

SB 69/2013

24 July 2013

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Year to 31 March 2013)

This Bulletin summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. The definitive source for estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales is the annual Statistical First Release (SFR), published on 24 July 2013 *Participation of young people in education and the labour market*. The latest SFR provided final data for 2011 and provisional estimates for 2012, which are also included within this Bulletin.

Additionally, this quarterly Bulletin provides users with timelier, but less statistically robust, statistics from the Annual Population Survey (APS), between SFRs; and includes analysis by gender, age, region, and disability status, not possible with the annual data.

From this bulletin, the method of defining young people who are NEET using the APS has changed, coinciding with changes to the format of the bulletin. See Notes section for more details.

Summary Table: Comparison of latest NEET estimates for Wales

	Rate (%)	(percentage point)	Level (000s)	Change on Year (000's)
SFR basis (end 2012 (p)) <i>New Data</i>				
16-18	10.2	-2.0	11.6	-2.5
19-24	23.0	0.8	59.9	2.6
APS basis (Year to Quarter 1 2013) <i>New Data</i>				
16-18	10.9	-2.6	12.1	-3.3
19-24	21.3	-1.6	52.8	-3.3
Pupil Destination Basis (November 2012)				
Year 11	4.2	-0.2	.	.

. Data item is not applicable

The statistics included in this bulletin are taken from the following sources:

- Statistical First Release 'Participation of young people in education and the labour market' using education data sources and the Annual Population Survey (APS);
- Annual Population Survey (ONS); and
- Careers Wales Pupil Destinations from Schools in Wales survey.

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Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide policy makers and those working with young people with data to monitor trends 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 *2011-2015 Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan*, which is currently in transition to a new Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (see notes for further details), the *2012-2016 Tackling Poverty Action Plan* and the *Programme for Government*.

Missing value symbols used in this Bulletin are as outlined below.

- .. The data item is not available
- . The data item is not applicable
- The data item is not exactly zero, but estimated as zero or less than half the final digit shown
- * The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- (r) Data have been revised since previous edition of bulletin

When to use each source of data

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*. The SFR series should be used:-

- as the definitive headline measures for young people who are NEET in Wales.
- To monitor the *2012-2016 Tackling Poverty Action Plan* target to reduce the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET to 9 per cent by 2017.

However, these data are only available annually and can only be disaggregated by gender, therefore we need 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. However, these in-year estimates, based solely on survey data, are much less robust than the annual SFR measure. The statistics from the Annual Population Survey are based on relatively small sample sizes of 16-18 year olds and are statistically less robust than those published in the 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).
- To monitor the *2012-2016 Tackling Poverty Action Plan* target to reduce the proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017

From this bulletin, the definition used to define young people who are NEET using the APS has changed. See Notes section for more details.

Careers Wales Survey

The only source of data in respect of local areas available to us 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. The Careers Wales series can be used:-

- to consider relative levels of young people who are NEET by local authority.

Note that this bulletin is restricted to statistical sources and does not include information derived from non-statistical sources such as Careers Wales management information systems.

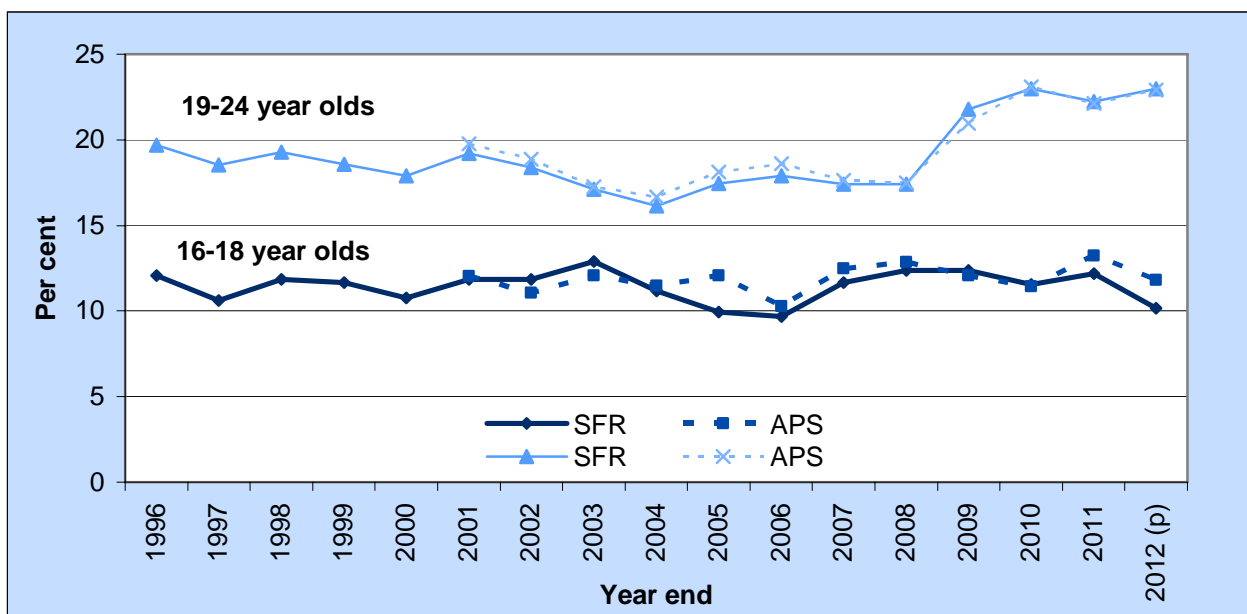
SFR series (last updated – July 2013) *New data*

[Link to SFR](#)

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.

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). Chart 1 also shows an estimate of NEET rate based on the Annual Population Survey only. These estimates are for the calendar year. Both series show similar trends for the age groups.

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 2011 is provisional

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

From the above chart it can be seen that there is a distinction to be drawn between the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET and the proportion of 19-24 year olds. 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 12,000-15,000) over the years 1996 to 2012, with a decrease in the latest period to 10 per cent (11,600) of 16-18 year olds who are NEET at end 2012 (p). It could therefore be interpreted that for this age group the 2008 recession is less of a causal factor.

19-24 year olds

Prior to the start of the 2008 recession the proportion of those aged 19-24 who are NEET was broadly stable; with an overall decrease in the proportion of 19-24 who are NEET between 1996 and 2004 (falling from 20 per cent to 16 per cent), remaining broadly unchanged between 2005 and 2008 (17-18 per cent). 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 onwards (23 per cent

or 59,900 at end 2012 (p)). The 2008 recession could be interpreted to be a contributory factor to the higher levels of those NEET amongst 19-24 year olds in recent years.

This is also reflected by a large increase in headline estimate of Youth Unemployment for those aged 16-24 in Wales over the same period, which is derived from the Annual Population Survey and can be found on the link below;

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/v/D7n>

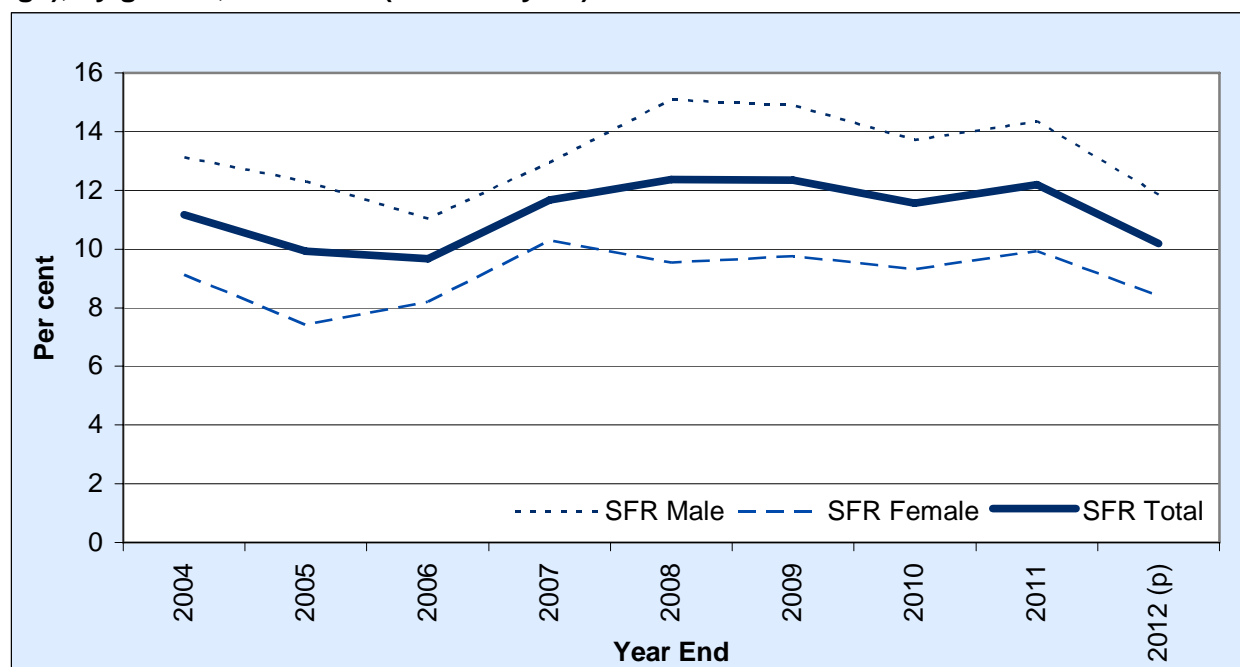
Gender Breakdown

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, 2004-2012 (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 2012. Albeit the proportion of females aged 16-18 who are NEET appeared to peak in 2007 (just prior to the 2008 recession), whilst the proportion of males aged 16-18 who are NEET peaked a year later in 2008. After the start of the 2008 recession the proportion of young people aged 16-18 who are NEET fell until 2010, but increased slightly between 2010 and 2011, and then fell again in 2012.

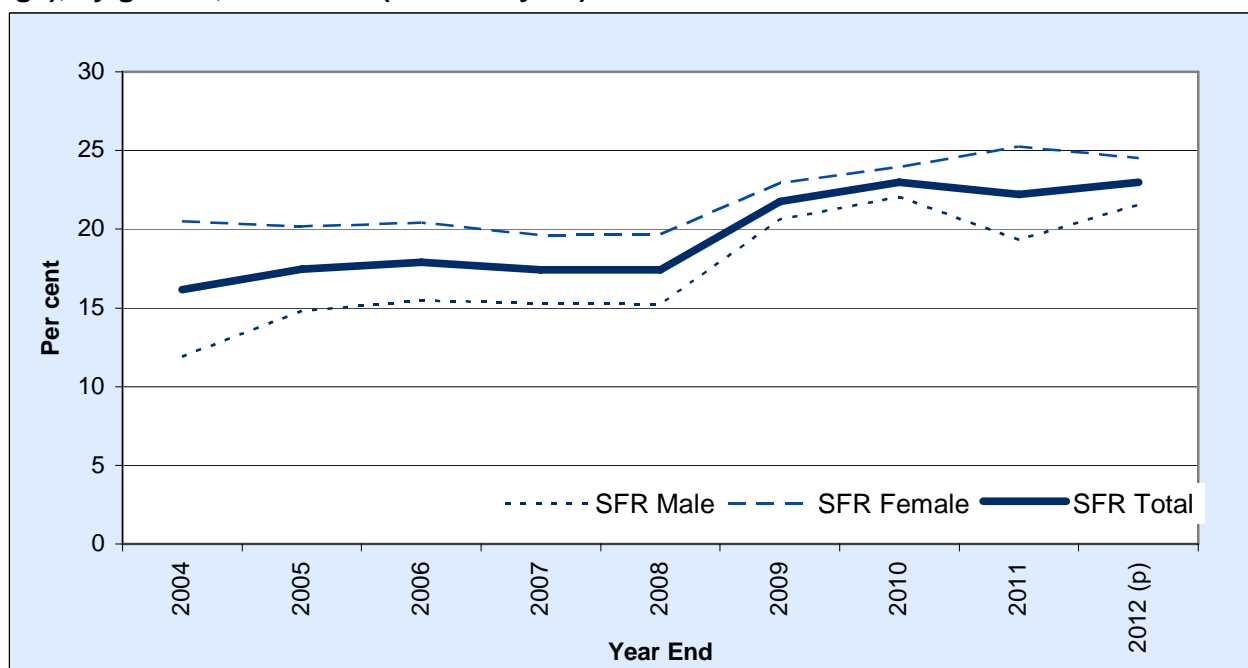
For those aged 16-18 the proportion of young people who are NEET was lower for females than for males between 2004 and 2012, such that in 2012:

- 12 per cent (6,900) of males aged 16-18 were NEET, which compared to;
- 8 per cent (4,600) of females aged 16-18 were NEET.

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, 2004-2012 (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 diverged slightly between 2010 and 2012. From the above chart it could also be suggested that both males and females aged 19-24 who were NEET increased as a result of the 2008 recession.

However for males there was also an increase between 2004 and 2006, with a decrease between 2010 and 2011. For females there was a slight decrease between 2004 and 2007 and increases from 2008 to 2011, with a slight decrease in 2012.

The proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET was higher for females than for males (the reverse of the position for 16-18 year olds) between 2004 and 2012, such that in 2012:

- 22 per cent (28,700) of males aged 19-24 were NEET, which compared to;
- 25 per cent (31,200) of females aged 19-24 were NEET.

APS rolling year series (last updated – July 2013) *New data*

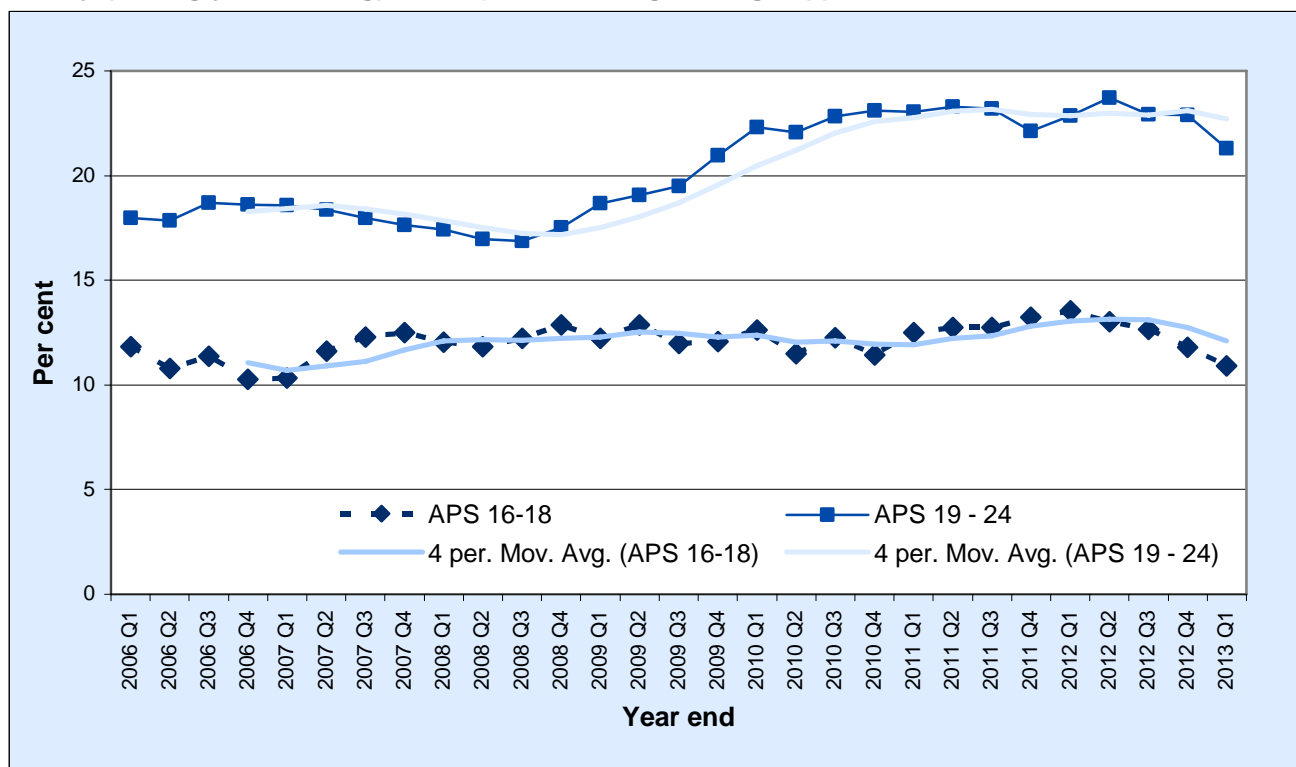
The data presented covers 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds on an academic age basis (ie age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

From this bulletin the method used to define young people who are estimated to be NEET from the APS has changed to a UK harmonised methodology. See Notes section for more details.

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is published on a rolling year basis every quarter. The most recent published year covers the period April 2012 to March 2013. 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 (r)



(r) data has been revised due to new harmonised definition of NEET for APS/LFS analysis

¹A 4 point moving average is an average of four consecutive periods of the APS (e.g. average of Years to 2012 Q2, 2012 Q3, 2012Q4, 2013 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 2005-March 2006) to (April 2012 to March 2013) along with a four-point moving average of the series for both those aged 16-18 and 19-24. Over this period the estimate of the proportion of young people who are NEET aged 16-18 has fluctuated between 10.0 -13.5 per cent, with a slight upward trend from year ending Q1 2011 to Q1 2012, but now starting to show a downward trend.

Whilst for those aged 19-24 who are NEET it has fluctuated between 17-24 per cent, with a marked increase starting around the 2008 recession, with a slight decrease between late 2012 and early 2013.

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

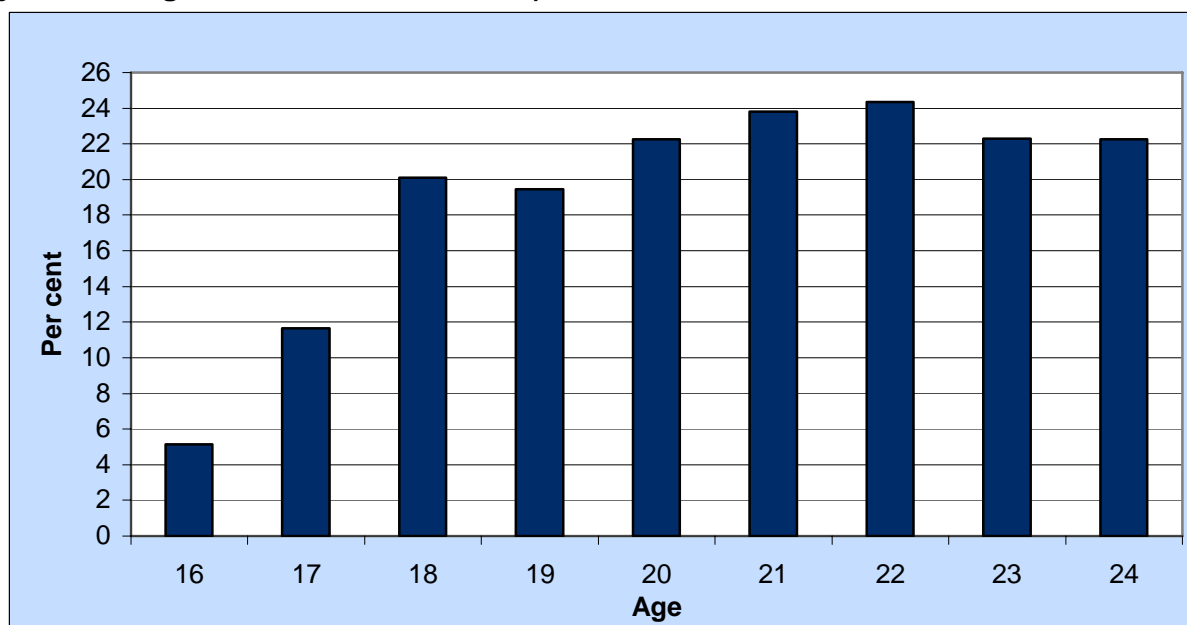
The latest data show for the year ending Quarter 1 2013, 10.9 per cent of 16-18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared to 13.5 per cent for the year ending Quarter 1 2012.

For 19-24 year olds 21.3 per cent were estimated to be NEET for the year ending Quarter 1 2013, compared with 22.9 per cent for the year ending Quarter 1 2012.

NEET Characteristics

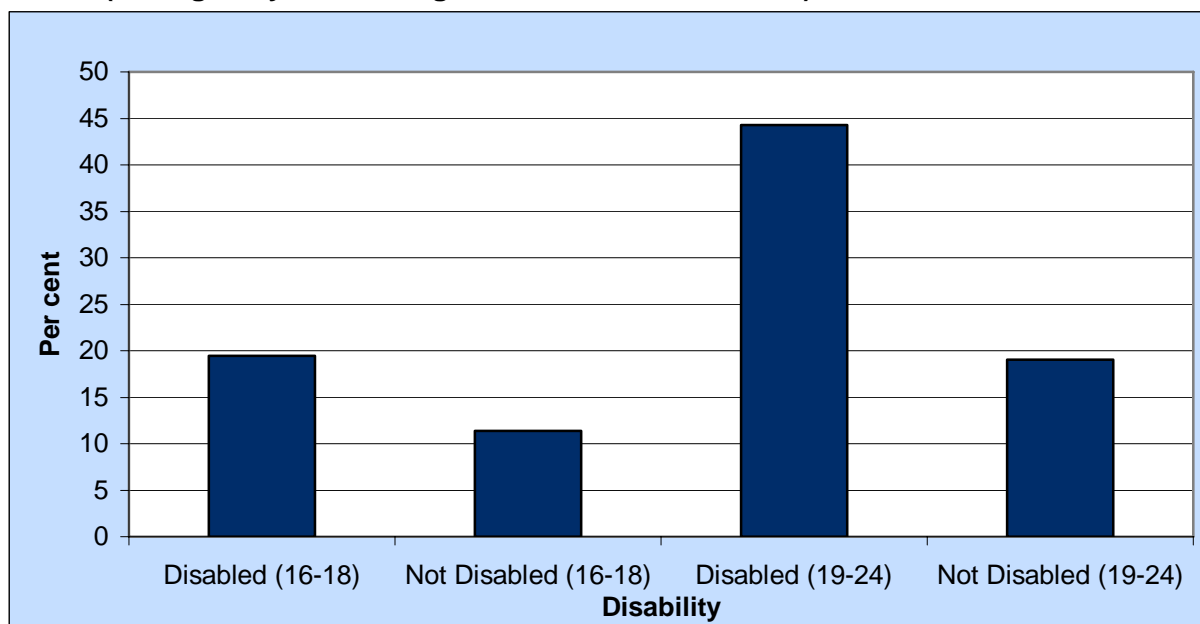
The APS can also be used to provide analysis of NEET rates by characteristics, which are not available via the SFR series. Due to small sample sizes, when looking at sub-groups it has been necessary to use estimates based on the average of 3 periods and therefore should be used to compare groups or regions 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 2011Q1, 2012Q1, 2013Q1)



From Chart 5 it can be seen that the proportion of those who are NEET generally increases, by age, from 16 to peak at 22; with slight decreases for ages 23 and 24.

Chart 6: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, by age and disability status¹ (average of years ending 2011Q1, 2012Q1, 2013Q1)



¹Please see notes section for the definition and coverage of disability status.

From Chart 6 it can be seen that the proportion of young people who are NEET is higher for those people classed as disabled for each age group. The proportion of people who are classed as disabled who are NEET rises from 19.4 per cent at age 16-18 to 44.3 at age 19-24, a similar difference between the two age groups is observed amongst those not disabled.

Chart 7: Young people aged 16-24 not in education, employment or training in Wales, by region (average of years ending 2011Q1, 2012Q1, 2013Q1)



From Chart 7 it can be seen that the proportion of young people who are NEET varied from 12.2 per cent in Mid Wales to 21.3 per cent in South East Wales.

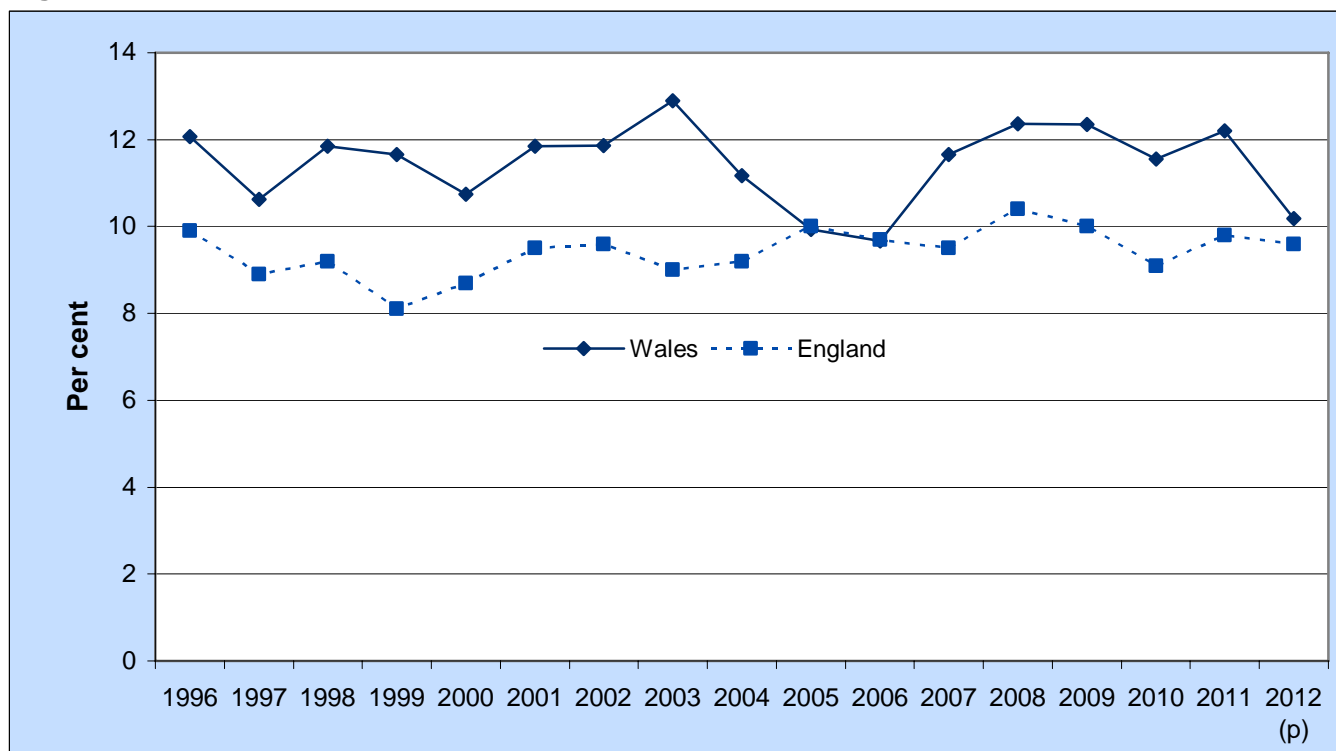
Comparisons with the rest of the UK

SFR measure

The Department for Education (DfE) publish estimates of 16-18 year old NEET rates for England using similar methodology to our SFR on an annual basis. The most recent published data are 2012 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-neet>

Chart 8: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, age 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 follow 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. Again between 2011 and 2012 the two series converged when the proportion of 16-18 year olds NEET in Wales decreased to 10.2 per cent in 2012. 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 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:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/young-people-not-in-education--employment-or-training--neets-/index.html>

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:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/articles-and-reports/young-people-who-are-neet.pdf>

Estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET for each of the UK countries for the years ending Q4 2011 and Q4 2012 are given in Table 4.

For 16-18 year olds the proportion estimated to be NEET has decreased between 2011 and 2012 across all UK countries. Between 2011 and 2012 Wales changed from having the highest proportion of 16-18 year olds who were NEET in 2011, to the second highest in 2012. The difference between the proportion of 16-18 year olds estimated to be NEET in Wales and the UK overall remained around 2 percentage points for both 2011 and 2012.

It can be seen that for 19-24 year olds that Wales had the largest proportion estimated to be NEET compared to the rest of the UK countries. Between 2011 and 2012 the proportion of 19-24 estimated to be NEET increased in Wales and Northern Ireland and decreased in Scotland and England. The UK as a whole saw a decrease in the proportion of 19-24 year olds estimated to be NEET between 2011 and 2012. The difference between the proportions of 19-24 year olds estimated to be NEET in Wales and the UK increased from 2.6 percentage points in 2011 to 3.8 percentage points in 2012.

Pupil destinations from schools in Wales (last updated –April 2013)

[Link to 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 UA for 16 year olds. Chart 9 shows the proportion of 2012 Year 11 leavers who were NEET. The survey also includes information on whether those recorded as NEET were able to enter employment. Leavers may be unable to enter employment due to sickness, pregnancy, custodial sentence etc.

Chart 9: Year 11 leavers who are NEET by Unitary Authority of school, 2012

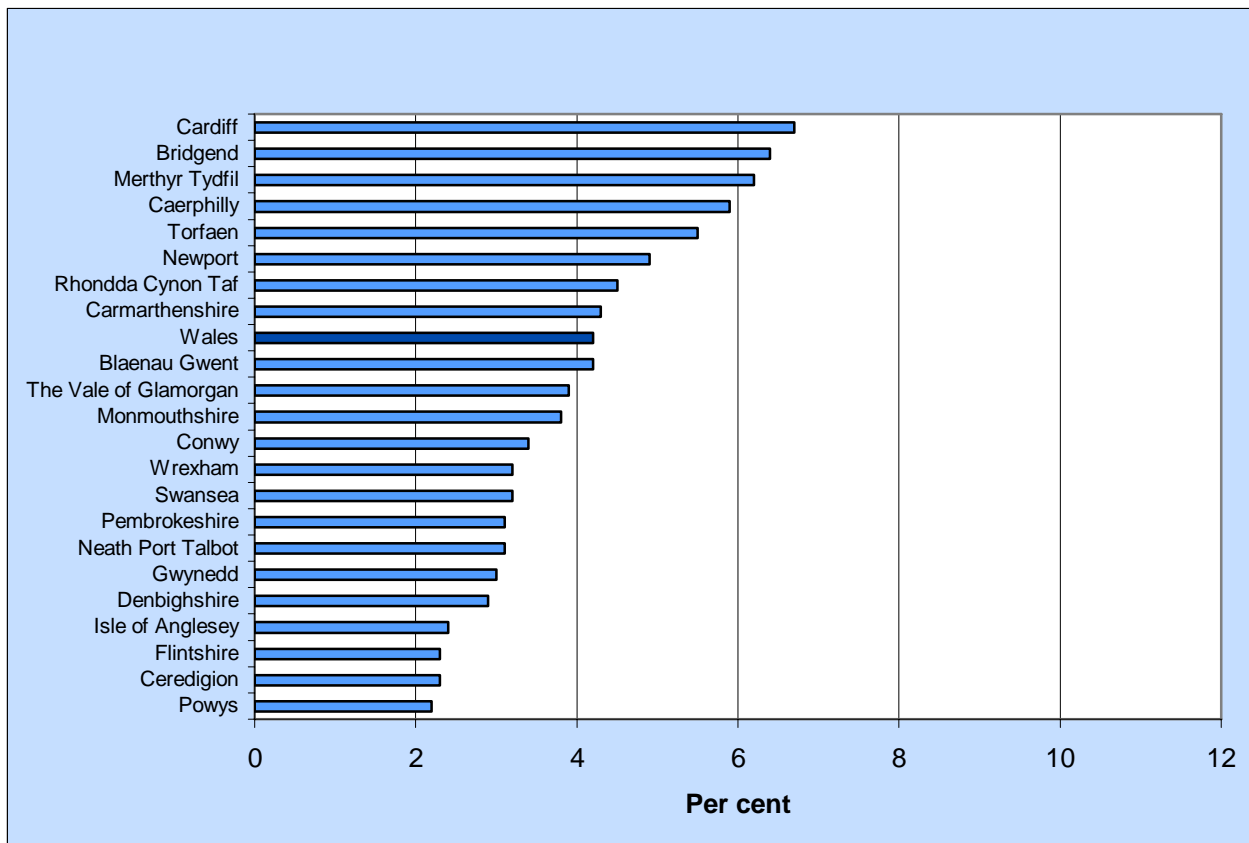
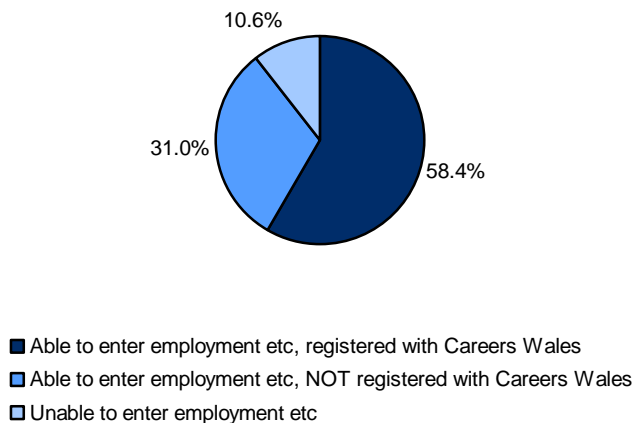


Chart 10: Year 11 leavers who are NEET and employment entry status, 2012



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

Tables

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

	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	13,500	16.2	36,900	16.7	35,900
End 2005	9.9	11,700	12.1	13,900	17.5	40,600	18.1	40,600
End 2006	9.7	11,500	10.3	12,200	17.9	42,500	18.6	41,300
End 2007	11.7	14,000	12.5	15,200	17.4	42,300	17.6	41,200
End 2008	12.4	14,900	12.9	15,300	17.4	42,800	17.5	42,300
End 2009	12.4	14,700	12.1	14,100	21.8	54,300	21.0	51,400
End 2010	11.5	13,500	11.4	13,700	23.0	58,400	23.1	56,800
End 2011	12.2	14,000	13.2	15,200	22.2	57,400	22.1	53,900
End 2012 (p)	10.2	11,600	11.8	13,300	23.0	59,900	22.9	56,900

Source: WG Statistical First Release (SDR 117/2013) Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market;

Annual Local Labour Force Survey for Wales 2001-2003; Annual Population Survey 2004-2012

(p) SFR: Year end 2012 is provisional

(r) APS estimates have been revised due to a new harmonised definition of NEET for APS/LFS analysis

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

Year End	16-18 year olds			19-24 year olds		
	Per cent	Approx 95% Confidence Interval	Number	Per cent	Approx 95% Confidence Interval	Number
2006 Q1	11.8	± 1.6	13,800	18.0	± 1.5	40,100
2006 Q2	10.8	± 1.6	12,700	17.8	± 1.5	39,300
2006 Q3	11.4	± 1.6	13,500	18.7	± 1.6	41,200
2006 Q4	10.3	± 1.5	12,200	18.6	± 1.6	41,300
2007 Q1	10.3	± 1.5	12,400	18.6	± 1.6	41,700
2007 Q2	11.6	± 1.6	13,900	18.4	± 1.6	42,100
2007 Q3	12.3	± 1.6	14,800	18.0	± 1.6	41,500
2007 Q4	12.5	± 1.7	15,200	17.6	± 1.6	41,200
2008 Q1	12.0	± 1.6	14,600	17.4	± 1.6	41,300
2008 Q2	11.8	± 1.7	14,300	17.0	± 1.6	40,500
2008 Q3	12.2	± 1.7	14,600	16.9	± 1.6	40,600
2008 Q4	12.9	± 1.8	15,300	17.5	± 1.7	42,300
2009 Q1	12.2	± 1.8	14,400	18.7	± 1.7	45,200
2009 Q2	12.9	± 1.8	15,000	19.1	± 1.7	46,400
2009 Q3	12.0	± 1.8	14,000	19.5	± 1.7	47,300
2009 Q4	12.1	± 1.8	14,100	21.0	± 1.8	51,400
2010 Q1	12.6	± 1.8	14,700	22.3	± 1.8	54,900
2010 Q2	11.5	± 1.8	13,300	22.1	± 1.8	54,400
2010 Q3	12.3	± 1.8	14,300	22.8	± 1.8	56,700
2010 Q4	11.4	± 1.8	13,700	23.1	± 1.9	56,800
2011 Q1	12.5	± 1.8	14,800	23.0	± 1.9	56,600
2011 Q2	12.7	± 1.9	15,200	23.3	± 1.9	57,300
2011 Q3	12.7	± 1.9	14,900	23.2	± 1.9	56,300
2011 Q4	13.2	± 2.0	15,200	22.1	± 1.8	53,900
2012 Q1	13.5	± 1.9	15,400	22.9	± 1.8	56,000
2012 Q2	13.0	± 1.9	14,700	23.7	± 1.9	58,700
2012 Q3	12.7	± 1.9	14,400	22.9	± 1.8	56,800
2012 Q4	11.8	± 1.8	13,300	22.9	± 1.8	56,900
2013 Q1	10.9	± 1.8	12,100	21.3	± 1.8	52,800

Source: Annual Population Survey 2006-2013

(r) APS estimates have been revised due to a new harmonised definition of NEET for APS/LFS analysis

Table 3: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by gender, age and disability status^{1,2}

	Number			Per cent			Approximate 95% Confidence Interval ³		
	2009Q1-2011Q1	2010Q1-2012Q1	2011Q1-2013Q1	2009Q1-2011Q1	2010Q1-2012Q1	2011Q1-2013Q1	2009Q1-2011Q1	2010Q1-2012Q1	2011Q1-2013Q1
By age (persons)									
16	3,100	2,700	1,900	8.1	6.8	5.2	± 1.5	± 1.4	± 1.2
17	4,600	4,600	4,500	11.4	12.0	11.7	± 1.7	± 1.8	± 1.8
18	6,900	7,800	7,700	17.9	19.8	20.1	± 2.2	± 2.3	± 2.3
19	8,500	8,600	8,100	20.2	19.9	19.5	± 2.4	± 2.3	± 2.4
20	9,100	9,700	9,700	20.7	23.3	22.3	± 2.4	± 2.6	± 2.5
21	9,600	10,700	10,000	22.7	25.1	23.8	± 2.6	± 2.7	± 2.7
22	10,300	10,600	9,700	24.9	25.3	24.3	± 2.7	± 2.7	± 2.7
23	7,300	8,300	9,100	19.3	21.3	22.3	± 2.5	± 2.6	± 2.6
24	7,500	7,900	8,600	20.1	21.3	22.3	± 2.5	± 2.6	± 2.7
By disability									
16-18 Disabled	2,600	2,800	2,500	22.7	22.9	19.4	± 4.3	± 4.2	± 3.9
16-18 Not Disabled	12,000	12,200	11,500	11.3	11.7	11.4	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.1
19-24 Disabled	13,800	14,500	14,300	46.4	46.2	44.3	± 3.6	± 3.5	± 3.5
19-24 Not Disabled	38,500	41,300	40,700	17.9	19.3	19.1	± 1.0	± 1.1	± 1.1
By Region (16-24)									
North Wales	11,100	12,100	12,000	15.3	16.8	16.8	± 1.4	± 1.5	± 1.5
Mid Wales	3,000	3,300	3,000	12.0	13.3	12.2	± 2.3	± 2.5	± 2.3
South West Wales	15,300	15,100	14,300	19.8	19.5	18.6	± 1.7	± 1.8	± 1.8
South East Wales	37,600	40,300	39,900	20.0	21.5	21.3	± 1.2	± 1.2	± 1.2
Wales	66,900	70,800	69,200	18.5	19.6	19.2	± 0.8	± 0.8	± 0.8

Source: Annual Population Survey 2009-2013

¹Data shown 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 2011Q1, 2012Q1 and 2013Q1.

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, 2011 and 2012

	<i>Per cent</i>			
	16 to 18 year olds		19 to 24 year olds	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Wales	13.2	11.8	22.1	22.9
England	10.8	9.7	19.5	19.1
Scotland	12.9	12.4	17.5	16.4
Northern Ireland	11.2)	6.3 (!)	19.9	20.8
UK	11.1	9.9	19.5	19.1

Source: Annual Population Survey

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

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of limited quality.

Table 5: Year 11 Leavers for Schools in Wales known to be not in education, employment or training by Unitary Authority

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Wales	6.9	7.1	5.7	5.4	4.4	4.2
Isle of Anglesey	6.7	8.1	5.2	5.3	2.7	2.4
Gwynedd	4.4	5.7	4.2	3.6	3.6	3.0
Conwy	5.5	5.7	4.8	3.7	4.0	3.4
Denbighshire	4.9	6.2	4.4	4.4	3.6	2.9
Flintshire	4.6	7.2	3.7	2.8	2.7	2.3
Wrexham	8.9	9.6	5.0	4.2	3.4	3.2
Powys	5.3	3.0	2.1	2.9	3.0	2.2
Ceredigion	2.6	3.8	2.3	2.3	3.3	2.3
Pembrokeshire	4.7	6.4	4.8	4.8	3.8	3.1
Carmarthenshire	5.5	4.4	4.0	2.9	2.8	4.3
Swansea	5.8	5.8	6.4	4.2	3.1	3.2
Neath Port Talbot	9.0	7.7	7.1	6.6	4.6	3.1
Bridgend	7.3	8.0	7.6	7.1	4.4	6.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	6.8	6.2	5.6	4.6	4.3	3.9
Cardiff	8.5	10.6	8.9	8.8	7.7	6.7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	7.5	6.1	4.9	5.7	3.9	4.5
Merthyr Tydfil	7.9	7.8	4.6	7.6	5.6	6.2
Caerphilly	7.1	7.1	5.0	6.0	4.5	5.9
Blaenau Gwent	10.4	9.7	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.2
Torfaen	10.5	10.1	8.2	7.0	6.7	5.5
Monmouthshire	5.6	5.3	5.0	3.9	3.8	3.8
Newport	9.3	10.4	9.1	7.5	6.7	4.9

Source: Careers Wales Pupil Destinations from Schools in Wales

NOTES

Changes to this bulletin and planned changes for future bulletins

This bulletin

Within this bulletin the method used to define young people who are NEET using the Annual Population Survey (APS) has been amended to harmonise with an agreed UK methodology of deriving NEET estimates. There is no change to the definition of NEET as such, but to the way the data are derived through individual responses to the survey, and additionally the new methodology accounts for missing responses which did not occur previously.

More information can be found within a paper published by the Office for National Statistics on;

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/articles-and-reports/young-people-who-are-neet.pdf>

It should be noted that the estimates shown in this bulletin for the other UK countries and the UK as a whole from the APS, will differ from the official estimates produced by the relevant departments. This is partly due to the differing use of the apportionment method for missing responses and use of academic versus actual age. Therefore these estimates should be interpreted with caution.

This bulletin has also been updated to include new information on disability status of young people who are NEET, in line with the action from the National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee report of October 2010 into *Young people not in education, employment or training*.

The bulletin has also been extended through the inclusion of additional information on those aged 19-24 where available. A new summary table has been included on the front page and text has been extended and adapted with the aim of improving the commentary throughout this bulletin.

If you have comments or queries regarding the new format, please email;

Post16Ed.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The gender estimates are now based on the SFR estimate of young people who are NEET and as a result are now published as single period estimates due to sufficient sample size.

Future Bulletins

There are currently no planned changes to carry out any substantive changes to this bulletin.

Policy/Operational context

This Bulletin summarises the available statistics on young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. It is updated quarterly with latest estimates from the Annual Population Survey, and annually with the headline SFR series (July) and the Careers Wales destinations survey data (April). The statistics are used within the Welsh Government to monitor trends in the level and proportion of young people who are NEET. It is one of the measures included within the *Programme for Government* in the context of Tackling Poverty.

The 2011-2015 *Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan* was published in January 2011. It outlined the Welsh Government's approach to preventing children and young people from disengaging from learning and supporting them with entry to the labour market. In January 2013, the Deputy Minister for Skills reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and announced a transition from this 18 point action plan to a new *Youth Engagement and Progression Framework*. The Framework which is currently being finalised will be 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. Further detail is given in the Written Statement below.

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2013/youthengagementandemploymentactionplan/>

The 2012-2016 *Tackling Poverty Action Plan* was published in June 2013. It outlines the Welsh Government's commitment to long-term well being through key objectives in Tackling Poverty. As part of the plan, there is a stated intention to substantively reduce the number of people who are not in education, training or employment through refocusing resource as early as possible in identifying the young people who most need support, tracking them through the system until they reach university, Further Education or sustained employment.

1. Summary of data sources

a. NEET SFR series

Description	This data is the definitive measure for NEET rates in Wales.
Uses	This series is the key statistical source for estimates of the number and proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales. 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. The Welsh Government is committed to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales as outlined in the Written Statement of 17 January 2013 (link above) which also outlined the transition from the 2011-2015 <i>Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan</i> to a new Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the 2012-2016 <i>Tackling Poverty Action Plan</i> . The document " <i>Building Resilient Communities: taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan</i> " set a target to reduce the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who are NEET to 9 per cent by 2017, which will be measured using the SFR series. This series is also used in the measure of young people who are NEET in Wales within the <i>Programme for Government</i>
Published source	WG Statistical First Release Participation of young people in education and the labour market
Primary sources	Pupil Level Annual Schools' Census (WG) Lifelong Learning Wales Record (WG) Student Record (HESA) Open University Annual Population Survey (ONS) Mid- year estimates of resident population and population projections (ONS and Welsh Government)
Last period covered	End 2012 (p)
Last published	July 2013
Next published	July 2014 (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	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. 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 1,200 young people aged 16-18 and 2,000 young people aged 19-24 responded to the survey. 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. 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 such comparison with the UK should be done with caution. The Welsh Government is committed to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK in the document <i>Taking forward the Tackling Poverty Action Plan</i> ; which will be measured using the estimated from the APS.
Published source	Annual Population Survey (ONS)
Primary sources	Annual Population Survey (ONS)
Last period covered	Year ending 2013Q1
Last published	APS published June 2013, NEET APS series published July 2013
Next published	APS published September 2013, NEET APS series published October 2013

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 a Unitary 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 Unitary 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 source	Destinations of leavers from schools in Wales (Careers Wales)
Primary sources	Destinations of leavers from schools in Wales (Careers Wales)
Last period covered	October 2012
Last published	April 2013
Next published	April 2014

2. Definitions

Education and training

For the SFR estimates: it is based on those who are enrolled on a course in a school, FE college, HE institution (including the 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

The APS records the current disability of respondents as:-

- DDA (current disability): those with a long-term disability which substantially limits day to day activities
- Work-limiting disabled: those with a long-term disability which affects the kind of or amount of work they might do
- Both DDA and work-limiting disabled, or
- Not disabled

The analysis in this bulletin is on the basis of all those recording a disability.

When using the APS based data on young people who are NEET by disability status there are discontinuities in the data series which are outlined below. As such users should interpret these estimates with caution.

Due to the addition of a short introduction at the start of the disability module in 2010 quarter 1, a discontinuity was identified in the series, affecting this period onwards.

The impact of this introduction is thought to be positive in that it prepares respondents for the set of disability questions. Any increase caused by this change should result in a more complete measure of actual disability. This change to the introduction added to the disability module in quarter 1 2010 is thought to be the key driver of the step increase in disability. The earlier estimates can still be considered 'best estimates' for those periods and should give a robust picture of changes over time, however, direct comparisons between pre- and post- 2010Q1 estimates should not be made. In addition, due to the rolling annual time periods used in the APS, this change will gradually affect the estimates between 2010 Q1 and 2010 Q4 and will only reach a consistent basis from 2010 Q4 onwards.

Further from the first quarter of 2012, the method for calculating the 'not disabled' group changed, which created a discontinuity in the data from this period onwards.

Key Quality Information

3. Annual Population Survey (APS): Quality

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 1,200 respondents in the sample across Wales. Similarly for 19-24 year olds there are around 2,000 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 can be accessed via the following link

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/labour-market-statistics/index.html>

Chart 1 demonstrates, from 2006 onwards, the similar levels and trend in young people who are NEET shown between the SFR and APS series, with a difference at most of 2 percentage points.

4. Timeliness

The latest SFR provides new data for 2011 and provisional data for 2012. The provisional estimates use the best data for 2012 currently available for each aspect of participation; this includes some final data, some provisional data and some modelling.

5. Estimates below Wales level

It is not possible to disaggregate the SFR NEET estimate down to UA 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 UA; less than 100 respondents.

The APS has been used to estimate the proportion of young people who are NEET for DfES regions. However as the sample sizes are around 100-500 in each area for those aged 16-18 the estimates have been averaged over three rolling years. The regional breakdown was changed as at the beginning of the 2010. 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 UA. However, there are some differences in the NEET definitions compared with the SFR and APS based estimates.

6. Revisions

SFR series: Provisional 2012 figures will be finalised in the next SFR publication, due for release in July 2014. For the proportion of 16-18 year olds estimated to be NEET in 2011, the difference between the provisional estimate published in the previous release and the final published estimate was 0.2 percentage points. For earlier years this series will not be revised on a regular basis. Revisions will only be made in line with revisions to source data.

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. As detailed earlier the method used to define young people who are NEET using the Annual Population Survey (APS) has been amended to harmonise with an agreed UK methodology of deriving NEET estimates. More information can be found within a paper published by the Office for National Statistics on;

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/articles-and-reports/young-people-who-are-neet.pdf>

As a result there are slight revisions to published estimates, as illustrated in the table below.

Change in APS estimate of Young People who are NEET: old definition compared to harmonised definition

	16-18 year olds		19-24 year olds	
	APS NEET		APS NEET	
	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number
End 2001	0.2	300	-0.1	-300
End 2002	0.0	0	-0.2	-400
End 2003	0.2	200	-0.3	-700
End 2004	-0.3	-400	0.2	500
End 2005	0.0	0	-0.1	-300
End 2006	-0.1	-100	0.0	0
End 2007	0.3	400	-0.4	-900
End 2008	0.0	0	0.1	300
End 2009	0.1	100	-0.3	-700
End 2010	-0.2	-200	-0.1	-200
End 2011	-0.1	-100	-0.1	-400
End 2012	0.0	0	0.7	1,700