

Welsh Government

Consultation Document

Economic and Labour Market Statistics Outputs

Date of issue: 5 October 2012

Action required: Responses by 4 January 2013

Overview

This consultation seeks views on:

- The use of economic and labour market statistics
- Potential areas of unmet demand for development of economic and labour market statistics
- Your views on the quality of our outputs and changes we have made since the last consultation
- How we engage with you.

How to respond

You can respond to the consultation by using the separate response form (in Word format).

This can be emailed to economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk or posted to:

Catherine Mitchem
Economic and Labour Market Statistics
Knowledge and Analytical Services
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.

Previous consultations can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/?status=closed>

Contact Details

For further information, please contact
John Morris or Catherine Mitchem
E-mail: economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: John Morris on 02920821401
or Catherine Mitchem on 02920825017

Data Protection

How the views and information you give us will be used.

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Assembly Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Background

From 2000-01 the Welsh Government has had a specific budget for 'Improving Economic Statistics'. This budget was created in response to the review undertaken by the Office for National Statistics into the provision of economic data for Wales (which can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/economy/method/>).

In 2003 a consultation was held to establish whether or not we were meeting user needs and what further requirements users had. Since then a consultation has been held every three years to help inform priorities for development, to determine users' views on the outputs which are produced and to understand how our outputs are used.

Reasons for the consultation

It is important for us to know whether the statistics and outputs we produce and publish are meeting the needs of our users. In order to do this we firstly need to identify who our users are and find out what they use the information for. Whilst we are aware of a number of users of our outputs and their particular uses, we are also aware there is still work to be done to understand who our wider users are and their uses. We also wish to understand if the changes we have made over the last three years have been of benefit to users and if our engagement with users is sufficient.

Therefore in this consultation we would like to get your views on the usefulness of our outputs and establish the use made of them. This will then help us determine what changes we need to make, if any, to the information we publish and how it is presented. The consultation is an opportunity to gather views from not only our regular users in Welsh Government but from all our users.

One of the drivers for carrying out this consultation is the recent assessment by the UK Statistics Authority on statistics published on earnings, export and business statistics for Wales, which requires us to develop a greater understanding of the use made of our statistics.

The questionnaire

To gather your responses to this consultation we have a questionnaire for you to complete. This is available electronically but also as a hard copy if requested. The questionnaire will look at the following areas.

- Who you are
- Which of our outputs you use and how you use them
- Any areas for development that are of interest
- Your views on the format and content of our outputs
- Your views on the quality and improvements we have made to our outputs
- Any suggestions for further improvement
- Our engagement with you

What happens to the results?

We will publish a summary report of the survey results with our response to them and a proposed action plan. This may include some of the comments received – excluding those where the respondent has asked to remain anonymous.