

# Could ICTs create jobs for the youth?

Unemployment scenario at a glance (in millions):

Years	1994	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	140.3	170.3	174.3	180.9	185.2	184.7
Male	82.8	99.5	102.8	107.0	110.0	109.7
Female	57.5	70.9	71.5	73.8	75.2	75.1

The youth unemployment ratio by region and sex (in percentage), 2003-2004:

Regions	2003			2004		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
World	13.3	13.1	13.5	13.1	12.9	13.2
Developed economies and European Union	14.6	13.9	15.2	14.2	13.6	14.6
Central and Eastern Europe (non EU) 8.1 and CIS	16.8	17.1	16.5	16.0	17.0	15.1
East Asia	7.0	5.8	8.1	7.0	5.8	8.1
South-East Asia and the Pacific	14.9	15.9	14.1	14.7	15.8	13.9
South Asia	11.0	11.8	10.7	10.9	11.6	10.6
Latin America and Caribbean	18.8	23.1	16.0	17.6	21.7	14.9
Middle East and N Africa	21.3	24.2	20.0	21.3	24.2	20.0
Sub Saharan Africa	18.3	16.4	19.8	18.4	16.4	19.9

“A national survey conducted in the United States indicates that 91 per cent of young people aged 18-19 years use the Internet to e-mail friends and relatives, and 83 per cent use it for instant messaging. A recent study in the United Kingdom reveals that 94 per cent of youth have cell phones, and that young people were responsible for half of the roughly 10 billion text messages sent in 2003 (British Broadcasting Corporation, no date). Cell phone users are getting younger, and teenagers are spending more money on mobile communication every year. In 2001, the total number of mobile phone subscribers in the world stood at 860 million (Curtain, 2003). An average of 80 per cent of young people in the European Union use a mobile phone at least once a week (European Commission, no date). In China, nearly 60 per cent of cell phone subscribers are between 20 and 30 years of age.” – UN Youth Report 2005

“There are still wide disparities in the distribution and utilization of many forms of technology. For example, 331 out of every 1,000 people in Europe use the Internet, but the same is true for only around 92 per 1,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 37 per 1,000 in the Middle East and North Africa, and 15 per 1,000 in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Although these data are not age-specific, young people are among the principal users of computers and are likely highly represented in these figures. It is important to note that the disparities are not as great for the use of older forms of technology such as radio and television, which makes these media extremely useful for information distribution. For example, rates of radio ownership are 813 per 1,000 in Europe, 410 per 1,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 277 per 1,000 in the Middle East and North Africa, and 198 per 1,000 in sub-Saharan Africa.” – UN Youth Report 2005.

Source: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wyr05book.pdf>  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/download/get05en.pdf>