

# Swansea's Assessment of Local Well-being 2017

## Annex 1: A demographic profile of Swansea

Situated in the middle of the South Wales coast, Swansea is the second largest city in Wales and the regional centre of South West Wales. Swansea's two neighbouring local authorities are Carmarthenshire to the west and Neath Port Talbot to the east.

The City & County, which has a land area of 378 square kilometres, can be broadly divided into four geographic areas: the open moorlands of the Lliw Uplands in the north; the rural Gower Peninsula in the west, containing the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the suburban area stretching from the edge of Swansea towards settlements in the west and around the M4 corridor; and the coastal strip around Swansea Bay, which includes the city centre and adjacent district centres including Uplands, Sketty and Mumbles.

### Swansea's population

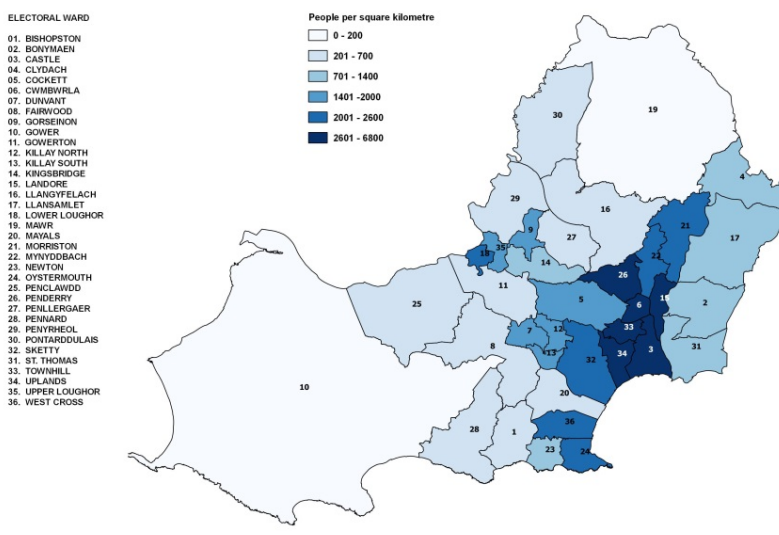
The latest official estimate of the City and County of Swansea's population (as at June 2015) is 242,400. Swansea has the second largest local authority population in Wales and accounts for almost 8% of its total population (3,099,100).

The average population density of the county is 638 people per sq. km (2015 estimate), the sixth highest of the 22 local authorities in Wales (average: 149 people per sq. km). The population is not evenly distributed within Swansea, with most people living within the urban area and the surrounding settlements to the north, including Morriston (the second highest ward population; around 16,500 in 2015), Clydach, Gorseinon and Pontarddulais.

Ward level estimates of population density (2011 Census) reveal high concentrations of population in and immediately around the city centre (Castle Ward), the adjacent wards of Cwmbwrla and Uplands (6,800 people per sq. km, the highest population density in the county), and also in Townhill and Penderry.

**Figure 1: Population density by Ward**

Source: Population Estimates (ONS, 2011) and land area (sq. km).



These are in contrast to the sparsely populated rural areas of the Gower and northern Lliw area (both Mawr and Gower Wards have a population density of 32 people per sq. km, the lowest in the county).

The map (figure 1) illustrates the estimated population density of each Electoral Division or Ward in Swansea as at 2011.

## Population structure

The latest ONS estimates of the gender and age structure of Swansea's population (as at June 2015) are set out in Table 1 below, along with the equivalent percentage figures for Wales and the UK.

**Table 1: Composition of Swansea's Population by Gender and Age, mid-2015**

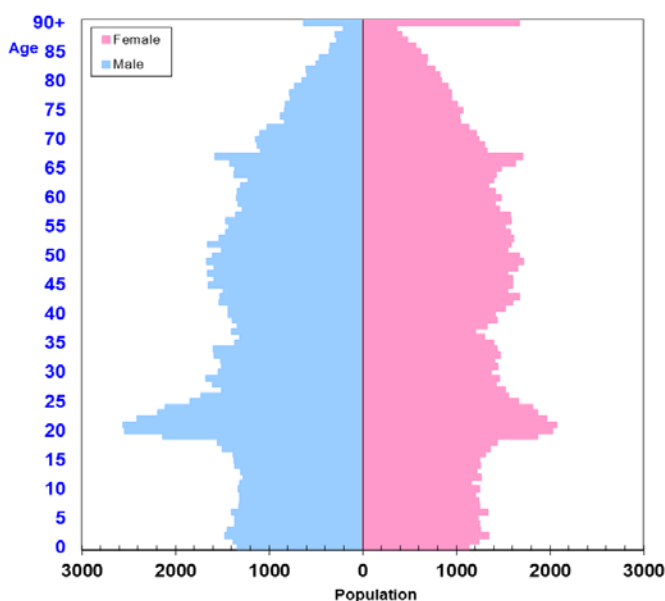
Age	Swansea				Wales %	UK %
	Males	Females	Total	%		
0-4 years	7,000	6,300	13,200	5.5	5.7	6.2
5-15	14,700	13,700	28,400	11.7	12.2	12.6
16-24	18,600	15,400	34,000	14.0	11.8	11.4
25-44	30,600	29,300	59,900	24.7	23.8	26.4
45-64	29,200	30,700	59,900	24.7	26.3	25.6
65-74	11,800	13,300	25,100	10.4	11.2	9.7
75+ years	8,900	12,700	21,700	8.9	9.0	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,900</b>	<b>121,500</b>	<b>242,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates 2015, ONS.

The proportion of Swansea's population of working age (i.e. all aged 16-64), at 63.5%, is higher than Wales (61.9%) and the UK (63.3%). However, Swansea has a lower proportion of children (aged 0-15), at 17.2%, than both Wales (17.9%) and the UK (18.8%).

The population pyramid opposite illustrates the latest estimates for Swansea by age and gender.

**Figure 2: Swansea's population, mid-2015**



The pyramid highlights in particular the large spike in the population cohorts aged between 19-22 years, in part associated with the presence and intake of students to Swansea's two universities, a proportion of whom come from elsewhere in the UK and overseas. Published statistics for 2013-14 record over 16,500 full-time students in Higher Education via the two local universities (Swansea University and University of Wales Trinity St. David), with over 4,500 additional full-time students in Further Education (Gower College Swansea).

## Population change

The long-term published mid-year population estimates (ONS) suggest that Swansea's population has steadily grown between 2001 and 2015, reversing the recorded trend of the 1990s (although there have been widespread concerns that the 2001 Census results and

associated population estimates were under-counted). Between 2005 and 2015, the average rate of population growth in Swansea is approximately +1,300 people (+0.6%) per year. The overall long-term trend in Swansea's population since 1991 is shown below, and includes both the latest official estimates and those reported prior to the release of the 2011 Census results.

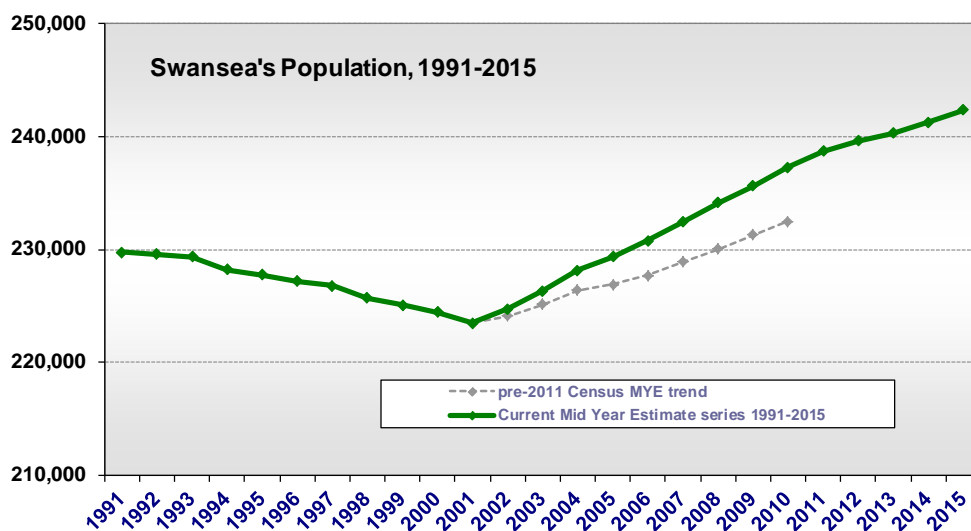


Figure 3: Population change, 1991-2015

Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS.

The official estimates of the key components of population change – namely births, deaths and migration – suggest that the main driver of population growth in Swansea over the period 2001-2015 has been migration. In the ten years from 2001, average annual net inflow from all migration was around 1,000; although during the years 2011-14 this figure was lower at around 600, until increasing to 1,100 in the year to 2015. In some years, the majority of growth has come from internal (within UK) migration (mainly for the years 2002-04 and 2009-10); in other years via international migration (in nine of the last ten years).

In terms of natural change, the recorded number of live births in Swansea has generally risen since 2001, and over the last few years the number of deaths has slightly fallen (although the figures do fluctuate). The net result is that from 2005 onwards the number of births has exceeded deaths and positively contributed to population growth, most significantly in the years 2007-08 and 2010-12.

### Change by age

An overview of recent trends can be provided via analysis of the main changes in the age structure of Swansea's population over the ten-year period 2005-2015.

In terms of the key 'life stage' groups, the broad trends are as follows:

- **All people:** an increase of 13,000 (+5.7%), from 229,300 to 242,400.
- **Children** (aged 0-15): small net change (+400 / 0.9%) to 41,700.
- **Working age** (16-64): an increase of 6,900 (+4.7%) to 153,500, below the equivalent overall rate of population increase in Swansea.
- **Older people** (aged 65 and over): an increase of 5,800 (+14.1%) to 46,800; reflecting an ageing population, in line with wider trends.

For specific smaller cohorts, the trends for Swansea over this ten-year period are:

- Aged 0-4: growth of 1,100 (+8.9%), mainly reflecting births in the 2010s
- 5-15: an overall fall of 700 (-2.5%), partly reflecting the impact of fewer births in the early 2000s, although the rate of decline appears to be slowing
- 20-24: a significant growth of 2,200 (+11.7%), partly linked to levels of student in-migration from elsewhere in the UK and overseas.
- 25-29: an even more significant increase in this cohort by 3,100 (+23.3%), due to increased in-migration and other local demographic change.
- 35-44: an overall loss of 3,000 (-9.6%) in this ten-year cohort.
- 45-54: increase of 2,800 (+9.8%), in part due to the 1960s baby-boom.
- 60-69: increase of 4,000 (+17.0%), reflecting the post-war baby-boom.
- Aged 85+: a significant percentage growth, estimated to have increased by 23.7% (+1,200) over the ten years to 2015, to around 6,300 people.

### *Life expectancy*

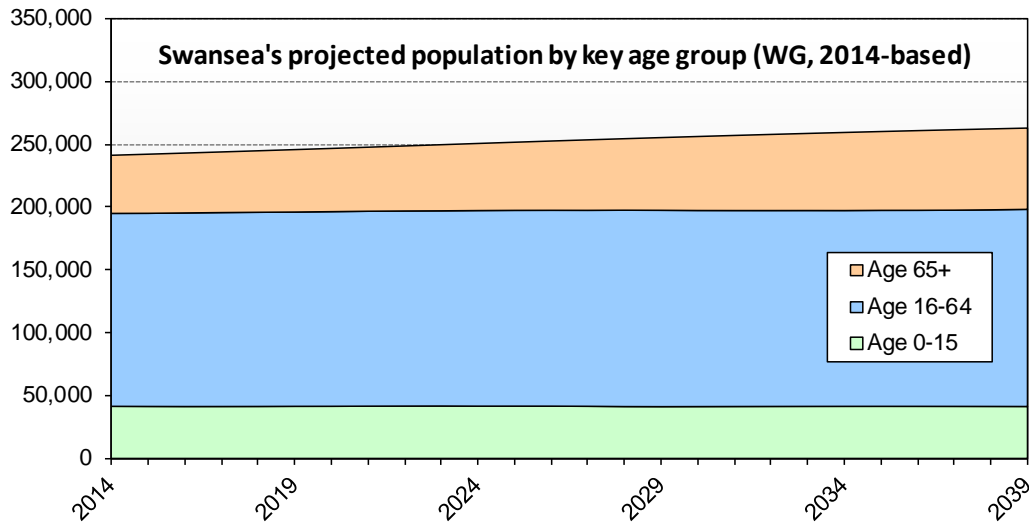
Life expectancy in Swansea, as elsewhere in the UK, is increasing. The long-term general trend of an ageing population is confirmed by the latest ONS figures on average life expectancy at birth (for 2012-14), which now stands at 78.0 years for males in Swansea (Wales 78.5) and 82.4 for females (Wales 82.3). Ten years previously, i.e. 2002-2004, life expectancy in Swansea was 75.7 years for males (Wales 75.8) and 80.5 years for females (Wales 80.3). This will have significant effects on the provision of health, social care and other public services in Swansea.

### *Projected population change*

The Welsh Government's latest trend-based population projections suggest that Swansea's population will grow by 9.0% (21,600 people) between 2014 and 2039. In these projections, Swansea has the third highest projected growth rate of the 22 Welsh local authorities, behind only Cardiff and Wrexham. In comparison, the projections suggest a population increase of 5.4% across Wales over the period.

In reality these projections can only provide an indication of future population should recent demographic trends continue, and only provide one scenario based on a particular set of assumptions. The 2014-based projections are based on past trends, essentially using five years of fertility, mortality and migration data (to mid-2014).

The projections suggest that the number of people of pension age (65 and over) will increase by 18,400 (+39.8%) to 64,700 over the 2014-2039 period – an average annual increase of 740 (+1.6%). The main reason for this is long-term improvements in mortality rates (reflected in people living longer) and the ageing on of certain population cohorts. However, the projections suggest smaller rates of growth in the working age (16-64) population over the 25-year period, by 3,400 (+2.2%) overall, an average of 140 people or 0.1% per year. Projected change in the 0-15 age group, suggests a very small decrease of 100 (0.3%) over the full 25 years. Figure 4 shows the broad future trend in Swansea's population suggested by these projections.



**Figure 4:**  
Swansea's  
projected  
population

Source: Local  
Authority  
Population  
Projections for  
Wales (2014-  
based), Welsh  
Government.

### Household composition

The total number of households (with residents) in Swansea in mid-2015 is estimated at 106,300 (rounded), an increase of approximately 700 (or 0.6%) on the 2014 figure. Since 2010, the number of households in Swansea has increased by 3,800 (+3.7%), with average household size slowly falling to 2.23 people (2015).

In 2015, single-adult households (36,500 / 34.3% of total) and 2-person 0-children households (31,400 / 29.5%) were the most common household types in Swansea. Between 2010 and 2015, the number of single-person households increased by 2,600 (+7.7%), with other significant change occurring in 2-adult 0-child households (an increase of 1,000 or 3.2%) and 4+adult 0-children households (an increase of 300 or 7.7%); perhaps reflecting in part an increase in student households. By contrast, the number of 2-adult, 1 (or more) child households in Swansea has fallen by 300 (-1.6%) over the five-year period.

### Population Characteristics:

#### - by Ethnic Group

2011 Census estimates (the most recent available) suggest that 14,326 people in Swansea were from a non-white ethnic group, 6.0% of the total population; higher than the equivalent figure for Wales (4.4%) and the third highest percentage of the 22 local authorities in Wales, although lower than the equivalent UK figures.

20,368 (8.5%) of Swansea's population were non-'White British' in 2011 (i.e. also including other white ethnic groups); above the Wales average (6.8%) and again third highest of the Welsh LAs, but below UK.

Over the period 2001 to 2011, the proportion of people in Swansea from a non-White ethnic group increased from around 2% of the population to 6%, an increase of 9,500 (+198%). The number of non-'White British' people increased by 10,800 (+113%), above the equivalent increases for Wales (+118% and +78%).

The Census data (2011) suggests that the largest non-white ethnic groups are:

- Chinese – 2,052 people (0.9% of Swansea's population)
- Bangladeshi – 1,944 (0.8%)
- Other Asian – 1,739 (0.7%)
- Black African – 1,707 (0.7%)
- Arab – 1,694 (0.7%).

Amongst the non-white ethnic groups, the largest estimated increases in population between 2001 and 2011 were in the Black African (+1,500 approx.), Bangladeshi and Indian groups (both +900). The 'Other-White' population increased by 1,400, partly reflecting the arrival of economic migrants from Eastern Europe since 2003.

Growth in the Bangladeshi ethnic group, long regarded as the largest non-white ethnic group in Swansea, has continued between 2001 and 2011, almost doubling (+94%) over the period. However the latest Census estimates suggest that the Chinese ethnic group is now larger than the Bangladeshi population in Swansea.

Amongst children, ONS estimates suggest that the numbers aged 5-15 from non-white ethnic groups increased from around 1,000 in 2001 to 4,500 in 2011 (Census). Schools' Census data suggests that the proportion of the school population who are not 'White-British' increased from 7.5% in 2004 to 11.9% in 2014 (+4,300 pupils).

Ward level breakdowns of Swansea's population by ethnic group are also available from the 2011 Census. The largest ethnic minority populations were recorded in the urban wards of Uplands (2,091), Castle (3,202) and Sketty (1,323). In proportionate terms, Castle and Uplands wards both have ethnic minority populations of above 10%.

#### *- by Religion*

The 2011 Census is also the latest definitive source of information on religion. Christianity remains the predominant religion in Swansea (55%); although 34% held no religious beliefs and 7% did not answer (the Census question on religion is voluntary). Of the groups listed, 5,415 people (2%) stated their religion as Muslim, making this the most common religion in Swansea after Christianity.

Census data on the distribution of non-Christian religion by Ward again sees the greatest numbers in Castle (2,049), Uplands (1,208) and Sketty (886). In proportionate terms, the wards of Castle (13%), Uplands and Landore (both 8%) have the highest rates of population with a non-Christian religion.

#### *- Welsh language*

The proportion of people aged 3 and over able to speak Welsh in Swansea decreased from 13.4% (28,938) in 2001 to 11.4% in 2011 (26,332 people); a fall of 9.0% despite an overall increase in the population.

Changes in Welsh language skills between Censuses vary by age. In Swansea, the proportion of children aged 3-4 who can speak Welsh increased from 10.5% in 2001 to 14.6% in 2011, with a slight increase also in the 5-15 age group, rising from 25.2% in 2001 to 26.0% in 2011.

Within Swansea (2011), Mawr ward has the highest percentage of its population (aged 3+) able to speak read and write Welsh, at 29.3% (35.8% in 2001), with the Townhill ward

having the lowest proportion (3.7%). Llansamlet had the highest number of residents who could speak read and write Welsh (1,367). In 2011, Mawr also had the lowest percentage of residents with no skills in Welsh (47.9%) while Townhill had the highest (89.5%).

*- Economic activity*

Recent data on the structure of Swansea’s workforce suggests that economic activity and employment rates in Swansea are relatively close to the Wales average but below equivalent UK rates. However, the large number and proportion of students resident in Swansea has some effect on these figures.

**Table 2: Swansea’s workforce structure, 2016**

<i>Area</i>	<b>Economically Active</b> (aged 16 & over)	<b>Economic Activity Rate</b> (working age)	<b>Employment</b> (aged 16 & over)	<b>Employment Rate</b> (working age)
<b>Swansea: Total</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>74.1%</b>	<b>109,700</b>	<b>69.4%</b>
Men	61,700	76.6%	58,000	71.8%
Women	55,300	71.5%	51,800	67.0%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,487,300</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>1,418,900</b>	<b>71.2%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>33,090,200</b>	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>31,483,900</b>	<b>73.9%</b>

*Source: Annual Population Survey (APS) estimates, period ending December 2016, ONS.*

Swansea’s status as a major regional administrative, commercial and leisure centre in South West Wales is reflected in the higher proportions of employment in the service sectors, and corresponding lower rates of manufacturing employment.

Swansea has a relatively high proportion of working age residents with NVQ levels 3 and above, but also those with no qualifications. 36.1% of Swansea's residents (aged 16-64) are qualified to NVQ level 4 (degree level) and above, slightly higher than the Wales figure (35.1%). However, 10.2% of Swansea’s working age population have no qualifications (Wales 9.5%; UK 8.3%) (APS, 2016).

Labour market statistics also demonstrate Swansea’s status as a sub-regional hub with strong integration between Swansea and its two neighbouring authorities, Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot. The latest data on commuting patterns points to significant estimated daily inflows to Swansea of 33,400 (net inflow +15,500). The majority of in-commuters come from Neath Port Talbot (15,500) and Carmarthenshire (8,600) (APS, 2016).