



Department
for Education

16 to 18 destination measures

**Guidance and technical note for 2016
performance tables**

January 2017

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Summary

About this guidance

This is to assist in understanding the 16 to 18 destination measures data published in the 2016 school and college performance tables.

Expiry date

This guidance will be updated in January 2018 when the 2017 performance tables are published.

Main points

This guidance explains

- the purpose of destination measures
- where data is sourced
- how the measures are calculated
- which schools and colleges have destinations reported
- the categories of destinations reported
- additional technical details

Background information

What are 16 to 18 destination measures?

Destination measures have been included in 2016 as a headline accountability measure and show the percentage of 16, 17, or 18 year old students continuing to a sustained education or employment destination in the year after completing 16 to 18 study (after completing A levels or other level 3 qualifications).

Additional data shows whether students were in education or employment, did not stay in education or employment for at least two terms, or whether activity was not captured in the data. Education destinations including different higher education institutions (universities) and further education (FE) colleges are shown.

Why we publish destination measures

The destination measures provide clear and comparable information on the success of schools and colleges in helping all their students take qualifications that offer them the best opportunity to progress. They will also encourage institutions to make sure their students receive the support needed to prepare for and complete the transition on to education or employment which offers good long term prospects.

Including destination measures at 16 to 18

2016 is the first time destination measures have been published as part of the 16 to 18 performance tables but education destinations have been published in performance tables at key stage 4 as additional data from 2012 to 2015.

The aim to include destinations measures as a headline performance measure at 16 to 18 once the data were deemed robust enough was set out in the government's response to the [16-19 accountability consultation](#).

In August 2016 we published two [statistical working papers](#) which set out the improvements which have been made to the measures following the inclusion of [new information on employment and benefits](#). The new matched data comes from Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This showed that the coverage was substantially improved.

Following the publication of this information on our improved methodology, and further internal assessment of its reliability, we have determined that the statistics are of sufficient quality to be [included in performance tables in 2016](#) and will be one of the headline measures at 16 to 18. This reflects the importance of this indicator for demonstrating an institution's success in helping students make a successful transition to the next stage.

Understanding destination measures

Publication

The 16 to 18 student destination measures were published on the [performance tables website](#) on 19 January 2017 as revised data. Provisional data was published in October 2016 in our statistical first release on the [gov.uk website](#).

Data sources

Data from the national pupil database (NPD) are used to calculate education destinations. The national pupil database links pupil and student characteristics (eg age, gender, and ethnicity) to learning aims and attainment information for children and young people in schools and colleges in England. Five administrative data sources used in compiling the national pupil database have been used to determine students' education destinations:

- individualised learner record (ILR) covering English colleges, further education providers and specialist post-16 institutions
- school census covering English schools (including pupil referral units)
- awarding body data
- alternative provision census
- Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) data covering UK universities and other higher education institutions

For the first time, employment data and out-of-work benefit data have been linked to the national pupil database to form the longitudinal education outcomes (LEO) dataset. Along with local authority data, LEO data is used to calculate employment destinations. Two administrative datasets are used as follows

- employment data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- out-of-work benefit data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

In addition, information on deferred HE offers was received from the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS); this covers United Kingdom higher education institutions. Students having an accepted deferred offer for 2015-16 are shown alongside their recorded activity in 2014-15 to provide additional context.

Cohort

The 16 to 18 cohort consists of students who were aged 16, 17 or 18 and had entered A levels or other level 3 qualifications and were considered to have completed 16 to 18

study in the 2013-14 academic year. We identify their destinations in the 2014-15 academic year.

The 2013-14 cohort, reported for a school or college in the destinations measures in 2016, generally includes the same students who were reported against that school or college for attainment and progress measures in the published 2014 16 to 18 performance tables.

The 16 to 18 cohort includes young people taking academic, applied general and tech level qualifications or their approved precursors in previous academic years.

Institution types

Destinations are reported for students completing 16 to 18 study at state-funded mainstream schools and colleges.

The national and local authority totals in the performance tables website include state-funded mainstream schools and colleges only.

Destinations are not reported at 16 to 18 for independent schools or special schools (including maintained, non-maintained and independent special schools).

Schools and colleges with destinations reported

The 2016 16 to 18 performance tables include information on schools and colleges which were open during the 2015-16 academic year and which had students completing 16 to 18 study in this academic year.

Because destinations measures are calculated for students who completed 16 to 18 study at the school or college two years previously (in 2013-14) not all providers with attainment results have destination measures reported.

The main reference date for open institutions is at the start of each academic year, so changes to school or college types, openings and closures between 13 September 2013 and 12 September 2015 affect reporting.

Schools and colleges which have both 2016 attainment results and destinations

These include:

- providers which have **remained open** throughout the period and have not undergone any changes to school type
- providers which have become a **converter** academy

- providers which have undergone a **merger** (one continuing school or college 'absorbs' another)

Schools and colleges which have 2016 attainment results but no destinations reported

These include:

- providers which have **opened** (as entirely new schools or colleges)
- providers which have become a **sponsored** academy
- providers which have formed from an **amalgamation** (two or more schools or colleges come together to form a 'new' school or college)
- providers which **did not have students completing 16 to 18 (level 3) study** in 2013 -14 (this may include schools or colleges which were new in 2013 -14)

Information included in the table

Destination categories reported

Total number of students included in destination measures (cohort)

This is the total number of students in the 2013-14 cohort, using the criteria outlined under 'cohort' at the start of the technical note, and is used to create the denominator for the measure.

Students staying in education or employment for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study

Any sustained education or employment destination.

Students staying in employment for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study

Students finishing 16 to 18 study who were in employment in the UK from October to March the following year.

To count as a sustained destination a student must be recorded as in employment in 5 out of the 6 months between October and March. A one month pause is permitted to allow for those students taking separate periods of temporary employment. Should the one month pause occur in March then the student is required to be in employment in April for the destination to be counted as sustained.

Students who have sustained participation in education throughout the period are reported as being in a sustained education destination and not in employment, even if they were in employment alongside their study.

Students staying in education for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study

Students finishing 16 to 18 study who stayed in education from October to March the following year, including at UK universities, and further education colleges and other settings in England.

More detailed breakdowns of education participation are provided. These may not add up to the education total as there are a small number of students who were identified as sustaining more than one education destination.

Higher education institution or other higher education provider

Sustained participation in a UK university or other higher education institution (HEI) or provider (including higher education aims studied at a further education college).

Top third of HEIs

This group is defined as the top third of higher education institutions (HEIs) when grouped by mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A level grades of entrants. The latest list is based on entrants in 2013-14.

Subgroups of the top third of HEIs are also shown:

- Oxford and Cambridge universities
- Russell Group institutions (including Oxford and Cambridge)

All other HEIs and other HE providers (ie excluding top third institutions)

Further education college or other further education provider

Sustained participation in one or more FE institutions identified from the ILR, general and specialist FE colleges (other than sixth-form colleges) are reported here as well as other FE providers.

Any provider in the ILR not identified as a sixth form college or FE college is designated as an 'other FE provider'. It also includes students on work-based learning or studying further education in a higher education institution. A number of students were identified within the higher education statistics agency (HESA) data as being registered for FE level study at an HE institution.

Other education

All remaining education destinations are grouped under this heading and include:

- **sixth-form colleges and specialist post-16 institutions:** Sixth-form colleges and specialist post-16 institutions are identified from the ILR data.
- **school sixth forms and special schools:** State-funded mainstream school sixth forms, maintained and non-maintained special schools are identified from the school census data.
- **independent schools:** These destinations were identified from awarding body data which has been used to provide an indication of participation. For example if a student sat an A level exam in Summer 2016, it has been assumed the student completed a two-year course of study and fulfilled the full six months participation from October 2014 to March 2015.
- **education combinations:** A number of students were identified as attending more than one type of institution over the 6 months. For example a student may have attended an FE college for 3 months and a university for 3 months. Providing

they fulfilled the sustained participation criteria across the institution types they were counted in the measure.

Students not staying in education or employment for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study

Students may have been enrolled on a course or in employment for part of this time, but not sustained this activity, or have claimed out-of-work benefits in the year.

No activity captured in data

Students finishing 16 to 18 study who had no participation in education or employment found from October to March the following year. Possible reasons for this could be that the young person was:

- not in education, employment or training
- living, working or studying overseas
- attending a Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish school or further education provider
- self-employed or undertaking activity other than paid employment or study in the UK
- not successfully matched to a record in our data sources

Apprenticeships

Students are reported as an apprenticeship destination if they sustained education or employment for two terms and had a record of taking a funded apprenticeship at any time between August and July. All apprentices also appear under either employment or education destinations.

Deferred entry to higher education

Students having an accepted deferred offer for 2015-16 are shown alongside their recorded activity in 2014-15 to provide additional context. This data comes from the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Suppression of destination data

Suppression is applied to the destination data to ensure that individual students cannot be identified. Suppression is carried out slightly differently from other performance tables measures due to the inclusion of employment data:

- any institution with fewer than 11 students in their 2013-14 cohort has had all of their data suppressed
- figures referring to outcomes for 1 or 2 individuals have been suppressed. Zeros remain zeros unless they reveal information about employment destinations
- secondary and tertiary suppression has been applied to preserve confidentiality and prevent disclosure by disaggregating published figures

At national, LA and regional:

- all numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5

These rules are also applied to percentages relating to small numbers, so that numerators of less than 3 are suppressed. Percentages are calculated using unrounded data.

More information about suppression applied is provided in annex 4 of our [technical note](#).

Feedback and further information

Questions, feedback and comments on the destination measures can be sent to destination.measures@education.gov.uk

Destination measures publications

Destination measures are published as a statistical first release and include additional data including destinations by student characteristics (gender, free school meals, disadvantage, special educational needs and ethnicity)

- [Destination measures](#)

A series of statistical working papers are also available providing information on the inclusion of employment and benefit data.

- [Improvements to destination measures](#)



Department
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