



Department  
for Education

# **Pupils not claiming Free School Meals - 2013**

## **Research Report**

### **December 2013**

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**Department for Education**

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# 1. Overview

This research report updates *DFE-RR235 – Pupils not claiming free school meals*. The main objective is to present the most recent estimates of the number of pupils who are **entitled** to receive free school meals (FSM) but are not **claiming**. This new report uses Tax Credits and Benefits data from Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for December 2012 along with statistics from the Department for Education’s School Census for January 2013. It outlines the data used, how the statistics vary from the previous year and provides a table outlining registration rates at local authority (LA) level.

## 1.1 Terminology

- **Entitled to FSM** – if pupils live in a household that is claiming at least one of the qualifying benefits the pupil is judged to be entitled to FSM
- **Registered and claiming FSM** – These pupils meet the entitlement criteria and register at the school to claim their FSM. This is reported in the School Census and described in DfE publications as “known to be eligible for and claiming FSM”.
- **Under-Registration rate** – This is the number of pupils who do not claim FSM, even though they live in a household that claims at least one of the qualifying benefits, as a proportion of those who are entitled. It is calculated by the formula given below:

$$\text{Under – Registration rate} = 1 - \frac{\text{Number of Eligible (claiming) pupils}}{\text{Number of Entitled Pupil (HMRC)}}$$

## 1.2 FSM Criteria

As of December 2012 the qualifying benefits that allow a pupil to claim free school meals were:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided the claimant is not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and has an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Any pupil who lives in a household that claims one or more of these benefits are defined as **Entitled to FSM**.

## 1.3 Data

The data from **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs** (HMRC) gives the number of all 4 to 15 year-olds who live in a household that claims one of: Income Support; Income-based Jobseekers Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit (who are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190). This covers 99% of the pupils entitled to free school meals. The information is produced at local authority level from a 10% sample (approximately 2.4m records), and covers December 2012.

The **School Census** contains records of all pupils in maintained schools as of January 2013. The number of pupils who claim free school meals is recorded and this report uses the number of pupils receiving FSM for each local authority as calculated by the pupil's home address.

## 2. Differences from 2012

**Under-registration** has fallen overall from **14% in 2012** to **11% in 2013**. This is due to a **decrease** in the number of pupils **entitled** to free school meals between 2012 and 2013 as estimated by HMRC, while the School Census shows a slight **increase** in numbers **claiming**.

The local authority figures from HMRC (number of entitled pupils) for these 2013 statistics are of a better quality than the data that was supplied for the 2012 version. For local authorities with low numbers of children entitled to FSM, the 2012 data would slightly underestimate the total number of entitled pupils. This is no longer true for the 2013 data. National and regional totals are unaffected by these changes.

# Annex

**Table 1 Under Registration Rate by Local Authority 2013**

Local Authority of residence	Pupils <sup>1</sup> on roll	Pupils <sup>1</sup> entitled to FSM as at Dec 2012... <i>... as a proportion of those on roll</i>	Pupils <sup>1</sup> claiming FSM as at Jan 2013... <i>... as a proportion of those on roll</i>	Entitled pupils <sup>1</sup> not claiming	Under-registration rate
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>6,853,100</b>	<b>1,407,200</b> <b>21%</b>	<b>1,245,800</b> <b>18%</b>	<b>161,400</b>	<b>11%</b>
Barking and Dagenham	34,500	10,900 32%	10,100 29%	800	8%
Barnet	43,800	9,100 21%	7,900 18%	1,200	13%
Barnsley	31,000	7,300 24%	6,800 22%	500	6%
Bath and North East Somerset	19,900	2,900 15%	2,200 11%	700	25%
Bedford	21,800	4,500 21%	3,400 16%	1,100	24%
Bexley	34,400	6,500 19%	4,800 14%	1,700	26%
Birmingham	168,600	54,200 32%	55,300 33%	0	0%
Blackburn with Darwen	24,000	6,000 25%	5,000 21%	1,000	17%
Blackpool	18,900	5,500 29%	5,400 29%	100	1%
Bolton	40,900	9,000 22%	8,600 21%	400	4%
Bournemouth	18,400	3,700 20%	2,900 16%	800	22%
Bracknell Forest	15,200	2,300 15%	1,400 9%	900	38%
Bradford	84,700	21,300 25%	19,300 23%	2,000	9%
Brent	41,000	12,400 30%	10,700 26%	1,700	14%
Brighton and Hove	28,200	5,600 20%	4,900 17%	700	13%
Bristol, City of	50,300	12,500 25%	12,000 24%	500	4%
Bromley	40,100	6,900 17%	5,100 13%	1,800	25%
Buckinghamshire	67,800	6,800 10%	5,100 8%	1,700	25%
Bury	25,900	4,800 19%	4,100 16%	700	14%
Calderdale	29,300	5,500 19%	5,100 17%	400	7%
Cambridgeshire	74,800	10,100 14%	8,500 11%	1,600	15%
Camden	17,800	7,500 42%	6,900 39%	600	8%
Central Bedfordshire	35,300	4,600 13%	3,800 11%	800	18%
Cheshire East	45,300	5,200 11%	4,700 10%	500	9%
Cheshire West and Chester	41,500	6,400 15%	5,700 14%	700	12%
Cornwall	65,200	11,200 17%	9,200 14%	2,000	17%
County Durham	64,400	14,000 22%	14,000 22%	0	0%
Coventry	45,100	10,800 24%	9,600 21%	1,200	11%
Croydon	50,700	13,300 26%	11,800 23%	1,500	11%
Cumbria	60,200	8,500 14%	7,600 13%	900	11%
Darlington	14,100	2,800 20%	2,800 20%	0	0%
Derby	35,000	8,500 24%	7,600 22%	900	11%
Derbyshire	97,100	16,200 17%	14,900 15%	1,300	8%

<sup>1</sup>Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.

Local Authority of residence	Pupils <sup>1</sup> on roll	Pupils <sup>1</sup> entitled to FSM as at Dec 2012... ... as a proportion of those on roll	Pupils <sup>1</sup> claiming FSM as at Jan 2013... ... as a proportion of those on roll	Entitled pupils <sup>1</sup> not claiming	Under-registration rate		
Devon	88,300	11,300	13%	11,000	12%	300	3%
Doncaster	40,300	9,600	24%	8,800	22%	800	8%
Dorset	48,100	6,400	13%	5,500	11%	900	14%
Dudley	42,000	8,900	21%	7,900	19%	1,000	12%
Ealing	44,700	11,700	26%	9,900	22%	1,800	15%
East Riding of Yorkshire	40,300	5,400	13%	4,300	11%	1,100	21%
East Sussex	62,000	11,800	19%	9,200	15%	2,600	22%
Enfield	48,800	15,800	32%	14,100	29%	1,700	11%
Essex	183,600	29,800	16%	23,400	13%	6,400	22%
Gateshead	23,500	5,800	25%	5,000	21%	800	15%
Gloucestershire	74,300	10,500	14%	8,400	11%	2,100	20%
Greenwich	35,200	10,900	31%	9,300	26%	1,600	15%
Hackney	29,300	13,200	45%	11,200	38%	2,000	15%
Halton	18,100	5,100	28%	5,600	31%	0	0%
Hammersmith and Fulham	14,300	5,500	38%	5,300	37%	200	4%
Hampshire	165,200	19,900	12%	17,100	10%	2,800	14%
Haringey	32,100	11,600	36%	10,100	31%	1,500	13%
Harrow	30,800	5,900	19%	5,400	18%	500	8%
Hartlepool	13,100	2,900	22%	3,700	28%	0	0%
Havering	32,800	6,000	18%	4,900	15%	1,100	19%
Herefordshire	21,200	3,000	14%	2,300	11%	700	24%
Hertfordshire	151,300	20,100	13%	16,900	11%	3,200	16%
Hillingdon	39,500	8,900	23%	7,300	19%	1,600	17%
Hounslow	34,300	8,400	25%	6,900	20%	1,500	18%
Isle of Wight	15,800	3,400	21%	2,700	17%	700	21%
Islington	19,600	8,100	41%	8,800	45%	0	0%
Kensington and Chelsea	8,100	2,900	36%	2,600	32%	300	12%
Kent	192,600	35,600	18%	30,100	16%	5,500	16%
Kingston upon Hull, City of	34,500	11,000	32%	10,900	32%	100	1%
Kingston upon Thames	18,900	2,300	12%	2,100	11%	200	7%
Kirklees	60,700	11,100	18%	11,700	19%	0	0%
Knowsley	21,500	6,700	31%	6,600	31%	100	1%
Lambeth	32,600	13,000	40%	11,300	35%	1,700	13%
Lancashire	153,400	26,600	17%	25,000	16%	1,600	6%
Leeds	95,200	21,400	22%	20,400	21%	1,000	5%
Leicester	48,500	14,600	30%	12,000	25%	2,600	18%
Leicestershire	82,200	9,900	12%	7,800	9%	2,100	21%
Lewisham	37,400	11,900	32%	10,100	27%	1,800	16%
Lincolnshire	89,900	15,900	18%	11,600	13%	4,300	27%

<sup>1</sup>Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.

<b>Local Authority of residence</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> on roll</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> entitled to FSM as at Dec 2012...</b>	<b>... as a proportion of those on roll</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> claiming FSM as at Jan 2013...</b>	<b>... as a proportion of those on roll</b>	<b>Entitled pupils<sup>1</sup> not claiming</b>	<b>Under-registration rate</b>
Liverpool	55,300	18,900	34%	17,700	32%	1,200	6%
Luton	33,800	8,100	24%	7,400	22%	700	8%
Manchester	66,500	23,300	35%	23,400	35%	0	0%
Medway	37,800	8,300	22%	6,700	18%	1,600	19%
Merton	24,100	5,000	21%	3,800	16%	1,200	23%
Middlesbrough	20,500	7,100	35%	7,700	37%	0	0%
Milton Keynes	38,600	7,300	19%	5,700	15%	1,600	22%
Newcastle upon Tyne	32,100	8,700	27%	9,300	29%	0	0%
Newham	49,200	16,100	33%	17,700	36%	0	0%
Norfolk	100,800	18,100	18%	15,800	16%	2,300	13%
North East Lincolnshire	21,600	6,400	30%	4,400	20%	2,000	32%
North Lincolnshire	22,000	4,300	20%	3,800	17%	500	11%
North Somerset	26,300	3,900	15%	3,200	12%	700	18%
North Tyneside	25,600	4,900	19%	4,400	17%	500	10%
North Yorkshire	71,500	8,300	12%	6,800	9%	1,500	18%
Northamptonshire	98,500	16,600	17%	14,900	15%	1,700	10%
Northumberland	39,000	6,900	18%	6,200	16%	700	10%
Nottingham	37,700	12,900	34%	11,800	31%	1,100	8%
Nottinghamshire	99,300	17,900	18%	14,800	15%	3,100	17%
Oldham	36,000	9,500	26%	8,800	24%	700	8%
Oxfordshire	78,600	10,800	14%	8,600	11%	2,200	21%
Peterborough	28,700	7,500	26%	5,800	20%	1,700	22%
Plymouth	32,100	6,300	20%	6,600	20%	0	0%
Poole	17,500	2,600	15%	2,000	11%	600	24%
Portsmouth	24,000	5,500	23%	5,400	22%	100	3%
Reading	19,800	4,200	21%	3,800	19%	400	9%
Redbridge	41,900	9,000	21%	8,600	20%	400	5%
Redcar and Cleveland	18,100	4,200	23%	4,200	23%	0	1%
Richmond upon Thames	19,200	2,500	13%	1,800	9%	700	28%
Rochdale	31,700	8,500	27%	7,600	24%	900	11%
Rotherham	36,400	8,800	24%	7,500	21%	1,300	14%
Rutland	3,900	300	8%	300	8%	0	0%
Salford	29,400	8,900	30%	7,700	26%	1,200	13%
Sandwell	48,000	14,200	30%	12,400	26%	1,800	12%
Sefton	33,900	6,900	20%	6,100	18%	800	11%
Sheffield	68,700	16,200	24%	15,000	22%	1,200	7%
Shropshire	34,800	4,300	12%	4,000	12%	300	7%
Slough	22,900	5,800	25%	3,900	17%	1,900	32%
Solihull	28,100	4,700	17%	3,800	14%	900	19%

<sup>1</sup>Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.

<b>Local Authority of residence</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> on roll</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> entitled to FSM as at Dec 2012...</b>	<b>... as a proportion of those on roll</b>	<b>Pupils<sup>1</sup> claiming FSM as at Jan 2013...</b>	<b>... as a proportion of those on roll</b>	<b>Entitled pupils<sup>1</sup> not claiming</b>	<b>Under-registration rate</b>
Somerset	65,700	9,500	14%	7,600	12%	1,900	20%
South Gloucestershire	35,100	4,000	11%	3,300	9%	700	18%
South Tyneside	18,600	5,100	27%	4,600	25%	500	9%
Southampton	28,000	6,800	24%	6,300	22%	500	8%
Southend-on-Sea	23,200	5,400	23%	4,200	18%	1,200	22%
Southwark	33,500	12,200	36%	10,200	30%	2,000	16%
St. Helens	23,500	6,100	26%	5,100	22%	1,000	17%
Staffordshire	105,400	14,500	14%	13,100	12%	1,400	9%
Stockport	36,100	5,800	16%	5,000	14%	800	13%
Stockton-on-Tees	26,200	5,900	23%	5,600	21%	300	5%
Stoke-on-Trent	34,900	9,100	26%	8,600	25%	500	5%
Suffolk	89,000	15,300	17%	11,800	13%	3,500	23%
Sunderland	35,700	8,800	25%	8,800	25%	0	0%
Surrey	131,300	15,900	12%	11,300	9%	4,600	29%
Sutton	26,700	5,100	19%	3,700	14%	1,400	27%
Swindon	30,100	5,400	18%	4,200	14%	1,200	22%
Tameside	30,800	7,400	24%	6,800	22%	600	8%
Telford and Wrekin	23,900	6,200	26%	4,900	21%	1,300	21%
Thurrock	24,700	5,300	21%	4,100	17%	1,200	22%
Torbay	16,000	3,400	21%	3,400	21%	0	0%
Tower Hamlets	34,100	16,000	47%	16,500	48%	0	0%
Trafford	31,300	4,700	15%	4,100	13%	600	14%
Wakefield	43,000	9,700	23%	7,800	18%	1,900	20%
Walsall	39,800	10,500	26%	10,500	26%	0	0%
Waltham Forest	37,500	10,900	29%	9,500	25%	1,400	12%
Wandsworth	25,500	7,500	29%	6,500	25%	1,100	14%
Warrington	28,100	4,200	15%	3,500	13%	700	16%
Warwickshire	67,500	10,700	16%	7,600	11%	3,100	29%
West Berkshire	20,200	2,200	11%	1,700	8%	500	23%
West Sussex	98,800	13,100	13%	9,800	10%	3,300	25%
Westminster	15,300	6,600	43%	6,500	42%	100	2%
Wigan	42,500	7,500	18%	7,500	18%	0	0%
Wiltshire	60,100	6,900	11%	5,400	9%	1,500	22%
Windsor and Maidenhead	16,900	1,600	9%	1,200	7%	400	22%
Wirral	42,800	9,500	22%	8,900	21%	600	6%
Wokingham	21,000	1,600	8%	1,100	5%	500	31%
Wolverhampton	35,300	10,400	29%	9,800	28%	600	6%
Worcestershire	70,200	10,600	15%	9,200	13%	1,400	13%
York	21,200	2,500	12%	2,300	11%	200	7%

<sup>1</sup>Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.



Local Authority of residence	Pupils <sup>1</sup> on roll	Pupils <sup>1</sup> entitled to FSM as at Dec 2012...	... as a proportion of those on roll	Pupils <sup>1</sup> claiming FSM as at Jan 2013...	... as a proportion of those on roll	Entitled pupils <sup>1</sup> not claiming	Under-registration rate
North East	331,000	77,100	23%	76,300	23%	800	1%
North West	937,800	205,000	22%	190,500	20%	14,600	7%
Yorkshire and the Humber	700,200	148,800	21%	134,900	19%	13,900	9%
East Midlands	592,100	112,800	19%	95,700	16%	17,100	15%
West Midlands	764,900	172,100	22%	159,100	21%	13,000	8%
East of England	767,000	128,800	17%	105,200	14%	23,600	18%
London	1,027,600	293,600	29%	261,500	25%	32,100	11%
South East	1,084,900	168,500	16%	136,000	13%	32,500	19%
South West	647,700	100,500	16%	86,700	13%	13,800	14%
Inner London	349,000	132,100	38%	123,500	35%	8,600	7%
Outer London	678,600	161,500	24%	138,000	20%	23,500	15%
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>6,853,100</b>	<b>1,407,200</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>1,245,800</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>161,400</b>	<b>11%</b>

Source: HMRC benefits data December 2012 & School Census January 2013.

<sup>1</sup>Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.



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