Home maker	1 392	1 470	1 390	1 371	1 313	1 337	1 421	1 420
Health reasons	1 211	1 149	1 158	1 161	1 104	1 088	1 009	1 027
Too young/old/retired	435	392	494	504	477	476	526	477
Discouraged job-seeker	750	890	749	812	833	997	1 001	1 074
Other not economically active	206	253	245	234	212	273	229	1 243
Total	12 912	13 307	13 104	13 668	13 933	14 345	14 876	16 696

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

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

¹ Other unemployed includes job leavers and Other - last worked >5 years ago

7. Conclusions

This fact sheet provided a profile of people who were NEET between Q3:2013 and Q3:2020. Most notably was the substantial drastic upsurge in the share of NEETs in the 15-60-year-old population. The number of NEETs grew from 38% in 2013 to 44% in 2020, which translates to an increase of roughly 4 million people. Additionally, the analysis showed that access to universities, TVET colleges and CET colleges has improved year-on-year, however, it is still not keeping pace with the growing number of youth not in employment, education or training. Thus, the increase in PSET opportunities is not enough to curb the high numbers of people who are NEET in the country.

The analysis in this Fact Sheet also showed that the majority of people who are NEET in South Africa have education levels below matric. This suggest an important role to be played by CET and TVET colleges. CET colleges, in particular, are viewed as best positioned to offer training to youth who are not in employment, education or training by providing opportunities to improve levels of education and adult literacy as well as skills for self-employment. Overall, the PSET system has a crucial role to play in enabling the attainment of basic skills, including reskilling and upskilling.