



Department  
for Education



## Statistical First Release

# Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England: End 2013

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8 in 10 young people aged 16-18 are participating in education and work based learning

81.2% of 16-18 year olds were participating in education and work-based learning at end 2013, an increase of 2.0 percentage points since end 2012, and the highest level since consistent records began in 1994. Participation in full-time education by 16-18 year olds also rose to its highest ever level, up 1.4 percentage points to 70.0% at end 2013.

Rise in participation in full-time education at age 16

The proportion of 16 year olds participating in full-time education rose by 2.4 percentage points to 85.9% at end 2013. Overall participation in education and work-based learning at age 16 was 93.8%, up 2.8 percentage points since end 2012.

The proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) has fallen sharply

The proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.2% in 2012 to 7.6% in 2013. This is the lowest level since consistent records began.

### A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

## 1. Summary statistics for end 2012 and provisional end 2013

Table A: Key statistics for 16, 17 and 18 year olds

	% of age 16		% of age 17		% of age 18		% of age 16-18	
	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)
Full-time education	83.5	85.9	74.6	73.8	48.4	50.4	68.6	70.0
Part-time education	4.5	4.9	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.3	5.7
Work-based learning	3.2	3.2	6.0	6.2	7.7	8.4	5.7	5.9
Education and WBL <sup>1</sup>	91.0	93.8	85.6	85.4	61.6	64.5	79.2	81.2
Education and training	93.1	95.6	88.9	89.4	69.3	72.1	83.6	85.6
NEET	5.8	4.0	7.1	6.1	14.5	12.5	9.2	7.6

<sup>1</sup> Education and WBL takes into account overlaps between WBL and full and part-time education

## 2. Headline changes from 2012 to 2013 by age group

### 16-18 year olds

Participation in full-time education rose by 1.4 percentage points (ppts) This was driven by increases in state-funded schools (+0.7ppts) and higher education (+0.7ppts).

Participation in education and work based learning increased by 2.0ppts In addition to the increase in full-time education, participation in part-time education rose by +0.4ppts to 5.7%, and work-based learning rose by +0.3ppts to 5.9%; the overall impact was an increase in the proportion in education and work based learning to 81.2% in 2013, an increase of +2.0 percentage points from 2012.

16-18 year old NEET has dropped sharply this year. The proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET fell by -1.6ppts, from 9.2% in 2012 to 7.6% in 2013. This is the lowest level since consistent records began in 1994.

### 16 year olds

Participation in full-time education rose by 2.4ppts 16 year olds' participation in full-time learning rose to 85.9% at end 2013 from 83.5% at end 2012. This is the first cohort to be affected by the duty to participate under Raising the Participation Age legislation – see note in the ['Background and Content'](#) section.

Participation in education and work based learning increased by 2.8ppts Part-time education increased by +0.4ppts from end 2012 whilst work-based learning was flat at 3.2% in both end 2012 and end 2013. Overall, the proportion in education and work-based learning was 93.8% at end 2013, the annual increase of +2.8ppts being the largest observed since consistent data began in 1994.

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The proportion of 16 year olds NEET fell by 1.9ppts	The annual fall in the proportion NEET at age 16 (-1.9ppts) is the largest observed fall since 1994; the proportion NEET at age 16 (4.0%) is also the lowest level recorded since 1994.
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### 17 year olds

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Participation in full-time education fell by 0.8ppts	The proportion of 17 year olds in full-time education fell -0.8ppts to 73.8% at end 2013. The fall was concentrated in the FE sector where the proportion in full-time education in sixth form colleges, general FE colleges and other tertiary and specialist colleges decreased by -1.1ppts overall.
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Participation in education and work based learning decreased by 0.2ppts...	The fall in full-time education was offset in part by an increase in part-time education of +0.5ppts (in the FE sector) and an increase in work-based learning of +0.2ppts (mostly Apprenticeships at Level 2). The combined impact of the fall in full-time education and the increase in part-time education and apprenticeships at age 17 meant the overall proportion in education and work-based learning fell by -0.2ppts to 85.4% at end 2013.
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... however the proportion of 17 year olds NEET fell by 1.0ppts	The proportion of 17 year olds NEET fell by -1.0ppts to 6.1% at end 2013, the lowest recorded since consistent data began in 1994. The fall in the proportion NEET was largely driven by an increase in the employment rate for those not in any education and training (NET), which increased from 36% at end 2012 to 42% at end 2013.
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### 18 year olds

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Full-time education increased by 2.1ppts	The proportion of 18 year olds in full-time education rose from 48.4% in 2012 to 50.4% in 2013. This was driven by an increase in the proportion of 18 year olds attending Higher Education institutions full-time, which rose by +2.4ppts (from 25.1% to 27.4%).
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Participation in education and work based learning increased by 2.9ppts	In addition to the increase in full-time education, there were increases in part-time education (+0.3ppts) and increased work-based learning (+0.7ppts). The overall impact was an increase in the proportion of 18 year olds in education and work-based learning from 61.6% at end 2012 to 64.5% at end 2013.
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The proportion of 18 year olds NEET fell by 2.0ppts	The proportion of 18 year olds NEET fell by -2.0ppts to 12.5% at end 2013, and the lowest observed proportion NEET since 2004 (12.3%).
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### 3. Background and Content

This statistical first release (SFR) contains provisional estimates for end 2013 on the participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education, training and employment in England. It also updates the end 2012 estimates from SFR 22/2013 which were published in June 2013.

The estimates relate to a snapshot of activities at the end of the calendar year, and are based on academic age, defined as 'age at the start of the academic year'.

Information is drawn together from the post-16 learning options to give a coherent and comprehensive picture of participation, including schools, further education, work-based learning and higher education.

The key analyses are by age, gender, type of learning, institution, labour market status and highest qualification being studied.

These are the Department for Education's definitive measures of participation for 16 to 18 year olds, and sets recent changes in the context of historical trends. These measures are used to monitor progress against the Department's objectives of raising participation and reducing the number of young people NEET (not in education, employment or training).

#### **Raising the Participation Age**

The cohort of 16 year olds appearing for the first time in this SFR (16 year olds at end 2013) are the first cohort of young people subject to the Government's new duty to participate under the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation. The legislation increases the age to which all young people in England are required to remain in education or training.

Introduced in two stages it applies to:

- Young people who left year 11 in summer 2013, who must stay in some form of education or training for at least a further year until 27 June 2014;
- Young people who started in year 11 (or years below) in September 2013, who will have to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

The first stage equates to the new cohort of 16 year olds described in this SFR, who are required to remain in accredited education or training until 27 June 2014, i.e. until after the end 2013 snapshot covered by this SFR.

The second stage requiring participation until the young person's 18th birthday will first apply to the cohort of 16 year olds first appearing in the *next* version of this SFR, expected to be published in June 2015.

The definition of participation in this SFR differs from that which meets the RPA duty to participate – see [Section 7](#) for more detail on the difference.

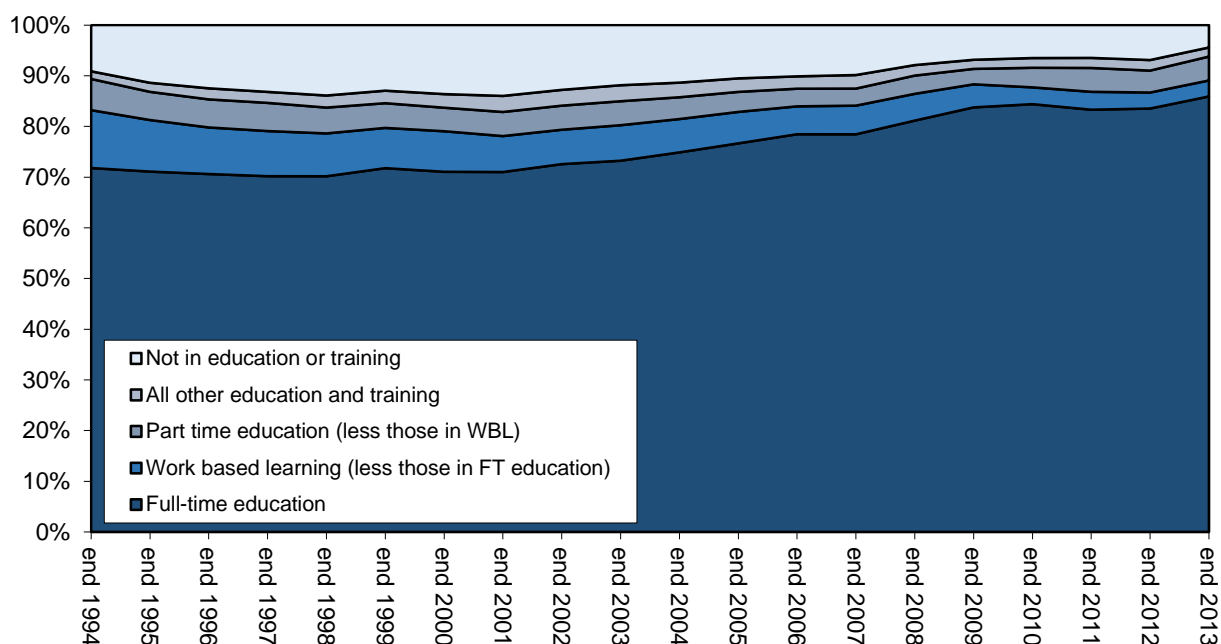
Statistics showing participation consistent with the duty to participate under RPA based on data collected by Local Authorities were published at the following link (in Table 2), showing participation in December 2013: [Participation in Education and Training by Local Authority](#).

## 4. Commentary – trends in participation since 1994

### Participation at age 16 since 1994

Full-time education was broadly flat from the early 1990s to 2001	The proportion of 16 year olds in full-time education fluctuated between 70-72% in the period 1994-2001 (see Chart 1 below). However falls in part-time education and work-based learning led to the proportion not in any education and training (NET) increasing by +4.9ppts to 14.0% by 2001.
Full-time education then rose from 2001 to 2009...	Full-time education then rose from 71.0% in 2001 to 83.8% in 2009 with only 2007 not experiencing growth. Some of the +12.8ppt increase in full-time education between 2001 and 2009 came from reductions in other forms of participation (part-time education, work-based learning, employer funded training or other education and training) which fell from 15.0% of all 16 year olds in 2001 to 9.4% in 2009. However, for the most part, the increase in full-time education reflected an overall expansion in participation in education and training.
...as a result, NET fell between 2001 and 2009	The proportion of 16 year olds not in education and training (NET) fell from 14.0% at end 2001 to 6.8% at end 2009.
Overall participation stagnated between 2009 and 2012 but increased sharply in the last year to end 2013	<p>Between 2009 and 2012 overall participation in education and training hovered in the range 93.1-93.5%, with increased part-time education (+1.4ppts) over the period being cancelled out by a fall in work-based learning (-1.6ppts).</p> <p>However, in the last year increases in both full-time and part-time education (+2.4ppts and +0.4ppts respectively) has meant overall participation in education and training at age 16 is at the highest level since consistent records began in 1994 at 95.6%.</p> <p>The proportion of 16 year olds in education and work-based learning is 93.8%. This narrower definition of participation excludes some training in the workplace and some participation with privately-funded training providers. Whilst not designed to assess participation consistent with the duty to participate under RPA, it is the statistic that will best approximate RPA-compliant education and training available in this SFR. However, the proportion in education and work-based learning will still be higher than the proportion engaging in RPA-compliant participation [see <a href="#">Section 3</a> for a link to the published statistics related to the duty to participate and <a href="#">Section 7</a> for detail on how they are different].</p>

Chart 1: Trends in participation in education and training at age 16: England end 1994-end 2013



#### Full and part-time education at age 16 by institution type (see Table B for the detailed breakdown)

Full-time education is distributed across several institution types, whose relative popularity is quite stable...

Full-time education is dominated by three main provider types, state-funded schools, further education colleges, and sixth form colleges. Over the last 20 years the increase in full-time education has been driven by roughly proportional increases in each of these provider types. In the latest year, there was a larger increase in schools (+1.3ppts to 35.6%) than in general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (+0.6ppts to 31.2%) and sixth form colleges (+0.1ppts to 11.7%).

The proportion of 16 year olds attending independent schools has remained broadly steady over the last 20 years, from 6.7% in 1994 to 6.5% in 2013, though was as low as 5.7% in 2004.

...but part-time education is characteristic of general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges

The proportion of 16 year olds in part-time education at end 2013 was 4.9%, of which the vast majority takes place in general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (4.7% of the cohort). This has been the consistent pattern since consistent data began in 1994.

Table B: Participation in full and part-time education at age 16 by institution type

% of age 16	Full-time education			Part-time education		
	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)
State-funded schools	34.3	35.6	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special schools	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Independent schools	6.3	6.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sixth form colleges	11.5	11.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	30.6	31.2	0.6	4.3	4.7	0.4
Higher education institutions	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>85.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>

## Participation at age 17 since 1994

Full-time education was broadly flat from the early 1990s to 2001

Similarly to 16 year olds the proportion of 17 year olds in full-time education fluctuated in a narrow range in the period 1994-2001 (between 58-60%). However falls in part-time education and work-based learning led to the proportion not in any education and training (NET) increasing by +3.9ppts to 21.5% by 2001.

Full-time education then rose from 2001 to 2009...

Full-time education then rose from 58.7% in 2001 to 72.9% in 2009 and the overall proportion in education and work-based learning rose by +10.0ppts in the same period.

...as a result, NET fell between 2001 and 2009

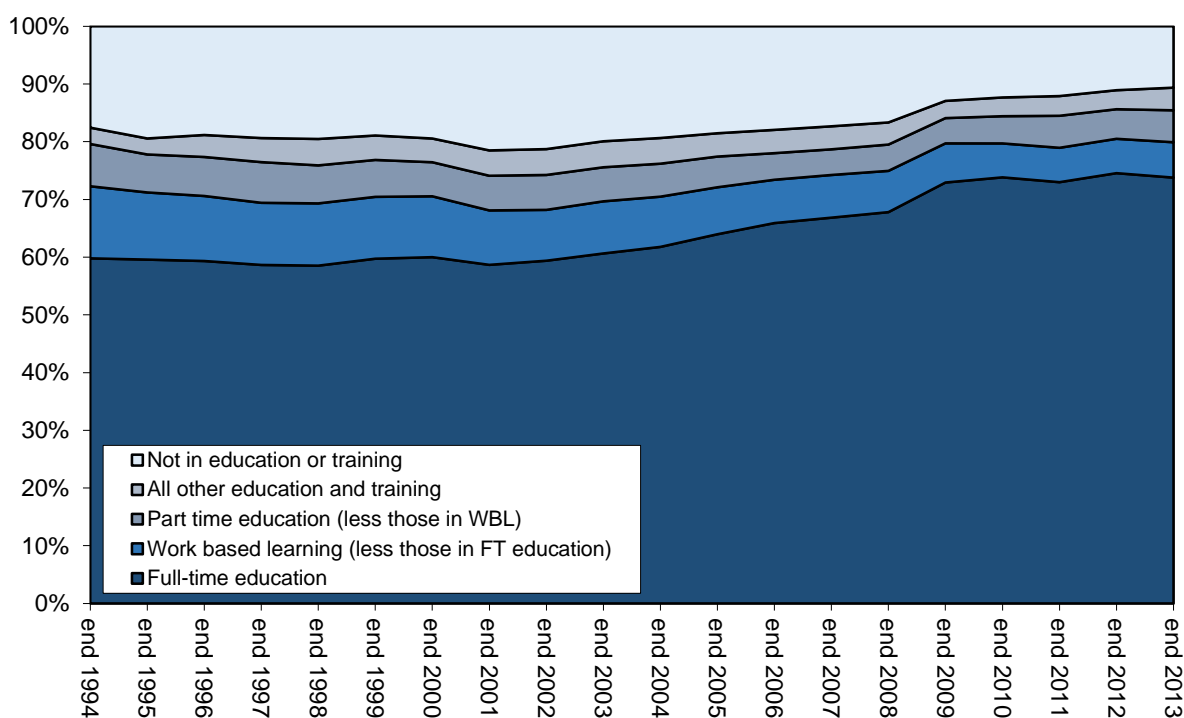
The proportion of 17 year olds not in education and training (NET) fell from 21.5% at end 2001 to 12.9% at end 2009.

Since 2009 increased part-time education has seen overall participation in education and training increase gradually year-on-year.

Since 2009 part-time education has increased by +1.3ppts, whilst overall participation in education and training has increased by +2.3ppts at end 2013 to 89.4%.

Otherwise, from 2009 trends in participation are less clear cut, full-time education fluctuating between 72.9-74.6%, and falling -0.8ppts in the last year to 73.8% at end 2013.

Chart 2: Trends in participation in education and training at age 17: England end 1994-end 2013





**Full and part-time education at age 17 by institution type (see Table C for the detailed breakdown)**

Full-time education is distributed across several institution types, whose relative popularity is quite stable...

The overall trend is very similar to that seen at age 16. Full-time education is dominated by the same three main provider types, who have shared the increase in full-time education over the last 20 years. However, in the last year the FE sector bore the brunt of the overall -0.8ppt fall in full-time education: participation in general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges fell by -0.9ppts to 27.9%, whilst participation was roughly unchanged in state-funded schools (28.4% of the cohort, +0.2ppts) and sixth form colleges (10.0%, -0.2ppts).

The proportion of 17 year olds attending independent schools has remained broadly steady over the last 20 years, from 6.2% in 1994 to 6.0% in 2013, though was as low as 5.4% in 2004 and 2006.

...but part-time education is characteristic of general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges

The proportion of 17 year olds in part-time education at end 2013 was 5.9%, of which the vast majority takes place in general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (5.5% of the cohort). This has been the pattern since consistent data began in 1994.

Table C: Participation in full and part-time education at age 17 by institution type

% of age 17	Full-time education			Part-time education		
	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)
State-funded schools	28.2	28.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special schools	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Independent schools	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sixth form colleges	10.2	10.0	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	28.8	27.9	-0.9	5.0	5.5	0.5
Higher education institutions	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## Participation at age 18 since 1994

Full-time education was fairly flat from the early 1990s-2003

The proportion of 18 year olds in full-time education fluctuated in the range 38.2-41.3% in the 10 year period from 1994 to 2003, with a net change of -1.0ppt from 1994 to 2003.

Falls in part-time education were offset by increases in work-based learning and other employed-funded training (EFT) to leave the proportion not in any education and training (NET) almost flat from 38.9% in 1994 to 39.0% in 2003.

Full-time education then rose every year from 2003 to 2011...

Full-time education then rose year-on-year from 38.5% in 2003 to 50.5% in 2011, an increase of +12.0ppts. This was partly offset by falls in work-based learning (-1.1ppts) and part-time education (-1.2ppts).

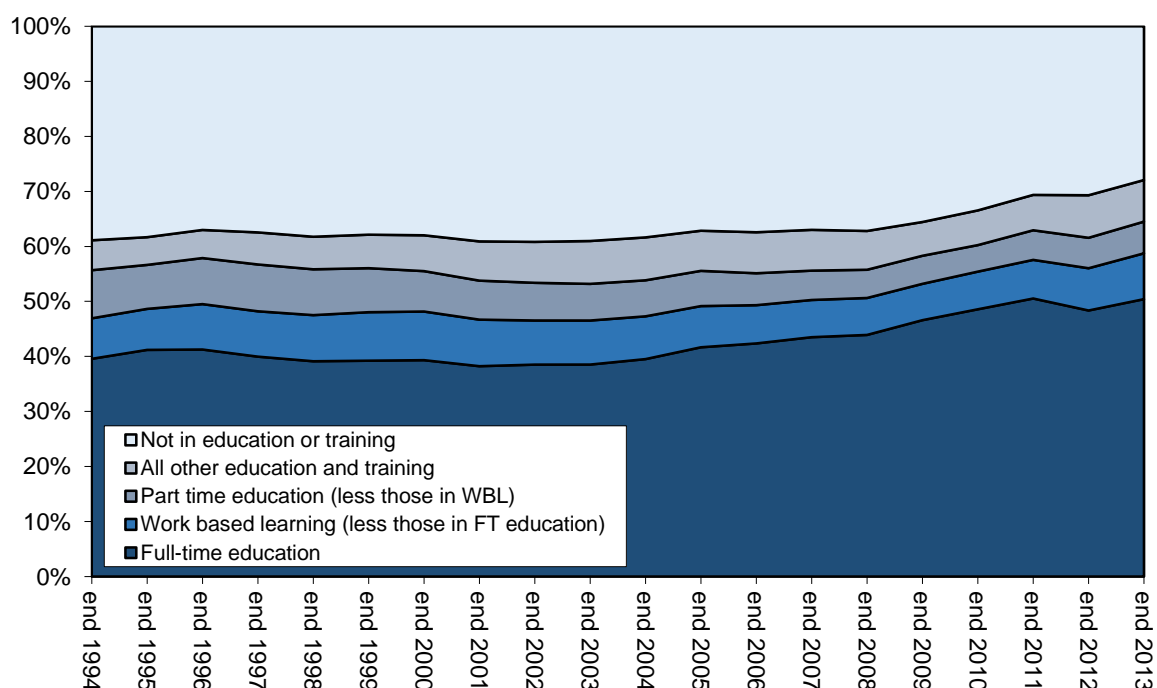
...as a result, NET fell between 2003 and 2011

The proportion of 18 year olds not in education and training (NET) fell from 39.0% at end 2003 to 30.6% at end 2011.

In the last two years part-time education and work-based learning continued to increase; mixed picture for full-time education.

From 2011 the proportion of 18 year olds in part-time education has increased slightly by +0.5ppts to 6.2% whilst work-based learning increased by +1.4ppts to 8.4%. Participation in full-time education fell sharply between 2011 and 2012, but then rose steeply between 2012 and 2013, driven by changes in higher education, leading to a net change of -0.1ppts from 2011 to 2013. Overall, participation in any education and training is 72.1% at end 2013, the highest since consistent data began in 1994.

Chart 3: Trends in participation in education and training at age 18: England end 1994-end 2013



**Full and part-time education at age 18 by institution type (see Table D for the detailed breakdown)**

Full-time education occurs predominately in higher education institutions, but FE, tertiary and specialist colleges also important

The proportion of 18 year olds in full-time education at end 2013 was 50.4%. At age 18 a significant proportion of the cohort have progressed to higher education institutions (27.4%) where the vast majority are studying for a level 4 or degree-level qualification (27.1% of the cohort). The next most likely destination for full-time education is a FE, tertiary or specialist college (16.0%) where the range of qualifications studied is more varied, but is almost all below level 4.

...but part-time education is characteristic of general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges

As per the pattern seen with 16 and 17 year olds, most part-time education at age 18 at end 2013 took place in a general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges. 5.7% of 18 year olds studied part-time in these provider types, from a total of 6.2% of the cohort in part-time education. This has been the pattern since consistent data began in 1994.

Table D: Participation in full and part-time education at age 18 by institution type

% of age 18	Full-time education			Part-time education		
	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)	end 2012	end 2013 (prov)	annual change (ppts)
State-funded schools	3.4	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special schools	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Independent schools	1.1	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Sixth form colleges	1.8	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	16.5	16.0	-0.5	5.4	5.7	0.4
Higher education institutions	25.1	27.4	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>

## 5. Commentary – trends in the proportion NEET since 1994

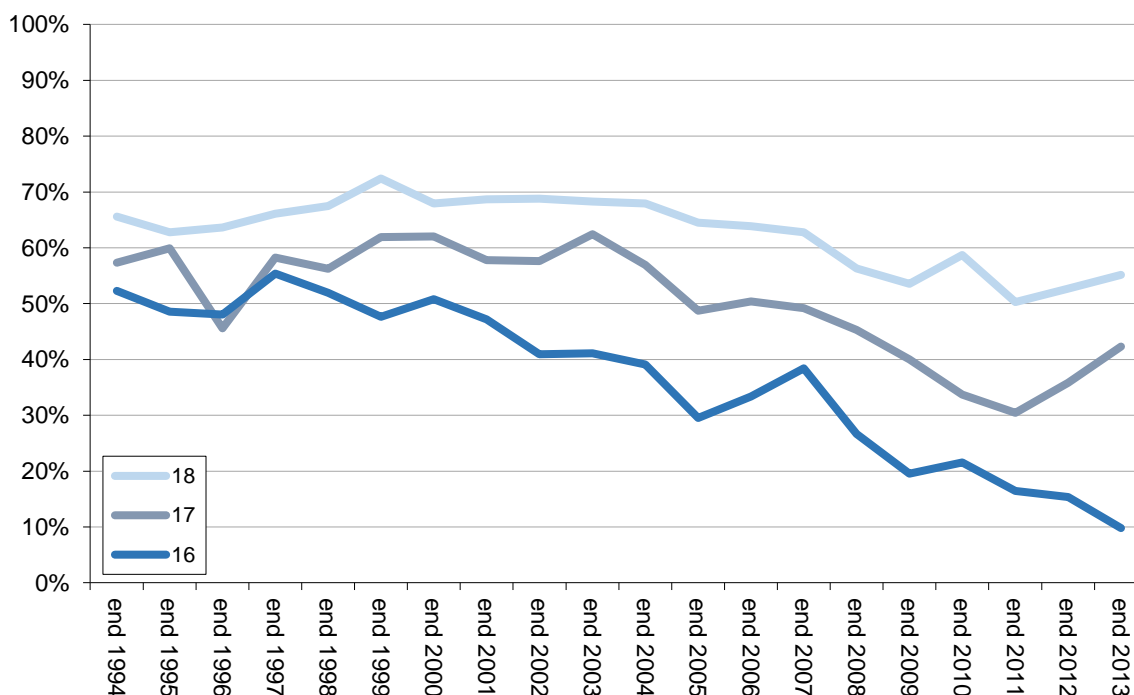
### Two factors affect the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

NEET is determined by:

(i) the proportion not in any education and training (NET)      The proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is determined by the size of the group not in education or training (NET), and the employment rate of that group. As we have seen above, the size of the NET group has been tending to fall at each of ages 16, 17 and 18 in recent years, and at end 2013 all are at their lowest level since consistent data began in 1994.

(ii) the employment rate for young people who are NET      As Chart 4 shows, the general trend is for the employment rate for young people NET at each age to fall since 1994. However, for the last two years the employment rate for 17 and 18 year olds has risen.

Chart 4: Employment rate of young people not in education or training (NET) by age: England, end 1994 - end 2013



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### The impact on the proportion NEET depends on the exact balance between changes in NET and changes in the employment rate for the NET group at different ages

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At age 16 both NET and the NET employment rate fell to record lows at end 2013; overall the fall in NET pushed the NEET rate lower.

The fall in 16 year olds NET in 2013 would tend to push the NEET rate down, but the fall in the employment rate for the NET group would push it up.

However, because the NET employment rate for 16 year olds was already very low (it fell from 15% in 2012 to 10% in 2013) the dominant factor was the historically large fall in the proportion NET from 2012 to 2013 of -2.5ppts, and so overall the proportion NEET at age 16 dropped -1.9ppts to 4.0% at end 2013.

Since 2005 the general trend is for the proportion of 16 year olds NEET to fall, with year-on-year falls in 6 out of the last 8 years (see Chart 5 below).

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At age 17 the fall in NET and the increase in the employment rate for the NET group both pushed the NEET rate lower.

At age 17 the annual change in the proportion NET (-0.4ppts) and the increase in the employment rate for the NET group (from 36% in 2012 to 42% in 2013) both combined to push the proportion of 17 year olds NEET lower, by -1.0ppts in 2013 to 6.1%.

The general trend in the proportion NEET at age 17 is similar to that observed at age 16, with the proportion NEET tending to fall since 2005. However, year-on-year changes are less consistent, so since 2005 whilst the proportion NEET has fallen 5 times it has also increased 3 times.

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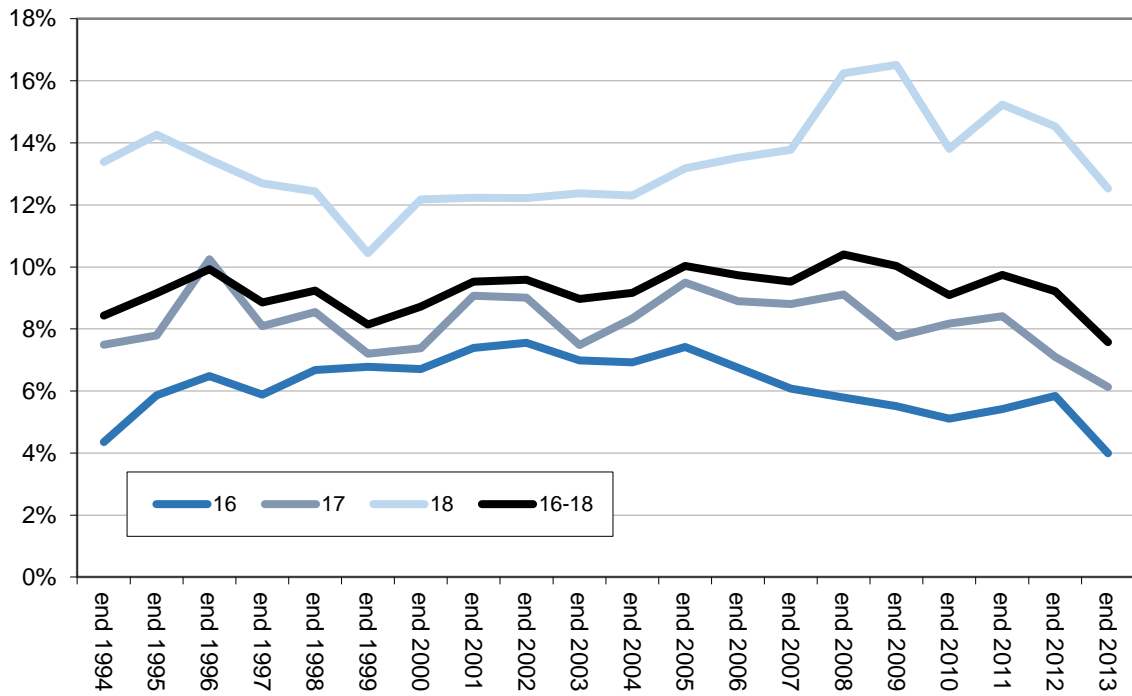
At age 18 the fall in NET and the increase in the employment rate for the NET group both pushed the NEET rate lower.

At age 18 the annual change in the proportion NET (-2.8ppts) and the increase in the employment rate for the NET group (from 53% in 2012 to 55% in 2013) both combined to push the proportion of 18 year olds NEET lower, by -2.0ppts in 2013 to 12.5%.

Historically, at age 18 the employment rate of the NET group has a stronger influence over the NEET rate than at 16 and 17 because the size of the NET group is bigger. So whilst the proportion NET had tended to edge lower from 2003 to 2009, the consistently falling employment rate for the NET group more than offset that, leading to an increase in NEET. Since 2009 changes in the employment rate of the NET group have been more erratic, but consecutive increases in the employment rate for the last two years (to 53% in 2012 and 55% in 2013) coupled with historically low proportions NET (30.7% in 2012 and 27.9% in 2013), have combined to mean that since 2009 the proportion of 18 year olds NEET has fallen in 3 of the last 4 years.

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Chart 5: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18 year olds NEET:  
England, end 1994 – end 2013



## 6. List of tables

The following tables are available in excel format on the department's statistics website: [Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18 year olds in England-End 2013](#).

### **Main SFR tables**

#### **Education and Training**

- 1 Number in education and training, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).
- 1a Participation rate in education and training, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).

#### **Institution type**

- 2 Number in education by institution type, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).
- 2a Participation rate in education by institution type, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).

#### **Labour market**

- 3 Number in education and training by labour market status, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).
- 3a Participation rate in education and training by labour market status, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).

#### **Highest qualification aim**

- 4 Number in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).
- 4a Participation rate in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning, end 2011, end 2012, and end 2013 (provisional).

#### **Education and Training (time-series)**

- 5 Number in education and training, 1994 onwards.
- 5a Participation rate in education and training, 1994 onwards.

### **Figures published with main SFR tables**

#### **Participation rates**

- 1 Participation rate of 16 year olds in education and training.
- 2 Participation rate of 17 year olds in education and training.
- 3 Participation rate of 18 year olds in education and training.
- 4 Participation rate of 16 to 18 year olds in education and training.

### **Additional tables (time-series from 1985)**

- A1-A15 Participation in education and training, equivalent to Table 1 in the SFR.
- B1-B15 Participation in education by institution type, equivalent to Table 2 in the SFR.
- C1-C15 Participation in full-time education by highest qualification aim and institution type, and work-based learning. More detailed than Table 4 in the SFR.
- D1-D15 Participation in education and training by labour market status, equivalent to Table 3 in the SFR.
- E1-E15 Participation in full-time and part-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning. More detailed than Table 4 in the SFR.

## 6. List of tables (cont)

When reviewing the tables, please note the following:

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We preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
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So we round numbers	We round numbers to the nearest hundred. Because of this rounding, totals in text and in tables may not always equal the sum of their component parts. Similarly, differences quoted in text may not always be the same as differences shown in tables. Where any number is shown as zero the original figure was zero. Where a number rounds to zero, the figure has been replaced by a '-'. This suppression and rounding is consistent with the <a href="#">Departmental statistical policy</a> .
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We've made some small but important changes to the tables in this year's publication.	<p>The definition of a full-time learner has changed for the FE sector (general FE, tertiary and specialist colleges; and the sixth form college reporting categories). More detail is given in the technical definitions box in <a href="#">Section 7</a>, but in summary from 2013 a full-time learner in those institution types is a young person with 540+ planned hours in the year, drawing from both guided learning hours (GLH) from qualifications over the academic year combined with planned hours from employability, enrichment and pastoral (EEP) activities. Previously the threshold was 450+ planned hours drawn purely from qualification GLH. This follows a change in how programmes of study are funded and hence how participation is recorded on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). It is not possible to quantify the impact of the change in definition, but it is likely to be minimal as providers adapt programmes of study to the revised funding rules.</p>
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A second change to the ILR from 2013/14 meant it was no longer possible to estimate Employer Funded Training (EFT) that takes place in the FE sector from the ILR. The purpose of that estimate was to ensure the SFR does not count some participation twice, in particular the number and proportion of EFT overall (from the Labour Force Survey) and EFT that had already been captured via the ILR (as part-time education recorded on the ILR). This overlap is now estimated through the LFS. As such the estimate of the overlap will now be subject to sampling error.

A retrospective change has been made to how participation in schools is reported. In figures from 2001 onwards participation in special schools is now shown separately rather than included in the 'maintained school' category.

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## 7. Technical Notes and Definitions

We use a combination of different sources	The estimates of participation in education, training and employment combine data from a number of sources, with procedures to identify young people in more than one form of provision, to give a view of the cohort as a whole.
Academic Age	The age of a learner is measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August.
Reference Dates	Data for further education institutions (FEI) relate to November 2013 and higher education institution (HEI) data relate to December 2013.  Data relates to January 2014 for population, schools and work-based learning (WBL). The Labour Force Survey relates to October 2013 to March 2014.  Figures for other years refer to the same months.
Provisional data	The figures for end 2013 are provisional while the figures for end 2012 have been updated with revised figures.
The full-time education definition varies according to institution type	Schools full-time= 10 sessions a week, where 1 session is half a day.  FEI full-time= <b>From 2013</b> a full-time learner is defined as someone enrolled on a programme of learning totalling 540+ planned hours per year, from either qualification guided learning hours (GLH) or employability, enrichment and pastoral (EEP) planned hours; <b>pre 2013</b> full-time learners are defined as those enrolled on programme of learning of 450+ qualification guided learning hours per year, or at least 150 GLH per tri-annual period, or more than 16 GLH per week for shorter courses.  HEI fulltime= 21 hours a week for 24 weeks a year.  Full-time learners in private further and higher education establishments are excluded from the full-time education figures but included in 'other education and training' (OET).
Overlaps are accounted for	Learners studying an FE course as well as participating in WBL (in the same FEI) are included in the full-time figure as well as the WBL figure, but also reported in the overlap group and counted once in the totals. Learners participating only in WBL in an FEI are reported as WBL only. Learners in Employer Funded training (EFT) as well as publicly funded full-time education are only included in the full-time figure and not the EFT figure.
Work-based learning (WBL) comprises...	Advanced Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships and a small amount of other work based related learning. Since April 2012 all WBL has been funded through the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Employer Funded Training (EFT)	<p>Figures for EFT cover employees who have received training in the past 4 weeks; these figures are restricted to training other than WBL. They will include non-WBL apprentices and others on long and short term training programmes, but exclude those who have previously received training in their current job, though not in the last 4 weeks. They cover only young people who are in employment.</p>
Other Education and Training (OET)	<p>OET refers to young people who are studying, but are not included in other categories. The majority of these young people will be studying part-time in a further education college or sixth-form college or other institution types described under the heading 'part-time education' in SFR Table 2. However, some will be attending private colleges or training centres, and this activity is only reported under the OET heading. The relative contribution of private institutions and part-time education to OET can be estimated from the more detailed data in Additional Tables A1-A15, published as 'additional information' to this SFR.</p>
Labour market status	<p>The definitions of labour market status used in this publication are the same as those in the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and follow the conventions promoted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO):</p> <p><b>in employment:</b> an employee, self-employed, on a WBL programme or an unpaid family worker. This includes young people in full-time education who also have part-time jobs.</p> <p><b>ILO unemployed:</b> anyone (including full-time learners) who is out of work, available to start work in the next two weeks, and has either looked for work in the last four weeks or is waiting to start a job they have already obtained.</p> <p><b>economically inactive:</b> neither in employment nor ILO unemployed i.e. not active in the labour market.</p>
Labour Force Survey (LFS)	<p>The LFS covers all residential households and nursing accommodation. Householders are asked to reply on behalf of students living away in halls of residence. The LFS excludes people outside such accommodation - chiefly hospital residents, people in prison, people in army barracks and the homeless.</p> <p>The LFS is a sample survey so all estimates of labour market participation are subject to sampling error, as are the estimates for the non-HEI (higher education institutions) based components of EFT and OET.</p>

Not in education, employment or training (NEET) is estimated in two stages...

First, the number of young people not in education or training (NET) is calculated by subtracting the number of young people known to be in education and training from the total population.

Second, the proportion NEET from the total group NET is estimated using the LFS.

If a young person is studying qualifications at different levels they are reported against their highest level of study

All qualifications studied are classified as one of the following seven categories:

Higher education (Level 4 and above)

GCE and VCE A/AS levels<sup>1</sup>

NVQ 3 and equivalents<sup>2</sup>

GCSE/Intermediate GNVQ

NVQ 2 and equivalents

NVQ 1 and equivalents

Other courses

Learners in full-time education studying more than one course are attributed to the course appearing first in the list. Young people in special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), for whom there is no qualification breakdown, are included under 'Other courses' in SFR Table 4

There are differences between activity that complies with the duty to participate under RPA and what is captured in this SFR

Activity that satisfies the duty to participate under RPA legislation is described in detail in the [statutory guidance to Local Authorities](#).

In summary, young people in full-time education or Apprenticeships automatically meet the duty to participate, but in order to comply with RPA, part-time education for academic age 16 year olds: (i) must include planned qualification guided learning hours of a minimum 280hrs per year; (ii) should usually be combined with full-time employment or voluntary work (either 20hrs per week or 40hrs over 2 weeks for those with less regular hours).

In this SFR participation that is not full-time is automatically counted as part-time, irrespective of planned hours or whether it is combined with employment. This will mean that RPA-compliance will be significantly lower than the proportion of 16 year olds reported as being in education and work-based learning.

However, this will be partially offset as 16 year olds engaged in Local Authority approved re-engagement activities will satisfy the duty to participate but the activity might not be recorded in this SFR.

<sup>1</sup> Including International Baccalaureate, GCE A/AS levels in applied subjects, Pre-U principal subjects and Pre-U short course subjects.

<sup>2</sup> Including GNVQ precursors, BTEC, City and Guilds and RSA courses.

## Data Sources for National Estimates

### Schools

Information for maintained schools, City Technology Colleges (CTCs), Academies, free schools, pupil referral units (PRUs) and special schools are derived from the school census. From 2002 this has collected data at pupil rather than school level. Data from independent schools are collected at school level from the annual school census. The schools figures are all final.

### FE Institutions

The FE Data Service's Individualised Learner Record (ILR) provides data on learners in FE sector colleges. Snapshot data as at 1 November has been used. The data underlying this SFR are the SN06 freeze for 2013/14 and the SN14 freeze for 2012/13. The ILR data for 2013 is provisional and will be revised in the June 2015 publication. Figures for previous years are final.

### WBL

The FE Data Service's ILR provides monthly data on young people on WBL programmes. Snapshot data as at 1 January has been used, for end 2001 onwards.

As with the FE data, the WBL data underlying this SFR come from the SN06 freeze for 2013/14 and the SN14 freeze for 2012/13.

### HE Institutions

Students in institutions of higher education on 1 December are included from data supplied by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for end 2012 and earlier years are final.

HESA figures for end 2013 are not available until January 2015. Therefore, numbers on higher education courses have been carried over from the previous year. Student numbers on higher education courses in 2012 have been grossed up to produce 2013 estimates using information from the Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) collected by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

### LFS

Figures on labour market status for end 2013 come from the average of Quarter 4 2013 (October to December 2013) and Quarter 1 2014 (January to March 2014) LFS data. It also supplies the non-HEI based data for Employer Funded Training (EFT) and for Other Education and Training (OET).

The LFS is a quarterly survey of approximately 50,000 households in England. If an individual is not available for interview, another member of the household may respond on their behalf.

### **Population Estimates**

The population estimates for academic year ages in January of each year are derived by DfE from mid-year estimates and projections provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

ONS mid-year estimates are based on the 2011 Census and are subject to statistical uncertainties arising from sampling error and imputation effects in the 2011 Census, as well as from estimation of the components that age the population forward from the 2011 Census date.

The ONS mid 2012-based single-age population estimates are the basis of the population estimates that are used in this SFR.

## 8. Local Participation data - Technical notes

Local participation data were released in March 2014

These show participation in education and work-based learning of 16 and 17 year olds for end 2012 by local authority and region. Tables and maps are available as additional tables on the website.

Data sources are the same as for the national figures.

Local participation rates may exceed 100 per cent...

...due to the margin of error surrounding local level population estimates and the treatment of independent schools (see below for details). Participation rates for the Isles of Scilly are suppressed due to the size of the population.

Inner London Authorities do not have their participation estimates reported

There is a high level of cross-boundary flows of independent school students between these local authorities which means any estimates would be highly distorted.

### Data sources (detail and any differences from the nation participation estimates)

#### School Data

For end 2001 onwards, the LA area for pupils in maintained schools, City Technology Colleges (CTCs), Academies, free schools and special schools has been identified using the postcode of the pupils' home addresses. For the pupils whose postcodes are missing, the LA of school has been used instead

Pupils in independent schools are treated as if they live in the LA in which their school is situated. This will lead to inaccuracies in participation rates by residence to some degree, as some pupils attend independent schools outside their LA area

#### FE and WBL data

Within the ILR the LA has been identified using the either the current postcode, or the postcode from which the learner applied to the FEI/WBL. For the learners whose postcodes are missing the LA of institution/provider has been used instead.

Prior to end 2001, WBL information was provided by the Training and Enterprise Council (TEC). Due to incomplete data, WBL figures are not available at LA level before end 1997.

#### HE Institutions

The LA has been identified using the postcode of the address from which the student applied to the HEI. Where this data is not available, the LA of the institution has been used instead.

### **Population estimates**

The population estimates for academic year ages in January of each year are derived by DfE from mid-year estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics. **At local level, for individual ages, such estimates are subject to some uncertainty. This is particularly the case in small areas, where the margin of error surrounding a population estimate can be disproportionately high.** Users should bear this in mind when making comparisons, for example year-on-year within a small area or between one small area and another.

**Participation rates in the national and local figures may not coincide exactly. The differences between the two datasets are:**

#### **No 18 year olds**

The local figures do not contain participation estimates for 18 year olds. The information collected by HESA on students in HEIs in the UK does not hold the **term-time** address of the students, and therefore cannot be used accurately for local level analysis of participation by the LA that a young person resides in. As the majority of 18 year olds in education are at an HEI, this means that we cannot produce participation estimates for 18 year olds at a local level.

#### **No local estimates for EFT and OET**

The local figures do not contain estimates for EFT and OET participation. The participation estimates are produced as a snapshot of participation at the end of the calendar year. Information on EFT and OET participation is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Local LFS data is only available on a whole-year basis

#### **No labour market information**

The local figures do not contain labour market information. Labour market data is taken from the LFS, and therefore is not used at a local level for the reasons given above.

#### **FE does not include learners from overseas**

The local figures contain those 16 and 17 year olds studying in FEIs, who apply from the UK only.

## 9. Scheduled revisions to previously published statistics

### Further Education Institution, Higher Education Institutions and work-based learning are revised

The numbers participating in further education institutions (FE colleges and sixth-form colleges) and higher education institutions are revised as the source data are finalised. These planned revisions only occur for the latest year for which statistics are published. For example, data described in this SFR “as end 2013 (provisional)” will be finalised as “end 2013” in the June 2015 update to this SFR. Such changes can affect both the numbers studying and the proportion of the age cohort studying

### Further Education Institution revisions impact on the ratio of full to part-time learners

The revisions to the data on further education institutions historically has had an impact on the estimates for full-time education versus part-time education, as the designation of a young person as either full or part-time in colleges could change retrospectively. The table below shows the difference between the provisional and final end 2010, 2011 and 2012 estimates for full-time and part-time education in further education institutions.

		Provisional		Final		Change (final - provisional)	
		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
End 2010	Age 16	286,919	26,425	287,476	25,259	557	-1,166
	Age 17	264,173	30,679	264,668	29,667	495	-1,012
	Age 18	132,985	31,587	133,349	30,791	364	-796
End 2011	Age 16	268,638	34,940	272,661	30,450	4,023	-4,490
	Age 17	253,341	39,269	256,266	35,760	2,925	-3,509
	Age 18	122,792	37,205	124,506	34,864	1,714	-2,341
End 2012	Age 16	268,041	32,847	272,289	28,685	4,248	-4,162
	Age 17	249,537	37,450	253,658	33,615	4,121	-3,835
	Age 18	120,356	38,023	122,735	37,173	2,379	-850

### The impact of revisions to Higher Education data

The changes in the Higher Education institution data from provisional to final for the last three years are shown below.

		Provisional	Final	Change (final - provisional)
		All HE (end 2010)	Age 16	2,388
	Age 17	7,107	7,757	650
	Age 18	167,667	171,494	3,827
All HE (end 2011)	Age 16	2,139	2,180	41
	Age 17	7,550	7,517	-33
	Age 18	177,012	185,070	8,058
All HE (end 2012)	Age 16	1,639	1,114	-525
	Age 17	5,922	6,221	299
	Age 18	158,705	170,231	11,526



## Revisions to population estimates

All numbers published as a proportion of the population cohort will be revised if the population estimates are revised by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). For example, if the population estimate is revised upwards then all things being equal (that is no change in the administrative-based estimate of learner numbers) the statistics for the proportion of the population studying will be revised downwards proportionately. In addition, there will be a more direct impact on the estimate of the numbers of young people not in education and training. This is calculated, for the most part, as a residual from the size of the population and the number of young people recorded as participating on administrative datasets, so an increase in the population will result in an increase in the estimate of young people not in education and training (NET) and correspondingly in the estimate of NEET. The ONS population statistics are re-based every two years, but revisions can extend further back. If the size of the revision is significant we would retrospectively revise the SFR statistics, as happened in February 2013 (when the June 2012 SFR statistics were updated earlier than normal given large revisions to the population).

Since the June 2013 SFR, ONS have issued revised population estimates which have led to changes in the end 2011 and end 2012 populations used in this SFR. The table below shows the population of 16, 17 and 18 year olds used in the June 2013 SFR, compared to the revised figures in the current, 2014, SFR:

	end 2011 (June 2013 SFR)	end 2011 (June 2014 SFR)	change	end 2012 (June 2013 SFR)	end 2012 (June 2014 SFR)	change
Age 16	647,286	646,527	-759	647,332	646,933	-399
Age 17	666,604	664,922	-1,682	653,049	650,272	-2,777
Age 18	672,700	669,933	-2,767	675,313	670,626	-4,687

## 10. Further information is available

Participation estimates at local authority level	<a href="#">Additional tables</a> to these statistics published alongside this publication give local authority participation statistics for end 2012. <a href="#">Other participation estimates</a> can be used which are based on the Client Caseload Information System which are more timely but less robust.
NEET estimates at local authority level	<a href="#">Local authority estimates</a> are based on the Client Caseload Information System. The time-series extends back to 2004. Unfortunately the current activity for some of the 16-18 year olds is unknown, and has to be estimated.
National NEET and participation figures in more recent time periods	The DfE also publishes participation and NEET statistics based on the Labour Force Survey on a quarterly basis in the <a href="#">NEET Quarterly Brief</a> . However, this data is based on relatively small survey samples and therefore not as accurate.
Destinations of young people after Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5	The <a href="#">Destination Measures SFR</a> due to be published on 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2014 shows percentage of students continuing education, on apprenticeships or in employment after completing Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. These are based on the National Pupil Database matched to data from the Individualised Learner Record, Higher Education Statistics Authority data and the National Client Caseload Information System. The June 2014 Destinations Measures will report on destinations in 2011/12.
Previously published figures	These are still available <a href="#">on the government's website</a> .
Figures for Wales, Scotland and the UK	These participation statistics only collect information about institutions in England. For information for Wales, Scotland and the UK, contact the departments below or access their statistics at the following links:  Wales: <a href="#">Welsh Government: Participation of young people in Education and the Labour Market</a>  Scotland: <a href="#">Local Area Labour markets in Scotland: Statistics from the Annual Population Survey</a>  UK: <a href="#">Labour Market Statistics-May 2014</a>

## 11. Got a query? Like to give feedback?

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If from the media                      Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 020 7783 8300

If non-media                              Department for Education, Education Standards Directorate, Level 5, 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk St, Sheffield S1 2FJ. Tel: 0114 2742462.  
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This document is also available from our website at: [Official NEET statistics for England](#).