

## Welsh Economic Statistics User Group: Minutes of meeting

Tuesday 26 September 2023, 14:00 – 16:00

<b>Attendees</b>			
Alex	Fitzpatrick	AF	Welsh Government (KAS)
Emma	Horncastle	EH	Welsh Government
Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (KAS)
Debbie	Hudd	DH	Welsh Government (Transport)
Melanie	Jones	MJ	Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University
Luned	Jones	LJ	Welsh Government
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government (KAS)
Thomas	Nicholls	TN	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Jamie	Owen	JO	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Cerys	Ponting	CP	Welsh Government (KAS)
Jack	Price	JaP	Wales Centre for Public Policy
Julian	Revell	JR	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Becky	Tinsley	BT	Office for National Statistics
Sian-Elin	Wyatt	SEW	Office for National Statistics
<b>Speakers</b>			
Jonathan	Bonville-Ginn	JBG	Welsh Government (Business and Regions)
James	Harris	JH	ONS
Calvin	Jones	CJ	Cardiff University
Matt	Lyons	ML	University of Birmingham
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government (KAS)
Jonathan	Price	JP	Welsh Government (Treasury)
<b>Minute Takers</b>			
Ciaran	Lewis	CL	Welsh Government (KAS)
Nathan	Hughes	NH	Welsh Government (KAS)
<b>Apologies</b>			
Sian	Price	Development Bank Wales	
Neil	Paull	Welsh Government	

**Summary of Action Points from the last meeting**

Alex Fitzpatrick to consider whether gender pay gaps by ethnicity and disability for Wales might be able to derive from APS data.	This link includes the information outlined in the action from the APS for ethnicity and disability. <a href="#">Wellbeing of Wales: national indicators   GOV.WALES</a>
Sue Leake to put Steve King in touch with the HE Statistics team regarding HESA tables.	Issue was resolved shortly after last meeting, so action not required.
Brendan Collins and Sue Leake to discuss projections of poverty outside of the meeting.	This hasn't happened but SL available to chat with BC if he wishes.

1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies – Jonathan Price, Welsh Government</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<p>JP welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Presentations will be published online after the meeting where we have necessary permissions.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation was not provided as the ten percent quota was not met.</p> <p>Wellbeing of Wales report is being published on 27 September and includes some economic outputs.</p>		
2	<b>Consultation on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales – Martin Parry, Welsh Government</b>	
<p>MP gave a short update on the ONS consultation on the future of population and migration statistics through the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explained the ONS' vision</li> <li>- Consultation objectives</li> <li>- Consultation proposals</li> <li>- Current research</li> </ul> <p>You can find a link to the consultation <a href="#">here</a>, which includes links to ONS published research on various topics Please contact <a href="mailto:stats.popcensus@gov.wales">stats.popcensus@gov.wales</a> if you have any questions.</p>		<p>All: WG fill out one consultation as a whole and the deadline for this is <b>26 October 2023</b> so please respond asap.</p>
3	<b>Introduction to input-output tables - Calvin Jones, Welsh Government and Cardiff University</b>	
<p>CJ provided an intro to input-output tables (IOTs)</p> <p>Gave a background into what the tables are and why they exist.</p>		

<p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What the impact of the tables are</li> <li>- The historic UK position on IOTs</li> <li>- Recent developments and the resurgence of IOTs</li> <li>- Last IOT in Wales was in 2019, link available <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>- IOTs are a crucial step in economic understanding</li> <li>- Summarised the Wales Input-Output Project with examples such as the economic impact on the Millenium Stadium, electricity generation and Welsh tourism</li> <li>- The future of IOTs is looking promising and increasing in their policy making and transparency abilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>CJ raised a point regarding structures for carbon foot printing and how many are maintained by academics which can result in atrophy over time, and how it is important to update these architectures.</p> <p>JP questioned how stable the coefficients are over time, CJ responded that it is sector dependent and used the changes in finance from 2009 – 2017 as an example.</p> <p>ML asked about the use of pandemic (2020-2021) data, to which CJ responded that 2020 data is unreliable unless there is an identical pandemic, and the real questions was whether to consider 2021 or move straight to 2022.</p>	
<p><b>4</b>    <b>Can R&amp;D policy help rebalance the UK Economy? Applications of input output modelling – Matt Lyons (City-REDI)</b></p>	
<p>ML gave a presentation based on his current research and paper into whether R&amp;D policy can help rebalance the UK economy, covering the motivation, methodology, limitations and assumptions, results, conclusions, next steps, and more background info into what city-REDI do.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interregional inequalities in the UK are amongst the greatest in the industrialised world and R&amp;D is one route to achieving a productivity uplift.</li> <li>- The Long-Run evolution of interregional inequalities has been increasing in the UK but varies across areas of Europe in comparison. The spread of inequality is far greater within the UK, with the outputs in London exponentially higher than any other region in the UK, with Wales closer to the lower outputs and expenditure of R&amp;D.</li> <li>- Levelling up have set 12 missions to be achieved by 2030 to increase domestic public investment in R&amp;D by at least 40% outside the Greater South East regions.</li> <li>- Multi-region IOTs were used as part of the methodology to describe the sale and purchase relationships within an economy.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The key assumptions will likely lead to unrealistic results within the previous model but are trying to be addressed within the newest model by proposing three unique scenarios; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Equal uplift</li> <li>o Redistributive</li> <li>o Market driven</li> </ul> </li> <li>- With the redistributive scenario being the most effective to Wales.</li> <li>- Levelling up has raised the profile of regional development issues in the UK and the gap is only widening.</li> <li>- Other research areas of city-REDI are the environment, creative industries and demand shocks and collaborative efforts may be possible in the future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b>  JP questions if the increased expenditure in the study is funded in any way, ML responded that it is debt based and is not considered in their modelling, but it could be in the new model.  CJ asked about the use of an income disaggregate as an expenditure vector, its composition in terms of actual data vs modelling, and whether it is robust enough to inform policy. ML confirmed that it is solid data and can be used to inform policy, also that a colleague (Raquel Ortega-Argilés) is presenting about this next week, where they hope to gain external validation.</p>	
<b>5</b> <b>Welsh Government’s plans for input-output tables/feedback session</b> – Jonathan Bonville-Ginn, Welsh Government	
<p>JBG reiterates the background of IOTs within WG, the aim is for WG to regularly produce IOT’s in the same way that Scotland and Northern Ireland do.</p> <p>CJ has produced tables for 2019 through Cardiff University which has been seconded to Welsh Government.</p> <p>Currently in the process of producing more tables based on 2019 and hope to release them around the middle of next year. Progress has been made for this release so far such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Published a blog – which can be found <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>- Boosted ONS surveys</li> <li>- Investigating the data landscape</li> <li>- Consulting with other IOT compilers</li> <li>- Working with data science colleagues to produce user interface</li> <li>- The work has been funded for 3 years as of now</li> <li>- The releases will abide by the statistical regulations</li> </ul>	<p>The discussion process is well underway for the newest WG IOT, please contact <a href="mailto:inputoutputtables@gov.wales">inputoutputtables@gov.wales</a> if you have any questions or suggestions.</p>

<p>The initial aim is to produce the tables for 64 industries, but WG are looking at the possibility of producing more detailed breakdowns if possible.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>ML asked about the development plans for this project in the context of getting more sectoral detail. JBG responded that regional inconsistencies in data can lead to some issues in terms of how much the team can stretch/use it to compare different sectors.</p> <p>CJ &amp; JP discussed the balance between work down by Welsh Government as a statistical office and research done by analysts and academics.</p> <p>The discussion then moved to the difficulties regarding regional IOT. LJ stated that the work is funded for three years, and there is a priority on securing long term funding, and that a statistical output that adheres to the code of practice is in the works.</p>	
<p><b>6 Update on the Transformed Labour Force Survey – James Harris, ONS</b></p>	
<p>JH made a point to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the LFS but emphasised the importance of new objectives to transform the survey for the future.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highlighted the cross-cutting topic areas the survey collects</li> <li>- Transitioning the LFS to an online-first survey will allow for numerous benefits that are more prevalent and flexible to the modern age</li> <li>- The questionnaire redevelopment and implementation of the adaptive survey design will promote more consistent standards and ensure that the needs of the users are met</li> <li>- Looked at the progress and future of the LFS in 2023</li> <li>- Emphasised the importance of working with users through regular communication and updates.</li> </ul> <p>WG also recently issued a blog regarding the current labour market data, which can be found <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Contact <a href="mailto:Labour.market.transformation@ons.gov.uk">Labour.market.transformation@ons.gov.uk</a> if you have any questions or want more updates or details on the labour market survey.</p>
<p><b>7 Any other business / Close</b></p>	
<p>Would you prefer to meet two or three times a year? Your views on the frequency of these meetings would be appreciated.</p> <p>We would also welcome suggestions on a theme for the next meeting.</p>	

We will continue to communicate relevant updates via electronic correspondence.

The [following census 2021 publication on the characteristics of those not in employment as of Census Day](#) was published by ONS on 15 September and may be of interest.

The econ stats team are currently analysing the Longitudinal Small Business Survey data from DBT and plan to publish an overview release in the next couple of months with some headline points, then following up with some more focused topics over the next year. If you think the data might be of interest to you, please contact [economic.stats@gov.wales](mailto:economic.stats@gov.wales) to discuss in more detail.

### Welsh Economic Statistics User Group

26 September 2023

#### Summary of Action Points

1	WG fill out one consultation as a whole and the deadline for this is <b>26 October 2023</b> so please respond asap.	Members
2	The discussion process is well underway for the newest WG IOT, please contact <a href="mailto:inputoutputtables@gov.wales">inputoutputtables@gov.wales</a> if you have any questions or suggestions.	Members
3	Contact <a href="mailto:Labour.market.transformationn@ons.gov.uk">Labour.market.transformationn@ons.gov.uk</a> if you have any questions or want more updates or details on the labour market survey.	Members