

Population

Total population

The population of Wales in mid-2008 was estimated at 2,993,000. The population is expected to increase by 11 per cent to 3.3 million by 2031, crossing the 3 million mark sometime before mid-2009. At mid-2008 the population of each of the four countries of the UK was as follows:

	Population 000s	%
Wales	2,993	5
England	51,446	84
Scotland	5,169	8
N Ireland	1,775	3
UK	61,383	100

Of the total Welsh population at the mid-2008 estimate, 1,461,500 (48.8 per cent) were men and 1,531,900 (51.2 per cent) were women. The 2001 Census also reported that 610,000 of the population of England were born in Wales.

Age analysis

Comparisons with the other countries of the UK shows that Wales has, overall, an older population than the UK as a whole. Children from 0-15 (553,100) account for 18.5 per cent of the Welsh population compared with 18.8 per cent for the UK as a whole. Those of retirement age (639,400) account for 21.4 per cent against 19.2 per cent for the UK as a whole. With 151,700 people in Wales aged 85 or over, Wales has 11.7 per cent of those in the UK in that age category – more than twice its 5 per cent share of the population as a whole.

%	Wales	England	Scotland	N Ireland	UK
Under 16	18.5	18.8	17.7	21.5	
16-44	37.2	40.1	39.0	40.9	
45-64M/59F	22.9	21.9	23.6	20.9	
65M+/60F+	21.4	19.1	19.7	16.7	

Thus, of the four countries, Wales has the highest proportion of its population outside normal working age.

%	England	Scotland	N Ireland
Wales	37.9	37.4	38.2

The age breakdown of the Welsh population was as follows:

Age	000s	Age	000s	%
0-4	168.2			
5-9	163.0	0-9	331.2	11.1
10-14	183.2			
15-19	202.8	10-19	386.0	12.9
20-24	209.2			
25-29	174.6	20-29	383.8	12.8
30-34	156.6			
35-39	195.6	30-39	352.2	11.8
40-44	215.2			
45-49	207.3	40-49	422.5	14.1
50-54	189.1			
55-59	192.7	50-59	381.8	12.7
60-64	196.5			
65-69	153.1	60-69	349.6	11.7
70-74	129.3			
75-79	105.4	70-79	234.7	7.8
80-84	79.4			
85-89	50.4	80-89	129.8	4.3
90+	21.9			
		90+	21.9	0.7

Distribution of population

The population of Wales is not evenly distributed across the country. More than 60 per cent of the Welsh population is resident in the industrial belt of south Wales, between Chepstow and Swansea, with 694,626 (23.2 per cent) in the three coastal cities of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport.

North Wales	Population 000s	Population 000s	%
Anglesey	69,012		
Gwynedd	118,207		
Conwy	112,032		
Denbighshire	97,573		
Flintshire	150,967		
Wrexham	132,851		
		680,642	22.7
Mid Wales			
Powys	132,598		4.4
South West Wales			
Ceredigion	78,047		
Pembrokeshire	118,807		
Carmarthenshire	180,529		
		377,383	12.6

Industrial South Wales	Population 000s	Population 000s	%
Swansea	229,091		
Neath Port Talbot	137,645		
Bridgend	134,794		
Vale of Glamorgan	124,869		
Cardiff	324,821		
Rhondda Cynon Taff	234,097		
Merthyr Tydfil	55,735		
Caerphilly	172,398		
Blaenau Gwent	69,097		
Torfaen	91,097		
Monmouthshire	88,445		
Newport	140,714		
		1,802,803	60.2

Ethnicity

A much lower proportion of the Welsh population is drawn from black and other minority ethnic groups, than in England or Scotland. At the 2001 census, only 2.12 per cent of the population fell into this category.

Category		%
All people	2,903,086	100
White - British	2,786,605	
White - Irish	17,689	
White - Other	37,211	
White sub-total	2,841,505	97.9
Mixed – White + Black Caribbean	5,996	
Mixed – White + Black African	2,414	
Mixed – White + Asian	5,002	
Mixed - other	4,251	
Mixed sub-total	17,663	0.61
Asian or Asian British - Indian	8,261	
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	8,287	
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	5,436	
Asian or Asian British - Other	3,463	
Asian or Asian British sub-total	25,447	0.88
Black or Black British – Black Caribbean	2,597	
Black or Black British – Black African	3,727	
Black or Black British – Other	743	
Black or Black British sub-total	7,067	0.24
Chinese or other ethnic group - Chinese	6,269	
Chinese or other ethnic group – Other	5,135	
Chinese sub-total	11,404	0.39

Thus the make-up of the Welsh black and ethnic minority community was as follows at the 2001 Census.

		%
Mixed	17,663	28.7
Asian	25,447	41.3
Black	7,067	11.5
Chinese	11,404	18.5
Total	61,581	100

Households

In 2007 98 per cent of the Welsh population lived in 1,284,417 private households, with an average size of 2.28 persons. Of these 491,979 (38.3 per cent) were single adult households, with either one, two or three or no children.

Household size		%
All households	1,284,417	
Single person	396,819	30.9
2 person	455,571	35.5
3 person	203,841	15.9
4 person	152,636	11.9
5+ person	8,182	0.6

Migration

There was a net inward migration to Wales from the rest of the UK in each year between 2001 and 2008. Migration from Wales to other parts of the UK has remained steady at just over a 70,000 – a Millennium Stadium full – per annum. Inward migration from the rest of the UK has been around 80,00 per annum, peaking at 86,431 in 2003, reducing to 76,923 by 2008. Over the past decade migration from the rest of the UK has accounted for 85 per cent of total migration into Wales. Migration to the rest of the UK has accounted for 87 per cent of total migration from Wales.

Migration to and from the rest of the UK

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Inflow	81,463	84,994	86,431	86,100	79,128	77,957	80,617	76,923
Outflow	73,963	74,139	71,265	72,247	71,683	71,351	73,370	71,795
+/-	7,500	10,855	15,166	13,853	7,445	6,606	7,247	5,128

Data for the period mid-1999 to mid-2004 show that Wales the bulk of the population loss is in the core working age group of 16-44. The largest outward migration was in the 16-24 age group, the only category where the outflow exceeds the inflow. The Government Actuary's department has calculated that the peak rate of migration from Wales is at the age of 18, when school leavers migrate, largely when moving into higher education. In the 45-64 age group the inflow is twice the outflow. Overall during this period Wales was losing 19 people per 1,000 population and gaining 22 people per 1,000 population. The age breakdown is as follows:

	Inflow	Outflow
All ages	22	19
Under 16	18	13
16-24	58	61
25-44	26	24
45-64	14	8
Over 65	8	7
Over 65	8	7