

Welsh Economic Statistics User Group: Minutes of meeting

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

Attendees			
Rhys	Ap Gwilym	RAG	Bangor University
Jonathan	Bonville-Ginn	JBG	Welsh Government (Business and Regions)
James	Carey	JC	Welsh Government
Joshua	Cruickshank	JC	Welsh Government
Benjamin	Harris	BH	Welsh Government
Debbie	Hudd	DH	Welsh Government (Transport)
Mark	Humphrys	MH	Welsh Government
Llinos	Jenkins	LJ	Welsh Government
Martin	Jennings	MJ	Senedd
Melanie	Jones	MeJ	Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University
Luned	Jones	LuJ	Welsh Government
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government (KAS)
Charlotte	Lund	CL	Welsh Government
Max	Munday	MM	Cardiff University
Thomas	Nicholls	TN	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Nigel	O'Leary	NOL	Swansea University
James	Owen	JO	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Neil	Paull	NP	Welsh government (Treasury)
Jonathan	Price	JP	Welsh Government (Treasury) – Chair
Sian	Price	SP	Development Bank Wales
Jack	Price	JaP	Wales Centre for Public Policy
Julian	Revell	JR	Welsh Government (Treasury)
David	Swarts	DS	Transport for Wales
Megan	Williams	MW	Welsh Government
Presenters			
Jon	Ackland	JA	Welsh Government
Adrian	Baeck	AB	Office for National Statistics
Brendan	Collins	BC	Welsh Government
Alex	Fitzpatrick	AF	Welsh Government (KAS)

James	Harris	JH	Office for National Statistics
Hade	Turkmen	HT	Chwarae Teg
Minute takers			
Florence	Milne	FM	Welsh Government (KAS)
Apologies			
Stephanie	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (KAS)
Cerys	Pointing	CP	Welsh Government (KAS)
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Amy	Van Zyl	AVZ	DIT

1	Welcome and Introduction	Chair – Jonathan Price, Welsh Government
<p>JP welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation was not provided as the ten percent quota was not met.</p> <p>Presentations will be published online after the meeting where we have necessary permissions.</p> <p>All actions from the last meeting have been completed.</p>		
2	Welsh Government update on Labour market and Qualifications Statistics	Alex Fitzpatrick and Jon Ackland, Welsh Government
<p>AF and JA gave an update covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The annual, quarterly, and monthly publications from the labour market statistics team and the Cross-cutting and Post-16 Education statistics team. - Priorities of the labour market stats team moving forward. Including Labour Force Survey (LFS) transformation, one off articles and dashboard development. - Labour market stats: LabourMarket.Stats@gov.wales - Cross-cutting and Post-16 Education stats: post16ed.stats@gov.wales <p>Discussion:</p> <p>TN asked a question about the annual Wales data size for LEO to which JA responded that records from post-16 learners and HE learners are sent for matching. Cohort size for an academic year for sixth form, FE and apprenticeships is around 110-120k.</p> <p>HT asked whether WG release gender pay gap by ethnicity and by disability?</p> <p>AF - WG currently include in published outputs the disability and ethnicity pay differences data published by ONS. These publications are not the most timely and we are working with colleagues in ONS to share methodology for</p>		<p>AF to consider whether gender pay gaps by ethnicity and disability for</p>

<p>this analysis so we can look to produce these estimates ourselves and publish more regularly.</p> <p>Ethnicity pay gaps - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</p> <p>Disability pays gaps in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</p> <p>Whilst we do not believe the information required for this analysis is available in the ASHE dataset the team will investigate this as part of work around disability and ethnicity pay gaps from APS (although sample sizes may limit the analysis that is possible).</p> <p>SK raised an issue about ease of use of data published on HE by HESA. SL to put SK in touch with the HE Statistics team to discuss</p>	<p>Wales might be able to derive from APS data.</p> <p>SL to put SK in touch with the HE Statistics team regarding HESA tables.</p>	
3	<p>Welsh Government update on recent and upcoming 2021 census outputs relevant to labour market and qualifications</p>	<p>Alex Fitzpatrick and Jon Ackland, Welsh Government</p>
	<p>AF and JA highlighted a few relevant topic summaries from the census 2021 outputs which had recently been published including Demography and Migration in Wales, Labour market and travel to work and Education in Wales. They drew out what was available and some of the key data relevant to labour market and skills that are available so far.</p> <p>Link to all outputs can be found on the slides.</p>	
4	<p>Job Quality statistics</p>	<p>Adrian Baeck, Office for National Statistics</p>
	<p>AB gave a presentation on Job Quality Statistics, covering the methodology, the dimensions and indicators and key messages from the 2022 Job Quality Statistics report from the ONS.</p> <p>Key messages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant differences in job quality indicators across the UK countries and English Regions - Overall, job quality in Wales is decent and indicators have either improved or remained stable since 2015. - Female employees in Wales perform worse on most indicators. 	
5	<p>How has health and labour force participation been impacted by the pandemic?</p>	<p>Dr. Brendan Collins, Welsh Government</p>
	<p>BC covered the five harms of the COVID-19 pandemic and some of the evidence relevant to what might be happening regarding people leaving the workforce due to long term sickness, as well as consideration of one response.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People leaving the workforce due to long term sickness is increasing in both the UK and Wales. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lots of possible policy interventions to improve overall health, research currently being done around the most effective interventions. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>JP noted the challenge of narrowing down the actions to take as there are lots of different possibilities.</p>	
6	Chwarae Teg State of Nation report employment analysis	Hade Turkmen, Chwarae Teg
	<p>Hade Turkmen presented the findings from the recent Chwarae Teg: State of Nation report. Two reports are available, the latest one-year report and a five-year review. She presented the key messages about gender and the labour market, but also considered intersectionality (e.g., gender and disability or ethnicity) where data allows.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the current pace of change, we will be waiting decades for achieving equality for the most marginalised people. - The inequality highlighted in the report, leave women vulnerable to negative impact of successive crises. - No single actor would be able to address the complex and interrelated issues – government, business and individuals all need to pay an active role in tackling inequality. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Following reference to poverty data BC asked SL if there at any projections of poverty over the next ten years. SL noted that she expected the latest poverty data for Wales (for 2021-22) to be published on 23 March.</p>	<p>BC and SL to discuss projections of poverty outside of the meeting.</p>
7	Update on Labour Force Survey transformation	James Harris, Office for National Statistics
	<p>JH gave an update on the transformation of the Labour Force Survey covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress since the last meeting (including a first version of user guidance material bring published). - Work being done on adapting the survey design. - Future developments whilst continuing to deliver data. - Email: Labour.Market.Transformation@ons.gov.uk <p>Discussion:</p> <p>JP noted the use of WIMD, and asked if there is a way for ONS to stratify or validate based on individuals' characteristics rather than area characteristics. JH noted that they are engaging with different outreach groups in the communities (e.g., Age UK) as well as the Government Equalities Office.</p> <p>SL asked about how ONS will manage the discontinuities and changes over the time series?</p>	

<p>JH indicated that Labour market colleagues are not expecting radical changes in headline labour market statistics. Any such discontinuities in those headline stats are likely to occur in data published in May or June. For the more detailed breakdowns there is more likely to be a discontinuity for some specific variables. There are plans to publish information about the discontinuities, but this will be a collaboration between ONS and peer reviewers.</p> <p>SK commented on the recent sudden drop in 'old LFS' response rates. JH indicated there may be a number of reasons, but these would include Royal Mail Strikes and weather complication in December 2022.</p>		
8	Any other business	Chair
<p>The next meeting will be held in September.</p> <p>There has been a suggestion to cover Input Output tables, any other suggestions for topics or themes are welcomed.</p> <p>Updates will be communicated electronically.</p> <p>Feel free to get in touch with feedback on these meetings.</p>		

<p align="center">Welsh Economic Statistics User Group 7 March 2023 Summary of Action Points</p>		
1	AF to consider whether gender pay gaps by ethnicity and disability for Wales might be able to derive from APS data.	
2	SL to put SK in touch with the HE Statistics team regarding HESA tables.	
3	BC and SL to discuss projections of poverty outside of the meeting.	