



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

BIS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Participation in employment - % of 18-24 year olds not in full-time education who are inactive or unemployed, by social background using father's occupational group

JULY 2014

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Why is this indicator important?

A number of studies find that people who are unemployed when they are young will experience more unemployment and lower wages when they are older. There is a strong association between social background and likelihood of being NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Indicator definition

The proportion of 18-24 year olds not in full-time education who are inactive or unemployed, by social background (defined using father's occupational group). Social background is measured by the social class of an individual's father when he or she was 14 years old. Social class is described using the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). NS-SEC is an occupationally based classification that can provide coverage of the whole adult population. Groups 1 and 2 cover higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations. Father's occupation is used as a measure in the indicator as males tend to have a more stable career path than females.

The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) was used for data shown from 1991-2008 and was superseded by Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), for 2009-12 data.

How are we performing?

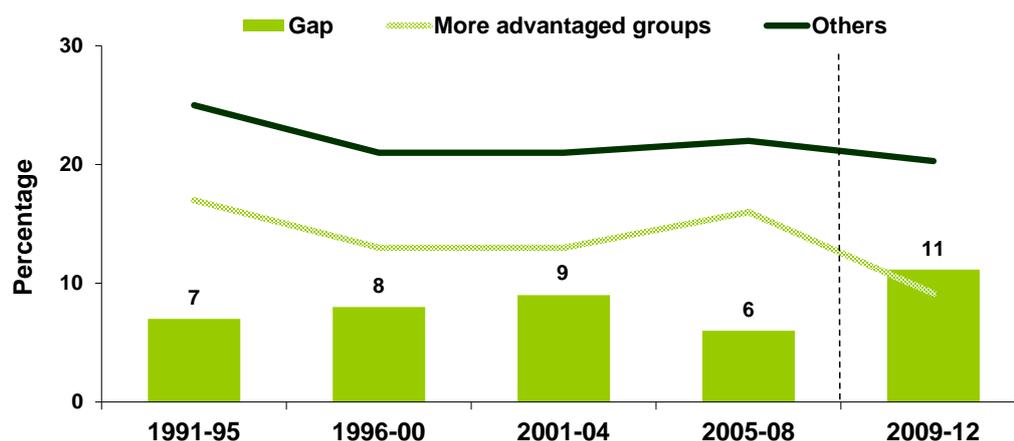
Table 1: Proportion of 18-24 year olds not in full-time education who are inactive or unemployed by father's occupational group, England

Not in full-time education who are inactive or unemployed (BHPS and UKHLS series)	1991-95	1996-00	2001-04	2005-08	2009-12*
More advantaged groups (NS-SEC 1-2)	17%	13%	13%	16%	9%
Others	25%	21%	21%	22%	20%
Gap (percentage points)	7	8	9	6	11

* Figures for 2009-2012 use the UKHLS measure and are not directly comparable to figures for earlier years, which use the BHPS measure.

Latest data covering 2009-12 show that 9 per cent of young adults aged 18-24 from more advantaged social backgrounds were not in full-time education and inactive or unemployed. In comparison, 20 per cent of adults from less advantaged backgrounds were in the same position.

Chart 1: Proportion of 18-24 year olds not in full-time education who are inactive or unemployed by father's occupational group 1991-95 – 2009-12, England



The above chart shows trends over time. Latest UKHLS data¹ indicates a widening in the gap between more advantaged groups and others, although the two data sources are not directly comparable.

What will influence this indicator?

Key drivers include:

- the educational attainment gap at school and access to further and higher education and support in getting training and finding jobs
- the impact of macroeconomic conditions on the labour market

What is BIS's role?

Key policies include:

- enhanced assistance for unemployed young adults in getting back to work through the Work Programme and the Youth Contract
- ensuring young people have access to further education, Traineeship and

¹ Weights are applied to the UKHLS data so it should more accurately represent the population than the unweighted BHPS data.

Apprenticeship programmes to ensure they have the skills to be productive in work

- National Careers Service launched in 2012 offering one to one support for unemployed young people

Further information

BIS is undertaking more work to improve the data availability for this measure. Questions on social mobility have been tested for inclusion in the 2014 LFS² to enable BIS to develop a gap measure.

Related indicators

[Statistical releases relating to young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)³](#)

[Proportion of 18-24 year olds participating in full or part-time education with a gap measure for participation in full-time education using fathers occupational group.⁴](#)

Status

This update: July 2014

² Social mobility questions will be introduced to the Labour Force Survey from July-September 2014 (Q3).

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-neet>

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/308521/proportion-of-18-24-year-olds-participating-in-full-or-part-time-education-with-gap-measure-for-participation-in-full-time-education-by-social-background-using-fathers-occupational-group.pdf

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