

Research Bulletin

Issue 23, February 2017

Welcome to the February 2017 edition of the Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Unemployment

Unemployment has fallen by 7,000 to 1.6 million for the three months to December 2016. The unemployment rate is now 4.8%, down from 5.1% a year earlier.

The employment rate increased to its highest level since 1971 - 31.84 million (74.6%) people aged 16-64 are now in work.

→ ONS: <http://ow.ly/Qp7M3092iwe>

Youth Unemployment

Unemployment among 16-24 year-olds fell by 23,000 in the three months October to December 2016 to 568,000 - a fall of 57,000 on the previous year.

The youth unemployment rate, the proportion of the economically active youth population who are unemployed fell by 0.1% on the previous quarter to 12.6% - down from 13.6% a year ago.

The number of long-term unemployed young people who have been out of work for 12 months or more fell by 8,000 to 94,000 during the three months to December 2016.

→ <http://ow.ly/HIm1309jYzA>

Employer Encounters 'Result in fewer NEETs'

Young people who have regular encounters with employers are far less likely to become NEET (not in education, employment or training), according

to research published by the [Education and Employers](#) charity.

The research found that students who had four or more employer encounters whilst at school were 86% less likely to become NEET.

There are currently 857,000 young people aged 16-24 who are classed as NEET.

The Careers & Enterprise Company has identified that only 17% of employers within Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire offered work inspiration to young people, compared to 36% in Hertfordshire, 39% in the South East and 46% in London.

→ Research Findings:

<http://ow.ly/RqVZ308O5ql>

→ NEET Statistics:

<http://ow.ly/LAK63079Hdr>

→ Careers & Enterprise Company – Cold Spots: <http://ow.ly/s12k308O401>

EDUCATION

Fall in University Applications

The number of people applying to study at UK universities has fallen by 5%, the first fall since tuition fees increased in 2012.

Applications from UK students fell by 5% and by 7% for EU students. Nursing suffered the biggest fall in applications, down 23% on the previous year.

Recent changes to student funding have seen the withdrawal of grants and bursaries in favour of fees and student loans.

→ <http://ow.ly/DKZy308NHuQ>

'Waste of talent' as poor pupils lag behind richer peers

Research published by the Sutton Trust has found that the attainment gap between the brightest pupils from rich and poor backgrounds is approximately 2 years and eight months in reading, maths and science.

The study examined findings of the international Pisa tests, comparing the performance of the top 10% most able UK pupils with socioeconomic backgrounds.

Among the most able girls the gap between the richest and poorest was three years in reading, nine months more than the most able boys.

→ <http://ow.ly/JeGv309ogWb>

£14,000 Tuition Fee Plan for Short Degree Courses

Universities will be able to charge up to £14,000 per year in tuition fees for 2-year degree courses under plans announced by the government.

Under the plans students will be able to complete a full degree course over a shortened 2-year period instead of the conventional three years.

The proposals are intended to bring increased flexibility in the higher education system and reduce the burden of university living costs.

The government has previously announced that it will allow annual tuition fees to be increased to £9,250.

→ <http://ow.ly/CUxH309jMNe>

EQUALITY

Job Applicants with Muslim Names 'Three Times Less Likely to get an Interview'

Research conducted by the BBC indicated that a job seeker with an 'English sounding name' was three-times more likely to be offered an interview than a Muslim applicant with similar skills and experience.

In 2015 the Civil Service announced that it would be introducing name-blind recruitment for all non-senior positions, together with other graduate recruiters including KPMG and Deloitte.

→ <http://ow.ly/3DRM308NYPO>

YOUTH SERVICES

UK youth suffer low 'mental wellbeing'

Young people aged 15-21 have some of the lowest levels of mental health wellbeing, according to an international study which surveyed the wellbeing of 'Generation Z' - young people born around the start of the millennium.

The UK ranked 19th out of 20 countries in the study conducted by the [Varkey Foundation](#) educational charity, which measured young people's levels of self-confidence, optimism and sense of 'being loved'.

In the UK, fear of extremism and terrorism were identified as the main reason for young people being 'fearful of the future', followed by threat of conflict and war.

→ <http://ow.ly/CD2c309kq9H>

CAMPAIGNS

Charity Spending Tops £1,500 'per second'

More than £136.4 million is spent on charitable services in England and Wales according to analysis by the ACEVO, the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) the Institute of Fundraising and CharityComms - equivalent to 1,578 every second.

There are now over 160,000 registered charities in England and Wales, of which the 6% spend £49.8 billion a year on delivering services and supporting charitable causes. In the past year, 83% of people said that they had benefited from charitable services in England and Wales.

The research also found that volunteers contribute 2.29 billion volunteering hours every year, with a monetary value of £16.5 billion if calculated at the National Living Wage rate.

→ <http://ow.ly/SMzi309oht6>