

Learning and Labour Market Intelligence: Area Profile

Swansea

June 2005

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Introduction

The Learning and Labour Market Intelligence Area Profiles sit alongside regional and national reports for Wales for 2005. The local area report provides information about labour market and learning provision at Unitary Authority level. Data have been sourced from several providers and these are acknowledged accordingly. In particular, extensive use has been made of Crown Copyright materials, which are reproduced here under licence.

The production of local intelligence is beset by greater reporting difficulties than at higher geographical levels. On this occasion, aside from the usual data gaps and discontinuities, various methodological and organisational changes have delayed the release of some data sets. What has been reproduced here is the most up-to-date and available data at the time of publication. However, revision of the reports is planned later in the year, when it is anticipated that additional information will be available.

The area reports are arranged into 5 sections. The first section is simply a one-page summary of relevant **key statistics** for the Unitary Authority area and should prove useful to those who require access to a quick data reference source. This is then followed by **commentary/analysis** based on a more thorough examination of specific learning and labour market data. As with the national and regional reports, links have been included in the narrative to specific **data exhibits** contained in a separate third section.

All of the themes identified in the local area reports are also discussed in the regional and national reports and periodic cross-referencing between area and regional report will aid the reader. With this in mind occasional references have been included to relevant sections of the appropriate regional/national reports. However in an effort to make the area reports “free standing” a fourth information section has been added. Containing material mostly in the form of annotated maps and tables, the purpose of this **supplementary data** section is to enable users to undertake a limited amount of inter-area comparison without having to resort excessively to other source documents.

The final section of the area report is a glossary of **terms and definitions**.

Key Statistics

Population (mid 2003)	224,600
Working Age population	135,900
Non-white (% work age)	3.8%
Welsh speakers (% age 3+)	17.4%
Activity rate	75.4%
Employment rate	71.0%
ILO Unemployment (% ea)	6.6%
DDA + Work limiting disability (% working age)	14.7%
GVA per head (% UK average)	83%
Av. Weekly Full Time Earnings	£385¹
Businesses stock	12,285
VAT Businesses	4,565
NVQ 3+	45.6%
No qualifications	16.0%
School leavers (yr 11) w/o quals/not entering WBL/not continuing in educ.	3.5%
Workforce based learners (WBL)	4,171
Workforce development training	13.4%

¹ Workplace basis

Commentary/Analysis

Demographics

- In mid 2003 the population of Swansea was 116,300. This represents a fall of 2.1% on the (mid) 1993 estimate ([Table 1](#)).
- Like many other areas in Wales, the population of Swansea is also ageing. Changes in the age profile of the population show there were 4,900 fewer children in 2003 than a decade earlier. At the same time the population of retirement age (65+) increased by 800 people. However concealed within this aggregate statistic is an increase of 2,600 in the number of people aged 75 and over.

Labour Supply and Utilisation

- 61% of the population of Swansea is of working age (60% in Wales) while 75% of the working age population is economically active (74% in Wales).
- Economic growth has been favourable to the participation of women in the labour market and Swansea's labour market exhibits higher than average female participation. Male activity rates exceed those of women but are below the Welsh average for men. The same pattern is repeated for employment rates, which among women are high and comparable to the female Great Britain average ([Table 2](#)).
- With 1 in 4 working age people inactive there would appear to be considerable unutilised labour market capacity. However, the economically inactive consist of a diverse group – early retired, students and sick or disabled that vary in their closeness to the labour market. The majority of Swansea's inactive population amounting to 1 in 6 of working age males and 1 in 5 women do not want a job ([Table 3](#)).
- Unemployment measured on the ILO basis is locally higher for both men and women. However, claimant based unemployment exhibits no appreciable gap suggesting that proportionately fewer of the unemployed in Swansea are receiving JSA ([Table 4](#)).
- The age structure of claimant unemployment in Swansea is broadly the same as in Wales. However average duration may be slightly shorter in Swansea with 76% of claimants experiencing (uncompleted) spells of 6 months or less (74% in Wales [Table 5](#)). Long-term unemployment (12 months or over) at 11% is also lower than the Welsh or GB average.

Skills and Qualifications

- Swansea's mix of occupations closely resembles that of the Welsh economy. The main differences relate to a relatively higher concentration of sales and customer service occupations. Occupations associated with heavy manufacturing operations such as process, plant and machine operatives are relatively scarce ([Table 6](#)).

- In terms of workforce qualifications, 65% are qualified to NVQ 2 or above and 46% to level 3 or higher. At 16%, the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications is 2% lower than in Wales ([Table 7](#)).

Employment and earnings

- Jobs density figures show the ratio of total jobs to working-age population. The total number of jobs is a workplace-based measure and comprises employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces. At 0.8 jobs density in Swansea is greater than in Wales and equivalent to the Great Britain average ([Table 8](#)).
- Just 62% of local employment is full-time and partly reflects the underlying industry mix. In this respect almost 9 out of 10 jobs (86%) are in the service economy and one third of these are in distribution, hotels and catering. Manufacturing accounts for barely 10% of the employed labour force of Swansea ([Table 9](#)).
- With high dependence on service industries, average earnings in Swansea do not compare favourably with Wales or Great Britain. Average full-time male earnings in Swansea are around £30 per week (workplace basis) less than the equivalent all Wales average. When compared with Great Britain², the gap is much wider amounting to over £100 per week. Women employees in Swansea earn less than their male equivalents and this may perhaps explain the smaller gap in women's earnings between Swansea and the benchmark areas ([Table 10](#)).

The Business Stock

- There are around 12,000 businesses in Swansea ([Table 11a](#)). Micro-enterprises (with 0-9 employees) and small businesses (10-49 employees) make up 95% of these and account for 41% of jobs. Just under 4% of the business stock is comprised of large firms (250+ employees) but these account for 49% of employment ([Table 11b](#)).
- At 4,565 the number of VAT registered businesses in Swansea represents around 40% of the business population. Turnover rates are also high and in 2003, deregistrations (often taken as a proxy for business failure) amounted to 10.2% of the VAT stock. Over the same period the registration rate (a proxy for business formation) amounted to 10.6% ([Table 12](#)).

Education and Training

School Leavers

- Longitudinal comparisons for the last five years (Careers Wales) show the establishment of a fairly stable pattern, whereby the majority of young people completing statutory education in Year 11 (~age 16), opt to continue in some form of learning. This pattern is repeated for year 12 and Year 13 cohorts (~17 and 18 year olds).

² However the comparison with Great Britain will be distorted due to the inclusion of London and the South East of England

- Recorded pupil destinations following compulsory education ([Table 13](#)) indicate that more than 8 out of 10 children leaving full-time education in Swansea will continue in some form of learning (including work based training).
- 3.5% of pupils completing compulsory education in Swansea do not achieve a recognised qualification and do not (either) enter work based learning or continue in full-time education³. This is greater than in Wales generally (2.3%).
- In 2002/03 there were 1,356 pupils over school leaving age attending LEA maintained schools in Swansea. The number of pupils who entered two or more A/AS levels or the vocational equivalent was 472 in 2002/03 and 501 in 2003/04.
- 66% of the 2002/03 pupils achieved two or more A/AS levels at Grade A-C or the vocational equivalent and 92% achieved grades A-E (or the vocational equivalent)⁴. The corresponding figures for 2003/04 were 71% and 96% respectively.

Further Education

- Wales has a total FE student population of almost 260,000 (2002/03). Its distribution on a regional basis roughly reflects that of the population generally – with: 42% attending institutions in South East Wales; 27% attending institutions in North Wales; 23% in South West Wales and 8% in Mid Wales.
- Standardised participation rates measure the proportion of the population engaged in further education taking into account the different age and sex profiles of the unitary authorities. These can be used to illustrate the degree of variation in participation in further education across Wales.
- The highest standardised participation rates for adults in FE (i.e. aged over 18) are in Conwy, Denbighshire and Neath Port Talbot and the lowest in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. In general, rates are higher in North and South West Wales than in Mid Wales or the East ([Figure 1](#)).

Work Based Learning

- The training sector comprises learners supported by ELWa through its work-based learning (WBL) funding to training providers.
- In 2002/03 just over half of all trainees were located in South East Wales with 6% in Mid-Wales. South West (23%) and North Wales (20%) had comparable numbers of trainees. There were also differences in the proportion of the population who were in training in the different parts of Wales.
- Regional participation rates for Welsh trainees in all regions are shown in [Figure 2](#). The highest rates are in the South East and especially in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, The Vale of Glamorgan and slightly further west, in Neath Port Talbot. The lowest participation rates are in the east, in particular, in Flintshire, Monmouthshire and Cardiff.

³ [Annual survey of schools in Wales \(2003/04\)](#).

⁴ See the South West Wales Regional Learning and Labour Market Intelligence report for comparisons with other Local Authority Areas

- There were 4,171 Work-Based (WBL) training episodes in Swansea⁵ in 2002/03. Of these:
 - 58% of trainees were males
 - 52% were aged 16-18; 33% were 19-24 and 13% were aged 25-49.
 - 15% of trainees achieved level 2 qualifications and 64% level 3 or above. Comparable percentages for Wales are 35% and 41%.

Total Participation in Post 16 Learning

- The standardised participation rate for all post 16 learning in Swansea (including sixth forms, FE and WBL, but excluding Higher Education) is 110. This ranks as the 4th (highest) in Wales ([Table 14](#)).

Workforce Development

- Workforce development is a broader concept than education or training and encompasses those interventions (including education and training) that equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to participate more effectively in the workplace and in society. The most robust aggregate information relates to training received by those in employment and is provided by the Local Area Labour Force Survey.
- Estimates from the 2003 Labour Force Survey show that 13.4% of the employed workforce in Swansea had received workforce development training (in the 4 weeks prior to survey). This compares with a 12.3% average for the region and 11.4% in Wales. Swansea ranked 3rd in Wales for the proportion of the workforce receiving workforce development training ([Table 15](#)).

Adult and Continuing Education

- In 2002/03 there were 1,485 enrolments at 68 venues providing adult and continuing education in Swansea. All ACE provision was LEA maintained ([Table 16](#)).

The Welsh Language

- The demographics of the Welsh language vary considerably across Wales. Labour Force Survey estimates show that the highest proportions of Welsh speakers are in the North and West where they exceed 50% in 4 counties - Gwynedd (77%), Anglesey (65%), Ceredigion (59%), Carmarthenshire (52%). The lowest concentrations occur in South East Wales where in 7 (out of 10) Unitary Authorities the percentage of Welsh speakers is below 20% ([Table 17](#)).
- Linguistic diversity is reflected in levels of Welsh language provision in schools. Welsh is available as a first language in the majority of schools in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire ([Table 18](#)). In the more densely populated districts to the east of the region, the situation is very different so that in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot the vast majority of maintained schools offer Welsh as second language only.

⁵ Source: ELWa and National Trainee Database.

Key messages from the Future Skills Wales 2003 survey⁶

- Between February and July 2003 around 6,000 employers and 6,000 households were interviewed as part of the Future Skills Wales 2003 Generic Skills Survey. In Swansea 430 households and 400 employers were interviewed. The aim of the survey was to audit the skills requirements of employers in Wales and the skills offered by the people who live there.
 - The skills most sought after by employers in Swansea were understanding customer needs, communication, ability to follow instructions, showing initiative and adaptability / flexibility. These were also expected to be the most sought after skills in three years' time.
 - 55% of employers in Swansea have provided off the job training in the last 12 months with 12% of these employers experiencing difficulties in finding an appropriate training provider.
 - 64% of residents indicated that they would like to be involved in some form of learning however 46% experienced some type of barrier to learning. The main barriers to learning were practical or financial in nature, as identified by 34% of residents.
 - 56% of residents in the Swansea area had been involved in training or learning in the past 12 months. The most popular forms were courses designed to help develop skills for work and keeping up to date with developments in work, e.g. reading or attending seminars.
 - Employers' attitudes were very positive to the importance of skills with 97% agreeing that skills are crucial to business success. However, a lower proportion, 80%, agreed that investment in skills brought business benefits. 23% of employers reported that there was a significant gap between the skills that their employees have now and the skills that they need to meet their current business objectives.

Data Tables

⁶ <http://www.futureskillswales.com/eng/content.php?cID=5&pID=1&zID=7>

Note: Unless otherwise specified all data have been sourced from National Statistics and can be accessed under the [Local Area Profiles](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk) wizard at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1. Population Change 1993-2003 – South West Wales Unitary Authorities (UAs)

	Population Mid 2003	% Change 1993-2003	Absolute Change 1993-2003				
			All	0-14	15-64	65-74	75+
Carmarthenshire	176,000	4.0%	6,700	300	5,900	-1,900	2,400
Pembrokeshire	116,300	3.0%	3,400	-600	1,400	400	2,100
Neath Port Talbot	135,300	-2.1%	-2,900	-2,500	200	-2,100	1,500
Swansea	224,600	-2.1%	-4,700	-4,900	-600	-1,800	2,600
All UAs	652,200	0.4%	2,500	-7,700	6,900	-5,400	8,600

Source: [Midyear population estimates \(2003\)](#) (population and migration theme)

Table 2. Economic Activity by Type of Employment and Gender

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
All people				
Economically active	100,000	75.4	74.2	78.2
In employment	94,000	71.0	70.5	74.3
Employees	86,000	64.6	61.6	64.8
Self employed	8,000	5.9	8.4	9.0
Unemployed	6,000	5.9	5.1	5.0
Males				
Economically active	53,000	77.5	78.6	83.4
In employment	50,000	72.4	74.0	78.9
Employees	44,000	63.6	61.4	65.5
Self employed	5,000	8.0	12.0	13.0
Unemployed	4,000	6.6	5.9	5.4
Females				
Economically active	47,000	73.2	69.6	72.8
In employment	45,000	69.5	66.7	69.5
Employees	42,000	65.7	61.7	64.2
Self employed	2,000	3.7	4.5	4.8
Unemployed	2,000	5.1	4.2	4.5

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)

Percentages are based on working age population, except unemployed, which is based on economically active.

Table 3. Analysis of Economic Inactivity by Gender and Desire to Work

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
All people				
Economically inactive	33,000	24.6	25.8	21.8
Wanting a job	8,000	6.3	6.1	5.7
Not wanting a job	24,000	18.3	19.6	16.1
Males				
Economically inactive	15,000	22.5	21.4	16.6
Wanting a job	4,000	6.2	5.2	4.7
Not wanting a job	11,000	16.3	16.2	11.9
Females				
Economically inactive	17,000	26.8	30.4	27.2
Wanting a job	4,000	6.3	7.1	6.7
Not wanting a job	13,000	20.5	23.3	20.5

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
 Percentages are based on working age population

Table 4. Unemployment: JSA claimants by Gender (2005)

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
All people	3,433	2.5	2.4	2.4
Males	2,669	3.8	3.6	3.4
Females	764	1.2	1.2	1.3

Source: Claimant count (February 2005), National Statistics

Note: The percentage figures show the number of JSA claimants as a proportion of resident working-age people.

Table 5. JSA Claimants by Age and Duration

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
by age of claimant				
Aged 18-24	1,160	33.9	34.1	28.8
Aged 25-49	1,650	48.2	49.0	53.2
Aged 50 and over	535	15.7	15.5	16.4
by duration of claim				
Up to 6 months	2,590	75.7	73.9	70.5
Over 6 up to 12 months	470	13.7	13.5	15.5
Over 12 months	365	10.6	12.6	14.0

Source: Claimant count - age and duration (February 2005), National Statistics

Note: The percentage figures represent the number of JSA claimants in a particular category as a percentage of all JSA claimants.

Table 6. Employment by Occupation

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	37,000	37.4	36.1	40.5
1 Managers and senior officials	12,000	12.7	12.1	14.6
2 Professional occupations	11,000	11.5	10.9	12.1
3 Associate professional & technical	13,000	13.3	13.1	13.8
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	25,000	25.2	25.3	24.4
4 Administrative & secretarial	14,000	14.3	12.2	13.0
5 Skilled trades occupations	11,000	10.8	13.0	11.4
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	18,000	18.4	16.2	15.5
6 Personal service occupations	8,000	7.9	7.9	7.5
7 Sales and customer service occs	10,000	10.5	8.3	8.0
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	19,000	19.0	22.3	19.6
8 Process plant & machine operatives	6,000	6.4	9.7	7.7
9 Elementary occupations	12,000	12.6	12.6	11.8

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
Percentages are based on all persons in employment.

Table 7. Workforce Qualifications

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
NVQ4 and above	32,000	24.1	22.5	25.2
NVQ3 and above	61,000	45.6	40.2	43.1
NVQ2 and above	86,000	64.5	60.3	61.5
NVQ1 and above	104,000	78.1	74.2	76.0
Other Qualifications	8,000	6.0	8.0	8.8
No Qualifications	21,000	16.0	17.8	15.1

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
All figures are for working age. For an explanation of the qualification levels see the definitions section.

Table 8 Jobs Density

	Swansea (jobs)	Swansea (density)	Wales (density)	GB (density)
Jobs Density	107,000	0.8	0.7	0.8

Source: Jobs Density (2002), National Statistics

Jobs density is an indicator of employment demand and measures the number of jobs per resident of working age (16-59/64). For example, a job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident of working age.

Table 9. Employee Jobs

	Swansea (employee jobs)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
Total employee jobs	101,700	-	-	-
Full-time	63,300	62.2	66.2	68.1
Part-time	38,400	37.8	33.8	31.9
Manufacturing	9,700	9.5	16.1	12.6
Construction	3,600	3.6	4.2	4.4
Services	87,800	86.3	77.9	81.4
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	25,400	25.0	23.5	24.7
Transport & communications	4,100	4.0	4.6	6.0
Finance, IT, other business activities	16,800	16.5	11.9	19.8
Public admin, education & health	37,400	36.8	32.8	25.8
Other services	4,100	4.1	5.0	5.2
Tourism-related	8,800	8.6	8.1	8.1

Source: Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis (2003)

Employee jobs rounded to nearest 100. Percentages are based on total employee jobs.

Reporting restrictions apply to data for energy and water (SIC A,B) and these cannot be identified.

Limitations on coverage also prevent reporting of employees in agriculture and fishing (SIC C,E).

Table 10 Average Earnings

Gross weekly pay	Swansea (pounds)	Wales (pounds)	GB (pounds)
Residence basis			
Full-time workers	402.4	416.0	475.8
Male full-time workers	442.0	449.8	525.0
Female full-time workers	332.1	358.4	396.0
Workplace basis			
Full-time workers	385.3	414.5	475.8
Male full-time workers	416.0	448.3	525.0
Female full-time workers	344.5	357.3	396.0

Source: New Earnings Survey by SOC 2000 occupation (2003)

Table 11a. Size band analysis of enterprises active in local authorities in Wales, 2003

Local Authority	Percent				All	Number
	Micro 0-9	Small 10-49	Med 50-249	Large 250+		
Pembrokeshire	94.5	3.2	0.6	1.7	100	10,385
Carmarthenshire	93.4	3.6	0.9	2.1	100	11,055
Swansea	90.4	4.5	1.4	3.7	100	12,285
Neath Port Talbot	87.9	6.3	1.7	4.1	100	5,065

Table 11b. Employment by Unitary Authority Area 2003

Local Authority	Percent				All	Number
	Micro 0-9	Small 10-49	Med 50-249	Large 250+		
Pembrokeshire	50.4	18.0	8.5	23.0	100	34,250
Carmarthenshire	42.7	16.1	11.3	29.9	100	44,450
Swansea	27.0	13.8	10.9	48.3	100	72,895
Neath Port Talbot	24.2	15.9	11.1	48.8	100	34,785

Source: [National Statistics, Size analysis of Welsh business, Sept 2004](#)

Table 12. VAT Registered Businesses

	Swansea (numbers)	Swansea (%)	Wales (%)	GB (%)
Registrations	485	10.6	8.7	10.6
Deregistrations	465	10.2	8.8	9.7
Stock (at end of year)	4,565	-	-	-

Source: VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry (2003)
Percentages are based on stock (at end of year).

Table 13. 2003 (Revised) Destinations of Year 11 pupils by Careers Wales Area

Destination	Percent						
	Cardiff & Vale	Gwent	Mid Glam	North East	North West	Powys	West
Continuing in Full Time Education	73.9	72.1	71.9	68.0	75.6	82.4	76.4
Work Based Training – non employed status	4.6	7.2	7.4	3.5	4.2	3.1	7.4
Work Based Training –employed status	2.3	1.6	1.9	4.3	3.0	0.6	2.5
Employed - other	5.8	7.7	7.9	11.9	6.4	3.7	4.2
Known not in education, employment or training	8.0	7.2	5.2	6.2	4.9	3.6	6.6
No response	3.4	1.9	2.8	2.9	3.8	1.8	1.7
Left Area	2.1	2.3	2.8	3.2	2.1	4.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number in Cohort	5,663	6,023	7,520	4,019	4,218	1,714	8,918

Source [Careers Wales, 2004](#)

<http://www.careerswales.com/professionals/documentlibrary.asp?language=English>

Careers Wales Company Areas

Cardiff and Vale – contains the unitary authority areas of the City and County of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan

Gwent – refers to unitary authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport and the eastern (former 'Islwyn') part of Caerphilly.

Mid Glamorgan - the company covers the unitary authority areas of the County Boroughs of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff and the western part of Caerphilly County Borough.

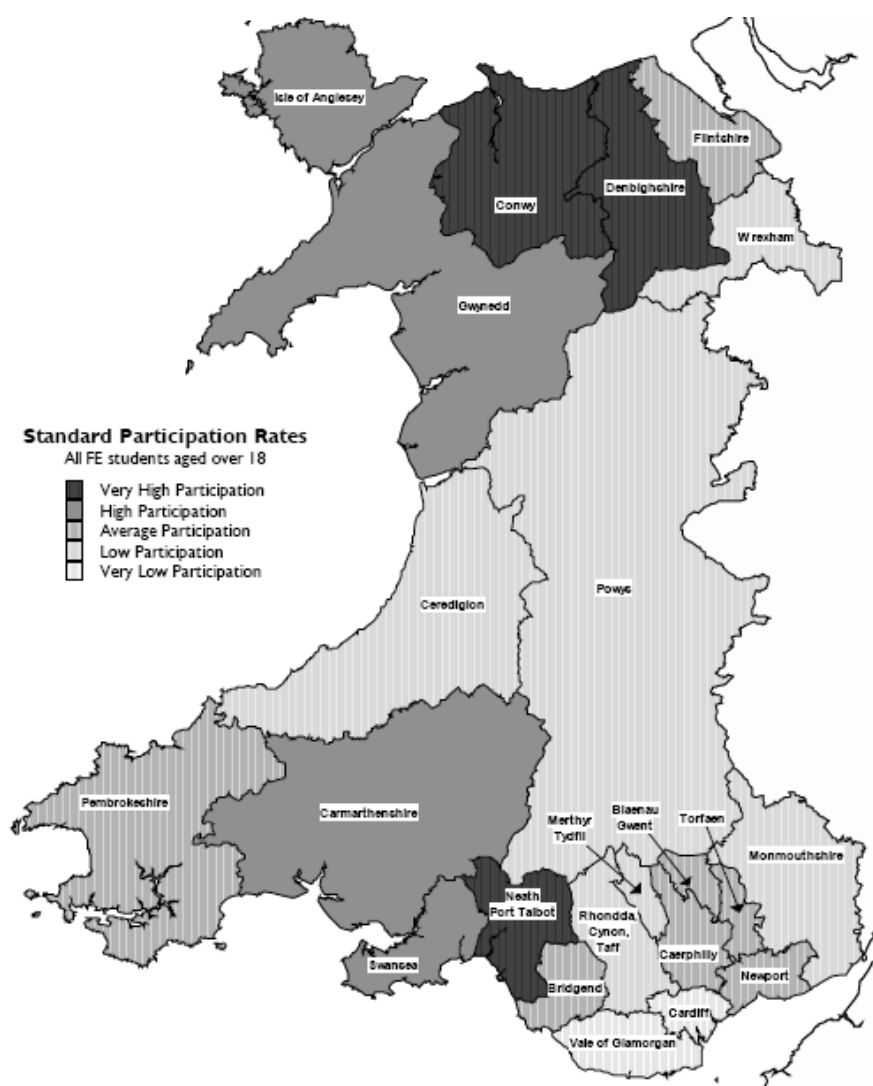
North East - the company covers the unitary authorities of Flintshire, Wrexham and the southern part of Denbighshire.

North West - The company operates in the unitary authorities of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy and the Western part of Denbigh. It covers the rural areas of Meirionnydd and the Llyn in the west and the densely populated towns of Llandudno, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl to the east.

Powys - unitary authority area of Powys.

West covers the five unitary authority areas of Neath/ Port Talbot, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Swansea

Figure 1. Participation rates for Welsh domiciled, adult (aged over 18), Further Education students, studying at FE and HE institutions in the UK 1st December 2002



Notes

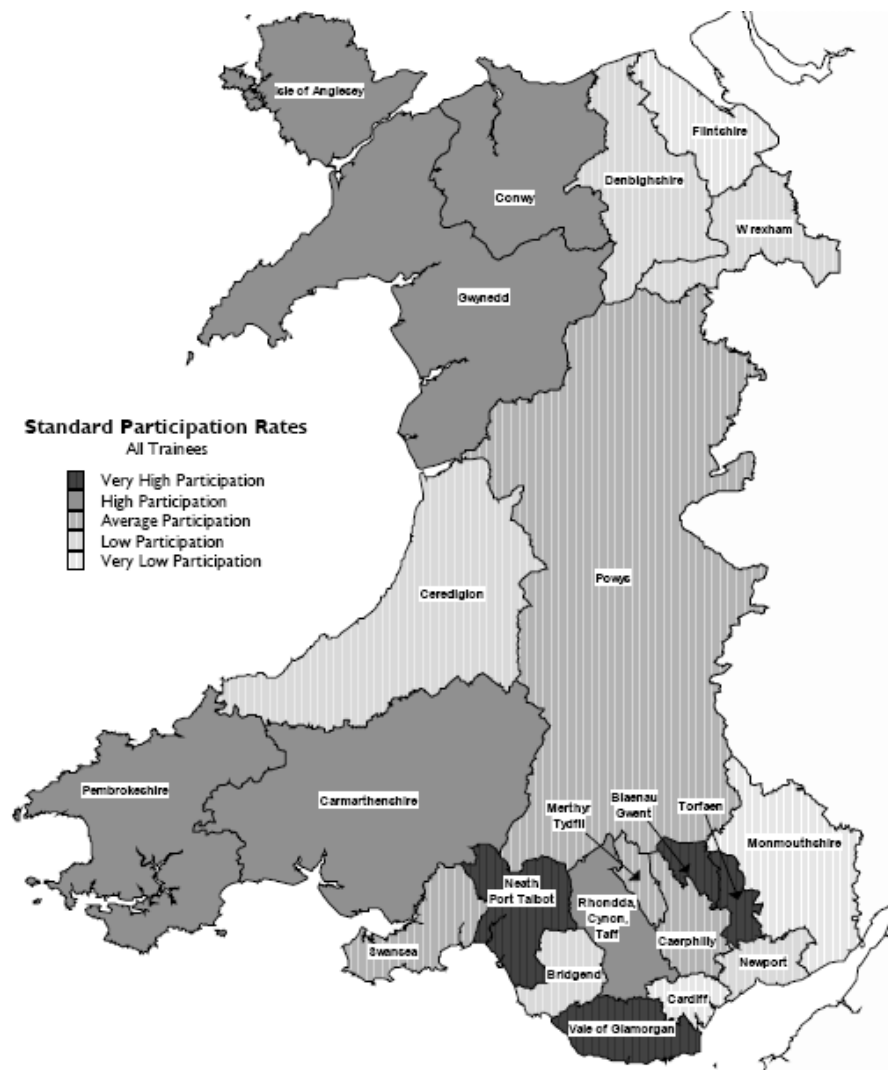
The Standard Participation Rate is defined as the number of FE (or HE, or WBL) learners domiciled in an area divided by the expected number of learners for that area and multiplied by 100. The higher the Standard Participation Rate (SPR) the greater the uptake of the population within the sector. If a particular region has a SPR of less than 100 then there were fewer learners (within FE or HE etc) living in that area than would be expected based on the Welsh national averages. Similarly, a SPR value above 100 indicates a region with a larger percentage of the population studying in the sector than would be expected from the national averages.

The SPRs ranges given in the above map are:

Very high	= 120 -200
High	= 105 -120
Average	= 95 -105
Low	= 80 - 95
Very Low	= 0 - 80

Source: ELWa/HEFCW (2004), *Higher Education, Further Education and Training Statistics 2002/03*

Figure 2. Participation rates for Welsh domiciled trainees funded by ELWa (December 2002)



Notes

The Standard Participation Rate is defined as the number of FE (or HE, or WBL) learners domiciled in an area divided by the expected number of learners for that area and multiplied by 100. The higher the Standard Participation Rate (SPR) the greater the uptake of the population within the sector. If a particular region has a SPR of less than 100 then there were fewer learners (within FE or HE etc) living in that area than would be expected based on the Welsh national averages. Similarly, a SPR value above 100 indicates a region with a larger percentage of the population studying in the sector than would be expected from the national averages.

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Source: ELWa/HEFCW (2004), *Higher Education, Further Education and Training Statistics 2002/03*

Table 14. Learner participation rates in FEIs, sixth forms, work-based learning and HEIs, December 2000

Learner Participation Rates in FEIs, Sixth Forms, Work-Based Learning and HEIs - December 2000						
	ELWa Region	Standard Participation Rate for all post-16 learning (including HE)	Numbers of learners - excluding HE	Standard Participation Rate for all post-16 learning (excluding HE)	Rank for learner participation - excluding HE (1=highest)	Proportion of learners studying at HE level
Anglesey	North Wales	101	4,821	104	7	34%
Blaenau Gwent	South East Wales	78	4,653	92	16	23%
Bridgend	South East Wales	96	9,291	102	11	31%
Caerphilly	South East Wales	87	11,421	97	14	28%
Cardiff	South East Wales	90	16,551	81	22	43%
Carmarthenshire	South West Wales	119	14,115	125	2	30%
Ceredigion	Mid Wales	100	4,295	88	19	42%
Conwy	North Wales	124	8,807	127	1	32%
Denbighshire	North Wales	110	7,366	114	3	31%
Flintshire	North Wales	102	9,402	90	18	42%
Gwynedd	North Wales and Mid Wales	103	7,853	103	10	34%
Merthyr Tydfil	South East Wales	93	4,058	102	11	29%
Monmouthshire	South East Wales	115	5,736	100	13	42%
Neath Port Talbot	South West Wales	98	9,895	108	5	27%
Newport	South East Wales	100	9,565	107	6	31%
Pembrokeshire	South West Wales	105	7,671	104	7	34%
Powys	Mid Wales	110	7,433	91	17	44%
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	South East Wales	92	15,129	96	15	31%
Swansea	South West Wales	109	16,065	110	4	33%
Torfaen	South East Wales	94	6,520	104	7	28%
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	96	7,167	88	19	39%
Wrexham	North Wales	91	7,929	87	21	38%
Source:	ELWa (extract from "Regional Analysis of Participation in FE and Training in Wales: 1999/2000, 2000/2001" circular)					
Notes:	1) Includes all Welsh domiciled learners in UK FEIs, UK HEIs, School Sixth Forms in Wales as well as all Work-Based Learners funded by NC-ELWa.					
	2) Data relates to learners enrolled in December 2000.					
	3) Figures which "exclude HE" exclude all learners studying at HE level whichever type of provider they are enrolled at.					
	4) Figures do <u>not</u> include learners in LEA provided Adult Continuing Education (except for contracted in learners studying at FEIs).					
	5) Standard Participation Rates are normalised participation rates where 100 is the Welsh average and values greater than this have participation rates above the Welsh average.					
	6) Further guidance relating to this table can be found in the "Regional Analysis of Participation in FE and Training in Wales: 1999/2000, 2000/2001" circular.					

Table 15. Workforce development - Proportion of those in employment receiving training in the last 4 weeks – South West Wales Unitary Authorities

	Percentage receiving job related training	Rank for proportion receiving job related training (highest=1)
Carmarthenshire	9.5	20
Pembrokeshire	10.5	13
Neath Port Talbot	10.3	15
Swansea	13.4	3
South West Wales	11.2	
Wales	11.4	

Source: Welsh Local Area Labour Force Survey, National Statistics 2003

Note: All are working age

Table 16. Adult and Continuing Education Learners in 2002/2003 by Type of Provision and LEA.

	Maintained		Contracted In		All	
	Venues	Enrolments	Venues	Enrolments	Venues	Enrolments
Pembrokeshire	40	1,941	36	1,375	76	3,316
Carmarthenshire	19	1,454	46	2,670	65	4,124
Swansea	68	1,485	-	-	68	1,485
Neath Port Talbot	-	-	3	3,147	3	3,147
S. West Wales	127	4,880	85	7,192	212	12,072

Source: [ELWa ; NafW Statistical Bulletin SB52, 2003](#)

Notes: There are 4 categories of provision:

Maintained: Courses controlled and managed by the local authority, or by a local authority maintained institution of Further Education for adults. This information is obtained on an individual learner basis.

Assisted: Courses controlled and managed by another organisation, but which the local authority supports either financially, or by providing premises or other facilities free of charge or at subsidised rates. This information is obtained as aggregate data from LEAs.

Contracted out: Provision that the local authority purchases under a formal contractual arrangement from another Further Education provider (e.g. a college).

Contracted In: Provision where the learner is enrolled at a further education institution but is taught at a local authority site under a third party arrangement.

Table 17. Welsh Speakers by Unitary Authority Area

Unitary Authority	ELWa Region	Percentage of population speaking Welsh	Percentage of population speaking Welsh, all Wales	Rank for proportion of population speaking Welsh (1=highest)
Anglesey	North Wales	64.5%	28.4%	2
Blaenau Gwent	South East Wales	16.0%	28.4%	21
Bridgend	South East Wales	13.9%	28.4%	22
Caerphilly	South East Wales	17.5%	28.4%	18
Cardiff	South East Wales	22.6%	28.4%	13
Carmarthenshire	South West Wales	52.2%	28.4%	4
Ceredigion	Mid Wales	58.6%	28.4%	3
Conwy	North Wales	39.9%	28.4%	5
Denbighshire	North Wales	37.5%	28.4%	6
Flintshire	North Wales	25.5%	28.4%	9
Gwynedd	North Wales and Mid Wales	77.1%	28.4%	1
Merthyr Tydfil	South East Wales	24.8%	28.4%	10
Monmouthshire	South East Wales	16.6%	28.4%	20
Neath Port Talbot	South West Wales	22.0%	28.4%	14
Newport	South East Wales	17.7%	28.4%	17
Pembrokeshire	South West Wales	28.1%	28.4%	7
Powys	Mid Wales	27.0%	28.4%	8
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	South East Wales	23.1%	28.4%	11
Swansea	South West Wales	17.4%	28.4%	19
Torfaen	South East Wales	18.7%	28.4%	15
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	18.5%	28.4%	16
Wrexham	North Wales	23.1%	28.4%	11

Source: Labour Force Survey March 2003-Feb 2004, National Statistics

Table 18. Maintained secondary schools teaching Welsh, 2002/03

	Welsh as both a first and second language	Welsh as a first language only	Welsh as a second language only	All schools
Pembrokeshire	50.0	12.5	37.5	100.0
Carmarthenshire	46.7	20.0	33.3	100.0
Swansea	0.0	7.1	92.9	100.0
Neath Port Talbot	18.2	0.0	81.8	100.0

Source: [Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics, 2004](#)

Supplementary Tables and Maps

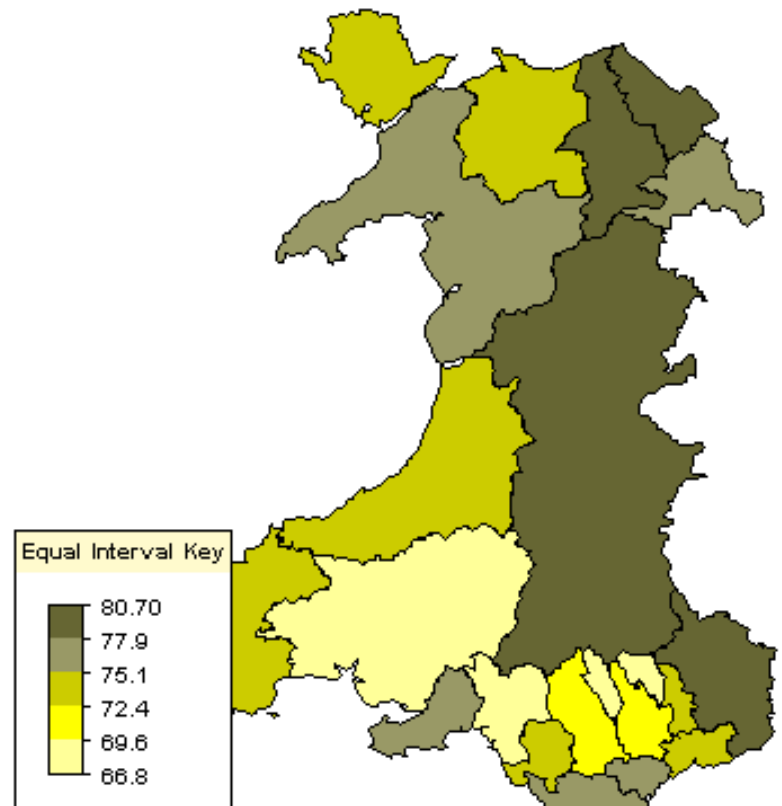
- [S1. Economic Activity Rates – All of Working Age](#)
- [S2. Economic Inactivity Rates – Over 50 to retirement age](#)
- [S3. Employment in Unitary Authority Areas, 2005](#)
- [S4. Unemployment in Unitary Authorities](#)
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- [S12. GVA per head by NUTS 3 area](#)
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S1. Economic Activity Rates – All of Working Age

The highest rates of participation in Wales are in Flintshire, Denbighshire, Powys and Monmouthshire.

Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent have the lowest activity rates in Wales.

Source: Labour Force Survey March 2003-Feb 2004, National Statistics

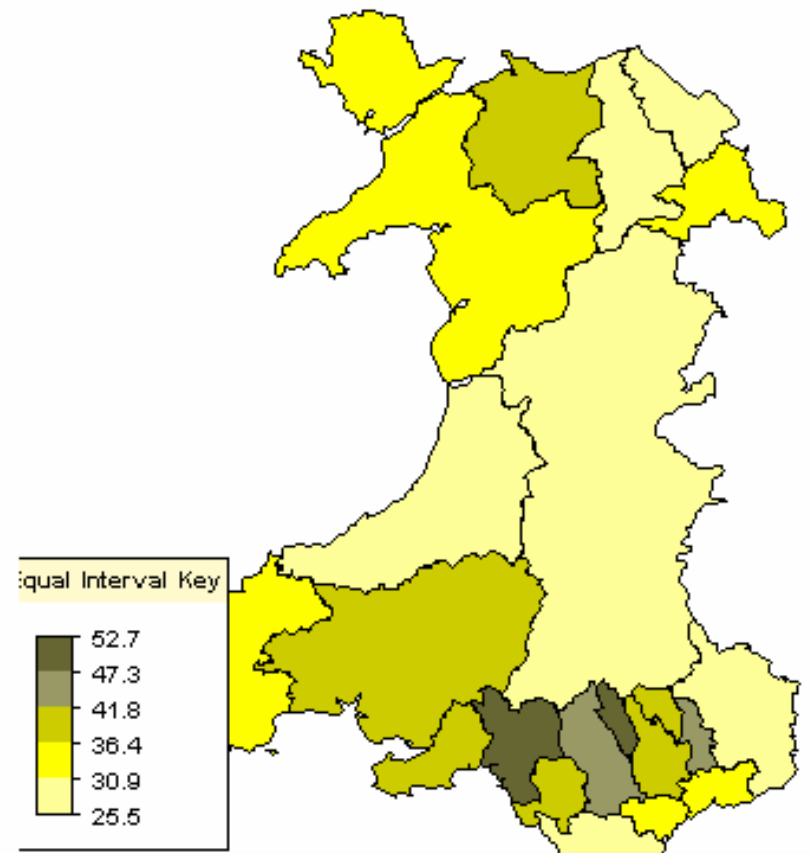


S2. Economic Inactivity Rates – Over 50 to retirement age

Disengagement from the labour market amongst those aged 50 to retirement age is highest in the South Eastern Valleys, particularly in Neath Port Talbot and Merthyr Tydfil.

Inactivity rates for those aged 50 to retirement age are predominantly low in Mid Wales.

Source: Labour Force Survey March 2003-Feb 2004, National Statistics



S3. Employment in Unitary Authority Areas, 2005

CCET/Authority	ELWa Region	Number employed (including self-employed)	Employment rate (employment as % of working age population)	Employment rate in ELWa region	Employment rate in Wales	Rank for employment rate (1=highest)
Anglesey	North Wales	28,000	70.8%	74.7%	70.5%	12
Blaenau Gwent	South East Wales	26,000	63.5%	69.4%	70.5%	20
Bridgend	South East Wales	56,000	72.0%	69.4%	70.5%	8
Caerphilly	South East Wales	69,000	67.1%	69.4%	70.5%	17
Cardiff	South East Wales	136,000	70.7%	69.4%	70.5%	13
Carmarthenshire	South West Wales	67,000	65.7%	67.6%	70.5%	18
Ceredigion	Mid Wales	33,000	68.0%	73.1%	70.5%	16
Conwy	North Wales	44,000	72.0%	74.7%	70.5%	8
Denbighshire	North Wales	41,000	75.2%	74.7%	70.5%	4
Flintshire	North Wales	73,000	78.3%	74.7%	70.5%	1
Gwynedd	North Wales and Mid Wales	51,000	73.2%	74.7%	70.5%	7
Merthyr Tydfil	South East Wales	21,000	63.3%	69.4%	70.5%	21
Monmouthshire	South East Wales	39,000	76.4%	69.4%	70.5%	3
Neath Port Talbot	South West Wales	50,000	62.2%	67.6%	70.5%	22
Newport	South East Wales	58,000	71.4%	69.4%	70.5%	10
Pembrokeshire	South West Wales	46,000	70.3%	67.6%	70.5%	14
Powys	Mid Wales	57,000	76.5%	73.1%	70.5%	2
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	South East Wales	90,000	65.5%	69.4%	70.5%	19
Swansea	South West Wales	94,000	71.0%	67.6%	70.5%	11
Torfaen	South East Wales	38,000	69.5%	69.4%	70.5%	15
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	52,000	73.3%	69.4%	70.5%	6
Wrexham	North Wales	60,000	75.0%	74.7%	70.5%	5

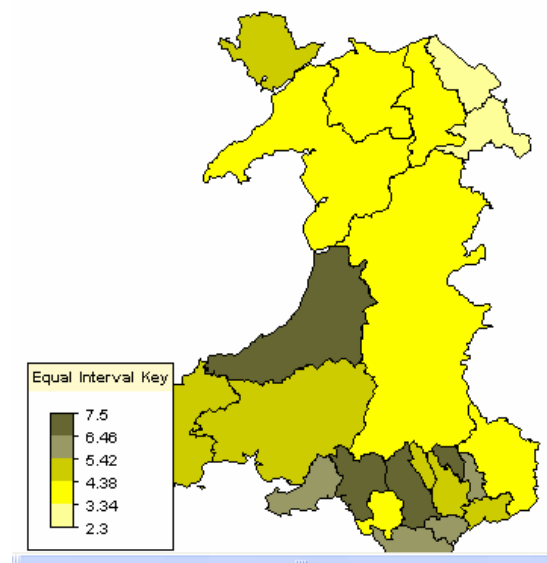
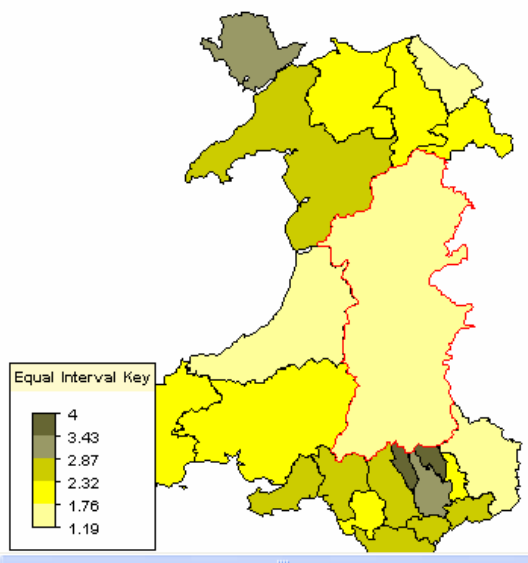
Source: Labour Force Survey March 2003-Feb 2004, National Statistics

Mid Wales and North Wales have higher employment rates than Wales overall. Flintshire has the highest employment rate. Employment rates are lowest in South West Wales, particularly in Neath Port Talbot.

S4. Unemployment in Unitary Authorities

% of Resident Working Age Population in receipt of JSA

% of Working Age Unemployed (ILO) Basis

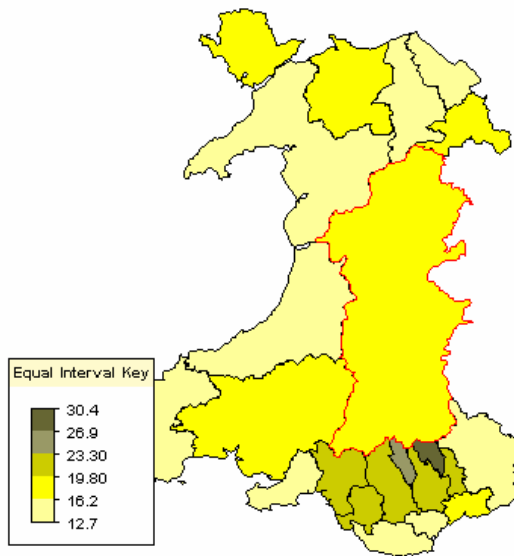


Unemployment rates are highest in the South Eastern Valleys, and lowest in North and Mid Wales.

Source: National Statistics, Local Area Labour Force Survey 2003-04

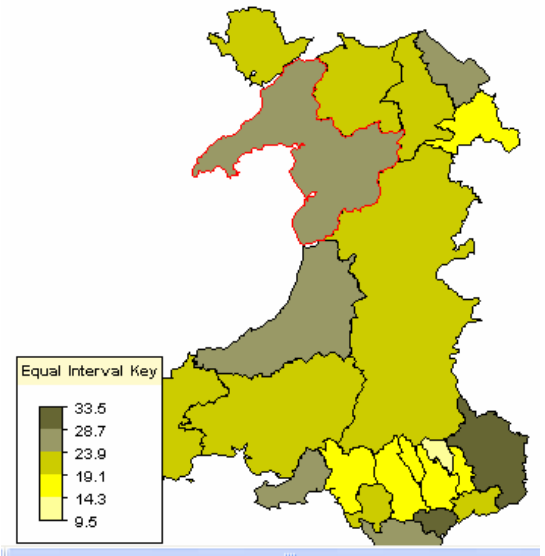
S5 Workforce Qualifications

% With No Qualifications - Working Age



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% Qualified to NVQ 4+ - Working Age



The South Eastern Valleys have the highest proportion of working age people without any qualifications, and the lowest proportion of working age people qualified to NVQ level 4 and above. The highest percentage of the working age population qualified to NVQ level 4 or above is found in Monmouthshire and Cardiff.

Source: National Statistics, Local Area Labour Force Survey 2003-04

S6. Numbers in Unitary Authorities with qualifications at NVQ level 2 and over

Unitary Authority	ELWa Region	Number with NVQ level 2 and over	Percentage of working age population with NVQ level 2 and over	ELWa region percentage with NVQ level 2 and over	Wales percentage with NVQ level 2 and over	Rank for percentage with NVQ level 2 and over
Anglesey	North Wales	25,000	63.5%	63.2%	60.3%	10
Blaenau Gwent	South East Wales	17,000	41.1%	58.2%	60.3%	22
Bridgend	South East Wales	45,000	58.4%	58.2%	60.3%	15
Caerphilly	South East Wales	53,000	51.5%	58.2%	60.3%	20
Cardiff	South East Wales	128,000	66.6%	58.2%	60.3%	3
Carmarthenshire	South West Wales	61,000	60.1%	61.1%	60.3%	13
Ceredigion	Mid Wales	33,000	69.1%	62.7%	60.3%	1
Conwy	North Wales	37,000	60.6%	63.2%	60.3%	11
Denbighshire	North Wales	35,000	64.6%	63.2%	60.3%	6
Flintshire	North Wales	59,000	63.7%	63.2%	60.3%	8
Gwynedd	North Wales and Mid Wales	46,000	66.1%	63.0%	60.3%	4
Merthyr Tydfil	South East Wales	17,000	49.4%	58.2%	60.3%	21
Monmouthshire	South East Wales	34,000	68.3%	58.2%	60.3%	2
Neath Port Talbot	South West Wales	44,000	54.6%	61.1%	60.3%	17
Newport	South East Wales	46,000	56.2%	58.2%	60.3%	16
Pembrokeshire	South West Wales	42,000	63.6%	61.1%	60.3%	9
Powys	Mid Wales	44,000	59.1%	62.7%	60.3%	14
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	South East Wales	75,000	54.1%	58.2%	60.3%	18
Swansea	South West Wales	86,000	64.5%	61.1%	60.3%	7
Torfaen	South East Wales	29,000	53.9%	58.2%	60.3%	19
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	47,000	66.1%	58.2%	60.3%	4
Wrexham	North Wales	48,000	60.2%	63.2%	60.3%	12

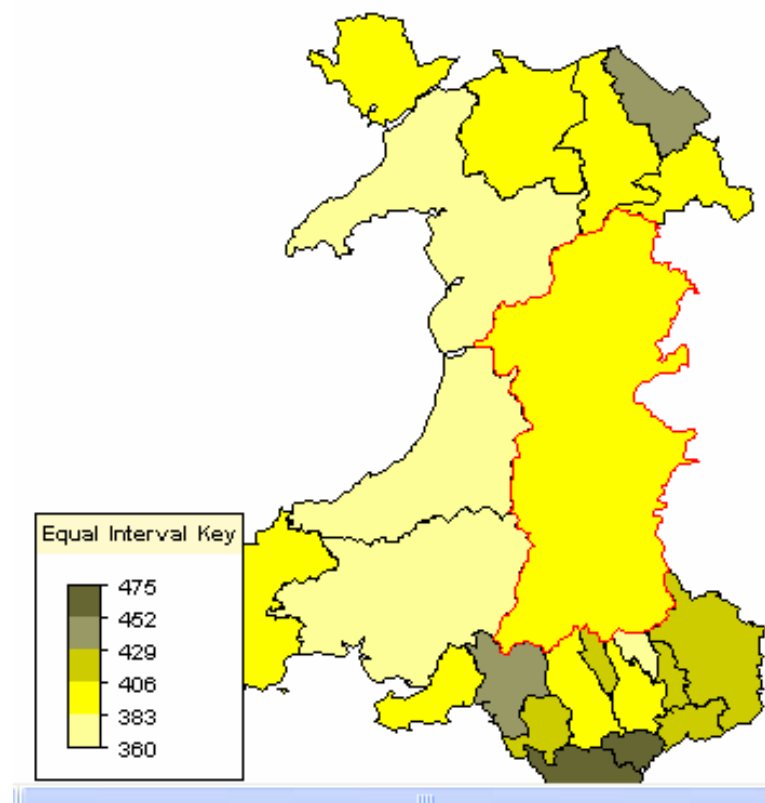
Source: National Statistics, Local Area Labour Force Survey 2003-04

The percentage of the working age population with NVQ level 2 and over in Ceredigion, Monmouthshire, Cardiff and Gwynedd is higher than the Welsh average. Blaenau Gwent has the lowest proportion of working age people with NVQ level 2 and over.

**S7. Average Gross Weekly Full-Time Earnings by UA
(Workplace Basis)**

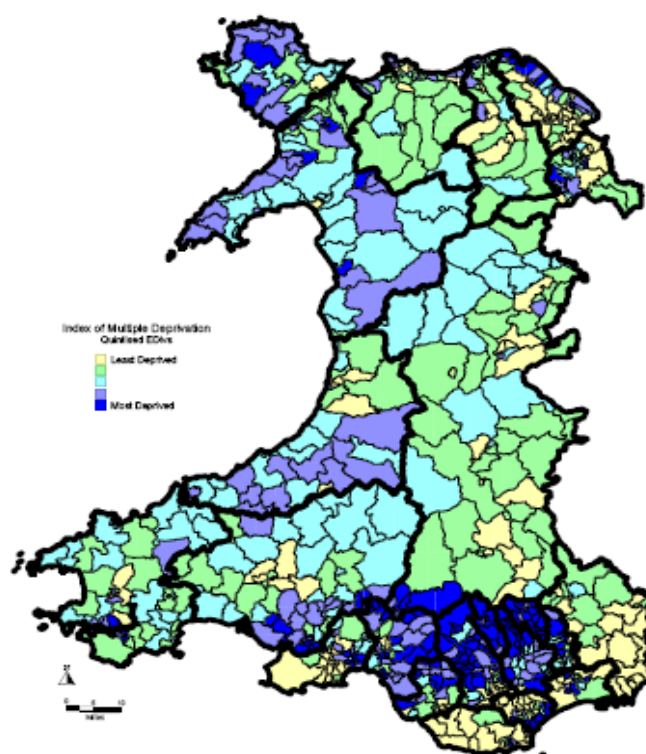
Unitary Authority	Gross Full-Time Weekly Earnings	Rank
Anglesey	!	12
Blaenau Gwent	!	20
Bridgend	408	8
Caerphilly	389	14
Cardiff	455	2
Carmarthenshire	379	19
Ceredigion	!	21
Conwy	385	16
Denbighshire	!	18
Flintshire	446	4
Gwynedd	360	22
Merthyr Tydfil	!	5
Monmouthshire	!	7
Neath Port Talbot	447	3
Newport	422	6
Pembrokeshire	!	11
Powys	402	10
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	398	13
Swansea	385	17
Torfaen	408	9
Vale of Glamorgan	!	1
Wrexham	387	15

Source: New Earnings Survey 2003, National Statistics
! Earnings estimate suppressed



The Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff have the highest average gross weekly earnings in Wales, whereas Gwynedd has the lowest.

S8. Welsh Index of Deprivation Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ward Level)



[Source](#)

The Indices of Deprivation 2000 (ID 2000) have been an important tool for identifying the most disadvantaged areas but had increasingly become out of date. In May 2004, ministerial approval was given to proceed with the update to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). The Local Government Data Unit has been asked by the Welsh Assembly Government to project manage the WIMD for publication in 2005.

For information about the 2005 data and related papers follow the link below

<http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk/eng/WimdProject.asp?nc=DP1B&id=1755>

The 2000 data can be accessed at

http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/social/2000/deprivation/index_data.xls

S9. Notified Vacancies in Wales, May 2005

ELWa Region	UA	Total	Vacancy Rate (%)
North Wales	Anglesey	137	0.5
South East Wales	Blaenau Gwent	249	1.0
South East Wales	Bridgend	559	1.0
South East Wales	Caerphilly	653	0.9
South East Wales	Cardiff	2,084	1.5
South West Wales	Carmarthenshire	680	1.0
Mid Wales	Ceredigion	407	1.2
North Wales	Conwy	442	1.0
North Wales	Denbighshire	426	1.0
North Wales	Flintshire	662	0.9
North Wales and Mid Wales	Gwynedd	431	0.8
South East Wales	Merthyr Tydfil	407	1.9
South East Wales	Monmouthshire	372	1.0
South West Wales	Neath Port Talbot	551	1.1
South East Wales	Newport	612	1.1
South West Wales	Pembrokeshire	567	1.2
Mid Wales	Powys	515	0.9
South East Wales	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	844	0.9
South West Wales	Swansea	1,364	1.5
South East Wales	Torfaen	453	1.2
South East Wales	Vale of Glamorgan	480	0.9
North Wales	Wrexham	594	1.0
	Total	13,489	

Interpretation of these data need to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available at www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source: National Statistics, Job Centre Plus Vacancies

Vacancy rates (notified vacancies as a % of employment) are highest in Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff and Swansea while Anglesey and Gwynedd have the lowest rates. Caution should be exercised in reading too much into these differences, which may reflect spatial variations in informal recruitment as much as they do the demand for labour.

S10. Percentages of the adult population (aged 16-60) who have 'low', 'lower' and 'very low' literacy skills

Region	Unitary Authority	Total population aged 16-60	Low	Lower	Very Low	Total %
North Wales	Conwy	60,388	15.5	6.1	4.7	26.4
	Denbighshire	50,632	15.8	5.8	4.6	26.2
	Flintshire	88,666	16.0	6.1	4.6	26.6
	Gwynedd	66,891	17.3	5.7	5.0	28.0
	Isle of Anglesey	36,716	16.5	5.8	4.8	27.1
	Wrexham	72,987	16.6	6.8	5.7	29.1
Mid Wales	Ceredigion	42,284	17.5	4.9	4.3	26.7
	Powys	71,308	17.7	5.5	4.8	28.0
South West Wales	Carmarthenshire	94,635	17.1	6.4	5.1	28.6
	Neath Port Talbot	79,582	17.0	7.7	6.1	30.9
	Pembrokeshire	64,251	17.5	5.9	5.2	28.6
	Swansea	133,750	15.9	6.2	5.7	27.7
South East Wales	Blaenau Gwent	41,918	17.1	8.7	7.3	33.1
	Bridgend	76,492	16.2	6.9	5.5	28.6
	Caerphilly	98,371	17.1	8.0	6.4	31.6
	Cardiff	192,660	15.1	5.2	5.8	26.1
	Merthyr Tydfil	32,429	17.1	8.3	7.2	32.6
	Monmouthshire	51,507	15.0	4.7	4.0	23.8
	Newport	79,006	16.2	6.5	6.1	28.9
	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	143,089	16.9	7.5	6.4	30.8
	Torfaen	52,298	16.7	7.6	6.6	30.9
Vale of Glamorgan	66,960	15.4	5.6	4.6	25.6	
All Wales		1,696,820				28.0

Source: Adults' basic skills: benchmark information on the scale of need in different areas of Wales. The Basic Skills Agency, 2001.

The poorest literacy skills are found in former industrial areas and the South East Valleys, whereas the highest literacy skills are found in the more prosperous areas of North East Wales, Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

S11. Percentages of the adult population (aged 16-60) who have low, lower and very low numeracy skills

Region	Unitary Authority	Total population aged 16-60	Low	Lower	Very Low	Total %
North Wales	Conwy	60,388	14.7	8.6	7.5	30.9
	Denbighshire	50,632	14.2	8.4	6.8	29.4
	Flintshire	88,666	13.8	8.2	6.3	28.4
	Gwynedd	66,891	14.8	9.2	7.2	31.2
	Isle of Anglesey	36,716	14.4	8.8	6.8	30.0
	Wrexham	72,987	14.9	9.4	8.0	32.3
Mid Wales	Ceredigion	42,284	14.0	8.6	6.7	29.3
	Powys	71,308	15.2	9.3	6.9	31.3
South West Wales	Carmarthenshire	94,635	15.7	9.5	7.5	32.6
	Neath Port Talbot	79,582	16.0	10.0	9.0	35.1
	Pembrokeshire	64,251	15.1	9.4	7.5	32.0
	Swansea	133,750	13.6	8.9	7.8	30.3
South East Wales	Blaenau Gwent	41,918	16.7	11.2	10.5	38.3
	Bridgend	76,492	14.7	9.2	7.8	31.7
	Caerphilly	98,371	15.8	10.4	9.3	35.5
	Cardiff	192,660	12.0	8.0	7.8	27.7
	Merthyr Tydfil	32,429	16.1	10.9	10.5	37.5
	Monmouthshire	51,507	12.1	7.2	4.9	24.2
	Newport	79,006	14.1	9.3	8.3	31.8
	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	143,089	15.6	10.1	8.9	34.6
	Torfaen	52,298	15.5	10.1	9.4	35.1
Vale of Glamorgan	66,960	12.8	7.8	6.1	26.8	
All Wales		1,696,820				32.0

Source: Adults' basic skills: benchmark information on the scale of need in different areas of Wales. The Basic Skills Agency, 2001

More people in Wales have difficulty with numeracy than literacy. As with literacy, the poorest numeracy skills are found in former industrial areas and the South East Valleys, whereas the highest numeracy skills are found in the more prosperous areas of North East Wales, Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

S12. GVA per head by NUTS 3 area

Gross Value Added per head at current basic prices												
£ per year	Gwynedd	Powys	Isle of Anglesey	Gwynedd	Conwy and Denbigh shire	Flintshire and Wrexham	Central Valleys	Gwent Valleys	Monmouthshire and Newport	Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot	Swansea
1995	8,725	9,165	5,843	8,725	7,762	11,823	7,594	7,458	9,864	11,405	9,042	8,764
1996	8,974	9,368	6,063	8,974	8,013	12,384	7,963	7,737	10,400	11,887	9,710	9,081
1997	8,877	9,546	6,344	8,877	8,267	13,042	8,207	7,946	11,040	12,638	10,267	9,535
1998	8,857	10,063	6,641	8,857	8,430	13,432	8,563	8,291	12,164	13,270	9,906	10,105
1999	8,885	10,138	6,682	8,885	8,525	13,435	8,566	8,593	13,202	14,210	9,998	10,615
2000	9,122	10,356	7,137	9,122	8,871	13,414	8,931	8,685	13,956	15,161	9,875	11,284
2001	9,816	10,784	7,891	9,816	9,446	13,976	9,287	8,854	14,352	16,527	10,177	11,926
2002	10,431	11,254	8,133	10,431	10,001	14,654	9,911	9,122	14,890	17,484	10,454	12,610
Annual % change	2.80%	3.30%	5.60%	2.80%	4.10%	3.40%	4.40%	3.20%	7.30%	7.60%	2.20%	6.30%

Source: National Statistics

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan continues to have the highest GVA per head in Wales, whereas Anglesey remains to have the lowest GVA per capita.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359>

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Nuts3_Tables_1-12.xls

S13. Qualification aims of FE students by subject and region in 2002/03

Subject for each Qualification aim	Percent				
	North Wales	Mid Wales	South West Wales	South East Wales	All Wales %
Business and Management	6	11	8	8	8
Sales/Marketing	2	1	1	1	1
IT	20	19	18	17	18
Humanities	1	3	3	1	2
Social Sciences	1	1	1	1	1
Cultural Studies	7	12	6	8	8
Education	4	5	4	3	4
Care	10	11	18	19	16
Arts and Crafts	4	5	4	4	4
Media	6	5	5	7	6
Performing Arts	1	1	1	1	1
Sports	1	1	2	1	1
Hotel and Catering	7	4	4	4	5
Health	12	6	7	8	8
Environment	0	0	0	1	0
Science/Maths	6	4	7	7	7
Agriculture	3	6	1	1	2
Built Environment	4	2	3	3	3
Services to Industry	1	0	1	0	0
Manufacturing	1	1	2	1	1
Engineering	3	2	3	3	3
Mining/Chemicals	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	1	0	0	0	0
Not Specified	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Total Number	147,835	49,481	153,500	273,430	624,246

Source: Extract from "HE, FE and Training Statistics in Wales 2002/2003", ELWa./HEFCW 2004

Subjects chosen are remarkably stable across all regions with the most popular subjects being Care, Health, IT and Business and Management. These 4 subjects account for 50% of all qualification aims in Wales overall.

Terms and Definitions

Labour Supply

Figures for the economically active and inactive tables are taken from the annual Local Area Labour Force Survey. The LFS is the largest regular household survey in the United Kingdom. The annual local area LFS dataset includes surveys conducted between March and February of each year. It also includes boosted samples for some local areas in order to enhance the reliability of estimates for these areas.

As LFS estimates are based on statistical samples, they are subject to sampling variability. This means that if another sample for the same period were drawn, a different estimate might be produced. In general, the larger the number of people in the sample, the smaller the variation between estimates. Estimates for smaller areas such as local/unitary authorities are therefore less reliable than those for larger areas such as regions and countries.

Economically Active

Economically active: People aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed.

Economic activity rate (working age): The number of people, who are economically active aged 16 to 59/64, expressed as a percentage of all working age people.

In employment: People aged 16 or over who did some paid work in the reference week (whether as an employee or self employed); those who had a job that they were temporarily away from (on holiday, for example); those on Government supported training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

Employment rate (working age): The number of people in employment aged 16 to 59/64 expressed as a percentage of all working age people.

Employees and self employed: The division between employees and self employed is based on survey respondents' own assessment of their employment status. The percentage show the number in each category as a percentage of all working age people.

Unemployment: Refers to people without a job who were available to start work in the two weeks following their LFS interview and who had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained. This is the International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure of unemployment and has been adopted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as the official, and only internationally comparable, measure of unemployment in the UK.

Unemployment rate (working age): The number of unemployed people aged 16 to 59/64 expressed as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 to 59/64.

Economically inactive

Economically inactive: People who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired.

Wanting a job: People not in employment who want a job but are not classed as unemployed because they have either not sought work in the last four weeks or are not available to start work.

Not wanting a job: People who are neither in employment nor unemployed and who do not want a job.

Disability

In the LFS, a person is classed as disabled if they are disabled according to one or both of the following two definitions:

DDA group - those who identify themselves as having a current disability covered by the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.

This covers people who said they had a health problem or disability they felt would last for more than a year and who said this problem or disability would 'substantially limit their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. Additionally, people with progressive illnesses (eg cancer, multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy) are also included under this definition.

Work-limiting group

People who said they had a health problem or disability they felt would last for more than a year and who said that the health problem or disability in question 'affected either the kind or amount of paid work they could do'

Qualifications

No qualifications: No formal qualifications held

Other qualifications: includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications

NVQ 1 equivalent: e.g. fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C, foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1, intermediate 1 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 2 equivalent: e.g. 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 3 equivalent: e.g. 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3, 2 or more higher or advanced higher national qualifications (Scotland) or equivalent

NVQ 4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent

Earnings

The figures show the average earnings in £ for employees who are on adults rates of pay and whose pay was not affected by absence. Figures for earnings come from the New Earnings Survey (NES). The NES is based on a 1 per cent sample of employees, information on whose earnings and hours is obtained from employers. The survey does not cover self-employed. In 2003 information related to the pay period which included 9 April.

Earnings data can be reported on a residence basis (on the area in which employees reside) or on a workplace basis. The earnings information collected relates to gross pay before tax, national insurance or other deductions, and excludes payments in kind. It is restricted to earnings relating to the survey pay period and so excludes payments of arrears from another period made during the survey period; any payments due as a result of a pay settlement but not yet paid at the time of the survey will also be excluded.

Working-age Benefits

JSA claimant count records the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. People claiming JSA must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made.

The percentage figures express the number of claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the working age population resident in that area. Working age is defined as 16-64 for males and 16-59 for females. The working age population figures used to calculate claimant count proportions are derived from the mid-2002 population estimates.

The count of total JSA claimants is mostly derived from the Jobcentre Plus computer records. For various reasons, e.g. when a claimant's National Insurance number is not known, a few claims have to be dealt with manually by local offices. These clerical claims, which amount to less than 1 per cent of the total, are counted separately and not analysed in as much detail as the computerised claims. The count of total JSA claimants includes clerical claims, but only the computerised claims are analysed by age and duration.

Employee jobs

The number of jobs held by employees. The information comes from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) - an employer survey conducted in December of each year. The survey samples around 78,000 businesses. The ABI records a job at the location of an employee's workplace (rather than at the location of the business's main office).

Full-time and part-time: In the ABI, part-time employees are those working for 30 or fewer hours per week.

Tourism-related includes the following sectors:

- 551 Hotels
- 552 Camping sites etc
- 553 Restaurants
- 554 Bars
- 633 Activities of travel agencies etc
- 925 Library, archives, museums etc
- 926 Sporting activities
- 927 Other recreational activities

Earnings

Figures for earnings come from the New Earnings Survey (NES). The NES is based on a 1 per cent sample of employees, information on whose earnings and hours is obtained from employers. The survey does not cover self-employed. In 2003 information related to the pay period which included 9 April. The figures show the average earnings in pounds for earners on adults rates of pay whose pay was not affected by absence.

The earnings information collected relates to gross pay before tax, national insurance or other deductions, and excludes payments in kind. It is restricted to earnings relating to the survey pay period and so excludes payments of arrears from another period made during the survey period; any payments due as a result of a pay settlement but not yet paid at the time of the survey will also be excluded.

NES estimates from Nomis may differ slightly from those produced directly by ONS (eg published volumes) due to different geographic bases. In this respect estimates produced by ONS will be given definitive status by National Statistics.

VAT Registered Businesses

VAT registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. They are an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population. As such they are used widely in regional and local economic planning.

The source of these figures is the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) which contains records of all businesses registered for VAT. Coverage of the statistics is complete in all parts of the economy except a few VAT exempt sectors and the very smallest one person businesses operating below the threshold for VAT registration.