

Introduction

On 23 November 2023, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the mid-2022 population estimates for local authority areas in England and Wales. The estimates reflect the mid-point of the given year (30 June) and are published annually by ONS as a more up to date measure of population and change between decennial Censuses. These are the second set of annual mid-year estimates to be published based on the 2021 Census results, which began to emerge in summer 2022.

The mid-year estimates are calculated by ageing on the population estimates from the Census, applying data on birth and death registrations, and estimating flows from internal migration (moves to/from elsewhere within the UK) and international migration (to/from outside the UK). These estimates relate to the usually resident population. Usual residents away from home temporarily are included, but visitors are excluded. Students are counted at their term-time address. The estimates include long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for at least one year) but do not account for people who enter or leave the UK for less than a year.

This note provides a brief overview of the published figures focusing on the main results for Swansea and Wales; population by age and sex; and short-term trends over the 12-month period to 30 June 2022, including the available information on the components of population change. As part of this release, population estimates and components of change for the years 2012 to 2021 were also rebased and revised by ONS; therefore, comparisons with 2021 in this note reflect the revised figures rather than the original 2021 estimates published in late 2022.

National statistics

Scotland's census was moved to 2022 because of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. UK population estimates for mid-2022 were published on 26 March 2024, with the UK estimates rolled forward from the 2021 censuses for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and from the 2022 Census for Scotland. The estimated population of the UK in mid-2022 is 67.2 million. The England and Wales figure is 60.2 million, an increase of around 570,000 people (0.9%) since mid-2021. UK estimates for 2012 to 2021 remain subject to revision.

Population in Wales

For mid-2022, the population of Wales is estimated at 3,132,000 – an increase of 26,000 or 0.8% on the mid-2021 figure, slightly below the equivalent rate of growth in England. With negative natural change (around 6,600 fewer births than deaths) in Wales, the increase between mid-2021 and mid-2022 has mainly been driven by an increase in net international migration (+21,900). Net internal migration also added around 10,700 to the Wales population.

Within Wales, 21 of the 22 local authorities saw an increase in population between mid-2021 and mid-2022, with the largest increase being in Cardiff (by 12,300 or 3.4%). Conwy is the only local authority area reporting a fall in its estimated total population. Further details of population and recent change (in the year to mid-2022) in all 22 local authority areas are in Appendix 1.

Swansea's population

The mid-year population estimate for 2022 for the City & County of Swansea is **241,300** (rounded), comprising of 121,800 females and 119,500 males. This figure represents an increase of approximately 3,400 (+1.4%) on the mid-2021 estimate.

The broad components of population change – namely births, deaths (i.e. natural change) and migration from mid-2021 to mid-2022 – are set out in Table 1 below. Analysis of the supporting data released with the estimates suggests that Swansea's overall increase in population over the 12 months to June 2022 was due to net international migration (+3,430 people approx.) and internal (UK-based) migration (+670 net), partly offset by negative natural change (around 730 more deaths than births).

Table 1: Mid-Year Estimates 2022, components of population change: Swansea, Wales, England & Wales (E&W)

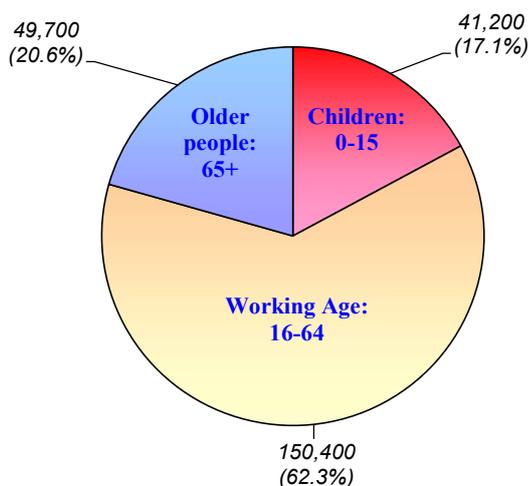
Area:	Mid-2021 population	Components of Change:		Migration and other changes	Mid-2022 population
		Births	Deaths		
Swansea	237,900	+2,100	-2,800	+4,100	241,300
Wales	3,105,600	+29,100	-35,700	+32,600	3,131,600
E&W	59,660,500	+620,300	-574,000	+6,000	60,238,000

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2022 (rounded), ONS. Published November 2023. Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Population by age

In mid-2022, the proportion of Swansea's population of working age (i.e. all aged 16-64), at 62.3%, is higher than Wales (60.9%) but below the UK (62.8%). However, Swansea has a lower proportion of children (aged 0-15), at 17.1%, than Wales (17.5%) and the UK (18.4%).

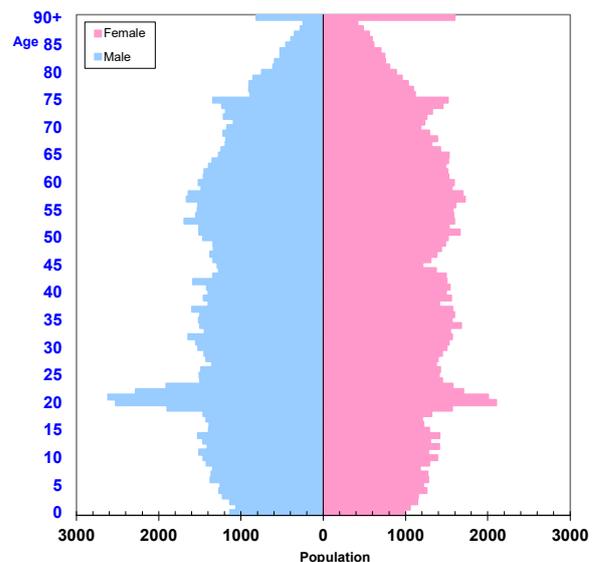
Figure 1: Swansea population by life stage group, mid-2022



A more detailed breakdown of Swansea's population by age and sex (as a population pyramid) is provided in Figure 2 opposite.

Figure 2:

Swansea population, mid-2022, by age and sex



The pyramid shows a large 'spike' in the 19-21 age groups, mainly reflecting the presence of resident students at Swansea's two universities. The population at ages 22 to 24 then sharply falls, before returning to a more stable pattern during most working age years and gradually declining from people's mid-70s (after the post-war 'baby boom').

A breakdown of the mid-2022 population by age in five-year cohorts is in Appendix 2.

Using these estimates, the composition of Swansea's population by selected age group (as at mid-2022) can be compared with Wales and UK averages:

- There are 11,400 children aged 0-4 in Swansea, 4.7% of the total population – slightly lower than the equivalent proportion for Wales (4.9%) and UK (5.3%).
- Swansea also has a lower percentage aged 5-15, at 12.4% (29,800 children), than Wales (12.7%) and UK (13.1%).
- 31,100 (12.9%) of Swansea's population are young people aged 16-24, a higher proportion than Wales (10.4%) and UK (10.6%), in part due to students.
- 24.6% of the population (59,300 people) are aged 25-44, in between percentages for Wales (24.3%) and UK (26.5%).
- 59,900 people in Swansea are aged 45-64 (24.8%), lower as a proportion than both Wales (26.2%) and UK (25.7%).
- 20.6% of Swansea's population are aged 65 and over (49,700), between the percentage figures for Wales (21.5%) and UK (18.8%).
- 6,800 people in Swansea are aged 85 and over, 2.8% of the Swansea total, slightly above the proportion in Wales (2.7%) and UK (2.5%)
- The median age of the population in Swansea was 41.2 years in mid-2022, which is 0.3 years lower than in mid-2021 (but 1.0 year higher than in mid-2012). Swansea has the fourth lowest median age within Wales at mid-2022, below the average for Wales (42.9) but above the UK (40.7).

Revisions to past estimates

In line with usual practice, ONS has undertaken reconciliation and rebasing work for the mid-year population estimates for the years since 2011, to understand how and why the estimates based on the 2021 Census differ from those rolled forward from the 2011 Census. This has led to a revised back series of local authority level population estimates in England and Wales for the period 2012 to 2021, published by ONS at the same time as the mid-2022 estimates, which can be used to help analyse and understand longer-term population change.

Conclusion

In summary, the latest estimates for mid-2022 indicate a sharp increase in Swansea's population since the 2021 Census and associated mid-year estimates. This has been driven largely by net international migration and (to a lesser extent) internal or UK-based migration, partly offset by negative natural change (more deaths than births) in the year to mid-2022.

Note: further national information about the latest population estimates is available via the ONS web pages:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2022>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/latest>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/midyearpopulationestimatesqmi>

If you would like any additional information about the mid-year estimates, or have any other queries regarding population and demographic change in Swansea, please contact:

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Appendix 1: POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES

Local authority area	Population total: mid-2021	Population total: mid-2022	Change (%)
Cardiff	359,800	372,100	+12,300 (+3.4%)
Swansea	237,900	241,300	+3,400 (+1.4%)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	237,500	239,000	+1,500 (+0.6%)
Carmarthenshire	188,200	189,100	+900 (+0.5%)
Caerphilly	176,000	176,100	+100 (+0.1%)
Newport	159,700	161,500	+1,800 (+1.1%)
Flintshire	155,000	155,300	+300 (+0.2%)
Bridgend	145,700	146,100	+400 (+0.3%)
Neath Port Talbot	141,900	142,200	+200 (+0.2%)
Wrexham	135,200	135,400	+200 (+0.2%)
Powys	133,500	133,900	+400 (+0.3%)
Vale of Glamorgan	132,500	133,500	+1,000 (+0.8%)
Pembrokeshire	123,600	124,400	+700 (+0.6%)
Gwynedd	117,100	117,600	+500 (+0.4%)
Conwy	114,800	114,300	-500 (-0.4%)
Denbighshire	96,000	96,600	+500 (+0.5%)
Monmouthshire	93,200	93,900	+700 (+0.8%)
Torfaen	92,500	92,900	+400 (+0.4%)
Ceredigion	70,700	71,600	+900 (+1.3%)
Isle of Anglesey	68,900	69,000	+100 (+0.2%)
Blaenau Gwent	67,000	67,000	+0 (+0.0%)
Merthyr Tydfil	58,900	58,900	+0 (+0.0%)
Wales	3,105,600	3,131,600	+26,000 (+0.8%)
England & Wales (E&W)	59,660,500	60,238,000	+577,500 (+1.0%)

Source: 2021 (revised) and 2022 Mid-Year Estimates, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2023.

Appendix 2: SWANSEA'S POPULATION (2022) BY FIVE-YEAR AGE GROUP

Age	Males	Females	All people (% of total)	Wales %	UK %
0-4	5,800	5,600	11,400 (4.7%)	4.9%	5.3%
5-9	6,800	6,200	13,000 (5.4%)	5.6%	5.8%
10-14	7,400	6,800	14,200 (5.9%)	6.0%	6.1%
15-19	7,600	6,600	14,200 (5.9%)	5.7%	5.8%
20-24	10,800	8,800	19,700 (8.1%)	5.9%	6.0%
25-29	7,200	7,000	14,300 (5.9%)	6.0%	6.5%
30-34	7,700	7,800	15,500 (6.4%)	6.4%	6.9%
35-39	7,500	7,700	15,200 (6.3%)	6.1%	6.7%
40-44	7,000	7,400	14,400 (6.0%)	5.8%	6.4%
45-49	6,700	6,800	13,500 (5.6%)	5.6%	6.1%
50-54	7,700	7,900	15,600 (6.5%)	6.8%	6.8%
55-59	7,800	8,200	16,000 (6.6%)	7.2%	6.8%
60-64	7,200	7,600	14,800 (6.1%)	6.6%	6.0%
65-69	6,100	6,900	13,100 (5.4%)	5.7%	5.1%
70-74	5,900	6,500	12,300 (5.1%)	5.5%	4.7%
75-79	4,900	5,700	10,600 (4.4%)	4.6%	4.0%
80-84	3,000	3,900	6,900 (2.9%)	2.9%	2.5%
85-89	1,700	2,700	4,400 (1.8%)	1.7%	1.6%
90+	800	1,600	2,400 (1.0%)	1.0%	0.9%
Total	119,500	121,800	241,300 (100%)	100%	100%

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2022, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2023-2024.