

ECONOMIC STATISTICS MONTHLY – SEPTEMBER 2008

- The employment rate in Wales, as estimated by the Labour Force Survey, was 71.8 per cent of those of working age during May to July 2008, a little below the peak in mid 2003, but well above historical levels.
- The UK rate for the same period was 74.7 per cent.
- The unemployment rate in Wales was 5.5 per cent of the economically active population during May to July 2008, up a little on the recent past.
- The UK rate for the same period was also 5.5 per cent.



Summary statistics: May to July 2008 (seasonally adjusted)

	Wales				UK	
	Level (000s)	Change on year	Rate (%)	Change on year	Rate (%)	Change on year
Employment ⁽¹⁾	1,355	1	71.8	-0.4	74.7	0.2
ILO unemployment ⁽²⁾	79	1	5.5	0.1	5.5	0.2
Economically active ⁽¹⁾	1,434	2	76.2	-0.4	79.2	0.4
Economically inactive ⁽³⁾	427	8	23.8	0.4	20.8	-0.4
Claimant count ⁽⁴⁾	45.5	5.3	3.2	0.4	2.8	0.2

Other new data released this month:

- Long term and youth unemployment (page 4)
- Sub-Wales labour market indicators (page 6)
- Employee / self-employed jobs (page 7)
- Economic indices (page 9)
- Exports (page 10)

(1) Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (16-59/64).
 (2) Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. The rate is a proportion of the economically active.
 (3) Levels and rates are for those of working age (16-59/64).
 (4) Data relate to August 2008 and are provisional.

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Next Update: 17 October 2008



New information released this month is summarised below.

The Labour Force Survey estimates for the 3 months to July 2008 show:

- The **employment** rate of people of working age in Wales was 71.8 per cent, down from 72.2 per cent in the same period a year earlier. The UK average was 74.7 per cent.
- The **ILO unemployment** rate in Wales was 5.5 per cent of the economically active, up 0.1 percentage points on the same period a year earlier. For the UK as a whole it was also 5.5 per cent.
- The rate of **economic activity** amongst people of working age in Wales was 76.2 per cent, down from 76.5 per cent in the same period a year earlier. The UK average was 79.2 per cent.

Annual Population Survey estimates for the year to March 2008 show:

- The working age **employment** rate in West Wales and the Valleys was 69.8%. The rate for East Wales stood at 73.8%.
- The **ILO unemployment** rate in West Wales and the Valleys was 5.9% of the economically active. The rate for East Wales stood at 5.2%.
- The rate of **economic activity** amongst people of working age in West Wales and the Valleys was 74.3%. The rate for East Wales stood at 78.0%.
- **ILO long-term unemployment** (i.e. unemployed for 12 months or more) in Wales accounted for 22.7 per cent of the unemployed, slightly below the UK average of 24.7 per cent.
- **ILO youth unemployment** (i.e. 16 to 24 year olds) in Wales was 14.6 per cent of the economically active, slightly above the UK average of 13.7 per cent.

The Short Term Employment Surveys for the quarter ending June 2008 estimate that:

- **Employee jobs** in Wales fell by 13,000 (1.1%) over the year to stand at 1.179 million. UK employee jobs rose by 0.5% over the same period to stand at 27.2 million.
- **Employee jobs in manufacturing** in Wales fell by 4,000 (2.8%) over the year. Over the same period there were increases in the service industries (up 1,000 or 0.2%) and falls in construction industries (down 12,000 or 18.8%).

The **claimant count rate** in **August 2008** for Wales was 3.2 per cent of the workforce, up 0.4 percentage points on August 2007 (UK rate 2.8 per cent).

The **claimant count rate** in **August 2008** for West Wales and the Valleys was 2.7 per cent of the resident population of working-age. The rate for East Wales stood at 2.4 per cent.

The **Index of Transport, Storage and Communication** for Wales for the latest four quarters rose by 3.0 per cent compared to the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 3.7 per cent over the same period.

The value of **exports of goods for the four quarters up to and including quarter 2 2008** from Wales rose by 2.9% over the previous four quarters and rose by 48.9% over 1999. Exports for the sum of UK countries and English regions rose by 7.2% and rose by 36.8% over the same periods respectively.

Contents

The charts in this bulletin are arranged as follows:

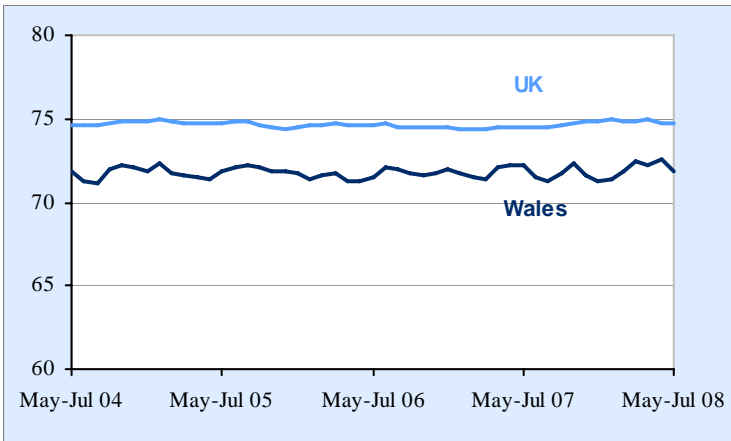
- page 3: employment rates;
- page 4: unemployment rates;
- page 5: economic activity rates;
- page 6: labour market indicators for NUTS2 areas;
- page 7: employee and self employment jobs;
- page 8: Indices of Production; and Index of Construction;
- page 9: Index of Distribution; Index of Hotels and Restaurants; Index of Transport, Storage and Communication and Index of Business Services;
- page 10: exports, VAT registrations and VAT registered stock; and
- page 11: average earnings, gross value added and gross disposable household income per head.

Detailed background notes and key quality information are given on pages 12 to 14.

New data

Employment Rate: Persons

Percentage of working age



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

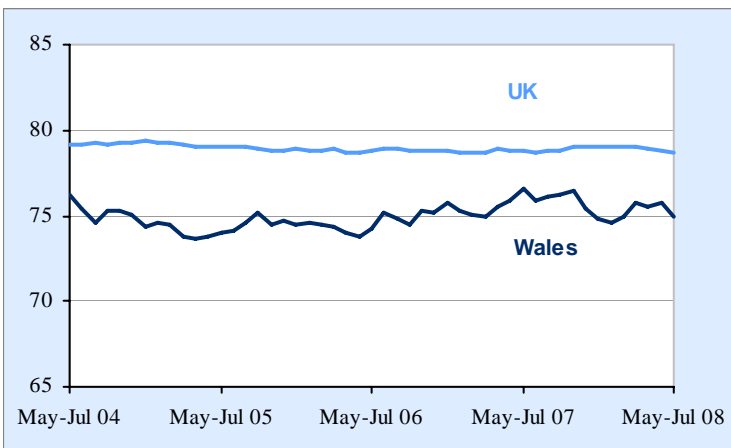
The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number in employment in Wales was 1.355 million in May to July 2008, an increase of 1,000 (0.1 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 71.8 per cent of those of working age, down from 72.2 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number in employment in the UK rose by 333,000 (1.1 per cent) to 29.5 million. This is a rate of 74.7 per cent of those of working age, up from 74.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data

Employment Rate: Men

Percentage of working age



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

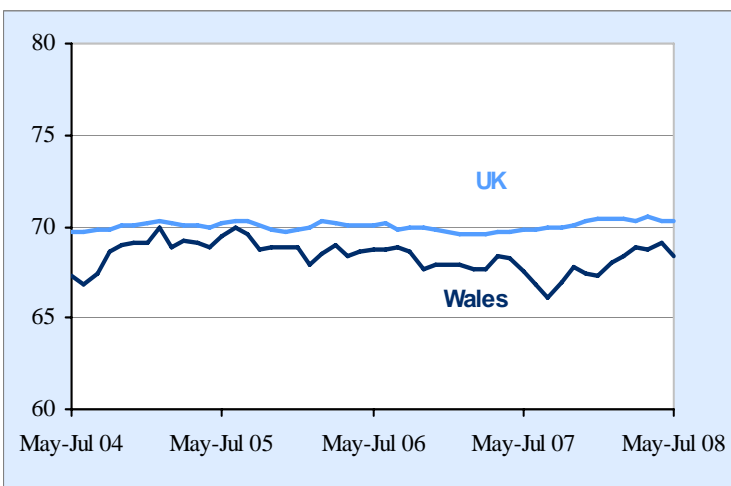
The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number of men in employment in Wales was 724,000 in May to July 2008, a fall of 8,000 (1.1 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 75.0 per cent of those of working age, down from 76.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number of men in employment in the UK rose by 131,000 (0.8 per cent) to 15.9 million. This is a rate of 78.7 per cent of those of working age, a fall of 0.1 percentage points from the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data

Employment Rate: Women

Percentage of working age



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

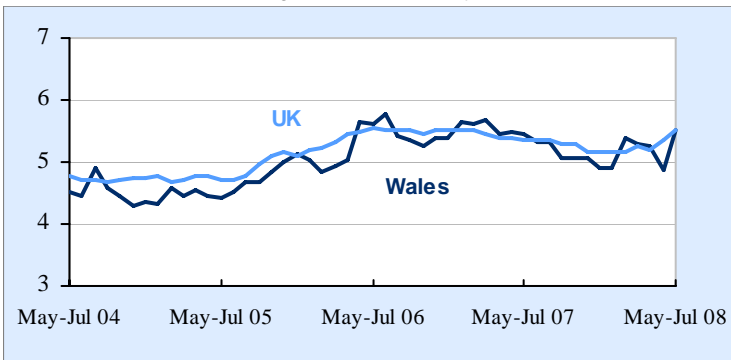
The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number of women in employment in Wales was 630,000 in May to July 2008, a rise of 9,000 (1.5 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 68.4 per cent of those of working age, up from 67.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number of women in employment in the UK rose by 202,000 (1.5 per cent) to 13.6 million. This is a rate of 70.3 per cent of those of working age, up from 69.9 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data

ILO Unemployment Rates

Percentage of economically active



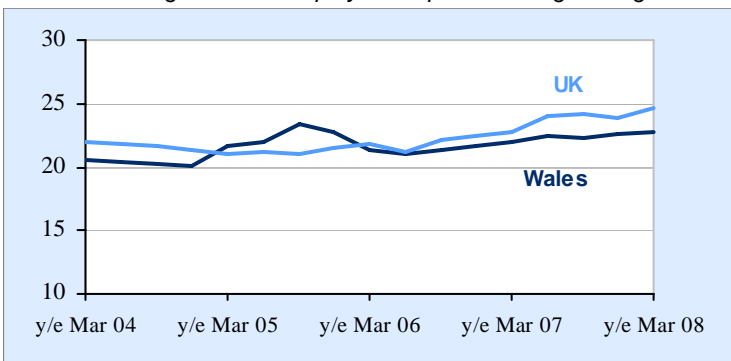
Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the number of ILO unemployed in Wales was 79,000 in May to July 2008, up 1,000 (1.3 per cent) on the same period a year earlier. This is a rate of 5.5 per cent of the economically active, a rise of 0.1 percentage points from the same period a year earlier. Over the same period ILO unemployment in the UK rose by 72,000 (4.3 per cent) to 1.7 million. This is a rate of 5.5 per cent of the economically active, up from 5.4 per cent from the same period a year earlier.

Long-term ILO Unemployment Rates*

Percentage of all unemployed: 4 quarter rolling average



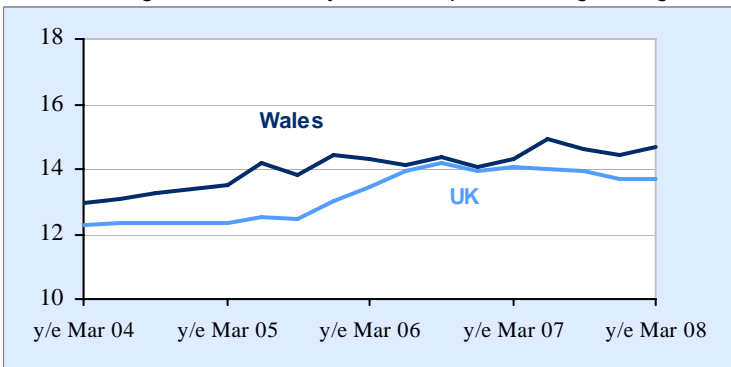
Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: LLFS/APS, NS

For the year ending March 2008 the APS estimates that 18,000 people in Wales were long-term ILO unemployed (12 months or more), a rise of 9.9 per cent over the figure for a year earlier. This represented 22.7 per cent of all those unemployed in the year, 0.8 percentage points higher than the figure for the previous year. The equivalent UK rate was 24.7 per cent, 2.0 percentage points higher than the figure for the previous year.

Youth ILO Unemployment Rates*

Percentage of economically active: 4 quarter rolling average



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

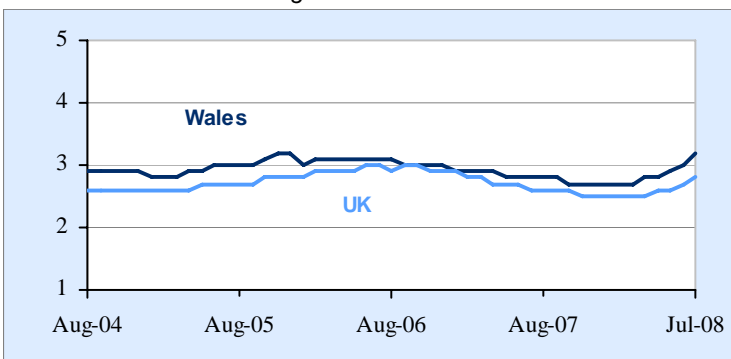
Source: LLFS/APS, NS

For the year ending March 2008 the APS estimates that 35,400 people aged 16-24 in Wales were ILO unemployed, a rise of 7.1 per cent over the figure for a year earlier. This represented 14.6 per cent of the economically active in this age group in the year, up 0.3 percentage points over the figure for a year earlier. The equivalent UK rate was 13.7 per cent, 0.4 percentage points lower than the year earlier.

New data

Claimant Count Rates

Percentage of civilian workforce



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

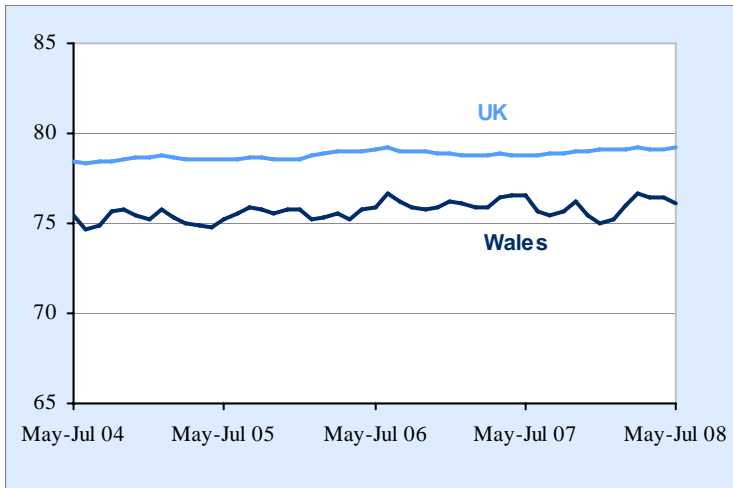
Source: Jobcentre+ administrative system

The claimant count in Wales stood at 45,500 in August 2008, a rate of 3.2 per cent of the workforce. Over the 12 months to August 2008 it rose by 5,300 (13.2 per cent). The UK claimant count stood at 904,900 in August 2008, representing 2.8 per cent of the workforce. Over the 12 months to August 2008 it rose by 56,300 (6.6 per cent).

* not seasonally adjusted
NS = National Statistics

New data Economic Activity Rate: Persons

Percentage of working age



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

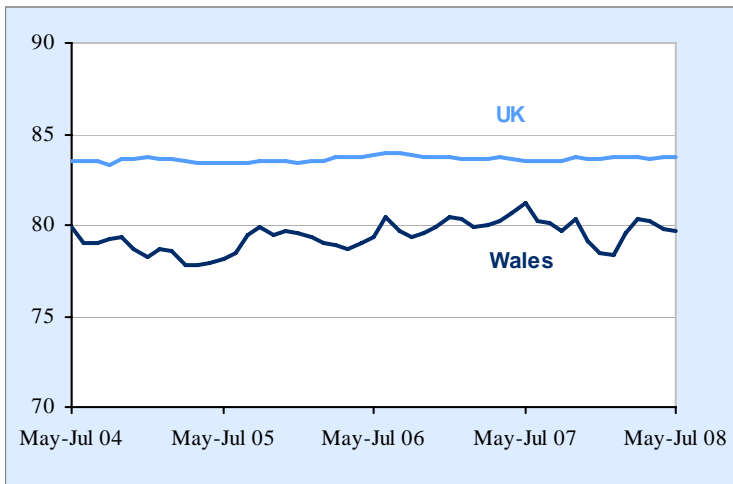
Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number who were economically active in Wales was 1.434 million in May to July 2008, an increase of 2,000 (0.1 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 76.2 per cent of those of working age, down from 76.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number who were economically active in the UK rose by 405,000 (1.3 per cent) to 31.3 million. This is a rate of 79.2 per cent of those of working age, up from 78.8 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data Economic Activity Rate: Men

Percentage of working age



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

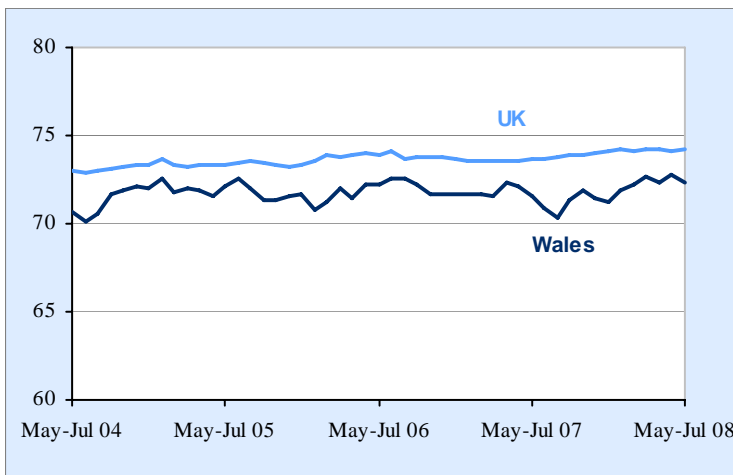
Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number of men who were economically active in Wales was 769,000 in May to July 2008, a fall of 7,000 (0.9 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 79.7 per cent of those of working age, down from 81.2 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number of men who were economically active in the UK rose by 200,000 (1.2 per cent) to 17.0 million. This is a rate of 83.8 per cent of those of working age, up from 83.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data Economic Activity Rate: Women

Percentage of working age



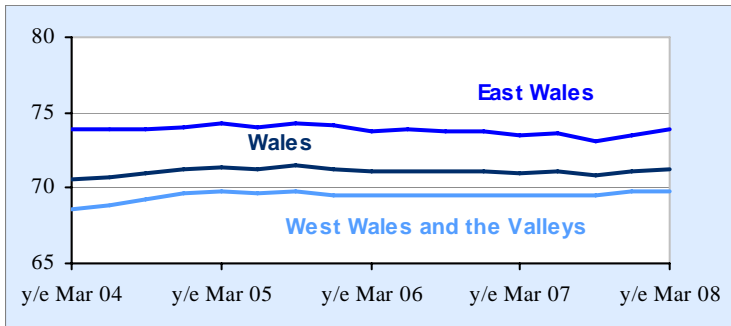
Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

The seasonally adjusted LFS estimate of the total number of women who were economically active in Wales was 665,000 in May to July 2008, up 9,000 (1.3 per cent) from a year earlier. This is a rate of 72.3 per cent of those of working age, up from 71.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the same period, the estimate of the total number of women who were economically active in the UK rose by 205,000 (1.5 per cent) to 14.3 million. This is a rate of 74.2 per cent of those of working age, up from 73.7 per cent in the corresponding period a year earlier.

New data **Employment Rate: NUTS2 areas***
4 quarter rolling average, percentage of working age



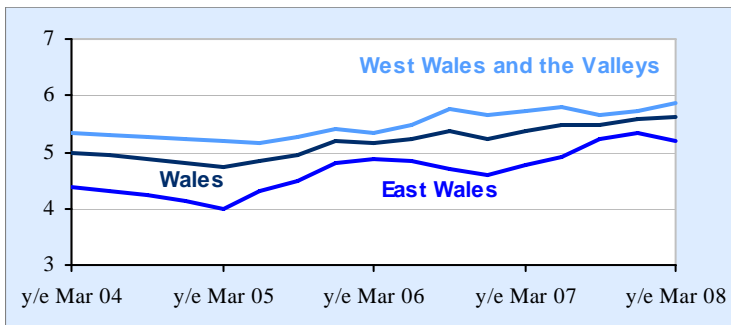
Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: LLFS/APS, NS

For the 12 months ending in March 2008 the average employment level in West Wales and the Valleys was 9,000 (1.1 per cent) higher than the previous year. For East Wales the level was 7,000 (1.4 per cent) higher.

Over the same period, the employment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and rose by 0.4 percentage points in East Wales.

New data **ILO Unemployment Rate: NUTS2 areas***
4 quarter rolling average, percentage of economically active



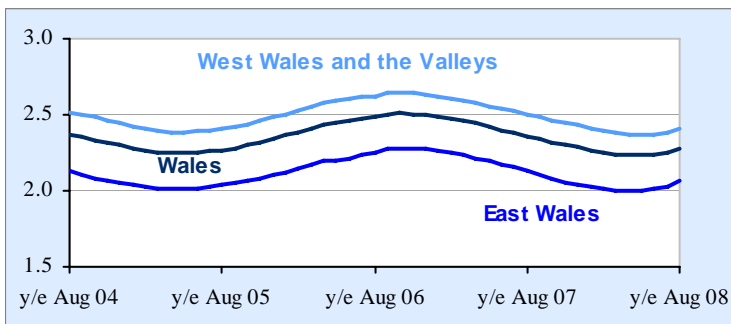
Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: LLFS/APS, NS

For the 12 months ending in March 2008 the average unemployment level in West Wales and the Valleys was 2,000 (3.4 per cent) higher than the previous year. For East Wales the level was 3,000 (10.9 per cent) higher.

Over the same period, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and rose by 0.4 percentage points in East Wales.

New data **Claimant Count Rate: NUTS2 areas***
12 month rolling average, percentage of resident working age



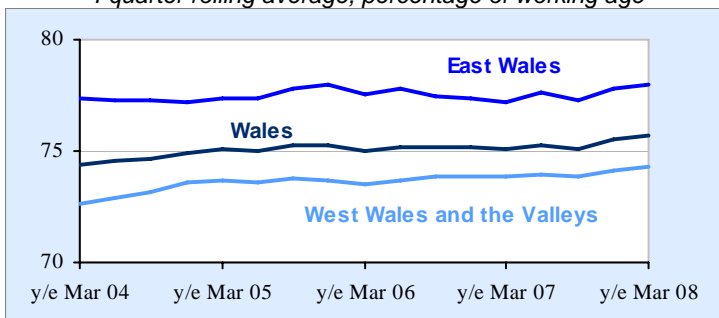
Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Jobcentre+ administrative system

The claimant count in West Wales and the Valleys stood at 30,200 in August 2008, a rate of 2.7 per cent of the resident working age population.

In East Wales, the claimant count stood at 15,800 in August 2008, representing 2.4 per cent of the resident working age population.

New data **Economic Activity Rate: NUTS2 areas***
4 quarter rolling average, percentage of working age



Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: LLFS/APS, NS

For the 12 months ending in March 2008 the average economic activity level in West Wales and the Valleys was 10,000 (1.2 per cent) higher than the previous year. For East Wales the level was 10,000 (1.8 per cent) higher.

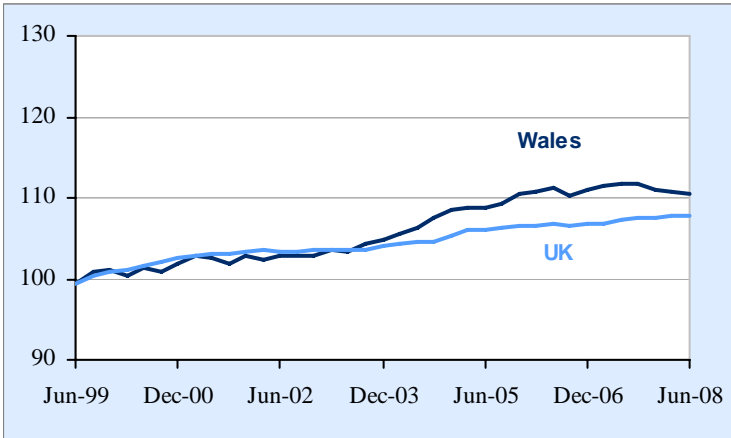
Over the same period, the economic activity rate rose by 0.4 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and rose by 0.8 percentage points in East Wales.

* not seasonally adjusted
NS = National Statistics

New data

Employee Jobs

Index 1999=100



Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: STES, NS

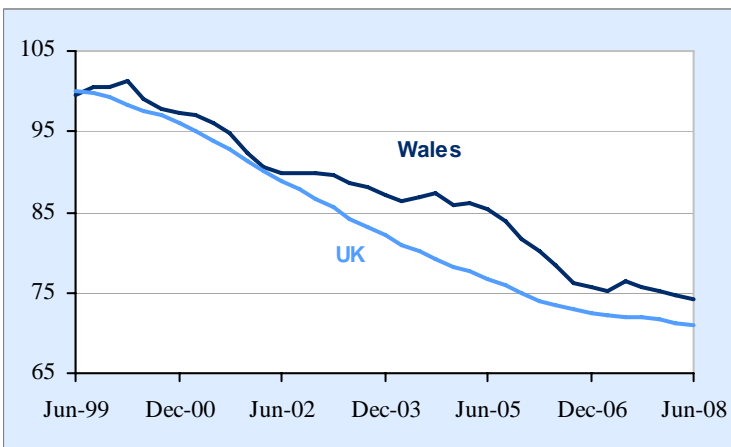
The number of employee jobs in Wales fell by 13,000 (1.1 per cent) between June 2007 and June 2008 to stand at 1.179 million.

Over the same period the number of employee jobs in the UK as a whole rose by 146,000 (0.5 per cent) to 27.2 million.

New data

Employee Jobs in Manufacturing*

Index 1999=100



Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: STES, NS

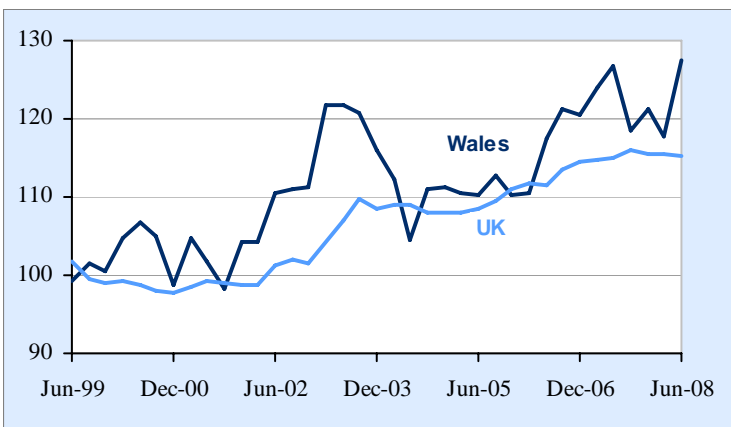
The number of employee jobs in manufacturing in Wales fell by 4,000 (2.8 per cent) between June 2007 and June 2008 to stand at 153,000 (13.0 per cent of all employee jobs).

Over the same period the number of employee jobs in manufacturing in the UK as a whole fell by 42,000 (1.4 per cent) to 2.9 million (10.6 per cent of all employee jobs).

New data

Self-employment Jobs*

Index 1999=100



Next update: 19 Dec 2008

Source: Labour Force Survey, NS

The LFS estimate of the number of self-employment jobs in Wales rose by 1,000 (0.6 per cent) between June 2007 and June 2008 to stand at 204,000 (14.7 per cent of civilian workforce jobs).

Over the same period the estimate of the number of self-employment jobs in the UK as a whole rose by 10,000 (0.2 per cent) to 4.2 million (13.4 per cent of civilian workforce jobs).

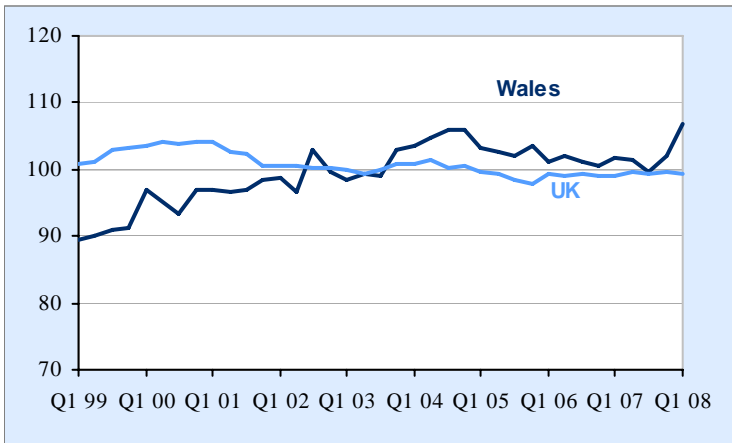
* not seasonally adjusted

STES = Short Term Employment Surveys

NS = National Statistics

Index of Production ⁽¹⁾

Index 2003=100



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

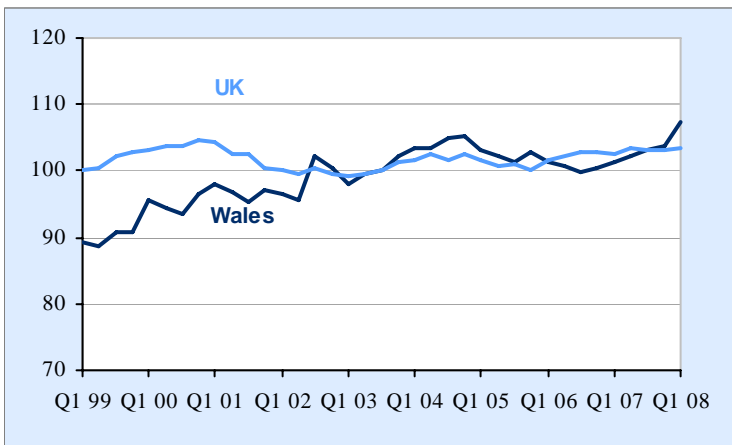
Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

Production output in Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 rose by 1.1 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 0.5 per cent, over the same period.

Production output for quarter 1 2008 rose by 4.6 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The figure for the same period for the UK fell by 0.2 per cent.

Index of Manufacturing ⁽¹⁾

Index 2003=100



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

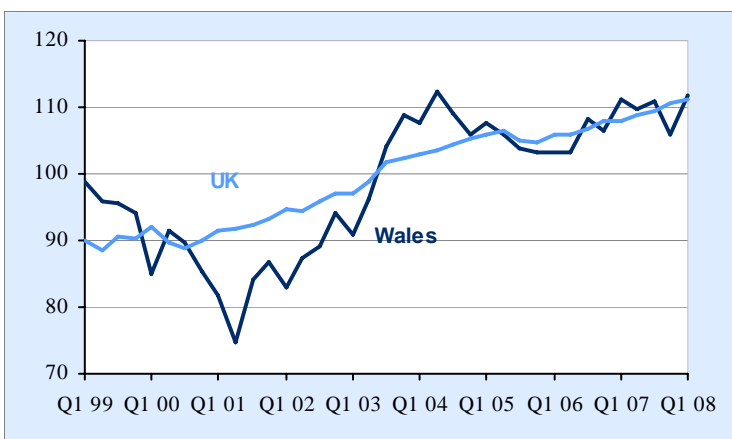
Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

Manufacturing output in Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 rose by 3.5 per cent over the previous four quarters. UK output rose by 0.6 per cent during this period.

Manufacturing output for quarter 1 2008 rose by 3.5 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK index rose by 0.3 per cent over the same period.

Index of Construction ⁽¹⁾

Index 2003=100



Next update: 17 Oct 2008

Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

Construction output for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 rose by 2.1 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. UK output rose by 2.6 per cent over the same period.

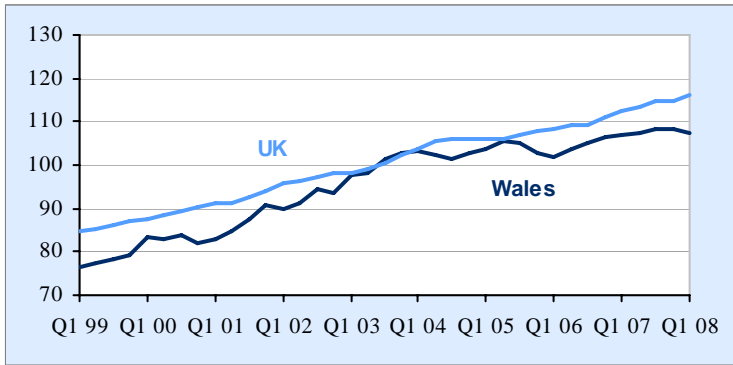
Construction output for quarter 1 2008 rose by 5.7 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK index rose by 0.5 per cent over the same period.

NS = National Statistics

Index of Distribution ⁽¹⁾

(1) The methodology review has resulted in major revisions to the series, please refer to notes at end for further details.

Index 2003=100



Next update: 17 Oct 2008 Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

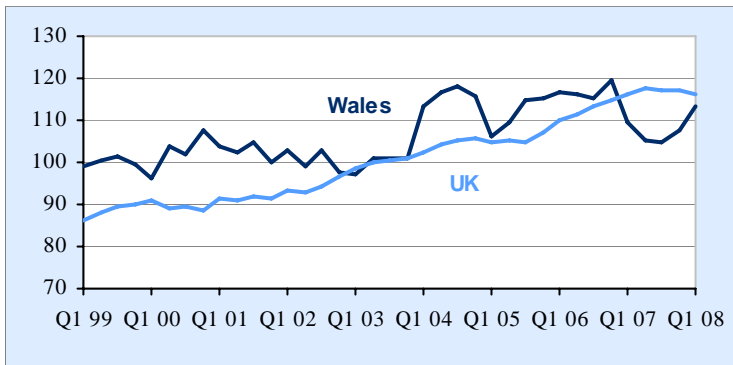
The Index of Distribution for Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 rose by 2.0 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 3.7 per cent over the same period.

The Index of Distribution for quarter 1 2008 fell by 0.8 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK rose by 0.9 per cent over the same period.

Index of Hotels and Restaurants

New data

Index 2003=100



Next update: Nov 2008 Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

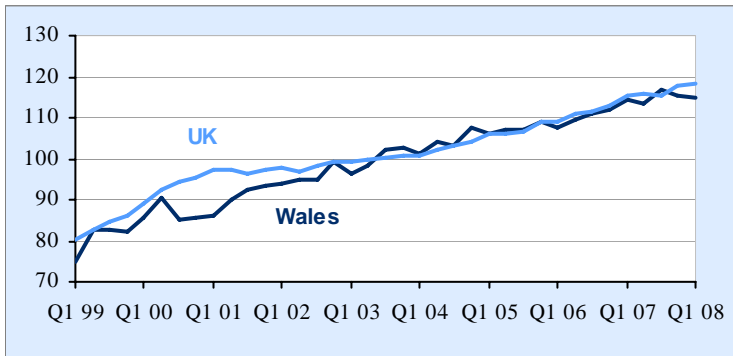
The Index of Hotels and Restaurants for Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 fell by 6.4 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 2.7 per cent over the same period.

The Index of Hotels and Restaurants for quarter 1 2008 increased by 5.2 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK fell by 0.6 per cent over the same period.

Index of Transport, Storage and Communication

New data

Index 2003=100



Next update: Nov 2008 Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

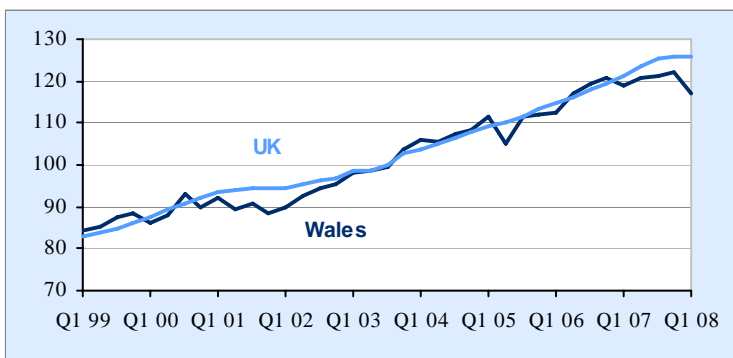
The Index of Transport, Storage and Communication for Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 rose by 3.0 per cent compared with the previous four quarters. The UK index rose by 3.7 per cent over the same period.

The Index of Transport, Storage and Communication for quarter 1 2008 fell by 0.8 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK rose by 0.7 per cent over the same period.

Index of Business Services

New data

Index 2003=100



Next update: Nov 2008 Source: Welsh Assembly Government, NS

The Index of Business Services for Wales for the four quarters ending quarter 1 2008 was 1.1 per cent higher than the previous four quarters. The UK index rose 5.3 per cent over the same period

The Index of Business Services for quarter 1 2008 fell by 4.2 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The UK fell by 0.1 per cent over the same period.

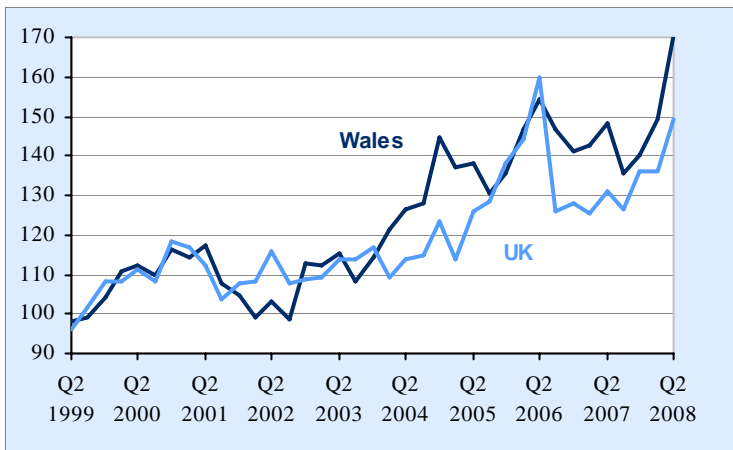
NS = National Statistics

(1) The methodology review has resulted in major revisions to the series, please refer to notes at end for further details.

New data

Value of Exports

Index 1999=100



Next update: 19 Dec 2008

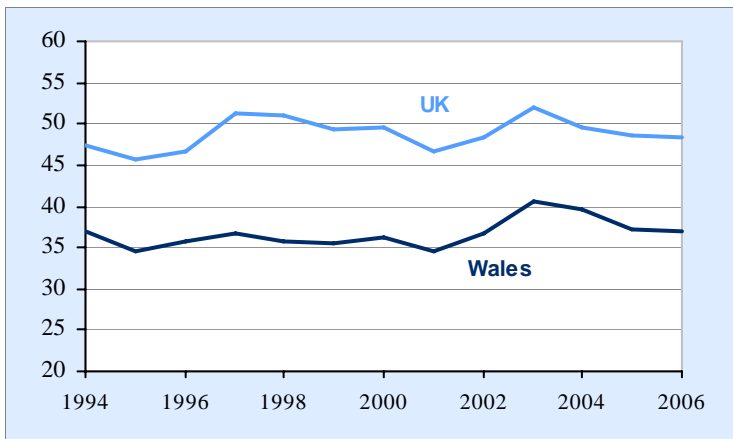
Source: HMRC, NS

For the four quarters up to and including quarter 2 2008, the value of exports of goods from Wales rose by 2.9 per cent on the previous four quarters and rose by 48.9 per cent over 1999. Exports to EU countries accounted for 61 per cent of the total in the latest four quarters, compared to 60 per cent in the previous four quarters.

The value of exports for the total of all UK countries and English regions for the latest four quarter rose by 7.2 per cent on the previous four quarters and rose by 36.8 per cent over 1999. Exports to EU countries accounted for 53 per cent of the total in the latest four quarters, compared to 55 per cent in the previous four quarters.

VAT Registrations

VAT registrations per 10,000 working age population



Next update: Nov 2008

Source: Small Business Service, NS

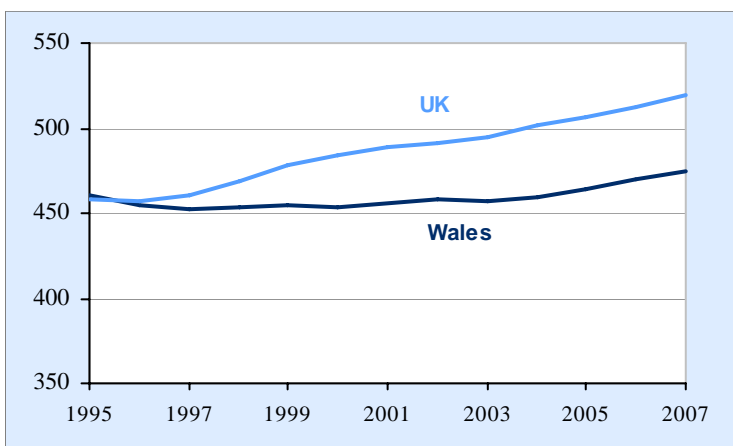
In Wales there were 37 VAT registrations per 10,000 people of working age population in 2006, unchanged over the year. The UK had 48 VAT registrations per 10,000 people of working age population in 2006, also unchanged over the year.

Registrations per head of working age population peaked in 2003 in Wales and have fallen back a little in the last 3 years.

Not all businesses are registered for VAT. Many small businesses trading below the VAT threshold will not be included.

VAT Registered Stock

VAT registered stock per 10,000 working age population



Next update: Nov 2008

Source: Small Business Service, NS

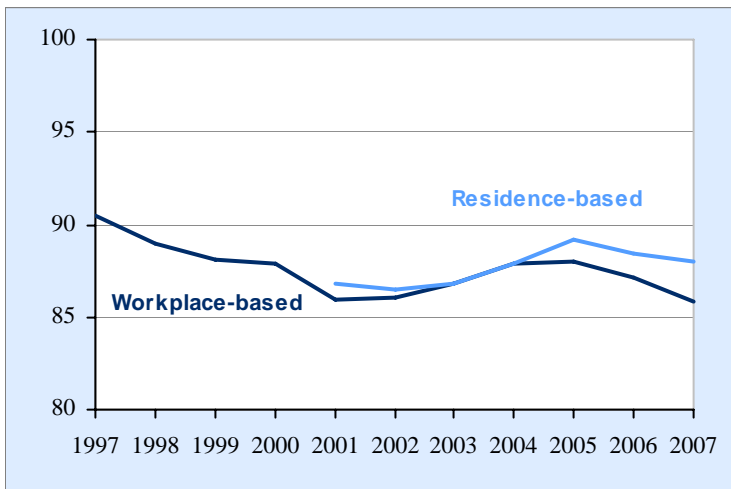
In Wales there were 475 VAT registered businesses per 10,000 people of working age population as of 1 January 2007, a rise of 5 over the year. The UK had 519 VAT registered businesses per 10,000 people of working age population as of 1 January 2007, up 6 over the year.

The stock in Wales fell during 1994, 1995 and 1996, and has risen steadily since to stand at a new high of 85,000 as of 1 January 2007.

Not all businesses are registered for VAT. Many small businesses trading below the VAT threshold will not be included.

Average Earnings

Wales as a percentage of UK



Next update: Nov 2008

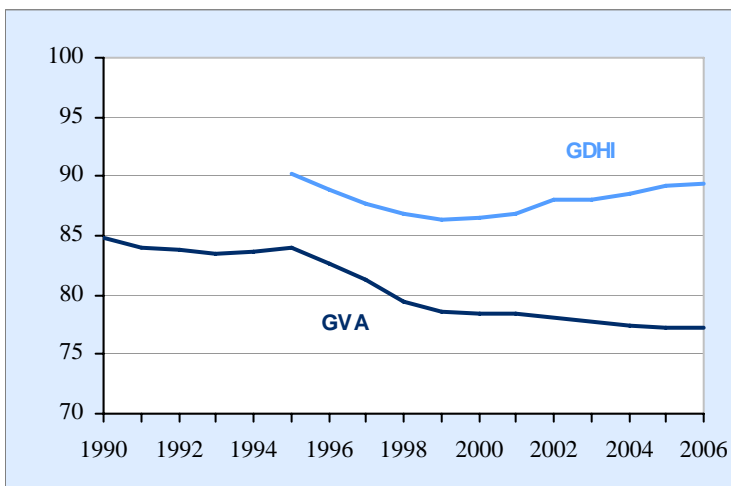
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, NS

Workplace-based average gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in Wales rose by 1.3 per cent between April 2006 and April 2007, compared to a 2.8 per cent rise for the UK. Residence-based earnings in Wales increased by 2.4 per cent over the same period.

In April 2007, average workplace-based gross weekly earnings of full-time employees in Wales stood at £472, 85.9 per cent of the UK average. On a residence basis, average weekly earnings in Wales were 88.0 per cent of the UK average.

Gross Value Added / Gross Disposable Household Income per Head

Wales as a percentage of UK



Next update: Jan 2009

Source: Regional Accounts, NS

In 2006, Gross Value Added (GVA) for Wales was £42.7 billion or £14,396 per head of population. This was 77.3 per cent of the average for the total of all UK regions, a percentage that has changed little since 1999.

Wales had the lowest level of GVA per head in the UK regions, behind the North East and Northern Ireland, where GVA per head was 81.5 per cent of the UK average.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) in 2006 for Wales was £36.5 billion or £12,312 per head of population. This represented 89.4 per cent of the UK figure, its highest relative level since 1995.

GDHI per head in Wales is closer to the UK average than GVA per head, and is higher than that for the North East and Northern Ireland.

Notes

This bulletin is a compendium publication used to bring together the latest key statistics relating to the Welsh economy and labour market, mainly in the context of the UK economy and labour market. The bulletin is updated each month, so that it is based on the latest version of each of the datasets it includes (see dates given in each of the charts for the next update dates).

The bulletin is the main vehicle for the publication of results for the Welsh labour market from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), as produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and also for information from Jobcentre plus on the numbers of claimants of unemployment related benefits, or claimant count (pages 3 to 6). The bulletin also provides Welsh data on the numbers of employee and self-employment jobs as published by the ONS (see page 7). Further information on these datasets is given later in these notes.

In addition to these datasets, the bulletin brings together the further datasets, for which the Welsh Assembly Government produces separate publications, including short term output indices, exports data, earnings data, VAT registrations data and regional accounts data. Further information about these additional datasets can be found in the separate publications themselves, all available from the following page on the Welsh Assembly Government website:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/latest/latest-economy/?lang=en>.

Some of data given in this bulletin are presented as index numbers. Index numbers take the data for each time period and divide them by the figure for the reference period, and multiply the result by 100. A figure of above 100 for a given time period then indicates that the figure is higher than that for the reference period, whilst a figure of below 100 indicates that it is lower than that for the reference period. Data on employee and self-employment jobs and exports are presented as indices referenced to 1999 = 100. The indices of production, manufacturing and construction are each referenced to 2003 = 100. The indices of distribution; retail; and hotels and restaurants are also each referenced to 2003 = 100.

For the series shown on pages 3 to 9, most are seasonally adjusted, and this is to be assumed unless stated otherwise. None of the data shown on pages 10 and 11 are seasonally adjusted.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) data at both a regional and sub-regional level used in the charts on pages 3 to 6 are adjusted to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population. The seasonally adjusted LFS data used on pages 3 to 5 also take account of the latest population data as released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Key quality information: Labour Force Survey and claimant count

The main LFS is a quarterly sample survey of around 60,000 households living at private addresses in the UK. Each quarter's LFS sample of 60,000 private households is made up of 5 'waves', each of approximately 12,000 households. Each wave is interviewed in 5 successive quarters, such that in any one quarter, one wave will be receiving their first interview, one wave their second, and so on, with one wave receiving their fifth and final interview. As a result, there is an 80 per cent overlap in the samples for successive quarters. Households are interviewed face-to-face when first included in the survey and by telephone thereafter. For the first wave in Wales the response rate in the main LFS is around 80 per cent, with around 80 per cent of these remaining by the fifth wave.

The main LFS is based on a detailed questionnaire and hence provides for a large dataset, although there are some limitations to its use, particularly at a sub-regional level due to sample size constraints. Its primary use is to provide labour market information for the UK, including levels and rates for employment, unemployment and economic activity / inactivity. The sample size is sufficient to provide estimates of reasonable quality at UK country and English region level within the UK, from which ONS publish a monthly set of releases for each UK country and English region (see http://www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp). It is the data from the Welsh release that is used to compare the Welsh labour market with that for the UK as a whole in this bulletin, on pages 3 to 5.

As the LFS is a sample survey, the results taken from it are subject to sampling variability. The ranges shown for the Labour Force Survey data (as set out in the table below) represent 95 per cent confidence intervals for the Wales data about the estimates for each given indicator. This means that in 95 per cent of samples, the range given would contain the exact value.

95% confidence intervals for Labour Force Survey figures: Wales, May to July 2008

Numbers in thousands

	Estimates			Quarterly changes			Annual changes		
	Lower limit	Estimate	Upper limit	Lower limit	Quarterly change	Upper limit	Lower limit	Annual change	Upper limit
Employment level	1,314	1,355	1,396	1,309	1,360	1,412	1,302	1,354	1,406
Employment rate	70.0%	71.8%	73.6%	70.2%	72.5%	74.8%	69.9%	72.2%	74.5%
Unemployment level	66	79	92	60	76	92	61	78	95
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.5%	6.4%	4.1%	5.3%	6.5%	4.3%	5.5%	6.6%
Economically active level	1,393	1,434	1,475	1,385	1,437	1,489	1,381	1,432	1,483
Economic activity rate	74.4%	76.2%	78.0%	74.5%	76.6%	78.8%	74.4%	76.5%	78.7%
Economically inactive level	386	427	468	365	418	471	366	419	471

The Annual Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS) (or Welsh Local Labour Force Survey (WLLFS) in Wales) is an annual sample survey of households living at private addresses in the UK. The annual survey uses results from those sampled for the main quarterly LFS, but do not exactly match annual averages derived from the 4 quarterly datasets in each year due to differences in the sampling structure. Since 2001 additional persons have been sampled on an annual basis to provide a more robust (boosted) annual dataset across the UK, with estimates subject to much lower sampling variability. For Wales, the data are now based on an enhanced sample (around 350 per cent larger) compared to earlier years. Since 2004, the annual LFS data have been used to construct the Annual Population Survey (APS), which provides a four-quarter rolling average of labour market information, updated quarterly, based on these boosted samples. These data are used to produce the sub-regional estimates for Wales, as given on page 6 of this bulletin.

The additional persons sampled in the LLFS/APS are based on four waves, over four years of the survey. For the first wave, the response rate in Wales is around 75 per cent, with around 80 per cent of these remaining by the fourth wave.

There are some minor differences between the results from the LLFS/APS datasets and the main LFS datasets, probably arising from the different sampling structures employed in each element. The Office for National Statistics has now reweighted both the main LFS and the APS data to take account of the latest population estimates. This means that the detailed labour market statistics are now based on the same population estimates as the headline estimates in this bulletin.

There are two different measures of unemployment used in official UK statistics, namely the headline International Labour Organisation (ILO) measure recorded by the LFS and the claimant count measure. Each is subject to advantages and disadvantages.

The headline ILO measure is a count of those who are out of work and want a job, or have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks. It is the broader measure of unemployment used around the world. However, being sourced from a survey, the results are sample-based estimates subject to sampling variability, i.e. the true value for any measure lies in a range about the estimated value. This range is wider as the detail in the data increases, for example Wales data

are subject to higher variability than UK data (the variability around the Wales estimate is shown above).

The claimant count is a count of all those claiming unemployment related benefits (currently Jobseekers Allowance). As such it excludes those who are unemployed who are not eligible to claim, and those who do not wish to claim. However, the advantage of the claimant count measure is that it is a count of all claimants and is not subject to any sampling variability. It can therefore be disaggregated to very high levels of detail, and in particular, changes measured over the short term are more robust than for the headline unemployment measure.

Key quality information: ONS jobs estimates

The ONS produce estimates of employee jobs by industry and UK country / English region sourced from their Short Term Employment Surveys (STES). The total numbers of employee jobs from this source can then be added to estimates of self-employed jobs sourced from the main LFS along with data on government supported trainees to provide a count of all civilian workforce jobs in each UK country / English region. ONS publish these data quarterly, with some of the elements of these series for Wales provided on page 7 of this bulletin.

Jobs information differ from the LFS employment estimates for a number of reasons, the most obvious being that the latter is a count of persons working, and the former the jobs they hold, and persons with two jobs will be counted once in the employment estimates but twice in the jobs estimates. There are other differences, such as the effect of commuting between areas and differences in the sources used and their coverage (the LFS is a household based survey, whilst the STES is an employer based survey).

Whilst the ONS civilian workforce jobs series is available quarterly, an industrial breakdown is not available as the self-employment element is not broken down by industry (the main LFS does not provide for sufficiently robust estimates by industry due to its lower sample size). Further the ONS data are not broken down below UK country / English region level and so the series does not provide for sub-Wales estimates either. To address this, the Welsh Assembly Government has produced a separate bulletin based on LLFS/APS data and other sources, providing both industry and sub-Wales detail in respect of jobs in Wales. These estimates are only available on an annual basis and are thus not included in this bulletin to avoid confusion with the ONS estimates. However, as they are primarily based on LLFS/APS data, they are more consistent in terms of coverage with the headline measures of employment and can be found at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/latest/latest-economy/?lang=en>.

Revisions to Indices of Production/Construction/Manufacturing and Distribution

A methodology review was undertaken by the ONS on behalf of the Welsh Assembly in 2006 with the results published in July 2007. The first aim of the Methodological Review was to bring the methods used into line with the most up-to-date approach already used for the corresponding UK, enabling more valid comparisons between the changes in the indices for Wales and for the UK as a whole. The second aim was to provide an opportunity to validate the data and sources used for these indices as part of our on-going review of the quality of all our statistical outputs.

Further detailed information on the review can found on the Welsh Assembly Government internet: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/about/reference/?lang=en>

Accessing the data

Much of the data behind the charts shown in this bulletin can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most detailed official data on Wales). Please select “Economy and Labour Market” at the navigation screen of the following site:

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx?CS_referer=&CS_ChosenLang=en.

This bulletin is available on the Welsh Assembly Government Internet site at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/latest/latest-economy/?lang=en>.