

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 (2019)), 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, 19 councils showed surpluses and three 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 | 25.8 | 7.4 % |
| | Surplus | 12.1 | 13.8 | 14.0 | 14.4 | 16.1 | 11.5 % |
| Total transport | Net expenditure | 278.9 | 271.2 | 270.5 | 265.3 | 267.1 | 0.7 % |
| | Parking surplus as percentage of net transport expenditure | 4.3 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 6.0 | |

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 increased by 7.4 % and the surplus has increased by 11.5 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport expenditure has increased by 0.7 % and the surplus now represents 6.0 % of net transport

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expenditure. Since 2014-15 income has risen by 23.6 % and expenditure has risen by 18.5 %. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 32.9 %. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

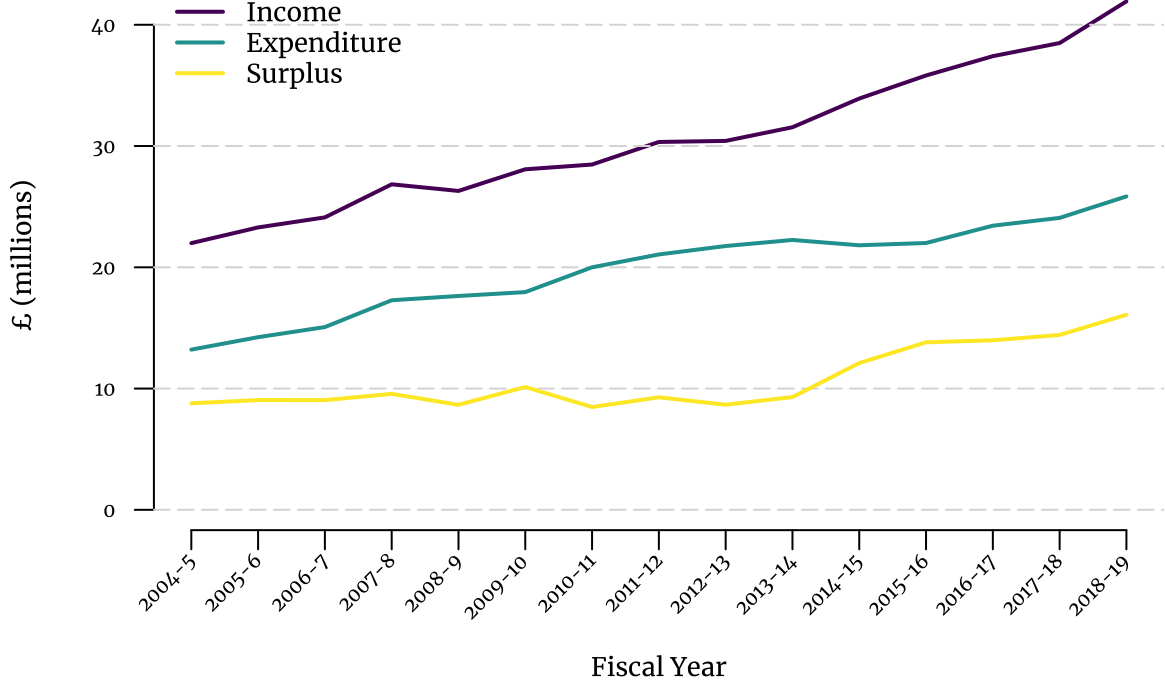


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

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 2. The annualised changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 3, 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 %).

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.

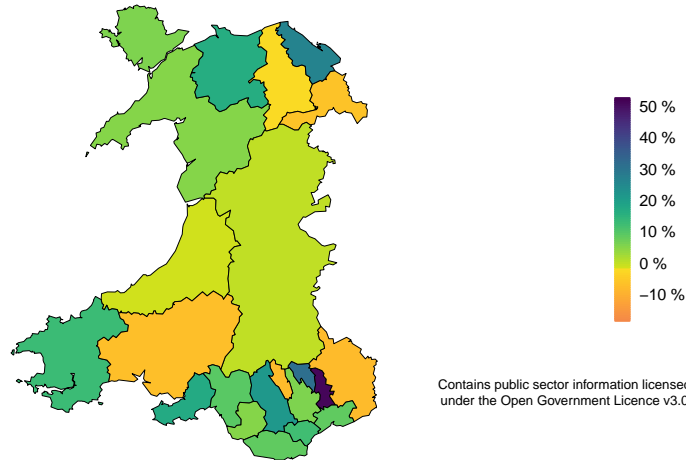


Figure 2: Map of change in parking income from 2017-18 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

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 % |
| 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 % |

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 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 risen by £1.8 million (7.4 %) after a rise of £0.6 million last year.

In Wales as a whole 15 councils increased their expenditures over the past year and seven decreased them. The changes from 2017-18 are mapped in Figure 4. The average annual changes over the previous four years are plotted in Figure 5, using the same colour palette.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Caerphilly where it increased by 79.9 % while Newport and Torfaen increased by 63.8 % and 47.6 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Flintshire (41.1 %), and Blaenau Gwent (25.0 %).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2018-19. Nationally in Wales it is 61.6 % with Cardiff at 54.3 %.

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 propor- tion of income |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Cardiff | 3,474 | 3,763 | 3,941 | 4,764 | 5,291 | 11.1 % | 11.1 % | 54.3 % |
| Swansea | 3,220 | 3,044 | 3,199 | 3,087 | 3,697 | 19.8 % | 3.5 % | 53.0 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 2,026 | 1,712 | 1,764 | 2,115 | 1,925 | -9.0 % | -1.3 % | 66.8 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,308 | 1,168 | 1,256 | 1,332 | 1,480 | 11.1 % | 3.1 % | 89.6 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 1,029 | 1,200 | 1,270 | 1,319 | 1,370 | 3.9 % | 7.4 % | 63.0 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 864 | 794 | 791 | 906 | 1,255 | 38.6 % | 9.8 % | 94.8 % |
| Gwynedd | 1,100 | 1,130 | 1,135 | 1,157 | 1,135 | -1.9 % | 0.8 % | 42.1 % |
| Denbighshire | 767 | 842 | 1,053 | 1,053 | 1,069 | 1.6 % | 8.7 % | 70.6 % |
| Conwy | 760 | 828 | 916 | 954 | 1,058 | 10.9 % | 8.6 % | 47.5 % |
| Bridgend | 1,156 | 988 | 833 | 889 | 1,007 | 13.3 % | -3.4 % | 83.1 % |
| Caerphilly | 523 | 512 | 658 | 550 | 990 | 79.9 % | 17.3 % | 143.8 % |
| Powys | 748 | 763 | 789 | 822 | 823 | 0.1 % | 2.4 % | 48.9 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 637 | 578 | 632 | 686 | 706 | 2.9 % | 2.6 % | 87.5 % |
| Monmouthshire | 510 | 490 | 594 | 671 | 667 | -0.5 % | 7.0 % | 46.2 % |

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 propor- tion of income |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Wrexham | 580 | 580 | 838 | 812 | 665 | -18.2 % | 3.5 % | 62.3 % |
| Ceredigion | 825 | 964 | 589 | 567 | 572 | 0.9 % | -8.8 % | 54.1 % |
| Newport | 556 | 503 | 633 | 286 | 468 | 63.8 % | -4.2 % | 72.1 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 651 | 519 | 504 | 510 | 404 | -20.8 % | -11.2 % | 59.1 % |
| Flintshire | 458 | 862 | 726 | 678 | 400 | -41.1 % | -3.4 % | 55.4 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 299 | 337 | 358 | 351 | 379 | 8.0 % | 6.1 % | 55.6 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | 262 | 340 | 866 | 483 | 363 | -25.0 % | 8.5 % | 918.1 % |
| Torfaen | 63 | 86 | 87 | 82 | 121 | 47.6 % | 17.7 % | 2016.7 % |
| Total | 21,816 | 22,003 | 23,431 | 24,074 | 25,844 | 7.4 % | 4.3 % | 61.6 % |

Table 4 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 61.6 % compared to 62.5 % in the previous year.

Cardiff's expenditure was 54.3 % of its income having fallen since last year, while Swansea's has risen to 53.0 %.

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 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cardiff | 50.3 % | 51.9 % | 51.9 % | 55.2 % | 54.3 % |
| Swansea | 62.3 % | 55.9 % | 56.5 % | 52.0 % | 53.0 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 71.9 % | 55.1 % | 57.1 % | 69.7 % | 66.8 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 87.6 % | 84.9 % | 91.4 % | 88.8 % | 89.6 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 67.7 % | 67.3 % | 68.0 % | 68.8 % | 63.0 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 61.3 % | 61.5 % | 59.8 % | 83.1 % | 94.8 % |
| Gwynedd | 54.3 % | 44.5 % | 45.6 % | 45.6 % | 42.1 % |
| Denbighshire | 61.3 % | 64.8 % | 61.5 % | 69.4 % | 70.6 % |
| Conwy | 53.5 % | 43.9 % | 47.3 % | 50.1 % | 47.5 % |
| Bridgend | 91.2 % | 81.0 % | 73.8 % | 78.0 % | 83.1 % |
| Caerphilly | 72.5 % | 72.9 % | 97.5 % | 85.8 % | 143.8 % |
| Powys | 54.9 % | 47.6 % | 46.9 % | 49.7 % | 48.9 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 80.8 % | 84.3 % | 82.7 % | 93.1 % | 87.5 % |
| Monmouthshire | 40.8 % | 34.5 % | 39.0 % | 43.7 % | 46.2 % |
| Wrexham | 55.5 % | 64.8 % | 86.0 % | 73.0 % | 62.3 % |
| Ceredigion | 71.7 % | 98.4 % | 53.1 % | 53.8 % | 54.1 % |
| Newport | 89.6 % | 78.5 % | 98.5 % | 48.3 % | 72.1 % |

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

| Local Authority | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Merthyr Tydfil | 87.4 % | 75.2 % | 82.9 % | 70.4 % | 59.1 % |
| Flintshire | 101.8 % | 196.4 % | 121.3 % | 118.8 % | 55.4 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 65.6 % | 64.4 % | 59.2 % | 54.9 % | 55.6 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | 679.6 % | 1134.8 % | 2887.2 % | 1599.7 % | 918.1 % |
| Torfaen | 525.0 % | 1720.0 % | 580.0 % | 2050.0 % | 2016.7 % |
| Total | 64.3 % | 61.4 % | 62.6 % | 62.5 % | 61.6 % |

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

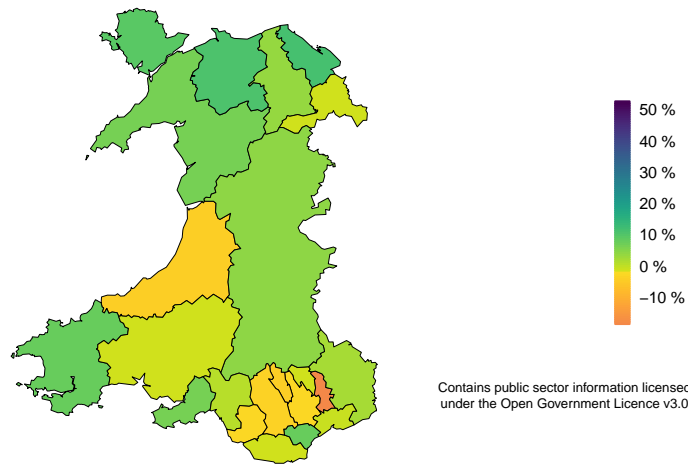


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

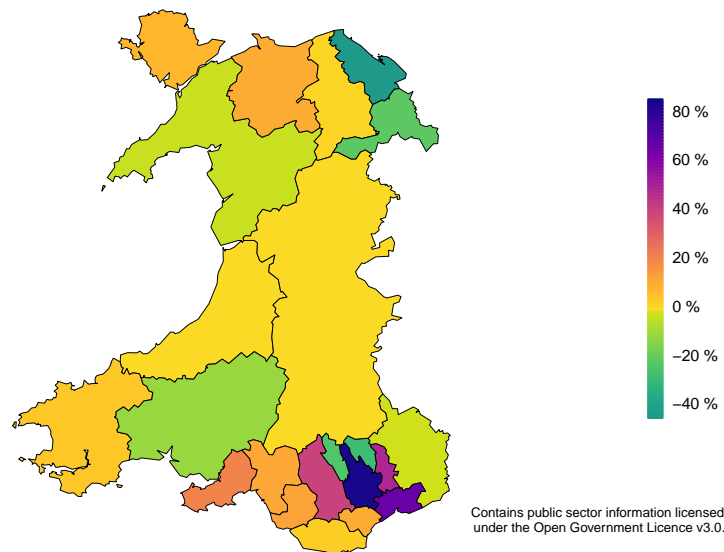


Figure 4: Map of change in parking expenditure from 2017-18 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

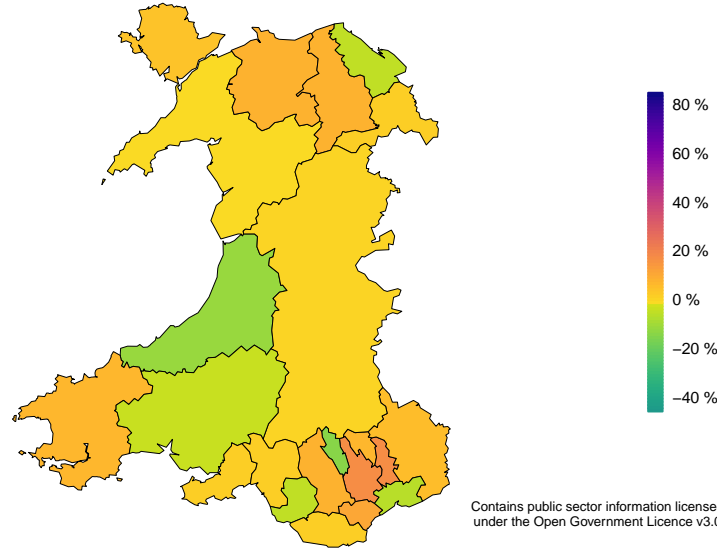


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years from 2014-15 to 2018-19 (Boundary data for this map is from Office for National Statistics (2017))

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 £16.8 million between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 55.2%.

‘Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits rising to £0.7 million from £0.6 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £16.1 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2018-19 compared with £14.4 million in 2018-19, an increase of 11.5 %.

Vale of Glamorgan increased their surplus by 98.0 % while Pembrokeshire and Wrexham increased by 34.5 % and 33.9 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Rhondda Cynon Taf (62.5 %), and Newport (40.7 %).

The largest increase of deficit was incurred by Torfaen which increased their deficit by 47.4 %

The biggest decrease was in Blaenau Gwent where the deficit fell by (28.7 %)

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 pro- portion of trans- port spend- ing |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|---|
| Cardiff | 3,426 | 3,494 | 3,658 | 3,865 | 4,448 | 15.1 % | 19.5 % |
| Swansea | 1,951 | 2,402 | 2,467 | 2,845 | 3,281 | 15.3 % | 14.7 % |
| Gwynedd | 927 | 1,408 | 1,355 | 1,382 | 1,562 | 13.0 % | 10.6 % |
| Conwy | 659 | 1,058 | 1,019 | 949 | 1,169 | 23.1 % | 14.5 % |
| Carmarthenshire | 790 | 1,394 | 1,328 | 920 | 957 | 4.0 % | 5.7 % |
| Powys | 615 | 839 | 895 | 831 | 860 | 3.5 % | 7.0 % |
| Pembrokeshire | 492 | 583 | 597 | 597 | 803 | 34.5 % | 8.5 % |
| Monmouthshire | 741 | 931 | 929 | 864 | 778 | -9.9 % | 13.9 % |
| Ceredigion | 325 | 16 | 520 | 488 | 486 | -0.4 % | 4.7 % |
| Denbighshire | 484 | 458 | 658 | 464 | 445 | -4.1 % | 4.7 % |
| Wrexham | 465 | 316 | 136 | 301 | 403 | 33.9 % | 5.1 % |
| Flintshire | -8 | -423 | -127 | -108 | 321 | NA % | 1.7 % |
| Isle of Anglesey | 157 | 186 | 247 | 288 | 303 | 5.2 % | 3.7 % |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 93 | 171 | 104 | 215 | 280 | 30.2 % | 5.4 % |
| Bridgend | 111 | 232 | 295 | 250 | 204 | -18.3 % | 1.7 % |
| Newport | 65 | 137 | 9 | 306 | 181 | -40.7 % | 1.5 % |
| Neath Port Talbot | 186 | 208 | 118 | 168 | 173 | 2.6 % | 1.3 % |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 151 | 108 | 132 | 51 | 101 | 98.0 % | 1.2 % |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 545 | 497 | 531 | 184 | 69 | -62.5 % | 0.4 % |
| Torfaen | -51 | -81 | -72 | -78 | -115 | <i>47.4 %</i> | -1.4 % |
| Caerphilly | 198 | 190 | 17 | 91 | -302 | <i>NA %</i> | -1.8 % |
| Blaenau Gwent | -223 | -310 | -836 | -453 | -323 | <i>-28.7 %</i> | -5.8 % |
| Total deficit | -282 | -814 | -1,035 | -639 | -740 | <i>15.9 %</i> | -2.5 % |
| Total surplus | 12,381 | 14,628 | 15,015 | 15,059 | 16,825 | 11.7 % | 7.1 % |
| Total | 12,099 | 13,814 | 13,979 | 14,420 | 16,085 | 11.5 % | 6.0 % |

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

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