



BRIEFING PAPER

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Youth Unemployment Statistics

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1. 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.

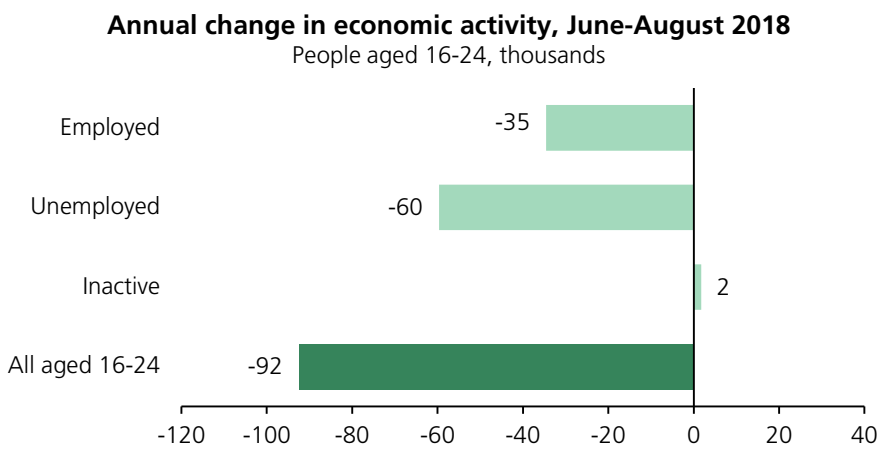
*job
centre
plus*

1. Youth Unemployment Statistics

464,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in June-August 2018, down 60,000 from the previous quarter and down 60,000 from the year before. This is the lowest number of young people unemployed since comparable records began in 1992.¹

The fall in unemployment occurred alongside a decrease in the total population aged 16-24, which was 23,000 lower than the previous quarter and 92,000 lower than a year ago. The number of young people in employment also fell over the past year, but the number of young people who are economically inactive (not in work and not looking for work) stayed about the same.

Both the number of young people unemployed and the youth unemployment rate are at their lowest since comparable records began in 1992.



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 10.8% in June-August 2018. This was down from 11.9% a year ago and is the lowest rate since comparable records began in 1992.

This is despite the **inactivity rate** for young people being close to its highest level since 1992 at 38.7%. Around three quarters of young people who are economically inactive are in full-time education.

The youth unemployment rate was 10.8%, 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

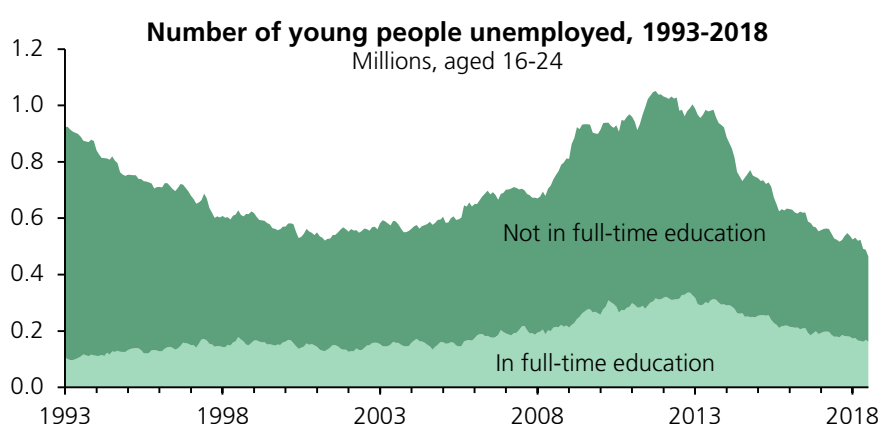
163,000 unemployed young people were in full-time education (35% of all unemployed young people). This was about the same as in the previous quarter but was down 18,000 from the year before.

Excluding those in full-time education, 302,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed. This was 57,000 fewer than the previous quarter and 42,000 fewer than the year before.

The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds in full-time education was 15.8%, down from 17.5% a year ago.

For those not in full-time education, the unemployment rate was 9.2%, compared to 10.2% a year ago.

Just over a third of unemployed young people are in full-time education.



Unemployment by age

371,000 18-24 year olds were unemployed, while 1.75 million were economically inactive. 3.50 million were in work. The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 9.6% in June-August 2018, down from 10.8% a year ago.

93,000 16-17 year olds were unemployed (most of whom were in full-time education), while 958,000 were economically inactive and 335,000 were in work.²

Long term youth unemployment

72,000 people aged 16-24 had been unemployed for **over 12 months** in June-August 2018. This was 15% of all unemployed 16-24 year olds.

Men and women

258,000 men aged 16-24 were unemployed in June-August 2018, down 41,000 from a year ago. The unemployment rate for men in this age group was 11.4%, compared to 13.2% a year ago.

206,000 women aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 19,000 from a year ago. The unemployment rate for women aged 16-24 was 10.1%, down from 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.

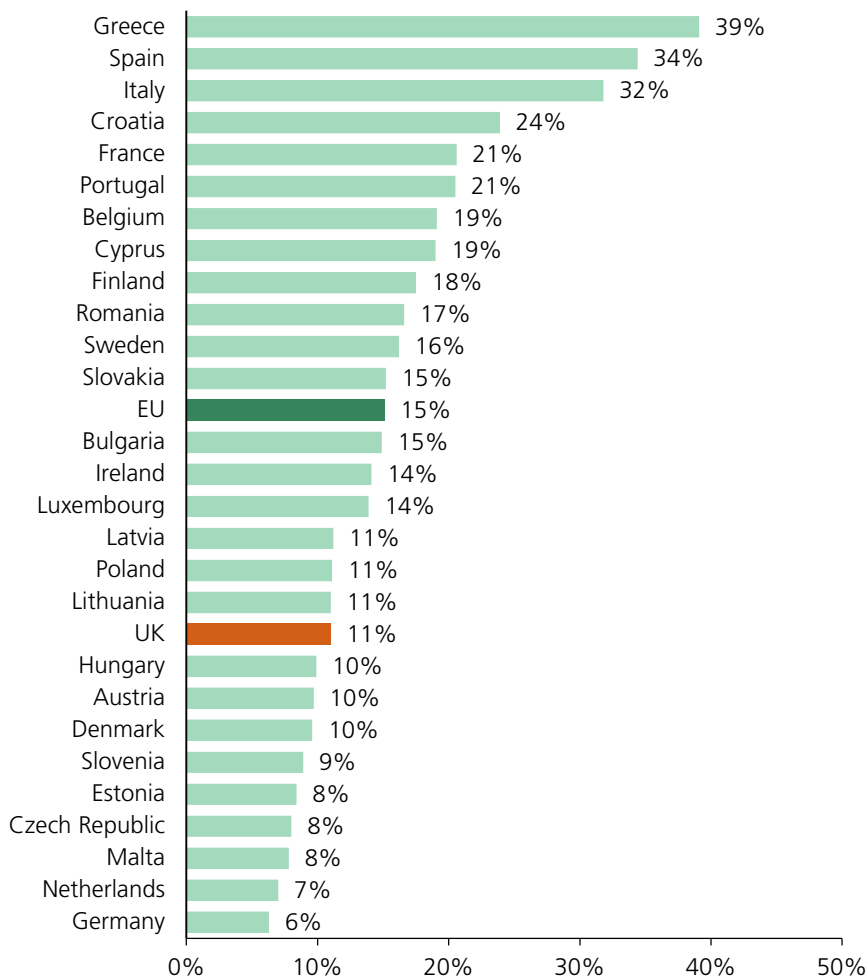
2. Youth Unemployment across Europe

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 April-June 2018 at 39.1%. Germany had the lowest youth unemployment rate at 6.3%.

The UK youth unemployment rate was 11.0%, compared to 15.1% for the European Union as a whole.

Youth unemployment rates in the EU, Q2 2018



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).

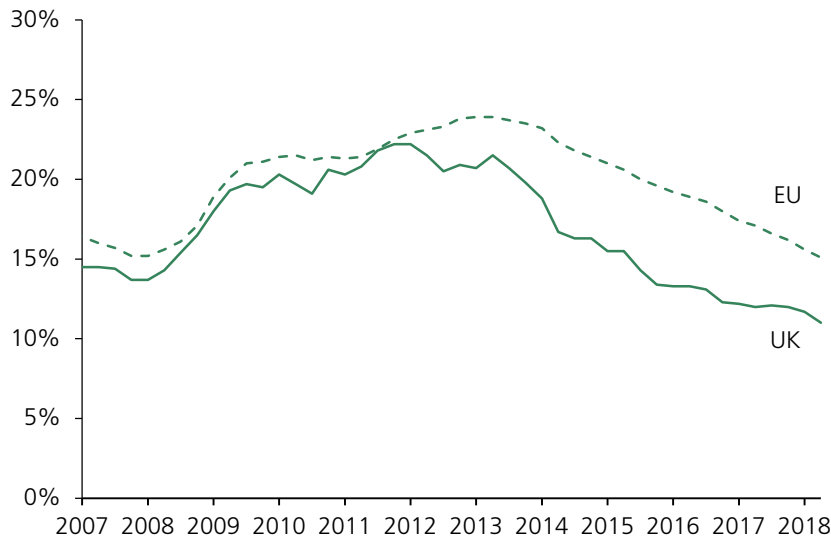
Source: Eurostat

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 10.5% points in the UK between April-June 2013 and April-June 2018, compared to a decrease of 8.8% for 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 (16-24 year olds in UK, Italy and Spain).

Source: Eurostat

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