



Labour market statistics for households, 2017

13 Dec 2017
SB 68/2017

Key Points

The percentage of workless households in Wales (that is, none of the adults were in employment) in 2016 was 17.8 per cent, the lowest since the series began in 2004. In the UK it was 15.3 per cent.

- 13.9 per cent of children in Wales lived in a workless household compared with 11.6 per cent in the UK.

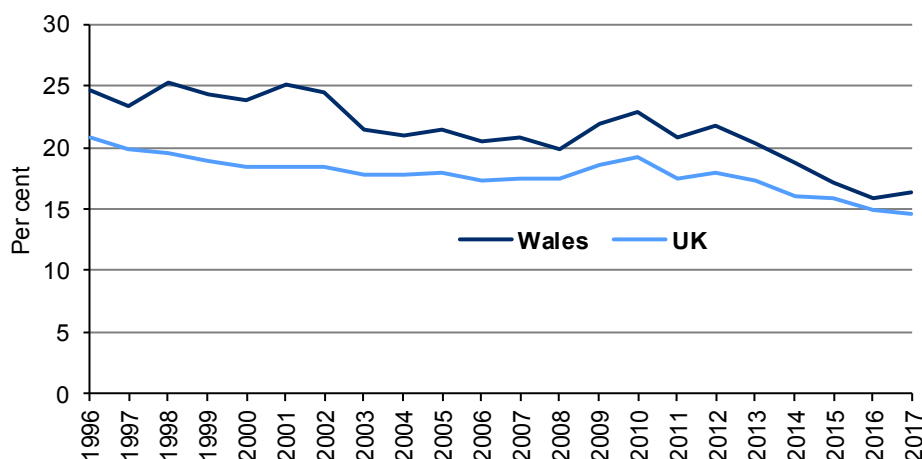
Workless household rates are typically highest in the South Wales valleys

- In 2016, Blaenau Gwent and Rhonda Cynon Taf had the highest percentages of workless households, whilst Monmouthshire had the lowest percentage of workless households at 11.9 per cent.

The percentage of workless households in Wales has declined since the global recession of the late 2000s. Rates remain higher overall than across the UK, but this gap has narrowed in recent years.

- Quarterly Labour Force Survey data allow us to look at a longer term time series. The gap between Wales and the UK was at its highest in the late 1990s and grew during the global recessionary period of the late 2000s, when the percentage of workless households increased in both Wales and the UK. Since 2010 the percentage has fallen overall to its lowest rate in both Wales and the UK.

Chart 1: Percentage of households that are workless, 1996-2017



Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (April to June), 1996-2017

About this bulletin

This bulletin analyses the household information for Wales available from the Annual Population Survey (APS) from 2004 to 2016. It also includes data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from 1996 to 2017 to provide a longer time series and more recent data.

In this bulletin

This bulletin contains new data on:

Workless households	3
Children living in workless households	4
Lone parent families	7
Tenure of households	8
Key quality information	10

Introduction

The data on children in workless households and lone parents in employment are used as indicators in [child poverty strategy](#). Further examples of APS usage are provided in the key quality information section, under 'relevance' on page 10.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey that collects information on the labour market. The primary use of the survey is to provide person-level statistics. However, by collecting information about each member of participating households, the LFS also provides family and household level statistics that describe the economic status of household members.

Since 2001 the LFS has been boosted in Wales to provide a sample of about 18,000 households annually and this is called the Annual Population Survey (APS). Data are available at a household level from this survey for the years 2004 to 2016 and due to the larger sample than the LFS, data can be obtained at a local authority level. Estimates at the Wales level are also less volatile than those from the LFS.

Whilst most of the tables and charts concentrate on local authority estimates from the APS, Chart 2 in this publication is based on the LFS to provide a longer time series. Generally, the APS tables look at percentages to allow representative comparisons between areas to be made; however the levels for 2016 are also included.

A comparison between the LFS and APS estimates is provided in the key quality information section, under comparability and coherence on page 12.

Section 1: Workless households

A workless household is defined as a household where none of the adults aged 16 to 64 are in employment. It includes households where all adults are unemployed, those where all adults are economically inactive, and those containing both unemployed and economically inactive adults.

Table 1: Percentage of households that are workless, by local authority, 2007-2016

Local Authority	Percentage										Number
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
Isle of Anglesey	21.1	20.9	21.1	20.9	20.1	18.9	19.4	19.7	18.8	18.9	3,800
Gwynedd	18.8	20.5	22.3	20.7	21.7	21.2	20.0	20.7	17.8	16.6	6,200
Conwy	18.6	20.1	21.9	20.7	21.1	18.0	17.9	19.7	18.3	16.5	5,400
Denbighshire	21.4	21.5	23.7	24.9	20.5	21.8	19.9	20.2	19.5	16.2	4,600
Flintshire	16.1	13.9	13.6	16.4	17.5	17.1	16.6	17.3	15.2	15.5	7,400
Wrexham	16.4	16.1	16.5	18.5	18.3	17.0	15.2	18.6	16.3	17.0	7,300
Powys	17.1	17.4	20.2	20.6	19.5	18.9	15.8	15.3	15.6	14.7	5,800
Ceredigion	23.2	20.9	20.5	16.9	20.1	22.7	21.3	21.5	20.4	19.0	4,200
Pembrokeshire	21.2	19.5	21.8	25.2	21.4	21.3	21.2	18.6	16.9	16.0	5,900
Carmarthenshire	21.2	21.3	23.5	21.8	21.1	22.6	21.6	20.2	19.9	18.3	10,300
Swansea	22.8	25.3	26.8	26.7	26.5	25.9	22.7	18.2	19.6	19.4	14,500
Neath Port Talbot	27.8	25.8	30.1	29.6	28.5	25.3	22.0	21.6	25.9	20.3	9,200
Bridgend	21.4	21.8	22.3	22.9	20.6	22.3	20.4	20.1	17.7	19.8	9,200
The Vale of Glamorgan	18.3	17.2	19.7	18.9	17.2	17.6	17.6	16.3	13.8	12.6	4,600
Rhondda Cynon Taf	22.8	24.5	26.1	25.7	28.4	26.8	24.1	22.2	18.5	21.7	17,200
Merthyr Tydfil	28.0	25.4	28.6	29.8	30.4	24.8	23.7	22.1	24.8	20.0	3,800
Caerphilly	24.6	25.0	26.4	24.7	24.1	21.0	19.9	24.0	19.7	18.6	10,700
Blaenau Gwent	25.7	26.5	31.7	28.8	31.8	28.8	30.1	23.5	23.6	25.3	5,600
Torfaen	24.0	24.5	26.7	23.0	22.9	21.6	22.9	22.1	17.8	15.7	4,400
Monmouthshire	15.9	15.4	15.4	16.4	16.2	13.8	13.2	13.2	10.8	11.9	3,100
Newport	19.5	22.9	24.4	20.4	23.0	20.4	21.2	19.7	16.7	16.8	7,700
Cardiff	19.9	15.8	21.0	21.0	20.4	20.4	16.8	17.0	18.2	17.7	20,900
Wales	21.0	20.8	22.9	22.6	22.4	21.6	19.9	19.4	18.4	17.8	171,700
UK	17.7	17.8	18.6	19.0	18.9	18.2	17.3	16.4	15.5	15.3	3,168,600

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan to Dec), ONS (r) 2012-2015 data has been revised since the previous publication following a reweighting of the APS.

The percentages of workless households are typically highest in the Valleys areas of Wales. In 2016, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest percentages of workless households, at 25.3 per cent and 21.7 per cent respectively, whilst Monmouthshire had the lowest percentage of workless households at 11.9 per cent.

Since 2007, 21 of the 22 local authorities have had a fall in the percentage of workless households. Torfaen and Merthyr Tydfil have shown the largest percentage point falls in workless households, down 8.3 percentage points and 8.0 percentage points respectively. Wrexham was the only local authority to see an increase since 2007, up by 0.7 percentage points.

Over the course of the global recessionary period of the late 2000s, the percentage of workless households increased across most local authorities across Wales. The Wales average increased from 20.8 per cent in 2008 to 22.9 per cent in 2009. Since then the percentage of people in workless households in Wales has fallen each year to its lowest rate of 17.8 per cent in 2016.

The effect of the recession lasted the longest in some Valleys local authorities such as Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent where the rise in the percentage of workless households did not peak until as late as 2011.

The rate of workless households in the UK was 15.3 per cent in 2016, this is 2.6 percentage points lower than the rate in Wales (using unrounded figures). The gap has narrowed from a peak of 4.3 percentage points in 2009.

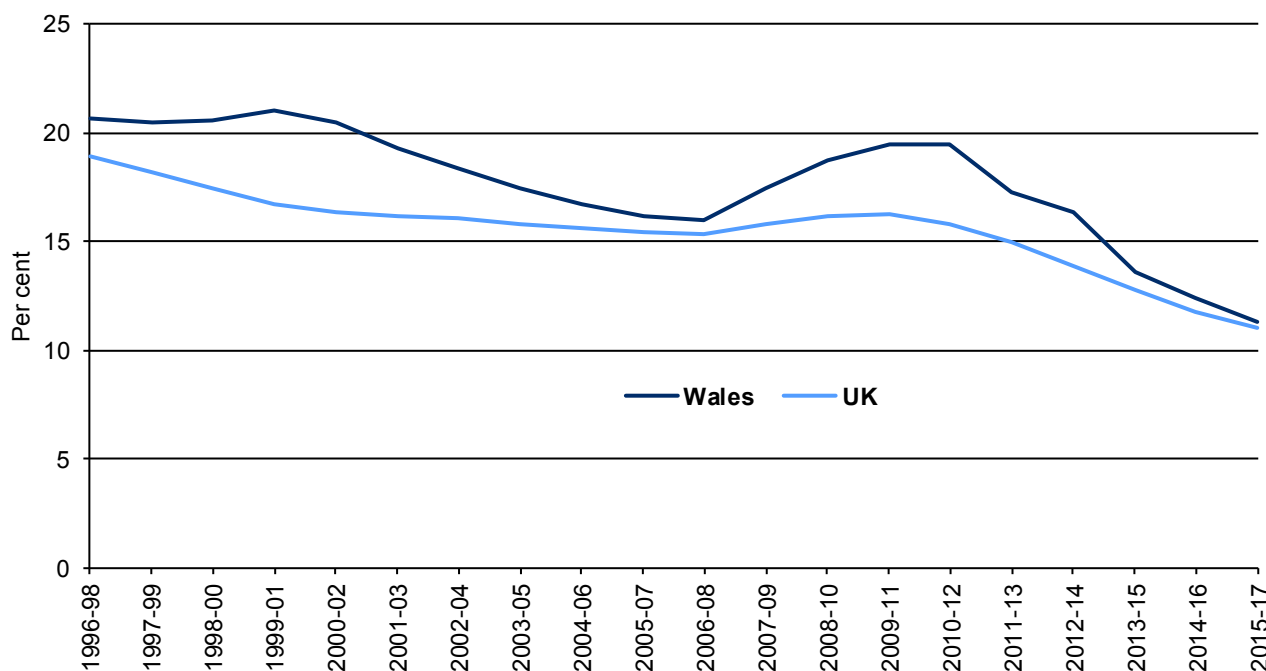
Section 2: Children living in workless households

Children in workless households are defined as dependent children aged 15 or under who live in workless households (as defined in section 1).

Children living in workless households are particularly at risk of living in severe poverty and therefore reducing the number of children living in workless households is part of the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy.

Chart 2 shows the percentage of children who live in the workless households, using the LFS. This chart uses three year averages in order to smooth the volatility resulting from the smaller sample size and the relatively fewer people involved.

Chart 2: Percentage of children that are living in workless households, 1996-2017



Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (April to June), three-year averages, 1996-2017

The quarterly Labour Force Survey data shows that the proportion of children living in workless households in Wales fell from 20.7 per cent in 1996-98 to 11.3 per cent in 2015-17; this is the lowest rate since the data series began.

The gap between Wales and the UK widened in the late 1990s before narrowing to 0.6 percentage points in 2006-08. During the recession and following years the gap widened, reaching 3.7 percentage points in 2010-12. Since then however, the gap has narrowed considerably, to 0.2 percentage points in 2015-17, the smallest gap since the data series began.

While there have been differences in the rates of change over time between Wales and the UK, the broader trends for both areas have been largely similar over time. Both areas saw a decline between 1996-98 and 2006-08, followed by an increase around the recession and subsequent decline in most recent years.

Table 2: Percentage of children living in workless households, 2007-2016 (a) (r)

Local Authority	Percentage										Number
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
Isle of Anglesey	16.3	16.4	11.2	6.4	11.4	12.5	12.8	15.2	9.0	7.3	800
Gwynedd	17.3	15.3	18.9	14.9	14.6	13.6	15.1	13.7	5.8	9.4	1,900
Conwy	16.6	18.2	14.9	16.0	13.0	14.4	17.9	17.3	11.3	7.3	1,200
Denbighshire	16.7	14.3	15.2	15.9	14.2	13.8	16.4	14.1	15.8	12.4	1,700
Flintshire	11.8	8.3	11.5	13.2	10.2	13.4	8.6	13.3	11.4	12.0	3,200
Wrexham	16.2	14.2	13.3	14.3	16.4	22.5	15.9	16.7	8.8	16.2	3,800
Powys	14.8	10.5	12.6	11.8	11.4	6.2	6.8	7.5	5.6	5.9	1,100
Ceredigion	14.3	9.9	11.6	10.1	10.8	6.9	4.7	8.3	9.4	6.3	700
Pembrokeshire	19.6	18.1	15.6	17.0	15.6	14.8	12.9	9.8	7.3	14.2	2,800
Carmarthenshire	16.0	17.4	24.1	17.0	11.8	20.1	20.3	14.1	15.3	12.3	3,400
Swansea	21.1	24.4	26.3	22.6	24.4	19.9	16.3	9.2	15.1	17.4	7,100
Neath Port Talbot	17.8	18.6	22.5	22.2	28.3	26.0	19.4	14.8	22.5	17.3	4,200
Bridgend	15.8	16.8	15.7	17.7	20.5	17.6	20.2	17.3	19.4	14.9	3,300
The Vale of Glamorgan	17.1	17.0	18.2	16.7	11.4	11.3	12.6	10.9	10.4	8.5	1,900
Rhondda Cynon Taf	14.9	22.7	24.9	21.7	25.1	22.8	23.3	17.1	12.6	20.2	8,200
Merthyr Tydfil	21.2	20.0	25.2	23.5	29.4	20.7	19.5	16.0	24.1	16.3	1,600
Caerphilly	23.4	18.7	26.8	23.2	26.8	17.0	18.0	16.7	16.5	11.6	3,800
Blaenau Gwent	21.7	23.4	33.8	32.3	33.3	30.6	29.3	18.0	21.6	20.5	2,600
Torfaen	25.9	22.9	25.5	19.3	18.0	17.3	23.7	15.9	14.7	8.1	1,300
Monmouthshire	9.6	4.9	5.4	9.2	10.8	6.6	10.4	11.3	6.6	6.9	1,100
Newport	24.3	23.2	23.7	22.6	24.5	22.0	20.3	22.3	13.5	15.5	4,300
Cardiff	23.1	15.7	20.5	23.1	16.7	19.4	15.9	16.4	16.0	18.6	12,600
Wales	18.4	17.3	20.0	18.8	18.7	17.8	16.6	14.6	13.7	13.9	72,600
UK	15.5	15.8	16.5	16.6	16.1	15.1	14.4	13.4	12.1	11.6	1,420,800

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan to Dec), ONS

(a) Some of the estimates in this table have a coefficient of variation above 20 per cent and are considered unreliable for practical purposes, these are highlighted in bold. For 2015, these are Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Wrexham, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and Monmouthshire. Please see notes section for details.

(r) 2013-2014 data has been revised since the previous publication.

In 2016, 13.9 per cent of children in Wales lived in workless households, up slightly from 13.7 per cent in 2015. The UK figure for 2016 was 11.6 per cent, down from 12.1 per cent in 2015.

Blaenau Gwent (20.5 per cent), Rhondda Cynon Taf (20.2 per cent) and Cardiff (18.6 per cent) had the highest percentages of children living in workless households in 2016.

Powys (5.9 per cent), Ceredigion (6.3 per cent) and Monmouthshire (6.9 per cent) had the lowest percentages of children in workless households in 2016.

Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, 19 had a fall in the percentage of children living in workless households between 2007 and 2016 and 1 local authority remained the same (to 1 decimal place).

Torfaen, Caerphilly and Conwy had the largest falls, down 17.8 percentage points, 11.8 percentage points and 9.3 percentage points respectively.

Rhonda Cynon Taf and Flintshire were the only local authorities to see an increase between 2007 and 2016, up 5.3 percentage points and 0.2 percentage points respectively. Wrexham was the only local authority that saw no change between 2007 and 2016 (to 1 decimal place)

Over the course of the recession, the proportion of children in workless households in Wales increased from 17.3 per cent in 2008 to 20.0 per cent in 2009. Since then the percentage of children in workless households in Wales fell each year to its lowest rate of 13.7 per cent in 2015. There has been a small increase in the percentage between 2015 and 2016 from 13.7 to 13.9 per cent.

The increase in Wales was greater between 2008 and 2009 than the UK, however between 2009 and 2016 the rate of children in workless household in Wales has generally decreased by more than the UK rate. The gap between Wales and the UK was 2.4 percentage points in 2016 (using unrounded figures).

Section 3: Lone parent families

A family is a lone parent family if the head of the family is a lone adult and the family unit has at least one dependent child aged 15 or younger, or a child who is in full time education and under 19 years.

Children living in lone parent families are at greater risk of income poverty according to Households Below Average Income data. Furthermore, analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study data suggests that moves into poverty tend to be associated with relationship breakdown and becoming a lone parent. Among other factors, improving the employment rate of lone parents may reduce poverty in lone parent families and this is part of the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy.

Table 3: Lone parent families, by local authority, 2014-2016 (a)

Local Authority	<i>Three-year averages</i>		
	Percentage of families containing lone parents (b)	Employment rates for lone parents	Number of lone parent families
Isle of Anglesey	7.6	62.9	1,700
Gwynedd	6.4	60.4	2,500
Conwy	7.1	65.1	2,500
Denbighshire	8.6	67.3	2,600
Flintshire	9.7	64.5	5,000
Wrexham	8.8	63.6	4,000
Powys	7.3	75.4	3,100
Ceredigion	4.8	75.1	1,300
Pembrokeshire	7.2	74.5	2,900
Carmarthenshire	8.6	68.7	5,200
Swansea	8.8	65.9	8,100
Neath Port Talbot	9.9	54.3	4,900
Bridgend	9.9	62.2	4,800
The Vale of Glamorgan	8.2	63.7	3,300
Rhondda Cynon Taf	10.1	58.3	8,500
Merthyr Tydfil	13.3	62.3	2,800
Caerphilly	9.0	68.5	5,500
Blaenau Gwent	10.3	59.0	2,500
Torfaen	9.2	67.2	2,800
Monmouthshire	6.9	67.3	1,900
Newport	10.0	57.4	5,200
Cardiff	7.4	53.7	10,900
Wales	8.6	62.8	91,900
UK	8.3	63.8	1,936,200

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan to Dec), ONS

(a) A three-year average has been used as the sample sizes for some local authorities are small.

(b) Where at least one person in the household is aged 16 to 64.

The overall percentage of lone parent families was higher in Wales than in the UK; 8.6 per cent in Wales compared to 8.3 per cent in the UK.

The highest percentages of lone parent families were found in Valleys authorities: Merthyr Tydfil (13.3 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (10.3 per cent) and Rhondda Cynon Taf (10.1 per cent). More rural

areas of Wales had the lowest percentages of families containing lone parents: Ceredigion (4.8 per cent), Gwynedd (6.4 per cent) and Monmouthshire (6.9 per cent).

The highest lone parent employment rates were in more rural local authorities: Powys (75.4 per cent), Ceredigion (75.1 per cent) and Pembrokeshire (74.5 per cent). Cardiff (53.7 per cent), Neath Port Talbot (54.3 per cent) and Newport (57.4 per cent) had the lowest employment rates for lone parents.

Section 4: Tenure of households by local authority

The breakdown of households into the type of tenure and those in local authority/housing association households for 2016 is shown in the table below. The APS household data provides robust housing tenure statistics which are used to support housing policy in the Welsh Government.

Table 4: Tenure of households by local authority, 2016 (a)

Local Authority	Percentage			Other (a)	Percentage of rented households that are		Total number of households
	Percentage owned outright	Percentage being bought with mortgage or loan	Percentage being rented		local authority or housing association		
Isle of Anglesey	49.6	22.3	26.0	1.9	55.8	31,500	
Gwynedd	46.1	23.1	28.5	2.1	54.4	54,700	
Conwy	47.7	23.4	27.8	1.0	42.5	53,000	
Denbighshire	46.2	26.9	25.3	1.5	46.8	42,700	
Flintshire	42.4	31.7	24.5	1.3	56.0	67,900	
Wrexham	41.1	30.4	27.6	0.9	61.7	59,600	
Powys	51.0	18.7	28.3	2.1	38.4	60,600	
Ceredigion	48.5	20.6	27.8	3.1	33.7	33,400	
Pembrokeshire	50.2	23.6	24.6	1.6	50.6	55,900	
Carmarthenshire	46.6	26.6	24.9	1.8	57.8	83,100	
Swansea	36.8	26.8	34.3	2.1	51.1	103,200	
Neath Port Talbot	42.2	28.4	28.2	1.1	67.5	61,800	
Bridgend	41.3	30.9	26.8	1.1	52.5	61,900	
The Vale of Glamorgan	43.6	31.9	23.3	1.2	46.2	53,400	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	39.8	31.1	27.6	1.4	53.7	105,600	
Merthyr Tydfil	37.6	26.6	33.7	2.1	62.8	26,300	
Caerphilly	38.4	29.7	31.6	0.3	66.2	77,400	
Blaenau Gwent	35.0	24.0	39.6	1.3	64.4	30,400	
Torfaen	37.0	32.3	29.1	1.6	71.3	40,000	
Monmouthshire	43.2	33.5	20.8	2.2	55.1	38,900	
Newport	35.6	29.2	33.5	1.7	53.6	60,700	
Cardiff	31.6	36.1	30.4	1.9	50.3	148,200	
Wales	41.3	28.5	28.5	1.6	54.1	1,350,000	
UK	33.8	30.4	34.1	1.6	50.8	26,996,500	

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan to Dec), ONS

(a) Includes part rent/part mortgage, rent free and squatting. The sum of the second, third, fourth and fifth columns may not equal 100 due to missing values.

The more rural local authorities had the highest percentage of households that were owned outright, with the highest proportions being in Powys (51.0 per cent), Pembrokeshire (50.2 per

cent) and Isle of Anglesey (49.6 per cent). Whilst Cardiff (31.6 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (35.0 per cent) and Newport (35.6 per cent) had the lowest proportion of households owned outright.

The highest percentages of households being bought with a mortgage or loan were in Cardiff (36.1 per cent), Monmouthshire (33.5 per cent), and Torfaen (32.3 per cent). Powys had the lowest percentage at 18.7 per cent.

Blaenau Gwent (39.6 per cent), Swansea (34.3 per cent) and Merthyr Tydfil (33.7 per cent) had the highest proportion of households that were rented, whilst the lowest proportion was in Monmouthshire (20.8 per cent).

Where households were rented, the highest proportions rented from the local authority or housing associations were in Torfaen (71.3 per cent), Neath Port Talbot (67.5 per cent) and Caerphilly (66.2 per cent). Ceredigion had the lowest percentage at 33.7 per cent.

Key quality information

Relevance

The headline LFS estimates in the bulletin are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their [Workless Households Statistical Bulletin](#) which includes headline figures for Wales as a whole. The ONS also publishes [sub-regional data using the APS](#).

This bulletin, produced by the Welsh Government, provides additional analysis from the APS for Wales. These statistics are used by the Welsh Government to monitor worklessness and poverty. As mentioned in the introduction the APS is used in a variety of contexts. The data on Tenure of households are used as an indicator for the [housing supply](#) initiative and the [rent smart wales](#) initiative. This bulletin is also used by other public sector organisations, businesses, academia and private individuals as a means of identifying the key trends in worklessness at a household level for Wales. Our [user consultation](#) provides more information on how our outputs are used.

Accuracy

The APS is an annual sample survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The survey uses results from those sampled for the main quarterly LFS and since 2001, additional persons 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 household datasets for the APS are only available from 2004 onwards.

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 per cent, with around 75 per cent of these remaining by the fourth wave. In total, around 18,000 households are sampled each year for the APS in Wales.

By collecting information about each member of participating households, the LFS also provides family and household-level statistics that describe the combined economic activity status of family and household members. In autumn 2008, the ONS launched new annual local area datasets called APS household datasets. They allow production of family and household labour market statistics at a local area level and for small sub-groups of the population across the UK. It is also the main source of statistics on 'working' households (where all the adults are working); 'mixed' households (containing both working and non-working adults); and 'workless' households (where none of the adults are working).

In order to assess the reliability of the data we can look at the coefficients of variation (CV), which have been calculated by the ONS for the 2016 figures in Tables A and B below. The CV value indicates the quality of an estimate; the smaller the value the higher the quality. Where the CVs are greater than or equal to 20, the estimates are considered to be too unreliable for practical purposes. Please note that for 8 authorities the 2016 estimates for children in workless households are above this level. These are Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Powys, Ceredigion, Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen and Monmouthshire.

The CV is also a useful way to compare the quality of the LFS and APS estimates. Table A below shows the CVs for the headline figures.

Table A: Coefficients of variation for the APS and LFS
Coefficients of Variation¹

	Wales		UK	
	APS	LFS	APS	LFS
Percentage of households that are workless households	2.5	5.6	0.9	1.4
Percentage of children in workless households	4.0	13.5	1.4	3.3

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey & Annual Population Survey, ONS

¹APS is for Jan-Dec 2016, LFS is for Apr-Jun 2017

Table B: Coefficients of variation for percentage of workless households and children living in workless households, 2016

Local Authority	Workless households	CV of workless households	Percentage	
			Children in workless households	CV of children in workless households
Isle of Anglesey	18.9	11.2	9.0	26.5
Gwynedd	16.6	12.6	5.8	23.0
Conwy	16.5	12.1	11.3	27.1
Denbighshire	16.2	12.0	15.8	19.9
Flintshire	15.5	12.7	11.4	19.4
Wrexham	17.0	12.4	8.8	17.0
Powys	14.7	13.9	5.6	32.7
Ceredigion	19.0	11.6	9.4	30.5
Pembrokeshire	16.0	12.3	7.3	18.1
Carmarthenshire	18.3	11.2	15.3	19.8
Swansea	19.4	10.7	15.1	15.2
Neath Port Talbot	20.3	10.7	22.5	16.0
Bridgend	19.8	11.1	19.4	18.6
Vale of Glamorgan	12.6	15.9	10.4	25.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	21.7	10.1	12.6	14.4
Merthyr Tydfil	20.0	12.5	24.1	19.3
Caerphilly	18.6	11.1	16.5	19.2
Blaenau Gwent	25.3	10.8	21.6	16.0
Torfaen	15.7	13.3	14.7	25.7
Monmouthshire	11.9	15.0	6.6	25.8
Newport	16.8	13.1	13.5	17.2
Cardiff	17.7	11.8	16.0	14.6
Wales	17.8	2.5	13.7	4.0
UK	15.3	0.9	12.1	1.4

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan-Dec), ONS

Timeliness and punctuality

This is an annual statistical bulletin, published in November each year, following publication of a regional workless households statistical bulletin by the Office for National Statistics.

Accessibility and clarity

Much of the data behind the charts shown in this bulletin can be found on [StatsWales](#) (a free-to-use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate and download tables from the most detailed official data on Wales).

Comparability and coherence

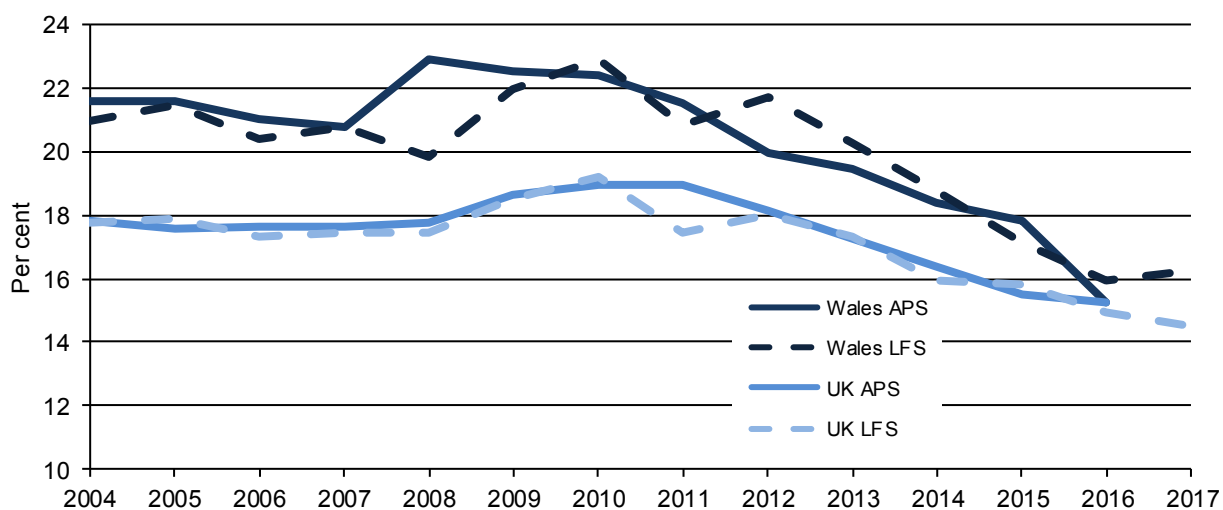
The LFS & APS estimates differ slightly due to the differences in sample design and size.

The main LFS is a quarterly sample survey of around 60,000 households living at private addresses in the UK. Each quarter's LFS sample of 60,000 private households is made up of 5 'waves', each of approximately 12,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in 5 successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. As a result, there is an 80 per cent overlap in the samples for successive quarters. Households are interviewed face-to-face when first included in the survey and by telephone thereafter. For the first wave in Wales, the response rate in the main LFS is around 60 per cent. The total sample for Wales is usually about 3,500 households in each quarter.

The main LFS is based on a detailed questionnaire and hence provides for a large dataset, though there are some limitations to its use (particularly at a sub-regional level) due to sample size constraints. Its primary use is to provide labour market information for the UK, including levels and rates for employment, unemployment and economic activity/inactivity.

Chart 3 below shows that the APS and LFS data has followed a similar trend in both Wales and the UK. However, there is more volatility in the Wales LFS estimates, due to the smaller sample size.

Chart 3: Percentage of households that are workless, APS and LFS, 2004-2017



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey (Jan-Dec) and Labour Force Survey (Apr-Jun), ONS

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.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

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/labour-market-statistics-households/?lang=en>

Next update

November 2018

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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