



CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education Maintenance Allowances 2014-15

23 March 2016

Scotland's Chief Statistician today published statistics on Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) in the academic year 2014-15. EMAs provide financial support for 16 to 19 year olds from low-income households to overcome financial barriers to participate in appropriate school or college courses or an Activity Agreement. This release contains information on students in Scotland who received at least one payment under the EMA programme. This is the eighth year of full roll out of EMAs.

Summary of Key Findings

- **32,395 school pupils and college students received EMA payments in Scotland in the academic year 2014-15**, a decrease of 7% (2,560) from 34,955 in 2013-14 ([Table 1](#)).
- School pupils account for 70% of young people in receipt of EMA payment, with the remaining 30% being college students.
- Of all 16-19 year old school pupils in Scotland, 31% (22,530) received EMA payments in 2014-15. Of all full time 16-19 year old college students, 20% (9,865) received at least one EMA payment in 2014-15 ([Table 1](#)).
- The proportion of EMA recipients living in Scotland's 20% most deprived areas in 2014-15 was the highest on record at 35% (11,185), although the actual number of recipients decreased by 690 from 11,875 in 2013-14 ([Table 2](#)). Among school pupils receiving EMAs, 33% were living in the 20% most deprived areas, while among college students receiving EMAs, 37% were living in the 20% most deprived areas.
- **The total amount spent on EMA payments in 2014-15 was £25.9 million**, a decrease of £2.4 million from £28.2 million in 2013-14 ([Table 4](#)). Of this, £18.6 million (72%) was paid out to school pupils, and the remaining £7.3 million (28%) was paid out to young people attending college ([Table 5](#)).

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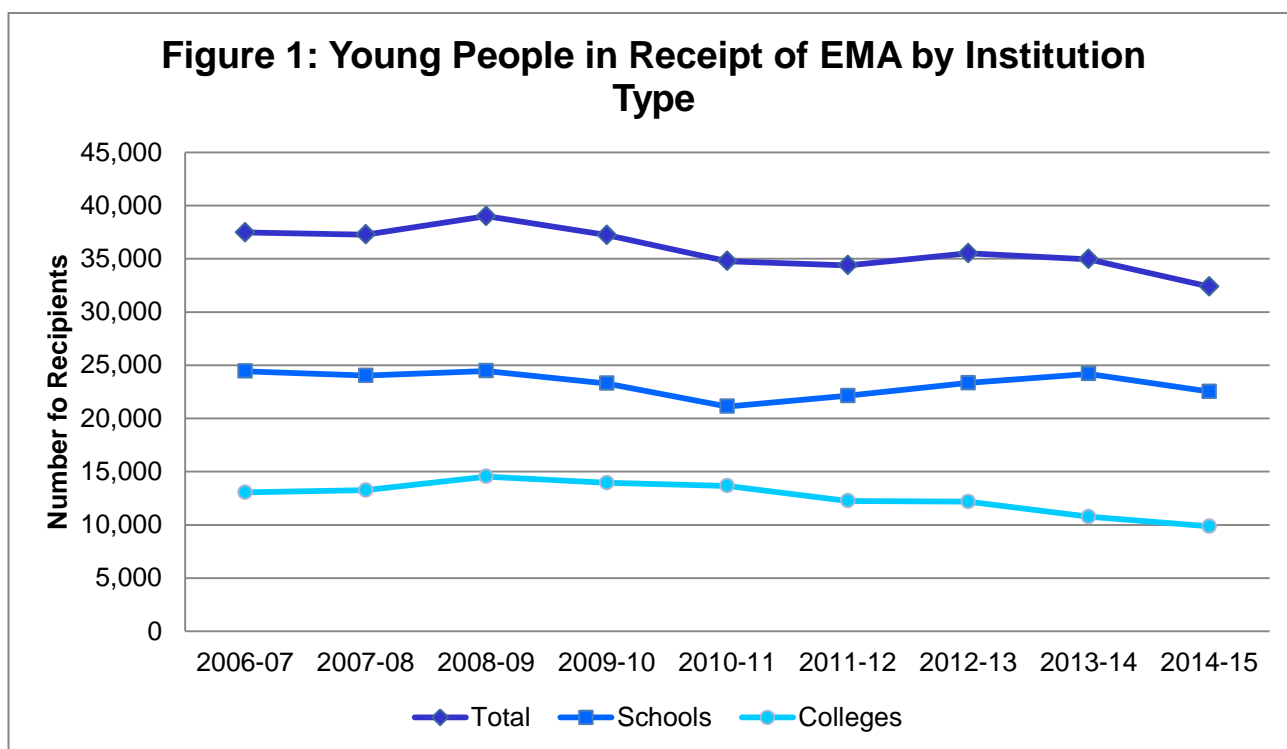
1. Background information on Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs)

1. The EMA programme aims to provide support for young people aged 16 to 19 from low income families to overcome financial barriers to stay on in post-16 education, either in school or on a college course.
2. The programme is an entitlement and demand led programme which is administered by local authorities and colleges on behalf of Scottish Ministers. A weekly payment of £30 is made to a young person and is subject to attendance and agreement of a learning plan.
3. EMAs were introduced across Scotland from August 2004 for 16 year olds. In academic year 2005-06 eligibility was extended to include all 17 year olds and in academic year 2006-07 eligibility was further extended to include 18 year olds. Full roll out to 19 year olds was completed in 2007-08.
4. Initially, the EMA consisted of both weekly payments and additional bonus payments to recipients. The weekly payments consisted of £10, £20 and £30 categories, dependent on the household income of the recipient. Following satisfactory attendance and completion of a learning agreement, additional bonus payments of £150 each were payable in January and June.
5. In 2009 changes were made to the EMA programme in response to the Scottish Government's '[16+ Learning Choices – First Step Activity and Financial Support](#)' consultation. The £10 and £20 payments were removed and the income threshold for the £30 payment was aligned with that of the 'away from home' element of further education bursaries (£20,351). An additional, higher income threshold (£22,403) was also introduced for families with more than one dependent child. These changes were introduced for new entrants to the EMA programme at the beginning of the academic year 2009-10 and are reflected in this publication.
6. In June 2010 the Scottish Government announced that as of the 2010-11 academic year, EMA bonus payments would be withdrawn from all recipients (both new and existing).
7. On 1 January 2016, the EMA programme was extended to include part-time non-advanced college courses and income thresholds were increased to £24,421 for families with one dependent child and to £26,884 for families with more than one dependent child in the household. Next year's edition of this publication, which relates to academic year 2015-16, will cover this period of expansion.
8. Additional information on Education Maintenance Allowance in Scotland can be found at: <http://www.emascotland.com/>

2. Analysis and Interpretation

Recipients of EMA

9. In 2014-15 there were 32,395 young people who received EMA payments, a decrease of 7% (2,560) from 34,955 in 2013-14.



[See [Table 1](#), page 9]

10. Figure 1 shows how the number of people receiving EMA has changed over time.
11. The majority (70% or 22,530) of EMA recipients accessed the programme while studying at a Scottish school, with the remaining 30% (9,865) attending a Scottish college (see Table 1).
12. The overall trend is explained by the gradual fluctuation in the number of school pupils receiving EMA (the total number of school pupils receiving EMA in 2014-15 decreased for the first time in since 2010-11) and the steady decrease in the number of college students receiving EMA.
13. Of all school pupils in Scotland aged 16 to 19, 31% (22,530) received at least one EMA payment in 2014-15 (see [Table 1](#) and [paragraph 37](#)). This is lower than the 34% who received an EMA payment in 2013-14, and a continuation of the steady decrease from a high of 41% in 2006-07. Please note that this decrease does not necessarily indicate the rate of uptake has decreased. There are no data available on the number of school pupils who were eligible for EMA each year.
14. Of all full time college students in Scotland aged 16 to 19, 20% (9,865) received at least one EMA payment in 2014-15 (see [Table 1](#) and [paragraph 38](#)). Again, this is

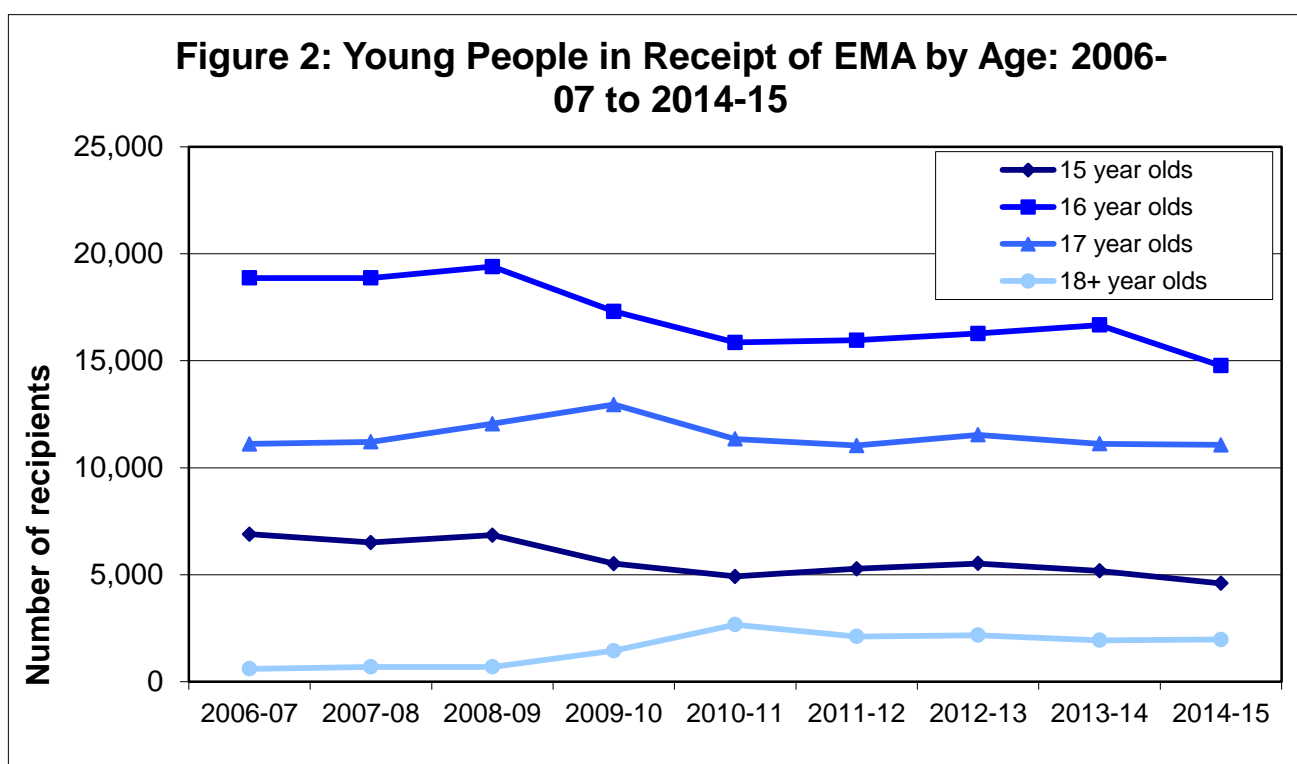
lower than the 21% who received a payment in 2013-14, and is the continuation of a steady decline from a high of 27% on 2006-07. Please note that this decrease does not necessarily indicate the rate of uptake has decreased. There are no data available on the number of college students who were eligible for EMA each year

Gender

15. In 2014-15, 49% (15,965) of EMA recipients were male and 51% (16,430) were female (see [paragraph 36](#)).
16. [Table 1](#) shows that the difference between the number of male and female EMA recipients has been gradually decreasing since 2008-09 for school pupils, to almost equal levels in 2014-15. The difference has similarly decreased for college students, and had remained steady for the past three academic years.

Age

17. Figure 2 shows time series data for the different age groups that receive EMA. Young people cannot receive EMA until they reach school leaving age. However, for data collection purposes, age is recorded on 30th September each academic year, therefore there are some 15 year olds recorded as receiving EMA.



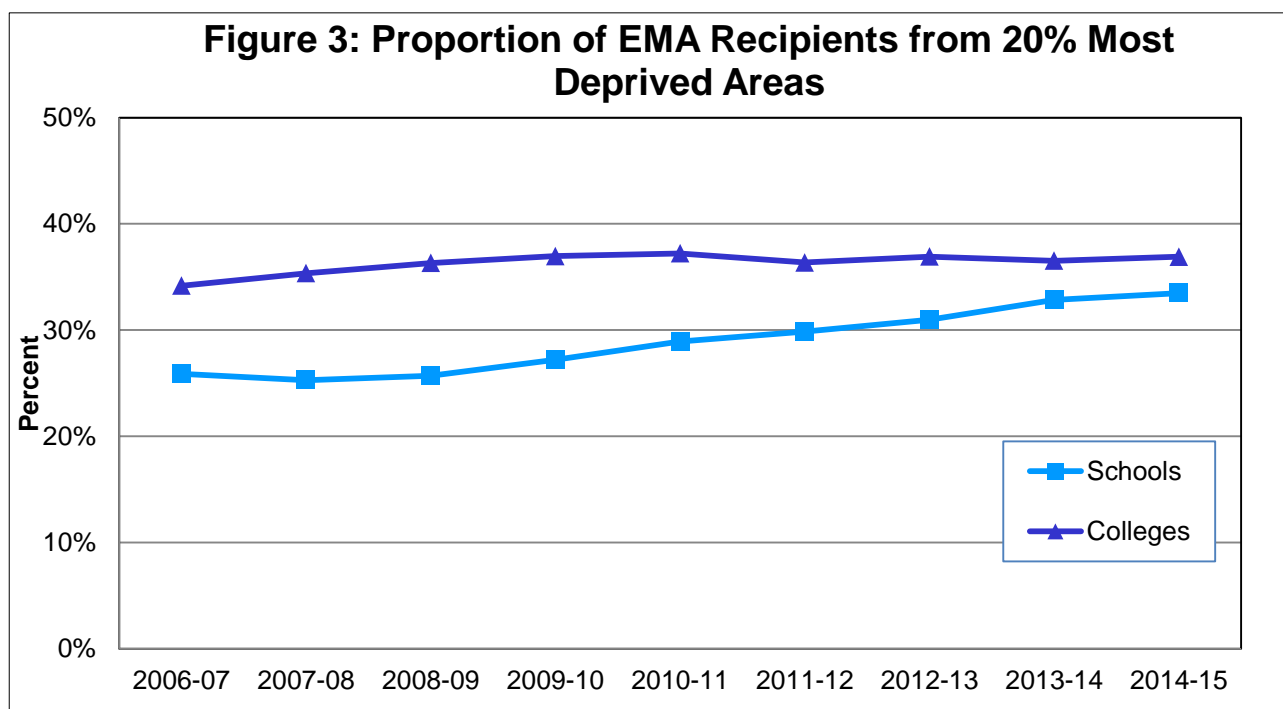
[See [Table 2](#), page 10]

18. As in previous years, the majority of EMA recipients were 16 years old (14,770 people: 46%). 18 and 19 year olds make up the smallest number of EMA recipients (1,970 people: 6%) (see [Table 2](#)).
19. The decrease in overall numbers was driven by the younger age groups. There was a decrease of 11% in both the number of 15 year olds (down 585) and 16 year olds

(down 1,900) receiving EMAs. The number of 17 year olds decreased by less than 1% (down 55), and the number of 18 and 19 year olds increased by 2% (up 35).

Deprivation

20. The proportion of EMA recipients living in Scotland's 20% most deprived areas in 2014-15 was the highest on record at 35% (11,185). This is an increase of 1 percentage point since the previous year and 6 percentage points since 2006-07 (see [Table 3](#)). People from the 20% most deprived areas are therefore over-represented among EMA recipients. This might be explained in part by the fact that one of the main criterion for eligibility is household income, and income is a key domain in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (see [paragraph 41](#)).
21. The actual number of EMA recipients living in Scotland's 20% most deprived areas in 2014-15, however, decreased by 690 from 11,875 in 2013-14, in line with the overall decrease in EMA recipients.
22. Figure 3 shows that the trend over time is largely driven by an increase in the proportion of school pupils receiving EMAs who live in the 20% most deprived areas, which increased by 8 percentage points between 2006-07 and 2014-15 to 33%, compared to a 3 percentage point increase among college students over the same period, to 37%.
23. The proportion of college students receiving EMA who are from deprived areas has remained relatively stable over recent years, and has consistently been higher than the proportion for school pupils. This might be explained in part by the fact that people from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland are generally over-represented in Scotland's colleges.



[See [Table 3](#), page 11]

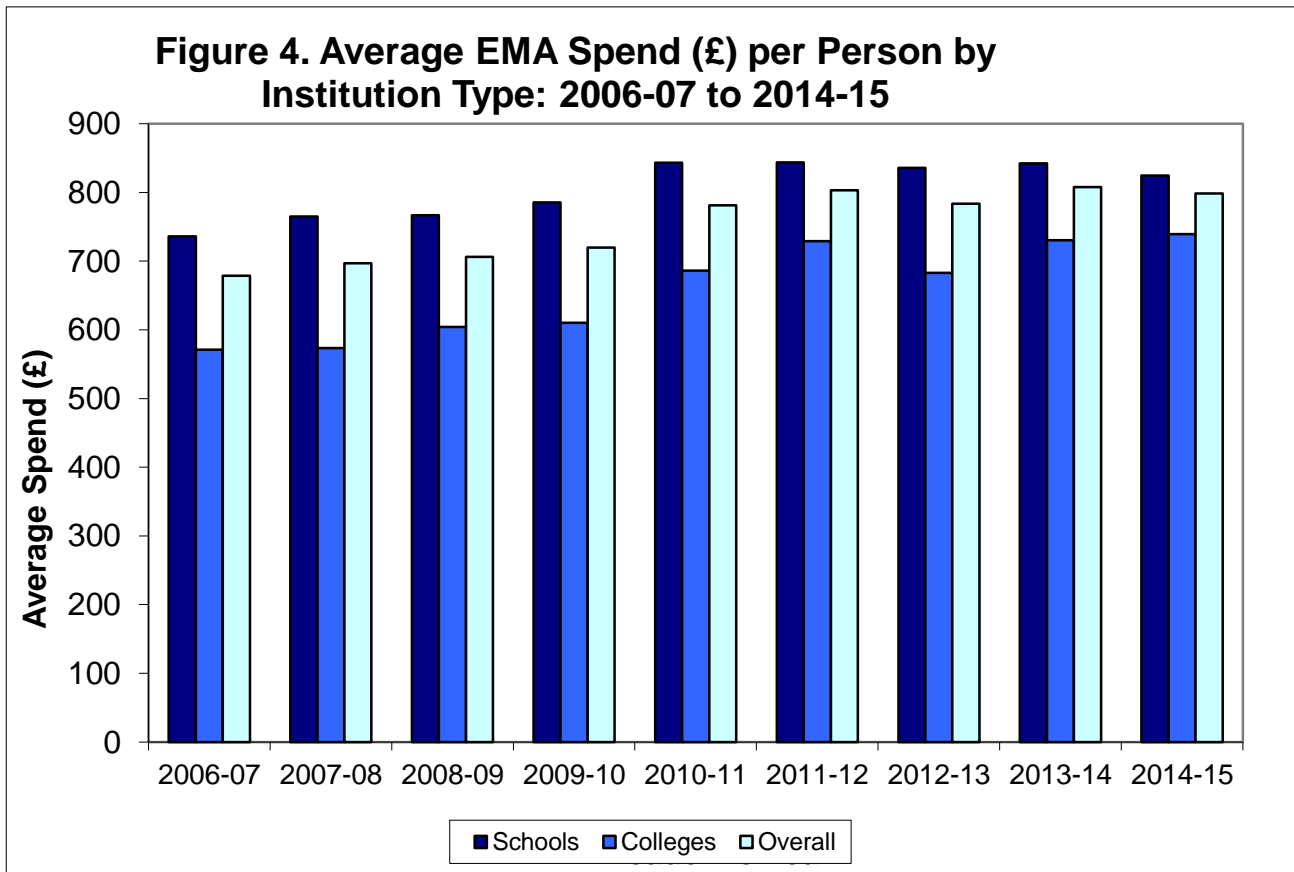
EMA Payments

Total Spend on Payments

24. The EMA payment spend in 2014-15 was £25.9 million, a decrease of £2.4 million from £28.2 million in 2013-14. The fall was driven by a decrease for school pupils (down £1.8 million from £20.4 million to £18.6 million), while the overall payment spend for college students continued to decrease over the same period (down £0.6 million from £7.9 million to £7.3 million).
25. The proportion of the EMA payment spend for school pupils in 2013-14 was 72%, unchanged from 2013-14 ([Table 5](#)). The proportion of the EMA payment spend for each gender was 49% for males and 51% for females. This mirrors the gender balance for the overall number of EMA recipients (see [Table 6](#) and above).

Average Payment Spend per Person (excluding bonus payments)

26. Figure 4 charts the EMA programme's average annual payment spend per person in each of the last nine academic years. Average payment spend was calculated by dividing the total spend on weekly payments by the number of people who received an EMA payment each year. Bonus payments were excluded to allow comparisons with previous years' data, as bonus payments ceased in 2010-11 (see [Tables 4](#) and [5](#)).



[See [Table 5](#), page 13]

27. Figure 4 shows that the average EMA payment spend per person decreased in 2014-15 (£9 lower than in 2013-14) (see [Table 5](#)). This average had steadily risen in previous years, with the exception of a slight dip in 2012-13. At £799 per person, the average spend is 18% higher than in the 2006-07 academic year. The differences in average spend between 2006-07 and 2014-15 are summarised in the table below.

| Table A | 2006-07 | | | 2014-15 | | | Increase |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Number of people | Weekly Payments | Average Payment Spend | Number of people | Weekly Payments | Average Payment Spend | |
| School | 24,430 | £17,975,080 | £736 | 22,530 | £18,578,760 | £825 | £89 |
| College | 13,050 | £7,455,005 | £571 | 9,865 | £7,292,550 | £739 | £168 |
| Total | 37,480 | £25,430,085 | £678 | 32,395 | £25,871,310 | £799 | £120 |

28. One explanation for the increases in average payment is the removal of the £10 and £20 payment levels after 2008-09. Since all students now receive the maximum £30 weekly payment, the average spend per person would be expected to be higher in subsequent academic years.

29. The difference between the average payment for colleges and schools in 2014-15 is the smallest since the EMA programme began.

3. Tables

Table 1. Young people in receipt of EMA by institution type and gender: 2006-07 to 2014-15

| | Academic Year | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| All Institutions | 2006-07 | 37,480 | 17,245 | 20,235 |
| | 2007-08 | 37,275 | 16,955 | 20,320 |
| | 2008-09 | 39,000 | 17,870 | 21,130 |
| | 2009-10 | 37,230 | 17,385 | 19,850 |
| | 2010-11 | 34,780 | 16,660 | 18,115 |
| | 2011-12 | 34,390 | 16,730 | 17,660 |
| | 2012-13 | 35,515 | 17,400 | 18,115 |
| | 2013-14 | 34,955 | 16,920 | 17,625 |
| | 2014-15 | 32,395 | 15,965 | 16,430 |
| Schools | 2006-07 | 24,430 | 11,485 | 12,945 |
| | 2007-08 | 24,020 | 11,270 | 12,750 |
| | 2008-09 | 24,460 | 11,555 | 12,905 |
| | 2009-10 | 23,290 | 11,095 | 12,190 |
| | 2010-11 | 21,120 | 10,240 | 10,880 |
| | 2011-12 | 22,135 | 10,900 | 11,235 |
| | 2012-13 | 23,335 | 11,530 | 11,810 |
| | 2013-14 | 24,195 | 11,930 | 12,220 |
| | 2014-15 | 22,530 | 11,245 | 11,285 |
| Colleges | 2006-07 | 13,050 | 5,760 | 7,290 |
| | 2007-08 | 13,255 | 5,685 | 7,570 |
| | 2008-09 | 14,540 | 6,315 | 8,225 |
| | 2009-10 | 13,945 | 6,285 | 7,655 |
| | 2010-11 | 13,660 | 6,420 | 7,235 |
| | 2011-12 | 12,255 | 5,830 | 6,430 |
| | 2012-13 | 12,175 | 5,870 | 6,305 |
| | 2013-14 | 10,760 | 4,995 | 5,405 |
| | 2014-15 | 9,865 | 4,715 | 5,145 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

Table 2. Young people in receipt of EMA by deprivation background and age: 2006-07 to 2014-15

| Deprivation Background | Academic Year | Age | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Total | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18+ |
| All Areas | 2006-07 | 37,480 | 6,895 | 18,870 | 11,110 | 605 |
| | 2007-08 | 37,275 | 6,505 | 18,865 | 11,210 | 690 |
| | 2008-09 | 39,000 | 6,850 | 19,400 | 12,055 | 690 |
| | 2009-10 | 37,230 | 5,520 | 17,305 | 12,950 | 1,450 |
| | 2010-11 | 34,780 | 4,915 | 15,855 | 11,345 | 2,665 |
| | 2011-12 | 34,390 | 5,280 | 15,955 | 11,040 | 2,115 |
| | 2012-13 | 35,515 | 5,525 | 16,275 | 11,540 | 2,170 |
| | 2013-14 | 34,955 | 5,180 | 16,670 | 11,120 | 1,935 |
| | 2014-15 | 32,395 | 4,595 | 14,770 | 11,065 | 1,970 |
| 20% most deprived areas | 2006-07 | 10,780 | 2,015 | 5,325 | 3,250 | 190 |
| | 2007-08 | 10,760 | 1,810 | 5,440 | 3,280 | 230 |
| | 2008-09 | 11,575 | 2,095 | 5,650 | 3,610 | 220 |
| | 2009-10 | 11,495 | 1,725 | 5,340 | 3,895 | 525 |
| | 2010-11 | 11,195 | 1,545 | 5,085 | 3,690 | 875 |
| | 2011-12 | 11,060 | 1,660 | 5,135 | 3,625 | 640 |
| | 2012-13 | 11,725 | 1,805 | 5,415 | 3,820 | 685 |
| | 2013-14 | 11,875 | 1,780 | 5,680 | 3,775 | 580 |
| | 2014-15 | 11,185 | 1,605 | 5,165 | 3,750 | 665 |
| Remaining 80% areas | 2006-07 | 26,470 | 4,835 | 13,420 | 7,810 | 410 |
| | 2007-08 | 26,330 | 4,670 | 13,325 | 7,880 | 455 |
| | 2008-09 | 27,240 | 4,720 | 13,670 | 8,390 | 460 |
| | 2009-10 | 25,370 | 3,755 | 11,810 | 8,915 | 885 |
| | 2010-11 | 23,290 | 3,335 | 10,645 | 7,560 | 1,750 |
| | 2011-12 | 23,075 | 3,580 | 10,700 | 7,330 | 1,460 |
| | 2012-13 | 23,515 | 3,695 | 10,735 | 7,625 | 1,460 |
| | 2013-14 | 22,830 | 3,370 | 10,900 | 7,275 | 1,135 |
| | 2014-15 | 21,035 | 2,965 | 9,515 | 7,270 | 1,285 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

Deprivation category was identified for over 99% of EMA recipients. For more information please refer to the methodological note ([paragraph 39](#)).

Revisions have been made in the 18+ column for 2006-07 to 2009-10 following identification of omitted data.

Table 3. Young people in receipt of EMA by deprivation background and institution type: 2006-07 to 2014-15

| Year | Total | | | Schools | | | Colleges | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | Total | 20% most deprived areas | Remaining 80% areas | Total | 20% most deprived areas | Remaining 80% areas | Total | 20% most deprived areas | Remaining 80% areas |
| 2006-07 | 37,480 | 10,780 | 26,470 | 24,430 | 6,320 | 17,920 | 13,050 | 4,460 | 8,555 |
| 2007-08 | 37,275 | 10,760 | 26,330 | 24,020 | 6,075 | 17,770 | 13,255 | 4,685 | 8,560 |
| 2008-09 | 39,000 | 11,575 | 27,240 | 24,460 | 6,290 | 18,000 | 14,540 | 5,280 | 9,240 |
| 2009-10 | 37,230 | 11,495 | 25,370 | 23,290 | 6,340 | 16,800 | 13,945 | 5,155 | 8,570 |
| 2010-11 | 34,780 | 11,195 | 23,290 | 21,120 | 6,110 | 14,890 | 13,660 | 5,085 | 8,400 |
| 2011-12 | 34,390 | 11,060 | 23,075 | 22,135 | 6,610 | 15,365 | 12,255 | 4,455 | 7,710 |
| 2012-13 | 35,515 | 11,725 | 23,515 | 23,335 | 7,230 | 15,945 | 12,175 | 4,495 | 7,575 |
| 2013-14 | 34,955 | 11,875 | 22,830 | 24,195 | 7,945 | 16,070 | 10,760 | 3,930 | 6,755 |
| 2014-15 | 32,395 | 11,185 | 21,035 | 22,530 | 7,545 | 14,850 | 9,865 | 3,640 | 6,185 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

Deprivation category was identified for over 99% of EMA recipients. For more information please refer to the methodological note ([paragraph 39](#)).

Table 4. EMA payment spend (£) by level of weekly payment and payment type: 2006-07 to 2014-15

| Weekly Payment Level | Academic Year | Number of Recipients | Payment Type (£) | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | | Total | Weekly Payments | Bonus Payments |
| Total | 2006-07 | 37,480 | 32,433,285 | 25,430,085 | 7,003,200 |
| | 2007-08 | 37,275 | 33,340,440 | 25,977,090 | 7,363,350 |
| | 2008-09 | 39,000 | 35,441,160 | 27,537,960 | 7,903,200 |
| | 2009-10 | 37,230 | 33,193,010 | 26,802,110 | 6,390,900 |
| | 2010-11 | 34,780 | 27,177,220 | 27,177,220 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 34,390 | 27,613,140 | 27,613,140 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 35,515 | 27,817,195 | 27,817,195 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 34,955 | 28,234,625 | 28,234,625 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 32,395 | 25,871,310 | 25,871,310 | 0 |
| £10 | 2006-07 | 3,440 | 1,607,320 | 905,020 | 702,300 |
| | 2007-08 | 3,380 | 1,645,480 | 927,730 | 717,750 |
| | 2008-09 | 3,495 | 1,738,660 | 978,460 | 760,200 |
| | 2009-10 | 1,165 | 568,800 | 326,400 | 242,400 |
| | 2010-11 | 135 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 0 | 40 | 40 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| £20 | 2006-07 | 3,820 | 2,750,320 | 1,995,070 | 755,250 |
| | 2007-08 | 3,905 | 2,951,000 | 2,123,150 | 827,850 |
| | 2008-09 | 3,915 | 2,989,630 | 2,141,680 | 847,950 |
| | 2009-10 | 1,530 | 1,176,490 | 862,840 | 313,650 |
| | 2010-11 | 205 | 113,210 | 113,210 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 0 | 300 | 300 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 0 | 280 | 280 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| £30 | 2006-07 | 30,220 | 28,075,645 | 22,529,995 | 5,545,650 |
| | 2007-08 | 29,990 | 28,743,960 | 22,926,210 | 5,817,750 |
| | 2008-09 | 31,595 | 30,712,870 | 24,417,820 | 6,295,050 |
| | 2009-10 | 34,530 | 31,445,290 | 25,611,340 | 5,833,950 |
| | 2010-11 | 34,425 | 27,022,140 | 27,022,140 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 34,385 | 27,611,360 | 27,611,360 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 35,510 | 27,816,915 | 27,816,915 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 34,955 | 28,234,625 | 28,234,625 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 32,395 | 25,871,310 | 25,871,310 | 0 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

Table 5. EMA payment spend (£) by institution type: 2006-07 to 2014-15

| | Academic Year | Number of Recipients | Total (£) | Weekly Payments (£) | Bonus Payments (£) |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total | 2006-07 | 37,480 | 32,433,285 | 25,430,085 | 7,003,200 |
| | 2007-08 | 37,275 | 33,340,440 | 25,977,090 | 7,363,350 |
| | 2008-09 | 39,000 | 35,441,160 | 27,537,960 | 7,903,200 |
| | 2009-10 | 37,230 | 33,193,010 | 26,802,110 | 6,390,900 |
| | 2010-11 | 34,780 | 27,177,220 | 27,177,220 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 34,390 | 27,613,140 | 27,613,140 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 35,515 | 27,817,195 | 27,817,195 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 34,955 | 28,234,625 | 28,234,625 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 32,395 | 25,871,310 | 25,871,310 | 0 |
| Schools | 2006-07 | 24,430 | 22,923,580 | 17,975,080 | 4,948,500 |
| | 2007-08 | 24,020 | 23,537,100 | 18,374,400 | 5,162,700 |
| | 2008-09 | 24,460 | 24,182,020 | 18,755,020 | 5,427,000 |
| | 2009-10 | 23,290 | 23,477,730 | 18,295,230 | 5,182,500 |
| | 2010-11 | 21,120 | 17,805,960 | 17,805,960 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 22,135 | 18,678,480 | 18,678,480 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 23,335 | 19,503,310 | 19,503,310 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 24,195 | 20,374,920 | 20,374,920 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 22,530 | 18,578,760 | 18,578,760 | 0 |
| Colleges | 2006-07 | 13,050 | 9,509,705 | 7,455,005 | 2,054,700 |
| | 2007-08 | 13,255 | 9,803,340 | 7,602,690 | 2,200,650 |
| | 2008-09 | 14,540 | 11,259,140 | 8,782,940 | 2,476,200 |
| | 2009-10 | 13,945 | 9,715,280 | 8,506,880 | 1,208,400 |
| | 2010-11 | 13,660 | 9,371,260 | 9,371,260 | 0 |
| | 2011-12 | 12,255 | 8,934,660 | 8,934,660 | 0 |
| | 2012-13 | 12,175 | 8,313,885 | 8,313,885 | 0 |
| | 2013-14 | 10,760 | 7,859,705 | 7,859,705 | 0 |
| | 2014-15 | 9,865 | 7,292,550 | 7,292,550 | 0 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

Table 6. EMA payment spend (£) by gender: 2006-07 to 2014-15

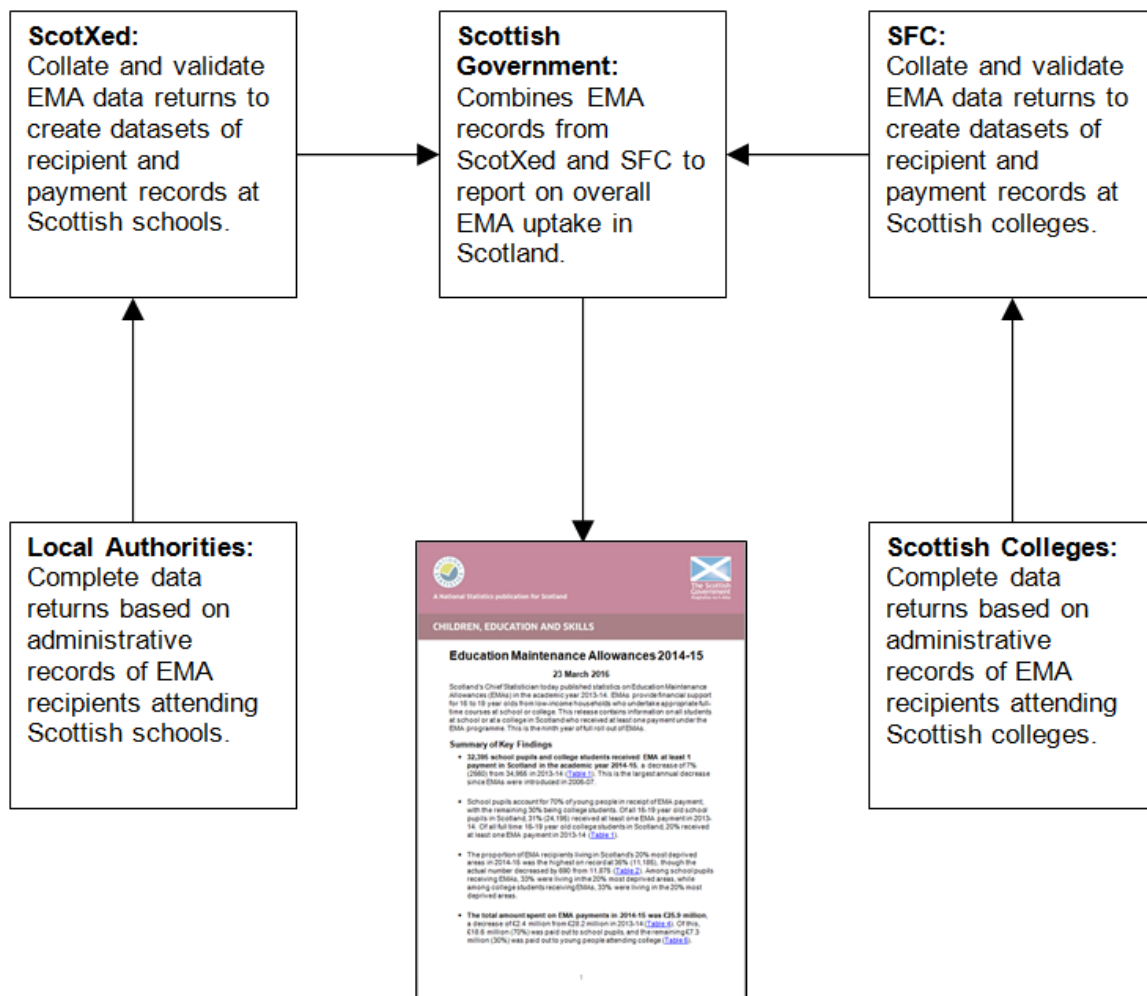
| Academic Year | Number of Recipients | | Total Payments (£) | | Weekly Payments (£) | | Bonus Payments (£) | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 2006-07 | 17,245 | 20,235 | 14,847,315 | 17,585,970 | 11,663,865 | 13,766,220 | 3,183,450 | 3,819,750 |
| 2007-08 | 16,955 | 20,320 | 15,207,780 | 18,132,660 | 11,864,430 | 14,112,660 | 3,343,350 | 4,020,000 |
| 2008-09 | 17,870 | 21,130 | 16,250,880 | 19,190,280 | 12,636,180 | 14,901,780 | 3,614,700 | 4,288,500 |
| 2009-10 | 17,385 | 19,850 | 15,527,450 | 17,664,240 | 12,545,450 | 14,255,640 | 2,982,000 | 3,408,600 |
| 2010-11 | 16,660 | 18,115 | 12,939,870 | 14,237,350 | 12,939,870 | 14,237,350 | 0 | 0 |
| 2011-12 | 16,730 | 17,660 | 13,327,560 | 14,285,580 | 13,327,560 | 14,285,580 | 0 | 0 |
| 2012-13 | 17,400 | 18,115 | 13,544,105 | 14,273,090 | 13,544,105 | 14,273,090 | 0 | 0 |
| 2013-14 | 16,920 | 17,625 | 13,631,460 | 14,344,895 | 13,631,460 | 14,344,895 | 0 | 0 |
| 2014-15 | 15,965 | 16,430 | 12,594,120 | 13,274,760 | 12,594,120 | 13,274,760 | 0 | 0 |

Figures in this table have been rounded to the nearest 5

4. Methodological Note

Data Sources

31. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) data are collected by the Scottish Government from local authorities which administer EMA payments to school pupils and those on Activity Agreements, and the Scottish Funding Council, which administers EMA payments to college students. Data returns from Local authorities are collated and validated by ScotXed, while those collected from colleges are collated and validated by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) before being submitted to the Scottish Government.
32. Where analysis refers to institutions rather than schools or colleges, data from both Scottish schools and Scottish colleges has been combined to report on all Scottish institutions.



Coverage

33. EMAs are means tested payments to young people participating in a school or further education college, or an Activity Agreement. The data included in this publication cover those who participated in the EMA programme, but not necessarily all of those who were eligible to participate.
34. Although measures are taken within both the school and college data to minimise the chances of more than one record being created for the same student, an element of duplication is likely to still occur where a student moves from school into college in the same academic year. At the moment there is not a reliable way of identifying such cases. Efforts are being made in the long term to improve the collection of Scottish Candidate Numbers (SCNs) for EMA recipients in colleges. If this succeeds it may be possible to use SCNs, possibly in combination with other student characteristics, to identify those who move between school and college and therefore reduce any associated over-counting.

Age of Recipients

35. In this publication the age of recipients refers to their age on the 30th September 2014.

Gender of Recipients

36. Gender was not recorded for 4 EMA recipients in 2014-15. In 2013-14, gender was not recorded for 405 EMA recipients, 360 of which were college students.

School Pupil Population

37. The proportion of all 16-19 year old school pupils that are in receipt of EMA is calculated in this publication using public and private school population data for Scotland. This year, the number of pupils aged 16-19 attending an Independent School in Scotland was estimated using the Independent School Census. This estimation was then added to the 2013 Pupil Census figure of publicly funded secondary school pupils to achieve an estimate of the total 16 to 19 year old school population, as at September 2015. There was no Independent School Census in 2010 or 2011, and in those years the number of pupils aged 16-19 attending an Independent School in Scotland was estimated using proportions obtained from historical data.

College Student Population

38. The proportion of all full time 16-19 year old college students that are in receipt of EMA is calculated in this publication using Scottish Funding Council data. The definition of full time used is consistent with eligibility criterion for EMAs, and the reference age was as at August 2015.

Activity Agreements

39. Activity Agreements were rolled out nationally on 1 April 2011. An Activity Agreement is an agreement between a young person and an advisor that the young person will take part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment. The young person may receive an EMA in return for complying with this agreement.
40. Within this publication, young people who receive an EMA in return for complying with an Activity Agreement are included in the School category.

Recipients from Deprived Areas of Scotland

41. Analysis of entrants from deprived areas of Scotland is based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2012) combines 38 indicators across 7 domains, namely: income, employment, health, education, skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime. The overall index is a weighted sum of the seven domain scores. The weighting for each domain is based on the relative importance of the domain in measuring multiple deprivation, the robustness of the data and the time lag between data collection and the production of the SIMD.
42. EMA recipients from the 20% most deprived areas are those whose home address was within one of the 20% lowest ranked areas in Scotland. The SIMD is split into 6,505 small areas called datazones, with the 20 per cent lowest ranked areas comprising of datazones 1 to 1301. A process of postcode matching was undertaken to identify which datazones recipients belonged to prior to study. In 2014-15, 99.5% of recipients were successfully matched through this process. Those recipients whose postcodes belonged to one of the 20% lowest ranked datazones in the SIMD are classified as entrants from deprived areas.
43. More information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation can be found at the following web address: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>.

Data Presentation

44. In all datasets figures on recipients have been rounded to the nearest 5 (0, 1 and 2 being rounded to 0). Figures on EMA spend have not been rounded. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Unless stated otherwise, percentages in tables are calculated from unrounded values. Percentages in the text of the publication are calculated from the figures displayed in the tables.

Coverage of Spend Data

45. The financial figures in this publication refer to the spend on EMA payments only. This publication does not cover any other costs associated with the EMA programme, such as administrative costs.

46. A small percentage of local authority payments (less than 0.5%) are not recorded on management information systems. These 'manual' payments are excluded from the figures presented in this publication.

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin are available on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning/DataEMA>

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