



Participation of young people in education and the labour market: Year end 2016 and 2017 (provisional)




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The release provides final data for 2016 and provisional estimates for 2017 which use the best data for 2017 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling. Estimates for 2016 take into account final data, which were not available at the time of the provisional figures last year.

Provisional estimates for 2017 indicate a fairly steady state in participation in education and training compared with recent years, but with the decrease of those not in education, employment or training continuing for both age groups, to new low levels. This is primarily as a result of increasing activity in the labour market (as shown through survey data).



16 to 18 year olds:

- Participation of 16-18 year olds in education/training has increased over the long term, remaining fairly steady in recent years.
- Following a downward trend from 2004, the proportion in employment has increased year on year since 2011.
- The proportion who are NEET has fluctuated around 10-13 per cent, steadily decreasing in recent years to 9.5 per cent in 2017.

| | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|
|  In education or training | 79.0 | 79.5 |
|  In full or part-time employment | 33.6 | 36.4 |
|  NEET | 10.5 | 9.5 |

19 to 24 year olds:

- The proportion of 19-24 year olds in education or training has fluctuated around 37 and 39 per cent since 2004.
- The proportion in employment decreased between 2004 to 2012, but has increased in subsequent years.
- The proportion who are NEET has decreased in the last 5 successive years, from a peak in 2012 to 16.2 per cent in 2017.

| | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|
|  In education or training | 37.8 | 38.3 |
|  In full or part-time employment | 61.4 | 63.2 |
|  NEET | 18.5 | 16.2 |

About this release

This release provides summary information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales, based on a number of sources which are outlined later in the release. The release provides the definitive source for estimates of the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales.

This release contains data for one of the 46 national well-being indicators.

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Introduction

This release provides policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends in participation and assess the impact of education and labour market interventions on young people.

The release provides the definitive source for estimates of the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. These are used to monitor the Welsh Government's strategic approach to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET as set out in the *Youth Engagement and Progression Framework*, the *Prosperity for All: Employability Plan* and the Child Poverty Strategy. The data also contribute to one of the 46 'National Indicators' (Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups) as laid under the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)* (see notes for further details).

In addition to this release we publish a bulletin [Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#) which provides users with more timely and detailed (but less statistically robust) NEET statistics from the Annual Population Survey.

The release provides information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales as at the end of the calendar year. The information is based on population estimates as at the end of the calendar year, education enrolment counts in December for work-based learning, further and higher education and in the following January for schools. For 2017 some of these data are provisional at this stage, and will be updated to final figures in next year's release. For more details see the notes section.

The Annual Population Survey is used to estimate the proportion who are employed, unemployed or inactive and relates to the whole of the reference year. Due to the use of survey data within the calculations there will be some element of sampling variability in the estimates. As a result changes in trend in economic activity need to be interpreted with a degree of caution, as changes could be attributable to sampling effects as well as real effects. It is not possible to distinguish between these impacts.

The data presented covers 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds on an academic age basis (i.e. age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

Further detail, including cohort numbers underlying tables 1 and 2 of this release are available through [StatsWales](#).

Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2016 and 2017 (provisional)) Table 1,

Employment:

- Approximately 25 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training and in employment in 2017, similar to the position in 2016. Most of these were students in full-time education who were also working part-time.
- In addition, 11 per cent were in full or part-time employment but not in education or training in 2017.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET):

- An estimated 9,800 (10 per cent) were NEET, compared to 11,200 (11 per cent) in 2016. Males were more likely to be NEET than females; 10 per cent compared with 9 per cent (in 2017).
- The 9,800 16 to 18 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2017 comprised of 3,600 unemployed young people and 6,200 who were economically inactive¹.

Education and training:

- In total, 80 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time) in 2017.
- 70 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were in full-time education in 2017.
- A higher proportion of females aged 16 to 18 were in full-time education – 73 per cent compared with 66 per cent of males in 2017.
- By single year of age, 81 per cent of all 16 year olds were undertaking full-time education in 2017 compared with 71 per cent of 17 year olds and 58 per cent of 18 year olds.
- Male participation in training for young people was higher than for females. 7,300 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in training (both work-based learning courses and job-related training) in 2017; approximately 9 per cent of all males in this age group compared with 5 per cent of females.

¹ Neither employed or seeking and available for work.

Chart 1: Participation of 16-18 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2004 to 2017(provisional))²

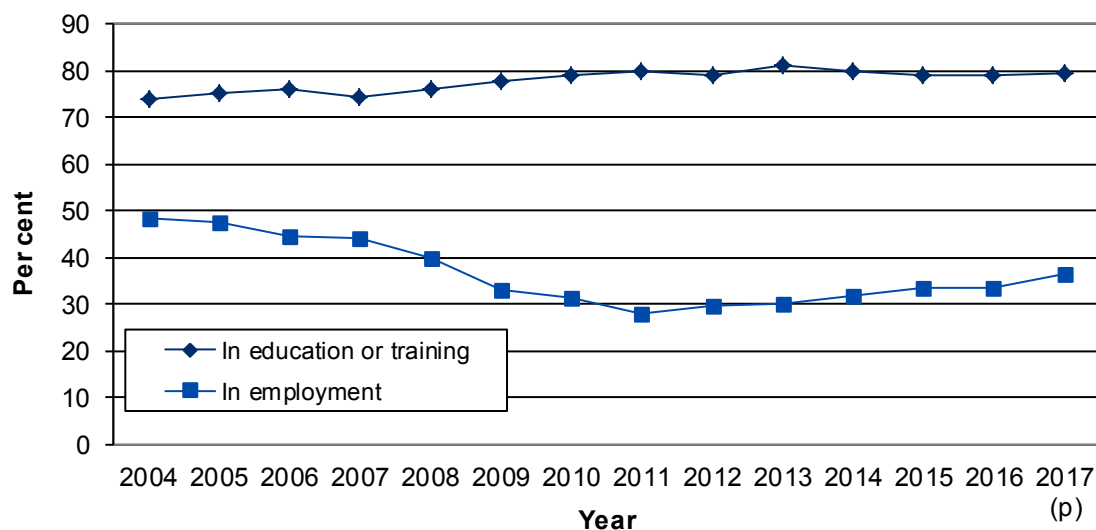



Chart 1 shows the trends in participation in education or training, and in employment for 16-18 year olds between 2004 and 2017(p). Prior to 2008 the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education or training remained broadly unchanged at 74-76 per cent. Following the start of the recession in 2008, there was an increase in the proportion of 16-18 year olds in education or training, to levels around 80 per cent. In contrast, the proportion of 16-18 year olds in employment decreased overall from 2004, with slightly larger reductions between 2007 and 2009, but increasing from 2011 onwards to 36 per cent in 2017.

Participation of 19 to 24 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2016 and 2017 (provisional)) Table 1, 

Employment:

- 45 per cent of 19-24 year olds were in full or part-time employment but not in education or training in 2017.
- In addition, 18 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training and in employment in 2017. Most of these were either students in full-time education who were also working part-time or students in part-time education or training who were also working full-time.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET):

- An estimated 40,100 (16 per cent) were NEET in 2017 compared with 46,000 (18 per cent) in 2016. Females were more likely to be NEET than males; 17 per cent compared with 16 per cent (in 2017).
- The 40,100 19 to 24 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2017 comprised of 15,100 unemployed young people and 25,000 who were economically inactive⁽²⁾.

² Note young people can be in both education and training and employment.

Education/training:

- In total, 38 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time) in 2017.
- 28 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were in full-time education in 2017.
- A higher proportion of females aged 19 to 24 were in full-time education, 30 per cent compared with 27 per cent of males (in 2017).
- 15,900 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in training (both work-based learning courses and job-related training) in 2017; with participation amongst females and males at the same level (6 per cent).
- Participation in full-time education decreased with age. 53 per cent of all 19 year olds were undertaking full-time education in 2017 compared with 9 per cent of 24 year olds.

Chart 2: Participation of 19-24 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2004 to 2017 (provisional))³

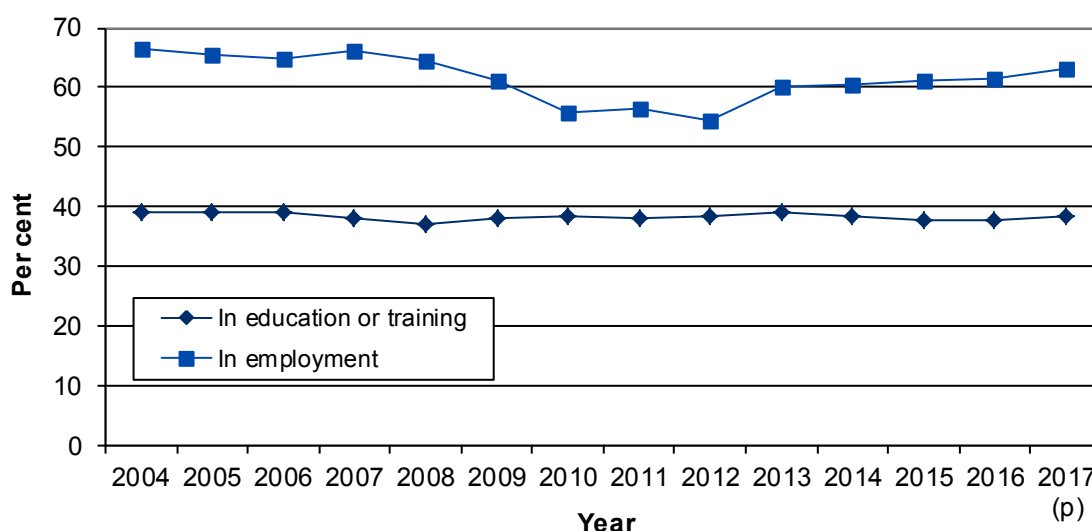


Chart 2 shows the trends in participation in education or training, and in employment for 19-24 year olds between 2004 and 2017(p). The proportion in education or training remained broadly unchanged over this period at around 37-39 per cent. In contrast, it can be seen that the proportion in employment decreased after the start of the 2008 recession to 2010, however has increased each year from 2012 to stand at 63 per cent in 2017(p).

³ Note young people can be in both education and training and employment.

Chart 3: Participation in full-time education by level of study and age (year end 2012 and 2017 (provisional))

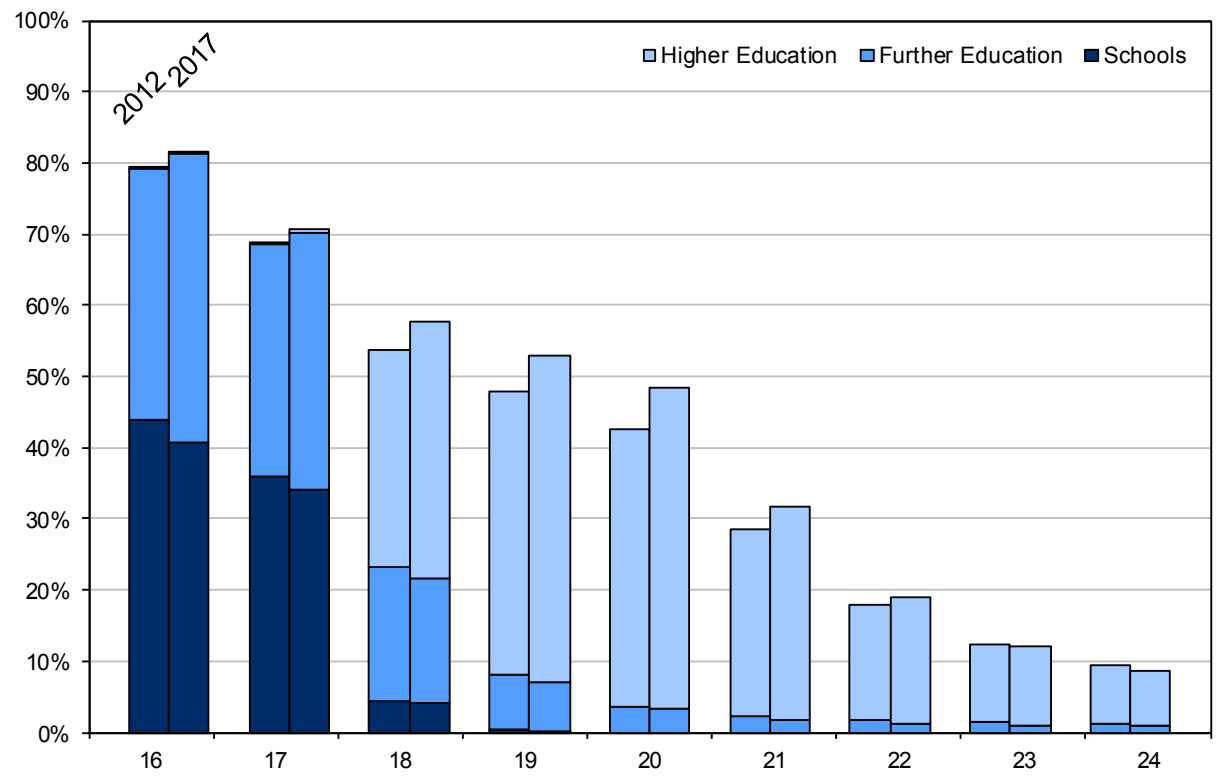


Chart 3 compares participation in full-time education by level of study, in 2017 (provisional) compared with the position in 2012. From the above it can be seen that whilst the participation in full-time education decreases by age, there has been an increase for each single year of age from 16 to 22, and is broadly similar for the older ages. Within this, the decrease to schools in part reflects the change of provision within some local authorities for post-16 education from school sixth form to further education colleges.

Table 1a: Estimated participation in education and training, by economic activity and gender (Year end 2016) (a) (r)

| | <i>Per cent</i> | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Full time employment | Part time employment | ILO Unemployed | Economically Inactive | Total |
| Persons | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.8 | 17.2 | 4.3 | 46.1 | 68.4 |
| Part time education | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 3.8 |
| Training (b) | 3.4 | 0.4 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 6.8 |
| Not in education or training | 5.0 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 7.1 | 21.0 |
| Total | 9.7 | 23.9 | 11.3 | 55.1 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.9 | 7.4 | 1.2 | 17.9 | 27.5 |
| Part time education | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 4.0 |
| Training (b) | 5.6 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.4 |
| Not in education or training | 32.5 | 11.2 | 5.7 | 12.8 | 62.2 |
| Total | 41.6 | 19.8 | 7.1 | 31.5 | 100.0 |
| Males | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.3 | 11.7 | 4.0 | 48.2 | 65.2 |
| Part time education | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 1.8 | 3.6 |
| Training (b) | 4.5 | 0.3 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 8.0 |
| Not in education or training | 5.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 8.1 | 23.2 |
| Total | 12.0 | 17.6 | 12.3 | 58.1 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.2 | 6.1 | 0.6 | 17.8 | 25.7 |
| Part time education | 2.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 3.8 |
| Training (b) | 5.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.1 |
| Not in education or training | 38.4 | 8.1 | 6.9 | 11.0 | 64.3 |
| Total | 48.0 | 14.8 | 7.7 | 29.5 | 100.0 |
| Females | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.4 | 23.1 | 4.7 | 43.7 | 71.8 |
| Part time education | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 2.2 | 3.9 |
| Training (b) | 2.2 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 5.5 |
| Not in education or training | 4.4 | 6.2 | 2.1 | 6.0 | 18.8 |
| Total | 7.3 | 30.5 | 10.2 | 52.0 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.5 | 9.0 | 1.9 | 18.0 | 29.4 |
| Part time education | 2.4 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 4.2 |
| Training (b) | 5.6 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.6 |
| Not in education or training | 26.1 | 14.6 | 4.4 | 14.7 | 59.8 |
| Total | 34.6 | 25.3 | 6.3 | 33.7 | 100.0 |

Source: ONS, HESA, Welsh Government, Annual Population Survey

(a) See notes section for definitions of economic activity.

(b) Includes persons on work-based learning and persons not enrolled on an education course, but who carried out job related training away from the workplace in the previous four weeks.

Table 1b: Estimated participation in education and training, by economic activity and gender (year end 2017 (p)) (a)

Per cent

| | Full time employment | Part time employment | ILO Unemployed | Economically Inactive | Total |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Persons | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.8 | 19.2 | 4.8 | 44.8 | 69.6 |
| Part time education | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 2.8 |
| Training (b) | 3.7 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| Not in education or training | 5.7 | 5.3 | 3.5 | 6.1 | 20.5 |
| Total | 10.4 | 25.9 | 11.4 | 52.2 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.4 | 7.2 | 0.9 | 18.7 | 28.3 |
| Part time education | 2.1 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 3.6 |
| Training (b) | 5.8 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.4 |
| Not in education or training | 34.5 | 11.0 | 6.1 | 10.1 | 61.7 |
| Total | 43.9 | 19.3 | 7.3 | 29.6 | 100.0 |
| Males | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.1 | 14.8 | 4.5 | 45.7 | 66.1 |
| Part time education | 0.2 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 2.9 |
| Training (b) | 5.2 | 0.5 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 8.8 |
| Not in education or training | 6.9 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 6.5 | 22.2 |
| Total | 13.4 | 21.3 | 12.0 | 53.3 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.3 | 5.9 | 0.6 | 18.8 | 26.6 |
| Part time education | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 3.6 |
| Training (b) | 5.9 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.4 |
| Not in education or training | 39.6 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 63.4 |
| Total | 49.3 | 14.8 | 8.3 | 27.6 | 100.0 |
| Females | | | | | |
| 16 to 18 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 0.5 | 24.0 | 5.1 | 43.9 | 73.4 |
| Part time education | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 2.7 |
| Training (b) | 2.2 | 0.5 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Not in education or training | 4.3 | 5.7 | 3.0 | 5.6 | 18.6 |
| Total | 7.3 | 30.9 | 10.8 | 51.0 | 100.0 |
| 19 to 24 year olds | | | | | |
| Full time education | 1.6 | 8.6 | 1.3 | 18.6 | 30.2 |
| Part time education | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 3.7 |
| Training (b) | 5.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.4 |
| Not in education or training | 28.8 | 14.1 | 4.5 | 12.3 | 59.7 |
| Total | 37.9 | 24.2 | 6.2 | 31.7 | 100.0 |

Source: ONS, HESA, Welsh Government, Annual Population Survey

- (a) See notes section for definitions of economic activity.
- (b) Includes persons on work-based learning and persons not enrolled on an education course, but who carried out job related training away from the workplace in the previous four weeks.
- (p) Data for this year are provisional.

Table 2: Estimated participation in education/training or not engaged in education/ training *nor* in employment (NEET), by gender

| Year End | <i>Per cent</i> | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--|
| | 16 to 18 year olds | | 19 to 24 year olds | | |
| | In education or training | NEET | In education or training | NEET | |
| Persons | | | | | |
| 2004 | 73.8 | 11.2 | 38.9 | 16.2 | |
| 2005 | 75.4 | 9.9 | 39.2 | 17.4 | |
| 2006 | 76.1 | 9.7 | 38.9 | 17.9 | |
| 2007 | 74.6 | 11.6 | 38.1 | 17.4 | |
| 2008 | 75.9 | 12.4 | 37.1 | 17.4 | |
| 2009 | 77.7 | 12.4 | 37.9 | 21.7 | |
| 2010 | 78.9 | 11.6 | 38.5 | 22.9 | |
| 2011 | 80.0 | 12.2 | 38.1 | 22.3 | |
| 2012 | 79.3 | 11.0 | 38.3 | 23.0 | |
| 2013 | 81.3 | 10.9 | 39.1 | 21.1 | |
| 2014 | 80.1 | 10.8 | 38.2 | 20.4 | |
| 2015 | 79.3 | 10.7 | 37.7 | 18.9 | |
| 2016 | 79.0 r | 10.5 r | 37.8 r | 18.5 r | |
| 2017 (p) | 79.5 | 9.5 | 38.3 | 16.2 | |
| Males | | | | | |
| 2004 | 70.7 | 13.1 | 36.4 | 11.9 | |
| 2005 | 72.6 | 12.3 | 37.2 | 14.7 | |
| 2006 | 73.1 | 11.1 | 37.1 | 15.4 | |
| 2007 | 71.4 | 13.0 | 36.1 | 15.3 | |
| 2008 | 74.0 | 15.1 | 35.1 | 15.2 | |
| 2009 | 76.1 | 14.9 | 36.2 | 20.6 | |
| 2010 | 76.8 | 13.7 | 37.0 | 22.1 | |
| 2011 | 77.6 | 14.4 | 36.4 | 19.4 | |
| 2012 | 77.0 | 12.8 | 36.5 | 21.5 | |
| 2013 | 79.4 | 12.5 | 37.7 | 19.4 | |
| 2014 | 78.4 | 11.7 | 36.7 | 18.2 | |
| 2015 | 77.4 | 11.9 | 36.1 | 16.3 | |
| 2016 | 76.8 r | 12.8 r | 35.7 r | 17.9 | |
| 2017 (p) | 77.8 | 10.5 | 36.6 | 15.7 | |
| Females | | | | | |
| 2004 | 77.1 | 9.1 | 41.4 | 20.5 | |
| 2005 | 78.4 | 7.4 | 41.3 | 20.2 | |
| 2006 | 79.3 | 8.2 | 40.7 | 20.4 | |
| 2007 | 77.9 | 10.2 | 40.2 | 19.6 | |
| 2008 | 77.9 | 9.6 | 39.2 | 19.6 | |
| 2009 | 79.2 | 9.8 | 39.6 | 22.8 | |
| 2010 | 81.1 | 9.3 | 40.0 | 23.8 | |
| 2011 | 82.4 | 9.9 | 39.9 | 25.2 | |
| 2012 | 81.7 | 9.1 | 40.2 | 24.6 | |
| 2013 | 83.4 | 9.3 | 40.6 | 22.8 | |
| 2014 | 81.9 | 9.8 | 39.8 | 22.9 | |
| 2015 | 81.3 | 9.4 | 39.4 | 21.8 | |
| 2016 | 81.2 r | 8.1 r | 40.2 r | 19.1 r | |
| 2017 (p) | 81.4 | 8.6 | 40.3 | 16.8 | |

Source: ONS, HESA, Welsh Government, Annual Population Survey

(p) Data for this year are provisional.

Notes

Policy/Operational context

This Release presents the annual snapshot of participation of young people in education and the labour market. The statistics are used within the Welsh Government to monitor trends in the level of participation in education and training, and the proportion of young people who are NEET.

The [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework](#) was announced in January 2013, with an implementation plan published in October 2013. The Framework outlines the Welsh Government's approach to reducing the number of young people aged 11 to 25 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET). The Framework is based on 6 key building blocks of Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement; Better brokerage and co-ordination of support for them; Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system; Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people; Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment; and Greater accountability for Local Authorities. Reducing the number of young people who are NEET is also part of the [Prosperity for All: Employability Plan](#).

Indicators around the proportion of young people who are NEET are part of the *Child Poverty Strategy* annual assessment of progress.

Data sources

Administrative data sources

School pupil numbers

Information is collected in January each year from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC). For example, for the provisional year end 2017 estimates, provisional figures from the January 2018 School Census are used. Ages are as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year. The Census only requests a combined figure for those aged 19 & over - these figures are included for 19 year olds only. Includes all maintained and independent schools.

Any changes to the provisional January 2018 PLASC data will be reflected in the final year end 2017 participation estimates in next year's release.

Higher education

Information regarding those at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is collected on a United Kingdom basis by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). This collection includes those studying further education courses at HEIs.

The analysis in this release is as at 1 December. Ages are as at 31 August prior to start of academic year. Prior to 2010 data relate to the total number of enrolments. From 2010, there has been an increase in multiple enrolments attributed to one individual, particularly amongst FE enrolments at HEIs, and therefore such multiple enrolments have been discounted to better reflect the number of individual students.

Provisional year end 2017 estimates are modelled using the Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey (HESES), collected by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

(HEFCW), which provides an early indication of the number of HE students studying in the academic year 2017/18. These provisional estimates will be revised with final 2017 HESA data in next year's release.

Information on Open University students are "whole year" figures, i.e. they include enrolments throughout the year. The reference point for age is 1 January. The figures used are for Welsh-domiciled students studying at the OU. Data for the 2017/18 academic year are provisional and will be revised with final data in next year's release.

Further education and work-based learning

The Welsh Government collects information on enrolments at Further Education Institutions (FEIs) in Wales, including work-based learning (WBL), via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR).

The analysis in this release is based on enrolments as at the week of 1 December. The 2017/18 data are still under validation so the provisional year end 2017 estimates are based on an early freeze of the data. Where a learner has activities in more than one provision type allocation to a single type has been made in the order: WBL at FEIs, HE at FEIs, other at FEIs, WBL at Other Training Providers. Learners with both WBL activities at Other Training Providers and learning activities at FEIs will be included under the activity at the FEI. These early estimates will be revised with final data for 2017/18 in next year's release.

FE enrolments include students on courses at the Workers Educational Association (WEA) and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

Non administrative data sources

Population

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates mid-year estimates of resident population by single year of age as at 30 June. For this release, end of year populations have been derived from the latest mid-year estimates and 2014-based national population projections. These estimates have been adjusted to age as at 31 August. For example age as at 31 August 2017 is used in the provisional figures for year end 2017. These will be revised for final estimates in the next update when mid-year estimates for 2018 will be available.

Economic activity

Economic activity is estimated from survey data using proportions derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is a household survey carried out by the ONS. The APS combines the boosted samples of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and provides rolling four quarter data. These latest data cover the calendar year 2017. For Wales, the APS sample is about 20,000 households.

Some of the estimates are based on small samples and therefore may have a large margin of error. As a result changes in trend need to be interpreted with a degree of caution, as changes could be attributed to sampling effects as well as real effects. Currently it is not possible to distinguish between these impacts.

Note that the employment status of work-based learners is derived from the LLWR rather than the APS.

Definitions

International Labour Organisation unemployed (ILO)

The ILO measure of unemployment covers people without a job who are available to start work within two weeks and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview, or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.

Economically inactive

The economically inactive consist of those people who are neither in employment, nor classified as unemployed on the ILO definition. Such people are classified according to whether or not they would like a regular paid job and, if so whether or not they were seeking work and/or available.

Calculation of the participation of young people in education and the labour market

The APS is used to estimate the following proportions:

- Labour market status of those in full-time education;
- Labour market status of those in part-time education;
- Full-time and part-time employment of those in work-based learning, who are employed;
- Employer sponsored 'off-the-job' training for those in employment.

The LLWR is used to estimate the following proportion:

- Labour market status of those engaged in work-based learning.

These proportions are then applied to the numbers known to be in education, work-based learning and the total population to derive estimates of participation by education and employment. For work-based learners, the labour market status at the start of the learning programme collected via the LLWR is used with the addition of some APS data to estimate the proportions in full-time and part-time employment.

Table A1 in Annex A provides further detail on the methodology used to estimate participation by education and economic activity.

Key quality information

Relevance

The statistics are used within the Welsh Government to monitor trends in the level of participation in education and training, and the proportion of young people who are NEET.

Other key users of these statistics include:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- Other government departments
- Students, academics and universities

Accuracy

Sampling variability

As noted previously the economic status proportions are estimated from the Annual Population Survey. Therefore, these estimates will be subject to variation due to sampling error and also non-sampling error and should be treated with caution. As a result changes in trend need to be interpreted with a degree of caution, as changes could be attributed to sampling effects as well as real effects. Currently it is not possible to distinguish between these impacts.

Revisions policy

Provisional 2017 figures will be finalised in next year's publication, due for release in July 2019.

The following table shows the difference between the 2016 provisional estimates published in last year's release and the final published estimate for the key series of the proportion who are NEET, and the proportion in education or training.

| | NEET | | In education or training | |
|------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| | Number | Per cent | Number | Per cent |
| 16 to 18 | | | | |
| Provisional 2016 | 11,000 | 10.4 | 83,800 | 79.2 |
| Final 2016 | 11,200 | 10.5 | 83,900 | 79.0 |
| Difference | 200 | 0.1 | 100 | -0.2 |
| 19 to 24 | | | | |
| Provisional 2016 | 46,400 | 18.5 | 95,000 | 37.8 |
| Final 2016 | 46,000 | 18.5 | 94,000 | 37.8 |
| Difference | -400 | 0.0 | -1,000 | 0.0 |

For earlier years this series is not revised on a regular basis. Revisions are only to be made in line with revisions to source data.

Comparisons with previous years

There were changes made in the data sources and methodology used to derive the participation estimates introduced for the year end 2004 edition. Care should be taken when comparing these estimates with estimates from year end 2004 onwards. Please contact us for advice before using comparisons with previous years.

In particular the following changes need to be taken into account when making comparisons with previous years:

Further education and work-based learning

The LLWR replaced the Individualised Student Record (ISR) from the start of the academic year 2004/05, therefore a discontinuity may result from the change in data collection.

Prior to the academic year 2004/05 work-based learning activity was collected via the National Trainee Database (NTD). The NTD included college based WBL trainees, who were also included in the number of FE enrolments. This double counting has been removed with the collection of WBL activity via LLWR by the introduction of a unique identifier that is common to the learner no matter where their activity takes place.

Economic activity

For 2001 - 2003 economic activity was based on the Welsh Local Labour Force Surveys (WLLFS), with a similar sample size to the APS. Prior to 2001/02, economic activity was estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Changes in population estimates

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates mid-year estimates of resident population by single year of age as at 30 June. For this release, end of year populations have been derived from the mid-year estimates and 2014-based national population projections. These estimates have been adjusted to age as at 31 August. Population estimates and projections are subject to revision as more accurate information becomes available. Such revisions to underlying population figures impact the published participation and NEET rates are revised.

Timeliness and punctuality

This Statistical Release is published annually in July and covers the preceding year end (provisional data) and the year earlier (final data).

Accessibility and clarity

This Statistical Release is pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics & Research website](#). All underlying data for this release as well as other years are available on [StatsWales](#).

Comparability and coherence

For this release, participation in education and the labour market has been estimated using population, education and work-based learning data along with the Annual Population Survey (APS) to estimate the labour market status. In addition to this release we publish a bulletin [Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#) to provide users with more timely and detailed (but less statistically robust) NEET statistics based on the APS only, and estimates from the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes one of the national indicators:

- (22) Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/participation-young-people-education-labour-market/?lang=en>.

Next update

July 2019

Period covered: Year end 2017 and 2018 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to post16ed.stats@gov.wales

Open Government Licence

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Annex A

Table A1: Methodology to estimate participation by education and economic activity

| | 1: Full-time employment | 2: Part-time employment | 3: Unemployed | 4: Economically Inactive | Total |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| A: Full-time education | (Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education in FT Employment) | (Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education in PT Employment) | (Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education unemployed) | (Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education inactive) | Number in full-time education |
| B: Part-time education | (Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education in FT Employment) | (Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education in PT Employment) | (Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education unemployed) | (Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education inactive) | Number in part-time education |
| C: Training | [(Number in work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of GST and apprentice in FT Employment) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL in employment)] + [(Mid-year population – Number in education or work-based learning)] x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in FT employment) x (APS: Proportion of FT employment and not in education with off job training)] | [(Number in work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of GST and apprentice in PT Employment) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL in employment)] + [(Mid-year population – Number in education or work-based learning)] x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in PT employment) x (APS: Proportion of PT employment and not in education with off job training)] | (Number in work-based learning) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL unemployed) | (Number in work-based learning) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL inactive) | Number in work-based learning + Number in employment with off-job training |
| D: Not in education or training | [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL in full-time employment)] - [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in FT employment) x (APS: Proportion of FT employment and not in education with off job training)] | [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL in part-time employment)] - [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in PT employment) x (APS: Proportion of PT employment and not in education with off job training)] | (Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL unemployed) | (Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL inactive) | Number not in education or training |
| Total | Number in full-time employment | Number in part-time employment | Number unemployed | Number inactive | End-Year Population Estimate |