

Wales's Population

A Demographic Overview
2009



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Introduction	iii
Summary	iv
Chapter 1: Population	3
Chapter 2: Births and Deaths	15
Chapter 3: Migration	33
Chapter 4: Population Projections	45
Chapter 5: Welsh Language	57
Annex 1: Quality Information	67

Welcome to the third comprehensive overview of demographic statistics on Wales:

Wales's Population - A demographic overview, 2009


The population of Wales is continuously changing in terms of age structure, ethnic make up and its mobility. The impact of these changes varies throughout Wales and has implications for the planning and provision of public services in Wales.

The report brings together information on the demography of Wales for the period 1971 to 2007. It looks at population and migration estimates, birth and death patterns, and also focuses on the 2006-based national population projections, and the recently published 2006-based local authority projections.

Wales continues to show a growth in population, most noticeably in recent years due to net inward migration from England. Wales experienced more births than deaths in 2006/07 for the second successive year, after experiencing more deaths than births for the whole of the period mid 1998 to mid 2005. Population projections for Wales suggest a growing population, but also an increase in the number of dependants per persons of working age.

A selection of summary tables and charts that highlight key demographic trends in Wales are included within the report. Further references to other and more detailed data sources are given at the end of each chapter. Many of these can be accessed on our Population and Census statistics theme page:

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

This report also includes our new StatsWales symbol  if a StatsWales symbol appears next to a Table or Figure in this publication, this indicates that more detailed data is available on StatsWales:

www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

To provide feedback and for general queries, please contact:
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Summary

Population

- The population of Wales increased from 2.89 million in 1997 to 2.98 million by 2007.
- Between 1997 and 2007 the number of people aged under 35 decreased by 4.5 percent while the number aged 65 and over increased by 5.5 per cent.
- Natural change in Wales was positive (more births than deaths) in mid-2006 and mid-2007 for the second successive year, after being negative (more deaths than births) for the whole of the period mid-1998 to mid-2005.
- All Local Authorities bar two (Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf) experienced population growth between mid-2006 and mid-2007.
- In 2007, the percentage of people of working age in most of the local authorities was between 57 per cent and 62 per cent. The only exceptions were Conwy with 55 per cent and Cardiff with 66 per cent.

Births

- The number of live births in Wales increased from 30,205 in 2002 to 34,414 in 2007.
- Almost 6 out of 10 births were to women under thirty in 2007.
- In Wales, 9 per cent of all live births were to mothers born outside the UK in 2007, an increase on the proportion in 1998 when only 5 percent of births were to mothers born outside the UK.
- Cardiff was the local authority with the largest growth in the number of births between 2002 and 2007 (23.7 per cent).

Deaths

- The number of deaths occurring in Wales in 2007 was 32,148 which was a small increase on 2006 (31,083). The number of deaths in 2006 was the lowest annual total recorded during the whole of the period 1971-2007.
- For Wales in 2007, 96 per cent of deaths were of people aged 45 and over, and just under two thirds of deaths were of people aged 75 and over.
- The number of people dying in the 45-74 age groups for both males and females has decreased since 1971. Due to people living beyond these ages, there has been an increase in the number of people dying over 75.

Migration

- In 2007, 15.5 thousand people migrated into Wales from overseas, while 7 thousand people migrated from Wales to overseas destinations.
- Ceredigion was the local authority with the highest volume of migration per thousand population in the years between mid-2004 and mid-2007. This is because of the large student population in Ceredigion.
- England accounts for the majority of cross border migration movements to/from Wales. In the year ending June 2007, it accounted for 96 per cent of inward migration.
- The South West and the Valleys were the only regions of the five in Wales to experience a net inflow of migrants from the other regions combined.

Population Projections

By 2031:

- The population is projected to increase by 11 per cent from 2006 to 3.3 million in 2031 (projected to cross the 3 million mark between mid-2008 and mid-2009).
- Children are expected to represent a little over 17 per cent of the population, and pensioners over 24 per cent.
- The number of children is projected to increase by under 1 per cent (4,000), the number of pensioners is projected to increase by around 31 per cent (188,000) and the number of people of working age is projected to increase by 8 per cent (138,000).
- The population of Wales will become gradually older with the median age of the population rising from 40.6 years in 2006 to 44.3 years in 2031.
- It is projected that all Welsh local authorities apart from Merthyr Tydfil will experience an increase in their overall population between 2006 and 2031.
- It is projected that the number of dependents per 1,000 people of working age will increase for all local authorities apart from Cardiff, Newport and Swansea by 2031. This is largely driven by an increase in the pensionable population.

Welsh Language

- In 2001, 21 per cent of the population in Wales were able to speak Welsh.
- Knowledge of Welsh was highest among children of school age with nearly a half of 5-15 year olds being able to speak, read and write Welsh.
- In 2001, the local authorities with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers were in the north and west of Wales, particularly Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. However, these local authorities, traditionally regarded as strong Welsh speaking areas, experienced a decline in this proportion between the 1991 and 2001 Censuses.
- Torfaen and Newport were the local authorities that showed the greatest percentage increase of Welsh speakers between 1991 and 2001.
- The proportions of births, deaths and marriages registered bilingually increased during the period from 1975 to 2007, with bilingual birth registrations increasing the most (from 1.5 per cent of all births in 1975 to 9.4 per cent of all births in 2007).

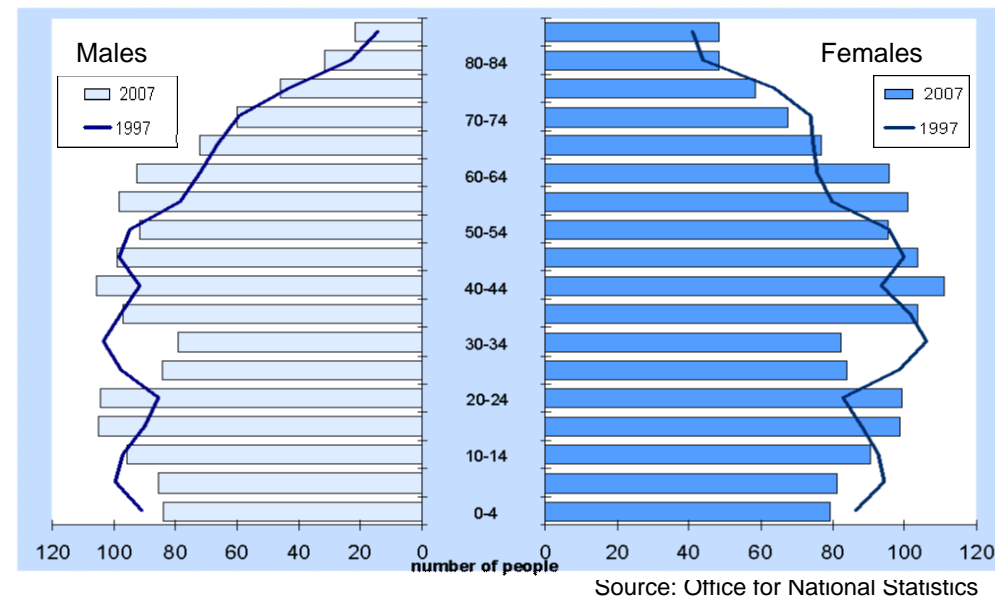
Introduction

This chapter provides an analysis of Wales' population - it looks at trends in recent years, components of population change and the age structure of the population.

As in the previous editions, emphasis is given on analysing population data at a local authority level as well as a national level. Population estimates for other geographies such as national parks and spatial plan areas are also provided.

Birth and death registration data are used together with estimates of international migration and internal migration (within UK) flows to calculate estimates for the usually resident population of each area. Usual residents away from home temporarily are included, but visitors are excluded. Students are counted at their term time address. It should also be noted that the UN definition of an international migrant is used – those changing country of residence for a period of at least 12 months. Short-term migrants (e.g. migrant workers from Eastern European countries) are not counted in the population estimates.

Figure 1: Population of Wales 1997 and 2007, by quinary age and gender (thousands) (a)



(a) mid-year population estimates

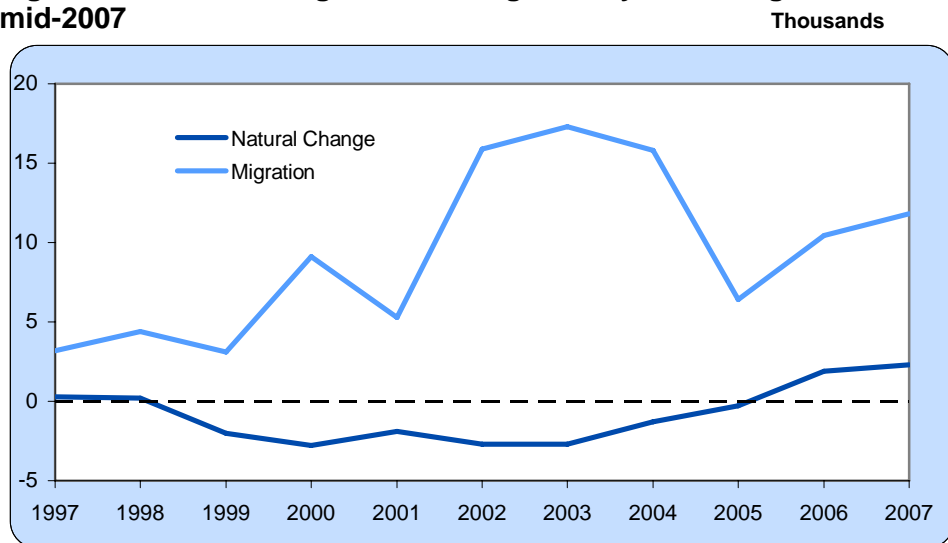
Figure 1 is a population pyramid that shows a breakdown of the population by age and gender for the years 1997 and 2007.

In mid-1997 the population stood at 2.89 million, and increased to 2.98 million in mid-2007. This is an actual increase of 85,104 over the period.

Between 1997 and 2007 the number of people aged under 35 decreased by 4.5 percent while the number aged 65 and over increased by 5.5 per cent. There was a particular decline in the number aged 25-34 from 406,000 to 330,000 (18.8 per cent). The number aged 55-64 increased from 306,000 to 388,000 (26.7 per cent). Of those people living to an older age, more were female than male.

Population

Figure 2: Natural Change and Net Migration, year ending mid-1997 to mid-2007



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2 shows the different components of population change from mid-1997 to mid-2007. Between mid-2006 to mid-2007, Wales experienced a positive natural change (births less deaths), for the second successive year, with 2,300 more births than deaths.

From mid-1998 to mid-2005, Wales had a negative natural change (more deaths than births). Yet the positive net in-migration Wales experienced during this period meant the population increased.

Table 1: Population change by UK constituent country, 2006 and 2007

	2006 (a)	2007 (a)	Population change (percentage)
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)	
United Kingdom	60,587.3	60,975.4	0.6
England	50,762.9	51,092.0	0.6
Wales	2,965.9	2,980.0	0.5
Scotland	5,116.9	5,144.2	0.5
Northern Ireland	1,741.6	1,759.1	1.0

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) mid-year population estimates.

Table 1 compares the population in the UK by constituent countries in mid-2006 and mid-2007. It shows each country's population in both years and also the population change between the two years.

All four countries experienced a population increase between mid-2006 and mid-2007, with Northern Ireland having the highest population change (1.0 per cent), while Wales and Scotland experienced the smallest increase (0.5 per cent). In both years Wales' population accounted for 4.9 per cent of the overall UK population.

Table 2 compares the population in each local authority in mid-2006 and mid-2007. It shows each local authority's population in both years and also the population change between the two years. The local authority with the largest population was Cardiff which accounted for around 10.8 per cent of the total Welsh population in 2007.

The local authorities showing a population decline between mid-2006 and mid-2007 were Blaenau Gwent (0.2 per cent) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (0.1 per cent) and those with the greatest population growth were Cardiff (1.1 per cent), Denbighshire (1.0 per cent) and Bridgend (1.0 per cent).

Table 2: Population change by local authority area, 2006 and 2007

	2006 (a)		2007 (a)		Population change (percentage)
	Number (thousands)	Proportion (percentage)	Number (thousands)	Proportion (percentage)	
Wales	2,965.9	100.0	2,980.0	100.0	0.5
Isle of Anglesey	68.9	2.3	69.0	2.3	0.2
Gwynedd	118.3	4.0	118.4	4.0	0.1
Conwy	111.3	3.8	111.7	3.7	0.4
Denbighshire	96.1	3.2	97.0	3.3	1.0
Flintshire	150.1	5.1	150.5	5.1	0.3
Wrexham	131.0	4.4	131.9	4.4	0.7
Powys	131.1	4.4	132.0	4.4	0.6
Ceredigion	77.2	2.6	77.8	2.6	0.8
Pembrokeshire	117.3	4.0	117.9	4.0	0.5
Carmarthenshire	178.0	6.0	179.5	6.0	0.8
Swansea	227.1	7.7	228.1	7.7	0.4
Neath Port Talbot	137.1	4.6	137.4	4.6	0.2
The Vale of Glamorgan	123.3	4.2	124.0	4.2	0.6
Cardiff	317.5	10.7	321.0	10.8	1.1
Monmouthshire	87.9	3.0	88.2	3.0	0.4
Newport	140.1	4.7	140.2	4.7	0.1
Bridgend	132.6	4.5	133.9	4.5	1.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	233.9	7.9	233.7	7.8	-0.1
Merthyr Tydfil	55.5	1.9	55.6	1.9	0.2
Caerphilly	171.3	5.8	171.8	5.8	0.3
Blaenau Gwent	69.3	2.3	69.2	2.3	-0.2
Torfaen	91.0	3.1	91.1	3.1	0.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a)mid-year population estimates.

Table 3 shows the 2006-07 components of change for the Welsh local authorities. All local authorities, bar two, experienced population growth between mid-2006 and mid-2007. Blaenau Gwent experienced a population decline due to a negative natural change and a negative net migration. Rhondda Cynon Taf also experienced a population decline due to a negative net migration with only a small positive natural change.

Half of the local authorities experienced positive natural change between mid-2006 to mid-2007. Of those local authorities that did not have a positive natural change, positive net migration was large enough to ensure their population increased, with the exception of Blaenau Gwent.

The largest natural change and positive net migration occurred in Cardiff, standing at 1,600 and 1,900 respectively. Conwy had the highest negative natural change (-400), while Newport and Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest net out-migration (300). Natural change was greater than net migration in approximately one third of local authorities.

Total change (natural change plus net migration) for the 22 local authorities between mid-2006 and mid-2007, ranged between -200 and 3,500.

Population

Table 3: Population estimates of change data by local authority, mid-2006 to mid-2007(a)

	Thousands						
	Resident population at mid-2006	Components of change					Resident population at mid-2007
		Births	Deaths	Natural change (births - deaths)	Net migration and other	Total change	
Wales	2,965.9	33.8	31.5	2.3	11.8	14.1	2,980.0
Isle of Anglesey	68.9	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.1	69.0
Gwynedd	118.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	118.4
Conwy	111.3	1.1	1.5	-0.4	0.8	0.4	111.7
Denbighshire	96.1	1.0	1.1	-0.1	1.0	0.9	97.0
Flintshire	150.1	1.7	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	150.5
Wrexham	131.0	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.9	131.9
Powys	131.1	1.3	1.5	-0.2	1.0	0.8	132.0
Ceredigion	77.2	0.7	0.7	-0.1	0.7	0.6	77.8
Pembrokeshire	117.3	1.3	1.3	-0.1	0.7	0.6	117.9
Carmarthenshire	178.0	1.9	2.2	-0.3	1.7	1.5	179.5
Swansea	227.1	2.6	2.6	0.0	1.0	1.0	228.1
Neath Port Talbot	137.1	1.5	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	137.4
The Vale of Glamorgan	123.3	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.6	0.7	124.0
Cardiff	317.5	4.3	2.7	1.6	1.9	3.5	321.0
Monmouthshire	87.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.3	88.2
Newport	140.1	1.7	1.3	0.4	-0.3	0.1	140.2
Bridgend	132.6	1.6	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.3	133.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	233.9	2.8	2.7	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	233.7
Merthyr Tydfil	55.5	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	55.6
Caerphilly	171.3	2.2	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.5	171.8
Blaenau Gwent	69.3	0.7	0.8	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	69.2
Torfaen	91.0	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	91.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

Note: figures may not sum due to rounding
(a) mid-year population estimates.

Dependency Ratio

Children (aged 0-15) and pensioners (60/65+) are defined as dependents. As the age structure of the population changes over time, there is a subsequent effect on the proportion of dependent people. An increase in dependents compared to those of working age has consequences in terms of child benefit and pensions. This could potentially mean more benefits being claimed but fewer people paying taxes.

Table 4: Dependency Ratios by UK constituent country, 2007 (a)

	Number per 1,000 persons of working age (b)		
	Children	Pensioners	Total
United Kingdom	304	305	609
England	304	303	607
Wales	310	349	659
Scotland	284	310	594
Northern Ireland	349	266	615

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) 2007 mid-year population estimates.

(b) Children (0-15), Pensioners (females 60 and over and males 65 and over).

Table 4 shows the dependency ratios by UK constituent country in mid-2007.

In mid-2007, Wales had the most dependents in its population at 659 per 1,000 persons of working age. Wales had the highest proportion (21 per cent) of pensioners, compared to the other UK countries.

In mid-2007, Scotland had the least dependents in its population at 594 per 1,000 persons of working age. This is due to Scotland having the smallest proportion (18 per cent) of children compared to the other UK countries.

There is a noticeable difference in the age profiles and dependency ratios of local authorities. Table 5 is a representation of the number of dependent people in Wales by local authority in 2007. In all local authorities in Wales in mid-2007, children represented between 17 and 20 per cent of the population with the exception of Ceredigion with only 15 per cent of its population being children.

The working age population accounted for between 57 to 62 per cent of each local authority in mid-2007, apart from Conwy at 55 per cent and Cardiff at 66 per cent. The percentage of pensioners in each local authority in mid-2007 was between 19 to 25 per cent, with the only exceptions being Conwy at 27 per cent and Cardiff at 16 per cent.

Population

Table 5: Number and percentage of dependent people, 2007 (a)

	Number (b)			Percentage			Number per 1,000 persons of working age		
	Children	Working age	Pensioners	Children	Working age	Pensioners	Children	Pensioners	Total
Wales	556,600	1,796,800	626,700	19	60	21	310	349	659
Isle of Anglesey	12,500	39,800	16,700	18	58	24	314	420	734
Gwynedd	21,500	69,500	27,300	18	59	23	309	393	702
Conwy	19,400	61,900	30,300	17	55	27	313	489	803
Denbighshire	17,600	55,900	23,500	18	58	24	315	420	735
Flintshire	28,700	92,300	29,600	19	61	20	311	321	632
Wrexham	24,800	81,400	25,700	19	62	19	305	316	620
Powys	23,700	75,100	33,200	18	57	25	316	442	758
Ceredigion	12,000	47,700	18,100	15	61	23	252	379	631
Pembrokeshire	22,400	66,900	28,600	19	57	24	335	428	762
Carmarthenshire	33,100	104,300	42,100	18	58	23	317	404	721
Swansea	40,200	139,500	48,400	18	61	21	288	347	635
Neath Port Talbot	25,300	82,500	29,600	18	60	22	307	359	665
The Vale of Glamorgan	24,500	74,000	25,600	20	60	21	331	346	677
Cardiff	59,300	210,600	51,100	18	66	16	282	243	524
Monmouthshire	16,600	51,400	20,300	19	58	23	323	395	718
Newport	28,700	84,600	26,900	20	60	19	339	318	657
Bridgend	25,600	81,100	27,200	19	61	20	316	335	651
Rhondda Cynon Taf	44,700	143,400	45,600	19	61	19	312	318	630
Merthyr Tydfil	10,900	33,800	10,900	20	61	20	322	322	645
Caerphilly	34,400	104,600	32,800	20	61	19	329	314	642
Blaenau Gwent	13,100	41,700	14,300	19	60	21	314	343	657
Torfaen	17,600	54,600	18,900	19	60	21	322	346	668

Source: Office for National Statistics

note: figures may not sum due to rounding.

(a) 2007 mid-year population estimates.

(b) Children (0-15), Pensioners (females 60 and over and males 65 and over).

National Parks

Table 6 shows the population of National Parks in 2001 and 2006, and also shows the population change between the two years.

In 2006, the Brecon Beacons had the largest population of the three National Parks in Wales with 33,000, while the Pembrokeshire Coast had the smallest population at 22,300.

The Brecon Beacons experienced the largest population growth between 2001 and 2006 at 2.3 per cent, while the Pembrokeshire Coast experienced a population decline of 1.7 per cent. The overall population growth for Wales was 1.9 per cent during the same period.

Table 6: Population change by National Park, 2001 and 2006 (a)

	2001	2006	Population
	(thousands)	Number (thousands)	change (percentage)
Brecon Beacons	32.3	33.0	2.3
Pembrokeshire Coast	22.7	22.3	-1.7
Snowdonia	25.4	25.7	1.5

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Small area population estimates.

National Assembly for Wales Constituencies

Table 7 shows the population of each National Assembly for Wales Constituency in 2006.

The average population of the constituencies was 74,100. The constituency with the largest population was Cardiff South and Penarth with a population of 96,600 and the constituency with the lowest population was Aberconwy with 54,900.

Table 7: Population of National Assembly for Wales Constituencies, 2006 (a)

	Number (thousands)
Ynys Môn	68.9
Delyn	70.5
Alyn and Deeside	79.6
Wrexham	68.9
Llanelli	77.6
Gower	76.0
Swansea West	73.8
Swansea East	77.2
Aberavon	64.3
Cardiff Central	77.7
Cardiff North	85.6
Rhondda	70.7
Torfaen	81.3
Monmouth	80.1
Newport East	74.9
Newport West	82.8
Arfon	57.3
Aberconwy	54.9
Clwyd West	71.2
Vale of Clwyd	73.6
Dwyfor Meirionnydd	60.9
Clwyd South	69.8
Montgomeryshire	62.8
Ceredigion	77.2
Preseli Pembrokeshire	72.6
Cardiff South and Penarth	96.6
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	75.4
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	69.8
Brecon and Radnorshire	68.5
Neath	72.6
Cynon Valley	69.0
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	71.5
Blaenau Gwent	69.3
Bridgend	74.5
Ogmore	72.8
Pontypridd	79.6
Caerphilly	83.4
Islwyn	71.9
Vale of Glamorgan	96.2
Cardiff West	84.7
Cardiff South and Penarth	96.6

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) 2006 small area population estimates.

Population

Spatial Plan Areas

The Spatial Plan Project was set up to collate and disseminate data for the areas identified in the Wales Spatial Plan, shown in Figure 4.

Detailed data is available for the Spatial areas, at [Welsh Assembly Government | Data for the Wales Spatial Plan](#). These detailed data tables include demography information, such as population change, which is shown for each of the Spatial Plan areas below.

Table 8: Population change by Spatial Plan Area 2001 and 2007 (a)

	2001 (b)	2007 (c)	Population change (percentage)
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)	
North West Wales	294.3	299.1	1.6
North East Wales	479.9	491.2	2.3
Central Wales	362.8	376.2	3.7
Pembrokeshire Haven	150.7	155.8	3.4
Swansea Bay	548.7	561.9	2.4
South East Wales (d)	1,399.3	1,428.8	2.1
<i>Heads of the Valleys</i>	275.4	272.7	-1.0
<i>Connections Corridor</i>	450.2	458.6	1.9
<i>City Coastal Zone</i>	673.6	697.4	3.5

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) The boundaries used to produce these data have been defined for data collation purposes only, and the definition given here do not change the core concept of the Wales Spatial Plan, which uses 'fuzzy' boundaries from a policy perspective.

(b) 2001 small area population estimates.

(c) 2007 small area population estimates.

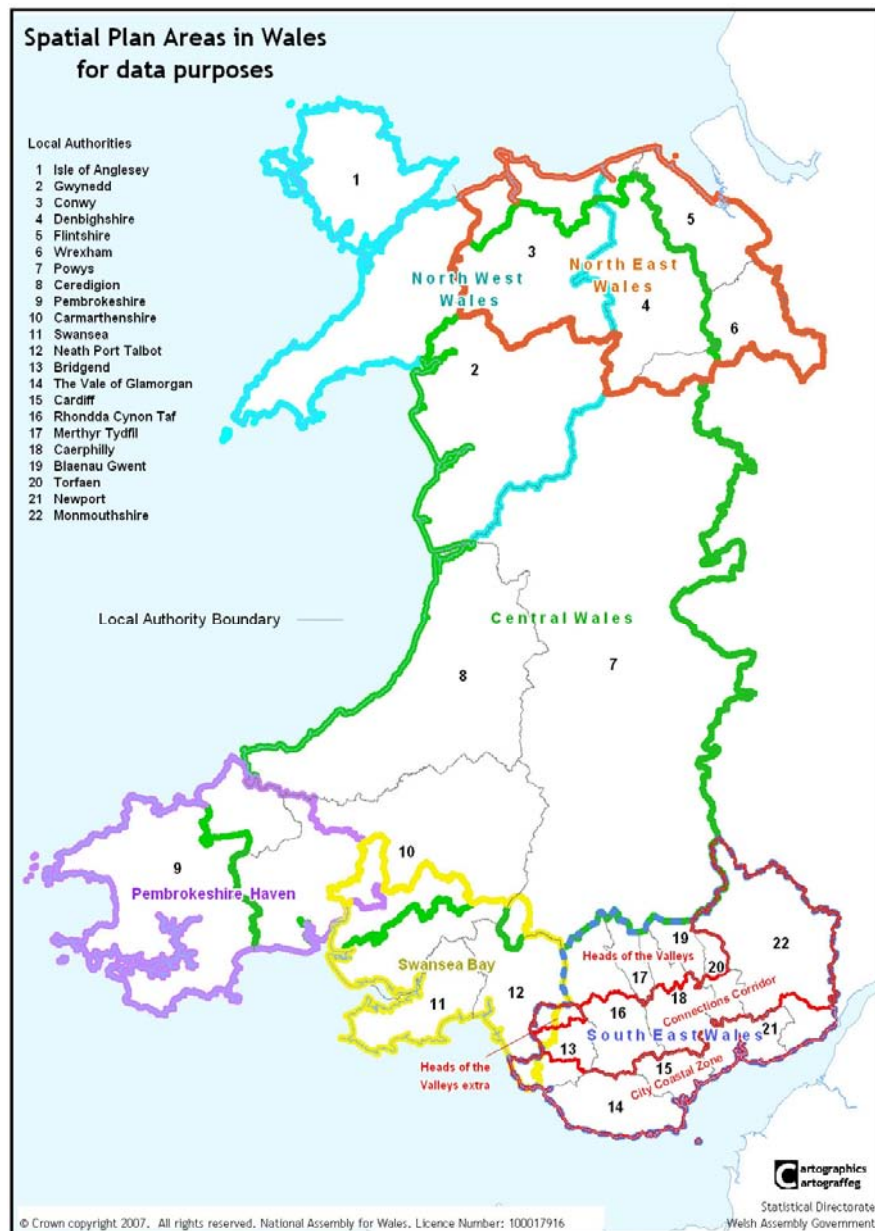
(d) The South East Wales area is further sub-divided into three elements which face different issues, the Heads of the Valleys, the City Coastal Zone and the intervening Connection Corridor. The Heads of the Valleys (HoV) area includes areas identified within Bridgend as similar to the rest of the HoV but not included as part of the official HoV programme area.

Table 8 shows the population of the Wales Spatial Areas in 2001 and 2007, and also shows the population change between these years.

Between 2001 and 2007, Central Wales experienced the largest population growth (3.7 per cent), while North West Wales had the smallest population growth (1.6 per cent).

Within South East Wales, there was a wide variation in population change, with growth in the City Coastal Zone (3.5 per cent) and in the Connection Corridor (1.9 per cent), and a decline in the Heads of the Valleys area (1.0 per cent).

Figure 4



Further information - Population

Further information and other publications on the topics covered in this chapter are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/?lang=en>

A number of population tables are also available on **StatsWales**:

<http://www.statswales.gov.uk/index.htm>

Further Information on Spatial Plan Areas is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/spatial-plan/?lang=en>

Introduction

Births and deaths were discussed in the population chapter, and the relationship between the two was described as Natural Change (births less deaths). In this chapter we will take a more in depth look at Natural Change both at a national and a local authority level.

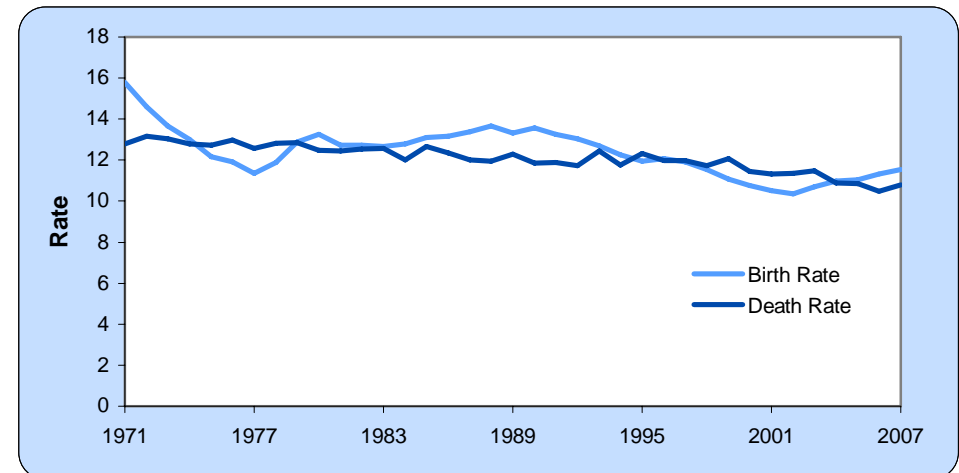
Also depicted in this chapter are; comparisons of births and deaths, live births, general fertility rate, total fertility rate, mortality and life expectancy.

Information on births to mothers born outside the UK is presented in this chapter for the first time this year.

Births and Deaths

Figure 1 shows that the death rate fluctuated from a high of 13.2 deaths per thousand people in 1972 to a low of 10.5 deaths per thousand people in 2006. In 2007 there were 10.8 deaths per thousand people. The live birth rate fluctuated between a high of 15.8 births per thousand population in 1971 and 10.3 births per thousand population in 2002. There were 11.5 births per thousand population in 2007.

Figure 1: Birth and death rates, 1971-2007 (a)



Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Per 1,000 population. Deaths data relates to deaths registered during the year, with the exception of the years 1993-2005 where deaths data relates to occurrences. Excludes still births.

Births and Deaths

Births and Deaths by Local Authority

Figures on live births and deaths at a local authority level are presented in Table 1 for the period 2002 to 2007.

The number of live births in Wales increased from 30,205 in 2002 to 34,414 in 2007, which equates to a 13.9 per cent increase. Cardiff witnessed the largest growth in the number of births of any local authority rising by 23.7 per cent, from 3,569 births in 2002 to 4,416 births in 2007.

Around half the other local authorities also experienced a growth in the number of births above the national growth figure (13.9 percent) over the period 2002 to 2007. The number of births in Wrexham, Merthyr Tydil and The Vale of Glamorgan increased by over 20 per cent between 2002 and 2007.

Monmouthshire experienced the lowest growth in the number of births during this period, with a 2.5 per cent rise.

The number of deaths in Wales fell from 33,169 in 2002 to 32,148 in 2007 (a 3.1 per cent decrease). Only four local authorities in Wales experienced an increase in the number of deaths. The greatest increases occurred in Caerphilly and Torfaen where the number of deaths rose by 3.1 per cent between 2002 and 2007.

Most local authorities saw a decline of between 1 and 5 per cent in the number of deaths between 2002 and 2007. The greatest decline occurred in Conwy and Cerdigion as both authorities witnessed a 8.6 per cent decrease in the number of deaths over the period.

Births and Deaths

Table 1: Live Births and deaths by local authority, 2002-2007 (a)

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
Wales	30,205	33,169	31,400	33,659	32,325	32,119	32,593	32,104	33,628	31,083	34,414	32,148
Isle of Anglesey	653	789	697	806	663	741	685	797	697	752	779	774
Gwynedd	1,133	1,384	1,156	1,359	1,198	1,373	1,264	1,314	1,331	1,271	1,255	1,319
Conwy	992	1,657	1,046	1,603	1,068	1,541	1,044	1,496	1,149	1,518	1,107	1,515
Denbighshire	922	1,183	953	1,267	974	1,193	984	1,226	989	1,177	1,049	1,123
Flintshire	1,624	1,405	1,607	1,531	1,724	1,421	1,642	1,445	1,719	1,385	1,743	1,372
Wrexham	1,317	1,454	1,450	1,421	1,516	1,365	1,582	1,353	1,597	1,323	1,604	1,345
Powys	1,167	1,549	1,153	1,546	1,219	1,463	1,248	1,512	1,222	1,456	1,303	1,478
Ceredigion	582	789	612	788	614	821	600	756	590	707	673	721
Pembrokeshire	1,102	1,369	1,153	1,413	1,185	1,309	1,201	1,460	1,278	1,325	1,254	1,301
Carmarthenshire	1,724	2,248	1,767	2,440	1,815	2,270	1,744	2,174	1,887	2,190	1,947	2,164
Swansea	2,331	2,637	2,432	2,681	2,501	2,533	2,449	2,559	2,543	2,504	2,587	2,557
Neath Port Talbot	1,300	1,638	1,368	1,717	1,489	1,633	1,486	1,544	1,515	1,590	1,527	1,574
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,185	1,341	1,303	1,308	1,262	1,225	1,279	1,250	1,360	1,243	1,446	1,255
Cardiff	3,569	2,976	3,708	2,929	3,694	2,751	3,955	2,743	4,216	2,663	4,416	2,818
Monmouthshire	802	928	898	899	874	879	819	828	854	882	822	896
Newport	1,654	1,393	1,712	1,422	1,747	1,391	1,698	1,402	1,679	1,315	1,813	1,414
Bridgend	1,404	1,448	1,473	1,492	1,512	1,406	1,523	1,445	1,526	1,454	1,611	1,439
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,498	2,668	2,675	2,636	2,741	2,512	2,864	2,577	2,778	2,437	2,878	2,724
Merthyr Tydfil	595	666	639	672	649	671	643	630	692	566	721	635
Caerphilly	1,984	1,776	2,005	1,850	2,118	1,833	2,055	1,778	2,167	1,635	2,069	1,831
Blaenau Gwent	667	880	692	944	744	844	734	865	770	797	769	871
Torfaen	1,000	991	901	935	1,018	944	1,094	950	1,069	893	1,041	1,022

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Deaths data relates to death occurrences with the exception of the years 2006 and 2007 where deaths data relates to year of registration.

Births and Deaths

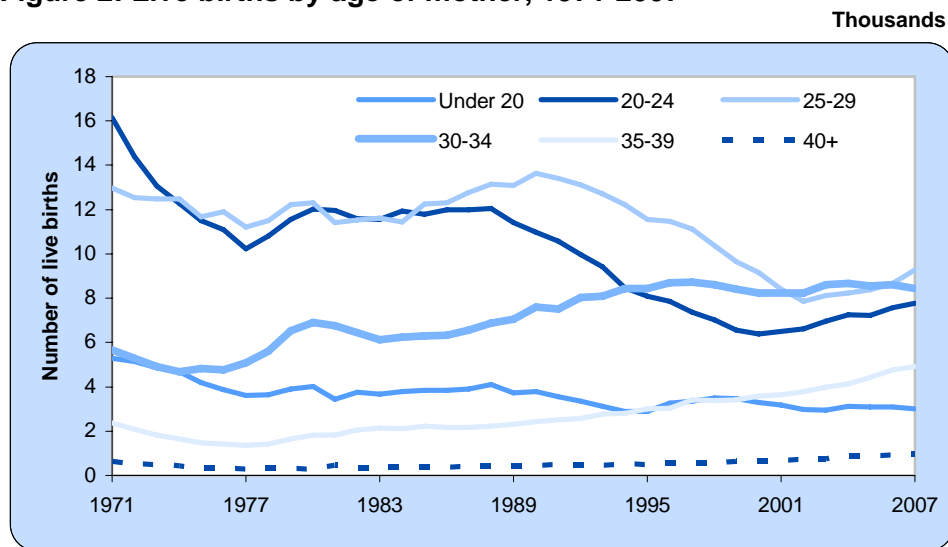
Births

Live births in Wales fell from 43,056 in 1971 to 30,205 in 2002 but have increased each year since then to 34,414 in 2007. A breakdown of births by age of mother, as shown in Figure 2, shows that this fall hasn't occurred within all age groups. For example there has been an increase in the number of births to women aged 30-34, 35-39 and 40+. In contrast, there has been a decrease in the number of births to women in the younger age groups (under 30). This suggests that women are opting to have children at an older age than previously.

However, between 2006 and 2007 the number of births to women aged under 30 has increased by 3.9 percent, while the number of births to women aged 30 and over has increased by only 0.2 per cent. There were just under 1,000 births to mothers aged over 40 in 2007, a small increase on 2006. The total number of births increased from 33,628 in 2006 to 34,414 in 2007 (2.3 per cent increase).

Of all the live births in Wales in 2007, just over 4 in 10 were to women aged 30 and over. Around 1 in 10 were to women under the age of 20.

Figure 2: Live births by age of mother, 1971-2007



Source: Office for National Statistics



Table 2: Live births by age of mother by local authority, 2007

	Age of mother						Per cent
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 +	All ages
Wales	8.8	22.6	27.0	24.5	14.2	2.9	100
Isle of Anglesey	8.1	23.4	28.8	21.6	14.6	3.6	100
Gwynedd	8.4	22.1	30.7	22.4	13.3	3.2	100
Conwy	10.1	22.0	24.8	25.6	15.1	2.4	100
Denbighshire	9.9	21.1	26.3	24.3	15.4	3.0	100
Flintshire	7.0	20.8	25.2	27.0	16.9	3.2	100
Wrexham	9.7	22.1	27.8	23.6	14.2	2.7	100
Powys	6.8	17.9	25.2	26.5	19.7	3.8	100
Ceredigion	6.5	19.6	26.9	26.9	15.8	4.3	100
Pembrokeshire	10.9	22.2	25.0	21.4	15.6	4.9	100
Carmarthenshire	8.5	21.8	28.0	23.7	15.4	2.7	100
Swansea	7.6	23.6	26.2	25.3	14.8	2.5	100
Neath Port Talbot	8.1	25.3	27.8	23.8	12.6	2.3	100
The Vale of Glamorgan	7.9	20.7	24.1	25.2	18.7	3.4	100
Cardiff	7.6	20.4	26.9	26.9	15.4	2.9	100
Monmouthshire	6.1	13.1	24.0	30.0	20.7	6.1	100
Newport	8.4	24.5	27.2	24.5	12.0	3.4	100
Bridgend	8.4	22.7	25.8	26.9	13.4	2.9	100
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	11.3	25.2	27.6	23.3	10.6	2.0	100
Merthyr Tydfil	11.4	29.5	28.6	19.3	10.7	0.6	100
Caerphilly	10.9	25.4	28.9	21.7	11.4	1.6	100
Blaenau Gwent	10.5	29.9	28.6	20.7	8.5	1.8	100
Torfaen	9.9	25.3	29.8	23.0	9.5	2.6	100

Source: Office of National Statistics



The majority of local authorities had a similar age distribution as that for Wales as a whole, with around 4 in 10 births to mothers aged 30 and over, and 6 in 10 births to mothers aged under 30 (see table 2).

The only local authority where over half of births were to women aged 30 and over in 2007 was Monmouthshire (56.8 per cent). Monmouthshire also had the highest proportion of births to mothers aged 40 and over (6.1 per cent) and the lowest aged under 20 (6.1 per cent).

The Valley authorities of Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent were the only local authorities where over 65 per cent of births were to mothers aged under 30. Merthyr Tydfil had the highest proportion of births to mothers aged under 20 (11.4 per cent).

Merthyr Tydfil also had the lowest proportion of births to mother aged 40 and over (0.6 per cent).

Births and Deaths

General Fertility Rate

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is a calculated measure of current fertility levels, and denotes the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in the population. Wales witnessed its GFR falling from 85.1 births per 1,000 women in 1971 to its lowest point of 52.5 births per 1,000 women in 2002. Since 2002, the GFR has risen year on year, and in 2007 stood at 59.4 births per 1,000 women, as shown in Figure 3.

Between 1971 and 1976, there was a marked decrease in the GFR across all age groups. The largest percentage decrease in GFR was experienced by the 40 and over age group – a 42.2 percent decrease.

In 1971, the GFR for women under 20 was 57.0 births per 1,000 women and this had declined to 30.5 births per 1,000 women by 2007.

In 1971, the GFR was highest in the 20-24 age group (166.4 births per 1,000 women). By 2007 the GFR in the 20-24 age group had decreased to 78.4 births per 1,000 women.

In 2007 the GFR was highest in the 25-29 age group (110.7 births per 1,000 women), although the GFR in this age group had declined from the 1971 figure (154.1 births per 1,000 women).

The GFR figures for each of the 30 and over age groups have increased since 1971.

As expected, the age group with the lowest GFR was the 40+ age group. Its GFR increased slightly from 7.8 births per 1,000 women in 1971 to 8.9 births per 1,000 women in 2007.

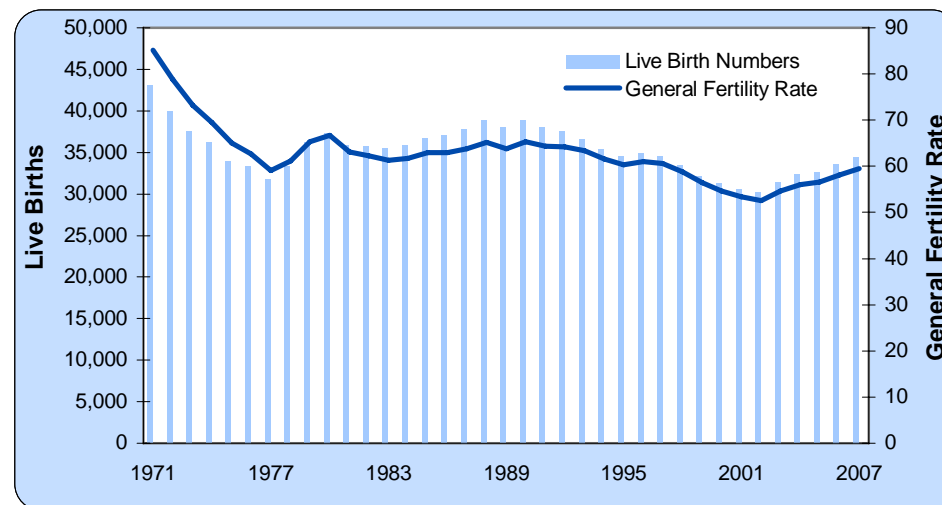
Table 3: General Fertility Rate by age of mother, selective years

	Age of mother						Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 +	
1971	57.0	166.4	154.1	74.9	31.4	7.8	85.1
1981	30.0	121.1	126.9	67.2	21.0	5.9	63.1
1991	38.8	103.2	127.4	76.7	27.4	4.9	64.3
2001	34.5	76.0	99.4	80.2	33.6	6.7	53.4
2004	32.2	78.5	106.5	91.3	38.4	8.2	56.0
2005	32.0	77.1	106.7	93.9	41.6	8.2	56.5
2006	31.5	78.2	106.7	99.4	45.1	8.4	58.1
2007	30.5	78.4	110.7	102.7	47.3	8.9	59.4

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) The rates for women of all ages, under 20 and 40 and over are based upon the population of women aged 15-44, 15-19 and 40-44 respectively.

Figure 3: Number of live births and General Fertility Rate (GFR), 1971-2007



Source: Office for National Statistics

General Fertility Rate by Local Authority

Of all local authorities in Wales, the Isle of Anglesey had the highest GFR in 2007 (64.9 births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age). This was significantly above the national rate of 59.4. Of the 22 LAs in Wales, only 7 recorded a GFR lower than the national rate with Ceredigion recording the lowest GFR of 44.6 births per 1,000 women. This is to be expected as Ceredigion has a high student population, which traditionally experience low fertility rates.

The GFR for women in the under 20 age group was highest in Merthyr Tydfil at 42.2 births per 1,000 women and lowest in Ceredigion at 15.4 births per 1,000 women.

For mothers aged 20-24, once again Merthyr Tydfil and Ceredigion recorded the highest and lowest GFR (117.8 and 32.3 births per 1,000 women respectively).

For women in the 25-29 age group, Merthyr Tydfil again recorded the highest rate (133.2 births per 1,000 women), with the lowest being Ceredigion again with 88.3 births per 1,000 women. Monmouthshire recorded the highest GFR in the 30-34 age group (127.4 births per 1,000 women) and Blaenau Gwent had the lowest GFR (82.3 births per 1,000 women).

For the 35-39 age group, Cardiff recorded the highest GFR with 61.5 births per 1,000 women. Blaenau Gwent recorded the lowest GFR with 26 births per 1,000 women.

For the over 40 age group, Pembrokeshire recorded the highest GFR of 14.1 births per 1,000 women and Merthyr Tydfil recorded the lowest GFR of 1.8 births per 1,000 women.

Table 4: General Fertility Rate by age of mother and local authority 2007 (a)

	Age of mother						All ages
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 +	
Wales	30.5	78.4	110.7	102.7	47.3	8.9	59.4
Isle of Anglesey	28.6	105.4	132.1	97.3	50.8	11.6	64.9
Gwynedd	26.5	63.1	124.3	94.3	44.5	10.3	56.8
Conwy	33.9	103.0	112.9	109.9	46.5	6.6	60.3
Denbighshire	34.4	92.9	118.8	104.3	49.4	8.6	61.5
Flintshire	26.2	90.5	109.6	104.0	51.1	9.0	59.9
Wrexham	38.6	90.4	110.3	97.8	45.5	8.4	61.8
Powys	22.5	89.1	131.6	115.6	60.2	10.2	61.4
Ceredigion	15.4	32.3	88.3	116.3	51.5	11.7	44.6
Pembrokeshire	35.6	104.8	118.3	90.6	51.6	14.1	61.9
Carmarthenshire	29.3	88.0	118.9	100.5	51.1	7.8	60.6
Swansea	26.0	64.2	102.0	105.7	51.4	8.1	57.1
Neath Port Talbot	28.4	95.2	119.3	94.2	41.5	6.6	59.2
The Vale of Glamorgan	26.8	88.5	108.6	103.8	59.5	10.1	60.9
Cardiff	27.9	46.5	88.7	116.6	61.5	11.3	57.2
Monmouthshire	17.4	63.8	115.0	127.4	53.6	13.5	54.4
Newport	30.6	93.8	129.9	111.4	41.1	10.8	63.8
Bridgend	31.5	99.5	116.0	108.9	42.2	8.7	62.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	41.5	90.7	106.7	94.5	35.5	6.6	60.3
Merthyr Tydfil	42.2	117.8	133.2	92.9	37.0	1.8	65.1
Caerphilly	38.7	101.5	116.8	84.7	36.7	5.2	60.3
Blaenau Gwent	32.3	105.9	113.1	82.3	26.0	5.2	55.9
Torfaen	33.3	97.3	122.4	96.1	31.3	7.8	59.7

(a) The rate for women of all ages, under 20 and 40 over are based upon the population of women aged 15-44, 15-19 and 40-44 respectively

Births and Deaths

Total Fertility Rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born per woman if women experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. Table 5 shows the Welsh TFR for selective years since 1971.

Table 5: Live births, numbers and total fertility rates, selective years

Year (calendar)	Number of live births	Total Fertility Rate (a)
1971	43,056	2.40
1976	33,378	1.78
1981	35,842	1.87
1986	37,038	1.86
1991	38,079	1.88
1996	34,894	1.81
2001	30,616	1.66
2002	30,205	1.64
2003	31,400	1.73
2004	32,325	1.78
2005	32,593	1.81
2006	33,628	1.86
2007	34,414	1.90

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born to a woman if the female population experienced the age specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR is a summary measure of current fertility.

The number of live births in Wales decreased by 20 per cent between 1971 and 2007. This led to the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) decreasing from 2.40 in 1971 to 1.90 in 2007.

Table 6 shows that in 2007, Ceredigion recorded the lowest TFR of any LA at 1.68 children. Only a further five LAs recorded a TFR lower than the national level. The majority of the local authorities recorded a TFR of

1.90 children or above. The two local authorities with the highest TFR were Isle of Anglesey and Powys with 2.15 children.

Table 6: Live births and total fertility rate by local authority of usual residence of mother, 2007

	Live births	TFR (a)
Wales	34,414	1.90
Isle of Anglesey	779	2.15
Gwynedd	1,255	1.83
Conwy	1,107	2.08
Denbighshire	1,049	2.08
Flintshire	1,743	1.96
Wrexham	1,604	1.97
Powys	1,303	2.15
Ceredigion	673	1.68
Pembrokeshire	1,254	2.11
Carmarthenshire	1,947	2.01
Swansea	2,587	1.81
Neath Port Talbot	1,527	1.94
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,446	2.02
Cardiff	4,416	1.78
Monmouthshire	822	1.94
Newport	1,813	2.09
Bridgend	1,611	2.05
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	2,878	1.89
Merthyr Tydfil	721	2.14
Caerphilly	2,069	1.93
Blaenau Gwent	769	1.87
Torfaen	1,041	1.96

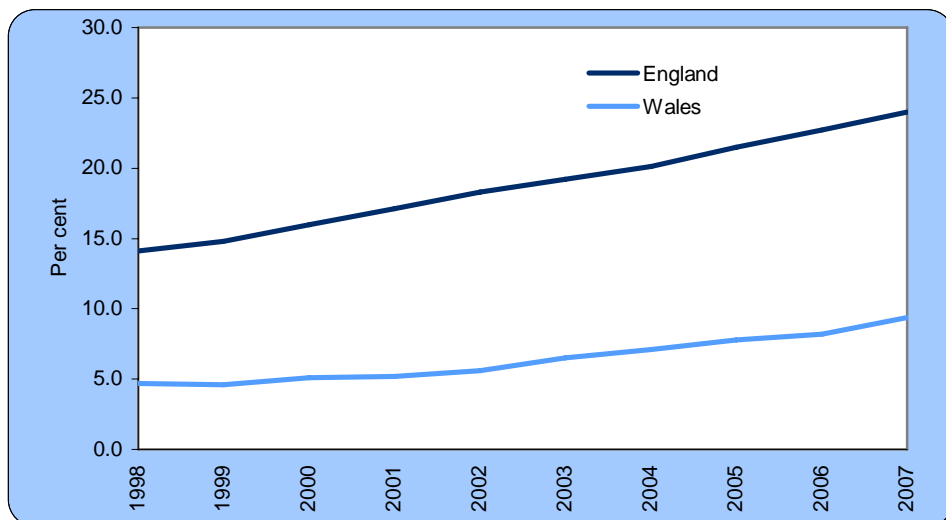
Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born to a woman if the female population experienced the age specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR is a summary measure of current fertility.

Births to Mothers born outside the UK

Figure 4 shows the proportion of live births to women born outside the UK, both in Wales and in England.

Figure 4: Proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK, 1998 to 2007



Both countries have seen a significant increase in the proportion of births to women born outside the UK, for Wales the proportion has increased from 5 per cent in 1998 to 9 per cent in 2007.

However, the proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK in Wales remains much lower than England (24 per cent) in 2007. Table 7 shows that Wales has a lower proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK than all regions of England, with the exception of the North East which had the same proportion as Wales in 2007 (9 per cent). This is as expected as a lower proportion of women of child bearing age in Wales were born outside the UK (6.5 per cent) than in England (16.3 per cent), according to the Labour Force Survey in the year July 2007 to June 2008.

Table 7: Proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK in England and Wales by region

	Per cent		
	2005	2006	2007
Wales	8	8	9
England	21	23	24
North East	8	9	9
North West	13	14	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	15	15	17
East Midlands	13	15	16
West Midlands	18	19	21
East	16	18	19
London	51	53	54
South East	17	18	20
South West	10	11	13
England and Wales	21	22	23

Source: Office for National Statistics

Births and Deaths

Deaths

The number of deaths remained relatively stable throughout the 1971-2007 period at around 31,000 to 36,000 a year. The number of deaths in 2007 stood at 32,148 which is a slight increase on 2006. The lowest number of deaths in the period 2002-2007 was recorded in 2006 as shown in Table 1.

The age-specific mortality rate (ASMR), as shown in Table 8, refers to the total number of deaths per 1,000 people of a given age (e.g. 45-64, 65-74 and over 75). In 2007, 96 per cent of deaths were people aged 45 and over, and just under two thirds of deaths were people aged 75 and over. The age specific mortality rates have improved for each age group shown in Table 8.

In 1971, 15 males per 1,000 died in the 45-64 age group and 55 males per 1,000 died in the 65-74 age group. By 2007, only 7 males per 1,000 died in the 45-64 age group and 24 males per 1,000 died in the 65-74 age group. The ASMR for males over 75 also fell, from 138 per 1,000 in 1971 to 89 per 1,000 in 2007.

The ASMR for the female 45-64 age group fell from 8 per 1,000 died in 1971 to 4 per 1,000 died in 2007. The ASMR for the female 65-74 age group fell from 29 per 1,000 died in 1971 to 16 per 1,000 died in 2007. For females over 75 age the ASMR fell from 102 in 1971 to 78 in 2007.

The actual number of people dying in the 45-64 and 65-74 age groups for both males and females also decreased between 1971 and 2007. Due to people living beyond these ages, there was therefore an increase in the number of people dying over 75.

In the aged 75 and over category, the number of male deaths increased by 50 per cent, rising from 5,924 in 1971 to 8,863 in 2007. Female deaths in this category rose by 37 per cent from 8,876 in 1971 to 12,147 in 2007.

The group which saw the largest decrease in the number of deaths between 1971 and 2007 was the male 45-64 age group. This group experienced a decrease of 49 per cent in the number of deaths, falling from 4,980 to 2,539.

Table 8: Age specific mortality rates, (per 1,000 population, selective years) (a)

	Rate per 1,000 population					
	Males aged:			Females aged:		
	45-64	65-74	75+	45-64	65-74	75+
1971	15.1	55.0	137.8	7.6	28.9	102.5
1976	14.7	55.5	145.4	7.8	28.3	101.1
1981	12.8	49.2	124.6	7.2	25.6	90.9
1986	11.9	44.5	119.1	6.8	24.5	85.6
1991	9.2	40.2	110.7	5.4	22.5	83.6
1996	8.0	36.1	107.0	4.9	22.0	85.7
2001	7.0	30.0	96.3	4.5	19.1	82.4
2004	6.8	26.3	91.9	4.3	17.0	80.4
2005	6.5	25.9	90.0	4.3	16.9	81.0
2006	6.7	24.1	86.3	4.4	15.6	76.4
2007	6.6	24.2	89.3	4.3	16.2	78.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Deaths data relates to deaths registered during the year, with the exception of the years 1993-2005 where deaths data relates to occurrences.

Deaths by Local Authority

For the 45-64 age group, Table 9 shows that Blaenau Gwent experienced the highest ASMR for both males (8 per 1,000) and females (8 per 1,000) in 2007. The national ASMR for this age group was 7 per 1,000 for males and 4 per 1,000 for females.

In the 65-74 age group, Blaenau Gwent once again recorded the highest ASMR for females (22 per 1,000). Caerphilly had the highest ASMR for males with 33 per 1,000, which was higher than the national rate of 24 per 1,000. Carmarthenshire had the lowest ASMR for both males and females with 16 per 1,000 and 11 per 1,000 respectively.

For the 75+ age group Newport recorded the highest ASMR for males with 94 per 1,000, which was higher than the Wales figure of 89 per 1,000. Ceredigion registered the lowest ASMR for males with 22 per 1,000. With an ASMR of 85 per 1,000, Rhondda Cynon Taff registered the highest rate for females in the 90 and over age group; Merthyr Tydfil recorded the lowest ASMR with 20 per 1,000.

Births and Deaths

Table 9: Age specific mortality rates, by local authority 2007

	Rate per 1,000 population					
	Males			Females		
	45-64	65-74	75+	45-64	65-74	75+
Wales	6.6	24.2	89.3	4.3	16.2	78.1
Isle of Anglesey	6.1	18.6	84.4	4.1	14.3	77.5
Gwynedd	5.8	25.6	82.8	4.6	15.0	72.8
Conwy	6.1	26.6	82.0	4.8	14.1	78.8
Denbighshire	6.1	20.2	89.1	3.3	15.3	73.6
Flintshire	5.4	24.6	81.3	3.2	18.8	76.3
Wrexham	6.6	21.4	92.0	4.3	16.9	81.0
Powys	4.9	19.3	86.4	2.8	12.3	71.9
Ceredigion	6.4	17.3	22.4	6.4	17.1	15.6
Pembrokeshire	5.9	23.4	79.2	3.9	15.2	74.4
Carmarthenshire	3.9	16.4	52.7	2.6	10.6	47.1
Swansea	7.1	21.6	92.0	4.4	14.5	81.2
Neath Port Talbot	6.0	27.3	94.1	4.1	17.6	77.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	6.6	20.5	85.6	3.7	14.2	77.8
Cardiff	7.0	26.2	93.9	4.1	16.4	71.5
Monmouthshire	5.5	18.9	85.3	3.9	13.3	66.6
Newport	7.5	21.9	94.3	4.2	17.7	77.6
Bridgend	7.4	24.5	92.5	5.3	18.4	78.5
Rhondda Cynon Taff	8.1	30.4	93.7	5.2	20.7	89.8
Merthyr Tydfil	7.4	21.4	32.9	7.1	20.2	19.7
Caerphilly	7.5	33.2	93.0	4.8	15.8	88.0
Blaenau Gwent	8.2	22.8	33.6	8.0	21.9	20.5
Torfaen	6.4	26.4	93.1	5.0	18.0	77.9

Source: Office for National Statistics

Standardised Mortality Rate

Standardised death rates are a way of comparing death rates for populations whose age and sex distribution vary. It eliminates from the trends the increase or decrease that may be due to changes in the age/sex structure of the population.

In 2007, the local authorities with the lowest standardised mortality rates were the rural authorities. Ceredigion had the lowest standardised mortality rates for males (577.4 deaths per 100,000 population) and for females (394.3 deaths per 100,000 population). Closely followed by Powys with a standardised mortality rates of 641 deaths per 100,000 population for males and 446.1 deaths per 100,000 population for females.

Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest standardised mortality rate for males (887.6 deaths per 100,000 population) and Blaenau Gwent had the highest standardised mortality rate for females (680.9 deaths per 100,000 population).

Table 10 Standardised mortality rates by local authorities (per 100,000 population), 2007 (a)

	Males	Females
Wales	756.3	527.3
Isle of Anglesey	695.6	487.9
Gwynedd	722.0	504.2
Conwy	725.3	519.0
Denbighshire	690.9	459.4
Flintshire	679.6	504.8
Wrexham	736.6	552.8
Powys	641.6	446.1
Ceredigion	577.4	394.3
Pembrokeshire	701.3	495.2
Carmarthenshire	781.0	515.4
Swansea	764.1	531.7
Neath Port Talbot	789.1	541.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	714.9	484.9
Cardiff	815.2	509.8
Monmouthshire	666.5	458.5
Newport	754.2	540.5
Bridgend	804.9	580.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	887.6	622.1
Merthyr Tydfil	841.2	661.4
Caerphilly	848.0	575.2
Blaenau Gwent	840.1	680.9
Torfaen	785.6	578.4

Source: Office for National Statistics

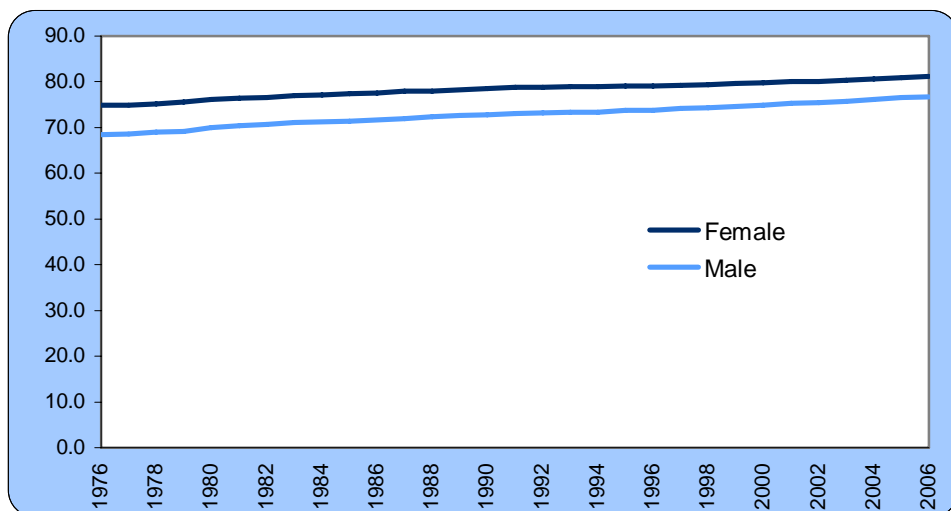
(a) These mortality rates are calculated by applying the age-specific death rates for 5 year age bands and by sex for the Welsh population in a given year to a standard European population to estimate the rates for the standard population. It eliminates from the trends the increase or decrease that may be due to changes in the age/sex structure of the population

Births and Deaths

Life Expectancy

The expectation of life at birth is a commonly used measure of mortality rates. It is particularly useful in comparing the 'health' of a nation through time and for making comparisons with other countries.

Figure 5: Life expectancy at birth, 1976-2006 (a) (b)



Source: Office for National Statistics

- (a) Taken from the estimated population and total deaths in each year. The "expected years of life" is the average future lifetime, which would be lived by persons of a particular age, if they were subject throughout their lives to the average recorded death rate of the three year period. Such a calculation excludes improvements to the mortality rates over time. Based on three year average data centred on the year stated. Data are based on death registrations.
- (b) Data taken from the interim life tables which use the complete (single year of age) life tables.

For both men and women in Wales, life expectancy at birth has increased since 1976, as shown in Figure 5. Life expectancy at birth for males in Wales rose by 8.3 years to 76.8 years and by 6.3 years for females to 81.2 years in 2006. Women continue to enjoy a higher life expectancy at birth than their male counterparts although the gap is narrowing.

In 1976, the life expectancy of women was 6.5 years greater than males. Women born in 1976 had a life expectancy of 74.9 years, while men born in the same year had a life expectancy of 68.4 years. In 2006, the difference between male and female life expectancy at birth decreased to 4.4 years.

Life Expectancy at birth by Local Authority

In 2006, the local authorities with the highest life expectancy at birth for both males and females were rural authorities.

Ceredigion experienced the highest life expectancy at birth with 79.7 years for males and 84.0 years for females. Monmouthshire was close behind with expectation of life at birth being 78.6 years for males and 83.7 years for females.

Blaenau Gwent recorded the lowest expectation of life at birth in 2006 for females at 78.7 years and Rhondda, Cynon Taff had the lowest life expectancy for males at 75.0 years. This represented a 4.7 years (male) and 5.3 years (female) difference between the local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth figures.

Table 11: Life expectancy at birth by local authority, 2006 (a) (b)

	Males	Females
Wales	76.8	81.2
Isle of Anglesey	76.9	82.1
Gwynedd	77.0	81.9
Conwy	76.8	81.2
Denbighshire	77.3	81.3
Flintshire	77.5	81.4
Wrexham	77.2	80.7
Powys	78.6	82.2
Ceredigion	79.7	84.0
Pembrokeshire	76.7	81.7
Carmarthenshire	76.2	81.4
Swansea	76.4	81.0
Neath Port Talbot	76.4	80.6
The Vale of Glamorgan	77.7	81.7
Cardiff	76.5	81.5
Monmouthshire	78.6	83.7
Newport	77.1	80.9
Bridgend	75.9	80.2
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	75.0	80.0
Merthyr Tydfil	75.5	79.4
Caerphilly	75.8	80.3
Blaenau Gwent	75.2	78.7
Torfaen	77.2	81.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Taken from the estimated population and total deaths in each year. The “expected years of life” is the average future lifetime, which would be lived by persons of a particular age, if they were subject throughout their lives to the average recorded death rate of the three year period. Such a calculation excludes improvements to mortality rates over time. Based on three year average data centred on the year stated. Data are based on death registrations.

(b) Data are calculated using abridged (grouped year) life tables



Births and Deaths

Further Information - Births and Deaths

Life expectancy - StatsWales cube:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableview.aspx?ReportId=3816>

Life Expectancy - 2005-2007 Bulletin:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2008/hdw20081202/?lang=en>

Live births - StatsWales cubes:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=3373>

Deaths & death rate by UA:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=3384>

Introduction

The issue of migration is of increasing importance in the context of social and economic change in Wales. With an ageing population coupled with only slightly more births than deaths in recent years, migration is the main reason for continuing population growth. This chapter examines international, cross border and internal migration.

Total International Migration (TIM) is estimated by combining data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and Home Office data on asylum seekers and visitor switches with estimates of migration between the Republic of Ireland and Wales from the Irish Labour Force survey. Prior to 1992, international migration estimates are only available using data from the IPS alone.

Cross-border migration refers to people moving within the UK to or from Wales. The UK does not have a compulsory system to record the movements of its citizens, therefore when measuring migration within the UK, data from the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) is used as a proxy. The register records movements of patients when they move former health authority area.

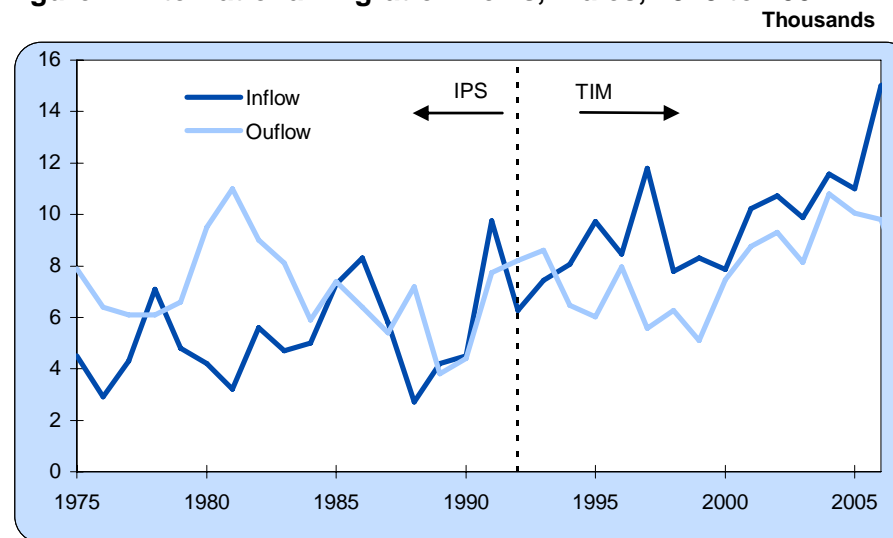
Internal Migration refers to the movement of people within Wales, for example, from one local authority to another. Each Health Authority holds a register of patients registered with its GPs, called the Patient Register Data System (PRDS). Combining every patient register in England and Wales and comparing with the register from the previous year identifies people who have changed their postcode. An internal migrant is then defined as a person who has changed their area of residence between one year and the next.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is currently undertaking a significant program of work on improving population and migration estimates. Further information on this program of work is provided in the Quality Section.

International Migration

Someone who has or intends to change his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year is defined as an international migrant. This section examines international migration flows between Wales and the rest of the World (excluding the rest of the UK) from 1975 to 2007, which can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1: International migration flows, Wales, 1975 to 2007



Source: Prior to 1992: International Passenger Survey. 1992 onwards: Total International Migration data (IPS combined with asylum seekers and persons admitted as short term visitors who subsequently granted an extension of stay for other reasons. Also includes migration between Wales and the Irish Republic).

Migration

Between 1975 and 2007, on average nearly 7.4 thousand people per year migrated from Wales to overseas destinations, while 7.5 thousand people migrated into Wales from overseas destinations.

During the decade 1975 to 1985, more people left Wales than moved to Wales, with the exception of 1978. During this decade there was an average net outflow of around 2.8 thousand people per year. Since 1994, the converse has occurred and there has been a net inflow of international migrants from abroad, on average a net inflow of around 2.7 thousand people per year in the period since 1994.

Since 2005, there has been a significant change in the international migration patterns, with the annual inflow of migrants increasing by 29 percent between 2005 and 2007. The annual outflow decreased by 30 percent over the same period. These changes caused the net-inflow of international migrants into Wales to increase from 1.0 thousand in 2005 to 8.5 thousand in 2007.

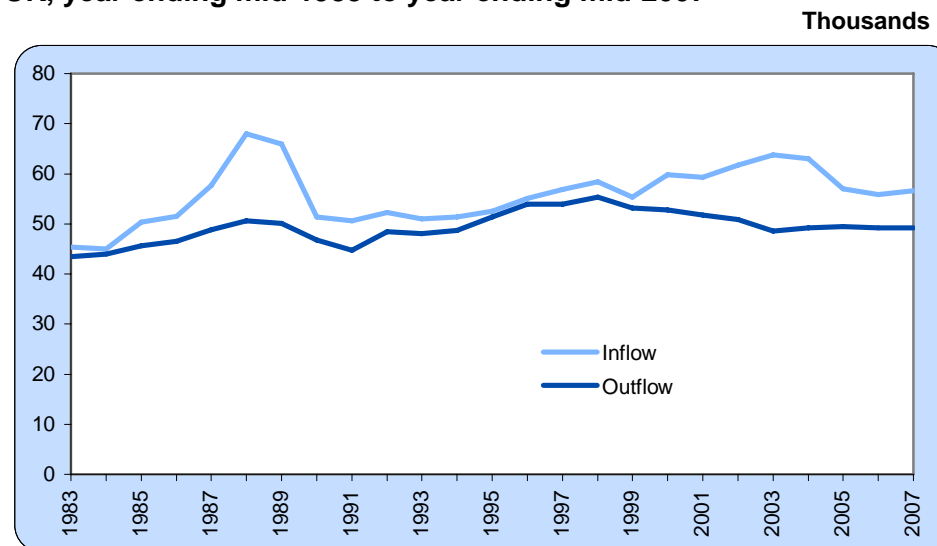
Cross Border Migration

Figure 2 shows the inflow and outflow from Wales to the rest of the UK from the year ending mid-1983 to the year ending mid-2007. During the entire period, Wales's inflow of cross border migrants exceeded the outflow, creating a net flow of migrants from the rest of the UK. This represented an average net inflow of just under 6.5 thousand people per year.

The net inflow of migrants peaked during mid-1987 to mid-1988 at 17.4 thousand. It remained high during the following year before falling sharply from mid-1989. For the majority of the 1990s, the net migration figure remained low, with both inflow and outflow figures following a similar pattern until mid-1999. From mid-2000, the inflow of migrants continued to increase but the outflow began to decrease. This led to a large net inflow of 15.2 thousand people during mid-2002 to mid-2003 before falling slightly in mid-2003 to mid-2004 to 13.9 thousand, and falling again in mid-2004 to mid-2005 to 7.4 thousand and once more in

mid-2006 to 6.6 thousand. In the year to mid-2007 the net inflow has increased on the previous year to stand at 7.4 thousand.

Figure 2: Cross-border migration between Wales and the rest of the UK, year ending mid-1983 to year ending mid-2007



Source: National Health Service Central Register



Table 1: Migration indicators by local authority, from mid 2004-05 to mid 2006-07

	Mid-2004 to mid-2007					
	Internal migration (a)		International migration (b)		Volume of migration per 1,000 population (c)	
	In	Out	In	Out	International migration	All migration
Isle of Anglesey	6,800	5,900	400	500	4	65
Gwynedd	13,900	13,600	1,300	900	6	84
Conwy	13,600	11,900	800	900	5	82
Denbighshire	13,300	11,200	800	700	5	90
Flintshire	13,200	13,300	900	800	4	63
Wrexham	10,800	9,900	1,300	900	5	58
Powys	16,300	13,500	900	900	5	80
Ceredigion	15,500	14,700	1,600	900	11	141
Pembrokeshire	11,800	10,000	1,000	800	5	67
Carmarthenshire	18,300	14,300	1,200	1,300	5	66
Swansea	22,700	22,200	4,600	2,600	11	76
Neath Port Talbot	11,500	9,900	400	800	3	55
The Vale of Glamorgan	14,600	12,800	2,100	1,800	11	85
Cardiff	45,400	46,700	13,700	7,700	23	119
Monmouthshire	12,200	11,200	600	700	5	94
Newport	13,700	14,200	1,800	1,800	9	75
Bridgend	11,600	9,100	700	700	4	56
Rhondda Cynon Taf	16,200	16,300	2,300	2,200	6	53
Merthyr Tydfil	3,700	3,800	200	300	3	48
Caerphilly	12,600	12,100	600	1,200	3	51
Blaenau Gwent	4,700	4,400	200	300	2	46
Torfaen	6,700	6,700	200	400	2	51

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Calculated as the sum of internal migration over the period mid 2004-05 to mid 2006-07.

(b) Calculated as the sum of international migration over the period mid 2004-05 to mid 2006-07.

(c) Calculated as the sum of in-migration and out-migration per thousand population over the period mid 2004-05 to mid 2006-07. (separately for all and international migration).

Local Authority Migration

Table 1 shows migration flows and rates for the Welsh local authorities for the period from mid 2004-05 to mid 2006-07.

Internal (Within UK)

Cardiff had the highest inward migration over the period (45,400), followed by Swansea (22,700) and Carmarthenshire (18,300).

The lowest inward migration occurred in three valley local authorities; Merthyr Tydfil (3,700), Blaenau Gwent (4,700) and Torfaen (6,700).

The highest outward migration occurred in Cardiff (46,700), and the lowest in Merthyr Tydfil (3,800). Five local authorities had a net outflow of internal migrants over the period.

International

Cardiff had the highest net international inward migration at around 6,100 during the period, more than three times that of Swansea which had the second highest. Just under half of all local authorities had negative international net migration.

Only four local authorities had 10 persons or greater per thousand population migrating internationally during the period. They were Cardiff (23), Swansea (11), Vale of Glamorgan (11) and Ceredigion (11). The valley authorities of Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen had the lowest number of international migration movements per thousand people, with only two people per thousand population.

All Migration

Ceredigion had the highest volume of migration per thousand population (141), with Cardiff being the only other local authority to have over 100 migrant movements per thousand inhabitants. Ceredigion and Cardiff both have a large student population and this causes them to have relative high levels of migration. The lowest migration per thousand population occurred in the Valley local authorities and Neath Port Talbot ranging from 46 to 56 per thousand population.

Migration

Migration with England

England accounts for the majority of cross border migration movements to/from Wales. For the year ending June 2007, movements from England accounted for 96 per cent of inward migration from the other parts of the UK to Wales. Table 2 shows the inflow, outflow and the corresponding net and total flows of migrants as an average yearly flow over the period year ending mid-2003 to the year ending mid-2007. It also shows the migration turnover rate, which is a measure of the relative frequency of migration events within a population. It is defined as total migration (inflow plus outflow) as a percentage of the size of the mid-year population. At 10.1 per cent, the turnover rate is highest for the 16-24 age group, where it is more than double the turnover rate for any other age group, and nearly three times the rate for the population of Wales as a whole. This can be expected as this age group includes a significant number of students and graduates who move around the UK to university and to pursue careers each year. The turnover rate is smallest for people aged 65 and over, indicating that people in this age group are less likely to migrate to or from Wales.

Table 2: Average annual cross border migration with England, inflow rate, outflow rate and turnover rate by age group, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007

Thousands						
	Population (a)	Inflow	Outflow	Net Migration	Total Migration	Turnover Rate% (b)
All ages	2,955.4	57.2	46.9	10.3	104.1	3.5
Under 16	566.5	8.5	6.2	2.4	14.7	2.6
16-24	351.5	17.8	17.7	0.1	35.6	10.1
25-44	755.7	18.2	15.1	3.1	33.3	4.4
45-64	760.4	9.2	5.1	4.1	14.2	1.9
Over 65	521.4	3.5	2.8	0.7	6.3	1.2

Source: National Health Service Central Register

(a) Calculated as the average yearly population between year ending mid-2003 and year ending mid-2007.

(b) Calculated as the sum of in-migration and out-migration as a percentage of the average mid-year population.

Table 3: Average annual migration movements with England, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007

	Number (nearest 10)			Rate (a)	
	Inflow	Outflow	Net	Inflow	Outflow
Wales	57,200	46,890	10,320	19.4	15.9
North Wales	16,170	13,170	3,000	24.0	19.5
Isle of Anglesey	1,400	1,120	290	20.4	16.2
Gwynedd	3,280	2,690	590	27.8	22.8
Conwy	3,080	2,300	770	27.6	20.7
Denbighshire	2,700	2,040	650	28.1	21.3
Flintshire	3,250	2,840	400	21.6	18.9
Wrexham	2,470	2,180	290	18.9	16.7
Mid Wales	7,500	5,810	1,690	36.2	28.0
Powys	4,100	2,910	1,190	31.5	22.3
Ceredigion	3,400	2,900	500	44.2	37.7
South West Wales	11,470	8,440	3,040	17.5	12.8
Pembrokeshire	2,540	1,790	750	21.7	15.3
Carmarthenshire	3,160	1,950	1,200	17.8	11.0
Swansea	4,250	3,700	550	18.8	16.4
Neath Port Talbot	1,520	990	530	11.1	7.2
South East Wales	15,320	13,760	1,560	23.0	20.7
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,860	1,780	80	15.2	14.6
Cardiff	8,810	7,990	820	28.0	25.4
Monmouthshire	2,630	2,120	510	30.1	24.2
Newport	2,010	1,870	140	14.4	13.4
Valleys	6,740	5,710	1,030	9.0	7.6
Bridgend	1,470	1,170	300	11.1	8.9
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	2,130	1,900	230	9.1	8.2
Merthyr Tydfil	440	370	70	7.9	6.7
Caerphilly	1,350	1,130	210	7.9	6.6
Blaenau Gwent	550	400	160	8.0	5.7
Torfaen	800	730	70	8.8	8.1

Source: Patient Register Data System

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

(a) People migrating per 1,000 resident population.

Using the Patient Register Data System (PRDS), it is possible to examine migration flows at local authority level, which can be combined to create regional figure. Table 3 shows the average annual inflow and outflow to/from five regions of Wales with England over the period year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007.

Across all five regions, and all local authorities, there was an average net inflow of migrants, thus leading to an increase in the population. South West Wales experienced the largest net inflow (3,040) with the Valleys experiencing the lowest net inflow (1,030).

The average inflow and outflow rates indicate how many people migrated per thousand of the resident population. Mid Wales experienced the highest average inflow and outflow rates; 36 people per thousand of the Mid-Wales resident population migrated from England, whilst 28 people per thousand moved to England.

North Wales

Within the North Wales region, Conwy (770) experienced the largest average number of net migrants, whilst the Isle of Anglesey (290) and Wrexham (290) both had the smallest. Denbighshire had the highest inflow rate (28 people per 1,000 resident population) and Gwynedd had the largest average outflow rate (23 people per 1,000 resident population). Anglesey in contrast had the lowest average outflow rate (16 people per 1,000 resident population) and Wrexham had the lowest inflow rate (18 people per 1,000 resident population) in the region.

Mid Wales

Of the two Mid Wales authorities, Powys had the largest average net inward migration (1,190). Ceredigion experienced the highest inflow and outflow rates in Mid Wales. On average 44 people per thousand residents moved in to Ceredigion and 38 people per thousand residents moved out. These are the highest rates for any UA in Wales. The relatively high proportion of students in the Ceredigion population who move in and out each year is the reason for this.

South West Wales

Carmarthenshire was the authority with the highest net in migration (1,200) in the South West Wales region, with Neath Port Talbot (530) the least. Pembrokeshire had the highest inflow rate (22 people per 1,000 resident population), and Swansea had the highest outflow in the region (16 people per 1,000 resident population)

South East Wales

For South East Wales, average net inward migration was highest in Cardiff (820). Monmouthshire had the highest inflow rate (30 people per 1,000 resident population) and Cardiff had the highest outflow rate (25 people per 1,000 resident population).

Valleys

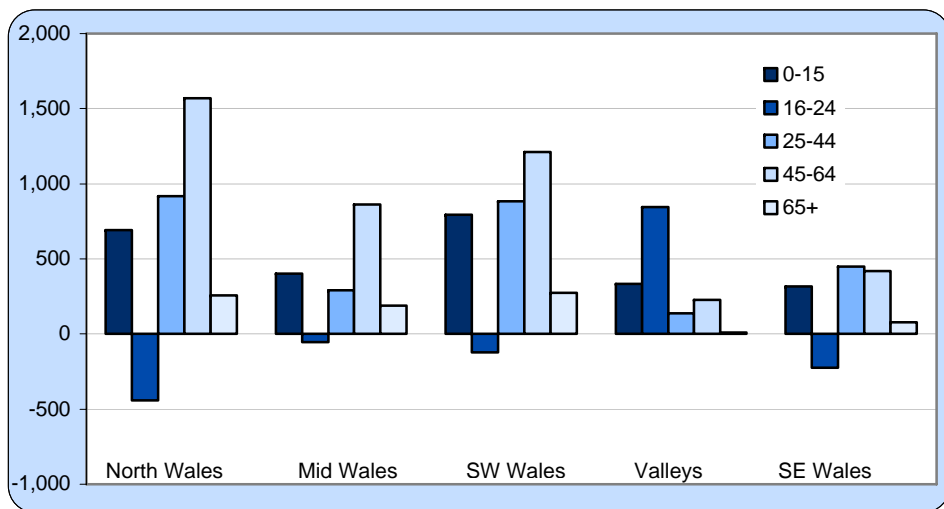
Bridgend (300) had the largest net inward migration in the Valleys region. Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen had the lowest net-migration of all the local authorities (70).

Migration

Age Distribution

Figure 3 and Table 4 show the average net migration flows to the five regions of Wales, by age group. As seen in Table 2, all regions had a net inflow of migrants from England. However in four of the five regions there was a net outflow of migrants to England in the 16 to 24 age group, with South East Wales being the exception. This group contains students and graduates who move around the country to university and pursue careers. In South East Wales there was a net inward migration across all the age groups with the largest number in the 16-24 age group.

Figure 3: Average annual net migration flows with England by age group, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007



Source: Patient Register Data System

Table 4: Average annual net migration flows with England by age group, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007 (nearest 10)

	0-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All ages
Wales	2,540	-	2,680	4,290	800	10,320
North Wales	690	-440	920	1,570	260	3,000
Isle of Anglesey	90	-90	80	180	20	290
Gwynedd	80	100	40	350	10	590
Conwy	200	-150	220	430	80	770
Denbighshire	150	-110	190	360	60	650
Flintshire	100	-120	250	140	40	400
Wrexham	80	-70	130	110	40	290
Mid Wales	400	-50	290	860	190	1,690
Powys	280	-220	390	590	150	1,190
Ceredigion	120	160	-100	270	40	500
South West Wales	790	-120	880	1,210	270	3,040
Pembrokeshire	200	-150	280	360	60	750
Carmarthenshire	290	-110	360	520	140	1,200
Swansea	160	170	30	150	40	550
Neath Port Talbot	140	-30	210	180	30	530
South East Wales	330	840	140	230	10	1,560
The Vale of Glamorgan	80	-190	130	40	20	80
Cardiff	40	1,160	-370	10	-30	820
Monmouthshire	180	-160	300	160	30	510
Newport	30	30	90	20	-20	140
Valleys	320	-230	450	420	80	1,030
Bridgend	90	-70	140	100	40	300
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	70	-20	50	110	20	230
Merthyr Tydfil	20	-10	30	30	-	70
Caerphilly	70	-60	100	90	10	210
Blaenau Gwent	30	-20	60	70	20	160
Torfaen	30	-50	60	20	-	70

Source: Patient Register Data System

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

South West Wales attracted the largest average net inflow of migrants from England of people aged 65 and over (270) with South East Wales attracting the smallest (10). South West Wales also attracted the largest net inflow of migrants in the 0-15 age group (790). North Wales attracted the largest average net flow in the 25-44 age group (920). In contrast, South East Wales attracted the least migrants in the 0-15 group (330) and South East Wales the least in the 25-44 age group (140).

North Wales

All of the local authority areas, with the exception of Gwynedd, had an average net outflow of migrants in the 16-24 age group, with Conwy having the largest outflow. However, for people aged 65 and over, Conwy attracted the most migrants from England.

Mid Wales

Ceredigion had an average net inflow of migrants in the 16-24 age group, partly due to the number of university enrolments by English domiciled students in the area. This net inflow was offset by a net outflow in Powys, thus creating a net outflow of migrants from Mid Wales to England. Despite the overall net inflow of migrants to Ceredigion, there was a small net outflow of migrants in the 25-44 age group.

South West Wales

Three of the four local authorities followed a similar pattern to Wales as a whole, with an average net outflow of people aged 16-24 to England and net inflows in the other age groups. The exception was Swansea, which had a net inflow of migrants aged 16-24.

South East Wales

In South East Wales, Cardiff had the largest net inward migration from England for the 16-24 age group, which more than offset the net outflow for the same age group in the Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire. In contrast to the other three authorities, Cardiff had a net outward migration in the 25-44 age group.

Valleys

All the Valley authorities experienced a net outflow in the 16-24 age group to England. There was a net inflow or no significant flow in the other age groups in each of the authorities.

Migration

Migration within Wales

Migration within Wales has no effect on the overall Wales population estimate but can be important in terms of local housing and labour markets. The average annual net migration between the five regions in Wales is illustrated in the map at Figure 4, the arrow indicating the direction of the net flow. Table 5 shows the more detailed gross (in and out) flows between the regions by age group.

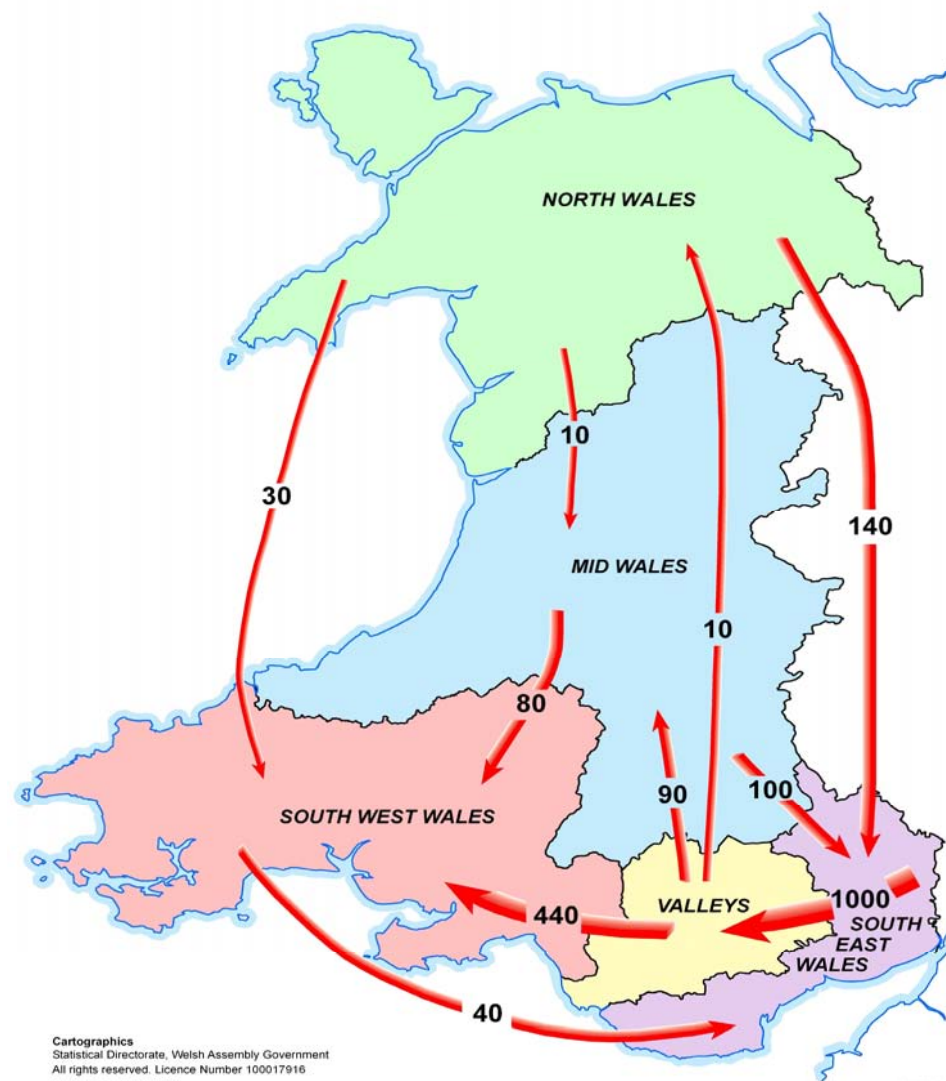
The South West and the Valleys were the only regions of the five in Wales to experience a net inflow of migrants from the other regions combined. Over the period year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007 there was a net inflow of approximately 510 people per year to the South West and 470 people per year to the Valleys. However, the South West experienced a net loss of migrants to the South East, with an average of 40 more people per year migrating out than in.

There was a net outflow from the Valleys region to South West Wales, Mid Wales and North Wales (with the largest outflow to South West Wales at around 440). However this net outflow was offset by a large inflow from South East Wales to the Valleys at around 1,000.

Mid Wales had an average net outflow of migrants to the South West (80 people per year) and the South East (100 people per year) with a net inflow from the North (10 people per year) and the Valleys (90 people per year). The net out-migration from Mid Wales to the South East Wales was due to migration to Cardiff. Migration from mid Wales to South East Wales is predominantly in the 16-24 age group.

Figure 4: Average annual net migration between regions in Wales, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007

Migration between Regions in Wales



Cartographics
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Source: Patient Register Data System

Table 5: Average annual migration movements between Welsh regions, based on estimates from year ending mid-2003 to year ending mid-2007 (to nearest 10) (a)

Origin \ Destination	Age group	North Wales	Mid Wales	South West Wales	South East Wales	Valleys	Wales
North Wales	All ages	-	520	240	390	150	1,300
	0-15	-	60	40	50	30	190
	16-24	-	190	70	130	40	430
	25-44	-	140	80	160	50	430
	45-64	-	80	30	30	20	170
	65+	-	40	20	10	10	80
Mid Wales	All ages	530	-	1,310	610	430	2,880
	0-15	60	-	250	90	70	480
	16-24	210	-	330	200	140	890
	25-44	120	-	370	180	100	780
	45-64	90	-	220	100	80	480
	65+	40	-	140	30	30	250
South West	All ages	270	1,390	-	1,880	2,000	5,540
	0-15	50	240	-	270	390	950
	16-24	70	350	-	680	580	1,680
	25-44	90	400	-	590	620	1,700
	45-64	30	250	-	240	310	830
	65+	20	150	-	90	100	360
South East	All ages	530	720	1,920	-	4,620	7,790
	0-15	50	60	180	-	880	1,170
	16-24	270	350	950	-	1,020	2,600
	25-44	150	210	560	-	1,890	2,810
	45-64	30	60	140	-	590	830
	65+	20	30	80	-	240	370
Valleys	All ages	140	340	1,560	5,620	-	7,660
	0-15	20	50	290	1,030	-	1,390
	16-24	30	110	490	1,010	-	1,640
	25-44	50	100	500	2,430	-	3,080
	45-64	20	50	190	820	-	1,080
	65+	10	20	90	330	-	450
Wales	All ages	1,470	2,970	5,030	8,510	7,190	-
	0-15	180	420	760	1,450	1,370	-
	16-24	590	1,000	1,840	2,020	1,780	-
	25-44	410	860	1,510	3,360	2,660	-
	45-64	180	440	580	1,200	1,000	-
	65+	90	250	320	470	380	-

Source: Patient Register Data System

(a) Table does not include figures for migration within each region.

South East Wales had an average net outflow of around 720 people per year, despite having a net inflow of migrants from North Wales, Mid Wales and South West Wales. This is due to a large outflow (1000 people per year) over the period to the neighbouring Valley region. The net outflow was across all age groups with the exception of people aged 16-24, where the South East attracted more migrants from the Valleys.

In North Wales, there was a net outflow of migrants to the other regions of Wales as a whole with an average net outflow of 170 people per year.

Further Information - Migration

International Migration, 2007:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/pop-2007/hdw200711153/?lang=en>

National and international migration - StatsWales cube:

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolder/reportfolders.aspx?IF_ActivePath=P,345,1853

Total International Migration 1991-onwards:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15053>

Introduction

This chapter provides an analysis of population projections for Wales both at a national and at a local authority national level. Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration.

ONS published 2006-based national population projections for Wales in October 2007. The Welsh Assembly Government published 2006-based local authority population projections in June 2008, using a slightly different methodology to the national projections. The local authority projections are not constrained to the national projections.

This chapter considers population projections for Wales and its local authorities until the year 2031 as this is the 25th year of the projection period. Longer-term projections are available; however, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward.

Throughout this chapter, pensionable age populations are based on the state pension age for the given year. Between 2010 and 2020, state pension age will change from 65 years for men and 60 years for women, to 65 years for both sexes. Between 2024 and 2046, state pension age will increase in three stages from 65 years to 68 years for both sexes.

For further information on the Wales national and the sub-national projections please see the information links at the end of this chapter.

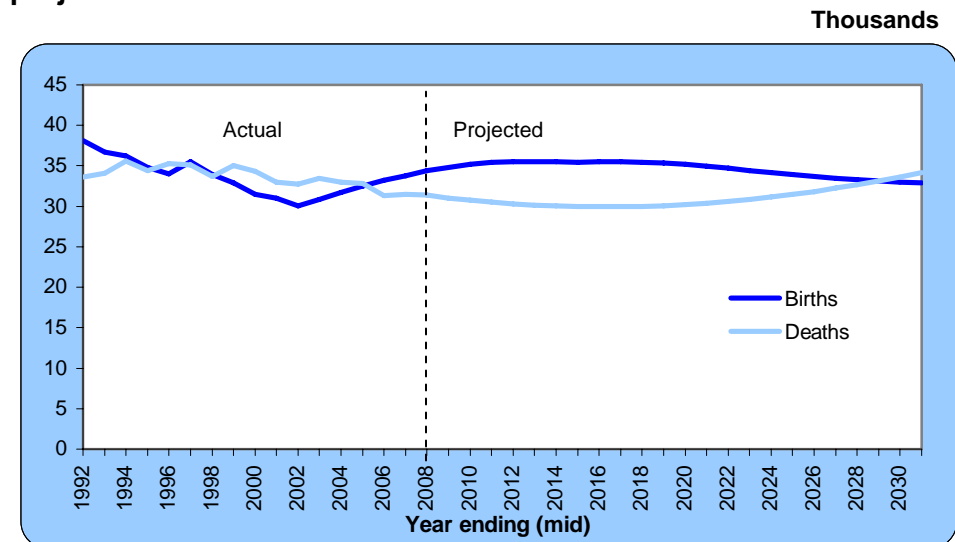
National population projections

The following is an analysis of the 2006-based national population projection for Wales.

Projected Number of Births and Deaths

Chart 1 shows the number of births and deaths in Wales during the period 1992 to 2007 (historic) and 2008 to 2031 (projected under the main population projection).

Chart 1: Number of births and deaths in Wales, historic and projected



Source: Civil registrations and national population projections, ONS

Chart 1 indicates that there were more deaths than births in Wales during the late 1990s and early 2000s. However during the year mid-2005 to mid-2006, births exceeded deaths for the first time since 1997-98 (1,900 more births than deaths).

Population Projections

The number of births is projected to increase in the next few years, and to remain at around 35,500 births during the period 2010 to 2019. Births are then projected to decrease slowly to around 33,000 by 2031.

The number of deaths in Wales is projected to decrease slightly over the next few years and to remain stable at around 30,000 deaths for the period 2012 to 2021. The number of deaths is then projected to increase steadily to reach around 34,000 by 2031.

Therefore natural change is projected to be positive (i.e. more births than deaths) during the next twenty years or so. This is due to an increase in the projected fertility rates and an expected continued increase in life expectancy.

Components of Population Change

Population estimates and projections are based on births, deaths and migration.

Table 1 shows five year summaries of projected components of population change.

Table 1: Components of population change – five year summary

	Thousands				
	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026	2026-2031
Population at start	2,966	3,038	3,113	3,186	3,248
Births	173	178	176	171	166
Deaths	155	150	151	156	166
Natural Change	19	27	26	15	-
Net Migration	53	48	48	48	48
Total Change	72	75	73	63	48
Population at end	3,038	3,113	3,186	3,248	3,296

Source: Office for National Statistics

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Table 1 shows that migration is projected to be the highest driver of population growth over the next 25 years.

Natural change is expected to be positive for the first twenty years of the projection period. The projections suggest that there will be a roughly equal number of births and deaths during the period 2026 to 2031.

Total population change is expected to be high at around 70,000 to 75,000 for each five year period (an annual increase of around 14,700) during the first fifteen years of the projections. This decreases to around 47,000 for 2026-2031.

Projected Population by Age Group

Table 2 shows the projected population of Wales by age group for selected years from 2006 to 2031.

Table 2: Projected population by age, 2006 to 2031 (selected years)

	Thousands					
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Children (a)	561	550	558	577	577	565
Working age (b)	1,790	1,823	1,869	1,900	1,939	1,927
Pension age (b)	615	665	686	708	732	803
All ages	2,966	3,038	3,113	3,186	3,248	3,296
Median age	40.6	41.8	42.6	42.6	43.3	44.3

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Children under 16.

(b) Working age and pensionable age populations based on state pension age for given year.



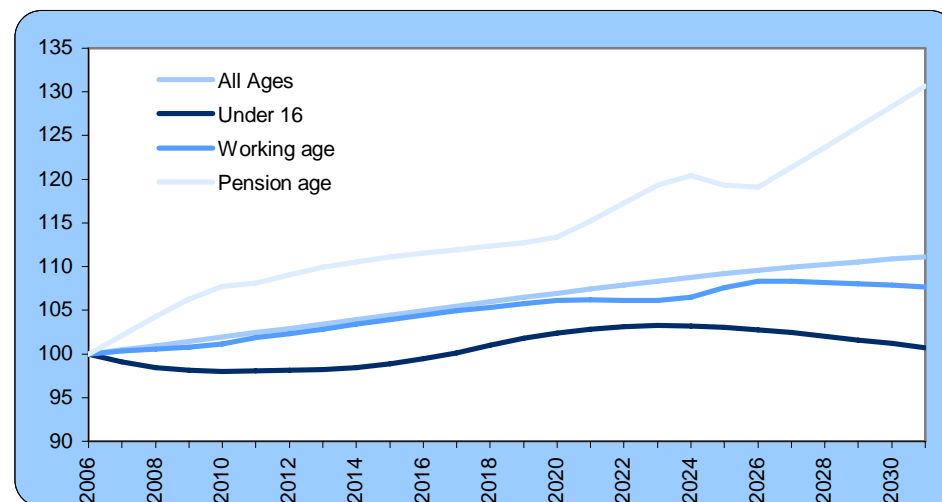
The population of Wales is projected to cross the 3 million mark between mid-2008 and mid-2009, and the population is projected to increase by 11 per cent to 3.3 million by the year 2031. The number of children is projected to increase by under 1 per cent (4,000), the number of pensioners is projected to increase by around 31 per cent (188,000) and the number of people of working age is projected to increase by 8 per cent (138,000).

In 2007, children under 16 accounted for 19 per cent of the population and pensioners accounted for 21 per cent of the population. By 2031, children are expected to represent around 17 per cent of the population, and pensioners over 24 per cent.

The population of Wales will become gradually older with the median age of the population rising from 40.6 years in 2006 to 44.3 years in 2031.

Chart 3 shows how the population of the 3 key groups (children, working age and pensioners) is projected to change during the period 2006 to 2007 (historic) and 2008 to 2031 projections.

Chart 3: Population projections for key groups (indexed)



Source: Office for National Statistics

The total population of Wales is projected to increase steadily over the next 25 years. The number of pensioners is expected to rise more rapidly over the period, with a particularly sharp incline in 2026. This is the impact of the 1960s babies reaching retirement age combined with a net in-migration of people aged 40 to 60 in the next 20 years. There is projected to be a 30 per cent increase in the number of pensioners between 2006 and 2031, even allowing for the change to the state pension age.

The proportion of people of working age is also expected to rise over the period, but at a slower rate than for pensioners. The number of children is more unstable over the period. An initial decrease is projected during the next 10 years, followed by an increase until around 2023. Between 2024 and 2031, the number is projected to decrease back to levels similar to 2006.

Population Projections

Age Groups and Dependency Ratios

As the age structure of the population changes over time, there is an effect on the proportion of dependent people. Dependent people consist of children aged under 16 and state pensioners.

Table 3: Dependants per 1,000 people of working age

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Children (a)	314	302	299	304	297	293
Pension age (b)	343	365	367	373	378	417
Total	657	666	665	676	675	710

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Children under 16.

(b) Working age and pensionable age populations based on state pension age for given year.

In 2006 there were around 314 children per 1,000 people of working age. This is projected to remain fairly stable between 293 and 302 during the period 2011 to 2031.

In 2006, there were 343 pensioners per 1,000 people of working age. This is projected to increase to 417 per 1,000 people of working age by 2031.

During the period 1971 to 2006, despite an increase in the number of pensioners, the decrease in the number of children led to the number of dependants per 1,000 people of working age falling. Between 1971 and 2006, the number of dependants per thousand of working age fell from 732 to 657. However, by 2031, the total number of dependent people per 1,000 people of working age is projected to be 710.

Population Projections for the Other UK Countries

Table 4 shows the projected population growth for the other UK countries by 2016 (10th year of projection period) and 2031 (25th year of projection period).

Table 4: Projected population growth (%) by the years 2016 and 2031

	2016	2031
Wales	5	11
England	8	19
Scotland	3	5
Northern Ireland	7	15

Source: Office for National Statistics

Of the 4 UK countries, England is projected to experience the highest population growth during the first 10 and 25 years of the projection period. From 2006 (base year of projection period) the population of England is projected to increase by 8 per cent by the year 2016, and by 19 per cent by the year 2031. Population growth is expected to be lowest in Scotland (3 per cent by 2016 and 5 per cent by 2031).

Variant projections

The principal population projections provide a consistent starting point for planning which is affected by the numbers in the population. However, due to the uncertainty of demographic behaviour, any set of projections will inevitably be proved wrong, to a greater or lesser extent, as a forecast of future demographic events or population structure. To give users of the projections an indication of this uncertainty, a number of variant population projections, based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration have also been produced.

Detailed information on these national variant projections is available on the GAD website: www.gad.gov.uk

Local authority population projections

The following is an analysis of the 2006-based local authority population projections which were produced in June 2008.

Total population

Between mid-2006 and mid-2031, it is projected that the majority of local authorities in Wales will experience an increase in their overall population. The only local authority projected not to experience an increase in population is Merthyr Tydfil, which is predicted to decline by around 3 per cent by mid-2031.

The majority of local authorities (15) are projected to see increases of above 10 per cent between mid-2006 and mid-2031. Cardiff is the local authority projected to have the largest population growth (24 per cent) by mid 2031.

Table 5: Projected population and percentage change from 2006 by local authority, selected years

	2011		2021		2031	
	Population	Change	Population	Change	Population	Change
Isle of Anglesey	69,700	1%	71,400	4%	71,800	4%
Gwynedd	121,000	2%	127,100	8%	132,300	12%
Conwy	114,300	3%	120,900	9%	126,500	14%
Denbighshire	99,800	4%	107,800	12%	114,800	19%
Flintshire	152,100	1%	155,700	4%	156,600	4%
Wrexham	135,100	3%	143,000	9%	149,400	14%
Powys	136,100	4%	146,100	11%	154,300	18%
Ceredigion	79,900	4%	85,800	11%	90,600	17%
Pembrokeshire	121,100	3%	129,000	10%	134,800	15%
Carmarthenshire	184,900	4%	199,100	12%	210,600	18%
Swansea	233,000	3%	247,800	9%	261,300	15%
Neath Port Talbot	141,500	3%	151,700	11%	160,700	17%
Bridgend	136,800	3%	146,000	10%	153,700	16%
Vale of Glamorgan	128,100	4%	138,600	12%	147,900	20%
Cardiff	330,200	4%	362,300	14%	394,200	24%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	238,400	2%	248,100	6%	254,900	9%
Merthyr Tydfil	55,500	0%	55,300	0%	54,100	-3%
Caerphilly	174,400	2%	180,700	5%	184,200	7%
Blaenau Gwent	69,700	1%	71,100	3%	71,200	3%
Torfaen	92,000	1%	94,100	3%	94,700	4%
Monmouthshire	90,700	3%	96,100	9%	100,400	14%
Newport	143,500	2%	152,000	8%	159,400	14%

Source: Welsh Assembly Government

Population Projections

Births, Deaths and Natural Change

In 2005-06, there were 12 local authorities in Wales that had more birth than deaths. In 2010-11, 14 authorities are projected to have more births than deaths and for the Isle of Anglesey and Ceredigion births and deaths will be in balance. This is because the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is projected to increase for all authorities between 2005-06 and 2010-11. By 2031 it is projected that only 6 local authorities will experience more births than deaths and an additional 6 authorities will have births and deaths in balance.

Total Fertility Rate

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that women would bear if the female population experienced the age-specific fertility rates for the year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.

The projected drop in the number of local authorities experiencing more births than deaths is due to the projected changes to the age and gender profile of each local authority. For example a smaller number of women in the age group with higher fertility rates (e.g. 25-34) and a larger number of people in the age group with higher death rates (e.g. aged 85+).

Across Wales, TFRs are generally expected to increase until 2010-11 and then decline slowly until 2030-31, although still remaining at levels slightly higher than in 2005-06.

Replacement level fertility (2.08) is the level of fertility required for the population to replace itself in size in the long term given constant mortality rates and the absence of migration. Over the course of the projection period, 5 local authorities in Wales are projected to see TFRs at or above replacement level fertility for one or more years. These are the Isle of Anglesey, Conwy, Powys, Pembrokeshire and Torfaen.

Table 6: Projected number of births, deaths and natural change by local authority, selected years

	2010-11			2030-31		
	Births	Deaths	Natural Change	Births	Deaths	Natural Change
Isle of Anglesey	800	800	0	600	900	-200
Gwynedd	1,400	1,200	200	1400	1,400	0
Conwy	1,100	1,400	-300	1100	1,600	-500
Denbighshire	1,000	1,100	-100	1000	1,300	-300
Flintshire	1,700	1,400	300	1500	1,700	-200
Wrexham	1,700	1,300	400	1600	1,500	100
Powys	1,300	1,500	-200	1300	1,900	-600
Ceredigion	700	700	0	700	900	-200
Pembrokeshire	1,300	1,400	-100	1200	1,600	-400
Carmarthenshire	2,000	2,100	-100	1900	2,500	-600
Swansea	2,800	2,300	400	2800	2,400	300
Neath Port Talbot	1,600	1,500	100	1600	1,600	0
Bridgend	1,600	1,400	200	1600	1,600	0
Vale of Glamorgan	1,400	1,200	200	1400	1,400	0
Cardiff	4,700	2,600	2200	4900	2,500	2,400
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,000	2,300	700	2700	2,500	200
Merthyr Tydfil	700	500	100	500	600	0
Caerphilly	2,200	1,600	500	1900	1,900	100
Blaenau Gwent	900	800	100	700	800	-100
Torfaen	1,200	900	300	1000	1,000	0
Monmouthshire	800	900	-100	800	1,100	-300
Newport	1,900	1,300	500	1800	1,400	400

Source: Welsh Assembly Government

note: figures may not sum due to rounding.

Migration

For the purposes of local authority population projections, migration is defined as the movement of people into and out of a local authority. Migration to or from other parts of the UK is defined as internal migration, while migration to or from overseas is defined as international migration.

The migration assumptions for the local authority population projections indicate that the majority (20) of local authorities within Wales will experience more people moving in than moving out. The exceptions are Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen. Carmarthenshire will see the greatest net inflow of migrants (around 1,600 more people arriving than leaving each year).

Considering **internal** migration, Cardiff will experience the highest total number of migrants to and from the UK (15,200 and 15,700 respectively), but will experience negative net migration within UK (around 600 more people leaving than arriving each year). Merthyr Tydfil will experience the lowest number of migrants to and from the UK (1,200 and 1,300 respectively).

The migration assumptions suggest that Cardiff will also experience the highest number of **international** in and out migrants each year (4,000 and 2,800 respectively) and the greatest net inflow of international migrants (around 1,200 more people arriving than leaving each year).

The migration assumptions indicate that Blaenau Gwent will experience the lowest number of migrants both to and from overseas (around 50 each way). Caerphilly will experience the greatest net outflow of international migrants (around 200 more people leaving than arriving each year).

Population Projections

Dependency Ratios by local authority

It's projected that the number of dependents per 1,000 people of working age will increase for all local authorities apart from Cardiff, Newport and Swansea by 2031. This is largely driven by an increase in the pensionable population.

The local authorities which are projected to see the greatest percentage increase in their dependency ratios since 2006 are Powys and Isle of Anglesey (18 and 17 per cent respectively).

Cardiff's dependency ratio is projected to decrease by 4 per cent. This is mainly driven by increases in the number of people of working age.

Table 7: Dependants per 1,000 people of working age by local authority, selected years (a)

	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Isle of Anglesey	723	769	782	808	805	844
Gwynedd	699	719	713	726	718	747
Conwy	803	821	806	812	814	878
Denbighshire	731	748	749	759	757	816
Flintshire	625	647	650	658	663	722
Wrexham	616	648	659	672	659	688
Powys	750	784	790	817	829	901
Ceredigion	626	644	652	668	673	706
Pembrokeshire	760	779	775	788	783	829
Carmarthenshire	716	742	743	753	748	788
Swansea	636	641	632	633	628	642
Neath Port Talbot	663	672	674	688	692	729
Bridgend	647	660	656	653	652	692
The Vale of Glamorgan	671	676	662	671	668	700
Cardiff	530	510	503	516	511	516
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	631	641	644	649	639	664
Merthyr Tydfil	641	652	667	681	686	728
Caerphilly	639	653	654	662	658	691
Blaenau Gwent	660	663	674	698	699	740
Torfaen	669	688	708	739	739	783
Monmouthshire	710	730	733	742	752	827
Newport	661	649	629	630	628	654

Source: Welsh Assembly Government

(a) Working age and pensionable age populations based on state pension age for given year.

Variant projections

In order to illustrate the uncertainty associated with population projections, variant projections have also been published alongside the principle local authority population projections.

A zero-migration (natural change only) projection has been produced to illustrate the projected population of each local authority if there were no future inward or outward migration.

High and low variant projections have also been produced. The high variant is based on an assumption of high fertility and low mortality. The low variant is based on an assumption of low fertility and high mortality.

For more information on these local authority variant projections see the link to further guidance on the local authority projections, at the end of this chapter.

Further Information - Population Projections

National Population Projections:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topic/statistics/headlines/pop-2007/hdw20071023/?lang=en>

National projections - StatsWales cubes:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=4145>

Further guidance documents on local authority population projections can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/pop-project/popprojla/?lang=en>

Local authority projections - technical report

The technical report will be published shortly.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/du/?lang=en>

Local authority projections -StatsWales cubes:

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=5905>

Population of 0-19 Years Olds in Wales 1991 to 2031

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/pop2008/hdw20081204/?lang=en>

Introduction

The Welsh language is a member of the Brythonic branch of Celtic languages, and is the oldest spoken language in Europe. The Welsh Language Act 1993 gave the Welsh language parity with the English language in the public sector in Wales.

This chapter looks at the Welsh language in Wales, using data from census years 1971 to 2001. Results from the 1971 Census are based on the population present. Data from the 1981 Census onwards are based on the usually resident population. It is also important to note that the 2001 Census asked the question 'Can you speak Welsh?' whereas in previous censuses the question was 'Do you speak Welsh?'. Also note that all data concerning Welsh speakers are for people aged 3 and over. Specimen copies of the Census forms are available on the National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk. Data from the '2004-06 Welsh Language Use Survey', conducted by the Welsh Language Board, are also used in this chapter.

This chapter looks at the change in the number of Welsh speakers, knowledge of Welsh by age group, the number of Welsh speakers by age group and by local authority, and looks at results from the '2004-06 Welsh Language Use Survey'.

Table 1 shows the number of Welsh speakers aged 3 and over in Wales from the 1971 Census to the most recent Census in 2001. This table shows that the proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales decreased from 21 per cent of the population in 1971 to just under 19 per cent of the population in 1991. However, by 2001 the number of Welsh speakers was at its highest – over 582,000 stated that they could speak Welsh (21 per cent of the total population).

The number of Welsh speakers in 2001 represented a 7 per cent increase from the number in the 1971 Census. However, one must remember that in 2001 the Welsh language question in the Census was 'Can you speak Welsh?' not 'Do you speak Welsh?' as in previous censuses.

Table 1: Welsh speakers aged 3 and over in Wales, 1971-2001

	Population (thousands)	Welsh speakers (thousands)	Per cent
1971	2,603.0	542.4	20.8
1981	2,645.1	503.5	19.0
1991	2,723.6	508.1	18.7
2001	2,805.7	582.4	20.8

Source: 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census

Knowledge of Welsh

Table 2 shows knowledge of Welsh by broad age groups from the 2001 Census. It shows that nearly 800,000 (over 28 per cent) people in Wales had at least some knowledge of the Welsh language, with over a half of those (around 460,000) being able to speak, read and write Welsh. In the 5-15 years old age group, nearly a half stated that they had some knowledge of Welsh, with nearly 142,000 being able to speak, read and write Welsh. For those aged 5 and over, the proportion of people with at least one skill in Welsh decreased by age group, whilst the proportion of those only understanding spoken Welsh increased. Of 50-64 year olds just under a quarter had some knowledge of Welsh. Both the 65-74 year old and the 75 and over age groups had a higher proportion demonstrating one or more skills in Welsh with just over 28 per cent of those aged 75 and over having some knowledge of the language.

Welsh Language

Table 2: Knowledge of Welsh by age group, 2001

	Total	Understands spoken Welsh only	Speaks but does not read or write Welsh	Speaks and reads but does not write Welsh	Speaks, reads and writes Welsh	Other combination of skills	No skills in Welsh
Aged 3 and over	2,805.7	138.4	79.3	38.4	457.9	83.7	2,008.0
3-4	70.5	2.9	9.0	0.7	3.3	0.3	54.3
5-15	419.3	17.2	17.4	7.3	141.9	24.6	210.8
16-19	146.8	6.2	2.5	1.7	36.0	6.1	94.3
20-34	534.2	26.3	10.0	5.5	71.5	10.5	410.5
35-49	592.1	33.0	12.0	6.6	67.3	12.5	460.7
50-64	538.1	28.8	12.4	7.4	65.2	15.7	408.5
65-74	264.2	12.7	7.6	4.3	35.6	7.7	196.2
75 and over	240.6	11.2	8.3	5.0	37.1	6.2	172.7

Thousands

Source: 2001 Census



Welsh speakers by Local Authority

Table 3 shows Welsh speakers by local authority from the 1991 and the 2001 Census. In 2001, the local authorities with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers were Gwynedd (69.0 per cent), Isle of Anglesey (60.1 per cent), Ceredigion (52.0 per cent) and Carmarthenshire (50.3 per cent). The local authorities with the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers were located in South East Wales - Monmouthshire (9.3 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (9.5 per cent), Newport (10.0 per cent) and Merthyr Tydfil (10.2 per cent).

However, comparing the proportion of Welsh speakers between the 1991 Census and the 2001 Census indicates that the local authorities traditionally regarded as strong Welsh speaking areas experienced a decline in the proportion of their population able to speak Welsh. Ceredigion saw the largest decrease (7.1 percentage points), from 59.1 per cent of the population in 1991 to 52.0 per cent in 2001, whilst Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and Denbighshire also saw a decrease in the proportion of Welsh speakers. On the other hand, parts of South East Wales experienced a growth in the proportion of Welsh speakers. Torfaen saw the biggest increase in the proportion of Welsh speakers, increasing from 2.5 per cent of the population in 1991 to 11.1 per cent of the population in 2001. Newport, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire also saw a similar increase in the proportion of Welsh speakers since 1991.

Table 3: Welsh speakers (aged 3 and over) by local authority, 1991 and 2001

	Speaking Welsh 1991		Able to speak Welsh 2001		Change	
	Number (a)	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Percentage points
Wales	508,098	18.7	582,368	20.8	74,270	2.1
Isle of Anglesey	41,239	62.0	38,893	60.1	-2,346	-1.9
Gwynedd	78,732	72.1	77,846	69.0	-886	-3.1
Conwy	31,444	30.6	31,298	29.4	-146	-1.2
Denbighshire	23,293	26.7	23,760	26.4	467	-0.3
Flintshire	18,405	13.5	20,599	14.4	2,194	0.8
Wrexham	15,985	13.7	18,105	14.6	2,120	0.9
Powys	23,589	20.5	25,814	21.1	2,225	0.5
Ceredigion	36,027	59.1	37,918	52.0	1,891	-7.1
Pembrokeshire	19,754	18.3	23,967	21.8	4,213	3.4
Carmarthenshire	89,221	54.9	84,196	50.3	-5,025	-4.5
Swansea	28,549	13.3	28,938	13.4	389	0.1
Neath Port Talbot	23,710	17.8	23,404	18.0	-306	0.2
The Vale of Glamorgan	7,752	6.9	12,994	11.3	5,242	4.4
Cardiff	18,089	6.6	32,504	11.0	14,415	4.4
Monmouthshire	1,634	2.1	7,688	9.3	6,054	7.2
Newport	2,878	2.3	13,135	10.0	10,257	7.7
Bridgend	10,161	8.3	13,397	10.8	3,236	2.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20,038	9.0	27,946	12.5	7,908	3.5
Merthyr Tydfil	4,238	7.5	5,532	10.2	1,294	2.7
Caerphilly	9,710	6.0	18,237	11.2	8,527	5.2
Blaenau Gwent	1,522	2.2	6,417	9.5	4,895	7.3
Torfaen	2,126	2.5	9,780	11.1	7,654	8.7

Source: 1991 and 2001 Census

(a) Estimates for individual authorities.

Welsh Language

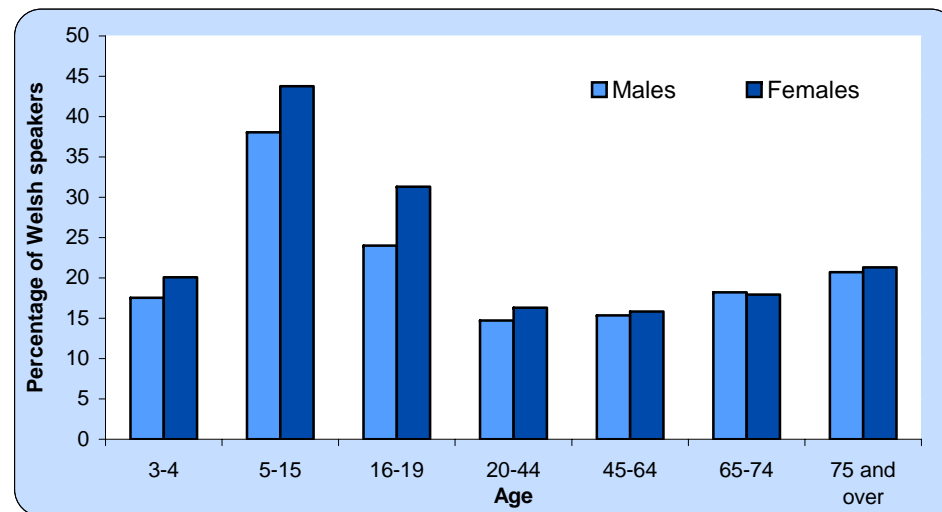
Welsh Speakers by Sex and Age

Figure 1 shows the proportion of Welsh speakers in each age group and by sex from the 2001 Census. This chart illustrates that the proportion of Welsh speakers was at its highest for both sexes in the 5-15 years old age group where 38 per cent of all males aged between 5 and 15 and 44 per cent of all females aged between 5 and 15 were able to speak Welsh. The main reason for such a high proportion is the fact that Welsh is a compulsory part of the curriculum in Wales meaning that all children of statutory school age receive Welsh lessons.

The proportion of people able to speak Welsh decreases to its lowest in the 20-44 years old age group, where 15 per cent of males and 16 per cent of females were able to speak Welsh. The older age groups had a higher proportion being able to speak Welsh, for both males and females.

The proportion increases from 16 per cent of all people in the 20-44 years old age group to 21 per cent of all people in the 75 and over age group. It's interesting to note that for almost every age group, a higher proportion of females were able to speak Welsh than males. The only exception was for the 65-74 year old age group, where a slightly higher proportion of males were able to speak Welsh than females.

Figure 1: Proportion of Welsh speakers (aged 3 and over) by age group, 2001



Source: 2001 Census



2004-2006 Welsh Language Use Survey

The Welsh Language Board commissioned a series of three surveys over 2004-2006 in order to expand on the information on who uses Welsh, when and how much they use it. The survey, of about 7,700 Welsh speakers, was organised to supplement the 'Living in Wales' survey commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government. The larger sample obtained by using the 2004-06 Language Use Surveys makes it possible to produce estimates for the unitary authority areas and for specific population groups. The results refer to the period rather than individual years.

According to the survey, 20.5 per cent of all those aged 3 and over in Wales could speak Welsh in 2004-06, very similar to the 20.8 per cent figure in the 2001 Census. Of those who could speak Welsh, 58 per cent considered themselves fluent in Welsh, with 59 per cent having had their most recent conversation through the medium of Welsh. The survey also found that fluency in Welsh increased with age – of those 3 to 15 year olds who said that they could speak Welsh, 47 per cent were fluent compared to 71 per cent of speakers aged over 65. Also, of those who stated that they could speak Welsh, 63 per cent stated that they spoke Welsh daily, 17 per cent spoke Welsh weekly, 17 per cent spoke Welsh less often, and 4 per cent never spoke Welsh.

Table 4 shows the frequency of speaking Welsh by Welsh speakers at a local authority level and a Wales level.

Further information and results from the Welsh Language Use Survey can be found on the Welsh Language Board's website www.bwrdd-yr-iaith.org.uk.

Table 4: Frequency of speaking Welsh by local authority (a)

	Frequency of speaking Welsh				Percent
	Daily	Weekly	Less often	Never	Total
Isle of Anglesey	86.6	5.4	6.7	1.3	100.0
Gwynedd	90.3	4.9	4.1	0.7	100.0
Conwy	66.1	14.2	16.8	2.9	100.0
Denbighshire	57.3	21.0	20.4	1.3	100.0
Flintshire	35.3	28.6	27.0	9.1	100.0
Wrexham	38.9	20.0	31.4	9.7	100.0
Powys	43.4	33.3	19.7	3.5	100.0
Ceredigion	80.8	11.1	7.0	1.1	100.0
Pembrokeshire	52.1	28.1	17.3	2.5	100.0
Carmarthenshire	79.6	10.5	9.2	0.7	100.0
Swansea	49.2	19.9	27.4	3.4	100.0
Neath Port Talbot	61.8	17.0	18.4	2.7	100.0
Bridgend	37.4	15.8	41.9	5.0	100.0
Vale of Glamorgan	50.3	22.8	22.2	4.8	100.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	35.3	22.6	34.0	8.1	100.0
Merthyr Tydfil	50.6	15.3	25.5	8.5	100.0
Caerphilly	45.7	21.1	26.8	6.5	100.0
Blaenau Gwent	29.4	34.0	32.4	4.3	100.0
Torfaen	34.1	35.2	26.9	3.8	100.0
Monmouthshire	24.8	32.7	32.4	10.1	100.0
Newport	21.9	37.8	23.5	16.8	100.0
Cardiff	44.4	28.9	19.8	6.8	100.0
Wales	62.8	17.1	16.6	3.5	100.0

Source: Welsh Language Use Surveys, 2004-06

(a) Based on a survey of Welsh Speakers

Welsh Language

Bilingual Registrations

Table 5 shows the number of bilingual registrations in Wales from 1975 to 2007 (selected years). 'Bilingual registrations' refer to marriage registrations, birth registrations and death registrations in Wales where bilingual certificates are issued. This applies to people living in Wales, even if the marriage/birth/death took place in England (as detailed in the Office for National Statistics's White Paper, 'Civil Registration: Vital change').

The overall number of marriages in Wales decreased from over 20,000 in 1975 to under 13,000 in 2007. However, the number of marriages registered bilingually increased, from 391 in 1975 to 480 in 2007. As a result, the proportion of marriages registered bilingually increased from 1.9 per cent in 1975 to 3.7 per cent in 2007. This is the highest proportion of all the years.

The number of births registrations in Wales has fluctuated during the period 1975 to 2007; however it has steadily increased since 2002 with 2007 recording the highest number of births registered for all the years (42,896). The number of births registered bilingually has increased almost every year, from 504 registrations in 1975 to 4,039 in 2007. Consequently, the proportion of births registered bilingually increased considerably from 1.5 per cent in 1975 to 9.4 per cent in 2007.

Total death registrations have fluctuated between 1975 and 2007 (from a high of 35,713 in 1980 to a low of 30,994 in 2006), but generally decreased during this period. However, as was the case for bilingual marriage and birth registrations, the number of bilingual death registrations increased almost year on year, from 78 in 1975 to 1,417 in 2007. This is an increase from 0.2 per cent of all death registrations in 1975 to 4.3 per cent in 2007.

Table 5: Bilingual marriage, birth and death registrations in Wales, 1975-2007 (selected years)

	Marriage registrations (a)			Birth registrations (b)			Death registrations (c)		
	Total	Bilingual	Per cent bilingual	Total	Bilingual	Per cent bilingual	Total	Bilingual	Per cent bilingual
1975	20,659	391	1.9	33,856	504	1.5	35,612	78	0.2
1980	21,071	395	1.9	38,402	608	1.6	35,713	78	0.2
1985	19,148	387	2.0	36,106	536	1.5	35,173	149	0.4
1990	18,438	387	2.1	38,320	989	2.6	33,556	420	1.3
1991	16,638	394	2.4	37,534	1,074	2.9	33,762	628	1.9
1992	16,602	452	2.7	37,268	1,318	3.5	33,333	695	2.1
1993	15,871	378	2.4	38,024	598	1.6	35,761
1994	15,643	336	2.1	37,218	1,385	3.7	33,704	727	2.2
1995	14,795	331	2.2	36,364	1,614	4.4	35,270	830	2.4
1996	14,784	399	2.7	37,029	1,826	4.9	34,774	904	2.6
1997	14,573	431	3.0	37,133	2,176	5.9	34,959	1,002	2.9
1998	14,190	419	3.0	36,194	2,297	6.3	33,989	1,087	3.2
1999	14,025	473	3.4	34,268	2,396	7.0	34,856	1,340	3.8
2000	14,125	434	3.1	33,590	2,528	7.5	33,519	1,300	3.9
2001	13,024	428	3.3	32,771	2,519	7.7	33,188	1,327	4.0
2002	13,484	405	3.0	32,087	2,660	8.3	33,217	1,434	4.3
2003	14,532	428	2.9	33,706	2,874	8.5	33,813	1,529	4.5
2004	14,884	452	3.0	34,392	2,887	8.4	32,158	1,443	4.5
2005	13,978	471	3.4	34,546	2,891	8.2	32,015	1,396	4.4
2006p	13,480	470	3.5	35,296	3,049	8.7	30,994	1,430	4.6
2007p	12,830	480	3.7	42,896	4,039	9.4	32,754	1,417	4.3

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) Under the provisions of the Registration of Marriages (Welsh Language) Regulations 1971.

(b) Under the provisions of the Registration of Births (Amendment) Regulations 1967. This data relates to where the birth occurred and was subsequently registered, therefore data are not comparable with data based on the usual place of residence of the mother. The data also includes corrections and re-registrations to events
Figures for birth re-registrations are not available.

(c) Under the provisions of the Registration of Births, Still Births, and Deaths (Welsh Language) Regulations 1969.

This data relates to where the death occurred and was subsequently registered, therefore this data is not comparable with data based on the usual place of residence of deceased.

The data also includes corrections and re-registrations to events.

p indicates provisional data. ".." indicates not available.

Marriage data for 2006 and 2007 has been rounded and will remain provisional until a final dataset is produced.

Welsh Language

Further Information - Welsh Language

Welsh Language Statistics Theme Page

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/welsh-language/?lang=en>

Welsh Language Board:

<http://www.bwrdd-yr-iaith.org.uk/cartref.php?langID=2>

Welsh language data Census and Labour Force Survey - StatsWales cube:

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/reportfolders.aspx?IF_ActivePath=P,345,3285

Consultation on ethnicity, identity, language and religion for 2011 Census in England and Wales:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/pop-2007/hdw200710312/?lang=en>

Population Estimates

Data Source and Definitions

Mid-year population estimates (as at 30 June each year) for Wales and England are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics Agency (NISRA) produce comparable population estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Methodology

Full guidance on the methodology used by ONS to produce the population estimates can be accessed at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/PEMethodology/>

This includes information on the methodology used to obtain the Small area population estimates (SAPE).

Revisions and changes

Mid-year estimates (MYE) of population are occasionally revised (eg following a Census of Population or a change in methodology). They also take into account boundary changes.

2002-2005 mid-year estimates were revised on 22 August 2007. The revisions were due to an improved method for estimating the international migration component of the mid-year estimates. This affected the migration component of the population estimates and therefore the population estimates overall.

Further information on the program to improve population and migration estimates can be found on the Office for National Statistics Website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/default.asp>

Other revisions and boundary changes include:

- 2005 MYEs reflect April 2005 boundary changes to Neath Port Talbot and Powys 2003 and 2004 MYEs reflect April 2003 boundary changes to Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.
- 2001 and 2002 MYEs - October 2004 revisions in light of local authority studies. These estimates reflect local authority administrative boundaries as of 1 April 2001.
- 1991-2000 MYEs - September 2004 revisions in light of local authority studies. These estimates reflect local authority administrative boundaries as of 1 April 2001.
- 1982-1990 MYEs - March 2003 revisions in light of 2001 Census. These estimates reflect local authority administrative boundaries as of 1st April 2001.
- 1981 MYEs reflect local authority administrative boundaries as of 1st April 2001.
- Mid-year population estimates for the remaining local authorities are based on 2001 boundaries.

Frequency

Population estimates are published annually.

Further guidance on revisions to population estimates can also be accessed at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/PEMethodology/>

Annex 1: Quality Information

Births and Deaths

Data Source

The registration of births and deaths for Wales and England is a service carried out by the Local Registration Service in partnership with the General Register Office (GRO) which is part of the ONS.

Definitions

- *Birth* data refer to the number of live births to residents of Wales. Data excludes still-births.
- *Death* data relates to deaths registered during the year with the exception of the years 1993-2005 where deaths relate to occurrences.
- The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is a calculated measure of current fertility levels, and denotes the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in the population.
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children that would be born to a woman if the female population experienced the age specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR is a summary measure of current fertility.
- Age-specific mortality rate (ASMR) refers to the total number of deaths per 1,000 people of a given age.
- Standardised mortality rates are a way of comparing death rates for populations whose age and sex distribution vary. It eliminates from the trends the increase or decrease that may be due to changes in the age/sex structure of the population.
- Expected years of life is the average future lifetime, which would be lived by person of a particular age, if they were subject throughout their lives to the average recorded death rate over a three year period. Based on three year average data centred on the year stated.

Frequency

Births and deaths data are published annually.

Further quality and definitional information on Births data is available at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/FM1_34/FM1_no34_2005.pdf

Further quality and definitional information on Deaths data is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/Dh2_32/DH2_No32_2005.pdf

Migration

Data Source and Definitions

Migration estimates for England and Wales are published by the ONS.

- *Total International Migration (TIM)* is estimated by combining data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), Home Office data on asylum seekers and visitor switches, with estimates of migration between the Republic of Ireland and Wales from the Irish Labour Force survey.
- *Cross-border migration* refers to people moving within the UK to or from Wales. The National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) records movements of patients between former health authority areas.
- *Internal Migration* refers to the movement of people moving within Wales, for example, from one local authority to another. Each Health Authority holds a register of patients registered with its GPs, called the Patient Register Data System (PRDS). Combining every patient register in England and Wales and comparing with the register from the previous year identifies people who have changed their postcode. These are combined with migration data from National Health Service Central Register to give internal migration estimates.

Revisions and changes

Total International Migration estimates for 1999 to 2005 were revised in November 2007. The revisions were due to an improved method for estimating international migration at Wales and Government Office Region level.

Frequency

- International migration figures are published annually.
- Migration estimates at a Wales level (from the NHSCR) are available quarterly.
- Migration estimates at a local authority level (from the PRDS) are available annually.

Comparability

Prior to 1991, international migration estimates are only available using data from the IPS alone.

Details of the National Statistics Quality Review of International Migration Statistics (September 2003) can be accessed at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=507>

Further methodology and definitional information on International Migration data is available at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp>

Further information on the program to improve population and migration estimates can be found on the Office for National Statistics Website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/default.asp>

Population Projections

The report provides an analysis of population projections both at a national and a local authority level.

National Projections

Data Source and Definitions

National projections used in this publication are based on the Office for National Statistics's 2006-based National Projections.

Methodology

2006-based variant projections are produced based on different combinations of alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. These are available on the GAD website:

<http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/index.asp>

Projections done in this way do not make allowances for the effects of local or central government policies on future population levels, distribution and change.

Frequency

The ONS produces 'full' population projections by age and sex for the United Kingdom and constituent countries every two years, although an 'interim' set was produced in 2003. These 'full' projections are based on a review of all the underlying assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and net migration.

Annex 1: Quality Information

Local Authority Projections

Data Source and Definitions

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) produced 2006-based local authority population projections in June 2008. This was the first time that local authority projections were published for the 22 Welsh Local Authorities.

Methodology

These projections were based on assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration. Further information about these projections and their methodology is given on the WAG website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/population/pop-project/popprojla/?lang=en>

A technical report will be published at the end of March giving more detailed information on the methodology used to produce the local authority projections. This will be available on the WAG website.

Projections done in this way do not make allowances for the effects of local or central government policies on future population levels, distribution and change.

Welsh Language

Data Source

Most of the Welsh Language data is based on data from the 2001 Census of Population. Additional information on the usage of Welsh comes from the 2004-2006 Welsh Language Use Survey commissioned by the Welsh Language Board.

Quality information for the 2001 Census can be accessed at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/methodology.asp>

Methodology and quality information on the Welsh Language Use Surveys of 2004-06 are available in chapter 18 of the following report:

<http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/english/publications/pages/publicationitem.aspx?puburl=/english/publications/publications/welsh+language+use+surveys+2004-06.pdf>

Symbols

The following symbol has been used throughout the publication:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but rounds to zero.

.. the data item is not available.

P the data item is provisional.