

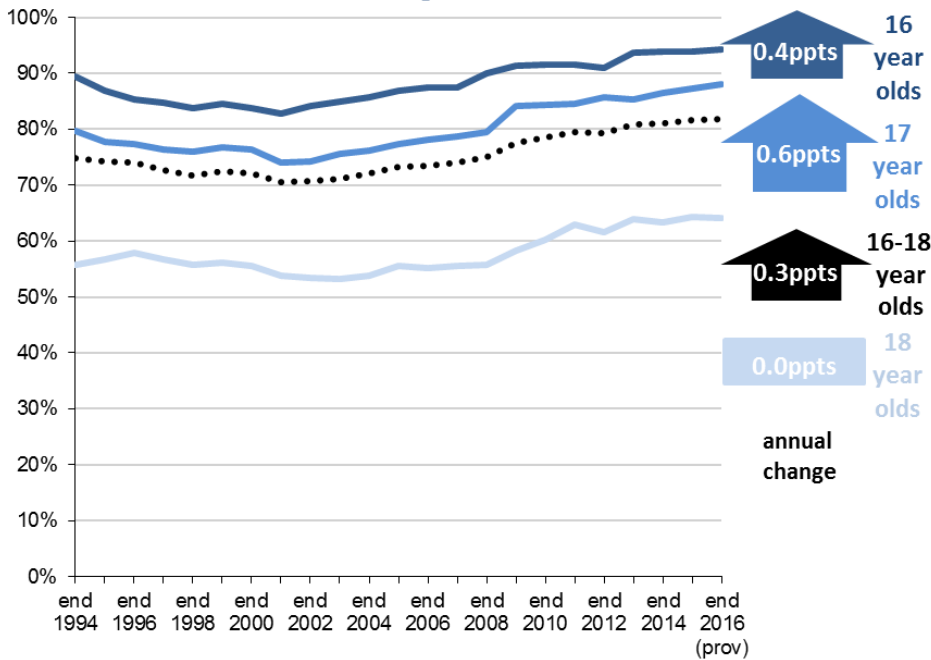


Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England: End 2016

SFR 29/2017, 29th June 2017

Participation continues to increase at ages 16 and 17

Participation in education and WBL by academic age, England



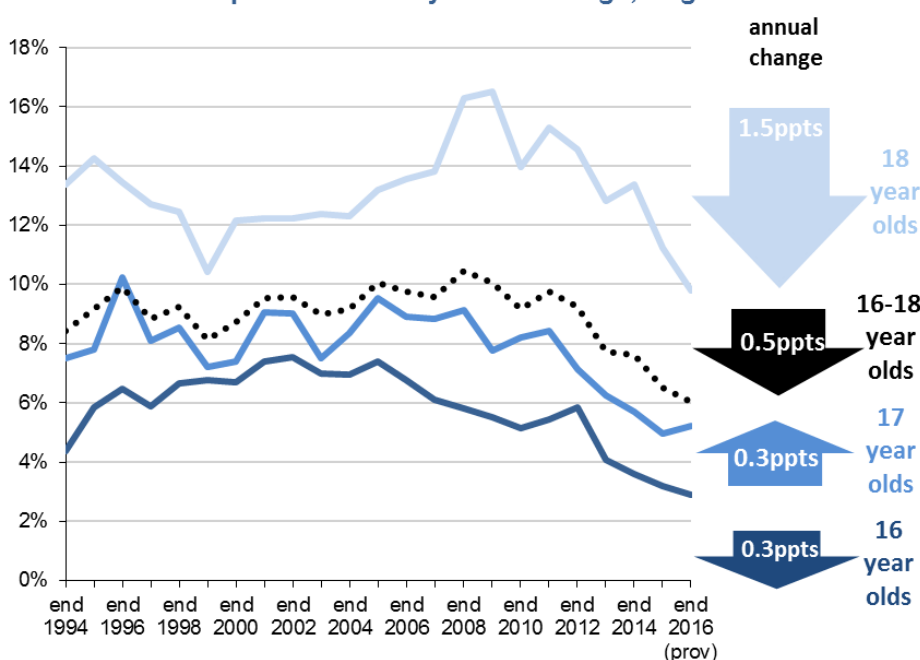
Between 2015 and 2016 the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education and work-based learning (WBL) increased by 0.3 percentage points to 81.9%, the highest level since consistent records began in 1994.

Participation increased to record levels for those academic age 16 and 17 and remained stable at age 18. The largest increase was seen at age 17, up 0.6 percentage points to 88.0%.

At age 16 the participation rate at the end of 2016 was 94.3% and at age 18 it was 64.2%.

NEET continues to fall for the overall 16-18 age group

Proportion NEET by academic age, England



The overall proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) fell by 0.5 percentage points in the last year to 9.8%, the lowest rate since consistent records began.

The largest annual change was seen at age 18 where the NEET rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 6.0%. The NEET rate also fell slightly at age 16, by 0.3 percentage points to 2.9%.

At age 17 the NEET rate increased slightly by 0.3 percentage points to 5.2%. The increase was driven by a large fall in the employment rate of those 17 year olds not in education and training (NET).

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About this release

This statistical first release (SFR) contains provisional estimates for end 2016 for the participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education, training and employment in England. It also updates the end 2015 estimates from SFR 22/2016 which were published in June 2016.

The estimates relate to a snapshot of activities at the end of the calendar year, and are based on academic age, defined as 'age at the start of the academic year'.

Information is drawn together from various post-16 data sources to give a coherent and comprehensive picture of participation, including schools, further education, work-based learning and higher education.

The key analyses are by age, gender, type of learning, institution type, labour market status and highest qualification being studied.

These are the Department for Education's definitive measures of participation for 16 to 18 year olds, and sets recent changes in the context of historical trends. These measures are used to monitor progress against the Department's objectives of raising participation and reducing the number of young people NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Raising the Participation Age

Legislation was introduced in 2013/14 increasing the age to which all young people in England are required to remain in education or training.

Introduced in two stages it applies to:

- Young people who left year 11 in summer 2013, who must stay in some form of education or training for at least a further year until 27 June 2014;
- Young people who started in year 11 (or years below) in September 2013, who will have to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

The first cohort impacted by stage 1 of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation were academic age 16 (usually year 12) in 2013/14 (end 2013 figures in this SFR) and academic age 17 in 2014/15 (end 2014 figures). Those young people impacted by stage 2 of RPA are academic age 16 in 2014/15 (end 2014 figures) and age 17 in 2015/16 (end 2015 figures).

The definition of participation in this SFR differs from that which meets the RPA duty to participate. More detail on the differences are given in the related policy section of the accompanying technical document.

Estimates of participation consistent with the duty to participate under RPA, based on data collected by local authorities, are published at the following link (in Table 2) [Participation in Education and Training by Local Authority](#). It should be noted that as the local authority estimates are based on different data and methodology to those in this SFR, they are not directly comparable.

In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

- Main SFR tables: SFR29/2017 (excel .xlsx)
- Additional tables - numbers: SFR29/2017 (excel .xlsx)
- Additional tables - rates: SFR29/2017 (excel .xlsx)
- Underlying data - SFR29/2017- (open format .csv and metadata .docx)

The accompanying technical information document provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality, and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at post16statistics@education.gov.uk

1. Annual changes in participation by age

(SFR tables 1 & 2, additional tables A1-A15)

Each year we update the previous year figures from provisional to final following the availability of revised administrative data. There was no change in the overall estimate of 16-18 year olds participating in education or work-based learning nor in the 16-18 NEET estimate reported for the end of 2015 in SFR22/2016. There have been small changes when looking at individual ages and changes in some of the further breakdowns such as mode of study and highest qualification aim. See section 6.

The table below summarises the key participation statistics in this SFR and the changes since last year.

Table A: Participation statistics for 16, 17 and 18 year olds

| | % of age 16 | | % of age 17 | | % of age 18 | | % of age 16-18 | | Annual change (ppts ¹) |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | |
| Full-time education | 87.1 | 87.5 | 76.9 | 77.4 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 71.2 | 71.5 | 0.3 |
| Part-time education | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | -0.2 |
| Work-based learning (WBL) ² | 3.8 | 3.9 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 0.3 |
| Education and WBL ³ | 93.9 | 94.3 | 87.4 | 88.0 | 64.2 | 64.2 | 81.6 | 81.9 | 0.3 |
| Education and training | 96.3 | 96.4 | 91.4 | 91.9 | 72.7 | 73.0 | 86.6 | 86.9 | 0.3 |

(1) ppts: percentage points.

(2) Since 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships.

(3) Education and WBL takes into account overlaps between WBL and full and part-time education.

Overall participation by 16-18 year olds in full-time education increased slightly by 0.3 percentage points to 71.5%. There were increases in full-time education at ages 16 (up 0.4 percentage points to 87.5%) and 17 (up of 0.6 percentage points to 77.4%). Full-time education at age 18 was unchanged between 2015 and 2016 at 50.4%.

Participation by 16-18 year olds in work-based learning (apprenticeships) rose by 0.3ppts to 6.9%. The biggest increase was seen at age 17 (up 0.4 percentage points to 7.5%) with the increase a result of a rise in intermediate (level 2) apprenticeships. There was also a slight rise at age 18, up 0.3 percentage points to 9.3%, a result of slight increases in both intermediate and advanced (level 3) apprenticeships.

Overall, the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education and work-based learning rose by 0.3ppts to 81.9% in 2016. At age 16 the proportion in education and work-based learning increased by 0.4 percentage points to 94.3% and at age 17 by 0.6 percentage points to 88.0%. The proportion of 18 year olds in education and work-based learning remained at 64.2% at the end of 2016.

2. Participation by qualification level and institution type

(SFR tables 2 and 4, additional tables B1-B15: Institution and C1-C15: highest qualification aim)

Between 2015 and 2016 the proportion of 16-18 year olds in full-time education and studying for GCSEs as their highest qualification rose from 5.4% to 6.6%, an increase of 1.2 percentage points. This follows a 2.2 percentage point increase last year from 3.2% in 2014. Over two thirds of 16-18 year olds with GCSEs as their highest qualification aim were also studying for another level 2 qualification.

The biggest annual change in the proportion studying GCSEs was at age 16, which rose 2.0ppts to 12.9% at end 2016 and is likely to have been brought about by the requirements for meeting the conditions of funding for maths and English introduced in August 2014 (see related policy section of accompanying technical document for further information). Since this change, the study of GCSEs at age 16 has increased by 8.4ppts from 4.5% at the end of 2013. An increase was also seen in GCSE as the highest study aim at age 17, up 1.3 percentage points to 5.3%.

At the end of 2016 almost two-thirds (64.1%) of 16 and 17 year olds were in full-time education studying for a level 3 qualification as their highest qualification aim, a comparable proportion to recent years. At age 16, there was a fall in the proportion studying for A levels, down 0.6 percentage points to 48.7% and an increase in the proportion studying for 'other level 3' qualifications (all level 3 qualifications other than A/AS levels), up 0.5 percentage points to 15.1%. Of those 16 year olds studying for other level 3 qualifications, two thirds were studying for either an applied general or tech level qualification. At age 17 the annual changes are the opposite to those at age 16, with an increase in the proportion studying for A/AS levels as their highest qualification aim, up 0.7 percentage points to 43.7%, and a fall in other level 3 study, down 0.3 percentage points to 20.7%. Of those aged 17 studying for other level 3, 81.1% were studying for a tech level or applied general qualification.

50.4% of 18 year olds were in full-time education at the end of 2016, the same proportion as at the end of 2015. 29.9% were studying for a higher education qualification (level 4 and above), an increase of 0.9 percentage points, and 20.5% were studying for a qualification at level 3 or below, a fall of 0.9 percentage points.

Table B shows full and part-time education at **ages 16 and 17** by institution type and changes in the composition compared with end 2015.

Table B: Participation of 16-17 year olds by institution type and mode of study

| % of age 16-17 | Full-time education | | | Part-time education | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | annual change (ppts) | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | annual change (ppts ¹) |
| State-funded schools | 32.4% | 32.5% | 0.2 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Special schools | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Independent schools | 6.5% | 6.7% | 0.2 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Sixth-form colleges | 11.5% | 11.7% | 0.2 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.0 |
| General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges ² | 30.2% | 30.0% | -0.2 | 3.3% | 3.2% | -0.2 |
| Higher education institutions | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Total | 82.0% | 82.4% | 0.4 | 3.5% | 3.3% | -0.2 |

¹ ppts: percentage points

² Includes a small number of young people in provision delivered by commercial and charitable providers

Full-time and part-time education at ages 16-17 remained relatively unchanged across institution types between 2015 and 2016. The slight increases in full-time education in schools and sixth-form colleges were counterbalanced by a slight fall in full-time study in General FE, leading to a 0.4 percentage point increase overall in full time study to 82.4%, the highest on record for 16-17 year olds.

Table C: Participation of 18 year olds by institution type and mode of study

| % of age 18 | Full-time education | | | Part-time education | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | annual change (ppts) | end 2015 | end 2016 (prov) | annual change (ppts ¹) |
| State-funded schools | 3.2% | 2.8% | -0.5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Special schools | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Independent schools | 1.2% | 1.2% | 0.1 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0 |
| Sixth-form colleges | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0.0 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.0 |
| General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges ² | 14.8% | 14.1% | -0.7 | 4.8% | 4.6% | -0.2 |
| Higher education institutions | 28.9% | 29.9% | 1.0 | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.0 |
| Total | 50.4% | 50.4% | 0.0 | 5.3% | 5.1% | -0.3 |

¹ ppts: percentage points

² Includes a small number of young people in provision delivered by commercial and charitable providers

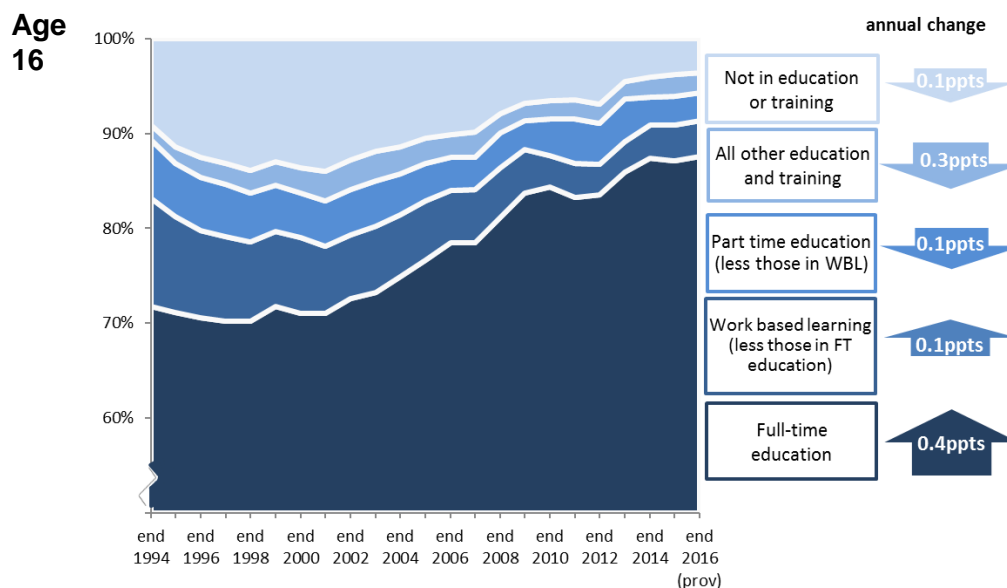
Most full-time provision at age 18 occurs in higher education institutions and between 2015 and 2016 the proportion of 18 year olds in full-time study in a higher education institution rose by 1.0ppts to 29.9%, the highest level since consistent records began. Despite this the proportion of 18 year olds in full time remained the same as last year due to falls in FE colleges and state-funded schools.

As at 16 and 17, there was little change in the proportion of 18 year olds studying part-time in the latest year.

3. Trends in participation by age since 1994 (SFR Table 5, additional tables A1-A15)

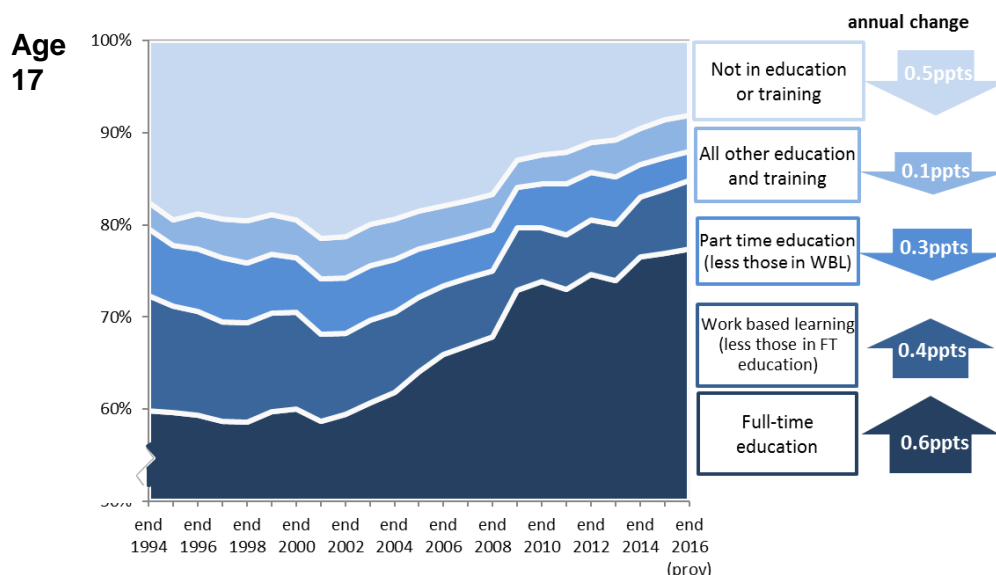
Participation at age 16 and 17 since 1994

Figure 1: Trends in participation in education and training at age 16 and 17
England end 1994-end 2016(prov)



Full-time education was broadly flat from the early 1990s to 2001. However, falls in part-time education and work-based learning led to the proportion not in any education and training (NET) increasing for both 16 and 17 year olds between 1994 and 2001 (+4.9ppts to 14.0% for age 16 and +3.9ppts to 21.5% for age 17).

Since 2001 full-time education and overall participation has been generally rising at ages 16 and 17, albeit with a period of some stagnation between 2010 and 2012, particularly at age 16. This followed a sharp rise in full time education at both 16 and 17 between 2008 and 2010.



Following RPA legislation participation in full time education again increased sharply in 2013 for 16 year olds (+2.4 ppts to 85.9%) and in 2014 for 17 year olds (+2.5 ppts to 76.5%).

Since 2013 overall participation at age 16 has continued to rise. In 2016, 96.4% of 16 year olds were participating in education and training, the highest level since consistent records began in 1994.

The proportion of 16 year olds in education and work-based learning at the end of 2016 was 94.3%, up by 0.4ppts from 2015. This narrower definition of participation excludes some training in the workplace and some participation with privately-funded training providers. Whilst not designed to assess participation

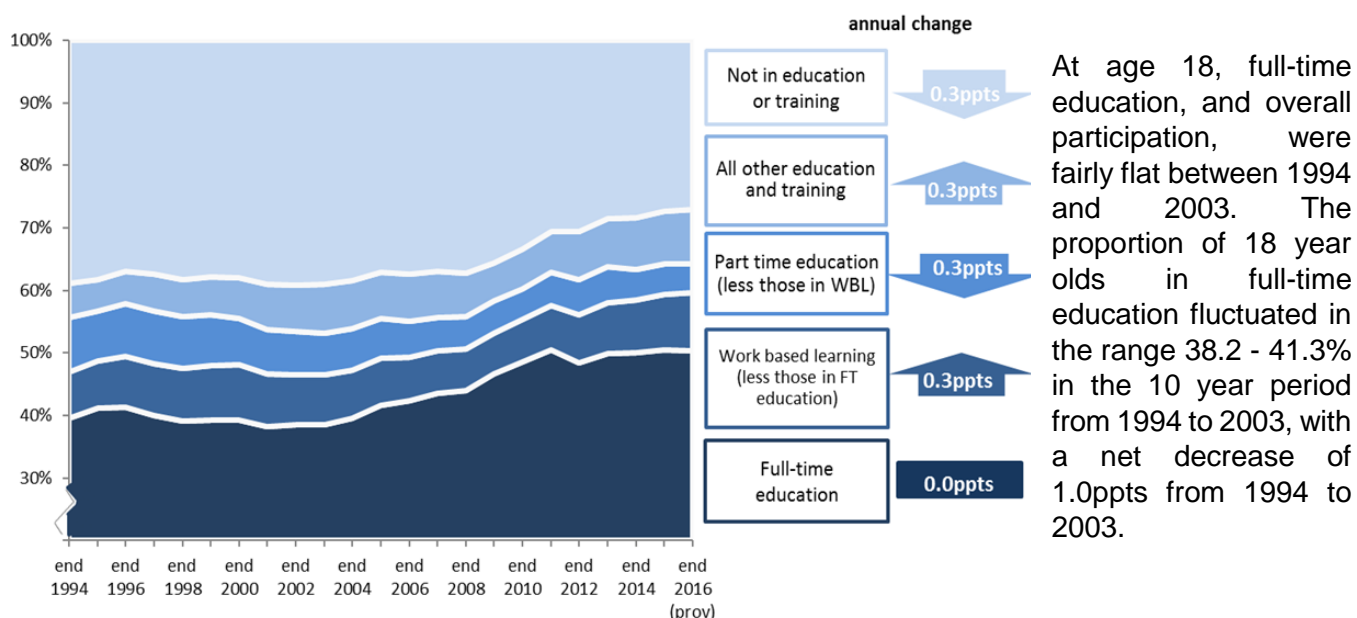
consistent with the duty to participate under RPA, it is the statistic that will best approximate RPA-compliant education and training available in this SFR. However, the proportion in education and work-based learning will still be higher than the proportion engaging in RPA-compliant participation (see RPA section in ‘about this release’ at the beginning of this document for a link to the published statistics related to the duty to participate and the accompanying technical document for detail on how they are different).

The 2016 increase in education and WBL at age 16 was a result of an increase in the proportion in full-time education (+0.4ppts to 87.5%). Work based learning (apprenticeship) levels have remained broadly the same as at the end of 2015 for 16 year olds at 3.9%.

In 2016 there was an increase in the proportion of 17 year olds in full-time education, rising by 0.6ppts to 77.4% and also in work based learning (apprenticeships), which increased by 0.4ppts to 7.5%. These increases led to an overall increase of 0.6ppts in the proportion of 17 year olds participating in education and WBL, 88.0% at the end of 2016. The proportion of 17 year olds participating in the broader measure of education and training also increased, by 0.5ppts to 91.9%, a slightly smaller increase due to slight falls in employer funded training (EFT) and other education and training (OET).

Participation at age 18 since 1994

Figure 2: Trends in participation in education and training at age 18
 England end 1994-end 2016(prov)



Falls in part-time education over this period were offset by increases in work-based learning and other employer-funded training (EFT) to leave the proportion not in any education and training (NET) almost flat (38.9% in 1994 to 39.0% in 2003).

Full-time education then rose every year from 2003 to 2011, from 38.5% in 2003 to 50.5% in 2011 - an increase of 12.0ppts - although this was partly offset by falls in work-based learning (-1.1ppts) and part-time education (-1.2ppts). The result was that the proportion of 18 year olds not in education and training (NET) fell from 39.0% at end 2003 to 30.6% at end 2011.

In 2012 there was a large (-2.1ppts) fall in the proportion of 18 year olds studying full-time in higher education institutions– reversing a large increase seen in 2011 (+2.7ppts). This was the result of behavioural change due to changes to tuition fees – fewer people deferring entry to avoid higher fees. The fall in full-time education was offset by increases in other participation, so the proportion of 18 year olds not in education or training (NET) was unchanged.

By 2014 full-time education at 18 was almost back to its 2011 level, around at 50.0%. At the end of 2016 the proportion of 18 year olds in full-time education was 50.4%, the same proportion as at end 2015. There

was a slight increase in work-based learning at age 18, up 0.3ppts to 9.3%, and a slight fall in part-time education, down 0.3ppts to 5.1% meaning the overall proportion of 18 year olds in education and work-based learning remained at the 2015 level of 64.2%, still the highest level since consistent records began in 1994.

Overall participation at age 18, which includes those participating in employer funded training (EFT) or other education and training (OET), increased by 0.3ppts to 73.0% in 2016, also the highest level since consistent records began.

4. Trends in the proportion NEET since 1994 (SFR Table 5, Additional tables A1-A15 & D1-D15)

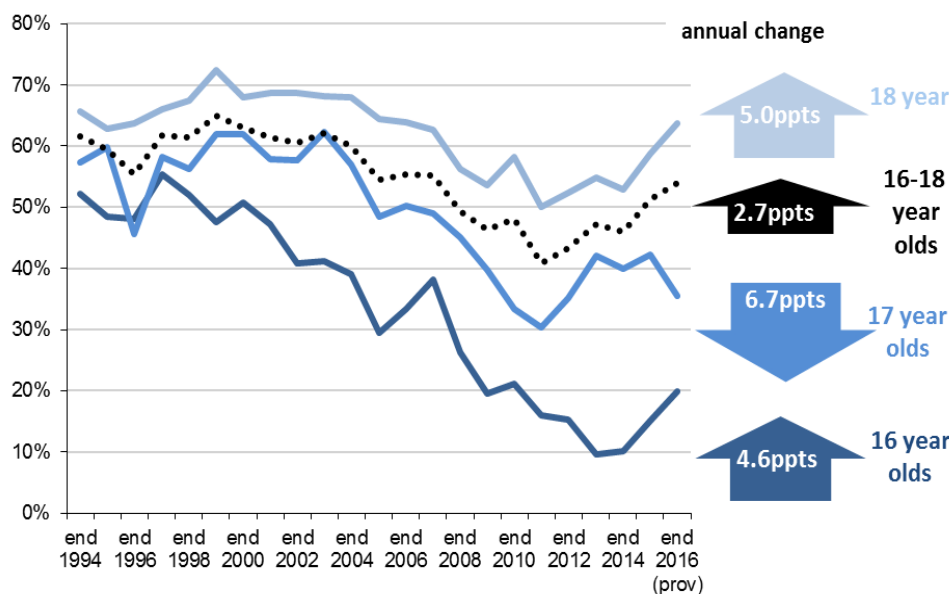
Two factors affect the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET):

- (i) the proportion not in any education and training (NET)
- (ii) the employment rate for young people who are NET, estimated from the Labour Force Survey

As we have seen above, the proportion of young people in education and training has continued to rise, hence the size of the NET group has been tending to fall at each of ages 16, 17 and 18 in recent years, and at end 2016 were all at their lowest level since consistent data began in 1994.

As figure 3 shows, between the late 1990s and 2011 the general trend was for the employment rate for young people NET at each age to fall.

Figure 3: Employment rate of young people not in education or training (NET) by age
England, end 1994 - end 2016(prov)



Between 2011 and 2016 the employment rate of the NET group has risen at each of ages 16, 17 and 18 and for 16-18 year olds overall, albeit with some fluctuations when looking at single year of age.

It should be noted that sample sizes in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are small for individual age cohorts, and particularly when looking at a sub-group such as those who are NET, so sampling variation is large and caution should be taken in interpreting changes in the employment rate over the short term.

As seen last year, there have again been large increases in the employment rate for ages 16 and 18 in 2016. There has however been a large fall in the employment rate at age 17, down 6.7ppts to 35.5%.

Overall the 16-18 employment rate increased by 2.7ppts to 54.0% in 2016.

At age 16, the proportion not in education and training (NET) at the end of 2016 was 3.6%, similar to the 2015 proportion. The employment rate of this NET group rose considerably by 4.6ppts to 19.8% at the end of 2016; pushing the number not in education employment or training (NEET) rate down a further 0.3ppts to 2.9%. The proportion NEET at age 16 has been tending to fall since 2005 with the exception of small increases in 2011 and 2012.

At age 17, since the end of 2013 we have seen large falls in the proportion of 17 year olds not in education and training (NET), down 2.7ppts to 8.1% over the 3 year period. This fall in 17 year olds NET is likely to be in part a result of the RPA policy as 17 year olds have been required to continue in some form of education and training until at least their 18th birthday from academic year 2014.

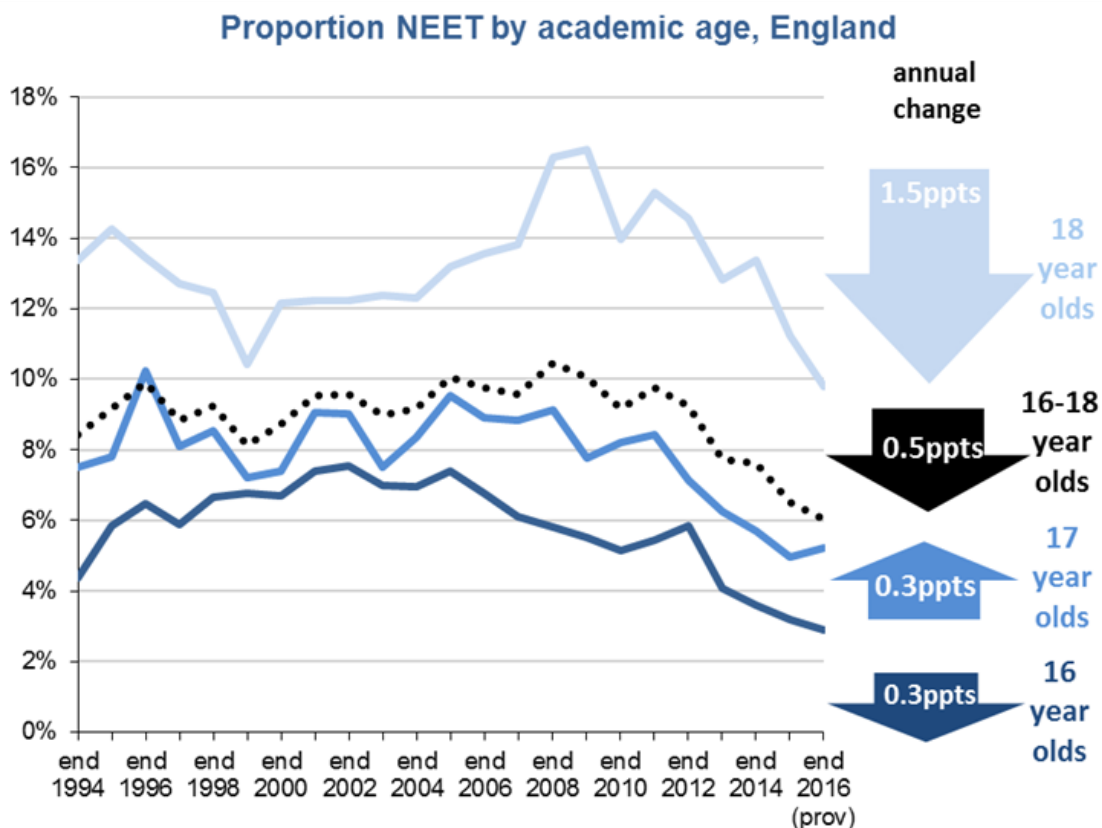
However, the employment rate for the NET group decreased considerably, by 6.7ppts to 35.5%, between 2015 and 2016, so despite the fall in the proportion of 17 year olds not in education and training (NET) there was a slight increase in NEET at age 17, up 0.3ppts to 5.2%. Prior to 2016, the general trend in NEET at age 17 was similar to that observed at age 16, with the proportion tending to fall since 2005.

At age 18, there was a slight fall in 2016 in the proportion not in education and training (NET) of 0.3ppts to 27.0% and a large increase in the employment rate for the NET group of 5.0ppts to 63.7%. These two factors have led to a large reduction in the proportion of 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) at age 18, down 1.5ppts to 9.8%.

Historically, at age 18 the employment rate of the NET group has a stronger influence over the NEET rate than at 16 and 17 because the size of the NET group is bigger. So whilst the proportion NET had tended to edge lower from 2003, the consistently falling employment rate for the NET group between 2003 and 2009 more than offset that, leading to increases in NEET over that period. Between 2009 and 2014 the employment rate of the NET group was more erratic, but since 2014 it has been rising.

Overall, the 16-18 NEET rate has been on a downward trend since 2008, and between 2015 and 2016 fell by 0.5 percentage points to 6.0%, the lowest level since consistent records began in 1994.

Figure 4: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18 year olds NEET
 England, end 1994 - end 2016(prov)



5. Accompanying tables

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

Main SFR tables

The main tables include age breakdowns showing figures for 16, 17, 18 and 16-18 year olds. A full time-series by gender and age and combined figures for 16/17 year olds are available in the additional tables and the underlying data.

Education and Training

Table 1 Number in education and training, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Table 1a Participation rate in education and training, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Institution type

Table 2 Number in education by institution type, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Table 2a Participation rate in education by institution type, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Labour market

Table 3 Number in education and training by labour market status, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Table 3a Participation rate in education and training by labour market status, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Highest qualification aim

Table 4 Number in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Table 4a Participation rate in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning, end 2014, end 2015, and end 2016 (provisional).

Education and Training (time-series)

Table 5 Number in education and training, 1994 onwards.

Table 5a Participation rate in education and training, 1994 onwards.

Additional tables (time-series from 1985)

Tables A1-A15 Participation in education and training.
Equivalent to Table 1 of the main SFR tables.

Tables B1-B15 Participation in education by institution type.
Equivalent to Table 2 of the main SFR tables.

Tables C1-C15 Participation in full-time education by highest qualification aim and institution type, and work-based learning.
More detailed than Table 4 of the main SFR tables.

Tables D1-D15 Participation in education and training by labour market status.
Equivalent to Table 3 of the main SFR tables.

Tables E1-E15 Participation in full-time and part-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning.
More detailed than Table 4 of the main SFR tables.

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>We preserve confidentiality</p> | <p>The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.</p> |
| <p>We round numbers and percentages in the main tables</p> | <p>We round numbers to the nearest hundred. Because of this rounding, totals in text and in tables may not always equal the sum of their component parts. Similarly, differences quoted in text may not always be the same as differences shown in tables. Where any number is shown as zero the original figure was zero. Where a number rounds to zero, the figure has been replaced by a '-'. This suppression and rounding is consistent with Departmental statistical policy.</p> <p>Percentages are rounded to one decimal place. Changes in percentages are calculated on unrounded data therefore percentage point changes quoted in the text may not always be the same as differences calculated from published tables.</p> <p>Unrounded numbers are published in the underlying data.</p> |

6. Revisions to previous estimates

Higher Education Institute (HEI) data updated for end 2015 following availability of 2015/2016 HESA data

Estimates of the number of young people in higher education are provided by the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA). The HESA data gives a qualification breakdown for students in English HEIs by academic age, gender, full-time/part-time and by whether they are on any employer funded training (EFT).

HESA data on student numbers is provided annually with data for the 2015/2016 academic year being made available to DfE in January/February 2017. Therefore in the final 2015 data these authoritative figures from HESA have been used. For provisional estimates, the previous year's HESA data is used with a grossing factor applied to the number of students on HE courses. This factor is derived from Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey (HESES). As HESES data is for all students, not just 16-18, and is for under graduate new entrants, it is not always a very accurate grossing factor for 16-18 HE participation but does give an indication of the trend in HE numbers.

At ages 16 and 17 there are very small numbers in Higher Education Institutions and so any revisions have very little impact. At age 18 however, where around 30% of the population are in HE institutions, any changes in estimates can have a large impact on headline proportions participating.

In 2015, final HESA data showed that the HESES data had underestimated increases in HE numbers. This meant that the estimate of the number of 18 year olds studying in HE institutions at the end of 2015 increased from our provisional 2015 estimate of 186,900 (28.3% of the population) to 192,700 (29.1%) of the age 18 population.

Further education data updated for end 2015 following availability of ILR SN14

Data from the FE sector and data related to apprenticeships (WBL) is recorded on the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Individual Learner Record (ILR). For provisional data in this SFR we use SN06 and for final data the audited SN14 return.

Table D shows how data from the ILR has changed between the SN06 and SN14 cuts of the data in 2015 for all 16-18 year olds.

Table D- ILR changes provisional to final data end 2015

| Provider type | end 15 (prov- SN06) | end 15 (final- SN14) | change |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| WBL (apprenticeships) | 133,400 | 129,100 | -4,300 |
| General FE (Full-time) | 486,400 | 482,200 | -4,200 |
| General FE (part-time) | 73,100 | 74,200 | 1,100 |
| Sixth form college (full-time) | 157,500 | 157,700 | 200 |
| Sixth form college (part-time) | 2,900 | 2,700 | -200 |

There has been a fall of around 3% in apprenticeship numbers between the provisional and final SFR estimates for 2015. The change was largely a result of some under-recording of drop-out in the early returns, which was then resolved in the final (audited) return.

A fall was also been seen in estimates of participation in FE between provisional and final figures, leading to around a 1% reduction in end 2015 estimates. Figures in sixth form colleges remained relatively unchanged.

Schools data updated for end 2015 following availability of PLAMS 2016

There are no changes to overall school numbers between provisional and final data. The pupil level annual school census (PLASC) from the spring term is used for overall state-funded school numbers and the school level annual school census (SLASC) for independent school and general hospital school numbers. There are no planned revisions to these estimates.

There are however revisions to qualifications by mode of study and school type as this information is taken from the Autumn census for provisional data and PLAMS (post 16 learning aims data) amended for final data.

This PLAMS output is then re-apportioned using the school census population numbers as in provisional estimates so totals will remain unchanged.

Table E showing changes for state-funded schools from provisional to final end 2015 (full-time and part time ages 16-18)

| Highest qualification aim | | end 2015 (prov) | end 2015 (final) | Change¹ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Level 4 | HE | 100 | 100 | - |
| Level 3 | A/AS levels | 376,000 | 376,200 | 200 |
| | <i>of which also applied general</i> | <i>63,300</i> | <i>63,400</i> | <i>100</i> |
| | Tech level | 12,400 | 11,800 | -600 |
| | Applied general | 31,700 | 31,700 | - |
| Level 2 | other level 3 | 2,200 | 2,900 | 700 |
| | GCSE | 8,300 | 8,400 | 100 |
| | <i>of which also other Level 2</i> | <i>6,900</i> | <i>7,000</i> | - |
| | Tech cert | 500 | - | -500 |
| Level 1 or below | Other level 2 | 1,600 | 1,800 | 200 |
| | level1/foundation | 300 | 200 | - |
| | other | 200 | 200 | - |
| All | | 433,300 | 433,300 | 0 |

¹Note: '-' denotes a value that has been rounded to zero.

Labour Force Survey data has been reweighted

Labour Force Survey (LFS) datasets are routinely reweighted in line with population estimates. The most recent update introduced a new weighting variable, PWT17, to LFS datasets revising data from end 2012 onwards. More information as to its impact of the revision on the NEET and NET rates was published as part of [SFR21/2017 NEET statistics quarterly brief: January to March 2017](#). Trends of the NEET and NET estimates are largely unaffected by the reweighting.

Changes from provisional end 2015 to final end 2015 headline measures as a result of revisions

Table F shows the headline measures for the 16-18 population at the end of 2015 as published in SFR22/2016 compared with revised estimates for the same period as published June 2017.

Table F- Changes in age 16-18 headline estimates provisional 2015 to final 2015

| Aged 16-18 headline measures | end 2015 (prov) | end 2015 (final) | ppt change |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Full-time education | 71.1% | 71.2% | 0.1 |
| Work Based Learning (WBL) | 6.9% | 6.7% | -0.2 |
| <i>Overlap between WBL and full-time</i> | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.0 |
| Employer Funded Training (EFT) | 4.4% | 4.4% | 0.0 |
| Other Education and Training (OET) | 4.3% | 4.4% | 0.1 |
| Total Education and training | 86.6% | 86.6% | 0.0 |
| Not in any education or training - in employment | 6.9% | 6.9% | 0.0 |
| Not in any education, employment or training (NEET) | 6.5% | 6.5% | 0.0 |
| Total Not in any Education or Training (NET) | 13.4% | 13.4% | 0.0 |
| Sub total for information: | | | |
| Total Education and WBL | 81.6% | 81.6% | 0.0 |
| All | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| Population | 1,933,137 | 1,933,137 | |

As the table shows, there has been little change to the headline measures for the overall 16-18 age group.

The slight increase in the full-time education estimate for end 2015 is a result of increases in HE numbers, particularly at age 18. Falls in work based learning (WBL) are a result of revised ILR data and the populating of learning aim end dates between SN06 and SN14 cuts of the data meaning some learning aims counted in the end 2015 provisional snapshot are now known to have ended prior to the snapshot point (November 2015 for further education data in this release).

7. Further information is available

Local Authority level participation estimates

[Local authority \(LA\) level participation estimates](#) for 16 and 17 year olds can be obtained from the Client Caseload Information System (CCIS). Data is published three times a year relating to returns in December, March and June. Comparable data is available back to December 2012. It should be noted that some differences in the methodology and coverage mean that these estimates of participation are not directly comparable with those in this SFR.

In earlier editions of this publication (pre 2015) additional tables were published alongside the national publication giving local authority participation statistics. These have now been discontinued and the CCIS data referenced above should be used for LA level participation estimates.

NEET estimates at local authority level

[Local authority NEET estimates](#) are based on the Client Caseload Information System. The time-series extends back to 2004. The current activity for some of 16-18 year olds is unknown, and has to be estimated.

More timely national NEET and participation estimates

The DfE also publishes participation and NEET statistics based on the Labour Force Survey on a quarterly basis in the [NEET Quarterly Brief](#). However, these estimates are based on relatively small survey samples and are therefore not as accurate as the estimates in this SFR series.

Destinations of young people after Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

The [destination measures SFR](#) published on 19th January 2017 shows the percentage of young people in 2014/15 continuing in education, on apprenticeships or in employment after completing Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. These are based on the National Pupil Database matched to data from the Individualised Learner Record, Higher Education Statistics Authority data and employment and benefits data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Previously published England figures

Previous versions of this SFR are still available on [GOV.UK](#).

Figures for Wales, Scotland and the UK

The participation statistics in this SFR only collect information about institutions in England. For information for Wales, Scotland and the UK, contact the departments below or access their statistics at the following links:

Wales: [Welsh Government: Participation of young people in Education and the Labour Market](#)

Scotland: [Local Area Labour markets in Scotland: Statistics from the Annual Population Survey](#)

UK: [ONS Labour Market Statistics](#)

8. 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.

9. Technical information

A technical 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.

10. Get in touch

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