



Regional economic & labour market profile – South West Wales, April 2018

26 Apr 2018
SB 28/2018

The latest headline labour market statistics for South West Wales are generally weaker than Wales.

Compared to Wales; South West Wales has a lower employment rate and higher ILO unemployment and economic inactivity rates. GVA per head and GDHI per head are both lower in South West Wales, however average earnings are the same.



About this bulletin

This quarterly statistical bulletin summarises information on the economy and labour market for the South West Wales economic region along with comparisons to Wales and the UK.

It is one in a series of four which cover the four economic regions of Wales: North Wales, Mid Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales.

South West Wales is made up of the following four local authorities: Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

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Summary table: Latest data for South West Wales

	South West Wales				Wales	
	Level (000s)	Change on year	Rate	Change on year ⁽⁷⁾	Rate	Change on year ⁽⁷⁾
Employed ⁽¹⁾	307.0	-5.7	70.2%	-0.7	72.4%	1.2
ILO unemployed ⁽²⁾	15.8	-0.9	4.9%	-0.2	4.8%	0.2
Economically Inactive ⁽³⁾	79.6	0.4	21.2%	0.3	19.8%	-1.2
GVA per head ⁽⁴⁾	.	.	£17,381	3.7	£19,140	3.5
GDHI per head ⁽⁵⁾	.	.	£16,049	2.8	£16,341	3.3
Average earnings ⁽⁶⁾	.	.	£498.90	5.8	£498.40	1.0

- (1) Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those aged 16-64. Data relate to the year to December 2017.
 (2) Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over, rates are a proportion of the economically active. Data relate to the year to December 2017.
 (3) Levels and rates exclude students and are for those aged 16-64. Data relate to the year to December 2017.
 (4) Data relate to 2016 and are provisional.
 (5) Data relate to 2015 and are provisional.
 (6) Average (median) gross weekly earnings. Data relate to 2017 and are provisional.
 (7) Percentage point change for employed, ILO unemployed and economically inactive. Percentage change for GVA per head, GDHI per head and average earnings.

. Not applicable

Overall summary

South West Wales had total Gross Value Added of £12.1 billion in 2016 which translates as £17,381 per head. This compares to £59.6 billion (£19,140 per head) for Wales. This difference is largely due to job structure in the area which means that there is lower GVA per job in South West Wales than Wales overall.

Annual Gross Disposable Household Income per head in South West Wales was £16,049 in 2015, lower than both the UK average (£19,106) and the Wales average (£16,341). Average full-time weekly earnings in South West Wales were £498.90 in 2017, slightly higher than the Wales average (£498.40) but lower than the UK average (£550.40).

Over the latest year the economic inactivity (excluding students) rate increased in South West Wales whilst the employment rate and the ILO unemployment rate fell. Looking over the longer term, South West Wales has seen a bigger improvement in employment, unemployment and economic inactivity compared to Wales since 2001.

The [key quality information](#) section includes a link to a data sources guide which gives information on the methodology, quality and metadata for the sources used in this output.

Please note the 'next update' dates given throughout this bulletin relate to when new data for the dataset are next being released. The StatsWales datasets will be updated at that time and can be accessed via the links given under the tables in this bulletin.

Comparisons to Wales, UK & other Welsh economic regions

	North Wales	Mid Wales	South West Wales	South East Wales	Wales	UK
Employment rate ⁽¹⁾	75.4	74.3	70.2	71.7	72.4	74.7
ILO unemployment rate ⁽²⁾	3.3	3.6	4.9	5.5	4.8	4.4
Economic Inactivity rate ⁽³⁾	18.3	16.7	21.2	20.2	19.8	17.8
GVA per head	19,573	17,137	17,381	20,021	19,140	26,339
GDHI per head ⁽⁵⁾	17,005	17,321	16,049	16,102	16,341	19,106
Average earnings ⁽⁶⁾	484.10	467.00	498.90	507.80	498.40	550.40
Change on year ⁽⁷⁾:						
Employment rate ⁽¹⁾	2.3	1.4	-0.7	1.5	1.2	0.9
ILO unemployment rate ⁽²⁾	-0.6	0.9	-0.2	0.6	0.2	-0.5
Economic Inactivity rate ⁽³⁾	-1.7	-1.1	0.3	-1.8	-1.2	-0.6
GVA per head	2.8	1.9	3.7	3.9	3.5	2.8
GDHI per head ⁽⁵⁾	3.9	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.3	2.9
Average earnings ⁽⁶⁾	-2.4	1.5	5.8	0.9	1.0	2.2
Change on 1999/2001 ⁽⁷⁾:						
Employment rate ⁽¹⁾	5.8	3.7	5.5	5.1	5.2	2.5
ILO unemployment rate ⁽²⁾	-1.1	-0.8	-1.4	-0.2	-0.7	-0.6
Economic Inactivity rate ⁽³⁾	-6.3	-4.1	-7.3	-6.7	-6.6	-3.6
GVA per head	70.5	61.5	70.4	67.8	68.6	70.2
GDHI per head ⁽⁵⁾	60.4	70.4	57.0	57.5	58.5	60.8
Average earnings ⁽⁶⁾

(1) Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those aged 16-64. Data relate to the year to December 2017 with comparisons over the latest year and 2001.

(2) Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. The rate is a proportion of the economically active. Data relate to the year to December 2017 with comparisons over the latest year and 2001.

(3) Levels and rates exclude students and are for those aged 16-64. Data relate to the year to December 2017 with comparisons over the latest year and 2001.

(4) Data relate to 2016 and are provisional. Comparisons are over the latest year and 1999.

(5) Data relate to 2015 and are provisional. Comparisons are over the latest year and 1999.

(6) Average (median) gross weekly earnings. Data relate to 2017 and are provisional. Comparisons are over the latest year. Comparisons to 1999 are not available.

(7) Percentage point change for employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity rates. Percentage change for GVA per head, GDHI per head and average earnings.

South West Wales had the lowest employment rate, the second highest unemployment rate and the highest economic inactivity rate amongst the 4 Welsh Economic Regions. GVA per head was the second lowest amongst the 4 regions, GDHI per head was the lowest and average weekly earnings were the second highest.

Over the latest year, South West Wales had the only decrease in the employment rate and the second largest decrease in the unemployment rate. The economic inactivity rate had the only increase. The region had the second largest increase in GVA per head, the smallest increase in GDHI per head and the largest increase in earnings.

Looking over the longer term (change on 1999/2001), South West Wales had the second largest increase in the employment rate and the largest decrease in the unemployment rate. It also had the largest decrease in the economic inactivity rate. South West Wales had the second largest increase in GVA per head and had the smallest increase in GDHI per head.

Latest quarterly data

Employment – New data (next update June 2018)

Table 1: Employment levels, year to December 2017 (a)

	Year to Dec 2017	Compared to previous year			Compared to earliest available		
		Year to Dec 2016	Level Change	Percentage Change	2001	Level Change	Percentage Change
South West Wales	307.0	312.6	-5.7	-1.8 ↓	261.9	45.1	17.2 ↑
Pembrokeshire	55.0	56.5	-1.6	-2.8 ↓	45.4	9.6	21.2 ↑
Carmarthenshire	85.3	84.3	1.0	1.2 ↑	69.0	16.3	23.6 ↑
Swansea	106.4	110.0	-3.6	-3.3 ↓	96.8	9.5	9.8 ↑
Neath Port Talbot	60.3	61.8	-1.5	-2.4 ↓	50.7	9.7	19.1 ↑
Wales	1,430.5	1,415.1	15.4	1.1 ↑	1,238.6	191.9	15.5 ↑
United Kingdom	31,936.7	31,473.2	463.5	1.5 ↑	27,433.1	4,503.6	16.4 ↑

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey (LFS)/Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS

(a) Employment levels for those aged 16 and over (levels in thousands).

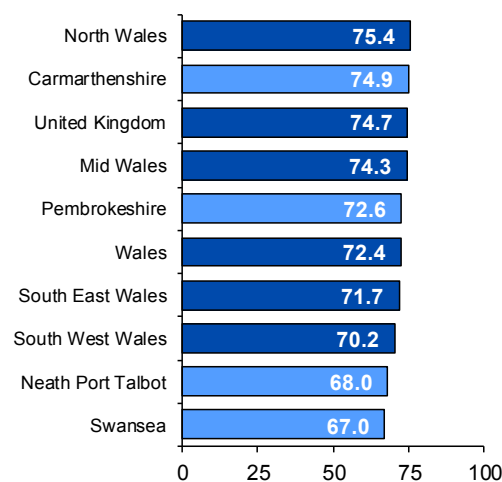
The employment level is the total number of people that are in employment and the employment rate is the percentage of the population that is in employment.

Table 1 shows the latest employment level figures and how these have changed over time. For the year ending December 2017, the number of people in employment in South West Wales was 307,000, this is a decrease of 5,700 people (1.8 per cent) compared to the same period the year before.

Chart 1 shows the latest employment rates for the economic regions and each authority within South West Wales.

Within South West Wales, 1 of the 4 authorities had an increase in the employment rate over the year. Since 2001, 3 of the 4 authorities had increases, with Carmarthenshire having the largest (up 11.5 percentage points).

Chart 1: Employment rates, year to December 2017 (a)



(a) Employment rates for those aged 16-64.

Unemployment – New data (next update June 2018)

Table 2: Unemployment levels, year to December 2017 (a)

	Year to Dec 2017	Compared to previous year			Compared to earliest available		
		Year to Dec 2016	Level Change	Percentage Change	2001	Level Change	Percentage Change
South West Wales	15.8	16.7	-0.9	-5.6 ↓	17.5	-1.7	-9.9 ↓
Pembrokeshire	2.6	2.0	0.5	26.8 ↑	3.2	-0.6	-19.0 ↓
Carmarthenshire	3.8	3.8	0.0	-0.2 ↓	4.6	-0.8	-17.6 ↓
Swansea	5.2	7.4	-2.2	-30.1 ↓	6.4	-1.3	-20.0 ↓
Neath Port Talbot	4.2	3.5	0.7	21.3 ↑	3.3	1.0	29.6 ↑
Wales	71.5	68.1	3.3	4.9 ↑	71.0	0.5	0.7 ↑
United Kingdom	1,463.5	1,606.1	-142.6	-8.9 ↓	1,450.3	13.2	0.9 ↑

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Labour Force Survey (LFS)/Annual Population Survey (APS), ONS

(a) Unemployment levels for those aged 16 and over (levels in thousands).

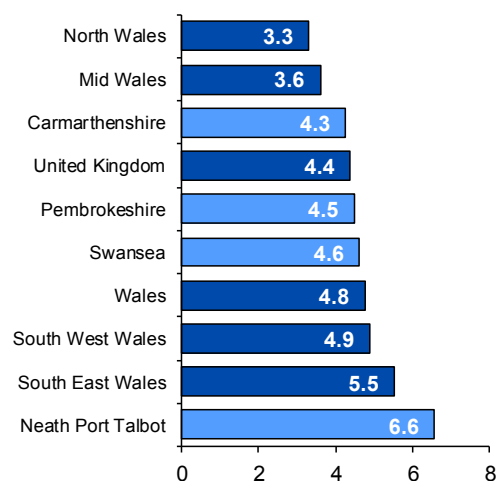
The unemployment level is the total number of people who are unemployed and the unemployment rate is the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed (using the International Labour Organisation's definition of unemployment).

Table 2 shows the latest unemployment level figures and how these have changed over time. For the year ending December 2017, the number of people who were unemployed in South West Wales was 15,800, this is a decrease of 900 people (5.6 per cent) compared to the same period the year before.

Chart 2 shows the latest unemployment rates for the economic regions and each authority within South West Wales.

Within South West Wales, 2 of the 4 authorities had falls in the unemployment rate over the year. Since 2001, 3 of the 4 authorities had falls, with Pembrokeshire having the largest (down 2.1 percentage points).

Chart 2: Unemployment rates, year to December 2017 (a)



(a) Unemployment rates for those aged 16 and over.

Economic inactivity – New data (next update June 2018)

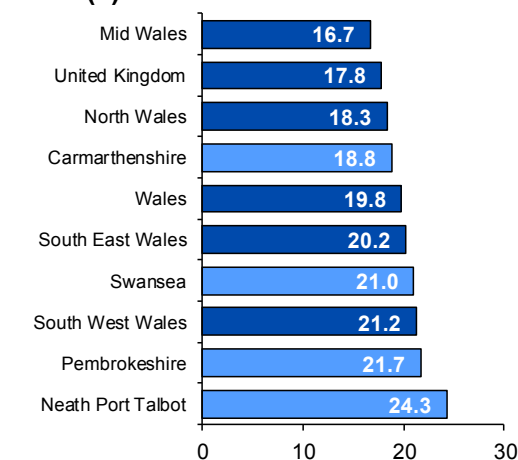
The economic inactivity rate is the percentage of the population who are neither in employment or ILO unemployed.

Chart 3 shows the latest economic inactivity rates (excluding students) for the economic regions and each authority within South West Wales.

Within South West Wales, 1 of the 4 authorities fell over the year (excluding students). Since 2001, all 4 authorities had falls with Carmarthenshire having the largest (down 11.1 percentage points).

Including students, the economic inactivity rate in South West Wales was 26.2 per cent, up 1.1 percentage points over the year. This was higher than the rates for both Wales (24.0 per cent) and the UK (21.8 per cent).

Chart 3: Economic inactivity rates (excl. students), year to December 2017 (a)



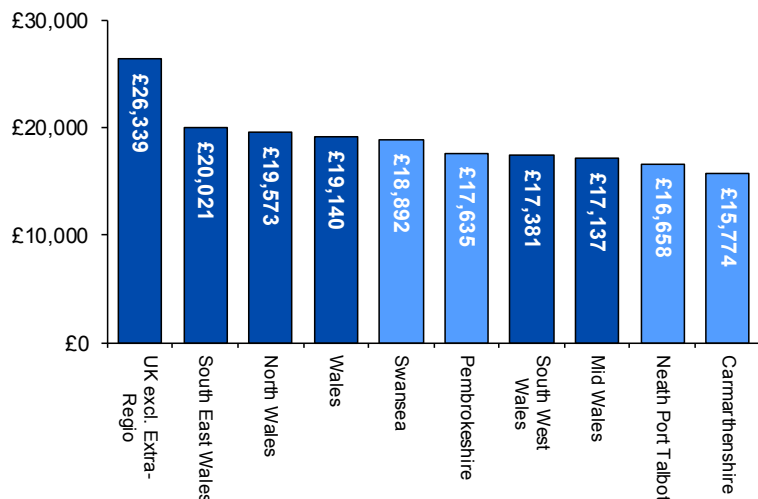
(a) Economically inactivity rates (excluding students) for those aged 16-64.

Please note the out of work benefit claimants dataset is no longer updated by the Department for Work and Pensions. See [key quality information](#) for more information.

Latest annual data

Gross value added (GVA) (next update Dec 2018)

Chart 4: GVA per head, 2016



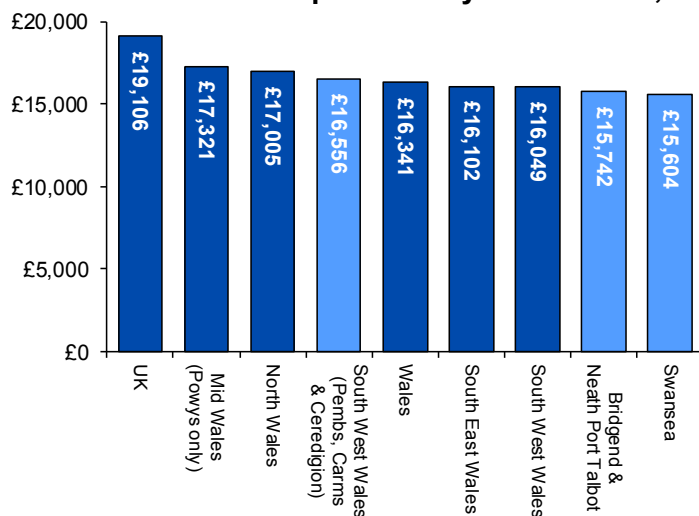
GVA is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services.

Total GVA in South West Wales in 2016 was £12.1 billion, up 4.3 per cent over the year and up 84.0 per cent since 1999. This compares to an increase of 4.0 per cent over the year and an increase of 80.9 per cent since 1999 for Wales.

Within South West Wales, all 4 authorities had increases in GVA per head over the year, with Carmarthenshire having the largest (up by 4.7 per cent). Since 1999, all 4 authorities had increases, with Carmarthenshire having the largest (up by 78.7 per cent).

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) (next update May 2018)

Chart 5: Annual GDHI per head by NUTS3 level, 2015

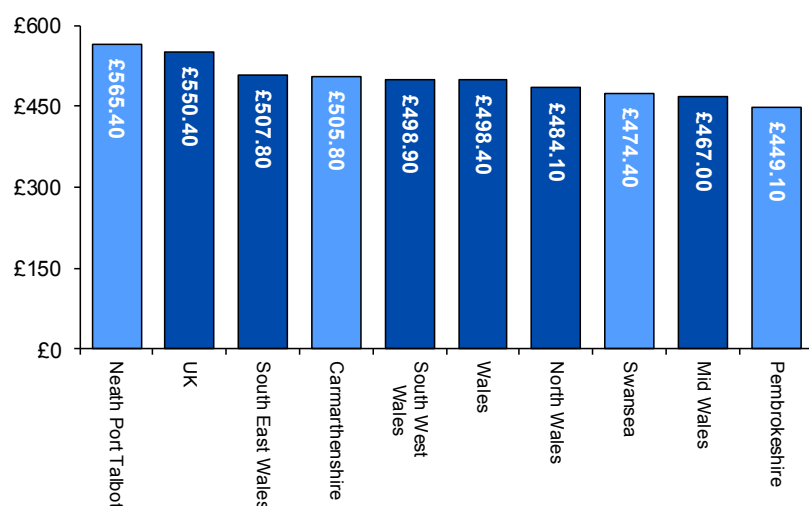


GDHI is an estimate of the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving.

Please note, these data are only available at NUTS3 level, therefore data for some economic regions are an approximation. In the chart above, Mid Wales only includes Powys, South West Wales includes Ceredigion and Bridgend and South East Wales excludes Bridgend.

Average (median) full-time weekly earnings (next update Oct 2018)

Chart 6: Average full-time weekly earnings, 2017 (a)



(a) Average (median) gross weekly earnings (including overtime) for full time adults whose pay was unaffected by absence.

Average weekly earnings in South West Wales were up 5.8 per cent over the year compared to an increase of 1.0 per cent for Wales and an increase of 2.2 per cent for the UK.

Within South West Wales, 3 of the 4 authorities had increases over the year, with Carmarthenshire having the largest increase of 10.2 per cent.

Workplace employment (next update Oct 2018)

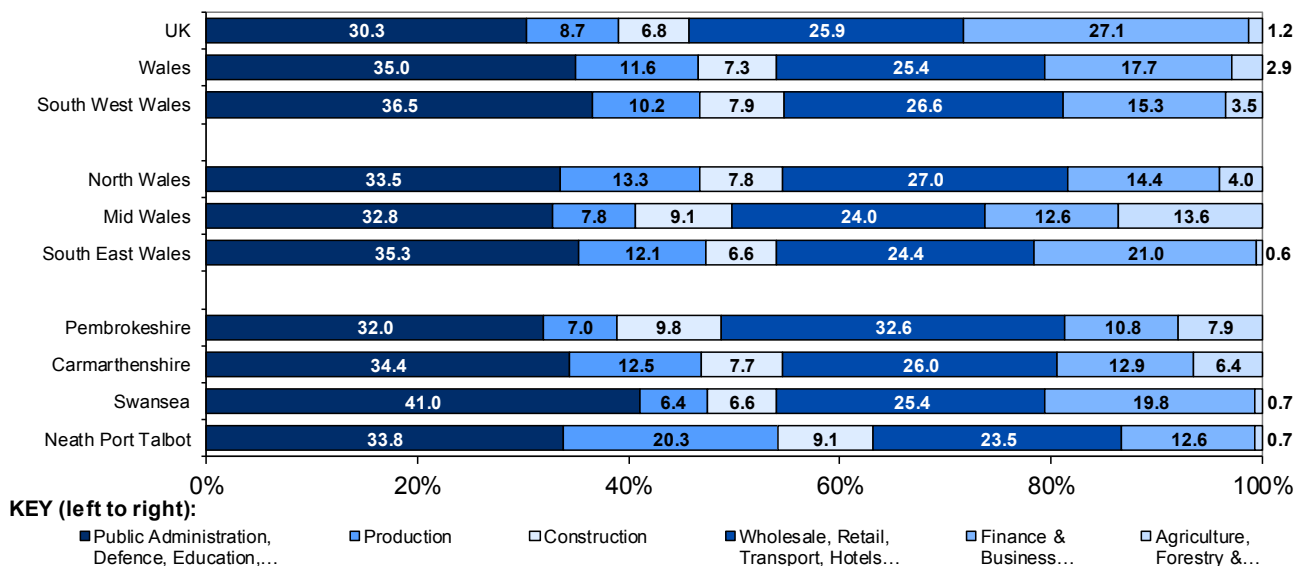
Table 3: Total workplace employment, 2016 (a)

	2016	Compared to previous year			Compared to earliest available		
		2015	Level Change	Percentage Change	2001	Level Change	Percentage Change
South West Wales	320.8	307.5	13.3	4.3 ↑	265.8	55.0	20.7 ↑
Pembrokeshire	58.1	56.3	1.9	3.3 ↑	49.2	8.9	18.1 ↑
Carmarthenshire	82.9	80.8	2.0	2.5 ↑	66.1	16.8	25.4 ↑
Swansea	130.1	119.5	10.5	8.8 ↑	107.4	22.7	21.1 ↑
Neath Port Talbot	49.8	50.9	-1.2	-2.3 ↓	43.1	6.6	15.3 ↑
Wales	1,404.3	1,403.4	0.9	0.1 ↑	1,252.7	151.6	12.1 ↑
United Kingdom	32,412.6	32,145.2	267.4	0.8 ↑	28,580.0	3,832.6	13.4 ↑

Source: APS, Business Register & Employment Survey and Survey of Agriculture & Horticulture

(a) These data show workplace employment (or total jobs) in each area, including self-employment jobs. The United Kingdom (UK) data presented here should not be used for any purpose other than as a comparator for the Wales data.

Chart 7: Percentage of workplace employment by industry, 2016



VAT/PAYE registered enterprises (next update Nov 2018)

These data exclude those businesses below the VAT threshold and not registered for PAYE.

Table 4: Total stock of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises, 2016 (a)

	2016	Compared to previous year			Compared to earliest available		
		2015	Level Change	Percentage Change	2002	Level Change	Percentage Change
South West Wales	20,855	20,335	520	2.6 ↑	17,690	3,165	17.9 ↑
Pembrokeshire	4,585	4,500	85	1.9	4,100	485	11.8
Carmarthenshire	6,135	5,960	175	2.9	5,220	915	17.5
Swansea	6,895	6,730	165	2.5	5,695	1,200	21.1
Neath Port Talbot	3,240	3,145	95	3.0	2,675	565	21.1
Wales	98,445	95,010	3,435	3.6 ↑	81,175	17,270	21.3 ↑
United Kingdom	2,833,965	2,672,025	161,940	6.1	2,115,915	718,050	33.9

Source: Business Demography, ONS

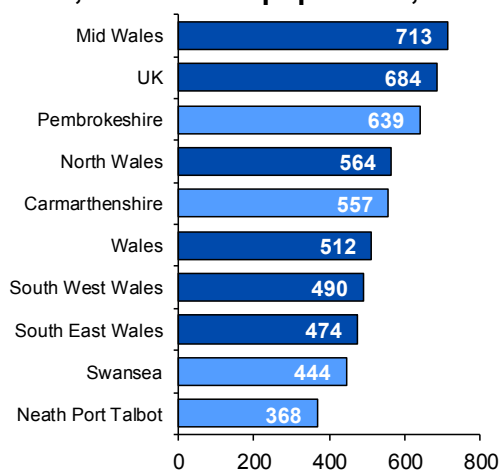
(a) Stock of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises in each year (numbers rounded to the nearest 5).

In South West Wales, there were 2,380 VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births during 2016. This was an increase from 2,340 enterprise births in 2015.

There were 2,220 VAT/PAYE registered enterprise deaths in South West Wales in 2016, which was an increase from 2,105 enterprise births in 2015.

The difference in births and deaths may not equal the difference in stock, because businesses may be born and die in the same period and the stock is taken at a single point in time.

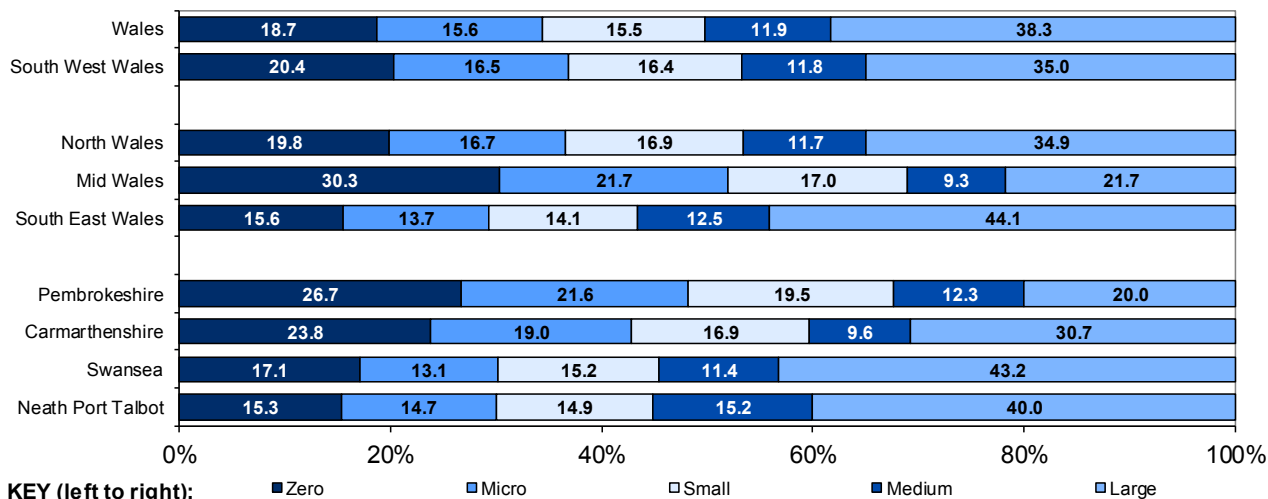
Chart 8: VAT/PAYE registered enterprises per 10,000 resident population, 2016 (a)



Business structure (next update Nov 2018)

There were 58,360 enterprises active in South West Wales in 2017, of which 94.4 per cent were in the zero or micro size band (0-9 employees). The percentage in this size-band was similar to that for Wales (94.9 per cent).

Chart 9: Percentage of employment by enterprise size-band, 2017 (a)



(a) The size band is based upon the size of the UK enterprises and includes all enterprises that are active in Wales.

Table 5: Foreign owned companies, 2017 (a)

	Enterprises			Employees		
	Total	Foreign Owned	Percentage	Total	Foreign Owned	Percentage
South West Wales	58,360	275	0.5	244,280	26,590	10.9
Pembrokeshire	14,350	70	0.5	46,570	2,245	4.8
Carmarthenshire	17,595	105	0.6	63,710	6,720	10.5
Swansea	18,795	170	0.9	91,250	8,405	9.2
Neath Port Talbot	8,385	85	1.0	42,750	9,220	21.6
Wales	253,635	1,135	0.4	1,143,305	155,320	13.6

Source: Size Analysis of Welsh Businesses

(a) Enterprises which are active in more than one local authority will be counted in each one, so the enterprises totals for the regions/Wales will not add up to the sum of the local authorities. The size band is based upon the size of the UK enterprises and includes all enterprises that are active in Wales (numbers rounded to the nearest 5).

Links to data

Measure	Data Link	WG Headline Link
Employment levels (aged 16 and over)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Employment rates (aged 16 to 64)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
ILO unemployment levels & rates (aged 16 and over)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Economic inactivity levels & rates (excluding students)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Economic inactivity levels & rates (including students)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Benefit claimants & benefit claimants rates	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Gross Value Added (GVA)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI)	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Average (median) gross weekly earnings	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Total workplace employment	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Workplace employment by industry	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
VAT/PAYE registered enterprise births	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
VAT/PAYE registered enterprise deaths	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Stock of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Stock per 10,000 population of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Enterprise numbers by size-band	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Employment numbers by size-band	StatsWales	STATISTICS & RESEARCH
Foreign owned companies	In development	STATISTICS & RESEARCH

Key quality information

Relevance

This bulletin is a compendium publication used to bring together the latest key statistics relating to the economy and labour market for each of the four economic regions in Wales, in the context of the Welsh/UK economy and labour market.

This bulletin, produced by the Welsh Government, provides a summary of the sub-Wales data contained within a range of statistical bulletins and presents those estimates alongside other headline estimates for the economy and labour market for Wales and the UK. These statistics are used by the Welsh Government to monitor the headline statistics for the sub-Wales regions as well as providing comparisons to the UK and Welsh economy. The bulletin includes statistics relevant to the [Programme for Government](#) and [Prosperity for All: economic action plan](#). This bulletin was produced in response to growing user demand for more local area data which was identified in our user consultation. Our [user consultation](#) provides more information on how our outputs are used.

The bulletin is the main vehicle for the publication of results at economic region level for the Welsh labour market from the Annual Population Survey (APS), as produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It also provides Welsh data from Jobcentre plus on the numbers of Jobseeker Allowance claimants and numbers of benefit claimants from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

In addition to these datasets, the bulletin brings together the further datasets, for which the Welsh Government produces separate publications, including average weekly earnings, business demography, workplace employment, business structure and regional accounts data. Further information about these additional datasets can be found in the [separate publications themselves](#).

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. We are in the process of identifying a new appropriate source for this data.

Accuracy

Guidance on the use of the bulletins

For further guidance on the use of this bulletin, including quality information and descriptions and comparisons of measures and sources, please refer to the [Regional Profile User Guide](#).

Data Sources and Quality

We have also published a [comprehensive data sources guide list](#) which provides a summary of all the main official data sources used by the Economic and Labour Market Statistics branch as well as useful links.

Definitions of regions

The four regions used in this set of bulletins are defined as:

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.

These definitions are based on the Department for Economy, Skills and Natural Resources economic regions, however, these regions split Gwynedd between Mid Wales and North Wales, with Meirionnydd being in Mid Wales and the rest in North. Due to data availability we have used whole Local Authorities rather than splitting Gwynedd.

Revisions

Where the data is not from the Welsh Government, we follow the revisions policy of the individual Government department. For data from our own outputs, we follow our [revisions policy](#).

Timeliness and punctuality

This is a quarterly bulletin, usually published in January, April, July and October. It is based on the latest version of each of the datasets it includes (see dates given in each of the headings for the next update dates).

Accessibility and clarity

Much of the data in this bulletin can be found on [StatsWales](#) which is a free-to-use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most detailed official data on Wales. Links to specific data can be found under the relevant tables, above.

Comparability and coherence

Comparable measures for other UK countries for the data published in this bulletin are published on [StatsWales](#) where available. Links to specific data can be found under the relevant tables, above.

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/regional-economic-labour-market-profiles/?lang=en>

Next update

We are considering alternative ways of disseminating the data in this publication but will ensure user needs are met.

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

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