

## 2011 Census: First Results on the Welsh Language



The Census was held on 27 March 2011, and is a key source of information on the Welsh language. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the Census in Wales and England.

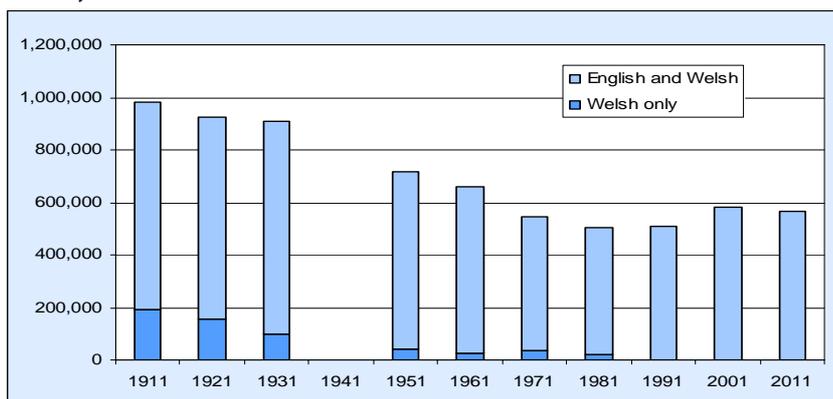
The 2011 Census question asked 'Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?' – answered by ticking one or more of five boxes (one for each category and one for 'None of these') in any combination. This question was only asked in Wales, and results are presented for those aged 3 and over. The Census did not collect information on fluency levels or on frequency of use.

### Key Results

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the number and proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh in Wales. The decrease was due to demographic changes in the population (including fewer children, more older adults and the loss of older cohorts with higher levels of Welsh speakers), migration and changes to people's skills between Censuses.

- The proportion of people able to speak Welsh decreased from 20.8 per cent in 2001 to 19.0 per cent in 2011. Despite an increase in the size of the population, the number of Welsh speakers decreased from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000 in 2011.
- Although lower than 2001, the proportion and number of Welsh speakers in 2011 were higher than the equivalent figures for 1991 (18.7 per cent and 508,000 people)<sup>i</sup>.
- Differences between 2001 and 2011 varied by age group – with considerable increases for younger children (aged 3-4), a slight increase for adults 20-44, and decreases for other age groups.
- The proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh decreased in nearly all local authorities. The largest decreases were in areas with higher proportions of Welsh speakers.
- Nearly three quarters of the population (73.3 per cent) had no Welsh language skills in 2011. This is an increase from 71.6 per cent in 2001.

**Chart 1: Number of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh, 1911-2011**



In 1911, there were almost a million (977,000) Welsh speakers aged 3 and over in Wales. This decreased over the last century reaching a low of 504,000 in 1981. The number of people able to speak Welsh increased between 1981 and 2001, but subsequently decreased between 2001 and 2011. The numbers of people who spoke Welsh only declined over the last century and by 1981 only very small numbers remained.

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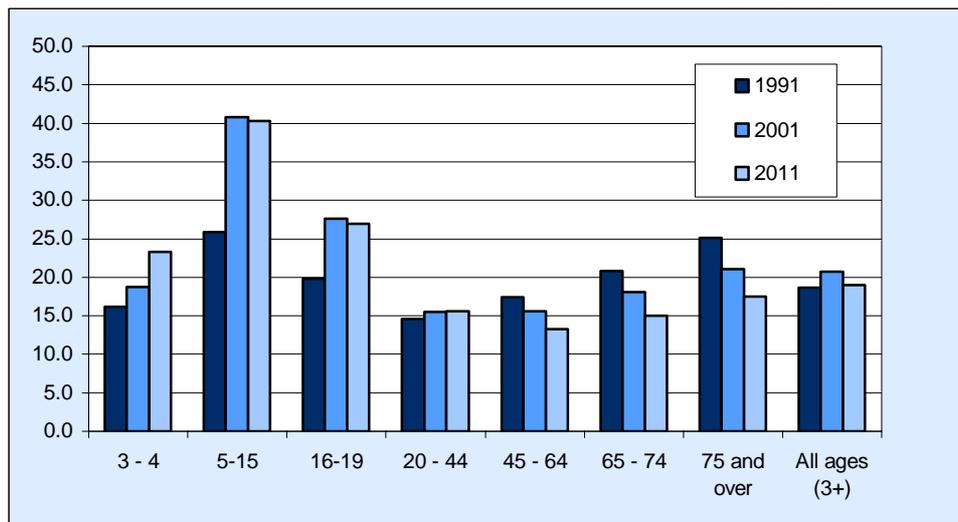
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# Wales - Welsh Language Skills

## Welsh Speakers

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the number and proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh in Wales (see Chart 2 and Table 1). The decrease between 2001 and 2011 was due to demographic changes in the population (including fewer children, more adults and the loss of older cohorts with higher levels of Welsh speakers), the outmigration of Welsh speakers, the in-migration of non-Welsh speakers and changes to people's skills between Censuses (people who stated that they were able to speak Welsh ten years ago, but could no longer do so).

**Chart 2: Proportion of people able to speak Welsh, by age group, 1991-2011**



**Table 1: Number and proportion of people able to speak Welsh, by age group, 2001-2011**

Age group	2001		2011		Difference	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage Point
3 - 4	13,239	18.8	16,495	23.3	3,256	4.6
5-15	171,168	40.8	152,255	40.3	-18,913	-0.5
16-19	40,548	27.6	43,651	27.0	3,103	-0.7
20 - 44	146,227	15.5	150,742	15.6	4,515	0.0
45 - 64	112,742	15.6	107,941	13.3	-4,801	-2.3
65 - 74	47,692	18.1	45,112	15.0	-2,580	-3.0
75 and over	50,752	21.1	45,820	17.5	-4,932	-3.6
<b>All ages</b>	<b>582,368</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>562,016</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>-20,352</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

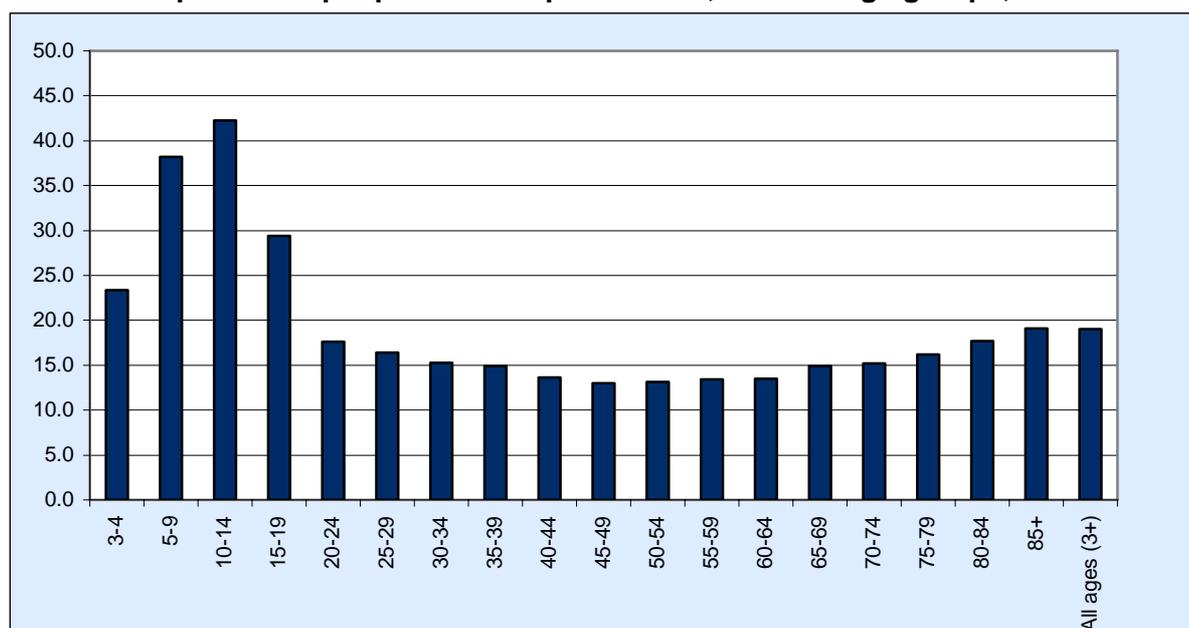
The proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh decreased from 20.8 per cent in 2001 to 19.0 per cent in 2011. Despite an increase in the size of the population, the number of Welsh speakers decreased by around 20,000 from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000 in 2011. Although lower than 2001, the proportion and number of Welsh speakers in 2011 were higher than the equivalent figures for 1991 - 18.7 per cent and 508,000 people respectively<sup>ii</sup>.

- The proportion of children aged 3-4 able to speak Welsh increased considerably from 18.8 per cent in 2001 to 23.3 per cent in 2011 (resulting in 3,300 more 3-4 year olds able to speak Welsh in 2011). The proportion of children aged 5-15 able to speak Welsh in 2011 (40.3 per cent) was lower than the equivalent figure for 2001 (40.8 per cent). There were 41,300 fewer children aged 5-15 in 2011 than in 2001, and the number of children able to speak Welsh decreased by 18,900 from 171,200 to 152,300.

- The proportion of people aged 20-44 able to speak Welsh increased very slightly between 2001 and 2011 (15.5 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively).
- The number and proportion of people able to speak Welsh for the 45-64, 65-74 and 75 and over age categories decreased between 2001 and 2011 with a larger decrease for the older age group.
- The overall number of people aged 45-64 increased by 91,500 over the decade. This coupled with 4,800 fewer Welsh speakers meant that the proportion of 45-64 year olds able to speak Welsh decreased from 15.6 per cent to 13.3 per cent.

It is also possible to consider the proportion of people able to speak Welsh by detailed (quinary) age groups (Chart 3).

**Chart 3: Proportion of people able to speak Welsh, detailed age groups, 2011**



- In 2011, high proportions of people in the younger age groups were able to speak Welsh, with the proportion at its highest for the 10-14 age group (42.2 per cent).
- There was a large downward step in the proportion of people able to speak Welsh between the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups, and again between the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups. Given the equivalent age cohorts ten years previously (i.e 5-9 and 10-14 year olds in 2001) indicated higher levels of people able to speak Welsh, this is likely due to be the impact of migration (see below) or respondents recording different Welsh language skills than they had done in the previous Census.
- The proportion able to speak Welsh gradually decreases with age, and was at its lowest for those aged 45-49 (13.0 per cent). The proportion then increases gradually by age reaching 19.1 per cent for the over 85s.

## Welsh Speakers – Impact of Migration

According to the [First Release of 2011 Census data \(July 2012\)](#)<sup>iii</sup>, the population of Wales increased by 153,300 during the period 2001 to 2011. Migration accounted for over 90 per cent of the population increase - this included both international and within UK migration. Inward migration from other parts of the UK and the world has a significant impact on the proportion able to speak Welsh.

The proportion of the population born outside Wales increased from 25 per cent in 2001 to 27 per cent in 2011. Table S133 from the 2001 Census showed that 86 per cent of the population born outside of

Wales had no ability in Welsh - comparable data for 2011 will be published in a later release, but similar results are likely.

2011 Census results show that there were 507,000 Welsh born people living in England. Of all the Welsh born people living in England and Wales, 18.5 per cent live in England.

The out migration of Welsh speakers also has a significant impact on the number of people able to speak Welsh. Broad estimates of the annual change in the number of fluent Welsh speakers were published as part of the [Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy Evidence Review<sup>iv</sup>](#) in March 2012. This was based on previous work by the Welsh Language Board. The paper suggested that there is likely to be an annual net loss of around 1,200-2,200 fluent Welsh speaker, and this is mostly due to out-migration. Note that these figures do not include non-fluent Welsh speakers. The Census does not collect information on fluency.

The 2011 Census collected information on the Welsh language skills of people living in Wales. Similar information on the Welsh language skills of people living outside Wales (including students who were counted at their term-time address) was not collected. However, a main language question was asked for the first time in the 2011 Census (see Annex). This question captured information on people living in England who regard their main language as Welsh. This did not include information on Welsh speakers living in England who regard their main language as English (expected to be the majority of Welsh speakers living in England). Information on those living in England whose main language is Welsh will be published by the ONS in January 2013.

## Wider Welsh language skills

The proportion of the population aged 3 and over, with Welsh language skills decreased between 2001 and 2011 (Table 2).

**Table 2: Proportion of people (aged 3 and over) with Welsh language skills, 2001-2011**

	2001	2011
Can speak, read and write	16.3	14.6
Can speak and read but cannot write	1.4	1.5
Can speak but cannot read or write	2.8	2.7
Can understand spoken Welsh only	4.9	5.3
Other combination of skills	3.0	2.5
No Skills	71.6	73.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Nearly three quarters of the population aged 3 and over (73.3 per cent) had no Welsh language skills in 2011. This was an increase from 71.6 per cent in 2001.
- The proportion of people able to speak, read and write decreased from 16.3 per cent to 14.6 per cent.
- The proportion of people able to understand spoken Welsh (but not able to speak, read or write) increased slightly from 4.9 per cent in 2001 to 5.3 per cent in 2011.

There was a considerable difference between the Welsh language skills of children and adults (Table 3), with a higher proportion of children possessing Welsh language skills.

**Table 3: Welsh Language skills, by age group, 2011**

Age group	Speaks, reads and writes Welsh	Speaks and reads but does not write Welsh	Speaks but does not read or write Welsh	Understands spoken Welsh only	Other combination of skills in Welsh	No skills in Welsh	Total
3-4	5.4	1.5	16.2	6.4	0.4	70.1	100.0
5-19	29.5	2.1	4.0	5.4	4.3	54.6	100.0
20-44	12.5	1.3	1.7	5.1	2.0	77.4	100.0
45-64	9.9	1.3	2.0	5.7	2.0	79.1	100.0
65-74	11.0	1.7	2.3	5.0	2.7	77.3	100.0
75+	12.6	2.0	2.9	4.9	2.4	75.3	100.0
<b>All (age 3+)</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

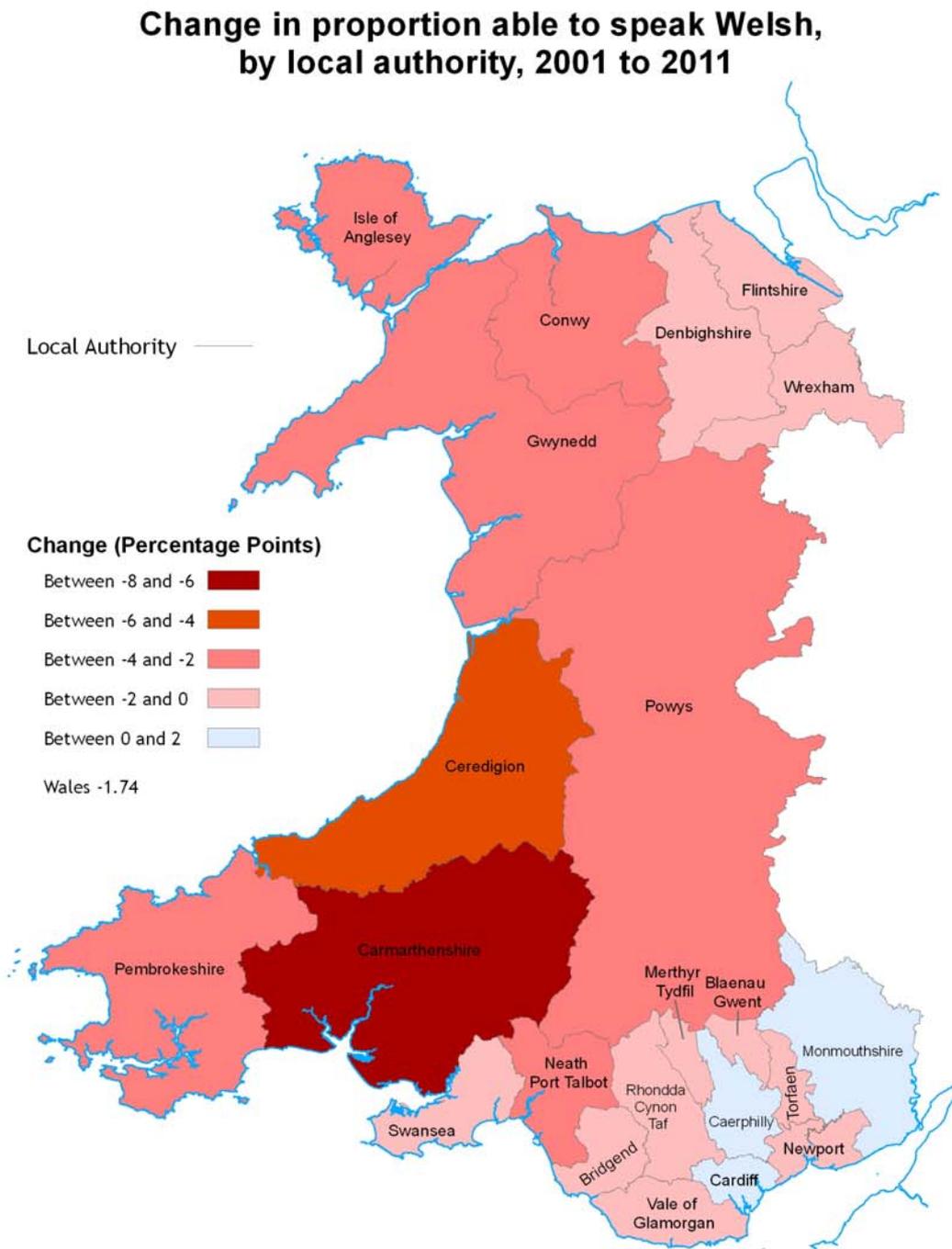
- Nearly three in ten children and young people aged 5-19 (29.5 per cent) were able speak, read and write Welsh. This proportion was at its lowest for adults aged 45-64 (9.9 per cent).
- 5.3 per cent of the population aged 3 and over were able to understand Welsh, but had no additional Welsh skills.
- 73.3 per cent of the population aged 3 and over had no Welsh language skills. This varied from 54.6 per cent of 5-19 year olds to nearly 80 per cent of adults aged 45-64.

# Local Authorities – Welsh Language Skills

## Welsh Speakers

All local authorities apart from Monmouthshire and Cardiff saw a decrease in the proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh (Map 1 and Table 4). The largest percentage point decreases were in areas with higher proportions of Welsh speakers, where there has been a greater loss of older cohorts with large proportions of Welsh speakers.

**Map 1: Change in proportion able to speak Welsh, by local authority, 2001 to 2011 (percentage points)**



Source: 2011 Census

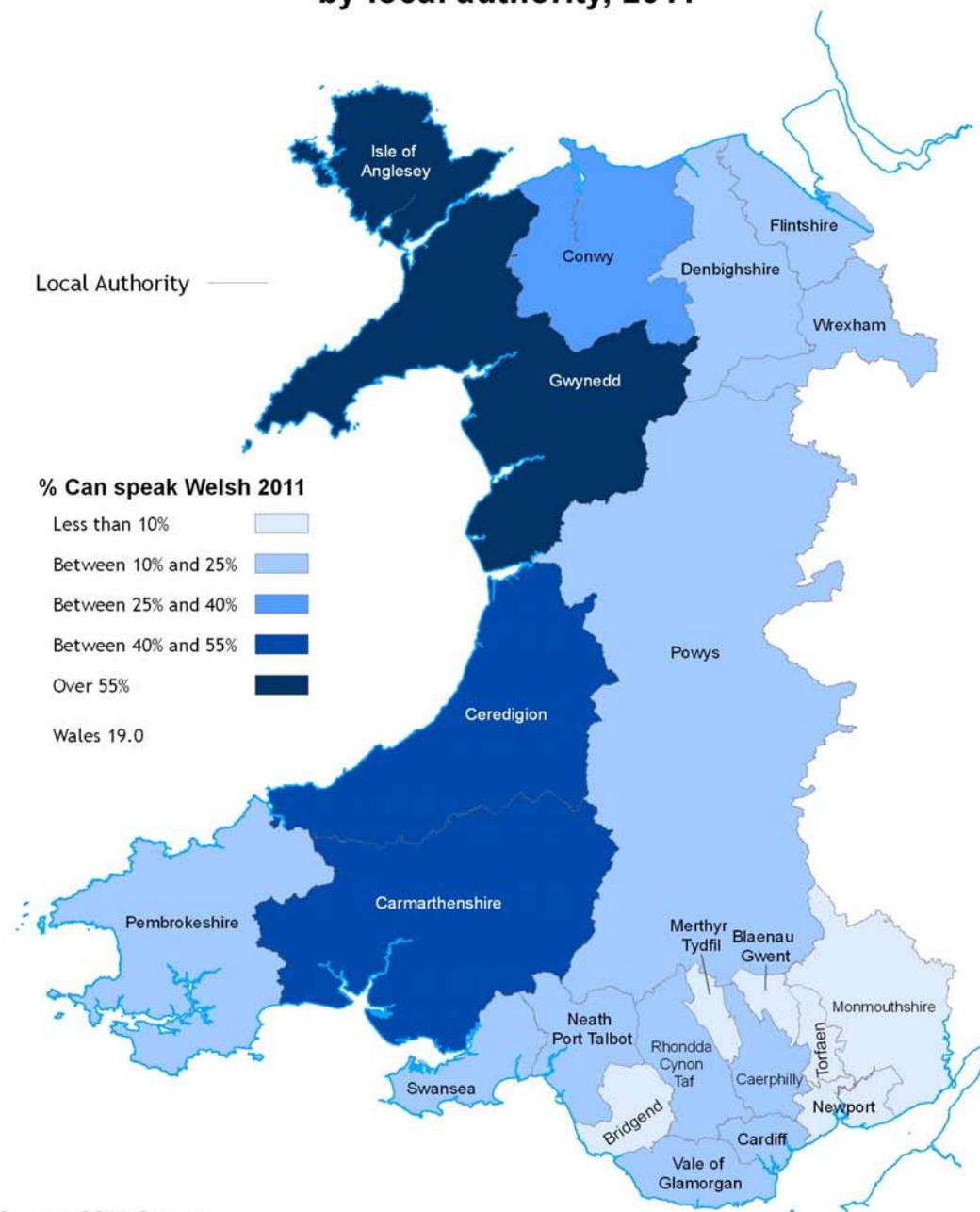
**Table 4: Number and proportion of people (aged 3 and over) able to speak Welsh, by local authority, 2001-2011**

Local Authority	2001		2011		Difference	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage point
Isle of Anglesey	38,893	60.1	38,568	57.2	-325	-2.9
Gwynedd	77,846	69.0	77,000	65.4	-846	-3.6
Conwy	31,298	29.4	30,600	27.4	-698	-2.0
Denbighshire	23,760	26.4	22,236	24.6	-1,524	-1.8
Flintshire	20,599	14.4	19,343	13.2	-1,256	-1.2
Wrexham	18,105	14.6	16,659	12.9	-1,446	-1.7
Powys	25,814	21.1	23,990	18.6	-1,824	-2.5
Ceredigion	37,918	52.0	34,964	47.3	-2,954	-4.7
Pembrokeshire	23,967	21.8	22,786	19.2	-1,181	-2.5
Carmarthenshire	84,196	50.3	78,048	43.9	-6,148	-6.4
Swansea	28,938	13.4	26,332	11.4	-2,606	-2.0
Neath Port Talbot	23,404	18.0	20,698	15.3	-2,706	-2.7
Bridgend	13,397	10.8	13,103	9.7	-294	-1.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	12,994	11.3	13,189	10.8	195	-0.5
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	27,946	12.5	27,779	12.3	-167	-0.2
Merthyr Tydfil	5,532	10.2	5,028	8.9	-504	-1.3
Caerphilly	18,237	11.2	19,251	11.2	1,014	0.0
Blaenau Gwent	6,417	9.5	5,284	7.8	-1,133	-1.6
Torfaen	9,780	11.1	8,641	9.8	-1,139	-1.3
Monmouthshire	7,688	9.3	8,780	9.9	1,092	0.6
Newport	13,135	10.0	13,002	9.3	-133	-0.7
Cardiff	32,504	11.0	36,735	11.1	4,231	0.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>582,368</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>562,016</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>-20,352</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

- Carmarthenshire saw the largest percentage point drop – from 50.3 per cent in 2001 to 43.9 per cent in 2011, meaning that less than half the population could speak Welsh by 2011.
- In addition to Carmarthenshire, other local authorities in the West of Wales (Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot) all saw a decrease of 2 or more percentage points in the proportion of Welsh speakers. They also saw decreases in the numbers of Welsh speakers.
- The decreases in the proportions of people able to speak Welsh were smaller for East Wales authorities.
- The number of people in Cardiff able to speak Welsh increased from 32,500 in 2001 to 36,700 in 2011, but a substantial increase in the overall Cardiff population over the same period meant that the proportion able to speak Welsh remained fairly stable (11.1 per cent in 2011 compared with 11.0 per cent in 2001).
- Caerphilly also saw an increase of around 1,000 in the number of people able to speak Welsh though the proportion remained the same.
- Monmouthshire saw a small increase in the proportion of people able to speak Welsh (from 9.3 per cent in 2001 to 9.9 per cent in 2011).

Map 2: Proportion of people (aged 3 and over) able to speak Welsh, by local authority, 2011

### Proportion of people (aged 3 and over) able to speak Welsh, by local authority, 2011



Source: 2011 Census

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Geography & Technology

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- The proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh in 2011 was at its highest in Gwynedd (65.4 per cent), Isle of Anglesey (57.2 per cent), Ceredigion (47.3 per cent) and Carmarthenshire (43.9 per cent).
- Carmarthenshire remained the local authority with the highest number of Welsh speakers (78,000), though this was now closely followed by Gwynedd (77,000).

The change in the proportion of children aged 3-15 able to speak Welsh between 2001 and 2011 varied across Wales (Table 5).

**Table 5: Change in proportion of people able to speak Welsh, by age group, 2001 to 2011 (percentage point and number)**

Local Authority	Aged 3-15		Aged 16-64		Aged 65+		All ages (3+)	
	Number	Percentage point	Number	Percentage point	Number	Percentage point	Number	Percentage point
Isle of Anglesey	-894	1.3	-309	-2.2	878	-5.0	-325	-2.9
Gwynedd	-1,430	0.5	95	-3.1	489	-5.5	-846	-3.6
Conwy	-482	0.7	-32	-1.6	-184	-3.2	-698	-2.0
Denbighshire	-189	3.2	-779	-1.8	-556	-4.0	-1,524	-1.8
Flintshire	-1,104	-1.5	-27	-0.1	-125	-2.2	-1,256	-1.2
Wrexham	-271	-0.6	-506	-1.0	-669	-4.5	-1,446	-1.7
Powys	-841	-0.9	-526	-1.3	-457	-4.8	-1,824	-2.5
Ceredigion	-1,057	1.1	-1,692	-4.0	-205	-7.6	-2,954	-4.7
Pembrokeshire	-886	-1.6	-299	-1.5	4	-3.4	-1,181	-2.5
Carmarthenshire	-1,012	-0.9	-3,795	-6.2	-1,341	-10.5	-6,148	-6.4
Swansea	-5	1.1	-969	-1.5	-1,632	-4.6	-2,606	-2.0
Neath Port Talbot	-487	0.8	-942	-1.9	-1,277	-6.1	-2,706	-2.7
Bridgend	-265	0.3	555	0.0	-584	-3.6	-294	-1.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	-519	0.3	702	0.3	12	-0.7	195	-0.5
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	-954	1.4	2,093	1.1	-1,306	-3.8	-167	-0.2
Merthyr Tydfil	-501	-1.8	274	0.2	-277	-3.4	-504	-1.3
Caerphilly	-521	0.8	1,705	1.1	-170	-1.0	1,014	0.0
Blaenau Gwent	-1,331	-4.1	267	0.5	-69	-0.7	-1,133	-1.6
Torfaen	-1,713	-4.8	596	0.9	-22	-0.3	-1,139	-1.3
Monmouthshire	40	2.6	1,014	1.6	38	-0.4	1,092	0.6
Newport	-1,165	-1.7	1,181	0.9	-149	-0.8	-133	-0.7
Cardiff	-70	1.3	4,211	0.3	90	0.1	4,231	0.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>-15,657</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-7,512</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-20,352</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

- Apart from Denbighshire which saw a considerable 3.2 percentage point increase in the proportion of children aged 3-15 able to speak Welsh, the proportions generally increased slightly in the North West Wales authorities and in many of the South Wales authorities (most notably in Cardiff, Swansea, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Monmouthshire).
- Other South Wales authorities (including Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Merthyr Tydfil) saw decreases in the proportion of children able to speak Welsh.
- The total number of children aged 3-15 decreased in each authority between 2001 and 2011, and therefore despite the fact that some authorities saw small increases in the proportion of children able to speak Welsh, all authorities (apart from Monmouthshire) saw a decrease in the number of children able to speak Welsh.

For adults aged 16-64:

- All authorities in North, mid and West Wales (to the West of Bridgend) saw a decrease in the proportion of people aged 16-64 able to speak Welsh between 2001 and 2011. This included significant decreases of 6.2 and 4.0 percentage points in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion respectively. On the other hand, all local authorities to the east of Bridgend saw small increases in the proportion of people aged 16-64 able to speak Welsh.

And for older adults (aged 65 and over)

- All local authorities, apart from Cardiff, saw a decrease in the proportion of older people able to speak Welsh. The largest decrease was in Carmarthenshire where the proportion decreased from 59.3 per cent in 2001 to 48.8 per cent in 2011. In Cardiff, the proportion remained similar at around 5 per cent.

## Wider Welsh Language skills

**Table 6: Proportion of people (aged 3 and over) with Welsh Language Skills, by Local Authority, 2011**

Local Authority	Can speak, read and write	Can speak and read but cannot write	Can speak but cannot read or write	Can understand spoken Welsh only	Other combination of skills	No Skills	Total
Isle of Anglesey	45.6	4.3	7.0	10.7	1.9	30.4	100.0
Gwynedd	56.0	3.4	5.8	6.9	1.5	26.5	100.0
Conwy	20.6	2.4	4.1	9.5	2.7	60.6	100.0
Denbighshire	18.6	2.2	3.6	8.5	2.6	64.6	100.0
Flintshire	9.3	1.2	2.4	5.1	2.5	79.4	100.0
Wrexham	9.2	1.2	2.3	5.9	2.7	78.7	100.0
Powys	13.7	1.6	3.0	6.7	3.0	72.0	100.0
Ceredigion	38.8	3.4	4.9	8.1	2.4	42.4	100.0
Pembrokeshire	13.9	1.9	3.2	6.1	2.3	72.5	100.0
Carmarthenshire	32.8	4.2	6.7	11.7	2.8	41.9	100.0
Swansea	8.1	1.2	2.0	5.5	2.6	80.7	100.0
Neath Port Talbot	10.8	1.6	2.7	6.4	3.3	75.2	100.0
Bridgend	7.3	0.9	1.5	4.1	3.6	82.7	100.0
The Vale of Glamorgan	8.2	0.9	1.6	3.3	2.2	83.7	100.0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	9.7	0.9	1.6	4.2	3.3	80.4	100.0
Merthyr Tydfil	6.5	0.7	1.5	3.5	2.8	84.9	100.0
Caerphilly	8.4	0.9	1.7	3.0	2.1	83.9	100.0
Blaenau Gwent	5.5	0.6	1.5	2.2	1.7	88.5	100.0
Torfaen	7.1	0.7	1.8	2.3	1.7	86.5	100.0
Monmouthshire	7.2	0.7	1.8	2.5	1.9	86.0	100.0
Newport	6.5	0.7	1.7	2.2	1.8	86.9	100.0
Cardiff	8.7	0.8	1.4	3.1	2.1	83.8	100.0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- More than half of the population of Gwynedd were able to speak, read and write Welsh (56 per cent). The proportion was also relatively high in the Isle of Anglesey (45.6 per cent), Ceredigion (38.8 per cent) and Carmarthenshire (32.8 per cent).
- More than ten per cent of people in Carmarthenshire and Anglesey were able to understand Welsh, but had no further Welsh language skills (speak, read or write). The proportion able to understand Welsh only was lowest in the South East Wales local authorities.

## Other sources of Information

The Census is a key source of information on the Welsh language.

The Annual Population Survey (APS) also collects information on Welsh Language Skills. The APS estimates (published on [StatsWales](#)<sup>v</sup>) of Welsh language ability are historically considerably higher than those produced by the Census. Potential reasons for this are explored in a [research paper by ONS](#)<sup>vi</sup>. Since the middle of the last decade, the APS estimates the proportion of Welsh speakers to be fairly stable at around 26 per cent.

The 2004-06 Welsh Language Usage Survey was conducted as an add-on to the Living in Wales survey. In this survey, approximately 20.5 per cent of people living in households (excludes communal establishments) said they were able to speak Welsh.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) collects information on pupils' ability to speak Welsh (both fluently and non-fluently). From 2003/04 onwards, the proportion of pupils at maintained primary schools able to speak Welsh (both fluently and non-fluently) gradually increased from 33 per cent to 39 per cent. For secondary schools, the equivalent proportion increased from 39 per cent to 56 per cent.

## Further Information

The 2011 Census data can be accessed via the ONS website [www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

Accompanying 2011 Census data will be available on StatsWales by the end of 2012. [www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Information on Welsh language skills below local authority level will be published by the ONS on 30 January 2013. More detailed information on the Welsh language (including multivariate tables, information on language within households etc) will be published during 2013 and 2014. Please see the ONS [Census Outputs Prospectus](#) for further information.

2001 Census Tables about the Welsh language are included in the [Report on the Welsh language](#)<sup>vii</sup>

## Contextual and Key Quality Information

### Policy Context

The Welsh Government's [Programme for Government](#) (2011-2016) states the Government's commitment to 'securing a bright future for the Welsh language'. An indicator on the 'Percentage of people able to speak and write Welsh' is included in the Programme for Government (OU99).

The Welsh Government's five year Welsh Language strategy '[A living language: a language for living](#)' was published in March 2012. This is the Welsh Ministers' strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of Welsh language, and includes a series of indicators including the headline Programme for Government measure above..

The Welsh Government's [Welsh-medium Education Strategy](#) was launched in April 2010. It sets out the Welsh Government's vision to have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, and enables an increase in the number of people able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

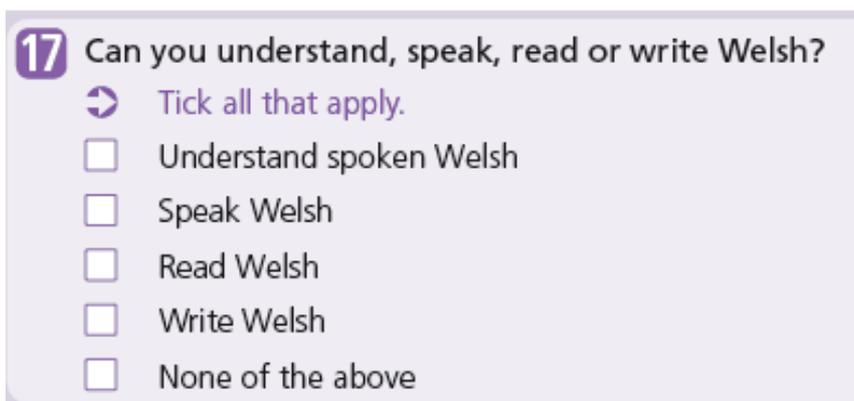
### Data Source (2011 Census)

ONS is responsible for the Census in England and Wales. The census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The latest census in England and Wales took place on 27 March 2011.

Census estimates describe the characteristics of areas down to small geographies, and are used to understand similarities and differences in the population's characteristics locally, regionally and nationally. This information is used for planning and delivering services.

### Census Language Questions

The 2011 Census question asked 'Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?' – answered by ticking one or more of five boxes in any combination (see below). This question was only asked in Wales, and results are presented for those aged 3 and over. The Census did not collect information on fluency levels or on frequency of use.



**17** Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?

➔ Tick all that apply.

- Understand spoken Welsh
- Speak Welsh
- Read Welsh
- Write Welsh
- None of the above

A main language question was asked for the first time in the 2011 Census. This question captured information on people living in England who regard their main language as Welsh (see below). This did not include information on Welsh speakers living in England who regard their main language as English (expected to be the majority of Welsh speakers living in England). Information on those living in England whose main language is Welsh will be published by the ONS in January 2013.

**19** How well can you speak English?

Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Methodology

Further information about the census estimates, including details about the methodology used and information about how population subgroups are defined and estimated, is available via the [2011 Census home page](#).

This bulletin is about usual residents in Wales. It does not refer to visitors or short-term residents. A usual resident is anyone who, on census day, was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months.

## National Statistics

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

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<sup>i</sup> Note that the 1991 Census question asked 'Do you...?' rather than 'Can you...?'

<sup>ii</sup> Note that the 1991 Census question asked 'Do you...?' rather than 'Can you...?'

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/population-and-household-estimates-for-wales/index.html>

<sup>iv</sup> [www.wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/social/latestresearch/welshlanguage/](http://www.wales.gov.uk/about/aboutresearch/social/latestresearch/welshlanguage/)

<sup>v</sup> <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/PersonsAged3andOverWhoSayTheyCanSpeakWelsh-by-LocalAuthority-Measure>

<sup>vi</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/census-2001/data-and-products/data-and-product-catalogue/reports/report-on-the-welsh-language/differences-in-estimates-of-welsh-language-skills.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/census-2001/data-and-products/data-and-product-catalogue/reports/report-on-the-welsh-language/differences-in-estimates-of-welsh-language-skills.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/census-2001-report-on-the-welsh-language/report-on-the-welsh-language/index.html>