

Migration Statistics: Wales 2011

This is the second in an annual series providing an analysis of the migration patterns into and out of Wales. It includes analysis of international migration, internal migration (between Wales and other parts of the UK) and of migration patterns between the different parts of Wales. The bulletin replaces the chapters on migration previously published in the annual publication, 'Wales's Population, A Demographic Overview'. It is not intended to be a comprehensive picture of all potential sources of information about migration to Wales but presents analysis of the key sources and provides links to other analyses that are available. Readers should note that international migration data recently released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) up to June 2012 was published for the UK as a whole but not separately for Wales so is outside the scope of this bulletin.

Unlike many other countries the UK does not have a comprehensive system for recording migrants. This means that migration is more difficult to measure than other components of population change (births and deaths). Information on sources of migration data and the methodologies used to produce them is given in the Key Quality Information section at the end of the bulletin. The figures presented are estimates of migration based on the sources available.

Key Results

Total Migration

- Wales has experienced an estimated net inflow of migrants every year from mid-1998 to mid-2011, with an average net inflow of just over 9 thousand people per year. Annual net inflows have fluctuated though and decreased overall since 2006-07.

International Migration

- Wales had a net inflow of international migrants between 1994 and 2010.
- In 2011 there was a net outflow of international migrants for the first time since 1993, with those leaving exceeding those moving to Wales by around 1.5 thousand persons.

Migration with other parts of the UK

- For years ending mid-1999 to mid-2011 there was a net inflow of migrants to Wales from the rest of the UK of around 6.5 thousand people per year on average. Over this period the net inflow decreased from 14.4 thousand persons in year ending mid-2003 to 2.5 thousand in years ending mid-2010 and mid-2011.

Migration within Wales, by economic region

- On average the South West experienced a net inflow of migrants from the other regions of Wales while North Wales experienced a net outflow of migrants to the other regions of Wales between mid-2007 and mid-2011.

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Introduction

There is significant interest in migration statistics within Wales, across the UK and internationally, in order to understand how population movements impact on society and the economy. With an ageing population and only slightly more births than deaths annually in Wales, migration has been the main reason for continued population growth in recent years.

Migration estimates are published by the ONS and are a fundamental component of mid-year population estimates. Mid-year population and migration estimates are used by central and local government, and the health sector for planning and monitoring service delivery and resource allocation.

The ONS publishes annual data on long term international migration and on internal migration within the UK. They also publish a Migration Statistics Quarterly Report which brings together statistics on migration that are published quarterly by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the ONS and the National Records of Scotland (NRS). This quarterly report provides the key messages from the latest data on migration.

The aim of this annual statistical bulletin is to analyse the main sources of migration data for Wales. Links are provided to other analyses that may be helpful.

An international migrant is defined as someone who has or intends to change his or her country of residence for a period of at least a year. For the purposes of UK statistics an internal migrant is defined as someone who moves from one area of the UK to another for at least a year. Total migration includes both internal and international migrants. This bulletin also presents information on cross-border migration, i.e. between Wales and the rest of the UK. Migration estimates can fluctuate from year to year. International migration estimates are based on survey results so it is possible that these fluctuations may not be statistically significant. As a result many of the tables and charts in this bulletin are based on data for a 5-year period. Details of how each migration flow is estimated are provided in the Key Quality Information section of this bulletin.

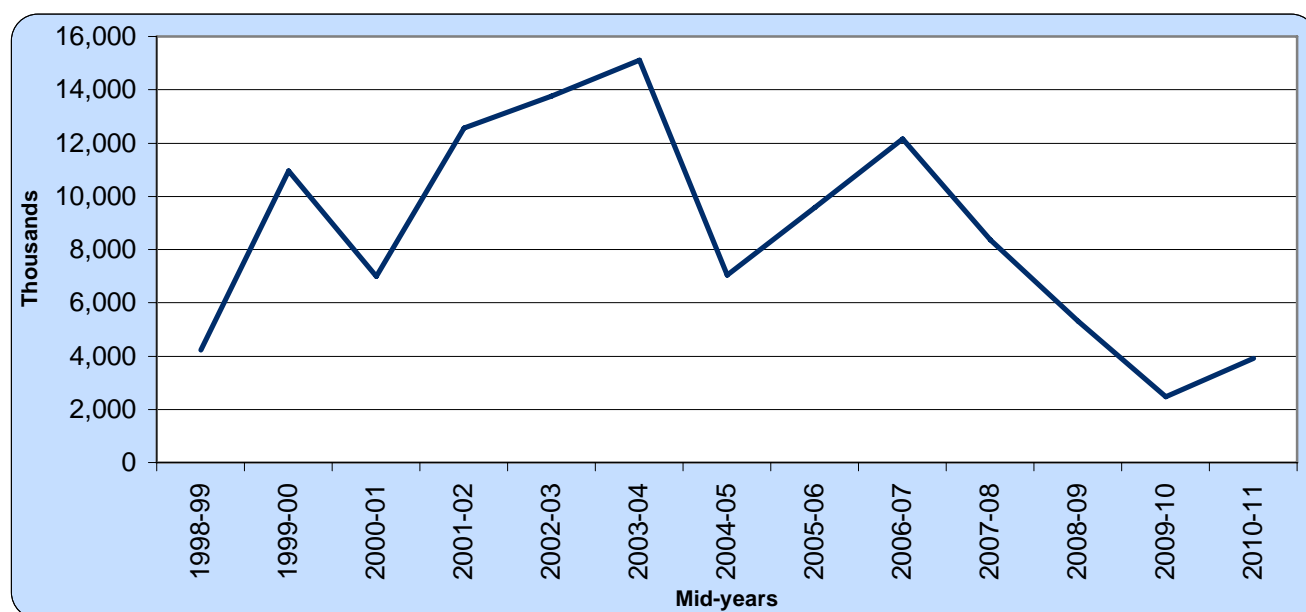
The ONS in partnership with other organisations has undertaken a long term programme of work to improve population and migration statistics. This has involved improving the estimation of total numbers and the distribution of international migrants, and improving the estimation of internal migration of students using HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) data. Further improvements to methods of estimating migrants are planned including improved use of other administrative sources. Information on the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP) are available from the ONS website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/imps/msi-programme/communication/index.html>

Whilst the MSIP programme has now concluded, some continuing work is being taken forward by the Population Statistics Research Unit at ONS.

Total Migration

Total migration looks at both international migration and migration with other parts of the UK. Figure 1 shows total net migration since 1998/99.

Figure 1: Total net migration (thousands), Wales, years ending mid-1998 to mid-2011



Source: ONS

Estimates of total migration show that Wales experienced a net inflow of migrants from mid-1998 to mid-2011. This means that the number of people moving to live in Wales has exceeded the number moving to live elsewhere throughout the period.

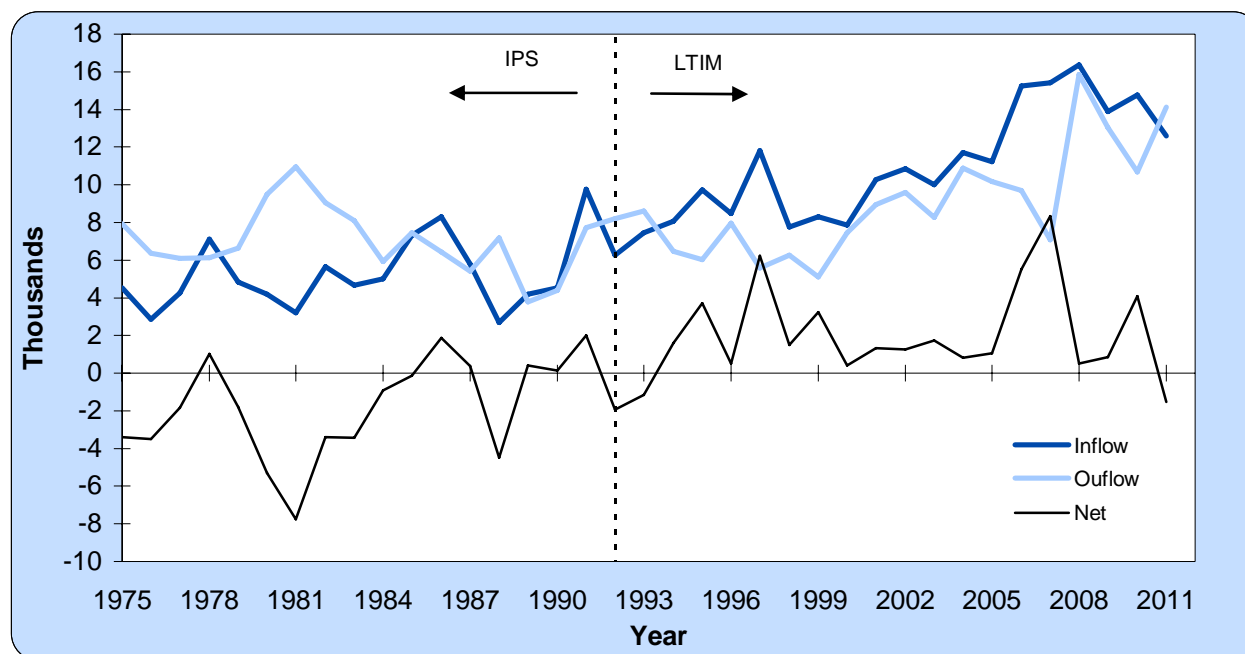
Estimates show that between mid-1999 and mid-2011, on average 73 thousand people per year moved to Wales, whilst 64 thousand people per year on average have left Wales to live elsewhere. There was an average net inflow of just over 9 thousand people per year into Wales between mid-1999 and mid-2011. Figure 1 shows that that annual net inflows have fluctuated, peaking at 15 thousand in 2003-04 before decreasing overall since 2006-07. In 2010-11 the net inflow was just under 4 thousand.

Most of the average inflow of 73 thousand people to Wales has been from other parts of the UK. Likewise people moving from Wales have mostly gone to other parts of the UK. Between mid-1999 and mid-2011, on average 12 thousand international migrants per year came to Wales from outside the UK whilst just under 10 thousand left. By comparison, flows to and from the rest of the UK are around five times this level.

International Migration

An international migrant is someone who has or intends to change his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. This section examines estimated international migration flows between Wales and the rest of the world (excluding the UK) from 1975 to 2011, which can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2: International migration flows (thousands), Wales, 1975 to 2011 (calendar years)



Source:

Up to 1992: International Passenger Survey.

1992 onwards: Total International Migration data (IPS combined with asylum seekers and persons admitted as short term visitors who subsequently granted an extension of stay for other reasons. Also includes migration between Wales and the Irish Republic).

Between 1975 and 2011, on average nearly 7.8 thousand people per year migrated from Wales to overseas destinations, while 8.0 thousand people migrated into Wales from overseas destinations.

With the exception of 1978, between 1975 and 1985 more people moved from Wales to places outside the UK each year than moved to Wales from outside the UK. Over the decade there was an average net outflow of around 2.8 thousand international migrants per year. Between 1994 and 2010, the opposite situation occurred, with an average net inflow of around 2.5 thousand persons per year. In 2011 there was a net outflow of international migrants for the first time since 1993, with those leaving exceeding those moving to Wales by around 1.5 thousand persons.

Eight central and eastern European (A8) countries joined the EU in May 2004 and were given the right to work in the UK. This was a key factor in the increase in international migrants moving to Wales between 2005 and 2008. However from 2008 onwards during the economic downturn estimated outflows of international migration were also higher so that net international migration decreased and an estimated net outflow of international migrants from Wales occurred in 2011.

Further information on the migration of workers from the A8 countries to Wales is given in the following statistical article: [Welsh Government | Statistics on migrant workers in Wales](#)

Whilst information specific to Wales is not available on reasons for international migration, across the UK data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) shows that international emigration peaked in the year ending December 2008 and has since fallen. The main reason given for emigration from the UK is work related reasons, this accounted for 59% in the year ending December 2011 (58% in 2010). Other reasons include study or accompanying or joining families. For international migration to the UK, IPS estimates indicate that formal study may have taken over from work as the main reason for international immigration to the UK from 2009.

The previous bulletin included (in Table 1) a breakdown of internal and international migration by local authority. It has not been possible to update this analysis as detailed components of change data for 2010-11 has not yet been published. A more complete update will be provided in the next Migration Bulletin or Demographic Report for Wales.

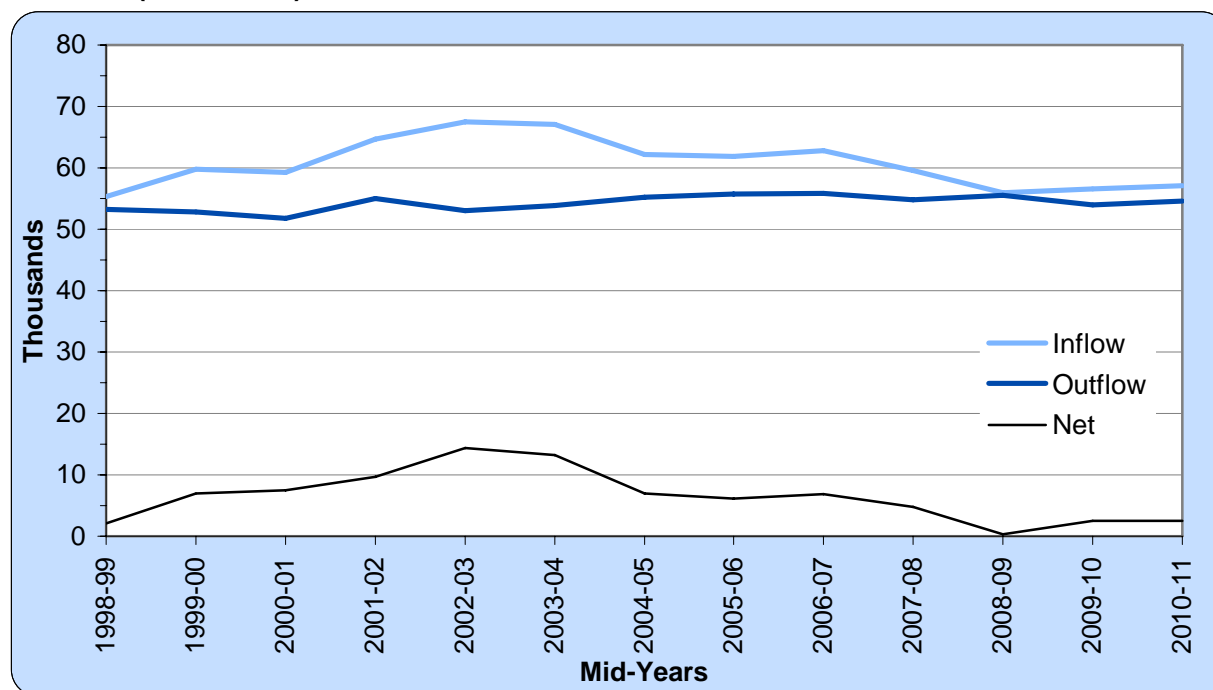
Cross-Border Migration

With the Rest of the UK

This section considers the inflows and outflows between Wales and the rest of the UK. As Figure 3 shows, for years ending mid-1999 to mid-2011 the annual inflow of cross-border migrants was greater than the outflow, creating a net inflow of migrants to Wales from the rest of the UK. This represented an average net inflow of around 6.5 thousand people per year. Over this period the highest net inflow of migrants from the rest of the UK was 14.4 thousand persons in the year ending mid-2003, whilst the lowest was around 0.3 thousand in the year ending mid-2009. For years ending mid-2010 and mid-2011 there were net inflows from the rest of the UK of 2.5 thousand persons per year.

Evidence has shown that patterns of internal migration changed since the economic downturn (from 2008 onwards), with fewer moves between regions and countries of the UK. It is hard to identify the exact reasons for this but it could relate to housing issues as well as relative economic conditions.¹

Figure 3: Cross-border migration between Wales and the rest of the UK, years ending mid-1999 to mid-2011 (thousands)



Source: Internal Migration Estimates, ONS

¹ Office for National Statistics, Regional Trends article. Impact of the recession.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/regional-trends/regional-trends/regional-trends-july-2011-edition/impact-of-the-recession.pdf>

With England, by Age

Movements to and from England account for the majority of cross border migration to and from Wales. Table 1 shows estimated annual inflow and outflows plus net and total (i.e. gross) migration figures averaged over the five years from year ending mid-year 2007 to mid-year 2011. It also shows migration turnover rates, broken down by age. Turnover rates are a measure of the relative frequency of migration events within a population and are defined as total migration (inflow plus outflow) as a percentage of the population (in effect a propensity to migrate figure).

Inflows and outflows are highest for the 16-24 and 25-44 age groups, nevertheless net migration is relatively small for both age groups. Net migration was highest for the 45-64 age group, with on average around 2,600 more persons moving into Wales than moving out to England each year. There was also an average net flow of over 1,000 persons aged under 16.

The turnover rate is highest for the 16-24 age group (11.6 percent), more than double that for the 25-44 age group, and over three times the overall turnover rate. The disproportionate level of migration among the 16-24 age group is to be expected as it includes the majority of full-time university students and recent graduates, who tend to move to study or pursue careers. The turnover rate is lowest for the over 65 age group, indicating that this age group is less likely to migrate than other age groups.

Table 1: Average annual cross border inflows, outflows, net and total migration with England, and turnover rates by age group, based on years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011.

<i>Thousands</i>						
	Population (a)	Inflow	Outflow	Net Migration	Total Migration	Turnover Rate% (b)
All ages	3,037.0	56.5	52.8	3.7	109.3	3.6
Under 16	557.6	7.2	6.1	1.1	13.3	2.4
16-24	367.3	21.4	21.3	0.1	42.7	11.6
25-44	764.5	16.9	17.0	-0.1	33.9	4.4
45-64	799.7	8.0	5.5	2.6	13.5	1.7
Over 65	547.9	3.0	2.9	0.1	5.9	1.1

Source: Internal Migration Estimates, Office for National Statistics

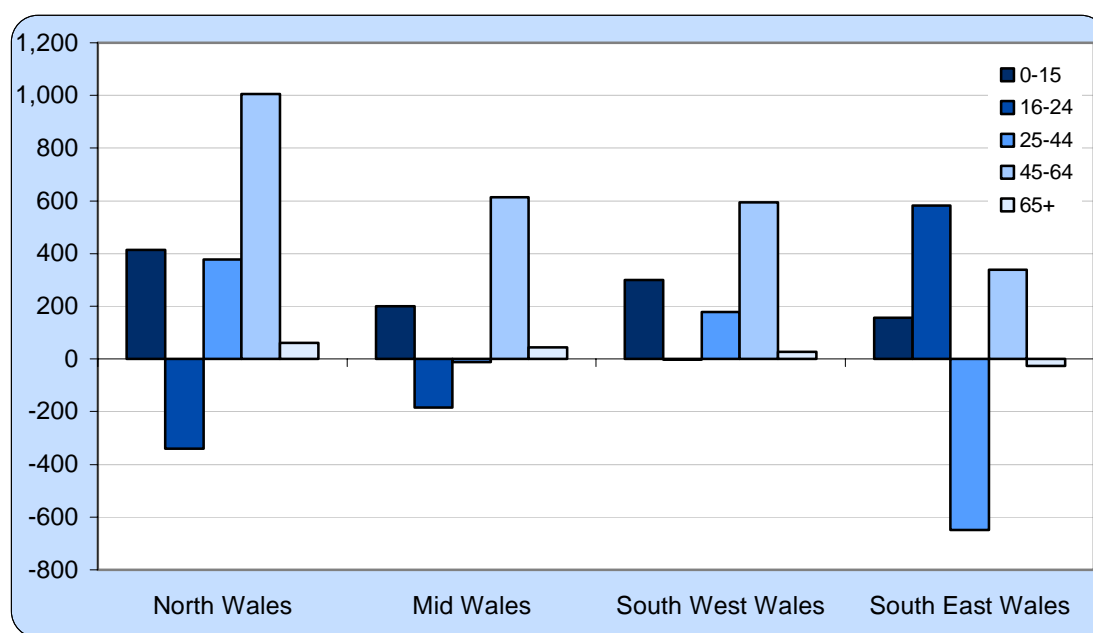
(a) Calculated as the average yearly population between year ending mid-2007 and year ending mid-2011.

(b) Calculated as the sum of average in-migration and average out-migration as a percentage of the average mid-year population.

With England, By Region and Age

Figure 4 breaks down the trends shown in Table 1 for the five-year period up to mid-2011 by region within Wales. This shows that there were average net inflows to all regions in Wales for the 45-64 and under 16 age groups which contributed to the relatively high net inflows for Wales as a whole for those groups. The small average net inflow at age 16-24 is the result of average net outflows from North Wales and Mid-Wales and an average net inflow to South East Wales. The average net flow to South West Wales for the 16-24 age group is very close to zero. For the 65 and over age group there were small average net inflows for all regions in Wales apart from South East Wales, for which there was a slight net outflow.

Figure 4: Average annual net migration flows with England by age group, based on estimates from years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011



Source: Internal Migration Estimates, ONS

Figure 4 also shows that between mid-2007 and mid-2011, North Wales attracted the largest average net inflow of migrants from England for each age group apart from ages 16-24. Only South East Wales showed an average net inflow at ages 16-24 whilst for North Wales and Mid-Wales there were net outflows. South East Wales was also the only region to show an average net outflow of migrants to England in the 25-44 age group. This could be due to graduates wishing to further their careers after completing their studies in the region. All regions showed an average net inflow of migrants in the 45-64 age group whilst South East Wales showed a slight net outflow of migrants in the 65+ age group.

With England, By Region and Local Authority

Table 2 shows the average annual inflow and outflow to/from the four regions of Wales to England based on data for years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011. The version of this table in the previous bulletin (Table 3) included rates of migrants per 1,000 based on resident population numbers. These have not been included below as population estimates by local authority for 2002-2010 are due to be revised. Migration rates will again be shown in the next bulletin.

Table 2: Average annual migration movements with England by Region and Local Authority, based on estimates from years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011

	Number (nearest 10)		
	Inflow	Outflow	Net
Wales	56,490	52,800	3,690
North Wales	15,540	14,020	1,520
Isle of Anglesey	1,270	1,170	90
Gwynedd	3,530	3,150	380
Conwy	2,760	2,300	460
Denbighshire	2,370	2,080	280
Flintshire	3,120	2,920	190
Wrexham	2,500	2,390	110
Mid Wales	7,130	6,460	670
Powys	3,600	3,000	600
Ceredigion	3,520	3,460	60
South West Wales	10,660	9,560	1,100
Pembrokeshire	2,270	1,840	420
Carmarthenshire	2,580	2,150	430
Swansea	4,650	4,500	150
Neath Port Talbot	1,160	1,060	100
South East Wales	23,170	22,770	400
Bridgend	1,330	1,220	110
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,200	2,340	-140
Merthyr Tydfil	400	400	0
Caerphilly	1,240	1,190	50
Blaenau Gwent	480	440	50
Torfaen	730	740	-10
Vale of Glamorgan	1,710	1,770	-50
Monmouthshire	2,350	2,120	220
Newport	2,120	2,120	10
Cardiff	10,590	10,430	160

Source: Internal Migration Estimates, Office for National Statistics

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Across all four regions, there was an average net inflow of migrants from England for mid-2007 to mid-2011. Despite the relative sizes of the inflows and outflows North Wales showed the largest average net migration (1,520) whilst the South East Wales showed the lowest average net migration (400). This is a similar trend to that shown in the previous bulletin, which was based on data for mid-2006 to mid-2010.

North Wales

Within the North Wales region, Conwy (460) experienced the largest average number of net migrants from England, whilst Isle of Anglesey (90) had the smallest. Gwynedd, which contains Bangor University, had the largest average inflows and outflows in North Wales. Flintshire was second highest even though it shares a border with England.

Mid Wales

Powys had the largest average net inflow of migrants from England (600) of any local authority in Wales, although this was lower than the average for mid-2006 to mid-2010 (730, as shown in the last Migration Statistics for Wales bulletin). By comparison Ceredigion had an average net inflow of 60 which is low considering the size of the inflows and outflows. This may be explained mainly by cohorts of students moving across from England each year and replacing previous cohorts moving back.

South West Wales

In South West Wales Carmarthenshire had the highest average net in-migration from England (430), closely followed by Pembrokeshire. Neath Port Talbot had the lowest net in-migration (100) over the five year period. Swansea had the highest inflows and outflows in South West Wales but relatively low average net migration, possibly due to student cohorts moving in to replace previous cohorts moving back to England.

South East Wales

In South East Wales average net inward migration for mid-2007 to mid-2011 was highest for Monmouthshire (220). Three authorities in South East Wales (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and Vale of Glamorgan) showed average net outward migration. These are the only authorities in Wales to show a net outflow to England in this period. The local authorities in the South Wales experience lower flows of migrants to and from England than other parts of Wales, along with lower net migration. Meantime Cardiff had relatively high average net migration and the highest average inflows and outflows in South East Wales and Wales as a whole. This may be due to student cohorts moving across from England and being replaced year on year.

With England, by Region, Local Authority and Age

Table 3 shows the average net migration flows to the four regions of Wales by age group for the five year period up to mid-2011.

Table 3: Average annual net migration flows with England by age group, based on estimates from years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011

	0-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+	All ages
Wales	1,070	60	-100	2,560	100	3,690
North Wales	410	-340	380	1,010	60	1,520
Isle of Anglesey	30	-90	30	120	0	90
Gwynedd	30	250	-100	210	-20	380
Conwy	140	-180	170	310	20	460
Denbighshire	80	-110	100	200	10	280
Flintshire	90	-150	140	90	20	190
Wrexham	50	-60	30	70	20	110
Mid Wales	200	-180	-10	610	50	670
Powys	140	-210	210	420	40	600
Ceredigion	70	20	-220	190	0	60
South West Wales	300	0	180	590	30	1,100
Pembrokeshire	110	-90	170	230	0	420
Carmarthenshire	100	-100	140	250	40	430
Swansea	30	260	-200	70	0	150
Neath Port Talbot	60	-70	70	50	0	100
South East Wales	160	580	-650	340	-30	400
Bridgend	40	-70	60	70	20	110
Rhondda Cynon Taf	10	-20	-180	50	0	-140
Merthyr Tydfil	-10	0	-10	20	0	0
Caerphilly	10	-60	40	50	0	50
Blaenau Gwent	10	-10	20	30	0	50
Torfaen	10	-30	0	10	0	-10
Vale of Glamorgan	30	-180	70	30	-10	-50
Monmouthshire	110	-180	190	90	20	220
Newport	-30	120	-20	-20	-40	10
Cardiff	-30	1,020	-830	20	-20	160

Source: Internal Migration Estimates, Office for National Statistics

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

North Wales

Apart from Gwynedd, all local authority areas had an average net outflow of migrants for the 16-24 age group, with Conwy having the largest outflow. This may be due to Bangor University, which attracts students from England, being located in Gwynedd. Gwynedd was also the only local authority in North Wales to show an average net outflow for the 25-44 age group, which again may be due to students returning to England after completing their studies. For the older age groups, all local authorities have a net inflow of migrants apart from Gwynedd which has a net slight outflow for the 65+ age group. For Wrexham and Anglesey net flows to and from England are relatively small at all ages compared to other authorities in North Wales.

Mid Wales

Powys had a large average net outflow of migrants in the 16-24 age group whilst Ceredigion had a slight net inflow, which may be due to Aberystwyth University being located there. Also Ceredigion had a large net outflow of migrants in the 25-44 age group but by contrast Powys had a large average net inflow. Overall for Mid-Wales there was slight net outflow of migrants to England for the 25-44 age group. There were though larger average net inflows for the 45-64 age group for both authorities. As with other authorities across Wales, numbers of migrants aged 65 and over were small compared with other age groups.

South West Wales

Apart from Swansea, the local authorities in South West Wales showed an average net outflow to England of those aged 16-24 and net inflows for those aged 0-15 and 25-64. For the 16-24 age group average inflows and outflows were in balance for the region which showed a net flow of zero for that age group. Swansea showed a net inflow from England for the 16-24 age group, and a net outflow to England for the 25-44 age group, again possibly due to students moving from England for their studies and returning after completing them.

South East Wales

Only Cardiff and Newport showed average net inflows of migrants from England for the 16-24 age group, whilst other authorities in South East Wales had an average net outflow. For Cardiff and Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil there were also average net outflows to England for the 25-44 age group. This may mainly be due to students completing their studies and pursuing careers elsewhere as higher education establishments are located across three of these authorities. Compared to other regions average numbers of those aged 45-64 moving to South East Wales from England were relatively small, with a small net outflow for Newport. As in other regions, numbers of those aged 65 and over moving to and from England were small but with a small net outflow.

Migration within Wales

Migration within Wales has no effect on the overall Wales population estimate but affects local population. This can be important in terms of local housing and labour markets. Average annual net migration between the four regions in Wales is illustrated in Figure 5, with arrows indicating the direction of the net flow. Table 5 shows the more detailed gross (in and out) flows between the regions by age group.

For the period years ending mid-2007 to year ending mid-2011, South West Wales experienced a net inflow of 390 migrants of all ages from the rest of Wales. Within this though there was a net outflow from South West Wales of those aged 16-24. There was also a small overall net inflow (of around 60) for South East Wales but with net outflows for ages 0-15 and 45-64 and a net inflow at ages 16-24.

Mid Wales had an average net outflow of migrants to South West Wales (of around 150 people per year) and South East Wales (30 people per year) with a net inflow from the North Wales (80 people per year). Migrants between Mid Wales and South East Wales are predominantly aged 16 to 24.

South East Wales had an average net inflow of around 60 people per year, due to a lower outflow to South West Wales (170 persons per year) than shown in the shown previously for mid-2006 to mid-2010. There was a net inflow to South East Wales from all the other regions for the 16-24 age group, with net outflows to North Wales for the 25-44 age group and to South West Wales for the 25-44 and 45-64 age groups.

In North Wales, there was a net outflow of migrants to all the other regions of Wales for all ages except 25-44, for which there was a slight net inflow. Overall North Wales experienced a net outflow of 350 persons per year to the rest of Wales. The largest average net outflow was to South East Wales, around 190 persons per year.

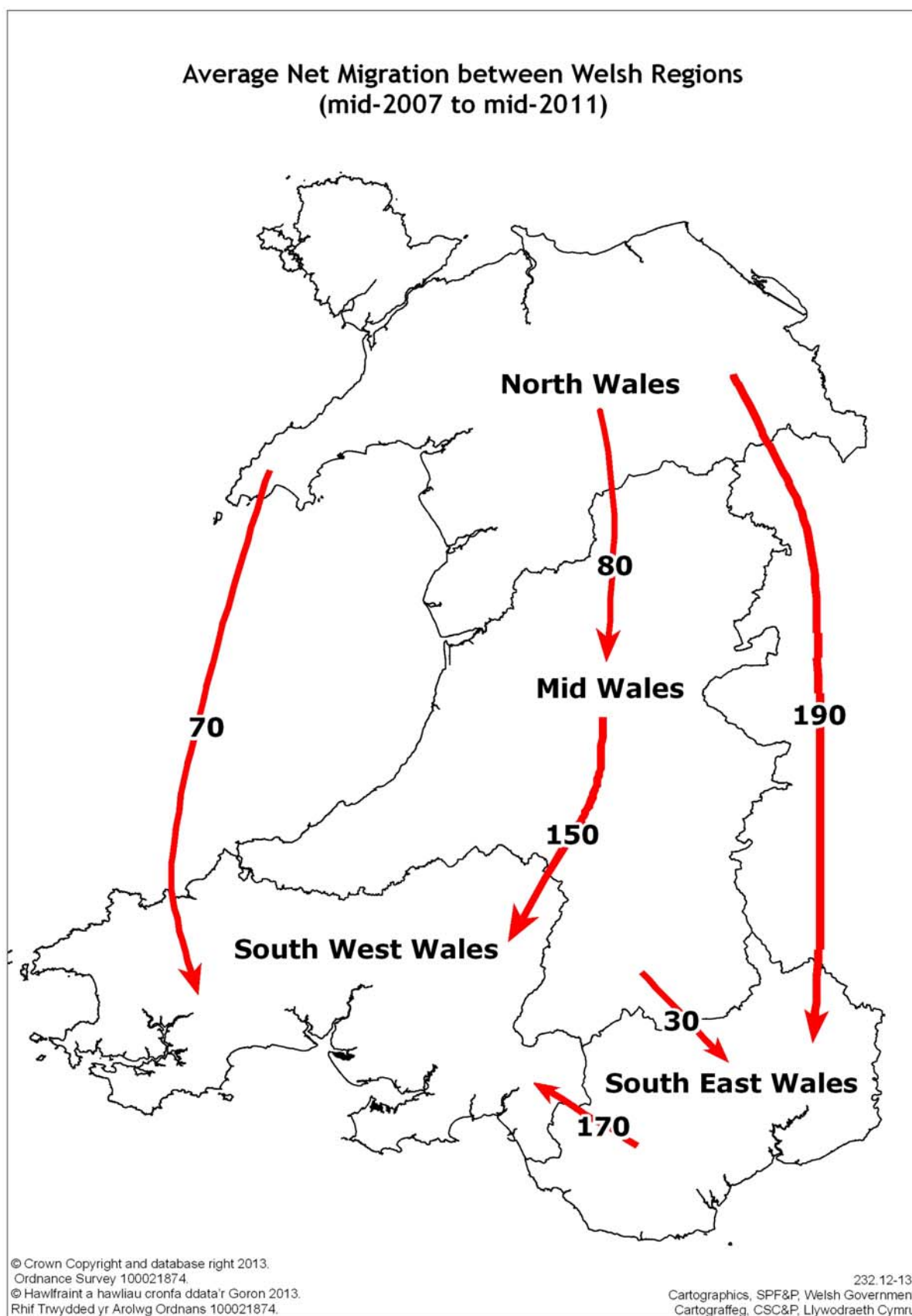
Table 4: Average annual migration movements between Welsh regions, based on estimates for years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011(a)

Origin		North Wales		South West Wales	South East Wales	Rest of Wales
Destination	Age group	North Wales	Mid Wales	South West Wales	South East Wales	Rest of Wales
North Wales	All ages	-	580	270	750	1,600
	0-15	-	50	30	90	170
	16-24	-	280	100	330	710
	25-44	-	130	80	240	460
	45-64	-	80	30	60	160
	65+	-	40	10	20	70
Mid Wales	All ages	660	-	1,420	1,300	3,380
	0-15	60	-	250	170	490
	16-24	360	-	450	580	1,390
	25-44	130	-	360	320	810
	45-64	70	-	220	170	470
	65+	40	-	130	60	230
South West	All ages	340	1,570	-	4,760	6,670
	0-15	40	270	-	620	930
	16-24	140	450	-	2,130	2,720
	25-44	100	450	-	1,330	1,890
	45-64	40	260	-	510	800
	65+	20	140	-	170	320
South East	All ages	940	1,330	4,590	-	6,860
	0-15	60	110	510	-	690
	16-24	550	680	2,250	-	3,480
	25-44	220	360	1,280	-	1,860
	45-64	60	120	370	-	540
	65+	30	60	180	-	260
Rest of Wales	All ages	1,950	3,480	6,280	6,800	-
	0-15	170	440	800	880	-
	16-24	1,040	1,410	2,810	3,040	-
	25-44	450	940	1,720	1,890	-
	45-64	170	450	620	730	-
	65+	90	230	320	240	-

Source: Internal Migration Estimates, Office for National Statistics

(a) Table does not include figures for migration within each region.

Figure 5: Average annual net migration between regions in Wales, based on estimates from years ending mid-2007 to mid-2011



Source: Internal Migration Estimates, ONS

Key Quality Information

Uses and Users

There is significant interest in migration statistics both within Wales, across the UK and internationally in order to understand how population movements impact on society and the economy. Migration estimates are a fundamental component of the mid-year estimates of population published by the ONS. They are used by central and local government and the health sector for planning and monitoring service delivery and resource allocation.

Generally population and migration statistics are important for policy development, and planning and providing public services. There is a high demand for population and migration statistics for a variety of uses. Some of these include:

- Planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, e.g. schools, health and social services provision.
- As part of the Local Government Finance revenue settlement.
- Policy development,
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond.
- For the calculation of further statistics e.g. Spatial Plan Areas, Housing Estimates and (household and population) Projections.
- As denominators in rates (e.g. birth rates).
- For the purposes of weighting surveys.
- Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking.
- Analysis of population cohorts and migration trends.

There is a wide variety of users of population data including national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, other government departments, students, academics and universities, individual citizens and private companies.

Data Sources and definitions

Migration estimates for England and Wales are published by the ONS.

Total Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) is estimated using data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) as the prime source, but supplemented with Home Office data on asylum seekers and visitor switches (people whose length of stay has changed from their original intentions). In addition estimates of migration between the Republic of Ireland and Wales are from the Irish Labour Force survey.

Internal Migration refers to the movement of people moving within England and Wales, for example, from one local authority area to another. The UK does not have a compulsory system to record the movement of citizens therefore when measuring migration within the UK, health data is used. Each Health Authority holds a register of patients registered with a doctor in general practice (GPs), called the Patient Register Data System (PRDS). Combining each patient register in England and Wales and comparing with the register from the previous year identifies people whose postcode has changed. As part of the programme by ONS to improve population and migration estimates, HESA data on students' term time addresses has been used to improve estimation of student migration within England and Wales.

EU accession countries:

The Accession countries are those that joined the EU in either 2004 or 2007. In 2004, 10 joined (the A8, plus Cyprus and Malta), and 2 joined on 1 January 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania).

A8 Countries

The A8 are the eight central and eastern European countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004; Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The A8 does not include two other countries that joined in 2004: Cyprus and Malta. A8 nationals previously had restrictions on their rights to work and were required to register under the Worker Registration Scheme, but since 1 May 2011 A8 nationals now have the same rights as other workers from the EU and EEA.

Quality of data sources

Long term international migration

Information on the quality of estimates of long term international migration is available from the Summary Quality report on International Migration on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/international-passenger-survey-quality-information-in-relation-to-migration-flows.pdf>

This gives full details of how the estimates are derived from use of sample surveys and administrative data. One of the prime sources is the International Passenger Survey. As IPS estimates of migration are based on a sample survey, they are subject to sampling error and other types of error. Although national figures have relatively small levels of uncertainty, at local levels the sample counts in the IPS are small. At this level, individual migration estimates are subject to greater levels of uncertainty and it is necessary to combine data across years and make use of other data sources to distribute figures. For this reason most of the tables and charts in this bulletin are not presented for individual years but combined to provide estimates for a period of 5 years or more.

LTIM figures are derived from a range of sources – survey and administrative – and exact sampling errors are not available. However, as the IPS estimates are the predominant component of LTIM therefore it is reasonable to consider a change in an LTIM estimate to be significant if the change in the underlying IPS estimate is significant.

Internal migration

Information on the quality of the estimates of internal migration is available from the Summary Quality Report on Internal Migration on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-internal-migration.pdf>

This indicates that despite some limitations, research has shown that no one other available source has as good coverage and quality as the NHS administrative data (NHSCR and PRDS) for estimating internal migration within the UK.

Examples of the limitation of estimates derived from a combination of NHSCR and PRDS are:

1. there is variation in the delay between a person moving and registering with a new doctor
2. some moves may not result in a GP re-registration and therefore will not be recorded
3. individuals may move and re-register more than once in a single year but remain within the same health authority

More information is available in various research reports available from the above link.

In addition Customer Guidance notes on estimating internal migration are available on the ONS website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/index.html>

Revisions and changes

We follow the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy, details of which are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/revisions/?lang=en>

Any revised data will be marked with (r) in the statistical release. There are no revised data in this bulletin.

Geography and boundaries

The regions in this bulletin have been chosen to be consistent with regions used in other Welsh Government outputs. This differs slightly from the regions previously used in editions of the publication 'Wales' Population: A Demographic Overview'. The regions used in this bulletin are economic regions which comprise the following local authorities.

North Wales: Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham

Mid Wales: Powys and Ceredigion

South West Wales: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot

South East Wales: Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Newport and Cardiff.

Methodology

Full guidance on the methodology used by ONS to produce the international migration estimates can be accessed at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/international-migration-methodology/index.html>

Methodology for population and internal migration estimates can be accessed at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/population-and-migration/index.html>

Information about the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/imps/msi-programme/index.html>

Detailed methodology papers on improvements made to migration estimates methodology are at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/imps/msi-programme/communication/improvements-mid-2008/methodology-papers/index.html>

Frequency

Until the next edition of 'Wales' Population: A Demographic Overview' this bulletin will be published annually. The next version is likely to be available in December 2013.

Related Outputs across the UK

Migration figures for the UK and England are published by the ONS and can be found on the ONS website under the theme Migration:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/browse-by-theme/index.html>

The latest Migration Statistics Quarterly report is available at:

[Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, February 2013](#)

Migration figures for Scotland are published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and can be found at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/migration/index.html>

Migration figures for Northern Ireland are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and can be found at:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp18.htm>

Further Information

Detailed migration statistics by local authority, gender and age can be found on StatsWales:

<http://statswales.wales.gov.uk/index.htm>

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments please complete our [feedback form](#)

For queries on migration statistics, or for general queries on demographic data, please contact:

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