These reports have been updated to support the continuing development of the National Development Framework following consultation on the draft NDF in autumn 2019. The Mid and South West Wales region has been split into separate regions for Mid Wales and South West Wales to provide more detailed analysis on the key issues and trends in these areas. The South East Wales region comprises the local authorities of Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, and Vale of Glamorgan. The aim of this release is to give a statistical breakdown of the region and to highlight differences that may exist across the region for the nine topics in question.

Key Points

- South East Wales is the only Welsh region where population change due to natural change (population attributable to the difference in births and deaths) has been strictly positive since the 1991-92 period, although the level of natural change has been decreasing in recent years.
- In 2018, 725,500 people worked in the region, representing half of all employment across Wales.
- Overall, nitrogen dioxide levels were higher in South East Wales local authorities than in local authorities across the other regions, but these levels have been decreasing over time.
In 2018, South East Wales was home to **1.53 million residents**, of which around 24 per cent lived in Cardiff.

This was, by some way, the largest local authority in the region and in Wales in terms of population, with an estimated 364,000 residents. The authority with the smallest population in this region was Merthyr Tydfil with a population of around 60,000.

Note: These reports were produced ahead of the publication of provisional 2019 mid-year estimates on 6 May 2020.
Figure 2: Population density (persons per square kilometre) in South East Wales, by local authority, 2018

Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics; Standard area measurements, Office for National Statistics

South East Wales had a population density of 546 persons per square kilometre in 2018, meaning it was the most densely populated of the Welsh regions.

Within the region, the most densely populated authority was Cardiff, with 2,585 persons per square kilometre. The most sparsely populated local authority was Monmouthshire, with a population density of 111 persons per square kilometre. Between 2008 and 2018, population density grew by 5.1 per cent in South East Wales. This was the highest rate of the four regions. The authority with the greatest population density growth rate in the region and in Wales over this period was Cardiff, at 9.5 per cent. Blaenau Gwent saw the only fall, with population density decreasing by 0.2 per cent from 2008 to 2018.

Welsh Government analysis of 2011 Census data (unpublished) shows that South East Wales' population was entirely concentrated in settlements classified “less sparse,” with 55 per cent of residents living in settlements with 25,000 or more residents.

Note: These reports were produced ahead of the publication of provisional 2019 mid-year estimates on 6 May 2020.
Figure 3: Population distribution in South East Wales by age and gender, 2018

Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

The relatively uniform shape of the population pyramid for the South East Wales region shows that it has a fairly even distribution of ages, the most even distribution of ages among the four Welsh regions in 2018. This can be partly attributed to the relatively high number of university students living in the area, and especially in Cardiff.

Between 1998 and 2018, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased from 16.0 per cent to 18.5 per cent, while the proportion of the population aged 15 and under has fallen from 21.6 per cent to 18.6 per cent. South East Wales is the only Welsh region with a higher proportion of the population aged 15 and under than aged 65 and over.

Note: These reports were produced ahead of the publication of provisional 2019 mid-year estimates on 6 May 2020.
The population of the region grew by 9.6 per cent between 1998 and 2018. However, population change has been variable across the region’s local authorities over this period. The population decreased in 2 of the 10 local authorities in the region over the first half of this period, but only Blaenau Gwent experienced negative population growth over the 2008-2018 period. Cardiff experienced the highest population growth rate between 1998 and 2018 (18.0 per cent). Newport has seen the greatest change in population growth between the 1998-2008 and 2008-2018 periods, going from a growth rate of 3.9 per cent to 7.4 per cent. The mean population growth across South East Wales’ local authorities over the 2008-2018 period was 7,471 people. This was higher than the median (5,084 people) due to the high proportion of growth happening in Cardiff.

Note: These reports were produced ahead of the publication of provisional 2019 mid-year estimates on 6 May 2020.

Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics
Looking at data showing components of population change across South East Wales, we see a different picture to that seen across Wales as a whole, and across the other three regions. It is the only region in which natural change (population attributable to the difference in births and deaths) has been strictly positive since the 1991-92 period, although the level of natural change has been decreasing in recent years.

The data also shows that inward migration has been greater than outward migration since the 2001-02 period. Breaking the data down to local authority level shows that Vale of Glamorgan had the largest net change in population due to migration and other changes during the 2017-18 period, while Newport had the largest overall population change. Population change due to net migration and other changes was positive in all authorities within the region, meaning that in all authorities, there are more people moving in than moving out. Cardiff was by far the local authority with the highest level of natural change in 2017-18, both in the region and in Wales, while 4 of the 10 authorities in the region experienced negative natural change, meaning deaths were higher than births. The highest level of negative natural change in the region was in Monmouthshire.

Note: These reports were produced ahead of the publication of provisional 2019 mid-year estimates on 6 May 2020.
According to census data, there were 150,792 Welsh-speakers aged three and over in the region in 2011. There were more Welsh-speakers in Cardiff than in any other local authority in the region, while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest count of Welsh speakers. As a proportion of the persons aged three and over however, Rhondda Cynon Taf was the local authority with the highest rate of Welsh speakers (12.3 per cent), while Blaenau Gwent had the lowest (7.8 per cent).

The census is the key source of information about the number of people who can speak Welsh. The National Survey for Wales (NSW) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) also collect information about respondents’ Welsh speaking ability and frequency of use (the NSW only collects information for those aged 16 or over while the APS collects information for those aged three and over like the census). Estimates of Welsh language ability from household surveys are historically higher than those produced by the census and it is not known exactly why this is the case. It’s likely that differences in how these surveys and the census are carried out affect the estimates. More information can be found in a blog post by the Chief Statistician discussing Welsh language data.

Data from the Annual Population Survey shows that an estimated 20.2 per cent of South East Wales residents aged three and over said they could speak Welsh in the year ending September 2019. This was the lowest proportion of the four regions, yet this represented an increase of around 2.7 percentage points on data for the year ending September 2009, and corresponds to the greatest count of people speaking Welsh due to the relatively high population in the region. Cardiff saw the largest growth in Welsh speakers over the September 2009 to September 2019 period in terms of the count, while Torfaen had a small reduction in the same period. Regional percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.
Figure 7: Student enrolments to Higher Education Institutions in South East Wales, 2018-19

Source: Higher education student record, Higher Education Statistics Agency

In 2018-19, there were just over 66,195 enrolments on Higher Education (HE) courses in South East Wales, representing half of all enrolments in Wales. Cardiff University saw the highest number of HE enrolments in the region and in Wales, representing 25.1 per cent of total enrolments in Wales. The data indicates a high concentration of the region’s students in Cardiff.
Health

Life expectancy is a measure of how long, on average, people can expect to live using estimates of the population and the number of deaths. Healthy life expectancy estimates the number of years spent in very good or good general health.

ONS data shows that for 2016-18 in South East Wales, male life expectancy, female life expectancy, and male healthy life expectancy were highest in Monmouthshire and lowest in Blaenau Gwent. Female healthy life expectancy was highest in Monmouthshire and lowest in Caerphilly. South East Wales had some of both the highest and lowest figures for life expectancy and healthy life expectancy across Wales, and the difference between local authorities was the largest of the Welsh regions, with a gap of 4-5 years in life expectancy and 10-11 years in healthy life expectancy.

Figure 8: Adults aged 16 and over showing 0 or 1 healthy lifestyle behaviours, by local authority, 2017-18 and 2018-19* (age standardised)

* The 2017-18 and 2018-19 periods have been combined for data quality purposes

Source: National Survey for Wales

The 5 healthy lifestyle behaviours are: not smoking, average weekly alcohol consumption 14 units or lower, eating at least 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day, having a healthy body mass index, and being physically active at least 150 minutes the previous week.

Across South East Wales in 2017-18 and 2018-19 combined, 10 per cent of adults reported fewer than 2 of the 5 healthy lifestyle behaviours. This ranged from 6 per cent in Monmouthshire to 15 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil. South East Wales had some of both the highest and lowest rates in Wales.
Across South East Wales in 2017-18 and 2018-19 combined, 70 per cent of adults reported being in good or very good general health. This ranged from 64 per cent in Blaenau Gwent to 76 per cent in Monmouthshire. South East Wales had some of both the highest and lowest rates in Wales.

For local authority data taken from the National Survey for Wales (0 or 1 healthy lifestyle behaviours and self-reported good health), not all differences between local authorities are statistically significant.

* The 2017-18 and 2018-19 periods have been combined for data quality purposes

Source: National Survey for Wales
Figure 10: Employment rate in South East Wales, 1999-2019

Notes:

Data for 1999 to 2003 is year ending 28 February. Data for 2004 is year ending 31 December 2004. Data from 2005 onwards is year ending 30 September. 1999 and 2000 data for this geography level were not considered sufficiently robust for publication.

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

The employment level is the total number of people (aged 16+) that are in employment and the employment rate is the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) that is in employment. Of the four regions, South East Wales had the highest employment level in Wales in the year ending 30 September 2019, reflecting the fact that it has a higher population than that of the other three regions. However, it included 3 of the 5 local authorities with the lowest employment rates in Wales. At 193,600 people, Cardiff had the highest employment level in Wales, while Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest level, with only 27,200 people in employment.

Since 2001, the region’s employment rate has increased by 6.8 percentage points, though in Merthyr Tydfil, the employment rate increased by 13.8 percentage points, the second largest change across all local authorities in Wales.
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 (ILO) definition of unemployment). For the year ending 30 September 2019, the unemployment rate in South East Wales was 4.3 per cent, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points since 2001. Blaenau Gwent’s unemployment rate saw the most marked change across Wales during this period, decreasing by 3.7 percentage points since 2001. Meanwhile, Rhondda Cynon Taf had the joint highest unemployment rate in Wales at 6.4 per cent.

The economic inactivity rate is the percentage of the population not working and not seeking nor available to work. Economically inactive people include people looking after the family and / or home, retirees and people with a sickness or disability. For the year ending 30 September 2019, the economic inactivity rate in South East Wales was 19.9 per cent, a decrease of 7.0 percentage points compared to 2001. This change was slightly greater than the change across the whole of Wales. Merthyr Tydfil’s economic inactivity rate saw the most marked change across Wales during this period, decreasing by 15.0 percentage points since 2001.

More information on regional economic statistics can be found in the Welsh Government’s regional economic and labour market profiles.
Workplace employment estimates, or estimates of total jobs, for Wales and its sub-regions are derived using a number of data sources, predominantly the ONS Annual Population Survey (APS, previously the annual Local Labour Force Survey, LLFS), and also the BRES and the Welsh Agricultural Census. This is in contrast to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) data, which is taken from data mainly collected from residents of private households.

Workplace employment data shows that in 2018, 725,500 people worked in the region, representing almost half of all employment across Wales. The average level of employment across the region’s ten local authorities was 72,600. The median level across the region, which is 55,400, falls below that of the South West Wales region (68,800 persons).

The Real estate activities sector saw the largest percentage change in jobs over the 2008-2018 period, while the greatest change in the level of jobs was in the Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities sector, which grew by 30,700 people. The Production sector saw the greatest decrease in percentage terms and in terms of the number of jobs, down by 7,400 (8.3 per cent). Note that differences have been calculated from published rounded data.
As a whole, the net change in workers across the region was -18,100, indicating that more people commute out of the region than into the region. This can largely be attributed to workers commuting across the Welsh border into areas such as Bristol. Note that net changes and data for the regions have been calculated from published rounded data.

Data from 2018 indicates that the net worker population change was negative in 6 of the region’s 10 local authorities, meaning that in these authorities, more people commute out of the authority to work than commute in from other authorities. Cardiff, the most populous local authority in the region, had the greatest influx of workers from other local authorities, while the second most populous local authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf, saw the greatest outflow of workers.
Figure 13: Average distance travelled to work (km) by workers aged 16-74 in 2011, by local authority of residence

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

2011 Census data shows that, on average, working residents aged 16-74 in all local authorities in the region, except in Monmouthshire and Bridgend, had shorter distances to commute to work than the Wales average. Cardiff residents, on average, had the shortest commutes in Wales.

As in the rest of the country, 2019 data shows that the vast majority of enterprises had fewer than 10 employees. The proportion of micro enterprises in South East Wales was the lowest of the four regions, whereas South East Wales had the joint highest proportion of large enterprises.

Data for the year ending 31st December 2018 shows that in 6 of the 10 local authorities in the region the proportion of men and women aged 18-64 with no qualifications was higher than the Wales figure, and in both Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil, the rate was 14.8 per cent, the highest in Wales. In Cardiff, The Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire the percentage of men and women aged 18-64 qualified to NQF level 2 or above exceeded the Wales figure of 78.9 per cent. These 3 local authorities were also those with the highest proportion of men and women aged 18-64 qualified to NQF level 4 or above.
South East Wales’ transport infrastructure includes a section of the M4 motorway, and a greater number of railway stations than in the other Welsh regions. The region also houses 3 of Wales’ 9 ports, and 1 of the 2 airports in Wales (the other being on the Isle of Anglesey, in North Wales).

Research into vehicle speeds on Welsh motorways shows that from April to June 2016, the M4 through Newport had slow average speeds during peak times in both directions. Slow average speeds were recorded eastbound on the Vale of Glamorgan during the morning, reflecting commuter traffic heading into Cardiff. Monmouthshire saw slow average speeds westbound, which may have been a consequence of the Second Severn Crossing toll, which was removed in December 2018.

The A48(M) often saw average speeds under 60 mph during peak times. The westbound A48(M) routinely saw average speeds under 50 mph during the morning peak.
Figure 15: Methods of travel to work among employed South East Wales residents aged 16-74, 2011

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

Census data from 2011 shows that of workers aged 16-74 living in South East Wales, 74.3 per cent travelled to work by car, van, motorcycle, scooter or moped. This corresponded to around 488,000 people across the region. 12.0 per cent (79,000 persons), travelled on foot or by bike. 8.8 per cent (58,000 persons) travelled by train, bus, minibus or coach.

In 2018-19 across South East Wales and across Wales, adults aged 16 or over in the Cardiff were most likely to walk for more than 10 minutes as a means of transport, with 80.5 per cent doing so at least once a month. Merthyr Tydfil was the local authority in South East Wales where this was least likely (65.5 per cent).

Merthyr Tydfil also had the lowest proportion (2.2 per cent) of adults aged 16 or over, in the region and Wales, using a bicycle as a means of transport at least once a month over the same period. The local authority with the highest regular bicycle usage rate was in Cardiff (15.9 per cent).
Across South East Wales, the **number of train journeys** made in 2017-18 was 17.4 million, an increase of 4.5 million on 2007-08. Figure 19 shows that at local authority level, the greatest increase in journeys in terms of number was in Cardiff. However, Merthyr Tydfil was the local authority with the greatest increase in journeys in percentage terms, with a 71.1 per cent increase from 2007-08 to 2017-18.

In 2017-18, there were 95 **rail stations** in South East Wales. Of these, 15 were counted among the 20 busiest stations in Wales by station entries and exits. 25 per cent of all station entries/exits in Wales occurred in Cardiff Central station.
Environment

Figure 17: Heritage Coast and Special Protection Areas in South East Wales

Source: Natural Resources Wales

In South East Wales, the Glamorgan coast has been designated a Heritage Coast in order to protect it from insensitive developments. The region is also home to a section of the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPAs). These serve to protect bird species which are either rare or vulnerable, or which, in the case of migratory birds, visit Welsh shores regularly.
South East Wales’ designated natural environment includes parts of the Brecon Beacons National Park, as well as parts of the Wye Valley, which has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The region is also home to 14 country parks.

**Air Quality**

Overall, nitrogen dioxide levels were higher in South East Wales’ local authorities than in local authorities across the other regions, but these levels have been decreasing over time.

Cardiff had the highest concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in the region in 2017 (17 µg/m³), whilst Blaenau Gwent, along with Merthyr Tydfil and Monmouthshire had the lowest (8 µg/m³). The observed concentration reduced in all local authorities across the region since 2007, and fell by 4 µg/m³ in Cardiff between 2016 and 2017, more than any other Welsh local authority.

**Energy**

There was a capacity of 826 megawatts (MW) of low-carbon energy in the region in 2018, representing 21 per cent of the Wales total. Rhondda Cynon Taf had the highest low-carbon energy capacity in the region during this period, higher than Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Cardiff and Caerphilly combined. 94 per cent of the 25,200 low-carbon energy projects in the region were for solar energy (photovoltaic or thermal).
In 2018-19, the amount of local authority municipal waste that was reused, recycled or composted was 62 per cent in South East Wales, compared to 52 per cent in 2012-13, the earliest year for which directly comparable data is available. Blaenau Gwent, Cardiff and Newport had the lowest reported reuse, recycling and composting rate in the region and among the lowest across Wales (59 per cent) in 2018-19. The highest reported rate in the region during this period was in Bridgend (69 per cent).
The annual residual household waste generated per person across South East Wales in 2018-19 ranged from 126kg in Bridgend to 213kg in Newport. Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend saw the greatest change in residual household waste generated per person since 2012-13, with a reduction of 33 per cent, or 92kg per person in Rhondda Cynon Taf and 62kg per person in Bridgend. Meanwhile, for both Newport and Caerphilly, residual household waste per person in 2018-19 (213kg and 162kg per person respectively) was similar to equivalent figures for 2012-13.
Prosperity

Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in the production of goods and services. GVA per head is a useful way of comparing regions of different sizes. It is not, however, a measure of regional productivity.

It should be noted that regional GVA figures are subject to limitations, as they can be affected by the impact of factors such as commuting between regions, and differences between regions in demography and types of employment. Further information on this can be found in the following ONS blog post. In addition, note that the regional figures are apportioned from national totals based on regional indicators. The regional indicators, which include administrative and survey data, are regarded as the most appropriate sources, but may result in imperfect regional allocations.

In South East Wales, GVA per head was £21,950 in 2018 (data included is the balanced approach for GVA). This is the highest value of the four Welsh regions, higher than the Wales value but lower than the UK value. Bridgend, Cardiff, Monmouthshire and Newport all had GVA per head levels higher than the Wales figure with Cardiff being the only local authority in the region where GVA per head was higher than the UK value.

Across the region, GVA per head grew 2.6 per cent on the previous year and 79.4 per cent since 1999. Cardiff’s GVA per head grew by 86.8 per cent between 1999 and 2018. This was more than any of the other local authorities in the region. Meanwhile Newport saw the largest increase in GVA per head within South East Wales compared with 2017, up 6.6 per cent.

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) is an estimate of the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving. In South East Wales, GDHI per head was £15,563 in 2017. Across the region, GDHI per head grew by 1.0 per cent on the previous year and 57.3 per cent since 1999.

In South East Wales, the median gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in 2019 was highest in the Vale of Glamorgan (£583.80), and lowest in Merthyr Tydfil (£468.30). In South East Wales, median earnings increased by 4.5 per cent (or £23.60). The most notable increase was in the Vale of Glamorgan, where median earnings of full-time employees increased by 18.8 per cent or £92.50 per week. The largest decrease in the region was in Bridgend, down by 3.6 per cent or £19.70.

ONS data estimates the proportion of workers earning below the living wage (£9.00 in 2019, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation). In 2019, results show that across the region, there was a 13.8 percentage point range between local authorities. The lowest percentage was the Vale of Glamorgan at 16.4 per cent, and the highest was Blaenau Gwent at 30.2 per cent. Please note that these local authority estimates vary in quality, mainly reflecting the size of the samples.
In South East Wales, 19.2 per cent of pupils aged 5-15 were eligible for free school meals in 2018/19, down 0.8 percentage points over the previous 10 years. The highest rate in the region was in Blaenau Gwent (22.7 per cent), while the lowest was in Monmouthshire (11.3 per cent). The greatest change from 2008/09 to 2018/19 was in Torfaen, where the percentage of children eligible for free school meals increased by 4.8 percentage points.
Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the Welsh Government’s official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. Deprivation is the lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. This can be in terms of material goods or the ability of an individual to participate in the normal social life of the community.

The South East Wales region contains 939 Lower Super Output Layers (LSOAs). This is 49 per cent of all the LSOAs within Wales.

Considering the 191 most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales in 2019 – i.e. the 10 per cent most deprived, 126 of them are within South East Wales. This is 13 per cent of all LSOAs within the region, and 66 per cent of the 10 per cent most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales.

WIMD was last updated in November 2019, and the interactive tool provides further statistical breakdowns by Welsh City Region / Growth Deal Area.

Enterprises

In South East Wales of all businesses founded in 2013, 93.7 per cent survived their first year, and 40.8 per cent were still operating after five years. Percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.
Digital Infrastructure

Figure 22: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with superfast or ultrafast broadband availability, by local authority, September 2019

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

In South East Wales in September 2019, 96 per cent of homes and businesses were in areas where superfast fixed broadband speed (30Mbit/s or higher) or an ultrafast fixed broadband speed (300 Mbit/s or higher) was available. Monmouthshire had the least premises, at 85 per cent, the other 9 authorities were between 95 and 98 per cent. 34 per cent of homes and businesses were able to access ultrafast fixed broadband speed, ranging from 1 per cent in Blaenau Gwent to 79 per cent in Cardiff. The regional figure was 15 percentage points lower than the UK rate of 52 per cent.

Access to full fibre services was 11 per cent in homes and businesses across the region; this was 1 percentage point higher than the UK rate. Full-fibre broadband uses fibre-optic cables to connect homes and businesses to the street cabinet, replacing copper connections. Full-fibre connections provide a better and more reliable service that can deliver speeds of up to one gigabit per second.
Figure 23: Percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales not meeting the Universal Service Obligation, by local authority, September 2019

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

Around 2,400 homes and businesses across the region, or 0.3 per cent, did not meet the Universal Service Obligation minimum in September 2019, meaning that they were unable to access a download speed of 10Mbit/s and an upload speed of 1Mbit/s. This proportion was lower than both the UK average (0.5 per cent) and the Wales average (1.0 per cent).
Looking at 4G services, the percentage of homes and businesses in South East Wales with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2019 ranged from 70 per cent in the Vale of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire to 89 per cent in Cardiff. The UK average was 80 per cent and the Wales average was 72 per cent.

In terms of geographic coverage, 8 per cent of Monmouthshire’s area was not covered by any operator, more than in any other local authority in the region. In 5 of the 10 local authorities in the region, geographic area not covered was 1 per cent or lower.
For telephone call services in the region, the percentage of homes and businesses with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2019, ranged from 86 per cent in Monmouthshire to 99 per cent in Torfaen.

The proportion of South East Wales' geographic area not covered by any operator was 1 per cent or lower in all local authorities, except for Monmouthshire (3 per cent).

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications
The total number of dwellings in South East Wales continues to grow steadily with an estimated 675,100 dwellings at 31 March 2019. This represents an increase of 5 per cent over the last 10 years. Cardiff, the local authority with the highest number of dwellings, had more dwellings than Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire combined. 14 per cent of all dwellings across the region were privately rented, and 69 per cent were owner occupied.
The figures provided by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) are from records kept for building control purposes. It is sometimes difficult for building control officers to identify whether a dwelling is being built for a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or for a private developer, which may lead to an under-count of RSL new house building and an over-count for the private sector.

Across the region, 3,171 new dwellings were completed during 2018-19. This is 22 per cent fewer than 10 years previously and 22 per cent fewer than 20 years previously. The highest number of new dwellings completed in 2018-19 was in Cardiff (730, or 23 per cent) whilst the lowest was in Merthyr Tydfil (36, or 1 per cent).

Data from the UK House Price Index, shows that in South East Wales in September 2019, average house prices ranged from £94,700 in Blaenau Gwent to £274,300 in Monmouthshire. These were also the local authorities experiencing lowest and highest absolute changes in house prices over a ten-year period. Between September 2009 and September 2019, house prices increased by £19,500 (or 26.0 per cent) in Blaenau Gwent, and by £83,800 (or 43.9 per cent) in Monmouthshire. While Monmouthshire had the greatest change in actual property price, Newport recorded a slightly higher percentage increase over this period at 44.9.

Data correct as of the January 2020 publication of the UK House Price Index (UK HPI). The UK HPI is a mix-adjusted index, which mean it is weighted to reflect the actual mix of properties sold in the previous year. The UK HPI is published monthly. All figures in the UK HPI are liable to revisions for up to 12 months.

Local authorities estimated that 217 persons were sleeping rough across South East Wales in the 2 weeks between 14th and 27th October 2019. This is an increase of 25 per cent (44 persons) compared with the exercise carried out in October 2018. 42 per cent of persons sleeping rough across the region were located in Cardiff, while Blaenau Gwent gave an estimate of zero rough sleepers.
As well as its listed buildings, there is 1 UNESCO world heritage site located in South East Wales: Blaenavon industrial landscape.

South East Wales received 37 million Tourism Day Visits (TDVs) in 2018, resulting in a total expenditure of £1.9 billion. This was the highest number of visits and level of expenditure in Wales, but did not match that of any of the regions of England.

The Wales Accommodation Occupancy Survey shows that the highest rate in Welsh hotel room occupancy was found in South East Wales in 2018 (73 per cent) though the largest difference in room and bed occupancy was also found in this region, where single room occupancy could reflect higher business use in this area. i.e. Cardiff hotels being used for business.

When considering the numbers of visits to tourist attractions in Wales in 2018, 1 of the top 10 paid attractions was in South East Wales: Cardiff Castle. Over the same period, 3 of the top 10 free attractions were in South East Wales: Wales Millennium Centre, St Fagans National Museum of History and National Museum Cardiff.

Room occupancy is the number of bedrooms occupied over a given period as a proportion of total available bedrooms.
Key quality information

Relevance

This publication is a compendium of key statistics on nine different topics. As such, it brings together data that is already in the public domain at different geographical levels (e.g. Wales, local authority level). Where possible and appropriate, data has been made available at regional level to offer further context on regional differences that may exist in Wales. More information on specific data sources can be found within the links to individual releases.

This publication was initially prepared to support policy teams in Welsh Government in preparing and drafting the new National Development Framework. However, we anticipate that the scope of the usefulness of this publication is further-reaching. It is anticipated that this publication will be used by Welsh Government, local authorities, other public bodies with a regional interest, and the general public, to (i) gain an overview of data collected for Wales and its local authorities and regions on each of the subject areas and (ii) understand differences that may exist between the Welsh regions. Users with a specific interest in one or more of the topics in this report can find a wider range of statistics and data on StatsWales.

Accuracy

The statistics included within this release are taken from official statistics sources, though not all of these have been classified as National Statistics. More information about official statistics and National Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website. Information about the quality of each of the data sources used can be found within the individual releases, referenced in the footnotes, or within the quality reports that accompany these releases.

Due to the high number of sources included in this publication and the time taken to compile it, more recent data has been published for some sources. The majority of the data was known to be the most recently available as at 30/01/2020. Current data is accessible through the links to sources included in the commentary. Housing need estimates have not been included as the publication of this data which was also scheduled for 20 May has been postponed. On 18 May 2020, ONS stated that they have identified some processing errors affecting the 2018-based national population projections. This mainly affects the flows between England and Wales. The impact of this is major and the data will be revised. Therefore, population and household projections have not been included in these reports.

Although we don't plan to regularly update these reports, they've been updated now to support the continuing development of the National Development Framework following consultation on the draft NDF in autumn 2019. The Mid and South West Wales region has been split into separate regions for Mid Wales and South West Wales to provide more detailed analysis on the key issues and trends in these areas. In future, data will be made available on StatsWales and in dashboards, and will be updated as new data is published, ensuring that users are always provided with the latest data.
Timeliness and punctuality
Due to the high number of sources included in this publication and the time taken to compile it, more recent data has been published for some sources. The majority of the data was known to be the most recently available as at 30/01/2020. Housing need estimates have not been included as the publication of this data which was also scheduled for 20 May has been postponed. On 18 May 2020, ONS stated that they have identified some processing errors affecting the 2018-based national population projections. This mainly affects the flows between England and Wales. The impact of this is major and the data will be revised. Therefore, population and household projections have not been included in these reports.

Accessibility and clarity
Users may access all data included in this release using the links included in the footnotes. The majority of the data underlying the report, including much more detailed breakdowns, are available on StatsWales and through the StatsWales open data services. Quality information and metadata for each of these sources is also available through these links.

This publication is currently available in printable PDF format, but in future, data will be made available as interactive online reports to maximise impact and efficiency using the Welsh Government open data services.

Comparability and coherence
Where different datasets have been used to discuss the same topic (for example in the section on statistics relating to the Welsh language), an explanation is offered as to the strengths and limitations of each of the sources, and the coherence between them, with further information provided in the sources and links.

Where possible, National Statistics have been used to ensure the data is of high quality and is consistent with statistics on the topics that may be used or other purposes. Further information on the comparability and coherence of each of the sources is available in the sources linked in the footnotes.

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 and this release includes 7 of the national indicators, namely the percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle indicators; levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air; the percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework; Gross Disposable Household Income per head; the capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed; the percentage of people in employment; and the percentage of people who can speak Welsh.
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.

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.


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: https://gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

Other related links
National Development Framework

Next update
This publication is a one-off release and will not be updated. However, future data will be made available in dashboard format and will be updated as new data becomes available.

We want your feedback
We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to Stats.Info.desk@gov.wales.

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