

SDR 108/2008

29 July 2008

## Participation of young people in education and the labour market (Year end 2006)

This release provides information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales at year end 2006. The information is drawn from a number of sources, details of which are given in the notes at the end of this release.

Due to the re-weighting of the Labour Force Survey in line with population estimates, data back to year end 2004 have been revised – see the notes for more information. Revised estimates for years before 2004 will be published in the next few months.

### Summary

The breakdown of participation in education and the labour market for 16 to 18 year olds at year end 2006 changed slightly compared with previous years. Compared with 2005, there was an increase in the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds in education or training, a similar proportion of 16 to 18 year olds not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment (NEET) and fewer in employment. The breakdown for 19 to 24 year olds was similar to 2005.

#### For 16 to 18 year olds:

- 75 per cent were engaged in some kind of education or training (74 per cent in 2005);
- 46 per cent were in full or part-time employment (50 per cent in 2005); and
- 10 per cent were not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment (similar to 2005).

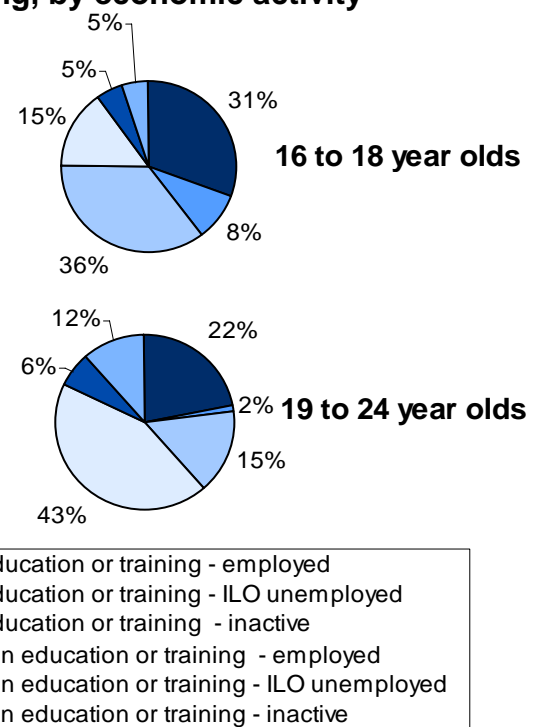
#### For 19 to 24 year olds:

- 39 per cent were engaged in some kind of education or training (similar to 2005);
- 65 per cent were in full or part-time employment (66 per cent in 2005); and
- 18 per cent were not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment (17 per cent in 2005).

Tables containing detailed data are available on the Assembly's interactive [StatsWales](#) service.

<sup>(1)</sup> See notes section for definitions of economic activity. Figures in the charts may not be consistent with the commentary due to rounding.

**Chart 1: Estimated participation in education and training, by economic activity <sup>(1)</sup>**



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**Next Update:** July 2009 (provisional)



## Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2006)

- Approximately 37,700 (31 per cent) of 16 to 18 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training *and* in employment. Most of these were students in full-time education who were also working part-time.
- In addition, 18,400 (15 per cent) were in full or part-time employment but *not* in education or training. 53,800 (44 per cent) participated in full or part-time education or training *and* were not in employment.
- An estimated 12,000 (10 per cent) were not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment, similar to 2005.
- The 12,000 16 to 18 year olds estimated not to be engaged in education or training *nor* in employment comprised of 6,300 unemployed young people and 5,700 who were economically inactive<sup>(2)</sup>.
- In total, 75 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time).
- 59 per cent of 16 to 18 year olds (71,500) were in full-time education.
- A higher proportion of females aged 16 to 18 were in full-time education - 63 per cent (37,400) compared with 54 per cent (34,100) of males.
- Male participation in training for young people was higher than for females. 8,800 16 to 18 year olds were engaged in work-based learning: approximately 8 per cent of all males in this age group; compared with 6 per cent of females.
- Participation in full-time education decreased with age. 74 per cent (29,800) of all 16 year olds were undertaking full-time education compared with 59 per cent of 17 year olds and 43 per cent of 18 year olds.

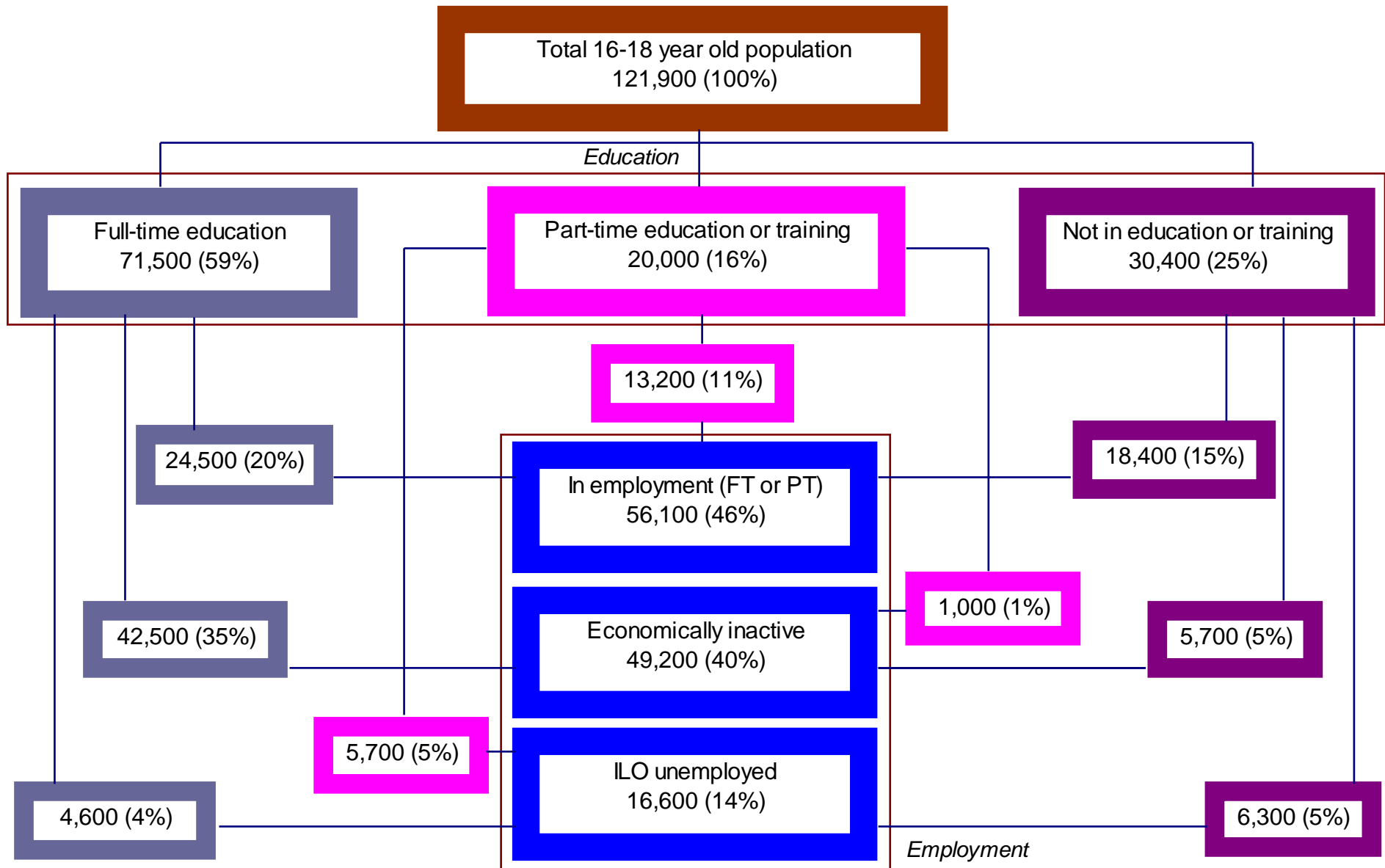
## Participation of 19 to 24 year olds in education and the labour market (year end 2006)

- Approximately 52,500 (22 per cent) of 19 to 24 year olds were estimated to be engaged in some type of education or training *and* in employment. Most of these were either students in full-time education who were also working part-time or students in part-time education who were also working full-time.
- In addition, 104,500 (43 per cent) were in full or part-time employment but *not* in education or training. 40,300 (17 per cent) 19 to 24 year olds participated in full or part-time education or training *and* were not in employment.
- An estimated 43,200 (18 per cent) were not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment, an increase of 1 percentage point compared with 2005.
- The 43,200 19 to 24 year olds estimated not to be engaged in education or training *nor* in employment comprised of 15,000 unemployed young people and 28,200 who were economically inactive<sup>(2)</sup>.
- In total, 39 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in some kind of education or training (full or part-time).
- 23 per cent of 19 to 24 year olds (55,600) were in full-time education.
- A higher proportion of females aged 19 to 24 were in full-time education - 24 per cent (29,200) compared with 22 per cent (26,400) of males.
- 9,600 19 to 24 year olds were engaged in work-based learning: approximately 4 per cent of males in this age group; similar to the percentage for females.
- Participation in full-time education decreased with age. 38 per cent (16,400) of all 19 year olds were undertaking full-time education compared with 8 per cent (2,900) of 24 year olds.

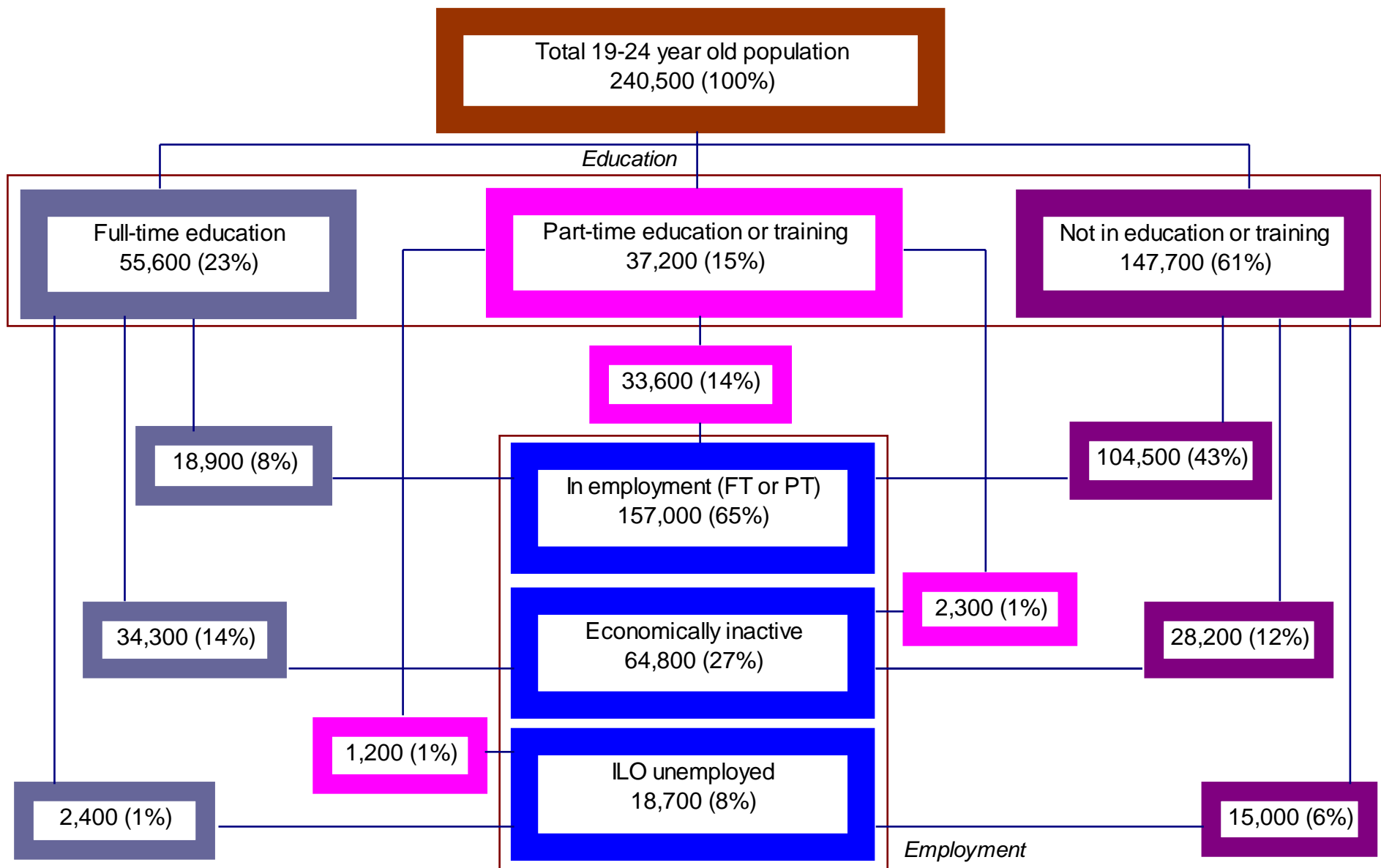
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<sup>(2)</sup> Neither employed *nor* seeking and available for work.

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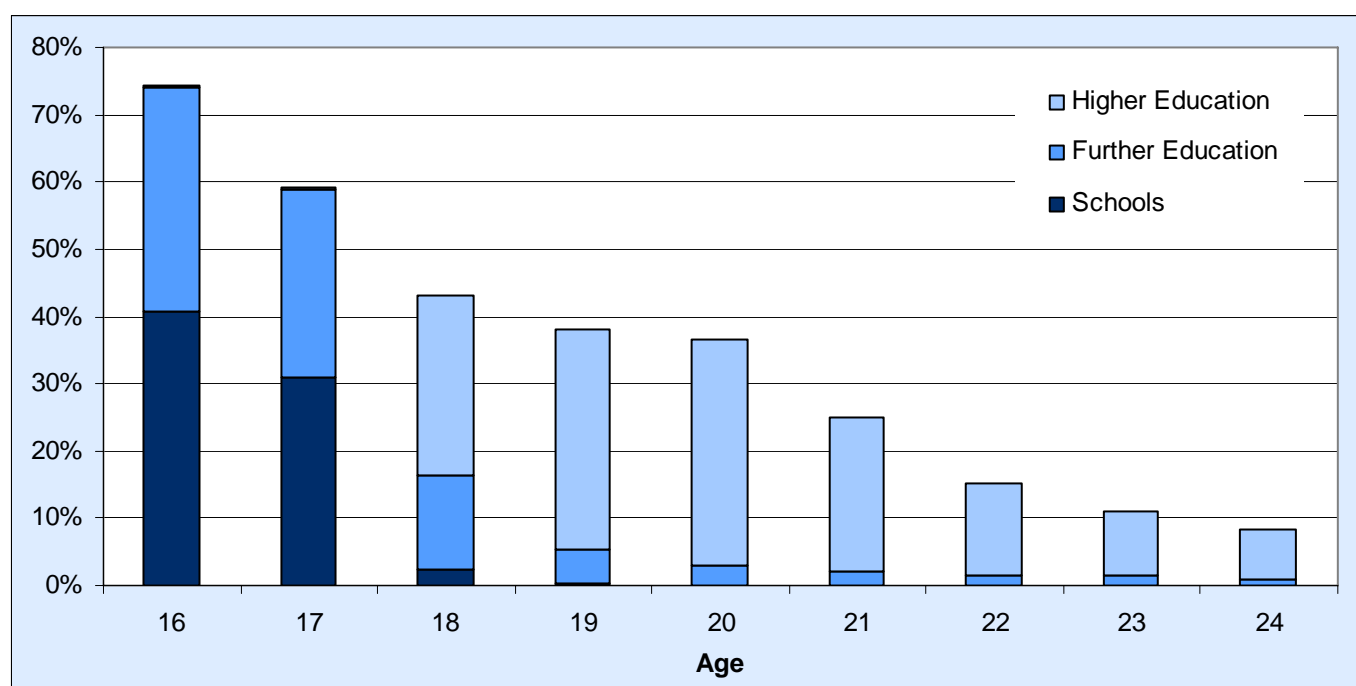


**Chart 2a: Participation of 16 to 18 year olds in education and the labour market (Year end 2006)**



**Chart 2b: Participation of 19 to 24 year olds in education and the labour market (Year end 2006)**

**Chart 3: Participation in full-time education by level of study (Year end 2006)**



**Table 1: Estimated participation in education and training, by economic activity (Year end 2006) (a)**

	<i>Per cent</i>				
	Full time employment	Part time employment	ILO Unemployed	Economically Inactive	Total
<b>16 to 18 year olds</b>					
Full time education	0.8	19.3	3.7	34.8	58.7
Part time education	4.5	2.0	0.6	0.8	8.0
Training (b)	2.6	1.7	4.1	0.0	8.4
Not in education or training	10.2	4.9	5.1	4.7	24.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>19 to 24 year olds</b>					
Full time education	1.5	6.3	1.0	14.3	23.1
Part time education	6.4	1.4	0.2	1.0	9.1
Training (b)	4.0	2.2	0.3	0.0	6.4
Not in education or training	36.0	7.4	6.3	11.7	61.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ONS, HESA, Welsh Assembly Government, Labour Force Survey

(a) See notes section for definitions of economic activity.

(b) Includes persons on work-based learning and persons not enrolled on an education course, but who carried out job related training away from the workplace in the previous four weeks.

**Table 2: Estimated participation in education/training or not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment**

	<i>Per cent</i>			
	16 to 18 year olds		19 to 24 year olds	
Year End	In education or training	NEET	In education or training	NEET
2004 (r)	72.9	11.2	39.2	16.2
2005 (r)	74.2	10.2	39.1	17.3
2006	75.1	9.8	38.6	18.0

## NOTES

### 1. Data Sources

#### **Population:**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates end of year estimates of resident population by single year of age as at 31 December. For this release, these estimates have been adjusted to age as at 31 August. For example age as at 31 August 2006 is used in the figures for year end 2006.

There have been changes in the population estimates used in this year's release (see section 5 for more detail).

#### **School pupil numbers:**

Information is collected in January each year from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC). For example, for the year end 2006, figures from the January 2007 School Census are used. Ages are as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year. The Census only requests a combined figure for those aged 19 & over. These figures are included for 19 year olds only. Includes all maintained and independent schools.

#### **Higher Education:**

Information regarding enrolments at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is collected on a United Kingdom basis by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). This collection includes further education enrolments at HEIs.

The analysis in this release is based on enrolments as at 1 December. For example, figures for year end 2006 were collected in December 2006. Ages are as at 31 August prior to start of academic year.

Information on Open University students are "whole year" figures, i.e. they include enrolments throughout the year. The reference point for age is 1 January 2007. The figures used are for Welsh-domiciled students studying at the OU.

#### **Further Education and Work-based Learning:**

The Welsh Assembly Government collects information on enrolments at Further Education Institutions (FEIs) in Wales, including work-based learning (WBL), via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR).

The analysis in this release is based on enrolments as at the week of 1 December. Where a learner has activities in more than one provision type allocation to a single type has been made in the order: WBL at FEIs, HE at FEIs, other at FEIs, WBL at Other Training Providers. Learners with both WBL activities at Other Training Providers and learning activities at FEIs will be included under the activity at the FEI.

The LLWR replaced the Individualised Student Record (ISR) from the start of the academic year 2004/05, therefore a discontinuity may result from the change in data collection.

Prior to the academic year 2004/05 work-based learning activity was collected via the National Trainee Database (NTD). The NTD included college based WBL trainees, who were also included in the number of FE enrolments. This double counting has been removed with the collection of WBL activity via LLWR by the introduction of a unique identifier that is common to the learner no matter where their activity takes place.

FE enrolments includes students on courses at the Workers Educational Association (WEA) and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

## **Economic Activity**

Economic activity is estimated using proportions derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is a household survey carried out by the ONS. The APS combines the boosted samples of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and provides rolling four quarter data. These latest data cover the calendar year 2006, and can be used to make comparisons with the previous Welsh Local Labour Force Surveys (WLLFS), which ran for the years ended February 2002 - 2005. For Wales, the APS sample, of about 20,000 households, is the same as for the WLLFS. Prior to 2001/02, economic activity was estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Annex 1 in SB99/03 and SB100/03 provide more details.

Some of the estimates are based on small samples and therefore may have a large margin of error.

Note that the employment status of work-based learners is derived from the LLWR rather than the APS (see section 3 for more detail).

There have been changes in the Labour Force Survey data used in this year's release (see section 5 for more detail).

## **2. Definitions**

### **International Labour Organisation Unemployed (ILO):**

The ILO measure of unemployment covers people without a job who are available to start work within two weeks and had either looked for work in the four weeks prior to interview, or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained.

### **Economically inactive:**

The economically inactive consist of those people who are neither in employment, nor classified as unemployed on the ILO definition. Such people are classified according to whether or not they would like a regular paid job and, if so whether or not they were seeking work and/or available.

## **3. Calculation of the participation of young people in education and the labour market**

The APS is used to estimate the following proportions:

- Labour market status of those in full-time education;
- Labour market status of those in part-time education;
- Full-time and part-time employment of those in work-based learning, who are employed;
- Employer sponsored 'off-the-job' training for those in employment.

The LLWR is used to estimate the following proportion:

- Labour market status of those engaged in work-based learning.

These proportions are then applied to the numbers known to be in education, work-based learning and the total population to derive estimates of participation by education and employment. For work-based learners, the labour market status at the start of the learning programme collected via the LLWR is used with the addition of some APS data to estimate the proportions in full-time and part-time employment.

Table A1 in Annex A provides further details.

## **4. Revisions policy**

This series will not be revised on a regular basis. Revisions will only be made in line with revisions to source data.

## 5. Key quality information

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

### Sampling variability

As noted above the economic status proportions are estimated from the Annual Population Survey. Therefore, these estimates will be subject to variation due to sampling error and also non-sampling error and should be treated with caution.

### Comparisons with previous years

There were changes made in the data sources and methodology used to derive the participation estimates introduced for the year end 2004 edition. When revised estimates for years prior to 2004 become available (in the next few months), care should be taken when comparing these estimates with estimates from year end 2004 onwards. Detailed data for year end 2004 and 2005 are not presented here but are available on [StatsWales](#). Please contact us for advice before using comparisons with previous years.

In particular the following changes need to be taken into account when making comparisons with previous years:

### Changes in population estimates

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates end of year estimates of resident population by single year of age as at 31 December. For this release, these estimates have been adjusted to age as at 31 August. End of year population estimates are subject to regular revision as more accurate information becomes available. Therefore while the actual numbers of participants for 2006 are final, the population denominators are liable to change in next year's publication, which could mean that the participation and NEET rates are revised. End of year population estimates for 2001 to 2005 may also be revised in future.

### Labour Force Survey re-weighting

The LFS data used in this release have been re-weighted to the latest population estimates and some changes have been made to the weighting methodology. For more information, see: [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/LFS\\_reweighting\\_seasonal\\_adjustment\\_review.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/LFS_reweighting_seasonal_adjustment_review.pdf).

Table 3 shows the percentage point changes for year end 2005 from Table 1 in last year's release (SDR 101/2007), due to LFS re-weighting and the changes in population estimates.

### Change from Welsh Local Labour Force Survey to Annual Population Survey data in 2004

In previous editions, 2004 WLLFS data (running from March 2004 - February 2005) has been used for estimates of economic activity for year end 2004. This dataset has not been re-weighted to the latest population estimates by the Office for National Statistics, so the 2004 APS has been used instead (running from January - December 2004). Our analysis indicates that despite the different start and end points for the survey, the impact of this change is small.

**Table 3: Percentage point differences of Table 1 from SDR 101/2007 due to LFS re-weighting and changes in population estimates (Year end 2005) (a)**

	<i>Per cent</i>				
	Full time employment	Part time employment	ILO Unemployed	Economically Inactive	Total
<b>16 to 18 year olds</b>					
Full time education	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Part time education	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Training (b)	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Not in education or training	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
<b>19 to 24 year olds</b>					
Full time education	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.4
Part time education	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Training (b)	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not in education or training	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5
Total	0.3	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.0

Source: ONS, HESA, Welsh Assembly Government, Labour Force Survey

- (a) See notes section for definitions of economic activity.
- (b) Includes persons on work-based learning and persons not enrolled on an education course, but who carried out job related training away from the workplace in the previous four weeks.

### Revisions in Open University data for 2004/05 and 2005/06

The numbers of students studying at the Open University (OU) in 2004/05 and 2005/06 previously given in our StatsWales tables were incorrect, as males and females had been swapped over. These figures have now been revised on StatsWales, but have no effect on the total number of persons studying at the OU.

### Changes in work-based learning

- From 2003/04 FE and HE enrolments at FEIs were collected via the LLWR, which replaced ELWa's Individualised Student Record (ISR).
- From 2004/05 WBL activity has been collected via the LLWR along with information about FE and HE enrolments at FEIs. Prior to 2004/05 it was not possible to identify WBL who were also enrolled at an FEI. The overlap was estimated using the WLLFS to estimate the number of work-based learners who were also enrolled at an FEI. Now that WBL data are collected via the LLWR this overlap has been removed using the unique learner identifier. Learners with activities in more than one provision type are allocated to a single provision as given above. This allocation is not completely consistent with the method used in previous years and there may be a discontinuity in the numbers in education and work-based learning due to this change.
- Prior to 2004/05 it was assumed that all work-based learners were in employment. The analysis of employment status at the start of the learning programme as collected via the LLWR has shown that a significant proportion of work-based learners are unemployed or inactive. From the LLWR, around 50 per cent of work-based learners aged 16 to 18 years old were employed and around 95 per cent of those aged 19 to 24 years old. From 2004/05 the economic status of work-based learners has been estimated using LLWR data rather than APS estimates.

Our analysis indicates that the change in the assumption that all work-based learners are employed has had an impact on the estimate of the proportion of young people not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment (NEET), particularly for the 16 to 18 year old group.

## Comparisons with other estimates

For this release, participation in education and the labour market has been estimated using population, education and work-based learning data along with the APS to estimate the labour market status. The reference period for the APS is January to December.

Table 4 provides estimates of the proportion of young people not engaged in education or training *nor* in employment (NEET) using the APS for the last six years. For all years the NEET estimates based on the APS data alone are higher than the equivalent estimates given in Table 2. In recent years the direction of change between years has been the same for both methods. However, taking into account sampling variability, the change in the 2006 NEET figures compared with 2005 are not considered to be statistically significant.

Using the Annual Population Survey also provides estimates comparable across the UK. Estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET for each of the UK countries for the year 2006 are given in Table 5.

**Table 4: Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education or training *nor* employment in Wales by age and year**

	<i>Per cent</i>	
	16 to 18 year olds	19 to 24 year olds
2001 (r)	12.7	20.6
2002 (r)	12.1	19.9
2003 (r)	13.5	18.1
2004 (r)	12.8	17.9
2005 (r)	12.8	19.6
2006	11.8	20.3

Source: Labour Force Survey

**Table 5: Estimates of the proportion of young people not in education or training *nor* employment by age and UK country, 2006**

	<i>Per cent</i>	
	16 to 18 year olds	19 to 24 year olds
Wales	11.8	20.3
England	12.7	17.7
Scotland	13.7	15.1
Northern Ireland	10.4	14.3
<b>UK</b>	12.7	17.5

Source: Labour Force Survey

## Annex A

**Table A1: Methodology to estimate participation by education and economic activity**

	1: Full-time employment	2: Part-time employment	3: Unemployed	4: Economically Inactive	Total
A: Full-time education	(Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education in FT Employment)	(Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education in PT Employment)	(Number in FT education) x x (APS: Proportion of FT Education unemployed)	(Number in FT education) x (APS: Proportion of FT Education inactive)	Number in full-time education
B: Part-time education	( Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education in FT Employment)	( Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education in PT Employment)	( Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education unemployed)	( Number in PT education) x (APS: Proportion of PT Education inactive)	Number in part-time education
C: Training	[( Number in work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of GST in FT Employment) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL in employment)] + [(Mid-year population – Number in education or work-based learning)] x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in FT employment) x (APS: Proportion of FT employment and not in education with off job training)]	[( Number in work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of GST in PT Employment) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL in employment)] + [(Mid-year population – Number in education or work-based learning)] x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in PT employment) x (APS: Proportion of PT employment and not in education with off job training)]	(Number in work-based learning) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL unemployed)	(Number in work-based learning) x (LLWR: Proportion of WBL inactive)	Number in work-based learning + Number in employment with off-job training
D: Not in education or training	[(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL in full-time employment)] - [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in FT employment) x (APS: Proportion of FT employment and not in education with off job training)]	[(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL in part-time employment)] - [(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion of Not in education in PT employment) x (APS: Proportion of PT employment and not in education with off job training)]	((Number not in education or work-based learning) x APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL unemployed)	(Number not in education or work-based learning) x (APS: Proportion Not in education/WBL inactive)	Number not in education or training
Total	Number in full-time employment	Number in part-time employment	Number unemployed	Number inactive	Mid-Year Population Estimate