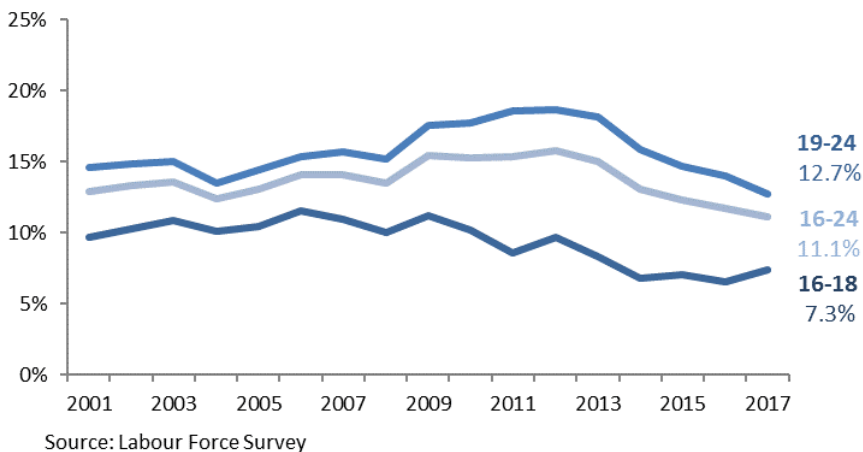




SFR 21/2017: 25 May 2017

The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) decreased for the 19-24 and 16-24 age groups and increased for the 16-18 age group¹

January to March NEET rate: England



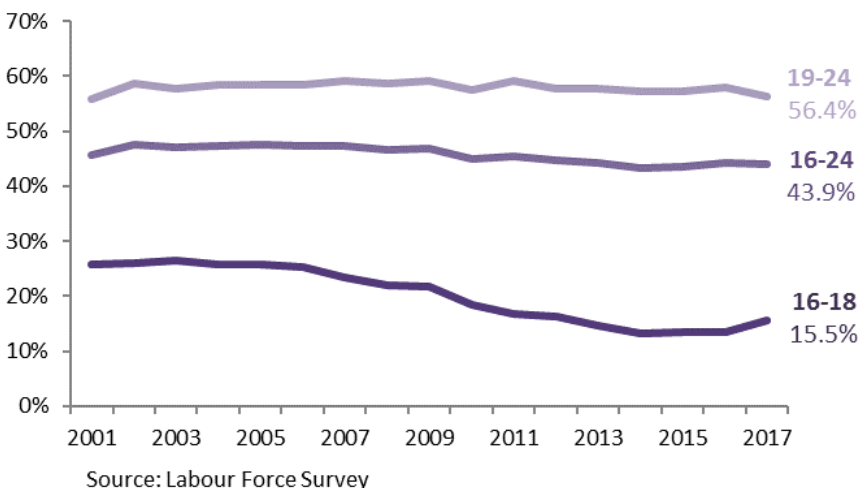
The 19-24 NEET rate fell by 1.3 percentage points (to 12.7%) from the comparable quarter in 2016 and the overall 16-24 NEET rate fell by 0.6 percentage points (to 11.1%).

Over the same period, the 16-18 NEET rate increased by 0.8 percentage points (to 7.3%).

None of these annual changes to NEET rates were statistically significant.

The proportion of young people not in education or training (NET) decreased for the 19-24 age group and increased for the 16-18 age group¹

January to March NET rate: England



The proportion of 16-18 year olds NET increased between January to March 2016 and 2017 (up 2.1 percentage points to 15.5%). This change is statistically significant.

The 19-24 NET rate decreased by 1.5 percentage points (to 56.4%) and the overall 16-24 remained stable, decreasing slightly by 0.3 percentage points (to 43.9%). Neither of these changes were statistically significant.

¹ Note that the only annual change (between January to March 2016 and 2017) in the NEET and NET proportions for the summary age groups (16-18, 19-24 and 16-24) that was statistically significant at the 95% level was the 16-18 NET rate change.

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About this release

This statistical first release (SFR) provides the most timely statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and young people not in education or training (NET).

The data covers England and is based on academic age. Trends are assessed by comparing the current time period with the same time period in the previous year to account for seasonal effects.

The ONS releases NEET estimates on the same day as this release but their figures cover the UK, are based on calendar age and are seasonally adjusted.

Data in this publication is included from:

- Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England'

In this publication

The following tables are published alongside the SFR:

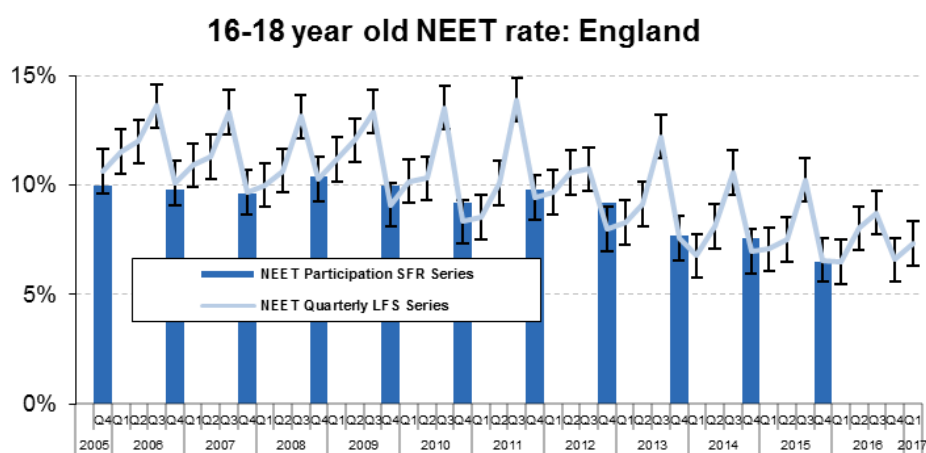
- NEET and NET estimates from the LFS (excel.xls)
- NEET and NET estimates from the Participation SFR (excel.xls)
- NEET estimates by region and gender from the LFS for: 16- 24, 18- 24 and 19-24 year-olds (excel.xls)
- National NEET estimates from the LFS for all age groups (excel.xls)
- NEET estimates from the LFS by age and gender and labour market status (excel.xls)
- Underlying data

Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk

1. Not in education, employment or training (NEET) quarterly LFS series

Figure 1: NEET Quarterly LFS Series, age 16-18: England, Oct-Dec 2005 to Jan-Mar 2017



Source: Source: Participation SFR and Labour Force Survey

The 16-18 year old trend shows seasonal patterns that reflect the academic year: lower rates in autumn (October to December) followed by a gradual rise in spring and early summer (January to June) with a peak in late summer (July to September).

In January to March 2017 the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET increased by 0.8 percentage points to 7.3% when compared to the same period in the previous year. This change was not statistically significant.

The increase in the NEET rate for the 16-18 age group was the result of a statistically significant 2.1 percentage point increase in the proportion of 16-18 NET to 15.5%. The employment rate¹ for this NET group increased by 1.2 percentage points to 52.7%.

Figure 2: NEET rates for different age cohorts: England 2015 - 2017

	Jan to Mar 2015	Jan to Mar 2016	Jan to Mar 2017	95% confidence interval ² (percentage points)	% point change from Jan-Mar 2016 to Jan-Mar 2017
Ages 16 and 17	3.7%	4.4%	5.0%	+/-1.0ppt	0.5ppts
Age 16-18	7.1%	6.5%	7.3%	+/-1.0ppt	0.8ppts
Age 16	1.6%	3.4%	2.7%	+/-1.1ppt	-0.6ppts
Age 17	5.6%	5.4%	7.0%	+/-1.7ppt	1.6ppts
Age 18	13.9%	10.8%	12.1%	+/-2.3ppt	1.3ppts
Age 19-24	14.7%	14.0%	12.7%	+/-1.0ppt	-1.3ppts
Age 16-24	12.3%	11.7%	11.1%	+/-0.8ppt	-0.6ppts

The 19-24 NEET rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 12.7% when compared to the same period in 2016 and is 6.0 percentage points lower than the peak of 18.7% in 2012. The latest annual fall was a result of both a decrease in the NET rate of 1.5 percentage points to 56.4% and a rise in the employment rate of the NET group of 1.7 percentage points to 77.5%. None of these changes were statistically significant.

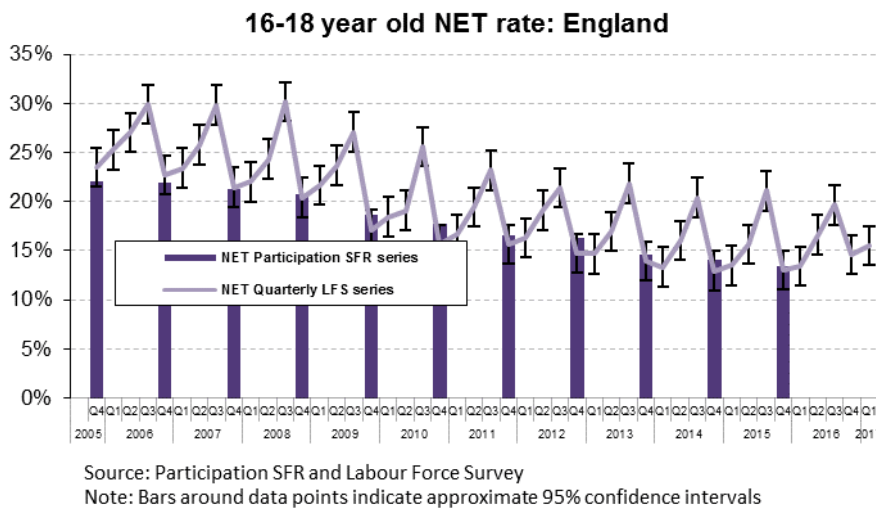
The 16-24 NEET rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points when compared to the same period in 2016 and is 4.7 percentage points lower than the January to March peak of 15.8% in 2012.

¹ The employment rate for the NET group is calculated by subtracting the number NEET from the number NET and expressing this as a proportion of the NET group i.e. (NET-NEET)/NET.

² It should be noted that sample sizes in the LFS are small for individual age cohorts, so sampling variation is large and caution should be taken in interpreting changes over the short term, particularly when the characteristic of interest is rare, such as the NEET rate at 16 and 17.

2. Not in education or training (NET) quarterly LFS series

Figure 3: NET Quarterly LFS Series, age 16-18: England, Oct-Dec 2005 to Jan-Mar 2017



In January to March 2017 the proportion of 16-18 year olds NET increased by 2.1 percentage points to 15.5% compared to the same period last year. This change was statistically significant.

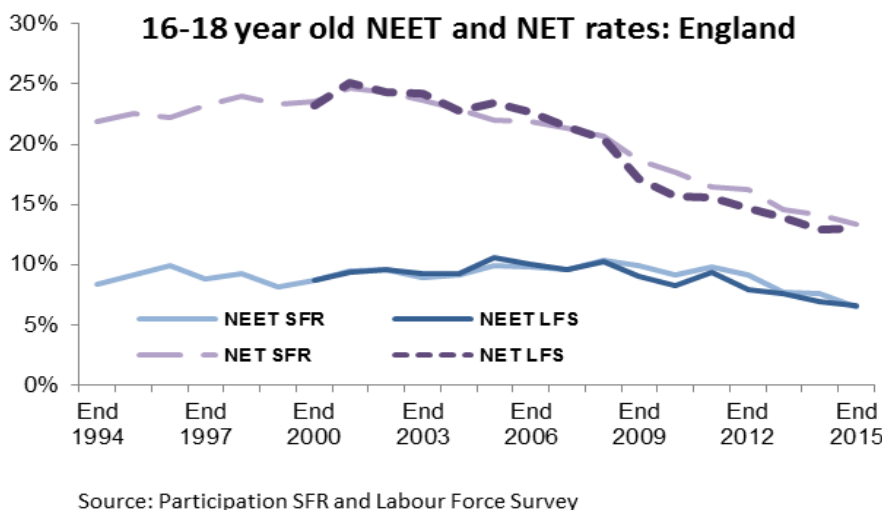
Between January to March 2016 and 2017 the proportion of 16 year olds NET remained fairly stable (up slightly by 0.2 percentage points to 4.2%), and there were increases for 17 year olds (+1.9 percentage points to 10.9%) and 18 year olds (+3.6 percentage points to 31.1%). None of these changes were statistically significant.

3. NEET Participation SFR series (last updated August 2016)

Understanding the historical trends in NEET rates is an important part of placing current performance in perspective.

Figures from the labour force survey should be considered alongside those from the participation SFR which is the DfE’s definitive measure of participation for 16-18 year olds.

Figure 4: NEET historical series for 16-18 year olds: England, end 1994 - end 2015



Historically the end year estimates of the 16-18 NEET rate tended to fluctuate at around 8-10%, but since 2008 both measures have shown a downward trend.

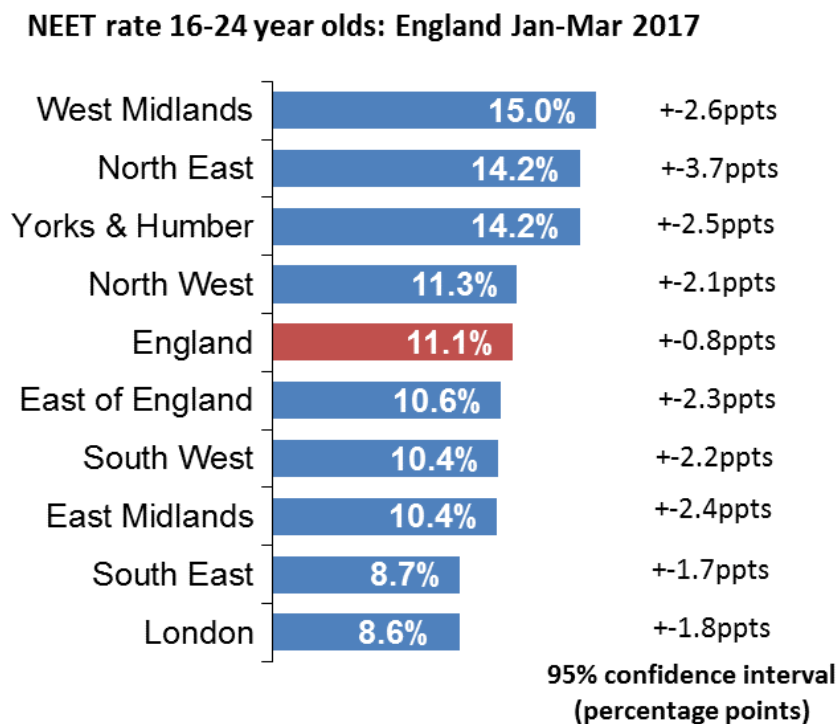
The latest Participation SFR NET rate, for end 2015, was 13.4%, a fall of 0.7 percentage points from end 2014. This is the lowest comparable figure since consistent data began in 1994.

Between end 2014 and end 2015 the proportion of 16-18 year olds participating in education and training increased from 85.9% to

86.6%. Over the same period, the employment rate of the 16-18 year olds not in education or training rose from 46.0% to 51.5%. The result of these two factors is that the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET at the end of 2015 decreased by 1.1 percentage points to 6.5%.

4. Regional NEET

Figure 5: Regional NEET, age 16-24: England, Labour Force Survey Jan-Mar 2017



Regional data is published as part of this release. However, it should be noted that regional estimates have a large degree of uncertainty due to lower sample sizes, resulting in wide confidence intervals of between +/-1.7 percentage points in the South East and +/-3.7 percentage points in the North East.

Regional NEET estimates for 16-24, 18-24 and 19-24 year olds summary age groups based on the LFS are published as supplementary tables alongside this Quarterly Brief.

Regional 16-18 NEET estimates are published annually as transparency data from [Local Authorities' Client Caseload Information System \(CCIS\)](#). These estimates tend to show a lower percentage NEET than either the Participation SFR or LFS data sources.

5. Accompanying tables

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

National tables

Table 1	NEET estimates from the LFS and Participation SFR, England
Table 2	NET estimates from the LFS and Participation SFR, England
Table 3	NEET estimates 16 to 24 by region and gender
Table 4	NEET estimates 18 to 24 by region and gender
Table 5	NEET estimates 19 to 24 by region and gender
Table 6	NEET time series for England
Table 7	NEET estimates by labour market status

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

Labour Force Survey (LFS) datasets are routinely reweighted in line with population estimates. In May 2017 a new weighting variable was introduced, PWT17, to LFS datasets from July - September 2012 onwards. More information about the impact of the reweighting on the NEET and NET rates is available in an additional spreadsheet published with this [January to March 2017 quarterly brief](#).

The 2017 reweighting project completed by the Office for National Statistics resulted in revisions back to 2012 due to incorporating the latest published mid-2015 population estimates (and updates to MYE's for 2012-14) and 2014 based sub-national population projections.

6. Further information is available

Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government (WG) publishes an annual SFR produced in a similar way to DfE's Participation SFR. [The Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market](#) is regarded as the definitive measure of NEET estimates in Wales. It covers those in academic age 16-18 and 19-24.

The WG also publishes [NEET figures based on the Annual Population Survey \(APS\)](#) which is similar to the LFS data used in this publication. It covers academic age 16-18 and 19-24.

WG also published [local area estimates of NEET](#) which looks at pupil destinations based on the Careers Wales Survey. These are based on interviews done in October following Year 11.

Scotland

The Scottish Government (SG) publishes an annual SFR based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) [Regional Employment Patterns in Scotland: Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2015](#) provides national NEET estimates that cover actual age 16-19.

The SG also published [Annual school leaver statistics](#) which are used to give the proportion of young people in 'positive destinations'. These NEET estimates include some young people in part-time education. The coverage is actual age 16-19.

SG also published a combination of [DWP benefits data and school leaver destinations](#) that provide local NEET estimates.

ONS

Monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) statistics for young people not in full-time education and not in employment -Table 14 from the Labour Market Statistics bulletin. Part of wider labour market statistics; rolling 3-month average both seasonally-adjusted and not seasonally-adjusted; roughly equivalent to NEET but will include some young people in part-time education. [ONS statistical bulletin: UK Labour Market, May 2017](#) Actual age 16-17 and 18-24.

Quarterly Statistics based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Definition of NEET corresponds to that used in the DfE NEET Quarterly Brief. UK estimate, seasonally adjusted. [ONS National Statistics: Young People not in Education, Employment or Training \(NEETs\)](#)

OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes annual NEET estimates. Their [Education at a Glance UK country note](#) publication covers young people aged 15-19 and 15-29 in the UK.

7. 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.

8. Technical information

A methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality, and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

	Coverage	Last Published	Next Published
NEET and NET quarterly LFS series	January to March 2017	May 2017	August 2017
NEET and NET Participation SFR series	End 2015	June 2016	June 2017

9. Get in touch

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Other enquiries/feedback

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Tel: 0114 274 2590 Email: Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk

10. Tables

Figure 6: Percentage Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET): England

NEET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16 & 17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2001	8.2%	8.5%	12.3%	8.4%	9.6%	12.9%	14.3%	14.6%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2002	8.1%	9.8%	13.2%	8.9%	10.3%	13.3%	14.6%	14.9%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2003	9.4%	9.6%	13.6%	9.5%	10.8%	13.6%	14.8%	15.0%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2004	9.0%	7.7%	13.6%	8.4%	10.1%	12.4%	13.5%	13.5%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2005	9.2%	9.8%	12.3%	9.5%	10.4%	13.0%	14.1%	14.4%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2006	9.2%	10.8%	14.5%	10.1%	11.5%	14.0%	15.2%	15.3%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2007	8.2%	10.0%	14.6%	9.0%	10.9%	14.1%	15.5%	15.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2008	6.5%	9.5%	14.1%	8.0%	10.0%	13.5%	15.0%	15.2%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2009	6.6%	10.0%	16.8%	8.3%	11.2%	15.5%	17.5%	17.6%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2010	5.1%	8.6%	16.8%	6.9%	10.2%	15.2%	17.6%	17.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2011	5.3%	8.0%	12.4%	6.6%	8.5%	15.3%	17.7%	18.6%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2012	6.2%	9.0%	13.8%	7.6%	9.7%	15.8%	18.0%	18.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2013	4.6%	6.1%	13.8%	5.4%	8.3%	15.0%	17.6%	18.2%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2014	3.2%	4.6%	12.6%	3.8%	6.8%	13.0%	15.4%	15.9%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2015	1.6%	5.6%	13.9%	3.7%	7.1%	12.3%	14.6%	14.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2016	3.4%	5.4%	10.8%	4.4%	6.5%	11.7%	13.6%	14.0%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2017	2.7%	7.0%	12.1%	5.0%	7.3%	11.1%	12.6%	12.7%

Source: Labour Force Survey.

Figure 7: Percentage Not in Education or Training (NET): England

NET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16 & 17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2001	16.4%	22.3%	39.5%	19.4%	25.7%	45.7%	53.6%	55.9%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2002	15.1%	21.9%	42.1%	18.4%	26.0%	47.5%	56.3%	58.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2003	16.1%	22.7%	40.9%	19.5%	26.4%	47.0%	55.3%	57.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2004	15.4%	21.0%	40.8%	18.1%	25.7%	47.4%	55.9%	58.4%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2005	16.0%	21.6%	40.3%	18.9%	25.8%	47.5%	55.8%	58.4%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2006	13.7%	20.7%	41.0%	17.4%	25.3%	47.4%	55.9%	58.4%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2007	13.1%	19.0%	38.4%	16.0%	23.4%	47.4%	56.2%	59.1%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2008	10.8%	18.3%	37.3%	14.5%	22.0%	46.7%	55.7%	58.7%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2009	9.3%	18.0%	37.6%	13.7%	21.6%	46.8%	56.2%	59.2%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2010	6.4%	14.4%	34.7%	10.6%	18.4%	44.9%	54.5%	57.6%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2011	6.7%	11.8%	31.4%	9.2%	16.7%	45.4%	55.3%	59.2%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2012	7.3%	12.5%	29.0%	9.9%	16.3%	44.6%	53.9%	57.9%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2013	5.1%	8.8%	29.3%	7.1%	14.7%	44.1%	53.9%	57.8%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2014	3.5%	8.2%	28.1%	5.8%	13.3%	43.4%	53.3%	57.2%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2015	1.8%	9.3%	29.3%	5.6%	13.5%	43.5%	53.6%	57.3%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2016	4.0%	8.9%	27.5%	6.5%	13.4%	44.2%	54.0%	57.9%
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2017	4.2%	10.9%	31.1%	7.6%	15.5%	43.9%	53.1%	56.4%

Source: Labour Force Survey.

Figure 8: Number Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET): England

NEET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16 & 17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2001	49,000	51,000	68,000	100,000	168,000	667,000	567,000	499,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2002	51,000	58,000	76,000	109,000	185,000	700,000	591,000	515,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2003	57,000	62,000	81,000	118,000	199,000	732,000	613,000	532,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2004	57,000	46,000	84,000	103,000	187,000	681,000	578,000	494,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2005	58,000	63,000	75,000	122,000	196,000	735,000	613,000	538,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2006	56,000	71,000	92,000	127,000	220,000	801,000	674,000	581,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2007	54,000	62,000	93,000	116,000	209,000	820,000	704,000	611,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2008	42,000	61,000	89,000	104,000	193,000	794,000	691,000	602,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2009	43,000	66,000	110,000	109,000	218,000	915,000	807,000	697,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2010	32,000	59,000	107,000	91,000	198,000	912,000	821,000	714,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2011	35,000	50,000	82,000	85,000	167,000	923,000	838,000	756,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2012	39,000	58,000	89,000	98,000	186,000	955,000	858,000	769,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2013	27,000	42,000	90,000	68,000	158,000	906,000	838,000	748,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2014	20,000	27,000	80,000	48,000	128,000	776,000	728,000	649,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2015	10,000	37,000	88,000	46,000	134,000	738,000	691,000	603,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2016	20,000	35,000	65,000	55,000	121,000	704,000	649,000	584,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2017	16,000	44,000	74,000	60,000	134,000	661,000	601,000	527,000

Source: Labour Force Survey.

Figure 9: Number Not in Education or Training (NET): England

NET Quarterly LFS series	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	16 & 17 year olds	16-18 year olds	16-24 year olds	18-24 year olds	19-24 year olds
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2001	98,000	134,000	217,000	231,000	448,000	2,365,000	2,134,000	1,917,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2002	95,000	130,000	244,000	225,000	469,000	2,501,000	2,276,000	2,032,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2003	97,000	146,000	244,000	243,000	487,000	2,530,000	2,287,000	2,043,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2004	97,000	126,000	252,000	223,000	475,000	2,610,000	2,387,000	2,135,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2005	101,000	140,000	245,000	241,000	486,000	2,673,000	2,432,000	2,187,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2006	82,000	137,000	262,000	219,000	482,000	2,700,000	2,480,000	2,218,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2007	86,000	119,000	245,000	204,000	449,000	2,755,000	2,551,000	2,306,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2008	71,000	117,000	236,000	188,000	425,000	2,750,000	2,561,000	2,325,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2009	60,000	119,000	245,000	179,000	424,000	2,773,000	2,594,000	2,350,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2010	40,000	98,000	220,000	138,000	358,000	2,687,000	2,549,000	2,328,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2011	45,000	75,000	208,000	119,000	327,000	2,738,000	2,618,000	2,411,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2012	46,000	81,000	187,000	127,000	314,000	2,697,000	2,570,000	2,383,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2013	30,000	60,000	191,000	89,000	280,000	2,661,000	2,572,000	2,381,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2014	23,000	50,000	178,000	72,000	251,000	2,586,000	2,513,000	2,335,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2015	11,000	61,000	185,000	71,000	257,000	2,614,000	2,542,000	2,357,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2016	24,000	58,000	167,000	82,000	249,000	2,661,000	2,579,000	2,412,000
Jan-Mar (Q1) 2017	25,000	68,000	190,000	92,000	283,000	2,620,000	2,528,000	2,338,000

Source: Labour Force Survey.



Department
for Education



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