

SB 108/2013

6 November 2013

2012-based National Population Projections for Wales

This release presents the results of the principal 2012-based National Population Projections for Wales. Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends and the projections indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. 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.

The Office for National Statistics produces national population projections for the UK and for its four constituent countries every two years. These 2012-based projections are projections for the 100-year period from 2012 to 2102. The projections are trend-based and replace the 2010-based national population projections for Wales published previously. The main focus is on the 25-year period up to 2035. Projection results are available for years beyond 2037, however, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward.

Key Results

Projected Total Population

- The population of Wales is projected to increase by 4 per cent to 3.19 million by 2022 and 8 per cent to 3.32 million by 2037.

Projected Population by Age

- The number of children aged under 16 is projected to around 582,000 by 2026 before decreasing. Overall, the number of children is projected to increase by 2 per cent between 2012 and 2037.
- The number of people aged 16-64 is projected to decrease by nearly 60,000 or around 3 per cent between 2012 and 2037.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 292,000 or 50 per cent between 2012 and 2037.

Assumed Migration

- Although births are projected to exceed deaths, the main driver of population growth in Wales is expected to be net migration.

Projected Births and Deaths

- Births are projected to exceed deaths each year up until 2035 after which deaths are expected to exceed births.

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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) prepares and publishes national population projections for Wales and the other UK countries normally every two years.

Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on the most recently available mid-year population estimates and a set of underlying assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends. Projections only indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. They are not forecasts and projections done in this way do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors may have on demographic behaviour, for example, government policies on migration and student fees.

This set of projections is based on underlying assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and migration. These assumptions are agreed by the ONS, Welsh Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), following consultation with key users of projections in each country and advice from an expert academic advisory panel.

The primary purpose of the national population projections is to provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of the UK and its constituent countries which is used for national planning in a number of different policy areas, such as education and health. A new set of projections are normally produced every two years, based on assumptions which are judged to be appropriate based on the statistical evidence available at the time. These official sets of projections ensure that the many users of projections can work on consistent assumptions.

Projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. To give users of the projections an indication of this uncertainty, a number of variant population projections are also produced, which provide future scenarios based on alternative assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration. These provide an indication of the level of uncertainty; they do not represent upper or lower limits.

The Office for National Statistics published 2012-based National Population Projections on 6 November 2013. The aim of this statistical bulletin is to present the key results of the projections for Wales and to outline the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions used in their preparation. The Population by Age Group section of this bulletin focuses on those under 16 years of age, 16-64 years and 65 years and over. This format is intended to be consistent with the tables presented in previous editions of 'Wales's Population: a demographic overview', recent migration bulletins, and labour market statistics. Projections of working age population and state pensionable age population are prepared by ONS based on current legislation for the year under consideration and, for Wales, are summarised in Annex A of this bulletin.

A summary of the main variant population projections for Wales is included in this bulletin. Further variant projections will be published by ONS on 10 December 2013. Annex B of this bulletin shows a comparison of these 2012-based projections with the last set of projections which were 2010-based.

This bulletin focuses on the projections for the next 25 years up to 2037. Longer term projections up to 2112 are also prepared by ONS. Whilst these are available online for users who require them, they should be treated with caution as projections become increasingly uncertain over time. These longer term projections are not considered appropriate for a wide range of uses.

Further detailed 2012-based population projections are available on the Welsh Government's StatsWales website – see link in Key Quality information at the end of this bulletin.

The full ONS publication is available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/index.html>

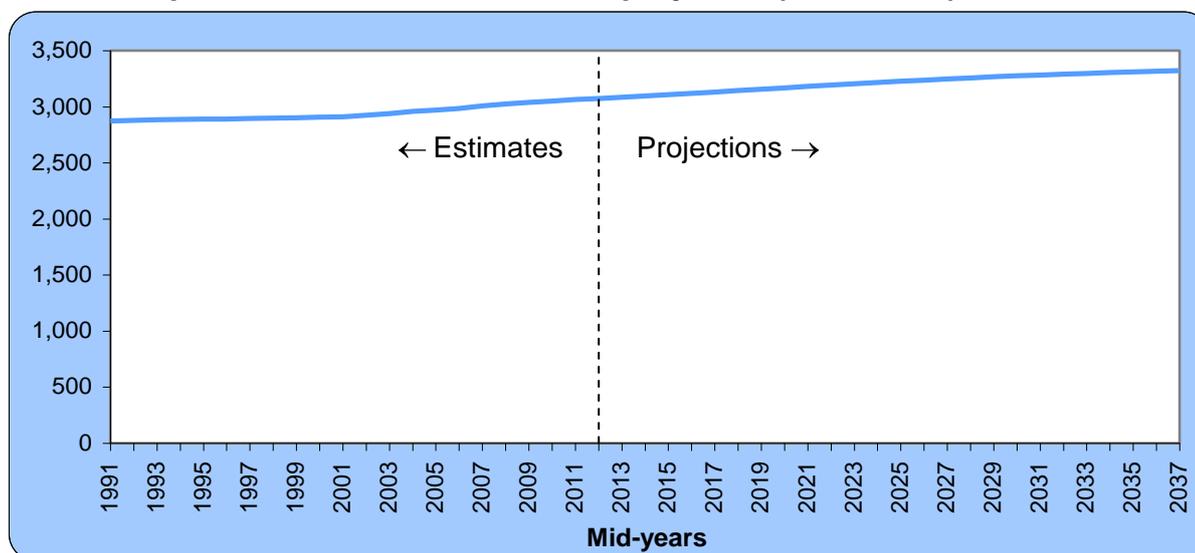
together with information about fitness for purpose of the ONS population projections in meeting user need. This is available in the report on quality and methodology at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/methodquality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/.html>

Projected Total Population

Chart 1 shows that the total population for Wales from 1991 to 2037, based on mid-year population estimates and the 2012-based National Population Projections. This shows that after increasing above 3 million in around 2007 the total population of Wales is projected to increase to 3.19 million by 2022 and 3.32 million by 2037. This suggests percentage increases of around 4 per cent and 8 per cent respectively compared to mid-2012.

Chart 1: Population of Wales, actual and projected (thousands), 1991 to 2037



Projected Population by Age Group

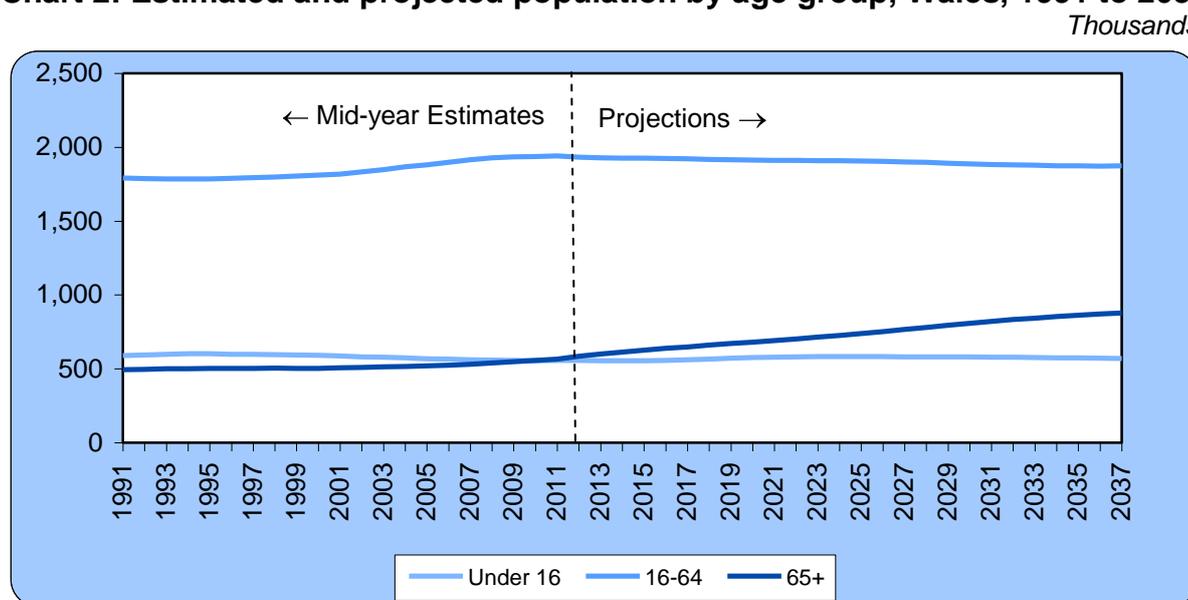
Table 1 shows projected population for Wales for mid-2012 to mid-2037 broken down by broad age group. These age groups are consistent with those used in other statistical bulletins relating to population and migration.

Table 1: Projected population by age and median age, Wales, 2012 to 2037

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
Under 16	557	561	581	581	578	570
16-64	1,932	1,922	1,910	1,901	1,879	1,873
65+	586	649	702	766	833	878
All ages	3,074	3,132	3,193	3,248	3,291	3,321
	<i>Per cent</i>					
	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
Under 16	18.1	17.9	18.2	17.9	17.6	17.2
16-64	62.8	61.4	59.8	58.5	57.1	56.4
65+	19.1	20.7	22.0	23.6	25.3	26.4
Median age	41.7	42.2	42.2	42.5	43.0	43.9

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

Chart 2 shows estimated and projected population by broad age group from 1991 to 2037 based on mid-year population estimates up to 2012 and the 2012-based population projections from 2013 onwards.

Chart 2: Estimated and projected population by age group, Wales, 1991 to 2037

Source: Mid-Year Estimates & National Population Projections, ONS

The number of children aged under 16 is projected to increase to peak at around 581,000 by 2027 before decreasing between 2027 and 2037. Overall, the number of children under 16 is projected to increase by 2 per cent between 2012 and 2037.

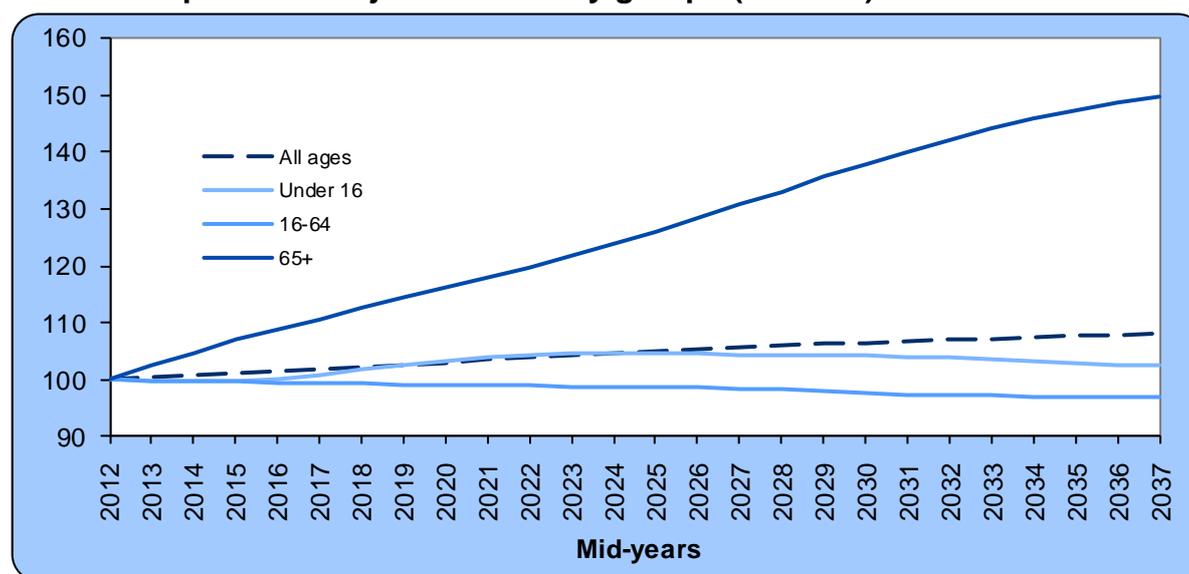
The number of people aged 16-64 is projected to decrease by nearly 60,000 or around 3 per cent between 2012 and 2037.

The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 292,000 or around 50 per cent between 2012 and 2037. This increase is driven by increasing life expectancy for both men and women throughout the projection period, and the post-war baby boomers becoming part of this age group in the early part of the projection period.

In Wales the median age of the population is projected to increase from 41.7 years in 2012 to 43.9 years by 2037. This is due to a combination of assumed increases in life expectancy and relatively births from 2022 onwards (see Chart 4).

Chart 3 shows how the population by broad age group is projected to change during the 25 year projection period, relative to the base year. This shows the relatively steep rise in the number of people 65 and over throughout the projection period whilst the under 16 and 16 to 64 age groups do not increase in the same way.

Chart 3: Population Projections for key groups (indexed)



Source: National Population Projections, ONS

Dependency ratios

One way of looking at changes in the age structure of the population is by considering dependency ratios. Typically these consider the number of people in groups that could be considered likely to be more dependent compared with the number of people of working age. A common approach is to look at the numbers of people aged 16 and under, or 65 or over, and comparing them with those aged 16-64. Ratios are normally worked out per thousand people in the 16 to 64 age group. The age groups used are somewhat arbitrary boundaries as full-time education can end- whilst retirement can start - at a range of ages. Even when people have retired from employment they may still contribute to the economy in a range of ways and not necessarily be considered 'dependent'. Table A in Annex A also shows this based on the projected figures for those of working age and of state pension age.

Table 2: Dependants per 1,000 people aged 16-64

	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
Under 16	288	292	304	306	308	304
65+	303	337	368	403	443	469
Total	591	629	671	709	751	773

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

The table show the numbers of children aged under 16 and older people (aged 65 and over) per 1,000 people of working age (aged 16-64).

- In 2012, there were around 288 children per thousand people aged 16-64. This is projected to increase to 308 by 2032 and then reduce slightly during the period to 2037.
- In 2012, there were around 303 people aged 65 and over per thousand people aged 16-64. This is expected to increase to around 469 per thousand people aged 16-64 by 2037.

Alternatively it is possible to look at changes to the age structure of the population changes over time in terms of the proportions of those aged under 16 and those aged 65 and over as a percentage of total population.

- In 2012, children under 16 accounted for around 18.1 per cent of the population, and people aged 65 and over accounted for 19.1 per cent of the population.
- By 2037, children under 16 are expected to represent 17.2 per cent of the population whilst people aged 65 are expected to account for 26.4 per cent of the population.

Comparison with other UK countries

Table 3 shows projected population growth in Wales compared with that for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland by 2022 (ten years from the start of the projection) and 2037 (twenty-five years from the start of the projection).

Table 3: Projected population growth, UK countries by 2020 and 2037

	<i>Percent</i>	
	2022	2037
Wales	4	8
England	7	16
Scotland	4	9
Northern Ireland	5	10

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

From the base year, 2017, Wales is expected to see a similar rate of growth to Scotland (4 per cent) by 2022, but below that for England or Northern Ireland. By 2037 the population in Wales is expected to grow by 8 per cent, which is lower than for the other three UK countries.

Summary of Projected Components of Population Change

Table 4 shows projected components of population change summarised for five-year periods from 2012 to 2037.

Table 4: Components of Population Change – selected five-year periods

	<i>Thousands</i>				
	2012-2017	2017-2022	2022-2027	2027-2032	2032-2037
Population at start	3,074	3,132	3,193	3,248	3,291
Births	177	180	178	174	172
Deaths	152	149	153	161	171
Natural Change	25	31	25	13	1
Net Migration	33	30	30	30	30
Total Change	58	61	55	43	31
Population at end	3,132	3,193	3,248	3,291	3,321

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

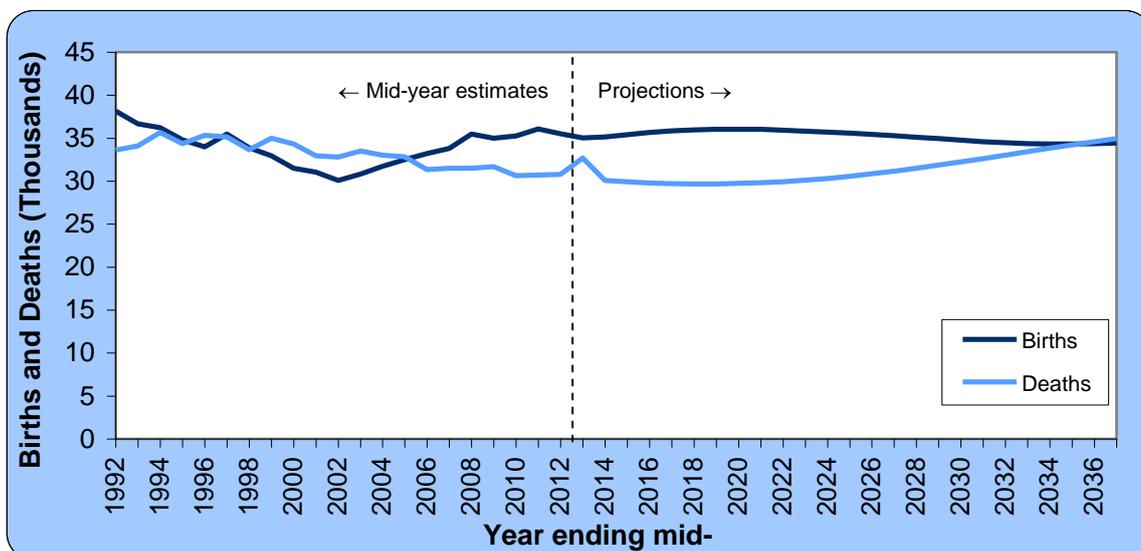
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- Although births are projected to exceed deaths the main driver of population growth in Wales is expected to be net migration.
- Moreover the contribution of natural change to population growth is expected to diminish over time as births are projected to decrease whilst and deaths are projected to increase by 2037.
- For the first five years of the projection period total population change is projected to be around 58,000. It is then expected to increase to around 61,000 overall for the period 2017 to 2022 before decreasing gradually to around 31,000 for 2032 to 2037. This is due to the projected changes in births and deaths from 2022 onwards.

Projected number of births and deaths

Chart 4 shows historical and projected numbers of births and deaths up to 2037.

Chart 4: Estimated and Projected Numbers of Births and Deaths, Wales, 1991 to 2037



Source: Civil Registration and National Population Projections, ONS.

- There were more deaths than births in Wales during the late 1990s and early 2000s. However, in recent years births have exceeded deaths in Wales, reaching a peak of over 36,000 in the year to mid-2011.
- The number of births is expected to recover to around 36,000 in 2018 but then to decrease slowly from 2021 onwards.
- Projected numbers of deaths in Wales are expected to drop below 30,000 per year until 2022, then increase steadily to reach around 35,000 by 2037. The upward trend from 2022 is due to the ageing of large birth cohorts born immediately after World War II and during the 1960s baby boom.
- The peak in deaths shown for year ending mid-2013 is due to the use of actual numbers of births and deaths for the first year of the projection from mid-2012 to mid-2013. This is likely to be due to winter deaths being higher than expected in England and Wales¹.
- Births are projected to exceed deaths each year up until 2035 after which deaths are expected to exceed births. This is due to a decrease in projected fertility rates and an ageing population which in turn leads to more deaths.

¹ See 'Excess winter mortality 2012 to 2013' (ONS, 2013) :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/excess-winter-mortality-2012-to-2013>.

Base population and assumptions used in the projections

The 2012-based national population projections are based on the estimated population at mid-2012 and a set of demographic assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration based on analysis of trends and expert advice.

Base population

The projection is based on the mid-year estimates of population for Wales for 2012 published by the Office for National Statistics on 26 June 2013. These population estimates include all persons usually resident in Wales, whatever their nationality. Members of HM and non-UK armed forces stationed in Wales are included. HM forces stationed outside Wales are excluded. Students are treated as being resident at their term time address. The mid-year estimate of population for Wales for 2012 was 3.074 million.

Fertility Assumptions

Fertility assumptions are formulated in terms of completed family size – the average number of children that women born in particular years will have. The long-term fertility assumption for Wales used in the 2012-based projections is higher than that used in the 2010-based, 2008-based and 2006-based projections. This assumes an average completed family size of 1.90 children per woman. In the short term the fertility assumption for Wales is projected to reach 1.88 in 2015 then stabilise until 2022 before increasing to the long term assumption of 1.90 by 2027.

The short term fertility assumptions are similar to those used in the 2010-based assumptions which assumed that fertility would be higher and stay higher for longer reflecting the relatively high trend in fertility towards the end of the decade 2000 to 2010.

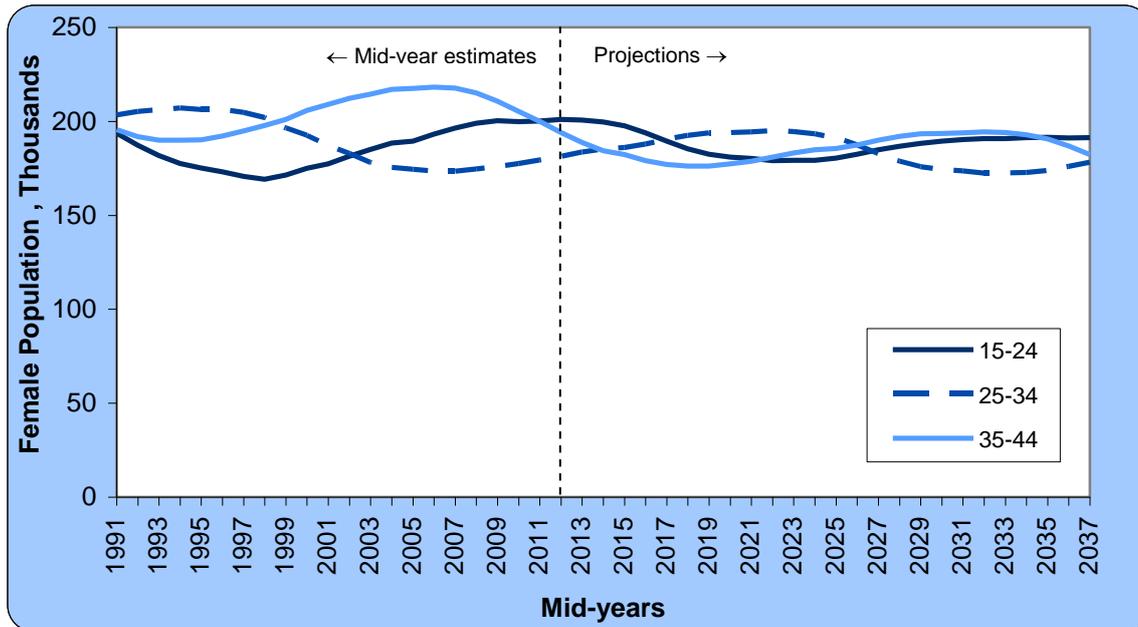
The level of fertility required for the population to replace itself in size, is known as the replacement fertility level (assuming constant mortality rates and zero net migration). The replacement fertility level for UK countries is just under 2.1 children per woman on average. The assumed average completed family size used in the 2012-based projections remains below this level.

Although the assumption for total fertility rate is the same throughout the projection period, fertility rates by individual age are assumed to change throughout the projection period. The projected number of births is dependent on fertility rate assumptions and the projected number of women of child-bearing age. More detail about the fertility assumptions made for Wales and the other constituent countries of the UK is available in the ONS National Population Projections publication (see link at end of this bulletin).

The number of women of childbearing age (15-44 years) decreased from 592,000 in 1991 to 569,000 in 1999 and then gradually increased to around 589,000 in mid-2008 (based on the revised population estimates for 2002 to 2010 published following the results of the 2011 Census). The number of women of childbearing age is projected to decrease from around 576,000 thousand in 2012 to around 552,000 by 2020, before increasing to around 557,000 by 2026.

Chart 5 shows the actual and projected number of women of childbearing age in Wales by broad age group.

Chart 5: Number of women of childbearing age, mid years, 1991 to 2037



Source: Mid-year Estimates and National Population projections, ONS

Mortality Assumptions

For the 2012-based national population projections, projected life expectancy at birth for the year to mid-2037 (25 years ahead) is assumed to be 83.6 years for males and 86.9 years for females.

The principal projections assume that over the first 25 years of the projection period (by 2037) the annual rates of mortality improvement will converge to a common rate of 1.2 per cent a year for those born in 1939 or after, with those born in the years 1925 to 1938 assumed to experience higher rates of improvement. Overall these are the same assumptions for the rates of mortality improvement in the target year as those used in the 2010-based projections (where the target year was 2035).

Migration Assumptions

Population increases in Wales over the last twenty years have been increasingly driven by net migration from the rest of the UK and abroad. However, the inflow and outflow of migrants fluctuates from year to year making it difficult to project the number of migrants in the future. Long-term migration assumptions are based on recent trends.

In the 2012-based national population projections, the long-term assumption for net migration is an average inflow of 6,000 people per year. This includes an average annual net cross-border (within UK) in-migration assumption of 3,000 and an average annual net international in-migration assumption of 3,000. The assumed level of annual net migration to Wales for the 2012-based projections is 4,000 lower than the long-term assumption used for the 2010-based projections which was a net annual inflow of 10,000 people. This change reflects the most recent trends in both estimated international and cross-border migration.

Variant Projections

The principal projections provide a consistent starting point. The projections are based on assumptions considered to best reflect demographic patterns at the time they are adopted.

However, projections are uncertain and become increasingly so the further they are carried forward in time. Many users will need to take into account the consequences of future experience differing from the assumptions made and to help users the ONS publishes a selection of 'variant' projections. These variant projections are based on plausible alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. These variant projections are intended to provide an indication of uncertainty; they do not represent upper or lower limits of future demographic behaviour.

Six 'single component' variant projections are made available by ONS, where only one component of population change is varied from the principal assumptions. In addition three further variant projections are also available

- The 'high population' variant which assumes a combination of high fertility, high life expectancy and high migration;
- The 'low population' variant which assumes a combination of low fertility, low life expectancy and low migration; and
- The 'zero migration' (or 'natural change only') variant which assumes the same levels of fertility and life expectancy as the principal population, but that there will be zero net migration (that is, migration inflows and outflows are exactly equal at every age)

Summary information on the assumptions used for high and low variant projections is available in the Key Quality information of this bulletin. Further information on all the variant projections available for Wales can be found on the ONS website.

Table 5: Projected Population 2037 and Percentage Change in Population, 2012-2037, Wales, by Variant

Projection	<i>Thousands and Percent</i>	
	Population at 2037	Percentage change 2012-2037
Principal	3,321	8.0
High Population Variant	3,577	16.4
Low Population Variant	3,077	0.1
Natural Change Variant	3,148	2.4

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

By varying the assumption to their high and low values, all the resulting project population would result in an increasing population to 2037. However the rate of increase varies depending on the assumptions made.

- Based on the 'high population' variant projection the population of Wales is expected to grow by 503,000 or 16.4 per cent by 2037 (256,000 more than the principal projection).
- Based on the 'low population' variant projection the population of Wales is expected to grow by around 3,000 or 0.1 per cent (81,000) by 2037 (244,000 lower than the principal projection).
- The zero migration variant projections suggests that based on natural change only the population of Wales to grow by around 74,000 or 2.4 per cent by 2037 (173,000 lower than the principal projection).

Key Quality Information

Relevance

The primary purpose of the national population projections is to provide an estimate of the future population of the UK and its constituent countries which is used as a common framework for national planning in a number of different fields, such as education and health

They form part of the suite of population and migration statistics available which are important for policy development, and planning and providing public services. There is a high demand for population and migration statistics for a variety of uses. Some of these include:

- Planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, e.g. schools, health and social services provision.
- As part of the Local Government Finance revenue settlement.
- Policy development,
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond.
- For the calculation of further statistics e.g. Spatial Plan Areas, Housing Estimates and (household and population) Projections.
- As denominators in rates (e.g. birth rates).
- For the purposes of weighting surveys.
- Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking.
- Analysis of population cohorts and migration trends.

There is a wide variety of users of population data from national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, other government departments, students, academics and universities, individual citizens and private companies.

Data Source

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces national population projections for Wales, and the other UK countries.

Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends and expert advice. Projections only indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. They are not forecasts and projections done in this way do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors may have on demographic behaviour, for example government policies on migration and student fees.

The full 2012-based National Population Projections for the UK and constituent countries including principal and all variant projections are available on the ONS website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/index.html

Base Population

These population projections are based on the 2012 mid-year population estimates which were published on the 26 June 2013. Mid-year population estimates are annual estimates of the usually resident population of each area and are available for Wales on the StatsWales website:

[StatsWales - Mid-year population estimates](http://www.statswales.gov.uk/mid-year-population-estimates)

Information on the methodology used to produce the mid-year estimates is available from the Office for National Statistics.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/quality-and-methodology-information-for-mid-year-population-estimates.pdf>

Revisions and changes

These 2012-based population projections replace the 2010-based population projections and take account of the most recent data on which to base trends. There have been no revisions made to the figures contained in this bulletin.

Principal and Variant Assumptions

Assumptions for the principal projections are explained within the bulletin. 2012-based variant projections are produced based on different combinations of alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. Details of the variant projections and the assumptions are available on the ONS website (see link below). The key assumptions for variant projections are explained below.

Fertility: compared with the principal assumptions, the high and low fertility variants assume long-term family sizes of 0.2 children per woman higher or lower (that is, 2.10 and 1.70 for Wales).

Mortality: compared to the principal assumptions, the high and low life expectancy variants assume annual rates of mortality improvement from 2037 to be 1.2 per cent higher or lower (that is, 2.4 per cent and 0.0 per cent for most ages). Thus the variant projections assume life expectancy at birth in 2037 to be 2.2 years higher or lower for males and 2.0 years higher or lower for females.

Migration: compared to the principal assumptions, the high and low migration variants assume long-term annual net migration to Wales to be 4,500 higher or lower (that is, 10,500 and 1,500).

Methodology and Quality

Further information on the statistical outputs relating to population and household statistics for Wales produced by the Welsh Government is given in the Population and Household Statistics Quality Report. [Welsh Government | Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#)

Full details of methodology and issues relating to data quality of the population projections are available in the ONS summary quality report for National Population Projections <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-national-population-projections.pdf>

Each element of the projections, fertility, migration and mortality, is considered carefully to try to ensure that the best possible assumption is made, however it is impossible to quantify, at the time of their publication, how accurate the most recent population projections will prove to be. Changes in the economy, in individual, family and household behaviour and events outside the UK will occur and will influence the three main components of population change. Possible effects of this uncertainty are shown by producing both a principal projection and a number of variant projections. These variants give alternative plausible scenarios according to high or low assumptions about the trajectories of fertility, migration and mortality; they can also be combined to see the effect on the projections of, for example, a 'young' population assumption (high fertility, high migration and low life expectancy assumptions). The variant projection results are also made available on the National Population Projections page on the ONS website.

Frequency

The ONS generally produce 'full' population projections by age and sex for the United Kingdom and constituent countries every two years. These 'full' projections are based on a review of all the underlying assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and net migration. Following a census of population ONS may produce an interim set of projections, with a base population that takes account of the latest census results, prior to the next full set of projections. An interim set of 2011-based projections was prepared on this basis, and published for England only, prior to the 2012-based UK projections being produced.

Comparability

Previous Projections

This bulletin uses the age groups under 16, 16-64 and 65+ to analysis population change by age. Up until the 2008-based projections the bulletin for the projections presented information on 'working age' and 'pensionable age'. The format used for the 2010-based projections onward is intended to be consistent with the tables presented in the most recent annual publication 'Wales's Population: a demographic overview' and in use in Labour market statistics. However a summary analysis of the 'working age' and 'pensionable age' groups is provided in Annex A.

Local Authority Population Projections

Population projections for the local authorities in Wales are produced by the Welsh Government. Generally these are produced every two years after the national projections have been produced. However these are not constrained to the National Population Projections. Consequently the figures shown for Wales will not equal the sum of the results for the 22 local authorities in Wales shown in the Local Authority Population Projections. Also the latest set of Local Authority Population Projections are 2011-based projections. These were published in July 2013 and are available via the Welsh Government website:

[Welsh Government | Local Authority population projections](#)

Related outputs across the UK

Projections for Wales and the other parts of the UK along with longer term projections, variant projections and further detailed information is available on the ONS website

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/index.html

National Records Scotland (NRS) publish population projections for Scotland on their website

[General Register Office for Scotland - Population Projections - Population Projections Scotland](#)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency publish a summary of population projections for Northern Ireland on their website

[NISRA - Demography](#)

Further Information

Population projections for Wales by age and gender for the first twenty-five years of the projection period (2012 to 2037) are available on the StatsWales website:

www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

Feedback

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments on the content or format of this statistical bulletin please complete our [feedback form](#).

Alternatively, to provide feedback and for general queries, please contact:

stats.popcensus@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Annex A – Projected populations of working age and state pension age

Table A shows the projected population of working age or state pension age. The projections are based on current legislation on state pension age (Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2007) under which state pension age will (i) change from 65 years for men and 60 years for women to 65 years for both sexes by 2020 and then (ii) increase in three stages to 68 years for both sexes between 2024 and 2046. They do not take account of proposed further changes to the state pension age published by the UK Government which are not yet law.

Table A: Projected Population by working and pension age, Wales, selected years.

	<i>thousands</i>					
	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
Children(a)	557	561	581	581	578	570
Working age	1,854	1,903	1,948	1,943	1,921	1,952
Pension age	663	668	665	725	791	799
All ages	3,074	3,132	3,193	3,248	3,291	3,321
	<i>Per cent</i>					
	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
Children (a)	18.1	17.9	18.2	17.9	17.6	17.2
Working age	60.3	60.8	61.0	59.8	58.4	58.8
Pension age	21.6	21.3	20.8	22.3	24.0	24.1

(a) Children aged under 16

Pension age refers to the state pensionable age population (people old enough to receive the state pension). The working age refers to people age 16 to the state pensionable age. The changes in state pension age throughout the period means that the growth in the pension age population is projected to be significantly less than the growth in the population aged 65 and over. The pension age population is projected to increase by 20 per cent between 2012 and 2037, while the population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 50 per cent over the same period.

Annex B - Comparison of 2010-based and 2012-based principal population projections for Wales

Table B compares the 2012-based population projected with the previously published 2010-based population projections over the period 2012 to 2037.

Table B: Comparison of the 2010-based and 2012-based principal population projections for Wales, for selected years

	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037
2010-based	3,032	3,118	3,204	3,277	3,337	3,389
2012-based	3,074	3,132	3,193	3,248	3,291	3,321
Difference (2012-based minus 2010-based)	42	13	-10	-29	-47	-67
Percentage Difference	1.4	0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-1.4	-2.0

The two sets of projections give slightly different projected population figures for Wales. The 2012-based projected population for Wales is higher than that based on the 2010-based for the years up to 2018. Thereafter population growth is lower than that projected in the 2010-based projections so that by 2037 projected population is 67,000 or 2 per cent lower than the 2010-based projection for that year. This may possibly be due to the results of the 2011 Census being built into the population base and the different long term migration assumptions used for the two sets of projections.

Long term assumptions for the 2012-based projections assume a slightly higher long term completed family size than in the 2010-based projections (1.90 instead of 1.85), a slightly higher expectation of life at birth in 2037 (83.6 year for males compared to 83.1; 86.90 years compared to 86.85 for females) and a long term assumption of 6,000 annual net inward migration compared to 10,000.