Annual Education Workforce Statistics for Wales 2026

Cyngor y Gweithlu Addysg
Education Workforce Council

Section 4: Adult learning sector

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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Section 4: Adult Learning Sector

Adult learning practitioner

Regulations stipulate that community-based adult learning providers should ensure practitioners who provide education in, or for, a community-based adult learning provider, are registered with the EWC before they commence work.

In legislation, community-based adult learning provider means a provider (other than a school, further education institution, or higher education institution), of further education and training for adults which is based in the community and funded, or otherwise provided by a local authority, MEDR the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, or Welsh Ministers. In legislation, adult learning practitioner means:

- a person who provides further education and training to adults (those aged 18 or over) for, or on behalf of, a community-based adult learning provider, and who possesses at least one of the qualifications shown in Annex A, or has a qualification awarded outside the United Kingdom which is not, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, substantially different to the qualifications specified in the Schedule on our website (Annex A)
- a person who provides further education and training to adults (those aged 18 or over) for, or on behalf of, a community-based adult learning provider, and who is working towards a qualification. They may work as an adult practitioner for a period not exceeding:
  - three years from the date on which they started working towards the qualification where they are employed full-time
  - five years from the date on which they started working towards the qualification where they are employed part-time

Adult learning practitioners, who have one of the qualifications listed for further education teachers (Schedule 6 to the 2015 Regulations), are eligible to register in the category of adult leaning practitioner.

Volunteers, or those who provide training in relation to a profession on a temporary or occasional basis, and hold the qualifications or experience necessary in order to practise that profession, are not required to register with the EWC.

1.1 Number registered

Table 1.1: Annual registered total of adult learning practitioners.

	2025	2026
Number of adult learning practitioners	284	328

March 2026 figures – 268 are registered as a adult learning practitioner only, 60 in multiple categories. Of the multiples, 38 registrants are registered in 2 categories, 14 are registered in 3 categories, 5 are registered in 4 categories, one is registered in 5 categories, one is registered in 6 categories, and one is registered in 7 categories.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by gender.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Female	225	79.2	258	78.7
Male	52	18.3	64	19.5
Not specified	7	2.5	6	1.8
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

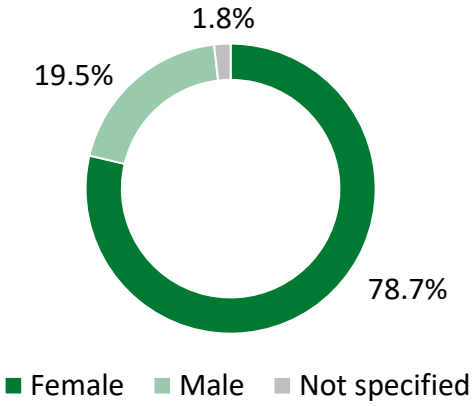

Chart 1: Gender of adult learning practitioners in 2026.

1.3 Age

Table 1.3: Number of adult learning practitioners by age.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Under 25	2	0.7	1	0.3
25 to 29	10	3.5	11	3.4
30 to 34	18	6.3	19	5.8
35 to 39	22	7.7	25	7.6
40 to 44	28	9.9	33	10.1
45 to 49	34	12.0	41	12.5
50 to 54	46	16.2	40	12.2
55 to 59	48	16.9	63	19.2
60 to 64	43	15.1	54	16.5
65+	33	11.6	41	12.5
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

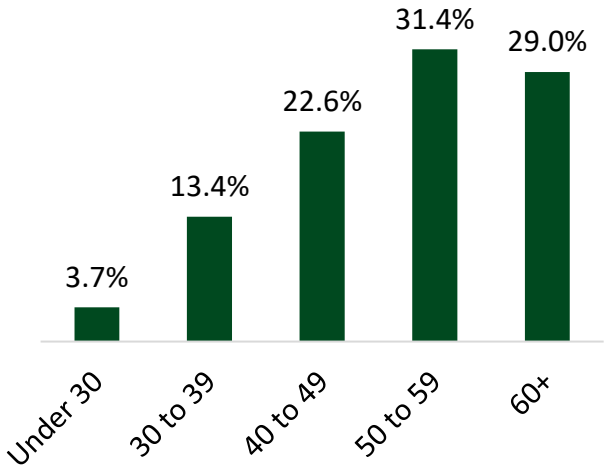

Chart 2: Age of adult learning practitioners in 2026.

1.4 Ethnic group

Table 1.4: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by ethnic group.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
White	166	58.5	224	68.3
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1	0.4	3	0.9
Asian or Asian British	0	0.0	2	0.6
Black, African, Caribbean, or Black British	0	0.0	1	0.3
Other ethnic group	2	0.7	1	0.3
Does not wish to record ethnic group	5	1.8	8	2.4
Unknown	110	38.7	89	27.1
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

The above data is provided in an aggregate format to prevent the disclosure of registrants. The ethnic group options as detailed on the Register of Education Practitioners can be found on the Government Analysis function website. The ethnic groups that make up the aggregate format above can also be found there.

1.5 National identity

Table 1.5: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by national identity.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Welsh	106	37.3	131	39.9
British	56	19.7	87	26.5
English	7	2.5	8	2.4
Scottish, Irish, or Northern Irish	1	0.4	3	0.9
Other	5	1.8	10	3.0
Does not wish to record national identity	0	0.0	2	0.6
Unknown	109	38.4	87	26.5
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

1.6 Disability

Table 1.6: Number of registered adult learning practitioners who have made a declaration regarding their disability.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	18	6.3	26	7.9
No	266	93.7	302	92.1
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

For the purposes of this release, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a self-reported long-standing illness, condition, or impairment that causes difficulty with day-to-day activities. This definition is consistent with the Equality Act 2010 and the Government Statistical Service's (GSS's) harmonised definition.

1.7 Employment

Table 1.7: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by employer.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Blaenau Gwent	0	0.0	1	0.3
Bridgend	9	3.2	0	0.0
Caerphilly	43	15.1	27	8.2
Cardiff	16	5.6	13	4.0
Carmarthenshire	17	6.0	18	5.5
Ceredigion	11	3.9	6	1.8
Conwy	1	0.4	3	0.9
Denbighshire	0	0.0	0	0.0
Flintshire	2	0.7	0	0.0
Gwynedd	0	0.0	0	0.0
Isle of Anglesey	0	0.0	0	0.0
Merthyr Tydfil	3	1.1	3	0.9
Monmouthshire	15	5.3	14	4.3
Neath Port Talbot	21	7.4	21	6.4
Newport	17	6.0	16	4.9
Pembrokeshire	29	10.2	22	6.7
Powys	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20	7.0	19	5.8
Swansea	1	0.4	12	5.4
Torfaen	17	6.0	23	7.0
Vale of Glamorgan	18	6.3	26	7.9
Wrexham	0	0.0	0	0.0
Subtotal in-service in a FE institution	**240**	**84.5**	**224**	**68.3**
Others in-service[1]	32	11.3	43	13.1
Others out of service[2]	12	4.2	61	18.6
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

[1] Includes supply, registrants on maternity leave, and those working in a adult learning practitioner role outside one of the listed local authority employers.
[2] Includes retired, unemployed registrants, and those not employed as an adult learning practitioner.

1.8 Ability to speak Welsh

Table 1.8: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by ability to speak Welsh.

The below is based on those registrants who have declared whether they are fluent or fairly fluent, in the Welsh language.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	26	9.2	43	13.1
No	152	53.5	200	61.0
Unknown	106	37.3	85	25.9
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

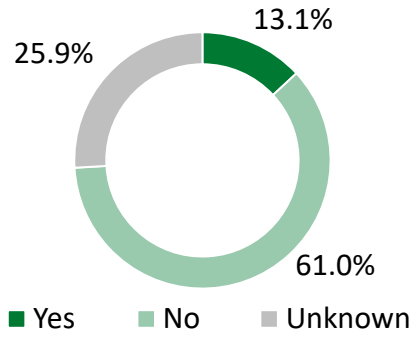

Chart 3: Adult learning practitioners by ability to speak Welsh in 2026.

1.9 Ability to work through the medium of Welsh

Table 1.9: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by ability to work through the medium of Welsh.

The below information is based on those registrants who have declared whether they were either trained to work, currently work, or have ever worked through the medium of Welsh or feel confident to do so.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	11	3.9	20	6.1
No	165	58.1	220	67.1
Unknown	108	38.0	88	26.8
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

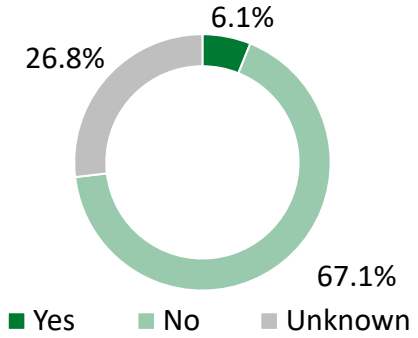

Chart 4: Adult learning practitioners by ability to work through the medium of Welsh in 2026.

1.10 Highest level of qualification

Table 1.10: Number of registered adult learning practitioners by highest level of qualification held.

	2025		2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Level 8	2	0.7	2	0.6
Level 7	92	32.4	120	36.6
Level 6	45	15.8	58	17.7
Level 5	9	3.2	10	3.0
Level 4	1	0.4	6	1.8
Level 3	22	7.7	30	9.1
Level 2	1	0.4	1	0.3
Level 1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown level*	112	39.4	101	30.8
Total	**284**	**100**	**328**	**100**

Includes subject specific qualifications, qualifications in another subject, teaching/assessing qualification for example, all qualifications listed on a registrant's record. Levels based on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

*Unknown level includes those who have no qualifications recorded, no relevant qualification or, if the level of qualification cannot be determined from the information provided by either the registrant or employer.

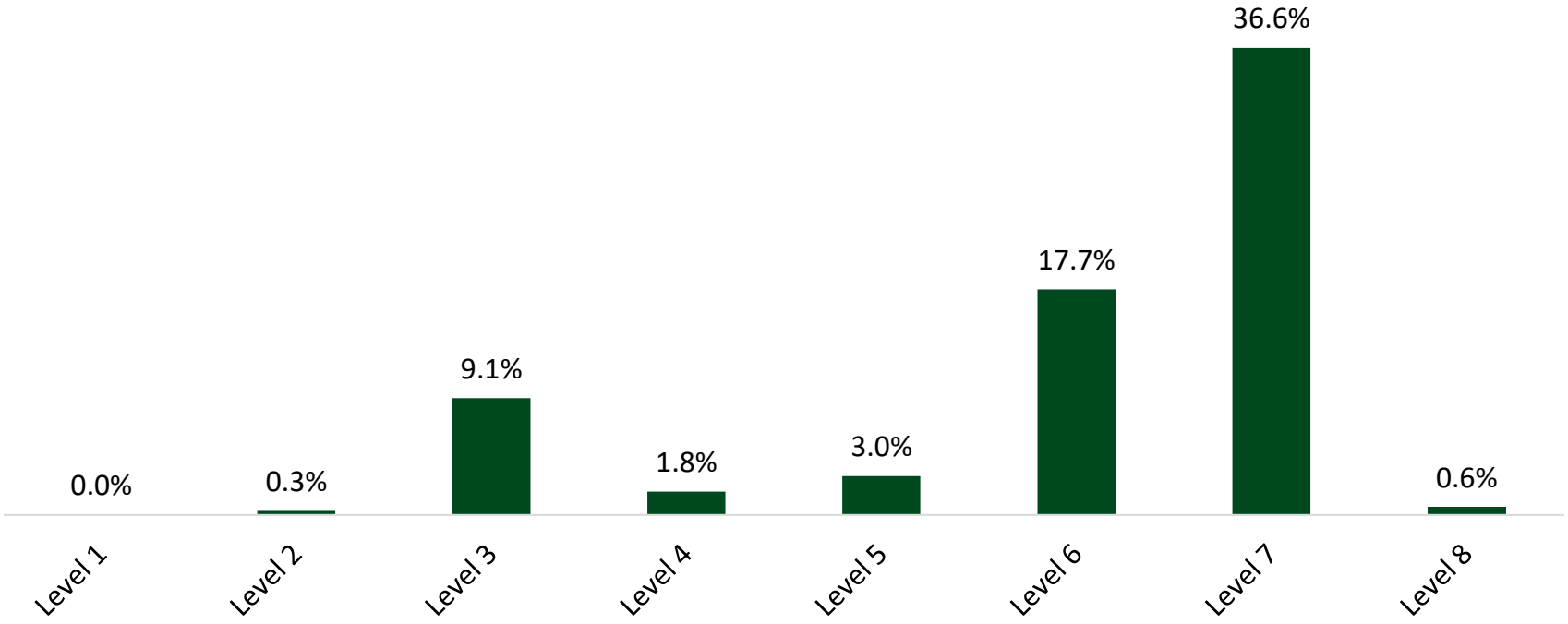

Chart 5: Percentage of adult learning practitioners by highest level of qualification in 2026.

1.11 Retention

Table 1.11: Year-on-year change in registered adult learning practitioner numbers.

	March 2025		March 2026	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total registered[1]	284	100	328	100
Registrants de-registered since previous year[2]	0	0	60	21.1
New registrants since previous year[3]	0	0	104	36.6
Increase or decrease on previous year[4]	0	0	44	15.5

[1] Total number of registrants in the further education learning support worker category on 1 March in each given year.

[2] Number of further education learning support workers who were registered in the previous year but did not maintain their registration the following year.

[3] Number of new registrants who were admitted to the Register of Education Practitioners in each year.

[4] Number reflects either a net increase or decrease in registrant numbers on the 1 March in each year compared to the previous year, taking into account the number of registrants who did not retain their registration (footnote 2) and those admitted to the Register (footnote 3).