



Department
for Education

Key stage 4 destination measures (provisional)

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

October 2016

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Summary

About this guidance

This is to assist in understanding the key stage 4 (2013/14 cohort) destination measures data published in the 2016 schools performance tables.

Expiry date

This guidance will be updated in January 2017 when the revised destination measures are published.

Main points

This guidance explains

- the purpose of destination measures
- where data is sourced
- how the measures are calculated
- the categories of destinations
- additional technical details

Background information

What are key stage 4 destination measures?

Destination measures are now a **headline accountability measure** and show the percentage of pupils continuing to a sustained education, employment or training destination in the year after completing key stage 4 study (after year 11). Possible education destinations include further education (FE) colleges and other providers, sixth form colleges, school sixth forms or other education destinations. Employment destinations are also included in destination measures for the first time in 2016.

Why we publish destination measures

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

The history of destination measures

Destination measures were published for the first time in the 2012 performance tables. The measures showed education destinations only - the percentage of pupils going to or, remaining in, an education destination in a school, further education (FE) or sixth form college, or HE institution, and the percentage training through an apprenticeship. The data related to those pupils who were included in the 2009/10 performance tables cohort and showed their destinations in 2010/11.

In the 2013 performance tables, the types of education destination were expanded to include independent schools, special schools, specialist post-16 institutions and alternative provision/ pupil referral units. There have been three publications on this basis:

- 2011/12 destinations for the 2010/11 cohort (2013 performance tables)
- 2012/13 destinations for the 2011/12 cohort (2014 performance tables)
- 2013/14 destinations for the 2012/13 cohort (2015 performance tables)

In the 2016 performance tables, destination measures are included as a headline accountability measure for the first time. There have also been some changes to the way information is presented and what is included.

Destinations to independent schools, higher education institutions, special schools, specialist post-16 institutions, alternative provision/ pupil referral units and a combination of institutions have been incorporated into a single 'other education' category.

Employment destinations are shown for the first time and the grouping of pupils not continuing to a sustained destination has changed.

Further information on how this new data has been included in the measures is available in two statistical working papers published in August 2016 under the title of [‘Improvements to destinations measures’](#).

In addition to the publication of the key stage 4 destination measures on the performance tables website, key stage 4 and key stage 5 destination measures are published in a statistical first release at [Destinations statistics](#). This is the sixth year for which data have been produced. The publication includes:

- education and employment destinations for both key stage 4 pupils and key stage 5 students; and
- data based on the characteristics of pupils, including gender, ethnicity, eligibility for free school meals (FSM), disadvantage, special educational needs (SEN) and, for key stage 5, learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD).

The characteristics data that are published are not currently included in the performance tables.

Understanding destination measures

Definition of key stage 4 pupil destination measures

Percentage of 2013/14 key stage 4 cohort going to, or remaining in, a sustained education, training or employment destination in 2014/15.

Publication

The key stage 4 pupil destination measures were published on the **performance tables website** on 13 October 2016 as provisional data. A revised version of this data will be published in January 2017 and this revised version may update some destinations to independent schools due to the availability of additional awarding body data.

Data sources

Data from the national pupil database (NPD) are used to calculate education destinations. The national pupil database is a longitudinal database linking pupil/student characteristics (e.g. age, gender, and ethnicity) to school and college learning aims and attainment information for children in schools in England. Four administrative data sources used in compiling the national pupil database have been used to determine the education destinations, namely:

- individualised learner record (ILR) covering English colleges, FE providers and specialist post-16 institutions
- school census covering English schools (including pupil referral units)
- awarding body data
- alternative provision census

For the first time, employment data and out-of-work benefit data have been linked to the national pupil database to form the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) dataset. Along with local authority data, LEO data is used to calculate employment destinations. Three 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)
- local authority data from the National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS)

The matching of these databases is undertaken at individual level using personal characteristics such as name, date of birth and postcode. A pupil matching reference (PMR) number is attached to allow linking of the data. The destinations are derived from linking together the 2014/15 data sources to the 2013/14 cohort using the PMR number.

Cohort

The key stage 4 cohort consists of pupils completing key stage 4 in the 2013/14 academic year and identifies their destinations in the 2014/15 academic year.

The 2013/14 cohort, reported for a school in the destinations measures in 2016, includes the same pupils who were reported against that school for attainment and progress measures in the published 2014 key stage 4 performance tables.

The key stage 4 cohort is from state-funded schools and maintained and non-maintained special schools, which include

- academy - converter mainstream
- academies - sponsor led
- city technology colleges
- community schools
- foundation schools
- special (maintained) including free, academy converter and sponsor led academy special schools
- special (non-maintained)
- free schools – mainstream and studio schools
- voluntary aided schools
- voluntary controlled schools
- university technical colleges

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

Duplicate pupils within the base cohort

Duplicate pupils are pupils who appear more than once in the cohort in the national pupil database. The national pupil database is a pupil level database which matches pupil and school characteristic data to pupil level attainment. This matching can lead to more than one match, as a pupil may appear more than once in the national pupil database resulting, for example, from a change of school, or dual registration. These records are valid and will remain in the cohort for each school and included in the measure.

Although duplicates are included at school level, some are omitted at local authority (LA) and national level so that these pupils aren't counted twice in the overall figures. It is accepted that duplicates may occasionally remain in the data.

What is meant by a 'sustained' destination

To be included in the measure, pupils have to be recorded as having sustained participation at one or more education destinations, an employment or training destination or a combination of education and employment, in the first two terms of the academic year. The first two terms is defined to be between October 2014 and March 2015 in the 2014/15 academic year; the period starts in October as it allows for change at

the start of the academic year, where pupils may switch courses or start later. It is also the measurement period that is closest to the point at which the pupil left their former school and so is the period over which the institution has most influence. This therefore encourages schools to support and prepare their pupils to progress to a destination which offers sustained engagement.

Pupils who have completed the required period of attendance over the six months but with different education providers (e.g. two months in a school sixth form followed by four months in a FE college) will be included in the measure, identified as 'education combination' and reported in the 'other education' line. Similarly, pupils who have completed the required period of attendance through a period of education and a period of employment will be reported in the 'employment' line. Sustained participation was calculated using recorded start and end dates for their participation within each of the relevant datasets.

For certain education providers, including alternative provision and independent schools, start and end dates for participation are not available in our data sources. For this reason pupils are included if they are known to have attended alternative provision for any period of time in the first five months of the academic year or if they are found to have entered for qualifications while at such a provider

Information included in the table

How destinations are reported

The coverage of pupils included in each of the lines within the pupil destination measures is as follows.

Total number of pupils included in destination measures (cohort)

This is the total number of pupils 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.

Pupils staying in education or employment for at least two terms after key stage 4

Any sustained education or employment destination.

Apprenticeships

Pupils 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.

Pupils staying in employment for at least two terms after key stage 4

Employment destinations are calculated from HMRC data in the LEO dataset and NCCIS data recorded by local authorities. To count as a sustained destination a pupil 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 pupils 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.

Pupils with training participation recorded in NCCIS are also included in this category as are those completing the required 6 months participation through a combination of employment and education.

Pupils 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.

Pupils staying in education for at least two terms after key stage 4

Pupils who have been in any sustained education destination for the first two terms, October 2014 to March 2015.

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

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 pupils on work based learning or studying further education in a higher education institution. A number of pupils were identified within the higher education statistics agency (HESA) data as being registered for FE level study i.e. they were undergoing FE study within a HE institution.

Sixth-form college

Sixth form colleges are identified separately from the ILR data. The measure reports the proportion of the cohort participating at these institutions.

School sixth form

State-funded mainstream school sixth forms are identified from the school census data. The measure reports the proportion of the cohort participating at these institutions.

Other education

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

Independent school: These destinations were identified from awarding body data which holds information on which season the pupil sat their exam/s and this has been used to provide an indication of participation. For example if a student sat an exam in Winter 2013, it can be surmised the student had three months participation. If the student sat an exam in Summer 2014, it has been assumed the student fulfilled the full six months participation from October 2013 to March 2014. This publication of destination measures will also include independent destinations obtained from 2014/15 awarding body data.

Pupil referral unit or other alternative provision: Data on pupils in pupil referral units includes those who have their primary registration at a pupil referral unit or alternative provision academy (including alternative provision free schools). Data

on children in alternative provision refer to pupils who are attending a school not maintained by a LA, where the authority is paying for the full tuition or who are educated under arrangements made (and funded) by the authority, but not in a school or a pupil referral unit (e.g. pupils educated in community homes or units).

Attendance via alternative provision for a period of time in the first five months of the academic year is used as a proxy for sustained participation.

Special schools: This row includes pupils who attended maintained, non-maintained and independent special schools.

Specialist post-16 institution: This includes data on pupils attending specialist post-16 institutions, obtained from the ILR data.

Education combination; A number of pupils were identified as completing a first period of learning at one type of institution then moving to another type of institution to continue their learning. Providing they fulfilled the sustained participation criteria across the institution types they were counted in the measure and reported in this line. This is different from the double counts where pupils were attending a school and a college at the same time, with an equal number of learning aims at both, over the six month period.

This combination line does not include alternative provision units as sustained participation information is not available for these establishments; attendance for a period of time in the first five months of the academic year is used as a proxy for sustained participation here.

UK higher education institution: This line reports the proportion of the cohort that has gone to any HE institution in the UK, for higher level study, as recorded in HESA data.

Pupils not staying in education or employment for at least two terms after key stage 4

This includes pupils who were captured in the destination source data but who failed to meet the sustained participation criteria; it covers

- pupils who had participated in education, employment or training during the academic year but did not complete the required six months participation, this could include periods of being reported NEET.
- pupils who had no participation recorded and were recorded as NEET by their local authority, or were known to be claiming out-of-work benefits at some time during the destination year.

No activity captured in data

The pupil was not found to have any participation in education or employment and was also not recorded by their Local Authority as NEET, nor recorded as receiving out-of-work benefits at any point in the year.

Possible reasons for this could be that the pupil was living, working or studying abroad, was self-employed, or was attending a Scottish or Welsh college or school. Some pupils may have an education destination to an independent school that was not identified in the currently available data but may be included in the revised publication.

Double counting across destinations

The linking of pupils across education destinations (obtained from HESA, ILR, school census and awarding body data) identified a number of pupils who appear in more than one destination (i.e. more than one dataset) simultaneously. There were a number of reasons for this and processes were put in place to eliminate the double counts where possible.

Where a pupil has been identified as being in **education and employment simultaneously** then, providing they comply with the sustained criteria, they will be reported in the education destination.

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 pupil characteristics (gender, free school meals, disadvantage, special educational needs and ethnicity)

- [Destination measures](#)

A series of statistical working papers entitled 'Improvements to destination measures' are also available providing information on the inclusion of employment and benefit data.

- [Improvements to destination measures](#)



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