

Demography newsletter Welsh Government, September 2019

Population estimates for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2018

The 2018 mid-year estimates of the population for UK countries were published on 26 June 2019 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The [2018 mid-year estimate of the population of Wales](#) was 3,139,000; an increase of 0.4 per cent (13,500) on the mid-2017 estimate. There were estimated to be more people aged 65 and over living in Wales (652,000) than children aged 0 to 15 (563,000).

The [2018 mid-year estimate of the UK population](#) was 66,436,000; an increase of 0.6 per cent compared with the mid-2017 estimate (this growth rate is the lowest since mid-2004).

For the fifth year in a row, net migration (275,000) was a bigger driver of population change than natural change (121,000). In the year to mid-2018, international migration increased while there was a decrease in natural change in the population (the balance between births and deaths).

Data is available via [StatsWales](#) by administrative area, single year of age, sex and components of population change, including internal migration.

2017-based subnational population projections for Wales

The [2017-based subnational population projections](#) for Wales, due to be published in August 2019, have now been postponed due to a delay in receiving some of the data required to calculate the projections. They will now be published in the autumn 2019. A firm date will be pre-announced as soon as possible, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics

2018-based national population projections for the UK

The [2018-based national population projections for the UK](#) are due to be published on 21 October 2019.

Long-term international migration

On 21 August 2019, the ONS published the latest findings of their [research into the coherence of migration data sources, including the International Passenger Survey](#) (IPS) and Annual Population Survey (APS), alongside other administrative data sources. Based on these findings, they have made preliminary adjustments to the headline measures in the

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR) to provide the best possible assessment of migration trends. While the ONS goes through its transformation journey, they have sought to re-classify their migration statistics as *experimental statistics*, to support this period of development and innovation, in line with guidance from the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#).

On 22 August, the ONS published its latest [MSQR](#), for the year ending March 2019. It brings together statistics on migration that are published by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions and the ONS.

The ONS has also published a series of releases related to migration statistics as part of its transformation programme for the population and migration statistics system.

- [Transformation of the population and migration statistics system: overview](#)
- [International migration and the health care workforce](#)
- [Migrant labour force within the tourism industry](#)
- [Short-Term International Migration for England and Wales: year ending June 2017](#)

Welsh language data

[Headline results](#), from the 2018-19 National Survey for Wales, containing [data on the Welsh language](#) were published on 18 June 2019.

On 20 June, the [Annual Population Survey \(APS\)](#) results on the Welsh language for the year from April 2018 to March 2019 were published on our website.

The 2019-21 Welsh Language Use Survey is currently underway. The interim results for the first 9 months of fieldwork will be available in autumn 2020.

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