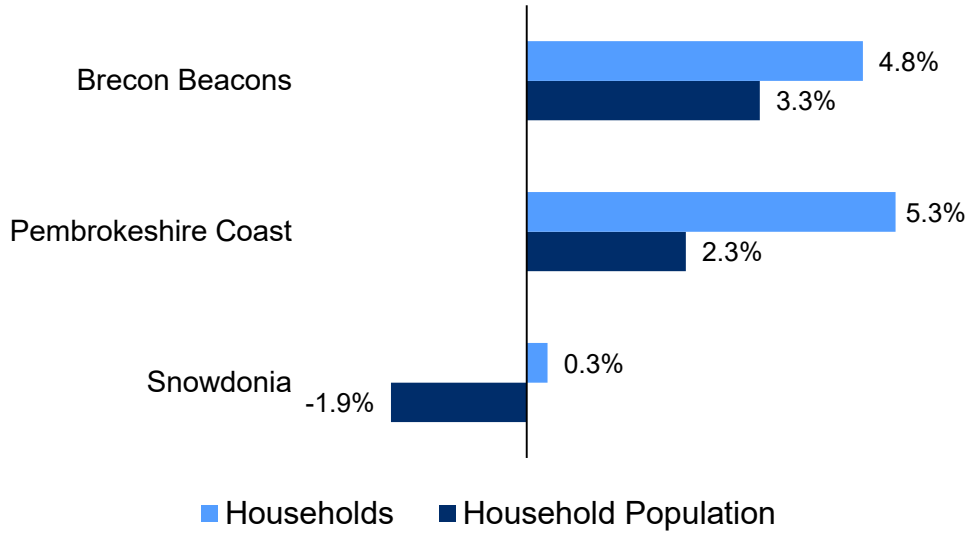
National park household projections for Wales: 2018-based

5 May 2021
SFR 132/2021

Chart 1: Projected percentage change in the number of households and household population by national park, 2018 to 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Between 2018 and 2028:

- the numbers of households in all three national parks are projected to increase by 2028
- the number of households are projected to increase by 4.8% (nearly 730) in the Brecon Beacons, 5.3% (550 (r)) in Pembrokeshire Coast and by 0.3% (40) in Snowdonia
- in Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast, household population is also projected to increase, by 3.3% (just over 1,100) and 2.3% (500) respectively
- in Snowdonia, household population is projected to decrease by -1.9% (480 (r))
- one-person households and two-person households with no children are projected to continue being the most common household type for all three national parks

(r) Revised on 19 May 2021 due to rounding issues.

About this release

This release presents the results of the 2018-based national park household projections for Wales for the 25-year period from 2018 to 2043.

They are created using the 2018-based population projections, published by the Welsh Government on 5 May 2021.

Household projections provide an indication of the future number of households and their composition in Wales.

They are based on assumptions about households from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses.

In this release

Principal projections 5
Comparisons 14
Notes 17

Statistician: Martin Parry ~ 0300 025 0373 ~ stats.popcensus@gov.wales

This report is also available in Welsh

Enquiries from the press: 0300 025 8099 Public enquiries : 0300 025 5050

Twitter: @StatisticsWales

About these projections

The Welsh Government publishes subnational household projections for Wales. These include projections for local authorities and for national parks. 2018-based local authority household projections for Wales were published on 4 August 2020. The national park household projections are based on the Welsh Government's national park population projections. The Welsh Government's subnational population and household projections are based on the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) national population projections for the UK and its constituent countries.

These projections provide estimates of the future number of households and their composition for the national parks within Wales, and are based on assumptions about future populations and household formation rates considered to best reflect demographic patterns at the time.

A household is defined as:

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area

This includes:

- sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50% or more have their own kitchens (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities)
- all people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK

Household population is the number of people living in private households. This is calculated by subtracting the population living in communal establishments from the total population. Communal establishments include residential care homes, university halls of residence, boarding schools and prisons.

The projections are available for the 25-year period, from 2018 to 2043. However, this release focusses on the first 10 years of the projection period, as projections tend to become increasingly uncertain in the longer-term, as trends may change over that timescale. We do not produce any variants for these projections and what is presented in this release is the 'principal' projection.

It is important to note that these projections are not forecasts, and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances, or other factors such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, or the number of houses built, might have on the number of households. They do not give information on how many houses should be built. It shows how many households would form if the population of the national parks and surrounding areas continues to change as it did between 2014 and 2018, and keeps forming households as it did between 2001 and 2011. The Welsh Government publishes separate estimates of housing need and demand for four regions in Wales, which take into account newly arising need (from household projections) as well as existing unmet need. The key quality information section provides more information on the methodologies used.

The projections for national parks include projections for the national park areas, and projections for the parts of the local authorities that are outside the national park boundaries. These are called 'residual' areas. While the focus of the release is on the national park projections, the projections for residual areas are also included for completeness. Further information about the projections for residual areas can be found in the key quality information section.

It is possible to compare these projections with the 2018-based local authority household projections. However, the projections for the national parks and the areas outside the national park boundaries ('residual' areas) are not constrained to the local authority household projections. This means that the sum of the national park projections do not necessarily match the local authority household projections. Further information can be found in the comparisons section.

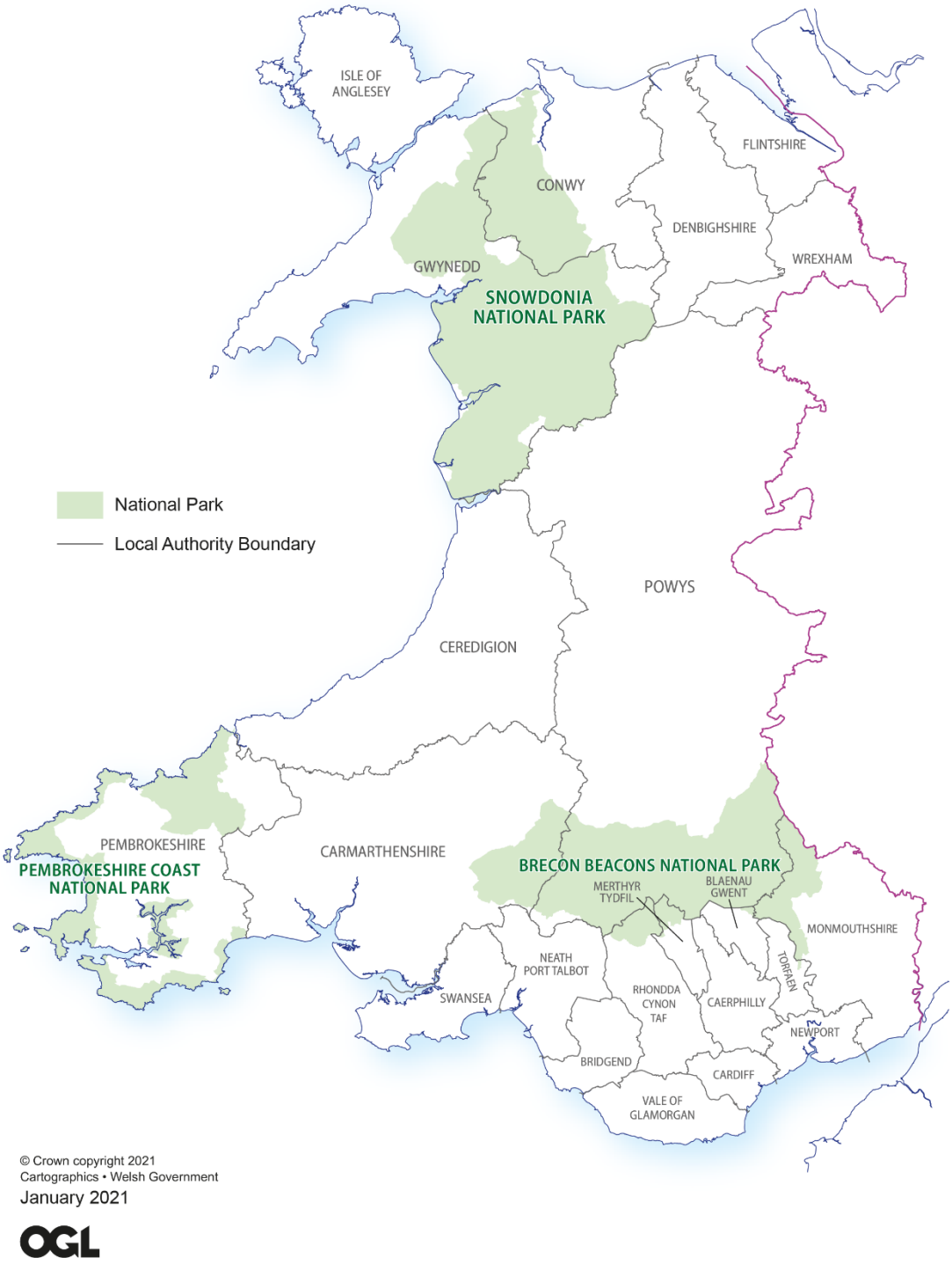
National parks in Wales

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1949 to establish national parks with the aim of preserving their natural beauty, protecting wildlife, and providing recreational opportunities for the public.

There are three national parks in Wales, as shown in Map 1. These are:

1. Snowdonia national park
2. Pembrokeshire Coast national park
3. Brecon Beacons national park

Map 1: National parks in Wales



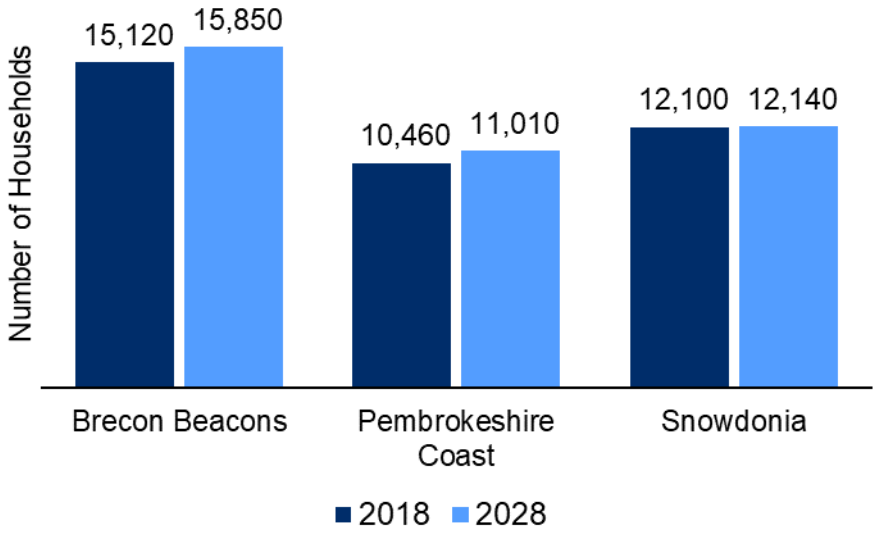
In Wales, each national park has its own national park authority, which is also the statutory planning authority for the park area.

The three national parks cover 19.5% of Welsh land area but as of mid-2018 had 2.6% of the population, and contained 2.8% of households.[1]

[1] Mid-2019 data is available, however, mid-2018 data is used here as it is the base year for these projections.

2018-based national park household projections

Chart 2: Household projections by national park, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

The projected trends in the numbers of households are broadly similar to the 2018-based national park population projections. However, while the population of Snowdonia is projected to decrease between 2018 and 2028, the number of households is projected to increase slightly. Some of this difference is likely due to an ageing population and the formation of a greater number of one-person households.

Projections by type of households

While the total numbers of households within all three national parks is projected to increase during the period 2018 to 2028, this is not true for all types of households.

Brecon Beacons national park

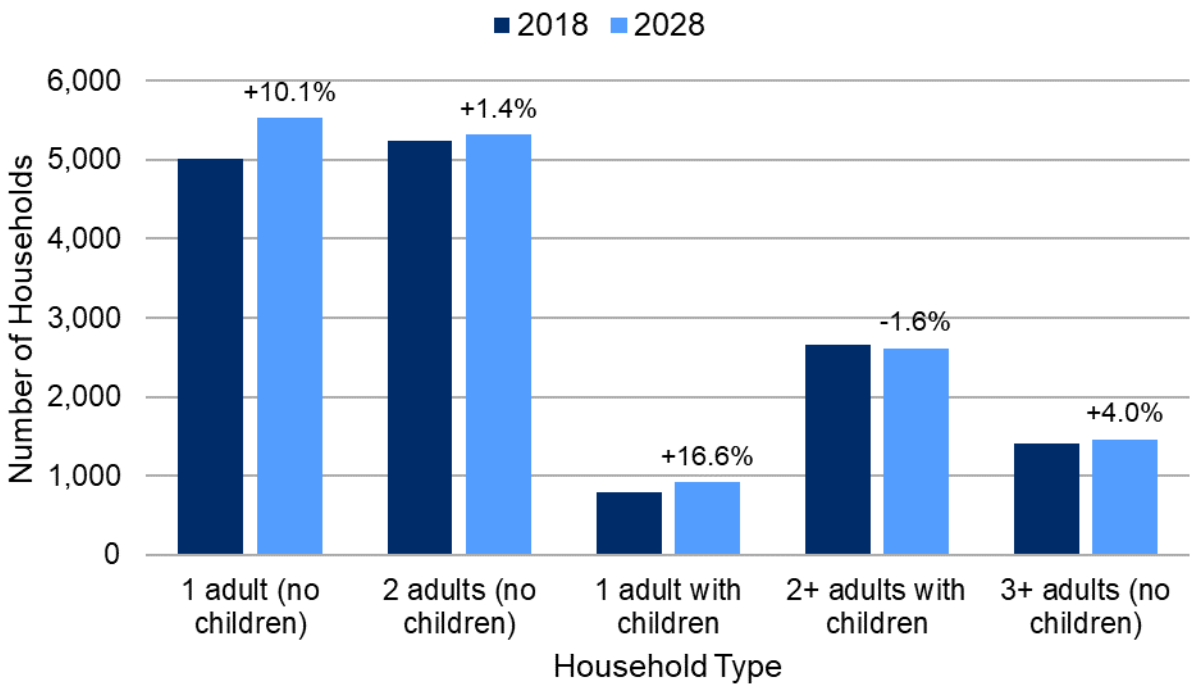
Brecon Beacons national park is the most populous in Wales with an estimated population in mid-2018 of over 33,800 people. It covers an area of 1,345km^2 giving a population density of 25 people per square kilometre.

The national park lies within multiple local authorities, with varying proportions of the households within each local authority. The local authorities included in the Brecon Beacons national park area are:

- Powys
- Carmarthenshire
- Neath Port Talbot
- Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Caerphilly
- Blaenau Gwent
- Torfaen
- Monmouthshire

As at mid-2018, Powys and Monmouthshire accounted for the majority of the households in the national park, with Powys accounting for 72% and Monmouthshire 22%. Carmarthenshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf (r) and Merthyr Tydfil (r) account for a smaller proportion of the households within the national park (4%, 2% and 1% respectively). A very small part of Neath Port Talbot, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen are inside the Brecon Beacons national park area therefore for the purposes of these projections, we do not calculate residual area projections for these areas.

Chart 3: Household projections by type of household for Brecon Beacons, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Between 2018 and 2028:

- it is projected that the number of one-person households and two-person households with no children will increase and continue to be the most common household type, accounting for 34.9% and 33.6% of all households in 2028 respectively
- the number of one-person households with children are projected to increase by 16.6%, mainly led by an increase in the number of households with one child (note, however, that there are fewer of these households than other household types, accounting for 5.8% of all households by 2028)
- there is a projected decrease in the number of households with two adults and children, accounting for 16.5% of all households by 2028. This means that, overall, the number of households with children are projected to decrease, accounting for 22.3% of all households by 2028

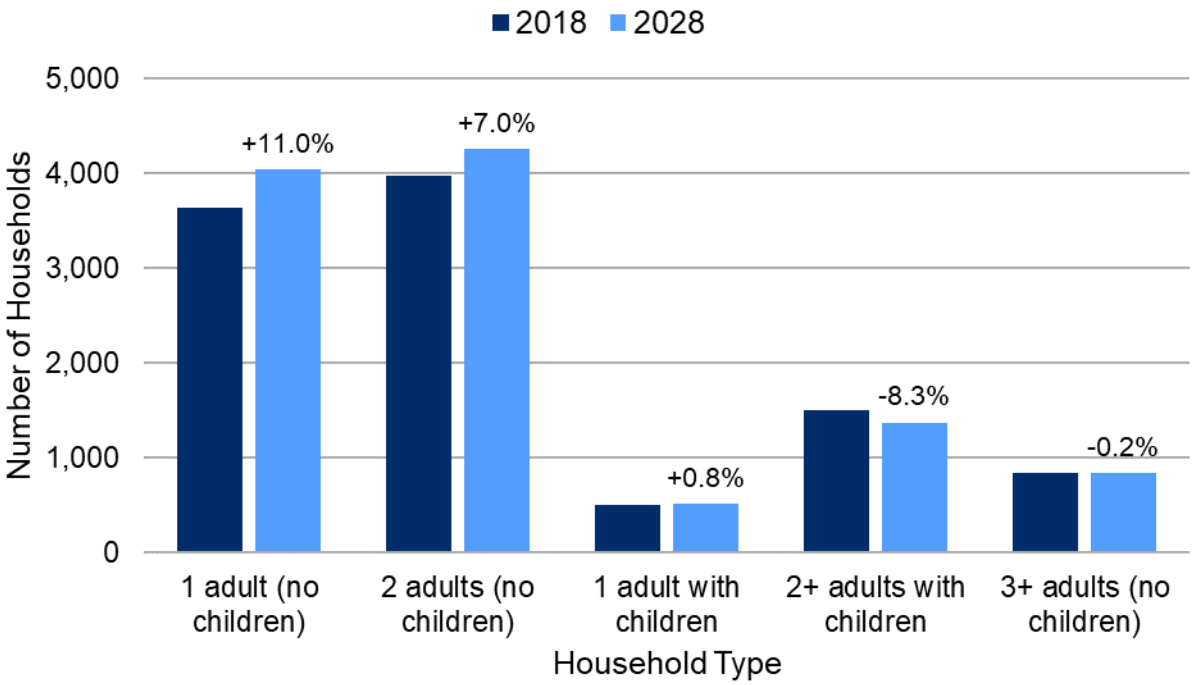
(r) Revised on 19 May 2021 due to incorrect ordering of the local authorities.

- the number of larger households with no children is projected to increase slightly, although their share of all households is projected to drop slightly to 9.2%

Pembrokeshire Coast national park

Pembrokeshire Coast national park is the only national park to be fully contained within one local authority (Pembrokeshire) and has the smallest estimated population at just under 22,400 people in mid-2018. It covers 586km^2 giving it a population density of 38 people per kilometre squared. In mid-2018, the number of households within the national park area was estimated to be 19% of the total for Pembrokeshire local authority area.

Chart 4: Household projections by type of household for Pembrokeshire Coast, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

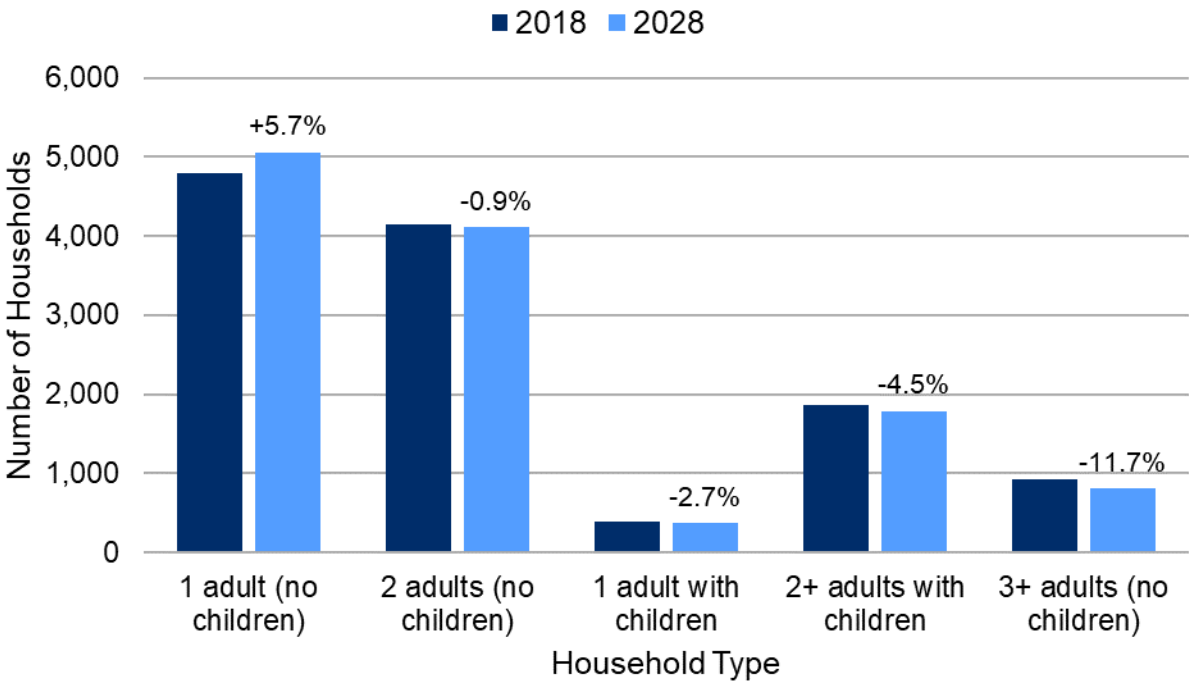
Between 2018 and 2028:

- it is projected that the number of one-person households and two-person households with no children will increase and continue to be the most common household types, accounting for 36.7% and 38.6% of all households in 2028 respectively
- it is projected that the number of households with children will decrease from just over 2,000 households to just under 1,900 households (a decrease of 6%), despite a slight increase in the number of one-person households with children
- the number of larger households with no children is projected to remain broadly similar, although it is projected that they will decrease as a share of all households to 7.6%

Snowdonia national park

Snowdonia national park is the largest in Wales at 2,110km^2, with an estimated population of just under 25,400 in mid-2018, giving it a population density of 12 people per kilometre squared. The majority of the households (85%) were within Gwynedd as of mid-2018, with the remaining 15% in Conwy.

Chart 5: Household projections by type of household for Snowdonia, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Between 2018 and 2028:

- it is projected that the number of one-person households will increase and continue to be the most common household type, accounting for 41.7% of all households in 2028
- the number of all other broad household types are projected to decrease over the period, with larger household types projected to see a more marked percentage decrease
- it is projected that the number of households with children will decrease from nearly 2,450 households to just under 2,160 households (a decrease of 4.2%), making up 17.8% of all households by 2028

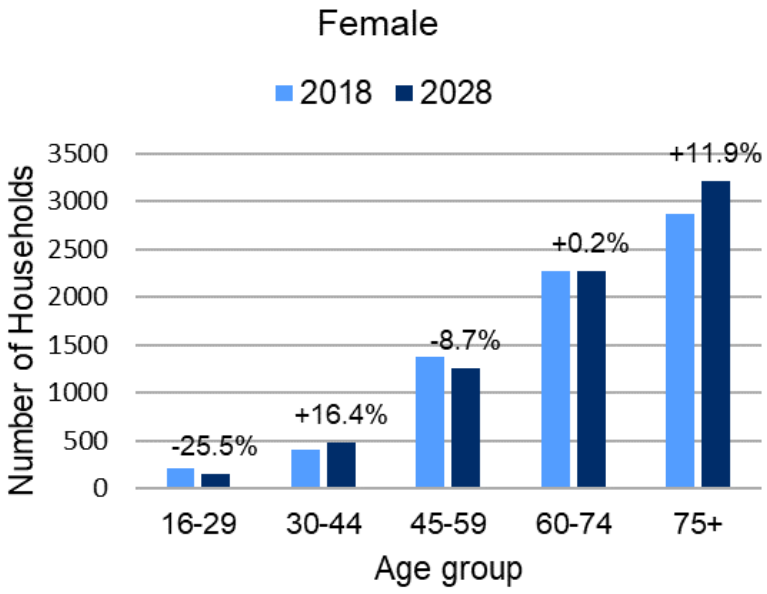
One-person households

Between 2018 and 2028:

- it is projected that the number of one-person households will increase across Wales, and that they will continue to be the most common household type, accounting for 33.5% of all households in 2028 (based on the 2018-based local authority household projections)
- this is similar to what is projected for all three national parks, with one-person households being increasingly common and making up 35%, 37% and 42% of all households by 2028 in the Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast, and Snowdonia respectively

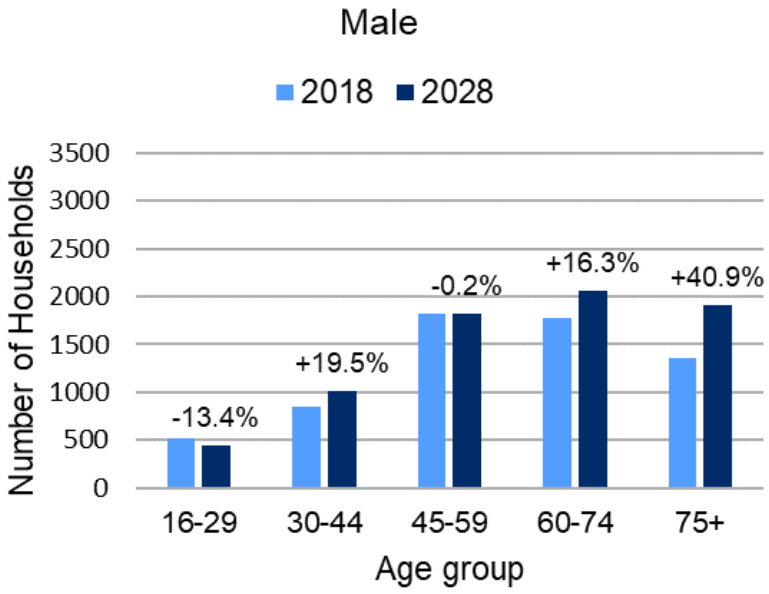
Charts 6 and 7 show how the number of one-person households by age and sex is projected to change for all three national parks combined between 2018 and 2028. The trends, by age and sex, are broadly similar for all three national parks, although there is some variation.

Chart 6: Number of one-person female households by age group for Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Chart 7: Number of one-person male households by age group for Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Between 2018 and 2028, for all three national parks:

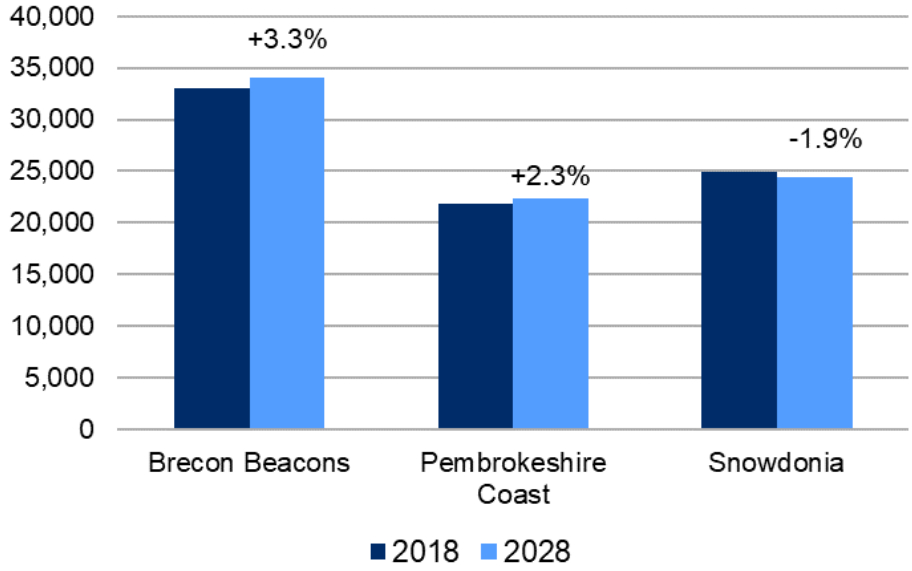
- it is projected that living in one-person households will continue to be more common for females in older age groups than males
- the number of males in younger age groups living in one-person households is projected to continue to be higher than for females
- it is projected that the total number of males living in one-person households will increase by 15% compared to 3% for females, although the total number of females in one-person households is projected to remain higher at 7,380 for females compared to 7,250 for males in 2028
- although the number of one-person households are projected to increase, the number of one-person households for the younger ages are projected to decrease in general for both males and females.

Household population and household size

The household population is the number of people living in private households. This is calculated by subtracting the population living in communal establishments from the total population. Communal establishments include residential care homes, university halls of residence, boarding schools and prisons. As population estimates for people living in communal establishments are not available on an annual basis, assumed numbers are calculated based on census data.

As shown in Chart 1, the household populations in the Brecon Beacons, and Pembrokeshire Coast are expected to grow by 3.3% (to just over 34,100) and 2.3% (to nearly 22,400) respectively, whereas Snowdonia is projected to decrease by 1.9% (to nearly 24,500). This is compared with a projected 2.4% increase in the household population across all of Wales.

Chart 8: Household population projections by national park, 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Average household size, measured in terms of persons per household, is calculated by dividing the household population by the number of households. The average household size in Wales is projected to decrease from 2.27 persons per household in 2018 to 2.23 persons per household in 2028.

Table 1: Average household size projections by national park, 2018-2028

Average Household Size		
	2018	2028
Brecon Beacons	2.18	2.15
Pembrokeshire Coast	2.09	2.03
Snowdonia	2.06	2.01

Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

The average household size for all three national parks is lower than that of Wales as a whole. This is predominantly due to the national parks having older populations in general. Older populations are more likely to live in one and two-person households, which decreases the average household size. The projected decrease in average household size across all three national parks is predominantly due to the aging population in all three national parks with household formation rates projected to remain broadly similar.

Residual areas

Several local authorities lie partly inside a national park and partly outside. The area that lies outside the national park is known as a 'residual area'. Please see the key quality information section for more information on how projections for residual areas are calculated.

Brecon Beacons

Pembrokeshire Coast

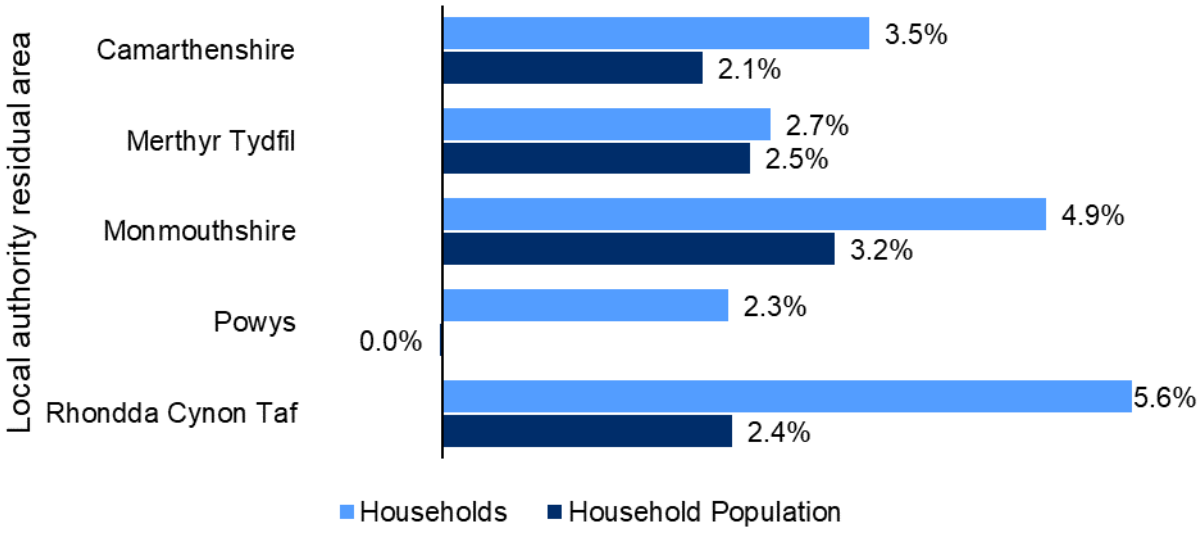
Snowdonia

Brecon Beacons national park residual areas

There are five local authorities that lie partly within Brecon Beacons national park (with another four local authorities that have very small parts within the national park area, which are not included here).

Powys and Monmouthshire have the largest percentage of their households within the national park (18% and 8% respectively). Fewer than 1% of the households in Carmarthenshire, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf are within the national park, as of mid-2018.

Chart 9: Percentage change in the number of households and household population for residual areas between 2018 and 2028



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

Between 2018 and 2028, the numbers of households in all five residual areas outside of Brecon Beacons national park are projected to increase. The number of households in Rhondda Cynon Taf residual area is projected to increase the most by 5.6% (5,900).

The household population is projected to increase in four of the five residual areas. Powys residual area is projected to have a slight decrease in the household population, however, it is still projected to have an increase in the number of households.

Similar to the national park areas, the numbers of one and two-person households in all five residual areas are projected to increase in general. The number of larger household types is generally projected to decrease or increase more slowly than one and two-person households.

Pembrokeshire Coast national park residual area

Pembrokeshire Coast is contained solely within Pembrokeshire local authority, and accounted for around 19% of all households in the local authority as of mid-2018.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Pembrokeshire residual area is projected to increase by 5.1% (around 2,300), with the household population increasing by 2.1% (2,100). The numbers of one and two-person households in Pembrokeshire residual area are projected to increase by 9.0% (2,800), whereas for the majority of other household types the numbers are projected to decrease.

Snowdonia national park residual areas

Gwynedd and Conwy lie partly within Snowdonia national park. Gwynedd has the larger share of its households in the national park, with 19% as of mid-2018, whereas Conwy had 4%.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Conwy residual area is projected to increase by 3.6% (1,800), while the household population is projected to increase by 1.9% (2,000). The number of one-person households is projected to increase by 6.5% and remain the most common household type.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Gwynedd residual area is projected to increase by nearly 5.8% (2,600), while the household population is projected to increase by 4.5% (4,400). This increase is mainly due to a 10.8% increase in one-person households, which represents around 1,700 additional households.

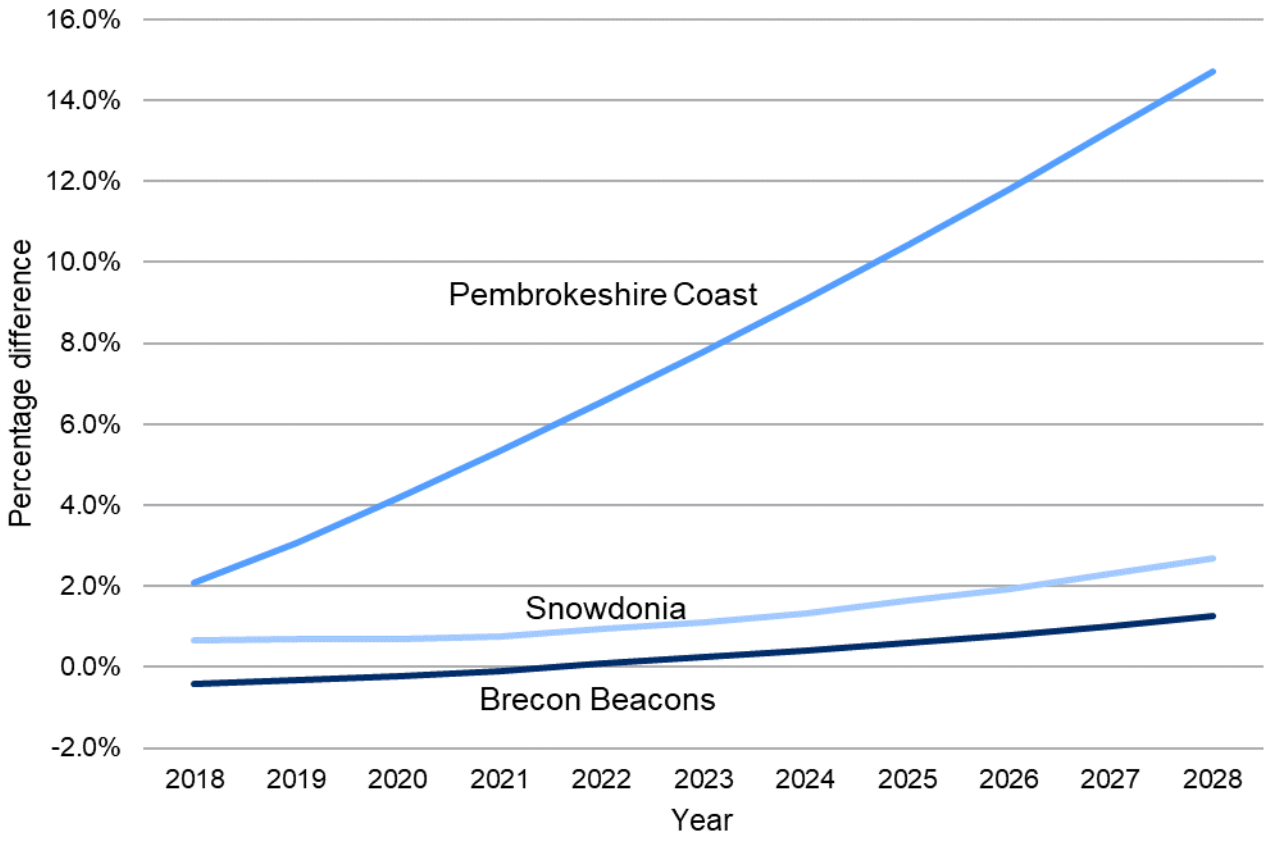
Comparisons

Comparisons with the 2014-based national park household projections

Since the publication of the 2014-based national park household projections, a change has been made to the methodology for calculating the migration assumptions for both the local authority projections and national park projections. For the national park population projections, international migration assumptions and internal migration assumptions are now calculated separately (for the 2014-based projections, both internal and international migration assumptions were combined). In line with the changes made to the local authority projections, internal migration assumptions are now calculated based on rates rather than fixed numbers. The international migration assumptions continue to be a fixed number over the projection period.

The differences between the 2014-based and 2018-based national park household projections therefore reflect not only the change in demographic trends seen during this time period, but also the change in the methodology between the two sets of projections, as well as the change in the base year of the projection.

Chart 10: Percentage difference between the projected number of households using 2014-based and 2018-based projections, by national park



Source: 2014-based and 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government

The projected number of households for all three national parks for 2028 is higher in the 2018-based projections than in the 2014-based projections, notably so for Pembrokeshire Coast.

The projected numbers of households for Snowdonia in 2028 are 2.7% higher in the 2018-based projections than in the 2014-based projections, and the projections for the Brecon Beacons are 1.3% higher.

The projected number of households for Pembrokeshire Coast in 2028 are higher by 14.7% (1,400 households) in the 2018-based projections compared to the 2014-based projections. This difference is almost entirely due to the difference in household population, which is projected to be 14.3% higher than the 2014-based projections by 2028.

There are a number of possible reasons for this:

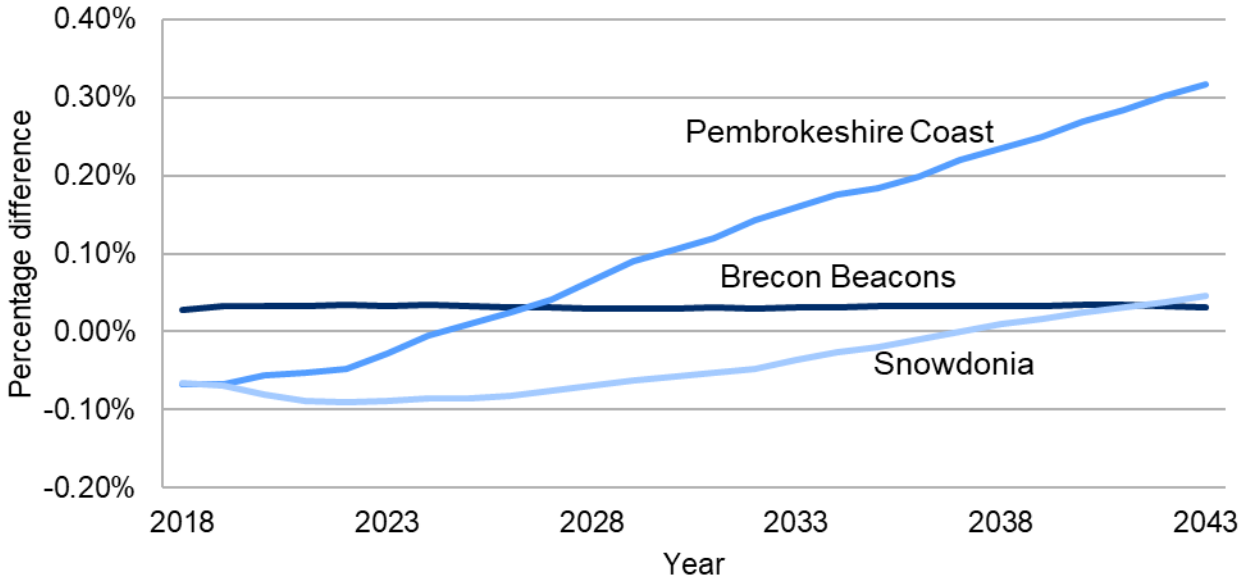
- the mid-year population estimate for Pembrokeshire Coast in 2018 was 1.6% higher than what was projected using the 2014-based population projections, therefore the 2018-based population projections started from a higher baseline and the components of change (natural change and migration) are projected to be higher than in the 2014-based projections. This difference in the mid-year estimate is reflected in the 2018-based population projections for Pembrokeshire Coast and subsequently these household projections
- the methodology used for migration has changed between the 2014-based population projections and the 2018-based population projections. Internal migration assumptions are now calculated based on rates rather than fixed numbers. For more information on this change, please see the key quality information section of the 2018-based national park population projections. This methodological difference may impact the comparability between the two sets of projections.
- the internal migration estimate data for national parks has some limitations due to difficulties in estimating migration for small areas. This appears to be more pronounced for Pembrokeshire Coast than the other national parks. For more information on this, please see the key quality information section of the 2018-based national park population projections

Comparisons with the 2018-based local authority household projections

The three national parks in Wales are contained within several different local authorities. As we calculate projections for the areas both inside and outside of the national park areas, it is possible to compare these projections with the 2018-based local authority household projections.

As we do not constrain our national park projections to match the local authority projections, they will not match exactly. Differences between the two sets of projections can be affected by the relatively small numbers used in the calculation of the national park projections. There are also some definitional differences in the migration data used in the national park projections compared with the local authority projections. Comparisons between the two sets of projections are therefore limited, but they are broadly comparable. Further information can be found in the key quality information section.

Chart 11: Percentage difference in number of households between the national park projections and the local authority projections, 2018 to 2043



Source: 2018-based national park household projections, Welsh Government and 2018-based local authority household projections, Welsh Government

This chart shows the percentage difference between the sum of the national park projections and residual area projections, and the local authority projections. For example, for Snowdonia, the sum of the projections for Snowdonia national park, Gwynedd residual area and Conwy residual area is compared with the sum of the local authority projections for Gwynedd and Conwy.

The national park projections remain broadly consistent with the local authority projections over the 25-year period, differing by less than 0.5% for all national parks for the entirety of the projection period.

Key quality information

Relevance

Household projections are important for policy development, planning, and the provision of public services. There is a high demand for household projections for a range of uses. These include:

- planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, (for example, housing, health, and social services) including the preparation of Local Development Plans and in the National Development Framework
- policy development
- advice to Ministers
- informing debate in the Senedd and beyond
- the calculation of further statistics (for example, estimates of housing need and demand)
- geographic profiling, comparisons, and benchmarking
- supporting well-being assessments required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

There is a range of users of household data from national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, other government departments, students, researchers, universities, individual citizens, and private companies. Those who plan for the future to deliver services and to help frame sustainable policies need to consider the population and the number of households. Household projections can identify trends that shape the context for future policy development.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in July 2015. A key element of the Act is to enable local planning authorities to come together and prepare a Strategic Development Plan, which transcends local authority boundaries, covering a wider geographical area and dealing with not just local issues. The Local Government Elections (Wales) Bill, which came into force on 21 January 2021, will replace the governance structure of preparing strategic development plans.

Evidence to support plan preparation will include demographic statistics and population and household projections, which will need to be considered in a strategic context. Future iterations of projections will play a role in shaping strategic plans.

All local planning authorities with adopted Local Development Plans (LDPs) have to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), which measures how policies have performed and what corrective action may be required. AMRs play a critical role in ensuring that the LDP is kept up-to-date. The progress demonstrated within the AMRs can have a bearing on future population levels and distribution, demographic profiles, and house prices. These outcomes and their relationship to the key objectives of the plan will form part of the AMR.

Household

A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room, or sitting room or at least one meal a day.

Communal establishment

A communal establishment is defined as an establishment providing managed residential accommodation. These establishments are not included in the household projections (see methodology below). In this context, managed means full-time or part-time supervision of the accommodation. In most cases (for example, prisons, large hospitals, hotels) communal establishments can be easily identified. However, difficulties can arise with small hotels, guesthouses and sheltered accommodation.

Special rules apply in these cases:

- Small hotels and guesthouses are treated as communal establishments if they have the capacity to have 10 or more guests, excluding the owner/manager and their family.
- Sheltered housing is treated as a communal establishment if fewer than half the residents possess their own facilities for cooking. If half or more possess their own facilities for cooking (regardless of use) the whole establishment is treated as separate households.

Accuracy

Household projections are trend-based projections that provide estimates of the number of households. They are based on population projections, and assumptions about households from the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. The population projections are trend-based projections that provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The assumptions are generally based on past trends. Projections done in this way do not make allowances for the effects of local or central government policies on future population levels, distribution, and change.

Household projections have their limitations. These national park household projections are not policy-based forecasts. They indicate what is expected to happen if the trends on which they are based continue. As the process of demographic change is cumulative, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward. Demographic change affects some populations more rapidly and to a greater effect than others.

There are factors that can influence the projections and the three main components of population change, for example, changes in the economy, changes in individual, family, and household behaviour, and events outside the UK.

Methodology

Population projections are based on mid-year population estimates (as at 30 June each year). Mid-year population estimates for England and Wales are produced by the ONS. In order to produce the national park household projections, the population projections are combined with household formation rates. These assumptions are based on past trends.

These national park projections are based on the mid-2018 population estimates for national parks in Wales.

The fertility, mortality, and migration base data used to calculate assumptions about future trends are produced by the ONS for the length of the projection period, usually twenty-five years.

Assumptions about trends in household formation rates are calculated from the 2001 and 2011 Census figures produced by the ONS. Census data is used as it is the most comprehensive source of information about household formations. However, it is possible that changes in household formation since the 2011 Census may be different to the changes between the 2001 Census and 2011 Census, especially later in the ten-year census cycle.

National park population projections are produced using a well-established demographic approach known as the cohort component method. That is:

- taking the most recent year's population estimate
- taking out special population groups
- ageing every person on one year
- adding births and subtracting deaths
- allowing for inward and outward migration
- adding back in the special population groups

The assumptions are generally based on trends during the most recent five years, and the projections indicate what may happen should these trends continue.

Household projections are then calculated by

- subtracting the assumed population living in communal establishments from the projected population by age group and sex to create the estimated number of people living in private households
- using historical data to calculate projected household membership rates for 2018 to 2043
- multiplying the estimated number of people living in private households by the projected household membership rates
- dividing the results out by household size, then aggregating by age group, sex and household type to give the projected total number of households

This process was carried out using the available population projections for 2018 to 2043 for each national park and residual area in Wales.

When producing national park projections we also calculate projections for the parts of the local authority outside the national parks, which we call 'residual areas'. These are:

Brecon Beacons

- Carmarthenshire
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Monmouthshire
- Powys
- Rhondda Cynon Taf

Snowdonia

- Conwy
- Gwynedd

Pembrokeshire Coast

- Pembrokeshire

Very small parts of the national parks lie in other local authorities but these areas are so small that they are not included in these projections. The population estimates for the residual areas are built-up from small area estimates and from making assumptions about how the population is distributed amongst areas not within national parks, so although they are a useful indication of population size and population change, they should not be thought of as precise figures.

As the populations within the national parks split into each local authority are small, it is not practical to project trends for these individual populations, therefore we model the population and households within the whole national park. However, we are able to provide an estimate of the split of the population for the base year of the projections across all local authorities. As the population trends are broadly similar across the entire national park we would expect this split to remain fairly consistent over the projection period.

The 2018-based national park population projections release includes further details of the changes made to the migration component of the national park population projections, which are used as the basis for these household projections (see the Key quality information section).

The methodology for these projections has been developed in close collaboration with local authorities, national parks and key users in Wales through the Wales Subnational Projections (WaSP) working group. This group has met on a regular basis during the preparation of the projections and has been a forum for technical discussion on the methodology and the base data used. Members of WaSP include local authority and national park representatives, and others with knowledge of, and experience of, demographic data and population projections.

Regular updates have also been provided at full meetings of the Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee (WSLC).

Guidance on the detailed methodology used to produce subnational household projections for Wales will be published in a technical report in due course. It will describe how the local authority and national park household projections are calculated, and describe in detail the methodology used to derive assumptions on fertility, mortality, migration, and household formation.

Timeliness and punctuality

The national park household projections are usually calculated and published every three years, in response to user need in Wales.

The last set of national park household projections were 2014-based projections, published in July 2017.

The Welsh Government's Chief Statistician announced in a blog in October 2019 that the 2017-based subnational population and household projections would be postponed. A statistical article was also published, setting out the challenges in producing the 2017-based subnational population

projections in more detail, and announcing the planned update of the national park projections to be 2018-based.

Proposed timing of next projections

The ONS usually publishes national population projections every two years. Between 15 October and 12 November, the ONS ran a user engagement exercise to give users the opportunity to provide feedback on how they might approach the publication and timing of the next set of national population projections and subnational population projections. An article was published on 19 April summarising the responses and results from the user engagement exercise, as well as discussing the final recommendations.

A final recommendation on the production of 2020-based national population projections was made by the National Population Projections Committee, comprising the Office for National Statistics (ONS), National Records Scotland (NRS), Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Welsh Government. This recommendation was presented to the UK Census Committee (UKCC) for a final decision. The UKCC, chaired by the National Statistician, co-ordinates UK-wide statistical issues and reviews alternative approaches to meeting future user needs for population and small area socio-demographic statistics.

The UKCC decided that, in order to meet user needs identified through this user engagement, a principal national population projection only will be published for each UK constituent country and for the UK as a whole, with no variant projections. This is in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and to support the forthcoming State Pension Age Review. The ONS plans for these to be published in December 2021 and be titled '2020-based interim national population projections' using an updated set of demographic assumptions.

The Welsh Government usually publishes subnational projections once every three years, therefore, the next set of projections for Wales would be 2021-based.We are therefore proposing that the next set of subnational population projections for Wales will be based on 2021 Census data.

We would welcome any feedback on this proposed approach via our mailbox stats.popcensus@gov.wales.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics and Research section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

Comparability and coherence

The National Records of Scotland publishes subnational household projections, which include national park household projections. The 2018-based subnational household projections were published on Tuesday 29 September 2020.

The ONS and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency do not publish household projections at a national park level for England and Northern Ireland.

User guidance is available on the comparison of data sources and methods for the subnational household projections across the UK.

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 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 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.

These statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice in 2011.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- worked with the Wales Subnational Projections (WaSP) working group to make and agree improvements to the methodology for calculating the projections
- made improvements to the presentation of the statistics
- enhanced trustworthiness by reducing pre-release access

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 Senedd Cymru. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

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.

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/subnational-household-projections

Next update

To be confirmed

We want your feedback

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

Open Government Licence

All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated.