



**BRIEFING PAPER**

Number 5871, 11 November 2015

# Youth Unemployment Statistics

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Youth Unemployment Statistics

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' is in white, 'centre' is in yellow, and 'plus' is in white.

*job  
centre  
plus*

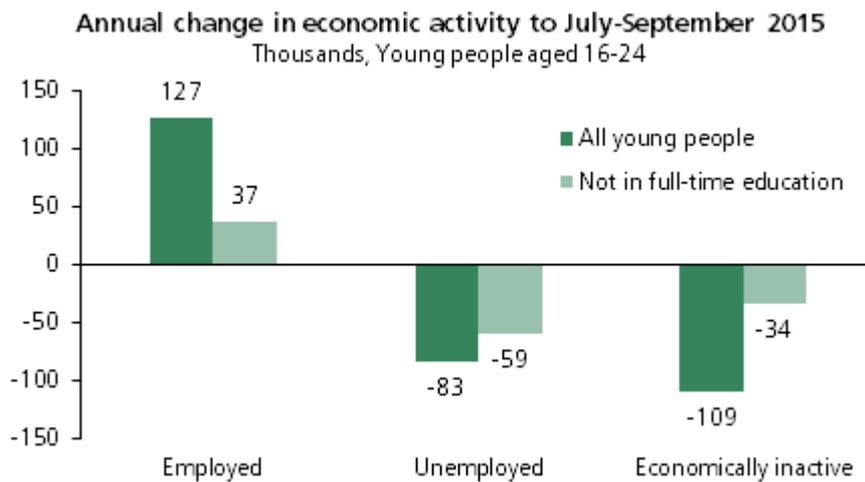
# Youth Unemployment Statistics

653,000 young people aged 16-24 were unemployed in July-September 2015, down 85,000 from the previous quarter and down 83,000 from the previous year.<sup>1</sup>

The unemployment rate (the proportion of the economically active population who are unemployed) for 16-24 year olds was 14.2%, down from 16.2% a year ago.

Excluding young people in full-time education, 430,000 people aged 16-24 were unemployed in July-September 2015, a decrease of 46,000 from the previous quarter and 59,000 from the same period last year.

The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds not in full-time education was 12.6%, compared to 14.2% a year ago.



## Unemployment by age

The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 12.7% in July-September 2015, down 1.6% points from the year before. 518,000 18-24 year olds were unemployed, while 1.67 million were economically inactive (not in work and not looking or available for work).



<sup>1</sup> All data are taken from ONS, [Labour Market Statistics, November 2015](#)

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135,000 16-17 year olds were unemployed, compared to 963,000 who were economically inactive. The unemployment rate for 16-17 year olds was estimated at 26.8%, down 6.1% points on the previous year. For 16-17 year olds the unemployment rate has increased 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

133,000 people aged 16-24 had been unemployed for over 12 months at July-September 2015, down 28,000 on the previous quarter and down 74,000 on the previous year.

20% of unemployed 16-24 year olds had been unemployed for over 12 months.

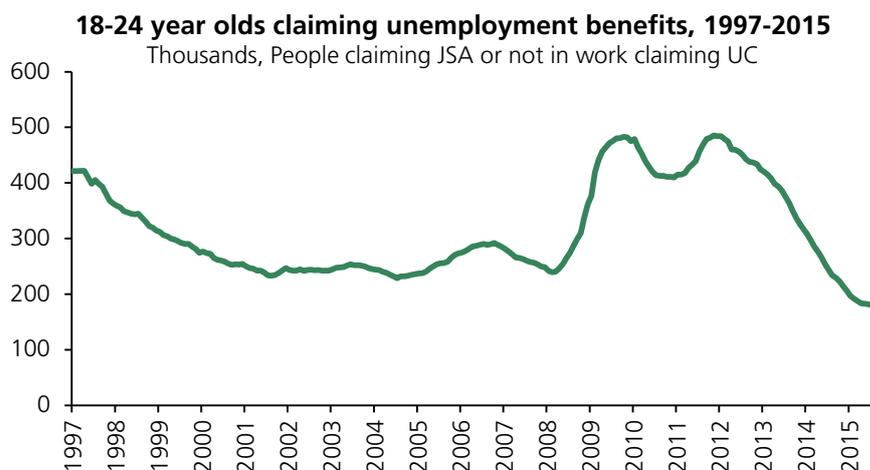
#### Men and women

370,000 men aged 16-24 were unemployed in July-August 2015, down 62,000 compared to a year earlier. The unemployment rate for men in this age group was 15.5%.

284,000 women aged 16-24 were unemployed, down 22,000 compared to a year earlier. The unemployment rate for women aged 16-24 was 12.8%.

#### People claiming unemployment benefits

182,995 people aged 18-24 were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance or were out of work and claiming Universal Credit in October 2015. This was 2,500 higher than in the previous month but was 40,000 lower than the year before.



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