



First Release



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Issued by
The Student Loans Company
100 Bothwell Street
GLASGOW
G2 7JD

Press Office
Telephone:
0141 306 2120
Email:
press_office@slc.co.uk

Public Enquiries
Telephone:
0141 306 2000

Statistician
Dave Cartwright
Telephone:
0141 243 3209
Email:
information_office@slc.co.uk

Internet
http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national_statistics.html



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
Office
Telephone:
0141 306 2120
Email:
press_office@slc.co.uk

STUDENT LOANS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALES, FINANCIAL YEAR 2007-08 (PROVISIONAL)

INTRODUCTION

This statistical first release provides statistics on loan outlay and repayments of loans and borrower activity, for all Welsh domiciled students and those EU students studying in Wales during financial year 2007-08, and also shows comparable data for financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Figures are provided for the publicly owned debt only.

Key policy changes for 2007/08

The non means-tested Tuition Fee Grant of £1,845 came into force in academic year 2007/08. This grant is for new system students (i.e. those entering HE from 2006/07 onwards) who are studying in Wales and are Welsh domiciled or EU domiciled. The grant effectively limits the fee charged to this group of students to £1,225 in 2007/08.

New system students can take out a Tuition Fee loan to cover all or part of their tuition fees. Student loans are not repayable until the student has left Higher Education (HE) and is earning over the earnings threshold which remains at £15,000 per year.

KEY POINTS

- The amount lent to eligible HE students for Maintenance Loans during financial year 2007-08 was £152.9m, a rise of 3.0% when compared to 2006-07.
- The total amount lent to eligible HE students during financial year 2007-08 was £193.2m, of which £39.6m relates to Tuition Fee Loans.
- Repayments posted to customer accounts amounted to £33.6m (including £8.8m paid earlier than required) in the financial year 2007-08. £25.3m of these repayments relates to Income Contingent Loans, the remaining £8.3m relates to Mortgage Style loans.
- During the 2007-08 financial year over 3,500 borrowers repaid at least one of their loan accounts in full (compared to over 4,000 during 2006-07).
- The balance outstanding (including loans not yet due for repayment) at the end of financial year 2007-08 was £1,320.3m of which £1,258.2m relates to income contingent loans.
- At the end of 2007-08 there were over 166,200 borrowers; of these, over 108,800 had accounts in repayment status.

TABLES

Table 1 shows the amounts paid out in loans and repaid during financial year 2007-08 and makes comparisons to financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Table 2(i) shows the change in the number of borrowers each year from 01/04/2005 to 31/3/2008 broken down between those with Mortgage Style loans and those with Income Contingent loans, and with the year end numbers further broken down between those in repayment and those not yet in repayment.

Table 2(ii) shows a detailed breakdown of Mortgage Style Loan borrower repayment activity and repayment status for 2007-08, and makes comparisons to financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Table 2(iii) shows a detailed breakdown of Income Contingent Loan borrower repayment activity and repayment status for 2007-08 and makes comparisons to financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The statistics on student loans in this release were compiled by the Student Loans Company (SLC). They include public sector loans only, which are made and repaid on both an income contingent basis and a mortgage style basis.

2. A portfolio of UK student loans to the value of just over £1bn was sold to the private sector in March 1998. A second tranche to the value of £1.03bn was sold in March 1999. The loans sold were mortgage style; none of the income contingent loans available from the 1998/99 academic year were involved in either sale. This publication does not include statistics on the sold debt portfolios.

3. These statistics cover both income contingent loans as well as the old 'mortgage style' loans. Responsibility for the income contingent loan book was transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government in 2006 but responsibility for the mortgage style loan book remains with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) formerly DfES.

4. At the beginning of financial year 2005-06, the administration charges balance (otherwise known as the non interest bearing balance) on mortgage style loans was transferred to SLC on the advice of DfES (now DIUS). In order to provide a complete picture of the outstanding customer debt for comparison with previous years, the administration charges debt outstanding to SLC is also shown in the statistics.

PRE- 1998/99 STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS (FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGHER EDUCATION UP TO AND INCLUDING 1997/98)

5. The financial support arrangements for students on courses which began before 1 August 1998 also applied to some new students who entered higher education in 1998/99 but were treated exceptionally as existing award holders for the purposes of the Mandatory Awards Regulations (e.g. gap year students). Tuition fees were paid in full by Local Authorities where the student was eligible for a mandatory award and such students also received a grant towards their maintenance, depending on income, for the duration of their course. Eligible students were able to apply for loans repayable on a mortgage-style basis.

6. Mortgage-style loans were available to most 'home' students in full-time non-postgraduate higher education (and students on full-time and part-time postgraduate courses of initial teacher training) who were aged less than 50 when their course started. They were available to eligible students whether or not they received a mandatory award, although their course had to be designated for mandatory awards purposes. These loans were not income-assessed.

7. Borrowers start to repay their loans in the April after they complete, or otherwise cease to attend, their course, unless they qualify for deferment because of low income. Borrowers are able to apply for deferment of repayments for a year at a time if their gross income is less than 85 per cent of national average earnings, i.e. less than £2,107 per month from 1 September 2007. The amount owed by each student is adjusted annually in line with the annual inflation rate.

DEFINITIONS

8. The following is a glossary of terms:

In deferment	For Mortgage Style Loans only, the borrowers gross income is 85% or less of the National Average Earnings or he or she has taken out a further mortgage style student loan in relation to a subsequent course. The borrower's obligation to make repayments is therefore deferred for one year at a time, or until the end of the course if granted on grounds of continuing study. Borrowers must apply for deferment.
In arrears	Borrowers who have at least one loan on which repayments are owed excluding those granted time and indulgence (which is in single figures).
Deferred with arrears	For Mortgage Style Loans only, borrowers who have at least one loan in deferment status with arrears of repayment excluding those granted time and indulgence (which is in single figures).
Accounts paid in full	All repayments have been made for a specific loan account.
Entered repayment status / in repayment status	The borrower has reached the point where repayment is scheduled to commence, that is, the April after he/she graduates or leaves his/her studies.
Cancelled loan	The borrower no longer has any liability to repay as provided for in the loans regulations. A borrower's liability shall be cancelled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the death of the borrower; • On reaching the age cancellation criteria for their loan (age 50, age 60 or after 25 years depending on the type of loan and year taken out); or • If borrower is in receipt of a disability related benefit and permanently unfit for work
Written off loan	The borrower remains liable to repay but recovery is deemed unlikely by the loan administrator or not possible by legal judgement. Up until July 2004 for Mortgage Style and September 2004 for ICR, Student Loans could be written off as a result of the customer becoming bankrupt. After these dates Student Loans are no longer covered by bankruptcy. Student Loans continue to be subject to Individual Voluntary Arrangements whereby part of the debt is written off once the customer completes the repayment schedule in the IVA.

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FROM 1998/99

9. New student support arrangements came into effect from the start of the 1998/99 academic year. Students are, with certain specified exceptions, expected to contribute towards the cost of their tuition up to £1,000 a year in 1998/99 (£1,225 in 2007/08). The amount depended on their own and, if appropriate, their parents' or spouse's income.

10. Students receive support for living costs through loans which are partly income-assessed.

Most students in the final year of a course receive a lower rate of loan because the loan does not cover the summer vacation following the end of the course. There are different rates of loan based on whether the student is living at home, and, if not, on whether the student is studying in London or elsewhere. Repayment of these loans is linked to income after leaving university or college so that leavers only repay as and when they can afford to. From 1999/2000 student loans have been made available to those aged 50 to 54 who plan to return to work after studying. From 2006/07 the age limit has been raised to 60 for all students. Students aged 50 and over no longer have to prove that they intend to return to work following their course.

11. For new entrants to higher education, 1998/99 was a transitional year. For the first year of the new scheme eligible new entrants received support for living costs through both grants and loans. Grants, which were assessed against family income, on average formed about a quarter of the support available. Students were entitled to apply for a non income assessed loan, which comprised the remaining three quarters of support available, and which is repayable on an income contingent basis. Those borrowers who took out income contingent loans in 1998/99 who left their studies before April 1999 and who would normally enter repayment status at the start of the 1999-00 financial year were granted a repayment holiday until April 2000.

12. Students with additional costs such as those with dependants, or who have a disability, may be eligible for specific grants on top of other student support. Grants for students with dependants and single parent students are income assessed but the care leaver's grants, school meals allowances and disabled students allowances are not.

13. The Repayment of Teachers Loans scheme was introduced in September 2002. It was open to newly qualified teachers, teaching one of the priority subjects for at least half of their time in a state school or Further Education establishment in England and Wales. Priority subjects include Mathematics, Science, English (including drama), ICT, Modern Languages (including Welsh), Technology and Basic skills. The RTL scheme was closed to new entrants in 2005, those already in the scheme will be unaffected. For mortgage style loans the debt is repaid on behalf of the borrower by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) over 5 or 7 years, depending on the original credit agreement. For income contingent loans the debt is repaid on behalf of the borrower by the DCSF over 10 years. Those who leave teaching before this period expires become responsible for the remaining debt. As at 31/3/2008 there are approximately 22,000 UK Student Loans borrowers on the RTL scheme. SLC administers the RTL scheme on behalf of DCSF.

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FROM 2006/07

14. A new Maintenance Grant or Assembly Learning Grant has been introduced for 'new system' students who started their course in September 2006. The new Maintenance Grant replaces the HE Grant. In 2007/08 the maximum amount of support available is £2,765 a year, and how much a student receives depends on their income and that of their household. Students with a household income up to £17,920 will receive the full £2,765 grant; students with household incomes above £17,920 receive a partial grant, with a minimum grant of £50 payable once household income reaches £38,325. No grant is payable where household income is above £38,325. The Maintenance Grant is non-repayable. The equivalent Special Support Grant (of up to £2,765) ensures that students in the DWP vulnerable groups have their grant disregarded when entitlement to benefits is calculated. Since students from lower-income households will have part of their maintenance met through the new Maintenance Grant, their entitlement to repayable support through a maintenance loan will be reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant entitlement up to a maximum of £1,225.

TUITION FEE LOANS

15. From 2006/07 students can defer payment of tuition fees by taking out a Tuition Fee Loan. As well as being available to new system students, this option is also available to pre-2006/07 entrants if they make a full or partial contribution to their fixed fees. Students can take out as much or as little fee loan as they choose, up to the maximum amount of fees being charged. The repayment of Tuition Fee Loans debt is no different to that for Maintenance loans

debt. When the borrower goes into repayment they effectively have a single combined debt balance to be repaid according to the Income Contingent repayment regulations. In 2007/08 new system Welsh and EU domiciled students studying in Wales were subject to variable tuition fees of up to £3,070. With the introduction of the non means-tested Tuition Fee Grant of up to £1,845 for these students in 2007/08 effectively limited the fees they are charged to £1,225. Welsh domiciled students studying in England were subject to variable tuition fees of up to £3,070.

16. Tuition Fee Loans became available to EU students studying in Wales in academic year 2006/07. Prior to this year EU students were not entitled to any form of Student Loan.

REPAYMENT OF INCOME CONTINGENT LOANS

17. Repayments are at the rate of 9% of income above the income threshold (which has been £15,000 since April 2005 and was previously £10,000). Apart from a few exceptions, where borrowers live overseas or have small balances, SLC does not collect monies from borrowers with income contingent loans – this is done through the taxation system.

18. Over-repayments can occur due to the fact that the employer does not know the loan balance and simply makes the 9% deduction in the pay period. The employer is instructed to stop deductions once the SLC knows that the customer has fully repaid. Hence, with this process there is always a residual over-repayment by the customer which is refunded by the SLC. Another type of refund is where deductions were made in one or more pay period but the total earnings over the tax year are less than £15,000.

ANNUAL INTEREST RATE

19. The annual Retail Price Index from March to March is used as the interest rate for all types of student loan from the following September to August. In financial year 2007-08 the interest rates used to adjust the outstanding balances were 2.4% (as measured by the March 2006 RPI) up to the end of August and 4.8% (as measured by the March 2007 RPI) from the beginning of September.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

20. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Table 1 : Student Loan outlay and repayments - Publicly Owned Debt : financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 [1] : amounts (£000)

All Welsh domiciled students and those EU students studying in Wales									
Financial years	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08 (provisional)		
	Income Contingent Loans	Mortgage Style Loans	Total Public Debt	Income Contingent Loans	Mortgage Style Loans	Total Public Debt	Income Contingent Loans	Mortgage Style Loans	Total Public Debt
Academic Year interest rate (APR)	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%
Total amount outstanding (including loans not yet due for repayment) at start of financial year, including interest	742,127	88,127	830,254	892,446	77,364	969,810	1,058,672	68,672	1,127,344
PLUS									
Amount lent during financial year	147,597	22	147,619	163,850	2	163,852	193,242	-	193,242
of which:									
Maintenance Loans	147,597	22	147,619	148,491	2	148,493	152,947	-	152,947
Tuition Fee Loans	-	-	-	15,154	-	15,154	39,561	-	39,561
Tuition Fee Loans to EU students	-	-	-	205	-	205	734	-	734
MINUS									
Amount repaid, including interest, during the financial year	14,894	12,264	27,158	19,106	10,030	29,136	25,314	8,326	33,640
of which:									
Repaid by customer to SLC	6,191	12,340	18,531	7,231	10,087	17,318	7,867	8,363	16,029
Reported by HMRC as collected via PAYE and Self Assessment	9,041	-	9,041	12,231	-	12,231	18,229	-	18,229
Refunded by SLC to customer	-338	-77	-415	-356	-57	-413	-581	-37	-618
of which:									
amount repaid earlier than required [2]	6,167	1,905	8,072	7,190	1,550	8,740	7,557	1,199	8,756
MINUS									
Amount cancelled in respect of the Repayment of Teachers' Loans scheme during the financial year	967	275	1,242	1,279	234	1,513	1,382	240	1,621
MINUS									
Amount otherwise cancelled or written off during the financial year	95	173	267	85	328	413	86	485	572
of which:									
Because of death	88	96	184	80	81	160	71	30	101
Because of age	-	65	65	-	222	222	-	299	299
Because of disability	-	12	18	6	25	31	15	40	55
Because of bankruptcy [3]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	104
On completion of Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) [3]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12
Trivial balances	-	-	-	-	-	-1	-	-1	-1
Other	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2
PLUS									
Amount of interest added to loans [4] during the financial year [5]	18,678	2,297	20,975	22,847	1,895	24,742	33,102	2,480	35,582
PLUS									
Administration charges applied [6] during the financial year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PLUS									
Balance transfers [7]	-	-369	-369	-	3	3	-	-	-
of which: transferred to SLC [8]	-	-369	-369	-	-	-	-	-	-
GIVES									
Total amount outstanding at the end of the financial year, including loans not yet due for repayment [5][9]	892,446	77,365	969,812	1,058,673	68,672	1,127,345	1,258,235	62,100	1,320,335
Year-end reconciling adjustments [10]	-	-2	-2	-	-	-	-	3	3
Balance after adjustments	892,446	77,364	969,810	1,058,673	68,672	1,127,345	1,258,235	62,103	1,320,338
of which:									
(a) balance of loans in deferment [11]	-	45,090	45,090	-	40,981	40,981	-	37,167	37,167
(b) balance of loans in arrears status [12]	218	12,013	12,231	284	11,961	12,245	310	12,456	12,766
of which: arrears value	3	8,455	8,458	6	8,918	8,925	11	9,182	9,192
(c) balance of loans deferred with arrears [13]	-	2,102	2,102	-	1,752	1,752	-	1,485	1,485
of which: arrears value	-	351	351	-	320	320	-	291	291
of which: debt held by EU students for Tuition Fee Loans	-	-	-	205	-	205	928	-	928
Administration charges owed to SLC at the end of the financial year [14]	-	379	379	-	536	536	-	519	519
Balance including debt to SLC	892,446	77,744	970,191	1,058,673	69,208	1,127,881	1,258,235	62,622	1,320,856

- = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

[1] Repayments of Income Contingent Loans are shown in the financial year when they are posted to customer accounts. The SLC are notified of repayments by HMRC usually within one year of the end of the tax year to which they relate. Hence, the repayments shown in 2007-08 are mainly for tax year 2006/07.

Also the interest added for customers in repayment in 2007-08 is mainly for tax year 2006/07.

[2] Early repayments include those which do not necessarily settle the account in full.

[3] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an IVA has been put in place in the past year.

A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2007-08 figures.

[4] Interest which was added to the existing loan debt which was neither repaid or cancelled during the financial year.

[5] For PAYE or self employed repayers, interest is not applied to income contingent loan accounts until the SLC have received notification of the amounts collected by HMRC, which is usually within one year of the tax year the repayments relate to. Interest is then applied retrospectively to individuals' accounts by the SLC.

[6] A non-interest bearing penalty imposed on accounts where extra administration is required (e.g. in cases of arrears, default).

[7] Balance transfers can occur between the private debt portfolios and the Government portfolios, between the Government administrations and as a one off in 2005-06 with the SLC.

[8] Transfer of Mortgage Style non interest bearing balance to SLC effective 01/04/2005, plus other transfers from private debt portfolios to Government administrations.

[9] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to roundings.

[10] The adjustments indicate transactions in the year affecting customer balances that have not been accounted for in the transaction lines above.

[11] The cumulative balance of loans in deferment with no arrears at end of financial year (i.e. the amount of deferment and the sum not yet due for repayment but excluding any amount repaid).

[12] The cumulative balance of loans which are in arrears status at the end of financial year. The arrears value is the overdue amount and does not include administration charges; the balance is the outstanding amount of the account on which there are arrears (including the overdue amount).

[13] The cumulative balance of loans in deferment with arrears at end of financial year. The arrears value is the overdue amount; the balance is the outstanding amount of the account on which there are arrears (including the overdue amount).

[14] All movements in the Mortgage Style Loans Administration Charges balances from the beginning of 2005-06 onwards belong to the SLC. This results in a new outstanding balance to be carried forward to the next FY.

Table 2(i) : Student Loan outlay and repayments -Publicly Owned Debt : Financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08: borrower activity

All Welsh domiciled students and those EU students studying in Wales

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Financial years	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08 (provisional)		
	Income Contingent Loans [1]	Mortgage Style Loans [2]	Total Public Debt [3]	Income Contingent Loans [1]	Mortgage Style Loans [2]	Total Public Debt [3]	Income Contingent Loans [1]	Mortgage Style Loans [2]	Total Public Debt [3]
Number of borrowers at the beginning of the financial year	100.7	33.4	132.4	114.7	29.7	142.8	129.7	26.0	154.0
Number of borrowers with accounts paid in full in financial year [4]	0.4	4.2	4.5	0.4	3.6	4.1	0.4	3.1	3.6
of which									
paid off before liability has arisen [5]	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	0.1	-	0.1
Number of borrowers with accounts cancelled or written off in financial year [6]	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.2	0.2	-	0.3	0.3
of which:									
because of death	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
because of age	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
because of disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
because of bankruptcy [7]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
on completion of Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) [7]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
other	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
New borrowers in financial year [8]	14.4	-	14.3	15.1	-	15.0	15.7	-	15.6
Number of borrowers with accounts in repayment at the end of financial year [9][10]	57.9	29.7	86.3	73.1	26.0	97.7	87.5	22.7	108.8
Number of borrowers with accounts not yet in repayment at the end of financial year [9][11]	62.1	-	62.1	62.3	-	62.3	63.5	-	63.6
Number of borrowers at the end of financial year	114.7	29.7	142.8	129.7	26.0	154.0	145.2	22.7	166.3

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

[1] The number of borrowers with Income Contingent Loans represents those with one or more open loan accounts of the following type: ICR maintenance loans; hardship loans; part time loans; and Fee Loans.

The SLC are notified of borrowers' repayments by HMRC usually within one year of the end of the tax year they relate to, e.g. there will be some borrowers who have repaid their accounts in full in financial year 2007-08 but this will not be reported until the reconciliation has been made with SLC records.

Hence, they remain in the borrower numbers until the HMRC return is processed and any resultant refund is returned to the borrower.

[2] The number of borrowers with Mortgage Style Loans represents those with one or more open loan accounts awarded under the pre 1998/99 arrangements. The status of these borrowers is "real time" because all the repayments are made directly to SLC.

[3] The total number of borrowers is not simply the sum of the ICR borrowers and the Mortgage Style Loan borrowers because some borrowers have both loan types.

[4] Borrowers who have repaid at least one loan account in full during the financial year. This covers those accounts that have a status of fully paid; and those accounts with small balance write-offs of less than or equal to £5. Includes accounts closed under the Repayment of Teacher Loans (RTL) scheme.

[5] Borrowers in payment status who have repaid at least one loan account in full in the financial year prior to the loan's statutory repayment due date.

[6] Borrowers who have at least one loan account cancelled or written off during the financial year. Note that small balance write-offs are included in accounts paid in full. Excludes borrowers with accounts closed under the RTL scheme.

[7] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an IVA has been put in place in the past year. A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2007-08 figures.

[8] Borrowers who had no loans at the beginning of the financial year and who took out new loans during the financial year.

[9] Each borrower has a loan account for each academic year of study in which they take out a loan. The repayment status may be different for each loan account.

Hence, a borrower may be counted in more than one repayment status and the total of the breakdown by repayment status will be higher than the total number of borrowers.

[10] Borrowers with at least one open loan account that has passed into repayment and has not subsequently been fully repaid or cancelled.

[11] Borrowers with at least one open loan account that has not yet passed into repayment because the Statutory Repayment Due Date has not yet been reached.

This number includes a whole cohort of borrowers who are just about to go into repayment in the following April.

Table 2(ii) : Student Loan outlay and repayments -Publicly Owned Debt : Financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08: borrower activity

Mortgage Style Loans

All Welsh domiciled students

000's

Financial years	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (provisional)
	Mortgage Style Loans	Mortgage Style Loans	Mortgage Style Loans
Number of borrowers at the beginning of the financial year	33.4	29.7	26.0
Number of borrowers with accounts paid in full in financial year[1]	4.2	3.6	3.1
of which:			
paid off before liability for repayment had arisen [2]	-	-	-
Number of borrowers with accounts cancelled or written off in financial year [3]	0.1	0.2	0.3
of which:			
because of death	-	-	-
because of age	-	0.1	0.1
because of disability	-	-	-
because of bankruptcy [4]	-	-	-
on completion of Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) [4]	-	-	-
other	-	0.1	0.1
New borrowers in financial year [5]	-	-	-
All borrowers at the end of financial year	29.7	26.0	22.7
of which:			
(A) Borrowers with accounts in repayment status [6]	29.7	26.0	22.7
of which			
(a) ahead with repayments	2.9	2.6	2.3
(b) up to date with repayments	9.0	7.0	5.6
(c) owing less than 2 months' repayments	0.2	0.1	0.1
(d) owing 2 or more months' repayments	2.2	1.8	1.5
(e) overdue with no repayment schedule owing <=£100 [7]	0.1	0.1	0.1
(f) overdue with no repayment schedule owing >£100 [8]	2.5	2.8	3.0
(g) deferring repayments	12.7	11.4	10.0
(h) deferring repayments with arrears	0.6	0.5	0.4
(B) Borrowers with accounts not yet in repayment status [6]	-	-	-
of which			
who have made one or more repayments	-	-	-
who have made no repayments	-	-	-

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

[1] Borrowers who have repaid at least one loan account in full during the financial year. This covers those accounts that have a status of fully paid; and the with small balance write-offs of less than or equal to £5. Includes accounts closed under the Repayment of Teacher Loans (RTL) scheme.

[2] Borrowers in payment status who have repaid at least one loan account in full in the financial year prior to the loan's statutory repayment due date.

[3] Borrowers who have at least one loan account cancelled or written off during the financial year. Note that small balance write-offs are included in account. Excludes borrowers with accounts closed under the RTL scheme.

[4] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an IVA has been put in place in the past year. A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2007-08 figures.

[5] Borrowers who had no loans at the beginning of the financial year and who took out new loans during the financial year.

[6] Constituent parts may not sum to the totals because individual borrowers may be counted in more than one category if they have loan accounts in more than one status.

[7] Borrowers who have no current repayment schedule but an amount less than £100 is still due. This often indicates that the last few repayments only have been made and will be collected in the short term.

[8] Borrowers who have no current repayment schedule and an amount equal to or greater than £100 is still due. This group generally comprises those in an arrears position, many of whom are in litigation.

Table 2(iii) : Student Loan outlay and repayments -Publicly Owned Debt : Financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08: borrower activity

Income Contingent Loans

All Welsh domiciled students and those EU students studying in Wales

000's

Financial years	2005-06		2006-07				2007-08 (provisional)				
	Income Contingent Loans [1]	Maintenance Loans [1]	Fee Loans (Welsh domiciled)	Total Wales Loans	Fee Loans (EU in Wales)	Total IC Loans[2]	Maintenance Loans [1]	Fee Loans (Welsh domiciled)	Total Wales Loans	Fee Loans (EU in Wales)	Total IC Loans[2]
Number of borrowers at beginning of the financial year	100.7	114.7	-	114.7	-	114.7	128.7	20.8	129.3	0.3	129.7
Number of borrowers with accounts paid in full in financial year [3]	0.4	0.4	-	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	-	0.4	-	0.4
of which:											
paid off before liability for repayment had arisen [4]	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.2	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1
Number of borrowers receiving refunds of repayments in financial year [5]	1.0	0.7	-	0.7	-	0.7	1.1	-	1.1	-	1.1
Number of borrowers with accounts cancelled or written off in financial year[6]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
of which:											
because of death	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
because of age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
because of disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
because of bankruptcy [7]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
on completion of Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) [7]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New borrowers in financial year [8]	14.4	14.2	20.7	14.8	0.3	15.1	14.6	15.7	15.1	0.6	15.7
All borrowers at the end of financial year [2][9]	114.7	128.7	20.8	129.3	0.3	129.7	143.1	36.5	144.2	0.9	145.2
of which:											
(A) Borrowers with accounts not yet in repayment status	62.1	61.2	20.8	61.9	0.3	62.3	61.4	35.9	62.6	0.9	63.5
of which											
who have made one or more repayments	1.0	1.0	0.1	1.1	-	1.1	1.1	0.3	1.2	0.0	1.2
who have made no repayments	61.0	60.2	20.7	60.9	0.3	61.2	60.2	35.7	61.4	0.9	62.3
(B) Borrowers with accounts being closed	3.8	5.2	-	5.2	-	5.2	6.5	0.1	6.5	-	6.5
of which											
who have fully repaid [10]	3.7	5.1	-	5.1	-	5.1	6.3	0.1	6.3	-	6.3
who are having their account cancelled [11]	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1
(C) Borrowers with accounts where repayments are still due	54.2	68.0	-	68.0	-	68.0	81.1	1.9	81.2	-	81.2
of which											
(a) awaiting first year HMRC return [12]	17.3	17.2	-	17.2	-	17.2	15.9	0.9	15.9	-	15.9
(b) above earnings threshold [13]	12.7	14.7	-	14.7	-	14.7	23.1	-	23.1	-	23.1
(c) non-repayment categories	4.2	4.2	-	4.2	-	4.2	4.4	0.3	4.5	-	4.5
(d) below earnings threshold	20.0	31.8	-	31.8	-	31.8	37.7	0.7	37.7	-	37.7
(e) overseas repayers - in arrears	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

[1] Borrowers with income contingent loans are shown in the table by their known status at the end of the financial year. The SLC are notified of borrowers' repayments by HMRC usually within one year of the end of the tax year they relate to, e.g. there will be some borrowers who have repaid their accounts in full in financial year 2007-08 but this will not be reported until the reconciliation has been made with SLC records.

[2] Each borrower has a loan account for each academic year of study in which they take out a loan. The repayment activity may be different for each loan account. Numbers in the Total IC loans column count each borrower once only, even where borrowers have loan accounts belonging to more than one product type. Therefore the totals in this column will not necessarily reconcile to the total of the component parts.

[3] Borrowers who have repaid at least one loan account in full during the financial year. This covers those accounts that have a status of fully paid; and those accounts with small balance write-offs of less than or equal to £5. Includes accounts closed under the Repayment of Teacher Loans (RTL) scheme.

[4] Borrowers in payment status who have repaid at least one loan account in full in the financial year prior to the loan's statutory repayment due date.

[5] The HMRC system ICR deduction process generates a certain amount of over-repayment. Where over-repayment is identified, a refund is provided to the customer by SLC.

[6] Borrowers who have at least one loan account cancelled or written off during the financial year. Note that small balance write-offs are included in accounts paid in full. Excludes borrowers with accounts closed under the RTL scheme.

[7] The functionality for processing write-offs due to bankruptcy and on completion of an IVA has been put in place in the past year.

A number of such write-offs dating back to previous financial years have been processed and are included in the 2007-08 figures.

[8] Borrowers who had no loans at the beginning of the financial year and who took out new loans during the financial year.

[9] Constituent parts may not sum to the totals because individual borrowers may be counted in more than one category if they have loan accounts in more than one status.

[10] Borrowers who have fully repaid their loans but the account cannot be closed until the final HMRC return is received and/or the final refund is paid.

[11] Borrowers who have had their loans cancelled but the account cannot be closed until the final HMRC return is received and/or the final refund is paid.

[12] Borrowers who have been matched with Student Loans records at HMRC but the first tax year return has not yet been received by SLC.

Hence, the repayment status cannot yet be determined.

[13] Borrowers for whom the latest tax year return from HMRC indicates that they are above the earnings threshold.

This category also includes those borrowers who are having their loan repaid via the Repayment of Teacher Loans scheme.

This category also includes those borrowers who are now resident overseas, are above the earnings threshold for their country of residence, and are repaying on schedule.