

SDR 207/2013

27 November 2013

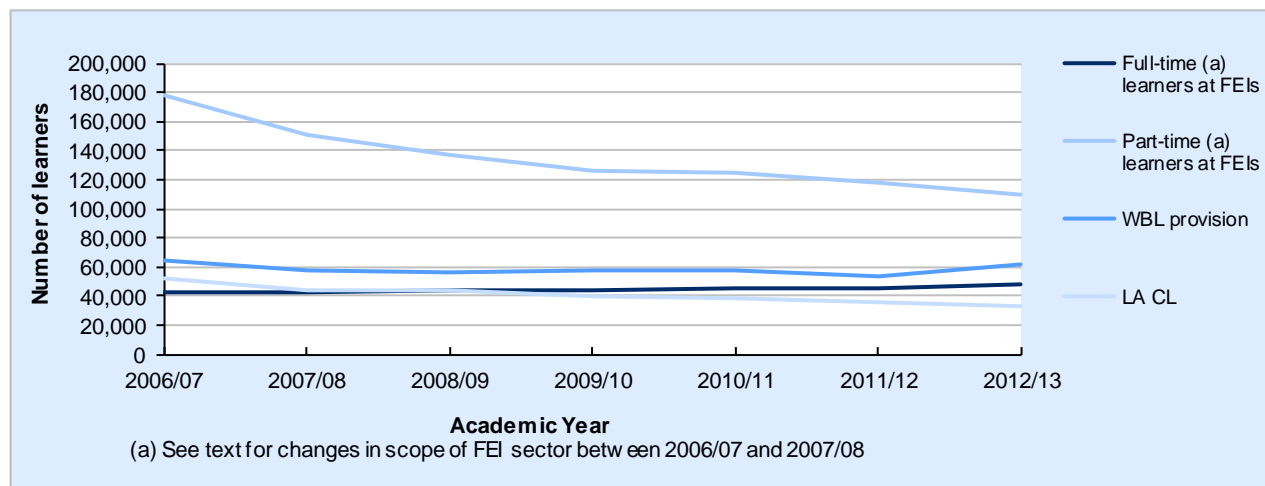
Further education, work-based learning and community learning in Wales, 2012/13 (provisional figures)

This Statistical First Release for 2012/13 summarises provisional information on post-16 learning collected through the Welsh Government's Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR). The data coverage excludes enrolments at Higher Education institutions and at school sixth forms but includes provision at Further Education (FE) institutions, Work-based Learning (WBL) providers and Local Authority Community Learning (CL) providers. Additional detail is available on the Welsh Government's interactive data dissemination service StatsWales.

Summary

- The figures in this release show a slight decline in overall learner numbers between 2011/12 and 2012/13 (continuing since 2005/06) but with variations between the individual sectors and age groups, including an increase in work-based learning provision.
- In 2012/13 there were 227,220 distinct learners at FE Institutions, Community Learning (CL) or Work-based Learning (WBL) providers, 0.5 per cent fewer than in 2011/12.
- Total numbers at FE institutions fell by 3.6 per cent, with part-time learner numbers falling by 7.3 per cent but full-time numbers rose by 4.3 per cent.
- There were 9.4 per cent fewer learners in local authority community learning than in 2011/12.
- Relative to 2011/12, WBL provision rose by 14.4 per cent to over 61,000 unique learners on a full year basis which was higher than in any of the previous five years.

Chart 1: Learners by provision type



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Learners enrolled with FE institutions, Work-based Learning or Local Authority Community Learning providers

- 227,220 unique learners pursued one or more learning activities with FE Institutions, Local Authority Community Learning or Work-based Learning providers during 2012/13. Of these, 128,575 (57 per cent) were female and 98,645 (43 per cent) were male. The number in-learning in the week of 1 December 2012 was 144,740 [Table 1].
- The number of learners in 2012/13 at FE, WBL and Local Authority Community Learning providers was 0.5 per cent lower than the equivalent figure for 2011/12.
- Within this overall fall in total FE/WBL/CL distinct learner numbers part-time learner numbers at FE institutions fell by 7.3 per cent but full-time numbers rose by 4.3 per cent.
- 26 per cent of learners were aged under 19 and 44 per cent were aged under 25.
- Males outnumbered females for all ages below 20. However, the number of females aged 20 or above was 55 per cent higher than the number of males.

Table 1: Numbers of learners at Further Education Institutions, Local Authority Community Learning and Work-based Learning providers by age and gender, 2012/13 (a)

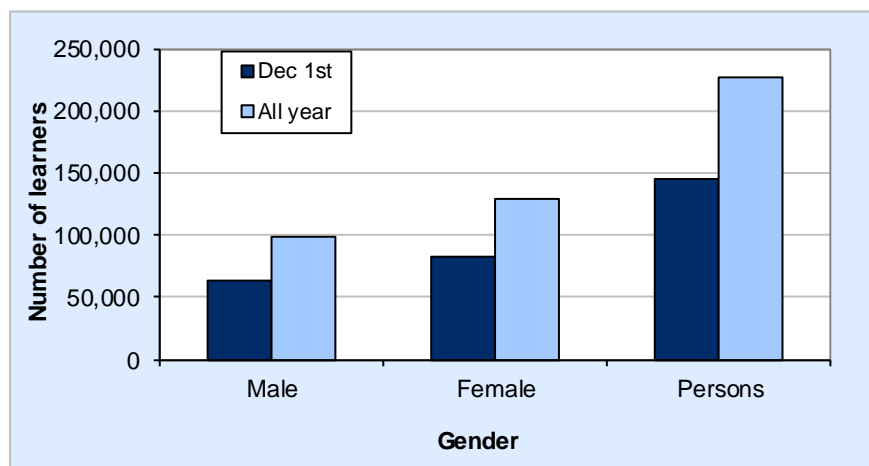
Age	Males		Females		Persons	
	1 st December	All Year	1 st December	All Year	1 st December	All Year
Under 16	1,765	3,260	1,130	2,545	2,900	5,805
16	8,815	10,140	7,975	9,195	16,790	19,335
17	8,810	10,250	8,105	9,380	16,915	19,625
18	6,000	7,470	5,045	6,490	11,045	13,960
19	3,750	5,060	3,095	4,375	6,845	9,435
20-24	8,910	14,855	10,165	17,265	19,080	32,120
25-49	16,985	33,435	30,220	53,600	47,205	87,040
50-64	5,165	10,210	10,350	17,755	15,515	27,965
65+	2,635	3,825	5,610	7,730	8,240	11,555
Not Specified	75	140	130	245	205	390
Total	62,915	98,645	81,825	128,575	144,740	227,220

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

(a) Age at 31 August 2012

Reports on  contain the information provided in table 1 with a breakdown by ethnicity.

Chart 2: Learner numbers by gender



Trends in full year learner numbers

- Table 2 illustrates the trend in learner numbers for three (overlapping) areas of learning: total learners at FE institutions (including WBL at FEIs); total work-based learning provision (also including WBL at FEIs); and local authority community learning (including learners enrolled at FEIs but taught by local authority staff).
- 2012/13 shows a slight reduction of 0.5 per cent against 2011/12 following larger declines in earlier years (resulting from trends in part-time provision) since the peak of 2005/06.

Table 2: Trends in learner numbers at Further Education institutions, Local Authority Community Learning and Work-based Learning providers, 2004/05 to 2012/13 (a)(b)(c)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Further Education Institutions (d)							
Full-time learners at FEIs	43,035	43,025	43,640	44,185	45,850	45,470	47,435
Part-time learners at FEIs	177,910	150,820	136,315	125,725	124,095	117,755	109,110
WBL provision at FEIs	13,250	12,835	12,815	14,815	16,385	16,065	16,370
Total at FEIs	234,195	206,680	192,770	184,730	186,330	179,290	172,920
All work-based learning provision (e)	64,080	57,500	56,550	57,605	57,030	53,430	61,120
Work-based learning provision excluding Pathways to Apprenticeships (f)	64,080	57,500	56,550	55,870	55,115	51,980	59,825
Local Authority Community Learning (g)	51,610	44,125	43,485	39,605	38,455	35,560	32,210
Total learners at Further Education Institutions, Local Authority Community Learning or Work-based Learning providers (h)	295,905	263,180	251,575	241,805	240,370	228,430	227,220

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

- (a) Counts are of unique learners, so removing, from each individual row, multiple counting of learners present at more than one learning provider and/or provision type.
- (b) Counts in all columns exclude learners at Merthyr Tydfil College, following its merger into the University of Glamorgan (now part of the University of South Wales)
- (c) In calculating each in-learning count, the population is largely determined by the actual start and end dates of learning programmes and activities. However an additional constraint is applied to each year in that learning activities with an expected end date more than two years before the start of the given academic year are excluded.
- (d) Learner numbers at FE institutions (FEIs) include learners pursuing work-based learning (and Pathways to Apprenticeships) programmes at FEIs and franchised ACL learners, enrolled at FEIs, whose teaching is contracted out to local authorities.
- (e) Work-based learning provision includes learners pursuing work-based learning (and Pathways to Apprenticeships) programmes at FE institutions as well as provision at other training providers.
- (f) WBL provision excluding the Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme introduced in 2009/10.
- (g) Includes both those learners enrolled at local authorities directly and learners who are enrolled at FEIs but whose teaching is contracted out to local authorities.
- (h) The use of unique learner counts and definitional overlaps mean, for any given year, that the total for FE/WBL/CL learners is lower than the sum of the figures in the preceding rows.

- As noted in previous releases, part of the decrease in learner numbers from 2006/07 to 2007/08 was accounted for by a change in the data collection process of Welsh for Adults (WfA) learners, now reported to HESA by the Welsh HE institutions acting as five of the six regional centres for WfA provision. WfA provision has therefore not been included in this release for academic years 2007/08 onwards except for the WfA activities reported by the sixth regional WfA centre Coleg Gwent which are included in the LLWR data underlying this release.
- Also included under HE institutions from 2006/07 onwards (and therefore excluded from all years in this release) is Merthyr Tydfil College, now part of the University of South Wales.

- Within the overall decline relative to 2011/12, the reductions were 3.6 per cent for FEIs, a 14.4 per cent rise for work-based learning provision and a 9.4 per cent decline for local authority community learning. Within the FEI reduction, the full-time component grew by 4.3 per cent.
- Recent years have often seen increasing numbers of learners aged 19 and under at FE institutions, even when the older age groups have declined. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 there was a fall of 5.9 per cent for those aged 20 and over at FEIs but an increase of 1.4 per cent in those aged 19 and under.
- The Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme (comprising programmes at FEIs supporting WBL provision – see later WBL provision section and notes) is included in the WBL provision category but excluded from WBL programme counts (see Table 4).

Learning programmes

- Over the academic year 2012/13 there were 294,105 enrolments on learning programmes in total, of which 60 per cent were part-time (down from 64 per cent in 2011/12), 16.5 per cent were full-time and 23 per cent were in work-based learning [Table 3].
- Further commentary on the individual areas of provision is given below.


Table 3: Enrolments on learning programmes at Further Education Institutions, Community Learning or Work-based Learning providers by provision type, mode of study and gender, 2012/13 (a)

	Males		Females		Persons	
	1 st Dec	All Year	1 st Dec	All Year	1 st Dec	All Year
Further Education excluding Local Authority CL at FEIs						
Full-time	21,400	23,775	22,205	24,370	43,605	48,140
Part-time	28,835	63,710	37,410	75,250	66,250	138,965
Total	50,235	87,485	59,615	99,620	109,855	187,105
Higher Education at FEIs						
Full-time	190	200	105	105	290	300
Part-time	750	860	1,055	1,160	1,805	2,015
Total	940	1,055	1,155	1,260	2,100	2,315
Work-based Learning Provision						
WBL programmes at FEIs	5,420	8,685	3,735	7,375	9,155	16,060
Pathways to Apprenticeships (FEIs)	1,195	1,265	155	165	1,355	1,430
Programmes at other training providers	8,920	21,305	11,750	29,235	20,670	50,540
Total	15,535	31,255	15,645	36,770	31,180	68,025
Local Authority Community Learning (b)						
Full-time: enrolled at FEIs	15	15	25	30	45	45
Part-time: enrolled at FEIs	2,730	4,690	6,135	10,810	8,865	15,500
Full-time: enrolled at local authorities	0	0	*	*	*	*
Part-time: enrolled at local authorities	3,115	5,215	8,865	15,890	11,985	21,110
Total	5,865	9,920	15,025	26,730	20,895	36,655
All Levels of Study						
Full-time	21,605	23,990	22,335	24,500	43,940	48,490
Part-time	35,435	74,475	53,465	103,115	88,905	177,590
Work-based Learning	15,535	31,255	15,645	36,770	31,180	68,025
Total	72,580	129,715	91,445	164,385	164,025	294,105

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

(a) See notes for definitions of level and mode.

(b) Excludes 'assisted' Community Learning provision. See notes.

Reports on  contain the information provided in table 3 with a breakdown by age, type of learning programme, disability status and ethnicity.

FE Provision (excluding local authority community learning)

During the 2012/13 academic year, 187,105 Further Education learning programmes (excluding those taught by local authority staff) were pursued, 48,140 of which were full-time (4.6 per cent up on 2011/12) and 138,965 were part-time (4.3 per cent down on 2011/12).

Higher Education Learning Programmes

2,315 learning programmes were pursued under Higher Education provision at FE Institutions during 2012/13, compared with 2,410 in 2011/12, 2,875 in 2010/11 and 2,005 in 2009/10.

Table 4: Work-based learning provision: Numbers of learning programmes (LP) starts, leavers and in-training and of learners in-training by programme type, 2012/13 (a)

	All year LPs (b)			LPs In training (c)		Learners (d)	
	Starts	Leavers (e)	In learning	1 st Dec	31 st July	31 st July	All year
Work-based Learning programmes							
Foundation Apprenticeship	15,210	10,325	25,115	11,895	14,795	14,775	23,355
Apprenticeship (Level 3)	10,425	7,255	19,235	10,640	11,985	11,970	18,705
Higher Apprenticeship	2,265	255	2,475	370	2,215	2,210	2,470
Modern Skills Diploma	0	195	255	160	45	45	250
Skill Build Youth	0	60	75	35	10	10	50
Skill Build Adult	0	10	10	*	*	*	10
Steps to Employment	4,200	4,190	5,465	1,475	1,280	1,275	5,030
Traineeships	8,570	8,380	12,120	3,730	3,470	3,465	8,180
Other WBL Programme	1,050	930	1,840	970	915	910	1,770
Work-based Learning programmes total	41,725	31,600	66,590	29,275	34,720	34,670	59,820
Other programmes supporting WBL provision							
Pathways to apprenticeships	1,350	945	1,430	1,350	500	465	1,295
FE at (non-FEI) training providers	0	5	5	*	0	0	5
Other programmes total	1,350	950	1,435	1,355	500	465	1,300
Total	43,075	32,550	68,025	30,625	35,220	35,135	61,120

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

- (a) Note that the definition of WBL provision differs slightly from that of WBL programme type. For the purpose of this release, Pathways to Apprenticeships programmes conducted at FE institutions are regarded as WBL provision but not necessarily WBL programmes. This categorisation also applies to a small number of 'non-WBL' learning programmes pursued at WBL subsidiaries of FEIs.
- (b) Represents cumulative count of learning programmes enrolled at any point during the academic year.
- (c) Number of learning programmes on the reference date.
- (d) Distinct learners categorised according to their most recent learning programme of the year.
- (e) Counts of leavers exclude those who have transferred to another learning programme at the same provider. They are also restricted to those identifiable from the standard database of contracted learning providers for 2012/13.
- (f) Higher Apprenticeships were introduced in 2011/12, replacing the Modern Skills Diploma programme which consequently has no new starts in this table but has some learners continuing programmes commenced in earlier years.
- (g) The Skill Build Youth and Skill Build Adult programmes (which have no new starts in this table) were superseded in 2011/12 and were replaced by the Traineeships and Steps to Employment programmes respectively.

Work-based Learning Provision

68,025 learning programmes were pursued in 2012/13 within work-based provision, of which 17,490 were provided by FE institutions and 50,540 by other training providers. Table 3 splits the figures for WBL provision at FEIs between 16,060 WBL programmes and 1,430 Pathways to Apprenticeships programmes. The Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme was introduced in 2009/10 to Wales in anticipation of a drop in recruitment of apprentices as a result of the economic downturn.

The first column of Table 4 gives the number of new learning programme starts during 2012/13. Annex A provides a monthly breakdown of these starts for the apprenticeship programme categories.

The number of trainees in learning on 31 July 2013, the last day of the academic year 2012/13, was 14 per cent higher than at 31 July 2012. There is often a seasonal reduction in the in-learning count (notably for Pathways to Apprenticeships) between March and July - see Annual Volume publication (Tables T2.1 and T2.2) referenced at the end of this release - and day of week effects contribute some variability to the year on year change of such snapshot figures. In previous years the change in the year end WBL learner count has often differed significantly from that of the full year count but that disparity has not occurred in 2012/13.

The full year learner count for those in WBL provision during 2012/13 (taking each learner's most recent learning programme of the year only) was 14.4 per cent higher than in 2011/12. Learner numbers rose for those on Level 3 Apprenticeship programmes by 18.5 per cent and for Foundation Apprenticeship programmes by 23.6 per cent.

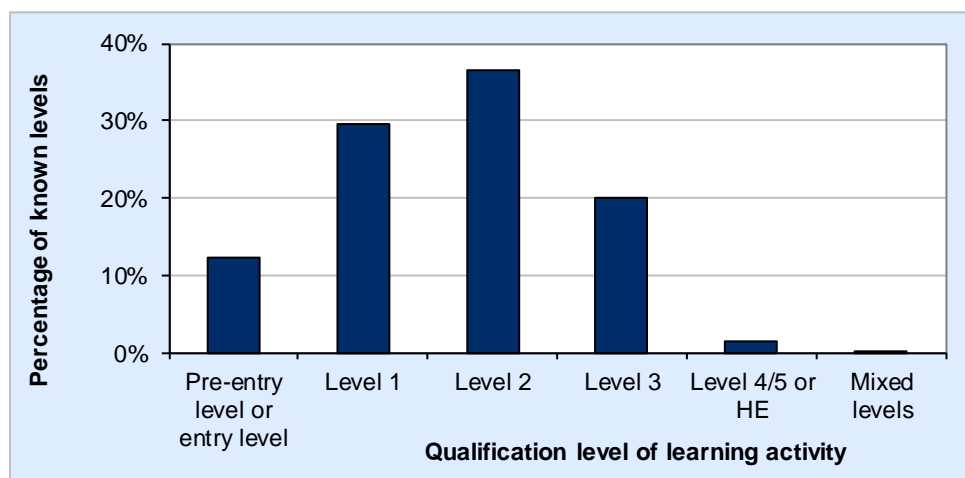
Local Authority Community Learning Provision

36,655 learning programmes were pursued in 2012/13. The number of distinct learners pursuing local authority CL learning activities was 32,210 (see Table 2), 9.4 per cent lower than in 2011/12 and 27 per cent lower than in 2007/08. (There was also a reduction between 2006/07 and 2007/08 but this partly resulted from the change in the treatment of Welsh for Adults data referred to above which had an impact on the element of LA CL sub-contracted from FEIs.)

Learning activities and qualifications

- Of learning activities for which the qualification level was known ^(a), 29 per cent were at level 1, 37 per cent were at level 2 and 20 per cent were at level 3 [Table 5]. Compared with 2006/07, a slightly higher proportion were at level 3 (18 per cent in 2006/07) and a lower proportion at level 1 (33 per cent in 2006/07).
- The proportion of entry and pre-entry level learning activities (combined) rose fairly steadily from 8 per cent in 2003/04 and 2004/05 to 10 per cent in 2005/06 and 2006/07 before progressing upwards to 13 per cent in 2011/12 but down to 12 per cent in 2012/13.

Chart 3: Learning activities by qualification level




(a) 9 per cent of qualification levels were unknown or not applicable. For Further Education provision the figure was 8 per cent but for Local Authority Community Learning provision 36 per cent of qualification levels were unknown or undefined, as is the case for some leisure-related learning activities. For Work-based Learning provision the figure was 4.1 per cent.

- 24 per cent of qualifications being studied for were Key Skills/Essential Skills Wales, 18 per cent were Agored Cymru units (previously Open College Network credits) but 27 per cent were classed as 'Other' qualification types, including specific qualifications not grouped elsewhere for the purpose of this release.
- The most popular subjects for learning activities (whose subject was specified) were Care/Personal Development (29 per cent), Information Technology (11 per cent), Science/Mathematics (9 per cent), Media /Communications (including Communication Skills) (9 per cent) and Cultural Studies /Languages (7 per cent), although popularity varied across types of provision.

Table 5: Enrolments on learning activities at Further Education Institutions, Community Learning or Work-based Learning providers by qualification level and gender, 2012/13

Qualification level	Further and Higher Education and Work-based Learning			Local Authority Community Learning		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Pre-Entry Level	2,245	2,395	4,635	80	250	330
Entry Level	38,430	37,285	75,715	5,300	8,340	13,640
Level 1	103,575	106,540	210,115	3,865	10,620	14,490
Level 2	125,215	146,220	271,435	1,950	5,680	7,635
Level 3	65,620	86,295	151,915	330	840	1,170
Level 4 and above / HE	4,215	7,130	11,345	*	25	25
Mixed Levels	45	20	65	0	0	0
Unknown or not required	24,705	28,385	53,095	5,445	15,675	21,125
Total	364,045	414,270	778,320	16,970	41,435	58,410

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

Reports on  contain the information provided in table 5 with a breakdown by qualification type and subject, provider type, provision type and language of delivery.

Notes

1. Context

1.1 General

This Statistical First Release (SFR) summarises data on learner numbers in post-16 education and training at providers receiving funding from DfES (Department for Education and Skills) for the academic year 2012/13. However, the figures are not restricted to fundable learners at those providers. The release contains information on the post-16 sector excluding HE institutions, HEI-based Welsh for Adults centres and school sixth forms but including Further Education institutions, Work-based Learning providers and Local Authority Community Learning providers. Further information on this series, the first release of which was SDR 38/2005, and earlier sources is given in the 'Data for previous years' section.

1.2 Policy Context

Within the Welsh Government the release and other outputs from the LLWR data underlying it 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](#)

See also section 5.1 on ‘Relevance’.

2. Data Source

Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR)

The Lifelong Learning Wales Record is the data collection system employed by the Welsh Government to enable FE, WBL and local authority community learning providers to report on-line individualised data on learners, their learning programmes, activities and awards. DfES systems load the data on to a post-16 database to facilitate analysis. Further information on LLWR including user support manuals can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/datacollection/llwr09/llwrmanuals/>

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

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/about/statement-of-compliance/administrative-sources/>

The primary purpose of the LLWR is to provide FE/WBL/CL data to facilitate the planning and funding of learning delivery. The LLWR data are also a basis for the DfES Quality and Effectiveness Framework, monitoring of performance and outcomes, informing strategy and development and the provision of statistics on FE/WBL/CL learners in Wales.

3. Definitions and methods

Learner numbers, learning programmes and learning activities

- The Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) from which tables 1 to 5 were derived has datasets based on learners, their learning programmes and their constituent learning activities as well as awards which are not included in the current release. Table 1 and 2 are based on counts of individual learners using a methodology which counts only once a learner present at more than one provider. Tables 3 and 4 are based on counts of learning programmes, apart from the final two columns of table 4 which use unique learners. A learner represented in table 1 or table 2 will have one or more learning programmes in tables 3 and 4. Table 5 is based on counts of learning activities, there being one or more of these constituents to each learning programme.
- A learning activity, typically, is a specific qualification or course pursued by a learner. A learning programme is a group of related activities (and awards where applicable) such as a work-based learning framework (e.g. Apprenticeship).

Learners at Further Education Institutions, Local Authority Community Learning or Work-based Learning providers (tables 1,2,3 and 5)

- Information was collected from FE institutions, local authorities and work-based learning providers via the LLWR, from which data were extracted on 24 October 2013.

- Community Learning is a broad definition that can encompass, for instance, provision at FE institution outreach centres and Adult Basic Education. This release only identifies Local Authority Community Learning provision (see "Provision Type" notes) and hence this is the term used throughout.
- WBL provision is included whether at an FE college, at a WBL subsidiary of an FE institution or at another training provider.
- August 2011 saw the introduction of a change in the structure of Welsh Government support to WBL providers, with funding being directed through a smaller number of contracted providers, including some consortia and lead providers.
- Where a provider is part of a WBL consortium, the assignment to 'WBL at FEIs' or to 'WBL at Other training providers' has been made according to the status of the consortium member (which may differ from the status of the lead provider of the consortium).
- December 1st counts are based on a snapshot of the week of 1 December 2012. All-year counts are based on all learners enrolled during the academic year.
- Ages are as at 31 August 2012.
- Includes students on courses at the Workers Educational Association (WEA) and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

The figures in this release exclude FE learners at Merthyr Tydfil College which merged into the University of Glamorgan in April 2006 (now the University of South Wales). These learners are now included within the University of South Wales data collected by HESA (the Higher Education Statistics Agency) and hence within, for example, the Welsh Government's Bulletin '[Students in Higher Education Institutions, 2011/12](#)'. Learners with the Merthyr Tydfil College work-based learning subsidiary are however included in all years of this Statistical First Release as their data are not collected by HESA.

Work-based Learning (Table 4)

This table summarises enrolments on work-based learning programmes.

- Starts and leavers denote the cumulative number of new starts and leavers on each programme during the academic year.
- Counts of leavers exclude those who have transferred to another learning programme at the same provider. They are also restricted to those leavers who are identifiable from the standard database population used for this release.
- In-training figures are the number of training episodes at December 1st 2012 or July 31st 2013. These are for single days, in contrast to the December 1st counts in tables 1 and 3 which are based on a full week (and are therefore slightly higher).

In addition to the learning programme columns, Table 4 includes two columns based on distinct learner counts, one as at the end of July 2013 and the other for the full academic year.

Provision type

The provision type is determined at the learning programme level. **Note that this is not a funding report and definitions can differ from those used for funding purposes. For example, some of the WBL provision included in this release will not have been included in the calculation of funding for WBL providers.**

For the purpose of this statistical release,

- Further Education (FE) provision is defined as that submitted to the LLWR by an FE provider excluding:
 - learning programmes categorised below as HE or WBL; and
 - learning delivered by a Local Authority via a subcontracted arrangement with an FE provider.

- Higher Education (HE) provision comprises learning programmes categorised as higher education namely:
 - Higher National Certificate; Higher National Diploma;
 - HE professional / HE vocational programme;
 - Foundation Degree; HE First Degree; other undergraduate qualification;
 - HE postgraduate;
 The figures for HE include learners whose programme is designated as HE level but exclude learning programmes where the overarching learning programme is not designated as 'HE' although an element of the learning (i.e. one or more learning activities) is at HE level.
- Local Authority Community Learning provision is defined as that submitted to the LLWR:
 - by a Local Authority directly ('maintained' or 'contracted-out' provision); or
 - by an FE provider but where the learning is delivered by a Local Authority through a partnership, franchise or subcontracted arrangement ('contracted-in' provision).

The Local Authority Community Learning figures **exclude** 'assisted' provision, i.e. courses controlled and managed by another organisation but which the local authority supports either financially or by providing premises or other facilities free of charge or at subsidised rates.

- WBL programmes are submitted to the LLWR by contracted WBL providers (including some FE institutions) and include the following (or their predecessor) programmes:

- Apprenticeship (Level 3);
- Foundation Apprenticeships (Level 2; including Young Recruits programme);
- Higher Apprenticeship (Level 4 plus; introduced from 2011/12);
- Modern Skills Diploma (Level 4 plus; discontinued for new entrants from 2011/12);
- Steps to Employment (introduced from 2011/12);
- Traineeships (introduced from 2011/12);
- Skill Build (Adult and Youth programmes but discontinued for new entrants from 2011/12);
- Other WBL programmes (including Flexible Learning, 'Young Person's Guarantee: Routes into Work', bespoke programmes and smaller programmes).

The Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme was introduced in 2009/10 to Wales in anticipation of a drop in recruitment of apprentices as a result of the economic downturn. In this release it is included in the WBL provision category but excluded from WBL programme counts (see Table 4).

Subjects

References to subjects are based on an abbreviated form of the category associated with the first character of the LDCS code under the LearnDirect Classification System (LDCS).

Mode of learning

Mode of learning has been derived from the LLWR using guided contact hours. In Table 3 the methodology is used to derive learning programme counts which are not directly comparable with mode of learning splits of learner numbers in Table 2. The methodology has also been applied to learner numbers elsewhere, for instance in the Welsh Government publication 'Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2011/12'.

- Learning programmes classified for statistical purposes as **full-time** are defined as those containing at least 450 guided contact hours per year.
- Learning programmes classified as **part-time** are defined as those containing fewer than 450 guided contact hours per year. (Note that this definition of part-time learning embraces short courses which learners pursue on a full-time basis for a limited number of weeks.)

- Work-based learning provision cannot be classified in this way as the majority of learning is at the workplace and therefore a separate mode of study has been provided.

4. Rounding

Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and there may be apparent slight discrepancies between the sum of the constituent items and the total. An asterisk '*' represents numbers greater than 0 and less than 5.

5. Key Quality Information

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;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- Further Education Institutions, Work-Based Learning providers and local authorities;
- Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales;
- 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;
- informing and evaluating the education policy-making process in Wales. (See section 1.2 on 'Policy Context'.)

LLWR data are used to underpin funding and performance reports for learning providers, to calculate NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures and in student finance modelling.

5.2 Accuracy

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with the LLWR data collection team and, where relevant, with learning providers before tables are published.

The LLWR data underlying this release are provisional and in the process of being updated by learning providers, validated and finalised. Final data for 2012/13 are due to be published in March 2014.

The impact of these updates is as yet unknown but they must only be submitted by learning providers in the interests of improving accuracy and data quality. An indication of revisions to data between previous provisional and final releases is presented below.

Percentage change between provisional and final release	Learners		Learning programmes		Learning activities
	Dec 1 st	All year	Dec 1 st	All year	All year
	2003/04	+1.3	+1.4	+1.3	+2.0
2004/05	+0.4	+1.7	+1.2	+3.0	+1.4
2005/06	+1.0	+1.3	-1.3	0.0	+0.4
2006/07	-0.6	+0.5	-1.0	+0.5	+0.2
2007/08	+0.2	+0.9	+0.4	+1.3	+0.9
2008/09	-1.5	-0.8	-1.4	-0.7	-2.2
2009/10	-1.3	-0.5	-1.6	-0.5	-2.1
2010/11	-0.9	+0.3	-1.5	+0.2	-0.9
2011/12	-0.3	+0.8	-0.3	+1.2	+1.2

5.3 In-learning Population

In-learning counts for all years in the current release (and in the other bulletins using LLWR data listed at the end of this release) are on an adjusted population basis. The effect of introducing this population was described in the Key Quality section of the 2008/09 release [Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning, 2008/09 and 2009/10 \(early figures\)](#).

The in-learning population is adjusted by excluding unclosed activities with an expected end date more than two years earlier than the start of the given academic year. Having excluded these activities, the population is then determined from the remaining activities by means of the actual start and end dates (in conjunction with the learning programme end date, where available separately for WBL programmes).

The adjusted population was introduced in order to produce a more accurate reflection of 'live' activity after identifying an increasing number of unclosed activities since the inception of the LLWR.

5.4 Timeliness and Punctuality

The annual timescale for the production of data balances timeliness against the need for accurate data quality. Statistics on a given academic year are drawn from a database based on the LLWR as at February following the end of the academic year. The corresponding first release is produced and published as soon as possible during March. This timetable was accelerated for the 2010/11 final release. Previously the LLWR freeze had been taken near the end of March with the SFR published in April.

The provisional statistics of the current release are drawn from the database as at 24 October 2013 and updated figures will be released in March 2014.

5.5 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical 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.

5.6 Comparability

Data for previous years

This series, the first Release of which was SDR 38/2005 containing provisional data for 2003/04 (finalised in SDR67/2005), replaces an earlier quarterly series on work-based learning enrolments (final edition SDR

22/2005) and an annual Statistical Bulletin on Adult Continuing Education (SB 52/2003) published by the Welsh Government.

The 2003/04 releases were based on LLWR data for Further Education, Community Learning and the component of Work-based Learning provided through FE institutions. However, WBL figures at other training providers (such as those included in a specific table of SDR 38/2005) were, then and previously, based on data collected through the National Trainee Database (NTD). Release SDR22/2005 contained the final data from the NTD as at June 2004. Data on all DfES-funded Work-based Learning providers have subsequently been collected solely via the LLWR and contribute to all areas of WBL provision in post-16 education releases in Wales from 2004/05 onwards.

Earlier data on Local Authority Community Learning (then referred to as Adult Continuing Education) were published in May 2003 in the National Assembly for Wales Statistical Bulletin 'Adult Continuing Education in Wales 2001/02 & 2002/03' (SB52/2003).

Owing to changes in data collection, comparisons with years prior to 2003/04 should only be made with caution. Previously data on Further Education provision, sourced from the Individualised Student Record (ISR), were available through the ELWa/HEFCW annual volume 'Higher Education, Further Education and Training Statistics in Wales' ending with the edition covering the 2002/03 academic year, published in November 2004. The first equivalent volume to be based on the LLWR, 'Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2003/04', was published by ELWa in March 2006 and the ninth of the series, based on 2011/12, was published by the Welsh Government in September 2013.

UK nations

Examples of similar outputs from other UK nations can be found at:

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 - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning>

However, owing to differences in methodology and data collection, caution should be exercised in making direct comparisons with the figures contained in this release.

StatsWales

Only summary tables have been provided in this release. Additional tables supplying greater detail, including analysis by programme and qualification type, subject, age, disability status and ethnicity, are available via the Welsh Government's online dissemination service StatsWales. Tables related to this SFR

can be found at: 

Other Bulletins and Publication using LLWR data underlying this release

This release and other statistical outputs can be found on the [Welsh Government's Statistics site](http://www.welsh.gov.uk/statistics). Outputs available on the site will include 2012/13 versions of some or all of the following bulletins once the provisional LLWR data underlying this release have been finalised:

- '[Learner Outcome Measures for Further Education and Work-based Learning, 2011/12](#)' - Statistics on learner outcomes at FE institutions and WBL providers.

- [‘Learner Outcome Measures for Adult Community Learning, 2011/12’](#) - Statistics on learner outcomes at Adult Community Learning providers.
- [‘Learning Network Analysis 2011/12’](#) - bulletin providing analysis at both national and local authority 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. Associated StatsWales tables include figures for individual FE institutions.
- [Annual Volume: ‘Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics, 2011/12’](#) - reference volume containing substantial detail.

Learning programme new starts 2012/13 and 2013/14 (part)

	Apprenticeship Programme Type			Total Apprenticeships
	Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship (Level 3)	Higher Apprenticeship	
2012/13 Months (provisional)				
August	695	665	40	1,400
September	1,800	1,480	35	3,320
October	1,410	1,015	55	2,480
November	1,135	730	60	1,925
December	635	450	35	1,120
January	1,145	760	175	2,080
February	1,470	900	175	2,545
March	1,390	960	255	2,605
April	1,335	720	215	2,265
May	1,300	765	305	2,375
June	1,070	655	455	2,180
July	1,825	1,325	465	3,615
Total 2012/13	15,210	10,425	2,265	27,900
2013/14 Months (indicative) (a)				
August	925	730	330	1,980
September	1,260	960	455	2,675

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

(a) The 2013/14 figures are likely to be subject to significant future change, particularly in the case of September 2013 for which there could be major updates by learning providers.