

Economic Development and Transport Committee

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report provides a summary of the economic and labour market statistics released in recent months.

The report is divided into quarterly and annual data sections. The quarterly data section provides the latest quarterly (or monthly) data and generally shows the change since the previous quarter as well as on the same period in the previous year. The annual data section provides a summary of data compiled on an annual basis that have been released since the last report in May 2005; a summary table of headline indicators is also given in this section.

1 QUARTERLY DATA

1.1 THE LABOUR MARKET

**Table 1 Employment, unemployment and inactivity:
Wales and the UK**

levels in thousands, seasonally adjusted

		May - Jul 2004	Feb - Apr 2005	May - Jul 2005	Change on:	
					previous quarter	previous year
Employment¹						
Wales	<i>level</i>	1,319	1,318	1,321	3	2
	<i>rate (%)</i>	71.7	71.5	71.7	0.2	-0.1
UK	<i>level</i>	28,416	28,647	28,730	83	315
	<i>rate (%)</i>	74.7	74.8	74.8	0.1	0.1
ILO unemployment²						
Wales	<i>level</i>	63	61	62	1	-1
	<i>rate (%)</i>	4.6	4.4	4.5	0.1	-0.1
UK	<i>level</i>	1,414	1,406	1,418	12	3
	<i>rate (%)</i>	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
Economic inactivity³						
Wales	<i>level</i>	437	446	442	-4	5
	<i>rate (%)</i>	24.7	25.1	24.9	-0.3	0.2
UK	<i>level</i>	7,899	7,931	7,915	-16	16
	<i>rate (%)</i>	21.5	21.5	21.4	-0.1	-0.1

1. Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).
2. Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. The rate is as a proportion of economically active (employed plus ILO unemployed). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment covers those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks.
3. Levels and rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).

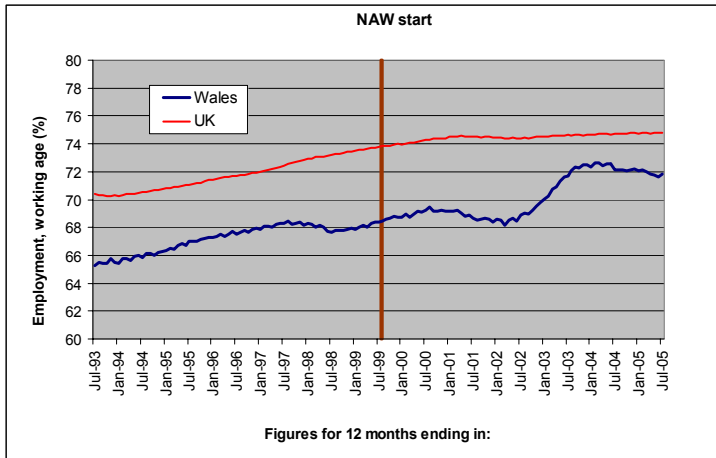
Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

For the three months to July 2005:

- The employment level for Wales *increased* by 2,000 over the year and by 3,000 over the quarter. The rate *decreased* by 0.1 percentage points over the year but *increased* by 0.2 percentage points over the quarter.
- ILO unemployment (levels and rates) for Wales *decreased* slightly over the year but *increased* slightly over the quarter, whilst economic inactivity levels and rates for Wales *increased* over the year but *decreased* over the quarter.
- The employment rate in the UK as a whole *increased* by 0.1 percentage points over the year, whilst the unemployment rate remained unchanged and the rate of economic inactivity *decreased* by 0.1 percentage points.

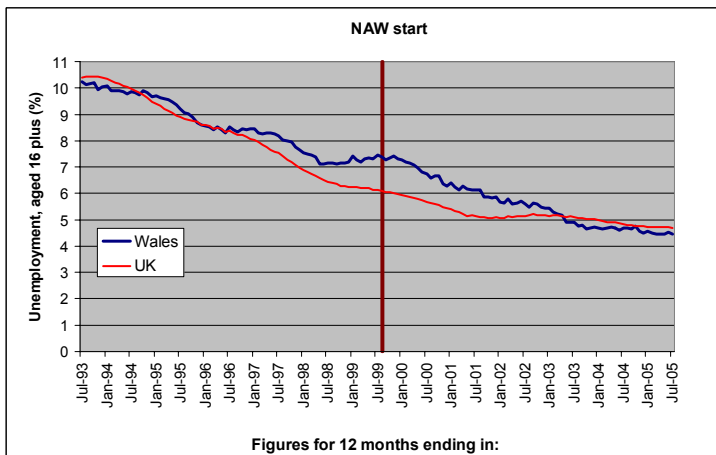
All of the estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variation, which means that changes over time can be quite volatile, particularly for an area the size of Wales. It is therefore often more appropriate to examine the trend in a particular measure. The trend in the LFS measures given in table 1 can be seen from a 12 month rolling average and longer term results for Wales on this basis are shown in figure 1.

Figure 1 12 month rolling average figures for LFS employment, ILO unemployment and inactivity rates: Wales and the UK



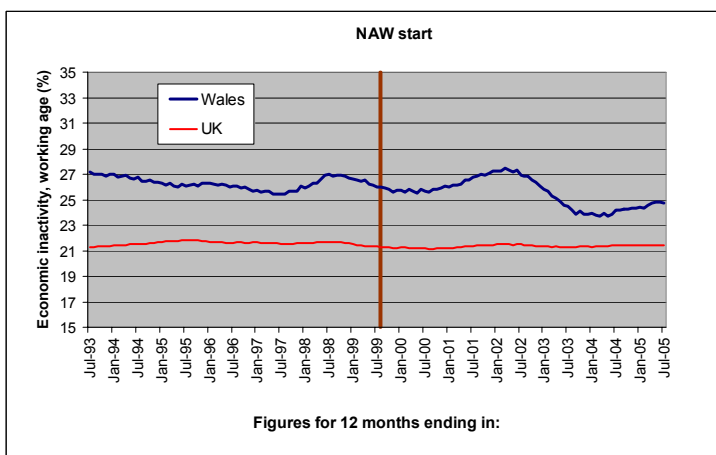
The Welsh employment rate has been broadly stable since mid-2003, following earlier increases.

The employment rate for Wales for the 12 months ending July 2005 was 71.8%, a *fall* of 0.3 percentage points (pp) over the corresponding period a year earlier and a *rise* of 2.9 pp over 1999. The UK employment rate was 74.8% in the 12 months ending July 2005, a *rise* of 0.8 pp over 1999.



Unemployment has maintained a steady downward trend over the last 10 or so years.

The unemployment rate for Wales for the 12 months ending July 2005 was 4.4%, a *fall* of 0.3 pp over the corresponding period a year earlier and a *fall* of 2.8 pp over 1999. The UK unemployment rate was 4.7% in the 12 months ending July 2005, a *fall* of 1.2 pp over 1999.



The Welsh economic inactivity rate grew over the period 1999 to 2001, before falling in 2002 and the first half of 2003. It has since increased slightly.

The economic inactivity rate for Wales for the 12 months ending July 2005 was 24.7%, a *rise* of 0.6 pp over the corresponding period a year earlier and a *fall* of 0.9 pp over 1999. The UK economic inactivity rate was 21.4% in the 12 months ending July 2005, a *rise* of 0.2 pp over 1999.

**Table 2 Employment, unemployment and inactivity:
West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales¹**

levels in thousands

		1999	12 months to May 2005	Change over 1999
Employment²				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	737	792	54
	<i>rate (%)</i>	66.0	69.5	3.6
East Wales	<i>level</i>	477	510	33
	<i>rate (%)</i>	74.0	75.4	1.4
Wales¹	<i>level</i>	1,215	1,302	87
	<i>rate (%)</i>	68.9	71.7	2.9
United Kingdom¹	<i>level</i>	27,043	28,200	1,157
	<i>rate (%)</i>	74.0	74.7	0.7
ILO unemployment³				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	61	41	-20
	<i>rate (%)</i>	7.7	4.9	-2.8
East Wales	<i>level</i>	33	20	-13
	<i>rate (%)</i>	6.5	3.7	-2.8
Wales¹	<i>level</i>	94	61	-34
	<i>rate (%)</i>	7.2	4.5	-2.8
United Kingdom¹	<i>level</i>	1,695	1,393	-303
	<i>rate (%)</i>	5.9	4.7	-1.2
Economic inactivity⁴				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	311	292	-19
	<i>rate (%)</i>	28.4	26.7	-1.7
East Wales	<i>level</i>	129	142	13
	<i>rate (%)</i>	20.8	21.6	0.8
Wales¹	<i>level</i>	440	434	-6
	<i>rate (%)</i>	25.7	24.8	-0.8
United Kingdom¹	<i>level</i>	7,539	7,815	276
	<i>rate (%)</i>	21.3	21.5	0.2

1. Data for sub-regions of Wales are only updated on a quarterly basis, as opposed to the Wales level data in table 1, which are updated monthly.

2. Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).

3. Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. The rate is as a proportion of economically active (employed plus ILO unemployed). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment covers those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks.

4. Levels and rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).

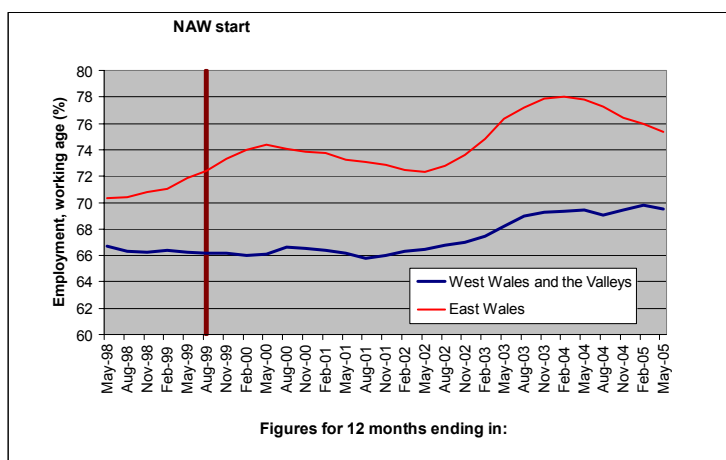
Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The estimates given in table 2 are for the latest 12 month averages available (to May 2005).

- In the year to May 2005, the employment rate in the Objective 1 area (West Wales and the Valleys) was 3.6 percentage points *higher* than in 1999. There was a *increase* of 1.4 percentage points in the rate in East Wales.
- The unemployment rate fell by 2.8 percentage points between 1999 and the year to May 2005 in both West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales.
- Over the same period the economic inactivity rate *fell* by 1.7 percentage points in West Wales and the Valleys and *rose* by 0.8 percentage points in East Wales.

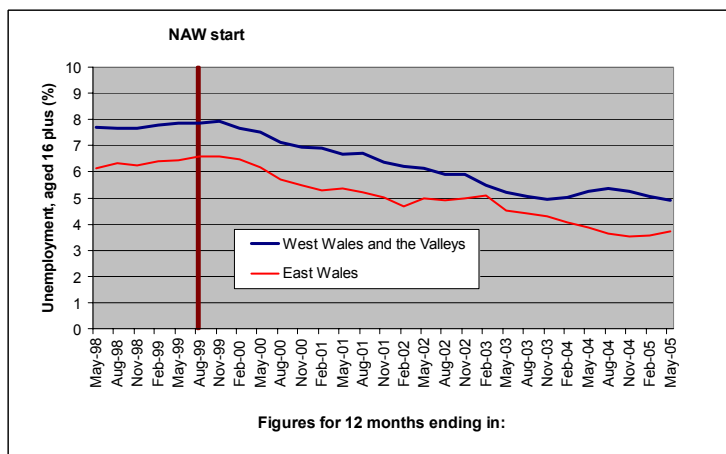
The trend in the LFS measures given in table 2 can be seen from a 12 month rolling average. Longer term results for West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales on this basis are shown in figure 2.

Figure 2 12 month rolling average figures for LFS employment, ILO unemployment and inactivity rates: West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales



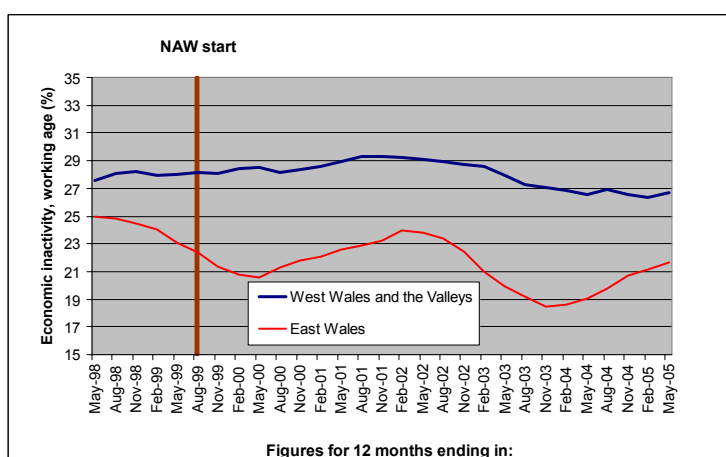
For the 12 months ending in May 2005:

- the average employment rate in West Wales and the Valleys was 3.6 percentage points (pp) *higher* than the average for 1999. For East Wales the rate was 1.4 pp *higher*.
- In both areas, the trend has been generally upward, although East Wales has seen a reduction over the last 15 months or so.



For the 12 months ending in February 2005:

- the average unemployment rate in West Wales and the Valleys was 2.8 percentage points (pp) *lower* than the average for 1999. For East Wales the rate was also 2.8 pp *lower*.
- The trend in both areas has been generally downward, with a recent levelling off in East Wales.



For the 12 months ending in February 2005:

- The average economic inactivity rate in West Wales and the Valleys was 1.7 percentage points (pp) *lower* than the average for 1999. For East Wales the rate was 0.8 pp *higher*.
- In both areas, the trend has been generally downward over the last few years, with an upturn during the end of 2003 and 2004 in East Wales.

Table 3 Civilian workforce jobs and employee jobs¹ by industry: Wales

thousands

	June 2004	March 2005	June 2005	Change over:	
				March 2005	June 2004
Not seasonally adjusted:					
Civilian workforce jobs	1,279	..	1,283	..	3
Employee jobs	1,108	..	1,102	..	-6
of which:					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12	..	13	..	1
Mining, energy and water supplies industries	8	..	8	..	0
Manufacturing industries	180	..	176	..	-3
Construction	53	..	41	..	-12
Service industries	446	..	451	..	4
Other industries	408	..	413	..	4
Seasonally adjusted:					
Employee jobs	1,109	1,106	1,103	-3	-6

.. A quarterly change is not shown, as this will be heavily affected by seasonal factors.

1. Workforce jobs and employee jobs are measures of jobs rather than people; if a person holds two jobs, each job will be counted in the total. Workforce jobs and employee jobs data are collected on a workplace basis. Civilian workforce jobs include self-employment and government-supported trainees, as well as employee jobs.

Source: Employer surveys, Labour Force Survey, DfES

- Over the year to June 2005, civilian workforce jobs in Wales *increased* by 0.3%, whilst employee jobs *decreased* (down 0.6%).
- Employee jobs in manufacturing industries *fell* by 3,000 (or 1.8%) over the same period, whilst employee jobs in service industries *rose* by 4,000 (or 1.0%).
- 'Other industries' (which include the health and education sectors) had the largest *increase* over the period, *up* 4,000 (or 1.1%), whilst the construction section had the largest *fall*, *down* 12,000 (or 23.0%).

Table 4 Distribution of employee jobs by industry: Wales

% of total employee jobs, *not* seasonally adjusted

	June 2004	June 2005	Change on June 2004
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.1	1.2	0.1
Mining, energy and water supplies industries	0.8	0.7	-0.0
Manufacturing industries	16.2	16.0	-0.2
Construction	4.8	3.7	-1.1
Service industries	40.3	40.9	0.6
Other industries	36.9	37.5	0.6

Source: Employer surveys

- 40.9% of all employee jobs in Wales were in service industries in June 2005.
- The next largest industry group in terms of employee jobs was 'other industries', with 37.5% of the total. This category is predominantly public administration, education and health.
- Manufacturing industries accounted for 16.0% of all employee jobs, a *fall* of 0.2 percentage points on the June 2004 figure.
- Construction industries accounted for 3.7% of all employee jobs, a *decrease* of 1.1 percentage points over the year.

Table 5 Claimant count: Wales and the UK

thousands, seasonally adjusted: **workforce**¹ based rates

		Aug 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Change on:	
					previous month	previous year
Wales	<i>level</i>	39.4	41.5	41.5	0.0	2.1
	<i>rate (%)</i>	3.0	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.2
UK	<i>level</i>	834.8	864.6	866.2	1.6	31.4
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.7	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.1

1. Claimant count rates in this table are calculated using workforce-based denominators, which is the same as in previous bulletins. However, claimant count rates for local areas within regions are now calculated using residence-based denominators - please see the footnote to table 6.

Source: Jobcentre Plus administrative system

- In August 2005, the claimant count levels and rates *rose* in both Wales and the UK compared to the same period a year ago.
- Compared to the previous month, the claimant count levels remained unchanged in Wales and *rose* slightly in the UK as a whole.
- In August 2005, the claimant count rate in Wales was 3.1%, 0.3 percentage points *higher* than the corresponding UK figure.

Table 6 Claimant count: West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales¹

thousands, *not* seasonally adjusted: **residence**² based rates

		Aug 2004	Aug 2005	Change on previous year
Wales²	<i>level</i>	39.7	41.9	2.2
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.2	2.4	0.1
West Wales and the Valleys²	<i>level</i>	26.5	27.9	1.4
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.4	2.5	0.1
East Wales²	<i>level</i>	13.2	14.0	0.9
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.0	2.1	0.1

1. The figures in this table are not seasonally adjusted and so the levels are also not strictly comparable to those given in table 5. A monthly change is not shown, as this would be heavily affected by seasonal factors.

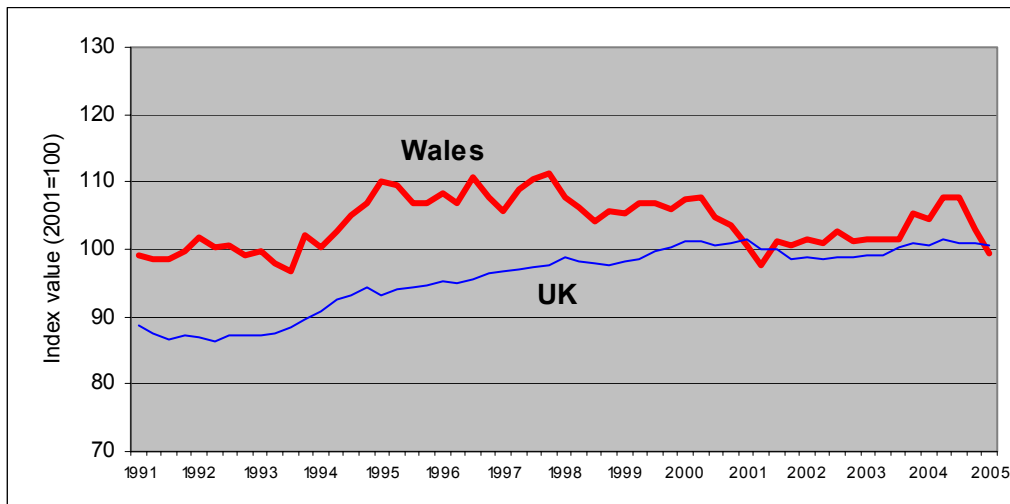
2. Claimant count rates in this table are calculated using residence-based denominators, which is now the standard method for calculation of rates for local areas within regions and removes distortions due to commuting in and out of areas. Claimant count rates at the regional level are calculated on both a workforce basis (as given in table 5) and a residence basis - they are published on a workforce basis when compared to other UK regions, and on a residence basis when compared to local areas within regions.

Source: Jobcentre Plus administrative system

- In August 2005, the claimant count level *rose* in both the Objective 1 area (West Wales and the Valleys) and in East Wales compared to August 2004.
- The claimant count rate also *rose* slightly in both areas over the same period, with the difference in the rate between West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales *remaining* at 0.4 percentage points.

1.2 THE ECONOMY

Figure 3.1 Index of production¹ and construction: Wales and the UK

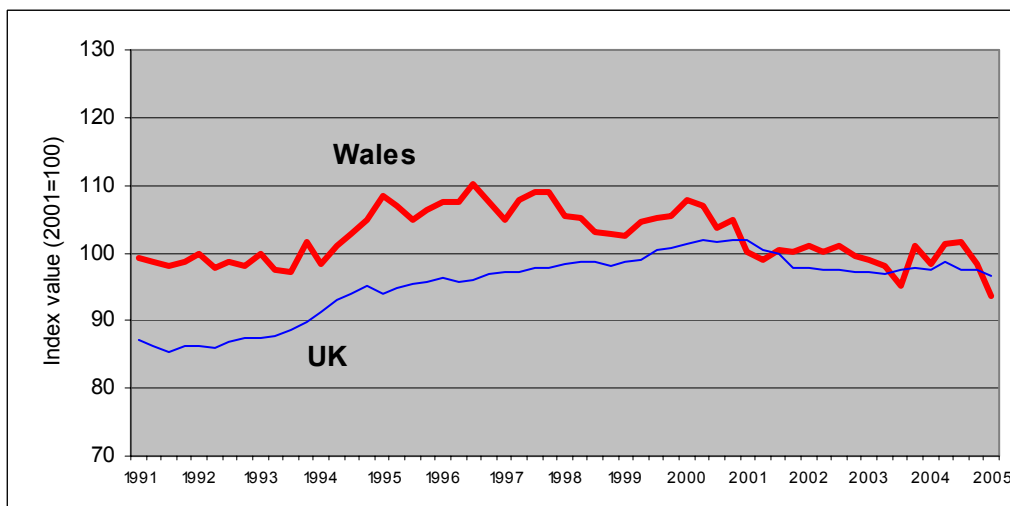


1. Production industries are manufacturing, mining and quarrying and electricity, gas and water.

Source: National Assembly for Wales and ONS

- The Index of Production and Construction for Wales for the latest four quarters rose by 1.2% compared with the previous four quarters. There were *increases* in electricity, gas & water and construction sectors, which were offset by a decrease in the manufacturing sector. The UK index rose by 0.8% over the same period.

Figure 3.2 Index of production¹: Wales and the UK

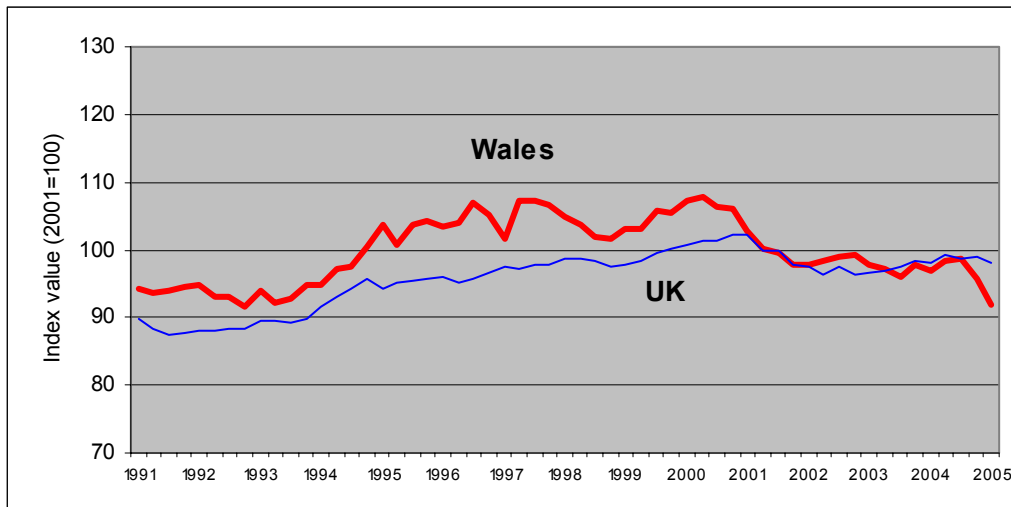


1. Production industries are manufacturing, mining and quarrying and electricity, gas and water.

Source: National Assembly for Wales and ONS

- Production output over the latest four quarters rose by 0.5% compared with the previous four quarters. There was a *rise* in the UK index of 0.1% during this period.
- Production output for the latest quarter fell by 4.7% compared with the previous quarter. The UK figure showed a *fall* of 0.8% on last quarter.

Figure 3.3 Index of manufacturing: Wales and the UK

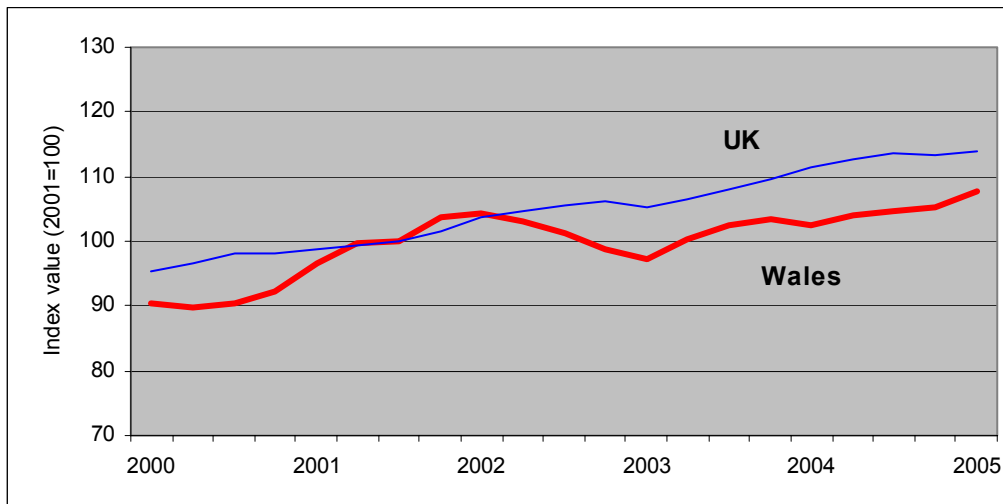


Source: National Assembly for Wales and ONS

- Manufacturing output over the latest four quarters *fell* by 0.8% compared with the previous four quarters. Manufacturing output in the UK *rose* by 1.1% during this period.
- Manufacturing output for the latest quarter *fell* by 4.1% compared with the previous quarter. The UK index *fell* by 0.8%.

1.2 THE ECONOMY

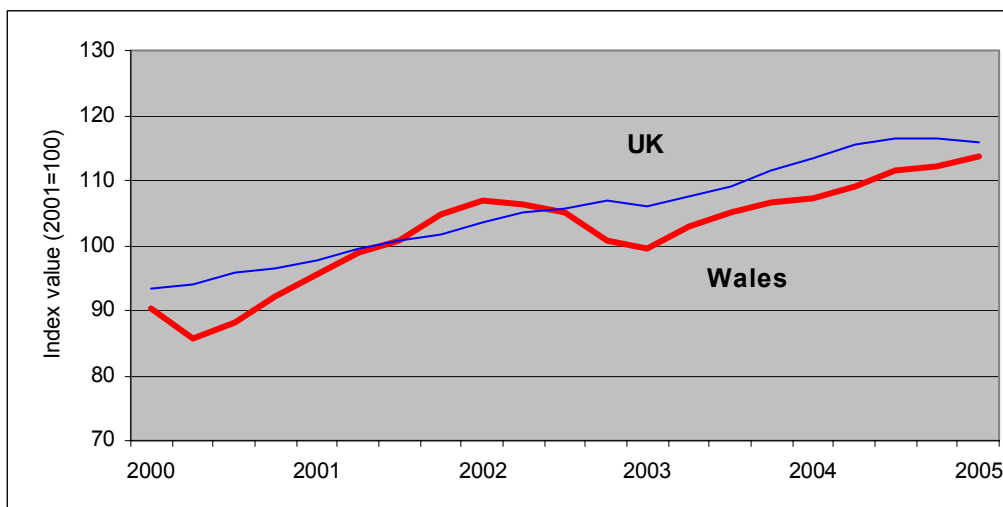
Figure 4.1 Index of distribution: Wales and the UK



Source: National Assembly for Wales and ONS

- The Index of Distribution for Wales for the latest four quarters *rose* by 3.3% compared with the previous four quarters. There were *increases* in retail and wholesale sectors which were offset by a *decrease* in the motor trade sector. The UK index *rose* by 4.2% over the same period.

Figure 4.2 Index of retail: Wales and the UK



Source: National Assembly for Wales and ONS

- Output in the Welsh retail sector *increased* by 5.9% in the latest four quarters compared with the previous four quarters. There was a *rise* in the UK index of 5.1% during this period.
- Retail output for the latest quarter *rose* by 1.2% compared with the previous quarter. The UK figure showed a *fall* of 0.4% on last quarter.

Table 7 Value of exports¹: Wales

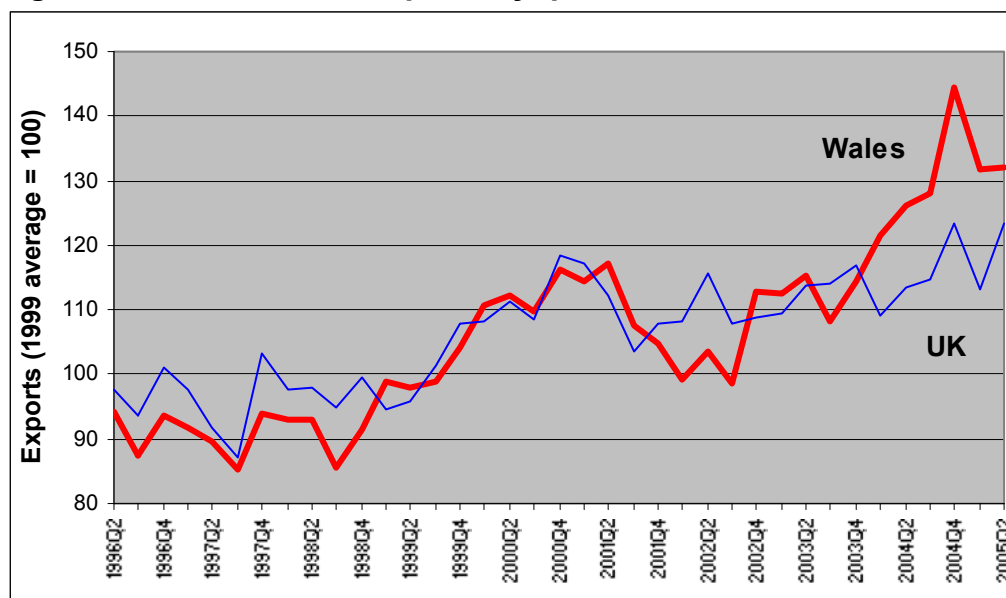
	4 quarters ending Jun 2004	4 quarters ending Jun 2005	Value of exports, £m	
			Change £m	percentage
Exports to: the EU ²	5,066	5,465	399	7.9%
the rest of the world ²	2,454	3,106	652	26.6%
Total exports	7,520	8,571	1,051	14.0%
Total exports for UK regions³	165,375	172,987	7,612	4.6%

	Quarter ending Jun 2004	Quarter ending Jun 2005	Value of exports, £m	
			Change £m	percentage
Exports to: the EU ²	1,349	1,246	-103	-7.6%
the rest of the world ²	669	864	195	29.1%
Total exports	2,018	2,111	92	4.6%
Total exports for UK regions³	41,395	44,974	3,579	8.6%

1. HM Customs and Excise figures exclude exports to the rest of the world for which the region of origin cannot be established. Some types of exports are not regionalised, for example oil and 'erratics'.
2. As some types of exports are not regionalised, exports from Wales are compared to the total of all regionalised exports rather than the overall UK total.

Source: HM Revenue and Customs

Figure 4 Value of total exports by quarter: Wales and the UK



Source: HM Revenue and Customs

- The value of total Welsh exports for the 4 quarters ending June 2005 *rose* by 14.0% compared to the 4 quarters ending June 2004. The corresponding figure for the total of the UK regions was a *rise* of 4.6%.
- The value of Welsh exports to the EU *rose* by 7.9% over this period, while the value of exports to the rest of the World increased by 26.6%. The EU still accounts for almost two thirds of Welsh exports by value.
- The value of total Welsh exports in the 2nd quarter of 2005 *rose* by 4.6% on the same quarter in 2004. This compared to a *rise* of 8.6% for the total of the UK regions.
- The value of Welsh exports in the four quarters to quarter 2 of 2005 were over 30% to 40% higher than the average for 1999. This new peak follows a substantial recovery in 2003 and 2004, after a decline in 2002.

2 ANNUAL DATA

2.1 SUMMARY DATA

Table 8 Headline economic indicators: Wales

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
GVA per head¹ (UK=100)	79.4	78.6	78.4	78.7	78.4	79.0	na
Household income per head² (UK=100)	87.5	87.4	87.7	87.9	88.3	88.3	na
Business start-up rate³							
Wales	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.6	8.0	8.7	na
UK	11.0	10.4	10.3	9.5	9.9	10.6	na
Non-agricultural business start-up rate³							
Wales	9.7	9.5	9.8	9.2	9.6	10.5	na
UK	11.8	11.2	11.1	10.2	10.5	11.3	na
Businesses per head⁴							
Wales	454	454	452	453	455	451	448
UK	473	481	486	489	490	490	492
Non-agricultural businesses per head⁴							
Wales	350	352	351	354	358	355	356
UK	429	438	443	448	449	450	453
Gross weekly earnings (£) ⁵							
Wales	348.5	358.7	372.8	385.8	405.2	421.8	444.7
UK	392.5	407.8	425.1	449.7	472.1	487.1	506.9
Growth in exports on previous year⁶							
Wales	0.7%	10.1%	12.2%	-1.0%	-6.8%	8.7%	15.6%
sum of UK regions	2.6%	2.6%	11.5%	-1.2%	0.0%	3.1%	1.5%
Business enterprise R&D⁷							
Percentage of GDP	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	na

na These figures are not yet available.

1. **Source: ONS, Regional Accounts**
2. **Source: ONS, Regional Accounts**
3. Total and non-agricultural VAT registrations as a percentage of the start year (1 January each year) stock of VAT registered businesses.
Source: Small Business Service (SBS)
4. Start year stock (1 January each year) of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 population of working age.
Source: SBS (ONS for population)
5. Gross weekly earnings for full-time persons on adult rates, figures relate to April each year. The data for 2004 exclude information from supplement surveys to be consistent with earlier years for which the supplement survey information is not available.
Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)
6. Growth in the total value of exports, EU plus non-EU, over the previous year.
Source: HM Customs and Excise
7. **Source: ONS, Business Enterprise R&D Survey and Regional Accounts**

Table 9 Local labour market statistics¹: Welsh local authorities, 2004

	Employment ²		ILO unemployment ³		Economic inactivity ⁴		Economic inactivity (excluding students) ⁴	
	Level (thousands)	Rate (%)	Level (thousands)	Rate (%)	Level (thousands)	Rate (%)	Level (thousands)	Rate (%)
United Kingdom	28,037	74.4	1,391	4.7	7,934	21.8	6,247	18.7
Wales	1,291	71.4	64	4.7	436	25.0	354	22.2
Isle of Anglesey	30	71.9	2	4.9	10	24.2	8	20.7
Gwynedd	53	73.7	2	3.5	16	23.5	11	18.2
Conwy	48	74.4	2	3.7	14	22.6	11	18.9
Denbighshire	44	76.4	2	3.4	12	20.9	9	18.3
Flintshire	76	79.3	2	2.4	17	18.6	13	15.6
Wrexham	61	73.5	2	3.3	19	24.0	16	21.1
Powys	61	77.1	1	2.3	16	21.1	13	18.1
Ceredigion	35	68.2	2	5.1	14	27.9	9	21.1
Pembrokeshire	49	70.6	3	5.2	17	25.3	15	23.6
Carmarthenshire	72	68.1	3	4.6	29	28.5	25	26.2
Swansea	99	70.6	6	5.6	33	25.0	26	22.5
Neath Port Talbot	52	64.1	4	6.4	25	31.4	22	29.6
Bridgend	59	74.6	2	3.5	18	22.6	15	21.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	55	73.5	3	5.3	16	22.3	13	19.9
Cardiff	143	72.5	7	4.8	46	23.8	30	18.4
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	97	69.0	6	6.0	37	26.5	32	24.8
Merthyr Tydfil	22	63.5	2	6.5	11	32.0	9	30.1
Caerphilly	70	65.6	5	7.0	31	29.4	27	27.8
Blaenau Gwent	27	63.8	2	7.5	13	30.9	11	29.4
Torfaen	39	70.0	2	5.7	14	25.7	12	23.8
Monmouthshire	41	77.0	1	2.8	11	20.7	9	19.1
Newport	59	70.3	3	5.1	21	25.8	18	23.7

1. Data are taken from the Welsh Local / Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, and represent annual estimates of the position in 2003. As the sample for the annual dataset is based on a boosted sample of individuals in 21,000 households in Wales, figures are available at a local authority level. This is not the case for the quarterly Labour Force Survey figures behind the numbers given in tables 1 and 2 and figures 1 and 2, which are not based on a boosted sample, but which provide more timely headline figures.
2. Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).
3. Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. The rate is as a proportion of economically active (employed plus ILO unemployed). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment covers those who are out of work and want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; plus those who are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next 2 weeks.
4. Levels and rates are for those of working age (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).

Source: Welsh Local Labour Force Survey

- Working age employment rates varied from 63.5% in Merthyr Tydfil to 79.3% in Flintshire.
- Unemployment rates for economically active people aged 16 or over varied from 2.3% in Powys and 2.4% in Flintshire to 7.0% in Caerphilly and 7.5% in Blaenau Gwent.
- When looking at economic inactivity between local authorities it is important to exclude students as they are disproportionately spread between local authorities. 22.2% of the working age population excluding students in Wales were economically inactive. The highest rate was 30.1% in Merthyr Tydfil, and the lowest rate was 15.6% in Flintshire.