

Research Bulletin

Issue 21, December 2016 🍷

Welcome to the December 2016 edition of
Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

EMPLOYMENT

Overall unemployment has fallen by 16,000 to 1.62 million for the 3 months to October 2016. The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8%.

The employment rate fell slightly from a record high of 74.5% in July to 74.4% in October. There are now 31.76 million people in work.

→ ONS: <http://ow.ly/nhuw3079EMW>

Youth Unemployment

The number of unemployed young people aged 16-24 fell by 34,000 to 587,000 in October. The youth unemployment rate is now 13.1%, down from 13.6% a year ago.

Excluding young people in full-time education there were 403,000 unemployed young people, 9,000 fewer than the previous quarter.

→ <http://ow.ly/H7nB3079FyW>

NEETs

There were 857,000 young people aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Q3 2016, an increase of 14,000 on the previous period. Around 11.9% of young people in this age group are currently defined as 'NEET'.

At 18.6% the North East had the highest NEET rate by geographic area, compared to 13.9% in the East Midlands, 13.4% in London, 13% in the East of England and 10.7% in the South East.

→ <http://ow.ly/LAK63079Hdr>

New Scheme to Encourage Graduates to Join the Prison Service

A new graduate development scheme launched by the charity '[Unlocked](#)' is aiming to increase the number of graduates entering the prison service as prison officers.

The 2 year programme - which has a starting salary of £20,545 - will see graduates working alongside existing prison officers whilst studying for a Master's degree qualification. The scheme, which is similar to other public sector graduate programmes such as Teach First and Frontline will begin accepting applications from January 2017, with the aim of recruiting 45 graduates for positions in category B and C prisons.

→ News Article: <http://ow.ly/RGDY307mB2b>

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Government Support for Small Charities to Deliver Public Services

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has announced a series of measures to support small charities to enter the public sector supply chain.

Among the measures include a 'Public Services Incubator', which aims to support high-potential voluntary, charitable and social enterprises to build relationships with public sector commissioners and collaborate with local providers in order to access the public services market.

→ <http://ow.ly/WXmI307ioaG>

EDUCATION

University of Bristol to Lower Entry Grades for Poorer Pupils

The University of Bristol is to accept lower exam grades from pupils living in the locality and students from schools with poor A-Level results.

The Bristol Scholars Project launched in December will provide 5 lower offers to high-achieving students from every school in the Bristol area, with

priority given to students who have overcome educational or domestic disadvantage. The scheme, the first of its type in the UK, is aimed at improving diversity at the Russell Group University.

→ <http://ow.ly/MJBB3079VtK>

UK Schools ‘Lagging Behind’ in International Rankings

International school ‘Pisa’ test rankings published by the [OECD](#) show that the UK is lagging behind other leading countries in terms of educational progress in core subjects.

The tests undertaken by 15-year old pupils in 70 countries worldwide seen the UK’s maths ranking fall from 26th to 27th place. However the UK’s performance in science increased from 21st the 15th place in the influential league tables.

→ BBC News: <http://ow.ly/8lrj307itJj>
→ OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/>

EQUALITY

Female graduates ‘earn £6,500 less’ than their male peers

A Department for Education report has found that female graduates earn £6,500 (18%) less than their male counterparts five years after graduation.

The study of 2008/09 graduates also found that graduates from ‘other Asian’ ethnic backgrounds had the highest annual earnings five years after graduation, with median salaries of £27,000. This compared to £21,500 for graduates from Pakistani backgrounds; £4,500 (17%) below the median earnings for all students. Students from Caribbean backgrounds had median earnings at least 10% lower than the median of £25,500 for all students.

Graduates working in London and south east had the highest median salaries five years after graduation. Graduates in London earned a median of £27,500, 7% higher than the national average.

This compared to £24,500 in the East Midlands and £26,500 in the East of England.

→ Full Report: <http://ow.ly/6QXi307boIB>

Call on Public Sector Organisations to ‘Ban the Box’ for ex-offenders

In an effort to improve opportunities for ex-offenders the Work and Pensions Select Committee has called on public sector organisations to remove questions about previous convictions from job application forms. Whilst the move would not automatically oblige organisations to hire ex-offenders it is hoped that the initiative will enable more people with previous convictions to progress further through the recruitment process and have the opportunity to show their potential to employers.

The ‘Ban the Box’ initiative, supported by Business in the Community (BITC), has already been implemented by organisations including the Civil Service, Barclays, and Accenture. Employers who have banned the box do not request information about unspent convictions on initial application forms.

→ Work and Pensions Select Committee: <http://ow.ly/VMEq307i977>
→ BITC: <http://ow.ly/Vcil307i9HF>

In-Work Poverty Reaches ‘Record High’

One in eight working people in the UK – 3.8 million - are now living in poverty. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimate that 7.6 million people, including 2.6 million children live in poverty, despite being in working households. London and the south of England have the highest levels of in-work poverty; 57% of working people in London are living in poverty, compared to 58% in the south east, 55% in the east of England and 52% in the east midlands.

→ Full report: <http://ow.ly/AbEk307if7T>