



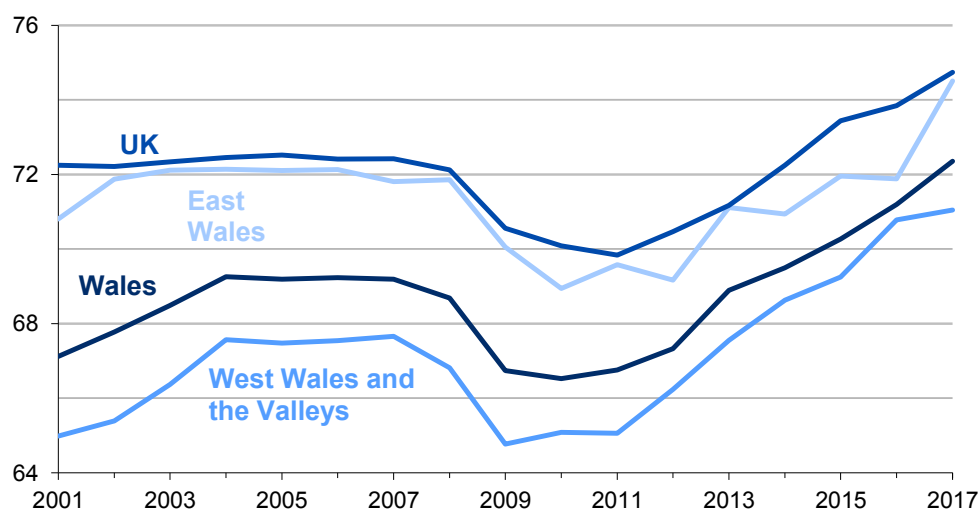
Annual Population Survey, 2017

29 Mar 2018
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Key labour market statistics for employment

- The employment rate for the population aged 16 to 64 in Wales was 72.4 per cent compared to 74.7 per cent in the UK. In West Wales and the Valleys the rate was 71.0 per cent, whilst the rate for East Wales was 74.5 per cent.
- Since 2001, the employment rate was up 5.2 percentage points in Wales and up 2.5 percentage points in the UK. In West Wales and the Valleys, the employment rate increased by 6.1 percentage points compared to a 3.7 percentage point increase for East Wales
- The local authorities with the highest employment rates were Powys (80.0 per cent), Wrexham (77.9 per cent) and Monmouthshire (77.6 per cent). The lowest rates were in Ceredigion (65.5 per cent), Swansea (67.0 per cent) and Neath Port Talbot (68.0 per cent).

Chart 1: Employment rates in Wales and the UK (percentage of population aged 16-64)



About this release

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a continuous survey of households in Great Britain undertaken by the Office for National Statistics, on behalf of the Welsh Government and other Government departments.

It provides information on social and socio-economic variables at a more local level, notably providing information for local authorities in Wales.

In Wales, the APS sample is roughly 18,000 households.

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Key quality information: Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS)

Users and uses of these statistics

The key users of the APS in Wales are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- Other areas of the Welsh Government
- Other government departments
- Students, academics and universities
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of the uses include:

- Advice to Ministers
- Research and general background material
- To inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond

Relevance

The Annual Population Survey is an annual sample survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The survey uses results from those sampled for the quarterly LFS and, since 2001, additional households have been sampled on an annual basis to provide a more robust (boosted) annual dataset across the UK, with estimates subject to much lower sampling variability. For Wales, the data are now based on an enhanced sample (around 350 per cent larger) compared to earlier years.

The additional persons sampled in the APS are based on four waves, over four years of the survey. For the first wave, the response rate in Wales is around 60%, with around 75% of these remaining by the fourth wave. In total, approaching 18,000 households are sampled each year for the APS in Wales.

The APS relates to calendar years, whereas the WLLFS used the year ending in February. APS data is published one month after the headline Labour Force Survey figures.

Accuracy

The sample size of the Annual Population Survey has over 300,000 respondents in the UK and over 30,000 in Wales.

The APS uses a sample boost from the Department for Pensions (DWP), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government.

Accessibility and clarity

StatsWales

This first release analyses the information for Wales available from the APS from 2001-2017, although the Welsh element of this was called the Welsh Local Labour Force Survey between 2001 and 2003. The APS provides labour market data for local areas in Wales in a rolling four-quarter series (as well as for UK countries and English regions), and is the primary source for such local area information. The APS also covers other subject areas such as qualifications, commuting, Welsh language, national identity, ethnicity and disability. Data tables for these subject areas are provided on [StatsWales](#):

	Labour market summary
	Employment and economic activity
	Unemployment
	Economic inactivity
	Ethnicity
	Disability
	Qualifications
	Welsh speakers
	National identity
	Commuting

Comparability and coherence

Estimates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity are available from both the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates from the LFS are based on a rolling quarter and are updated monthly. The sample sizes are too low in the LFS to produce reliable estimates for geographies below Wales level. Estimates from the APS are based on a rolling twelve months, updated each quarter. The APS uses a bigger sample than the LFS so is used to produce estimates for geographies in Wales. At Wales level, the APS is a slightly more robust measure than the LFS but it is less timely and slower to adapt to changes in the labour market.

The APS is composed of respondents to the LFS in waves one and five, and APS boost cases. Comparisons over time should be made for the same period in the previous year (e.g. compare year ending 2016 with year ending 2015), which ensures LFS cases are non-overlapping in the comparisons. However, APS boost cases are still overlapping.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes one of the national indicators, the employment rate from the APS.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/annual-population-survey/?lang=en>

Next update

We are reviewing our APS outputs and will ensure the data in this release continues to be published in future.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to economic.stats@gov.wales

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