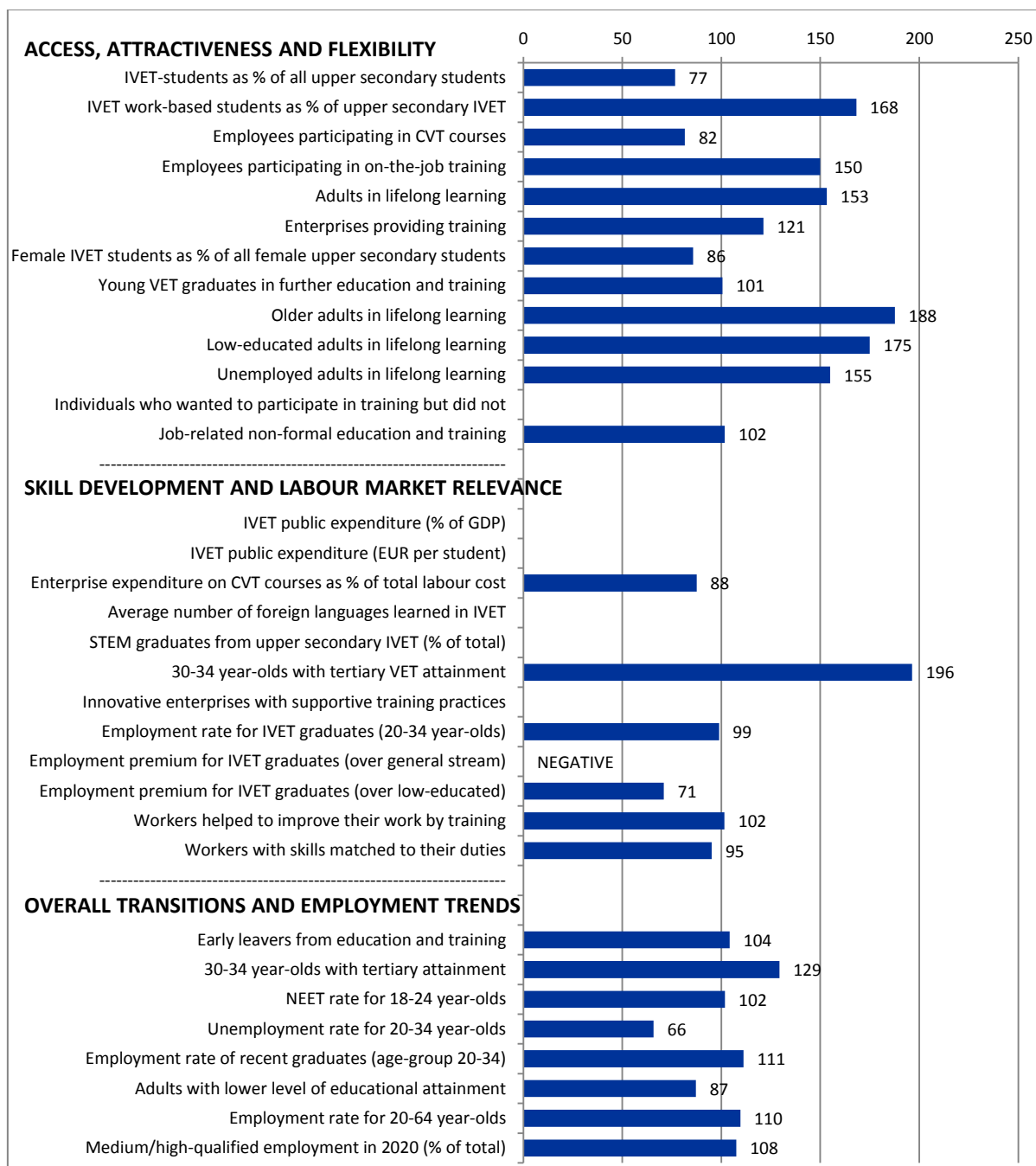


## 28. The United Kingdom

### VET indicators for the United Kingdom for the most recent year available Index numbers (EU=100)



NB: The index numbers are derived from data summarised in the table but which have not been rounded.  
All data in the table have been rounded.

The UK's performance on a range of indicators selected to monitor progress in VET and lifelong learning across the European Union (EU) is summarised below. The chart compares the situation in the UK with that of the EU, based on the most recent data available (this differs by indicator). Data in the chart are presented as an index where the EU average equals 100. If the index for a selected indicator for the UK is 100, then its performance equals the EU average. If the index is 90, its performance is 90% of (or 10% below) the EU average. If the index is 200, the UK's performance is twice (or 200%) the EU average. For some indicators, such as early leavers from education and training, a country is performing better if its score is below that of the EU average.

Data on which the index is calculated are presented in the table, which also shows changes over time. A technical definition of each indicator is provided in the annex, which also includes the years used to calculate each indicator.

## Key points

### **Access, attractiveness and flexibility**

The UK has a relatively low percentage of students participating in IVET but a relatively high percentage of adults in education and training. The share of upper secondary students enrolled in IVET is lower (38.6%) than the EU average (50.4% in 2012). Similarly, the percentage of women participating in IVET in upper secondary school – as a share of all female upper secondary school students – at 38.6% is lower than the EU average of 45.0%. Both indicators have increased by more than 6 percentage points between 2010 and 2012.

The percentage of adults participating in lifelong learning in 2013 (16.1%) is higher than the corresponding EU average (10.5%) and above the average target (15%) set by the strategic framework education and training 2020. The percentage of older adults (12.5%), people with low-level education (7.7%), and the unemployed (15.5%) participating in lifelong learning is higher in the UK than in the EU.

Employers in the UK are more likely to report the provision of training (80% compared to 66% in the EU, based on 2010 CVTS data). The UK also has a higher percentage of employees participating in on-the-job training (30% compared with the EU average of 20%) but a lower percentage of employees participating in CVT courses (31% compared to 38% across the EU).

### **Skill development and labour market relevance**

For the UK there are relatively few data available for this group of indicators.

The percentage of 30 to 34 year-olds with tertiary VET attainment is higher than the EU average (17.0% compared to 8.7%).

Based on 2009 data, the employment rate of IVET graduates (aged 20-34) at ISCED 3-4 (78.2%) is close to the EU average (79.1%). In the UK, IVET graduates have an employment rate 2.4 percentage points lower than their counterparts from general

education (the EU average is the opposite, with an employment rate 5.6 percentage points higher for IVET graduates); IVET graduates in the UK have an employment rate 12.3 percentage points higher than those with lower-level qualifications (the EU average premium is of 17.4 percentage points). All these employment figures relate to 2009 and exclude young people in further education.

### **Overall transitions and employment trends**

In this section all data refer to 2013 unless otherwise stated.

The percentage of early leavers from education and training (12.4%) is higher than the corresponding EU average (11.9%); and above the Europe 2020 average target (10%). The percentage of 30 to 34 year-olds who have completed tertiary-level education (47.6%) is higher than the EU average (36.8%) and above the Europe 2020 average target (40%). The employment rate for the 20 to 64 year-olds (74.9%) is higher than in the EU overall (68.3%), as is the employment rate of recent graduates (83.8%, compared with the EU average of 75.4%). The NEET rate (17.3%) is higher (17.0% for the EU). The unemployment rate for 20 to 34 year-olds (9.9%) is below the EU average (15.1%).

**Score on VET indicators in the UK and in the EU, 2006, 2010 and 2011/12/13 updates (where available)**

Indicator label	2006		2010		Last available year			Change 2010-last available year	
	UK	EU	UK	EU	UK	EU		UK	EU
<b>Access, attractiveness and flexibility</b>									
IVET-students as % of all upper secondary students	<sup>(d)</sup>	51.9	32.1	50.1	38.6	50.4	(2)	6.5	0.3
IVET work-based students as % of upper secondary IVET		27.2		27.4	44.6	26.5	(2)		-0.9
Employees participating in CVT courses (%)		33	31	38					
Employees participating in on-the-job training (%)		16	30	20					
Adults in lifelong learning (%)			19.4 <sup>(b)</sup>		16.1	10.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	(3)	-3.3	
Enterprises providing training (%)		60	80	66					
Female IVET students as % of all female upper secondary students	<sup>(d)</sup>	46.5	31.5	44.4	38.6	45.0	(2)	7.1	0.6
Young VET graduates in further education and training (%)			30.9	30.7					
Older adults in lifelong learning (%)			14.5 <sup>(b)</sup>		12.3	6.6 <sup>(b)</sup>	(3)	-2.2	
Low-educated adults in lifelong learning (%)			9.6 <sup>(b)</sup>		7.7	4.4 <sup>(b)</sup>	(3)	-1.9	
Unemployed adults in lifelong learning (%)			18.3 <sup>(b)</sup>		15.5	10.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	(3)	-2.8	
Individuals who wanted to participate in training but did not (%)	25.0	14.2		9.5					
Job-related non-formal education and training (%)			81.6	80.2					
<b>Skill development and labour market relevance</b>									
IVET public expenditure (% of GDP)		0.67		0.71		0.68	(1)		-0.03
IVET public expenditure (EUR per student)		7 033		8 558		8 586	(1)		28
Enterprise expenditure on CVT courses as % of total labour cost		0.9	0.7	0.8					
Average number of foreign languages learned in IVET				1.2 <sup>(d)</sup>		1.2	(2)		0.0
STEM graduates from upper secondary IVET (% of total)		32.0		28.7		29.2	(2)		0.5
30-34 year-olds with tertiary VET attainment (%)		7.3		7.4	17.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	8.7	(3)		1.3
Innovative enterprises with supportive training practices (%)		43.1		41.6					
Employment rate for IVET graduates (20-34 year-olds)			78.2	79.1					
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over general stream)			-2.4	5.6					
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over low-educated)			12.3	17.4					
Workers helped to improve their work by training (%)			91.2	89.8					
Workers with skills matched to their duties (%)			52.5	55.2					
<b>Overall transitions and labour market trends</b>									
Early leavers from education and training (%)		15.4	14.9 <sup>(b)</sup>	13.9	12.4	11.9	(3)	-2.5	-2.0
30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (%)	36.5	28.8	43.0	33.4	47.6	36.8	(3)	4.6	3.4
NEET rate for 18-24 year-olds (%)		15.1	17.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	16.6	17.3	17.0	(3)	-0.4	0.4
Unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (%)	6.7	10.6	9.9	13.1	9.9	15.1	(3)	0.0	2.0
Employment rate of recent graduates (age group 20-34) (%)	86.3	79.0	81.6	77.4	83.8	75.4	(3)	2.2	-2.0
Adults with lower level of educational attainment (%)	27.3	30.0	23.9	27.3	21.6	24.8	(3)	-2.3	-2.5
Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds (%)	75.2	68.9	73.6	68.5	74.9	68.3	(3)	1.3	-0.2
Medium/high-qualified employment in 2020 (% of total)					88.5	82.3			

NB: b = break in series. When break in series occurs data cannot be compared. Consequently, when break in series occurs from 2011 onwards, data in the column 'Last available year' are not comparable with previous years. Also, when the break is before 2011 (i.e. any year between 2006 and 2010 included), the 2006 figure is not shown; d = change in definition. Data are treated in a similar way to breaks in series. When the change in definition is in 2006 or 2010, these data are also not presented because comparability over time is affected; u = unreliable; p = provisional; (1) = year of reference: 2011; (2) = year of reference: 2012; (3) = year of reference: 2013. A few indicators use other years to approximate the 2006 and 2010 baselines (see annex).