



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

Economic Indicators

December 2005

Abstract

The Economic Indicators research paper is published at intervals throughout the year and aims to pull together information on the economy in Wales and the UK.

The paper presents an overview of the current economic situation in Wales and provides a reference source of some of the main economic statistics for Wales and the UK.

December 2005



Economic Indicators

December 2005

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Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

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Economic Indicators: December 2005

1 Introduction

The Economic Indicators research paper is published at intervals throughout the year and aims to pull together information on the economy in Wales and the UK. The paper presents an overview of the current economic situation in Wales and provides a reference source of some of the main economic statistics for Wales and the UK.

An electronic version of the paper is available on the Members' Research Service pages of the Intranet at:

<http://assembly/presidingoffic/mrs/briefings/index.htm>

and on the National Assembly for Wales web-site at:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubmrs/content/papers-e.htm>



2 Economy Overview

The following is a summary of some of the key economic and labour market indicators for Wales. The middle column summarises the current trend in Wales, whilst the right-hand column provides details of where further information can be found.

Indicator	Trend	Further information
GVA per head as % of UK average	1999 = 78.6% 2000 = 78.4% 2001 = 78.7% 2002 = 78.4% 2003 = 79.0% 2004 = 79.1%	Regional Gross Value Added First Release, 21 Dec 2005: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/rgva1205.pdf
GVA forecasts of annual % growth	<i>Experian Business Strategies (Jun 2005)</i> 2004 Wales: = 4.4% UK: = 3.1% 2005 Wales: = 2.0% UK: = 2.7% 2006 Wales = 3.4% UK: = 3.0% 2007 Wales = 2.9% UK: = 2.7% <i>Cambridge Econometrics (Jul. 2005)</i> 2004 Wales = 2.7% UK = 3.3%, 2005 Wales = 2.2% UK = 2.6% 2006 Wales: = 2.1% UK = 2.2% 2005-2010 Wales = 2.2% UK = 2.5%	Experian Press Release, 8 June 2005: http://press.experian.com/press_releases.cfm Cambridge Econometrics: Knowledge Base online (subscription service)
Employment Rate Annual change to latest three month period	Aug - Oct 2005 Wales -0.1 percentage points to 72.0% UK no change at 74.7%	Labour Market Statistics First Releases: Wales and UK December 2005: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/msuk1205.pdf and http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mswales1205.pdf
Unemployment Rate Annual change to latest three month period	Aug - Oct 2005 Wales no change at 4.6% UK +0.3 percentage points to 4.9%	As for Employment Rate
Economic Inactivity Rate Annual change to latest three month period	Aug - Oct 2005 Wales +0.1 percentage points to 24.4% UK -0.2 percentage points to 21.3%	As for Employment Rate



Indicator	Trend	Further information
Earnings Annual change	April 2005 Average Earnings: Wales: +3.6% UK: +3.7% Median Earnings: Wales: +2.1% UK: +2.8%	National Assembly for Wales Statistical Directorate Headline Release, December 2005: http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypub/statisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20051209-e.htm
Household Income per head as % of UK	1999 = 87.4% 2000 = 87.7% 2001 = 87.9% 2002 = 88.3% 2003 = 88.3%	National Statistics Release, 29 April 2005: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdi/r/rhi0405.pdf
Index of Production and Construction Latest 4 quarters compared with previous 4	Quarter 2 2005 Wales: -2.2% UK: -0.6%	National Assembly for Wales Statistical Directorate Statistical Release: SDR99/2005 – 13 October 2005: http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypub/statisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20051013-e.htm
Value of Exports Latest 4 quarters compared with previous 4	Quarter 2 2005 Wales: +14.0% UK: +4.6%	National Assembly for Wales Statistical Directorate Statistical Bulletin: SB66/2005 – 11 October 2005: http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypub/statisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20050915-e.htm
VAT Registered businesses Annual change in stock	2005 Wales: +0.3% UK: +0.1%	National Assembly for Wales Statistical Directorate Statistical Bulletin: SB74/2005 – 24 November 2005: http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypub/statisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw200510124-e.htm
Adults of working age without qualifications % of population of working age	2001 = 21.5% 2002 = 18.5% 2003 = 17.3% 2004 = 17.0%	Welsh Local Labour Force Survey. Data available on StatsWales at: http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=1260
Adults of working age with degree or equivalent % of population of working age	2001 = 22.2% 2002 = 23.3% 2003 = 24.2% 2004 = 25.5%	As for adults without qualifications



3 National and Regional Income Accounts - Gross Value Added (GVA)

Table 3.1: Gross Value Added(a), Wales and the UK, 1989 to 2004

Year	Wales (£ per head)	UK (£ per head)(b)	Per Capita GVA in Wales as a percentage of UK GVA
1989	6,715	7,919	84.8
1990	7,234	8,585	84.3
1991	7,451	8,946	83.3
1992	7,764	9,313	83.4
1993	8,106	9,774	82.9
1994	8,571	10,299	83.2
1995	9,026	10,787	83.7
1996	9,431	11,415	82.6
1997	9,822	12,093	81.2
1998	10,189	12,840	79.4
1999	10,506	13,377	78.5
2000	10,917	13,917	78.4
2001	11,515	14,586	78.9
2002	12,067	15,344	78.6
2003	12,716	16,144	78.8
2004(c)	13,292	16,802	79.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

- (a) Estimates of regional GVA in this table are on a residence basis, where the income of commuters is allocated to where they live rather than their place of work. The headline regional GVA series have been calculated using a five-period moving average.
- (b) Excludes the GVA for Extra-Regio that comprises compensation of employees and gross operating surplus which cannot be assigned to regions.
- (c) Provisional.

The latest Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that¹:

- ◆ GVA per head in Wales in 2004² was £13,292 or 79.1 per cent of the UK average. The revised figures show that GVA per head in Wales relative to the UK fell between 1995 and 2000 but have remained fairly stable since.
- ◆ GVA per head in Wales in 2004 relative to the UK average was the lowest of all the devolved countries and English regions and has been the lowest or equal lowest since 1998 when it fell below the North East and Northern Ireland.
- ◆ In London, the South East and the East of England, GVA per head in 2004 was above the UK average, while all other regions were below the UK average.

¹ ONS First Release, *Regional gross value added*, 21 December 2005:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdffdir/rqva1205.pdf>

The headline figures are also reported on the National Assembly for Wales Statistics internet pages at:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw200512211-e.htm>

Further information on regional GVA can be found on the ONS web-site at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359>

² 2004 figures are provisional



- ◆ Total GVA in Wales was 5.0 per cent higher than in 2003. The greatest growth in 2004 was in the East Midlands (5.3 per cent higher than in 2003), while London had the lowest growth (3.5 per cent). The growth in total GVA for the UK as a whole³ was 4.6 per cent.
- ◆ Per capita GVA in Wales was 4.5 per cent higher than in 2003. The greatest growth in 2004 was in the North East (4.9 per cent higher than in 2003), while London had the lowest growth (2.9 per cent). The growth in per capita GVA for the UK as a whole⁴ was 4.1 per cent.

Relative GVA – The Median Measure

In the case of the mean (average), where income growth in one region differs from the mean for all regions, this will have an effect on the position of other regions relative to the mean. The impact upon the mean depends upon the magnitude of the difference between regions, and their relative position. For example, between 2002 and 2003, per capita growth in London, the South East, and East of England (regions with above average per capita GVA) was below the mean for all regions, while all other regions had above average growth. This resulted in a general convergence towards the mean among all regions and therefore a relative improvement for all regions with below average per capita GVA, and vice versa.

It is possible to take some account of this by looking at the median measure. The median represents the number which sits in the middle of a set of numbers, in this case the mean of the central two index numbers for UK relative GVA. By looking at the median figure, it is possible to compare GVA in Wales relative to other regions while making allowance for a relatively large increase or fall in GVA within a particular region which might skew the mean measure.

- ◆ GVA per head in Wales in 2004 was 86.6 per cent of the UK median. As with the mean measure, this proportion declined during the second half of the 1990s but has remained fairly stable since then.

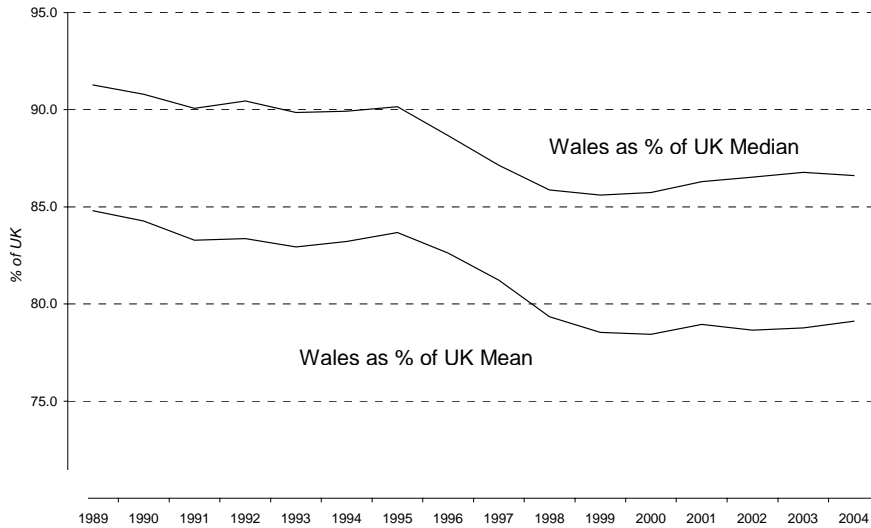
Figure 3.1 shows per capita GVA in Wales as a percentage of per capita GVA for the mean and median UK region over the period 1989 to 2004 and illustrates the decline in relative GVA in the late 1990s, and a levelling off over recent years.

³ Excluding Extra-Regio GVA. All the statistics for GVA are not adjusted for inflation. Further technical points for consideration in interpreting data published in this paper can be found in the Glossary.

⁴ Excluding Extra-Regio GVA. All the statistics for GVA are not adjusted for inflation. Further technical points for consideration in interpreting data published in this paper can be found in the Glossary.



Figure 3.1: Gross Value Added, Wales as a percentage of UK mean and UK median



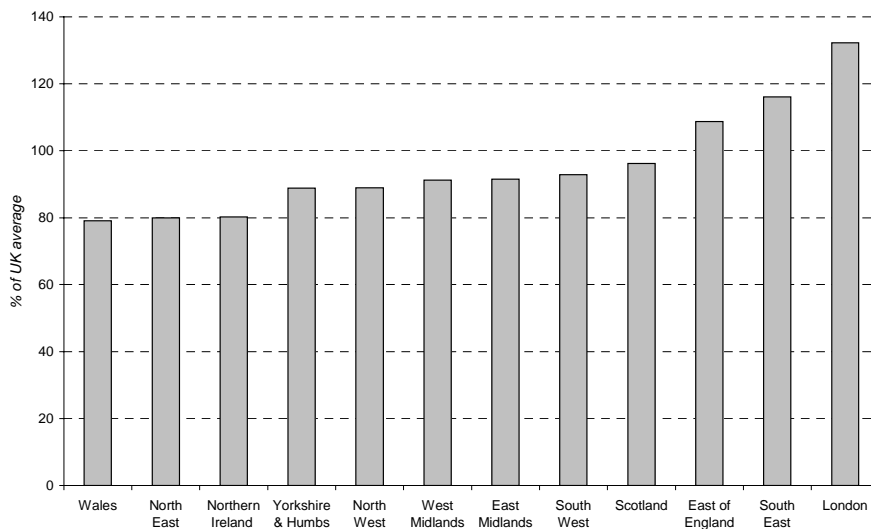
Source: ONS

As a proportion of the UK median, the relative decline in the late 1990s is evident. There is some evidence of a recovery over recent years on this measure, though with little change between 2002 and 2004.

Regional Comparison

Figure 3.2 shows per capita GVA in the UK regions and nations as a percentage of per capita GVA for the UK in 2004.

Figure 3.2: Per capita GVA, by UK nation and region, 2004

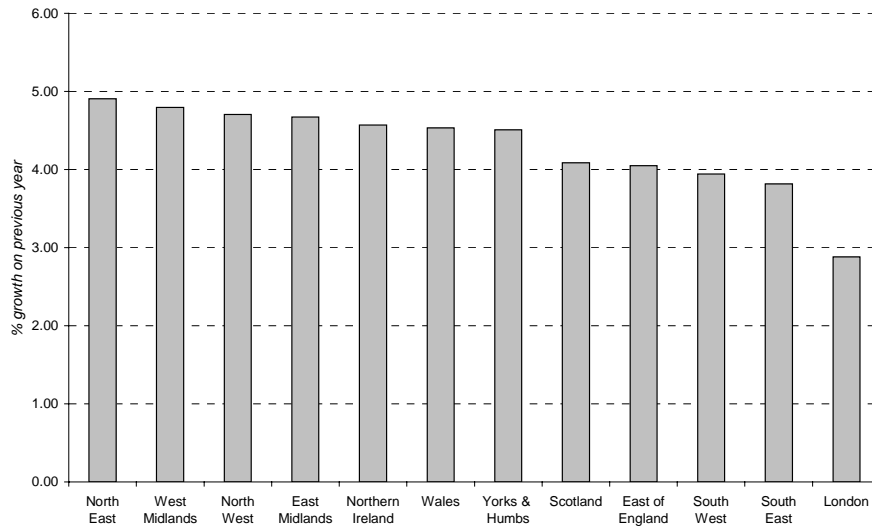


Source: ONS

Figure 3.3 charts per capita growth in the UK nations and regions between 2003 and 2004. Wales had the sixth highest per capita growth rate among regions and nations of the UK in this period of 4.5 per cent. This compares to a UK (less extra regio) per capita growth rate of 4.1 per cent.



Figure 3.3 Growth in per capita GVA, by UK nation and region, 2002-03

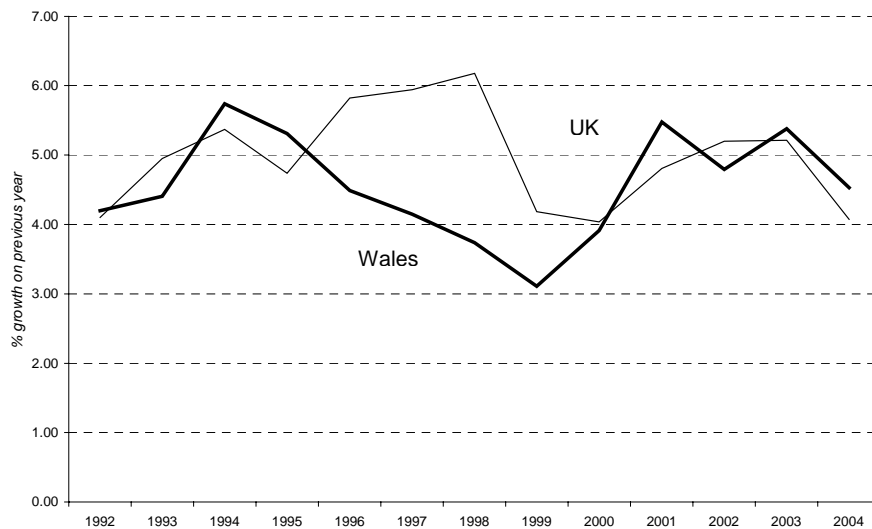


Source: ONS

Per Capita Growth Rates

Figure 3.4 charts per capita growth in Wales against the UK mean for the years 1992 to 2004.

Figure 3.4: Per capita GVA growth, Wales and UK, 1992 to 2004



Source: ONS

Figure 3.4 shows a lower rate of per capita growth in Wales compared to the UK as a whole in the late 1990s, which explains the relative decline in Welsh per capita GVA over that period. The closing of this growth rate over recent years explains why this relative decline has levelled off.

3.1 Sub-Regional GVA

Table 3.2: Per Capita Gross Value Added (GVA), Wales, by NUTS⁵ level 1, 2 and 3 area, 2003(a)(b)(c)

NUTS levels	Gross Value Added (£ per head)	Per Capita GVA as a percentage of UK GVA
Wales	12,716	79
West Wales and the Valleys	10,578	66
Isle of Anglesey	8,747	54
Gwynedd	11,820	73
Conwy and Denbighshire	10,071	62
South West Wales	9,659	60
Swansea	13,507	84
Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot	11,094	69
Central Valleys	10,486	65
Gwent Valleys	9,531	59
East Wales	16,446	102
Flintshire and Wrexham	15,384	95
Powys	12,459	77
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	18,794	116
Monmouthshire and Newport	15,503	96

Source: Office for National Statistics

(a) GVA at current basic prices

(b) Estimates are on a workplace basis

(c) Excluding Extra-regio and statistical discrepancy

The latest sub-regional gross value added (GVA)⁶ estimates show that:

- ◆ In 2003, West Wales and the Valleys (NUTS2) had the second lowest GVA per head (£10,600) after Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (£10,400). These figures compare to the UK average⁷ of £16,100. East Wales (NUTS2) had a GVA per head of £16,400 in 2003.
- ◆ Per capita GVA in West Wales and the Valleys (NUTS2) declined relative to the UK average between 1995 and 1999 from 74 per cent to 66 per cent. Per capita GVA in West Wales and the Valleys has remained fairly stable since this time.

⁵ The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a hierarchical classification of administrative areas, used across the European Union for statistical purposes. Wales is one of 12 NUTS 1 areas in the UK. A breakdown of NUTS 2, 3 and Local Authority (LAU) 1 areas can be found on the ONS web-site at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts_wales.asp

⁶ ONS First Release, *Local gross value added*, 21 December 2005:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lgva1205.pdf>

It should be noted that the GVA estimates compiled at NUTS 2 and at NUTS 3 level are on a workplace basis. The estimates of NUTS 3 GVA per head are calculated by dividing the estimate of workplace GVA for an area by the resident population for that area. Estimates of GVA per head will be high in areas with high levels of inward commuting and a low resident population, and will be low in areas with significant levels of outward commuting and high resident populations. Hence changes in commuting patterns between areas over time may result in changes in per capita GVA in neighbouring NUTS3 areas. Furthermore, as GVA estimates are partly based on sample surveys, the results for smaller (NUTS3) regions are subject to a greater degree of uncertainty than those for larger regions.

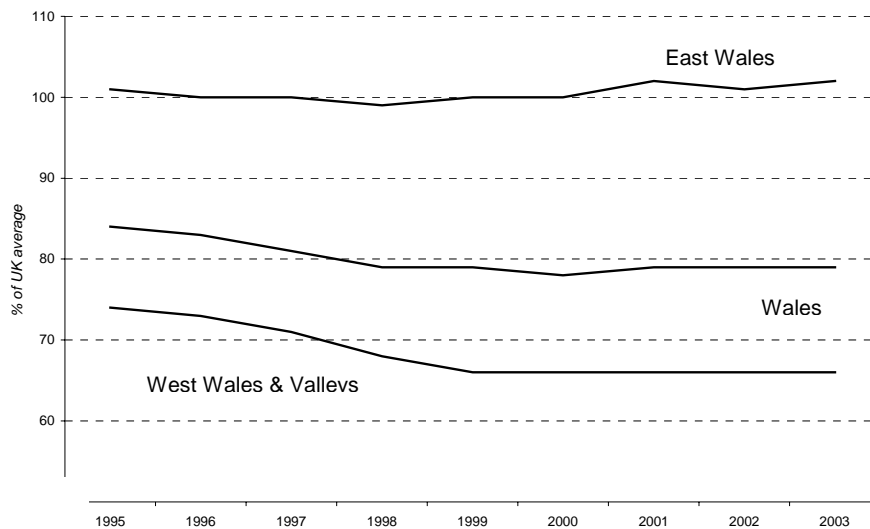
⁷ Excluding Extra-Regio GVA



- ◆ Per capita GVA in East Wales (NUTS2) has increased slightly from 99 per cent in 1998 to 102 per cent of the UK average in 2003.
- ◆ Of the 12 NUTS3 regions in Wales, Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan had the highest level of GVA per head in 2003 at 116 per cent of the UK average, whilst the lowest level was the Isle of Anglesey with 54 per cent.
- ◆ Three of the five NUTS3 regions in the UK with the lowest GVA per head relative to the UK in 2003, were in Wales. These are Isle of Anglesey (54 per cent), Gwent Valleys (59 per cent) and South West Wales (60 per cent). Anglesey was the lowest in the UK.

Figure 3.5 graphs GVA per head for the period 1995 to 2003 for the Wales NUTS 1 and 2 regions relative to the UK average.

Figure 3.5: Per capita GVA, NUTS 1 and 2 areas of Wales



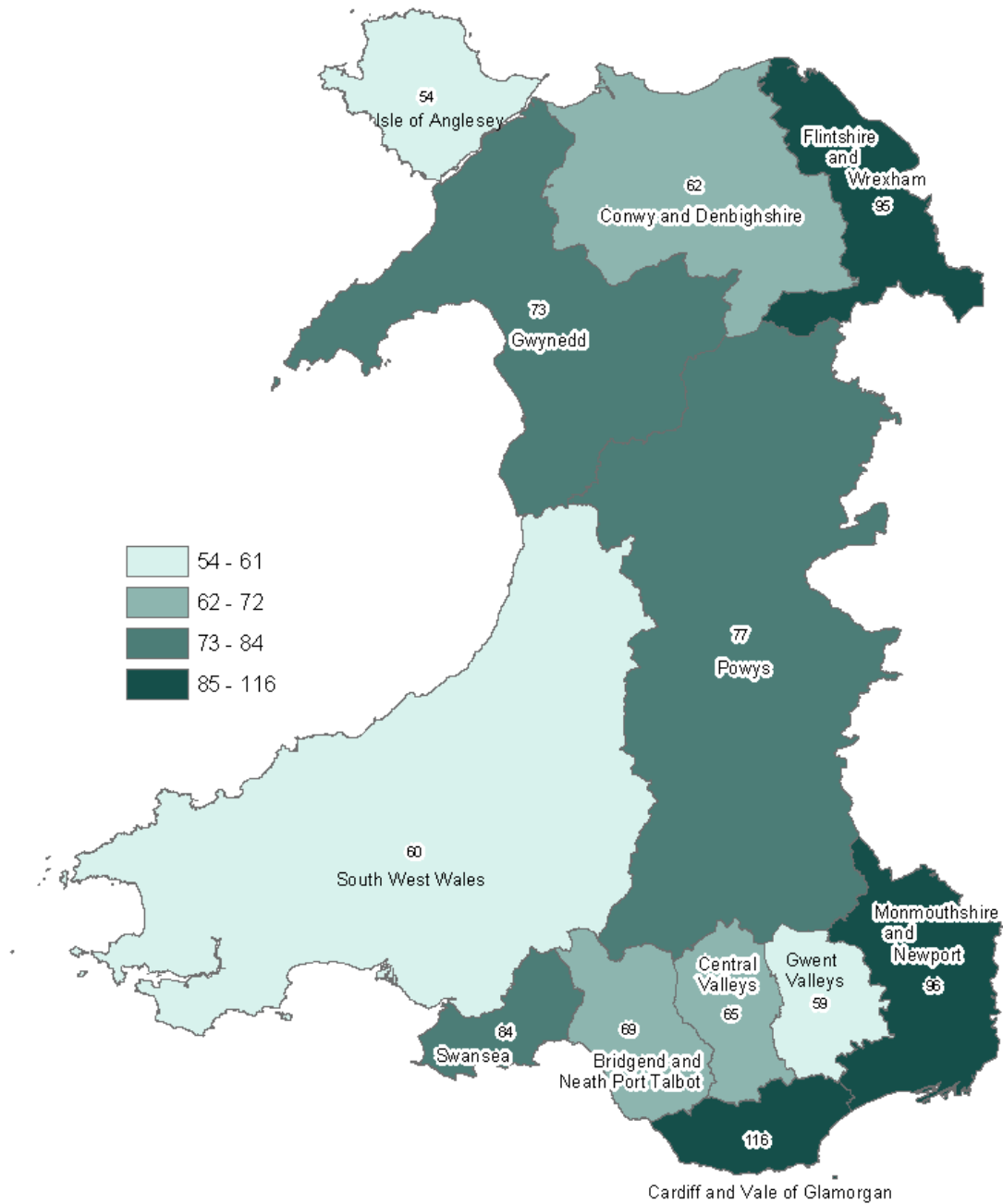
Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes: The headline GVA series for this publication have been calculated using a five-period moving average. Estimates of workplace based GVA allocate income to the region in which commuters work. The GVA for Extra-Region comprises compensation of employees and gross operating surplus which cannot be assigned to regions.

Map 3.1 shows GVA in Wales by NUTS 3 area in 2003.



Map 3.1: GVA as a percentage of UK average, by NUTS 3 area, Wales, 2003



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Source: Office for National Statistics

3.2 Regional GDP per capita in the EU

Table 3.3: GDP per head as a percentage of EU25 average
at purchasing power parity rates of exchange

Area	% of EU25 average							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
West Wales & Valleys	79.7	80.5	79.4	75.5	73.5	73.4	72.9	75.5
East Wales	110.7	108.3	111.8	111.7	112.2	112.3	116.1	116.0
Wales	90.7	90.5	91.1	88.6	87.5	87.5	88.6	90.2
United Kingdom	110.5	111.6	114.1	113.7	113.2	114.0	114.9	117.8
Merseyside	79.1	77.5	79.3	82.3	79.1	82.5	81.2	87.0
South Yorkshire	82.4	83.4	84.6	87.3	83.6	84.7	86.2	89.8
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	67.6	69.5	68.3	67.1	66.3	67.7	69.9	72.6

Source: Eurostat

Table 3.4: GDP per head as a percentage of the EU15 average
at purchasing power parity rates of exchange

Area	% of EU15 average							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
West Wales & Valleys	71.9	72.9	72.1	68.6	66.9	66.9	66.5	69.0
East Wales	100.0	98.0	101.5	101.5	102.0	102.3	105.9	106.0
Wales	81.9	81.9	82.7	80.5	79.6	79.7	80.8	82.5
United Kingdom	99.8	101.1	103.5	103.3	102.9	103.8	104.8	107.7
Merseyside	71.4	70.2	72.0	74.8	71.9	75.2	74.1	79.5
South Yorkshire	74.4	75.5	76.8	79.3	76.0	77.2	78.7	82.1
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	61.1	62.9	62.0	60.9	60.3	61.7	63.7	66.3

Source: Eurostat

Table 3.3 shows GDP per capita⁸ as a percentage of the EU25 average, for the UK, NUTS 1 and 2 areas of Wales⁹, and other Objective 1 regions of the UK for the period 1995 to 2002. Table 3.4 shows similar data expressed as a percentage of the EU15 average.

⁸ These estimates use the PPS (purchasing power standard) which is an artificial currency that reflects differences in national price levels that are not taken into account by exchange rates. This unit allows meaningful volume comparisons of economic indicators over countries.

⁹ The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a hierarchical classification of administrative areas, used across the European Union for statistical purposes. Wales is one of 12 NUTS 1 areas in the UK. A breakdown of NUTS 2, 3 and Local Authority (LAU) 1 areas can be found on the ONS web-site at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts_wales.asp

The data¹⁰ show that:

- ◆ per capita GDP in West Wales and the Valleys represented 75.5 per cent of the average for EU25 as a whole in 2002. The equivalent figures for East Wales and Wales as a whole were 116.0 per cent and 90.2 per cent respectively.
- ◆ average per capita GDP across the Union has declined with the accession of new Member States. To avoid regions currently in receipt of Objective 1 funding losing eligibility purely for this reason (termed, 'the statistical effect'), transitional funding for affected regions is proposed. Eligibility for such funding would be calculated on the basis of per capita GDP relative to the average for EU15, rather than EU25.
- ◆ over the three years 2000-2002, per capita GDP in West Wales and Valleys represented 74 per cent of the average for EU 25, suggesting that the region would continue to qualify for Objective 1 support¹¹ post 2006.
- ◆ should agreement on future EU funding not be reached until 2006, qualification for Objective 1 funding, or its equivalent replacement convergence funding, is likely to be based on the basis of 2001-2003 data. Per capita GDP in West Wales and the Valleys would have to increase to approximately 76.5 per cent of the EU25 average in 2003 to bring the three-year (2001-03) average to 75 per cent.
- ◆ per capita GDP in West Wales and the Valleys over the 3 years 2000-2002 represented 67.5 per cent of the average for EU15, well below the threshold for statistical effect funding.

¹⁰ Eurostat News Release, *Regional GDP per capita in the EU25*, 7 April 2005:

http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_PRD_CAT_PREREL/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2005/PGE_CAT_PREREL_YEAR_2005_MONTH_04/1-07042005-EN-AP.PDF

Further data can be found on the Eurostat web-site at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/newcronos/reference/display.do?screen=welcomeref&open=/general/regio/econ-esa95/gdp95&language=en&product=EU_general_statistics&root=EU_general_statistics&scrollto=258

Data on GDP per capita are based on regional population figures which do not yet take into account revisions following the recent round of censuses for the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia and United Kingdom. Therefore data for these Member States may be subject to revision.

¹¹ As agreement was not reached on the EU's budget post 2006 at the June Council, it is likely that qualification will be on the basis of 2001-2003 data. However, it is possible that 2000-2002 data will be used if Member States are able to agree the draft regulations for the structural funds programmes before the end of 2005, or if Member States agree to base it on the 2000-2002 data.

4 Productivity

Table 4.1: Productivity measures by region, 2003

UK=100

Region/Country	GVA per filled job	GVA per hour worked
North East	92.5	95.1
North West	92.8	94.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	93.3	93.7
East Midlands	96.7	96.9
West Midlands	94.0	94.6
East	96.4	97.1
London	121.2	115.4
South East	105.0	106.5
South West	93.8	95.4
England	101.0	101.1
Wales	90.9	91.9
Scotland	97.5	98.1
Northern Ireland	89.6	84.3
United Kingdom	100.0	100.0

Source: ONS

The data¹² show that:

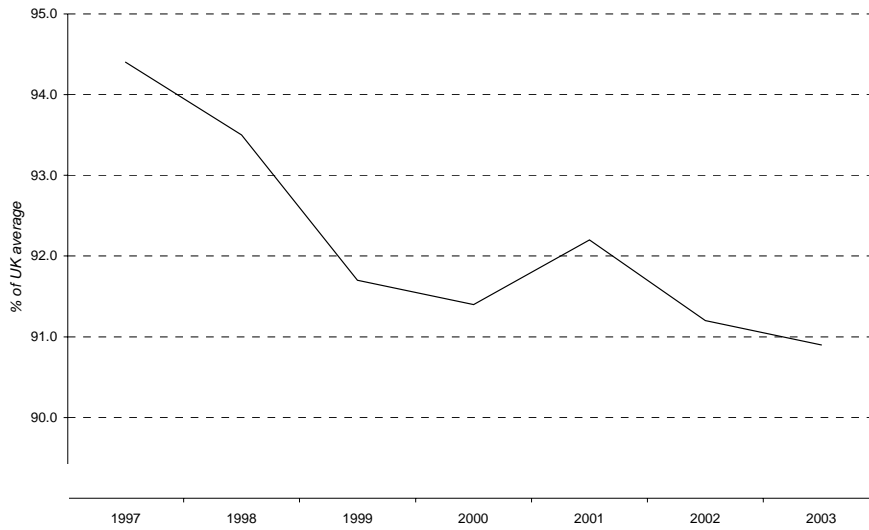
- ◆ Wales has the second lowest GVA per filled job and GVA per hour worked in the UK after Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Between 1997 and 2003 GVA per filled job in Wales fell from 94.4 per cent of the UK average to 90.9 per cent of the UK average.
- ◆ Between 1997 and 2003 GVA per hour worked in Wales fell from 94.7 per cent of the UK average to 91.9 per cent of the UK average.

Figure 4.1 shows GVA per filled job in Wales as a percentage of that of the UK for the years 1997 to 2003.

¹² Office for National Statistics, *Productivity measures by region*, 28 January 2005:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/notices/Productivity_28Jan05.asp



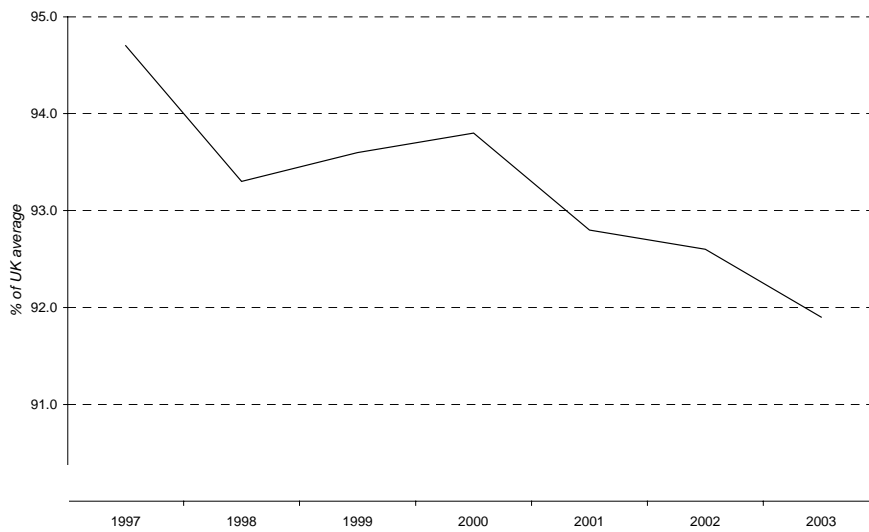
Figure 4.1: GVA per filled job, Wales as per cent of UK, 1997 to 2003



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 4.2 shows GVA per hour worked in Wales as a percentage of that of the UK for the years 1997 to 2003.

Figure 4.2: GVA per hour worked, Wales as per cent of UK, 1997 to 2003

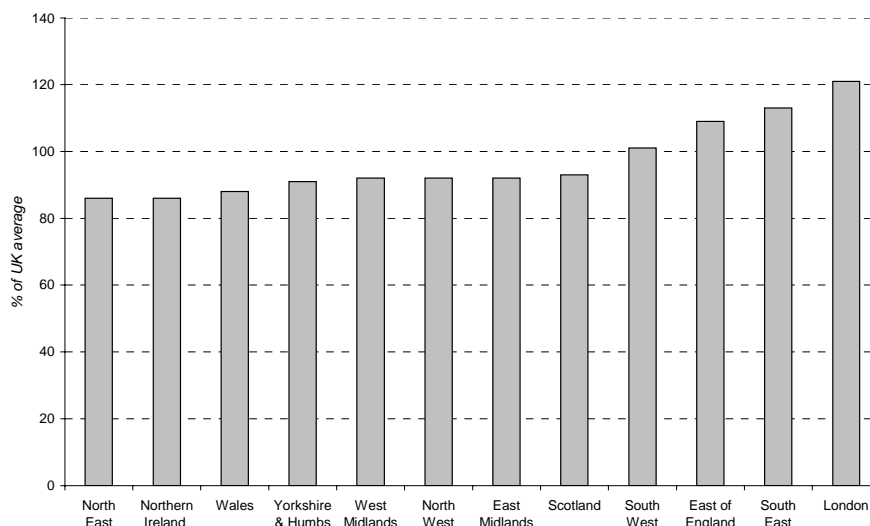


Source: Office for National Statistics



5 Regional Household Income

Figure 5.1: Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) by UK nation and region, 2003(a)



Source: ONS

(a) 2003 data are provisional

The data¹³ show that:

- ◆ Headline Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head in the NUTS1¹⁴ area of Wales in 2003 was £11,137 or 88.3 per cent of the UK average. London had the highest GDHI per capita at £15,235, 21 per cent greater than the UK average. The North East had the lowest GDHI per capita at £10,787, 14 per cent less than the UK average.
- ◆ GDHI per head in Wales in 2003 was the 3rd lowest amongst the devolved countries and English regions, after the North East and Northern Ireland. This ranking for Wales has not changed across the whole period 1995 to 2003.
- ◆ Between 1999 and 2003, headline GDHI per head in Wales increased by 23.0 per cent, compared to 21.6 per cent in the UK as a whole.

¹³Office for National Statistics, *Regional Household Income*, 29 April 2005:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20050429-e.htm>

The household sector covers people living in traditional households as well as those living in institutions. The latter includes people living in retirement homes etc. This sector also includes sole trader enterprises and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs), examples of the latter being charities and most universities.

The amount of money that households have available for consumption expenditure or savings is known as 'disposable income'. This is equivalent to the excess of their income over the expenditures associated with their income e.g. employment, property ownership and provision for future pension income.

Unadjusted GDHI estimates and components at the NUTS2 level are to be supplied to Eurostat. These data are not directly used to inform funding decisions but may be used to support arguments in the debate around the relative welfare of regions in the UK and the EU area.

The full range of estimates at the NUTS1, 2 and 3 levels and supporting information can be found on the National Statistics web-site at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359>

¹⁴The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. There are three levels of NUTS in the UK:

NUTS1: Government Office Regions and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NUTS2: 37 areas - sometimes referred to as subregions.

NUTS3: 133 areas - generally groups of unitary authorities or districts, also known as local areas.



- ◆ Within Wales, the estimates for 2003 show that GDHI per head in East Wales and West Wales and the Valleys (the two Welsh NUTS2 areas) were 91 per cent and 87 per cent of the UK average respectively.
- ◆ The estimates for the NUTS3 areas of Wales show that Conwy and Denbighshire had the highest GDHI per head in Wales in 2003 (96 per cent of the UK average). The Central Valleys (Rhondda, Cynon, Taff and Merthyr Tydfil) area had the lowest GDHI per head in 2003 (81 per cent of the UK average).
- ◆ A target within *A Winning Wales*¹⁵ is to increase household disposable income to 95 per cent of the UK average by 2010.

¹⁵ *A Winning Wales* is the National Economic Development Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government and was launched on 28 January 2002. Further information on *A Winning Wales* can be found at:
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesbudgetandstrategic/content/neds/>

6 Labour Market

6.1 Main Indicators

Summary of Welsh Labour Market Aug – Oct 2005

	Wales	Wales change on year	UK	UK change on year
Employment rate (a)	72.0	-0.1	74.7	0.0
ILO unemployment rate (b)	4.6	0.0	4.9	0.3
Inactivity rate (c)	24.4	+0.1	21.3	-0.2

Source: Office for National Statistics, Table 18(1), *Labour Market Statistics December 2005*, 14 December 2005

Notes:

- (a) The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64).
- (b) The ILO unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over.
- (c) The inactivity rate is the number of inactive people as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64).

6.2 Local Authority Labour Market Statistics

Statistics regarding labour market unemployment and inactivity on a local authority basis are estimated using the annual population survey (which has replaced the local area labour force survey)¹⁶.

Table 6.1 shows the ILO unemployment level and rate on a local authority basis in Wales for the period 1999 to 2004.

Map 6.1 shows the employment rate by local authority in Wales in 2004.

Map 6.2 shows the ILO unemployment rate by local authority in Wales in 2004.

Map 6.3 shows the inactivity rate by local authority in Wales in 2004.

Map 6.4 shows the inactivity rate, excluding students, by local authority in Wales in 2004.

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics, *Annual Population Survey and Welsh Local Labour Force Survey 2003-04*. The latest survey data are for 2004. Annual Population Survey data cover the period January to December of the year given. Local Labour Force Survey data cover the period March to February. Prior to 2001, limited data are available on a local authority basis.

Annual Population Survey:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw200509293-e.htm>

Local Area Labour Force Survey:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2004/hdw200411243-e.htm>

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Table 6.1: ILO unemployment level and rate(a), by local authority, Wales, 1999 to 2004

	<i>number</i>											
	1999 (b)		2000 (b)		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)
Isle of Anglesey	#	#	#	#	1,000	4.8	2,000	5.2	1,000	4.5	1,600	5.2
Gwynedd	#	#	#	#	3,000	5.3	2,000	4.6	2,000	3.7	2,200	3.9
Conwy	#	#	#	#	2,000	3.3	2,000	4.5	2,000	3.9	1,500	3.0
Denbighshire	#	#	#	#	2,000	4.2	2,000	4.2	2,000	3.6	1,600	3.7
Flintshire	#	#	#	#	4,000	5.1	3,000	3.7	2,000	3.1	1,900	2.4
Wrexham	#	#	#	#	2,000	3.6	2,000	3.7	2,000	2.5	1,600	2.6
Powys	#	#	#	#	2,000	3.5	2,000	2.9	2,000	3.4	1,600	2.6
Ceredigion	#	#	#	#	2,000	5.9	2,000	5.1	2,000	6.4	1,800	4.9
Pembrokeshire	#	#	#	#	3,000	6.4	3,000	6.4	3,000	5.3	2,600	4.9
Carmarthenshire	7,000	9.1	#	#	5,000	6.3	3,000	4.5	4,000	5.1	3,600	4.8
Swansea	7,000	7.0	7,000	6.5	6,000	6.2	7,000	6.3	6,000	5.7	6,500	6.1
Neath Port Talbot	6,000	11.0	#	#	3,000	6.0	5,000	8.6	4,000	6.9	3,700	6.6
Bridgend	#	#	#	#	3,000	4.7	3,000	4.9	2,000	3.9	2,300	3.7
Vale of Glamorgan	#	#	#	#	2,000	4.0	3,000	5.4	3,000	5.5	3,300	5.7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	8,000	7.8	6,000	6.0	6,000	5.9	6,000	6.3	7,000	7.0	5,400	5.3
Merthyr Tydfil	#	#	#	#	2,000	6.9	2,000	6.7	1,000	5.4	1,500	6.7
Caerphilly	6,000	8.6	#	#	6,000	8.6	5,000	6.8	4,000	5.2	5,200	7.0
Blaenau Gwent	#	#	#	#	2,000	7.6	2,000	6.3	2,000	7.4	2,100	7.2
Torfaen	#	#	#	#	2,000	5.9	2,000	5.8	2,000	5.5	2,100	5.0
Monmouthshire	#	#	#	#	2,000	4.5	1,000	3.6	2,000	3.7	1,100	2.5
Newport	6,000	9.5	#	#	3,000	4.7	3,000	4.9	3,000	4.9	3,100	5.0
Cardiff	10,000	6.7	8,000	5.3	8,000	5.2	7,000	4.8	9,000	5.9	8,400	5.6
Wales	90,000	7.0	81,000	6.2	71,000	5.4	69,000	5.2	67,000	5.0	64,600	4.8

Source: Nomis

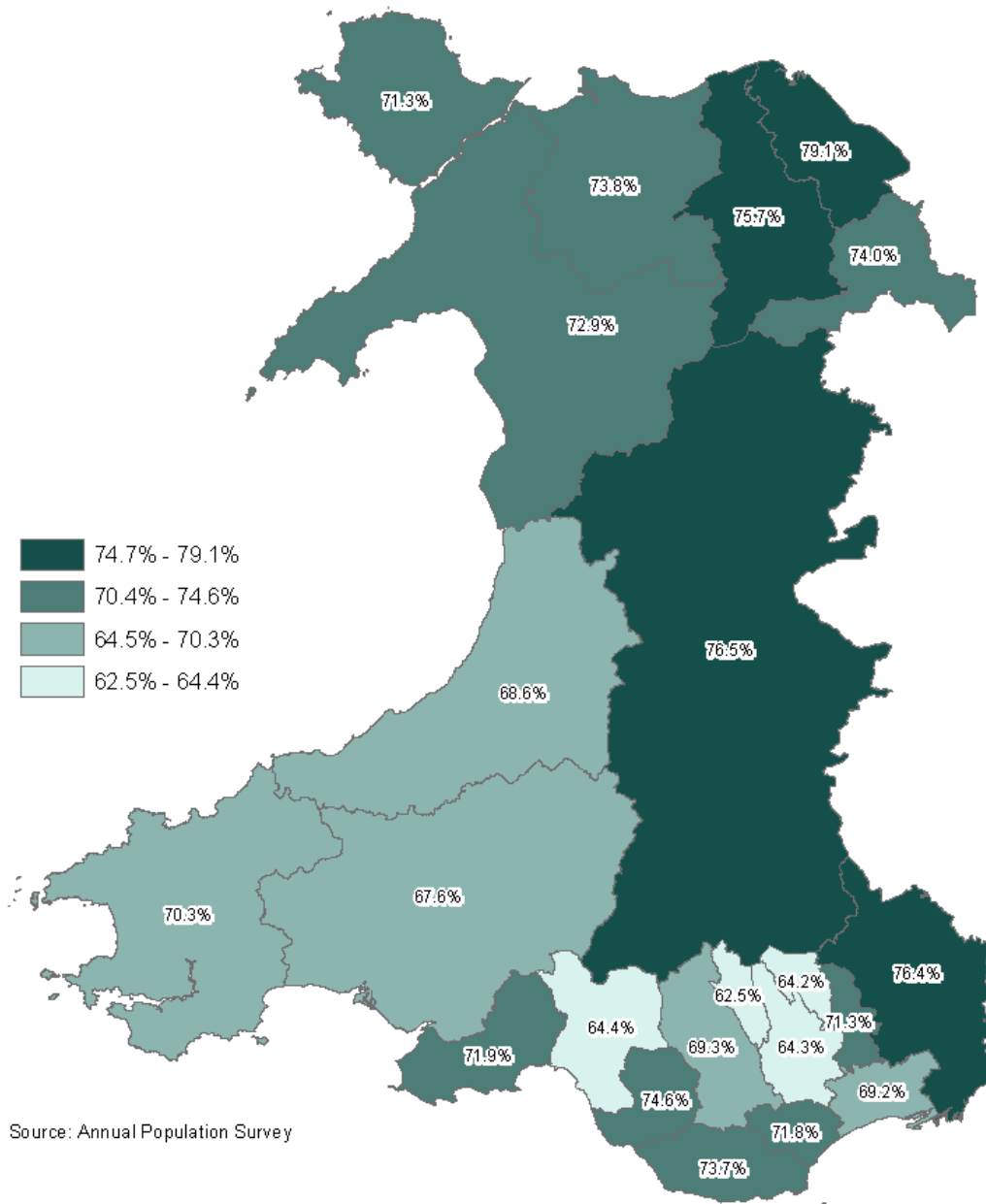
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Notes

- (a) Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. Rate is as a proportion of economically active. Data are for the 12 months running from March in the year given to February in the following year up until 2003 (e.g. 2001 = March 2001 to February 2002), and January to December of the given year from 2004. Figures are rounded and so there may be some apparent slight discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and the totals as shown.
- (b) Estimates for 1999 and 2000 are based on a smaller sample size. # These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable.

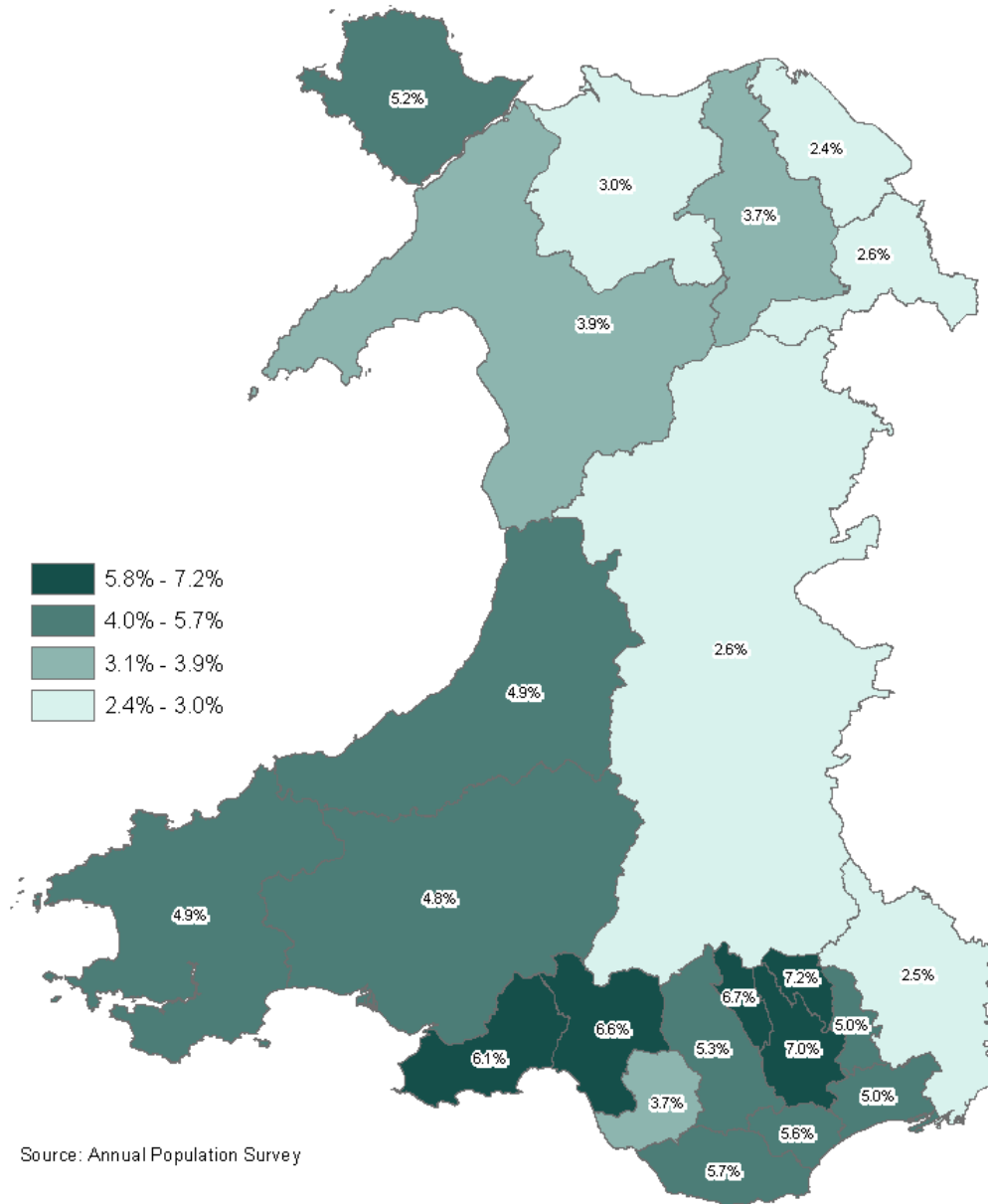
Map 6.1: Employment rate¹⁷ by local authority, Wales, 2004.



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¹⁷ The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64).

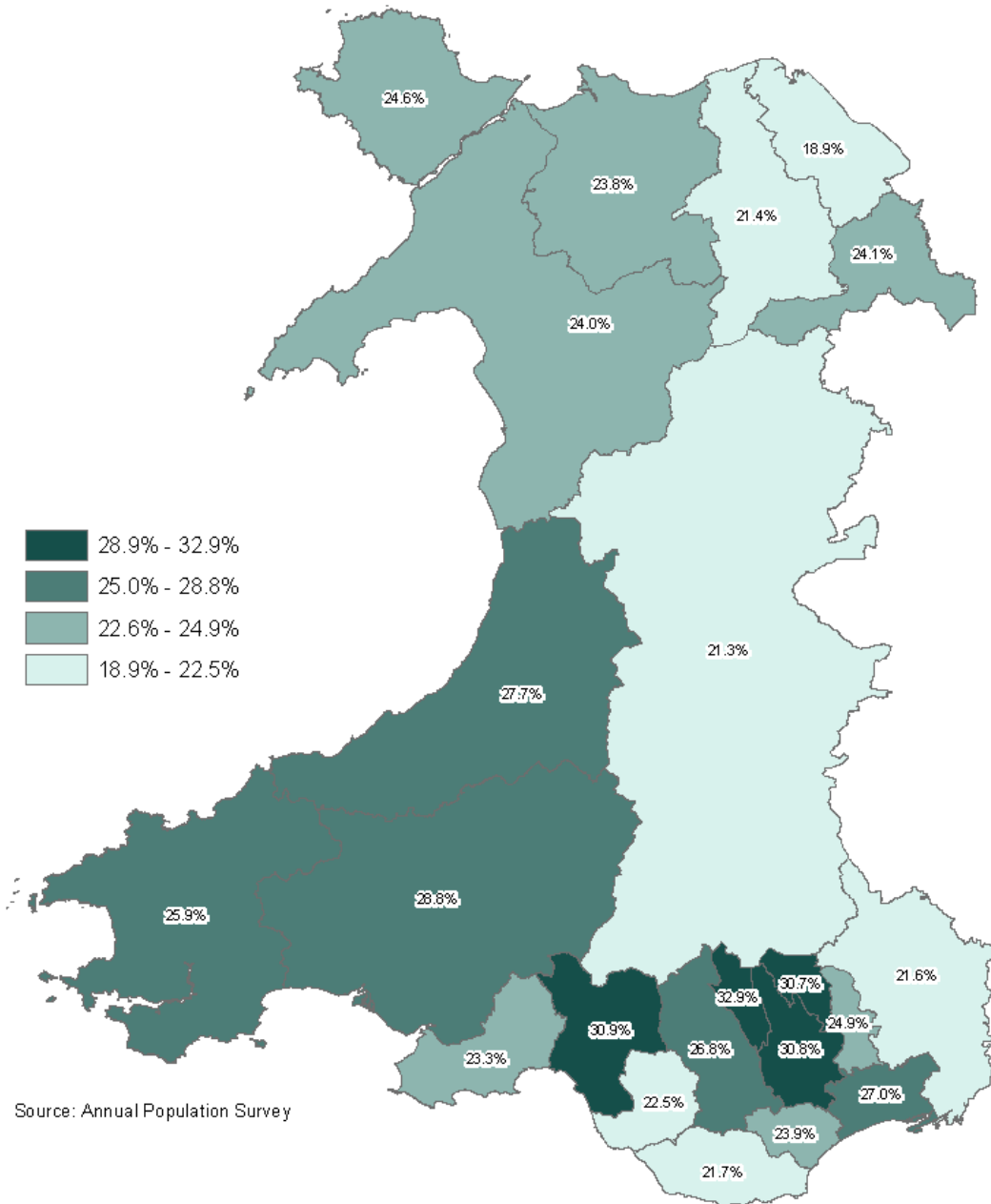
Map 6.2: ILO unemployment rate¹⁸ by local authority, Wales, 2004.



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¹⁸ The ILO unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. The ILO unemployment measure differs from another commonly used measure of unemployment, namely the claimant count. The latter is a count of all those claiming unemployment benefit and, as such, it is not subject to sampling variability. However, it excludes those who are unemployed who are not eligible to claim (for example those out of work but whose partner works), and those who do not wish to claim. The ILO measure, which is a count of those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks, is a more encompassing measure of unemployment.

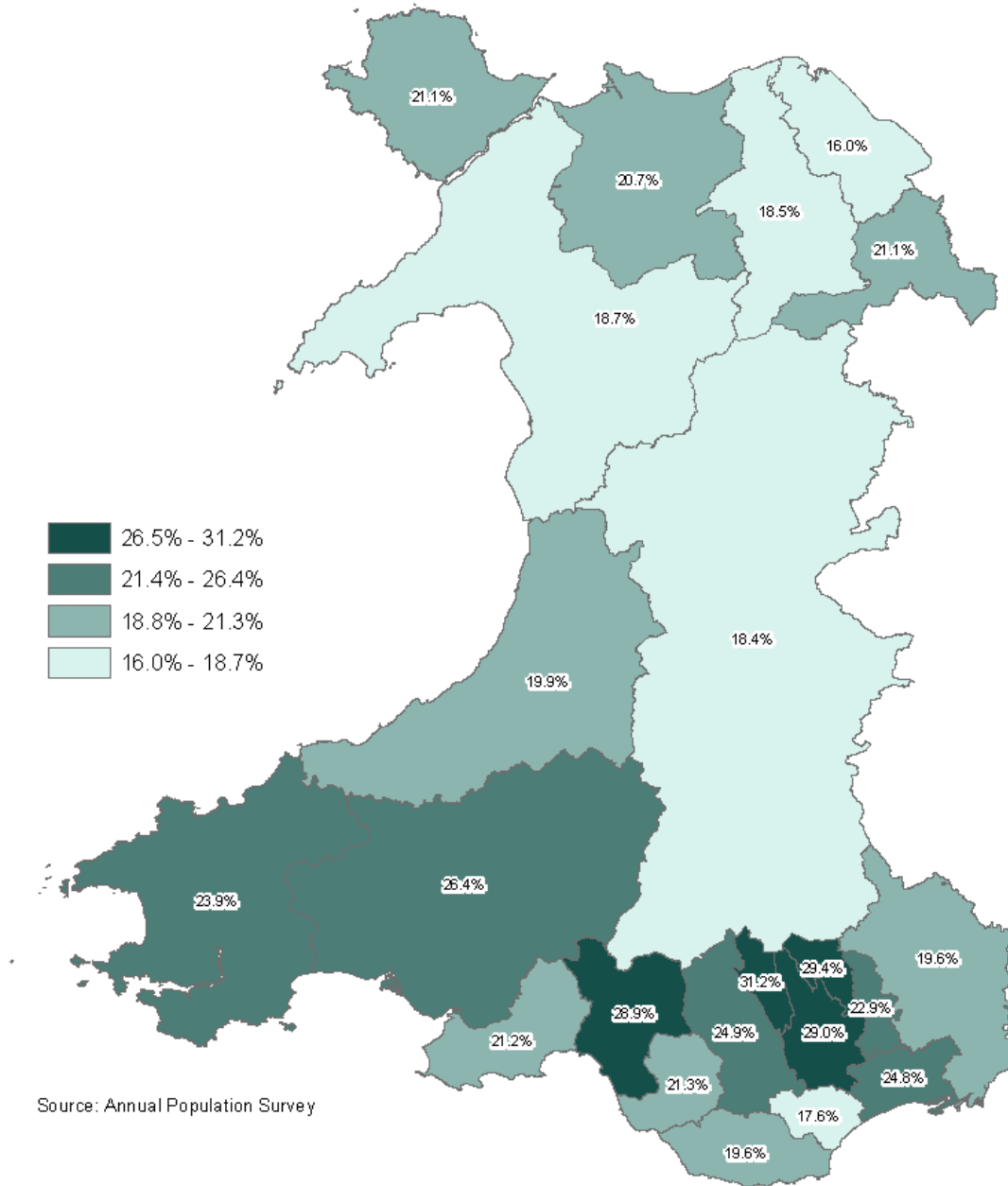
Map 6.3: Inactivity rate¹⁹ by local authority, Wales, 2004.



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¹⁹ The inactivity rate is the number of inactive people as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64). By excluding persons of pensionable age who are generally retired and therefore economically inactive, this gives a more appropriate measure of workforce inactivity.

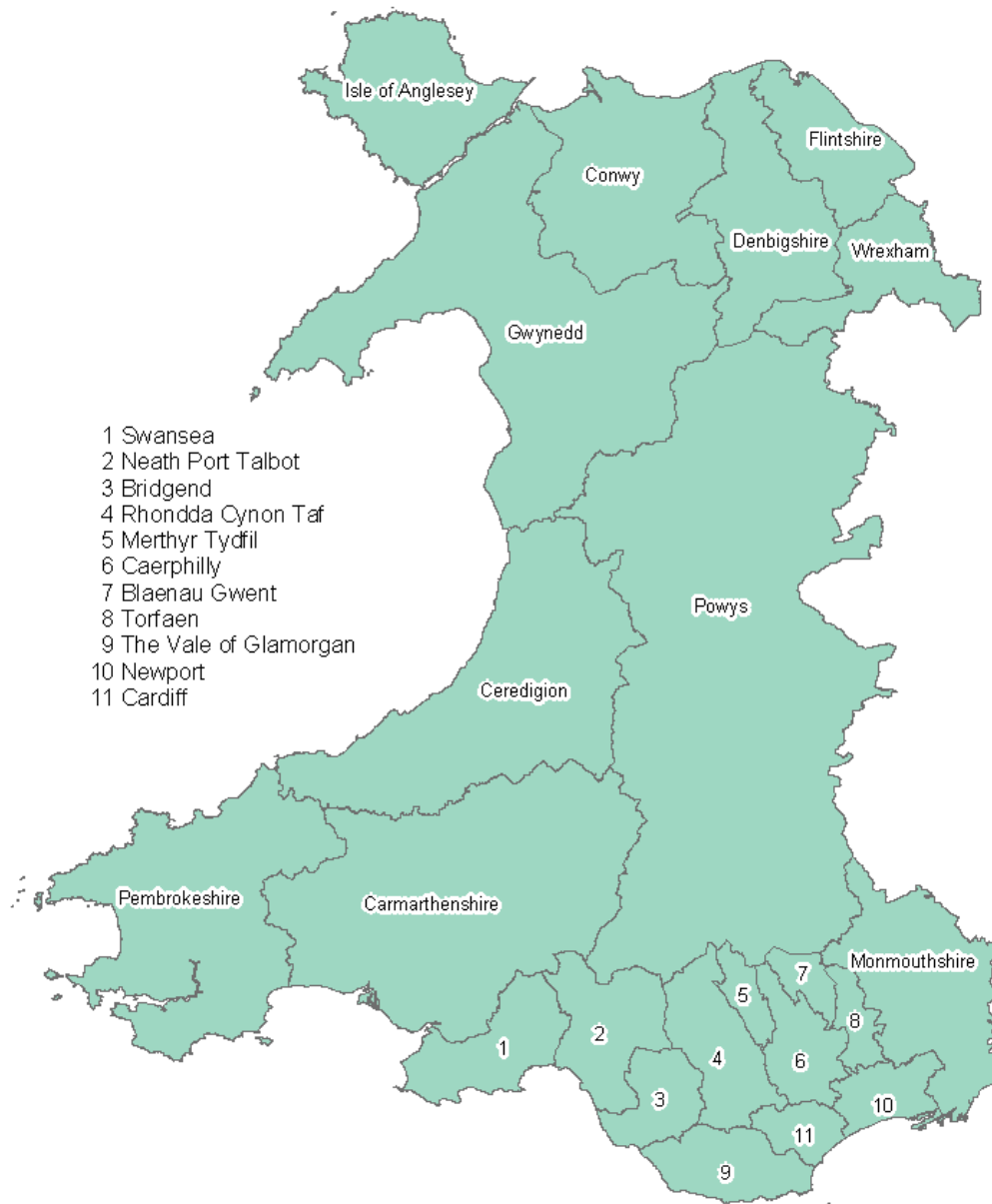
Map 6.4: Inactivity rate excluding students²⁰ by local authority, Wales, 2004.



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²⁰ The inactivity rate is the number of inactive people as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64). The headline inactivity data given in map 6.3 includes population living in student halls of residence, hence inactivity rates will be higher for unitary authorities with a high student population. Map 6.4 shows inactivity rates for people of working age and not in full time education.

Local authorities in Wales



6.3 Claimant Count

This section gives the latest counts of Jobseekers Allowance claimants for Assembly constituencies for November 2005²¹. This includes unofficial residence-based claimant count rates calculated by the Members' Research Service.

The claimant count measures only those people who are claiming unemployment-related benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance). It is always lower than the Labour Force Survey (LFS) official measure of unemployment, because some unemployed people are not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so²². Benefits rules vary over time so it is more difficult to make comparisons. The claimant count comes from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus (formerly Employment Service), and is available earlier than the LFS-based unemployment data and for smaller geographical areas.

Table 6.2 shows the number of residents claiming Jobseekers Allowance (the claimant count) resident in each Assembly constituency as at November 2005. As this information is obtained directly from the Benefits Agency administrative system, it is a complete count of all those claiming. These data are used as the numerator in the calculations of claimant unemployment proportions and rates.

Residence-based claimant count rates for Assembly Constituencies have been calculated by the Members' Research Service, expressing the number of claimants as a percentage of the economically active aged 16-74 who are resident in the constituency. This produces an alternative measure of unemployment to those published by the Office for National Statistics, where the rate is the proportion of 16+ residents who are unemployed²³. The number of economically active residents in each constituency is derived from the 2001 Census of Population Key Statistics for Assembly Constituencies that were published by the Office for National Statistics in April 2003.

Table 6.3 shows the unofficial residence-based estimates of claimant count rates, broken down by gender, as at November 2005.

Map 6.5 shows the spread of the unofficial residence-based claimant count rates by constituency.

The constituency with the largest number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits is Blaenau Gwent (1,717 claimants). 77 per cent of claimants in this constituency are male, and this compares to an all Wales proportion of male claimants of 76 per cent. Montgomeryshire has the fewest claimants (511 claimants), with male claimants making up 70 per cent of the total.

²¹ Errors have been discovered in data used to calculate local labour market indicators (Tables 12, 13, 14 and 15) of the Labour Market Statistics First Release for Wales for December 2005. These tables have been withdrawn. The most recent data for these tables can be found in the First Release published on 16 November.

²² Further information about the differences between unemployment and the claimant count are available from the Office for National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ci/nugget.asp?id=165>

²³ From September 2003 claimant count **proportions** for Assembly Constituencies are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The working age population denominators have been derived from resident population data for output areas from the 2001 Census of Population, which were published on 30 June 2003. The 2001 denominators have been used to calculate claimant count proportions for the latest month for which the claimant count is available. These differ from the claimant count **rates** presented in this research paper. The ONS claimant count proportions use the population of working age as a denominator and so take no account of differences in the proportion who are economically active between areas.

Montgomeryshire has the lowest claimant count rate as a percentage of the economically active population (aged 16-74) at 1.8 per cent. Cardiff North has the lowest rate for women (1.0 per cent) and Montgomeryshire has the lowest rate for men at 2.3 per cent. Blaenau Gwent has the largest claimant count rate at 6.2 per cent, with rates highest among the Assembly constituencies for both men (8.7 per cent) and women (3.2 per cent).

6.4 Incapacity Benefit

Incapacity Benefit (IB) replaced Sickness Benefit and Invalidity Benefit from 13 April 1995. It is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions. There are three rates of Incapacity Benefit. There are two short-term rates: the lower rate (IBST(L)) is paid for the first 28 weeks of sickness and the higher rate (IBST(H)) for weeks 29 to 52. The long-term rate (IBLT) applies to people who have been sick for more than a year.

Estimates of the number of claimants by constituency are available from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Because these estimates are based on a sample survey, they are subject to sampling variability.

Map 6.6 shows the number of people claiming long-term incapacity benefit by Assembly constituency in Wales at May 2005, as a percentage of the population aged 16 to 64, taken from the 2001 census of population.

Although in general Incapacity Benefit applies to people of working age, a small number of female claimants are aged over 59, and some male claimants are over 64. However, in terms of long-term incapacity benefit, these figures are nil or negligible.

Data relate to a single point in time and provide a snapshot of claims at that point. Data are not seasonally adjusted so any comparisons should be made year on year, although it should be noted that time-series figures will be affected by the introduction of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003.

The constituency with the largest number of people claiming long-term incapacity benefit is Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney (5,700 claimants). This represents 12.7 per cent of the population aged 16 to 64 and is the highest rate in Wales.

Meirionnydd Nant Conwy has the fewest claimants of IBLT (800 claimants), which represents 3.2 per cent of the population aged 16 to 64. The constituency with the lowest rate is Cardiff Central, where 2.6 per cent of the population aged 16 to 64 is claiming IBLT.

Table 6.2 Claimant count by Assembly constituency, November 2005 (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	788	224	1,012
Alyn & Deeside	679	224	903
Blaenau Gwent	1,330	387	1,717
Brecon & Radnorshire	525	229	754
Bridgend	784	283	1,067
Caernarfon	579	202	781
Caerphilly	1,235	384	1,619
Cardiff Central	1,065	300	1,365
Cardiff North	526	187	713
Cardiff South & Penarth	1,321	351	1,672
Cardiff West	1,095	279	1,374
Carmarthen East & Dinefwr	530	201	731
Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire	660	254	914
Ceredigion	492	200	692
Clwyd South	572	219	791
Clwyd West	625	199	824
Conwy	748	212	960
Cynon Valley	823	269	1,092
Delyn	591	233	824
Gower	579	175	754
Islwyn	750	293	1,043
Llanelli	862	261	1,123
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	389	156	545
Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	1,183	339	1,522
Monmouth	475	182	657
Montgomeryshire	356	155	511
Neath	875	304	1,179
Newport East	806	251	1,057
Newport West	1,071	321	1,392
Ogmore	822	265	1,087
Pontypridd	757	265	1,022
Preseli Pembrokeshire	712	277	989
Rhondda	1,072	330	1,402
Swansea East	1,032	262	1,294
Swansea West	1,040	305	1,345
Torfaen	821	271	1,092
Vale of Clwyd	768	237	1,005
Vale of Glamorgan	1,118	309	1,427
Wrexham	633	190	823
Ynys-Mon	947	288	1,235
Wales	32,036	10,273	42,309

Source: Nomis

(a) Count of claimants of Job Seekers Allowance

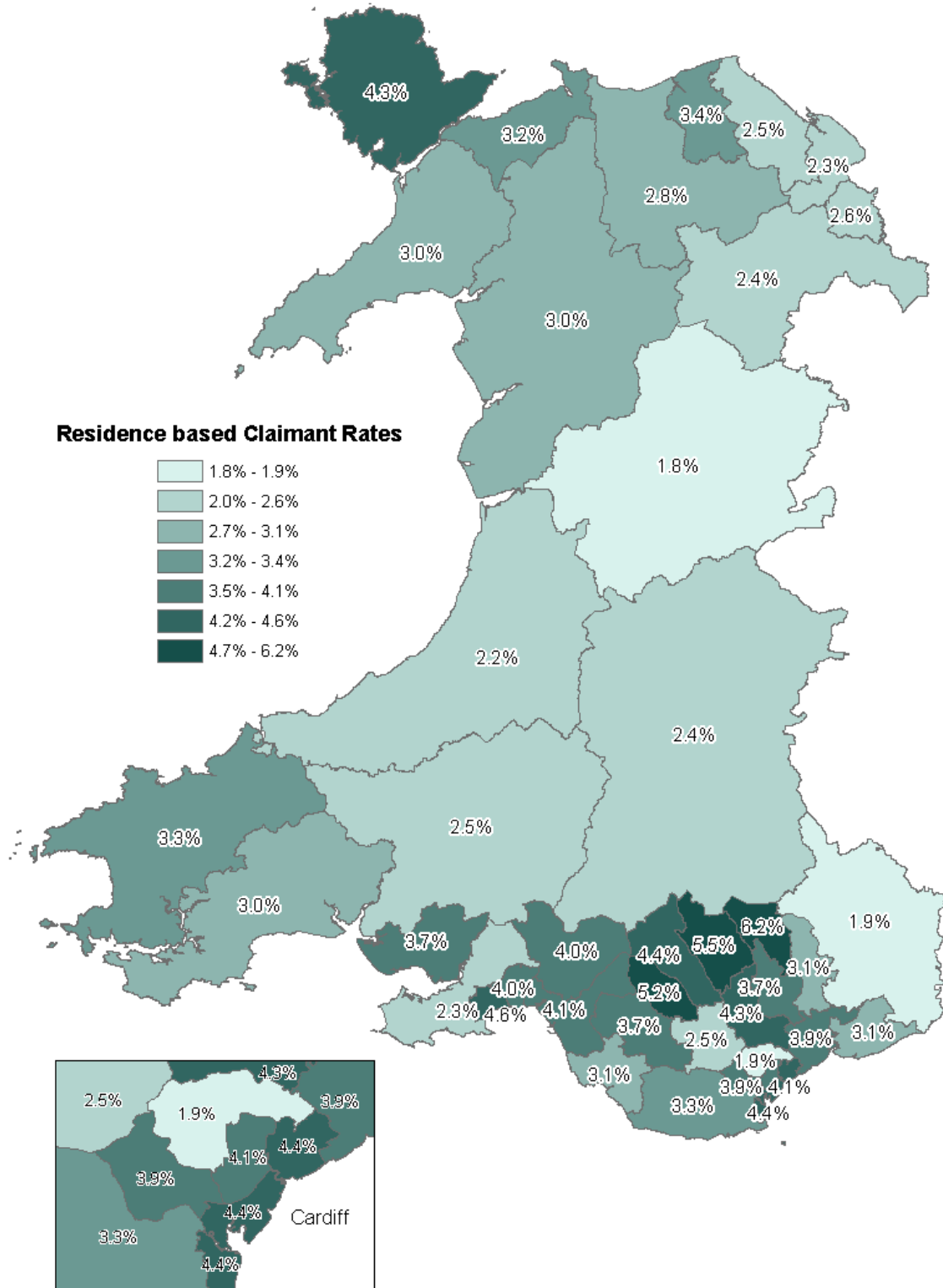
Table 6.3 Residence-based claimant count rates by Assembly constituency, November 2005 (a)

not seasonally adjusted

Constituency	Men	Women	People
Aberavon	5.8	2.1	4.1
Alyn & Deeside	3.1	1.2	2.3
Blaenau Gwent	8.7	3.2	6.2
Brecon & Radnorshire	3.1	1.6	2.4
Bridgend	4.2	1.8	3.1
Caernarfon	4.0	1.7	3.0
Caerphilly	6.0	2.2	4.3
Cardiff Central	6.0	1.9	4.1
Cardiff North	2.6	1.0	1.9
Cardiff South & Penarth	6.5	2.0	4.4
Cardiff West	6.0	1.7	3.9
Carmarthen East & Dinefwr	3.3	1.5	2.5
Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire	4.0	1.8	3.0
Ceredigion	2.8	1.4	2.2
Clwyd South	3.1	1.5	2.4
Clwyd West	4.0	1.5	2.8
Conwy	4.6	1.5	3.2
Cynon Valley	6.1	2.4	4.4
Delyn	3.2	1.6	2.5
Gower	3.3	1.1	2.3
Islwyn	4.8	2.3	3.7
Llanelli	5.2	1.9	3.7
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	3.8	1.9	3.0
Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	7.8	2.7	5.5
Monmouth	2.5	1.1	1.9
Montgomeryshire	2.3	1.2	1.8
Neath	5.4	2.3	4.0
Newport East	4.4	1.6	3.1
Newport West	5.6	2.0	3.9
Ogmore	5.0	2.0	3.7
Pontypridd	3.5	1.4	2.5
Preseli Pembrokeshire	4.3	2.0	3.3
Rhondda	7.2	2.8	5.2
Swansea East	5.9	1.8	4.0
Swansea West	6.5	2.2	4.6
Torfaen	4.3	1.7	3.1
Vale of Clwyd	4.9	1.7	3.4
Vale of Glamorgan	4.8	1.5	3.3
Wrexham	3.6	1.3	2.6
Ynys-Mon	6.0	2.3	4.3
Wales	4.7	1.8	3.3

Source: Members' Research Service and 2001 Census of Population ONS Crown Copyright
(a) Unofficial residence based rates: Claimants of Job Seekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16-74 derived from the 2001 Census of Population

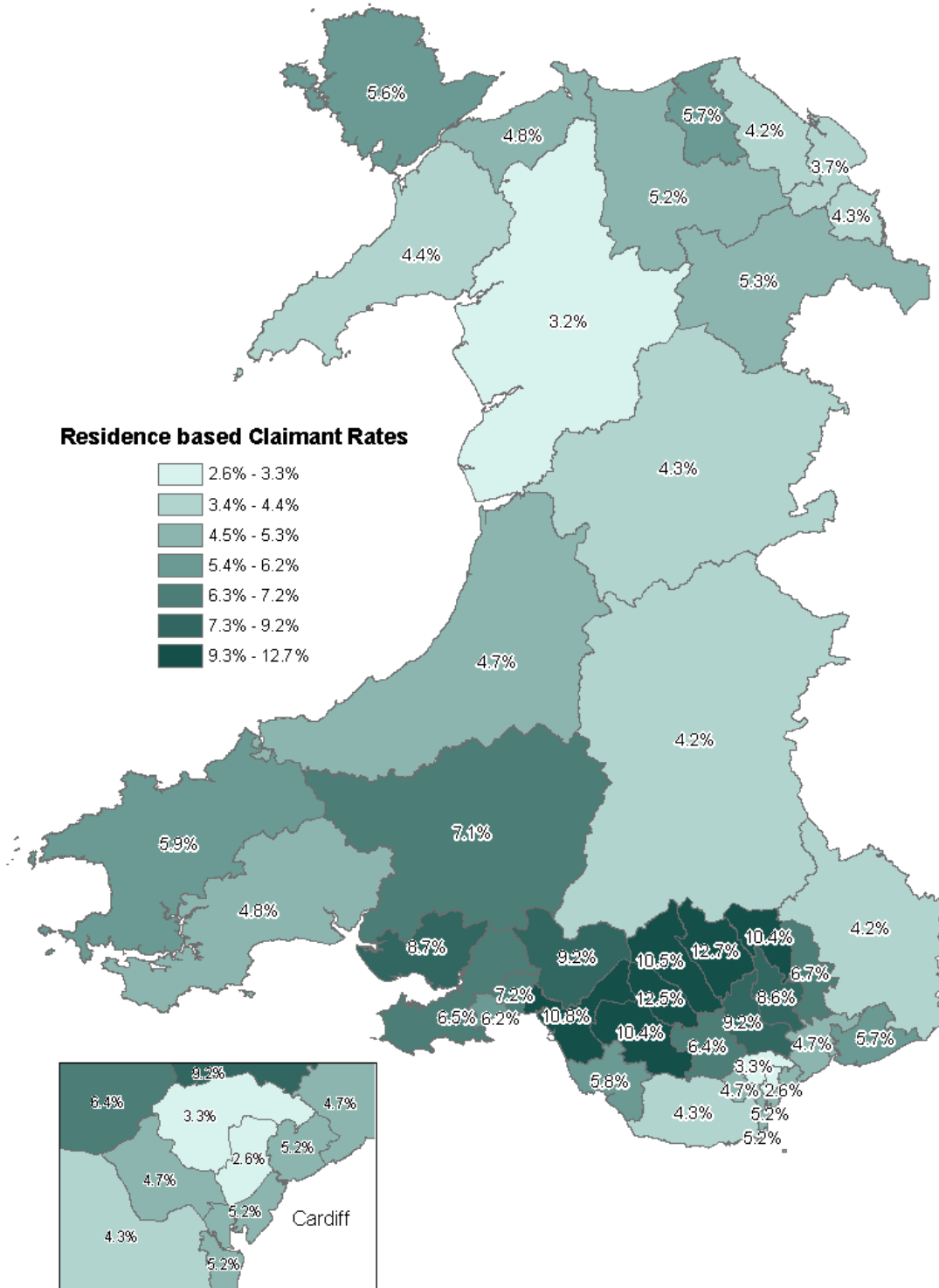
Map 6.5: Residence-based (unofficial) claimant count rates (a) by Assembly Constituency in Wales, November 2005



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(a) Claimants of Jobseekers Allowance as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16-74 derived from the 2001 Census of Population Key Statistics

Map 6.6: Long-term Incapacity Benefit rates (a) by Assembly Constituency in Wales, May 2005



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(a) Claimants of Long-term Incapacity Benefit as a percentage of the population aged 16-65 derived from the 2001 Census of Population Key Statistics

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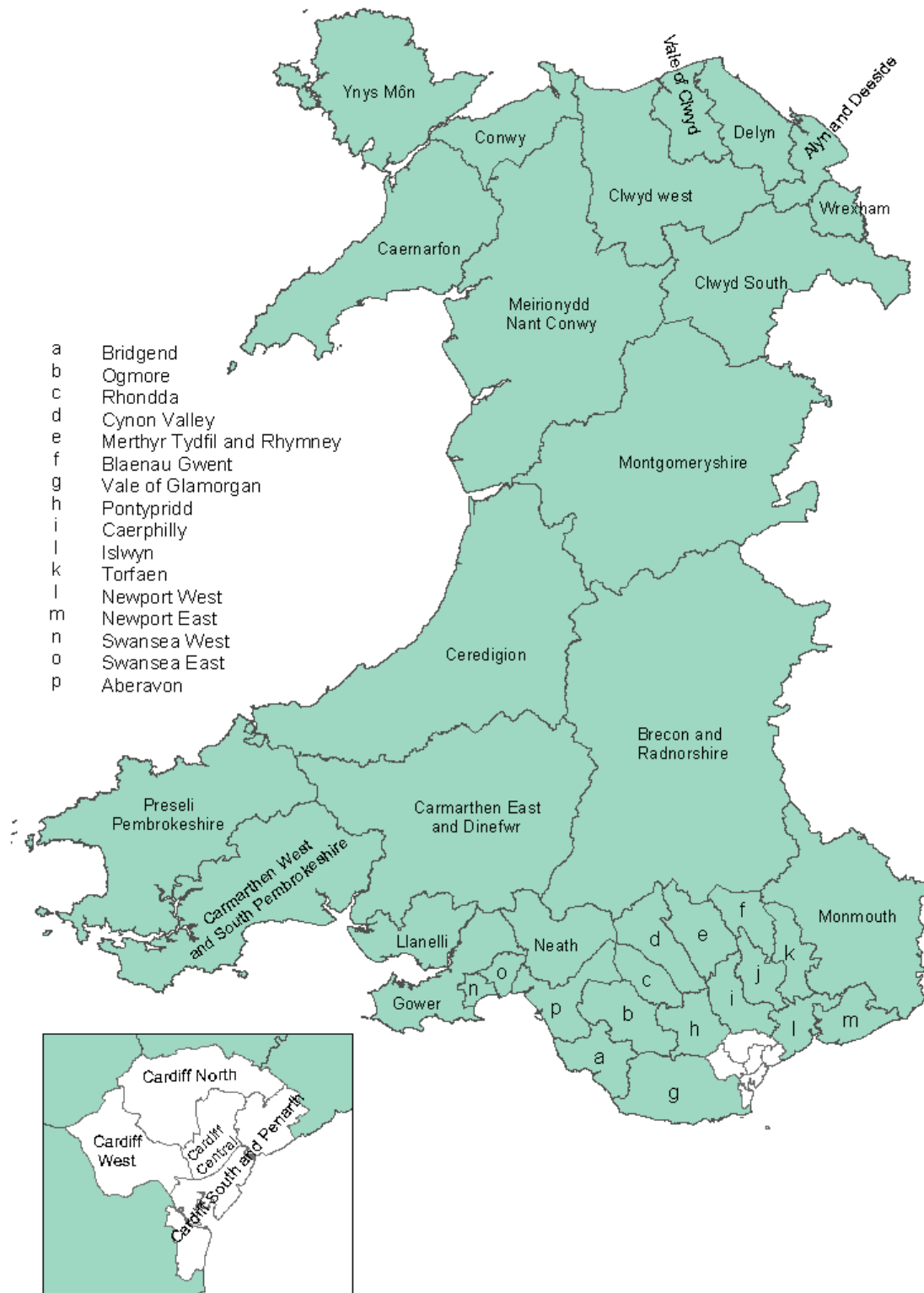


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7 Earnings

Table 7.1. Median gross weekly earnings, full-time employees on adult rates, by UK region, 2004 to 2005.

Area	2004	2005
Wales	381.8	389.9
United Kingdom	419.5	431.2
Wales as % of UK	91.0	90.4

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Note: ASHE data is available from 1998. However, supplementary information was not collected prior to the 2004 ASHE, hence the 2004 ASHE results including supplementary information and results for later years are therefore discontinuous with the results for years prior to 2004.

Table 7.2. Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time employees on adult rates, by UK region, 2004 to 2005.

Area	2004	2005
Wales	438.7	454.4
United Kingdom	498.6	517.0
Wales as % of UK	88.0	87.9

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Note: ASHE data is available from 1998. However, supplementary information was not collected prior to the 2004 ASHE, hence the 2004 ASHE results including supplementary information and results for later years are therefore discontinuous with the results for years prior to 2004.

ASHE 2005 data show that²⁴:

- ◆ **Median** gross weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales were £389.90 in April 2005, 90.4 per cent of the median for the UK as a whole (£431.20).
- ◆ **Median** gross weekly earnings in Wales increased by £8.10 (2.1 per cent) between 2004 and 2005, compared to £11.70 (2.8 per cent) in the UK as a whole.
- ◆ Wales had the third lowest **median** weekly earnings in the UK in 2005 after Northern Ireland (£387.00) and the North East (£385.50).
- ◆ The highest **median** weekly earnings by place of work in Wales were in Flintshire (£457.10) and the lowest in Ceredigion (£339.60).

²⁴ Statistics from the New Earnings Survey (NES) were published in 2003 for the last time and a new survey, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) has been developed.

The ASHE report focuses on median levels of pay whereas the NES survey focused on the mean. Mean earnings figures are still produced in the ASHE survey. The median is the value below which 50 per cent of employees fall. It is preferred over the mean for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.

Figures from the ASHE survey are not directly comparable with the NES data.

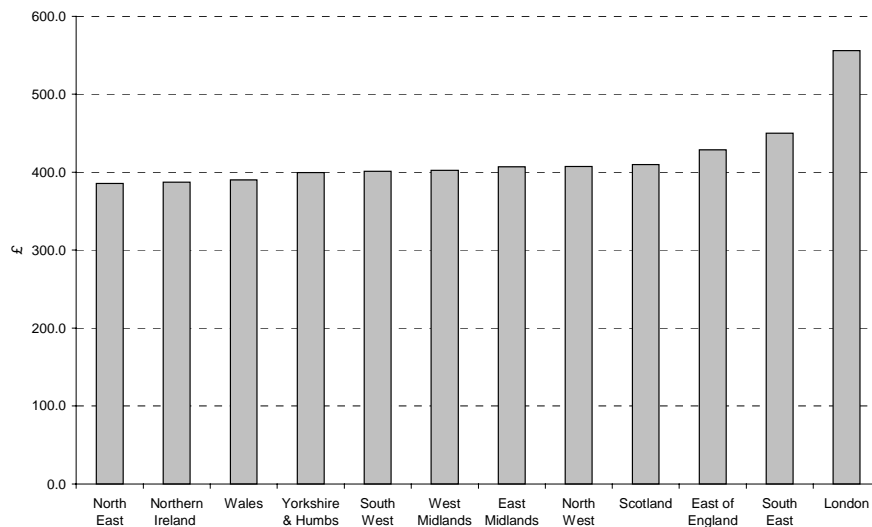
Further information on ASHE can be found on the Office for National Statistics web-site at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13101>

- ◆ The highest **median** weekly earnings by place of residence in Wales were in Monmouthshire (£495.10) and the lowest in Pembrokeshire (£343.40).
- ◆ **Average** (mean) gross weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales were £454.40 in April 2005, 87.9 per cent of the average for the UK as a whole (£517.00).
- ◆ **Average** (mean) gross weekly earnings in Wales increased by £15.70 (3.6 per cent) between 2004 and 2005, compared to £18.40 (3.7 per cent) in the UK as a whole.
- ◆ Wales had the third lowest **average** weekly earnings amongst UK regions and devolved administrations in 2005, after Northern Ireland and the North East (both £452.20).
- ◆ The gender pay ratio of female to male full-time **mean** hourly earnings (excluding overtime) in Wales in April 2005 was 88.0 per cent. This was 5.1 percentage points above the percentage for the UK as a whole (82.9 per cent) and the third highest percentage amongst UK regions and devolved administrations.

Figure 7.1 charts median gross weekly earnings of full time employees on adult rates in Wales and other regions of the UK in 2005.

Figure 7.1: Median weekly gross earnings for full time employees, by region, April 2005



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Table 7.3 and Map 7.1 show median gross weekly earnings for residents of Unitary Authorities in Wales in 2005. Note that because this is a sample survey, the results are subject to sampling variability and the amount of variation can be large for some authorities.

Table 7.3: Median gross weekly earnings, full-time employees on adult rates, by Unitary Authority residents in Wales, April 2005.

Unitary Authority	Median	Annual Percentage Change
Isle of Anglesey	401.9 ^(b)	-1.8
Gwynedd	364.2 ^(b)	2.2
Conwy	379.2 ^(b)	-2.1
Denbighshire	376.7 ^(b)	1.8
Flintshire	432.8 ^(b)	6.5
Wrexham	397.5 ^(b)	6.0
Powys	384.7 ^(b)	1.4
Ceredigion	366.3 ^(b)	6.0
Pembrokeshire	343.4 ^(c)	3.5
Carmarthenshire	364.4 ^(b)	9.3
Swansea	389.1 ^(b)	2.4
Neath Port Talbot	391.6 ^(b)	1.1
Bridgend	436.1 ^(b)	6.4
Vale of Glamorgan	425.3 ^(b)	0.8
Cardiff	422.7 ^(a)	3.0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	366.0 ^(a)	-3.0
Merthyr Tydfil	364.7 ^(b)	3.8
Caerphilly	385.2 ^(b)	10.1
Blaenau Gwent	347.6 ^(b)	10.0
Torfaen	418.4 ^(b)	4.9
Monmouthshire	495.1 ^(b)	19.3
Newport	424.5 ^(b)	7.6
Wales	393.4^(a)	2.6

The quality of an estimate is measured by its coefficient of variation (CV), which is the ratio of the standard error of an estimate to the estimate.

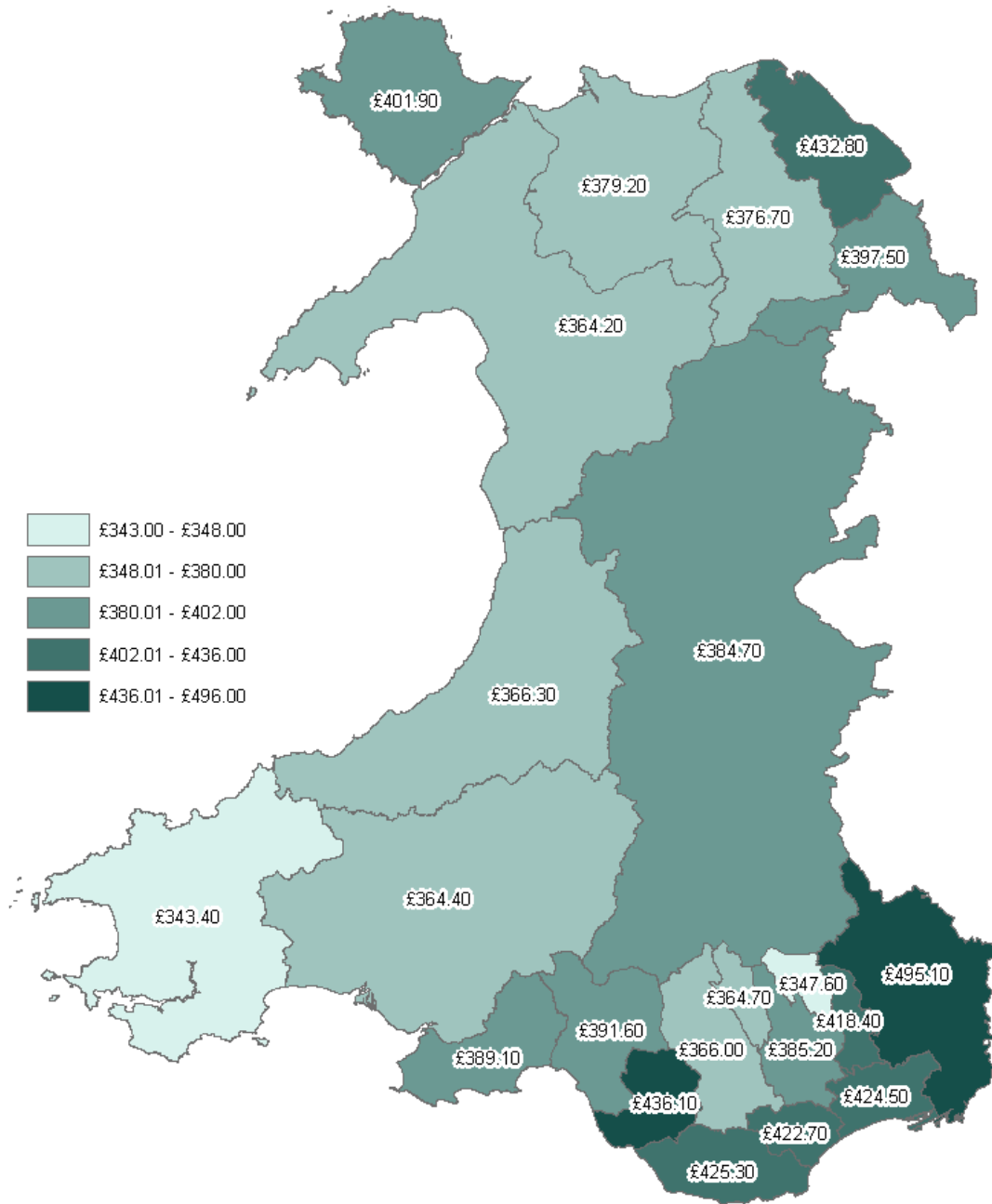
^(a) CV of less than or equal to 5%

^(b) CV of more than 5% and less than or equal to 10%

^(c) CV of more than 10% and less than or equal to 20%

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Map 7.1: Median gross weekly earnings, full-time employees on adult rates, by Unitary Authority residents in Wales, April 2005.



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

8 Exports

Summary of Welsh exports

	Wales	UK
Change in value of exports (latest 4 quarters compared to the previous 4 quarters)	9.3% increase	7.3% increase
Change in value of exports to non-EU countries (latest 4 quarters compared to the previous 4 quarters)	24.8% increase	11.4% increase
Change in value of exports to EU countries (latest 4 quarters compared to the previous 4 quarters)	1.7% increase	4.1% increase

Source: National Assembly for Wales, *Welsh exports: third quarter 2005*, 15 December 2005

The latest information on Welsh exports²⁵ shows that:

- ◆ The value of exports for Wales for the four quarters up to and including quarter 3 2005 rose by 9.3 per cent compared to the previous four quarters. The value of exports for the total of all UK regions also rose over the same period, by 7.3 per cent.
- ◆ The increase for Wales was made up of an increase in exports to non-EU countries (up 24.8 per cent) combined with an increase in exports to EU countries (up 1.7 per cent).
- ◆ The Wales percentage increase over this period was the fourth highest amongst the 12 UK regions. Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands and London each had higher percentage increases (up 16.0 per cent, 11.1 per cent and 10.5 per cent respectively).
- ◆ Looking at quarter 3 2005 in isolation, total exports (by value) for Wales decreased on the corresponding quarter in 2004, by 2.3 per cent. The value of exports for the total of all UK regions increased by 9.5 per cent over the same period.
- ◆ Welsh exports for quarter 2 2005 were also lower in value than in the previous quarter (down £136 million or 6.4 per cent), compared to a 0.5 per cent rise for the total of all UK regions.

²⁵ National Assembly for Wales, *Welsh exports: third quarter 2005*, 15 December 2005:
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20050915-e.htm>

9 Production and Construction

Index of Production and Index of Construction, 2nd Quarter 2005²⁶

Latest 4 quarters compared to the previous 4 quarters

	Wales	UK
Change in production output	2.2% fall	0.6% fall
Change in manufacturing output	3.0% fall	0.4% increase
Change in construction output	1.0% fall	2.4% increase

Source: National Assembly for Wales, *Welsh Index of Production and Construction, 2nd Quarter 2005*, 13 October 2005

The Index of Production for Wales for the latest four quarters fell by 2.2 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. The UK index fell by 0.6 per cent over the same period.

Manufacturing output for the latest four quarters was 3 per cent lower than over the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 0.4 per cent over the same period.

Construction output for the latest four quarters was 1 per cent lower than over the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 2.4 per cent over the same period.

10 Index of Distribution²⁷

Index of Distribution, 2nd Quarter 2005

Latest 4 quarters compared to the previous 4 quarters

	Wales	UK
Change in Index of Distribution	2.6% increase	2.4% increase
Which comprises:		
Change in retail output	5.0% increase	3.2% increase
Change in wholesale output	4.2% increase	2.8% increase
Change in motor trades output	3.8% fall	0.1% increase

Source: Welsh Assembly Government, *Welsh Index of Distribution Q2*, 17 November 2005

²⁶ National Assembly for Wales, *Welsh Index of Production and Construction 2nd Quarter 2005*, 13 October 2005: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20051013-e.htm>

²⁷ Welsh Assembly Government, *Welsh Index of Distribution Quarter 2 2005*, 17 November 2005: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20051117-e.htm>

The Welsh Index of Distribution is an experimental index which contains indices referenced to 2002=100. This is comparable, but not consistent, with the annually weighted and chained estimates of output published for the UK. The experimental Welsh Index of Distribution shows the quarterly movements in the gross value added (GVA) of the distribution industries (1992 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 92) section G). These consist of the motor trades SIC division 50 (including retail sales of automotive fuel), wholesale and commission trades SIC division 51 and retail trade SIC div 52. Together, these industries accounted for 11.1 per cent of the Welsh economy in 2000 (Regional Accounts GVA). The same industries accounted for 12.7 per cent of the UK GVA in the same year.

11 Investment

Table 11.1: Wales Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by NUTS level 1 and 2 area, 2000

NUTS Level 1 NUTS Level 2	GFCF (£ million)	GFCF as a percentage of UK GFCF
WALES	5,728	3.7
West Wales and the Valleys	2,931	1.9
East Wales	2,797	1.8

Source: Office for National Statistics²⁸

Wales' share of UK Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in 2000 was 3.7 per cent. This compares to a 3.9 per cent share of Gross Value Added (GVA) in the same period. London had the highest regional share of GFCF in 2000 at 18.5 per cent (£28.8 billion) which compares to a 18.9 per cent share of GVA. Northern Ireland had the lowest regional share of GFCF in 2000 at 2.7 per cent (£4.2 billion), compared to 2.3 per cent of GVA.

²⁸ Office for National Statistics, Sub-regional gross value added and gross fixed capital formation, 31 October 2003:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdffdir/qva1003.pdf>

Gross (domestic) Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) is expenditure on final assets (buildings, vehicles etc) either for replacing or adding to the stock of existing assets. Due to the erratic nature of capital investment, GFCF can vary considerably between years particularly at NUTS2 level. At the UK level, GFCF for manufacturing, wholesale & retail trade, transport & communications, real estate, and dwellings accounted for nearly two-thirds of total GFCF in 2000. However, the percentage share of GFCF for these industries varies across the regions.

See also:

Office for National Statistics, Regional and Sub-Regional Gross Fixed Capital Formation, 8 December 2003:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ETDecCope.pdf

This article gives detailed information on regional GFCF including a breakdown by industry.

12 Research and Development

Table 12.1: R&D performed within UK Businesses, Wales, 1997 to 2004

Year	Business Enterprise Research & Development		Total Research & Development	
	Expenditure (£ million)	% of UK total	Expenditure (£ million)	% of UK total
1997	113	1.2	257	1.8
1998	125	1.2	289	1.9
1999	203	1.8	387	2.3
2000	144	1.3	348	2.0
2001	136	1.1	340	1.8
2002	182	1.4	402	2.1
2003	264	1.9	483	2.3
2004	228	1.7	n/a	n/a

Source: StatsWales²⁹

The data show that:

- ◆ In 2004, BERD expenditure for Wales was £228 million, down by 15 per cent in real terms on the figure for 2003, but up by 19 per cent in real terms on the figure for 2002. This represented 1.7 per cent of the UK total.
- ◆ Between 2003 and 2004, BERD expenditure in the UK decreased by 3 per cent in real terms to £13.5 billion.
- ◆ The real terms percentage decrease between 2003 and 2004 in BERD expenditure in Wales was the second largest decrease amongst English regions and devolved administrations, after the East (where the figure fell by 16 per cent). Overall there were falls in 7 of the 12 English regions and devolved administrations, whilst the largest increases were in the West Midlands (up 33 per cent) and Scotland (up 15 per cent).

²⁹ Further information on UK Business Enterprise Research and Development can be found at:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw20051125-e.htm>

Note that in a small region, the level of BERD expenditure can be influenced greatly by individual projects commencing or ending in a small number of individual companies. The BERD series for Wales is therefore quite volatile.

Total R&D consists of business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD), government expenditure on R&D (GOVERD) and higher education expenditure on R&D (HERD). The total for the UK also includes the contribution made by private non-profit organisations, which is not disaggregated by region.

13 VAT Registrations

Table 13.1: VAT registered businesses: stocks, registrations and de-registrations, Wales, 1997 to 2005

Year	Stock	Stock as % of UK stock	Registrations	Registrations as % of UK registrations	De-registrations	De-registrations as % of UK de-registrations
1997	77,195	4.7	6,300	3.5	5,840	4.0
1998	77,660	4.7	6,135	3.4	5,855	4.1
1999	77,935	4.6	6,090	3.4	6,050	4.1
2000	77,975	4.5	6,265	3.5	5,680	3.7
2001	78,560	4.5	5,965	3.5	5,310	3.5
2002	79,215	4.5	6,355	3.6	6,145	3.9
2003	79,425	4.4	7,050	3.7	6,715	4.0
2004	79,760	4.4	6,900	3.8	6,650	3.7
2005	80,010	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: StatsWales³⁰

Note: The stock of VAT registered enterprises is the position on 1 January of each year, while the registrations and de-registrations data represent the numbers of such during each calendar year.

The data show that:

- ◆ The number of VAT registrations in Wales during 2004 was 6,900, a reduction of 2.1 per cent over 2003. In aggregate, registrations across the UK fell by 4.1 per cent.
- ◆ The number of VAT de-registrations in Wales during 2004 was 6,700, a reduction of 1.0 per cent over 2003. Across the UK as a whole, de-registrations rose by 7.0 per cent.
- ◆ The total VAT registered stock in Wales increased by 0.3 per cent during 2004.
- ◆ Between 1999 and 2004 the number of VAT registrations increased by 16.4 per cent in West Wales and the Valleys and by 9.7 per cent in East Wales, compared to rises of 13.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent across Wales and the UK as a whole respectively.

VAT registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. They are an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population. As such they are used widely in regional and local economic planning. These figures do not, however, give the complete picture of start-ups and closures activity in the economy. Some VAT exempt sectors and businesses operating below the threshold for VAT registration are not covered. At the start of 2004, the VAT threshold was an annual turnover of £56,000, and 1.8 million of the estimated 4.3

³⁰ New statistics showing VAT registrations and de-registrations during the calendar year 2004 for each of the UK regions were released on 24 November 2005 by the Small Business Service (the agency within the Department of Trade and Industry responsible for small businesses). The published information also covers the overall stock of VAT registered businesses at the start of 2005. Further information on these statistics, and a Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate bulletin entitled *VAT registrations, de-registrations and survival rates for businesses (updated registrations etc for 2004)*, and published on 24 November 2005 can be found at:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/economy/2005/hdw200510124-e.htm>

million enterprises in the UK were VAT-registered³¹. Barclays Bank publishes a regular business survey which provides a broad indication of the number of start-ups and closures in England and Wales³².

Analysis of registration rates by industrial sector shows that there is considerable variation across sectors and that agriculture, in particular, has a registration and de-registration rate significantly lower than any other sector. Differences in the industrial mix therefore have an impact on the registration rate.

³¹ According to the Small Business Service:
<http://www.sbs.gov.uk/analytical/statistics/vatstats.php>

³² Available on the Barclays web-site:
<http://www.business.barclays.co.uk/BRC1/jsp/brcontrol?task=articlegroup&site=bbb&value=288&menu=1721&target=self>

14 UK Inflation, Interest and Exchange Rates

14.1 Consumer Price Indices³³

Consumer price indices, latest and previous month

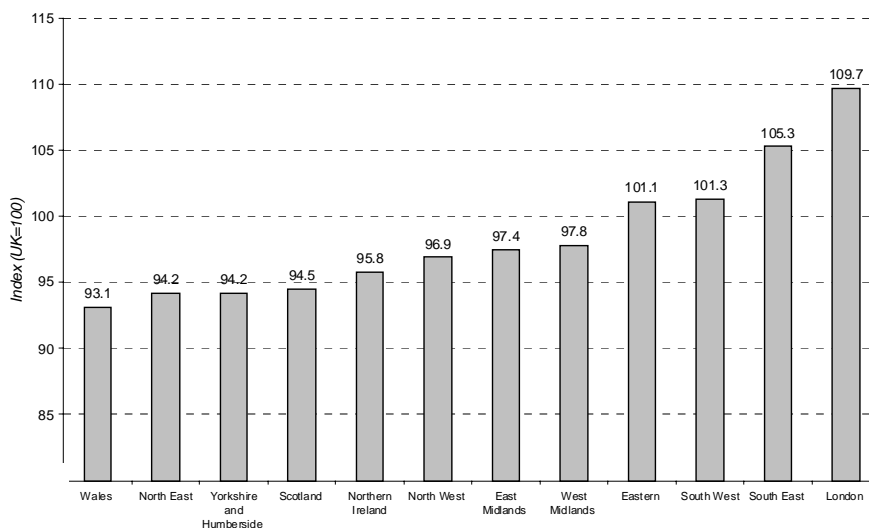
Per cent change over 12 months

	November 2005	October 2005
Consumer prices index (CPI)	2.1%	2.3%
All items retail prices index (RPI)	2.4%	2.5%
All items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX)	2.3%	2.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics, *Consumer price indices November 2005*, 13 December 2005³⁴

Regional Consumer Price Levels

Figure 14.1 Average price level in each region, relative to UK average price level, 2004



Source: Office for National Statistics³⁵

³³ In his Pre-Budget Report statement on 10 December 2003, the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed that the UK inflation target is now based on the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), which the National Statistician has renamed the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) in the UK. The level of the new CPI inflation target has been set at 2 per cent and applies from 10 December 2003. The Chancellor confirmed that pensions, benefits and index-linked gilts will continue to be calculated on exactly the same basis as previously, that is with reference to the all-items Retail Prices Index (RPI) or its derivatives. The Retail Price Index (RPI) and indices such as RPIX (the RPI excluding mortgage interest payments) continue to be published alongside the CPI. Consumer price indices are produced by the Office for National Statistics on a monthly basis. They are available from the ONS web-site at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=868&More=N>

³⁴ Office for National Statistics, *Consumer price indices November 2005*, 13 December 2005:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=868&More=N>

³⁵ Office for National Statistics, *Relative regional consumer price levels in 2004*, 14 February 2005:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ET615Wingfield.pdf

Regional price level comparisons for 2004 show that:

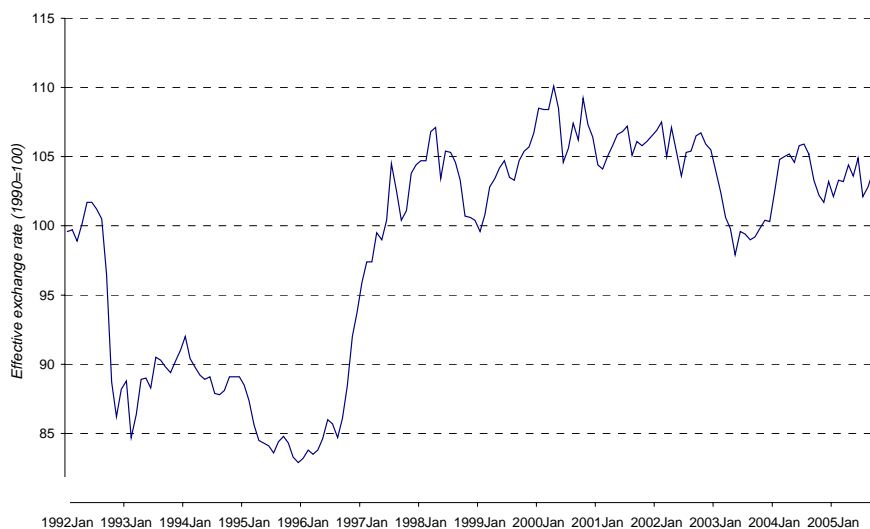
- ◆ Prices in the UK are lowest in Wales (6.9 per cent lower compared with the UK average), followed by the North East and then Yorkshire and Humberside.
- ◆ Prices are most expensive in London (9.7 per cent higher compared with the UK average), followed by the South East.
- ◆ Housing costs show the greatest variation between regions with London being nearly twice as expensive as Northern Ireland. Conversely, food and tobacco prices vary little across regions.

14.2 Interest Rates

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee voted on 8 December 2005 to maintain the Bank's repo rate at 4.5%. The previous change in interest rates was a reduction of 0.25 percentage points to 4.5% on 4 August 2005³⁶.

14.3 Exchange Rates

Figure 14.2 Sterling Exchange Rate Index, 1992 to 2005



Source: Office for National Statistics, *Economic Trends*, December 2005³⁷

The Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI) measures the value of Sterling against a trade-weighted 'basket' of other currencies. The weights used to calculate the index measure currencies relative importance to UK trade in manufacturing. A decline in the index indicates a relative improvement in UK export competitiveness.

³⁶ Further information on interest rate decisions is available on the Bank of England web-site at: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk>

³⁷ Office for National Statistics, *Economic Trends*, December 2005
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=11041&More=n>

Members' Research Service: Research Paper
Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil



Table 15. 1: A Winning Wales, Targets against performance, 1999-2005

Target	2010 Target	2001 base year	2002	2003	2004	2005
1. Increase in net employment of:	175,000	1,210,000	<i>up 36,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 87,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 86,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 82,000 on base year</i> (4 quarters to Aug 2005)
2. Increase in net employment in financial and business services of:	20,000	119,000	<i>down 1,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 10,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 21,000 on base year</i>	<i>up 21,000 on base year</i> (4 quarters to Aug 2005)
3. Raise stock of all VAT registered businesses per 10,000 persons of working age:	UK average	93% of UK	93% of UK	92% of UK	91% of UK	92% of UK
4. Increase business enterprise R&D expenditure as a % of Welsh GVA to:	greater than 1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	n/a
5. Growth in the value of exports to:	match UK growth over period	£7099.2m	<i>down 6.8% on base year compared to no change for UK</i>	<i>up 1.4% on base year compared to up 3.0% for UK</i>	<i>up 17.0% on base year compared to up 4.5% for UK</i>	<i>up 20.7% on base year compared to up 7.7% for UK</i> (based on four quarters to Q2 2005)
6. Increase the proportion of Welsh businesses using e-commerce to:	the UK average proportion					n/a – see note 6 below
7. Household disposable income to increase to:	95% of UK	87.9%	88.3%	88.3%	n/a	n/a
8. Increase tourism expenditure in Wales by:	an average of 6% a year over period	£1,911.9m	£1,794.7m (<i>down an average of 6.1% per year on base year</i>)	£2,035.6m (<i>up an average of 3.2% per year on base year</i>)	£1,802.3m (<i>down an average of 1.9% per year on base year</i>)	n/a

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**Table 15.1: A Winning Wales,
 Targets against performance,
 1999-2005 (cont.)**

Target	2010 Target	2001 base year	2002	2003	2004	2005
9. Reduce the proportion of adults of working age without qualifications to:	less than 10%	21%	19%	17%	17%	n/a
10. Increase the proportion of adults of working age with a level 4 qualification to:	greater than 30%	22%	23%	24%	26%	n/a

Sources and Notes:

1. Labour Force Survey. LFS employees plus self employed for those aged 16+, a 4 quarter average over the period March of the year in question to February of the following year (or latest 4 quarters where a full year is not yet available). Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Current disability is only asked of those of working age in the LFS, hence, the increases shown in numbers of employees and self employed are for those of working age (whereas it is generally for those aged 16+ for all other categories).
2. As for 1.
3. Small Business Service (SBS), an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Number of VAT registered business enterprises as at 1 January, divided by the mid-year estimate of population of working age. NB. The equivalent mid-year estimate of population will be for 30 June of the year prior to the stock date year (six months lag: 30 June vs 1 January), as the publication date for population is behind that for VAT stock data.
4. Office for National Statistics (ONS). Business Enterprise R&D expenditure in cash terms as a percentage of the Welsh GVA total (in £s) for the year.
5. HM Customs and Excise. Cumulative increase in the value of exports (within EU plus non-EU) since the base year; total of 4 quarters in calendar year (or latest 4 quarters where a full year is not yet available). Figure for Wales and figure for the sum of the 12 regions of the UK.
6. The ONS e-commerce survey used to measure businesses using e-commerce has been re-evaluated as it is considered that this survey cannot provide reliable estimates for Wales. No information is currently available as sources other than this survey are being considered.
7. ONS Regional Accounts. Disposable household income per head of population as a percentage of the UK figure, excluding extra-regio.
8. Wales Tourist Board (UK travel survey and overseas visitors survey). Expenditure on tourism in Wales by domestic (UK) and foreign (non-UK) visitors (2004 non-UK visitor spend data are provisional)
9. Labour Force Survey (LFS). Up to 2000, a 4 quarter average, for adults of working age (men 18-64, women 18-59). 2001 and onwards, an annual figure, using same definition, using LFS boost. Qualifications levels are from the LFS variable HIQUAL. NVQ level 3 and above is defined as NVQ level 3 equivalent (GNVQ advanced; 2+ A levels or 4+ AS levels or equivalent; RSA advanced diploma; ONS, ONC, BTEC etc. national; City and Guilds advanced craft; most Scottish CSYS; 3 or more SCE higher or equivalent; some trade apprenticeships; some other qualifications (10%)) plus NVQ level 4 equivalent (Level 4 NVQ; First Degree; Other Degree; Diploma in HE; HNC, HND, BTEC etc higher; Teaching, further education; Teaching, secondary education; Teaching, primary education; Teaching, level not stated; Nursing etc; RSA higher diploma; Other higher education qualification below degree level) plus NVQ level 5 equivalent (Level 5 NVQ; Higher degree).
10. As for 9.

Glossary

Basic Prices - Prices excluding taxes and subsidies on products.

Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) – BERD refers to Research & Development (R&D) performed in the UK within business enterprises. In a small region, the level of BERD expenditure can be influenced greatly by individual projects commencing or ending in a small number of individual companies. The BERD series for Wales is therefore quite volatile. Total R&D consists of business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD), government expenditure on R&D (GOVERD) and higher education expenditure on R&D (HERD).

Claimant Count - The claimant count measures those people who are claiming unemployment-related benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance). It is always lower than the Labour Force Survey (LFS) official measure of ILO unemployment, because some unemployed people are not entitled to claim benefits, or choose not to do so. As benefits rules change, it is difficult to make claimant count comparisons over time. The claimant count comes from the administrative records of Jobcentre Plus (formerly Employment Service), and is available earlier than the LFS-based unemployment data and for smaller geographical areas.

Constant Prices - Constant prices allow figures to be represented so that the effects of inflation are removed. The values for each time period are expressed in terms of the prices in a particular base period.

Consumer Prices Index (CPI) - The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is an internationally comparable measure of inflation calculated by each Member State of the European Union (EU) and is used to compare inflation rates across the European Union. The UK inflation target, based on the HICP and renamed the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), is set at 2 per cent. Pensions, benefits and index-linked gilts continue to be calculated with reference to the all-items Retail Prices Index (RPI) or its derivatives. The Retail Price Index (RPI) and indices such as RPIX (the RPI excluding mortgage interest payments) continue to be published alongside the CPI.

Current Prices - Current prices are the actual or estimated recorded monetary value over a defined period for a group of industries or products. They show the value for each item expressed in terms of the prices of that period.

Economically Active - Those aged 16 and over who are either in employment or unemployed.

Economically Inactive - Those aged 16 and over who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This includes those who want a job but have not been seeking work in the last four weeks, those who want a job and are seeking work but not available to start work, and those who do not want a job.

Employment - The number of people with jobs as estimated by the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This includes all people aged 16 or over who did paid work, those who had a job that they were temporarily away from, those on government supported training and employment programmes, and those doing unpaid family work during the survey period.

Employment Rate - The employment rate is the number of people in employment as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64).

Exchange Rate - The rate at which one currency is traded against another.

Gross Value Added - Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom and is used in the estimation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP is a key indicator of the state of the whole economy. In the UK, three theoretical approaches are used to estimate GDP: 'production', 'income' and 'expenditure'. When using the production or income approaches, the contribution to the economy of each industry or sector is measured using GVA. Some technical issues to bear in mind when considering GVA estimates are outlined below.

- ◆ **Regional (NUTS1) GVA** is currently calculated on both a workplace and a residence basis. Residence-based GVA allocates the incomes of commuters to where they live (and is done so due to the residence-based administrative underlying data), whereas workplace-based GVA allocates their incomes to where they work.
- ◆ **NUTS2 and NUTS3 GVA** is estimated on a workplace basis. The estimates of NUTS3 GVA per head are calculated by dividing the estimate of workplace GVA for an area by the resident population for that area. Estimates of GVA per head will be high in areas with high levels of inward commuting and a low resident population (such as Inner London and Edinburgh). Conversely, estimates of GVA per head will be low in areas with significant levels of outward commuting and high resident populations.
- ◆ **Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. Under the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95), the term GVA is used to denote estimates that were previously known as gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices. Under ESA95 the term GDP denotes GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products, i.e. at market prices. Regional accounts are currently only published at basic prices, so the figures are now referred to as GVA rather than GDP as in previous publications.
- ◆ **Per Capita Measurement**. The wide variation in the size of the regions of the UK makes it difficult to compare the regions' economic performance using cash totals; comparisons are therefore usually expressed in terms of amounts per head of the population. However, it is important to note that the growth in totals may be quite different to the growth per head in regions where the population has increased or decreased. Furthermore, the level per head is determined both by the average amount of cash of the working population and by the proportion of dependants. Ideally the age structure of the population should therefore be taken into account when comparing figures on a per head basis.
- ◆ **GVA and Inflation**. All the items in regional accounts are measured in current prices, which means that increases over time reflect inflation as well as real growth. Trends in total GVA per head of population cannot be analysed easily without deflating the data. However, there are no regional price indices that could be used to remove the effect of inflation from the figures⁴⁰. Comparisons of trends can therefore be based either on the difference between regional increases at current prices or on movements in the amount relative to the UK average. Both approaches would be misleading if the rate of inflation in any region were different from the national average.

⁴⁰ Regional consumer price level estimates are available, but it is not possible to use consumer price figures to deflate the regional GVA estimates.

- ◆ **Extra-Regio.** The contribution to GVA of UK embassies abroad and UK forces stationed overseas is included in Extra-Regio, along with the elements relating to activities taking place on the continental shelf. As these cannot be assigned to specific regions they are assigned as "Extra-Regio GVA".
- ◆ **Accuracy.** GVA estimates are partly based on sample surveys and the quality of the results therefore varies according to sample size. This means that the results for smaller regions are subject to a greater degree of uncertainty than those for larger regions.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) - Gross (domestic) Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) is expenditure on final assets (buildings, vehicles etc) either for replacing or adding to the stock of existing assets and is used as a measure of capital investment. Due to the erratic nature of capital investment, GFCF can vary considerably between years particularly at lower levels of geography.

Inactivity Rate - The inactivity rate is the number of inactive people as a percentage of those of working age (16-59/64). The headline inactivity rate includes population living in student halls of residence, hence inactivity rates will be higher for unitary authorities with a high student population.

Market Prices - The prices actually paid by the purchaser for goods and services, including transport costs, trade margins and taxes. GDP at market prices = GDP at basic prices + transport prices paid separately + non deductible taxes on expenditure - subsidies received.

Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) - The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a hierarchical classification of administrative areas, used across the European Union for statistical purposes. Wales is one of 12 NUTS 1 areas in the UK. A breakdown of NUTS 2, 3 and Local Authority (LAU) 1 areas can be found on the ONS web-site at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nuts_wales.asp

Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) - The PPS is an artificial currency that reflects differences in national price levels that are not taken into account by exchange rates. This unit allows meaningful volume comparisons of economic indicators over countries.

Seasonally Adjusted - Estimates in which the element of variability due to seasonal influences has been removed.

Sterling Exchange Rate Index (SERI) – The SERI measures the value of sterling against a trade-weighted 'basket' of other currencies. The weights used in this index measure currencies' relative importance to UK trade in manufacturing.

UK Base/Repo Rate - The rate at which the Bank of England lends to discount houses by buying their bills. The base rate is usually the minimum rate at which banks are prepared to lend money. The high street bank base rate follows that set by the Bank of England, and it acts as the benchmark for other interest rates, including mortgages and personal loans.

Unemployment Rate (ILO) - The ILO unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed persons as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over. The ILO unemployment measure is a count of those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the



next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks. It is a more encompassing measure of unemployment than the claimant count and enables international comparison of unemployment rates.

Winning Wales - *A Winning Wales* is the National Economic Development Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government and was launched on 28 January 2002. Further information on *A Winning Wales* can be found at:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/themes/budgetandstrategic/content/neds/>

Workforce Jobs - The sum of employee jobs, self-employment jobs, those in HM Forces and government-supported trainees.