

Young people in new apprenticeships measuring participation for life long learning

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The New Apprenticeships programme represents a major reform and modernisation of the arrangements covering the provision of entry level training through apprenticeships and traineeships.

While the reforms to the entry level training system are expected to stimulate expansion of apprenticeships and traineeships, it is too early at this stage to assess the long run impact of the introduction of New Apprenticeships on the numbers of young people taking up formal training. Nevertheless, historical trends in training numbers can provide an indication of future participation.

In exploring participation in apprenticeships and traineeships, this paper examines both participation by young people (15-19 year olds) as a whole and participation by those 15-19 year olds in full-time employment.

In addition to the traditional measures of participation (point in time estimates of the number of apprentices and trainees in training, expressed as a proportion of the total population and of the full-time employed population for the relevant age group), this paper also looks at two new measures. The first measure looks at the probability of a person undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship by age 19, while the second measure calculates the proportion of full-time employment represented by full-time apprenticeship and traineeship training.

With increasing emphasis on policies promoting life long learning, the two new measures of participation developed in this paper provide a more relevant and appropriate way of measuring life long learning participation than do traditional measures of participation.

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