

CARDIFF
BUSINESS
SCHOOL

Welsh Economic Review

Volume 12.2 Autumn 2000

Produced in association with



Welsh Economic Review

Education and Training

Education Sector Scale and Scope

The education sector in Wales encompasses pre-primary, primary, general secondary (including technical and vocational secondary), higher, and adult/other education. Together with health, education is one of the largest employers in Wales. In 1998, just over 82,500 people worked in Welsh education (Annual Employment Survey). This represented 8.6% of total Welsh employment. These figures refer to people employed rather than full-time equivalent (FTE) employment, with teaching at all levels making extensive use of part-time and casual staff. The distribution of education employment is shown in Figure 5.

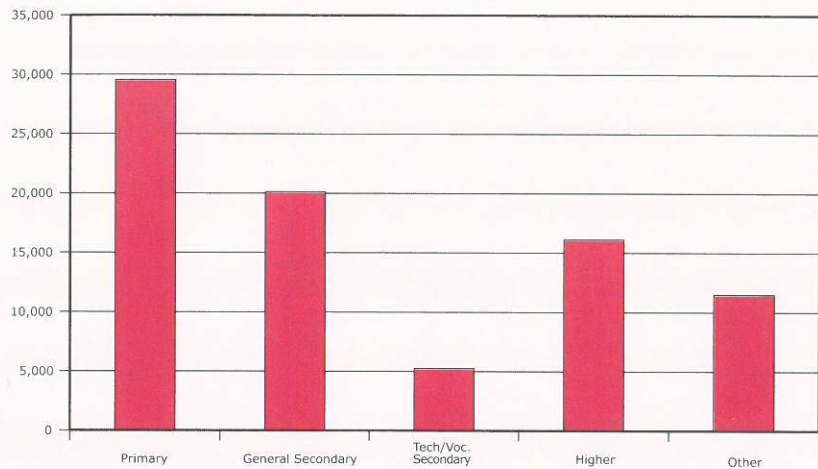
In 1998-99, just under 512,000 Welsh pupils were in primary and secondary education, and an estimated 98% of these were in the public sector. The largest 'pupil' sector is the local education authority (LEA) controlled primary education sector with an estimated 290,000 pupils during 1998-1999, compared to just under 193,000 in the LEA secondary sector. The primary LEA sector accounted for an estimated 13,600 teaching FTEs in 1997-1998, with secondary accounting for 12,200 teaching FTEs. Both these figures are virtually unchanged from the numbers in service in 1995-96. In 1998-99 the pupil per FTE teacher ratio was 22.3 in the Welsh primary sector and 16.5 in Welsh secondary (excluding grant maintained schools where the average ratio was 17.4).

Expenditure (current not capital) by local authorities on education in Wales was just over £1.25bn in 1997-98, with over 70% allocated to the pre primary/primary and secondary sectors.

The further education sector in Wales includes all provision outside of schools that is below higher education level. In 1998-1999 there were a total of 43 institutions providing further education in Wales, accounting for over 201,200 enrolments.

Higher education students are defined as those on courses that are of a standard higher than GCE A level and GNVQ/NVQ level 3. There are 15 establishments in Wales that provide higher education services. The number of enrolments in these institutions was nearly 86,000 in 1998-99. Table 10 shows the establishment distribution of these enrolments. Of the total enrolments in 1998-1999, just over 62,000 were for full-time courses, with around 18,000 on part-time courses, with the remainder being sandwich

Figure 5 Employment in the Education Sector in Wales



Source: Annual Employment Survey

Table 9 Welsh Primary and Secondary Education Sector – Key Statistics

Total maintained primary schools 1997-98	1673
Total maintained secondary schools 1997-98	228
Total pupils in Schools 1998-99	512,130
Of which:	
LEA Primary	290,204
LEA Secondary	192,827
Other (special, pre-primary, grant maintained and independent)	29,099
Teaching staff in service with LEAs/grant maintained schools 1998-99*	28,434
Pupil-teacher ratios 1998-1999	
LEA Primary	22.3
LEA Secondary	16.5
Grant maintained	17.4
Local authority current expenditure on education 1997-98	£1258.6m

*Includes a small number of teachers in youth, adult, and community education.

Source: National Assembly for Wales.

(year out), and franchised-out programmes. The constituent colleges of the University of Wales accounted for well over 50% of enrolments in 1998-99.

A number of students who live in Wales study in other regions of the UK. The most recent figures (1997-98) from the National Assembly for Wales suggest that 67% of Welsh students stay in Wales for higher education: the other main venues for Welsh students are colleges in the West Midlands (4.2% of Welsh students); North West (6.7%), and South West (5.8%).

The education sector will continue to be an important provider of Welsh employment. The combination of forecast pupil numbers, together with government spending commitments, means that sector employment could grow by up to 1.5% pa in Wales over the period 2000-2005.

The Qualifications of the Welsh Population

Table 11 shows information derived from the Labour Force Survey (Spring, 1998) on the highest qualification of those of working age for a selection of UK regions. An estimated 22% of the

Welsh working population have no formal qualifications. In the adjacent South West region this figure falls to 13.8%, while the UK average was 18.1%. Wales has a similar percentage (to the UK) of its working population with A levels or equivalent (23.0% compared to 23.4% for the UK). However, only an estimated 10.4% of the Welsh workforce had a degree or equivalent qualification. Only in the West Midlands and the North east do a smaller proportion of the working

population have a degree/equivalent. The UK average figure by comparison is 12.9%. Above this UK average, are figures for the South east of 15.5% and for London of 21.0%.

The larger picture makes particularly disappointing reading for Wales and is intimately linked to a series of demand and supply side problems in the region which ultimately point to a series of economic and social disadvantages. There are linkages between the

information in the table, Welsh earnings, and then through to indices such as GDP per capita. The table also reflects the fact that a significant proportion of Welsh students leave the region for their post-18 education and do not return to the regional jobs market, or that they graduate in Wales and then seek employment in other regions. This difficult to measure net out-migration of skills and talent has been a long term fact of Welsh economic life which will be extremely challenging to reverse.

Table 10 Enrolments (full-time, part-time, sandwich and franchised out programmes) in Higher Education in Wales 1998-99

Institution	Number	Share of Welsh Enrolments %*
Univ.of Wales Bangor	7147	8.3
Univ of Wales Lampeter	2070	2.4
Univ of Wales Swansea	9731	11.3
Univ of Wales Cardiff	14793	17.2
Univ of Wales Aberystwyth	7168	8.3
Univ of Wales College of Medicine	3013	3.5
Univ of Glamorgan	15934	18.5
Llandrillo College	160	0.2
NEWI (Wrexham)	4735	5.5
Swansea Institute	4189	4.9
Carmarthenshire College of Technology and Art	296	0.3
Trinity College	1816	2.1
Welsh College of Music and Drama	532	0.6
Univ of Wales Institute, Cardiff	7090	8.2
Univ of Wales, Newport	7268	8.5
Total	85942	100

*column does not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Source: derived from Digest of Welsh Local Area Statistics, 2000.

Table 11 Population of Working Age by Highest Qualification.

Region	Degree or equivalent	Other higher education qualification	GCE A level or equivalent	GCSE grade A-C or equivalent	Other qualifications	No qualifications
Wales	10.4	8.8	23.0	23.3	12.2	22.3
S.West	11.8	10.4	24.7	25.5	13.7	13.8
S.East	15.5	8.9	24.2	24.4	13.9	13.0
London	21.0	7.2	18.2	18.8	18.8	16.0
W.Mids	10.2	7.6	21.3	22.8	15.7	22.4
N.East	8.8	6.8	24.5	21.8	15.0	23.0
UK	12.9	8.5	23.4	22.4	14.8	18.1

Source: Derived from Regional Trends, 1999