

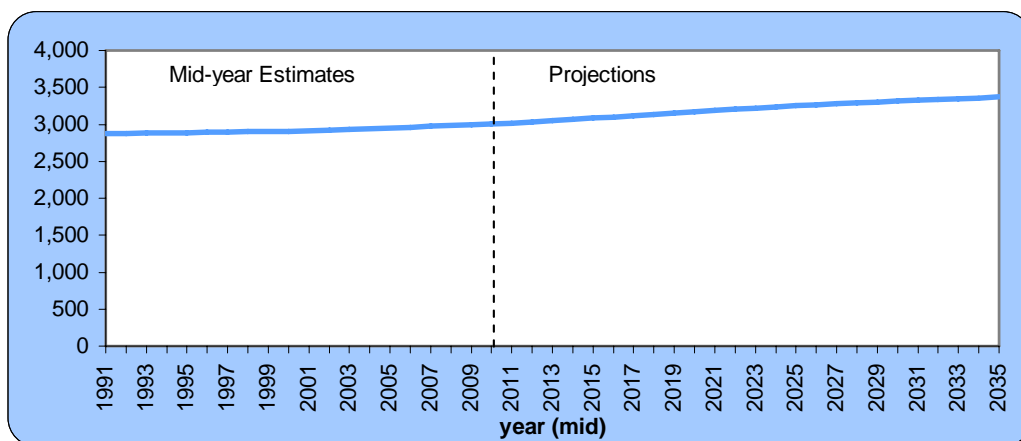
## 2010-based National Population Projections for Wales

Population projections provide estimates of the future population. Projections are based on assumptions about future fertility, mortality, international and domestic migration. Projections only indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. The Office for National Statistics produces national population projections for the UK and for its four constituent countries every two years. This statistical bulletin presents the key results from the 2010-based national population projections for Wales and outlines the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions used in its preparation. These projections replace the previously published 2008-based national population projections for Wales. The main focus is on the 25 year period up to 2035. Projection results are available for years beyond 2035, however, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward.

### Key Results

- The population of Wales is projected to increase by 5 per cent to 3.17 million by 2020 and 12 per cent to 3.37 million by 2035.
- Although births are projected to exceed deaths, the main driver of population growth in Wales is expected to be net migration.
- The number of children aged under 16 is projected to peak at around 605,000 by 2027 before decreasing slightly between 2027 and 2035. Overall, the number of children is projected to increase by 7 per cent between 2010 and 2035.
- The number of people aged 16-64 is projected to remain relatively constant throughout the projection period increasing by only 1 per cent between 2010 and 2035 (20,000).
- The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by around 306,000 or 55 per cent between 2010 and 2035.

**Chart 1: Population of Wales, actual and projected (thousands), 1991 to 2035**



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**Next update:** October 2013 (provisional)

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## Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) prepares and publishes national population projections for Wales and the other UK countries normally every two years.

Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on the most recently available mid-year population estimates and a set of underlying assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends. Projections only indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. They are not forecasts and projections done in this way do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors may have on demographic behaviour. For example, government policies on migration and student fees.

This set of projections are based on a review of the underlying assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and migration which is agreed in liaison with ONS, the Welsh Government Statistical Directorate, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) – following consultation with key users of projections in each country and advice from an expert academic advisory panel.

The primary purpose of the national population projections is to provide an estimate of the future size and age structure of the population of the UK (and its constituent countries) which is used as a common framework for national planning in a number of different fields, such as education and health. Normally, a new set of projections are produced every two years, based on assumptions which are judged to be most appropriate from the statistical evidence available at the time. These official sets of projections ensure that the many users of projections can work on consistent assumptions.

Projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. To give users of the projections an indication of this uncertainty, a number of variant population projections have also been produced, which provide other future scenarios based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. These provide an indication of the level of uncertainty; they do not represent upper or lower bounds.

The Office for National Statistics has published 2010-based National Population Projections on 26 October 2011. The aim of this statistical bulletin is to present the key results of the 2010-based population projections for Wales and to outline the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions used in their preparation. In the main part of this bulletin age group tables have been presented as under 16 years of age, 16-64 years and 65 years and over. Previous editions have presented information on working age and pensionable age. The new format is intended to be consistent with the tables presented in the most recent annual publication 'Wales's Population: a demographic overview' and in use in Labour market statistics. Projections of working age population and state pensionable age population are prepared by ONS based on current legislation for the year under consideration and, for Wales, are summarised in Annex A of this bulletin.

A summary of the main variant population projections for Wales are included in this bulletin. Further variant projections will be published by ONS in November 2011. Annex B of this bulletin shows a comparison of these 2010-based projections with the latest previous set of projections, 2008-based.

This bulletin focuses on the projections for the next 25 years up to 2035. Longer term projections to 2110 are prepared. Whilst these are made available on the ONS website for users who require them, they should be treated with caution as projections become increasingly uncertain over time. Longer term projections are not considered appropriate for a wide range of uses.

Further detailed 2010-based population projections are available on the Welsh Government's online statistics dissemination system, StatsWales – see link in Key Quality information at the end of this bulletin.

The full ONS publication is available at:

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html)

together with information about fitness for purpose of the ONS population projections in meeting user need. This is available in the report on quality and methodology at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/methodquality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/.html>

## Projected Population by Age Group

Table 1 shows the projected population of Wales by age group for selected years from 2010 to 2035.

**Table 1: Projected population by age and median age Wales, 2010 to 2035**

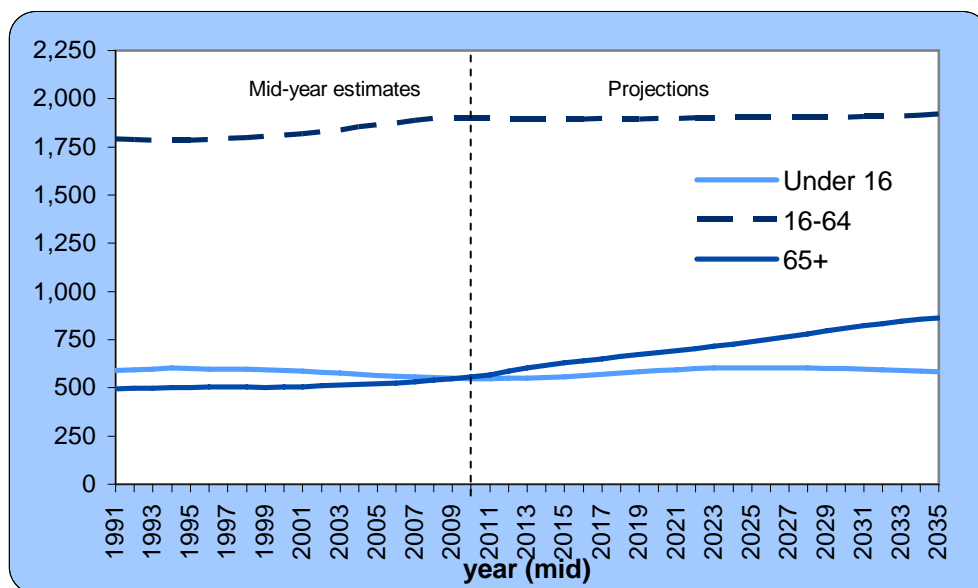
|            | <i>thousands</i> |       |       |       |       |       |
|------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|            | 2010             | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  | 2035  |
| Under 16   | 548              | 558   | 590   | 605   | 599   | 585   |
| 16-64      | 1,900            | 1,895 | 1,897 | 1,906 | 1,906 | 1,920 |
| 65+        | 558              | 630   | 683   | 739   | 810   | 864   |
| All ages   | 3,006            | 3,083 | 3,170 | 3,250 | 3,315 | 3,369 |
|            | <i>Per cent</i>  |       |       |       |       |       |
|            | 2010             | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  | 2035  |
| Under 16   | 18.2             | 18.1  | 18.6  | 18.6  | 18.1  | 17.4  |
| 16-64      | 63.2             | 61.5  | 59.8  | 58.6  | 57.5  | 57.0  |
| 65+        | 18.6             | 20.4  | 21.5  | 22.7  | 24.4  | 25.6  |
| Median age | 41.5             | 42.1  | 41.7  | 41.9  | 42.7  | 43.7  |

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

Chart 2 shows estimated population and population projections by broad age groups from 1991 to 2035. The figures up to 2010 are mid-year population estimates, whilst figures from 2011 onwards are population projections.

**Chart 2: Estimates and projected population by age groups Wales, 1991 to 2035**

*Thousands*



Source: Mid-Year Estimates & National Population Projections, ONS

The population of Wales is projected to increase to 3.17 million by 2020 (5 per cent) and 3.37 million by 2035 (12 per cent). The population is projected to increase throughout the projection period.

The number of children aged under 16 is projected to increase to peak at around 605,000 by 2027 before decreasing slightly towards the end of the projection period. Overall, the number of children under 16 is projected to increase by 7 per cent between 2010 and 2035.

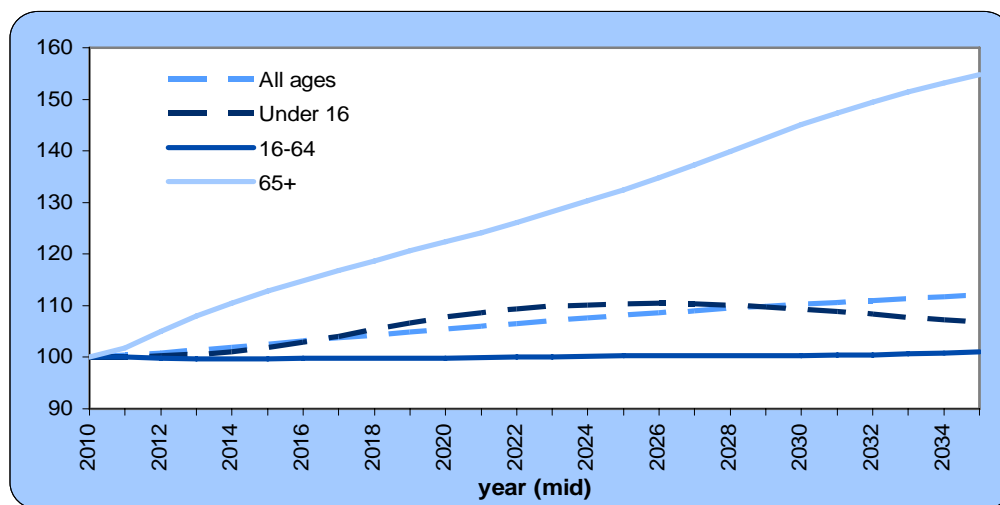
The number of people aged 16-64 is projected to remain relatively constant throughout the projection period increasing by only 1 per cent between 2010 and 2035 (20,000). As a large out-migration of people in their early twenties from Wales counteracts the growth in population aged 16-64 caused by any cohort affect.

The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase throughout the projection period. It is projected that there will be 306,000 or 55 per cent more people aged 65 and over in 2035 than in 2010. These are driven by increasing life expectancy for both men and women throughout the projection period and in the first few years of the projection period, the post war baby boomers entering the age group.

In Wales the median age of the population is projected to increase from 41.5 years in 2010 to 43.7 years by 2035. This is due to a combination of higher life expectancy and relatively fewer children being born.

Chart 3 shows how the population by broad age group is projected to change during the 25 year projection period, relative to the base year. This shows the relatively steep rise in the number of people 65 and over throughout the projection period.

**Chart 3: Population Projections for key groups (indexed)**



Source: National Population Projections, ONS

## Dependency ratios

One way of looking at changes in the age structure of the population is by considering dependency ratios. Typically these consider the number of people in groups that could be considered likely to be more dependent compared the number of people of working age. One common form of dependency ratio is the number of people aged under 16 or 65 or over per 1,000 people aged 16-64. These are somewhat arbitrary boundaries as, in reality, full-time education ends and retirement starts, at a range of ages. Even when people have retired from employment they may still be contributing in many ways and not be considered 'dependent'. Table A in Annex A shows the projections for those of working age and of state pension age.

As the age structure of the population changes over time, there is an effect on the proportion of children aged under 16 and people aged 65 and over in the population.

- In 2010, children under 16 accounted for around 18.2 per cent of the population, and people aged 65 and over accounted for 18.6 per cent of the population.
- By 2035, children under 16 are expected to represent 17.4 per cent of the population and people aged 65 and over accounted for 25.6 per cent.

**Table 2: Dependants per 1,000 people aged 16-64**

|          | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 16 | 288  | 295  | 311  | 317  | 314  | 305  |
| 65+      | 294  | 332  | 360  | 388  | 425  | 450  |
| `        | 582  | 627  | 671  | 705  | 739  | 755  |

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

The table show the numbers of children aged under 16 and older people (aged 65 and over) per 1,000 people of working age (aged 16-64).

- In 2010, there were around 288 children per 1,000 people aged 16-64. This is projected to increase to 317 in 2025 and then reduce slightly during the period to 2035.
- In 2010, there were around 294 people aged 65 and over per 1,000 people aged 16-64. This is expected to increase to around 450 per 1,000 people aged 16-64 by 2035.

## Comparison with other UK countries

Table 3 shows projected population growth in Wales compared with that for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland by 2020 (10th year of projection) and 2035 (25th year of the projection period).

**Table 3: Projected population growth, UK countries by 2020 and 2035**

|                  | <i>Percent</i> |      |
|------------------|----------------|------|
|                  | 2020           | 2035 |
| Wales            | 5              | 12   |
| England          | 8              | 19   |
| Scotland         | 5              | 10   |
| Northern Ireland | 6              | 11   |

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

From the base year, 2010, Wales is expected to see a similar rate of growth to Scotland (5 per cent) by 2020, but below the level of growth in England or Northern Ireland. By 2035 however the population in Wales is expected to grow by 12 per cent, higher than for Scotland and Northern Ireland but still below that for England at 19 per cent.

## Summary of Projected Components of Population Change

Table 4 shows projected components of population change summarised for five-year periods from 2010 to 2035.

**Table 4: Components of Population Change – selected five-year periods**

|                     | <i>thousands</i> |           |           |           |           |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | 2010-2015        | 2015-2020 | 2020-2025 | 2025-2030 | 2030-2035 |
| Population at start | 3,006            | 3,083     | 3,170     | 3,250     | 3,315     |
| Births              | 184              | 188       | 184       | 176       | 174       |
| Deaths              | 153              | 151       | 154       | 161       | 170       |
| Natural Change      | 31               | 37        | 29        | 15        | 4         |
| Net Migration       | 46               | 50        | 50        | 50        | 50        |
| Total Change        | 77               | 87        | 79        | 65        | 54        |
| Population at end   | 3,083            | 3,170     | 3,250     | 3,315     | 3,369     |

Source: National Population Projections, ONS

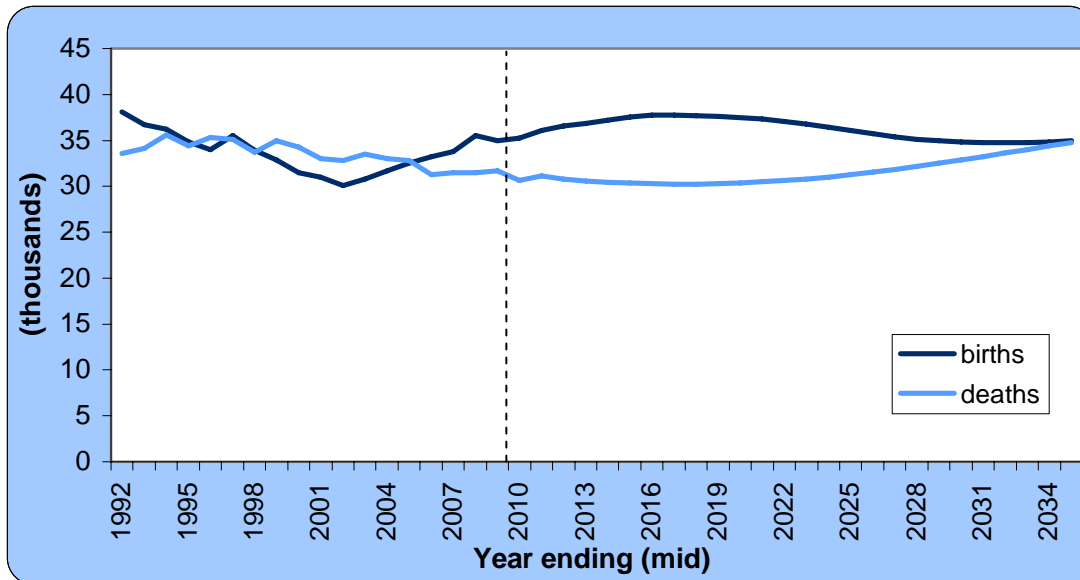
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- Although births are projected to exceed deaths the main driver of population growth in Wales is expected to be net migration.
- The contribution of natural change to population growth is expected to diminish over the projection period as projected births decrease and projected deaths increase by 2035.
- For the first five years of the projection period total population change is projected to be around 77,000 then increase to around 87,000 over the period 2015 to 2020. Beyond 2020, total change in population is projected to be lower at around 79,000 between 2020 and 2025 before decreasing further. This is due to the projected decrease in births and the increase in deaths from 2020 onwards.

## Projected number of births and deaths

Chart 4 shows historical and projected numbers of births and deaths up to 2035.

**Chart 4: Number of births and deaths, historic and projected**



Source: Civil Registration and National Population Projections, ONS.

- There were more deaths than births in Wales during the late 1990s and early 2000s. However, births have exceeded deaths in Wales in recent years.
- The number of births is expected to increase to around 38,000 in 2015 and then to remain relatively constant until 2020. Births are then expected to decrease slowly to around 35,000 by 2035.
- The number of deaths in Wales is projected to be around 31,000 for the period 2010 to 2025. The number of deaths is then projected to increase steadily to reach around 35,000 by 2035. The upward trend from 2025 reflects the large cohorts born immediately after the Second World War and during the 1960s baby boom reach older ages.
- It is anticipated that there will be more births than deaths for most of the projection period, however this difference is projected to decline slowly to almost zero by 2035. This is due to a decrease in projected fertility rates and an ageing population which in turn leads to more deaths.



## **Base population and assumptions used in the projections**

The 2010-based national population projections are based on the estimated population at the middle of 2010 and a set of demographic assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration based on analysis of trends and expert advice.

### **Base population**

The projection is based on the mid-year estimates of population for Wales for 2010 published by the Office for National Statistics on 30 June 2011. The population covered includes all persons usually resident in Wales, whatever their nationality. Members of HM and non-UK armed forces stationed in Wales are included. HM forces stationed outside Wales are excluded. Students are treated as being resident at their term time address. The mid-year estimate of population for Wales for 2010 was 3.006 million.

### **Fertility Assumptions**

Fertility assumptions are formulated in terms of completed family size – the average number of children that women born in particular years will have. The long-term fertility assumption for Wales used in the 2010-based projections is the same as that used in the 2008-based and 2006-based projections. This assumes an average completed family size of 1.85 children per woman. In the short term the fertility assumption for Wales is projected to reach 1.99 in 2011 then stabilise for 3 years before falling to the long term assumption of 1.85 by 2027.

The short term fertility assumptions are different from those used in the 2008-based projections which assumed a decreasing fertility rate and reached the long-term assumption within 5 years. The 2010-based assumptions are higher and stay higher for longer reflecting the current relatively high trend in fertility.

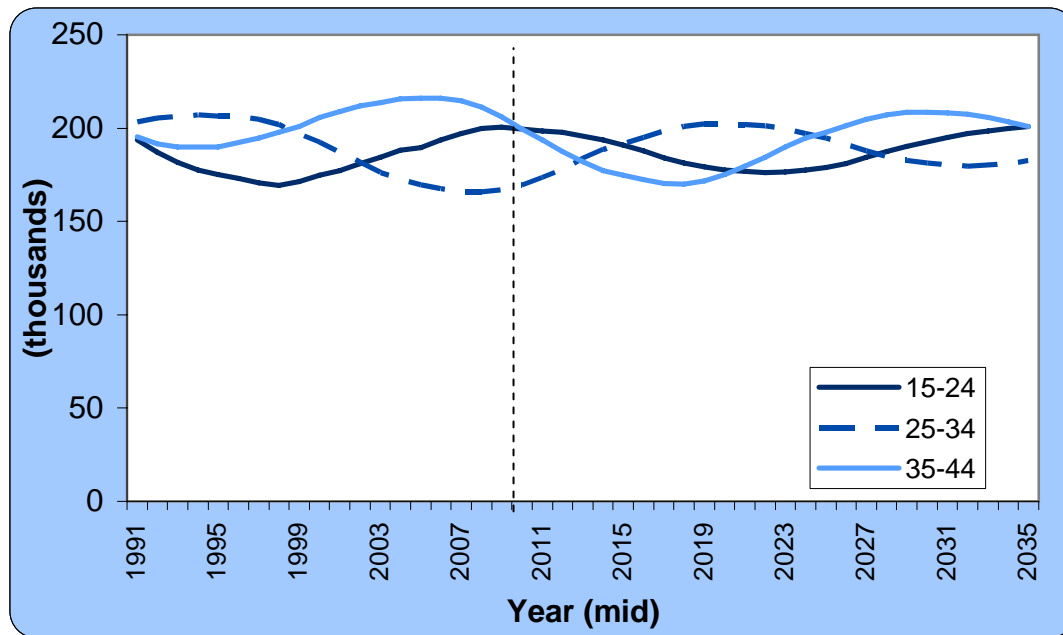
The level of fertility required for the population to replace itself in size, is known as the replacement fertility level (assuming constant mortality rates and zero net migration). The replacement fertility level for UK countries is just under 2.1 children per woman on average. The assumed average completed family size used in the 2010-based projections remains below this level.

Although the assumption for total fertility rate is the same throughout the projection period, fertility rates by individual age are assumed to change throughout the projection period. The projected number of births is dependent on fertility rate assumptions and the projected number of women of child-bearing age. More detail about the fertility assumptions made for Wales and the other constituent countries of the UK is available in the ONS National Population Projections publication (see link at end of this bulletin).

The number of women of childbearing age (15-44 years) decreased from 592,000 in 1991 to 569,000 in 1999 and then gradually increased to a peak of around 578,000 in mid-2007. The number of women of childbearing age is projected to decrease from around 568,000 thousand to around 553,000 during the period 2010 to around 2019, before increasing again to around 584,000 in 2035.

Chart 5 shows the actual and projected number of women of childbearing age in Wales by broad age group.

**Chart 5: Number of women of childbearing age, mid years, 1991 to 2035**



Source: Mid-year Estimates and National Population projections, ONS

## Mortality Assumptions

For the 2010-based national population projections, projected life expectancy at birth for the year to mid-2035 (25 years ahead) is assumed to be 82.8 years for males and 86.6 years for females.

The principal projections assume that over the first 25 years of the projection period (by 2035) the annual rates of mortality improvement will converge to a common rate of 1.2 per cent a year for those born in 1939 or after, with those born in the years 1925 to 1938 assumed to experience higher rates of improvement. For those born before 1924, annual rates of improvement are assumed to be lower than 1.2 per cent in 2035.

Overall these are the same assumptions for the rates of mortality improvement in the target year as those used in the 2008-based projections (where the target year was 2033) for those born before 1940; for those born in 1940 and later the proposed improvement rates in the target year of 1.2 per cent are higher than the 1.0 per cent assumed in the 2008-based projections.

## Migration Assumptions

Population increases in Wales over the last twenty years have been increasingly driven by net migration from the rest of the UK and abroad. However, the inflow and outflow of migrants fluctuates from year to year making it difficult to project the number of migrants in the future. Long-term migration assumptions are based on recent trends.

In the 2010-based national population projections, the long-term assumption for net migration is an average inflow of 10,000 people a year. This includes an average annual net cross-border (within UK) in-migration assumption of 7,000 and an average annual net international in-migration assumption of 3,000. The assumed level of annual net migration to Wales for the 2010-based projections is 500 lower than the long-term assumption used for the 2008-based projections which was a net annual inflow of 10,500 people. This change reflects the most recent trends in both estimated international and cross-border migration.

Following recent falls in estimated net migration to Wales (from 2007 to 2010) the short term migration assumptions build up over a period of 6 years to the long term assumption of net inflow of 10,000 people a year.

## Variant Projections

The principal projections provide a consistent starting point. The projections are based on assumptions considered to best reflect demographic patterns at the time they are adopted.

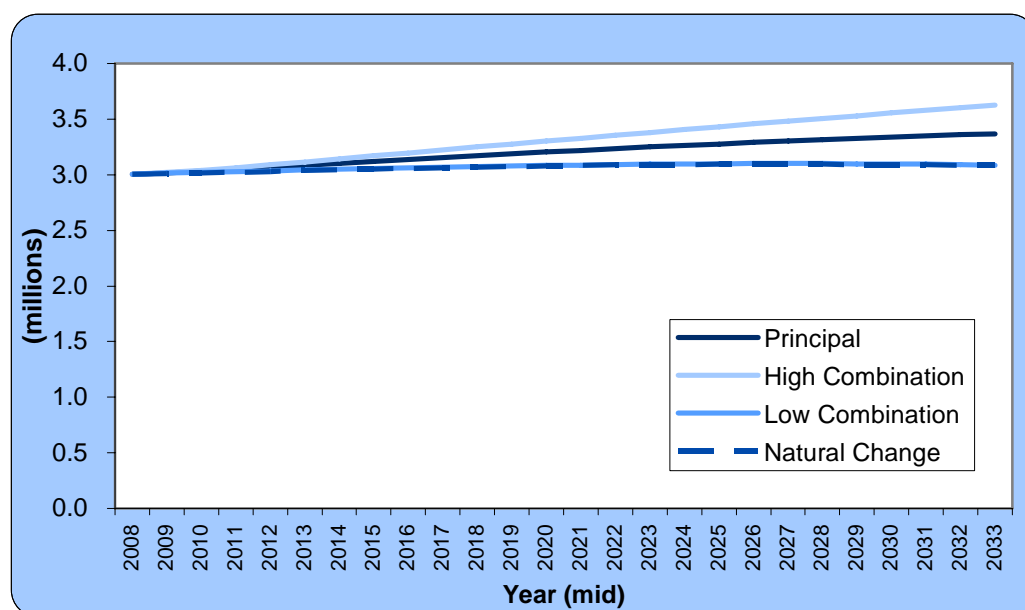
However, projections are uncertain and become increasingly so the further they are carried forward in time. Many users will need to take into account the consequences of future experience differing from the assumptions made and to help users the ONS publishes a selection of 'variant' projections. These variant projections are based on alternative, but still plausible, assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. These variant projections are intended to provide an indication of uncertainty; they do not represent upper or lower limits of future demographic behaviour.

Six 'single component' variant projections are made available by ONS, where only one component of population change is varied from the principal assumptions. In addition three further variant projections are also available

- The 'high population' variant which assumes a combination of high fertility, high life expectancy and high migration;
- The 'low population' variant which assumes a combination of low fertility, low life expectancy and low migration; and
- The 'zero migration' (or 'natural change only') variant which assumes the same levels of fertility and life expectancy as the principal population, but that there will be zero net migration (that is, migration inflows and outflows are exactly equal at every age)

Summary information on the assumptions used for high and low variant projections is available in the Key Quality information of this bulletin. Further information on all the variant projections available for Wales can be found on the ONS website.

**Chart 6: Variant Population projections, 2010 to 2035 (selected variants)**



Source: National Population Projection Variants, ONS

By varying the assumption to their high and low values, all the resulting project population would result in an increasing population to 2035. However the rate of increase varies depending on the assumptions made.

- The 'high population' variant projections suggest that a combination of high fertility, high life expectancy and high migration will cause the population of Wales to grow by 20.7 per cent (622,000) by 2035 (259,000 more than the principal projection).
- The 'low population' variant projections suggest that a combination of low fertility, low life expectancy and low migration will cause the population of Wales to grow by around 2.7 per cent (81,000) by 2035 (281,000 lower than the principal projection).
- The zero migration variant projections suggest that natural change alone will cause the population of Wales to grow by around 2.6 per cent (78,000) by 2035 (285,000 lower than the principal projection).

## Key Quality Information

### Relevance

The primary purpose of the national population projections is to provide an estimate of the future population of the UK and its constituent countries which is used as a common framework for national planning in a number of different fields, such as education and health

They form part of the suite of population and migration statistics available which are important for policy development, and planning and providing public services. There is a high demand for population and migration statistics for a variety of uses. Some of these include:

- Planning services and estimating future need at national and local level, e.g. schools, health and social services provision.
- As part of the Local Government Finance revenue settlement.
- Policy development,
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond.
- For the calculation of further statistics e.g. Spatial Plan Areas, Housing Estimates and (household and population) Projections.
- As denominators in rates (e.g. birth rates).
- For the purposes of weighting surveys.
- Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking.
- Analysis of population cohorts and migration trends.

There is a wide variety of users of population data from national and local government, charities and voluntary sector organisations, other government departments, students, academics and universities, individual citizens and private companies.

### Data Source

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces national population projections for Wales, and the other UK countries.

Population projections provide estimates of the size of the future population, and are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The assumptions are based on past trends and expert advice. Projections only indicate what may happen should the assumptions become true. They are not forecasts and projections done in this way do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors may have on demographic behaviour. For example, government policies on migration and student fees.

The full 2010-based National Population Projections for the UK and constituent countries is available on the ONS website at:

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html)

This includes the principal projections and all the variant projections that have been made available.

### Base Population

These population projections are based on the 2010 mid-year population estimates. These are annual estimates of the usually resident population of each area. The 2010 mid-year estimates were published on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The mid-year population estimates for Wales are available via our StatsWales data [StatsWales - Mid-year population estimates](#)

Information on the methodology used to produce the mid-year estimates is available from the Office for National Statistics.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/quality-and-methodology-information-for-mid-year-population-estimates.pdf>

## Revisions and changes

This bulletin generally uses the age groups under 16, 16-64 and 65+ to analysis population change by age. Previous editions have presented information on 'working age' and 'pensionable age'. The new format is intended to be consistent with the tables presented in the most recent annual publication 'Wales's Population: a demographic overview' and in use in Labour market statistics. However a summary analysis of the 'working age' and 'pensionable age' groups is provided in Annex A.

## Principal and variant projections

Assumptions for the principal projections are explained within the bulletin. 2010-based variant projections are produced based on different combinations of alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. These are available on the ONS website. The key assumptions for variant projections are explained below.

**Fertility:** compared with the principal assumptions, the high and low fertility variants assume long-term family sizes of 0.2 children per woman higher or lower (that is, 2.05 and 1.65 for Wales).

**Mortality:** compared to the principal assumptions, the high and low life expectancy variants assume annual rates of mortality improvement from 2035 to be 1.2 per cent higher or lower (that is, 2.4 per cent and 0.0 per cent for most ages). Thus the variant projections assume life expectancy at birth in 2035 to be 2.3 years higher or lower for males and 1.5 years higher or lower for females.

**Migration:** compared to the principal assumptions, the high and low migration variants assume long-term annual net migration to Wales to be 4,500 higher or lower (that is, 14,500 and 5,500).

Details of the variant projections and the assumptions are available on the ONS website (see link below)

## Methodology and Quality

Further information on the statistical outputs relating to population and household statistics for Wales produced by the Welsh Government is given in the Population and Household Statistics Quality Report. [Welsh Government | Population and Household Statistics Quality Report](#)

Full details of methodology and issues relating to data quality of the population projections are available in the ONS summary quality report for National Population Projections

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-national-population-projections.pdf>

Each element of the projections, fertility, migration and mortality, is considered very closely to try to ensure that the best possible assumption is made, however it is impossible to quantify, at the time of their publication, how accurate the most recent population projections will prove to be. Changes in the economy, in individual, family and household behaviour and events outside the UK will occur and will influence the three main components of population change. Possible effects of this uncertainty are shown by producing both a principal projection and a number of variant projections. These variants give alternative plausible scenarios according to high or low assumptions about the trajectories of fertility, migration and mortality; they can also be combined to see the effect on the projections of, for example, a 'young' population assumption (high fertility, high migration and low life expectancy assumptions). The

variant projection results are also made available on the National Population Projections page on the ONS website.

## Frequency

The ONS generally produce 'full' population projections by age and sex for the United Kingdom and constituent countries every two years. These 'full' projections are based on a review of all the underlying assumptions regarding fertility, mortality and net migration. Following a census of population ONS may produce an interim set of projections, with a base population that takes account of the latest census results, prior to the next full set of projections. It is currently expected that an interim set of projections will be prepared prior to the 2012-based national population projections being made available.

## Local Authority Population Projections

Population projections for the local authorities in Wales are produced by the Welsh Government. Generally these are produced every two years after the national projections have been produced. However, after consultation with users it was decided not to produce local authority projections until after the results of the 2011 census become available. These will be 2011-based projections and they will be not likely to be published until spring 2013.

The current latest set of local authority projections are the 2008-based and these are available via the Welsh Government website.

[Welsh Government | Local Authority population projections](#)

## Related outputs across the UK

Projections for Wales and the other parts of the UK along with longer term projections, variant projections and further detailed information is available on the ONS website

[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/npp/national-population-projections/2010-based-projections/index.html)

National Records Scotland (NRS) publish population projections for Scotland on their website

[General Register Office for Scotland - Population Projections - Population Projections Scotland](#)

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency publish a summary of population projections for Northern Ireland on their website

[NISRA - Demography](#)

## Further Information

Population projections for Wales by age and gender for the first twenty-five years of the projection period (2010 to 2035) are available on the StatsWales website:

[www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)

## Feedback

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments on the content or format of this statistical bulletin please complete our [feedback form](#).

Alternatively, to provide feedback and for general queries, please contact:

[stats.popcensus@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.popcensus@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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## Annex A – Projected populations of working age and state pension age

Table A shows the projected population of working age or state pension age. The projections are based on current legislation on state pension age (Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2007) under which state pension age will (i) change from 65 years for men and 60 years for women to 65 years for both sexes by 2020 and then (ii) increase in three stages to 68 years for both sexes between 2024 and 2046. They do not take account of proposed further changes to the state pension age published by the UK Government which are not yet law.

**Table A: Projected Population by working and pension age, Wales, selected years.**

|              | 2010  | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  | 2035            |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Children(a)  | 548   | 558   | 590   | 605   | 599   | 585             |
| Working age  | 1,800 | 1,851 | 1,897 | 1,931 | 1,949 | 1,986           |
| Pension age  | 658   | 674   | 683   | 714   | 767   | 798             |
| All ages     | 3,006 | 3,083 | 3,170 | 3,250 | 3,315 | 3,369           |
|              |       |       |       |       |       | <i>Per cent</i> |
|              | 2010  | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  | 2035            |
| Children (a) | 18.2  | 18.1  | 18.6  | 18.6  | 18.1  | 17.4            |
| Working age  | 59.9  | 60.0  | 59.8  | 59.4  | 58.8  | 58.9            |
| Pension age  | 21.9  | 21.9  | 21.5  | 22.0  | 23.1  | 23.7            |

(a) Children aged under 16

Pension age refers to the state pensionable age population (people old enough to receive the state pension). The working age refers to people age 16 to the state pensionable age. The changes in state pension age throughout the period means that the growth in the pension age population is projected to be significantly less than the growth in the population aged 65 and over. The pension age population is projected to increase by 21 per cent between 2010 and 2035, while the population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 55 per cent between 2010 and 2035.



## Annex B - Comparison of 2008-based and 2010-based principal population projections for Wales

Table B compares the 2010-based population projected with the previously published 2008-based population projections over the period 2010 to 2035.

**Table B: Comparison of the 2008-based and 2010-based principal population projections for Wales, in selected years**

|  | <i>Thousands</i> |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2010             | 2015  | 2020  | 2025  | 2030  | 2035  |
| 2008-based                               | 3,011            | 3,088 | 3,171 | 3,249 | 3,315 | 3,367 |
| 2010-based                               | 3,006            | 3,083 | 3,170 | 3,250 | 3,315 | 3,369 |
| Difference (2010-based minus 2008-based) | -4               | -4    | 0     | 1     | 0     | 2     |
| Percentage Difference                    | -0.1             | -0.1  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.1   |

The two sets of projections give very similar population figures for Wales. The 2010-based projected population for Wales in 2035 is 2,000 (0.1%) higher than the previous (2008-based) projection for that year. The difference between the projected populations is less than 1 per cent of the 2008-based projected population for every year between 2010 and 2035.

Long term assumptions for the 2010-based projections assume the same long term completed family size as in the 2008-based projections, a slightly lower expectation of life at birth in 2035 (82.8 year for males compared to 83.0; 86.6 years compared to 86.8 for females) and a long term assumption of 10,000 annual net inward migration compared to 10,500. The difference in the projections reflect the 4,000 difference in the 2010 base year mid-year estimates compared to the 2008-based projection for 2010.