

Results from the Adult Education Survey (AES) revealed that 46.8 per cent of persons aged 25-64 participated in education and lifelong learning during 2011.

## Adult Education Survey: 2011

During the reference year, 53 per cent of participants engaged in education and lifelong learning (formal, non-formal and informal learning) were men, while 47 per cent were women. The results also indicated a declining participation rate as persons grow older. This trend was observed for both sexes, with the 25-34 age group accounting for the largest participation rate and the 55-64 age group for the lowest (Table 1).

Four per cent of the population aged 25-64, or 9,481 individuals, participated in formal education activities during 2011. Of these, just over 80 per cent were reading for a tertiary qualification (Table 9).

Participants in non-formal education accounted for 34 per cent of the total population aged 25-64. Collectively, these individuals undertook 109,803 learning activities, primarily in the form of courses or on-the-job training (Table 6). The majority of these activities (60 per cent) were job-related (Table 8).

According to the AES results, 44 per cent of the persons engaged in non-formal learning activities had a secondary level of education or lower (Table 4). Out of those participating in non-formal learning, 83 per cent were employed while another 6 per cent were unemployed. A considerable share of non-formal learning was carried out through organised courses. Guided on-the-job training and workshops were also popular options (Table 6).

During 2011, 55,450 individuals were involved in informal learning activities aimed at providing further knowledge. The majority were between 35-44 years old, while 17 per cent were aged between 55-64.

### Barriers to education and lifelong learning

Respondents were asked to indicate the main obstacles they felt were hindering their participation in education and lifelong learning. Several individuals did not feel the need to engage in further learning activities, while family responsibilities and work schedules were also mentioned as major obstacles by respondents.

### Attendance at cultural activities among participants in education and lifelong learning

More than half the participants in education and lifelong learning activities attended cultural events. These included live performances and visits to cinemas and to cultural sites, with the latter being the most popular (Table 11) ■

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**Table 1. Participation in education and lifelong learning by sex and age**

Age group	Participants		Non-participants	
	No	%	No	%
<b>Men</b>				
25-34	16,892	30.0	13,084	22.3
35-44	16,566	29.4	10,621	18.1
45-54	14,156	25.1	14,318	24.4
55-64	8,731	15.5	20,747	35.2
<b>Women</b>				
25-34	15,220	30.3	13,073	20.9
35-44	14,270	28.4	12,026	19.3
45-54	12,231	24.3	16,138	25.9
55-64	8,575	17.0	21,186	33.9
<b>Total</b>				
25-34	<b>32,112</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>26,157</b>	<b>21.6</b>
35-44	<b>30,836</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>22,647</b>	<b>18.7</b>
45-54	<b>26,387</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>30,456</b>	<b>25.1</b>
55-64	<b>17,306</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>41,933</b>	<b>34.6</b>

**Table 2. Participation in education and lifelong learning by type of educational/learning activity**

Sex	Formal education		Non-formal education		Informal learning	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Men	4,535	47.8	40,845	52.6	30,015	54.1
Women	4,946	52.2	36,778	47.4	25,435	45.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>77,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Respondents may have participated in more than one type of educational/learning activity during 2011.

**Table 3. Participation in education and lifelong learning by type of educational/learning activity and age**

Age group	Formal education		Non-formal education		Formal or Non-formal education	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
25-34	4,297	45.3	23,567	30.3	25,247	30.9
35-44	3,463	36.5	23,688	30.5	25,005	30.7
45-54	1,166 <sup>u</sup>	:	19,227	24.8	19,904	24.4
55-64	555 <sup>u</sup>	:	11,141	14.4	11,378	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>77,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,534</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Respondents may have participated in either formal or non-formal, or in both formal and non-formal education during 2011.

<sup>u</sup> under-represented due to small sample size

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**Table 4. Participation in education and lifelong learning by sex and educational background**

Educational background	Formal education		Non-formal education		Formal or Non-formal education	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Men</b>						
No schooling, pre-primary to secondary education	534 <sup>u</sup>	:	19,240	47.1	19,774	45.7
Post-secondary, non-tertiary education	1,217 <sup>u</sup>	:	9,594	23.5	10,506	24.2
Tertiary and higher education	2,784	61.4	12,011	29.4	13,045	30.1
<b>Women</b>						
No schooling, pre-primary to secondary education	483 <sup>u</sup>	:	14,815	40.2	14,974	39.1
Post-secondary, non-tertiary education	1,424 <sup>u</sup>	:	8,996	24.5	9,688	25.4
Tertiary and higher education	3,039	61.4	12,967	35.3	13,547	35.5
<b>Total</b>						
No schooling, pre-primary to secondary education	<b>1,017<sup>u</sup></b>	<b>:</b>	<b>34,055</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>34,748</b>	<b>42.6</b>
Post-secondary, non-tertiary education	<b>2,641</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>18,590</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>20,194</b>	<b>24.8</b>
Tertiary and higher education	<b>5,823</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>24,978</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>26,592</b>	<b>32.6</b>

**Table 5. Participation in education and lifelong learning by self-perceived economic status**

Economic status	Formal education		Non-formal education		Formal or Non-formal education	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Employed	8,314	87.7	64,187	82.7	67,361	82.6
Unemployed	277 <sup>u</sup>	:	4,351	5.6	4,492	5.5
Inactive	890 <sup>u</sup>	:	9,085	11.7	9,681	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>77,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,534</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Respondents may have participated in either formal or non-formal, or in both formal and non-formal education during 2011.

<sup>u</sup> under-represented due to small sample size

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Table 6. Participation in non-formal education and training by type of course/training and age group

Age group	Courses		Workshops		Guided on-the-job training		Private lessons	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
25-34	12,828	28.3	8,931	30.8	11,669	38.0	2,426	52.2
35-44	13,791	30.3	8,732	30.0	9,447	30.8	1,046 <sup>u</sup>	:
45-54	11,152	24.6	7,989	27.5	7,291	23.7	771 <sup>u</sup>	:
55-64	7,611	16.8	3,411	11.7	2,301 <sup>u</sup>	:	407 <sup>u</sup>	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,382</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29,063</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>

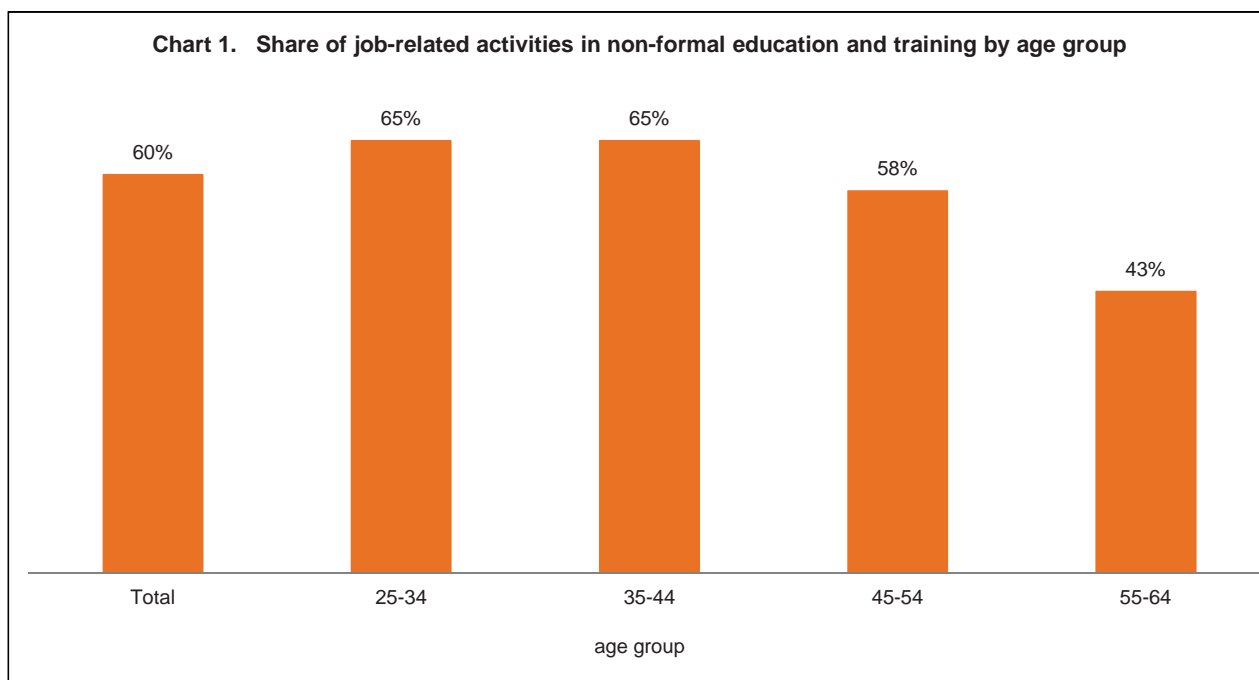
Table 7. Participation in non-formal education and training by type of course/training and self-perceived economic status

Economic status	Courses		Workshops		Guided on-the-job training		Private lessons	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Employed	33,937	74.8	26,580	91.5	30,546	99.5	4,120	88.6
Unemployed	3,871	8.5	826 <sup>u</sup>	:	81*	:	101 <sup>u</sup>	:
Inactive	7,574	16.7	1,657 <sup>u</sup>	:	81*	:	429 <sup>u</sup>	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,382</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29,063</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,708</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Respondents have been engaged in employment for some time during 2011.

<sup>u</sup> under-represented due to small sample size

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**Table 8. Job-related activities in non-formal education and training by sex and age group**

Age group	Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
25-34	7,695	28.8	7,701	38.5	15,396	33.0
35-44	9,013	33.8	6,464	32.3	15,477	33.1
45-54	7,026	26.3	4,073	20.3	11,099	23.8
55-64	2,960	11.1	1,779 <sup>u</sup>	:	4,739	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,017</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46,711</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 9. Participation in formal education by sex and educational level**

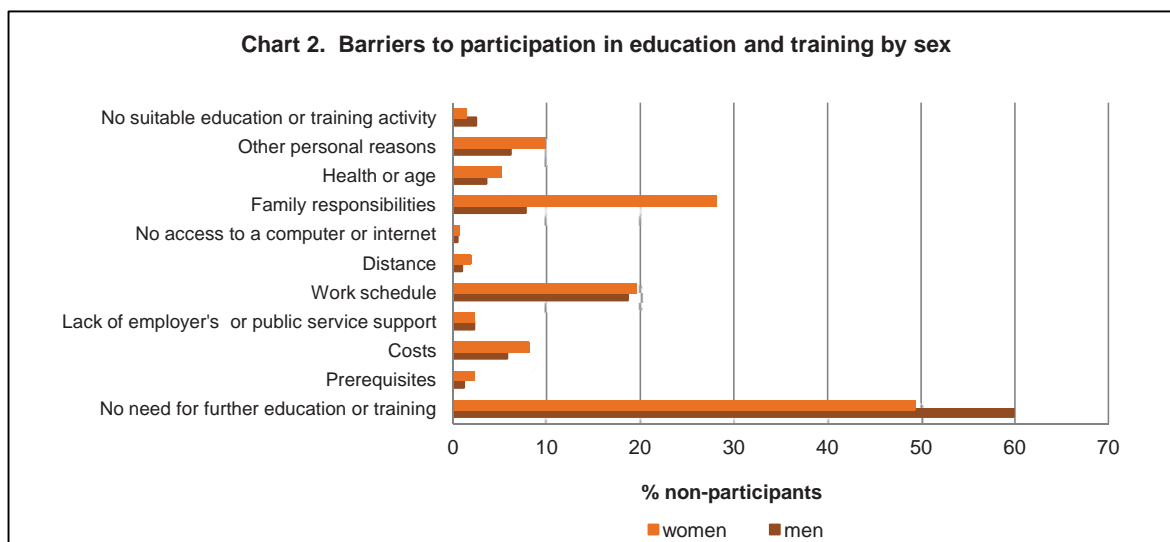
Educational level	Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Secondary education	171 <sup>u</sup>	:	174 <sup>u</sup>	:	345 <sup>u</sup>	:
Post-secondary, non-tertiary education	960 <sup>u</sup>	:	544 <sup>u</sup>	:	1,504 <sup>u</sup>	:
Tertiary and higher education	3,404	75.1	4,228	85.5	7,632	80.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>u</sup> under-represented due to small sample size

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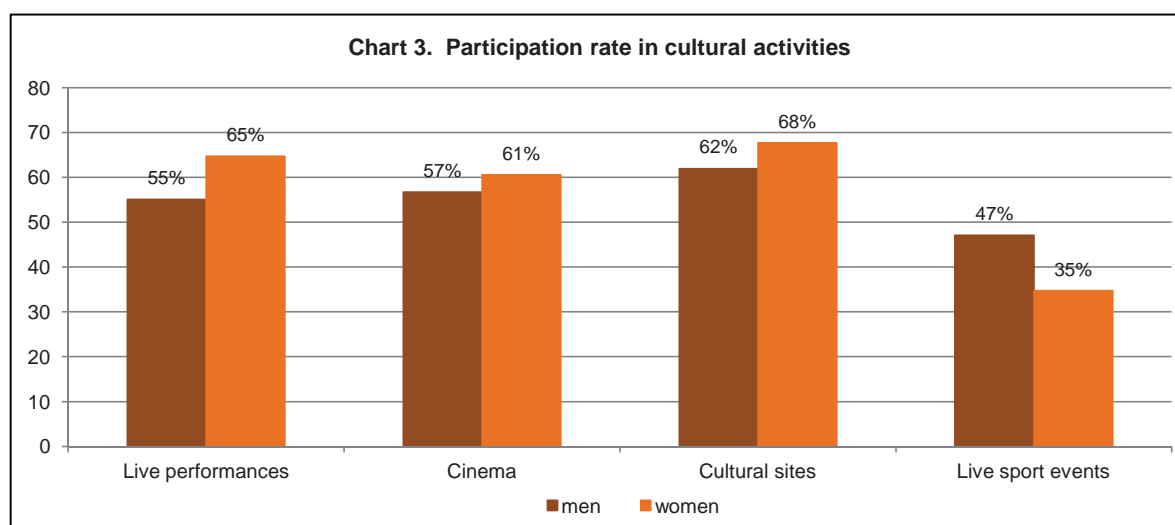
**Table 10. Participation in informal education by sex and age group**

Age group	Men		Women		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
25-34	10,066	33.5	6,908	27.2	16,974	30.6
35-44	7,740	25.8	7,613	29.9	15,353	27.7
45-54	7,599	25.3	6,345	24.9	13,944	25.1
55-64	4,610	15.4	4,569	18.0	9,179	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25,435</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,450</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Table 11. Cultural participation among adults who engaged in education and lifelong learning, by frequency of attendance and type of cultural activity**

Cultural participation	1 to 6 times in the last 12 months		More than 6 times in the last 12 months		Never	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Live performances	25,207	26,974	5,840	5,577	25,298	17,745
Cinema	23,135	22,625	8,839	7,851	24,371	19,820
Cultural sites	24,868	25,852	10,039	8,186	21,438	16,258
Live sport events	15,588	13,142	10,941	4,311	29,816	32,843



## Methodological notes

1. The Adult Education Survey (AES) covers participation in education and lifelong learning activities (formal, non-formal and informal learning). This survey targeted all persons aged 25-64 and living in private households.
2. The AES has been conducted according to the European Commission Regulation No. 823/2010 of 17 September 2010.
3. The gross sample size of the AES consisted of 3,200 respondents. Sampling was carried out by Stratified Random Sampling. The strata used for the sampling procedure consisted of gender, district and age group.
4. The net sample size stood at 2,870 resulting in a response rate of 93 per cent.
5. Reference period: All questions in the survey relate to 2011.
6. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews.

### Definitions:

7. **Adult Education** refers to the entire body of organised educational processes - whatever the content, level and method, whether formal or otherwise, whether they prolong or replace initial education in schools, colleges, universities and apprenticeships - whereby persons regarded as adults by their respective communities improve their technical or professional qualifications, further develop their abilities and enrich their knowledge. Their objectives would include completion of a formal educational level, attainment of skills in a new field and updated knowledge in a particular field.
8. **Formal Education** is the type of schooling provided in the system of primary schools, secondary schools, universities and other educational institutions, that leads to attaining an official qualification.
9. **Non-formal Education** entails organised and sustained educational activities which do not lead to attaining an official qualification. Non-formal education may take place both within and outside educational institutions and caters to all age groups.
10. **Informal Learning** comprises those activities which are undertaken for learning purposes, but are less organised and structured than educational activities.