

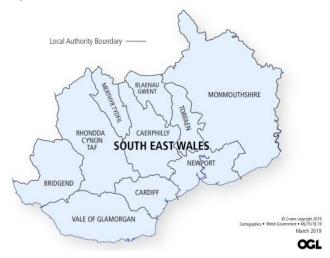
Statistical First Release



Summary statistics for Welsh economic regions: South East Wales

30 May 2019 SFR 38/2019

The South East Wales region comprises the local authorities of Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, and Vale of Glamorgan. The aim of this release is to give a statistical breakdown of the region and to highlight differences that may exist across the region for the nine topics in question.



Key Points

- South East Wales is the only Welsh region where population change due to natural change (population attributable to the difference in births and deaths) has been strictly positive since the 1991-92 period, although the level of natural change has been decreasing in recent years.
- The region had the most even distribution of ages among the three Welsh regions in 2017, which can be partly attributed to the number of university students living in the area.
- In 2017, 697,600 people worked in the region, representing almost half of all employment across Wales.
- In half of the local authorities in the region in 2017, the proportion of men and women aged 18-64 with no qualifications was higher than the Wales figure.
- Overall, nitrogen dioxide levels were higher in South East Wales local authorities than in local authorities across the other regions, but these levels have been decreasing over time.
- Median earnings of full-time employees decreased in half of the region's local authorities between 2017 and 2018.

About this release

This release is one of four statistical outputs summarising statistics on nine key topics for Wales and the three Welsh economic regions, as defined in the Economic Action Plan. Together these releases have been prepared to inform regional planning, supporting the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, the National **Development Framework** and the Economic Action Plan.

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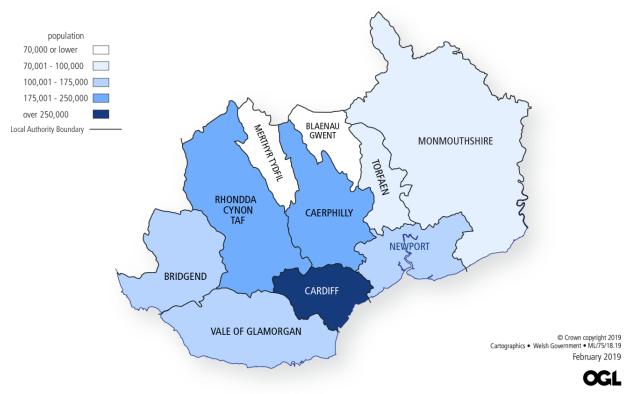
Statistician: Rebecca Large ~ 0300 025 5050 ~ stats.info.desk@gov.wales

This report is also available in Welsh

Enquiries from the press: 0300 025 8099 Public enquiries: 0300 025 5050 Twitter: @statisticswales

Population

Figure 1: Population in South East Wales, by local authority, 2017



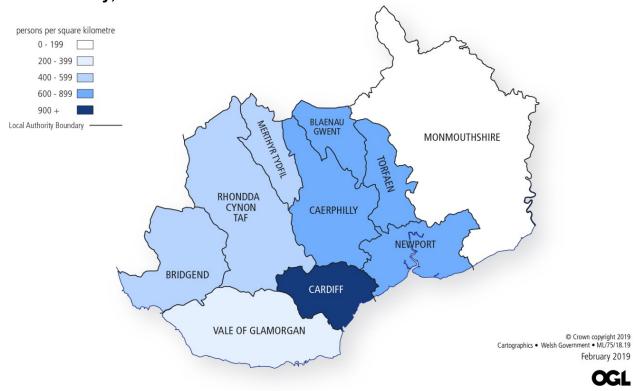
Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

In 2017, South East Wales was home to <u>nearly 1,525,000 residents</u>¹, of which around 24 per cent lived in Cardiff. This was, by some way, the largest local authority in the region and in Wales in terms of population, with an estimated 363,000 residents. The authority with the smallest population in this region was Merthyr Tydfil with a population of around 60,000.

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¹ StatsWales: Population estimates by local authority and year

Figure 2: Population density (persons per square kilometre) in South East Wales, by local authority, 2017



Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics; Standard area measurements, Office for National Statistics

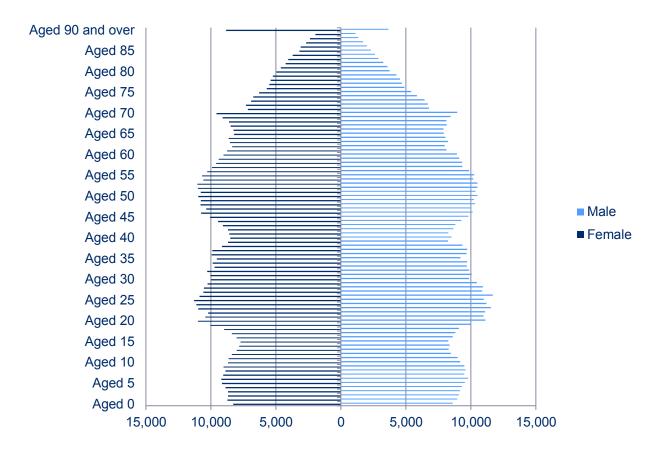
South East Wales had a <u>population density</u>² of 543 persons per square kilometre in 2017, meaning it was the most densely populated of the Welsh regions.

Within the region, the most densely populated authority was Cardiff, with 2,575 persons per square kilometre. The most sparsely populated local authority was Monmouthshire, with a population density of 110 persons per square kilometre. Between 2007 and 2017, population density grew by 5.4 per cent in South East Wales. This was the highest rate of the three regions. The authority with the greatest population density growth rate in the region and in Wales over this period was Cardiff, at 10.5 per cent. Blaenau Gwent saw the lowest rate, with population density decreasing by 0.1 per cent from 2007 to 2017.

Welsh Government analysis of 2011 Census data (unpublished) shows that South East Wales' population was entirely concentrated in settlements classified "less sparse," with 55 per cent of residents living in settlements with 25,000 or more residents.

² StatsWales: Population density (persons per square kilometre) by local authority and year

Figure 3: Population distribution in South East Wales, by age and gender, 2017



Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

The relatively uniform shape of the population pyramid for the South East Wales region shows that it has a fairly even distribution of ages, the most even <u>distribution</u>³ of ages among the three Welsh regions in 2017. This can be partly attributed to the relatively high number of university students living in the area, and especially in Cardiff.

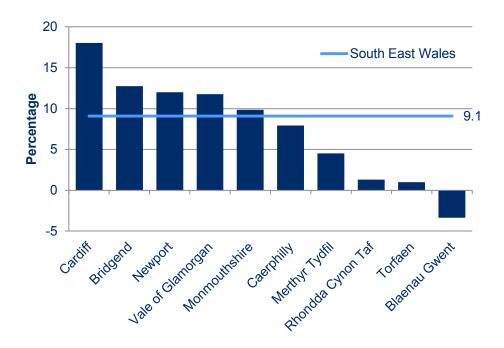
Between 1997 and 2017, the proportion of the <u>population aged 65 and over</u>⁴ has increased from 16 per cent to 18 per cent, while the proportion of the population aged 15 and under has fallen from 22 per cent to 19 per cent. South East Wales is the only Welsh region with a higher proportion of the population aged 15 and under than aged 65 and over.

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StatsWales: Population estimates by gender and year
 StatsWales: Population estimates by local authority and age

Figure 4: Percentage population change in South East Wales, by local authority, 1997-2017



Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

The population of the region grew by 9.1 per cent between 1997 and 2017. However, <u>population</u> <u>change</u>⁵ has been variable across the region's local authorities over this period.

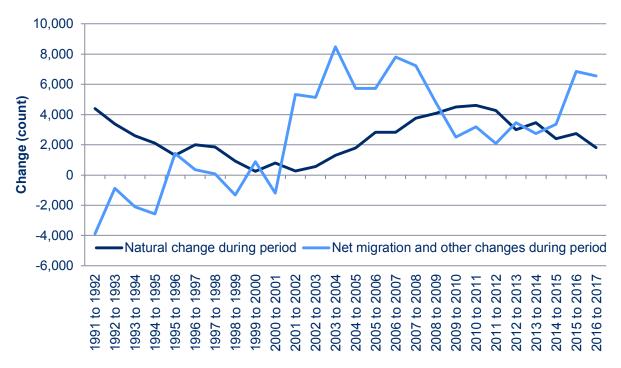
The population decreased in 4 of the 10 local authorities in the region over the first half of this period, but only Blaenau Gwent experienced negative population growth over the 2007-2017 period.

Cardiff experienced the highest population growth rate between 1997 and 2017 (18.0 per cent). Merthyr Tydfil has seen the greatest change in population growth between the 1997-2007 and 2007-2017 periods, going from a negative growth rate of -0.3 per cent to a positive 4.9 per cent growth rate. The mean population growth across South East Wales' local authorities over the 2007-2017 period was 7,742 people. This was higher than the median (5,232 people) due to the high proportion of growth happening in Cardiff.

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⁵ StatsWales: Population estimates by local authority and year

Figure 5: Components of population change in South East Wales over time



Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

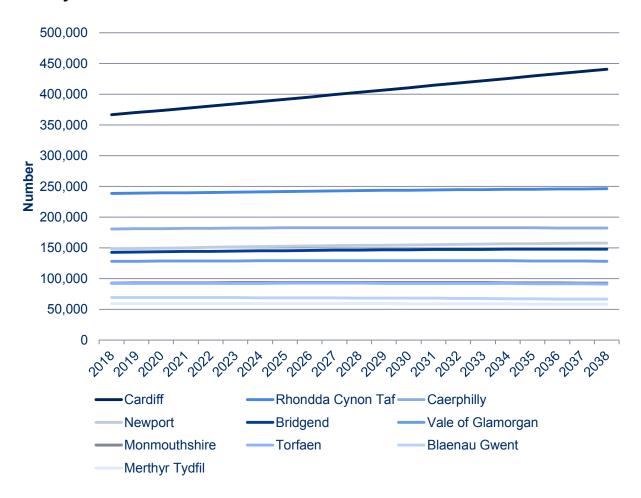
Looking at data showing <u>components of population change</u>⁶ across South East Wales, we see a different picture to that seen across Wales as a whole, and across the other two regions. It is the only region in which natural change (population attributable to the difference in births and deaths) has been strictly positive since the 1991-92 period, although the level of natural change has been decreasing in recent years.

The data also shows that inward migration has been greater than outward migration since the 2001-02 period. Breaking the data down to local authority level shows that Vale of Glamorgan had the largest net change in population due to migration and other changes during the 2016-17 period, while Newport had the largest overall population change. Population change due to net migration and other changes was positive in all authorities within the region, meaning that in all authorities, there are more people moving in than moving out. Cardiff was by far the local authority with the highest level of natural change in 2016-17, both in the region and in Wales, while 4 of the 10 authorities in the region experienced negative natural change, meaning deaths were higher than births. The highest level of negative natural change in the region was in Monmouthshire.

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⁶ StatsWales: Components of population change, by local authority and component

Figure 6: Projected population change in South East Wales over time, by local authority



Source: 2014-based projections for local authorities in Wales, Welsh Government

South East Wales' population is <u>projected</u>⁷ to grow at a higher rate than the other two regions in the next ten and twenty years, with a projected increase of 92,800 people (or 6.1 per cent) between 2018 and 2038. The time series shows that this projected population growth is largely driven by Cardiff, which is projected to grow at a rate of 9.9 per cent in the next ten years, and 20.1 per cent by 2038.

Figures quoted are based on the principal population projections. However, a number of variant projections are also produced which provide other future scenarios based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality, and migration. These do not represent upper or lower bounds, but do illustrate what the population could look like if, for example, fertility were to become lower than assumed for the principal projection.

Further information on 2014-based local authority population projection variants can be found accompanying the <u>Local authority population projections release</u>⁸.

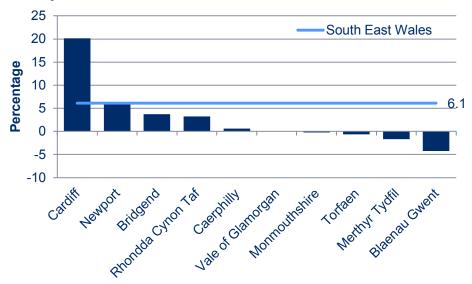
Further information on 2016-based national population projection variants can be found on the ONS website⁹.

⁷ StatsWales: Population projections by local authority and year

⁸ Welsh Government: Local authority population projections

⁹ ONS: National Population Projections: 2016-based statistical bulletin

Figure 7: Percentage change in projected population in South East Wales, by local authority, 2018-2038

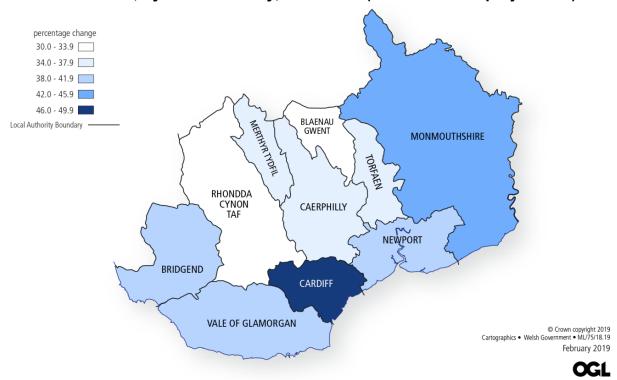


Source: 2014-based projections for local authorities in Wales, Welsh Government

Blaenau Gwent, if current trends continue, will experience negative population growth within this period; a 1.3 per cent contraction in the next ten years, and a 4.2 per cent contraction in the next twenty years.

The range shown on the chart highlights a far less stable picture which emerges when we consider the projections at an authority level, with only 4 of the region's 10 authorities experiencing a higher population growth rate over twenty years than over ten. This means that within 6 authorities in South East Wales, the population is set to decrease between 2028 and 2038. This could be due to a reduction in the projected number of births in these areas. Please note this data is based on local authority 2014-based projections, and should not be viewed as a forecast.

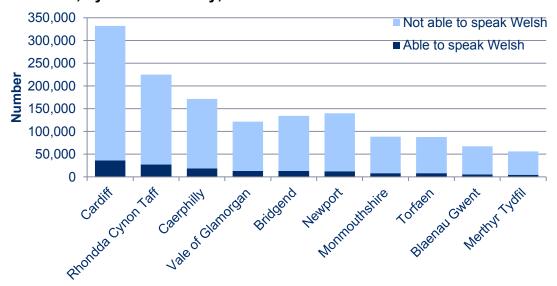
Figure 8: Percentage change in projected population of persons aged 65 and over in South East Wales, by local authority, 2018-2038 (based on 2014 projections)



Source: 2014-based projections for local authorities in Wales, Welsh Government Across South East Wales, the population of <u>adults aged 65 and over</u>¹⁰ is projected to grow at a higher rate than the total population over the next ten years, with a projected 342,700 persons aged 65 and over in the region by 2028. This is an increase of 19.9 per cent on the projected figure for 2018. By 2038, this figure is projected to increase to 397,300, an increase of 39.1 per cent on the projected figure for 2018. This data is based on 2014 projections, and should not be viewed as a forecast.

¹⁰ StatsWales: Population projections by local authority and year

Figure 9: Stated Welsh-speaking ability of persons aged three and over in South East Wales, by local authority, 2011



Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

According to census data¹¹, there were 150,792 Welsh-speakers aged three and over in the region in 2011. There were more Welsh-speakers in Cardiff than in any other local authority in the region, while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest count of Welsh speakers. As a proportion of the persons aged three and over however, Rhondda Cynon Taff was the local authority with the highest rate of Welsh speakers (12.3 per cent), while Blaenau Gwent had the lowest (7.8 per cent).

The census is the key source of information about the number of people who can speak Welsh. The National Survey for Wales (NSW) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) also collect information about respondents' Welsh speaking ability and frequency of use (the NSW only collects information for those aged 16 or over while the APS collects information for those aged three and over like the census). Estimates of Welsh language ability from household surveys are historically higher than those produced by the census and it is not known exactly why this is the case. It's likely that differences in how these surveys and the census are carried out affect the estimates. More information can be found in a blog post by the Chief Statistician 12 discussing Welsh language data.

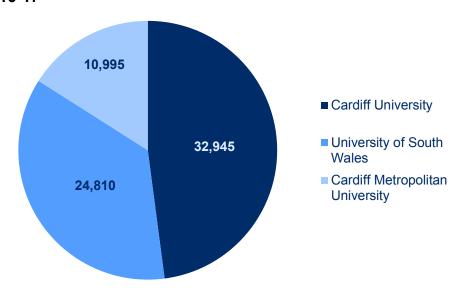
Data from the Annual Population Survey¹³ shows that an estimated 20.5 per cent of South East Wales residents aged three and over said they could speak Welsh in the year ending June 2018. This was the lowest proportion of the three regions, yet this represented an increase of around 3.1 percentage points on data for the year ending June 2008, and corresponds to the greatest count of people speaking Welsh due to the relatively high population in the region. Cardiff saw the largest growth in Welsh speakers over the June 2008 to June 2018 period in terms of the count, while Torfaen did not see any growth over the same period. Regional percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.

StatsWales: Welsh speakers by local authority, gender and detailed age groups, 2011 census

Chief Statistician's update: a discussion about the Welsh language data from the Annual Population

StatsWales: Annual Population Survey estimates of persons aged 3 and over who say they can speak Welsh by local authority and measure

Figure 10: Student enrolments to Higher Education Institutions in South East Wales, 2016-17



Source: Higher education student record, Higher Education Statistics Agency

In 2016-17, there were nearly 69,000 enrolments on Higher Education (HE) courses¹⁴ in South East Wales, representing almost half of all enrolments in Wales. Cardiff University saw the highest number of HE enrolments in the region and in Wales, representing almost 25 per cent of total enrolments in Wales. The data indicates a high concentration of the region's students in Cardiff. Please note that percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.

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¹⁴ StatsWales: Student enrolments in Wales by institution, level and mode of study

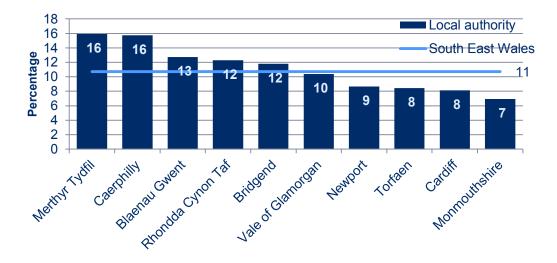
Health

Life expectancy is a measure of how long, on average, people can expect to live using estimates of the population and the number of deaths. Healthy life expectancy estimates the number of years spent in very good or good general health.

Office for National Statistics' data¹⁵ shows that between 2015 and 2017 in South East Wales, Monmouthshire was the local authority with the highest life expectancy at birth and healthy life expectancy at birth for both males and females. Blaenau Gwent was the authority with the lowest life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for both males and females in the region and across Wales.

South East Wales was the only Welsh region in which the healthy life expectancy for men dipped below 60 years, doing so in 6 local authorities across the region. In 4 of the region's local authorities, the female healthy life expectancy was also below 60. The range of the percentage of life expectancy spent in good health across the local authorities in the region was the highest of the Welsh regions, at 10.9 percentage points for males and 9.3 percentage points for females.

Figure 11: Adults aged 16 and over showing 0 or 1 healthy lifestyle behaviours, by local authority, 2016-17 and 2017-18* (age standardised)



*The 2016-17 and 2017-18 periods have been combined for data quality purposes

Source: National Survey for Wales

Across South East Wales in 2016-17 and 2017-18 combined, 11 per cent of adults aged 16 or over showed 0 or 1 of the <u>five healthy lifestyle behaviours</u>^{16,17}.

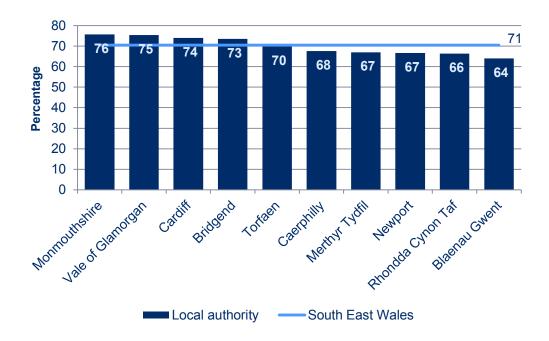
¹⁵ ONS: Health state life expectancies, UK: 2015 to 2017

¹⁶ National Survey for Wales: population health

¹⁷ Healthy behaviours are not smoking, average weekly alcohol consumption 14 units or lower, eating at least 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, and being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week.

Considering local authorities¹⁸ within the region, Monmouthshire was the authority with the lowest percentage of reported low levels of healthy lifestyle behaviours (7 per cent), while Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly had the highest proportion of adults aged 16 or over showing 0 or 1 healthy behaviours (16 per cent). This was also the highest proportion among Welsh local authorities.

Figure 12: Adults aged 16 and over reporting they are in good or very good general health, by local authority, 2016-17 and 2017-18* (age standardised)



^{*} The 2016-17 and 2017-18 periods have been combined for data quality purposes Source: National Survey for Wales

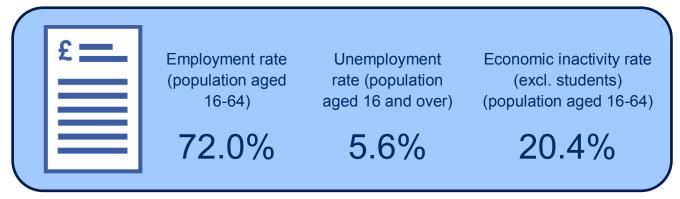
Across the region, 71 per cent of adults aged 16 and over reported they were in good or very good general health¹⁹ in 2016-17 and 2017-18 combined. Breaking the data down by local authority²⁰, we see that Monmouthshire has the highest level of self-reported good health, with 76 per cent of adults aged 16 or over reporting they were in good or very good general health. Blaenau Gwent was the local authority with the lowest proportion both in the region and in Wales, at 64 per cent.

For local authority data taken from the National Survey for Wales (0 or 1 healthy lifestyle behaviours and self-reported good health), not all differences between local authorities are statistically significant.

¹⁸ For local authority data taken from the National Survey for Wales (0 or 1 healthy lifestyle behaviours and self-reported good health), not all differences between local authorities are statistically significant.

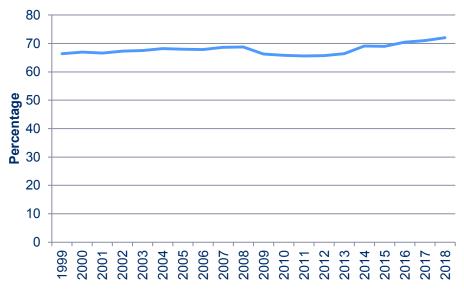
¹⁹ National Survey for Wales: population health

Employment



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics. Data relates to year ending 30 June 2018

Figure 13: Employment rate in South East Wales, 1999-2018



Notes

Data for 1999 to 2004 is year ending 28 February. Data from 2005 onwards is year ending 30 June.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

The employment level is the total number of people (aged 16+) that are in employment and the employment rate²¹ is the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) that is in employment. Of the three regions, South East Wales had the highest employment level in Wales in the year ending 30 June 2018, reflecting the fact that it has a higher population than that of the other two regions. However, it included 2 of the 5 local authorities with the lowest employment rates in Wales. At 177,300 people, Cardiff had the highest employment level in Wales, while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest level, with only 27,800 people in employment. Since 2001, the region's employment rate has increased by 5.4 percentage points, though in Merthyr Tydfil, the employment rate increased by 15.4 percentage points, the greatest change across all local authorities in Wales over this period.

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²¹ StatsWales: Employment rate by Welsh local area, year and gender

The unemployment level is the total number of people who are unemployed and the unemployment rate²² is the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed (using the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) definition of unemployment). For the year ending 30 June 2018, the unemployment rate in South East Wales was 5.6 per cent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points since 2001. Blaenau Gwent's unemployment rate saw the most marked change during this period, decreasing by 2.9 percentage points since 2001. Meanwhile, Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest unemployment rate in Wales at 7.1 per cent.

The economic inactivity rate²³ is the percentage of the population not working and not seeking nor available to work. Economically inactive people include people looking after the family and / or home, retirees and people with a sickness or disability. For the year ending 30 June 2018, the economic inactivity rate in South East Wales was 20.4 per cent, a decrease of 6.6 percentage points compared to 2001. This change was slightly greater than the change across the whole of Wales. Merthyr Tydfil's economic inactivity rate saw the most marked change during this period, decreasing by 15.8 percentage points since 2001.

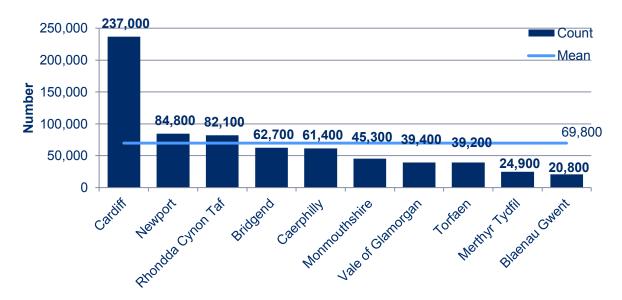
More information on regional economic statistics can be found in the Welsh Government's regional economic and labour market profiles²⁴.

Welsh Government: Regional economic and labour market profiles

²² StatsWales: ILO unemployment rates by Welsh local areas and year

StatsWales: Economic inactivity rates (excluding students) by Welsh local area and year

Figure 14: Workplace employment, by local authority, 2017



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics; Business Register Employment Survey (BRES), Office for National Statistics

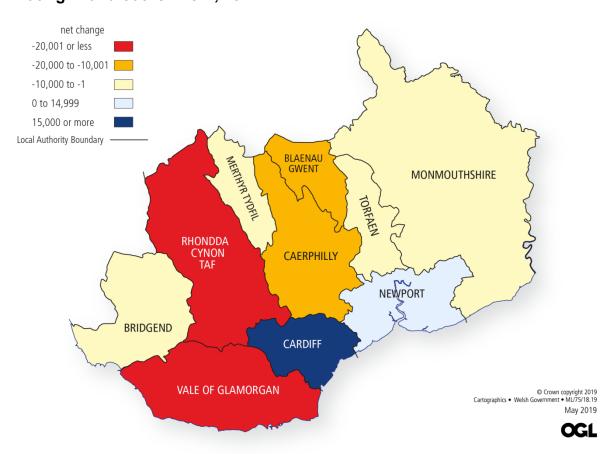
Workplace employment data^{25,26} shows that in 2017, 697,600 people worked in the region, representing almost half of all employment across Wales. The average level of employment across the region's ten local authorities was 69,800. While this is the highest level among the three regions, it is positively skewed because of the high proportion of employment in Cardiff. The median level across the region, which is 53,400, falls below that of the Mid and South West Wales region (59,900 persons).

The Information and communication sector saw the highest growth in workers over the 2007-2017 period in percentage terms, while the greatest change in the level of employment was in the Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities sector, which grew by 24,500 people. The Construction sector saw the greatest decrease in percentage terms. When considering the number of workers however, it was the Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food sector that saw the greatest decrease over this period in the region and across Wales, losing around 10,400 workers across South East Wales. Note that percentage changes have been calculated from published rounded data.

²⁵ StatsWales: Workplace employment by Welsh local areas and broad industry

Workplace employment data is collected from businesses through the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES), and focuses on employment and employee data. This is in contrast to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) data, which is taken from data mainly collected from residents of private households.

Figure 15: Change in local authority populations in South East Wales due to people commuting in and out for work, 2017



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

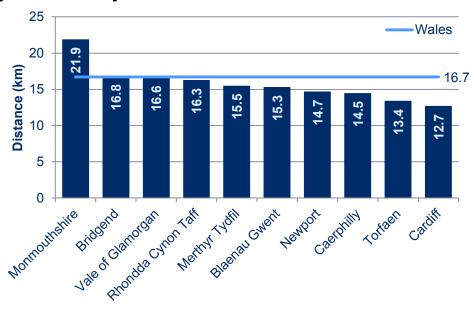
As a whole, the net change in workers across the region was -19,600, indicating that more people commute out of the region than into or across the region. This can largely be attributed to workers commuting across the Welsh border²⁷ into areas such as Bristol. Note that net changes and data for the regions have been calculated from published rounded data.

Data from 2017 indicates that the <u>net worker population change</u>²⁸ was negative in 8 of the region's 10 local authorities, meaning that in these authorities, more people commute out of the authority to work than commute in from other authorities. Cardiff, the most populous local authority in the region, had the greatest influx of workers from other local authorities, while the second most populous local authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf, saw the greatest outflow of workers.

²⁸ StatsWales: Commuting patterns by Welsh local authority and measure

²⁷ StatsWales: Detailed commuting patterns in Wales by Welsh local authority

Figure 16: Average distance travelled to work (km) by workers aged 16-74 in 2011, by local authority of residence



Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

<u>2011 Census data</u>²⁹ shows that, on average, working residents aged 16-74 in all local authorities in the region, except in Monmouthshire and Bridgend, had shorter distances to commute to work than the Wales average, Cardiff residents, on average, had the shortest commutes in Wales.

As in the rest of Wales, <u>2018 data</u>³⁰ shows that the vast majority of enterprises in South East Wales had fewer than 10 employees. The proportion of microenterprises in South East Wales was lower than anywhere else in Wales, whereas the proportion of large enterprises was the highest of the three regions. Merthyr Tydfil had by far the highest proportion of large enterprises, at 5.4 per cent. Percentages are based on published rounded data.

Data for the year ending 31st December 2017³¹ shows that in 5 of the 10 local authorities in the region the proportion of men and women aged 18-64 with no qualifications was higher than the Wales figure, and in Merthyr Tydfil, the rate was 16.4 per cent, the highest in Wales. In Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire the percentage of men and women aged 16-64 qualified to NQF level 2 or above exceeded the Wales figure of 78.5 per cent. These 3 local authorities were also those with the highest proportion of men and women aged 16-64 qualified to NQF levels 4-6 and 7-8 in Wales.

²⁹ ONS: 2011 Census Analysis, Distance Travelled to Work

³⁰ StatsWales: Enterprises by industry (SIC2007), size-band and area

³¹ StatsWales: Highest qualification level of working age adults by region and local authority

Transport

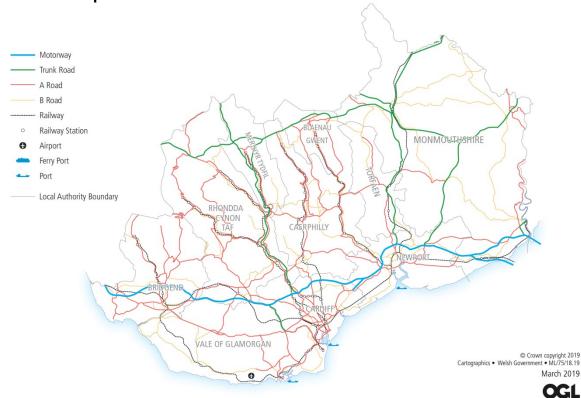


Figure 17: Transport Infrastructure in South East Wales

Source: Ordnance Survey

South East Wales' transport infrastructure includes a section of the M4 motorway, and a greater number of railway stations than in the other Welsh regions. The region also houses 3 of Wales' 9 ports, and 1 of the 2 airports in Wales (the other being on the Isle of Anglesey, in North Wales).

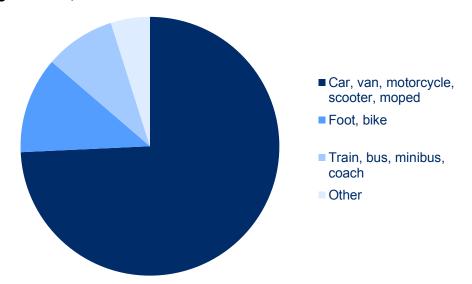
Research into <u>vehicle speeds on Welsh motorways</u>³² shows that from April to June 2016, the M4 through Newport had slow average speeds during peak times in both directions. Slow average speeds were recorded eastbound on the Vale of Glamorgan during the morning, reflecting commuter traffic heading into Cardiff. Monmouthshire saw slow average speeds westbound, which may have been a consequence of the Second Severn Crossing toll, which was removed in December 2018.

The A48(M) often saw average speeds under 60 mph during peak times. The westbound A48(M) routinely saw average speeds under 50 mph during the morning peak.

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³² Welsh Government: Vehicle speeds on Welsh motorways: April to June 2016

Figure 18: Methods of travel to work among employed South East Wales' residents aged 16-74, 2011



Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

Census data from 2011³³ shows that of workers aged 16-74 living in South East Wales, 74.3 per cent travelled to work by car, van, motorcycle, scooter or moped. This corresponded to around 488,000 people across the region. 12.0 per cent (79,000 persons), travelled on foot or by bike. 8.8 per cent (58,000 persons) travelled by train, bus, minibus or coach.

In 2017-18 across South East Wales and across Wales, adults aged 16 or over in the Vale of Glamorgan were most likely to walk for more than 10 minutes as a means of transport³⁴, with 78 per cent doing so at least once a month. Blaenau Gwent was the local authority where this was least likely (49 per cent). It also had the lowest percentage (1 of per cent) of adults aged 16 or over, in the region and Wales, using a bicycle as a means of transport at least once a month over the same period. The local authority with the highest regular bicycle usage rate was in Cardiff (17 per cent).

In South East Wales in 2016-17, Torfaen and Caerphilly were the local authorities where pupils were most likely to travel to secondary school by car (38 per cent each). In 4 local authorities in the region, over 40 per cent of children walked on their own or with other children, and school bus usage was under 50 per cent in each local authority in the region. South East Wales was the only region where this was the case. Looking at public transport, trains were not commonly used to get to school in the region, but local buses were used by 22 per cent of Torfaen secondary school pupils.

Looking at primary school children in the region over the same period, Merthyr Tydfil pupils were most likely to travel to school by car (61 per cent) and Bridgend pupils were least likely (39 per cent). Considering walkers, the proportion was highest in Cardiff (58 per cent) and lowest in Merthyr Tydfil (36 per cent).

³³ Nomis, ONS: Method of travel to work (Table QS701EW)

Welsh Government: Active Travel: walking and cycling (April 2017 to March 2018)

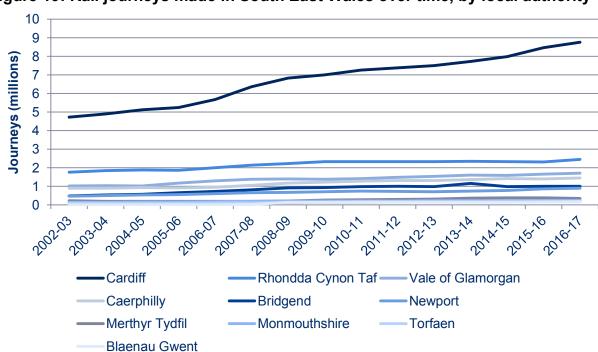


Figure 19: Rail journeys made in South East Wales over time, by local authority

Source: National Rail Trends, Regional User Profiles, Office of Rail and Road

Across South East Wales, the <u>number of train journeys</u>³⁵ made in 2016-17 was 17.3 million, an increase of 5.5 million on 2006-07. Figure 19 shows that at local authority level, the greatest increase in journeys in terms of number was in Cardiff. However, Merthyr Tydfil was the local authority with the greatest increase in journeys in percentage terms, with an 82.1 per cent increase from 2006-07 to 2016-17. 50.6 per cent of all rail journeys in South East Wales in 2016-17 started and/or ended in Cardiff.

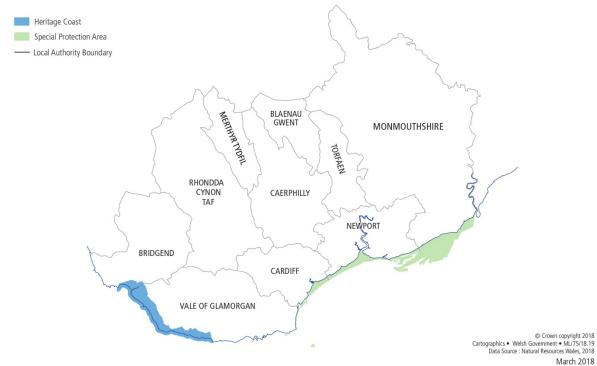
In 2016-17, there were 95 <u>rail stations</u>³⁶ in South East Wales. Of these, 15 were counted among the 20 busiest stations in Wales by station entries and exits. 24 per cent of all station entries/exits in Wales occurred in Cardiff Central station.

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StatsWales: Rail passenger journeys by Local Authority and year
 Welsh Government: Rail station usage (April 2016 to March 2017)

Environment

Figure 20: Heritage Coast and Special Protection Areas in South East Wales



Source: Natural Resources Wales

In South East Wales, the Glamorgan coast has been designated a Heritage Coast³⁷ in order to protect it from insensitive developments. The region is also home to a section of the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPAs)³⁸. These serve to protect bird species which are either rare or vulnerable, or which, in the case of migratory birds, visit Welsh shores regularly.

³⁷ Lle: Heritage Coasts

³⁸ Lle: Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Country Park
National Nature Reserve
National Park
Ramsar
SSSI
Local Authority Boundary

MONMOUTHSHIRE
RHONDDA
CYNON
TAF

CAERPHILLY

NEWPORT

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Figure 21: Designated Natural Environment in South East Wales

Source: Natural Resources Wales

South East Wales' designated natural environment includes parts of the Brecon Beacons <u>National</u> <u>Park</u>³⁹, as well as parts of the Wye Valley, which has been designated an <u>Area of Outstanding</u> <u>Natural Beauty (AONB)</u>⁴⁰. The region is also home to 14 country parks.

© Crown copyright 2018 Cartographics • Welsh Government • ML/75/18.19 Data Source : Natural Resources Wales, 2018

March 2018

Air Quality

Overall, <u>nitrogen dioxide levels</u>⁴¹ were higher in South East Wales' local authorities than in local authorities across the other regions, but these levels have been decreasing over time.

Cardiff had the highest concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in the region in 2017 (17 μ g/m³), whilst Blaenau Gwent, along with Merthyr Tydfil and Monmouthshire had the lowest (8 μ g/m³). The observed concentration reduced in all local authorities across the region since 2007, and fell by 4 μ g/m³ in Cardiff between 2016 and 2017, more than any other Welsh local authority.

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³⁹ Lle: National Parks

⁴⁰ Lle: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

⁴¹ StatsWales: Air Quality Indicators, by Local Authority

Energy

There was a capacity of 786 megawatts (MW) of <u>low-carbon energy</u>⁴² in the region in 2017, representing 21 per cent of the Wales total. Rhondda Cynon Taf had the biggest low-carbon energy capacity in the region during this period, higher than Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Cardiff and Caerphilly combined. 95 per cent of the 24,800 low-carbon energy projects in the region were for solar energy (photovoltaic or thermal).⁴³

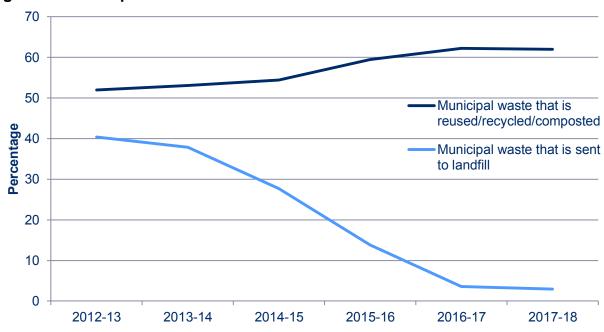


Figure 22: Municipal waste treatment in South East Wales

Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

In 2017-18, the amount of <u>local authority municipal waste</u>⁴⁴ that was reused, recycled or composted was 62 per cent in South East Wales, compared to 52 per cent in 2012-13, the earliest year for which directly comparable data is available. Blaenau Gwent had the lowest reported reuse, recycling and composting rate in the region and across Wales (56 per cent) in 2017-18. The highest reported rate in the region during this period was in Bridgend (69 per cent).

The percentage of local authority municipal waste sent to <u>landfill</u>⁴⁵ has reduced by 37 percentage points since 2012-13. 3 per cent of waste generated/collected was sent to landfill in 2017-18, compared to 40 per cent in 2012-13.

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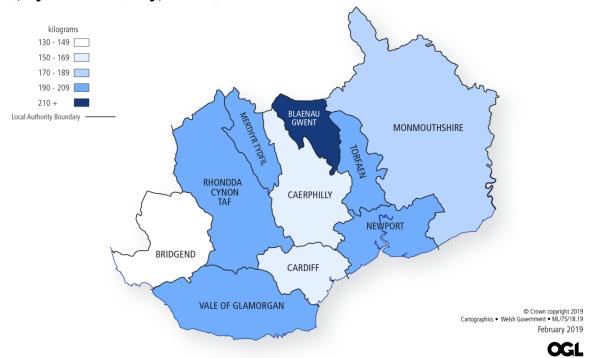
⁴² StatsWales: Low Carbon Energy Generation by Local Authority and Technology

⁽r) This paragraph was revised on 23/08/2019

⁴⁴ StatsWales: Annual reuse/recycling/composting rates by local authority

StatsWales: Annual management of waste by management method

Figure 23: Annual residual household waste produced per person (kg) in South East Wales, by local authority, 2017-18



Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

The <u>annual residual household waste</u> ⁴⁶ generated per person across South East Wales in 2017-18 ranged from 141kg in Bridgend to 241kg in Blaenau Gwent. Rhondda Cynon Taf saw the greatest change in residual household waste generated per person since 2012-13, with a reduction of 32 per cent, or 91kg per person. Meanwhile, Blaenau Gwent residents produced on average 9kg more residual household waste in 2017-18 than in 2012-13.

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⁴⁶ StatsWales: Annual residual household waste produced per person (kilograms) by local authority

Prosperity

Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services. GVA per head is a useful way of comparing regions of different sizes. It is not, however, a measure of regional productivity.

It should be noted that regional GVA figures are subject to limitations, as they can be affected by the impact of factors such as commuting between regions, and differences between regions in demography and types of employment. Further information on this can be found in the following ONS blog post⁴⁷. In addition, note that the regional figures are apportioned from national totals based on regional indicators. The regional indicators, which include administrative and survey data, are regarded as the most appropriate sources, but may result in imperfect regional allocations.

In South East Wales, GVA per head⁴⁸ was £20,863 in 2017⁴⁹. This is the highest value of the three Welsh regions, but is lower than the UK value. Cardiff was the only local authority in the region where GVA per head was higher than the UK value.

Across the region, GVA per head grew 2.8 per cent on the previous year, and 72.5 per cent since 1999. Cardiff's GVA per head grew by 79.4 per cent between 1999 and 2017. This was more than any of the other local authorities in the region. Meanwhile the Vale of Glamorgan saw the only decrease in GVA per head compared with 2016, down 3.4 per cent. It also saw the smallest increase in GVA per head compared with 1999, up 57.3 per cent.

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI)⁵⁰ is an estimate of the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving. In South East Wales, GDHI per head was £15,696 in 2016. Across the region, GDHI per head grew by 1.1 per cent on the previous year, and 58.8 per cent since 1999.

Across the region, the median gross weekly earnings⁵¹ of full-time employees in 2018 was highest in Bridgend (£544.00), and lowest in Merthyr Tydfil (£478.40), despite a 12 per cent increase in earnings on 2017, equivalent to £51.10. This increase in Merthyr Tydfil was by no means reflective of the entire region, with median earnings of full-time employees decreasing in half of the region's local authorities between 2017 and 2018. The most notable decrease was in Blaenau Gwent. where median earnings of full-time employees fell by 2.7 per cent, or £13.40 per week. Across the region, median gross weekly earnings of full-time employees were £520.00 in 2018.

National Statistical, ONS: Mind the gap: why the UK might not be the most regionally unequal country

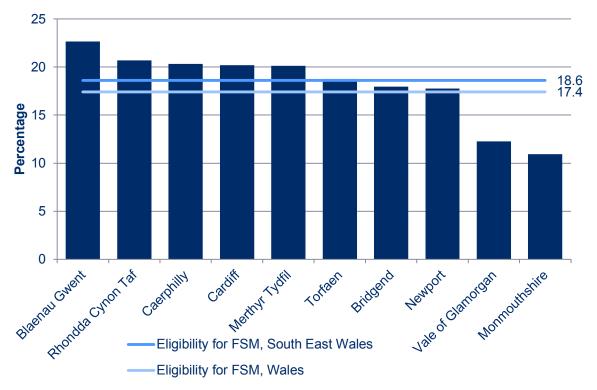
⁴⁸ StatsWales: Gross Value Added by measure, Welsh economic region and year

⁴⁹ Data included is the balanced approach for GVA

⁵⁰ StatsWales: Gross Disposable Household income by measure, Welsh economic region and year

ONS data⁵² estimates the proportion of workers earning below the living wage (£8.75 in 2018, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation). In 2018, results show that across the region, there was a 10.9 percentage point range between local authorities. The lowest percentage was 20.5 per cent in Caerphilly, and the highest was 31.4 per cent in Blaenau Gwent. Please note that these local authority estimates vary in quality, mainly reflecting the size of the samples.

Figure 24: Free school meal (FSM) eligibility among pupils aged 5-15 in South East Wales, by local authority, 2017-18



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Welsh Government

In South East Wales, 18.6 per cent of pupils aged 5-15 were eligible for free school meals⁵³ in 2017/18, down half a percentage point over the previous 10 years. The highest rate in the region in was in Blaenau Gwent (22.7 per cent), while the lowest was in Monmouthshire (10.9 per cent). The greatest change from 2007/08 to 2017/18 was in Merthyr Tydfil, where the percentage of children eligible for free school meals dropped by 4.4 percentage points.

StatsWales: Pupils aged 5-15 eligible for free school meals by local authority, region and year

27

⁵² ONS: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) - Estimates of the number and proportion of employee jobs with hourly pay below the living wage, by work geography, local authority and parliamentary constituency, UK, April 2017 and April 2018

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)⁵⁴ is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. Deprivation is the lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. This can be in terms of material goods or the ability of an individual to participate in the normal social life of the community.

The South East Wales region contains 939 Lower Super Output Layers (LSOAs). This is 49 per cent of all the LSOAs within Wales.

Considering the 191 most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales in 2014 – i.e. the 10 per cent most deprived, 127 of them are within South East Wales. This is 14 per cent of all LSOAs within the region, and 66 per cent of the 10 per cent most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales.

Please note that WIMD is due to be updated in November 2019, including an online tool providing further statistical breakdowns by Welsh economic region.

Enterprises

Of South East Wales <u>businesses founded in 2012</u>⁵⁵, 91.4 per cent survived their first year, and 42.4 per cent were still operating after five years. Blaenau Gwent businesses founded in 2012 had a 96 per cent survival rate in the first year, but only 36 per cent survived to the five year mark. Meanwhile, in Bridgend, 11.3 per cent of businesses founded in 2012 did not survive their first year. Percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.

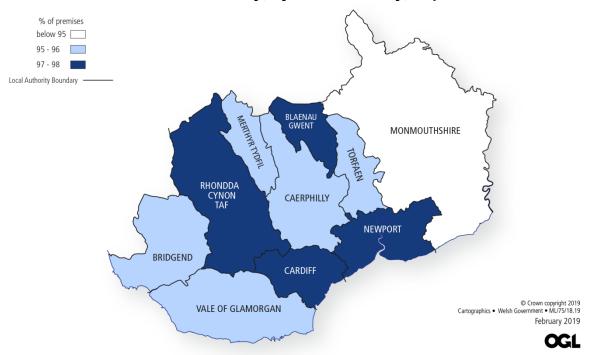
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⁵⁴ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

⁵⁵ StatsWales: Business Survival Rates by area and survival year

Digital Infrastructure

Figure 25: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with superfast or ultrafast broadband availability, by local authority, September 2018



Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

In South East Wales in September 2018, 96 per cent of homes and businesses were in areas where superfast fixed broadband speed (30Mbit/s or higher) or an ultrafast fixed broadband speed (300 Mbit/s or higher)⁵⁶ was available, ranging from 85 per cent in Monmouthshire to 98 per cent in Cardiff. 34 per cent of homes and businesses were able to access ultrafast fixed broadband speed, ranging from 1 per cent in Blaenau Gwent to 78 per cent in Cardiff. The regional figure was 15 percentage points lower than the UK rate of 49 per cent.

Access to full fibre services⁵⁷ was 4 per cent in homes and businesses across the region; this was lower than in the other regions of Wales. Full-fibre broadband uses fibre-optic cables to connect homes and businesses to the street cabinet, replacing copper connections. Full-fibre connections provide a better and more reliable service that can deliver speeds of up to one gigabit per second.

Ofcom: Building a full-fibre future

⁵⁶ Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018

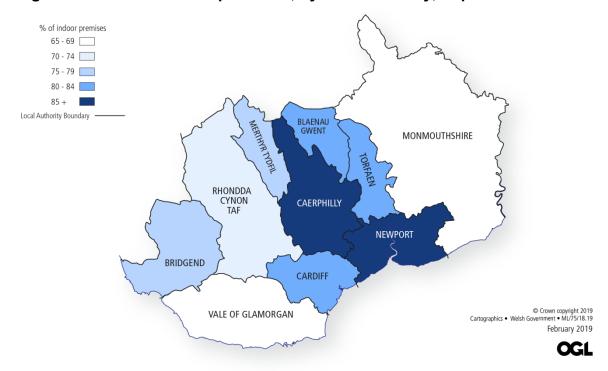
Figure 26: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales not meeting the Universal Service Obligation, by local authority, September 2018



Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

Around 8,900 homes and businesses across the region, or 1 per cent, did not meet the Universal Service Obligation minimum in September 2018, meaning that they were unable to access a download speed of 10Mbit/s and an upload speed of 1Mbit/s. This proportion was lower than both the UK average (2 per cent) and the Wales average (3 per cent).

Figure 27: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with indoor 4G coverage from all four network providers, by local authority, September 2018

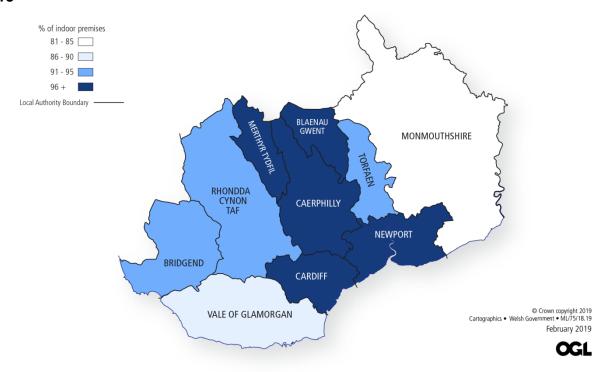


Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

Looking at 4G services, the percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2018 ranged from 65 per cent in the Vale of Glamorgan to 85 per cent in Newport and Caerphilly. The UK average was 77 per cent and the Wales average was 69 per cent.

In terms of geographic coverage, 7 per cent of Monmouthshire's area was not covered by any operator, more than in any other local authority in the region. In 7 of the 10 local authorities in the region, geographic area not covered was 1 per cent or lower.

Figure 28: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with indoor voice call coverage from all four network providers, by local authority, September 2018



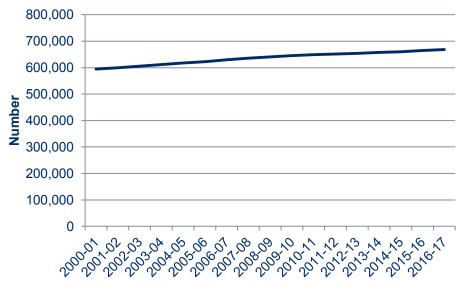
Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

For telephone call services in the region, the percentage of homes and businesses with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2018, ranged from 85 per cent in Monmouthshire to 99 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil.

The proportion of South East Wales' geographic area not covered by any operator was 1 per cent or lower in all local authorities, except for Monmouthshire (3 per cent).

Housing

Figure 29: Dwelling stock estimates in South East Wales over time (all tenures)



Source: Dwelling Stock Estimates, Welsh Government

The total number of <u>dwellings</u>⁵⁸ in South East Wales continues to grow steadily with an estimated 668,200 dwellings at 31 March 2017. This represents an increase of 6 per cent over the last 10 years. Cardiff, the local authority with the highest number of dwellings, had more dwellings than Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire combined. 14 per cent of all dwellings across the region were privately rented, and 69 per cent were owner occupied.

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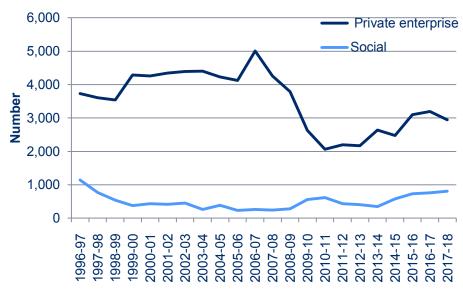
⁵⁸ StatsWales: Dwelling stock estimates by local authority and tenure

Figure 30: Number of new flats and houses in South East Wales completed over time



Source: New house building data collection, Welsh Government

Figure 31: Number of new dwellings in South East Wales completed over time, by tenure



Source: New house building data collection, Welsh Government⁵⁹

Across the region, 3,753 <u>new dwellings</u>⁶⁰ were completed during 2017-18. This is 17 per cent fewer than 10 years previously and 14 per cent fewer than 20 years previously. The highest number of new dwellings completed in 2017-18 was in Newport (856, or 23 per cent) whilst the lowest was in Blaenau Gwent (50, or 1 per cent).

⁵⁹ The figures provided by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) are from records kept for building control purposes. It is sometimes difficult for building control officers to identify

whether a dwelling is being built for a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or for a private developer, which may lead to an under-count of RSL new house building and an over-count for the private sector.

⁶⁰ StatsWales: New dwellings completed by area, dwelling type and number of bedrooms

Data from the UK House Price Index^{61, 62} shows that in South East Wales in September 2018, average house prices ranged from £89,900 in Blaenau Gwent to £268,000 in Monmouthshire. These were also the local authorities experiencing and lowest and highest absolute changes in house prices over a ten-year period. Between September 2008 and September 2018, house prices increased by £6,200 (or 7.4 per cent) in Blaenau Gwent, and by £67,300 (or 33.6 per cent) in Monmouthshire. While Monmouthshire had the greatest change in actual property price, Cardiff recorded a slightly higher percentage increase over this period at 33.9.

6,000 5,000 5,000 4,000 2,000 1,000 2,000

Figure 32: Average annual estimates of additional housing need, South East Wales

Source: Estimates of housing need in Wales at a national and regional level (2018-based)

Estimates of housing need⁶³ show that for the first 5-year period (2018/19-2022/23), between 4,100 and 5,300 additional housing units are required annually in South East Wales (with a central estimate⁶⁴ of 4,700). For the third period (2028/29-2032/33), the central estimate falls to 3,300 and by the mid to late 2030s (2033/34-2037/38) is 2,500. This reflects a slowdown in the projected household growth from the 2014-based household projections. Please note that housing need estimates by tenure (market and affordable) at the regional level will shortly be published on our website⁶⁵.

65 Welsh Government: Housing need and demand

⁶¹ Land Registry: UK House Price Index

Data correct as of the December 2018 publication of the UK House Price Index (UK HPI). The UK HPI is a mix-adjusted index, which mean it is weighted to reflect the actual mix of properties sold in the previous year. The UK HPI is published monthly. All figures in the UK HPI are liable to revisions for up to 12 months.

⁶³ Welsh Government: Housing need and demand (2018-based)

⁶⁴ Based on 2014-based household projections

<u>2014-based household projections</u>⁶⁶ show that by 2028, there could be around 232,500 one-person households in South East Wales, a 13 per cent increase on the projected level for 2018. By 2039, the projected number is 258,500, of which 30 per cent would be in Cardiff.

The projected average household size in South East Wales in 2028 ranges from 2.16 in Blaenau Gwent to 2.36 in Merthyr Tydfil, the highest projection for a Welsh local authority for this period. It should be noted that these data are projections based on past trends, and should not be treated as forecasts.

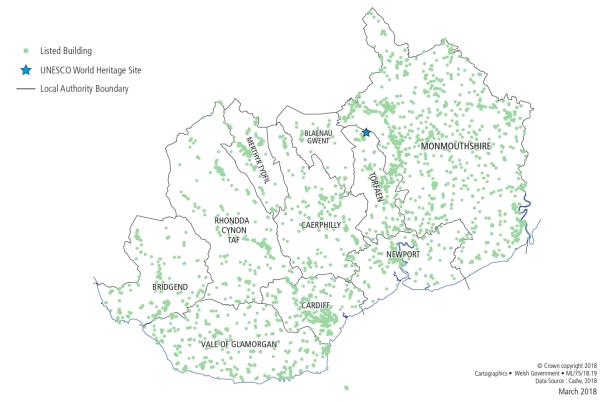
<u>Local authorities estimated</u>⁶⁷ that 170 persons were sleeping rough across South East Wales in the 2 weeks between 16th and 29th October 2017. This is an increase of 4 per cent (7 persons) compared with the exercise carried out in October 2016. Over half of persons sleeping rough across the region were located in Cardiff, while Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan gave an estimate of zero rough sleepers.

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StatsWales: Household projections by local authority, household type and year
 StatsWales: Rough Sleepers by local authority

Culture & Heritage

Figure 33: World Heritage Sites & Listed Buildings in South East Wales



Source: Cadw

As well as its listed buildings, there is 1 UNESCO world heritage site located in South East Wales: Blaenavon industrial landscape.

South East Wales received 42 million <u>Tourism Day Visits (TDVs)</u>⁶⁸ in 2017, resulting in a total expenditure of £1.6 billion. This was the highest number of visits and level of expenditure in Wales, but did not match that of any of the regions of England.

The <u>Wales Accommodation Occupancy Survey</u>⁶⁹ shows that the highest rate in Welsh hotel room occupancy⁷⁰ was found in South East Wales in 2017 (73 per cent), though the largest difference in room and bed occupancy was also found in this region, where single room occupancy could possibly reflect higher business use in this area. i.e. Cardiff hotels being used for business.

When considering the numbers of <u>visits to tourist attractions in Wales</u>⁷¹ in 2017, 2 of the top 10 paid attractions were in South East Wales: Cardiff Castle and Techniquest. Over the same period, 4 of the top 10 free attractions were in South East Wales: Wales Millennium Centre, St Fagans National Museum of History, National Museum Cardiff, and Cardiff Visitor Centre.

Welsh Government: Wales tourism accommodation occupancy surveys (2017)

⁶⁸ Great Britain Day Visits Survey (2017)

⁷⁰ Room occupancy is the number of bedrooms occupied over a given period as a proportion of total available bedrooms. Bed occupancy is the number of beds occupied over a given period as a proportion of total available beds.

⁷¹ Welsh Government: Visits to tourist attractions (2017)

Key quality information

Relevance

This publication is a compendium of key statistics on nine different topics. As such, it brings together data that is already in the public domain at different geographical levels (e.g. Wales, local authority level). Where possible and appropriate, data has been made available at regional level to offer further context on regional differences that may exist in Wales. More information on specific data sources can be found within the individual releases, referenced in the footnotes.

This publication was initially prepared to support policy teams in Welsh Government in preparing and drafting the new National Development Framework⁷². However, we anticipate that the scope of the usefulness of this publication is further-reaching. It is anticipated that this publication will be used by Welsh Government, local authorities, other public bodies with a regional interest, and the general public, to (i) gain an overview of data collected for Wales and its local authorities and regions on each of the subject areas and (ii) understand differences that may exist between the Welsh regions. Users with a specific interest in one or more of the topics in this report can find a wider range of statistics and data on StatsWales⁷³.

Accuracy

The statistics included within this release are taken from official statistics sources, though not all of these have been classified as National Statistics. More information about official statistics and National Statistics can be found on the <u>UK Statistics Authority website</u>⁷⁴. Information about the quality of each of the data sources used can be found within the individual releases, referenced in the footnotes, or within the quality reports that accompany these releases.

Due to the high number of sources included in this publication and the time taken to compile it, more recent data has been published for some sources. This data was known to be the most recently available as at 11/01/2019, though revisions made to data sources, such as the Annual Population Survey (APS) and the Wales tourism performance: January to June 2018 release have been accounted for. Current data is accessible through the links to sources included in the footnotes.

We do not intend to regularly update this report. However, in future, data will be made available on StatsWales and in dashboards, and will be updated as new data is published, ensuring that users are always provided with the latest data.

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⁷² Welsh Government: National Development Framework

⁷³ StatsWales website

⁷⁴ UK Statistics Authority: types of official statistics

Timeliness and punctuality

This publication has been prepared to fit in with the timing of the drafting and publication of the <u>National Development Framework</u>. Due to the high number of sources included in this publication and the time taken to compile it, more recent data has been published for some sources. This data was known to be the most recently available as at 11/01/2019.

Accessibility and clarity

Users may access all data included in this release using the links included in the footnotes. The majority of the data underlying the report, including much more detailed breakdowns, are available on StatsWales and through the StatsWales open data services. Quality information and metadata for each of these sources is also available through these links.

This publication is currently available in printable PDF format, but in future, data will be made available as interactive online reports to maximise impact and efficiency using the Welsh Government open data services.

Comparability and coherence

Where different datasets have been used to discuss the same topic (for example in the section on statistics relating to the <u>Welsh language</u>), an explanation is offered as to the strengths and limitations of each of the sources, and the coherence between them, with further information provided in the sources and links.

Where possible, National Statistics have been used to ensure the data is of high quality and is consistent with statistics on the topics that may be used or other purposes. Further information on the comparability and coherence of each of the sources is available in the sources linked in the footnotes.

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 7 of the national indicators, namely the percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle indicators; levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution in the air; the percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework; Gross Disposable Household Income per head; the capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed; the percentage of people in employment; and the percentage of people who can speak Welsh.

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: https://gov.wales/summary-statistics-economic-regions-2019

Other related links

National Development Framework

Next update

This publication is a one-off release and will not be updated. However, future data will be made available in dashboard format and will be updated as new data becomes available.

We want your feedback

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

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