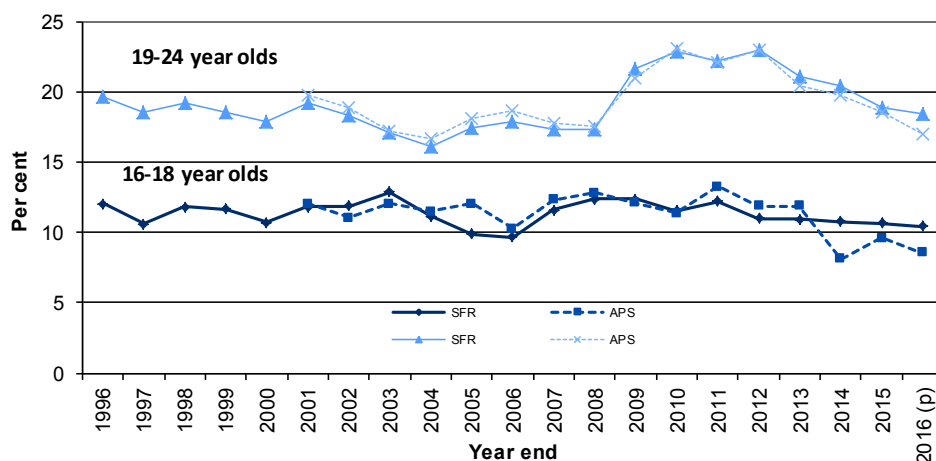




Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Year to 31 March 2017)

26 July 2017
SB 34/2017

Chart 1: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales: Comparison of estimates in the Statistical First Release and using the Annual Population Survey¹ (calendar year)



(p) SFR: Year end 2016 is provisional

¹ For years 2001-2003 the source is the annual Local Labour Force Survey for Wales

Most recent results

16-18 year olds

SFR basis - *New data* As at end 2016 (p), 10.4 per cent of 16-18 year olds were NEET (11,000) compared with 10.7 per cent (11,700) at end 2015;

APS basis - *New data* For the year ending Quarter 1 2017, 6.5 per cent of 16-18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 11.6 per cent at the year ending Q1 2016.

Pupil Destinations basis -As at October 2016, 2.0 per cent of Year 11 leavers were NEET compared with 2.8 per cent in 2015.

19-24 year olds

SFR basis - *New data* As at end 2016 (p), 18.5 per cent of 19-24 year olds were NEET (46,400) compared with 18.9 per cent (47,700) at end 2015;

APS basis- *New data* For the year ending Quarter 1 2017, 15.6 per cent of 19-24 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 17.9 per cent for the year ending Q1 2016.

About this release

This Bulletin summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. The definitive source for this information is the annual Statistical First Release (SFR), *Participation of young people in education and the labour market* (also published on 26 July 2017.)

Additionally, this Bulletin provides users with more detailed, but less statistically robust, statistics from the *Annual Population Survey (APS)* and estimates for year 11 leavers from the *Careers Wales pupil destinations survey*.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends of young people who are NEET by age, gender and disability and assess the impact of education and labour market interventions on young people. This supports the Welsh Government's strategic approach to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET as set out in the *Youth Engagement and Progression Framework* and the *Child Poverty Strategy*. The data also contribute to one of the 46 'National Indicators' (Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups) as laid under the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)*. (See [notes](#) for further details).

2. Data sources

Statistical First Release (SFR) series

The number and proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales is published annually in the Statistical First Release (SFR) *Participation of young people in education and the labour market*. This SFR series should be used:-

- as the definitive headline measures for young people who are NEET in Wales.
- to monitor the *Child Poverty Strategy* indicators.

However, these data are only available annually and can only be disaggregated by gender; therefore it is necessary to supplement this series with other data sources.

Annual Population Survey (APS) series

The Annual Population Survey (APS) provides more regular and timely data on young people who are NEET. The statistics from the Annual Population Survey are based solely on survey data on relatively small sample sizes of 16-18 year olds and are statistically less robust than those published in the annual SFR. Care also needs to be taken when comparing estimates from the different sources due to differences in definitions. The APS series can be used:-

- where a more recent indication of data is required, between publication of SFRs;
- to provide analysis by region, disability status or single year of age (although it is necessary to use estimates based on 3 year averages for this purpose).

Careers Wales pupil destinations survey

The only source of data in respect of local areas available is the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey. This provides estimates of young people who are NEET in the October after completing Year 11 and is available at a local authority level. However the Careers Wales survey uses slightly different definitions for NEET than those used in the SFR. It should also be noted that this survey includes pupils from secondary and special schools; those attending FE colleges and independent schools are not included.

The Careers Wales series can be used to consider relative levels of young people who are NEET by local authority.

3. SFR series (last updated – July 2017) *New data*

[SFR: Participation of young people in education and the labour market](#)

The estimates published in the SFR are a measure of the proportion of young people who are NEET as at the end of the calendar year. It is based on population estimates as at the end of the calendar year, education enrolment counts in December for work-based learning, further and higher education and in the following January for schools. The Annual Population Survey is used to estimate the proportion of those not in education or training who are unemployed or inactive and relates to the whole of the reference year. Due to the use of survey data within the calculations there will be some element of sampling variability in the estimates. As a result changes in trend need to be interpreted with a degree of caution, as changes could be attributed to sampling effects as well as real effects. Currently it is not possible to distinguish between these impacts. 2016 estimates are provisional at this point, and use the best estimate for 2016 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling. Estimates for 2015 take into account final data, which was not available at the time of the provisional figures last year.

For this series the data presented covers 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds on an academic age basis (ie age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

Trends over time

In addition to the SFR estimate [chart 1](#) on the front page shows an estimate of NEET rate based on the Annual Population Survey only. These estimates are for the calendar year. Supporting data is shown in table 1.

16-18 year olds

The chart shows that the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has remained fairly constant at a rate of between 10-13 per cent (accounting for around 11,000-15,000 young people) over the years 1996 to 2016, with the provisional estimate for 2016 at 10.4 per cent (11,000) of 16-18 year olds who are NEET, continuing a downward trend from 2012 onwards.

19-24 year olds

After the start of the 2008 recession it can then be seen that the proportion of 19-24 who are NEET saw a large increase from 17 per cent in 2008 to levels around 22 to 23 per cent from 2009 to 2012, decreasing each year since to stand at 18.5 per cent or 46,400 at end 2016 (provisional). The decrease being driven through increased labour market activity, with participation in education and training remaining fairly stable.

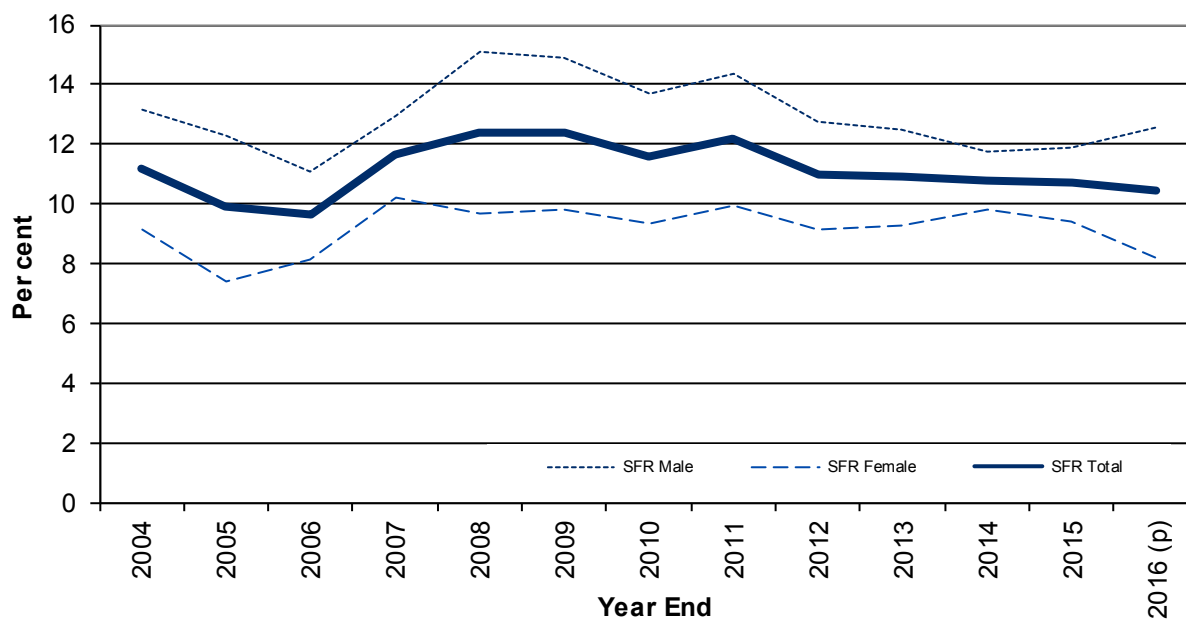
Gender breakdown

From the SFR series it is also possible to produce a gender split of the proportion of young people who are NEET as at the end of the calendar year. Gender information from the SFR series is only available from 2004 onwards.

16-18 year olds

For this series the data presented covers 16-18 year olds on an academic age basis (i.e. age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year) broken down by gender.

Chart 2: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 16-18 (academic age), by gender, 2004-2016 (calendar year)



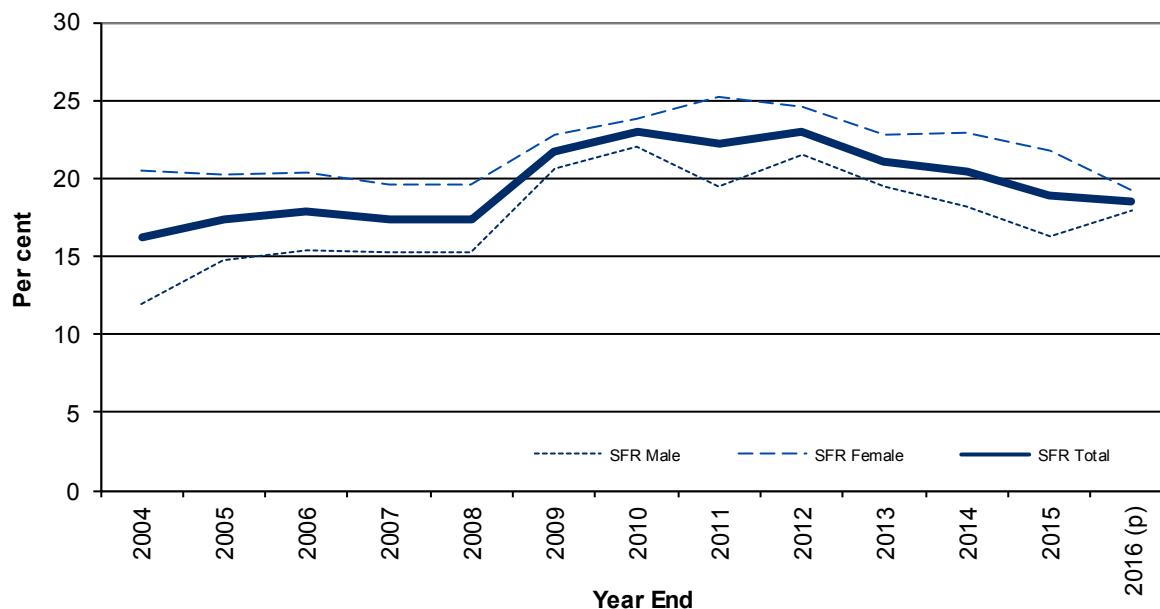
From the above chart it can be seen that the male and female proportions of young people aged 16-18 who are NEET have broadly followed similar trends between 2004 and 2016, with the proportion lower for females than for males throughout the period, although the most recent years are suggesting a divergence in trends between males and females. Provisional figures for 2016 indicate : -

- 12.5 per cent (6,800) of males aged 16-18 were NEET, slightly increased from the previous year, which compared to;
- 8.2 per cent (4,200) of females aged 16-18 were NEET, a decrease from the previous year.

19-24 year olds

For this series the data presented covers 19-24 year olds on an academic age basis (i.e. age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year) broken down by gender.

Chart 3: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales aged 19-24 (academic age), by gender, 2004-2016 (calendar year)



From the above chart it can be seen that the male and female proportions of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET converged over the period 2004 to 2010, but have diverged subsequently, although returned to similar levels in 2016. The proportion has continued to be higher for females than for males (the reverse of the position for 16-18 year olds) throughout the period. Provisional figures for 2016 indicate : -

- 17.9 per cent (23,400) of males aged 19-24 were NEET, an increase from the previous year, which compared to;
- 19.2 per cent (23,000) of females aged 19-24 were NEET, a decrease from the previous year.

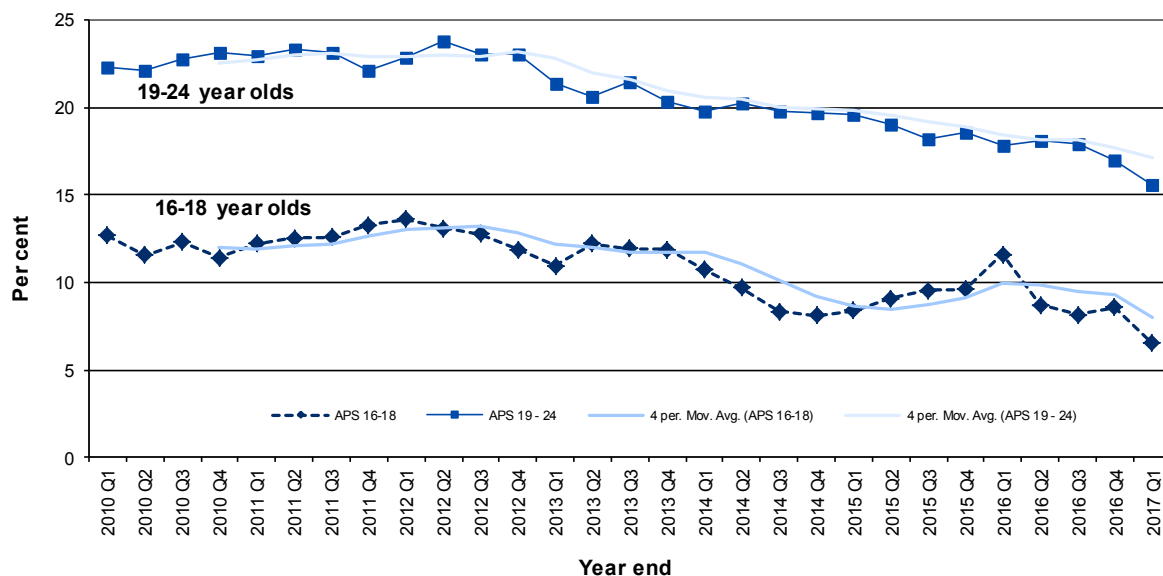
4. APS rolling year series (last updated – July 2017) *New data*

The data presented covers 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds on an academic age basis (ie age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is published on a rolling year basis every quarter. The most recent published year covers the period April 2016 to March 2017. Estimates based on the APS are less robust than the annual series, given the sample sizes involved, particularly for the 16 to 18 cohort. They can be used to give an indication, only, of trends in NEET rates between publications of the annual SFR.

The reference period for these estimates is the whole year and therefore there is a large overlap in the responses included in consecutive rolling years. Therefore the overall trend of the series should be considered with comparisons to the same point a year previous and not changes between consecutive rolling year estimates. As these estimates are based on survey data there will be some variability in estimates due to sampling variation.

Chart 4: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales: Annual Population Survey (rolling year ending) and 4 point moving average¹



¹A 4 point moving average is an average of four consecutive periods of the APS (e.g. average of Years to 2015 Q2, 2015 Q3, 2015 Q4, 2016 Q1), which is 'moved' or rolled forward from the start and end of the data. The purpose of this average is to highlight any trends in the data by removing or smoothing some of the volatility within the data.

Chart 4 shows the APS rolling year series for the years (April 2009 to March 2010) to (April 2016 to March 2017) along with a four-point moving average of the series for both those aged 16-18 and 19-24. Both series show a general downward trend from end 2012 onwards.

[Table 2](#) includes approximate 95 per cent confidence intervals for these estimates, which for all periods is around ± 2 per cent.

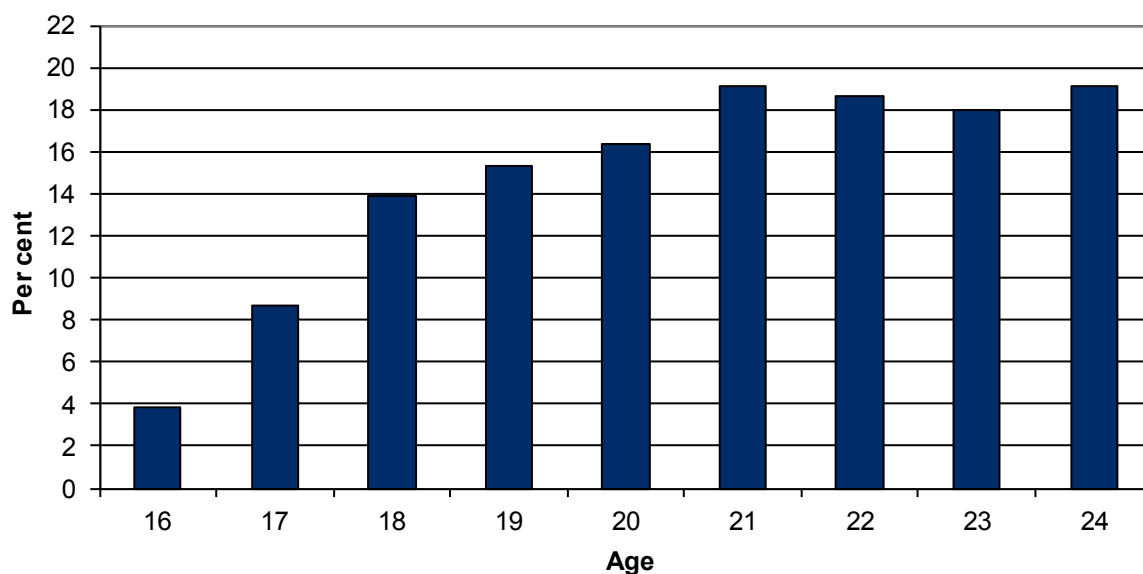
The latest data show for the year ending Quarter 1 2017, 6.5 per cent of 16-18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 11.6 per cent for the year ending Quarter 1 2016.

For 19-24 year olds 15.6 per cent were estimated to be NEET for the year ending Quarter 1 2017, compared with 17.9 per cent for the year ending Quarter 1 2016.

NEET characteristics

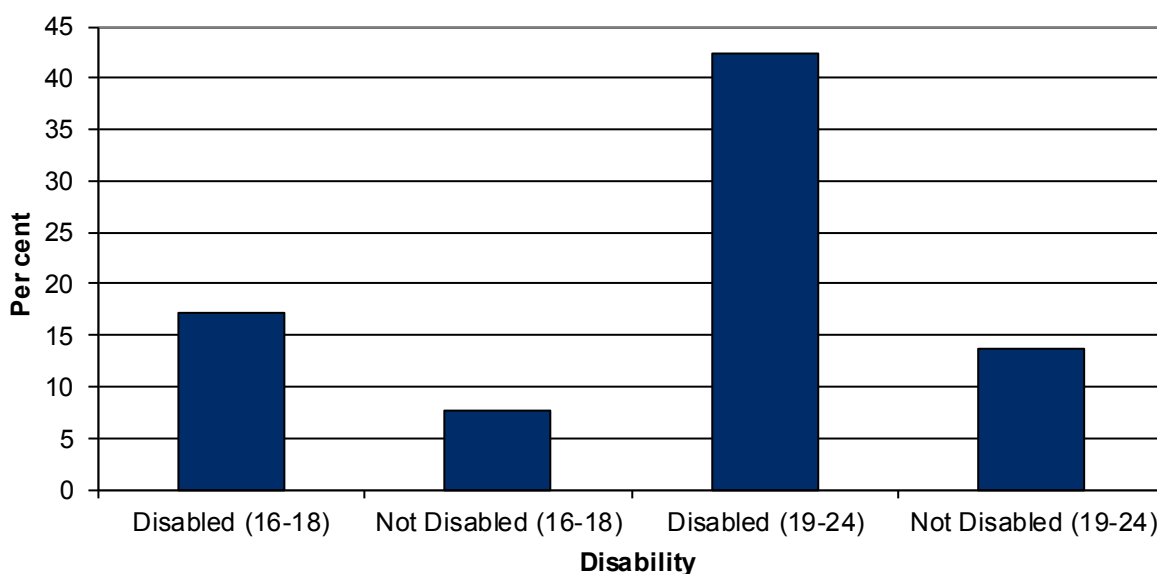
The APS can also be used to provide analysis of NEET rates by characteristics, which are not available via the SFR series. Due to small sample sizes, when looking at sub-groups it has been necessary to use estimates based on the average of 3 periods and therefore should be used to compare groups or regions only. Chart 5 shows analysis by single year of age, [Chart 6](#) shows analysis by disability status and [Chart 7](#) provides regional data. See [notes](#) section for information on disability status and regional breakdown. Supporting data is shown in [table 3](#).

Chart 5: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, by age (average of years ending 2015Q1, 2016Q1, 2017Q1)



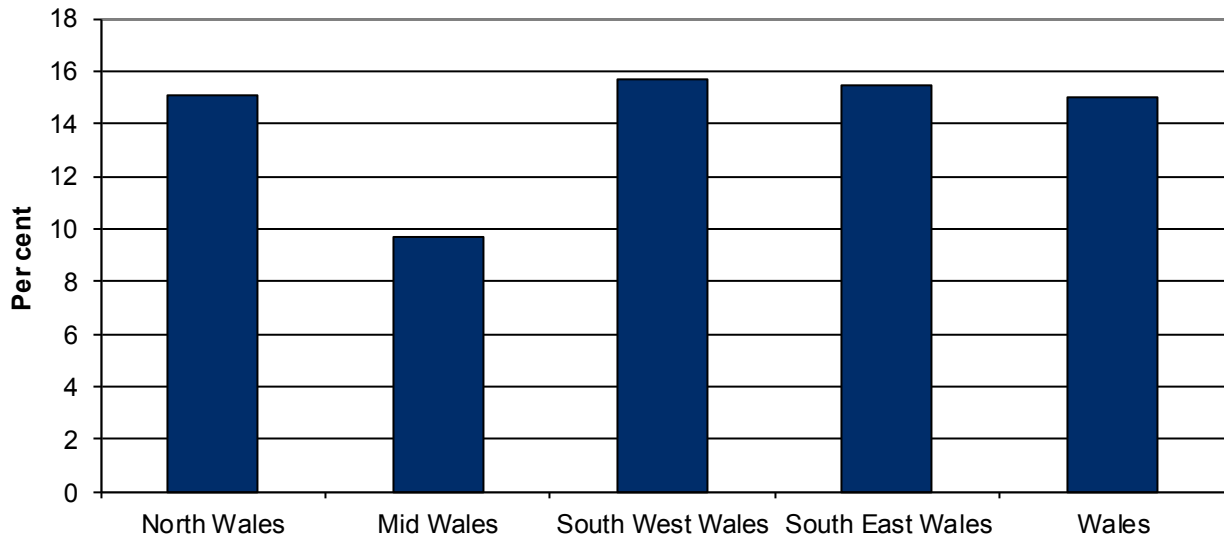
The proportion of those who are NEET generally increases by age, between 16 to a peak at 21 and above.

Chart 6: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, by age and disability status¹ (average of years ending 2015Q1, 2016Q1, 2017Q1)



- The proportion of young people who are NEET is higher for those disabled people for both age groups.
- The proportion of disabled people who are NEET rises from 17.1 per cent at age 16-18 to 42.4 at age 19-24.

Chart 7: Young people aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training in Wales, by region (average of years ending 2015Q1, 2016Q1, 2017Q1)



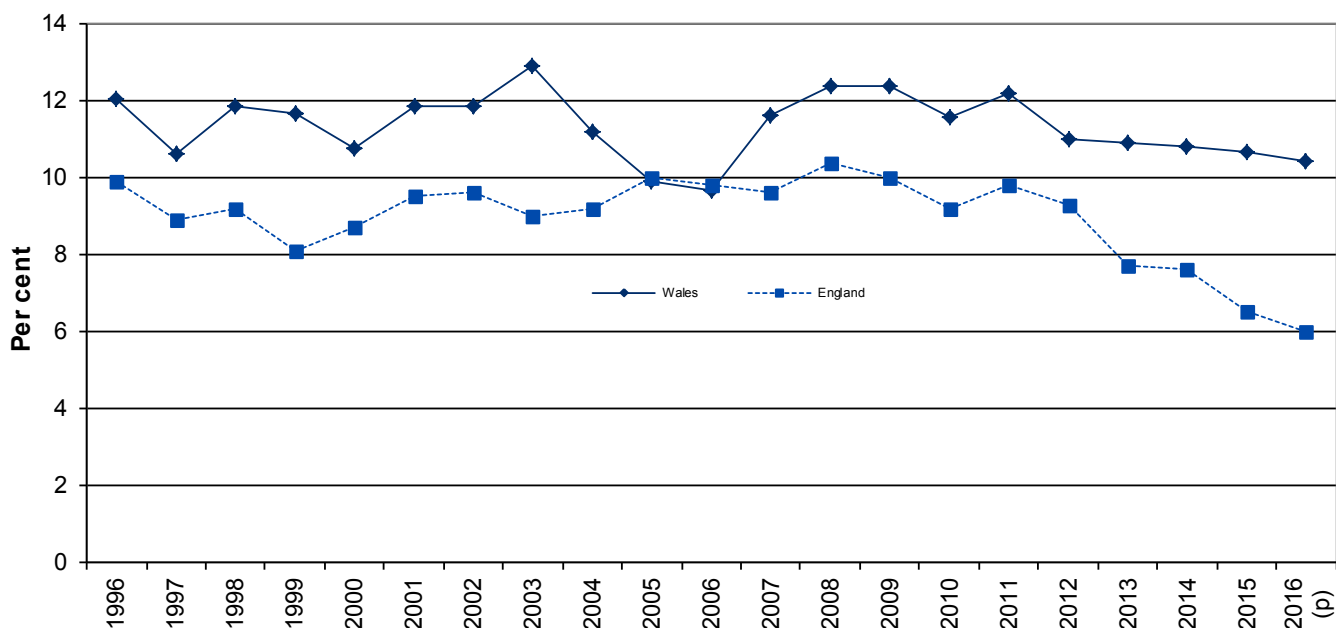
The proportion of young people (aged 16-24) who are NEET varied from 9.7 per cent in Mid Wales to 15.7 per cent in South West Wales.

5. Comparisons with the rest of the UK *New data*

SFR measure

The Department for Education (DfE) publish estimates of 16-18 year old NEET rates for England using similar methodology to the SFR on an annual basis. The most recent [Statistical Release](#) provided 2016 provisional figures. Chart 8 shows a comparison of the English and Welsh estimates. England does not produce an equivalent measure for 19-24 year olds:

Chart 8: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, aged 16-18, Wales and England



From Chart 8 it can be seen that between 1996 and 2012 the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET in England and Wales have followed broadly similar trends, but with Wales having a larger proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET than England. However there are a few periods where this is not the case.

From 2003 the proportion of 16-18 year olds who were NEET in Wales decreased until 2006, resulting in Wales having a similar proportion as England for 2005 and 2006. The provisional figures for 2016 show an increased gap between England and Wales, with the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET in England at its lowest rate at 6.0 per cent. This in part reflects the UK Government's Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation introduced in 2013/14 increasing the age to which all young people in England are required to remain in education or training.

For both series changes in trend need to be interpreted with a degree of caution, as changes could be attributed to sampling effects as well as real effects.

For Scotland and Northern Ireland directly comparable NEET estimates for 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds are not published.

Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

The DfE also publish a quarterly brief on young people who are NEET which includes NEET rates estimates based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Additionally from May 2013 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has produced [UK estimates of young people who are NEET](#), also based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey:

The quarterly estimates are not directly comparable with the Welsh APS-only estimates published in this bulletin. A direct comparison for Wales with England and the UK LFS measure is not provided as the sample size for 16 to 18 year olds and 19 to 24 year olds in Wales is not sufficiently large.

However, using a similar methodology to that used by the ONS, but using the Annual Population Survey rather than the LFS, we can provide estimates of young people who are NEET across the UK.

Please note that these estimates will differ from the official estimates produced by the DfE and ONS and other relevant departments and should therefore be interpreted with caution. [An article explaining the difference between NEET statistics across the UK](#) was published by the ONS, alongside their first publication of UK estimates of young people who are NEET:

Estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET for each of the UK countries for the years ending Q1 2016 and Q1 2017 are given in [Table 4](#).

For 16-18 year olds the proportion estimated to be NEET decreased in Wales, with a slight increase across the UK as a whole.

Between 2016 and 2017 the proportion of 19-24 estimated to be NEET decreased in Wales and all other UK countries. The difference between the proportions of 19-24 year olds estimated to be NEET in Wales and the UK as a whole decreased from 2.6 percentage points in 2016 to 1.3 percentage points in 2017.

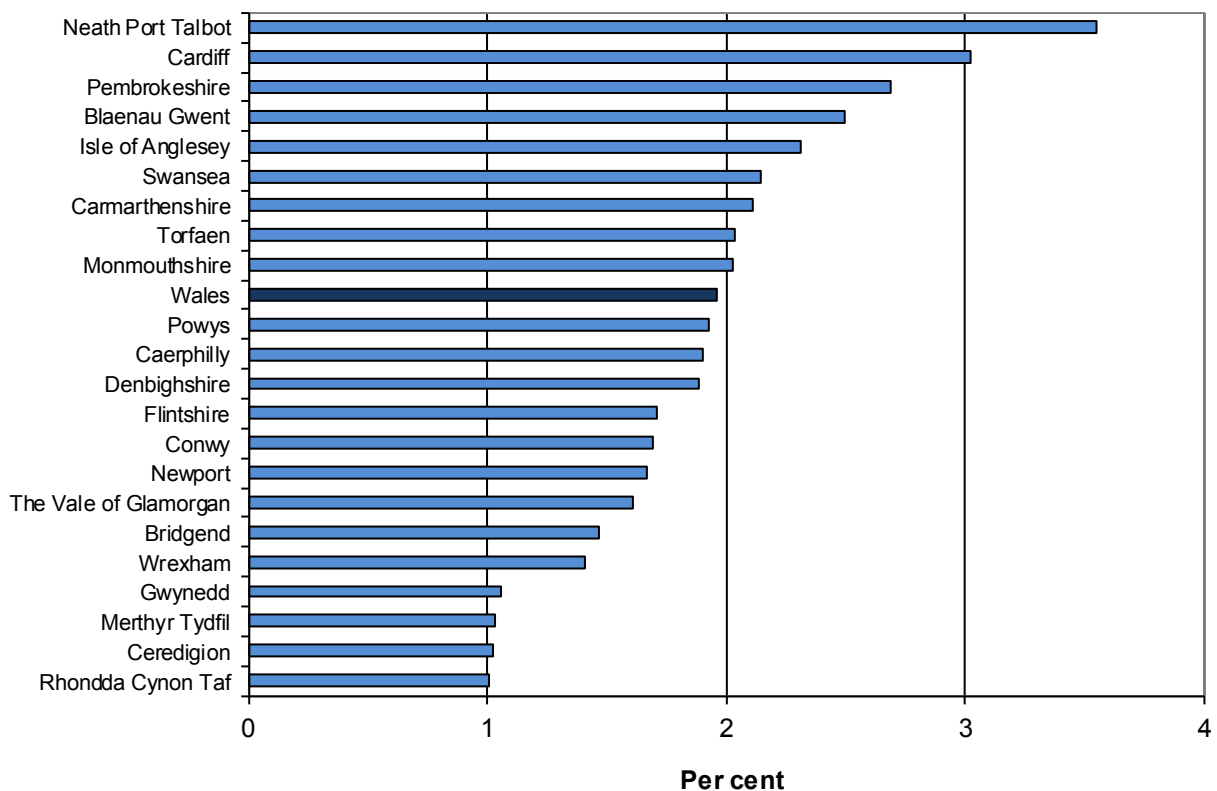
6. Pupil destinations from schools in Wales (last updated –April 2017)

[Pupil Destinations headline](#)

Careers Wales undertakes an annual survey of all leavers from maintained schools¹ in Wales to obtain their destinations as at end of October. The results from this survey can be used to provide estimates of NEET rates by local authority for 16 year olds. Chart 9 shows the proportion of 2016 Year 11 leavers who were NEET.

See [notes](#) page 21 for information regarding change to the survey process this year.

Chart 9: Year 11 leavers who are NEET by local authority of school, 2016



¹ Includes maintained secondary and special schools, PRUs and some learners educated other than at school.

7. Tables

Table 1: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, Calendar Year

	16-18 year olds				19-24 year olds			
	SFR NEET		APS NEET		SFR NEET		APS NEET	
	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number
End 1996	12.1	12,800	..	..	19.7	40,900	..	..
End 1997	10.6	11,700	..	..	18.5	36,800	..	..
End 1998	11.9	13,200	..	..	19.3	37,600	..	..
End 1999	11.6	12,800	..	..	18.6	37,100	..	..
End 2000	10.7	11,700	..	..	17.9	36,500	..	..
End 2001	11.9	13,400	12.0	13,300	19.2	40,400	19.8	39,400
End 2002	11.9	13,600	11.1	12,500	18.4	39,800	18.9	38,900
End 2003	12.9	15,000	12.1	13,900	17.1	38,300	17.3	36,100
End 2004	11.2	13,100	11.5	13,200	16.2	36,900	16.7	36,500
End 2005	9.9	11,700	12.0	13,600	17.4	40,400	18.2	41,000
End 2006	9.7	11,500	10.3	11,900	17.9	42,400	18.7	41,600
End 2007	11.6	14,000	12.4	14,800	17.4	42,200	17.8	41,200
End 2008	12.4	15,000	12.8	15,100	17.4	42,800	17.6	41,800
End 2009	12.4	14,800	12.1	14,100	21.7	54,100	21.0	50,400
End 2010	11.6	13,500	11.4	13,700	22.9	58,200	23.1	55,500
End 2011	12.2	14,000	13.3	15,400	22.3	57,400	22.1	54,400
End 2012	11.0	12,500	11.9	13,700	23.0	59,900	23.0	58,400
End 2013	10.9	12,300	11.9	13,300	21.1	54,500	20.4	51,000
End 2014	10.8	12,000	8.1	8,700	20.4	52,200	19.7	50,000
End 2015 (r)	10.7	11,700	9.6	10,300	18.9	47,700	18.6	45,800
End 2016(p)(r)	10.4	11,000	8.6	9,200	18.5	46,400	17.0	41,400

Source: WG Statistical First Release (SFR 78/2017) Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market; Annual Local Labour Force Survey for Wales 2001-2003; Annual Population Survey 2004-2016

(p) SFR: Year end 2016 is provisional

(r) revised since last publication

.. The data item is not available

**Table 2: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales,
Annual Population Survey (Rolling Year End)**

Year End	16-18 year olds			19-24 year olds		
	Per cent	Approx 95% Confidence Interval	Number	Per cent	Approx 95% Confidence Interval	Number
2010 Q1	12.7	± 1.9	14,700	22.3	± 1.8	53,700
2010 Q2	11.6	± 1.8	13,400	22.1	± 1.8	53,300
2010 Q3	12.3	± 1.8	14,400	22.8	± 1.8	55,300
2010 Q4	11.4	± 1.8	13,700	23.1	± 1.9	55,500
2011 Q1	12.2	± 1.8	14,600	22.9	± 1.9	55,400
2011 Q2	12.5	± 1.9	15,000	23.3	± 1.9	56,800
2011 Q3	12.6	± 1.9	14,900	23.2	± 1.9	56,300
2011 Q4	13.3	± 2.0	15,400	22.1	± 1.8	54,400
2012 Q1	13.6	± 2.0	15,600	22.9	± 1.8	56,700
2012 Q2	13.1	± 1.9	15,000	23.8	± 1.9	59,700
2012 Q3	12.8	± 1.9	14,700	23.0	± 1.8	58,100
2012 Q4	11.9	± 1.8	13,700	23.0	± 1.8	58,400
2013 Q1	11.0	± 1.8	12,300	21.4	± 1.8	54,300
2013 Q2	12.2	± 1.9	13,700	20.6	± 1.8	51,600
2013 Q3	11.9	± 1.9	13,100	21.4	± 1.9	52,900
2013 Q4	11.9	± 1.8	13,300	20.4	± 1.8	51,000
2014 Q1	10.7	± 1.7	12,200	19.8	± 1.8	49,500
2014 Q2	9.7	± 1.7	10,800	20.3	± 1.8	50,900
2014 Q3	8.4	± 1.6	9,100	19.8	± 1.8	50,000
2014 Q4	8.1	± 1.6	8,700	19.7	± 1.8	50,000
2015 Q1 (r)	8.4	± 1.6	8,900	19.6	± 1.8	49,500
2015 Q2 (r)	9.1	± 1.7	9,600	19.0	± 1.8	47,800
2015 Q3 (r)	9.5	± 1.8	10,200	18.3	± 1.8	45,800
2015 Q4 (r)	9.6	± 1.8	10,300	18.6	± 1.8	45,800
2016 Q1 (r)	11.6	± 1.9	12,600	17.9	± 1.8	43,900
2016 Q2 (r)	8.7	± 1.7	9,500	18.1	± 1.8	44,400
2016 Q3 (r)	8.2	± 1.7	8,800	18.0	± 1.9	43,600
2016 Q4 (r)	8.6	± 1.8	9,200	17.0	± 1.8	41,400
2017 Q1	6.5	± 1.6	7,000	15.6	± 1.8	37,800

Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2017

Table 3: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by age, disability status and region¹

	Number			Per cent			Approximate 95% Confidence Interval ³		
	2013Q1-2015Q1	2014Q1-2016Q1	2015Q1-2017Q1	2013Q1-2015Q1	2014Q1-2016Q1	2015Q1-2017Q1	2013Q1-2015Q1	2014Q1-2016Q1	2015Q1-2017Q1
By age (persons)									
16	1,500	1,500	1,300	4.1	4.3	3.8	± 1.1	± 1.2	± 1.1
17	3,600	3,500	3,200	9.3	9.5	8.7	± 1.6	± 1.7	± 1.7
18	6,100	6,200	5,000	16.8	16.5	13.9	± 2.3	± 2.3	± 2.2
19	6,800	6,100	6,600	15.5	14.4	15.4	± 2.2	± 2.2	± 2.3
20	9,200	8,400	6,600	20.7	20.2	16.3	± 2.5	± 2.6	± 2.4
21	9,200	9,100	8,200	21.3	20.3	19.1	± 2.6	± 2.6	± 2.6
22	8,700	8,500	7,700	20.8	21.1	18.7	± 2.6	± 2.7	± 2.6
23	8,900	8,200	7,500	21.9	19.3	18.0	± 2.7	± 2.5	± 2.5
24	8,200	7,200	7,000	21.8	19.3	19.1	± 2.7	± 2.6	± 2.6
By disability²									
16-18 Disabled	.	2,400	2,200	.	19.3	17.1	.	± 4.0	± 3.9
Not Disabled	.	8,800	7,200	.	9.1	7.6	.	± 1.0	± 1.0
Unknown	.	0	100	.	.	.	.	.	.
19-24 Disabled	.	14,200	14,500	.	41.4	42.4	.	± 3.4	± 3.5
Not Disabled	.	33,000	28,700	.	15.4	13.6	.	± 1.0	± 1.0
Unknown	.	300	500	.	.	.	.	.	.
By Region (16-24)									
North Wales	11,900	11,300	10,700	16.4	15.8	15.1	± 1.5	± 1.5	± 1.5
Mid Wales	2,900	2,800	2,500	10.9	11.0	9.7	± 2.0	± 2.1	± 2.2
South West Wales	14,200	13,700	12,100	18.2	17.8	15.7	± 1.8	± 1.9	± 1.8
South East Wales	33,200	30,900	28,000	17.9	16.8	15.5	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.2
Wales	62,200	58,800	53,200	17.2	16.4	15.0	± 0.8	± 0.8	± 0.8

Source: Annual Population Survey 2013-2017

¹Data show n relate to 3 period averages from the APS due to small sample sizes, e.g. the latest period covers the average of the Years to 2015Q1, 2016Q1 and 2017Q1.

²Please see notes section for the definition and coverage of disability status.

³All estimates should be viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals. Confidence Intervals indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a 95% CI of +/- 2.0 per cent means that the true value is between 2.0 percentage points above the estimate and 2.0 percentage points below the estimate, for 95% of estimates.

Table 4: Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education or training *nor* in employment (NEET), by age and UK country, 2016 Q1 and 2017 Q1

	16 to 18 year olds		19 to 24 year olds	
	2016Q1	2017Q1	2016Q1	2017Q1
Wales	11.6	6.5	17.9	15.6
England	7.8	8.3	15.0	14.4
Scotland	10.5	9.6	15.1	12.7
Northern Ireland	5.4 (!)	8.8 (!)	20.1	14.4
UK	8.2	8.4	15.3	14.3

Source: Annual Population Survey

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 10 and 25 responses and is categorised as being of low quality.

Table 5: Year 11 Leavers from schools in Wales known to be not in education, employment or training by Local Authority

	<i>Per cent</i>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Wales	4.2	3.7	3.1	2.8	2.0
Isle of Anglesey	2.4	3.7	1.7	2.2	2.3
Gwynedd	3.0	2.4	1.7	1.8	1.1
Conwy	3.4	3.6	1.8	2.4	1.7
Denbighshire	2.9	4.1	2.1	3.1	1.9
Flintshire	2.3	3.6	1.3	1.3	1.7
Wrexham	3.2	3.2	1.8	1.7	1.4
Powys	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.9
Ceredigion	2.3	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.0
Pembrokeshire	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.8	2.7
Carmarthenshire	4.3	3.0	3.4	3.5	2.1
Swansea	3.2	3.9	3.5	2.7	2.1
Neath Port Talbot	3.1	4.4	3.8	3.6	3.6
Bridgend	6.4	3.7	3.6	3.2	1.5
The Vale of Glamorgan	3.9	3.8	2.8	1.7	1.6
Cardiff	6.7	4.9	4.3	4.5	3.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.7	1.0
Merthyr Tydfil	6.2	1.9	2.6	1.6	1.0
Caerphilly	5.9	4.4	3.5	2.1	1.9
Blaenau Gwent	4.2	4.6	3.4	2.4	2.5
Torfaen	5.5	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.0
Monmouthshire	3.8	2.8	1.7	1.9	2.0
Newport	4.9	4.9	4.7	3.1	1.7

Source: Careers Wales Pupil Destinations from Schools in Wales

8. Notes

i. Summary of data sources

a. NEET SFR series

Description	This data is the definitive measure for NEET rates in Wales.
Uses	<p>This series is the key statistical source for estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales.</p> <p>The SFR series provides policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends by age and gender and the impact of education and labour market interventions on young people.</p> <p>The Welsh Government is committed to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales as set out in the <i>Youth Engagement and Progression Framework</i> and the <i>Child Poverty Strategy</i>.</p> <p>The data will be used in support of the <i>National Indicator</i> related to 'Percentage of people in education, employment or training' laid under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.</p>
Published source	WG Statistical First Release <i>Participation of young people in education and the labour market</i>
Primary sources	<p>Pupil Level Annual Schools' Census (WG)</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Wales Record (WG)</p> <p>Student Record (HESA)</p> <p>Open University</p> <p>Annual Population Survey (ONS)</p> <p>Mid- year estimates of resident population and population projections (ONS and Welsh Government)</p>
Last period covered	End 2016 (provisional)
Last published	July 2017
Next published	July 2018 (provisional)

b. NEET APS series

Description	This series is a rolling year annual estimate of the proportion of young people who are NEET from the Annual Population Survey.
Uses	<p>This series provides more timely data than the annual SFR and is used to provide an indication of trends in the proportion of young people who are NEET between SFRs. It is not directly comparable with the SFR series and estimates are less robust.</p> <p>The APS estimates, published quarterly, are based on survey data and therefore there is variability due to sampling error. For the latest 12 month period around 1,150 young people aged 16-18 and 1,750 young people aged 19-24 responded to the survey.</p> <p>Also given the structure of the APS there is a large overlap between consecutive rolling years. Trends should be considered and not changes between consecutive rolling year estimates. Comparisons are made with the same point a year previous. For sub-groups the sample sizes are relatively small and subject to relatively large sampling error so averages of 3 rolling years are generally used.</p> <p>The harmonised definition used to define the APS NEET estimates allows for some comparison across the other UK countries and English regions. However, there are differences of approach in terms of publication, for example use of LFS or APS, different age groups, the use of academic age versus actual age and differences in an adjustment methodology used in apportioning missing values. As well as the impact of different education systems across the UK. As such comparison with the UK should be made with caution.</p>
Published and primary source	Annual Population Survey (ONS)
Last period covered	Year ending 2017 Q1
Last published	APS published June 2017, NEET series published July 2017
Next published	APS published September 2017, NEET series published October 2017

c. NEET pupil destinations survey

Description	This series is an annual estimate of the Year 11 leavers (aged 16) who are NEET as at October following the end of the academic year.
Uses	Neither the SFR nor the APS series can be used to provide estimates at local authority level due to small sample sizes in the APS and methodology used to derive the SFR estimates. This series provides an indication of the level of young people who are NEET at a local authority level. It should only be used for 16 year olds. It is not directly comparable with the SFR series or the APS series due to differences in definitions.
Published and primary source	Destinations of leavers from schools in Wales (Careers Wales)
Last period covered	October 2016
Last published	April 2017
Next published	April 2018

II. Definitions

Education and training

For the SFR estimates: it is based on those who are enrolled on a course in a school, Further Education (FE) college, Higher Education (HE) institution (including the Open University (OU)) or with a work-based learning provider in Wales. In addition, an estimate is made of the number of those in employment who undertake off-the job training.

For the APS based estimates: respondents to the APS who are either:

- Currently carrying out an apprenticeship; or
- Currently on a government employment or training scheme; or
- Currently working or studying towards any qualifications; or
- Have undertaken any job-related education or training in the previous 4 weeks; or
- Currently enrolled on any full-time or part-time education course excluding leisure classes and are still attending or waiting for term to (re)start.

Employment

The APS is used to estimate the proportion in employment for both the SFR and APS based estimates. In addition employment status from Post-16 enrolment data is used in the SFR.

From the APS respondents are in employment if they are either:

- Employed; or
- Self-employed; or
- On government employment or training programmes; or
- An unpaid family worker.

Disability

In line with GSS harmonised standards the definition used reflects the **Equality Act 2010** legal definition of disabled. (Data was previously on the basis of those with a disability as defined by Disability Discrimination Act or a work-limiting disability).

[Further information on harmonised standards](#)

Data is only available for the 2 most recent 3 year periods given the change in definition.

Key quality information

This Bulletin summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. It is updated annually with latest estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS), the headline SFR series and the Careers Wales destinations survey data. To supplement this annual output, a headline and tables are published quarterly as new APS data become available.

Relevance

The statistics are used within the Welsh Government to monitor trends in the level and proportion of young people who are NEET.

The [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework](#) was announced in January 2013, with an implementation plan published in October 2013. The Framework outlines the Welsh Government's approach to reducing the number of young people aged 11 to 25 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET). The Framework is based on 6 key building blocks of Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement; Better brokerage and co-ordination of support for them; Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system; Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people; Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment; and Greater accountability for Local Authorities.

Indicators around the proportion of young people who are NEET are part of the *Child Poverty Strategy* annual assessment of progress.

Accuracy

The **Annual Population Survey (APS)** is a household survey carried out by the ONS. The survey seeks information on respondents' personal circumstances, including their labour market status and their education and training activity. The APS combines the boosted samples of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and provides rolling four quarter data. The APS datasets are derived from a sample of approximately 21,000 people of working age across Wales, with a minimum of around 700 people of working age in most local authorities in Wales. However, for 16-18 year olds there are around 900 respondents in the sample across Wales. Similarly for 19-24 year olds there are around 1,600 respondents in the sample across Wales.

As the data come from a survey, the results are sample-based estimates and are therefore subject to differing degrees of sampling variability, i.e. the true value for any measure lies in a differing range about the estimated value. Approximate 95 per cent confidence intervals have been calculated for the APS estimates of the proportion of young people aged 16-18 and 19-24 who are NEET. These have been calculated assuming a simple weighted random sample and do not take into account the design of the sample and thus only provide an indication of the confidence interval. Additionally the adjustment method for apportioning missing values creates an artificial aggregated sample size used in the calculation of confidence intervals. The sampling variability increases as the detail in the data increases and therefore for the 16-18 and 19-24 age groups, of interest in this bulletin, estimates for sub-groups and regions are based on three period averages.

[Further information about the quality of the Annual Population Survey](#)

Chart 1 demonstrates, from 2006 onwards, the similar levels and trend in young people who are NEET shown between the SFR and APS series in general, with a difference at most of 3 percentage points.

In 2016 **Careers Wales** implemented a new methodology for the collection of **Destinations** data, by providing partners within the education and work-based learning sectors with an early release of draft data for them to compare with their own records.

These partners were also asked if they were able to supply information on those who were not responding to the survey. Careers Wales did not conduct an intensive search for those not responding to the survey, as we had done in previous years.

It should therefore be noted that the proportion of Destinations clients classified as 'No response to survey' has increased in comparison to the 2015 survey for each cohort (by 0.3 percentage points for Year 11, 1 percentage point for Year 12 and 3.2 percentage points for Year 13).

Year on year changes and trends over the five year period should therefore be viewed in the context of these increases. However, it should also be noted that all figures are shown as a proportion of the total cohort, including those not responding to the survey. The collection of data in close co-operation with partners in the education and work-based learning sectors and Careers Wales work supporting those who are known to be 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) means that those members of the Destinations cohort most likely to be non-responders are those from the 'Employed – other', and 'Left the area' categories.

Timeliness and punctuality

The latest SFR provides new data for 2015 and provisional data for 2016. The provisional estimates use the best data for 2016 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling.

SFR series: Provisional 2016 figures will be finalised in the next SFR publication, due for release in July 2018. For the proportion of 16-18 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2015, the difference between the provisional estimate published in the previous release and the final published estimate was 0.13 percentage points (0.2 on the published rounded basis).

APS series: These estimates of young people who are NEET are revised when the Office for National Statistics (ONS) releases revised Annual Population Survey datasets. Within this bulletin estimates from 2015 Q1 to 2016 Q4 have been revised, this made at most a difference of 0.1 percentage point to published NEET percentages.

Accessibility and clarity

It is not possible to disaggregate the SFR NEET estimate down to local authority level. This is due to the way the data is put together using enrolment data and because the employment status is estimated using the APS. For 16-18 year olds the number of respondents to the APS is relatively small in each local authority; less than 100 respondents.

The APS has been used to estimate the proportion of young people who are NEET by region. However as the sample sizes are around 100-400 in each area for those aged 16-18 the estimates

have been averaged over three rolling years for 16-24 year olds. The regions in use are as follows:

North Wales: Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham

Mid Wales: Powys, Ceredigion

South West Wales: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot

South East Wales: Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport, Cardiff

The Pupil Destinations survey provides an estimate of 16 year olds who are NEET by local authority. However, there are some differences in the NEET definitions compared with the SFR and APS based estimates.

Comparability and coherence

The method used to define young people who are NEET using the Annual Population Survey (APS) is harmonised with an agreed UK methodology of deriving NEET estimates. More information can be found within a [paper published by the Office for National Statistics](#).

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes information related to one of the national indicators namely "Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups."

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/young-people-not-education-employment-training>

Next update

Headline and tables only: October 2017

This bulletin: July 2018 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to

post16ed.stats@gov.wales

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