



Household estimates for Wales, mid-2019

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SFR 151/2020

Household estimates provide the number of households in Wales based on the latest mid-year population estimates. They are similar to household projections but the key difference between the two is that household projections are based on future population projections whereas household estimates are based on past population estimates.



Between mid-2018 and mid-2019 the estimated number of households in Wales increased by around 9,950 (0.7%) to 1.37 million.

The number of one-person households in mid-2019 increased by over 5,900 (1.4%) compared to mid-2018.



The estimated average household size for Wales has been steadily decreasing. In mid-2019 the estimated average household size for Wales was 2.26 persons per household, compared to 2.52 persons in mid-1991.

Main points

- Since mid-1991, the estimated number of households has increased by 23.0%, from 1.11 million to 1.37 million in mid-2019.
- The estimated number of households increased for all 22 local authorities in Wales between mid-2018 and mid-2019.
- At a Wales level, the estimated number of people living in private households (private household population) increased by around 13,800 (0.4%).
- At a Wales level, household estimates for mid-2019 are higher than projected in the [2018-based local authority household projections](#) by over 3,500 (0.3%).

About this release

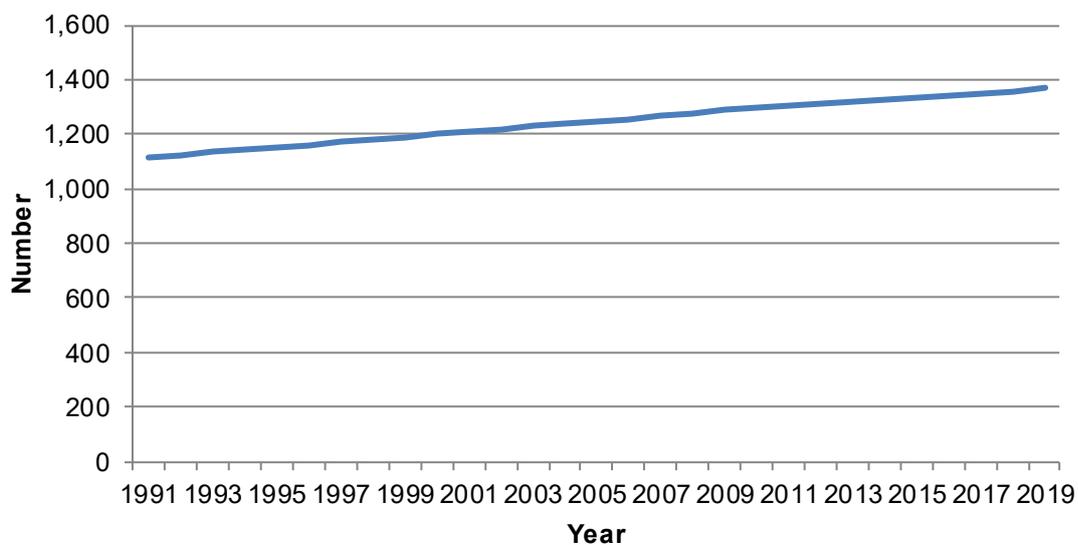
This release presents summary information on household estimates for Wales for mid-2019. They use trends of household formation rates established in the censuses and apply them to current population estimates. The latest estimates are based on population estimates for mid-2019, which were published on 6 May 2020. This is the latest in the current series of household estimates for Wales, which is based on the results of the 2011 Census.

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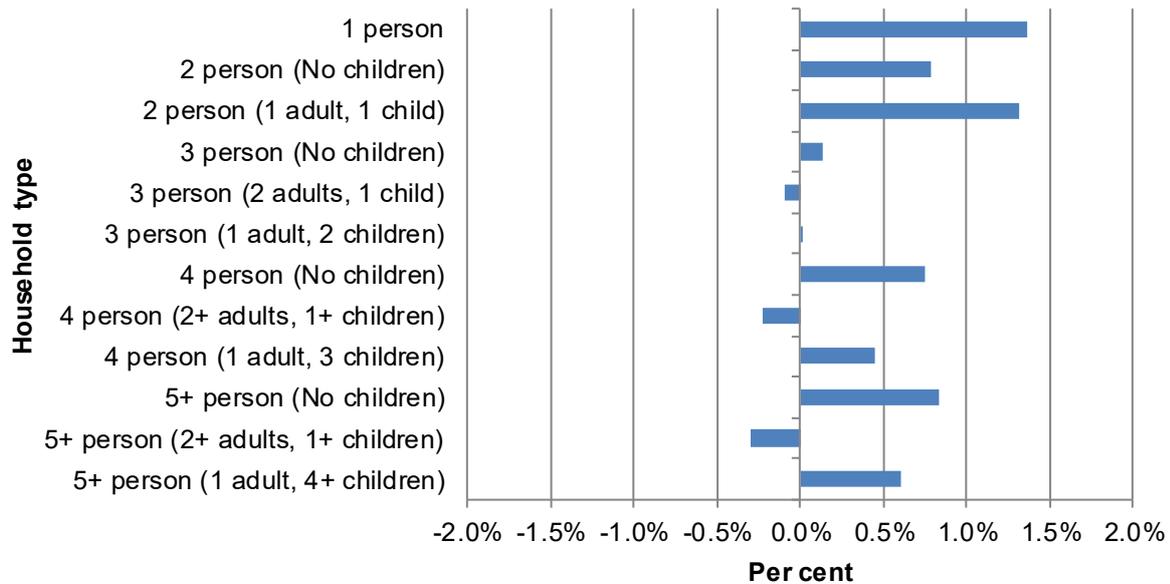
Estimated number of households for Wales

Chart 1: Mid-year household estimates for Wales, 1991 onwards (thousands)



- Between mid-2018 and mid-2019 the estimated number of households in Wales increased by around 9,950 (0.7%) to 1.37 million.
- Since 1991, the number of households has increased by 23.0%, and since 2001, it has increased by 12.9%.

Chart 2: Percentage change in household types in Wales between mid-2018 and mid-2019

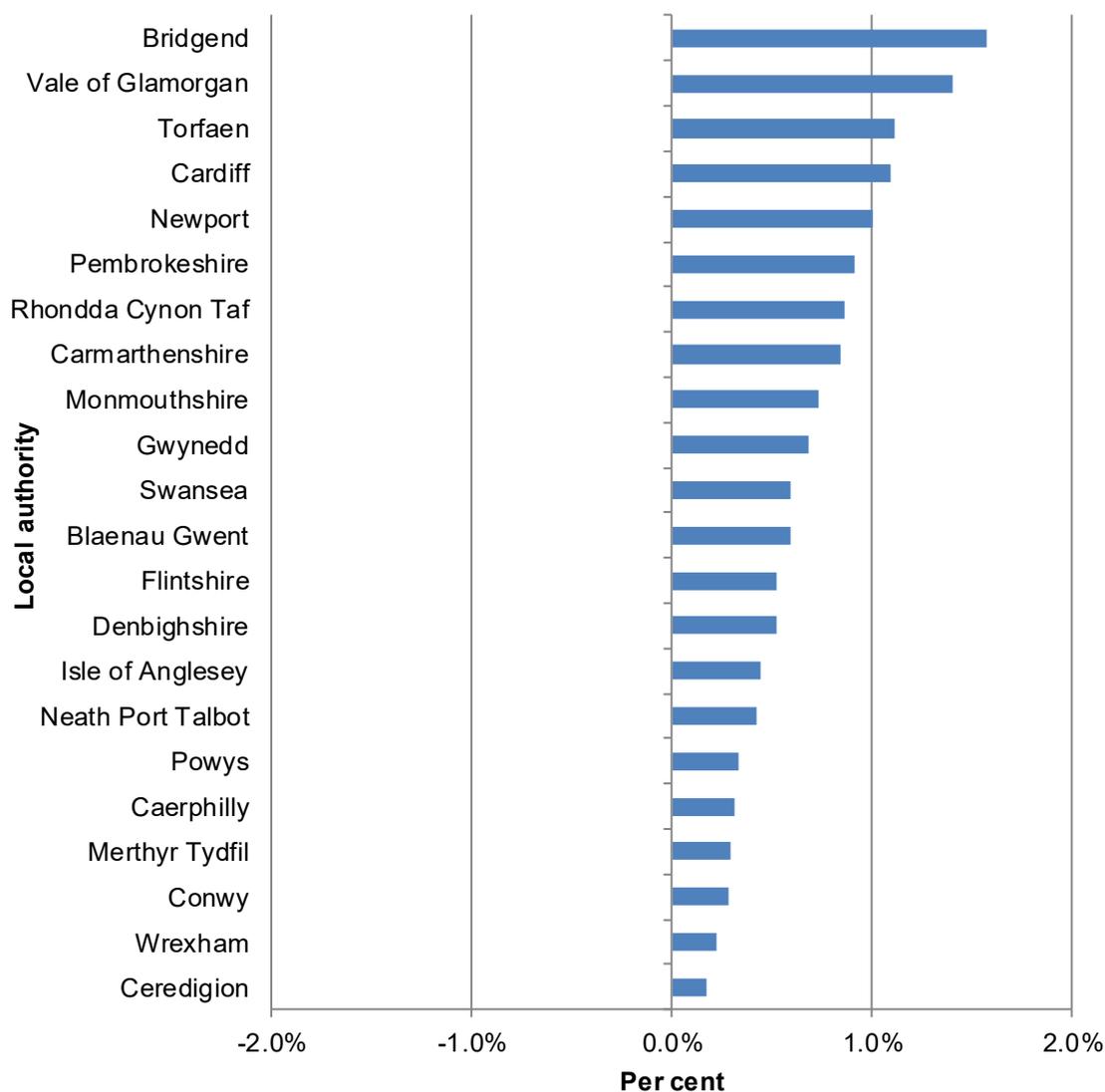


- Between mid-2018 and mid-2019, the estimated number of households increased for the majority of household types.
- The number of one-person households was estimated to see the largest percentage increase (up 1.4%), while the number of two-person households with one child was estimated to increase by 1.3%.
- Households with no children were estimated to increase by around 9,700 (1.0%) between mid-2018 and mid-2019, and households containing adults with children were estimated to increase by around 200 (0.1%).
- The largest increase in the **number** of households was estimated to be one-person households, increasing by around 5,900 (1.4%) since mid-2018. This increase is mainly due to males from older age groups.
- Based on the household estimates, one-person households remain the most common household type (440,500 households), followed by two-person households with no children (427,500 households). Over 65s make up almost 45% of one-person households and those aged 85 and over make up over 9% of one-person households.

Estimated households by local authority

- The estimated number of households increased in all 22 local authorities in Wales between mid-2018 and mid-2019.
- The largest increases in the estimated number of households were in Cardiff (around 1,700), Bridgend (around 1,000) and Rhondda Cynon Taf (around 900).
- However, the largest percentage increases were in Bridgend (up 1.6%), the Vale of Glamorgan (up 1.4%), and Torfaen and Cardiff (both up 1.1%).

Chart 3: Percentage change in households between mid-2018 and mid-2019, by local authority

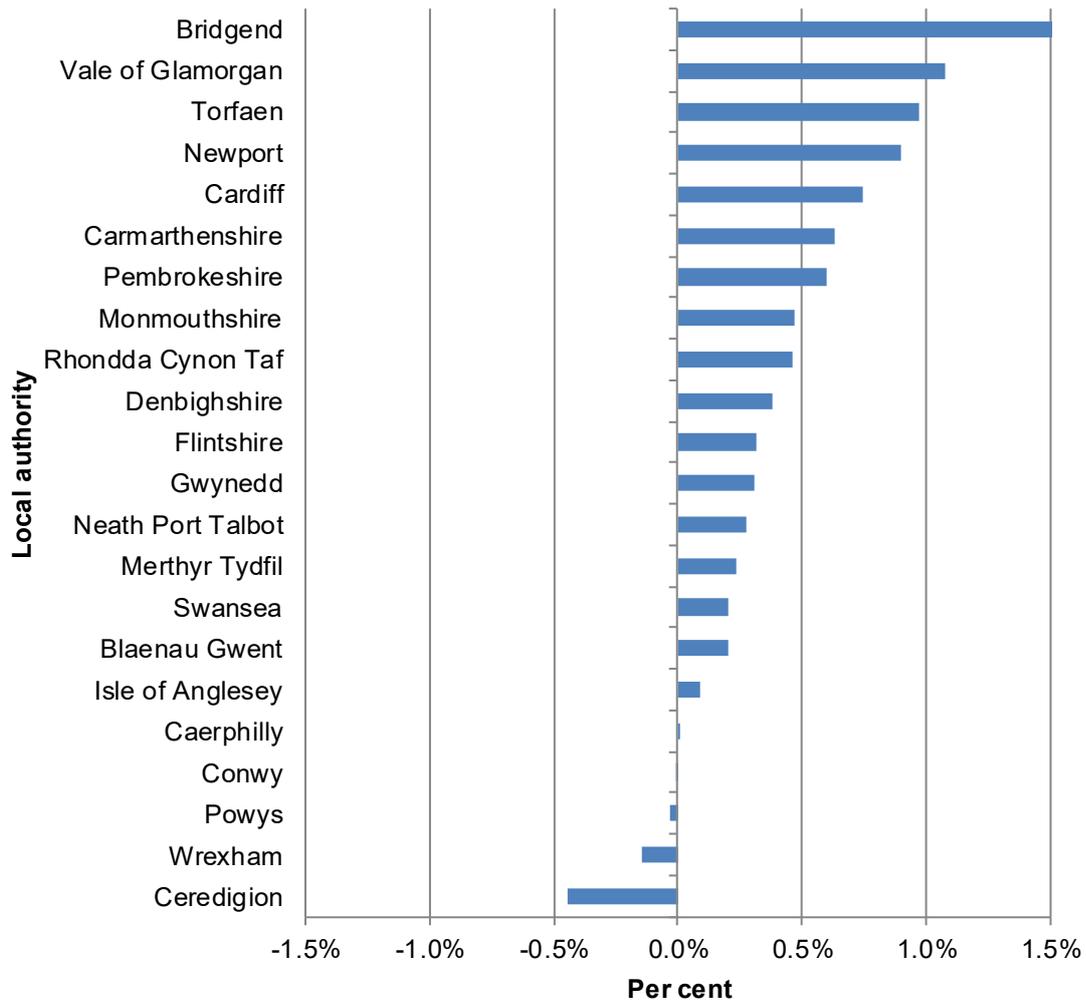


Estimated private household population

The private household population is the estimated number of people living in private households. This is calculated by subtracting the population living in communal establishments from the estimated population. Communal establishments include residential care homes, university halls of residence, boarding schools and prisons. As communal establishment population estimates are not available on an annual basis, assumed numbers are calculated based on census data.

- The estimated private household population increased by around 13,800 (0.4%) between mid-2018 and mid-2019 in Wales, compared with around 13,200 between mid-2017 and mid-2018.
- There were increases in the private household population for 18 of the 22 local authorities, with the largest percentage increase in Bridgend (up 1.5%) and the Vale of Glamorgan (up 1.1%). The decreases in the household population were in Ceredigion (down 0.4%) and Wrexham (down 0.1%).
- This largely reflects the trends seen in the latest mid-year estimates of the population. Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan are the local authorities that have seen the greatest increases in their population estimates between mid-2018 and mid-2019. Similarly, Ceredigion and Wrexham have decreases in their population estimates between mid-2018 and mid-2019.

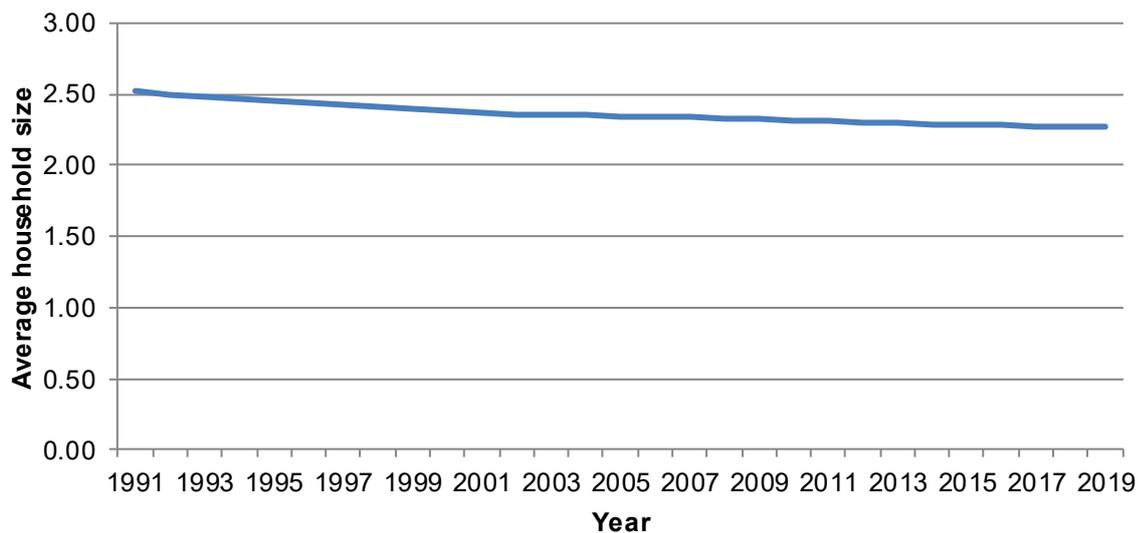
Chart 4: Percentage change in private household populations between mid-2018 and mid-2019, by local authority



Average household size estimates

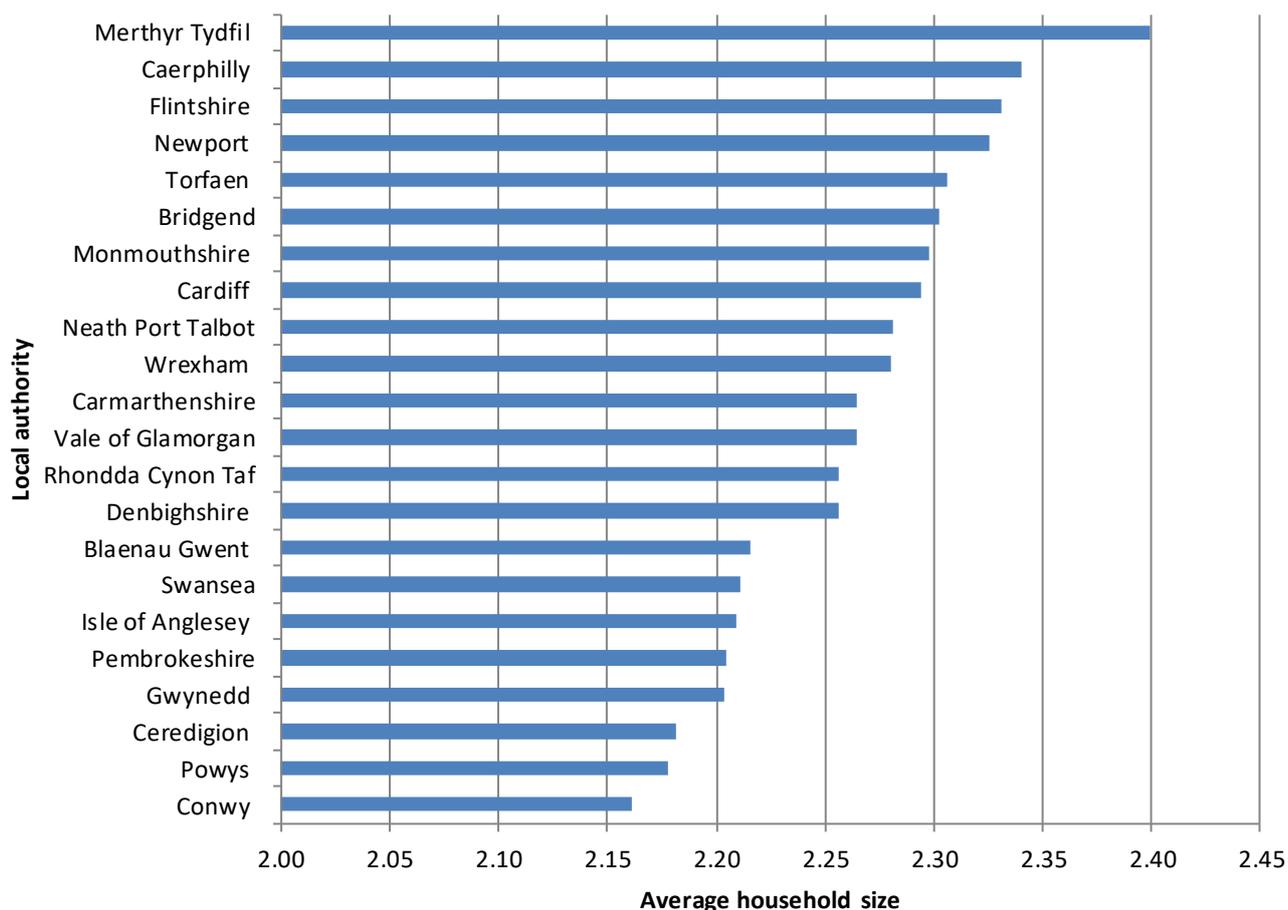
Average household size is the number of persons per household. It provides a measure of household composition and is useful for comparing over different local authorities and time-periods. It is calculated by dividing estimates of private household population by the number of households. Average household size does not change much year on year but has changed substantially since 1991.

Chart 5: Average household size since 1991



- The estimated average household size in Wales has been decreasing since 1991 and this pattern continues in mid-2019 with 2.26 persons per household.
- Between mid-2018 and mid-2019 the estimated average household size for Wales decreased from 2.27 persons per households to 2.26 persons per households. There has also been a steady decrease compared to the estimated average household size of 2.52 persons per household in mid-1991 and 2.31 in mid-2011.
- All local authorities have seen a decrease in estimated average household size since 2011.

Chart 6: Mid-2019 average household size, by local authority



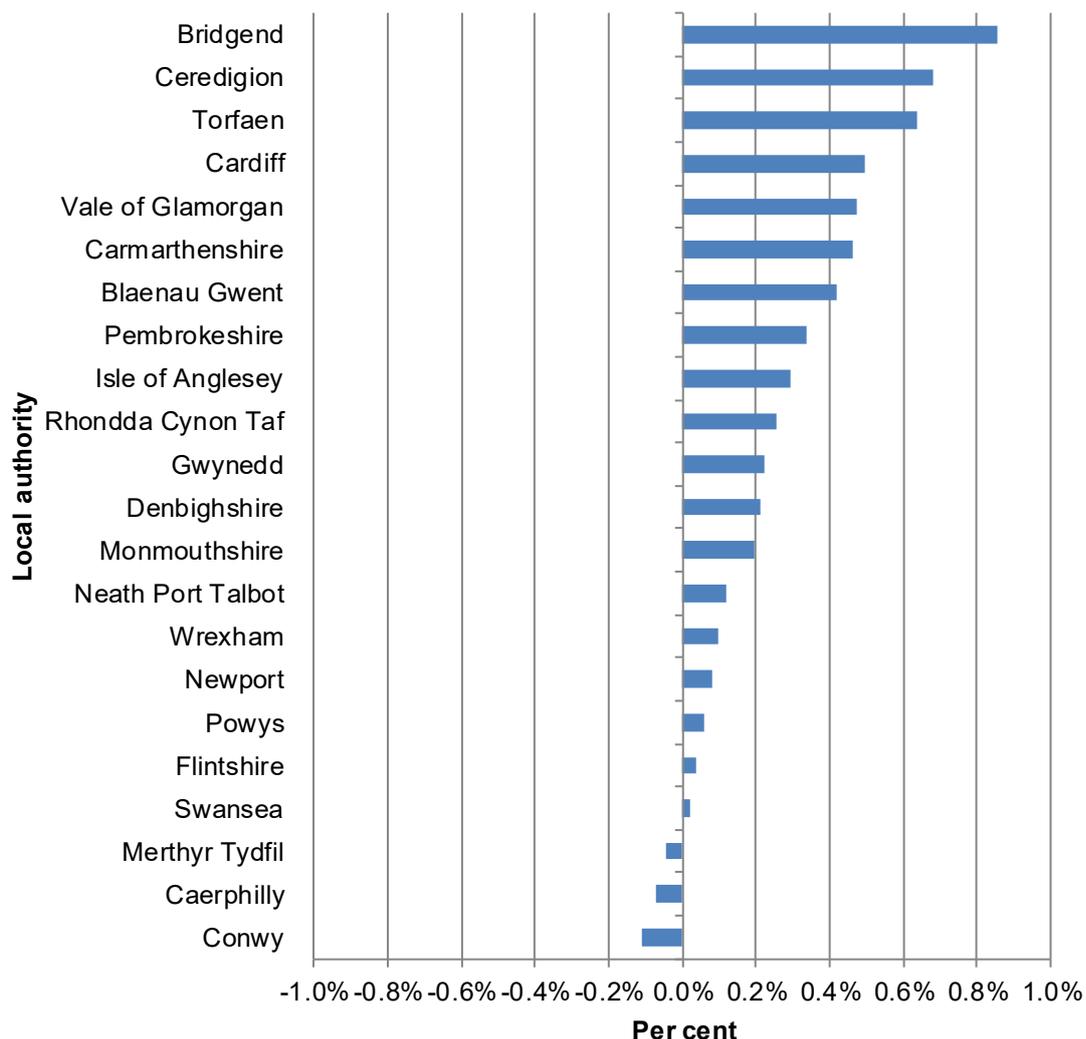
- Estimated average household size continues to be lowest for Conwy (2.16 persons per household), and Powys and Ceredigion (both 2.18 persons per household). In mid-2019, 68.9% of all households in Powys were one-person or two-person households with no children. In Conwy, the corresponding figure was 68.7%. This can be linked in part to Conwy and Powys having the highest proportion of people aged 65 or over in Wales (27.9% and 27.5% respectively) in the [2019 mid-year population estimates](#).
- Estimated average household size is the highest for Merthyr Tydfil (2.40 persons per household) which has had the largest average household size since 2006.

Comparison with the 2018-based household projections

The 2018-based household projections for Wales were published on 4 August 2020 for the years from mid-2018 to mid-2043.

- At a Wales-level, household estimates for mid-2019 are higher than projected by around 3,500 (0.3%). Differences in the household estimates compared with the household projections can be explained by the update to the mid-year estimates of the population, not by household formation rates.
- For mid-2019, household estimates were slightly higher than projected for 19 of the 22 local authorities, but in the majority of cases, the differences were no more than a 100 households.
- The largest positive differences were for Cardiff, where the estimated number of households was around 800 higher (0.5%) than projected, and for Bridgend where the estimated number of households was around 500 higher (0.9%) than projected. The largest negative difference was for Conwy with 59 (0.1%) fewer households than projected.
- The largest percentage difference between household estimates and projections for mid-2019 was in Bridgend, where the household estimates were 0.9% higher than projected.

Chart 7: Percentage difference between the household numbers of the mid-2019 estimates and the 2018-based projections, by local authority



Key Quality Information

In addition to the information below, further details can be found in the [Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#), which is available on our website.

Users and uses

There is a high demand for population and household statistics for a variety of uses. Some of these include:

- planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, e.g. schools, housing, health and social services provision
- Local Government Finance revenue settlement
- policy development
- advising ministers
- informing debate in the Senedd and beyond
- calculation of further statistics
- denominators in rates (e.g. homelessness rates)
- weighting surveys
- geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking
- analysis of population cohorts and migration trends.

There are a wide variety of users of population data from national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, students, academics and universities, individual citizens and private companies. In particular, there is a high level of interest in household projections at local authority level. There are similar demands for local authority household estimates for planning purposes.

Relevance

Household estimates are based on the mid-year population estimates for Wales produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Assumptions about household formation are applied to these population estimates by age and gender. These assumptions are developed from past trends based on 2001 and 2011 Census figures produced by the ONS.

Household

A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room, or sitting room or at least one meal a day.

Communal establishment

A communal establishment is defined as an establishment providing managed residential accommodation. These establishments are not included in the household estimates (see methodology below). In this context, managed means full-time or part-time supervision of the

accommodation. In most cases (for example, prisons, large hospitals, hotels) communal establishments can be easily identified. However, difficulties can arise with small hotels, guesthouses and sheltered accommodation.

Special rules apply in these cases:

- Small hotels and guesthouses are treated as communal establishments if they have the capacity to have 10 or more guests, excluding the owner/manager and their family.
- Sheltered housing is treated as a communal establishment if fewer than half the residents possess their own facilities for cooking. If half or more possess their own facilities for cooking (regardless of use) the whole establishment is treated as separate households.

Methodology

Household estimates are based on historical trends and provide estimates of past numbers of households. They are based on population estimates and historical information about household composition and characteristics. These household estimates are produced by applying assumptions about household formation to the estimated population figures, by age and sex. The results produced are thus due to the household formation assumptions as well as trends in the underlying population estimates. The relative impacts of the migration, mortality, fertility and household formation assumptions on the growth in household numbers will vary between local authorities.

Specifically, these household estimates were calculated by:

- subtracting the assumed population living in communal establishments from the estimated population by age group and gender
- using historical data to calculate projected household membership rates for mid-2001 to mid-2019
- multiplying the estimated number of people living in private households by the projected household membership rates
- dividing the results out by household size, then aggregating by age group, gender and household type to give the projected total number of households.

This process was carried out using the available population estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2019 for each local authority in Wales.

The methodology for these household estimates was developed in close collaboration with local authorities and key users in Wales - through the Wales Subnational Projections (WaSP) group. This group is a forum for technical discussion on the methodology and to agree the assumptions and base data used. Members of WaSP include local authority representatives with knowledge of and/or experience of demographic data and population projections.

The assumed population living in communal establishments was based on census data for 2011 for years 2011 onwards, and an average of data from the censuses for 2001 and 2011 for years 2002 to 2010, calculated using linear interpolation. For 2001, the assumed population living in communal establishments was calculated using census data for 2001.

As part of the development work for these household estimates, the WaSP group agreed to the use of 2001 and 2011 Census data as the historical basis for projected household membership rates. This followed extensive testing of the projections model with census data for 1991, 2001 and 2011 in order to base household membership rates on trends from all three censuses. From this, it became evident that further work would be needed to incorporate longer term trends into the model for household estimates and projections in this way.

Accuracy

Details on the quality of the data used to produce these estimates, along with information on the use of administrative data, can be found in the [Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#).

Information on the quality and methods used in the 2011 Census can be found in the [Census Quality and Methodology Information Paper](#).

Accessibility and clarity

A consultation on Welsh Government statistical outputs for population and household estimates and projections ran from February to May 2016. A summary of responses was published September 2016.

We will continue to publish household estimates on an annual basis, following the publication of the mid-year estimates of the population.

This set of household estimates was produced using mid-year population estimates for 2019 which were published originally on 6 May 2020. These mid-year population estimates are normally produced on an annual basis, in June each year for the previous mid-year point (i.e. June 2020 for mid-2019).

The annual statistics will be published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the outputs are also listed on the National Statistics Publication Hub. We also publicise the outputs on [Twitter](#). All outputs are available to download free.

More detailed data is available at the same time on the [StatsWales](#) website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use plain English in our outputs and they adhere to the [Welsh Government's accessibility policy](#). Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English. Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on this release or via stats.popcensus@gov.wales.

Timeliness and punctuality

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the date of publication through the [Upcoming Calendar](#). Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow our [Revisions, Errors and Postponements arrangements](#).

Comparability and coherence

These household estimates use a different approach to that used to produce household estimates for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Guidance on the differences between household estimates for the four countries of the UK is contained in the '[Household and Dwelling Estimates Across the UK](#)' report.

Wales

Household projections for Wales can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Population estimates for England and Wales are published by the Office for National Statistics and can be found on the [ONS website](#).

Population estimates and projections for Wales at a local authority and national park level can be found on [StatsWales](#).

Other housing statistics for Wales, including dwelling stock estimates can be found on the [Statistics and Research website](#).

Household estimates for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are published by the Office for National Statistics, the National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency respectively. More information can be found at:

England

[ONS website: Household projections](#)

Scotland

[National Records of Scotland: Household estimates](#)

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency: Population and household estimates](#)

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 Official 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.

These statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in 2011.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- included additional analyses presented using a variety of tables and charts, including publishing data on [StatsWales](#)
- enhanced trustworthiness by reducing pre-release access.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

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. The estimates within this release are used to calculate the rate for indicator 34: Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households.

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: <https://gov.wales/household-estimates>

Next update

September 2021

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics, which can be provided by email to stats.popcensus@gov.wales.

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