

Ad hoc analysis of individuals who have never worked by year left full-time education

February 2011

Background

Estimates of individuals who have never worked (apart from casual or holiday work), excluding those aged 16-24 years and in education, have previously been published at http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis. The analysis presented here is an attempt to break these individuals down by the year that they left full-time education (FTE).

The data source from which these estimates are derived – the Labour Force Survey – does not ask respondents in which year they left FTE, but rather their age in complete years when they did so. Therefore it is not possible to identify an exact date when they left FTE, but it can be narrowed down to a twelve-month period, starting on their preceding birthday. For most individuals, this period will be split across two calendar years, so it is not possible to estimate precisely how many left FTE in a given year.

The table provides minimum estimates for several groups of years. Take, as an example, the group of people who left full-time education between 1992 and 1996 and have never worked (apart from casual and holiday work). If four people born in 1974 say they left FTE aged 18, 19, 20 and 21 respectively, they will be included, as they will all have left within the five year window 1992-1996. But a person born in 1974 who says they left FTE aged 17 would not be included as while they may have left in 1992, they may equally have left earlier (1991). Likewise, a person born in 1974 who says they left FTE aged 22 may have left in the five-year window (1996) or later (1997).

Given that some people are excluded from the minimum estimate for each period shown here, the sum of the estimates is less than the total individuals who have never worked shown at the top of the table.

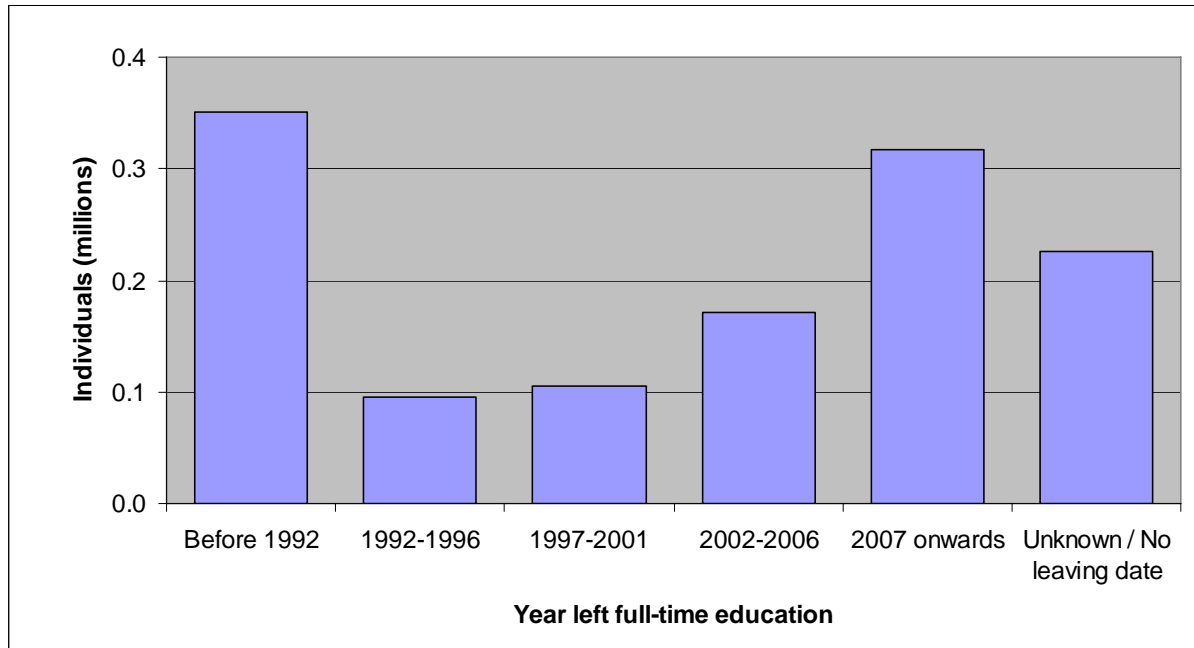
The chart demonstrates that the minimum number of individuals who have never worked is higher, the more recently they left FTE. This reflects the fact that such groups will be typically younger and have had less time in which to find employment other than casual or holiday work. The numbers who left FTE before 1992 are larger simply because this covers a larger cohort of individuals leaving education over a much longer period of time.

Results

Individuals who have never worked (apart from casual and holiday work)

Minimum estimates by year left full-time education

Individuals aged 16-64; United Kingdom; Not seasonally adjusted



Millions	Year to Q3 2010
Total never worked excluding those aged 16-24 and in education	1.4
<i>... by year left full-time education (Minimum estimates)</i>	
Before 1992	0.4
1992-1996	0.1
1997-2001	0.1
2002-2006	0.2
2007 onwards	0.3
Unknown or no leaving date	0.2

Source: Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4 2009 to Quarter 3 2010

Notes

1. An individual is defined as having never worked if they are currently not in employment and state that they have not ever had paid work (apart from casual or holiday work, or the job that they are waiting to begin).
2. Information is not available on the reasons why an individual has never worked. For example some of these individuals may have disabilities or caring responsibilities, or have partners who work. Likewise, some will be claiming state benefits and some will not.
3. All estimates exclude those aged 16-24 and in education. The various definitions of people who are in education are currently being reviewed by the Office for National Statistics. In this table, an individual is defined as in education if they are attending a course, full-time or part-time, at school, university or college, on a sandwich course, training in nursing, Open University or College, or other correspondence course.
4. Estimates are not seasonally adjusted. In order to average out seasonal variations across the year, estimates are provided for those people interviewed during the full year from Quarter 4 2009 to Quarter 3 2010. Estimates were calculated separately for each of the four quarters before taking the mean average.
5. Year left full-time education is based on respondents reporting the age that they left. Those who do not report an age are shown in a separate category, and will include those who consider that they are still in full-time education but who have not yet enrolled on the next stage of their education so are not currently studying. It will also include any individual who has never had a full-time education or refuses to answer the question.
6. All estimates by year left full-time education are minimum estimates, because respondents only report the age they left in complete years (see Background section for further details). Therefore the minimum estimates do not sum to the total who have never worked at the top of the table.
7. Estimates in the table are rounded to the nearest 100 thousand.