

Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2014 - 15

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 2010-11 to 2014-15 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2018)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities, all of the sources of which 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 2014-15, 19 councils showed surpluses and three showed deficits (**the same three councils as 2013-14**). All councils are now receiving income from parking, **although councils such as Blaenau Gwent (Ebbw Vale and Abertillery) and Torfaen (Pontypool and Cwmbran) offer free parking but still issue penalty charge notices**.

2 Summary

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

| | | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 |
|-----------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Parking | Income | 28.47 | 30.34 | 30.42 | 31.55 | 33.91 | 7.50 % |
| | Expenditure | 20.00 | 21.06 | 21.75 | 22.25 | 21.82 | -1.96 % |
| | Surplus | 8.48 | 9.28 | 8.67 | 9.30 | 12.10 | 30.15 % |
| Total transport | Net expenditure | 330.70 | 317.90 | 314.69 | 306.75 | 278.89 | -9.08 % |
| | Parking surplus as percentage of all transport costs | 2.56 | 2.92 | 2.75 | 3.03 | 4.34 | |

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

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parking. The income has increased by 7.5 %, the expenditure has fallen by 2.0 % and the surplus has increased by 30.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport has fallen by 9.1 % and the surplus now represents 4.3 % of transport costs.

Parking makes a smaller contribution to overall transport expenditure in Wales compared with England where it is around 15.2 % of total transport. Since 2010-11 income has risen by 19.1 % and expenditure has risen by 9.1 %. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 42.7 %. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

Table 2: Comparison of parking income and expenditure in across the nations of Great Britain (£ millions)

| | England without London | London | Scotland | Wales | Great Britain |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Fiscal year | (2014-15) | (2014-15) | (2014-15) | (2014-15) | (2014-15) |
| Parking income | 862.15 | 581.68 | 75.38 | 33.91 | 1553.13 |
| Parking expenditure | 482.26 | 273.95 | 39.25 | 21.82 | 817.29 |
| Surplus | 379.89 | 307.73 | 36.13 | 12.10 | 735.84 |
| Surplus as proportion of income | 44.06% | 52.90% | 47.93% | 35.67% | 47.38% |

Table 2 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, and Wales for for the most recent available data, while Table 3 compares the changes between 2014-15 and 2013-14 with the average annual change over the two-year period from 2012-13.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 8.0 % annually over the past two years compared with 2.7 % annually for the Retail Prices Index during the same period (Office for National Statistics (2019a)).

Table 3: Annual changes in parking income and expenditure from 2012-13 to 2014-15 across the nations of Great Britain

| | England without London | London | Scotland | Wales | Great Britain |
|---|------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|------------------|
| Average annual change in income | 1.81 % | 2.16 % | 4.00 % | 5.58 % | 2.12 % |
| Change in income since previous year | 2.06 % | 2.94 % | 2.78 % | 7.50 % | 2.53 % |
| Average annual change in expenditure | -1.55 % | -4.91 % | 3.98 % | 0.14 % | -2.43 % |
| Change in expenditure since previous year | 0.29 % | 1.96 % | -1.64 % | -1.96 % | 0.69 % |
| Average annual change in surplus | 6.60 % | 9.98 % | 4.02 % | 18.14 % | 8.01 % |
| Change in surplus since previous year | 4.39 % | 3.82 % | 8.06 % | 30.15 % | 4.66 % |

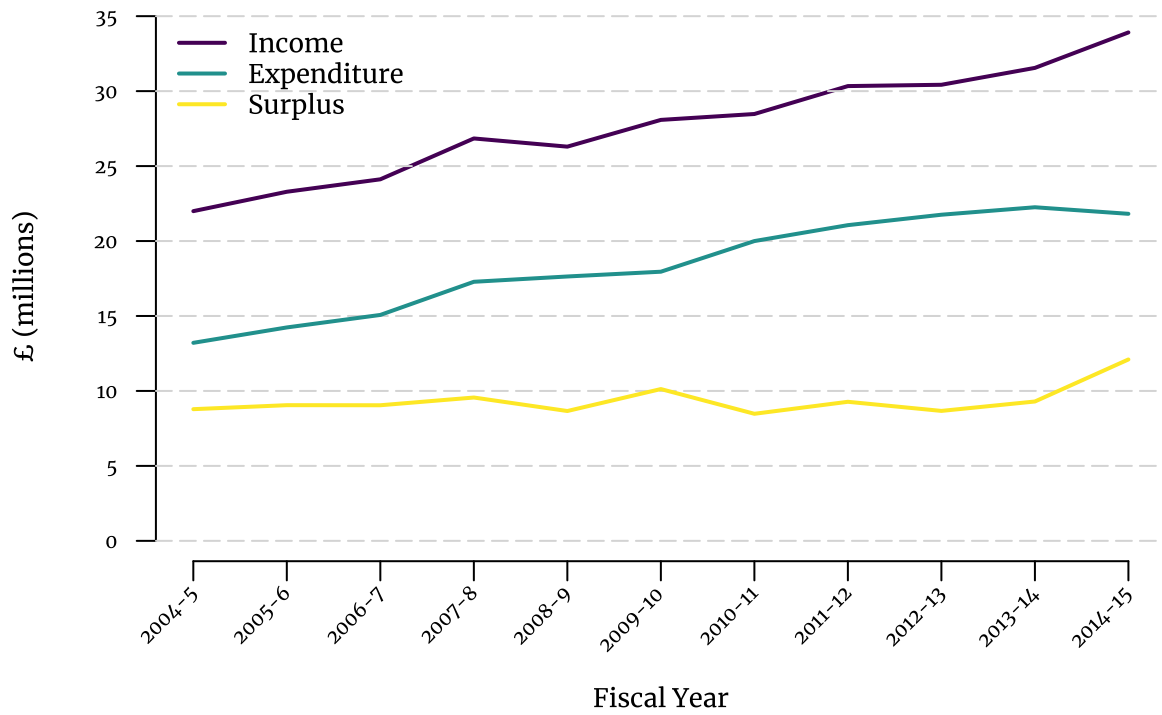


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

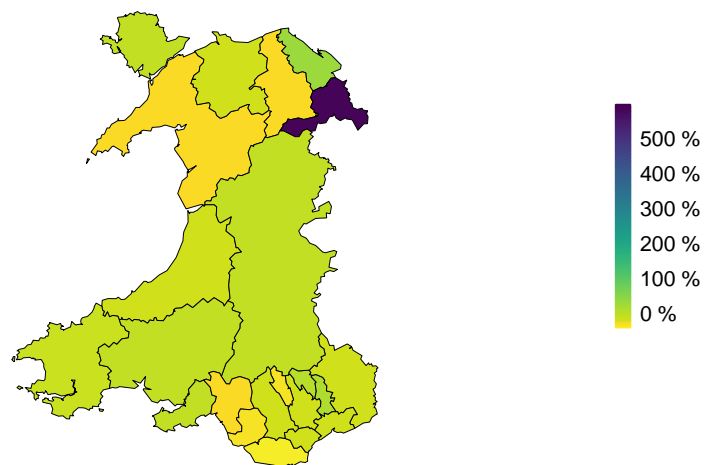


Figure 2: Map of change in parking income since previous fiscal year

3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2014-15 was £33.9 million, 7.5 % higher than 2013-14. 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 4 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

16 councils increased their income over the past year and six decreased their income. The changes from 2013-14 are mapped² in Figure 2.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 43.9 % of parking income.

Wrexham increased their income by 574.0 % while Flintshire and Blaenau Gwent increased by 51.8 % and 28.3 % respectively (excluding Torfaen with income under £30,000). The biggest decreases were in Vale of Glamorgan (17.5 %), and Merthyr Tydfil (10.5 %).

Table 4: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 | Average annual change from 2010-11 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| Cardiff | 5,012 | 6,063 | 6,178 | 6,613 | 6,900 | 4.34 % | 8.32 % |
| Swansea | 4,266 | 4,610 | 4,422 | 4,618 | 5,171 | 11.97 % | 4.93 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 2,022 | 2,148 | 2,137 | 2,448 | 2,815 | 15.03 % | 8.63 % |
| Gwynedd | 1,899 | 1,968 | 2,098 | 2,097 | 2,027 | -3.34 % | 1.64 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 1,055 | 1,334 | 1,297 | 1,360 | 1,521 | 11.84 % | 9.58 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,245 | 1,664 | 1,736 | 1,507 | 1,494 | -0.86 % | 4.66 % |
| Conwy | 1,453 | 1,382 | 1,368 | 1,392 | 1,419 | 1.97 % | -0.59 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 1,132 | 1,085 | 1,290 | 1,384 | 1,410 | 1.84 % | 5.64 % |
| Powys | 1,264 | 1,251 | 1,207 | 1,196 | 1,363 | 13.92 % | 1.89 % |
| Bridgend | 1,031 | 1,058 | 1,138 | 1,357 | 1,268 | -6.57 % | 5.30 % |
| Denbighshire | 1,507 | 1,495 | 1,458 | 1,300 | 1,251 | -3.77 % | -4.55 % |
| Monmouthshire | 1,189 | 1,260 | 1,147 | 1,183 | 1,250 | 5.74 % | 1.27 % |
| Ceredigion | 871 | 879 | 1,032 | 1,123 | 1,150 | 2.46 % | 7.21 % |
| Wrexham | 1,006 | 1,132 | 847 | 155 | 1,045 | 573.97 % | 0.93 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 321 | 319 | 318 | 955 | 788 | -17.49 % | 25.17 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 689 | 727 | 885 | 832 | 745 | -10.47 % | 1.95 % |
| Caerphilly | 619 | 647 | 659 | 702 | 721 | 2.71 % | 3.89 % |
| Newport | 1,302 | 746 | 660 | 605 | 621 | 2.63 % | -16.90 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 366 | 344 | 330 | 388 | 456 | 17.53 % | 5.65 % |

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

Table 4: Parking income for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 | Average annual change from 2010-11 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| Flintshire | 217 | 219 | 209 | 296 | 450 | 51.81 % | 20.00 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 38 | 28.28 % | |
| Torfaen | 7 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 33.33 % | 14.42 % |
| Total | 28,474 | 30,336 | 30,423 | 31,549 | 33,915 | 7.50 % | 4.47 % |

4 Expenditure

Table 5 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has fallen by £0.4 million (2.0 %) after a rise of £0.5 million last year, with eight councils having increased their costs and 14 having reduced their costs. The changes from 2013-14 are mapped in Figure 4.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Wrexham where it increased by 90.6 % while Bridgend and Carmarthenshire increased by 34.3 % and 22.6 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Flintshire (43.2 %), and Vale of Glamorgan (29.4 %).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2014-15. Nationally in Wales it is 64.3 % with Cardiff at 50.3 %.

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

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 | Average annual change since 2010-11 | Expenditure as propor- tion of income |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Cardiff | 3,084 | 3,275 | 3,592 | 3,688 | 3,474 | -5.81 % | 3.02 % | 50.35 % |
| Swansea | 3,012 | 3,184 | 3,166 | 3,362 | 3,220 | -4.22 % | 1.68 % | 62.27 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 1,781 | 1,761 | 1,650 | 1,652 | 2,026 | 22.58 % | 3.27 % | 71.95 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,329 | 1,381 | 1,489 | 1,262 | 1,308 | 3.68 % | -0.39 % | 87.55 % |
| Bridgend | 659 | 622 | 838 | 861 | 1,156 | 34.32 % | 15.10 % | 91.22 % |
| Gwynedd | 1,331 | 1,276 | 1,294 | 1,300 | 1,100 | -15.38 % | -4.65 % | 54.27 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 921 | 1,072 | 1,033 | 984 | 1,029 | 4.57 % | 2.81 % | 67.65 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 665 | 732 | 812 | 991 | 864 | -12.79 % | 6.77 % | 61.32 % |
| Ceredigion | 541 | 527 | 745 | 845 | 825 | -2.31 % | 11.14 % | 71.73 % |
| Denbighshire | 767 | 754 | 781 | 759 | 767 | 1.05 % | 0.00 % | 61.31 % |
| Conwy | 985 | 924 | 808 | 812 | 760 | -6.42 % | -6.28 % | 53.55 % |

Table 5: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 | Average annual change since 2010-11 | Expenditure as propor- tion of income |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Powys | 624 | 1,006 | 849 | 761 | 748 | -1.67 % | 4.64 % | 54.88 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 381 | 590 | 545 | 631 | 651 | 3.20 % | 14.37 % | 87.45 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 339 | 442 | 556 | 902 | 637 | -29.38 % | 17.08 % | 80.84 % |
| Wrexham | 515 | 612 | 607 | 304 | 580 | 90.60 % | 2.98 % | 55.50 % |
| Newport | 885 | 937 | 867 | 589 | 556 | -5.55 % | -10.96 % | 89.61 % |
| Caerphilly | 562 | 415 | 497 | 491 | 523 | 6.54 % | -1.79 % | 72.51 % |
| Monmouthshire | 595 | 542 | 686 | 598 | 510 | -14.75 % | -3.81 % | 40.76 % |
| Flintshire | 299 | 331 | 309 | 807 | 458 | -43.22 % | 11.27 % | 101.84 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 277 | 293 | 275 | 303 | 299 | -1.32 % | 1.93 % | 65.57 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | 245 | 285 | 311 | 274 | 262 | -4.59 % | 1.62 % | 679.63 % |
| Torfaen | 201 | 99 | 46 | 77 | 63 | -18.18 % | -25.18 % | 525.00 % |
| Total | 19,998 | 21,059 | 21,755 | 22,253 | 21,816 | -1.96 % | 2.20 % | 64.33 % |

Table 6 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 64.3 % compared to 70.5 % in the previous year, suggesting improving efficiency in operations.

Cardiff's expenditure was 50.3 % of its income having fallen since last year, while Swansea's has fallen to 62.3 %.

Most of the medium-sized councils spend 50–90% of their income on parking management, which includes enforcement. 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 6: Parking expenditure for as proportion of parking income

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cardiff | 61.53 % | 54.02 % | 58.14 % | 55.78 % | 50.35 % |
| Swansea | 70.60 % | 69.07 % | 71.60 % | 72.80 % | 62.27 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 88.06 % | 81.97 % | 77.19 % | 67.51 % | 71.95 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 106.73 % | 82.99 % | 85.80 % | 83.71 % | 87.55 % |
| Bridgend | 63.90 % | 58.77 % | 73.63 % | 63.45 % | 91.22 % |
| Gwynedd | 70.09 % | 64.84 % | 61.68 % | 61.99 % | 54.27 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 87.30 % | 80.36 % | 79.65 % | 72.35 % | 67.65 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 58.77 % | 67.46 % | 62.96 % | 71.60 % | 61.32 % |
| Ceredigion | 62.11 % | 60.02 % | 72.19 % | 75.24 % | 71.73 % |
| Denbighshire | 50.89 % | 50.42 % | 53.57 % | 58.38 % | 61.31 % |

Table 6: Parking expenditure for as proportion of parking income
(*continued*)

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Conwy | 67.79 % | 66.86 % | 59.04 % | 58.35 % | 53.55 % |
| Powys | 49.34 % | 80.42 % | 70.34 % | 63.58 % | 54.88 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 55.23 % | 81.15 % | 61.53 % | 75.86 % | 87.45 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 105.61 % | 138.56 % | 174.84 % | 94.45 % | 80.84 % |
| Wrexham | 51.21 % | 54.04 % | 71.62 % | 196.26 % | 55.50 % |
| Newport | 67.97 % | 125.60 % | 131.25 % | 97.37 % | 89.61 % |
| Caerphilly | 90.78 % | 64.14 % | 75.39 % | 69.90 % | 72.51 % |
| Monmouthshire | 50.09 % | 42.99 % | 59.82 % | 50.56 % | 40.76 % |
| Flintshire | 137.79 % | 151.14 % | 147.96 % | 272.27 % | 101.84 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 75.68 % | 85.17 % | 83.33 % | 78.09 % | 65.57 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | | | | 913.75 % | 679.63 % |
| Torfaen | 2871.43 % | 1980.00 % | 657.14 % | 855.56 % | 525.00 % |
| Total | 70.23 % | 69.42 % | 71.51 % | 70.53 % | 64.33 % |

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

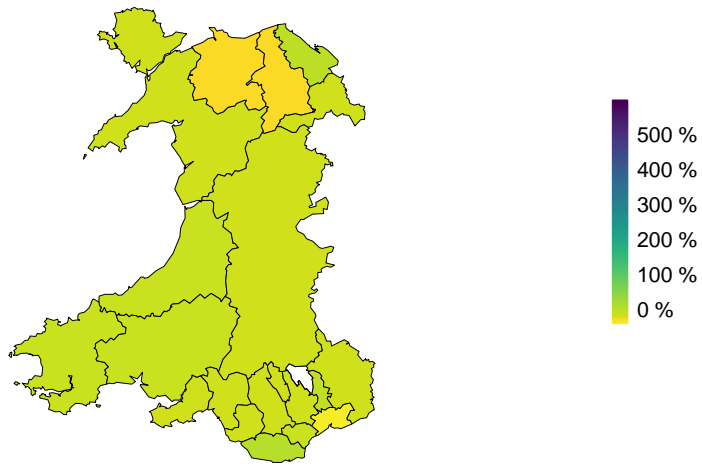


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years

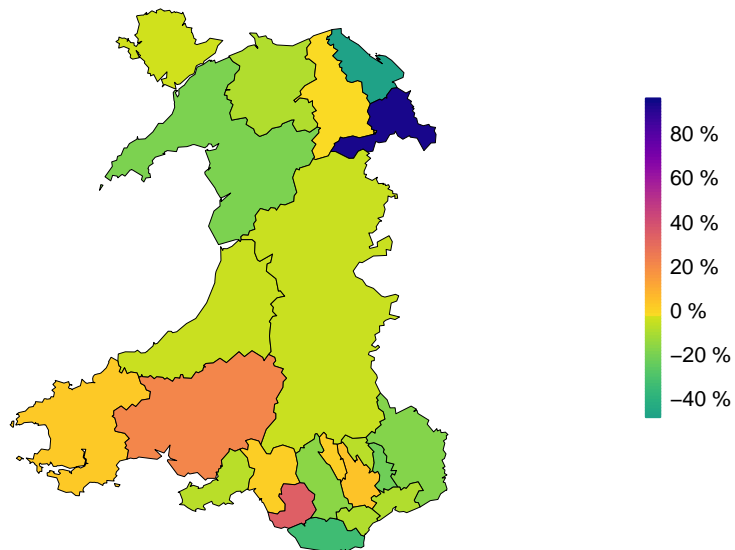


Figure 4: Map of change in parking expenditure since previous fiscal year

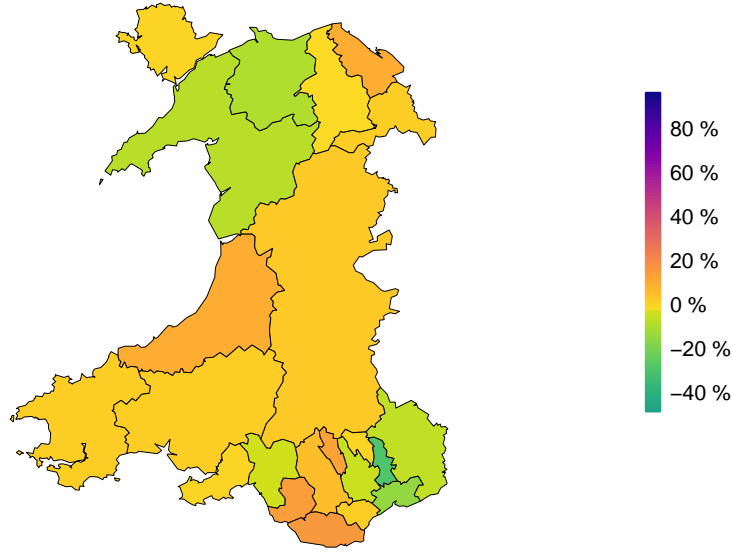


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years

5 Surpluses

Table 7 shows the parking surpluses from from 2010-11 to 2014-15 and the change from 2013-14 to 2014-15. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £12.4 million between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 50.9%. Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling to £0.3 million from £1.0 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £12.1 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2014-15 compared with £9.3 million in 2013-14, an increase of 30.2 %.

Newport increased their surplus by 305.2 % while Vale of Glamorgan and Isle of Anglesey increased by 184.9 % and 84.7 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Wrexham (411.5 %), and Bridgend (77.6 %) (excluding Flintshire with a surplus/deficit under £30,000).

Table 7: Parking surpluses for Wales (£,000)

| Local Authority | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Change 2014-15 on 2013-14 | Surplus as pro- portion of trans- port spending |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| Cardiff | 1,928 | 2,788 | 2,586 | 2,924 | 3,426 | 17.15 % | 11.98 % |
| Swansea | 1,254 | 1,426 | 1,256 | 1,256 | 1,951 | 55.33 % | 9.26 % |
| Gwynedd | 568 | 692 | 804 | 797 | 927 | 16.31 % | 5.33 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 241 | 387 | 487 | 795 | 790 | -0.67 % | 4.07 % |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| Monmouthshire | 593 | 719 | 461 | 585 | 741 | 26.69 % | 10.65 % |
| Conwy | 468 | 458 | 560 | 580 | 659 | 13.73 % | 6.84 % |
| Powys | 641 | 245 | 358 | 436 | 615 | 41.14 % | 5.04 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 467 | 353 | 478 | 393 | 545 | 38.72 % | 3.07 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 134 | 262 | 264 | 376 | 492 | 30.85 % | 4.73 % |
| Denbighshire | 740 | 741 | 677 | 541 | 484 | -10.54 % | 5.59 % |
| Wrexham | 491 | 520 | 240 | -149 | 465 | NA % | 5.51 % |
| Ceredigion | 330 | 351 | 287 | 278 | 325 | 16.97 % | 2.74 % |
| Caerphilly | 57 | 232 | 162 | 211 | 198 | -6.19 % | 1.15 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | -84 | 283 | 247 | 245 | 186 | -24.21 % | 1.34 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 89 | 51 | 55 | 85 | 157 | 84.71 % | 1.80 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | -18 | -123 | -238 | 53 | 151 | 184.91 % | 1.60 % |
| Bridgend | 372 | 436 | 300 | 496 | 111 | -77.56 % | 0.93 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 309 | 137 | 340 | 201 | 93 | -53.43 % | 1.72 % |
| Newport | 417 | -191 | -206 | 16 | 65 | 305.24 % | 0.64 % |
| Flintshire | -82 | -112 | -100 | -511 | -8 | <i>-98.37 %</i> | -0.05 % |
| Torfaen | -194 | -94 | -39 | -68 | -51 | <i>-25.00 %</i> | -0.58 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | -245 | -285 | -311 | -244 | -223 | <i>-8.63 %</i> | -4.05 % |
| Total deficit | -623 | -805 | -895 | -972 | -282 | <i>-70.95 %</i> | -0.95 % |
| Total surplus | 9,099 | 10,082 | 9,563 | 10,268 | 12,381 | 20.58 % | 4.97 % |
| Total | 8,476 | 9,277 | 8,668 | 9,296 | 12,099 | 30.15 % | 4.34 % |

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

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