

SDR 212/2012

6 December 2012

EXAMINATION RESULTS IN WALES, 2011/12

This Statistical Release gives results of external examinations taken by pupils aged 15 or 17 at the beginning of the academic year, in schools in Wales in 2011/12. It updates the provisional figures published on 4 October in SDR 170/2012, with the changes shown in the notes at the end of this release. The effects of the re-grading the GCSE English Language results are also shown in the notes.

Key results for 2011/12:

Examination results for 15 year olds continue to rise. Level 2 performance including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and Mathematics (the L2 inclusive measure) has increased by at least 1 percentage point each year since 2007.

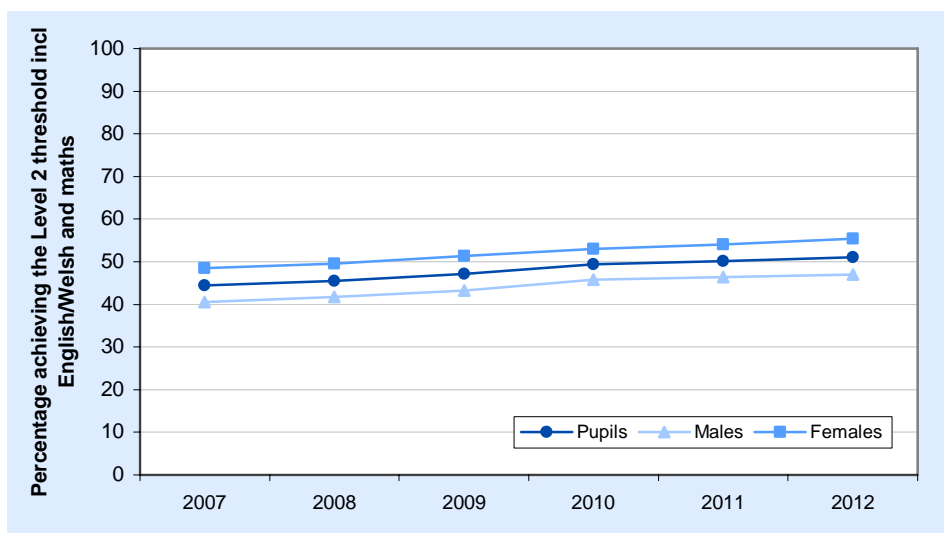
15 year olds

- 51.1 per cent achieved the Level 2 inclusive threshold, 1 percentage point higher than in 2010/11 and 6.7 percentage points higher than 2006/07 (Table 1);
- 72.6 per cent achieved the Level 2 threshold, 5.3 percentage points higher than in 2010/11;
- The average wider points score was 465, 42 points higher than in 2010/11 (Table 1);
- The average capped wider points score was 323.5, 12 points higher than in 2010/11 (Table 1).

17 year olds

- 96.9 per cent of those entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels achieved the Level 3 threshold, 0.6 percentage point higher than in 2010/11 and 2.5 percentage points higher compared with 2001/02 (Table 2);
- The average wider points score was 773, 26 points lower than in 2010/11 (Table 2).

Chart 1: Percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics (a)



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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Table 1: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...						
	Number of pupils aged 15	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (e)	achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c)	Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped wider points score per pupil
2001/02	37,116	84.8	50.5	..	36.9
2002/03	37,993	85.1	51.1	..	37.5
2003/04	39,212	85.3	51.4	..	37.7	324.7	..
2004/05	38,495	85.2	52.2	..	38.4	327.7	..
2005/06	38,859	86.0	53.8	..	39.7	335.4	..
2006/07	39,576	86.0	55.0	44.4	40.0	343.9	..
2007/08	39,027	86.8	58.0	45.6	44.4	356.0	..
2008/09	37,607	88.2	60.7	47.2	46.0	378.9	..
2009/10	37,072	89.7	63.8	49.4	48.0	394.3	305.1
2010/11	36,088	90.3	67.3	50.1	48.7	422.9	311.6
2011/12 (r)	35,404	91.8	72.6	51.1	48.9	465.0	323.5
2011/12							
Males	18,181	89.8	67.8	46.9	45.1	438.8	309.9
Females	17,223	93.8	77.6	55.5	52.8	492.6	338.0

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes GCSEs, GCSE Short Course, GNVQs and NVQs. From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

(c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved GCSE grade A*-C in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.

(d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.

(e) Please see section 3.2 of the notes for more details

**Table 2: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)**

	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold			Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels				
2001/02	9,486	94.4		11,201	..
2002/03	9,848	93.9		11,568	..
2003/04	10,041	94.9		11,822	..
2004/05	10,373	94.4		12,072	..
2005/06	10,731	93.9		12,507	..
2006/07	10,592	93.9		12,418	618.5
2007/08	10,943	94.2		12,653	630.9
2008/09	11,367	96.0		13,241	687.7
2009/10	11,653	94.9		13,586	747.9
2010/11	11,512	96.3		13,615	798.9
2011/12 (r)	11,538	96.9		13,632	772.9
2011/12					
Males	5,040	95.7		6,201	724.8
Females	6,498	97.8		7,431	813.0

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes A levels, AS levels and Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (AVCE). From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.

Table 3: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, 2011/12, by LA (a) (b)

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...						
	Number of pupils aged 15	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (f)	achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c)	Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped (d) wider points score per pupil
Isle of Anglesey	712	92.6	73.9	52.2	50.7	514.7	334.9
Gwynedd	1,273	93.1	75.1	55.0	53.2	525.4	335.0
Conwy	1,187	94.9	78.9	49.3	46.3	477.6	335.3
Denbighshire	1,219	93.2	82.7	54.7	53.1	504.9	339.2
Flintshire	1,730	95.6	77.3	59.6	57.6	509.0	336.8
Wrexham	1,286	91.2	66.8	45.3	43.9	481.2	315.6
Powys	1,472	95.1	78.5	61.5	58.2	495.5	342.0
Ceredigion	706	94.5	77.6	52.1	52.0	470.0	338.8
Pembrokeshire	1,334	92.3	75.8	56.1	53.2	502.2	328.3
Carmarthenshire	2,167	92.7	69.5	51.1	48.7	502.6	326.7
Swansea	2,548	92.8	74.6	54.6	52.5	470.4	328.8
Neath Port Talbot	1,706	95.5	82.3	54.1	50.8	485.7	339.0
Bridgend	1,528	92.4	66.4	50.7	49.9	425.2	312.7
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,600	93.7	79.6	55.3	53.9	515.7	341.0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	2,880	89.4	69.4	43.8	43.3	423.9	305.1
Merthyr Tydfil	684	87.4	64.3	32.5	31.7	450.1	300.8
Caerphilly	2,155	91.5	64.1	45.1	43.9	429.7	311.4
Blaenau Gwent	784	83.8	57.9	34.3	33.2	405.4	288.5
Torfaen	1,317	90.7	68.8	45.6	43.9	413.9	309.3
Monmouthshire	879	92.5	74.1	56.3	54.0	463.7	328.6
Newport	1,652	91.0	77.1	49.2	47.6	490.1	328.2
Cardiff	3,506	91.2	68.3	49.3	47.9	428.4	316.9
Wales (e) (r)	35,404	91.8	72.6	51.1	48.9	465.0	323.5

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

(c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved the Level 2 threshold in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.

(d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.

(e) Includes independent schools and pupils from a non-English or Welsh background education.

(f) Please see section 3.2 of the notes for more details

- Powys had the highest percentage of 15 year olds achieving the Level 2 inclusive threshold (61.5 per cent), while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest percentage (32.5 per cent).
- Powys had the highest average capped points score (342), while Blaenau Gwent had the lowest (288.5)

Table 4: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2011/12, by LA (a)

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
Isle of Anglesey	284	98.6	315	890.4
Gwynedd	314	96.8	333	818.4
Conwy	508	96.7	552	822.5
Denbighshire	400	98.5	479	693.5
Flintshire	556	97.3	697	699.5
Wrexham	134	94.8	196	672.2
Powys	585	97.9	639	879.8
Ceredigion	356	98.3	414	827.8
Pembrokeshire	481	97.5	534	904.8
Carmarthenshire	645	97.1	743	774.5
Swansea	576	95.7	699	737.9
Neath Port Talbot	150	96.7	175	809.4
Bridgend	631	96.0	731	736.9
The Vale of Glamorgan	728	97.5	815	904.3
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1,087	96.0	1,355	664.9
Merthyr Tydfil	184	96.2	231	756.2
Caerphilly	528	96.4	604	724.1
Blaenau Gwent	157	98.7	182	721.8
Torfaen	417	97.1	505	798.3
Monmouthshire	380	96.8	451	634.6
Newport	668	94.8	817	790.1
Cardiff	1,170	96.9	1,389	844.7
Wales (b) (r)	11,538	96.9	13,632	772.9

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.



- In 2011/12 Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentage of 17 year olds who entered a volume equivalent to 2 A levels achieving the Level 3 threshold (98.7 per cent), while Wrexham and Newport had the lowest percentage (94.8 per cent);

Accessing the data electronically

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select "Schools and Teachers" at the navigation screen of the following site: www.statswales.wales.gov.uk



School level reports for 2010/11 and earlier containing performance information can also be found on StatsWales in PDF format. This information is available in other formats on request – please e-mail school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Table 5: GCSE entries and results (pupils aged 15 only) by subject group, 2011/12 (a)

Subject Group	Number of entries	Percentage of entries achieved at grade:										No graded result
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-C	A*-G	
Sciences												
Biological Sciences	5,520	18	27	28	20	5	1	1	-	93	100	-
Chemistry	5,319	20	27	26	22	4	1	-	-	95	100	-
Physics	5,251	19	24	28	23	5	1	-	-	94	100	0
Other Science	38,368	4	9	17	34	17	9	5	3	64	99	1
Design and Technology	9,013	4	11	21	25	19	10	5	2	62	98	2
ICT	4,742	7	16	23	21	14	8	6	4	67	98	2
Home Economics	3,590	1	9	20	26	19	13	7	3	57	99	1
Mathematics	38,820	6	8	12	31	17	10	8	5	57	97	3
Social Sciences												
Business Studies	2,548	4	15	19	21	19	10	6	3	60	98	2
Economics	106	8	19	25	20	14	9	0	3	73	99	1
Geography	10,050	8	16	19	24	17	9	4	2	68	99	1
History	12,256	11	18	21	18	14	9	5	3	68	99	1
Humanities	139	0	6	14	19	17	18	12	9	39	95	5
Social Studies	1,456	9	15	24	20	14	8	5	3	68	98	2
Vocational Studies	2,423	2	8	20	25	22	13	6	2	55	99	1
Arts												
Art and Design	9,321	10	14	24	30	12	5	3	1	78	99	1
Classical Studies	138	28	24	21	18	3	3	2	1	91	99	1
Communication Studies	2,691	3	15	23	24	16	9	5	2	66	98	2
Drama	3,378	6	17	26	24	14	8	4	1	72	99	1
English Language	32,916	3	10	20	30	20	10	5	2	62	99	1
English Literature	26,688	4	13	24	26	20	8	3	1	67	99	1
French	5,733	12	17	22	22	16	7	3	1	73	100	-
German	1,287	16	18	22	22	15	6	2	-	77	100	0
Spanish	1,371	14	21	21	20	12	7	4	2	76	100	-
Other Modern Foreign Language	185	37	27	19	6	6	2	0	1	89	99	1
Music	2,922	11	24	28	19	11	5	2	-	82	100	-
Physical Education	6,620	6	19	27	23	15	7	2	1	75	100	-
Religious Studies	10,221	15	20	21	18	11	7	4	2	74	98	2
Welsh Language	5,199	3	12	26	31	18	7	2	1	72	100	-
Welsh Literature	3,956	7	16	23	28	14	8	3	1	74	99	1
Welsh Second language	9,290	9	18	20	26	12	7	4	2	74	99	1
Vocational Subjects (b)												
Additional Applied Science	1,850	-	-	7	27	30	19	9	4	35	97	3
Art and Design	102	2	10	24	25	10	4	1	1	60	75	25
Business	1,252	3	13	23	26	14	9	6	3	66	98	2
Engineering	503	1	4	11	19	24	13	12	8	35	91	9
Health and Social Care	1,378	2	11	22	25	17	11	7	3	61	99	1
Hospitality and Catering	521	2	12	24	26	23	9	4	0	64	100	0
Leisure and Tourism	510	3	13	29	22	15	8	6	2	67	99	1
Performing Arts	234	6	11	22	35	19	3	2	3	74	99	1
Science	2,310	-	3	16	35	25	14	6	1	54	99	1
All subjects	270,177	7	13	20	27	16	8	5	2	67	99	1

- (a) Figures should be treated with caution - it is possible for pupils to have entered more than one GCSE within a small number of subject groups.
- (b) GCSE Vocational Double awards were awarded for the first time in 2003/04. Each double award is counted as 2 entries.

- 57 per cent of entries in GCSE Mathematics achieved grade A*-C. For English Language the percentage was 62 per cent and for Welsh (First Language) it was 72 per cent;

Table 6: A level entries and results (pupils aged 17 only) by subject group, 2010/11

Subject Group	Number of entries	Percentage of entries achieved at grade:								No graded result
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-C	A*-E	
Sciences										
Biological Sciences	2,057	6	21	23	20	17	10	70	97	3
Chemistry	1,618	7	28	24	19	13	6	79	97	3
Physics	1,084	6	20	25	19	16	9	71	96	4
Other Science	222	4	20	30	19	17	8	73	97	3
Design and Technology	791	2	10	22	27	24	12	60	96	4
ICT	1,147	2	10	19	25	23	14	56	93	7
Home Economics	25	4	4	24	36	24	8	68	100	0
Mathematics	2,706	18	30	23	15	8	4	86	98	2
Social Sciences										
Business Studies	538	3	16	26	30	15	7	75	97	3
Economics	292	10	24	28	17	12	8	79	98	2
Geography	1,393	2	21	29	25	16	5	77	98	2
History	2,404	4	19	35	31	9	2	89	100	-
Social Studies	2,323	5	14	24	27	18	10	69	96	4
Vocational Studies	21	0	29	14	10	24	19	52	95	5
Arts										
Art and Design	1,587	12	20	28	23	12	4	83	99	1
Classical Studies	72	6	13	28	21	22	6	67	94	6
Communication Studies	782	2	10	29	38	17	4	79	99	1
Drama	648	2	13	32	30	18	4	77	99	1
English Language	883	5	14	27	32	17	5	78	99	1
English Literature	1,703	6	15	27	28	18	6	75	99	1
French	464	2	24	31	18	15	7	75	97	3
German	143	6	22	37	15	10	7	80	98	2
Spanish	135	4	26	30	19	13	4	79	97	3
Other Modern Foreign Language	84	6	48	30	11	2	1	94	98	2
Music	466	4	18	20	28	21	8	69	98	2
Physical Education	761	3	9	20	24	22	16	57	95	5
Religious Studies	1,447	3	19	34	26	13	4	81	99	1
Welsh Language	257	3	17	27	34	16	4	81	100	0
Welsh Second language	394	3	12	22	29	23	8	66	97	3
Vocational Subjects (a)										
Art and Design	28	18	21	18	14	14	14	71	100	0
Business	430	10	12	26	29	14	8	77	98	2
Health and Social Care	729	1	10	22	30	24	8	63	95	5
IT	320	0	7	18	31	26	13	55	94	6
Leisure and Recreation	64	0	6	34	28	19	13	69	100	0
Media: Communication and Production	11	0	0	27	18	55	0	45	100	0
Performing Arts	56	0	7	27	29	29	5	63	96	4
Science	136	0	4	14	33	32	12	51	95	5
Travel and Tourism	55	2	7	18	49	16	7	76	100	0
All subjects	28,276	6	18	26	25	16	7	75	98	2

(a) Vocational Double Award A levels were awarded for the first time in 2006/07. Each double award is counted as two entries.

- The most popular subject for 17 year olds at A level in 2011/12 was Mathematics, with 2,706 entries.

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Related Publications

Equivalent data for England and Northern Ireland can be found at the links below. Note that the data produced by these administrations are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, whereas we publish on the basis of pupils aged 15. Although the statistics are calculated on a slightly different basis the differences resulting from this are likely to be small. Comparisons cannot be made with Scotland because their examination system and qualifications are sufficiently different.

Developments are underway in Wales in moving towards producing indicators based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

For further information or advice on the constraints of international comparisons please e-mail school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

For reference, examination results for the other UK countries can be found by following the links below:

England

[SFR26/2011 GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2010/11 \(Provisional\)](#)

Northern Ireland

[Statistical Press Release: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2009/10](#)

Scotland

[SQA Examination Results in Scottish Schools: 2009/10](#)

We also publish information on teacher assessments in core and non core subjects at key stages 1, 2 and 3, which can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2012/?lang=en>

The figures differ from those published by Awarding Organisations in August. The Awarding Organisations' figures related to the outcome of the individual subject areas for all candidates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of their age. The figures published in this Statistical First Release focus on the overall performance of candidates aged 15 and 17 taking these examinations in Wales only. These figures are here:

http://www.jcq.org.uk/about_us/newsreleases/2011/

2 Data Source

The statistics are collated from a number of awarding organisations over the summer. The following awarding organisations provided data for this release: AAT, ABC Awards, AQA, ASDAN, British Computer Society (BCS), British Safety Council (BSC), City and Guilds, CCEA, CACHE, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), EMTA Awards Ltd (EAL), EDI, EDEXCEL, ICAA, IFS School of Finance, IMI Awards Ltd (IMIAL), NCFE, National Open College Network (NOCN), OCR, Sports Leaders UK, VTCT and WJEC.

The number of 15 and 17 year olds are based upon the pupil numbers derived from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) for maintained schools and special schools, the STATS1 form for independent schools, and the Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) data collection for pupil referral units.

3 Definitions

3.1 Coverage

The statistics in this release cover all maintained and independent schools in Wales. Only results for pupils aged 15 and 17 received from the awarding organisations listed above are included. Examinations taken at an earlier age are also included. Any examinations achieved before the age of 15 will be held back and included in the school year in which the pupil turns 15.

The information in this release relates to all schools for Wales figures and to maintained secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units for LA figures.

Only qualifications awarded up to the 31 August 2012 are included. The figures now include any exam re-grades, rescinds and missing qualifications where evidence was provided from schools within the allotted time period or was provided automatically by the awarding organisations.

Up to 2005/06, the statistics include GCSEs, GCSE short course, GNVQs and NVQs only. From 2006/07, the statistics include all qualifications approved for pre-16 or 16-18 use in Wales. The introduction of the wider definition has meant the inclusion of a larger range of qualifications and thus an increase in the headline indicators of performance. An explanation of the different types of qualifications can be found at: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/index.htm>

3.2 Threshold indicators and points

Indicators showing threshold equivalencies were published (as provisional indicators) for the first time in 2007 and are now the headline indicators of performance in secondary schools. Thresholds represent a volume, or 'size', of qualifications at a specific level on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Three thresholds have been established: Level 1 – a volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade D-G; Level 2 – a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C; Level 3 – a volume of qualifications at Level 3 equivalent to the volume of 2 A levels at grade A-E.

Level 2 inclusive measure and the Core Subject Indicator take into account the best grade obtained in English or Welsh first language for each pupil. Where a pupil has not entered Welsh first language, the best English grade is used. Where a pupil has taken both GCSEs the better of the two counts towards the calculation of the indicator.

The average capped wider points score is calculated using the best 8 results for each pupil. Further information on how the capped points score is produced can be found in the technical document at the link below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2010/1011301/?lang=en>

The average wider points score includes all approved qualifications.

3.3 Discounting

An examination is discounted when a pupil achieves a higher grade or higher level qualification in the **same subject group**. If a qualification is discounted then **it does not** count towards the statistics published in this release, or in any other official statistics published by the Welsh Government. We discount similar qualifications within the following subject groups:

Group 1: Entry level qualifications, GCSE short course, full GCSE, vocational double award GCSEs

Group 2: AS level, vocational double AS level, A levels, vocational double A level, AS Vocational Certificate of Education, Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education, Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education double award

Group 3: free standing maths qualifications

Group 4: key skills

Group 5: the Award in Digital Applications (AiDA), the Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), the Extended Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA+) and the Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA).

Group 6: NVQs

Group 7: BTECs and other qualifications

Group 8: the Welsh Baccalaureate

4 Rounding and symbols

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total shown.

The following symbols have been used throughout the publication:

- (p) provisional
- (r) data revised from data published 4th October 2012
- percentages less than 0.5 but not zero
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * figure is less than 5, or is based on a figure less than 5.

5 Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. It also covers specific issues relating to quality of 2012 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs, in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. A summary of responses has been published and is available here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/education/?lang=en>

5.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The research community;
- LAs and schools;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- General background and research;
- Inclusions in reports and briefings;
- Advice to Ministers;
- The all-Wales education core data packs (the replacement for the National Pupil Database);
- LA and school comparisons and benchmarks;
- To inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales including school reorganisation;

- Development of a national banding system for Wales;
- To inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- The education domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- To assist in research in educational attainment.

5.2 Accuracy

Schools and local authorities have now had an opportunity to assess the provisional results for accuracy, and have supplied amended information where applicable. In keeping with previous years, the change between provisional and final data for most indicators is less than 1 percentage point, however the Level 2 indicator has increased by 1.8 percentage points. The following revisions have been made to the provisional Wales level data published on October 4th:

Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year

	Number of pupils aged 15	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...				Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped wider points score per pupil
		achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	achieved the Core Subject Indicator		
2011/12 (r)	35,404	91.8	72.6	51.1	48.9	465.0	323.5
Difference from provisional data	-5 (people)	0.4 (% points)	1.8 (% points)	0.6 (% points)	0.6 (% points)	22.4 (points)	4.0 (points)

Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold		Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
2011/12 (r)	11,538	96.9		13,632	772.9
Difference from provisional data	68 (people)	0.3 (% points)		0 (people)	35.9 (points)

The revisions are mainly due to three factors:

- a. schools have informed us of additional qualifications gained by their students from awarding organisations we have not approached;
- b. we refresh the data from the awarding organisations approached, to include any remarks or late awards;
- c. we have done more sophisticated matching to better identify students taking examinations in more than one school and with more than one awarding organisation. Schools also assist in this by letting us know of any such students in their school.

Effects of re-grading WJEC English GCSE

Following the issuing of exam results in August 2012, and a review of the results of results of the English Language GCSE in Wales (<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/120910gcseen2012en.pdf>), the WJEC re-graded its English language results for pupils in schools in Wales. This affected over 2,000 pupils in Wales.

This release includes the results of the re-grading of WJEC English language. The estimated effect of the re-grading on this output was to increase most of the key performance indicators for Wales by up to 0.6 percentage points (although the effect in individual schools could be much larger).

Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year

	Number of pupils aged 15	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...					
		achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	achieved the Core Subject Indicator	Average wider points score	Average capped wider points score
Before Regrading	35,404	91.8	72.3	50.4	48.3	464.5	323.3
After Regrading	35,404	91.8	72.6	51.1	48.9	465.0	323.5
Difference	0	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3
	(people)	(% points)	(% points)	(% points)	(% points)	(points)	(points)

- 2,203 or 6.2% of pupils aged 15 had their grades changed.
- 1,105 or 3.1% of pupils aged 15 had their grade changed from a D to a C.

Please note, this table provides an estimate of the effect of the re-grades using the provisional data before it was checked by schools. It has not been possible to calculate the measures as they would have appeared prior to the re-grading using the final, quality assured data set.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The data relate to all qualifications achieved between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012.

5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

5.5 Comparability

See section 1.1.