

## 2008 Mid-year Estimates of Population

This bulletin presents a brief analysis of the 2008 population estimates for Wales. 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.

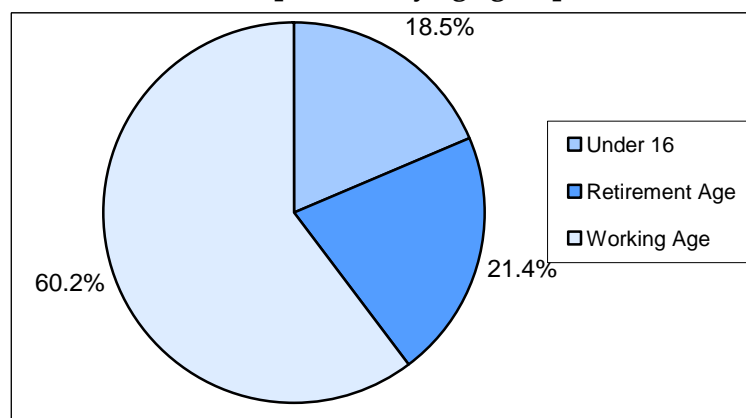
Usual residents away from home temporarily are included, but visitors are excluded. Students are counted at their termtime address. It should also be noted that the UN definition of an international migrant is used – those changing country of residence for a period of at least 12 months. Short-term migrants (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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008:

- there were 2,993,400 people resident in Wales. This is an increase of 13,500 on mid-2007 (0.5 per cent increase), slightly lower than the previous annual increase (14,100, between mid-2006 and mid-2007);
- the number of births exceeded the number of deaths for the third successive year;
- there was little change in the broad age structure of the population compared to 2007, with 18.5 per cent of the population being children aged 0-15 (553,100 people), compared to 18.7 per cent in 2007, and 21.4 per cent of retirement age (639,400 people), compared to 21.0 per cent in 2007. For the UK as a whole, 18.8 per cent were children and 19.2 per cent of retirement age, and for the second successive year the number of those of retirement age exceeded the number of children;
- all local authorities apart from Cardiff and Wrexham showed a decrease in the number of children aged 0-15 between mid-2007 and mid-2008. These decreases ranged from a 0.2 per cent decrease in Denbighshire to a 1.7 per cent decrease in Gwynedd. However, the number of children aged under 5 in Wales increased by 2.8 per cent between mid-2007 and mid-2008, and all local authorities saw an increase.

**Chart 1: Population by age group, 2008**



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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 2008, there were 662 dependants per 1,000 working age people. This represents an increase when compared to the 2007 dependency ratio of 659 dependants per 1,000 working age people. For the UK as a whole in 2008, there were 612 dependants per 1,000 people of working age.

### **Components of Change (Births, deaths and migration)**

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths for the third successive year. In the twelve months to mid-2008, natural change (births less deaths) stood at around 4,000. This compares with 2,300 for the twelve months ending mid-2007, and 1,900 for the twelve months ending mid-2006. Natural change increased because the number of births for the twelve months ending mid-2008 increased to 35,500 compared to 33,800 for the twelve months ending mid-2007.

Migration and other changes provided a net addition to the population of 9,500 in the period mid-2007 to mid-2008. This is a decrease from the previous twelve months when net migration and other changes stood at 11,800.

### **Local Authorities**

The local authority with the largest population increase between mid-2007 and mid-2008 was Cardiff (1.2 per cent increase). The only local authorities which showed a decrease in total population between mid-2007 and mid-2008 were Gwynedd (0.1 per cent decrease) and Blaenau Gwent (0.1 per cent decrease). More information is given in Table 1.

All local authorities apart from Cardiff and Wrexham showed a decrease in the number of children aged 0-15 between mid-2007 and mid-2008. These decreases ranged from a 0.2 per cent decrease in Denbighshire to a 1.7 per cent decrease in Gwynedd.

The number of children aged under 5 in Wales increased by 2.8 per cent between mid-2007 and mid-2008. All local authorities showed an increase in the number of children aged under 5 between mid-2007 and mid-2008. These increases ranged from a 0.6 per cent increase in Monmouthshire to a 4.8 per cent increase in Cardiff.

All local authorities showed an increase in the number of people of retirement age between mid-2007 and mid-2008. These increases ranged from a 1.0 per cent increase in Cardiff to a 3.0 per cent increase in Wrexham.

### **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 20.2 per cent to 18.5 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 21.4 per cent).
- the local authority areas showing a population decline are Merthyr Tydfil (down 0.8 per cent) and Blaenau Gwent (down 1.3 per cent) and those with the greatest population growth are Pembrokeshire (up 5.1 per cent) and Powys (up 4.9 per cent).
- a slight fall in the proportion of the UK population resident in Wales, from 4.92 per cent to 4.88 per cent, which is due to higher population growth in England than in Wales.

**Table 1. Population Change between mid-2007 and mid-2008**

	2007 <sup>(a)</sup>		2008 <sup>(b)</sup>		<i>Population change 2007 to 2008 (per cent)</i>
	Number (Thousands)	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	Number (Thousands)	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	
<b>Age group</b>					
<b>All ages</b>	<b>2,980.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	2,993.4	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Under 16	556.6	18.7	553.1	18.5	-0.6
Working age <sup>(c)</sup>	1,796.8	60.3	1,800.9	60.2	0.2
Retirement age <sup>(d)</sup>	626.7	21.0	639.4	21.4	2.0
<b>Unitary authority</b>					
Isle of Anglesey	69.0	2.3	69.0	2.3	0.0
Gwynedd	118.4	4.0	118.2	3.9	-0.1
Conwy	111.7	3.7	112.0	3.7	0.3
Denbighshire	97.0	3.3	97.6	3.3	0.6
Flintshire	150.5	5.1	151.0	5.0	0.3
Wrexham	131.9	4.4	132.9	4.4	0.7
Powys	132.0	4.4	132.6	4.4	0.5
Ceredigion	77.8	2.6	78.0	2.6	0.3
Pembrokeshire	117.9	4.0	118.8	4.0	0.8
Carmarthenshire	179.5	6.0	180.5	6.0	0.6
Swansea	228.1	7.7	229.1	7.7	0.4
Neath Port Talbot	137.4	4.6	137.6	4.6	0.2
Bridgend	133.9	4.5	134.8	4.5	0.7
The Vale of Glamorgan	124.0	4.2	124.9	4.2	0.7
Cardiff	321.0	10.8	324.8	10.9	1.2
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	233.7	7.8	234.1	7.8	0.2
Merthyr Tydfil	55.6	1.9	55.7	1.9	0.2
Caerphilly	171.8	5.8	172.4	5.8	0.3
Blaenau Gwent	69.2	2.3	69.1	2.3	-0.1
Torfaen	91.1	3.1	91.1	3.0	0.0
Monmouthshire	88.2	3.0	88.4	3.0	0.3
Newport	140.2	4.7	140.7	4.7	0.4
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2,980.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	2,993.4	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>

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

(b) 2008 mid-year population estimates, published 27 Aug 2009

(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>

ONS in partnership with other organisations have a long-term programme of work on improving migration and population statistics. Between Dec 2009 and Feb 2010, ONS will run a consultation on proposed improvements to mid-year estimates and a revised set of mid-year estimates for 2002-2008 will be published on 27 May 2010. Mid-2009 population estimates will be published in August 2010.

### 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,345,1851,1856](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx?IF_ActivePath=P,345,1851,1856)