

Demography newsletter Welsh Government, June 2020

2018-based national population projections

On Monday 18 May 2020, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued a notice on its website informing users that they had identified an error affecting the 2018-based national population projections. They issued [an update on Friday 22 May detailing that the error was caused by incorrect processing of cross-border flows between Wales and England](#), resulting in the projected mid-2028 population for Wales being approximately 65,000 too low, and that for England being approximately 65,000 too high.

The ONS will be publishing corrected projections for Wales by Thursday 11 June, and will publish the full replacement summary tables by the end of June.

Having consulted with our expert group about the implications for our statistical products that are based on the 2018-based national population projections, we have decided to withdraw the following outputs for Wales as they are not currently fit for purpose and are misleading to users of Welsh data.

[2018-based national population projections](#)

[2018-based local authority population projections](#)

[2018-based local authority household projections](#)

This includes removing the corresponding data sets from [StatsWales](#).

We will provide further details of our plans to replace these products as soon as possible.

If you are currently using any of these products and would like further advice, please contact us: stats.popcensus@gov.wales.

Population estimates for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2019

The 2019 mid-year estimates of the population for UK countries were published on 6 May 2020 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

To help with analysis of the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the UK population, the ONS has published a provisional set of population estimates for mid-2019. This report is by necessity a subset of the information they regularly publish in June, focusing primarily on the size, age structure and geography of the UK population.

Information of the components (drivers) of population change in each local area will be published in June.

Any changes to the population estimates between now and June are likely to be minor, but it is possible that the estimates released in June 2020 will differ slightly from those published here.

The [2019 mid-year estimate of the population of Wales](#) was 3,153,000; an increase of 0.5 per cent (14,200) on the mid-2018 estimate. There were estimated to be more people aged 65 and over living in Wales (662,000) than children aged 0 to 15 (564,000).

People aged 65 or over accounted for just over a fifth (21%) of the total population in Wales in mid-2019, the highest proportion of all UK countries.

The [2019 mid-year estimate of the UK population](#) was 66,797,000; an increase of 0.5 per cent compared with the mid-2018 estimate (this growth rate is the lowest since mid-2004).

[Data is available by administrative area, single year of age and sex.](#)

Electoral Roll Statistics 2019

The Release [Electoral Statistics for the UK: 2019](#) was published by the ONS on 22 May 2020. It gives data on people registered to vote in parliamentary and local government elections as recorded in the electoral registers published on 1 December 2019 (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland).

The total number of parliamentary electors in Wales is 2,313,900; an increase of 3.8% between 2018 and 2019.

The total number of local government electors in Wales is 2,349,400; an increase of 3.7% between 2018 and 2019.

The total number of UK parliamentary electors increased by 1,299,100 (2.8%) between December 2018 and December 2019.

Long-term international migration

On 21 May, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its latest [migration statistics quarterly report](#) (MSQR), for the year ending December 2019. It brings together statistics on migration that are published by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions and the ONS.

In the publication, the ONS has also provided insights on recent travel patterns in the period up to the end of March 2020 in response to the changes in international travel patterns due to the coronavirus pandemic. However this represents all travel movements and not just international migrants. On the 21 May the Home Office published [some information on recent passenger arrivals](#), followed on 28 May 2020 by a [statistical report](#) for the period up to end of April 2020.

The ONS has revised its approach to transforming migration statistics this year because of the current situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The International Passenger Survey (IPS), which underpins the existing international migration statistics, has been suspended. The latest available IPS data cover the vast majority of the year ending March 2020, which they are due to publish in the August MSQR. However, there will be no new IPS data available for inclusion in the November 2020 MSQR. From November 2020 onwards, the ONS plans to move away from the IPS and use administrative data to deliver new measures of migration. The August MSQR will be the last set of migration statistics based on IPS data.

Welsh language

The Welsh Language Use Survey, that was originally planned to run from July 2019 to the end of March 2021 was suspended mid-March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The survey was distributed to Welsh speakers in the National Survey for Wales. The National Survey is now being administered over the telephone. It has therefore been agreed to suspend the Welsh Language Use Survey. The data collected in the first nine months of fieldwork will continue to be analysed and we are planning to publish the results at a national level by the end of the year.

On 31 March, the [Annual Population Survey \(APS\) results on the Welsh language for the year from January 2019 to December 2019](#) were published.

On the 28 April, a report presenting the 2018-19 National Survey for Wales results on [‘Where and when people learned to speak Welsh’](#) was published.

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