

TECHNICAL NOTES

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TECHNICAL NOTES

1. Background

Figures in this Statistical First Release, SFR (experimental statistics) are obtained from matched administrative data. This is the first publication on Destination Measures and is classified as experimental statistics as the data are still being evaluated and remain subject to further testing in terms of their reliability and ability to meet customer needs. The data should be treated with caution as this is the first year for which such data have been produced.

2. Definition of Destination Measures

- Percentage of 2008/09 Key Stage 4 Cohort going to, or remaining in, an education destination in 2009/10
- Percentage of students, in 2008/09, who entered an A Level or equivalent qualification, going to or remaining in an education destination in 2009/10

3. Cohort

This SFR reports on young people in Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) in the 2008/09 academic year and identifies their education destinations in the 2009/10 academic year.

The base cohort includes students in English schools and colleges only. The coverage of destinations is explained in the 'Data sources' section below.

KS4

The 2008/09 cohort is obtained from the published Performance Tables (PT) where

- Young people are identified as being at the end of KS4. In the majority of schools, students in Year 11 in the 2008/09 school year were at the end of KS4, but some may have completed this Key Stage in an earlier or later year group.

The cohort is from Maintained Mainstream schools only, which include

- Academies - Sponsor Led (AC)
- Community schools (CY)
- Voluntary aided schools (VA)
- Voluntary controlled schools (VC)
- Foundation schools (FD)
- City Technology Colleges (CTC)

KS5

The 2008/09 cohort is obtained from the published Performance Tables where

- Young people aged 16, 17 or 18, were entered for A levels or other Level 3 equivalent qualifications during the 2008/2009 academic year; this is otherwise referred to as 'Key Stage 5' (KS5).

The qualifications included in the tables are on the basis of their equivalence with A levels; A qualification's 'equivalence' is quantified by looking at its size and the level of challenge it poses compared to an A level. AS's and vocational qualifications are included as Level 3 qualifications. However students are only included in the cohort if they have entered a qualification equivalent to the size of an A-level.

A student is only included in the cohort if they have been entered for at least one A level or equivalent qualification. Someone who has been entered for a BTEC National Award will be in our cohort, but someone who has been entered for AS Levels only will not be in the cohort.

The Destination Measures KS5 cohort is for Maintained Mainstream schools, as listed in the KS4 section above, plus the addition of Further Education Colleges and Sixth Form Colleges.

Alignment with Performance Tables

The cohort count for each institution aligns with the cohort count published in the Performance Tables. The cohort count at Local Authority (LA) and National level will not align as the Destination Measures exclude independent and special schools, which Performance Tables include.

To align with the Performance tables, a young person is included in the school/college figure if they have been flagged in the data as being included in the school/college 'number on roll'. To ensure that the young person isn't counted twice, their record would only be included in the LA or National total if they have been flagged as being included in the LA's 'number on roll' or the national 'number on roll' respectively. This means that, even if the young person is included in more than one school/college, they should only appear once in the LA total and once in the national total. Also, some schools who participate in consortia arrangements for Sixth Form provision report at consortia level rather than at school level. Therefore school figures will not always add to LA totals, and LA figures will not always add to the national total.

LA totals include students according to the LA in which their school/college is located.

For further detail on the definition of the Performance Tables cohort, see <http://www.education.gov.uk/performance-tables/>

Academic age

The ages used throughout the publication are outlined in the table below. The publication refers to academic age, which is the age of the young person on the 31st August of the specified academic year, e.g. age at 31 August 2008 for the 2008/09 academic year.

Table 1: Academic Age

2008/09 cohort		2009/10 destinations
Academic age of cohort (years)	Year Group	Academic age going to destination (years)
15	11	16
16	12	17
17	13	18
18*	-	19

* Students in the cohort who may have taken their exams a year later.

Time Lag

Creation of the Destination Measures requires higher education (HESA) data to be matched to the pupil data in the National Pupil Database. The HESA data used in this Release are for the academic year 2009/10 and these are the most recent data to have been matched. This publication is therefore reporting on 2008/09 KS4 and KS5 (A level or equivalent qualification/s) students who went on to education destinations in 2009/10.

4. Education Destinations

Sustained participation in education destinations

To be included in the Measures, young people have to be recorded in sustained participation in all of the first two terms of the year at one or more education destinations. This therefore encourages schools and colleges to support and prepare their students to progress to a destination which offers sustained engagement.

Sustained participation is defined to be between October 2009 and March 2010 in the 2009/10 academic year, as this addresses change at the start of the academic year, where young people may switch courses or, particularly for higher education, start later. It is also the measurement period that is closest to the point at which the young person left their former school or college and so is the period over which the institution has most influence.

Students who have completed the required two terms of attendance but with different providers (e.g. the autumn term in a school sixth form and the spring term in a FE college) will be included in the Measure, reported in a separate 'School/College/HEI combination' line.

Sustained participation was calculated using recorded start and end dates for their participation within each of the relevant datasets, further detail is provided below.

Data sources

For this first publication, data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) has been used. The NPD is a longitudinal database linking pupil/student characteristics (eg age, gender, ethnicity) to school and college learning aims and attainment information for children in schools in England. Three

administrative data sources used in compiling the NPD have been used to determine the education destinations, namely:

- Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) covering United Kingdom Higher Education Institutions
- Individualised Learner Record (ILR) covering English colleges and Further Education providers
- School Census (SC) covering English schools

The matching of these databases are undertaken at individual level using personal characteristics such as name, date of birth and postcode. A Pupil Matching Reference (PMR) number is attached to allow linking of the data. The destinations are derived from linking together the 2009/10 data sources to the 2008/09 cohort using the PMR number.

HESA

Initial analysis of the 2009/10 HESA data indicated that the majority of young people were not participating until October and that participation declined in June and July as learning ended. As so many young people did not start participating until October, the Measure counts participation from this month. Participation was analysed by looking at the learning start and end dates to ensure the student was attending between October and March.

ILR

Similar attendance analysis of the ILR data was carried out. Attendance in colleges was analysed by looking at the monthly attendance figures and ensuring the student attended in each month between October and March.

School Census

Attendance within the School Census (SC) data was analysed by looking at the monthly attendance within the Post 16 Learning Aims (PLAMS) which is derived from the Autumn and Spring School Census.

5. Duplicate Pupils within the base cohort

Duplicate pupils are young people who appear more than once in the cohort in the National Pupil Database (NPD). The NPD is a pupil level database which matches pupil and school characteristic data to pupil level attainment. This matching can lead to more than one match, as a pupil may appear more than once in the NPD resulting, for example, from a change of school, or dual registration. These records are valid and will remain in the cohort for each school and included in the Measure.

The 2008/09 Destination Measures base cohorts have 23 duplicates at KS4 and 63 at KS5.

Although these duplicates are included at school level, some are omitted at LA and National level so that these young people aren't counted twice in the overall figures. It is accepted that some duplicates will remain in the data. See

section on “Alignment with Performance Tables” for further details.

6. Double Counting across destinations

The linking of students across destinations (obtained from HESA, ILR and SC data) identified a number of young people, just over 3,000 at KS4 and just over 2,000 at KS5 (A level or equivalent qualifications), who appear in more than one destination (ie more than one dataset) simultaneously. There were a number of reasons for this and processes were put in place to eliminate the double counts where possible, as follows:

Mismatching

As outlined under “Data Sources” in section [4] above, the destinations data are independently matched to the National Pupil Database (NPD). When investigating why young people appeared in more than one destination, it was discovered that there were cases where more than one young person (from the destination datasets) had incorrectly been associated with the same Pupil Matching Reference (PMR). In these cases, a manual check was carried out and the incorrect matches were removed from the appropriate destinations data source.

ILR and SC or HESA double counts: Unfunded students

A number of young people appeared in the ILR data and other data sources simultaneously. Some of these were identified as being unfunded by the then Learning Skills Council (LSC) and were removed from the ILR source data. In addition, some students were being funded from a different source to where they undertake their main participation. These records were removed from the ILR data and reported as participating at the institution which was funding them

SC and ILR or HESA double counts: Subsidiary Pupils

A number of young people appeared in the SC data and other data sources simultaneously and were identified as having an enrolment status of ‘Subsidiary’ within the SC. This covers young people who are registered and carrying out their learning in one institution but complete some subsidiary learning in another. The records with the subsidiary learning were removed from the SC source data and the pupil was reported as participating in their ‘main’ institution.

ILR and SC double counts: Minor Aims

Having eliminated double counts as detailed above, some young people appeared in the ILR and SC datasets simultaneously. A number of options were considered to allocate a single destination for each young person, including

- Where the highest level of study occurred
- Where the majority of aims were at a higher level
- Where the majority of aims were studied

None of the options removed the double counts entirely. In addition, not all of the aims had the study level recorded and for this reason, and for simplicity of

understanding, the third option was chosen and young people were allocated to the destination in which they carried out the majority of their study. Records with the minor aims were removed from the relevant dataset.

HESA and ILR or SC double counts: Learning aims

Double counts also appeared simultaneously in the HESA and the ILR or SC data. These double counts were removed from the ILR or SC as it was decided to remove the lower level of aims; the majority of aims in the ILR or SC were at level 3 and above, whilst the majority of aims in the HESA database were HE aims at level 4 and above.

Remaining Double Counts

The processes outlined above reduced the number of double counts but did not eliminate them entirely as some students were taking an equal number and equal level of aims in both of the datasets.

The number of double counts removed by each stage of the process are summarised in the table below:

Table 2: Number of double counts removed

	KS4	KS5
Total double counts at start	3,312	2,176
Mismatches	124	190
Unfunded in ILR	1,096	772
Subsidiary in SC	86	3
Minor aims in ILR	1,625	65
Minor aims in SC	251	28
HESA / ILR	1	1,071
HESA / SC	1	38
Total removed	3,184	2,167

There were a total of 137 double counts remaining in the final datasets for KS4 and KS5 combined. All of these double counts were in both the ILR and SC datasets and had equal number of aims; in other words they were attending at both a College and a School, during the course of the 6 month criteria period, and were a studying an equal number of learning aims at both institutions. This compares with the cohort size of just under 900,000 KS4 and KS5 students.

7. Reporting Lines including definitions of Destinations

The coverage of young people included in each of the lines within the Destination Measures tables is as follows.

Total number of young people

This is the total number of young people calculated to be in the 2008/09 cohort, using the criteria outlined under 'Cohort' at the start of the Technical Note, and is used to create the denominator for the Measure.

Any Education Destination

This line reports the proportion of the cohort that has gone to any form of sustained education destination. This proportion contains no double counting.

Further Education (FE) Providers identified from the ILR data

There are 3 categories of FE providers obtained from the ILR data and reported in the Measure.

- FE College
- Sixth Form College
- Other FE provider

FE College and Sixth Form College

When identifying FE institution as a destination, a number of young people were identified as attending more than one type of FE institution simultaneously or as attending different types of FE institutions sequentially. To ensure no double counting was introduced and avoid confusion with the School/College/HEI combination reporting line described below, the following methodology was used to allocate FE institution types:

1. Any young person identified in more than one FE institution type was allocated to where most of their learning was carried out, according to their learning aims.
2. Any young person with an equal number of aims in two different FE institution types was allocated to the 'Other FE Provider' line.

Other FE provider

Any provider in the ILR not identified as a Sixth Form College or FE College is designated as an 'Other FE provider'.

A number of young people were identified within the HESA data as being registered for FE level study ie. they were undergoing FE study within a Higher Education Institution. These young people were reported in this 'Other FE provider' category.

School Sixth Form

The fourth type of FE provider reported is School Sixth Form, which is identified from the School Census data. The Measure reports the proportion of the cohort participating at these institutions.

Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning (WBL)

Apprenticeships and WBL are not counted as destinations in their own right for the purposes of Destination Measures but are included within the four reported FE provider types. They are also identified separately within the

table. Young people were counted as being on an Apprenticeship or in WBL if they participated in relevant learning at any time during the October to March participation period providing that, overall, they met the sustained education criteria.

Apprenticeships and WBL are subsets of all the 4 main FE reporting lines and are identified within the ILR data by means of the variables Funding Stream and Programme type, as designated by The Data Service.

Apprenticeships were identified separately to WBL and any young person participating in an Apprenticeship was so reported regardless of any other WBL undertaken. Any young person participating in Train to Gain, and not identified as an Apprentice, was reported in WBL.

Young people participating in Foundation Learning are not reported separately and are currently included in the Further Education reporting lines.

Higher Education Institution (HEI)

This line reports the proportion of the cohort that has gone to any Higher Education Institution (HEI).

Due to the very small numbers reported in the HEI line for KS4, it was not possible to show any further breakdown at this level.

For KS5, the HEI reporting line includes a breakdown of the HE Institutions by subgroups as follows:-

- Oxford or Cambridge
- Other Russell Group (excluding Oxford and Cambridge)
- All other HE Institutions (excluding Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group Institutions)
- Other HE Providers (excluding all Institutions included in the lines above)

These groupings are all subsets of the main HEI reporting line.

Table 3: Russell Group, as at June 2009

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics & Political Science
University of Manchester
Newcastle University

University of Nottingham University of Oxford Queen's University Belfast University of Sheffield University of Southampton University College London University of Warwick
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Other HE Providers

A number of young people were identified within the ILR data as having Higher Education aims i.e. there were young people undergoing Higher Education learning within a Further Education institution. These young people were identified as having HE aims by looking at variables such as HEFCE funding, level 4 aims and an indicator that HE data was collected for this particular aim. If a young person was identified and had all HE aims, the young person would be counted in the HEI reporting line and included under 'Other HE Providers'.

School/College/HEI combination

A number of young people were identified as completing a first term of learning at one type of institution then moving to another type of institution to continue their learning. Providing they fulfilled the sustained participation criteria across institution types they were counted in the Measure and reported in this line. This is different from the double counts where students were attending a school and a college at the same time, with an equal number of learning aims at both, over the six month period.

Education destination not sustained


This includes young people who were captured in the destination source data but were not counted in the Measure due to failing to meet the sustained participation criteria; it covers young people who had gone to an education destination but did not complete the required 6 months participation.

Not captured in the data

This line reports the proportion of young people that were in the cohort but were not found in the destination source data. Possible reasons for them not being in the data include being in employment, not being in employment, education or training (NEET), on a gap year, leaving the country, or attending a Scottish or Welsh college or school.

Other Reporting Issues

School Sixth Form Consortia/Feeders

Schools can engage in Consortium arrangements for sixth form provision. Some schools report at school level and some report at consortia level. Where they report at consortia level it is necessary to remove all but one of the feeder schools, when aggregating up to Local Authority and national level, to avoid double counting. All feeder schools are identified with a 

Overall consortia results are reported as a separate line at School level under

the heading Sixth Form Centre/Consortia.

8. General

Suppression

For any institutions where the total number of students in the 2008/09 cohort is fewer than 6, all data have been suppressed. For breakdowns of students, any numbers of fewer than 3 have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by an 'x'. Where the numerator of a percentage is fewer than 3, this has been suppressed and replaced by an 'x'. All totals have been rounded to the nearest 10 to ensure individuals can not be identified. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure was also zero.

Symbols used in the publication

The following symbols have been used in this publication:

0 - zero

x - small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality

'.' - not applicable

Experimental Statistics

The statistics are published as "experimental statistics" and do not display the National Statistics Logo, as they are still being evaluated and remain subject to further testing in terms of their reliability and ability to meet customer needs. The figures should be treated with caution as this is the first year for which such data have been produced. As improvements are made to the methodology of the Measure, the data will be judged to establish whether the statistics meet the quality standards to be published as National Statistics in future years.

9. BIS Widening Participation Measure

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) publish the following Measures looking at widening participation:

- Estimated proportions of pupils with and without Free School Meals (FSM) who progressed to Higher Education
- Estimated proportions of pupils from independent and state schools progressing to Higher Education and progressing to the most selective Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

There are some key differences between the Measures. First, the DfE Measure considers those progressing to all education destinations including Higher Education (HE), Further Education Colleges and School Sixth Forms and, in the future potentially those going into employment, whilst the BIS Measure only considers those who progress to HE.

In addition, the DfE Measure only includes those who are in sustained education during the first two terms after KS4 or taking A level or equivalent qualifications, whilst the BIS Measure is looking at HE participation by the

time the students reach academic age 19, which is potentially a year after completing the qualifications.

The cohorts differ for Key Stage 5 as the BIS Measure includes independent schools whilst the DfE Measure does not. In addition, the DfE Measure includes those entered for A level or equivalent qualifications regardless of age, whilst the BIS Measure includes those who studied at least 1 A Level at academic age 17.

The BIS Widening Participation Measures are published at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/higher-education/official-statistics-releases/widening-participation-in-higher-education/analysis-of-progression-rates-for-young-people-in-england-by-free-school-meal-receipt>

10. BIS FE Choices learner destination measures

BIS publish the FE Choices learner destination measures. This covers the destinations of students in FE colleges, including sixth form colleges, Apprenticeships and work based learning providers, but not school sixth forms. Currently it includes 16-18 year olds as well as adult learners (in future it will only include 16-18 year olds where they are in apprenticeships). Therefore two differences are that the Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Destination Measures cover the destinations of young people, but not adults, and it includes schools as well as FE institutions. Another difference is that this year's KS4 and KS5 Destination Measure publication only includes education destinations and solely uses data matching to derive the destinations. FE Choices includes employment destinations and uses a different methodology to derive the figures by using surveys. Finally, FE Choices does not apply 'sustained education' criteria to its learner destination measures.

The FE choices learner destination measures are published at <http://fechoices.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/Pages/home.aspx>

11. DfE Participation in Education, Training and Employment SFR

The most recent Statistical First Release (SFR) on Participation in Education, Training and Employment was published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 28th June 2012 and can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001072/index.shtml>

This SFR provides provisional estimates of participation in education and training, and those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) for 16, 17 and 18 year olds in England. All estimates relate to a snapshot of activities at the end of the calendar year, and are based on academic age, defined as age at the start of the academic year, 31st August.

Destination Measures include students who are in sustained education, defined to be the two terms after KS4 or taking A levels or equivalents. There is also a separate figure showing 'education not sustained' which captures

students who were in education but who did not meet the criteria for continuous attendance from October to March. Although the Destination Measures figures are not directly comparable to those in the Participation SFR due to differences in the base cohort, some comparisons can be made: If the figures for 'Sustained education destination' and 'Education destination not sustained' are combined, it can be seen that this overall figure is fairly similar to the 'Education and WBL' figure in the Participation SFR:

- For KS4, the combined Destination Measures figure for 'sustained education destination' and 'not sustained education' is 94% comparing to the 'Education and WBL' figure in the Participation SFR of 94% at the end of 2009.
- For KS5, the combined Destination Measures figure is 72%. There is no directly comparable figure for 'Education and WBL' figure in the Participation SFR, as the published statistic corresponds to the whole cohort of 16-18 year olds, rather than a subset of 17-19 year olds who have taken A levels or equivalents in the previous year as reported in the Destination Measures. The Participation SFR estimated that 79% of all 16-18 year olds were in 'Education and WBL' at the end of 2009.

Differences between the Destination Measures and the Participation SFR can be expected for two main reasons:

(i) The Destination Measures are based on a sustained education destination over 6 months (October-March), whereas the Participation SFR just requires participation at a point in time, or snapshot, around the end of the calendar year. As the Destination Measures' requirement is for sustained participation, with all other things being equal, this will result in lower numbers of young people being counted as being in an education destination as they need to be in education for at least 6 months.

(ii) The Participation SFR covers a different cohort of young people. For academic age 16 year olds it includes the education destinations of the entire cohort of academic age 16 year olds in England. The Destination Measure in this SFR, however, defines the cohort of young people based on what stage of education they were at in the previous year. In particular, the Key Stage 4 figures show the education destinations of young people who completed Key Stage 4 in the previous year; hence it's the 2008/09 KS4 cohort and their education destinations in 2009/10. For the most part the vast majority of the Key Stage 4 cohort were in fact in Year 11 at school, and of academic age 15, in 2008/09. For this reason there will be a very strong overlap between the Key Stage 4 education destinations statistics and the Participation SFR statistics for academic age 16 year olds. However, a further difference is that the Destination Measures only consider the education destinations of those in maintained schools; it does not include young people in independent schools. The outcomes of all academic age 16 year olds are included in the Participation SFR statistics.

The Key Stage 5 cohort for Destination Measures is defined as young people who entered A level or equivalent qualifications, in maintained schools and colleges, at academic age 16-18 (2008/09 in this SFR). It shows their education destinations the following year, when aged 17-19. The Participation SFR does not include statistics for 19 year olds, and describes the education outcomes for all academic age 16-18 year olds in England, irrespective of what they were doing, or where they were in the previous year. As such the KS5 statistics in the Destinations Measure and the age 16-18 statistics in the Participation SFR are not directly comparable.