



NEET statistics annual brief: 2019, England

5 March 2020

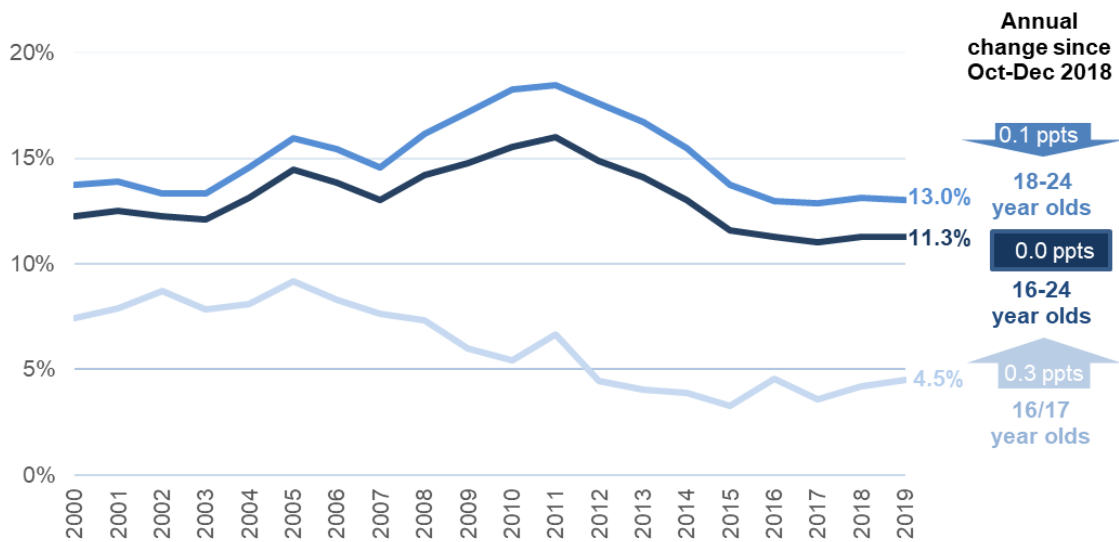


These statistics have a degree of error as they are based on a sample of the whole population. If a comparison is statistically significant, it means that we are 95% sure that the change reflects a genuine change in the whole population and not just variation in the sample measured on that occasion.

None of the latest annual rises/falls shown in this release are statistically significant at the 95% level which means they should be interpreted with caution.

The NEET (not in education, employment or training) rate remained stable for the overall 16-24 and 18-24 age groups but increased slightly for 16/17 year olds.

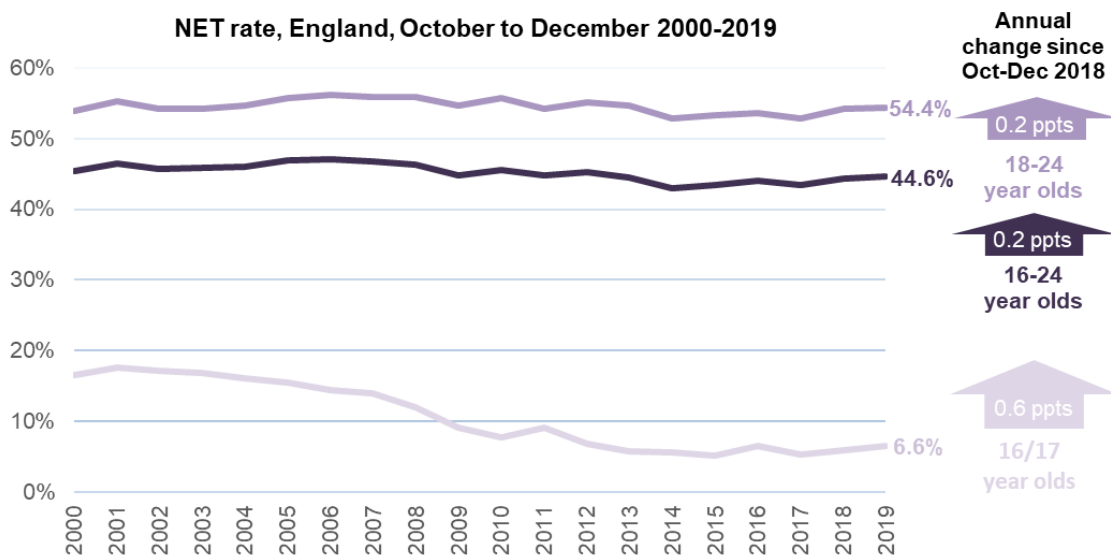
NEET rate, England, October to December 2000-2019



Source: Labour Force Survey

The NET (not in education or training) rate remained stable for the overall 16-24 and 18-24 age groups but increased for 16/17 year olds.

NET rate, England, October to December 2000-2019



Source: Labour Force Survey

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About these statistics

These statistics are based on quarterly [Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#) data. They provide estimates of young people: not in education, employment or training (NEET) and not in education or training (NET).

The NEET and NET rates both capture young people who are not in education or training. However, NEET also captures those young people not in employment. Employment has a larger impact on NEET rates for those post compulsory education age (18+) as many are active in the labour market.

The statistics cover 16-24 year olds in England, together with other age breakdowns within that bracket e.g. 16/17 and 18-24 year olds. Estimates are based on academic age, defined as 'age at the start of the academic year' i.e. age as at 31 August. They also include some breakdowns by:

- gender
- labour market status
- region

These statistics should be used to see latest trends in NEET rates for 16-24 year olds. Trends are assessed by comparing the latest quarter's data with the same period in an earlier year to account for seasonal effects.

Data is provided up to and including October to December 2019.

As quarter four (October to December) 2019 is the latest data available and the first full quarter of the 2019/20 academic year, commentary in this release focuses mainly on this quarter.

See 'Other NEET sources' section for further information on related statistics on:

- Participation in education, training and employment for 16-18 year olds
- Local authority NEET and participation for 16/17 year olds
- UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates of NEET for 16-24 year olds

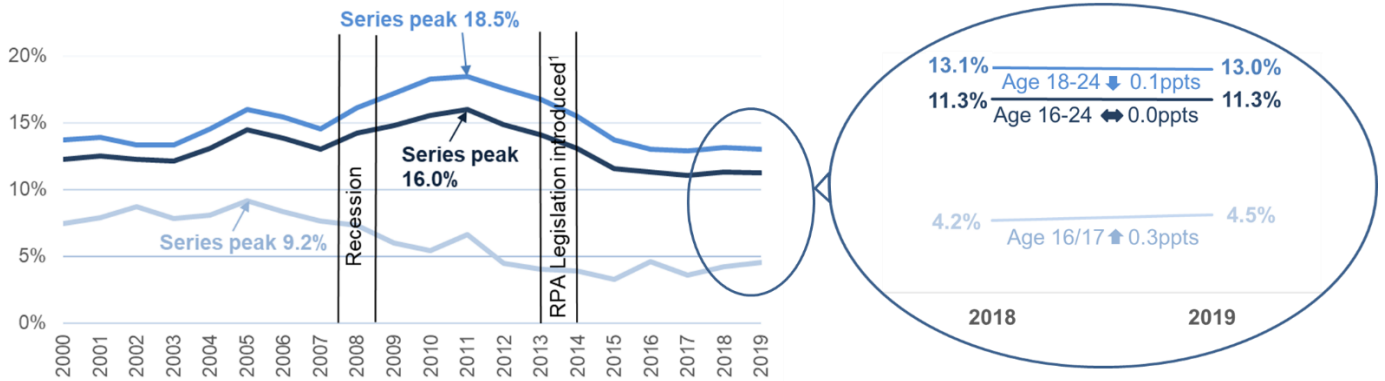
Feedback

We would welcome feedback on any aspect of this publication at Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk.

1. Not in education, employment or training (NEET) rates by age

Between October to December 2018 and 2019, the proportion NEET remained stable for the overall 16-24 and 18-24 age groups but increased slightly for 16/17 year olds.

Figure 1: NEET rate by age, England, October to December 2000-2019



1. Legislation '[Raising Participation Age \(RPA\)](#)', introduced in two phases between 2013 and 2014, requires 16/17 year olds in England to remain in education or training.

The proportion NEET varies by age:

- since 2013, those aged 16 and 17 are required to remain in education or training (under Raising Participation Age (RPA) legislation) and therefore have a lower NEET rate of 4.5%. The 16/17 NEET rate has fallen by over a half compared with October to December 2005, the series peak.

- compared with 16/17 year olds those aged 18-24, who won't be subject to RPA, have a NEET rate almost three times higher at 13.0%. Many of this group are no longer in education and are instead in the labour market. Consequently, those not in employment contribute to a higher NEET rate.

NEET rates for the older age groups increased both during and immediately after the most recent recession. During a recession, less economic activity takes place and so there are fewer jobs available and more redundancies, increasing the number NEET. Both the latest 16-24 and 18-24 NEET rates have fallen by almost a third compared with October to December 2011, the series peak following the recession.

Table 1: NEET rate by age, England, October to December 2017-2019

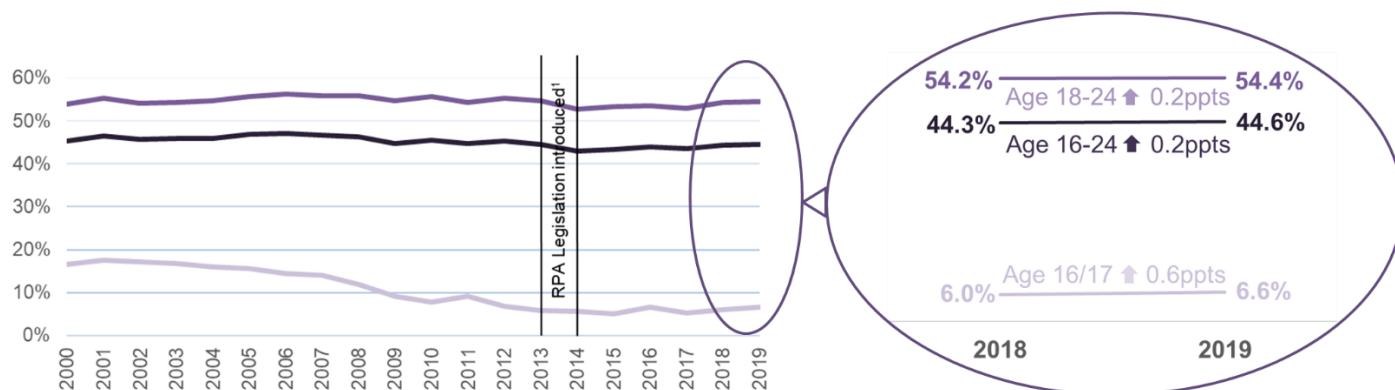
Academic age (age as at 31 st August)	Oct to Dec 2017	Oct to Dec 2018	Oct to Dec 2019	95% confidence interval for Oct to Dec 2019 ¹ (percentage points)	% point change from Oct- Dec 2018 to 2019
Ages 16/17	3.6%	4.2%	4.5%	+/- 1.1 ppt	0.3 ppt
Ages 16-18	6.2%	7.0%	7.5%	+/- 1.1 ppt	0.5 ppt
Age 16	2.7%	4.8%	4.3%	+/- 1.5 ppt	-0.4 ppt
Age 17	4.5%	3.6%	4.7%	+/- 1.6 ppt	1.1 ppt
Age 18	11.1%	12.5%	13.1%	+/- 2.6 ppt	0.7 ppt
Ages 18-24	12.9%	13.1%	13.0%	+/- 1.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt
Ages 19-24	13.2%	13.2%	13.0%	+/- 1.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt
Ages 16-24	11.0%	11.3%	11.3%	+/- 0.8 ppt	0.0 ppt

¹ For sample-based data, which estimate the true population value rather than giving an exact measure, confidence intervals give an indication of how precise the estimates are. If confidence intervals are at the 95% level, like in these instances, we can be 95% sure that the true value of the population lies within the ranges specified. It should be noted that sample sizes in the Labour Force Survey are small for individual age cohorts so these estimates are subject to higher margins of error. Caution should be taken when interpreting changes over the short term, particularly for individual age cohorts.

2. Not in education or training (NET) rates by age

Between October to December 2018 and 2019, the proportion NET remained stable for the overall 16-24 and 18-24 age groups but increased for 16/17 year olds.

Figure 2: NET rate by age, England, October to December 2000–2019



1. Legislation '[Raising Participation Age \(RPA\)](#)', introduced in two phases between 2013 and 2014, requires 16/17 year olds in England to remain in education or training.

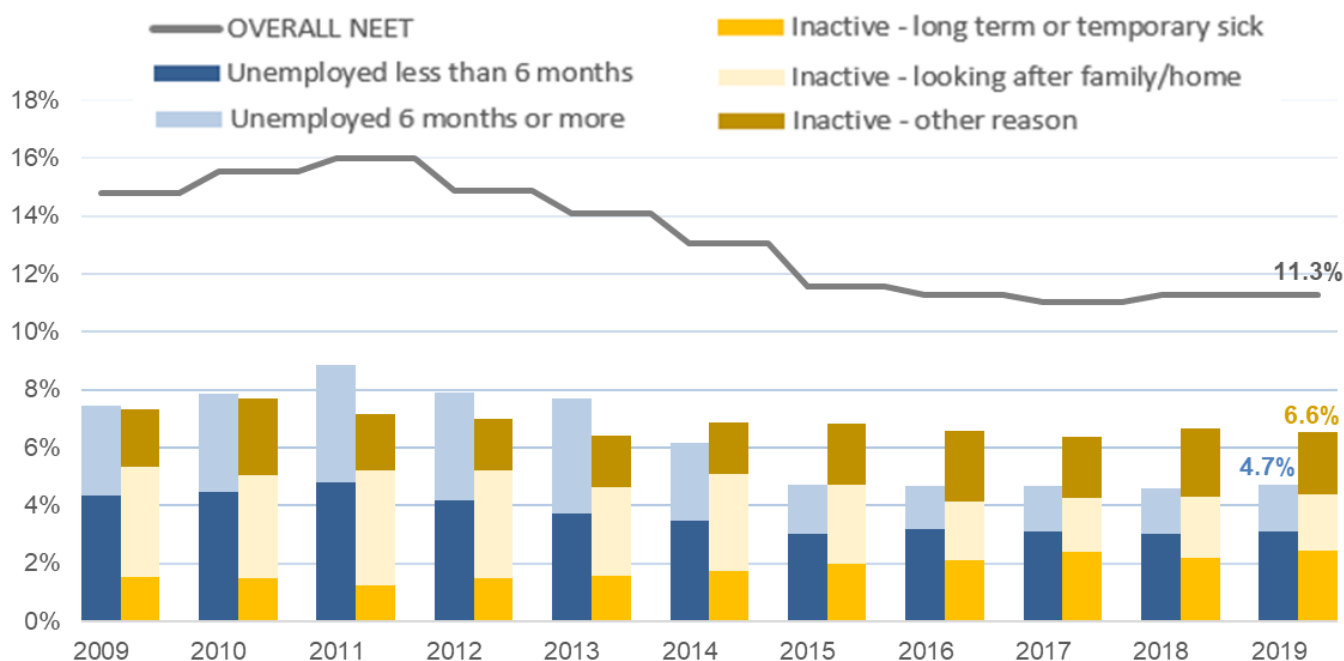
The proportion NET:

- for 16/17 year olds has fallen by nearly two thirds since October to December 2001, the series peak.
- for the older age group (18-24) has stayed fairly stable since the series began.
- for the overall 16-24 age group has remained stable since the series began.

3. Reasons NEET (overall age 16-24)

The labour market status of young people NEET has changed over time.

Figure 3: Age 16-24 NEET rate by reason, England, October to December 2009-2019



Latest figures show the majority, every 3 in 5, of those young people NEET are economically inactive.

The unemployment rate increased for 16-24 year olds in the years following the 2008/2009 recession, peaking in 2011. The proportion unemployed has since fallen driven largely by a decline in those unemployed for more than 6 months.

Since 2014, more young people are NEET due to economic inactivity than due to being unemployed. The main reason for inactivity being long term or temporarily sick has increased since 2011.

The following analysis uses Annual Population Survey (APS) data from 2012 to 2018.

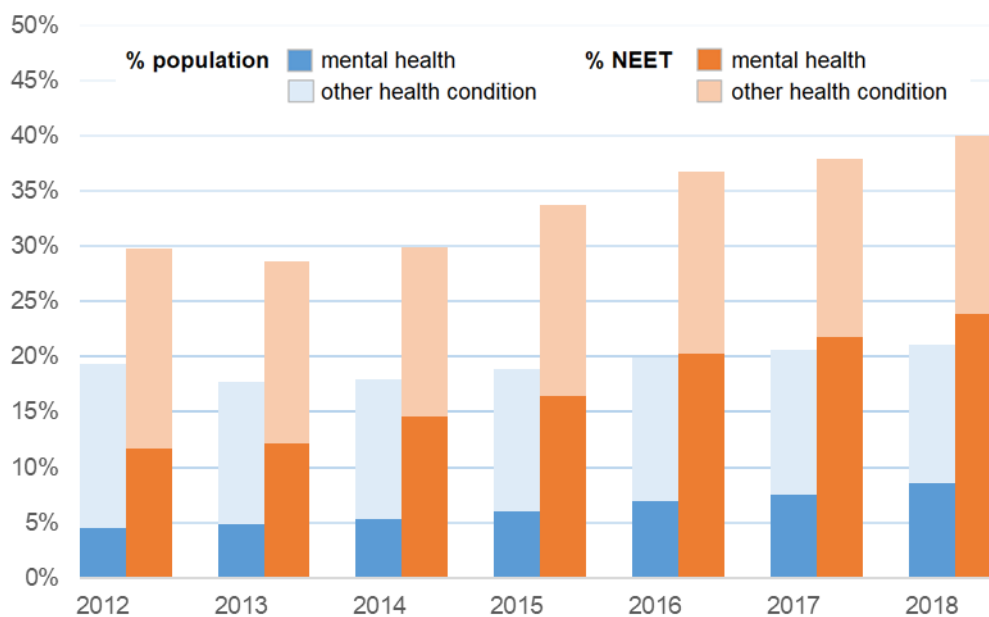
NEET rates differ slightly using the APS and LFS (APS NEET rate in 2018 for 16-24 year olds was 12.2%, compared with an 11.8% average of all quarters in the LFS in 2018). Due to larger sample sizes in the APS we use this data when looking at specific groups in the population.

Although the proportion of the overall 16-24 population with a health condition has remained relatively stable in recent years, there is an increasing proportion of those 16-24 NEET reporting a health condition.

In 2018 those NEET were almost twice as likely to have a health problem than the overall 16-24 population (40.0% and 21.1% respectively).

Looking specifically at mental health conditions², the proportion of the 16-24 NEET population with such a condition has almost doubled from 11.7% in 2012 to 23.9% in 2018.

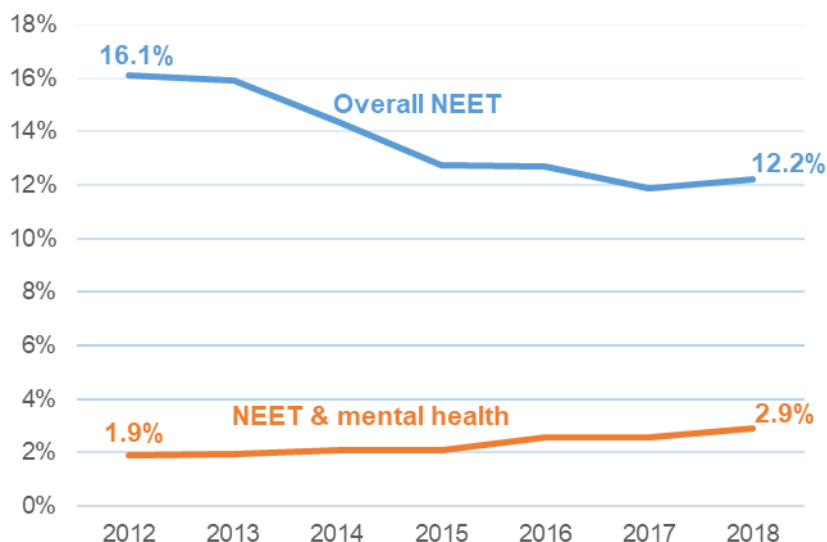
Figure 4 – proportion of overall 16-24 population and 16-24 NEET with a mental/other health condition, England, 2012-2018



Despite the overall 16-24 NEET rate having fallen, the proportion of the 16-24 population NEET with mental health conditions has increased as shown in figure 5.

² Includes depression, bad nerves, anxiety, severe or specific learning difficulties (mental handicap), mental illness, or suffers from phobia, panics or other nervous disorders.

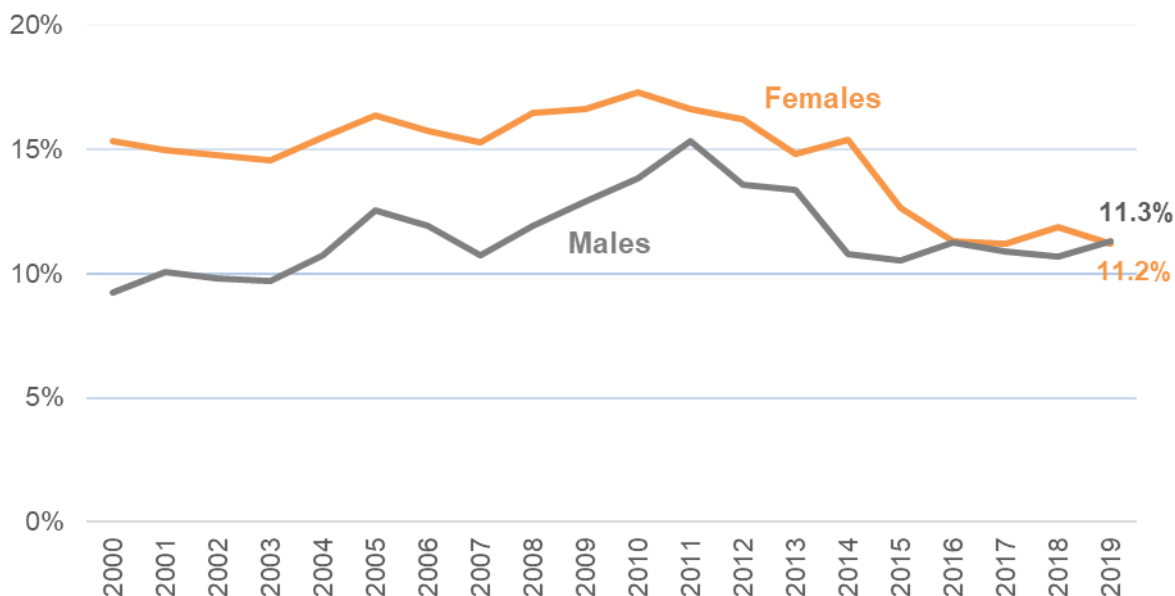
Figure 5 – overall 16-24 NEET with mental health conditions and overall 16-24 NEET, England, 2012-2018



4. NEET rate by gender (overall age 16-24)

In October to December 2019 the NEET gender gap has once again closed since widening in October to December 2018.

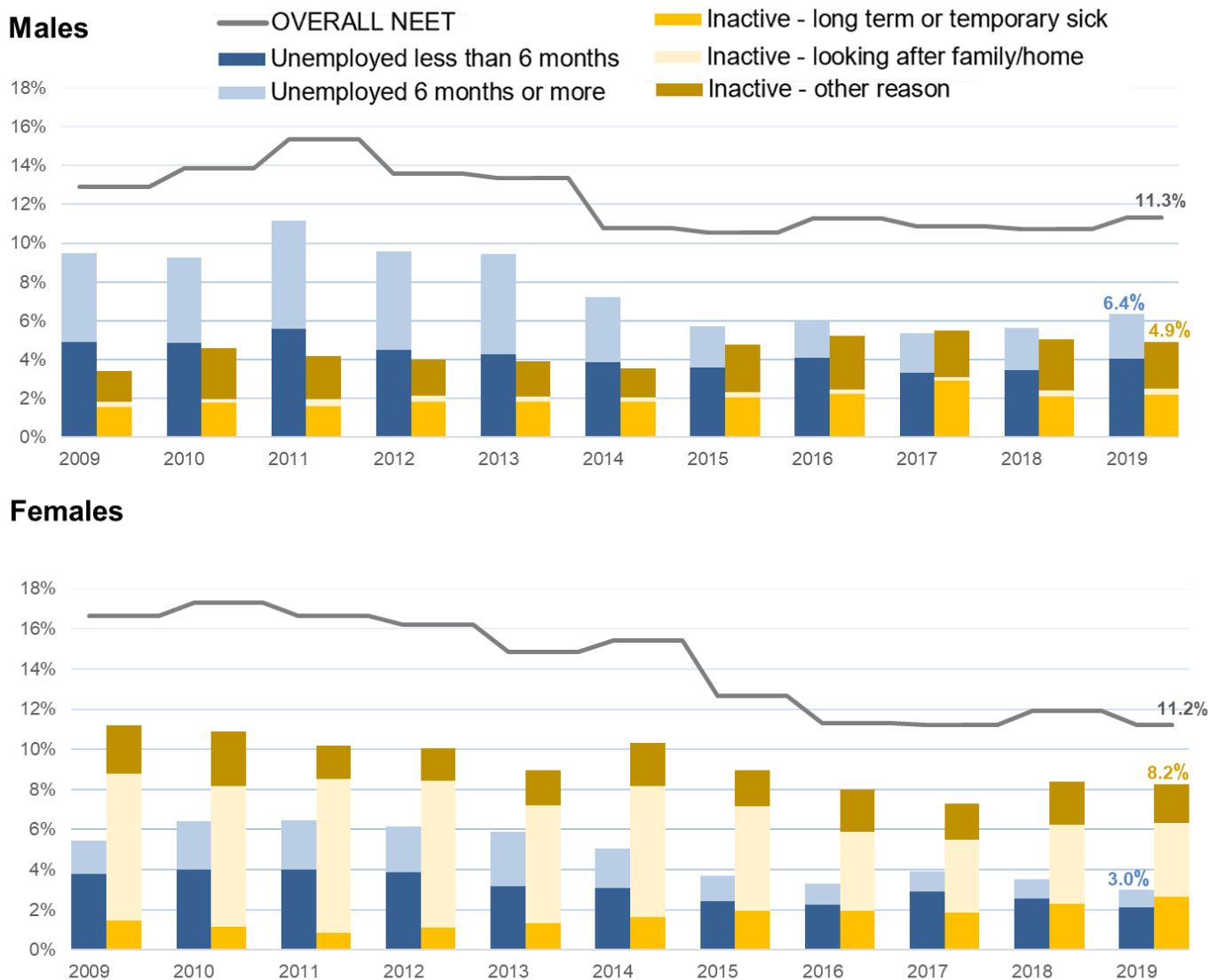
Figure 6 – 16-24 NEET rate by gender, England, October to December 2000-2019



The main reason for females being NEET is different to males as shown in figure 7. Although the proportions have fallen in the last 10 years, in October to December 2019:

- females are still more likely to be NEET due to looking after family/home than males (3.7% compared with 0.3%)
- a higher proportion of males are unemployed than females (6.4% compared with 3.0%).

Figure 7: 16-24 NEET rate by reason and gender, England, October to December 2009-2019



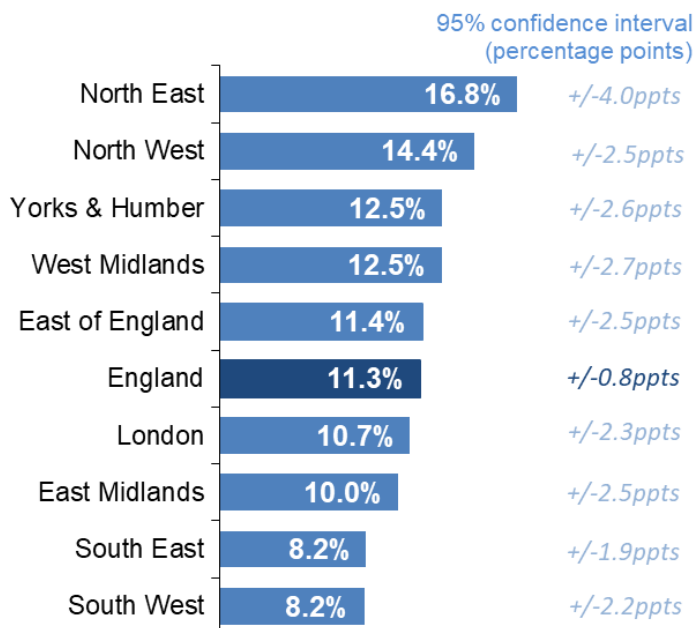
For both males (highest October to December 2017) and females (highest October to December 2019) the proportion NEET due to being long-term or temporarily sick has increased over the last 10 years.

5. NEET rate by region (overall age 16-24)

It should be noted that regional estimates have larger error margins due to smaller sample sizes, resulting in wider confidence intervals of between +/-1.9 percentage points in the South East and +/-4.0 percentage points in the North East. This means caution should be taken when interpreting the figures.

There are notable differences in the NEET rates across the country as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Regional 16-24 NEET rates, England, October to December 2019



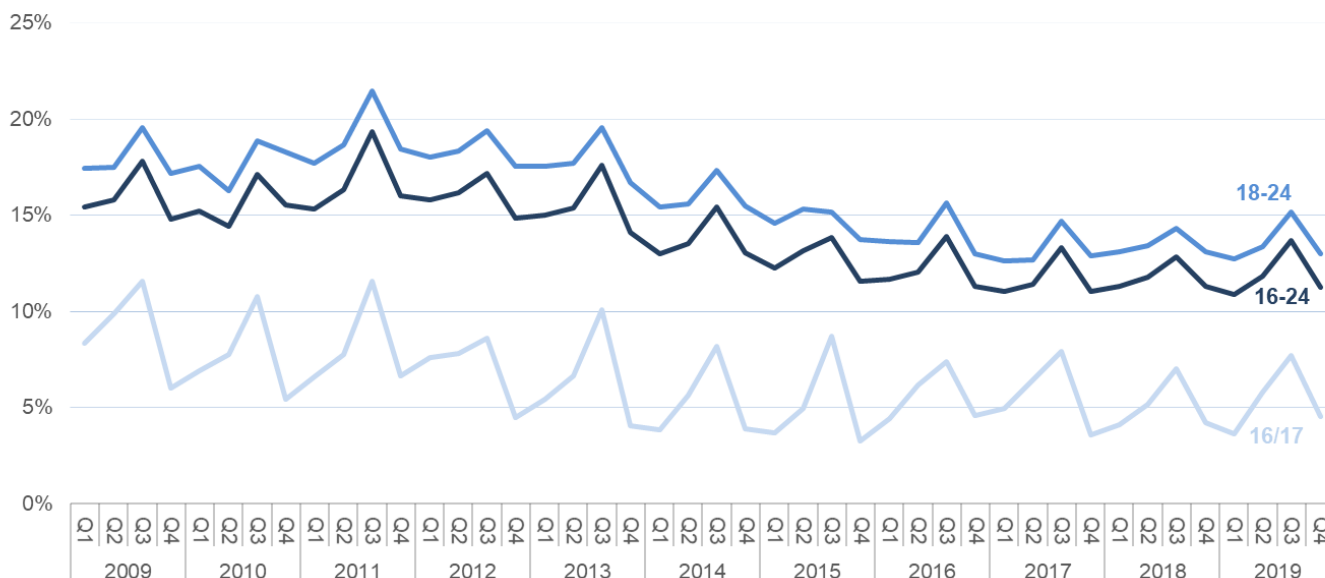
For 16-24 year olds in October to December 2019:

- The North East had the highest NEET rate and has had the highest October to December rate since 2014.
- The South East and South West had the lowest NEET rates and have had the lowest October to December rates for the last five years.

6. Seasonal effects

NEET rates exhibit seasonal patterns that tend to reflect the academic year: typically there are 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 figure 9 shows the quarterly NEET estimates for the past ten years and demonstrates these seasonal effects.











Figure 9: NEET rate by age, England, Q1 to Q4 2009-2019



Note: Q1 relates to the months January-March, Q2 to April-June, Q3 to July-September and Q4 to October-December

7. Other NEET sources

Users should be aware that figures for young people who are NEET and NET are published in other statistics releases. The table below provides a summary of the four related releases and gives information on their content.

Title	Participation in education, training and employment	NEET statistics annual brief	Young people NEET	Local authority NEET and participation
Producer	 Department for Education	 Department for Education	 Office for National Statistics	 Department for Education
Status				Transparency data
Age range	16-18	16-24	16-24	16-17
Age type	Academic age ¹	Academic age ¹	Actual age ¹	Academic age ¹
Country	England	England	UK	England
Regional breakdowns	No	Yes	No	Yes
LA breakdown	No	No	No	Yes
Data type	Mostly administrative	Survey	Survey	Management information
Frequency of publication	Annually	Annually	Quarterly	Annually
Seasonally adjusted	No	No	Yes	No
When to use? ²	England NEET (and participation) figures, age 16-18 	England/regional NEET figures, age 16-24 (includes reasons NEET) 	UK NEET figures, age 16-24 (published quarterly so often most timely) 	LA/regional NEET (and participation) figures, age 16-17 (includes pupil characteristics)

1. Academic age is defined as 'age at the start of the academic year' i.e. age as at 31 August. Actual age is defined as 'respondents age at the time surveyed'.

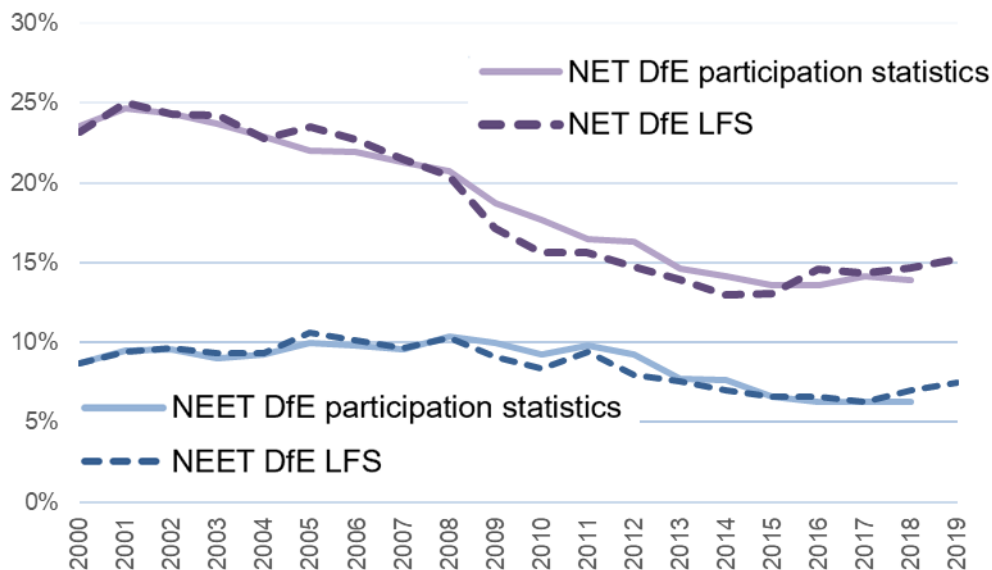
2. Arrows indicate recommended order of preference in which the statistics should be used based on most users' needs and robustness of the data.

Participation in education, training and employment

[Participation in education, training and employment](#) statistics are DfE's (Department for Education's) definitive statistics on participation, NEET and NET for the 16-18 age group. As these estimates are based on administrative data, they are considered the most robust available.

DfE's October to December NEET/NET estimates using the Labour Force Survey (usually published February/March each year) are indicative of the end of year NEET/NET figures in the Participation release (usually published June each year). Figure 10 shows how estimates from the two sources have compared since 2000.

Figure 10: NEET/ NET age 16-18, DfE LFS estimates and participation statistics, England, October to December/end 2000-2019

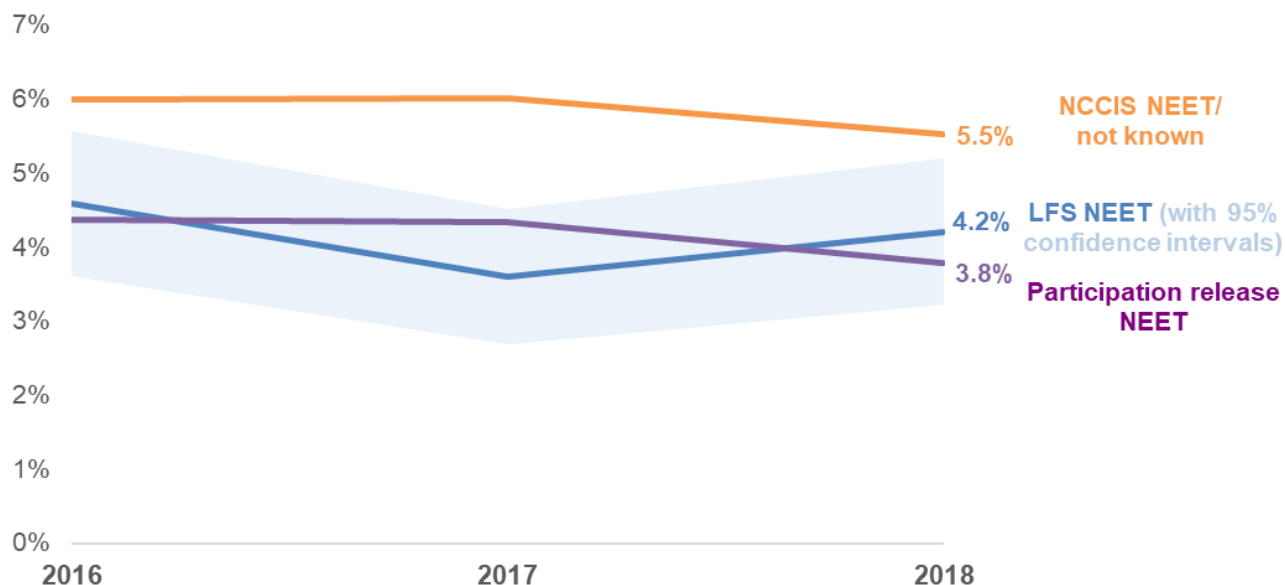


The next Participation statistics, covering the period end 2019, are scheduled to be published in June 2020.

Local authority NEET and participation

Age 16-17 regional and [local authority NEET estimates](#) are published annually by DfE as transparency data. This information comes from local authorities NCCIS systems (National Client Caseload Information System).

Figure 11: NEET age 16/17, DfE LFS estimates, participation statistics and NCCIS series, England, October to December/end 2016 to 2018



Some caution should be taken if using the NCCIS figures. This is due to the estimates being based on management information which means they are not produced to the same standards as official/National statistics. Also, the NCCIS figures include 'not known' activity, which results in some overestimation of NEET, as can be seen in the chart when comparing the NCCIS figures to the LFS and participation figures.

The proportion of those aged 16/17 whose activities are 'not known' varies at local authority/regional level and between years so particular caution should be taken when making geographic and/or time-series comparisons.

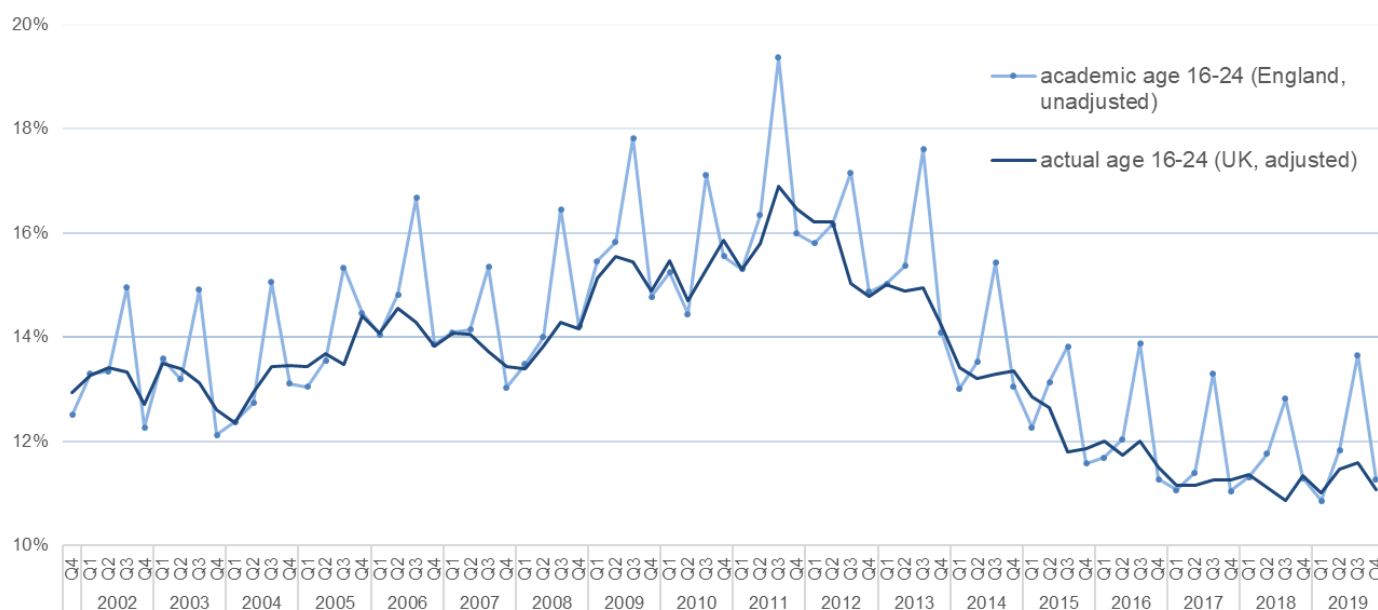
Young People NEET (ONS)

Users should also be aware of the ONS (Office for National Statistics) release ['Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\), UK'](#).

Whilst they are based on the same quarterly LFS data, the NEET and NET figures in the DfE release differ from those in the ONS release due to coverage and methodological differences as shown in the table at the start of section 7.

The headline ONS figures are seasonally adjusted whilst the DfE figures are not and this accounts for most of the differences. The respective use of academic age (DfE) and actual age (ONS) has little impact at overall age 16-24 (but is more notable at the younger 16/17 age group). Whilst the ONS and DfE figures are based on UK and England respectively, this only accounts for a small degree of variation³ as the UK figures are primarily driven by England.

Figure 12: NEET age 16-24 – comparing DfE and ONS LFS figures: the impact of seasonal adjustment, academic vs. actual age, and UK vs England, 2001-2019



Note: Q1 relates to the months January-March, Q2 to April-June, Q3 to July-September and Q4 to October-December

8. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format alongside this release:

Main tables

Tables 1a and 1b	Headline NEET estimates from the LFS by age and official age 16-18 estimates from Participation in Education, Employment and Training statistical release: England
Tables 2a and 2b	Headline NET estimates from the LFS by age and official age 16-18 estimates from Participation in Education, Employment and Training statistical release: England
Tables 3a and 3b	Gender: 16-24 year olds NEET by gender, estimates from the LFS: England
Tables 4a and 4b	Region: 16-24 year olds NEET by region, estimates from the LFS: England
Tables 5a and 5b	Labour market status: 16-24 year olds NEET and reasons for inactivity, estimates from the LFS: England

³ The ONS seasonally adjusted 16-24 UK NEET figure for October to December 2019 was 11.1%, compared with the DfE (non-seasonally adjusted) 16-24 England NEET figure of 11.3% - a difference of 0.2 percentage points.

Tables 5c and 5b	Labour market status by gender: 16-24 year olds NEET and reasons for inactivity, estimates from the LFS: England
Tables 6a and 6b	Timeseries by age of NEET estimates from the LFS: England 2000-2019
Table 7	Main health problem of overall 16-24 population and 16-24 population NEET (APS estimates 2012-2018)

9. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in [March 2012](#), in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for 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. Information on improvements made to these statistics to continue their compliance with the Code of Practice are provided in the accompanying technical document.

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

10. Technical information

A technical document accompanies this release. 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.

11. Get in touch

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