

SDR 160/2012

26 September 2012

Publication of: 'Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2010/11'

The latest edition of the annual publication 'Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2010/11' is published today, containing a range of statistical information about post-16 education in Wales.

The publication is intended as a reference source and contains substantial detail. Additional information on 2010/11 is available in the form of statistical releases, statistical bulletins and StatsWales cubes (see appendix of publication detailing information sources). Limited Early Statistics for December 2011 have also been released. These statistics are primarily intended for use by the Welsh Government, education and training providers, other organisations, academia and private individuals to carry out research, briefing and policy development relating to the post-16 education sector in Wales.

Key points include:

Further Education

- 186,330 distinct learners were enrolled at Further Education (FE) institutions in 2010/11, 0.9 per cent higher than in 2009/10.
- 123,710 learners were in-learning at an FE institution as at the week of 1 December 2010.
- There was a 20 per cent decrease in FE learner numbers at Further Education and Higher Education (HE) institutions between December 2004 and December 2010.
- Between December 2004 and December 2010, full-time FE learner numbers grew by 13 per cent but part-time numbers fell by 30 per cent; over the same period, the number of FE learners aged 18 and under grew by 9 per cent but the number aged 19 and over fell by 30 per cent.
- Between 2006/07 and 2010/11, full-time equivalent (FTE) learners (excluding WBL) at FEIs declined by 3 per cent.
- Excluding colleges affected by mergers during the course of the academic year and the WBL component of a University subsidiary, the relative changes in head count learner numbers from 2009/10 to 2010/11 ranged from a 21 per cent increase (at Coleg Harlech / WEA North) to a 9 per cent decrease (at Coleg Sir Gar).
- 2,545 learners at FE institutions were enrolled on a designated HE programme (only) in 2010/11; however in total 5,680 provider learners pursued one or more learning activities at HE level within overarching FE, HE and work-based learning (WBL) programmes.

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- 54 per cent of learners at FE institutions were female, down from 57 per cent in 2008/09. The proportion had previously remained virtually constant at between 57 and 58 per cent since 2003/04.
- 25 per cent of learners at FEIs were full-time, 67 per cent part-time (as for 2009/10 but down from 71 per cent the previous year) and 9 per cent pursued work-based learning provision.
- 45 per cent of learners at FE institutions were aged under 25 (slightly higher than the previous year and up from 41 per cent in 2008/09) and 28 per cent were under the age of 19.
- 5 per cent of learners at FE institutions were of a non-white ethnic origin, as in 2009/10.
- 3.0 per cent of learners at FE institutions had a (primary or secondary) disability affecting learning and 3.8 per cent had a learning difficulty (with some overlap with the previous figure). The full volume gives a more detailed categorisation of learners with disabilities and learning difficulties.
- 668,770 learning activities were undertaken by learners at FE institutions.
- The two most popular subject areas were Care/Personal Development (including Basic Skills) (29 per cent, up from 26 per cent the previous year) and Information Technology (11 per cent).
- 3.8 per cent of learning activities were undertaken bilingually and a further 0.9 per cent through the medium of Welsh.
- The most popular type of learning activities recorded (excluding the 'other' category) were Open College Network (OCN) credits (23 per cent).
- 90 per cent of learning activities at FEIs were completed.
- Of the completed learning activities with an assessable outcome, 90 per cent were attained.

Local Authority Community Learning

- 38,440 learners undertook a Local Authority Community Learning activity in 2010/11, 2.9 per cent fewer than in 2009/10.
- Between the two years, there was a decline of 5.5 per cent in the number of learners pursuing maintained LA CL provision (enrolled and taught at local authorities) but contracted-in LA CL provision (taught by local authority staff but enrolled at FE institutions) was virtually unchanged.
- 24,525 learners were in-learning during the week of 1 December 2010.
- 12 per cent of learners in 2010/11 were under the age of 25 (10 per cent in 2009/10).
- 58 per cent of learners were aged between 25 and 59, as in the previous year.
- 30 per cent of learners in the full year were aged 60 and over (32 per cent in 2009/10).
- 71 per cent of learners were female, as in 2009/10.
- 68,285 learning activities were undertaken in 2010/11, 31 per cent lower than in 2009/10 offsetting a similar increase between 2008/09 and 2009/10, the latter year having had unusual characteristics (in relation to short English language modules), noted in the 2009/10 volume and associated SFR.
- The most prevalent subject areas for learning activities were Information Technology (20 per cent), Care/Personal Development [including Basic Skills] (19 per cent), Cultural Studies/Languages/Literature (17 per cent) and Arts and Crafts (17 per cent).
- The Cultural Studies/ Languages/Literature proportion of 17 per cent was down from 40 per cent in 2009/10 which, because of very large numbers of short course modules in English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL) contracted-in from an FE institution was itself up from 21 per cent in 2008/09.

Work-based learning

- 57,030 learners were engaged in work-based learning (WBL) provision in 2010/11, taken as a whole, 1.0 per cent fewer than in 2009/10. 1,915 learners were pursuing the Pathways to Apprenticeships (PtA) scheme, an FE programme supporting WBL provision.
- 32,655 WBL provision learners were in-learning at the end of March 2011, 0.9 per cent more than in March 2010 but 16 per cent lower than in March 2006.
- 54 per cent of learners were under the age of 25 (compared with 55 per cent in 2009/10, 50 per cent in 2007/08 but 54 per cent in 2005/06); 29 per cent were under the age of 19.
- 49 per cent of learners in 2010/11 were male, the same as in 2009/10, as compared with 47 per cent in the previous two years and 52 per cent in 2004/05.
- 3.1 per cent of learners were of a non-white ethnic origin, the same as in the previous year (2.2 per cent in 2004/05).
- 2.2 per cent of learners had a disability affecting learning, as in 2009/10.
- 62 per cent of learners were on a Level 3 Apprenticeship or a Foundation Apprenticeship programme, down from 70 per cent in 2008/09 and 74 per cent in 2007/08.
- 70 per cent of the learning activities taken were at a notional level of NVQ level 1 or 2; 14.5 per cent were at pre-entry level or entry level, 14 per cent were at level 3 and 1.6 per cent were at level 4 or above.
- 54 per cent of learning programmes finished were followed by (current or new) employment, with 62 per cent of learners leaving with employment as their destination.
- The most popular sector frameworks for MAs, FMAs and MSDs overall were Health and Social Care (18 per cent), Management (8 per cent), Early Years' Care and Education (8 per cent) and Customer Service (8 per cent). The Management sector framework accounted for 42 per cent of Modern Skills Diploma learning programmes pursued in 2010/11.
- Around 210,650 learning activities were undertaken through work-based learning in 2010/11

Key Quality Information

Quality information and more detail on the policy context can be found in the statistical release [SDR 51/2012](#) (issued on 28 March 2012) which was based on the same underlying LLWR data. Additional information is also included in Appendix A of the full publication to which the current release refers.

Other UK nations

Examples of similar outputs from other UK nations include:

England - www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Northern Ireland - <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/further-education-stats/further-education-enrolments-2/>

Scotland - www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/further_education_statistics/infact_database/infact_database.aspx

Additional Information

The full publication can be accessed via the Statistical Directorate site <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/>. Scroll to 'Post-16 education and training'.