



RURAL NEETS IN GERMANY



2009/2019
OVERVIEW



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines in detail the situation of rural Youths Neither in Employment, nor in Education or Training (NEET) aged between 15 and 34 years old, over the last decade (2009–2019) in Germany. To do this, the report utilised indicators of: youth population; youth employment and unemployment; education; and, NEETs distribution. The characterisation of all indicators adopted the degree of urbanisation as a central criterion, enabling proportional comparisons between rural areas, towns and suburbs, cities and the whole country. These analyses are further divided into age subgroups and, where possible, into sex groups for greater detail.

The statistical procedures adopted across the different selected dimensions involve: descriptive longitudinal analysis; using graphical displays (e.g., overlay line charts); and, the calculation of proportional absolute and relative changes between 2009 and 2013, 2013 and 2019, and finally 2009 and 2019. These time ranges were chosen to capture the indicators evolution before and after the economic crisis which hit European countries. All data was extracted from Eurostat public datasets.

The analyses show that the rural youth population aged 15 to 24 years significantly increased between 2009 and 2012 and then decreased slightly until 2019. The youth employment rate in Germany is generally increasing, and is at all times significantly higher in rural areas than in cities, towns and suburbs. The reverse trend applies to youth unemployment, which generally decreased in the observed period and which is at all times lowest in rural areas. A look at educational attainment levels showed a slight decline in rural areas of low educated persons between 2009 and 2019, while the proportion of rural youth with medium and high education slightly increased. At the same time, the proportion of early school leavers in rural areas after an increase until 2011, fell sharply and reached the 2009 level again by 2019. Being 9% in 2019, it remains, at least in rural areas, slightly below the 10% target defined by the Europe 2020 strategy. Finally, the proportion of NEETs in Germany is lower in rural areas in all age classes and as a whole decreased significantly from 2009 to 2019.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Dieser Bericht beschreibt die Situation von in ländlichen Gebieten lebenden jungen Erwachsenen (15–34 Jahre), die weder erwerbstätig noch in der allgemeinen oder beruflichen (Aus-)Bildung (NEET) sind, zwischen 2009 und 2019 in Deutschland.

Zu diesem Zweck umfasst der Bericht Indikatoren zur jugendlichen Bevölkerung, zur Jugendbeschäftigung und Jugendarbeitslosigkeit, zur Bildung und zur Verteilung der NEETs. Bei der Charakterisierung aller Indikatoren wurde der Grad der Verstädterung als zentrales Kriterium herangezogen, wodurch proportionale Vergleiche zwischen ländlichen Gebieten, Kleinstädten und Vororten, Städten und dem gesamten Land möglich sind. Diese Analysen werden dann zur weiteren Vertiefung in Altersuntergruppen und, wenn möglich, in Geschlechtergruppen unterteilt.

Die angewandten statistischen Verfahren in den verschiedenen ausgewählten Dimensionen umfassen deskriptive Längsschnittanalysen mit Hilfe grafischer Darstellungen (z.B. überlagerte Liniendiagramme) sowie die Berechnung der proportionalen absoluten und relativen Veränderungen zwischen 2009 und 2013, 2013 und 2019, sowie 2009 und 2019. Diese Zeiträume wurden gewählt, um die Entwicklung der Indikatoren vor und nach der Wirtschaftskrise, welche die europäischen Länder traf, zu erfassen. Alle Daten wurden aus öffentlichen Eurostat-Datensätzen extrahiert.

Die Analysen zeigen, dass der Anteil junger Erwachsene im ländlichen Raum im Alter von 15 bis 24 Jahren zwischen 2009 und 2012 deutlich zugenommen hat und dann bis 2019 leicht zurückgegangen ist. Die Jugendbeschäftigungsquote in Deutschland stieg generell an und ist in ländlichen Gebieten stets deutlich höher als in den Städten, Kleinstädten und Vororten. Der umgekehrte Trend gilt für die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit, die im Beobachtungszeitraum im Allgemeinen zurückging und in ländlichen Gebieten stets am niedrigsten ist. Ein Blick auf das Bildungsniveau zeigte in ländlichen Gebieten zwischen 2009 und 2019 einen leichten Rückgang der Jugendlichen mit niedrigem Bildungsniveau, während der Anteil der Jugendlichen mit mittlerer und hoher Bildung auf dem Land leicht zunahm. Gleichzeitig ging der Anteil der Schulabbrecher in ländlichen Gebieten nach einem Anstieg bis 2011 stark zurück und erreichte 2019 dann wieder das Niveau von 2009. Mit 9% im Jahr 2019 blieb dies, zumindest in ländlichen Gebieten, leicht unter dem in der EU-Strategie "Europa 2020" festgelegten Ziel von 10%. Schließlich ist der Anteil der NEETs in Deutschland in ländlichen Gebieten in allen Altersklassen geringer als in den anderen Regionen und insgesamt von 2009 bis 2019 deutlich zurückgegangen.

INTRODUCTION

This report proceeds in three sections. It begins with an introductory contextualisation with the most relevant information about German social, economic and political situation in the last two decades and key youth policies based on a relevant literature review. A methodological note explains the database used and the statistical operations undertaken. The most extensive section of the report refers to the analysis performed, with a specific focus on young people, by degree of urbanisation and concerning four main topics: population; employment; education; and, NEETs.

The report ends with a brief conclusion that highlights the main results regarding the topics explored.



1. CONTEXTUALIZATION

Germany is located in the middle of Europe and shares its borders with nine other countries. No other European country has more neighbours. With 357.582 m² it is the fourth largest country in the European Union. At the end of 2019, the country had an estimated population of 83.2 million (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2020). Germany is a federal republic wherein political sovereignty is divided between the sixteen partly-sovereign states (“Bundesländer”) and the central state.

The age of consent in Germany is 18. Youth issues are addressed by the Federal Law within the Social Codebook, Book VIII (“Sozialgesetzbuch, Achtes Buch Kinder- und Jugendhilfe”). Youth Policies are based on the Child and Youth Services Act (“Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz”), which came into force in 1991 and from which each federal state derives its own implementation act (Youthwiki, 2020). Thus, youth policy creation takes place at both the national and the federal level. Based on the principle of subsidiarity, at the national level the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Woman and Youth (“Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend”) is only responsible for youth policies that are of supra-regional significance. The federal ministry pursued a “new youth policy” for a couple of years and this resulted in a joint youth strategy introduced in December 2019 (Youthwiki, 2020).

Furthermore, in the field of education responsibilities are shared between the national and state levels. Responsibilities are defined in the Basic Law (“Grundgesetz”) and, unless otherwise stated, legislation with regard to education lies with the individual federal states. This covers the school sector, the Higher Education sector, Adult Education and Continuing Education (Eurydice, 2020). Education in Germany is universal and dominated by a large public sector, whereby private education is also offered. All children and young people living in Germany are subject to compulsory schooling. They must attend school full-time for at least nine years from the age of six. This begins with primary school, which lasts 4 years (two states are the exception here with 6 years, namely Berlin and Brandenburg). This is followed by an early division into the pathways of lower secondary education (“Hauptschule”), middle secondary education (“Realschule”) and higher secondary education (“Gymnasium”). Once pupils have completed compulsory schooling, they can



take a range of courses from full-time general education and vocational schools, as well as vocational training within the dual system (Eurydice, 2020). Within the dual system, vocational training is carried out in two places of learning, namely the workplace and in vocational school ("Berufsschule"). Students who have completed upper secondary education and received a higher education entrance qualification can choose from a wide range of different tertiary education institutions. These include both general institutions of higher education such as universities, "Fachhochschulen" or colleges of art and music as well as specialised institutions such as "Verwaltungsfachhochschulen", "Berufsakademien", "Studienakademien" or "Fachakademien" (Eurydice, 2020).

In terms of employment, the legal age to enter the labour market is 15 as long as the youth has completed, or is enrolled in, secondary education (Federal Office of Justice, 2020). Germany is often singled out as a best practice case in terms of youth labour market outcomes (Tosun, 2017), perhaps most prominently due to the dual vocational system. However, youth unemployment was a primary focus of German active labour market policy (ALMP) long before the economic crisis (Franz et al., 2007, Shore & Tosun, 2019). Overall, Germany pursues an integrated three-dimensional approach to combat youth unemployment (Eichhorst & Rinne, 2015). This includes interventions to strengthen the supply side of the labour market, interventions to boost the demand for labour and interventions in ALMP. However, it should also be noted that there have been significant changes in the labour market in recent years. More precisely, "Hartz" reforms in 2005 changed the labour market to be entered by youth and e.g. introduced the "Jobcenter" as a new institution, which are of central importance for young adults (Shore & Tosun, 2019). Within the reforms, changes in the unemployment benefit schemes and responsibilities of various institutions took place. As a result, young adults now mainly come into contact with the job centre, whereby they usually do not have good experiences and are often not satisfied with its provided services (Shore & Tosun, 2019).

In addition to the three-part approach mentioned above, the focus has always been on youth policy and youth institutions to enhance youth empowerment. This was again underlined in the Federal Government's youth strategy of 2015, which was renewed most recently in 2019 (BM-FSJ, 2019). The guiding principle of this policy approach is the participation of young adults and, for example, a so-called youth check was implemented. This instrument assesses both the impact of national legislation on the life of young adults and checks if young adults were involved in the development of public projects (European Commission, 2017).



2. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The German national report uses information gathered by the National Reports Editorial Team of the Rural NEET Youth Network in the Eurostat platform. The main data presented and analysed in this report are from the following Eurostat database:

- Population Statistics: [yth_demo_020]
- EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS): [lfst_r_pgauwsc]; [lfst_r_ergau]; [lfst_r_urgau]; [edat_lfs_9913]; [edat_lfse_30]; [edat_lfse_29]

Selected indicators were extracted from the different databases according to two criteria:

- Time range: the previous decade (2009–2019) in order to have a sufficiently long period of time to capture the main changes and continuities in young people trajectories in education, training and employment. The analysis mainly covered 3 dates – 2009–2013–2019 – in order to capture the impact of the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe and which, in most countries, reached its peak in 2012/2013.
- Age group: age group range varies accordingly to the data available in each indicator (15–24; 15–29; 15–34; and 15–39). Whenever possible, age range also covered young adult's data (30–34 and 35–39) in order to capture the extent of crisis impact on these age groups.

In addition to a descriptive analysis, in order to compare data main changes and continuities in different time periods, absolute and relative change were calculated considering the three main time points that were selected – 2009, 2013 and 2019. Absolute change refers to the simple difference in the indicator over two periods in time and is expressed in percentage points (pp). Relative change expresses the change of a value of an indicator in an earlier period and is expressed in percentage terms.



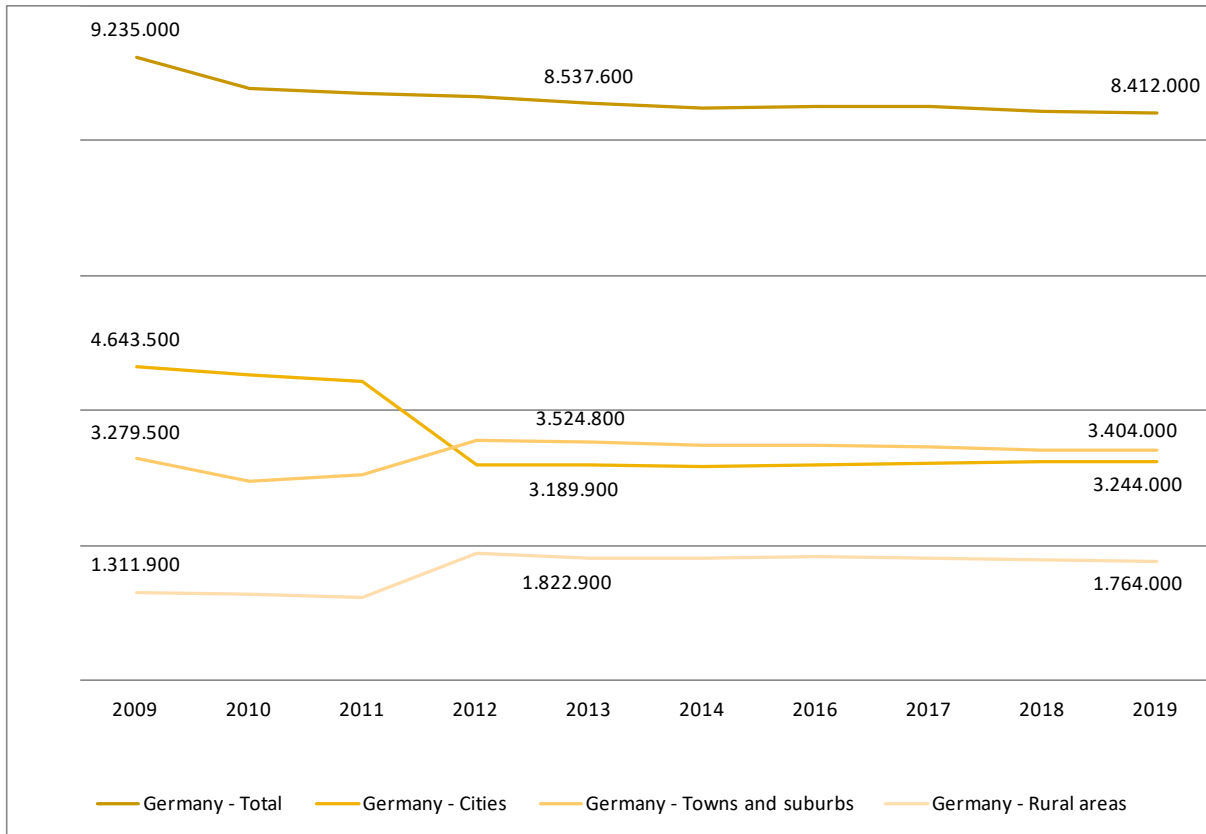
3. DATA ANALYSIS

3. 1. Population and youth population

Chart 1 summarises the evolution of the total youth population (15–24 year olds) between 2009 and 2019 in Germany both for the country and by different degrees of urbanisation. The charts shows that in general the total youth population is declining. Starting with 9.235.000 youth in 2009, that number decreased to 8.537.600 in 2013, and further declined to 8.412.000 in 2019. This trend is the same for both men (4.699.000, in 2009 (change 2009–2013: –304.000; –6.50%); 4.395.000, in 2013 (change 2013–2019: –19.000; –0.43%); 4.376.000, in 2019 (change 2009–2019: –323.000; –6.87%)) and women (4.536.000, in 2009 (change 2009–2013: –393.500; –8.68%); 4.142.500 in 2013 (change 2013–2019: –107.300; –2.59%); 4.035.200, in 2019 (change 2009–2019: –500.800; –11.04%)).



Chart 1. Total youth population (15–24 year olds) 2009–2019 (Germany) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_pgawusc) – data extracted on 08.07.2020

However, the trend differs significantly for different degrees of urbanisation. In German cities, the number of those aged 15–24 decreased from 4.643.500 in 2009, to 3.189.900 in 2013 (–1.453.600; –31.30%) and 3.244.000 in 2019 (change 2013–2019: 54.100; 1.70%; change 2009–2019: –1.399.500; –30.14%). In the other two regions, the youth population first increased and then decreased again slightly over the same period. In towns and suburbs it increased from 3.279.500, in 2009, to 3.524.800, in 2013 (245.300; 7.48%), before decreasing slightly to 3.404.000, in 2019 (change 2013–2019: –120.800; –3.43%; change 2009–2019: 124.500; 3.80%). In rural areas, youth population increased from 1.311.900, in 2009, to 1.822.900, in 2013 (511.000; 37.95%) and afterwards declined slightly to 1.764.000 in 2019 (change 2013–2019: –58.900; –3.23%; change 2009–2019: 452.100; 34.46%). While most young adults lived in ci-



ties in 2009, this had changed by 2019, when slightly more young adults lived in towns and suburbs. The consistently lowest proportion of youth aged 15–24 live in rural areas.

From 2009 to 2019, youth population (15–24 years) declined in Germany. In cities, there was initially a sharp decline, which flattened out into a slow decline. In towns and suburbs and rural areas, on the other hand, there was an initial increase before a slow decline was also recorded.

According to Table 1, overall the ratio of youth population in Germany has been declining between 2011 and 2019. However, this trend is not the same for all age groups. While the share of 15–24 year olds and 20–24 year olds decreases over time, that of 25–29 year olds increases. The share of 20–24 year olds with relative changes of –9.84% has decreased even more than that of 15–19 year olds with –5,88%.

Table 1. Ratio of youth population by age subgroups and absolute and relative change in Germany (2011–2015, 2015–2019 and 2011–2019)

	2011	2015	2019	Absolute change 2011–2015 (Relative change 2011–2015)	Absolute change 2015–2019 (Relative change 2015–2019)	Absolute change 2011–2019 (Relative change 2011–2019)
Overall (15–29)	17,10%	17,00%	16,60%	–0,10pp (–0.58%)	–0,40pp (–2.35%)	–0,50pp (–2.92%)
15–19	5.10%	5.00%	4.80%	–0.10pp (–2.00%)	–0.20pp (–4.00%)	–0.30pp (–5.88%)
20–24	6.10%	5.60%	5.50%	–0.50pp (–8.20%)	–0.10pp (–1.79%)	–0.60pp (–9.84%)
25–29	6.00%	6.40%	6.40%	0.40pp (6.67%)	0.00 pp (0.00%)	0.40pp (6.67%)

Source: Eurostat: (yth_demo_020) – data extracted in 08.07.20

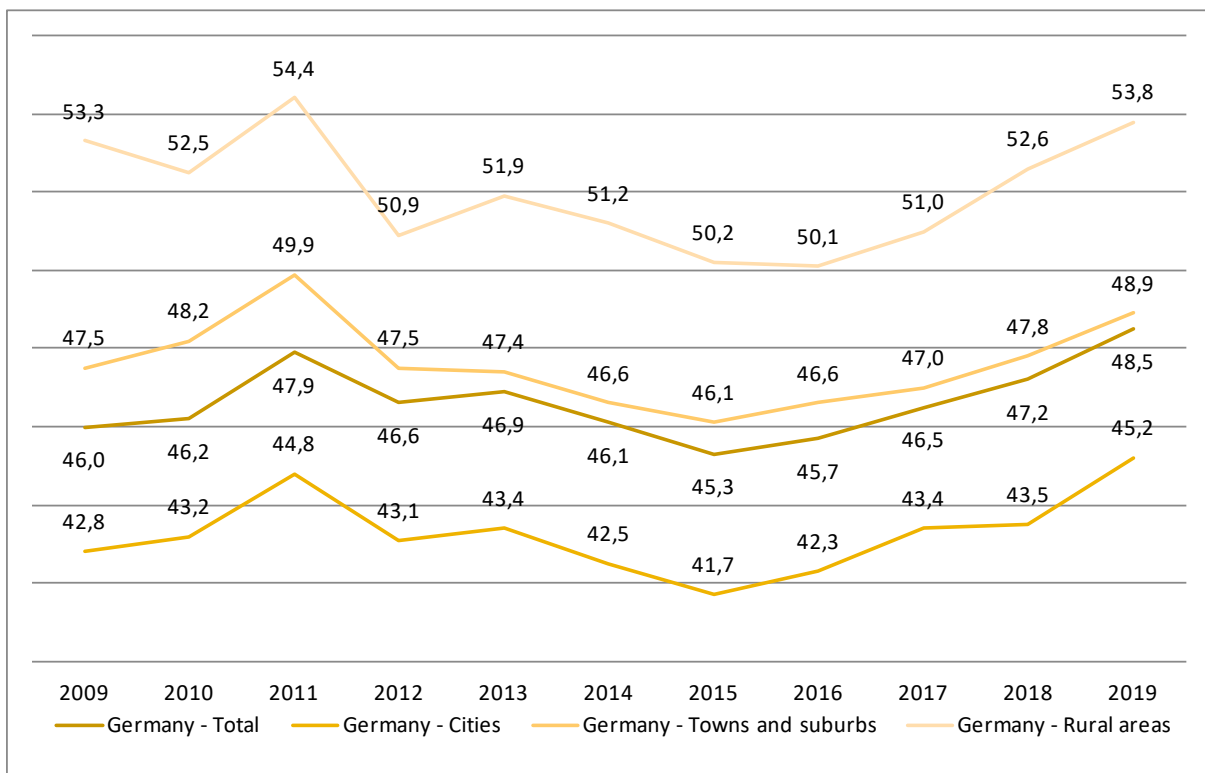
Since 2011, the youth population ratio (15–29 years) has been declining in Germany. This trend is not the same for all age groups. While the share of 15–24 year olds and 20–24 year olds decreased, that of 25–29 year olds increased.



3. 2. Employment and Unemployment

3. 2. 1. Youth employment

Chart 2. Employment rate, age group 15–24 year olds (%) in Germany (2009–2019) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (fst_r_ergau) – data extracted on 08.07.2020

Chart 2 represents youth employment in Germany, between 2009 and 2019, for different subgroups of urbanisation. For all subgroups, the employment rate shows an increase from 2009 to 2011, followed by a relatively large decrease in 2012, a minimal increase in 2013 and a further decline until 2015. From 2015 the employment rate rises again until 2019. The employment rate in rural areas, e.g., with 53.8% in 2019, is at all times significantly higher than in the other regions. By contrast, the employment rate is lowest in cities with 45.2% in 2019, which is 8.6% lower than in rural areas. The employment rate in towns and suburbs is always similar to the overall average of all regions.



Table 2 allows us to consider the youth employment rate by sex. In general, the employment rate of male youth (e.g., 50.6% in 2019) is slightly higher than that of female youth (e.g., 46.1% in 2019). This trend is the same across all urban regions, with the greatest difference in rural areas. Here, 57.2% were male and 49.8% female

Table 2. Youth employment rates by degree of urbanisation and sex, age group 15–24 year olds (%)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
Men	47.5%	48.4%	50.6%	0.9 pp (1.89%)	2.2 pp (4.55%)	3.1 pp (6.53%)
Women	44.4%	45.2%	46.1%	0.8 pp (1.80%)	0.9 pp (1.99%)	1.7 pp (3.83%)
Cities						
Men	43.1%	43.0%	46.0%	-0.1 pp (-0.23%)	3.0 pp (6.98%)	2.9 pp (6.73%)
Women	42.5%	43.9%	44.3%	1.4 pp (3.29%)	0.4 pp (0.91%)	1.8 pp (4.24%)
Towns and suburbs						
Men	50.0%	49.4%	51.5%	-0.6 pp (-1.20%)	2.1 pp (4.25%)	1.5 pp (3.00%)
Women	44.8%	45.1%	46.0%	0.3 pp (0.67%)	0.9 pp (2.00%)	1.2 pp (2.68%)
Rural areas						
Men	56.3%	55.3%	57.2%	-1.0 pp (-1.78%)	1.9 pp (3.44%)	0.9 pp (1.60%)
Women	50.1%	48.0%	49.8%	-2.1 pp (-4.19%)	1.8 pp (3.75%)	-0.3 pp (-0.60%)

Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_ergrau) – data extracted in 22.07.20

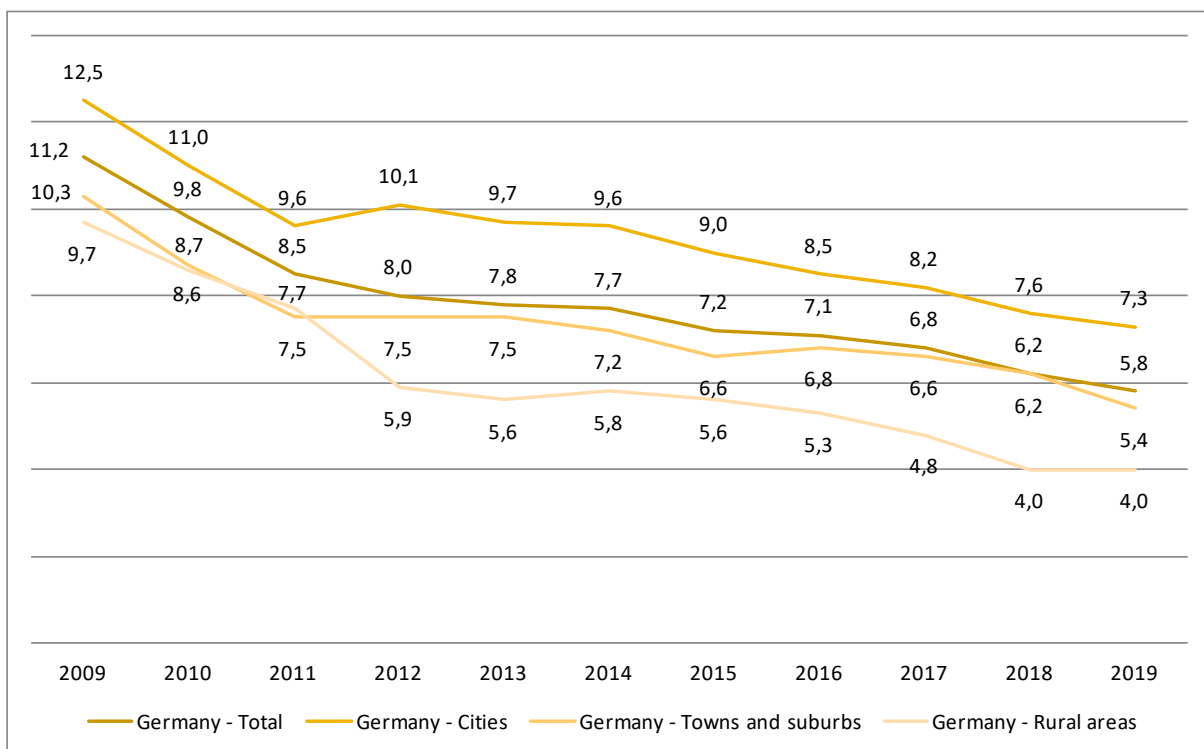
In the past decade, overall youth employment increased in Germany. At all times the youth employment rates were highest in rural areas and the employment rate of male youth was slightly higher than that of female youth.



3. 2. 2. Youth unemployment

Chart 3 presents youth unemployment across the country. For those aged 15–24 years old, unemployment decreased from 11.2% in 2009 to 5.8% in 2019. The course of this development differs for the regions. In cities, the unemployment rate fell from 12.5% in 2009, to 9.6% in 2011 to increase again to 10.1% in 2012. From then on, it decreased further to 7.3% in 2019. In towns and suburbs, the rate decreased from 10.3% in 2009 to 7.5% in 2011 and remained stable for another two years. Afterwards it decreased significantly until 2015 (6.6%) and, after a brief increase to 6.8% in 2016, continued to decrease. In contrast, the unemployment rate in rural areas decreased significantly from 9.7% in 2009 to 5.9% in 2012, followed by a further flatter decline with a minimal outlier in 2014 (5.8%).

Chart 3. Youth unemployment of 15–24 years old (%) in Germany (2009–2019) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_urgau) – data extracted on 08.07.2020



According to Table 3, across the country, unemployment among those aged 15 to 39 years old decreased from 8.90% in 2009, to 6.20% in 2013 and 4.20% in 2019. The same general trend is evident for all urban regions and age groups. The highest unemployment rate prevails in cities. The strongest decline, with 8.10% in 2009, 4.60% in 2013 and 2.80% in 2019 took place in rural regions. Overall, the highest rate was found among 15–19 year olds in cities in 2009 (14.30%), and the lowest among 30–34 year olds in rural areas in 2019 (2.50%).



Table 3. Ratio of youth unemployment by age subgroups and absolute and relative change in Germany (2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
Age groups						
Overall	8.90%	6.20%	4.20%	-2.70 pp (-30.34%)	-2.00 pp (-32.26%)	-4.70 pp (-52.81%)
15–19	11.40%	8.40%	7.00%	-3.00 pp (-26.32%)	-1.40 pp (-16.67%)	-4.40 pp (-38.60%)
20–24	11.10%	7.60%	5.30%	-3.50 pp (-31.53%)	-2.30 pp (-30.26%)	-5.80 pp (-52.25%)
25–29	9.30%	6.70%	4.10%	-2.60 pp (-27.96%)	-2.60 pp (-38.81%)	-5.20 pp (-55.91%)
30–34	8.10%	5.70%	3.70%	-2.40 pp (-29.63%)	-2.00 pp (-35.09%)	-4.40 pp (-54.32%)
Cities						
Age groups						
Overall	9.70%	7.50%	5.20%	-2.20 pp (-22.68%)	-2.30 pp (-30.67%)	-4.50 pp (-46.39%)
15–19	14.30%	12.50%	10.30%	-1.80 pp (-12.59%)	-2.20 pp (-17.60%)	-4.00 pp (-27.97%)
20–24	11.90%	9.00%	6.50%	-2.90 pp (-24.37%)	-2.50 pp (-27.78%)	-5.40 pp (-45.38%)
25–29	9.80%	7.30%	4.90%	-2.50 pp (-25.51%)	-2.40 pp (-32.88%)	-4.90 pp (-50.00%)
30–34	9.00%	6.90%	4.50%	-2.10 pp (-23.33%)	-2.40 pp (-34.78%)	-4.50 pp (-50.00%)
Towns and suburbs						
Age groups						
Overall	7.90%	5.80%	3.80%	-2.10 pp (-26.58%)	-2.00 pp (-34.48%)	-4.10 pp (-51.90%)
15–19	10.70%	8.00%	6.70%	-2.70 pp (-25.23%)	-1.30 pp (-16.25%)	-4.00 pp (-37.38%)
20–24	10.10%	7.30%	4.80%	-2.80 pp (-27.72%)	-2.50 pp (-34.25%)	-5.30 pp (-52.48%)
25–29	8.50%	6.70%	3.70%	-1.80 pp (-21.18%)	-3.00 pp (-44.78%)	-4.80 pp (-56.47%)
30–34	7.00%	5.10%	3.40%	-1.90 pp (-27.14%)	-1.70 pp (-33.33%)	-3.60 pp (-51.43%)
30–34						
Rural areas						
Age groups						
Overall	8.10%	4.60%	2.80%	-3.50 pp (-43.21%)	-1.80 pp (-39.13%)	-5.30 pp (-65.43%)
Overall	7.30%	5.40%	4.40%	-1.90 pp (-26.03%)	-1.00 pp (-18.52%)	-2.90 pp (-39.73%)
15–19	10.90%	5.70%	3.70%	-5.20 pp (-47.71%)	-2.00 pp (-35.09%)	-7.20 pp (-66.10%)
20–24	9.30%	5.30%	2.80%	-4.00 pp (-43.01%)	-2.50 pp (-47.17%)	-6.50 pp (-69.90%)
25–29	7.30%	4.10%	2.50%	-3.20 pp (-43.84%)	-1.6 pp (-39.02%)	-4.80 pp (-65.75%)
30–34	16.90%	12.40%	12.20%	-4.50 pp (-26.63%)	-0.20 pp (-1.61%)	-4.70 pp (-27.81%)



Table 4 allows us to consider the youth unemployment rate by sex. In 2019, 6.6% of unemployed youth were male and 4.8% were female. This basic trend remains the same across all urban regions. Over time, the unemployment rate has fallen in absolute and relative terms for both sexes. From 2009 to 2019, the unemployment rate fell by 5.9% (-47.2%) for men and 5.0% (-51.02%) for women.

Table 4. Youth unemployment rates by degree of urbanisation and sex, age group 15-24 year olds (%)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009-2013 (Relative change 2009-2013)	Absolute change 2013-2019 (Relative change 2013-2019)	Absolute change 2009-2019 (Relative change 2009-2019)
Country						
Men	12.5%	8.5%	6.6%	-4.0pp (-32.00%)	-1.9pp (-22.35%)	-5.9pp (-47.2%)
Women	9.8%	7.1%	4.8%	-2.7pp (-27.55%)	-2.3pp (-32.39%)	-5.0pp (-51.02%)
Cities						
Men	14.6%	11.2%	8.4%	-3.4pp (-23.29%)	-2.8pp (-25.00%)	-6.2pp (-42.47%)
Women	10.2%	8.2%	6.2%	-2.0pp (-19.61%)	-2.0pp (-24.39%)	-4.0pp (-39.22%)
Towns and suburbs						
Men	11.0%	7.8%	6.2%	-3.2pp (-29.09%)	-1.6pp (-20.51%)	-4.8pp (-43.64%)
Women	9.5%	7.1%	4.3%	-2.4pp (-25.26%)	-2.8pp (-39.44%)	-5.2pp (-54.74%)
Rural areas						
Men	10.0%	5.9%	4.7%	-4.1pp (-41.00%)	-1.2pp (-20.34%)	-5.3pp (-53.00%)
Women	9.2%	5.2%	3.0%	-4.0pp (-43.48%)	-2.2pp (-42.31%)	-6.2pp (-67.39%)

Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_urgau) – data extracted on 22.07.2020

From 2009 to 2019 youth unemployment overall decreased. This trend is evident for all urban regions and age groups. This trend also applies when differentiating by sex. Overall, more young men than young women were unemployed.



3.3. Education

3.3.1. Young people by educational attainment level

Table 5 describes the German population, aged 15 to 24 year old, by ISCED levels, between 2009 and 2019, for the country and by degree of urbanisation. The table includes the absolute and relative changes across the different ISCED levels for 2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019. Looking at the values for the country as a whole, very different developments can be seen between the different educational attainment groups. The rate of those who have reached ISCED 0–2 level decreased from 58.00% in 2009 to 44.60% in 2013, before increasing again to 52.80% in 2019. With regards to the ISCED 3–4 group, there was an initial increase from 39.60% in 2009 to 50.90% in 2013, before it decreased again to 42.50% in 2019. By contrast, the rate of those with ISCED 5–8 education increased over the whole period from 2.4% in 2009 and 4.50% in 2013 to 4.70% in 2019.



Table 5. German population, aged 15–24, by ISCED levels (%) and degree of urbanisation in Germany, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)

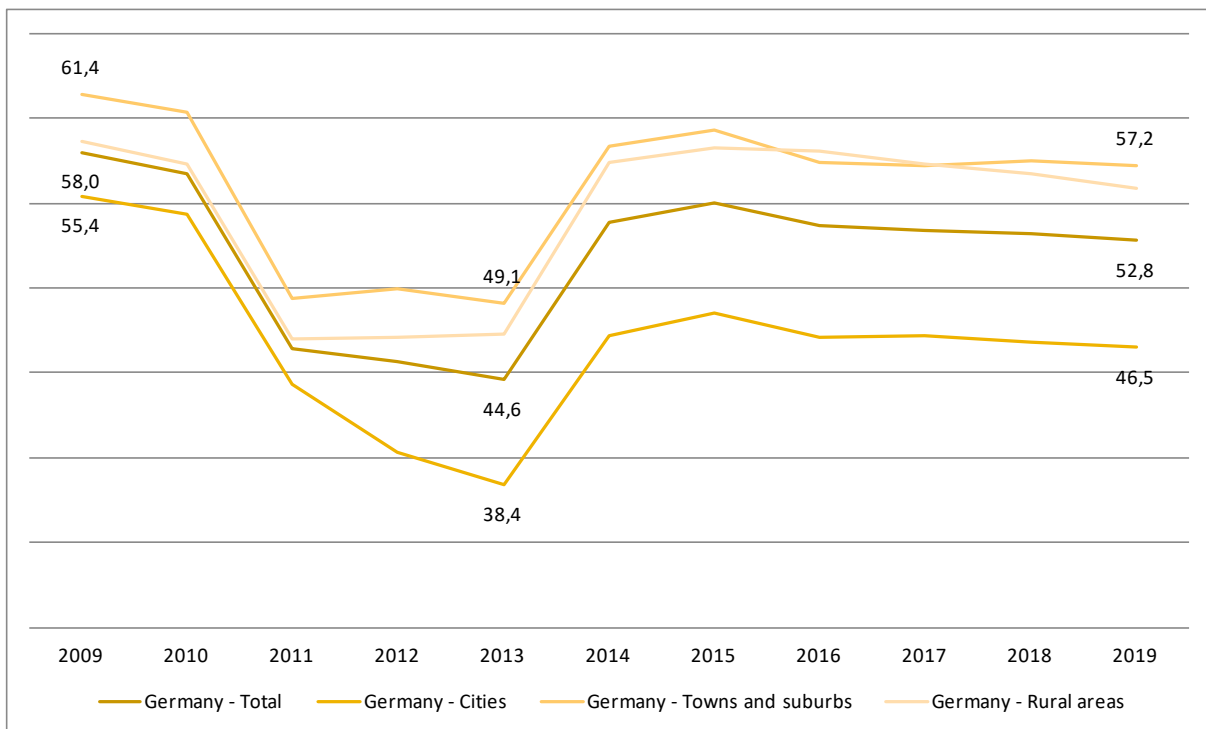
	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
ISCED 0–2	58.00%	44.60%	52.80%	-13.40 pp (-23.10%)	8.20 pp (18.39%)	-5.20 pp (-8.97%)
ISCED 3–4	39.60%	50.90%	42.50%	-11.30 pp (-28.54%)	-8.40 pp (-16.50%)	2.90 pp (7.32%)
ISCED 5–8	2.40%	4.50%	4.70%	2.10 pp (0.88%)	0.20 pp (4.44%)	2.30 pp (95.83%)
Cities						
ISCED 0–2	55.40%	38.40%	46.50%	-17.00 pp (-30.69%)	8.00 pp (21.09%)	-8.90 pp (-16.06%)
ISCED 3–4	41.90%	55.90%	47.40%	14.00 pp (33.41%)	-8.50 pp (-15.21%)	5.50 pp (13.13%)
ISCED 5–8	2.70%	5.80%	6.10%	3.10 pp (114.81%)	0.30 pp (5.17%)	3.40 pp (125.93%)
Towns and suburbs						
ISCED 0–2	61.40%	49.10%	57.20%	-12.3 pp (-20.03%)	8.10 pp (16.50%)	4.20 pp (6.84%)
ISCED 3–4	36.70%	47.30%	38.90%	10.60 pp (28.89%)	-8.40 pp (-17.76%)	2.20 pp (5.99%)
ISCED 5–8	2.00%	3.60%	3.80%	1.60 pp (80.00%)	0.20 pp (5.56%)	1.80 pp (90.00%)
Rural areas						
ISCED 0–2	58.60%	47.30%	55.90%	-11.30 pp (-19.28%)	8.60 pp (18.18%)	-2.70 pp (-4.61%)
ISCED 3–4	39.10%	48.70%	40.30%	9.60 pp (24.55%)	-8.40 pp (-17.25%)	1.20 pp (3.07%)
ISCED 5–8	2.30%	4.00%	3.70%	1.70 pp (73.91%)	-0.30 pp (-7.50%)	1.40 pp (60.87%)

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted in 08.07.2020



The differences between the urban regions becomes clearer when looking at Charts 4, 5 and 6. In all three educational attainment categories, the most significant change took place in the period from 2009 to 2013. In the case of ISCED 0-2, the number fell for all urban regions from 2009 to 2013, whereas in the case of ISCED 3-4 and 5-8, the numbers rose over the same period. In 2014 there was a sharp increase (ISCED 0-2) or decrease (ISCED 3-4 and 5-8). For all ISCED groups numbers stabilised from then on. These trends are the same for all urban regions.

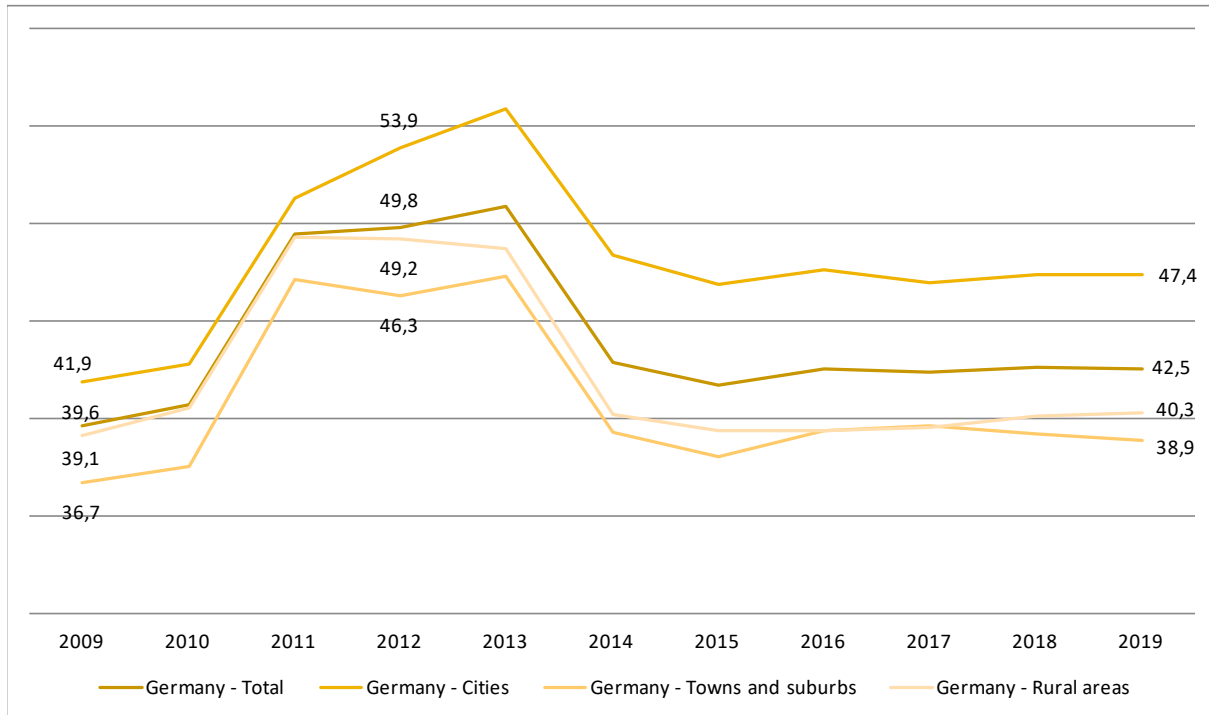
Chart 4. German population (%), aged 15-24 with ISCED level 0-2 and degree of urbanisation in Germany



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted in 08.07.2020



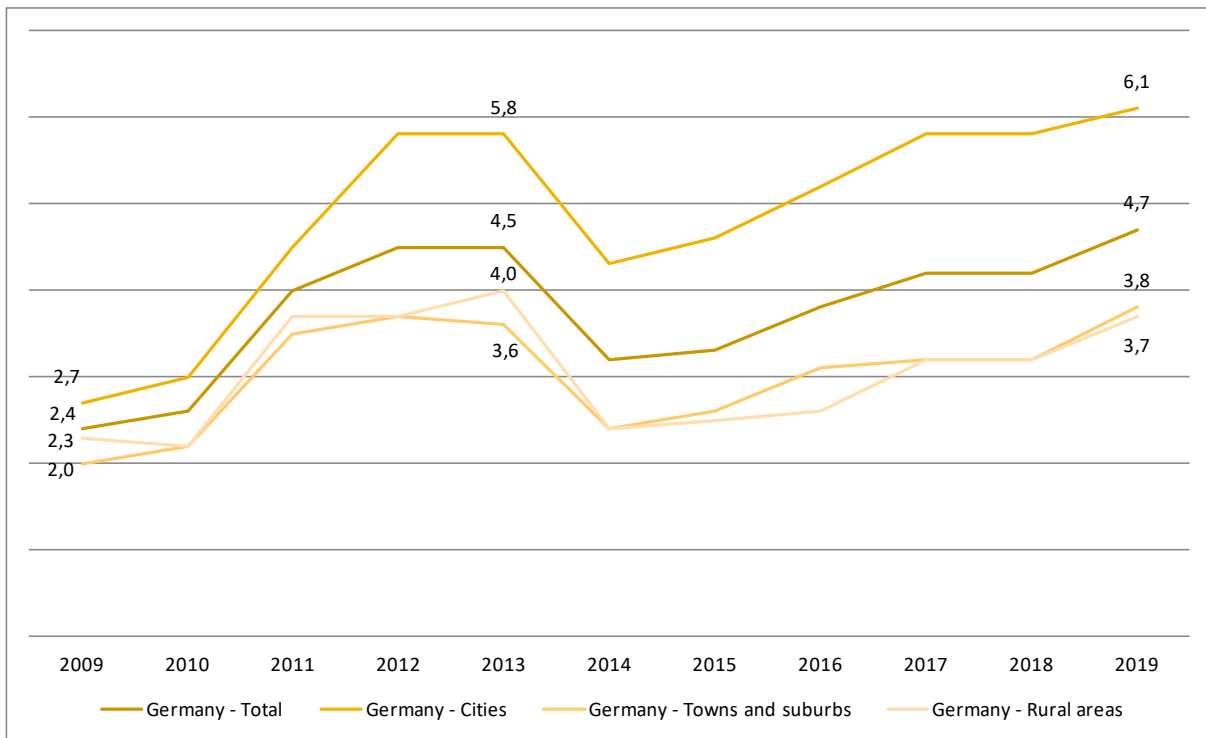
Chart 5. German population (%), aged 15–24 with ISCED level 3–4 and degree of urbanisation in Germany



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted in 08.07.2020



Chart 6. German population (%), aged 15–24 with ISCED level 5–8 and degree of urbanisation in Germany



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_9913) – data extracted in 08.07.2020

In the past decade, there has been a decrease of the German youth population with lower levels of educational attainment and an increase of the proportion of those with higher educational attainment. While the proportion of the less educated initially fell sharply, that of the more highly educated rose sharply. Since around 2014, the proportion of low and medium educated youth has stabilised, while the proportion of highly educated youth has been rising slightly.



3.3.2. Early school leavers

Both Table 6 and Chart 7 display the evolution of early school leavers from 2009 to 2019 in Germany and across different degrees of urbanisation. For the country as a whole, the number of early school leavers decreased from 11.10% in 2009 to 9.80% in 2013 and increased again to 10.30% in 2019. But this development is not the same for all urban regions. In cities, the number decreased from 2009 to 2013 and then remained stable. However, in towns and suburbs the number increased over time. The trend in rural areas is again the same as in the country as a whole. The greatest relative change, with -16.26% over the entire period, can be observed in the cities. The smallest relative and absolute change (-0.10 pp (1.10%)) took place in rural areas. However, if we look at Chart 7 with more data points, it becomes clear that with a peak of 10% in 2011, the change in rural areas is stronger than expected.

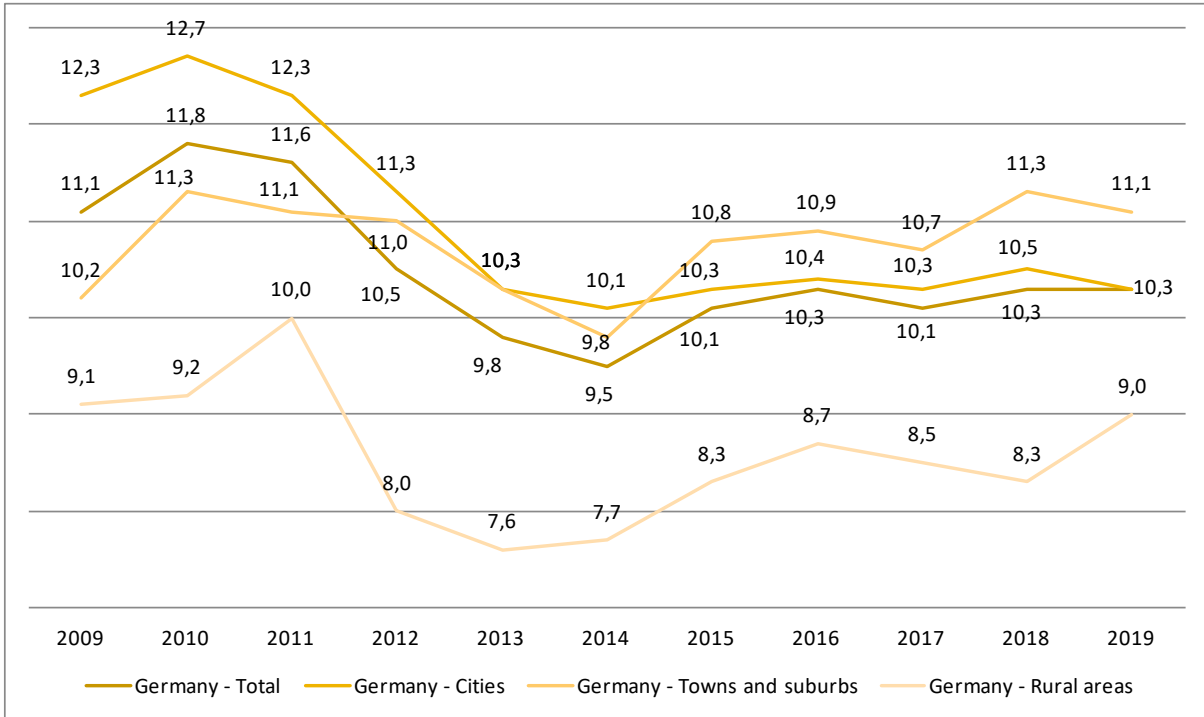
Table 6. Ratio of early school leavers by age group 18–24 year olds (%) and absolute and relative change in Germany (2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country	11.10%	9.80%	10.30%	-1.30 pp (-11.71%)	0.50 pp (5.10%)	-0.80 pp (-7.21%)
Cities	12.30%	10.30%	10.30%	-2.00 pp (-16.26%)	0.00 pp (0.00%)	-2.00 pp (-16.26%)
Towns and suburbs	10.20%	10.30%	11.10%	0.10 pp (0.98%)	0.80 pp (7.77%)	0.90 pp (8.82%)
Rural areas	9.10%	7.60%	9.00%	-1.50 pp (-16.48%)	1.40 pp (18.42%)	-0.10 pp (-1.10%)

Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_30) – data extracted on 08.07.2020



Chart 7. Early school leavers age group 18–24 year olds (%) in Germany (2009–2019) by degree of urbanisation



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_30) – data extracted on 08.07.2020

Overall, the number of early school leavers decreased from 2009 to 2019. However, the period was characterised by an initial sharp decline, which was followed by a slight increase. Overall, the decline is true for cities and rural areas, while there was an increase in towns and suburbs.

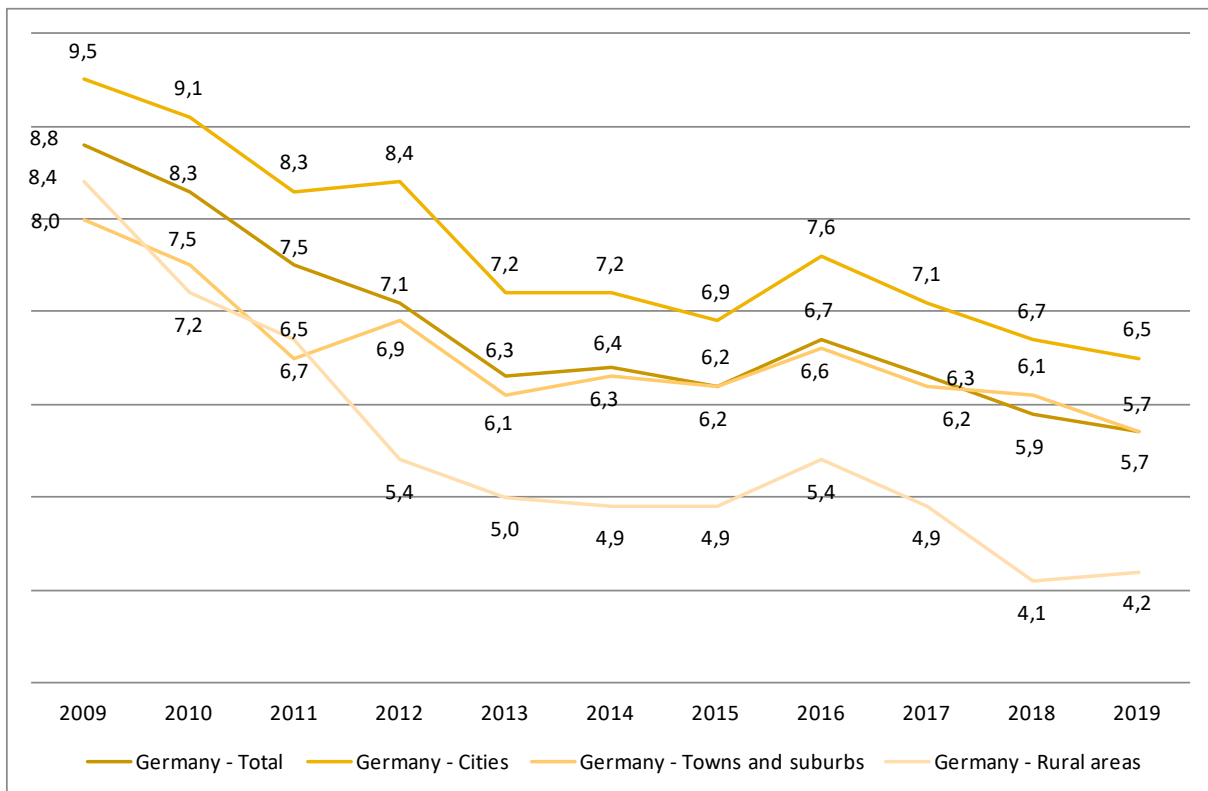


3. 4. NEETs

3. 4. 1. NEET rate

Chart 8 displays the overall evolution of NEETs proportion across the country and by degree of urbanisation between 2009 and 2019. According to the chart, the NEET rate in Germany decreased from 8.8% in 2009 to 5.7% in 2019. In cities the highest rates of NEET prevail, but the same trend as for the whole country can be found. Thus, the NEET rate in cities decreased from 9.5% in 2009 to 6.5% in 2019. Alongside, in towns and suburbs, the rate decreased from 8.0% in 2009 to 5.7% in 2019. Finally, in rural areas, the NEET share decreased from 8.4% in 2009 to 4.2% in 2019.

Chart 8. NEET rate age group 15–24 year olds (%) by degree of urbanisation in Germany



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_29) – data extracted on 08.07.2020



Table 7 displays the evolution of NEETs further differentiated by age groups and urban regions and thus allows for a more nuanced view of the data. In 2019, the NEET rate in Germany ranged between 2.80% for those aged 15–19 years old, and 13.60% for those aged 30–34 years old. For the same year and all age subgroups, rural areas (7.60%) displayed lower NEET rates compared to cities (10.00%) and towns and suburbs (9.50%).



Table 7. NEET rate (%) by age subgroups and by degree of urbanisation in Germany, including absolute and relative change (2009–2013, 2013–2019, 2009–2019)

	2009	2013	2019	Absolute change 2009–2013 (Relative change 2009–2013)	Absolute change 2013–2019 (Relative change 2013–2019)	Absolute change 2009–2019 (Relative change 2009–2019)
Country						
Age groups						
Overall	13.00%	10.40%	9.30%	-2.60 pp (-20.00%)	-1.10 pp (-20.58%)	-3.70 pp (-28.46%)
15–19	3.90%	2.60%	2.80%	-1.30 pp (-33.33%)	0.20 pp (7.69%)	-1.10 pp (-28.21%)
20–24	13.30%	9.50%	8.30%	-3.80 pp (-28.57%)	-1.20 pp (-12.63%)	-5.00 pp (-37.59%)
25–29	16.10%	13.10%	11.00%	-3.00 pp (-18.63%)	-2.10 pp (-16.03%)	-5.10 pp (-31.68%)
30–34	18.10%	15.10%	13.60%	-3.00 pp (-16.57%)	-1.50 pp (-9.93%)	-4.50 pp (-24.86%)
Cities						
Age groups						
Overall	13.80%	11.40%	10.00%	-2.40 pp (-17.39%)	-1.40 pp (-12.28%)	-3.80 pp (-27.54%)
15–19	4.40%	3.50%	3.60%	-0.90 pp (-20.45%)	0.10 pp (2.86%)	-0.80 pp (-18.18%)
20–24	13.50%	9.60%	8.40%	-3.90 pp (-28.89%)	-1.20 pp (-9.45%)	-5.10 pp (-37.78%)
25–29	16.20%	12.70%	11.00%	-3.50 pp (-21.60%)	-1.70 pp (-13.39%)	-5.20 pp (-32.10%)
30–34	18.80%	16.20%	14.00%	-2.60 pp (-13.83%)	-2.20 pp (-13.58%)	-4.80 pp (-25.53%)
Towns and suburbs						
Age groups						
Overall	12.00%	10.40%	9.50%	-1.60 pp (-13.33%)	-0.90 pp (-8.65%)	-2.50 pp (-20.83%)
15–19	3.40%	2.40%	2.60%	-1.00 pp (-29.41%)	0.20 pp (8.33%)	-0.80 pp (-23.53%)
20–24	12.90%	9.80%	8.90%	-3.10 pp (-24.03%)	-0.90 pp (-9.18%)	-4.00 pp (-31.00%)
25–29	16.00%	14.20%	11.70%	-1.80 pp (-11.25%)	-2.50 pp (-17.61%)	-4.30 pp (-26.88%)
30–34	17.30%	15.20%	13.80%	-2.10 pp (-12.14%)	-1.40 pp (-9.21%)	-3.50 pp (-20.23%)
30–34	17.30%	15.20%	13.80%	-2.10 pp (-12.14%)	-1.40 pp (-9.21%)	-3.50 pp (-20.23%)
Rural areas						
Age groups						
Overall	12.20%	8.50%	7.60%	-3.70 pp (-30.33%)	-0.90 pp (-10.59%)	-4.60 pp (-37.70%)
15–19	3.40%	1.70%	1.90%	-1.70 pp (-50.00%)	0.20 pp (11.76%)	-1.50 pp (-44.12%)
20–24	13.60%	8.50%	6.80%	-5.10 pp (-37.50%)	-1.70 pp (-20.00%)	-6.80 pp (-50.00%)
25–29	15.80%	11.70%	9.30%	-4.10 pp (-25.95%)	-2.40 pp (-20.51%)	-6.50 pp (-41.14%)
30–34	16.90%	12.40%	12.20%	-4.50 pp (-26.63%)	-0.20 pp (-1.61%)	-4.70 pp (-27.81%)

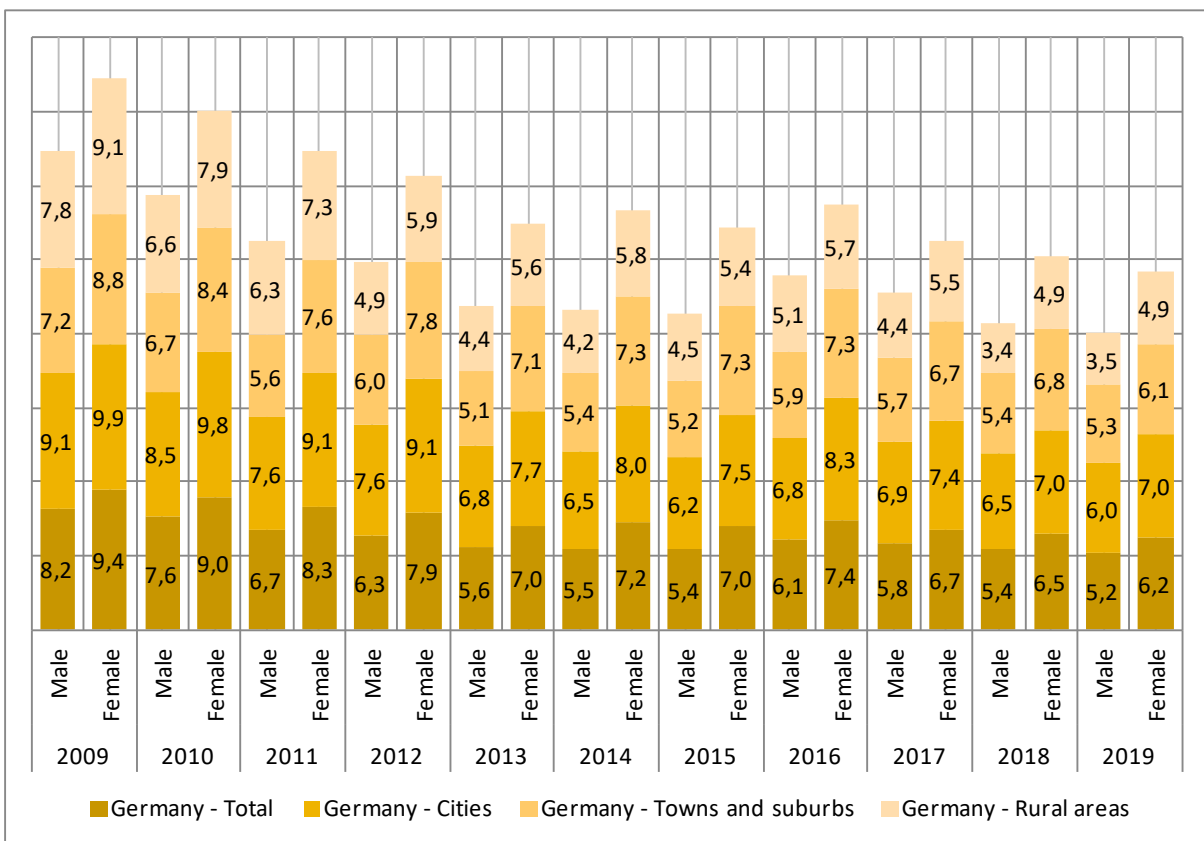
Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_29) – data extracted on 08.07.2020



The table also includes the absolute and relative variation between 2009–2013, 2013–2019 and 2009–2019. NEET rates at the country level decreased from 2009–2013 (–2.60pp; –20%), as well as from 2013–2019 (–1.10pp; –28.21%). Looking at the overall change from 2009 to 2019, this trend is evident in all urban regions. In cities the overall rate decreased with –3.80pp (–27.54%), while it decreased in towns and suburbs by –2.50pp (–20.83%) and in rural areas by –4.60pp (–37.70%).

The situation of 15–19 year olds is particularly noteworthy at this point. For the 15–19 year olds, contrary to the general trend of decreasing numbers of early school leavers, the rate increased during the period 2013 to 2019 (0.20pp (7.69%)). This increase for the 15–19 year olds from 2013 to 2019 is stronger in towns and suburbs (0.20pp (8.33%)) and rural areas (0.20pp (11.76%)) than in the cities (0.10pp (2.86%)).

Chart 9. NEET rate for age group 15–24 year olds (%) by sex and degree of urbanisation, for all years from 2009–2019



Source: Eurostat (edat_lfse_29) – data extracted on 08.07.2020



In Chart 9, the NEET rates for 15–24 year olds are now broken down by gender and urban region. In general, it can be seen that NEETs are more often female than male. For each gender, the share of NEETs is relatively evenly distributed by urban region.

In Germany, the total number of NEETs decreased from 2009 to 2019. The sharpest decline, as well as the overall lowest proportion of NEETs, was recorded in rural areas. In terms of sex, it is apparent that NEETs are more often female than male.



4. CONCLUSIONS

Youth population | Overall, youth population decreased over the period investigated in this report. However, it initially increased slightly in towns and suburbs and rural areas from 2009 to 2013, before decreasing until 2019. Furthermore, the general trend was not the same for all age groups. While the share of 15–24 year olds and 20–24 year olds decreased, that of 25–29 year olds increased.

Youth (un-)employment | From 2009 to 2019, overall youth employment increased in Germany. At all times the youth employment rate was highest in rural areas and more male youth than female youth were employed. At the same time youth unemployment in Germany decreased significantly for all urban regions and age groups. The strongest decline took place in rural regions. Unemployed youth were more often male than female.

Educational attainment | Overall, between 2009 and 2019 the proportion of graduates in the ISCED 0–2 category decreased, while it increased for ISCED 3–4 and ISCED 5–8. Since around 2014, the proportion of low and medium educated youth stabilised, while the proportion of highly educated youth continued to increase.

Early school leavers | Overall, the number of early school leavers in Germany decreased from 2009 to 2019. However, a look at regional differences shows that while the decline is true for cities and rural areas, while there was an increase in towns and suburbs.

NEETs | From 2009 to 2019, the NEET rate decreased significantly. The sharpest decline and overall lowest proportion of NEETs was found in rural areas. In general, NEETs were more often female than male.



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COST Action CA18213
Rural NEET Youth Network:
Modeling the risks underlying rural
NEETs social exclusion

6. IMPORTANT LINKS

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/jugendstrategie> (Youth Strategy at the National level)

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/sites/youthwiki/files/gdlgermany.pdf> (Youth Policies in Germany, Overview by the European Commission)