

2007 Mid-year Estimates of Population

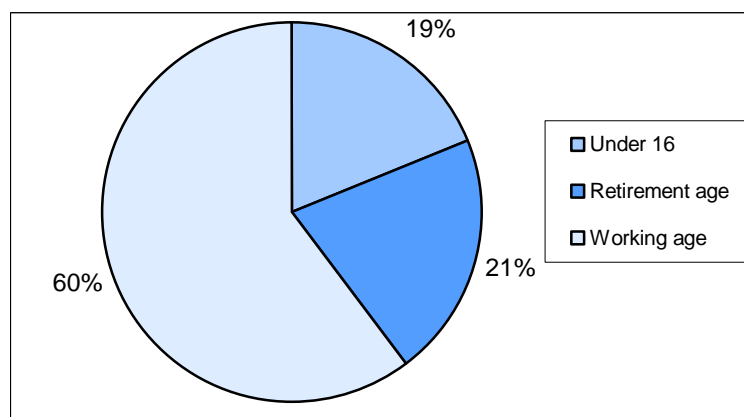
Birth and death registration data are used together with estimates of international migration and internal migration (within UK) flows to calculate estimates for the usually resident population of each area. Usual residents away from home temporarily are included, but visitors are excluded. Students are counted at their termtime 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. For more information please see our Quality Information section at the end of the Bulletin.

Key Results

As at 30th June 2007:

- there were 2,980,000 people resident in Wales. This is an increase of 14,100 on mid-2006 (0.5 per cent increase), slightly higher than the previous annual increase (12,300, or 0.4 per cent, between mid-2005 and mid-2006);
- population growth from 2001 onwards has generally been higher than in the 1990s, with population growth in the period 1991-2000 ranging from 0.0 per cent to 0.2 per cent;
- there was little change in the broad age structure of the population compared to 2006, with 19 per cent of the population being children aged 0-15 (556,600 people) and 21 per cent of retirement age (626,700 people). For the UK as a whole, 19 per cent were children and 19 per cent of retirement age, although for the first time the number of those of retirement age exceeded the number of children;
- most local authorities showed a decrease in the number of children aged 0-15 between mid-2006 and mid-2007, ranging from a 0.1 per cent decrease in Wrexham and Bridgend to a 2.4 per cent decrease in Blaenau Gwent. However, the number of children aged under 5 in Wales increased by 2.2 per cent between mid-2006 and mid-2007, and all local authorities saw an increase.

Chart 1: Population by age group, 2007



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Dependency Ratio

Children and pensioners are classified as dependants and when compared with the number of people of working age (16 to retirement age, i.e. females aged 60+ and males aged 65+) in the population, make up the dependency ratio. In 2007, there were 659 dependants per 1,000 working age people. This represents an increase on the 2006 dependency ratio of 657 dependants per 1,000 working age people. For the UK as a whole in 2007, there were 609 dependants per 1,000 people of working age.

Components of Change (Births, deaths and migration)

In the twelve months to mid-2007, natural change (births less deaths) stood at around 2,300. This compares with 1,900 for the twelve months ending mid-2006, and -300 for the twelve months ending mid-2005.

Migration and other changes provided a net addition to the population of 11,800 in the period mid-2006 to mid-2007. This compares to 10,500 for the previous twelve months.

Local Authorities

The local authority with the largest population increase between mid-2006 and mid-2007 was Cardiff (1.1 per cent increase). The only local authorities which showed a decrease in total population between mid-2006 and mid-2007 were Rhondda Cynon Taf (0.1 per cent decrease) and Blaenau Gwent (0.2 per cent decrease). More information is given in Table 1.

All local authorities apart from Cardiff and Carmarthenshire showed a decrease in the number of children aged 0-15 between mid-2006 and mid-2007. These decreases ranged from a 0.1 per cent decrease in Wrexham and Bridgend to a 2.4 per cent decrease in Blaenau Gwent. There were roughly the same number of children in Cardiff and Carmarthenshire in mid-2006 and mid-2007.

The number of children aged under 5 in Wales increased by 2.2 per cent between mid-2006 and mid-2007. All local authorities showed an increase in the number of children aged under 5 between mid-2006 and mid-2007. These increases ranged from a 0.4 per cent increase in Powys to a 4.7 per cent increase in Cardiff.

All local authorities showed an increase in the number of people of retirement age between mid-2006 and mid-2007. These increases ranged from a 0.9 per cent increase in Cardiff to a 3.2 per cent increase in Powys.

Changes since 2001

The main changes in the structure and distribution of the population since 2001 are:

- a fall in the number of Children aged 0-15 (as a proportion of the total population a decrease from over 20 per cent to 19 per cent).
- an increase in those of Working age (to just over 60 per cent).
- a rise in those of Retirement age (proportion increased from 20.1 per cent to 21.0 per cent).
- the local authority areas (as currently constituted) showing a population decline are Merthyr Tydfil (down 1.0 per cent) and Blaenau Gwent (down 1.2 per cent) and those with the greatest population growth are Powys (up 4.4 per cent) and Pembrokeshire (up 4.3 per cent).
- a slight fall in the proportion of the UK population resident in Wales, from 4.92 per cent to 4.89 per cent, which is due to higher population growth in England than in Wales.

Table 1. Population Change between mid-2006 and mid-2007

	2006 ^(a)		2007 ^(b)		<i>Population change 2006 to 2007 (per cent)</i>
	Number (Thousands)	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	Number (Thousands)	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	
Age group					
All ages	2,965.9	100.0	2,980.0	100.0	0.5
Under 16	561.2	<i>18.9</i>	556.6	<i>18.7</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Working age ^(c)	1,789.9	<i>60.3</i>	1,796.8	<i>60.3</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Retirement age ^(d)	614.8	<i>20.7</i>	626.7	<i>21.0</i>	<i>1.9</i>
Unitary authority					
Isle of Anglesey	68.9	<i>2.3</i>	69.0	<i>2.3</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Gwynedd	118.3	<i>4.0</i>	118.4	<i>4.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Conwy	111.3	<i>3.8</i>	111.7	<i>3.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Denbighshire	96.1	<i>3.2</i>	97.0	<i>3.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Flintshire	150.1	<i>5.1</i>	150.5	<i>5.1</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Wrexham	131.0	<i>4.4</i>	131.9	<i>4.4</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Powys	131.1	<i>4.4</i>	132.0	<i>4.4</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Ceredigion	77.2	<i>2.6</i>	77.8	<i>2.6</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Pembrokeshire	117.3	<i>4.0</i>	117.9	<i>4.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Carmarthenshire	178.0	<i>6.0</i>	179.5	<i>6.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Swansea	227.1	<i>7.7</i>	228.1	<i>7.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Neath Port Talbot	137.1	<i>4.6</i>	137.4	<i>4.6</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Bridgend	132.6	<i>4.5</i>	133.9	<i>4.5</i>	<i>1.0</i>
The Vale of Glamorgan	123.3	<i>4.2</i>	124.0	<i>4.2</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Cardiff	317.5	<i>10.7</i>	321.0	<i>10.8</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	233.9	<i>7.9</i>	233.7	<i>7.8</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
Merthyr Tydfil	55.5	<i>1.9</i>	55.6	<i>1.9</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Caerphilly	171.3	<i>5.8</i>	171.8	<i>5.8</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Blaenau Gwent	69.3	<i>2.3</i>	69.2	<i>2.3</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Torfaen	91.0	<i>3.1</i>	91.1	<i>3.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Monmouthshire	87.9	<i>3.0</i>	88.2	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Newport	140.1	<i>4.7</i>	140.2	<i>4.7</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Wales	2,965.9	100.0	2,980.0	100.0	0.5

(a) 2006 mid-year population estimates, published 22 Aug 2007

(b) 2007 mid-year population estimates, published 21 Aug 2008

(c) to 59 for women, 64 for men

(d) 60 or over for women, 65 or over for men

Quality Information

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/>

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 improved methodology for estimating international migration 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>

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/>

Further Information

Detailed statistics relating to the information published in this publication can be found at:

StatsWales Cubes

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx?IF_ActivePath=P,345,1851,185