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Academic year 2023/24

# Participation measures in higher education

This is the latest release

**Published** 29 January 2026

**Release type** [Official statistics](#)

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## The Cohort-based Higher Education Participation (CHEP) measure

This statistic measures higher education (HE) participation by school cohorts. It includes people participating in both traditional HE qualifications at UK higher education providers and English further education providers, as well as work-based learning such as apprenticeships.

Cohorts of 15-year-olds from English state and special schools are monitored through time to create a percentage of those who have participated in HE.

Time series in this publication will focus on participation in HE by age 25. This will be referred to as the CHEP-25 rate. Participation data for other ages and breakdowns have been made available in the downloadable files.

This release now includes work-based learning at level 4 or above such as apprenticeships, whether or not they include a taught component at a higher education provider. This reflects the changing higher education landscape and the aim to monitor all level 4 and 5 study, not just traditional HE routes. Participation statistics according to this definition were first published in a subsection of the 2022/23 release. In this release, all sections have now been produced using the expanded definition of HE participation.

Participation data for all breakdowns under the previous methodology have been made available in the downloadable files. See the 'About this release' section for more information.

### Proposed changes to this publication

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The Department for Education regularly reviews its statistical publications for quality and relevance of content and to ensure the statistics meet user needs.

In order to improve and expand our reporting, we are proposing to publish our higher education participation statistics in one series by combining this publication with [Widening participation in higher education \(opens in new tab\)](#). The combined series would bring data together in one place and allow us to publish in a timelier manner with one annual release replacing the two existing ones.

The combined series would continue to cover the progression rates of English state-funded school pupils to higher education and would also expand to include additional breakdowns by student characteristics and participation rates for older age groups. Participation rates would be based on both traditional HE qualifications and work-based learning such as apprenticeships to reflect the changing higher education landscape and the aim to monitor all level 4 and 5 study, not just traditional HE routes.

We are also proposing to discontinue producing data or statistics under the previous definition/scope (used for most of the 2022/23 and all of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 CHEP publications), which excluded most work-based learning such as apprenticeships. This would ensure that statistics capture all HE routes and the coverage for the proposed combined series is consistent and clear.

Please provide any feedback on this proposed change to [he.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:he.statistics@education.gov.uk) by 31st May 2026.

 Search this page

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# Headline facts and figures - 2023/24

## HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (Overall)

**50.9%**

up from 50.0% for the previous cohort and the highest in the series

## HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (Levels 4 and 5)

**5.7%**

down from 5.9% from the previous cohort and the lowest in the series

## HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (FSM eligible)

**35.3%**

which was 18.3 percentage points lower than for all other pupils at 53.6%

## HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (Females)

**57.1%**

which was 12.1 percentage points higher than for males at 45.0%

## HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (First Degrees)

**44.5%**

up from 43.7% from the previous cohort and the highest in the series

## Regional HE Entry Percentage by Age 25 (Highest)

**63.4%**

London was 16.7 percentage points above the South West which had a participation rate of 46.7%, the lowest in England

**The Cohort-based Higher Education Participation (CHEP) measure**

The latest year of HE participation data is from the academic year 2023/24.

In this year:

- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 30 for is the 15-years-olds from 2008/09. For this cohort CHEP-30 was 47.5%, an increase of 1.0 percentage point from the 2007/08 cohort, and an increase of 6.5 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.
- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 25 for is the 15-year-olds from 2013/14. For this cohort CHEP-25 was 50.9%, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the 2012/13 cohort, and an increase of 12.0 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.
- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 20 for is the 15-year-olds from 2018/19. For this cohort CHEP-20 was 49.9%, no change from the 2017/18 cohort, and an increase of 16.2 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.

Most tables in this publication cover the 13 cohorts of 15-year-olds from 2001/02 to 2013/14 and feature the CHEP-25 rate. For each breakdown in this release, we have also included the CHEP-20 and CHEP-30 rates for download in the **Explore data and files** section below.

## Explore data and files used in this release

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## About this release

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## The Cohort-based Higher Education Participation (CHEP) measure

This statistic measures higher education (HE) participation by school cohorts. It calculates the proportion of the population that have started a qualification at [level 4 or above \(opens in new tab\)](#).

The percentage of individuals entering HE is measured for each cohort in English state and special schools at age 15. This includes people participating in both HE qualifications at UK higher education providers and English further education providers, as well as work-based learning such as apprenticeships.

There is likely to be some unfunded learning in English further education colleges (FECs) that is not recorded as it is not mandatory for providers to record information in the ILR on their unfunded learners. There may also be higher-level learning in the private sector that is not recorded in administrative data held by government.

Cohorts of 15-year-olds can be tracked from 2001/02 in the National Pupil Database (NPD), up until their first participation in HE in 2023/24, the latest year available, when that cohort will have reached age 37.

Time series in this publication will focus on participation in HE by age 25 as this gives a good balance between timeliness while still giving students time to enter HE. This will be referred to as the CHEP-25 rate.

## Changes in the 2023/24 publication

For the first time, alongside traditional HE, this release now includes work-based learning at levels 4 and above such as apprenticeships across all sections of the publication, whether or not they include a taught component at a higher education provider. This reflects the changing higher education landscape and the aim to monitor all level 4 and 5 study, not just traditional HE routes. Participation data for all breakdowns under the previous methodology are still available in the downloadable files.

Further breakdowns have also been made available for the 2023/24 publication, with new sections added on free school meal eligibility, disadvantage, and level of study. Participation data for these breakdowns, as well as a breakdown by both qualification aim and level of study, are available in the downloadable files for the first time. The 'Projecting future HE participation' and 'Other data sources' sections that were in the 2022/23 publication are now available in the methodology note.

See the methodology note for further information about each of these changes.

## Coverage

The denominator for the CHEP measure is pupils who attended state schools and all special schools in England at age 15. The numerator includes those who have participated in higher education (either traditional HE qualifications or work-based learning such as apprenticeships at [levels 4 and above \(opens in new tab\)](#)) in UK providers in either the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student or Alternative Provider Student records, or the [Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\) \(opens in new tab\)](#) from English further education colleges (FECs). As of 2022/23, the Alternative Provider Student record has been merged with the HESA Student record.

Pupils are deemed to have participated in higher education where they are:

- Recorded in HESA's [Standard Registration Population \(opens in new tab\)](#), which requires a minimum of 2 weeks participation; or
- Recorded in the ILR data as starting a learning aim at level 4 or higher that was either:

1. Completed successfully
2. Continuing into the following year
3. Lasting over 6 months

Participation in HE at Alternative Providers is included for students who started courses in 2014/15 or later.

## Exclusions

The following are not currently included in the CHEP measure:

- Pupils who attended independent schools
- Participation in Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish colleges
- Participation outside the UK

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## Age

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Charts and tables throughout this publication reference the academic year that each cohort was aged 15. Ages are those recorded on 31st of August at the start of the academic year.

For example, a pupil aged 15 in 2001/02 (our earliest cohort), was aged 20 in 2006/07, aged 25 in 2011/12, and aged 30 in 2016/17.

## Summary of HE participation by ages 20, 25 and 30

- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 30 for is the 15-years-olds from 2008/09. For this cohort CHEP-30 was 47.5%, an increase of 1.0 percentage point from the 2007/08 cohort, and an increase of 6.5 percentage points from the 2001/02

cohort.

- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 25 for is the 15-year-olds from 2013/14. For this cohort CHEP-25 was 50.9%, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the 2012/13 cohort, and an increase of 12.0 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.
- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 20 for is the 15-year-olds from 2018/19. For this cohort CHEP-20 was 49.9%, the same figure as the 2017/18 cohort, and an increase of 16.2 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.

## Focus on HE participation by age 25

- Time series in this publication will focus on participation in higher education by age 25 (CHEP-25) as it provides a good balance between keeping the measure timely and allowing students time to enter into HE.
- The CHEP-25 rate has increased for every cohort of 15-year-olds since 2001/02, reaching 50.9% for the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by the age of 25 in 2023/24. This increase was largely driven by the 18-year-old contribution, which accounted for 29.8 percentage points of the 50.9% rate.
- The difference in the participation rate between ages 20 and 25 has consistently remained close to 5 percentage points for the cohorts from 2001/02 to 2013/14, meaning the proportion entering into HE between ages 21 and 25 has remained stable over time.

[Chart](#)

[Table](#)

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**HE participation rates continue to increase year on year for participation by age 25 and 30, with the latest participation rate by age 25 reaching 50.9%.**

	by Age 20		by Age 25		by Age 30	
	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate
<b>2001/02</b>	188,360	33.7%	217,676	38.9%	229,751	41.0%
<b>2002/03</b>	197,041	34.3%	227,095	39.5%	239,932	41.7%
<b>2003/04</b>	206,469	34.8%	236,778	39.9%	250,351	42.2%
<b>2004/05</b>	211,157	36.0%	239,661	40.9%	252,949	43.2%
<b>2005/06</b>	222,236	37.3%	250,882	42.1%	265,032	44.5%
<b>2006/07</b>	232,484	38.6%	261,233	43.3%	275,772	45.8%
<b>2007/08</b>	233,919	39.0%	264,212	44.0%	279,133	46.5%
<b>2008/09</b>	230,613	39.8%	260,944	45.0%	275,441	47.5%
<b>2009/10</b>	235,051	40.6%	266,271	45.9%	no data	no data
<b>2010/11</b>	241,709	42.5%	271,347	47.8%	no data	no data
<b>2011/12</b>	248,908	44.3%	278,356	49.5%	no data	no data
<b>2012/13</b>	256,371	44.7%	286,712	50.0%	no data	no data
<b>2013/14</b>	255,737	45.7%	285,201	50.9%	no data	no data
<b>2014/15</b>	255,300	46.0%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2015/16</b>	253,496	46.9%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2016/17</b>	254,449	48.0%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2017/18</b>	261,524	49.9%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2018/19</b>	270,757	49.9%	no data	no data	no data	no data

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[Data symbols](#) 

## Footnotes

1. "No data" refers to where a cohort has not yet reached the age specified by the 2023/24 academic year.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Participation by single year of age

- Our cohort analysis allows us to examine the participation rate for every 15-year-old cohort from 2001/02 to 2021/22, and their participation in HE by 2023/24.
- The table below shows that 15-year-olds in 2020/21 have HE participation data available only as far as age 18, while the 2001/02 cohort has participation data available as far as age 37.
- Note the table shows the **cumulative** percentage, so for example the age 25 column (which is CHEP-25) shows the percentage that have entered **by** 25, instead of **at** 25.
- The highest rate measured so far using the cohort method was for the 2017/18 cohort of 15-year-olds, of which 51.4% had participated in HE by age 21 in 2023/24.

## Impact of 2012/13 reforms

- Previous participation measures were impacted by the introduction of variable tuition fees in 2012/13, with fewer 18-year-olds in 2011/12 deferring their studies than is typical and instead deciding to enter in 2011/12 to take advantage of the lower fee level.

- The percentage of the 2008/09 cohort that had participated in HE by age 18 was 27.1%, 3.1 percentage points higher than the previous cohort.

## Impact from COVID-19

- Recent cohorts of 15-year-olds (particularly the 2016/17 and 2017/18 cohorts) include A level pupils who were likely to be affected by disruption to assessments caused by COVID-19.
- A level pupils received Centre Assessed Grades in 2019/20 and Teacher Assessed Grades in 2020/21, with pupils more likely to achieve higher grades than in previous years. This led to more pupils being accepted to HE and could explain the increased participation by age 18 rates in recent years. Comparisons with earlier cohorts should therefore be treated with caution.

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**Figure 2: Cumulative HE entry percentage by age for English cohorts of 15-year-olds between 2001/02 and 2021/22**

	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
<b>2001/02</b>	0.1%	20.8%	30.9%	33.7%	35.2%	36.4%	37.4%	38.
<b>2002/03</b>	0.1%	22.5%	31.5%	34.3%	35.9%	37.2%	38.1%	38.
<b>2003/04</b>	0.1%	21.6%	31.5%	34.8%	36.6%	37.8%	38.7%	39.
<b>2004/05</b>	0.0%	22.0%	32.6%	36.0%	37.7%	38.8%	39.6%	40.
<b>2005/06</b>	0.1%	20.9%	33.9%	37.3%	38.9%	39.9%	40.7%	41.
<b>2006/07</b>	0.1%	23.8%	35.2%	38.6%	40.0%	41.0%	41.9%	42.
<b>2007/08</b>	0.1%	24.0%	36.0%	39.0%	40.5%	41.7%	42.6%	43.
<b>2008/09</b>	0.1%	27.1%	36.6%	39.8%	41.5%	42.6%	43.5%	44.
<b>2009/10</b>	0.1%	25.1%	36.9%	40.6%	42.3%	43.5%	44.4%	45.
<b>2010/11</b>	0.1%	26.7%	39.0%	42.5%	44.2%	45.3%	46.2%	47.

Year	0.1%	28.0%	40.8%	44.3%	45.9%	47.0%	47.9%	48.6%
<b>2011/12</b>	0.1%	28.0%	40.8%	44.3%	45.9%	47.0%	47.9%	48.6%
<b>2012/13</b>	0.2%	28.9%	41.3%	44.7%	46.4%	47.5%	48.6%	49.6%
<b>2013/14</b>	0.2%	30.0%	42.3%	45.7%	47.3%	48.6%	49.6%	50.7%
<b>2014/15</b>	0.2%	30.7%	42.6%	46.0%	47.8%	49.1%	50.0%	50.7%
<b>2015/16</b>	0.2%	31.3%	43.2%	46.9%	48.6%	49.8%	50.7%	no data
<b>2016/17</b>	0.2%	32.8%	44.5%	48.0%	49.7%	50.7%	no data	no data
<b>2017/18</b>	0.2%	35.2%	46.9%	49.9%	51.4%	no data	no data	no data
<b>2018/19</b>	0.2%	35.9%	47.0%	49.9%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2019/20</b>	0.2%	35.7%	46.0%	no data				
<b>2020/21</b>	0.2%	34.2%	no data					
<b>2021/22</b>	0.3%	no data						

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## Footnotes

1. "No data" refers to where a cohort has not yet reached the age specified by the 2023/24 academic year.
2. For the 2005/06 cohort, the rate for 18-year-olds is understated. This is explained in the Limitations section in the Methodology.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Sex

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This section was previously titled 'Gender'. From the 2023/24 academic year, the gender data item in the School Census has been replaced by a new sex data item.

Data is collected on sex (a value which identifies the sex of a person as recognised in law) on a mandatory basis and schools are required to record it as 'F' female or 'M' male except for rare instances where the legal sex of a pupil cannot be established by the school.

For publication purposes the historical gender variable and the new sex variable will be conflated into a single time series under the sex heading.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the CHEP-25 rate was 57.1% for females, an increase of 1.2 percentage points from the 2012/13 cohort. For males, the CHEP-25 rate was 45.0%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points from the 2012/13 cohort.
- The female-male gap in participation increased to 12.1 percentage points for the 2013/14 cohort, up from 11.5 percentage points for the 2012/13 cohort and 8.4 for the 2001/02 cohort.

[Chart](#)[Table](#)

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**The female-male gap in participation by age 25 has continued to widen, reaching 12.1 percentage points for the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds**

	Female		Male	
	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate
<b>2001/02</b>	118,553	43.2%	99,123	34.8%
<b>2002/03</b>	124,114	43.9%	102,981	35.2%
<b>2003/04</b>	129,367	44.2%	107,411	35.7%
<b>2004/05</b>	130,541	45.2%	109,120	36.7%
<b>2005/06</b>	136,218	46.6%	114,664	37.8%
<b>2006/07</b>	141,479	47.7%	119,754	39.1%
<b>2007/08</b>	142,654	48.5%	121,558	39.7%
<b>2008/09</b>	141,280	49.7%	119,664	40.5%
<b>2009/10</b>	144,098	50.7%	122,173	41.3%
<b>2010/11</b>	147,420	52.9%	123,927	42.8%
<b>2011/12</b>	151,175	55.0%	127,181	44.3%
<b>2012/13</b>	157,209	55.9%	129,503	44.4%
<b>2013/14</b>	156,639	57.1%	128,562	45.0%

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Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and

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## Region

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Region is based on the location of the school that the pupil attended at age 15. The location of the school is determined by the Local Authority (LA) it reports to. In some cases, pupils may have lived in a different area to the one where their school was located, including some pupils attending schools in England who lived in Wales or Scotland.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the region with the highest CHEP-25 rate was London. At 63.4%, the participation rate in London was 12.5 percentage points higher than England overall, with this gap widening from 7.4 percentage points for the 2001/02 cohort. London is highlighted in blue on the chart below.
- For the 2013/14 cohort, the region with the lowest CHEP-25 rate was the South West. At 46.7%, the participation rate in the South West was 4.2 percentage points lower than England overall. The South West is highlighted in orange on the chart below.

Chart

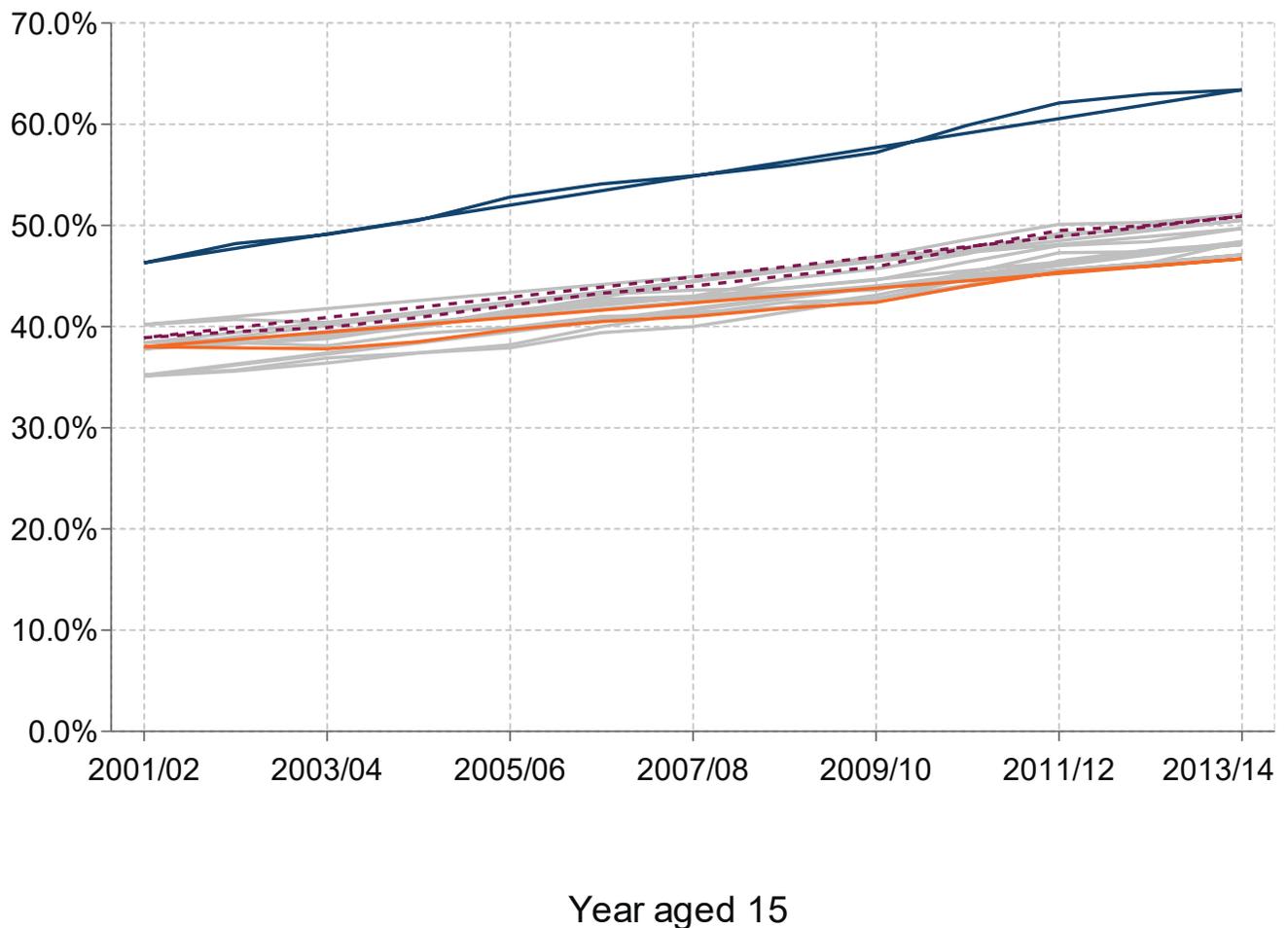
Table

► Export options

**London has a higher participation rate compared to every other region in the country. The South West has had the lowest participation rate for the last five cohorts of 15-year-olds.**

Figure 4: HE participation by age 25 by region for English cohorts of 15-year-olds between 2001/02 and 2013/14

Entry  
percentage  
by age 25



- North East
- North West
- Yorkshire and The Humber
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- East of England
- London
- South East
- South West
- England overall

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Free School Meals

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Free School Meal eligibility is based on whether a pupil was eligible for Free School Meals at age 15.

The proportion of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) changes over

time, which can affect the comparability of the figures. For those aged 15 in 2013/14, 14.5% were eligible for FSM, the second highest in the series but down from 14.9% for the 2012/13 cohort. See the methodology note for more information.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the CHEP-25 rate for FSM eligible students was 35.3%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points from the previous cohort and 13.8 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort. For all other pupils, the CHEP-25 rate was 53.6%, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the previous cohort and 11.8 percentage points from the 2001/02 cohort.
- The gap in participation between FSM eligible students and all other students was 18.3 percentage points for the 2013/14 cohort. This is an increase from 17.7 percentage points for the 2012/13 cohort but a decrease from 20.3 points for the 2001/02 cohort.

[Chart](#)

[Table](#)

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**The gap in participation between FSM eligible students and all other pupils has decreased by 2.0 percentage points since the 2001/02 cohort to 18.3 points for the 2013/14 cohort**

	All Other Pupils		Free School Meals	
	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate
<b>2001/02</b>	200,322	41.8%	17,354	21.5%
<b>2002/03</b>	208,808	42.3%	18,287	22.5%
<b>2003/04</b>	217,038	42.6%	19,740	23.7%
<b>2004/05</b>	219,409	43.4%	20,252	25.1%
<b>2005/06</b>	229,969	44.5%	20,913	26.5%
<b>2006/07</b>	239,593	45.6%	21,640	27.9%
<b>2007/08</b>	242,680	46.3%	21,532	28.6%
<b>2008/09</b>	238,549	47.2%	22,395	30.0%
<b>2009/10</b>	241,865	48.2%	24,406	31.4%
<b>2010/11</b>	245,265	50.2%	26,082	32.8%
<b>2011/12</b>	250,566	52.0%	27,790	34.5%
<b>2012/13</b>	256,755	52.7%	29,957	35.0%
<b>2013/14</b>	256,575	53.6%	28,626	35.3%

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Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Disadvantage

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Pupils are defined as disadvantaged if they were eligible for Free School Meals at age 15 or at any point in the previous six years.

The proportion of disadvantaged pupils changes over time, which can affect the comparability of the figures. For those aged 15 in 2013/14, 26.6% were disadvantaged, up from 23.7% for those in the 2009/10 cohort of 15-year-olds. See the methodology note for more information.

Only the latest five years of data (relating to the 15-year-old cohorts between 2009/10 and 2013/14), for which we have complete and consistent breakdowns, have been published.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the CHEP-25 rate was 36.9% for disadvantaged students, an increase of 5.7 percentage points from the 2009/10 cohort. For all other pupils, the CHEP-25 rate was 56.0%, an increase of 5.5 percentage points from the 2009/10 cohort.
- The gap in participation between disadvantaged students and all other students was 19.1 percentage points for the 2013/14 cohort. This has remained relatively consistent over the time series for which we have complete data, decreasing slightly from 19.3 percentage points for the 2009/10 cohort.

Chart

Table

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**The gap in participation between disadvantaged pupils and all other pupils has remained steady over the last five school cohorts, with the latest cohort to turn 25 reporting a gap of 19.1 percentage points**

	All Other Pupils	Disadvantaged
<b>2013/14</b>	56.0%	36.9%
<b>2012/13</b>	55.0%	36.3%
<b>2011/12</b>	54.2%	35.2%
<b>2010/11</b>	52.2%	33.2%
<b>2009/10</b>	50.5%	31.2%

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[Data symbols](#) 

## Footnotes

1. Only the latest five years of data (relating to the 15-year-old cohorts between 2009/10 and 2013/14), for which we have complete and consistent breakdowns, have been published.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Qualification aim

[Hide](#)

Qualification aim refers to the first qualification that the individual was aiming to achieve when they set out in their studies.

For the first time, this release now includes work-based learning at levels 4 and above such as apprenticeships, whether or not they include a taught component at a higher education provider.

In this section, apprenticeships have been included as a separate category for the first time. See the methodology note for more information.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the CHEP-25 rate was 44.5% for first degrees (including integrated masters), 2.0% for apprenticeships, and 4.4% for other qualifications.
- Compared to the 2012/13 cohort who had participated by age 25 in 2022/23, CHEP-25 for the 2013/14 cohort increased by 0.8 percentage points for first degrees, and by 0.3 percentage points for apprenticeships. The CHEP-25 rate for the 2013/14 cohort decreased by 0.2 percentage points for foundation degrees and by 0.1 percentage points for HNC/HNDs.
- The contribution of apprenticeships at levels 4 and above to the CHEP-25 rate has increased from less than 0.1% for the 2001/02 cohort to 2.0% for the 2013/14 cohort.
- The contribution of foundation degrees to the CHEP-25 rate increased from 1.9% for the 2001/02 cohort to 3.2% for the 2006/07 cohort, before falling to 1.8% for the 2013/14 cohort.

Chart

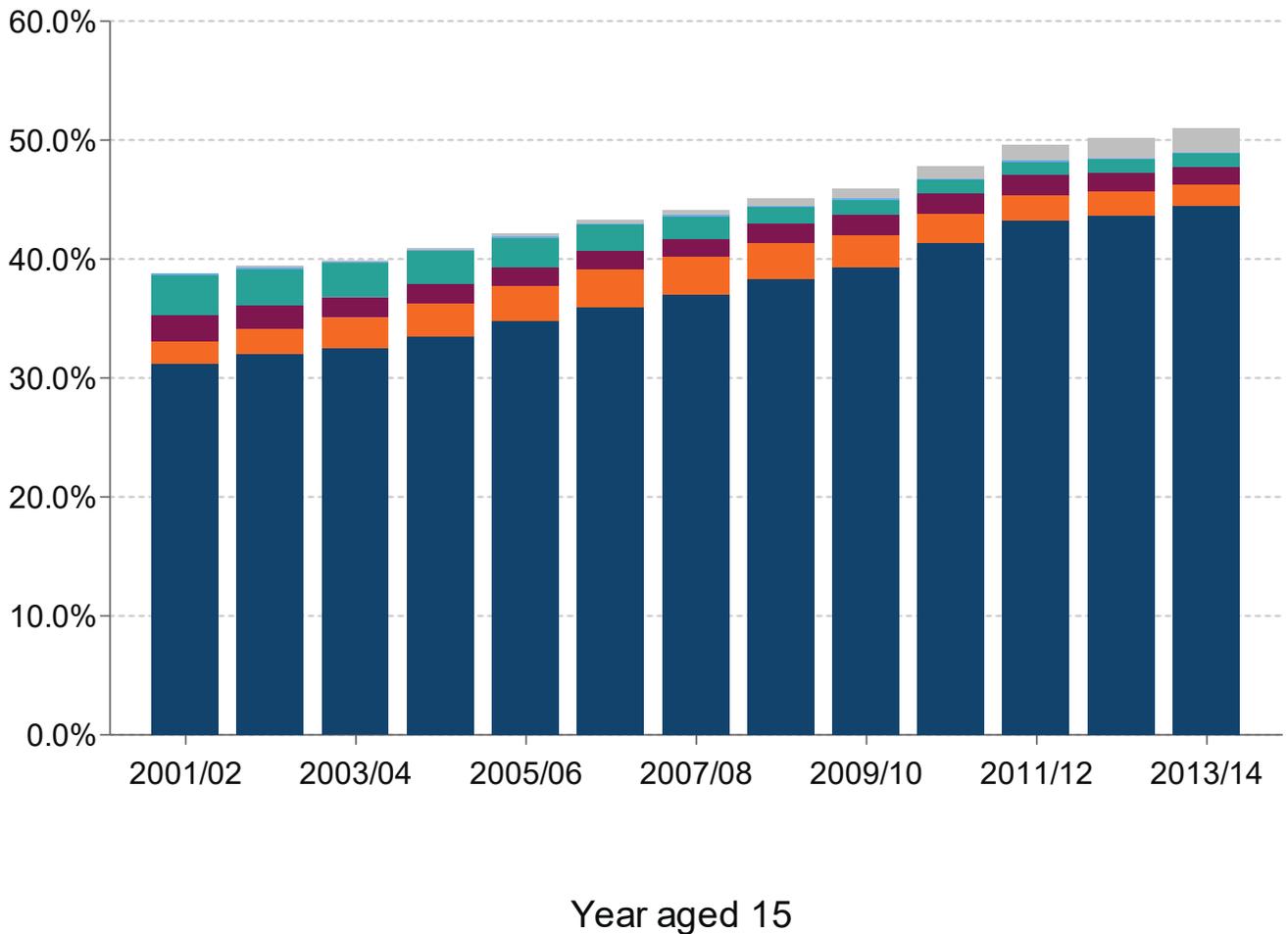
Table

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**Growth in participation since the 2001/02 cohort of 15-year-olds has been mainly driven by increased participation in first degrees**

Figure 7: HE participation by age 25 by qualification aim for English cohorts of 15-year-olds between 2001/02 and 2013/14

Entry  
percentage  
by age 25



- Apprenticeship
- Postgraduate Taught
- Postgraduate Research

- Other Undergraduate Qualifications
- HNC/HND
- Foundation Degree
- First Degree

## Footnotes

1. These figures refer to the first time a pupil participates in HE level study. A pupil may return to HE level study in a future academic year and participate in a different qualification aim, level or mode of study compared to their original qualification. Only the first qualification is counted towards the CHEP measures.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Level of study

[Hide](#)

Level of study refers to the first qualification at level 4 or above that the individual was aiming to achieve when they set out in their studies. Study towards qualifications at [levels 4 to 8 \(opens in new tab\)](#) has been included in this section.

Only the years relating to the 15-year-old cohorts from 2004/05 onwards, for which we have complete and consistent breakdowns, have been published. See the methodology note for more information.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the overall CHEP-25 rate was 50.9%, with those participating at level 6 contributing 42.7 percentage points. This compares to 3.0 percentage points for level 4, 2.7 for level 5, and 2.6 for level 7.
- Compared to the 2012/13 cohort who had participated by age 25 in 2022/23, CHEP-25 for the 2013/14 cohort increased by 1.0 percentage point for level 6 qualifications and remained the same, at 8.3 percentage points, for all other qualifications.

Chart

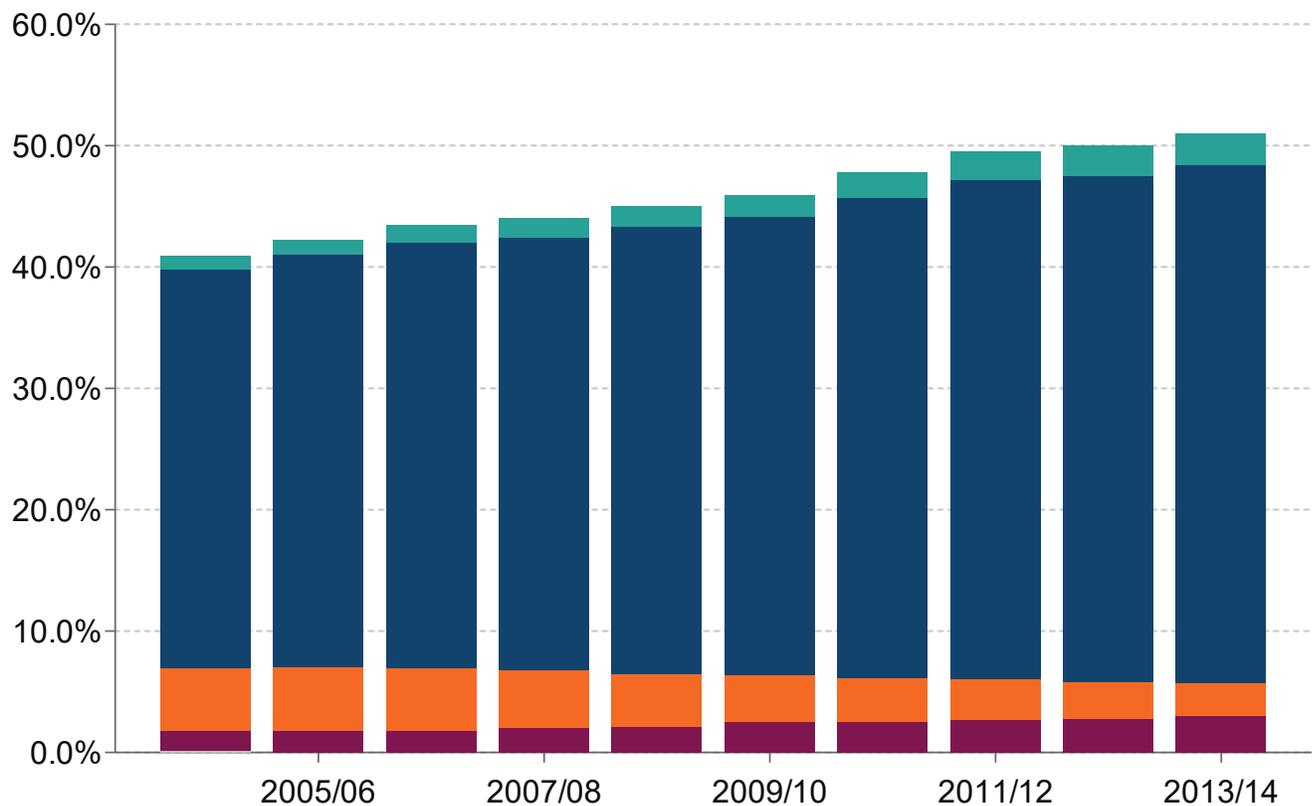
Table

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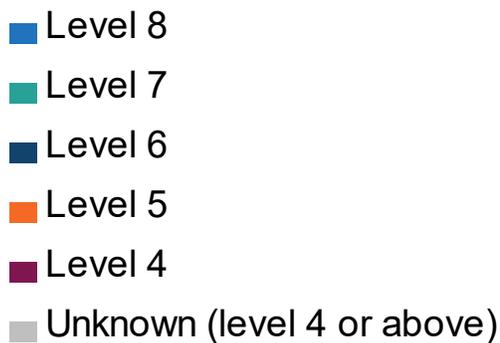
### **Growth in participation since the 2004/05 cohort of 15-year-olds has been mainly driven by increased participation in level 6 qualifications**

Figure 8: HE participation by age 25 by level of study for English cohorts of 15-year-olds between 2004/05 and 2013/14

Entry  
Percentage  
by age 25



Year aged 15



## Footnotes

1. These figures refer to the first time a pupil participates in HE level study. A pupil may return to HE level study in a future academic year and participate in a different qualification aim, level or mode of study compared to their original qualification. Only the first qualification is counted towards the CHEP measures.
2. Only the years relating to the 15-year-old cohorts from 2004/05 onwards, for which we have complete and consistent breakdowns, have been published.

See the methodology note for more information.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Level 4 and 5 study

Included for the first time in this release, this section covers statistics on study towards qualifications at [levels 4 and 5 \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Levels 4 and 5 include qualifications such as Higher National Certificates, Higher National Diplomas, and foundation degrees.

The latest year of participation data is from the academic year 2023/24.

In this year, for those initially participating in qualifications at levels 4 or 5:

- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 30 for is the 15-years-olds from 2008/09. For this cohort, CHEP-30 was 7.5%, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from the 2007/08 cohort, and a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from the 2004/05 cohort.
- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 25 for is the 15-year-olds from 2013/14. For this cohort, CHEP-25 was 5.7%, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from the 2012/13 cohort, and a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from the 2004/05 cohort.
- the latest cohort we can report participation by age 20 for is the 15-year-olds from 2018/19. For this cohort, CHEP-20 was 3.5%, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from the 2017/18 cohort, and a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from the 2004/05 cohort.

Chart

Table

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**Participation in Level 4 and 5 qualifications continues to decrease, with the CHEP-25 rate reaching 5.7% for the 2013/14 cohort, down from a high of 7.0% for the 2006/07 cohort**

	by Age 20		by Age 25		by Age 30	
	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate
<b>2004/05</b>	29,028	5.0%	40,643	6.9%	46,653	8.0%
<b>2005/06</b>	30,452	5.1%	41,295	6.9%	47,539	8.0%
<b>2006/07</b>	31,344	5.2%	42,057	7.0%	48,163	8.0%
<b>2007/08</b>	29,994	5.0%	40,985	6.8%	47,094	7.8%
<b>2008/09</b>	26,858	4.6%	37,787	6.5%	43,458	7.5%
<b>2009/10</b>	25,812	4.5%	36,712	6.3%	no data	no data
<b>2010/11</b>	24,703	4.3%	34,588	6.1%	no data	no data
<b>2011/12</b>	24,539	4.4%	33,650	6.0%	no data	no data
<b>2012/13</b>	24,426	4.3%	33,545	5.9%	no data	no data
<b>2013/14</b>	23,222	4.1%	31,878	5.7%	no data	no data
<b>2014/15</b>	21,921	4.0%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2015/16</b>	20,529	3.8%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2016/17</b>	19,622	3.7%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2017/18</b>	19,043	3.6%	no data	no data	no data	no data
<b>2018/19</b>	18,751	3.5%	no data	no data	no data	no data

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

## Footnotes

1. "No data" refers to where a cohort has not yet reached the age specified by the

2023/24 academic year.

2. These figures refer to the first time a pupil participates in HE level study. A pupil may return to HE level study in a future academic year and participate in a different qualification aim, level or mode of study compared to their original qualification. Only the first qualification is counted towards the CHEP measures.

[Show 1 more footnote](#)

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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## Mode of study

[Hide](#)

Mode of study refers to whether a student has undertaken full-time or part-time higher education.

Mode of study is less robustly defined for apprenticeships, and so they are not included in this section. See the methodology note for more information.

- For the 2013/14 cohort of 15-year-olds who had participated by age 25 in 2023/24, the CHEP-25 rate (excluding apprenticeships) was 46.3% for full-time study and 2.6% for part-time study.

- Compared with the 2012/13 cohort who had participated by age 25 in 2022/23, CHEP-25 (excluding apprenticeships) for the 2013/14 cohort increased by 0.7 percentage points for full-time study and decreased by 0.1 percentage points for part-time study.
- Overall, part-time study (excluding apprenticeships) by age 25 has fallen by 1.5 percentage points from 4.1% for the 2001/02 cohort.

[Chart](#)

[Table](#)

► Export options

**The increase in participation by age 25 continues to have been driven by those undertaking full-time higher education**

	Apprenticeship		Full-time		Part-time	
	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate	Entrants	Rate
<b>2001/02</b>	179	0.0%	194,388	34.7%	23,109	4.1%
<b>2002/03</b>	333	0.1%	203,690	35.4%	23,072	4.0%
<b>2003/04</b>	522	0.1%	212,904	35.9%	23,352	3.9%
<b>2004/05</b>	866	0.1%	216,562	37.0%	22,233	3.8%
<b>2005/06</b>	1,431	0.2%	227,838	38.2%	21,613	3.6%
<b>2006/07</b>	1,941	0.3%	238,192	39.5%	21,100	3.5%
<b>2007/08</b>	2,503	0.4%	241,122	40.2%	20,587	3.4%
<b>2008/09</b>	3,360	0.6%	238,685	41.2%	18,899	3.3%
<b>2009/10</b>	4,514	0.8%	243,106	41.9%	18,651	3.2%
<b>2010/11</b>	5,650	1.0%	248,760	43.8%	16,937	3.0%
<b>2011/12</b>	7,169	1.3%	254,980	45.3%	16,207	2.9%
<b>2012/13</b>	9,459	1.7%	261,525	45.6%	15,728	2.7%
<b>2013/14</b>	11,173	2.0%	259,425	46.3%	14,603	2.6%

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

## Footnotes

1. These figures refer to the first time a pupil participates in HE level study. A pupil may return to HE level study in a future academic year and participate in a different qualification aim, level or mode of study compared to their original qualification. Only the first qualification is counted towards the CHEP measures.

Source: Matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, HESA Student Record and Individualised Learner Record

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[Participation measures in higher education](#)

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These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics \(opens in new tab\)](#).

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that these statistics are:

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- meet identified user needs
- produced according to sound methods
- well explained and readily accessible

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## Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Participation measures in higher education statistics and data:

### HE Participation and Provider Statistics Team

Email: [he.statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:he.statistics@education.gov.uk)

Contact name: Louis Erritt

### Press office

If you have a media enquiry:

Telephone: 020 7783 8300

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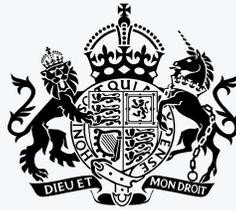
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