

Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2018 - 19

1 Introduction

This note covers parking finances for the 22 local authorities in Wales. As in England and Scotland, local authorities are required to submit details of all their finances to the Welsh Government in a standard format. They are normally published in October, seven months after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure from 2014-15 to 2018-19 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2023)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities; all of the sources are listed in the references.¹

The published data is less comprehensive than in England and does not split out on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately. The figures do not include any commercial off-street parking. In 2018-19, 20 councils showed surpluses and two showed deficits. All councils are now receiving income from parking.

2 Summary

Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for Wales (£ millions)

		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18
Parking	Income	33.9	35.8	37.4	38.5	41.9	8.9%
	Expenditure	21.8	22.0	23.4	24.1	-16.1	-166.8%
	Surplus	12.1	13.8	14.0	14.4	58.0	302.3%
Total transport	Net expenditure	278.9	271.2	270.5	265.3	267.1	0.7%

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Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for Wales (£ millions) (*continued*)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18
Parking surplus as percentage of net transport expenditure	4.3	5.1	5.2	5.4	21.7	

Table 1 shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Wales of the incomes and expenditures arising from parking charges and penalty income both for on- and off-street parking. The income has increased by 8.9 %, the expenditure has fallen by 166.8 % and the surplus has increased by 302.3 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport expenditure has increased by 0.7 % and the surplus now represents 21.7 % of net transport expenditure. Since 2014-15 income has risen by 23.6% and expenditure has fallen by 173.7%. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 379.5%. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

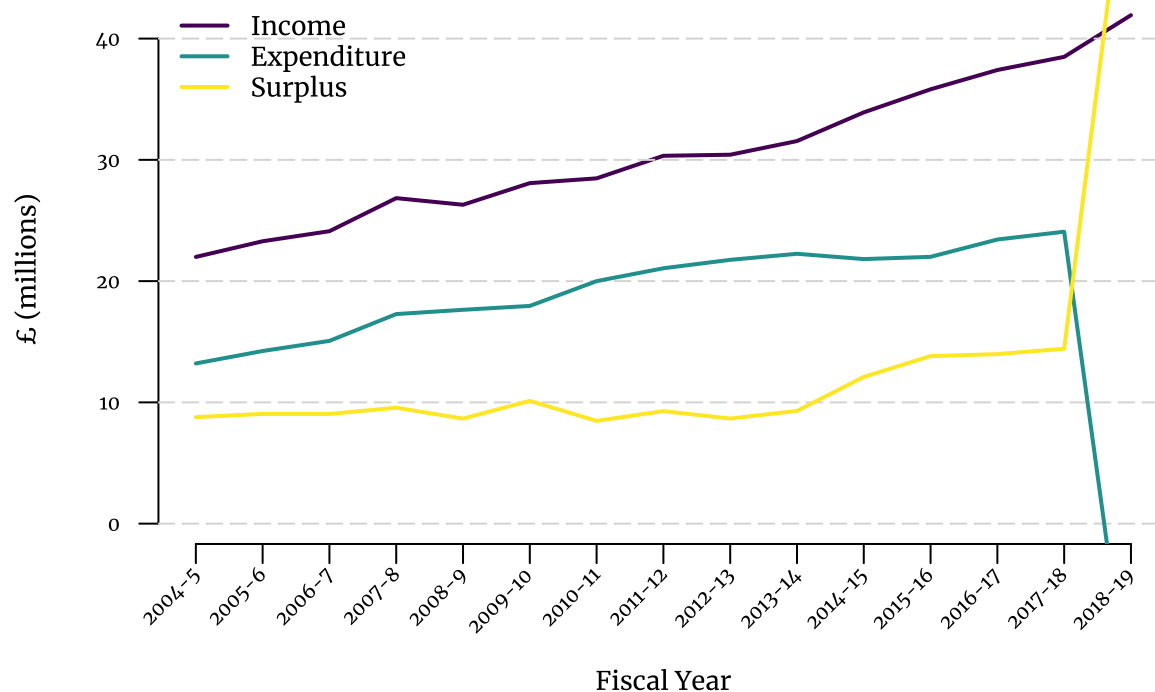


Figure 1: Parking revenues—Wales

3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2018-19 was £41.9 million, 8.9% higher than 2017-18. Note that this includes penalty income, which is not shown separately, but does not include off-street income received by commercial off-street parking facilities. Table 2 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

In Wales as a whole 17 councils increased their income over the past year and five decreased their income. The changes from 2017-18 are mapped² in Figure 4 in the Annex. The annualised changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 5, using the same colour palette.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 46.7% of parking income.

The three councils which had the largest year-on-year percentage increases in income were Blaenau Gwent (up 30.7%), Flintshire (up 26.3%) and Rhondda Cynon Taf (up 21.5%). Torfaen showed a larger percentage change but parking income was under £30,000. The biggest decreases were in Monmouthshire (5.8%), and Merthyr Tydfil (5.7%).

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18	Average annual change from 2014-15
Cardiff	6,900	7,257	7,599	8,629	9,739	12.9%	9.0%
Swansea	5,171	5,446	5,666	5,932	6,978	17.6%	7.8%
Carmarthenshire	2,815	3,106	3,092	3,035	2,882	-5.0%	0.6%
Gwynedd	2,027	2,538	2,490	2,539	2,697	6.2%	7.4%
Conwy	1,419	1,886	1,935	1,903	2,227	17.0%	11.9%
Pembrokeshire	1,521	1,783	1,867	1,916	2,173	13.4%	9.3%
Powys	1,363	1,602	1,684	1,653	1,683	1.8%	5.4%
Neath Port Talbot	1,494	1,376	1,375	1,500	1,652	10.2%	2.6%
Denbighshire	1,251	1,300	1,711	1,517	1,515	-0.1%	4.9%
Monmouthshire	1,250	1,421	1,522	1,535	1,446	-5.8%	3.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,410	1,291	1,322	1,090	1,324	21.5%	-1.6%
Bridgend	1,268	1,220	1,127	1,139	1,211	6.4%	-1.1%
Wrexham	1,045	896	974	1,113	1,067	-4.1%	0.5%
Ceredigion	1,150	980	1,109	1,055	1,058	0.3%	-2.1%
Vale of Glamorgan	788	686	764	737	807	9.5%	0.6%
Flintshire	450	439	599	571	721	26.3%	12.5%

²Boundary data for this and all further maps is from Office for National Statistics (2017). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000) (continued)

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18	Average annual change from 2014-15
Caerphilly	721	702	675	641	688	7.3%	-1.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	745	690	608	725	684	-5.7%	-2.1%
Isle of Anglesey	456	523	605	639	682	6.7%	10.6%
Newport	621	640	643	591	649	9.8%	1.1%
Blaenau Gwent	38	30	30	30	40	30.7%	0.7%
Torfaen	12	5	15	4	6	50.0%	-15.9%
Total	33,915	35,817	37,410	38,494	41,929	8.9%	5.4%

4 Expenditure

Table 3 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has fallen by £40.2 million (166.8%) after a rise of £0.6 million last year.

In Wales as a whole One council increased their expenditures over the past year and 21 decreased them. The changes from 2017-18 are mapped in Figure 2 in the Annex. The average annual changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 3 in the Annex, using the same colour palette.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Torfaen where it increased by 40.2% while Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly increased by -33.1% and -45.2% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Gwynedd (235.0%), and Conwy (222.5%).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2018-19. Nationally in Wales it is -38.4% with Cardiff at -45.7%.

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18	Average annual change since 2014-15	Expenditure as proportion of income
Blaenau Gwent	262	340	866	483	323	-33.1%	5.4%	818.1%
Caerphilly	523	512	658	550	302	-45.2%	-12.8%	43.8%
Torfaen	63	86	87	82	115	40.2%	16.2%	1916.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	864	794	791	906	-69	-107.6%		-5.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	637	578	632	686	-101	-114.7%		-12.5%

Table 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000) *(continued)*

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18	Average annual change since 2014-15	Expenditure as proportion of income
Neath Port Talbot	1,308	1,168	1,256	1,332	-173	-113.0%		-10.4%
Newport	556	503	633	286	-181	-163.4%		-27.9%
Bridgend	1,156	988	833	889	-204	-123.0%		-16.9%
Merthyr Tydfil	651	519	504	510	-280	-154.8%		-40.9%
Isle of Anglesey	299	337	358	351	-303	-186.3%		-44.4%
Flintshire	458	862	726	678	-321	-147.4%		-44.6%
Wrexham	580	580	838	812	-403	-149.6%		-37.7%
Denbighshire	767	842	1,053	1,053	-445	-142.3%		-29.4%
Ceredigion	825	964	589	567	-486	-185.7%		-45.9%
Monmouthshire	510	490	594	671	-778	-216.0%		-53.8%
Pembrokeshire	1,029	1,200	1,270	1,319	-803	-160.9%		-37.0%
Powys	748	763	789	822	-860	-204.7%		-51.1%
Carmarthenshire	2,026	1,712	1,764	2,115	-957	-145.3%		-33.2%
Conwy	760	828	916	954	-1,169	-222.5%		-52.5%
Gwynedd	1,100	1,130	1,135	1,157	-1,562	-235.0%		-57.9%
Swansea	3,220	3,044	3,199	3,087	-3,281	-206.3%		-47.0%
Cardiff	3,474	3,763	3,941	4,764	-4,448	-193.4%		-45.7%
Total	21,816	22,003	23,431	24,074	-16,085	-166.8%		-38.4%

Table 4 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was -38.4% compared to 62.5% in the previous year.

Cardiff's expenditure was -45.7% of its income having fallen since last year, while Swansea's has fallen to -47.0%.

Care should be taken in interpreting the percentages towards the bottom of the table, as the very low parking incomes can lead to extreme values which are less meaningful.

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Blaenau Gwent	679.6%	1134.8%	2887.2%	1599.7%	818.1%
Caerphilly	72.5%	72.9%	97.5%	85.8%	43.8%
Torfaen	525.0%	1720.0%	580.0%	2050.0%	1916.7%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	61.3%	61.5%	59.8%	83.1%	-5.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	80.8%	84.3%	82.7%	93.1%	-12.5%
Neath Port Talbot	87.6%	84.9%	91.4%	88.8%	-10.4%
Newport	89.6%	78.5%	98.5%	48.3%	-27.9%

Table 4: Parking expenditure as a proportion of parking income
(continued)

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Bridgend	91.2%	81.0%	73.8%	78.0%	-16.9%
Merthyr Tydfil	87.4%	75.2%	82.9%	70.4%	-40.9%
Isle of Anglesey	65.6%	64.4%	59.2%	54.9%	-44.4%
Flintshire	101.8%	196.4%	121.3%	118.8%	-44.6%
Wrexham	55.5%	64.8%	86.0%	73.0%	-37.7%
Denbighshire	61.3%	64.8%	61.5%	69.4%	-29.4%
Ceredigion	71.7%	98.4%	53.1%	53.8%	-45.9%
Monmouthshire	40.8%	34.5%	39.0%	43.7%	-53.8%
Pembrokeshire	67.7%	67.3%	68.0%	68.8%	-37.0%
Powys	54.9%	47.6%	46.9%	49.7%	-51.1%
Carmarthenshire	71.9%	55.1%	57.1%	69.7%	-33.2%
Conwy	53.5%	43.9%	47.3%	50.1%	-52.5%
Gwynedd	54.3%	44.5%	45.6%	45.6%	-57.9%
Swansea	62.3%	55.9%	56.5%	52.0%	-47.0%
Cardiff	50.3%	51.9%	51.9%	55.2%	-45.7%
Total	64.3%	61.4%	62.6%	62.5%	-38.4%

* Any empty cells indicate the council reported no income and/or no expenditure

5 Surpluses

Table 5 shows the parking surpluses from from 2014-15 to 2018-19 and the change from 2017-18 to 2018-19. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £58.4 million between 20 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 49.1%.

Two councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling to £0.4 million from £0.6 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £58.0 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2018-19 compared with £14.4 million in 2017-18, an increase of 302.3%.

Vale of Glamorgan increased their surplus by 1680.4% while Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf increased by 984.7% and 656.5% respectively. The biggest decreases were in Monmouthshire (157.4%), and Newport (171.7%).

The largest increase of deficit was incurred by Torfaen which increased their deficit by 39.7 %

The biggest decrease was in Blaenau Gwent where the deficit fell by (37.4 %)

Table 5: Parking surpluses for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2018-19 on 2017-18	Surplus as proportion of transport spending
Cardiff	3,426	3,494	3,658	3,865	14,187	267.1%	62.4%
Swansea	1,951	2,402	2,467	2,845	10,259	260.6%	45.9%
Gwynedd	927	1,408	1,355	1,382	4,259	208.2%	28.9%
Carmarthenshire	790	1,394	1,328	920	3,839	317.2%	22.9%
Conwy	659	1,058	1,019	949	3,395	257.7%	42.2%
Pembrokeshire	492	583	597	597	2,976	398.5%	31.4%
Powys	615	839	895	831	2,543	205.9%	20.8%
Monmouthshire	741	931	929	864	2,224	157.4%	39.6%
Denbighshire	484	458	658	464	1,960	322.3%	20.5%
Neath Port Talbot	186	208	118	168	1,825	984.7%	13.2%
Ceredigion	325	16	520	488	1,544	216.6%	14.8%
Wrexham	465	316	136	301	1,470	388.8%	18.7%
Bridgend	111	232	295	250	1,415	466.1%	11.5%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	545	497	531	184	1,393	656.5%	7.5%
Flintshire	-8	-423	-127	-108	1,043	NA%	5.6%
Isle of Anglesey	157	186	247	288	985	242.0%	11.9%
Merthyr Tydfil	93	171	104	215	963	348.5%	18.4%

Vale of Glamorgan	151	108	132	51	908	1680.4%	10.5%
Newport	65	137	9	306	830	171.7%	7.0%
Caerphilly	198	190	17	91	387	324.8%	2.4%
Torfaen	-51	-81	-72	-78	-109	39.7%	-1.4%
Blaenau Gwent	-223	-310	-836	-453	-284	-37.4%	-5.1%
Total deficit	-282	-814	-1,035	-639	-393	-38.5%	-2.9%
Total surplus	12,381	14,628	15,015	15,059	58,406	287.9%	23.0%
Total	12,099	13,814	13,979	14,420	58,014	302.3%	21.7%

* Where the change in surplus is actually a change in deficit, the values are in italics

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National comparisons

Table 6: Comparison of parking income and expenditure in across the nations of Great Britain (£ millions, latest year available)

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Fiscal year	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)
Parking income	1021.3	728.0	88.6	41.9	1879.7
Parking expenditure	539.6	273.5	41.6	-16.1	838.7
Surplus	481.7	454.4	47.0	58.0	1041.1
Surplus as proportion of income	47.2%	62.4%	53.0%	138.4%	55.4%

Table 6 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, Wales, and Scotland for the most recent available data, while Table 7 compares the changes between 2018-19 and the previous year, with the average annual change over the four-year period starting in 2014-15 (or the most recent four-year period for which data is available). In the last year the surpluses for Wales have increased by 302.3%, which is more than the average annual increase observed over the preceding four years, which was 48.0%.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 11.7% annually over the four years compared with 2.3% annually for the Retail Prices Index during the same period (Office for National Statistics (2023)).

Table 7: Changes in parking income and expenditure over previous four years (from most recent year available) across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Most recent year available	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)	(2018-19)
Average annual change in income	4.3 %	5.8 %	4.1 %	5.4 %	4.9 %
Change in income since previous year	4.2 %	7.1 %	0.4 %	8.9 %	5.2 %
Average annual change in expenditure	2.8 %	0.0 %	1.5 %	NaN %	0.6 %
Change in expenditure since previous year	5.1 %	-0.1 %	-4.7 %	-166.8 %	-1.9 %
Average annual change in surplus	6.1 %	10.2 %	6.8 %	48.0 %	9.1 %
Change in surplus since previous year	3.1 %	11.9 %	5.4 %	302.3 %	11.7 %

Maps

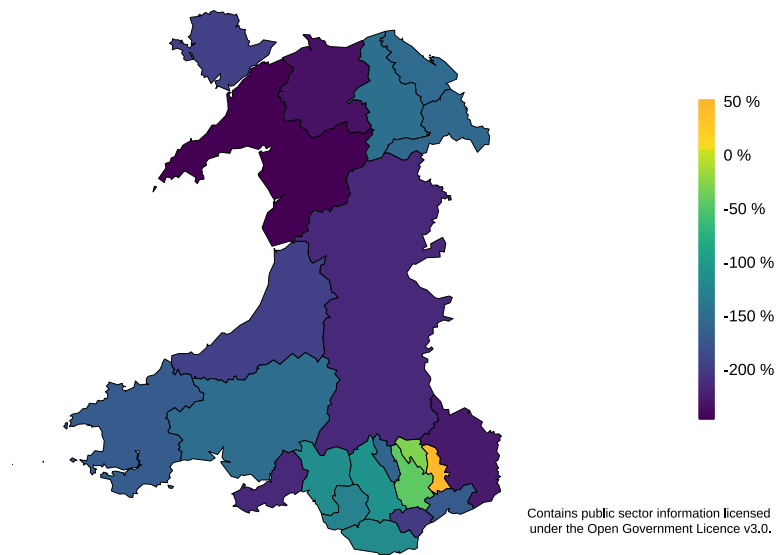


Figure 2: Map of change in parking expenditure from 2017-18 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

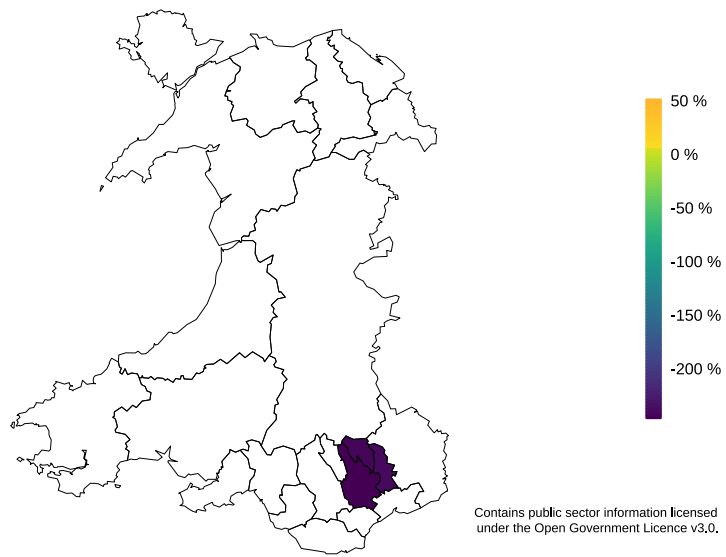


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

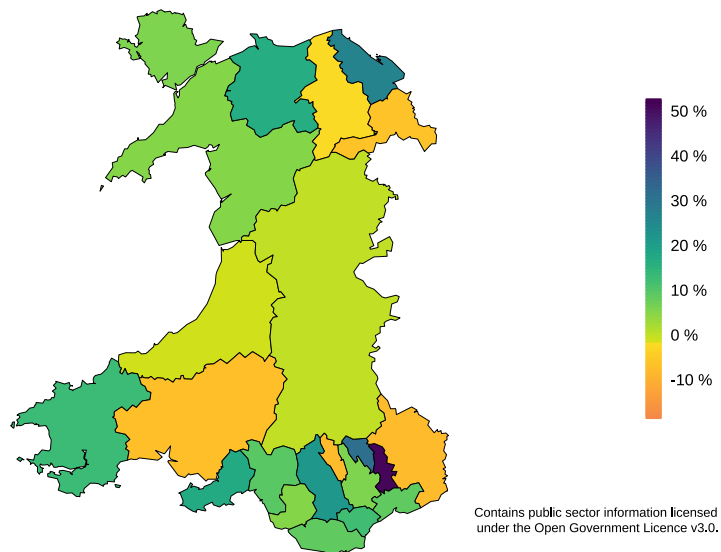


Figure 4: Map of change in parking income from 2017-18 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

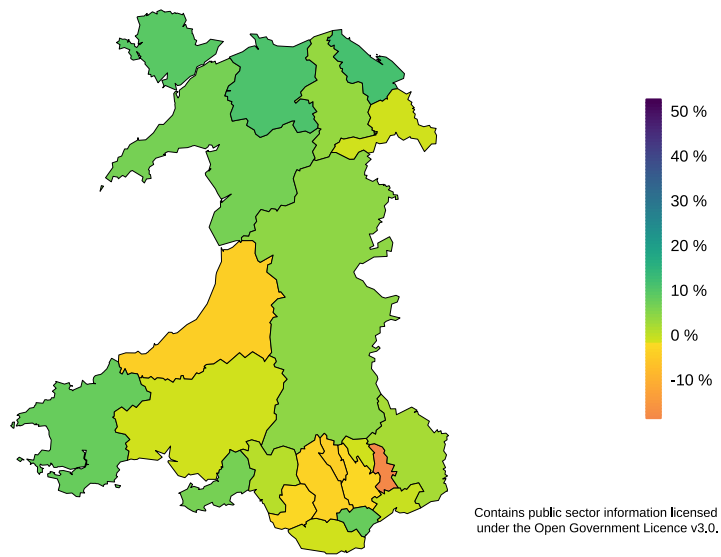


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))