

Projected Apprenticeship Framework Success Rates: 2010/11 (Experimental Statistics)

This First Release presents information on projected apprenticeship framework success rates for academic year 2010/11. The statistics are broken down by type of apprenticeship programme and sector/subject area, and are derived from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR).

As this is the first time that statistics on projected apprenticeship framework success rates have been calculated from the LLWR, this release has been designated as experimental statistics and sets out information on how the measures have been developed as well as some analysis of the data.

Background

Apprenticeship frameworks are comprised of a number of constituent learning aims – for example, a QCF qualification, key skills, essential skills and a technical certificate. Once a learner has achieved all the learning aims associated with a given framework, the learning provider can submit documentation to the relevant Sector Skills Council for framework certification.

Framework success rates are the key measure of performance for apprenticeship programmes and are calculated as the proportion of leavers in a given academic year that have achieved *and are in receipt of certification* for their full apprenticeship framework. This measure is published annually in April/May for the preceding academic year.

The projected framework success rate methodology has been developed in response to feedback from the work-based learning (WBL) sector requesting more timely data on sector performance. The measure is intended to provide an early indication of final framework success rates by including those leavers where certification has been applied for but has yet to be received.

Data submission guidance explaining how to record such instances on LLWR was issued to learning providers in August 2011. Monthly reconciliation reports were then made available so that learning providers were able to monitor and reconcile their projected and actual framework success rates.

Final framework success rates for 2010/11 will be published in April 2012.

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Summary

Projected apprenticeship framework success rates for 2010/11 were 79 per cent and 81 per cent for Foundation Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship programmes respectively. Overall, the projected apprenticeship framework success rate was 80 per cent.

The best performing sector subject areas were Education and Training; Retailing and Customer Service; Business, Administration and Law; and Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies.

Table 1 below details projected apprenticeship framework success rates for 2010/11 split by sector subject area and programme type.

Table 1 - Projected apprenticeship framework success rates, 2010/11

Sector Subject Area	Foundation Apprenticeships		Apprenticeships		All Apprenticeships	
	No. of Leavers Attaining Full Framework	%	No. of Leavers Attaining Full Framework	%	No. of Leavers Attaining Full Framework	%
	1: Health, Public Services and Care	1,720	78%	1,400	79%	3,120
3: Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	45	73%	15	*	60	73%
4: Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	870	82%	795	85%	1,670	83%
5: Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	770	69%	585	68%	1,355	69%
6: Information and Communication Technology	510	80%	190	74%	700	78%
7: Retail and Commercial Enterprise	2,255	82%	795	82%	3,050	82%
7(a): Retailing and Customer Service	1,300	85%	455	87%	1,755	86%
7(b): Hair and Beauty	365	72%	150	69%	510	71%
7(c): Hospitality and Catering	590	80%	195	81%	780	81%
8: Leisure, Travel and Tourism	135	75%	140	86%	275	80%
9: Arts, Media and Publishing	0	*	0	<i>n/a</i>	0	*
13: Education and Training	55	93%	290	88%	345	89%
15: Business, Administration and Law	1,015	81%	1,095	85%	2,110	83%
All sector subject areas	7,380	79%	5,295	81%	12,675	80%

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR)

Comparison of projected success rates to final success rates, 2009/10

In 2009/10, overall projected success rates differed from final success rates by 0.5 percentage points and 1.5 percentage points for foundation apprenticeships and apprenticeships respectively. Differences varied by sector subject area from -1.8 percentage points to 7.7 percentage points. On balance, projected success rates were lower than final success rates.

The following table compares projected apprenticeship framework success rates for 2009/10 with the final framework success rates published in table 5 of the 'National Comparators for Further Education and Work-based Learning, 2009/10' statistical first release.

Sector Subject Area	Foundation Apprenticeships			Apprenticeships		
	Projected Success Rate	Final Success Rate	Percentage Point Difference	Projected Success Rate	Final Success Rate	Percentage Point Difference
1: Health, Public Services and Care	80%	80%	-0.1	79%	79%	-0.3
3: Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	66%	72%	6.3	67%	71%	4.3
4: Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	81%	84%	2.7	76%	80%	4.4
5: Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	78%	76%	-2.0	70%	74%	3.6
6: Information and Communication Technology	78%	80%	1.8	67%	69%	2.6
7: Retail and Commercial Enterprise	82%	80%	-1.8	82%	80%	-1.7
7(a): Retailing and Customer Service	85%	83%	-1.4	83%	82%	-0.3
7(b): Hair and Beauty	68%	74%	6.0	72%	78%	6.4
7(c): Hospitality and Catering	78%	79%	0.6	72%	78%	5.2
8: Leisure, Travel and Tourism	77%	85%	7.7	75%	77%	2.0
13: Education and Training	88%	88%	0.4	83%	84%	1.6
15: Business, Administration and Law	85%	85%	0.3	86%	85%	-0.4
All sector subject areas	80%	81%	0.5	78%	80%	1.5

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR)

However, the data underpinning the 2009/10 projected success rates was submitted before any guidance on the recording of pending framework certifications was issued. Hence we cannot assume that learning providers were recording this information consistently. Further analysis on the robustness of the projected success rate methodology will be undertaken once the final framework success rates for 2010/11 are derived.

Notes

1. Data Sources

This First Release summarises data on projected apprenticeship framework success rates for 2010/11. It covers apprenticeships delivered by learning providers funded by DfES (Department for Education and Skills). However, the figures are not restricted to fundable provision at those providers.

Data on learners accessing both further education (FE) and work-based learning (WBL) provision across Wales is submitted electronically to DfES by learning providers via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR). This data is used for funding, monitoring performance and outcomes and to inform strategy development. Furthermore, the data provides the official source of statistics on Post 16 (non-higher education) learners in Wales.

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](#)

2. Definitions

2.1 Terminology

- The term 'academic year' is used throughout this release to refer to the period 1 August to 31 July.
- The term 'learning programme' refers to a group of related learning activities pursued by a learner. The term 'learning activity' refers to a specific qualification or course, for example, an NVQ or Key Skill.

2.2 Base Cohort

- The base cohort underpinning table 1 comprises all apprenticeships recorded as ending in the respective academic year.

2.3 Provision type

- Foundation Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships are employment-based learning programmes for employed learners aged 16 and above, to Level 2 or 3 respectively.

2.4 Framework Success

- The projected apprenticeship framework success rates shown in table 1 are calculated as the number of learning programmes where the full framework has been achieved divided by the number of learning programmes terminated.

- The number of learning programmes where the full framework has been achieved includes those instances where certification has been applied for but has yet to be received. Note this differs from the methodology underpinning the framework success rates published annually in the 'National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning' statistical first release.
- Learning programmes recorded as either transferred or continuing at another WBL provider are excluded from the calculation. Learning programmes that ended within 6 weeks of commencing without completion are also excluded.

2.5 Sector/Subject Areas

- Apprenticeship programmes have been mapped to sector/subject areas in table 1 on the basis of the occupational sector code.

3. Rounding and Suppression

- All figures in this release are rounded to the nearest 5 and therefore there may be apparent slight differences between the sum of the constituent rows/columns and the totals. A '**' represents numbers greater than 0 but less than 5.
- In addition, percentage calculations where the denominator is less than 50 have been suppressed and the percentage replaced with a '**'.

4. 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.

4.1 Relevance

The measures set out in this release are primarily used:

- by the Welsh Government - DfES, to monitor providers' performance and as baseline information to set targets for improvements as part of the Quality and Effectiveness Framework for post-16 learning;
- by Estyn, to inform inspection judgements on Key Question 1 'How well do learners achieve?', and;
- by providers themselves, as a management tool to measure their own performance and benchmark themselves against sector averages, as part of their annual self-assessment cycles.

The Welsh Government and Estyn have a commitment to share data in order to minimise bureaucracy for providers and ensure consistent definitions of performance wherever possible and have worked together closely to develop these measures and a standard format for presenting data.

The measures are also 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;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;

- Other government departments;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- 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;
- inclusion in reports and briefings;
- advice to Ministers;
- to inform and evaluate the education policy-making process in Wales.

4.2 Accuracy

Statisticians within the Welsh Government undertake a process of data-reconciliation ahead of publishing this release. Monthly reconciliation reports detailing provisional learner outcomes figures are made available to WBL providers. Data quality issues are then followed up and resolved in liaison with DfES officials.

4.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

Data for a given academic year are published as soon as possible. The current annual timescale for the production of final learner outcomes data has been agreed in consultation with learning providers and balances timeliness against the need for accurate data-quality in order to underpin robust sector benchmarks.

The projected apprenticeship framework success rates detailed within this release are drawn from a database based on the LLWR as at October following the end of the academic year. This release is then produced and published as soon as possible.

4.4 Accessibility and Clarity

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

4.5 Comparability

Figures in this release are intended to be broadly comparable with the framework success rates annually published in table 5 of the 'National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning' statistical first releases. Links to the previous two years' releases are provided below:

[National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning, 2009/10](#)

[National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning, 2008/09](#)

However, as explained in the introduction to this release, the figures are experimental and caution should be exercised when drawing comparisons.

5. Additional Information

5.1 Further dissemination of performance measures

The 'National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning, 2010/11' statistical first release will be published in April 2012. This release will include final framework success rates for 2010/11.

Learner Outcomes Reports (LORs) for individual providers will be published by DfES in April 2011:

[Learner Outcomes Reports for Further Education](#)

[Learner Outcomes Reports for Work Based Learning Providers](#)

5.2 Other outputs sourced from LLWR data

- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales, 2010/11 (provisional) – headline national trends in volumes of learning, published 24 November 2011.
- Learning Network Analysis 2009/10 – bulletin providing analysis at both national and regional level for post-16 learners (excluding learners at HEIs) at FE Institutions, other training providers and school sixth forms in Wales, with extended coverage to include Welsh domiciled learners at similar providers located in England, published 21 June 2011. Associated StatsWales tables include figures for individual FE institutions.
- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics, 2009/10 – Reference volume, published 22 September 2011.
- Analysis of Participation in Post-16 Education and Training 2009/10 – bulletin providing analysis of participation in learning at a national and regional level across the Further Education, Work Based Learning, Community Learning, school Sixth Form and Higher Education level sectors.