

Metadata Document - underlying data
National Pupil Projections – Future Trends in Pupil Numbers –
December 2013
SFR 53/2013

Background

The National Pupil Projections Statistical Release provides national projections for the number of pupils in schools by type of school and age group. It updates the previous release of March 2013 (SFR11/2013) using the latest interim mid-2011 based population projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The Underlying Data File

Title: National_pupil_projections_December_2013_SFR53.csv

File headers: See Annex for a list

Variables and definitions: See Annex for a list

Coverage: Total figure for England provided for each variable

Years: 2002 to 2013 (actuals); 2014 to 2022 (projections).

Definitions

Date of count: All figures correspond to January of the year shown.

State-funded schools: Local authority maintained schools, all academy types, pupil referral units, City Technology Colleges, Free Schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.

State-funded primary schools: Maintained primary schools, primary academies and primary Free Schools.

State-funded secondary schools: Maintained secondary and all-through schools, secondary and all-through academies (excluding special academies), City Technology Colleges, secondary and all-through Free Schools (excluding special Free Schools), University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.

State-funded special schools: Maintained special schools, special academies, special Free Schools and general hospital schools.

Alternative provision settings: Pupil referral units, alternative provision academies and alternative provision Free Schools, but not other types of alternative provision.

Independent schools: All schools that are not state funded, except non-maintained special schools.

More detailed definitions for all of these school types are available at:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/edubase/glossary.xhtml>

Pupil age (age is measured at the previous August 31 unless otherwise stated):

- Under 5 = ages up to and including rising 5s;

- Rising 5s = pupils aged 4 at previous 31 August who became 5 by 31 December;
- Primary ages = 5 to 10;
- Secondary ages = 11 to 15;
- Post-16 = 16 and over.

Full-time equivalent (FTE): Full-time equivalent pupil numbers, determined by including part-time pupils as 0.5. Until 2002, part-time pupils were only recorded for under 5s. From 2003 to 2011 inclusive, state-funded schools could record part-time pupils of any age. From 2012, all pupils aged 5 to 15 are recorded by state-funded schools as full-time, but all pupils aged under 5 or over 15, and pupils of any age in independent schools, may be recorded as part-time.

Headcount: Sum of all full-time and part-time pupils

Dual registration: Actual and projected pupil numbers include those pupils registered at more than one school. In general, they are counted only once, for their main registration.

Methodology

Input data: The model uses January 2013 data from the School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and School Level Annual School Census (collectively referred to as the School Census), and the interim mid-2011 based population projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The mid-2011 population projections incorporate findings from the 2011 UK Census. These population projections are known to have resulted in an over-projection of the number of births: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/Interim-2011-based/index.html>. To correct for this, the Department for Education has applied a downward adjustment (amounting to about 3%) to the numbers of children born after mid-2011. The ONS principal population projections are based on central assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration.

Output data: Pupil figures for 2013 and prior years are firm actuals from the School Census. Figures for 2014 and thereafter are projected.

Projection method: ONS population estimates are modified from their original mid-year basis to simulate the School Census conditions (January count, by age at previous 31 August). Pupil numbers and proportions in each school are projected using the population projection and School Census information from previous years.

Pupils aged 16 and over: Projections for '16 and over' are no longer included in this publication. Recent publications included '16 and over' projections for a year ahead that were aligned to overall 16-18 participation rate projections produced for the EFA 16-19 Funding Statement. This publication has been replaced with a much simpler funding letter to 16-19 education and training providers which does not include projections that are comparable with the pre-16 projections in this publication.

Quality

National population projections: ONS projections underlying the pupil projections model (PPM) are National Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews and they are produced free from political interference. They are based on assumptions of future migration, fertility and mortality, derived from analysis of trends, expert academic advice and liaison with the devolved administrations.

Accuracy and data usage

Rounding: Published output from the PPM is rounded to the nearest 1,000 pupils and five year age bands. Outputs are supplied to the nearest unit in the file "National_pupil_projections_December_2013_SFR53.csv" to facilitate further calculations, but cannot be guaranteed accurate to the level of detail implied by the unit figures. Pupil numbers for some age groups and smaller school types have been aggregated to reflect this. Figures should be rounded to at least the nearest 1,000 prior to further usage. Figures under 500 are not robust and have been suppressed. The symbol "**" appears when the pupil numbers are less than 500 and the figure has been suppressed. Some of the fields provided in the file have not been derived for all variables. In this instance, ".." is published.

Annex

Headings

1. Coverage: Country covered;
2. Coverage_ref: Coverage ONS country code;
3. ONS_projection: ONS population projection used in the PPM;
4. School_type: Type of school for which pupil numbers are provided;
5. Pupil_status: Registration type for which pupil numbers are provided;
6. Pupil_age: Age(s) of pupils for which pupil numbers are provided. Age is at previous 31 August;
7. 2002_actual: Firm actuals for pupil numbers at January 2002 from the DfE School Census;
8. 2003_actual to 2013_actual: As for 2002_actual, but for the year named in the heading;
9. 2014_projection: Projected pupil numbers at January 2014;
10. 2015_projection to 2022_projection: as for 2014_projection, but for the year named in the heading;

Variables for School_type

Maintained_nursery = maintained nursery schools;
State_primary = state-funded primary schools;
State_secondary = state-funded secondary schools;
State_special = state-funded special schools;
AP_settings = alternative provision settings;
State_funded = all state-funded schools;
Independent = independent;
Non_maintained_special = non-maintained special schools;
All_schools = all school types.

Variables for Pupil_status

Headcount = sum of all full-time and part-time pupils;

FTE = full-time-equivalent, derived by treating part-time pupils as 0.5.

Variables for Pupil_age

All ages are as at previous 31 August;

All = all pupil ages

Under_5 = pupils under 5 years;

5_to_10 = pupils aged 5 to 10 years;

11_to_15 = pupils aged 11 to 15 years;

16_and_over = pupils aged 16 years and over;

Where a single age is given, it refers to pupils who were that age at the previous 31 August.