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## NEET statistics on the increase

Anon Marsh

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### The number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) has risen by almost 2% year-on-year.

New results for the second quarter of 2009 show that 24,000 more 16-24 olds were NEET compared to the same period last year.

The figure now stands at 959,000.

Reducing the amount of 16-18 year old NEETs is the most popular national indicator among local authorities' Local Area Agreement targets.

Despite this, the percentage of 16-18 year old NEETs rose from 10.6% last year to 11.9%.

The picture is likely to get worse during the third quarter when the end of the school year traditionally sees a peak in the figures.

Charity, UK Youth, has warned that the total amount of NEETs is likely to break the million mark when the third quarter statistics are revealed.

'That is the trend and unfortunately that's what most predictions are pointing to,' a spokeswoman said.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families said that the recession would inevitably have an impact on NEET statistics.

'Reducing the proportion of 18 year old NEETs has proved challenging, and we know that the economic downturn is significantly affecting young people,' NEETs Minister Iain Wright said.

'The Government has taken decisive action to strengthen existing provision and put in place new support for young people. Since April, all 18-yr-olds who have spent 6 months NEET automatically receive more intensive job search support.'

UK Youth is also calling for is calling for greater accreditation for non-formal education programmes. Currently, young people who are undertaking non-formal learning, on gap years or doing voluntary work are identified as NEETs even though these can develop skills valued by employers.

John Bateman, the charity's chief executive, said: 'Non-formal learning gives young people the confidence and skills to get into work, training or full-time education and is a key element in resolving the problem of helping youngsters get themselves out of the NEET trap.'

[View the NEET statistics here](#)

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