

SDR 120/2012

31 July 2012

Destinations Data for Traineeship and Steps to Employment Learners: 2011/12 (provisional)

This First Release presents provisional data on the destinations of learners leaving Traineeship and Steps to Employment learning programmes in the first six months of the 2011/12 academic year. The figures are derived from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR)

Background

Traineeships and Steps to Employment are new learning programmes introduced by the Welsh Government in August 2011 to replace the Skill Build Youth and Adult learning programmes.

Traineeships are intended for young people aged between 16-18 years old and aim to provide the skills needed to get a job or progress to further learning at a higher level, such as an apprenticeship or further education. The programme is offered at three distinct levels: Engagement, Level 1 and Bridge to Employment.

Steps to Employment aims to help unemployed adults aged 18 and over, who are in receipt of a Department for Work and Pensions benefit, to access purposeful training and work experience opportunities in preparation for employment or further learning. The programme is offered at two distinct levels: Work Focussed Learning and Routeways to Work

Destinations of Traineeship leavers

Tables 1 and 2 detail the destinations of learners leaving Traineeship – Engagement and Traineeship – Level 1 programmes respectively. There were no leavers from Traineeship – Bridge to Employment programmes in the first six months of 2011/12.

Of the learners who left Traineeship – Engagement programmes between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012, 54 per cent progressed to learning at a higher level. A further 6 per cent entered new employment and 22 per cent were seeking work or unemployed.

Of the learners leaving Traineeship – Level 1 programmes during the same period, 15 per cent progressed to learning at a higher level. Whereas 20 per cent entered new employment and 30 per cent were seeking work or unemployed.

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Overall, 59 per cent of leavers from Traineeship programmes had a positive progression (ie. to employment (including self employment or voluntary work) or learning at a higher level).

Table 1 - Destinations of Traineeship Engagement leavers

Destination within three months of leaving	Period learning programme ended				Total	
	Aug 2011 - Oct 2011		Nov 2011 - Jan 2012		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Continuing programme of learning	25	4%	15	1%	40	2%
New programme of learning at the same level	25	4%	50	5%	75	5%
Progressed to learning at a higher level	370	62%	505	49%	875	54%
Entering new employment / changing employment	30	5%	60	6%	90	6%
Continuing current employment	*	0%	*	0%	5	0%
Self employment	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Voluntary work	*	0%	5	1%	5	0%
Seeking work / unemployed	105	18%	255	25%	365	22%
Other	10	2%	55	5%	65	4%
Not known	30	5%	80	8%	105	7%
Total	600		1,035		1,635	

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

Table 2 - Destinations of Traineeship Level 1 leavers

Destination within three months of leaving	Period learning programme ended				Total	
	Aug 2011 - Oct 2011		Nov 2011 - Jan 2012		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Continuing programme of learning	*	1%	10	3%	15	3%
New programme of learning at the same level	20	13%	50	13%	70	13%
Progressed to learning at a higher level	30	22%	50	12%	80	15%
Entering new employment / changing employment	25	19%	85	21%	110	20%
Continuing current employment	*	1%	5	1%	5	1%
Self employment	0	0%	*	1%	*	1%
Voluntary work	*	1%	*	1%	*	1%
Seeking work / unemployed	40	29%	125	30%	165	30%
Other	5	5%	25	6%	35	6%
Not known	15	10%	45	12%	60	11%
Total	145		405		550	

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

Destinations of Steps to Employment leavers

Tables 3 and 4 detail the destinations of learners leaving Steps to Employment – Work Focussed Learning and Steps to Employment – Routeways to Work programmes respectively.

Of the learners leaving Steps to Employment – Work Focussed Learning programmes between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012, 24 per cent entered new employment. A further 8 per cent progressed to further learning and 54 per cent were seeking work or unemployed.

Of the learners leaving Steps to Employment – Routeways to Work programmes during the same period, 31 per cent entered new employment and 8 per cent began work in the voluntary sector. Whereas 55 per cent were seeking work or unemployed.

Overall, 38 per cent of leavers from Steps to Employment had a positive progression (ie. to employment (including self employment or voluntary work) or further learning)

Table 3 - Destinations of Steps to Employment - Work Focussed Learning leavers

Destination within three months of leaving	Period learning programme ended				Total	
	Aug 2011 - Oct 2011		Nov 2011 - Jan 2012		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Continuing programme of learning	5	4%	*	0%	10	1%
New programme of learning at the same level	10	4%	10	2%	15	3%
Progressed to learning at a higher level	10	5%	20	5%	30	5%
Entering new employment / changing employment	60	31%	90	21%	150	24%
Continuing current employment	0	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Self employment	*	1%	*	1%	*	1%
Voluntary work	5	3%	10	3%	15	3%
Seeking work / unemployed	90	46%	250	58%	340	54%
Other	10	4%	25	6%	35	5%
Not known	5	4%	20	4%	25	4%
Total	195		430		625	

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

Table 4 - Destinations of Steps to Employment - Routeways to Work leavers

Destination within three months of leaving	Period learning programme ended				Total	
	Aug 2011 - Oct 2011		Nov 2011 - Jan 2012		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
Continuing programme of learning	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
New programme of learning at the same level	0	0%	*	1%	*	0%
Progressed to learning at a higher level	*	1%	*	0%	*	0%
Entering new employment / changing employment	90	47%	50	19%	140	31%
Continuing current employment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Self employment	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Voluntary work	20	10%	15	6%	35	8%
Seeking work / unemployed	70	38%	180	68%	255	55%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Not known	10	5%	15	5%	25	5%
Total	190		265		455	

Source: Lifelong Learning Wales Record

Notes

1. Data Sources

This Statistical First Release (SFR) summarises provisional data on learner destinations of learners leaving in the first six months of 2011/12. It covers Traineeship and Steps to Employment programmes delivered by work based learning providers funded by DfES (Department for Education and Skills). However, the figures are not restricted to fundable provision at those providers.

Data on learners accessing FE and WBL provision across Wales is submitted electronically to DfES by learning providers via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR). This data is used for funding, monitoring performance and outcomes and to inform strategy development. Furthermore, the data provides the official source of statistics on Post 16 (non-higher education) learners in Wales.

Further information on LLWR including user support manuals can be found at:

[Welsh Government - Lifelong Learning Wales Record](#)

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

[Statement of Administrative Sources](#)

2. Definitions

2.1 Terminology

- The term 'academic year' is used to refer to the period 1 August to 31 July.
- The term 'learning programme' refers to a group of specific qualifications or courses pursued by a learner.

2.2 Cohorts

- The base cohorts underpinning tables 1 - 4 comprise all Traineeship and Steps to Employment learning programmes recorded as ending between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012.
- Learning programmes ending due to the death of the learner have been excluded from the tables.

2.3 Provision type

- Traineeships is a new learning programme for young people aged between 16-18 years old. The programme aims to give young people the skills needed to get a job or progress to further learning at a higher level, such as an apprenticeship or further education. Participation on the Traineeships programme is available at three distinct levels.
- Steps to Employment is a new learning programme for adult learners aged 18 years and over. It aims to help those unemployed adults to access training and work experience opportunities in preparation for employment or further learning. Steps to Employment is offered at two distinct levels to ensure a focus on the requirements of the each individual learner and provide support and encouragement to help them to progress.

2.4 Destinations

- Data on learner destination within 3 months of leaving the learning programme is collected via the LLWR. Under the terms of receiving European Social Funds for these programmes, providers must collect information of the destination of learners following learning. Nevertheless the figures are not known for a number of learners, the percentage ranging from 4 per cent in the Steps to Employment – Work Focussed Learning programme to 11 per cent in the Traineeship - Level 1 programme. Percentages are quoted on the basis of all learners, regardless of whether destination was known or not. It is unknown whether or not learners with an unknown destination are more likely to be out of work.
- The LLWR submission guidance advises the use of the ‘Other’ category only in the following circumstances: pregnancy, long term sickness, death, custodial sentence or the learner has moved out of Wales.
- The destination ‘Entering employment with a Pre-Employment Training (PET) employer’ has been grouped under ‘Other’ in tables 1 and 2 and under ‘Entering new employment / changing employment’ in tables 3 and 4.

2.5 Positive progressions

- For Traineeship programmes, the following destinations are considered to be positive progressions: progressed to learning at a higher level, entering new employment /changing employment, continuing current employment, self employment and voluntary work.
- For Steps to Employment programmes, the following destinations are considered to be positive progressions: new programme of learning at the same level, progressed to learning at a higher level, entering new employment /changing employment, continuing current employment, self employment and voluntary work.
- When calculating positive progression rates, the following destination categories are excluded from the calculation: continuing programme of learning and other. The ‘other’ category includes learners who left due to long-term sickness, pregnancy, death, custodial sentence or the learner moved out of Wales.
- The lower level of positive progressions from the Steps to Employment programme, as compared to Traineeships, reflects a number of factors. The programme caters for adult learners, including the long-term unemployed, who are generally aiming to progress to employment as opposed to further learning. Job opportunities remain limited due to the economic situation, adversely affecting progression rates. The figures also reflect some initial over-recruitment onto the Routeways to Work strand of the Steps to Employment programme, which exceeded the number of job opportunities available to leavers.

3. Rounding and Suppression

All figures in this Statistical Release 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. A ‘*’ represents numbers greater than 0 but less than 5.

4. Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

4.1 Relevance

This is the first publication of these statistics. As such we would welcome feedback on the usefulness of these statistics and how they are used. Please direct any feedback to post16ed.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

The measures set out in this publication will be primarily used:

- by the Welsh Government - DfES, to monitor providers' performance and as baseline information to set targets for improvements as part of the Quality and Effectiveness Framework for post-16 learning;
- by Estyn, to inform inspection judgements on Key Question 1 'How well do learners achieve?', and;
- by providers themselves, as a management tool to measure their own performance and benchmark themselves against sector averages, as part of their annual self-assessment cycles.

The Welsh Government and Estyn have a commitment to share data in order to minimise bureaucracy for providers and ensure consistent definitions of performance wherever possible and have worked together closely to develop these measures and a standard format for presenting data.

The measures may also both used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media.

In general, official statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- general background and research;
- inclusion in reports and briefings;
- advice to Ministers;
- to inform and evaluate the education policy-making process in Wales.

4.2 Accuracy

Statisticians within the Welsh Government undertake a process of data-reconciliation ahead of publishing this release. Data quality issues are followed up and resolved in liaison with DfES officials. Guidance specifically relating to the recording and evidencing of learner destinations has also been issued to the sector by DfES.

4.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The current annual timescale for the production of final learner outcomes data has been agreed in consultation with learning providers and balances timeliness against the need for accurate data-quality in order to underpin robust sector benchmarks. Statistics on a given academic year are drawn from a database based on the LLWR as at February following the end of the academic year.

However, this first release has been produced and published to meet the need for more timely information relating to the new Traineeship and Steps to Employment programmes. It has been produced from a database based on the LLWR as at June 2012 and details destinations of leavers in the first six months of the 2011/12 academic year. This timescale allows for the three months during which a destination can be recorded and a further two months for providers to submit this information via LLWR.

4.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website.

4.5 Comparability and Coherence

Figures in this statistical release are broadly comparable with the destination data for Skill Build programmes published annually in Table 6 of the National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning release. A link to the most recent release is provided below:

[National Comparators for Further Education and Work-Based Learning, 2010/11](#)

5. Additional Information

5.1 Further dissemination of destination data

A further release presenting provisional data on the destinations of learners leaving Traineeship and Steps to Employment learning programmes between 1 August 2011 and 30 April 2012 will be published later this year. This release will also include revised destinations data for those learners leaving programmes in the first six months of 2011/12.

5.2 Other outputs sourced from LLWR data

- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales, 2010/11 and 2011/12 (early figures) – headline national trends in volumes of learning, published 28 March 2012.
- Learning Network Analysis 2010/11 – bulletin providing analysis at both national and regional level for post-16 learners (excluding learners at HEIs) at FE Institutions, other training providers and school sixth forms in Wales, with extended coverage to include Welsh domiciled learners at similar providers located in England, published May 2012. Associated StatsWales tables include figures for individual FE institutions.
- Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics, 2010/11 – Reference volume, due autumn 2012.

- Analysis of Participation in Post-16 Education and Training 2009/10 – bulletin providing analysis of participation in learning at a national and regional level across the Further Education, Work Based Learning, Community Learning, school Sixth Form and Higher Education level sectors, published 20 October 2011.
- Learner Outcome Measures for Adult Community Learning, 2010/11 – learner outcome data for the ACL sector, published 25 April 2012.