



BRIEFING PAPER

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Youth Unemployment Statistics

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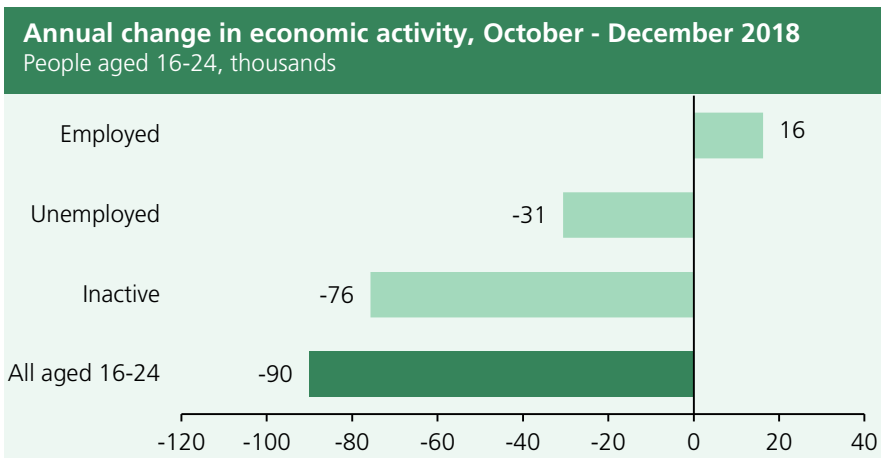
A photograph of a bright green sign for 'job centre plus' mounted on a brick wall. The sign is tilted and features the text 'job centre plus' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'job' and 'plus' are in white, while 'centre' is in yellow. The background shows a brick wall and a window frame.

*job
centre
plus*

1. Youth Unemployment Statistics

510,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in October to December 2018, up 33,000 from the previous quarter but down 31,000 from the year before. By historic standards, unemployment levels for young people are low.¹

For context, it is worth noting that the total population aged 16-24 has been declining in recent years; it was 22,000 lower than the previous quarter and 90,000 less than a year ago. The number of young people in employment increased by 16,000 over the past year. The number who are economically inactive (not in or looking for work) decreased.

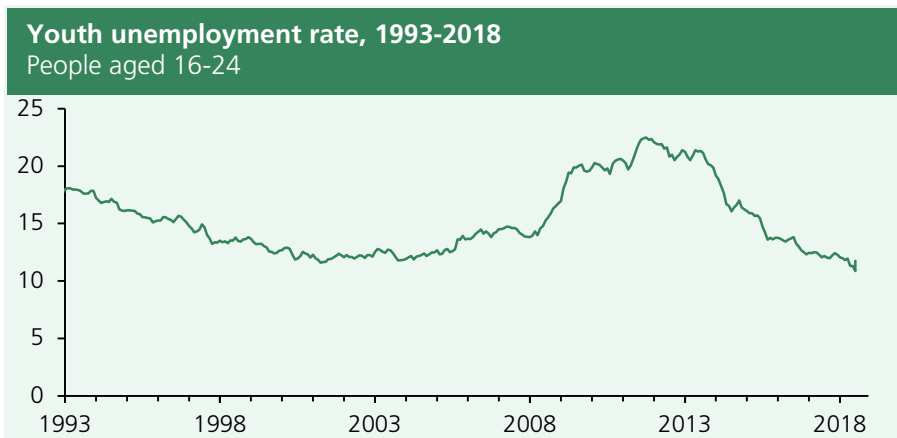


Figures are based on a survey so some of the reported changes may arise from survey error rather than actual movements in the levels.

The **unemployment rate** (the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed) for 16-24 year olds was 11.8% in October to December 2018. This is up from 11.2% in the previous quarter, but down from 12.4% a year ago.

The **inactivity rate** for young people is 37.6%. Around three quarters of young people who are economically inactive are in full-time education.

The youth unemployment rate was 11.8%, compared to an unemployment rate of 4.0% for the whole population.



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

Unemployment and education status

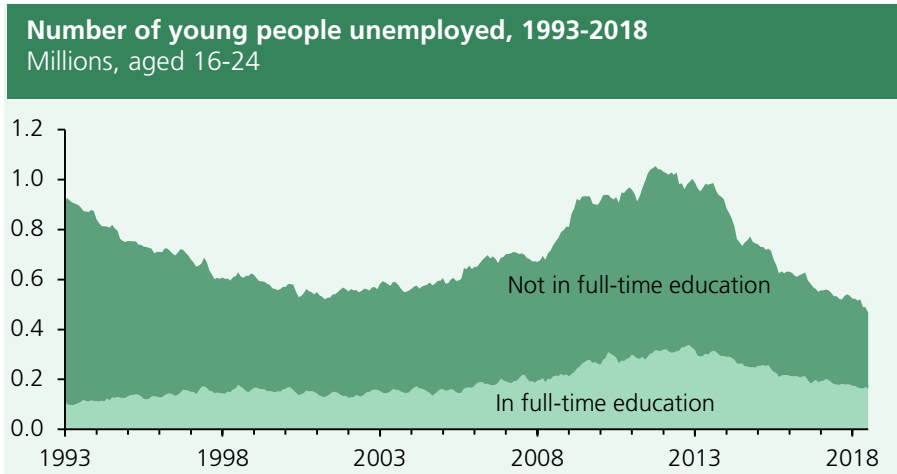
166,000 unemployed young people were in full-time education (33% of all unemployed young people) in October to December 2018, similar level from the previous quarter but down by 14,000 from a year ago.

Excluding those in full-time education, 344,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed. This was up by 36,000 from the previous quarter but down by 17,000 from the year before.

The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds in full-time education was 15.9%, down from 17.3% a year ago.

For those not in full-time education, the unemployment rate was 10.4%, down from 10.9% a year ago.

One-third of unemployed young people are in full-time education.



Unemployment by age

409,000 18-24 year olds were unemployed, while 1.64 million were economically inactive. 3.52 million were in work. The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 10.4% in October to December 2018, down from 10.8% a year ago.

101,000 16-17 year olds were unemployed (most of whom were in full-time education), while 977,000 were economically inactive and 315,000 were in work.²

Long term youth unemployment

85,000 people aged 16-24 had been unemployed for **over 12 months** in October to December 2018. This was 17% of all unemployed 16-24 year olds.

Men and women

295,000 men aged 16-24 were unemployed in October to December 2018, down slightly from a year ago. The unemployment rate for men in this age group was 13.0%, compared to 13.4% a year ago.

215,000 women aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 24,000 from a year ago. The unemployment rate for women aged 16-24 was 10.4%, compared to 11.3% a year ago.

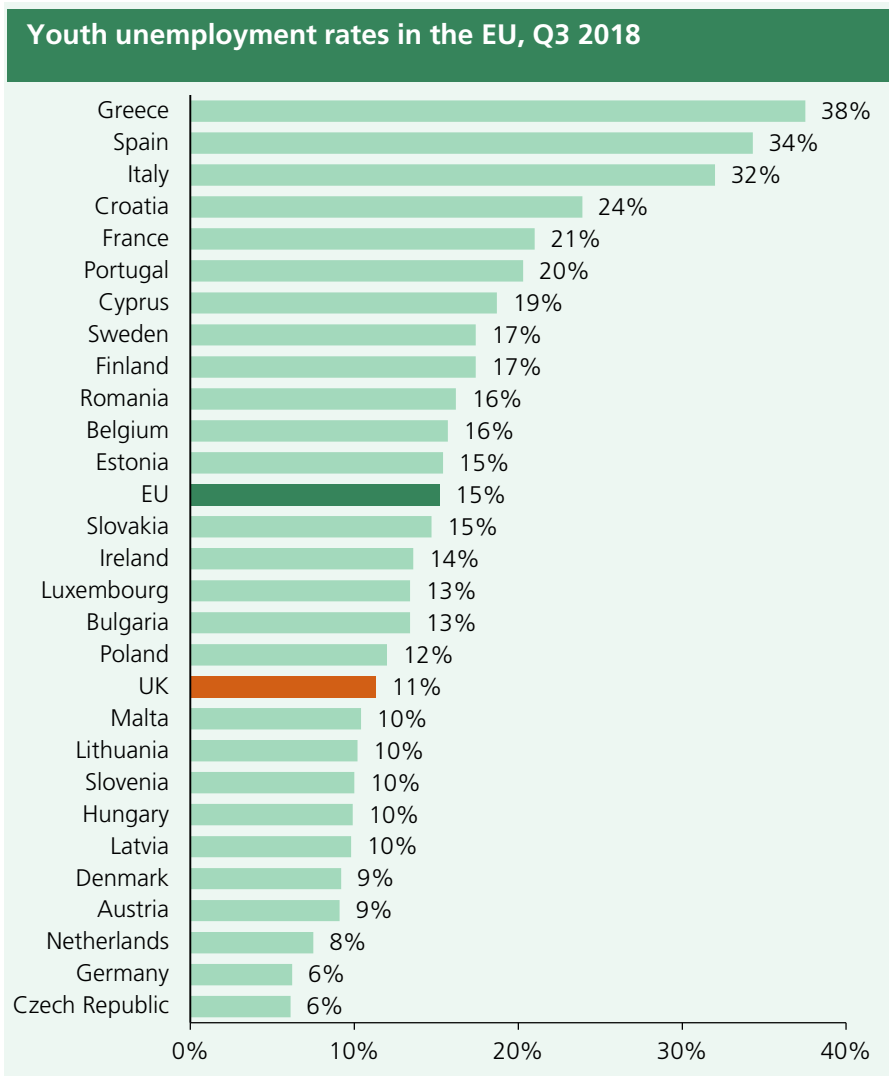
² The estimates for 16-17 year olds are more volatile than those for 18-24 year olds, since they are based on a smaller number of survey responses.

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 July-September 2018 at 37.5%. The Czech Republic had the lowest youth unemployment rate at 6.1%.

The UK youth unemployment rate was 11.3%, compared to 15.2% for the European Union as a whole.



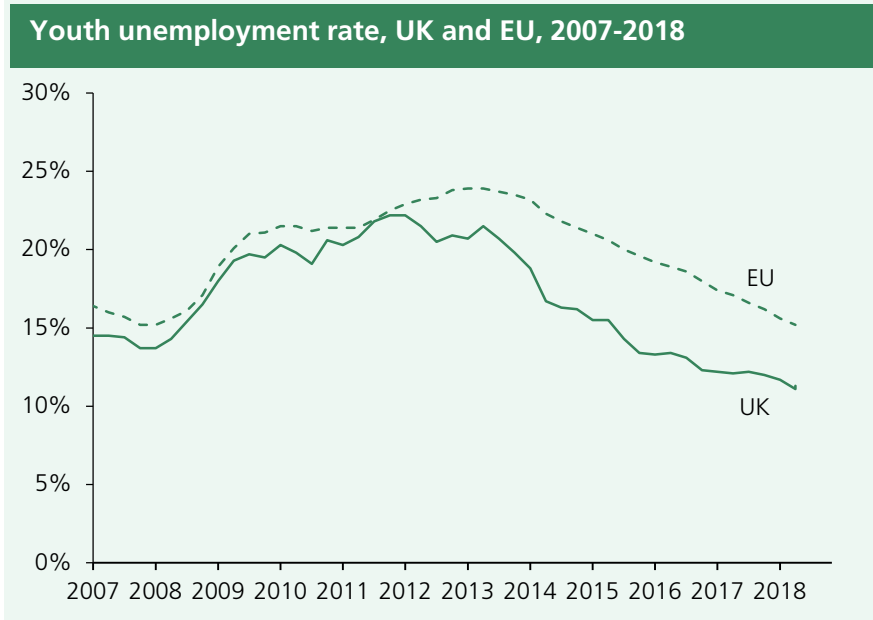
Notes: Seasonally adjusted. Rate refers to the percentage of economically active young people aged 15-24 who are unemployed (16-24 year olds in UK, Italy and Spain).

Source: Eurostat

Recent trend in youth unemployment in the EU

Since 2013, the youth unemployment rate has been on a downward trend in both the UK and for the EU as a whole.

The youth unemployment rate fell by 9.4% points in the UK between July-September 2013 and July-September 2018, compared to a decrease of 8.5% for the EU as a whole.



Notes: Seasonally adjusted. Rate refers to the percentage of economically active young people aged 15-24 who are unemployed (16-24 year olds in UK, Italy and Spain).

Source: Eurostat

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