

NEET YOUTH IN THE TANGIER-TETOUAN-AL HOCEIMA REGION: 28.1%, BETWEEN BEST REGIONAL PERFORMANCE AND PERSISTENT URGENCY

STRATEGIC SIGNAL

The 2025 ILO-HCP report reveals that in 2023, 2.94 million young people aged 15 to 29 are NEET in Morocco, representing 33.6% of this age group. The phenomenon is structural and resistant to economic recovery. The Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region records the lowest rate among the twelve regions of the Kingdom at 28.1%, the only region below the 30% threshold. This relatively favorable position nonetheless calls for a nuanced reading: nearly three in ten young people remain outside employment, education or training, and significant internal disparities persist between provinces and areas of residence.

HIGHLIGHTS*

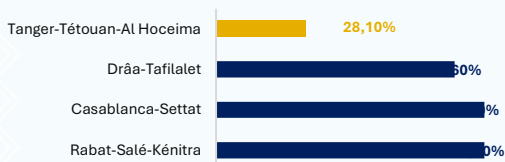
Strong gender inequality : women are 2.6 times more affected (49.2% vs 18.5%) and account for 72% of NEETs, with marriage being a major driver of labor market exit (+32.8 probability points).

Break after age 24 : the NEET rate doubles across age groups (from 25.6% to 50.2%), revealing a failing school-to-work transition for one in two young people.

Contrasted diploma effect : higher education provides strong protection (-41.8 points), but vocational training exposes certain profiles to long-term unemployment (+19.3 points).

Dominant inactivity : 68,1 % of NEETs are inactive rather than unemployed, signaling an economic participation crisis more than a strict unemployment crisis.

NEET Rate by Region (top 4 regions) - Morocco, 2023 (15-29 years)



STRATEGIC ANALYSIS: POSSIBLE IMPACTS

A) A Relatively Favorable Position to Be Consolidated

The region records the lowest NEET rate nationally (28.1% vs the 33.6% national average). This performance, combined with an economic fabric structured around major hubs such as Tanger Med (188 bn MAD and 1,500 companies in 2025), enhances the region's appeal to investors. However, it does not in itself constitute an indicator of completed inclusion.

B) Still Partial Economic Integration

The relative reduction in NEET translates into better integration of some young people into economic activity, contributing to household income stabilization. However, the high proportion of inactive individuals (74.2% of NEETs) and female predominance limit the overall impact on living standards, keeping a significant portion of the population outside economic circuits.

C) An Under-Tapped Labor Pool

Internal disparities, including the elevated risk in rural areas (+4 points) and widespread female inactivity, reflect the existence of a potentially mobilizable population. For investors, this represents an opportunity to access a still largely untapped workforce, but also an adaptation challenge conditioning the capacity to sustain future growth.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS: POINTS OF VIGILANCE

- Relative performance, not completed inclusion**: the region records the lowest NEET rate in Morocco and serves as the reference region in Probit models from the ILO report. This leadership should not obscure the fact that approximately three in ten young people remain excluded from the education system and the labor market, and that internal inequalities between provinces persist.
- A targeted signal toward high-value-added sectors** : the industrial dynamics of Tanger Med generate sustained demand for skilled jobs, but primarily benefit qualified profiles, with a persistent risk of exclusion for women, rural youth and those with lower qualifications.
- A gender divide, a structural blind spot**: 49.2% of young women are NEET compared to 18.5% of men. Female inactivity is a social assignment phenomenon, with marriage (+32.8 pts) and the presence of young children as its primary triggers. This population remains largely invisible to conventional employment policies.
- A training/market misalignment**: the vocational diploma paradox (+19.3 pts of long-term unemployment risk) reflects a structural misalignment between training supply and market needs. Graduates turn to ANAPEC as a last resort, signaling insufficiently proactive intermediation.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

This alert cannot conclude on a self-congratulatory reading of the 28.1% rate. The Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region does hold the best relative position nationally, but the NEET phenomenon remains a major warning signal. The challenge is to convert this favorable position into a lever for targeted public action. Four priorities stand out:

- Address school dropout**, particularly by strengthening second-chance schools and early re-engagement mechanisms.
- Target women and rural communities** through pathways tailored to local opportunities, mobile training units and proximity-based mechanisms to reduce structural barriers to female economic participation.
- Further engage the private sector**, through business federations, work-study programs and employment integration mechanisms, to better align skills supply with actual market needs.
- Strengthen the Region's role in youth employment monitoring**, in order to better track skills needs, territorial employment dynamics and the most vulnerable profiles, particularly in provinces where internal disparities remain most pronounced.

*| National data

SOURCES :

High Commission for Planning (HCP) and International Labour Organization (ILO), *Statistical Profiling of NEET Youth in Morocco: Analysis, Determinants and Implications*, 2025-2026.
Tanger Med Special Agency, *Financial Report 2025*.