



An area profile for Conwy County Borough

Corporate Research and Information Unit

October 2010

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Acknowledgements

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More statistical information about Conwy County Borough is available on our website at www.conwy.gov.uk/statistics.

Colleagues within Conwy County Borough Council can also find information on our intranet site at <http://intranet/research>.

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1 Background

- 1.1 **Did you know that without in-migration, the total population of Conwy CB would decrease by about 500 people per year? Or that the average wage in the County Borough was only equal to 73% of the British average in 2009?**
- 1.2 This area profile draws a picture of the key social, economic and environmental features of the area. It highlights many interesting facts about the County Borough, some of which may challenge current perceptions.
- 1.3 Topics covered by the area profile are:-
- population
 - the Welsh language
 - health and well-being
 - community safety
 - income
 - employment and the economy
 - skills and training
 - transport and travel to work
 - housing
 - the environment
- 1.4 The profile is prepared by the Corporate Research and Information Unit of Conwy County Borough Council. We aim to update it annually in September.
- 1.5 The information in the area profile could be used to help service planning or as background information in strategic documents. It could form the basis of further research in any topic area or it could be used by students, local community groups and businesses, or consultants who wish to study the area.
- 1.6 Please feel free to use any parts of this area profile which you find useful – but please acknowledge the source. And remember to make sure you are using the most recent version of the area profile, to ensure any information you quote is up-to-date.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Conwy County Borough (Conwy CB) is centrally located in North Wales. The County Borough has an area of 113,000 hectares and a population of 111,400 residents (mid-2009 estimate). About 38% of its area and 4% of its population are within the Snowdonia National Park.
- 2.2 Conwy CB is an area of outstanding landscape ranging from extensive sandy beaches and headlands to sheltered valleys, open moors and rugged mountains. Not surprisingly, its economy relies heavily upon tourism. Industrial employment, although limited and mainly near the coast, includes renowned manufacturing and research concerns. Rural areas and their communities are dependent on agricultural and forestry activities, even though these sectors do not provide a high level of direct employment.
- 2.3 The narrow coastal belt contains over 80% of the County Borough's population with Llandudno and Colwyn Bay as the two main urban areas. Llandudno is a major resort and also a regional shopping and cultural centre. Colwyn Bay is now a modest resort but is an increasingly important commercial and business centre. Other significant settlements are Abergele, Conwy, Kinmel Bay, Towyn, Llandudno Junction, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairfechan and Penrhyn Bay.
- 2.4 Rural Conwy CB is an attractive, mainly agricultural area with limited alternative employment and few development pressures. Its population is widely dispersed and is predominantly Welsh speaking. The main settlements are the market town of Llanrwst and the scattered villages of Betws-y-Coed, Betws yn Rhos, Eglwysbach, Llanfairtalhaiarn, Llansannan, Llangernyw, Pentrefoelas and Cerrigydrudion.
- 2.5 The principal means of access to, from and within Conwy CB are the A55 coast road (Euroroute E22), the parallel railway from Manchester and London to Holyhead, and the A5 road to the south. The A470 provides a north-south road link which is paralleled by a railway linking Llandudno Junction to Blaenau Ffestiniog. The A543, A544 and A548 provide access to the large rural area lying to the east of the River Conwy.
- 2.6 Conwy CB is not a self-contained unit and relates to surrounding areas in a variety of different ways. Specifically, the hub of Llandudno Junction, Llandudno and Conwy town has been identified as occupying a strategic position in North Wales¹, connecting the east and west, and acting as a retail, service and employment centre for a large hinterland. This is recognised in the Wales Spatial Plan as parts of the County Borough are in three different Plan areas; namely the North West, Central and North East Wales areas.

3 Population

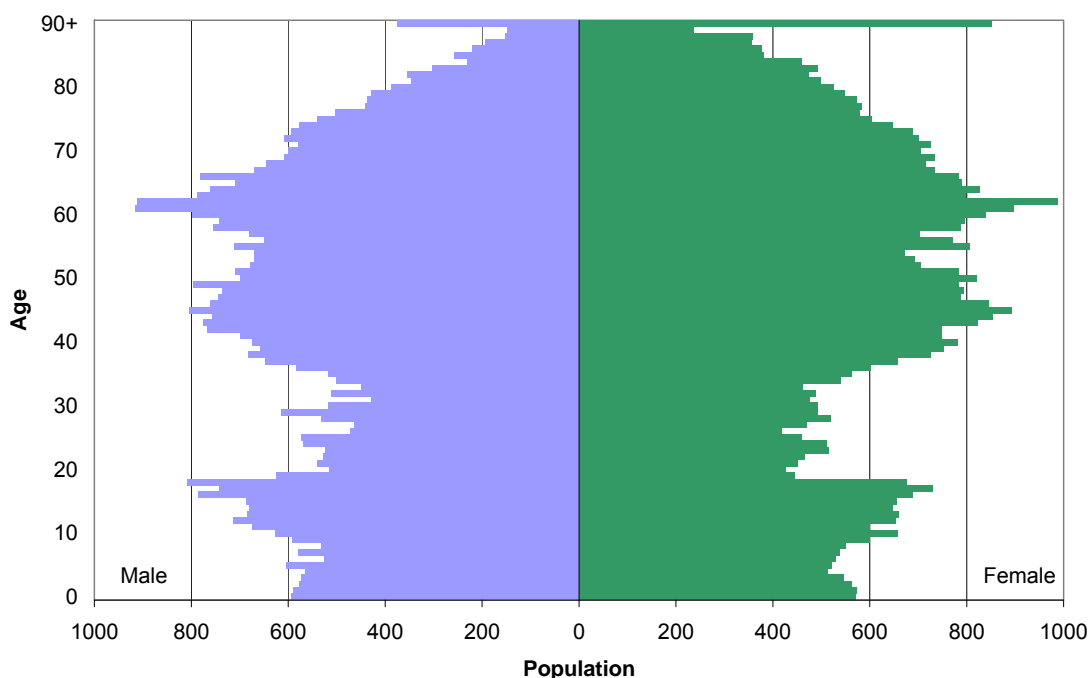
Headlines

- Population at mid year in 2009 was 111,400 residents
- More deaths than births in Conwy every year
- Population growth comes from in-migration
- High proportions of elderly in the population
- Steady population increase expected in coming years, with highest growth in older age groups

- 3.1 The usually resident population of Conwy CB at mid-year 2009 was estimated to be 111,400. The population total has not changed significantly in the last year.²
- 3.2 In most years, Conwy CB's population increases slightly. Population has grown by 2.7% since 1998 (2,900). In the same period the population of Wales increased by 3.4% and that of the UK by 5.7%.
- 3.3 The population of the County Borough does not replace itself naturally. With deaths over a ten year period at an average of 1,590 per annum and births at just 1,080³ the population of Conwy would decrease by around 500 persons per year if there were no net in-migration into the area.
- 3.4 Since 1995 average annual net migration has been approx 750 persons into Conwy CB each year. Migration is, however, a volatile component of population change and has fluctuated between a net annual figure of -500 and +1,500 persons over the past 15 years.

Chart 3.1: population pyramid for Conwy County Borough

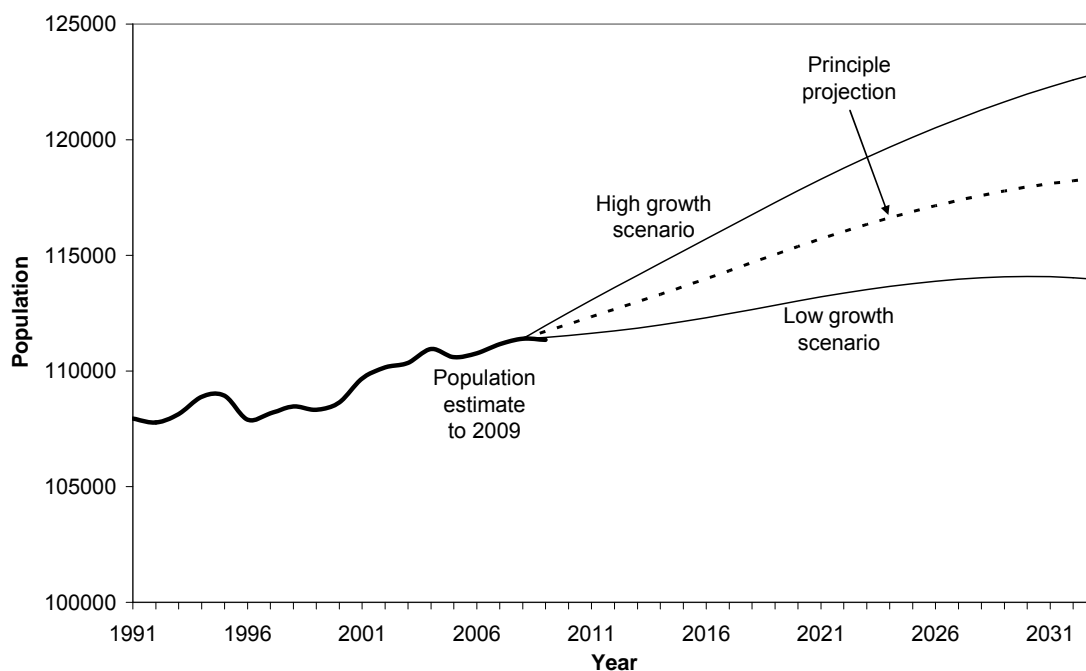
Source: Registrar General's mid year population estimates, 2009



- 3.5 At 28% of the population, Conwy has the largest proportion of post-retirement age residents in Wales, and the only areas with higher proportions of the elderly within their population in England are well established retirement areas such as West Somerset.
- 3.6 Conversely, the proportions of children and young people in the population are lower in Conwy than in other areas. A dip in the 20-34 age group is particularly noticeable.
- 3.7 Recently released estimates, which give population structures at small area levels, show that the greatest concentrations of older people, in terms of both numbers and proportions of the total population, are in the coastal settlements of Abergele, Rhos on Sea, Llandudno (Craig-y-Don, Penrhyn and Gogarth wards) and Deganwy.⁴
- 3.8 By far the youngest age profile in the County Borough is to be found in the Llysfaen ward / community council area, with only 12% of the population aged 65+, and 26% aged under 16. In Gower, Glyn, Tudno, Kinnel Bay, Llansannan and Mochdre wards the under 16s accounted for over 20% of the population, which is above the national average.⁴ Llysfaen is also the only ward in the County Borough where total annual births significantly and consistently outnumber total annual deaths.
- 3.9 Many of the areas of greatest population growth between 2001 and 2008 are concentrated along the coast: Rhiw, Kinnel Bay, Abergele Pensarn, Towyn and Llysfaen all saw population increases of over 5%. Surprisingly, the greatest increase in population was in the rural ward of Betws-y-Coed (8.3%). Areas declining in population during this period are mainly rural wards. Trefriw, Eglwysbach and Uwch Conwy all experienced a decrease in population.⁴
- 3.10 Projections produced by the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010 estimate annual change of between -0.1% and 0.5% per year for Conwy CB until 2033. Current population trends are projected forward, and show a range of differing population totals, giving population growth levels of between 2,500 and 11,500 during the projections period.
- 3.11 All projections predict significant growth in the post-retirement age population, in terms of both numbers and proportion of the population. Those aged over 64 could make up over a third of the population by the year 2033.

Chart 3.2: 2008-based population projections for Conwy

Source: Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, 2010



4 The Welsh language

Headlines

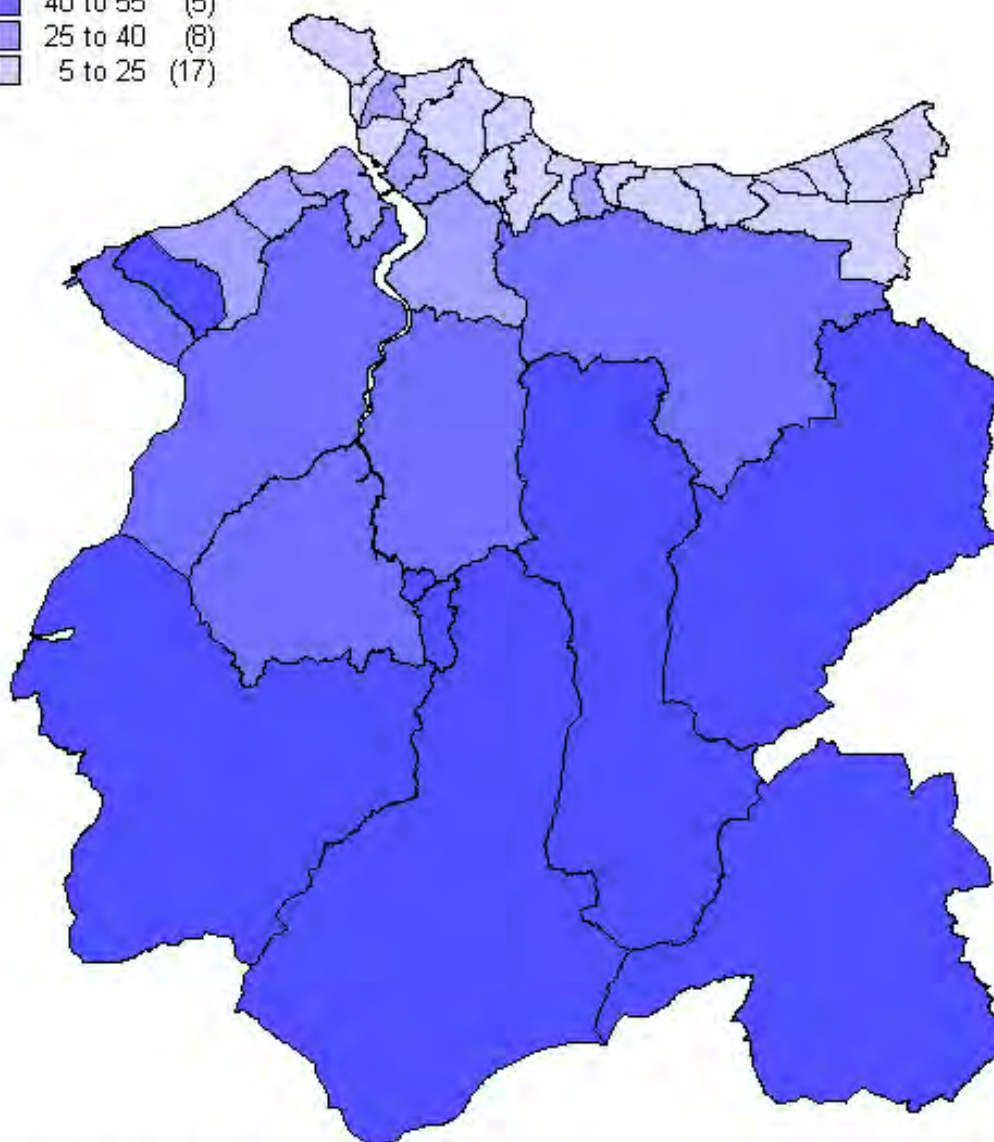
- 29% of the population are Welsh speaking
- Only 54% of residents were born in Wales
- Both proportions increase as you move west and south

Map 4.1: proportion of Welsh speakers in Conwy, by ward

Source: 2001 Census (table KS025)

Allwedd/Key

%	
55 to 73	(8)
40 to 55	(5)
25 to 40	(8)
5 to 25	(17)



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- 4.1 Only slightly more than half of the population of the County Borough were born in Wales (54%). This in part accounts for the relatively low proportion of the population who are able to speak Welsh when compared to the neighbouring districts to the West. However, 29% of the population aged 3 years old or over are Welsh speakers – considerably above the all-Wales figure of 20.5%. Ability to speak Welsh is most prevalent amongst those of school age (49.5% of 5-15 year olds can speak Welsh).
- 4.2 In general, the incidence of both Welsh speakers and those born in Wales increases towards the west, and as one travels inland from the more highly populated coastal strip. Ability to speak Welsh is at a peak in the rural southern ward of Uwchaled (74% Welsh speaking), and at its lowest in the eastern coastal community of Towyn & Kinmel Bay (less than 11%).⁵
- 4.3 More recent figures released by the Welsh Assembly Government (2009), suggest that the number and proportion of Welsh speakers in Conwy CB has increased slightly. The survey suggests that of the 47% of the population of the County Borough consider themselves to be Welsh; the figure for Wales is 65%.⁶

5 Health and well-being

Headlines

- Life expectancy is relatively high, standardised death rates are low
- Low incidence of treatment for many illnesses, but incidence of cancer is high
- High proportion of residents suffer from limiting long-term illness
- Residents of Conwy CB lead a healthier lifestyle than the rest of Wales
- A high number of people provide unpaid care

- 5.1 Conwy CB has a high proportion of elderly people in its population, so some measures of health and well-being are skewed by the age structure. For example, there are about 500 more deaths than births each year, and the crude death rate is high, at 13.7 persons per 1,000 residents compared to 10.7 across Wales, and an England & Wales figure of just 9.4.^{3,7}
- 5.2 But when death rates are standardised to look at age-specific mortality, there are fewer deaths than an area with Conwy CB's population profile would expect. Life expectancy is good too, matching the Welsh average for men and women. Life expectancy at birth in the County Borough is 77.0 years for men and 81.3 for women.⁸
- 5.3 Similarly, the age profile of Conwy CB's residents can affect data on illness – cancer, a sickness which disproportionately affects the elderly, has a high incidence with a rate of 559 cases for every 100,000 men in the population, and 515 for every 100,000 women. The rates across Wales are 536 for men and 494 for women.⁹
- 5.4 However, age-standardised results from the Welsh Health Survey 2007/8 show that the percentages of adults in Conwy CB who are being treated for many types of illness are low. The County Borough's population are less likely to be receiving treatment for high blood pressure, respiratory illness, mental illness, arthritis, and diabetes than across Wales as a whole.
- 5.5 The 2001 Census, which is the most comprehensive measure of the population, gives some useful general information about health. It looked at objective measures of health, measuring both limiting long-term illness of the total population, and those who are economically inactive because they are permanently sick. Limiting long-term illness levels in Conwy CB are not much different from those found across Wales, even though the County Borough's population has an older age profile. The proportion of the population who are economically inactive due to ill health is lower than the all-Wales figure, at 7.9% compared to 9.2%. However, Wales is a relatively sickly country, and comparisons with the wider population of England & Wales combined show that rates for both limiting long-term illness and for those who are permanently sick are high in Conwy CB.
- 5.6 Well-being is about how people feel as well as their physical health, and the Census also looked at subjective measures of health. Table 5.1 shows how people in Conwy rated their health – residents of the County Borough feel slightly healthier than those of Wales as a whole and not quite as healthy as across England & Wales.

Table 5.1: health

Source: 2001 Census (table KS008)

	Conwy	Wales	England & Wales
People with limiting long-term illness*	23.5%	23.3%	18.2%
People of working age with limiting long-term illness**	17.4%	18.4%	13.6%
People aged 16-75 who are permanently sick and not economically active	7.9%	9.2%	5.5%
General health ***			
People whose health was: Good	65.2%	65.1%	68.6%
People whose health was: Fairly good	23.3%	22.5%	22.2%
People whose health was: Not good	11.6%	12.5%	9.2%

Definitions:

* Limiting long-term illness covers any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities or work.

** Working age population is 16-64 inclusive for men and 16-59 inclusive for women.

*** General health refers to health over the 12 months prior to Census day (29 April 2001).

- 5.7 Though the Census allows people to classify themselves as well or not, it does not ask about disability. The terms 'permanently sick', 'limiting long-term illness' and 'in poor health' are not the same as registered disability. The disability registers which are maintained by local social services departments for the Welsh Assembly Government show how many people are registered disabled. The most recent figures available, for March 2009, give a total of 9,700 people in Conwy CB registered as physically or sensory disabled. This is around 9% of the total population, and the true figure may be higher as not all disability is registered. In addition, 450 people were registered with learning disabilities.¹⁰
- 5.8 Compared to other unitary authorities in Wales, the residents of Conwy CB lead quite healthy lifestyles. We have the lowest proportion of our population who are overweight or obese (52%); some of the lowest levels of alcohol abuse in Wales; only 22% of the population are smokers; the proportion of the population meeting recommended physical activity guidelines of five 30 minute exercise sessions a week (33%) and the proportion eating the recommended 5 a day fruit or vegetable portions (37%) is slightly higher than the Welsh average.¹¹ However, though these figures are good by comparison with the rest of Wales, there is still much room for improvement.
- 5.9 72% of the County Borough's residents visited a dentist in the most recently measured twelve month period.¹¹ This is higher than the Welsh average.
- 5.10 Over 12,000 people in Conwy CB provide unpaid care.⁵ Over a quarter of these carers (more than 3,200 people) provide 50 or more hours of care a week – that is more hours than in the average working week. Such high levels of unpaid care provision will have a huge impact on the economic and social well-being of the carers as well as those being cared for.

Table 5.2: provision of unpaid care

Source: 2001 Census (table KS008)

	Conwy	Wales	England & Wales
People who provide unpaid care	12,300	340,700	5,217,800
As % total population	11.2%	11.7%	10.0%
Proportion of carers providing:			
1-19 hours care a week	61.5%	61.1%	68.1%
20-49 hours care a week	12.1%	12.6%	11.0%
50 or more hours care a week	26.4%	26.3%	20.9%

Definition

Provision of unpaid care: looking after; giving help or support to family members; friends; neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health or disability or problems relating to old age.

6 Community safety

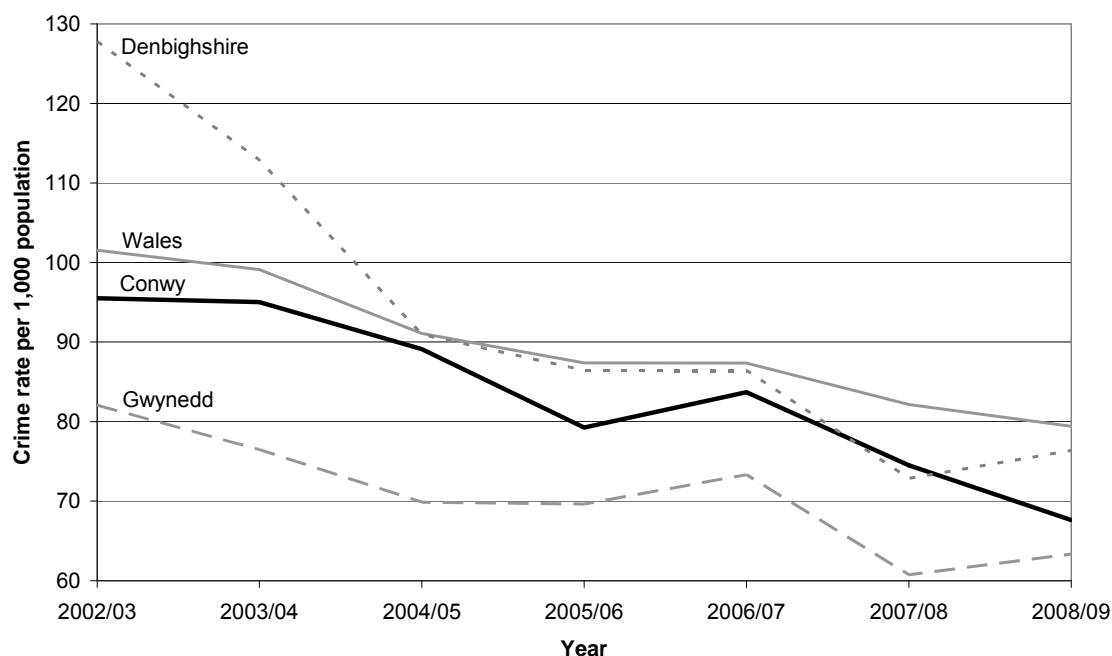
Headlines

- Conwy County Borough's crime rates are lower than the Welsh average.
- Crime rates fell between 2007/8 and 2008/9
- Fear of crime is lower than the national average

6.1 The level of reported crime in Conwy CB is consistently lower than the Welsh average. In general, rates have declined year-on-year, indicating that the County Borough is a safe place to live. Compared to our neighbouring unitary authority areas, we have slightly higher crime rates than Gwynedd and slightly lower rates than Denbighshire. The gap between the rates of the three counties has reduced in recent years. Whereas Conwy CB saw a continued reduction in reported crime rates between 2007/08 and 2008/09, Gwynedd and Denbighshire had a small rise.¹²

Chart 6.1: reported crime rates per 1,000 population

Source: Local crime statistics, Home Office



6.2 In 2008/9 the rate of recorded crimes in the category 'violence against the person' is slightly higher than the Wales average. All other crime rates in Conwy CB are below the Welsh average. The most prevalent type of recorded crime is 'criminal damage'. Across the North Wales police authority area, levels of worry about crime and anti-social behaviour are below national levels, and confidence in the local police is higher than the all-Wales average.¹³

Table 6.1: reported crime rates by type, 2008/9

Source: Local crime statistics, Home Office

	Number of crime incidents in Conwy CB	Rate per 1,000 population			
		Conwy CB	Gwynedd	Denbighshire	Wales
Violence against the person	1868	17	17	20	16
Burglary	652	6	5	7	9
Offences against vehicles	539	5	4	6	11
Criminal damage	2059	18	18	17	19
Total police recorded crime	7555	68	63	76	79

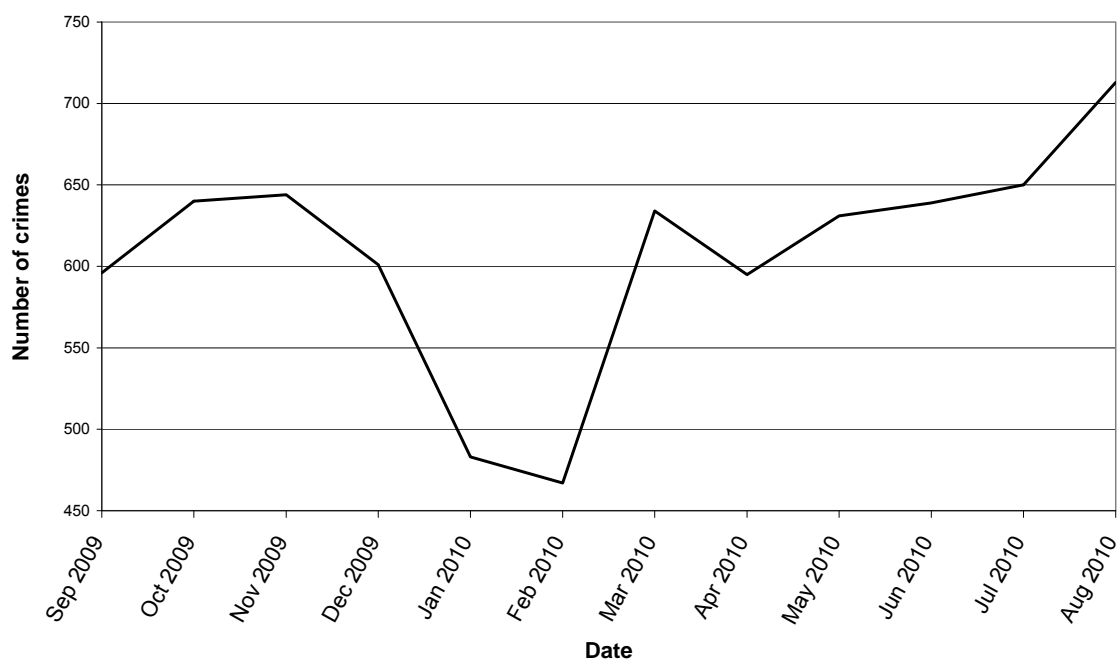
Note

Other types of crime are recorded; this table shows a selection only.

- 6.3 The chart below shows that the incidence of reported crime in Conwy CB is seasonal, peaking during the summer months and at its lowest during winter. This mirrors national patterns.

Chart 6.2: monthly reported crime in Conwy County Borough

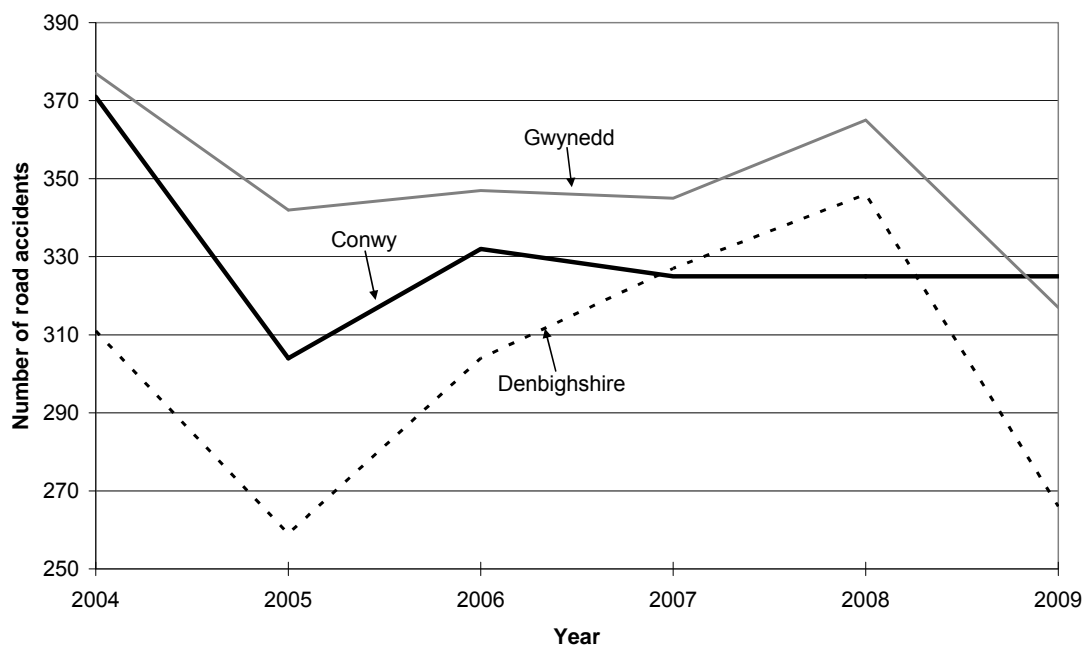
Source: North Wales Police



- 6.4 Chart 6.3 shows the number of road accidents in Conwy CB, Gwynedd and Denbighshire. In 2009, there were 325 road accidents in Conwy CB, 50 of which were fatal or serious and 275 slight accidents.¹⁴

Chart 6.3: number of road accidents in Wales and Conwy CB

Source: Department for Transport



7 Income

Headlines

- Wage levels are significantly below the GB average
- 15 Lower Super Output Areas (out of 71) in Conwy are amongst the 25% most income-deprived in Wales

Table 7.1: median gross weekly wage 2009 (workplace based)

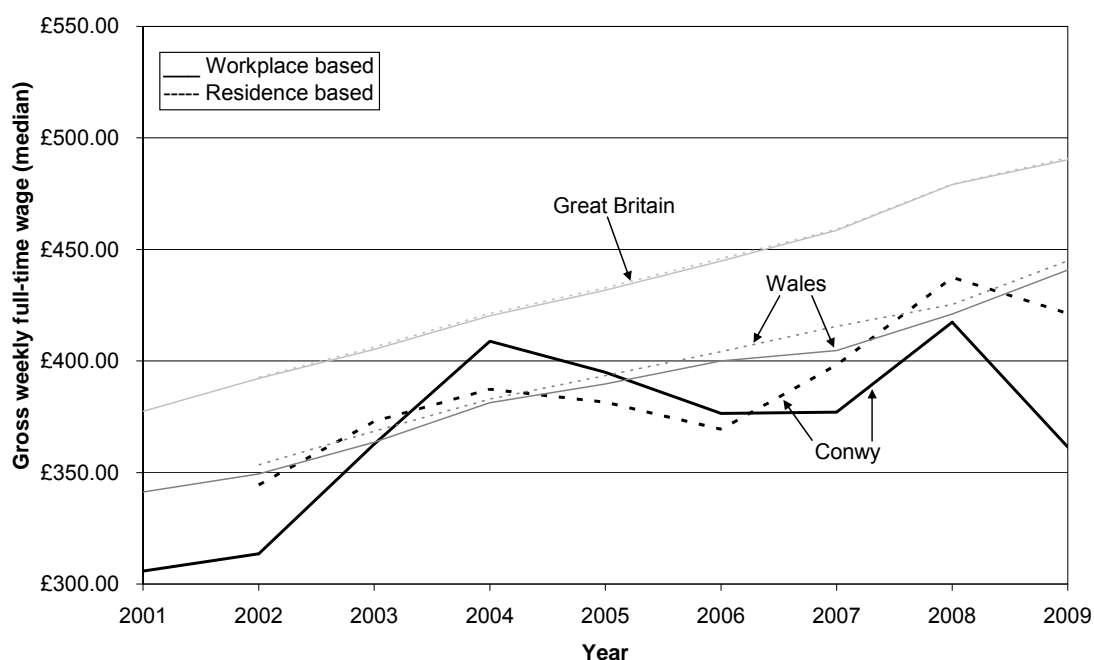
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

	Great Britain	Wales	Conwy		
				As % GB	As % Wales
Full time	£ 490.20	£ 440.80	£ 361.40	73.7%	82.0%
Part time	£ 152.60	£ 149.00	£ 134.60	88.2%	90.3%
Male	£ 493.10	£ 443.80	£ 361.00	73.2%	81.3%
Female	£ 310.40	£ 293.10	£ 250.80	80.8%	85.6%
All workers	£ 398.60	£ 354.70	£ 295.00	74.0%	83.2%
Full time 2001	£ 377.40	£ 341.30	£ 305.80	81.0%	89.6%

7.1 The data we have comes from a small sample and so is quite volatile, but it suggests that wage levels in Conwy CB are significantly below levels for Great Britain as a whole. The 2009 average median gross weekly wage (including overtime and bonuses) for all full-time employees in Conwy CB was £361. This was 74% of the average for Great Britain.¹⁵

Chart 7.1: full time wages – workplace and residence based comparison

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings



- 7.2 The chart shows the change in full time wages since 2001. It also shows the relationship between wages for those who live in the County Borough but may *work* elsewhere (residence based) and those who work in the County Borough but may *live* elsewhere (workplace based). About three quarters of Conwy's workforce are included in both counts.
- 7.3 Of course, not all income comes from wages. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, produced in 2008¹⁶, shows that in the income domain, which is based on measures of benefits take-up, all 15 of the County Borough's lower level super output areas (LSOAs – sub divisions of wards) which are in the 25% most deprived within Wales are along the coast. It is worth noting, however, that benefits data isn't as good a measure of income deprivation in rural areas as it is in urban areas. People living in small rural communities have been shown to have a lower take-up rate for benefits because, amongst other reasons, they lack access to information and transport needed to help them claim, and there is a higher degree of social stigma attached to claiming benefits than in urban areas.

8 Employment and the economy

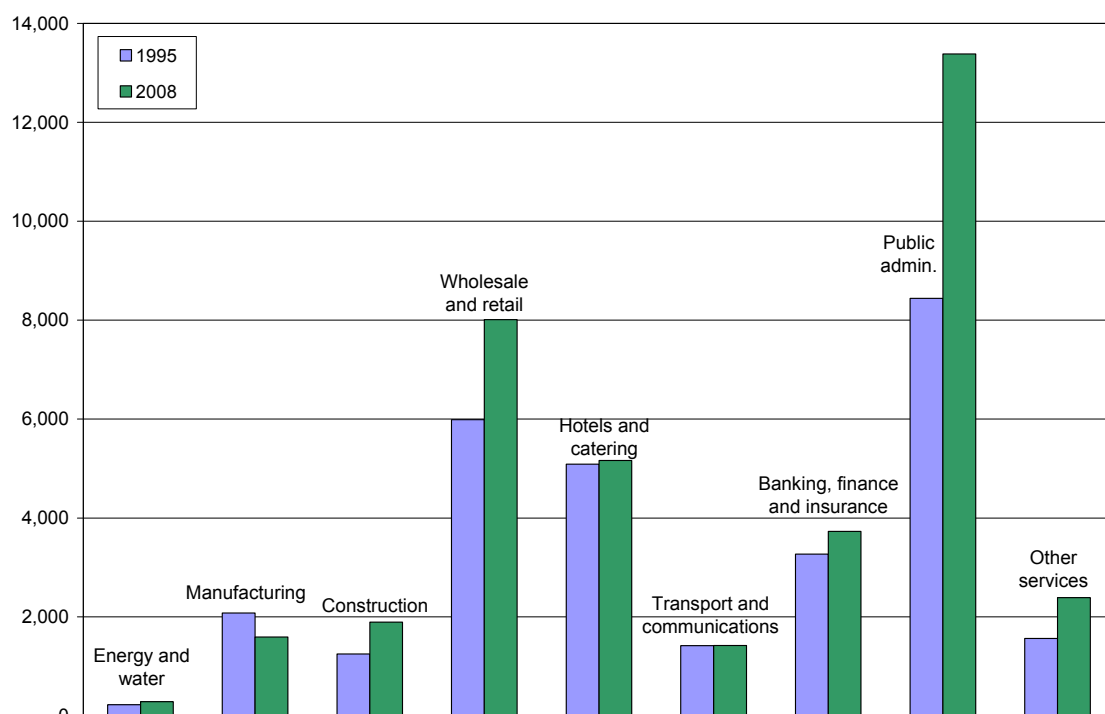
Headlines

- Number of jobs is increasing – mainly in service industries
- Reliance on service and tourism sectors
- High proportion of self-employed
- High levels of part time working
- High levels of economic activity amongst working age population – but working age population low as a proportion of all residents

8.1 The Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) for 2008 puts the number of employee jobs in Conwy CB at 38,000. This is an increase of around 8,500 jobs since 1995. The biggest increases have been in the service and retail sectors, which have seen increases of 6,200 and 2,000 jobs respectively.

Chart 8.1: change in employment sectors in Conwy CB 1995-2008

Source: Annual Business Inquiry

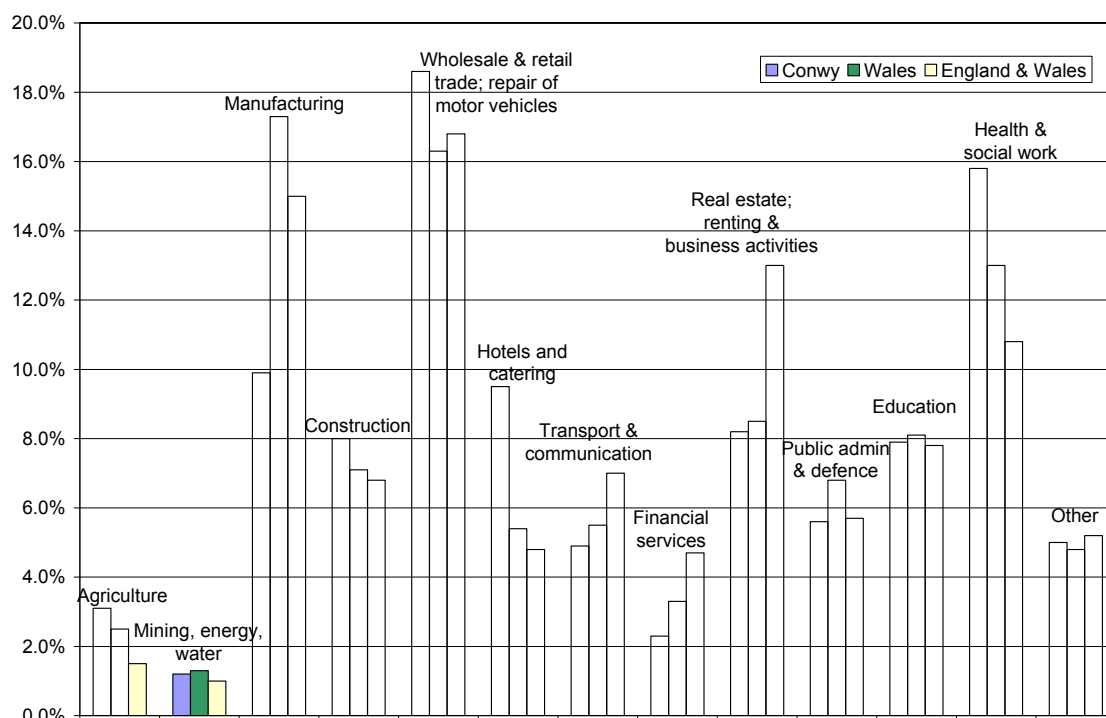


Note: data for agricultural employment is withheld by the Office for National Statistics, and is not shown on the above chart.

8.2 The employment structure in Conwy CB differs from that of Great Britain as a whole. The manufacturing base has declined considerably over the past 15 or so years to about 4.2% of employees by 2008, and there is a heavy skew towards the service industries and tourism. Around 11,300 jobs (about 30% of all employment) are provided directly or indirectly by the tourism industry.¹⁷ The chart below, which uses slightly different classifications to those used in the ABI, shows the position according to the 2001 Census.

Chart 8.2: employment structure in Conwy, Wales and England & Wales

Source: 2001 Census (table KS011)



- 8.3 Though the ABI holds the most recently available data on employment structure, some of the data for agriculture is suppressed. Agriculture accounted for only 3% of jobs at the 2001 Census, but this sector is still of great significance within the area, particularly in the rural hinterland. Data on VAT and PAYE registrations for 2009¹⁸ estimated around 17% of local business enterprises were in the agricultural sector.
- 8.4 The predominance of the tourism sector within the local economy results in a marked increase in unemployment levels over the winter months.
- 8.5 Statistics about the number of enterprises registering and de-registering for VAT and PAYE give a guide to the patterns of business start-ups and closures in the area. In particular they reflect what is happening to small businesses and self employment. Conwy County Borough's stock of active business enterprises has increased from about 3,450 in 2002 to 3,950 by the end of 2008. Expressed as a rate per 10,000 of working aged population, this is a rise from 569 to 644. Wales and UK rates were 510 and 611 respectively. The rate of 'births' of new businesses in 2008 was 9.1% of active enterprises for that year (Wales – 10.1%, UK – 11.6%) and the rate of 'deaths' was 9.8% (Wales – 9.5%, UK – 9.4%). 45.7% of enterprises which started up in 2003 were still operating in 2008 (Wales – 46.9%, UK – 46.6%).¹⁹
- 8.6 88% of jobs and 80% of all work places in Conwy CB are sited along the A55 corridor. The main centres of employment are Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, with approximately 10,300 jobs sited in each location. Llandudno Junction/Conwy is also a significant employment location, with approximately 5,400 jobs based in the area.²⁰

- 8.7 The measure of productivity which is used at a local level, GVA (Gross Value Added per head of population) is below both Wales and GB average levels.²¹ The most recent figures show that in 2007 local GVA was £11,900 per head of population, 80% of the all Wales figure average, and only 60% of the UK figure. This data is for Conwy CB and Denbighshire combined.²²
- 8.8 The number of people in the workforce who are self-employed is estimated at about 7,900 persons – around 11% of the workforce (15% for males only). This compares to a rate of 8% across Wales and Great Britain.⁶**Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 8.9 Levels of part-time working are high in Conwy CB – 42.4% of employees work part time compared to 33.6% and 31.2% in Wales and Great Britain respectively. The levels of part-time working are even higher for female workers – 55% of female employees in Conwy CB work part-time; in Wales as a whole it is 49.7%; and 46.4% as an average across Great Britain.²⁰
- 8.10 Economic activity rates (a measure of those in work or available for work) in Conwy are better than across the whole of Wales at 77.5% of the working age population.⁶ This is comparable to rates for Great Britain as a whole. With currently low unemployment levels this gives a relatively high figure of 72.5% of the working age population in employment.
- 8.11 However, the latest population estimates² put the percentage of the population in Conwy CB who are of working age at only 58.7%, compared to 63.4% in Wales and 61.9% across Great Britain. This leads to high dependency ratios – that is, the number of persons of working age for each child/elderly person. High proportions of dependants in the population can place a strain on the economy and on the social structure of the community.
- 8.12 Of the 13,700 people of working age who were economically inactive in Conwy CB, only 2,800 wanted a job.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} As a proportion, this is well below both the Wales and GB averages. It is unclear why this is so, without further research being undertaken.

9 Skills and training

Headlines

- Workforce has similar levels of qualifications to Great Britain and Wales average
- Businesses in the area see a 'skills gap'
- Levels of employment related training are low

Table 9.1: qualifications of working age residents

Source: Annual population survey 2009, NOMIS

	Conwy		Wales	Great Britain
NVQ4 and above	19,700	30.1%	27.3%	29.9%
NVQ3 and above	32,200	49.2%	47.4%	49.3%
NVQ2 and above	43,500	66.4%	64.7%	65.4%
NVQ1 and above	52,000	79.4%	77.5%	78.9%
Other qualifications	5,100	7.8%	7.7%	8.8%
No qualifications	8,400	12.8%	14.8%	12.3%

Definitions:

Other qualifications: includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications

NVQ 1 equivalent: fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C

NVQ 2 equivalent: 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C,

NVQ 3 equivalent: 2 or more A levels

NVQ 4 equivalent and above: HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications

- 9.1 Looking at general educational levels, the working age population of Conwy CB have similar levels of qualifications to the British average. Nearly 13% of the workforce has no qualifications at all – an estimate of around 8,400 people. The proportion of those with National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 4 and higher is slightly above the GB and Welsh average. NVQ Level 4 is degree level qualifications or equivalent.⁶
- 9.2 In a recent survey, businesses from all employment sectors in Conwy CB said that finding skilled personnel is a problem.²³ Despite this, only 47% of employers in Conwy provide off-the-job training, the lowest rate in Wales (the all Wales figure was 53%).²⁴

10 Transport and travel to work

Headlines

- Conwy is a strategically important transport hub
- Reliance on cars is high
- Use of public transport for travel to work is low
- Many more people travel out of the County Borough for work than travel into the area

10.1 Conwy CB is important as the hub of major regional and local transport links – the main strategic routes are the A55 expressway, the A470 trunk road and the North Wales Coast Rail line. These arterial routes are supported by other strategically important routes such as the A5, A548, A547, A546, A544, A4086 trunk roads and the Conwy Valley railway line.

Table 10.1: mode of travel to work and car ownership

Source: 2001 Census (table KS015)

	Conwy CB		Wales		England and Wales	
Work mainly at or from home	5,600	12.8%	115,300	9.7%	2,170,550	9.2%
Public transport	2,200	5.1%	77,650	6.6%	3,422,400	14.5%
Car	29,600	67.6%	832,900	70.2%	14,527,750	61.5%
Motorcycle or moped	300	0.7%	8,900	0.7%	258,350	1.1%
Taxi or minicab	200	0.5%	6,00	0.5%	122,500	0.5%
Bicycle	750	1.7%	16,400	1.4%	651,000	2.8%
On foot	4,750	10.8%	122,750	10.3%	2,364,650	10.0%
Households with no car	11,600	24.2%	313,800	26.0%	5,802,200	26.8%
Persons per car	2.03		2.19		2.46	

10.2 The high proportion of Conwy's residents who work at home is in part due to the rural nature of large areas of the County Borough. The most southerly wards of Uwch Conwy, Uwchaled and Betws-y-Coed all have work-at-home rates of over 25%, more than twice that of the County Borough as a whole.

10.3 Reliance on cars for travelling to work is well above the England and Wales figure, though slightly better than for Wales as a whole. Again, the rural nature of the area and the lack of access to alternative methods of transport is the cause. Public transport accounts for a very low 5% of journeys to work.

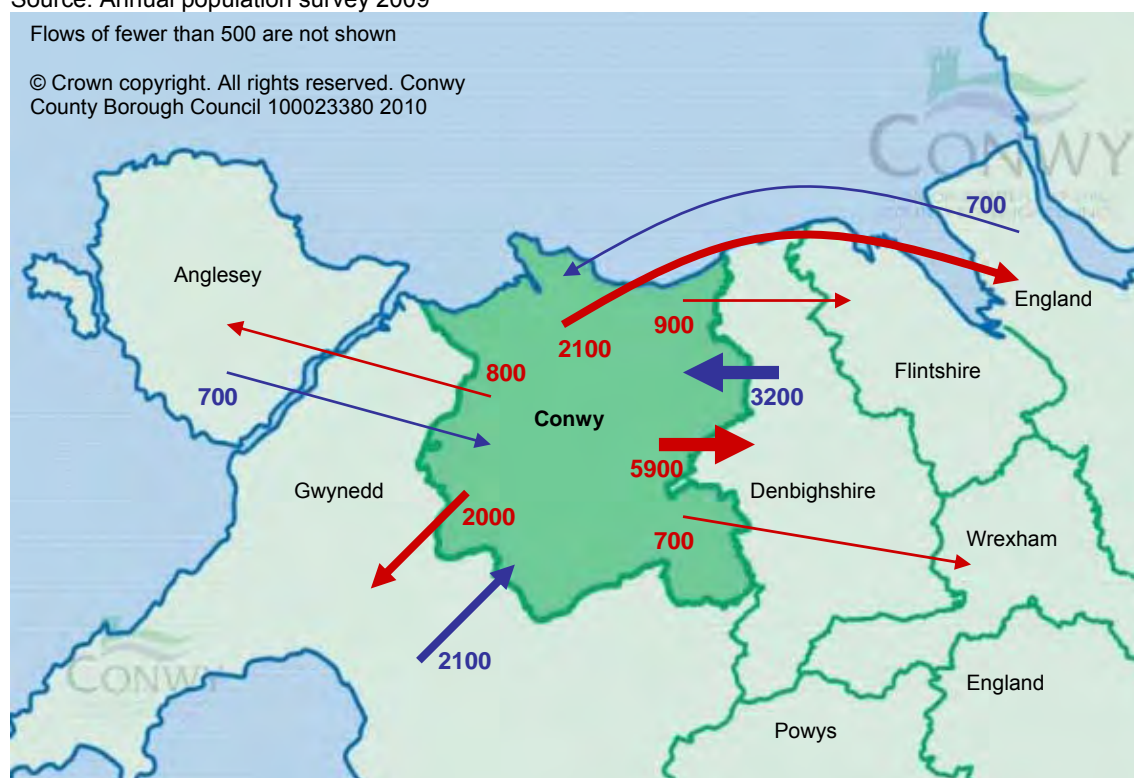
10.4 Car ownership in Conwy is slightly higher than the Wales and England & Wales average, with only 24% of households having no car. In rural areas, where there is often very limited access to public transport, car ownership is higher still – in Eglwysbach, only 6% of households had no access to a car or van according to the 2001 Census. Car ownership levels are at their lowest in parts of Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, areas which are also some of the most deprived in Conwy according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Map 10.1: commuting flows for Conwy

Source: Annual population survey 2009

Flows of fewer than 500 are not shown

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- 10.5 Data on commuting patterns from both the 2001 Census and more recent surveys²⁵ show more people travel out of Conwy for work as travel in to the County Borough – a net out-flow of about 4,800 commuters. All together, around 26% of Conwy's working population travel out of the area for employment. Most of these outward commuters travel to the neighbouring Welsh authority areas (to Denbighshire in particular), though an estimated 2,100 people travel to England for work. It is difficult to assess how much outward commuting is out of necessity (people who have to travel to find appropriate employment) and how much is through choice (people who already have jobs in other areas but who prefer to live in Conwy). The high number of commuters to England shows that some people are prepared to travel long distances.

11 Housing

Headlines

- High proportions of both flats and detached dwellings
- Low levels of social renting
- Housing based deprivation well above Wales average
- House prices are higher than for neighbouring areas and Wales as a whole, but lower than the England and Wales average

- 11.1 In 2009 Conwy's dwelling stock was around 53,000 household spaces.²⁶ Of these around 18% are flats, considerably higher than the proportion found across Wales (11%).⁵ The proportion of detached dwellings is high too, at 35%, compared to 27% in Wales and 23% across England and Wales. Just over 2% of dwellings were identified as second homes or holiday accommodation.
- 11.2 The number of households in Conwy is increasing steadily due to population growth, a trend towards smaller household sizes – particularly single person households – and a decrease in the numbers of people living in institutions/communal establishments. Recently produced projections²⁷ estimate growth in household numbers of 16% in the years 2008 to 2028 – requiring around 420 new dwellings to be provided every year.
- 11.3 Between April 1996 and March 2010 the average annual building rate of new dwellings has been around 400 units per year (in the area outside of the National Park). Current planning permissions and land allocated for housing allow for a further 1,802 dwellings to be built in coming years. During the year April 2009 to March 2010 over 90% of housing development was in the coastal belt and 71% of developments were on 'brownfield' sites, that is development of previously used land and buildings.²⁸
- 11.4 The proportion of Conwy's homes that were rented from social landlords (housing associations, charitable societies and so on) is relatively low, at only 11.3%, compared to 16.4% and 18% in Wales and Great Britain respectively. Higher levels of private renting and owner occupation than is found nationally make up the difference.²⁶
- 11.5 Increased levels of home ownership do not indicate greater affluence, however. In the 2008 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation housing is the domain in which Conwy fares worst, with 20% of its sub-areas in the worst 10% of areas for the whole of Wales. These areas of highest housing deprivation are found in the urban coastal settlements, but there are also a significant number of Conwy's rural areas within the top quartile of most deprived areas too.
- 11.6 In August 2010, the average price of a residential property in Conwy was £139,400, compared to an all Wales figures of £125,100 and £167,400 for England and Wales. Despite recent falls in house prices, the average price is still more than two and a half times what it was in January 1995. Prices have risen faster in Conwy than they have nationally.²⁹

Table 11.1: average house prices at August each year

Source: Land Registry

	Conwy Council		Denbighshire Council		Gwynedd Council		Wales Region		All England & Wales	
	Index	Average Price (£)	Index	Average Price (£)	Index	Average Price (£)	Index	Average Price (£)	Index	Average Price (£)
2000	114.1	62,000	99.7	54,800	112.1	55,800	108.4	56,600	135.9	84,800
2001	123.1	66,900	107.8	59,200	119.3	59,400	117.1	61,100	150.1	93,700
2002	152.6	82,900	124.2	68,300	144.9	72,100	141.1	73,600	179.8	112,200
2003	190.5	103,400	163	89,600	191.3	95,200	175.1	91,300	209.7	130,900
2004	243.5	132,200	206.5	113,500	248.7	123,800	223.7	116,600	244.8	152,700
2005	270	146,600	231.5	127,200	279.3	139,000	240.3	125,300	252.7	157,700
2006	281.6	152,900	237.4	130,500	305.7	152,200	253.6	132,200	266.3	166,100
2007	294.9	160,100	256.2	140,800	320.3	159,400	266.7	139,100	291.6	181,900
2008	270.8	147,000	240.7	132,300	312.9	155,800	253.1	132,000	274.5	171,300
2009	254.8	138,300	216.9	119,200	292.3	145,500	234.9	122,500	251.5	156,900
2010	256.8	139,400	218.4	120,100	289.3	144,000	240	125,100	268.4	167,400

Index – January 1995 =100

- 11.7 The average price of a residential property in Conwy at August 2009²⁹ was 5.2 times the median annual household income.³⁰ In Gwynedd house prices were 5.8 times the median income and across Wales as a whole 4.6. This situation has serious implications for a significant number of people who need to access affordable housing.

12 The environment

Headlines

- Conwy CB has a rich and diverse natural and built environment
- Nearly two fifths of the County Borough is within the Snowdonia National Park
- Agricultural land is mainly of poor quality and used for grazing
- 80% of the population is concentrated along the coast
- New land available for development within the coastal belt is limited

- 12.1 The County Borough covers an area of 1,130 square kilometres. It is an area of diverse landscape ranging from the beaches and headlands of a narrow northern coastal plain to extensive open moors and uplands which culminate in the mountains of Snowdonia.
- 12.2 Approximately 38% of the County Borough's area and 4% of its population are within the Snowdonia National Park.
- 12.3 Over three-quarters of the County Borough's area is used for agriculture but, mainly because of its physical characteristics, 87% of this land is classified as poor or very poor and almost 90% is used as permanent grass or rough grazing. Livestock farming, especially sheep, predominates.³¹
- 12.4 The physical character of the County Borough's land and the nature of its use is also the prime reason for the concentration of 80% of the population on the coastal belt and for the sparse population of National Park area at around 10 persons per square kilometre (sq km). Population density across the County Borough as a whole is just under 100 persons per sq km, rising to over 2,000 persons per sq km in some urban coastal areas.²
- 12.5 The land and coast of the County Borough contain areas of nationally acknowledged natural beauty and wildlife importance. Designations include 13 kilometres of Heritage Coast; 235 sq km of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 65 sq km of Special Protection Areas, and 150 sq km of Special Areas of Conservation. Over three quarters of both the bird species and the terrestrial mammal species recognised as of particular conservation importance in Wales are found in Conwy County Borough (area outside of the National Park).³² The key map in the appendix of this area profile shows the location of many of the designated areas.
- 12.6 Some of the built environment is also very special. Conwy Castle and Town Walls are part of the 'Castles and Town Walls of Edward the First in North Wales' World Heritage Site designated by UNESCO – one of only 28 sites in the UK. There are also about 1,730 buildings that are statutorily listed as being of special architectural or historic interest, 24 urban Conservation Areas and 156 scheduled ancient monuments.
- 12.7 The amount of new land available for development within the County Borough's coastal belt is limited. 95% of the coastline is protected by man-made structures – the highest rate in Wales – and 17% of the County Borough's coastal belt has been identified by the Environment Agency as being unacceptable for most types of new development because of flood risk.³³ If other constraints such as existing built-up areas, high land and protected natural areas are also taken in to account, the amount of new land

in the coastal belt that may have development potential is about 28 square kilometres (and that includes farmland and areas of landscape that have been assessed as being worthy of special protection).³⁴

Useful statistical information sources

Conwy County Borough Council

The Council's website home page is www.conwy.gov.uk. The site shows the services and facilities offered by the Council and other organisations to residents, businesses and visitors.

Data from a wide range of sources, drawn together to give a statistical picture of Conwy County Borough and the wards and community councils within the area, are available on our website at www.conwy.gov.uk/statistics.

StatsConwy provides access to statistics and indicators for a range of themes. The homepage is www.conwy.gov.uk/statsconwy.

Colleagues within Conwy County Borough Council can also find information on our intranet site at <http://intranet/research>.

The Office for National Statistics

The ONS is the official source for statistics about Britain's economy, population and society at national and local level. Summaries and detailed data releases are published free of charge.

The National Statistics site, home of official UK statistics
www.statistics.gov.uk

The Neighbourhood Statistics Site, for local data
www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

The Census home page, giving access to Census data from 2001 and news about the 2011 Census
www.statistics.gov.uk/census

The National Online Manpower Information Service (NOMIS) site, for labour force data at a local and national level
www.nomisweb.co.uk

Statistical Directorate at the National Assembly for Wales

The Statistical Directorate collect, process, interpret and publish information about Wales, and promote its use in decision making within government and beyond.
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/?lang=en>

The Local Government Data Unit Wales

The Unit aims to meet the data needs of local and central government in Wales by ensuring that they are better informed about the characteristics of the services and activities of local authorities and of the environment in which they operate.
www.dataunitwales.gov.uk

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- ¹⁶ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008, Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate /Local Government Data Unit Wales
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- ²⁰ Annual Business Inquiry 2008, NOMIS
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- ²² Lowest level for which data is available – European NUTS 3 level
- ²³ Conwy Business Survey 2004
- ²⁴ Future Skills Wales 2003 Generic Skills Survey
- ²⁵ Statistics on commuting in Wales 2008, Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate statistical bulletin SB 80/2009
- ²⁶ Dwelling Stock Estimates, 2008-09, Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate statistical bulletin SB 50/2010
- ²⁷ Household projections for Wales (2008-based), Statistical Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government
- ²⁸ Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, Welsh Assembly Government; Planning Services, Conwy County Borough Council

²⁹ Land Registry

³⁰ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2008 (resident based), Office for National Statistics

³¹ Agricultural Census 2009, Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate

³² Countryside Service, Conwy County Borough Council

³³ Category C2 in Welsh Assembly Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 15: Development and flood risk

³⁴ Study to identify areas of landscape value, Planning Services Department, 2001

Appendices: maps

A map of Conwy County Borough

Electoral divisions (wards) in Conwy County Borough

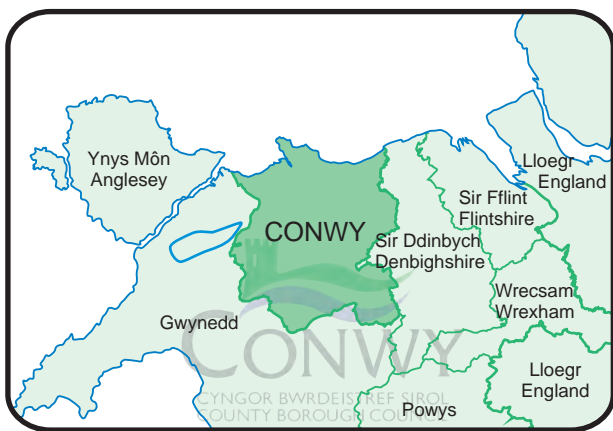
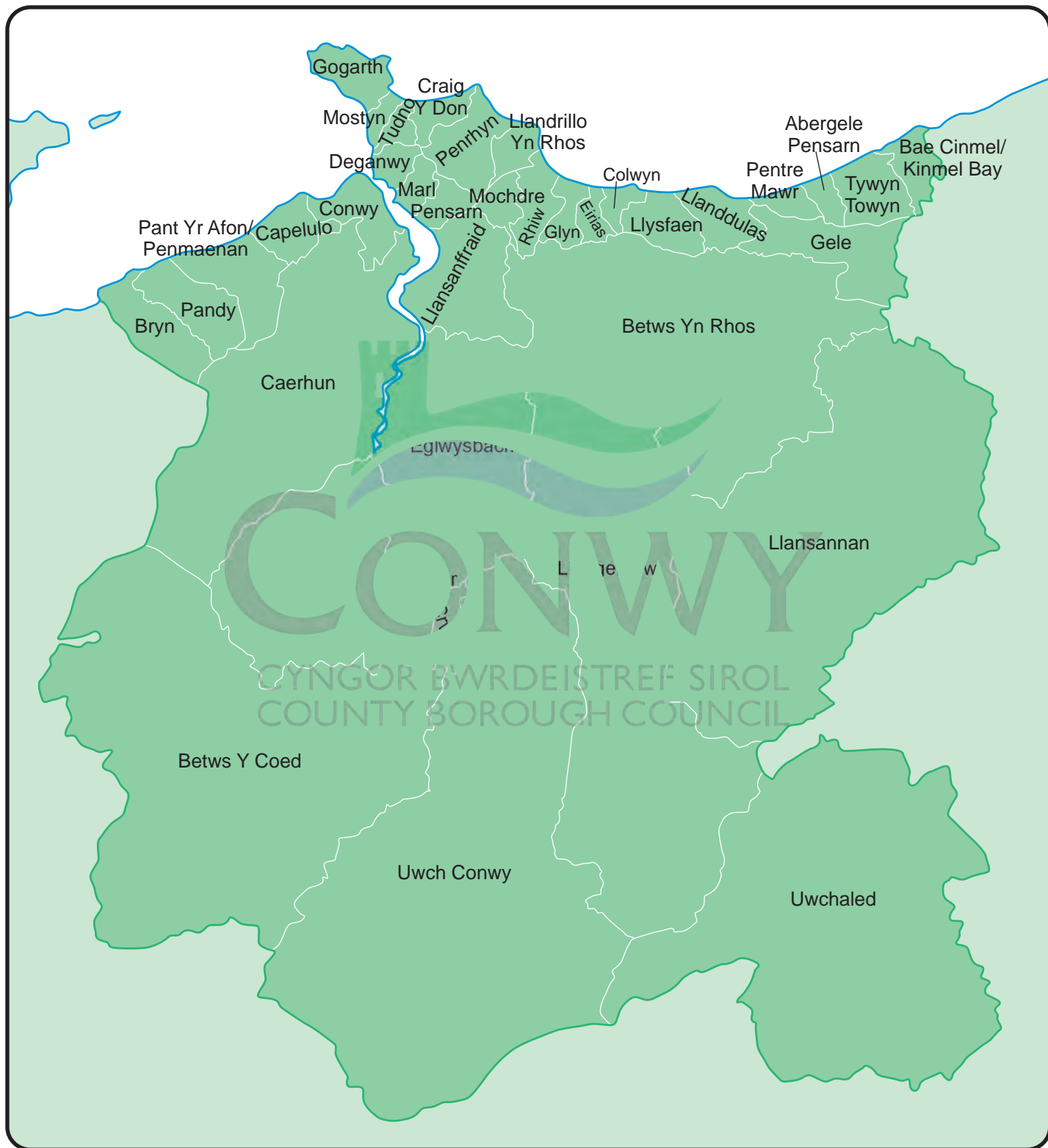
Conwy County Borough

Key

- County Borough
- Snowdonia National Park within Conwy
- Main Settlements -
 - 20,000+
 - 2,500 - 10,000
 - 1 Deganwy
 - 2 Llandudno Junction
 - 3 Mochdre
 - <2,500
- Trunk Roads
- +++++ Rail Network
- = Other major roads
- C Main Employment Areas
- D Major Retail centres
- World Heritage Site
- - - Heritage Coast
- ||||| Special Protection Areas
- Special Areas of Conservation



Dosbarthau Etholiadol (Wardiau) yng Nghyngor Bwrdeistref Conwy Electoral Divisions (Wards) in Conwy County Borough



Cynhyrchwyd gan yr Adran Cynllunio
Produced by Planning Department

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