

Young men and women's labour market status by ethnicity and education status.

April 2013

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Background

This release is based on Labour Force Survey (LFS) data that is released quarterly. The LFS is a survey of households living at private addresses in the UK, conducted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It provides information on the UK labour market which can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.

Further details can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/surveys/respondents/household/labour-force-survey/index.html>

Definitions:

Full-time education (FTE): From the LFS guidance FTE is defined as those: (1) at school (full-time); (2) on a sandwich Course; or (3) in full time university or college.

Employed: These are people who have done paid work (as an employee or self-employed); those who have a job that they were temporarily away from; some participants on government-supported training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work. Employed people are classed as economically active.

ILO unemployed: These are people who are jobless, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; or they are out of work, have found a job, and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks. This definition of unemployment is the one laid down by the International Labour Organisation and is used in regular published UK statistics. Unemployed people are classed as economically active.

Economically inactive: These are people without a job who have not actively sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start working in the next two weeks. Someone in full-time education will normally be classified as economically inactive if they are not in paid work; but if they are looking for and are available for work then they will be classified as unemployed and hence economically active.

The Labour Force Survey is often used to produce measures such as employment, unemployment and inactivity rates. For young people these figures are affected by

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the relatively high proportion of the age group that is still in full-time education. This release provides additional context by including a breakdown of people's labour market state by whether they are in full time education (FTE) or not.

For example, headline unemployment rates are the number of people unemployed as a proportion of the economically active population (this is employed people plus unemployed people). Some unemployed people included in this calculation are looking for work while still full-time students.

Similarly, many full-time students are economically inactive, which has a significant effect on the size of the active labour force. As a result there can be a large difference between the unemployment rate for a particular group and the proportion of the total population of the group that is unemployed. This tends to be particularly marked for groups with the highest participation in full-time education.

Methodology

This data shows figures for 16-24 year olds, covering quarters 1 to 4 between 2006 and 2012. The data is drawn from the Labour Force Survey and broken down by ethnic group, as reported by survey respondents. All data is for the UK and has not been seasonally adjusted.

From 2011, the questions used to identify a person's ethnic group in the Labour Force Survey were updated in line with those used in the Census. This resulted in a discontinuity in the number of people reporting that they belonged to an ethnic minority group. The published 2011 data is still being investigated by the Office for National Statistics. Therefore the results should be interpreted with caution.

More detailed notes are provided on the 'Notes' page of the accompanying Excel worksheet.

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Results

The **16-24 All** results (in the accompanying Excel spreadsheet) show the labour market status of people aged 16-24 inclusive broken down by ethnic group.

The **16-24 – Males** results show the labour market status of men aged 16-24 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

The **16-24 – Females** results show the labour market status of women aged 16-24 (inclusive) broken down by ethnic group.

Within each spreadsheet the figures for employed, unemployed and inactive have been split into in full-time education (FTE), not in FTE and by ethnicity. Figures have also been calculated for the following:

- Those in FTE as a proportion of the total population
- Not in FTE but employed as a proportion of the total population
- Not in FTE and not employed, as a proportion of the total population

The three categories above sum to 100% of the population of the relevant group

- ILO unemployment rate – unemployed as a proportion of the labour force
- ILO unemployed as a proportion of the total population
- ILO unemployed and not in FTE as a proportion of the total population

Summary for Quarter 4, 2012

For all young people aged 16-24, in Q4 2012 around four in ten (41%) were full-time students, four in ten (41%) had left FTE and were in employment, and nearly two in ten (18%) had left FTE and were not in work. Around 1 in 10 young people had left FTE and were unemployed. By comparison the unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds in Q4 2012 was 21%.

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April 2013