



Accra, Ghana  
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## News release

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### Youth priorities in Ghana: Economy and employment take centre stage

Management of the economy and unemployment are the most important problems that young Ghanaians want their government to address, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Ghanaian youth (aged 18-35) have more education than their elders, but are also more likely to be unemployed. And few of the youth give their government a passing mark on its performance in addressing their educational needs, managing the economy, and creating jobs.

In Ghana, young people aged 15-35 constitute 38% of the population, while children under age 15 make up another 35%. In efforts to meet the needs of the youth, the government has launched a variety of policies and programmes, ranging from free secondary school, planting for food and jobs, and vocational training to entrepreneurship promotion and job-matching programmes.

#### Key findings

- Seven in 10 young Ghanaians (70%) have secondary or post-secondary education, far outstripping previous generations (Figure 1).
- But youth (aged 18-35) are also more likely than their elders to be unemployed: 27% say they are not employed and are looking for jobs, compared to 20% of 36- to 55-year-olds (Figure 2).
- Management of the economy and unemployment top the list of most important problems that Ghanaian youth want their government to address, followed by infrastructure/roads and education (Figure 3).
- Fewer than four in 10 young Ghanaians say the government is doing a good job of addressing educational needs (39%), managing the economy (16%), and creating jobs (14%). Approval ratings on these issues have plummeted since 2017 (Figure 4).

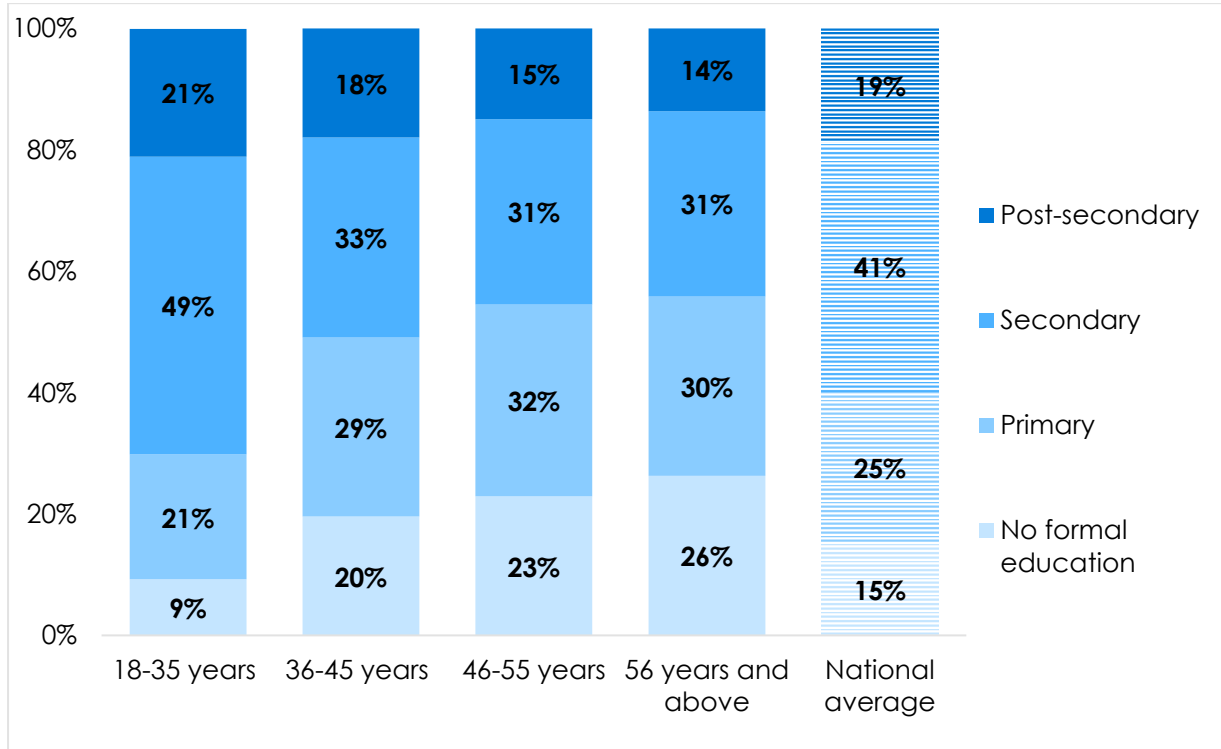
#### Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been conducted since 1999. Round 9 surveys are being completed in early 2023. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,369 adult Ghanaians in April 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

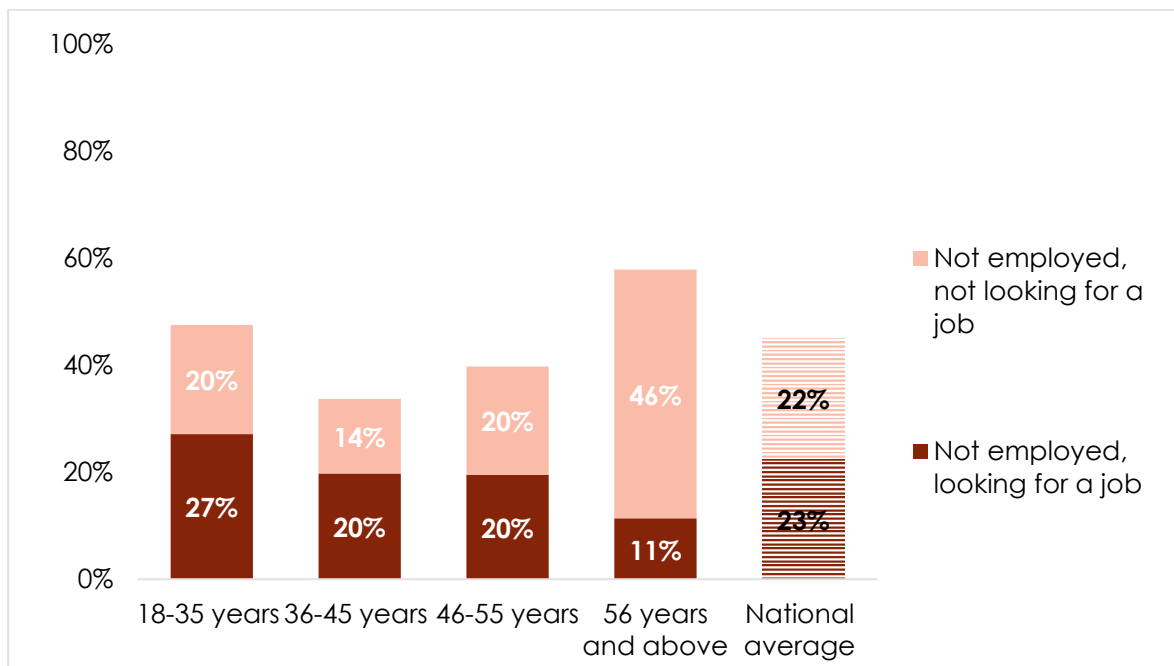
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Level of education | by age group | Ghana | 2022**



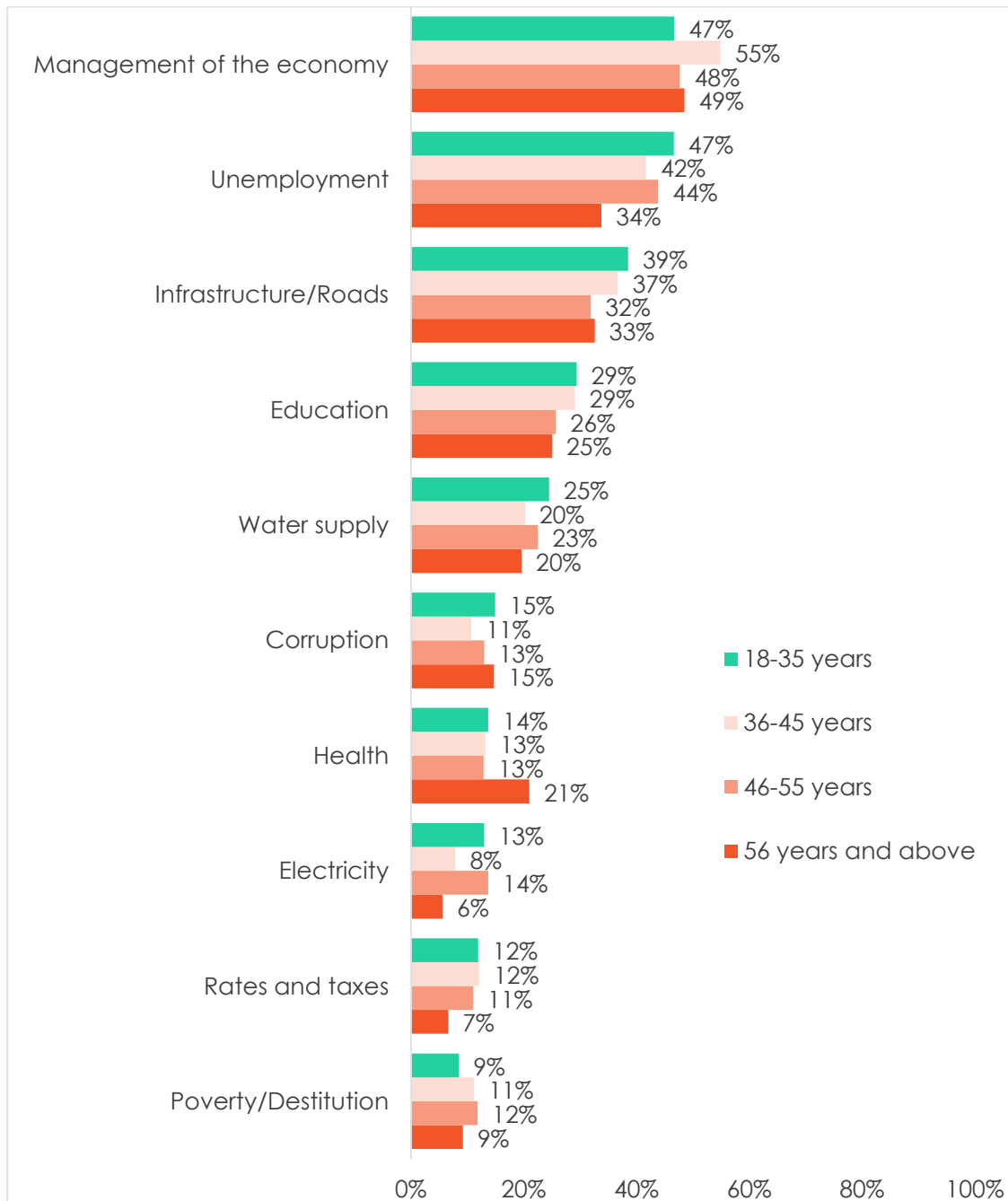
**Respondents were asked:** What is your highest level of education?

**Figure 2: Unemployment rate | by age group | Ghana | 2022**



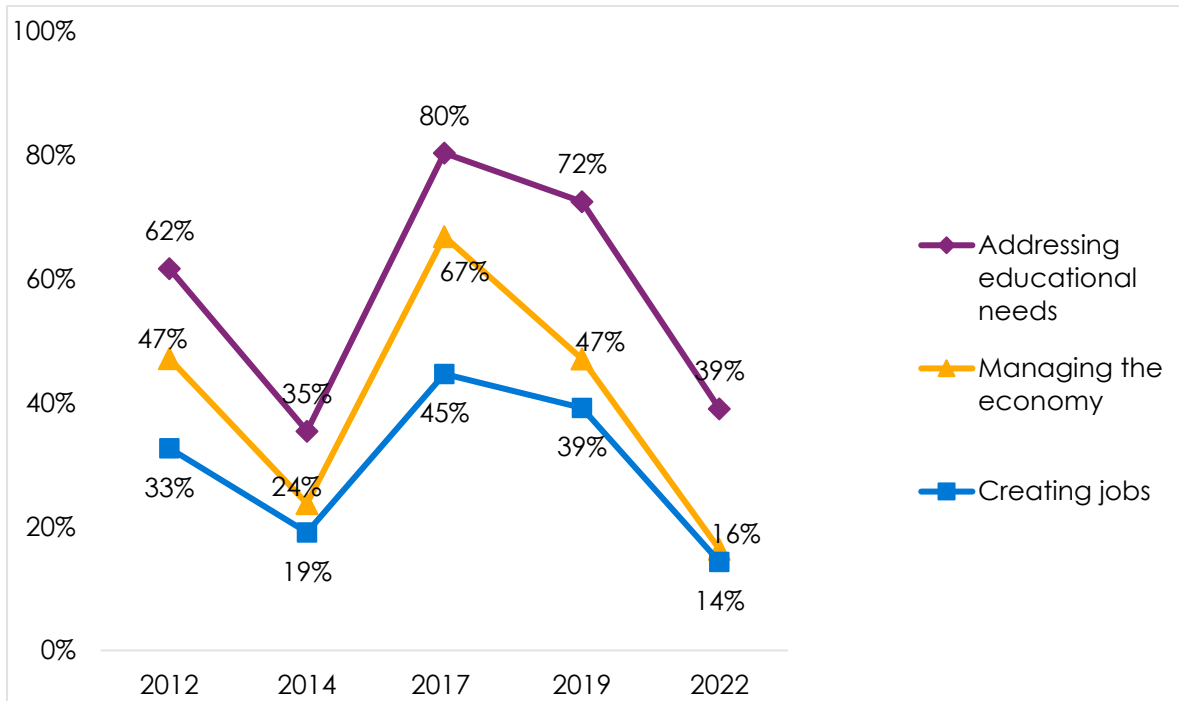
**Respondents were asked:** Do you have a job that pays a cash income? [If yes:] Is it full time or part time? [If no:] Are you currently looking for a job?

**Figure 3: Most important problems | by age group | Ghana | 2022**



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person; figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities)

**Figure 4: Youth approval of government performance on the economy, jobs, and education** | respondents aged 18-35 years | Ghana | 2012-2022



**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who say "fairly well" or "very well")

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