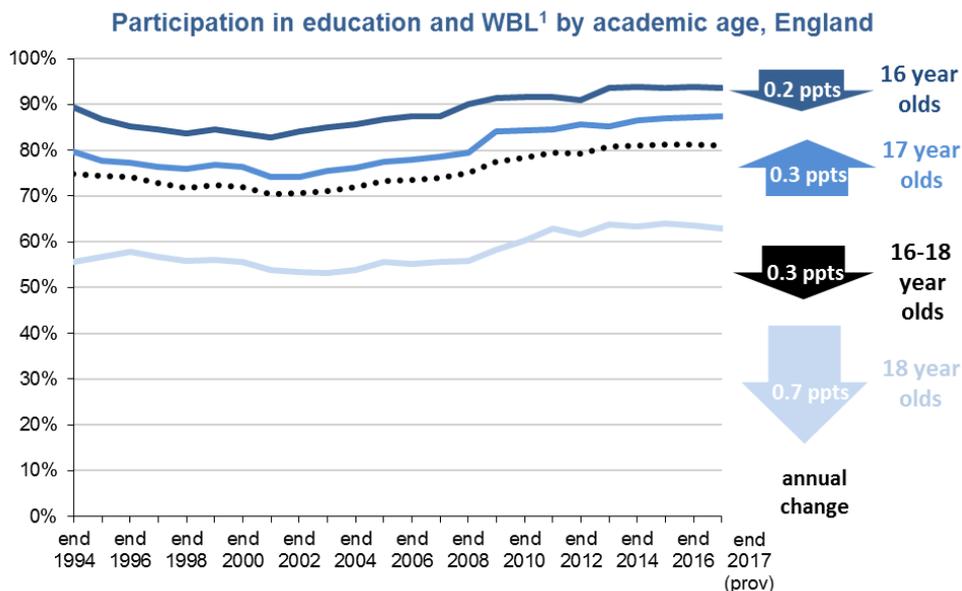




# Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England: End 2017

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Participation remained stable at age 16, increased slightly at 17 and has fallen at 18

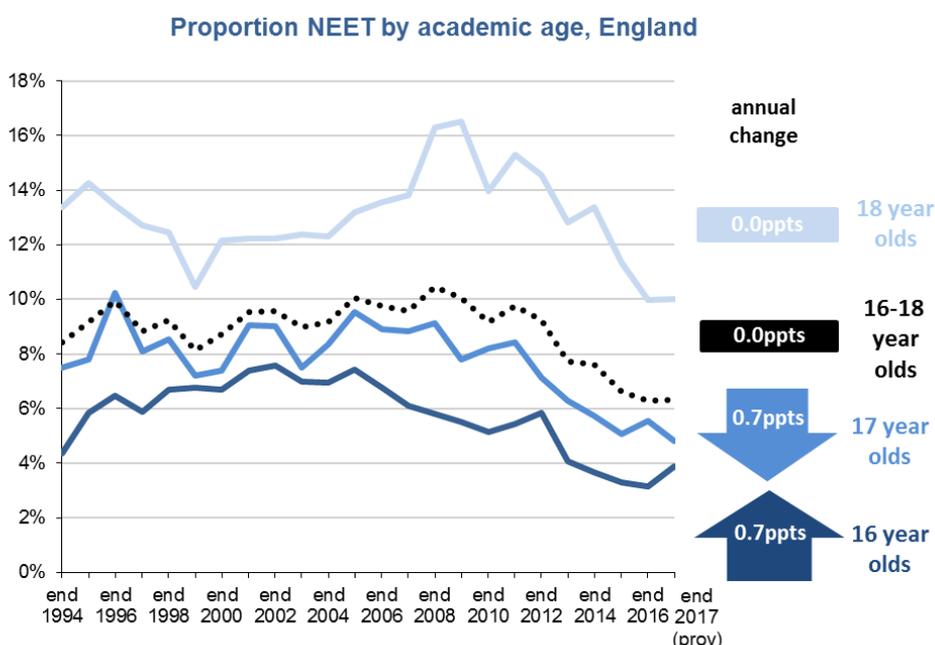


<sup>1</sup>From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships

Between 2016 and 2017 the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education or on an apprenticeship decreased by 0.3 percentage points (ppts) to 81.0%. The highest level was 81.3% at the end of 2015<sup>2</sup>.

Participation increased to a record level for those academic age 17 (to 87.5%, an increase of 0.3 ppts) and remained relatively stable at age 16 at 93.6% (a slight fall of 0.2 ppts). At age 18 participation fell by 0.7 ppts to 62.8%, the lowest rate since 2012.

NEET remained stable for the overall 16-18 age group



The overall proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) remained stable at 6.3%, the lowest rate since consistent records began.

At age 17 the NEET rate decreased by 0.7 ppts to 4.8% driven by both an increase in participation and an increase in the employment rate of those not in education and training (NET). In contrast, the NEET rate increased at age 16 by 0.7 ppts to 3.9%; the result of a slight fall in participation as seen above and a larger fall in the NET employment rate.

At age 18 the NEET rate was 10.0%, the same as in 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Historic data is revised annually to reflect latest ONS population estimates and revised ILR and HE data. This means participation and NEET estimates may be different to those reported in earlier releases.

# Contents

1.	Annual changes in participation by age.....	4
2.	Participation by qualification level and institution type.....	4
3.	Trends in participation by age since 1994.....	6
4.	Trends in the proportion NEET since 1994.....	8
5.	Accompanying tables.....	11
6.	Revisions to previous estimates.....	12
7.	Further information is available.....	16
8.	National Statistics.....	17
9.	Technical information.....	17
10.	Get in touch.....	17

## About this release

This statistical publication contains provisional estimates for end 2017 for the participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education, training and employment in England. It also updates the end 2016 estimates which were published in June 2017.

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 (comprising solely of apprenticeships since 2013) 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 statistics publication) and academic age 17 in 2014/15 (end 2014 figures). Those young people impacted by stage 2 of RPA were academic age 16 in 2014/15 (end 2014 figures) and age 17 in 2015/16 (end 2015 figures).

The definition of participation in this statistics publication 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 statistics publication, they are not directly comparable.

### **In this publication**

The following tables are included in the statistics publication:

- Main tables: (excel .xlsx)
- Additional tables - numbers: (excel .xlsx)
- Additional tables - rates: (excel .xlsx)
- Underlying data - (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](mailto:post16statistics@education.gov.uk)

# 1. Annual changes in participation by age

(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. In addition we routinely revise population estimates based on latest data available from ONS. These revisions have resulted in the estimate of participation for 2016 being revised down from 81.9% to 81.2%, a result of an increase in the population estimate and also falls in the estimates of those 16-18 year olds participating in further education colleges and those on an apprenticeship. Section 6 summarises the 2016 changes.

Figures for 2014 and 2015 have also been revised down slightly due to revisions to the population estimates (see accompanying technical document for more information including changes by individual age).

The table below summarises the key participation statistics for end 2017 (provisional) and the changes compared with final 2016 figures. (Note that changes are calculated using unrounded data, which can lead to small discrepancies if compared to those observed between rounded figures.)

**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 <sup>1</sup> )
	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	
Full-time education	87.2	87.0	77.0	77.3	50.0	49.6	71.1	70.9	-0.2
Part-time education	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.6	5.1	5.0	3.9	4.0	0.1
Apprenticeships <sup>2</sup>	3.8	3.5	7.2	6.8	8.9	8.6	6.7	6.4	-0.3
Education and apprenticeships <sup>3</sup>	93.8	93.6	87.2	87.5	63.5	62.8	81.2	81.0	-0.3
Education and training	96.0	95.8	91.4	91.7	72.5	71.2	86.4	86.0	-0.5

(1) ppts: percentage points.

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

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

Overall participation by 16-18 year olds in full-time education has remained relatively stable in the last year, decreasing slightly by 0.2 ppts to 70.9%. There was a slight decrease in full-time education at age 16, down 0.2 ppts to 87.0%, and a larger decrease at age 18, down 0.4 ppts to 49.6%. At age 17 however, participation in full-time education increased, up 0.3 ppts to 77.3%.

Participation by 16-18 year olds on apprenticeships fell by 0.3 ppts to 6.4% in the last year. The largest fall was at age 16, down 0.4 ppts to 3.5% when compared to 2016. At age 17 participation on apprenticeships was down 0.3 ppts to 6.8% and at age 18 remained relatively stable with a fall of 0.2 ppts to 8.6%.

Participation on intermediate apprenticeships (level 2) decreased by 0.4 ppts to 3.8%. The proportion of 16-18 year olds participating on advanced/higher apprenticeships (level 3 or above) remained relatively stable, increasing slightly by 0.1 ppts to 2.6%. Similar trends were seen at individual ages.

Overall, the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education and apprenticeships fell by 0.3 ppts to 81.0% in 2017. At age 16 the proportion remained relatively stable, decreasing by 0.2 ppts to 93.6%. At age 17 participation increased by 0.3 ppts to 87.5%, the highest rate since consistent records began. The proportion of 18 year olds in education and apprenticeships fell by 0.7 ppts to 62.8% in 2017.

## 2. Participation by qualification level and institution type

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

Between 2016 and 2017 the proportion of 16-18 year olds in full-time education and studying for a qualification at **level 4** or above increased by 0.3 ppts to 10.8%. The increase at level 4 was driven by an increase in participation in **higher education** at academic age 18, which rose by 0.7 ppts to 30.5%. The increase in the proportion of 18 year olds studying for a higher education qualification (level 4 and above) was offset by a fall, of 1.1 ppts to 19.1%, in 18 year olds studying at level 3 or below. Overall, 49.6% of 18 year olds were in full-time education in 2017, a fall of 0.4 ppts.

In 2017 almost two-thirds (63.7%) of 16 and 17 year olds were in full-time education studying for a **level 3** qualification as their highest qualification aim, a proportion roughly unchanged for the past two years. Within this, there was a fall in the proportion studying **A levels**, brought about by a fall at age 16 of 1.2 ppts (to 47.2%); at age 17 the proportion studying A levels was stable (43.6%). The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds whose highest study aim was other level 3 (not A level) increased by 0.5 ppts to 18.3% however there was a big fall in the proportion of these other level 3 qualifications that were classified as tech levels and applied general qualifications<sup>1</sup>. The proportion of 16/17 year olds studying **tech levels** fell by 3.2 ppts to 1.8%, and the proportion studying **applied general** qualifications fell by 5.2 ppts to 3.4%. These large falls in tech levels and applied general qualifications were concentrated in general FE and sixth form colleges - proportions studying in state-funded schools, which are heavily incentivised by performance tables measures, were less affected. Schools and colleges may offer qualifications that are not included in the performance tables, if approved for teaching to 16-19 year olds, where they feel this is in the best interests of their students.

Overall the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds studying for a **level 2** qualification as their highest study aim remained relatively stable at 13.0% (up 0.2 ppts). Within this, there have again been increases in proportions studying for **GCSEs**, up 0.7 ppts to 9.6% of 16 and 17 year olds.

The biggest annual change in the proportion studying GCSEs was at age 16, which rose 0.9 ppts to 13.6% in 2017. This is likely to have been brought about by the continued 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 9.1 ppts from 4.5% in 2013. An increase was also seen in GCSE as the highest study aim at age 17, up 0.5 ppts between 2013 and 2017 to 5.6%.

Almost two thirds (64.7%) of 16 and 17 year olds with a GCSE as their highest qualification aim were also studying for an **other level 2** qualification. Increases in GCSE participation were offset with falls in other level 2 study, down 0.5 ppts to 3.4% of the age 16/17 population.

Table B shows full and part-time education at **ages 16 and 17** by institution type and changes in the composition compared with 2016.

**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 2016	end 2017 (prov)	annual change (ppts)	end 2016	end 2017 (prov)	annual change (ppts <sup>1</sup> )
State-funded schools	32.4	34.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges <sup>2</sup>	29.9	30.2	0.3	3.1	3.3	0.2
Sixth-form colleges	11.7	9.6	-2.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Independent schools	6.6	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special schools	0.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Higher education institutions	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> ppts: percentage points

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

A number of sixth-form colleges converted to academies between 2016 and 2017 causing some movement in the proportion in full-time education between sixth-form colleges and state-funded schools.

The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in full time education remained relatively stable at 82.1%, which is the highest full time education rate since consistent records began. A decrease in full-time study in sixth form

<sup>1</sup> In this publication qualifications are counted as tech levels, tech certs and applied general qualification if they appear on the respective list for qualifications due to count in the schools and college performance tables at the time of their planned end date. For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-performance-tables-technical-and-vocational-qualifications>

colleges was offset by an increase in study at state-funded schools, but this is explained by the conversion of some sixth-form colleges to academy status (within the state-funded schools, the proportion of 16-17 year olds studying at converter academies rose by 2.5%).

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

% of age 18	Full-time education			Part-time education		
	end 2016	end 2017 (prov)	annual change (ppts)	end 2016	end 2017 (prov)	annual change (ppts <sup>1</sup> )
Higher education institutions	29.7	30.4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.0
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges <sup>2</sup>	14.0	13.4	-0.6	4.6	4.4	-0.2
State-funded schools	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sixth-form colleges	1.7	1.4	-0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
Independent schools	1.2	1.0	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special schools	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

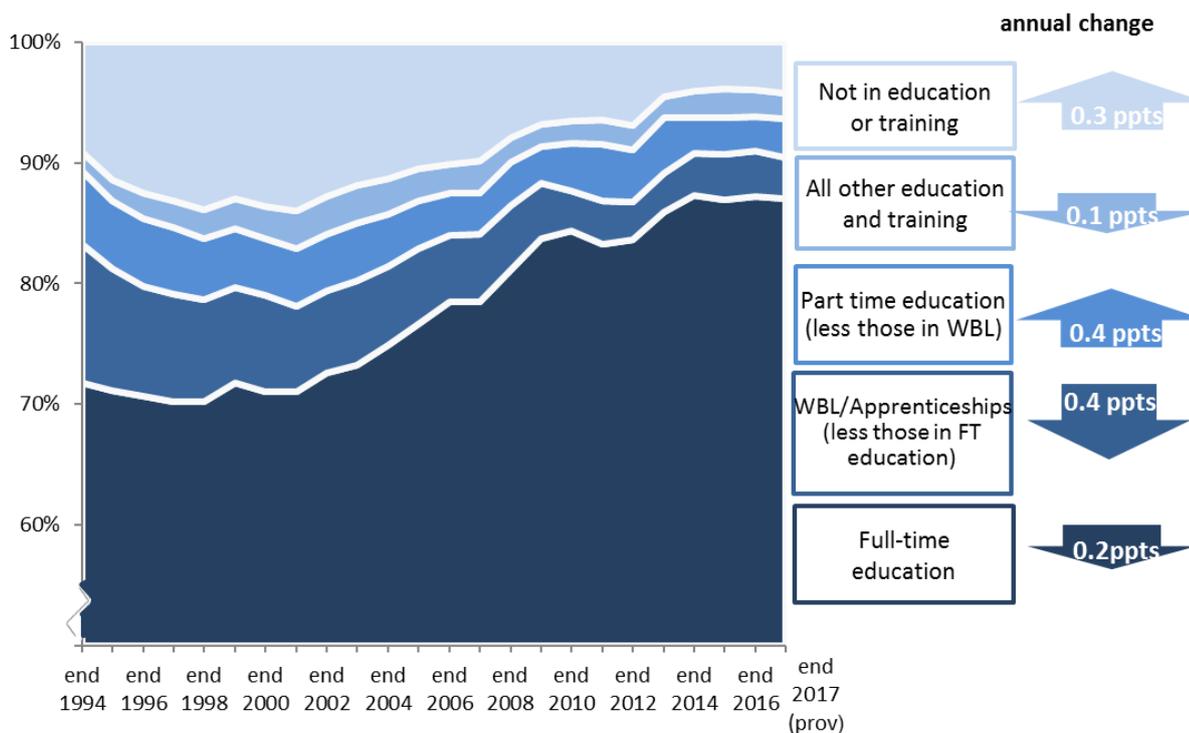
<sup>1</sup> ppts: percentage points

<sup>2</sup> 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 2016 and 2017 the proportion of 18 year olds in full-time study in a higher education institution rose by 0.7 ppts to 30.4%, the highest level since consistent records began in 1994. Despite this, the overall proportion of 18 year olds in full-time education fell in the latest year by 0.4 ppts to 49.6%, a result of falls in proportion in General FE colleges and a slight fall in independent schools.

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

**Figure 1: Trends in participation in education and training at age 16**  
England end 1994-end 2017(prov)



<sup>1</sup>From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships

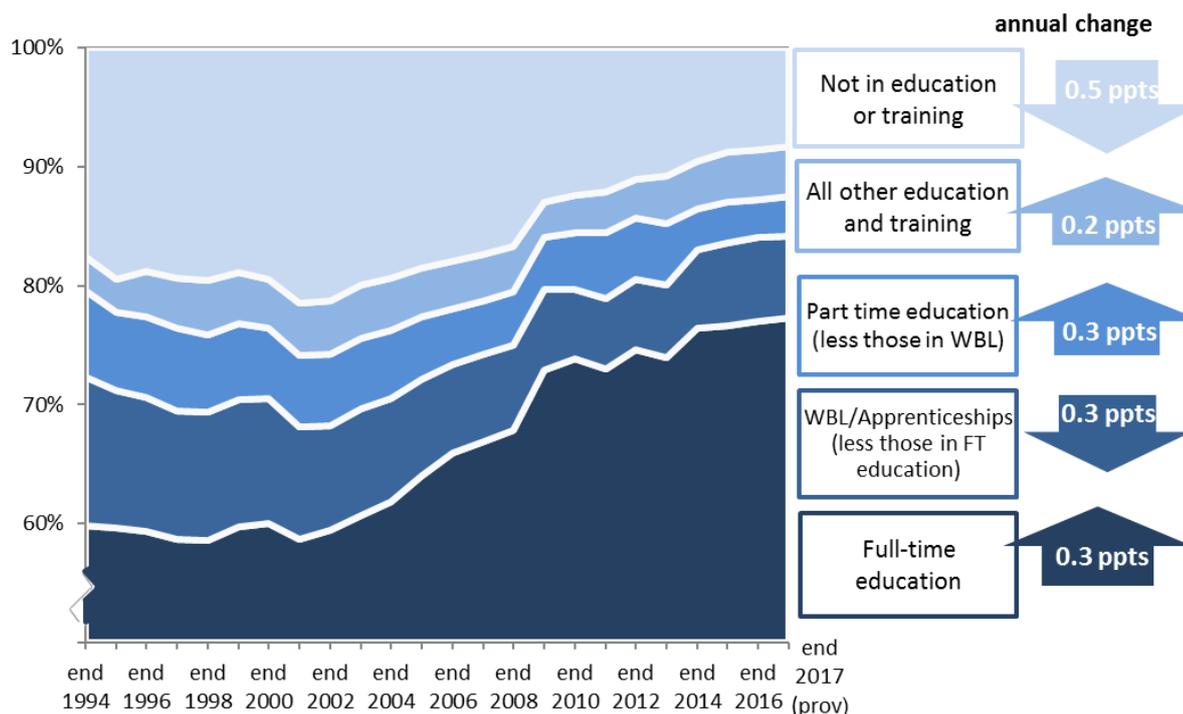
At age 16 participation in full-time education was reasonably flat between the late 1990s to 2001, but falls in part time education and work based learning caused the overall proportion in education and training to fall.

Between 2001 and 2009 participation in full time education and overall education and training rose, but then fell slightly or flattened (respectively for the two measures) between 2009 and 2012. Following RPA legislation participation rose sharply again in 2013 and 2014, after which it has remained reasonably stable.

Between 2016 and 2017, the proportion in full-time education at age 16 fell slightly (-0.2 ppts to 87.0%) and participation in apprenticeships fell by 0.4 ppts to 3.5%. Part-time education increased for 16 year olds by 0.3 ppts to 3.4%. These changes resulted in a slight fall (of 0.2 ppts to 93.6%) in the overall proportion in education and apprenticeships. 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 statistics publication. However, the proportion in education and apprenticeships 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).

At age 17 the long term trends in participation were similar to age 16 up until 2012, but the increase following the implementation of RPA was seen a year later (in 2014). And, unlike at age 16, there have been year-on-year increases in both participation in full-time education and overall education and training between 2014 and 2017.

**Figure 2: Trends in participation in education and training at age 17**  
 England end 1994-end 2017(prov)

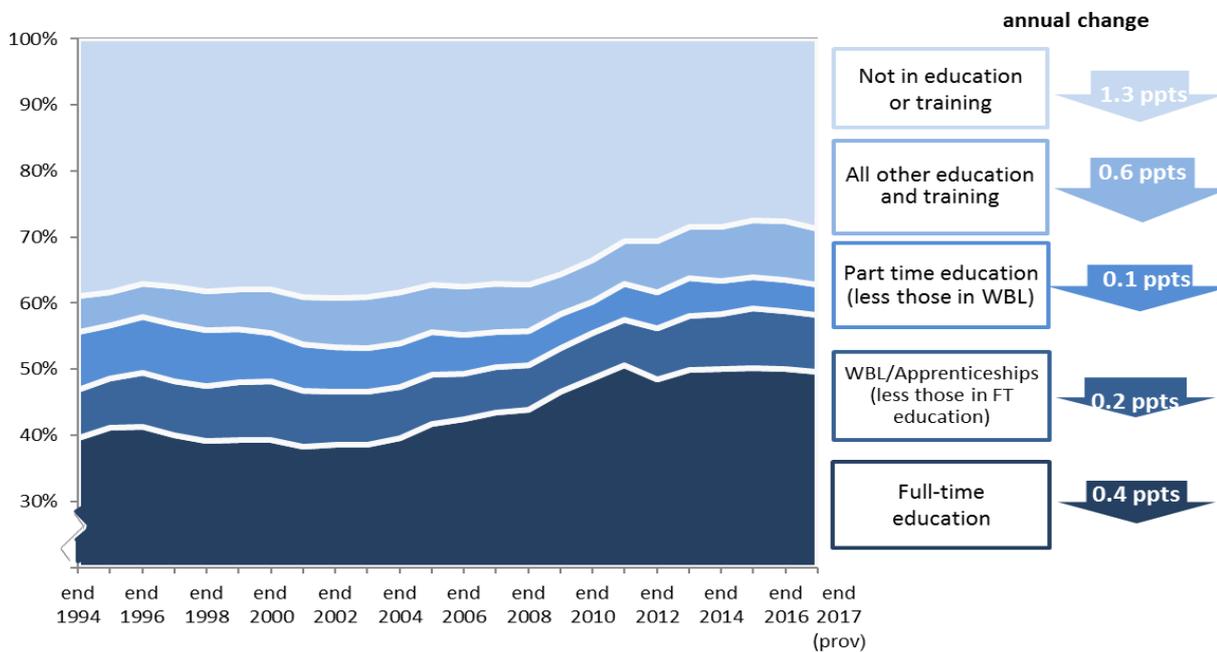


<sup>1</sup>From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships

There were increases in the proportion of 17 year olds in both full and part-time education in 2017 but a fall in apprenticeships. Full-time education increased by 0.3 ppts to 77.3%, part-time education increased slightly up 0.2 ppts to 3.6% but in contrast the proportion of 17 year olds on apprenticeships decreased by 0.3 ppts to 6.8%. These annual changes resulted in a 0.3 ppt increase to 87.5% in age 17 overall participation in education and apprenticeships. The proportion of 17 year olds participating in the broader measure of education and training also increased, by 0.3 ppts to 91.7%.

At age 18, full-time education, and overall participation, were fairly flat between 1994 and 2003. Slight reductions over this period in the proportions in full- and part-time education were offset by increases in work-based learning and other employer funded training (EFT).

**Figure 3: Trends in participation in education and training at age 18**  
 England end 1994-end 2017(prov)



<sup>1</sup>From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships

Full-time education then rose every year from 2003 to 2011, by 12.0 ppts in total to 50.5% – and although this was partly offset by falls in work-based learning (-1.1 ppts) and part-time education (-1.2 ppts), the result was that the proportion of 18 year olds in education and training rose from 61.0% in 2003 to 69.4% in 2011.

In 2012 there was a large (-2.1 ppts) fall in the proportion of 18 year olds studying full-time in higher education institutions – the result of behavioural change due to changes to tuition fees (although a 2.7 ppt rise the year before was due to the anticipated arrival of higher fees driving a reduction in number of people deferring entry). The fall in full-time education was offset by increases in other participation, so the proportion of 18 year olds in education or training was unchanged.

By 2015 full-time education at 18 was almost back to its 2011 level, at 50.2%, following a large increase in 2013 and a smaller rise in 2015, but since then has fallen back somewhat to 49.6%, including a fall of 0.4 ppts in the last year. Between 2016 and 2017 there were also slight falls in apprenticeships at age 18, down 0.2 ppts to 8.6%, and part-time education, down 0.2 ppts to 5.0%, meaning that the proportion of 18 year olds in education and apprenticeships fell by 0.7 ppts to 62.8%, the lowest rate since 2012.

Overall participation in education and training at age 18, which also includes those participating in employer funded training (EFT) or other education and training (OET), decreased by 1.3 ppts to 71.2% in 2017, the result of factors mentioned above and in addition a fall in participation in EFT of 0.6 ppts (to 7.5%).

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

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

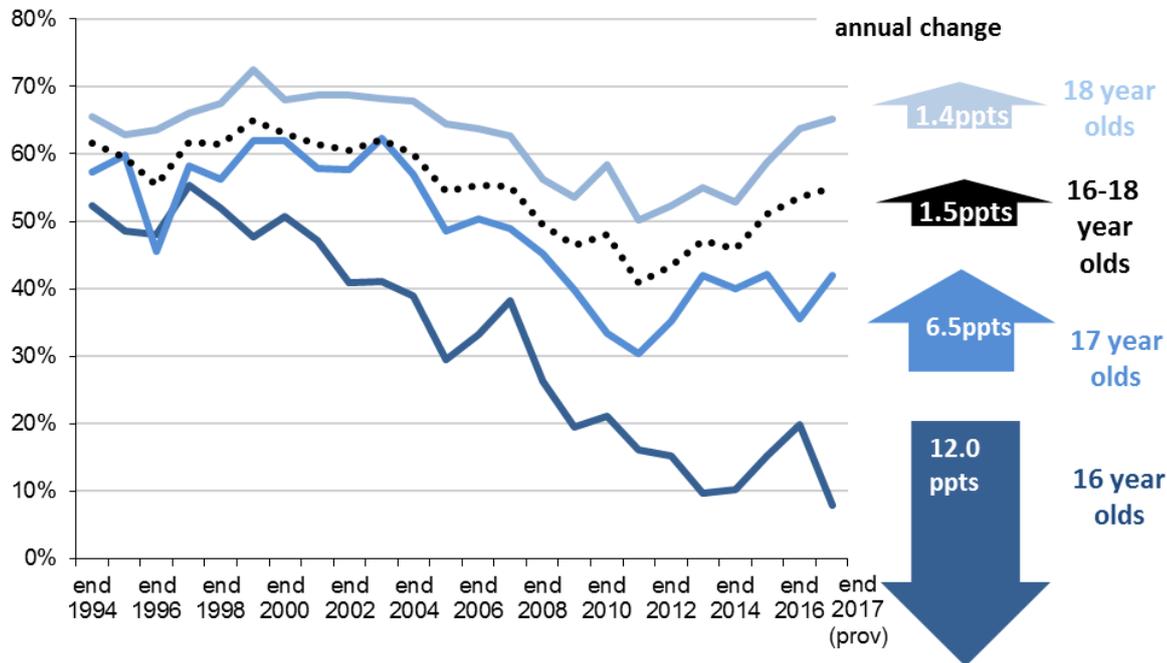
- (i) the proportion not in any education and training (NET)
- (ii) the employment rate for young people who are NET, estimated from the Labour Force Survey

As we have seen above, the proportion of young people in education and training has been largely rising since around 2001, hence the size of the NET group has been tending to fall. Despite an increase of 0.5 ppts

in 2017 in the proportion of 16-18 year olds NET, from the record low of 13.6% in 2016, the 14.0% not in education or training (NET) in 2017 is 10.6 ppts lower than in 2001.

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 4: Employment rate of young people not in education or training (NET) by age**  
 England, end 1994 - end 2017(prov)



Between 2011 and 2016 the employment rate of the NET group has risen 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.

Compared with 2016, there have been increases in the NET employment rate for ages 17 and 18 in 2017. There has however been a large fall in the employment rate at age 16, down 12.0 ppts to 7.8%.

Overall the 16-18 employment rate for the NET group increased by 1.5 ppts to 55.1% in 2017, the same level as at in 2007.

At age 16, the proportion not in education and training (NET) in 2017 was 4.2%, down 0.3 ppts when compared with 2016. The employment rate of this NET group however fell considerably by 12.0 ppts to 7.8% in 2017, pushing the proportion not in education employment or training (NEET) up 0.7 ppts to 3.9%. The proportion NEET at age 16 had been tending to fall since 2005 with the exception of small increases in 2011 and 2012.

At age 17, the proportion not in education and training (NET) has fallen each year since 2001, including a fall of 0.3 ppts in the last year to 8.3%

The employment rate for the NET group was 42.0% in 2017, a similar rate to in 2015 but up by 6.5 ppts compared with 2016. The fall in the proportion NET at age 17 combined with an increase in the employment rate for the group led to a 0.7 ppt fall in NEET to 4.8%, the lowest rate on record at this age.

At age 18, there was a considerable increase in 2017 in the proportion of 18 year olds not in education and training (NET), up 1.3 ppts to 28.8%. However, this was off-set by an increase in the employment rate for the NET group of 1.4 ppts to 65.2%, meaning that the NEET rate at age 18 remained unchanged at 10.0%.

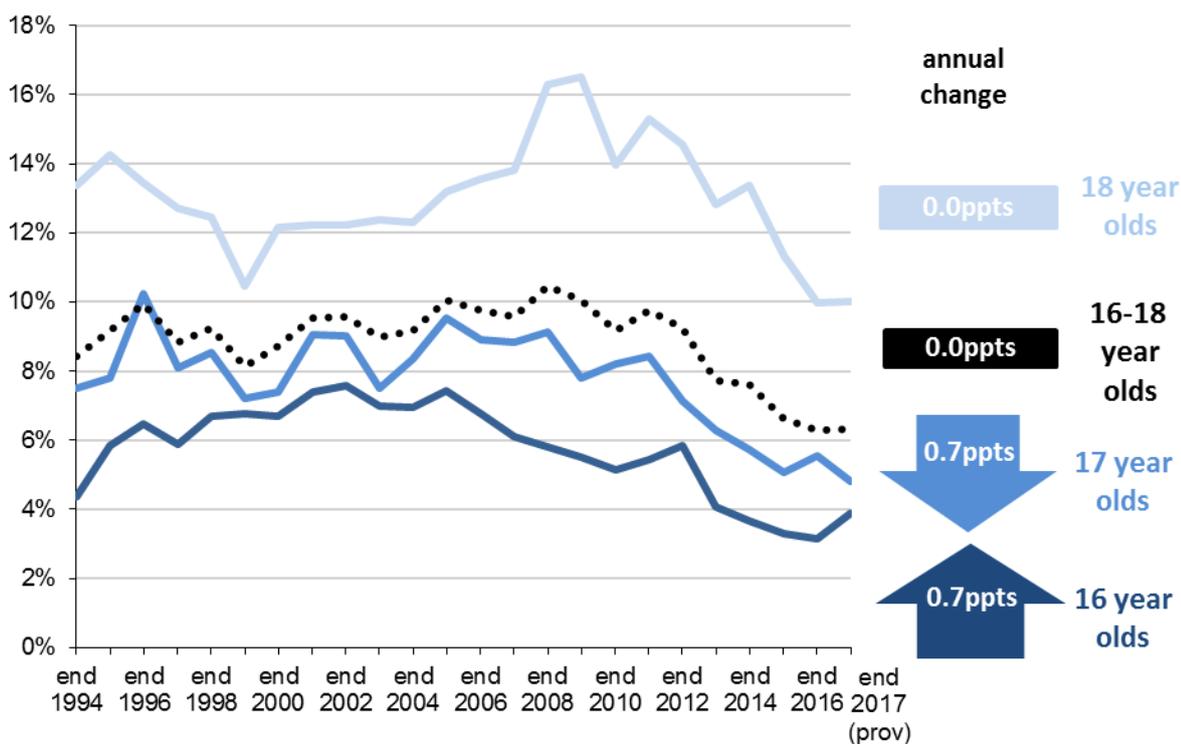
Overall, the 16-18 NEET rate has been on a downward trend since 2008, and has remained stable at 6.3% between 2016 and 2017, the lowest level since consistent records began in 1994.

**Table D: Summary of latest NEET statistics for 16, 17 and 18 year olds**

	% of age 16		% of age 17		% of age 18		% of age 16-18		Annual change (ppts)
	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	End 2016	End 2017 (prov)	
Not in education, employment or training (NEET)	3.2	3.9	5.5	4.8	10.0	10.0	6.3	6.3	0.0

**Figure 5: Proportion of 16, 17 and 18 year olds NEET**  
England, end 1994 - end 2017(prov)

**Proportion NEET by academic age, England**



## 5. Accompanying tables

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

### **Main 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 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).
- Table 1a Participation rate in education and training, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).

### **Institution type**

- Table 2 Number in education by institution type, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).
- Table 2a Participation rate in education by institution type, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).

### **Labour market**

- Table 3 Number in education and training by labour market status, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).
- Table 3a Participation rate in education and training by labour market status, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).

### **Highest qualification aim**

- Table 4 Number in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and apprenticeships, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (provisional).
- Table 4a Participation rate in full-time education by highest qualification aim, and apprenticeships, end 2015, end 2016, and end 2017 (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 tables.*
- Tables B1-B15 Participation in education by institution type.  
*Equivalent to Table 2 of the main tables.*
- Tables C1-C15 Participation in full-time education by highest qualification aim and institution type, and work-based learning (WBL). *(From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships)*  
*More detailed than Table 4 of the main tables.*
- Tables D1-D15 Participation in education and training by labour market status.  
*Equivalent to Table 3 of the main tables.*
- Tables E1-E15 Participation in full-time and part-time education by highest qualification aim, and work-based learning. *(From 2013 WBL has comprised solely of apprenticeships)*  
*More detailed than Table 4 of the main tables.*

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

<b>We preserve confidentiality</b>	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires we take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
<b>We round numbers and percentages in the main tables</b>	<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

### Population estimates

All numbers published as a proportion of the population cohort will be revised when population estimates are revised by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The ONS population statistics are re-based every two years, but revisions can extend further back. Revised estimates were released mid-2017 and have been reflected in this June 2018 publication. Actual population figures for end 2014, end 2015 and end 2016 are now available and forecasts for end 2017. The changes are minimal for 2014 but there have been notable revisions to the end 2015 and end 2016 population estimates.

**Table D: Revisions to ONS population estimates**

	End 2014			End 2015			End 2016		
	old	revised	diff	old	revised	diff	old	revised	diff
Age 16	636,600	637,200	500	630,100	631,700	1,600	613,400	616,000	2,600
Age 17	654,000	654,500	500	641,800	644,000	2,200	634,700	637,500	2,800
Age 18	659,200	659,500	300	661,300	663,800	2,500	648,200	651,200	2,900
<b>Age 16-18</b>	1,949,800	1,951,200	1,300	1,933,100	1,939,400	6,300	1,896,400	1,904,700	8,300

As the population estimates have been revised upwards for end 2015 and end 2016, the statistics for the proportion of the population studying have been revised downwards proportionately. There has been a more direct impact on the estimate of the numbers of young people not in education and training. This is calculated, for the most part, as a residual from the size of the population and the number of young people recorded as participating on administrative datasets, so an increase in the population will result directly in an increase in the estimate of young people not in education and training (NET) and correspondingly in the estimate of NEET. The increase in the population coupled with falls in the proportion of learners

studying in FE and HE institutions and on apprenticeships between the provisional and final 2016 estimates have led to some reductions in the end 2016 key figures as shown in Table E below.

**Table E: Impact of population revisions and updated administrative data on end 2016 headline participation statistics for ages 16-18**

% of ages 16-18	2016 (prov)		2016 (final)		change	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	ppts
Full-time education	1,355,000	71.5%	1,353,568	71.1%	-1,432	-0.4%
Apprenticeships	131,800	6.9%	127,018	6.7%	-4,782	-0.2%
Employer Funded Training (EFT)	84,200	4.4%	87,907	4.6%	3,707	0.2%
Other Education and Training (OET)	78,100	4.1%	78,865	4.1%	765	0.0%
<b>Total Education and training<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,647,900</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>1,646,283</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>-1,617</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
Not in any education or training - in employment	134,200	7.1%	138,547	7.3%	4,347	0.2%
Not in any education, employment or training (NEET)	114,300	6.0%	119,869	6.3%	5,569	0.3%
<b>Total Not in any Education or Training (NET)</b>	<b>248,500</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>258,416</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>9,916</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Total Education and apprenticeships<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,553,100</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>1,547,179</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>-5,921</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>1,896,400</b>	<b>1,896,400</b>	<b>1,904,699</b>	<b>1,904,699</b>	<b>8,299</b>	<b>8,299</b>

<sup>1</sup>Sum of FTE, apprenticeships, EFT, OET less overlap between apprenticeships and FTE.

<sup>2</sup>Sum of full-time education, apprenticeships and part-time education (less overlap between apprenticeships and FTE)

Further information on changes to FE, apprenticeship and HE numbers are given in the accompanying technical document.

### **Higher Education Institute (HEI) data updated for end 2016 following availability of 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 academic year being made available to DfE in January/February 2018. Therefore in the final 2016 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.

Final HESA data for 2016/17 showed that the HESES data had made robust estimates of 2016/17 participation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and as a result there are only minimal revisions to the end 2016 estimates of numbers in HE for end 2016 at all ages. (See technical document for further information).

### **Further education data updated for end 2016 following availability of ILR SN14**

Data from the FE sector and data related to apprenticeships (previously WBL) is recorded on the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Individual Learner Record (ILR). For provisional data in this statistics publication 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 2016 for all 16-18 year olds.

**Table F- ILR changes provisional to final data end 2016**

<b>Provider type</b>	<b>end 16 (prov- SN06)</b>	<b>end 16 (final-SN14)</b>	<b>change</b>
Apprenticeships	131,800	127,000	-4,800
General FE (Full-time)	466,200	465,400	-800
General FE (part-time)	68,900	68,300	-600
Sixth form college (full-time)	157,800	157,900	100
Sixth form college (part-time)	2,900	2,700	-200

There has been a fall of around 3.6% in apprenticeship numbers between the provisional and final statistics publication estimates for 2016. 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.

Slight falls were seen in estimates of participation in General FE colleges between provisional and final figures. Figures in sixth form colleges remained relatively unchanged.

The accompanying technical document gives further detail on these revisions, including by individual age and in comparison to revisions in previous years.

#### **Schools data updated for end 2016 following availability of PLAMS 2017**

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 G showing changes for state-funded schools from provisional to final end 2016 (full-time and part-time ages 16-18)**

<b>Highest qualification aim</b>		<b>end 2016 (prov)</b>	<b>end 2016 (final)</b>	<b>Change<sup>1</sup></b>
Level 4	HE	100	100	-
Level 3	A/AS levels	368,600	369,300	700
	<i>of which also applied general</i>	48,500	47,500	-1,000
	Tech level	8,900	9,200	200
	Applied general	25,400	25,000	-300
	other level 3	11,100	10,800	-300
Level 2	GCSE	7,800	7,900	100
	<i>of which also other Level 2</i>	6,700	6,400	-300
	Tech cert	400	300	-100
	Other level 2	1,300	1,000	-300
Level 1 or below	level1/foundation	300	400	-
	other	200	200	-
<b>All</b>		424,200	424,200	-

<sup>1</sup>Note: '-' denotes a value that has been rounded to zero.

## Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Survey (LFS) datasets are routinely reweighted in line with population estimates.

The most recent update in May 2017 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 were largely unaffected by the reweighting. No reweighting has been carried out in the 2018 release.

### Changes from provisional end 2016 to final end 2016 headline measures as a result of revisions

Table F shows the headline measures for the 16-18 population at the end of 2016 as published in statistics publication '*Participation in education, training and employment: 2016*' compared with revised estimates for the same period as published in '*Participation in education, training and employment: 2017*' (in June 2018).

**Table H- Changes in age 16-18 headline estimates provisional 2016 to final 2016**

<b>Aged 16-18 headline measures</b>	<b>end 2016 (prov)</b>	<b>end 2016 (final)</b>	<b>ppt change</b>
Full-time education	71.5%	71.1%	-0.4
Apprenticeships	6.9%	6.7%	-0.3
<i>Overlap between apprenticeships and full-time</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>-</i>
Employer Funded Training (EFT)	4.4%	4.6%	0.2
Other Education and Training (OET)	4.1%	4.1%	-
<b>Total Education and training</b>	<b>86.9%</b>	<b>86.4%</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Not in any education or training - in employment	7.1%	7.3%	0.2
Not in any education, employment or training (NEET)	6.0%	6.3%	0.3
<b>Total Not in any Education or Training (NET)</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Subtotal for information:			
<b>Total Education and apprenticeships</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>1,896,354</b>	<b>1,904,699</b>	<b>8,345</b>

As the table shows, there have been some notable revisions to the headline measures for the overall 16-18 age group. Revisions are a result of an increase in the ONS population estimate for the period combined with downward revisions to apprenticeship numbers and participation in general FE colleges as detailed in Table D.

## 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 statistics publication.

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.

---

Estimates of NET and NEET for 16-24 year olds

The DfE also publishes NET and NEET statistics based on the Labour Force Survey in the [NEET Statistics](#) publication. Note that these estimates are based on relatively small survey samples and are therefore not as accurate as the estimates in this statistics publication series. Following the Oct-Dec 2017 release DfE are only due to publish these statistics on an annual basis, but ONS publish NEET estimates for the UK on a quarterly basis (see link below)

---

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

The [destination measures statistics publication](#) published on 15th February 2018 shows the percentage of young people in 2016 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 statistics publication are still available on [GOV.UK](#).

---

Figures for Wales, Scotland and the UK

The participation statistics in this statistics publication 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 statistics publication. 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

### Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

### Other enquiries/feedback

Sally Marshall, Data Outputs Division

Department for Education, Level 5, 2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk St, Sheffield S1 2FJ.

Tel: Tel: 0114 2742317 Email: [Post16.Statistics@education.gov.uk](mailto:Post16.Statistics@education.gov.uk)



Department  
for Education



© Crown copyright 2018

This publication (not including logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)  
email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)  
write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries Data Insight and Statistics Division (DISD), Data Group, IRT  
Department for Education, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.  
Tel: 0870 000 2288  
Email: [Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk)  
download <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-neet>

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



Follow us on Twitter:  
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/educationgovuk](https://facebook.com/educationgovuk)