

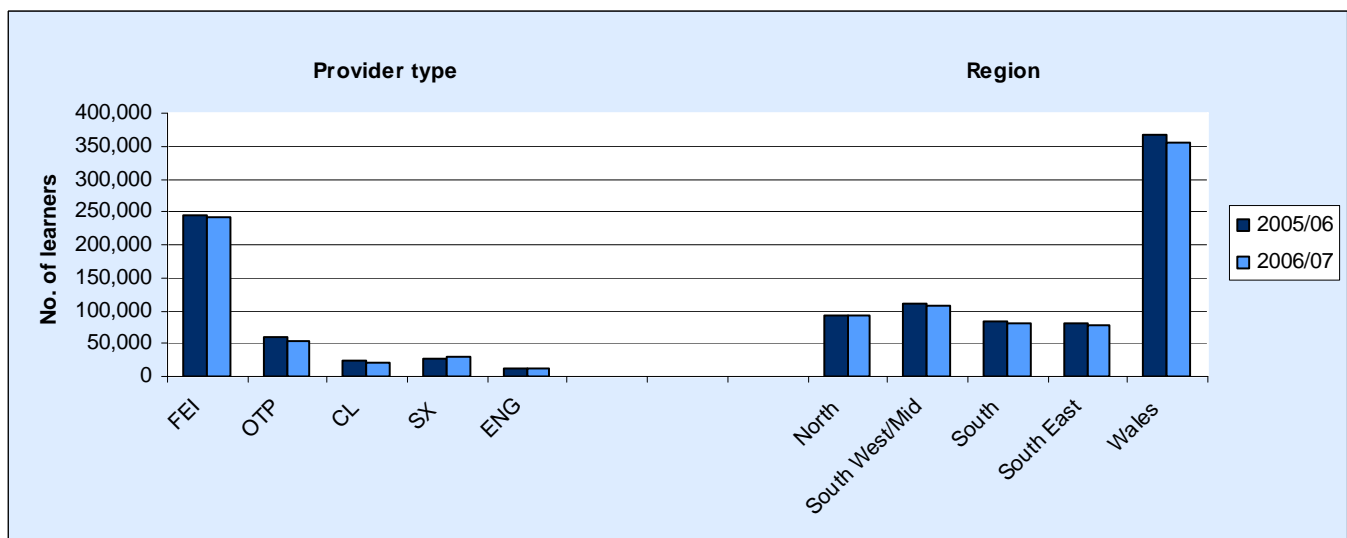
Learning Network Analysis 2006/07

This bulletin provides data about post-16 learners (excluding learners at higher education institutions) in Wales at both a national and regional level. It is intended as a source of information to support national and local strategic planning and policy making within the post-16 education and training sector.

The information within this bulletin relates to Welsh-domiciled learners enrolled during the 2006/07 academic year at further education (FE) institutions, other training (OT) providers, Local Education Authority community learning (CL) providers and school sixth forms (SX) in Wales. The analysis also includes Welsh domiciled learners enrolled at further education institutions and other training providers located in England (ENG).

The data has been sourced from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) and the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

Chart 1: Learners by provider type and regional split – 2005/06 and 2006/07



- The total number of Welsh domiciled learners was 2.7% lower in 2006/07 than in 2005/06.
- With the exception of school sixth forms all provider types showed a decrease in learner numbers between 2006/07 and 2005/06.
- North Wales was the only region where learner numbers remained virtually constant over the two year period.

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Summary for 2006/07

Learners

- In 2006/07 there were 356,310 learners domiciled in Wales and pursuing learning at one of the providers covered by this analysis (*Table 1*).
- Of these learners, 58% were female and 42% were male (*Table 1*).
- 41% of learners were aged under 25 as at 31 August 2006 and 40% of learners were aged between 25 and 49 as at the same date (*Table 1*).
- 68% of learners were enrolled at FE institutions (including their training subsidiaries), 15% were enrolled at OT providers, 6% were enrolled at CL providers, 8% were enrolled at school sixth forms and 3% were enrolled at English providers (*Table 2*).

Activities

- The highest number of learning activities (37%) was found within the subject area 'Preparation for Life and Work'. This high figure can be attributed to the fact that most key skills qualifications are categorised in this subject area and a learner may be enrolled on three or more key skills courses. Whilst all regions show this as their most popular subject area there is a marked regional variation from 32% of learning activities in the North Wales region to 39% of learning activities in the South East region. Nationally, the next most common subject area was 'Information and Communication Technology' with 10% of learning activities. The subject area 'Health, Public Services and Care' showed a higher proportion of learning activities in the North Wales region (12%) than in the South Wales region (8%) (*Table 3*).
- Aside from the 'Other' category (which amalgamates a number of different types of learning aim and accounts for 32% of all learning activities), the most common types of learning aim nationally were key skills (26%), AS/A2 levels (11%) and NVQs (10%). There was some regional variation in these figures. North Wales region showed a higher proportion of NVQs (11%) than the South East Wales region (9%) with the trend reversed in relation to AS/A2 levels. AS/A2 levels accounted for 9% of learning activities in North Wales and 12% in South East Wales (*Table 4*).

Table 1 - Number of learners by age group, gender and region of domicile - 2006/07

Age group (b)	Gender	Region of domicile (a)				
		North	South West/Mid	South	South East	Wales
under 16	Male	1,170	1,000	700	535	3,400
	Female	695	620	545	530	2,385
	All	1,865	1,615	1,240	1,065	5,785
16-19	Male	12,040	16,105	13,195	12,120	53,460
	Female	11,205	14,895	12,505	11,605	50,210
	All	23,250	31,000	25,700	23,725	103,675
20-24	Male	4,425	5,255	3,665	3,515	16,860
	Female	4,960	5,440	4,330	4,535	19,270
	All	9,385	10,695	8,000	8,050	36,130
25-49	Male	16,090	14,830	10,715	11,515	53,150
	Female	24,490	25,140	18,345	19,845	87,820
	All	40,580	39,970	29,060	31,360	140,970
50-64	Male	4,205	5,010	3,385	3,090	15,685
	Female	8,045	10,410	6,925	6,340	31,720
	All	12,250	15,415	10,310	9,430	47,405
65 and over	Male	1,515	2,420	1,695	1,480	7,105
	Female	2,585	4,280	3,165	2,865	12,890
	All	4,095	6,700	4,860	4,345	19,995
All ages	Male	39,675	44,850	33,530	32,525	150,580
	Female	52,325	61,195	46,125	46,080	205,730
	All	92,000	106,045	79,655	78,605	356,310

Sources: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC), Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

(a) Regional split based on unitary authority (see Notes 2.3)

(b) Age as at 31 August of academic year. Instances of unknown age are excluded from individual rows but are included in total.

Table 2 - Number of learners by type of provider and region of domicile - 2006/07

Type of provider	Region of domicile (a)				
	North	South West/Mid	South	South East	Wales
Welsh FEIs	74,415	70,640	48,515	47,345	240,915
Other Training providers (b)	7,565	16,135	15,475	14,830	54,005
LEA Community Learning providers	*	9,430	6,065	6,875	22,375
School Sixth Forms	5,620	6,955	8,440	7,405	28,420
English providers	4,395	2,885	1,165	2,150	10,595
All providers	92,000	106,045	79,655	78,605	356,310

Sources: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC), Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

(a) Regional split based on unitary authority (see Notes 2.3)

(b) Work Based Learning provision at Welsh providers excluding FEIs

Table 3 - Number of learning activities by subject area and region of domicile - 2006/07

Subject area	Region of domicile (a)				
	North	South West/Mid	South	South East	Wales
Health, Public Services and Care	30,770	30,650	19,090	19,930	100,440
Science and Mathematics	9,180	13,975	9,735	11,475	44,365
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	5,200	5,050	1,590	2,310	14,145
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	13,930	13,810	10,205	9,190	47,130
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	6,345	8,245	5,890	5,775	26,255
Information and Communication Technology	29,500	33,730	29,460	21,190	113,880
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	10,915	10,590	8,155	7,965	37,625
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	5,825	9,790	6,175	7,055	28,845
Arts, Media and Publishing	14,845	21,375	17,990	18,055	72,265
History, Philosophy and Theology	2,920	7,305	4,090	3,825	18,140
Social Sciences	3,045	3,655	3,035	3,145	12,880
Languages, Literature and Culture	13,080	20,975	15,170	14,250	63,470
Education and Training	11,100	6,715	3,445	3,990	25,250
Preparation for Life and Work	84,350	127,575	99,540	92,930	404,390
Business, Administration and Law	16,545	19,445	15,910	15,590	67,495
Unknown	2,575	3,830	3,800	3,150	13,355
All subject areas	260,115	336,710	253,275	239,825	1,089,925

Sources: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC), Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

(a) Regional split based on unitary authority (see Notes 2.3)

Table 4 - Number of learning activities by learning aim type and region of domicile - 2006/07

Type of learning aim	Region of domicile (a)				
	North	South West/Mid	South	South East	Wales
GNVQ/AVCE	490	1,255	400	790	2,940
GCSE/VCE	2,790	3,915	3,660	3,860	14,225
AS/A2 Level	23,235	36,040	27,530	27,720	114,525
NVQ	29,120	30,685	23,960	22,000	105,760
National Certificate/Diploma	2,120	1,550	795	1,320	5,790
First Certificate/Diploma	3,770	4,590	3,285	2,970	14,620
Key Skills	56,090	90,670	70,660	60,520	277,940
BTEC/OCN/Access Certificate or Diploma	43,280	65,735	45,750	51,140	205,900
HE level	4,200	315	160	105	4,780
Other (b)	95,020	101,955	77,070	69,405	343,450
All learning aims	260,115	336,710	253,275	239,825	1,089,925

Sources: Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR), Post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC), Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

(a) Regional split based on unitary authority (see Notes 2.3)

(b) "Other" includes all other types of learning aim not listed eg. City and Guild Certificates, ECDL, CLAIT and basic skills qualifications

Notes

1. Data Sources

Three data sources were employed in this analysis.

- The Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) is data collected by the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) and is required to inform funding allocations, monitor performance and outcomes and to inform strategy development. The data provides the official source of statistics on post-16 learners in Wales (excluding school sixth forms).
- The post-16 Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) is data collected annually (in September of the academic year) from maintained secondary schools with Year 12, 13 and/or 14 pupils and from special schools with designated provision for pupils aged 16 and over, in Wales.
- The Individualised Learner Record (ILR) is data collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and is the main source of statistics for learners at English further education and work based learning providers.

2. Definitions

2.1 Cohort of learners

- The cohort underpinning the Learning Network Analysis comprises all post-16 learners (excluding learners at higher education institutions) domiciled in Wales and engaged in learning during 2005/06 and/or 2006/07.
- Learners with unidentified postcodes are excluded from all tables. As such, the figures detailed may differ from those reported in other publications. The coverage of learners with known postcodes was over 98% and analysis has identified that the distribution of unknown or unidentified postcodes was not regionally biased.
- Learners with non-Welsh postcodes are also excluded from the tables. This will impact on learner numbers at some providers with a catchment area covering the Wales/England border. For example, FE institutions in Wrexham (Yale College, Coleg Llysfasi), Flintshire (Deeside College, Welsh College of Horticulture) and Monmouthshire (Coleg Gwent).
- Learners enrolled at multiple providers during the course of an academic year have been included once at each provider with whom they are enrolled. This methodology introduces an element of double-counting and differs to that used in other statistical publications, most notably the Statistical First Releases SDR 53/2007 and SDR 68/2008 which detail counts of unique learners.
- Learners enrolled at an FE institution but receiving learning from a Local Education Authority (LEA) as part of a subcontracting arrangement are counted as part of the FE institution's provision. Learners shown to be learning with a CL provider are undertaking maintained provision delivered by an LEA. (*Table 2*)

2.2 Subject Areas

- The subject areas detailed in *Table 3* are the 15 first-tier areas of learning in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) sector subject framework. For more details refer to www.qca.org.uk

2.3 Region of Domicile

- The regions detailed in the tables are based on the geographical areas adopted by the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) following its recent organisational restructure. As such, they differ from regions found in previous analyses. Unitary authorities are grouped as follows to define the geography of each region.

North Wales:	Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham
South West/Mid Wales:	Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot
South Wales:	Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly
South East Wales:	Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Newport, Cardiff

3. Rounding

- All figures in this Statistical Bulletin 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. An ‘*’ represents numbers greater than 0 but less than 5.

4. Key Quality Information

- The information in this bulletin is based on recorded learner postcodes. In total there were 356,310 learners enrolled during 2006/07 (at all provider types) and 366,015 learners enrolled during 2005/06. In 2006/07 approximately 2.4% (2.3% in 2005/06) of the total cohort was domiciled outside Wales and a further 1.7% (2% in 2005/06) had an unidentifiable postcode. Only learners known to be domiciled in Wales were included in the analysis.
- As detailed in 2.1, learners that were enrolled at multiple providers during the course of the academic year have been included once at each provider with whom they were enrolled. For example, learners pursuing learning at a further education institution in addition to sixth form provision will be counted twice. This differs to the methodology used in other statistical publications.

5. StatsWales

- Tables associated with this bulletin and containing a greater amount of detail are available on the Welsh Assembly Government’s interactive data dissemination service StatsWales (http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx?IF_ActivePath=P,617,1571,5749). These tables provide learner, learning programme and learning activity data at unitary authority level as required. The scope of the analysis covers ethnicity, disability and medium of delivery in addition to subject area and qualification type information.