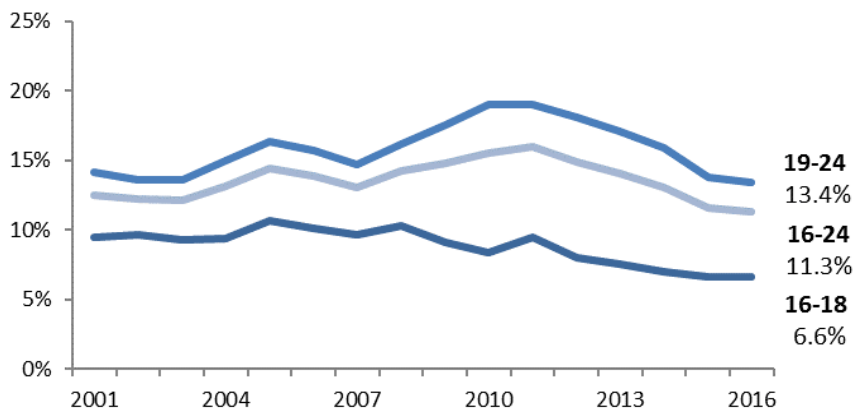




SFR 11/2017: 23 February 2017

The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) decreased slightly for the 19-24 and 16-24 age groups and remained the same for the 16-18 age group.<sup>1</sup>

October to December NEET rate: England



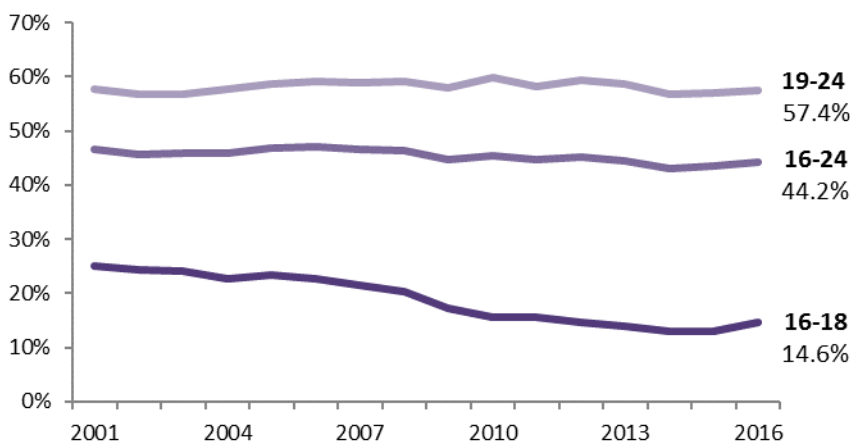
Source: Labour Force Survey

The 19-24 NEET rate fell by 0.4 percentage points (to 13.4%) from the comparable quarter in 2015 and the overall 16-24 NEET rate fell by 0.3 percentage points (to 11.3%). Neither of these changes were statistically significant.

Over the same period, the 16-18 NEET rate remained the same at 6.6%.

The proportion of young people not in education or training (NET) increased for the 16-18, 19-24 and 16-24 age groups<sup>1</sup>

October to December NET rate: England



Source: Labour Force Survey

The proportion of 16-18 year olds NET increased between October to December 2015 and 2016 (up 1.6 percentage points to 14.6%) although this change was not statistically significant.

The 19-24 NET rate rose by 0.4 percentage points (to 57.4%) and the overall 16-24 rose by 0.7 percentage points (to 44.2%). Neither of these changes were statistically significant.

<sup>1</sup> Note that none of the annual changes (between October to December 2015 and 2016) in the NEET and NET proportions for the summary age groups (16-18, 19-24 and 16-24) were statistically significant at the 95% level.

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### About this release

This statistical first release (SFR) provides the most timely statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people not in education or training (NET).

The data covers England and is based on academic age. Trends are assessed by comparing the current time period with the same time period in the previous year to account for seasonal effects.

The ONS releases NEET estimates on the same day as this release but their figures cover the UK, are based on calendar age and are seasonally adjusted.

Three data sources are used to publish this SFR:

- Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England'
- Local Authorities' Client Caseload Information System (CCIS)

### In this publication

The following tables are published alongside the SFR:

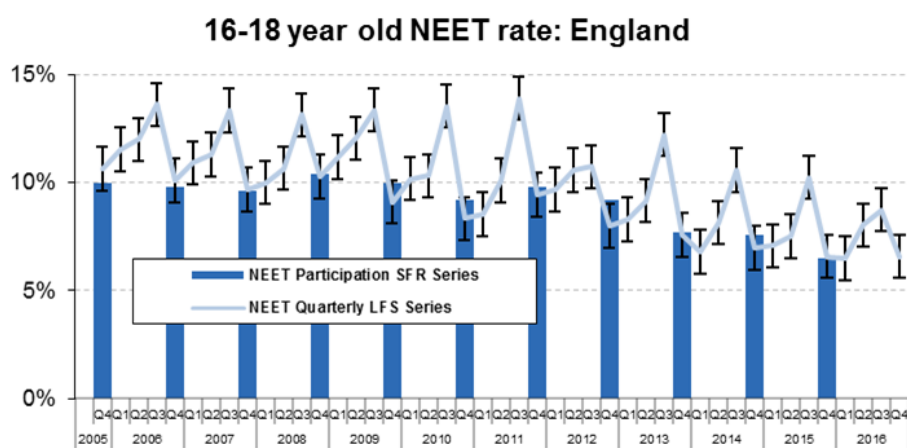
- NEET and NET estimates from the LFS (excel.xls)
- NEET and NET estimates from the Participation SFR (excel.xls)
- NEET and NET estimates from CCIS data (excel.xls)
- NEET estimates by region and gender from the LFS for: 16- 24, 18- 24 and 19-24 year-olds (excel.xls)
- National NEET estimates from the LFS for all age groups (excel.xls)
- NEET estimates from the LFS by age and gender and labour market status (excel.xls)
- Underlying data

### Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at [Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk)

# 1. NEET quarterly LFS series (last updated February 2017)

Figure 1: NEET Quarterly LFS Series, age 16-18: England, Oct-Dec 2005 to Oct-Dec 2016



Source: Source: Participation SFR and Labour Force Survey

The 16-18 year old trend shows seasonal patterns that reflect the academic year: lower rates in autumn (October to December) followed by a gradual rise in spring and early summer (January to June) with a peak in late summer (July to September).

The proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET has remained the same at 6.6% when compared to the October to December period in the previous year.

The proportion of 16 year olds who were NEET in October to December 2016 increased by 1.4 percentage points to 3.5% when compared to the same period in 2015. The proportion of 17 year olds NEET also increased over the same period, by 1.2 percentage points to 5.6%. Although the annual increases at individual ages 16 and 17 weren't statistically significant, the overall increase of 1.3 percentage points to 4.6% in the NEET rate for the combined 16/17 age group was statistically significant.

It should however be noted that sample sizes in the Labour Force Survey are small for individual age cohorts, so sampling variation is large and caution should be taken in interpreting changes over the short term, particularly when the characteristic of interest is rare, such as the NEET rate at 16 and 17.

Figure 2: NEET rates for different age cohorts: England 2014 - 2016

	Oct - Dec 2014	Oct - Dec 2015	Oct - Dec 2016	% point change from Oct-Dec 2015 to Oct-Dec 2016
<b>Age 16</b>	2.5%	2.0%	3.5%	1.4ppts
<b>Age 17</b>	5.2%	4.4%	5.6%	1.2ppts
<b>Age 18</b>	13.0%	13.3%	10.4%	-2.9ppts
<b>Age 16/17</b>	3.9%	3.3%	4.6%	1.3ppts*
<b>Age 16-18</b>	7.0%	6.6%	6.6%	0ppts
<b>Age 19-24</b>	15.9%	13.8%	13.4%	-0.4ppts
<b>Age 16-24</b>	13.1%	11.6%	11.3%	-0.3ppts

Source: Labour Force Survey. Note: \* Change is statistically significant at the 95% level.

The increase in the NEET rate for the 16/17 age group was the result of a 1.4 percentage point increase in the NET rate to 6.5% and a 6.2 percentage point fall in the employment rate for this NET group<sup>1</sup> to 30.1%. The NEET rate for this group is still 4.6 percentage points lower than the October to December peak of 9.2% in 2005.

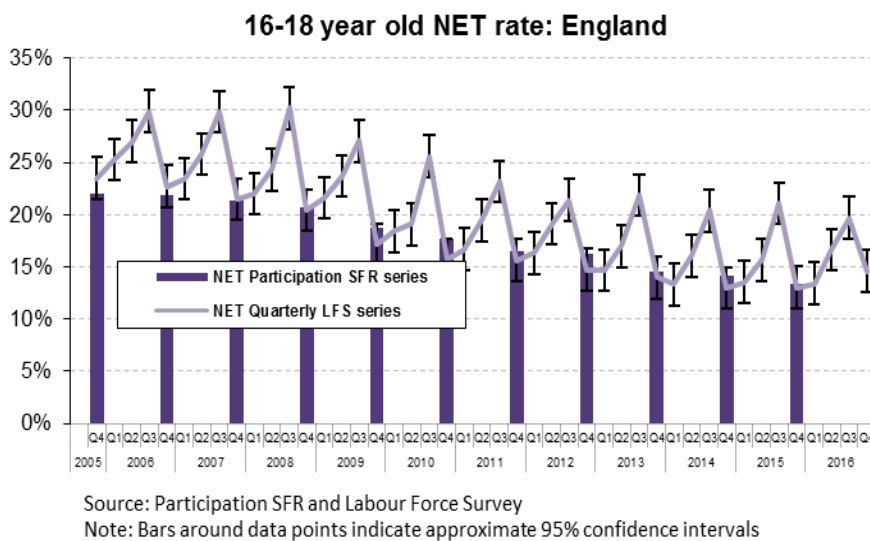
The proportion of 18 year olds NEET fell by 2.9 percentage points to 10.4% over the same period. This fall was not statistically significant. The NEET fall at 18 was the result of a large statistically significant rise in the NET employment rate, an increase of 11.2 percentage points to 65.3%. The NET rate for 18 year olds increased by 1.0 percentage points to 29.9% over the same period.

The 16-24 NEET rate has decreased slightly by 0.3 percentage points when compared to the same period in 2015 and is 4.7 percentage points lower than the October to December peak of 16.0% in 2011.

<sup>1</sup> The employment rate for the NET group is calculated by subtracting the number NEET from the number NET and expressing this as a proportion of the NET group i.e. (NET-NEET)/NET

## 2. NET quarterly LFS series (last updated February 2017)

Figure 3: NET Quarterly LFS Series, age 16-18: England, Oct-Dec 2005 to Oct-Dec 2016



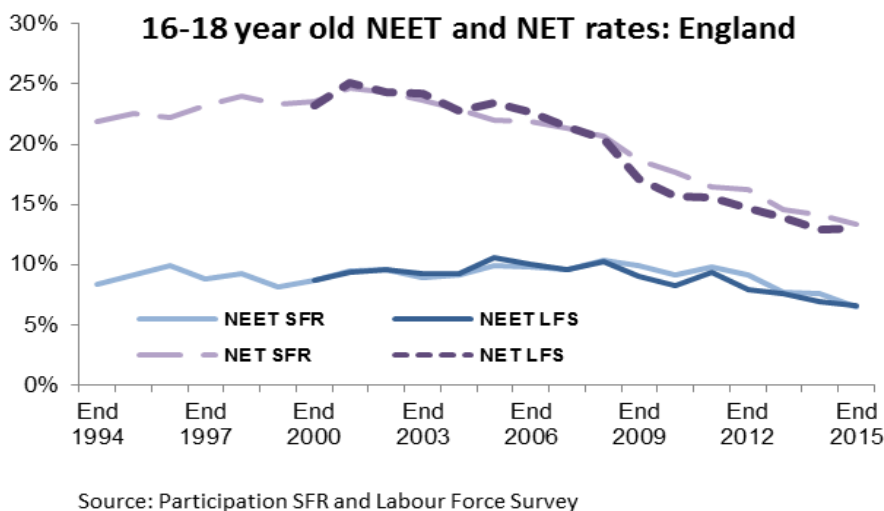
The proportion of 16-18 year olds NET increased by 1.6 percentage points to 14.6% compared to the same period last year.

There was an increase in the NET rate across the individual 16, 17 and 18 age groups when compared with the same period last year.

The proportion of 16 year olds NET was up by 1.9 percentage points to 4.4%, a statistically significant change. The proportion of 17 year olds NET was up by 0.9 percentage points to 8.6% and the proportion of 18 year olds NET was up 1.0 percentage point to 29.9%.

## 3. NEET Participation SFR series (last updated August 2016)

Figure 4: NEET historical series for 16-18 year olds: England, end 1994 - end 2015



Understanding the historical trends in NEET rates is an important part of placing current performance in perspective.

Figures in this release should be considered alongside those from the participation SFR which is the DfE's definitive measure of participation for 16-18 year olds.

Historically the end year estimates of the 16-18 NEET rate tended to fluctuate at around 8-10%, but since 2008 both measures have shown a downward trend.

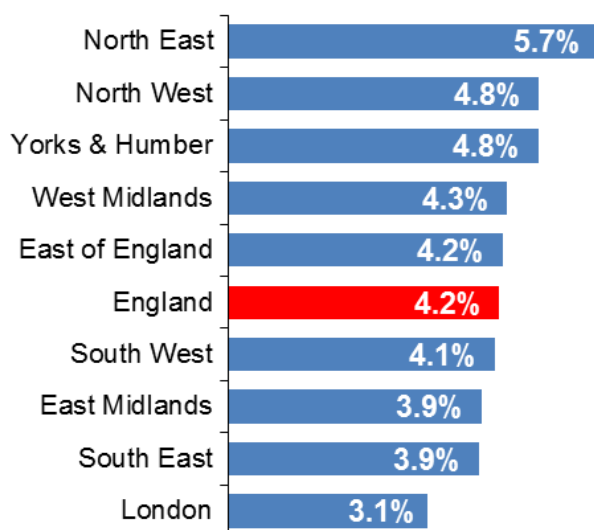
The latest Participation SFR NET rate, for end 2015, was 13.4%, a fall of 0.7 percentage points from end 2014. This is the lowest comparable figure since consistent data began in 1994.

Between end 2014 and end 2015 the proportion of 16-18 year olds participating in education and training increased from 85.9% to 86.6%. Over the same period, the employment rate of the 16-18 year olds not in education or training rose from 46.0% to 51.5%. The result of these two factors is that the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET at the end of 2015 decreased by 1.1 percentage points to 6.5%.

## 4. Regional NEET (last updated May 2016)

Figure 5: Regional NEET, age 16-18: England, Nov 2015-Jan 2016 average

NEET rate 16-18 year olds: England, End 2015



Source: Client Caseload Information System

The regional picture on 16-18 NEET is taken from [Local Authorities' Client Caseload Information System \(CCIS\)](#), published in April 2016.

CCIS data indicates that the northern English regions have higher NEET rates, i.e. North East, North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber. In comparison, London, South East and East Midlands have the lowest NEET rates.

Note that Local Authority CCIS data are published annually and tend to show a lower percentage NEET than either the Participation SFR or LFS data sources. In addition, regional NEET estimates for 16-24, 18-24 and 19-24 year olds summary age groups based on the LFS are published as supplementary tables alongside this Quarterly Brief.

## 5. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics [website](#).

### National tables

Table 1 NEET estimates from the LFS, Participation SFR and CCIS data, England

Table 2 NET estimates from the LFS, Participation SFR and CCIS data, England

Table 3 NEET estimates 16 to 24 by region and gender

Table 4 NEET estimates 18 to 24 by region and gender

Table 5 NEET estimates 19 to 24 by region and gender

Table 6 NEET time series for England

Table 7 NEET estimates by labour market status

### When reviewing the tables, please note that:

Labour Force Survey (LFS) datasets are routinely reweighted in line with population estimates. In May 2016 a new weighting variable was introduced, PWT16, to LFS datasets from July - September 2012 onwards. More information about the impact of the reweighting on the NEET and NET rates is available in an additional spreadsheet published with the [January to March 2016 quarterly brief](#).

The PWT16 weights reflect the mid-year population estimates for England and Wales, released by the Office for National Statistics on 25th June 2015.

ONS have produced an assessment of the likely impact the 2014 mid-year estimates will have on the headline LFS aggregates [here](#).

## 6. Further information is available

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Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government (WG) publishes an annual SFR produced in a similar way to DfE's Participation SFR. [The Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market](#) is regarded as the definitive measure of NEET estimates in Wales. It covers those in academic age 16-18 and 19-24.

The WG also publishes [NEET figures based on the Annual Population Survey \(APS\)](#) which is similar to the LFS data used in this publication. It covers academic age 16-18 and 19-24.

WG also published [local area estimates of NEET](#) which looks at pupil destinations based on the Careers Wales Survey. These are based on interviews done in October following Year 11.

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Scotland

The Scottish Government (SG) publishes an annual SFR based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) [Regional Employment Patterns in Scotland: Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2015](#) provides national NEET estimates that cover actual age 16-19.

The SG also published [Annual school leaver statistics](#) which are used to give the proportion of young people in 'positive destinations'. These NEET estimates include some young people in part-time education. The coverage is actual age 16-19.

SG also published a combination of [DWP benefits data and school leaver destinations](#) that provide local NEET estimates.

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ONS

Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) statistics for young people not in full-time education and not in employment - Table 14 from the Labour Market Statistics bulletin. Part of wider labour market statistics; rolling 3-month average both seasonally-adjusted and not seasonally-adjusted; roughly equivalent to NEET but will include some young people in part-time education. [ONS statistical bulletin: UK Labour Market, February 2017](#) Actual age 16-17 and 18-24.

Quarterly Statistics based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Definition of NEET corresponds to that used in the DfE NEET Quarterly Brief. UK estimate, seasonally adjusted. [ONS National Statistics: Young People not in Education, Employment or Training \(NEETs\)](#)

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OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes annual NEET estimates. Their [Education at a Glance UK country note](#) publication covers young people aged 15-19 and 15-29 in the UK.

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## 7. National Statistics

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.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## 8. Technical information

A methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

	Coverage	Last Published	Next Published
NEET and NET quarterly LFS series	October to December 2016	February 2017	May 2017
NEET and NET Participation SFR series	End 2015	June 2016	June 2017
Regional NEET	November 2015 – January 2016 average	May 2016	May 2017

## 9. Get in touch

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## 10. Tables

**Figure 6: Percentage Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET): England**

NEET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16-17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2001	7.3%	8.5%	12.8%	7.9%	9.4%	12.5%	13.9%	14.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2002	8.5%	8.8%	11.6%	8.7%	9.6%	12.3%	13.3%	13.6%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2003	8.2%	7.5%	12.1%	7.8%	9.3%	12.1%	13.3%	13.6%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2004	8.9%	7.2%	11.8%	8.1%	9.3%	13.1%	14.6%	15.0%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2005	8.8%	9.5%	13.5%	9.2%	10.6%	14.5%	16.0%	16.4%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2006	8.1%	8.5%	13.6%	8.3%	10.1%	13.9%	15.4%	15.7%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2007	6.4%	8.8%	13.8%	7.6%	9.7%	13.0%	14.6%	14.7%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2008	6.3%	8.3%	16.0%	7.3%	10.3%	14.2%	16.1%	16.2%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2009	4.5%	7.4%	15.3%	6.0%	9.1%	14.8%	17.2%	17.5%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2010	4.3%	6.6%	13.9%	5.4%	8.3%	15.6%	18.3%	19.0%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2011	5.1%	8.1%	14.9%	6.6%	9.4%	16.0%	18.5%	19.0%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2012	3.6%	5.3%	14.5%	4.5%	8.0%	14.9%	17.6%	18.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2013	3.2%	4.9%	14.3%	4.1%	7.6%	14.1%	16.7%	17.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2014	2.5%	5.2%	13.0%	3.9%	7.0%	13.1%	15.5%	15.9%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2015	2.0%	4.4%	13.3%	3.3%	6.6%	11.6%	13.7%	13.8%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2016	3.5%	5.6%	10.4%	4.6%	6.6%	11.3%	13.0%	13.4%

Source: Labour Force Survey.

**Figure 7: Percentage Not in Education or Training (NET): England**

NET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16-17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2001	14.4%	21.1%	40.9%	17.7%	25.1%	46.5%	55.3%	57.7%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2002	13.7%	20.3%	39.3%	17.1%	24.3%	45.7%	54.2%	56.7%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2003	14.0%	19.9%	38.7%	16.9%	24.2%	45.9%	54.3%	56.9%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2004	14.3%	17.9%	36.2%	16.1%	22.7%	46.0%	54.6%	57.7%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2005	12.3%	18.7%	38.8%	15.5%	23.5%	46.9%	55.7%	58.6%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2006	11.5%	17.5%	38.9%	14.5%	22.7%	47.0%	56.2%	59.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2007	10.3%	17.6%	36.7%	14.0%	21.5%	46.7%	55.9%	59.0%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2008	8.6%	15.2%	36.9%	11.9%	20.4%	46.3%	55.9%	59.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2009	5.8%	12.3%	33.3%	9.1%	17.2%	44.8%	54.6%	58.0%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2010	5.5%	10.1%	31.0%	7.8%	15.7%	45.5%	55.8%	59.8%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2011	6.4%	11.7%	28.6%	9.1%	15.6%	44.8%	54.3%	58.3%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2012	4.9%	8.7%	29.4%	6.8%	14.7%	45.2%	55.2%	59.4%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2013	3.7%	8.1%	29.6%	5.8%	14.0%	44.5%	54.7%	58.6%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2014	2.9%	8.3%	27.1%	5.7%	13.0%	43.0%	52.8%	56.9%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2015	2.5%	7.7%	28.9%	5.1%	13.0%	43.5%	53.5%	57.1%
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2016	4.4%	8.6%	29.9%	6.5%	14.6%	44.2%	53.8%	57.4%

Source: Labour Force Survey.



**Figure 8: Number Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET): England**

NEET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16-17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2001	46,000	51,000	73,000	97,000	171,000	660,000	563,000	489,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2002	52,000	56,000	69,000	107,000	177,000	661,000	554,000	484,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2003	51,000	45,000	76,000	96,000	172,000	667,000	571,000	495,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2004	58,000	45,000	74,000	103,000	177,000	738,000	635,000	561,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2005	54,000	60,000	87,000	115,000	202,000	824,000	710,000	622,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2006	53,000	53,000	88,000	106,000	194,000	804,000	698,000	610,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2007	42,000	57,000	88,000	98,000	186,000	768,000	669,000	581,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2008	40,000	55,000	107,000	95,000	202,000	845,000	750,000	643,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2009	28,000	49,000	98,000	77,000	175,000	880,000	803,000	705,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2010	28,000	41,000	92,000	70,000	161,000	933,000	863,000	772,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2011	32,000	52,000	96,000	84,000	180,000	967,000	883,000	787,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2012	22,000	33,000	96,000	55,000	152,000	893,000	837,000	741,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2013	21,000	30,000	93,000	51,000	144,000	846,000	796,000	702,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2014	15,000	34,000	84,000	49,000	133,000	788,000	739,000	655,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2015	12,000	28,000	81,000	40,000	122,000	694,000	654,000	572,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2016	20,000	35,000	66,000	55,000	121,000	671,000	616,000	551,000

Source: Labour Force Survey.

**Figure 9: Number Not in Education or Training (NET): England**

NET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16-17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2001	91,000	127,000	235,000	218,000	453,000	2,454,000	2,236,000	2,001,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2002	83,000	128,000	235,000	211,000	447,000	2,462,000	2,251,000	2,016,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2003	88,000	119,000	241,000	207,000	448,000	2,527,000	2,320,000	2,079,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2004	92,000	111,000	227,000	203,000	430,000	2,586,000	2,383,000	2,156,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2005	75,000	119,000	252,000	194,000	446,000	2,671,000	2,477,000	2,225,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2006	75,000	110,000	253,000	184,000	437,000	2,728,000	2,544,000	2,291,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2007	66,000	114,000	234,000	180,000	414,000	2,753,000	2,572,000	2,339,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2008	55,000	100,000	247,000	155,000	402,000	2,754,000	2,598,000	2,352,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2009	36,000	82,000	213,000	118,000	331,000	2,667,000	2,549,000	2,336,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2010	36,000	63,000	204,000	99,000	303,000	2,733,000	2,633,000	2,429,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2011	40,000	75,000	183,000	115,000	298,000	2,711,000	2,596,000	2,413,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2012	30,000	55,000	195,000	85,000	280,000	2,715,000	2,630,000	2,435,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2013	24,000	49,000	193,000	73,000	265,000	2,673,000	2,600,000	2,408,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2014	18,000	54,000	176,000	71,000	248,000	2,592,000	2,521,000	2,345,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2015	15,000	49,000	178,000	63,000	241,000	2,608,000	2,545,000	2,367,000
Oct-Dec (Q4) 2016	26,000	53,000	189,000	79,000	268,000	2,627,000	2,549,000	2,360,000

Source: Labour Force Survey.



Department  
for Education



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