

# Shaping higher education fifty years after Robbins

Tuesday 22 October 2013

London School of Economics and Political Science  
Shaw Library, 6th floor, Old Building, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE





**GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE** | OXFORD

# **What happened later: the British road to mass HE**

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**Principal, Green Templeton College**

**Conference on “shaping higher education fifty  
years after Robbins”**

**London School of Economics**

**22 October 2013**

# Outline

- **Dimensions of mass higher education**
- **Legislative hyper-activity**
- **Fees and funding**
- **Institutional diversity**
- **Facing the future**



# Mass HE

**In theory (Martin Trow):**

- **Below 15% - elite**
- **15-40% - mass**
- **40% (later 50%) + - universal.**

**In practice (BIS 2012):**

- **GB - 49%**
- **Scotland – 55%**
- **Men – 45%**
- **Women – 55%**



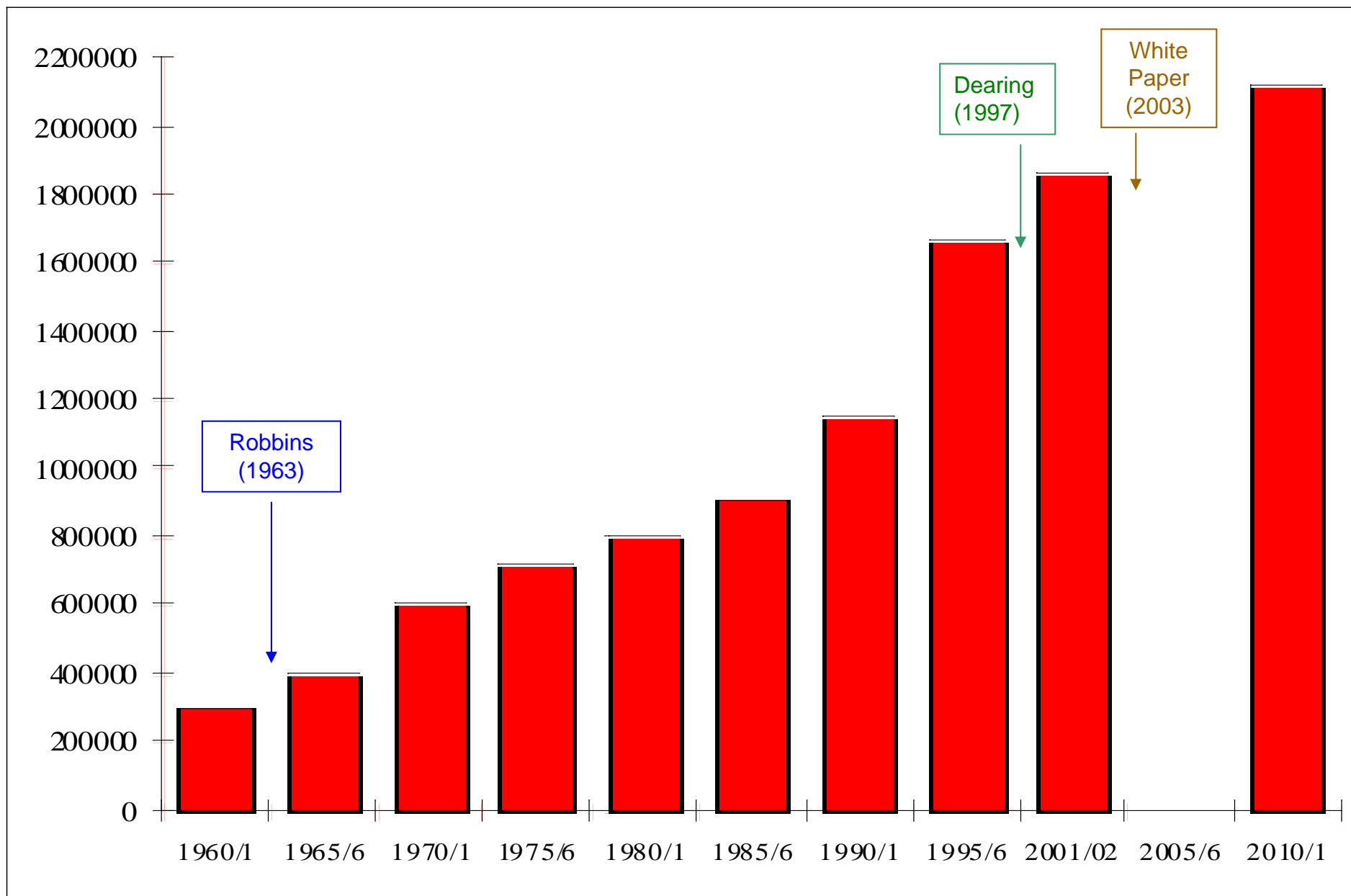
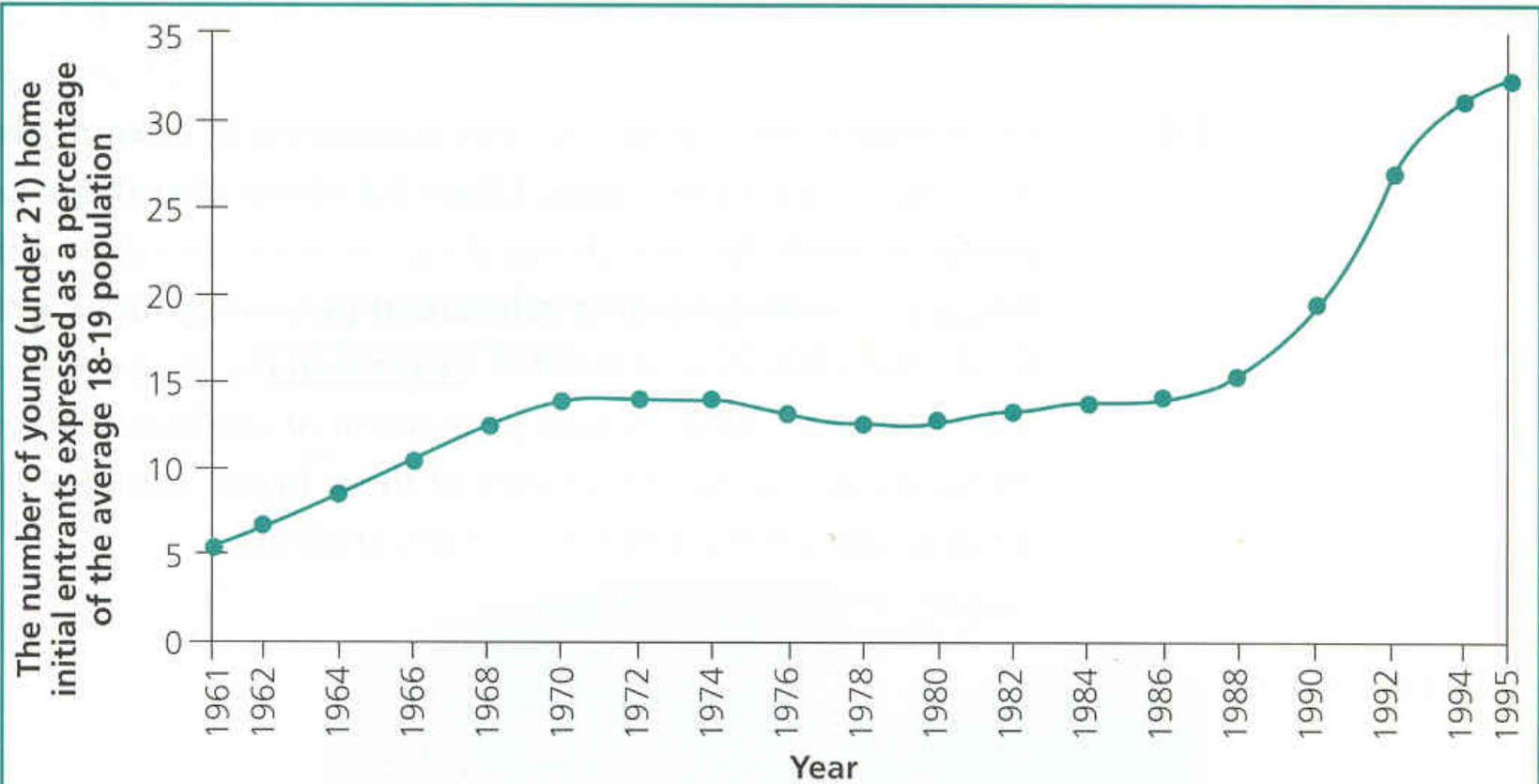


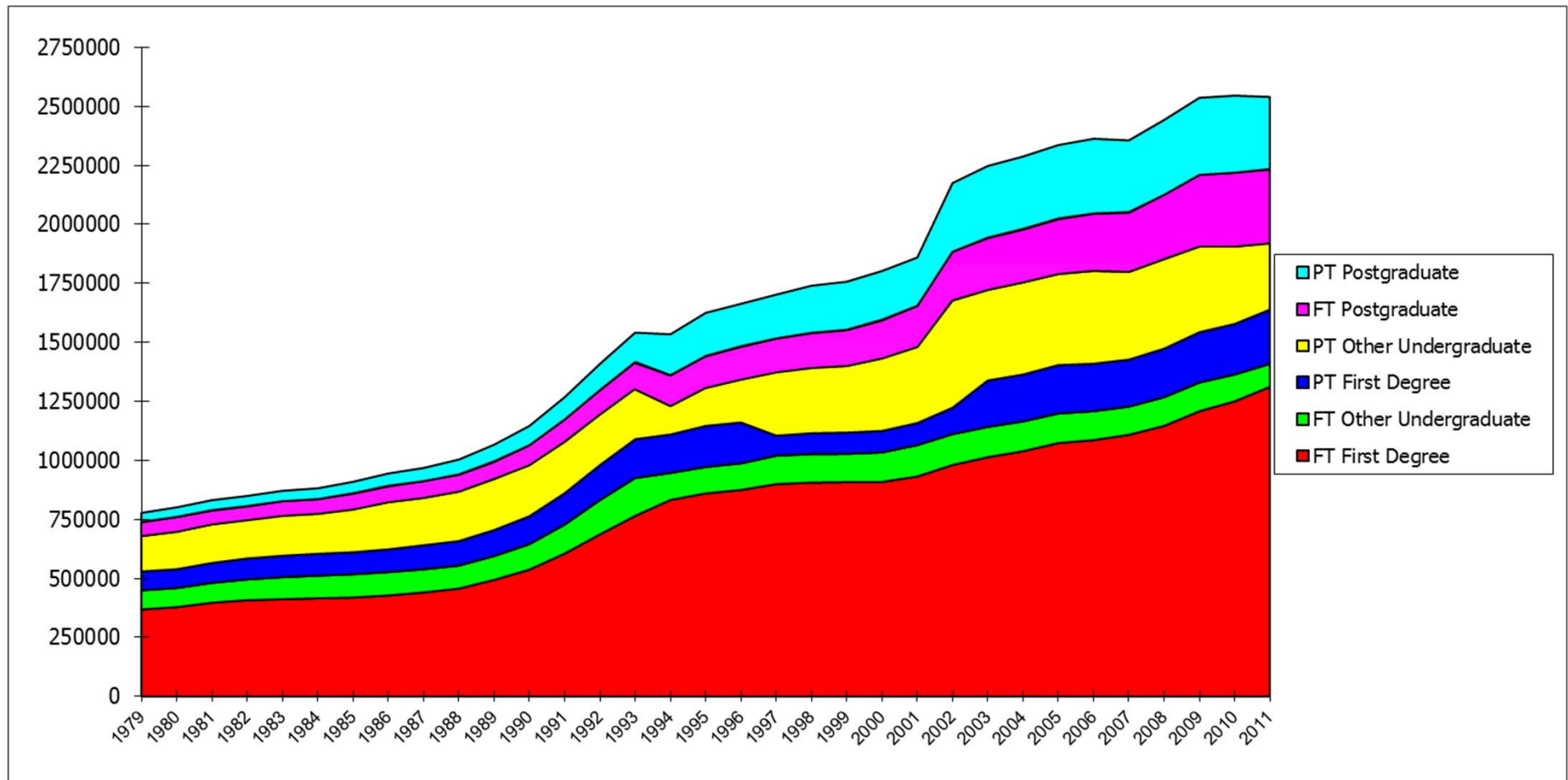
Chart 3.5 – Higher education Age Participation Index (API) – GB Institutions



Notes: Initial entrants are those entering a course of full-time higher education for the first time. 1961 figure estimated using Robbins Report App.2A, Table 3 (Percentage of the population of each age receiving higher education GB Oct 1961). Due to minor change in definition, the years 1961 to 1970 inclusive are not strictly comparable with later years. Due to minor change in definition, years from 1980 onwards are not strictly comparable with earlier years.

Source: DfEE

## Number of HE students by mode of study and level of course, 1979-2011



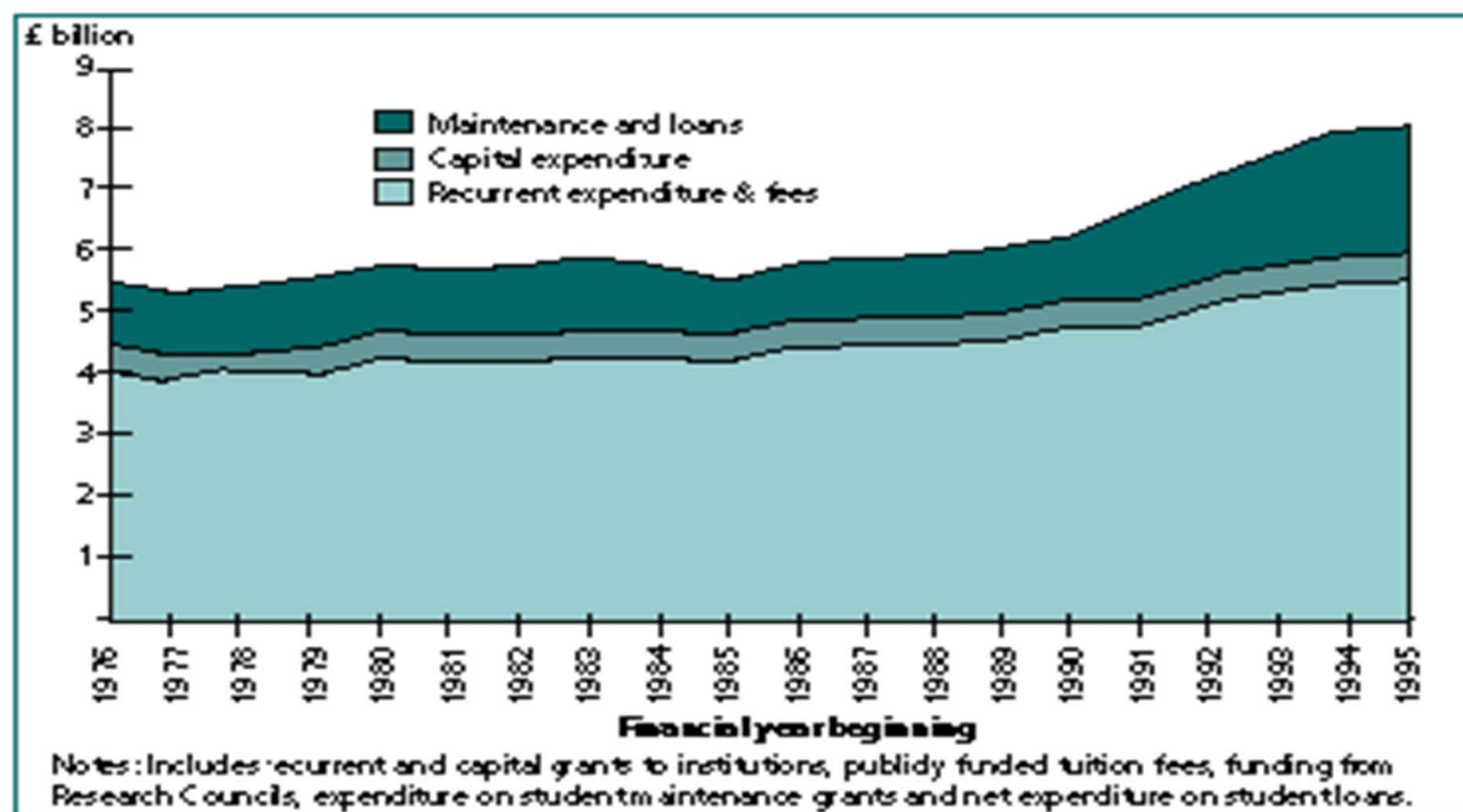
Source: DES 1991-1992; DfE 1994; HESA 1996-2013

# UK unit public funding, 1979-2003

Year	INDEX		
	University	HEFCE	Polytechnic
1979/80	100		100
1980/81	106		99
1981/82	103		94
1982/83	106		89
1983/84	107		82
1984/85	106		79
1985/86	103		78
1986/87	102		79
1987/88	105		76
1988/89	103		75
1989/90	100	100	-
1990/91		91	
1991/92		86	
1992/93		80	
1993/94		75	
1994/95		73	
1995/96		70	
1996/97		65	
1997/98		64	
1998/99		63	
1999/2000		63	
2000/01		62	
2001/02		63	
2002/03		63	



Chart 3.14 – Public expenditure on higher education in the UK (1995-96 prices)



Source: DES

# UK Government HE initiatives since 1963: twelve “frameworks”

1. 1963: the Robbins report – creation of “new” universities, “ability to benefit.”
2. 1965: the Woolwich speech – creation of the Polytechnics
3. 1972: the James report – reorganisation of teacher training, “diversification.”
4. 1980-85: the Tory cuts – withdrawal of “overseas” subsidy, White Paper on contraction and rationalisation
5. 1985: the National Advisory Body for Public Sector HE (NAB), “capping the pool,” centralisation of local authority HE
6. 1988: the Great Education Reform Act – incorporation of the Polytechnics, Central Institutions and large Colleges
7. 1992: Further & Higher Education Act – ending of the binary line, Funding Councils for devolved administrations, creation of the “new new” universities
8. 1997: the Dearing Report – fees for FT undergraduate students
9. 2004: Higher Education Act – variable fees, “new new new” universities, foundation degree awarding powers for FECs
10. 2009: *Higher Ambitions* – New Labour’s parting shot
11. 2010: the Browne Review – higher undergraduate fees, new student contribution system
12. 2011: *Students at the Heart of the System*



# UK HE policy: “mood swings”

- **Con 1 (1979-1985) – contraction and differentiation**
- **Con 2 (1985-97) – expansion and equality**
  
- **New Labour 1 (1997-2004) – expansion and equality**
- **New Labour 2 (2004-2010) – return to two tiers, co-payment**
  
- **The Coalition (2010 - ) - contraction and radical co-payment**



# **UK “types” of university (after Scott, 1995)**

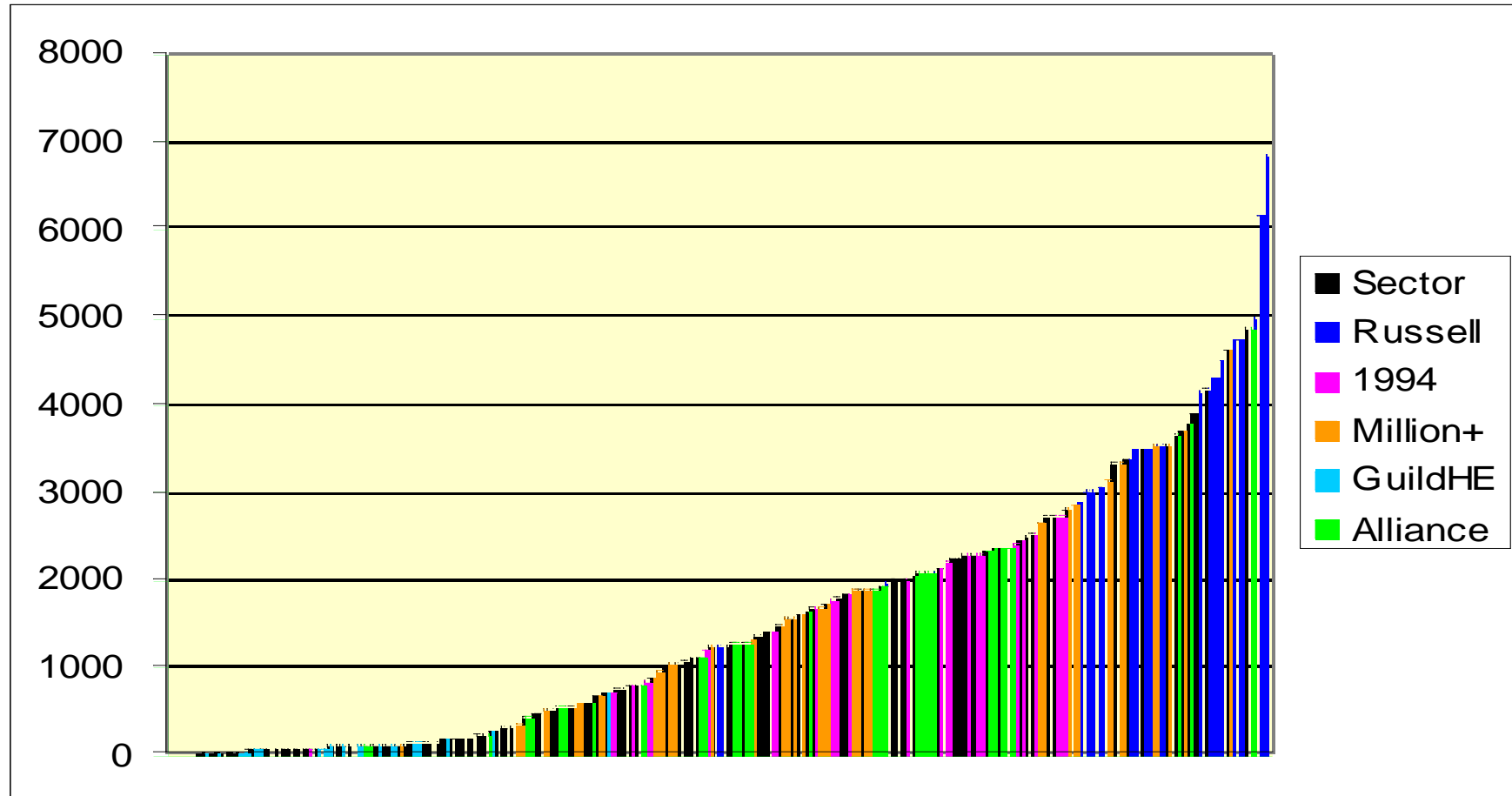
- 1. Oxford and Cambridge**
- 2. University of London**
- 3. Victorian/Edwardian Civics**
- 4. Redbricks**
- 5. Isolates: e.g. Durham and Keele**
- 6. Technological (ex CAT)**
- 7. Open University**
- 8. Specialised/monotechnic**
- 9. Old new (1960s)**
- 10. New new (1992)**
- 11. New new new (2004)**
- 12. Mixed economy (HE in FE)**
- 13. Private: Buckingham**
- 14. For profit**

# The modern university: key types

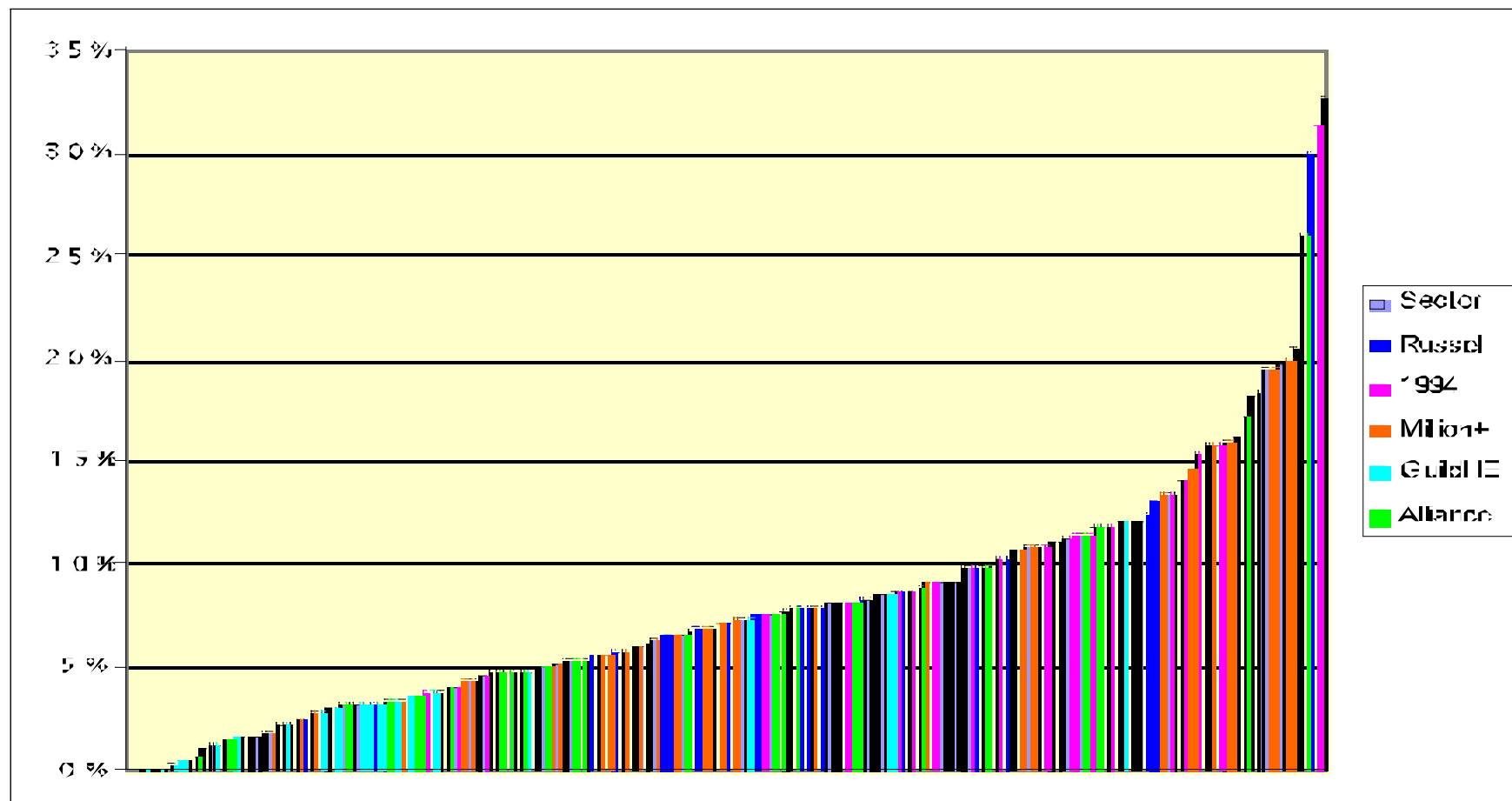
1. The international research university
2. The professional formation university
3. The ‘curriculum innovation’ university
4. The distance/open learning university
5. The College
6. The specialised/single subject HEI
7. The “for profit” corporation



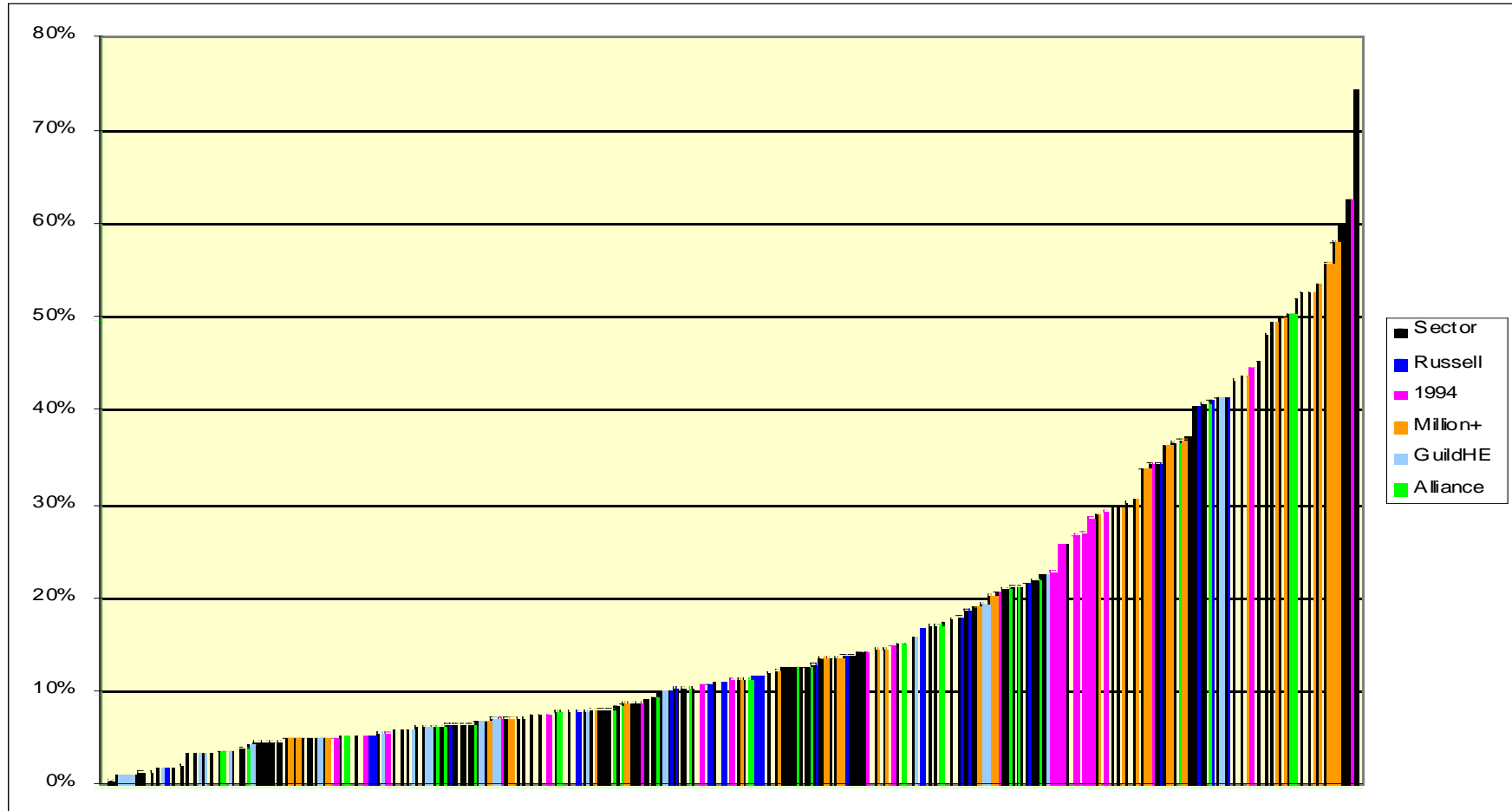
## Enrolments of international (non-EU) domiciled students, 2008/09



## Income from international (non-EU) student fees as a percentage of total income, 2008/09

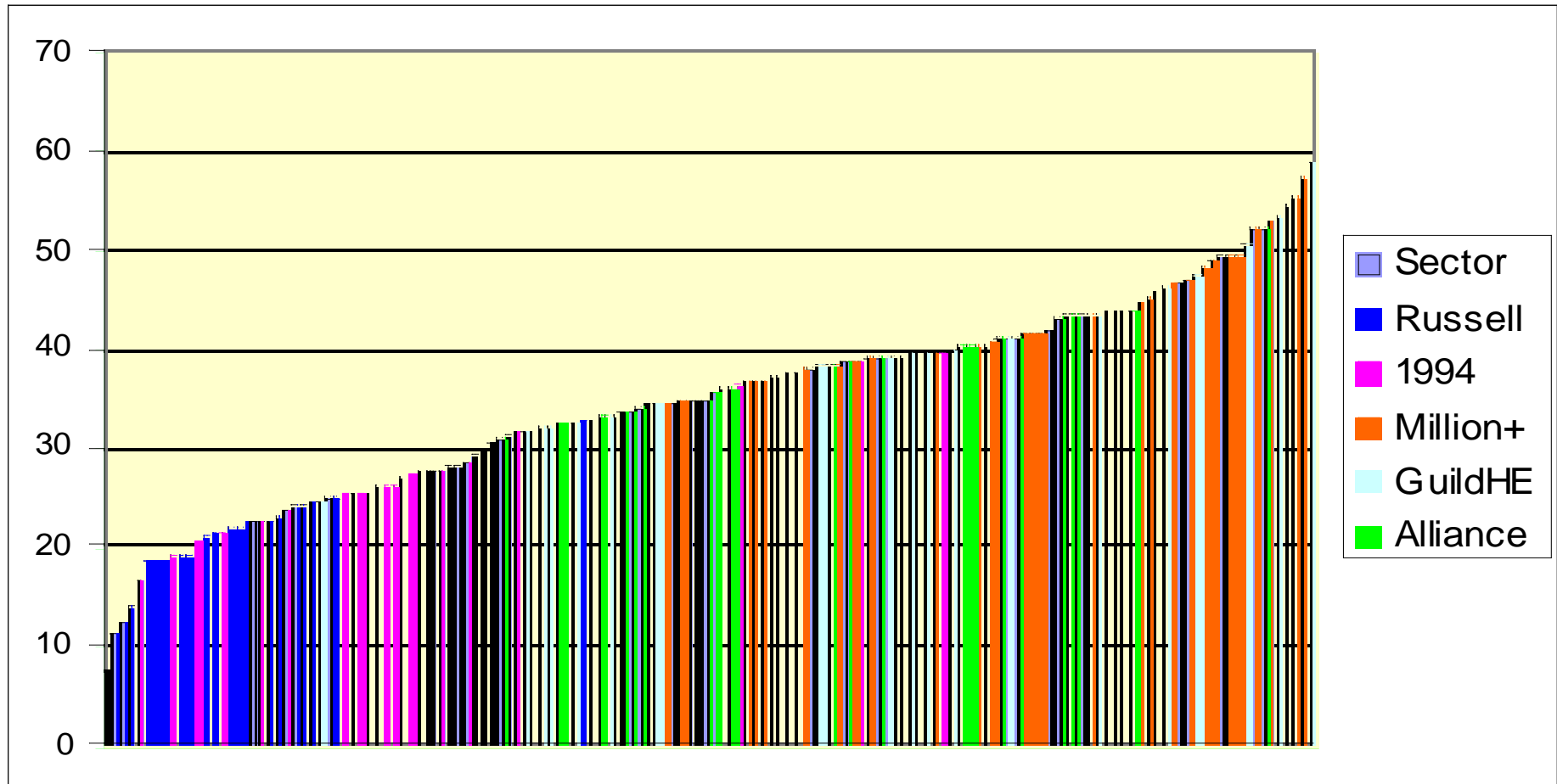


## Percentage of UK-domiciled first year students from minority ethnic groups, 2008/09

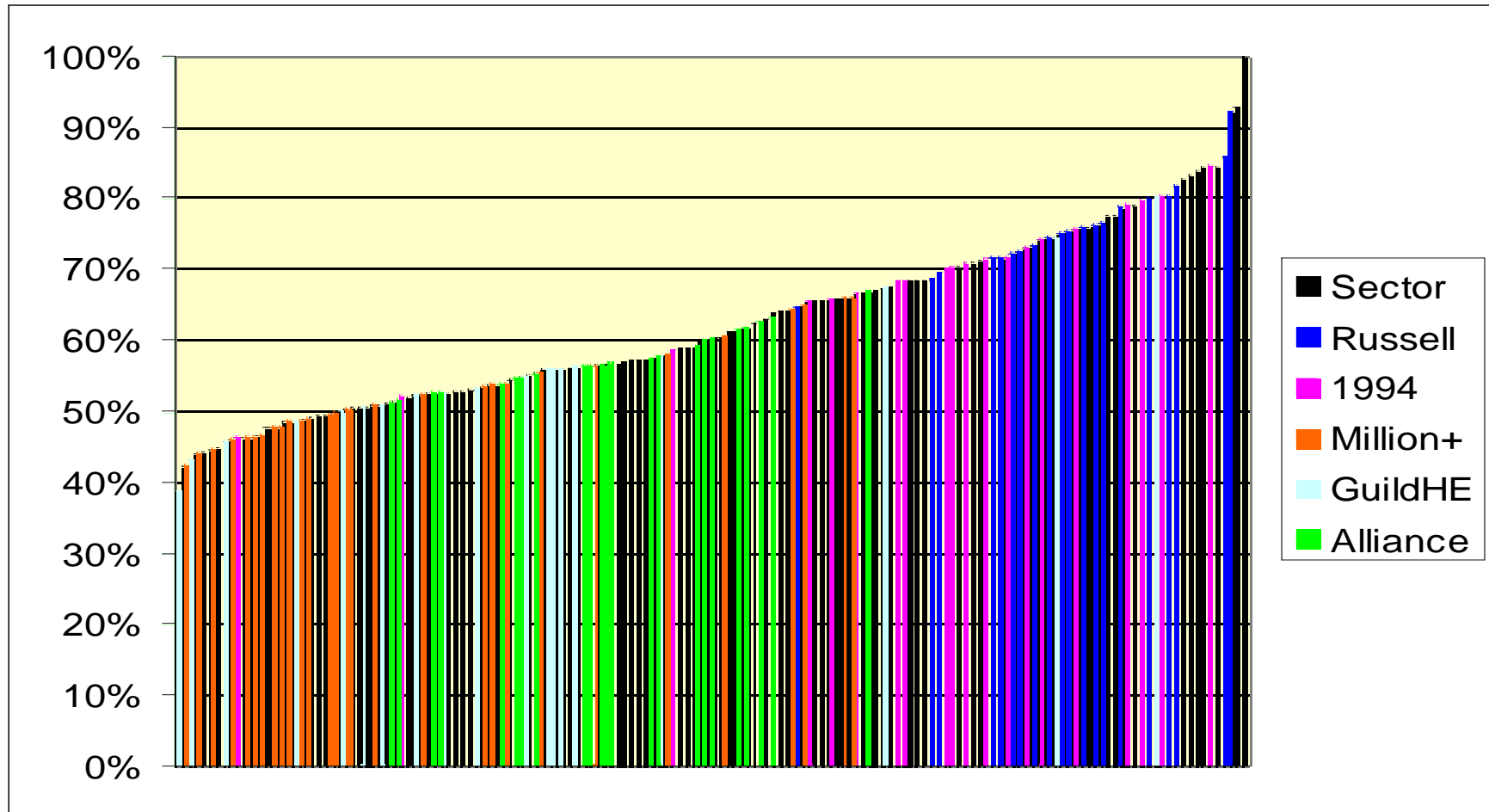




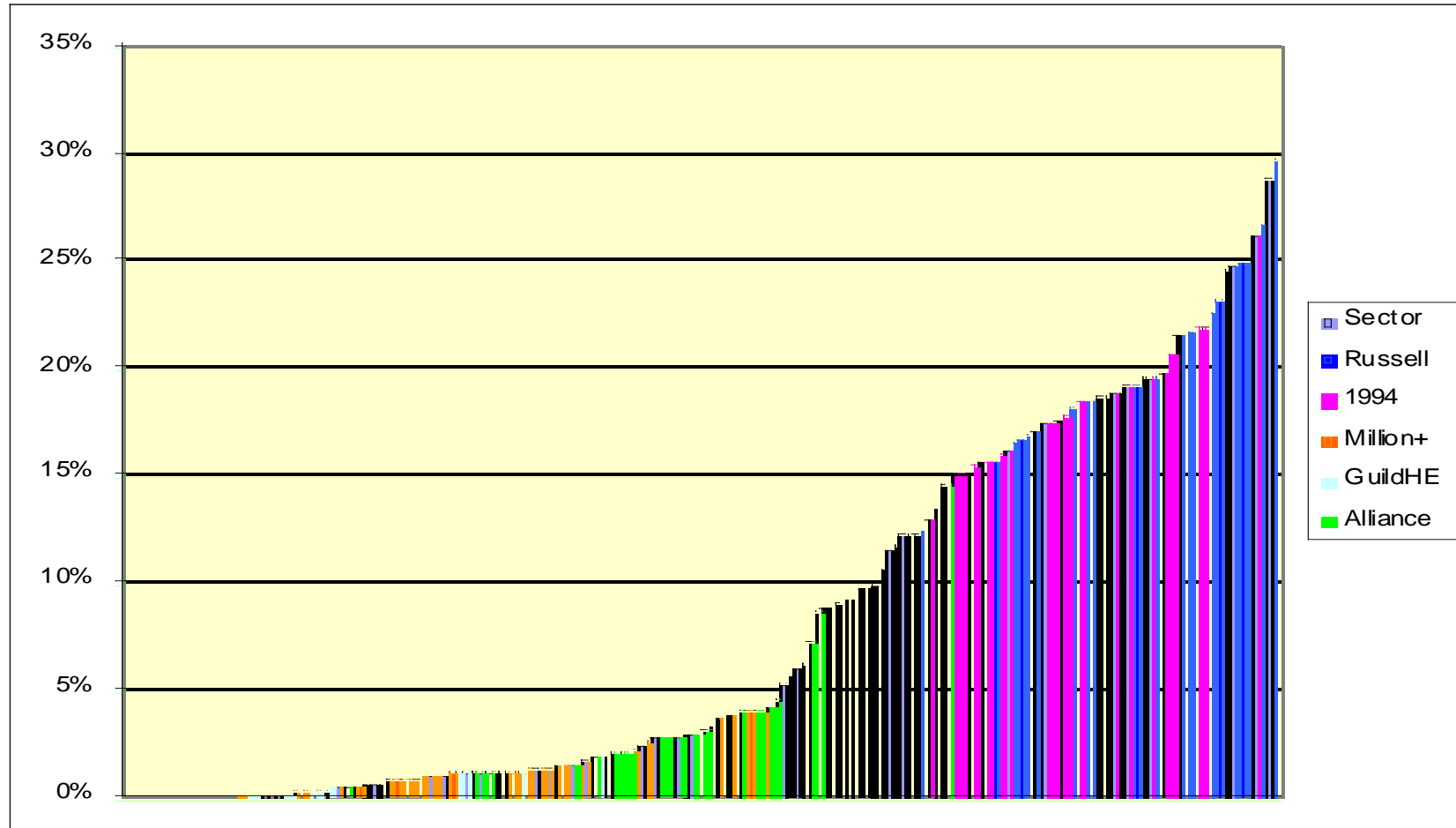
Percentage of young full-time first degree entrants from national statistics socio-economic classification classes 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2008/09



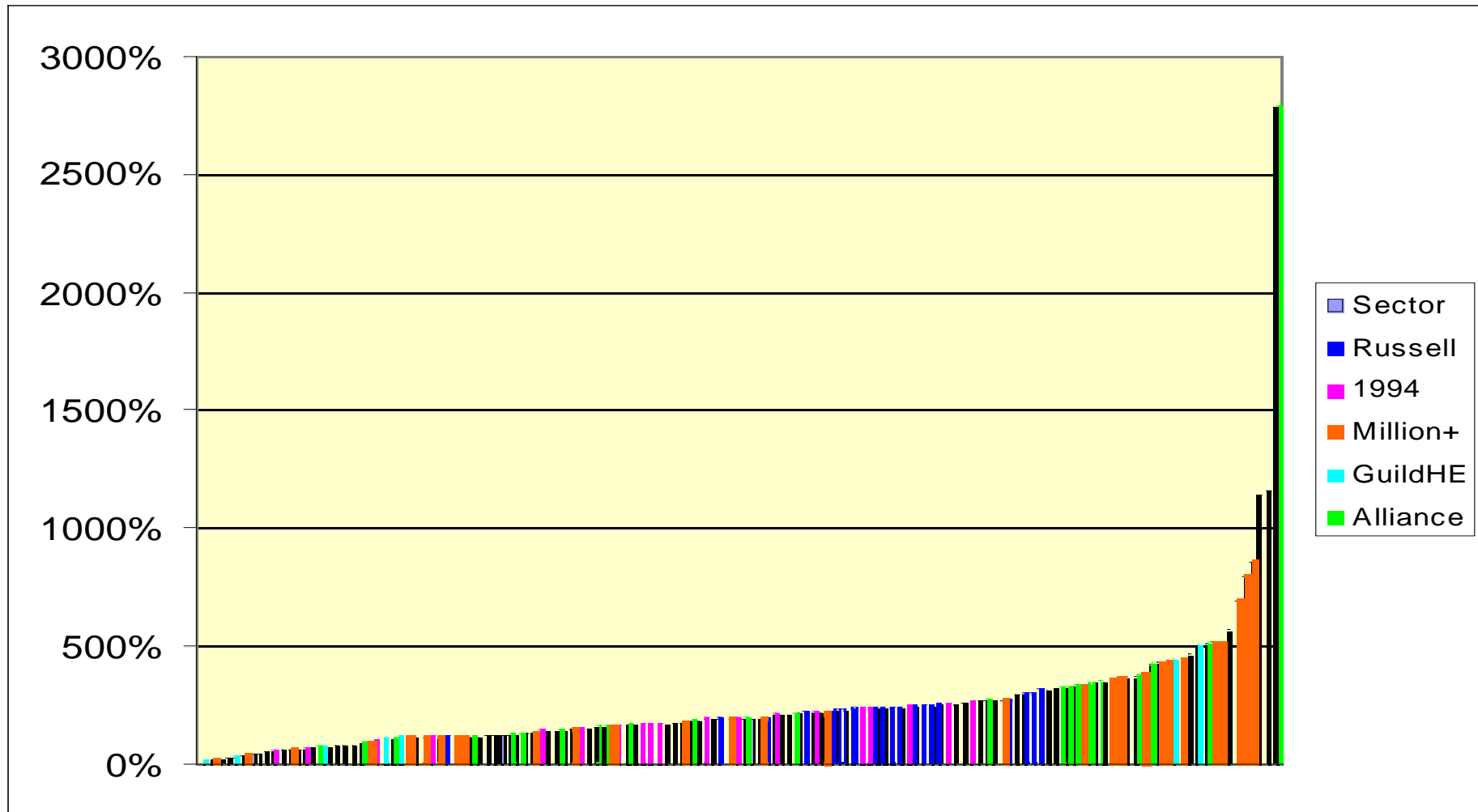
## Percentage of first- and upper second-class degrees awarded, 2008/09, by interest groups



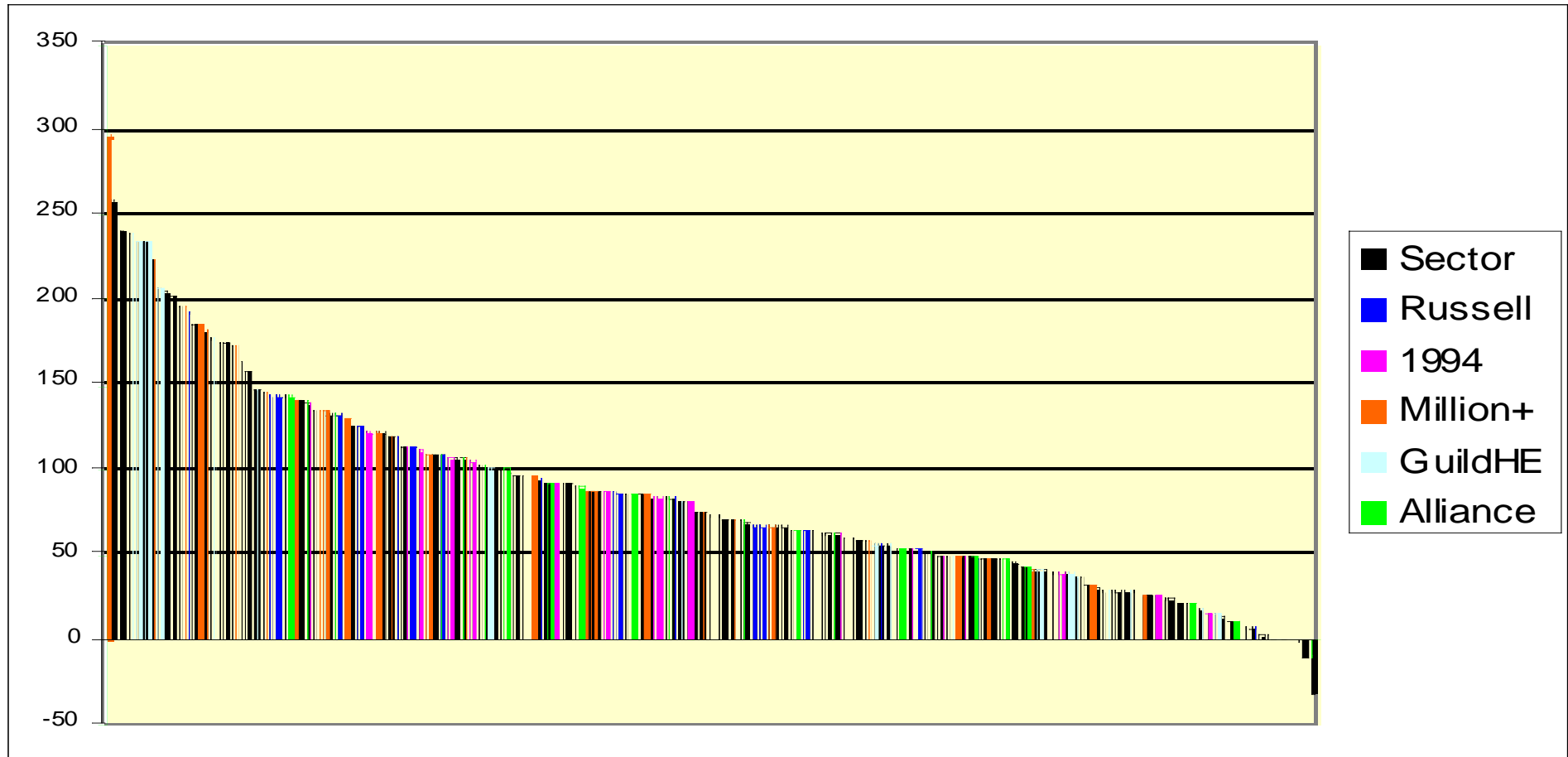
## Funding of research through the dual support system as a percentage of total income, 2008/09, by interest groups



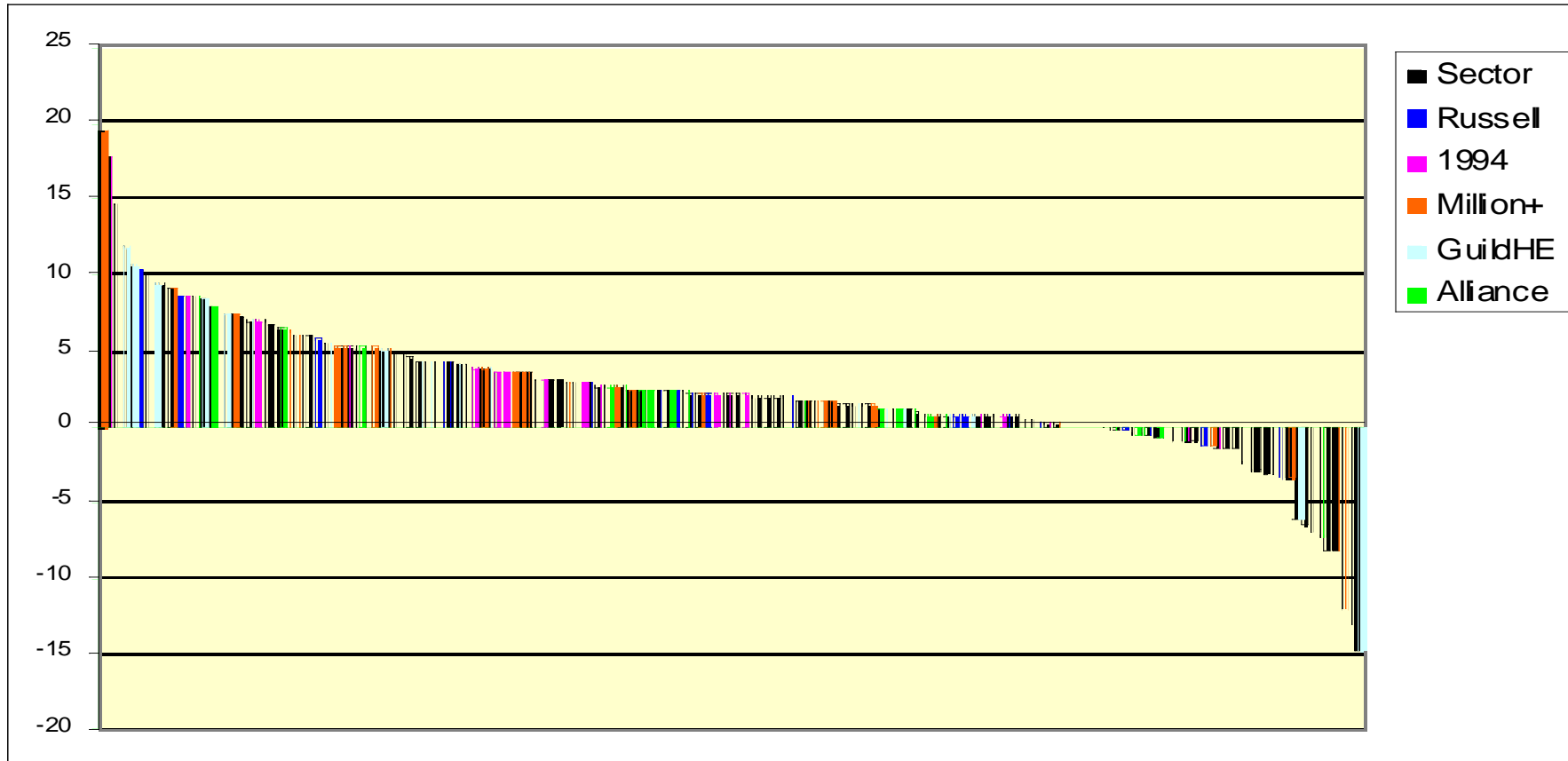
## Research grants and contracts as a percentage of funding council research grants, 2008/09



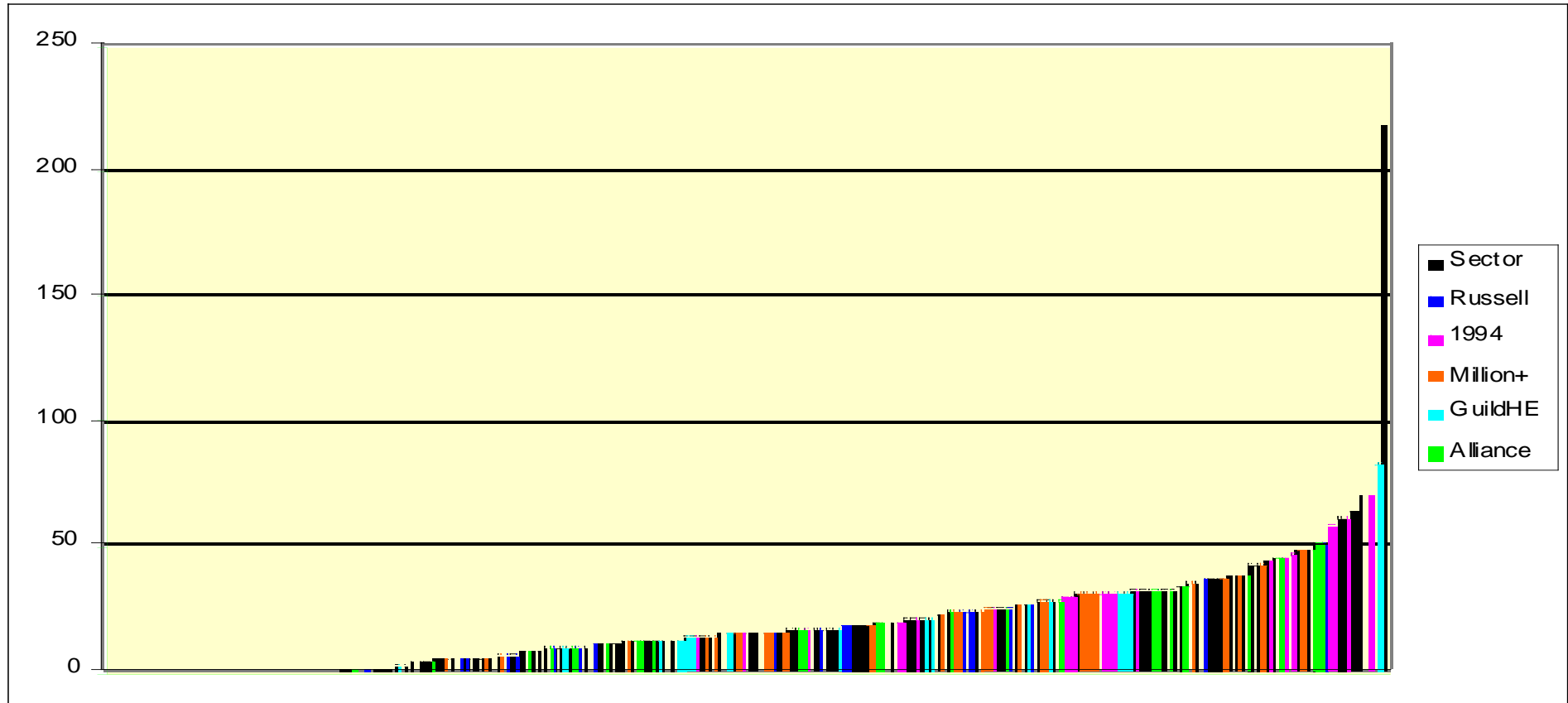
## Days ratio of net liquidity to total expenditure, 2008/09



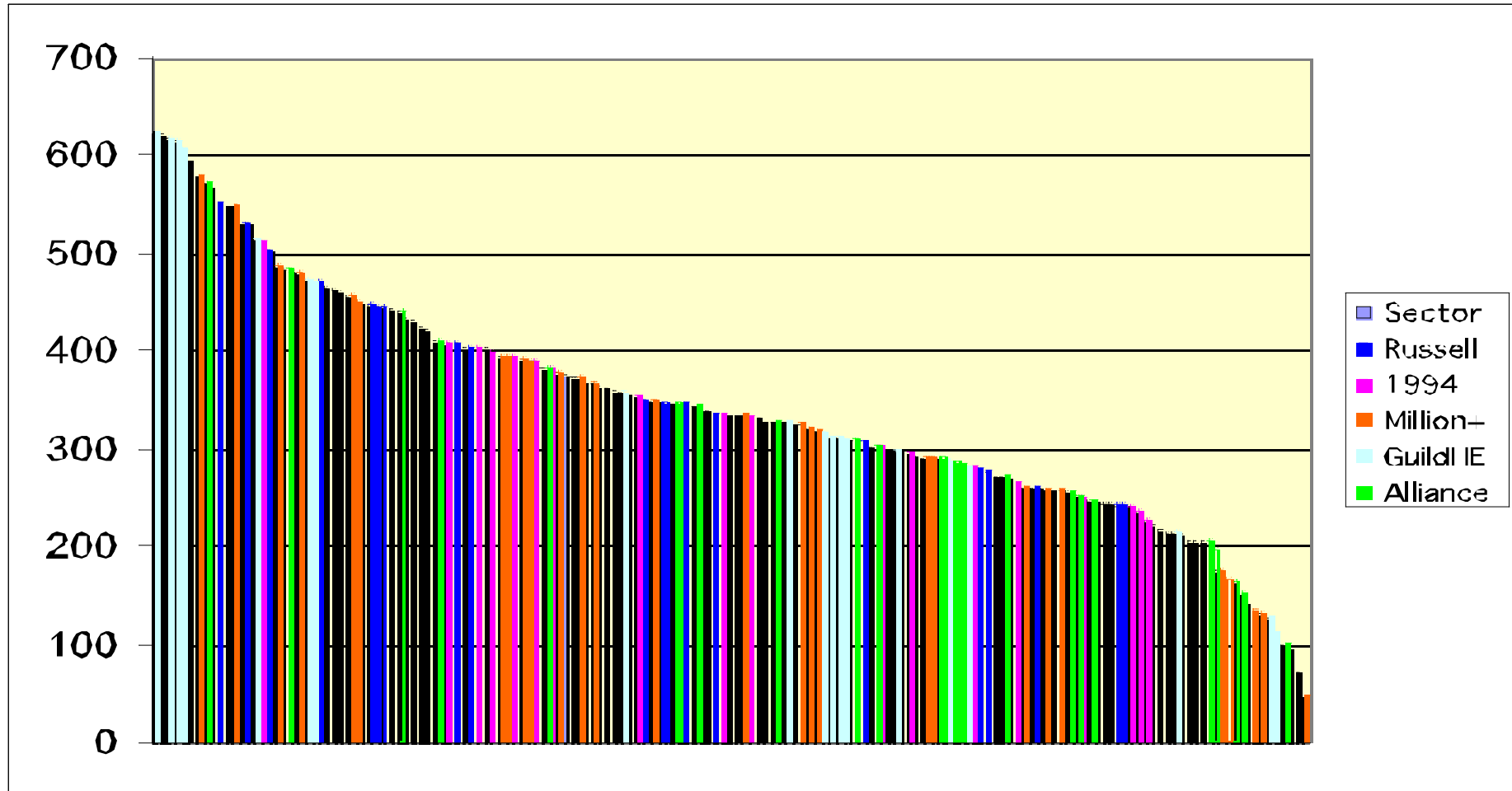
## Surplus/deficit as a percentage of income, 2008/09



## Percentage ratio of total long-term borrowings to total income, 2008/09



## The security index, 2008/09, by interest groups





# Stage 1: Complex Transitions



*Each horizontal line plots the trajectory of an individual in and out of different statuses between the ages of 16 and 23*

Source: Furlong 2008

# Discussion



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