



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

BIS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The gap between the proportion of young graduates from professional backgrounds who go on to a “graduate job” 6 months after graduating and young graduates from non-professional backgrounds

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The gap between the proportion of young graduates from professional backgrounds who go on to a “graduate job” 6 months after graduating and young graduates from non-professional backgrounds

Why is this indicator important?

Ensuring fair access to professional occupations and other higher-level jobs is crucial to developing a more socially mobile society. This indicator is one way of looking at this issue – are graduates from less advantaged backgrounds as able to enter ‘graduate jobs’ as their peers from more advantaged backgrounds?

How are we performing?

This indicator focuses on young graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating. An estimated 73% of those who came from the most advantaged backgrounds before Higher Education were in the most advantaged occupation groups six months after graduating in 2012/13. 67% of those from less advantaged backgrounds were in the most advantaged occupation groups. Figures are not comparable with other years.

The table below gives graduate employment outcomes by social background on entry to Higher Education.

English domiciled full-time first degree graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating: estimated percentages for SOC 1 to 3 classification on entry to HE and in employment, age 20-22 in graduation year

	Most advantaged employment (SOC 1 to 3)				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 ^[3]	2011/12 ^[3]	2012/13
Most advantaged background (SOC 1 to 3)	68%	70%	..	..	..
Less advantaged background (SOC 4 to 9)	64%	65%	..	..	..
Gap (pre 2010/11) (pp)	3	5	..	..	..
Most advantaged background (SOC 1 to 3) (2010/11)	..	..	72%	..	..
Less advantaged background (SOC 4 to 9) (2010/11)	..	..	66%	..	..
Gap (2010/11) (pp)	..	..	6	..	..
Most advantaged background (SOC 1 to 3) (2011/12)	..	..	..	71%	..
Less advantaged background (SOC 4 to 9) (2011/12)	..	..	..	67%	..
Gap (2011/12) (pp)	..	..	..	4	..
Most advantaged background (SOC 1 to 3) (2012/13)	..	..	..	..	73%
Less advantaged background (SOC 4 to 9) (2012/13)	..	..	..	..	67%
Gap (2012/13) (pp)	..	..	..	..	6

Source: HESA Student Record and DLHE survey

. (pp) = percentage points

[1] Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) classifies jobs in terms of skill level and skill content. SOC 1 to 3 is sometimes used as a proxy for graduate level jobs. Figures should be treated as estimates and considered to be broadly indicative rather than precise measures, due to data limitations.

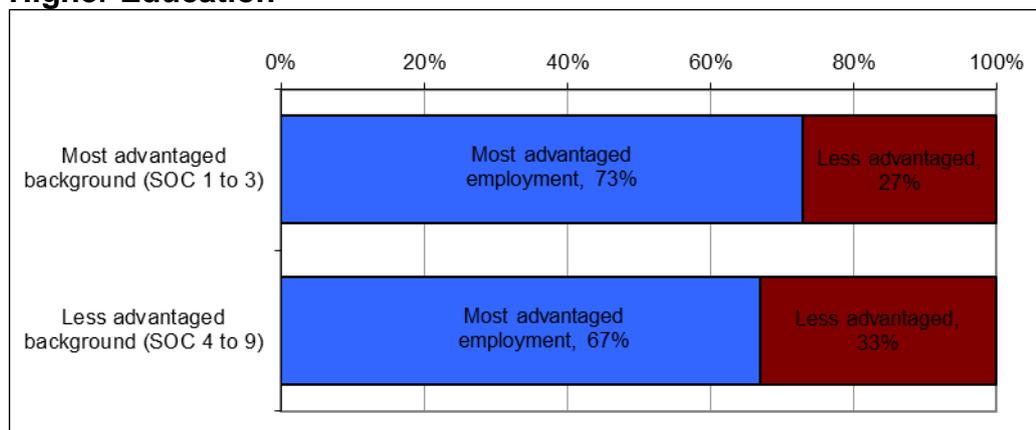
[2] Percentage figures are rounded; gap figures are calculated from un-rounded data and therefore may not correspond to the gap between rounded percentages.

[3] A change to the UCAS question on occupation in 2008/09 means that 2010/11 and 2011/12 graduate figures are not comparable with other years.

Further details are available in the BIS Widening Participation statistical publication.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/widening-participation-in-higher-education-2014>

Estimated proportions of young 2012/13 graduates in different occupation classifications^[1] six months after graduating by social background on entry to Higher Education



Source: HESA Student Record and DLHE survey

[1] Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) classifies jobs in terms of skill level and skill content. SOC 1 to 3 is sometimes used as a proxy for graduate level jobs. Figures should be treated as estimates and considered to be broadly indicative rather than precise measures, due to data limitations.

Figures are not comparable with other years.

What will influence this indicator?

Key drivers of this indicator include:

- access to the high quality higher education courses that give young people the skills they need to access “graduate jobs”.
- recruitment practices of graduate employers (e.g. access to internships and graduate entry programmes etc).

What is BIS's role?

Key policies include:

- Policies to widen participation set out in 'Students at the Heart of the System'.
- Allowing the most selective universities to expand through the relaxation of number controls for those achieving high grades at A-level.
- Improving the information students have available to inform their choice of course and university.

Indicator definition

Graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating: Estimated proportions of young graduates in most advantaged occupation classification by social background on entry to Higher Education.

The indicator covers English domiciled first degree graduates who studied full-time, were aged 20 to 22 at the start of their last academic year in UK Higher Education and were in full-time employment six months after graduating. Data is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record, and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Only those with Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) information in both sources are covered.

The indicator gives the SOC groups on entry to Higher Education split two ways into the “top three” group and the others. The background SOC on entry to Higher Education will often reflect the occupation of the student’s parents. The indicator covers graduates employed in the “top three” SOC group six months after graduation.

SOC codes 1 to 3 are: Managers and senior officials; Professional occupations; Associate professional and technical occupations. This is a widely used approximation of graduate level occupations.

The remaining SOC codes 4 to 9 are: Administrative and secretarial occupations; Skilled trades occupations; Personal service occupations; Sales and customer service occupations; Process, plant and machine operatives; Elementary occupations.

SOC data on entry to Higher Education is collected by UCAS and appears on the HESA Student Record. It is therefore not available for students who did not apply via UCAS or did not provide this information on their UCAS application. Around 80% of young entrants have SOC details recorded.

The occupation question on the UCAS form was changed for entrants in 2008/09 and changed back in the following year. It previously asked: if you are under 21, please give the occupation of your parent, step-parent or guardian who earns the most. If he or she is retired or unemployed, give the most recent occupation. If you are 21 or over, please give your own occupation. For 2008/09 the age criteria was replaced with whether the applicant was in full-time education. Young entrants not in full-time education would therefore give their own occupation in 2008/09, but a parent’s occupation in other years. This may have caused a shift from most advantaged to less advantaged SOC groups, distorting the trend. 2008/09 entrants completing 3 year courses graduated in 2010/11, and those on 4 year courses in 2011/12. For this reason figures on 2010/11 and 2011/12 graduates are not comparable with other years.

The Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, used to derive Standard Occupation Classification in employment, has a response rate of around 80%.

Not all graduates will be settled into their career path six months after graduating. Figures should be treated as estimates and considered to be broadly indicative rather than precise measures, due to data limitations.

Further information

This analysis looks at the position six months after graduation. At this point, many people have not reached their career destination. These are the best data currently available. It must be noted that, due to response rates in the survey from which this data is taken, all figures should be treated as estimates. Data are available in 'Widening Participation in Higher Education' and are published annually.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/widening-participation-in-higher-education-2013>

Related indicators

None

Status

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