

Moving On -2008

Pathways Taken by Young People Beyond 16



The Annual Activity
Survey

Moving On–2008

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Annual Activity Survey 2008

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Moving On–2008:

Pathways Taken by Young People Beyond 16

Annual Activity Survey 2008

1. Introduction

This report gives the results of the 2008 Annual Activity Survey, undertaken by Connexions services, which provides information about the early pathways taken by young people in England beyond their compulsory education.

Since 1996 the Department has required the reporting of activity data for former Year 11 pupils as part of its contract with the organisations providing careers and connexions services. For three years (1999 to 2001) this requirement was extended to include the status of the whole cohort of 17/18 year olds - those who completed Year 11 in the previous year. Since 2002 the Department has not required this information to be reported centrally, but many services have continued to collect this and other information locally.

This report therefore only covers Year 11 leavers in 2008.

The data from the Annual Activity Survey provides valuable information at both national and local level on the early transition of young people from compulsory education.

It can inform young people, their teachers, parents and advisers, and the research community of the early post-16 pathways taken by recent cohorts of young people. Many Connexions services publish their own local information and make it available to schools and a range of other local partners.

Gender and ethnic breakdowns are provided for the Year 11 data, as is progression information for those with special needs.

The occupational distribution of jobs and training chosen by young people at 16 is a useful source of information about the youth labour market.

2. Young People completing Year 11 in 2008: the National Picture

In the autumn of 2008, Connexions services sought to identify the activity of all young people who had completed Year 11 that year. The total figure, obtained from information from schools, local education authorities and other agencies, was 629,080. This represents 96% of the estimated population for this cohort.

Virtually all maintained schools, both mainstream and special, provide information on students and their addresses to connexions services. A proportion of independent schools also provide information, although in some, details are only available for pupils with whom the local service has had direct contact. Connexions services also have information on young people who are in Pupil Referral Units, hospital units and Young Offenders Institutions, as well as those who are educated at home.

Headline Figures

Table 1 shows the headline figures for 2008. The vast majority of young people completing Year 11 (90.4%) continued in full-time learning to develop their skills and abilities beyond their attainments at school. This figure comprises those still in full-time education, those in government supported training, and those in jobs with some structured training, some of which was government funded.

Connexions services were in contact with 98% of the Year 11 pupils known to them, leaving 14,927 young people unaccounted for. Of these, 5,520 (1% of the whole cohort) had moved out of a service's operational area and their status was not, or could not be, obtained. A further 200 refused to participate in the survey leaving around 7,000 who were believed to have remained in the operational area but did not respond to a range of follow-up approaches.

Around 6% of the cohort (just over 37,000) was known not to be engaged in **full-time** learning. Some of these were in employment without recognised training (1.6% of the cohort), and some (around 1%) were in part time education, employment or training. The majority however, over 5% of the cohort, were either not economically active (around 1% of these were looking after family or unable to work because of long term illness or pregnancy) or not in any formal activity. At least some of those in the 'No Response' category are also likely to be in these categories, so the total for those not in learning in Autumn 2007 could be as high as 38,000.

Table 1– Headline figures on the Activity status of young people completing Year 11 in 2007

in full time learning or work		In part time learning or work	Not settled	status not known		In contact
In full-time learning	Employment without planned training			Moved out of contact	No response	
90.4	1.6	0.8	5.1	0.9	1.2	98.0

3. Behind the headlines in 2008

Table 2 gives a more detailed picture of the status of the 2007/2008 Year 11 cohort. The shaded rows (with offset figures) are subsets of the rows immediately above.

Table 2 –Activity Status in Autumn 2008 of young people completing Year 11 in 2008

Activity status	Number	Percentage (%)
Full-time education	517,613	82.3%
Government supported training	35,763	5.7%
- training scheme funded by Government	19509	3.10%
- job, including training which is supported by Government funding	16254	2.58%
Employment outside Government supported training	25705	4.1%
- job, including planned training which is not supported by Government funding	15590	2.48%
- job without planned training	10115	1.61%
Not settled	37120	5.9%
- economically active but not in full-time education, training or employment	32630	5.2%
- not active in the labour market	4490	0.7%
Moved out of contact of Connexions/careers service	5520	0.9%
No response to follow-up	7166	1.2%
Refused to Participate	193	1.1%
TOTAL	629,080	100.0%

Note: Row totals may not correspond to the sum of the subcategories, nor the overall total to the sum of rows due to independent rounding effects

Participation in full-time learning

The 2008 statistics show an increase to 90.4% in the proportion of young people who remain committed to full-time learning five months after completion of compulsory schooling. This represents an increase of over 9 percentage points since 1996. This increase is in line with the Government's goal of raising participation and achievement, and may be partly related to 14 -19 reforms and to the national introduction of Education Maintenance Allowance which has been piloted in some areas since 1999. The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is paid directly to young people who stay on in further education after they reach statutory leaving age. Young people may also receive bonuses if they remain on their course and make good progress with their learning. Full-time learning includes education, training and employment where the latter includes structured, planned training, funded either by the government or by employers.

Young people who enter employment without formal training are gaining experience of work and acquiring some skills, and they are learning how to perform the tasks required by the job. However, they are not continuing with planned or quality learning which may develop transferable skills. Analytical work consistently shows that those with only basic skills and learning are likely to be disadvantaged in later life in terms of employment and earnings.

Regional differences in the proportions engaged in full-time learning are shown in Section 5, where it is clear that London has the largest percentage in this category (91.7) and Yorkshire & the Humber has the lowest (89.2%) although this in itself is 8 percentage points above the 1996 figure. Table 3 shows those regions with the lowest and highest percentages of young people in full-time learning. Table 4 presents the same information by Local Authority Area.

Table 3 –Regions with lowest and highest percentages in full-time learning

In full-time learning –	%
LONDON	91.7%
EAST OF ENGLAND	91.1%
EAST MIDLANDS	90.9%
ENGLAND	90.4%
WEST MIDLANDS	90.4%
SOUTH EAST	90.4%
NORTH WEST	90.2%
NORTH EAST	89.9%
SOUTH WEST	89.7%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	89.2%

Table 4 –Local Education Authority Areas with lowest and highest percentages in full-time learning

In full-time learning – highest figures	%
CITY OF LONDON	99.6%
RUTLAND	96.5%
HARROW	95.6%
NORTH SOMERSET	95.5%
EALING	95.5%
National	90.4%
In full-time learning – lowest figures	
HACKNEY	84.8%
NORTH YORKSHIRE	84.4%
BLACKPOOL	84.4%
SWINDON	84.3%
ISLES OF SCILLY	80.0%

Full-time Education

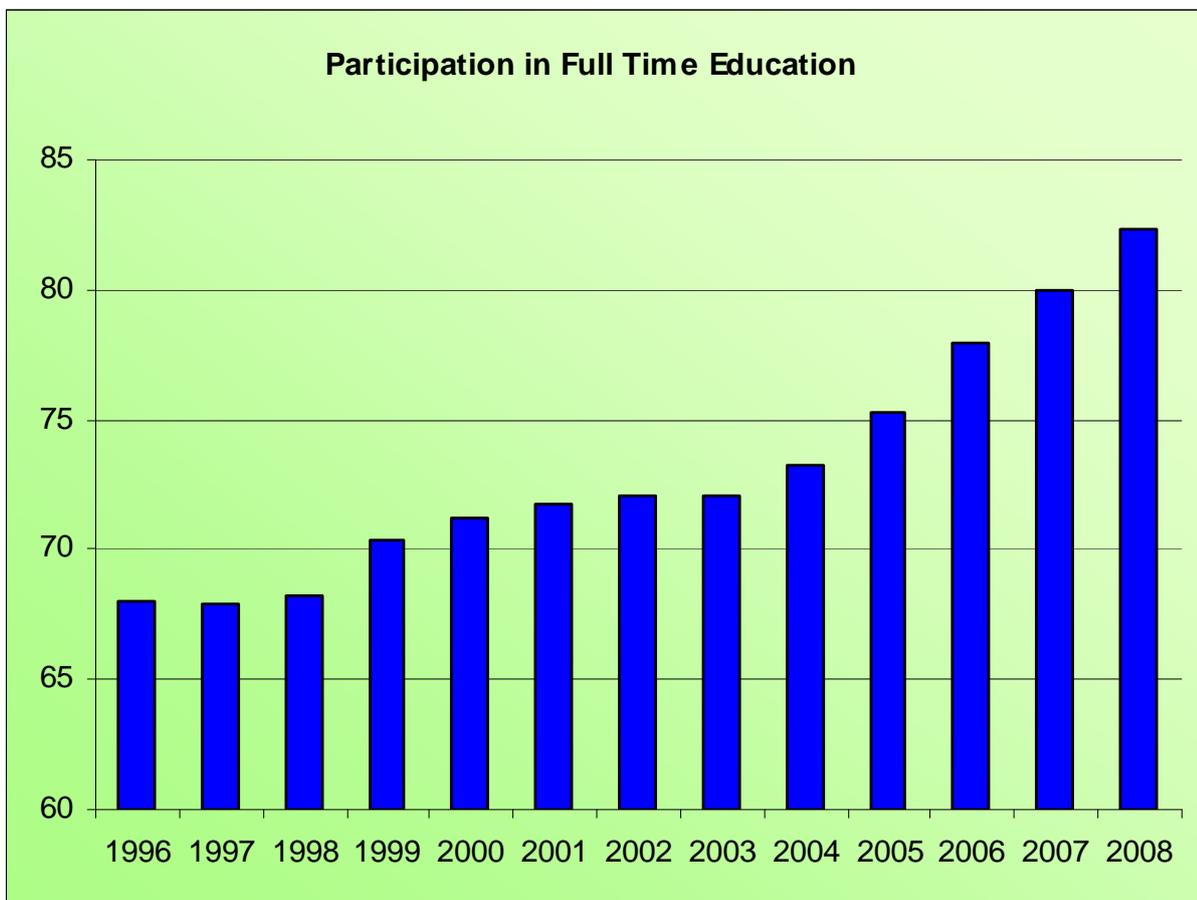
The 2008 Survey continues to show the high proportion of young people continuing in full-time education that we have seen in the last few years. The figure of 82 % in the 2008 survey is 2.0 percentage points higher than last year and 14 percentage points higher than the 1996 figure. All regions saw an increase in the number of young people in full-time education, generally continuing the recent pattern of regions with the lowest existing participation rates showing the most marked increases.

Whilst the national figure was 82.3%, the regional variation ranged from 78.0% in Yorkshire and the Humber to 87.8% in London, a significant rise on 2007. The local authority areas with the lowest and highest figures were Isles of Scilly with 72% and City of London at 99%, although both of these figures represent a significant increase on the 2007 data.

Many factors will have influenced local change, including the availability and marketing of appropriate post-16 education, the job and training options in the area, the positive effect on successes with Education Maintenance Allowances and the September guarantee; an offer, by the end of September, of a place in learning for all young people reaching school leaving age.

Chart 1 - Participation in Full Time Education since 1996

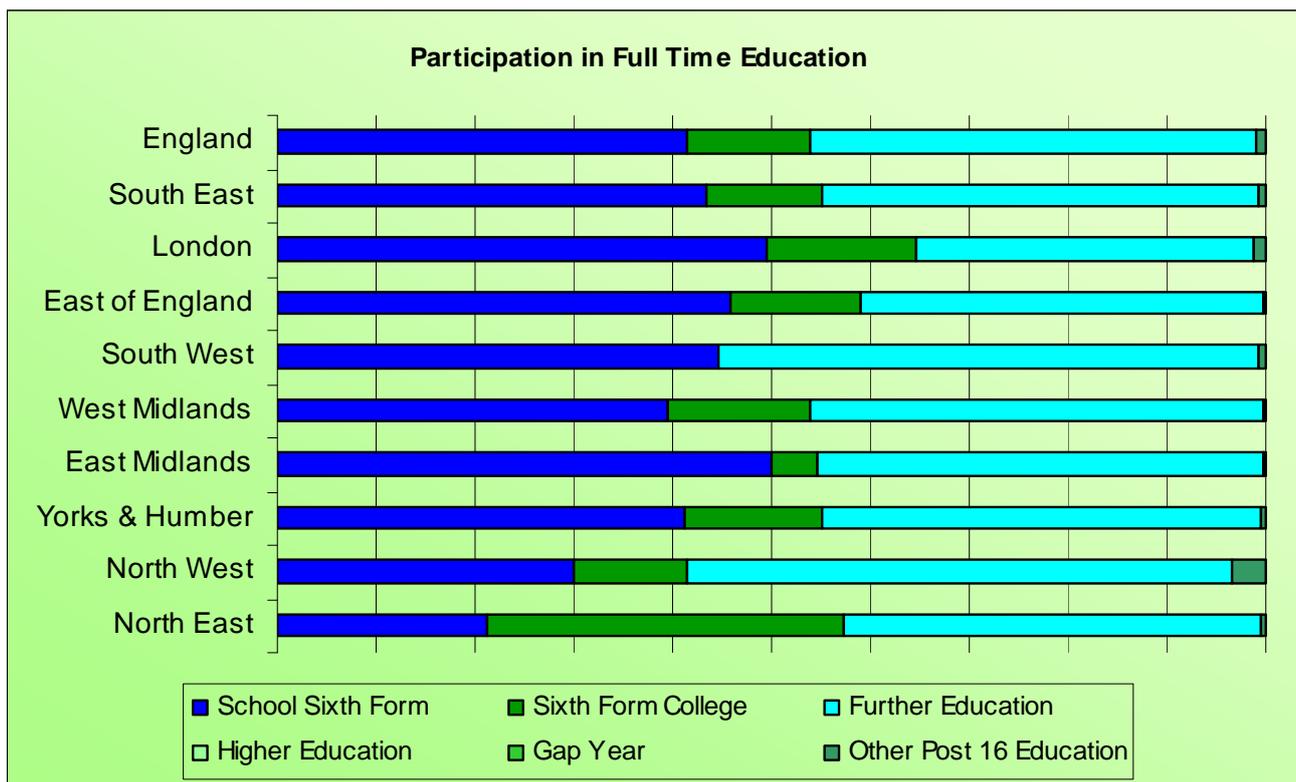
The following chart shows the rise in participation in full time education nationally, since 1996 from 68% to 82% in the 2008 survey.



The Survey no longer maintains the detail on information available about the level of course studied by young people. As in the 2007 survey we have analysed where young people are continuing their education

Chart 2 - Analysis of educational establishment by Region

The chart below shows a regional breakdown of educational establishment.



Government Supported Training

The trend of the proportion of young people participating in Government Supported Training (GST) has generally fallen over the years, apart from a slight increase from 5.6% in 2006 to 5.9% in 2007 falling to 5.7% in the 2008 survey. However this is significantly fewer than in 1996 when over 10% of the cohort was in GST. Overall in 2008 there were just under 36,000 young people (5.7 % of the cohort) either receiving training while employed (3.1%), or based at a training provider (2.6%).

There continues to be wide regional and local variation, as shown in Section 5. Generally speaking, there are higher levels of training in northern areas and lower rates in the south.

The lowest figure for 2007 was in city of London, with 0.4%, and the highest figure was 14.1%, in Middlesbrough..

Chart 3 – Participation in Government Supported Training

The chart below shows the general decline in numbers participating in GST from over 10% in 1996 to under 6% in 2006 although this trend halted in the 2007 survey with numbers increasing slightly for those with employed status.



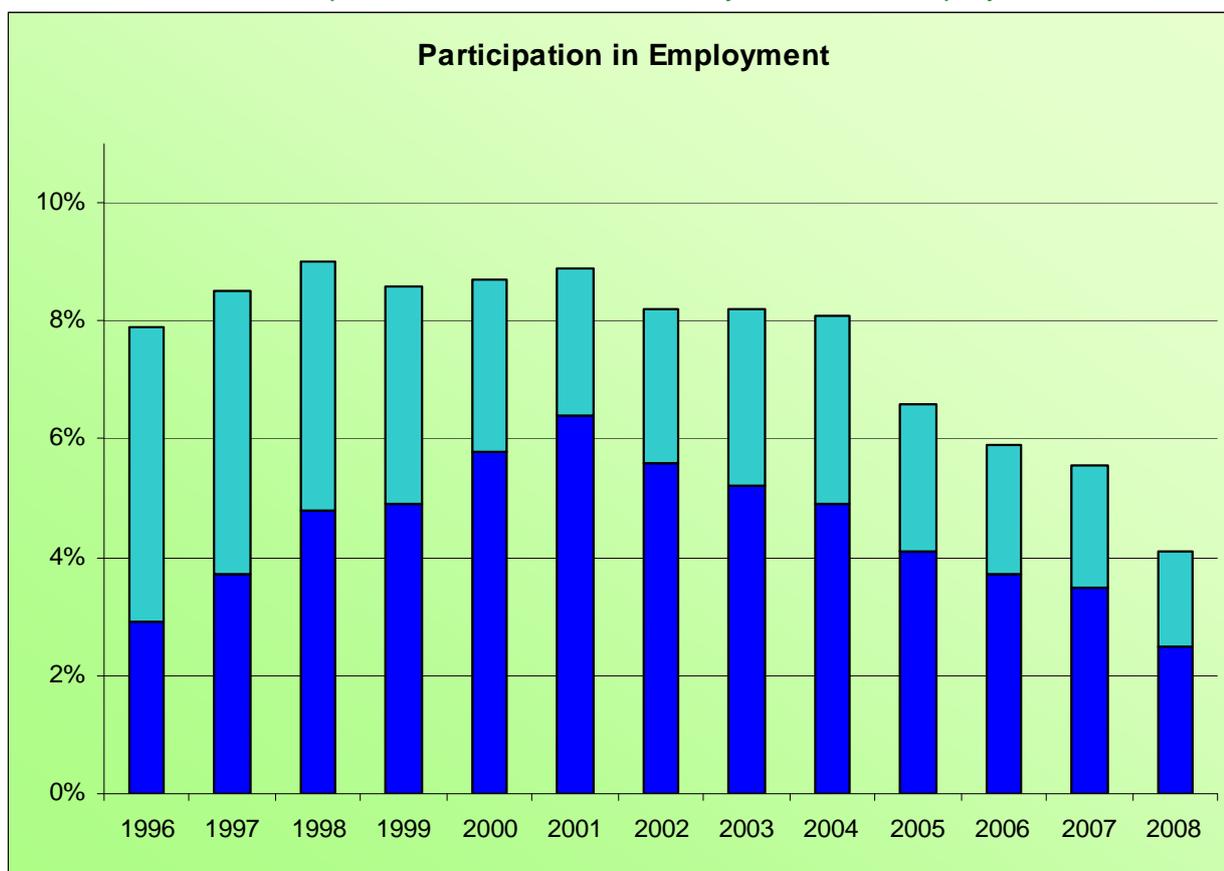
The 2008 survey shows that half of young people in Government Supported Training had solely training status, based at a provider (Table 5). This represents 3.1% of the total cohort, a slightly higher figure than last year, another 2.6% of the cohort had employed status whether on an Apprenticeship or through local LSC branded training provision.

Employment

The proportion of young people in employment had remained almost constant for the last decade with around 8% to 9% of those finishing compulsory education, however the figures for 2005 dropped to 6.6% (40,700), and figures for subsequent years have dropped even further with only 4.1% (26,000) of year 11 leavers being in employment in 2008. This is due mainly to more young people participating in learning, but it also reflects the difficulty young people have, particularly those with low or no qualifications, in finding sustainable employment

Chart 4 – Employment

This chart shows the rapid decline in number of 16 year olds in employment



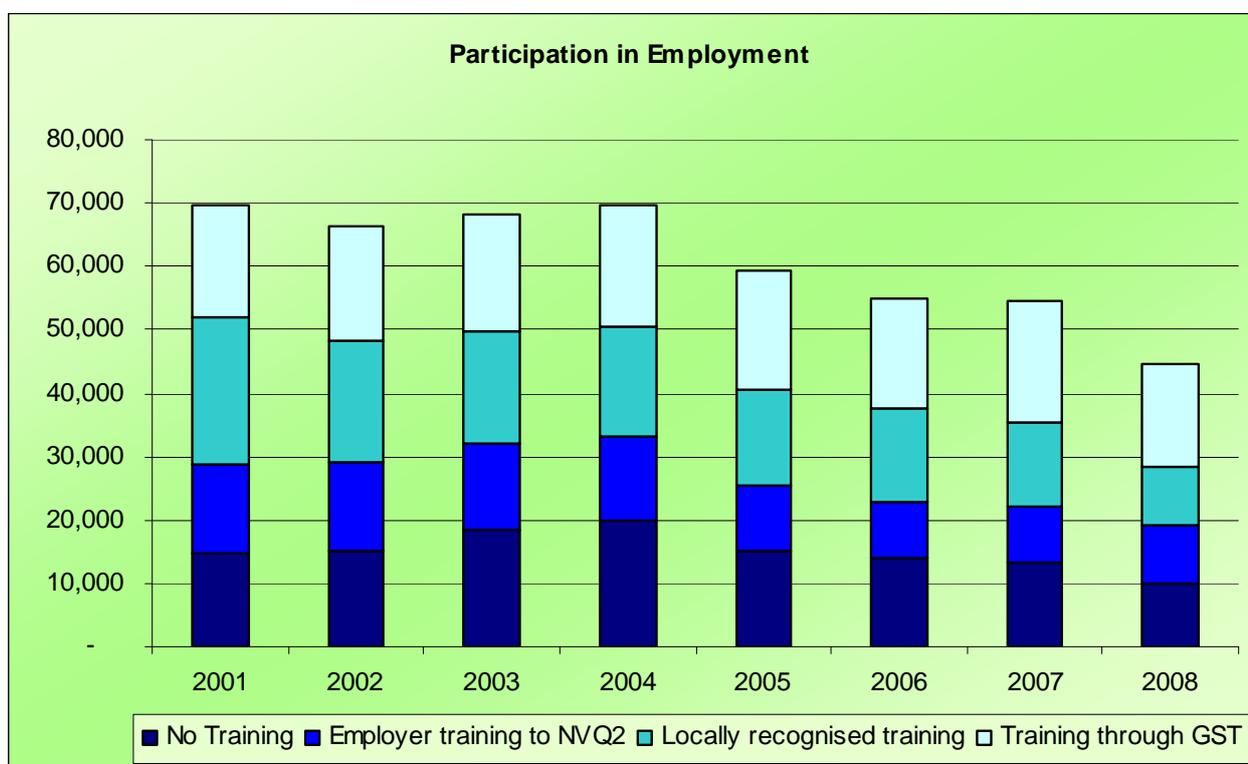
If we include those in government supported training as part of their job, the employment figure increases to around 7%.

Of those in employment (including GST) at the time of the Survey, 76% were in some form of planned and recognised training. Of those in jobs with planned training, around 50% were in jobs with training funded through Government supported training, an increase on previous years where employer funded training was the significantly higher category.

Training provided by the employer

Some young people receive planned training (usually leading to a qualification) in employment which is funded solely by the employer. Over recent years there has been a noticeable decrease in the numbers of young people so employed. In 2007, 63% of those in employment (3.5% of the cohort) were recorded as being in a job with such training. In 2008 this figure has fallen to 60% (2.5% of the cohort), the lowest ever recorded figure in the survey's history.

Chart 5 – Employment



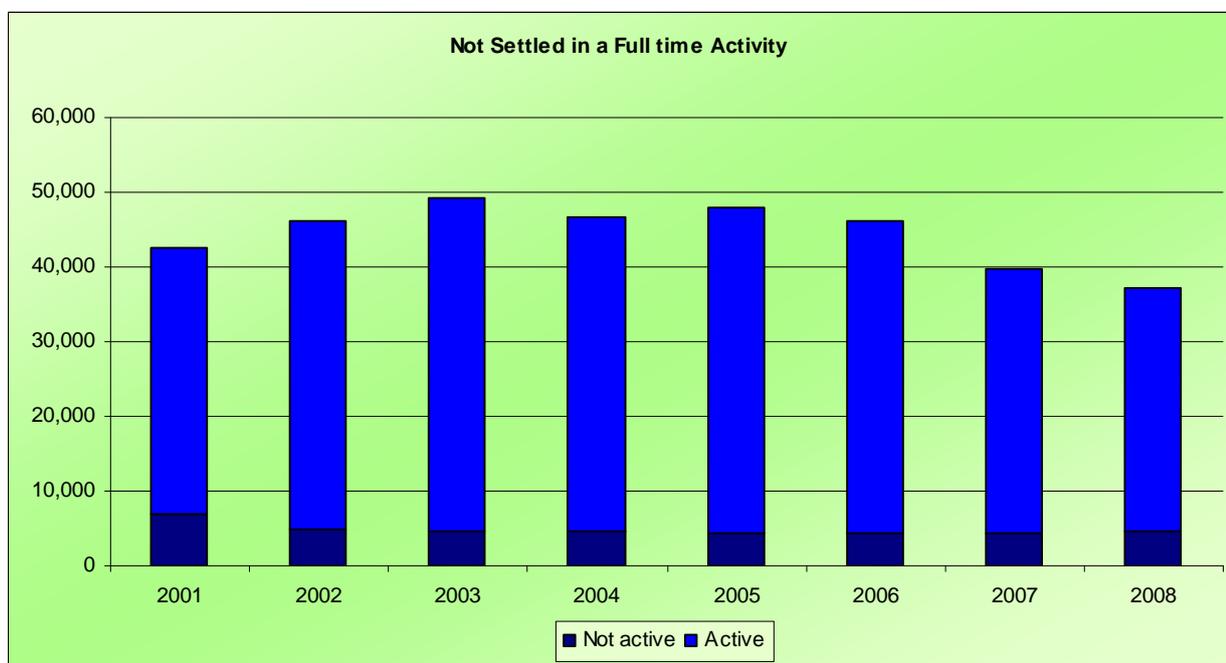
As in previous years, a note of caution is needed in relation to training which is locally recognised; the national definition of 'recognised training' allows individual services to work to their own interpretation of this guidance, in order to meet the needs of their own area.

Young people who were 'Not Settled in a full time activity' at the time of the Survey

There are just over 32,000 young people who were not settled in full-time education, training or employment. This represents 6% of the cohort, a significant drop on the 2003 figure of 8.1% and is more in keeping with the trends of the previous few years in showing a reduction in the numbers not settled in a **full time** activity. Although the size of this group remains a source of concern, the figure also reflects the success of Connexions services in maintaining contact with more young people in situations which previously may have led them to disappear from the official lists.

The halving of the 'No contact' figure over the past five years has contributed to a purely statistical effect of increasing those 'Not Settled'; the young people in question are simply now known to be out of learning or work.

Chart 6 - Not Settled



The 'Not Settled' group of young people can be divided into two main subgroups. Firstly there are those who are not economically active in the labour market. There are a variety of reasons for this, such as health problems, travelling abroad, being in custody or in having family circumstances that do not support full-time learning. Less than 1% of the national cohort falls into this subgroup, a continuing reduction on the last four years. The remainder of young people who are described as 'not settled in a full time activity' may be economically active outside the home, but they are not engaged in **full-time** work or learning. Of this group, 13% (5,000) were involved in part time employment, education or training activities. The remainder (27,000) were believed to be without formal work or learning. The nature of work in the informal economy, however, makes it difficult to identify those who may have casual or illegal employment. Information is not sought about how many of the 'Not Settled' group are waiting for a training placement or between jobs.

Activity status unknown

A striking finding in the Survey results over the last few years has been the fall in the number of young people who could not be contacted by their Connexions service. The 2008 survey gives a non-response figure of 1.2%, an all time low, compared to 4.2% in 1998. This shows that services have maintained their efforts to trace or retain contact with young people, using a variety of means (e.g. personal outreach and home visits, sustained telephone enquires using call centre technology, and requests to partner agencies). The survey can also identify those young people who have refused to participate in the Survey, rather than just recording them as not responding, this figure has also reduced to only 200 young people nationally.

There are still variations in the 'No Response' figures between services, for example LA areas Brighton & Hove; City Of London; Isles Of Scilly; Coventry; Rutland; St Helens; Stoke; West Berkshire have managed to stay in touch with all their school leavers. At the other end of the scale several authorities have a non response rate of over 4%. Waltham Forest 4.0%; Buckinghamshire 4.5%; Newcastle Upon Tyne 4.7%; Hackney 5.1%; North Yorkshire 9.1%;

Finally, just over 1% of the cohort is reported as having moved out of contact with their local Connexions service. This may be a move abroad or to somewhere else in the country. The range is from 0% in many areas to over 4% in Torbay, Peterborough and Wiltshire. Services are asked to continue to seek the activity status of young people if a new address within the UK is known.

Young people with additional needs

The definition adopted by Connexions and Careers services changed in 1999, following a Task Force examination of careers work with young people having additional needs. Those included have been identified by schools/LEAs in the course of the statementing process in special or mainstream schools, as having equivalent health or learning difficulties.

The group includes clients with:-

- physical disabilities, including complex and multiple disabilities;
- sensory impairments;
- brain injuries;
- moderate or severe learning difficulties;
- specific learning difficulties;
- mental health difficulties;
- other long-standing medical conditions that have a significant impact on daily life and which may have an effect on choice of opportunities e.g. epilepsy, severe arthritic conditions;
- emotional and behavioural difficulties that are of sufficient severity as to require (or have required during compulsory education) specialist educational provision.

Table 7 – The status of Year 11 completers with special needs compared with the whole cohort (%)

Activity status	Young people with special needs	All young people*	
Full-time education	70.4%	82.3%	
Government supported training	9.3%	5.7%	
- training scheme funded by Government		7.1%	3.1%
- job, including training which is supported by Government funding		2.2%	2.6%
Employment outside Government supported training	6.2%	4.1%	0.0%
- job, including planned training which is not supported by Government funding		3.3%	2.5%
- job without planned training		2.9%	1.6%
Not settled	11.8%	5.9%	
- economically active but not in full-time education, training or employment		10.2%	5.2%
- not active in the labour market		1.6%	0.7%
Moved out of contact of Connexions	1.0%	0.9%	0.0%
No response to follow-up	1.3%	1.2%	0
TOTAL	56226	629080	
In learning	83.0%	90.4%	

* these figures are for the total cohort including young people with special needs

Table 7 shows considerable differences between the early post-16 activities of young people with special needs compared with the whole cohort. For example, the proportion in full-time learning is only 83% for those with special needs, compared with 90% of all young people, although this gap has reduced compared to the 2007 figures.

Whilst there are significantly fewer in full-time education, there are more young people with special needs in all kinds of training and employment. The proportion for those in the 'Not settled' category is almost double that for the group as a whole the 'No Response' rate is slightly higher.

Information is available for over 7,000 young people with additional needs on the types of work and training they entered on leaving school.

This shows a concentration of the group in the most unskilled occupations and a significantly lower proportion in clerical, personal services and secretarial work.

4. Comparisons with previous years

Recent trends

Comparison of the full Activity Survey results for those completing Year 11 is now available for the last thirteen years, and is shown in Table 8.

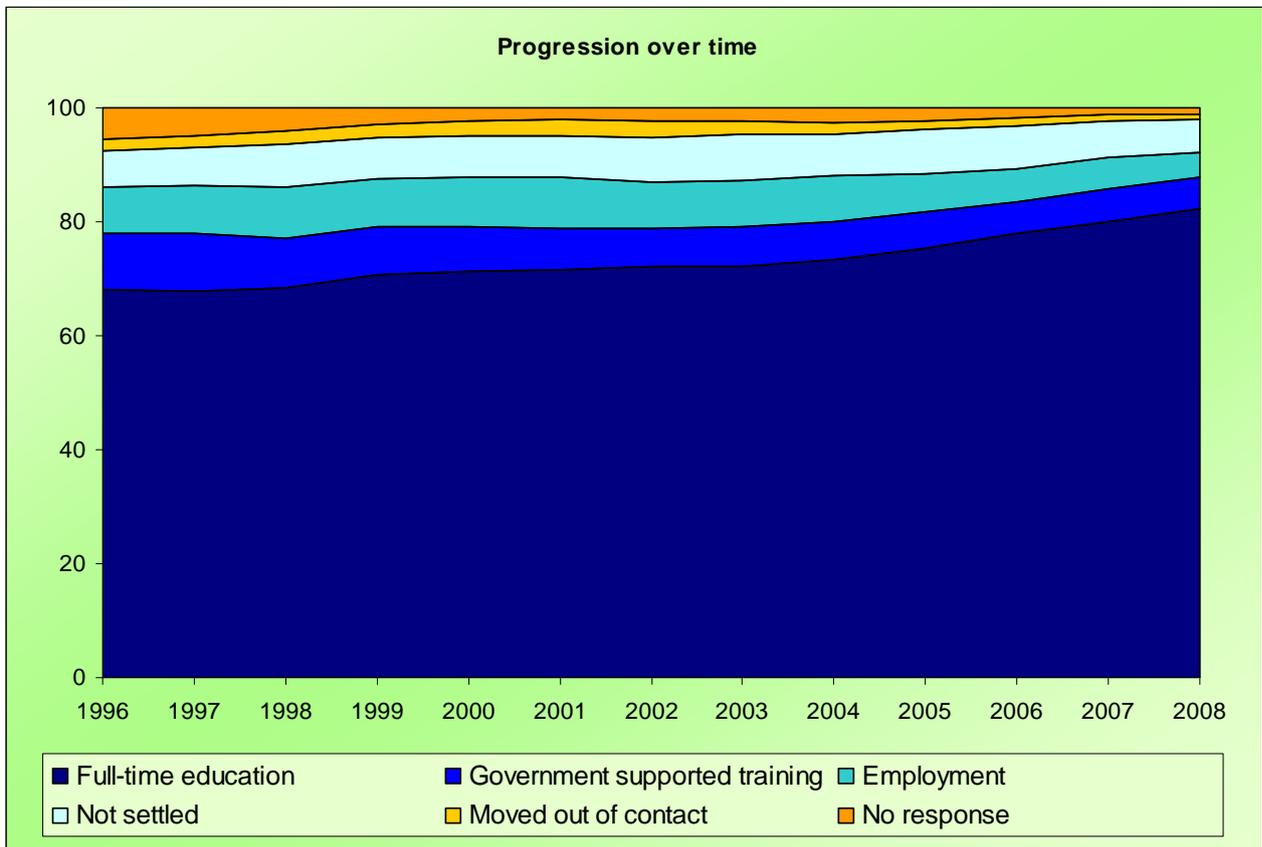
Table 8 – Comparison of activity status from Autumn 1996 to Autumn 2008 of young people completing Year 11

Activity status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Full-time education	68.0	67.9	68.5	70.6	71.3	71.7	72.1	72.1	73.3	75.3	77.9	80.0	82.3
Government supported training	10.1	10.0	8.7	8.4	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.9	5.7
- training scheme funded by Government	8.0	7.0	5.8	5.1	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1
- job, including training which is supported by Government funding	2.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.6
Employment outside Government supported training	7.9	8.5	9.0	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.1	6.6	5.9	5.6	4.1
- job, including planned training which is not supported by Government funding	2.9	3.7	4.8	4.9	5.8	6.4	5.6	5.2	4.9	4.1	3.7	3.5	2.5
- job without planned training	5.0	4.8	4.2	3.7	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.2	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.6
Not settled	6.5	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.8	8.1	7.5	7.8	7.3	6.2	5.9
- not active in the labour market	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
- economically active but not in full-time education, training or employment	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	7.0	7.3	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.5	5.2
Moved out of contact	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.1	0.9
No response to follow-up/ Refused to Participate	5.6	4.9	4.2	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.2
Total in Survey	562,107	561,307	553,269	563,877	570,279	582,886	592,329	608,771	625,998	619,153	629,091	636,046	629,080
of which in full time learning	81.0%	81.5%	82.0%	84.0%	84.8%	85.2%	84.4%	84.2%	84.9%	85.9%	87.2%	89.3%	90.4%

Note: Row totals may not correspond to the sum of the subcategories, nor the overall total to the sum of rows due to independent rounding effects

The information presented in Table 8 shows the following main points:

- a year on year increase in the number of young people continuing in full-time education with a significant rise in 2005 and 2006; as mentioned earlier this could reflect the national roll out of education maintenance allowance and 14-19 reforms.
- a general decline in the numbers relying on government supported training,
- a drop in the proportion of young people in employment
- an increase in the proportion 'Not Settled' in full-time education, training or employment due to services maintaining contact with, and therefore knowing the situation of those not in learning;
- the substantial fall, from 5.6% in 1996 to 1.5% of those not in contact with their Connexions\Careers service in the autumn after Year 11.



Longer term comparisons

The Annual Activity Survey continues the data series stretching back to the mid-1980s in the form of School Leaver Destination Surveys. These were previously conducted and published by the Careers Service on a voluntary basis. However, it is not possible to make exact comparisons with data earlier than that from 1996 because of changes introduced in 1996 with the first Activity Survey in terms of timing and definitions used.

A summary of the figures for England since 1991 is shown in Table 9. For ease of comparison, the Activity Survey data are presented here in the more limited set of categories contained in the published Destination reports.

Table 9 – Comparison over time: Destination Survey and Activity Survey data (%)

	Full-time education	Training supported by Government funding	Employment (including jobs with training outside GST)	Not in full-time education, training or employment	Activity/ destination not known, or left area	Number of young people on records
1991	60.7	14.7	10.3	8.7	5.6	522,829
1992	65.0	13.3	7.8	8.8	5.3	500,231
1993	68.0	12.5	6.9	6.3	6.4	481,141
1994	68.1	11.7	7.6	6.0	6.6	494,758
1995	67.6	10.5	8.0	6.7	7.2	540,658
1996*	68.0	10.1	7.9	6.5	7.6	562,107
1997	67.9	10.0	8.5	6.5	7.2	561,307
1998	68.5	8.7	9.0	7.2	6.5	553,269
1999	70.6	8.4	8.6	7.3	5.0	563,877
2000	71.3	7.7	8.7	7.3	4.9	570,279
2001	71.7	7.1	8.9	7.3	4.9	582,886
2002	72.1	6.7	8.2	7.8	5.2	592,329
2003	72.1	6.9	8.2	8.1	4.7	608,771
2004	73.3	6.6	8.1	7.5	4.5	625,998
2005	75.3	6.3	6.6	7.8	3.9	618,273
2006	77.9	5.6	5.9	7.3	3.2	630,558
2007	80.3	5.9	5.6	6.2	2.4	636,046
2008	82.3	5.7	4.1	5.9	2.1	629,080

* data from 1996 onward to a slightly different definition and methodology

5. Regional and local data for those completing Year 11 in 2008

Regional analysis

Table 10 shows data for each Government Office region against two of the priorities to increase post-16 participation rates in learning and contact/follow-up rates. The regions are arranged in a standard order adopted throughout the publication. However, there is a familiar geographical pattern, as reported in previous 'Moving On' reports and other statistical and research sources: southern areas have higher participation rates in learning (primarily through education rates) than northern areas. London region has the greatest proportion in learning (91.7%) and Yorkshire and the Humber the smallest (89.2%), but all figures show a marked improvement on all previous years' data.

As a crucial first step to increasing post-16 participation rates, Connexions services have been required to improve the follow-up and tracking of young people who might otherwise break contact. The last column of figures in Table 10 shows comparative percentages. The East Midlands leads the field, with the services in this region being in contact with nearly 99%% of young people on their lists. Services in London, still managed to remain in contact with almost 97% of their Year 11 completers even with a large mobile population as well as areas of social disadvantage, all areas report an improvement on the 2007 survey.

Table 10 – Headline regional data for those completing Year 11 in 2008

	In full-time learning	Not settled	In Contact
ENGLAND	90.4%	5.9%	98.0%
SOUTH EAST	90.4%	5.8%	97.8%
LONDON	91.7%	4.5%	96.9%
EAST OF ENGLAND	91.1%	5.9%	98.4%
SOUTH WEST	89.7%	5.2%	97.5%
WEST MIDLANDS	90.4%	6.0%	98.1%
EAST MIDLANDS	90.9%	5.7%	98.7%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	89.2%	6.6%	97.8%
NORTH WEST	90.2%	6.7%	98.4%
NORTH EAST	89.9%	7.3%	98.2%

Table 11 – Regional data for 2007 and 2008 of those completing Year 11 in that year (%)

Table 11 presents more detailed information for the nine regions. The figures for 2007 are shaded, and those for 2008 are in bold.

	Full-time education	GST Training	GST Employed	Employment		Not settled	Moved out of contact	No response
				with training	no Training			
SOUTH EAST	82.7%	1.1%	2.5%	3.5%	2.1%	5.6%	1.2%	1.3%
	84.2%	1.5%	2.2%	2.5%	1.6%	5.8%	0.9%	1.3%
LONDON	86.2%	1.7%	1.0%	1.6%	1.1%	5.1%	1.4%	2.1%
	87.8%	1.5%	1.2%	1.2%	0.7%	4.5%	1.1%	2.0%
EAST OF ENGLAND	81.0%	2.5%	1.7%	5.4%	1.8%	5.9%	0.8%	1.0%
	83.1%	2.6%	1.5%	3.9%	1.4%	5.9%	0.8%	0.8%
SOUTH WEST	79.9%	1.5%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%	5.4%	1.8%	1.4%
	82.3%	1.9%	3.1%	2.3%	2.7%	5.2%	1.8%	0.7%
WEST MIDLANDS	79.0%	4.2%	2.4%	3.4%	2.0%	6.8%	0.7%	1.5%
	81.4%	4.6%	2.0%	2.4%	1.7%	6.0%	0.8%	1.1%
EAST MIDLANDS	78.4%	3.3%	3.3%	4.3%	2.5%	6.4%	0.8%	1.0%
	81.7%	3.8%	2.9%	2.5%	2.1%	5.7%	0.4%	0.9%
YORKS & THE HUMBER	75.6%	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%	2.6%	7.0%	0.7%	1.4%
	78.0%	4.6%	4.0%	2.6%	1.9%	6.6%	0.6%	1.6%
NORTH WEST	77.3%	3.8%	4.8%	3.3%	2.1%	7.1%	0.9%	0.7%
	80.2%	3.7%	3.8%	2.6%	1.5%	6.7%	0.8%	0.8%
NORTH EAST	76.1%	5.6%	3.9%	3.1%	1.5%	7.8%	1.5%	0.7%
	78.4%	6.1%	3.0%	2.4%	1.0%	7.3%	0.4%	1.3%
ENGLAND	80.0%	2.9%	3.0%	3.5%	2.1%	6.2%	1.1%	1.3%
	82.3%	3.1%	2.6%	2.5%	1.6%	5.9%	0.9%	1.2%

The numbers of young people staying in full-time education have risen again in some Regions for the seventh year running; most noticeably in the East Midlands up by 3.4 percentage points, with smaller increases in all regions with London and the south East recording an increase of 1.5 percentage points.

The most significant increases were seen in Nottingham (6.7%) and Redcar (6.4%) whilst a small reduction was reported some areas, the most significant are North Lincolnshire (2.1%) and North Yorkshire (2.4%).

All regions saw an increase in young people engaged in non employed status government funded training programmes.

All regions show a further reduction in the number of young people entering employment - both into jobs with and without training.

Proportions in the 'Not Settled' group decreased on 2006, the best performance year on year was in the North East where the not settled figure is down by over 2.5%.

Services have continued to make good efforts to keep in contact with young people in all regions. There has again been a reduction in the number of young people not responding to the survey in most regions

Local Authority areas

The tables on the following pages set out the 2008 Activity Survey percentage figures for the areas covered by individual Connexions services grouped within Government Regional Office regions.

South East

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey-TOTAL	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
SOUTH EAST	84.2%	3.7%	1.5%	2.2%	4.1%	2.5%	1.6%	5.8%	5.0%	0.7%	0.9%	1.3%	97650	90.4%
Bracknell Forest	84.4%	3.5%	0.5%	2.9%	5.5%	2.8%	2.8%	5.8%	5.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	1123	90.7%
Brighton & Hove	84.4%	3.2%	1.3%	1.9%	4.3%	1.3%	3.0%	6.6%	6.0%	0.5%	1.6%	0.0%	2380	88.9%
Buckinghamshire	84.9%	2.7%	1.5%	1.2%	4.1%	2.9%	1.2%	3.8%	3.4%	0.4%	0.0%	4.5%	6266	90.5%
East Sussex	84.3%	3.1%	2.0%	1.1%	5.1%	1.5%	3.6%	5.8%	5.1%	0.8%	1.5%	0.2%	5684	88.9%
Hampshire	84.4%	3.8%	1.2%	2.6%	3.6%	2.4%	1.2%	5.4%	5.0%	0.4%	1.3%	1.4%	15093	90.6%
Isle of Wight	81.5%	6.4%	4.6%	1.7%	3.6%	1.9%	1.7%	6.5%	5.4%	1.0%	1.7%	0.3%	1726	89.7%
Kent	83.1%	4.6%	2.3%	2.4%	3.6%	2.4%	1.2%	6.3%	5.1%	1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	18677	90.2%
Medway	80.3%	5.1%	3.5%	1.7%	3.2%	2.1%	1.0%	8.0%	7.3%	0.7%	0.4%	3.0%	3677	87.5%
Milton Keynes	83.9%	2.8%	1.4%	1.5%	4.4%	4.1%	0.3%	5.8%	5.2%	0.6%	0.1%	3.1%	2949	90.8%
Oxfordshire	82.0%	4.5%	0.9%	3.6%	5.9%	2.3%	3.7%	6.8%	5.6%	1.2%	0.3%	0.4%	7124	88.7%
Portsmouth	80.0%	3.8%	1.5%	2.3%	4.2%	2.8%	1.4%	8.9%	7.9%	1.0%	2.5%	0.6%	2165	86.6%
Reading	78.1%	4.5%	2.6%	1.9%	5.2%	2.2%	2.9%	10.6%	9.3%	1.3%	1.5%	0.2%	1067	84.8%
Slough	90.7%	2.5%	0.9%	1.6%	2.6%	1.1%	1.5%	3.4%	2.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.1%	1628	94.3%
Southampton	82.5%	4.2%	1.3%	2.8%	2.7%	1.6%	1.0%	8.8%	7.7%	1.1%	1.2%	0.7%	2519	88.3%
Surrey	87.7%	2.5%	0.8%	1.7%	4.2%	3.4%	0.8%	4.3%	3.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	11123	93.6%
West Berkshire	81.3%	3.6%	1.1%	2.5%	6.3%	2.7%	3.6%	7.8%	7.5%	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	2149	87.6%
West Sussex	86.0%	2.9%	0.6%	2.3%	4.0%	2.8%	1.2%	4.4%	3.9%	0.5%	1.3%	1.3%	8775	91.8%
Windsor & Maidenhead	88.3%	1.6%	0.4%	1.2%	4.8%	2.7%	2.1%	4.0%	3.5%	0.5%	0.9%	0.4%	1636	92.6%
Wokingham	85.9%	4.4%	1.1%	3.3%	3.3%	2.4%	0.8%	5.2%	4.9%	0.3%	1.1%	0.1%	1889	92.7%

London

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
LONDON	87.8%	2.7%	1.5%	1.2%	1.9%	1.2%	0.7%	4.5%	3.8%	0.7%	1.1%	2.0%	81,954	91.7%
Barking & Dagenham	79.6%	6.3%	4.0%	2.3%	3.3%	2.9%	0.3%	7.5%	6.4%	1.1%	0.7%	2.6%	2,355	88.8%
Barnet	90.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.2%	1.8%	1.6%	0.2%	3.4%	2.8%	0.6%	1.3%	1.9%	3,709	93.2%
Bexley	85.3%	4.2%	0.8%	3.4%	2.9%	1.9%	1.0%	4.5%	3.5%	0.9%	1.4%	1.7%	3,500	91.4%
Brent	93.8%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	1.9%	1.5%	0.3%	0.4%	2.5%	2,896	95.0%
Bromley	86.4%	3.8%	0.7%	3.1%	2.8%	2.1%	0.8%	4.9%	4.1%	0.8%	0.3%	1.8%	3,860	92.3%
Camden	85.8%	3.3%	2.4%	0.9%	1.4%	0.8%	0.6%	6.5%	5.8%	0.7%	0.8%	2.3%	1,599	89.8%
City of London	99.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	256	99.6%
Croydon	84.1%	2.8%	1.2%	1.6%	2.9%	2.5%	0.3%	6.5%	5.7%	0.8%	1.9%	1.9%	4,177	89.4%
Ealing	92.7%	1.8%	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	3.1%	2.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%	3,012	95.5%
Enfield	88.2%	1.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.4%	0.6%	0.8%	3.9%	3.1%	0.8%	1.1%	3.6%	4,096	90.6%
Greenwich	86.0%	2.4%	0.9%	1.5%	3.1%	1.5%	1.6%	5.5%	4.6%	0.9%	0.7%	2.3%	2,778	89.9%
Hackney	82.0%	1.8%	1.5%	0.4%	1.3%	1.0%	0.3%	6.7%	5.1%	1.6%	3.2%	5.1%	1,413	84.8%
Hammersmith & Fulham	91.7%	1.6%	1.0%	0.5%	1.5%	0.5%	0.9%	5.0%	4.4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%	1,275	93.8%
Haringey	88.2%	2.1%	1.7%	0.4%	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	4.0%	3.7%	0.4%	0.8%	3.8%	2,323	90.7%
Harrow	93.5%	1.5%	0.5%	1.0%	1.3%	0.6%	0.7%	2.1%	1.7%	0.4%	0.3%	1.4%	2,367	95.6%
Havering	85.4%	3.7%	1.7%	2.1%	3.5%	1.8%	1.8%	5.5%	5.1%	0.4%	0.4%	1.5%	3,135	90.8%
Hillingdon	86.6%	3.5%	0.7%	2.8%	3.2%	1.7%	1.6%	5.7%	5.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	3,146	91.8%
Hounslow	89.6%	3.0%	1.8%	1.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.7%	3.9%	3.4%	0.5%	0.3%	2.0%	2,739	93.1%
Islington	86.9%	3.2%	1.9%	1.3%	1.5%	1.1%	0.5%	7.8%	6.7%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	1,517	91.2%
Kensington & Chelsea	86.3%	1.4%	0.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.5%	0.8%	7.5%	7.2%	0.3%	0.6%	2.9%	628	88.2%
Kingston-Upon-Thames	90.0%	2.6%	1.6%	1.0%	2.2%	1.8%	0.4%	3.7%	3.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	1,554	94.4%
Lambeth	92.2%	1.0%	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	4.3%	3.2%	1.0%	0.6%	1.3%	1,831	93.4%
Lewisham	89.8%	1.5%	0.9%	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	3.9%	3.0%	0.8%	1.5%	2.5%	2,752	91.9%

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	<i>Non employed status</i>	<i>Employed status</i>	Total	<i>With training</i>	<i>Without training</i>	Total	Active	Not Active				
Merton	87.4%	2.6%	1.8%	0.9%	2.8%	1.8%	0.9%	5.7%	3.6%	2.0%	0.7%	0.7%	1,625	91.9%
Newham	87.1%	2.9%	2.7%	0.2%	1.0%	0.3%	0.7%	4.2%	3.2%	0.9%	2.1%	2.8%	3,798	90.3%
Redbridge	90.3%	1.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	2.9%	2.1%	0.8%	2.6%	0.8%	3,439	93.2%
Richmond-on-Thames	89.1%	3.0%	1.7%	1.3%	2.7%	1.6%	1.1%	3.4%	2.7%	0.7%	0.7%	1.2%	1,472	93.7%
Southwark	86.7%	3.2%	2.7%	0.5%	1.4%	0.5%	0.9%	5.0%	4.1%	0.9%	2.2%	1.4%	2,806	90.5%
Sutton	89.7%	2.9%	1.3%	1.6%	2.4%	1.9%	0.5%	3.3%	3.2%	0.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2,648	94.5%
Tower Hamlets	83.7%	4.6%	4.1%	0.5%	1.7%	0.5%	1.2%	4.7%	3.9%	0.8%	1.4%	3.9%	2,858	88.8%
Waltham Forest	83.0%	3.4%	2.3%	1.1%	2.7%	2.5%	0.2%	4.5%	4.0%	0.5%	2.4%	4.0%	2,840	88.8%
Wandsworth	89.0%	1.5%	1.4%	0.1%	1.5%	0.8%	0.7%	5.5%	4.9%	0.6%	1.0%	1.5%	2,132	91.2%
City of Westminster	90.1%	1.6%	1.4%	0.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.6%	4.0%	3.5%	0.5%	0.6%	2.9%	1,418	91.9%

Eastern

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
EAST OF ENGLAND	83.1%	4.1%	2.6%	1.5%	5.3%	3.9%	1.4%	5.9%	5.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	68,877	91.1%
Bedfordshire	85.7%	3.4%	2.6%	0.8%	3.8%	0.6%	3.2%	5.4%	4.9%	0.6%	0.4%	1.1%	4,988	89.8%
Cambridgeshire	85.5%	3.5%	1.9%	1.6%	4.8%	3.3%	1.5%	4.4%	3.9%	0.4%	1.7%	0.1%	6,056	92.4%
Essex	81.3%	3.6%	2.7%	0.9%	7.6%	6.8%	0.8%	6.6%	6.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%	17,321	91.7%
Hertfordshire	86.0%	3.1%	1.4%	1.7%	3.6%	2.8%	0.8%	4.4%	3.8%	0.6%	1.6%	1.2%	13,761	91.9%
Luton	88.2%	3.3%	2.2%	1.1%	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	4.1%	3.6%	0.5%	0.4%	2.0%	2,521	91.6%
Norfolk	80.6%	5.7%	4.0%	1.8%	6.2%	4.4%	1.8%	6.6%	5.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	9,351	90.8%
Peterborough	76.9%	6.6%	4.8%	1.8%	4.2%	2.2%	2.0%	8.5%	7.5%	1.0%	3.7%	0.1%	2,324	85.8%
Southend-on-Sea	83.9%	4.1%	3.5%	0.6%	4.8%	4.5%	0.3%	6.2%	5.3%	0.9%	0.0%	1.0%	2,313	92.6%
Suffolk	82.3%	5.1%	2.2%	2.9%	4.1%	2.2%	1.9%	7.2%	6.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.3%	8,461	89.6%
Thurrock	79.2%	5.4%	4.2%	1.2%	6.9%	5.7%	1.2%	7.7%	7.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%	1,781	90.2%

South West

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
SOUTH WEST	82.3%	5.0%	1.9%	3.1%	5.0%	2.3%	2.7%	5.2%	4.6%	0.6%	1.8%	0.7%	61,299	89.7%
Bath & North East Somerset	88.6%	3.1%	1.4%	1.7%	4.6%	3.8%	0.8%	3.1%	2.9%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	2,372	95.4%
Bournemouth	79.0%	6.3%	2.0%	4.3%	4.7%	2.7%	2.0%	7.8%	6.8%	1.0%	1.8%	0.5%	1,825	87.9%
Bristol	78.0%	7.1%	4.3%	2.8%	5.1%	3.2%	1.9%	7.9%	7.3%	0.6%	0.8%	1.1%	3,453	88.3%
Cornwall	83.1%	4.3%	2.1%	2.2%	4.6%	1.2%	3.4%	4.4%	3.8%	0.6%	3.1%	0.5%	6,701	88.6%
Devon	80.9%	4.2%	1.3%	2.9%	6.7%	2.8%	3.9%	5.3%	4.7%	0.6%	2.4%	0.4%	8,580	88.0%
Dorset	81.1%	7.0%	2.6%	4.4%	5.1%	2.8%	2.4%	5.3%	4.5%	0.8%	1.1%	0.3%	4,630	90.9%
Gloucestershire	83.9%	5.2%	2.4%	2.8%	4.3%	2.5%	1.8%	4.2%	3.8%	0.4%	1.1%	1.3%	7,202	91.7%
Isles of Scilly	72.0%	8.0%	0.0%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	25	80.0%
North Somerset	87.9%	3.6%	1.0%	2.6%	4.8%	3.9%	0.8%	2.9%	2.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	2,414	95.5%
Plymouth	80.4%	8.1%	2.7%	5.4%	3.9%	0.9%	3.1%	5.2%	4.6%	0.6%	2.1%	0.2%	3,393	89.4%
Poole	81.0%	5.4%	1.9%	3.5%	6.3%	4.3%	2.1%	5.1%	4.5%	0.6%	1.6%	0.6%	1,750	90.7%
Somerset	83.1%	6.2%	0.8%	5.4%	4.8%	1.5%	3.4%	4.9%	4.2%	0.6%	0.0%	1.0%	5,958	90.8%
South Gloucestershire	83.2%	5.3%	1.5%	3.8%	6.2%	4.8%	1.5%	4.5%	3.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	3,238	93.3%
Swindon	81.9%	1.7%	0.7%	1.0%	3.9%	0.7%	3.2%	7.8%	7.0%	0.8%	3.0%	1.6%	2,435	84.3%
Torbay	82.3%	3.9%	2.6%	1.2%	4.5%	1.3%	3.2%	5.6%	4.6%	1.1%	3.3%	0.4%	1,775	87.4%
Wiltshire	81.9%	3.5%	1.7%	1.8%	4.2%	1.0%	3.2%	5.6%	5.1%	0.5%	4.4%	0.5%	5,548	86.4%

West Midlands

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
WEST MIDLANDS	81.4%	6.5%	4.6%	2.0%	4.1%	2.4%	1.7%	6.0%	5.3%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	70,939	90.4%
Birmingham	81.6%	4.7%	3.7%	1.1%	2.0%	1.5%	0.4%	7.5%	6.6%	0.9%	1.2%	3.1%	14,134	87.8%
Coventry	83.4%	7.5%	4.5%	3.1%	4.2%	4.1%	0.1%	4.4%	3.6%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	4,051	95.1%
Dudley	80.4%	5.9%	4.8%	1.1%	6.0%	2.3%	3.7%	6.1%	5.1%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	4,328	88.6%
Herefordshire	80.3%	6.2%	3.1%	3.2%	7.1%	3.2%	3.9%	5.7%	4.9%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	2,097	89.7%
Sandwell	77.6%	8.6%	8.1%	0.4%	4.5%	2.1%	2.4%	7.3%	6.5%	0.8%	0.7%	1.4%	3,946	88.2%
Shropshire	81.5%	6.5%	5.2%	1.3%	5.5%	2.6%	2.9%	5.0%	4.6%	0.4%	1.2%	0.3%	3,407	90.5%
Solihull	84.4%	4.4%	1.7%	2.7%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%	6.8%	6.3%	0.5%	0.0%	1.0%	2,591	91.2%
Staffordshire	82.1%	8.2%	4.1%	4.1%	3.6%	2.1%	1.5%	5.2%	4.7%	0.5%	0.9%	0.1%	10,746	92.3%
Stoke on Trent	73.0%	13.7%	9.1%	4.6%	4.1%	1.9%	2.3%	8.1%	7.4%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	2,877	88.6%
Telford & Wrekin	78.4%	8.9%	7.3%	1.6%	3.0%	0.7%	2.3%	6.3%	5.4%	0.9%	0.2%	3.1%	2,272	88.0%
Walsall	79.8%	8.1%	7.2%	1.0%	3.4%	1.3%	2.1%	6.6%	5.7%	0.9%	0.8%	1.2%	4,092	89.3%
Warwickshire	83.4%	5.5%	2.8%	2.7%	6.2%	6.0%	0.2%	4.4%	3.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	6,642	94.8%
Wolverhampton	81.8%	5.3%	4.9%	0.4%	2.9%	0.7%	2.2%	6.7%	5.9%	0.9%	1.9%	1.5%	3,149	87.7%
Worcestershire	84.4%	4.1%	3.3%	0.8%	5.9%	2.9%	3.0%	4.9%	4.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	6,607	91.5%

East Midlands

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	<i>Non employed status</i>	<i>Employed status</i>	Total	<i>With training</i>	<i>Without training</i>	Total	Active	Not Active				
EAST MIDLANDS	81.7%	6.7%	3.8%	2.9%	4.6%	2.5%	2.1%	5.7%	5.1%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%	55,531	90.9%
Derby City	75.0%	12.2%	7.8%	4.4%	4.4%	0.9%	3.6%	6.6%	5.4%	1.2%	0.2%	1.5%	3,292	88.1%
Derbyshire	78.9%	8.3%	4.3%	4.0%	5.3%	1.8%	3.4%	6.4%	5.8%	0.6%	0.1%	1.0%	9,627	89.0%
Leicester City	83.9%	5.1%	4.9%	0.2%	2.6%	0.7%	1.9%	6.9%	6.1%	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%	3,772	89.7%
Leicestershire	85.3%	4.5%	3.0%	1.5%	4.7%	2.3%	2.4%	4.4%	4.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.8%	8,183	92.1%
Lincolnshire	84.1%	5.1%	2.2%	3.0%	4.8%	3.1%	1.6%	4.6%	4.1%	0.5%	1.2%	0.1%	9,049	92.4%
Northamptonshire	82.9%	4.9%	2.1%	2.8%	4.2%	2.6%	1.6%	7.3%	6.7%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	8,540	90.4%
Nottingham	81.2%	7.4%	5.1%	2.4%	2.6%	1.8%	0.7%	6.0%	4.4%	1.6%	0.5%	2.3%	3,908	90.5%
Nottinghamshire	79.4%	8.8%	4.8%	4.0%	5.6%	4.1%	1.4%	5.0%	4.3%	0.6%	0.0%	1.2%	8,676	92.4%
Rutland	85.1%	4.8%	1.4%	3.3%	7.4%	6.6%	0.8%	2.7%	2.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	484	96.5%

Yorkshire & The Humber

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
YORKS & THE HUMBER	78.0%	8.6%	4.6%	4.0%	4.6%	2.6%	1.9%	6.6%	5.7%	0.9%	0.6%	1.6%	65,224	78.0%
Barnsley	73.4%	13.1%	6.7%	6.4%	4.5%	1.8%	2.8%	7.3%	6.0%	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%	2,972	73.4%
Bradford	77.9%	7.9%	4.8%	3.1%	3.4%	1.6%	1.8%	8.0%	7.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	6,336	77.9%
Calderdale	80.3%	8.3%	5.4%	2.9%	4.8%	2.7%	2.1%	6.0%	5.3%	0.7%	0.1%	0.5%	2,852	80.3%
Doncaster	74.0%	11.9%	5.1%	6.8%	4.8%	2.4%	2.4%	6.7%	6.0%	0.7%	1.9%	0.6%	4,025	74.0%
East Riding	82.4%	8.1%	3.1%	5.0%	4.4%	2.4%	2.0%	3.6%	3.1%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	4,325	82.4%
Kingston upon Hull	73.6%	12.9%	9.5%	3.4%	3.3%	1.9%	1.4%	8.9%	7.6%	1.3%	0.3%	1.0%	3,343	73.6%
Kirklees	76.7%	10.4%	6.9%	3.5%	4.7%	2.6%	2.1%	7.3%	6.1%	1.2%	0.1%	0.8%	5,211	76.7%
Leeds	80.5%	6.4%	3.4%	3.1%	4.4%	3.1%	1.2%	7.7%	6.6%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%	8,622	80.5%
N E Lincolnshire	84.5%	6.1%	1.8%	4.4%	3.5%	0.6%	3.0%	4.7%	3.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	2,294	84.5%
North Lincolnshire	82.5%	7.6%	2.4%	5.3%	3.9%	2.7%	1.2%	5.5%	4.7%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	2,223	82.5%
North Yorkshire	76.9%	5.0%	2.1%	2.9%	5.6%	2.5%	3.1%	3.3%	2.7%	0.6%	0.1%	9.1%	6,110	76.9%
Rotherham	76.7%	10.5%	5.0%	5.5%	4.7%	3.1%	1.6%	6.7%	5.7%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	3,901	76.7%
Sheffield	75.5%	12.0%	6.2%	5.9%	4.7%	3.0%	1.7%	6.4%	5.4%	1.0%	0.5%	0.8%	6,008	75.5%
Wakefield	75.7%	5.5%	3.9%	1.6%	7.1%	4.9%	2.3%	10.4%	9.7%	0.8%	0.1%	1.2%	4,484	75.7%
York	85.0%	4.3%	1.4%	2.9%	3.3%	2.6%	0.8%	4.7%	4.2%	0.5%	0.1%	2.5%	2,518	85.0%

North West

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
NORTH WEST	80.2%	7.5%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	2.6%	1.5%	6.7%	6.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	93,645	90.2%
Blackburn	79.5%	8.3%	4.4%	3.9%	3.3%	1.9%	1.4%	7.0%	5.8%	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%	2,157	89.8%
Blackpool	73.2%	8.0%	2.9%	5.0%	5.4%	3.2%	2.3%	10.1%	8.9%	1.3%	1.0%	2.2%	1,983	84.4%
Bolton	79.4%	8.2%	4.3%	3.9%	3.6%	1.2%	2.4%	6.7%	6.0%	0.7%	0.2%	1.9%	4,040	88.8%
Bury	82.1%	5.1%	2.6%	2.5%	4.1%	2.5%	1.6%	8.1%	7.1%	0.9%	0.5%	0.1%	2,687	89.8%
Cheshire	83.5%	4.5%	1.9%	2.6%	5.5%	3.9%	1.6%	5.2%	4.6%	0.6%	1.2%	0.1%	9,324	91.9%
Cumbria	77.6%	10.1%	3.1%	7.0%	5.0%	3.4%	1.6%	4.8%	4.2%	0.5%	1.2%	1.3%	6,774	91.1%
Halton	79.6%	7.9%	5.2%	2.7%	3.4%	1.4%	1.9%	8.5%	7.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%	1,665	88.9%
Knowsley	73.2%	12.5%	9.4%	3.1%	5.1%	3.9%	1.2%	8.3%	7.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	1,969	89.6%
Lancashire	79.4%	7.6%	2.8%	4.8%	4.3%	2.7%	1.6%	6.5%	5.9%	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%	15,275	89.7%
Liverpool	78.2%	9.7%	6.0%	3.7%	3.0%	1.8%	1.2%	7.1%	6.8%	0.3%	0.7%	1.3%	5,864	89.7%
Manchester	82.1%	4.4%	2.6%	1.8%	2.9%	2.0%	0.9%	7.7%	6.8%	1.0%	1.2%	1.7%	5,220	88.4%
Oldham	83.4%	7.4%	4.5%	3.0%	2.7%	0.6%	2.1%	5.6%	5.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	3,432	91.4%
Rochdale	80.8%	6.7%	3.3%	3.4%	4.8%	4.0%	0.8%	6.5%	5.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.3%	2,845	91.5%
Salford	75.0%	9.2%	5.7%	3.5%	5.4%	5.0%	0.4%	9.3%	8.2%	1.1%	0.2%	0.9%	2,640	89.1%
Sefton	84.1%	6.9%	4.2%	2.6%	3.0%	1.8%	1.2%	5.5%	5.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	3,781	92.8%
St Helens	80.2%	10.6%	8.0%	2.6%	3.1%	1.5%	1.6%	5.7%	5.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.0%	2,315	92.3%
Stockport	81.2%	6.4%	2.7%	3.6%	4.3%	2.3%	2.0%	7.1%	6.9%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	3,826	89.9%
Tameside	79.7%	6.6%	3.2%	3.4%	4.5%	2.4%	2.1%	7.8%	6.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	3,255	88.7%
Trafford	88.4%	4.1%	0.8%	3.3%	2.1%	1.2%	0.9%	4.7%	4.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	3,155	93.7%
Warrington	81.2%	6.0%	3.1%	3.0%	6.0%	4.0%	2.0%	5.5%	5.1%	0.5%	1.0%	0.2%	2,630	91.3%
Wigan	75.3%	10.0%	5.1%	4.9%	3.9%	2.6%	1.2%	9.7%	9.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	4,382	88.0%
Wirral	80.9%	9.2%	5.5%	3.7%	3.2%	1.6%	1.6%	6.1%	5.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	4,426	91.7%

North East

	Full time education	Government supported training			Employment			Not settled			Moved out of contact	No response	Survey Total	In Learning
		Total	Non employed status	Employed status	Total	With training	Without training	Total	Active	Not Active				
NORTH EAST	78.4%	9.1%	6.1%	3.0%	3.4%	2.4%	1.0%	7.3%	6.4%	0.9%	0.4%	1.3%	33,961	89.9%
County Durham	78.7%	8.7%	4.7%	4.0%	3.3%	1.2%	2.2%	7.8%	7.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	6,573	88.5%
Darlington	78.2%	9.6%	6.3%	3.3%	5.3%	3.5%	1.8%	5.9%	5.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1,330	91.3%
Gateshead	79.8%	7.4%	4.9%	2.5%	4.4%	4.0%	0.3%	7.1%	6.0%	1.1%	0.0%	1.3%	2,367	91.2%
Hartlepool	78.7%	12.8%	10.9%	1.8%	2.8%	2.0%	0.8%	4.9%	4.2%	0.7%	0.2%	0.6%	1,300	93.5%
Middlesbrough	72.5%	14.1%	9.8%	4.3%	1.7%	0.9%	0.8%	10.0%	9.0%	1.0%	0.4%	1.2%	1,821	87.5%
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	78.5%	6.2%	5.1%	1.2%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%	8.6%	7.5%	1.1%	0.0%	4.7%	3,321	86.0%
North Tyneside	77.6%	9.6%	7.8%	1.8%	4.6%	3.5%	1.1%	7.5%	6.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	2,413	90.7%
Northumberland	79.9%	7.4%	2.8%	4.6%	4.4%	3.0%	1.4%	6.0%	5.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	3,999	90.2%
Redcar & Cleveland	80.6%	8.9%	5.5%	3.4%	1.5%	1.0%	0.5%	6.7%	5.5%	1.1%	0.7%	1.7%	2,118	90.6%
South Tyneside	78.5%	9.8%	6.4%	3.4%	3.6%	2.8%	0.9%	6.7%	5.7%	1.0%	0.1%	1.4%	1,997	91.0%
Stockton-On-Tees	80.9%	8.8%	5.7%	3.1%	3.8%	3.6%	0.2%	5.5%	4.6%	0.9%	1.0%	0.1%	2,758	93.3%
Sunderland	75.3%	11.0%	9.3%	1.7%	3.8%	3.6%	0.2%	9.1%	8.1%	0.9%	0.0%	1.0%	3,964	89.8%

6. Activity status of young men and women

It is well recognised that the pathways followed by young men and women beyond 16 are significantly different. The Activity Survey data shows these broad differences in Table 12. Reflecting the picture shown by other sources of data, young women are considerably more likely than young men to be in full-time education after Year 11. Conversely, young men are more likely to be in the labour market, whether in training or employment. Young men are also more likely to be 'not settled' in full-time activity and to be out of contact with the service. However, a slightly larger proportion of young women are not active in the labour market. This pattern is unchanged since 1996, although the percentage figures have varied from year to year.

Table 12 – The activity status of males and females completing Year 11 in 2008

	Male	Female	Total
Full-time education	79.1%	85.7%	82.3%
Government supported training	6.9%	4.4%	5.7%
- training scheme funded by Government	3.7%	2.5%	3.1%
- job, including training which is supported by Government funding	3.2%	1.9%	2.6%
Employment outside Government supported training	5.4%	2.7%	4.1%
- job, including planned training which is not supported by Government funding	3.2%	1.7%	2.5%
- job without planned training	2.2%	1.0%	1.6%
Not settled	6.5%	5.3%	5.9%
- not active in the labour market	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%
- economically active but not in full-time education, training or employment	6.0%	4.3%	5.2%
Moved out of contact of Connexions/Careers service	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
No response to follow-up	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%
Refused to participate in survey	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total in Survey	322,789	305,627	629,080
of whom in learning %	89.2%	91.7%	90.4%

Comparisons with 2007 show that participation in full time education for young men has risen by 3 percentage points and around 1.5 percentage points for young women. This represents the highest ever recorded figures in full time education. Both groups show a reduction in employment and government supported training.

7. Early post-16 activities by ethnic status of young people

The specification for the annual Activity Survey requires Connexions services to present their data by ethnic categories, using the classification endorsed by the Council for Racial Equality and used in the Population Census.

Many Connexions services have not fulfilled their requirement satisfactorily, and report difficulty in obtaining ethnic categorisation from schools or LEAs, in some cases due to the need to consult young people on the category which best reflect their ethnic origins. This lack of information in the 2004 survey reached over 14% the worst level ever seen in the survey, the figure for 2006 dropped to just under 9%, the figure for 2007 to 6% a three percentage point decrease.

The lack of information about ethnicity threatens the reliability of the data in any analysis of the results where ethnic grouping is a key issue. It is consistently the case that the group whose ethnicity is not known has strikingly different patterns from most other groupings. As in previous years any Local Authority area where the return showed a percentage of 'ethnicity not known' of more than 11% of their young people has been excluded from analysis in this section. On these grounds 21 of the LA areas are omitted, leaving a client base of 529,424 (84% of the cohort compared to 60% of the cohort in 2007). Local authority areas omitted for the survey and the proportion of those whose ethnicity had not been obtained are shown in Table 13. Table 14 shows LA area included in the ethnicity figures.

Some areas have made significant progress to reduce the proportion of those whose ethnicity is not known. Most notable are Solihull; Haringey; Hammersmith & Fulham; Northumberland; Bournemouth; Middlesbrough; North Tyneside; Poole and Enfield, these areas have achieved more than 20% reduction in the number of not knowns. Disappointingly the proportion has increased in 50 local authority areas, with Blackpool going from 13% to 39% unknown, Bedfordshire from 8% to 35% and Luton going from 8% to 54%.

Table 13 – Local Authority Areas not included in the Ethnic analysis by proportion of client group in the “not known” category

Area	Percentage	Area	Percentage
Blackpool	50%	Bedfordshire	18%
Lincolnshire	37%	Rutland	17%
Cornwall	36%	Portsmouth	17%
Peterborough	36%	Gateshead	17%
Oxfordshire	29%	Newham	17%
Cambridgeshire	27%	Brent	17%
Leicester	25%	Southwark	14%
Hampshire	23%	Westminster	14%
Somerset	21%	Dudley	13%
Wolverhampton	21%	Southend	12%
Plymouth	19%		

Table 14 – Local Authority Areas Included in the Ethnic analysis by proportion of client group in the “not known” category

Area	Percentage
City Of London	0%
East Riding Of Yorkshire	0%
North East Lincolnshire	0%
Coventry	0%
Bradford	0%
Wakefield	0%
Sefton	0%
North Lincolnshire	0%
Wigan	0%
Warwickshire	0%
Warrington	0%
Tameside	0%
Kingston-Upon-Hull	0%
St Helens	0%
Salford	0%
Leeds	0%
Hackney	0%
Ealing	1%
Kingston-Upon-Thames	1%
Oldham	1%
Bexley	1%
Suffolk	1%
Haringey	1%
York	1%
The Wrekin	1%
Stoke	1%
Havering	1%
Herefordshire	1%
County Durham	1%
Bromley	1%
Bracknell Forest	1%
Wirral	1%
Nottinghamshire	1%
Islington	1%
Trafford	1%
Hartlepool	1%
Liverpool	1%
North Tyneside	1%
Darlington	1%
Windsor & Maidenhead	1%
Hertfordshire	1%
Wokingham	1%
Kensington & Chelsea	1%
Shropshire	1%
Manchester	1%

Area	Percentage
Sutton	1%
Knowsley	1%
Richmond-Upon-Thames	1%
Middlesbrough	1%
Kent	1%
Barnet	2%
Derby	2%
Northamptonshire	2%
Cumbria	2%
Surrey	2%
Staffordshire	2%
Tower Hamlets	2%
Merton	2%
Worcestershire	2%
Redcar & Cleveland	2%
South Tyneside	2%
Birmingham	2%
Waltham Forest	2%
Reading	2%
Gloucestershire	2%
Sandwell	2%
Croydon	2%
Enfield	2%
Barnsley	2%
Solihull	3%
Nottingham	3%
Lambeth	3%
Poole	3%
Halton	3%
Brighton & Hove	3%
Cheshire	3%
Stockton-On-Tees	3%
Hillingdon	3%
Rotherham	3%
Camden	3%
Luton	3%
Barking & Dagenham	3%
Doncaster	3%
Dorset	3%
Leicestershire	3%
Slough	3%
Medway	3%
West Berkshire	3%
Calderdale	4%
Bournemouth	4%
Northumberland	4%

Area	Percentage
Southampton	4%
South Gloucestershire	4%
Sheffield	4%
Blackburn With Darwen	4%
Hounslow	4%
Sunderland	4%
North Somerset	4%
West Sussex	5%
East Sussex	5%
Lewisham	5%
North Yorkshire	5%
Newcastle Upon Tyne	5%
Bury	5%
Milton Keynes	6%
Wiltshire	6%
Greenwich	6%
Stockport	6%
Thurrock	6%
Derbyshire	7%

Area	Percentage
Harrow	7%
Hammersmith & Fulham	7%
Bristol	7%
Rochdale	7%
Buckinghamshire	7%
Redbridge	7%
Bolton	8%
Bath & North East Somerset	9%
Walsall	9%
Isle Of Wight	9%
Kirklees	9%
Lancashire	9%
Devon	10%
Swindon	10%
Wandsworth	11%
Essex	11%
Norfolk	11%

Table 15 Activity status of year 11 completers - Headline Analysis of Ethnic Grouping

	White	Mixed Race	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese	Other	No Ethnic Information	TOTAL
Full-time education	80.7%	85.1%	91.5%	90.5%	94.7%	87.6%	81.4%	81.9%
Government supported training	6.5%	4.4%	1.8%	2.7%	0.4%	1.9%	4.2%	5.9%
- training scheme funded by Government	3.5%	3.0%	1.4%	2.5%	0.2%	1.5%	2.6%	3.3%
- job, including training which is supported by Government funding	3.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	1.6%	2.7%
Employment outside Government supported training	4.6%	2.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.3%	1.4%	3.7%	4.1%
- job, including planned training which is not supported by Government funding	2.9%	1.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	2.2%	2.6%
- job without planned training	1.7%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Not settled	6.4%	6.0%	3.0%	3.4%	1.1%	4.2%	6.0%	6.0%
- not active in the labour market	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	1.1%	0.7%
- economically active but not in full-time education, training or employment	5.7%	4.9%	2.3%	2.9%	0.7%	3.6%	5.0%	5.3%
Moved out of contact	0.7%	1.0%	1.2%	1.0%	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%	0.8%
No response to follow-up	1.0%	1.4%	2.0%	1.5%	1.7%	2.9%	2.6%	1.2%
Refused to participate in survey	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Total in Survey	441182	14895	18942	29421	2036	5045	17973	529494
% In learning	90.1%	90.7%	93.6%	93.6%	95.3%	90.2%	87.9%	90.4%

The figures are similar to the headline information in terms of the proportions in full-time learning, though slightly more of the ethnic analysis subset are in full-time education, and slightly fewer are in government supported training and in employment.

Table 16 gives a detailed breakdown of ethnicity categories, and shows as in previous years, that Indian and Chinese young people are more likely to be both in full-time education and in learning, and less likely to be in government supported training or employment.

As in previous years “White” young people are less likely to be in full-time education and more likely to be in government supported training or employment than minority

ethnic peers. The figures for those in the “Mixed Race” categories better reflect the other groups in terms of participation, an upturn on the information available in the 2005 survey. It should be noted that the numbers reported in some categories are extremely low and must therefore be treated with extreme caution.

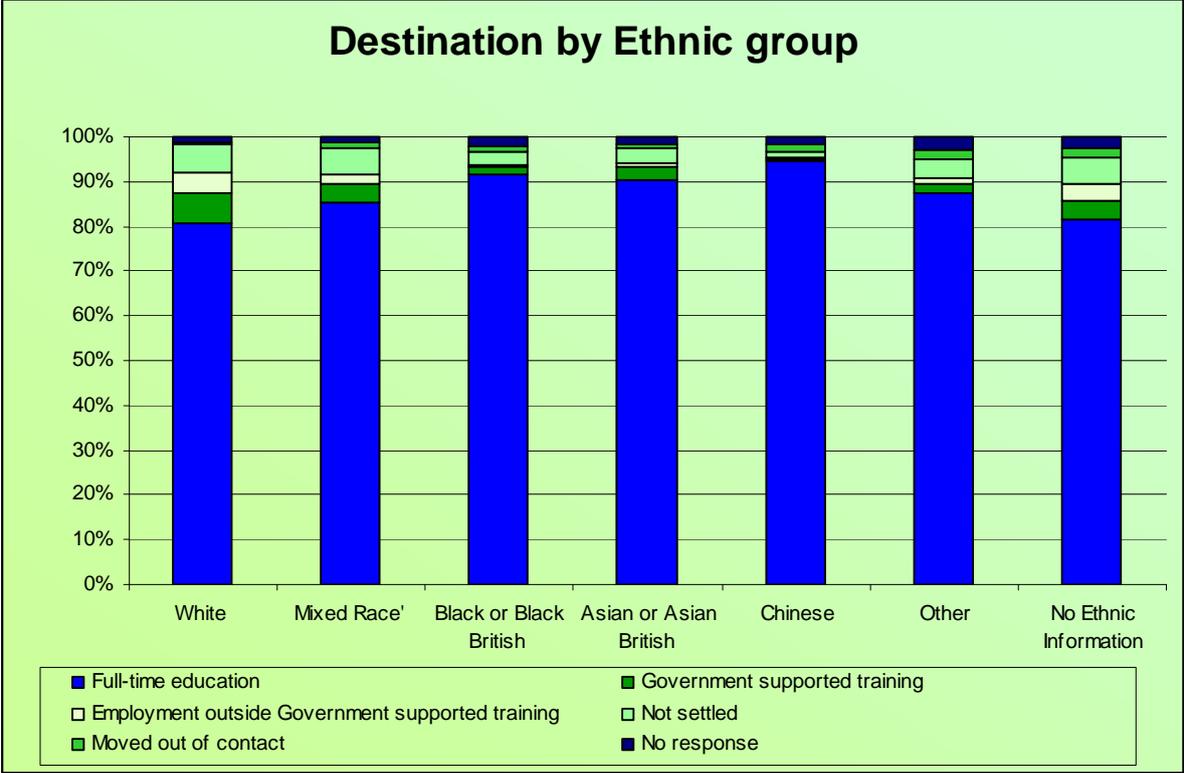


Table 16 – Activity status of year 11 completers, Autumn 2008 by ethnic grouping

	White				Mixed Race				Black or Black British			Asian or Asian British				Chinese	Other	No Ethnic Information
	British	Irish	Gypsy/Roma	Other	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Other	Black Caribbean	Black African	Other	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other			
Full-time education	80.6	81.6	42.0	86.7	81.4	87.7	89.6	85.9	89.5	93.5	90.4	90.8	89.7	90.8	92.9	94.7	87.6	81.4
Government supported training	6.5	5.0	3.4	2.3	5.9	3.5	3.1	3.5	2.9	0.9	2.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	0.9	0.4	1.9	4.2
training scheme funded by Government	3.5	3.2	3.4	1.6	4.2	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	2.8	2.6	2.8	0.8	0.2	1.5	2.6
job, with training supported by Government funding	3.1	1.8	0.0	0.8	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.6
Employment outside Government supported training	4.7	3.4	9.1	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.3	2.1	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.3	1.4	3.7
job with planned training	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.2	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.7	2.2
job without planned training	1.8	1.4	6.8	0.9	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.7	1.5
Not settled	6.4	6.6	30.7	4.3	7.6	4.4	4.3	5.6	4.2	2.0	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.2	2.2	1.1	4.2	6.0
- not active	0.7	0.9	4.5	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.1
- economically active	5.7	5.7	26.1	3.8	6.5	3.5	3.7	4.4	3.1	1.3	2.7	2.8	3.4	2.8	1.7	0.7	3.6	5.0
Moved out of contact of Connexions/Careers service	0.7	1.5	5.7	2.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.0
No response to follow-up	1.0	1.8	9.1	2.3	1.5	1.9	0.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.1	1.7	2.9	2.6
Refused to Participate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total in Survey	427016	2211	78	11877	5594	1428	2902	4971	6700	8759	3483	5103	13556	5103	5660	2036	5045	17973
% in learning	90.1	88.7	47.7	90.2	88.7	92.2	93.5	90.8	92.8	94.6	92.9	94.0	93.2	94.0	94.1	95.3	90.2	87.9

8. Occupational pattern of Year 11 young people entering employment and training in 2008

Connexions services were able to specify the occupational sector entered by 91% of those young people engaged in employment or training following Year 11. Two digit groupings from the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) were used to categorise the occupations, but as in earlier surveys, some groups have been collapsed and some disaggregated. For example, 'other skilled trades' covers all skilled trades other than construction and engineering (electrical and electronic trades, metal forming trades, vehicle trades, textiles, and miscellaneous others).

Table 17 — Gender breakdown of Year 11 students entering training or work, by occupation (using Standard Occupational Classification headings)

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Managerial/professional	2.5%	1.4%	2.1%
Clerical/secretarial	2.9%	11.4%	5.8%
Skilled construction	18.3%	0.8%	12.3%
Skilled engineering	5.6%	0.3%	3.8%
Other skilled trades	17.9%	2.0%	12.5%
Protective service occupations	2.6%	0.7%	1.9%
Personal service occupations	6.8%	49.3%	21.2%
Catering occupations	3.7%	6.6%	4.7%
Health care occupations	0.2%	4.1%	1.6%
Childcare & related occupations	0.2%	8.5%	3.1%
Hairdressing & related occupations	1.1%	27.5%	10.1%
Other personal service occupations	1.6%	2.5%	1.9%
Sales occupations	6.6%	16.1%	9.8%
Plant/machine operatives	2.7%	0.8%	2.1%
Agriculture/forestry/fishing occupations	3.4%	2.2%	3.0%
Labouring and other elementary occupations	22.3%	17.7%	20.7%
Unknown occupations	9.3%	8.6%	9.0%
TOTAL	40,569	20,899	61,468

Table 17 analyses occupational sectors for males and females and for the total group. Ignoring the rather diverse group of labouring and other elementary occupations (22%), the five most popular types of employment are the same as last several years, although the order has changed slightly. The top five are personal service occupations (21%); skilled construction and other skilled trades (12%); hairdressing occupations (10%); and sales occupations (10%).

As in previous analyses, those young people who are known to be in employment but for whom there is no occupational classification have been included in the breakdown. This has had the effect of depressing other percentages..

Generally speaking the relative proportions of young people in each type of job have stayed the same with only small variations in percentage terms.

The pattern of gender occupancy of different types of job or training in 2008 is shown in Table 17. The key features are:

- young men continue to dominate skilled trades;
- young women continue in the traditional female sectors of healthcare, childcare and hairdressing;

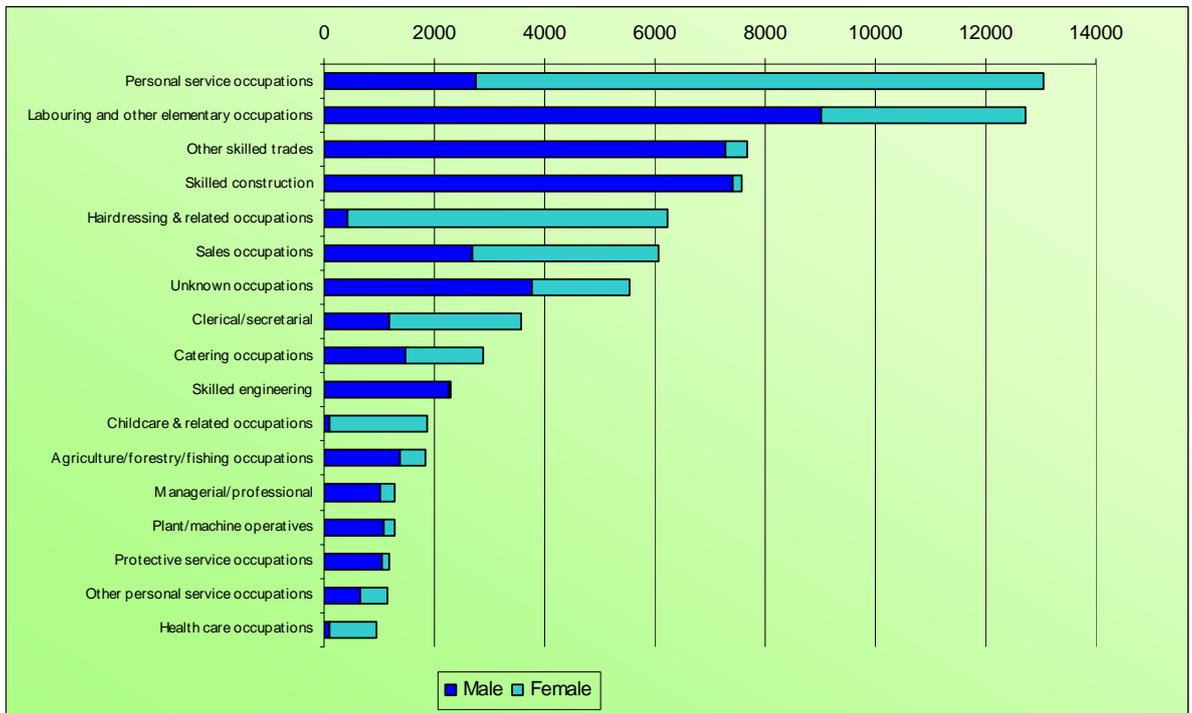


Table 18 compares the occupations entered by young white people with those from black and minority ethnic groupings.

The number of young people from black and minority ethnic groups in training or employment for whom there is an occupational classification is relatively small (3,155) and represents less than 5% of this subset. This means that comparisons between the percentages in each sector should be made with caution.

The most notable differences between the proportion of young white people and those from black and minority ethnic groups are as follows:

- over twice as many young white people in skilled construction, and protective service occupations compared to black and minority ethnic groups;
- nearly 3 times as many black and ethnic minority ethnic groups in managerial/professional occupations
- proportionally more black and minority ethnic groups in sales and

- clerical/secretarial work.
- Significantly higher proportion of black and ethnic minority groups in labouring and unskilled occupations

Table 18 – Ethnic breakdown of Year 11 Students entering training or work by occupation (%)

	White	Black and Minority Ethnic Groups	No Ethnic Information	Ethnic Analysis Total
Managerial/professional	1.9%	4.9%	1.9%	2.0%
Clerical/secretarial	5.5%	8.1%	4.4%	5.6%
Skilled construction	12.0%	6.3%	12.8%	11.8%
Skilled engineering	3.7%	1.0%	3.2%	3.6%
Other skilled trades	12.3%	7.6%	9.5%	12.0%
Protective service occupations	1.9%	1.1%	1.5%	1.8%
Personal service occupations	20.4%	19.0%	21.1%	20.4%
Catering occupations	4.6%	2.5%	5.1%	4.5%
Health care occupations	1.4%	2.2%	1.6%	1.5%
Childcare & related occupations	2.9%	4.0%	1.9%	2.9%
Hairdressing & related occupations	9.9%	6.3%	9.1%	9.7%
Other personal service occupations	1.6%	3.3%	3.4%	1.8%
Sales occupations	9.5%	8.6%	9.7%	9.4%
Plant/machine operatives	2.1%	0.8%	1.5%	2.0%
Agriculture/forestry /fishing occupations	2.9%	1.0%	3.9%	2.8%
Labouring and other elementary occupations	19.4%	29.3%	19.1%	19.8%
Unknown occupations	8.4%	12.9%	11.6%	8.7%
Total	55965	2733	2770	61468

The shaded area gives a breakdown of the personal services category.

Relationship between Activity Survey and Statistical First Release participation rates

These two administrative sources of information about 16 year olds use completely different methods and base populations to derive estimates of education and training rates. In the early 1990s the (then) Destinations Survey and DCSF statistical bulletin rates differed by five percentage points or more for education. Trends during the 1990s were largely similar in both series, but with a narrowing of the gap on education rates. Both series underwent methodological changes (change from Destination to Activity Survey; change to ISR-based derivation of numbers in the FE sector for the statistical series).

The Connexions/Careers Service data were also affected by an increasing coverage of independent schools from the mid-1990s until recently. The higher participation rates for leavers from such schools boosted the overall education rate during a period when school and college data showed a decline in participation at 16. Whereas the formal DfE/DfEE/DfES/DCSF series showed a peak of 72.6% in 1993, the Careers Service data was almost stable between 1993 and 1998 (varying by only +/- 0.5% around the 68% mark). Subsequent revisions to the administrative series have also brought the two series closer together and similar trends have been observed in both series over the last 5 years.

Two factors might suggest that the Activity Survey actually understates the education rate; a decline in independent sector coverage, and the addition to the base list of some individuals who would not have been on school registers in previous year (and who are highly likely to be 'Not Settled', whether active in the labour market or in other situations).

Independent schools

In previous years there has been a discussion of the likely impact of the independent school effect on the national Activity Survey figures. The policy agenda for careers services since 1998 has emphasised work with those at risk of disengagement from learning. Independent schools, whilst never a high priority, have had a much lower level of service over the last 5 years or so than in the mid-1990s. Unsurprisingly, Connexions services report far fewer independent schools covered in the Survey. Some schools provided names or information for whole cohorts, but in other cases services could only include in the Survey those who were helped individually. Having fewer independent sector students in the Survey might be expected to reduce slightly the education rate. There are other data issues which complicate such analysis, including the earlier data collection period for the Activity Survey (September–November) than for school data (January); slight differences in definitions, improved coverage of the cohort and the inclusion in the DCSF estimates of young people educated outside England