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Coverage
Wales

Urban areas in Wales

Cardiff is the largest urban area in Wales with 327,706 people, according to a 2001 Census report giving key statistics for “built up areas” or urban settlements in Wales published today* by the Office for National Statistics. Cardiff Urban Area is also the eighteenth largest urban area in England and Wales.

The regional report is part of a series of four for England and Wales giving statistics for urban settlements with a population larger than 1,500 residents. This series follows earlier 2001 Census reports that presented data for administrative, mainly local authority areas, which do not always fit with natural settlement boundaries.

In Wales, there were 182 urban settlements in 2001 with over 1,500 people each. They contained 2,349,295 people and covered 64,737 hectares.

The second largest urban area in Wales is the Swansea Urban Area, with 270,506 people, and the twenty second most populous urban area in England and Wales.

There is one other area with more than 100,000 people and another six with between 50,000 and 100,000. At the other end of the scale, 35 areas contained between 1,500 and 2,000 people and a further 75 between 2,000 and 5,000 people.

The population of the Cardiff Urban Area increased by 19,296 people in the decade to 2001. The greatest area of population growth was found in the main Cardiff area of the urban area, achieved through an urban expansion into surrounding areas. The sub-regions of the Cardiff Urban Area are, by order of population size: Cardiff, Penarth, Dinas Powys and Radyr.

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***Key Statistics for urban areas in the South West and Wales**
The Stationery Office. £80. ISBN 0 11 621747 2.

Available free on the National Statistics website:
www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/cn_106.asp

Other key findings include:

Religion

- Over half, 50.1 per cent, of the residents of Gilfach Goch near Pontypridd in Glamorgan stated their religion as Christian, representing the second lowest proportion in England and Wales. Of the population of Gilfach Goch, 39.5 per cent stated that they were of no religion, the highest proportion in England and Wales.
- Eight of the ten urban areas with the highest proportions of residents reporting no religion are from Wales.
- There are lower rates of Christianity in Wales than in areas in England, particularly the North. The highest proportion of Christians found in an urban area in Wales was Llanfairpwllgwyngyll in Gwynedd with 84.2 per cent of the population – ranking 136th in England and Wales.

Access to Cars or Vans

- The urban area of Croeserw in Glamorgan recorded the second lowest average of cars or vans per household in England and Wales with 0.6. Croeserw also had the second highest proportion of households with no access to a car or van, 51.4 per cent, of urban areas in England and Wales.

Migration

- Only 5.1 per cent of residents in Pembroke Dock in Dyfed were migrants during the year before census day 2001– the fifth lowest proportion for an urban area in England and Wales.
- Of migrants in Llansantffraid Glan Conway near Llandudno 92.7 per cent moved into the area from within the United Kingdom - the third highest proportion in England and Wales.
- Nearly seven out of ten, 69.5 per cent, of residents in Pentyrch near Cardiff moved within the area during the year before the census - the seventh highest proportion in England and Wales.

Knowledge of Welsh

- Of the residents over three years of age resident in Wales the urban area of Penygroes in Gwynedd was home to the highest proportion, 81.8 per cent, of those that could speak, read and write Welsh.
- The urban area of Monmouth in Monmouthshire is home to the highest proportion, 89.9 per cent, of those that had no knowledge of Welsh. In Caernarfon in Gwynedd only 8.2 per cent of the population over three years of age had no knowledge of Welsh.

Marital Status

- Of residents over sixteen years of age living in Aberystwyth, 58.4 per cent were single on Census day, the third largest proportion in urban areas in England and Wales.

Health

- Over two in five, 41.3 per cent, residents in Croeserw were living with a limiting long term illness on Census day 2001 – the highest proportion in England and Wales.
- Of residents in Penclawdd, west of Swansea, 16.0 per cent provide unpaid care – the highest proportion among urban areas in England and Wales.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The South West and Wales report provides details for all urban areas with a population larger than 1,500 residents and having an area of at least 20 hectares, allowing comparisons with the 1991 Census. Maps are provided showing the boundaries of all built-up areas. Grid references are provided with each built-up area.
2. Key statistics are also produced for each local authority area and are published on the web [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/ks_ub_ad.asp]. These detail the built-up area and non-built-up area split, enabling a comparison of built-up areas as a whole to the remaining areas.
3. It is not advisable to draw conclusions about differences between 'urban' and 'rural' areas from this report. A new classification of Rural and Urban Areas for England and Wales has been developed by the ONS, DEFRA, ODPM, Countryside Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government, and was published on the National Statistics website on 21 July 2004: www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp
4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
5. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2004.