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# Statistical First Release



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Department for Business,  
Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

**Press Office Enquiries**

020 7215 3234/3505

**Public Enquiries**

020 7215 5000

**Email**

[stats.info@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.info@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

**Internet**

<http://stats.bis.gov.uk>

**Statistician**

Chuka Ilochi  
[Chuka.ilochi@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Chuka.ilochi@bis.gsi.gov.uk)  
0207 215 3691  
Department for Business,  
Innovation and Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

## **PARTICIPATION RATES IN HIGHER EDUCATION: ACADEMIC YEARS 2006/2007 – 2013/2014 (Provisional)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the latest provisional initial participation rates for Higher Education (HE). It covers 17-30 year old English domiciled first-time participants in HE at UK HE Institutions, and at English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges.
2. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) has been published by BIS (and former Departments) since 2004, and the measure is an estimate of the actual entry rate in the current year of people who had not previously entered higher education at each age from 17 to 30.
3. Due to methodological improvements in the estimation of the number of initial participants in higher education, the complete time series of participation rates provided in this release has been recalculated. Further information on the revisions and their impact on the HEIPR can be found in paragraphs 27 to 29 of the SFR.

### **KEY POINTS**

4. The provisional HEIPR estimate for the 2013/14 academic year was 47%, up by four percentage points compared with the estimate for 2012/13 of 43%. The HEIPR estimate this year is more in line with estimates prior to 2011/12. In 2011/12, there was a step increase in the HEIPR to 49% followed by a large decrease in 2012/13 to 43%, the first time that the initial participation rate had fallen since 2006/07. The 2011/12 increase was predominantly driven by more students choosing not to defer



entry in that year in order to avoid having to pay a higher tuition fee, with a consequent reduction in participation among 19 year olds in 2012/13. Deferrals have returned to more typical levels since 2012/13.

5. The provisional HEIPR estimate for males in 2013/14 was 42%, up by three percentage points compared with the estimate for 2012/13 of 39%. The provisional HEIPR for females in 2013/14 was 51%, up by four percentage points compared with the estimate for 2012/13 of 47%. Both represent a return to trend levels of gender participation last seen in 2010/11 when the male and female participation rates were also 42% and 51% respectively. The difference in the initial participation rates of males and females has increased in 2013/14 (by 0.4 percentage points) compared with a year earlier; the difference is estimated to be 9.1 percentage points.
6. The provisional HEIPR estimate for full-time study in 2013/14 was 42%, up by two percentage points compared with the estimate for 2010/11 of 40%, the year before the impact of the change in the tuition fee arrangements took effect. The provisional HEIPR for part-time study in 2013/14 was 4%, the lowest it has ever been and down by two percentage points compared with the estimate for 2010/11 of 6%. The initial participation rate for part-time students has been estimated to be 6% from 2006/07 to 2011/12 following which it began to decrease in 2012/13. Recent reductions in part time initial participation rates are largely driven by reduced female participation since females constitute the majority of part time students.
7. Figures for the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the first decimal place are also provided in the tables to inform comparisons over time.

## DISCUSSION OF TRENDS

8. Chart 1 displays the increase in the HEIPR for 17 to 30 year olds between 2006/07<sup>1</sup> and 2013/14; the HEIPR estimate has increased over this period from 42% to 47%. In 2012/13 the initial participation rate had fallen for the first time since 2006/07 to 43%, which is below the level it was in 2007/08. This was a result of the unusual deferral behaviour in 2011/12 which led to an abnormally high level of participation in 2011/12 and, consequently, a lower participation level in 2012/13. Deferral patterns

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<sup>1</sup> 2006/07 is the first year for which data are available using the current methodology. The latest figures (for 2006/07 to 2013/14) are not comparable to the historical time series provided in Supplementary Table A. Details of the methodological changes can be found in the Notes to users section.



have since returned to normal levels and led to a recovery in the HEIPR estimate in the year 2013/14 to 47%, a return to the 2006/07 to 2010/11 trend of gradually increasing participation rates.

9. The HEIPR is the sum of age specific initial participation rates within the age range 17 to 30. Individuals are more likely to participate in higher education for the first time at age 18 than any other age, hence this age group is shown in Chart 1 to consistently make the largest contribution to the aged 17 to 30 HEIPR estimate.
10. In 2013/14 the initial participation rate for 18 year-olds increased by one percentage point to 25%, up from 24% a year earlier. Participation rates for 18 year-olds were uncharacteristically high in 2011/12 partly due to the change in deferral behaviour (see paragraph 14). From 2012/13 onwards there is evidence of a return to the trend prior to 2011/12 of gradual year on year increases in participation; the 2013/14 participation rate for 18 year-olds was up by two percentage points on the 2010/11 estimate of 23%.
11. Percentage changes in the estimated number of 18 year-old initial participants in higher education compared with the number in 2006/07 are shown in Chart 2, as are the percentage changes in the size of the 18 year-old population. The chart shows, for example, that by 2013/14 the number of 18 year-old initial participants was 18% higher than in 2006/07 and that the effect of this increase on the 2013/14 HEIPR estimate is compounded by the estimate of the population being 2% lower. Since the sharp decline in participation by 18-year olds from 2011/12 to 2012/13 there have been signs of recovery; in 2012/13 there were 14% more entrants than in 2006/07 and in 2013/14 this increased to 18% more entrants than in 2006/07. Additionally, the estimate of the 18 year old population also fell from 669,000 to 656,000. 18 year olds contribute the large majority of the entrants into higher education. The smaller population has increased the impact of the increase in the number of 18 year old entrants on the initial participation rate and this is one of the factors driving the increase in the HEIPR estimate for 2013/14 compared with 2012/13.
12. The initial participation rate for 19 year-olds increased by two percentage points in 2013/14 to 11%, up from 9% a year earlier. Chart 3 displays the percentage changes in the estimated number of 18 and 19 year-old participants in higher education compared with the numbers in 2006/07. 19 year-olds contribute less than 18 year-olds to the HEIPR and therefore exhibit larger fluctuations since small changes in magnitude have a greater effect on the proportionate change for 19 year-olds. From 2012/13 to 2013/14, both 18 and 19 year-olds had an increase in initial participants with the participation of 19 year-olds increasing more steeply to 25% above 2006/07 levels as it recovered

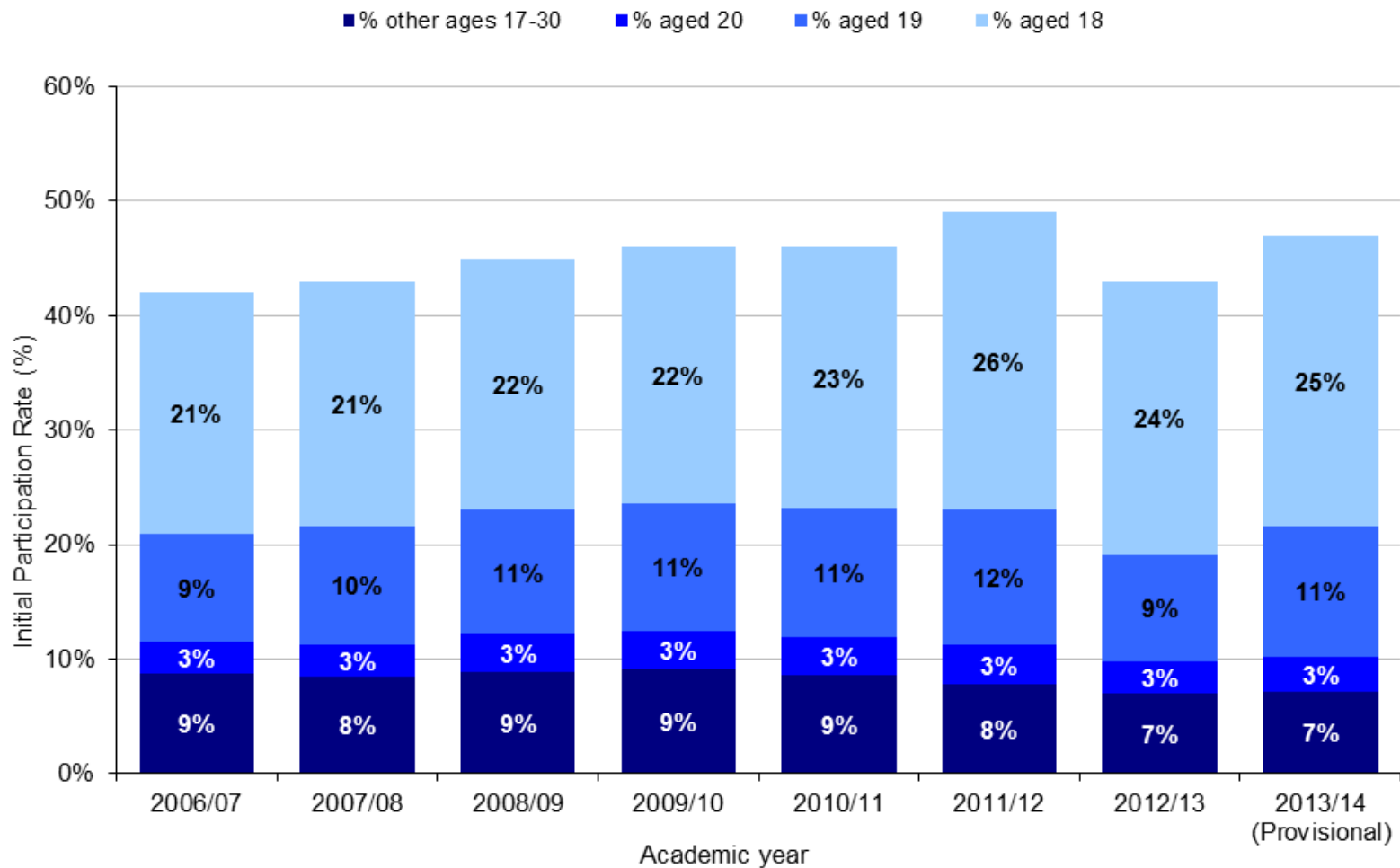


from the effects of the unusual deferral behaviour in 2011/12. This shows that an important factor in the recovery of initial participation rates in 2013/14 is the gradual return to trend levels of first-time entry of 19 year-olds since the unusual deferral behaviour in 2011/12.

13. The HEIPR in 2013/14 of 47% is one percentage point higher than it was in 2010/11, the last typical year before the change in tuition fee arrangements. However the count of initial entrants fell from 323,000 in 2010/11 to 314,000 in 2013/14. This is because the academic year populations for 18 and 19 year olds decreased; the 18 year old population decreased from 688,000 in 2010/11 to 656,000 in 2013/14 and the 19 year old population decreased from 708,000 in 2010/11 to 678,000 in 2013/14. Additionally the count of 18 year old first-time participants increased from 157,095 in 2010/11 to 166,625 in 2013/14 while the count of 19 year olds marginally decreased from 79,720 in 2010/11 to 77,015 in 2013/14. The 18 year old and 19 year old participation rates therefore increased in 2013/14 compared with 2010/11 from 22.8% to 25.4% and 11.3% to 11.4% respectively.



Chart 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate by age: 2006/07 to 2013/14 (provisional)



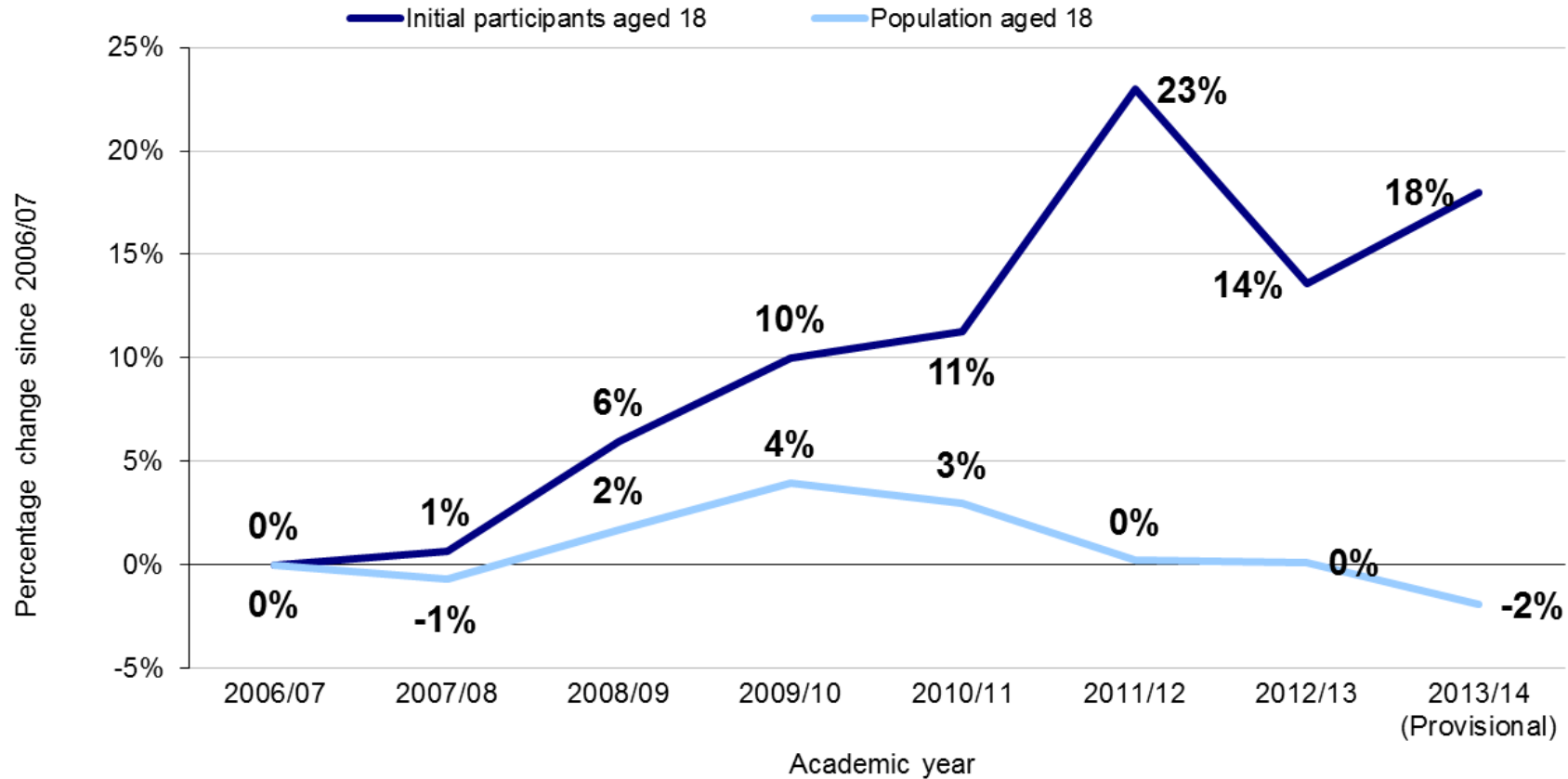
**Notes**

Tables from the release are available in Excel format here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>



Chart 2: Percentage change in initial participants and the population aged 18 since 2006/07



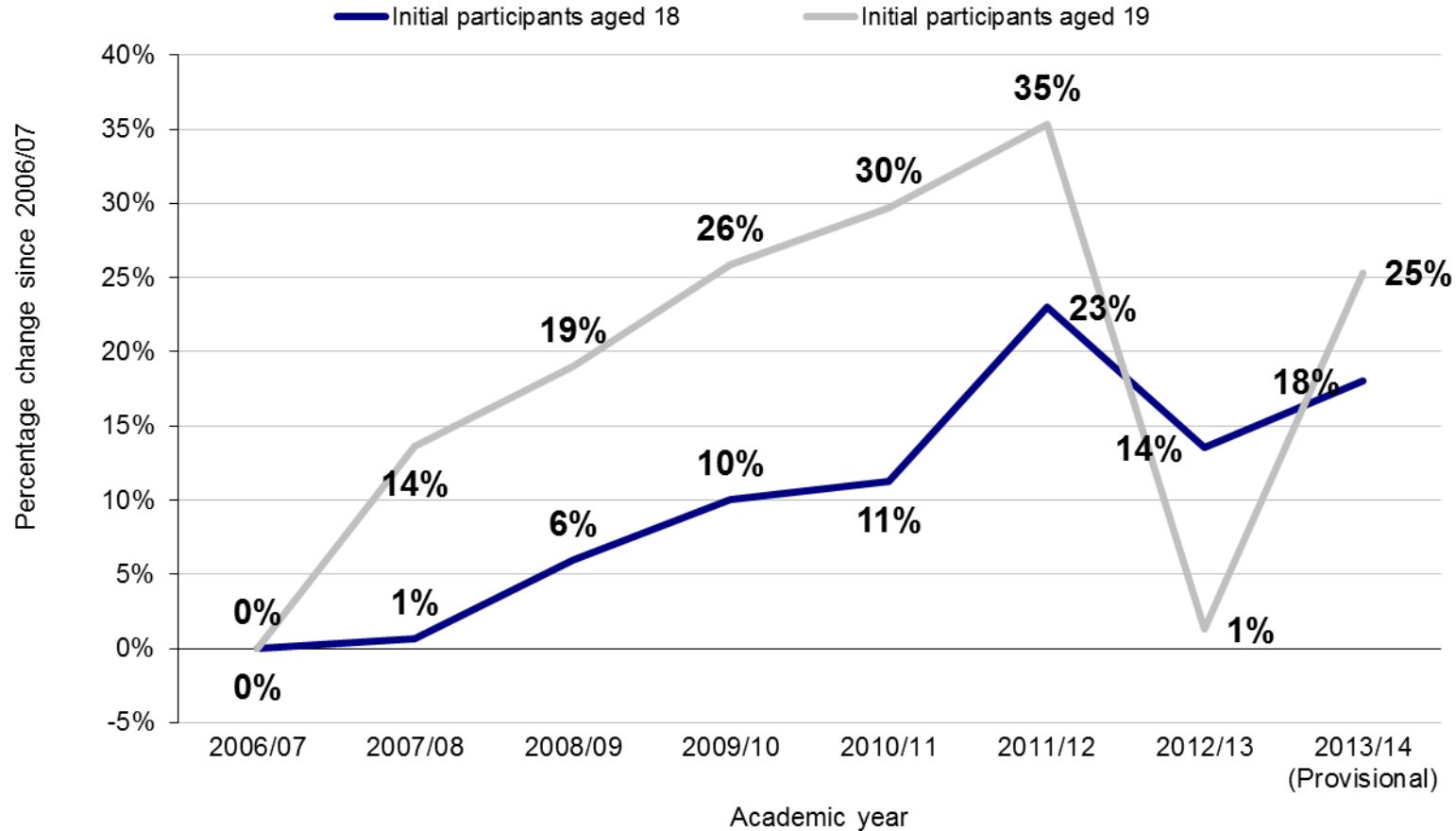
**Notes**

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

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**Chart 3: Percentage change in initial participants aged 18 and 19 since 2006/07**



**Notes**

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14. The HEIPR estimate corroborates the '2012 End of cycle assessment of UCAS acceptances by intended entry year' report in which UCAS stated that applicants were less likely to defer the start of their higher education course in 2011/12, the year prior to the maximum tuition fee being increased to £9,000. The report stated that 9,747 English domiciled accepted applicants to higher education in 2011/12 deferred their place until the following academic year, a reduction from the 23,218 who deferred their place in 2010/11. The impact of this reduction in deferrals was to increase initial participation in 2011/12. Deferrals returned to more typical levels in 2012/13, with 19,195 accepted applicants deferring their entry until 2013/14. This increased to 20,250 accepted applicants who deferred their place in 2013/14 until the following academic year, and to 21,580 in 2014/15<sup>2</sup>. The HEIPR estimate has therefore returned to its pre 2011/12 trend of gradual year on year increases.
15. The latest UCAS data indicates record entry rates for young people in 2014/15. It shows that 18 year olds living in England are more likely than ever to enter Higher Education. The proportion of the 18 year old population who entered higher education increased by over one percentage point in England (to 30.4%). Over 40% of young people in England enter higher education by age 19. The proportion of young people who enter higher education by the time they are aged 19 has increased to record levels for England (40.5%). This makes it unlikely that next year there will be such a decline in the HEIPR estimate as was seen in 2012/13. Although the UCAS statistics can be taken as being very close to all recruitment to full-time undergraduate higher education, it does not include part time entrants and there may be additional differences from the HEIPR caused by UCAS' method of calculating the population estimates. Full details can be found at:  
<https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/2014-end-of-cycle-report-dec-14.pdf>
16. There has been a further decrease by 280 initial entrants of those aged 21 to 30 in 2013/14 compared with the previous year, continuing the pattern of decreasing mature student participation since 2009/10. This endures from a dramatic decline last year when there were over 8,000 fewer initial entrants aged 21 to 30 following the change in the tuition fee arrangements.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: UCAS End of Cycle 2014 Data Resources, accessible via the following link:  
[https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/eoc\\_data\\_resource\\_2014-dr3\\_003\\_07.pdf](https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/eoc_data_resource_2014-dr3_003_07.pdf)





## TABLES

**Table 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2013/14 (provisional)**

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14 (Provisional)
<b>HEIPR (male and female) %</b>	42 (42.2)	43 (43.4)	45 (45.4)	46 (46.0)	46 (46.1)	49 (49.3)	43 (42.9)	47 (46.6)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	282	292	310	321	323	340	293	314
<b>HEIPR (male) %</b>	38 (37.6)	39 (38.7)	41 (40.5)	41 (41.2)	42 (41.7)	45 (44.9)	39 (38.6)	42 (42.1)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	126	131	140	146	148	157	135	145
<b>HEIPR (female) %</b>	47 (47.0)	48 (48.2)	50 (50.3)	51 (50.9)	51 (50.6)	54 (54.0)	47 (47.3)	51 (51.2)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	156	161	170	175	175	183	158	169
<b>HEIPR (full-time) %</b>	36 (35.8)	37 (37.3)	39 (39.2)	40 (40.1)	40 (40.2)	44 (43.5)	38 (38.2)	42 (42.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	239	251	267	278	281	298	260	284
<b>HEIPR (part-time) %</b>	6 (6.4)	6 (6.1)	6 (6.1)	6 (6.0)	6 (5.9)	6 (5.9)	5 (4.6)	4 (4.2)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	43	42	43	42	42	42	33	30

### Notes

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>



**Table 2: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates by Age: 2012/13 (final) and 2013/14 (provisional)**

Age	2012/13			2013/14 (provisional)		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	1,175	650,000	0.2%	1,060	651,000	0.2%
18	160,370	669,000	24.0%	166,625	656,000	25.4%
19	62,265	676,000	9.2%	77,015	678,000	11.4%
20	20,350	706,000	2.9%	21,025	686,700	3.1%
21	10,420	729,000	1.4%	10,770	718,000	1.5%
22	7,040	733,000	1.0%	7,365	743,000	1.0%
23	5,640	727,000	0.8%	5,640	747,000	0.8%
24	4,815	741,000	0.6%	4,855	739,000	0.7%
25	4,315	728,000	0.6%	4,325	750,000	0.6%
26	4,025	732,000	0.5%	3,885	735,000	0.5%
27	3,485	744,000	0.5%	3,290	738,000	0.4%
28	3,135	728,000	0.4%	3,020	749,000	0.4%
29	2,935	737,000	0.4%	2,655	732,000	0.4%
30	2,815	733,000	0.4%	2,540	739,000	0.3%
<b>17-30 (overall)</b>	<b>292,780</b>		<b>42.9%</b>	<b>314,070</b>		<b>46.6%</b>

**Notes**

Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest hundred. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

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**Table 3: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Males by Age: 2012/13 (final) and 2013/14 (provisional)**

Age	2012/13			2013/14 (provisional)		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	590	334,000	0.2%	525	335,000	0.2%
18	72,020	343,000	21.0%	74,915	337,000	22.2%
19	30,455	345,000	8.8%	37,905	348,000	10.9%
20	10,280	358,000	2.9%	10,515	350,000	3.0%
21	5,080	371,000	1.4%	5,305	364,000	1.5%
22	3,295	374,000	0.9%	3,410	378,000	0.9%
23	2,425	367,000	0.7%	2,520	381,000	0.7%
24	2,005	371,000	0.5%	2,040	374,000	0.5%
25	1,810	362,000	0.5%	1,810	376,000	0.5%
26	1,670	366,000	0.5%	1,625	366,000	0.4%
27	1,415	373,000	0.4%	1,350	370,000	0.4%
28	1,225	364,000	0.3%	1,225	376,000	0.3%
29	1,135	366,000	0.3%	1,090	366,000	0.3%
30	1,110	364,000	0.3%	990	368,000	0.3%
<b>17-30 (overall)</b>	<b>134,510</b>		<b>38.6%</b>	<b>145,220</b>		<b>42.1%</b>

**Notes**

Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest hundred. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

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**Table 4: Higher Education Initial Participation Rates for Females by Age: 2012/13 (final) and 2013/14 (provisional)**

Age	2012/13			2013/14 (provisional)		
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate (%)
17	585	316,000	0.2%	535	315,000	0.2%
18	88,345	326,000	27.1%	91,710	319,000	28.7%
19	31,810	331,000	9.6%	39,100	331,000	11.8%
20	10,070	349,000	2.9%	10,505	336,000	3.1%
21	5,340	358,000	1.5%	5,460	355,000	1.5%
22	3,745	359,000	1.0%	3,955	365,000	1.1%
23	3,220	360,000	0.9%	3,120	366,000	0.9%
24	2,810	370,000	0.8%	2,820	366,000	0.8%
25	2,505	367,000	0.7%	2,520	374,000	0.7%
26	2,350	366,000	0.6%	2,260	369,000	0.6%
27	2,070	371,000	0.6%	1,940	368,000	0.5%
28	1,910	365,000	0.5%	1,795	373,000	0.5%
29	1,800	370,000	0.5%	1,565	366,000	0.4%
30	1,700	369,000	0.5%	1,550	371,000	0.4%
<b>17-30 (overall)</b>	<b>158,260</b>		<b>47.3%</b>	<b>168,830</b>		<b>51.2%</b>

**Notes**

Figures for the HEIPR are generally rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. However, in this table the age specific initial participation rates are rounded to the nearest decimal place, counts of initial entrants to the nearest five, and population counts to the nearest hundred. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>



## NOTES TO USERS

17. The HEIPR National Statistic has been published by BIS (and former Departments) since 2004, and the measure is an estimate of the actual entry rate in the current year of people who had not previously entered higher education at each age from 17 to 30, based on the current entry rate of previous non-entrants.
18. The figures in this SFR were derived from data on Higher Education students collected from publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the United Kingdom and from the University of Buckingham (from 2004/05) by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and from Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England by the Further Education Data Service, in Wales by the Welsh Government, and in Scotland by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Population estimates were acquired from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which have been converted to an academic year basis by the Department for Education (DfE) and BIS.
19. The HEIPR is a sum of the participation rates for each age from 17 to 30 inclusive. For each age from 17 to 30, the initial participation rate is calculated as the fraction of the academic year population that are initial entrants. These rates are added to create the total HEIPR. The HEIPR is not a sum of the total number of initial entrants divided by the total academic year population. Doing this would make the false assumption of an equal likelihood of participation across all ages. Further information about the methodology can be found in the National Statistics Quality Review of Higher Education participation statistics (2003) at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-reviews/theme/children--education-and-skills/nsqr-24/index.html>.
20. The HEIPR counts English-domiciled 17-30 year old higher education students. Students are counted if they participate for at least six months on a course expected to last for at least six months, except that students are not counted if they have participated in Higher Education previously for at least six months. Students at FECs in England, Scotland and Wales are counted if they are on courses designated as National Vocational Qualification Level 4 or above, or are listed as Higher Education courses.
21. The HEIPR does not count English domiciled Higher Education students (as defined above):
  - at FECs in Northern Ireland;



- at privately funded institutions<sup>3</sup>;
- at institutions outside the UK.

Information on these students is not currently available to the Department in sufficient detail to be included in the calculations; however some estimates of their likely impact are made in paragraphs 37 and 38.

22. The HEIPR includes students studying via both Full-time (FT) and Part-time (PT) modes. FT study is defined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as attendance at an institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks per year, with learning activity amounting to an average of at least 21 hours per week. The PT mode refers to study which is less intensive than this definition. There is no lower limit on the intensity of PT courses for inclusion in the HEIPR.
23. In order to ensure that only initial participants are counted in the HEIPR in a given year, algorithms are applied to match back over 12 years for HE data and FE data<sup>4</sup>. This method looks back over the previous years' HE and FE datasets and checks whether a student appears in these datasets, recorded as studying at HE level for a minimum period of six months. If so, they are eliminated from the calculations as they are not initial participants in the current year. Matching the 2013/14 figures back over 12 years ensures that any 30 year old in the dataset, who has at least six months' prior HE experience, can be detected all the way back to when they were 18 years-old. The matching algorithms are provided to BIS by HEFCE.
24. 2007/08 was the first year for which this approach was possible (as 12 years' worth of HE data is available up to that point). In order to provide some time series comparison, and to demonstrate the impact of this change, the 2006/07 figure was also calculated using this methodology – although this used one less year of matching due to data availability. The 2006/07 HEIPR measure created using the new methodology can be found in Table 1 of this SFR, and the 2006/07 HEIPR measure using the old methodology can be found in Supplementary Table A (see paragraph 33 for more details).
25. There are various other publications that provide estimated participation rates and show how these contribute to the skill levels of the working population in England. These include but are not limited to:
- Young participation rates by region (Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE))

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<sup>3</sup> with the exception of University of Buckingham as this provider has supplied a full and quality assured HESA Student Return since the Academic Year 2004/05

<sup>4</sup> FE datasets are matched back no further than 2002/03 in this publication, this represents 11 years' worth of linking back for previous HE experience.



available at: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2015/201503/>

- 18 year old entry rates to full-time undergraduate courses (UCAS) available at: <https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/2014-end-of-cycle-report-dec-14.pdf>
- Highest qualifications held of the working population (Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/graduate-labour-market-statistics-january-to-march-2015>

26. The 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' (OECD) publishes entry rates to tertiary education on an internationally comparable basis in their annual publication 'Education at a Glance' (EAG). In the September 2014 publication the reported UK entry rate in 2011/12 was 67%, this compared to an average of 58% across OECD-reporting countries. The methodology for calculating this rate is largely in-line with the HEIPR (calculated as the sum of age specific participation rates), however it differs in that it:

- provides the entry rate for students studying in the UK and not English domiciled entrants alone;
- is not restricted to initial entrants to higher education (that is, those entering HE for the first time); and
- includes entrants to the reporting country from overseas (which can lead to inflated entry rates for countries with large numbers of overseas students)

Figures for the 2012/13 entry rate to tertiary education in the UK will be published by the OECD in November 2015.



## REVISIONS

27. Revisions made this year to initial participant estimates: Estimates of the number of initial participants have been revised for the academic years 2006/07 to 2012/13 following improvements to the data linking procedures that are applied by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to identify individuals who already have a higher education qualification. As robust formal identifiers for individuals are not available, a fuzzy matching linking process is used for identifying entrants who have been in higher education previously. This process is constantly reviewed and a number of improvements have been made in recent years including: enhancing matching for individuals with missing address information (in particular, postcode prior to entry); the use of name indexes to reduce the effect of shortened names and nicknames; and stronger validation of formal identifiers where available.
28. The improvements have caused a reduction in the estimated number of initial participants aged 17 to 30 in academic years 2006/07 to 2012/13 by up to 1,408 participants (compared with estimates published in August 2014). The impact on the headline HEIPR measure of these revisions does not exceed 0.5% in any given year. Similarly, these methodological improvements have also resulted in a reduction in the estimated number of initial participants aged 17 to 30 in academic years 2006/07 to 2012/13 at postgraduate level (in Supplementary Table D); this has marginally decreased the estimates of the number of initial participants at this level of study by up to 171 participants compared with figures published last year, a difference of no more than 0.3%.
29. Future updates to the underlying data: As revisions and updates to the source data from HESA, Further Education Data Service, SFC, the Welsh Government and the population estimates and projections from ONS and the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) are made available at different times during the year, any revisions to the provisional figures for 2013/14 will be published as soon as the provisional figures for 2014/15 are available. The Department is planning to publish the provisional figures for 2014/15 in summer 2016.





## BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

30. In November 2002, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a National Statistics Quality Review of Higher Education participation statistics. The review was carried out independently by Professor Ramsden in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines and was designed to ensure rigour and transparency. The report on the review was published in July 2003 and is available on the Office for National Statistics website, at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-reviews/theme/children--education-and-skills/nsqr-24/index.html>. The report recommended that the HEIPR be a measure of initial participation in higher education.
31. In August 2004, the Department for Education and Skills commissioned a further review to assess the feasibility of disaggregating the HEIPR by ethnicity, disability, social class and region. This review was also carried out by Professor Ramsden. The report on this review was published in August 2005 and is available at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/RR676>
32. In December 2006, the National Audit Office published a review of the data systems underpinning target measurement in a number of Government Departments. The HEIPR methodology was reviewed as part of this process. The report is available on the National Audit Office website, at: [http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/third\\_validation\\_compendium\\_re.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/third_validation_compendium_re.aspx)
33. The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was revised in 2007, in line with recommendations set out in the National Statistics Quality Review and the recent National Audit Office review. The details of the revisions and their impact on the HEIPR time series were reported in Statistical First Release 03/2007, "Methodological Revisions to the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)", which is available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/whatsnew.shtml>
34. The methodology for calculating the HEIPR was further revised in 2009 due to a change in the underlying data. Details of the revisions were reported in the Statistical First Release 03/2009, "Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/00-2007/08 (Provisional)" which is available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/index.shtml>



35. Details of the impact of the revisions on the HEIPR time series were detailed in an appendix to the main Statistical First Release which is available at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110206224126/http://education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000839/index.shtml>
36. In December 2010, the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) published an assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics for Higher Education statistics in England and the UK. The Participation Rates in Higher Education Statistical First Release was covered as part of this assessment. The full assessment report is available on the UKSA website at:  
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-77---higher-education-in-england-and-the-uk.pdf>
37. The 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' (OECD) publishes figures on the number of students studying wholly overseas at a national level in their annual publication 'Education at a Glance'. Latest data shows that there were an estimated 44,300 UK students studying wholly overseas in 2011/12. If we assume that these UK students overseas have a similar profile to students enrolled at UK institutions with a study year abroad (as recorded by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)), then approximately 7,900 would be English domiciled initial entrants to higher education studying wholly overseas. In the context of the 2013/14 HEIPR, these entrants could add an estimated 1.2 percentage points to the participation rate. However, as the data necessary to disaggregate these students appropriately to the HEIPR criteria are not available, they have been excluded from the main HEIPR measure.
38. Data from the Student Loans Company (SLC) on student support claimants suggests that there were approximately 17,500 initial entrants at private higher education institutions in the academic year 2013/14. 17,500 additional English domiciled initial entrants could add approximately 2.6 percentage points to the HEIPR. The potential contribution of private higher education institutions to the HEIPR is expected to be higher than this since students who do not take a loan are not included in the estimate of circa 17,500 initial entrants to private higher education institutions in 2013/14. A more robust estimate of participation at Alternative Providers is expected in the coming years with the commencement of the collection by HESA of the Alternative Provider Student Record in the 2014/15 academic year. More information can be found via the following link:  
[https://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com\\_studrec&Itemid=232&mnl=14054](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_studrec&Itemid=232&mnl=14054)



## SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

39. The Annex contains supplementary tables as follows:

- **Supplementary Table A:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology).
- **Supplementary Table B:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year-olds (HEIPR20) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges, 2006/07 to 2013/14.
- **Supplementary Table C:** Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year-olds (HEIPR60) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges, 2006/07 to 2013/14.
- **Supplementary Table D:** Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR) for English domiciled 17-30 year old first time participants in Postgraduate Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions 2006/07 to 2013/14.

40. The figures in Supplementary Table A show the historical HEIPR time series, prior to the methodology change in 2006/07. These figures are not comparable to the figures in Table 1.

41. The figures in Supplementary Tables B, C and D have been derived using similar methods to the HEIPR. The figures for the HEIPR20 are the sums of the age specific initial participation rates for 17 to 20 year olds and are at least as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself. The figures for the HEIPR60 are the sums of the age specific participation rates for 17 to 60 year olds and are not as robust as the figures for the HEIPR itself because it is not possible to check as thoroughly whether participants aged 31 to 60 are initial participants. The HEIPR20 and HEIPR60 provide estimates for a narrower and wider definition of first-time participation and enable comparability with statistics published by other countries. The academic year populations for the 35+ age range have been calculated by BIS using the same methodology previously applied by DfE.



**ANNEX**

**Supplementary Table A: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 1999/00 to 2006/07 (based on old methodology).**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>99/00</b>	<b>00/01</b>	<b>01/02</b>	<b>02/03</b>	<b>03/04</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>05/06</b>	<b>06/07</b>
<b>HEIPR (male and female) %</b>	39 (39.2)	40 (39.6)	40 (40.1)	41 (41.2)	41 (40.6)	40 (40.4)	43 (43.1)	40 (40.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	238	238	244	255	258	261	281	270
<b>HEIPR (male) %</b>	37 (37.0)	37 (36.6)	36 (36.5)	37 (37.2)	36 (36.0)	36 (36.1)	39 (38.7)	36 (36.1)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	113	111	112	117	117	118	127	122
<b>HEIPR (female) %</b>	42 (42.2)	43 (42.9)	44 (43.9)	45 (44.9)	45 (45.5)	45 (44.8)	47 (47.0)	45 (45.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	125	127	131	138	142	143	153	148
<b>HEIPR (full-time) %</b>	34 (33.6)	34 (34.4)	35 (35.0)	36 (35.6)	35 (34.8)	35 (34.8)	37 (37.2)	35 (34.6)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	202	205	211	220	222	224	243	231
<b>HEIPR (part-time) %</b>	6 (5.6)	5 (5.2)	5 (5.1)	6 (5.5)	6 (5.7)	6 (5.7)	6 (5.9)	6 (5.8)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	36	33	33	35	37	37	39	39

**Notes**

Figures in this table are not comparable to the later figures shown in Table 1.

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised population estimates.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-higher-education-initial-participation-rates>



**Supplementary Table B: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds (HEIPR20) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2013/14**

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14 (Provisional)
<b>HEIPR20 (male and female) %</b>	34 (33.6)	35 (35.0)	37 (36.6)	37 (37.3)	38 (37.8)	42 (41.5)	36 (36.2)	40 (40.0)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	223	234	248	259	263	283	244	266
<b>HEIPR20 (male) %</b>	31 (30.6)	32 (31.9)	33 (33.2)	34 (33.9)	35 (34.7)	38 (38.1)	33 (32.8)	36 (36.3)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	103	108	114	120	123	133	113	124
<b>HEIPR20 (female) %</b>	37 (36.6)	38 (38.2)	40 (40.2)	41 (40.9)	41 (41.0)	45 (45.1)	40 (39.8)	44 (43.9)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	120	126	134	139	140	151	131	142
<b>HEIPR20 (full-time) %</b>	32 (31.8)	33 (33.1)	35 (34.7)	35 (35.4)	36 (35.8)	39 (39.4)	35 (34.6)	38 (38.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	212	222	235	245	249	269	233	255
<b>HEIPR20 (part-time) %</b>	2 (1.8)	2 (1.8)	2 (1.9)	2 (1.9)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.1)	2 (1.6)	2 (1.6)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	12	12	13	13	14	15	11	11

**Notes**

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

Tables from the release are available in Excel format by accessing the documents here:

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**Supplementary Table C: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-60 year olds (HEIPR60) for English domiciled first time participants in Higher Education Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish Further Education Colleges: 2006/07 to 2013/14**

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14 (Provisional)
<b>HEIPR60 (male and female) %</b>	52 (52.4)	53 (52.7)	54 (54.1)	54 (54.4)	54 (54.0)	57 (56.7)	49 (48.5)	51 (51.3)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	356	360	373	381	380	393	334	349
<b>HEIPR60 (male) %</b>	45 (44.7)	45 (45.2)	47 (46.9)	47 (47.3)	48 (47.5)	50 (50.4)	43 (42.6)	46 (45.6)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	152	155	163	167	169	177	149	158
<b>HEIPR60 (female) %</b>	60 (60.1)	60 (60.3)	61 (61.4)	62 (61.6)	61 (60.6)	63 (63.0)	55 (54.5)	57 (57.3)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	204	205	210	214	211	216	185	191
<b>HEIPR60 (full-time) %</b>	38 (38.0)	39 (39.4)	41 (41.3)	42 (42.3)	42 (42.3)	45 (45.4)	40 (40.0)	44 (44.2)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	255	266	282	295	296	312	272	297
<b>HEIPR60 (part-time) %</b>	14 (14.4)	13 (13.3)	13 (12.8)	12 (12.1)	12 (11.7)	11 (11.3)	9 (8.5)	7 (7.2)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	101	94	91	86	84	81	62	52

**Notes**

Figures for the HEIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

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**Supplementary Table D: Postgraduate Initial Participation Rate (PGIPR) for English domiciled 17-30 year old first time participants in Postgraduate Courses at UK Higher Education Institutions: 2006/07 to 2013/14**

Academic Year	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14 (Provisional)
<b>PGIPR (male and female) %</b>	9 (8.7)	8 (8.2)	9 (8.8)	10 (9.7)	9 (9.1)	9 (8.9)	8 (8.3)	8 (8.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	59	57	62	69	66	65	61	62
<b>PGIPR (male) %</b>	7 (6.8)	7 (6.6)	7 (6.9)	8 (7.9)	7 (7.3)	7 (7.1)	6 (6.4)	7 (6.5)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	23	23	24	28	26	26	24	24
<b>PGIPR (female) %</b>	11 (10.6)	10 (9.9)	11 (10.7)	12 (11.5)	11 (11.0)	11 (10.8)	10 (10.2)	10 (10.4)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	36	34	37	41	40	39	37	38
<b>PGIPR (full-time) %</b>	6 (5.9)	6 (5.6)	6 (5.8)	7 (6.7)	6 (6.3)	6 (6.5)	6 (6.0)	6 (6.2)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	40	39	41	47	45	47	44	45
<b>PGIPR (part-time) %</b>	3 (2.8)	3 (2.7)	3 (3.0)	3 (3.1)	3 (2.8)	2 (2.5)	2 (2.3)	2 (2.3)
<b>Initial entrants (thousands)</b>	19	18	21	22	20	18	17	17

**Notes**

Figures for the PGIPR are rounded to the nearest whole number to reflect the degree of accuracy inherent in the data. As this can conceal changes or trends, figures rounded to the nearest decimal place (shown in parentheses) are also provided to inform comparisons over time. Figures for the counts of initial entrants are rounded to the nearest thousand. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts. These revised estimates supersede figures released earlier as they have been updated with revised data from all sources.

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