

BIS regularly conducts internal analysis of the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The most recent LFS release (from Q1 2014) shows the employment prospects for young (aged 18-30) English graduates are looking bright, with the employment rate at its highest level since Q2 of 2008, and the young graduate high-skilled employment rate at its highest level in nearly five years. The employment rates of graduates aged 25-30 in Q1 2014 is only one percentage point lower than it was for graduates of the same age in Q1 2008 despite the former group graduating (largely) during a recession. Additionally, graduates continue to earn significantly more than do non-graduates. The details follow:

* 87.3% of young graduates are employed compared to only 62.1% of young non-graduates.
* 57.4% of young graduates are in high-skilled employment.
* 86.7% of working-age graduates are employed compared to only 66.3% of non-graduates.
* 67.2% of working-age graduates are in high-skilled employment.
* The median nominal salary of working-age graduates is £31,500, while the median nominal salary of working-age non-graduates is £20,750.
* 92.4% of graduates aged 25-30 are employed today, compared to 93.4% in Q1 2008.

***All figures are for England only.***

**Source:** BIS analysis of Labour Force Survey microdata, January-March 2014 & 2008.

**Definitions:**

‘Young graduates’ : Individuals with a first degree, aged 18-30

‘Young non-graduates’: Individuals aged 18-30 whose highest qualifications are A-levels or below

‘Working-age graduates’: Individuals with a first degree, aged 16-64

‘Working-age non-graduates’: Individuals aged 16-64 whose highest qualifications are A-levels or below

‘High-skilled employment’: Occupations which are classified under Standard Occupational Classification (SOC2010) System levels 1-3

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