



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021

Data for young people by age, gender, region and disability status for April 2020 to March 2021.

First published: 22 September 2021

Last updated: 22 September 2021

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Contents

Main points

Proportion of young people not in education, employment or training, by characteristic

Definitions

Quality information

Contact details

Estimates from 2020 cover part of the period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Some of the changes observed may result from conditions brought about by the pandemic. For example, delayed or missed learning, changes to examinations and assessments and changing labour market conditions during the period of the pandemic.

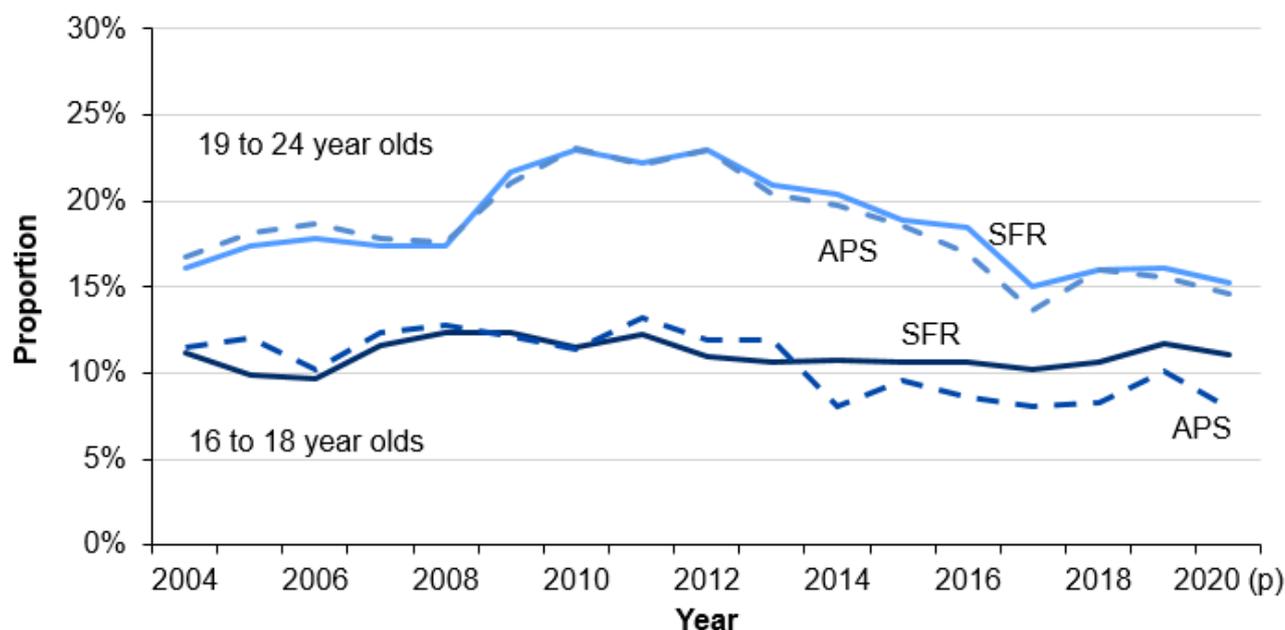
This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Main points

Chart 1: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, 2004 to 2020 (provisional)



Source: Welsh Government
SFR: Statistical first release
APS: Annual Population Survey

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

16 to 18 year olds

- There was a small gradual decrease in the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET between 2011 and 2017. This proportion then increased between 2017 and 2019 before falling again in 2020. The size of the changes in recent years varies depending on the source used.
- On the statistical first release basis (SFR), at end 2020 11.1% of 16 to 18 year olds were NEET (11,300) compared with 11.7% (11,900) at end 2019.
- On the annual population survey (APS) basis, for the year ending 2021 Quarter 1, 9.4% of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

with 9.2% at the year ending 2020 Quarter 1.

19 to 24 year olds

- On the Statistical First Release (SFR) basis, at end 2020 15.2% of 19 to 24 year olds were NEET (36,400) a decrease compared with 16.1% (38,900) in 2019.
- After the start of the 2008 recession the proportion of 19 to 24 year olds who were NEET saw a large increase from 17.4% in 2008 to around 22% - 23% from 2009 to 2012, decreasing in each subsequent year up to 2017. The decrease was driven by increased labour market activity, with participation in education and training remaining fairly stable.
- On the Annual Population Survey (APS) basis, for the year ending 2021 Quarter 1, 15.3% of 19 to 24 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 15.4% for the year ending 2020 Quarter 1.

Proportion of young people not in education, employment or training, by characteristic

Gender

From the SFR series it is also possible to produce a gender split of the proportion of young people who are NEET.

16 to 18 year olds

Chart 2 shows that the proportion of males and females aged 16 to 18 who are NEET have broadly followed similar trends between 2004 and 2020, with females less likely to be NEET than males due to higher levels of participation in education and training. This trend reversed in the provisional figures for 2020.

- 10.5% (5,500) of males aged 16 to 18 were NEET, compared to 12.7%

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

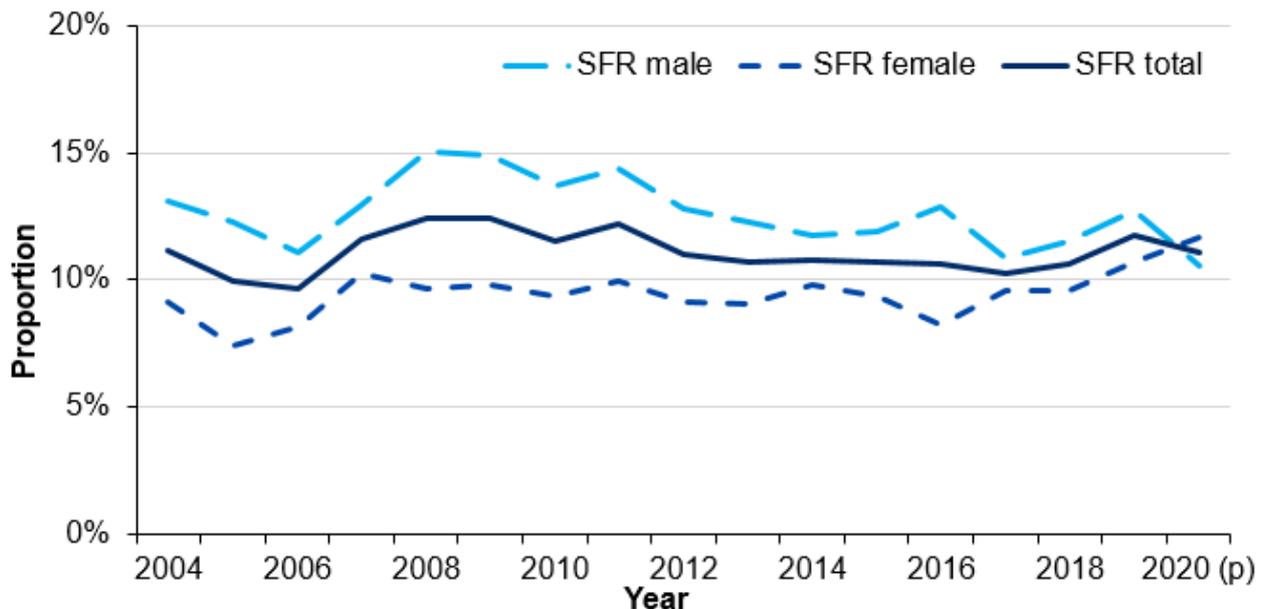
Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

(6,600) in 2019.

- 11.7% (5,800) of females aged 16 to 18 were NEET, compared to 10.7% (5,200) in 2019.

Chart 2: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 16 to 18 by gender, 2004 to 2020 (provisional)



Source: Welsh Government
SFR: Statistical first release

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

19 to 24 year olds

The proportions of males and females aged 19 to 24 who were NEET have been converging in recent years, up to 2019.

The proportion of females who are NEET had consistently been higher than males across this series until 2018, where a slightly larger proportion of males were NEET than females. This has reversed in each of the two years since.

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

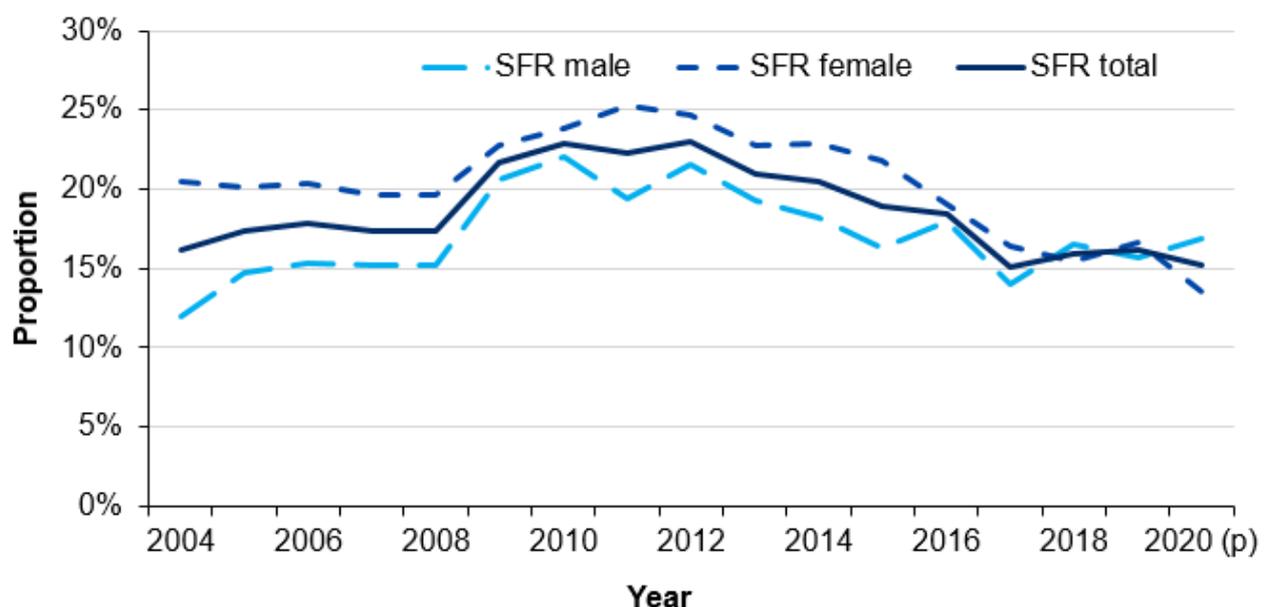
Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Provisional figures for 2020 indicate:

- 16.8% (21,100) of males aged 19 to 24 were NEET, an increase from 15.6% (19,800) in the previous year
- 13.5% (15,300) of females aged 19 to 24 were NEET, a decrease from 16.6% (19,100) in the previous year

Chart 3: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 19 to 24 by gender, 2004 to 2020 (provisional)



Source: Welsh Government
SFR: Statistical first release

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

Age

The Annual Population Survey can be used to provide analysis of NEET rates by characteristics which are not available via the SFR series. Due to small sample sizes, when looking at sub-groups it has been necessary to use estimates based

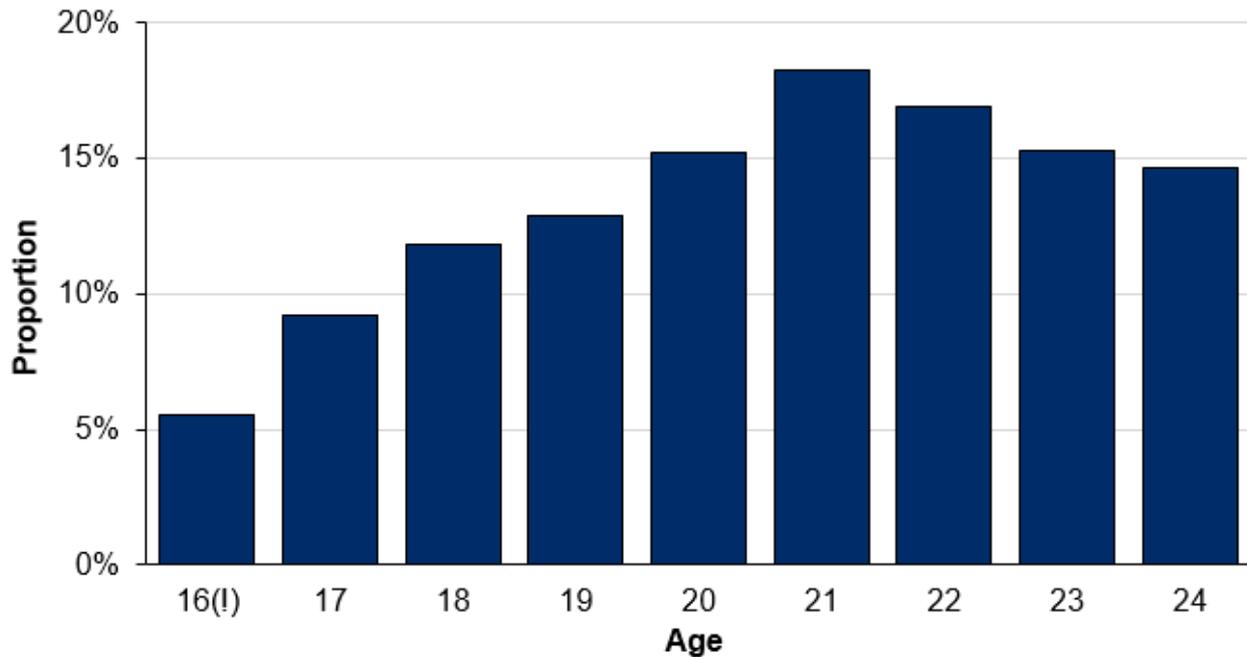
This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

on the average of 3 periods and therefore should be used to compare groups or regions only.

Chart 4: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales by age, March 2019 to March 2021



Source: Annual Population Survey

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of limited quality.

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

The proportion of young people that are NEET generally increase with age between 16 and 21. It then decreases with age between 21 and 24. The rates range from 5.6% for young people aged 16 to 18.3% for those aged 21.

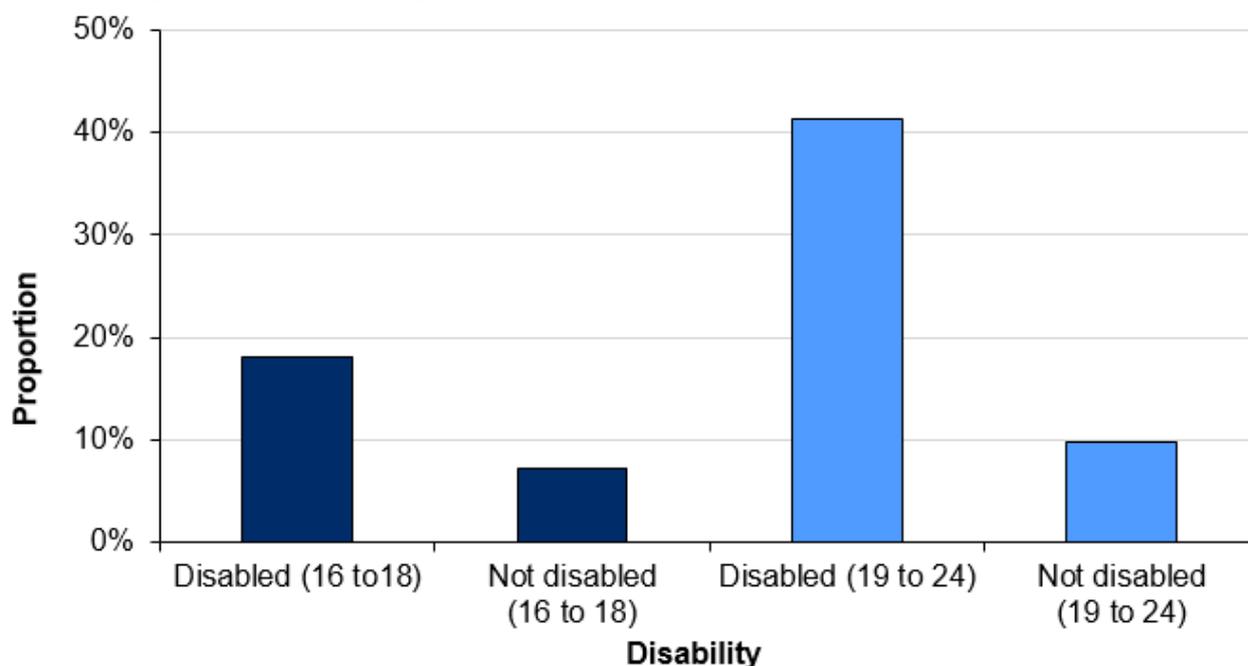
This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Disability

Chart 5: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales by disability, March 2019 to March 2021



Source: Annual Population Survey

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

- Disabled young people are more likely to be NEET than young people that are not disabled.
- This difference is even more pronounced for 19 to 24 year olds compared to 16 to 18 year olds. The proportion of disabled people who are NEET rises from 18.1% at age 16 to 18 to 41.2% at age 19 to 24.

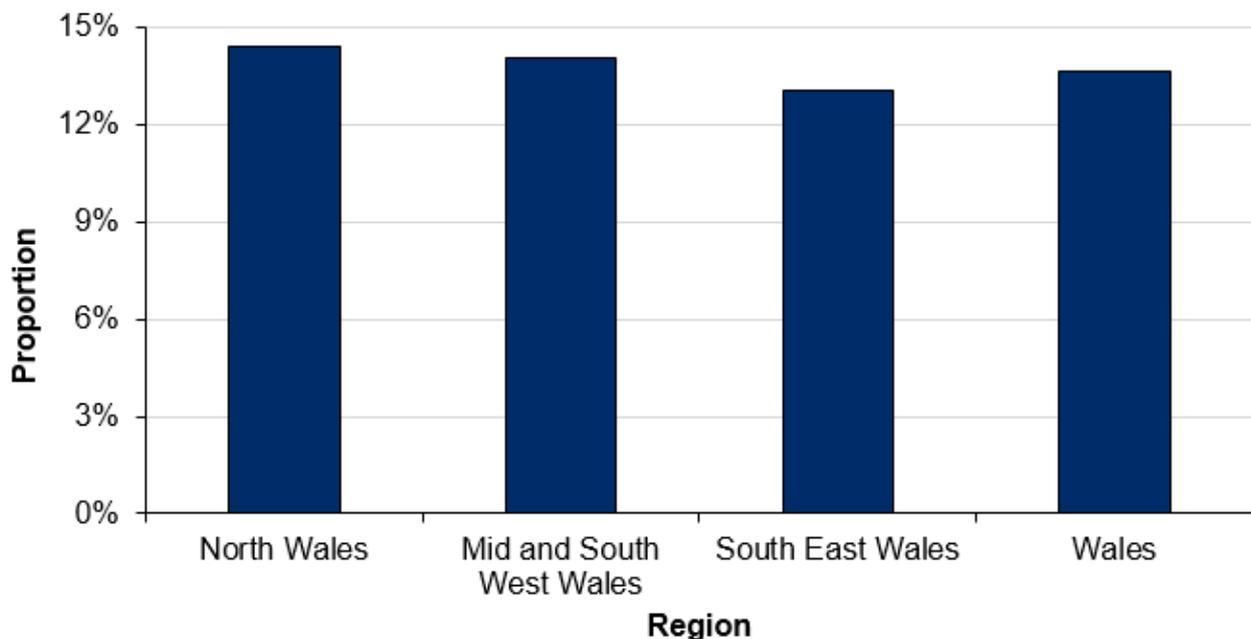
This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Region

Chart 6: Young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by regions of Wales, March 2019 to March 2021



Source: Annual Population Survey

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2020 to March 2021 (MS Excel)

- There are small differences in NEET rates between regions. The proportion of young people (aged 16 to 24) who are NEET varied from 13.1% in South East Wales to 14.4% in North Wales.

Definitions

Education and training

For the SFR estimates: it is based on those who are enrolled on a course in a

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

school, Further Education (FE) college, Higher Education (HE) institution (including the Open University (OU)) or with a work-based learning provider in Wales. In addition, an estimate is made of the number of those in employment who undertake off-the job training.

For the APS based estimates: respondents to the APS who are either:

- currently carrying out an apprenticeship
- currently on a government employment or training scheme
- currently working or studying towards any qualifications
- have undertaken any job-related education or training in the previous 4 weeks
- currently enrolled on any full-time or part-time education course excluding leisure classes and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start

Employment

The APS is used to estimate the proportion in employment for both the SFR and APS based estimates. In addition employment status from Post-16 enrolment data is used in the SFR.

From the APS respondents are in employment if they are either:

- employed
- self-employed
- on government employment or training programmes
- an unpaid family worker

Disability

The Welsh Government accepts the social definition of disability, in which it is recognised that barriers in society act to disable people who have impairments or health conditions or who use British Sign Language.

The Annual Population Survey, which is the source of data for this release,

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

captures data using the medical definition of disability used in the Equality Act 2010 (“a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term impact on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”). Figures within this release are not comparable to those within releases prior to 2015, which reported those reporting DDA current disability or work-limiting disability.

Quality information

This release summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. It is updated annually with latest estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and the headline SFR series. To supplement this annual output, a headline and tables are published quarterly as new APS data become available. Further information on these series, as well as NEET estimates from the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey, is provided in our guide to [understanding the different sources of statistics on young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\) in Wales](#).

The data will be used in support of the National Indicator related to ‘Percentage of people in education, employment or training’ laid under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Relevance

The statistics are used within the Welsh Government to monitor trends in the level and 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

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

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.

Accuracy

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a household survey carried out by the ONS. The survey seeks information on respondents' personal circumstances, including their labour market status and their education and training activity. The APS combines the boosted samples of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and provides rolling four quarter data.

As the data come from a survey, the results are sample-based estimates and are therefore subject to differing degrees of sampling variability, i.e. the true value for any measure lies in a differing range about the estimated value. Approximate 95% confidence intervals have been calculated for the APS estimates of the proportion of young people aged 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 who are NEET. These have been calculated assuming a simple weighted random sample and do not take into account the design of the sample and thus only provide an indication of the confidence interval. Additionally the adjustment method for apportioning missing values creates an artificial aggregated sample size used in the calculation of confidence intervals. The sampling variability increases as the detail in the data increases and therefore for the 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 age groups, of interest in this bulletin, estimates for sub-groups and regions are based on three period averages.

Further information about the quality of the Annual Population Survey (ONS).

Chart 1 demonstrates, from 2005 onwards, the similar levels and trend in young people who are NEET shown between the SFR and APS series in general though there has been some divergence in estimates for 16-18 year olds in more recent years, particularly in 2020.

In August 2021 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) recalibrated the weights of Annual Population Survey datasets from January 2020 onwards. The

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

population data used to produce labour market estimates were updated to better reflect changes in international migration and other impacts as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The changes ONS have made to the weighting should reduce the bias of estimates at high levels of aggregation. Some smaller breakdowns may be impacted negatively and more extreme changes could be seen given the reduced size of the underlying sample since the start of the pandemic.

Revisions policy

Provisional 2020 figures for the SFR series will be finalised in next year's publication, due for release in July 2022. Revisions for earlier years are only made in line with revisions to source data.

Timeliness and punctuality

The latest SFR provides new data for 2019 and provisional data for 2020. The provisional estimates use the best data for 2020 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling.

SFR series

Provisional 2020 figures will be finalised in the next SFR publication, due for release in July 2022. The revisions between provisional and final 2019 estimates were larger than those generally seen when provisional estimates are updated with final data. This is partly due to downward revisions in the number of young people in full-time and part-time education between last year's provisional data and the final data available for this release.

APS series

These estimates of young people who are NEET are revised when the Office for

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

National Statistics (ONS) releases revised Annual Population Survey datasets.

Accessibility and clarity

It is not possible to disaggregate the SFR NEET estimate down to local authority level. This is due to the way the data is put together using enrolment data and because the employment status is estimated using the APS. For 16 to 18 year olds the number of respondents to the APS is relatively small in each local authority; less than 100 respondents.

The APS has been used to estimate the proportion of young people who are NEET by region. However as the sample sizes are around 200-500 in each area for those aged 16 to 18 the estimates have been averaged over three rolling years for 16 to 24 year olds. The regions in use are as follows:

North Wales

Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham

Mid and south west wales

Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot

South east Wales

Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport, Cardiff.

Comparability and coherence

The method used to define young people who are NEET using the Annual

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

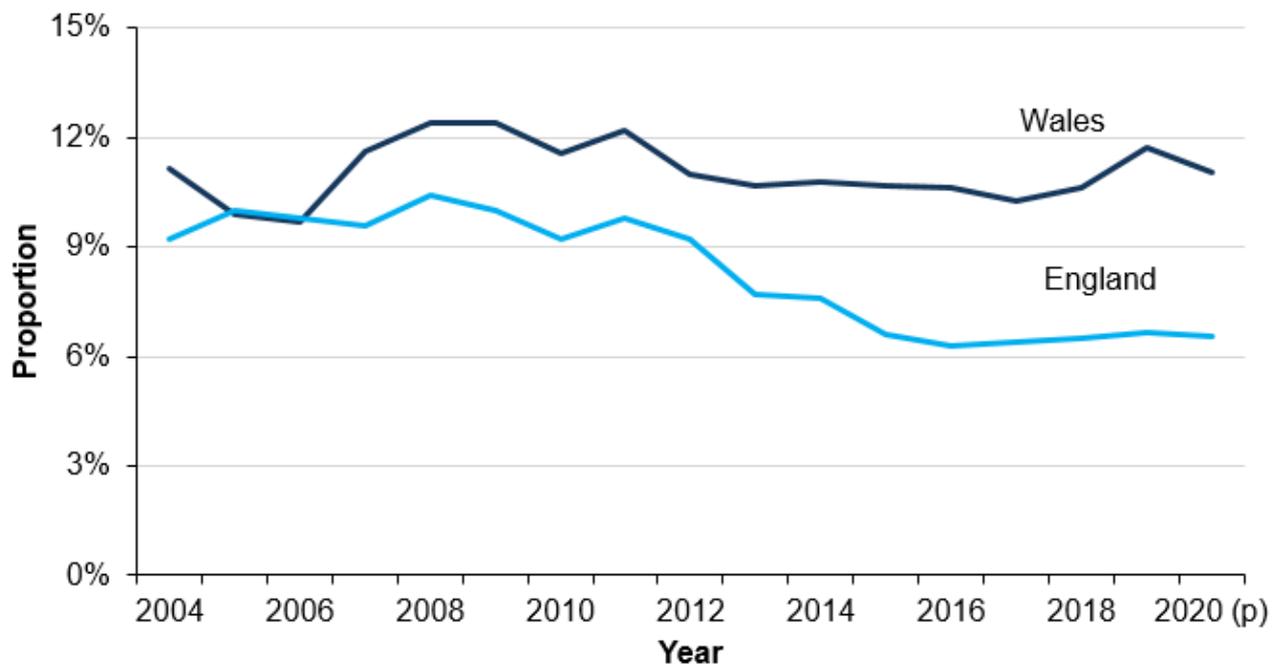
Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

Population Survey (APS) is harmonised with an agreed UK methodology of deriving NEET estimates. More information can be found within the [paper published by the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#).

The Department for Education (DfE) publishes [estimates of 16 to 18 year old NEET rates for England \(GOV.UK\)](#) using similar methodology to the SFR on an annual basis. The most recent statistical release provided 2020 provisional figures. Chart 7 shows a comparison of the English and Welsh estimates. England does not produce an equivalent measure for 19 to 24 year olds.

Chart 7: Young people not in education, employment or training aged 16 to 18, Wales and England, 2004 to 2020 (provisional)



Source: Welsh Government

[Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\): April 2020 to March 2021 \(MS Excel\)](#)

Between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET in England and Wales followed broadly similar trends, but with Wales having a larger proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET than England. From 2005,

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

however, the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET in Wales decreased until 2006, resulting in Wales having a similar proportion as England for 2005 and 2006.

The provisional figures for 2020 show a slight decrease in gap between England and Wales. When interpreting trends, it should be noted that there were legislative changes in 2013/14 by the UK Government which increased the age to which all young people in England are required to remain in education or training.

For both series, 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.

For Scotland and Northern Ireland, directly comparable NEET estimates for 16 to 18 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds are not published.

Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

The DfE also publish a quarterly brief on young people who are NEET which includes NEET rates estimates based on the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Additionally from May 2013 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has produced [UK estimates of young people who are NEET \(ONS\)](#), also based on the quarterly Labour Force Survey.

The quarterly estimates are not directly comparable with the Welsh APS-only estimates published in this release. A direct comparison for Wales with England and the UK LFS measure is not provided as the sample size for 16 to 18 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds in Wales is not sufficiently large. However, using a similar methodology to that used by the ONS, but using the Annual Population Survey rather than the LFS, we can provide estimates of young people who are NEET across the UK.

These estimates will differ from the official estimates produced by the DfE and ONS and other relevant departments and should therefore be interpreted with caution. [An article explaining the difference between NEET statistics](#)

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

across the UK was published by the ONS, alongside their first publication of UK estimates of young people who are NEET:

Table 1 shows the estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET for each of the UK countries for the years ending 2020 Quarter 1 and 2021 Quarter 1.

For 16 to 18 year olds the proportion estimated to be NEET decreased across the UK as a whole.

Table 1a: Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), aged 16 to 18 by UK country, 2020 Quarter 1 and 2021 Quarter 1 (percentage)

| Country | 2020 Quarter 1 | 2021 Quarter 1 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wales | 9.2 | 9.4 |
| England | 7.3 | 6.0 |
| Scotland | 9.9 | 10.4 |
| Northern Ireland | 6.5(!) | 4.1(!) |
| UK | 7.5 | 6.5 |

Source: Annual Population Survey

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of low quality.

Table 1b: Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), aged 19 to 24 by UK country, 2020 Quarter 1 and 2021 Quarter 1 (percentage)

| Country | 2020 Quarter 1 | 2021 Quarter 1 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wales | 15.4 | 15.3 |
| England | 13.9 | 14.4 |
| Scotland | 11.2 | 13.6 |
| Northern Ireland | 16.5 | 13.5 |
| UK | 13.8 | 14.3 |

Source: Annual Population Survey

In 2021 Quarter 1 the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds estimated to be NEET increased in Wales and Scotland, and decreased in England and Northern Ireland. The gap between the UK and Wales increased from 1.7 percentage points in 2020 Quarter 1 to 2.9 percentage points in 2021 Quarter 1.

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

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate. The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in July 2012 following [a full assessment against the Code of Practice](#).

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- included a number of visuals showing long term trends as well as commentary on these trends
- eliminated un-necessary tables from the release as they are freely available of [StatsWales](#)
- improved coherence of the commentary when comparing the two different series

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 wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing 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 wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before Senedd Cymru. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes information related to one of the national indicators namely “Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

different age groups.”

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

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 wellbeing assessments and local wellbeing plans.

Next update

Headline and tables only: October 2021

This release: July 2022 (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

Contact details

Statistician: Jonathan Ackland
Telephone: 0300 025 8067
Email: post16ed.stats@gov.wales

Media: 0300 025 8099

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).



SB 30/2020

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).

About this document

This document is a copy of the web page [Young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\): April 2020 to March 2021](https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html) downloaded.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021.html> for the latest version.

This document may not be fully accessible, for more information refer to our [accessibility statement](#).

Get [information on copyright](#).

This document was downloaded from GOV.WALES and may not be the latest version.

Go to <https://gov.wales/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet-april-2020-march-2021-html> for the latest version.

Get [information on copyright](#).