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Press Release - For immediate release

Latest statistics on education workforce in Wales published

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) has today published its latest data on the education workforce in Wales.

The independent regulator's Annual education workforce statistics for Wales 2021 represents its most comprehensive set of data to date, covering over 78,000 registered practitioners across schools, further education (FE), work-based learning and youth work in Wales.

Based on information derived from the regulator's Register of Education Practitioners, the publication provides valuable insights into the make-up of the education workforce, such as age, ethnicity, gender, as well as qualifications and subjects.

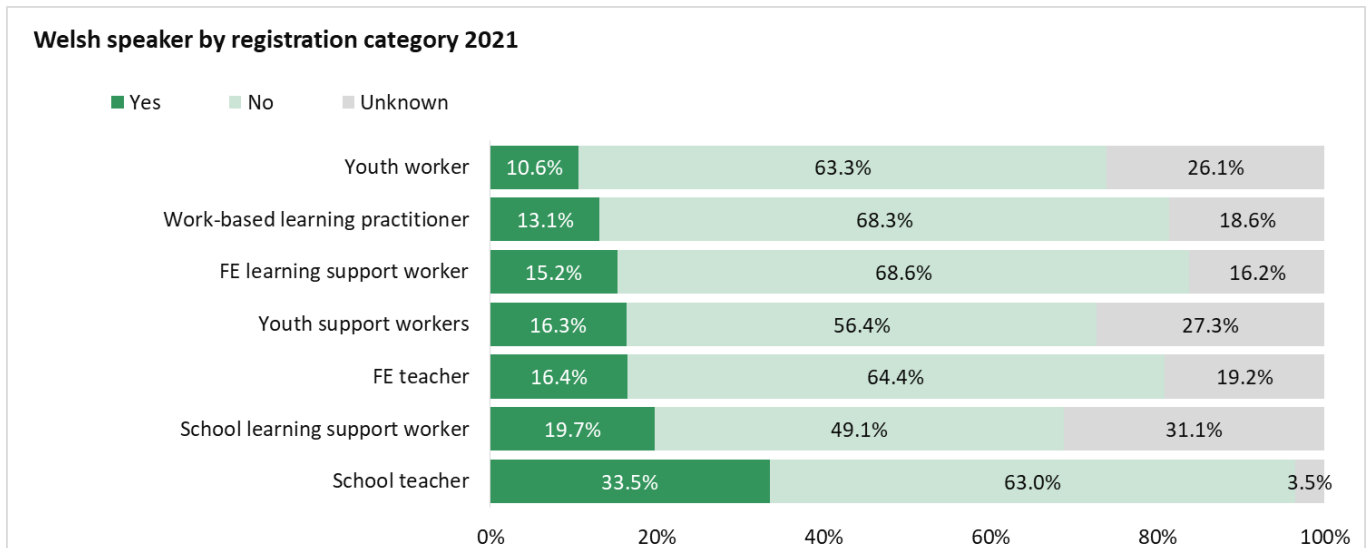
Age profile of teachers points towards healthy outlook for recruitment and retention

The age profile of school teachers continues to be healthy with 48.3% aged under 40 and 29.7% between 40 and 50. There has also been an increase in teachers under the age of 25 from 3.6% last year to 5.5% in 2021. This is in part due to an increase in those gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) in Wales last year. The trend is expected to continue in 2021 due to [the sharp increase in new teachers this year](#). Of the 1,231 teachers who gained QTS this year, 84.4% were aged under 29.

School learning support workers have the largest percentage of registrants under 25 (17.6%). In contrast, the FE workforce is older than the school workforce. 42.4% are aged 50 and over in comparison to 22.1% of school teachers and 36.9% of work-based learning practitioners.

Little change in Welsh language figures

The proportion of practitioners able to speak and teach or work through the medium of Welsh remains stable year on year (for example 27.1% and 33.5% respectively for school teachers). However, it is clear that an increase in the number of Welsh speaking educators is needed if the Welsh Government is to achieve its target of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.



What else does the data tell us?

- School learning support staff continue to be the largest group within the education workforce in Wales, with numbers increasing by 15.7% since 2017 while the number of school teachers has declined.
- Overall figures show that the education workforce is largely female dominated, with over 80% of school staff and over 60% in other settings being women.
- The percentage of the education workforce from black and minority ethnic groups remains small, and below the percentage seen in the wider population in Wales.

EWC Chief Executive, Hayden Llewellyn said: “This year’s data provides valuable intelligence to inform workforce planning in Wales. In particular there is much food for thought for policymakers in key areas such as the Welsh language and the diversity of the workforce”.

The Annual education workforce statistics for Wales 2021 is available to download at www.ewc.wales

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Notes for editors

- The Education Workforce Council is the independent regulator for the education professions in Wales, covering school and further education teachers, school and further education learning support workers, youth and youth support workers and work-based learning practitioners.
- The Annual Workforce Statistics for Wales has been published since 2001 and is the most comprehensive data source for the education workforce in Wales. Previous editions are available for download at www.ewc.wales.
- For further information, please contact media@ewc.wales or call 029 2046 0099.