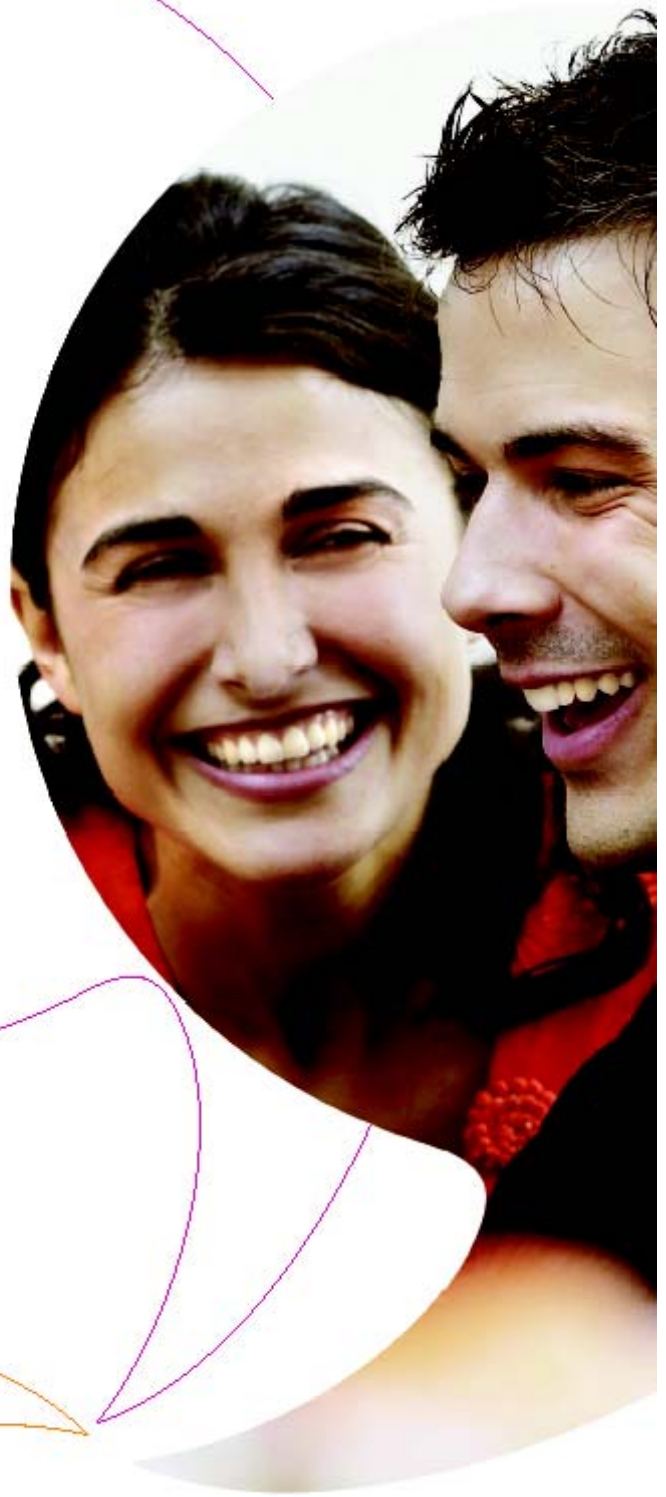



THE VITALITY OF WELSH: A STATISTICAL BALANCE SHEET

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BWRDD YR IAITH
GYMRAEG • WELSH
LANGUAGE BOARD

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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The Vitality of Welsh: a Statistical Balance Sheet

Introduction

This document is an attempt by the Welsh Language Board to bring together a selection of statistics pertaining to the Welsh language, with the intention of presenting a fair and balanced outline of the current position of the language. This is one of the responses of the Board to the responsibility placed on it by *laith Pawb*, the Welsh Assembly Government's national action plan for a bilingual Wales, to develop, compile and publish a range of statistical indicators.

The document presents the statistics under three headings: demography, support and status. This reflects a model proposed in 1977 by some academics prominent in the field of language planning, namely Giles, Bourhis and Taylor, in 1977. They saw that the vitality of a language, i.e. its ability to live and develop, depends on many factors which could be grouped under three headings.

Demographic factors include the numbers of speakers of the language and their age and geographical distribution and concentration. Family formation and intergenerational transmission of the language are key factors. Trends of in- and out-migration are important factors in all this.

Support factors include institutional sustenance and support, including all levels of governments and agencies of government but also voluntary and commercial organisations.

Status factors include economic, social and symbolic status. Economic status is connected with the usefulness of the language in the world of work. The status of the language in society in its turn is likely to be connected with its economic status but social status reflects the usefulness of the language outside the world of work. Symbolic status includes the usefulness of the language to the identity of individuals and society as a whole.

By clustering factors in the manner of this model, we get a balance sheet of the well-being of the language. The feat is to include sufficient indicators in the balance sheet, so that general agreement is achieved that the picture drawn is balanced and fair. The "**balanced scorecard**" methodology is widely used as a management tool, to actuate change. Our hope is that the balance sheet of the vitality of Welsh will be used in the same manner. By making apparent both weaknesses and strengths, it may be seen where present and future threats and opportunities are coming from. For this purpose, we have included some comments on the statistics presented, to aid the interpretation.

Generally, the statistics presented are a selection of those already available, rather than what we would like to see to reflect the vitality of Welsh in its entirety. Statistics about the **demography** of the language are fairly numerous. We have chosen those which in our opinion are key in some way or other.

There is less of a choice of suitable statistics to be included under the heading of **support** and the scope of those selected is less comprehensive than we would like to see. For example, we were not successful in finding anything suitable for inclusion to reflect the contribution of commercial or voluntary bodies.

We have also included very little under the heading of **status**. One aspect of status is how visible the language is. This was reflected in the historic campaign to ensure bilingual road signs. Certainly this is a field where there has been change for the better over the years but there is no quantitative measure to reflect it here.

Even when statistics are available, the length of the available time series, and the frequency and timeliness with which they are updated can vary greatly. We have endeavoured not to be arbitrary in choosing which period to show and have attempted to show change over at least 5 years, where data is available.

This edition

The first edition of "*The Vitality of Welsh*" appeared on 11 May 2006. A revision was released in March 2007 which included some corrections. The second complete edition appeared on 30 May and a revision was released on 8 October 2007. The third edition appeared on 29 July 2008 and the fourth on 30 November 2009. This then is the fifth. It contains the latest figures available at the time it was drafted but it should be noted that figures later than 2009 are now available in many cases although they are not shown here. We decided to publish mainly figures for 2009 in this edition. We attempted to keep to the principle of showing change over at least 5 years.

We welcome comments on this document. They should be addressed to:

Hywel Jones
Welsh Language Board
Market Chambers
5/7 St Mary Street
Cardiff
CF10 1AT

post@byig-wlb.org.uk

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Demography

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Numbers and age profile			
Able to speak Welshⁱ	1991	2001	
All aged 3 and over			
<i>Number</i>	508,000	582,000	+74,000
<i>Per cent</i>	18.7%	20.8%	+2.1 percentage points
Explanatory note: A target of <i>Iaith Pawb</i> is to increase the percentage able to speak Welsh to 25.8% by 2011.			
Fluencyⁱⁱ	1992	2004-06	
All aged 3 and over			
<i>Number speaking fluently</i>	363,000	317,000	-46 thousands
<i>As % of those able to speak Welsh</i>	61%	58%	-3 percentage points
Explanatory note: A target of <i>Iaith Pawb</i> is to increase the use of the language. Research shows that it is fluent speakers who use the language most.			
Able to speak Welsh, by ageⁱⁱⁱ	1991	2001	
<i>Per cent</i>			
3-4	16.2	18.8	+2.6 percentage points
5-14	26.0	40.6	+14.6 percentage points
15-24	17.8	24.4	+6.6 percentage points
25-34	14.1	15.9	+1.8 percentage points
35-44	14.9	14.4	-0.5 percentage points
45-54	16.5	14.9	-1.6 percentage points
55-64	18.4	16.4	-2.0 percentage points
65-74+	20.8	18.1	-2.7 percentage points
75 and over	25.1	21.1	-4 percentage points
Geographical distribution	1991	2001	
Communities where over 70% are able to speak Welsh ^{iv}			
<i>Number of Communities</i>	92	54	-38
<i>As % of all Communities</i>	10.7%	6.2%	-4.5 percentage points
<i>Number of speakers in those Communities</i>	115,000	80,000	-35 thousand
<i>Speakers of those Communities as % of all speakers</i>	22.7%	13.8%	-8.9 percentage points
Explanatory note: A target of <i>Iaith Pawb</i> is that by 2011 the decline in the number of communities where Welsh is spoken by over 70% of the population is arrested.			

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Households	1991	2001	
Of all households ^v :			
% containing someone who spoke Welsh	26.4	28.2	+1.8 percentage points
% containing no one who spoke Welsh	73.6	71.8	-1.8 percentage points
	100.0	100.0	
Of all households ^{vi} :			
% entirely Welsh speaking	14	11.1	-2.9 percentage points
% mixed language	12	17.1	+5.1 percentage points
% entirely non-Welsh speaking	74	71.8	-2.2 percentage points
	100	100.0	
Of the households containing someone who spoke Welsh ^{vii} :			
% entirely Welsh speaking	53.6	39.5	-14.1 percentage points
% mixed language	46.4	60.5	+14.1 percentage points
Explanatory note: A target of <i>laith Pawb</i> is that by 2011 there will be an increase in the percentage of families where Welsh is the principal language of conversation/communication between adults and children at home.			
Children aged 3 to 4			
<i>Percentage able to speak Welsh and living in a household where all the adults can speak Welsh^{viii}</i>	9%	7.0%	-2 percentage points

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Rates of transmission of the language			
to children aged 3 to 4:		2001	
<i>By couples where both adults are able to speak Welsh</i>		82.0%	
<i>In lone parent households where the parent is able to speak Welsh</i>		55.1%	
<i>By couples where only one adult is able to speak Welsh</i>		39.8%	
<i>In households without an adult able to speak Welsh</i>		8.8%	
to children aged 3 to 15 ^{ix}	1991	2001	
<i>Both parents Welsh speaking</i>	92.8	92.0	-0.8 percentage points
<i>Only one of the two parents Welsh speaking</i>	54.4	61.7	+7.3 percentage points
<i>Male partner only Welsh speaking</i>	49.6	56.9	+7.3 percentage points
<i>Female partner only Welsh speaking</i>	58.8	65.4	+6.6 percentage points
<i>Single parent family with Welsh speaking parent</i>	77.0	75.3	-1.7 percentage points
Family formation ^x	1998		
Marriage registrations:		2007	
<i>Number bilingual</i>	419	483	+64
<i>Percentage bilingual</i>	3.0	3.7	+0.7 percentage points
Birth registrations:		2008	
<i>Number bilingual</i>	2,195	3,080	+885
<i>Percentage bilingual</i>	6.7	8.9	+2.2 percentage points
Death registrations:		2008	
<i>Number bilingual</i>	1,076	1,534	+458
<i>Percentage bilingual</i>	3.2	4.9	+1.7 percentage points
In-migration	1991 ^{xi}	2001 ^{xii}	
Population (all ages)	2,835,073	2,903,085	+68,012
<i>Number born in Wales</i>	2,187,699	2,188,754	+1,055
<i>% born in Wales</i>	77.2%	75.4%	-1.8 percentage points

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Education			
Explanatory note: The following statistics from the field of education are included here as they reveal trends since 2001 and also give an idea of the number of speakers coming to speak Welsh through the influence of the education system.			
	2004	2009	
End of Key Stage 1 % of children assessed in Welsh (first language) ^{xiii}	19.5%	21.0%	+1.5 percentage points
Key Stage 2 % of children assessed in Welsh (first language) ^{xiv}	18.1%	19.1%	+1.0 percentage points
Key Stage 3 % of children assessed in Welsh (first language) ^{xv}	14.7%	15.9%	+1.2 percentage points
Year groups 7 – 11 ^{xvi} Children learning Welsh as a first language	Jan. 1999	January 2009	
<i>Number</i>	24,013	28,320	+4,307
<i>As % of all children</i>	13.3%	16.0%	+2.7 percentage points
Examinations^{xvii}			
	1999	2009	
<i>Number of candidates taking:</i>			
GCSE Welsh second language, full course	7,885	9,996	+2,111
GCSE Welsh second language, short course	1,027	11,501	+10,474
GCSE Welsh first language	4,010	5,257	+1,247
A-level second language	522	606	+84
A-level Welsh first language	336	346	+10
Welsh for Adults			
	1997/98	2002/03	
<i>Registrations^{xviii}</i>	21,325	24,981	+3,656
	2003/04	2008/09	
<i>Number of learners^{xix}</i>	18,435	18,220	-215
Taking an examination ^{xx} :			
Defnyddio'r Gymraeg/ Use of			
Welsh	402	340	-62
Advanced	95	87	-8
	2004	2009	
Entry	579	1,225	+646
Foundation	295	480	+185
Intermediate	233	221	-12
Advanced	70	58	-12

Support

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Education			
Pre-school^{xxi}	<i>July 1999</i>	<i>July 2009</i>	
<i>Number of playgroups ("cylch meithrin") run by MYM^{xxii}</i>	570	553	-17
<i>Number of mother and child groups ("cylch Ti a Fi") run by MYM</i>	386	509	+123
Schools^{xxiii}	<i>Jan. 1998</i>	<i>January 2008</i>	
Primary			
Mainly Welsh medium primary schools			
<i>Number</i>	446	464	+18
<i>As % of all primary schools</i>	26.7%	30.7%	+4 percentage points
	<i>Jan. 2009</i>	<i>January 2010</i>	
<i>Welsh-medium primary schools (new definition)</i>			
<i>Number</i>	438	428	-10
<i>As % of all primary schools</i>	29.6%	29.3%	-0.3 percentage points
	<i>Sept. 1991</i>	<i>January 2009</i>	
Mainly Welsh medium classes			
<i>Number of children in them</i>	43,984	53,479	+9,495
<i>As % of all primary school children</i>	16.0%	20.8%	+4.8 percentage points
Secondary	<i>Jan. 1999</i>	<i>January 2009</i>	
Welsh speaking schools (1996 Education Act defn.)			
<i>Number</i>	52	55	+3
Children learning Welsh as a second language			
<i>Number</i>	122,112	146,656	+24,544
<i>As % of all children</i>	67.8%	83.1%	+15.3 percentage points

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Further education^{xxiv}	2003/04	2008/09	
Learning activities in FE institutions or CL providers			
<i>Number Welsh medium</i>	3,125	3,140	+15
<i>Number bilingual</i>	15,855	30,245	+14,390
<i>As % of total provision</i>	2.7%	4.0%	+1.3 percentage points
Higher education^{xxv}	2004/05	2008/09	
Enrolments with any teaching through Welsh, full-time equivalents ^{xxvi}	1,580	1,860	+280
Students with any element of teaching through Welsh	3,695	5,330	+1,635
<i>As % of all enrolments, full or part-time</i>	3.0%	4.2%	+1.2 percentage points
Staff teaching through the medium of Welsh, full-time equivalents	275	310	+35
<i>As % of all staff</i>	4.7%	4.7%	No change
Staff teaching through the medium of Welsh	340	455	+115
<i>As % of all staff</i>	4.3%	5.0%	+0.7 percentage points
The media and arts			
S4C^{xxvii}	2004	2009	
Hours of Welsh broadcast	4,387	5,696	+1,309 awr
Weekly reach all viewers Welsh hours			
<i>Numbers</i>	636,000	449,000	-187,000
<i>% of population</i>	25%	17%	-8 percentage points
Radio BBC^{xxviii}	2004	2009	
Weekly reach (all 15 and over only)			
<i>Numbers</i>	168,000	149,000	-19,000
<i>% of population</i>	7.0%	6.0%	-1.0 percentage points

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Books^{xxix}	2003/04	2008/09	
Children's books			
<i>Number sold through the Welsh Books Council's Distribution Centre</i>	292,024	260,883	-31,141 (-10.7%)
Adults' books			
<i>Number sold through the Welsh Books Council's Distribution Centre</i>	158,009	165,913	+7,904 (+5.0%)
Arts^{xxx}	2004-05	2008/09	
Total public performances in Welsh, by organisations receiving revenue funding from the Arts Council of Wales			
<i>Number</i>	314	774	+460
<i>As % of all performances in all languages</i>	10%	22%	+12 percentage points
Total live performances in Welsh at venues receiving revenue funding from the Arts Council of Wales			
<i>Number</i>	367	322	-45
<i>As % of all performances in all languages</i>	3%	5%	+2 percentage points
The Welsh Language Board			
	2004-05	2009-10	
Welsh Language Board grants ^{xxx1} to:			
Promote Welsh language education			
<i>Current prices</i>	2,648,329	2,901,196	+9.5%
<i>2009-10 prices^{xxxii}</i>	2,990,300	2,901,196	-3.0%
Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin			
<i>Current prices</i>	1,030,000	1,141,162	+10.8%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	1,163,001	1,141,162	-1.9%
Mentrau Iaith			
<i>Current prices</i>	1,399,894	1,574,061	+12.4%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	1,580,658	1,574,061	-0.4%
Urdd Gobaith Cymru			
<i>Current prices</i>	565,000	677,029	19.8%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	637,957	677,029	+6.1%

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
	2004-05	2009-10	
National Eisteddfod of Wales			
<i>Current prices</i>	560,000	585,722	+4.6%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	632,311	585,722	-7.4%
Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters			
<i>Current prices</i>	113,300	122,049	+7.7%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	127,930	122,049	-4.6%
CYD			
<i>Current prices</i>	93,970	-	-100.0%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	106,104	-	-100.0%
Community Newspapers			
<i>Current prices</i>	72,460	73,382	+1.3%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	81,817	73,382	-10.3%
Merched y Wawr			
<i>Current prices</i>	50,000	82,961	+65.9%
<i>2009-10 prices</i>	56,456	82,961	+46.9%
Language schemes			
	<i>Number approved and in operation on 31 December 2004</i>	<i>Number approved and in operation on 31 December 2009</i>	
By sector			
Public (including Crown bodies)			
<i>Number</i>	279	463	+184
Voluntary sector			
<i>Number</i>	45	74	+29
Private sector (services privatised)			
<i>Number</i>	5	6	+1
By status of the scheme			
Statutory			
<i>Number</i>	231	411	+180
Crown bodies			
<i>Number</i>	48	44	-4
Voluntary			
<i>Number</i>	50	88	+38

Status

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
In the Assembly	1/5/2004 - 30/4/2005	1/5/2009 - 30/4/2010	
Questions asked ^{xxxiii}			
% of oral questions asked in Welsh	2.3	0.5	-1.8 percentage points
% of written questions asked in Welsh	2.4	0.1	-2.3 percentage points
% of Members eligible to ask a question who asked at least one oral question	24	9.1	-14.9 percentage points
% of Members eligible to ask a question who asked at least one written question	8	2.3	-5.7 percentage points
Social	2004	2009	
Occupation ^{xxxiv} :			
Managers and Senior Officials			
% of Welsh speakers	10.3	10.0	-0.3 percentage points
% of non-Welsh speakers	13.2	13.2	No change
Difference (percentage points)	-2.9	-3.2	
Professional occupations			
% of Welsh speakers	14.7	15.1	+0.4 percentage points
% of non-Welsh speakers	9.6	10.9	+1.3 percentage points
Difference (percentage points)	+5.1	+4.2	
Total, managers and professionals			
% of Welsh speakers	25.0	25.1	+0.1 percentage points
% of non-Welsh speakers	22.8	24.1	+1.3 percentage points
Difference (percentage points)	+2.2	+1.0	

Explanatory note: The statistics above are included on the assumption that there is a relationship between the status of the language and the socio-economic status of those who speak it. The figures show that a higher percentage of those who speak Welsh are in those occupations considered to be of high status.

	Earlier period	Most recent period	Change
Economic	2004	2009	
Economically active ^{xxxv} :			
% of Welsh speakers	76.6	78.0	+1.4 percentage points
% of non-Welsh speakers	74.4	74.3	-0.1 percentage points
Difference (percentage points)	+2.2	+3.7	
Explanatory note: The statistics above are included on the assumption that there is a relationship between the economic status of the language and the economic status of those who speak it.			
Writing Welsh in work ^{xxxvi} :	2004-06		
% of fluent speakers doing so regularly	25		
	1999		
Effect of bilingualism on earnings ^{xxxvii}	+8–10%		

Sources:

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- ⁱ Census, 1991 and 2001
- ⁱⁱ 1992 *Welsh Social Survey: Report on the Welsh language*; 2004-06 *Welsh Language Use Surveys*
- ⁱⁱⁱ Census, 1991 and 2001
- ^{iv} *op.cit.*
- ^v 1991 Census (1% sample), analysis by Aitchison and Carter reported in *Planet*, 113, pp25-32, and 2001 Census Commissioned table C0055.
- ^{vi} *op.cit.*
- ^{vii} *op.cit.*
- ^{viii} 1991 Census (1% sample), author's analysis, and 2001 Census, table S143.
- ^{ix} 1991 Census, Table 6 of the Report on Welsh, based on a 10% sample; 2001 Census Commissioned table C0584.
- ^x ONS. Earlier figures in *The Digest of Welsh Statistics*, Table 1.36
- ^{xi} 1991 Census, Report for Wales (Part 1) Table 67
- ^{xii} 2001 Census, table KS05.
- ^{xiii} *Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2009*, Welsh Assembly Government.
- ^{xiv} *op.cit.*
- ^{xv} *op.cit.*
- ^{xvi} *op.cit.*
- ^{xvii} WJEC. *Statistical Report on the Summer Examinations*.
<http://www.wjec.co.uk/uploads/publications/10779.pdf>
<http://www.wjec.co.uk/uploads/publications/10767.pdf>
- ^{xviii} *Higher Education, Further Education and Training Statistics in Wales*, published by ELWa and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.
- ^{xix} Table F1.6 in *Further Education, Work-based Learning and Community Learning in Wales Statistics 2003/04*, NCETW. The way in which data on Welsh for Adults is collected centrally has changed, as data is now channelled through the six regional centres. This may have led to a discontinuity in the data series, and so care should be taken when comparing data from 2007/08 with that for earlier years.
- ^{xx} WJEC
- ^{xxi} Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- ^{xxii} Including Day nurseries.
- ^{xxiii} *Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2009*, Welsh Assembly Government.
- ^{xxiv} LLWR data reported on StatsWales. Site accessed 24 August 2010.
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/>
- ^{xxv} Higher Education Statistics Agency: figures supplied by Welsh Assembly Government
- ^{xxvi} In 2007/08 the standard registration population altered and now excludes students who are writing-up and also students who are on sabbatical..
- ^{xxvii} S4C: Annual Reports 2004 and 2009
- ^{xxviii} RAJAR: annual averages from quarterly reports. <http://www.rajar.co.uk/>
- ^{xxix} Welsh Books Council
- ^{xxx} Arts Council of Wales: Annual Survey of Revenue Funded Organisations. Fluctuations in the data are expected on a year to year basis depending on available programmes and funding initiatives.
- ^{xxxi} Welsh Language Board Annual Reports 2004-05 and 2009-10 review.
- ^{xxxii} 2009-10 constant price figures calculated using HM Treasury's GDP deflator at market prices updated 12 July 2010 http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/gdp_deflators.xls
- ^{xxxiii} Table Office, Assembly Parliamentary Service, National Assembly for Wales
- ^{xxxiv} Welsh Local Labour Force Survey. The basis of the figures were changed in this edition to those of working age i.e. 16-64 for males, 16-59 for females. Population base: 2007 estimates for 2004, 2009 estimates for 2009.
- ^{xxxv} *op.cit.*
- ^{xxxvi} 2004-06 *Welsh Language Use Surveys*
- ^{xxxvii} Henley, A and Jones, Rh. E. 'Earnings and Linguistic Proficiency in a Bilingual Economy', January 2003