



## ETF COUNTRY INFORMATION FICHE

# TAJIKISTAN

### BASIC COUNTRY DATA

Total Population:

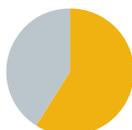
**7,987,400**



(Last available year: 2013, TAJSTAT)

Youth dependency ratio:

**58.90%**



(Last available year: 2013, World Bank)

Total employment rate (15–75):

**44.3%**

Total unemployment rate (15–75):

**11.5%**

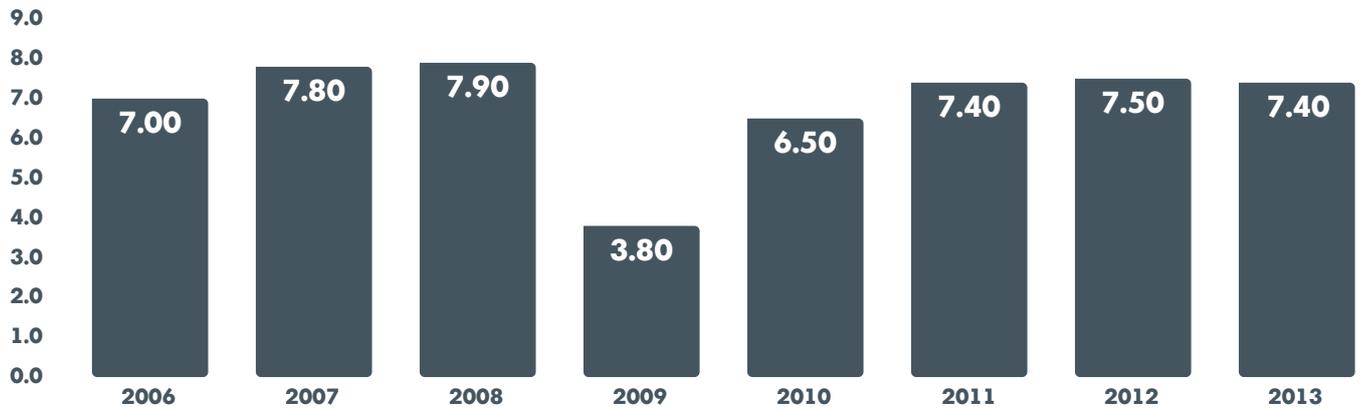
Youth unemployment rate (15–24):

**16.7%**

(Last available year: 2009, TAJSTAT (2009); ETF calculation. Labour migrants are not included.)

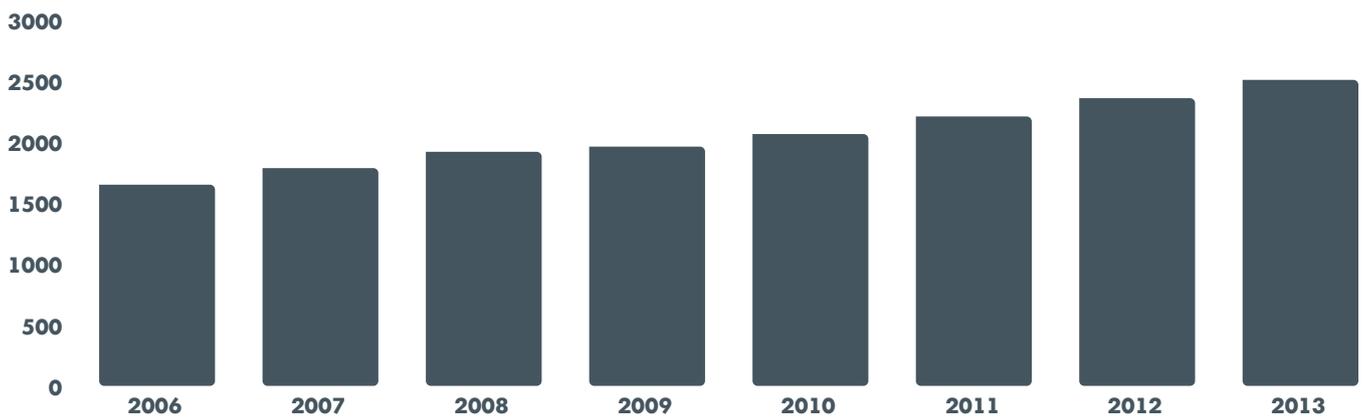


## GDP ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%)



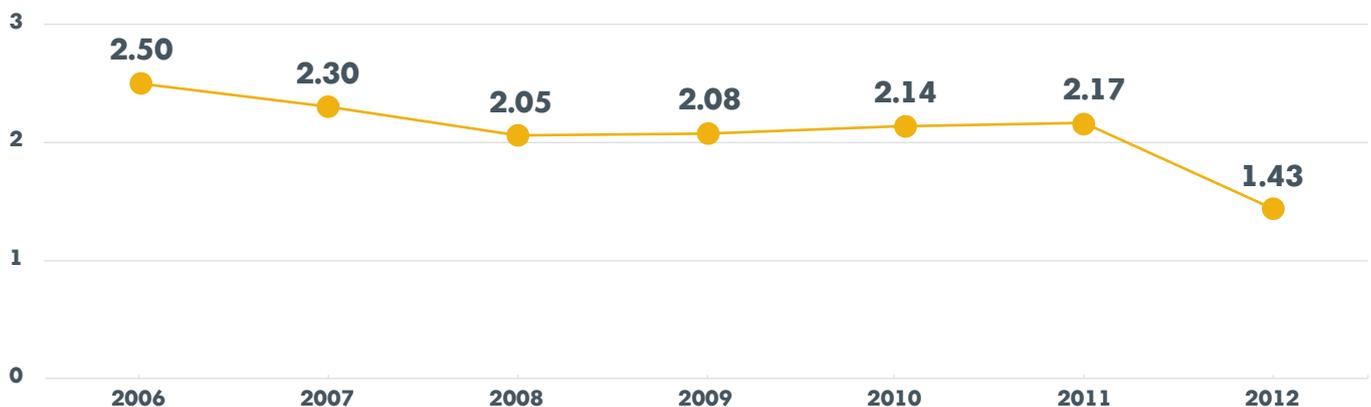
Source: World Bank

## GDP PER CAPITA (CURRENT INTERNATIONAL \$)



Source: World Bank

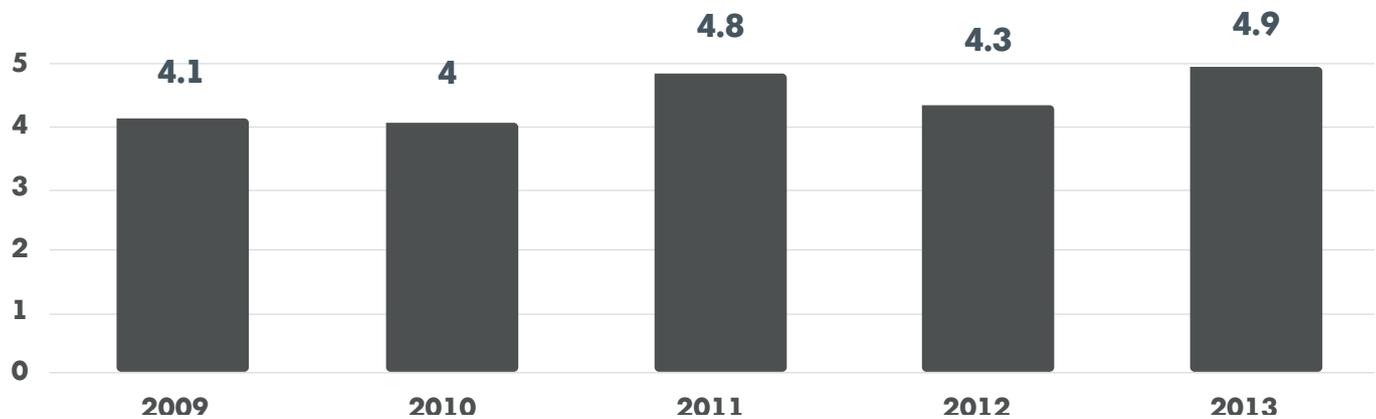
## SHARE OF VET IN SECONDARY EDUCATION (%)



Source: UNESCO Institute of Statistics.



## PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS SHARE OF GDP (%)



Source: TAJSTAT, *Demographic yearbook of the Republic of Tajikistan*.

**Tajikistan's economy exceeded expectations in first half 2015, however remittances from Russia fell, global demand weakened, and prices for the country's key export commodities such as aluminium and cotton dropped significantly. The construction and industrial sectors expanded as the economy's focus shifted from consumption to investment. The decline in remittances could threaten the sustainability of recent gains in poverty reduction and shared prosperity. According to the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), remittances dropped by 32% (year on year), in US dollar terms during the first six months of 2015. Falling remittances, limited employment creation outside the public sector and rising prices are slowing the rate of poverty reduction. Moreover, the lack of well-targeted social programmes leaves households vulnerable to economic shocks (World Bank Outlook).**

There are limited institutional capabilities for adapting the workforce to the needs of the labour market. The needs for skilled specialists and creating local employment are becoming increasingly urgent. Limited institutional capacity results in a generally poor quality workforce. After completing primary and secondary education many young people enter the labour market each year without vocational training. As a result, approximately 80% of those officially registered as unemployed with the employment services are unskilled. Limited mobility and access to higher professional education by poorer sections of society have increased the social significance of vocational education and training (VET). The situation requires the implementation of substantial reforms to strengthen the economic and social contributions of the VET system.

**VET and employment policy: Progress since 2012**

The New Law on Training Specialists Based on Labour Market Needs (August 2012) is well timed; it recognises the current state of the VET system, while aiming, for the first time, to bring it more into line with labour market and employment needs. This law establishes the legal basis for a permanent mechanism that matches the demand for professional skills with supply. The implementation of this mechanism is currently at an early stage. The Institute of Labour Migration and Employment developed the National Job Classification in 2013 and is expected to extend their analysis of labour market trends.



The Ministry of Labour has recently drafted a Law on Adult Education to strengthen the rapidly growing system of adult education. Some 28 adult training institutes provide short courses mainly for the unemployed and potential migrants. In 2013, the responsibility for initial VET was transferred to the Ministry of Labour. In 2014, a Methodological Centre was established to support initial VET institutions and staff.

The new version of the Law on Education (July 2013) establishes standards for quality assurance and quality management. However, a single national procedure for evaluating the quality of education and implementing mechanisms for monitoring, including internal and external assessment, have not yet been developed. Quality assurance measurements are currently very fragmented and differ between regions.

### Country priorities for VET and employment reforms

The priorities identified in the Torino Process 2014 are:

1. Social partnership<sup>1</sup> (cooperation between education and business in VET provision): Developing a medium-term action plan for the implementation of the new Law on Social Partnership;
2. Quality assurance: Developing quality indicators and mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the quality of education and training;
3. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of VET staff at different levels: Developing VET school managers, teachers and trainers with a particular focus on VET quality development, quality management, quality assessment and modern pedagogic methodologies.
4. Two major VET programmes will commence in 2016: ADB and EU – see below for details.

### ETF interventions

ETF will support Tajikistan in the development of the Torino Process 2016 Report with expert peer learning and coaching.

ETF will address the priority of quality assurance by supporting VET school directors in introducing quality management and assurance mechanisms at school level.

Policy learning and Communities of Practice actions through the VETPQ School Development project will feed into policy discussions and recommendations for a national Quality Assurance policy as well as the implementation plans for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Under the VET Provision and Quality: Regional School Development project, a survey was carried out in 2015 to assess demand and supply for Continuous Professional Development (CPD). The findings will be used to develop recommendations for strengthening a demand-oriented approach to CPD programmes.

### Support for the EU Delegation

The Education/VET (€75 million) priority of the EU Multi-annual Indicative Programme focuses on strengthening planning and budgeting processes and improving the quality of secondary general education and VET. ETF has provided inputs to the EU Delegation for the identification of the first €15 million EU project on education and VET reforms, focusing on teacher training. The project will start in 2016 and ETF will provide further inputs to the implementation of the project.

### Qualifications Frameworks and Quality Assurance (via Central Asian Education Platform – CAEP)

ETF's support for national stakeholders in terms of the Qualifications Frameworks and Quality Assurance in Tajikistan will focus on providing expertise to the CAEP in Regional Qualification Frameworks Stocktaking, Reporting and Studies, and leading National and Peer Learning seminars in Quality Assurance.<sup>2</sup>

EU projects <sup>1</sup>	Period	Budget	ETF role
Quality Education Support Programme I DCI-ASIE/2015.037-673	2015–2017	€15 million	Support specification, implementation and monitoring

<sup>1</sup> In the Tajikistan context, the term 'social partnership' refers to school partnerships with local businesses and therefore falls within the ETF programme VET Provision & Quality: Education & Business Cooperation.

<sup>2</sup> For more information see: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tajikistan/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tajikistan/index_en.htm)



## Key donors in VET-related projects

Organisation	Project
GIZ	<p>Supporting Reform of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training System in Tajikistan (2008–2016): <a href="https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15436.html">https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15436.html</a></p> <p>Regional activities: <a href="https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/10107.html">https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/10107.html</a></p> <p>Country activities: <a href="https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/382.html">https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/382.html</a></p> <p>ETF cooperates with GIZ in the area of quality management and the professionalisation of VET staff.</p>
DVV International	<p>DVV International: <a href="http://www.dvv-international.de/index.php?id=190&amp;L=1">www.dvv-international.de/index.php?id=190&amp;L=1</a></p> <p>DVV International implements measures to improve the quality of vocational education and training for disadvantaged groups. It supports the development of the network of organisations responsible for formal and non-formal adult education and is committed to improving the legal framework for adult education in Tajikistan.</p> <p>(DVV International operates regionally in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan – Regional headquarters: Uzbekistan)</p>
World Bank	<p>The World Bank: Tajikistan: <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan">www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan</a></p> <p>Higher Education Project: <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P148291/?lang=en&amp;tab=overview">www.worldbank.org/projects/P148291/?lang=en&amp;tab=overview</a></p> <p>This project will support reforms at both institutional and system levels. For institutional-level improvements, a competitive grants programme will be made available to higher education institutions for improving the labour-market relevance of education through an updated curriculum, teacher development, career services and refurbishing laboratories, as well as other relevant measures identified by universities.</p> <p>Economic review: <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/economic-update-fall-2015">www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/publication/economic-update-fall-2015</a></p>
ADB	<p>ADB: <a href="http://www.adb.org/countries/tajikistan/main">www.adb.org/countries/tajikistan/main</a></p> <p>Strengthening TVET: The impact of the proposed Strengthening Private Sector Participation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project (the project) project will be a national workforce with an increased proportion of skilled workers employed in Tajikistan. The outcome will be a demand-driven, quality-assured, and flexible TVET system responsive to labor market needs.</p> <p>4 outputs: (i) TVET system methodology modernized; (ii) physical learning facilities in selected TVET institutions upgraded; (iii) access to quality TVET programs improved; and (iv) governance and management of TVET system strengthened. <a href="http://www.adb.org/projects/46535-001/main?page-3=1">www.adb.org/projects/46535-001/main?page-3=1</a></p> <p>Regional Cooperation CAREC: <a href="http://www.adb.org/countries/uzbekistan/regional-cooperation">www.adb.org/countries/uzbekistan/regional-cooperation</a></p> <p>ADB is Tajikistan's largest multilateral development partner. ADB is planning a regional study on 'Good Jobs for Inclusive Growth in Central and West Asia (CWA)' and ETF and ADB are sharing information on work and publications of mutual interest.</p>
Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action) in partnership local partners ICPO 'Jovid' in the regions: Rasht, Tavildara, Ishkoshim and Murghab	<p>'Skills Development and Increase of Employment Opportunities for the Youth in Tajikistan' project will be implemented and funded by Welthungerhilfe (known as German Agro Action). The project aims to increase employment opportunities for young people and support the creation of small businesses through providing opportunities for developing skills and knowledge in the private sector labour market. The main goal of the project (which runs for four years up to August 2019) is to contribute to a sustainable improvement in the living conditions and social stability of the younger generation in Tajikistan. The target group of the project comprises young people aged 15 to 30 years, as well as teachers and trainers of selected vocational training institutions.</p> <p><a href="http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/en/get-informed/our-projects.html#!/country35/">www.welthungerhilfe.de/en/get-informed/our-projects.html#!/country35/</a></p>



USAID	USAID partners with the people of Tajikistan to increase food security, improve health and nutrition, strengthen basic education and enhance good governance. <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/tajikistan">www.usaid.gov/tajikistan</a>
UN/Unicef	Unicef chairs the education working group of the Donor Coordination Council (DCC), in which ETF participates. <a href="http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/Tajikistan.html">www.unicef.org/infobycountry/Tajikistan.html</a> <a href="http://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/">www.unicef.org/tajikistan/</a>
AKF/AKDN	AKDN: Tajikistan: <a href="http://www.akdn.org/tajikistan">www.akdn.org/tajikistan</a> AKDN supports VET courses in schools for professional education and the University of Central Asia. <a href="http://www.akdn.org/uca.asp">www.akdn.org/uca.asp</a> <a href="http://www.akdn.org/tajikistan_education.asp">www.akdn.org/tajikistan_education.asp</a>
ECHO	Activities based around disaster prevention and recovery could involve VET schools in rural areas. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe-and-central-asia/central-asia_en">http://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe-and-central-asia/central-asia_en</a> DIPECHO: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/echo/node/520">http://ec.europa.eu/echo/node/520</a>
UKAID/DFID	<a href="https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/TJ">https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/TJ</a> Operational Plan 2011–2015 – Governance and Security; Wealth Creation. This programme works through donor partners and through interventions in the following fields: industrial sectors, extraction and mining, agriculture and small businesses (all involving training components and potentially VET schools). (Active in TJK, KYR.)
G20/ILO	The development and implementation of a simulation tool for VET school management. <a href="http://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Projects/WCMS_347207/lang-en/index.htm">www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Projects/WCMS_347207/lang-en/index.htm</a>

### Key publications

- ETF, *Torino Process 2014: Tajikistan*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/TRP\\_2014\\_Tajikistan](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/TRP_2014_Tajikistan)
- ETF, *Torino Process 2012: Tajikistan*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/TRP\\_2012\\_Tajikistan](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/TRP_2012_Tajikistan)
- ETF, *Migration survey in Tajikistan 2011*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Migration\\_survey\\_Tajikistan](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Migration_survey_Tajikistan)
- ETF, *Labour market review: Tajikistan*, 2011:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Labour\\_Market\\_Review\\_Tajikistan](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Labour_Market_Review_Tajikistan)
- TAJSTAT, *Labour market situation in the Republic of Tajikistan*, Dushanbe, 2009.

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