



Household estimates for Wales, mid-2017

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Household estimates provide the number of households in Wales based on the latest mid-year population estimates. They are similar to household projections but the key difference between the two is that household projections are based on **future** population projections whereas household estimates are based on **past** population estimates.



Between mid-2016 and mid-2017 the estimated number of households in Wales increased by 8,300 (0.6 per cent) to 1.35 million.

The number of one-person households in mid-2017 increased by 4,700 (1.1 per cent) compared to mid-2016



The estimated average household size for Wales has been steadily decreasing. In mid-2017 the estimated average household size for Wales was 2.28 persons per household compared to 2.52 persons in mid-1991.

Key Points

- Since mid-1991 the number of households has increased by 21 per cent from 1.11 million to 1.35 million in mid-2017.
- The estimated number of households increased for 21 of the 22 local authorities in Wales between mid-2016 and mid-2017.
- At a Wales level, the estimated number of people living in private households (private household population) increased by around 11,800 (0.4 per cent).
- At a Wales level, household estimates for mid-2017 are higher than projected in the 2014-based household projections by nearly 2,600 (0.2 per cent).

About this release

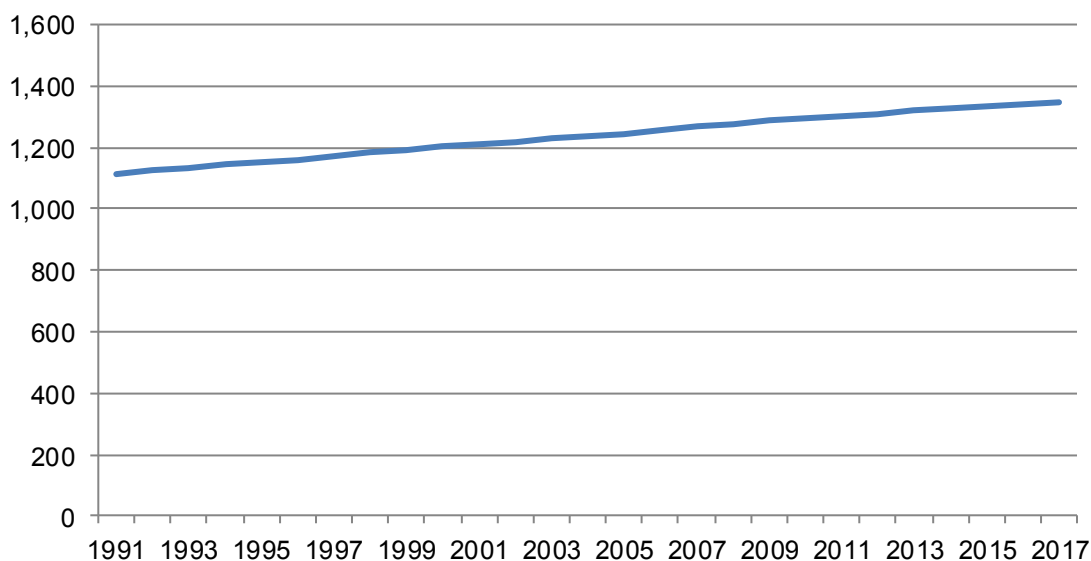
This release presents summary information on household estimates for Wales for mid-2017. They use trends of household formation rates established in the censuses and apply them to current population estimates. The latest estimates are based on population estimates for mid-2017 which were published on 28 June 2018. This is the latest in the current series of household estimates for Wales which is based on the results of the 2011 Census.

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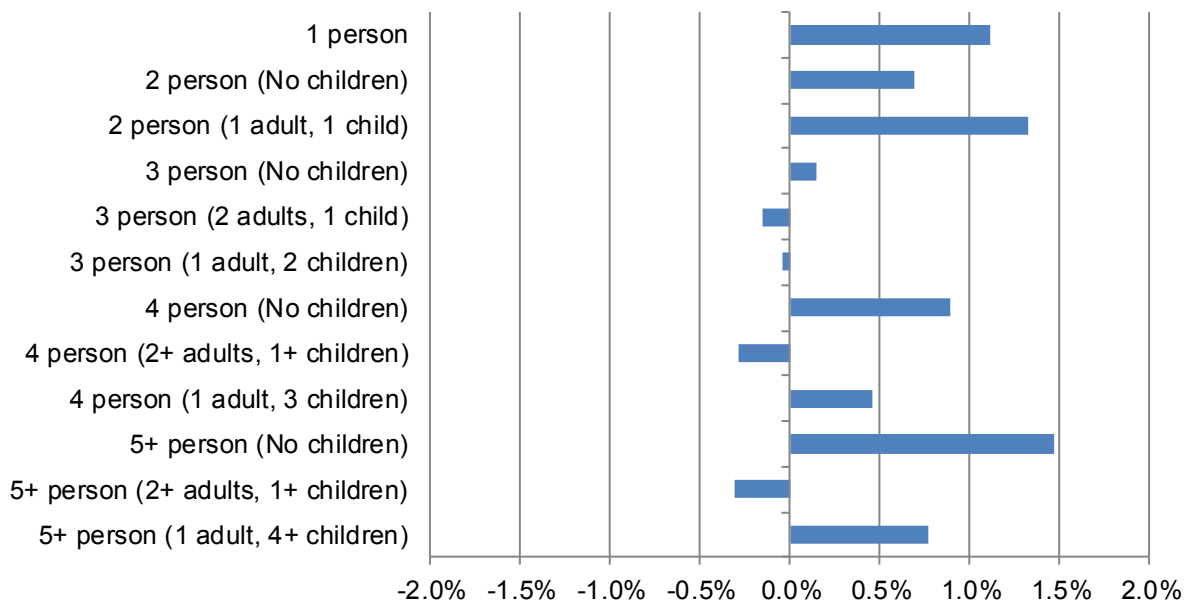
Estimated number of households for Wales

Chart 1: Mid-year household estimates for Wales, 1991 onwards (thousands)



- Between mid-2016 and mid-2017 the estimated number of households in Wales increased by 8,300 (0.6 per cent) to 1.35 million.
- Since 1991 the number of households has increased by 21 per cent, and since 2001 it has increased by 11 per cent.
- The ONS published revised mid-2012 to mid-2016 estimates of the population on 22 March 2018 due to methodological improvements. These household estimates are based on the latest population estimates and therefore the figures for mid-2012 to mid-2016 will differ slightly to data in previous releases. Further information can be found in the [Key quality section](#).

Chart 2: Percentage change in household types in Wales between mid-2016 and mid-2017

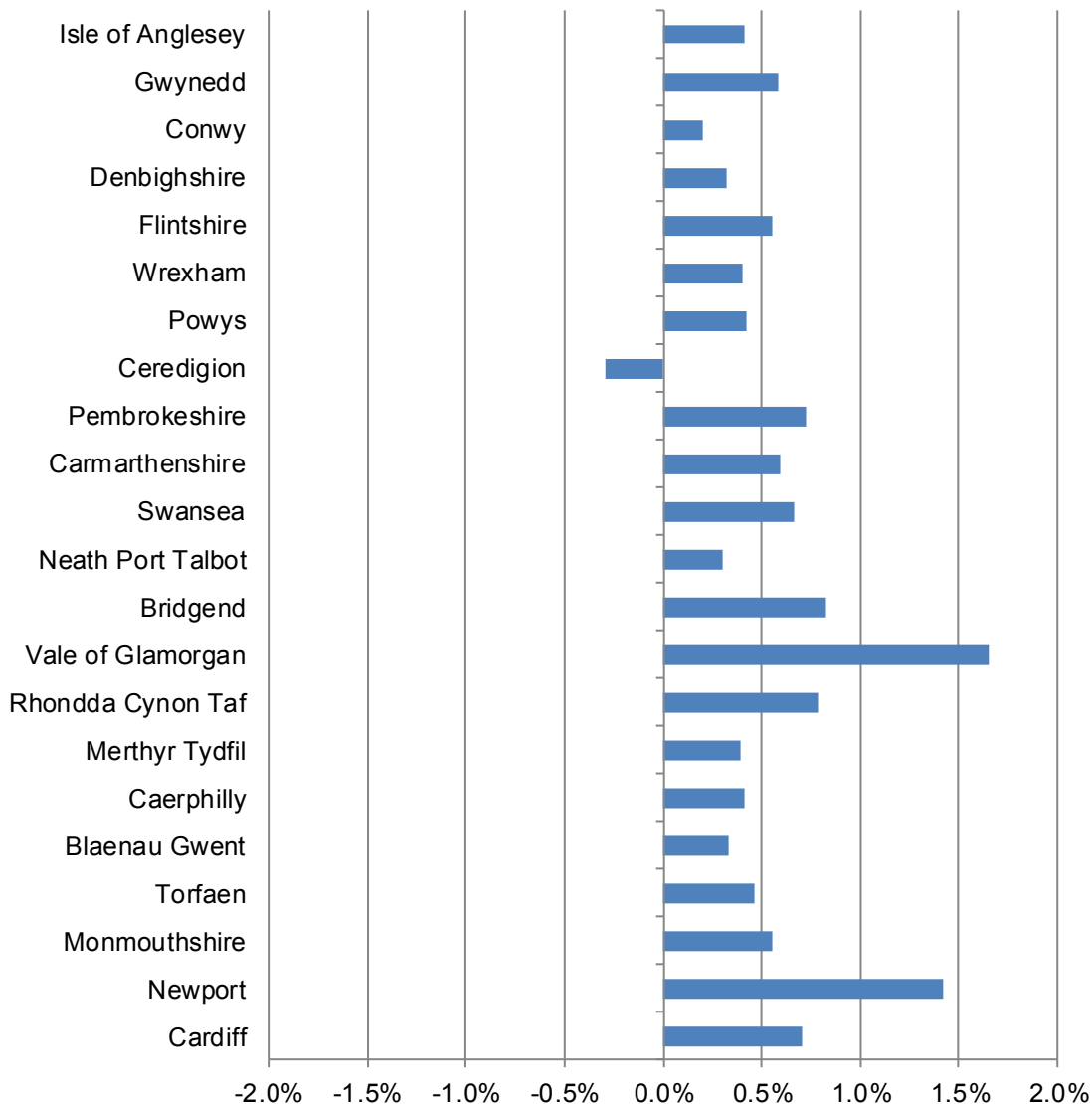


- Between mid-2016 and mid-2017, the number of 5+ person households with no children were estimated to see the largest percentage increase (1.5 per cent), whilst two-person households with one adult and one child were estimated to increase by 1.3 per cent.
- Households with no children were estimated to increase by 8,200 (0.8 per cent) between mid-2016 and mid-2017 and households containing adults with children were estimated to increase slightly by 80 (0.02 per cent).
- The largest increase in the number of households was estimated to be one-person households which increased by 4,700 (1.1 per cent) since mid-2016. This increase was mainly due to males from older age groups.
- Based on the household estimates, one-person households remain the most common household type (429,600 households) followed by two-person households with no children (421,300 households). Over 65s make up 45 per cent of one-person households with those aged 85 and over making up 9 per cent of one-person households.

Estimated households by local authority

- The estimated number of households increased in 21 of the 22 local authorities in Wales between mid-2016 and mid-2017.
- The largest increases in the estimated number of households were in Cardiff (1,070), Vale of Glamorgan (920) and Newport (900). However the largest percentage increases were in Vale of Glamorgan (1.7 per cent), Newport (1.4 per cent), Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend (both 0.8 per cent).
- Ceredigion was the only local authority to show a decrease in the estimated number of households, down 90 (0.3 per cent).

Chart 3: Percentage change in households between mid-2016 and mid-2017, by local authority

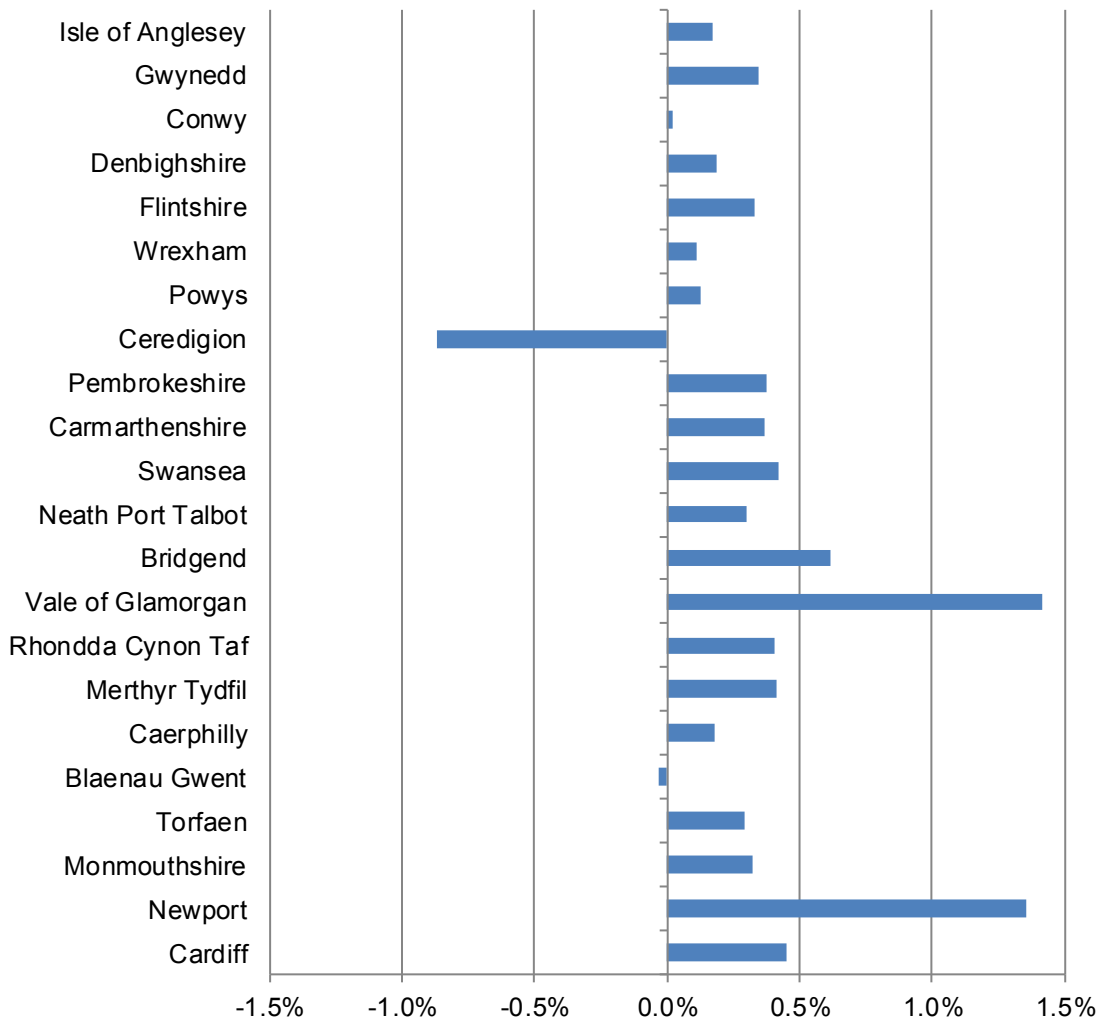


Estimated private household population

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

- The estimated private household population increased by 11,800 (0.4 per cent) between mid-2016 and mid-2017 in Wales, compared with 13,900 over the previous 12 months.
- There were increases in the private household population for 20 of the 22 local authorities, with the largest percentage increase in Newport and Vale of Glamorgan (both 1.4 per cent). The largest decrease in the household population was in Ceredigion (0.9 per cent).

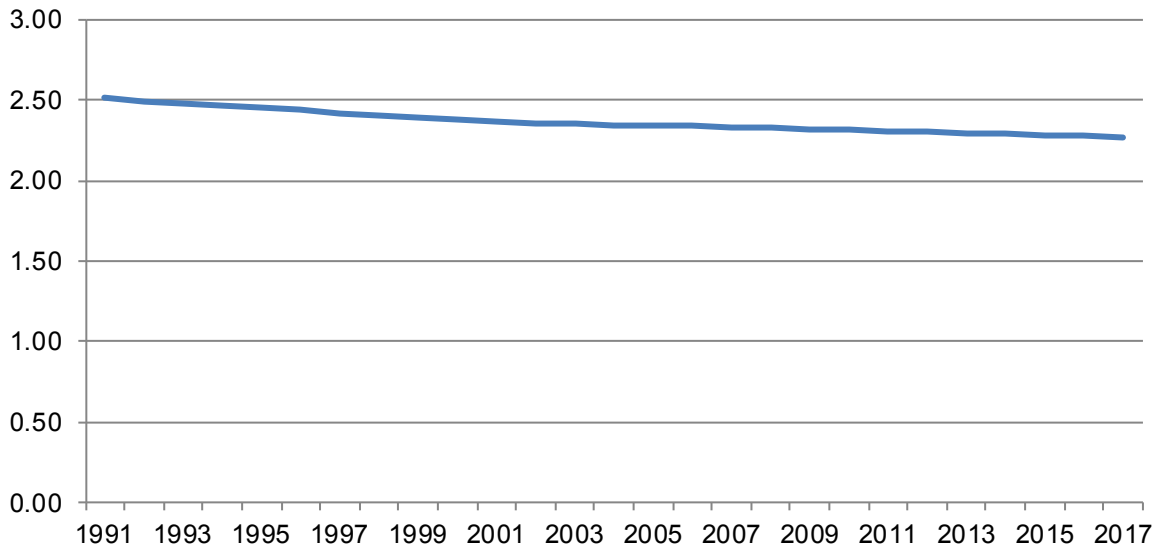
Chart 4: Percentage change in private household populations between mid-2016 and mid-2017, by local authority



Average household size estimates

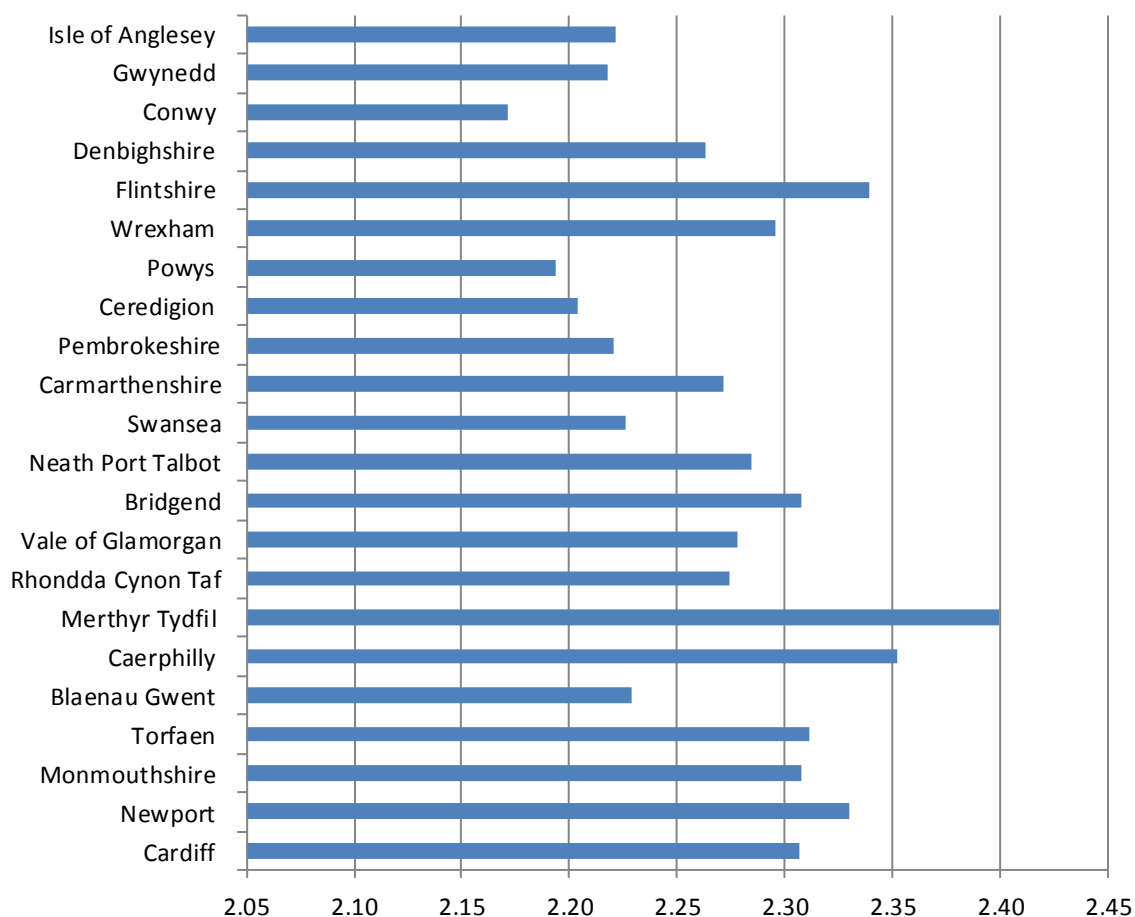
Average household size is the number of persons per household; it provides a measure of household composition and is useful for comparing over different local authorities and time periods. It is calculated by dividing estimates of private population by the number of households. Average household size does not change much year on year but has changed significantly since 1991.

Chart 5: Average household size since 1991



- The estimated average household size in Wales has been decreasing since 1991 and this pattern continues in 2017 with 2.28 persons per household.
- Between mid-2016 and mid-2017 the estimated average household size for Wales stayed the same, but has been steadily decreasing compared to the estimated average household of 2.52 persons per household in mid-1991 and 2.31 in mid-2011.
- All local authorities have seen a decrease in estimated average household size since 2011.

Chart 6: Mid-2017 average household size, by local authority



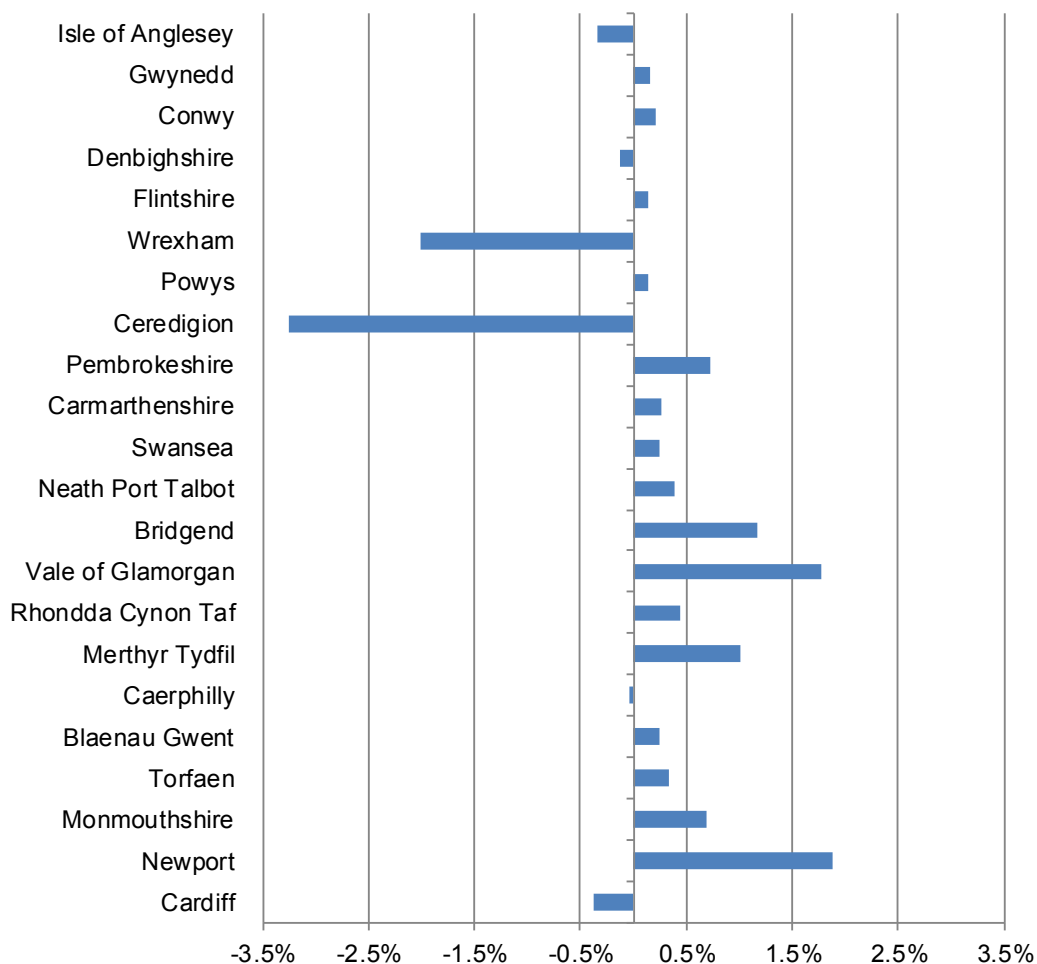
- Estimated average household size continues to be lowest for Conwy (2.17) and Powys (2.19). In mid-2017 Conwy and Powys had the highest combined percentage of one-person and two-person with no children households (68.3 per cent and 68.2 per cent respectively). This can be linked in part to Conwy and Powys having the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over in Wales (27.2 per cent and 26.5 per cent respectively) in the [2017 mid-year population estimates](#).
- Estimated average household size is the highest for Merthyr Tydfil (2.40) which has had the largest average household size since 2006.

Comparison with the 2014-based household projections

The 2014-based household projections for Wales were published on 23 March 2017 for the years from mid-2014 to mid-2039.

- At a Wales-level, household estimates for mid-2017 are higher than projected by 2,600 (0.2 per cent). Differences in the household estimates compared to household projections can be explained by the update to the mid year estimates and not due to household formation rates
- For mid-2017, household estimates were slightly higher than projected for 16 of the 22 local authorities. The biggest positive differences were for Newport, where the estimated number of households was around 1,200 higher (1.9 per cent) than projected and for Vale of Glamorgan where the estimated number of households was around 1,000 higher (1.8 per cent) than projected. The largest negative difference was for Wrexham with 1,200 (2.0 per cent) lower than projected.
- The largest percentage difference between household estimates and projections for mid-2017 was in Ceredigion, where the household estimates were 3.3 per cent lower than projected.
- For most local authorities, estimates are slightly higher than projected for mid-2017, but in most cases differences were no more than a few hundred households.

Chart 7: Percentage difference between the household numbers of the mid-2017 estimates and the 2014-based projections, by local authority



Key quality information

In addition to the information below, further details can be found in the [Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#) which is available on our website.

Users and uses

There is a high demand for population and household statistics for a variety of uses. Some of these include:

- planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, e.g. schools, housing, health and social services provision
- Local Government Finance revenue settlement
- policy development
- advising to Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers
- informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond
- calculation of further statistics
- denominators in rates (e.g. homelessness rates)
- weighting surveys
- geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking
- analysis of population cohorts and migration trends.

There are a wide variety of users of population data from national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, students, academics and universities, individual citizens and private companies. In particular there is a high level of interest in household projections at local authority level. There are similar demands for local authority household estimates for planning purposes.

Relevance

Household Estimates are based on the mid-year population estimates for Wales produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Assumptions about household formation are applied to these population estimates by age and gender. These assumptions are developed from past trends based on 2001 and 2011 Census figures produced by ONS.

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 estimates (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 his/her family.

Sheltered housing is treated as a communal establishment if less 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.

Methodology

Household estimates are based on historical trends and provide estimates of past numbers of households. They are based on population estimates and historical information about household composition and characteristics. These household estimates are produced by applying assumptions about household formation to the estimated population figures by age and sex. The results produced are thus due to the household formation assumptions as well as trends in the underlying population estimates. The relative impacts of the migration, mortality, fertility and household formation assumptions on the growth in household numbers will vary between local authorities.

Specifically, these household estimates were calculated by:

- subtracting the assumed population living in communal establishments from the estimated population by age group and gender
- using historical data to calculate projected household membership rates for mid-2001 to mid-2017
- 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, gender and household type to give the projected total number of households.

This process was carried out using the available population estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2017 for each local authority in Wales.

The methodology for these household estimates was developed in close collaboration with local authorities and key users in Wales - through the Wales Sub-national Projections (WASP) working group. This group is a forum for technical discussion on the methodology and to agree the assumptions and base data used. Members of WASP include local authority representatives with knowledge of and/or experience of demographic data and population projections.

The assumed population living in communal establishments was based on census data for 2011 for years 2011 onwards, and an average of data from the censuses for 2001 and 2011 for years 2002 to 2010, calculated using linear interpolation. For 2001 the assumed population living in communal establishments was calculated using census data for 2001.

As part of the development work for these household estimates the WASP working group agreed to the use of 2001 and 2011 Census data as the historical basis for projected household membership rates. This followed extensive testing of the projections model with census data for 1991, 2001 and 2011 in order to base household membership rates on trends from all three censuses. From this it became evident that further work would be needed to incorporate longer term trends into the model for household estimates and projections in this way.

Accuracy

Details on the quality of the data used to produce these estimates, along with information on the use of administrative data, can be found in the [Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#).

Information on the quality and methods used in the Census can be found in the [Census Quality and Methodology Information Paper](#).

The ONS published [revised mid-2012 to mid-2016 estimates of the population](#) on 22 March 2018 due to methodological improvements. The revised figures included new estimates of local authority international emigration and foreign armed forces dependants.

The household estimates are based on population estimates and therefore the figures for mid-2012 to mid-2016 throughout the release will differ slightly to data in previous releases.

Accessibility and clarity

A consultation on Welsh Government statistical outputs for population and household estimates and projections ran from February to May 2016. A summary of responses was published September 2016.

We will continue to publish household estimates on an annual basis, roughly three months after the population estimates are published.

This set of household estimates was produced using mid-year population estimates for 2017 which were published on 28 June 2018. These mid-year population estimates are normally produced on an annual basis, in June each year for the previous mid-year point (i.e. June 2018 for mid-2017).

The annual statistics will be published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the outputs are also listed on the National Statistics Publication Hub. We also publicise the outputs on [Twitter](#). All outputs are available to download for free.

More detailed data is available at the same time on the [StatsWales](#) website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use plain English in our outputs and they adhere to the [Welsh Government's accessibility policy](#). Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English. Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on this release or via stats.popcensus@gov.wales.

Timeliness and punctuality

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the date of publication through the [Upcoming Calendar](#). Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow our [Revisions, Errors and Postponements arrangements](#).

Comparability and coherence

These household estimates use a different approach to that used to produce household estimates for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Guidance on the differences between household estimates for the four countries of the UK is contained in the '[Household and Dwelling Estimates Across the UK](#)' report.

Wales

Household projections for Wales can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Population estimates for England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics and can be found on the [ONS website](#).

Population estimates and projections for Wales at a local authority and national park level can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Other housing statistics for Wales, including dwelling stock estimates can be found on the [Statistics and Research website](#).

Household estimates for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency respectively. More information can be found at:

England

[Gov.UK website: Household projections](#)

Scotland

[National Records of Scotland: Household estimates](#)

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency: Population and household estimates](#)

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.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

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.

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](#).

The estimates within this release are used to calculate the rate for indicator 34: Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households.

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:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/household-estimates/?lang=en>

Next update

September 2019

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

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