

One to One for Research and Polling  
Tunis, Tunisia  
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## News release

### More than half of Tunisia's youth and highly educated have considered emigrating, study shows

A majority of Tunisia's youth and highly educated have considered emigrating, according to a recent Afrobarometer survey.

Overall, one-third of Tunisians have considered emigrating, including 23% who have given this "a lot" of thought. However, only one in 10 of these potential emigrants are currently making preparations to move. The potential emigrants cite unemployment and economic hardship as the most important reasons why they want to leave the country, and their preferred destination is Europe.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports that between 2011 and 2017, about 94,000 people left Tunisia, 84% of whom went to Europe. The country has also witnessed a huge wave of illegal migration since the departure of President Ben Ali. According to the International Organization for Migration.

#### Key findings

- About one-third (35%) of Tunisians have considered moving to live in another country. One-quarter (23%) say they have given it "a lot" of thought (Figure 1).
- Youth are more likely to think of leaving Tunisia than their elders: 56% of those aged 18-35 say they considered it "a lot," "somewhat," or "a little bit," compared to 28% for those aged 36-55 and 11% for those aged 56 and above (Figure 2).
- Interest in emigrating increases strongly with the level of education, ranging from 8% of those with no formal education to 53% of those with post-secondary qualifications. It is higher among men (39%) and urban residents (38%) than among women (31%) and rural residents (28%).
- Among those who have considered emigrating, almost one in 10 (9%) say they are making preparations to move (Figure 3). Three in 10 (30%) are planning to move in the next year or two but are not yet making preparations.
- Half (50%) of Tunisians who have considered emigrating mention finding a job as the most important reason for wanting to leave the country, while 16% cite economic hardship (Figure 4). One in 10 want to escape poverty (10%) or look for a better democratic environment, personal freedom, human rights, and civil liberties (9%).
- The most likely destination for potential emigrants are Europe (57%) and North America (15%) (Figure 5).

#### Afrobarometer

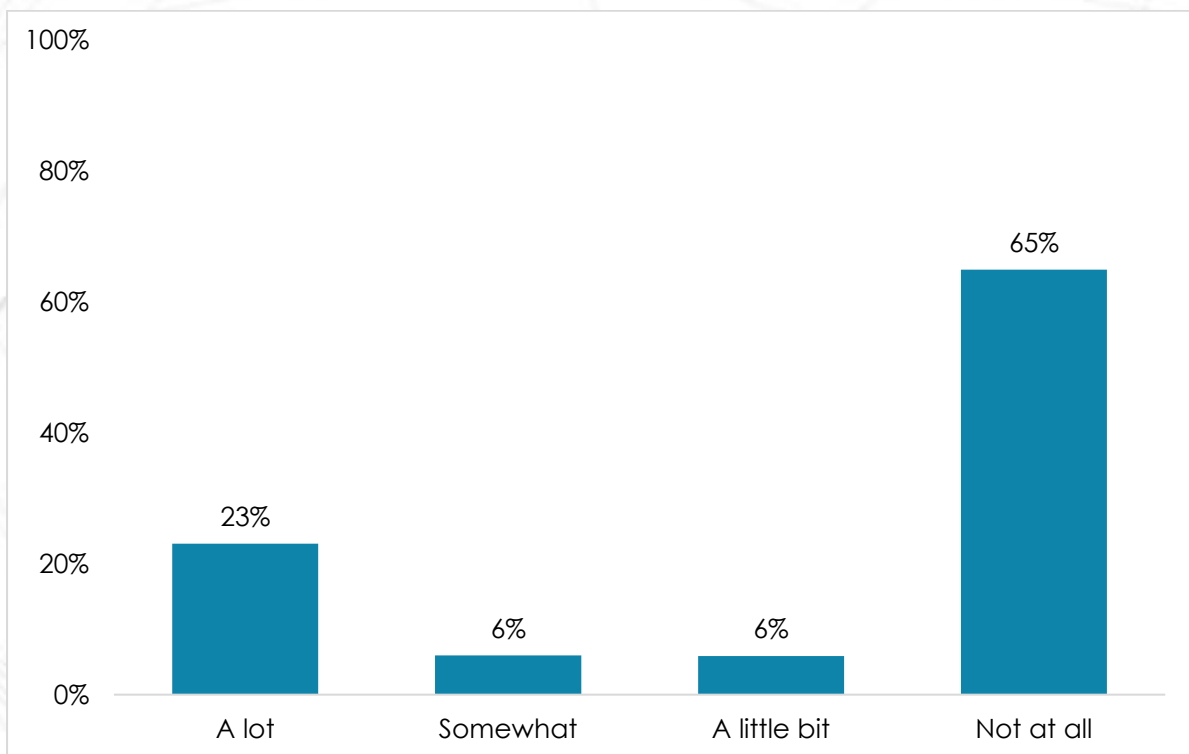
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys have been completed in 2018. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-

face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Tunisia, led by One to One for Research and Polling, interviewed 1,200 adult Tunisians in April-May 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Tunisia in 2013 and 2015.

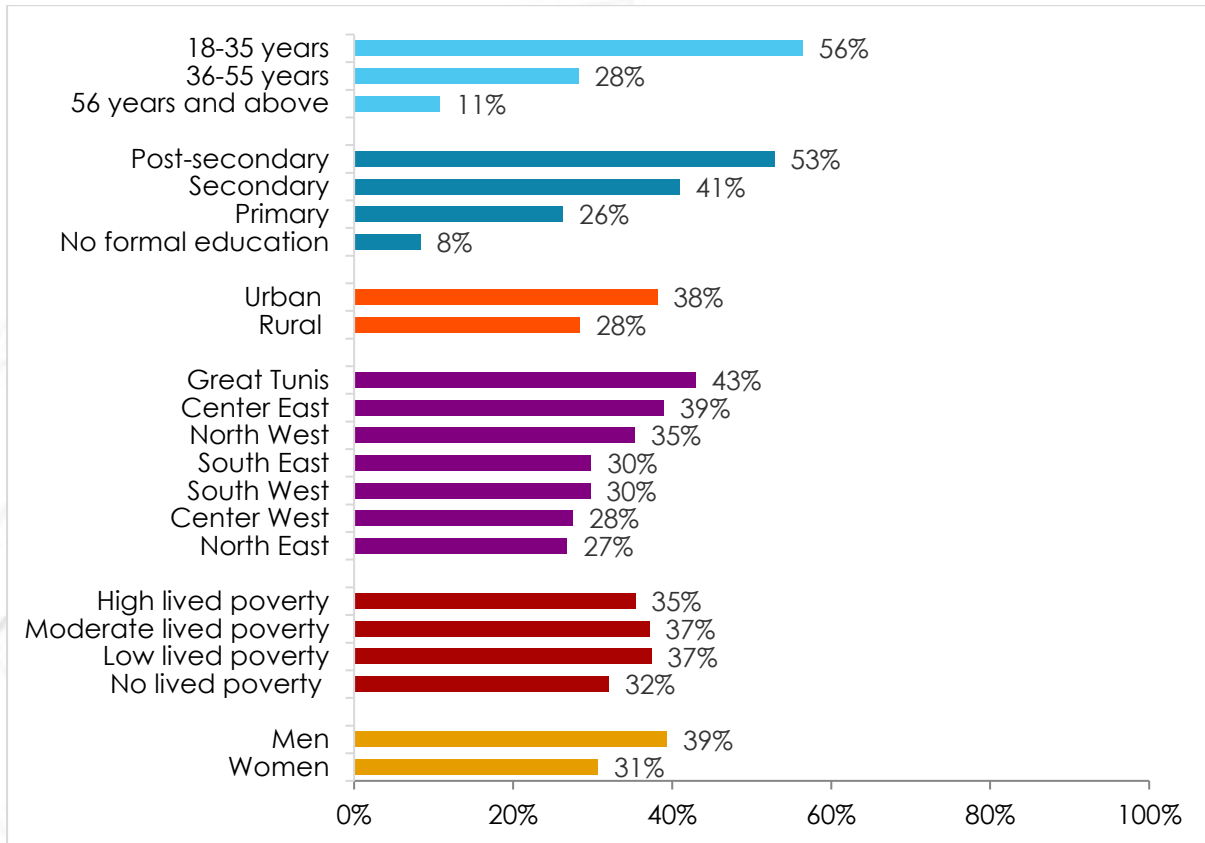
## Charts

**Figure 1: Considered emigrating | Tunisia | 2018**



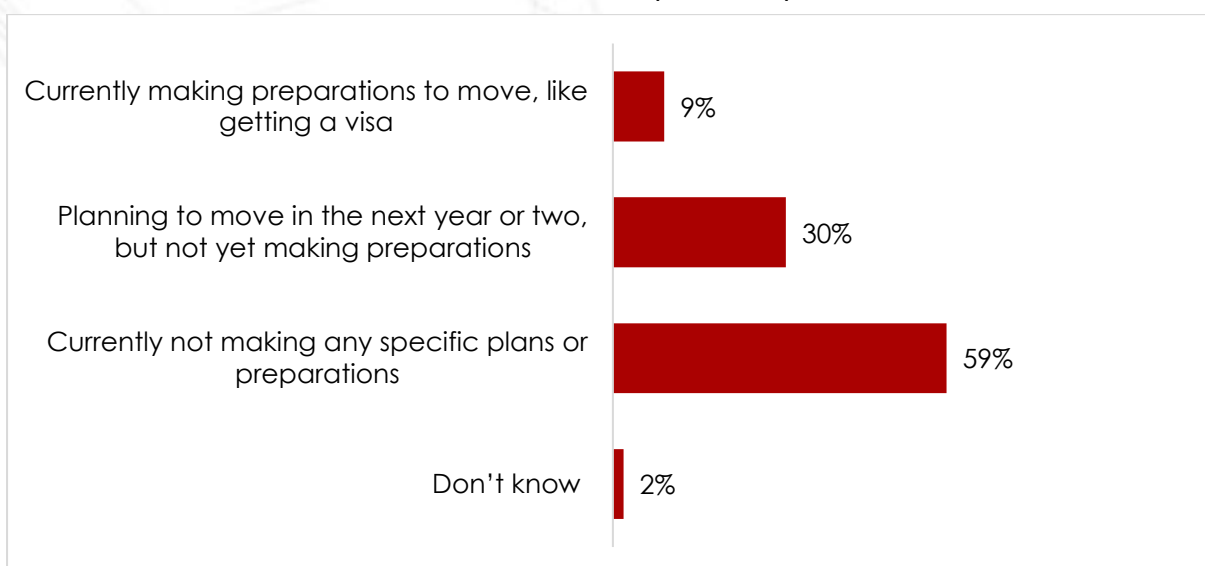
**Respondents were asked:** How much, if at all, have you considered moving to another country to live?

**Figure 2: Considered emigrating** | by socio-demographic group | Tunisia | 2018



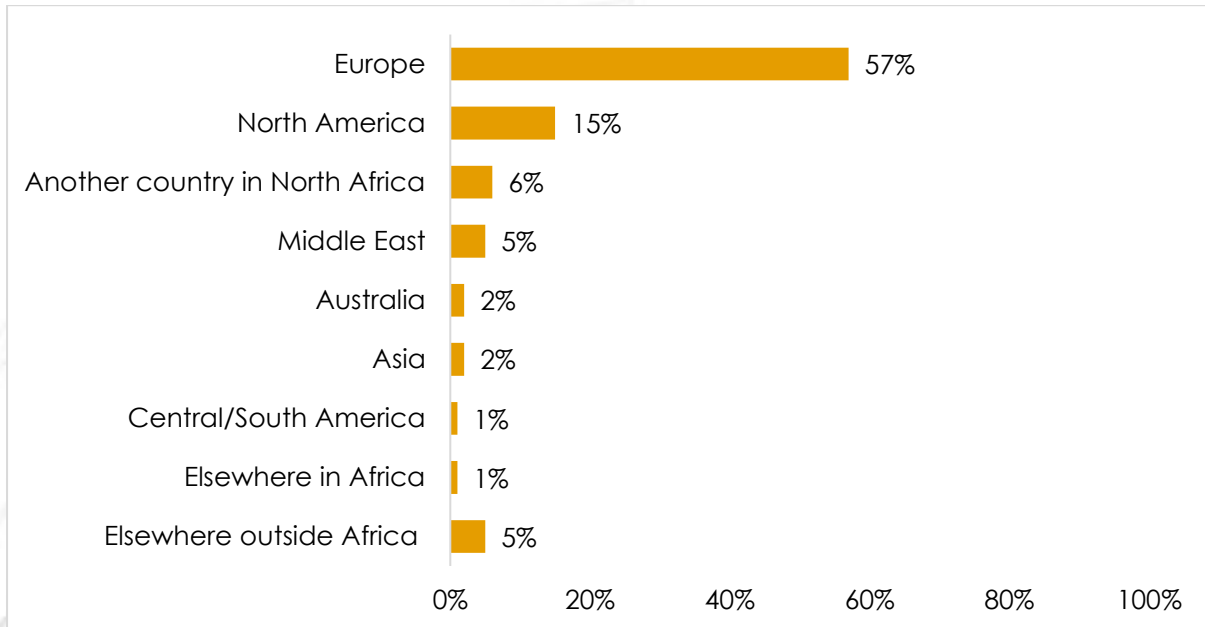
**Respondents were asked:** How much, if at all, have you considered moving to another country to live? (% who have considered emigrating "a lot," "somewhat," or "a little")

**Figure 3: Preparations by potential emigrants** | Tunisia | 2018



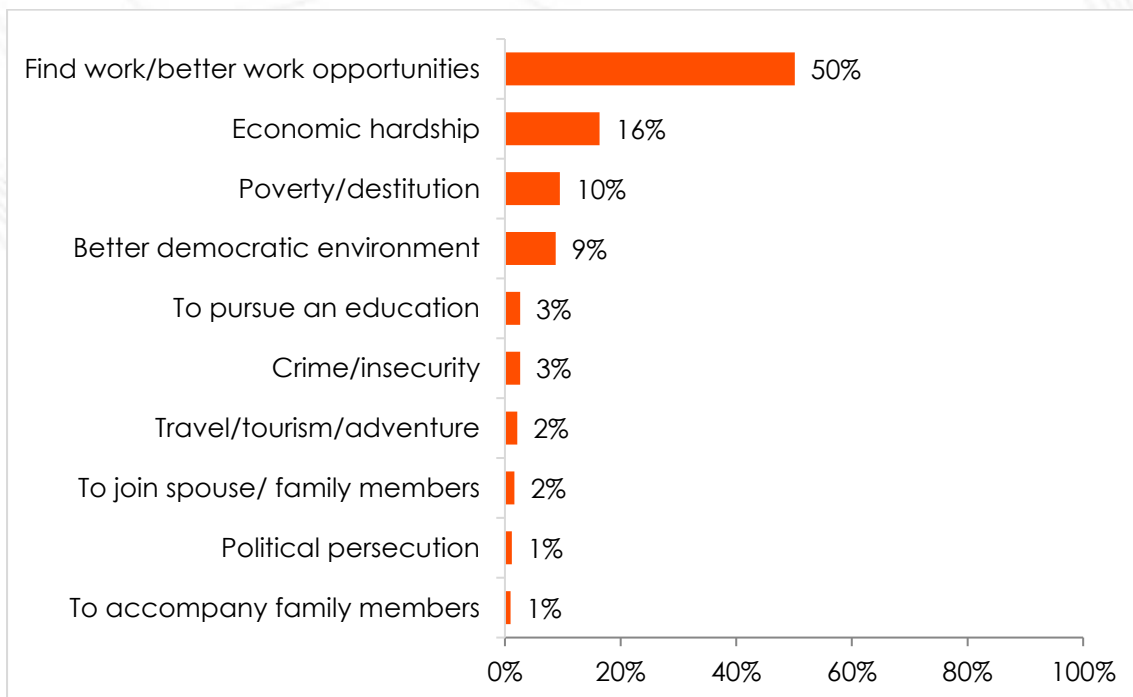
**Respondents who said they have considered emigrating were asked:** How much planning or preparation have you done in order to move to another country to live? (Note: Figure excludes those who have not considered emigrating.)

**Figure 4: Most preferred destinations | Tunisia | 2018**



**Respondents who said they have considered emigrating were asked:** If you were to move to another country, where would you be most likely to go? (Note: Figure excludes those who have not considered emigrating.)

**Figure 5: Main reasons for emigration | Tunisia | 2018**



**Respondents who said they have considered emigrating were asked:** What is the most important reason why you would consider moving from Tunisia? (Note: Figure excludes those who have not considered emigrating.)

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