

# Sources of Constituency Statistics

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## Introduction

In recent years there has been a growth in the amount of official statistics available for constituencies. This research note provides links to the main sources of constituency data that the Research Service uses. Constituency boundaries are reviewed and changed periodically, so Assembly and UK Parliamentary constituency boundaries are not always the same. There are currently some minor differences between the two, affecting around 900 electors in 7 constituencies.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, care needs to be taken in clarifying which boundaries statistics relate to, especially when making comparisons over time. We are always happy to help Assembly Members and their staff analyse data from these sources, and to map constituency data. This list is not exhaustive, so if please get in touch with us to discuss what information is available at constituency level on other topics and subjects. Some data for Assembly Regions is available from the 2011 Census. It may be possible to aggregate other sources of data from constituency level information to obtain regional data, so please get in touch with us to discuss this further.

<sup>1</sup> The *Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Electoral Regions (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2011*, which came into force in December 2011, made changes to some Assembly constituencies and regions, but not Parliamentary constituencies, which remained the same.

## General sources of statistics

The following sources provide statistical data across a range of topics:

- The 2011 Census is a rich source of statistical information on constituencies. The Office for National Statistics has collected all of the published statistics in the **2011 Census Data for England and Wales** section of its NOMIS website. Available data for constituencies includes data on topics such as population, health, education and skills, housing, the economy and the Welsh language.
- **Neighbourhood Statistics** is the Office for National Statistics' website for local area data. Again, it covers a range of subjects including population, health, education and skills, housing, the economy and the Welsh language.

## Population and demography

Office for National Statistics, **Parliamentary Constituency Population Estimates** contains mid-year population estimates broken down by age and gender. The latest figures are for mid-2011, based on the Census.

The 2011 Census provides detailed information on the population and demographic characteristics of constituencies. Datasets relating to population that may be of interest include **Age by Single Year**, **Population Density**, **Household Type** and **People aged 18-64 living in a One Adult Household**.

In terms of demographic and social characteristics of the population, the 2011 Census has constituency data relating to **Marital and Civil Partnership Status**, **Families with Dependent Children**, **Lone Parent Households with Dependent Children**, **Ethnic Group**, **National Identity** and **Religion**.

## Business, economy and the labour market

Research Service, **Unemployment Briefings** provide the latest statistics for ILO unemployment and the claimant count by constituency. From September 2013 they also provide the latest ILO unemployment figures for 16-24 year olds by constituency (youth unemployment).

NOMIS – Official Labour Market Statistics, **Constituency Labour Market Profiles** summarise data on employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, earnings and occupation for each constituency. It's also possible to compare data for different constituencies and to look back at data over time.

Office for National Statistics, **Regional Labour Market Statistics** is published every month and contains headline figures on the labour market for constituencies.

Office for National Statistics, **UK Business Activity, Size and Location** has the latest data on VAT and PAYE registered enterprises broken down by industry, size and turnover for constituencies.

## Tax and social security benefits

HM Revenue and Customs publishes constituency data for taxable income and income tax paid in its annual **Personal income by tax year** release. It also publishes constituency statistics for **Child Benefit** and **Tax Credits**.

The Department for Work and Pensions' **Tabulation Tool** provides statistics on a range of social security benefits at constituency level. These include Attendance Allowance, Bereavement Benefits, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, the State Pension and Widows Allowance.

The majority of these statistics can also be accessed via the **Advanced Query** function on NOMIS.

The Department for Work and Pensions also publishes data on Housing Benefit on its **Stat-Xplore** tool, and provides details of **Benefit Expenditure by Parliamentary Constituency** twice a year to coincide with the UK Budget and Autumn Statement. Data is also available on the number of people and households receiving **Winter Fuel Payment**.

## Health and Social Services

While most health and social services statistics in Wales are published by local health board or local authority rather than constituency, the following statistics are available:

- The 2011 Census provides data on **Health and Provision of Unpaid Care**, which considers whether people report having a disability or long-term limiting illness, how good they assess their health to be, and whether they provide unpaid care.

## Education and Skills

Welsh Government, **School Statistics by Assembly Constituency and Region 2012** contains a range of data on topics such as pupils; teachers; free school meals; class sizes; levels of educational attainment and absence levels.

Historic schools data is available at constituency level on StatsWales. Datasets available include those on **teaching staff, teaching support staff, pupils, and schools by English and Welsh medium**.

The 2011 Census contains data on the **Highest Level of Qualification** held by people according to the constituency they reside in, as well as details of all **Qualifications Gained**.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England publishes data on the participation of young people in higher education by constituency in its Participation in Local Areas (POLAR) studies. The latest figures available for Welsh constituencies are from the **POLAR3** project, and cover young people who reached 18 between 2005 and 2009.

## Housing

The 2011 Census provides constituency data on housing. A variety of topics are covered, including the **Number of Dwellings**, **Tenure of Households**, **Accommodation Type**, the **Number of Bedrooms in a Household**, and the **Occupancy Rating for Bedrooms** (which looks at how many households in a constituency live in overcrowded dwellings or under occupy dwellings).

## Welsh Language

The **Welsh Language Skills** dataset from the 2011 Census provides headline figures on the number of people within a constituency who can speak, understand, read and write Welsh.

More detailed constituency statistics broken down by age group are also available from the **Welsh Language Profile** 2011 Census dataset.

## Environment and Transport

While most environmental and transport data for local areas in Wales is published by local authority, the 2011 Census contains the following information.

- The **Car or Van Availability** dataset contains information on whether households have access to a car or van, and if so how many they are able to access.
- Data on the usual method of transport used by individuals to get to work is available within the **Method of Travel to Work** dataset.

## Crime and Justice

The majority of local level crime data is published by police force area or at local authority level. A relatively recent source of data is the **Police.uk** website, which provides street-level data on crime and anti-social behaviour since December 2010.

## Elections and electorates

Research Service, **2011 Assembly Election Results** provides analysis of the 2011 Assembly Election results, and contains information on results, share of the vote, changes in share of the vote, majorities and turnout for all constituencies.

Research Service, **2010 General Election Results** provides analysis of the 2010 General Election results, and contains information on results, share of the vote, changes in share of the vote, majorities and turnout for all constituencies.

Constituency results for previous elections to the National Assembly for Wales are available on the Assembly website. These are available for the **1999**, **2003** and **2007** elections.

The Welsh Government has published statistics on the number of **Electors to National Assembly for Wales Constituencies**. Due to differences in voter eligibility, there are also separate statistics available for General Elections. These are published by the Office for National Statistics, in **Electoral Statistics for UK** releases.

## Further information

For further information on sources of constituency statistics, please contact **Gareth Thomas** ([GarethDavid.Thomas@Wales.gov.uk](mailto:GarethDavid.Thomas@Wales.gov.uk)), Research Service or **Helen Jones** ([Helen.Jones@Wales.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Jones@Wales.gov.uk)).

**See also:**

- House of Commons Library, **Sources of statistics: data for parliamentary constituency areas**

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