



## Key Economic Statistics – February 2019

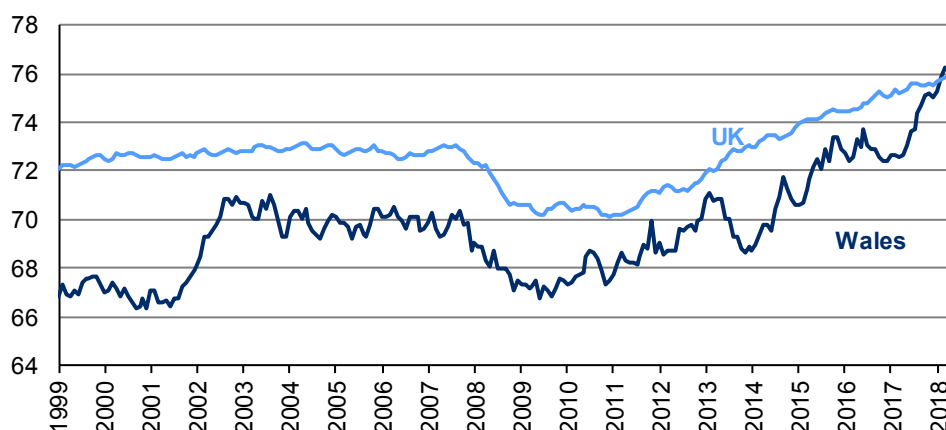
21 February 2019

SB 6/2019

### Key points

- The employment rate in Wales, as estimated by the Labour Force Survey, was 76.2 per cent of those aged 16-64 during October to December 2018, up 3.7 percentage points from a year earlier. This is the highest employment rate Wales has seen since comparable records began in 1992.
- The UK rate for the same period increased by 0.7 percentage points over the year to 75.8 per cent.
- The unemployment rate in Wales was 4.1 per cent of the economically active population during October to December 2018, down 1.0 percentage points from a year earlier.

### Employment rate (percentage of population age 16-64)



### Unemployment rate (percentage of economically inactive population)



Source: WG analysis of Labour Force Survey

### About this bulletin

This monthly bulletin is a compendium publication that brings together the latest key statistics relating to the Welsh economy and labour market, mainly in the context of the UK economy and labour market.

This bulletin also contains four national indicators as defined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Key supporting material:  
[Welsh Economy in Numbers](#)

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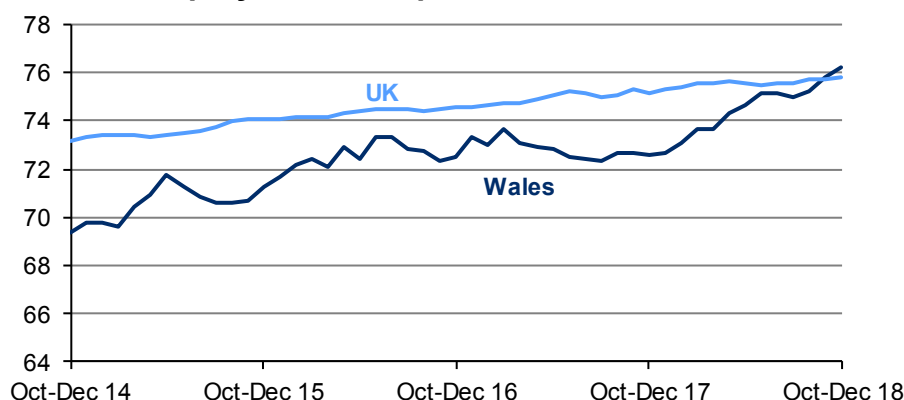
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## 1. Employment

There were 1.5 million people in employment in Wales in October to December 2018, up 87,000 (6.0 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 76.2 per cent of those aged 16-64, up by 3.7 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. This is the highest employment rate since comparable records began. The total number in employment in the UK over the same period rose by 444,000 (1.4 per cent) to 32.6 million. This is a rate of 75.8 per cent of those aged 16-64, lower than the rate for Wales (Chart 1.1). This is the first time that the employment rate in Wales is higher than the UK rate since comparable records began in 1992.

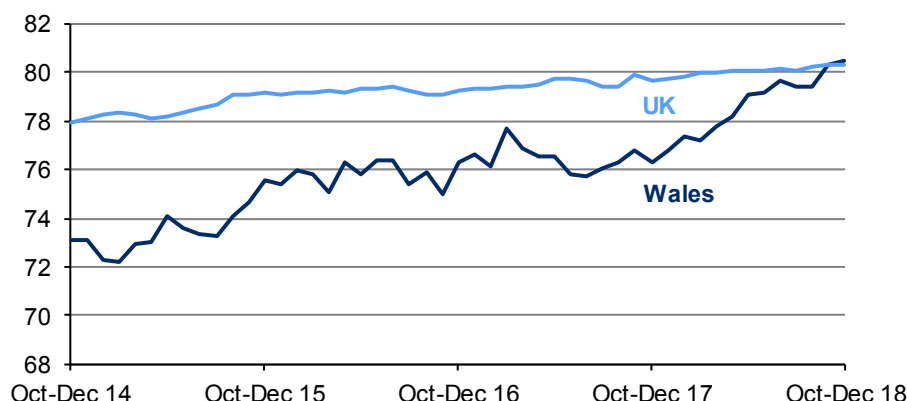
**Chart 1.1: Employment rate, persons** (percentage of those aged 16-64)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 809,000 men in employment in Wales in October to December 2018, up 44,000 (5.7 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 80.5 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 4.2 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. The number of men in employment in the UK over the same period rose by 255,000 (1.5 per cent) to 17.3 million. This is a rate of 80.3 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 0.7 percentage points from a year earlier. (Chart 1.2)

**Chart 1.2: Employment rate, men** (percentage of those aged 16-64)

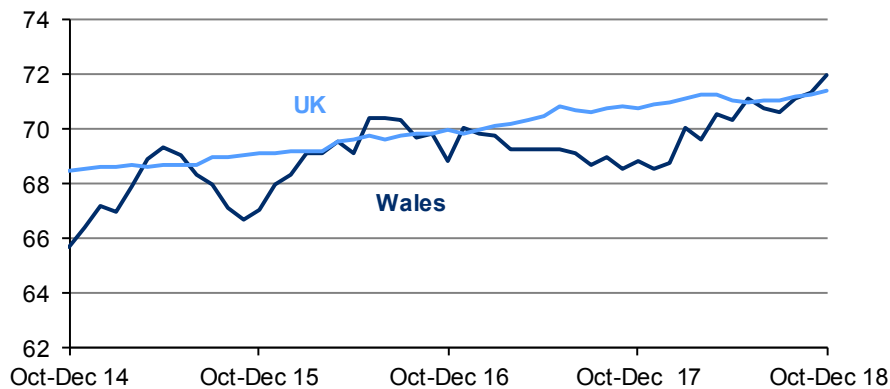


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 722,000 women in employment in Wales in October to December 2018, up 43,000 (6.4 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 72.0 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 3.2 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. The number of women in

employment in the UK was 15.3 million, up 188,000 (1.2 per cent) over the year. This is a rate of 71.4 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 70.8 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 1.3)

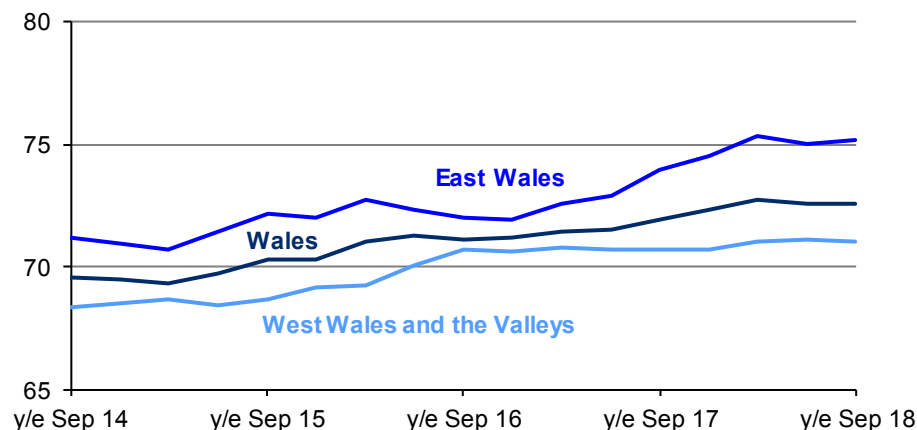
**Chart 1.3: Employment rate, women** (percentage of those aged 16-64)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending September 2018 the employment level in West Wales and the Valleys was up 2,200 (0.3 per cent) over the year and up 8,500 (1.5 per cent) in East Wales. Over the same period, the employment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and 1.2 percentage points in East Wales – differences calculated using unrounded figures. (Chart 1.4)

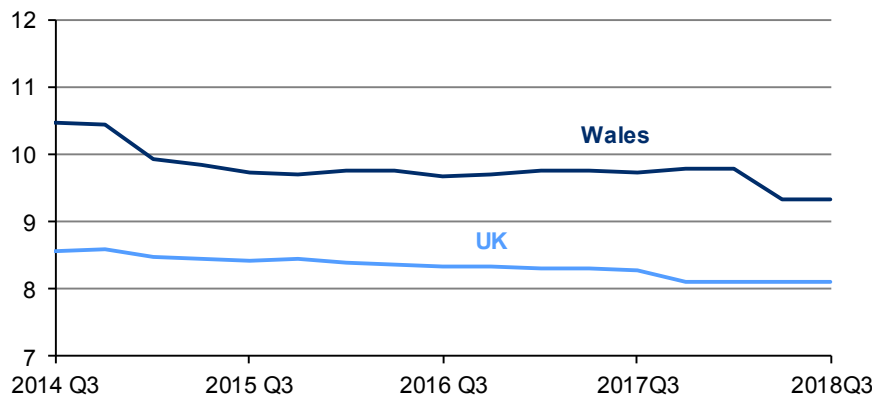
**Chart 1.4: Employment rate, NUTS2 areas** (four quarter rolling average, percentage of those aged 16-64, not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

There were 292,000 people employed in the public sector in Wales in 2018 Q3, down 4.2 per cent from a year earlier. This is 9.3 per cent of the population, down 0.4 percentage points from a year earlier. Public sector employment in the UK over the same period decreased by 118,000 (2.2 per cent) to 5.3 million. This is 8.1 per cent of the population, down 0.2 percentage points a year earlier (change calculated using unrounded figures). (Chart 1.5)

**Chart 1.5: Public sector employment** (percentage of population, not seasonally adjusted)

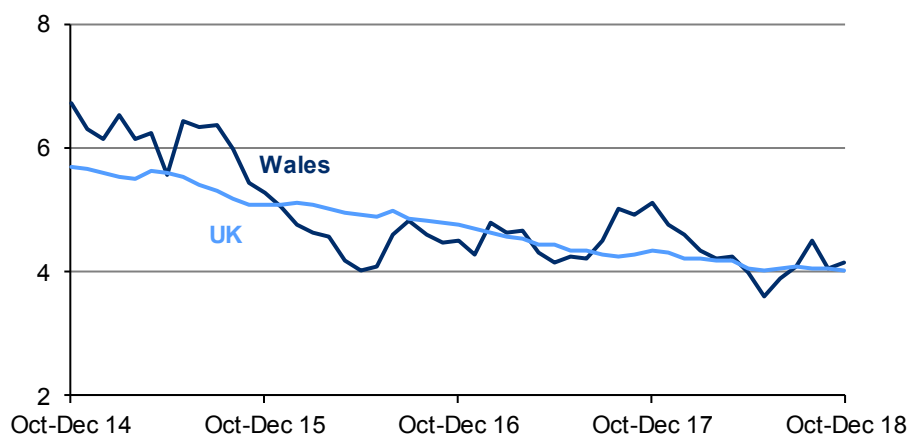


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Regional Public Sector Employment, ONS

## 2. Unemployment<sup>1</sup>

There were 66,000 people who were unemployed in Wales in October to December 2018, down 12,000 (15.2 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 4.1 per cent of the economically active population, down 1.0 percentage points from a year earlier. The number of unemployed people in the UK over the same period fell by 100,000 (6.8 per cent) to 1.4 million. This is a rate of 4.0 per cent of the economically active population, down from 4.4 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 2.1)

**Chart 2.1: ILO unemployment rates** (percentage of economically active)

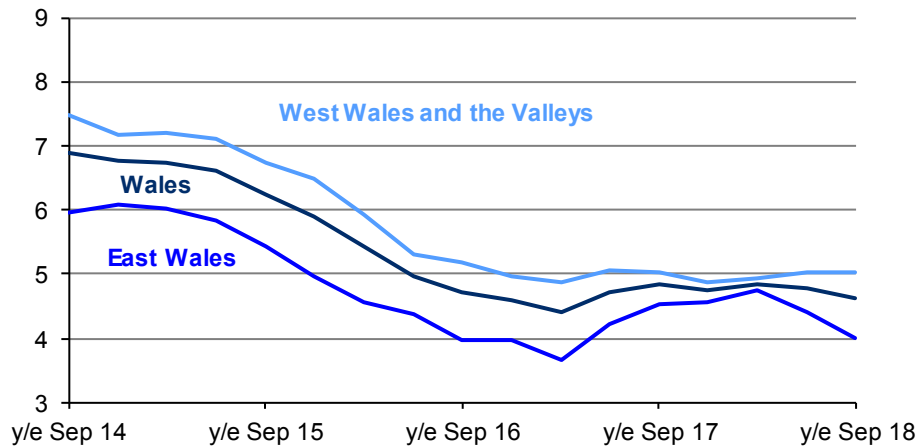


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending September 2018 the unemployment level in West Wales and the Valleys was down 100 (0.2 per cent) over the year. For East Wales the level was down 2,900 (11.0 per cent) over the year. Over the same period, the unemployment rate was unchanged in West Wales and the Valleys and fell by 0.5 percentage points in East Wales. (Chart 2.2)

<sup>1</sup> The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines unemployment as people without a job who have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks, plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks.

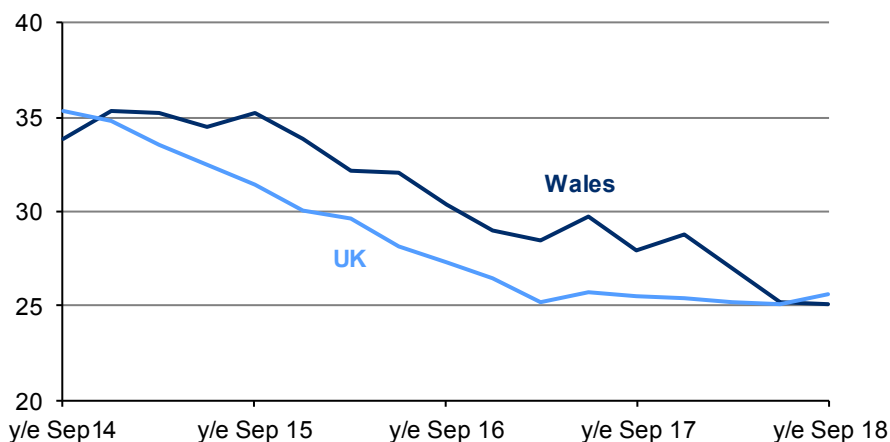
**Chart 2.2: ILO unemployment rate, NUTS2 areas** (four quarter rolling average, percentage of economically active, not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

For the year ending September 2018 the Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates that 17,400 people in Wales were long-term unemployed (12 months or more), down 13.9 per cent over the year. This represented 25.0 per cent of all those unemployed in the year, down 2.9 percentage points over the year. The equivalent UK rate was 25.6 per cent, down 0.2 percentage points over the year. (Chart 2.3)

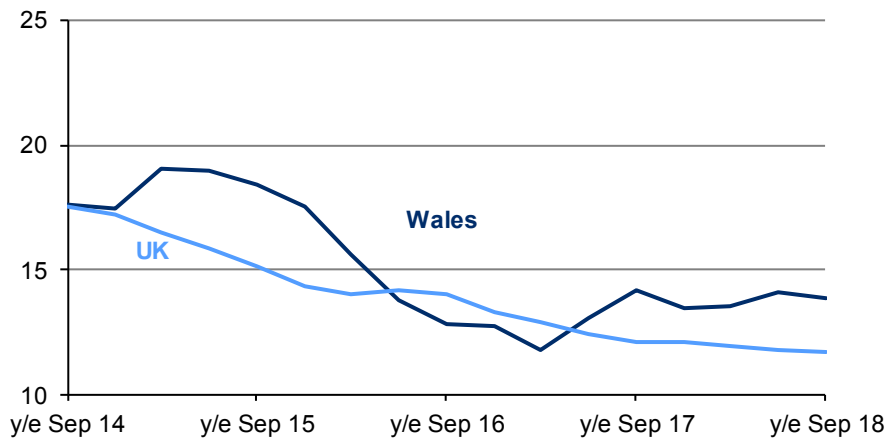
**Chart 2.3: Long-term ILO unemployment rates** (percentage of all unemployed: four quarter rolling average)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

For the year ending September 2018 the APS estimates that 29,800 people aged 16-24 in Wales were unemployed, down 1.2 per cent over the year. This represented 13.9 per cent of the economically active in this age group, down 0.3 percentage points over the year. The equivalent UK rate was 11.7 per cent, down 0.4 percentage points over the year. (Chart 2.4)

**Chart 2.4: Youth ILO unemployment rates** (percentage of economically active: four quarter rolling average, not seasonally adjusted)

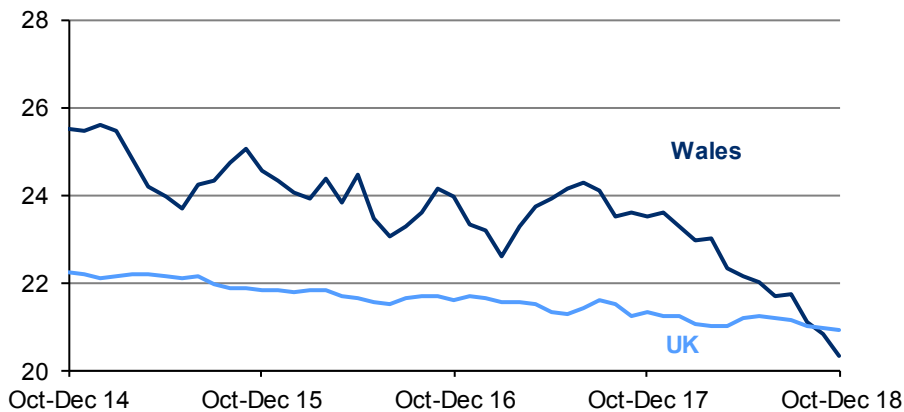


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

### 3. Economic Inactivity

There were 389,000 people in Wales who were economically inactive in October to December 2018, down 61,000 (13.5 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 20.3 per cent of those aged 16-64, down 3.2 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. The number of economically inactive people in the UK over the same period fell by 153,000 (1.7 per cent) to 8.6 million. This is a rate of 20.9 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 21.3 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 3.1)

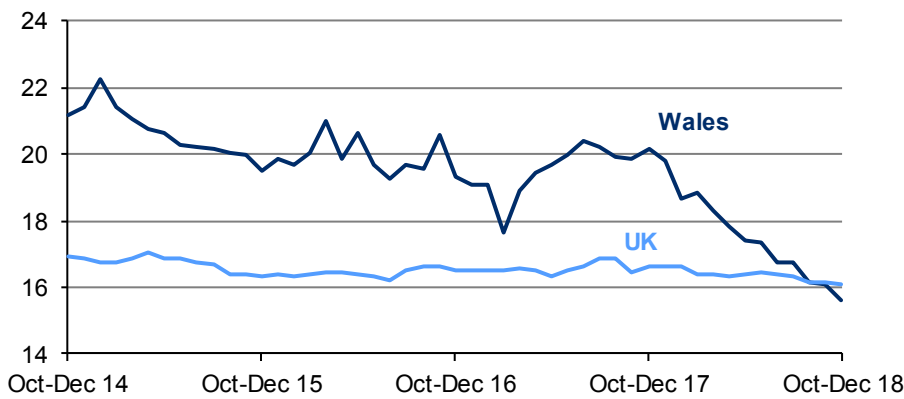
**Chart 3.1: Economic inactivity rate, persons** (percentage of those aged 16-64)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 148,000 economically inactive men in Wales in October to December 2018, down 43,000 (22.5 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 15.6 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 20.1 per cent a year earlier. The number of economically inactive men in the UK over the same period decreased by 101,000 (3.0 per cent) to 3.3 million. This is a rate of 16.1 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 16.6 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 3.2)

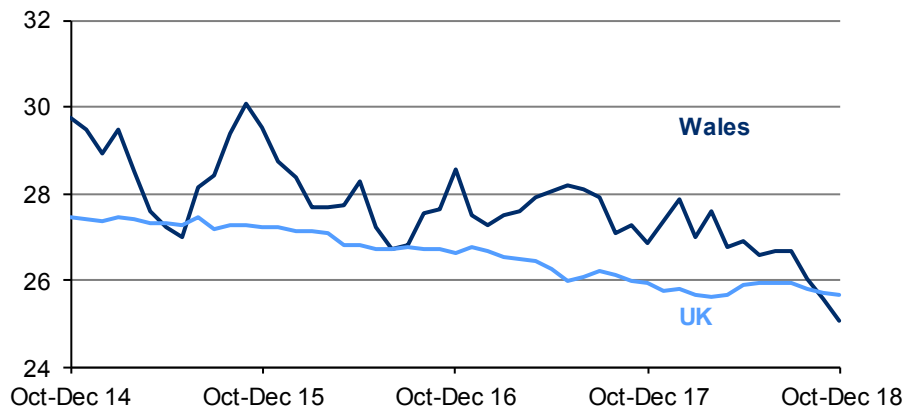
**Chart 3.2: Economic inactivity rate, men (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 240,000 economically inactive women in Wales in October to December 2018, down 18,000 (6.8 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 25.1 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 26.9 per cent a year earlier. The number of economically inactive women in the UK over the same period fell by 52,000 (1.0 per cent) to 5.3 million. This is a rate of 25.7 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 26.0 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 3.3)

**Chart 3.3: Economic inactivity rate, women (percentage of those aged 16-64)**

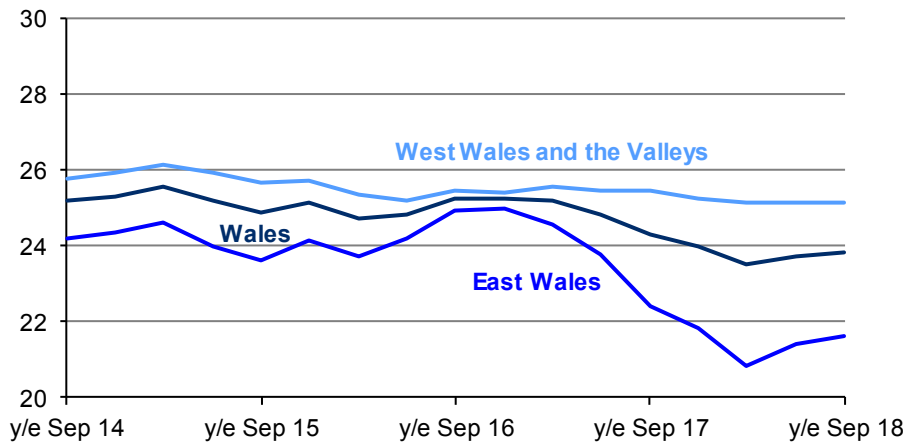


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending September 2018 the economic inactivity level in West Wales and the Valleys was down 4,300 (1.4 per cent) over the year. For East Wales the level was down 6,000 (3.7 per cent) over the year. Over the same period, the economic inactivity rate was down 0.3 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and down 0.8 percentage points in East Wales - differences calculated using unrounded figures. (Chart 3.4)



**Chart 3.4: Economic inactivity rate, NUTS2 areas** (four quarter rolling average, percentage of those aged 16-64, not seasonally adjusted)

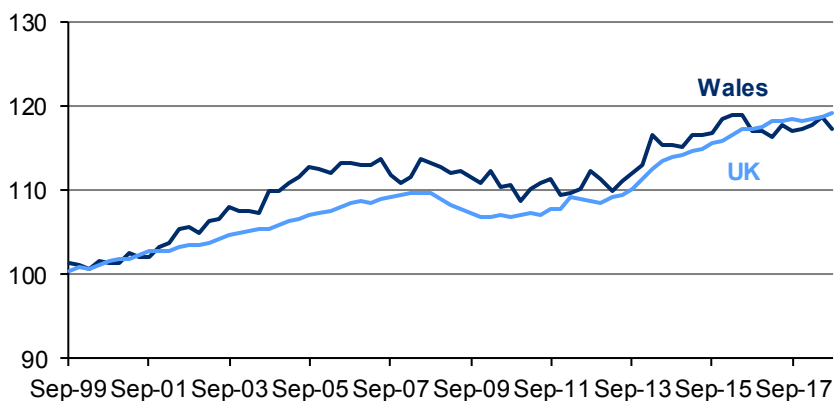


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

## 4. Workforce Jobs

The number of workforce jobs in Wales increased by 2,000 (0.1 per cent) between September 2017 and September 2018 to 1.46 million. Between September 1999 and September 2018 the number of workforce jobs in Wales rose by 198,000 (15.7 per cent). The number of workforce jobs in the UK increased by 185,000 (0.5 per cent) to 35.1 million over the year and increased by 5.6 million (18.9 per cent) since September 1999. (Chart 4.1)

**Chart 4.1: Workforce jobs** (Index 1999=100)

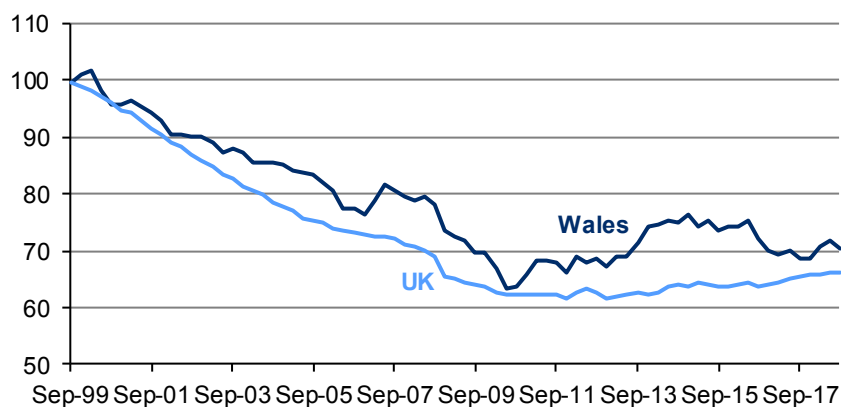


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Workforce Jobs, ONS

The number of workforce jobs in manufacturing in Wales was up 4,000 (2.6 per cent) between September 2017 and September 2018 to 149,000 (10.2 per cent of all workforce jobs compared to 16.7 per cent in September 1999). Over the year the number of workforce jobs in manufacturing in the UK increased by 23,000 (0.8 per cent) to 2.7 million (7.7 per cent of all workforce jobs compared to 13.9 per cent in September 1999). (Chart 4.2)

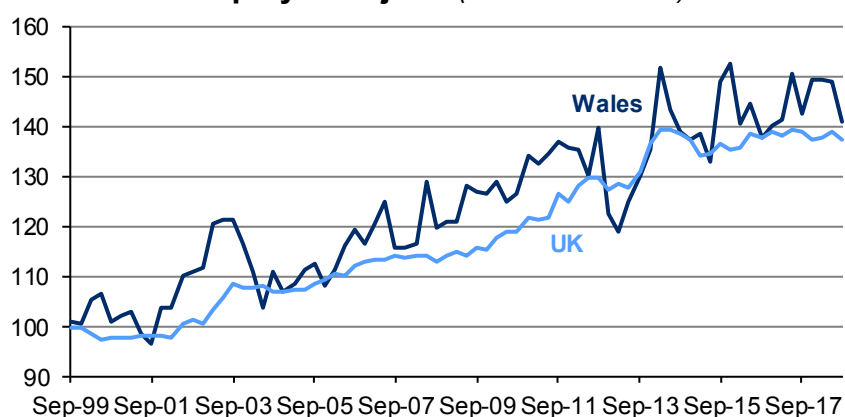
The number of self-employment jobs in Wales decreased by 2,300 (1.1 per cent) between September 2017 and September 2018 to 202,000 (13.8 per cent of workforce jobs compared to 11.4 per cent in September 1999). The estimate of the number of self-employment jobs in the UK was 4.5 million, down 49,500 (1.1 per cent) over the year (12.7 per cent of workforce jobs compared to 11.1 per cent in September 1999). (Chart 4.3)

**Chart 4.2: Workforce jobs in manufacturing (Index 1999=100)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Workforce Jobs, ONS

**Chart 4.3: Self-employment jobs (Index 1999=100)**

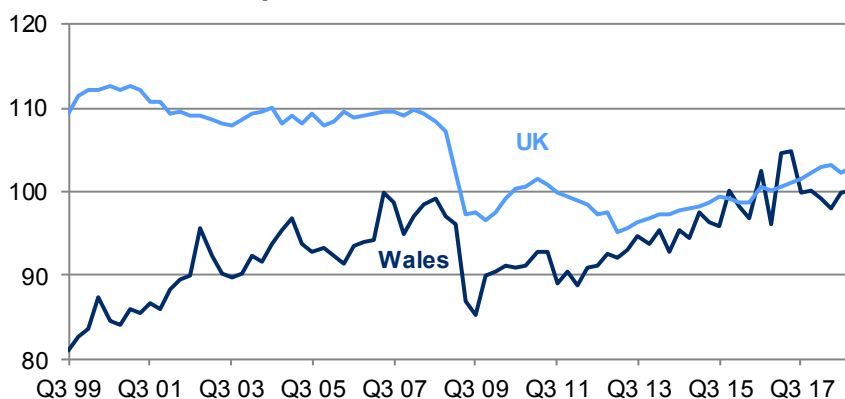


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Workforce Jobs, ONS

## 5. Welsh Short-Term Output Indicators

Production output in Wales for the year ending September 2018 decreased by 2.8 per cent compared with the year ending September 2017. The UK index increased by 1.5 per cent over the same period. Production output in Wales for 2018 quarter 3 decreased by 0.3 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK index increased by 0.6 per cent over the same period. (Chart 5.1)

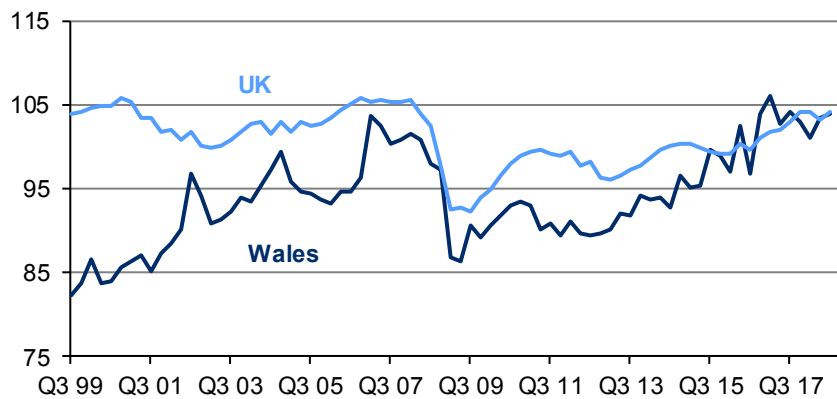
**Chart 5.1: Index of production (Index 2016=100)**



Source: Welsh Government

Manufacturing output in Wales for the year ending September 2018 decreased by 1.0 per cent compared with the year ending September 2017. UK output increased by 2.2 per cent over the same period. Manufacturing output in Wales for 2018 quarter 3 decreased by 0.1 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index increased by 0.4 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.2*)

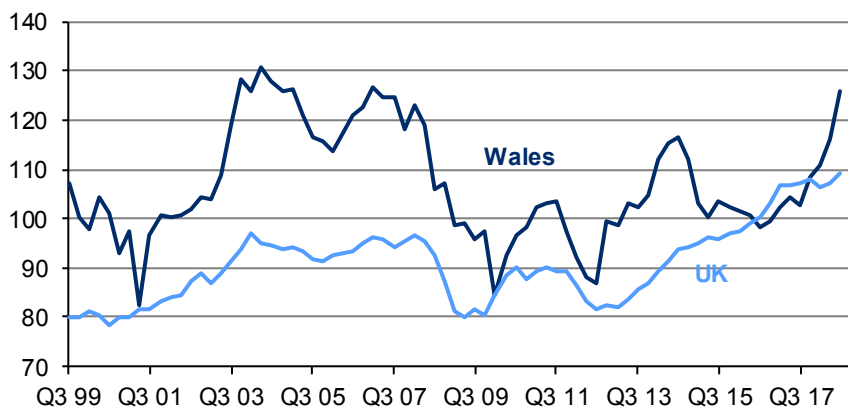
**Chart 5.2: Index of manufacturing** (*Index 2016=100*)



Source: Welsh Government

Construction output in Wales for the year ending September 2018 increased by 13.2 per cent compared with the year ending September 2017. UK output also increased by 1.4 per cent over the same period. Construction output in Wales for 2018 quarter 3 increased by 10.9 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index increased by 2.3 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.3*)

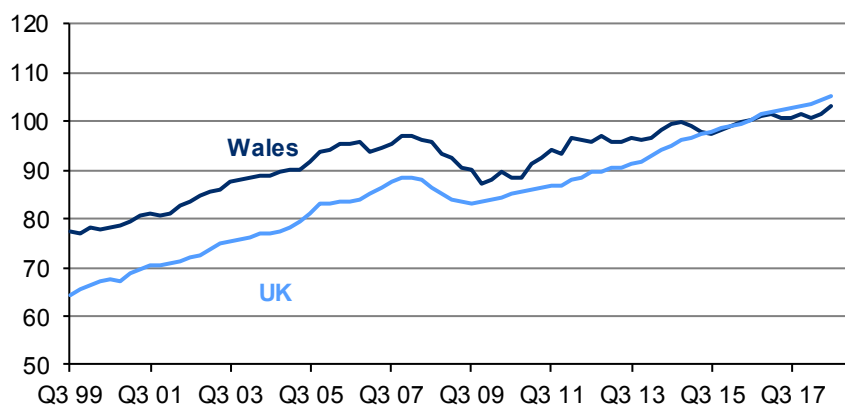
**Chart 5.3: Index of construction** (*Index 2016=100*)



Source: Welsh Government

The Index of Market Services for Wales for the year ending September 2018 increased by 1.1 per cent compared with the year ending September 2017. The UK index increased by 2.0 per cent over the same period. Services for Wales for 2018 quarter 3 increased by 0.5 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index increased by 0.7 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.4*)

**Chart 5.4: Index of market services** (Index 2016=100)



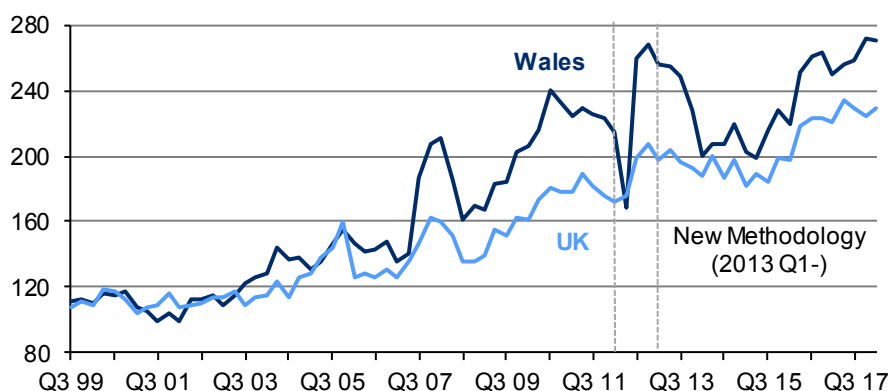
Source: Welsh Government

## 6. Regional Trade in Goods Statistics

Please note that due to methodology changes, data before and after 2013 quarter 1 are not comparable.

For the year ending September 2018, the value of exports of goods from Wales increased by 3.0 per cent since the previous year. Exports to EU countries accounted for 60.9 per cent of total exports for the year ending September 2018, up from 60.0 per cent in the previous year. The value of exports for the UK, for the year ending September 2018, increased by 4.0 per cent over the previous year. Exports to EU countries accounted for 49.9 per cent of the UK total for the year ending September 2018, up from 49.2 per cent previous year. (Chart 6.1)

**Chart 6.1: Value of exports** (Index 1999 = 100) <sup>a b</sup>



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, HMRC

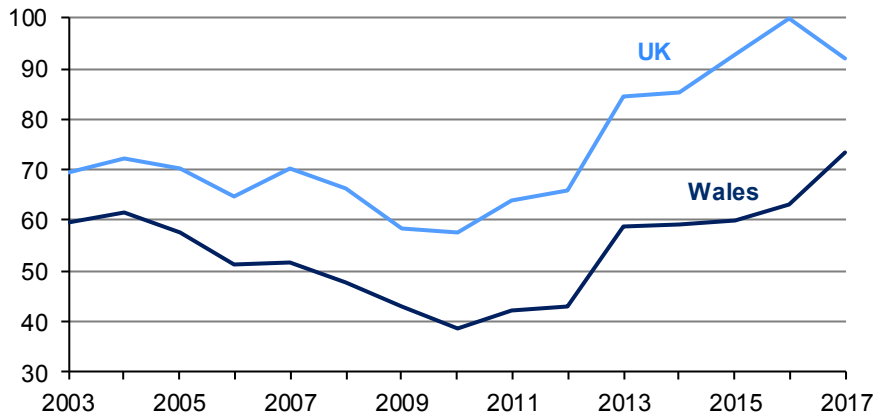
<sup>a</sup> From 1 May 2016 there was a methodological change to the way the non-EU trade-in-goods statistics are compiled from the 'General Trade' system to 'Special Trade'. The chart is based on 'General Trade' for 1999 to 2011 and 'Special Trade' from 2012 onwards. Comparisons of current data with time period prior to 2013 are invalid.

<sup>b</sup> From 2013 HMRC changed the method of allocating exports to countries and regions, so exports are allocated based on the population of employees in each region rather than the location of the head office.

## 7. Business Demography<sup>2</sup>

In Wales there were 73 VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2017, an increase of 16.5 per cent on the year. The UK had 92 VAT/PAYE births per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2017, down 8.0 per cent over the year. (*Chart 7.1*)

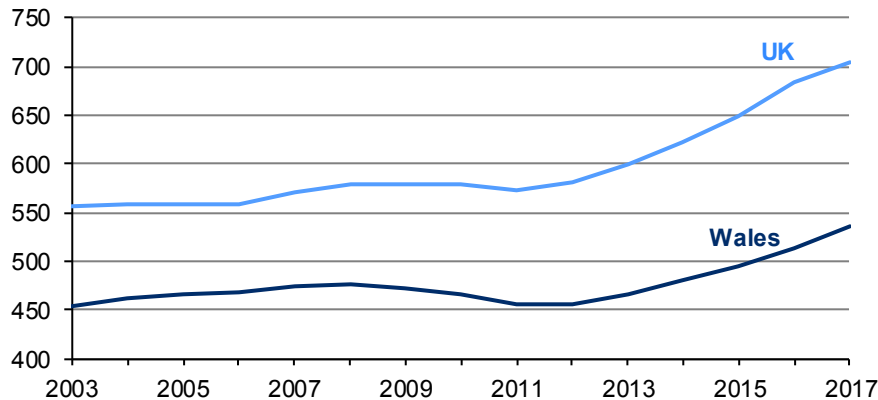
**Chart 7.1: VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births**  
(births per 10,000 population aged 16-64)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Business Demography

In Wales there were 535 VAT/PAYE registered enterprises per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2017, an increase of 4.4 percent over the year. The UK had 704 VAT/PAYE registered enterprises per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2017, up 3.0 per cent over the year. (*Chart 7.2*)

**Chart 7.2: VAT/PAYE registered enterprises**  
(enterprise stock per 10,000 population aged 16-64)



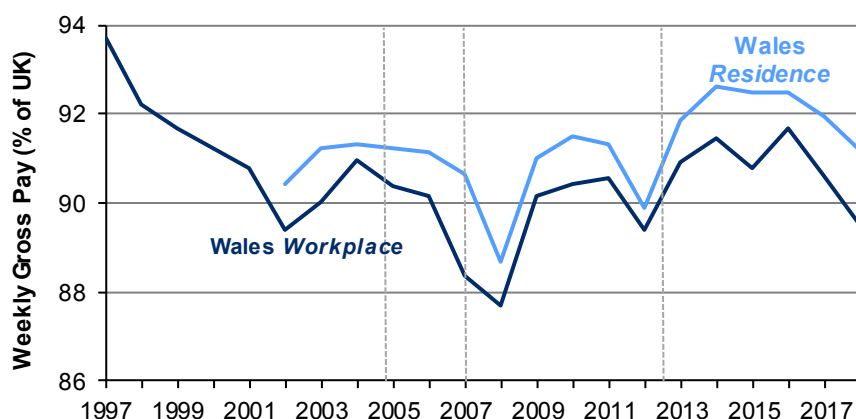
Source: Welsh Government analysis of Business Demography

<sup>2</sup> Not all businesses are registered for VAT/PAYE. Many small businesses trading below the VAT/PAYE threshold will not be included. The estimates for Wales only include those enterprises headquartered in Wales.

## 8. Earnings

Workplace based median average gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in Wales increased from £498.30 to £509.00 between April 2017 and April 2018, and the UK increased from £550.00 to £569.00. Wales as a percentage of the UK average therefore decreased from 90.6 per cent to 89.5 per cent. Residence based, median average gross weekly earnings in Wales increased from £505.70 to £518.60, which was 91.1 per cent of the UK average a fall from 91.9 per cent in the previous year. (Chart 8.1)

**Chart 8.1: Gross weekly pay, median average (Wales a percentage of the UK)** <sup>a,b,c</sup>



Source: Welsh Government analysis Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

<sup>a</sup> Full-time employees earning full adult rate and whose pay was not affected by absence.

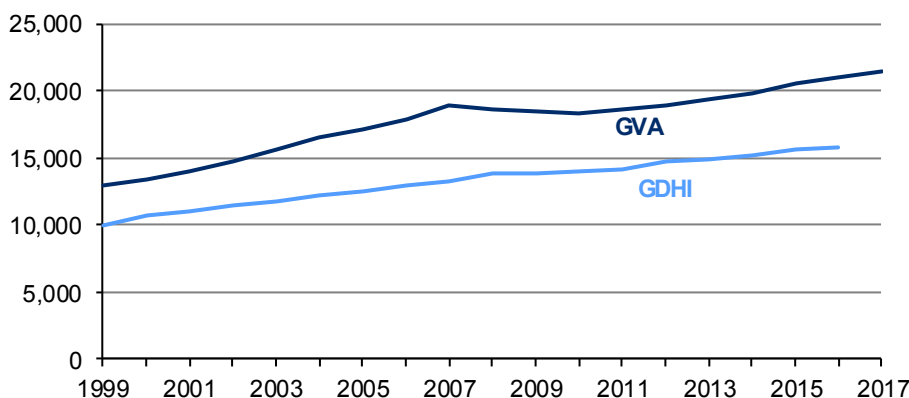
<sup>b</sup> Workplace and residence based UK figures are the same.

<sup>c</sup> There are discontinuities in the time-series in 2004, 2006 and 2011. See [ONS](#).

In 2017, total Gross Value Added (GVA) for Wales was £62.2 billion and GVA per head of the population was £19,899. GVA per head was 72.9 per cent of the UK figure (excluding extra-region), down 0.1 percentage points on the year. Wales had the lowest level of GVA per head out of the UK countries and English regions, just behind the North East and Northern Ireland, where GVA per head was £20,129 per head and £21,172 per head, respectively. (Chart 8.2)

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) in 2016 for Wales was £49.3 billion or £15,835 per head of population. This represented 81.5 per cent of the UK figure, down from 81.4 per cent in 2015. GDHI per head in Wales is closer to the UK average than GVA per head, and is higher than that for Northern Ireland and the North East of England. (Chart 8.2)

**Chart 8.2: Gross value added / Gross disposable household income per head**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Regional Accounts, ONS

## 9. Future Generations Indicators<sup>3</sup>

### 9.1 National indicator 11 - Percentage of businesses which are innovation active (*not National Statistics*)

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills publish information on innovation active businesses every two years using data from the UK Innovation Survey. The definition of *innovation active* used is:

*Introduction of a new or significantly improved product (goods or service) or process; Engagement in innovation projects not yet complete or abandoned; New and significantly improved forms of organisation, business structures or practices and marketing concepts or strategies. It excludes expenditure and activities linked to innovation.*

Table 9.1 shows the percentage of businesses which were innovation active in both Wales and the UK. Between 2014 and 2016 the percentage of businesses which were innovation active in Wales was 46.5 per cent. This compares with 45.0 per cent in Scotland, 38.8 per cent in Northern Ireland and 49.0 per cent for the UK overall. Wales was ninth highest of the 12 UK countries and English regions, ahead of Northern Ireland, the North East and Scotland (38.8, 42.0 and 45.0 per cent respectively). More information is available in the [UK Innovation Survey 2017 report](#).

**Table 9.1: Percentage of businesses which are innovation active**

	Wales	UK
2008-10	40.6	36.8
2010-12	46.6	44.4
2012-14	50.8	53.0
2014-16	46.5	49.0

Source: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

### 9.2 National indicator 16 - Percentage of people in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage (*not National Statistics*)

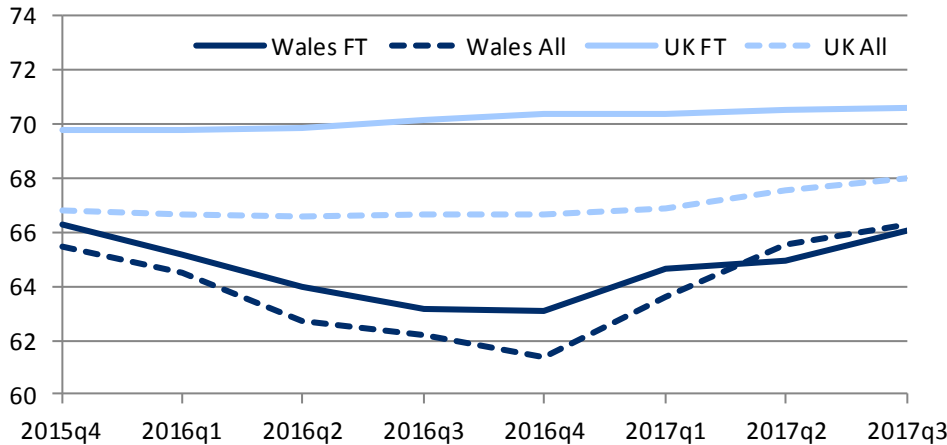
In Wales, 66.2 per cent of people in employment were either on permanent contracts (or have a temporary contract and are not seeking permanent employment) and were earning more than two thirds of the UK median wage for July to September 2017. This is an increase from 62.2 per cent for July to September 2016. Figures are for a four quarter trailing average; for example, the figure for 2017 quarter 1 is an average of 2016 quarters 4, 3 and 2, and 2017 quarter.

The figures for all employees are subject to variation due to changes in the number of part-time employees in the sample, and the number of hours those part-time employees work. The equivalent figure for full-time employees only for July to September 2017 is 66.1 per cent, up from 63.2 per cent in July to September 2016. This compares with the UK average of 70.6 per cent in July to September 2017, up from 70.2 per cent for the same period in 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Section 11.7 provides background to these indicators and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Wales is ranked seventh of the 12 UK countries and regions; London has the highest percentage (78.8 per cent) followed by the South East (75.3 per cent) and East (73.4 per cent).

**Chart 9.1: Percentage of people in employment on permanent contracts (or temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage<sup>a</sup>**



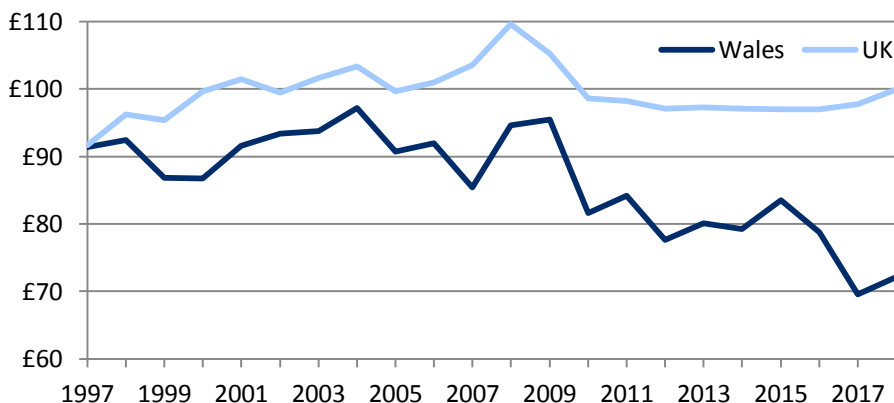
Source: WG analysis of Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and Labour Force Survey, ONS

<sup>a</sup> Four quarter average. UK median wage data is from ASHE for employees earning a full adult rate and whose pay was not affected by absence. 2017 ASHE data is provisional.

### 9.3 National indicator 17 - Gender pay difference

The median gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in 2018 in Wales were £541.6 for males and £469.5 for females. This is a difference of £72.1 (Chart 9.2). Males earned 15.4 per cent more than females in 2018 in Wales, up from 15.3 per cent in 2017. This compares with males earning 19.6 per cent more than females in the UK in 2018, down from 19.8 per cent in 2017.

**Chart 9.2: Gender pay gap in median average gross weekly earnings, full-time workers<sup>a,b,c</sup>**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

<sup>a</sup> Full-time employees earning full adult rate and whose pay was not affected by absence.

<sup>b</sup> Wales figures are workplace based. Workplace and residence based UK figures are the same.

<sup>c</sup> There are discontinuities in the time-series in 2004, 2006 and 2011. See [ONS](#).

Wales had the second smallest gender pay difference of the 12 UK countries and regions in 2018, behind Northern Ireland (£35.3). However, median average gross weekly earnings in Wales in 2018 for all full-time employees were £509, which is the second lowest of all UK countries and English regions and below the UK average of £569.



#### **9.4 National indicator 21 - Percentage of people in employment**

The latest estimate of the employment rate for Wales from the Annual Population Survey (APS) of those aged 16-64 is 72.6 per cent for the year ending September 2018, up from 71.9 per cent for the year ending September 2017. The UK rate was 75.0 per cent for the year ending September 2018, up from 74.4 per cent for the year ending September 2017. A time-series of employment rates from the APS is available on [StatsWales](#).

The APS estimate for Wales compares with the estimate from the Labour Force Survey of 75.8 per cent during September 2018 to November 2018, given in Section 1. Section 10.5 outlines the reasons for the difference between the estimates from the two surveys.

#### **9.5 National indicator 20 - Percentage of people moderately satisfied with their jobs**

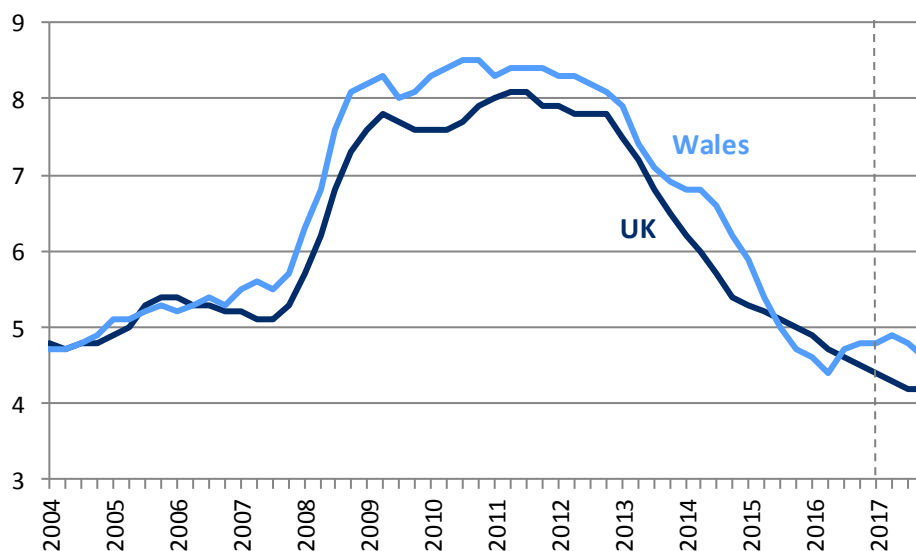
The National Survey for Wales estimates that 82 per cent of people aged 16 or over in employment were moderately satisfied with their jobs, for 2017-18. Across Wales the percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs ranged from 74 in Neath Port Talbot to 86 per cent in Ceredigion and Merthyr Tydfil. The underlying data can be found on [StatsWales](#).

## 10. Welsh Government targets

As part of its [Employability Plan](#) the Welsh Government established targets to eliminate the gaps in unemployment and economic inactivity rates between Wales and the UK within 10 years.

For the year ending September 2018, the unemployment rate in Wales was 4.6 per cent of the economically active population. For the same period, the UK rate was 4.2 per cent. This is a gap of 0.4 percentage points between Wales and the UK.

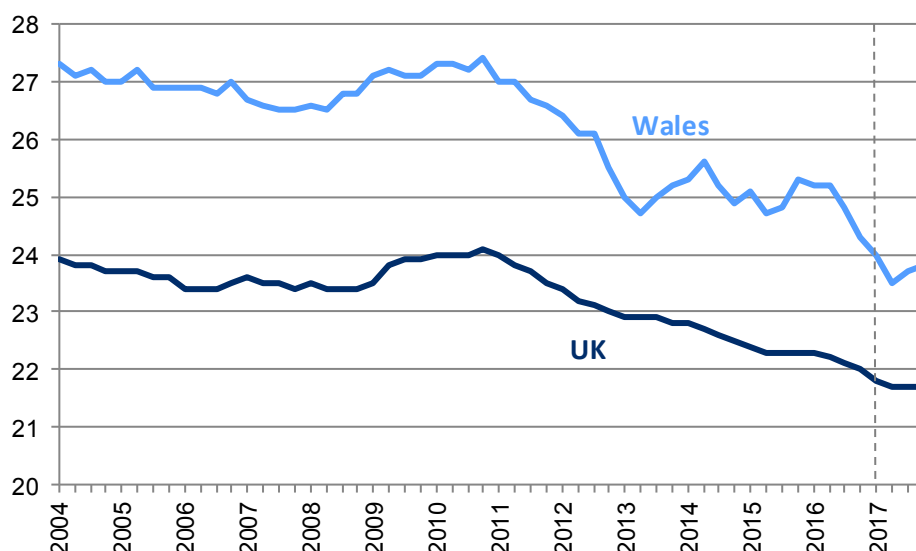
**Chart 10.1: ILO Unemployment rate, persons** *(percentage of the economically active)*



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

For the year ending September 2018, the economic inactivity rate in Wales was 23.8 per cent of those aged 16-64. For the same period, the UK rate was 21.7 per cent. This is a gap of 2.1 percentage points between Wales and the UK.

**Chart 10.2: Economic inactivity rate, persons** *(percentage of those aged 16-64)*



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

## 11. Key quality information

### 11.1 Relevance

This monthly bulletin is a compendium publication that brings together the latest key statistics relating to the Welsh economy and labour market, mainly in the context of the UK economy and labour market. The headline Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates in the bulletin are published by ONS in their Labour Market Statistical Bulletin which includes headline figures for Wales as a whole.

This bulletin provides a more detailed breakdown of the Wales data than the ONS bulletin and presents those estimates alongside other headline estimates for the economy and labour market for Wales. These statistics are used by the Welsh Government to monitor the headline statistics for the Welsh economy as well as providing comparisons to the UK economy. The bulletin complements the recently published [Welsh Economy in Numbers](#) website, which provides a broad picture of the Welsh economy.

This bulletin is used by other public sector organisations, businesses, academia and private individuals as a means of identifying the key trends in the headline economic and labour market statistics for Wales. Our [2012 user consultation](#) provides more information on how our outputs are used.

### 11.2 Accuracy

Some of the data in this bulletin is based on sample surveys meaning it is subject to sampling variability. Table 11.1 shows 95 per cent confidence intervals for the headline labour market measures from the Labour Force Survey. This means that there is a 95 per cent chance that the true value is contained in the range shown.

**Table 11.1: 95% confidence intervals for LFS figures: Wales, October to December 2018**

	<i>Numbers in thousands</i>								
	Estimates			Quarterly changes			Annual changes		
	Lower limit	Estimate	Upper limit	Lower limit	Quarterly change	Upper limit	Lower limit	Annual change	Upper limit
Employment level	1,494	1,531	1,567	-15	32	79	38	87	136
Employment rate	74.4%	76.2%	78.0%	-1.1%	1.2%	3.6%	1.1%	3.7%	6.2%
Unemployment level	51	66	81	-18	2	23	-34	-12	10
Unemployment rate	3.2%	4.1%	5.1%	-1.2%	0.1%	1.3%	-2.4%	-1.0%	0.5%
Economically active level	1,562	1,597	1,631	-10	34	79	29000	75	122
Economic activity rate	78.0%	79.7%	81.3%	-0.8%	1.4%	3.5%	0.9%	3.2%	5.5%
Economically inactive level	347	389	431	-81	-26	28	-119	-61	-3

Source: Office for National Statistics

The [Welsh Government revisions policy](#) is available from the Statistics and Research website. Where the data is not from the Welsh Government, the revisions policy of the individual Government department is followed. The majority of the data in this release is from the ONS and their [revisions policy](#) applies.

Claimant Count has been removed from the ONS labour market release because it may now be providing a misleading representation of the UK labour market. From June 2015 the Claimant

Count statistics were designated as experimental due to the impact of Universal Credit, which is designed so a broader span of claimants is required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance.

This means that once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, the Claimant Count is likely to be higher than it would otherwise be under Jobseeker's Allowance. The impact has increased as roll-out of Universal Credit has progressed and the seasonally-adjusted claimant count series has become more volatile. The Welsh Government will continue to publish Claimant Count data on StatsWales. The full [ONS statement](#) is available via their website.

This bulletin previously included statistics on working age benefits claimants by client group, based on Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data. DWP no longer produces this series and the full statement is available via the [Nomis website](#).

DWP now publishes a Benefit Combinations dataset on their StatsXplore website which provides both Working Age and Pension Age statistics on the number of individuals claiming a DWP benefit in total and to show the key combinations of benefits claimed. We are in the process of assessing whether this new data source is appropriate for our uses and/or publication.

### 11.3 Timeliness and punctuality

This bulletin follows the ONS publication schedule of labour market data, available on the [National Statistics Release Calendar](#). Table 11.2 lists the date of last update and next update for each data source.




**Table 11.2: Summary of data sources**

Data	Source	Last Updated	Next Updated
Average earnings	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	25-Oct-2018	Oct-2019
Economic inactivity rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	19-Feb-2019	19-Mar-2019
Economic inactivity rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	15-Jan-2019	Mar-2019
Employment rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	19-Feb-2019	19-Mar-2019
Employment rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	15-Jan-2019	Mar-2019
Gross Disposable Household Income	Regional Accounts, ONS	24-May-2018	May-2019
Gross Value Added	Regional Accounts, ONS	12-Dec-2018	Dec-2019
ILO unemployment rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	19-Feb-2019	19-Mar-2019
ILO unemployment rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	15-Jan-2019	Mar-2019
Index of Construction	Welsh Government	24-Jan-2019	Apr-2019
Index of Manufacturing	Welsh Government	24-Jan-2019	Apr-2019
Index of Market Services	Welsh Government	24-Jan-2019	Apr-2019
Index of Production	Welsh Government	24-Jan-2019	Apr-2019
Out of work benefit claimants	Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP	17-May-2017	No longer updated
Public sector employment	Regional Public Sector Employment, ONS	11-Dec-2018	Mar-2019
Self-employment jobs	Workforce jobs, ONS	11-Dec-2018	Mar-2019
Value of Exports	Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, HMRC	06-Dec-2018	07-Mar-2019
VAT/PAYE Registered Enterprises	Business Demography	21-Nov-2018	Nov-2019
Workforce jobs	Workforce jobs, ONS	11-Dec-2018	Mar-2019
National indicator 11	UK Innovation Survey	24-Oct-2018	2020
National indicator 16	Labour Force Survey & Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	17-Nov-2017	2019
Gender pay difference	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	25-Oct-2018	Oct-2019
Percentage of people in employment	Annual Population Survey, ONS	15-Jan-2019	Mar-2019
National indicator 20	National Survey for Wales	20-Jun-2018	Jun-2019

## 11.4 Accessibility and clarity

Much of the data behind the charts shown in this bulletin can be found on StatsWales, links to which are provided in Table 11.3. Links to Welsh Government statistical headlines are also provided where applicable.

**Table 11.3: StatsWales and WG headline links**

Measure	Data Link	WG Headline Link
Claimant count	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Economic inactivity rate	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Employment rate	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Exports	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Gross Disposable Household Income	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Gross Value Added	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Gross weekly pay	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	
Out of work benefit claimants	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	
Public sector employment	 Office for National Statistics	
Self-employment jobs	 Office for National Statistics	
Unemployment rate	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
VAT/PAYE registered enterprises	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	<a href="#">STATISTICS &amp; RESEARCH</a>
Workforce jobs	 Office for National Statistics	
Businesses Innovation Active (FG indicator)	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	
Employment above ⅔ UK median wage (FG indicator)	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	
Gender Pay Gap (FG indicator)	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	
Employment (FG indicator)	<a href="#">StatsWales</a>	

## 11.5 Comparability and coherence

Comparable measures for other UK countries for the data published in this bulletin are published on StatsWales and on the ONS website, which can be accessed using the data links in Table 10.3.

### Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Estimates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity are available from both the LFS and the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates from the LFS are based on a rolling quarter and are updated monthly. The sample sizes are too low in the LFS to produce reliable estimates for geographies below Wales level. Estimates from the APS are based on a rolling twelve months, updated each quarter. The APS uses a bigger sample than the LFS so is used to produce estimates for geographies in Wales. At Wales level, the APS is a slightly more robust measure than the LFS but it is less timely and slower to adapt to changes in the labour market.

### Employment and Workforce Jobs

Employment figures differ between the LFS estimates and Workforce Jobs. Primarily this is because people with more than one job are counted once in the LFS but more than once in Workforce Jobs. The LFS does not cover people living in most types of communal establishments and Workforce Jobs excludes unpaid family workers.

## **ILO Unemployment and Claimant Count**

There are two different measures of unemployment used in official UK statistics, the headline International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure recorded by the LFS and the claimant count measure. Each is subject to advantages and disadvantages.

The headline ILO measure is a count of those who are out of work and want a job, or have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks. It is the broader measure of unemployment. However, it is sourced from a survey so the results are subject to sampling error. Wales data is subject to higher variability than UK level data because of the smaller sample size.

The claimant count is a count of all those claiming unemployment related benefits (currently Jobseekers Allowance plus some claimants of Universal Credit). As such it excludes those who are unemployed who are not eligible to claim, and those who do not wish to claim. However, it is a count of all claimants and is not subject to any sampling variability. It can therefore be disaggregated to very high levels of detail, and in particular, changes measured over the short term are more robust than for the headline unemployment measure.

### **11.6 Technical notes**

Some of the data in this bulletin are presented as index numbers. Index numbers take the data for each time period and divide them by the figure for the reference period, and multiply the result by 100. A figure of above 100 for a given time period then indicates that the figure is higher than that for the reference period, whilst a figure of below 100 indicates that it is lower than that for the reference period. Data on workforce jobs, self-employment jobs and exports are presented as indices referenced to 1999 = 100. The indices of production, manufacturing and construction and the index of market services are each referenced to 2016 = 100.

Data series shown are seasonally adjusted unless stated otherwise. Seasonal adjustment is the process of removing variations associated with the time of year from a time-series and enables comparisons of labour market statistics to be made since the previous quarter or previous month. Labour market data for Wales is seasonally adjusted but for geographies within Wales only non seasonally adjusted data is available.

### **11.7 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 Official 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.

### **11.8 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 the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes five of the national indicators:

- (11) percentage of businesses which are innovation active
- (16) percentage of people in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage
- (17) gender pay difference
- (21) percentage of people in employment
- (20) Percentage of people moderately satisfied with their jobs

Data on [indicator 9](#) (*Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked*) and [indicator 10](#) (*Gross Disposable Household Income per head*) is available from ONS.

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](#).

This release includes contextual indicators, namely the basket of indicators presented in Welsh Economy: in Numbers which were referenced in the technical document or the Well-being report in the previous link.

As national indicators under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

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.

## 11.9 Further details

### Links

This document is available here: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/key-economic-statistics/?lang=en>

A comprehensive [data sources guide](#) which provides a summary of the main official data sources used by the Economic and Labour Market Statistics branch as well as useful links has been published.

The National Survey for Wales [methodology and quality reports](#) can be found on the Welsh Government website.

More information on the data sources can also be found in the Quality and Methodology Information reports published by ONS on [Labour Market](#), [Claimant Count](#), [Public Sector Employment](#) and [Workforce Jobs](#) data.

### Next update

19 March 2019 (Headline)

21 March 2019 (Key Economic Statistics bulletin)

### We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [economic.stats@gov.wales](mailto:economic.stats@gov.wales).

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