Statistical First Release

Summary statistics for North Wales region: 2020

These reports have been updated to support the continuing development of the National Development Framework following consultation on the draft NDF in autumn 2019. The Mid and South West Wales region has been split into separate regions for Mid Wales and South West Wales to provide more detailed analysis on the key issues and trends in these areas. The North Wales region comprises the local authorities of Isle of Anglesey, Wrexham, Conwy, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Gwynedd. The aim of this release is to give a statistical breakdown of the region and to highlight differences that may exist across the region for the nine topics in question.

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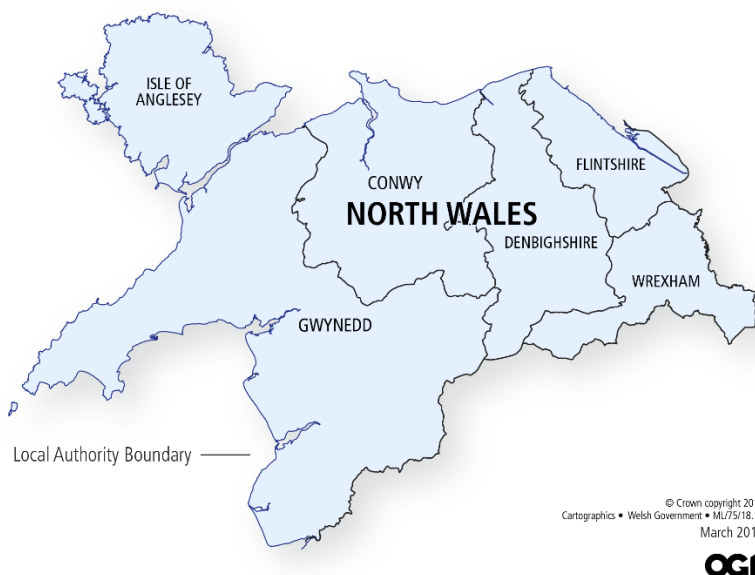
Key Points

- The population of North Wales is more evenly distributed across its local authorities than in the other three regions, ranging from an estimated 155,600 residents in Flintshire to around 70,000 in the Isle of Anglesey.

- Welsh-speakers in North Wales form a higher proportion of the population than in other regions.

- For the year ending 30 September 2019, North Wales had the highest employment rate and lowest economic inactivity rate of the four Welsh regions.

About this release

This release is one of five statistical outputs summarising statistics on nine key topics for Wales and four Welsh regions (North Wales, Mid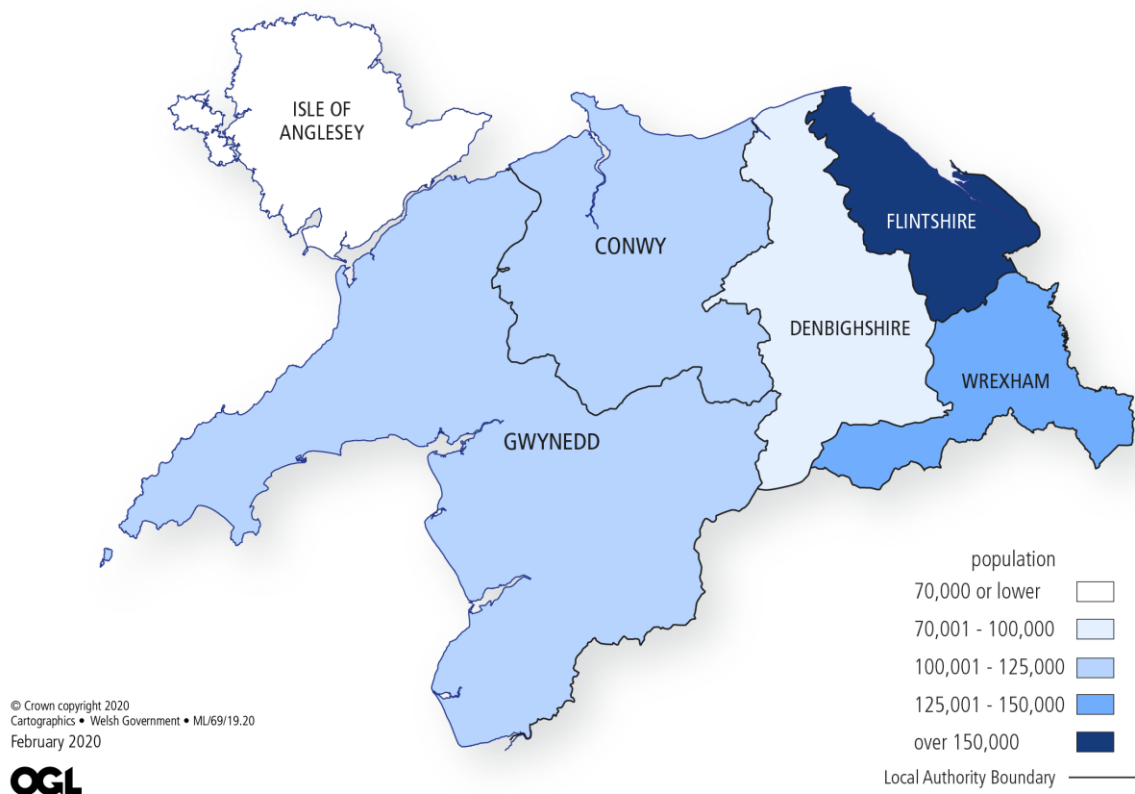 Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales). Together these releases have been prepared to inform regional planning, supporting the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, the National Development Framework and the Economic Action Plan.

In this release

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Population

Figure 1: Population in North Wales, by local authority, 2018

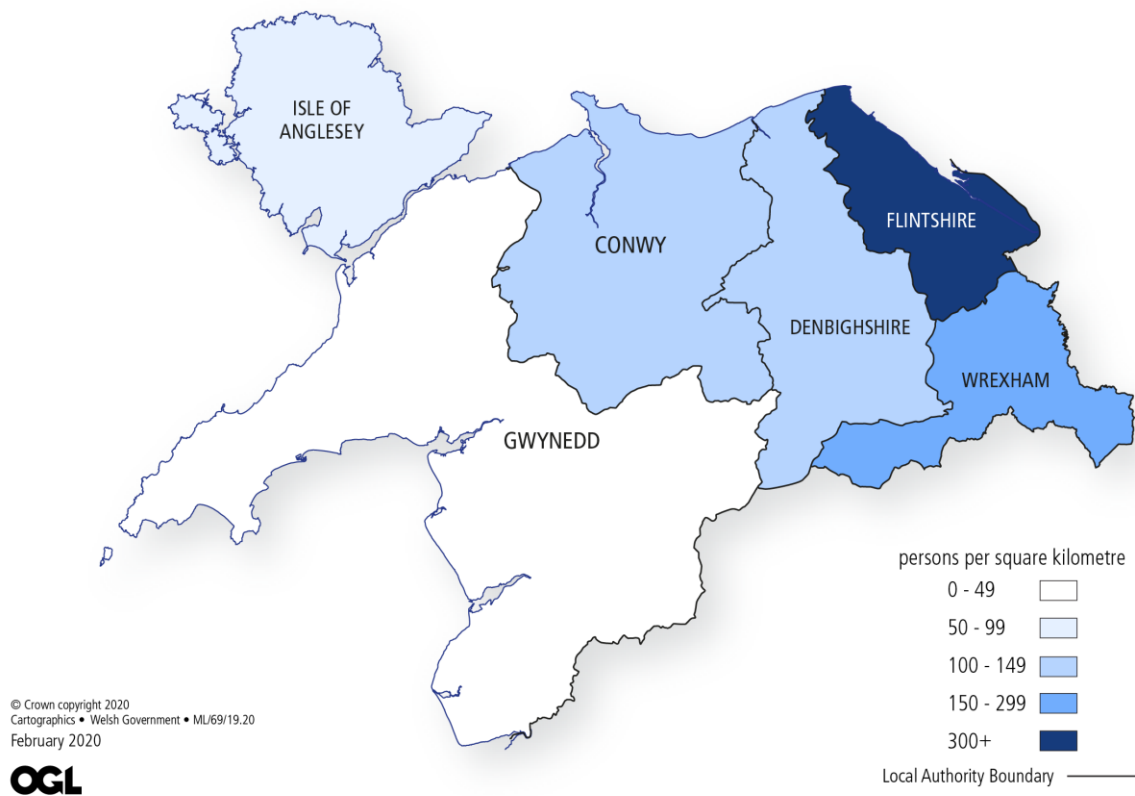
Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

In 2018, North Wales had a total estimated population of 698,400 persons.

Of the four regions, it exhibited the most even population distribution across authorities, with over 100,000 residents each in 4 of the 6 authorities: Flintshire, Wrexham, Gwynedd and Conwy. Of these, Flintshire was the most populous, with an estimated 155,600 inhabitants, while the Isle of Anglesey, with its 70,000 residents was the least populated.

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

Figure 2: Population density (persons per square kilometre) in North Wales, by local authority, 2018

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

North Wales had a population density of 113.6 persons per square kilometre in 2018.

Flintshire was the most densely populated of the six local authorities in the region, at 355.6 persons per square kilometre. Gwynedd was the most sparsely populated authority, at 49.0 persons per square kilometre. Between 2008 and 2018, population density grew by 2.3 per cent in North Wales. This was the third highest rate of population density growth of the four regions in Wales during this period. The authority with the largest population density growth rate in the region was Gwynedd, at 3.7 per cent. The Isle of Anglesey saw the lowest rate, with population density growing by 0.1 per cent from 2008 to 2018.

Welsh Government analysis of 2011 Census data (unpublished) shows that in North Wales, both the number and proportion of residents living in settlements with 25,000 or more residents was lower than in South East and South West Wales, but was higher than Mid Wales. This can partly be attributed to the fact that North Wales has no settlement with over 100,000 residents.

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

**Figure 3: Population distribution in North Wales by age and gender, 2018**
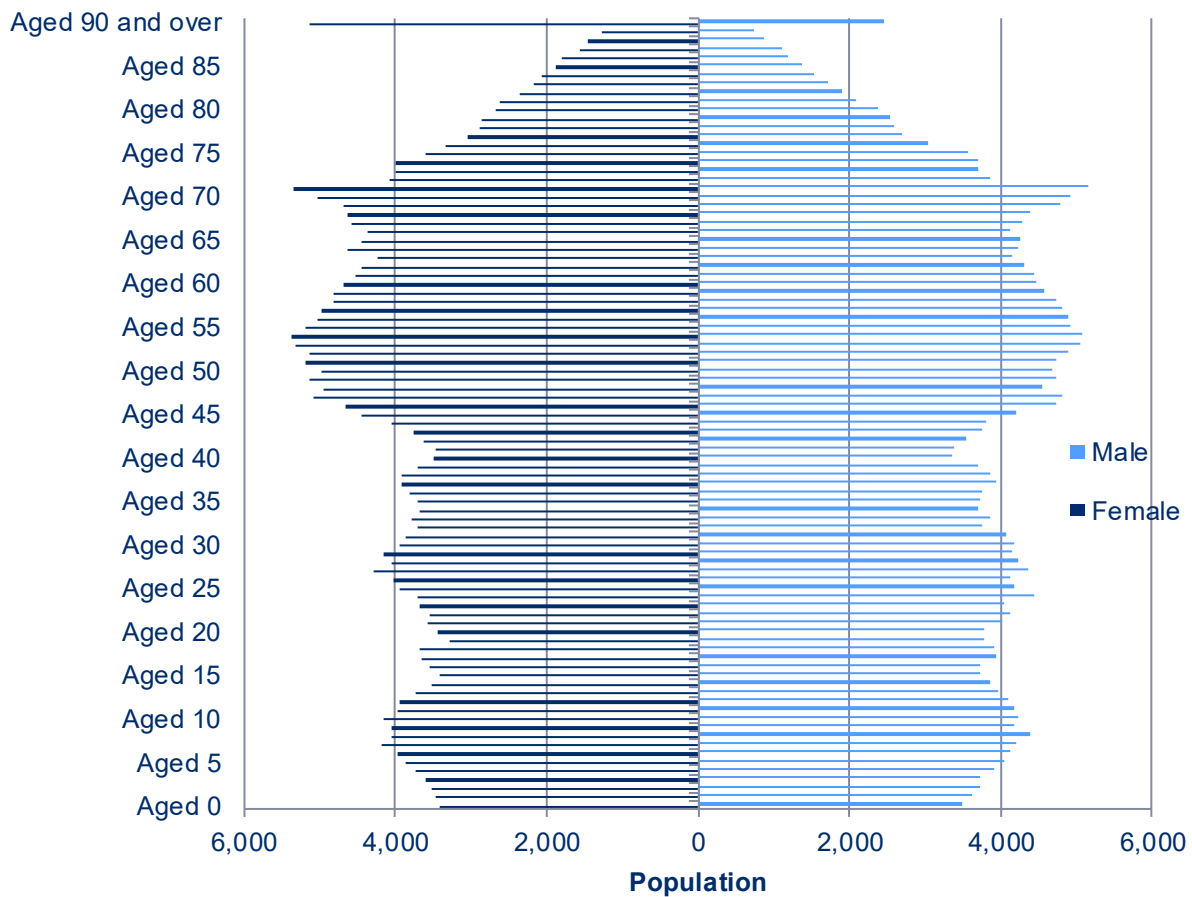
Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

North Wales has an ageing population. Between 1998 and 2018, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased from 18.5 per cent to 23.0 per cent, while the proportion of the population aged 15 and under has fallen from 19.8 per cent to 17.8 per cent.

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

Figure 4: Percentage population change in North Wales, by local authority, 1998-2018
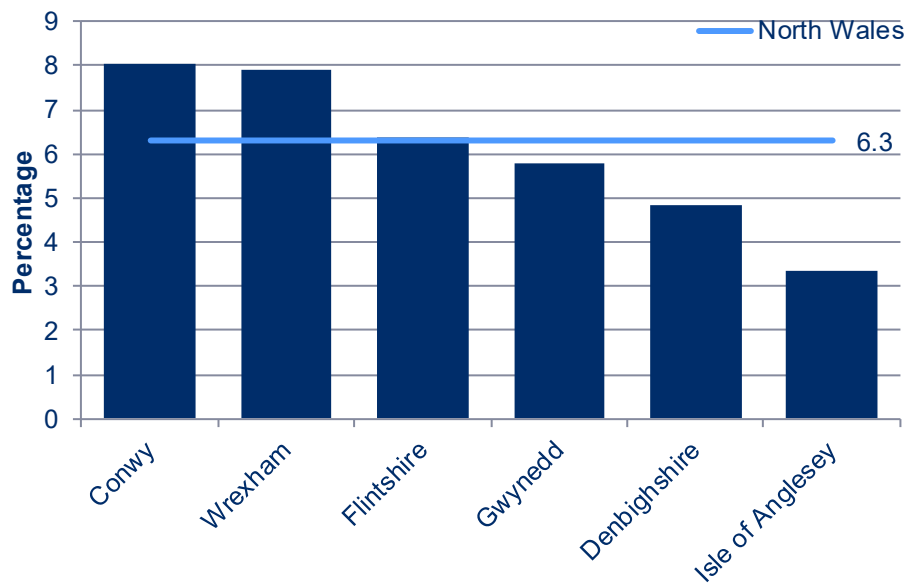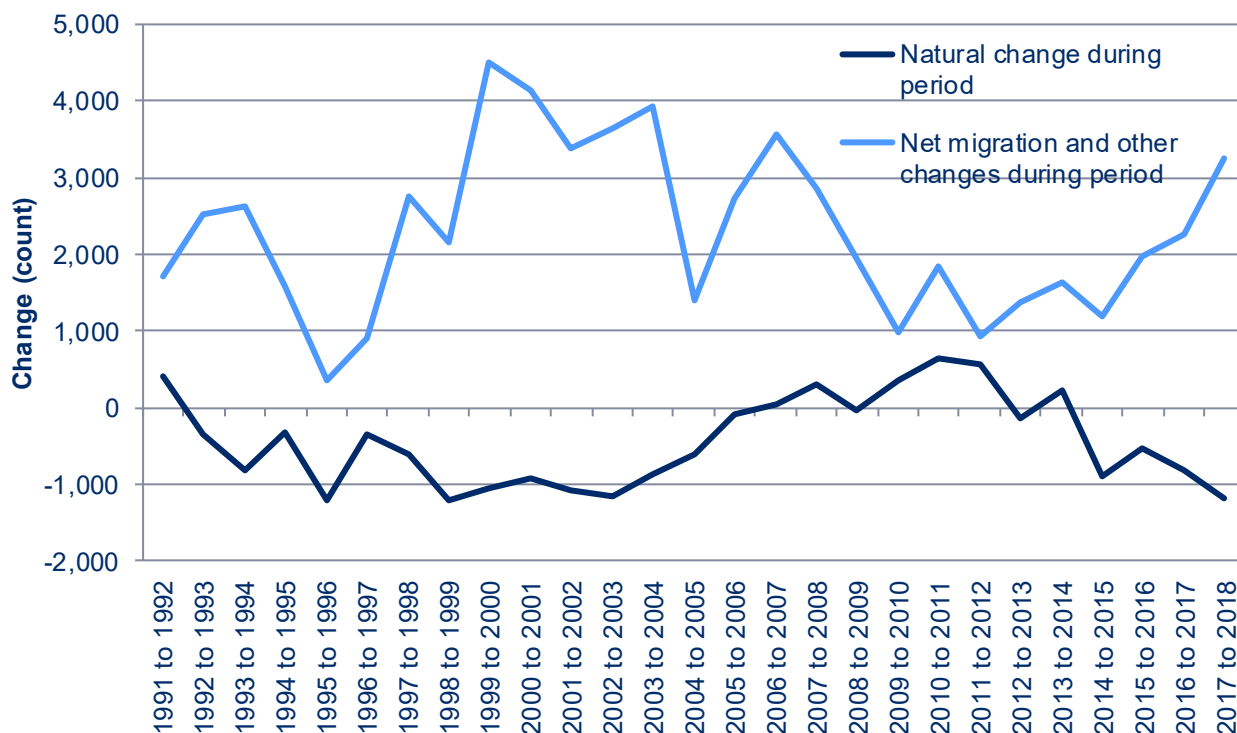

Source: Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

All six authorities in the region have grown in population between 1998 and 2018, with a regional population growth rate of 6.3 per cent over this period.

The population growth rate was lower between 2008 and 2018 than between 1998 and 2008. Conwy had the greatest population growth rate in the region for the 1998-2008 period, but Gwynedd has gone from being the authority with the region's lowest population growth rate for the 1998-2008 period, to the highest population growth rate for the 2008-2018 period. The Isle of Anglesey saw the lowest population growth between 2008 and 2018, with a net change of fewer than 100 residents over this period.

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

**Figure 5: Components of population change in North Wales over time**

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

Looking at data showing components of population change across North Wales, we see that since the 1991-92 period, more population change has been attributable to net migration and other changes than to natural change (births and deaths). Since the 1991-92 period, net migration and other changes have been strictly positive, meaning that more people have been moving into the region than have been moving out (as opposed to births and deaths). Meanwhile, natural change (the difference between the number of births and deaths) has fluctuated between positive and negative net change. In the last few years this has been negative and decreasing, meaning that there have been more deaths than births in the region.

Looking at local authorities, we see that Conwy saw the largest net change in population due to migration and other changes during the 2017-18 period. We also notice that population change due to net migration and other changes was positive in all authorities during this period. 4 of the 6 local authorities experienced negative natural change in 2017-18, with only Flintshire and Wrexham experiencing more births than deaths in the period. The highest level of negative natural change was in Conwy.

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

Figure 6: Stated Welsh-speaking ability of persons aged three and over in North Wales, by local authority, 2011
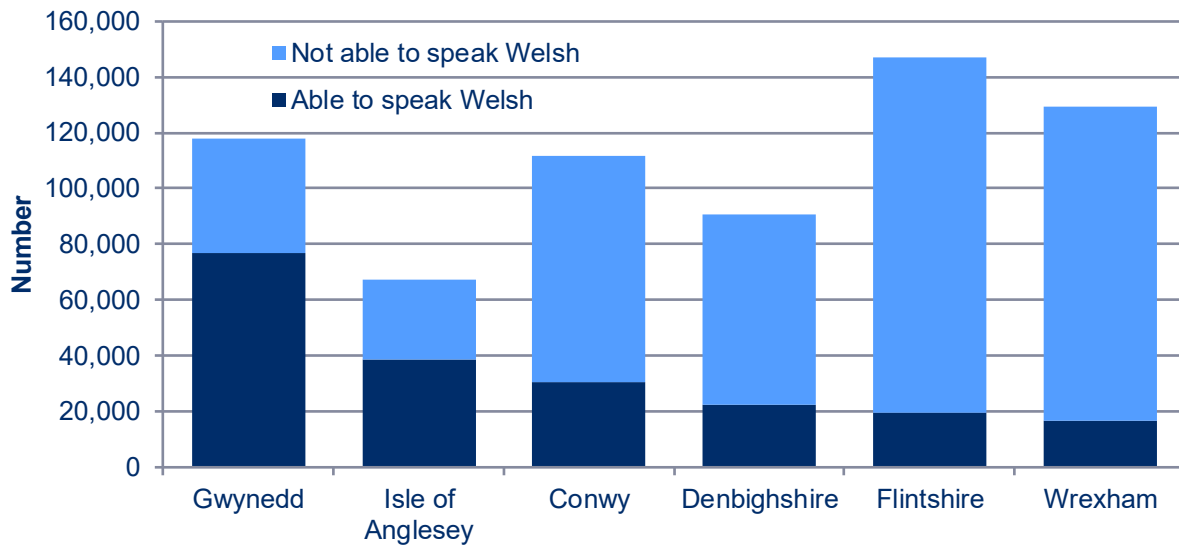

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

According to census data, there were 204,406 Welsh speakers aged three and over in the region in 2011. Although the number of Welsh speakers may be similar in different areas, it's important to also consider the percentage of Welsh speakers in each area as this may vary considerably due to different population sizes.

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

Data from the Annual Population Survey shows that in the year ending September 2019, Gwynedd was the authority with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers both in North Wales and in Wales as a whole, with 75.6 per cent of residents aged three and over saying they could speak Welsh. Flintshire had the lowest rate of Welsh-speaking in North Wales at approximately 22.5 per cent. On a regional level, North Wales had the highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales, at an estimated 41.9 per cent in the year ending September 2019, up approximately 2.4 percentage points on the data from the year ending September 2009. It is also worth noting, however, that on a local authority level, Flintshire is one of only 2 authorities in Wales where Welsh-speaking rates have decreased over the last ten years. Regional percentages have been calculated from published rounded data.

Figure 7: Student enrolments to Higher Education Institutions in North Wales, 2018-19
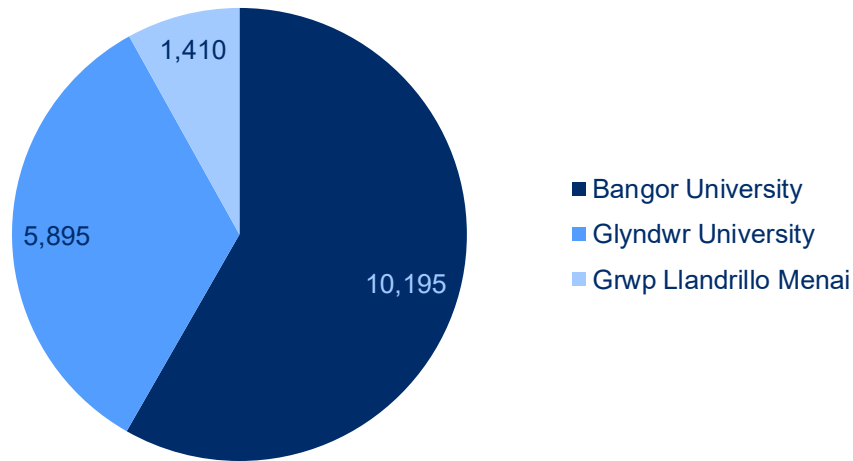
Source: Higher education student record, Higher Education Statistics Agency

In 2018-19, there were 17,500 enrolments on Higher Education (HE) courses in North Wales, representing 13.2 per cent of student enrolments across Wales. Bangor University saw the highest number of HE enrolments in the region, representing 58.3 per cent of total enrolments in the region.
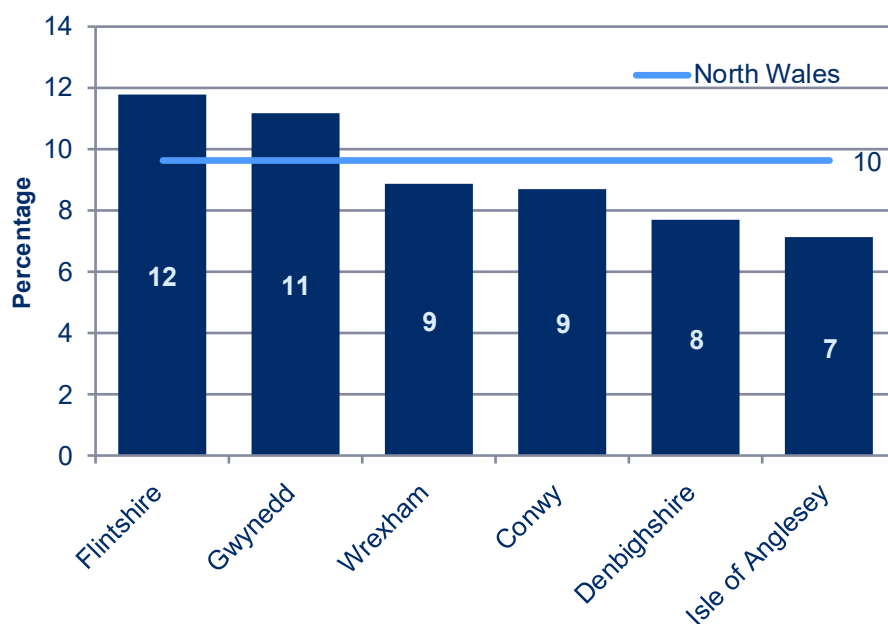
Health

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

ONS data shows that for 2016-18 in North Wales, female life expectancy, female healthy life expectancy, and male healthy life expectancy were highest in Gwynedd and lowest in Wrexham. Male life expectancy was highest in Flintshire and lowest in Denbighshire.

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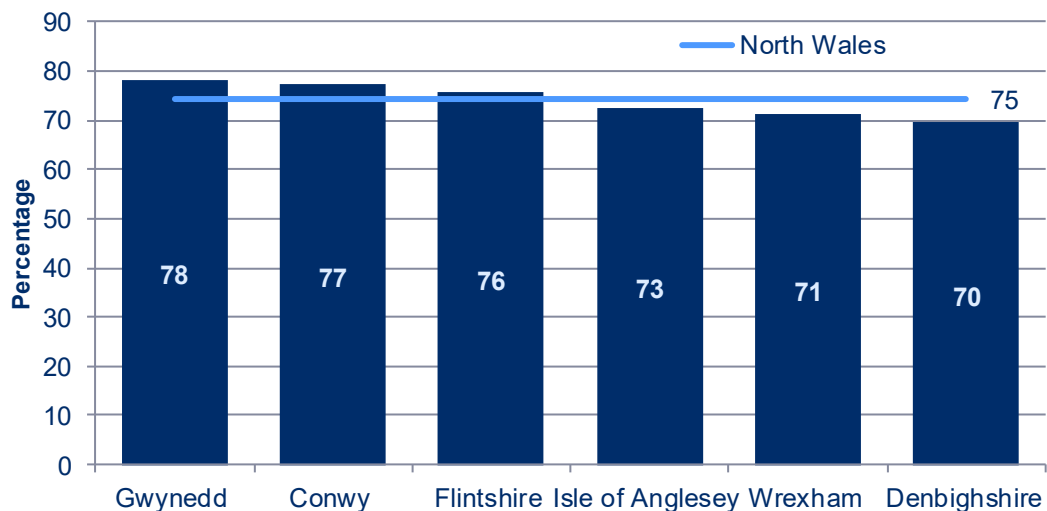

* The 2017-18 and 2018-19 periods have been combined for data quality purposes

Source: National Survey for Wales

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

Across North Wales in 2017-18 and 2018-19 combined, 10 per cent of adults reported fewer than 2 of the 5 healthy lifestyle behaviours. This ranged from 7 per cent in Anglesey to 12 per cent in Flintshire, however the difference was not statistically significant.

Figure 9: Percentage of adults aged 16 and over reporting they are in good or very good general health, by local authority, 2017-18 and 2018-19* (age standardised)
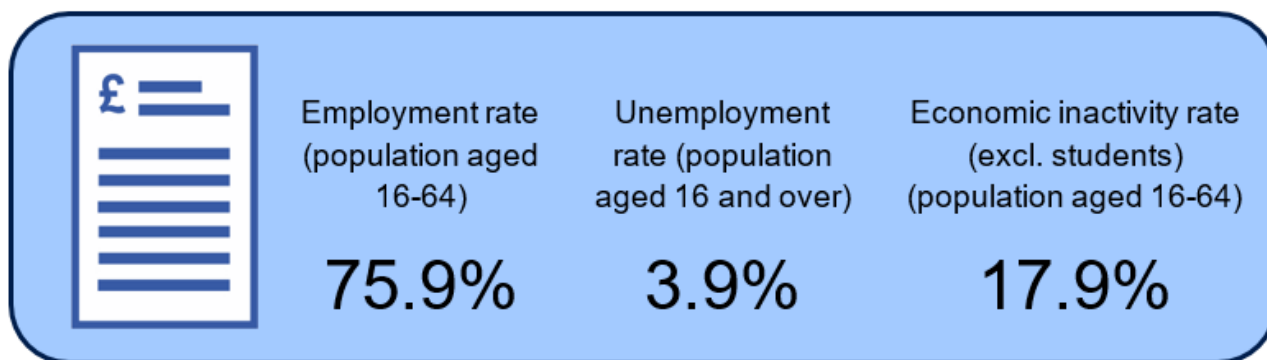

* The 2017-18 and 2018-19 periods have been combined for data quality purposes

Source: National Survey for Wales

Across North Wales in 2017-18 and 2018-19 combined, 75 per cent of adults reported being in good or very good general health, higher than the Welsh average. This ranged from 70 per cent in Denbighshire to 78 per cent in Gwynedd.

Employment

Employment rate (population aged 16-64): **75.9%**

Unemployment rate (population aged 16 and over): **3.9%**

Economic inactivity rate (excl. students) (population aged 16-64): **17.9%**

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics. Data relates to year ending 30 September 2019

Figure 10: Employment rate in North Wales, 1999-2019
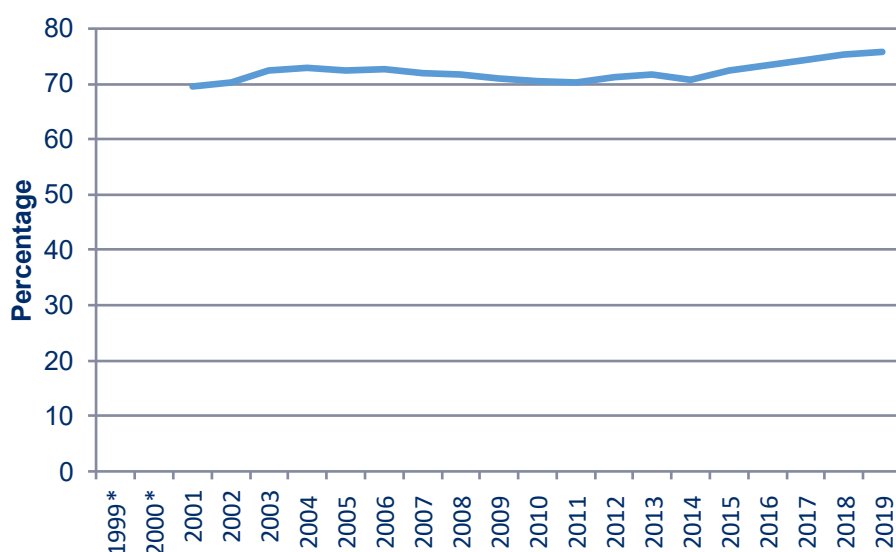
Notes:

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

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

The employment level is the total number of people (aged 16+) that are in employment and the employment rate is the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) that is in employment. Of the four regions, North Wales had the highest employment rate in Wales in the year ending 30 September 2019. Flintshire was the local authority with the highest employment rate in Wales with a rate of 79.7 per cent (higher than both Wales and the UK).

Since 2001, the region's employment rate has increased by 6.2 percentage points, just below the Wales increase of 6.4 per cent. The Isle of Anglesey was the local authority in North Wales that saw the largest increase in the employment rate, growing 11.6 percentage points over the same period.

The unemployment level is the total number of people who are unemployed and the [unemployment rate](#) is the percentage of the economically active population who are unemployed (using the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) definition of unemployment). For the year ending September 2019, the unemployment rate in North Wales was 3.9 per cent, lower than the Wales unemployment rate and the same as the UK rate (to one decimal place). Since 2001, the unemployment rate in North Wales has fallen by 0.6 percentage points. Flintshire was the lowest unemployment rate in Wales and experienced the most marked change within North Wales, decreasing by 2.8 percentage points since 2001.

The [economic inactivity rate](#) is the percentage of the population who are not working and not seeking nor available to work. Economically inactive people include people looking after the family and / or home, retirees and people with a sickness or disability. For the year ending 30 September 2019, the economic inactivity rate in North Wales was 17.9 per cent, the lowest across the Welsh regions, and a decrease of 6.7 percentage points compared to 2001. This change was the same as the change across the whole of Wales (to one decimal place). Isle of Anglesey's economic inactivity rate saw the most marked change within North Wales, decreasing by 10.7 percentage points since 2001.

More information on regional economic statistics can be found in the [Welsh Government's regional economic and labour market profiles.](#)

**Figure 11: Workplace employment, by local authority, 2018**
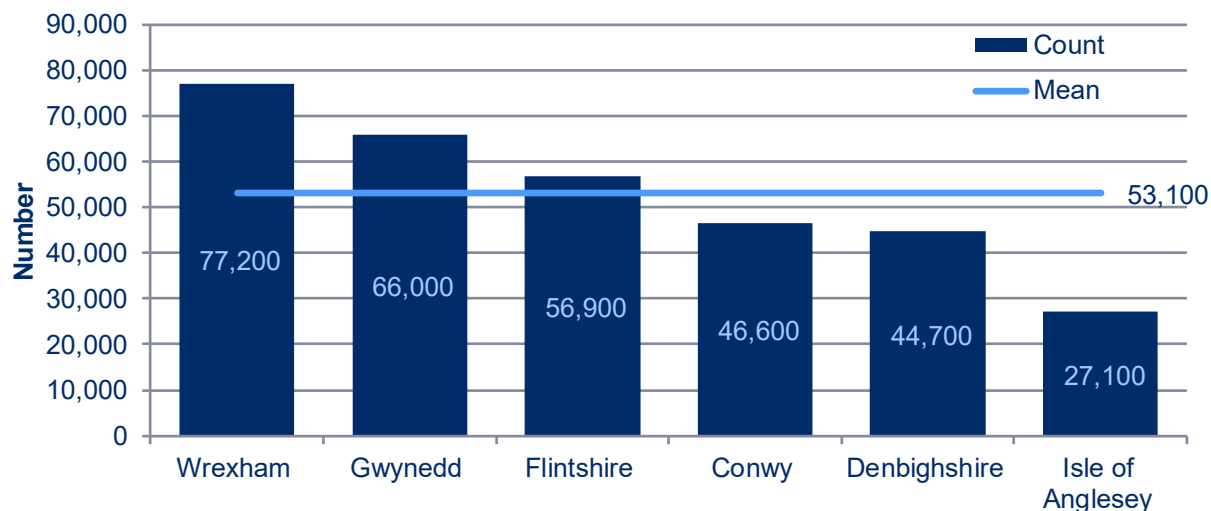
Source: Workplace Employment, Welsh Government

Workplace employment data is collected from businesses through the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES), and focuses on employment and employee data. This is in contrast to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) data, which is taken from data mainly collected from residents of private households.

Workplace employment data shows that 318,400 jobs in the region in 2018. The average level of jobs across the region's six local authorities was 53,100. This was the second lowest level in Wales, as was the region's median level, which was 51,800.

The Real estate activities sector saw by far the largest percentage growth in jobs over the 2008-2018 period, while the greatest change in the level of jobs was in the Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities sector, which grew by 12,300 people. The Finance and insurance activities sector saw the greatest decrease in percentage terms. When considering the number of jobs however, it was the Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food sector that decreased the most over this period in the region, down 9,900 jobs across North Wales. Note that differences have been calculated from published rounded data.

Figure 12: Change in local authority populations in North Wales due to people commuting in and out for work, 2018
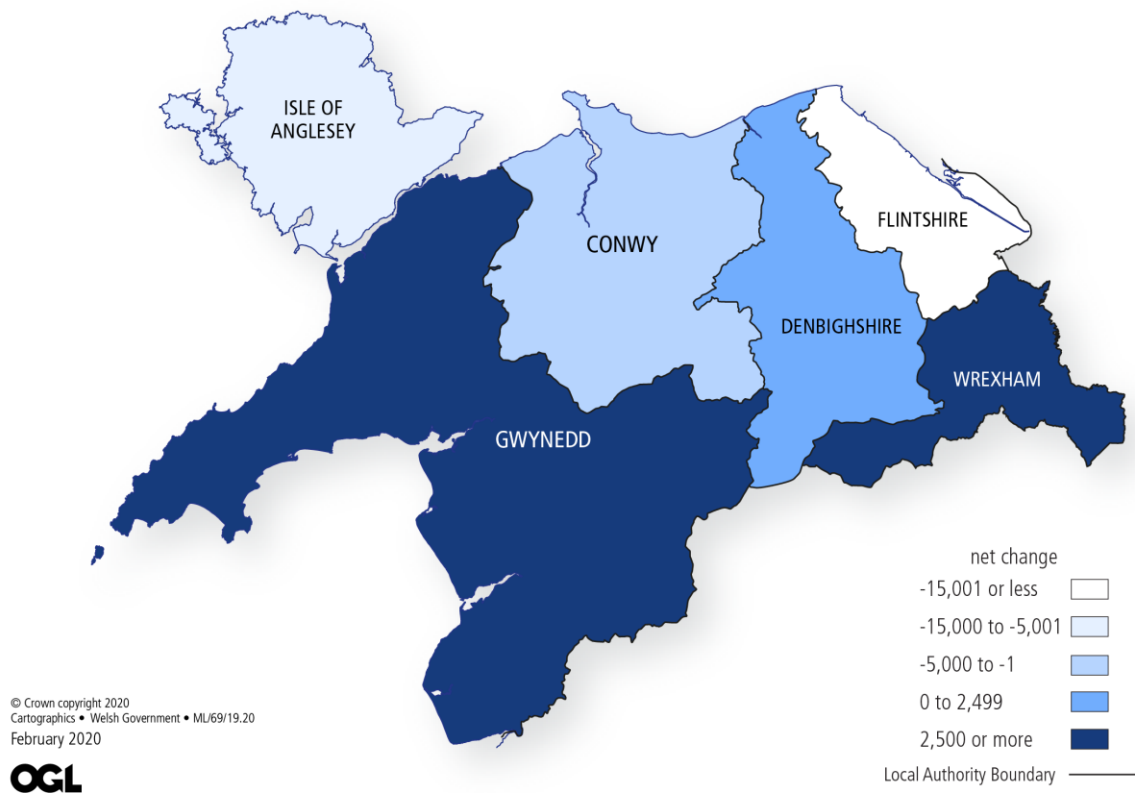

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

As a whole, the net change in workers across the region was -20,400, the greatest net change of the four regions. This indicates that the number of people in the region fluctuates as people go to work outside the region, particularly across the border into areas such as Cheshire West and Chester, and Shropshire. Note that net changes and data for the regions have been calculated from published rounded data.

Data from 2018 indicates that the net worker population change was negative in 3 of the region's 6 local authorities, meaning that in these authorities, more people commute out of the authority to work than commute in from other authorities. Flintshire, the most populous local authority in the region, saw the greatest outflow of workers.

Figure 13: Average distance travelled to work (km) by workers aged 16-74 in 2011, by local authority of residence
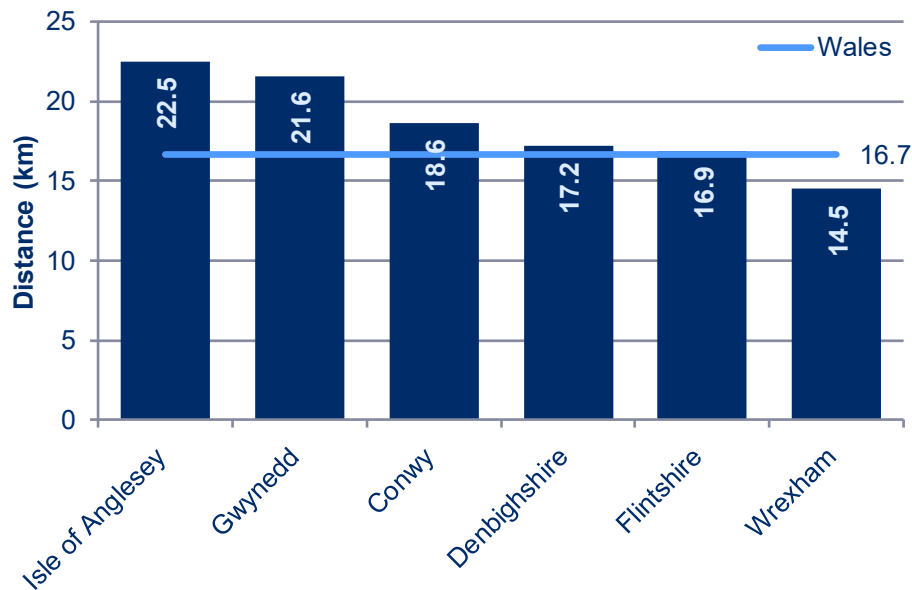
Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

2011 Census data shows that, on average, working residents aged 16-74 in all local authorities in the region had longer distances to commute to work than the Wales average, except in Wrexham. Commuting distances increased in each local authority in the region since 2001.

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

Data for the year ending 31st December 2018 shows that in one local authority in the region (Flintshire) the proportion of men and women aged 18-64 with no qualifications was higher than the Wales figure of 8.4 per cent. In Conwy and Flintshire, the percentage of men and women aged 18-64 qualified to NQF level 2 or above was lower than the Wales level of 78.9 per cent.

Transport

Figure 14: Transport Infrastructure in North Wales
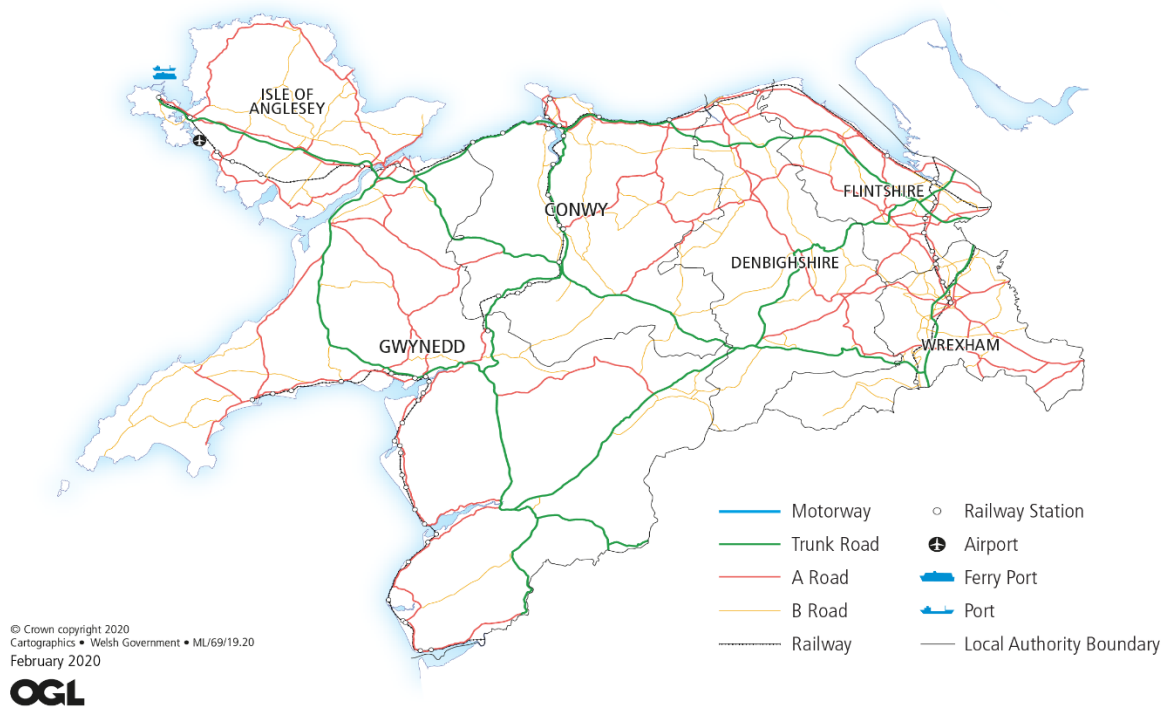

Source: Ordnance Survey

North Wales' transport infrastructure includes a port and ferry port in Holyhead on the Isle of Anglesey, as well as 1 of the 2 airports in Wales.

Holyhead had the third largest volume of freight traffic in 2018 (5.2 million tonnes) and is the main port for freight and sea passenger transport with the Irish Republic.

The A55 runs for approximately 87 miles between Holyhead ferry port, through the Welsh local authorities of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire before crossing the border into England and finishing in Chester. There were two parts of the A55 which frequently had average speeds of less than 30 mph. These sections are in Holyhead and around the Britannia Bridge crossing.

Figure 15: Methods of travel to work among employed North Wales residents aged 16-74, 2011
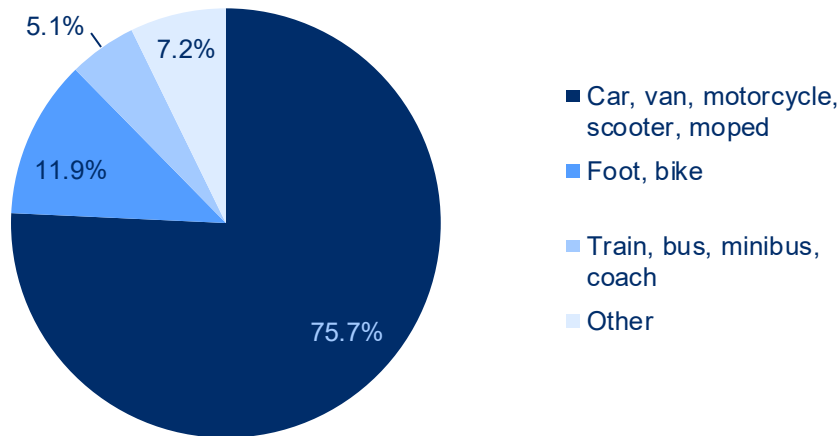

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics

According to census data from 2011, 75.7 per cent of workers aged 16-74 living in North Wales travelled to work by car, van, motorcycle, scooter or moped. This corresponded to around 237,000 persons across the region. 11.9 per cent (37,000 persons) travelled on foot or by bike. 5.1 per cent (16,000 persons) travelled by train, bus, minibus or coach.

Across North Wales, adults aged 16 and over in Isle of Anglesey were most likely to walk for more than 10 minutes as a means of transport, at 71.8 per cent in 2018-19. The lowest proportion in the region was in Gwynedd (51.9 per cent).

In the same period, the local authority with the highest percentage of adults aged 16 and over using a bicycle as a means of transport at least once a month was also in Isle of Anglesey (13.3 per cent). The lowest regular bicycle usage was in Wrexham (6.9 per cent).

**Figure 16: Rail journeys made in North Wales over time, by local authority**
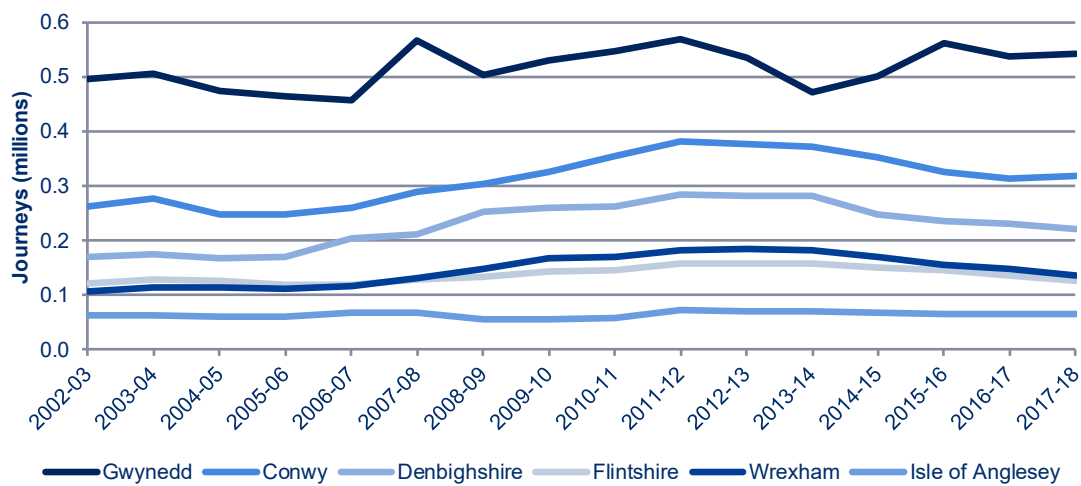
Source: National Rail Trends, Regional User Profiles, Office of Rail and Road

Across North Wales, the number of train journeys made in 2017-18 was 1.4 million, an increase of 20,525 on 2007-08. In 2017-18, the greatest share of these journeys (38.4 per cent) happened in Gwynedd. However, Conwy was the local authority that saw the greatest increase in train journeys in percentage terms over the ten-year period, at 22.5 per cent.

In 2017-18, there were 41 rail stations in North Wales. Three of these, Bangor (Gwynedd) and Rhyl were among the 20 busiest stations in Wales by station entries and exits.

Environment

Figure 17: Heritage Coast and Special Protection Areas in North Wales
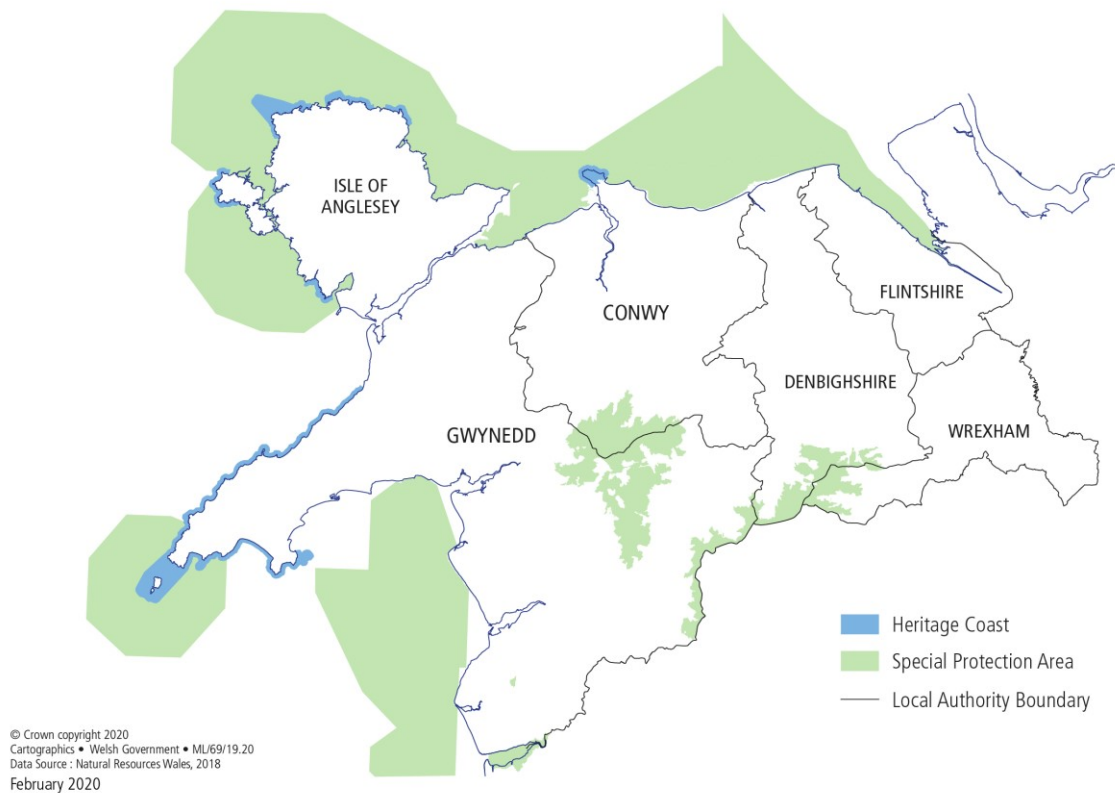
Source: Natural Resources Wales

In North Wales, the Great Orme, North Anglesey Coast, Holyhead Mountain, Aberffraw Bay and Llyn Coast have been designated as Heritage Coasts in order to protect them from insensitive developments. The region is also home to the Special Protection Areas (SPAs) of Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt; Bird's Rock; Aberdaron Coast & Bardsey Island; Holy Island Coast; Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal; Anglesey Terns; Lavan Sands, Conway Bay; and Puffin Island, as well as sections of the Berwyn, Dee Estuary, Liverpool Bay and Northern Cardigan Bay SPAs. These serve to protect bird species which are either rare or vulnerable, or which, in the case of migratory birds, visit Welsh shores regularly.

Figure 18: Designated Natural Environment in North Wales
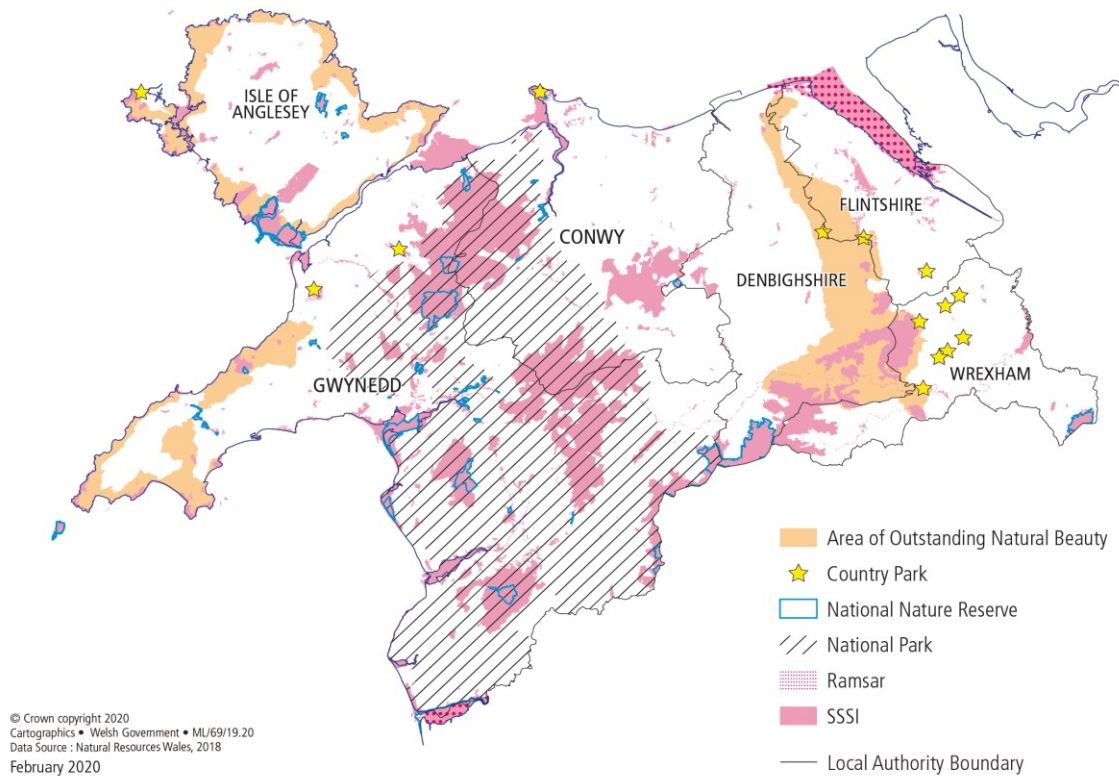
Source: Natural Resources Wales

North Wales is home to the Snowdonia National Park, as well as 3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, Anglesey, and Llyn.

Air Quality

Flintshire had the highest concentration of nitrogen dioxide in the air in the region in 2017 (9 μg/m^3), the lowest observed concentration was 5 μg/m^3 on the Isle of Anglesey and in Gwynedd. The observed concentration reduced in all local authorities across the region since 2007, with the greatest observed reduction in Wrexham (5μg/m^3).

Energy

In North Wales in 2018 there was a low-carbon energy capacity of 709 megawatts (MW). This was 18 per cent of the Wales total. The Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and Wrexham were the local authorities with the lowest low-carbon energy capacity in the region (85 MW). Flintshire had the highest capacity for low-carbon energy in the region, with over 30 per cent of the region's capacity. 85 per cent of the 17,800 low-carbon energy projects in the region were for solar energy (photovoltaic or thermal).

Figure 19: Municipal waste treatment in North Wales
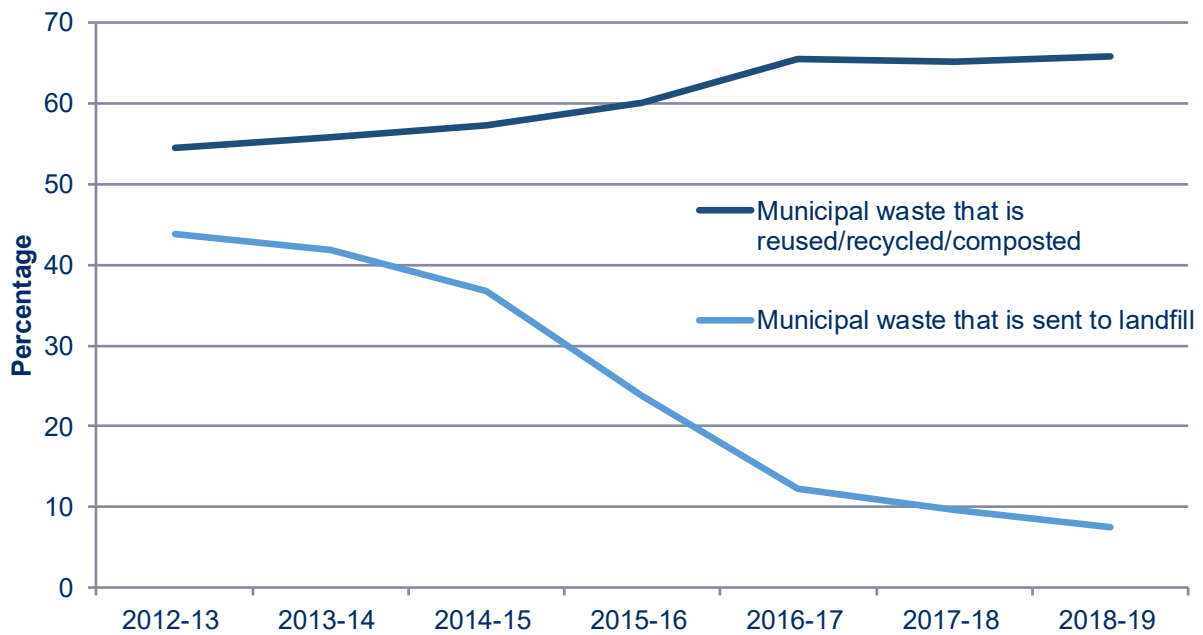
Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

In 2018-19, the amount of local authority municipal waste that was reused, recycled or composted was 66 per cent in North Wales, compared to 54 per cent in 2012-13, the earliest year for which directly comparable data is available.

The reported reuse, recycling and composting rate varied across local authorities in 2018-19, from 62 per cent in Gwynedd, to 70 per cent on the Isle of Anglesey. This was also the highest reported rate across Wales.

The amount of local authority municipal waste sent to landfill was 7 per cent in North Wales in 2018-19, compared to 44 per cent in 2012-13.

Figure 20: Annual residual household waste produced per person (kg) in North Wales, by local authority, 2018-19
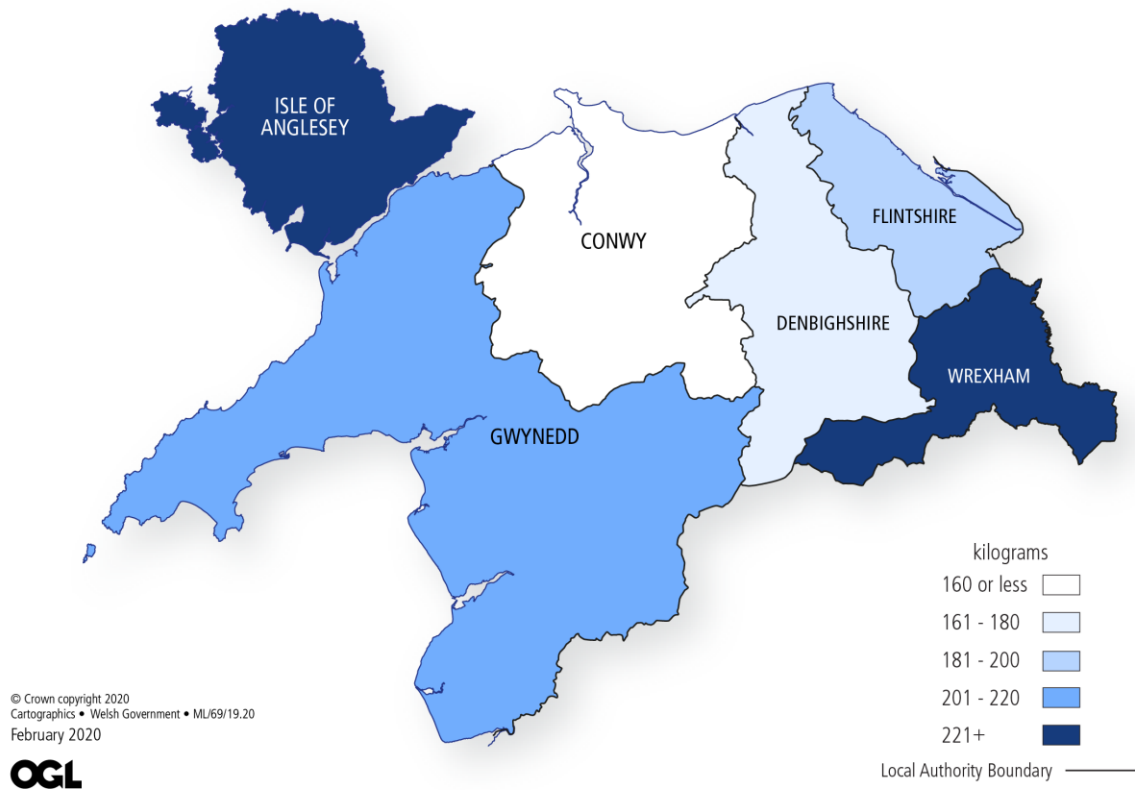
Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

The annual residual household waste generated per person across North Wales in 2018-19 ranged from 157kg in Conwy to 248kg in Wrexham. Conwy saw the greatest change in residual household waste generated per person since 2012-13, with a reduction of 29 per cent, or 63kg per person. Meanwhile, Wrexham residents produced on average 29kg more household waste in 2018-19 than in 2012-13.

Prosperity

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

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

In North Wales, GVA per head was £20,389 in 2018 (Data included is the balanced approach for GVA). Gwynedd, Flintshire and Wrexham all had GVA per head that was higher than the Wales value. Meanwhile, the Isle of Anglesey had the lowest level of GVA per head in the region (£15,008), giving a range of £8,183 between the highest and lowest levels across North Wales. Across the region, GVA per head grew by 3.8 per cent on the previous year, and 74.7 per cent since 1999. Conwy saw the largest percentage change in GVA per head across all of Wales since 1999, up 97.4 per cent, and also the largest increase within North Wales since 2017, up 6.6 per cent respectively.

In North Wales, Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head was £16,447 in 2017, the second highest of the four regions. Across the region, GDHI per head grew by 0.9 per cent on the previous year, and 61.1 per cent since 1999.

In North Wales, the median gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in 2019 was £530.00. Earnings grew in all local authorities across the region compared with 2018 except in Gwynedd, where earnings decreased by 1.0 per cent, or £4.70. The largest increase in median earnings across Wales was in the Isle of Anglesey, up 19.0 per cent. Gwynedd had the smallest median earnings of the local authorities in North Wales in 2019. The highest median earnings continued to be in Flintshire (£573.40), where median weekly earnings were over £25 higher than in the next highest-earning region.

ONS data estimates the proportion of workers earning below the living wage (£9.00 in 2019, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation). In 2019, results show that of all employee jobs across the region, there was a 10.2 percentage point range between local authorities. The highest percentage being 31.4 per cent in Gwynedd, and the lowest being 21.2 per cent in Flintshire. Please note that these local authority estimates vary in quality, mainly reflecting the size of the samples.

Figure 21: Free school meal (FSM) eligibility among pupils aged 5-15 in North Wales, by local authority, 2018-19
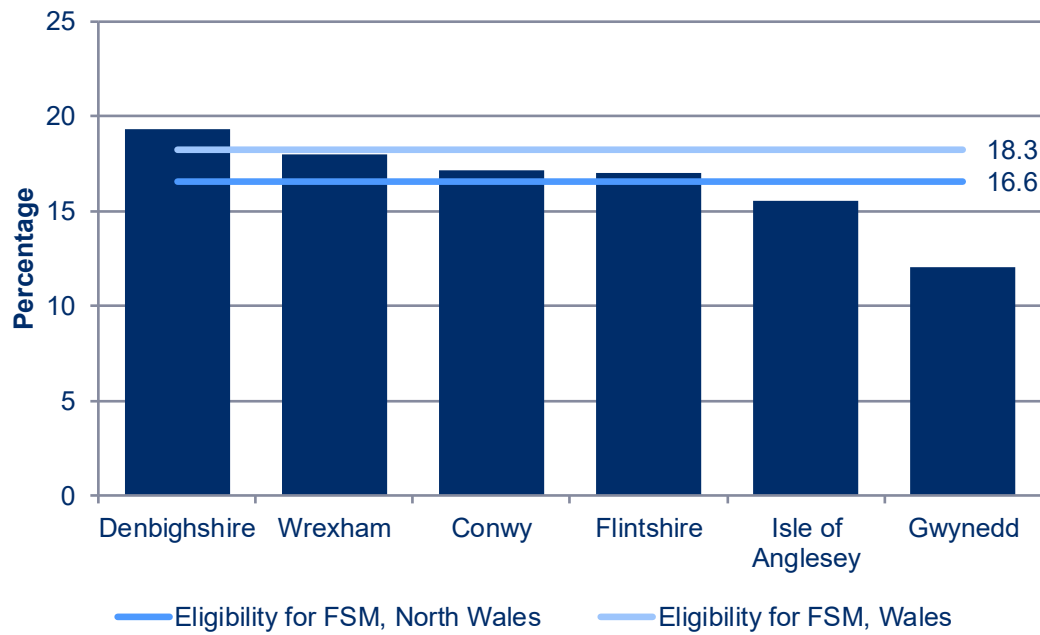
Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Welsh Government

In North Wales, 16.6 per cent of pupils aged 5-15 were eligible for free school meals in 2018/19, up 1.8 percentage points since 2008/09. The highest rate was in Denbighshire (19.3 per cent), while the lowest was in Gwynedd (12.0 per cent).

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

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

The North Wales region contains 423 Lower Super Output Layers (LSOAs). This is 22 per cent of all the LSOAs within Wales.

Considering the 191 most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales in 2019 – i.e. the 10 per cent most deprived, 23 of them are within North Wales. This is 5 per cent of all LSOAs within the region, and 12 per cent of the 10 per cent most deprived LSOAs across all of Wales.

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

Enterprises

In North Wales, 93.5 per cent of businesses founded in 2013 survived their first year, and 44.3 per cent were still operating after five years. Percentages have been calculated from published rounded figures.

Digital Infrastructure

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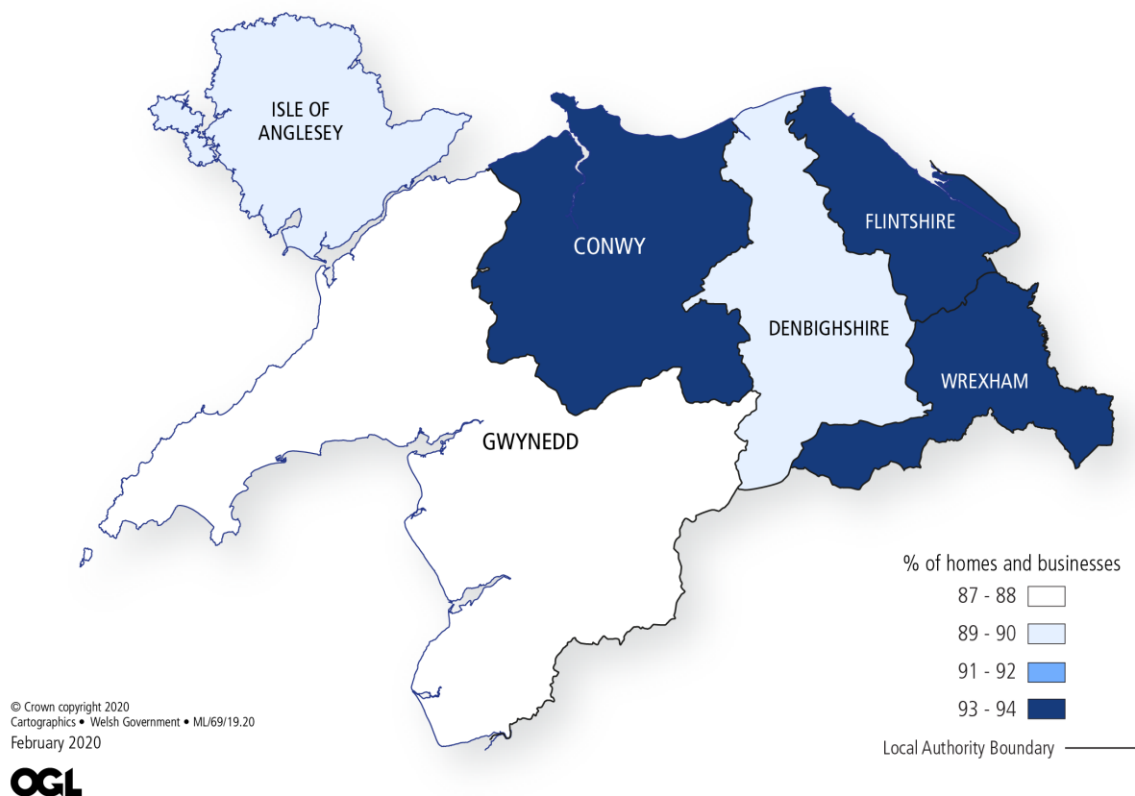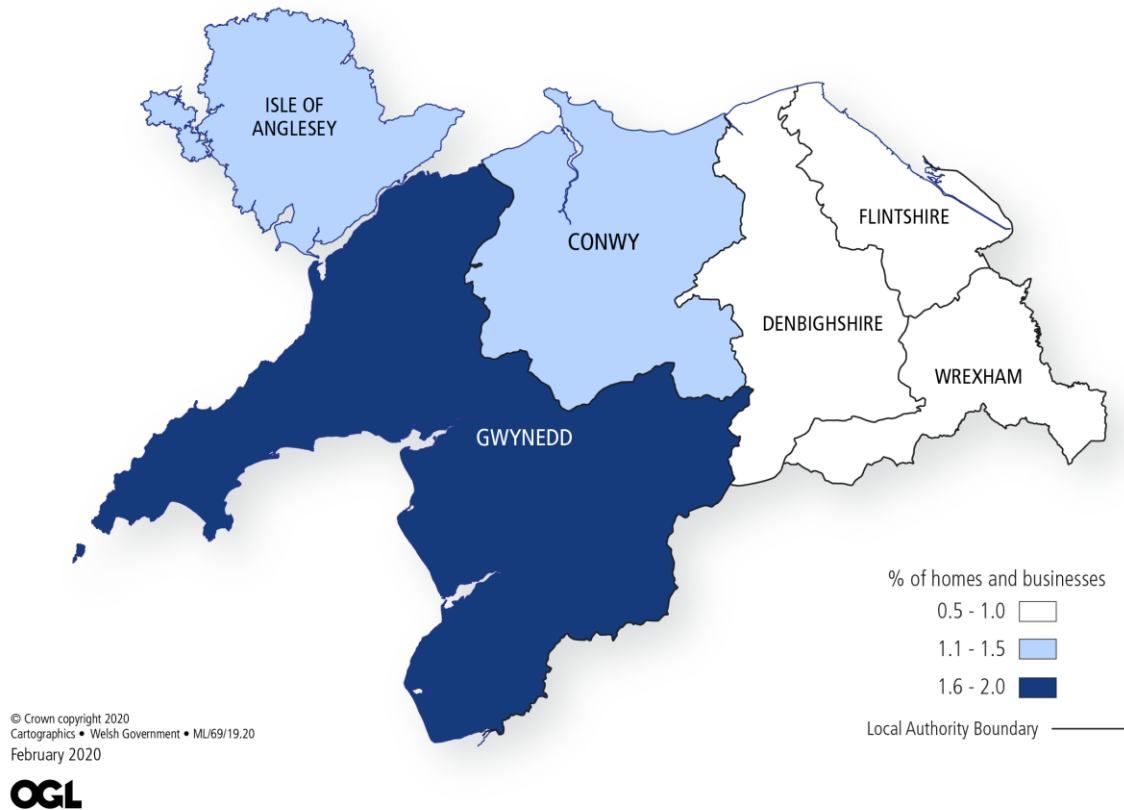

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

In North Wales in September 2019, access to a superfast fixed broadband speed (30Mbit/s or higher) or an ultrafast fixed broadband speed (300 Mbit/s or higher) was 91 per cent, ranging from 87 per cent in Gwynedd, to 93 per cent in Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham.

14 per cent of homes and businesses had access to an ultrafast fixed broadband speed (300Mbit/s or higher) - this was 38 percentage points lower than the UK rate of 52 per cent. Access ranged from 4 per cent in Conwy, to 27 per cent in Wrexham.

13 per cent of homes and businesses across the region had access to full fibre services in September 2019, this was higher than the UK level. Full-fibre broadband uses fibre-optic cables to connect homes and businesses to the street cabinet, replacing copper connections. Full-fibre connections provide a better and more reliable service that can deliver speeds of up to one gigabit per second.

Figure 23: Percentage of homes and businesses in North Wales not meeting the Universal Service Obligation, by local authority, September 2019

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

Almost 3,800 homes and businesses across the region, or 1.1 per cent, did not meet the Universal Service Obligation minimum in September 2019, meaning that they were unable to access a download speed of 10Mbit/s and an upload speed of 1Mbit/s. This proportion was above the UK average (0.5 per cent) and slightly above the Wales average (1.0 per cent).

Figure 24: Percentage of homes and businesses in North Wales with indoor 4G coverage from all four network providers, by local authority, September 2019
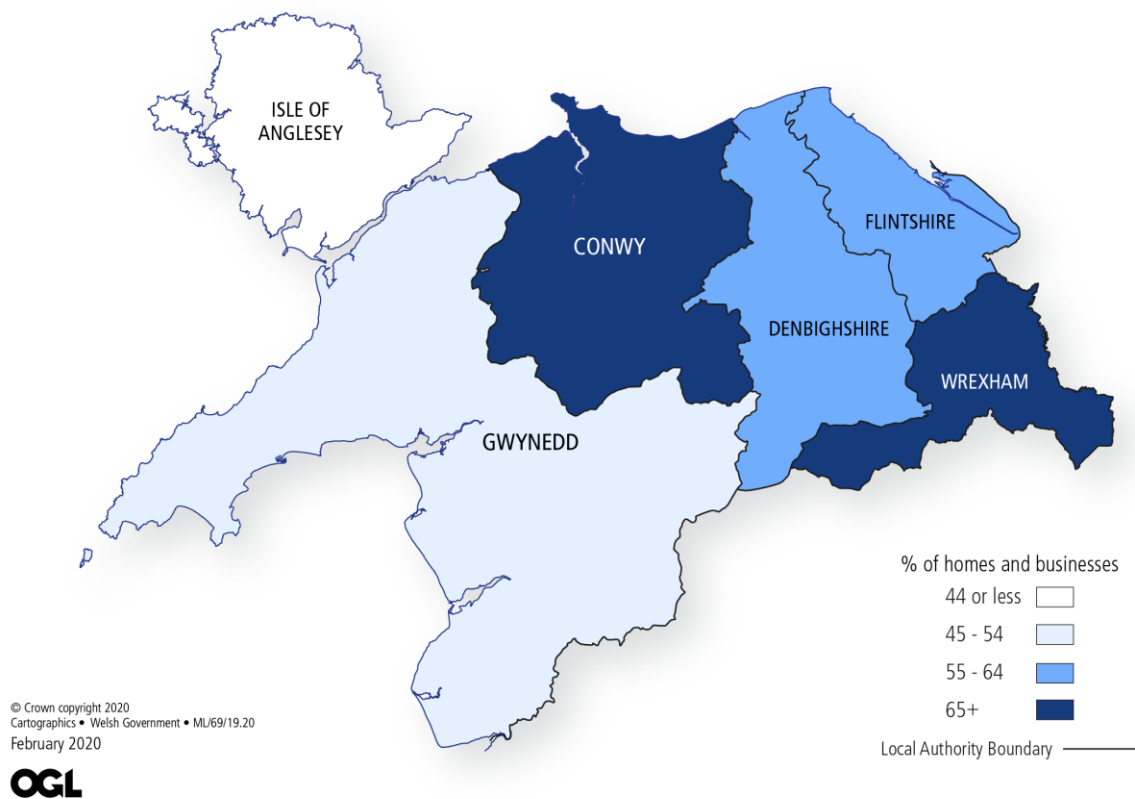
Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

Looking at 4G services, the percentage of homes and businesses in North Wales with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2019 ranged from 26 per cent on the Isle of Anglesey to 73 per cent in Wrexham. The UK average was 80 per cent and the Wales average was 72 per cent.

In terms of geographic coverage, 20 per cent of Gwynedd's area was not covered by any operator, more than in any other local authority in the region, or indeed in Wales. However, in Flintshire and on the Isle of Anglesey, geographic area not covered by any operator was less than 1 per cent.

Figure 25: Percentage of homes and businesses in North Wales with indoor voice call coverage from all four network providers, by local authority, September 2019
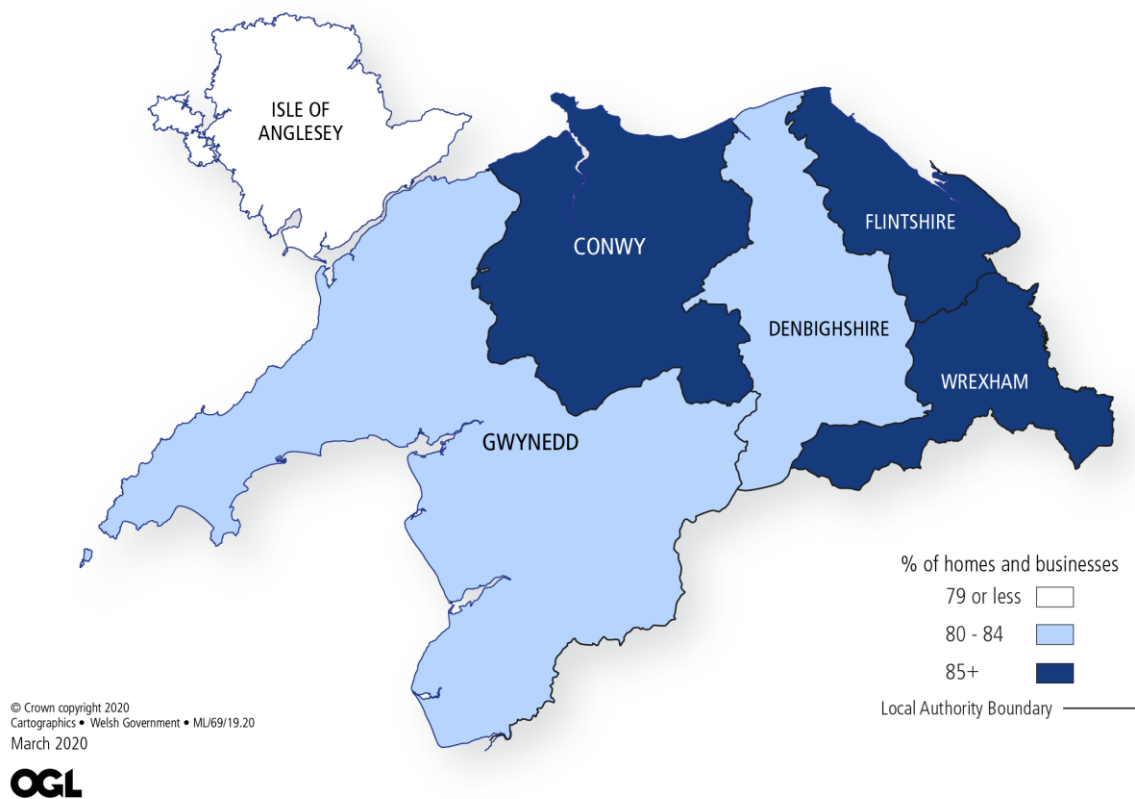

Source: Connected Nations Report, the Office of Communications

For telephone call services in North Wales, the percentage of homes and businesses with indoor coverage from all four operators in September 2019, ranged from 68 per cent on the Isle of Anglesey to 89 per cent in Conwy.

In 3 local authorities in the region (Isle of Anglesey, Denbighshire and Flintshire), the percentage of Wales' geographic area not covered by any operator was less than 1 per cent, though in Gwynedd this was 10 per cent, the highest proportion in Wales.

Housing

Figure 26: Dwelling stock estimates in North Wales over time (all tenures)
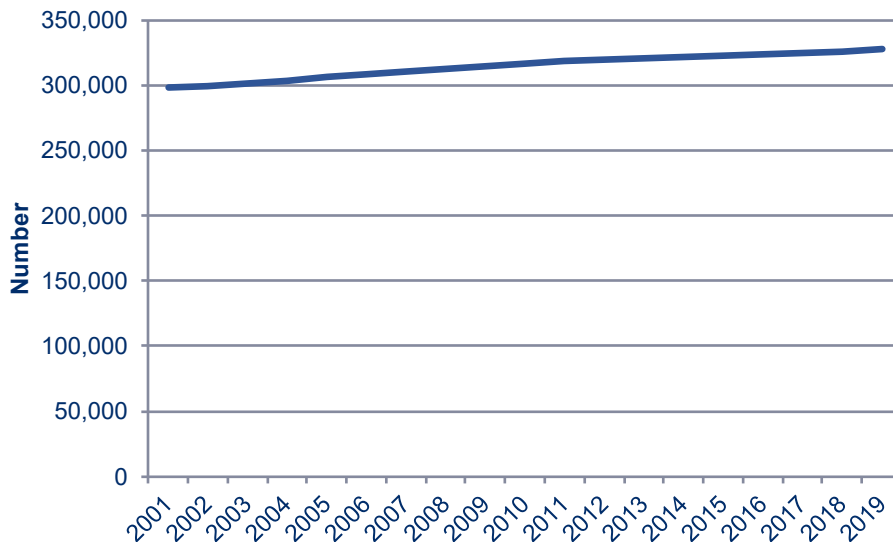
Source: Dwelling Stock Estimates, Welsh Government

The total number of dwellings in North Wales has continued to grow steadily with an estimated 327,700 dwellings at 31 March 2019. This represented an increase of 4 per cent over the previous 10 years. Dwellings were more evenly distributed across local authorities than in other regions, ranging from 34,900 dwellings on the Isle of Anglesey to 68,600 in Flintshire. 13 per cent of all dwellings across the region were privately rented, the same percentage as 5 years earlier. 72 per cent of dwellings were owner occupied, 1 percentage point higher than 5 years previously.

Figure 27: Number of new flats and houses in North Wales completed over time
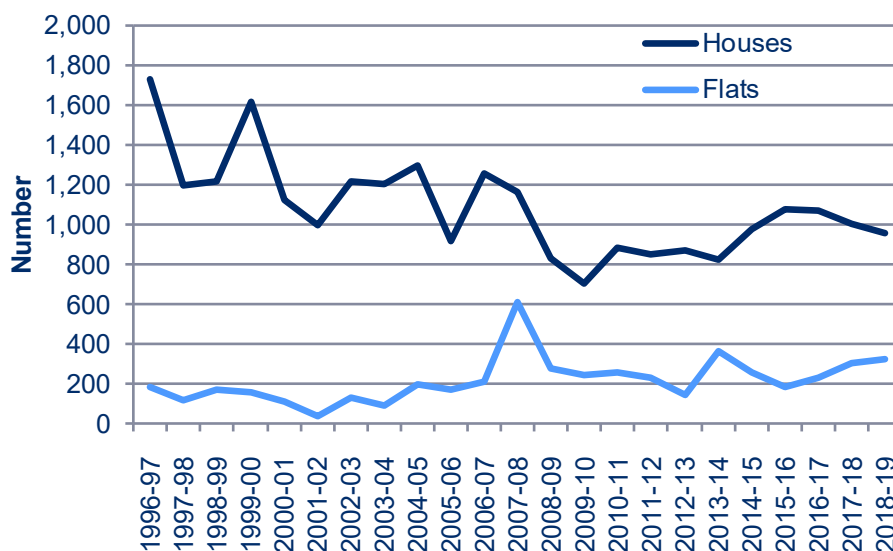
Source: New house building data collection, Welsh Government

Figure 28: Number of new dwellings completed in North Wales over time, by tenure
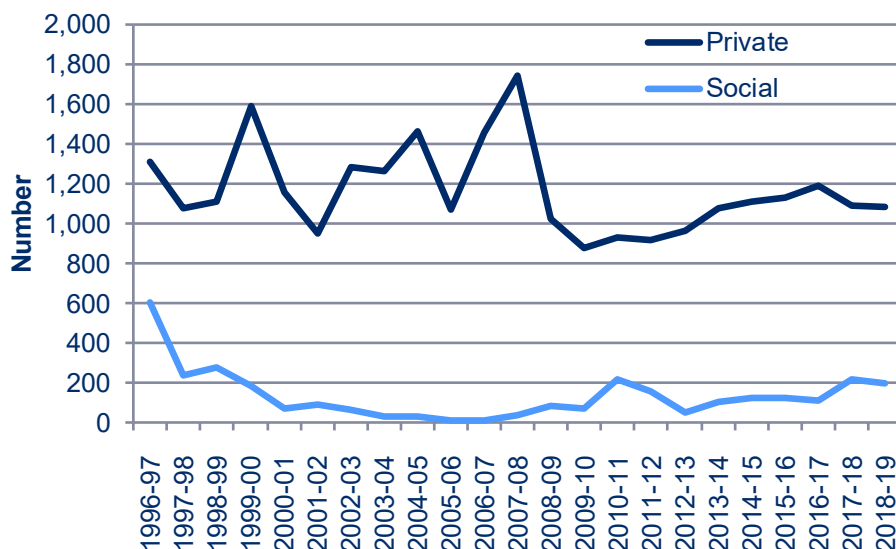
Source: New house building data collection, Welsh Government

The figures provided by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) are from records kept for building control purposes. It is sometimes difficult for building control officers to identify whether a dwelling is being built for a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) or for a private developer, which may lead to an under-count of RSL new house building and an over-count for the private sector.

1,284 new dwellings were completed across North Wales during the 2018-19 period. This is 15 per cent fewer than ten years previously and 8 per cent fewer than 20 years previously. The highest number of new dwellings completed over the 2018-19 period were in Flintshire (458, or 36 per cent) whilst the lowest was on the Isle of Anglesey (67, or 5 per cent).

Data from the UK House Price Index, shows that in September 2019, average house prices in North Wales ranged from £158,000 in Denbighshire to £181,100 in the Isle of Anglesey. Average house prices increased by £30,000 or more between September 2009 and September 2019 in the Isle of Anglesey, Flintshire, Conwy and Denbighshire. Average house prices increased by £27,000 (20 per cent) in Wrexham and £25,500 (19 per cent) in Gwynedd over the same period.

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

Local authorities estimated that 93 persons were sleeping rough across North Wales in the two weeks between 14th and 27th October 2019. This is a decrease of 13 per cent (14 persons) compared with the exercise carried out in October 2018, with the number increasing in 3 local authorities and falling in the other 3. Around a third of persons sleeping rough across the region were located in Wrexham.

Culture and Heritage

Figure 29: World Heritage Sites & Listed Buildings in North Wales
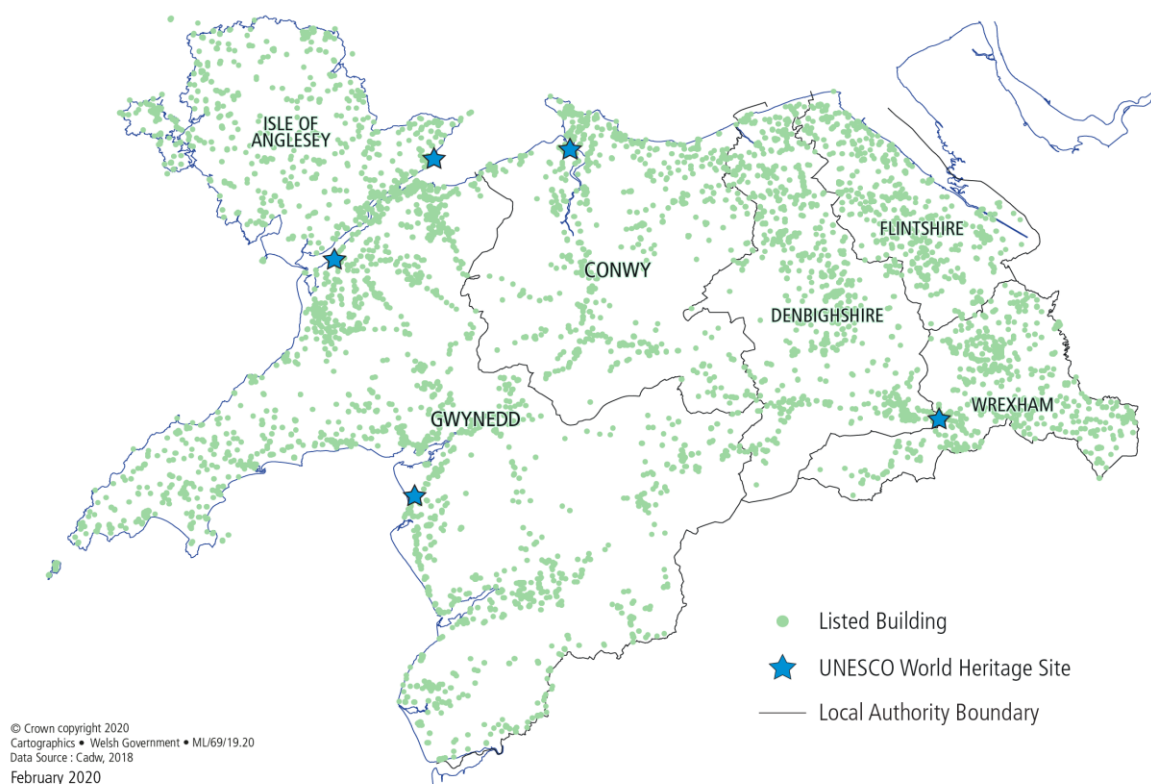
Source: Cadw

As well as its listed buildings, there are 2 UNESCO world heritage sites located in North Wales. These include 4 sites which form the Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd (Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris and Harlech), as well as Pontcysyllte aqueduct and canal.

North Wales received 23 million Tourism Day Visits (TDVs) in 2018, resulting in total expenditure of £823 million. TDV destinations in North Wales were most likely to be to a village or countryside, with these visits accounting for 32 per cent of the region's TDVs. The proportion of North Wales visits which were to seaside or coast areas was 25 per cent, higher than for other regions in Wales.

The Wales Accommodation Occupancy Survey shows that in 2018, North Wales had an annual hotel average room occupancy rate of 62 per cent - a decline from 67 per cent the previous year and the region's lowest level for over four years.

When considering the number of visits to tourist attractions in Wales in 2018, 7 of the top 10 paid attractions in Wales were in North Wales: Bodnant Garden, Caernarfon Castle, Conwy Castle, Great Orme Tramway, Nova Prestatyn, Zip World Fforest, and Zip World Slate Caverns.

Over the same period, 5 of the top 10 free attractions in Wales were in North Wales: Gwydir Forest Park, Newborough National Nature Reserve, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Trevor Basin Visitor Centre, Snowdon (Walkers) and Tir Prince Fun Park, Racecourse & Market.

Note: Room occupancy is the number of bedrooms occupied over a given period as a proportion of total available bedrooms.

Key quality information

Relevance

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

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

Accuracy

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

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

Although we don't plan to regularly update these reports, they've been updated now to support the continuing development of the National Development Framework following consultation on the draft NDF in autumn 2019. The Mid and South West Wales region has been split into separate regions for Mid Wales and South West Wales to provide more detailed analysis on the key issues and trends in these areas. In future, data will be made available on StatsWales and in dashboards, and will be updated as new data is published, ensuring that users are always provided with the latest data.

Timeliness and punctuality

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

Accessibility and clarity

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

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

Comparability and coherence

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

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

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes 7 of the national indicators, namely the percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle indicators; levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) pollution in the air; the percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework; Gross Disposable Household Income per head; the capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed; the percentage of people in employment; and the percentage of people who can speak Welsh.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

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

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at: https://gov.wales/summary-statistics-regions-wales-2020

Other related links

[National Development Framework](#)

Next update

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

We want your feedback

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

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