

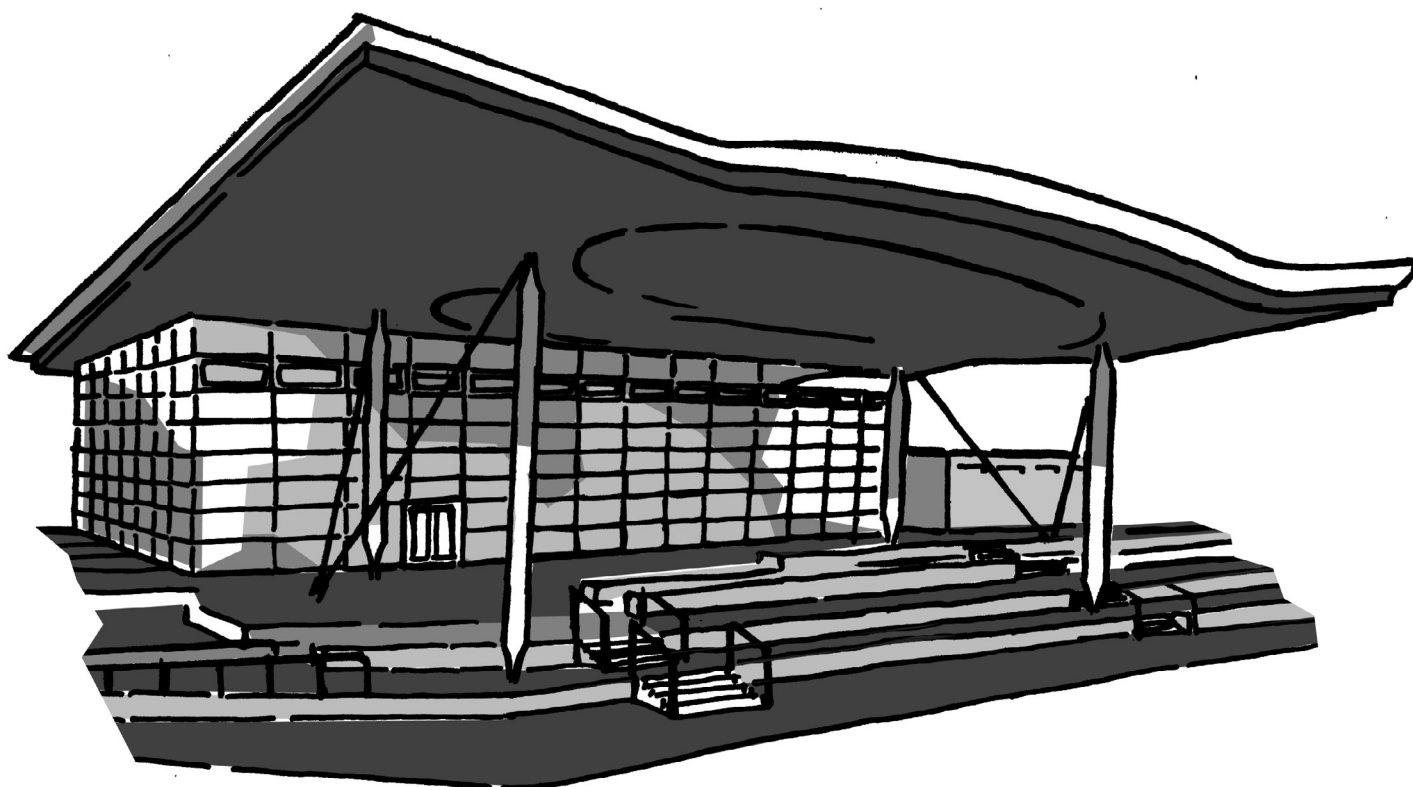
Easy Read



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Well-being of Wales: 2023

A report about the progress Wales is making towards improving well-being of current and future generations.



This document was written by the Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of 'Well-being of Wales: 2023. This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals'.

September 2023

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on page 30.

The pictures in this summary are from Photosymbols:
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Welsh Government

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Introduction

This is the 7th time we have made one of these reports about the **Well-being** of Wales. When we say **well-being**, we mean:



- **Economic well-being** which is about things like having a job, running a business and having an income.



- **Social well-being** which is about things like our community and values.



- **Environmental well-being** which is about our nature, land, water and air.



- **Cultural well-being** includes things that bring us together such as history, poetry, and events like Eisteddfod.

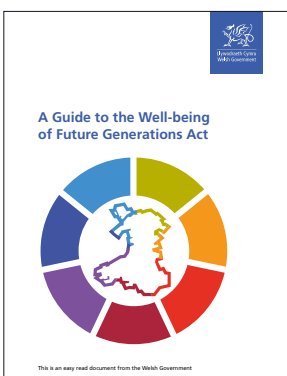


- And also your **well-being**.

Well-being means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do.



We write this report to find out whether Wales is achieving the 7 **well-being goals for Wales**.



These goals are set out in the **Well-being of Future Generations Act**.



This is a law which wants to make Wales a better place for you to live and for people in the future.



The law has **7 goals** which will help Wales become a more **sustainable** nation.

Being **sustainable** means using things we need to live our lives but making sure there are still enough left for future generations.



These are called **well-being goals** because they describe good things we want to make happen.



The **7 well-being goals** for Wales are:

1. A prosperous Wales.

2. A resilient Wales.

3. A healthier Wales.

4. A more equal Wales.

5. A Wales of cohesive communities.

6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

7. A globally responsible Wales.



We will talk more about these goals and what they mean in the document.

How we measure well-being



To find out whether Wales is making progress towards the **well-being goals**, we collect information and data.



The **well-being goals** are then broken down into 50 smaller goals. We call these **national indicators**.



We also have longer-term goals called **milestones**. These give more information about how much change is needed for each goal. They help give us a better idea of how we are doing.



The rest of the document talks about what has been achieved for each of the **well-being goals** in the past year.

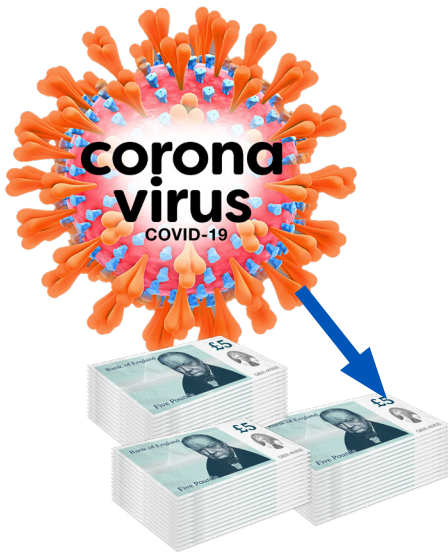
1. A prosperous Wales



This **well-being** goal is all about making sure Wales does well as a country by:

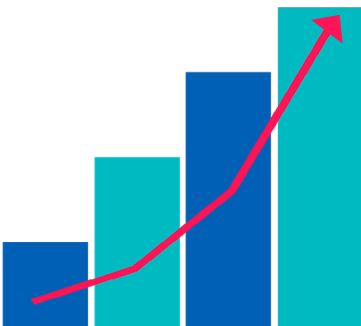
- Having good ideas.
- Making things.
- Thinking about climate change.
- Supporting people to get a good education to help them get a decent job.

What we found out:



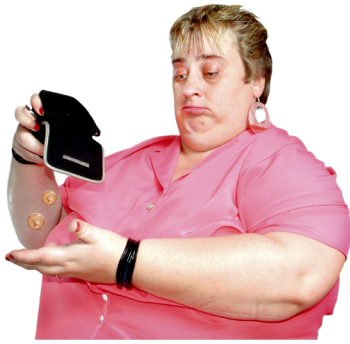
- The war in Ukraine and COVID-19 have had a big impact on the **economy**.

The **economy** means how much money a country has. This is partly to do with the things we make and sell. And how much money we spend.



- Both of these have caused **inflation** to rise.

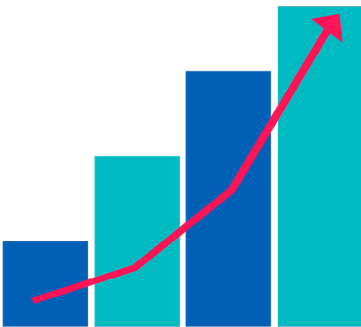
Inflation is when the price of things goes up and people can buy less with their money.



- This has had a bad effect on living standards and has been worse for people who don't earn very much.



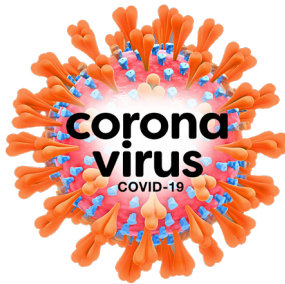
- We left the European Union. This is also called **Brexit**. This has affected how we buy and sell things with countries in Europe.



- The **economy** of the United Kingdom has grown very slowly since 2008. And if we had grown faster we would have produced more goods.



- Wales isn't as well off as some other parts of the United Kingdom.



- And Wales produces fewer items than some other parts of the United Kingdom. This affects the **economy**.
- Differences in employment between Wales and other parts of the UK are less than they used to be.
- The pandemic has probably affected the Welsh economy in similar ways to other parts of the UK.
- The **gender pay gap** is much smaller now than twenty years ago.

The **gender pay gap** is the average difference between what men and women earn.



- More people are getting qualifications.



- Girls are doing better than boys in education.

2. A resilient Wales



This goal is about us looking after the environment and improving it. But also about how we help the environment cope with changes such as climate change. Also to change when we need to in relation to the environment changing.

What we found out:



- Wales is using up its **natural resources** very quickly.

Natural resources are things like forests, land, soil, air, plants and wildlife.



- There is a lot of work to do to protect people from risks in the environment. For example, flooding.



- **Air pollution** has increased slightly since the last report, but remains lower than before the pandemic.

Air pollution is pollution caused by cars, other transport, burning fuel to heat our homes and other things.



- **Air pollution** is a risk to people's health.



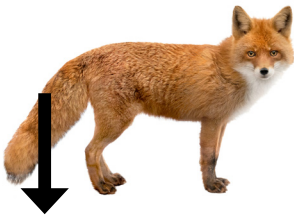
- The amount of waste we have **recycled** has increased considerably over the last twenty years.



- Wales has one of the best **recycling** rates in the world. But we are still using up more **natural resources** than we can replace.



- Nearly 30% of electricity generated in Wales is from **renewable energy**. This means energy that comes from things like wind farms or solar power.



- There is less **biodiversity** than there used to be. This is because there are less places for animals and plants to live and grow.

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you find in one area. For example, plants and animals.



- Water is better quality than it used to be. This is in seas, rivers, streams and in the ground.

3. A healthier Wales



This goal is about our physical and mental health and making sure they are the best they can be.

And about us understanding how the choices we make affect our health in the future.

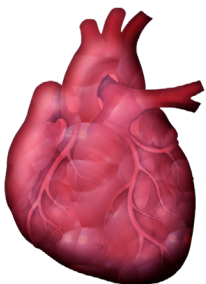
What we found out:



- Women tend to live to be older than men.



- But men spend more of their life in good health than women.



- The highest number of deaths in the year-to-date were from heart diseases.



- The percentage of babies being born at a low weight has remained stable.



- Babies of older mothers are more likely to be breastfed than those of younger mothers.



- Around 13 in every 100 people smoke.



- About 17 in every 100 people drink more alcohol than is healthy.



- Around 3 out of every 10 people eat enough fruit and vegetables.



- Just over half of all adults get enough exercise.



- A lot of people worry about their mental health.



- Younger people have worse mental health than older people.

4. A more equal Wales



This goal is about all people having the chance to reach their potential. No matter who they are or what their background is.

What we found out:



- Those who are married are less likely to be in **material deprivation** than those who are separated or divorced.

Material deprivation means not being able to afford certain things like keeping the house warm enough, making regular savings, or having a holiday once a year.



- Children from some **ethnic minority** groups tended to do better in school.



Ethnic minority groups are people who come from a different background or country to the majority of other people in a society.



- Almost half of all people say they have no religion.



- This is higher than for any single religion.



- Just over 2 out of every 100 people say they are Muslim.



- 3 out of every 100 people say they are **gay, lesbian or bi-sexual**.

Gay, lesbian or bi-sexual means who you fancy or are attracted to. For example, gay men fancy other men. Gay women fancy other women. Bi-sexual people fancy men and women.



- People who are disabled are less likely to be in work and more likely to have less money than people who are not disabled.



- If working, people who are disabled are more likely to earn less money on average than those who are not disabled.

5. A Wales of cohesive communities

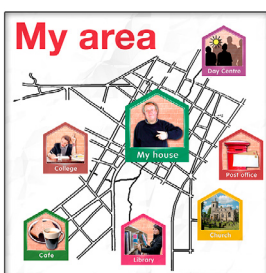


This goal is about having attractive and safe communities that are well-connected.

What we found out:



- Just over 6 out of 10 people say they feel part of their community. And get on well with people in their community.



- 9 out of 10 people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.



- More people feel they can influence decisions in their area.



- Around 3 in 10 adults volunteer.



- This has been shown to improve **well-being**.



- In the last year more crimes have been recorded by the police, however most people don't experience crime.



- The number of households assessed as being threatened with homelessness was similar to last year.

6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

This goal is about encouraging people to get involved in the arts, sports and activities. And using the Welsh language.

What we found out:



- The most popular type of arts people got involved with was film.



- Fewer people are visiting museums than before the pandemic.



- Fewer people are attending arts events than before the pandemic.



- According to the Census, the percentage of Welsh speakers is the lowest it has ever been.



- Fewer children are taking part in regular sport outside of school.



- More adults are taking part in sport regularly this year.

7. A globally responsible Wales



This goal is about how the things we do in Wales have an impact upon the world.

What we found out:



- We are making improvements to reducing greenhouse gases. These are the types of gases that are damaging the environment.



- However, we are also causing a huge burden, as a country, onto our planet.



- About 7 out of 10 adults are worried about climate change.



- The biggest source of greenhouse gasses is from the energy supply sector. This is mainly from gas power stations.

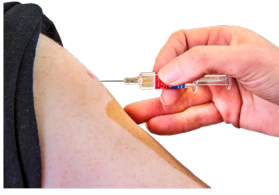


- More people have been referred as victims of **modern slavery**.

Modern slavery is when people are forced to work against their will. Often without pay. They may also be forced to live without freedom.



- But some of this increase may be due to better reporting.



- Vaccination uptake in young children continues to be high but there were decreases seen in uptake in 2022/23.

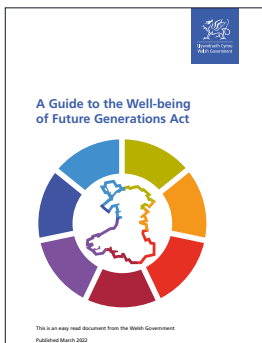


- Some adults in Wales are facing food poverty and are concerned about affording food.

More information about this report



This report about the **well-being** of Wales is produced every year.



It is produced because of a law called The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



The report is made by looking at a number of different reports, surveys and research which tells us more about the **well-being** of Wales.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The report has been made by the Welsh Government.



The full version of this report can be found online at:
www.gov.wales/wellbeing-wales

Hard words

Air pollution

This is pollution caused by cars, other transport, burning fuel to heat our homes and other things.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you find in one area. For example, plants and animals.

Digital inclusion

This means making sure people can easily access the internet and computers.

Economy

This means how much money a country has. This is partly to do with the things we make and sell. And how much money we spend.

Inflation

Inflation is when the price of things goes up and people can buy less with their money.

Gay, lesbian or bi-sexual

These mean who you fancy or are attracted to. For example, gay men fancy other men. Gay women fancy other women. Bi-sexual people fancy men and women.

Gender pay gap

The gender pay gap is the average difference between what men and women earn.

Material deprivation

Material deprivation means not being able to afford certain things like keeping the house warm enough, making regular savings, or having a holiday once a year.

Modern slavery

This is when people are forced to work against their will. Often without pay. They may also be forced to live without freedom.

Natural resources

These are things like forests, land, soil, air, plants and wildlife.

Recycling

Recycling is when we turn our rubbish in to something we can use again.

Wellbeing (person)

Wellbeing means a person is happy, healthy and is comfortable with their life and what they do.

Well-being

Well-being covers the condition of our economy, society, environment, and culture.