



Participation of young people in education and the labour market 2017 and 2018 (provisional)

21 Aug 2019
SFR 65/2019

The release provides final data for 2017 and provisional estimates for 2018 which use the best data for 2018 currently available for each aspect of participation. This includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling. Estimates for 2017 take into account final data, which were not available at the time of the provisional figures last year.

Provisional estimates for 2018 indicate a slight decrease of participation in education and training compared with recent years for both age groups. The number of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) is lower than in recent years but a slight increase on 2017.

16 to 18 year olds:

- Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education or training decreased to 78.3 in 2018 compared to 79.8 in 2017.
- The proportion in employment has increased year on year since 2011, following a downward trend from 2004.
- The proportion who are NEET has fluctuated around 10-13 per cent. It increased to 10.3 per cent in 2018 from 9.4 in 2017.

	2017	2018
 In education or training	79.8	78.3
 In full or part-time employment	36.3	37.6
 NEET	9.4	10.3

19 to 24 year olds:

- The proportion of 19 to 24 year olds in education or training has fluctuated around 37 and 39 per cent since 2004.
- The proportion in employment decreased between 2004 and 2012, but has increased in subsequent years.
- The proportion who were NEET in 2018 was 16.1 per cent, unchanged from the previous year. Prior to 2018, this figure fell in each of the last 5 years.

	2017	2018
 In education or training	38.8	38.4
 In full or part-time employment	63.0	64.0
 NEET	16.1	16.1

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.

Data tables are available on StatsWales.

In this release

Introduction	2
Participation of 16 to 18 year olds	3
Participation of 19 to 24 year olds	4
Participation in full-time education	6
Notes	11

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 2018 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 to 18 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds on an academic age basis (i.e. age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

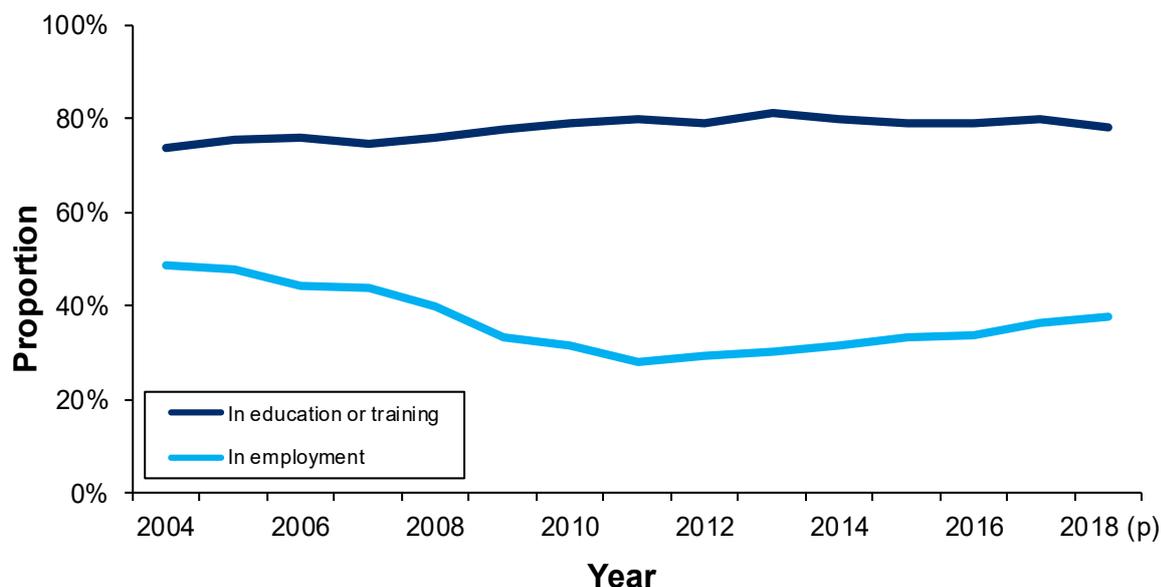
Further detail, including cohort numbers underlying tables 1 and 2 of this release are available through [StatsWales](#).

Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education and the labour market

Chart 1 shows the trends in participation in education or training, and in employment for 16 to 18 year olds since 2004.

Prior to 2008 the proportion of 16 to 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 to 18 year olds in education or training, to levels around 80 per cent. In contrast, the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds in employment decreased overall from 2004, with slightly larger reductions between 2007 and 2009. Since 2011 it has increased and now stands at 37.6 per cent.

Chart 1: Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education and the labour market



Employment

- In 2018, 37.6 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were in full or part-time employment. This proportion has increased each year since 2011.
- Approximately 26.2 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training *and* in employment in 2018, a slight increase compared to 25.6 per cent in 2017. Most of these were students in full-time education who were also working part-time.
- In addition, 11.4 per cent were in full or part-time employment but not in education or training in 2018 an increase from 2017 (10.8 per cent).

Education and training

- In total, 78.3 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time) in 2018.
- 68.5 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were in full-time education in 2018.
- A higher proportion of females aged 16 to 18 were in full-time education – 71.7 per cent compared with 65.6 per cent of males in 2018.
- By single year of age, 80.0 per cent of all 16 year olds were undertaking full-time education in 2018 compared with 70.6 per cent of 17 year olds and 55.8 per cent of 18 year olds.
- Participation in training was higher for males than for females. 7,100 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in training (both work-based learning courses and job-related training) in 2018. This is approximately 8.6 per cent of all males in this age group compared with 5.4 per cent of females.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

- An estimated 10,300 16 to 18 year olds (10.3 per cent) were NEET, compared to 9,700 (9.4 per cent) in 2017.
- This comprised of 4,800 unemployed young people and 5,600 who were economically inactive¹.
- 11.0 per cent of males aged 16 to 18 were NEET compared with 9.4 per cent of females.

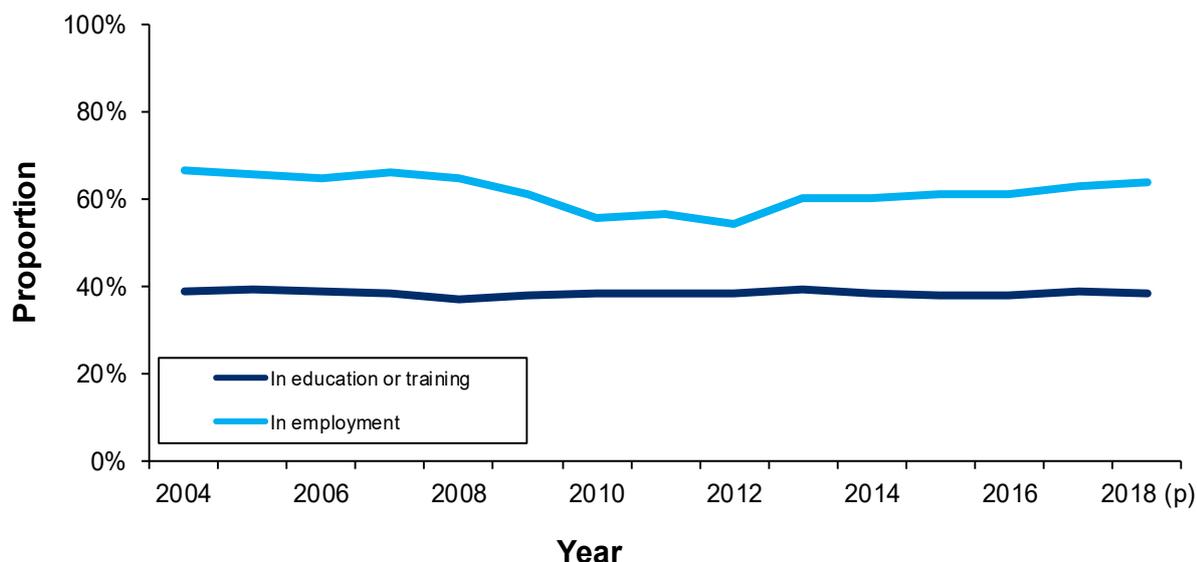
¹ Neither employed or seeking and available for work. Figures may not add up due to rounding

Participation of 19 to 24 year olds in education and the labour market

Chart 2 shows the trends in participation in education or training, and in employment for 19 to 24 year olds since 2004.

The proportion in education or training remained broadly unchanged over this period at around 37-39 per cent. In contrast, the proportion in employment decreased after the start of the 2008 recession to 2010. Since 2012 it has increased each year to stand at 64.0 per cent in 2018.

Chart 2: Participation of 19 to 24 year olds in education and the labour market²



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

Employment

- In 2018, 64 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were in full or part-time employment, the highest proportion since 2008 (64.5 per cent).
- 45.5 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were in full or part-time employment but not in education or training in 2018.
- In addition, 18.4 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training and in employment in 2018. 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.

Education and training

- In total, 38.4 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time) in 2018.
- 28.3 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were in full-time education in 2018.
- A higher proportion of females than males aged 19 to 24 were in full-time education in 2018 - 30.8 per cent compared with 26.0 per cent of males.

- 16,000 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in training (both work-based learning courses and job-related training) in 2018, with participation amongst females at 6.2 per cent and for males 6.9 per cent.
- Participation in full-time education decreased with age. 53.7 per cent of all 19 year olds were in full-time education in 2018 compared with 8.7 per cent of 24 year olds.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

- An estimated 39,100 of 19 to 24 year olds (16.1 per cent) were NEET in 2018, a similar proportion to 2017.
- 15.7 per cent of females aged 19 to 24 were NEET compared to 16.5 per cent of males in 2018.
- The 39,100 19 to 24 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2018 comprised of 13,300 unemployed young people and 25,800 who were economically inactive.

Chart 3: Participation in full-time education by level of study and age

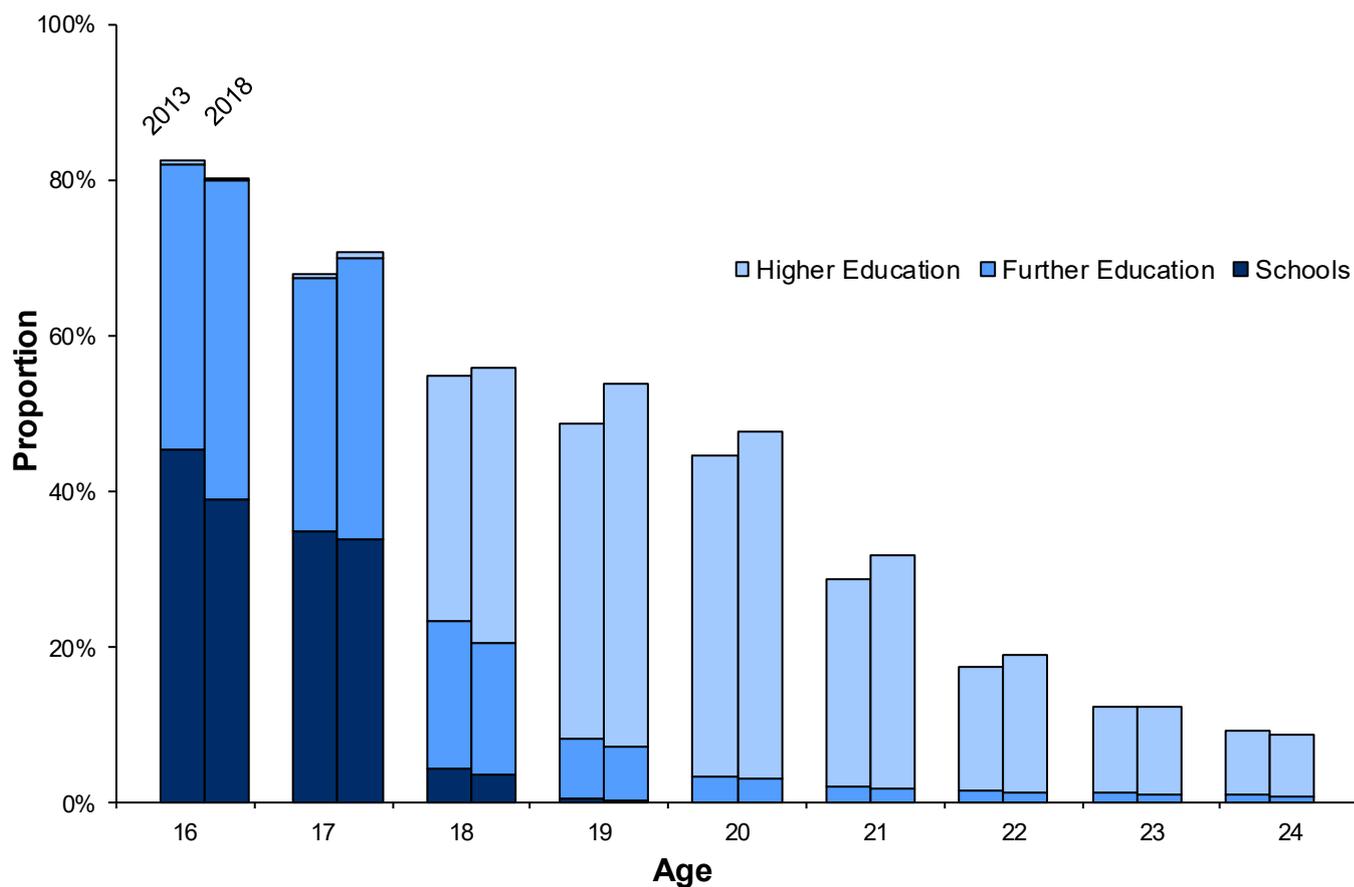


Chart 3 compares participation in full-time education by level of study in 2018 compared with the position in 2013. Whilst participation in full-time education decreases with age, the participation rates of those aged 17 to 22 were higher in 2018 than 5 years earlier. For those aged 16, the proportion in full time education was 2 percentage points lower in 2018 than in 2013.

The decrease in school education in part reflects the change of provision within some local authorities for post-16 education from school sixth form to further education colleges.

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:

- 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
- 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 2018 estimates, provisional figures from the January 2019 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. PLASC includes all maintained and independent schools.

Any changes to the provisional January 2019 PLASC data will be reflected in the final year end 2018 participation estimates in next year's release.

Higher education

Information regarding those at higher education institutions (HEIs) is collected on a UK 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 2018 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 2018/19. These provisional estimates will be revised with final 2018 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 2018/19 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 2018/19 data are still under validation so the provisional year end 2018 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 2018/19 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 2018 is used in the provisional figures for year end 2018. These will be revised for final estimates in the next update when mid-year estimates for 2019 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 2018. 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:

- Assembly Members and the Assembly 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 2018 figures will be finalised in next year's publication, due for release in July 2020.

The following table shows the difference between the 2017 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 2017	9,800	9.5	81,900	79.5
Final 2017	9,700	9.4	82,700	79.8
Difference	-100	-0.1	700	0.3
19 to 24				
Provisional 2017	40,100	16.2	94,800	38.3
Final 2017	39,400	16.1	94,900	38.8
Difference	-700	-0.1	100	0.4

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. Totals may not match due to rounding.

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 of the Welsh Government. All underlying data for this release as well as other years are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

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. 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](#)

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:

<https://gov.wales/participation-young-people-education-and-labour-market>

Next update

July 2020

Period covered: Year end 2018 and 2019 (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

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated.



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