The proportion of young people that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) can be calculated in two different ways. This bulletin presents the findings for both series. Data on the “SFR basis” is provisional until updated in 2020.

Chart 1: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales

16 to 18 year olds
- Overall, the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET has been gradually decreasing since 2011, but increased slightly in the most recent year. The size of this increase varies depending on the source used.
- On the SFR basis, at end 2018 10.3 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were NEET (10,300) compared with 9.4 per cent (9,700) at end 2017.
- On the APS basis, for the year ending Q1 2019, 8.2 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 8.3 per cent at the year ending Q1 2018.

19 to 24 year olds
- The proportion of 19-24 year olds that are NEET has been falling since the recession and now stands at just over 16 per cent.
- On the SFR basis, at end 2018 16.1 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were NEET (39,100) a similar proportion compared with 2017.
- On the APS basis, for the year ending Q1 2019, 16.2 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 14.2 per cent for the year ending Q1 2018.

About this release
This bulletin summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. The definitive source for this information is the annual statistical first release (SFR), Participation of young people in education and the labour market (also published on 21 August 2019.)

Additionally, this bulletin provides users with more detailed, but less statistically robust, statistics from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

Data for the SFR series is published on StatsWales, APS data can be found on our website.

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Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends of young people who are NEET by age, gender and disability and assess the impact of education and labour market interventions on young people.

This supports 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: Economic Action 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).

Data sources

Statistical First Release (SFR) series

The number and proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales is published annually in the Statistical First Release (SFR) Participation of young people in education and the labour market.

This SFR series should be used:

- as the definitive headline measures for young people who are NEET in Wales
- to monitor the Child Poverty Strategy indicators and the National Indicator

However, these data are only available annually and can only be disaggregated by gender; therefore it is necessary to supplement this series with other data sources.

Annual Population Survey (APS) series

The Annual Population Survey (APS) provides more regular and timely data on young people who are NEET. The statistics from the APS are based solely on survey data on relatively small sample sizes of 16 to 18 year olds and are statistically less robust than those published in the annual SFR.

Care also needs to be taken when comparing estimates from the different sources due to differences in definitions. The APS series can be used:

- where a more recent indication of data is required, between publication of SFRs
- to provide analysis by region, disability status or single year of age (although it is necessary to use estimates based on 3 year averages for this purpose)

Careers Wales pupil destinations survey

The only source of data in respect of local areas available is the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey. This provides estimates of young people who are NEET in October after completing Year 11. However the Careers Wales survey uses slightly different definitions for NEET than those used in the SFR. It should also be noted that this survey includes pupils from secondary and special schools; those attending FE colleges and independent schools are not included.
SFR series

The estimates published in the SFR are a measure of the proportion of young people who are NEET as at the end of the calendar year. It 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. The Annual Population Survey is used to estimate the proportion of those not in education or training who are 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 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. 2018 estimates are provisional at this point, and use the best estimate 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 was not available at the time of the provisional figures last year.

For this series the data presented covers 16 to 18 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds on an academic age\(^1\) basis.

Chart 2: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales (SFR series)

16 to 18 year olds
- 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
- The proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET increased between 2006 and 2009 before generally decreasing very gradually in recent years, with a slight increase in 2018 compared with 2017

\(^1\) Age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year
19 to 24 year olds
- An estimated 39,100 of 19 to 24 year olds (16.1 per cent) were NEET in 2018, a similar proportion to 2017.
- After the start of the 2008 recession the proportion of 19 to 24 who were NEET saw a large increase from 17 per cent in 2008 to around 22-23 per cent from 2009 to 2012, decreasing each year since to stand at 16.1 per cent (39,100) at end 2018. The decrease is driven through increased labour market activity, with participation in education and training remaining fairly stable.

Gender breakdown
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 3 shows that the proportion of males and females ages 16 to 18 who are NEET have broadly followed similar trends between 2004 and 2018, with females less likely to be NEET than males due to higher levels of participation in education and training. Provisional figures for 2018 indicate:
- 11.0 per cent (5,800) of males aged 16 to 18 were NEET, an increase from 10.5 percent (5,600) in 2017.
- 9.4 per cent (4,600) of females aged 16 to 18 were NEET, an increase from 8.2 per cent (4,100) in 2017.

Chart 3: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 16 to 18, by gender
19 to 24 year olds

Chart 4 shows that the proportions of males and females aged 19 to 25 who were NEET have been converging over time.

The proportion of females who are NEET has consistently been higher than males across this series, until the latest provisional figures, which show a slightly larger proportion of males who are NEET than females.

Provisional figures for 2018 indicate:

- 16.5 per cent (20,900) of males aged 19 to 24 were NEET, an increase from 15.6 per cent (20,000) in the previous year.
- 15.7 per cent (18,100) of females aged 19 to 24 were NEET, a decrease from 16.6 per cent (19,400) in the previous year.

Chart 4: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 19 to 24, by gender
APS series

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is published on a rolling year basis every quarter. The most recent published data covers the period April 2018 to March 2019. Estimates based on the APS are less robust than the SFR series, given the sample sizes involved, particularly for the 16 to 18 cohort. They can be used to give an indication only of trends in NEET rates between publications of the annual SFR series.

The reference period for these estimates is the whole year and therefore there is a large overlap in the responses included in consecutive rolling years. The overall trend of the series should be considered with comparisons to the same point a year previous and not changes between consecutive quarters. As these estimates are based on survey data there will be some variability in estimates due to sampling variation.

Chart 5: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales (APS series)

Chart 5 shows the APS rolling year series from year end 2014 Q1 (April 2013 to March 2014) to year end 2019 Q1.

- The latest data show for the year ending quarter 1 2019, 8.2 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 8.3 per cent for the year ending quarter 1 2018.
- For 19 to 24 year olds 16.2 per cent were estimated to be NEET for the year ending quarter 1 2019, compared with 14.2 per cent for the year ending quarter 1 2018.
NEET characteristics

The APS can also 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 on the average of 3 periods and therefore should be used to compare groups or regions only².

Chart 6: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales by age

![Bar chart showing the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training by age in Wales. The proportion generally increases with age.](chart)

The proportion of young people that are NEET generally increases with age. The rates range from 3.8 per cent for young people aged 16 to 16.7 per cent for those aged 23.

Chart 7: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, by disability status³

![Bar chart showing the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training by disability status in Wales.](chart)

- The proportion of young people who are NEET is higher for disabled people for both age groups.

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² Charts and figures used in this section relate to average of years ending 2017 Q1, 2018 Q1 and 2019 Q1
³ See notes section for definition of disability status

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of limited quality.
• 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 15.4 per cent at age 16 to 18 to 39.8 per cent at age 19 to 24.

Chart 8: Young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in by region of Wales

• There are small differences in NEET rates between regions. The proportion of young people (aged 16 to 24) who are NEET varied from 13.5 per cent in North Wales to 12.8 per cent in South East Wales.

4 A list of which local authorities make up which regions can be found in the notes
Comparisons with the rest of the UK

SFR measure

The Department for Education (DfE) publish estimates of 16 to 18 year old NEET rates for England using similar methodology to the SFR on an annual basis. The most recent Statistical Release provided 2018 provisional figures. Chart 9 shows a comparison of the English and Welsh estimates. England does not produce an equivalent measure for 19 to 24 year olds:

Chart 9: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, aged 16 to 18, Wales and England

Between 2004 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 2004, 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 2018 show an increased gap between England and Wales, with the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds NEET in England remaining at 6.3 per cent, its lowest rate. This in part reflects 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.
Pupil destinations from schools in Wales

Careers Wales undertakes an annual survey of all leavers from maintained schools\(^5\) in Wales to obtain their destinations as at end of October.

According to this source, in 2018 1.6 per cent of the year 11 cohort were known to be NEET.

In previous years, it has been possible to track destination data and identify trends. Due to a number of data challenges in collecting the 2018 destination data, there has been a large increase in the number of non-respondents (5.2 per cent in 2018 compared with 1.6 per cent in 2017). As a result, this year’s data cannot be compared with previous years.

No comparisons can be made across local authorities due to variation in the non-response rate.

See the notes for information regarding change to the survey process in last 2 years.

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\(^5\) Includes maintained secondary and special schools, PRUs and some learners educated other than at school.
Summary of data sources

### NEET SFR series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>This data is the definitive measure for NEET rates in Wales.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uses</strong></td>
<td>This series is the key statistical source for estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales. The SFR series provides policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends by age and gender and the impact of education and labour market interventions on young people. The Welsh Government is committed to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales as set out in the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the Child Poverty Strategy. 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Published source</strong></td>
<td>WG Statistical First Release Participation of young people in education and the labour market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary sources</strong></td>
<td>Pupil Level Annual Schools’ Census (WG) Lifelong Learning Wales Record (WG) Student Record (HESA) Open University Annual Population Survey (ONS) Mid-year estimates of resident population and population projections (ONS and Welsh Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last period covered</strong></td>
<td>End 2018 (provisional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last published</strong></td>
<td>July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Next published</strong></td>
<td>July 2020 (provisional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NEET APS series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>This series is a rolling year annual estimate of the proportion of young people who are NEET from the Annual Population Survey.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses</td>
<td>This series provides more timely data than the annual SFR and is used to provide an indication of trends in the proportion of young people who are NEET between SFRs. It is not directly comparable with the SFR series and estimates are less robust. The APS estimates, published quarterly, are based on survey data and therefore there is variability due to sampling error. For the latest 12 month period around 900 young people aged 16 to 18 and 1,600 young people aged 19 to 24 responded to the survey. Also given the structure of the APS there is a large overlap between consecutive rolling years. Trends should be considered and not changes between consecutive rolling year estimates. Comparisons are made with the same point a year previous. For sub-groups the sample sizes are relatively small and subject to relatively large sampling error so averages of 3 rolling years are generally used. The harmonised definition used to define the APS NEET estimates allows for some comparison across the other UK countries and English regions. However, there are differences of approach in terms of publication, for example use of LFS or APS, different age groups, the use of academic age versus actual age and differences in an adjustment methodology used in apportioning missing values. As well as the impact of different education systems across the UK. As such comparison with the UK should be made with caution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published and primary source</td>
<td>Annual Population Survey (ONS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last period covered</td>
<td>Year ending 2019 Q1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last published</td>
<td>APS published June 2018, NEET series published July 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next published</td>
<td>APS published September 2018, NEET series published October 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NEET pupil destinations survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>This series is an annual estimate of the Year 11 leavers (aged 16) who are NEET as at October following the end of the academic year.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uses</td>
<td>Neither the SFR nor the APS series can be used to provide estimates at local authority level due to small sample sizes in the APS and methodology used to derive the SFR estimates. This series provides an indication of the level of young people who are NEET at a local authority level, but due to data collection issues, no comparisons can be made across local authority data for 2018. It should only be used for 16 year olds. It is not directly comparable with the SFR series or the APS series due to differences in definitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published and primary source</td>
<td><a href="https://careerswales.org.uk/destinations-of-leavers-from-schools-in-wales">Destinations of leavers from schools in Wales</a> (Careers Wales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last period covered</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last published</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next published</td>
<td>April 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definitions

#### Education and training

For the SFR estimates: it is based on those who are enrolled on a course in a 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; or
- Currently on a government employment or training scheme; or
- Currently working or studying towards any qualifications; or
- Have undertaken any job-related education or training in the previous 4 weeks; or
- 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; or
- Self-employed; or
- On government employment or training programmes; or
- An unpaid family worker.

Disability

In line with GSS harmonised standards the definition used reflects the **Equality Act 2010** legal definition of disabled. (Data was previously on the basis of those with a disability as defined by Disability Discrimination Act or a work-limiting disability).

[Further information on harmonised standards](#)
Key quality information

This Bulletin 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), the headline SFR series and the Careers Wales destinations survey data. To supplement this annual output, a headline and tables are published quarterly as new APS data become available.

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 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.

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

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. The APS datasets are derived from a sample of approximately 21,000 people of working age across Wales, with a minimum of around 700 people of working age in most local authorities in Wales. However, for 16 to 18 year olds there are around 900 respondents in the sample across Wales. Similarly for 19 to 24 year olds there are around 1,600 respondents in the sample across Wales.

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 per cent 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

Chart 1 demonstrates, from 2006 onwards, the similar levels and trend in young people who are NEET shown between the SFR and APS series in general, with a difference at most of 3 percentage points.

In 2016 Careers Wales implemented a new methodology for the collection of Destinations data, by providing partners within the education and work-based learning sectors with an early release of draft data for them to compare with their own records.

These partners were also asked if they were able to supply information on those who were not responding to the survey. Careers Wales did not conduct an intensive search for those not responding to the survey, as we had done in previous years. It should therefore be noted that the proportion of Destinations clients classified as ‘No response to survey’ has increased in comparison to the 2017 survey cohort from 0.5 to 3.5 in 2018 for Year 11, Year 12 from 1.6 to 3.7 and Year 13 from 3.7 to 11.6 percent.

Due to the increases in non-response rates, no comparisons can be made between 2018 and any other previous data, nor can comparisons be made across local authorities.

The collection of data in close co-operation with partners in the education and work-based learning sectors and Careers Wales work supporting those who are known to be ‘Not in Education, Employment or Training’ (NEET) means that those members of the Destinations cohort most likely to be non-responders are those from the ‘Employed – other’, and ‘Left the area’ categories.

Timeliness and punctuality

The latest SFR provides new data for 2017 and provisional data for 2018. The provisional estimates use the best data for 2018 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling.

**SFR series:** Provisional 2018 figures will be finalised in the next SFR publication, due for release in July 2020. For the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2017, the difference between the provisional estimate published in the previous release and the final published estimate was 0.1 percentage point on the published rounded basis.

**APS series:** These estimates of young people who are NEET are revised when the Office for 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 100-400 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 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](https://www.ons.gov.uk/). 

**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](https://www.ons.gov.uk/). Additionally, from May 2013 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has produced UK estimates of young people who are NEET, also based on the quarterly Labour Force Survey.

The quarterly estimates are not directly comparable with the Welsh APS-only estimates published in this bulletin. 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 across the UK](https://www.ons.gov.uk/) was published by the ONS, alongside their first publication of UK estimates of young people who are NEET:

**Table 1 Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), by age and UK country, 2018 Q1 and 2019 Q1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Wales</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 to 18 year olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018Q1 (%)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.1 (!)</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019Q1 (%)</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>4.3 (!)</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24 year olds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018Q1 (%)</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019Q1 (%)</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Population Survey
Table 1 shows the estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET for each of the UK countries for the years ending Q1 2018 and Q1 2019.

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

In Q1 2019 the proportion of 19 to 24 estimated to be NEET increased in Wales and all other UK countries, except Northern Ireland. The gap between the UK and Wales increased from 0.6 percentage points in Q1 2018 to 1.8 percentage points in Q1 2019.

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 unnecessary 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 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 information related to one of the national indicators namely “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.


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/young-people-not-education-employment-or-training-neet

Next update

Headline and tables only: October 2019

This bulletin: July 2020 (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

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