



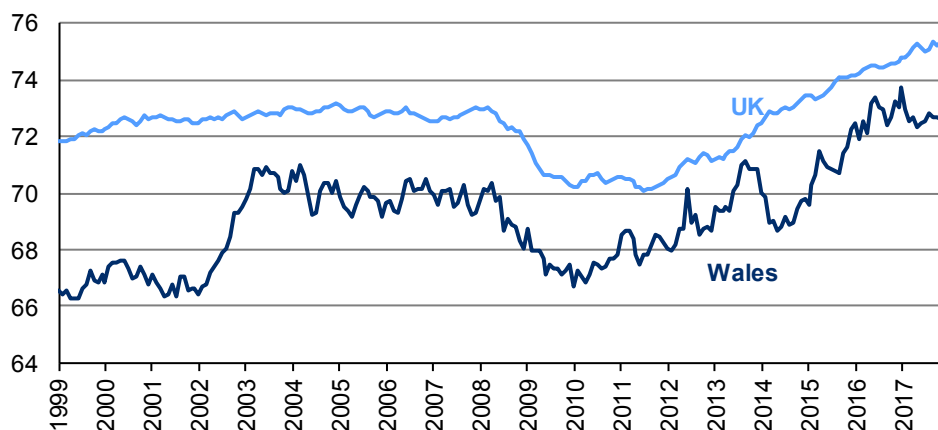
## Key Economic Statistics – April 2018

19 Apr 2018  
SB 23/2018

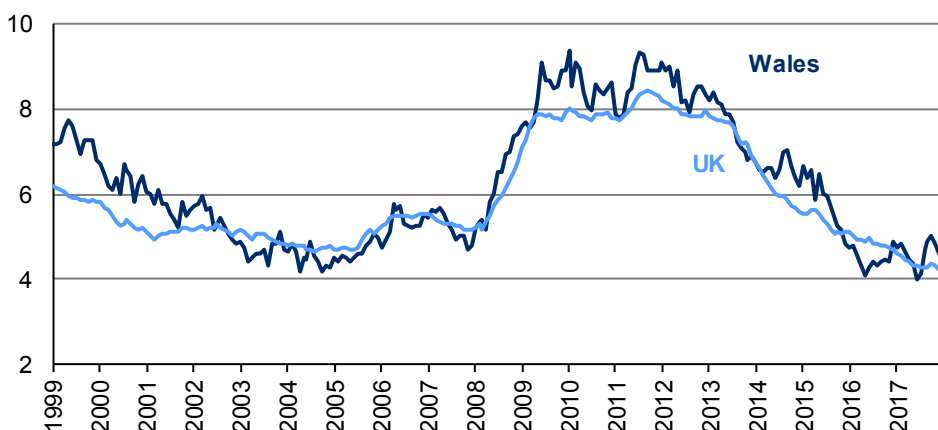
### Key points

- The employment rate in Wales, as estimated by the Labour Force Survey, was 73.0 per cent of those aged 16-64 during December 2017 to February 2018, down 0.1 percentage points from a year earlier.
- The UK rate for the same period was 75.4 per cent, up from 74.6 per cent a year earlier.
- The unemployment rate in Wales was 4.6 per cent of the economically active population during December 2017 to February 2018, down 0.3 percentage points from a year earlier.
- The UK rate for the same period was 4.2 per cent, down from 4.7 per cent 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.

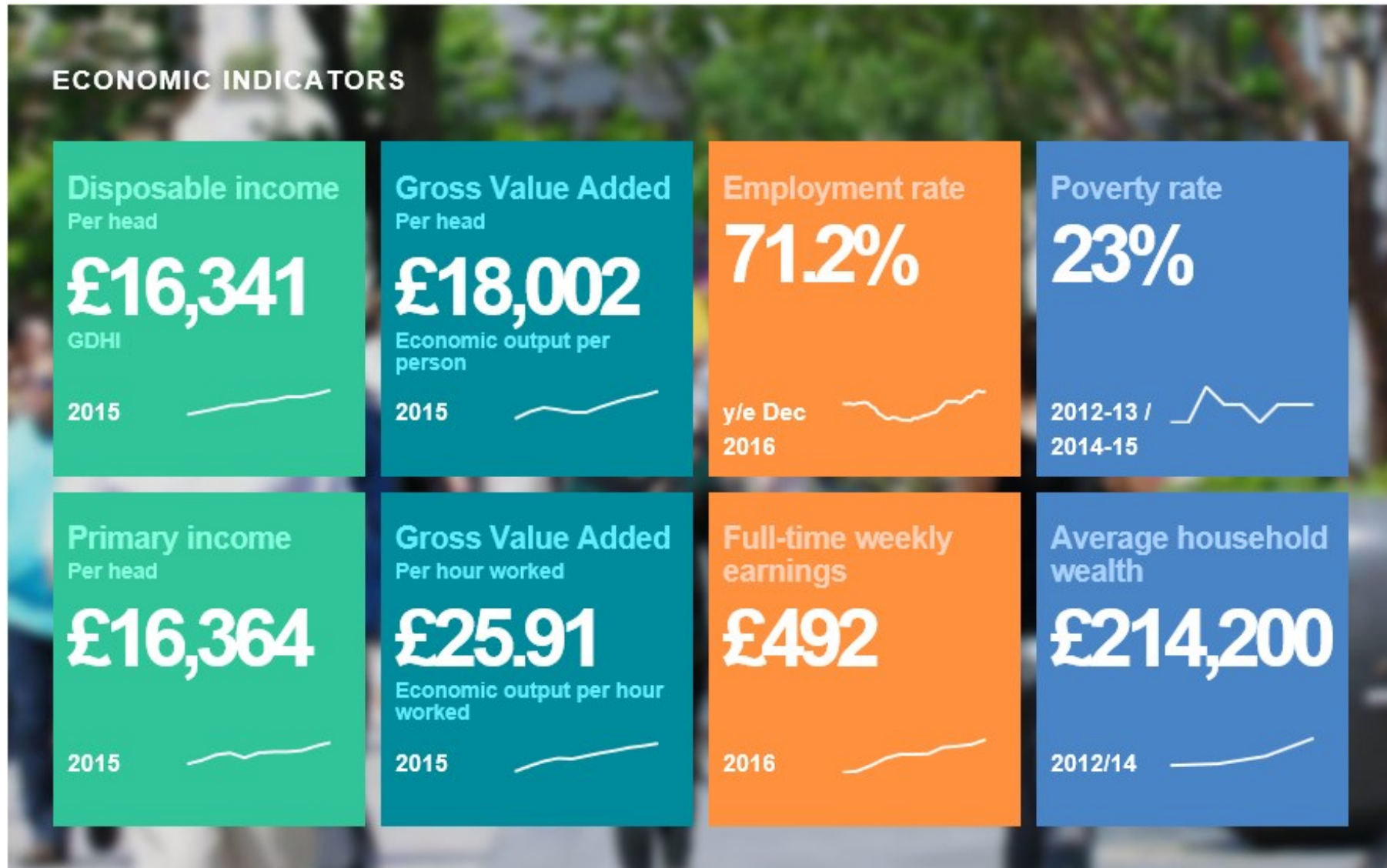
Key supporting material:  
[Welsh Economy in Numbers](#)

### In this bulletin

This bulletin contains new data on:

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<a href="#">Unemployment</a>	6
<a href="#">Economic Inactivity</a>	8
<a href="#">Welsh Short-Term Output Indicators</a>	11

## Welsh Economy in Numbers



The Welsh Economy in Numbers is published at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/economic-indicators/?lang=en>. The employment rate shown is an annual rate based on the Annual Population Survey and may not match the rolling quarter data based on the Labour Force Survey elsewhere in this document.

Recently published data may not be reflected yet online or in the above screenshot.

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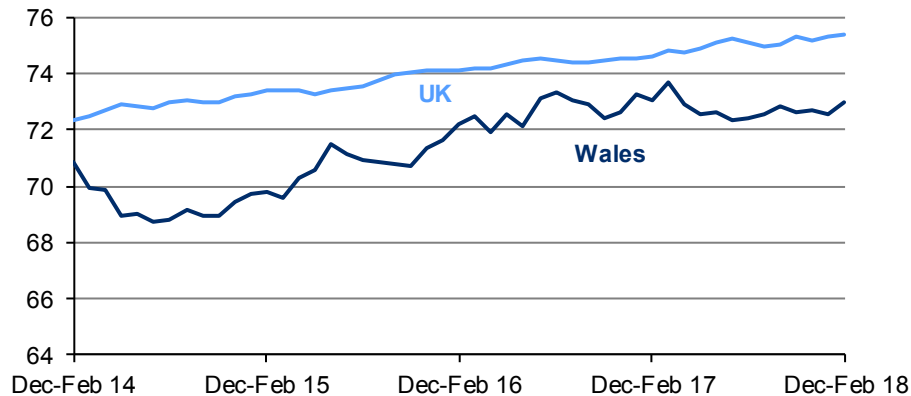
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# 1. Employment

There were 1.4 million people in employment in Wales in December 2017 to February 2018, up 5,000 (0.4 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 73.0 per cent of those aged 16-64, down by 0.1 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. The total number in employment in the UK over the same period rose by 427,000 (1.3 per cent) to 32.3 million. This is a rate of 75.4 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 74.6 per cent a year earlier. (*Chart 1.1*)

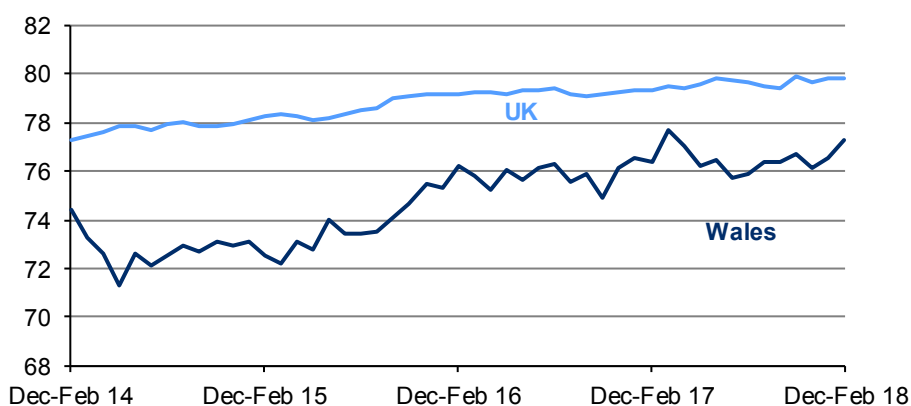
**Chart 1.1: Employment rate, persons (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 770,000 men in employment in Wales in December 2017 to February 2018, up 14,000 (1.9 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 77.2 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 0.9 per cent from the same period a year earlier. The number of men in employment in the UK over the same period rose by 176,000 (1.0 per cent) to 17.1 million. This is a rate of 79.8 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier. (*Chart 1.2*)

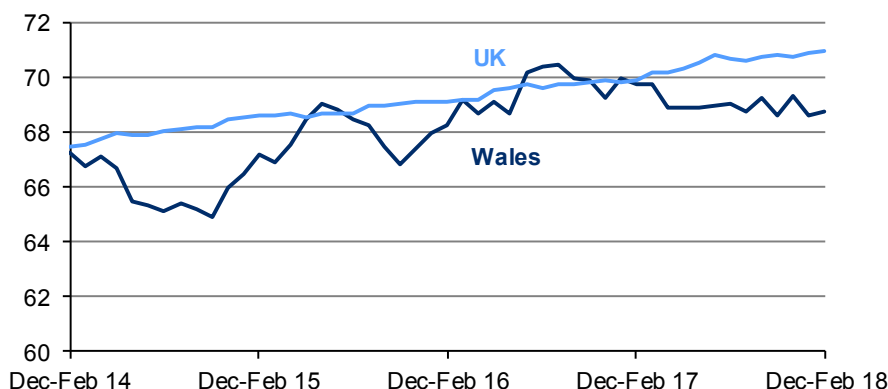
**Chart 1.2: Employment rate, men (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 678,000 women in employment in Wales in December 2017 to February 2018, down 9,000 (1.2 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 68.8 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 69.8 per cent in the same period a year earlier. The number of women in employment in the UK was 15.2 million, up 251,000 (1.7 per cent) over the year. This is a rate of 71.0 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 69.9 per cent a year earlier. (*Chart 1.3*)

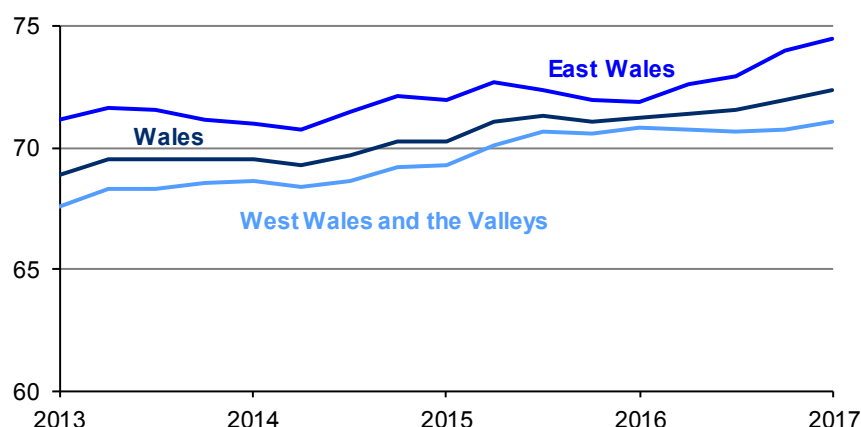
**Chart 1.3: Employment rate, women (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending 31 December 2017 the average employment level in West Wales and the Valleys was down 1,300 (0.2 per cent) over the year and was up 16,800 (3.1 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 2.6 percentage points in East Wales – differences calculated using unrounded figures. (Chart 1.4)

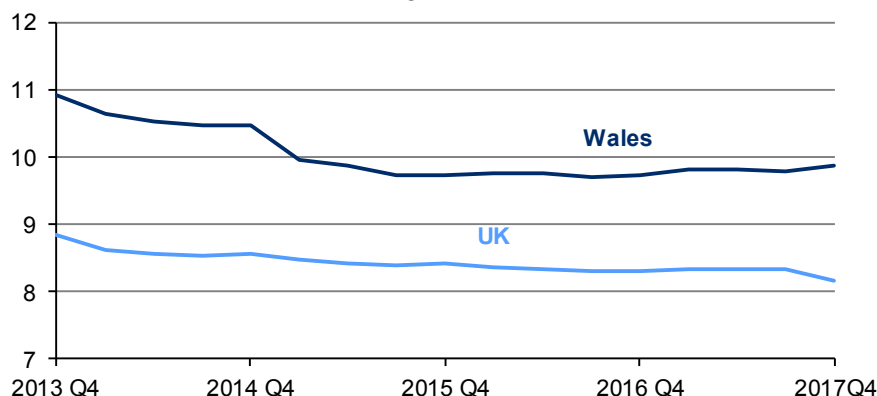
**Chart 1.4: Employment rate, NUTS2 areas (four quarter rolling average, percentage of those aged 16-64, not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

There were 307,000 people employed in the public sector in Wales in 2017 Q4, up 1.4 per cent from a year earlier. This is 9.9 per cent of the population, up 0.1 percentage points from a year earlier. Public sector employment in the UK over the same period decreased by 100,000 (1.8 per cent) to 5.4 million. This is 8.2 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)**

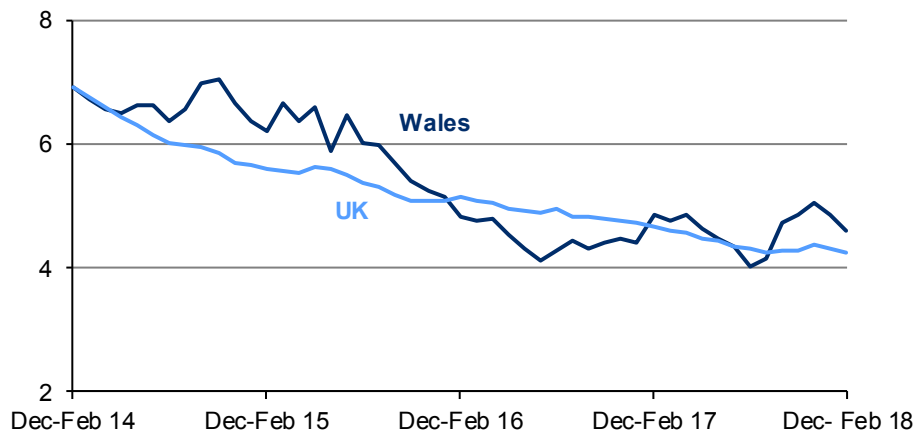


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Regional Public Sector Employment, ONS

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

There were 70,000 people who were unemployed in Wales in December 2017 to February 2018, down 4,000 (5.1 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 4.6 per cent of the economically active population, down 0.3 percentage points from a year earlier. The number of unemployed people in the UK over the same period fell by 136,000 (8.7 per cent) to 1.4 million. This is a rate of 4.2 per cent of the economically active population, down from 4.7 per cent a year earlier. (Chart 2.1)

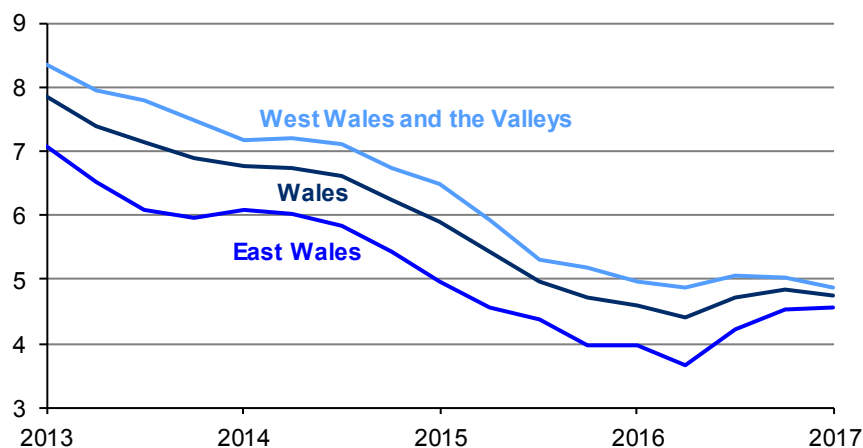
**Chart 2.1: ILO unemployment rates (percentage of economically active)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending 31 December 2017 the average unemployment level in West Wales and the Valleys was down 800 (1.8 per cent) over the year. For East Wales the level was up 4,200 (18.5 per cent) over the year. Over the same period, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and rose by 0.6 percentage points in East Wales - differences calculated using unrounded figures. (Chart 2.2)

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

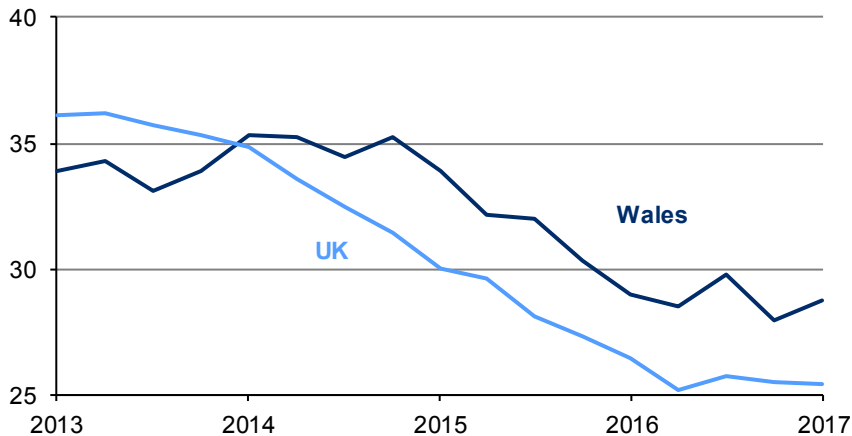


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

<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.

For the year ending 31 December 2017 the Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates that 20,600 people in Wales were long-term unemployed (12 months or more), up 4.1 per cent over the year. This represented 28.8 per cent of all those unemployed in the year, down 0.2 percentage points over the year. The equivalent UK rate was 25.4 per cent, down 1.0 percentage points over the year. (Chart 2.3)

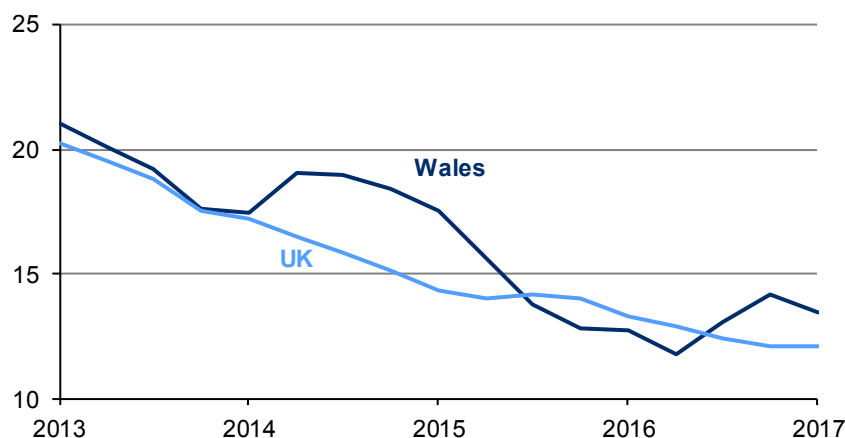
**Chart 2.3: Long-term ILO unemployment rates** (percentage of all unemployed: four quarter rolling average)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

For the year ending 31 December 2017 the APS estimates that 28,700 people aged 16-24 in Wales were unemployed, up 9.0 per cent over the year. This represented 13.5 per cent of the economically active in this age group, down 0.8 percentage points over the year. The equivalent UK rate was 12.1 per cent, down 1.2 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

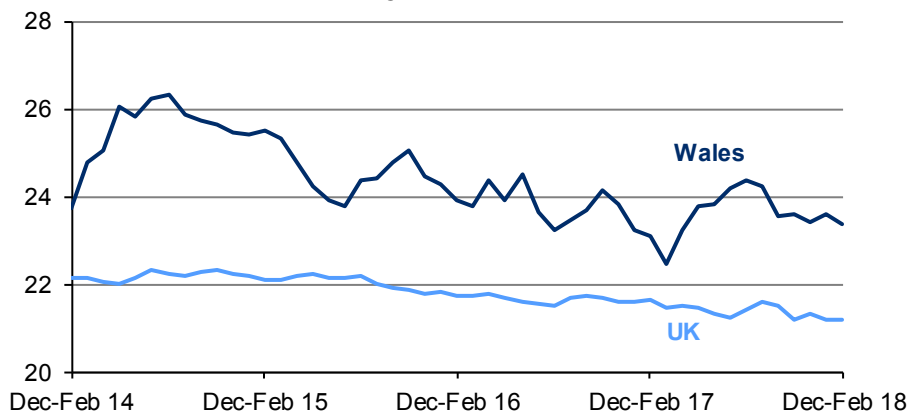
Claimant count is no longer seen as a reliable indicator of the UK labour market by ONS and it has therefore been removed from this publication. Please see Section 10 for more information.



### 3. Economic Inactivity

There were 443,000 people in Wales who were economically inactive in December 2017 to February 2018, up 5,000 (1.0 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 23.4 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 23.1 per cent a year earlier. The number of economically inactive people in the UK over the same period fell by 154,000 (1.7 per cent) to 8.7 million. This is a rate of 21.2 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 21.6 per cent a year earlier. (*Chart 3.1*)

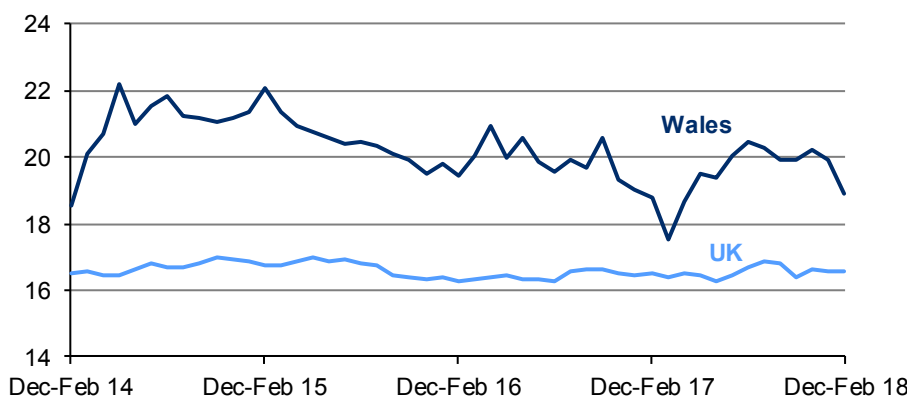
**Chart 3.1: Economic inactivity rate, persons (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 178,000 economically inactive men in Wales in December 2017 to February 2018, this is the same level as a year earlier, when rounded to the nearest thousand (0.3 per cent). This is a rate of 18.9 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 18.8 per cent a year earlier. The number of economically inactive men in the UK over the same period increased by 29,000 (0.9 per cent) to 3.4 million. This is a rate of 16.6 per cent of those aged 16-64, up 0.1 percentage points from a year earlier. (*Chart 3.2*)

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

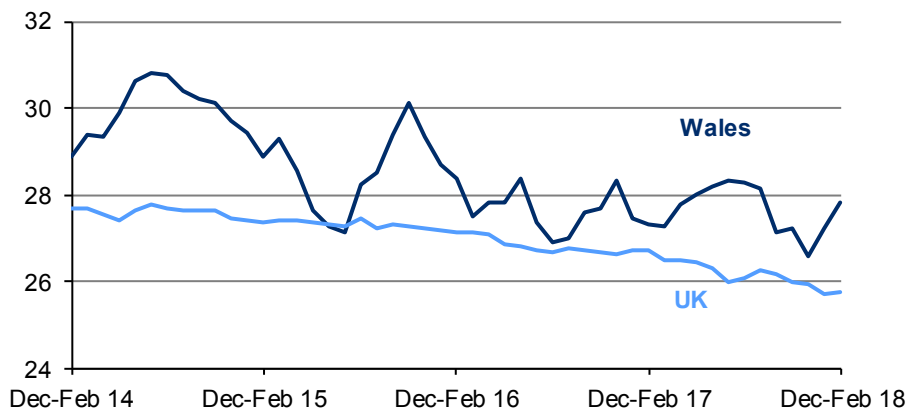


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

There were 265,000 economically inactive women in Wales from December 2017 to February 2018, up 4,000 (1.5 per cent) from the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 27.8 per cent of those aged 16-64, up from 27.3 per cent a year earlier. The number of economically inactive women in the UK over the same period fell by 184,000 (3.3 per cent) to 5.3 million. This is a rate of 25.8 per cent of those aged 16-64, down from 26.7 per cent a year earlier. (*Chart 3.3*)



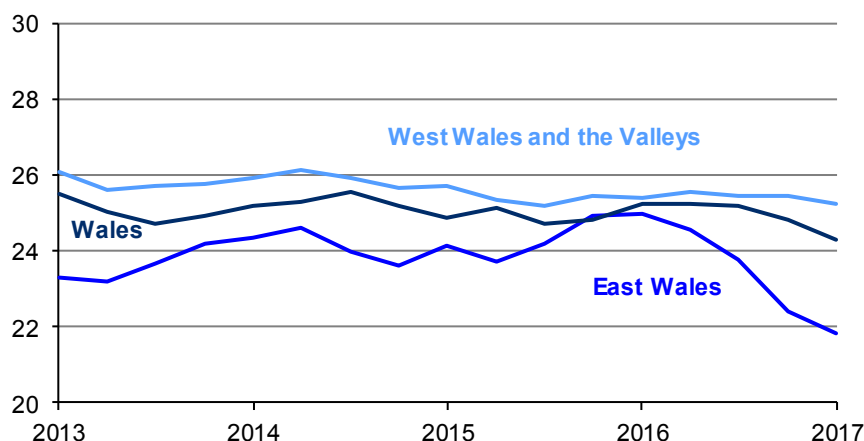
**Chart 3.3: Economic inactivity rate, women (percentage of those aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey

For the year ending 31 December 2017 the economic inactivity level in West Wales and the Valleys was down 2,300 (0.8 per cent) over the year. For East Wales the level was down 22,800 (12.7 per cent) over the year. Over the same period, the economic inactivity rate was down 0.1 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys down by 3.1 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)**



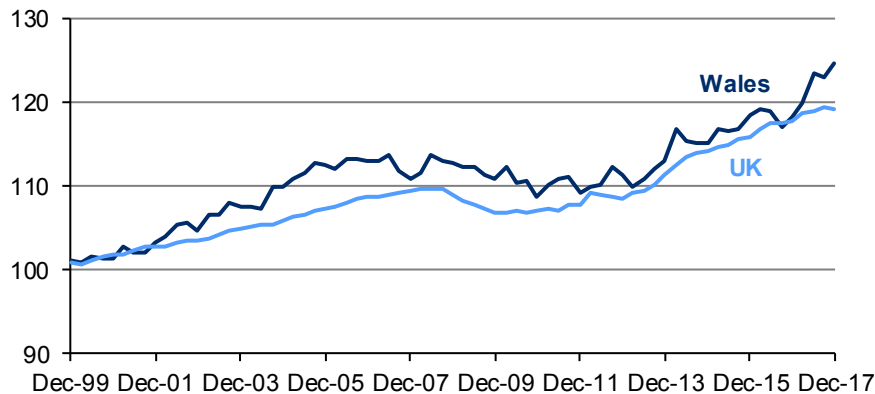
Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey

Please note the out of work benefit claimants dataset is no longer updated by the Department for Work and Pensions, please see [Section 10](#) (Key quality information) for more information.

## 4. Workforce Jobs

The number of workforce jobs in Wales increased by 81,000 (5.5 per cent) between December 2016 and December 2017 to 1.55 million. Between December 1999 and December 2017 the number of workforce jobs in Wales rose by 294,000 (23.4 per cent). The number of workforce jobs in the UK increased by 406,000 (1.2 per cent) to 35.1 million over the year and increased by 5.5 million (18.2 per cent) since December 1999. (*Chart 4.1*)

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

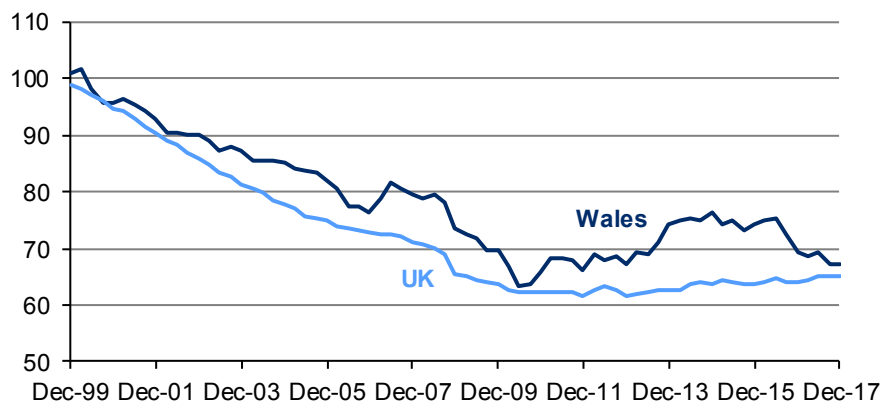


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Workforce Jobs, ONS

The number of workforce jobs in manufacturing in Wales was down 5,000 (down 3.2 per cent) between December 2016 and December 2017 to, 142,000 (9.2 per cent of all workforce jobs compared to 17.0 per cent in December 1999). Over the same period the number of workforce jobs in manufacturing in the UK increased by 55,000 (up 2.1 per cent) to 2.7 million (7.7 per cent of all workforce jobs compared to 13.7 per cent in December 1999). (*Chart 4.2*)

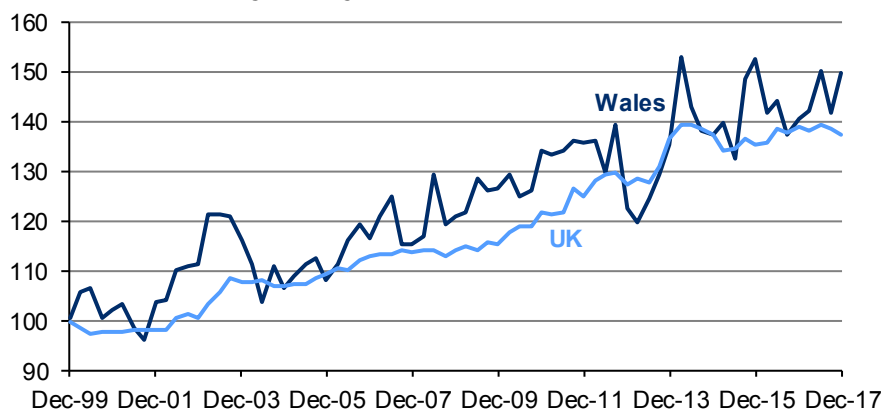
The number of self-employment jobs in Wales increased by 13,000 (6.6 per cent) between December 2016 and December 2017 to 214,000 (13.8 per cent of workforce jobs compared to 11.4 per cent in December 1999). Over the same period the estimate of the number of self-employment jobs in the UK was 4.5 million, down 49,000 (1.1 per cent) over the year (12.8 per cent of workforce jobs compared to 11.0 per cent in December 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)**

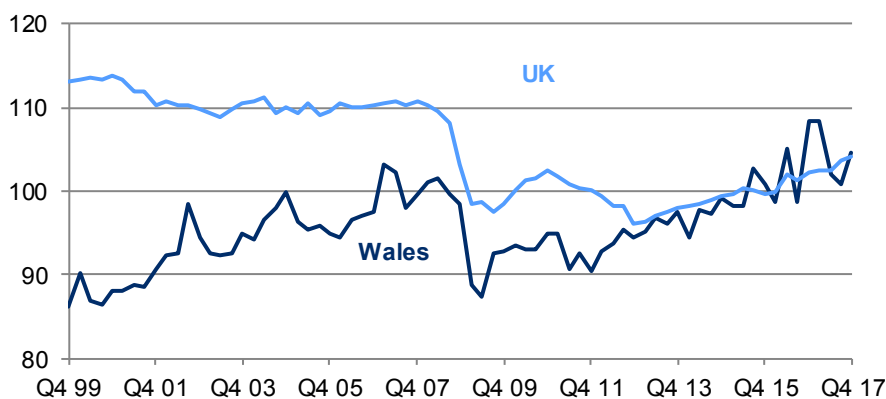


Source: Welsh Government analysis of Workforce Jobs, ONS

## 5. Welsh Short-Term Output Indicators

Production output in Wales for the year ending December 2017 increased by 1.1 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. The UK index increased by 1.9 per cent over the same period. Production output in Wales for 2017 quarter 4 increased by 3.7 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK index increased by 0.4 per cent over the same period. (Chart 5.1)

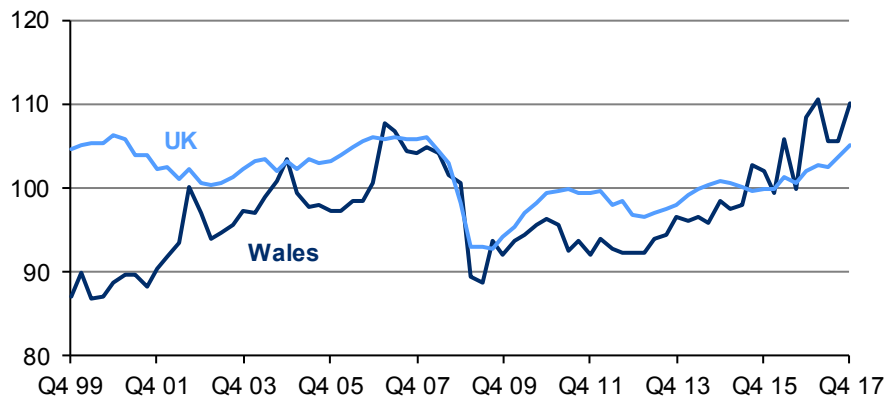
**Chart 5.1: Index of production (Index 2015=100)**



Source: Welsh Government

Manufacturing output in Wales for the year ending December 2017 increased by 4.5 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. UK output increased by 2.5 per cent over the same period. Manufacturing output in Wales for 2017 quarter 4 increased by 4.3 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index increased by 1.3 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.2*)

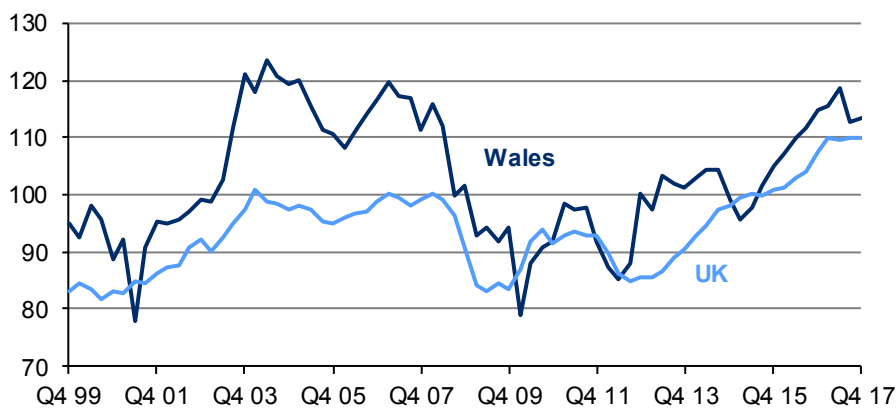
**Chart 5.2: Index of manufacturing (Index 2015=100)**



Source: Welsh Government

Construction output in Wales for the year ending December 2017 increased by 3.8 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. UK output increased by 5.7 per cent over the same period. Construction output in Wales for 2017 quarter 4 increased by 0.5 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index decreased by 0.1 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.3*)

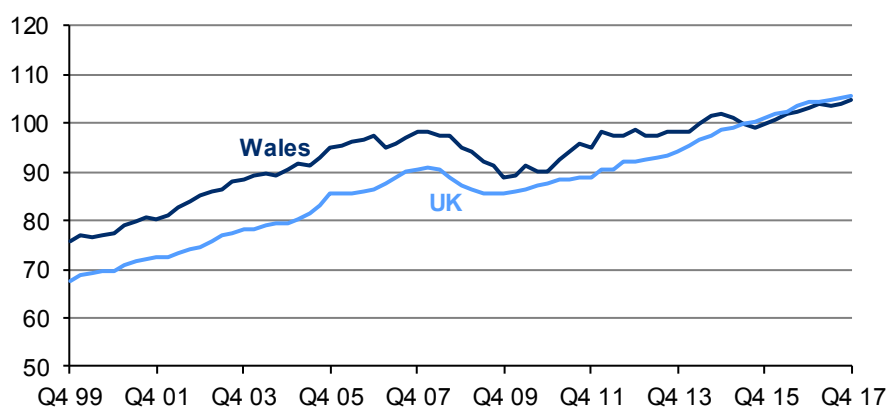
**Chart 5.3: Index of construction (Index 2015=100)**



Source: Welsh Government

The Index of Market Services for Wales for the year ending December 2017 increased by 2.0 per cent compared with the year ending December 2016. The UK index increased by 1.7 per cent over the same period. The Index of Market Services for Wales for 2017 quarter 4 increased by 0.8 per cent compared with the previous quarter and the UK index increased by 0.4 per cent over the same period. (*Chart 5.4*)

**Chart 5.4: Index of market services (Index 2015=100)**



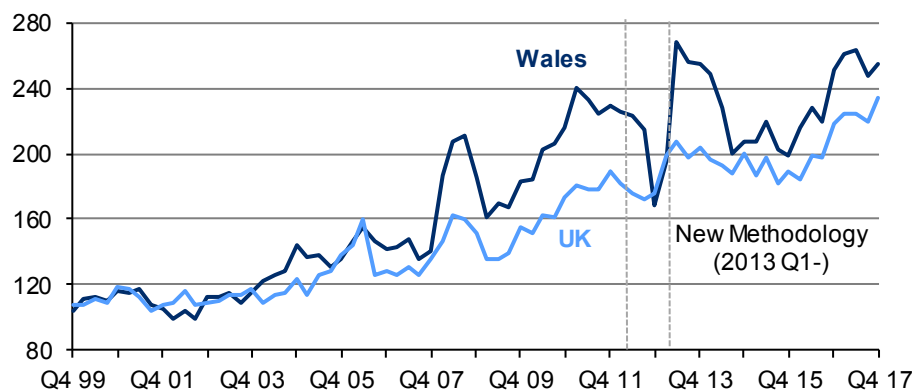
Source: Welsh Government

## 6. Regional Trade Statistics

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

In 2017, the value of exports of goods from Wales increased by 12.3 per cent since the previous year. Exports to EU countries accounted for 60.3 per cent of total export for 2017, down from 60.5 per cent in the previous year. The value of exports for the UK, in 2017, increased by 13.3 per cent over the previous year. Exports to EU countries accounted for 49.6 per cent of the UK total in 2017, 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 Statistics, HMRC

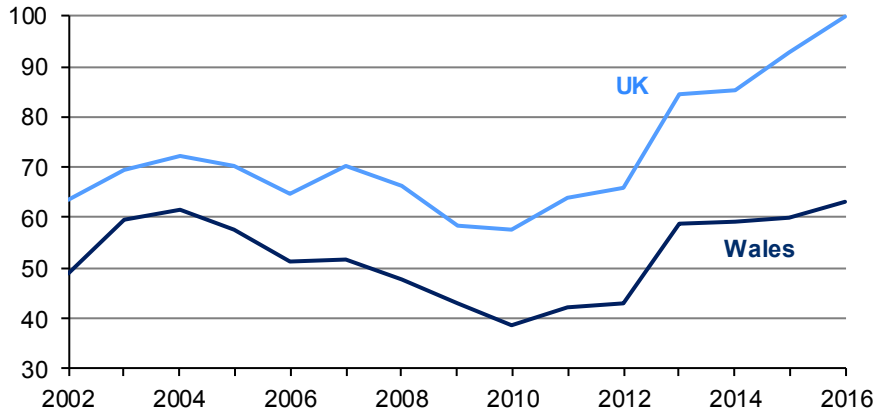
<sup>a</sup> From 1 May 2016 there was a methodological change to the way the non-EU trade-in-goods statistics are compiled from the 'General Trade' system to 'Special Trade'. The chart is based on 'General Trade' for 1999 to 2011 and 'Special Trade' from 2012 onwards. Comparisons of current data with 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 63 VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2016, up 5.0 per cent. The UK had 100 VAT/PAYE births per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2016, up 7.6 per cent over the year. (*Chart 7.1*)

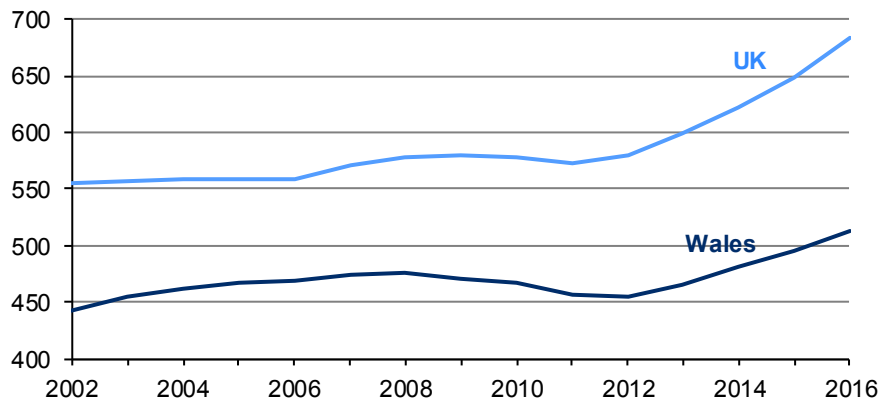
**Chart 7.1: VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births** (*births per 10,000 population aged 16-64*)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Business Demography

In Wales there were 512 VAT/PAYE registered enterprises per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2016, an increase of 3.5 percent over the year. The UK had 684 VAT/PAYE registered enterprises per 10,000 people aged 16-64 in 2016, up 5.5 per cent over the year. (*Chart 7.2*)

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



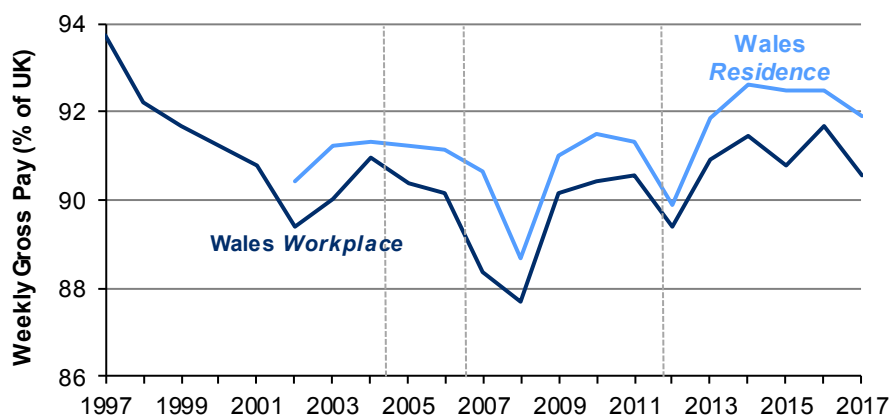
Source: Welsh Government analysis of Business Demography

<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 £493.70 to £498.40 between April 2016 and April 2017, and the UK increased from £538.60 to £550.40. Wales therefore decreased from being 91.7 per cent of the UK average to 90.6 per cent. Residence based, median average gross weekly earnings in Wales increased from £499.20 to £505.90, which was 91.9 per cent of the UK average a fall from 92.7 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.

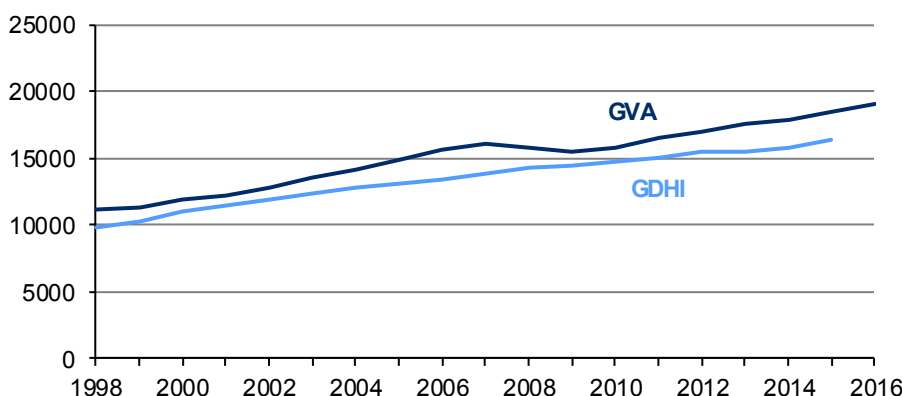
<sup>b</sup> Workplace and residence based UK figures are the same.

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

In 2016, workplace Gross Value Added (GVA) for Wales was £59.6 billion or £19,140 per head of population. This was 72.7 per cent of the average for the total of all UK regions, up from 72.2 per cent in 2015. Wales had the lowest level of GVA per head in the UK regions, behind Northern Ireland and Yorkshire and The Humber, where GVA per head was £19,997 per head and £20,678 per head, respectively. (Chart 8.2)

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) in 2015 for Wales was £50.6 billion or £16,341 per head of population. This represented 85.5 per cent of the UK figure, up from 85.2 per cent in 2014. GDHI per head in Wales is closer to the UK average than GVA per head, and is higher than that for Northern Ireland, the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber. (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 2012 and 2014 the percentage of businesses which were innovation active in Wales was 50.8 per cent. This compares with 54.0 per cent in England, 50.4 per cent in Scotland, 44.7 per cent in Northern Ireland and 53.0 per cent for the UK overall. Wales was eighth highest of the 12 UK countries and regions, ahead of the South West, Northern Ireland, London and Scotland (43.4, 44.7, 48.0 and 50.4 per cent respectively). More information is available in the [UK Innovation Survey 2015 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

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*)

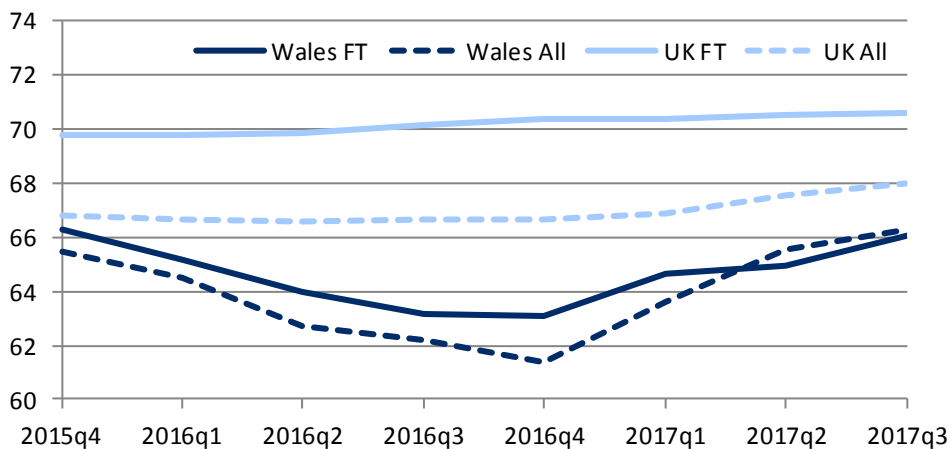
In Wales, 66.2 per cent of people in employment were either on permanent contracts (or have a temporary contract and are not seeking permanent employment) and were earning more than two thirds of the UK median wage for July to September 2017. This is an increase from 62.2 per cent for July to September 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 10.7 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>**



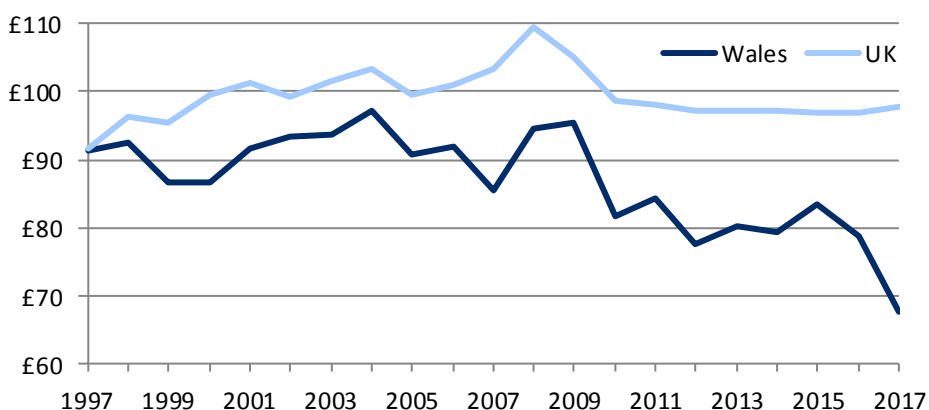
Source: WG analysis of Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and Labour Force Survey, ONS

<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 2017 in Wales were £525.1 for males and £457.6 for females. This is a difference of £67.5 (Chart 9.2). Males earned 14.6 per cent more than females in 2017 in Wales, down from 17.6 per cent in 2016. This compares with males earning 19.8 per cent more than females in the UK in 2017, down from 20.2 per cent in 2016.

**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 gap of the 12 UK countries and regions in 2017, behind Northern Ireland (£33.0). However, median average gross weekly earnings in Wales in 2017 for all full-time employees were £498, which is the lowest of all UK countries and English regions and below the UK average of £550.0.

#### **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 72.4 per cent for the year ending December 2017, up from 71.2 per cent for the year ending December 2016. The UK rate was 74.7 per cent for the year ending December 2017, up 0.9 percentage points since the previous year. 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 73.0 per cent during December 2017 to February 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 83 per cent of over 16 year olds were moderately satisfied with their jobs, for 2016-17. Across Wales the percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs ranged from 78 in Merthyr Tydfil to 90 per cent in Pembrokeshire. The underlying data can be found on [StatsWales](#).

## 10. Key quality information

### 10.1 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.

### 10.2 Accuracy

Some of the data in this bulletin is based on sample surveys meaning it is subject to sampling variability. Table 10.1 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 10.1: 95% confidence intervals for LFS figures: Wales, December to February 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	1,406	1,449	1,491	-44	11	66	-51	5	62
Employment rate	71.0%	73.0%	75.0%	-2.3%	0.3%	2.9%	-2.8%	-0.1%	2.7%
Unemployment level	55	70	85	-23	-3	17	-24	-4	17
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.6%	5.6%	-1.6%	-0.3%	1.1%	-1.6%	-0.3%	1.1%
Economically active level	1,479	1,519	1,559	-44	8	60	-52	2	55
Economic activity rate	74.8%	76.6%	78.5%	-2.2%	0.2%	2.6%	-2.8%	-0.3%	2.2%
Economically inactive level	396	443	490	-65	-4	56	-58	5	67

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.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are no longer publishing working age benefits claimants by client group. The Welsh Government will no longer publish the Benefits data on StatsWales. The full DWP statement is available via the [Nomis website](#). We are in the process of identifying a new appropriate source for this data.

### 10.3 Timeliness and punctuality

This bulletin follows the ONS publication schedule of labour market data, available on the [National Statistics Release Calendar](#). Table 10.2 lists the date of last update and next update for each data source.


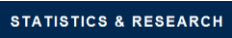

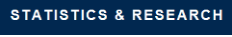

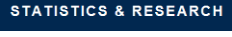



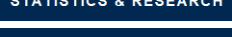

















**Table 10.2: Summary of data sources**

Data	Source	Last Updated	Next Updated
Average earnings	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	26-Oct-2017	Oct-2018
Economic inactivity rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	17-Apr-2018	15-May-2018
Economic inactivity rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	29-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
Employment rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	21-Mar -2018	15-May-2018
Employment rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	29-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
Gross Disposable Household Income	Regional Accounts, ONS	24-May-2017	May-2018
Gross Value Added	Regional Accounts, ONS	20-Dec-2017	Dec-2018
ILO unemployment rate	Labour Force Survey, ONS	17-Apr-2018	15-May-2018
ILO unemployment rate (NUTS2)	Annual Population Survey, ONS	29-Mar-2018	29-Mar-2018
Index of Construction	Welsh Government	19-Apr-2018	Jul-2018
Index of Manufacturing	Welsh Government	19-Apr-2018	Jul-2018
Index of Market Services	Welsh Government	19-Apr-2018	Jul-2018
Index of Production	Welsh Government	19-Apr-2018	Jul-2018
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	21-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
Self-employment jobs	Workforce jobs, ONS	21-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
Value of Exports	Regional Trade Statistics, HMRC	8-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
VAT/PAYE Registered Enterprises	Business Demography	21-Nov-2017	Nov-2018
Workforce jobs	Workforce jobs, ONS	21-Mar-2018	Jun-2018
National indicator 11	UK Innovation Survey	11-Mar-2016	2018
National indicator 16	Labour Force Survey & Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	17-Nov-2017	2018
Gender pay difference	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS	26-Oct-2017	Oct-2018
Percentage of people in employment	Annual Population Survey, ONS	17-Jan-2018	29-Mar-2018
National indicator 20	National Survey for Wales	Jul-2017	Jun-2018

## 10.4 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 10.3. Links to Welsh Government statistical headlines are also provided where applicable.

**Table 10.3: StatsWales and WG headline links**

Measure	Data Link	WG Headline Link
Claimant count		
Economic inactivity rate		
Employment rate		
Exports		
Gross Disposable Household Income		
Gross Value Added		
Gross weekly pay		
Out of work benefit claimants		
Public sector employment		
Self-employment jobs		
Unemployment rate		
VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births		
VAT/PAYE registered enterprises		
Workforce jobs		
Businesses Innovation Active (FG indicator)		
Employment above ⅔ UK median wage (FG indicator)		
Gender Pay Gap (FG indicator)		
Employment (FG indicator)		

## 10.5 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.

### **10.6 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 2013 = 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.

### **10.7 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 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.

## **10.8 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.

## **10.9 Further details**

### **Links**

This document is available at

<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**

15 May 2018 (Headline)

17 May 2018 (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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