

National Assembly for Wales

In Figures: Social Indicators Research Paper

June 2009

This paper provides a statistical overview of a range of social issues.

Subjects covered include crime, education, health, housing and social security.

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National Assembly for Wales

In Figures: Social Indicators Research Paper

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June 2009

Paper Number: 09/017

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In Figures: Social Indicators

1 Introduction

This paper is part of the *In Figures* series, which aims to provide a statistical portrait of a number of key social and economic issues. This particular issue focuses on statistics relating to a variety of social indicators, including crime, education, health and changes in population. The statistics provided relate to variations between individual local authorities as well as comparisons between other UK regions.

An electronic version of the paper is available on the Members' Research Service pages of the National Assembly for Wales' web-site at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-assembly-publications-research.htm#papers>

2 Crime and Justice

Statistical information on crime and justice is published by the Home Office, they provide information on police service strength, in addition to the level and geographical distribution of crime. Most of the data is separated into police force area, however some are provided at local authority or at basic command unit levels.

Basic command units (BCUs) are commonly an incorporation of one or two local authority areas which, in Wales, are then combined together to form the four police force areas. A map showing the basic command unit areas can be found in the Annex.

Police Force Strength

Table 1 provides information of the number of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) in each BCU on 31 March 2008.

The following observations can be made with regard to the police service strength in Wales:

- South Wales Police Force has the largest number of police officers and PCSOs in Wales with over 3,500 officers;
- Cardiff BCU has the largest number of police officers, however North Wales Western BCU has the largest number per 100,000 population;
- Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff BCU has the highest number of PCSOs with 84 officers, whilst Ceredigion, with only 7, has the smallest;
- The number of police officers in Ceredigion is the lowest of all BCUs, however when compared with the population size it has a relatively high number. North Wales Eastern BCU has the lowest number of police officers per 100,000 population.

Table 1: Number and rate of police officers and PCSOs, by BCU, 31 March 2008 (a)

		<i>full-time equivalents</i>		
Police Force	Basic Command Unit	Police officers	Police officers per 100,000 population	Police Community Support Officers
Dyfed Powys	Carmarthenshire	349	196	29
	Ceredigion	157	203	7
	Pembrokeshire	243	207	20
	Powys	264	201	17
	Central Services	181	..	0
	Total	1,194	237	73
Gwent	Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent	469	195	42
	Newport	306	218	50
	Pontypool	300	168	47
	Central Services	412	..	0
	Total	1,487	266	139
North Wales	North Wales Central	354	170	52
	North Wales Eastern	340	121	42
	North Wales Western	429	229	66
	Central Services	456	..	0
	Total	1,579	234	159
South Wales	Bridgend	226	171	40
	Cardiff	689	217	75
	Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff	482	167	84
	Neath & Port Talbot	224	164	38
	Swansea	431	190	59
	Vale of Glamorgan	197	160	31
	Central Services	995	..	0
	Total	3,244	264	327
Wales Total	7,503	253	698	

Source: Home Office: Police Personnel¹

(a) These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

(b) See Annex A for map of the Basic Command Unit areas in Wales.

.. not applicable

Crimes Recorded

The statistics provided on crimes recorded are based on figures provided by police authorities to the Home Office, they cover crimes reported to the police as well as crime recorded by police. Table 2 provides details of crimes recorded by offence group from 2001-02 to 2007-08 in Wales, the Home Office also breaks down this information by police force area, which is available in the [Crime in England and Wales](#) publication. Map 1 shows the rate of all crime recorded per 1,000 population by local authority and police force area in 2007-08.

Due to the Home Offices' changing methods of data collection, the definitions of each of the groups has changed slightly over time, making it difficult to compare some types of crimes. Care must be taken when making comparisons from table 2.

The table of key crimes recorded in Wales and map showing information on the geographical variations of the level of recorded crime in Wales, highlight a number of key findings:

¹ Home Office: [Police Service Strength England and Wales, 31 March 2008](#), Supplementary Excel Tables [as at 28 April 2009]

- The level of recorded crime in Wales is only slightly higher in 2007-08 than it was in 2001-02. However, total crime increased by over 50 thousand from 2001-02 to 2002-03. Since 2002-03 there has been a gradual decline in the level of crime in Wales, by 2007-08 the recorded crime rate per head in Wales was lower than in England.
- Over the period 2001-02 to 2007-08 the largest rise in crime has been in violent crime, from 39 thousand to 53 thousand. The majority of this increase took place between 2001-02 and 2002-03, in the last year the figures fell by four thousand.
- The category with the highest level of crime in Wales is “Theft and handling goods”, however due to changes in reporting and recording, the amount is unknown for 2006-07 and 2007-08².
- Recorded crime per head in South Wales is much higher than in Mid and West Wales.
- South Wales Police Force has the highest level of recorded crimes, with 101.1 crimes per 1,000 population, Dyfed-Powys has the lowest level with 50.9.
- By local authority area, Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Merthyr Tydfil have the highest levels of crime per 1,000 population.

Table 2: Recorded crime, by offence group in Wales, 2001-02 to 2007-08

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Violence against the person	36,493	53,147	53,014	53,341	52,639	53,667	49,376
Sexual offences	1,751	2,036	2,121	2,595	2,670	2,448	2,574
Robbery	1,030	1,378	1,280	1,085	1,134	1,354	1,260
Total violent crime	39,274	56,561	56,415	57,021	56,443	57,469	53,210
Theft and handling stolen goods ¹	90,013	108,686	108,058	95,210	90,611	..	..
Theft of and from vehicles ¹	42,662	48,879	45,943	39,057	37,821	41,429	34,891
Other theft offences	..	..	..	..	..	47,140	47,358
Other offences	..	..	..	..	..	3,638	3,381
Burglary	32,248	36,848	34,672	29,291	26,319	26,774	26,621
Fraud and forgery	10,234	12,199	10,654	9,215	7,476	6,442	5,672
Criminal damage	56,903	66,071	66,268	64,331	64,271	65,053	59,790
Drugs and other offences	13,093	14,481	13,196	12,574	13,189	10,528	12,700
Total	241,765	294,846	289,263	267,642	258,309	258,473	243,623

Source: Home Office Research Development Statistics³

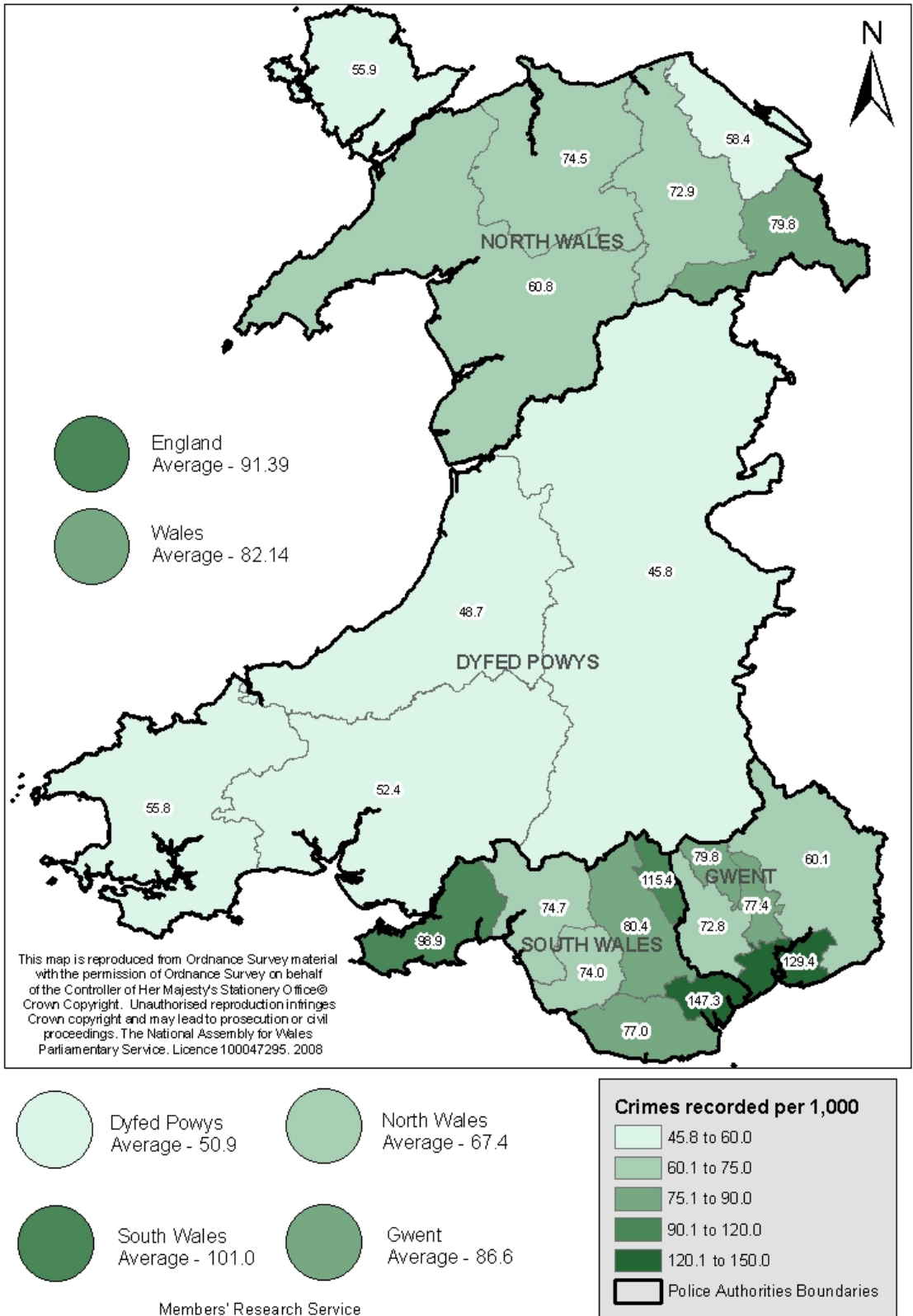
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¹ Prior to 2006-07, “Theft of and from vehicles” is included in “Theft and handling stolen goods” hence the total crime recorded does not equal the sum of the column. From 2006-07 total crime recorded is the sum of each column (excluding “Total violent crime”)

² From 2006-07 “Theft and handling stolen goods” has been split into three groups – “Theft of and from vehicles”, “Other theft offences” and “Other offences”.

³ Home Office; Crime in England and Wales ([2007-08 - table 6.06](#)), ([2006-07 - table 6.05](#)), ([2005-06 - table 7.05](#)), ([2004-05 - table 6.02](#)), ([2003-04 - table 6.02](#)), ([2002-03 - table 6.04](#)), ([2001-02 - table 7.02](#)) [as at 28 April 2009]

Map 1: Rate of crimes recorded, per 1,000 population, by local authority and police force, 2007-08 (a)



Source: [Home Office Tabulated Statistics](#) (guest login)
 (a) A labelled map of the local authority areas is available in the Annex

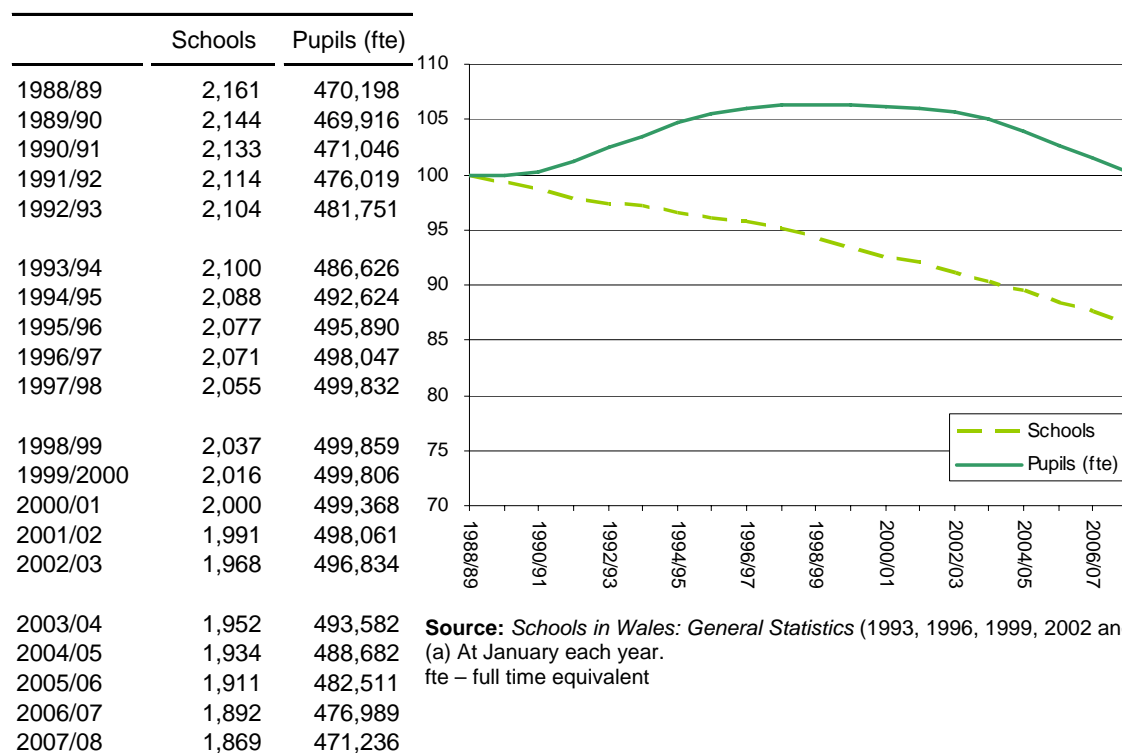
3 Education

The Welsh government publishes annual statistics on education in: [Schools in Wales: General Statistics](#) and [Schools in Wales: Examination Performance](#). The information provided in this section is sourced from these publications and additional UK sources. The figures are obtained by the Welsh government primarily by returns made from schools.

Class Sizes

Table 2 provides data on the change in the number of schools and pupils in the last 20 years. The graph highlights the relative change in the number of both schools and pupils for the same period, in comparison to levels in the base year, 1988/89, which is set as an index of 100. The table shows that there has been a gradual decline in the number of schools open in Wales, with 292 closing since 1988/89. In the same period, there was a gradual increase in the number of pupils, peaking in 1998/99, followed by an equivalent decrease in the following years. By 2007/08 the number of pupils had reached a similar level to that of 1988/89.

Table 2: Number of schools and pupils in Wales, 1988/89



Source: *Schools in Wales: General Statistics* (1993, 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2008) ⁴
 (a) At January each year.
 fte – full time equivalent

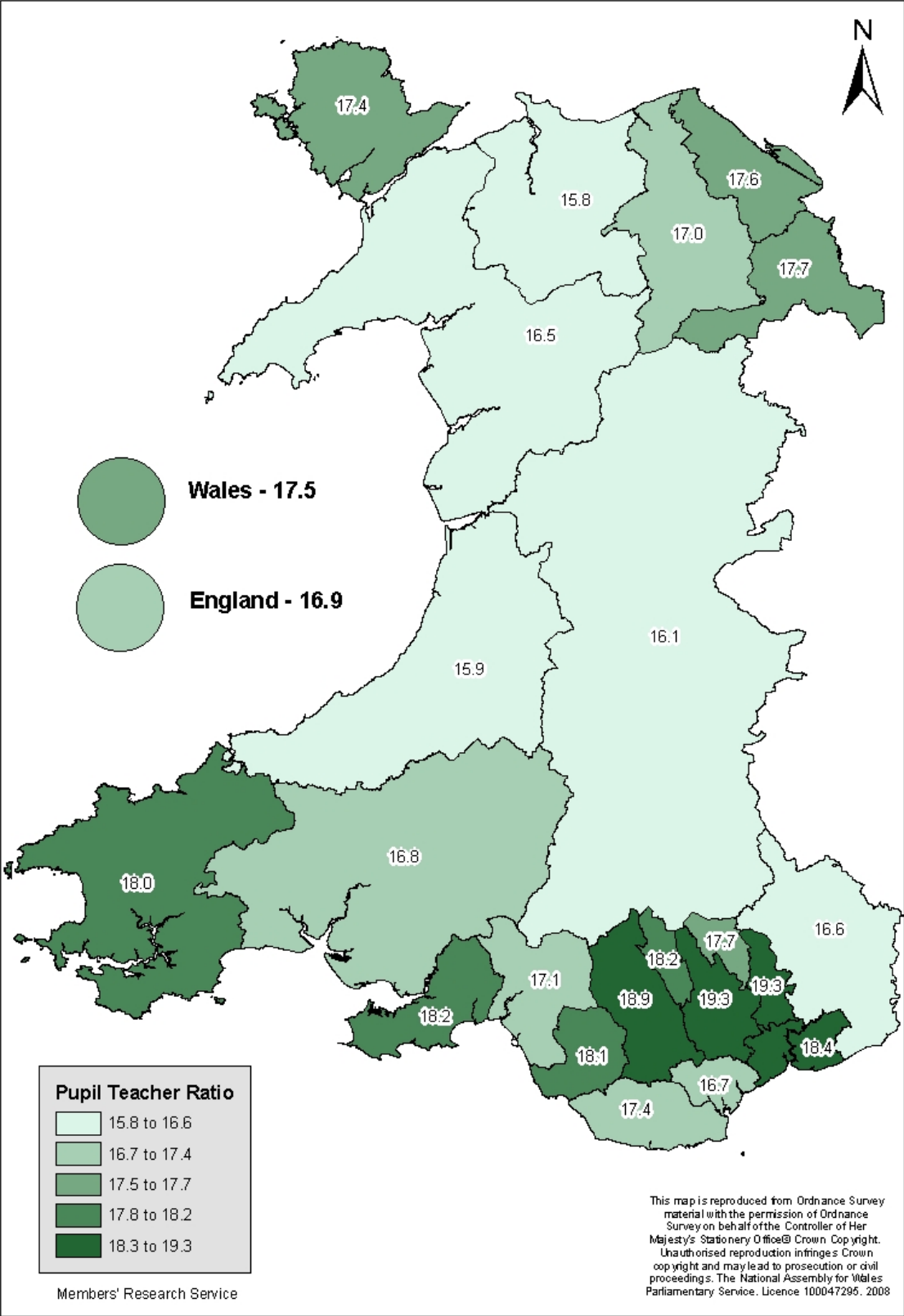
⁴ Previous editions of *Schools in Wales: General Statistics* are available in the Members' Library

Map 2 shows the pupil teacher ratio⁵ in each local authority in 2007/08. The map shows that whilst the ratios differ considerably between local authorities in Wales, the pupil teacher ratio in Wales is slightly higher than in England. From the graph to following observations on pupil teacher ratios can be made:

- The highest pupil teacher ratios are in South Wales, particularly in local authority areas with high population density, such as Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, Newport and Caerphilly.
- Cardiff is an exception, having the sixth lowest pupil teacher ratio, even though it is densely populated and has the largest local authority population in Wales.
- The rural areas of Wales have the lowest pupil teacher ratios with Conwy, Ceredigion and Powys having the smallest proportion of pupils to teachers.

⁵ Pupil teacher ratio includes all maintained schools (nursery, primary secondary and special schools) and independent schools

Map 2: Pupil Teacher Ratio in each local authority, 2007/08 (a)



Source: [Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2008](#)
 (a) A labelled map of the local authority areas is available in the Annex

Examination Results

The Welsh government use indicators to monitor the level of achievement for both GCSE's and A-Levels, there are three different levels which are measured:

- Level 1 – a volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade D-G;
- Level 2 – a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C;
- Level 3 – a volume of qualifications at Level 3 equivalent to the volume of 2 A levels at grade A-E.

The latest information on examination results are for the academic year 2007/08. Table 3 provides information on the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's at the Level 1 and Level 2 thresholds. Table 4 provides information on pupils achieving the Level 3 threshold at A-level. It can be seen in the following tables that there has been an improvement in the grades achieved for both GCSE's and A-levels, a number of other observations can also be made:

- The percentage of 15 year old pupils achieving either the Level 1 or 2 thresholds has consistently increased since 1998/99. With those achieving Level 1 increasing by over 3 per cent and those achieving Level 2 increasing by over 10 per cent.
- Between 1998/99 and 2007/08 there has been an 18 per cent increase in the number of pupils taking 2 A-levels (or equivalent) in Wales.
- The proportion of pupils achieving 2 or more A-levels, at grades A-E has risen from 90.7 to 94.2 per cent over this period. However, continual increase was only experienced up to 2001/02 since then the level of achievement has fluctuated around the 94 per cent mark.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's, 1998/99 to 2007/08 (a) (b)

	Number of Pupils aged 15	Percentage of 15 year olds:	
		achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold
1998/99	35,475	83.4	47.5
1999/2000	35,584	84.8	49.1
2000/01	37,170	84.5	49.8
2001/02	37,116	84.8	50.5
2002/03	37,993	85.1	51.1
2003/04	39,212	85.3	51.4
2004/05	38,459	85.2	52.2
2005/06	38,859	86.0	53.8
2006/07	39,576	86.0	55.0
2007/08	39,027	86.8	58.0

Source: Welsh Assembly Government: SDR 195/2008: [Examination Results in Wales 2007/08](#)

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes GCSEs, GCSE Short Course, GNVQs and NVQs. From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and Independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.

Table 4: Percentage of pupils achieving 2 or more A-levels (a), 1998-99 to 2007/08

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering the volume equivalent to 2 A-levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering; achieved the Level 3 threshold
1998/99	9,249	90.7
1999/2000	9,364	92.0
2000/01	8,704	92.7
2001/02	9,486	94.4
2002/03	9,848	93.9
2003/04	10,041	94.9
2004/05	10,373	94.4
2005/06	10,731	93.9
2006/07	10,592	93.9
2007/08	10,943	94.2

Source: StatsWales [\[Table 001892\]](#), Welsh Assembly Government: **SDR 195/2008:** [Examination Results in Wales 2007/08](#)

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes A levels, AS levels and Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (AVCE). From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.

4 Health

Waiting Times

Due to changes in how waiting time figures are measured, information that is directly comparable is only available from 2000-01. Prior to that, waiting times included patients waiting for endoscopy diagnostic testing which would skew any comparisons. Since 2000-01, waiting times for elective surgery for Inpatients/Day Case treatment and a First Outpatient Appointment are the only two measured areas that have remained constant and can be compared, since the monitoring of other types of waiting times have changed to meet the needs of the Welsh Ministers' targets.

From 2000-01 until 2006-07 waiting times were recorded in terms of numbers waiting more than a certain number of months (i.e. 3, 6, 12 and 18 months) in order to monitor the Service and Financial Framework (SaFF) targets⁶. Since April 2007, waiting times have been recorded in 13 and 22 week blocks rather than months. Tables 5 and 6 present details on the number and percentage of patients waiting more than 3 and 6 months for a first outpatient appointment and inpatient/day case treatment respectively.

Due to changes in the recording periods, comparisons between pre April 2007 and post April 2007 cannot be made.

- At the end of March 2008, there were over 200 thousand people waiting for a first outpatient appointment or inpatient/day case treatment, in Wales. Although this represents an increase of 19 per cent from 1997, there has been an annual reduction in the past four years, from a peak of 294 thousand in 2004.
- Both first outpatient appointment waiting lists and inpatient/day case treatment waiting lists show that the number of patients waiting more than 3 and 6 months increased to a peak between 2002 and 2004. Following this peak, the amount waiting has declined significantly to the present day figures for both waiting lists.
- The most dramatic falls can be seen in the longer term waiting lists. At the end of March 2008, no patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment had been waiting more than 22 weeks, whilst only 5 patients had been waiting more than 22 weeks for an inpatient/day case treatment.
- The number of patients waiting for more than 3 months for inpatient/day case treatment decreased by over 50 per cent, from 2000 to 2007.

⁶ Prior to April 2007 they were SaFF targets, since April 2007 they form part of the Welsh governments [Annual Operating Framework](#) [as at 28 April 2009]

Table 5: First outpatient appointment waiting list, 1997-2008 (a)

	Total	3 months +		6 months +	
		number	per cent	number	per cent
1997	101,308	28,401	28.0	5,956	5.9
1998	112,758	35,503	31.5	10,340	9.2
1999	134,364	53,424	39.8	21,828	16.2
2000	160,844	73,745	45.8	37,991	23.6
2001	177,647	85,547	48.2	45,757	25.8
2002	212,740	115,480	54.3	68,834	32.4
2003	216,370	117,413	54.3	70,120	32.4
2004	219,559	117,358	53.5	68,845	31.4
2005	218,443	113,958	52.2	63,057	28.9
2006	200,366	88,528	44.2	40,533	20.2
2007	165,869	52,433	31.6	10,293	6.2
		13 weeks +		22 weeks +	
2008	149,832	25,042	16.7	0	0.0

Source: Health Statistics Wales (1999 and 2004) and StatsWales tables – 001480, 003679 and 003672

(a) as at 31 March. For all residents of Wales, all specialties. Includes Welsh residents waiting at English hospitals

Table 6: Inpatient and day case waiting list, as at 31 March, 1997-2008 (a)

	Total	3 months +		6 months +	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1997	67,609	..	..	..	..
1998	73,419	..	..	..	..
1999	65,315	..	..	..	..
2000	79,873	46,688	58.5	29,668	37.1
2001	65,582	36,405	55.5	22,315	34.0
2002	70,640	41,313	58.5	26,159	37.0
2003	74,641	42,292	56.7	27,541	36.9
2004	74,684	41,891	56.1	26,316	35.2
2005	65,538	32,370	49.4	16,363	25.0
2006	68,817	32,631	47.4	14,705	21.4
2007	62,209	23,393	37.6	4,925	7.9
		13 weeks +		22 weeks +	
2008	50,631	10,832	21.4	5	0.0

Source: Health Statistics Wales (1999 and 2004) and StatsWales tables – 001480, 003679 and 003672

(a) as at 31 March. For all residents of Wales, all specialties. Includes Welsh residents waiting at English hospitals

.. not available

NHS Staff

Table 7 provides information on the number of NHS staff employed by type in 1997, 2003 and 2007. Figure 1 highlights changes in staffing by group from 1997 to 2007.

- The NHS in Wales employed just over 70 thousand staff in 2007, an increase of 33 per cent from 1997.
- The largest group of NHS staff is nursing, midwifery and health visiting. This represents around 40 percent of NHS staff and has experienced a 20 per cent increase over the last 10 years.
- The scientific, therapeutic and technical staffing group has experienced the largest increase (59 per cent) in staff levels in the last 10 years. In 2007 there were over 10,000 staff in this group, comprising 15 per cent of the total NHS staff in Wales.

- Administration and estates staff as well as medical and dental staff have also experienced a higher than average increase in staff numbers.
- There has been a relatively low (11 per cent) increase in the number of Ambulance staff.

Table 7: Number of staff employed by NHS (a)

	1997	2003	2007
Medical & dental staff (b)	3,530	4,208	5,520
Nursing, midwifery & health visiting staff (c)	23,418	26,697	28,060
Scientific, therapeutic & technical staff	6,719	8,709	10,654
Health care assistants & other support staff	7,131	8,158	9,015
Administration & estates staff	10,997	13,456	16,031
Ambulance staff	1,243	1,269	1,377
Other (d)	154	143	170
Unknown	155	4	80
Total	53,347	62,644	70,907

Source: Health Statistics Wales [2003](#) and [2008](#)

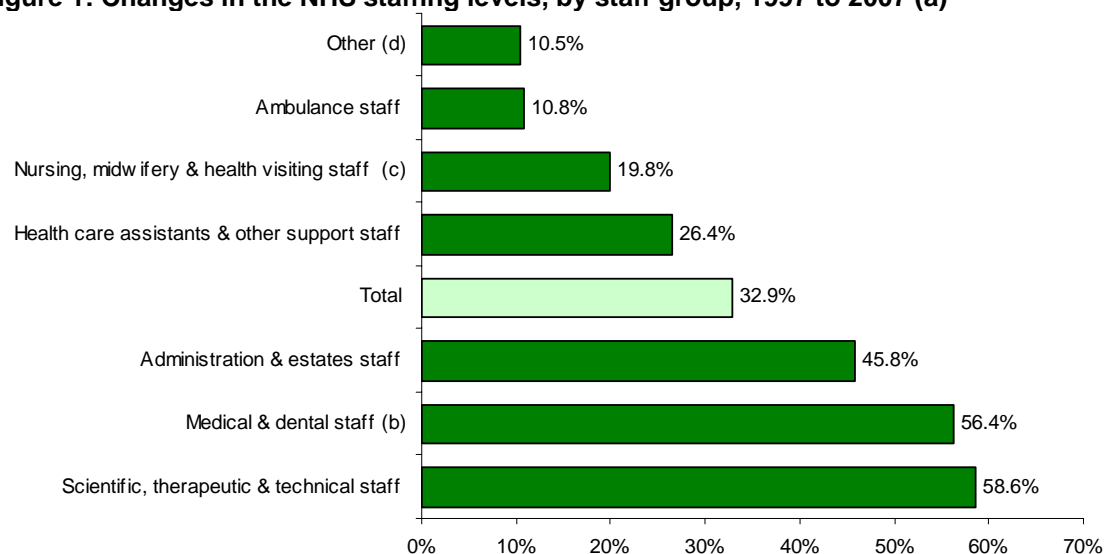
(a) Whole-time equivalent at 30 September.

(b) Excludes locum staff.

(c) Excludes pre-registration learners.

(d) Health Authority professional advisors and staff on general payments, eg Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses.

Figure 1: Changes in the NHS staffing levels, by staff group, 1997 to 2007 (a)



Source: Health Statistics Wales [2003](#) and [2008](#)

(a) Whole-time equivalent at 30 September.

(b) Excludes locum staff.

(c) Excludes pre-registration learners.

(d) Health Authority professional advisors and staff on general payments, eg Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses.

Bed Availability

Information on bed activity in Welsh NHS Hospitals is obtained from each hospital, Table 8 provides the average number of beds available by speciality from 1997-98 to 2007-08. This is the average number of staffed beds available daily during the year, including beds set up temporarily and beds borrowed from other specialties but excluding beds loaned to other specialties.

- There has been a reduction of 12 per cent in the total number of beds available since 1997-98.
- There has been a decline in the number of beds available in all speciality groups, with exception of acute medicine beds, which has had a slight increase, but it must be noted that the majority of NHS beds are for acute medicine.
- There has been a 71 per cent reduction of beds available on specialist learning disability wards.

Table 8: Average number of beds available, by specialty group, 1997-98 to 2007-08 (a)

	Acute	Geriatric medicine	Maternity total	Mental illness	Learning disabilities	All specialties
1997-98	8,820	2,438	665	2,599	673	15,194
1998-99	9,078	2,044	654	2,555	566	14,897
1999-00	9,160	2,009	627	2,504	423	14,723
2000-01	9,314	1,806	602	2,456	386	14,564
2001-02	9,419	1,660	604	2,408	344	14,434
2002-03	9,498	1,530	580	2,362	295	14,265
2003-04	9,531	1,484	564	2,371	259	14,209
2004-05	9,452	1,474	534	2,311	243	14,014
2005-06	9,508	1,334	522	2,235	209	13,808
2006-07	9,344	1,339	513	2,179	192	13,583
2007-08	9,041	1,436	526	2,128	196	13,354
10 year change	3%	-41%	-21%	-18%	-71%	-12%

Source: StatsWales [\[Table 001372\]](#)

(a) Average daily number of staffed beds in which in-patients are being or could be treated without any change in facilities or staff being made.

The sum of all specialties may not equal the sum of individual comments due to rounding.

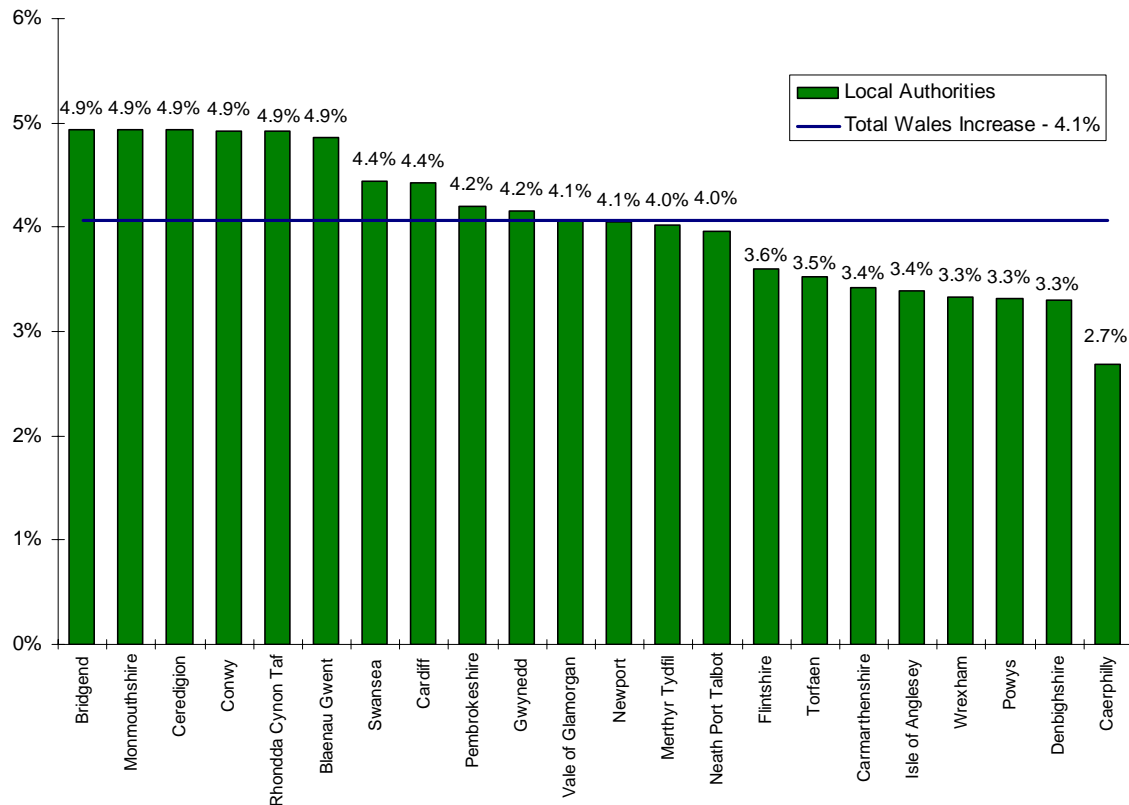
5 Local Government

Council Tax

Council tax comparisons between local authorities can be made by comparing the change in band D council tax for each local authority.

- Bridgend, Monmouthshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Blaenau Gwent had the largest increase (of 4.9 per cent) in Council Tax in 2009-10. Caerphilly had the smallest increase of 2.7 per cent.
- The average increase in band D council tax in Wales was 4.1 per cent in 2009-10, the average increase of band D council tax in England was 3.0%⁷, whilst Scotland have frozen council tax levels since 2007-08.

Figure 3: Band D council tax 2009-10 increase, by local authority.



Source: StatsWales [\[Table 000930\]](#)

⁷ Communities and Local Government statistical release: [Updated Council Tax Levels set by local authorities in England – 2009-10](#) (March 2009) [as at 15 April 2009]

6 Housing

Dwelling Stock Estimates

The Welsh government estimates the total stock using population censuses, the most recent of which was in 2001. Estimates from the censuses are updated annually to take account of new buildings and demolitions, whilst the breakdown of estimates by tenure is estimated from local authority returns, census information and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) returns.

Total stock estimates prior to the 2001 population census have been revised following rebasing of the estimates using the updated census data.

Table 9 provides estimates for the number of dwellings in each local authority and breaks down the housing stock by tenure in 2007-08.

Table 9: Dwelling stock estimate by tenure and local authority, 2007-08

	Rented from local authorities		Rented from registered social landlords (a)		Owner-occupied, privately rented and other tenures		Total
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Isle of Anglesey	3,935	12.3%	552	1.7%	27,461	86.0%	31,948
Gwynedd	6,375	11.0%	2,061	3.6%	49,347	85.4%	57,783
Conwy	3,859	7.3%	2,105	4.0%	46,899	88.7%	52,863
Denbighshire	3,519	8.2%	1,945	4.5%	37,570	87.3%	43,034
Flintshire	7,520	11.8%	2,239	3.5%	54,028	84.7%	63,787
Wrexham	11,565	19.9%	1,620	2.8%	44,830	77.3%	58,015
Powys	5,497	9.2%	2,484	4.1%	51,974	86.7%	59,955
Ceredigion	2,260	6.6%	1,400	4.1%	30,707	89.4%	34,367
Pembrokeshire	5,752	10.2%	2,185	3.9%	48,540	85.9%	56,477
Carmarthenshire	9,266	11.5%	2,780	3.4%	68,697	85.1%	80,743
Swansea	13,689	13.1%	6,928	6.6%	83,574	80.2%	104,191
Neath Port Talbot	9,319	14.8%	2,805	4.5%	50,713	80.7%	62,837
Bridgend	.	0.0%	8,281	14.2%	50,015	85.8%	58,296
Vale of Glamorgan	3,952	7.4%	2,182	4.1%	47,567	88.6%	53,701
Cardiff	14,069	10.1%	10,120	7.3%	114,666	82.6%	138,855
Rhondda Cynon Taf	.	0.0%	15,211	14.8%	87,261	85.2%	102,472
Merthyr Tydfil	4,275	16.9%	1,529	6.1%	19,459	77.0%	25,263
Caerphilly	11,028	14.7%	3,125	4.2%	60,752	81.1%	74,905
Blaenau Gwent	6,378	20.0%	1,461	4.6%	24,110	75.5%	31,949
Torfaen	.	0.0%	9,707	24.7%	29,600	75.3%	39,307
Monmouthshire	.	0.0%	5,129	13.2%	33,690	86.8%	38,819
Newport	9,266	15.0%	3,450	5.6%	49,068	79.4%	61,784
Wales	131,524	9.9%	89,299	6.7%	1,110,556	83.4%	1,331,379

Source: [Welsh Housing Statistics 2008](#) (table 1.2)

(a) Assumes three bedspaces for a non-self contained unit equals one dwellings.

. - not applicable

From the table some key findings can be extracted in relation to the dwelling stock estimates within each local authority:

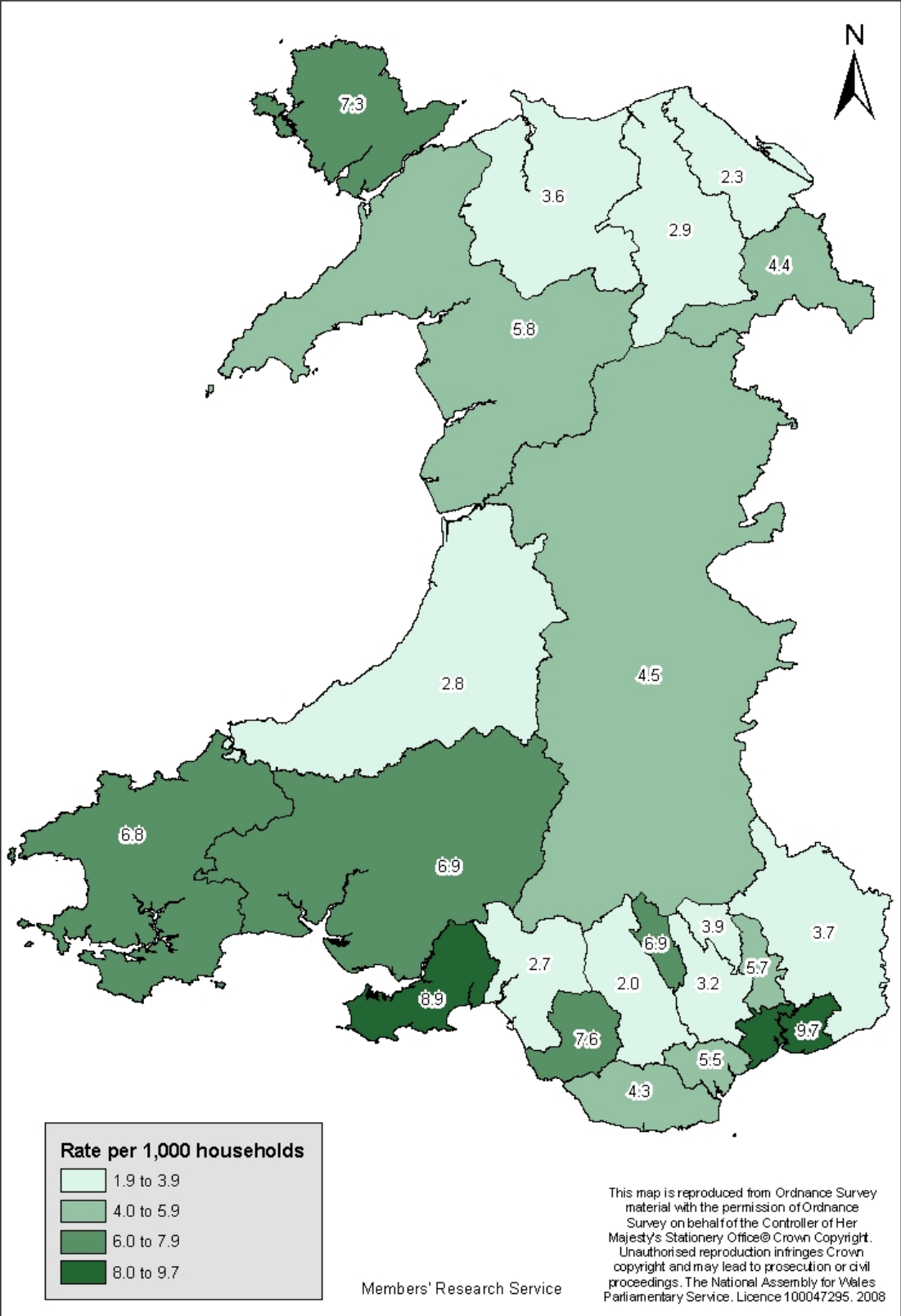
- Cardiff and Swansea have the largest number of local authority rented properties, whilst Ceredigion and Denbighshire have the smallest. With Cardiff and Swansea having a combined amount of 21 per cent of all local authority rented properties.
- There are no properties owned by Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen and Monmouthshire local authorities because they have transferred all their housing stock to RSL's.
- The Isle of Anglesey has the smallest number of RSL properties with 552, over 800 less than Ceredigion (which has the second smallest RSL stock). The average RSL stock by local authority area is around four thousand.
- Cardiff's housing stock accounts for just over 10 per cent of the housing stock in Wales, with around 34 thousand more properties more than Swansea, the second largest housing stock. Merthyr Tydfil has the smallest housing stock, with 25 thousand properties.

Homelessness

Details on homelessness are available for the number of people/households that present themselves as homeless to local authorities. The figures on the amount of homeless applications are obtained using data from individual local authorities on the number of homeless cases dealt with under the *Housing Act 1996*. Households are accepted as *statutory homeless* if they are eligible, unintentionally homeless and fall within a priority need group. Priority need groups include households with dependent children, pregnant women or people who are vulnerable

In Wales, 50 per cent of homeless applicants were considered *statutory homeless* in 2007-08. The distribution of those classified as statutory homeless is shown in Map 1 which maps the rate of homeless households per 1,000 households by local authority area. The map highlights that local authorities in South Wales appear to have a larger rate of homelessness than the rest of Wales.

Map 3: Rate of homeless households per 1,000 households, 2007-08 (a) (b)



Source: [Welsh Housing Statistics 2008](#)

- (a) In this map, homeless households only include those households that are found to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.
- (b) A labelled map of the local authority areas is available in the Annex

Temporary Accommodation

Local authorities are required to provide temporary accommodation to those who have become homeless; Table 10 provides data on the number of people in temporary accommodation in each local authority, according to the period of time each household has spent in temporary accommodation.

Table 10: Total housed in temporary accommodation by end of period, July - September 2008

Local Authority	Number of Households			
	Total under 6 months	Total 6-12 months	Over 1 year	Total
Isle of Anglesey	96	67	233	396
Gwynedd	111	24	20	155
Conwy	71	34	69	174
Denbighshire	42	13	11	66
Flintshire	94	25	37	156
Wrexham	59	3	0	62
Powys	90	31	39	160
Ceredigion	35	4	3	42
Pembrokeshire	171	36	61	268
Carmarthenshire	65	23	6	94
Swansea	44	2	0	46
Neath Port Talbot	32	10	9	51
Bridgend	75	8	0	83
The Vale of Glamorgan	182	29	0	211
Cardiff	241	77	73	391
Rhondda Cynon Taf	41	0	0	41
Merthyr Tydfil	35	2	0	37
Caerphilly	87	1	1	89
Blaenau Gwent	17	0	0	17
Torfaen	40	0	0	40
Monmouthshire	81	33	28	142
Newport	216	13	2	231
Wales	1,925	435	592	2,952

Source: [Local Government Data Unit](#) – Homelessness (table 11)

(a) Under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996

A number of key points can be highlighted about the amount of time spent in temporary accommodation (at the end of September 2008):

- 20 per cent of households in temporary accommodation had been living there for over a year.
- 65 per cent of those in temporary accommodation had been there less than 6 months.
- Almost 60 per cent of households in temporary accommodation in Anglesey have been there for over one year.
- Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Torfaen did not have any homeless households in temporary accommodation for more than 6 months.

7 Population

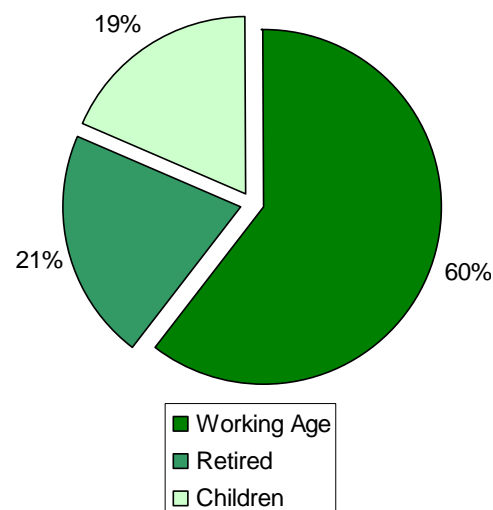
Birth and death registration data are used in conjunction with estimates of international and internal migration to calculate each mid year population estimate, the most recent population estimates available are for mid-2007.

Table 11 presents information on the change in population in Wales, by local authority, whilst also providing data on the changing age of the population between 2001 and 2007. The number of children has been classified as those aged 15 and under, and the retired population represents females aged 60 and over and males aged 65 and over. Map 4 shows the geographical distribution of the population in Wales. From the table and map, a number of key findings can be extracted:

- 60 per cent of the population in 2007 was of a working age
- Table 11 highlights the change in the dependency population, in 2001 there were more children than those of retirement age. By 2007, the number of children had decreased whilst the number of retirement age increased, this has resulted in a larger proportion of the population being of retirement age than children.
- The population in Wales increased by 0.5 per cent between mid-2006 and mid-2007, with the largest increase in Cardiff, which also has the largest population. The largest percentage increase from 2001 to 2007 was in Powys, 4.4%, the populations of Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil decreased in this period.
- The map shows that the local authorities with the highest populations are in South Wales, while the smaller populations are in the Northern and Western areas of Wales. With the exception of Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent which have the smallest populations.

Table 11: Population change between mid-2001 and mid-2007, by local authority and age

	2001	2007	2001-07 change	2006-07 change
Children¹	586,832	556,554	-5.2%	-0.8%
Working Age	1,739,178	1,796,759	3.3%	0.4%
Retired²	584,222	626,662	7.3%	1.9%
Isle of Anglesey	67,806	69,003	1.8%	0.2%
Gwynedd	116,844	118,374	1.3%	0.1%
Conwy	109,674	111,709	1.9%	0.4%
Denbighshire	93,070	97,009	4.2%	1.0%
Flintshire	148,629	150,537	1.3%	0.3%
Wrexham	128,540	131,911	2.6%	0.7%
Powys	126,398	131,963	4.4%	0.6%
Ceredigion	75,417	77,777	3.1%	0.8%
Pembrokeshire	113,058	117,921	4.3%	0.5%
Carmarthenshire	173,652	179,539	3.4%	0.8%
Swansea	223,463	228,086	2.1%	0.4%
Neath Port Talbot	134,380	137,376	2.2%	0.2%
Bridgend	128,735	133,917	4.0%	1.0%
The Vale of Glamorgan	119,277	124,017	4.0%	0.6%
Cardiff	310,088	321,000	3.5%	1.1%
Rhondda, Cynon, Taf	231,910	233,734	0.8%	-0.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	56,207	55,619	-1.0%	0.2%
Caerphilly	169,546	171,824	1.3%	0.3%
Blaenau Gwent	70,000	69,170	-1.2%	-0.2%
Torfaen	90,912	91,086	0.2%	0.1%
Monmouthshire	84,984	88,200	3.8%	0.4%
Newport	137,642	140,203	1.9%	0.1%
Wales	2,910,232	2,979,975	2.4%	0.5%

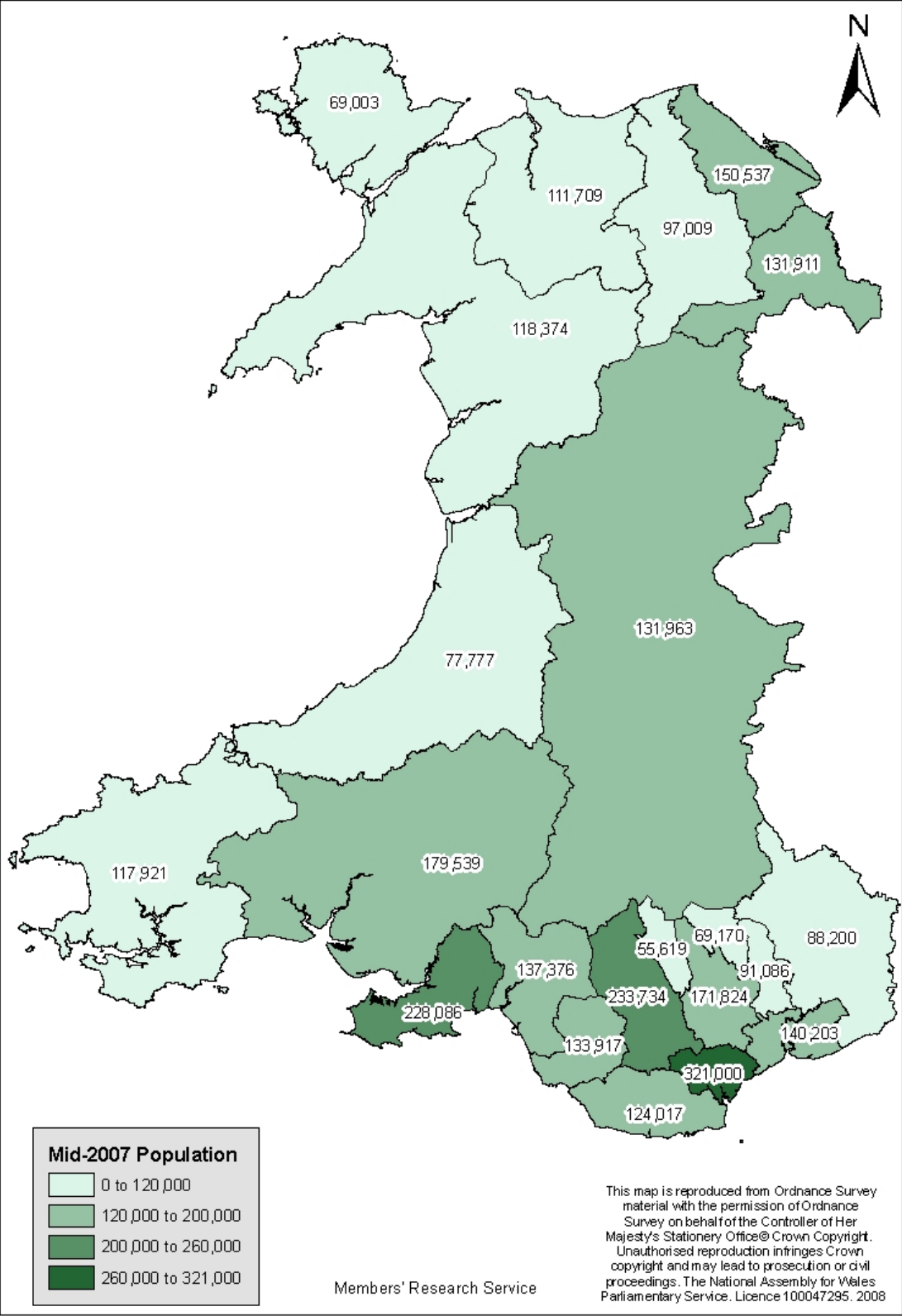


Source: StatsWales [\[Table 003122\]](#)

¹ - Children – 0-15

² - Retired – people of retirement age - 60 (females) / 65 (males) and over

Map 4: Geographical distribution of the population in mid-2007, by local authority



Source: StatsWales [\[Table 003122\]](#)
 (a) A labelled map of the local authority areas is available in the Annex

8 Social Security

Information on employment and DWP benefit statistics is provided by the Office of National Statistics on [Nomis](#) – the official labour market statistics website, where data is recorded at local authority level and also by constituency.

Benefits

Table 12 provides information on the number of people claiming a working age benefit, as well as the number of claimants as a percentage of the working age (aged 16 – 59/64) population in August 2008.

In August 2008 there were over 5.2 million people of working age claiming one or more DWP benefit, in Great Britain, with 6.4 per cent of those living in Wales. The majority of all claimants in Great Britain, 2.5 million, are receiving incapacity benefit.

- In Wales, 18.6 per cent of the working age population are claiming one or more DWP benefit, this is higher than the rate in England or Scotland.
- The percentage of the working age population in Wales receiving incapacity benefit is much higher than in the rest of Great Britain, with 10 per cent claiming, in comparison to an average of 7 per cent across Great Britain.

Table 12: Number and rate of working age claiming key benefits, by region, August 2008

	Great Britain		Wales		England		Scotland	
	Number (a)	Rate (b)	Number (a)	Rate (b)	Number (a)	Rate (b)	Number (a)	Rate (b)
Job Seeker	868,620	2.4	44,800	2.5	744,980	2.3	78,850	2.4
Incapacity Benefits	2,579,110	7.0	189,380	10.5	2,099,100	6.6	290,620	9.0
Lone Parent	744,620	2.0	37,600	2.1	646,800	2.0	60,230	1.9
Carer	392,590	1.1	25,950	1.4	330,660	1.0	35,980	1.1
Others on income related benefit	176,210	0.5	8,560	0.5	150,820	0.5	16,830	0.5
Disabled	359,500	1.0	23,820	1.3	302,080	1.0	33,600	1.0
Bereaved	93,790	0.3	4,910	0.3	78,950	0.2	9,930	0.3
Total	5,214,440	14.2	335,020	18.6	4,353,390	13.7	526,040	16.3

Source: [Nomis](#) (DWP benefit data)

(a) Figures rounded the nearest 10

(b) Rates are the proportion of the working age population estimates (calculated by Nomis)

Labour Market

The ONS provides monthly updates on the number of jobs available in each Jobcentre Plus region, the most recent figures available are for March 2009. Table 13 presents information on the change in amount of jobcentre vacancies from May 2006 to March 2009, by local authority. Data is available from the ONS on jobcentre vacancies prior to 2006, however due to changes in the collection method in May 2006 comparisons between data prior and post May 2006 cannot be made, therefore this information has not been provided in Table 13.

The table below highlights the large decrease in the number of jobs available in March 2009 in comparison to the previous 3 years, with the amount available more than halving. In March 2009, Swansea had the highest number of jobs available with 1,495. The major decline in available jobs have occurred in a number of specific areas, the number of vacancies has reduced by over 65 per cent in Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Powys and Torfaen. Bridgend has experienced the smallest reduction in vacancies in percentage terms.

Table 13: Jobcentre vacancies by local authority, up to March 2009

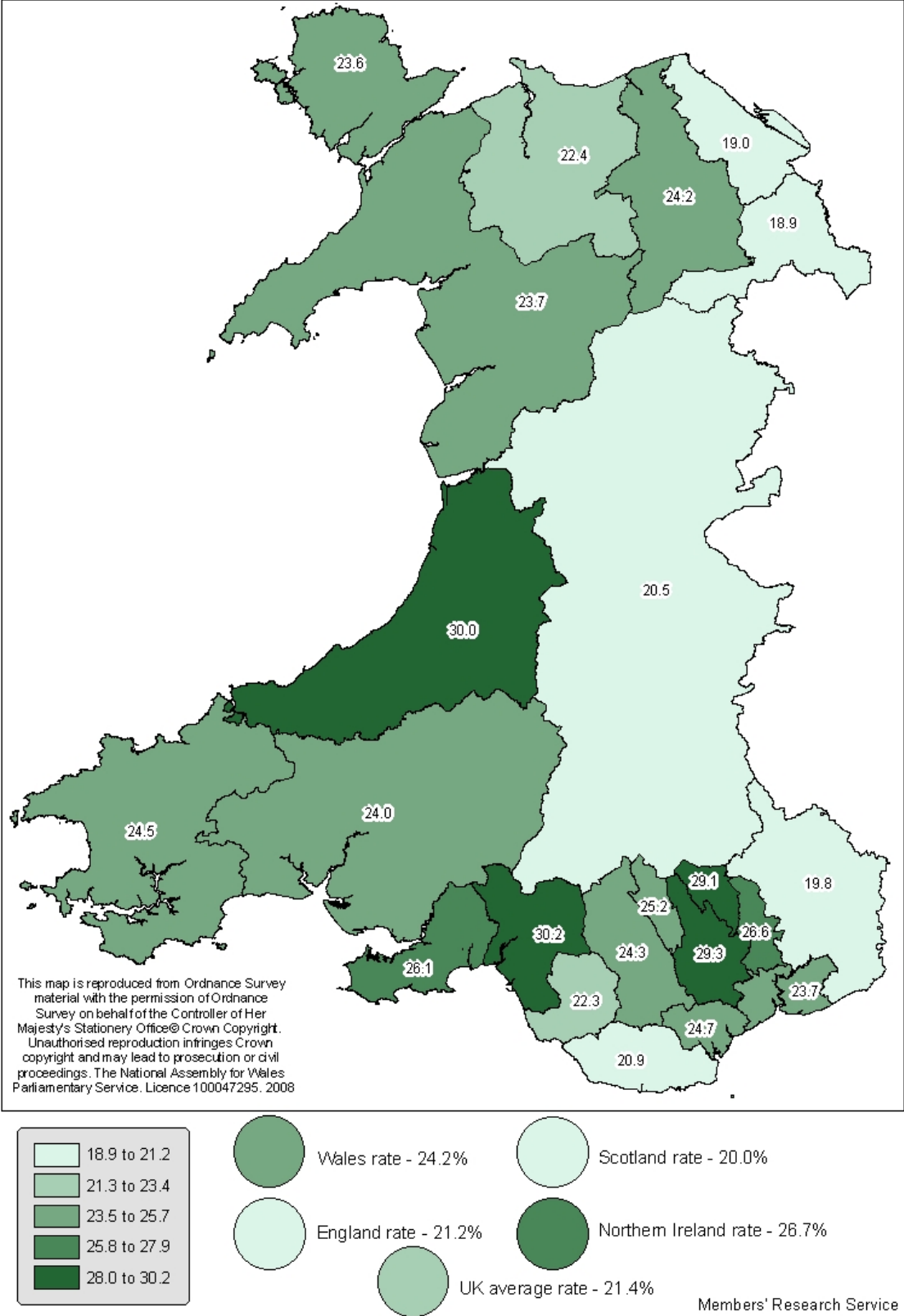
	May 2006	May 2007	May 2008	March 2009	4 Year Change
Isle of Anglesey	258	270	181	131	-49.2%
Blaenau Gwent	202	290	502	119	-41.1%
Bridgend	951	1,050	855	784	-17.6%
Caerphilly	941	818	1,255	362	-61.5%
Cardiff	3,257	3,102	3,113	1,449	-55.5%
Carmarthenshire	1,030	1,495	963	650	-36.9%
Ceredigion	496	378	260	186	-62.5%
Conwy	1,005	648	468	306	-69.6%
Denbighshire	1,058	578	594	231	-78.2%
Flintshire	1,357	1,291	1,130	509	-62.5%
Gwynedd	1,153	810	536	396	-65.7%
Merthyr Tydfil	400	406	350	132	-67.0%
Monmouthshire	626	738	483	204	-67.4%
Neath Port Talbot	631	1,025	727	388	-38.5%
Newport	1,107	1,377	1,197	677	-38.8%
Pembrokeshire	858	1,166	697	444	-48.3%
Powys	1,078	898	1,058	261	-75.8%
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1,065	1,043	1,250	378	-64.5%
Swansea	1,972	2,171	1,887	1,495	-24.2%
Torfaen	655	502	475	194	-70.4%
Vale of Glamorgan	775	883	524	390	-49.7%
Wrexham	906	719	553	340	-62.5%
Wales	21,781	21,658	19,058	10,026	-54.0%

Source: [Nomis](#) (Jobcentre Plus vacancy data)

Map 5, on the following page, provides details of the varying level of inactivity rate in each local authority in Wales, additionally it provides details of the inactivity rates of other UK regions. The inactivity rate is the proportion of the population of a working age who are inactive, the working age population is people aged 16 to 59/64, students are included. Ceredigion has a disproportionately high inactivity rate in comparison to other rural local authorities, this can be explained by the large number of students.

- The inactivity rate in Wales is 3 per cent higher than the UK average, whilst the highest rate is in Neath Port Talbot, with 30.2 per cent of the working age population being economically inactive.
- The lowest inactivity rate is in Wrexham, where only 18.9 per cent are economically inactive.
- Economic inactivity in Wales also appears to be lowest in the eastern local authority areas, the four lowest inactivity rates are all on the England/Wales border.

Map 5: Inactivity rate⁸ in Wales, by local authority, year ending June 2008



Source: Annual population survey ([Nomis](#))
 (a) A labelled map of the local authority areas is available in the Annex

⁸ 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.

9 Transport

Traffic Accidents

Information on the number of casualties is broken down into three categories according to the severity of injuries sustained. Figure 4 shows the change in the number of casualties in relation to the three injury categories in Wales, since 1994. A casualty is classed as severely injured if they are detained in hospital as an 'in-patient'⁹, the individual is then classed as slightly injured if injuries are minor, such as a sprain, bruised or only requiring roadside attention. Table 14 provides details of the number of children injured in traffic accidents, according to severity, between 1994 and 2007.

In 2000 the Welsh Ministers set targets for reductions in the amount of casualties from traffic accidents by 2010

In comparison to the averages for 1994-1998 the Welsh Assembly Government have aimed for¹⁰:

- a 40% reduction in the total number of people killed and seriously injured;
- a 50% reduction in the total number of children killed or seriously injured;
- a 10% reduction in the rate of slight casualties per 100 million vehicle kilometers travelled.

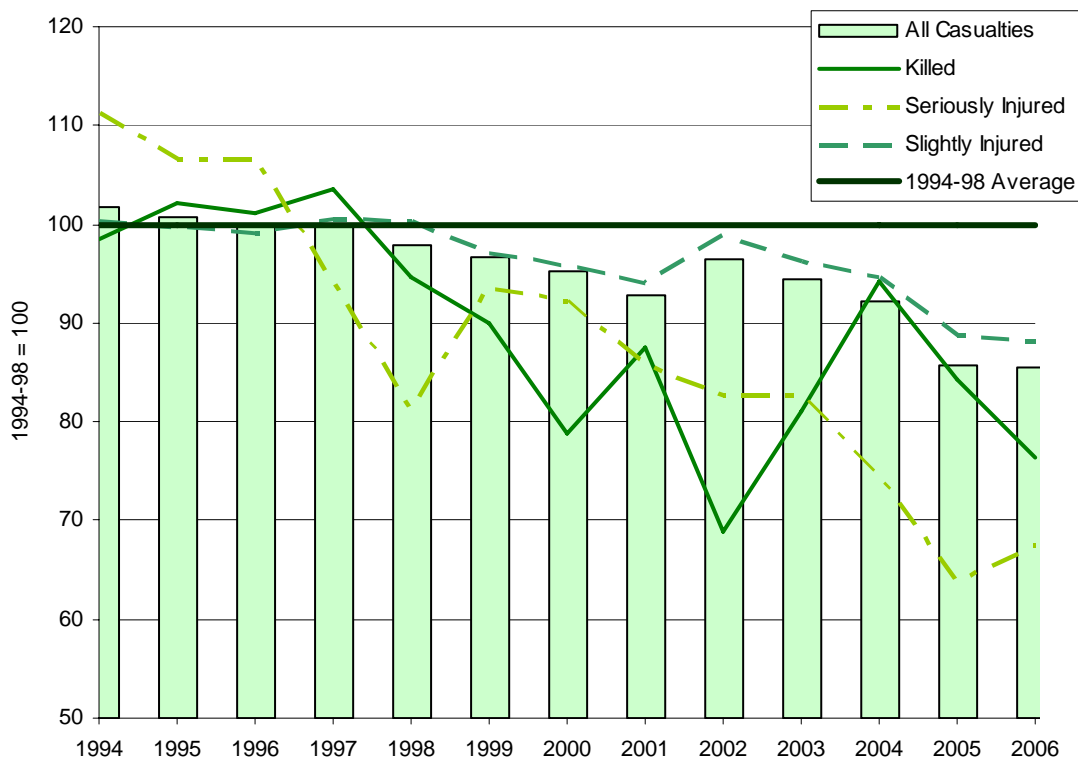
Figure 4 uses the 1994-98 average as an index point for the change in casualties to enable comparisons with the targets set by Welsh Ministers.

- Since the 1994-98 average there has been a decline in the number of casualties from traffic accidents, with a reduction of over 2,000 casualties.
- There has been a clear decline in the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents, the combined totals amount to a reduction of over 30 per cent from the 1994-98 average.
- The number of children injured in traffic accidents has nearly halved since the 1994-98 average, with a thousand less casualties in 2007 than 1994-98.
- In accordance with the Welsh Ministers target to half the number of children killed or seriously injured since 1994-98 by 2010, by 2007 there had been a reduction of 49 per cent.

⁹ The definition of a severe injury also include the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, severe cuts and lacerations, severe general shock requiring medical treatment, injuries causing death 30 or more days after the accident.

¹⁰ Welsh government website; [Road Safety](#) [as at 28 April 2009]

Figure 4: Change in the number of casualties in Wales, since 1994, by severity



Source: StatsWales [Table 004097]

Table 14: Child road casualties in Wales, by severity, 1994 to 2007 (a)

	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	All Severities
1994-98 average	14	275	1,977	2,266
1999	17	227	1,894	2,138
2000	8	217	1,785	2,010
2001	13	192	1,707	1,912
2002	9	182	1,660	1,851
2003	13	179	1,537	1,729
2004	9	161	1,375	1,545
2005	7	128	1,260	1,395
2006	10	134	1,153	1,297
2007	5	143	1,056	1,204

Percentage change -

1994-98 average to 2007 **-63.8%** **-48.0%** **-46.6%** **-46.9%**

Source: [Road Casualties in Wales, 2007](#) (June 2008)

(a) Children aged 0-15 inclusively

Use of transport

Information on the use of transport was collected in the 2001 Census, Table 15 presents statistics on the number households with no cars and those with two or more, in addition the percentage of working age residents that travel to work by car or by public transport is also provided. The travel to work percentages have been calculated using the 16-74 population in employment. It should be noted that this data relates to 2001.

There is little difference across Wales as to the amount of people who use public transport or car to travel to work, however some observations can be made:

- Over 70 per cent of the working population¹¹ in Wales travel to work by car, in comparison with 6.5% using public transport.
- Ceredigion has the lowest percentage of their working population travelling to work by car, with 62.2%. Cardiff has the largest proportion using public transport, 13 per cent; this coincides with Cardiff also being ranked as having the third lowest percentage travelling to work by car.
- Flintshire has the highest proportion of their working population using a car to travel to work, 77.3%, whilst Powys has the lowest amount using public transport, 1.6%.

From Table 15, information on the proportion of the Welsh households without cars and those with 2 or more cars highlights:

- Monmouthshire and Powys have the lowest percentage of households without a car whilst over 40 per cent of households in Monmouthshire have two or more cars, this is the highest percentage in Wales.
- Local authorities in rural areas¹², form the areas with the highest proportion of households with two or more cars, and are ranked the lowest for the population using public transport to travel to work.
- The urban authorities of Cardiff and Newport are the authorities with the highest proportion of their population using public transport to travel to work.

¹¹ Working population has been calculated as those between 16 and 74

¹² Rural Authorities: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire and Powys

Table 15: Number of cars per household and transport used to travel to work, by local authority, 2001

	<i>Per cent</i>			
	Travel to work (d)		Households (c)	
	By car (a)	By public transport (b)	Without a car	With 2 or more cars
Isle of Anglesey	71.2	2.9	20.9	32.6
Gwynedd	63.7	4.7	23.9	29.4
Conwy	68.2	5.0	24.2	28.7
Denbighshire	70.3	3.5	23.7	30.6
Flintshire	77.3	4.6	19.1	37.0
Wrexham	73.9	5.9	24.7	30.6
Powys	62.8	1.6	17.5	36.0
Ceredigion	62.2	3.1	19.5	33.8
Pembrokeshire	66.1	3.5	21.7	30.6
Carmarthenshire	70.8	3.3	23.1	30.5
Swansea	72.8	7.8	28.5	25.9
Neath Port Talbot	75.0	5.9	30.2	23.2
Bridgend	76.0	5.3	25.6	27.6
Vale of Glamorgan	71.4	8.4	21.5	33.2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	74.2	8.2	31.6	23.5
Merthyr Tydfil	72.5	9.3	35.2	20.3
Caerphilly	74.8	8.1	29.2	25.3
Blaenau Gwent	76.0	4.3	35.1	19.7
Torfaen	76.9	5.2	27.2	26.5
Monmouthshire	71.4	3.0	17.5	40.1
Newport	69.9	11.3	30.5	25.4
Cardiff	63.4	13.0	29.7	25.8
Wales	70.7	6.5	26.0	28.5

Source: Census 2001 – [Neighbourhood Statistics](#)

(a) Travel to work by car means driving (or as a passenger in) a car or van, or by taxi/minicab.

(b) Travel to work by public transport means by underground, metro, light rail, tram, train, bus or mini bus or coach

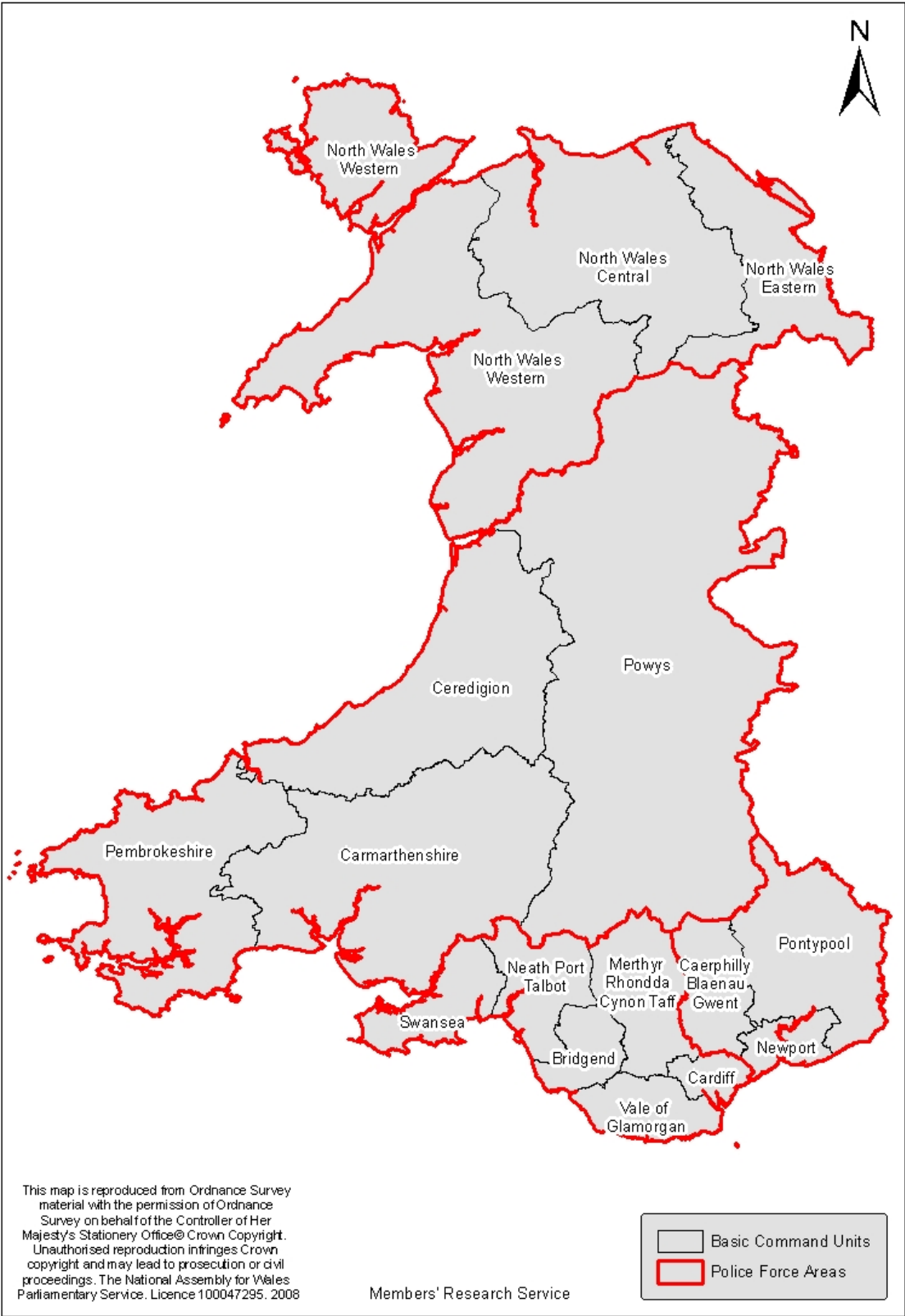
(c) Percentage of households

(d) Percentage of population 16-74 in employment

Source: Census 2001 data

Annex

Basic Command Units in Wales



Local Authority Areas in Wales

