

# Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2015 - 16

## 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 2011-12 to 2015-16 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 of which are listed in the references.<sup>1</sup>

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 2015-16, 19 councils showed surpluses and three showed deficits (**the same three councils as 2014-15**). 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)

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15
Parking	Income	30.34	30.42	31.55	33.91	35.82	5.61 %
	Expenditure	21.06	21.75	22.25	21.82	22.00	0.86 %
	Surplus	9.28	8.67	9.30	12.10	13.81	14.17 %
Total transport	Net expenditure	317.90	314.69	306.75	278.89	271.22	-2.75 %
	Parking surplus as percentage of all transport costs	2.92	2.75	3.03	4.34	5.09	

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 5.6 %, the expenditure has increased by 0.9 % and the surplus has increased by 14.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport has fallen by 2.8 % and the surplus now represents 5.1 % of transport costs.

Parking makes a smaller contribution to overall transport expenditure in Wales compared with England where it is around 17.3 % of total transport. Since 2011-12 income has risen by 18.1 % and expenditure has risen by 4.5 %. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 48.9 %. 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	(2015-16)	(2015-16)	(2015-16)	(2015-16)	(2015-16)
Parking income	898.91	596.19	77.77	35.82	1608.68
Parking expenditure	479.34	264.53	39.57	22.00	805.45
Surplus	419.57	331.65	38.20	13.81	803.23
Surplus as proportion of income	46.67%	55.63%	49.12%	38.57%	49.93%

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 2015-16 and 2014-15 with the average annual change over the three-year period from 2012-13.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 8.4 % annually over the past three years compared with 2.1 % 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 2015-16 across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Average annual change in income	2.62 %	2.27 %	3.72 %	5.59 %	2.60 %
Change in income since previous year	4.26 %	2.49 %	3.17 %	5.61 %	3.58 %
Average annual change in expenditure	-1.23 %	-4.42 %	2.91 %	0.38 %	-2.11 %
Change in expenditure since previous year	-0.61 %	-3.44 %	0.80 %	0.86 %	-1.45 %
Average annual change in surplus	7.87 %	9.24 %	4.59 %	16.81 %	8.39 %
Change in surplus since previous year	10.44 %	7.77 %	5.74 %	14.17 %	9.16 %

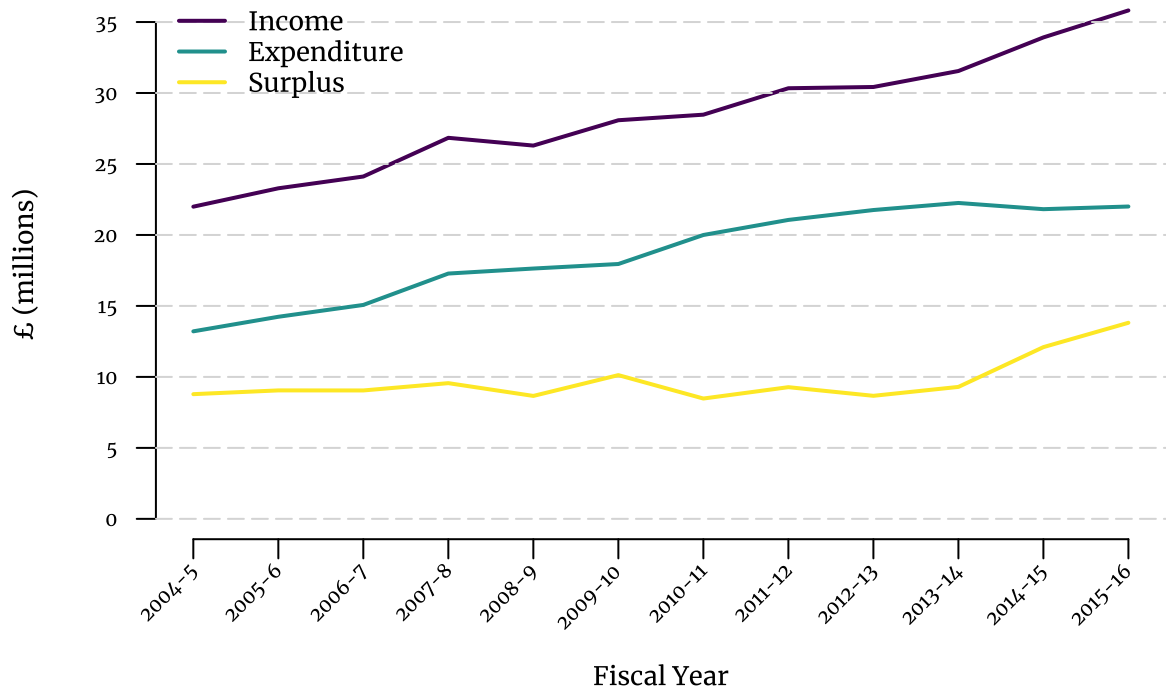


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

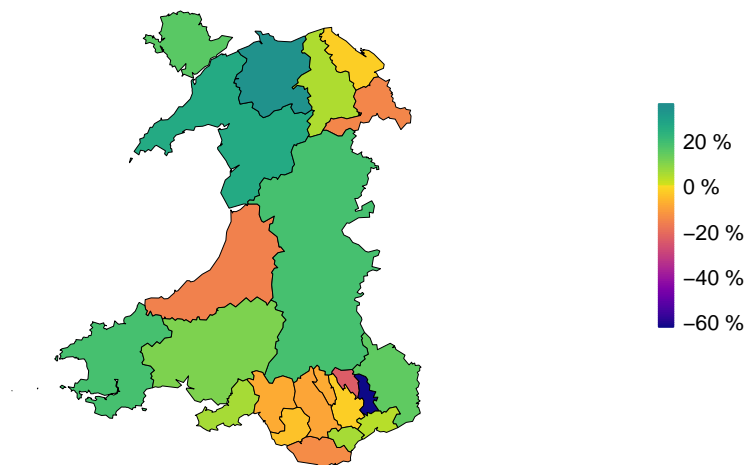


Figure 2: Map of change in parking income since previous fiscal year

### 3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2015-16 was £35.8 million, 5.6 % higher than 2014-15. 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.

11 councils increased their income over the past year and 11 decreased their income. The changes from 2014-15 are mapped<sup>2</sup> in Figure 2.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 44.1 % of parking income.

Conwy increased their income by 32.9 % while Gwynedd and Powys increased by 25.2 % and 17.5 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Blaenau Gwent (22.0 %), and Ceredigion (14.8 %) (excluding Torfaen with income under £30,000).

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

Local Authority	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15	Average annual change from 2011-12
Cardiff	6,063	6,178	6,613	6,900	7,257	5.17 %	4.60 %
Swansea	4,610	4,422	4,618	5,171	5,446	5.32 %	4.25 %
Carmarthenshire	2,148	2,137	2,448	2,815	3,106	10.32 %	9.65 %
Gwynedd	1,968	2,098	2,097	2,027	2,538	25.21 %	6.57 %
Conwy	1,382	1,368	1,392	1,419	1,886	32.90 %	8.09 %
Pembrokeshire	1,334	1,297	1,360	1,521	1,783	17.23 %	7.52 %
Powys	1,251	1,207	1,196	1,363	1,602	17.53 %	6.37 %
Monmouthshire	1,260	1,147	1,183	1,250	1,421	13.63 %	3.04 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,664	1,736	1,507	1,494	1,376	-7.90 %	-4.64 %
Denbighshire	1,495	1,458	1,300	1,251	1,300	3.92 %	-3.44 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,085	1,290	1,384	1,410	1,291	-8.41 %	4.45 %
Bridgend	1,058	1,138	1,357	1,268	1,220	-3.77 %	3.63 %
Ceredigion	879	1,032	1,123	1,150	980	-14.80 %	2.78 %
Wrexham	1,132	847	155	1,045	896	-14.19 %	-5.67 %
Caerphilly	647	659	702	721	702	-2.64 %	2.06 %
Merthyr Tydfil	727	885	832	745	690	-7.34 %	-1.29 %
Vale of Glamorgan	319	318	955	788	686	-12.94 %	21.10 %
Newport	746	660	605	621	640	3.08 %	-3.76 %
Isle of Anglesey	344	330	388	456	523	14.69 %	11.04 %
Flintshire	219	209	296	450	439	-2.48 %	18.98 %

<sup>2</sup>Boundary 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	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15	Average annual change from 2011-12
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	30	38	30	-22.04 %	
Torfaen	5	7	9	12	5	-58.33 %	0.00 %
Total	30,336	30,423	31,549	33,915	35,817	5.61 %	4.24 %

## 4 Expenditure

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

Overall expenditure has risen by £0.2 million (0.9 %) after a fall of £0.4m last year, with 12 councils having increased their costs and ten having reduced their costs. The changes from 2014-15 are mapped in Figure 4.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Flintshire where it increased by 88.0 % while Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent increased by 36.5 % and 30.2 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Merthyr Tydfil (20.3 %), and Carmarthenshire (15.5 %).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2015-16. Nationally in Wales it is 61.4 % with Cardiff at 51.9 %.

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

Local Authority	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15	Average annual change since 2011-12	Expenditure as propor- tion of income
Cardiff	3,275	3,592	3,688	3,474	3,763	8.32 %	3.53 %	51.85 %
Swansea	3,184	3,166	3,362	3,220	3,044	-5.47 %	-1.12 %	55.89 %
Carmarthenshire	1,761	1,650	1,652	2,026	1,712	-15.48 %	-0.71 %	55.12 %
Pembrokeshire	1,072	1,033	984	1,029	1,200	16.62 %	2.86 %	67.30 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,381	1,489	1,262	1,308	1,168	-10.72 %	-4.11 %	84.86 %
Gwynedd	1,276	1,294	1,300	1,100	1,130	2.73 %	-2.99 %	44.52 %
Bridgend	622	838	861	1,156	988	-14.54 %	12.29 %	81.01 %
Ceredigion	527	745	845	825	964	16.86 %	16.29 %	98.38 %
Flintshire	331	309	807	458	862	88.02 %	27.02 %	196.35 %
Denbighshire	754	781	759	767	842	9.78 %	2.80 %	64.77 %
Conwy	924	808	812	760	828	8.93 %	-2.71 %	43.89 %

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

Local Authority	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15	Average annual change since 2011-12	Expenditure as propor- tion of income
Rhondda Cynon Taf	732	812	991	864	794	-8.09 %	2.07 %	61.53 %
Powys	1,006	849	761	748	763	2.01 %	-6.69 %	47.63 %
Wrexham	612	607	304	580	580	0.10 %	-1.31 %	64.75 %
Vale of Glamorgan	442	556	902	637	578	-9.26 %	6.94 %	84.26 %
Merthyr Tydfil	590	545	631	651	519	-20.33 %	-3.16 %	75.18 %
Caerphilly	415	497	491	523	512	-2.08 %	5.39 %	72.92 %
Newport	937	867	589	556	503	-9.65 %	-14.42 %	78.54 %
Monmouthshire	542	686	598	510	490	-3.87 %	-2.48 %	34.48 %
Blaenau Gwent	285	311	274	262	340	30.17 %	4.57 %	1134.79 %
Isle of Anglesey	293	275	303	299	337	12.71 %	3.56 %	64.44 %
Torfaen	99	46	77	63	86	36.51 %	-3.46 %	1720.00 %
Total	21,059	21,755	22,253	21,816	22,003	0.86 %	1.10 %	61.43 %

Table 6 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 61.4 % compared to 64.3 % in the previous year, suggesting improving efficiency in operations.

Cardiff's expenditure was 51.9 % of its income having risen since last year, while Swansea's has fallen to 55.9 %.

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	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Cardiff	54.02 %	58.14 %	55.78 %	50.35 %	51.85 %
Swansea	69.07 %	71.60 %	72.80 %	62.27 %	55.89 %
Carmarthenshire	81.97 %	77.19 %	67.51 %	71.95 %	55.12 %
Pembrokeshire	80.36 %	79.65 %	72.35 %	67.65 %	67.30 %
Neath Port Talbot	82.99 %	85.80 %	83.71 %	87.55 %	84.86 %
Gwynedd	64.84 %	61.68 %	61.99 %	54.27 %	44.52 %
Bridgend	58.77 %	73.63 %	63.45 %	91.22 %	81.01 %
Ceredigion	60.02 %	72.19 %	75.24 %	71.73 %	98.38 %
Flintshire	151.14 %	147.96 %	272.27 %	101.84 %	196.35 %
Denbighshire	50.42 %	53.57 %	58.38 %	61.31 %	64.77 %
Conwy	66.86 %	59.04 %	58.35 %	53.55 %	43.89 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	67.46 %	62.96 %	71.60 %	61.32 %	61.53 %

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

Local Authority	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Powys	80.42 %	70.34 %	63.58 %	54.88 %	47.63 %
Wrexham	54.04 %	71.62 %	196.26 %	55.50 %	64.75 %
Vale of Glamorgan	138.56 %	174.84 %	94.45 %	80.84 %	84.26 %
Merthyr Tydfil	81.15 %	61.53 %	75.86 %	87.45 %	75.18 %
Caerphilly	64.14 %	75.39 %	69.90 %	72.51 %	72.92 %
Newport	125.60 %	131.25 %	97.37 %	89.61 %	78.54 %
Monmouthshire	42.99 %	59.82 %	50.56 %	40.76 %	34.48 %
Blaenau Gwent			913.75 %	679.63 %	1134.79 %
Isle of Anglesey	85.17 %	83.33 %	78.09 %	65.57 %	64.44 %
Torfaen	1980.00 %	657.14 %	855.56 %	525.00 %	1720.00 %
Total	69.42 %	71.51 %	70.53 %	64.33 %	61.43 %

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

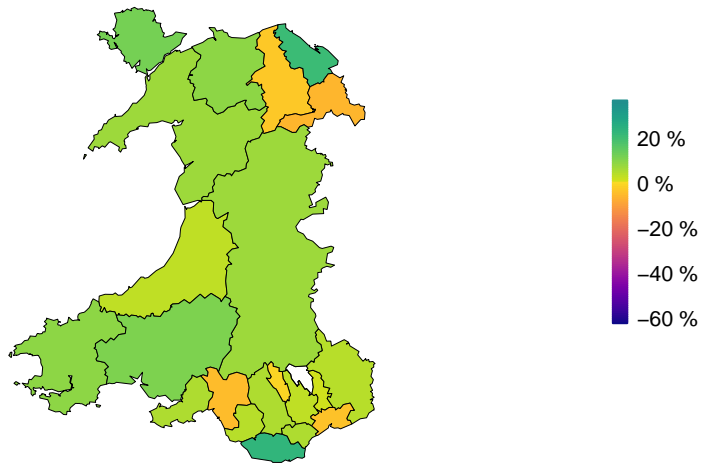


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years

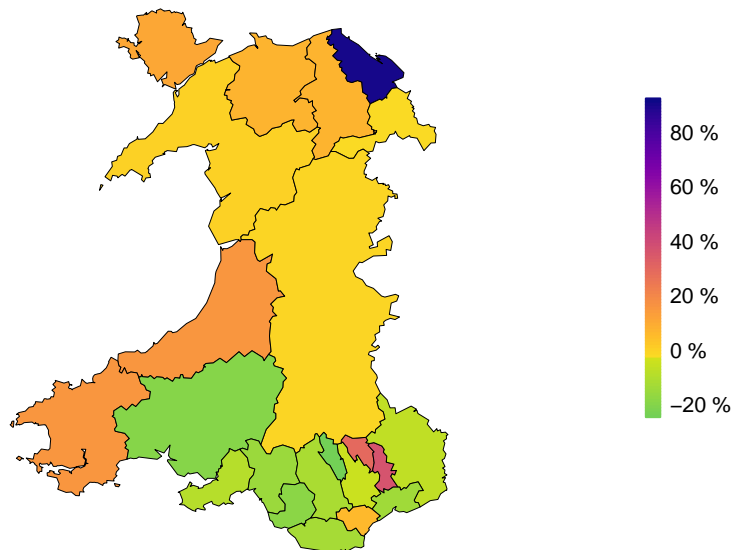


Figure 4: Map of change in parking expenditure since previous fiscal year



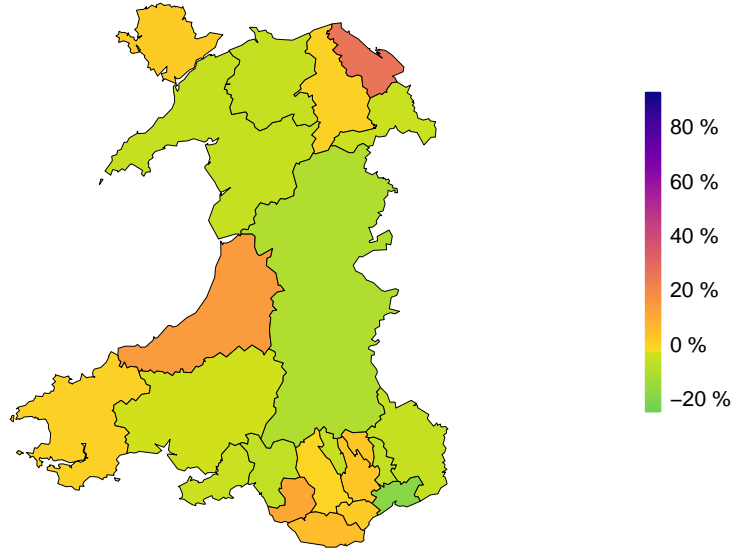


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years

## 5 Surpluses

Table 7 shows the parking surpluses from from 2011-12 to 2015-16 and the change from 2014-15 to 2015-16. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £14.6 million between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 49.9%. Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits rising to £0.8 million from £0.3 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £13.8 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2015-16 compared with £12.1 million in 2014-15, an increase of 14.2 %.

Flintshire increased their surplus by 4995.2 % while Newport and Bridgend increased by 112.9 % and 108.2 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Wrexham (32.0 %), and Vale of Glamorgan (28.5 %) (excluding Ceredigion with a surplus/deficit under £30,000).

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

Local Authority	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change 2015-16 on 2014-15	Surplus as pro- portion of trans- port spending
Cardiff	2,788	2,586	2,924	3,426	3,494	1.99 %	13.55 %
Swansea	1,426	1,256	1,256	1,951	2,402	23.12 %	11.30 %
Gwynedd	692	804	797	927	1,408	51.89 %	9.16 %
Carmarthenshire	387	487	795	790	1,394	76.49 %	8.09 %

Conwy	458	560	580	659	1,058	60.53 %	11.60 %
Monmouthshire	719	461	585	741	931	25.68 %	13.78 %
Powys	245	358	436	615	839	36.42 %	7.01 %
Pembrokeshire	262	264	376	492	583	18.50 %	6.20 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	353	478	393	545	497	-8.91 %	2.89 %
Denbighshire	741	677	541	484	458	-5.37 %	5.03 %
Wrexham	520	240	-149	465	316	-32.03 %	3.82 %
Bridgend	436	300	496	111	232	108.23 %	1.98 %
Neath Port Talbot	283	247	245	186	208	11.98 %	1.56 %
Caerphilly	232	162	211	198	190	-4.11 %	1.22 %
Isle of Anglesey	51	55	85	157	186	18.47 %	1.95 %
Merthyr Tydfil	137	340	201	93	171	83.21 %	3.46 %
Newport	-191	-206	16	65	137	112.86 %	1.42 %
Vale of Glamorgan	-123	-238	53	151	108	-28.48 %	1.13 %
Ceredigion	351	287	278	325	16	-95.12 %	0.14 %
Torfaen	-94	-39	-68	-51	-81	<i>58.82 %</i>	-0.96 %
Blaenau Gwent	-285	-311	-244	-223	-310	<i>39.17 %</i>	-5.48 %
Flintshire	-112	-100	-511	-8	-423	<i>4995.15 %</i>	-2.15 %
Total deficit	-805	-895	-972	-282	-814	<i>188.39 %</i>	-2.41 %
Total surplus	10,082	9,563	10,268	12,381	14,628	18.15 %	6.16 %
Total	9,277	8,668	9,296	12,099	13,814	14.17 %	5.09 %

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

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