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„Corona Class of 2020“: A Lost Generation?

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How Has Covid-19 Impacted Youth From School Age to Work Entry?

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Learning Losses of School-Aged Children

Short run:

- Losses in **learning time & competencies** documented in many countries

Learning time drastically reduced during periods of school closures (Grewenig et al. 2020; Woessmann et al. 2021)

Lower student performance in achievement tests / learning progress (Chetty et al. 2020; Maldonado & de Witte 2020; Engzell et al. 2021; UK Department for Education 2021)

- Disadvantaged students disproportionately affected → likely to aggravate **educational inequality**

Long run:

Individual level: Reduction of **future life-time income, higher risk of unemployment, reduced educational attainment, increased class repetition**

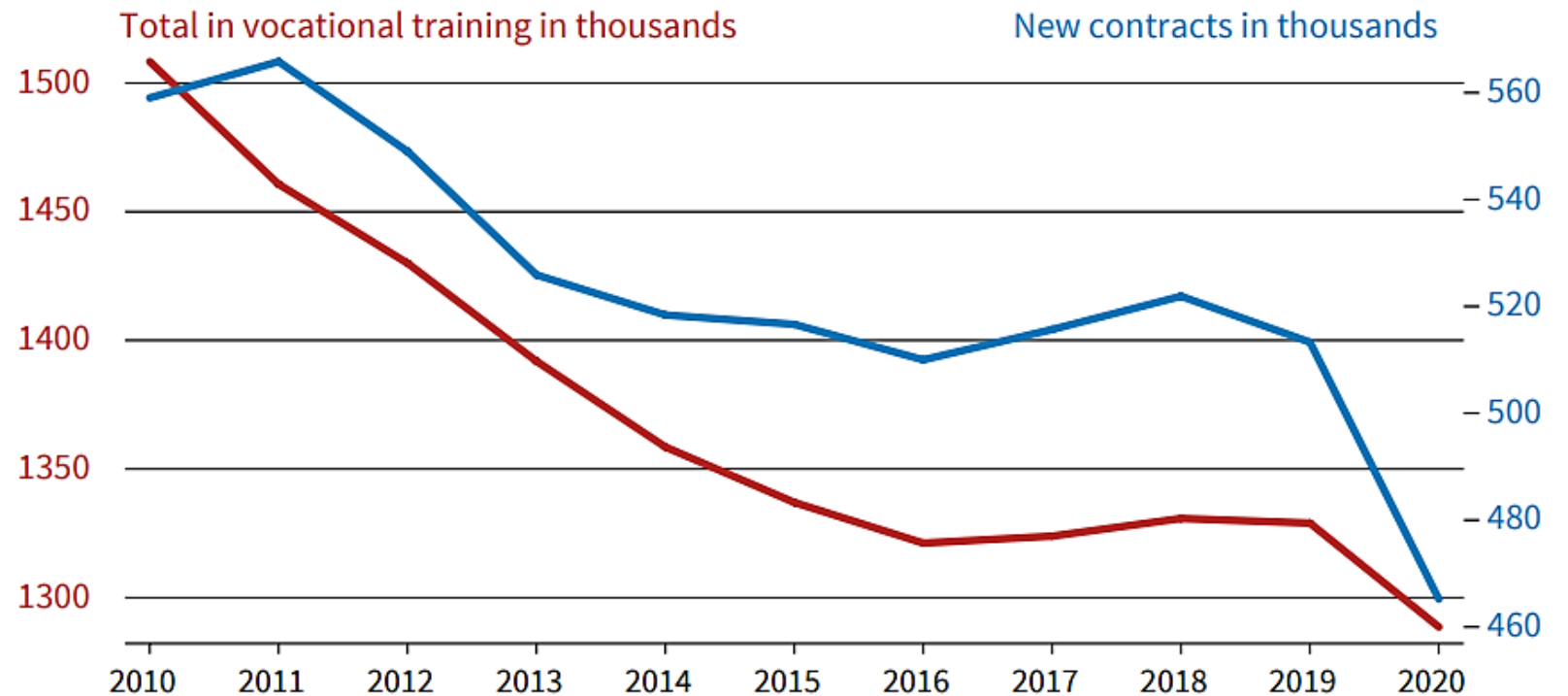
Societal level: Losses in countries' **GDP** for several decades to come

(Hanushek & Woessmann 2020; Baker 2013; Belot & Webbink 2010; Jaume & Willén 2019; Hampf et al. 2017; Woessmann 2016; De Fraja et al. 2017)

Vocational Education and Training

- Closed schools and social distancing measures hamper vocational education
- Germany 2020: **9.4% fewer concluded contracts** than in 2019
- Extent **varies greatly by industry** and **region** (e.g., trade vs. construction)
- The pandemic could **exacerbate** some of the **shortages of skilled workers** that already prevailed before the pandemic.

Decline in Apprentices Over the Last Decade in Germany



Source: Berufsbildungsstatistik of the Statistisches Bundesamt (2021a).

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Higher Education & Graduation

Higher education

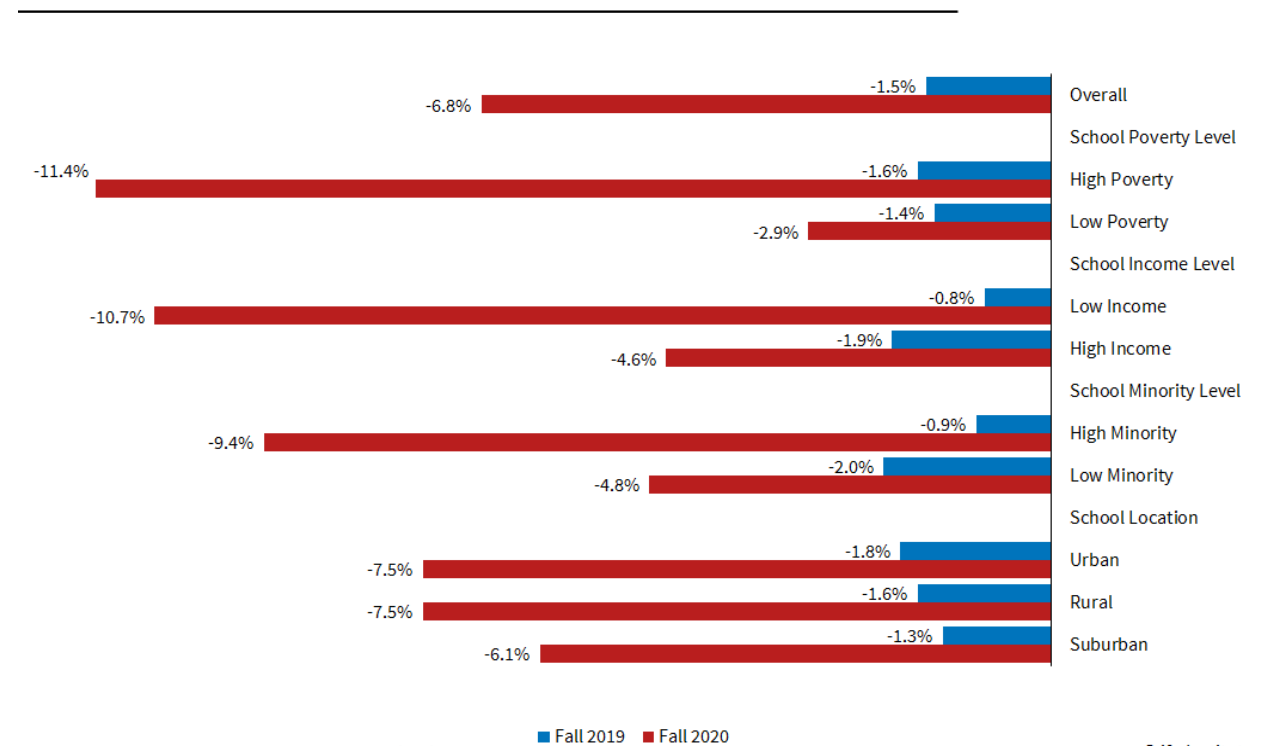
- EU countries: No increase in drop-out rates from education and training for age group 18-24
- USA: Drastic decrease in high school and college enrollment rates => especially pronounced for schools with high poverty and minority levels

Graduation (during a recession)

- Positive effects for high school graduation => more human capital investment
- Negative effects for college graduation => loss of cumulated earnings and worse health condition (increase in mortality)

=> Increase in educational inequality

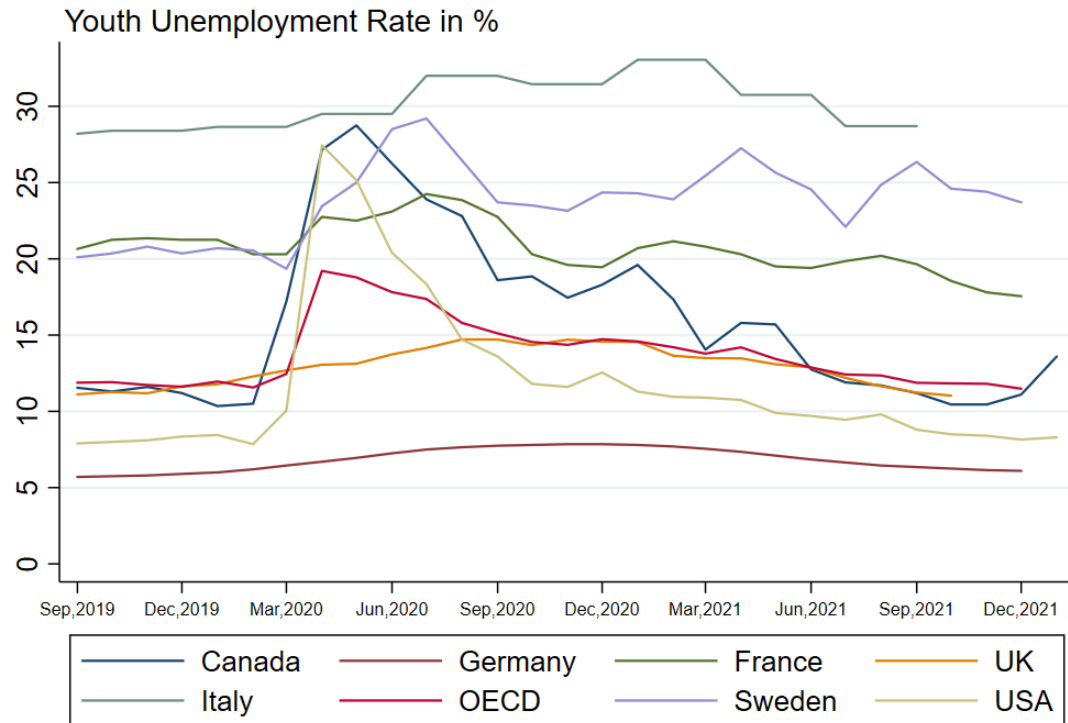
Percent Change in Immediate Fall Enrollments by High School Characteristics



Quelle: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (2021).

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Youth Unemployment (15-24 years old)



Source: OECD (2022), Youth Unemployment Rate (Indicator), doi: 10.1787/ c3634df7-en (accessed 17 February 2022)

- **Increase** in youth unemployment rate almost everywhere in **March 2020** (exception: Germany, Italy, UK)
- **Recovery** for most countries by end of 2020 to
 - Pre-pandemic levels (OECD, UK, US, Germany, Italy, Canada)
 - Above pre-pandemic levels (Sweden)
 - Below pre-pandemic levels (France)
- Not much movement since end of 2020 (exception: Canada)
- **Women more affected by initial increase** than men, back to similar levels by end of 2020 (not shown)

Mental Health Issues

- Share of adolescents with **mental health conditions more than doubled** in some countries (compared to pre-crisis level)
- Evidence suggests that occurrence of anxiety / depression symptoms is **higher among youth than among adult population (30-80%)**
- Youth with previous mental health conditions report further deterioration
- Situation seems to worsen as pandemic continues: **Psychological burden of (prolonged) school closures**

(OECD 2021c; Ravens-Sieberer et al. 2021; Woessmann et al. 2021; Shanahan et al. 2020; YoungMinds 2020)

→ Children & adolescents are in **developmentally sensitive period** and therefore **highly vulnerable**

Thank you!

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