



BRIEFING PAPER

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Youth Unemployment Statistics

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A photograph of a bright green sign for 'job centre plus' mounted on a brick wall. The sign is tilted and features the text 'job centre plus' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'job' and 'plus' are in white, while 'centre' is in a yellow-to-white gradient.

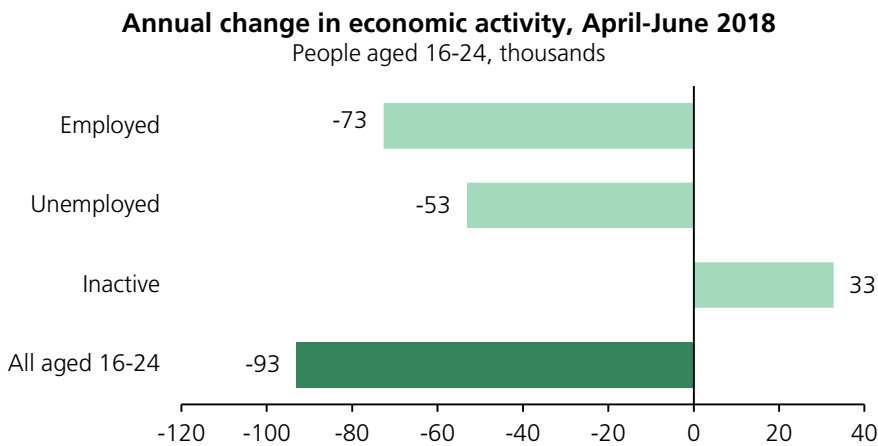
*job
centre
plus*

1. Youth Unemployment Statistics

492,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in April-June 2018, down 39,000 from the previous quarter and down 53,000 from the year before.¹

The total population aged 16-24 fell by 93,000 over the past year. Both the number of young people who are unemployed and the number in work decreased, but there was a rise in the number of young people who are economically inactive (not in work and not looking for work).

The number of young people who are employed or unemployed has decreased from a year ago, but more young people are economically inactive (not in work and not seeking work).



Figures are based on a survey so some of the reported changes may arise from survey error rather than actual movements in the levels.

The **unemployment rate** (the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed) for 16-24 year olds was 11.3% in April-June 2018, This was down from 12.2% a year ago and is the lowest rate since comparable records began in 1992.

The youth unemployment rate was 11.3% in April-June 2018, the lowest rate since comparable records began in 1992.



Unemployment and education status

Excluding young people in full-time education, 330,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed, 26,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 29,000 fewer than the year before.

The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds not in full-time education was 10.0%, compared to 10.6% a year ago.

¹ All data are from ONS [Labour Market Statistics bulletins](#) and are seasonally adjusted.

3 Youth Unemployment Statistics

Among those young people who were in full-time education, 162,000 were unemployed. This was 14,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 24,000 fewer than the year before.

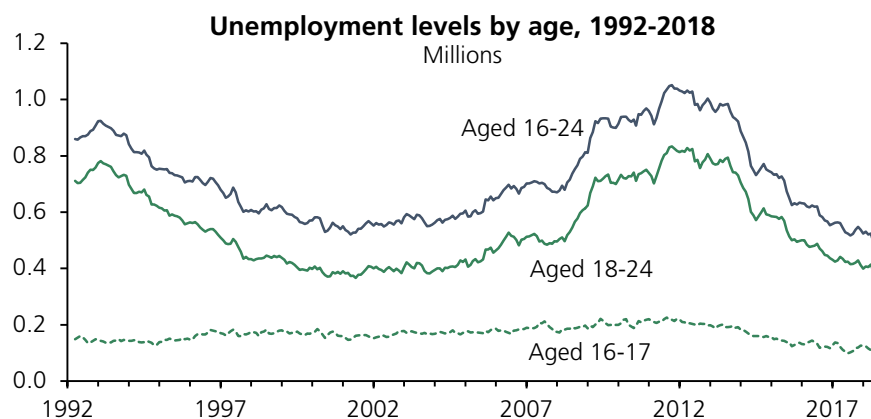
The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds in full-time education was 15.4%, down from 17.4% a year ago.

Unemployment by age

388,000 18-24 year olds were unemployed, while 1.75 million were economically inactive. 3.49 million were in work. The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 10.0% in April-June 2018, down from 10.8% a year ago.

104,000 16-17 year olds were unemployed, while 927,000 were economically inactive and 358,000 were in work.

The unemployment rate for 16-17 year olds was estimated at around 22%. The rate is higher than it was in the 1990s and early 2000s, despite there being a lower number of 16-17 year olds unemployed. This is explained by more 16-17 year olds staying in full-time education so that fewer are economically active (the unemployment rate is calculated as a proportion of the economically active population).²



Long term youth unemployment

80,000 people aged 16-24 had been unemployed for **over 12 months** in April-June 2018. This was 16% of all unemployed 16-24 year olds.

Men and women

278,000 men aged 16-24 were unemployed in April-June 2018, down 40,000 from a year ago. The unemployment rate for men in this age group was 12.2%, compared to 13.7% a year ago.

214,000 women aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 13,000 from a year ago. The unemployment rate for women aged 16-24 was 10.4%, compared to 10.6% a year ago.

² The estimates for 16-17 year olds are more volatile than those for 18-24 year olds, since they are based on a smaller number of survey responses.

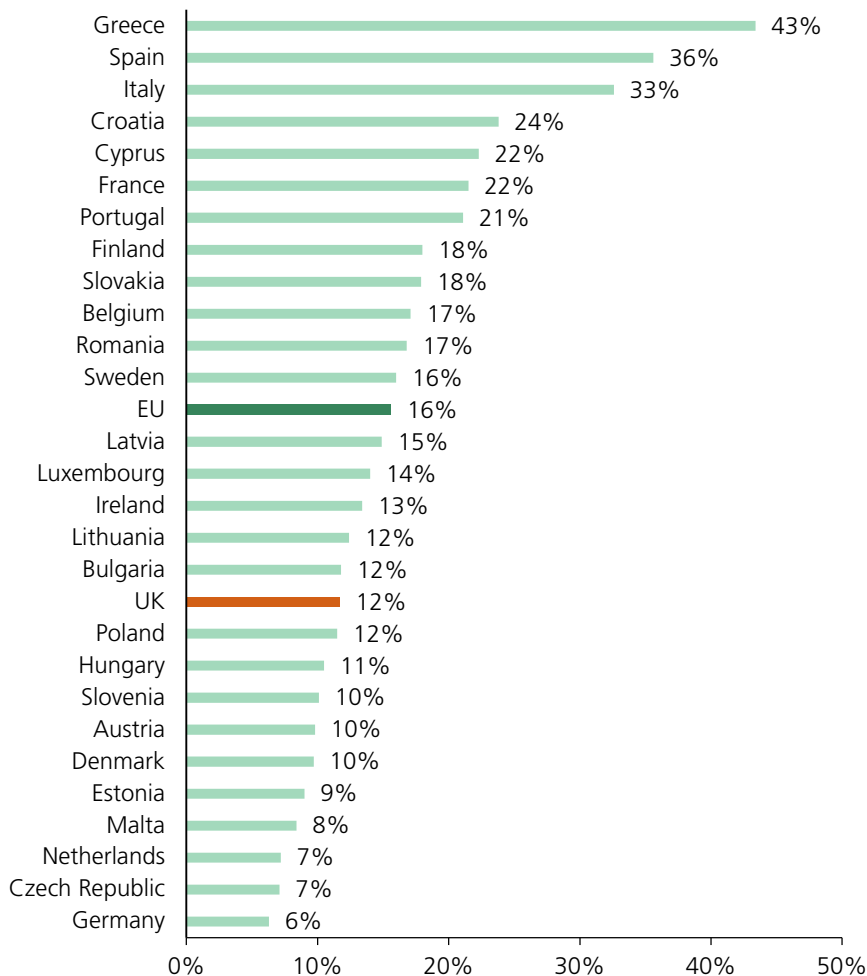
2. Youth Unemployment across Europe

The chart below shows the youth unemployment rate across European Union countries. Figures are published by Eurostat (the European statistical authority) and therefore may differ from what is published elsewhere in this note.

Greece had the highest rate of youth unemployment in January-March 2018 at 43.4%. Germany had the lowest youth unemployment rate at 6.3%.

The UK youth unemployment rate was 11.7%, compared to 15.6% for the European Union as a whole.

Youth unemployment rates in the EU, Q1 2018



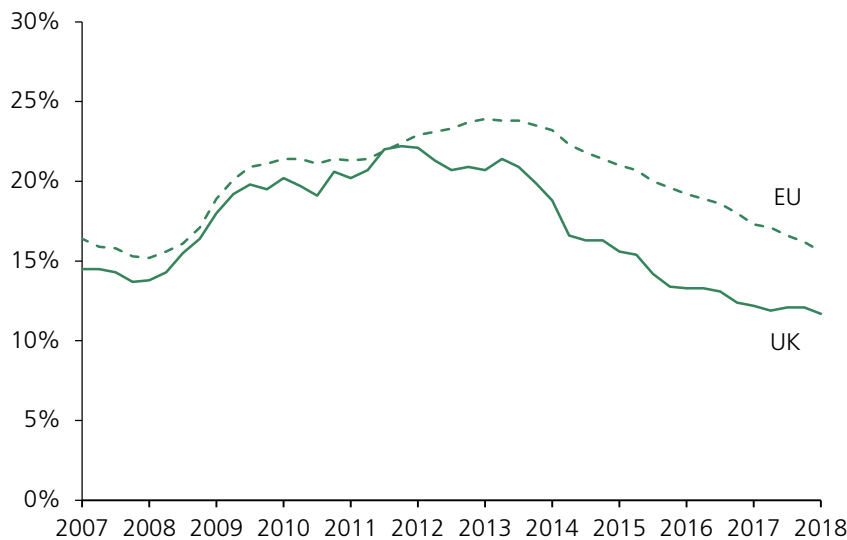
Notes: Seasonally adjusted. Rate refers to the percentage of economically active young people aged 15-24 who are unemployed.

Source: Eurostat

Recent trend in youth unemployment in the EU

Since 2013, the youth unemployment rate has been decreasing for both the UK and for the EU as a whole, although the rate has fallen faster in the UK. Between Q1 2013 and Q1 2018 the youth unemployment rate fell by 9.0% points in the UK, compared to a fall of 8.3% points across the EU as a whole.

Youth unemployment rate, UK and EU, 2007-2018



Notes: Seasonally adjusted. Rate refers to the percentage of economically active young people, aged 15-24, who are unemployed.

Source: Eurostat

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