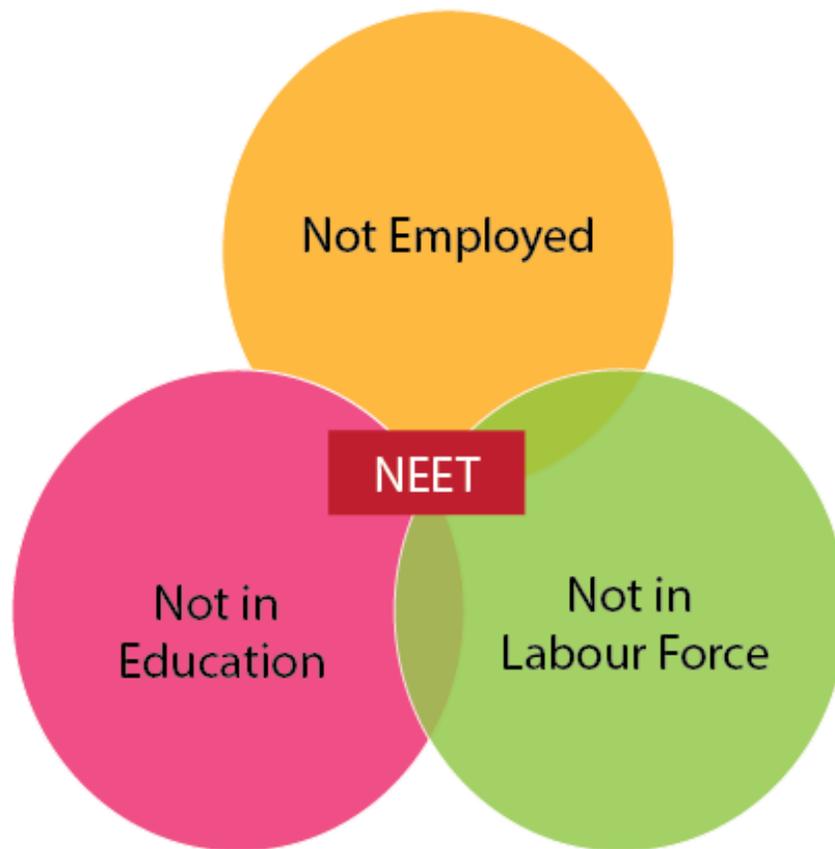


Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

For our youth, the transition to work has become more complicated and increasingly unpredictable. Students are working, and working youth are also studying. Some are neither working nor studying. The later group of youth may be experiencing difficulties making the transition from school to the labour market and could be in a higher risk of social exclusion and depression and become vulnerable.¹ They belong to what is called the NEET population (Not in Employment, Education or Training).



- Not in education (or training) – includes both full and part-time students at primary and secondary educational institutions, colleges, and universities.

- Not employed – youth who were without employment but were available and actively looking for work (excluding temporary absences from work for reasons such as illness, vacation, maternity leave, or labour dispute).

- Not in the labour force (NILF) – youth who are neither employed nor unemployed; that is, those who were not looking for work.

The NEET indicator is closely followed by governments and tracked internationally by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).² In Canada, between 2001 and 2016, the NEET rate for youth aged 15 to 19 ranged from a high of 9% in 2004 to a low of 6% in 2016.³

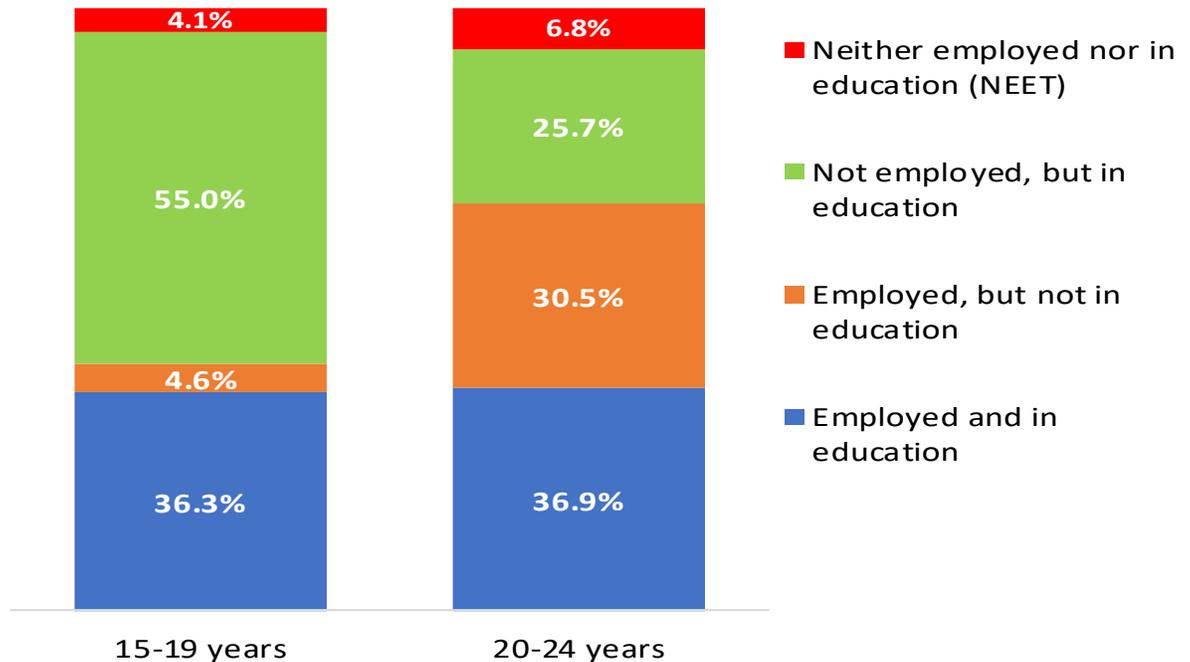
¹ Statistics Canada, *The Transition from School to Work – The NEET indicator for 15 to 19 year olds in Canada*, February 2018

² <https://data.oecd.org/youthinac/youth-not-in-employment-education-or-training-neet.htm>

³ Statistics Canada, *The transition from school to work – the not in employment, education or training (NEET) indicator for 15 to 19 year olds in Canada*, February 22, 2018

In 2016, there were 3,600 NEET youth in Halton. They represent 4.1% of the age group between 15 and 19 years and 6.8% of the age group between 20 and 24 years. Over half (55%) of the NEET youth are male. As expected, the majority (91%) of youth between 15 and 19 years are in education and over 40% are working. For the age cohort between 20 and 24 years, three quarters (67%) are employed and 37% are also in education or training.

Percentage of Population by Employment and Education Status and Age, Halton Region, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Youth are facing many barriers to finding and maintaining employment. In 2017, an expert panel on youth employment⁴ concluded that the key six barriers for youth in finding and maintaining employment in Canada are:

- A lack of labour market information for youth and a lack of employment data for policy-makers;
- A perceived reluctance by employers across Canada to hire young people;
- Uncertainty faced by young people about both a rapidly changing world of work and an increasing number of young people who find themselves in less stable part-time and/or contract employment;
- Inadequate preparation for the workplace and requisite life skills to succeed;
- Systemic and indirect discrimination experienced by marginalized youth; and
- A lack of resources for Indigenous youth to lead and positively impact their communities.

⁴ Employment and Social Development Canada, *13 Ways to Modernize Youth Employment in Canada: Strategies for a New World of Work*, 2017



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