Domain: Health, education, culture

THE ENROLLED POPULATION WAS 3,466.5 THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL/ACADEMIC YEAR

- **Enrolled population** within the national education system was 3,466.5 thou pupils and students[1] in the school/academic year 2023-2024, showing a 6.2 thou decrease as against the previous school/academic year.

- The enrolment increased only in **upper secondary (high school) and tertiary education** (each by +1.1%) compared to the previous year.

- The **graduates** of the 2022-2023 school/academic year numbered 505.0 thousand pupils and students, an increase of 0.3% in comparison with the previous school/academic year.

Individuals enrolled in the 2023-2024 school year/academic year

Almost half of the enrolled population was enrolled in primary and lower secondary education (46.1%) in the 2023-2024 school/academic year, and about a third was enrolled in upper secondary - high school education (17.4%) and early childhood education (15.8%).

Of the total population enrolled in the national education system, 50.2% were female and 73.0% studied in urban areas.

Upper secondary - high school education and tertiary education registered an increase in enrollment (+6.7 thousand pupils and +5.9 thousand students, respectively), compared to the previous school year.
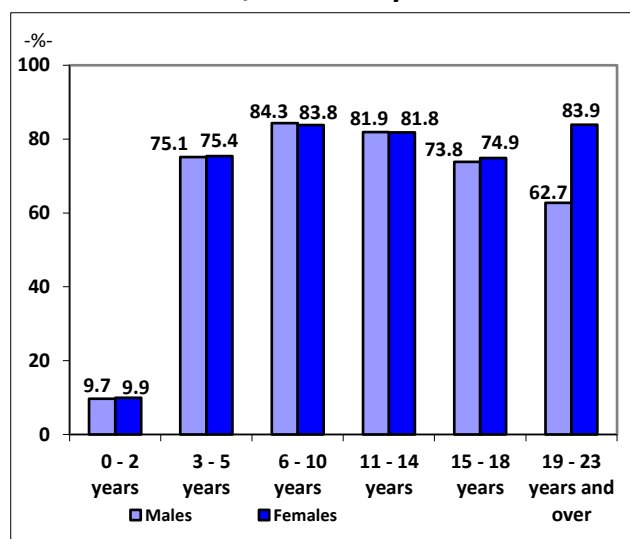
Post-secondary non-tertiary education enrolled 82.6 thousand pupils, making it the least representative level of education in the total enrolled population (2.4%).

Primary and lower secondary education (-9.5 thou pupils), as well as vocational education (-4.2 thou pupils) showed the most significant decline in the number of school population in the 2023-2024 school year, as compared to the previous one.

Public school units/institutions accounted for most of the enrolled population (94.5%).

By level of education, the largest share of pupils and students enrolled in private educational institutions was recorded in post-secondary non-tertiary education (46.1%).

School-aged population enrolment rate in the 2023-2024 school/academic year*)

	Males	Females
0 - 2 years	9.7	9.9
3 - 5 years	75.1	75.4
6 - 10 years	84.3	83.8
11 - 14 years	81.9	81.8
15 - 18 years	73.8	74.9
19 - 23 years and over	62.7	83.9

*) Resident population as of January 1st, 2023 (provisional data) was used.

Graph data (.xls)

The enrollment rate of students in the 6-10 age group was the highest (84.0%) compared to the other age groups.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, 544.6 thousand students were enrolled in tertiary education, of which 55.4% were female.

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[1] Pupils and students – participants in all education levels are included in this category.

The most attractive fields of tertiary education (according to the ISCED-F classification) were **business, administration and law** (23.7% of the total) and **engineering, manufacturing and construction** (19.7% of the total).

The **network of educational units/institutions** operating in the school/academic year 2023-2024 mainly concerned the primary and lower secondary level (56.2%), upper secondary (high school) level (20.7%), and early childhood education level (18.4%).

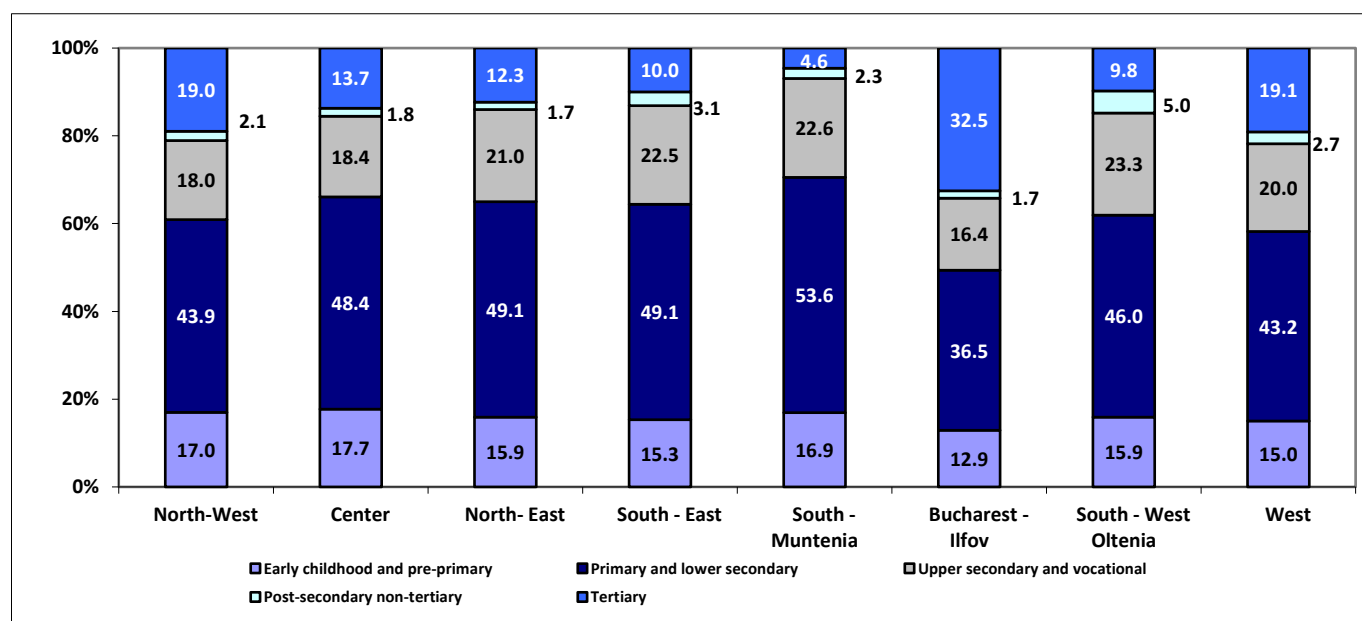At the **territorial level**, the enrolled population in the 2023-2024 school/academic year registered the highest values in the Northeast region (585.0 thousand persons) and in the Bucharest-Ilfov region (530.5 thousand persons).

The distribution of the enrolled population by development regions and education level in each region's total shows that primary and lower secondary education in South-Muntenia recorded the highest share (53.6%).

In contrast, post-secondary non-tertiary education held the lowest shares in the Northeast and Bucharest-Ilfov (each accounting for 1.7%) regions.

The share of tertiary education students in the total of each region registered the highest values in Bucharest-Ilfov (32.5%).

The distribution of the enrolled population by development regions and educational level in the 2023-2024 school/academic year

Graph data (.xls)

Teaching staff in the 2023-2024 school/ academic year

The **teaching staff** of the national education system in the 2023-2024 school/academic year numbered 245.0 thousand people. Thus, **the average ratio of enrolled population to the number of teachers** was 14 persons per teacher.

Female teachers were the majority in pre-university education (83.0%) and in each of the following education levels: early childhood (99.7%), primary and lower secondary (82.1%), post-secondary non-tertiary (79.1%), upper

secondary – high school (72.9%) and vocational (67.3%).

Graduates of the 2022-2023 school/academic year

The 2022-2023 school/academic year's graduates of lower secondary, upper secondary – high school and vocational, post-secondary non-tertiary education, and tertiary education levels (BA, MA, PhD, and advanced research postdoctoral studies) counted for 505.0 thou persons.

The majority of graduates were female (265.9 thou), standing for 52.7% of the total graduates. Of the total graduates, 83.4% completed an

educational level in urban[2] areas, while the rest were registered in rural areas.

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, 175.9 thousand students graduated from **lower secondary education**, most of them from school establishments in the Northeast region (19.0%). The proportion of boys (51.3%) exceeded that of girls by 2.6 percentage points. In urban areas, graduates represented 59.9% of all lower secondary graduates. At the territorial level, higher proportions of graduates in rural education establishments were recorded in the Northeast and South-Muntenia regions (53.4% and 52.9%, respectively).

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, 143.4 thousand students graduated from **upper secondary – high school education**, 1.9% fewer than in the previous school year. Most of the upper secondary-high school graduates (86.6%) attended full-time education – daytime classes.

The data on **upper secondary- high school graduates** show that about half of the students attended the theoretical pathway (53.4% of all graduates), 36.8% attended technological pathway classes, and 9.8% studied in vocational high schools.

The numbers of graduates who took the Baccalaureate exams amounted to 131.3 thou, of which 117.0 thousand were graduates of the class of 2023 (89.1%). A total of 101.3 thousand people (77.2%) passed the national baccalaureate exams, of which 96.0 thousand (82.1%) were graduates of the class of 2023.

Vocational education was completed by 28.7 thousand pupils, 97.6% of whom were enrolled in public educational institutions.

Post-secondary non-tertiary education was completed by 30.5 thou pupils, of which 59.2% were enrolled in public education establishments.

Tertiary education degree graduates numbered 126.5 thousand, of which 59.4% were female.

Most **tertiary degree graduates** studied business, administration, and law (26.8%),

engineering, manufacturing, and construction (17.0%), and health and social services (12.0%).

The dropout rate in the 2022/2023 school year was 1.0% in upper secondary – high school and vocational education, 1.3% in primary education, and 1.2% in lower education.

In 2021[3], the **financial resources** necessary for carrying out the educational process and allocated for the functioning of the national educational system units were provided mostly (95.5%) from public funds (from the state budget and the local budgets); the rest came from other educational institutions sources, and also from household incomes.

In terms of type of expenditure by public and private institutions, the largest share of total education-related expenditure was accounted for by current expenditure (93.1%), and the remainder was accounted for by capital expenditure (6.9%).

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[2] The residence area is determined by the geographic location of the schools and faculties, not by the residence or domicile of the pupils/students.

[3] Provisional data