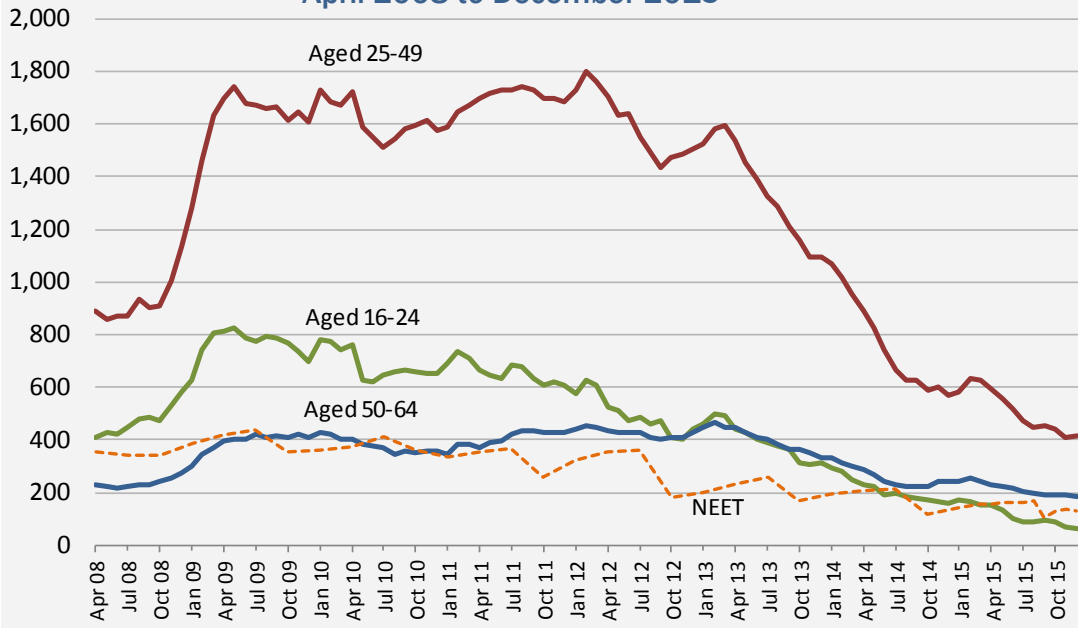


NEET exceeds youth JSA claimant counts as UC benefits are introduced

All JSA claimants in Oxford by age groups and those NEET
April 2008 to December 2015



Jobseeker's Allowance ([JSA](#)) is an unemployment benefit for those who are out-of-work and actively seeking work. The JSA is different from the Employment and Support Allowance ([ESA](#)), a benefit for people who are unable to work due to illness or disability.¹

From 2008 to the end of 2015, the estimated unemployment level in Oxford was approximately 4,700 (annual average). Around half of those unemployed claimed JSA benefits.

The JSA claimant count in Oxford was highest during the 2008 recession through 2012, and has been declining since the end of 2013. There has been a further decline of JSA claimants since the introduction in 2014 of tighter rules for claiming JSA, as well as the introduction of the Universal Credit ([UC](#)).

In 2015, the claimant count was been highest amongst the biggest working age cohort, those aged 25 to 49, followed by those aged 50 to 64, and those aged 16 to 24. JSA claimants aged 16 to 24 has been the lowest amongst the three age cohorts since September 2013.

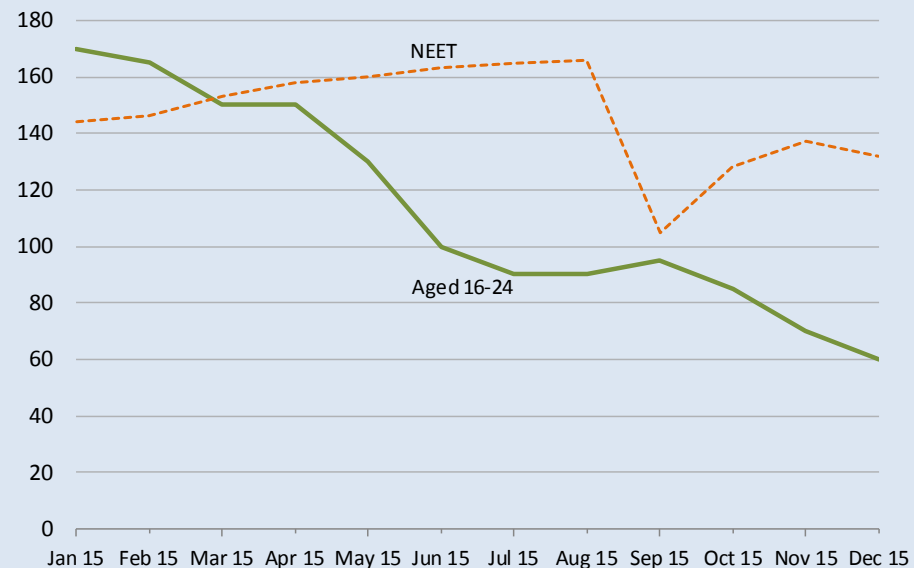
A person is considered **NEET** if they are aged 16 to 24 and not in education, employment, or training. The NEET data used in this chart was collected by the Oxfordshire County Council, and mostly represents those aged 16 to 19. There is an annual decline in this count between July and September as students leave and re-enter education.

In Oxford, the proportion of the population that is NEET has declined since the end of 2012 after reaching a high of 11.3% in July 2009.

Throughout 2015, the monthly NEET statistic averaged to 4.2%, or approximately 146 youths. This is higher than the average NEET rate of 2.6% across the other four Oxfordshire districts.

The JSA claimant count for those aged 16 to 24 was higher than the NEET count until March 2015. Since then, the count of those considered NEET exceed the JSA claimant count of those aged 16 to 24, as former JSA claimants under the age of 25 can now claim UC benefits instead.

Oxford JSA claimants aged 16-24 and those NEET in 2015



¹ From 2008 to 2015, the average count of JSA and ESA claimants in Oxford were approximately 2,000 and 4,500 (or 2% and 4% of the population aged 16-64), respectively. JSA Claimants count: Office for National Statistics | ESA Claimants count: Department for Work and Pensions | NEET count: Oxfordshire County Council Early Intervention Service Tiffany Ko | Social Statistics Officer | 01865 252797 | tko@oxford.gov.uk | www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordstats | Twitter:@OxCityStats | Feb 2016

