



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

BIS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Proportion of 18-24 year olds who are participating in full or part-time education or training activity, with a gap measure for participation in full-time education by social background using father's occupational group

MAY 2014

Proportion of 18-24 year olds who are participating in full or part-time education or training activity, with a gap measure for participation in full-time education by social background using father's occupational group

Why is this indicator important?

Participation in learning and gaining higher level qualifications is an important driver of success in the labour market. Long periods spent not in education, employment or training (NEET) during early adulthood often has a permanent “scarring” effect on future earnings and can waste a young person’s potential.

How are we performing?

Table 1 below shows the proportion of 18-24 year olds in England who are in full-time education by father’s occupation, specifically the difference in participation between those with fathers in managerial and professional and supervisory occupations (NS-SEC 1-2) and those from other social groups.

Table 1: Proportion of 18-24 year olds in full-time education by father’s occupation, England

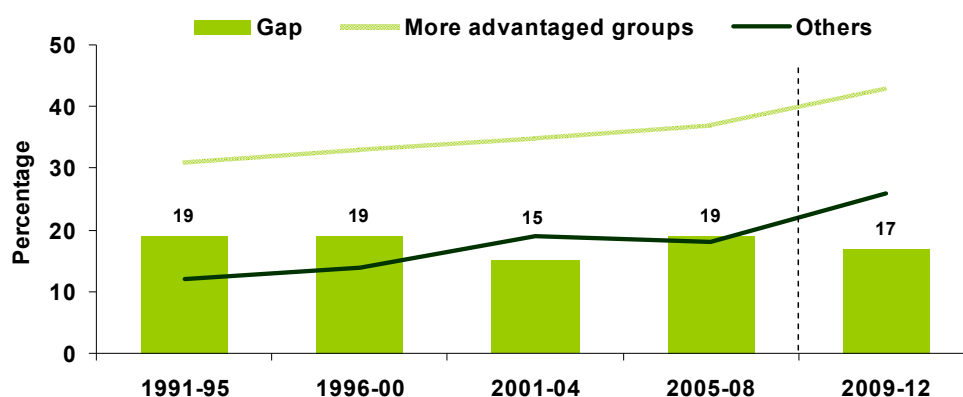
Full-Time education (BHPS and UKHLS series)*	1991-95	1996-00	2001-04	2005-08	2009-12**
More advantaged groups (NS-SEC 1-2)	31%	33%	35%	37%	43%
Others	12%	14%	19%	18%	26%
<i>Gap (percentage points)</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>
Full-Time and Part-Time education and training (LFS)***	1995	2000	2004	2008	2012
All 18-24 year olds	n/a	46%	46%	44%	44%

* The measures developed using the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and Understanding Society (UKHLS) cover only full-time education. The UKHLS measure defines being on a government training scheme as full-time education.

** Figures for 2009-2012 use the UKHLS measure and are not directly comparable to figures for earlier years, which use the BHPS measure.

*** The definition and measurement of full-time education in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) differs from that in the BHPS and UKHLS. Father’s occupation is not recorded on the LFS so the overall rate is included for context only.

Chart 1: Proportion of 18-24 year olds in full-time education by father's occupation, 1991-95 – 2009-12, England



The above chart shows trends over time. The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) was used for data shown from 1991-2008 and was superseded by Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), for 2009-12 data. It shows there has been an increase in participation in both groups but the participation rate among 18-24 year olds with fathers in managerial and professional and supervisory occupations (NS-SEC 1 -2) remains higher than for other social groups, 43% compared with 26% in the most recent period¹.

Key drivers of this indicator include:

- demand for education and training by young people and businesses
- the number of publicly funded further education and higher education places

What will influence this indicator?

This indicator provides a measure of the level of engagement of young people in England in full-time and part-time education and training activity. Although the number of funded places is determined by BIS, it is the demand for education and training by young people and businesses that will ultimately influence this indicator.

BIS has published strategies to make both the Higher and Further Education systems more responsive to the needs of students and businesses by increasing the flexibility of

¹ Differences observed in the proportions participating in full-time education between the BHPS and the UKHLS can partly be explained by the UKHLS including being on a government training scheme as being in education. Weights are also applied to the UKHLS data so it should more accurately represent the population than the unweighted BHPS data.

what providers can offer and increasing the information available about courses:

- Further Education White Paper: [Skills for Sustainable Growth](#)²
- Higher Education White Paper: [Students at the Heart of the System](#)³

What is BIS's role?

Key policies include the reforms set out in:

- The Further Education White Paper 'Skills for Sustainable Growth'
- The Higher Education White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System'
- The Participation Strategy 'Building Engagement, Building Futures'

Indicator definition

Proportion of 18 to 24 year olds in England who are participating in full-time or part-time education and training activity (Labour Force Survey (LFS)), with a gap measure for participation in full-time education by social background defined using father's occupational group (BHPS / UKHLS).

Further information

BIS is undertaking more work to improve the data availability for this measure. Questions on social mobility have been tested for inclusion in the 2014 LFS⁴ to enable BIS to develop a gap measure including part-time education and training.

Related indicators

Status

This update: May 2014

Next Update: May 2015

² <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1274-skills-for-sustainable-growth-strategy.pdf>

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32409/11-944-higher-education-students-at-heart-of-system.pdf

⁴ Social mobility questions will be introduced to the Labour Force Survey from July-September 2014 (Q3).

© Crown copyright 2014

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. Visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication available from www.gov.uk/bis

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Tel: 020 7215 5000

If you require this publication in an alternative format, email enquiries@bis.gsi.gov.uk, or call 020 7215 5000.