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Future growth in the demand for part-time courses?

- Leitch Review of Skills (2006)
- UUK (2008) '*The future size and shape of the HE sector in the UK*'
- Nation Audit Office (2008) '*Widening participation in Higher Education*'
- DIUS (2008) '*University is Not Just for Young People: Working Adults' Perceptions of and orientation to Higher Education*'

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Trends in part-time HE undergraduate enrolment

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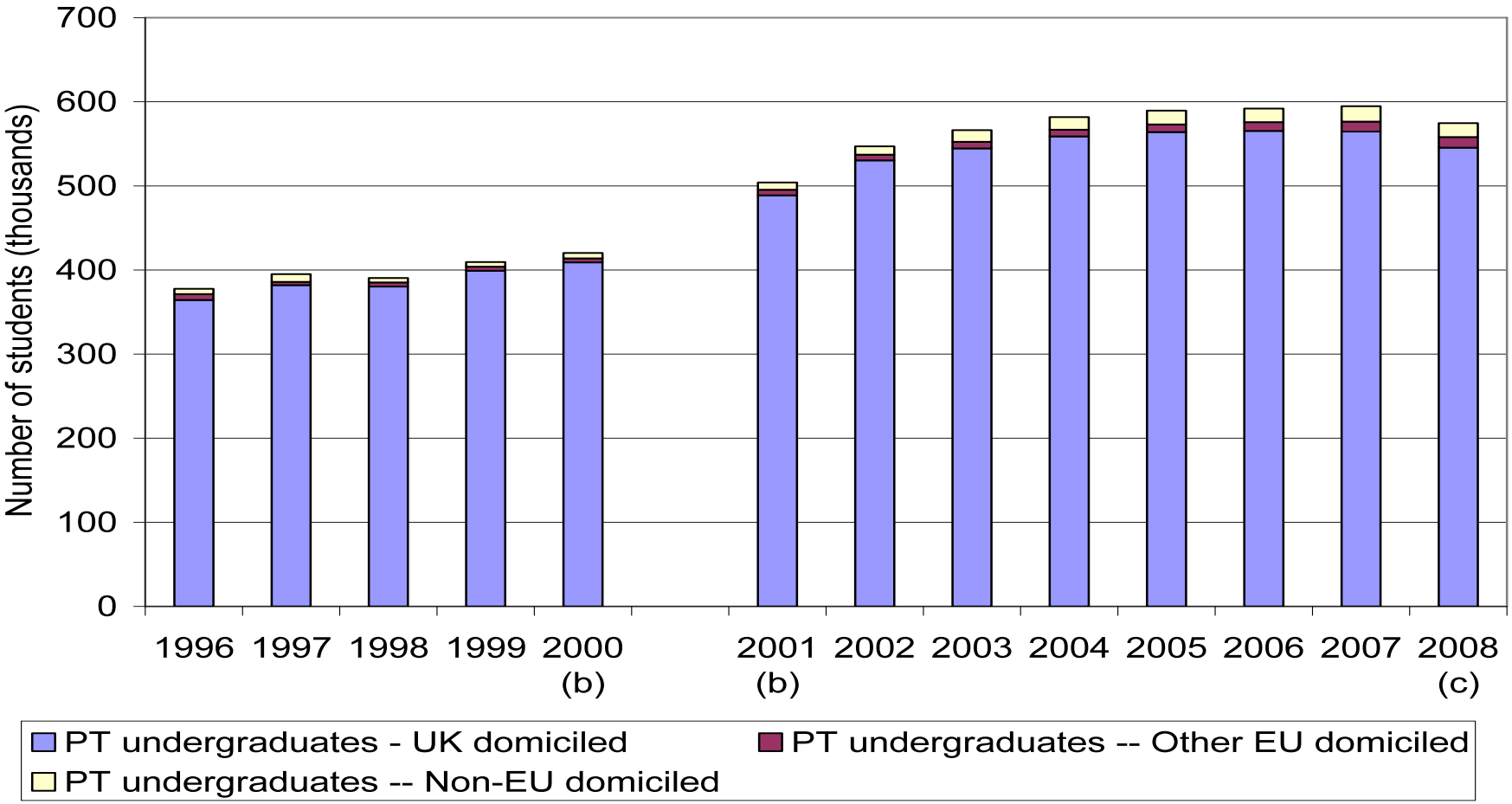
Part-time undergraduate student numbers by domicile, 1995-96 to 2007-08

http



Source: HESA

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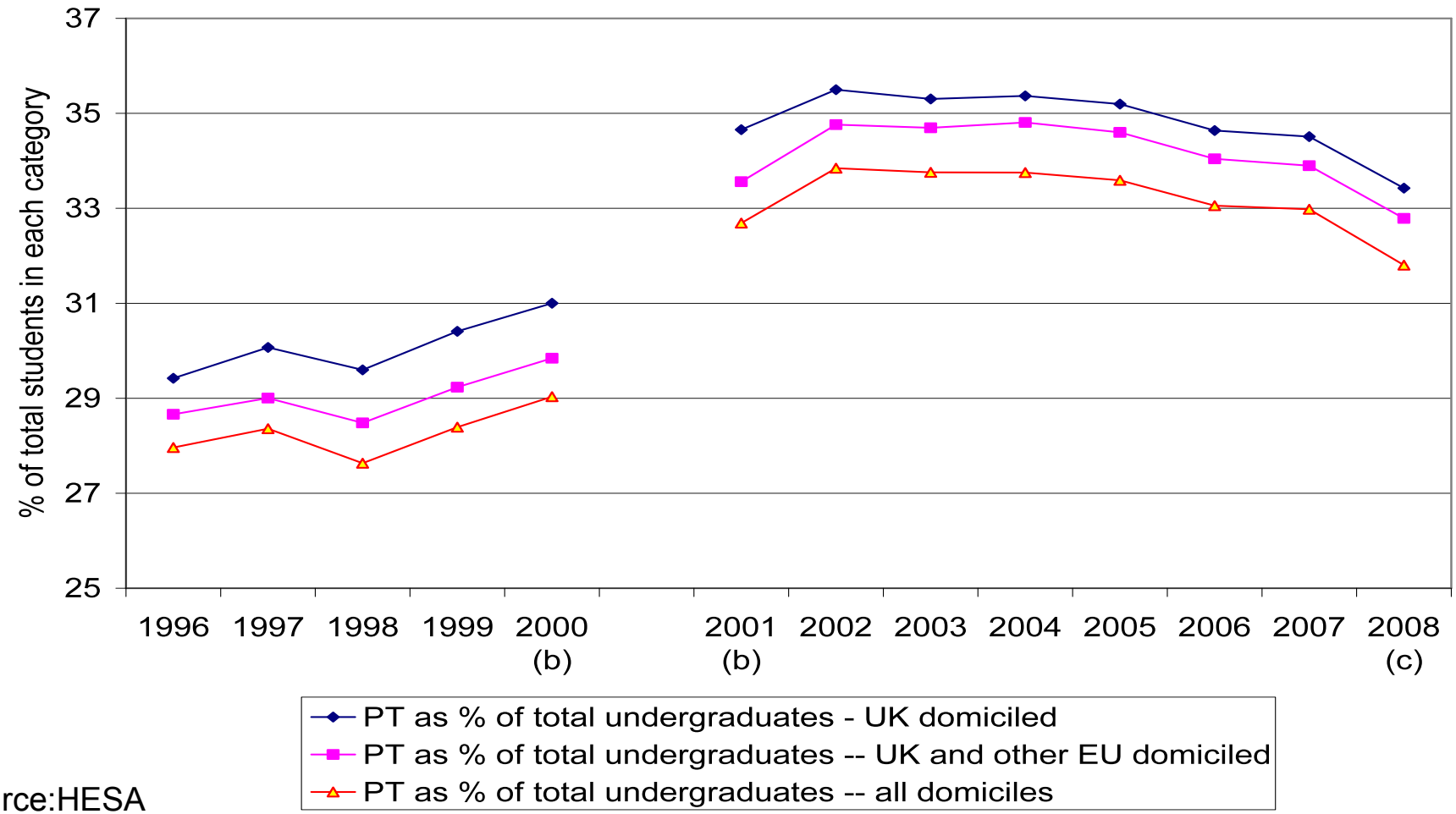
Part-time undergraduates as a proportion of total HE students by domicile, 1995-96 to 2007-08



Source:HESA

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Trends in part-time HE enrolment

- No evidence that PT enrolments in UK universities are increasing at a faster rate than FT students
- The number of PT UK domiciled students are down in 2007-08 compared with 2003-04
- PT UK domiciled enrolments have been falling as a proportion of total UK domiciled students for the last 5-6 years
- As with FT students, the bulk of any growth in PT student numbers seems to be happening among international students

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Aims and objectives

- To explore the factors impacting on the supply of part-time provision, especially at undergraduate level
  - to map the geography of HE part-time undergraduate provision showing regions with high levels of provision – 'hot spots' - and low levels of provision 'cold spots'
  - to describe the nature of HE part-time provision and the part-time student population;
  - to identify the external and internal factors both facilitating and inhibiting the growth of HEI part-time provision; and
  - to identify what charges are required by HEIs, Government, and the Funding Councils to encourage greater part-time undergraduate provision.

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Our approach

Study consists of 2 inter-linked elements:

1. A statistical review
   - Characteristics of part-time HE students concentrating on variations by their qualification aim
   - Regional distribution of part-time undergraduate provision
2. Case studies of HEIs
   - Interviewing HEIs in regions with high and low part-time undergraduate provision

Regional distribution of part-time undergraduate provision

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Reported travelling times for part-time undergraduates in the UK, 2006

	Work	Home	All
Per cent travelling from:	46	54	100
Of which, per cent reporting time travelled			
Less than ¼ of an hour	14	7	10
¼ to ½ hour	29	19	24
½ to 1 hour	43	36	39
1 hour to 1½ hours	11	24	18
1½ hours or more	3	14	9
n =			*1,909*

Source: Callender at al 2006

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Regional distribution of part-time undergraduate provision

- Potential pool of part-time students = people of working age without an NVQ level 4
- Region = 45 City-regions
- All part-time students allocated to a city-region based on their campus postcode
- Number of people of working age without a Level 4 qualification within the city-region
- Ratio of part-time undergraduates per 1000 working-age persons without a NVQ Level 4 or equivalent in each city region.
- City regions with high part-time provision (hot spots) and regions with low provision (cold spots)

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Next steps

- Case studies of HEIs in ‘hot’ and ‘cold’ spots
  - Aim to find out why some HEIs have a lot of part-time undergraduate provision and why others have very little
- Issues
  - What factors facilitate the provision of part-time undergraduate courses
  - What are the key constraints/barriers to such provision and further growth
  - What are the risks, if any, involved in providing part-time undergraduate courses
  - What changes are needed to provide more part-time undergraduate courses
- Report on the results……WATCH THIS SPACE!

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UUK research on part-time provision in Higher Education

The future for part-time and distance learning

Barbican, London

22 October 2009

Claire Callender
Birkbeck, University of London
c.callender@bbk.ac.uk

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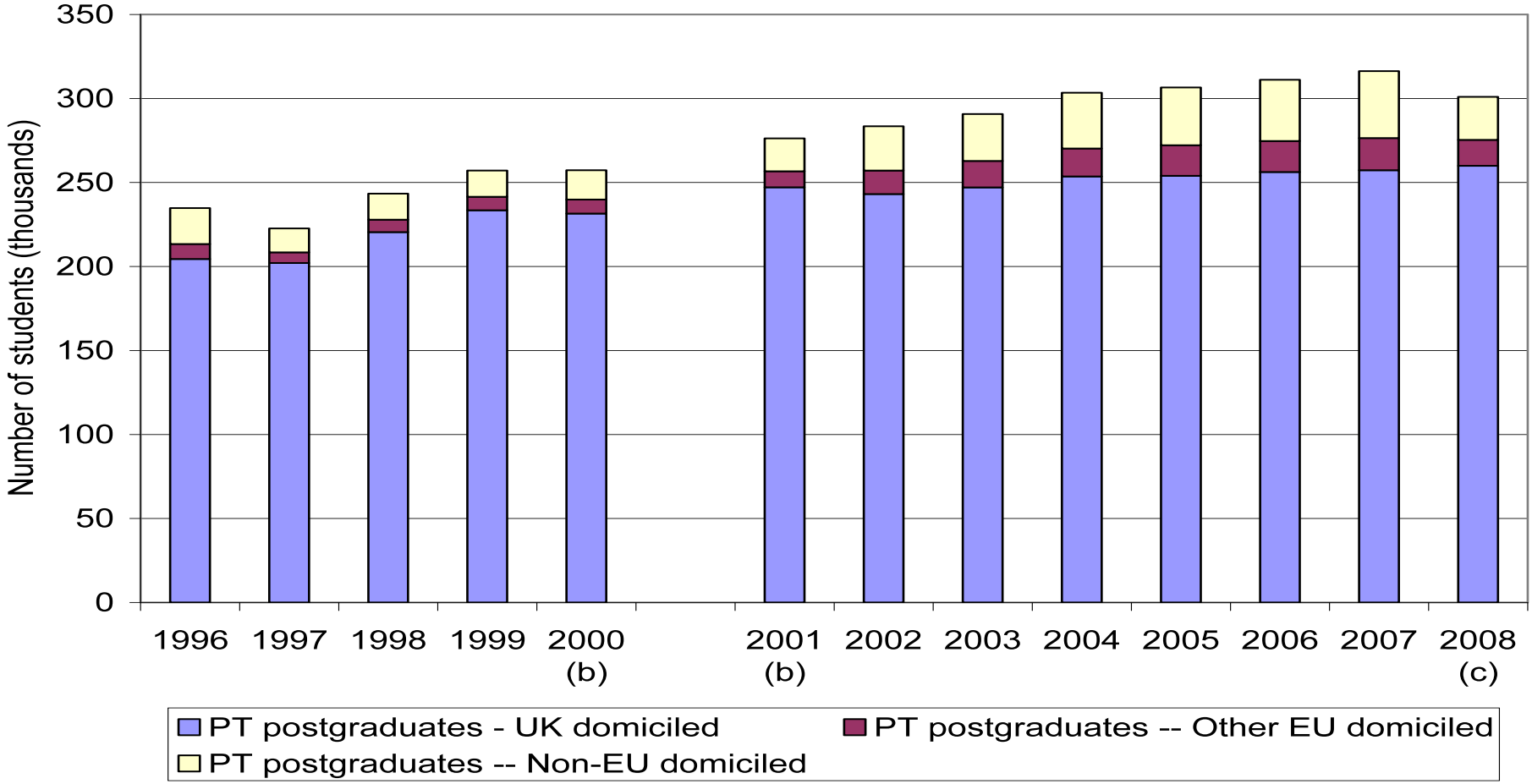
Part-time postgraduate student numbers by domicile, 1995-96 to 2007-08



Source: HESA

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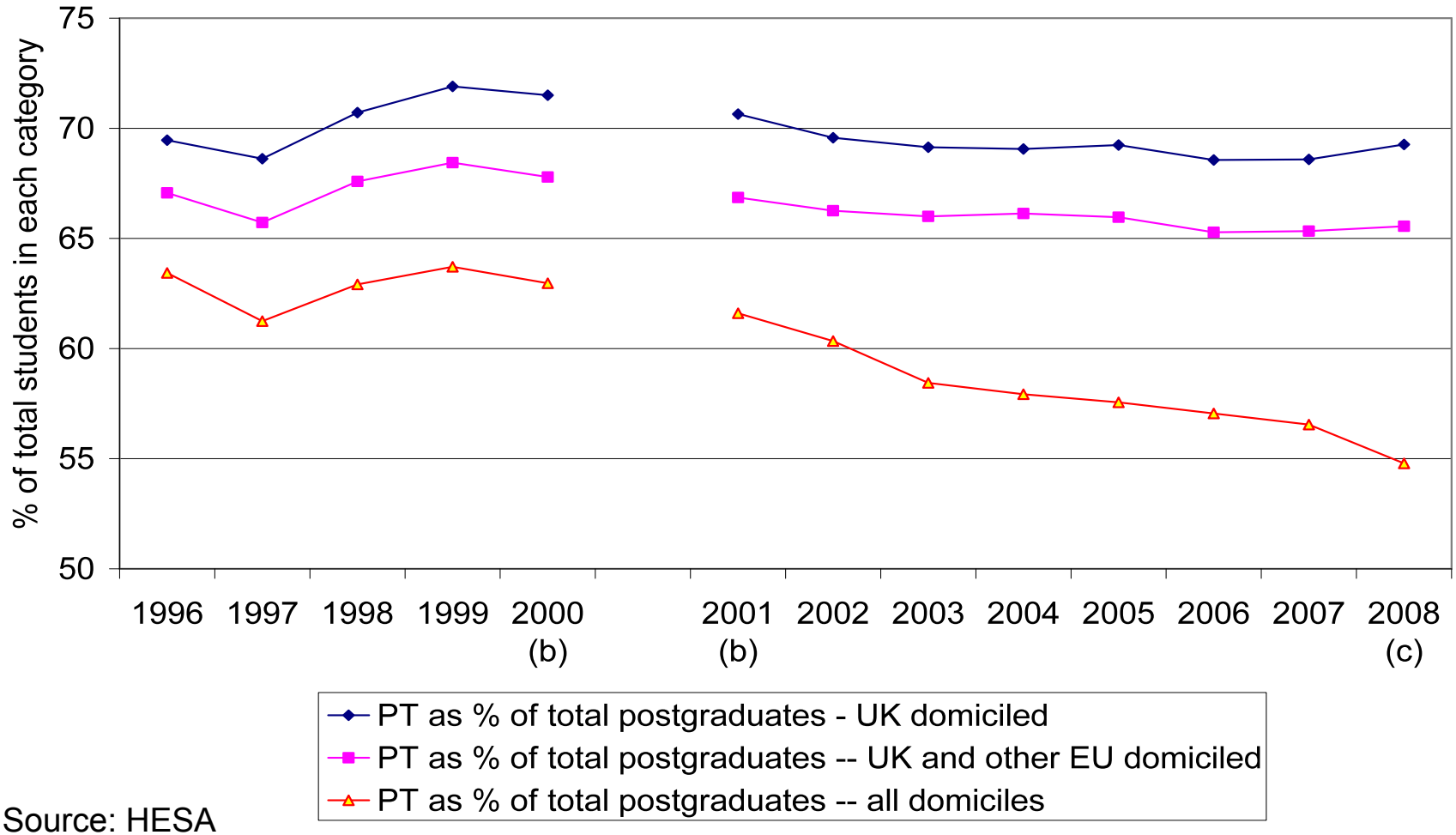
Part-time postgraduates as a proportion of total HE students by domicile, 1995-96 to 2007-08



Source: HESA