

Introduction

On 23 September 2021, the Welsh Government published the latest (mid-2020) household estimates for Wales and its 22 local authority areas. This is the latest in an annual series of mid-year household estimates, based on Census data and population estimates, and the final publication before the 2021 Census results emerge in 2022. This will include new data on household totals and composition.

For these purposes, a household is defined as *one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping – that is, sharing either a living room, or sitting room or at least one meal a day*. Household estimates are based on historical trends and provide estimates of past numbers of households. They are derived from population estimates (by age and sex) and historical information about household composition and characteristics from the Census. An outline of the methodology used is in Appendix 1.

The household estimates are used by those needing to consider current and past trends in housing demand to plan for future housing provision and delivery of services, including local authorities, Welsh Government, other public bodies, housing agencies and other organisations in Wales. They are also used for policy development, as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, for profiling and benchmarking, and in the calculation of further statistics (e.g. as denominators in rates, for weighting surveys).

This briefing note provides an overview of the latest published figures, identifies recent trends, and focuses on the significant results for Swansea, including a breakdown of household numbers by type. These are presented as a table in Appendix 2.

Change in Wales

The number of households in Wales in mid-2020 is estimated at 1,378,200 – an increase of 9,500 (+0.7%) on the 2019 figure and 45,900 (+3.4%) higher than five years previously (2015). Whilst all local authority areas in Wales have shown some growth in households over the latest year and the longer-term period, the scale varies. Between 2015 and 2020, the highest rate of growth in Wales' 22 local authorities has been in Vale of Glamorgan with an increase of 7.1% (+3,900 households), followed by Newport (+6.2%). The lowest rates of growth over this period occurred in Ceredigion (+0.5%) and Powys (+1.8%). Recent (2019-20) and longer-term (2015-20) trends for all local authority areas in Wales, ranked in order of total number of households (2020), are shown in Appendix 3.

Trends in Swansea

The total number of households in Swansea in mid-2020 is estimated at **109,700** (rounded), an increase of approximately 200 (or 0.2%) on the 2019 figure. This occurred while Swansea's estimated private household population fell marginally during the year, by 400 (-0.2%), the only area in Wales to do so. Over the year Swansea had the sixth lowest level of growth in Wales, and second lowest as a percentage (behind Merthyr Tydfil).

Over the longer-term period (between 2015 and 2020) the number of households in Swansea has increased by approximately 3,400 (+3.2%). Whilst this was the fifth highest

level of numeric growth in Wales (led by Cardiff, +7,100), Swansea's growth over the decade as a percentage was the 11th highest of the 22 local authorities.

Average Household Size

Average household size provides a simple 'headline' measure of household composition and is calculated by dividing estimates of the number of people living in private households by the number of households. Over the five-year period 2015-2020, the number of households in Swansea has grown at a faster rate than the private household population (in line with all parts of Wales). As a result, average household size in Swansea has decreased from 2.23 in 2015 to 2.20 people per household in 2020 (although below the current Wales average of 2.26).

Households in Swansea by Type

In 2020, one and two person households together account for over two-thirds of all households in Swansea, with single person households (approx. 38,900 or 35.5% of the total) and 2-person, 0 child households (32,200 or 29.4%) being by far the most common household types. The proportion of single person households in Swansea is above the Wales average (32.3%), but the proportion of two adult (only) households is slightly lower (Wales: 31.2%).

Change by Household Type

Between 2015 and 2020, the key trends in Swansea by household type – in terms of adult/child composition – were as follows:

- The largest household type category increase, in numeric terms, has been in single person households – up by approximately 2,400 (+6.6%) over the period.
- The largest percentage increase has been in 5 adult, 0 child households (+9.3%).
- The total number of lone parent households (1 adult and 1 or more children) increased by 4.7% overall, from 7,500 in 2015 to 7,900 in 2020, with all growth within this wider category being in 1 adult, 1 child households (+400).
- The number of 2 adult, 0 child households increased by 900 (+2.7%) from 31,400 in 2015 to 32,200 in 2020. Overall, the proportion of households of this type has remained relatively constant between 2015 and 2020; at generally three in ten of all Swansea households.
- By contrast, the total number of 2 adult, 1 (or more) child households has fallen by approx. 300 (-1.7%) over the period to 19,700 households.
- Another change over the last five years has occurred in the proportion of 4+ adult, 0 child households, with a total increase of 5.6% (+200) to 4,500 by 2020. This could in part reflect the recent increase in student numbers (and therefore student/shared households) in Swansea and other recent social trends in living arrangements and household composition.

If you have any other enquiries regarding household estimates or demographic change in Swansea, please contact:

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Appendix 1: SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY

Welsh Government household estimates for local authority areas in Wales are produced by applying assumptions about household formation to population estimates, by age and sex. The results are thus due to the household formation assumptions as well as trends in the underlying population estimates (including the relative impacts of the migration, mortality and fertility which will vary between local authorities).

In summary, the estimates are calculated by:

- using the latest published ONS mid-year population estimates and subtracting the population living in communal establishments (by age and gender, based on Census data) to calculate the estimated number of people living in private households;
- using historical data to project household membership rates from mid-2001 to mid-2020 for 12 household types, based on size and number of children. Proportions of people living in each household type are also calculated;
- multiplying the estimated number of people living in private households by the projected household membership rates;
- dividing the results by household size and aggregating by age, gender and household type to give the estimated total number of households for each local authority area.

Appendix 2: HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES AND CHANGE IN SWANSEA BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Household and population numbers in thousands. % change based on absolute numbers.

Year	H	PHP	Ave HS	H'hd Type: 1P	2P (0C)	2P (1A, 1C)	3P (0C)	3P (2A, 1C)	3P (1A, 2C)	4P (0C)	4P (2+A, 1+C)	4P (1A, 3C)	5P+ (0C)	5P+ (2+A, 1+C)	5P+ (1A, 4+C)
2010	102.6	232.8	2.27	33.9	30.4	4.1	6.8	6.5	2.2	2.6	9.2	0.7	1.3	4.6	0.2
	(% of all households:			(33.1)	(29.6)	(4.0)	(6.6)	(6.4)	(2.1)	(2.5)	(9.0)	(0.7)	(1.3)	(4.5)	(0.2)
2011	103.5	234.0	2.26	34.5	30.6	4.2	6.8	6.5	2.2	2.6	9.2	0.7	1.4	4.6	0.2
	(% of all households:			(33.4)	(29.6)	(4.0)	(6.6)	(6.3)	(2.1)	(2.5)	(8.9)	(0.7)	(1.3)	(4.4)	(0.2)
2015	106.3	237.6	2.23	36.5	31.4	4.5	6.7	6.5	2.1	2.7	9.0	0.7	1.5	4.5	0.2
	(% of all households:			(34.3)	(29.5)	(4.2)	(6.3)	(6.1)	(2.0)	(2.5)	(8.5)	(0.7)	(1.4)	(4.2)	(0.2)
2019	109.5	242.2	2.21	38.6	32.2	4.8	6.7	6.4	2.1	2.8	8.9	0.7	1.7	4.4	0.2
	(% of all households:			(35.2)	(29.4)	(4.4)	(6.1)	(5.9)	(1.9)	(2.6)	(8.2)	(0.6)	(1.5)	(4.0)	(0.2)
2020	109.7	241.7	2.20	38.9	32.2	4.9	6.6	6.4	2.1	2.8	8.9	0.7	1.7	4.4	0.2
	(% of all households:			(35.5)	(29.4)	(4.4)	(6.0)	(5.8)	(1.9)	(2.5)	(8.1)	(0.6)	(1.5)	(4.0)	(0.2)
	H	PHP	AHS	Type: 1P	2P (0C)	2P (1A, 1C)	3P (0C)	3P (2A, 1C)	3P (1A, 2C)	4P (0C)	4P (2+A, 1+C)	4P (1A, 3C)	5P+ (0C)	5P+ (2+A, 1+C)	5P+ (1A, 4+C)
Change: 2019-20															
no.	+0.2	-0.4	-0.01	+0.4	+0.0	+0.1	-0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0
%	(+0.2)	(-0.2)		(+0.9)	(+0.0)	(+1.4)	(-1.2)	(-0.5)	(-0.3)	(-0.9)	(-0.5)	(-0.3)	(-1.0)	(-0.8)	(-1.2)
Change: 2015-20															
no.	+3.4	+4.2	-0.03	+2.4	+0.9	+0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-0.0	+0.1	-0.1	-0.0	+0.1	-0.1	-0.0
%	(+3.2)	(+1.8)		(+6.6)	(+2.7)	(+8.6)	(-1.6)	(-1.4)	(-0.7)	(+3.5)	(-1.7)	(-0.6)	(+9.3)	(-2.3)	(-5.7)

Source: Household Estimates for Wales, mid-2020 and earlier, Welsh Government. Published 23 September 2021.

Key:

H = All households (with residents)
PHP = Private Household Population
Ave HS (or AHS) = Average Household Size.

Household Types:

1P = One person household
2P = Two person household
3P = Three person household
4P = Four person household

5P+ = Five or more person household.
A = no. of adults
C = no. of children.

Appendix 3:
HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS IN WALES, 2010-2020
 (areas ranked in order of number of households, 2020)

Household estimates, selected years. Unit numbers rounded to nearest hundred. % change based on absolute numbers.

Local Authority	2010	2011	2015	2019	2020	2019-20 change (%)	2015-20 change (%)
Cardiff	140,900	142,800	149,200	154,900	156,300	+1,400 (+0.9%)	+7,100 (+4.7%)
Swansea	102,600	103,500	106,300	109,500	109,700	+200 (+0.2%)	+3,400 (+3.2%)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	99,300	99,600	102,500	105,800	106,300	+500 (+0.5%)	+3,800 (+3.7%)
Carmarthenshire	78,400	78,900	80,100	82,200	82,900	+700 (+0.9%)	+2,800 (+3.5%)
Caerphilly	74,000	74,500	75,800	76,900	77,200	+300 (+0.5%)	+1,500 (+1.9%)
Flintshire	63,400	63,900	65,200	66,600	67,000	+400 (+0.6%)	+1,800 (+2.8%)
Newport	60,700	61,300	62,700	65,800	66,500	+700 (+1.1%)	+3,900 (+6.2%)
Bridgend	58,100	58,600	60,400	62,800	63,200	+300 (+0.5%)	+2,800 (+4.6%)
Neath Port Talbot	60,200	60,400	61,200	62,300	62,800	+500 (+0.7%)	+1,600 (+2.6%)
Powys	58,200	58,400	59,200	59,900	60,200	+400 (+0.6%)	+1,100 (+1.8%)
Wrexham	56,600	57,100	57,900	58,900	59,100	+200 (+0.3%)	+1,100 (+1.9%)
Vale of Glamorgan	53,300	53,600	55,000	58,000	58,900	+800 (+1.5%)	+3,900 (+7.1%)
Pembrokeshire	52,800	53,200	54,400	56,100	56,600	+500 (+0.9%)	+2,200 (+4.1%)
Gwynedd	52,100	52,400	53,300	54,700	55,100	+400 (+0.8%)	+1,800 (+3.4%)
Conwy	50,900	51,300	52,100	52,900	53,400	+400 (+0.8%)	+1,200 (+2.3%)
Denbighshire	40,700	40,600	41,300	41,900	42,200	+400 (+0.9%)	+1,000 (+2.3%)
Torfaen	38,400	38,600	39,200	40,400	40,800	+400 (+1.0%)	+1,600 (+4.1%)
Monmouthshire	38,000	38,300	39,300	40,400	40,700	+300 (+0.8%)	+1,400 (+3.6%)
Isle of Anglesey	30,500	30,700	30,900	31,300	31,600	+200 (+0.8%)	+600 (+2.0%)
Ceredigion	31,400	31,400	31,300	31,200	31,400	+200 (+0.5%)	+200 (+0.5%)
Blaenau Gwent	30,300	30,400	30,700	31,300	31,400	+100 (+0.4%)	+700 (+2.1%)
Merthyr Tydfil	24,100	24,300	24,500	24,900	25,000	+0 (+0.1%)	+500 (+2.0%)
WALES	1,295,100	1,303,800	1,332,300	1,368,700	1,378,200	+9,500 (+0.7%)	+45,900 (+3.4%)

Source: Household Estimates for Wales, mid-2020 and earlier, Welsh Government. Published 23 September 2021.