

City & County of Swansea  
**RESEARCH & INFORMATION UNIT**  
**BRIEFING NOTE**

**2010 MID YEAR ESTIMATES OF POPULATION**

**Introduction**

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the latest (2010) Mid Year Population Estimates (MYEs) for the UK and local authorities in England and Wales. These are the final Mid Year Estimates to be released by ONS before the 2011 Census results begin to emerge in July 2012.

Mid-year population estimates relate to the usually resident population. They 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.

As part of a cross-government programme to improve migration statistics, ONS' population estimates for the years 2002-2008 were revised in May 2010. The estimates incorporated new statistics on student moves and a changed approach to modelling international migration data. The 2009 and 2010 ONS estimates continue to use this methodology.

This note provides a brief overview of the published figures, identifies key recent trends, and focuses on the significant results for Swansea.

**UK Growth**

The population of the UK in June 2010 is estimated to have reached **62.3 million**; an increase of 470,000 (+0.8%) on 2009 and the highest annual growth rate since 1962. The UK population has grown by 2.7 million since 2001 – equivalent to an average increase of 0.6% per year. This compares with 0.3% per year between 1991 and 2001.

Increases in births, decreases in deaths and net international migration to the UK have all contributed to this growth. Natural change (the difference between births and deaths) accounted for 52% of UK population growth over the year to mid-2010, the third successive year that it has contributed more than net long-term international migration to the UK. Population growth during the last year has been fastest in England (+0.8%), followed by Northern Ireland (+0.6%), Scotland (+0.5%) and Wales (+0.2%).

**Change in Wales**

In mid-2010, the population of Wales crossed the three million mark for the first time. Wales' population is now estimated at **3,006,400** – an increase of 7,100 or 0.2% on the 2009 figure (slightly lower than the previous annual increase of 9,200 or 0.3%).

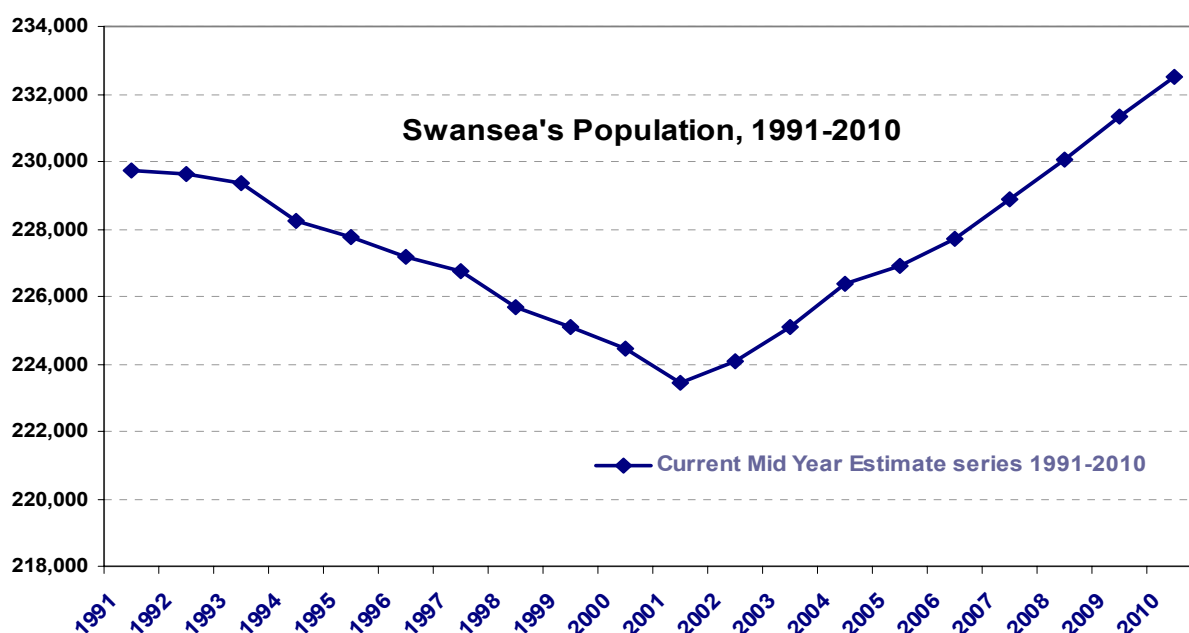
This growth is not evenly distributed across Wales' 22 local authorities. Ten authorities (including Swansea) are attributed with population growth between 2009 and 2010, the highest being Cardiff (up 4,800 or 1.4%). Meanwhile, nine areas have recorded population losses, the largest being Conwy (down 500 or 0.4%). Details for all Welsh local authorities are provided in Appendix 1.

## Swansea's Population

ONS' 2010 mid year population estimate for the City & County of Swansea is **232,500**, comprising of 114,800 males and 117,700 females. This figure represents an increase of **1,200 (+0.5%)** on the 2009 population – the ninth successive annual increase since 2001.

Publication of the 2001 Census results in late 2002 led to a downward revision of Swansea's previously estimated population (by 7,000) to 223,000, and the revision of earlier published figures. Since 2001 however, the estimates show a steady increase in Swansea's population, with an average annual growth of approximately 1,000 people (+0.45% per annum). The overall trend from 1991 to 2010 is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1:** Population of Swansea: current official Mid Year Estimates, 1991 to 2010 (incorporating revised figures for 2002-2008).



The key components of population change – namely births, deaths (i.e. natural change) and migration – for Swansea between mid-2009 to mid-2010, are set out in Table 1 below. Wales and UK figures are added for comparison.

**Table 1:** Mid Year Estimates 2009-2010, components of change, Swansea, Wales and UK

Area:	Mid-2009 population	Components of Change:		Migration and other changes	Mid-2010 population
		Births	Deaths		
Swansea	231,300	2,600	2,400	900	<b>232,500</b>
Wales	2,999,300	35,300	30,600	2,500	<b>3,006,400</b>
UK	61,792,000	796,800	553,700	226,900	<b>62,262,000</b>

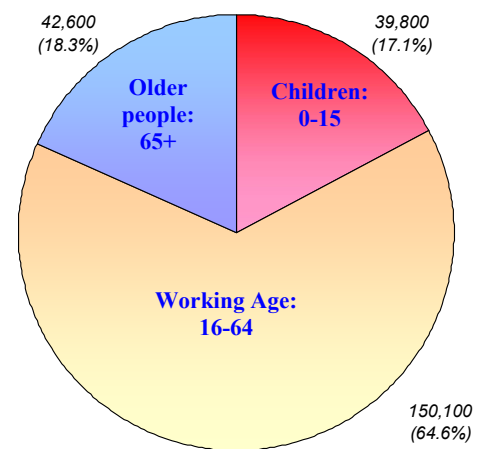
Source: Mid Year Estimates 2009-2010, Population Estimates Unit, ONS. Crown Copyright.

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

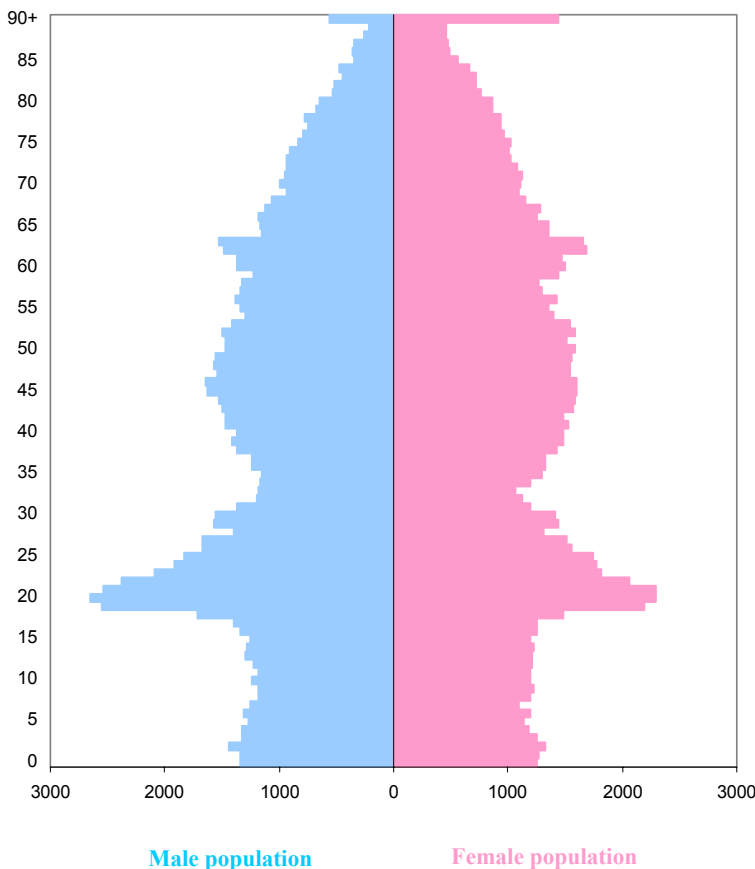
Between mid-2009 and mid-2010, the annual number of births in Swansea (2,600) once again exceeded deaths (2,400), and the gap between births and deaths widened slightly (with the number of births remaining constant and deaths falling by almost 100 in the latest year). However, contrary to the figures for Wales and the UK as a whole, Swansea's growth continues to be largely driven by migration. Data published by ONS and used in their preparation of the mid year estimates suggests that in the 12 months to mid-2010 a net inflow of migrants from both within and outside the UK added over 900 to Swansea's population. However, unlike most recent years, the latest figures suggest that the majority of this increase (67%) was attributable to net internal (within UK) migration.

The chart shown in Figure 2 presents a breakdown of Swansea's population at mid-2010 by the three key life stage groups (children, working age and older people). The proportion of Swansea's population of working age (all aged 16-64), at 64.6%, is higher than Wales (63.2%) but slightly lower than the UK (64.8%). However, Swansea has a lower proportion of children (aged 0-15), at 17.1%, than both Wales (18.2%) and the UK (18.6%).

**Figure 2:**  
Population by key life stage group, mid-2010



**Figure 3:**  
2010 mid year population by age and gender



A more detailed breakdown by age and sex (as a population pyramid) is provided in Figure 3. The pyramid shows a sharp 'spike' in the 19-22 age groups, largely reflecting the presence of students at Swansea's two universities. Over the following ten years, Swansea's population generally declines, before steadily rising again in the 30-45 cohorts.

A numeric breakdown by five-year and other age cohorts is included as Appendix 2 in this note.

Source: Mid Year Estimates 2010,  
Population Estimates Unit, ONS.  
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## Population change by age group, 2005-2010

A more comprehensive view of recent trends can be provided via analysis of the main changes to the structure of Swansea's population over the five-year period since 2005:

- **0-4** years age group: a significant growth of 1,000 (+8.5%), essentially attributable to an increasing number of births, particularly since 2007.
- **5-15** age group (school-age population): a decline of 1,900 (-6.5%), reflecting the impact of the falling number of births recorded through the 1990s and early 2000s. However, the rate of this decline appears to be slowing as the post-2003 upturn in births works its way through.
- **16-19** age group: little overall change in the total number, with a minor increase of around 100 (+0.6%). Reductions in the population of 16 and 17 year olds have been offset by an increasing net inflow of 19 year olds – likely to be mostly students.
- **20-24** age group: a significant growth of 2,900 (15.4%), again linked to increasing levels of student in-migration, including those from overseas.
- **25-29** age group: a pronounced increase in the population of this cohort by 3,100 (+24.5%). This growth is considered attributable to a number of factors, including increased international in-migration and the retention of student graduates.
- **Working age population** (all aged **16-64**): a steady increase of 3.5% (+5,000), which is higher than the equivalent overall rate of population increase for Swansea over the period (+2.5%). However, this growth is not evenly distributed and some significant variations are apparent within this broad age range.
- **Older population** (all aged **65+**): an increase of 1,400 (+3.5%), indicative of an increasingly ageing population, in line with established national trends. Growth has been most dramatic in the population aged over 85, which is estimated to have increased in Swansea by 900 (+16.6%) from 5,100 in 2005 to 6,000 in 2010.

## Conclusions

The 2010 estimates suggest:

- Continuing population growth in Swansea, mainly driven by migration; in particular by net internal (within UK) migration in the latest year.
- Population growth in the 12 months to June 2010 has also been boosted by a continuing excess of births over deaths.
- Between 2009 and 2010, Swansea's population increased at a higher rate than Wales but below the rate of increase for the UK as a whole.
- Economic factors may result in reductions in net migration to the UK, Wales and Swansea in future estimates, contrary to the latest official (trend-based) population projections. Next year's results from the 2011 Census, and the Mid Year Estimates which follow, should provide further insight here and a benchmark for future trends.

*If you would like further information about the Mid Year Estimates, or have any other queries regarding population and demographic change, please contact:*

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## Appendix 1

### 2010 MID YEAR ESTIMATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES

Unitary Authority	MYE 2010	change 2009-2010	% change 2009-10
Cardiff	341,100	+4,800	+1.4%
<b>Swansea</b>	<b>232,500</b>	<b>+1,200</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>
Newport	141,300	+1,000	+0.7%
Ceredigion	76,900	+500	+0.7%
Caerphilly	173,100	+400	+0.2%
Vale of Glamorgan	125,000	+400	+0.3%
Bridgend	134,600	+400	+0.3%
Wrexham	133,600	+400	+0.3%
Gwynedd	119,000	+200	+0.2%
Monmouthshire	88,100	+100	+0.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	55,700	0	+0.1%
Denbighshire	96,700	0	0.0%
Neath Port Talbot	137,400	0	0.0%
Carmarthenshire	180,700	-100	-0.0%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	234,300	-100	-0.0%
Isle of Anglesey	68,600	-200	-0.3%
Torfaen	90,500	-200	-0.2%
Flintshire	149,700	-200	-0.1%
Blaenau Gwent	68,400	-300	-0.4%
Pembrokeshire	117,100	-300	-0.3%
Powys	131,300	-400	-0.3%
Conwy	110,900	-500	-0.4%
<b>Wales</b>	<b>3,006,400</b>	<b>+7,100</b>	<b>+0.2%</b>
England and Wales	55,240,500	+431,400	+0.8%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>62,262,000</b>	<b>+470,000</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>

## Appendix 2

### SWANSEA'S 2010 POPULATION AND RECENT CHANGE BY AGE GROUP

Age group	People, 2010 (%)	change 2009-2010	change 2005-2010
0-4	13,100 (5.6%)	+200 (+1.5%)	+1,000 (+8.5%)
5-9	12,100 (5.2%)	-100 (-0.5%)	-400 (-2.9%)
10-14	12,300 (5.3%)	0 (-0.1%)	-1,100 (-8.5%)
15-19	15,600 (6.7%)	-100 (-0.5%)	-300 (-1.8%)
20-24	21,800 (9.4%)	+400 (+2.1%)	+2,900 (+15.4%)
25-29	15,700 (6.8%)	+400 (+2.6%)	+3,100 (+24.5%)
30-49	56,500 (24.3%)	-400 (-0.7%)	-2,500 (-4.2%)
50-64	42,800 (18.4%)	+200 (+0.5%)	+1,400 (+3.5%)
65-74	21,700 (9.3%)	+200 (+1.1%)	+500 (+2.6%)
75+	20,900 (9.0%)	+200 (+1.2%)	+900 (+4.4%)
<b>All ages</b>	<b>232,500 (100%)</b>	<b>+1,200 (+0.5%)</b>	<b>+5,600 (+2.5%)</b>

Source: Mid Year Estimates 2005-2010, Population Estimates Unit, ONS. Crown Copyright.