

2021 Census Data for Carmarthenshire – Qualification & Students

The Office for National Statistics has used a new statistical disclosure control methodology for Census 2021. As a result, figures created by summing lower-level geographies will not match figures released for higher geographies. The Office for National Statistics does not recommend the aggregation of lower-level geographies to create higher geographies.

All People	Carmarthenshire				Wales				England & Wales			
	2011		2021		2011		2021		2011		2021	
All usual residents aged 16 and over	150,763		155,486		2,507,160		2,559,416		45,496,780		48,566,373	
No qualifications	40,334	26.8%	31,165	20.0%	650,517	25.9%	509,682	19.9%	10,307,327	22.7%	8,827,472	18.2%
Highest level of qualification												
Level 1 qualifications	19,683	13.1%	13,267	8.5%	332,943	13.3%	223,025	8.7%	6,047,384	13.3%	4,679,223	9.6%
Level 2 qualifications	24,748	16.4%	23,691	15.2%	393,819	15.7%	367,360	14.4%	6,938,433	15.3%	6,493,490	13.4%
Apprenticeship	6,514	4.3%	9,652	6.2%	98,843	3.9%	143,316	5.6%	1,631,777	3.6%	2,590,252	5.3%
Level 3 qualifications	16,832	11.2%	25,018	16.1%	308,171	12.3%	440,652	17.2%	5,617,802	12.3%	8,225,629	16.9%
Level 4 qualifications and above	36,036	23.9%	48,644	31.3%	614,116	24.5%	806,773	31.5%	12,383,477	27.2%	16,413,231	33.8%
Other qualifications	6,616	4.4%	4,049	2.6%	108,751	4.3%	68,608	2.7%	2,570,580	5.7%	1,337,076	2.8%

School children & full-time students

All usual residents aged 5 years and over			178,840				2,952,409				56,365,506	
Student	-	-	31,974	17.9%	-	-	587,588	19.9%	-	-	11,508,092	20.4%
Not a student	-	-	146,866	82.1%	-	-	2,364,827	80.1%	-	-	44,857,414	79.6%

Source: 2021 Census Key Statistics, Office for National Statistics ©Crown Copyright 2022
Produced by the Corporate Data Insight Team, Carmarthenshire County Council

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Analysis:

NOTE:

Although highest level of qualification is broadly comparable between 2011 and 2021, there are caveats. The categories remain the same as they were in 2011 and are derived in the same way, however, the way the questions were structured changed substantially from 2011. For more information, see information published by the ONS on the qualifications question development for Census 2021. These changes to the collection methodology mean that a reasonable proportion of respondents will have identified a different qualification level than they did in 2011, even though they still hold the same qualifications. Therefore, any change in qualification levels when compared to 2011 will in part be a result of the methodology changes and partly be indicative of real change. As such, changes should be interpreted with caution and users should avoid drawing conclusions from them or using them to inform planning or evaluate policies.

Whilst there are comparability issues between 2011 and 2021 Census data, the general trend of an increase in qualification levels, and corresponding decrease in individuals holding no qualifications, is also observed in the statistics sourced from the Annual Population Survey.

- *20% of Carmarthenshire residents aged 16 and over have no qualifications, this is a 6.8 percentage point reduction from the previous census. This is a higher reduction than in Wales of 6 percentage points and in England and Wales of 4.5.*
- *31.3% of Carmarthenshire residents have Level 4 qualifications and above i.e., higher degree, professional qualifications etc. (see definition below for full details), this has increased from 23.9% in the previous census, this equates to a 7.4 percentage point difference. This is a significant increase and has resulted in a narrowing of the gap with national figures.*
- *6.2% of Carmarthenshire's usual resident population (aged 16 or over) stated 'Apprenticeship' as their highest qualification. This is higher than levels for Wales and the combined figure for England and Wales.*

Definition:

Highest Level of Qualification:

The highest level of qualification is derived from the question asking people to indicate all types of qualifications held. People were also asked if they held foreign qualifications and to indicate the closest equivalent.

No Qualifications: *No academic or professional qualifications*

Level 1 qualifications: *1 to 4 GCSEs grade A* to C, Any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), 1 AS level, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic or Essential Skills.*

Level 2 qualifications: *5 or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4), O levels (passes), CSEs (grade 1), School Certification, 1 A level, 2 to 3 AS levels, VCEs, Intermediate or Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First or General Diploma, RSA Diploma.*

Level 3 qualifications: *2 or more A levels or VCEs, 4 or more AS levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression or Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advance Diploma, NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma.*

Level 4+ qualifications: *Degree (BA, BSc), higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ level 4 to 5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy)*

Other qualifications: *Vocational or work-related qualifications, other qualifications achieved in England or Wales, qualifications achieved outside England or Wales (equivalent not stated or unknown)*

Full-time Student:

A full-time student is a person of any age who has indicated that they are a schoolchild or student in full-time education. Schoolchildren and students in full-time education studying away from their family home are treated as usually resident at their term-time address.