

Georgian Youth Development Index 2025

Assessment of Four Domains

Methodology and Findings | 2025 |

Overall score: 41.8 / 100

Initial score calculated using equal weights across four domains





UG Youth and Societal Research Center

The Center studies the values, attitudes, and experiences of different social groups and supports the development of evidence-based policy. Geographic coverage: Georgia

When using the data, please cite it as follows:

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What Is the Georgian Youth Development Index?

This is a transparent composite measure that assesses the situation of young people in Georgia across four key areas of life. It uses publicly available and verified data from Geostat, the World Bank, CRRC, and other official sources.

The methodology follows the OECD-JRC guidelines for developing composite indicators. Every step used to construct the index - data, benchmarks, formulas, and weights - will be made publicly available so that anyone can verify it.

Note

The final version of the index is designed to use six domains. At present, the indicator registry contains computable data for only four domains. At this stage, the domains are assessed using equal weights.

01 Education and Skills

Score: 50.8 / 100

02 Entrepreneurship and Employment

Score: 53.4 / 100

03 Active Citizenship

Score: 20.7 / 100

04 Future Readiness

Score: 42.1 / 100

Overall: 41.8 / 100

How the Index Was Developed

1

Collection

Data collection

Only publicly available official sources are used: Geostat LFS, OECD PISA, the Caucasus Barometer, the World Bank, CRRC, the FES Youth Study, etc.

2

Direction

Defining direction

Each indicator is assigned a direction in advance: higher = better (e.g., employment) or higher = worse (e.g., NEET). This is determined before calculation.

3

Normalization

Conversion to a 0-100 scale

Percentages, years, and index scores are converted to a common 0-100 scale. A higher score always indicates better conditions.

4

Weighting

Defining domain weights

Provisional approach: each of the four domains has a 25% weight. Indicators within each domain are weighted equally. No domain dominates.

5

Aggregation

Calculating domain and final scores

Domain score = the average score of its indicators. Overall score = the average of the four domains. $(50.8+53.4+20.7+42.1)/4 = 41.8$.

What the Scores Mean

80 - 100 **Strong**

Meets or exceeds the upper benchmark

60 - 79 **Relatively strong**

Monitoring is needed - there is still room for improvement

40 - 59 **Moderate - improvement needed**

Conditions exist, but they are not sufficient

0 - 39 **Low - priority attention**

Significant gap; immediate response is needed

Rule 1

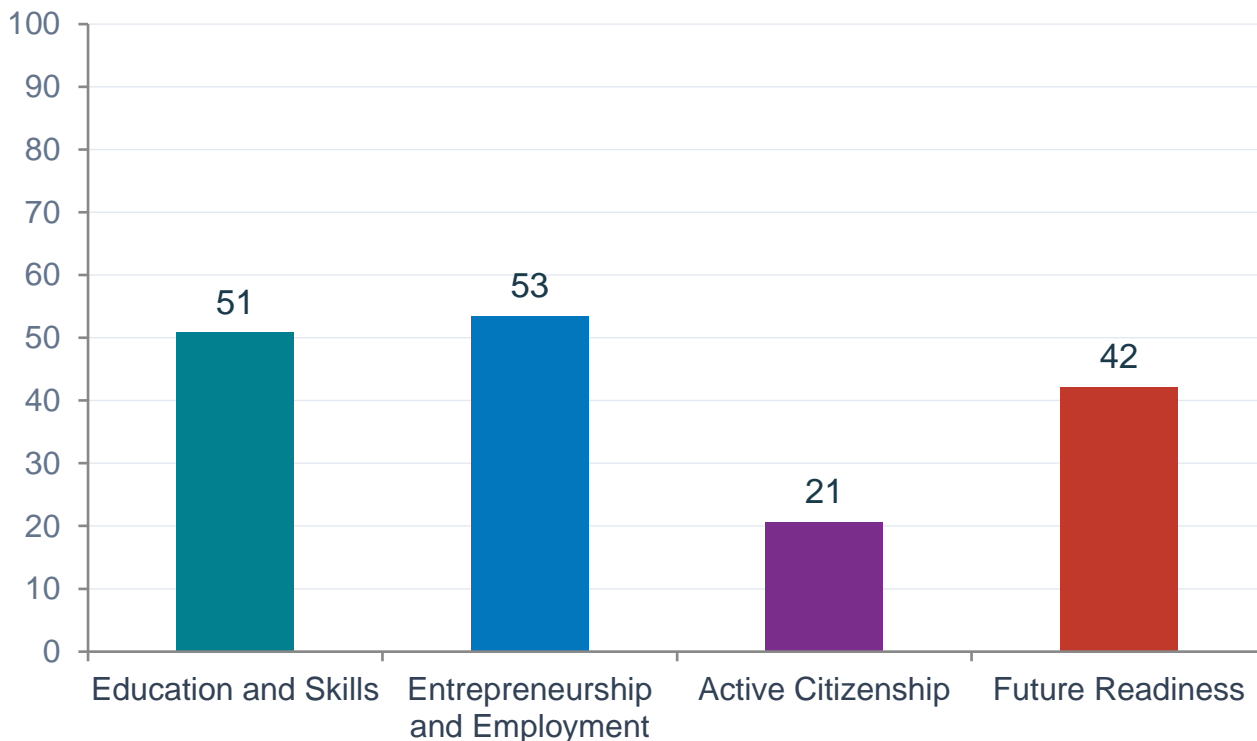
A higher score always means better conditions for young people.

Rule 2

A score of 100 does not mean perfection - it means the upper benchmark has been reached.

Results

Overall score: 41.8 / 100 (equal weighting of four domains - interim results)



53.4 Entrepreneurship and Employment
Moderate

50.8 Education and Skills
Moderate

42.1 Future Readiness
Moderate

20.7 Active Citizenship
Low - priority

Overall: 41.8 / 100

Education and Skills

7 indicators assessed | Equal weight within the domain | Sources: LFS 2024, OECD PISA 2022, World Bank, Geostat, CB 2024

Indicator	Raw result	Score	Direction
Participation in formal education (15-24)	65.6% in formal education	65.6	▲
Minimum learning proficiency (PISA 2022)	Mathematics 34% / Reading 33% / Science 35% - Level 2+	34.0	▲
Learning-adjusted years of schooling	8.2 years (World Bank 2020)	58.6	▲
Higher education attainment (25-29)	40.5% bachelor's/master's/doctorate	40.5	▲
VET admissions - youth share (15-29)	60.7% of VET entrants, 2025	60.7	▲
State language proficiency - ethnic minority youth	32.58% of ethnic minority youth (15-29)	32.6	▲
English language proficiency (18-29)	63.4% medium/high; 82.8% any level	63.4	▲

✓ Relative strengths

- 65.6% of young people aged 15-24 are enrolled in formal education
- English proficiency (self-assessed): 63.4% at medium or high level
- 60.7% of those enrolled in VET are young people

⚠ Key weaknesses

- Only about one in three students has basic skills in mathematics, reading, and science.
- Only 32.6% of ethnic minority youth speak Georgian - a barrier to education, employment, and civic life.

Entrepreneurship and Employment

11 indicators assessed | Equal weight within the domain | Sources: Geostat LFS 2024, Caucasus Barometer 2024

Indicator	Raw result	Score	Dir.
Youth employment rate	35.6%	35.6	▲
Labor force participation rate	46.7%	46.7	▲
Youth unemployment rate	23.8% → reversed	76.2	▼
Youth NEET rate	24.1% → reversed	75.9	▼
Labor underutilization	40.0% → reversed	60.0	▼
Informal employment (non-agricultural)	28.6% → reversed	71.4	▼

Indicator	Raw result	Score	Dir.
Written contract coverage (salaried youth)	87.7%	87.7	▲
Employment gap for ethnic minorities	Gap: 14.7 p.p.	51.0	▼
Youth self-employment (among employed youth)	21.8%	21.8	▲
Share of young employer-entrepreneurs	2.2% of employed youth	22.0	▲
Informality among self-employed youth	60.6% → reversed	39.4	▼

 ▼ = negative indicator (a higher value = worse). Score = 100 - raw value. Example: 23.8% unemployment → score 76.2.

What raises the score

High coverage of employment contracts (87.7) and the reversed NEET/unemployment indicators (+75) raise the domain average. However, the raw figures still point to serious problems.

Key problems

Employment: 35.6%. NEET: 24.1%. Labor underutilization: 40%. Employer-entrepreneurs: only 2.2%. Informality among the self-employed: 60.6%.

Active Citizenship

7 indicators assessed | Equal weight within the domain | Sources: Caucasus Barometer 2024, UG Gen Z Survey 2025

Indicator	Raw result	Score	Direction
Interest in national politics (18-29)	49.1% are interested in national politics	49.1	▲
Internal political efficacy (18-29)	16.3% feel sufficiently competent	16.3	▲
External political efficacy - "My voice is not heard"	55.4% agree that their voice is not heard in government (reversed)	44.6	▼
Digital civic participation	0.0428 on a 0-1 scale; 10.7% took digital action	4.3	▲
Contact with government representatives (18-29)	2.8% contacted a representative in the last 12 months	2.8	▲
Volunteering / unpaid activity (18-28)	24.5% volunteered or did useful unpaid work	24.5	▲
Involvement in an initiative group/movement	3.4% are involved in an initiative group or movement	3.4	▲



The data: awareness ≠ influence

Almost half of young people are interested in politics (49.1), but only 16.3% feel they have sufficient knowledge; 2.8% have contacted a government representative, and 3.4% are involved in initiative groups. This is not apathy - it points to weak channels, low trust, and a lack of practical skills.

The domain average is 20.7 - the lowest of the four domains.

Future Readiness

6 indicators assessed | Equal weight within the domain | Sources: Geostat ICT, LFS 2024, CRRC 2025, FES 2023, Geostat HE

Indicator	Raw result	Score	Direction
Above-basic digital activities (15-29)	41.4% performed 5+ above-basic digital actions	41.4	▲
Participation in non-formal education (15-29)	Total 8.8%; employed: 9.73% / unemployed: 1.41%	8.8	▲
Fact-checking behavior (18-29)	31.8% often/always check; 26.7% never check	31.8	▲
STEM/ICT participation in higher education	Avg. 17.8% (admissions 19.4%, enrolled 19.4%, graduates 14.7%)	17.8	▲
Recognition of the climate crisis among youth (14-29)	76% say climate change is a global emergency	76.0	▲
Support for stronger climate policy (14-29)	77% support stronger government climate measures	77.0	▲

Awareness without action

Climate awareness is high (76-77%), but practical skills are weak:

- Only 8.8% participate in non-formal learning (1.41% among the unemployed)
- Only 31.8% regularly check information
- STEM/ICT participation: 17.8% overall; computer-related fields only - 6%
- At every STEM/ICT stage, women lag behind men by about 11 points

Relative strengths

- Strong social support for green transition policies (77%)
- Above-basic digital activity has a measurable baseline (41.4%)
- STEM/ICT data cover admissions, enrollment, and graduates
- The 41.4% digital baseline provides a foundation for further development

Vulnerable Groups

The overall score masks significant internal inequalities. It is important to focus on these gaps.

STEM/ICT gender gap (higher education)

The gap in admissions and enrollment is 11.2 points; among graduates it is 10.8 points.
The gap is visible at every stage. (Source: Geostat)

Men in STEM/ICT (admissions and enrollment)

25.2%

Women in STEM/ICT (admissions and enrollment)

14%

Non-formal learning by employment status

Those who most need to update their skills have the least access to learning - reinforcing inequality. (Source: Geostat)

Employed youth in non-formal education

9.73%

Unemployed youth in non-formal education

1.41%

What Do These Indicators Mean in Practice?

The domains do not exist in isolation - they reinforce one another.

Weak learning → weak employment → weak civic influence

Low PISA scores (34/100) limit future employment. Low employment reduces the time and networks needed for civic action. Weak civic influence, in turn, limits young people's ability to shape the policies designed to support them.

Informal self-employment ≠ entrepreneurship

Twenty-two percent of employed youth are self-employed, but 61% of them work informally. Only 2% are employer-entrepreneurs who create jobs for others.

Weak civic influence is not apathy

Forty-nine percent of young people are interested in politics, but 55% feel their voice is not heard, and only 3% have contacted a government representative. The problem is not a lack of motivation, but a shortage of real and accessible channels for participation.

Awareness alone does not mean readiness

Seventy-six percent of young people recognize the climate crisis and 77% support climate policy. Only 9% have access to non-formal learning, while the share of STEM/ICT graduates is 15%.

Limitations and Next Steps

Only four domains

The full framework includes six domains, including Health and Wellbeing. The National Ecosystem also remains to be assessed. The 41.8 score is provisional.

Temporary equal weights

The domain-weighting table is not yet complete. Equal 25% weighting for each domain is transparent, but it remains a provisional assumption.

Descriptive analysis only - not causal evidence

The index shows what is happening and where, but not why it is happening or what caused it. It is a diagnostic tool, not a program evaluation.

What comes next?

Complete the six-domain framework → refine benchmarks and source links → publish the full score registry → update annually

Georgian Youth Development Index 2025

is a tool for accountability, planning, and action.

Initial scores (4 domains, equal weights):

53.4

Entrepreneurship and Employment

50.8

Education and Skills

42.1

Future Readiness

20.7

Active Citizenship

Overall: 41.8 / 100

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