

The hemorrhaging of higher-education graduates

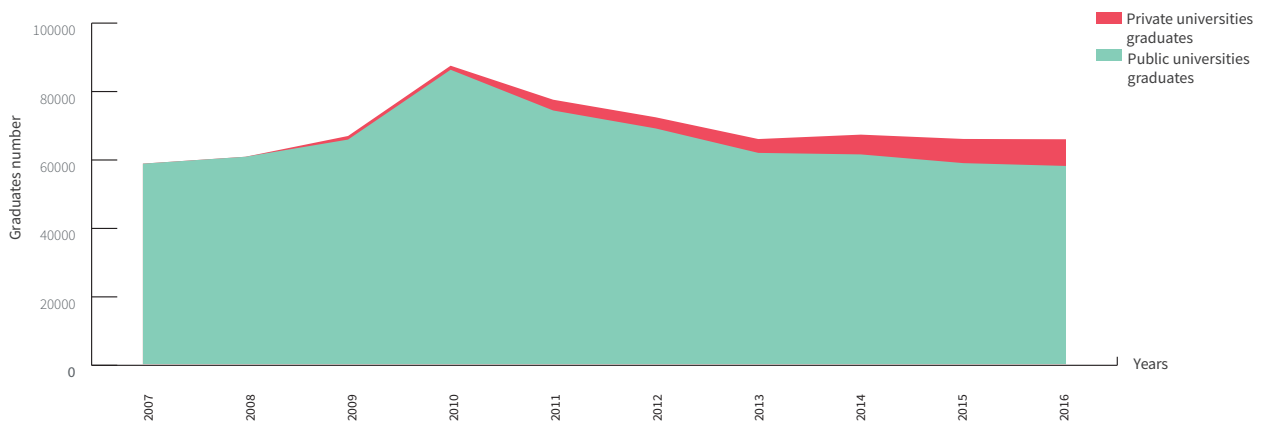
Key Highlights :

- The number of public and private higher-education graduates has fallen 25% between 2010 and 2016
- For the sole public sector, the number of graduates has fallen 33% between 2010 and 2016
- Between 2010 and 2016, the University of Tunis El Manar has experienced a hemorrhaging of graduates, with a drop of 48% in the number of higher-education graduates during this time period

Title: *Higher education graduates's evolution 2007-2016*

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Sources : *Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research*



Between 2010 and 2016 the number of public and private higher-education graduates has fallen 25%. During this same period, the number of graduates from public higher-education institutions has seen a drop of 33%, with numbers going from 86,000 to 58,000 in 6 years. This dynamic in the public sector has been offset by an exponential growth in the number of graduates from the private sector, which has seen numbers go from 1,200 to 7,800 between 2010 and 2016. This fall in numbers of higher-education graduates masks a disparity between the universities. In fact, some universities have undergone a hemorrhage of graduates, like the University of Tunis El Manar, which has lost 48%- nearly half of its graduates- during this period, while that of Kairouan has only lost 11%. This fall in the number of graduates has happened in tandem with a fall in the number of students entering university, thus removing the explanation of a high drop-out rate.

Is this drop the fruit of a so-called “employability policy,” whose objective is to match higher education to the economy and the Tunisian job market- meaning, to an economy of little added value kept at the bottom of the global food chain? Or is it better explained by a large migration of students abroad due to multiple offers of scholarships? Or is it the result of students’ resignation to dedicate themselves to a road without prospect? Whatever the cause, these disturbing numbers show the decreasing levels of higher education and the implicit abandonment of all increase in value for the Tunisian economy.