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

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

The bulletin is divided into quarterly and annual data sections. The quarterly data section provides the latest quarterly (or monthly) data and generally shows changes on the same period in the previous year¹. The annual data section provides a summary of any data compiled on an annual basis that have been released since the last bulletin in October 2002; a summary table of headline indicators is also given in this section.

¹ Changes on the previous quarter in the Labour Force Survey measures for employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity are *not* included in this bulletin, as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have *temporarily* withdrawn the seasonally adjusted series in the absence of satisfactory population figures for Wales for the period 1982 to 2000. These data will be reinstated in the next bulletin, which will be published after ONS release revised population data for Wales for this period (in February / March 2003). It should also be noted that the UK Labour Force Survey levels data take account of revised population estimates in the light of Census 2001, while the Wales data do not.

1 QUARTERLY DATA

1.1 THE LABOUR MARKET

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

thousands, not seasonally adjusted

		Sep - Nov 2001	Sep - Nov 2002	Change on previous year
Employment²				
Wales	<i>level</i>	1,266	1,303	36
	<i>rate (%)</i>	69.4	71.3	1.9
UK	<i>level</i>	27,621	27,844	223
	<i>rate (%)</i>	74.5	74.7	0.2
ILO unemployment³				
Wales	<i>level</i>	72	75	3
	<i>rate (%)</i>	5.4	5.4	0.1
UK	<i>level</i>	1,498	1,530	31
	<i>rate (%)</i>	5.1	5.2	0.1
Economic inactivity⁴				
Wales	<i>level</i>	469	435	-34
	<i>rate (%)</i>	26.6	24.5	-2.0
UK	<i>level</i>	7,652	7,604	-47
	<i>rate (%)</i>	21.3	21.1	-0.2

1. The figures given in this table are **not** seasonally adjusted as in previous bulletins, as the seasonally adjusted series for Wales have been temporarily withdrawn in the absence of satisfactory population estimates for Wales for the period 1982 to 2000.
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. 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).

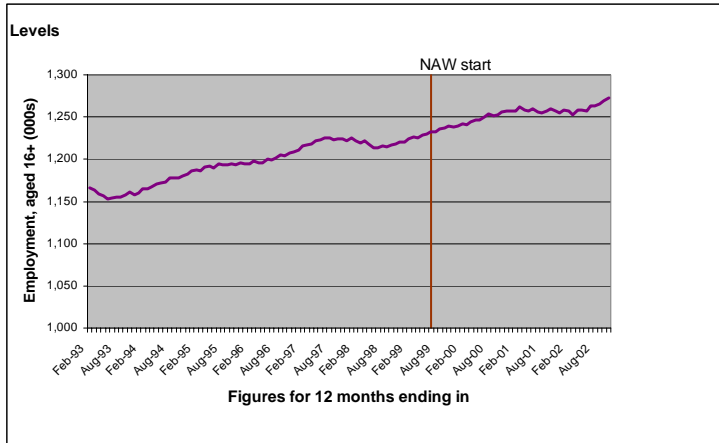
Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Compared with the same period a year ago:

- in the three months to November 2002, employment increased in Wales while economic inactivity decreased. ILO unemployment increased slightly;
- This pattern of change was similar to the UK as a whole, although the increase in employment and reduction in economic inactivity were proportionately greater in Wales.

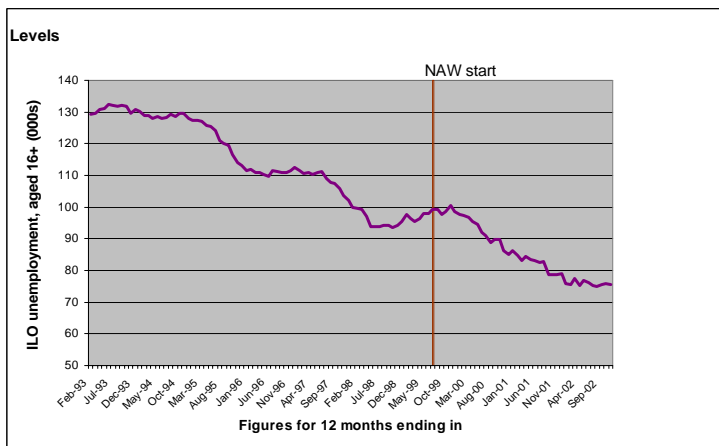
All of the estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variation, which means that changes over time can be quite volatile, particularly for an area the size of Wales. It is therefore often more appropriate to examine the trend in a particular measure. The trend in the LFS measures given in table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

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



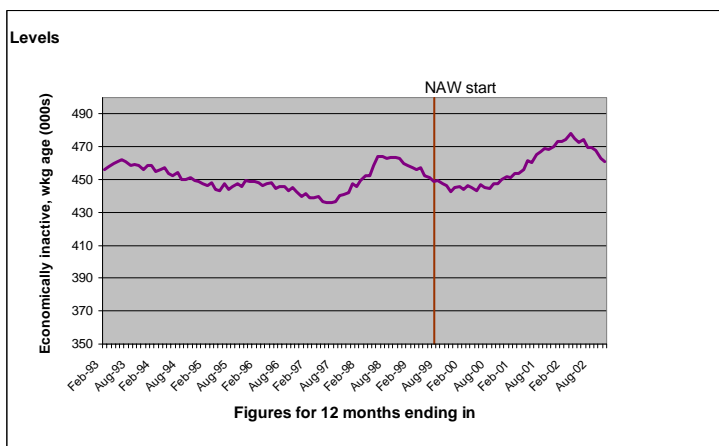
For the 12 months to November 2002:

- the average employment level was 41,000 (or 3.3%) higher than over the 12 months to July 1999.
- The employment level has been rising since the middle of 2002, following a period of little change over the previous year and a half.



For the 12 months to November 2002:

- average ILO unemployment was 24,000 (or 23.9%) lower than over the 12 months to July 1999.
- Unemployment trended downwards throughout 2000 and 2001 and has flattened off since then.



For the 12 months to November 2002:

- the average number of economically inactive people of working age was 12,000 (or 2.6%) higher than over the 12 months to July 1999.
- The trend in economic inactivity has been sharply downwards since early 2002, following increases during 2000 and 2001.

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

thousands, not seasonally adjusted

		Sep - Nov 2001	Sep - Nov 2002	Change on previous year
Employment¹				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	767	776	9
	<i>rate (%)</i>	67.3	68.2	1.0
East Wales	<i>level</i>	499	527	28
	<i>rate (%)</i>	73.0	76.3	3.4
ILO unemployment²				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	48	48	-0
	<i>rate (%)</i>	5.9	5.8	-0.1
East Wales	<i>level</i>	24	27	3
	<i>rate (%)</i>	4.6	4.9	0.3
Economic inactivity³				
West Wales and the Valleys	<i>level</i>	314	304	-10
	<i>rate (%)</i>	28.4	27.5	-1.0
East Wales	<i>level</i>	155	130	-24
	<i>rate (%)</i>	23.4	19.6	-3.8

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. 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).

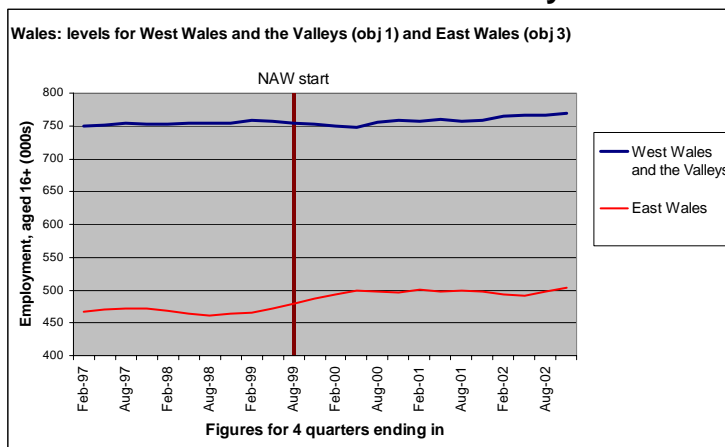
Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)

As the figures given in table 1 are *not* seasonally adjusted, the estimates given in table 2 are comparable to those given in table 1, unlike in previous bulletins. Once again a quarterly change is not shown, as this would be heavily affected by seasonal factors.

- In the three months to November 2002, the employment rate rose by 1.0 percentage point in the Objective 1 area (West Wales and the Valleys) compared to the same period a year ago, while there was a corresponding increase of 3.4 percentage points in East Wales.
- Over the same period, the unemployment rate fell slightly in West Wales and the Valleys but rose by 0.3 percentage points in East Wales.
- The economic inactivity rate fell in both areas, by 1.0 percentage point in West Wales and the Valleys and by a more pronounced 3.8 percentage points in East Wales.

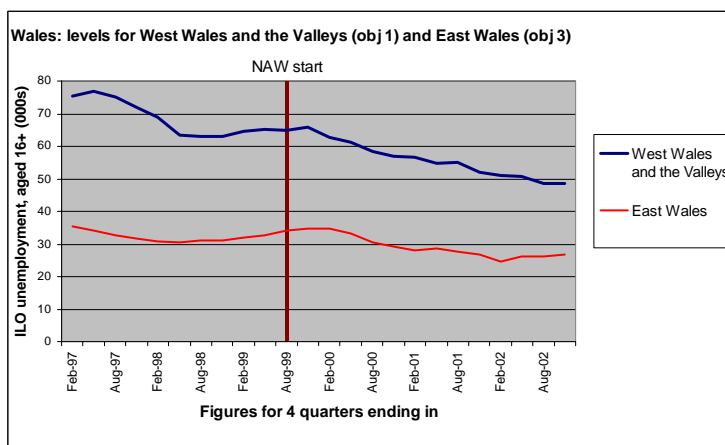
All of the estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variation, which means that changes over time can be quite volatile, particularly when the areas in question are sub-divisions of Wales where the variability is more pronounced than that at the Wales level. Again, it is often more appropriate to examine the trend in a particular measure. The trend in the LFS measures given in table 2 can be seen from a 12 month rolling average and the results for West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales are shown in figure 2.

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



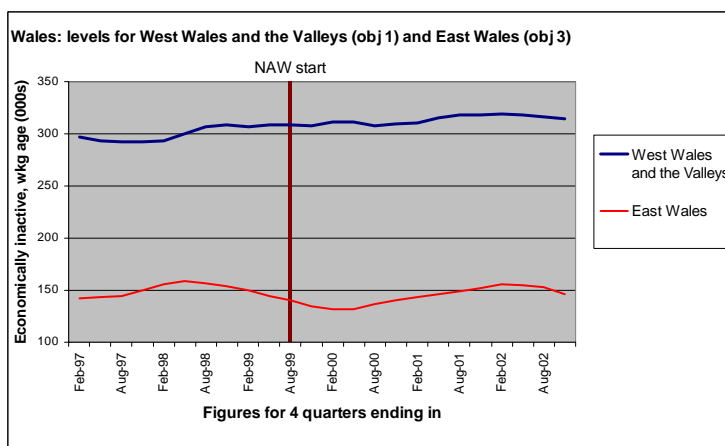
For the twelve months to November 2002:

- the average employment level in West Wales and the Valleys was 15,000 (or 2.0%) higher than over the 12 months to July 1999. For East Wales the level was 25,000 (or 5.2%) higher.
- In both areas, the trend has been upward in recent months.



For the twelve months to November 2002:

- average unemployment in West Wales and the Valleys was 16,000 (or 25.1%) lower than over the 12 months to July 1999. For East Wales the average was down 7,000 (or 21.3%).
- The trend over recent months has been flat in West Wales and slightly upwards in East Wales.



For the twelve months to November 2002:

- compared to the 12 months to July 1999, economic inactivity among those of working age increased by around 5,000 (or 1.7%) for West Wales and the Valleys, compared to an increase of 6,000 (or 4.2%) for East Wales.
- The trend has been downward in both areas since early 2002.

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

thousands

	Quarter ending in:			Change on:	
	Sep 2001	Jun 2002	Sep 2002	previous quarter	previous year
Not seasonally adjusted:					
Civilian workforce jobs	1,228	..	1,245	..	17
Employee jobs	1,078	..	1,076	..	-2
of which:					
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	15	..	15	..	1
Mining, Energy and Water Supplies Industries	10	..	9	..	-1
Manufacturing Industries	193	..	181	..	-12
Construction	54	..	54	..	-1
Service Industries	428	..	425	..	-2
Other Industries	379	..	392	..	13
Seasonally adjusted:					
Employee jobs	1,069	1,074	1,068	-6	-2

.. 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. 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 September 2002, civilian workforce jobs in Wales increased by 1.4%, whereas employee jobs remained fairly stable, showing a slight reduction.
- Employee jobs in manufacturing fell by 12,000 (or 6.2%) over the same period.
- The largest increase over the period was in 'other industries' (which include the health and education sectors), up 13,000 (or 3.5%).

Table 4 Distribution of employee jobs by industry: Wales

% of total employee jobs, *not* seasonally adjusted

	Quarter ending in:		Change on previous year
	Sep 2001	Sep 2002	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1.4	1.4	0.0
Mining, Energy and Water Supplies Industries	0.9	0.8	-0.1
Manufacturing Industries	17.9	16.8	-1.1
Construction	5.0	5.0	0.0
Service Industries	39.7	39.5	-0.2
Other Industries	35.2	36.4	1.3

Source: Employer surveys

- 39.5% of all employee jobs in Wales were in service industries in the quarter ending September 2002.
- The next largest industry group in terms of employee jobs was 'other industries', with 36.4% of the total. This category is predominantly public administration, education and health.
- Manufacturing industries accounted for 16.8% of all employee jobs, a fall on the September 2001 figure of 17.9%.

Table 5 Claimant count: Wales and the UK*thousands, seasonally adjusted: workforce¹ based rates*

		Dec 2001	Nov 2002	Dec 2002	Change on:	
					previous month	previous year
Wales	<i>level</i>	48.5	46.2	45.5	-0.7	-3.0
	<i>rate (%)</i>	3.7	3.6	3.5	-0.1	-0.2
UK	<i>level</i>	960.3	934.1	928.3	-5.8	-32.0
	<i>rate (%)</i>	3.2	3.1	3.1	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: Benefits Agency administrative system

- In December 2002, the claimant count fell in both Wales and the UK compared to the same period a year ago, although the fall was proportionately more marked in Wales.
- Compared to the previous month, the claimant count also fell in both Wales and the UK as a whole.
- In December 2002, the claimant count rate in Wales was 0.4 percentage points higher than the UK figure.

Table 6 Claimant count: West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales¹*thousands, not seasonally adjusted: residence² based rates*

		Dec 2001	Dec 2002	Change on previous year
Wales⁴	<i>level</i>	48.4	45.5	-2.9
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.8	2.6	-0.2
West Wales and the Valleys²	<i>level</i>	32.8	30.2	-2.6
	<i>rate (%)</i>	3.0	2.8	-0.2
East Wales⁴	<i>level</i>	15.6	15.3	-0.3
	<i>rate (%)</i>	2.5	2.4	-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.

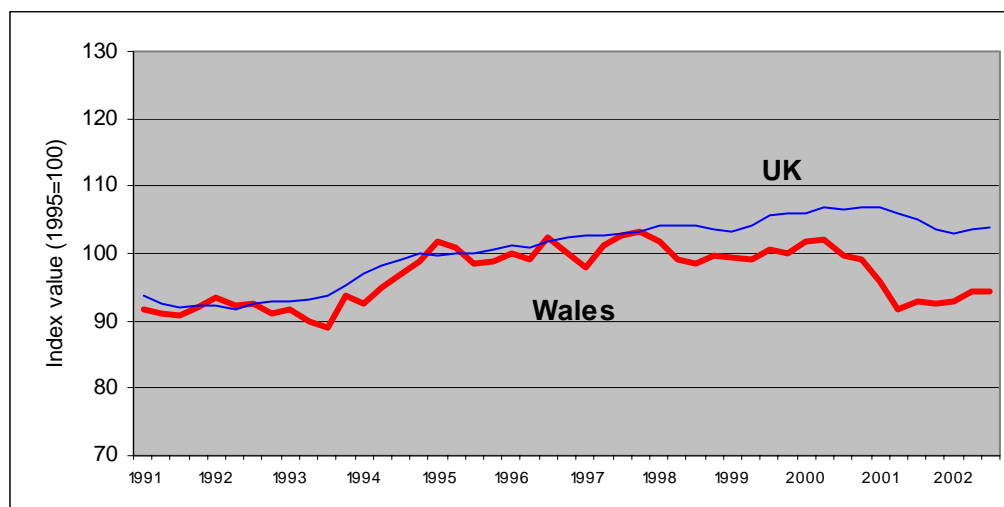
2. Claimant count rates in this table are calculated using residence-based denominators, which is now the standard method for calculation of rates for local areas within regions and removes distortions due to commuting in and out of areas. Claimant count rates at the regional level are calculated on 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: Benefits Agency administrative system

- In December 2002, the claimant count fell in both the Objective 1 area (West Wales and the Valleys) and in East Wales compared to the same period a year ago, although the fall was more pronounced in West Wales and the Valleys.
- The claimant count rate in West Wales and the Valleys fell by 0.2 percentage points over the same period, but remains 0.4 percentage points higher than in East Wales, which fell by 0.1 percentage points.

1.2 THE ECONOMY

Figure 3 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, ONS

- Output of Welsh production industries and the construction sector *fell* by 1.4% in the four quarters ending in September 2002 compared with same period a year ago. Output for the UK *fell* by 2.5% over the same period.
- There is evidence of stabilisation and a modest recovery over recent quarters following sharp falls through the second half of 2000 and the first half of 2001. The index has increased in each of the 3 most recent quarters and in Q3 2002 was 2.9% higher than the recent low point in Q2 2001.
- Falls in the overall index since the middle of 2000, and growth in the most recent data, mainly reflect movements in manufacturing output.

Table 7 Value of exports¹: Wales

	Quarter ending Sep 2001	Quarter ending Sep 2002	Change	
			£m	percentage
Exports to:				
the EU	1,136	1,052	-84	-7%
the rest of the world	502	418	-84	-17%
Total exports	1,638	1,470	-168	-10%
Total exports for UK regions^c	38,322	38,863	541	1%

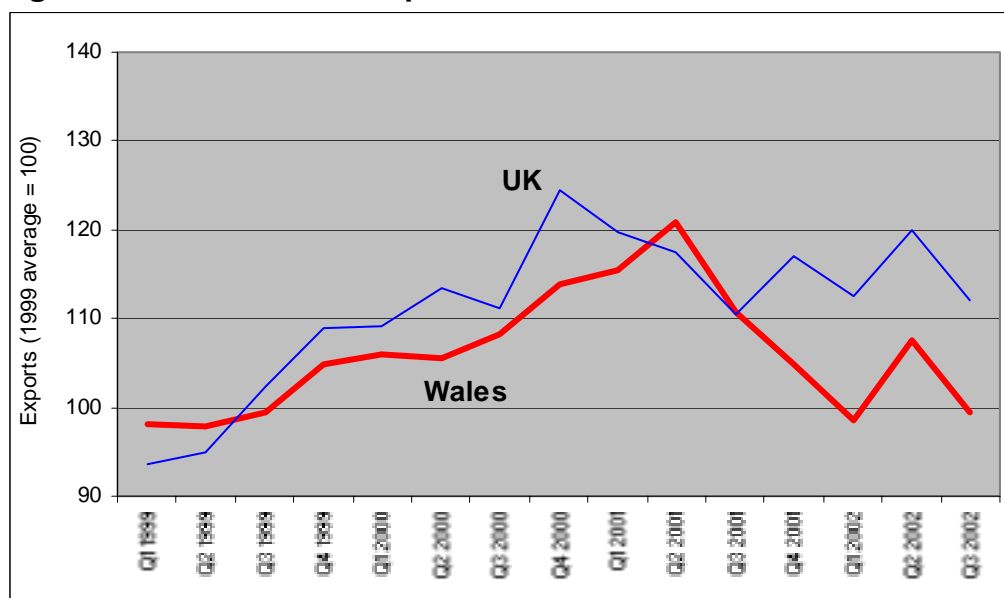
Value of exports, £m

	Year ending quarter 3, 2001	Year ending quarter 3, 2002	Change	
			£m	percentage
Exports to:				
the EU	4,788	4,426	-362	-8%
the rest of the world	2,027	1,642	-385	-19%
Total exports	6,815	6,068	-747	-11%
Total exports for UK regions^c	163,716	160,117	-3,599	-2%

1. HM Customs and Excise figures exclude exports to the EU for companies that export less than the intrastat threshold (currently £233,000); the figures also 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 Customs and Excise

Figure 4 Value of total exports: Wales and the UK



Source: HM Customs and Excise

- In the three months to September 2002, just over 70% of Welsh exports, by value, were to EU countries.
- The value of total exports in the third quarter of 2002 fell by 10% on the same period a year ago. This compared to a rise of 1% for the total of the UK regions.
- Although the value of Welsh exports to EU countries fell over this period (7%), the fall was much more pronounced in the value of Welsh exports to the rest of the world (17%).
- The value of total exports over the **year** ending in the third quarter of 2002 fell by 11% over the corresponding period a year earlier. This compared to a fall of 2% for the total of the UK regions.
- Over the period since the first quarter of 1999, Welsh exports were at their highest level in the second quarter of 2001 (up 21% on the 1999 average), since when they have declined to stand at the 1999 average in the third quarter of 2002.

2 ANNUAL DATA

2.1 SUMMARY DATA

Table 8 Headline economic indicators: Wales

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
GDP per head¹ (UK=100)	80.2	80.5	na	na	na
Household income per head^c (UK=100)	88.0	87.5	na	na	na
Business start up rate^d					
Wales	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.1	na
UK	11.5	10.8	11.1	10.5	na
Businesses per head^e					
Wales	325	323	318	315	316
UK	344	349	349	349	351
Gross weekly earnings^g					
Wales	343	354	368	382	400
GB	386	402	420	444	464
UK	384	400	418	442	462
Growth in exports on previous year^h					
Wales	na	na	8.5%	4.2%	na
sum of UK regions	na	na	14.5%	1.4%	na
Business enterprise R&Dⁱ					
Percentage of GDP	0.4%	0.7%	na	na	na
Percentage of UK	1.2%	1.8%	1.3%	1.1%	na
Businesses making sales via the web^o					
Wales	na	na	na	8.2%	na
UK	na	na	na	11.3%	na

na These figures are not yet available.

- Figures released on 21 November 2002 revising the series of regional GDP figures for the period 1989 to 1999 updating these were withdrawn by the ONS on 10 December 2002 following the discovery of errors in their calculation. Revised estimates for 1989 to 1999, together with estimates for 2000 and 2001 will now be released in Spring 2003. In the meantime, the original estimates published on 21 February 2001, as given above, should continue to be used.
Source: ONS, Regional Accounts
- Source: ONS, Regional Accounts**
- VAT registrations as a percentage of the start year (1 April each year) stock of VAT registered businesses.
Source: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- Start year stock (1 April each year) of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 population aged 15 and over. Note the population data for each year are estimated for Wales on a basis consistent with the 2001 Census results. The data required for calculating these estimates are only available in five-year age bands, and so the population used is that aged 15 and above.
Source: DTI
- Gross weekly earnings for full-time persons on adult rates, figures relate to April each year. Figures for the UK have recently been obtained and are included alongside the figures for Great Britain included in previous bulletins.
Source: ONS, Regional Accounts
- Growth in the total value of exports, EU plus non-EU, over the previous year.
Source: HM Customs and Excise
- The higher figure for 1999 is due to an individual project that has since ended.
Source: ONS, R&D Survey
- Includes businesses with 10 or more employees only. Figures for 2000 are available but are not consistent with those for 2001.
Source: ONS, e-Commerce Survey

Since 1998:

- The business start up rate in Wales has remained fairly static, whilst the UK rate has fluctuated, with an overall decrease. As a result, the Welsh rate has risen from 70% of the UK rate in 1998 to 77% of the UK rate in 2001.
- The number of VAT registered businesses per head in Wales has fallen (by 2.8%) while the figure for the UK has risen by 2.0%. There has been a divergence from the UK, falling from 94% of the UK figure in 1998 to 90% in 2002.
- Gross weekly earnings in Wales have increased steadily over the period, although the average has fallen from 89% of the UK figure in 1998 to 86% in 2002. Much of this relative fall occurred between 2000 and 2001. Over the most recent year earnings growth in Wales has kept pace with the UK.
- Business enterprise research and development expenditure stood at 1.1% of the UK total in 2001, down from 1.3% in the previous year.
- 8.2% of businesses in Wales made sales over the internet in 2001, compared to 11.3% across the UK as a whole.

2.2 ANNUAL DATA RELEASED DURING THE LAST QUARTER

Table 9 Gross average weekly earnings for full-time employees on adult rates¹, April 2002: local areas within Wales

	Average gross weekly pay 2002 (£)	Percentage relative to Wales	Percentage relative to GB excluding London and the South East	Percentage relative to UK
UK	462	115.6	109.1	100.0
Great Britain	464	116.2	109.6	100.5
Great Britain excluding London and the South East	424	106.0	100.0	91.7
Wales	400	100.0	94.3	86.5
West Wales and the Valleys	384	96.2	90.7	83.2
East Wales	419	104.9	98.9	90.7
Blaenau Gwent	..	..	..	..
Bridgend	394	98.7	93.1	85.3
Caerphilly	378	94.7	89.3	81.9
Cardiff	442	110.6	104.3	95.7
Carmarthenshire	375	93.7	88.4	81.1
Ceredigion	..	..	..	..
Conwy	353	88.3	83.3	76.4
Denbighshire	..	..	..	..
Flintshire	436	109.0	102.8	94.3
Gwynedd	393	98.4	92.8	85.1
Isle of Anglesey	..	..	..	..
Merthyr Tydfil	..	..	..	..
Monmouthshire	377	94.3	89.0	81.6
Neath Port Talbot	417	104.4	98.5	90.3
Newport	400	100.1	94.4	86.6
Pembrokeshire	..	..	..	..
Powys	371	92.9	87.6	80.3
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	385	96.4	90.9	83.4
Swansea	384	96.1	90.6	83.1
Torfaen	388	97.0	91.5	83.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	425	106.4	100.4	92.0
Wrexham	379	94.7	89.4	81.9

1. Full time employees on adult rates, whose pay for the survey period was unaffected by absence.

2. .. indicates that data are not sufficiently robust for publication.

Source: ONS, New Earnings Survey

- Average gross weekly earnings for full-time adults in East Wales in April 2002 were 4.9% above the Welsh average, whilst those for West Wales and the Valleys were 3.8% below the Welsh average.
- Average earnings in both regions were below the average across Great Britain excluding London and the South East of England (GBX), with East Wales 1.1% below and West Wales and the Valleys 9.3% below.
- 2002 data for 16 of the 22 local authorities in Wales is considered to be sufficiently robust for publication. Of these 16, Cardiff had the highest average gross weekly earnings of £442, which is 10.6% above the Welsh average, and 4.3% above the average across GBX. Average earnings in Conwy were the lowest of the 16, at £353, 16.7% below the average across GBX.

Table 10 Gross average weekly earnings for full-time employees on adult rates, April 2002: occupation groupings

Occupation grouping	Males	Females	Persons
	Wales relative to GB excluding London and the South East	Wales relative to GB excluding London and the South East	Wales relative to GB excluding London and the South East
Managers and administrators	93.7	97.9	94.5
Professional occupations	101.3	102.9	101.6
Associate professional and tech occupations	86.0	97.4	90.3
Clerical and secretarial	100.6	93.6	96.6
Craft and related occupations	94.4	..	..
Personal and protective services	100.8	96.5	99.7
Sales occupations	85.1	93.1	87.2
Plant and machine operatives	98.4	95.4	98.0
Other	93.1	92.8	93.4
Non-manual total	92.7	98.1	94.1
Manual total	96.0	96.4	96.2

1. Full time employees on adult rates, whose pay for the survey period was unaffected by absence.
2. .. indicates that data are not sufficiently robust for publication.

Source: ONS, New Earnings Survey

- Average gross weekly earnings for full-time adults in Wales in the different occupations are generally lower than the average across Great Britain excluding London and the South East (GBX).
- The difference tends to be less significant for manual work than it is for non-manual work, as the distribution of manual earnings is more concentrated.
- For three occupational groupings, namely associate professional and technical occupations sales occupations and other occupations, the relativity to GBX is below that for Wales as a whole (94.3% - see table 9). For the remaining occupational groupings the relativity is above that for Wales as a whole. Of these, earnings for professional occupations in Wales were actually above GBX in April 2002 and earnings in personal and protective services were almost exactly the same.
- Full-time women's earnings in Wales tend to be higher in relation to the GBX average for women in the higher paid occupational groupings and lower in the less well paid groupings compared to the relative position for men's earnings in Wales.

Table 11 Number of VAT registrations and de-registrations during 2001-02: local areas in Wales¹

	VAT registered businesses April 2001	Registration rate ² 2001-02	De-registration rate ³ 2001-02	VAT registered businesses April 2002	Change in number of VAT registered businesses during 2001-02
UK	1,664,370	10.5%	9.8%	1,677,100	12,730
Wales	74,265	8.1%	8.0%	74,345	80
West Wales and the Valleys	44,775	7.8%	7.4%	44,915	140
East Wales	29,525	8.6%	8.8%	29,460	-65
Blaenau Gwent	930	7.5%	7.5%	925	-5
Bridgend	2,270	11.0%	9.0%	2,310	40
Caerphilly	2,655	9.4%	8.3%	2,685	30
Cardiff	6,330	12.2%	13.3%	6,260	-70
Carmarthenshire	6,460	6.0%	6.1%	6,450	-10
Ceredigion	3,565	5.0%	4.1%	3,600	35
Conwy	3,225	7.1%	7.6%	3,210	-15
Denbighshire	2,840	7.7%	7.7%	2,840	0
Flintshire	3,700	9.2%	7.8%	3,750	50
Gwynedd	4,365	6.0%	6.0%	4,365	0
Isle of Anglesey	2,020	6.2%	6.4%	2,015	-5
Merthyr Tydfil	800	10.0%	8.1%	815	15
Monmouthshire	3,290	8.5%	8.7%	3,285	-5
Neath Port Talbot	2,165	9.7%	8.1%	2,200	35
Newport	2,610	11.3%	10.9%	2,620	10
Pembrokeshire	4,575	5.4%	5.7%	4,560	-15
Powys	7,825	4.5%	5.1%	7,775	-50
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	3,695	9.6%	8.3%	3,745	50
Swansea	3,740	12.6%	13.5%	3,705	-35
Torfaen	1,470	9.9%	8.8%	1,490	20
The Vale of Glamorgan	2,935	8.2%	9.0%	2,915	-20
Wrexham	2,835	8.6%	7.9%	2,855	20

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not add up due to independent rounding. Data are compiled from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR is a structured list of business units available for selection, mailing and grossing of statistical enquiries. It is supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is mainly used as a sampling frame for official business surveys.

2. VAT registrations as a percentage of the start year stock (1 April 2001) of VAT registered businesses.

3. VAT de-registrations as a percentage of the start year stock (1 April 2001) of VAT registered businesses.

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

In 2001-02:

- East Wales had a higher registration rate (8.6% of start year stock) than West Wales and the Valleys (7.8% of start year stock). However, overall stocks of VAT registered businesses in East Wales fell by 65 (0.2% of start year stock) during the year, compared to an increase of 140 in West Wales and the Valleys (0.3% of start year stock).
- Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, Swansea and Cardiff had the highest registration rates (12.6% and 12.2% of start year stocks respectively), although both areas showed a decline in overall stock levels during the year due to de-registration rates in excess of 13%.
- 10 of the 22 local authorities saw a rise in the overall stock levels, with the largest proportionate increases in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Neath Port Talbot (2.0%, 1.9% and 1.6% of start year stocks respectively).

Registration and de-registration rates for agricultural businesses are typically less than 1% - much lower than those for other industries (almost 10% for Wales). Consequently, overall registration and de-registration rates for rural authorities are generally lower than for urban areas. Table 12 below provides an alternative analysis, excluding agricultural businesses.

Table 12 Number of non-agricultural VAT registrations and de-registrations during 2001-02: local areas in Wales¹

	Non-agricultural VAT registered businesses April 2001	Non-agricultural registration rate ² 2001-02	Non-agricultural de-registration rate ³ 2001-02	Non-agricultural VAT registered businesses April 2002	Change in number of non-agricultural VAT registered businesses during 2001-02
UK	1,514,700	11.4%	10.4%	1,529,160	14,460
Wales	57,135	9.9%	9.5%	57,355	220
West Wales and the Valleys	33,885	9.6%	8.9%	34,085	200
East Wales	23,330	10.5%	10.5%	23,335	5
Blaenau Gwent	910	7.7%	7.7%	905	-5
Bridgend	2,165	11.5%	9.2%	2,205	40
Caerphilly	2,505	10.0%	8.6%	2,535	30
Cardiff	6,305	12.2%	13.3%	6,235	-70
Carmarthenshire	3,690	8.9%	8.3%	3,710	20
Ceredigion	1,850	8.4%	5.7%	1,895	45
Conwy	2,360	8.9%	9.5%	2,345	-15
Denbighshire	2,120	9.4%	9.0%	2,130	10
Flintshire	3,245	10.3%	8.5%	3,310	65
Gwynedd	2,915	7.7%	7.7%	2,915	0
Isle of Anglesey	1,275	8.6%	8.6%	1,275	0
Merthyr Tydfil	780	10.3%	8.3%	795	15
Monmouthshire	2,420	11.2%	11.0%	2,425	5
Neath Port Talbot	2,035	10.1%	8.4%	2,070	35
Newport	2,475	11.7%	11.3%	2,485	10
Pembrokeshire	2,805	7.1%	7.7%	2,790	-15
Powys	3,830	8.0%	8.4%	3,810	-20
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	3,555	9.8%	8.4%	3,610	55
Swansea	3,505	13.1%	14.3%	3,470	-35
Torfaen	1,415	10.2%	8.8%	1,435	20
The Vale of Glamorgan	2,670	9.0%	9.7%	2,655	-15
Wrexham	2,385	9.9%	8.6%	2,415	30

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not add up due to independent rounding. Data are compiled from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR is a structured list of business units available for selection, mailing and grossing of statistical enquiries. It is supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is mainly used as a sampling frame for official business surveys.
2. Non-agricultural VAT registrations as a percentage of the start year stock (1 April 2001) of non-agricultural VAT registered businesses.
3. Non-agricultural VAT de-registrations as a percentage of the start year stock (1 April 2001) of non-agricultural VAT registered businesses.

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

For non-agricultural businesses in 2001-02:

- East Wales again had a higher registration rate (10.5% of the start year stock) than West Wales and the Valleys (9.6% of start year stock). However, most of the rise in overall stock levels across Wales occurred in West Wales and the Valleys.
- Registration and de-registration rates were higher than the overall rates for all local authorities in Wales, particularly rural authorities (Powys' rate is 8.0% compared to 4.5% for all industries). Ceredigion exhibited the largest proportionate increases in overall stock levels of non-agricultural businesses (2.7% of start year stock).