

* Estonian Vocational Education and Training System

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* Estonian Education tree
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* **Estonian education
system**

* Educational opportunities in Estonia

- * School attendance is compulsory for children who become seven by 1st October of the current year. Compulsory school attendance lasts until the child has acquired a basic education or has turned 17.
- * If the basic school is not completed and the student is at least 17 years old, the student can enter vocation training (0,5 to 2,5 years, only vocational skills are acquired) without having completed his or her basic education and/or to continue studying for a basic education at an adult upper secondary school.

- * After completing one's basic education, it is possible to choose between four options for further studies:
 - * Upper secondary school - for the acquisition of a general secondary education (3 years);
 - * Upper secondary school with vocational training - for the acquisition of a general secondary education and some vocational skills (3 years);
 - * Vocational education institution - for the acquisition of a vocational secondary education (at least 3 years);
 - * Vocational educational institution - for the acquisition of a vocation without general education subjects (1-3 years)

* After completing one's secondary education, it is possible to choose between four options for further studies:

- * Vocational education institution - vocational education (0,5 to 3 years) or professional higher education (3 to 4,5 years) is acquired;
- * Institution of professional higher education, university college - for the acquisition of a professional higher education (3-4,5 years) → master's degree (1-2 years);
- * University - for the acquisition of a bachelor's degree (3-4 years) → master's degree (1-2 years) → doctorate (3-4 years).

* Working people have the following options for further studies:

- * To complete their unfinished basic and general education as part-time or external students;
- * To acquire a vocational and secondary vocational education as a part-time student;
- * To acquire a higher education as a part-time or external student.

* Vocational education options

- * **Vocational education without the requirement of basic education**, where only the profession is acquired, was implemented for persons without basic education who have exceeded the age of compulsory school attendance (17 years) in the 2006/2007 academic year. After completing their vocational training, such persons can continue their general education studies with the aim of obtaining a basic education.
- * **Vocational education based on basic education** is a type of education where only the general education subjects related to the profession are taught in addition to the profession. The pupil's level of education (basic education) does not change.
- * **Secondary vocational education** is provided on the basis of basic education and the pupil acquires a secondary education in addition to the profession. The minimum study period is three years. Since the 2006/2007 academic year, pupils who have completed a secondary vocational education curriculum in a vocational school can study general education subjects of their choice for up to 35 additional study weeks (the so-called additional year) and take state examinations.

- * There are 45 vocational educational institutions:
- * 31 of which are state
- * 3 municipal
- * 11 privat vocational schools

* **Number of VET
institutions**

* Location of VET institutions



Number of students by VET types

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
VET without basic education requirement	267	28	169	307	414
VET on the basis of basic education	0	0	208	424	505
Vocational secondary education	18,886	18,882	18,795	18,030	17,648
VET on the basis of secondary education	10,762	10,101	9,478	8,620	8,672
Secondary specialised education / technical education on the basis of basic education	0	2	1	0	0
Total	29,915	29,013	28,651	27,381	27,239

* Number of VET students by broad areas of study

Broad area of study	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change
* Humanities and arts	1,038	1,126	1,084	1,016	1,080	4.0%
* Sciences	1,679	1,361	1,215	1,221	1,459	-13.1%
* Agriculture	1,687	1,850	1,979	1,952	1,898	12.5%
* Social sciences, business and law	3,742	3,661	3,468	3,339	3,372	-9.9%
* Services	6,708	6,458	6,514	6,183	6,337	-5.5%
* Technical fields, production and construction	14,319	13,722	13,602	12,970	12,491	-12.8%
* Health and welfare	742	835	789	700	602	-18.9%
* Total	29,915	29,013	28,651	27,381	27,239	-8.9%

* The employed aged 15-74 by sectors in 2004-2007 (thousands)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	31.4	29.4	29.9	28.8	-8%
Fishing	3.6	2.8	2.2	2.1	-42%
Mining	8	5.9	5.2	5.5	-31%
Manufacturing	140.9	139.5	136.4	134.8	-4%
Electricity, gas and water supply	12	12.5	12.4	9.5	-21%
Construction	46.8	48.7	62.8	80.9	73%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and household appliances	80	80.6	88.7	88.1	10%
Accommodation and catering services	16.2	22.1	22.3	22.8	41%
Transportation, storage and communications	51.5	54.6	61.5	58.4	13%
Financial intermediation	7.9	6.9	7.3	9.4	19%
Real estate, renting and business activities	39.4	46.4	48.1	49.5	26%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	36.9	37.2	39	39.2	6%
Education	54.5	54.9	58.5	54.5	0%
Healthcare and social welfare	37.5	35	37.5	36.4	-3%
Other areas of activity	28.8	31.1	34.3	35.6	24%
Areas of activity in total	595.5	607.4	646.3	655.3	10%

* Satisfaction Study of the Social Partner of the Ministry of Education and Research in the Field of Vocational Education

- * Both the representative organizations of social partners that participated in the focus groups as well as companies have recognized positive developments in vocational education during recent years, especially with regard to the overall improvement of the level of vocational education. It is also important that the respondents feel that vocational education is accessible to learners.

* Awareness of the Population Regarding Developments in Vocational Education and the Reputation of Vocational Education in 2008

- * The study showed that respondents who have a better opinion of the quality of vocational education include people who are aware of developments in vocational education, Estonians, people living in the country, pupils, and students. At the same time, the awareness of Estonia's population regarding the developments in vocational education is low. Only 18% of the respondents believed themselves to be well or rather well informed about the quality of vocational education in Estonia today. The responses of final year basic school pupils and upper secondary school pupils indicated that just half of the young people feel that they are sufficiently well informed about the specialties available at institutions of vocational education.

*The main objectives of the Development Plan 2009 - 2013:

- *The VET system is flexible and available and corresponds to the needs of learners;
- *Education is of high quality and competitive;
- *The VET system is coherent with society, economy and labour market;
- *Organisation of the VET system is purposeful, effective and sustainable

***Thank you for your
attention!**