

SDR 35/2016

17 March 2016

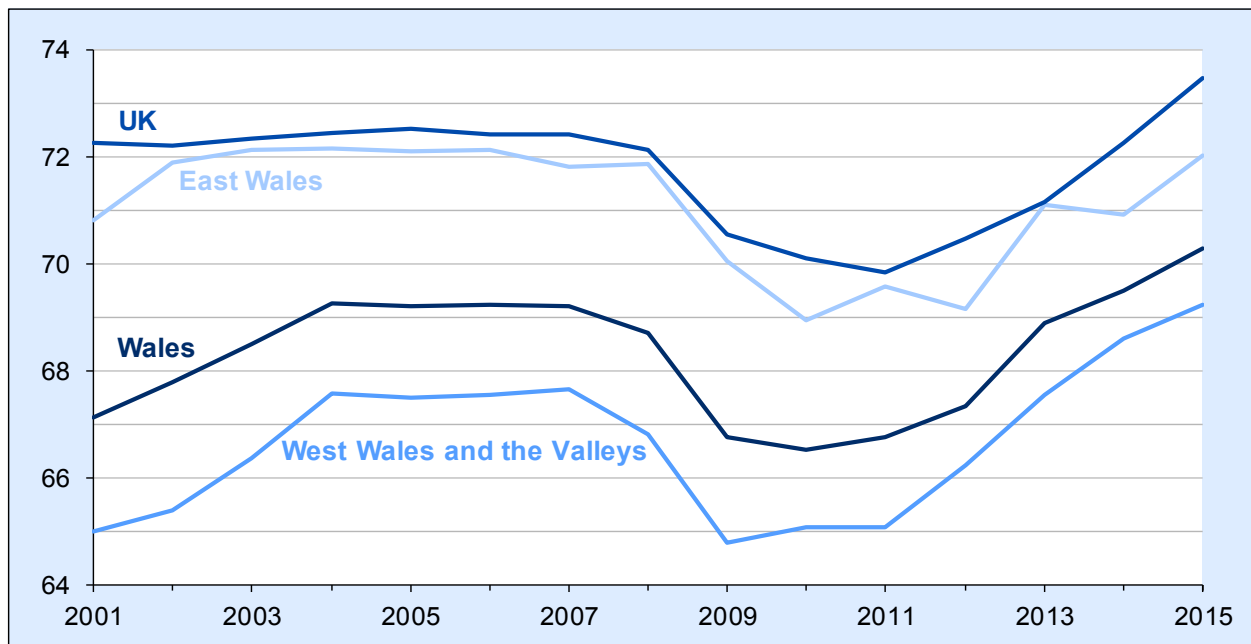
## Annual Population Survey 2015

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a survey of households in Great Britain undertaken by the Office for National Statistics. It provides information on social and socioeconomic variables at local authority level. In Wales, the APS is based on the boosted sample that previously contributed to the annual Welsh Local Labour Force Survey (WLLFS) and is based on roughly 18,000 households.

The key labour market statistics for employment, from the 2015 APS, are below.

- The employment rate for the population aged 16 to 64 in West Wales and the Valleys was 69.2 per cent, whilst the rate for East Wales was 72.0 per cent (Wales: 70.3 per cent, UK: 73.5 per cent).
- In West Wales and the Valleys, the employment rate was up 4.3 percentage points on 2001 compared to a 1.2 percentage point increase for East Wales (Wales up 3.2 percentage points and UK up 1.2 percentage points).
- The local authorities with the highest employment rates were Monmouthshire (78.1 per cent), Powys (76.7 per cent) and Wrexham (75.8 per cent). The lowest rates were in Ceredigion (64.1 per cent), Blaenau Gwent (64.9 per cent) and Neath Port Talbot (65.6 per cent).

**Chart 1: Employment rates in Wales and the UK (percentage of population aged 16-64)**



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Annual Population Survey, ONS

**Statistician:** Craiger Solomons **Tel:** 029 2082 6960 **Email:** [economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Next update:** March 2017 (provisional) **Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/statisticswales](http://www.twitter.com/statisticswales) | [www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru](http://www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru)

Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi  
Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ  
Ffôn – Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 3332**  
**[www.llyw.cymru/ystadegau](http://www.llyw.cymru/ystadegau)**

Issued by Knowledge and Analytical Services  
Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ  
Telephone – Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**  
**[www.gov.wales/statistics](http://www.gov.wales/statistics)**



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## Key quality information: Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey, which includes the WLLFS, is an annual sample survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The annual survey uses results from those sampled for the main quarterly LFS and since 2001 additional persons have been sampled on an annual basis to provide a more robust (boosted) annual dataset across the UK, with estimates subject to much lower sampling variability. For Wales, the data are now based on an enhanced sample (around 350 per cent larger) compared to earlier years.

The additional persons sampled in the APS are based on four waves, over four years of the survey. For the first wave, the response rate in Wales is around 60%, with around 75% of these remaining by the fourth wave. In total, approaching 18,000 households are sampled each year for the APS in Wales. The APS relates to calendar years, whereas the WLLFS used the year ending in February.

APS data is published one month after the headline Labour Force Survey (LFS) figures.

### StatsWales

This first release analyses the information for Wales available from the APS from 2001-2015, although the Welsh element of this was called the Welsh Local Labour Force Survey between 2001 and 2003. The APS provides labour market data for local areas in Wales in a rolling four-quarter series (as well as for UK countries and English regions), and is the primary source for such local area information. The APS also covers other subject areas such as qualifications, commuting, Welsh language, national identity, ethnicity and disability. Data tables for these subject areas are provided on [StatsWales](#):

	Labour market summary
	Employment and economic activity
	Unemployment
	Economic inactivity
	Ethnicity
	Disability
	Qualifications
	Welsh speakers
	National identity
	Commuting

### Users and uses of these statistics

The key users of the APS in Wales are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales
- Other areas of the Welsh Government
- Other government departments
- Students, academics and universities
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of the uses include:

- Advice to Ministers
- Research and general background material
- To inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond

### **Feedback and contact details**

We actively encourage feedback from users of these statistics. If you have comments relating to this statistical release or require any further information, please contact [economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:economic.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

### **National Statistics**

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 Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs
- are well explained and readily accessible
- are produced according to sound methods
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice continue to be observed.

