



BRIEFING PAPER

Number 05871, 16 September 2015

Youth Unemployment Statistics

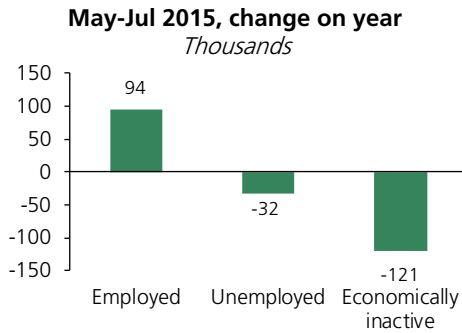
By Jeanne Delebarre

A photograph of a bright green sign with the text 'job centre plus' in white and yellow. The sign is set against a brick wall background.

*job
centre
plus*

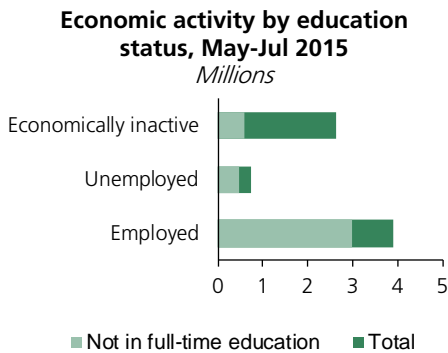
Youth Unemployment Statistics

723,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in May-July 2015, which is down 17,000 from the previous quarter and down 32,000 from the previous year.



The unemployment rate (the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed) for 16-24 year olds was 15.6%, down 0.5% points from the previous quarter and down 1% points compared to a year ago.

Young people not in full-time education

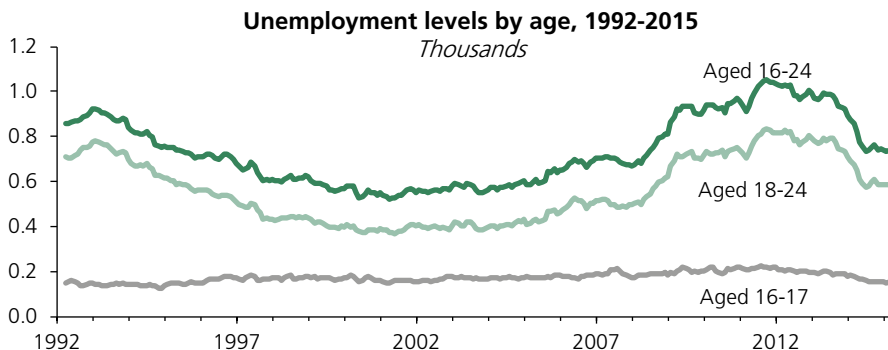


Excluding young people in full-time education, 479,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in May-July 2015, about the same as in the previous quarter and 11,000 lower than a year ago.

The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds not in full-time education was 13.8%.

Unemployment by age

The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 14.1% in May-July 2015, down 0.4% points from the year before. 578,000 18-24 year olds were unemployed, while 1.67 million were economically inactive (not in work and not looking or available for work).



3 Youth Unemployment Statistics

146,000 16-17 year olds were unemployed, compared to 958,000 who were economically inactive. The unemployment rate for 16-17 year olds was estimated at 28.3%, down 5.7% points on the previous year. For 16-17 year olds the unemployment rate has increased considerably since the early 2000s even though the total number unemployed has remained relatively steady. This is explained by increasing numbers staying in full-time education so that fewer 16-17 year olds are economically active.

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

Long term youth unemployment

149,000 people aged 16-24 had been unemployed for over 12 months at May-July 2015, down 17,000 on the previous quarter and down 54,000 on the previous year.

21% of unemployed 16-24 year olds had been unemployed for over 12 months.

Men and women

421,000 men aged 16-24 were unemployed in May-July 2015, down 25,000 compared to a year earlier. The unemployment rate for men in this age group was 17.6%.

302,000 women aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 8,000 compared to a year earlier. The unemployment rate for women aged 16-24 was 13.5%.

Measuring unemployment

Two sets of statistics may be used to track unemployment.

The standard international measure is the **ILO definition**, which includes everyone looking for and available for work whether or not they are claiming benefits. This is measured using surveys; data for constituencies and local authorities have a time lag and are subject to more sampling uncertainty.

The **claimant count** is the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), plus the number of people not in work and claiming Universal Credit. This is more timely and is available for local areas, but can be affected by changes to benefit rules.

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publically available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer - This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).