

DATA FROM

# 2017-2021

## Child-, Adolescent- and Youth-Focused Well-being Indicators in Albania



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**Acknowledgment of Contribution:** Majlinda Nesturi, Olta Caca, Elda Muca, Blerta Muja, Vera Brecani, Anisa Omuri, Eriona Dhamo, Ledia Thomo, Deana Delaj, Altin Xhikneli, Rezarta Myrtollari



# **Child-, Adolescent and Youth-Focused Well-being Indicators in Albania**

Data from 2017-2021



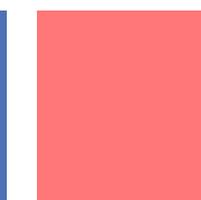
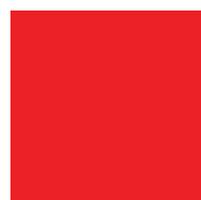
# Introduction

Indicators focused on children (age 0-17 years), adolescents (10-19 years) and young people (15-29 years) are an integral part of the [National Programme of Official Statistics 2022-2026](#). This publication brings attention to a broad range of indicators that open up a diverse panorama of the different areas of the rights and well-being of children, adolescents and young people in Albania.

The published indicators are based on data collected through surveys undertaken by INSTAT, as well as from the information management systems of state institutions (administrative data). As a result, this initiative would have been impossible without the close cooperation of the reporting state institutions.

A presentation of the trends of the indicators over the years, conveyed through graphs and summary explanations, enables their interpretation and ease of understanding. Accompanying this publication is a [panel or dashboard of indicators on children, teenagers and young people](#), with a more extensive description of indicators, values and visualizations.

The present publication represents the starting point of what the responsible state and non-state institutions operating in the field of children, adolescents and young people's rights are expected to do, placing the official statistics in their appropriate context. Their use in the planning, monitoring and evaluation framework will play an essential role in bringing about concrete changes in the lives of children, teenagers and young people in Albania.



# 1

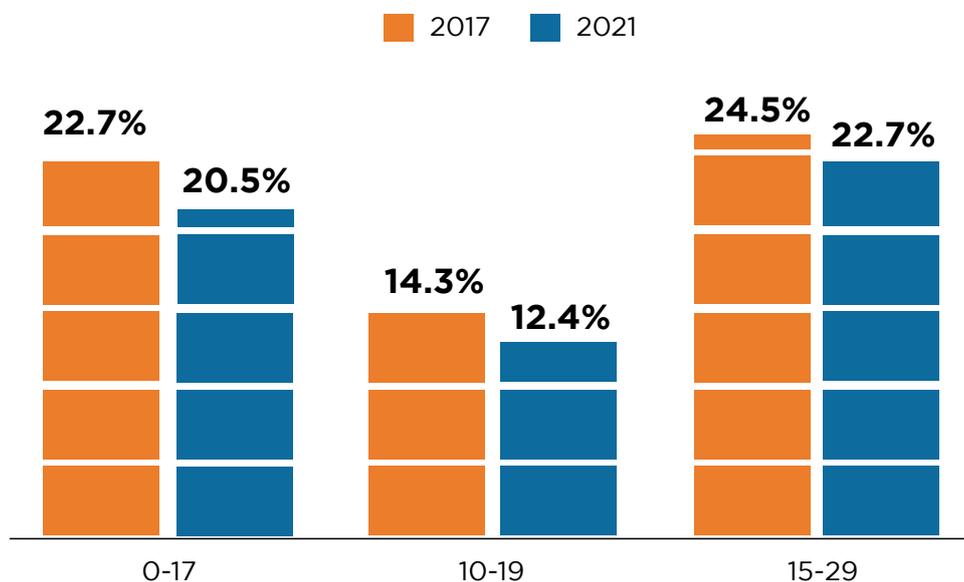
## Population



On 1 January 2021 the population in Albania comprised 2,829,741 inhabitants, of which 579,203 were children (age 0–17 years). Due to the population decline of 1.6% over the last five years, the number in this age group is also decreasing, marking on average 3% fewer children every year.

The population group of age 10–19 years (adolescents) and 15–29 years (youth) accounted for 12.4% and 22.7% of the total population, respectively. Compared to 2017, the share of these age groups has been declining (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Population size of young age groups as a proportion of total population, 1 January 2017; 2021



Source: INSTAT

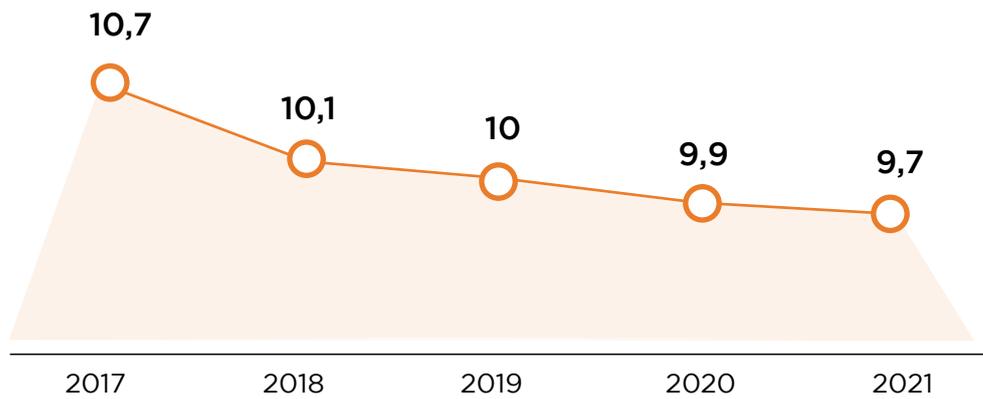
Among the different counties, the share of children is highest in Kukës (24.7% of the population) and lowest in Vlora (18.3%). Over the last five years (2017–2021), the number of children has gradually declined in each county, with the most prominent declines recorded for Gjirokastër and Berat (24% and 20%, respectively). Meanwhile, Tirana and Durrës counties recorded the smallest declines (3% and 6%, respectively) compared to the beginning of this period, due to domestic migration flows, contributing to them having the highest population densities in the country.

Population projections for the years 2019–2031 show that the low-growth scenario—where mortality and migration are high and the birth rate low—coincides with the 2021 population. Population projections under this scenario predict a population of 2,841,549. Under this scenario, the percentage of the 0–17 age group in the total population in 2031 is expected to drop to 17.7%.

In 2021, some 27,200 babies were born (12% less than in 2017) and some 30,500 people died. Thus, the natural population growth (difference between births and deaths) in that year was around -3,300.

In 2021, the gross birth rate, the average number of live births per 1,000 inhabitants in the same year, was approximately 9.7, resulting in a decline from the year 2017, with a recorded rate of 10.7 births per 1,000 inhabitants (Figure 2).

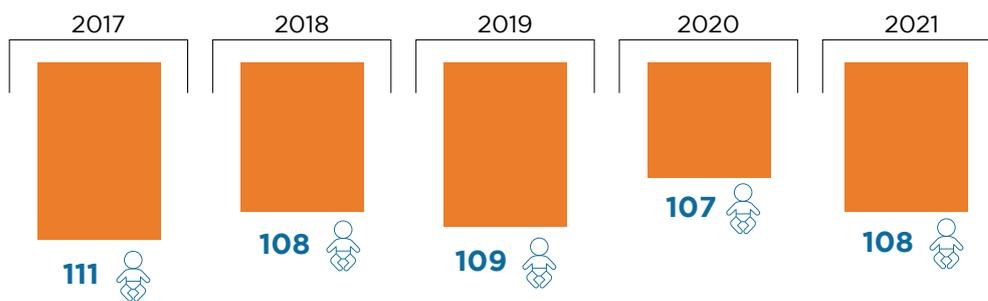
**Figure 2:** Gross birth rate, 2017–2021 (number)



Source: INSTAT; General Civil Registry Directorate

In 2021, the gender birth ratio, the number of live births of boys per 100 live births of girls—was 108, a decline of 3 from 111 in 2017 (Figure 3).

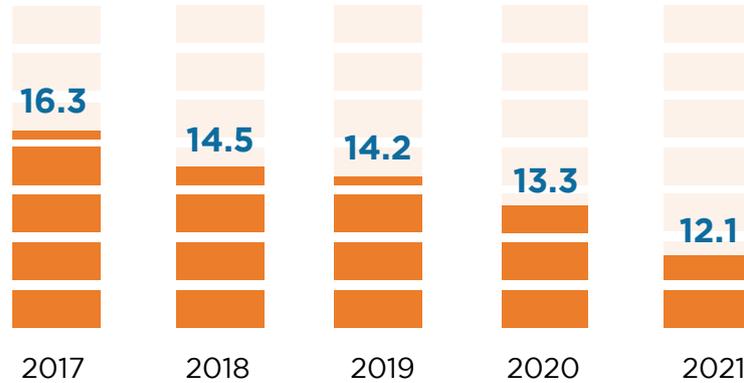
**Figure 3:** Gender birth ratio, 2017–2021 (number)



Source: INSTAT; General Civil Registry Directorate

In 2021, the birth rate among females of age 15–19 years was 12.1 babies per 1,000 females in this age group. This indicator has fallen since 2017 when a figure of 16.3 was recorded for this age group (Figure 4).

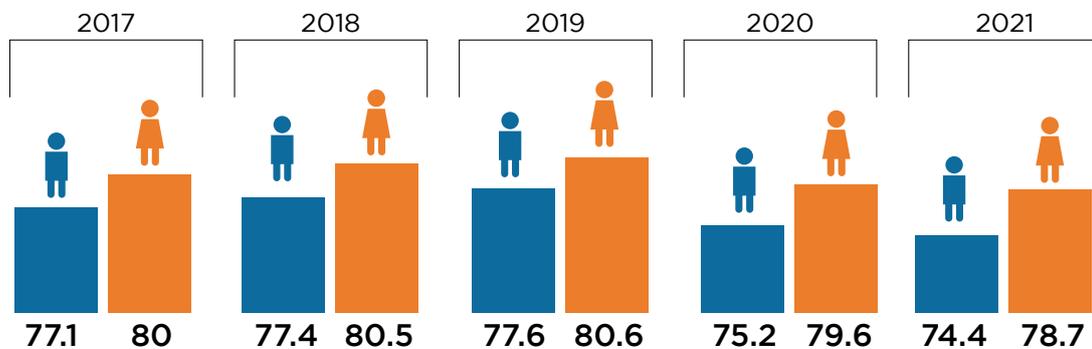
**Figure 4:** Birth rate in females of age 15–19 years (per 1,000 respective population), 2017–2021 (number)



Source: INSTAT; General Civil Registry Directorate

Supposing that the current mortality rates continue, the average life expectancy for a newborn (in 2021) is 76.5 years. Females are expected to live four years longer than males, with life expectancies of 78.7 and 74.4 years, respectively (Figure 5).

**Figure 5:** Life expectancy (years) at birth, by gender, 2017–2021



Source: INSTAT

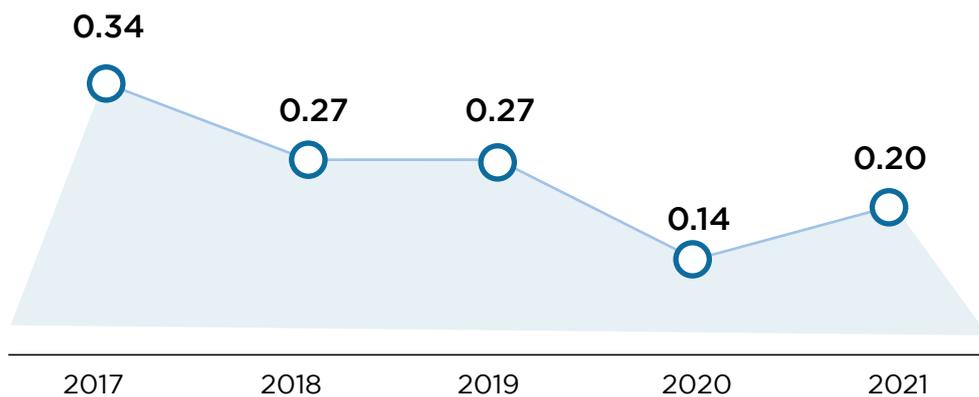


Health statistics focusing on children, teenagers and youth in Albania are of utmost importance for decision making and planning of health-related services.

## Abortion rate

There are two categories of abortions: spontaneous and induced (legal and voluntary termination of pregnancy). The abortion rate indicates the number of legal and voluntarily terminated pregnancies in a given year per 1,000 females of a given age group. In 2021, the abortion rate for young females of age 15–19 years was 0.2 (Figure 6), a decrease on the previous years.

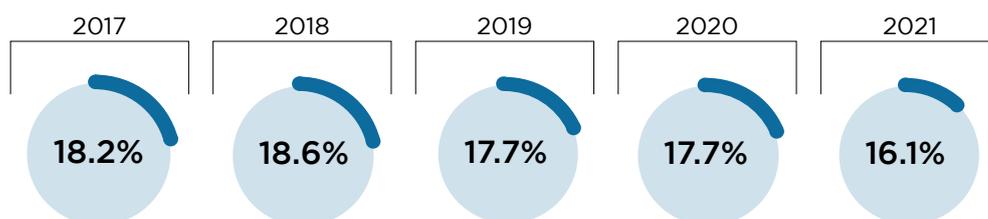
**Figure 6:** Abortion rate among females of age 15–19 years (per 1,000 respective population), 2017–2021 (number)



Source: INSTAT; Institute of Public Health

From 2017 to 2021, abortions among females of age 15–24 years accounted for approximately 16–18% of the total number of females of reproductive age (15–49 years) seeking abortion, a downward trend since 2018 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7:** Percentage of abortions among females of age 15–24 years (of the total number of females of age 15–49 years), 2017–2021



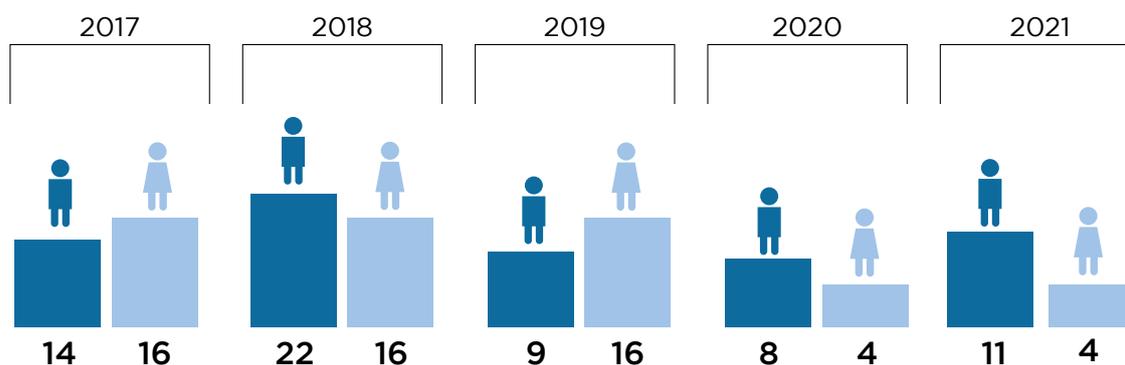
Source: INSTAT; Institute of Public Health

## Suicides

Suicide among children and young people remains a recorded cause of death for this age group.

Figure 8 shows the numbers of children and young people of age 10–24 years who committed suicide, broken down by gender. Data for 2021 indicate that the total number of youth suicides almost halved compared to years 2017–2018. In general, young males are more likely to commit suicide than young females, though in years 2017 and 2019 this situation was reversed.

**Figure 8:** Suicides among children and young people of age 10–24 years, by gender, 2017–2021 (number)



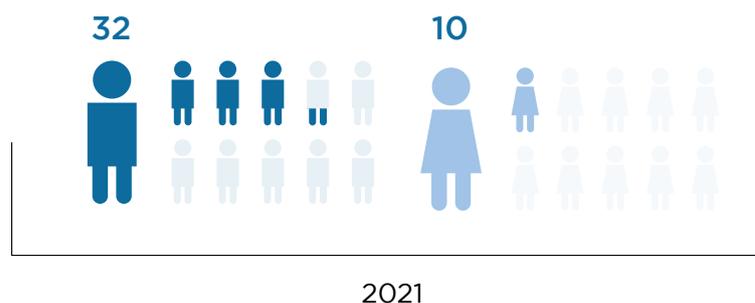
Source: General Directorate of Civil Registry

## Road accident deaths

Deaths from road accident is another cause of death among adolescents and young adults. The factors that influence involvement in road accidents are connected not only with unsafe roads and motor vehicles, but also with dangerous driving and behaviour by young people, including the use of illegal substances or alcohol, speeding, not wearing a seat belt or helmet and distraction during driving.

In 2021, 42 16–24-year-olds lost their lives in road accidents. The number of males involved in these accidents was three times higher than the number among females (Figure 9).

**Figure 9:** Deaths from road accident in adolescent and young people of age 16–24 years, by gender, 2021 (number)



Source: General Directorate of Police

## 3

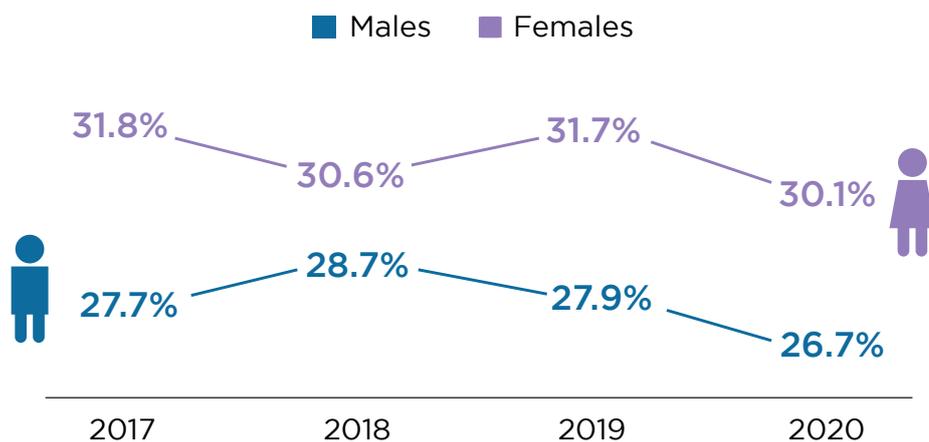
## Poverty and material deprivation



The Survey on Income and Living Conditions, carried out annually by INSTAT measures living conditions, relative poverty and material deprivation in Albanian households. According to the methodology, the poverty line is calculated as a relative concept, i.e., poor in relation to others.<sup>1</sup>

In the age group 0-17 years, the at-risk-of-poverty rate (relative poverty) is estimated as the percentage of at-risk-of-poverty individuals of 0-17 years of age against the total number of individuals in that age group. In 2020, the percentage of such children, according to the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold, was declining, decreasing by 1.3 percentage points from year 2019 (Figure 10).

**Figure 10:** Percentage of children (0-17 years) at risk of poverty according to the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold, 2017-2020

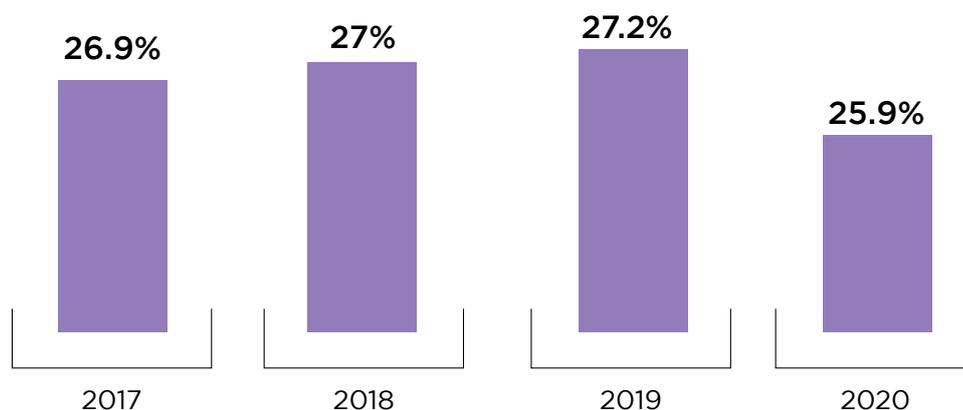


Source: Income and Living Conditions Survey, INSTAT

The at-risk-of-poverty rate by household type is estimated as the proportion of members of households with dependent children at risk of poverty against the total number of members of households with dependent children. In 2020, the percentage of such individuals declined by 1.3 percentage points compared to 2019 (Figure 11).

1. According to the methodology for measuring poverty, the poverty line is calculated based on a relative concept, and is defined at 60% of the median total equivalised disposable income of the household, using the modified scale of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

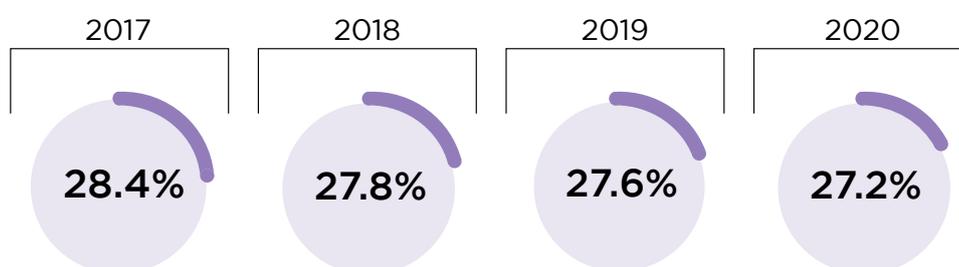
**Figure 11:** Percentage of members of households with dependent children at risk of poverty, 2017–2020



Source: *Income and Living Conditions Survey, INSTAT*

The percentage of children at risk of (relative) poverty as a proportion of the total number of at-risk-of-poverty individuals declined by 0.4 percentage points in 2020 compared to the year before (Figure 12).

**Figure 12:** Percentage of children (0–17 years) at risk of poverty in the total population of all those at risk of poverty, 2017–2020



Source: *Income and Living Conditions Survey, INSTAT*

## 4

## Education



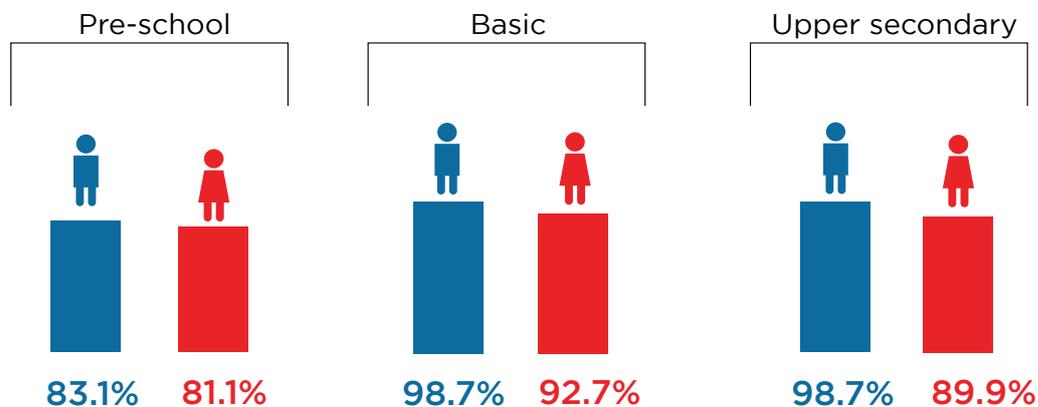
Education statistics provide data on the participation of girls and boys in education, from pre-school to tertiary education, public and non-public, according to the levels defined in Albania's educational system.

This system requires everyone residing in the country to complete basic education of nine years, including five years of primary education (grades 1-5) and four years in lower secondary education (grades 6-9).

The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) is used to indicate the overall level of participation in education at a given level. GER is the number of students enrolled in a given educational level, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population at that level.

GER analysis for the 2021-22 academic year found that some 83.1% of boys and 81.1% of girls were enrolled in pre-school. The enrolment rates in basic education were 98.7% for boys and 92.7% for girls, and those for upper secondary education were, again, higher for boys than for girls, at 98.7% and 89.9%, respectively (Figure 13).

**Figure 13:** Gross enrolment rate, by educational level and gender, 2021-2022

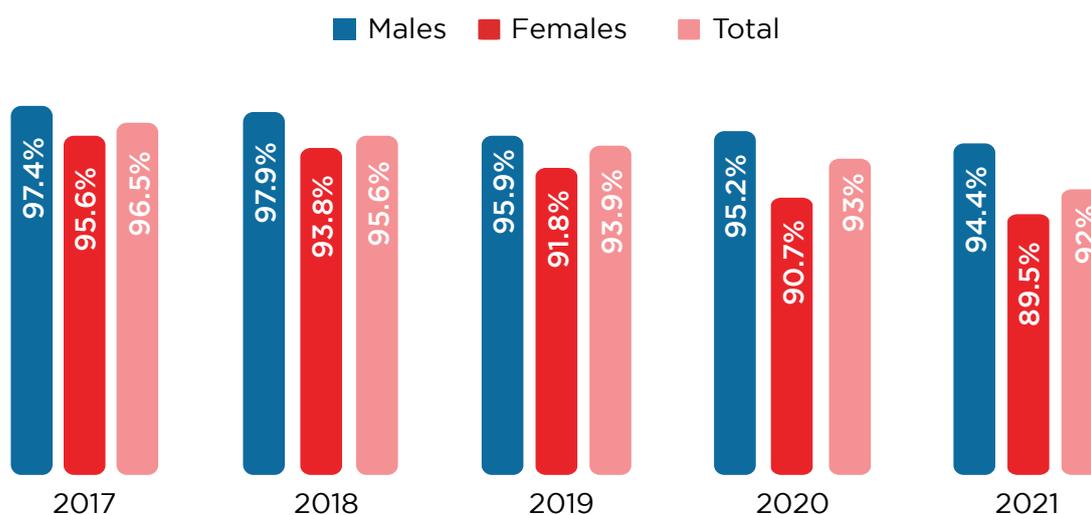


Source: INSTAT; Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Finance and Economy

Another important indicator related to participation in education is the Net Enrolment Rate (NER), which is calculated only for pre-university education. NER indicates the extent of participation of the respective age group in primary or secondary education.

For the academic year 2021-22, 92% of children of age 6-14 years were enrolled in basic education compared to 96.5% in 2017-18 (Figure 14).

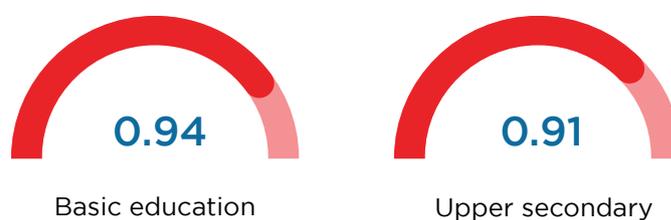
**Figure 14:** Net enrolment rate in basic education, by gender, 2017–2021<sup>2</sup>



Source: INSTAT; Ministry of Education and Sports

Participation by gender shows differences at different levels of education. The participation of boys is higher than for girls in pre-university education, both in basic and upper secondary education. This is reflected in the gender equality index (based on GER), which for basic education was 0.94 and 0.91 for upper secondary education (Figure 15).

**Figure 15:** Gender Equality Index (based on GER), 2021–22 (number)

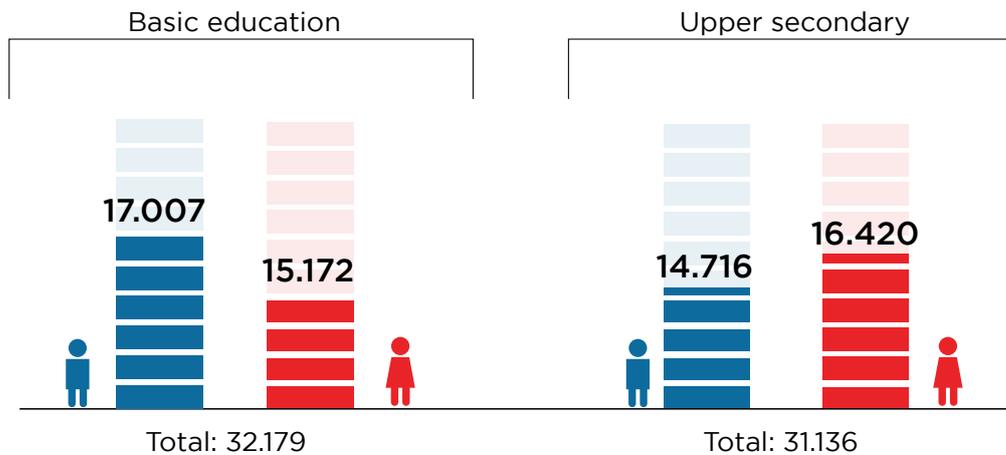


Source: INSTAT; Ministry of Education and Sports

During the academic year 2020–21, some 32,000 school children completed basic education, of which 52.9% were boys and 47.1% girls. Meanwhile, some 31,000 children completed upper secondary education (with a slight decline noted in the number receiving a secondary education diploma compared to the previous year). Of those graduating from upper secondary education 47.3% were boys and 52.7% girls (Figure 16).

2. Note: The year refers to the academic year i.e 2021–2022.

**Figure 16:** Numbers of basic and upper secondary education graduates, by gender, academic year 2020–2021

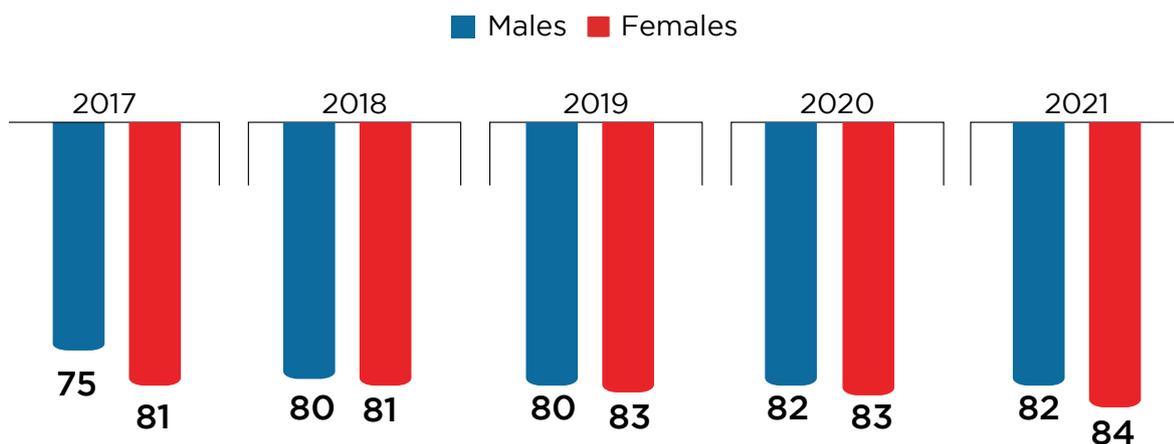


Source: Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Finance and Economy

Even though completion of upper secondary education does not guarantee all the necessary life skills, it does provide young people with a distinct advantage in the labour market over those who drop out.

The percentage of young people of age 20–24 years who completed upper secondary education in 2021 was 83% compared to 78% in 2017, with a significant gender difference in favour of females (Figure 17), and with a continuous increase in the percentage of graduates.

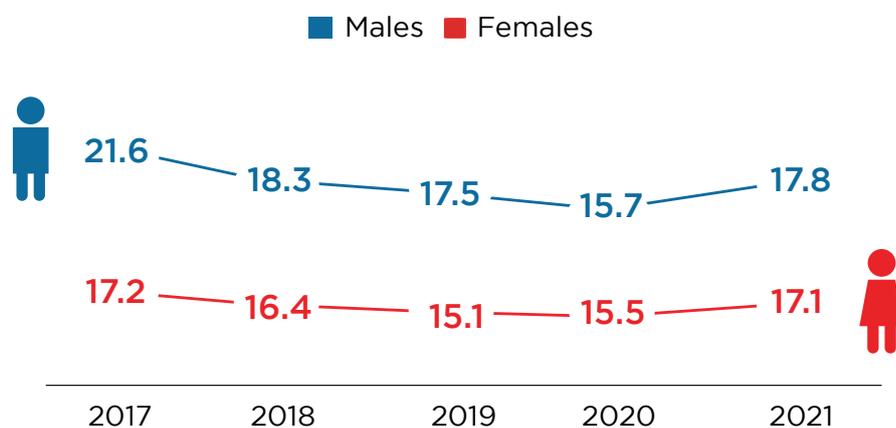
**Figure 17:** Percentage of young people (20–24 years) completing upper secondary education, by gender, 2017–2021



Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

Meanwhile, the percentage of 18–24-year-olds completing basic education and not continuing their education or training was 17.4% of the whole age group in 2021, reversing the downward trend since 2017 (Figure 18). Compared to year 2020, this indicator has increased by 2.1 percentage points for males and 1.6 percentage points for females.

**Figure 18:** Percentage of early leavers from education and training for 18–24-year-olds, by gender, 2017–2021



Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

## 5

## Alternative care



All children have the right to live in a family, be that the biological or foster family. These rights are defined in the relevant United Nations and European international treaties on Human Rights, including the Convention on People with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the revised European Social Charter, and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

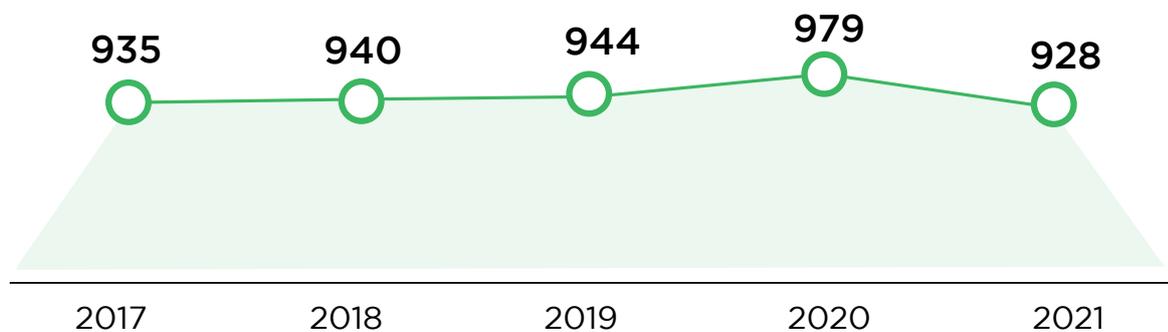
### Alternative care for children without parental care

The indicators in this section refer to children without parental care receiving alternative care services. The definitions for these indicators are based on Article 24 of Law 121/2016 'On social care services in the Republic of Albania' and Article 31 of Law 18/2017 'On child rights and protection'.

Alternative care is provided when parents are unable to periodically care and ensure education for their children. Children in alternative care are provided with one of two types of custody: family or institutional.

At the end of 2021, 928 children of age 0-17 years were in alternative care<sup>3</sup>, 5% fewer than in the previous year (Figure 19).

**Figure 19:** Number of 0-17-year-olds in alternative care at the end of the year, 2017-2021

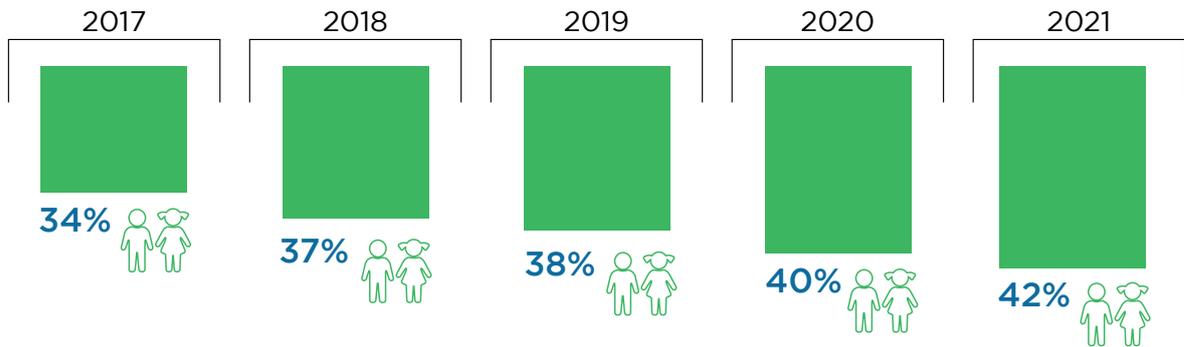


Source: General State Social Service Directorate

During the last five years, the number of adopted children and children in foster care as a proportion of the total number in alternative care at the end of the year has seen a gradual and steady increase, with the largest contribution from the number of those in foster care (Figure 20).

3. This indicator includes children 0-17 years old in public and non-public centers with residential care services (children's homes and development centers), children in foster/kinship care and children adopted.

**Figure 20:** Percentage of 0-17-year-olds adopted and in foster care among all children in alternative care, 2017-2021



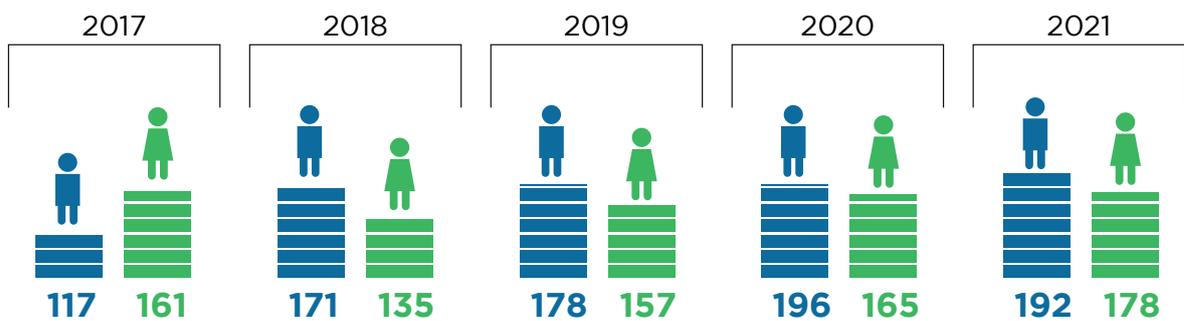
Source: INSTAT; General State Social Service Directorate

## Children in formal foster care

The procedures for placing children without parental care into foster care are regulated in Albania by Decisions of the Council of Ministers no. 149, dated 13.03.2018, 'On criteria, documentation and procedures for the identification of foster families for children without parental care and financial measures for the living costs of children placed in foster families'.

At the end of 2021, the number of 0-17-year-olds in foster care was 370, of which 192 were boys and 178 girls. Compared to the previous year, the value increased by 2.5%, and by 33% compared to the year 2017 (Figure 21).

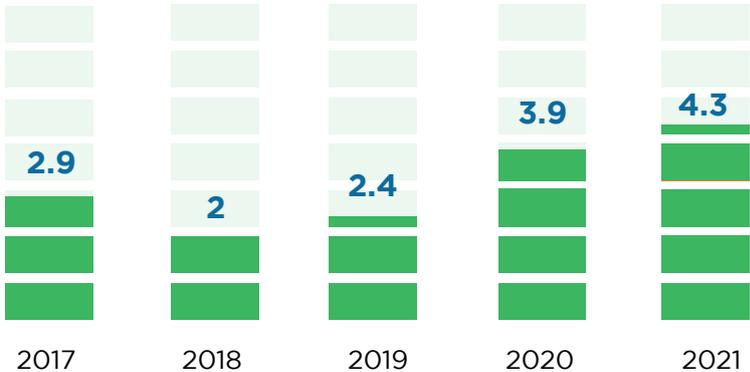
**Figure 21:** Number of 0-17-year-olds without parental care in foster care, by gender, 2017-2021



Source: General State Social Service Directorate

The number of 0-17-year-olds with disabilities in foster families at the end of 2021, as a proportion of the total number of children in foster families, was 4.3% (Figure 22), more than double the proportion in 2018 (2.0%).

**Figure 22:** Proportion of 0-17-year-olds with disabilities in formal foster or kinship care at the end of the year, 2017-2021 (percentage)



Source: INSTAT; General State Social Service Directorate

During 2021, the number of 0-17-year-olds entering foster care was 6% more than in the previous year, but nearly half of the number (48%) in 2019 (Figure 23).

**Figure 23:** Number of 0-17-year-olds entering foster care during the year, 2017-2021



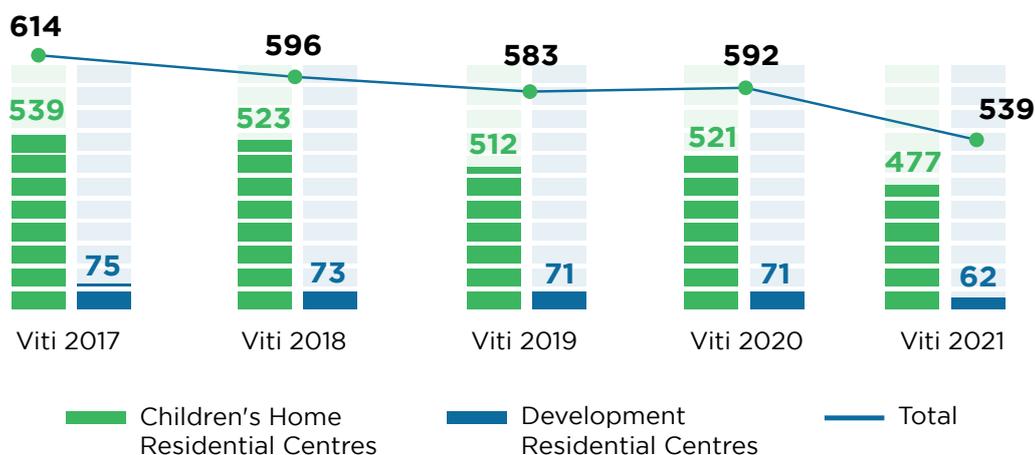
Source: General State Social Service Directorate

## Children in centres with residential care

Centres with residential care are social care institutions that offer services to various categories of people, including children in need. At present, the network of Residential Institutions for Child Care comprises nine public institutions and 18 non-public residential centres.

During 2021, some 539 0-17-year-olds received services in centres with residential care: in children's homes and development centres for people with disabilities. Figure 24 shows that the numbers have been decreasing since 2017.

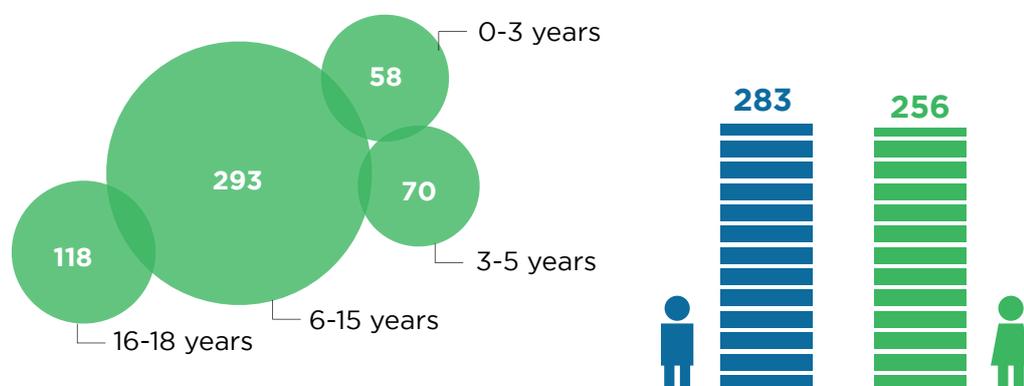
**Figure 24:** Number of 0-17-year-olds in centres with residential care at the end of the year, 2017-2021



Source: General State Social Service Directorate

Approximately 51% of children receiving such services do so from public centres with residential care services. The largest proportion (54%) of children receiving such services are in the age group 6-15 years (Figure 25).

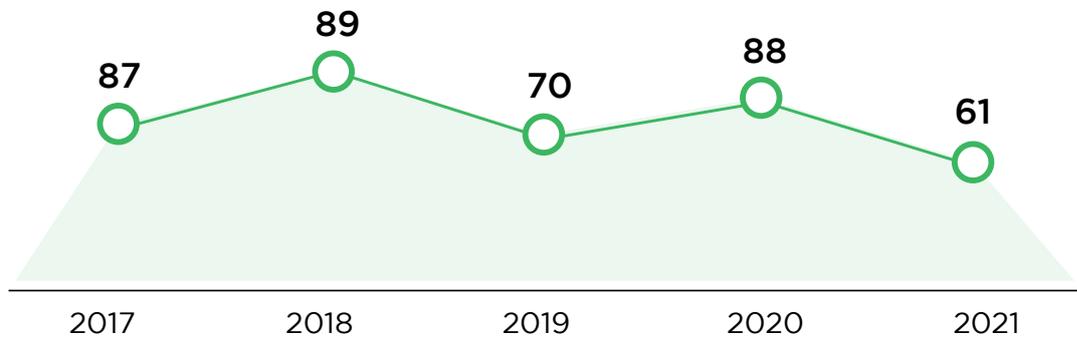
**Figure 25:** Number of 0-17-year-olds receiving residential care services, by gender and age group, 2021



Source: General State Social Service Directorate

The number of children entering the residential care centres in 2021 was less than in previous years: 61 versus 88 (Figure 26).<sup>4</sup>

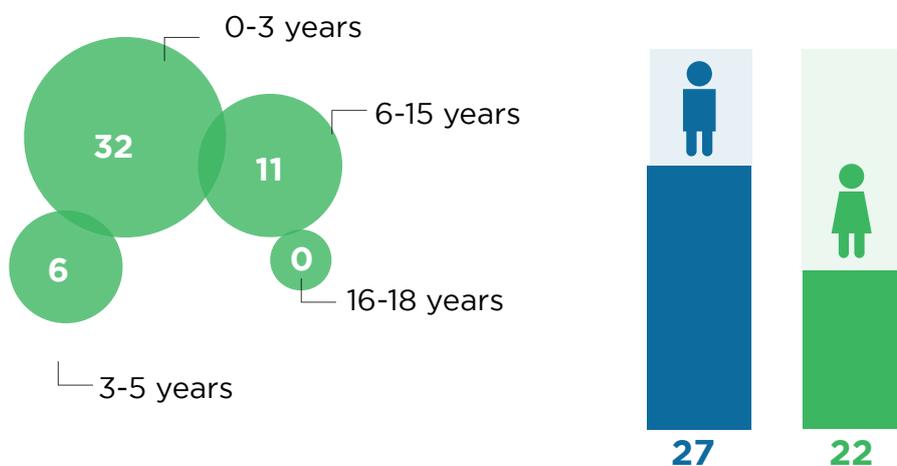
**Figure 26:** Number of children of 0-17 years who entered centres with residential care during the year, 2017-2021



Source: General State Social Service Directorate

In 2021, more boys than girls entered these centres, while the age group with the largest number of such entries comprised 0-3-year-olds (Figure 27).

**Figure 27:** Number of children of 0-17 years who entered centres with residential care, by gender and age group, 2021



Source: General State Social Service Directorate

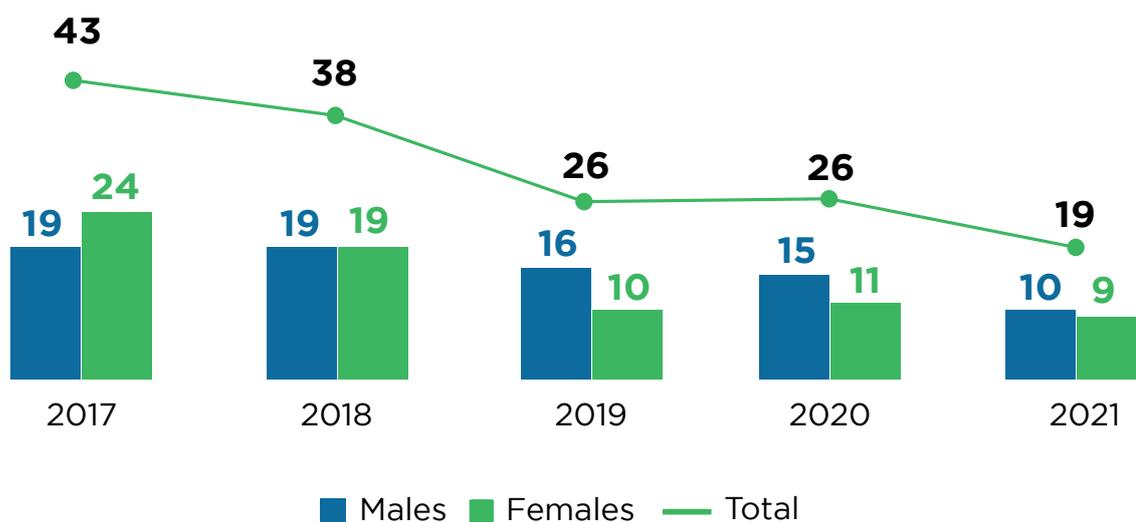
4. Note: Entries do not include transfer of children from one centre to another.

## Adoptions

Child adoption procedures in Albania are regulated by Law no. 9695, dated 19.3.2007, 'On adoption procedures and the Albanian Adoption Committee'.

The year 2021 registered a 27% drop in the number of adopted children compared to 2020, including a 33% reduction in the number of males and 18% in the number of females (Figure 28).

**Figure 28:** Number of children of 0-17 years adopted during the year, by gender, 2017-2021



Source: Albanian Adoption Committee; Ministry of Justice

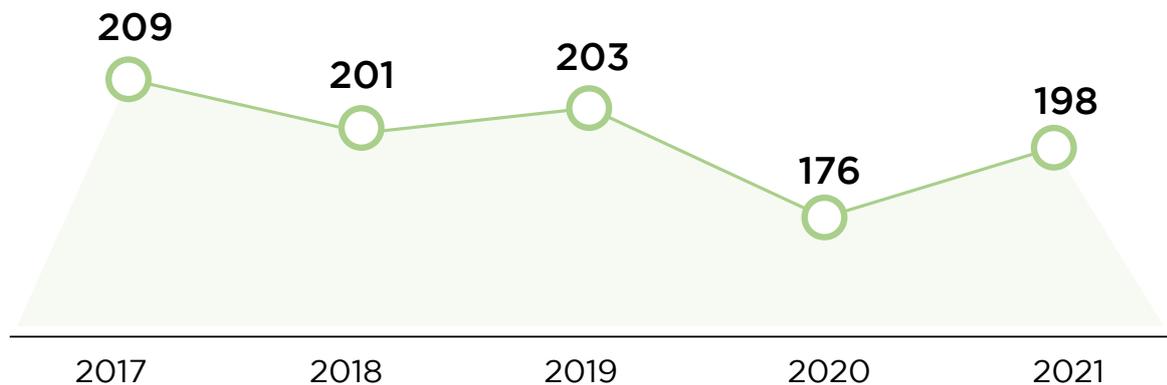


Justice statistics provide data on children- victims of crime, victims or potential victims of human trafficking and alleged offenders, and the numbers convicted by court to alternative measures or deprivation of liberty. These data are collected and reported by the police, prosecutor's office, courts, prisons and the Ministry of Justice.

### Child victims of crime

Child victims of crime refers to the number of child (0-17 years) victims of criminal offences registered by the police during the year. From 2017 to 2021, there was a decrease in the numbers of such victims, particularly in 2020. In 2021, the proportion of child victims (rate per 100,000 children) of crime was 198 (Figure 29). Figures presented in absolute numbers can be found in the annex.

**Figure 29:** Rate of children (0-17 years) victims of criminal offence (per 100,000 children), 2019-2021 (number)



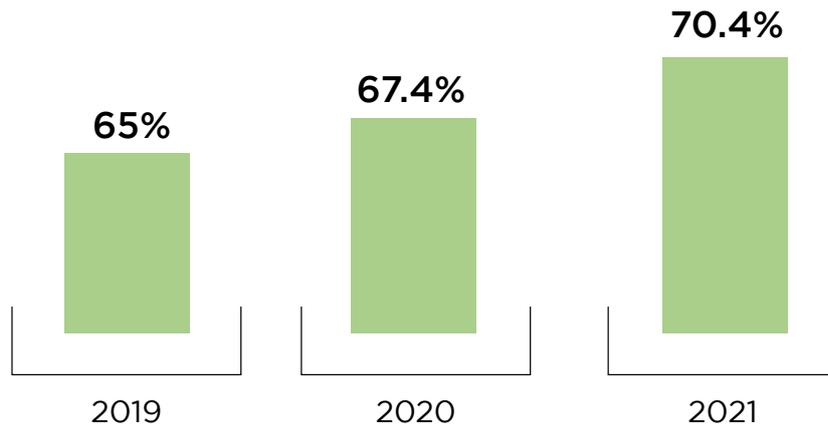
Source: INSTAT; General Police Directorate

### Child victims and potential victims of human trafficking

Victims and potential victims of human trafficking are identified by specialised structures, and, unfortunately, children are part of this phenomenon.

Figure 30 shows the number of child (0-17 years) victims and potential victims of human trafficking as a proportion of the total number of victims and potential victims of human trafficking for the years 2019-2021. The ratio has increased steadily during this period, reaching 70% in 2021 compared to 65% in 2019.

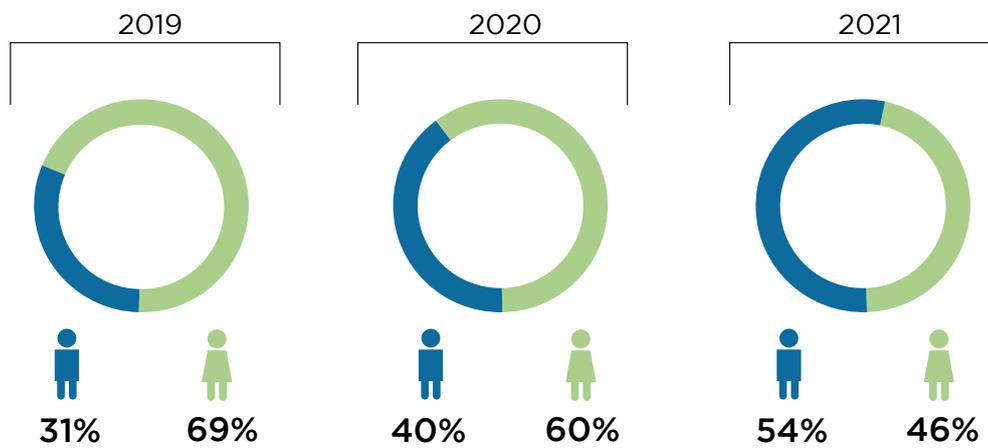
**Figure 30:** Proportion of children (0-17 years) victims and possible victims of human trafficking during the year, 2019-2021



Source: INSTAT; Ministry of Interior

Of the child victims and potential victims of human trafficking in 2021, 46% were female. This proportion has been decreasing in recent years: females accounted for more than two-thirds of such victims in 2019 (Figure 31).

**Figure 31:** Proportion of female and male 0-17-year-old victims and potential victims of human trafficking, 2019-2021



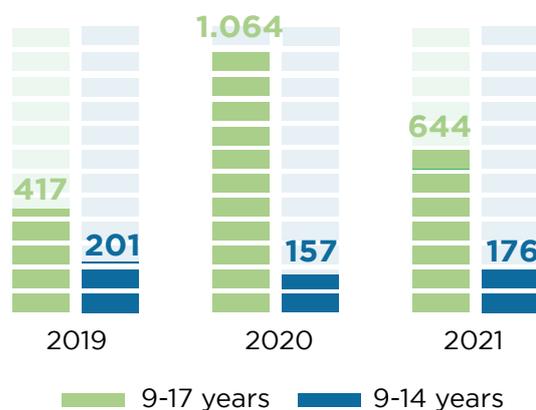
Source: INSTAT; Ministry of Interior

## Child alleged offenders

Every child needs protection even (or especially) when suspected (alleged offenders) of committing criminal offences and misdemeanours by the police. Statistics on children as alleged offenders help to guarantee their rights and meet their needs.

In 2021, the number of child (9-17 years) alleged offenders was 644 per 100,000 of the respective population, showing a significant decrease on the previous year. Among the age group 9-14 years, the rate of alleged offenders was 176, a slight increase on the previous year (Figure 32), and considerably less than among the older age group.

**Figure 32:** Rate of child (9-14 years, 9-17 years) alleged offenders (per 100,000 respective population), 2019-2021 (number)

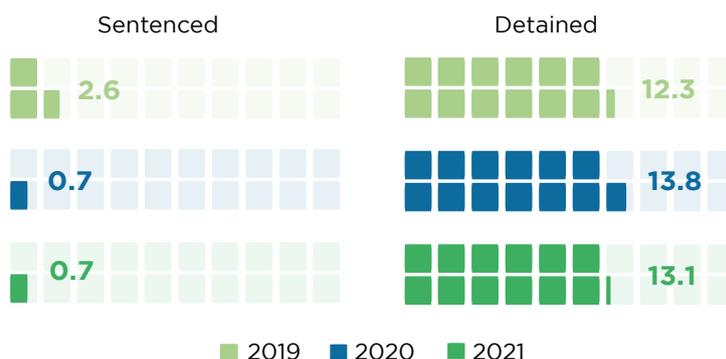


Source: INSTAT; General Police Directorate

## Children in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions

The rate of children in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions is defined as the number of children sentenced or detained (pre-sentence) at the end of the year per 100,000 of the population of age 14-17 years. In 2021, there was a decrease in the proportion of detained children compared to the two previous years (Figure 33), while the rate of those sentenced in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions remained at 0.7, though still less than in 2019.

**Figure 33:** Rate of children (14-17 years) in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions at the end of the year (per 100,000 respective population), 2019-2021 (number)



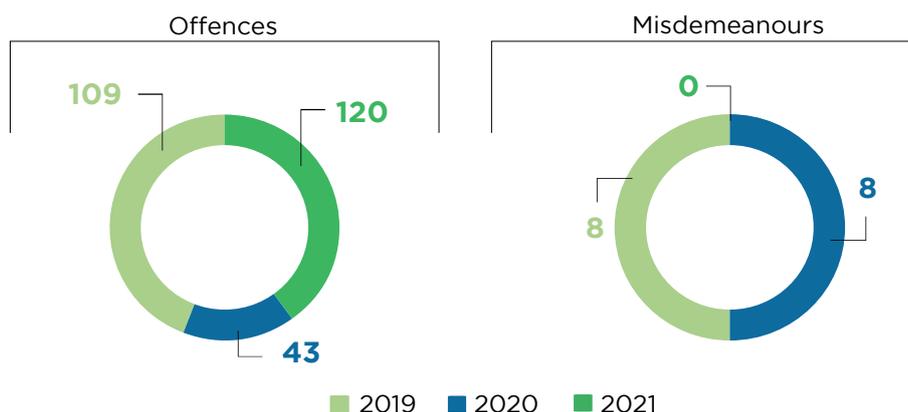
Source: INSTAT; General Prisons Directorate

## Children of age 14–17 years sentenced by courts of first instance

The number of children sentenced during a year includes those sentenced to alternative measures and deprivation of liberty by a court of first instance.

The number of 14-17-year-olds sentenced to deprivation of liberty by a court of first instance for criminal offences during the year 2021 increased by 9.4% compared to 2019 and almost threefold over the number in 2020 (Figure 34).

**Figure 34:** Number of 14–17-year-olds sentenced to deprivation of liberty by a court of first instance for criminal offences or misdemeanours, 2019–2021

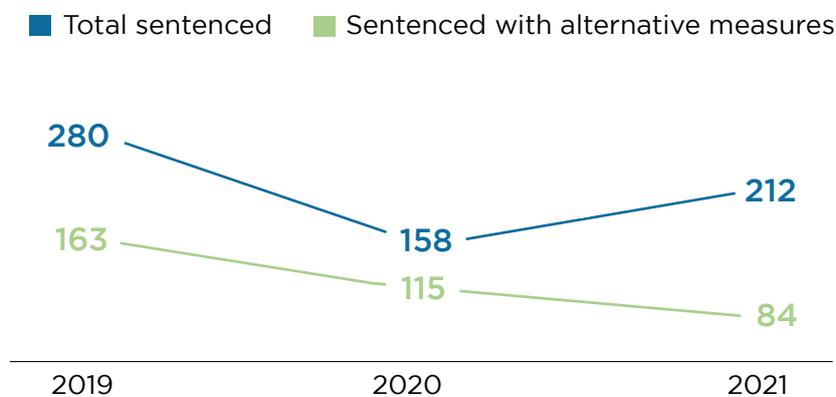


Source: Ministry of Justice

The Juvenile Justice Code stipulates clearly that deprivation of liberty should be the last resort, and alternative measures should take precedence.

Figure 35 shows the number of children of age 14–17 years sentenced to alternative measures for a criminal offence or misdemeanour as a proportion of the total number of children in this age group sentenced by a court of first instance. A child-friendly justice requires that this ratio be as high as possible.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 35:** Number of 14–17-year-olds sentenced alternatively in comparison to the total number of that age sentenced by a court of first instance for a criminal offence or misdemeanour, 2019–2021



Source: Ministry of Justice

5. For a more accurate interpretation of these indicators, it is necessary to know the number of diversions before the case reaches the court of first instance.

## 7

## Employment and training

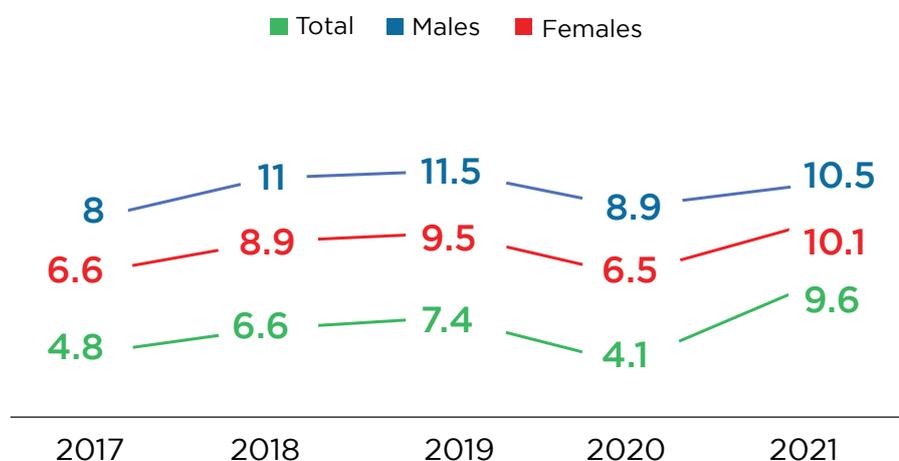


At present, the policies on youth aim to provide them with more opportunities and empowerment through training and inclusion in the labour market, bringing about social equality, economic independence, increased social awareness and active participation in the social, economic and political life of the country.

This section presents the situation with regard to the labour market, reporting participation in employment by age group, along with the education and training process. The data on which the results are based were taken from the Labour Force Survey conducted by INSTAT on the population of age 15 years and above residing in Albania.

The percentage of adolescents of age 15–17 years who are engaged in the labour market in accordance with the legislation in force, i.e. who work or are willing to work and have looked for work but have not found it, compared to the number of children in this age group, is defined as the rate of participation in the labour market. The participation rate for 15–17-year-olds is low and, over the last five years, been less than 10% (Figure 36).

**Figure 36:** Labour market participation rate of adolescents 15–17 years, by gender, 2017–2021 (percentage)



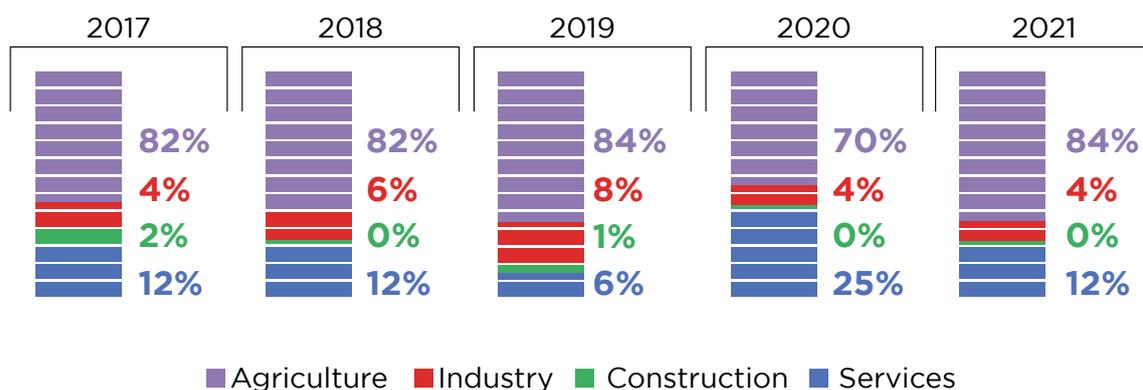
Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

The upward trend recorded for 2017–2019 suffered a sharp decline of 3% in 2020, when, as a result of pandemic restrictions, there was a general decline in employment indicators. Nevertheless, by 2021, the total participation of this age group rose above the previous level of the pre-pandemic period, reaching 10.1%.

The drop in the participation rate of adolescents in the labour market in 2020 was more pronounced for girls, by 3.3 percentage points versus 2.6 percentage points for boys. Generally, in Albania, the participation rate for males is higher than for females.

About 80–85% of adolescents of 15–17 years of age who are employed are employed in the agriculture sector (Figure 37), the main sector for this age group outside of education. This sector is followed by services (12%), which peaked in 2020 when it reached 25%. Data for 2021 show a return to the prevalence of agriculture before 2020, with a participation rate of 4% in industry and a very small rate in construction.

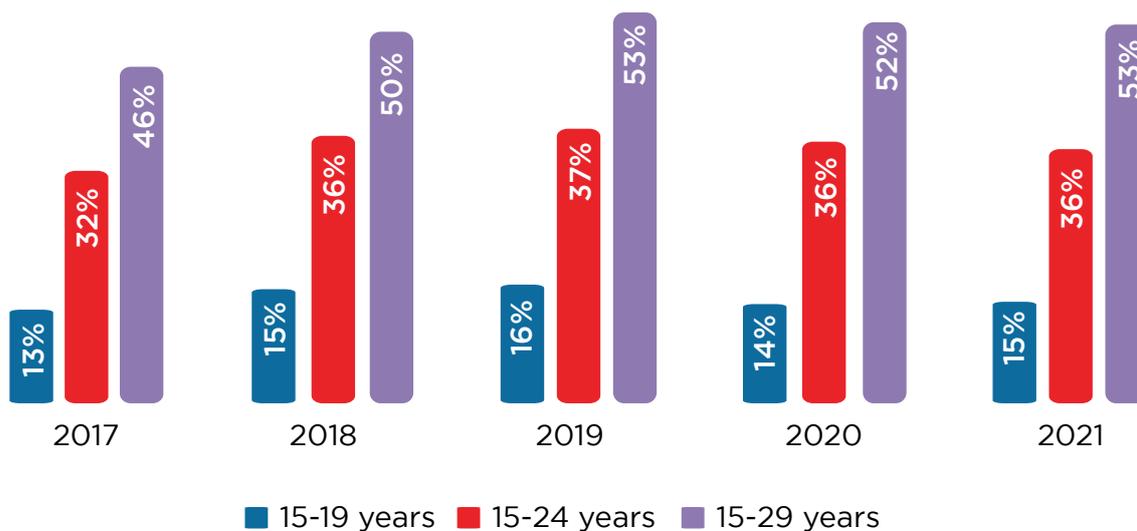
**Figure 37:** Employment structure by main sectors of the economy for adolescents of 15–17 years, 2017–2021



Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

Unsurprisingly, participation in the labour market increases with the age of respondent (Figure 38). The participation rate for all three age groups (15–19, 15–24, 15–29 years) has increased since 2017, including both the number of youths who are employed and the number of potential workers who are unemployed but actively looking for work and willing to start work.

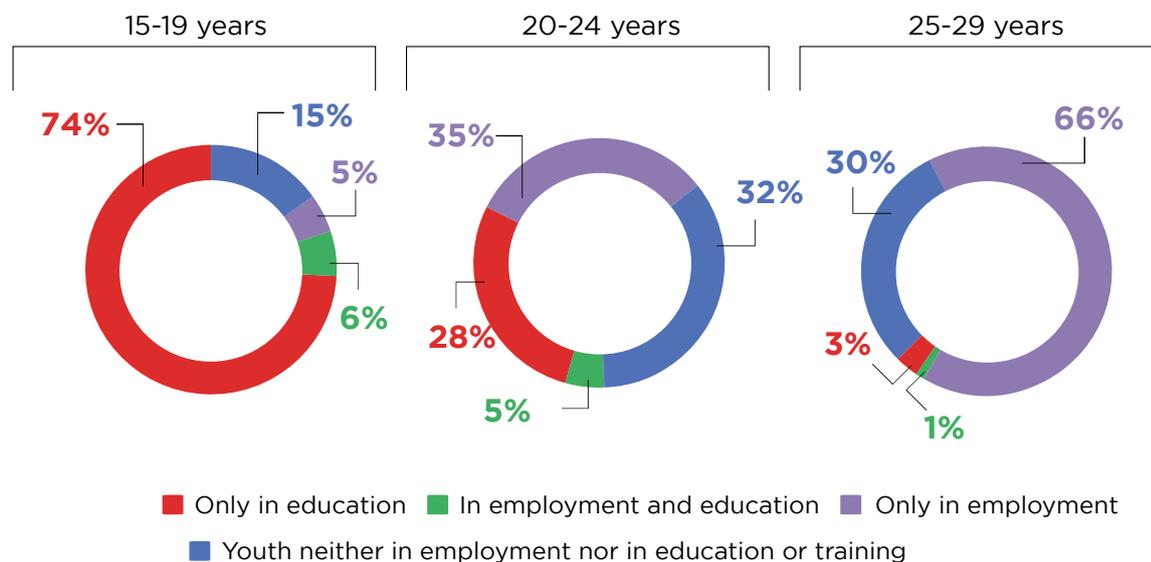
**Figure 38:** Participation rate in the labour market by age group, 2017–2021



Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

The dynamics of interactions between early participation in the labour market and participation in education or training are shown by indicators of employment, unemployment and participation in the labour market. For young people, education and professional training are primary and usually precede a professional career. Therefore, the younger the person, the busier they are with learning and have less participation in the labour market (Figure 39).

**Figure 39:** Status of education and employment, by age group, 2021



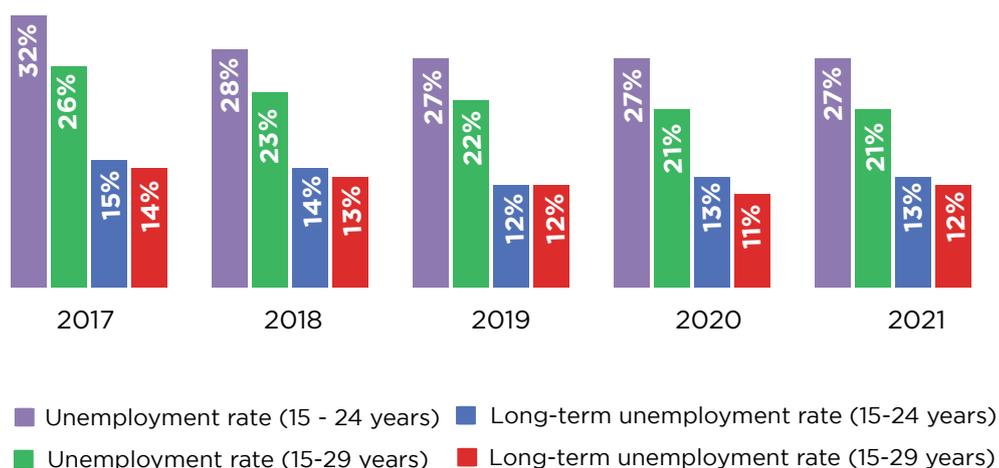
Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

Adolescents of age 15–19 years are mainly engaged in education and only a few combine school with work, especially in the summer, at weekends or after school. Meanwhile, 20–24-year-olds are equally engaged in employment and education, though some are neither employed nor enrolled in a vocational school or training course.

A considerable proportion of 25–29-year-olds only work, with their engagement in education a secondary activity, mainly in vocational schools and training, or even postuniversity studies as secondary options. There are more female than male youth neither.

The demand for work increases with age along with employment and labour force participation rates, but young people often struggle to find jobs. The percentage of young people who are not currently working, but who are looking for work and are ready to start, is high compared to the adult part of the population (Figure 40). The unemployment rate begins to fall after the age of 25 years, but even for the 15–29 age group the level is almost double the rate for the working-age population. The downward trend recorded for the years 2017–2019 was interrupted in 2020 for 15–24-year-olds.

**Figure 40:** Unemployment and long-term unemployment rate, by age group, 2017–2021

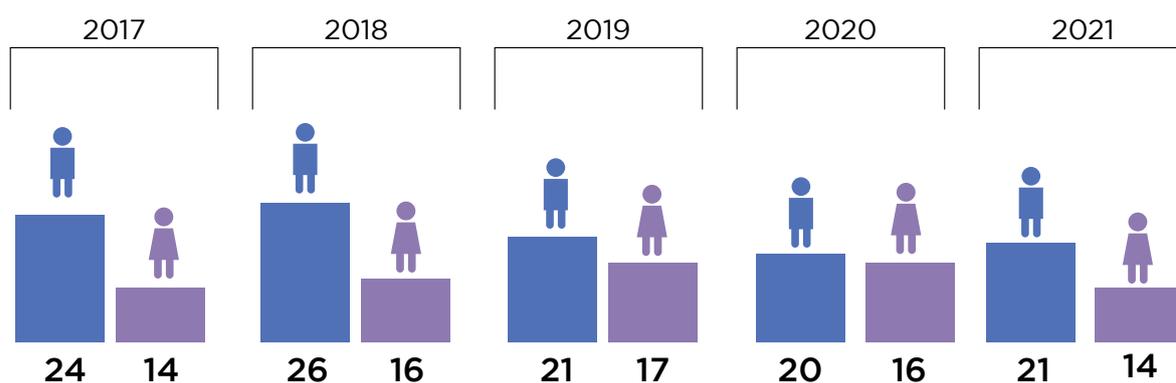


Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

The impact of long-term unemployment should not be underestimated despite the low rates: it signals the starting point of an economically inactive situation and triggers discouragement. A young person may wish to work but does not seek a job because he or she believes they will not succeed in finding one. The higher the rate the more evident is the inability of the economy to absorb a part of the labour force with high potential, equipped with contemporary competences and skills. This demonstrates the need for economic stimuli to provide employment opportunities for youth and to encourage them to be involved in vocational training, or subsidizing of youth entrepreneurship.

Young entrepreneurs, self-employed and those running a business with paid employees comprise less than 20% of employed 15–29-year-olds, with more males than females in this group (Figure 41).

**Figure 41:** Percentage of self-employed among 15–29-year-olds, by gender, 2017–2021

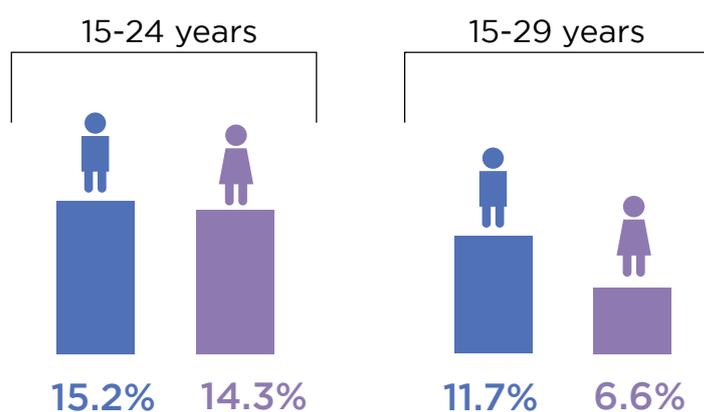


Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

Another indicator of how youth employment opportunities can be encouraged is the percentage of youths employed on temporary contracts. In 2021, such youths comprised 15% of 15–24-year-olds and 9% of 15–29-year-olds. The rate is generally higher for the former since, typically, they are still attending school and a temporary contract suits their needs.

Nevertheless, all age groups are expected to work on permanent employment contracts. Among 15–24-year-olds, the percentage working on temporary contracts is similar between genders. However, the situation changes with age, with a higher proportion of males than females on temporary contracts among 15–29-year-olds (Figure 42).

**Figure 42:** Youth employed on temporary contracts, by age group and gender, 2021



Source: Labour Force Survey, INSTAT

## 8

## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)



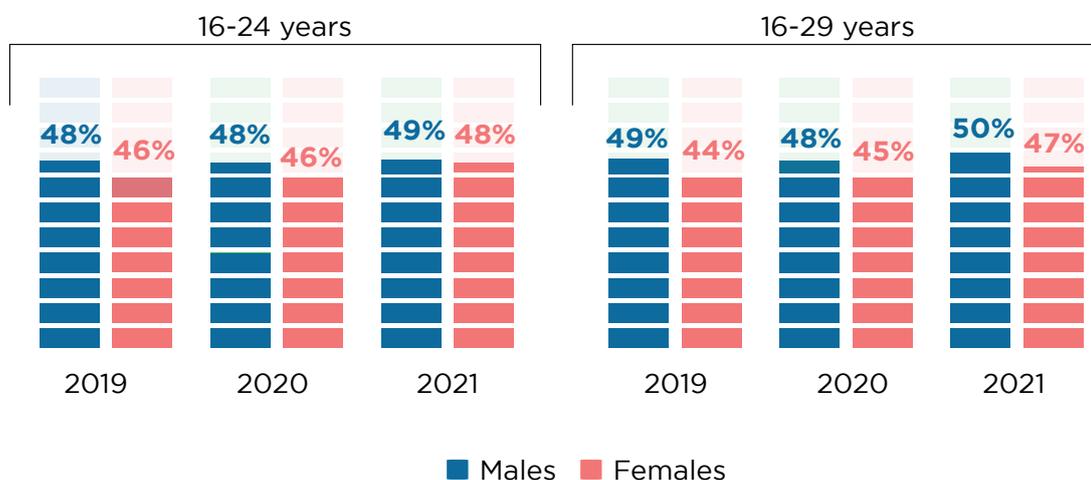
Data on the use of ICT by families and individuals are produced by the Survey on ICT usage, a statistical survey targeting households and all individuals of age 16–74 years residing in Albania.

The survey enables the production of indicators related to the use of the Internet to access information through digital media, social connections through social networks, interactions with public authorities and the expansion of learning activities through online courses. Another important element analysed here is the ability to use ICT.

### Use of ICT

Youth show the highest level of use of ICT among all age groups, while social media access accounts for the highest percentage of Internet use among all such activity. Youths going online for this purpose amounted to 97% in 2021, with a steady increase over the 2019–2021 period, for both 16–24 and 16–29-year-olds and also for males and females (Figure 43).

**Figure 43:** Percentage of youth of 16–24 and 16–29 years using Internet to access social networks, by gender, 2019–2021

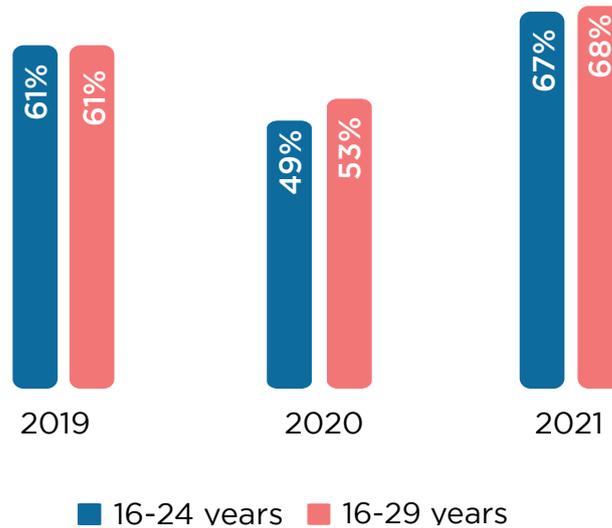


Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

Internet usage has also empowered youth further by creating opportunities to actively participate in social and political life. In 2021, some 45% of youth expressed opinions on various issues discussed online, with equal participation of males and females. Another usefulness of ICT is learning through online courses that is likely to develop rapidly as shown by the trends in recent years. In 2021, 11% of youth of age 16–24 years participated in online courses, compared to 4.2% in 2019.

At present, the Internet is commonly used to access digital media information. Youth using the Internet to read news, magazine or online press amount to some 70% of the respective age group. The growth in this indicator compared to 2019 is clear, though the use of digital media decreased in 2020, perhaps indicating the use of alternative visual media as a result of lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic (Figure 44).

**Figure 44:** Youth of age 16-24 and 16-29 years using the Internet to read news, magazines, newspapers, 2019-2021

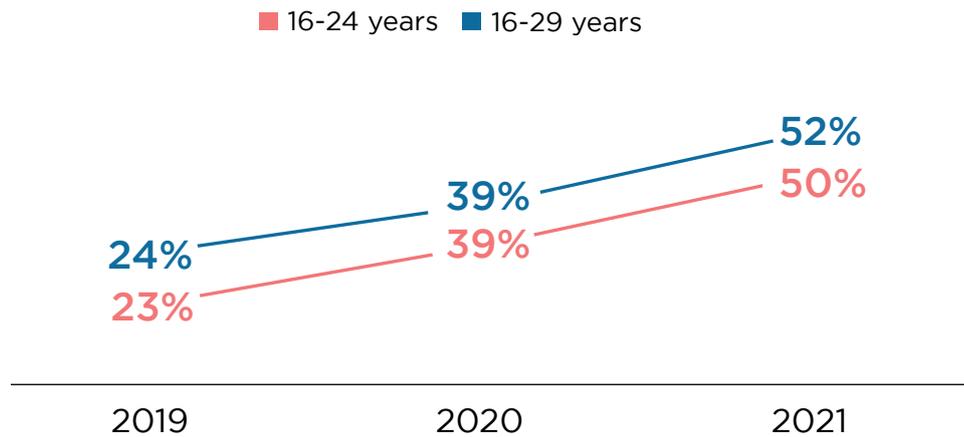


Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

The increase in digitalization of public services by the public administration and educational services, led to more youth using e-Governance services. In 2021, around half of young people interacted with public authorities online, for services including provision of identity cards, birth certificates, change of addresses, social benefits, public health, information on school and university enrolment, public libraries.

In the 2019-2021 period, the percentage of youth using the Internet to interact with the public authorities doubled for both the 16-24- and 16-29-year age groups (Figure 44).

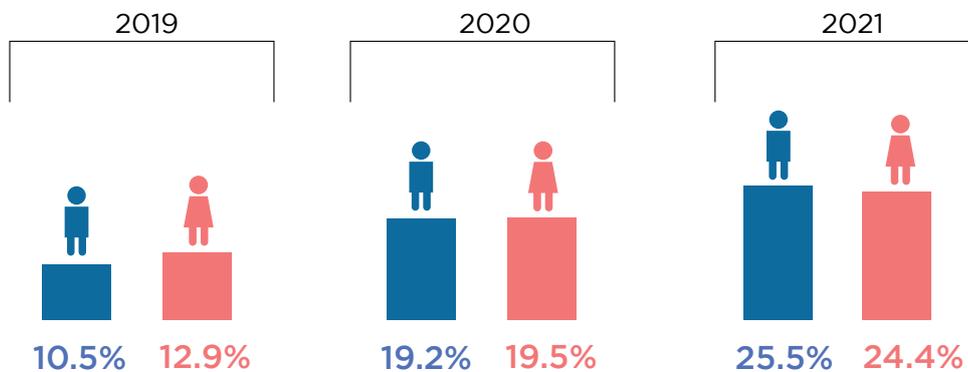
**Figure 45:** Usage of Internet to interact with public authorities, by age group, 2019–2021



Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

This indicator shows a similar upward trend for both males and females in the different age groups. For example, females accounted for 24% of respondents of age 16–24 years reporting using the Internet to interact with public authorities in 2021, double the figure of 13% in 2019 (Figure 46).

**Figure 46:** Percentage of youth of 16–24 years using Internet to interact with public authorities, by gender, 2019–2021

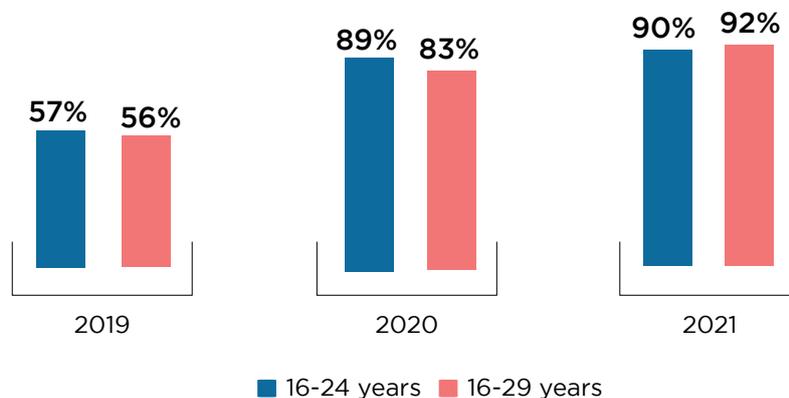


Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

## Technology and computer skills

Technology and computer skills of regular Internet users have, over the last three months, marked an increase for both 16–24- and 16–29-year-olds (Figure 47).

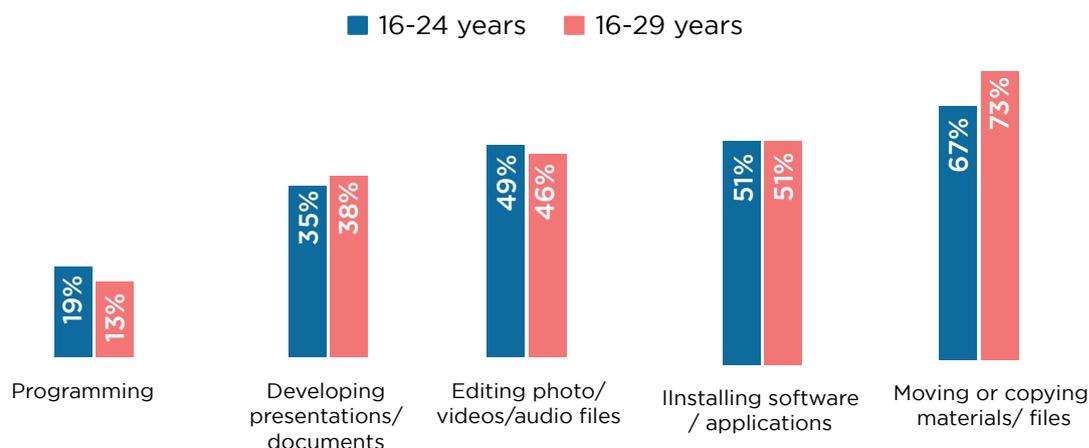
**Figure 47:** Percentage of youth of 16–24 and 16–29 years having at least one ICT skill, 2019–2021



Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

The highest percentages are observed for the following skills: moving or copying materials and files, installing software and applications, developing presentations and documents integrating text, images, tables or graphs, and using applications to edit pictures, videos and audio files. The percentages of youth using the Internet to write code in a programming language, indicates a significant advancement in the development of ICT skills, despite the low levels. For those of age 16–24 years, the percentage increased from 3% in 2019 to 13% in 2021, while for 16–29-year-olds the figures grew from 3% to 19% over the same period (Figure 48).

**Figure 48:** Percentages of youth of age 16–24 or 16–29 years with main ICT skills, 2021



Source: Survey on ICT usage, INSTAT

## Shtojcë

### Justice

Children in contact with the law (number)

	2019	2020	2021
Children 0-17 years victims of criminal offenses, during the year	1226	1035	1129
Children 9-17 years old alleged offenders, during the year	1337	3308	1940
Children 9-14 years old alleged offenders, during the year	267	489	531
Children 14-17 years in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions sentenced, at the end of the year	4	1	1
Children 14-17 years in institutions for the execution of criminal decisions detained, at the end of the year	19	20	18







