



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 2013

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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.

The table below shows the proportion of 18-24 year olds who are in full-time education by father’s occupation. 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) is at a much higher rate than for other social groups, 37% compared with 18% in the most recent period.

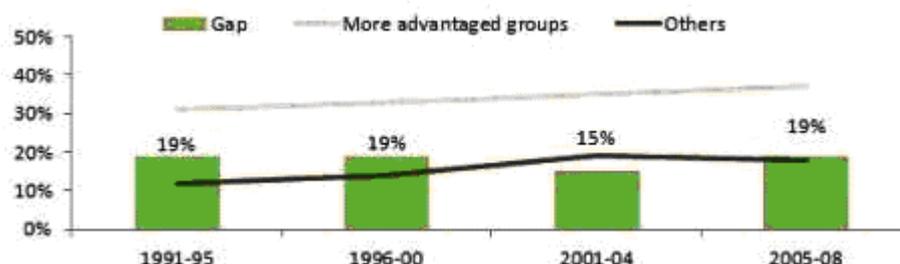
How are we performing?

Full-Time education (BHPS experimental series)*	1991-95	1996-00	2001-04	2005-08
More advantaged groups (NS-SEC 1-2)	31%	33%	35%	37%
Others	12%	14%	19%	18%
Gap	19%	19%	15%	19%
Full -Time and Part -Time education and training (LFS)**	1995	2000	2004	2008
All 18-24 year olds	n/a	46%	45%	45%

* The measure developed using British Household Panel Survey only covers full-time education

** The definition and measurement of full-time education in the Labour Force.

Survey differs from that in the BHPS. Father's occupation is not available on the LFS so the rate is included for context only.



The above chart shows trends over time using the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). The BHPS is an annual household longitudinal survey consisting of a nationally representative sample including children aged 11-15 completing a short interview.

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

- Further Education White Paper: [Skills for Sustainable Growth](#) ¹
- Higher Education White Paper: [Students at the Heart of the System](#) ²

¹ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1274-skills-for-sustainable-growth-strategy.pdf>

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32409/11-944-higher-education-students-at-heart-of-system.pdf

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 who are participating in full-time or part-time education and training activity (LFS), with a gap measure for participation in full-time education by social background defined using father's occupational group (BHPS).

Further information

BIS is undertaking more work to improve the data availability for this measure. A question on social background is being tested for inclusion in the LFS, to enable BIS to explore trends on the BHPS and LFS and to develop a gap measure including part-time education and training. In the interim, BIS intends to supersede the BHPS with the Understanding Society Study which will provide figures on an annual basis.

Related indicators

Status

Last updated: September 2012

Next Update: Summer 2013

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