

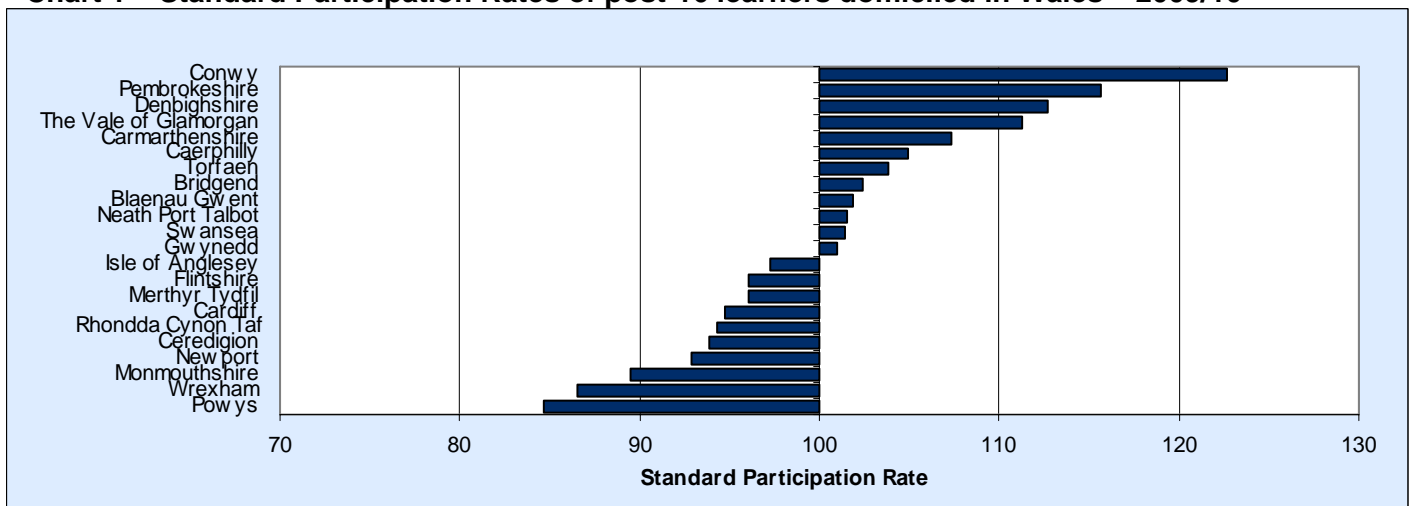
Analysis of Participation in post-16 Education and Training in Wales: 2009/10

This bulletin provides data about post-16 learner participation in Wales at both a national and local authority level. The publication is intended as a source of information to support national and local planning and policy making within the post-16 education and training sector. In addition to learners in Further Education, Work Based Learning, Community Learning and school Sixth Forms; the total cohort also includes learners studying at Higher Education level at both further education colleges and higher education institutions.

In order to allow fair comparison between local authorities with different population characteristics this bulletin uses a measure of participation known as the *“Standard Participation Rate”*. The Standard Participation Rate (SPR) is a measure of how many post-16 learners there were from each local authority, compared to the number that might be expected to come from that authority based on the national average and the age and gender of people from that area. The higher the SPR the higher the level of participation in post-16 learning.

- Chart 1 shows the comparative levels of participation for all post-16 learners (including higher education level) within each local authority. As in 2007/08 (the year for which this analysis was last undertaken) there was notable variation in the level of participation in education and training between local authorities, and this variation displayed a broadly similar geographical pattern.

Chart 1 – Standard Participation Rates of post-16 learners domiciled in Wales – 2009/10



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- The authorities with the highest standard participation rates (SPRs) for post-16 learners were Conwy, Pembrokeshire and Denbighshire. Conwy and Denbighshire had similarly high rates in 2007/08.
- The lowest SPRs were found in Monmouthshire, Wrexham and Powys; whilst not the three lowest scoring local authorities in 2007/08 they did have SPRs below the Welsh national average for the year.

Standardised participation rates

- The maps and tables show standardised learner participation rates for each local authority in Wales. The SPRs are a measure of how many learners were domiciled in a local authority compared to the number of learners that might be expected to have come from that area based on Welsh national averages. Full details of the methodology adopted can be found in the Notes.
- The SPRs have been calculated so as to take account of the gender and age profiles of the population of each local authority. Introducing this method of profiling allows comparisons between authorities on an equal basis. For instance, an area with a high proportion of people aged over 40 would not be expected to yield as many learners as a similar area with the same sized population but with a high proportion of the population aged below 30. In this example, assuming that both areas have the same actual number of learners then they would have the same absolute participation rates (Annex B). However, when the gender and age profiles are included in the participation rate calculations it becomes apparent that the first area has a higher participation level in real terms than the second area, i.e. it has a higher standard participation rate.
- The maps are shaded in a graded range of blue where the darkest blue is used to colour local authorities with the highest SPRs whilst the palest blue depicts local authorities with the lowest SPRs. SPRs above 100 reflect high rates of participation whereas values below 100 indicate low participation rates.
- The legend accompanying each map gives a figure in parentheses which refers to the number of local authorities within each participation range. The actual SPR values are given in the tables beneath the maps.

Population data

- The population figures used to derive the participation rates were obtained from a combination of 2001 Census figures and population growth rate data. The base 2001 Census data was modified to place students at their home address. A growth rate was then derived from mid-year population estimate data and applied to the population data. Further details of the methodology employed can be found in the **Notes**.

Summary

- The following maps detail learner SPRs by local authority and compare them to the Welsh national participation rate. Each map focuses on a particular cohort of post-16 learners and is colour-coded to allow the reader to easily identify areas of high and low participation.
- Map 1 gives the SPRs for the entire cohort of post-16 learners whilst Map 2 shows all post-16 learners excluding those studying at higher education (HE) level. The pattern of participation is

similar for both cohorts but the level of HE participation has had an effect on the overall SPR in certain local authorities. In Flintshire the below average participation at HE level is indicated by an eleven point drop in SPR when HE level learners are included in the cohort (Map 1).

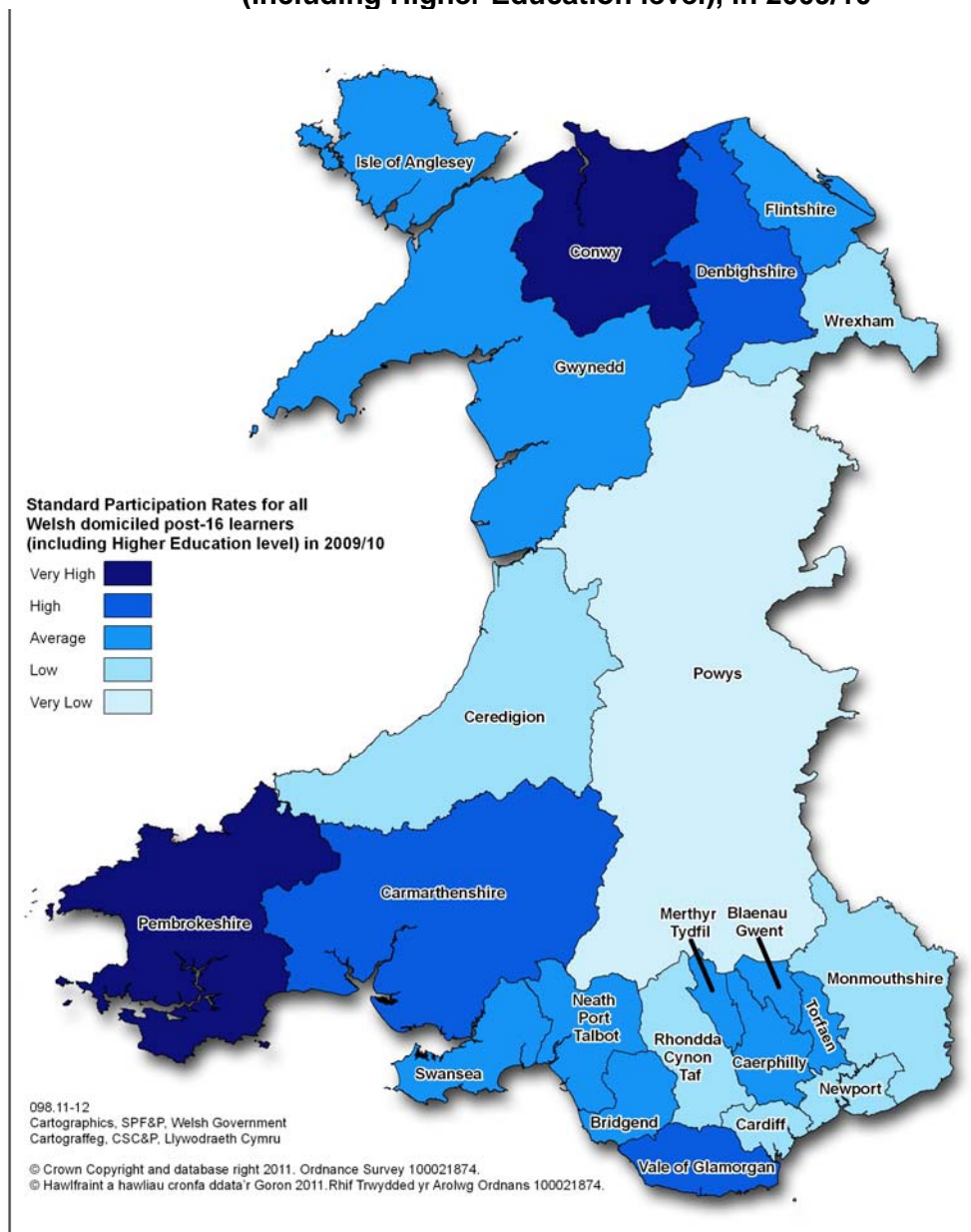
Conversely, Ceredigion has a high level of HE participation resulting in an eight point higher SPR for the entire cohort than for the cohort excluding HE learners. (Annex A contains the Absolute and Standard participation rates for the total post-16 learner cohort including HE level learners.)

- The absolute participation levels (Annex B) for the under 20 learner cohort were considerably higher (12.5 per cent) than for the over 19 cohort (5.2 per cent) as would be expected due to high numbers continuing from compulsory education into further education or training. Despite this difference in absolute participation, Maps 3 and 4 show that the SPRs for the two cohorts exhibit similarities across local authorities; notably the low or very low participation in Ceredigion and Powys.
- Maps 5 and 6 show that whilst many authorities had a similar SPR for male and female learners there was some geographic variation between the two cohorts. Flintshire had a 17 point higher SPR for male learners than for female whilst Pembrokeshire showed the reverse trend with a female SPR 16 points higher than for the male cohort.
- The SPRs for the work-based learning cohort (Map 7) exhibit a large variation between local authorities. Cardiff, Ceredigion and Bridgend had the lowest SPRs whilst Blaenau Gwent, Flintshire and Torfaen had the highest. These differences may partly be explained by the historically diverse social and economic backgrounds of the authorities at the extremes of the range. However, policy initiatives may also play a part as demonstrated by a changing pattern across years. Despite the fact that SPRs are not directly comparable from year to year it is still clear that there have been some significant changes in WBL participation since 2007/08 (Annex C). Conwy and Denbighshire now display above average WBL SPRs whereas in 2007/08 they both had SPRs at least 25 points below average.
- The differences highlighted in Maps 8 and 9, for the cohort aged under 20, occur largely as a consequence of each local authority's policy on learning provision. SPRs for sixth form learners were above the national average in thirteen of the twenty-two authorities. Wrexham and Neath Port Talbot had the lowest SPRs for sixth form learners. However, comparison with the SPRs detailed in Map 9 indicates that these same local authorities have the highest SPRs for learners under 20 accessing learning at FE colleges. This correlates with the fact that the majority of secondary schools in both Wrexham and Neath Port Talbot do not have sixth forms and so the natural progression for school leavers at sixteen is to an FE college.
- Annex C gives the SPRs of the learner cohorts for the academic years 2007/08 and 2009/10. Both sets of SPRs were calculated against the national average rates for the given year and for this reason it is not appropriate to compare the SPRs from different years directly. However, the standard deviation (shown in the bottom line of the table) can be used to measure the variation of participation rates across Wales. Looking at the different cohorts of post-16 learners the standard deviation in all but one of the cohorts is smaller in 2009/10 than in 2007/08; this suggests that the gap between areas of low participation and high participation has reduced over the two years. Continuing analysis over future years is required to establish whether it is possible to identify a trend.

Maps showing Standard Participation Rates for selected cohort of learners

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Map 1: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled post-16 learners (including Higher Education level), in 2009/10



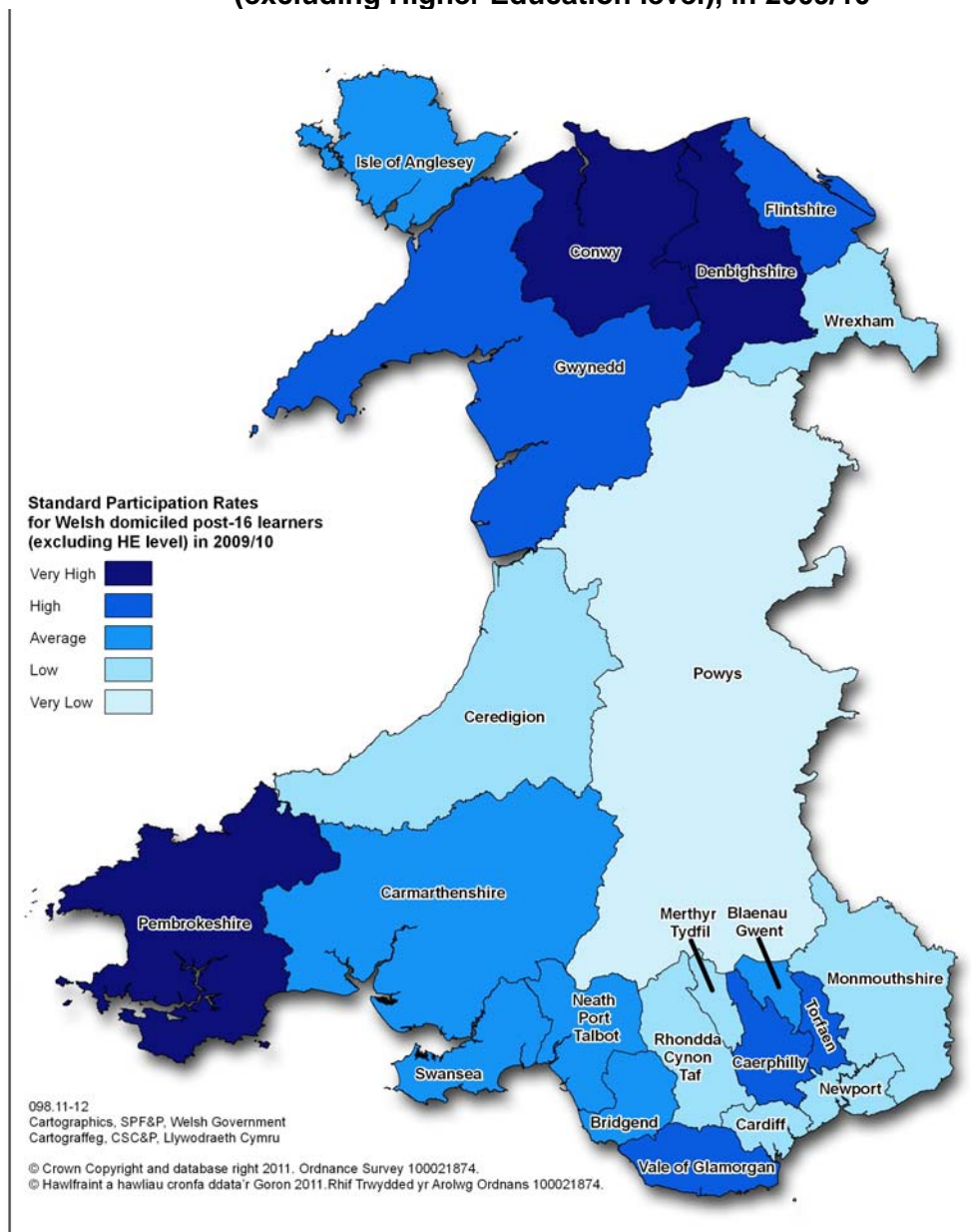
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	97	Neath Port Talbot	102
Gwynedd	101	Bridgend	102
Conwy	123	Vale of Glamorgan	111
Denbighshire	113	Rhondda Cynon Taf	94
Flintshire	96	Merthyr Tydfil	96
Wrexham	86	Caerphilly	105
Powys	85	Blaenau Gwent	102
Ceredigion	94	Torfaen	104
Pembrokeshire	116	Monmouthshire	90
Carmarthenshire	107	Newport	93
Swansea	101	Cardiff	95

Standard Deviation = 9.4

Coverage: All Welsh domiciled post-16 learners at: Welsh FEIs (HE level, FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (HE and FE level); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 2: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled post-16 learners (excluding Higher Education level), in 2009/10



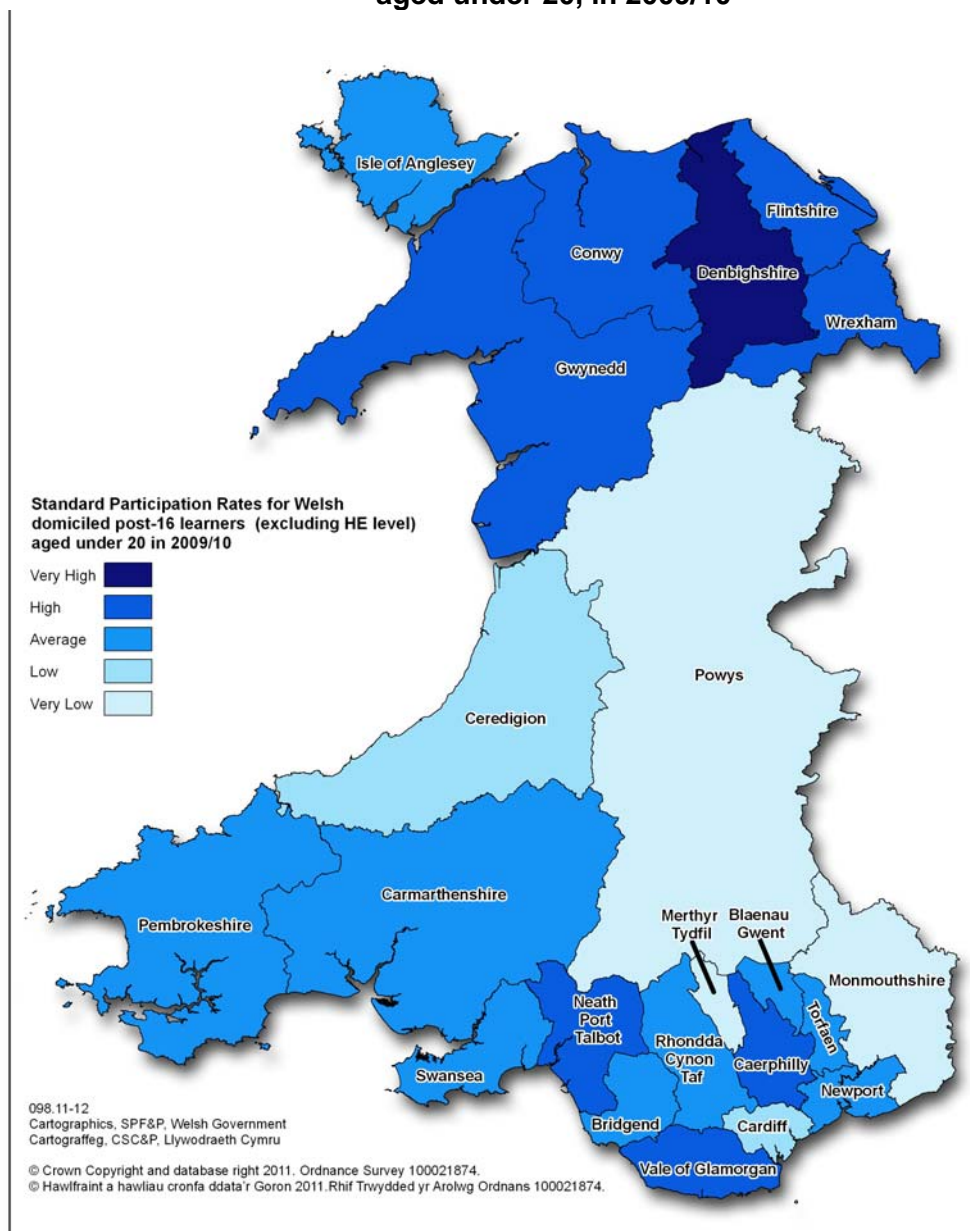
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	95	Neath Port Talbot	100
Gwynedd	105	Bridgend	97
Conwy	127	Vale of Glamorgan	112
Denbighshire	122	Rhondda Cynon Taf	93
Flintshire	107	Merthyr Tydfil	91
Wrexham	91	Caerphilly	106
Powys	83	Blaenau Gwent	104
Ceredigion	86	Torfaen	106
Pembrokeshire	118	Monmouthshire	87
Carmarthenshire	104	Newport	90
Swansea	99	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 11.9

Coverage: All Welsh domiciled post-16 learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 3: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled post-16 learners aged under 20, in 2009/10



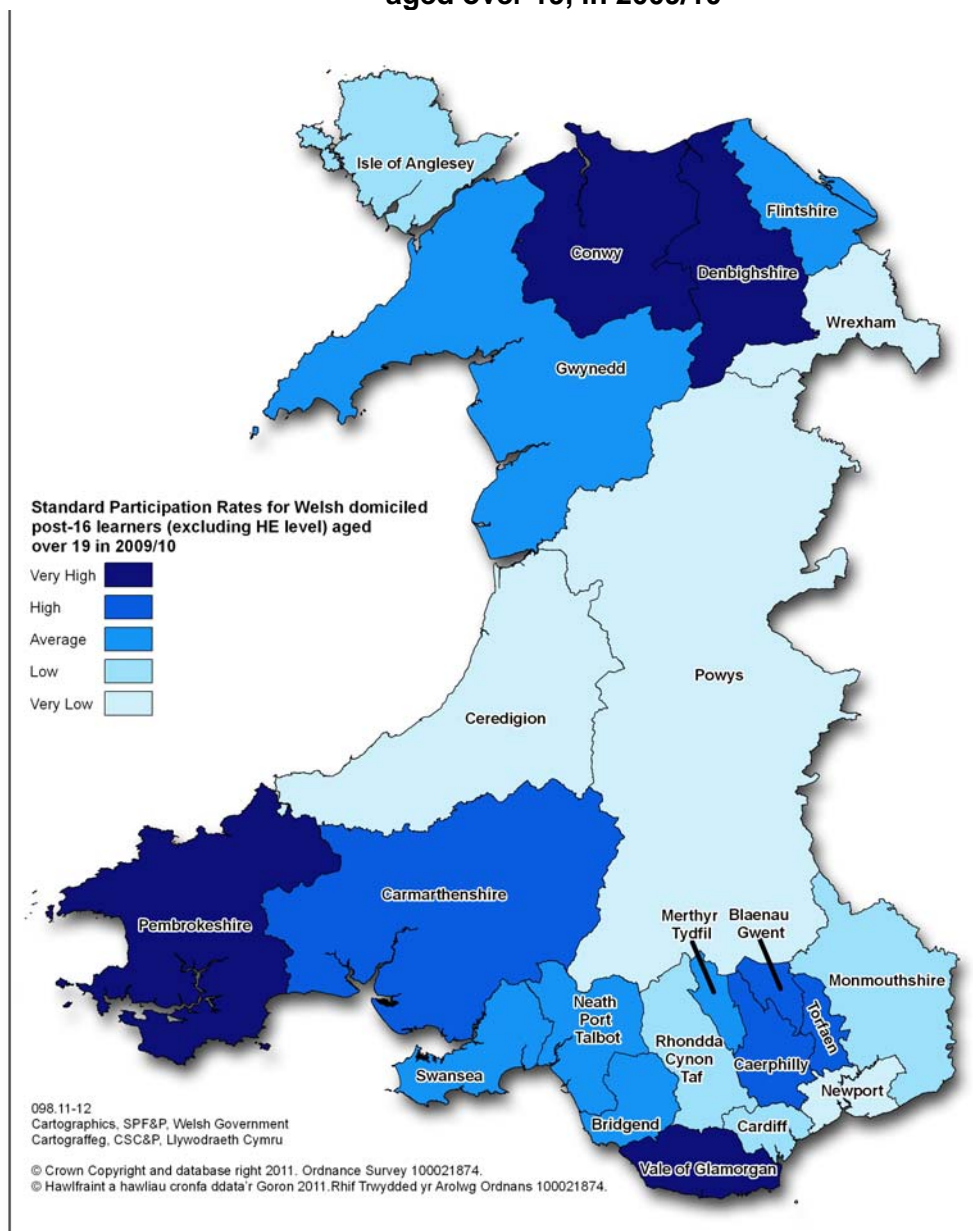
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	96	Neath Port Talbot	106
Gwynedd	110	Bridgend	100
Conwy	108	Vale of Glamorgan	107
Denbighshire	115	Rhondda Cynon Taf	97
Flintshire	112	Merthyr Tydfil	84
Wrexham	111	Caerphilly	106
Powys	85	Blaenau Gwent	100
Ceredigion	88	Torfaen	96
Pembrokeshire	104	Monmouthshire	84
Carmarthenshire	102	Newport	96
Swansea	100	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 9.3

Coverage: Welsh domiciled post-16 learners aged under 20 at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 4: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled post-16 learners aged over 19, in 2009/10



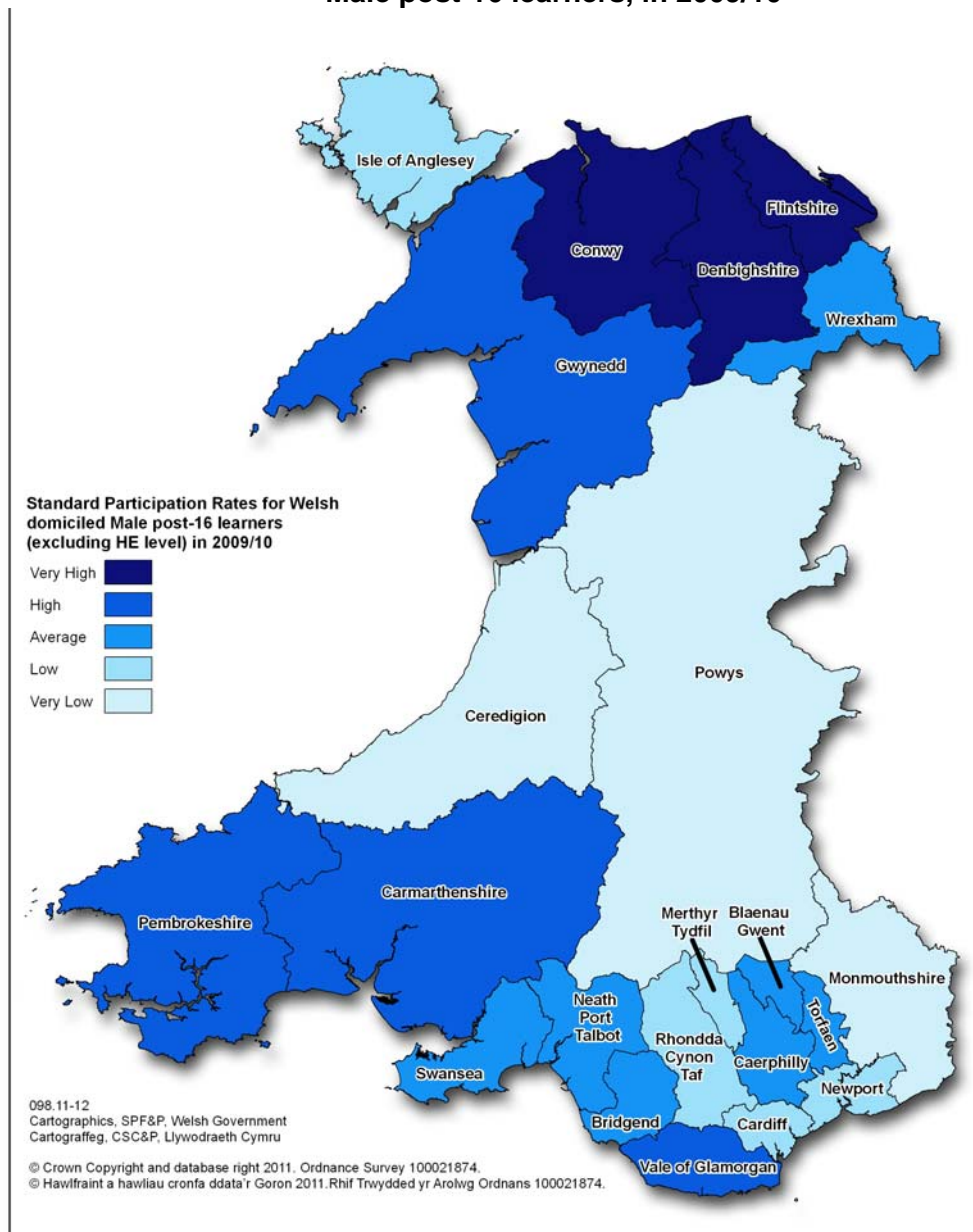
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	95	Neath Port Talbot	96
Gwynedd	102	Bridgend	95
Conwy	141	Vale of Glamorgan	116
Denbighshire	128	Rhondda Cynon Taf	90
Flintshire	104	Merthyr Tydfil	96
Wrexham	77	Caerphilly	106
Powys	81	Blaenau Gwent	108
Ceredigion	84	Torfaen	114
Pembrokeshire	130	Monmouthshire	89
Carmarthenshire	105	Newport	84
Swansea	99	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 16.5

Coverage: Welsh domiciled post-16 learners aged over 19 at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 5: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled Male post-16 learners, in 2009/10



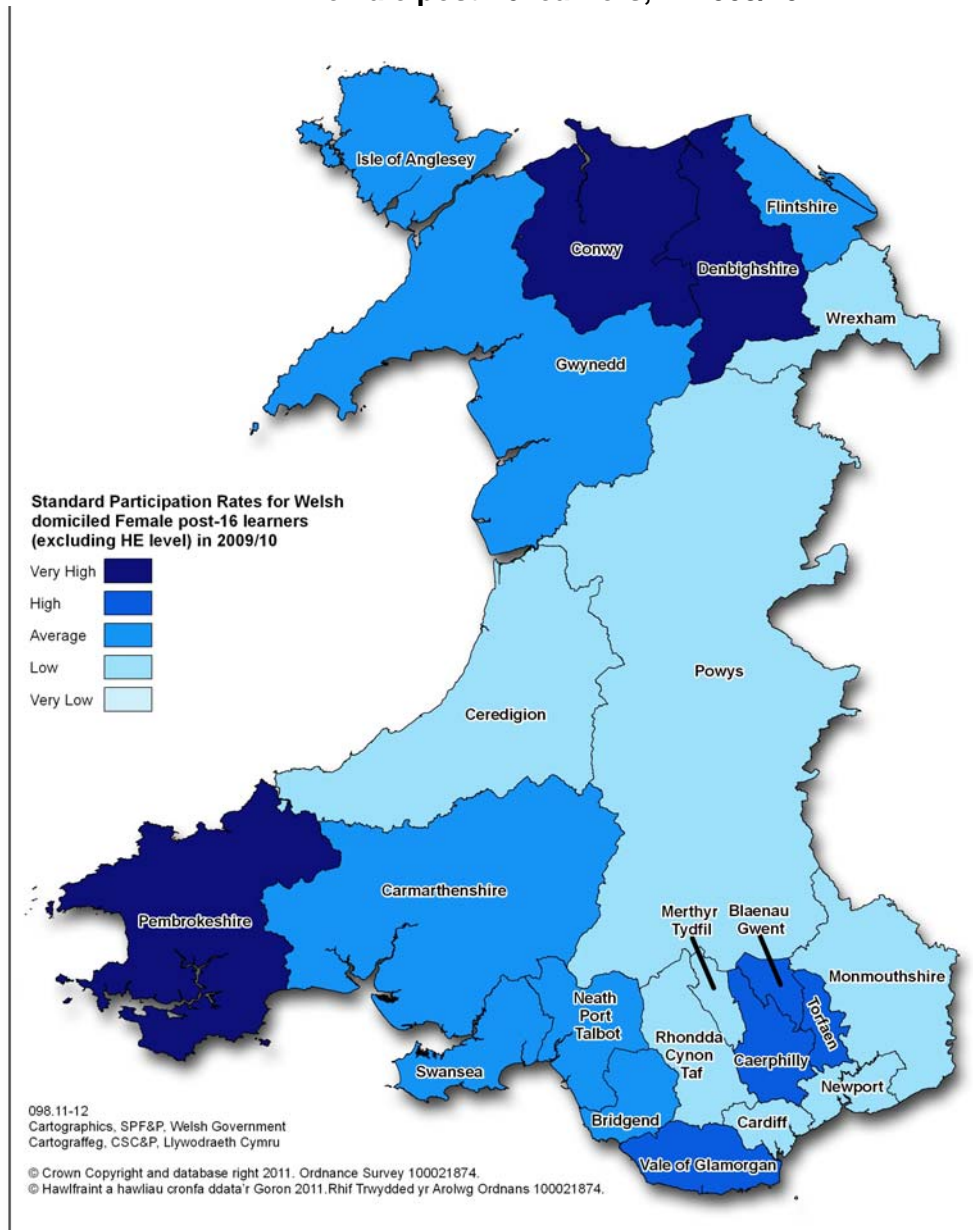
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	94	Neath Port Talbot	103
Gwynedd	108	Bridgend	98
Conwy	124	Vale of Glamorgan	112
Denbighshire	120	Rhondda Cynon Taf	92
Flintshire	117	Merthyr Tydfil	92
Wrexham	99	Caerphilly	105
Powys	77	Blaenau Gwent	98
Ceredigion	84	Torfaen	101
Pembrokeshire	109	Monmouthshire	81
Carmarthenshire	106	Newport	91
Swansea	101	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 12.2

Coverage: Welsh domiciled male post-16 learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 6: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled Female post-16 learners, in 2009/10



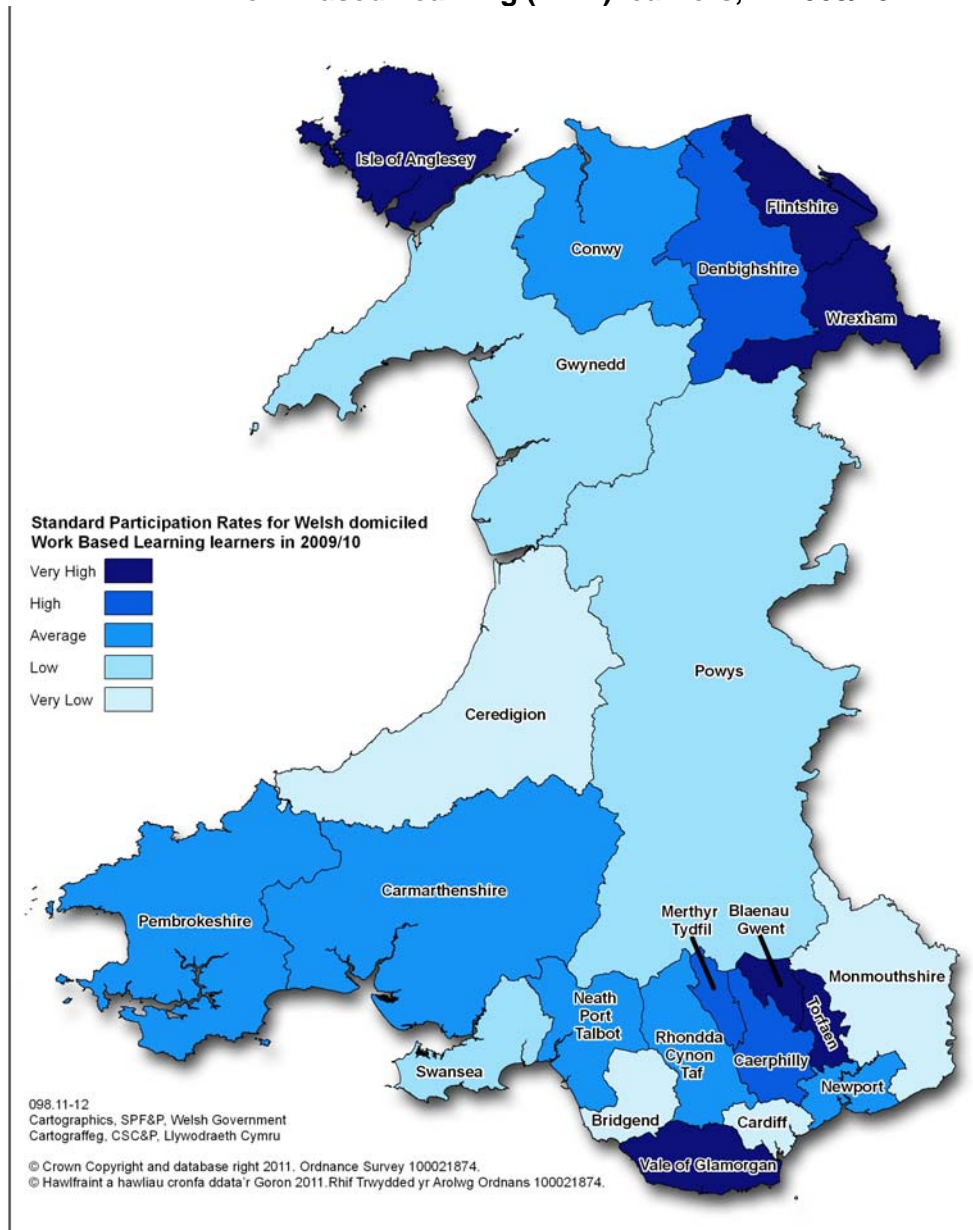
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	96	Neath Port Talbot	98
Gwynedd	103	Bridgend	97
Conwy	128	Vale of Glamorgan	112
Denbighshire	124	Rhondda Cynon Taf	93
Flintshire	100	Merthyr Tydfil	90
Wrexham	85	Caerphilly	107
Powys	87	Blaenau Gwent	109
Ceredigion	88	Torfaen	109
Pembrokeshire	125	Monmouthshire	92
Carmarthenshire	102	Newport	88
Swansea	98	Cardiff	92

Standard Deviation = 12.7

Coverage: Welsh domiciled female post-16 learners at: Welsh FEIs (FE level, WBL and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level only); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); maintained school sixth forms in Wales; English FEIs (FE level); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 7: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled Work Based Learning (WBL) learners, in 2009/10



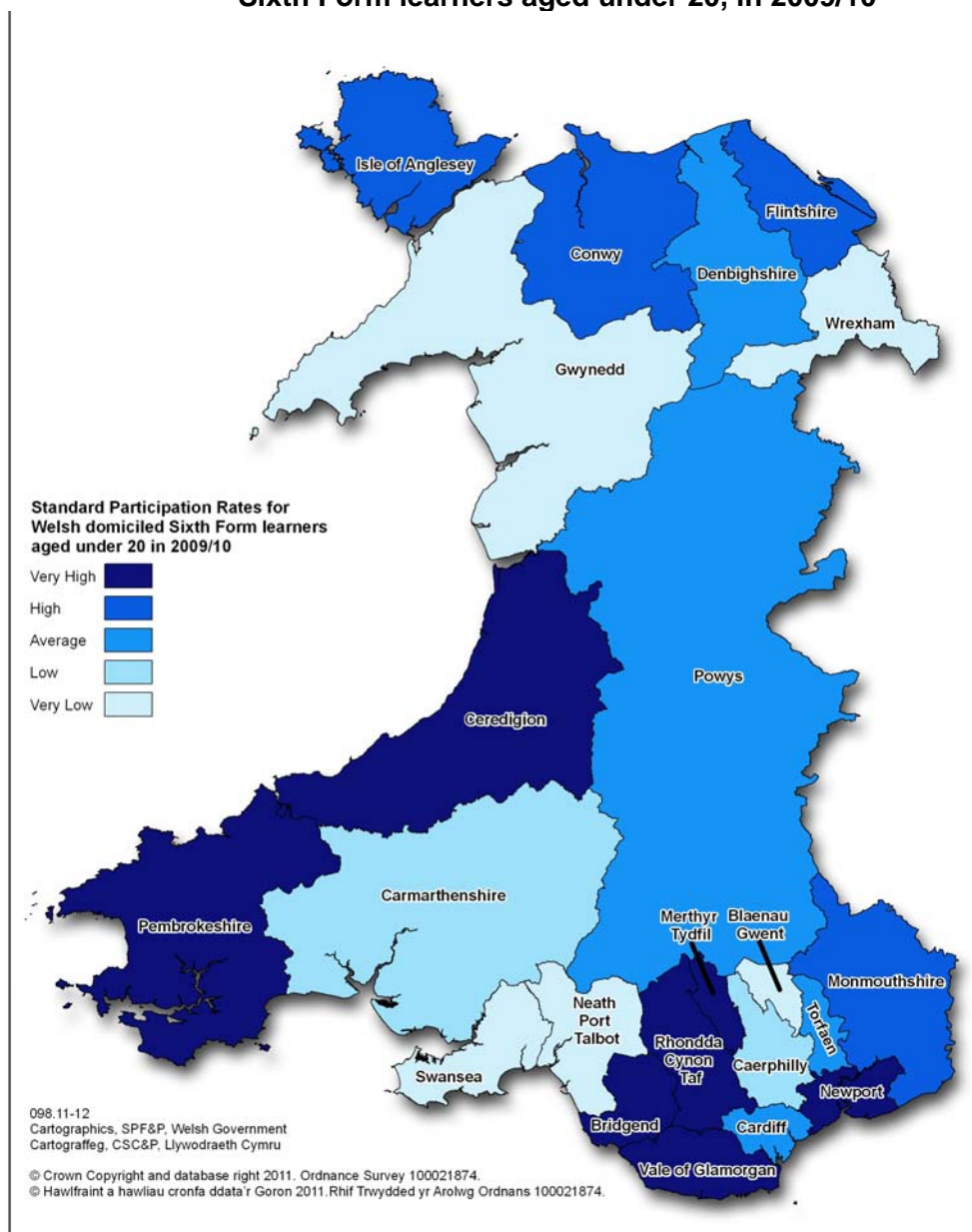
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	127	Neath Port Talbot	104
Gwynedd	96	Bridgend	80
Conwy	107	Vale of Glamorgan	119
Denbighshire	111	Rhondda Cynon Taf	97
Flintshire	132	Merthyr Tydfil	111
Wrexham	118	Caerphilly	112
Powys	91	Blaenau Gwent	128
Ceredigion	77	Torfaen	13
Pembrokeshire	104	Monmouthshire	83
Carmarthenshire	96	Newport	103
Swansea	89	Cardiff	73

Standard Deviation = 17.7

Coverage: Welsh domiciled WBL learners at: Welsh FEIs (WBL); Other Welsh training providers (WBL); Other English training providers (WBL).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

Map 8: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled Sixth Form learners aged under 20, in 2009/10



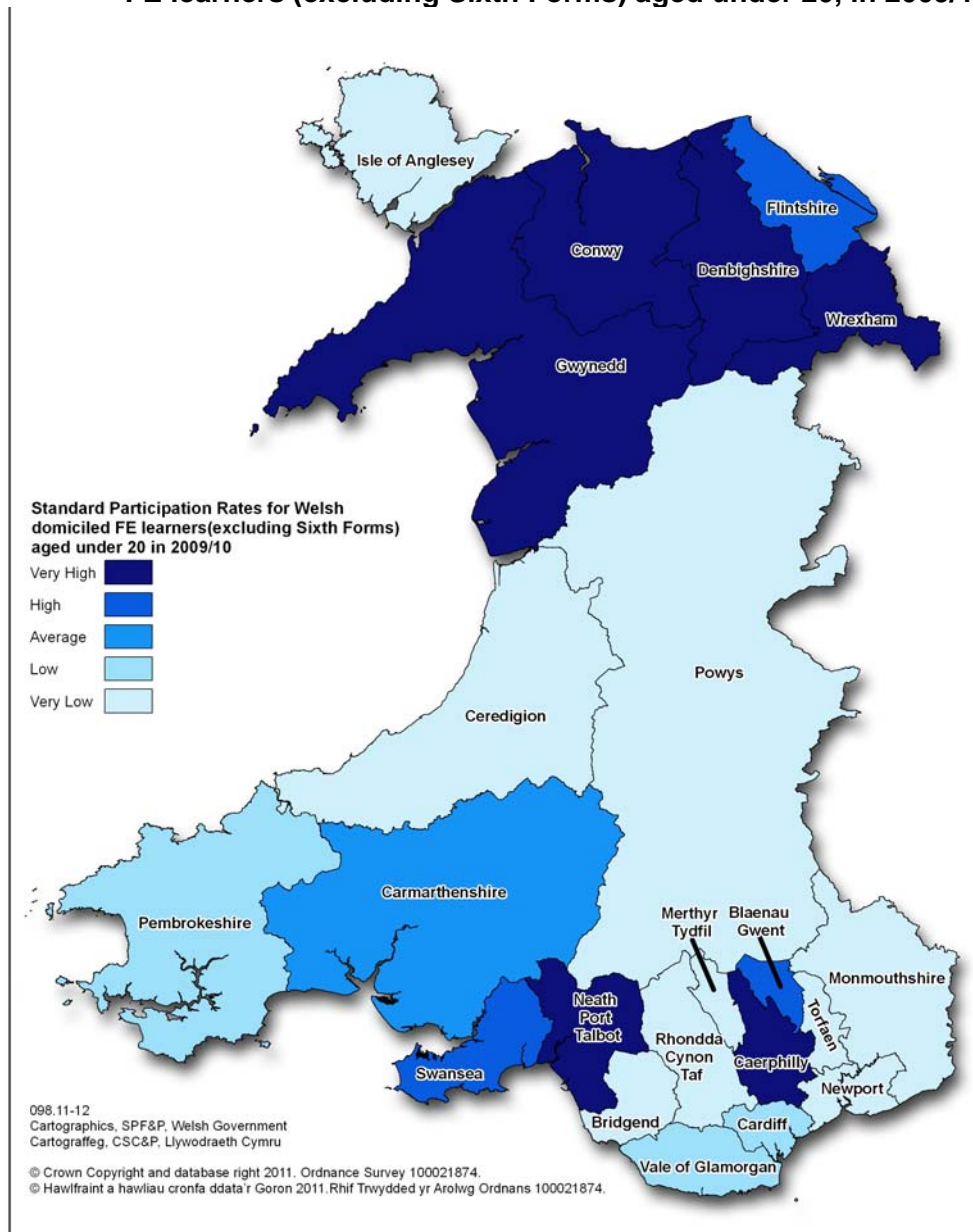
Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	106	Neath Port Talbot	32
Gwynedd	61	Bridgend	136
Conwy	108	Vale of Glamorgan	132
Denbighshire	103	Rhondda Cynon Taf	134
Flintshire	113	Merthyr Tydfil	119
Wrexham	42	Caerphilly	87
Powys	97	Blaenau Gwent	73
Ceredigion	145	Torfaen	102
Pembrokeshire	120	Monmouthshire	113
Carmarthenshire	95	Newport	127
Swansea	73	Cardiff	100

Standard Deviation = 29.9

Coverage: Welsh domiciled Sixth Form learners aged under 20 at: maintained school sixth forms in Wales.

Sources: January 2010 Post-16 PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Schools Census).

Map 9: Standard Participation Rates for Welsh domiciled FE learners (excluding Sixth Forms) aged under 20, in 2009/10



Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate	Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate
Isle of Anglesey	82	Neath Port Talbot	145
Gwynedd	142	Bridgend	79
Conwy	120	Vale of Glamorgan	93
Denbighshire	136	Rhondda Cynon Taf	71
Flintshire	109	Merthyr Tydfil	56
Wrexham	154	Caerphilly	118
Powys	77	Blaenau Gwent	111
Ceredigion	63	Torfaen	77
Pembrokeshire	94	Monmouthshire	72
Cardmarthenshire	102	Newport	73
Swansea	115	Cardiff	91

Standard Deviation = 28.3

Coverage: Welsh domiciled FE learners aged under 20 (excl. Sixth Forms) at: Welsh FEIs (FE level and Community Learning); UK HEIs (FE level); English FEIs (FE level).

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); HESA Student Record; ILR (Individualised Learner Record) from The Data Service.

NOTES

1. Data Sources

Four education data sources were employed in this analysis.

- The Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) is data collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and is required to inform funding allocations, monitor performance and outcomes and to inform strategy development. The data provides the official source of statistics on post-16 learners in Wales (excluding Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and school sixth forms). This bulletin uses data from the 2009/10 statistical freeze taken on March 24 2011 and provides a snapshot of learner participation on December 1st 2009.

Further information on LLWR including user support manuals can be found at:

[Welsh Government - Lifelong Learning Wales Record](#)

Our statement of administrative sources, which also refers to this data source, can be found at:

[Statement of Administrative Sources](#)

- The post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) data collection currently takes place three times a year (September, January, June) from maintained secondary schools with Year 12, 13 and/or 14 pupils, in Wales. The frequency of the collection is now under review. Data from the January 2010 census is used in this bulletin.

Further information on the PLASC data collection can be found at:

[Pupil Level Annual Schools Census](#)

- In England, from 2008/09, the Information Authority took responsibility for the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) and the information collected within it, whilst the Data Service was established to process and disseminate that data. The data provides the official source of statistics on post-16 learners in England (excluding HEIs and school sixth forms). Welsh domiciled learners in-learning on December 1st 2009 are included in this analysis.

Further information on the Information Authority and the ILR can be found at:

[Individualised Learner Record](#)

- Information regarding enrolments at Higher Education institutions (HEIs) is collected on a United Kingdom basis by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The data extract used in this analysis covers Welsh domiciled FE level and HE level learners, enrolled at HEIs on December 1st 2009.

Further information on HESA and the data collection can be found at:

[Higher Education Statistics Agency](#)

2. Data coverage

The scope of the bulletin is to analyse post-16 learning distribution amongst learners permanently resident in Wales; standardised for each local authority against age and gender profiles. In generating the participation rates the following data has been included:

- Welsh domiciled learners enrolled at Welsh Further Education Institutions (FEIs)
- Welsh domiciled learners enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- Welsh domiciled Work Based Learning (WBL) learners at other training providers (OT)
- Welsh domiciled learners enrolled with Welsh LEA community learning (CL) providers
- Welsh domiciled pupils enrolled at maintained school sixth forms in Wales
- Welsh domiciled learners at English FEIs (including adult and community learning)
- Welsh domiciled WBL learners at English training providers

The participation rates do not include:

- Welsh domiciled pupils enrolled at school sixth forms in England and at independent schools in Wales

It is hoped to include sixth forms in England in future bulletins. The lack of data may in some cases result in an underestimate of school sixth form participation rates, in particular for those local authorities bordering England.

- To ensure that double counting of learners is kept to a minimum the participation rates are calculated on the basis of a census date. For the 2009/10 academic year this was December 1st 2009 for LLWR, HESA and ILR data. The Post-16 PLASC data was based on the January 2010 census.
- References to FE learners include learners accessing Community Learning provision.
- As reported in the Statistical First Release SDR 171/2011 (see link below) total numbers of distinct learners have decreased over the last six years. For example, whilst the number of full-time FE learners grew by 7 per cent part-time numbers fell by 30 per cent between December 2003 and December 2009. Over the same period, the number of FE learners aged 18 and under grew by 10 per cent but the number aged 19 and over fell by 31 per cent. WBL and HE level learning exhibited different trends. At the same time mid-year population estimates show a steady rise in the Wales population. The above mentioned points should be considered alongside the patterns of participation presented in this analysis.

[Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2009/10](#)

3. Key Quality Information

3.1 Overview of Methodology

- This bulletin presents a geographical distribution of post-16 learners based on their place of domicile. Each learner's local authority of domicile is derived from learner supplied home address details, and the participation rates calculated in relation to the size of the resident population. However, in doing so the participation rates have been standardised so as to take account of the differences in population gender and age profiles between authorities.

- This measure of participation is known as the “*Standard Participation Rate*” and is used so as to allow fair comparison between authorities with different population characteristics. It is defined as the number of learners domiciled in an area divided by the expected number of learners for that area multiplied by 100. The expected number of learners is the number of learners that would be domiciled in that authority if the participation patterns by gender and age mirrored those for all of Wales. The higher the Standard Participation Rate the higher the levels of participation in post-16 learning.
- Thus if a particular region has a Standard Participation Rate (SPR) of less than 100 then there were fewer learners living in that area than would be expected based on the Welsh national average. Similarly, an SPR value above 100 indicates a region with a larger percentage of the population in post-16 learning than would be expected from the national average.

3.2 Mathematical Definitions

In mathematical terms, the definition of “Standard Participation Rate” used within this report is;

$$\sum_{\text{all } x} \left(\frac{\text{Actual Number of learners in Local Authority for defined cohort } x}{\text{Expected Number of learners in Local Authority for defined cohort } x} \right) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where the,

$$\text{Expected Number of learners in Local Authority for cohort } x = (\text{Population in Local Authority for cohort } x) \times (\text{National Participation Rate for cohort } x) \quad (2)$$

and,

$$\text{National Participation Rate of cohort } x = \frac{\text{Total number of Welsh learners in cohort } x}{\text{Total Population of Wales in cohort } x} \quad (3)$$

4. Key Quality Information

4.1 Relevance

The statistics presented in this bulletin are used both internally within the Welsh Government and externally by other individuals and organisations.

Within the Welsh Government they play a role in supporting decision making processes in relation to:

- The Transformation Agenda – “The Transformation policy, launched in September 2008, challenged all providers of post-compulsory education and training in Wales to set aside traditional, narrow, institutional arrangements and to plan provision collectively; direct more of the funding available to teaching and learning and learner support; and transform the network of providers.”

[Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales](#)

- The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 – “ .. aims to provide wider learner choice, reduce duplication of provision and encourage higher quality learning and teaching, but it applies to all post-16 provision. These aims cannot be achieved by any single provider. Consequently providers are expected to establish effective collaboration to underpin 14-19 entitlement and maximise the chances of successful learner outcomes.”

[Learning and Skills \(Wales\) Measure 2009](#)

Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Policy officials in the Welsh Government including those involved with regional consortia;
- Other government departments;
- Office for National Statistics;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media.

In addition to the specific education policy agenda detailed above these statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- general background and research;
- inclusion in reports and briefings;
- advice to Ministers;
- ad-hoc analysis requested by external bodies.

4.2 Accuracy

4.21 Postcodes

- Learners are assigned to the local authority of domicile primarily by mapping their home postcode to a postcode database. Where a postcode is not supplied then a secondary source of information is used. For the LLWR and HESA data collections the ‘local authority of domicile’ field is used. From the Post-16 PLASC data collection any learners with unmapped postcodes have been allocated to the local authority within which the Sixth Form they attend is sited. The quality of the data used in the participation analysis is such that over 99 per cent of learners were successfully assigned to a local authority using this methodology.

4.22 Population data

- The population figures used in the analysis have been arrived at by combining Census based population data with population growth rate data. The base population data used was 2001 Census output area data modified to place university students at their home address. A growth rate was then derived from mid-year population estimate data and applied to the population data.
- The way in which the population was enumerated during the 2001 Census changed from the method used during the 1991 Census. Full-time university students were enumerated at their term-time address only, with limited information collected in relation to their home address. This causes a problem when calculating participation rates. When using a population base with students enumerated at their term-time location, areas with high concentrations of students in term-time (e.g. Aberystwyth and Cardiff) but with lower numbers of permanently domiciled students, produce a low participation rate which may not reflect the true participation of those domiciled in these areas.

- To determine an appropriate base population, students enumerated at their term-time address, who live elsewhere in vacation time, need to be removed from the 2001 Census data and enumerated at their vacation or home address. From the 2001 Census, it is possible to determine the exact number and location of students enumerated at their home address that were living away during term-time. However, it is not possible to cross reference this data with students enumerated at their term-time address in order to identify which students to remove.
- The method used calculates the number of students in the UK who were not living with their parents as a proportion of students in the UK that were living away from home. This proportion (approximately 41%) of students is then removed from each local authority population.
- However, it is likely that the majority of the students who are living away from home during term-time are younger. Therefore to take this into account the students which are removed are profiled according to the UK age/ gender proportions of students enumerated at their home address who are living away during term-time.
- The correct number of students enumerated at their home address who were living away during term-time is then added to derive an estimate of the population with students located as far as is possible at their home address.
- The disadvantage of this method is that it assumes that the same proportion of the population in each local authority was recorded as a full-time student living away from home when the 2001 Census was taken, and that the age distribution of these students was also the same in each authority. However, this method produces the best estimate (to date) of a population with students located as far as possible at their home address, to use as a base population to calculate the most accurate participation rates.
- It is anticipated that population statistics from the 2011 Census will be available for use in the next edition of the bulletin, due for publication in October 2013 (provisional), and that the population estimates will no longer require adjustment as described above. The next bulletin will detail any change in methodology undertaken in determining the denominators used when calculating the standard rate of participation. At this point it may also be possible to introduce participation analysis at lower super output area (LSOA) level and broaden the scope of the analysis to include the impact of deprivation on educational participation.

4.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

Statistics for a given academic year are derived from a statistical freeze of data from each of the four data sources detailed in **Notes 1**. This bulletin is produced and published when all data sources are available.

4.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website.

4.5 Comparability

- The Statistical First Release “Participation of young people in education and the labour market” provides information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales. While some of the data sources and populations differ from those used in this bulletin, when taken together the two publications provide a detailed study of national participation in education, training and employment for the specified age group.

[Participation of young people in education and the labour market \(2009 and provisional 2010\)](#)

- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) produce a publication entitled “Participation Rates for Welsh Students in Higher Education within the UK”. This looks at the participation rates of Welsh domiciled learners in higher education and takes a similar methodological approach to that used in this bulletin. The HEFCW publication gives a more detailed breakdown of HE level learning than that available in this bulletin.

[Participation Rates for Welsh Students in Higher Education within the UK - 2006/07](#)

The 2006/07 publication is the latest available report. HEFCW plan to publish an update including data for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 in autumn 2011.

- The Scottish Funding Council produces a comprehensive publication on participation in both Higher and Further education, with trend data across years.

[Scottish Participation in Further and Higher Education 2005-06 to 2009-10](#)

5. Additional Information

5.1 StatsWales

- Tables associated with this bulletin are available on the Welsh Government’s interactive data dissemination service StatsWales.

[Analysis of Participation in post-16 Education and Training - StatsWales](#)

- The tables include additional analysis covering the diversity strands of ethnicity and disability.

5.2 Other Welsh Government post-16 education outputs using the data sources named in Note 1.

- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (early figures) – headline national trends in volumes of learning, published 27 April 2011. (LLWR)
- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics, 2009/10 – Reference volume, published 22 September 2011. (LLWR)
- Learning Network Analysis 2009/10 – bulletin providing in-learning data at a national and regional level across the Further Education, Work Based Learning, Community Learning and school Sixth Form sectors. Published 21 June 2011. (LLWR, post-16 PLASC, ILR)

- National Comparators 2009/10 – statistics on learner outcomes at FE and WBL providers, published 12 May 2011. (*LLWR*)
- Participation of young people in education and the labour market (year end 2009 and 2010 (provisional)) - This release provides information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales. (*LLWR, PLASC, HESA*)

Absolute and Standard participation rates for the full post-16 learner cohort (i.e. including HE level), in 2009/10

Local Authority	Absolute participation rate for all learners			Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate for all post-16 learners
	No. of learners	Census population	post-16 %		
Isle of Anglesey	5,725	68,470	8.4	Isle of Anglesey	97
Gwynedd	11,030	118,360	9.3	Gwynedd	101
Conwy	11,510	112,065	10.3	Conwy	123
Denbighshire	9,470	97,470	9.7	Denbighshire	113
Flintshire	12,770	150,610	8.5	Flintshire	96
Wrexham	10,235	133,250	7.7	Wrexham	86
Powys	9,675	133,280	7.3	Powys	85
Ceredigion	6,545	73,620	8.9	Ceredigion	94
Pembrokeshire	12,125	119,925	10.1	Pembrokeshire	116
Carmarthenshire	16,780	180,875	9.3	Carmarthenshire	107
Swansea	21,695	229,680	9.4	Swansea	101
Neath Port Talbot	12,500	138,310	9.0	Neath Port Talbot	102
Bridgend	12,130	134,795	9.0	Bridgend	102
Vale of Glamorgan	12,615	125,430	10.1	Vale of Glamorgan	111
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20,190	233,900	8.6	Rhondda Cynon Taf	94
Merthyr Tydfil	4,955	55,645	8.9	Merthyr Tydfil	96
Caerphilly	16,415	173,030	9.5	Caerphilly	105
Blaenau Gwent	6,490	68,690	9.4	Blaenau Gwent	102
Torfaen	8,610	91,050	9.5	Torfaen	104
Monmouthshire	6,975	88,855	7.9	Monmouthshire	90
Newport	12,090	140,085	8.6	Newport	93
Cardiff	31,370	322,970	9.7	Cardiff	95
Total	271,910	2,990,360	9.1	Standard Deviation	9.4

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC; HESA Student Record; Individualised Learner Record (ILR); 2001 Census (adjusted population)

Absolute Participation Rates - all cohorts exclude HE level learners - 2009/10

Local Authority	Post-16 learners			Post-16 learners aged under 20			Post-16 learners aged over 19			WBL learners		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	4,335	68,470	6.3	1,905	15,775	12.1	2,430	52,695	4.6	935	68,470	1.3
Gwynedd	8,645	118,360	7.3	3,970	27,805	14.3	4,675	90,555	5.2	1,335	118,360	1.1
Conwy	9,320	112,065	8.4	3,500	24,970	14.1	5,820	87,090	6.7	1,240	112,065	1.1
Denbighshire	8,000	97,470	8.2	3,315	22,460	14.8	4,685	75,010	6.3	1,165	97,470	1.1
Flintshire	10,980	150,610	7.3	4,880	35,885	13.6	6,100	114,725	5.4	2,250	150,610	1.5
Wrexham	8,245	133,250	6.2	4,180	31,450	13.3	4,065	101,795	4.0	1,810	133,250	1.4
Powys	7,400	133,280	5.6	3,495	30,385	11.5	3,905	102,895	3.9	1,290	133,280	1.0
Ceredigion	4,420	73,620	6.0	1,990	16,035	12.4	2,430	57,585	4.2	690	73,620	0.9
Pembrokeshire	9,600	119,925	8.0	3,855	28,765	13.4	5,745	91,160	6.3	1,365	119,925	1.1
Carmarthenshire	12,500	180,875	6.9	5,260	41,780	12.6	7,240	139,095	5.2	1,890	180,875	1.0
Swansea	15,785	229,680	6.9	6,520	52,430	12.4	9,265	177,250	5.2	2,495	229,680	1.1
Neath Port Talbot	9,470	138,310	6.9	4,300	32,280	13.3	5,170	106,030	4.9	1,635	138,310	1.2
Bridgend	8,875	134,795	6.6	3,855	32,220	12.0	5,020	102,575	4.9	1,210	134,795	0.9
Vale of Glamorgan	9,780	125,430	7.8	4,155	31,130	13.4	5,620	94,300	6.0	1,730	125,430	1.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	15,050	233,900	6.4	6,685	57,030	11.7	8,365	176,865	4.7	2,680	233,900	1.1
Merthyr Tydfil	3,605	55,645	6.5	1,500	13,905	10.8	2,105	41,745	5.1	735	55,645	1.3
Caerphilly	12,750	173,030	7.4	5,550	43,265	12.8	7,200	129,765	5.6	2,250	173,030	1.3
Blaenau Gwent	5,110	68,690	7.4	2,200	16,465	13.4	2,910	52,225	5.6	1,045	68,690	1.5
Torfaen	6,770	91,050	7.5	2,740	22,305	12.3	4,030	68,745	5.9	1,395	91,050	1.5
Monmouthshire	5,285	88,855	6.0	2,370	20,800	11.4	2,915	68,055	4.3	805	88,855	0.9
Newport	8,910	140,085	6.4	4,290	36,695	11.7	4,620	103,390	4.5	1,735	140,085	1.2
Cardiff	22,060	322,970	6.8	8,870	78,490	11.3	13,190	244,475	5.4	3,265	322,970	1.0
Total	206,890	2,990,360	6.9	89,395	712,330	12.6	117,500	2,278,030	5.2	34,945	2,990,360	1.2

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC; HESA Student Record; Individualised Learner Record (ILR); 2001 Census (adjusted population)

Absolute Participation Rates - 2009/10 continued

Local Authority	Male post-16 learners			Female post-16 learners			Sixth form learners (aged under 20)			FE learners (aged under 20, excluding sixth forms)		
	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%	No. of learners	Census population	%
Isle of Anglesey	1,820	33,465	5.5	2,515	35,000	7.2	705	15,775	4.5	855	15,775	5.6
Gwynedd	3,800	57,380	6.7	4,845	60,985	8.0	695	27,805	2.5	2,765	27,805	10.1
Conwy	3,960	54,085	7.4	5,360	57,980	9.3	1,190	24,970	4.8	2,040	24,970	8.3
Denbighshire	3,340	47,365	7.1	4,660	50,105	9.3	995	22,460	4.4	2,060	22,460	9.3
Flintshire	5,095	73,910	6.9	5,885	76,700	7.7	1,650	35,885	4.6	2,505	35,885	7.2
Wrexham	3,820	65,395	5.9	4,420	67,855	6.6	530	31,450	1.7	3,060	31,450	9.8
Powys	3,035	65,970	4.7	4,365	67,310	6.6	1,355	30,385	4.5	1,675	30,385	5.6
Ceredigion	1,895	36,025	5.3	2,525	37,595	6.7	950	16,035	5.9	780	16,035	4.9
Pembrokeshire	3,770	58,330	6.5	5,830	61,595	9.5	1,475	28,765	5.1	1,865	28,765	6.5
Carmarthenshire	5,400	87,600	6.2	7,100	93,275	7.6	1,615	41,780	3.9	2,795	41,780	6.7
Swansea	7,055	112,920	6.3	8,730	116,760	7.5	1,525	52,430	2.9	4,040	52,430	7.7
Neath Port Talbot	4,210	67,475	6.3	5,260	70,830	7.4	430	32,280	1.3	3,105	32,280	9.6
Bridgend	3,830	65,970	5.8	5,045	68,830	7.3	1,765	32,220	5.5	1,600	32,220	5.0
Vale of Glamorgan	4,215	60,440	7.0	5,565	64,985	8.6	1,715	31,130	5.5	1,905	31,130	6.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	6,350	114,060	5.6	8,700	119,840	7.3	3,075	57,030	5.4	2,630	57,030	4.6
Merthyr Tydfil	1,560	26,815	5.8	2,050	28,835	7.1	725	13,905	5.2	525	13,905	3.8
Caerphilly	5,310	84,595	6.3	7,440	88,430	8.4	1,520	43,265	3.5	3,235	43,265	7.6
Blaenau Gwent	2,055	33,285	6.2	3,055	35,405	8.6	545	16,465	3.3	1,275	16,465	7.7
Torfaen	2,730	44,205	6.2	4,045	46,845	8.7	1,000	22,305	4.5	1,150	22,305	5.2
Monmouthshire	2,140	43,550	5.0	3,145	45,305	7.0	1,075	20,800	5.2	1,065	20,800	5.2
Newport	3,840	67,915	5.7	5,070	72,170	7.0	1,920	36,695	5.2	1,720	36,695	4.7
Cardiff	9,350	156,625	6.0	12,710	166,340	7.7	3,035	78,490	3.9	4,815	78,490	6.1
Total	88,575	1,457,380	6.1	118,315	1,532,980	7.7	29,490	712,330	4.1	47,460	712,330	6.7

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January 2010 Post-16 PLASC; HESA Student Record; Individualised Learner Record (ILR); 2001 Census (adjusted population)

Trends in Standard Participation Rates by local authority of domicile - 2007/08 & 2009/10

Standard Participation Rate

Local Authority	All post-16 learners (excluding HE level)		Learners aged under 20		Learners aged over 19		WBL learners	
	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10
Isle of Anglesey	95	95	98	96	94	95	118	127
Gwynedd	107	105	105	110	109	102	93	96
Conwy	116	127	104	108	123	141	72	107
Denbighshire	127	122	111	115	137	128	73	111
Flintshire	140	107	122	112	150	104	102	132
Wrexham	99	91	102	111	97	77	97	118
Powys	83	83	86	85	81	81	99	91
Ceredigion	82	86	97	88	75	84	79	77
Pembrokeshire	108	118	102	104	112	130	101	104
Carmarthenshire	95	104	93	102	95	105	83	96
Swansea	97	99	99	100	97	99	108	89
Neath Port Talbot	125	100	127	106	125	96	130	104
Bridgend	97	97	98	100	96	95	94	80
Vale of Glamorgan	105	112	101	107	108	116	110	119
Rhondda Cynon Taf	87	93	96	97	82	90	105	97
Merthyr Tydfil	95	91	99	84	93	96	119	111
Caerphilly	103	106	104	106	102	106	110	112
Blaenau Gwent	95	104	97	100	94	108	138	128
Torfaen	101	106	93	96	106	114	148	132
Monmouthshire	81	87	81	84	80	89	75	83
Newport	83	90	88	96	80	84	96	103
Cardiff	91	92	97	92	87	92	85	73
Standard Deviation	15.4	11.9	10.2	9.3	19.3	16.5	20.5	17.7

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January Post-16 PLASC; HESA Student Record; Individualised Learner Record (ILR); 2001 Census (adjusted population)

Notes:

The 2007/08 and 2009/10 SPR values have been established against the national average rates for the given year and are provided for information only rather than for year on year comparison.

Trends in Standard Participation Rates by local authority of domicile - 2007/08 & 2009/10 continued

Local Authority	Standard Participation Rate							
	Male learners		Female learners		Sixth form learners (aged under 20)		FE learners (aged under 20, excluding sixth forms)	
	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10	2007/08	2009/10
Isle of Anglesey	96	94	95	96	114	106	87	82
Gwynedd	110	108	105	103	69	61	128	142
Conwy	114	124	117	128	104	108	116	120
Denbighshire	119	120	133	124	103	103	123	136
Flintshire	150	117	133	100	115	113	126	109
Wrexham	101	99	98	85	40	42	135	154
Powys	77	77	87	87	103	97	77	77
Ceredigion	79	84	85	88	158	145	71	63
Pembrokeshire	104	109	110	125	119	120	97	94
Carmarthenshire	94	106	95	102	89	95	99	102
Swansea	103	101	93	98	69	73	109	115
Neath Port Talbot	131	103	122	98	31	32	173	145
Bridgend	97	98	97	97	133	136	78	79
Vale of Glamorgan	99	112	109	112	128	132	88	93
Rhondda Cynon Taf	87	92	87	93	136	134	72	71
Merthyr Tydfil	99	92	93	90	110	119	88	56
Caerphilly	103	105	102	107	81	87	116	117
Blaenau Gwent	90	98	99	109	86	73	97	111
Torfaen	99	101	102	109	90	102	80	77
Monmouthshire	77	80	83	92	122	113	62	72
Newport	84	91	82	88	116	127	71	73
Cardiff	90	92	91	92	107	100	94	91
Standard Deviation	17.4	12.2	14.7	12.7	30.3	29.9	26.7	28.3

Sources: LLWR (Lifelong Learning Wales Record); January Post-16 PLASC; HESA Student Record; Individualised Learner Record (ILR); 2001 Census (adjusted population)

Notes:

The 2007/08 and 2009/10 SPR values have been established against the national average rates for the given year and are provided for information only rather than for year on year comparison.