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Cyhoeddwyd gan
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Ystadegol
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Parc Cathays
Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

Ffôn
Swyddfa'r Wasg: 029 2089 8559
Ymholiadau
Cyhoeddus: 029 2082 5050

Issued by
Statistical Directorate
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Telephone
Press Office: 029 2089 8559
Public Enquiries: 029 2082 5050

Statistical Directorate Contact
Karen Penn / Richard Matthews
029 2082 6399
demographic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics>

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2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION: NATIONAL PARKS



Since 1801, every 10 years the nation has set aside one day for the Census – a count of all people and households. The Census provides a detailed picture of the entire population. This bulletin describes the characteristics of people who live within the National Parks of Wales.

Background

The 2001 Census of Population produced the first set of census results for National Parks. The decision to show National Parks in the census results separately, was based on the fact that following the Environment Act of 1995, the National Park Authorities (NPAs) were established.

For the first time these were free standing authorities, separated from the county council system which was in place at the time. Each NPA has responsibility for conservation, planning, recreation, management and fostering the social and economic well-being of local authorities.

In Wales there are three National Parks that cover 20 per cent of the country. These are Snowdonia (designated in 1951), Pembrokeshire Coast (1952) and the Brecon Beacons (1957).

This bulletin provides an overview of the age structure, Welsh language, country of birth, health, ethnic group, household composition, housing, economic activity, travel to work and education characteristics of people within the National Parks.

Key points

- Of the National Parks, the most populous is the Brecon Beacons. It also has the highest percentage of its population that were born in Wales.
- People in the National Parks generally have a higher level of qualification than in Wales as a whole.
- The Pembrokeshire Coast has the highest percentage of both people who are self employed and people who work mainly from home.
- Snowdonia and the Pembrokeshire Coast have high percentages of household spaces which are holiday homes.

Age structure

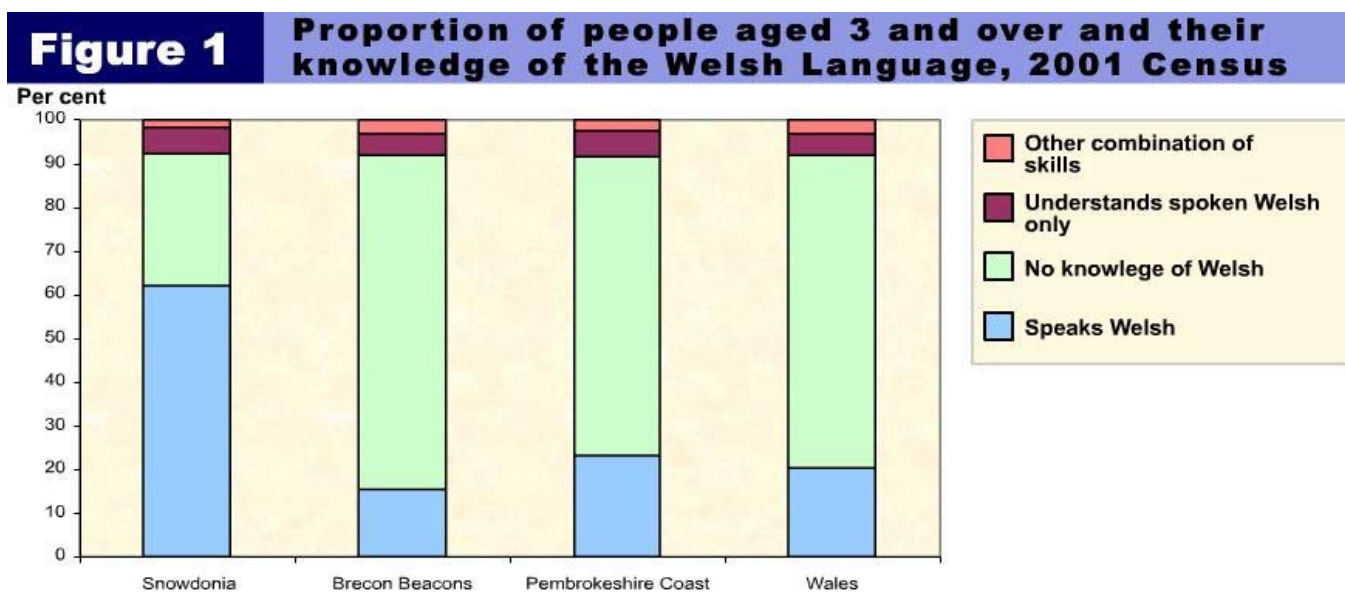
- The most populous National Park in Wales is the Brecon Beacons (32,600 people). This is followed by Snowdonia (25,500 people) and the Pembrokeshire Coast (22,500 people).
- The Pembrokeshire Coast has a higher percentage of people aged 65 or over (22.4 per cent) than in Wales as a whole (17.4 per cent) or the other National Parks.
- The National Parks have a lower percentage of people aged under 16 compared to all the local authority areas in Wales, apart from Ceredigion (17 per cent).
- The average age of residents in the National Parks is appreciably higher than the national average of 39.5 years. The highest average age is in the Pembrokeshire Coast (43.7 years) and the lowest in the Brecon Beacons (42.3 years).

	All people Thousands	Percentage					Age	
		Under 16	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Average	Median
Snowdonia	25.5	17.9	8.1	23.5	29.2	21.2	43.2	45
Brecon Beacons	32.6	18.4	8.3	24.3	29.3	19.8	42.3	44
Pembrokeshire Coast	22.5	17.9	8.5	21.3	30.0	22.4	43.7	46
Wales	2,903.1	20.2	10.9	26.6	24.9	17.4	39.5	39

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS02

Welsh language

- 62.1 per cent of people aged three or over in Snowdonia stated that they spoke at least some Welsh. In the Pembrokeshire Coast the percentage was 23.3 per cent. Both were higher than the national average of 20.5 per cent and the Brecon Beacons percentage of 15.5 per cent.
- 71.6 per cent of all people aged three or over in Wales stated that they had no knowledge of Welsh. Brecon Beacons was the only National Park that had a percentage higher than the national average (76.3 per cent).



Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS25

Country of birth

- Of the National Parks, the Brecon Beacons has the highest percentage of its resident population born in Wales, with 66.7 per cent. The Pembrokeshire Coast with 61.7 per cent has the lowest percentage.
- All three National Parks have a much higher percentage of their resident population that were born in England than the national average. In Snowdonia, 34.1 per cent of the population were born in England, in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, 33.4 per cent and in the Brecon Beacons, 28.1 per cent. The national average is just 20.3 per cent.

	Residents Thousands	Percentage of people born in:				
		Wales	England	Scotland	N.Ireland	Rest of World
Snowdonia	25.4	62.6	34.1	0.8	0.3	2.3
Brecon Beacons	32.6	66.7	28.1	1.2	0.4	3.7
Pembrokeshire Coast	22.5	61.7	33.4	1.1	0.3	3.5
Wales	2,903.1	75.4	20.3	0.8	0.3	3.2

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS05

Health

- The proportion of people with limiting long-term illness is slightly lower in each of the three National Parks than the national average of 23.3 per cent. The percentage ranged from 20.3 per cent in Snowdonia to 22.2 per cent in the Pembrokeshire Coast.
- All three National Parks have a somewhat higher percentage of people stating their general health was good than the national average of 65.1 per cent with Snowdonia being the highest (69.5 per cent).

	All people Thousands	Limiting long-term illness* Per cent	General Health		
			Fairly Good Per cent	Good Per cent	Not good Per cent
Snowdonia NP	25.4	20.3	21.7	69.5	8.8
Brecon Beacons NP	32.6	21.1	22.3	66.5	11.2
Pembrokeshire Coast NP	22.5	22.2	22.9	66.7	10.4
Wales	2,903.1	23.3	22.5	65.1	12.5

* Limiting long-term illness covers any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities at work.

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS08

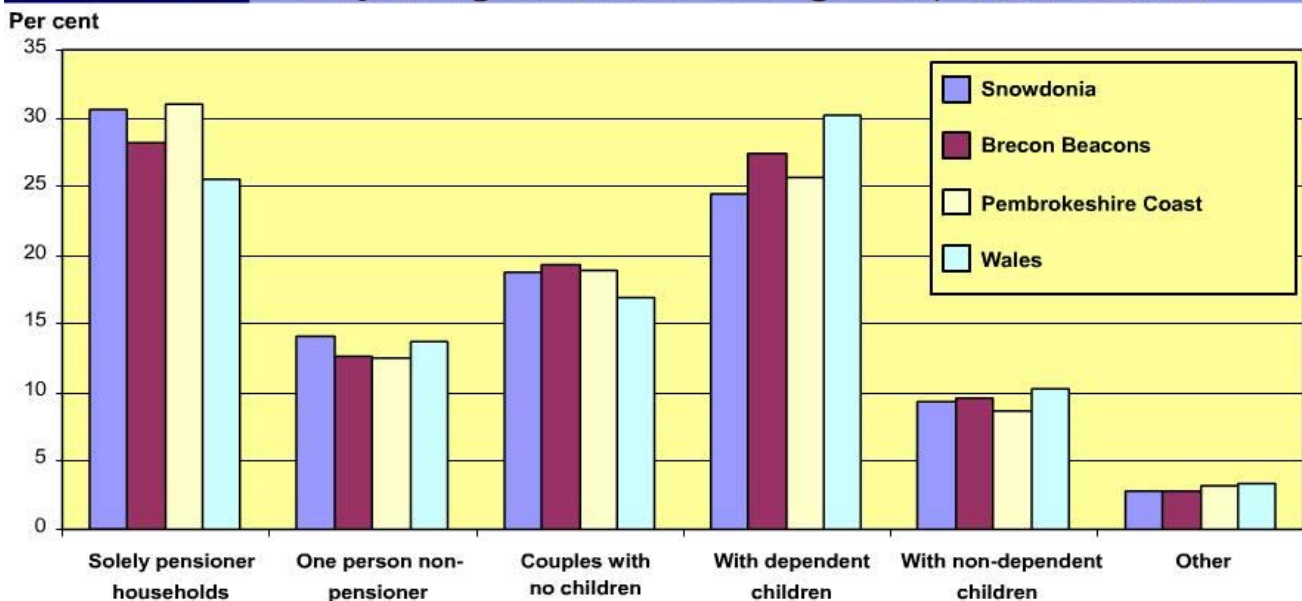
Ethnic group

- The Brecon Beacons National Park has the highest percentage of people of a non-white minority background (1.4 per cent) whilst Snowdonia has the lowest proportion of people who stated their ethnic background as non-white (0.7 per cent); the national percentage in Wales is 2.1 per cent.

Household composition

- There are markedly higher percentages of solely pensioner households in the National Parks compared to the national average. The highest percentage is in the Pembrokeshire Coast with 31.0 per cent. The percentage for the whole of Wales stands at 25.6 per cent.
- There is a lower percentage of households comprising of married couples, cohabiting couples or lone parents with dependent children in each of the National Parks than in Wales as a whole (30.2 per cent). The lowest percentage is in Snowdonia (24.5 per cent) the highest in the Brecon Beacons (27.5 per cent). However, there is a higher percentage of couples with no children in the National Parks than in Wales as a whole.

Figure 2 Household composition; percentage of households comprising of various categories, 2001 Census



Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics Table 20

Housing

- In the Pembrokeshire Coast (16.8 per cent) and Snowdonia (13.7 per cent) there are significantly higher percentages of household spaces that have no residents which are classified as second residence or holiday homes. The percentage is much lower in the Brecon Beacons (2.4 per cent) and Wales (1.2 per cent).

Table 4 Household spaces; percentage of households that have residents, vacant and are classed as a second residence, 2001 Census

	Household spaces Thousands	Percentage of household spaces that are:		
		With residents	Vacant	Second residence / holiday home
Snowdonia	14.0	80.2	6.1	13.7
Brecon Beacons	14.7	93.9	4.0	2.4
Pembrokeshire Coast	12.9	76.6	4.7	16.8
Wales	1,275.8	94.8	4.0	1.2

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS16

Economically active

- Of the 58,000 people aged 16-74 living in Wales' three National Parks, 63.1 per cent are economically active. The Brecon Beacons had the highest percentage (65.2 per cent), followed by Snowdonia (63.3 per cent) and the Pembrokeshire Coast (59.8 per cent). The percentage for Wales as a whole is 61 per cent.

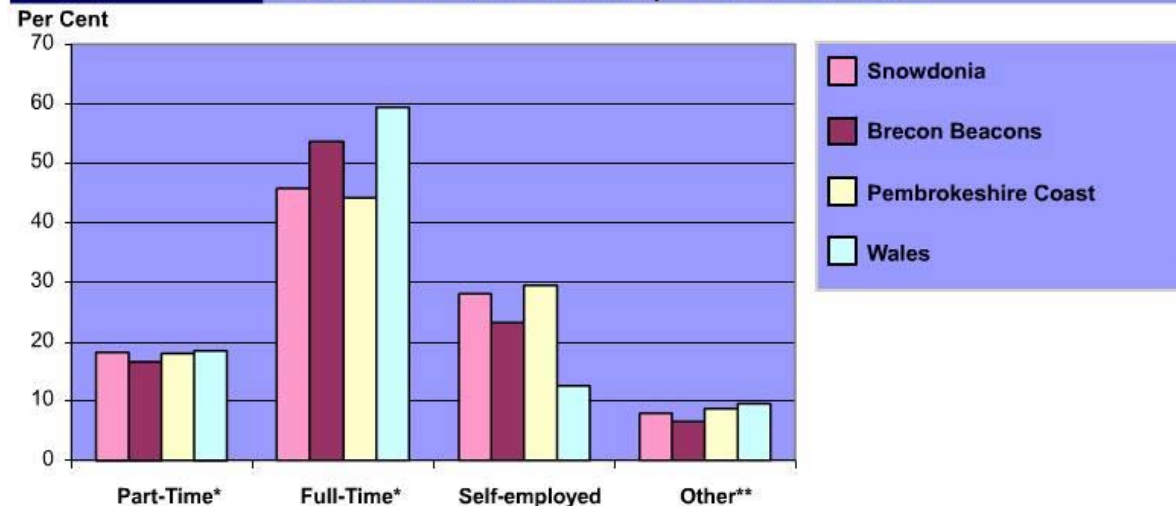
	Residents	Economically active	
	Thousands	Thousands	Per Cent
Snowdonia	18.4	11.6	63.3
Brecon Beacons	23.5	15.3	65.2
Pembrokeshire Coast	16.1	9.6	59.8
Wales	2,075.3	1,265.5	61.0

* Economically Active includes all people who are working a week before the Census; people who were not working but were looking for work and were available to start within 2 weeks; and full-time students.

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS09

- The percentage of full-time employees in Wales is 59.3 per cent. However, this is considerably lower within the National Parks - 53.6 per cent for the Brecon Beacons, 45.8 per cent for Snowdonia and only 44.0 per cent for the Pembrokeshire Coast.
- There is a higher percentage of people who are self-employed within the National Parks compared to Wales as a whole. The highest is in the Pembrokeshire Coast with 29.5 per cent, the lowest being the Brecon Beacons at 23.3 per cent. The percentage in Wales stands at 12.6 per cent.

Figure 3 Economically active; employment status by area of residence, 2001 Census



* Part-time is classed as working 30 hours or less per week, full-time is working 31 hours or more per week.

** Other includes people who are not working but were looking for work and available to start within 2 weeks; and full-time students.

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics Table 07

Economically inactive

- The National Parks contain a high percentage of economically inactive retired people - 49.6 per cent in Snowdonia, 47.1 per cent in the Pembrokeshire Coast and 46 per cent in the Brecon Beacons. The percentage for Wales is 38 per cent.
- The lowest percentage of permanently sick and disabled people is in the Snowdonia National Park (16 per cent). For Wales the percentage is considerably higher at 23.6 per cent.

	Economically inactive*; reasons for being economically active, 2001 Census.					
	Economically inactive	Retired	Student	Looking after home/family	Permanently sick/disabled	Other
	Thousands	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Snowdonia	6.8	49.6	10.3	15.8	16.0	8.4
Brecon Beacons	8.2	46.0	12.4	14.9	19.4	7.3
Pembrokeshire Coast	6.5	47.1	10.0	17.2	18.4	7.4
Wales	809.9	38.0	13.1	16.4	23.6	8.9

* A person who is looking for work but is not available to start within 2 weeks is counted as economically inactive.

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS09

Travel to work

- A considerably higher percentage of people work mainly from home within the National Parks than in the whole of Wales (9.7 per cent). 22.3 per cent of people stated they work mainly from home in the Pembrokeshire Coast, 22.1 per cent in Snowdonia and 18.0 per cent in the Brecon Beacons.
- The percentage of people who use public transport to travel to work is a lot less in the National Parks compared to Wales as a whole. The highest percentage among the National Parks is in Snowdonia with 2.7 per cent whilst throughout Wales 6.5 per cent use public transport.

	Travel to work; method of travelling to/from work, 2001 Census.					
	All people aged 16-74 in employment	Works mainly from home	* Private Transport	** Public Transport	Bicycle or on foot	*** Other
	Thousands	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Snowdonia	14.6	22.1	60.4	2.7	14.0	0.7
Brecon Beacons	9.0	18.0	66.0	1.7	13.6	0.6
Pembrokeshire Coast	10.9	22.3	60.1	2.6	14.1	1.0
Wales	1,186.3	9.7	71.5	6.5	11.7	0.5

* Includes motorcycle, scooter or moped, car, van or cab.

** Includes underground, metro, light rail, tram or train, bus, mini bus or coach.

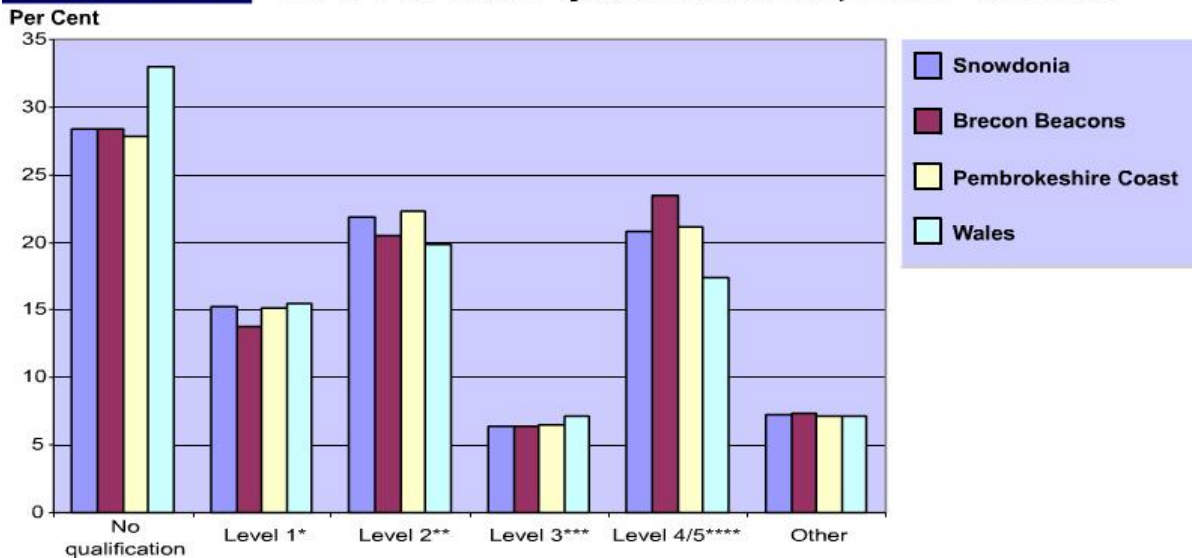
*** 'Other' includes no fixed place of work, working at offshore installation and working outside the UK.

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics table KS15

Qualifications

- There are higher percentages of people in the National Parks with the highest level of qualification than in the whole of Wales. In the Brecon Beacons 23.5 per cent have a level 4/5 qualification whereas in Wales only 17.4 per cent have similar qualifications.
- The percentage of people with no qualifications is lower in the National Parks than in Wales as a whole. In Wales there are 33.0 per cent of people with no qualifications, whilst in the Pembrokeshire Coast there are 27.8 per cent.

Figure 4 Qualifications; percentage of people aged 16-74 & their qualifications, 2001 Census



* 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ

** 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSE (grade 1's), 5+ GCSE (grades A-C), School certificate, 1+ 'A' Level/ 'AS' level, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ

*** 2+ 'A' Level, 4+ 'AS' level, Higher school certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ

**** First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, Qualified teacher status, Qualified medical doctor, Qualified dentist, Qualified nurse, Midwife, Health visitor

Source: Office for National Statistics. Census Key Statistics Table 13

National Park areas

Table 8 Extent of the National Parks in each Local Authority in Wales.					
	National Park area (km ²)	Per Cent		National Park area (km ²)	Per Cent
Gwynedd	1,720	41.9	Rhondda Cynon Taff	53	1.3
Conwy	450	11.0	Merthyr Tydfil	24	0.6
Powys	891	21.7	Blaenau Gwent	3	0.1
Ceredigion	1	0.0	Torfaen	2	0.0
Pembrokeshire	583	14.2	Monmouthshire	149	3.6
Carmarthenshire	225	5.5	National Park areas supplied by the individual National Park authorities		