



# YOUTH

**IN THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF INDEPENDENT  
STATES**



**AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**





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the Russian Federation*

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**Interstate Statistical Committee  
of the Commonwealth of Independent States  
(Statcommittee of the CIS)**

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**MOSCOW  
2021**

**Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Sustainable Development Goals /** CIS Statistical Committee, UNFPA. Moscow, 2021. – 36 pp.

In the preparation of the brochure «Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Sustainable Development Goals» official statistics of the national statistical services of the CIS member states were used.

For the purposes of this publication, the concepts of «youth» shall apply, which refer to the population aged 15–29. In some cases, other age groups shall apply, as further indicated.

Abbreviations, symbols:

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS-Stat	Statistical Committee of the CIS
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GDP	Gross domestic product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
0.0	Magnitude nil or negligible value
-	Category not applicable
...	Data not available
p. p.	Percentage point

Some discrepancies between totals and sum are possible due to rounding data.

# PREFACE

The brochure «Youth in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Sustainable Development Goals» continues the series of regular publications of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS on the status of youth in the Commonwealth region, supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In 2019, the Government of the Russian Federation allocated earmarked funds to UNFPA, enabling the launch of the Better Data – Better Policy programme, which should contribute to the improvement of social environment and demographic statistics and statistical capacity-building in the CIS countries. This brochure has become part of this programme.

The national statistical services of the CIS countries, which are actively involved in this work, have made a significant contribution to the preparation of publications on youth.

In 2021, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. The countries of the Commonwealth have come a long way in establishing and developing their statehood. The youth who are the subject of the brochure were born and socialized in a new socio-economic and political context. Youth of the new generation have entered the active stage of their live course, continuing and developing national traditions, seeking to explore the world – the world «without borders». In many ways, this is made possible with modern information technologies, which have become an integral part of our daily lives.

Youth is one of the key target groups of the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and is the subject of this brochure. The sections on demography, health, education, labour and the well-being of youth in the CIS countries contain data for the period of 2000–2019 broken down by individual SDG targets.

Youth in the CIS countries, like in most countries in the world, are prioritizing education and stable employment with prospects for further development. At the same time, some potential students are forced to forgo vocational education because of the need to pay for it. Once in school, youth in the Commonwealth often have serious difficulties finding a job that is appropriate for their profession and is related to their interests.

Gender equality in education and equal rights for boys and girls in the labour market have been established by legislation in CIS countries.

The improvement and development of health services and other components of the quality of life of the population, including youth, have contributed to the increase in life expectancy in recent years throughout the Commonwealth countries. However, the identification of new HIV infections remains a challenge. The young population face relatively high risks of mortality from external causes – accidents, injuries, including injuries from traffic accidents, poisonings, homicides and suicides.

Participation of youth in national legislative decision-making remains low. According to the study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the participation of youth in national parliaments in most countries of the world, youth under the age of 30 occupy a minor place in the highest legislative bodies; in the CIS countries, the proportion of young deputies ranges from 2 to 5 percent.

The information provided in the brochure covers the period up to 2020. Experts have yet to assess the impact of COVID-19 on all spheres of life. However, it is already clear that the difficulties associated with the forced isolation have complicated the situation in national economies, in labour markets, in education and health care, and have increased the risks of unemployment and poverty – all of which naturally affect the lives of the youth. At the same time, during this challenging period, many countries are witnessing the rise in volunteer activities, with the active participation of young men and women.

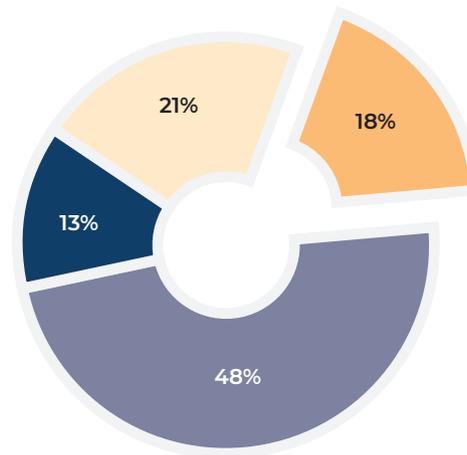
# DEMOGRAPHY



In the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States live 286 million people, of whom some 52 million are between the ages of 15 and 29. It is the first generation of people born and raised in the newly independent States. At the same time, against the backdrop of an increase in the total population, which is very significant in most of the Commonwealth countries, there is a steady trend towards population ageing and a decline in the proportion of the youth.



## AGE COMPOSITION OF THE CIS POPULATION AT THE BEGINNING OF 2020





## POPULATION OF THE CIS COUNTRIES

	TOTAL POPULATION, AS OF 01.01.2020, THOUSAND PERSONS	PERCENT BY 2000	SHARE OF YOUTH, PERCENT, 2020	CHANGE IN THE SHARE OF YOUTH COMPARED TO 2000, P. P.
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	10 067.1	124.1	22.4	-3.6
<b>ARMENIA</b>	2 959.7	91.7	19.5	-5.9
<b>BELARUS</b>	9 413.4 <sup>1</sup>	93.7 <sup>2</sup>	16.1	-5.7 <sup>2</sup>
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	18 631.8	125.0	20.5	-5.2
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	6 523.5	132.5	24.5	-3.1
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>3</sup></b>	2 640.4	...	17.6	...
<b>RUSSIA</b>	146 748.6	99.9	16.0	-6.7
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	9 313.8	148.7	27.3	-0.3
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	33 905.2	136.6	25.5	-2.9
<b>UKRAINE</b>	41 732.8	85.8	16.0	-6.0

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Population Census in the Republic of Belarus as of 04.10.2019.

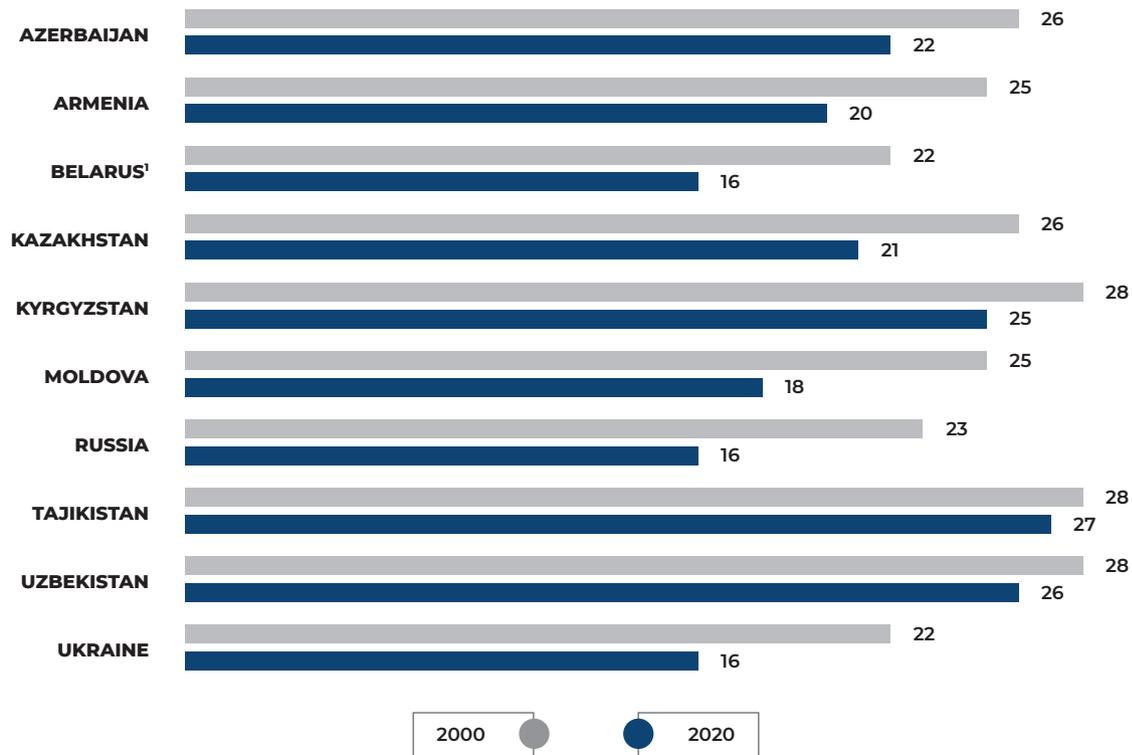
<sup>2</sup> Data from the Population Census of the Republic of Belarus 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Population with the usual place of residence.

In the CIS as a whole, the share of youth in the total population has fallen from 24 to 18 percent over the past 20 years. This is the case in most countries of the world. For individual Commonwealth countries, the share of youth in the total population currently ranges from 16 to 27 percent and continues to decline gradually even in high-fertility states. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine experienced the highest rates of decline.



## SHARE OF YOUTH IN TOTAL POPULATION (%)



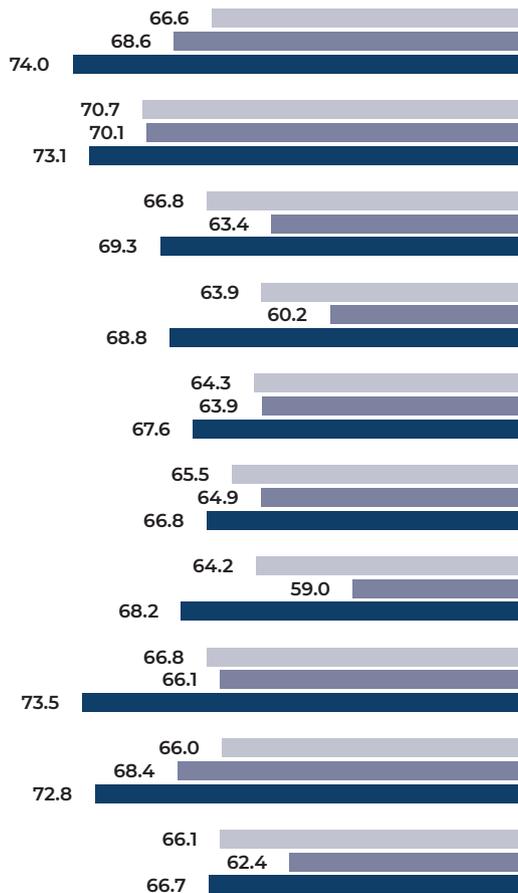
<sup>1</sup> Data from the 1999 and 2019 Population Censuses of the Republic of Belarus.

The decline in the share of youth in the population throughout the Commonwealth is attributable primarily to the steady increase in life expectancy everywhere. At the same time, the increasing proportion of aging population will have serious socio-economic consequences in the near future, including in the maintenance of the sustainability of countries' labour markets and pension systems.

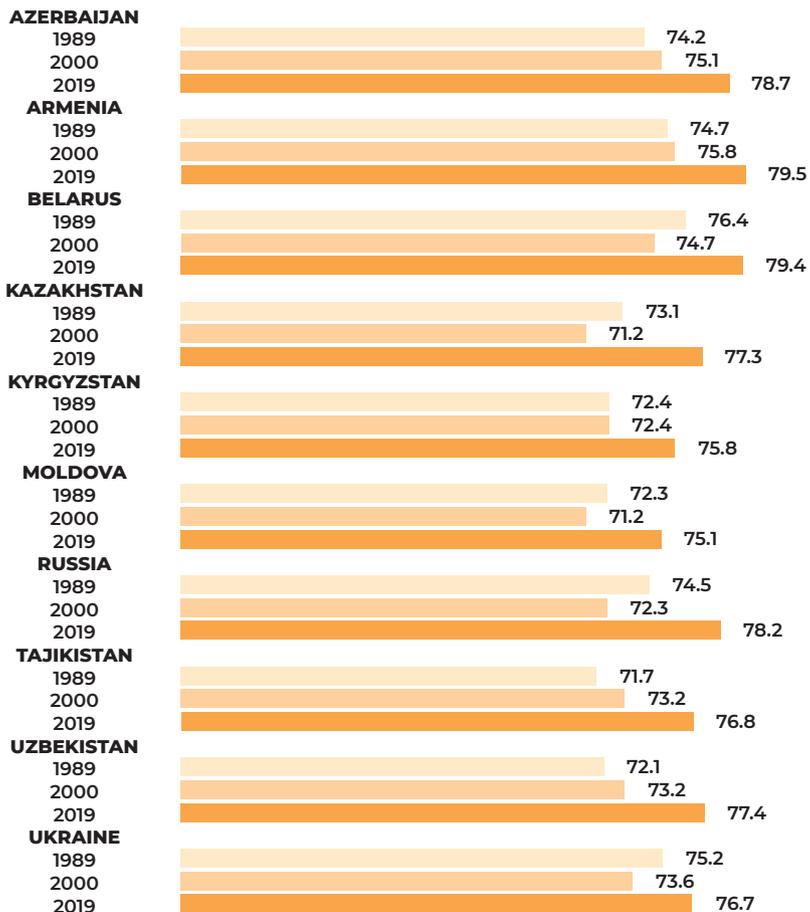


## LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (YEARS)

### MALES



### FEMALES



Life expectancy now is markedly higher than in 2000, when the consequences of the crises of the previous decade had a negative impact on the demographic situation in most of the CIS countries. The gender gap, although narrowing in recent years, remains significant, ranging from 8 to 10 years in selected countries.



## FAMILY AND FERTILITY

The mean age at marriage and mean age of the mother at birth of first child show an upward trend. Youth consider it important to acquire a vocational education, a stable job with career prospects or to start their own business before registering marriage.

	MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, YEARS				MEAN AGE OF MOTHER AT BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD, YEARS	
	MALES		FEMALES		2000	2019
	2000	2019	2000	2019		
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	28.4	29.4	23.6	24.7	24.1	24.0
<b>ARMENIA</b>	28.0	31.7	23.6	28.0	22.3	25.2
<b>BELARUS</b>	25.0 <sup>1</sup>	28.3 <sup>1</sup>	22.8 <sup>1</sup>	26.1 <sup>1</sup>	23.3	26.8
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	26.2	27.6	23.3	25.0	26.7 <sup>2</sup>	28.9 <sup>2</sup>
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	27.0	28.4	23.4	24.3	22.7	22.6
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>3</sup></b>	25.3 <sup>1</sup>	28.9 <sup>1</sup>	22.4 <sup>1</sup>	26.0 <sup>1</sup>	22.7	25.2
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	24.7 <sup>1</sup>	26.2 <sup>1</sup>	22.3 <sup>1</sup>	22.1 <sup>1</sup>	22.7	23.0
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	24.2	26.6	21.4	22.7	23.2	23.7
<b>UKRAINE</b>	25.3	28.6	22.5	25.9	24.5	26.2

<sup>1</sup> Mean age at first marriage.

<sup>2</sup> Mean age of mother.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2000 are based on average annual resident population, for 2019 – on the average annual population with a usual place of residence.

	AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS PER 1 000 WOMEN AT CORRESPONDING AGE)							
	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-29	
	2000	2019	2000	2019	2000	2019	2000	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	0.0	0.0	29	48	131	146	99	102
<b>ARMENIA</b>	0.0	0.03	32	17	120	111	64	101
<b>BELARUS</b>	0.0	–	27	11	110	68	76	89
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	0.04	0.03	33	23	133	166	105	173
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	0.0	0.0	34	38	164	209	133	189
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>1</sup></b>	0.1	0.13	36	29	104	100	68	105
<b>RUSSIA</b>	...	0.06	27	15	94	75	67	91
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	...	...	...	36	208	236	188	158
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	...	...	...	27	205	214	161	176
<b>UKRAINE</b>	...	...	32	17	95	68	58	77

<sup>1</sup> Data for 2000 are based on average annual resident population, for 2019 – on the average annual population with a usual place of residence.

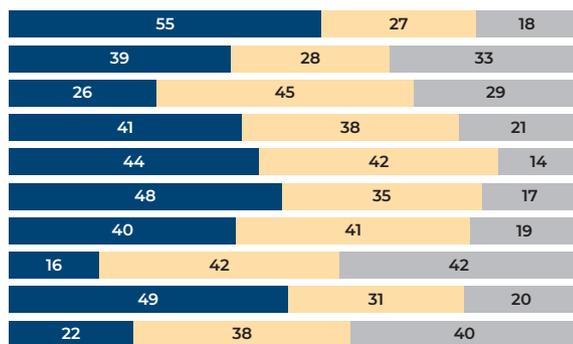


## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF YOUTH, 2019

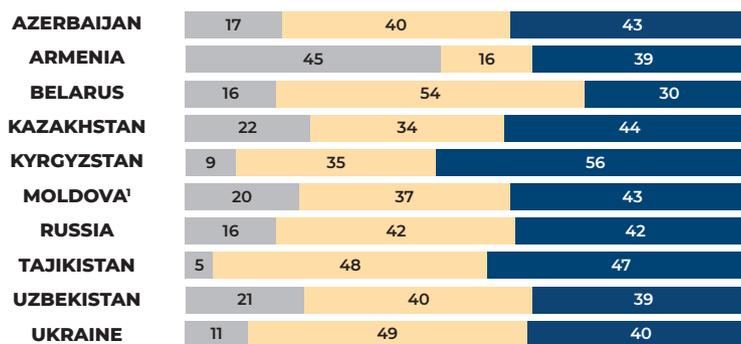
	NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS BY AGE			NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS BY AGE		
	15-19	20-24	25-29	15-19	20-24	25-29
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	80	117	245	138	316	346
<b>ARMENIA</b>	752	626	885	293	106	251
<b>BELARUS</b>	4 395	6 832	4 041	1 502	5 027	2 860
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	827	1 466	1 595	2 090	3 213	4 118
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	58	175	187	207	767	1 224
<b>MOLDOVA (2018)</b>	4 834	10 051	13 701	9 471	17 485	20 436
<b>RUSSIA</b>	44 942	97 033	95 019	21 929	57 657	58 372
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	33	33	13	198	1 953	1 877
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	109	179	285	840	1 634	1 581
<b>UKRAINE</b>	10 678	10 326	5 818	1 334	5 670	4 628

### PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF MIGRANTS AT AGE 15-29

#### IMMIGRANTS



#### EMIGRANTS



' 2018.



Youth move to permanent residence in other countries mainly within the Commonwealth, accounting for 20 to 40 percent of all the migrants. Open labour markets and active labour migration of youth helped to smooth over the problems of national economies, including through remittances.

# HEALTH



## GOAL 3



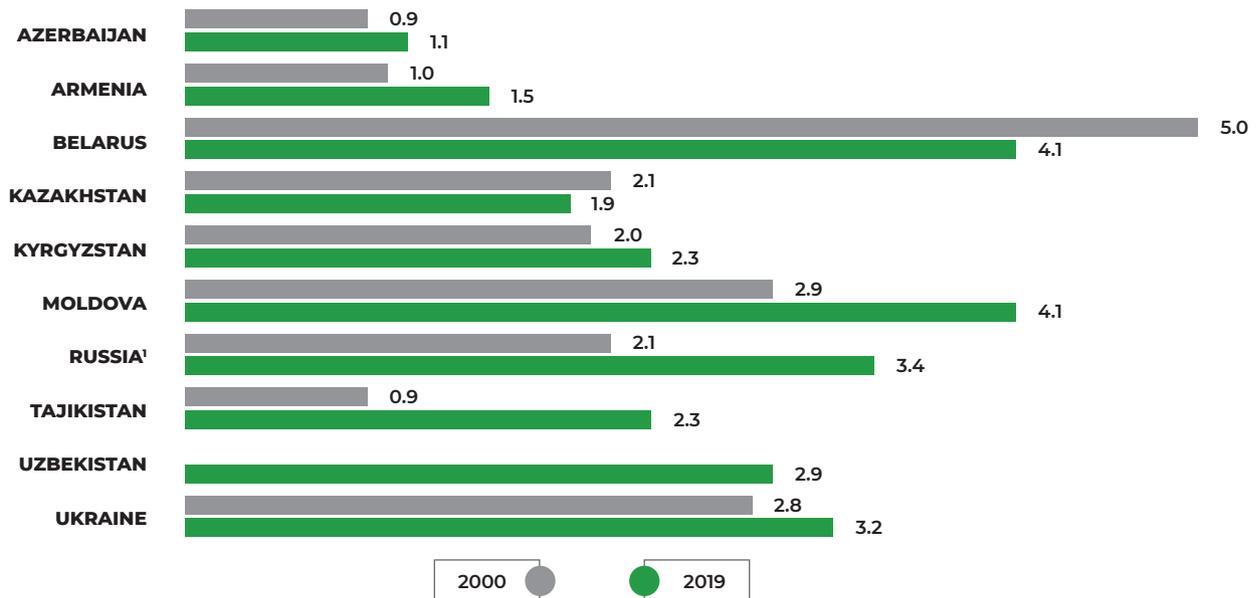
**ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

**Goal 3** of the global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 calls for universal coverage of quality health services (target 3.8) and for a substantial increase in health financing (target 3.c).

In most Commonwealth countries, state budget expenditures on health increased significantly in 2019 compared with 2000, however its share of GDP is still markedly lower than in a number of other countries.



## EXPENDITURES OF CONSOLIDATED BUDGETS ON HEALTH CARE (PERCENT OF GDP)



<sup>1</sup> For Russia – 2019 including budgets of state extra-budgetary funds.

**Target 3.3** of the SDGs aspires to end, by 2030, the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE INCIDENCE AMONG YOUTH

(NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS; PER 100 000 POPULATION AT CORRESPONDING AGE)

	ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS			
	MALES		FEMALES	
	2015	2019	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	80.5	73.4	40.4	42.0
<b>ARMENIA<sup>1</sup></b>	52.6	25.1	17.5	7.8
<b>BELARUS<sup>2</sup></b>	40.0	18.9	20.6	11.1
<b>KAZAKHSTAN<sup>3</sup></b>	95.4	58.5	85.3	61.4
<b>KYRGYZSTAN<sup>2</sup></b>	144.7	114.5	117.8	93.3
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>2,4</sup></b>	106.9	94.5	61.4	53.8
<b>RUSSIA<sup>2</sup></b>	98.2	60.7	55.7	35.8
<b>TAJIKISTAN<sup>1</sup></b>	90.5	98.0	68.0	62.3
<b>UZBEKISTAN<sup>5</sup></b>	35.8 <sup>6</sup>	...	30.4 <sup>6</sup>	...
<b>UKRAINE</b>	78.4 <sup>6</sup>	...	49.7 <sup>6</sup>	...

	HIV-POSITIVE PERSONS			
	MALES		FEMALES	
	2015	2019	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	8.0	9.7	7.2	5.5
<b>ARMENIA</b>	9.7 <sup>6</sup>	25.7	7.3 <sup>6</sup>	9.2
<b>BELARUS</b>	34.7	21.1	33.5	17.5
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	14.3	...	15.3	...
<b>KYRGYZSTAN<sup>3</sup></b>	9.2	10.4	11.4	9.5
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>2,4</sup></b>	36.8	43.6	29.4	34.4
<b>RUSSIA<sup>2</sup></b>	...	147.9	...	103.5
<b>TAJIKISTAN<sup>1</sup></b>	8.8	11.4	13.4	10.2
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	3.0 <sup>6,7</sup>	1.3 <sup>7</sup>	2.1 <sup>6,7</sup>	2.0 <sup>7</sup>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	14.9 <sup>1,6</sup>	...	26.2 <sup>1,6</sup>	...

<sup>1</sup> Aged 15–24.

<sup>2</sup> Aged 15–34.

<sup>3</sup> Aged 15–28.

<sup>4</sup> Data are calculated for the average annual population with a usual place of residence.

<sup>5</sup> In 2019 43.2 of youth per 100 000 population in Uzbekistan, contracted active tuberculosis.

<sup>6</sup> 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Aged 15–17.

**Target 3.5** of the SDGs is to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol. In the CIS countries, the incidence of alcohol, drug and substance abuse and the detection of new HIV infections among youth remain fairly high.



## SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL DISORDERS

(NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS; PER 100 000 POPULATION AT CORRESPONDING AGE)

	DRUG ADDICTION				TOXICOMANIA			
	MALES		FEMALES		MALES		FEMALES	
	2015	2019	2015	2019	2015	2019	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	39.0	64.8	0.9	2.5	0.2	1.2	...	0.2
<b>ARMENIA<sup>1</sup></b>	48.1	60.0	0.3	2.1	-	2.5	-	0.8
<b>BELARUS<sup>2</sup></b>	30.8	-	2.3	-	6.6	1.4	1.5	-
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	127.6	55.4	6.1	4.5	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.4
<b>KYRGYZSTAN<sup>3</sup></b>	10.7	3.4	0.2	0.1	...	...	...	...
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>RUSSIA<sup>4</sup></b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TAJIKISTAN<sup>5</sup></b>	17.7	5.8	0.5	0.2	-	-	-	-
<b>UZBEKISTAN<sup>2</sup></b>	0.4 <sup>6</sup>	0.3	-	-	0.5 <sup>6</sup>	-	-	-
<b>UKRAINE</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	ALCOHOLISM AND ALCOHOLIC PSYCHOSIS			
	MALES		FEMALES	
	2015	2019	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	3.0	1.3	0.2	0.1
<b>ARMENIA<sup>1</sup></b>	8.4	5.3	0.3	-
<b>BELARUS<sup>2</sup></b>	2.2	4.3	2.3	1.5
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	270.5	83.7	38.3	18.0
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	19.1	4.0	2.3	0.4
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	...	...	...	...
<b>RUSSIA<sup>4</sup></b>	...	...	...	...
<b>TAJIKISTAN<sup>5</sup></b>	10.0	12.2	0.1	0.1
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>UKRAINE</b>	...	...	...	...

<sup>1</sup> Aged 15–27.

<sup>2</sup> Aged 15–17.

<sup>3</sup> Data provided on drug addiction and toxicomania.

<sup>4</sup> Aged 15–39. In 2019, in general, for men and women, 23.3 people per 100 000 population of the corresponding age were registered with a diagnosis of drug addiction, with a diagnosis of substance abuse – 0.4, alcoholism – 62.1.

<sup>5</sup> Aged 15–34.

<sup>6</sup> 2016.

**Target 3.7** of the SDG calls for ensuring, by 2030, the universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.



## CHILDBIRTHS AND ABORTIONS, 2019

(PER 1000 WOMEN AGED 15–49)

	CHILDBIRTHS	ABORTIONS	OF THEM AGED			OF THEM PRIMIGRAVIDAS (FIRST-TIME PREGNANCIES)
			UNDER 14	15–19	20–29	
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	53.0	14.2	-	0.6	7.1	0.3
<b>ARMENIA</b>	48.3	15.2	...	0.5	10.4	...
<b>BELARUS</b>	39.8	9.7	0.002	0.3	3.6	1.2
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	79.8	17.0	0.0	0.3	7.9	2.2
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	98.4	12.5	0.0	0.9	5.9	1.4
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>1</sup></b>	47.9	18 <sup>2</sup>	0.03	1.0	12.2	2
<b>RUSSIA</b>	41.5	18.0	0.01	0.1 <sup>3</sup>	17.6 <sup>4</sup>	1.5
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	101.9	5.9	-	0.5	4.0	...
<b>UZBEKISTAN<sup>5</sup></b>	83.0	4.8	0.0005	0.3	3.0	0.04

<sup>1</sup> Data are calculated for the average annual population with a usual place of residence.

<sup>2</sup> Aged 20–34.

<sup>3</sup> Aged 15–17.

<sup>4</sup> Aged 18–44.

<sup>5</sup> 2018.

There has been a steady decline in adolescent pregnancies and abortions in the Commonwealth countries. Compared to 2010, the number of abortions among women aged below 19 dropped in Russia from 2.3 to 0.2 per 1 000 15–49 year-olds; in Ukraine from 1.3 to 0.6, in Moldova from 2.2 to 1.0, in Belarus from 1.2 to 0.3 and in Kazakhstan from 0.7 to 0.3.



## MORTALITY OF WOMEN AGED 15–29 DUE TO COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH AND THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD

	NUMBER OF DEATH CASES, TOTAL			PER 100 000 LIVE BIRTH BY MOTHERS AGED 15–29		
	2000	2010	2019	2000	2010	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	24	13	6	27	9.4	5.4
<b>ARMENIA<sup>1</sup></b>	9	2	9	31	5.6	38
<b>BELARUS<sup>2</sup></b>	9	-	-	12	-	-
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	41	32	18	25	13	7.1
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	23	34	21	32	32	18
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	7	12	2	23	38	10 <sup>1</sup>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	252	135	40	25	11	5.4
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	27	21	6	33	13	3.2
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	...	...	72	...	...	8.8

<sup>1</sup> Data on the number of live births were recalculated by date of birth, not by date of birth registration. Live births include the number of birth certificates recorded.

<sup>2</sup> Since 2007, excluding late maternal mortality.

Using modern contraceptives can help prevent unintended pregnancies and abortions.



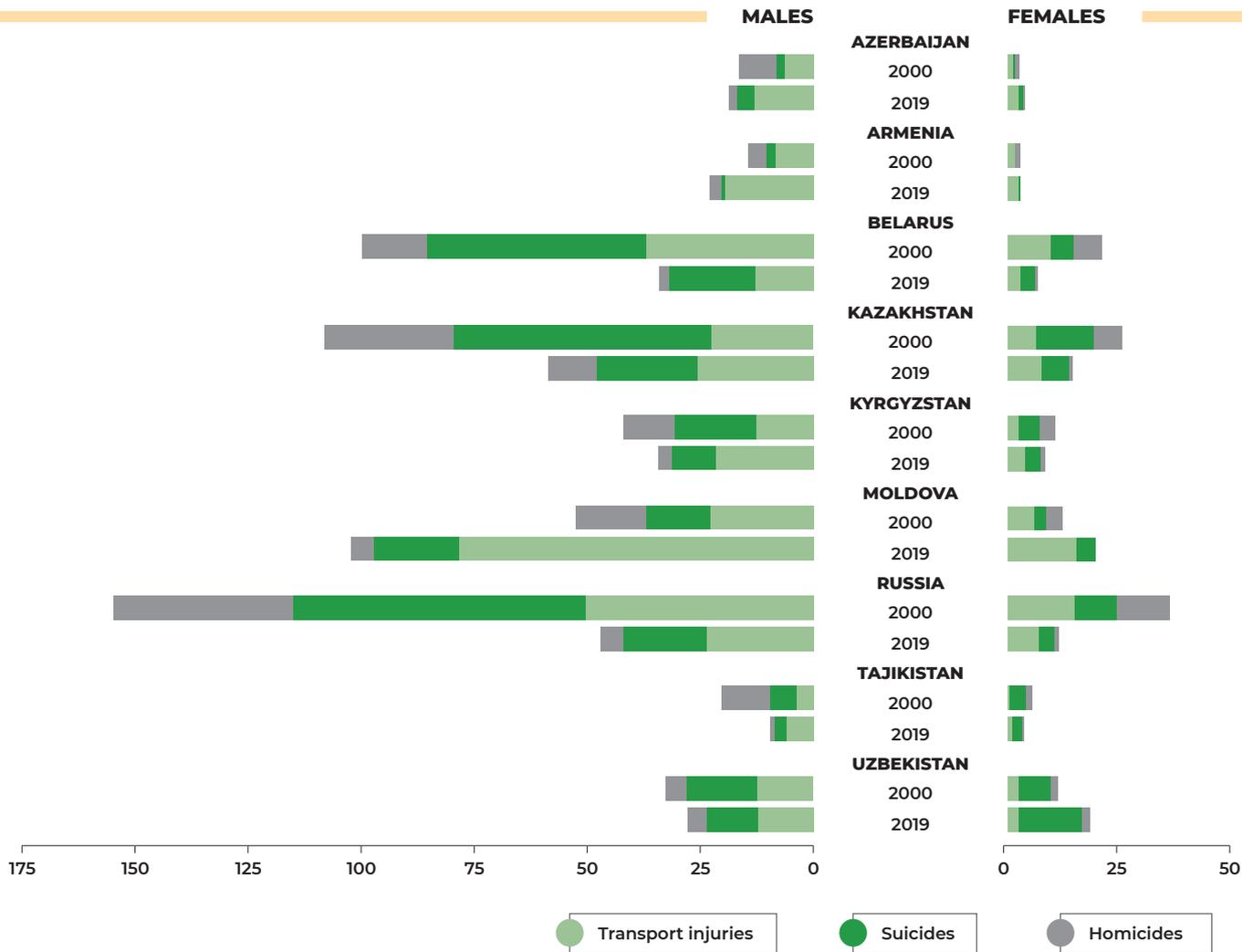
## CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE, 2019 (PER 1000 WOMEN AGED 15–49)

	TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO USED CONTRACEPTION	OF WHICH		SURGICAL STERILIZATIONS
		IUDS	HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION	
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	21.5	6.3	6.2	0.03
<b>ARMENIA</b>	...	8.0	6.6	0.1
<b>BELARUS</b>	...	170.1	163.3	...
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	383.1	186.0	65.2	...
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	191.6	71.4	38.6	1.0
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	...	...	...	0.6
<b>RUSSIA</b>	...	94.5	126.7	0.4
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	393.4	188.4	90.4	4.6
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	...	420.8	40.6	43.9



## YOUTH MORTALITY RATE BY SPECIFIC EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH

(NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 100 000 POPULATION OF CORRESPONDING SEX AND AGE)

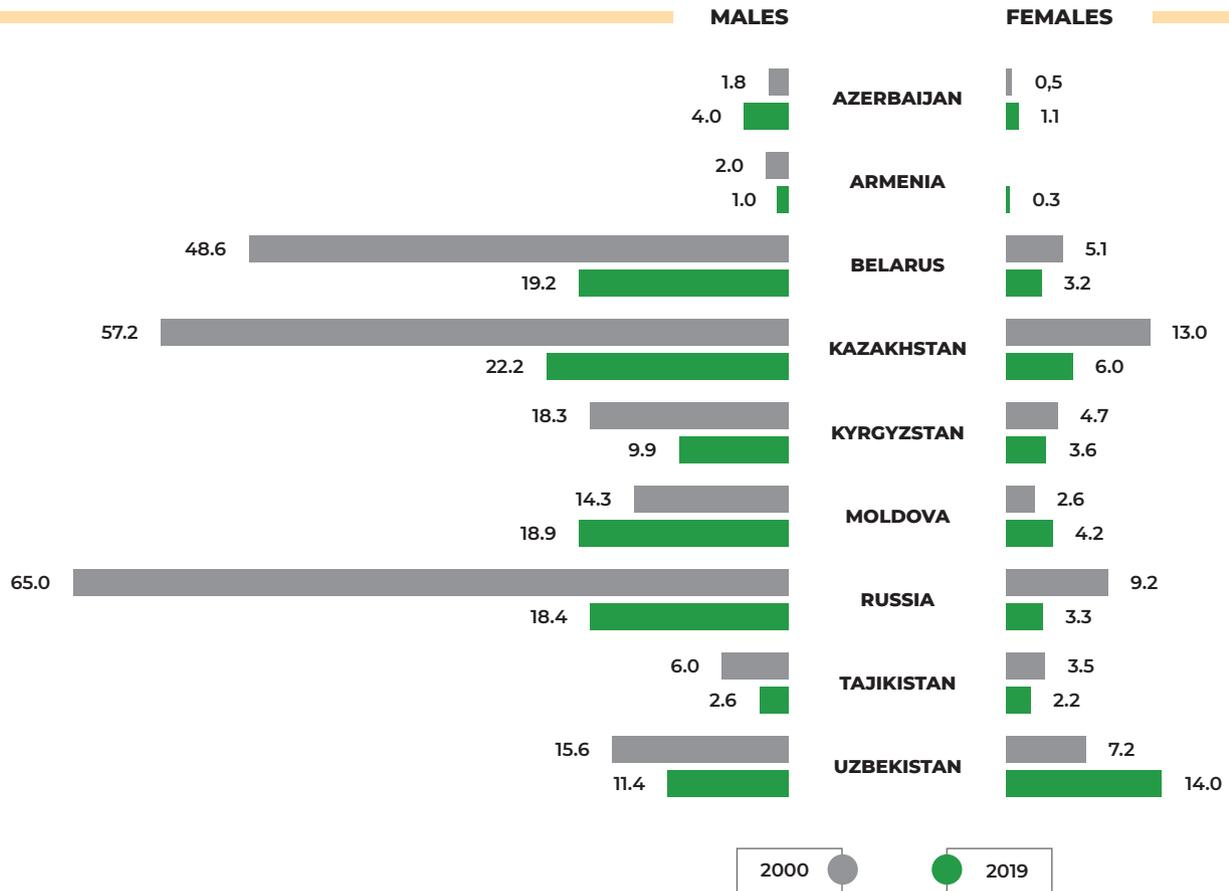


Youth in the Commonwealth face relatively high risks of mortality from external causes – accidents, injuries, including injuries from traffic accidents, poisonings, homicides and suicides. The social and psychological support services operating in Commonwealth countries in recent years have expanded the range and quality of services, but undoubtedly hold potential for further development.



## SUICIDE MORTALITY

(AGED 15–29, NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION OF CORRESPONDING SEX AND AGE)



Despite the downward trend, the suicide rate among youth remains high in a number of CIS member states, outstripping similar indicators in many countries of the world. However, the corresponding figures for men are 2 to 6 times higher than those for women.

# EDUCATION

## GOAL 4



**ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFE-LONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**



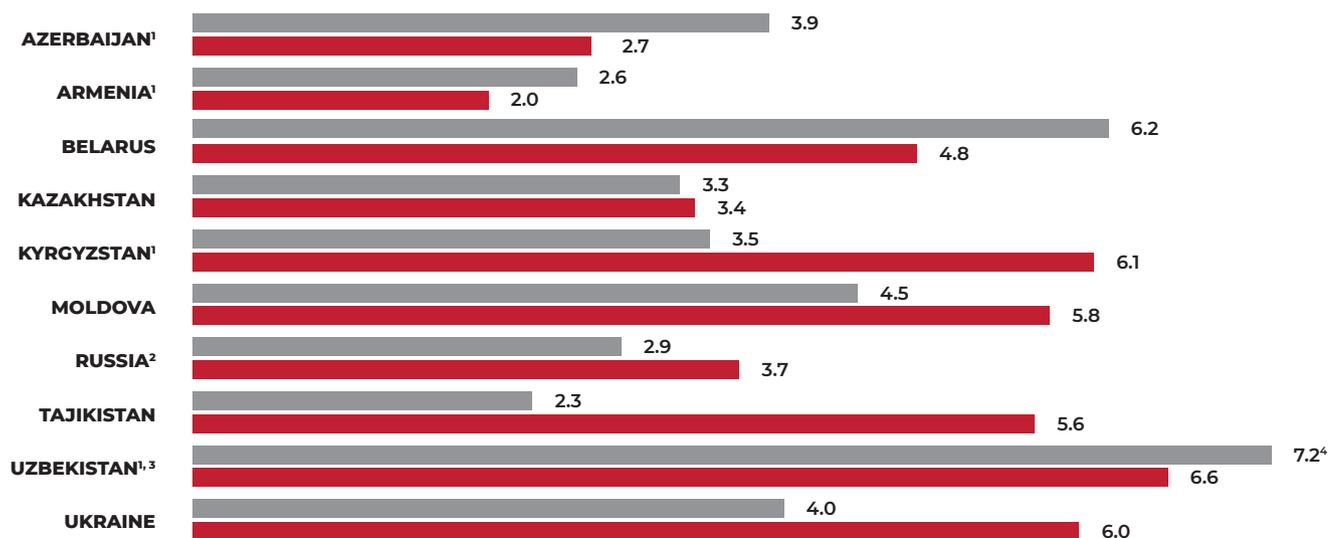
In the Commonwealth countries, reaching the **Goal 4** and maintaining educational achievements already accomplished, are guaranteed by the national legislation ensuring equal rights of women and men to education and concrete application of these rights.

First and foremost, this concerns public funding of educational expenses to cover the cost of tuition for students in the public sector, assuring the quality of the knowledge acquired, the availability of qualified teaching staff and related material resources in educational facilities, including classrooms, laboratories and equipment.



## EXPENDITURES OF CONSOLIDATED BUDGETS ON EDUCATION

(PERCENT OF GDP)



<sup>1</sup> State budget.

<sup>2</sup> Taking into account budgets of state extra-budget funds.

<sup>3</sup> Enlightenment (Educational services).

<sup>4</sup> 2010.

2000

2019



## GENDER PARITY INDEX IN EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>, 2019

	SHARE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED, BY SEX			
	DAYTIME GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS (UPPER GRADES 10-11(12))	INITIAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS	SECONDARY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS	HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	0.85	0.31	1.78	0.95
<b>ARMENIA</b>	1.04	0.37	1.24	1.34
<b>BELARUS</b>	1.19	0.50	0.997	1.09
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	1.13	-	0.88	1.14
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	1.20	0.43	1.29	1.09
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	1.30	0.38	1.17	1.41
<b>RUSSIA<sup>2</sup></b>	...	0.41	0.98	1.13
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	0.88	0.27	1.86	0.61
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	0.96	-	1.05	0.85
<b>UKRAINE</b>	1.11	0.61	1.22	1.06

<sup>1</sup> According to UNESCO definition, a GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes; a value between 0-1 indicates disparity in favor of males; a value greater than 1 indicates disparity in favor of females.

<sup>2</sup> Calculation of the CIS-Stat.

A distinctive feature of the Commonwealth region is the high educational level of its population and the achieved gender equality in education.

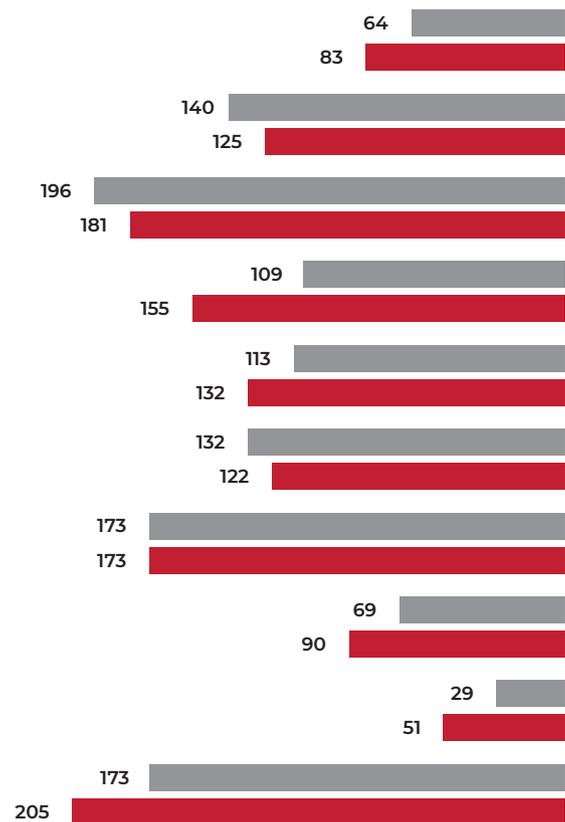
The literacy rate among youth is close to 100 percent. Compulsory and free general secondary education is guaranteed by the national laws in most Commonwealth countries.



## STUDENTS AT HIGHER PROFESSIONAL AND SECONDARY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

(BEGINNING OF ACADEMIC YEAR; PER 1,000 POPULATION AGED 15–29)

### HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



### SECONDARY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



2015/16

2019/20

<sup>1</sup> Higher education enrolment – Bachelor's, Specialist's and Master's programmes. Secondary vocational education enrolment.

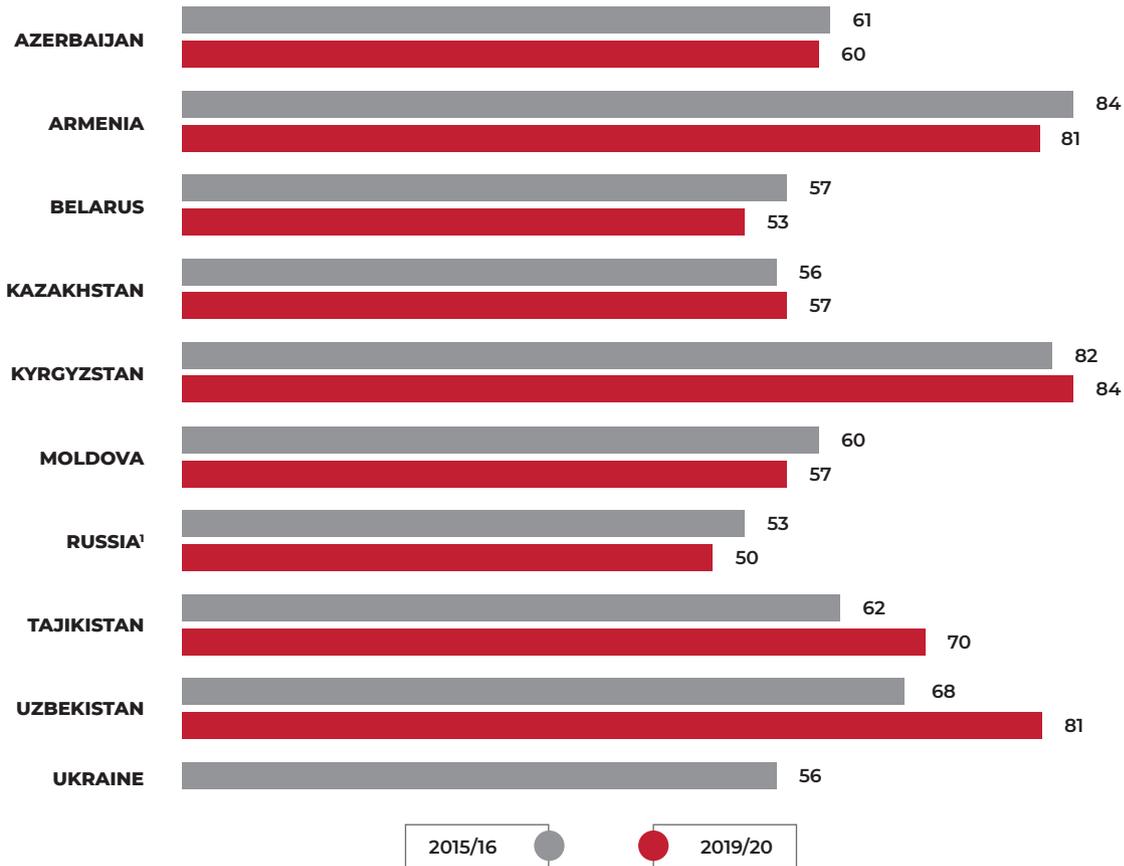
<sup>2</sup> From 2013 to 2016, education in schools was provided only at the basic general education level (grades 9), and after graduation, youth continued their studies at professional colleges or academic lyceums. Starting from 2017, schools resumed classes in the grades 10(11).

In recent years, most countries indicate upward trends in the share of youth in higher and secondary professional education. A notable proportion of youth in the Commonwealth countries have the resolve to pursue the highest possible level of education, if circumstances permit.



## STUDENTS AT STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS STUDYING ON A PAID BASIS

(BEGINNING OF ACADEMIC YEAR; PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS)



<sup>1</sup> Higher education enrolment: Bachelor's, Specialist's and Master's programmes.

In state universities, where the majority of students at this level of education is enrolled, between 50 and 84 per cent of students pay full tuition fees. For some of the potential students the refusal to receive higher and secondary professional education to some extent was affected by the need to pay for it.



## GRADUATES FROM INITIAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

(THOUSAND PERSONS)

	2000	2010	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	12.1	13.0	15.2	15.5
<b>ARMENIA</b>	1.6	1.9	2.9	2.0
<b>BELARUS</b>	54.7	40.9	31.1	28.0
<b>KAZAKHSTAN<sup>1</sup></b>	36.0	44.1	-	-
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	20.7	27.6	25.7	27.9
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	14.0	13.2	9.2	5.7
<b>RUSSIA<sup>2</sup></b>	763.0	581.0	368.2	165.5
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	14.8	10.4	9.6	11.7
<b>UKRAINE</b>	266.8	247.4	165.0	124.0

<sup>1</sup> In 2013/2014 academic year initial vocational education institutions were granted college status and were included in secondary professional education institutions.

<sup>2</sup> Including students under contract; 2015, 2019 – graduated skilled workers (qualified employees).

In a number of CIS countries, there is a certain imbalance between the needs of labour markets for skilled workers and their limited supply. Increasing the attractiveness of initial vocational training institutions can be considered a priority of countries' educational policies. At the same time, obtaining a modern working profession contributes to the young person's good start on the labour market and subsequent advancement in education and occupation.



## POPULATION AGED 15–24 WITH ICT SKILLS, 2019

(ACCORDING TO DATA OF SAMPLE SURVEYS, PERCENT)

	AZERBAIJAN	BELARUS	KAZAKHSTAN	KYRGYZSTAN <sup>1</sup>	RUSSIA	UZBEKISTAN
<b>CAN COPY OR MOVE A FILE OR A FOLDER</b>	76.7	79.9	32.1	23.8	62.6	59.5
<b>CAN USE COPY AND PASTE TOOL TO DUPLICATE OR MOVE INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENT</b>	74.7	77.5	18.5	23.4	44.7	36.3
<b>CAN USE BASIC ARITHMETIC FORMULAS IN SPREADSHEETS</b>	39.6	46.8	52.9	13.6	44.0 <sup>2</sup>	18.6
<b>CAN CONNECT AND INSTALL NEW DEVICES (FOR EXAMPLE, MODEM, PRINTER, CAMERA, ETC.)</b>	23.4	44.5	18.6	7.3	27.5	8.6
<b>CAN SEARCH, DOWNLOAD, INSTALL AND CONFIGURE SOFTWARE</b>	17.5	51.8	22.5	7.5	11.5	7.1
<b>CAN SEND EMAIL WITH ATTACHMENTS</b>	73.6	66.4	61.9	21.2	56.8	21.1
<b>CAN CREATE ELECTRONIC PRESENTATIONS USING SPECIALIZED SOFTWARE</b>	13.1	39.2	27.1	13.2	31.1	10.7
<b>CAN TRANSFER FILES BETWEEN COMPUTERS AND OTHER DEVICES</b>	11.2	79.0	26.0	12.1	52.0	7.4
<b>CAN WRITE COMPUTER PROGRAMS USING A SPECIAL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE</b>	1.1	5.8	7.8	3.2	2.5	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Share of women, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Working with spreadsheets (e.g., using functions such as filtering, sorting, formulae, creating diagrams, etc.).

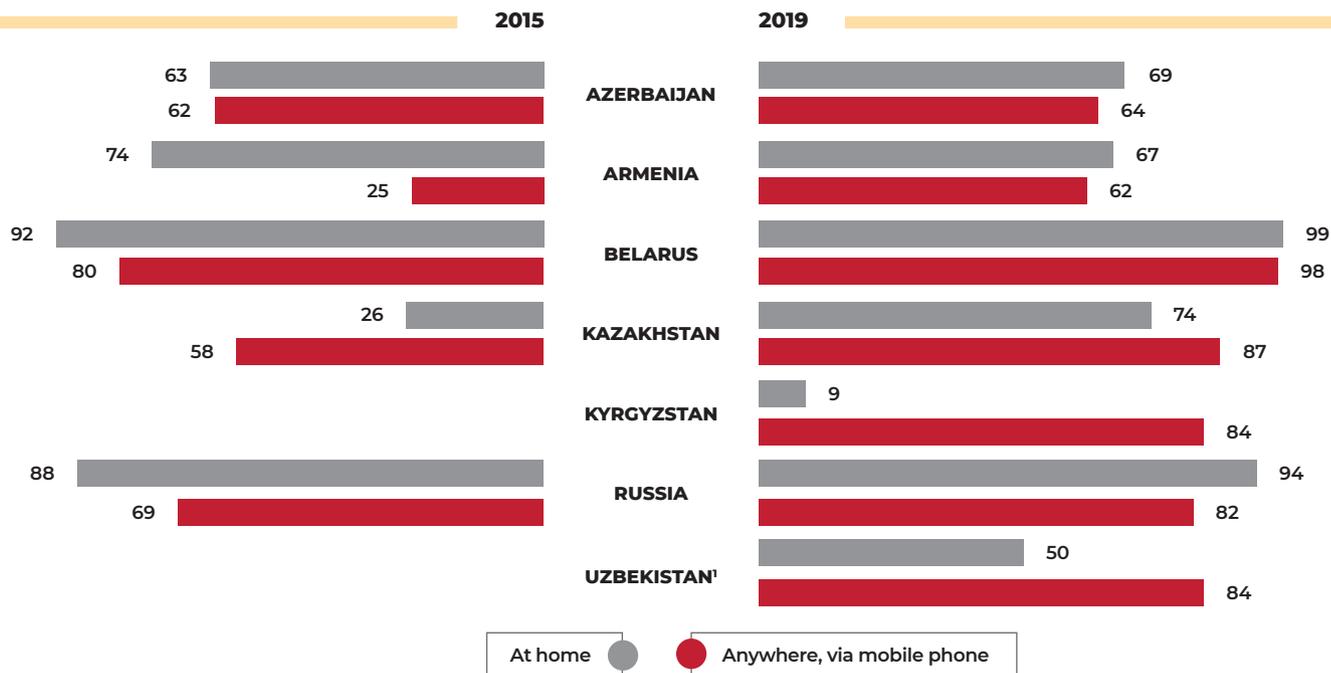
Further development of distance learning and inclusive education programmes is a top policy priority for the Commonwealth countries. This increases opportunities for the youth living in remote and rural areas, as well as youth with disabilities, to receive modern general and vocational education. Practical implementation of such tasks requires a wider introduction of modern technologies and equipment for online communication, sustainable access to high-speed Internet.



## INTERNET USERS AMONG YOUTH

(PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION AT CORRESPONDING AGE GROUP)

### BY PLACE OF INTERNET ACCESS



At home

Anywhere, via mobile phone

### BY AGE (YEARS), 2019

	15-19	20-24	25-29
AZERBAIJAN	88.1	96.5	97.8
ARMENIA	81.0	84.8	83.3
BELARUS	99.7	98.4	99.0
KAZAKHSTAN	85.0	83.9	91.4
KYRGYZSTAN	81.6	87.2	87.3
RUSSIA	98.0	97.1	97.1
UZBEKISTAN <sup>1</sup>	87.5		

<sup>1</sup> Aged 15-24.

# LABOUR



## GOAL 8

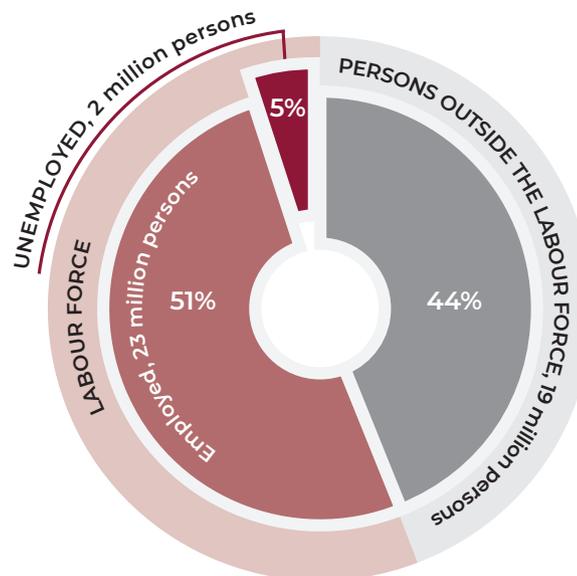


**PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**



## CIS YOUTH IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND OUTSIDE OF IT, 2019

(PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH)

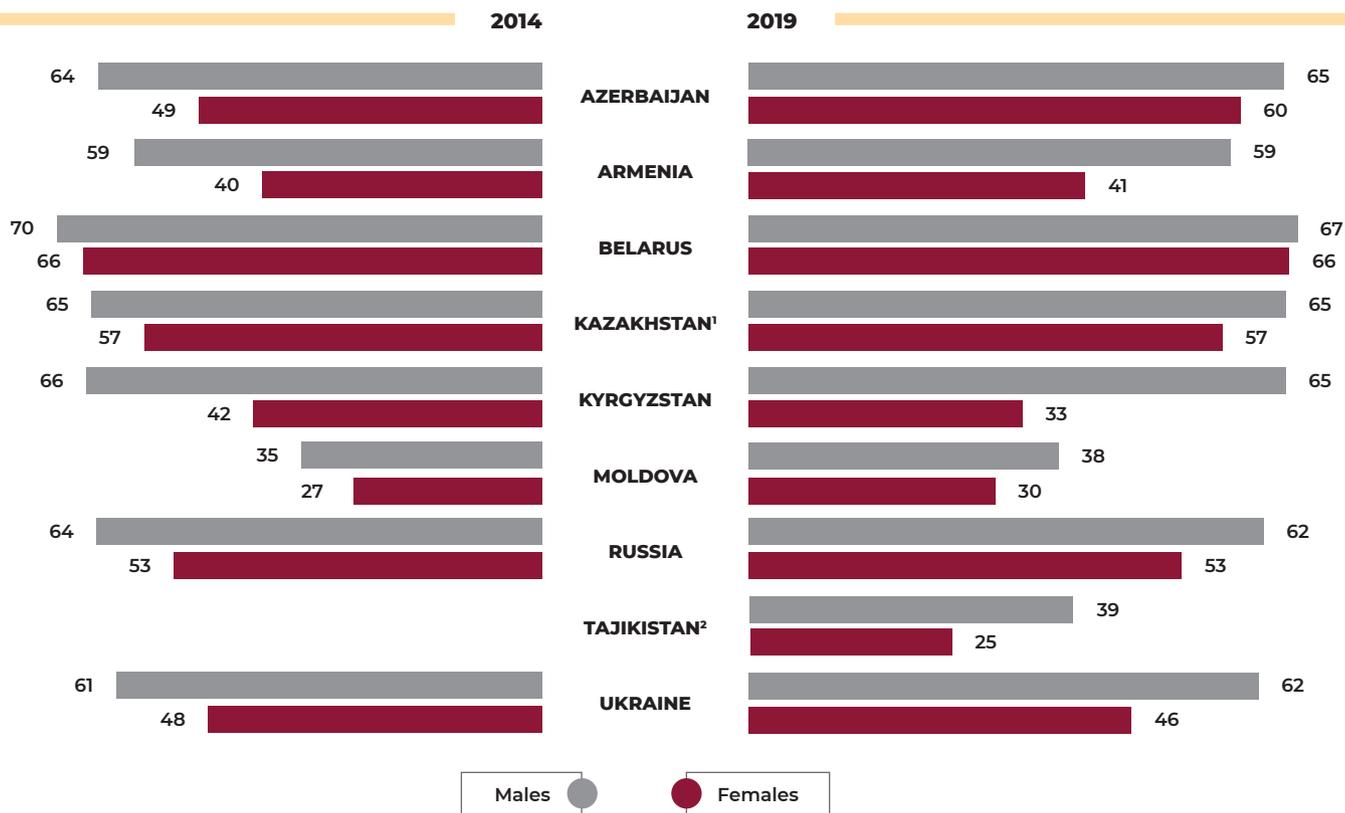


Position of youth on the labour market is determined by a set of indicators. In addition to employment and unemployment rates, these include educational attainment, gender, duration of youth unemployment, dynamics of youth not in employment, education or training.

In recent years, combined labour force (total number of employed and unemployed) for the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole has been estimated at 135 million persons. At the same time, the proportion of youth aged 15–29 in the structure fell from 26 to 19 percent over a 10-year period, amounting to 25 million in 2019 (without data for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).



## PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN THE LABOUR FORCE (PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH)



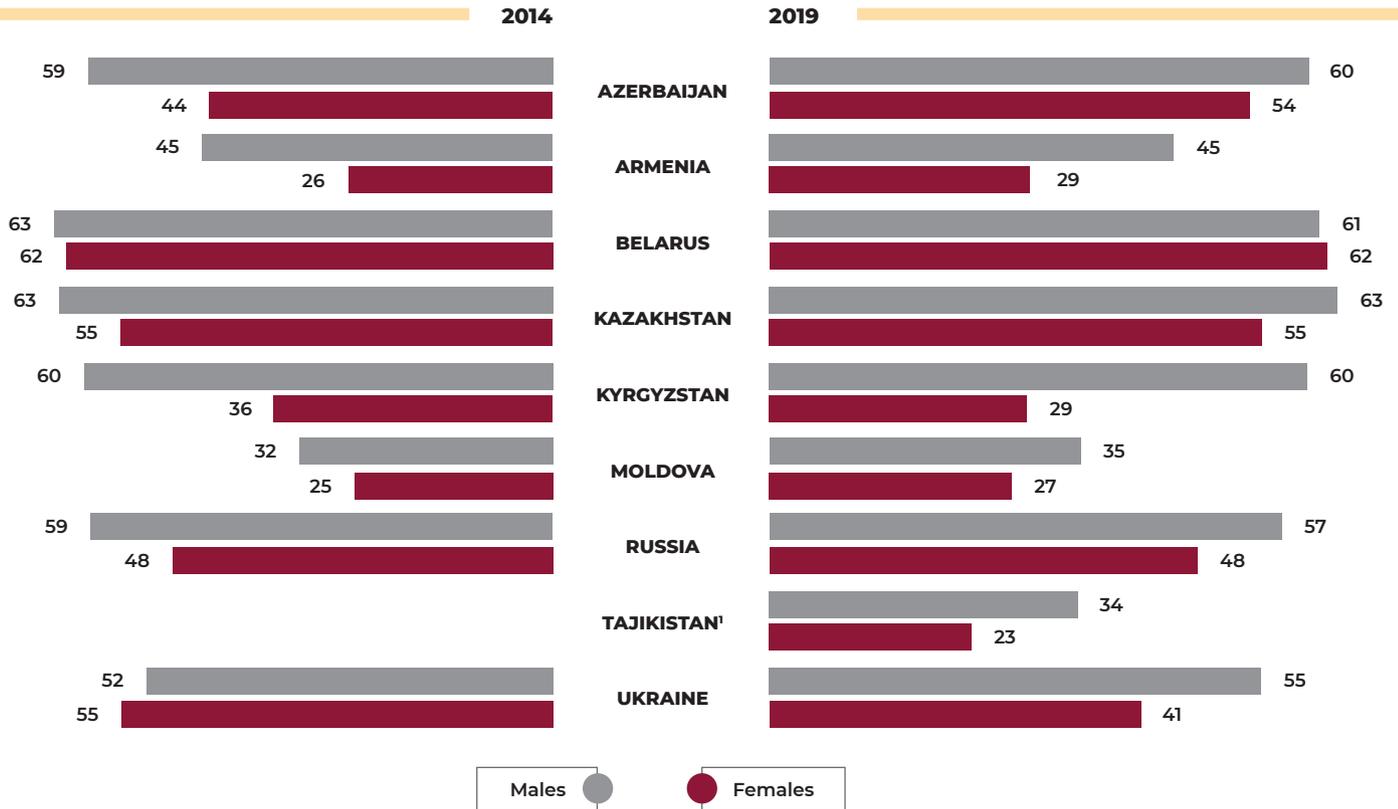
<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter – according to the Law «On State Youth Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan» youth include persons aged 15–28 years.  
<sup>2</sup> 2016.

Youth labour force participation depends on a multitude of factors. For men, economic reasons are more important, and for women, the birth of a child often leads to a withdrawal from the labour market.

For the CIS countries, youth account for 18 to 32 percent of the national labour force.



## YOUTH EMPLOYMENTS RATE (PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH)



<sup>1</sup> 2016.

Despite the relatively high level of youth employment in general, in most countries it is still significantly higher for men than for women (the gap is between 6 and 31 p. p.). Women are more likely to be unpaid caregivers. Creating conditions for combining paid employment and maternity, as well as participation in distance employment (establishment of day-care centers, increasing availability of short-stay groups in kindergartens and after-school groups in schools), could help solve this problem.



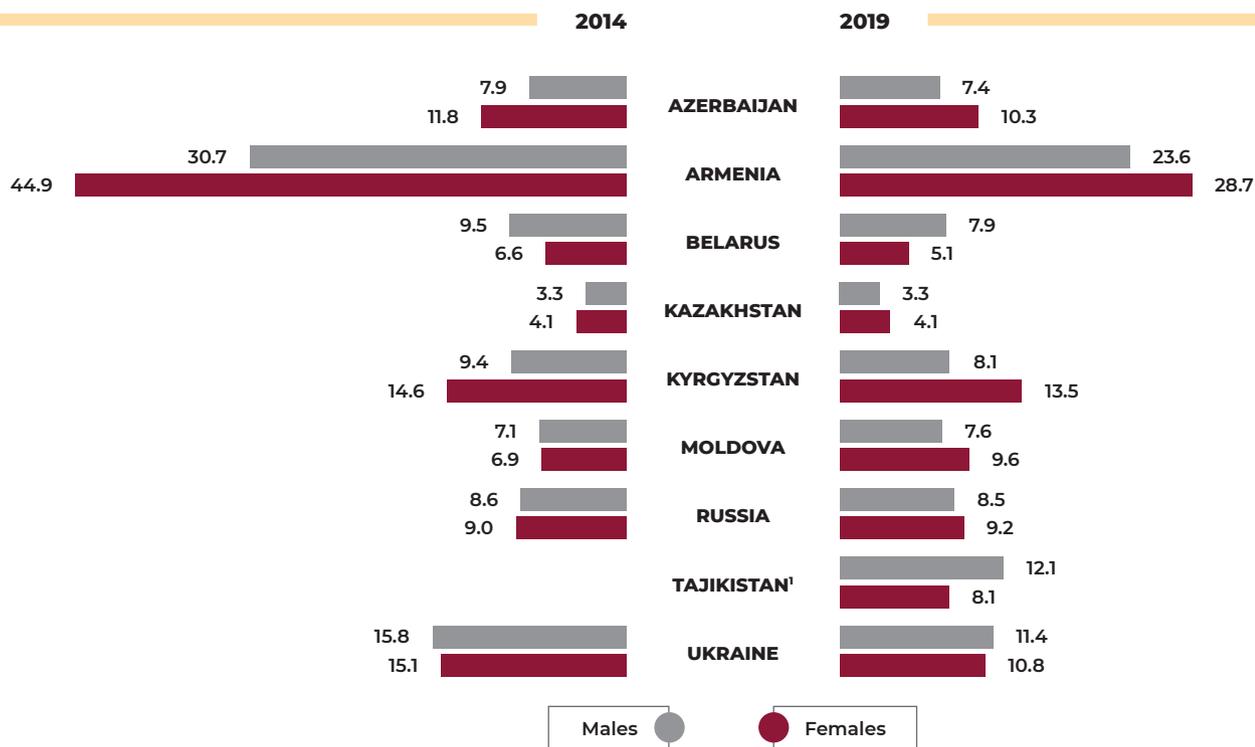
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

### IN THE CIS (PERCENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE)



The overall positive trend in the Commonwealth labour market in recent years has been a decline in both overall unemployment and forced unemployment among youth.

### OF YOUTH (PERCENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE AT THE CORRESPONDING AGE)

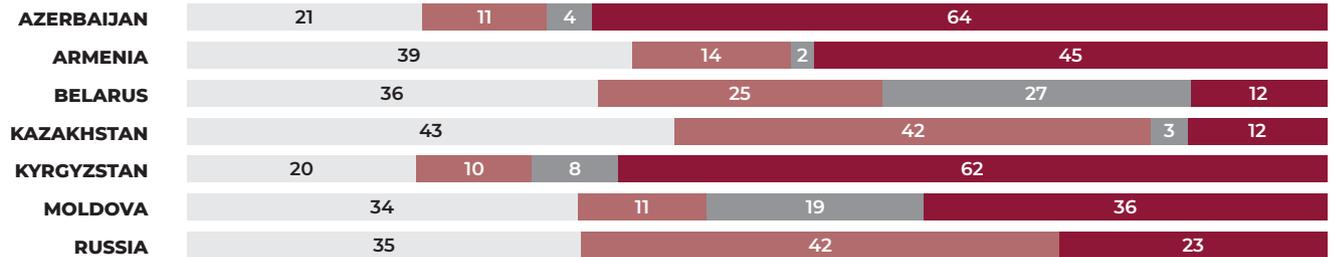


<sup>1</sup> 2016.

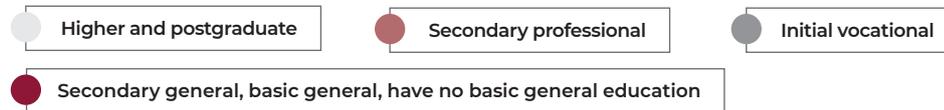
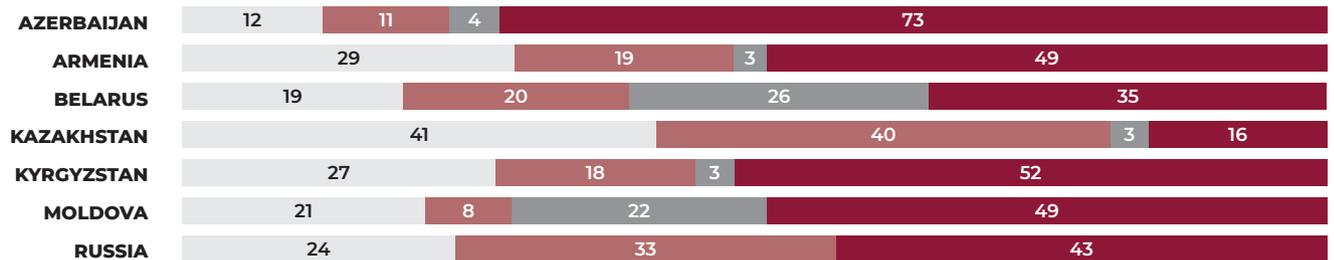


## YOUTH BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION, 2019 (PERCENT)

### EMPLOYED



### UNEMPLOYED

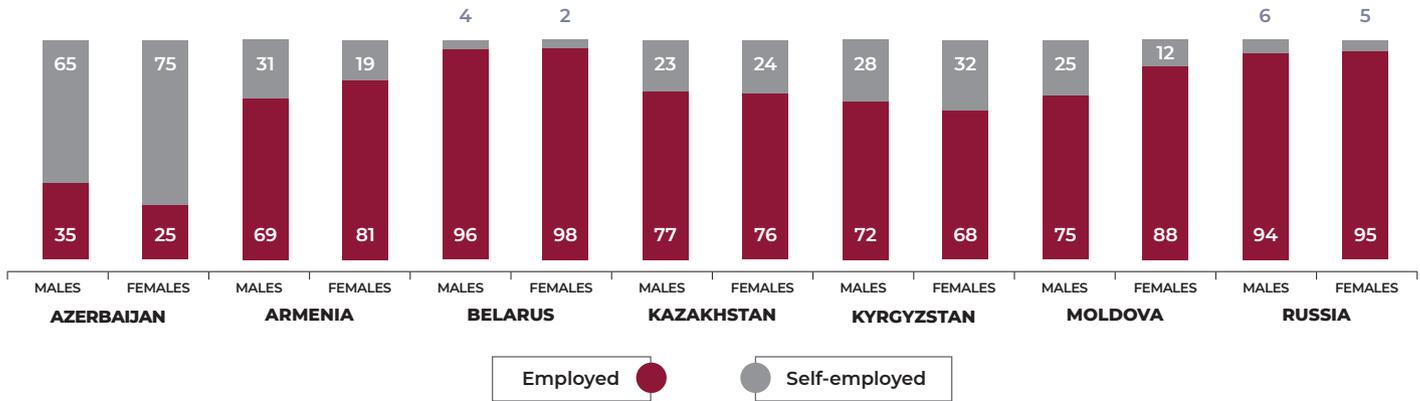


The youth in the Commonwealth countries have high levels of education. Between 30 and 80 percent of youth in employment have received vocational training: secondary, higher and postgraduate. At the same time, in many countries, a large share of the unemployed are youth with higher education, some of whom are subsequently employed in less skilled jobs. In this case, the knowledge acquired becomes obsolete, skills are lost over time and money spent on education by the state or by the youth themselves and their parents is wasted inefficiently. This situation clearly calls for a more active development of youth employment policies.



## EMPLOYED YOUTH BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 2019

(PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYED YOUTH)

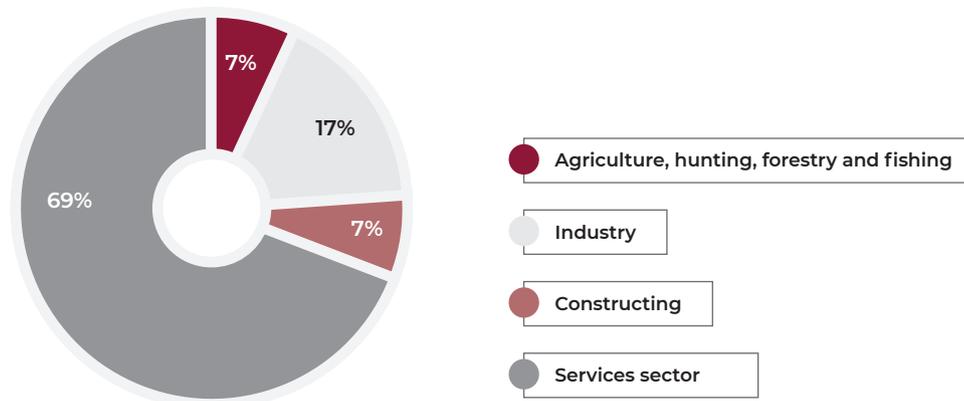


Most of the employed youth in the CIS countries are employed. At the same time, between 20 and 75 percent of working youth in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova are self-employed or entrepreneurs.



## CIS YOUTH EMPLOYED IN BASIC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, 2019

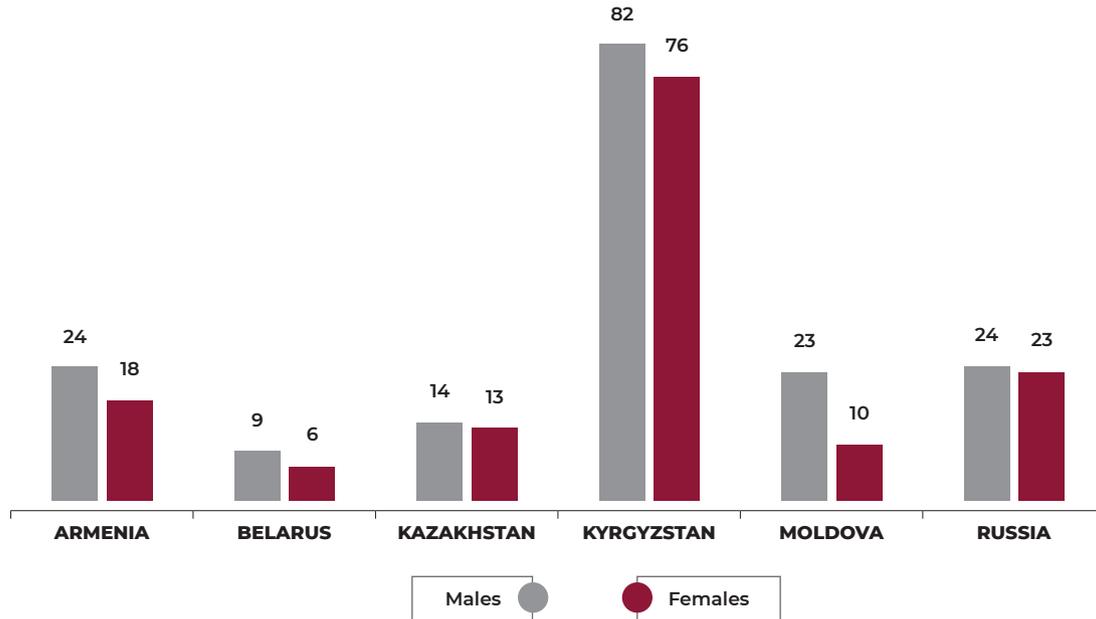
(PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYED YOUTH)



Youth prefer work in services sector. It accounts for almost 70 percent of all working youth aged 15–29, with a slightly lower share of the total working population (in 2019 – 63 percent).



## YOUTH EMPLOYED IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR, 2019 (PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYED YOUTH)



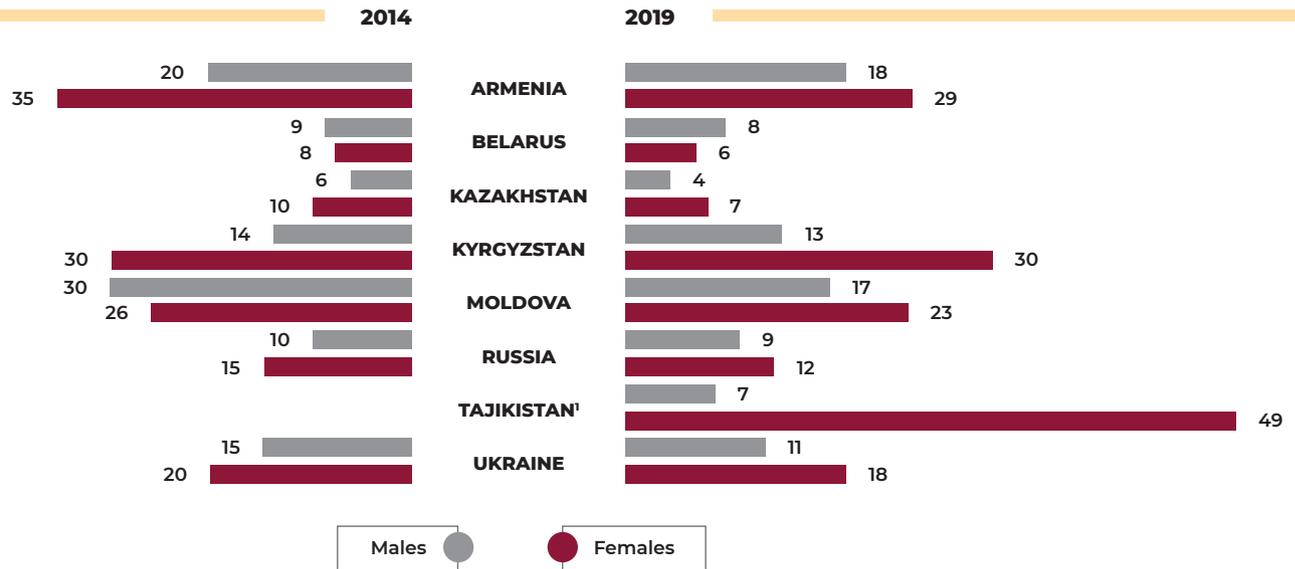
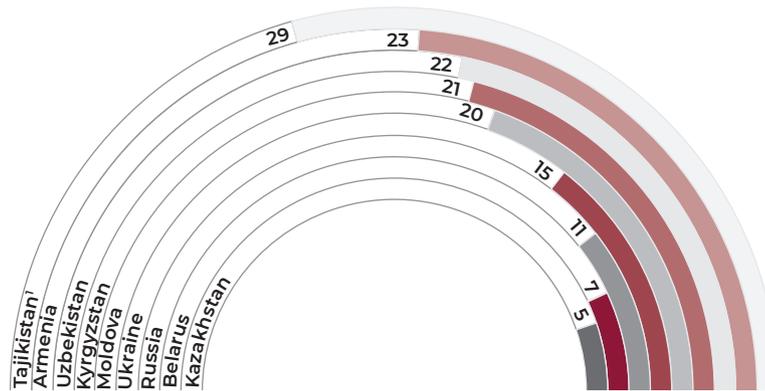
One of the main challenges of the labour market is informal employment. According to the Regulations of the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), the main criterion for the definition of informal sector units is the lack of state registration as a legal person.

Youth have a special place in the informal sector because they have greater difficulty in entering formal employment. Youth employment in the informal sector in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Russia ranges from 14 to 25 percent.



## YOUTH AGED 15–24 NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET), 2019

(PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH)



<sup>1</sup> 2016.

A positive trend in the Commonwealth labour markets is the decline in the share of unemployed and out-of-work youth. However, the share of women between the ages of 15 and 24 not in education, employment or training in most countries is still higher than that of men.



## YOUTH SEEKING EMPLOYMENT FOR 12 MONTHS OR LONGER (PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH)

	2015	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	65	63
<b>ARMENIA</b>	24	38
<b>BELARUS</b>	11	10
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	16	9
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	26	31
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	26	9
<b>RUSSIA</b>	21	16
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	...	24 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2016.

Lack of demand in the labour market, low wages due to the low level of vocational training and lack of professional practice are the main reasons that lead to long-term youth unemployment.

# WELL-BEING



## GOAL 1

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



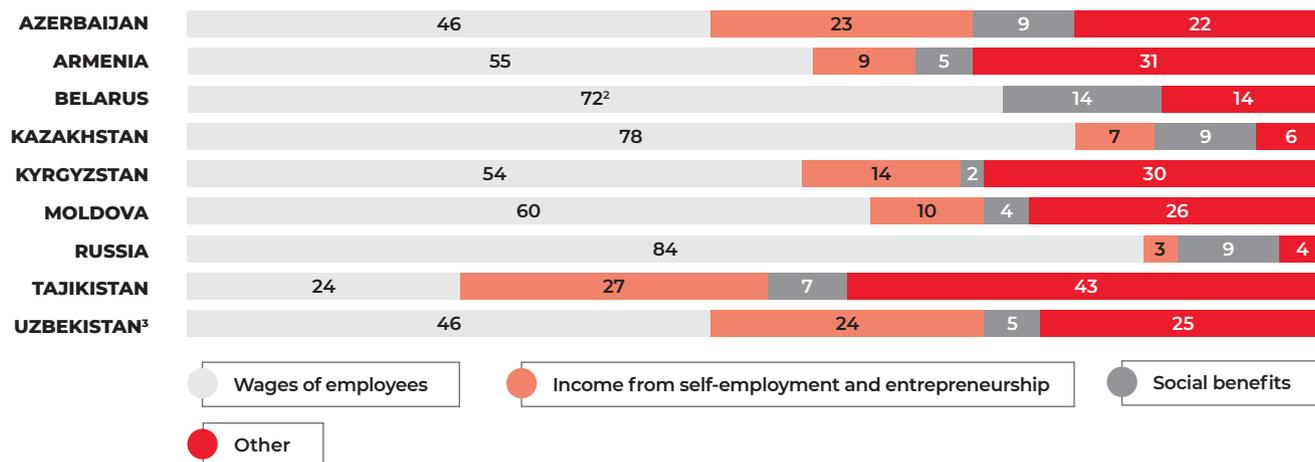
Achieving **Goal 1** of Agenda 2030 – the eradication of poverty in all its forms, everywhere – is a top priority for Governments in the coming decade. Providing people in all regions of the world with the support they need to lift themselves out of poverty is an essential foundation for sustainable development.

In many Commonwealth countries, wages are the main source of income for young families. Income from self-employment is high in a number of countries (Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), where a large proportion of the population works in the informal sector. In Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan, household income is strongly influenced by remittances from households that migrate to other countries.



## MAIN SOURCES OF MONEY INCOME OF YOUNG FAMILIES, 2019

(PERCENT OF MONEY INCOME)



<sup>1</sup> Families (households) are considered those in which the head is younger than 30 (Kazakhstan – under 29 years of age); Belarus – all members of a household are under 30 years of age; Russia – households with young families – both spouses are aged 16–25 with or without children.

<sup>2</sup> Including income from self-employment and entrepreneurial activities.

<sup>3</sup> Aggregate income.

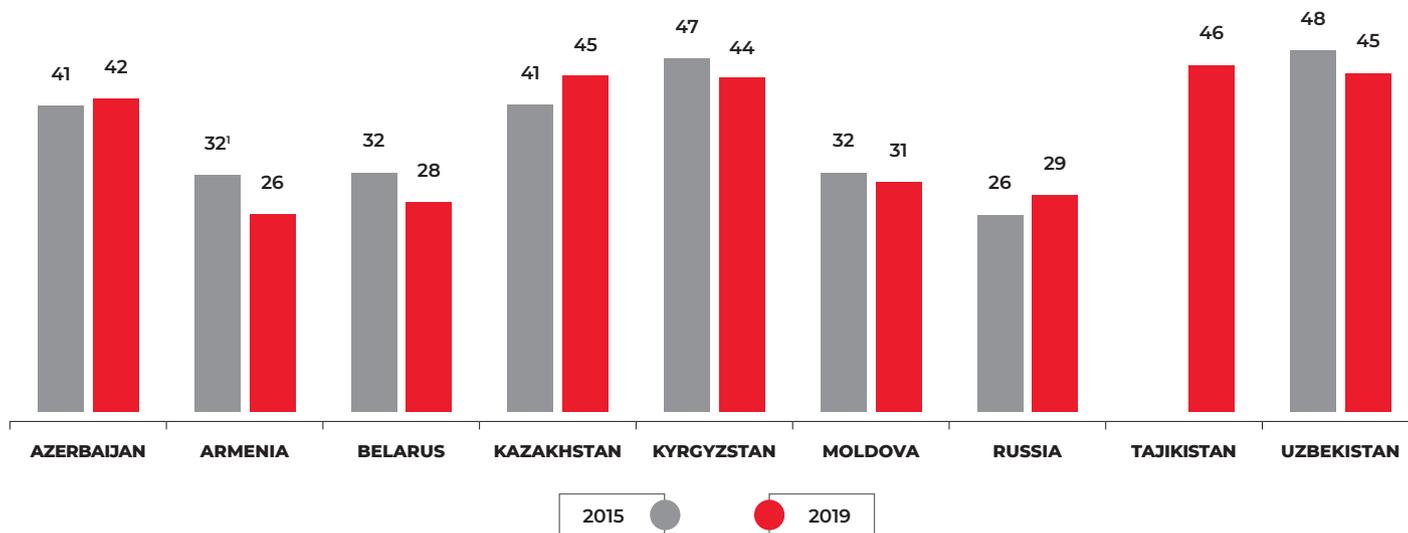
The increase in household's material well-being is evidenced by the increase in the availability of cars, computers and smartphones, as well as modern household items that facilitate household work, such as dishwashers, washing machines, microwave ovens, etc. The participation of the population in programmes for the acquisition of more modern housing, including through mortgages, also helps to improve living conditions.

Increases in household income are accompanied by changes in the composition of consumption expenditure.

Although the share of expenditure on food has declined in recent years, in most Commonwealth countries it is still the largest household expenditure item.



## EXPENDITURES OF YOUNG FAMILIES ON FOOD (PERCENT OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURES)



<sup>1</sup> 2016.

The mobility and communication skills of youth influence their consumption expenditure pattern in the form of a higher share of transport and communications costs. In a number of CIS countries, youth also have a high share of expenditures on culture, leisure and recreation, including expenditures on hotels, cafes and restaurants. Such consumer preferences speak more of the differences in the priorities of youth and older persons than of the greater financial capacities.

In the Commonwealth countries, national poverty reduction programmes in recent years have reduced the share of youth with incomes below the official national poverty lines.



## SHARE OF YOUTH LIVING BELOW THE NATIONAL POVERTY LINE<sup>1</sup>

(PERCENT OF TOTAL NUMBER OF POPULATION AT CORRESPONDING AGE)

	AGE GROUP, YEARS	2010	2015	2018	2019
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	15–29	8.2	5.0	4.7	4.4
<b>ARMENIA<sup>2</sup></b>	15–17	41.4	36.8	27.8	34.5 <sup>3</sup>
	18–19	35.3	34.3	26.0	26.9 <sup>3</sup>
	20–24	34.9	30.5	24.4	24.3 <sup>3</sup>
	25–29	36.5	26.6	22.1	29.8 <sup>3</sup>
	15–29	5.8	5.9	6.7	5.2
<b>BELARUS</b>	15–29	5.8	5.9	6.7	5.2
<b>KAZAKHSTAN<sup>2</sup></b>	15–28	5.0 <sup>4</sup>	2.2	4.0 <sup>3</sup>	4.4
<b>KYRGYZSTAN<sup>2</sup></b>	15–29	31.1	28.5	20.1	16.3
<b>MOLDOVA<sup>2</sup></b>	15–29	20.6	24.9 <sup>3</sup>	23.2	23.7 <sup>5</sup>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	15–29	...	16.1	13.2	13.5

<sup>1</sup> The poor are identified as those with income (or expenditures) below a given national lines. In some countries it is the subsistence minimum, in others it is the poverty line. The use of different methodological approaches for calculating poverty lines makes it impossible to make comparisons between countries.

<sup>2</sup> The indicators are calculated using national equivalence scales to estimate the effect of living together in the household.

<sup>3</sup> The data are not comparable with previous years as the methodology for calculating the indicator has been changed (in Armenia – in 2019, in Kazakhstan – in 2018, in Moldova – in 2014).

<sup>4</sup> 2011.

<sup>5</sup> From 2019 onwards, the data are not comparable with the previous period, as the methodology for calculating the indicator has been changed.



# YOUNG LEADERS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Today, there are about 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24<sup>1</sup>. By 2030, the world's young population is expected to continue to grow and play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In September 2016, the UN announced the formation of a group consisting of 17 young leaders in the SDGs from different countries, selected on the basis of their work on poverty, climate change, and inequality. Young leaders work with the support of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

Challenges for young leaders in achieving the SDGs:

- pursue goals in the most accessible and understandable way for the youth;
- promote innovative ways to engage peers in the promotion and implementation of the Goals;
- promoting the creation of a circle of trust (trust circle, group of experts) among young leaders who support the UN and its partners in key points and initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Young Leaders' Movement for SDGs has found a resonance and support in the CIS countries.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/youth-participation-leadership>.

**Interstate Statistical Committee  
of the Commonwealth of Independent States  
(CIS-Stat)**

**39, Myasnitskaya Str., Build.1, Moscow,  
107450, Russian Federation  
<http://www.cisstat.org>**



**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
Regional Office for Eastern Europe  
and Central Asia  
(Istanbul, Turkey)  
<http://eeca.unfpa.org>**

