

SDR 205/2013

27 November 2013

Examination results in Wales, 2012/13

This Statistical Release gives results of external examinations taken by pupils aged 15 or 17 at the beginning of the academic year, in schools in Wales in 2012/13. It updates the provisional figures published on 26 September in SDR 164/2013, with the changes shown in the notes at the end of this release.

Key results for 2012/13:

Examination results for 15 year olds continue to rise. Level 2 performance including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and Mathematics (the L2 inclusive measure) has increased by at least 1 percentage point each year since 2007.

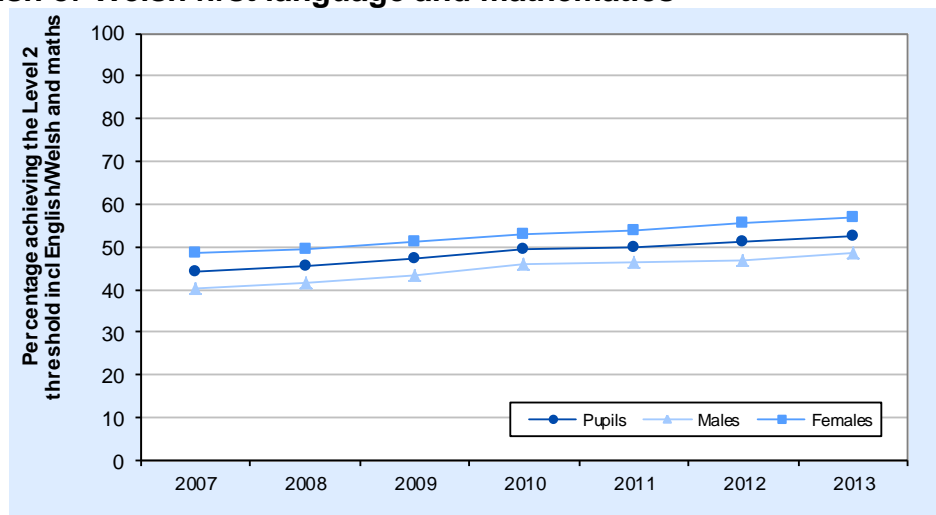
15 year olds

- 52.7 per cent achieved the Level 2 inclusive threshold, 1.6 percentage points higher than in 2011/12 and 8.3 percentage points higher than 2006/07 (Table 1);
- 77.8 per cent achieved the Level 2 threshold, 5.2 percentage points higher than in 2011/12;
- The average capped wider points score was 333.1, 9.6 points higher than in 2011/12 (Table 1).
- 64 per cent achieved A*-C in English or Welsh, 0.6 percentage points higher than in 2011/12 (Table 2)
- 60.3 per cent achieved A*-C in maths, 2 percentage points higher than in 2011/12 (Table 2)

17 year olds

- 96.5 per cent of those entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels achieved the Level 3 threshold, 0.4 percentage points lower than in 2011/12 and 2.1 percentage points higher compared with 2001/02 (Table 3);
- The average wider points score was 806.6, 33.7 points higher than in 2011/12 (Table 3).

Chart 1: Percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics



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Table 1: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...						
	Number of pupils aged 15	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (e)	achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c)	Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped (d) wider points score per pupil
2001/02	37,116	84.8	50.5	..	36.9
2002/03	37,993	85.1	51.1	..	37.5
2003/04	39,212	85.3	51.4	..	37.7	324.7	..
2004/05	38,495	85.2	52.2	..	38.4	327.7	..
2005/06	38,859	86.0	53.8	..	39.7	335.4	..
2006/07	39,576	86.0	55.0	44.4	40.0	343.9	..
2007/08	39,027	86.8	58.0	45.6	44.4	356.0	..
2008/09	37,607	88.2	60.7	47.2	46.0	378.9	..
2009/10	37,072	89.7	63.8	49.4	48.0	394.3	305.1
2010/11	36,088	90.3	67.3	50.1	48.7	422.9	311.6
2011/12	35,404	91.8	72.6	51.1	48.9	465.0	323.5
2012/13 (r)	36,617	93.2	77.8	52.7	49.2	501.2	333.1
2012/13							
Males	18,867	91.6	73.7	48.7	45.5	475.0	320.1
Females	17,750	94.8	82.1	57.0	53.2	529.0	346.9

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes GCSEs, GCSE Short Course, GNVQs and NVQs. From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

(c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved GCSE grade A*-C in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.

(d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.

(e) Please see section 3.2 of the notes for more details

Table 2: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...			
	Number of pupils aged 15	achieved A*-C in d	achieved A*-C in Maths	achieved A*-C in Science
2010/11	36,088	63.7	56.5	65.9
2011/12	35,404	63.5	58.4	70.6
2012/13 (r)	36,617	64.0	60.3	74.8

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

(c) Includes core subjects which count towards the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)

(d) For each pupil the best grade of English language, English literature, Welsh first language and Welsh literature is taken.

Table 3: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
2001/02	9,486	94.4	11,201	..
2002/03	9,848	93.9	11,568	..
2003/04	10,041	94.9	11,822	..
2004/05	10,373	94.4	12,072	..
2005/06	10,731	93.9	12,507	..
2006/07	10,592	93.9	12,418	618.5
2007/08	10,943	94.2	12,653	630.9
2008/09	11,367	96.0	13,241	687.7
2009/10	11,653	94.9	13,586	747.9
2010/11	11,512	96.3	13,615	798.9
2011/12	11,538	96.9	13,632	772.9
2012/13 (r)	11,706	96.5	13,365	806.6
2012/13				
Males	5,233	95.8	6,206	757.6
Females	6,473	97.0	7,159	849.0

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes A levels, AS levels and Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (AVCE). From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.

Table 4: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, 2012/13, by LA (a) (b)

	Number of pupils aged 15	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...				achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c)	Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped (d) wider points score per pupil
		achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (f)	achieved the Level 2 threshold			
Isle of Anglesey	727	97.4	83.2	54.2	50.6	593.5	358.5	
Gwynedd	1,409	97.1	81.5	58.0	57.3	578.2	353.4	
Conwy	1,267	95.3	84.6	56.0	52.6	503.9	339.9	
Denbighshire	1,254	93.6	85.7	53.4	49.0	553.2	345.3	
Flintshire	1,810	94.3	79.6	62.2	59.0	526.7	337.1	
Wrexham	1,280	90.9	73.4	48.4	44.8	514.5	323.5	
Powys	1,518	94.9	82.6	58.1	53.2	510.8	346.0	
Ceredigion	737	95.4	83.4	62.0	59.4	507.8	351.5	
Pembrokeshire	1,391	93.5	78.1	51.9	49.3	535.5	336.0	
Carmarthenshire	2,174	94.8	78.0	53.9	50.6	550.4	342.1	
Swansea	2,663	93.8	79.3	55.3	52.9	525.2	338.9	
Neath Port Talbot	1,619	95.9	87.0	56.0	52.6	536.9	350.3	
Bridgend	1,797	93.3	72.3	52.3	50.6	442.1	321.5	
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,633	94.5	82.6	55.4	50.2	557.2	346.8	
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	3,047	93.0	77.9	46.3	45.3	483.5	323.8	
Merthyr Tydfil	695	92.7	72.9	38.7	36.3	502.5	322.0	
Caerphilly	2,280	92.4	69.1	46.3	42.6	455.0	318.5	
Blaenau Gwent	729	89.0	60.1	38.7	36.1	425.6	299.7	
Torfaen	1,405	93.5	77.4	50.5	47.2	458.9	326.5	
Monmouthshire	918	92.2	74.2	57.3	53.4	472.6	329.2	
Newport	1,787	92.0	80.7	51.3	48.8	506.7	332.8	
Cardiff	3,474	91.7	73.0	49.9	46.7	457.0	322.0	
Wales (e) (r)	36,617	93.2	77.8	52.7	49.2	501.2	333.1	

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

(c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved the Level 2 threshold in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.

(d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.

(e) Includes independent schools and pupils from a non-English or Welsh background education.

(f) Please see section 3.2 of the notes for more details



- Flintshire had the highest percentage of 15 year olds achieving the Level 2 inclusive threshold (62.2 per cent), while Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent had the lowest percentage (38.7 per cent).
- Anglesey had the highest average capped points score (358.5), while Blaenau Gwent had the lowest (299.7)

Table 5: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2012/13, by LA (a)

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
Isle of Anglesey	273	98.2	287	913.4
Gwynedd	344	98.3	360	906.0
Conwy	559	95.2	610	804.2
Denbighshire	441	96.8	513	717.5
Flintshire	621	96.3	723	750.1
Wrexham	130	94.6	162	740.4
Powys	615	98.5	647	944.3
Ceredigion	360	98.9	417	849.1
Pembrokeshire	496	96.6	535	901.3
Carmarthenshire	629	97.3	704	840.7
Swansea	507	97.4	590	769.2
Neath Port Talbot	157	96.8	176	832.1
Bridgend	617	95.6	698	767.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	763	97.5	839	936.6
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1,063	94.8	1,311	701.1
Merthyr Tydfil	211	92.4	247	768.5
Caerphilly	525	96.2	586	756.0
Blaenau Gwent	140	98.6	153	798.1
Torfaen	391	95.7	470	789.0
Monmouthshire	377	94.7	410	689.6
Newport	731	95.5	827	858.1
Cardiff	1,170	96.0	1,345	865.5
Wales (b) (r)	11,538	96.9	13,632	772.9

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.



- In 2012/13 Ceredigion had the highest percentage of 17 year olds who entered a volume equivalent to 2 A levels achieving the Level 3 threshold (98.9 per cent), while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest percentage (92.4 per cent);

Accessing the data electronically

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select "Schools and Teachers" at the navigation screen of the following site: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue>



School level data for 2012/13 and earlier can be found on My Local School from December:

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/>

School level data is also available on request.

Table 6: GCSE entries and results (pupils aged 15 only) by subject group, 2012/13 (a)

Subject Group	Number of entries	Percentage of entries achieved at grade:										No graded result
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-C	A*-G	
Sciences												
Biological Sciences	5,596	14	25	27	24	8	2	-	-	90	100	-
Chemistry	5,472	17	25	26	24	7	1	-	-	91	100	-
Physics	5,428	16	24	26	25	7	1	-	-	91	100	-
Other Science	24,444	3	8	16	32	20	9	5	3	59	97	3
Design and Technology	8,500	4	12	22	25	18	10	5	2	63	98	2
ICT	4,494	7	17	24	23	13	7	4	4	71	99	1
Home Economics	3,568	2	10	20	27	18	12	7	3	59	98	2
Mathematics	39,224	6	8	14	32	14	9	8	6	59	97	3
Social Sciences												
Business Studies	2,369	3	13	24	21	17	10	6	3	62	98	2
Economics	132	8	16	29	19	14	7	3	4	71	99	1
Geography	10,895	9	15	19	24	17	9	4	2	67	99	1
History	12,938	11	18	20	19	13	9	6	3	68	98	2
Humanities	95	1	12	22	16	12	13	13	6	51	94	6
Social Studies	1,674	4	15	21	23	17	9	5	3	62	97	3
Vocational Studies	2,260	1	10	21	28	19	11	5	2	61	99	1
Arts												
Art and Design	9,325	10	15	22	30	13	5	2	1	78	99	1
Classical Studies	159	23	22	21	11	10	5	4	2	78	99	1
Communication Studies	2,522	4	12	23	28	18	9	3	1	67	98	2
Drama	3,104	6	18	28	23	13	8	3	1	74	99	1
English Language	34,357	3	10	20	30	20	10	5	2	62	99	1
English Literature	27,554	4	13	25	27	19	7	3	1	70	99	1
French	5,677	12	22	23	23	12	5	2	1	80	100	-
German	1,183	12	20	22	25	15	4	2	-	79	100	0
Spanish	1,628	14	22	22	19	13	6	2	1	78	100	-
Other Modern Foreign Language	143	42	29	15	7	3	3	0	1	93	99	1
Music	2,733	12	23	27	20	10	4	2	1	82	99	1
Physical Education	6,749	6	19	26	24	15	7	2	-	75	100	-
Religious Studies	11,414	14	19	22	18	11	6	5	3	73	98	2
Welsh Language	5,583	3	12	26	31	17	7	3	1	72	100	-
Welsh Literature	4,150	6	16	22	30	15	8	3	1	74	100	-
Welsh Second language	9,772	9	18	21	28	12	6	3	2	76	99	1
Vocational Subjects (b)												
Additional Applied Science	836	0	1	9	32	29	14	10	3	42	97	3
Applied Art & Design	94	5	5	24	40	12	7	1	1	76	97	3
Applied Business	1,287	6	19	26	23	12	7	3	2	74	98	2
Applied Engineering	450	2	4	11	18	29	19	10	4	33	96	4
Health & Social Care	1,294	3	11	24	25	15	10	6	4	63	99	1
Hospitality & Catering	325	1	8	31	24	19	10	5	1	65	99	1
Leisure & Tourism	382	6	16	27	23	10	8	4	2	72	97	3
Performing Arts	172	6	18	31	22	14	6	1	1	78	99	1
All subjects	257,982	7	14	21	27	16	8	4	2	68	99	1

(a) Figures should be treated with caution - it is possible for pupils to have entered more than one GCSE within a small number of subject groups.

(b) GCSE Vocational Double awards were awarded for the first time in 2003/04. Each double award is counted as 2 entries.

- 59 per cent of entries in GCSE Mathematics achieved grade A*-C. For English Language the percentage was 62 per cent and for Welsh (First Language) it was 72 per cent;

Table 7: A level entries and results (pupils aged 17 only) by subject group, 2012/13 (a)

Subject Group	Number of entries	Percentage of entries achieved at grade:								No graded result
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-C	A*-E	
Sciences										
Biological Sciences	2,022	6	19	25	21	16	9	71	96	4
Chemistry	1,658	7	26	27	20	12	6	80	98	2
Physics	1,094	6	20	23	23	15	10	71	96	4
Other Science	226	8	15	31	16	18	11	69	97	3
Design and Technology	695	2	9	22	29	24	12	62	97	3
ICT	1,001	1	9	20	24	25	14	56	94	6
Home Economics	18	0	11	22	33	28	6	67	100	0
Mathematics	2,734	17	27	24	16	9	4	85	98	2
Social Sciences										
Business Studies	474	3	13	26	27	19	8	69	96	4
Economics	289	6	19	29	24	13	7	78	97	3
Geography	1,388	4	18	28	27	15	7	77	99	1
History	2,328	4	19	36	31	9	1	89	100	-
Social Studies	2,244	4	14	25	26	17	10	69	96	4
Vocational Studies	13	0	8	46	8	15	8	62	85	15
Arts										
Art and Design	1,543	12	17	28	24	14	4	80	99	1
Classical Studies	71	10	21	35	13	6	11	79	96	4
Communication Studies	747	1	9	27	39	18	5	76	99	1
Drama	629	2	14	30	33	15	4	79	99	1
English Language	890	4	12	26	35	18	5	77	99	1
English Literature	1,696	7	12	26	32	18	5	77	100	-
French	354	3	22	29	18	15	10	73	97	3
German	113	11	21	35	22	6	3	88	97	3
Spanish	132	2	20	23	16	14	15	61	91	9
Other Modern Foreign Language	70	9	37	36	11	3	4	93	100	0
Music	415	4	15	24	30	18	8	73	99	1
Physical Education	558	4	10	20	27	22	11	62	95	5
Religious Studies	1,422	2	18	32	28	15	3	81	99	1
Welsh Language	286	2	17	26	29	22	4	74	100	0
Welsh Second language	333	3	15	23	29	22	7	70	99	1
Vocational Subjects (a)										
Applied Art & Design	13	62	8	8	23	0	0	100	100	0
Applied Business	421	5	11	28	27	21	7	71	98	2
Applied Engineering	5	0	0	20	80	0	0	100	100	0
Applied ICT	361	1	9	23	32	19	9	64	92	8
Applied Science	203	0	2	18	37	30	11	57	98	2
Health & Social Care	728	-	13	28	29	21	7	70	98	2
Leisure & Recreation	13	8	15	38	38	0	0	100	100	0
Media: Communication & Producti	5	0	0	0	40	0	60	40	100	0
Performing Arts	46	2	7	22	37	20	11	67	98	2
Travel & Tourism	76	4	8	21	33	21	12	66	99	1
All subjects	27,314	6	17	27	26	16	7	76	98	2

(a) Vocational Double Award A levels were awarded for the first time in 2006/07. Each double award is counted as two entries.

- The most popular subject for 17 year olds at A level in 2012/13 was Mathematics, with 2,734 entries.

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Related Publications

Equivalent data for England and Northern Ireland can be found at the links below. Note that the data produced by these administrations are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, whereas we publish on the basis of pupils aged 15. Although the statistics are calculated on a slightly different basis the differences resulting from this are likely to be small. Comparisons cannot be made with Scotland because their examination system and qualifications are sufficiently different.

Developments are underway in Wales in moving towards producing indicators based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

For further information or advice on the constraints of international comparisons please e-mail school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

For reference, examination results for the other UK countries can be found by following the links below:

England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2013-gcse-and-equivalent-results-including-key-stage-3-provisional>

Northern Ireland

http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/32_statistical_publications-indexofstatisticalpublications_pg/32_statistical_publications_pressreleases_pg/32_national_statistics_school_leavers_pg.htm

Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubSQAResults>

We also publish information on teacher assessments in core and non core subjects and national tests at foundation phase and key stages 2 and 3, which can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/end-foundation-phase-outcomes-national-curriculum-teacher-assessment-core-subjects-key-stages-2-3/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/national-curriculum-teacher-assessments-non-core-subjects/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/national-reading-numeracy-test-results/?lang=en>

The figures differ from those published by Awarding Organisations in August. The Awarding Organisations' figures related to the outcome of the individual subject areas for all candidates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of their age. The figures published in this Statistical First Release focus on the overall performance of candidates aged 15 and 17 taking these examinations in Wales only. These figures are here:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse>

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels>

2 Data Source

The statistics are collated from a number of awarding organisations over the summer. The following awarding organisations provided data for this release: ABC Awards, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, AQA, ASDAN, British Computer Society (BCS), British Safety Council (BSC), City and Guilds, CCEA, CACHE, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), Chartered Institute of

Environmental Health , C Skills, EMTA Awards Ltd (EAL), EDI (Education Development International), EDEXCEL(Pearson), ICAA, IFS School of Finance, Institute of Leadership & Management, IMI Awards Ltd (IMIAL), NCFE, National Open College Network (NOCN), OCR, The Prince's Trust, Rock School Ltd, Royal Society for Public Health, Sports Leaders UK, VTCT and WJEC.

The number of 15 and 17 year olds are based upon the pupil numbers derived from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) for maintained schools and special schools, the STATS1 form for independent schools, and the Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) data collection for pupil referral units.

3 Definitions

3.1 Coverage

The statistics in this release cover all maintained and independent schools in Wales. Only results for pupils aged 15 and 17 received from the awarding organisations listed above are included. Examinations taken at an earlier age are also included. Any examinations achieved before the age of 15 will be held back and included in the school year in which the pupil turns 15.

The information in this release relates to all schools for Wales figures and to maintained secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units for LA figures.

Only qualifications taken up to the 31 August 2013 are included. In some cases, awards taken in the academic year 2012/13 were awarded late due to administration delays of awarding organisations. As this was not the fault of the school, these have been included. The figures now include any exam re-grades, rescinds and missing qualifications where evidence was provided from schools within the allotted time period or was provided automatically by the awarding organisations.

Up to 2005/06, the statistics include GCSEs, GCSE short course, GNVQs and NVQs only. From 2006/07, the statistics include all qualifications approved for pre-16 or 16-18 use in Wales. The introduction of the wider definition has meant the inclusion of a larger range of qualifications and thus an increase in the headline indicators of performance. An explanation of the different types of qualifications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean>

3.2 Threshold indicators and points

Indicators showing threshold equivalencies were published (as provisional indicators) for the first time in 2007 and are now the headline indicators of performance in secondary schools. Thresholds represent a volume, or 'size', of qualifications at a specific level on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Three thresholds have been established: Level 1 - a volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade D-G; Level 2 - a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C; Level 3 - a volume of qualifications at Level 3 equivalent to the volume of 2 A levels at grade A-E.

Level 2 inclusive measure and the Core Subject Indicator take into account the best grade obtained in English or Welsh first language for each pupil. Where a pupil has not entered Welsh first language, the best English grade is used. Where a pupil has taken both GCSEs the better of the two counts towards the calculation of the indicator.

The average capped wider points score is calculated using the best 8 results for each pupil. Further information on how the capped points score is produced can be found in the technical document at the link below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/examination-results/?lang=en#/statistics-and-research/examination-results/?tab=previous&lang=en>

The average wider points score includes all approved qualifications.

3.3 Discounting

An examination is discounted when a pupil achieves a higher grade or higher level qualification in the **same subject group**. If a qualification is discounted then **it does not** count towards the statistics published in this release, or in any other official statistics published by the Welsh Government. We discount similar qualifications within the following subject groups:

Group 1: Entry level qualifications, GCSE short course, full GCSE, vocational double award GCSEs

Group 2: AS level, vocational double AS level, A levels, vocational double A level, AS Vocational Certificate of Education, Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education, Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education double award

Group 3: free standing maths qualifications

Group 4: key skills

Group 5: the Award in Digital Applications (AiDA), the Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA), the Extended Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA+) and the Diploma in Digital Applications (DiDA).

Group 6: NVQs

Group 7: BTECs and other qualifications

Group 8: the Welsh Baccalaureate

4 Rounding and symbols

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total shown.

The following symbols have been used throughout the publication:

- (p) provisional
- (r) data revised from data published 26th September 2013
- percentages less than 0.5 but not zero
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * figure is less than 5, or is based on a figure less than 5.

5 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. It also covers specific issues relating to quality of 2013 data, and describes the quality management tool applied to this area of work. Between September and November 2010 we conducted a public consultation on our Education Statistics outputs, in which we asked for feedback on the quality of the outputs. For more information please email school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk

5.1 Relevance

The statistics are 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;

- The Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The research community;
- LAs and schools;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens, private companies and the media.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- General background and research;
- Inclusions in reports and briefings;
- Advice to Ministers;
- The all-Wales core data sets (the replacement for the National Pupil Database);
- LA and school comparisons and benchmarks;
- To inform the education policy decision-making process in Wales including school reorganisation;
- Development of a national banding system for Wales;
- To inform ESTYN during school inspections;
- The education domain of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation;
- To assist in research in educational attainment.

5.2 Accuracy

Schools and local authorities have now had an opportunity to assess the provisional results for accuracy, and have supplied amended information where applicable. In keeping with previous years, the change between provisional and final data for most indicators is 1 percentage point or less. The following revisions have been made to the provisional Wales level data published on September 26th:

Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...						
	Number of pupils aged 15	achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	achieved the Core Subject Indicator	Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped wider points score per pupil
2012/13 (r)	36,617	93.2	77.8	52.7	49.2	501.2	333.1
Difference from provisional data	-2 (people)	0.3 (% points)	0.8 (% points)	0.8 (% points)	1.0 (% points)	8.6 (points)	2.1 (points)

Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
	2012/13 (r)	11,706	96.5	13,365
Difference from provisional data	302 (people)	-1.9 (% points)	0 (people)	27.6 (points)

The revisions are mainly due to three factors:

- a. schools have informed us of additional qualifications gained by their students from awarding organisations we have not approached;
- b. we refresh the data from the awarding organisations approached, to include any remarks or late awards;
- c. we have done more sophisticated matching to better identify students taking examinations in more than one school and with more than one awarding organisation. Schools also assist in this by letting us know of any such students in their school.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The data relate to all qualifications achieved between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013. In some cases, awards taken in the academic year 2012/13 were awarded late due to administration delays of awarding organisations. As this was not the fault of the school, these have been included. The figures now include any exam re-grades, rescinds and missing qualifications where evidence was provided from schools within the allotted time period or was provided automatically by the awarding organisations.

5.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This Statistical First Release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

5.5 Comparability

See section 1.1.