

Statistical bulletin

Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET): February 2016

Estimates of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) who are not in education, employment or training, by age and sex.

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Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [In this bulletin](#)
3. [Definition of young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#)
4. [Total young people who were NEET](#)
5. [Unemployed young people who were NEET](#)
6. [Economically inactive young people who were NEET](#)
7. [Quality information](#)
- . [Background notes](#)

1 . Main points

For October to December 2015:

There were 853,000 young people (aged from 16 to 24) in the UK who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), an increase of 5,000 from July to September 2015 and down 110,000 from a year earlier.

The percentage of all young people in the UK who were NEET was 11.8%, up 0.1 percentage points from July to September 2015 and down 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier.

Under half (42%) of all young people in the UK who were NEET were looking for work and available for work and therefore classified as unemployed. The remainder were either not looking for work and/or not available for work and therefore classified as economically inactive.

2 . In this bulletin

This statistical bulletin contains estimates for [young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#) in the UK. An article providing background information is available on our website. The bulletin is published 4 times a year in February, May, August and November. All estimates discussed in this statistical bulletin are for the UK and are seasonally adjusted. The figures discussed in this statistical bulletin are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (a survey of households) and are therefore estimates, not precise figures.

This statistical bulletin is accompanied by a [dataset in Excel spreadsheet format](#).

3 . Definition of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Young people

For this release, young people are defined as those aged 16 to 24. Estimates are also produced for the age groups 16 to 17 and 18 to 24 and broken down by sex.

Education and training

A person is considered to be in education or training if any of the following apply:

- they are enrolled on an education course and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start
- they are doing an apprenticeship
- they are on a government supported employment or training programme
- they are working or studying towards a qualification, or
- they have had job-related training or education in the last 4 weeks

Employment

“In employment” includes all people in some form of paid work, including those working part-time. People not in employment are classed as either unemployed or economically inactive. Unemployed people are those who have been looking for work in the past 4 weeks and who are available to start work within the next 2 weeks. Economically inactive people are those who have not been looking for work and/or who are not available to start work. Examples of economically inactive people include those not looking for work because they are students and those who are looking after dependants at home. These definitions are based on those recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

NEET

Anybody who is not in any of the forms of education or training listed above and who is not in employment is considered to be NEET. Consequently, a person identified as NEET will always be either unemployed or economically inactive.

Relationship to other labour market statistics for young people

Our monthly labour market statistical bulletin includes the [Reference Table A06 “Educational status, economic activity and inactivity of young people”](#). The NEET statistics and the Table A06 statistics are both derived from the Labour Force Survey and use the same labour market statuses; however, the educational statuses are derived differently. For Table A06 the educational status is based on participation in full-time education only. For NEET statistics the educational status is based on any form of education or training, as listed previously. Therefore, the Table A06 category “not in full-time education” includes some people who are in part-time education and/or some form of training and who, consequently, should not be regarded as NEET.

4 . Total young people who were NEET

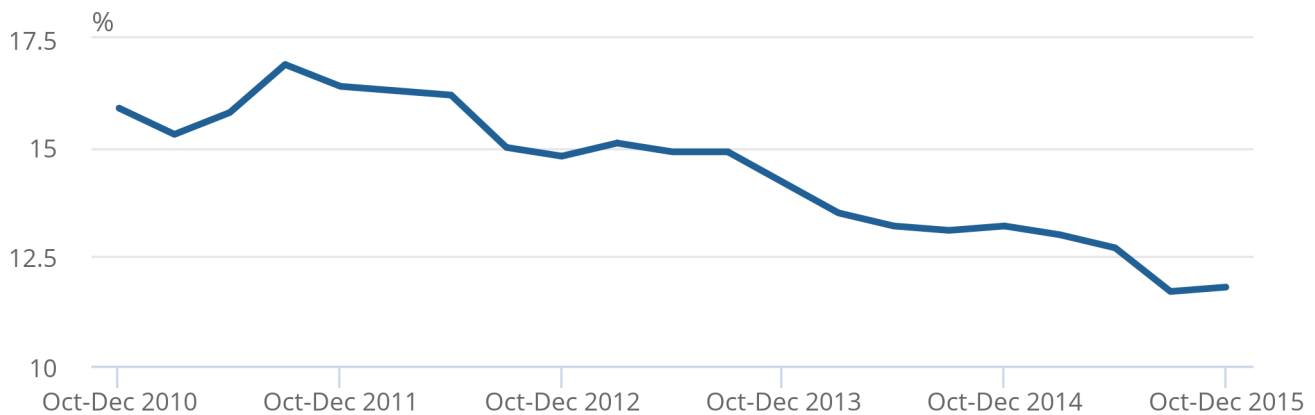
For October to December 2015, there were 853,000 young people (aged from 16 to 24) who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), up 5,000 from July to September 2015 and down 110,000 from a year earlier. For October to December 2015, 11.8% of all people aged from 16 to 24 were NEET, up 0.1 percentage points from July to September 2015 and down 1.4 percentage points from a year earlier. Figure 1 shows the percentage of people aged from 16 to 24 who were NEET over the last 5 years.

Figure 1: People aged from 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training as a percentage of all people aged from 16 to 24, seasonally adjusted

UK, October to December 2010 to October to December 2015

Figure 1: People aged from 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training as a percentage of all people aged from 16 to 24, seasonally adjusted

UK, October to December 2010 to October to December 2015



Source: Labour Force Survey - Office for National Statistics

For October to December 2015, there were 48,000 people aged from 16 to 17 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), down 2,000 from July to September 2015 and down 11,000 from a year earlier. There were 805,000 people aged from 18 to 24 who were NEET, up 73,000 from July to September 2015 and down 99,000 from a year earlier.

5 . Unemployed young people who were NEET

Unemployment measures people without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next 2 weeks. For October to December 2015, there were 358,000 unemployed young people (aged from 16 to 24) who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), down 18,000 from July to September 2015 and down 92,000 from a year earlier. For October to December 2015:

- there were 217,000 unemployed men aged from 16 to 24 who were NEET
- there were 141,000 unemployed women aged from 16 to 24 who were NEET

6 . Economically inactive young people who were NEET

Economic inactivity measures people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks. For October to December 2015, there were 495,000 economically inactive young people (aged from 16 to 24) who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), up 23,000 from July to September 2015 and down 18,000 from a year earlier. For October to December 2015:

- there were 175,000 economically inactive men aged from 16 to 24 who were NEET
- there were 320,000 economically inactive women aged from 16 to 24 who were NEET

7 . Quality information

[Quality Information for the Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#) is available on our website. Further information about the LFS is available from:

- the [LFS User Guide](#)
- [LFS Performance and Quality Monitoring Reports](#)

Accuracy of the statistics: estimating and reporting uncertainty

The figures in this statistical bulletin come from the Labour Force Survey, a survey of UK households. Surveys gather information from a sample rather than from the whole population. The sample is designed carefully to allow for this, and to be as accurate as possible given practical limitations like time and cost constraints, but results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures. This means that they are subject to some uncertainty. This can have an impact on how changes in the estimates should be interpreted, especially for short-term comparisons.

We can calculate the level of uncertainty (also called “sampling variability”) around a survey estimate by exploring how that estimate would change if we were to draw many survey samples for the same time period instead of just one. This allows us to define a range around the estimate (known as a “confidence interval”) and to state how likely it is in practice that the real value that the survey is trying to measure lies within that range. Confidence intervals are typically set up so that we can be 95% sure that the true value lies within the range – in which case we refer to a “95% confidence interval”.

For example, the total number of people not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16 to 24 for October to December 2014 was estimated to be 963,000. This figure had a stated 95% confidence interval of +/- 52,000. This means that we can be 95% certain that the true total number of people NEET aged 16 to 24 for October to December 2014 was between 911,000 and 1.015 million. However, the best estimate from the survey was that the total number of people NEET aged 16 to 24 was 963,000. The percentage of people NEET aged 16 to 24 for the same period was estimated at 13.2%, with a stated 95% confidence interval of +/- 0.7%. This means that we can be 95% sure that the percentage of people NEET was between 12.5% and 13.9%. Again, the best estimate from the survey was that the percentage of people NEET aged 16 to 24 was 13.2%.

Working with uncertain estimates

In general, changes in the numbers (and especially the rates) reported in this statistical bulletin between 3 month periods are small, and are not usually greater than the level that is explainable by sampling variability. In practice, this means that small, short-term movements in reported rates (for example within +/- 0.3 percentage points) should be treated as indicative, and considered alongside medium and long-term patterns in the series and corresponding movements in administrative sources, where available, to give a fuller picture.

Seasonal adjustment and uncertainty

Like many economic indicators, the labour market is affected by factors that tend to occur at around the same time every year; for example school leavers entering the labour market in July and whether Easter falls in March or April. In order to compare movements other than annual changes in labour market statistics, such as since the previous quarter or since the previous month, the data are seasonally adjusted to remove the effects of seasonal factors and the arrangement of the calendar. Estimates discussed in this statistical bulletin are presented seasonally adjusted. While seasonal adjustment is essential to allow for robust comparisons through time, it is not possible to estimate uncertainty measures for the seasonally adjusted series.

[Dataset table NEET 2](#) shows sampling variabilities for estimates of young people who are NEET derived from the Labour Force Survey.

. Background notes

Further statistics on young people in the labour market for the UK were published on 17 February 2016 within the main Labour Market Statistics release and are available at Reference Table A06. Information on availability of subnational estimates of young people who are NEET is available in an article published on the website.

The next bulletin will be published on 26 May 2016. A list of the job titles of those given pre-publication access to the contents of this statistical bulletin is available on the website.

People aged from 16 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training ('NEET')

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

Levels	Young people who were NEET			Total people in relevant population group	People who were NEET as a percentage of people in relevant population group
	Total	Unemployed	Economically inactive		
	1	2	3		
	4	5			
People					
16-24					
Oct-Dec 2013	1,041	569	471	7,332	14.2
Oct-Dec 2014	963	450	513	7,288	13.2
Jan-Mar 2015	943	433	510	7,273	13.0
Apr-Jun 2015	922	431	490	7,258	12.7
Jul-Sep 2015	848	376	472	7,237	11.7
Oct-Dec 2015	853	358	495	7,212	11.8
<i>Change on qtr</i>	5	-18	23	-25	0.1
<i>Change %</i>	0.6	-4.8	5.0	-0.3	
<i>Change on year</i>	-110	-92	-18	-76	-1.4
<i>Change %</i>	-11.4	-20.5	-3.4	-1.0	
16-17					
Oct-Dec 2013	66	38	28	1,509	4.4
Oct-Dec 2014	59	31	27	1,488	3.9
Jan-Mar 2015	53	24	29	1,482	3.6
Apr-Jun 2015	51	27	24	1,475	3.4
Jul-Sep 2015	50	25	25	1,467	3.4
Oct-Dec 2015	48	22	25	1,460	3.3
<i>Change on qtr</i>	-2	-3	1	-8	-0.1
<i>Change %</i>	-4.0	-11.7	3.8	-0.5	
<i>Change on year</i>	-11	-9	-2	-29	-0.7
<i>Change %</i>	-18.4	-28.5	-7.0	-1.9	
18-24					
Oct-Dec 2013	974	532	443	5,823	16.7
Oct-Dec 2014	905	419	485	5,799	15.6
Jan-Mar 2015	889	408	481	5,792	15.4
Apr-Jun 2015	871	405	466	5,784	15.1
Jul-Sep 2015	798	351	447	5,770	13.8
Oct-Dec 2015	805	336	470	5,752	14.0
<i>Change on qtr</i>	7	-15	22	-17	0.2
<i>Change %</i>	0.9	-4.3	5.0	-0.3	
<i>Change on year</i>	-99	-84	-16	-47	-1.6
<i>Change %</i>	-11.0	-19.9	-3.2	-0.8	

Men aged from 16 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training ('NEET')

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

Levels	Young people who were NEET			Total people in relevant population group	People who were NEET as a percentage of people in relevant population group
	Total	Unemployed	Economically inactive		
	1	2	3		
	4	5			
Men					
16-24					
Oct-Dec 2013	502	356	147	3,721	13.5
Oct-Dec 2014	414	269	145	3,703	11.2
Jan-Mar 2015	420	258	162	3,696	11.4
Apr-Jun 2015	424	263	161	3,689	11.5
Jul-Sep 2015	391	227	164	3,678	10.6
Oct-Dec 2015	392	217	175	3,666	10.7
<i>Change on qtr</i>	1	-10	11	-12	0.1
<i>Change %</i>	0.3	-4.5	7.0	-0.3	
<i>Change on year</i>	-22	-52	30	-37	-0.5
<i>Change %</i>	-5.4	-19.3	20.5	-1.0	
16-17					
Oct-Dec 2013	39	25	15	773	5.1
Oct-Dec 2014	26	14	12	762	3.4
Jan-Mar 2015	32	16	16	758	4.2
Apr-Jun 2015	30	17	13	755	4.0
Jul-Sep 2015	29	16	13	751	3.8
Oct-Dec 2015	30	16	14	747	4.0
<i>Change on qtr</i>	1	0	1	-4	0.1
<i>Change %</i>	3.4	-1.3	9.1	-0.5	
<i>Change on year</i>	4	1	3	-14	0.6
<i>Change %</i>	15.5	10.1	22.2	-1.9	
18-24					
Oct-Dec 2013	463	331	132	2,948	15.7
Oct-Dec 2014	389	255	134	2,941	13.2
Jan-Mar 2015	388	242	146	2,938	13.2
Apr-Jun 2015	394	246	148	2,934	13.4
Jul-Sep 2015	362	211	151	2,927	12.4
Oct-Dec 2015	362	202	161	2,919	12.4
<i>Change on qtr</i>	0	-10	10	-8	0.0
<i>Change %</i>	0.1	-4.7	6.8	-0.3	
<i>Change on year</i>	-26	-53	27	-22	-0.8
<i>Change %</i>	-6.7	-21.0	20.4	-0.8	

Women aged from 16 to 24 Not in Education, Employment or Training ('NEET')

United Kingdom (thousands) seasonally adjusted

Levels	Young people who were NEET			Total people in relevant population group	People who were NEET as a percentage of people in relevant population group	
	Total	Unemployed	Economically inactive			
	1	2	3			
	4	5				
Women						
16-24						
Oct-Dec 2013	538	214	325	3,611	14.9	
Oct-Dec 2014	549	181	367	3,585	15.3	
Jan-Mar 2015	523	175	348	3,577	14.6	
Apr-Jun 2015	497	168	329	3,570	13.9	
Jul-Sep 2015	457	149	308	3,559	12.8	
Oct-Dec 2015	461	141	320	3,546	13.0	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	4	-8	12	-13	0.2	
<i>Change %</i>	0.9	-5.3	3.9	-0.4		
<i>Change on year</i>	-88	-40	-47	-39	-2.3	
<i>Change %</i>	-16.0	-22.3	-12.9	-1.1		
16-17						
Oct-Dec 2013	27	13	14	736	3.7	
Oct-Dec 2014	33	17	16	727	4.5	
Jan-Mar 2015	22	9	13	723	3.0	
Apr-Jun 2015	21	9	11	720	2.9	
Jul-Sep 2015	21	9	12	716	2.9	
Oct-Dec 2015	18	7	11	712	2.5	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	-3	-3	0	-4	-0.4	
<i>Change %</i>	-14.1	-29.0	-2.1	-0.5		
<i>Change on year</i>	-15	-10	-4	-15	-2.0	
<i>Change %</i>	-45.1	-60.7	-28.3	-2.0		
18-24						
Oct-Dec 2013	511	200	311	2,875	17.8	
Oct-Dec 2014	516	164	352	2,858	18.0	
Jan-Mar 2015	502	166	335	2,854	17.6	
Apr-Jun 2015	477	159	318	2,850	16.7	
Jul-Sep 2015	436	139	297	2,842	15.3	
Oct-Dec 2015	443	134	309	2,833	15.6	
<i>Change on qtr</i>	7	-5	12	-9	0.3	
<i>Change %</i>	1.6	-3.7	4.1	-0.3		
<i>Change on year</i>	-73	-30	-43	-25	-2.4	
<i>Change %</i>	-14.1	-18.3	-12.2	-0.9		