

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

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Unemployment

The Labour Force Survey highlights that the number of unemployed and economically inactive people fell between November 2016 and April 2017.

There were 1.53 million unemployed people, 145,000 fewer than for a year earlier and 8.85 million people not seeking work, 74,000 fewer than for last year.

The unemployment rate is currently standing at 4.6%, representing the lowest rate of unemployment since August 1975.

➤ <https://goo.gl/DVcZ9w>

Youth Unemployment

The unemployment rate for young people aged 16-24 remained unchanged at 12.5% between February and April 2017, representing 564,000 individuals.

The unemployment rate for people aged 18-24 was 10.7%, while the rate for 16-17 years old was estimated at 26.9%.

➤ <https://goo.gl/hiBVrf>

NEETS

The percentage of young people aged 16-24 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) was 11.2% between January and March 2017, down 0.8 percentage points from last year.

Of 800,000 young people aged 16-24 NEET, 334,000 have been actively seeking work within the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next 2 weeks. 213,000 were males and 121,000 were females.

➤ <https://goo.gl/MKbB92>

'Are We Failing Young NEETs?'

A study conducted by Mawn et al. from Newcastle University synthesises the effectiveness of intervention targeting young NEETs. This study includes 18 trials (9 experimental and 9 quasi-experimental), and the sample size ranges from 32 to 54,923. Types of intervention include: social skills, education and training, counselling and support, internship, placements, on-the-job training and case management. The results show that intensive programmes increase the employment rate and wages in the long term.

➤ <https://goo.gl/unYi2w>

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

'Capital Limits: Social Class, Motivations for term-time Job Searching and the Consequences of Joblessness among UK University Students'

A qualitative study conducted by researchers at the University of Monash, which analyses 27 interviews of undergraduate students who have been unsuccessful in job searching, explores the limitation of social and cultural capital which can be converted into employment outcomes. Moreover, factors such as full access to material and economic resources, structure of social class, personal desires and needs relate to the outcomes of job searching. It is recommended to generate a meritocratic system, along with mental health consultations and advice to unemployed young people.

➤ <https://goo.gl/uremHu>

'Brands of Youth Citizenship and the politics of Scale: National Citizen Service in the UK'

A recent study conducted by researchers from the University of Loughborough and University of Northampton, demonstrates how scale is important to the promotion of youth citizenship formation. This research explores the impacts of state-funded youth programme – National Citizen Service – dating from 2011 and reaching thousands of young people. The results show that the discourse of youth citizenship is gradually mobilised yet fractured by the geographies

of devolution, during a climate of austerity and huge financial cuts. This research recommends that social action is expanded on global scale for further impacts.

➤ <https://goo.gl/LvRRiz>

'The Labour Market'

A study conducted by researchers from the Bank of England and Resolution Foundation shows the short-term jobless rate turn to the lowest since 1992, similarly, the number of job vacancies reach to the highest level since 1971. Average advertising for each job vacancy decreased to fifty-three percent from eighty percent in 2007. Low pay growth from 2011-2016 is twice the average pay growth in the OECD whereas the unit labour cost growth increases slower than the average among the OECD countries.

In last 5 years, the portion of self-employed, zero hours contracts and the 'gig economy' expand, however, the portion of full-time employees keeps lower than that during pre-recession period, which undermine the job security, and erosion of good quality and well-paid jobs from advanced technology and skills obtained. This research recommends monetary policy should address the uncertainties by comprehensively assessing the slack and prolonged inflation, so as to minimise the risk which limits economic growth rise significantly.

➤ <https://goo.gl/7A3QCB>

'Do Young People in NEET experience long-term occupational scarring? A Longitudinal analysis over 20 years of follow-up'

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh conducted a longitudinal study on five percent of the Scottish population, using the censuses of 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. The research findings show:

- the concept of NEET should be expanded to include more indicators; such as experiences of severe illness or disability in order to make it more meaningful for policy implication;
- being NEET is more likely to cause unemployment, low income, poor health, drug use and crime;
- negative impacts vary among gender and education level - women are less affected by scarring effect in terms of unemployment than men. This suggests policy intervention

may have different influences among various levels of educations and between gender, therefore focused research on NEET's influences on detailed level is required in the future.

➤ <https://goo.gl/A5TD79>

CAMPAIGNS

'BAME Honours 2017'

The Queen's Birthday Honours list 2017 is the most diverse ever. 110 or 10% of the successful candidates come from a BAME background, the highest number of BAME recipients in an Honours list ever. Awards include:

- A knighthood for Prof. Alimuddin Zumla, UCL;
- CBE for Kenneth Tharp, dance artist;
- An MBE for Babak Erfani, CEO of Archway LGBT Network

➤ <https://goo.gl/RtyMf6>

'Youth Work - Vital For Local Communities'

Jim Minton, Director of London Youth, points out to the link between a strong society and the opportunities the next generation are being offered as presented in the [Casey Review](#). In view of this, the author highlights that funding cuts have impacted the provision of youth services. He suggests three ways to fund youth work:

- early investment – Minton argues that early investment in prevention and support services is considerably more economical than tackling issue arising from neglecting challenges;
- efficient spending - Minton points out to the EEE report which announced funding for schools to create programmes aimed at empowering young people. He argues that schools should partner with youth organisations that are experienced in helping the youth.
- Collaboration - due to limited funding, institutions tend to compete and present themselves as unique. Instead, they should join forces, recognise that young people have diverse needs and partner to address them.

➤ <https://goo.gl/L6ULsh>