Key highlights:

• Manufacturing of electric and electronic equipment has the lion’s share in job creation in the private sector between 2009-2019.
• Tunisians are shifting towards private schooling and private health care activities.
• The biggest employing sectors in Tunisian are not only struggling to create more jobs but they are also the most affected ones by national and international instabilities.

Title 1: Top five private sectors in terms of job creation between 2009-2019.
Sources: National Business Register.

Title 2: Bottom five private sectors in terms of job creation between 2009-2019
Sources: National Business Register.

Over the last ten years, the Tunisian private sector has created over 142,000 new jobs through a variety of industries. Manufacturing of electric and electronic equipment has the lion’s share, accounting for 46,914 new jobs or 21% of all private-sector job growth between 2009 and 2019. The promotion of this sector started in the early 2000s. According to the strategic positioning report for the Electrical, Electronics, and Electrical Home Appliance products, published by the Agency for Promotion of Business and Innovation in 2001 “this sector show a comfortable rate of export growth for the French and Italian markets,” especially for wires, insulated cables, and cable bundles with high annual profit rates. Professional activities such as Schooling, healthcare, and social action all made it to the top five sectors, with over 32,000 new jobs explained by an uptick in private school enrolment, private healthcare, and the rising number of social action activities. Furthermore, other emerging industries made a substantial contribution, such as wholesale and retail operations, which accounted for 19% of overall work growth over the last decade, and food and beverages, which accounted for 14%. On the other hand, we can note that other significant sectors in the Tunisian economy, such as textile (the largest employing sector with a total of 170,000 employees in 2019), administrative services (the second largest employing sector with about 107,000 employees in 2019), and construction operations, were not only struggling to build new employment, but were also the most impacted. For example, the textile industry lost 27,878 jobs between 2012 and 2016. Furthermore, administrative services lost a total of 46,052 jobs in 2011 and 2012, followed by a modest rebound in recent years, where it almost regained 2010’s statistics with more than 8900 new jobs in 2019.Besides that, the construction industry has lost nearly 26,617 jobs in the last decade as its first customer, Libya, which accounted for 32% of total Building Materials, Ceramics, and Glass Industries exports in 2013 according to the Agency for Promotion of Business and Innovation, struggled to end its violent war and build state institutions.