

Wellbeing of Wales: 2025



A report about the progress Wales is making towards improving wellbeing of current and future generations.

This document was written by the Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of 'Wellbeing of Wales: 2025. This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 wellbeing goals.

Date: October 2025

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How to use this document



This is an easy read document.
But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on page 33.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Introduction

9th



This is the 9th time we have made one of these reports about the **Wellbeing** of Wales. When we say **wellbeing**, we mean:



- **Economic wellbeing** which is about things like having a job, running a business and having an income.



- **Social wellbeing** which is about things like our community and values.



- **Environmental wellbeing** which is about our nature, land, water and air.



- **Cultural wellbeing** includes things that bring us together such as history, poetry, and events like Eisteddfod.
- And also your **wellbeing**.



Wellbeing means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do.



We write this report to find out whether Wales is achieving the **7 wellbeing goals for Wales**.

These goals are set out in the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**.



This is a law which wants to make Wales a better place for you to live and for people in the future.



The law has **7 goals** which will help Wales become a more **sustainable** nation.

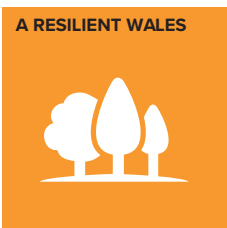
Being **sustainable** means using things we need to live our lives but making sure there are still enough left for future generations.

These are called **wellbeing goals** because they describe good things we want to make happen.

The **7 wellbeing goals** for Wales are:



1. A prosperous Wales.



2. A resilient Wales.



3. A healthier Wales.



4. A more equal Wales.



5. A Wales of cohesive communities.



6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.



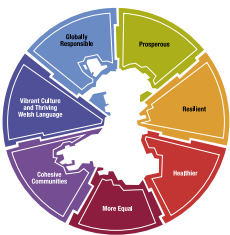
7. A globally responsible Wales.

We will talk more about these goals and what they mean in the document.

How we measure wellbeing



To find out whether Wales is making progress towards the **wellbeing goals**, we collect information and data.



The **wellbeing goals** are then broken down into 50 smaller goals. We call these **national indicators**.



We also have longer-term goals called **milestones**. These give more information about how much change is needed for each goal. They help give us a better idea of how we are doing.



The rest of the document talks about what has been achieved for each of the **wellbeing goals** in the past year.

1. A prosperous Wales



This goal is about helping Wales do well as a country in a smart and fair way.

It means:



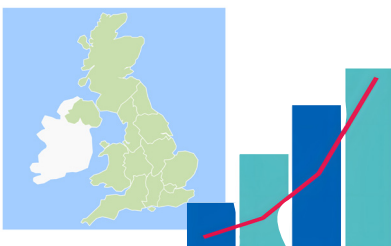
- Helping the economy grow so people can get good jobs.

- Making sure work and wages are fair.



- Helping people learn new skills and get a good education.

What we found out:



- The **economy** in the UK has grown slowly in the last two years.



The **economy** is the value of the things we make and sell. And how much money we spend.



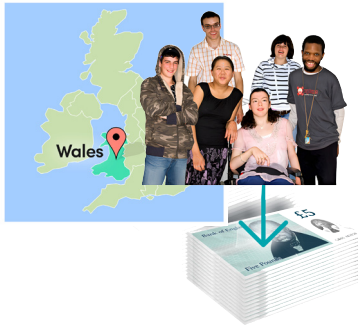
- Some jobs have been lost, especially in low-paid areas like hospitality, but public sector jobs (like in schools and hospitals) are growing.

- Differences in employment between Wales and other parts of the UK are less than they used to be.

- **Innovation in businesses** has shown some improvement in recent years.



Innovation in business is the process of introducing new ideas, products, services or methods that add value.

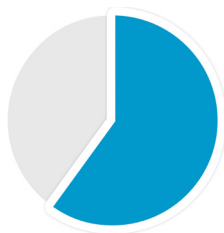


- People in Wales earn less money than people in most other parts of the UK.

- **Poverty** and low pay are still a problem. About 1 in 5 people in Wales live in poverty and 1 in 4 households struggle to afford heating.



Poverty means not having enough money to live a safe and comfortable life.



- Only two thirds of workers in Wales earn at least the 'real living wage' (a wage considered enough to live on).



- The **gender pay gap** is much smaller now than twenty years ago.



The **gender pay gap** is the average difference between what men and women get paid.



- Disability and ethnic minority workers still earn less, but the gap is shrinking.



- More people are getting qualifications and more young people are in education, training or work.



- Children from poorer backgrounds often do less well in school.

2. A resilient Wales



This goal is about protecting nature and helping Wales cope with change.

It means:



- Looking after wildlife and the natural environment.
- Keeping our air, land and water healthy.
- Being ready for big changes like climate change.



What we found out:

- Wales is using up its **natural resources** very quickly.



Natural resources are things like forests, land, soil, air, plants and wildlife.



- There is a lot of work to do to protect people from risks in the environment. For example, flooding.

- **Air pollution** is generally decreasing, but it is still a risk to people's health.



Air pollution is pollution caused by cars, other transport, burning fuel to heat our homes and other things.



- Wales has one of the best **recycling** rates in the world. But we are still using up more natural resources than we can replace.



Recycling is when we turn our rubbish in to something we can use again.



- The amount of waste we have recycled has increased a lot over the last 20 years.



- Around a third of electricity generated in Wales is from renewable energy. This means energy that comes from things like wind farms or solar power.



- There is less **biodiversity** than there used to be. This is because there are less places for animals and plants to live and grow.



Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you find in one area. For example, plants and animals.



- Water is generally better quality than it used to be. This is in seas, rivers, streams and in the ground.

3. A healthier Wales



This goal is about helping people in Wales to be as healthy as possible.

It means:



- Supporting people's physical and mental health.
- Helping everyone make good choices for their health.



Understand

- Making sure people understand how their actions today can help them stay healthy in the future.

What we found out:

- We are living longer, but this is not improving as quickly as it used to.



- We are living less time in a healthy state. People who live in poorer areas live less of their lives in good health.



- The percentage of babies being born at a low weight has increased.



- In general, people are making more healthier choices, but their mental health has not improved.



- Houses are in a better condition and safer than they used to be.

4. A more equal Wales



This goal is about making sure everyone in Wales has a fair chance in life.

It means:



- Helping people reach their full potential.
- Making sure your background or life situation doesn't hold you back.
- Supporting people from all walks of life, including those with less money or fewer opportunities.



What we found out:



- Children are twice as likely to live in **poverty** as pensioners.



- Older adults have higher wellbeing and feel less lonely than younger adults.



- Children from some **ethnic minority groups** do better in school.



Ethnic minority groups are people who come from a different background or country to the majority of other people in a society.



- White people are more likely to be in employment than people from ethnic minority groups but the difference is less than it used to be.

-
- People from **ethnic minority groups** have higher wellbeing than white people.



- People who are disabled are less likely to be in work and more likely live in **poverty** than people who are not disabled. Both these differences have decreased over the last 10 years.



- People who are disabled and working earn less money on average than those who are not disabled.



Lower



- Disabled people have lower wellbeing than non-disabled people.

- The gender pay gap is smaller now than it used to be.



- Feelings of safety have remained about the same, with men feeling safer than women.

5. A Wales of cohesive communities



This goal is about helping communities in Wales feel safe, welcoming and well connected.

It means:



- Making places nice to live in.



- Helping communities stay strong and work well together.



- Making sure people feel safe.



- Helping people stay connected to each other and to services.

What we found out:

6 out of 10



- Nearly 6 out of 10 people say they feel part of their community and get on well with others. Older people feel like this more than younger people.



- During the COVID-19 pandemic, people felt more part of their community. But recently, those feelings have gone back to how they were before.

8 out of 10



- Just over 8 out of 10 people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

- Fewer people feel they can influence decisions in their area.



- Men feel safer than women after dark.

3 out of 10



- Around 3 in 10 adults volunteer. This has been shown to improve **wellbeing**.



- In the last year fewer crimes have been recorded by the police. Most people don't experience crime.



- Despite this, many people think that crime has increased.



- The number of households stopped from being homeless has fallen and fewer people live in short-term accommodation.

6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language



This goal is about celebrating Welsh culture and helping the Welsh language grow.

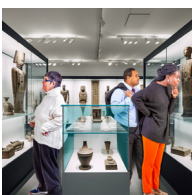
It means:



- Protecting Welsh traditions, history and language.



- Encouraging people to enjoy arts, music, sports and fun activities.



- Making sure everyone can take part in cultural life.

What we found out:



- 7 in 10 people see or take part in the arts or culture. This means doing things like seeing a film or live music, or being in a play.



- Ten years ago, more children were going to and taking part in arts activities. Now, fewer children are doing these activities.



- According to the Census, the percentage of Welsh speakers is the lowest it has ever been.



- Fewer children are taking part in regular sport outside of school.



- More adults are taking part in sport regularly. Just over 1 in 3 do sport at least 3 times a week.



- **Listed buildings** in Wales are in slightly better condition since 2015, but **monuments** are getting worse.



Listed buildings are buildings like old houses or churches. They are looked after because they have a special history or design.



Monuments are old places like castles, burial sites or ruins. They are protected to stop them being damaged or changed.

7. A globally responsible Wales



This goal is about making choices in Wales that also help people and the planet around the world.

It means:



- Thinking about how our actions in Wales affect other countries.

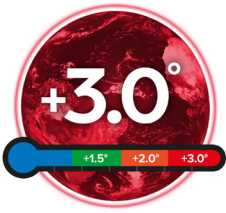


- Making sure we help improve wellbeing everywhere, not just in Wales.



- Understanding that what we do here can have good or bad effects in other parts of the world.
- Working towards a fair and sustainable future for everyone.

What we found out:



- We are getting better at reducing greenhouse gases. These are gases that harm the environment.



- Wales is still putting a lot of pressure on the planet. This means we are using too many resources.



- The biggest cause of greenhouse gasses is from the industry supply sector, for example factories and businesses that make things.



- About the same number of people were referred as victims of **modern slavery** as last year. This means the problem has not got better or worse.



Modern slavery is when people are forced to work without choosing to. They may not get paid and may not be free to leave or live how they want.



- Most young children in Wales still get their vaccinations, which help protect children from serious illnesses. But fewer children are getting them compared to a few years ago.



- Many people learn about global issues at college and school.

More information about this report



This report about the **wellbeing** of Wales is produced every year.



It is produced because of a law called The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



The report is made by looking at a number of different reports, surveys and research which tells us more about the **wellbeing** of Wales.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The report has been made by the Welsh Government.



The full version of this report can be found online at: www.gov.wales/wellbeing-wales A Guide to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

This is an easy read document from the Welsh Government Published March 2022.

Hard words

Air pollution is pollution caused by cars, other transport, burning fuel to heat our homes and other things.

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you find in one area. For example, plants and animals.

The **Economy** is the value of the things we make and sell. And how much money we spend.

Inflation is when the price of things changes. When it goes up and people can buy less with their money.

Innovation in business is the process of introducing new ideas, products, services or methods that add value.

The **gender pay gap** is the average difference between what men and women earn.

Listed buildings are buildings like old houses or churches. They are looked after because they have a special history or design.

Modern slavery is when people are forced to work without choosing to. They may not get paid and may not be free to leave or live how they want.

Monuments are old places like castles, burial sites or ruins. They are protected to stop them being damaged or changed.

Natural resources are things like forests, land, soil, air, plants and wildlife.

Poverty means not having enough money to live a safe and comfortable life.

Recycling is when we turn our rubbish into something we can use again.

Wellbeing (person) means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do.

Wellbeing covers the condition of our economy, society, environment, and culture.