

Research Bulletin

Issue 6, September 2015

Welcome to the September edition of Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment has risen for the second consecutive quarter, rising by 25,000 to 1.85 million in April to June. There were 31.03 million people in work, around 63,000 more since the previous quarter.

→ ONS Statistical Release:
<http://ow.ly/QQsPq>

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of young (aged 16-18) not in education, employment or training (NEET) has fallen to its lowest level for 15 years. In January to March 2015 the NEET rate fell by 11,000 to 7.5%.

The overall NEET rate for 16 to 24 year-olds also fell by 0.3%; a decrease of 21,000 on the previous period. The fall is largely attributed the raising of the education or training participation rate from 16 to 18; despite this 922,000 young people are still without access to education, employment or training.

→ ONS Bulletin: <http://ow.ly/R9bz6>
→ Government Press Release:
<http://ow.ly/R9bHj> <http://ow.ly/R9bHj>

ZERO HOURS CONTRACTS

Nearly three-quarters of a million people (744,000) are currently employed on 'zero hours' contracts, representing 2.4% of those employed. The ONS reports that people on such contracts are more often likely to be 'women', and people in 'full-time education'.

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The number of zero hours or 'flexible' contracts has increased by 122,000 since June 2014, representing a 16.3% increase.

→ ONS Statistical Release:
<http://ow.ly/S4vZ3>

EDUCATION NEWS

Record number of students accepted for university places

The number of A-Level students to receive guaranteed acceptance on university places has increased by 3% to 409,000, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The figures, published on A-Level results day, show a record number of students securing their 'first choice' university.

The number of student accepted from disadvantaged backgrounds increased by 4%, whilst the gap between male and female students has also risen, with 27,000 more female students than male offered places.

A further 6,910 students were matched with university places through the clearing system, leaving some 154,850 young people still searching for a place (as at 17/08/2015).

→ UCAS Press Release: <http://ow.ly/QQv9w>

A Level Results: Slight fall in the number of top grades

Over a quarter (25.9%) of all A-Level entries were awarded A* or A grades; down from 26% in 2014. The overall pass rate rose by 0.1% to 98.1%. Maths, English and Biology were the most commonly studied A-Level subjects.

→ BBC News Article: <http://ow.ly/QTrBT>

GCSE Results: Pass rate remains stable

The proportion of GCSEs awarded A*-C grades have risen by 0.2% to 69%, whilst 6% were awarded A* grades. The overall pass rate was 98.6%. Grade A*-C passes in core English and Maths subjects increased by 3.7% and 0.9% respectively, whilst there was a

111% increase in the number of students studying computing.

→ BBC News Article: <http://ow.ly/Rbimu>

‘Too many’ over-qualified graduates entering non-graduate jobs

The number of qualified graduates has significantly outstripped the number of available graduate jobs according to a new report published by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD). The report estimates that around 58.8% of graduates are currently in non-graduate roles.

As a result, the report suggests that employers are now recruiting graduates in roles where graduate skills are not required.

The report calls for a wider debate into how to generate more highly-skilled jobs, and for more investment in alternative career pathways such as apprenticeships.

→ Read the report in full: <http://ow.ly/R5w2T>

DIVERSITY NEWS

Baroness Amos becomes the first female BAME university head

Baroness Valerie Amos’ forthcoming appointment as head of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London has made history as the first black woman to lead a UK university. Statistics show that there are currently no black vice-chancellors, whilst just 7% of professors and 9% of senior lecturers are from BAME groups (HEFCE, 2015).

Commenting on her appointment, Baroness Amos has expressed concern at the lack of diversity in higher education amid calls for more focussed policies to tackle the problem.

→ Guardian News Article: <http://ow.ly/Rce6h>

EQUALITY

Black and Minority Ethnic groups ‘most negatively impacted groups’ following the publication of the Budget 2015

New research by the Runnymede Trust indicates that up to 1.25 million households and 4 million BME people could be worse off following the government’s budget proposals.

The report cites the limited support for young unemployed BME people; whilst white youth unemployment has fallen by 2%, long-term “BME youth unemployment has risen by 49% over the past 5 years”.

The government has also announced 3 million further apprenticeships, however the report cites that only 9.5% of apprentices are from BME backgrounds, compared to 20% of the UK’s youth population.

The report concludes that the budget has failed to address equality in the labour market and calls upon the government to assess the quality impact of future budget proposals.

→ Read the report in full: <http://ow.ly/R5BV5>

GENDER PAY GAP CONSULTATION

The government has recently launched a consultation on proposals to legislate private and voluntary sector organisations with more than 250 employees to publish details of their gender ‘pay gap’.

A recent government and IFF Research report indicated that ‘less than a third’ of firms had conducted a formal review of their pay gap, whilst around two-fifths had analysed their pay data.

→ IFF Research Summary: <http://ow.ly/S4znR>

→ Government Consultation: <http://ow.ly/S4zFD>