Regional Profile Marche

Key facts

Population (2021): 1´498.236

Territory (sq. km): 9.366

Regional GDP (2022) (€): 32.200

Educational provision in Marche

In the 2021/2022 school year, **1.432 schools** in the Marche Region hosted 207.023 pupils. These included **572** pre-primary schools, **444** primary schools, **226** lower secondary schools, and **190** upper secondary schools. In addition, private and third-sector organisations provide a range of Vocational Education and Training courses for young people and adults. Finally, **five** Provincial Centres for Adult Education (CPIA) are active in the Region, one per province. Within this system, students with a **foreign nationality** made up 12,2% of the school population in pre-primary schools, 12,7% in primary schools, 12% in lower secondary schools, and 9,6% in upper secondary schools.

Regarding infrastructure, the Educational Poverty Map for the Marche Region (Osservatorio #conibambini, 2021) highlights that 24,4% of the school buildings are more than 50 years old (compared with 17,8% nationally) and only 55% of families have a fast internet connection (compared with a 68,5% national average).

Learning outcomes in Italy

Over recent years, several legislative initiatives as part of the reform of the labor market have led to setting important priorities: defining national qualifications standards based on learning outcomes; developing a **national public certification system**; setting out principles for developing a **system of validation of non-formal and informal learning**. Such initiatives fostered dialogue and cooperation among different institutional stakeholders, resulting in the adoption of a learning outcomes orientation in a number of legislative acts. All such initiatives imply a learning outcomes approach since, firstly, learning outcomes are well established, explicitly outlining performance expectations and identifying what the learner is expected to know and do by the end of the experience. Secondly, learning outcomes established for programs are determined through broad consultation with employers, industry practitioners, professional organizations, teachers and educators.

Socio-economic characteristics of Marche

Marche is located in the central part of Italy on the Adriatic coast. The **population has decreased** (-2.81% since 2011) due to low birth rates (Bazzoli & Quadrelli 2020). The aging index is lower than in the Liguria region, placing Marche in the middle among the Italian regions but constantly growing (Statista, 2023). The non-citizen population is 8.7% of the total (ISTAT, 2022), but it is sharply decreasing (-13,3% since 2011).

The Marche economy is characterised by a **leading industrial sector** (mainly mechanics and light manufacturing in apparel, footwear, and furniture). The **tertiary sector is less developed compared to the national average**. A high share of small businesses characterises the regional economic fabric. Consequently, the research and innovation activities must be better developed, **negatively impacting the demand for highly specialised labour**.

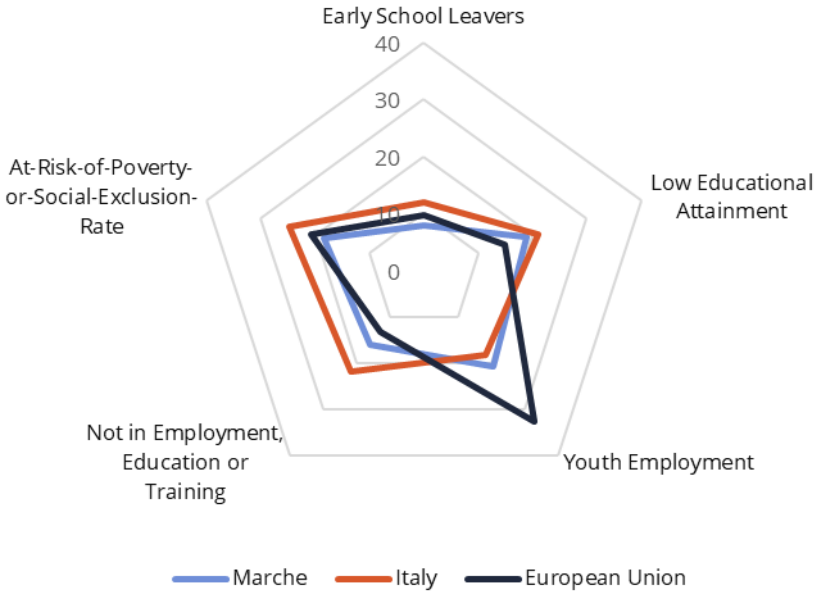
The NEET rate is higher than the EU average but remains among the lowest in the country. The youth employment rate is 12 points below the EU average.

The region is currently characterised by a socioeconomic divide between the north and south and between the coastal and interior areas, with the southern and inner areas having lower levels of socioeconomic well-being.

Regional performance

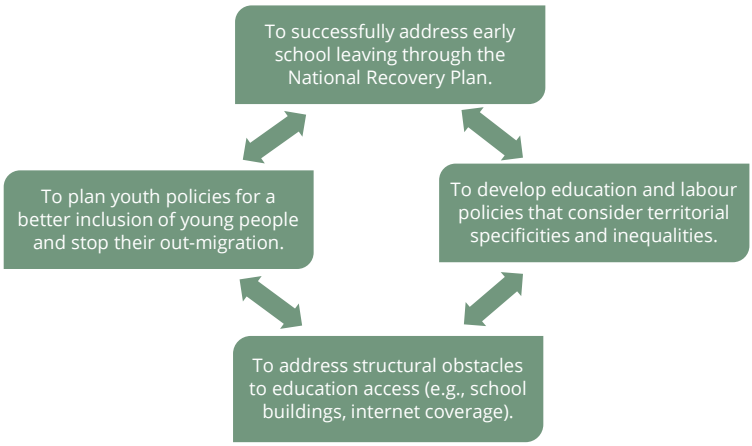
Like Northern Italian regions, Marche has a low NEET rate. In addition, there are few ELETs (the region ranks second nationally in this indicator). The youth employment rate, at 20.7%, is below the EU average but very close to that of Italian regions with good economic performance. For the other indicators, region Marche stays in the middle (low educational level = 9th, regional GDP per capita = 12th, poverty risk due to school exclusion = 10th). Although there are fewer Early School Leavers than the EU average, the rate of Low Educational Attainment is 4 points higher than the EU level. Region Marche had an outstanding performance for **female early leaving**, which dropped by 78% in 15 years. In 2019, 8,7% of young people between 18-24 years old had dropped out of the school system before attaining an upper secondary school diploma, which is below the national average of 13,5%. The rate of young people classified as NEET was 11,5%, among the lowest in the country.

Yet, these indicators should be considered in light of **strong territorial imbalances** existing within Marche between the coastal and inner areas and between Northern and Southern provinces. For instance, the southern coastal area performs best regarding youth labour market inclusion, but Northern provinces have much higher rates of **people enrolling in universities and better learning outcomes** (ORML, 2023).



Source: Eurostat, 2023

Policy challenges



Further reading

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ORML (2023). Giovani, istruzione, occupazione e lavoro autonomo nelle Marche. Report Giovani. June 2023.

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