Understanding migration to Wales: Demographics and contemporary trends

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The history of migration to Wales

- Migration into and out of Wales is nothing new but the scale and patterns of migration have changed over time.
- Migration to and from other parts of the UK has been associated, in particular, with the rise and fall of industry.
- Most migration has been across England - Wales border but there has also been significant international migration.
- In the 1880s Somali seamen were drawn to Cardiff to work in the docks and the city is now host to one of the largest British-born Somali populations in the UK.
- Workers from England, Ireland and the rural areas of Wales initially fed a growing demand for labour in the South Wales coalfields but by 1911 more workers from Ireland, Italy and Spain had joined the industrial workforce.
- Italian immigrants to Wales (primarily from Bardi) subsequently went on to establish a network of cafés, ice cream parlours and fish and chip shops.
Ice Cream as it should be since 1922

From Italy to South Wales - Fine dairy ice cream since 1922.

The Italians revel in their claim to making the finest ice cream in the world, often using traditional and secret methods handed down through the ages. Their inventiveness in creating new flavours and delicacies is unrivalled, making Italian ice cream the envy of manufacturers all around the world. Drawing on such heritage, Sidoli’s consistently endeavour to achieve high standards throughout the whole of its product range.

With over eighty years of experience the company has been the origin of National Trust for its ice cream making. Much of this process, however, was a matter of skill and experience rather than the knowledge of science - a fact that has not changed, in the least, up to the present day.

Luxury Dairy Ice Cream
Made With Fresh Milk & Double Cream

Why not try Our Real Dairy Ice Cream!
- There has been a net inflow of migrants to Wales since 1994 → around 2,400 people pa but increasing in 2004 due to the expansion of the EU
- Preliminary estimates from 2011 census (released today) indicate that the population of Wales has risen 153,000 (5%) to more than 3.06m in the last 10 years
- 90% of this growth is as a result of migration, mostly from England but also from other parts of the world
- Cardiff has seen biggest growth in Wales, up 12% (36,000) since 2001
- Cardiff has largest share of non-British residents (27,000) ahead of Wrexham and Swansea (both 8,000) and Newport (6,000)
- More than 25% of births in Cardiff are to mothers born outside the UK (19% in Newport and 13.7% in Swansea) but birth rate lags well behind the English rate of 26.2%
- Wales has an ageing population → higher proportion of 65 year olds (17%) than nearly all the regions of the UK
- Wales is far less ethnically diverse (3.6%) than other areas of UK
Recent international migration trends

- Increased international migration to Wales is associated with globalisation of labour and education markets e.g. 39% of postgraduate students at Welsh Universities are from outside the EU.
- Increased economic migration associated in particular with the accession of A8 countries into EU in May 2004.
- Around 16,000 accession migrants joined the Welsh labour market between May 2004 and May 2006.
- This represents less than 3% of all migrant workers from the new European countries in the UK, and less than 1% of total employment in Wales.
- Relatively small numbers but geographically concentrated → over half of all migrant workers from central and eastern Europe are in Carmarthenshire (Llanelli), Cardiff, Newport and Wrexham.
- Numbers have fallen considerably since 2006 but still significant populations in some areas (esp. Wrexham and Llanelli).
The majority of migrant workers from central and eastern Europe are concentrated in low skill, low paid jobs despite being more highly qualified than the British-born population.

Growing demand for migrants to work in the care sectors associated with an ageing population and changing family / household structures.

Until 2001, relatively low numbers of asylum seekers and refugees decided to settle in Wales compared to some parts of the UK but this changed when Wales became a dispersal area.

At the end of May 2009, a total of 2,322 asylum seekers were living in Wales. Over half (56.9%) were living in Cardiff, whilst Swansea had 562 asylum seekers (24.2%), Newport 364 (15.7%) and Wrexham just 74 (3.2%).

Nearly three quarters (71.1%) of those dispersed to Wales come from nine countries of origin: Afghanistan, China, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.
The impacts of migration

- Heated debates in Wales as in the rest of the UK about the implications of increased migration for the Welsh economy and society.
- On employment, there is little or no evidence that migrant workers are either ‘stealing jobs’ or ‘forcing down wages’ although some workers in some sectors may be negatively affected.
- Migrants are not only employed in jobs that nationals are reluctant to do, but are also high-value activities which fill labour market gaps, e.g., healthcare.
- Perceived link between increased migration and housing shortages.
- Issues around the provision of education for non-Welsh and English speaking children and adults.
- Concerns about increased demand and language issues in provision of health services.
- Social and cultural implications of migration and increased diversity are a particular issue in the Welsh context.
The experiences of migrants

- Growing body of evidence exploring the experiences of migrants living in Wales
- In relation to migrant workers there is some evidence of unscrupulous employers, difficulties associated with a lack of English and Welsh language skills and in some cases ill adjusted services
- Research by Shelter Cymru (2010) found evidence of tied accommodation and demand resulting in overcrowding and a need for increased enforcement action by LAs
- Survey of refugees living in Wales by CMPR (2009) found that most refugees have problems with their housing and also identified significant issues with under and unemployment including among those who are highly skilled and educated
- Research by for Race Council Cymru (2012) has found evidence of ‘everyday racism’ in public spaces particularly verbal abuse and of racism and discrimination in employment and in the delivery of public services
The Wales Migration Portal

- Changes in local demography can be unsettling and may be associated with local tensions about impacts and competition over resources.
- Need for political leadership at the local and national level to address migration controversies head on rather than legitimating concerns that are often not based on the evidence.
- This requires robust and easily accessible data on changes in local areas to enable local authorities and other service providers to deliver services equitably and respond to public concerns.
- The **Wales Migration Portal** has been commissioned by the Wales Migration Partnership and developed by Local Government Data Unit.
- The Portal brings together publicly available data for the first time in one place via an online data tool which is simple and intuitive to use.
- Secure site can be accessed through registration with the Data Unit.
- The Portal will provide users with a range of migration data and contextual information, bilingually, in table and map form.
- Also provides access to other sources of information and evidence.
# Ethnicity by local authority area (2009)

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<tr>
<th>Local Authority</th>
<th>Number of estimated people (2009)</th>
<th>Number of people from a non-white background (2009)</th>
<th>Number of people from a white background (2009)</th>
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The Migration Portal shows us that:
- Cardiff has the highest inflow of migrants from the UK, but Ceredigion is the third highest in Wales (2010 data)
- Data on the outflow of migrants to the UK has the urban authorities of Cardiff and Swansea with the most, but Carmarthenshire 4th, above many of the Valley authorities and Wrexham (2010 data)
- 39% of postgraduate students at Welsh Universities are from outside the European Union (2011)
- 8% of undergraduate students at Welsh Universities are from outside the European Union (2011)
- Whilst an urban Authority such as Wrexham had 1,118 international migrants GP registrations in 2010, rural authorities such as Gwynedd and Ceredigion had 976 and 873 respectively

The profile will be updated regularly and from mid-January 2013 it will also include the most recent census data

The Portal is a ‘work in progress’ and relies upon data provided by local authorities, the police and other service providers to ensure a comprehensive picture of the changing population of Wales
For further information

Visit our website at www.swansea.ac.uk/cmpr

Or email migration@swansea.ac.uk