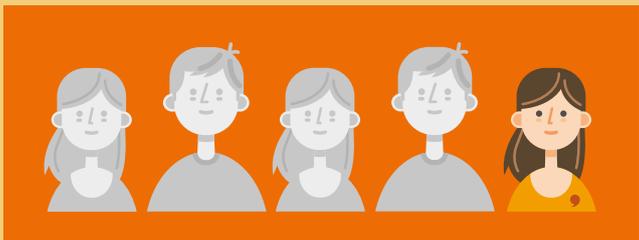

Part 1: Census 2021 and the Welsh language





3,107,494
people live in Wales



17.8%

17.8% of people aged three or over in Wales can speak Welsh

1 in 5



64.4%

people aged three or over speak Welsh in Gwynedd and

55.8% in Anglesey

There are more Welsh speakers in Cardiff

(42,757)

than in Anglesey

(37,413)



More than half of Welsh speakers are under the age of

33

1. Background

This part of the report draws partly on an independent analysis provided to the Commissioner by the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society, Aberystwyth University.

It also draws on authoritative analyses published by Welsh Government statisticians, as well as the Prosiect BRO Compendium: [Prosiect BRO Compendium of Language Statistics based on Census 2021 data](#).

The first bulletin on [Welsh in Wales \(Census 2021\)](#) was published by the Welsh Government in December 2022. The Commissioner has also ensured that everyone can easily access the data and create their own analyses through our [Data Dashboard: Who speaks Welsh in Wales?](#)

Our aim here is to pull together the key statistics and highlight those we consider most significant for understanding the current situation of the Welsh language. We will also take a closer look at some regional and local trends and place the results of the 2021 Census in the context of previous censuses.

2. Context of the 2021 Census

The 2021 Census was carried out during an exceptional and unprecedented moment in our history. On 21 March 2021 the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had impacted every aspect of our lives. Many aspects of our lives had indeed moved online, and the entire population had been through prolonged periods of strict lockdowns where schools, workplaces and meeting places were closed. We can't know for certain how this affected the way people reported a number of things in the census, including their Welsh skills.

The limitations of census data are discussed in more detail in the introduction to this report. But despite its limitations, the census is the most authoritative and comprehensive way we have of understanding the population of the country.

The results of the 2021 Census describe the position of the country as it stood on 21 March 2021. A lot will have changed since then. To be precise, each statement in this section should be prefaced with wording such as 'On Census Day, 21 March 2021, X people aged three or older, who normally live in Wales reported...'. But for ease of reading – and until we get the results of the 2031 Census – these results are presented in the present tense, as if they were describing Wales today.

3. What is the population of Wales?

There are 3,107,494 people living in Wales. This is the highest population ever recorded in a census. This represents an increase of 1.4% or approximately 44,000 people since 2011: a significantly smaller increase than seen in the previous decade when there was a growth of 5.3% (around 153,000 people) between 2001 and 2011. Overall, the population of Wales has grown by 6.9% between 2001 and 2021. That equates to 197,294 more people.

More deaths than births occurred in Wales between 2011 and 2021, meaning that people moving to Wales (net positive migration) account for the population growth between 2011 and 2021 (around 55,000 people).

Of the population living in Wales today, 71% were born in Wales. 21% were born in England and 1% were born in the rest of the UK. This means that 7% of the population of Wales were born outside the UK (around 215,000 people in total). This is an increase of 28.3% born outside the UK since the 2011 Census.

The largest groups of international migrants to Wales come from Poland, with 24,832 or 0.8% of the total Welsh population coming from Poland. 13,000 come from India and 11,000 from Germany. Cardiff is the local authority that receives the highest number of international migrants, but Newport and Swansea are also home to many international migrants.

The largest population growth is in the south-east, with the largest increases seen in Newport (9.5%), Cardiff (4.7%) and Bridgend (4.5%). In contrast, the largest decrease in population was seen in Ceredigion (-5.8%), Blaenau Gwent (-4.2%), and Gwynedd (-3.7%). Although there has been an increase in the population of most local authorities in Wales, **it is significant that there has been a decrease in the population of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Ceredigion**, three local authorities that are considered traditional strongholds of the Welsh language.

The population of Wales is widely dispersed. On average, there were 150 people living per square kilometre in Wales in 2021. This is well below the population density in England, where 434 people live per square kilometre. But some areas of Wales are more populous than others to say the least. There are 2,572 people living per square kilometre in Cardiff compared with 26 people in Powys.

The census also highlights that the population of Wales is an ageing one with more of the Welsh population belonging to the older age groups than ever before. 21.3% of the population are over 65 years of age (18.4% were in this age group in 2011). At the other end of the spectrum, the percentage of the population under the age of 15 fell between 2011 and 2021. In 2021, 16.5% (513,800) of the population were under the age of 15 which is a decrease of 0.4% and 5,328 children compared with 2011.

The Commissioner's conclusions



As the population grows through migration while birth rates fall, effective interventions will need to be introduced to create more Welsh speakers.

As fewer children are born in Wales, we cannot rely on births to increase the number of Welsh speakers if the percentage of speakers remains stable. This makes it essential to focus on significantly increasing the percentage of children who can speak Welsh in order to achieve meaningful growth in speaker numbers.

Since 29% of today's population was born outside Wales, it is important to consider how best to introduce the Welsh language to those who move here. This is especially relevant in the traditional heartlands of the language where the percentages of people born outside Wales are higher than the national average, but where there are also numerous opportunities to practise using the language and become confident speakers.

4. How many people can speak Welsh?

538,296 people are able to speak Welsh in Wales, which is 17.8% of the population aged three or over. This is a decline of 1.2 percentage points (23,720 people) since the 2011 Census and is the **lowest percentage of Welsh speakers ever recorded in a census.** But this is **not the lowest number of speakers to be recorded in a census.** Compare with the 508,197 recorded in 1981.

Looking back over four decades, we can see that the *number* of people able to speak Welsh in Wales between 1981 and 2021 has remained relatively stable. There was a notable increase of 74,270 in the number of Welsh speakers between 1991 and 2001, but the number gradually declined in subsequent decades, with the most significant decrease seen between 2011 and 2021. That said, the number of Welsh speakers in 2021 was still greater than the number recorded in 1981 (30,099 more people).

Chart 1: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021



Chart 2: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021



The population of Wales has grown significantly since 1981, however, which means that the **percentage of the population who can speak Welsh has decreased although numbers have remained relatively stable**. In 1981, there were 2,749,640 people living in Wales and of those aged three or over 18.9% were able to speak Welsh. By 2021, the population had grown to 3,107,494 with 17.8% able to speak the language.

It is therefore worth emphasizing that between 1981 and 2021 the percentage has fallen by only 1.1 percentage points. The percentage decline between 2011 and 2021 of 1.2 percentage points is also smaller than the decrease seen between 2001 and 2011 where there was a decrease of 1.8 percentage points.

Table 1: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021

Census	Total usual residents aged 3 and over	Can speak Welsh	
		Number	Percentage
1981	2,685,390	508,197	18.9
1991	2,723,623	508,098	18.7
2001	2,805,701	582,368	20.8
2011	2,955,841	562,016	19.0
2021	3,018,172	538,296	17.8

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 2: Change in the number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021

Census	Person change	Percentage point change
1981–1991	-99	-0.2
1991–2001	74,270	2.1
2001–2011	-20,352	-1.8
2011–2021	-23,720	-1.2
1981–2021	30,099	-1.1

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The Commissioner's conclusions



The fact that the number of Welsh speakers has remained broadly stable since 1981, despite the significant population growth, shows that the **growth in the population does not translate into growth in the number of Welsh speakers**. We need to consider how to harness population growth and create more Welsh speakers.

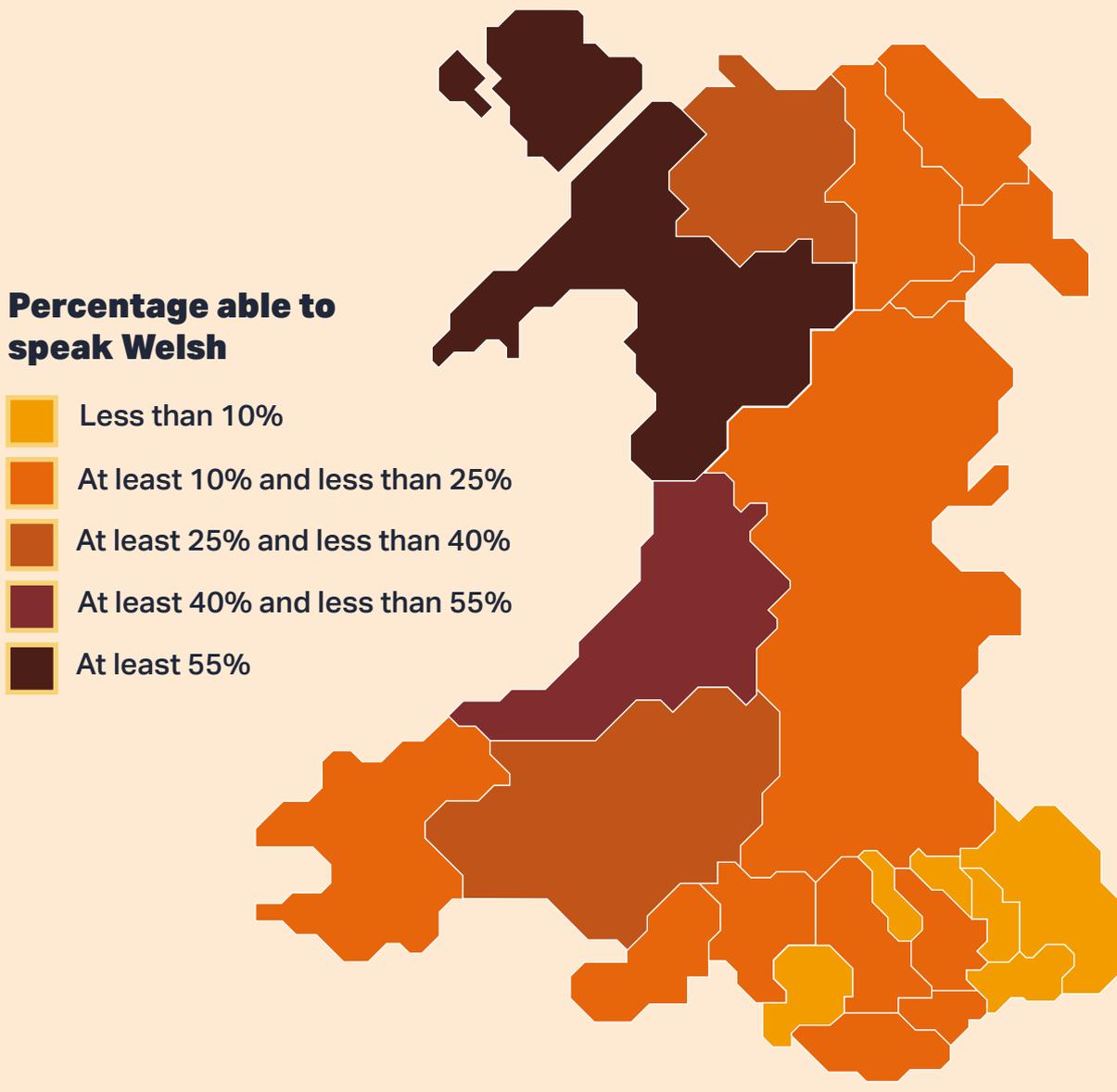
It is fairly positive that the decline in the percentage of Welsh speakers is smaller between 2011 and 2021 than seen in the previous decade, but the aim is not merely to halt the decline of course, and **significant and ambitious interventions are required to turn decline into progress by the 2031 Census**.

In drawing up the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy, the Welsh Government proposed a projection for the trajectory to the million which was based on the assumption that there would be 580,000 Welsh speakers by 2021, and that would represent 19% of the population. This means that there is a shortfall of 41,700 people and 1.2 percentage points between the projection and the 2021 Census results.

5. Where do Welsh speakers live?

5.1 Percentage of speakers by local authority

Map 1: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority

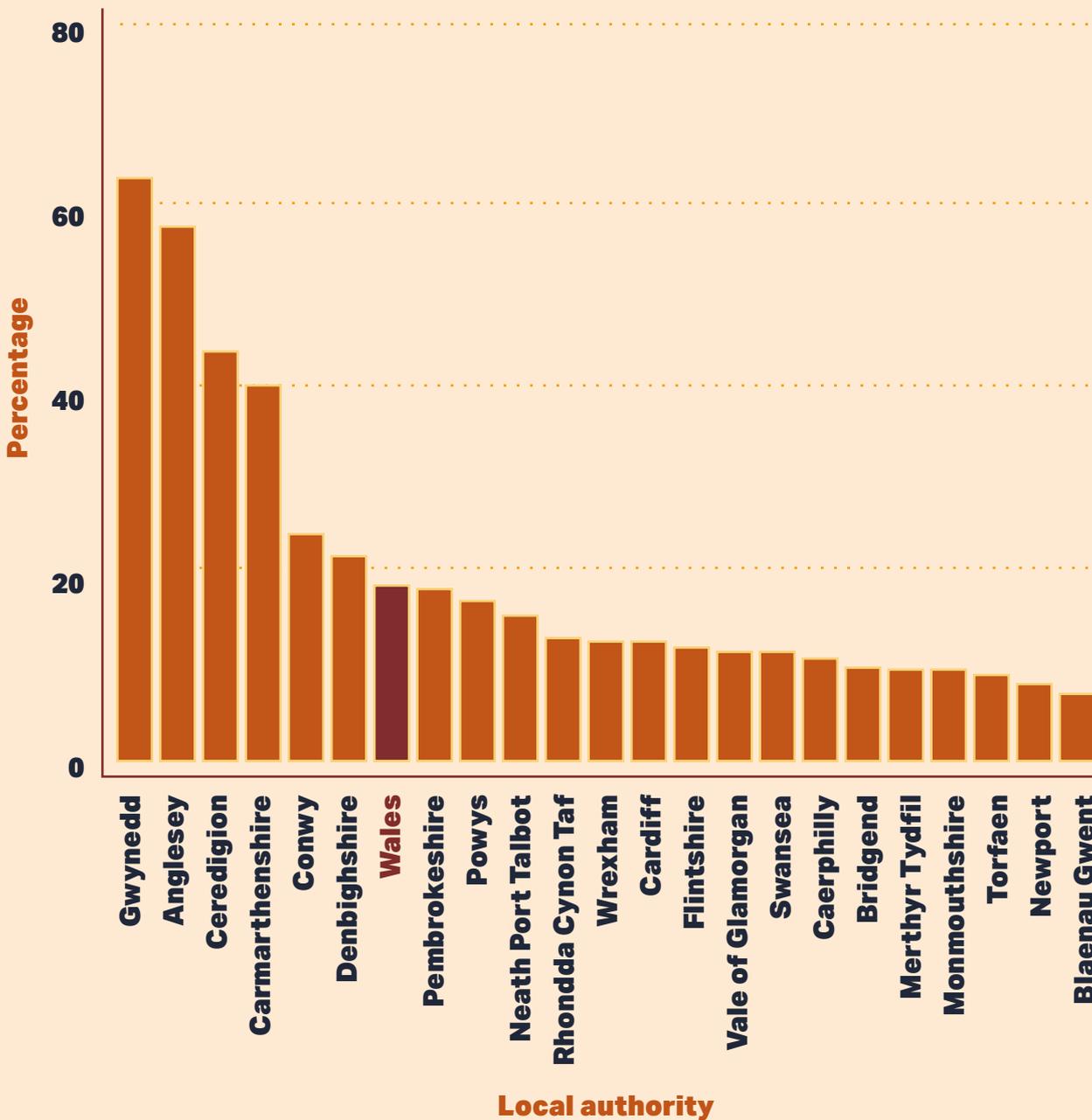


The highest percentages of Welsh speakers continue to be found in the local authorities of west Wales, reflecting the pattern seen in the 2011 Census. **More than half the population of Gwynedd and Anglesey can speak Welsh**, with 64.4% able to speak Welsh in Gwynedd and 55.8% in Anglesey.

Only one local authority falls into the category of 40–55% of speakers today with 45.3% of the population of Ceredigion able to speak Welsh. Carmarthenshire has slipped slightly below this threshold with 39.9% of the population able to speak the language, and Conwy also sits within the 25–40% category.

The percentage of Welsh speakers is below 25% in 17 of the 22 local authorities in Wales.

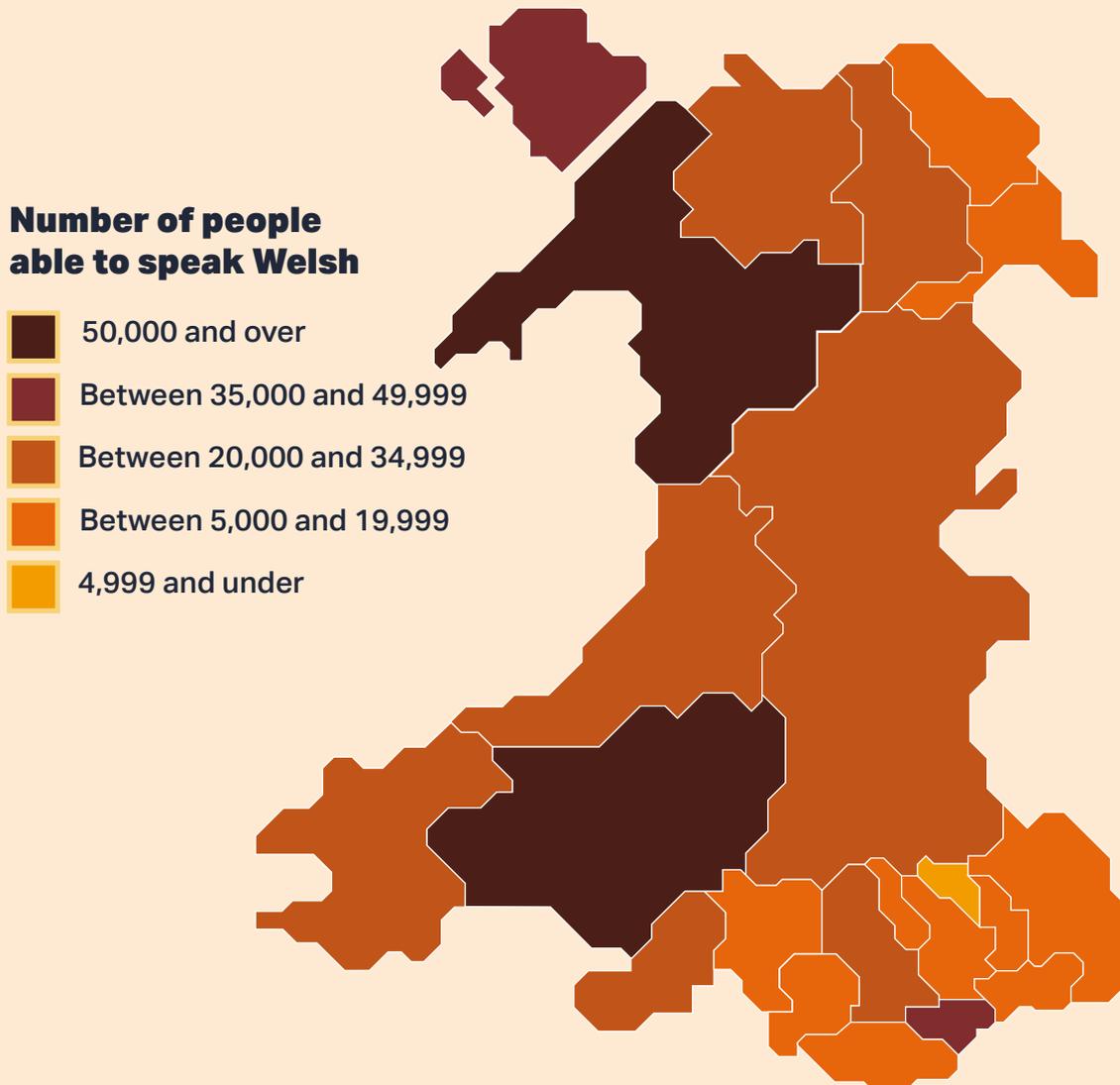
Chart 3: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

5.2 Number of speakers by local authority

Map 2: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority



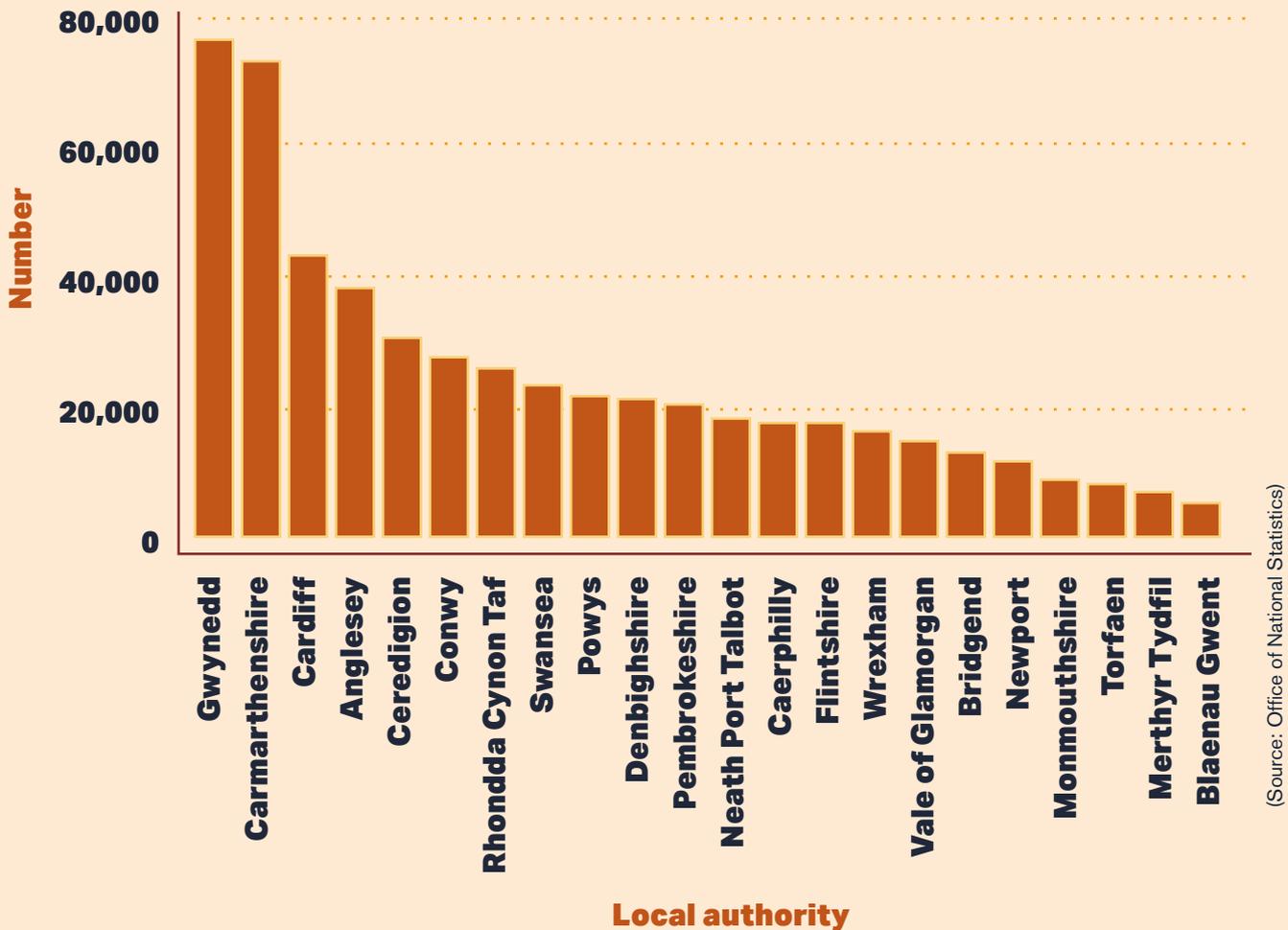
(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The picture looks quite different when considering the *numbers* of speakers at local authority level. **The highest numbers of speakers are in Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire** with over 70,000 speakers living in each local authority.

There are more than 35,000 speakers in both Cardiff and Anglesey; two local authorities that are opposite ends of the scale in terms of the percentage of speakers. It has already been noted that 55.8% of the population of Anglesey can speak Welsh, but although only 12.2% can speak the language in Cardiff, **there are now more Welsh speakers living in Cardiff than in Anglesey.**

Significant numbers of Welsh speakers also live in other local authorities across the country beyond what are traditionally regarded as the heartlands of the Welsh language in west Wales. Seven local authorities each have between 20,000 and 32,000 speakers. There are 20,626 speakers in Pembrokeshire, for example, 20,946 in Denbighshire, 25,986 in Swansea, and as many as 28,556 in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Chart 4: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority



5.3 Change in the percentage and number of speakers by local authority between 2011 and 2021

In Gwynedd, which has the highest number and percentage of Welsh speakers (64.4%), there has been a relatively small decrease since 2011 – a drop of 1 percentage point or 3,440 speakers. It is worth noting that this coincides with an overall decline in Gwynedd's population over the decade. In 2011 there were 121,900 people living in Gwynedd; by 2021 the total had dropped to 117,400, a decrease of 3.7% or 4,500 people.¹

A similar situation is seen in Anglesey and in Ceredigion, both of which have experienced reductions in their total populations since 2011. As might be expected, these declines are accompanied by decreases in the numbers of Welsh speakers. There was a decrease of 1,155 speakers in Anglesey which amounts to 1.4 percentage points, while in Ceredigion there was a larger decrease of 2 percentage points or 3,286 speakers.

¹ Gwynedd population change, Census 2021 – ONS.

Although Carmarthenshire has the second-highest number of Welsh speakers (72,838), this is where the largest drop in the number and percentage of speakers has occurred, a decrease of 5,210 people or 4 percentage points since 2011. Carmarthenshire's population grew over the decade, at a higher rate than the national rate. While the population of Wales grew by 1.4%, the population of Carmarthenshire grew by 2.2%.²

Turning to the areas where there has been an increase in the number or percentage of Welsh speakers since 2011, it is worth looking closer at parts of the south-east. **There has been an increase in the number of speakers in four of Wales's local authorities, all of which are in the south-east:** Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.

A relatively modest growth was seen in three of these local authorities, however. Only 51 additional speakers were recorded in Merthyr Tydfil; there were 777 additional speakers in Rhondda Cynon Taf which is a slight increase of 0.1 percentage points, and an additional 1,548 speakers in the Vale of Glamorgan, an increase of 0.7 percentage points.

Cardiff, however, saw a far more significant increase of 6,022 speakers, representing an increase of 1.1 percentage points. There has also been a significant increase in the size of Cardiff's population. In 2011 there were 346,100 people living in Cardiff; by 2021 the total had increased to 362,400, an increase of 4.7% or 16,300 people.³

Cardiff is now the local authority with the third-largest number of Welsh speakers. The comparison with Anglesey has already been noted but it is also worth noting that this also means that **Cardiff has 11,079 more speakers than Ceredigion.**

Beyond this increase in four local authorities in the south-east, and the 4 percentage points decrease seen in Carmarthenshire, the percentage decline in Welsh speakers in the rest of Wales's local authorities is relatively stable and ranges from a decrease of 0.2 percentage points in Swansea to a decrease of 2.2 percentage points in Powys.

Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil have the lowest numbers of people able to speak Welsh at local authority level. 4,035 of Blaenau Gwent's population can speak Welsh, that's 6.2% of the population which is a decrease of 1.6 percentage points since 2011. The total population of Blaenau Gwent also decreased during the period. There are around a thousand more Welsh speakers in Merthyr Tydfil with 5,079 or 8.9% of the population able to speak the language, which is relatively stable since 2011. The total population of Merthyr Tydfil has also been stable over the decade.

Newport was the authority that saw the largest increase in its total population between 2011 and 2021 with an increase of 13,900 people or 9.5%.⁴ Although it has the second-lowest percentage of Welsh speakers (7.5%, a decrease of 1.8 percentage points since 2011), 11,594 people are able to speak Welsh there.

² Carmarthenshire population change, Census 2021 – ONS.

³ Cardiff population change, Census 2021 – ONS.

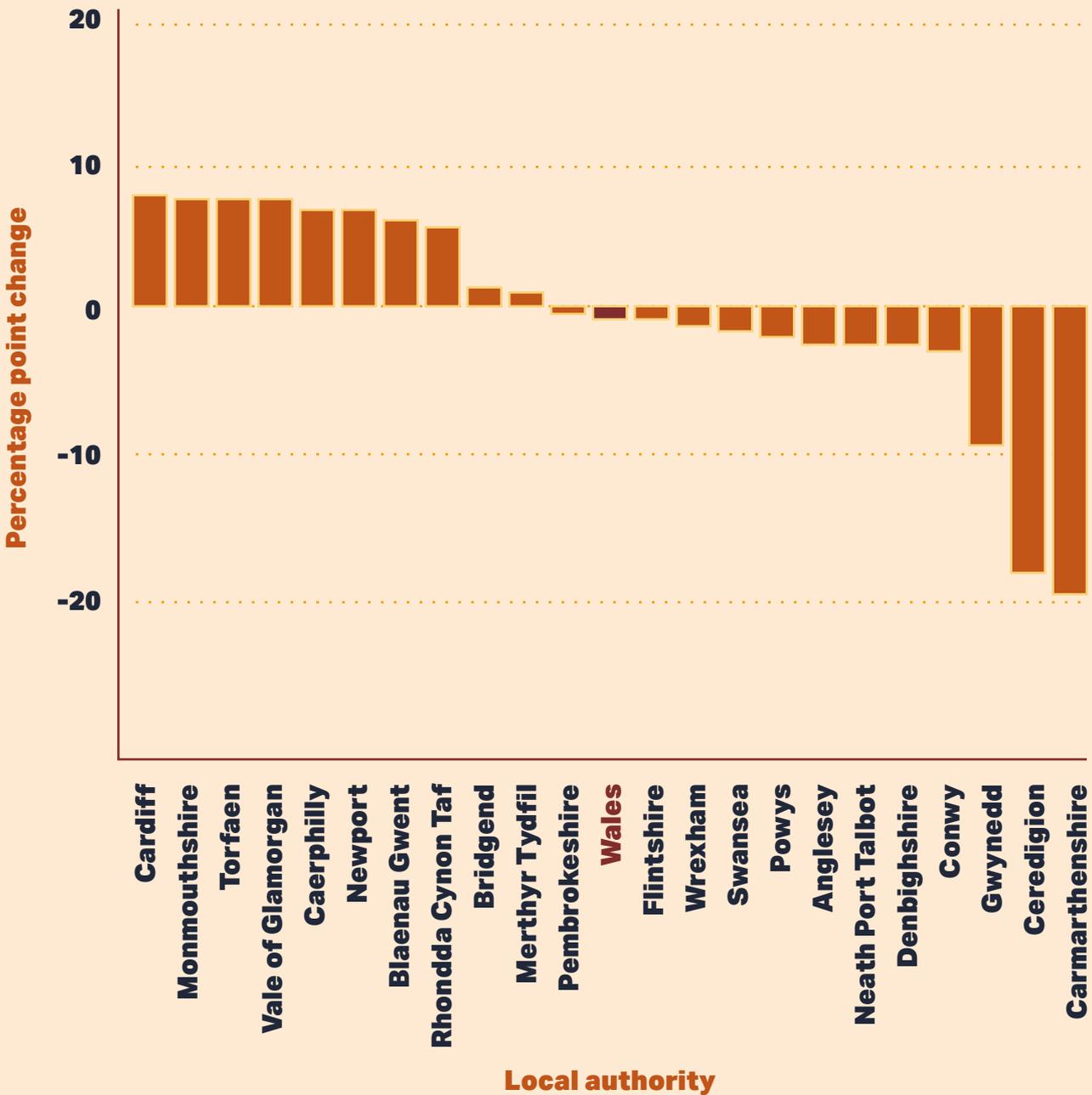
⁴ Newport population change, Census 2021 – ONS.

Table 4: Comparison of the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales by local authority, 1981–2021

Local authority	Percentage				
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Anglesey	61.0	62.0	60.1	57.2	55.8
Gwynedd	73.8	72.1	69.0	65.4	64.4
Conwy	31.6	30.6	29.4	27.4	25.9
Denbighshire	28.2	26.9	26.4	24.6	22.5
Flintshire	12.7	13.5	14.4	13.2	11.6
Wrexham	14.7	13.8	14.6	12.9	12.2
Powys	20.7	20.7	21.1	18.6	16.4
Ceredigion	63.2	59.1	52.0	47.3	45.3
Pembrokeshire	18.0	18.3	21.8	19.2	17.2
Carmarthenshire	59.0	54.8	50.3	43.9	39.9
Swansea	14.7	13.3	13.4	11.4	11.2
Neath Port Talbot	19.1	17.9	18.0	15.3	13.5
Bridgend	8.2	8.3	10.8	9.7	9.2
Vale of Glamorgan	5.9	6.8	11.3	10.8	11.5
Cardiff	5.9	6.6	11.0	11.1	12.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	9.1	9.0	12.5	12.3	12.4
Merthyr Tydfil	8.4	7.5	10.2	8.9	8.9
Caerphilly	5.3	6.0	11.2	11.2	10.4
Blaenau Gwent	2.2	2.2	9.5	7.8	6.2
Torfaen	2.5	2.4	11.1	9.8	8.2
Monmouthshire	2.8	2.2	9.3	9.9	8.7
Newport	2.4	2.3	10.0	9.3	7.5

5.4 Change in the percentage and number of speakers by local authority over time

Chart 5: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by local authority (percentage point change), 1981–2021



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Looking in more detail at long-term changes in the percentages of Welsh speakers **between 1981 and 2021, we can see again that Carmarthenshire has experienced the largest drop in the percentage of Welsh speakers**, a decrease of 19.1 percentage points. The number and percentage of speakers in Carmarthenshire have fallen steadily every decade since 1981 with the largest drop seen between 2001 and 2011 where the percentage fell from 50.3% to 43.9% (a decrease of 6.4 percentage points). Notably, this decade also saw the largest increase in Carmarthenshire's population, with 6.3% more people living there in 2011 than in 2001. Carmarthenshire's population has grown steadily since 1981.⁵

Ceredigion saw the second-largest drop in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the same period. With a decrease of 17.9 percentage points between 1981 and 2021, it is the only other local authority to see a decrease of between 10 and 20 percentage points. And as in Carmarthenshire, the percentage of speakers has fallen every decade. Although the number of speakers rose in Ceredigion over two decades between 1981 and 2001, the decrease in numbers over the following two decades exceeded the increase in previous years resulting in 3,479 fewer speakers in 2021 than in 1981.

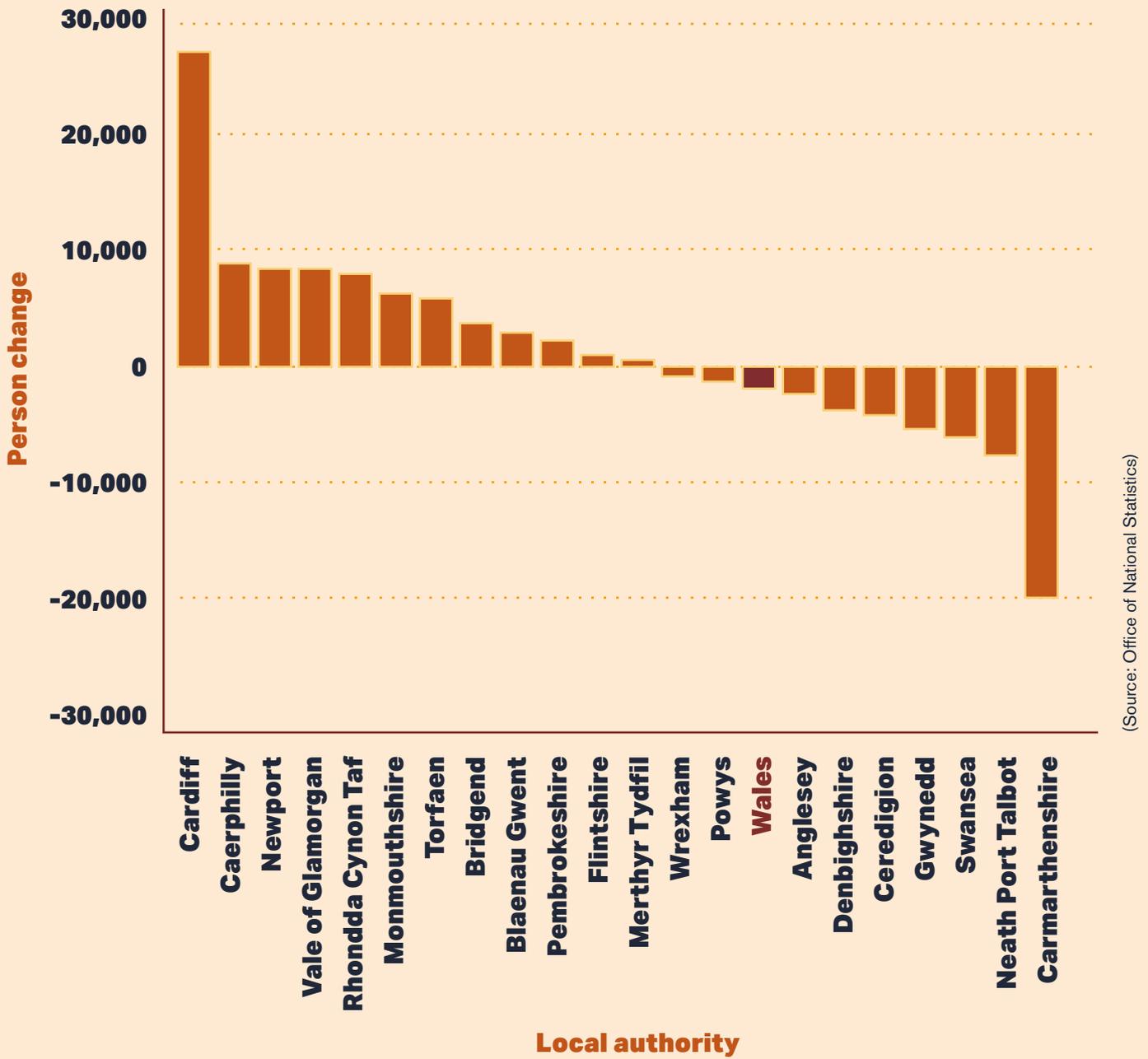
The local authority with the third-largest decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers in the same period was Gwynedd with a decrease of 9.4 percentage points. The 1 percentage point decline seen between 2011 and 2021 is less severe than the decline seen in the previous two decades. There was a decrease of 3.1 percentage points between 1991 and 2001 and a decrease of 3.6 percentage points between 2001 and 2011.

However, the total population of Gwynedd grew between 1991 and 2011 (by 8,543 people),⁶ and when that is combined with a decrease of 1,719 Welsh speakers in the same period, a higher percentage reduction is to be expected. The loss of fewer than 1,000 speakers in a decade amounted to a decline of over 3 percentage points.

⁵ Carmarthenshire census population profile - 1981 to 2021.

⁶ Gwynedd census population profile - 1981 to 2021.

Chart 6: Change in the number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by local authority, 1981–2021



Although the percentage decline in Gwynedd is not as severe between 2011 and 2021, this is the period where we have seen the largest drop in the number of speakers. By 2021, there were 3,440 fewer people speaking Welsh in Gwynedd than in 2011. This was the first period in which the population size of Gwynedd also decreased, of course.

Looking at the local authorities where there has been an increase **between 1981 and 2021, the largest increase is in the percentage of Welsh speakers in Cardiff**, an increase of 6.3 percentage points. A further nine local authorities also saw increases ranging from 5.9 percentage points in Monmouthshire to 0.5 in Merthyr Tydfil.

All ten local authorities where there has been an increase since 1981 are located in south-east Wales and they all saw a significant rise in numbers and percentages between 1991 and 2001. In most cases, this is the increase that accounts for the overall increase over the four decades up to 2021. Only two local authorities have seen a steady increase in the number of Welsh speakers over each decade, namely Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

But while the increase in other south-east local authorities has not been consistent and there have been decreases in some decades, the overall increase is significant in some of the local authorities since 1981. Caerphilly, for example, saw an increase of 9,300 speakers and there has been an increase of between 7,800 and 8,600 speakers in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Vale of Glamorgan and Newport.

Perhaps the most striking data in terms of changes in the number of Welsh speakers by local authority over these four decades is the **increase of 27,044 in Cardiff**, which coincides with the overall increase in the south-east local authorities, and the **decrease of 20,424 in Carmarthenshire**.

There is a significant gap between the extent of the decline in Carmarthenshire and the decline in other neighbouring authorities, however, with a decrease of 7,308 speakers in Neath Port Talbot and 6,100 in Swansea. Also bordering Carmarthenshire is Pembrokeshire which has seen an increase of 1,772 speakers since 1981.

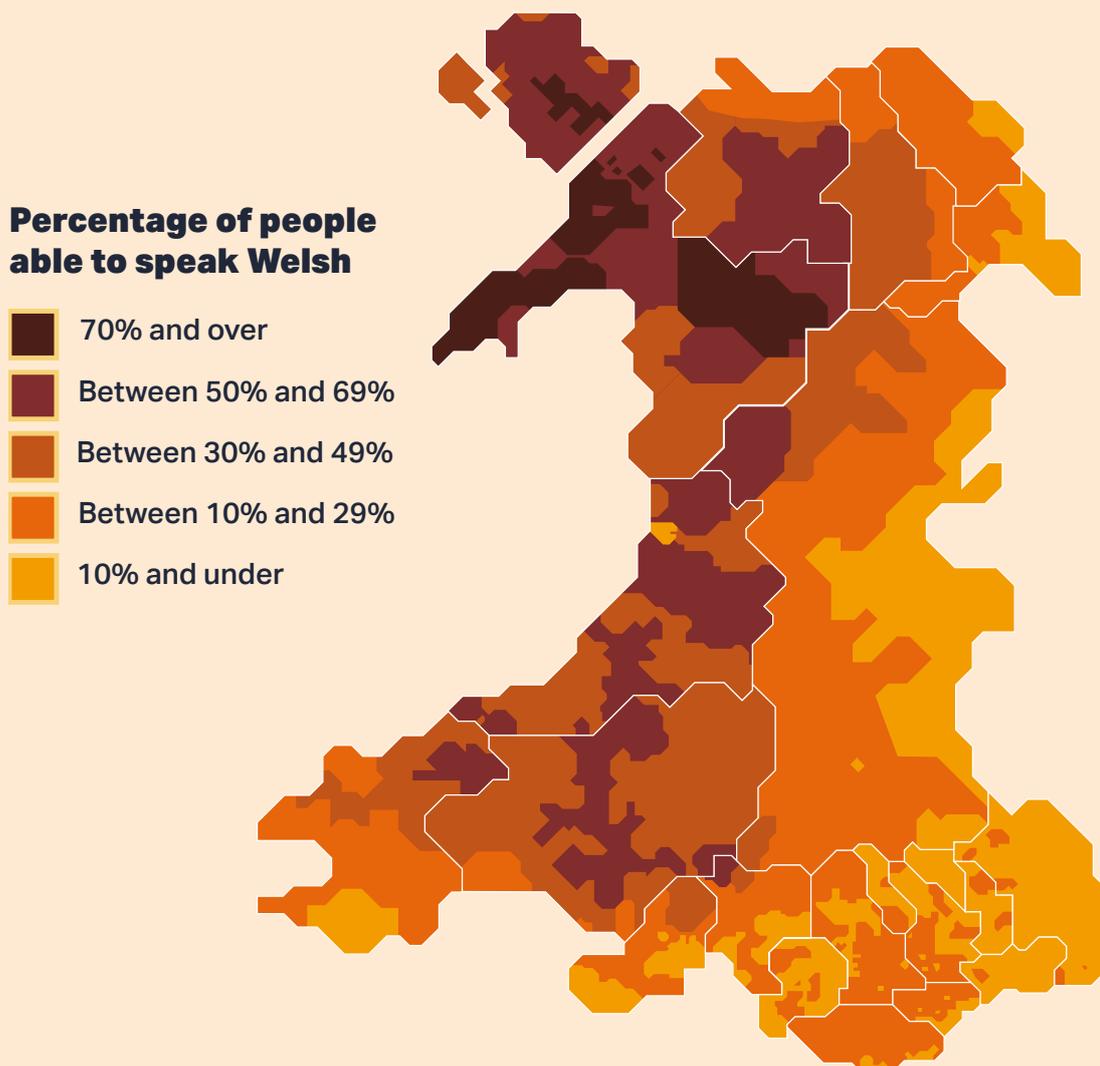
The same discrepancy exists when comparing the decline in Carmarthenshire with the decrease in the other local authorities that are traditionally considered to be strongholds of the Welsh language. There has been a considerably smaller decrease of 4,989 speakers in Gwynedd, 3,479 in Ceredigion and 1,915 in Anglesey since 1981.

5.5 Numbers and percentages of Welsh speakers at a more local level, by Lower Super Output Areas (small areas)

Lower Super Output Areas ('small areas') are small geographical areas containing between 400 and 1,200 households and between 1,000 and 3,000 usual residents. These areas are determined by the Office for National Statistics based on the number of households and residents, and it must be emphasised that the areas do not correspond to *communities* as such, so some care is needed when using the data to try to analyse community use of the language.

But the advantage of mapping at this smaller geographical scale is that changes in the percentages of Welsh speakers can be discerned in far greater detail than at the local authority level.⁷ Patterns seen on local authority levels can mask more local patterns, which are significant in terms of language use.

Map 3: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by LSOA



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

⁷ As a result of population and household changes since 2011, changes were made to some LSOAs by 2021 by combining or splitting some LSOAs to reach certain thresholds. While the total number of Welsh LSOAs only increased by 8 from 1,909 to 1,917 between 2011 and 2021, there have been changes to the boundaries of LSOAs in 15 of Wales's 22 local authorities. This needs to be taken into account when trying to compare these areas between 2011 and 2021. 1,837 areas remained consistent between the two censuses, but focusing on those would present an incomplete and unsatisfactory analysis.

The patterns illustrated in Map 3 mirror many of those already seen in Map 1 with higher percentages of Welsh speakers in west and north-west Wales. But you can also see small pockets within these local authorities where the Welsh language is fairly prosperous with **small areas where over 70% speak Welsh, on the Llŷn Peninsula, parts of Meirionnydd, Arfon and smaller parts of Anglesey.**

The map also shows pockets of fairly flourishing numbers of Welsh speakers in local authorities that otherwise have lower percentages of Welsh speakers, including parts of north Pembrokeshire, north-west Powys and north Swansea.

The small area with the highest density of Welsh speakers is found in Caernarfon, where 86.3% of people can speak the language. **The small area with the lowest percentage of speakers is found in a part of Ebbw Vale in Blaenau Gwent,** where 3.8% can speak Welsh.

Reference has already been made to the increase in the number and percentage of speakers in Cardiff, and **looking at the small areas of the capital city, the highest percentages of Welsh speakers are found in an area within Victoria Park in Canton** where 34.7% can speak Welsh, and in a part of Whitchurch and Tongwynlais where 31% can speak the language.

Map 4 illustrates where Welsh speakers live based on numbers. It emphasises again the significance of Gwynedd and Anglesey as strongholds of the Welsh language. But it is also effective to emphasise the significance of other areas in terms of numbers: the north Wales coast; north-east Wales; east Carmarthenshire and Swansea; and Cardiff and the valleys.

Map 4: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by LSOA



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 7: Number and percentage of small areas, by number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority

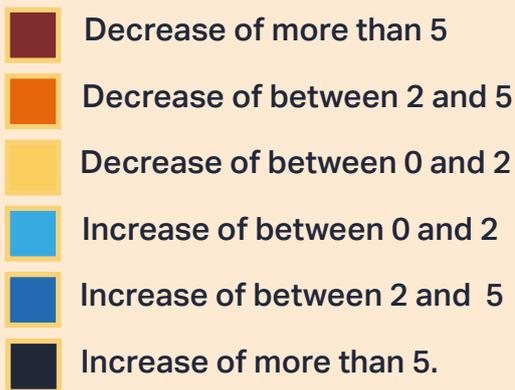
Local authority	Percentage able to speak Welsh											
	Under 25%		25–39%		40–59%		60–69%		70%+		Total	
	Number and percentage of small areas											
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Anglesey	0	0.0	7	17.1	20	48.8	8	19.5	6	14.6	41	100
Gwynedd	2	2.8	4	5.6	16	22.5	15	21.1	34	47.9	71	100
Conwy	49	69.0	10	14.1	8	11.3	4	5.6	0	0.0	71	100
Denbighshire	40	69.0	10	17.2	8	13.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	100
Flintshire	91	98.9	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	92	100
Wrexham	82	97.6	2	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	84	100
Powys	66	83.5	9	11.4	4	5.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	79	100
Ceredigion	4	8.9	4	8.9	37	82.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	45	100
Pembrokeshire	56	78.9	6	8.5	9	12.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	71	100
Carmarthenshire	21	18.9	32	28.8	53	47.7	5	4.5	0	0.0	111	100
Swansea	146	97.3	4	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	150	100
Neath Port Talbot	80	88.9	6	6.7	4	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	90	100
Bridgend	91	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	91	100
Vale of Glamorgan	82	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	82	100
Cardiff	211	96.8	7	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	218	100
Rhondda Cynon Taf	150	98.0	3	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	153	100
Merthyr Tydfil	36	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	36	100
Caerphilly	110	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	110	100
Blaenau Gwent	46	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	46	100
Torfaen	60	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	60	100
Monmouthshire	58	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	100
Newport	100	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	100	100
Total	1581	82.5	105	5.5	159	8.3	32	1.7	40	2.1	1917	100

5.6 Percentage of speakers by Lower Super Output Areas (small areas) in 2021 and 2011

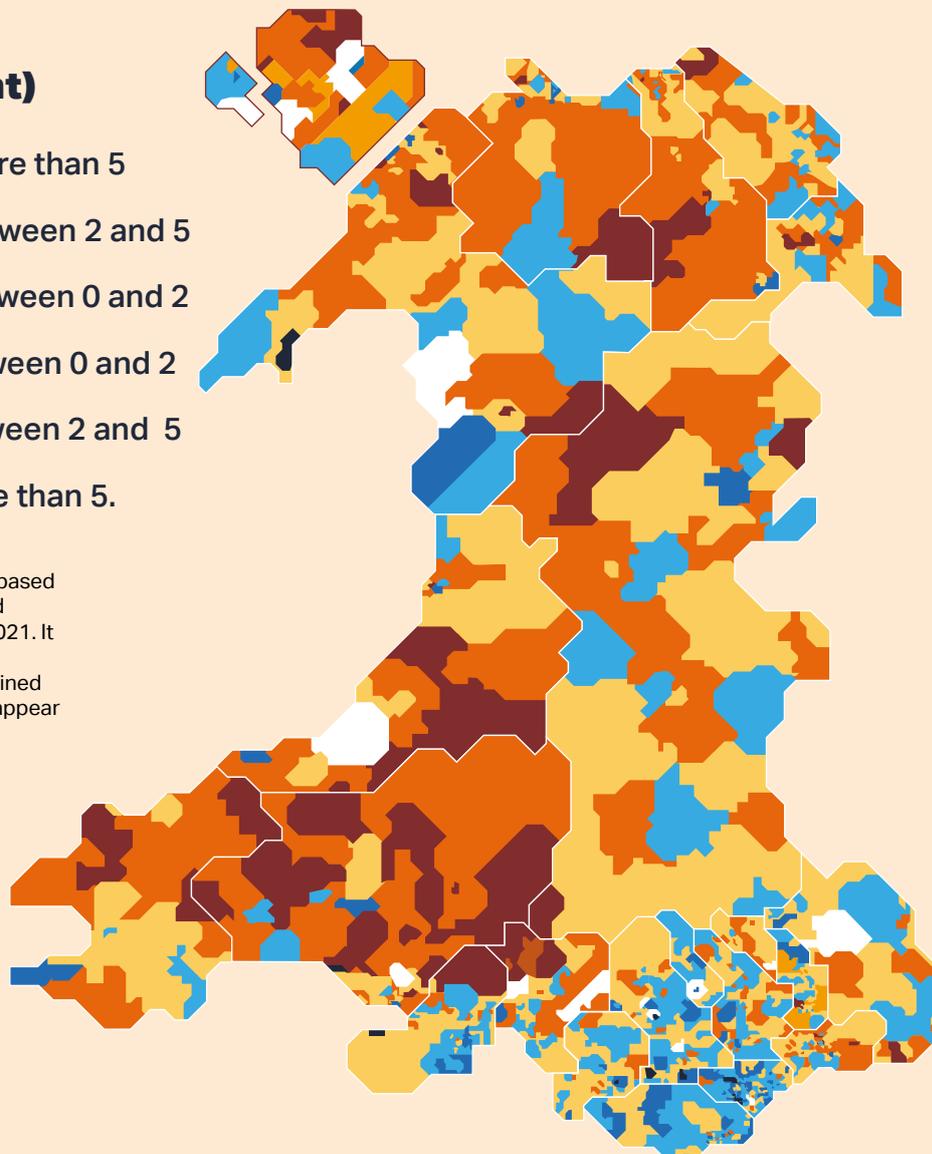
Map 5 illustrates the changes in the percentage of the population able to speak Welsh between 2011 and 2021. It shows small pockets of decline in local authorities which, otherwise, have seen an increase in the percentage of speakers. Conversely, it also reveals small areas of growth in local authorities which have experienced an overall decline in the percentage of speakers.

Map 5: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by LSOA (percentage point change), 2011–21

Change (percentage point)



Please note: the data in Map 5 is based only on small areas that remained unchanged between 2011 and 2021. It was not possible to account for changes in areas that were combined between 2011 and 2021. These appear in white.



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 8: Number and percentage of small areas in Wales, by percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh, 2011–21

Small areas (LSOAs)				
% able to speak Welsh	2011		2021	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 25%	1545	80.9	1581	82.5
Between 25 and 39%	113	5.9	105	5.5
Between 40 and 59%	161	8.4	159	8.3
Between 60 and 69%	41	2.1	32	1.7
70% and over	49	2.6	40	2.1
Total	1909	100	1917	100

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Because the number of small areas has increased since 2011 and the boundaries of some of the areas have changed, it is impossible to make direct comparisons between the two decades, but it is worth examining these small areas in 2011 and 2021 separately to get an idea of the change that has occurred.

70% or more of the population can speak Welsh in 40 small areas in Wales today, which is 2.1% of all small areas across the country. These small areas can only be found in two local authorities: 34 of them in Gwynedd and 6 in Anglesey. That is almost half of the small areas in Gwynedd. In 2011 there were 49 small areas with 70% or more of the population able to speak Welsh: 39 in Gwynedd, 8 in Anglesey, 1 in Conwy and 1 in Carmarthenshire.

Looking at the small areas where 60–69% of the population can speak Welsh, there are 32 such areas today. These are now located in the local authorities of Gwynedd (15), Anglesey (8), Carmarthenshire (5) and Conwy (4). In 2011, areas in this category could be found in seven local authorities: in Carmarthenshire (12), Gwynedd (11), Anglesey (8), Conwy (4), Ceredigion (3), Neath Port Talbot (2), and Pembrokeshire (1).

There are 159 small areas across Wales where 40–59% of the population speak Welsh, with the highest number in Carmarthenshire (53), Ceredigion (37) and Anglesey (20). Almost half of the small areas of Carmarthenshire and Anglesey fall into this category, while over 80% of the small areas of Ceredigion fall into this category. There were 161 small areas in this category in 2011 with 55 in Carmarthenshire, 33 in Ceredigion and 22 in Anglesey. The number of areas remained stable in Pembrokeshire (9), Denbighshire (8), Conwy (8), and Neath Port Talbot (4). There were 15 such small areas in Gwynedd in 2011 while there were 16 small areas in 2021, and there were 7 small areas in Powys in 2011 while there were 4 in 2021.

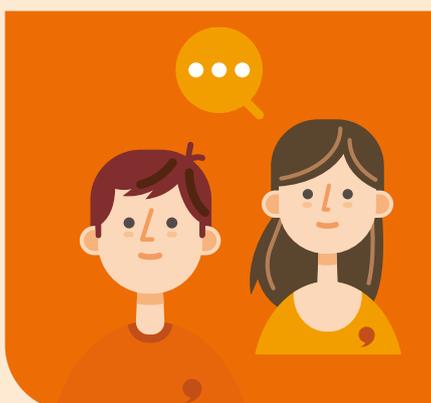
There are 105 small areas in Wales where 25–39% per cent of the population can speak Welsh. The largest number of these are in Carmarthenshire (32), Conwy (10) and Denbighshire (10). There were 113 of these areas in 2011 with 31 in Carmarthenshire, 13 in Conwy and 12 in Denbighshire. In 2011, there were only 2 small areas in this category in Cardiff and not a single area in Rhondda Cynon Taf, but by 2021 there are 7 areas in this category in Cardiff and 3 in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This means that **less than 25% of the population speaks Welsh in 83% of the small areas of Wales today**, this corresponds to 1,581 small areas. None of Anglesey's small areas fall into this lower category. There are 2 areas in this category in Gwynedd, and both can be found in parts of the university city of Bangor. In contrast, all small areas in Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, and Newport fall into this category.

5.7 Welsh speakers living outside Wales

The questions about the Welsh language are only included in the Wales version of the census questionnaire, and therefore the census does not tell us much about who can speak Welsh across the border.

However, the questionnaire asks people living in England about their main language. In 2021, **7,349 people in England identified Welsh as their main language (0.01% of the population)** compared with 8,248 in 2011. The question and the data do not reflect the number of people who can speak Welsh but do not consider it to be their 'main language'.



In 2021

7,349

people in England identified Welsh as their main language

The Commissioner's conclusions



Gwynedd, Anglesey and Ceredigion remain strongholds of the Welsh language, but it is concerning that the populations of these three local authorities have declined while the population of Wales as a whole has grown. As the population decreases in these areas, without serious efforts to create more Welsh speakers from the current population or to create opportunities to attract or retain Welsh speakers in these areas, it is inevitable that the number of Welsh speakers there will decrease again.

The scale of the decline in Carmarthenshire is also a great cause for concern as the population there has grown significantly. That growth has not translated into an increase in the number of speakers, and **a clearer understanding of how the population has grown is needed to identify the interventions needed to reverse the situation there.**

It is striking that there is now a higher number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff than in Anglesey or Ceredigion. There are many more people living in Cardiff, of course, so the percentage of Welsh speakers there remains low. But these high numbers of Welsh speakers cannot be ignored and the **linguistic skills that now exist in the capital must be utilised.**

The fact that there are small areas in Cardiff where there is a higher percentage of Welsh speakers than in many other small areas of Wales also demonstrates the growth of the Welsh language in the capital, and it could be said that the Welsh language is now a natural and prominent part of those small areas despite English still being the majority language.

The huge increase in the number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff over the decades is reflected to a lesser extent in neighbouring local authorities, and **continued efforts will be needed to sustain and build on this progress across the south-east**

It is important not to forget the large numbers of Welsh speakers living in local authorities and specific areas that lie beyond the traditional heartlands of the language. **These speakers have the same rights to use their Welsh as speakers living in areas of higher density.** It is also important to create deliberate opportunities for people to socialise and use their Welsh in those areas where Welsh is not the main community language so that they have opportunities to use the language naturally as part of their lives.

6. Are there other ways of putting Welsh speakers on a map?

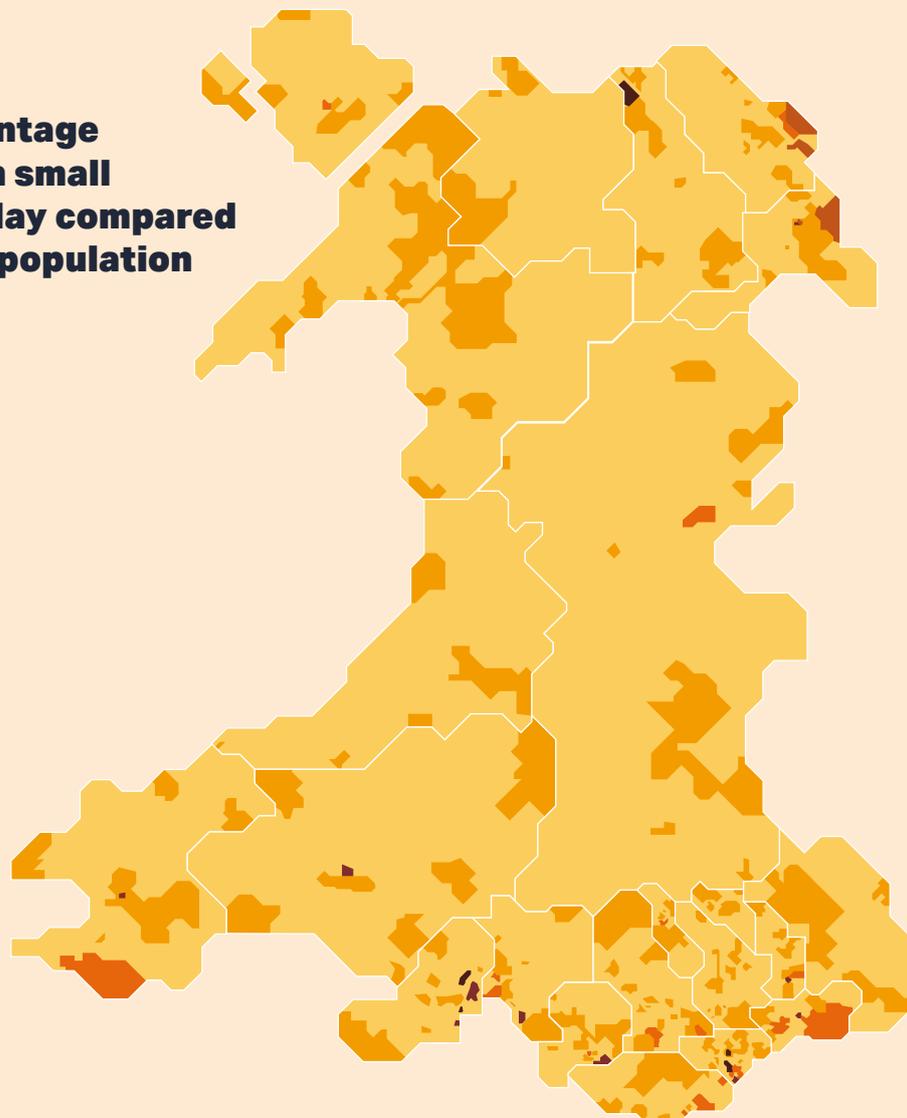
Of course, Welsh speakers do not remain at the address where they filled out the census questionnaire all day every day. And our desire to put Welsh speakers on the map risks creating a misleading picture of a population that is very static.



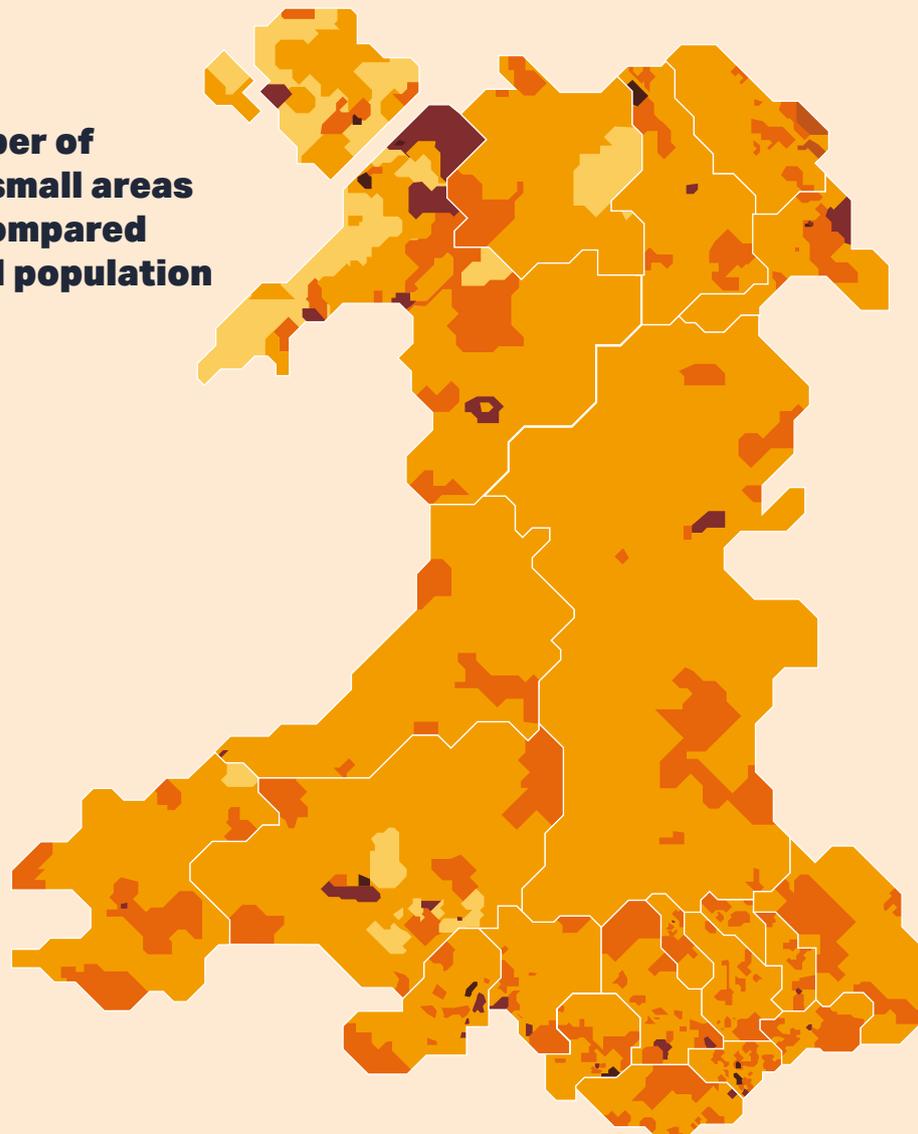
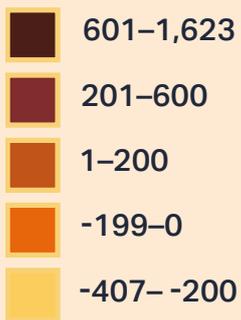
We are a mobile population with economic, social, and educational factors shaping our daily patterns.

Map 6: Maps illustrating the percentage change and change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population

Change in the percentage of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population



Change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

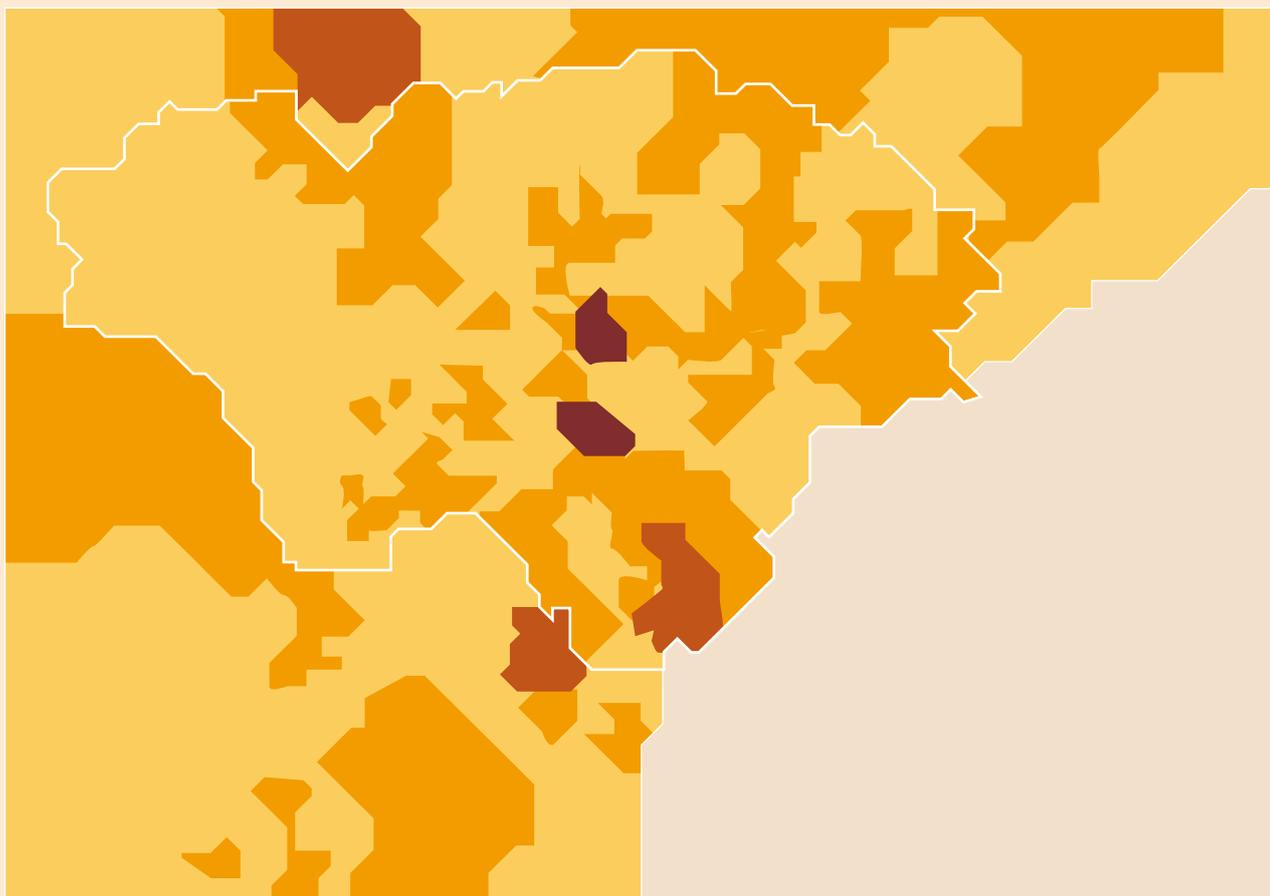
Map 6 is an attempt to illustrate these movement patterns. Both maps compare the location of Welsh speakers during the day with their home – one shows the percentage change and the other shows the change in the numbers of Welsh speakers.⁸ The small areas shaded yellow on both maps are those areas that lose the most Welsh speakers during the day, and the small areas that are shaded brown on the maps are those that receive the most Welsh speakers during the day.

⁸ Thanks to Hywel Jones [Statistics relating to the Welsh language and Wales - and more](#) for his expert advice in developing this part of the report.

Overall, **rural areas tend to lose Welsh speakers during the day, while urban areas tend to receive them.** It must be emphasised, however, that direct links cannot be made between those areas that lose Welsh speakers and those that receive them. That is, it is not possible to trace specific speakers as they commute to work or school, we are simply theorising on the basis of what we know about prominent employers in those areas that receive a high number of Welsh speakers during the working day.

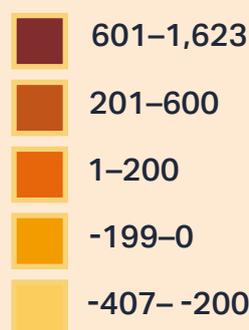
To take a closer look at these patterns here are examples of three very different areas: Cardiff and the surrounding area; Bangor/Caernarfon and the surrounding area; and east Carmarthenshire and Swansea. These maps highlight the change in numbers as they better highlight the commuting patterns to workplaces.

Map 7: Map illustrating the change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population (Cardiff)



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population: Cardiff

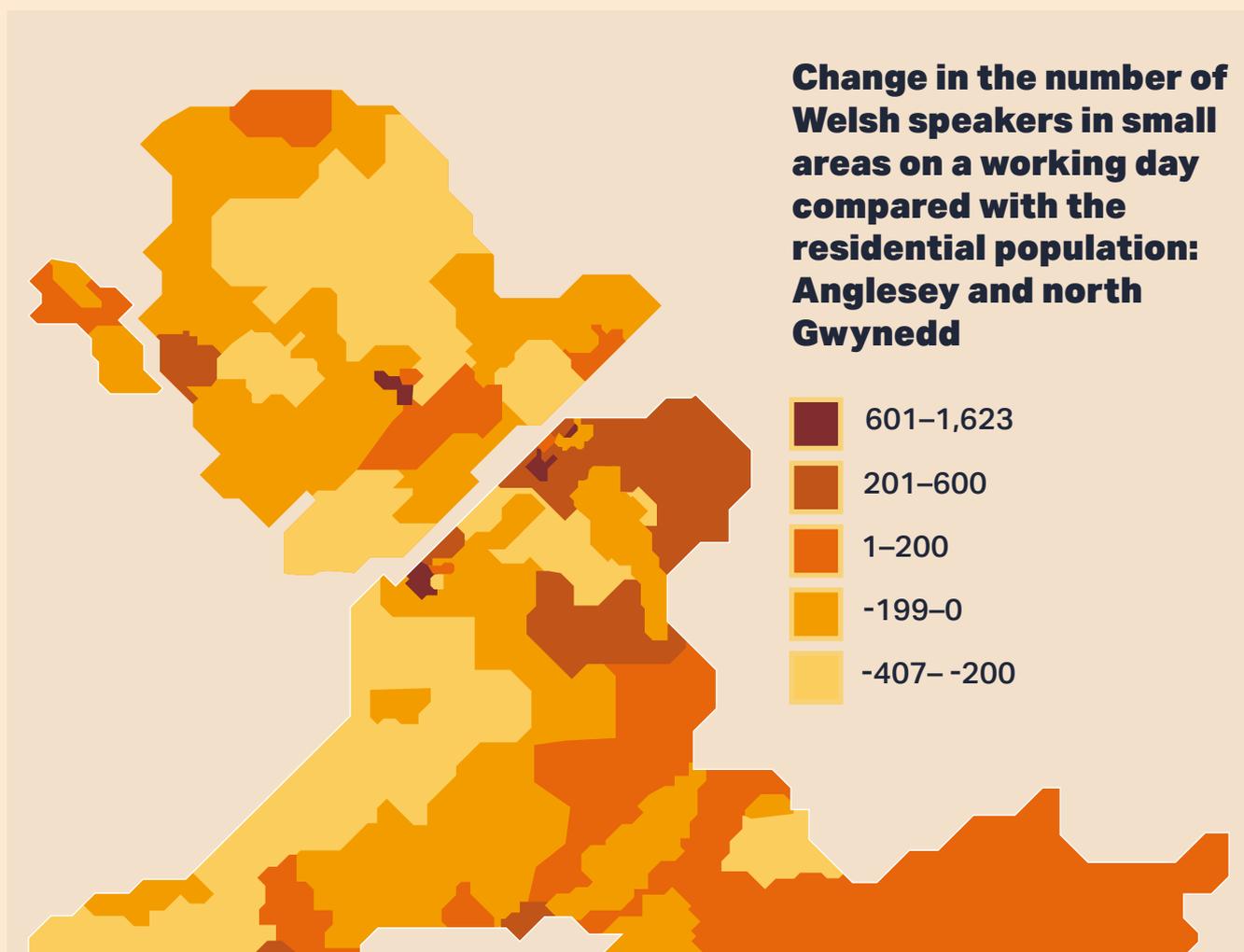


Map 7 of Cardiff and the surrounding area clearly illustrates how areas around Cardiff lose Welsh speakers during the day and other areas receive large numbers of Welsh speakers: **Cardiff Bay and Cathays Park** being prominent examples.

Given the large organisations and prominent employers based in these areas – Welsh Government, Cardiff University and the Senedd, for example – it is very likely that workers commuting to their place of work are responsible for these numbers. **This increase clearly demonstrates the potential for the Welsh language to be used in these specific areas of Cardiff during the working day.**

Very similar patterns can be found in an area where there is a higher density of speakers, as highlighted in Map 8 of north-west Wales. Even an area considered to belong to the traditional heartlands of the Welsh language experiences a daily linguistic shift. It shows that rural areas of the region lose speakers during the day to specific urban areas – **Caernarfon and Bangor in Gwynedd, and Llangefni in Anglesey.**

Map 8: Map illustrating the change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population (Anglesey and north Gwynedd)

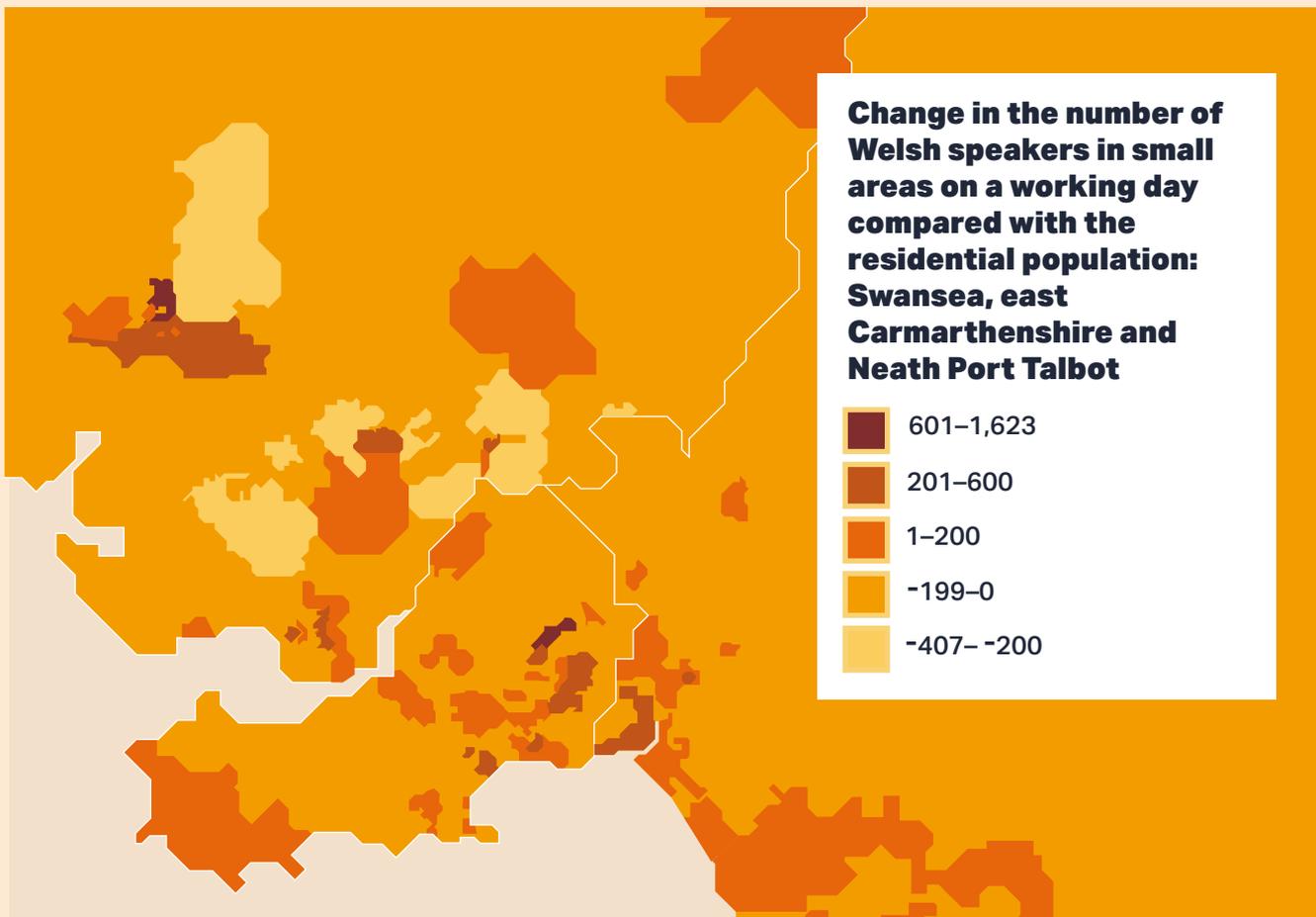


Again, it is likely that commuting patterns explain these changes, as Welsh speakers travel to work for some of the area’s main employers, including Bangor University, Cyngor Gwynedd, Anglesey County Council, and secondary schools.

Map 9 illustrates the daily shifts in the distribution of Welsh speakers in the Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and east Carmarthenshire area. This area was chosen because it covers areas with a high density of speakers – the traditional heartlands of the Welsh language – as well as areas with a much lower density of speakers.

Again, some rural areas in this area lose Welsh speakers during the day while more urban centres attract them – **Carmarthen, Swansea and Port Talbot**. It is particularly striking to note the high numbers of Welsh speakers travelling to Morrison, probably due to prominent employers there such as the hospital and the DVLA.

Map 9: Map illustrating the change in the number of Welsh speakers in small areas on a working day compared with the residential population (Swansea, east Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot)



The Commissioner's conclusions



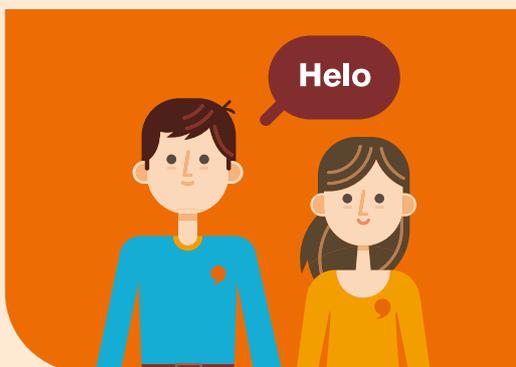
It is important to remember that Welsh speakers move throughout the day for work and leisure and that the fact that Welsh speakers gather in civic or urban centres during the day provides many opportunities for language use.

There is also an opportunity for **workplaces to attract Welsh speakers**, bring speakers together and provide opportunities for Welsh speaking staff to use their language skills.

7. How old are Welsh speakers?

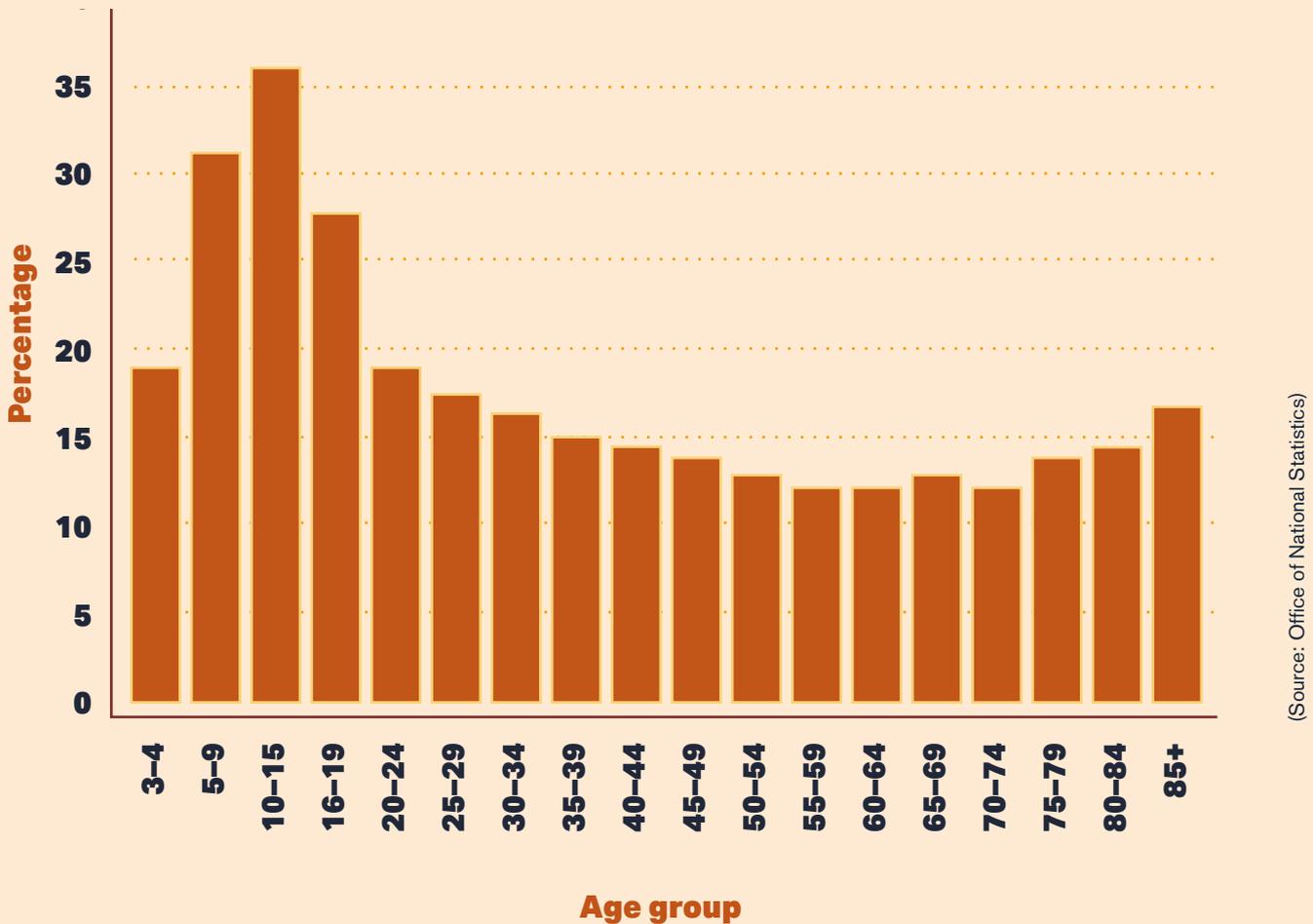
7.1 Percentages and numbers of Welsh speakers by age group

When looking at the population by age categories of roughly five years, the highest percentages and numbers of Welsh speakers are found among children aged 5 to 15. This is the age at which children receive statutory education, of course. 36.6% of those aged 10 to 15 years are able to speak Welsh equating to 79,345 in number, while 31.4% or 55,328 of those aged 5 to 9 years are able to speak the language.



It can therefore be said that around one-third of children aged **5–15** in Wales can speak Welsh

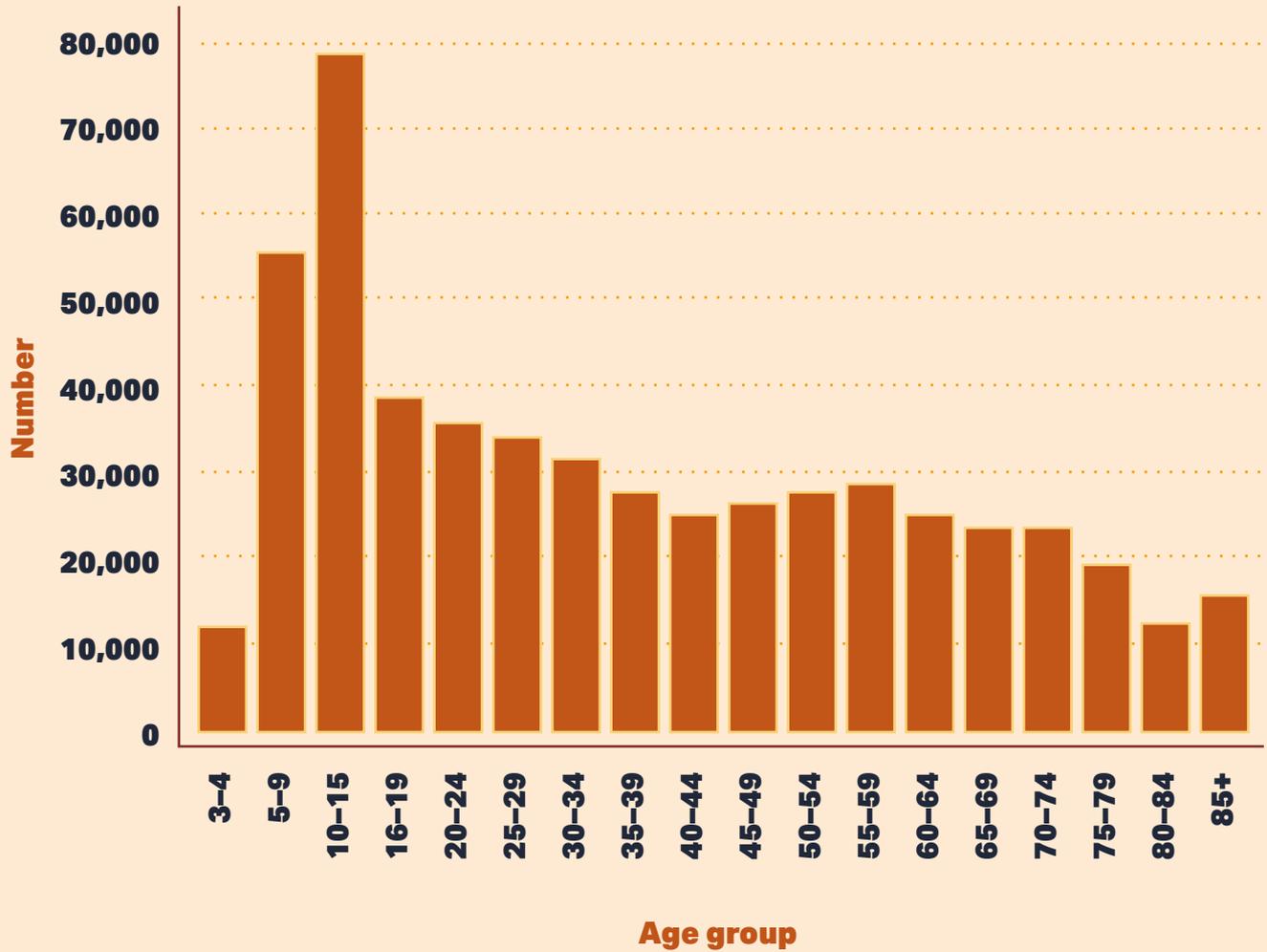
Chart 7: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by age group



The age group with the third-highest percentage of speakers is the 16–19 age group where 27.5% are able to speak Welsh. This equates to 38,818 people. The percentage falls to 18.6% among those aged 20 to 24 years, and stabilises somewhat from age 25 onwards.

If we group the remaining categories together meaningfully, 16% of those aged 25 to 44 years speak Welsh. The lowest percentages of speakers are in the older groups; 13% of people in the 45–64 age group and 13.9% of people over 65 can speak Welsh. Despite these lower percentages, these groups cannot be ignored as high numbers of speakers belong to the groups. There are 107,345 in the 45–64 age group and 91,745 speakers over the age of 65.

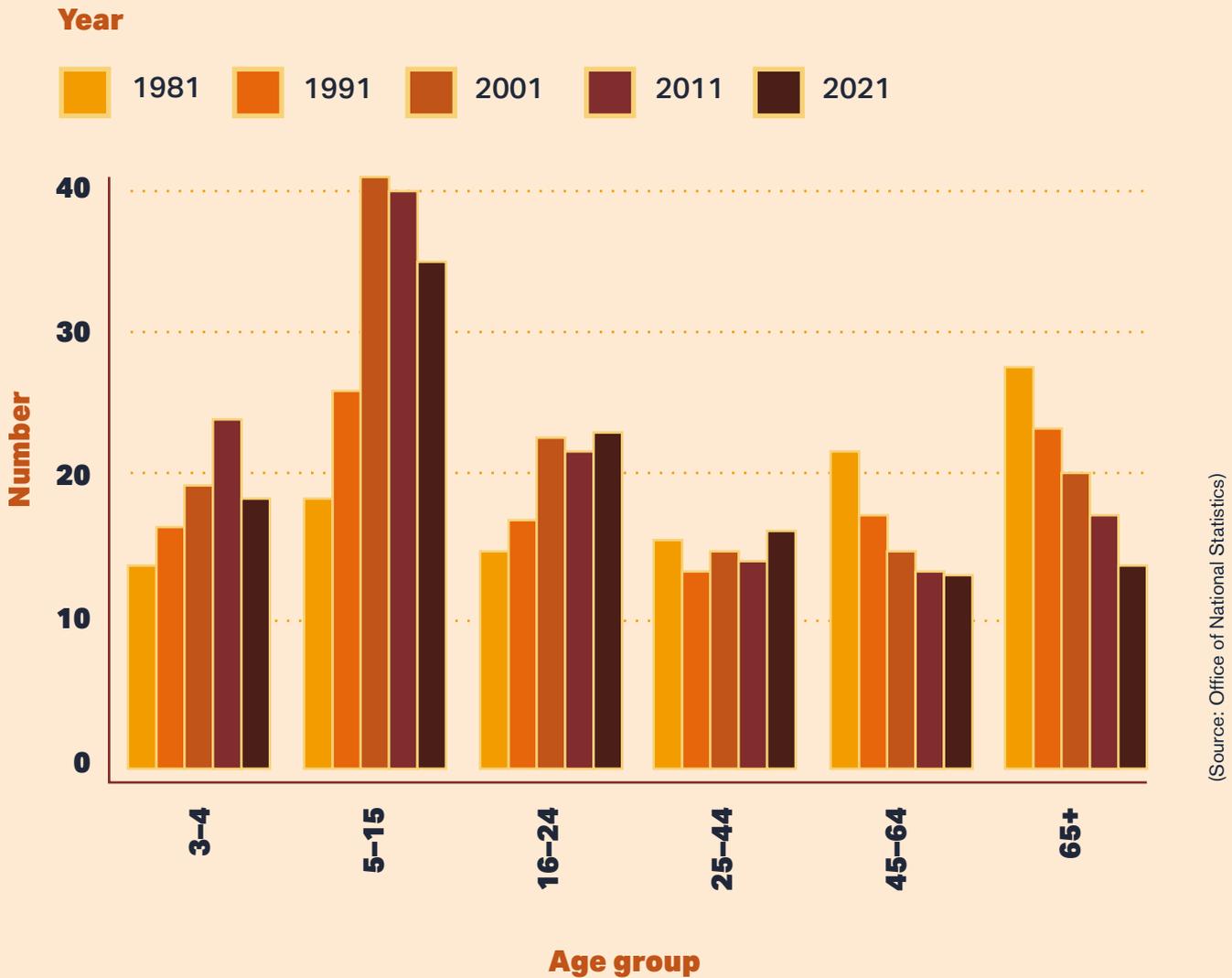
Chart 8: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by age group



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

7.2 Comparing 2011 and 2021 results in terms of age group

Chart 9: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales by age group, 1981–2021



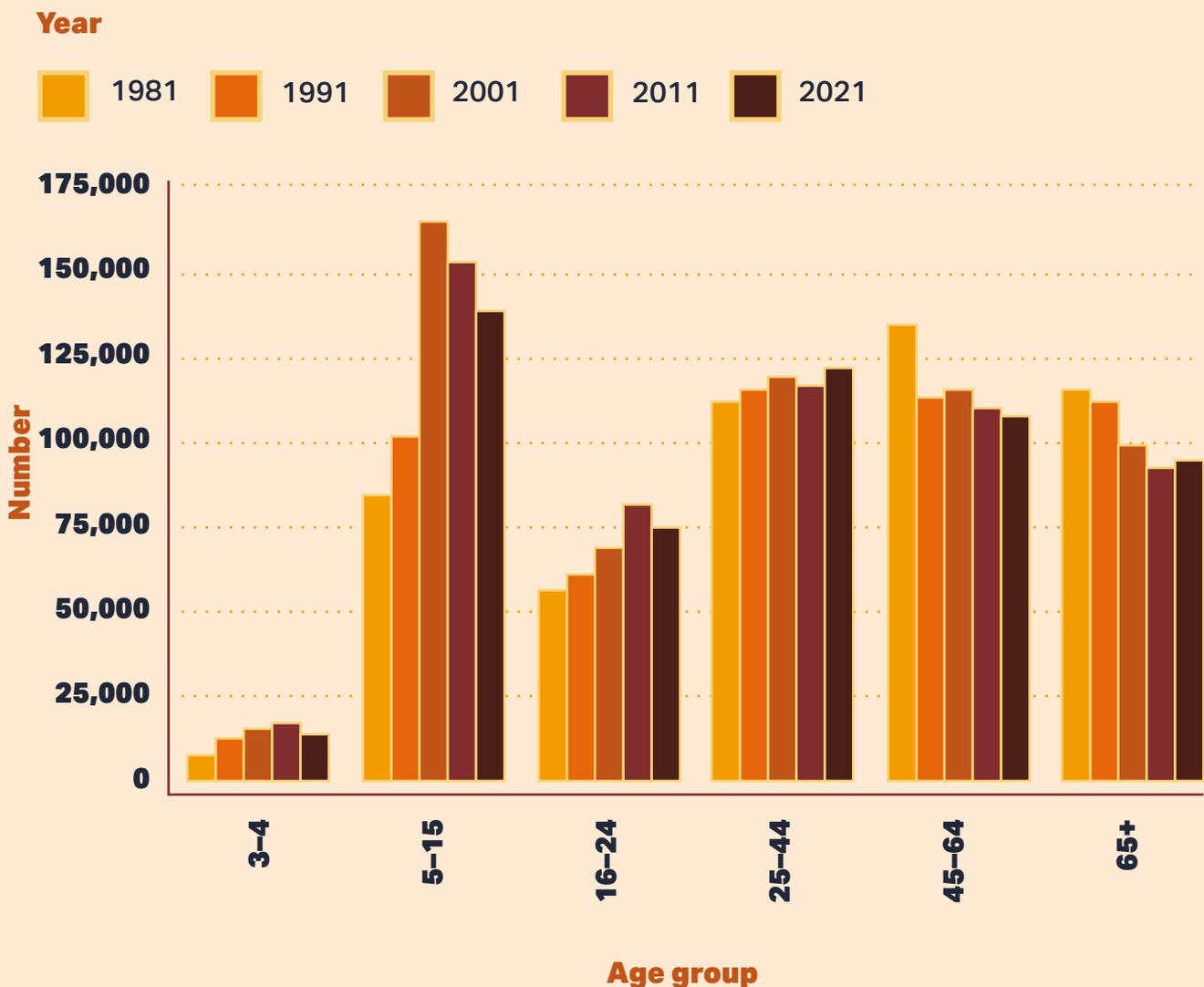
Although the highest percentages of Welsh speakers were found in the 5–15 age group in 2021 as in 2011, this is where the largest decline in the percentage and number of speakers has been seen since 2011. The percentage able to speak Welsh decreased by 6 percentage points over the decade, from 40.3% in 2011 to 34.3% in 2021. That’s 17,582 fewer children able to speak the language in 2021.

The number and percentage of 3- to 4-year-olds able to speak Welsh also decreased during the same period, from 23.3% in 2011 to 18.2% in 2021, a decrease of 5.1 percentage points or 4,548 children. It is worth noting that the number and percentage of children aged 3 to 4 increased over the previous decades and therefore the decrease between 2011 and 2021 was contrary to the pattern of previous years. The number and percentage of 5- to 15-year-olds also increased between 1981 and 2001 before entering a period of decline in subsequent decades.

There was a slight increase of 0.8 percentage points in the percentage of the population aged 16–24 who can speak Welsh, although the number of speakers in this age category decreased. This reflects the decline in the total population aged 16–24 overall. **There was a 1.0 percentage point increase in the percentage of the population aged 25–44 who can speak Welsh**, an increase of 5,364 in number.

The 45–64 and 65+ age groups remained relatively stable. There was a very small percentage decrease of 0.3 percentage points in the 45–64 population who can speak Welsh, which equates to just 596 fewer people able to speak the language in 2021 than in 2011. There was a decrease of 2.3 percentage points in the 65+ population who can speak Welsh, but despite this percentage decline, the number of people in this category increased by 813 people. That reflects the increase in the total population aged 65+ overall.

Chart 10: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales by age group, 1981–2021



The percentage of Welsh speakers in these two older age categories has decreased every decade since 1981, but the percentage decline seen between 2011 and 2021 is much smaller than the decline seen in previous decades.

Comparing the results of the number of Welsh speakers in Census 2021 and Census 2011, similar patterns can be seen by age group. The highest numbers of Welsh speakers are still found amongst children and young people in education while the numbers gradually decrease before stabilising in the older age groups.

Table 10: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by age group (percentage point change), 1981–2021

Age group	Percentage point change				1981–2021
	1981–1991	1991–2001	2001–2011	2011–2021	
3–4	2.9	2.6	4.5	-5.1	4.9
5–15	7.6	14.9	-0.5	-6.0	16.0
16–24	2.1	5.1	-0.6	0.8	7.4
25–44	-1.1	0.6	-0.1	1.0	0.4
45–64	-3.3	-1.8	-2.3	-0.3	-7.7
65+	-4.8	-3.1	-3.3	-2.3	-13.5

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

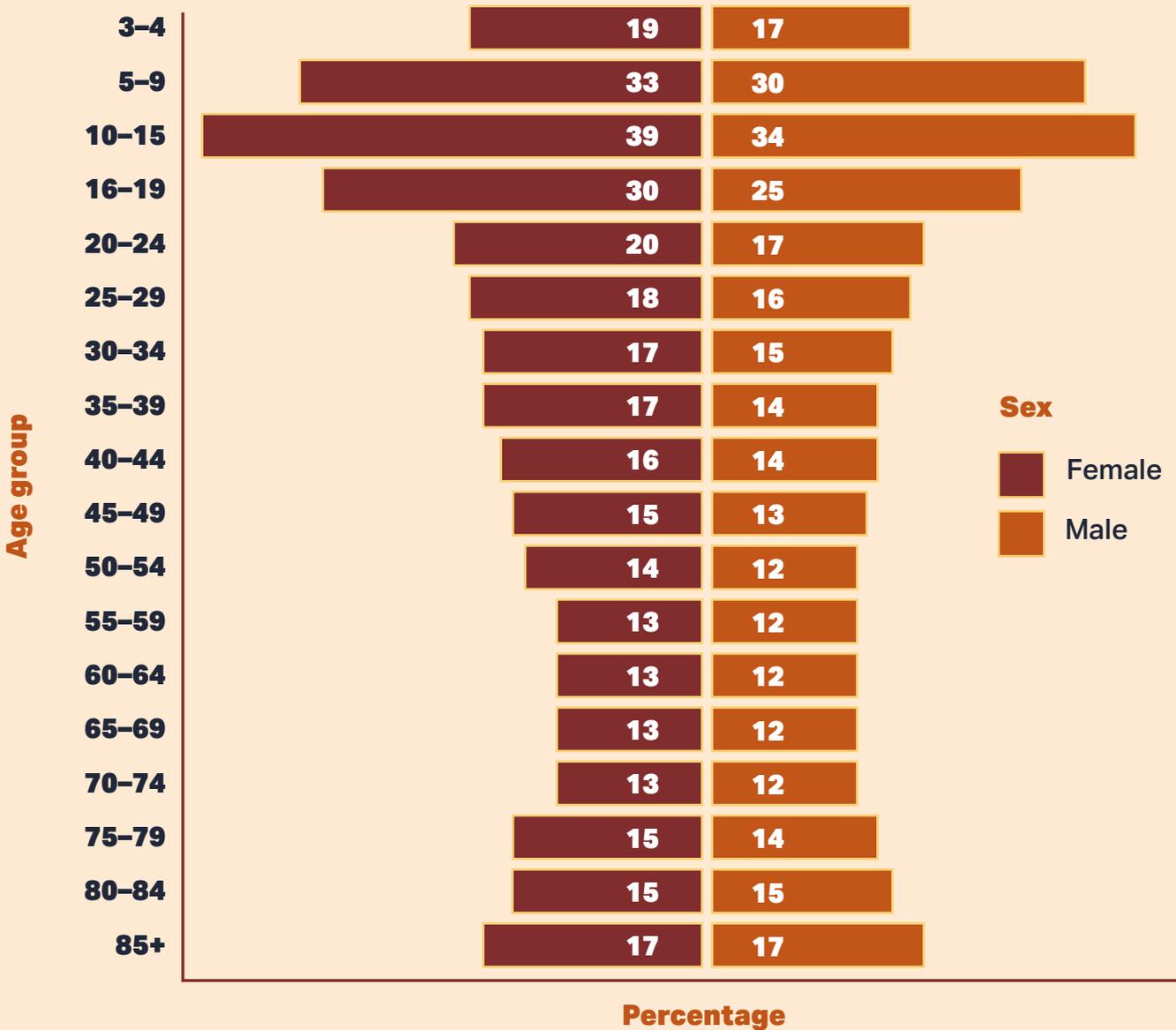
Table 11: Change in the number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by age group, 1981–2021

Age group	Person change				1981–2021
	1981–1991	1991–2001	2001–2011	2011–2021	
3–4	3,834	1,079	3,256	-4,548	3,621
5–15	18,363	70,092	-18,913	-17,582	51,960
16–24	4,186	10,521	10,849	-7,171	18,385
25–44	3,465	3,450	-3,231	5,364	9,048
45–64	-20,249	1,577	-4,801	-596	-24,069
65+	-5,033	-12,449	-7,512	813	-24,181

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

7.3 Age and sex of speakers

Chart 11: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by age group and sex

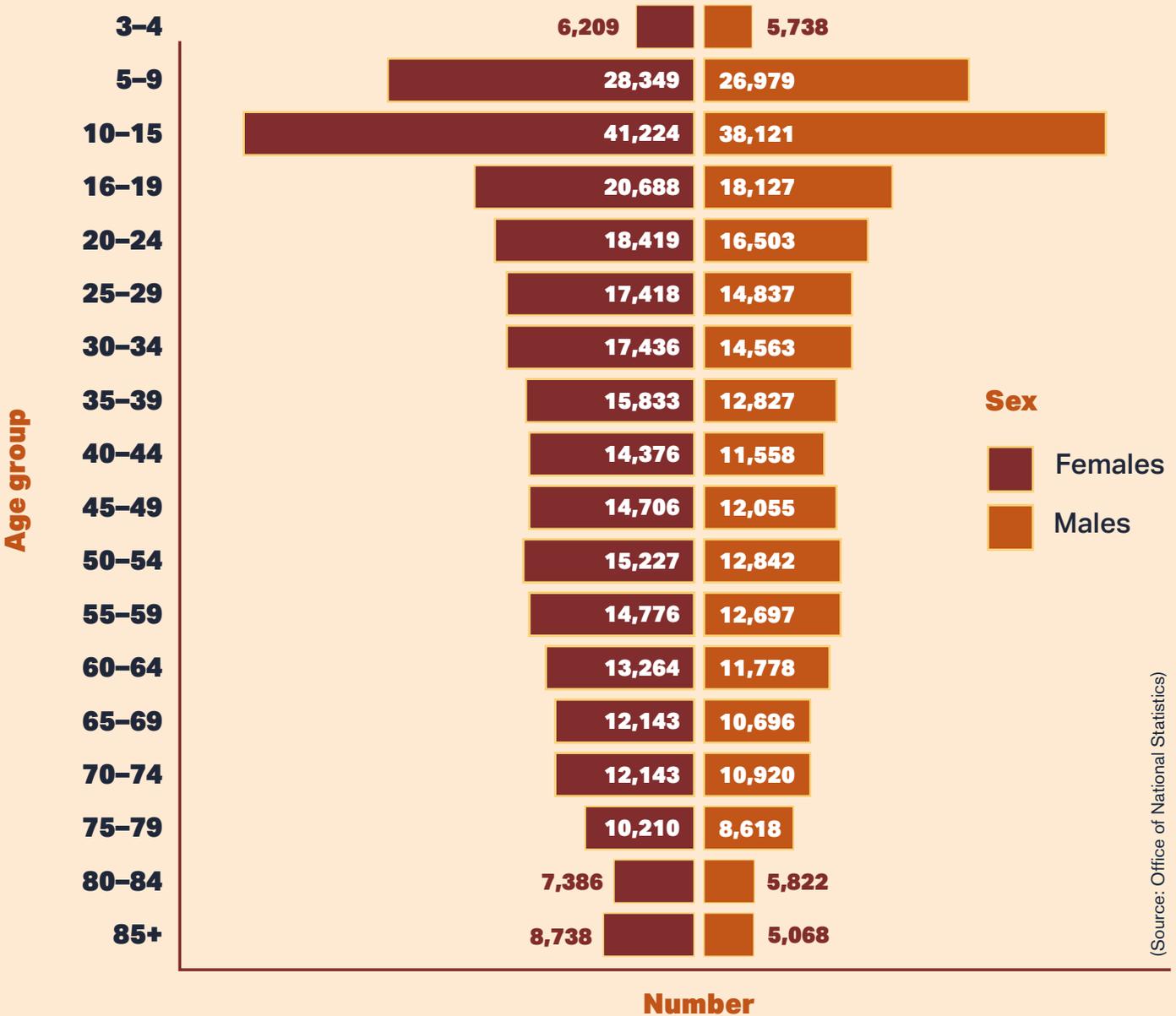


(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The percentage and number of females who can speak Welsh continues to be higher than the percentage and number of males, with 18.7% or 288,546 Welsh females able to speak the language compared with 16.9% or 249,750 males.

This pattern is seen across all age groups. The largest percentage difference is found in the 10–15 and 16–19 age groups where there is around a 5 percentage point difference between the percentages of females and males who can speak Welsh.

Chart 12: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by age group and sex



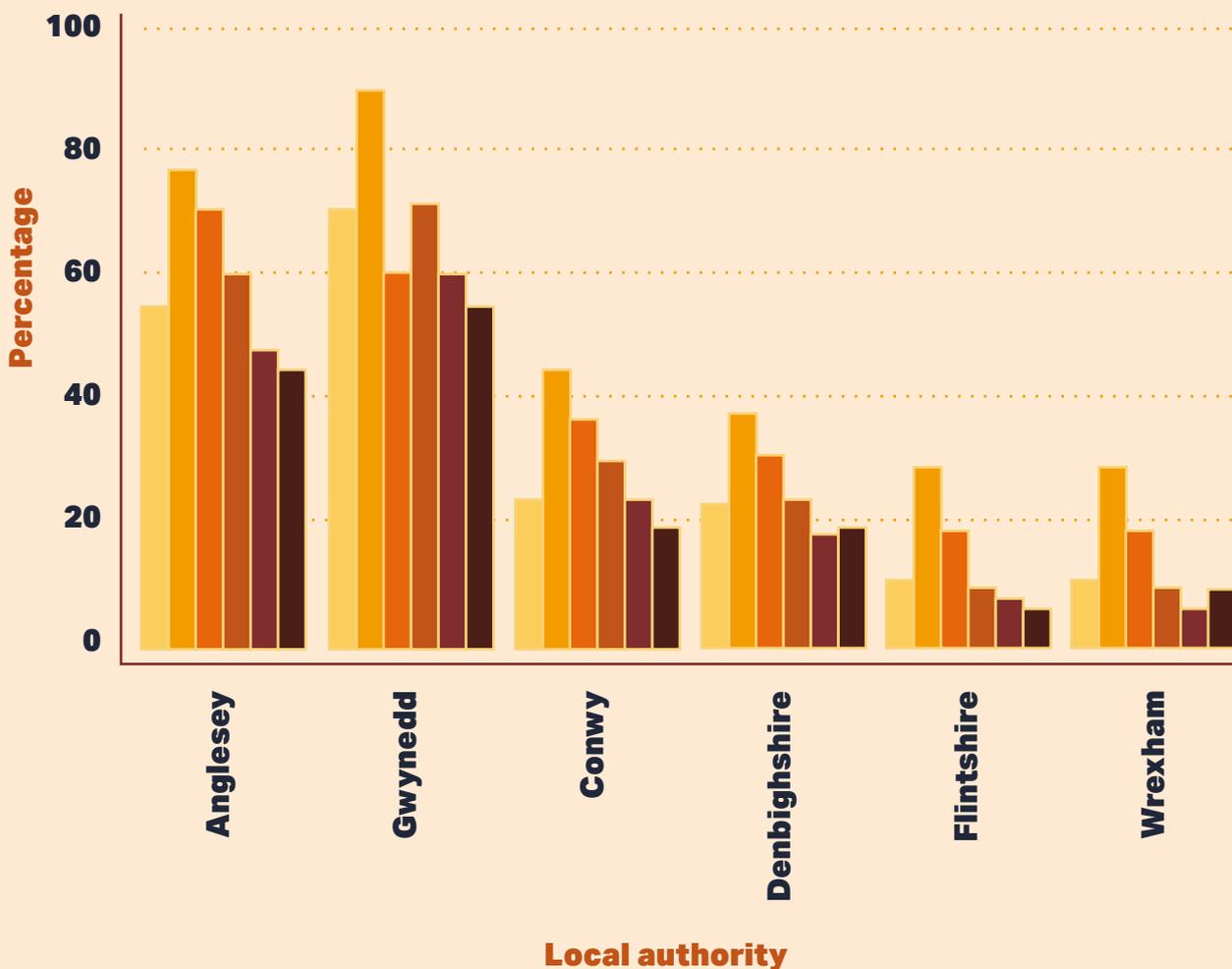
Similarly, a higher number of females than males are able to speak Welsh in all age groups, with the biggest differences in the 85+ age groups where there are 3,670 more females, the 10–15 age group where there are 3,103 more females, and the 35–39 age group where there are 3,006 more females.

7.4 Welsh speakers by age and local authority

It may be useful to look at the percentages of speakers by age according to local authority in order to plan services for Welsh speakers or to plan interventions to increase the number of Welsh speakers in different areas.

Chart 13: Percentage of people aged three years or older who can speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group in north Wales local authorities

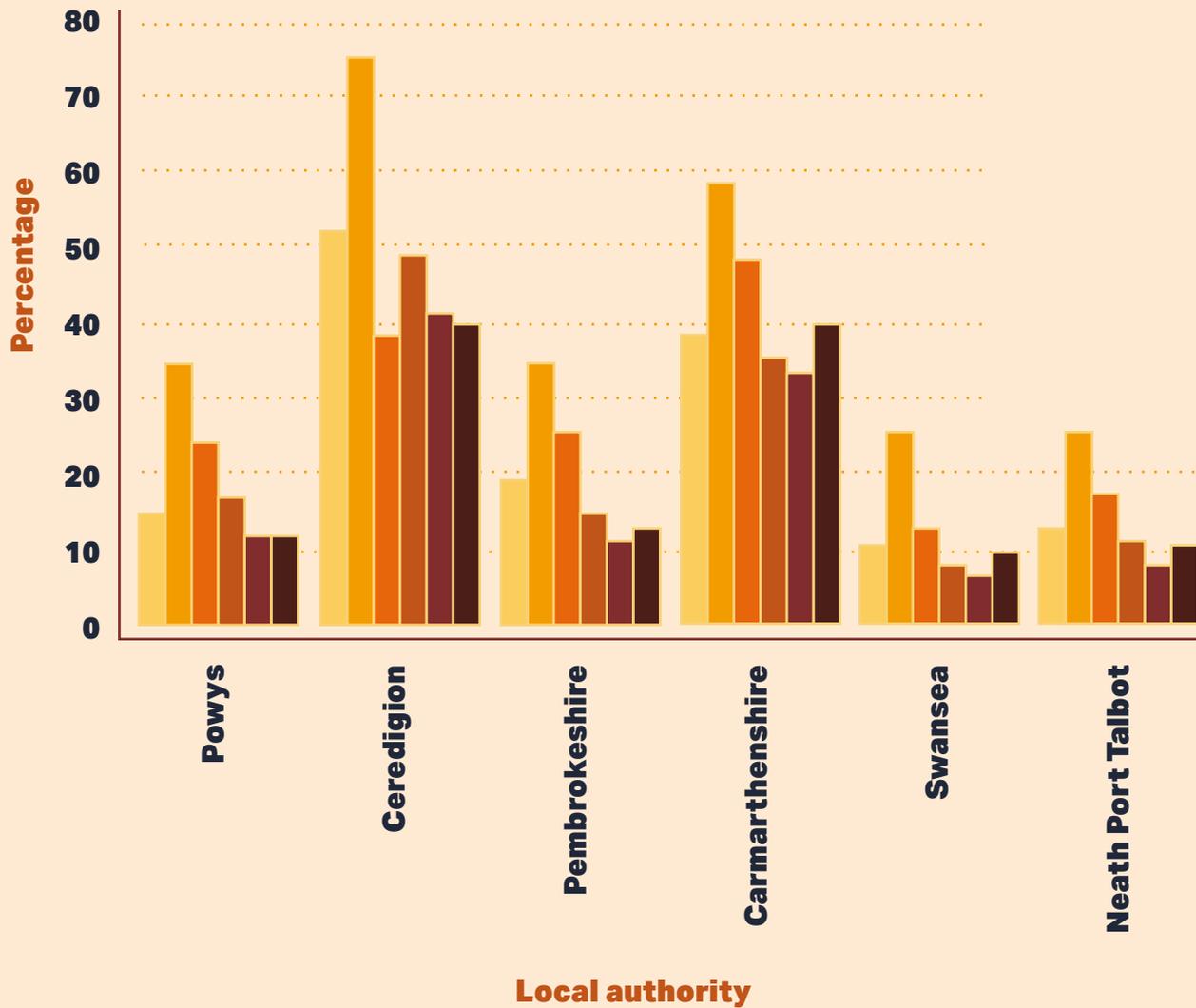
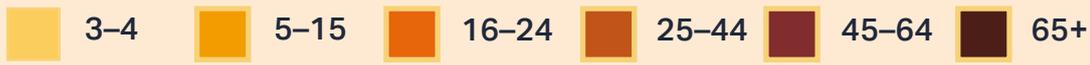
Age group



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 14: Percentage of people aged three years or older who can speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group in south-west and mid Wales local authorities

Age group

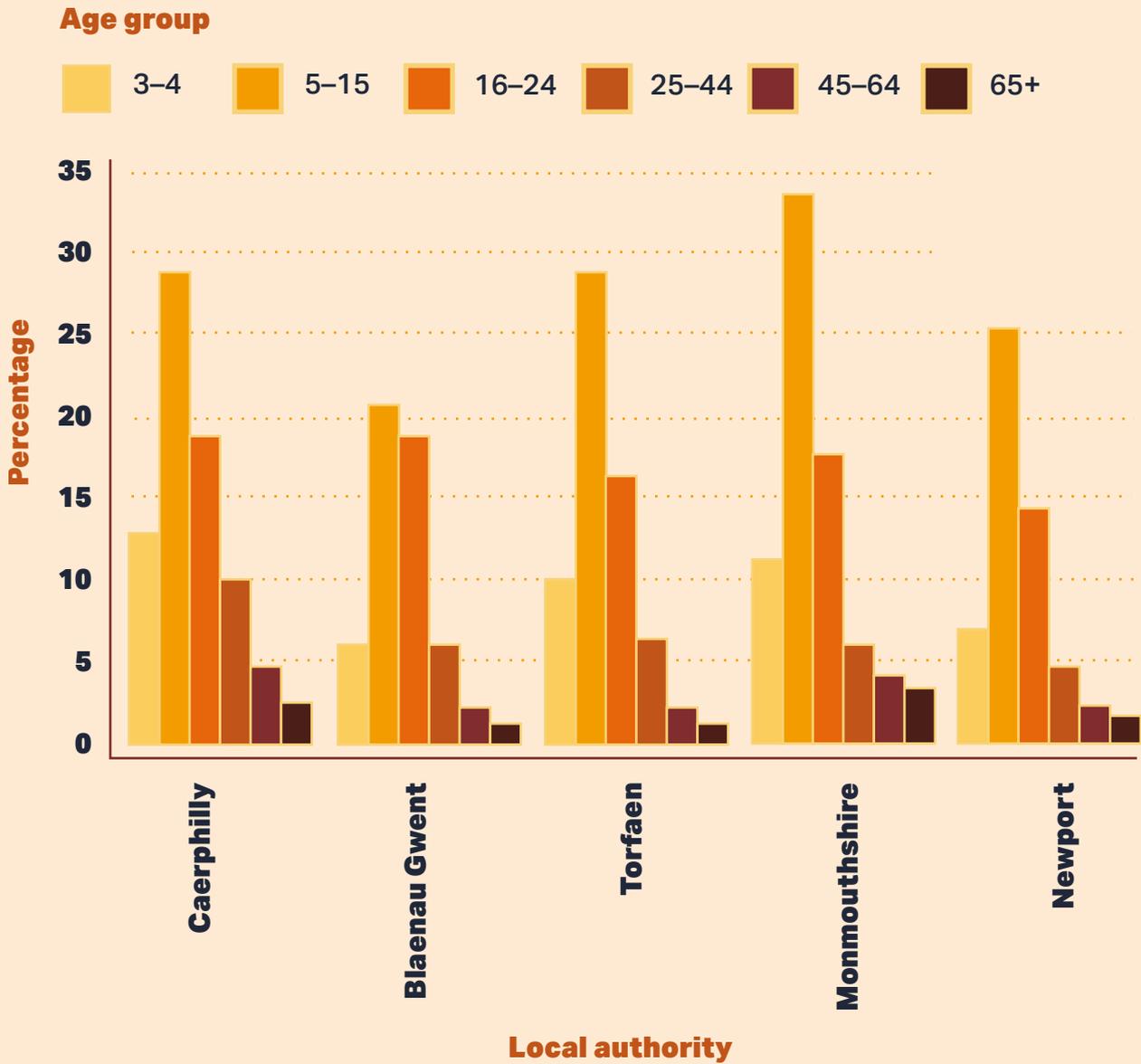


(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 15: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group in central south Wales local authorities



Chart 16: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group in south-east Wales local authorities



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The highest percentages of Welsh speakers belong to the children and young people's age groups in all local authorities. It is striking that **88.6% of those aged 5 to 15 years in Gwynedd can speak Welsh**, while 20.4% of children of the same age can speak Welsh in Bridgend and also in Blaenau Gwent.

It is not surprising that the percentages of children who can speak Welsh are also high in Anglesey and Ceredigion, with around three quarters of the population aged 5 to 15 able to speak the language.

The lowest percentages of children and young people able to speak Welsh are in the local authorities of south-east Wales, with the percentage of 5- to 15-year-olds below 30% in all of the area's local authorities (excluding Monmouthshire), as well as in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Flintshire and Wrexham. The percentage of Welsh speakers in the 5–15 age group declined in all local authorities since 2011. The largest decrease of 13.6% was in Blaenau Gwent, and in Newport where it fell by 13.4%.

Looking at the low percentages of 5- to 15-year-olds in the local authorities of south-east Wales, it is interesting to note the higher percentage in Monmouthshire where 33.1% of those aged 5 to 15 are able to speak Welsh.

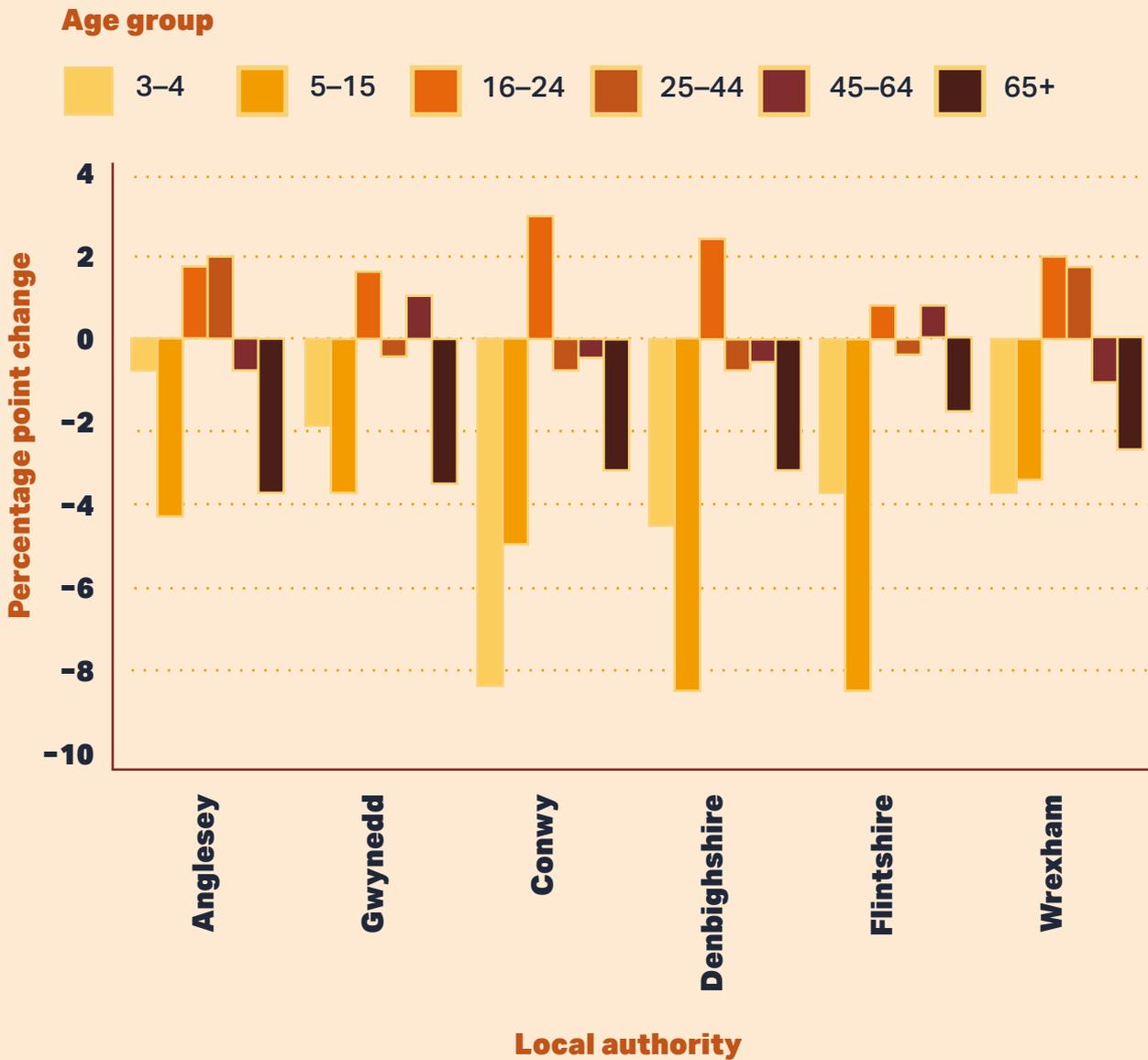
It is also interesting to compare Monmouthshire with the local authorities on the border in north Wales. A higher percentage of children and young people aged 5 to 15 can speak Welsh in Monmouthshire than in Flintshire or Wrexham.

It has already been noted that there has been an increase of 1.0 percentage point in Welsh speakers aged 25 to 44 at a national level, and there has been a percentage increase in Welsh speakers in this age group in 17 of the 22 local authorities since 2011. The largest increase of 3.2 percentage points was seen in Rhondda Cynon Taf and 2.7 percentage points in the Vale of Glamorgan. **The highest numbers of Welsh speakers aged 25 to 44 are found in Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire and Cardiff.**

Turning to speakers over the age of 65, this age group records some of the lowest percentages of Welsh speakers are found in most local authorities. A fairly similar percentage decrease was seen in Gwynedd (3.3 percentage points) and Anglesey (3.7 percentage points) while the decrease was slightly greater in Ceredigion (6.5 percentage points) and Carmarthenshire (8.7 percentage points).

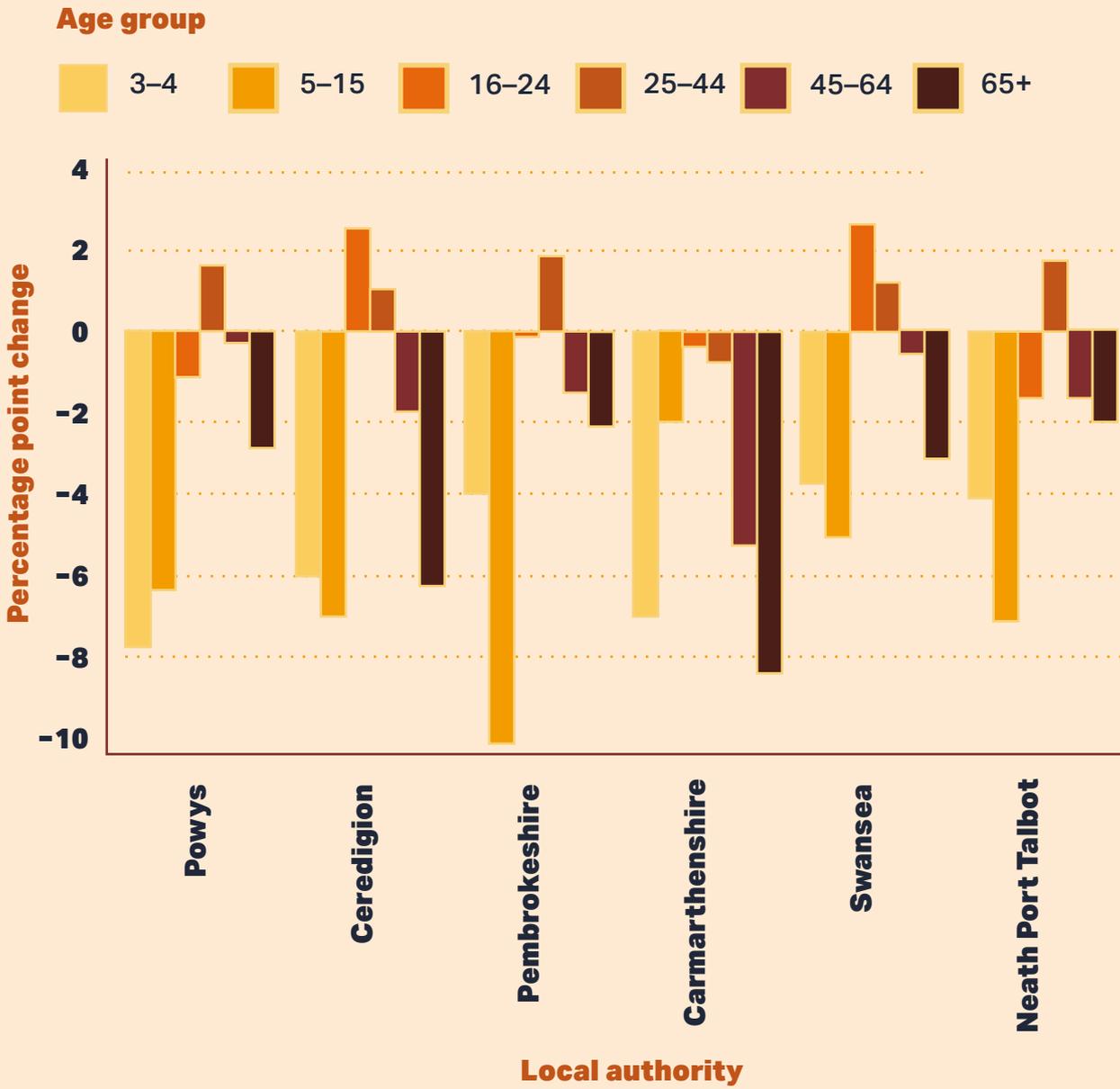
In Gwynedd, 54.7% of the population over the age of 65 can speak Welsh, while fewer than 2% of people in the same age group can speak Welsh in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Newport.

Chart 17: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority in north Wales local authorities (percentage point change), 2011–21



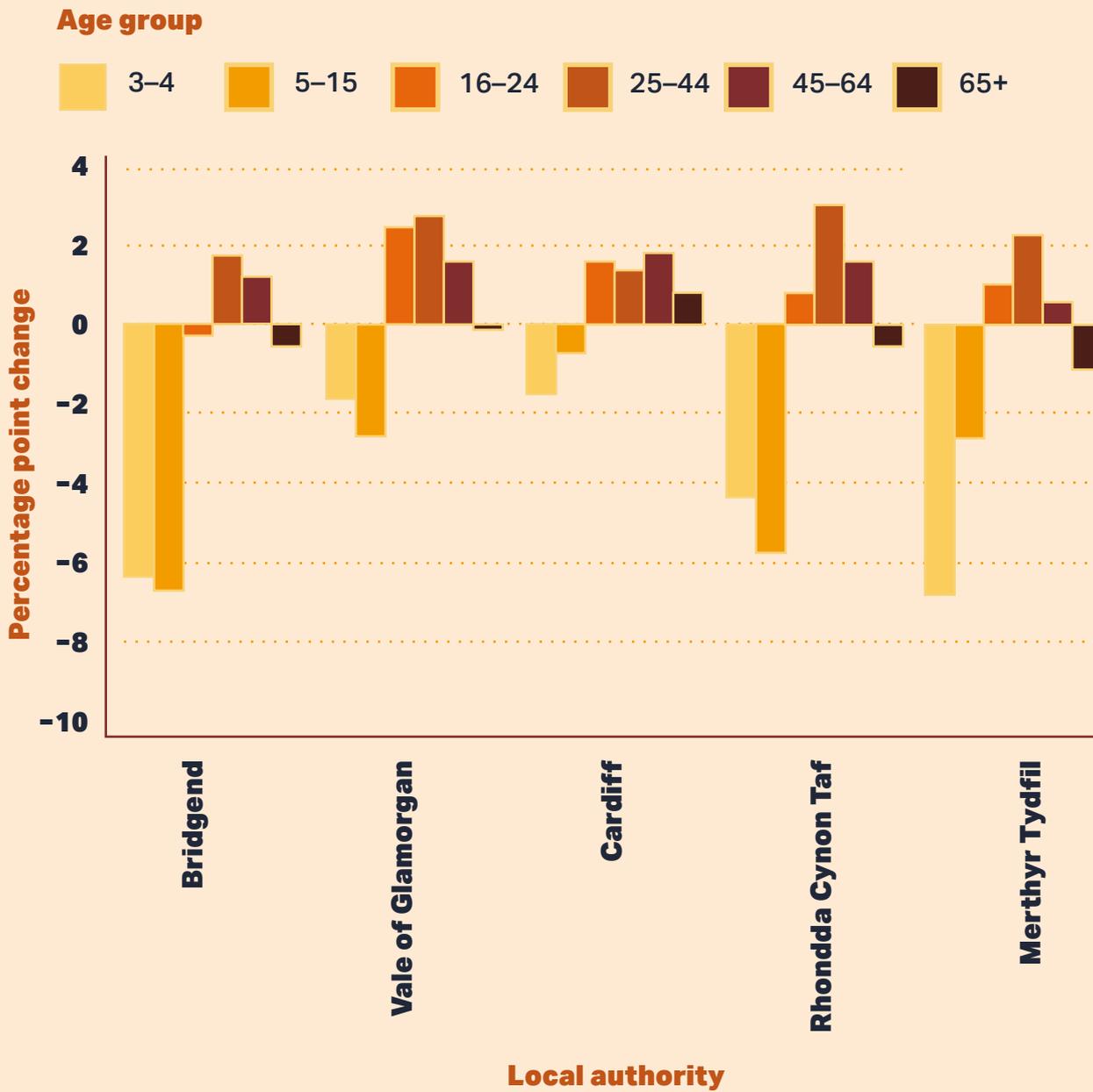
(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 18: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by age group in south-west and mid Wales local authorities (percentage point change), 2011–21



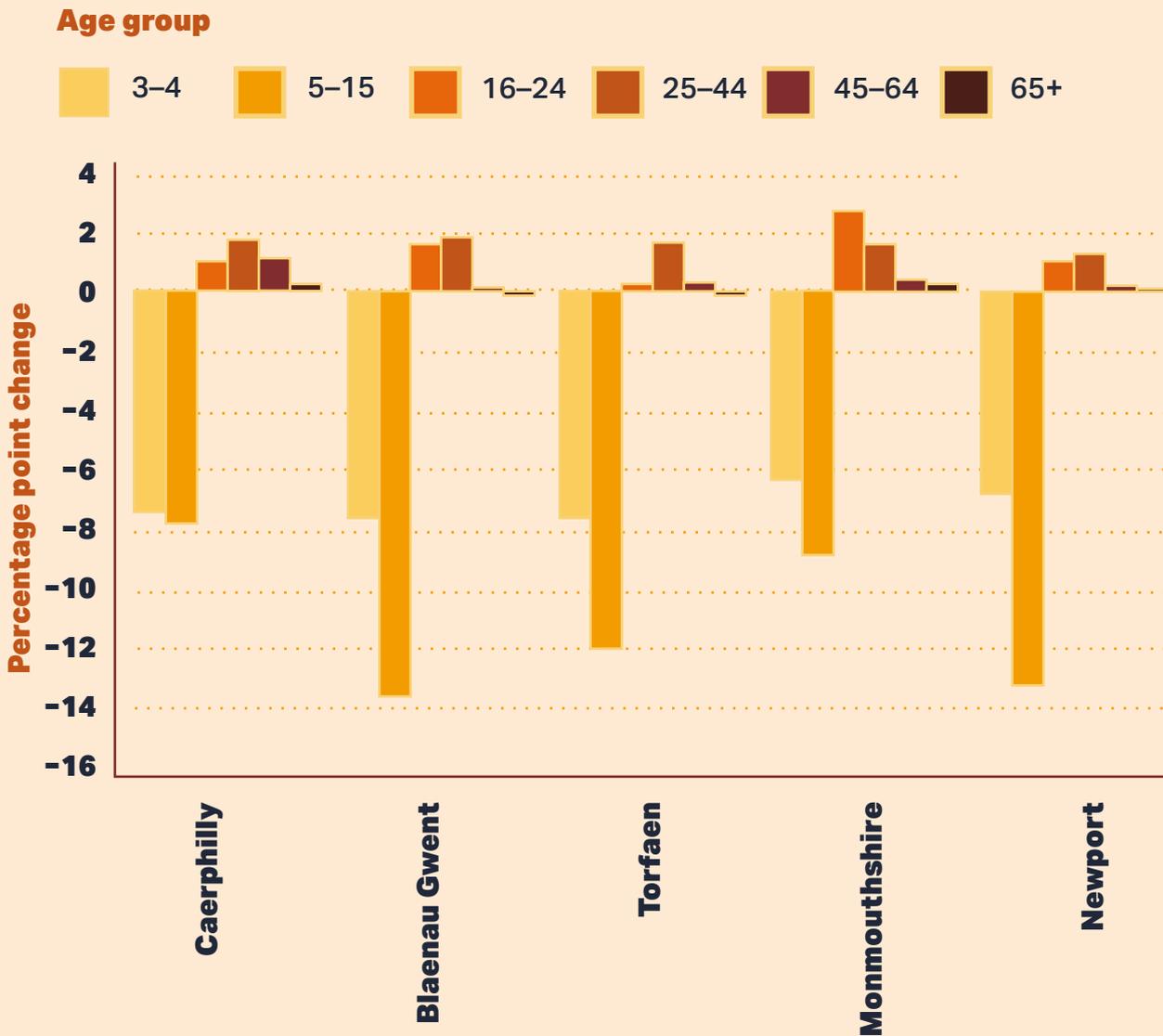
(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 19: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by age group in central south Wales local authorities (percentage point change), 2011–21



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 20: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh by age group in south-east Wales local authorities (percentage point change), 2011–21



7.5 Spotlight on older speakers

The results of the **2021 Census showed us that Wales has an ageing population**; more older people and fewer children and young people live in the country since 2011. In 2011, 18.4% of people in Wales were over the age of 65, by 2021 the percentage increased to 21.3% meaning that **one in five people in Wales are now over the age of 65**. The percentage of people aged 65+ increased by 20% or more in eight Welsh local authorities.

Although there has been a slight increase in the *number* of Welsh speakers aged 65 and over since 2011, this corresponds to a percentage decline, as the overall population in this age group has risen.

The percentage of Welsh speakers aged 65+ is highest in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Carmarthenshire respectively, whilst the highest numbers are found in Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd and Anglesey, also respectively.

The Commissioner's conclusions



It is natural that a higher proportion of children and young people speak Welsh than any other age group, given that many of them learn Welsh at school. **The challenge is to retain the language skills of these children and young people once they leave the education system** so that they continue to be confident Welsh speakers as they get older.

The significant decline in the percentage of those aged 5 to 15 years who can speak Welsh, however, is a cause for concern, but it is difficult to know to what extent the timing of the census in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the decline. It is also worth bearing in mind that data from the education sector suggests a more stable picture, as discussed in Part 2. Close monitoring of this age group will be essential as the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025 is implemented over the coming years.

Although the national percentage of children aged 5 to 15 able to speak Welsh has fallen since 2011, the situation varies greatly from local authority to local authority. The percentages are very high in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Ceredigion and **it is vital that the language skills of the children and young people in these areas are retained and used as they grow older.**

Retaining the Welsh language skills of children and young people is equally important across all other local authorities, but there needs to be a **greater emphasis in these areas on creating more Welsh speakers aged 5 to 15.**

The increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers aged 25 to 44 since 2011 is something to celebrate as this is the age at which people are typically in work and raising families. This increase means that more **Welsh speakers are available to enter roles where Welsh-language skills are required.**

Although the 65+ age group has the lowest percentage of speakers, it is important to remember the high numbers of Welsh speakers aged 65 or over, especially as the population of Wales continues to age. While the situation varies from local authority to local authority, it is important to ensure that there are opportunities for older people to retain and use their Welsh skills as they could be contributing to their grandchildren's language journey, for example.

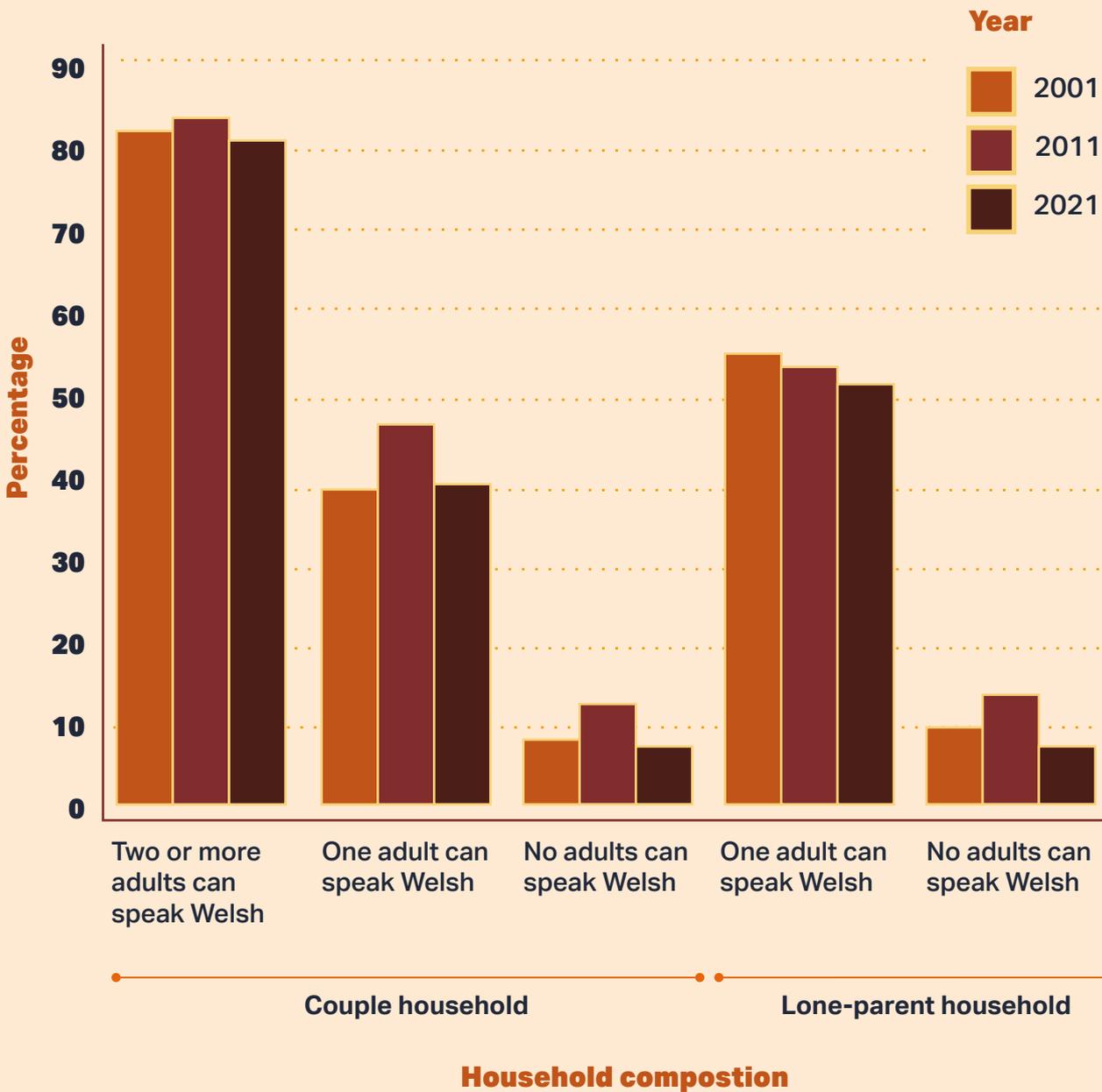
It is also important to consider the need for health and care services in Welsh when thinking about older Welsh speakers and the fact that the older population is growing.

This section provides a relatively high-level, factual overview of the statistic, and **it may be beneficial for local authorities, and others, to analyse the situation in further detail to fully understand the census results.** This is particularly relevant in the context of the percentage of children who can speak Welsh considered alongside the language medium of the local authority's schools and their policies in relation to Welsh and education.

8. Who passes on the Welsh language to their children?

It is possible to get an idea of the transmission rates of Welsh at home by looking at how many children aged 3 to 4 are able to speak Welsh, before the children start receiving statutory education.⁹

Chart 21: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in Wales, by household composition, 2001–21



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

⁹ It should be stressed that this is not the only method that could be used to understand the rate of language transmission and there are some questions about how reliable it is, especially as there are limitations on the linguistic ability of 3- to 4-year-olds in general, and this was intensified during the pandemic. The fact that an adult in the home indicates that their 3- to 4-year-old child speaks Welsh when completing the questionnaire may be an indication of their intention in relation to their children’s language ability. The fact that 7.2% of 3- to 4-year-olds – who live in lone-parent households where no adult speaks Welsh – can speak the language, and 7.3% of 3- to 4-year-olds – who live in couple households where no adult speaks Welsh – can speak Welsh also raises questions about the methodology.

Not surprisingly, couple households where two adults can speak Welsh have the highest proportion of 3- to 4-year-olds who can speak Welsh. **80.7% of children aged 3 to 4, living in couple households where two or more adults can speak Welsh, can speak the language.** This is the ‘Welsh transmission rate’ and has only seen a slight decrease since 2011 when it was 82.2%. The transmission rate of over 80% is very stable since 2001 with a decrease of 1.1 percentage points over this period.

It is also not surprising that lone-parent households where one adult can speak Welsh have the second-highest transmission rate. The percentage is over 50% since 2001 but the rate has fallen by 2.9 percentage points to 52.2% by 2021. This is the largest decrease across the different types of households discussed here in this period.¹⁰

The transmission rate in couple households where one adult can speak Welsh is 40.4%. There was an increase in transmission by 5.6 percentage points between 2001 and 2011, followed by an equivalent decrease between 2011 and 2021.

As expected, the rate is lowest in couple households where the adults are unable to speak Welsh and lone-parent households where no adults are able to speak Welsh. It is not possible for the Welsh language to be ‘transmitted’ from generation to generation in the household in these scenarios, of course. However, the rate is 7.3% in couple households and 7.2% in lone-parent households where there are no adults who can speak Welsh, possibly reflecting social factors outside the home.

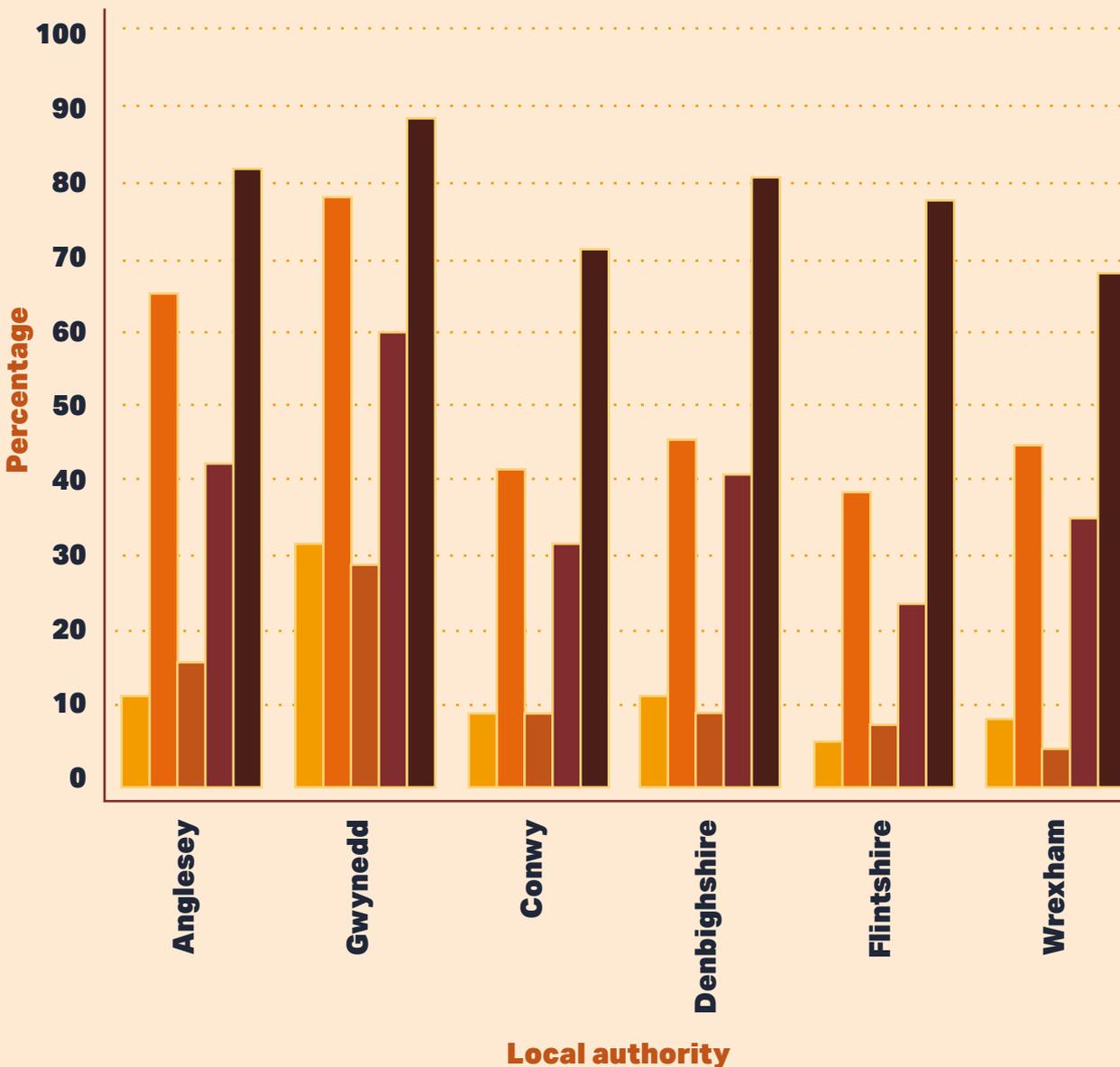
¹⁰ This analysis focuses on couple households where two adults speak Welsh and where one adult speaks Welsh, and lone-parent households where one adult speaks Welsh. The analysis does not take into account lone-parent households where two adults speak Welsh.

8.1 Transmission rate by local authority

Chart 22: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in north Wales local authorities according to Census 2021, by household composition

Household composition

- Lone-parent household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Lone-parent household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Couple household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: two or more adults can speak Welsh

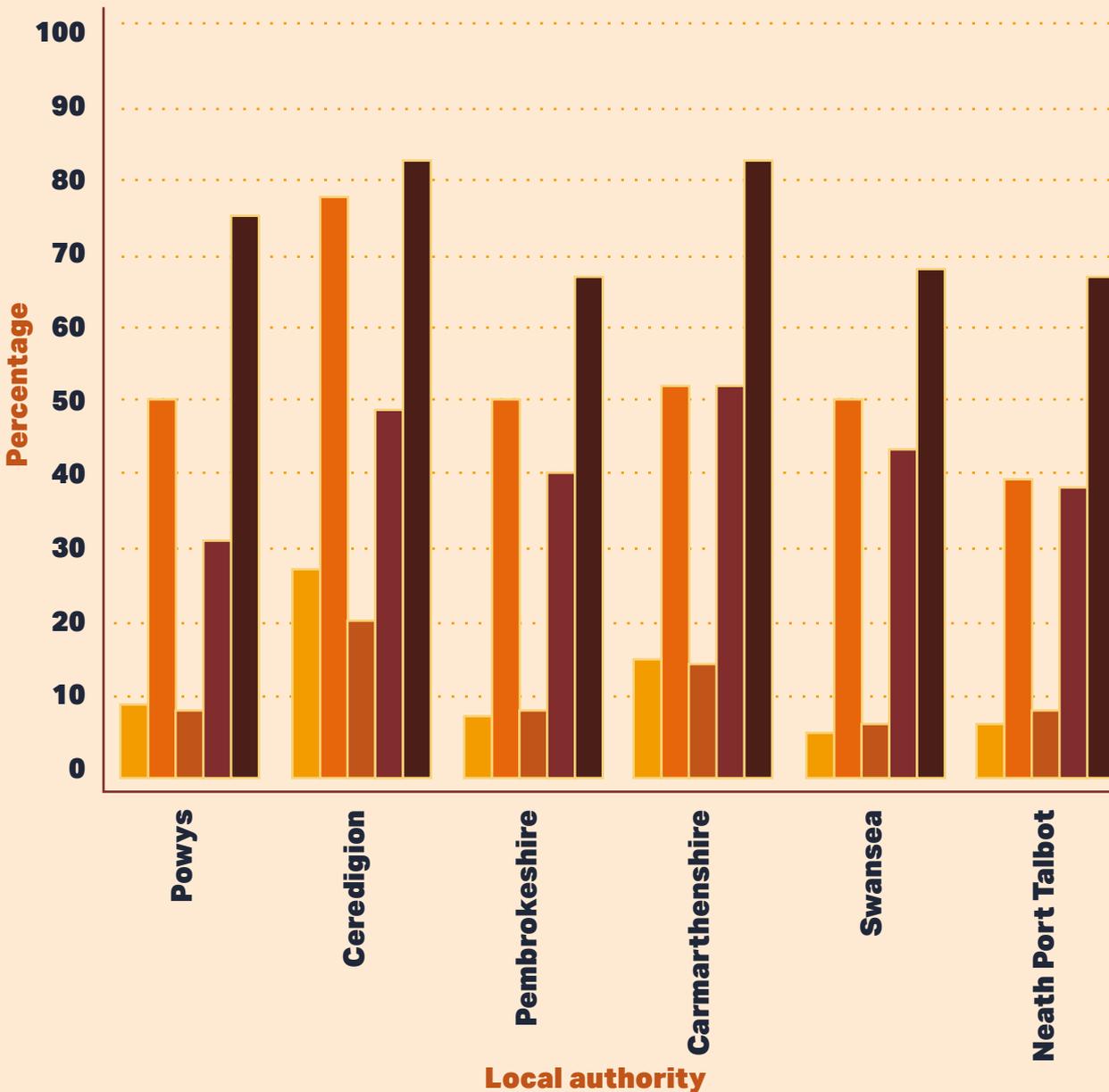


(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 23: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in south-west and mid Wales local authorities according to Census 2021, by household composition

Household composition

- Lone-parent household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Lone-parent household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Couple household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: two or more adults can speak Welsh

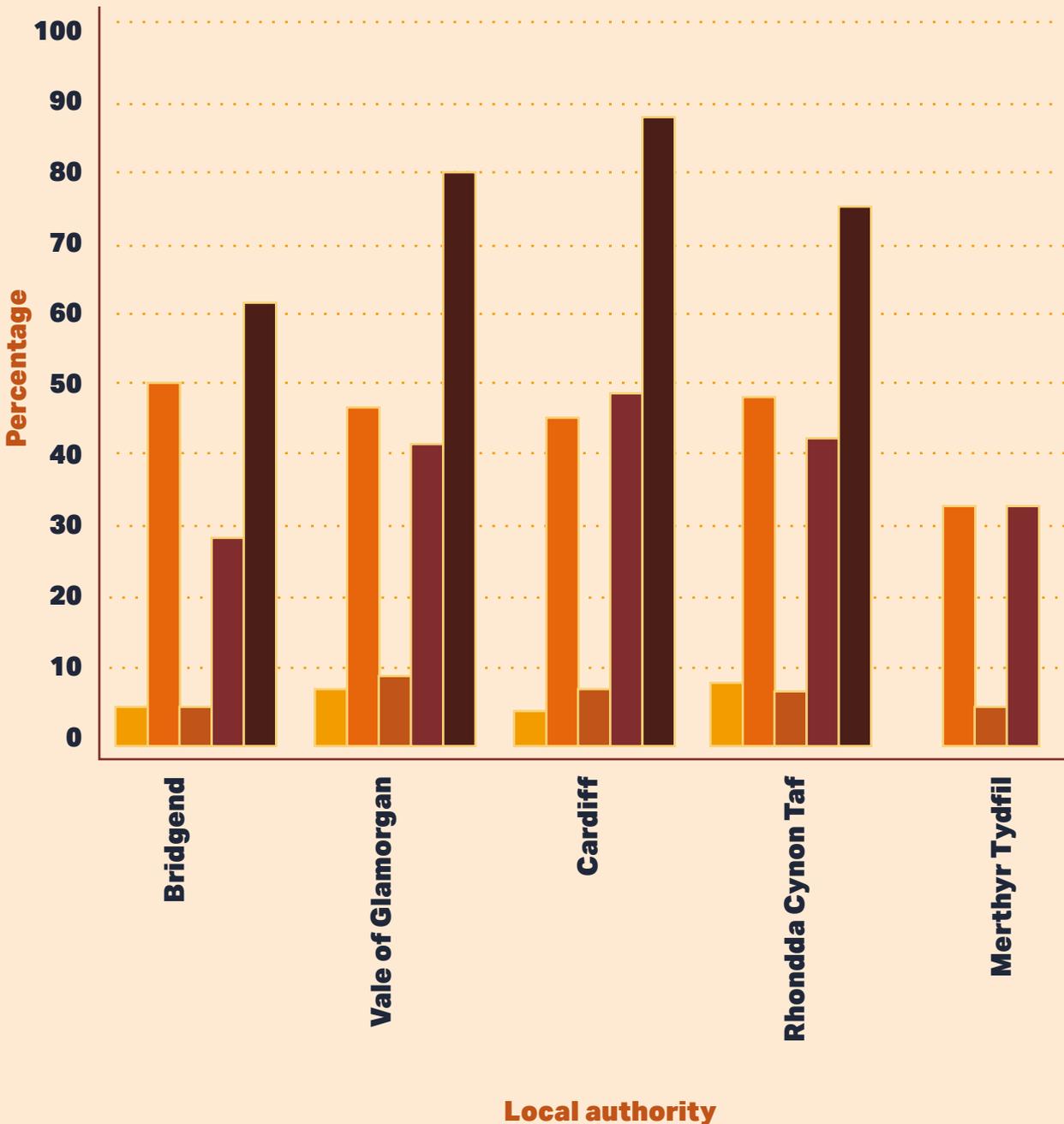


(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 24: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in central south Wales local authorities according to Census 2021, by household composition

Household composition

- Lone-parent household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Lone-parent household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Couple household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: two or more adults can speak Welsh

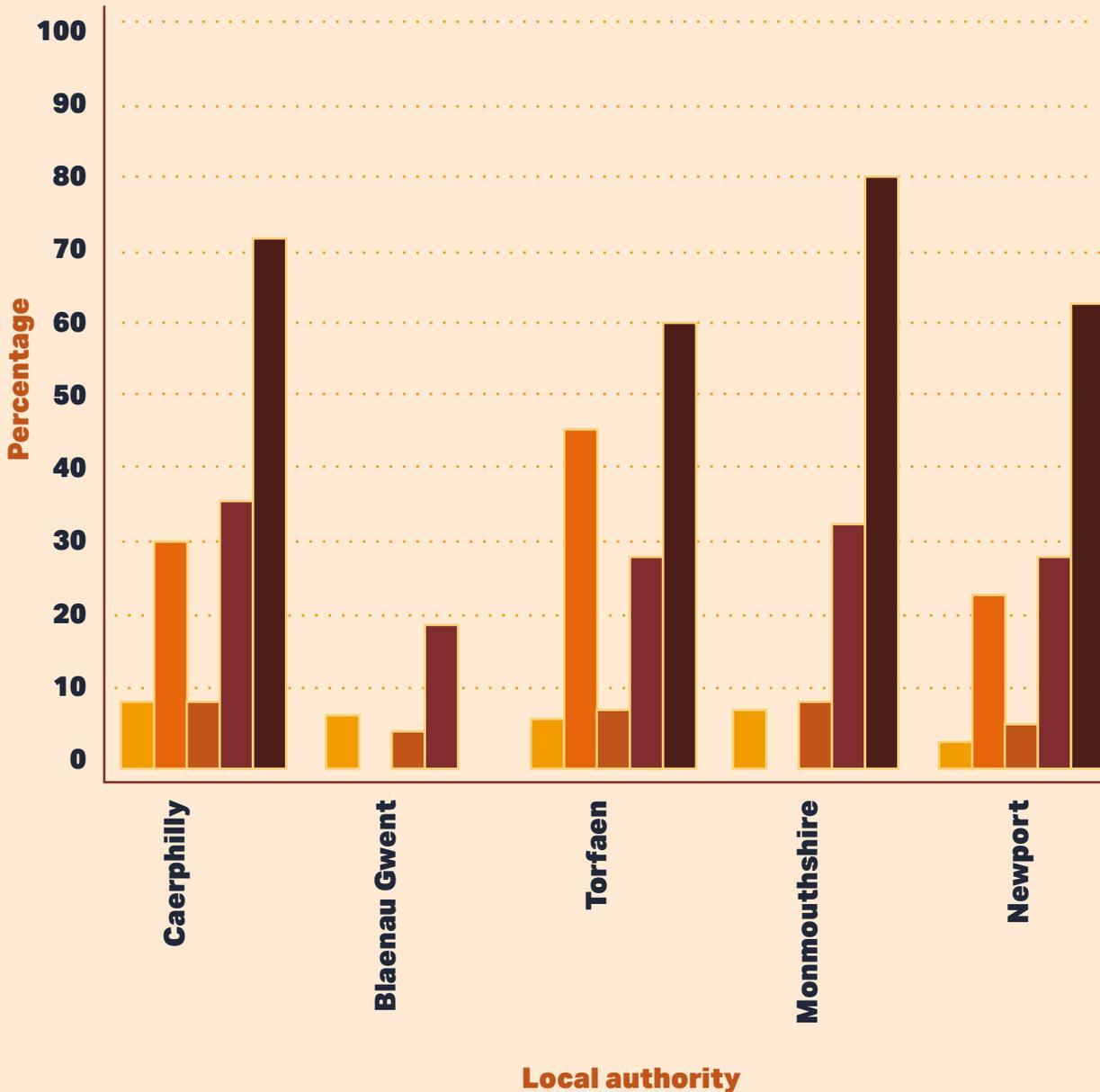


(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 25: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in south-east Wales local authorities according to Census 2021, by household composition

Household composition

- Lone-parent household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Lone-parent household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: no adults can speak Welsh
- Couple household: one adult can speak Welsh
- Couple household: two or more adults can speak Welsh



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Transmission rates vary from local authority to local authority. For example, **in couple households where two or more adults can speak Welsh, the transmission rate is over 80% in eight of the local authorities.** It is highest in Cardiff (88.9%), Gwynedd (88.7%) and Ceredigion (83.6%). **At its lowest, the transmission rate is 60% in these homes in Torfaen and is lower still in Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent.** It should be borne in mind that the number of homes in question here are relatively low, and the numbers are so low in some categories that it is not possible to identify percentages, to ensure that individuals remain anonymous.

The transmission rate varies more in lone-parent households where one adult can speak Welsh, from 77.8% in Ceredigion to 22.2% in Newport, and lower again in Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire. The rate is fairly high in north-west Wales, at 77% in Gwynedd and 65.9% in Anglesey. **But the transmission rate in this category in Cardiff is strikingly lower (45.8%). Almost half the rate of households where two adults speak Welsh in Cardiff.**

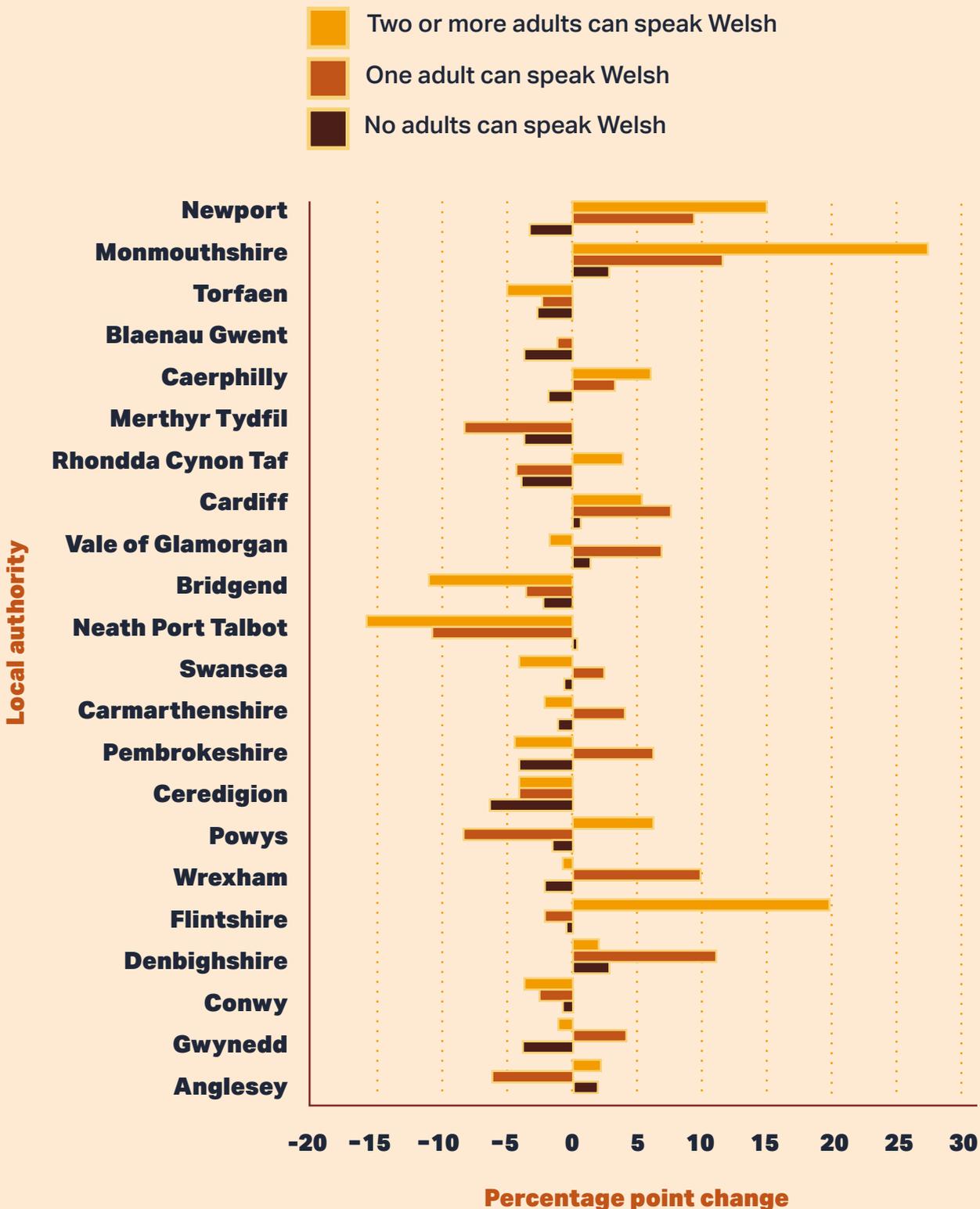
The transmission rate is lower in the case of couple households where only one adult speaks Welsh with the highest rates in Gwynedd (60%), Carmarthenshire (52%) and Ceredigion (49.1%). The lowest rate is found in Blaenau Gwent (18.8%).

In lone-parent households where no adults can speak Welsh, the transmission rate is highest in households in Gwynedd (31%), Ceredigion (27.3%), and Carmarthenshire (15.1%). In this category the lowest rate is in Newport (3.6%) and Merthyr Tydfil.

In couple households where no adults can speak Welsh, the transmission rate is once again highest in Gwynedd (28.6%), Ceredigion (19.6%) and Anglesey (16.7%) and lowest in Blaenau Gwent (3.8%). As already noted, household 'transmission' does not occur in these situations, of course, but the statistics are interesting in order to consider what other factors might be at play. Children can start going to school for a few hours before they are of statutory education age, for example.

8.2 Change in transmission rate between 2001 and 2021

Chart 26: Change in the percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family couple households able to speak Welsh by household composition, by local authority (percentage point change), 2001–21



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

In couple households where two or more adults can speak Welsh, there has been an increase in the transmission rate in 9 of the 22 local authorities since 2001 with the largest increases in Monmouthshire (27.1 percentage point increase), Flintshire (19.9 percentage point increase) and Newport (15.1 percentage point increase). The largest decreases were seen in Neath Port Talbot (15.8 percentage point decrease), Bridgend (11 percentage point decrease), and Torfaen (5 percentage point decrease).

In couple households where one adult can speak Welsh there has been an increase in the transmission rate in half of the local authorities since 2001 with the largest increases in Denbighshire (11.2 percentage point increase), Monmouthshire (10.7 percentage point increase), and Wrexham (9.9 percentage point increase). The largest decreases were seen in Neath Port Talbot (10.7 percentage point decrease), Powys (8.4 percentage point decrease) and Merthyr Tydfil (8.2 percentage point decrease). It is also worth noting that **there has been an increase in this type of household in 21 of the 22 local authorities between 2011 and 2021.**

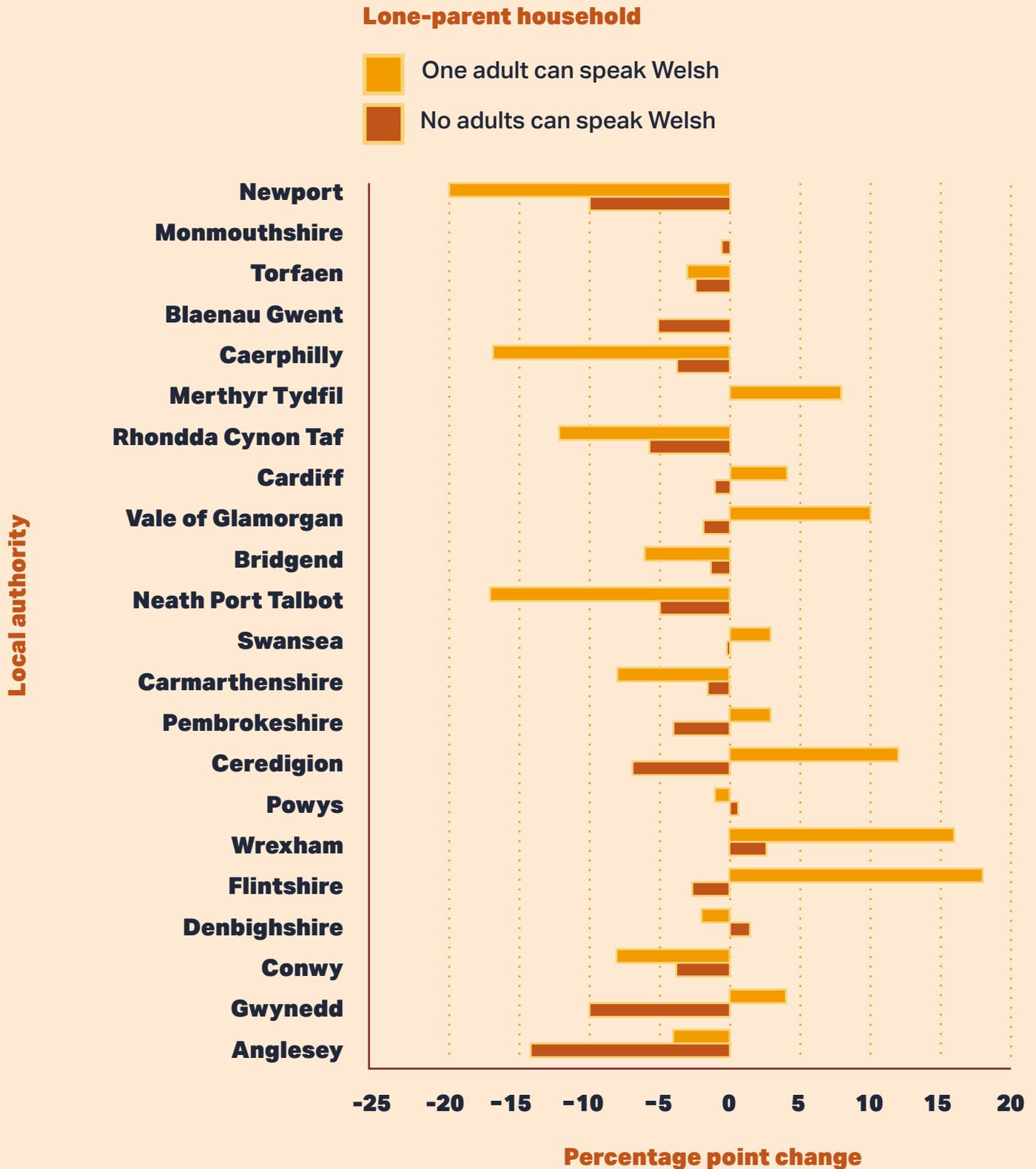
In lone-parent households where one adult can speak Welsh there has been an increase in the transmission rate in 9 of the 22 local authorities since 2001 with the largest increases in Flintshire (17.8 percentage point increase), Wrexham (15.5 percentage point increase) and Ceredigion (11.5 percentage point increase). The largest decrease in the transmission rate in this type of household was seen in Newport (20.1 percentage point decrease), Caerphilly (16.5 percentage point decrease), and Neath Port Talbot (16.9 percentage point decrease).

In couple households where no adults can speak Welsh, there has been an increase in the transmission rate in six local authorities, with the largest increases seen in Denbighshire (2.8 percentage point increase) and Monmouthshire (2.6 percentage point increase). There was no major change in the other 16 local authorities, but the largest decrease was seen in Ceredigion (6.4 percentage point decrease).

In lone-parent households where no adults can speak Welsh, there has been a slight increase in just three local authorities, in Wrexham (2.6 percentage point increase), Denbighshire (1.5 percentage point increase) and Powys (0.6 percentage point increase). The largest declines in transmission rates across the two decades were seen in Anglesey (14.1 percentage point decrease), Gwynedd (10 percentage point decrease) and Ceredigion (6.9 percentage point decrease).

It is important to highlight the contrast in transmission rates between 2001 to 2011 and 2011 to 2021 in lone-parent households where no adults can speak Welsh. There was an increase in the rate in 20 of 22 local authorities in the first decade and a decrease in all local authorities between 2011 and 2021, including a significant decrease in areas where the Welsh language has been strongest.

Chart 27: Change in the percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family lone-parent households able to speak Welsh by household composition, by local authority (percentage point change), 2001–21



The Commissioner's conclusions



The Welsh transmission rate remains high in households where two adults can speak Welsh, but there is potential to increase the rate in this type of home in a number of local authorities in south Wales and in Wrexham and Conwy in north Wales.

Opportunities to transmit the language are often lost in lone-parent homes where only one adult speaks Welsh. Currently, just over half of 3- to 4-year-olds in such households acquire the language at home. **This rate could be increased in all local authorities, with particular attention to increasing the transmission rate in Cardiff.**

Additional support is also required to improve the transmission rate in couple households where one adult speaks Welsh. Currently, 40% of those aged 3 to 4 years in this type of household acquire the language at home.

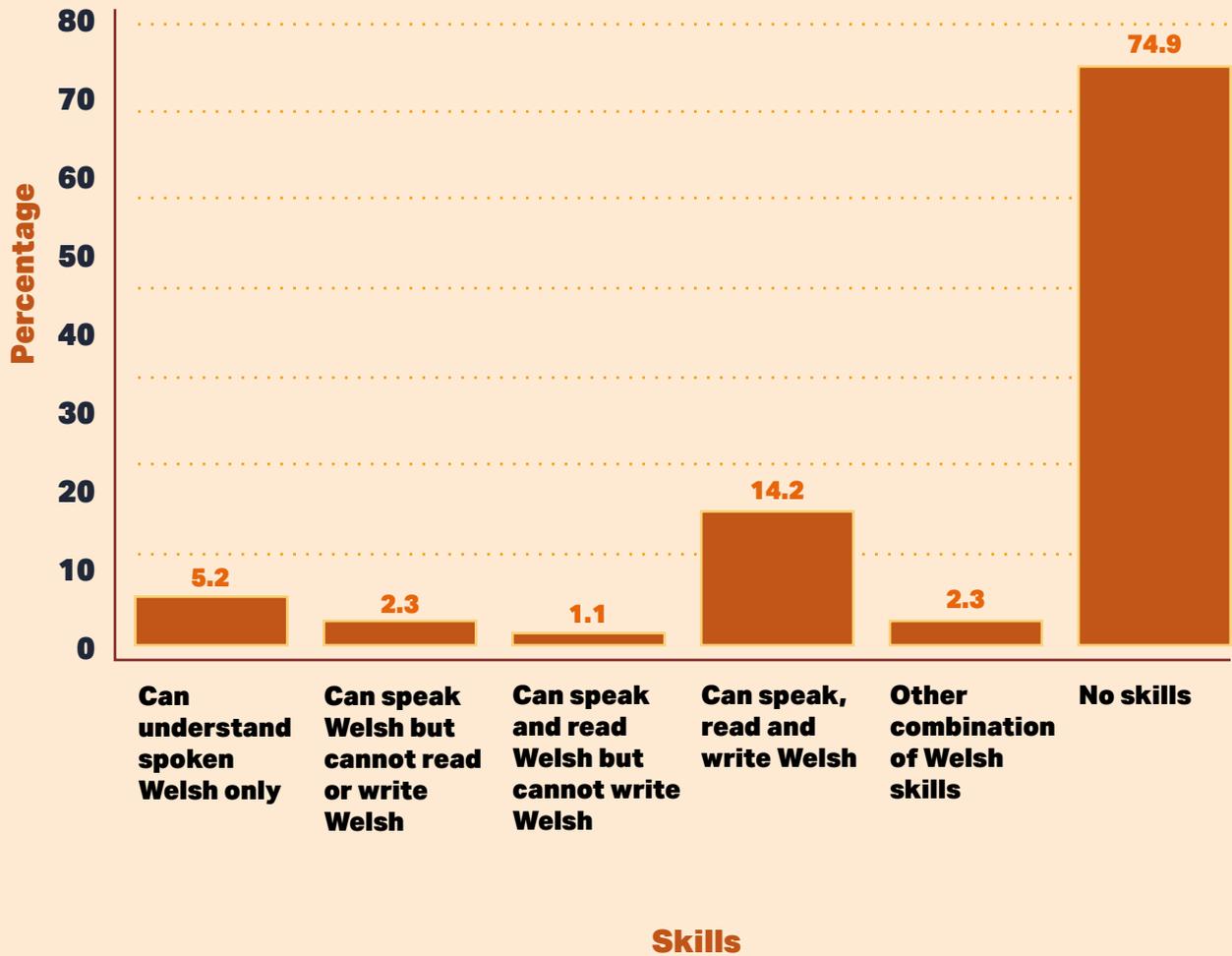
9. What language skills do Welsh speakers have?

The census questionnaire does not ask people how fluently they speak Welsh, instead it asks whether people can understand, speak, read or write Welsh.

The decrease of 23,720 since 2011 in the number of people who report that they can *speak* Welsh has already received considerable attention. But while the number of Welsh speakers in the 2021 Census has fallen, the percentage of remaining speakers who report having the full range of skills (able to speak, read and write Welsh) is encouraging.

14.2% of the population are able to read and write Welsh (a slight decrease from the 14.6% who reported this in 2011).

Chart 28: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older in Wales who can speak, understand, read or write Welsh according to Census 2021, by specific skill



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Looking back over the decades, although the overall numbers of Welsh speakers have decreased over the period, **the language skills of Welsh speakers have remained relatively stable since 2001**. Moreover, there has been an increase in the percentage and number of Welsh speakers who can read and write Welsh in Wales since 1981. 70.6% of Welsh speakers were also able to read and write the language in 1981. This increased to 79.8% by 2021.

Chart 29: Percentage of Welsh speakers able to read and write Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021

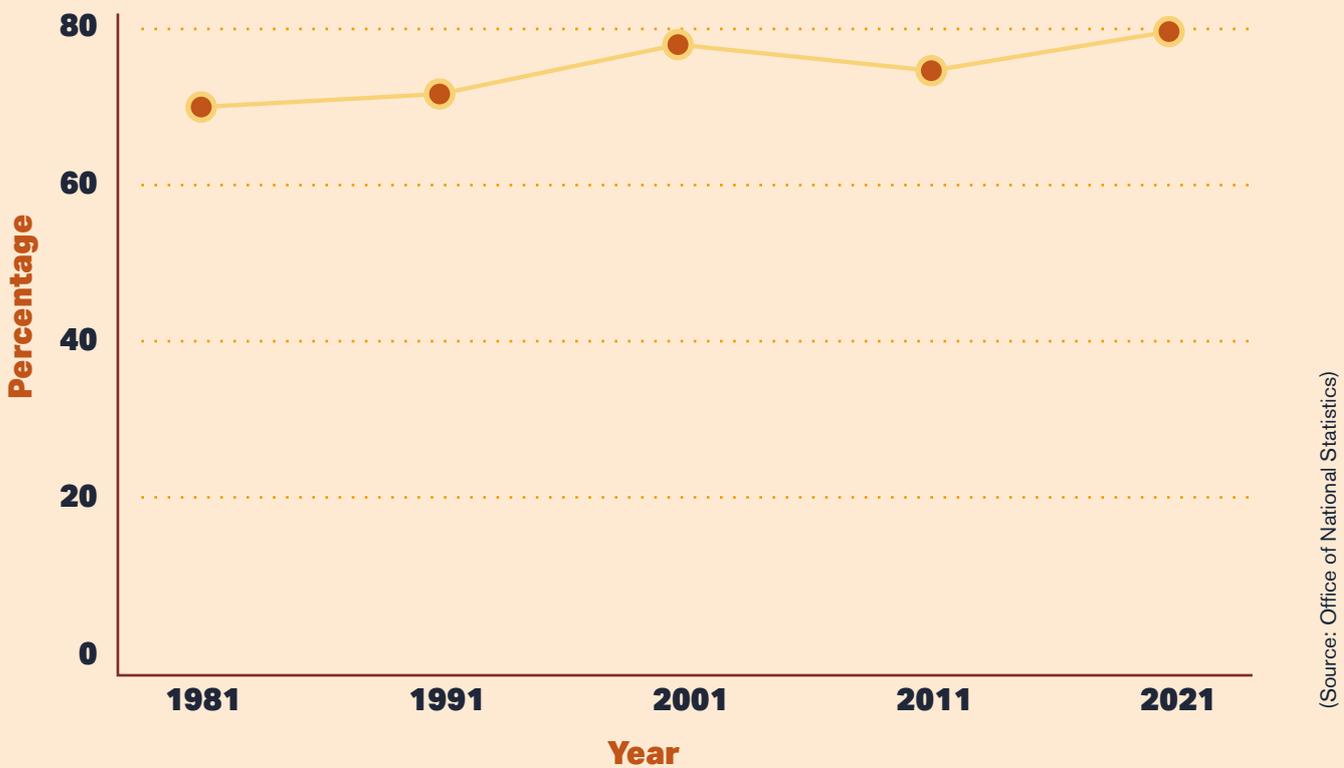
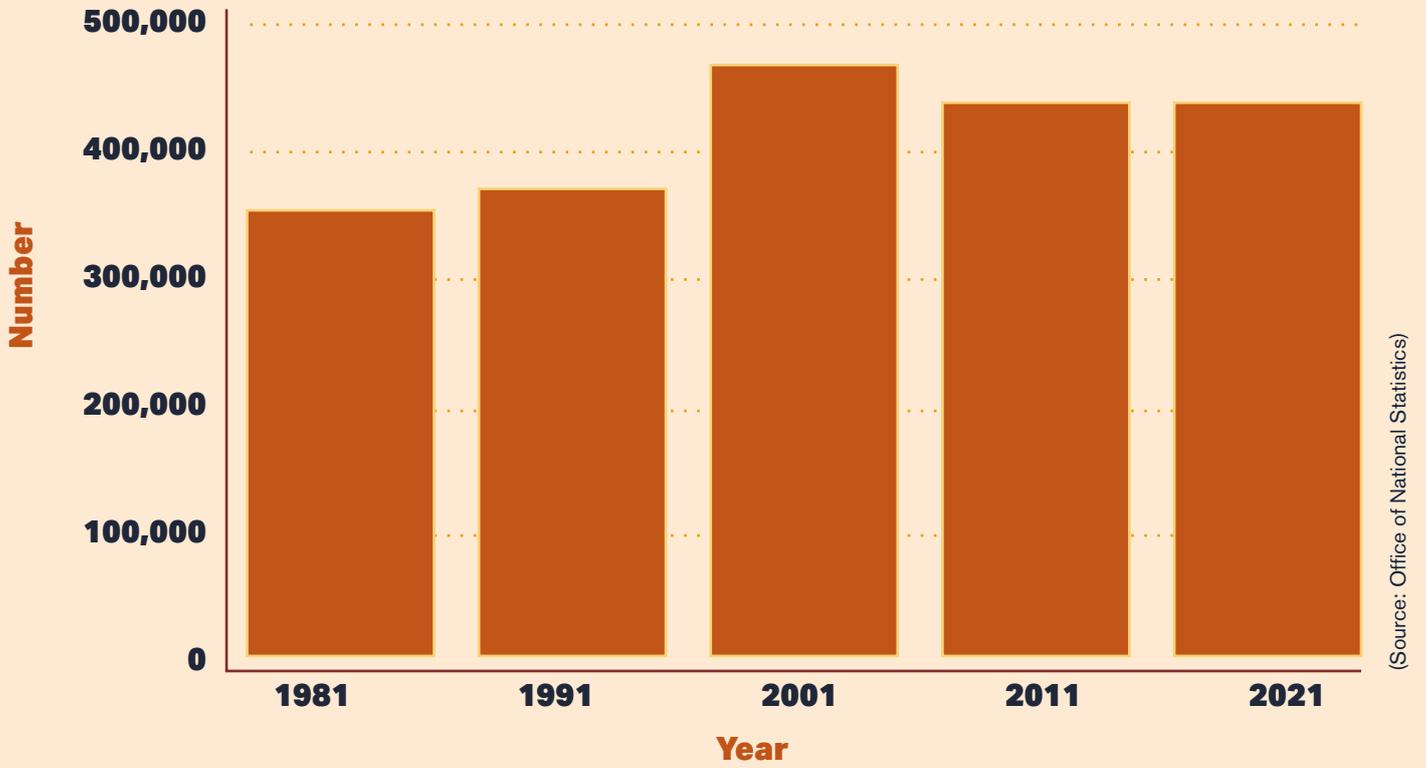


Chart 30: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak, read and write Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021



9.1 Language skills by local authority

Chart 31: Percentage of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh language skills in north Wales local authorities

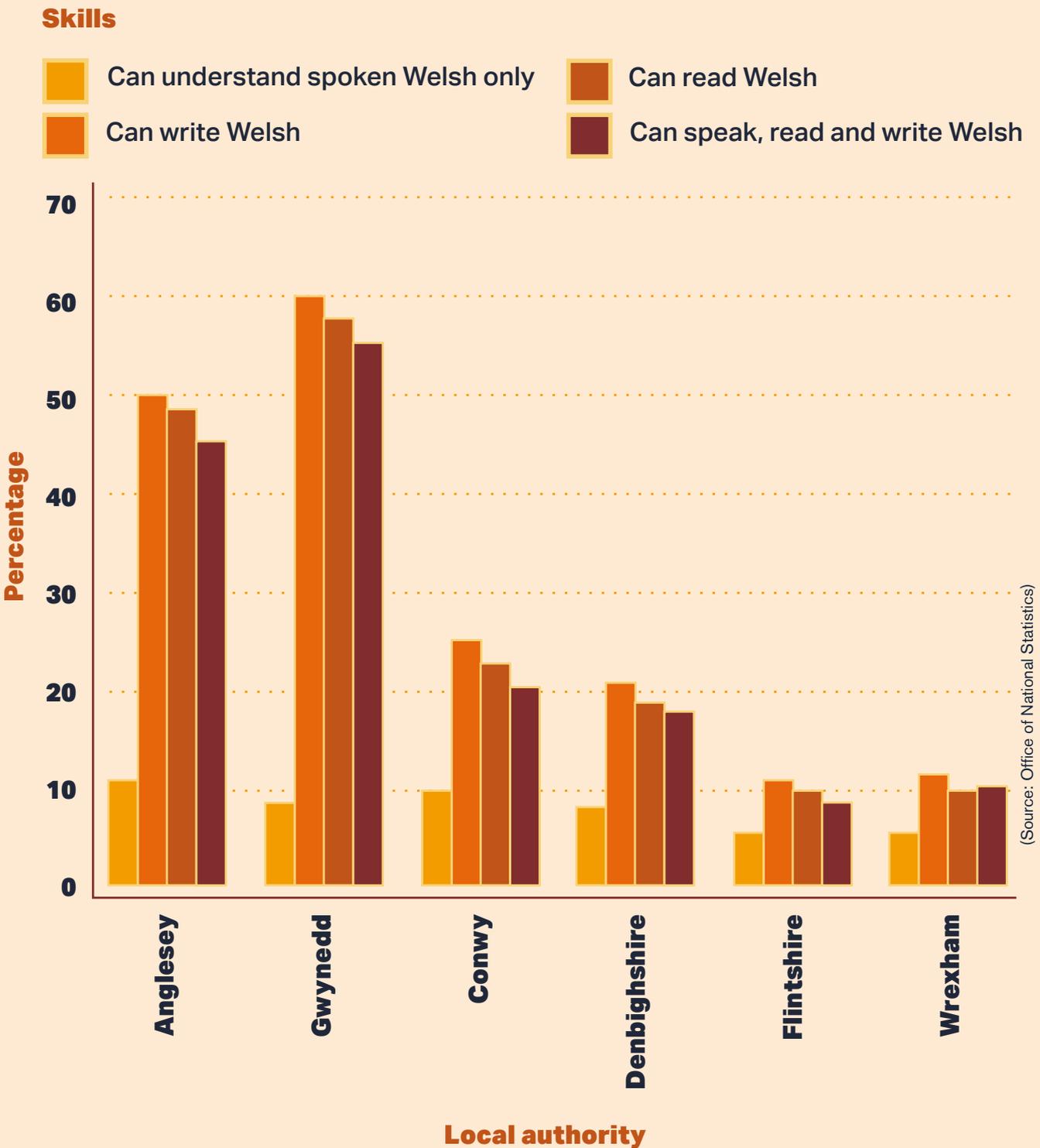


Chart 32: Percentage of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh language skills in south-west and mid Wales local authorities

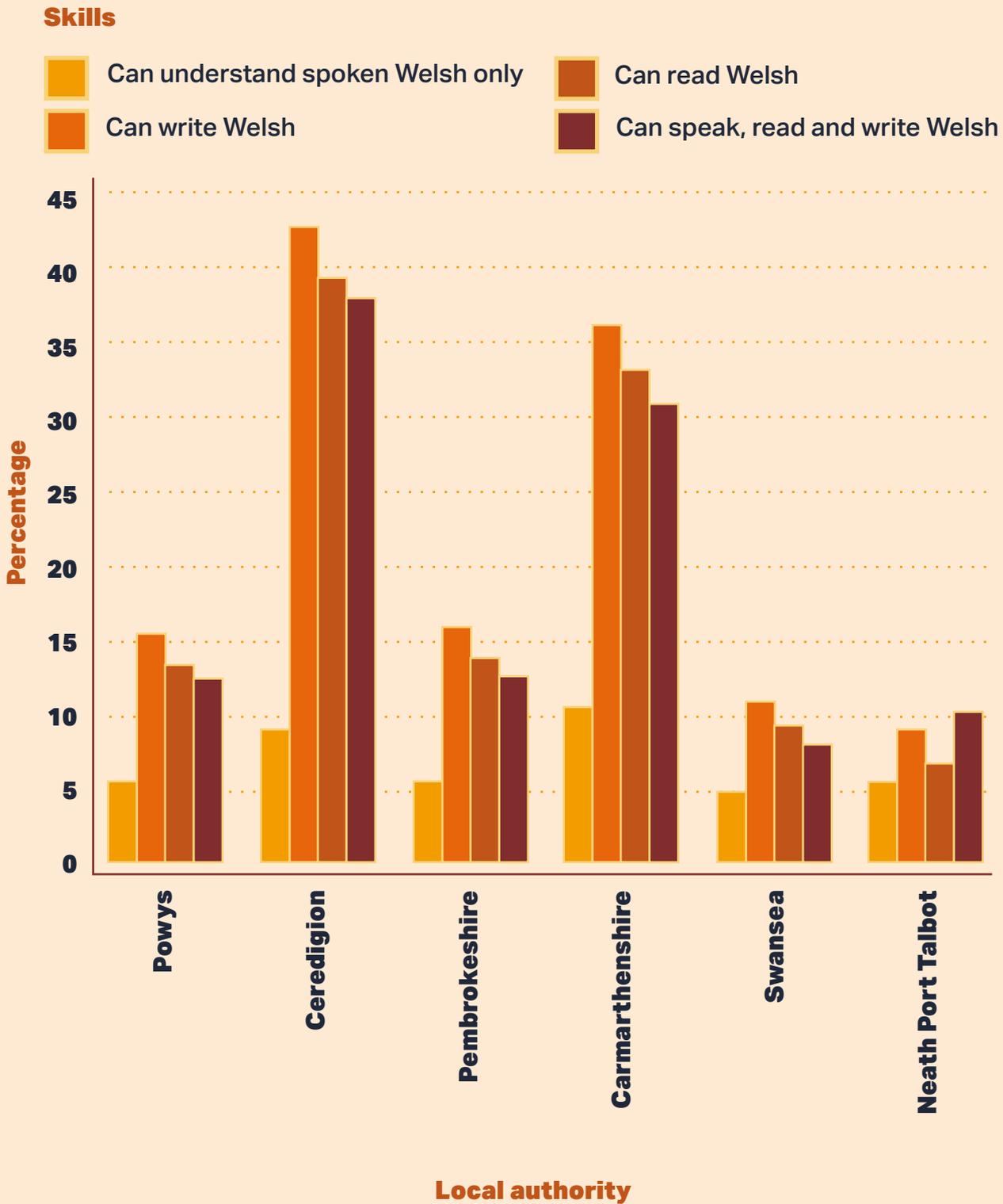


Chart 33: Percentage of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh language skills in central south Wales local authorities

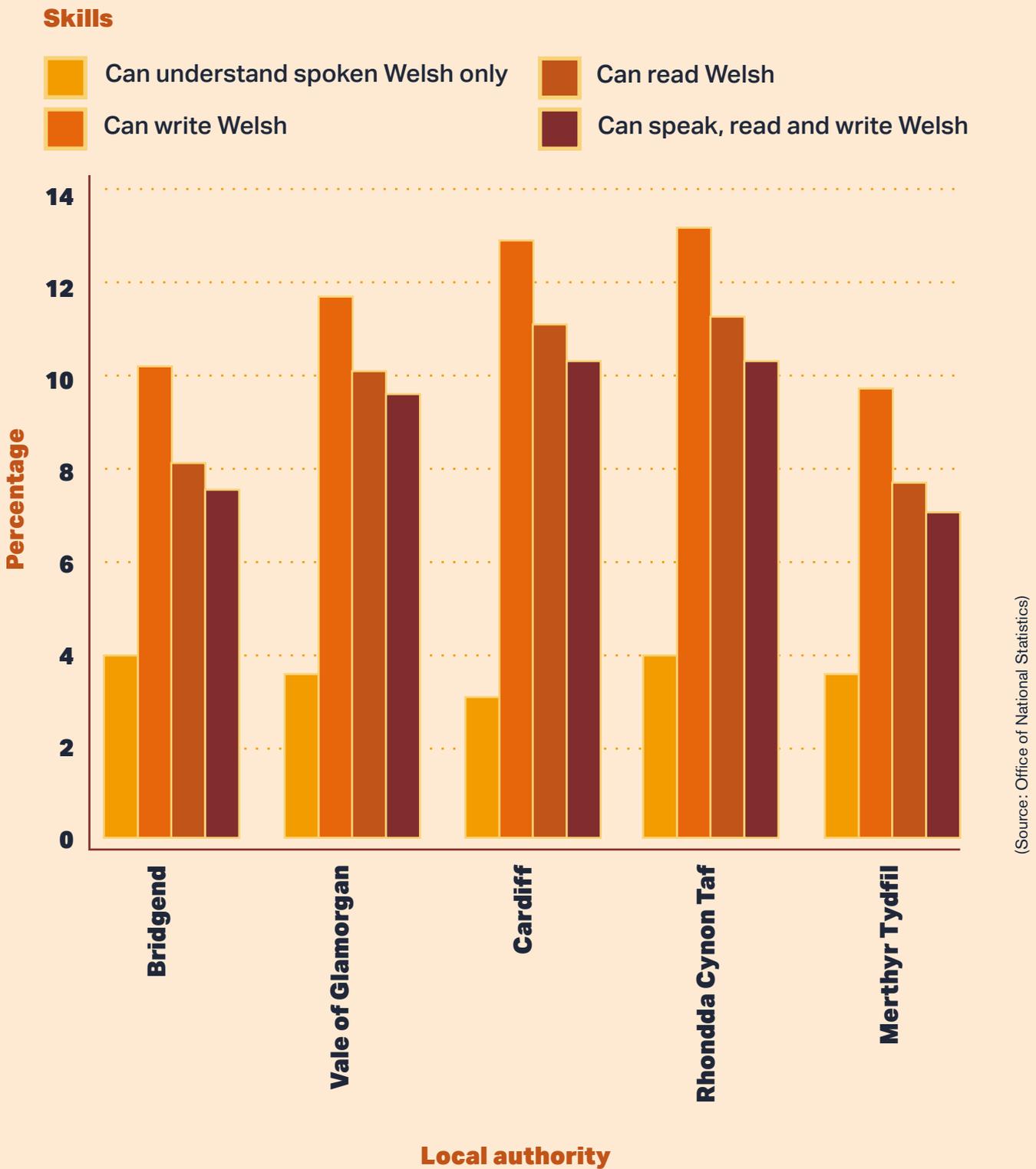
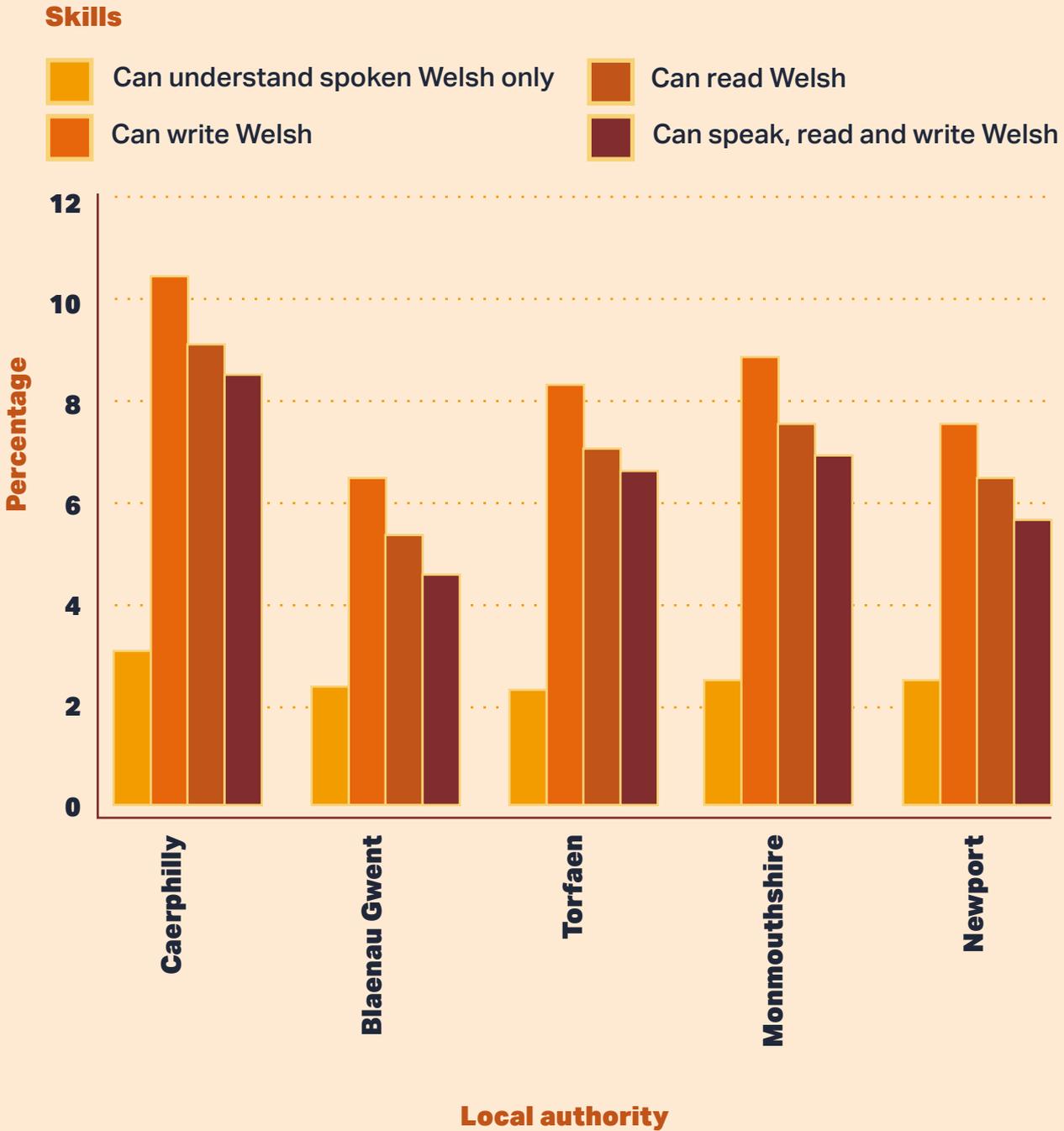


Chart 34: Percentage of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh language skills in south-east Wales local authorities



When Welsh language skills are considered at local authority level, the highest percentages of people with the full range of language skills are in Gwynedd, where 55.3% of the population there are able to speak, read and write in Welsh. 45.2% of the population of Anglesey and 37.3% of the population of Ceredigion have the full range of language skills. At the other end of the scale, the lowest percentages are in south-east Wales, in Blaenau Gwent where 4.7% of the population can speak, read and write in Welsh while the percentage is 5.7% in Newport and 6.5% in Torfaen.

But, as has already been seen in the case of speaking skills alone, the local authority rankings are different when we look at the *numbers* of speakers who can speak, read and write in Welsh. 63,256 of the population of Gwynedd have all these skills, 56,493 in Carmarthenshire, 35,578 in Cardiff and 30,316 in Anglesey.

It is interesting to note how similar the numbers are in Ceredigion, Conwy and Rhondda Cynon Taf. There is only a difference of just over 3,000 in the number of *speakers* between Rhondda Cynon Taf and Ceredigion, with Conwy in the middle between the two. And the numbers of speakers with the full range of skills are also quite similar, with 26,104 in Ceredigion, 23,345 in Rhondda Cynon Taf and 22,605 in Conwy. **Although there are more speakers in Conwy than in Rhondda Cynon Taf, there are more people who can speak, read and write in Rhondda Cynon Taf than in Conwy.** 77.9% of Welsh speakers in Conwy and 81.8% of Welsh speakers in Rhondda Cynon Taf have the full range of language skills.

More than 74% of Welsh speakers in each local authority have the full range of language skills. 86% of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd are able to speak, read and write in Welsh, 83.2% of Welsh speakers in Cardiff, and 82.4% of Welsh speakers in Ceredigion. It is interesting to note that the percentage is also in the low eighties in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly, the Vale of Glamorgan and Anglesey meaning that Welsh speakers have higher Welsh language skills in these local authorities. On the other hand, 74.1% of Welsh speakers in Flintshire reported being able to speak, read and write in Welsh, 75% in Wrexham, and 75.2% in Newport.

Chart 35: Number of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh skills and local authority

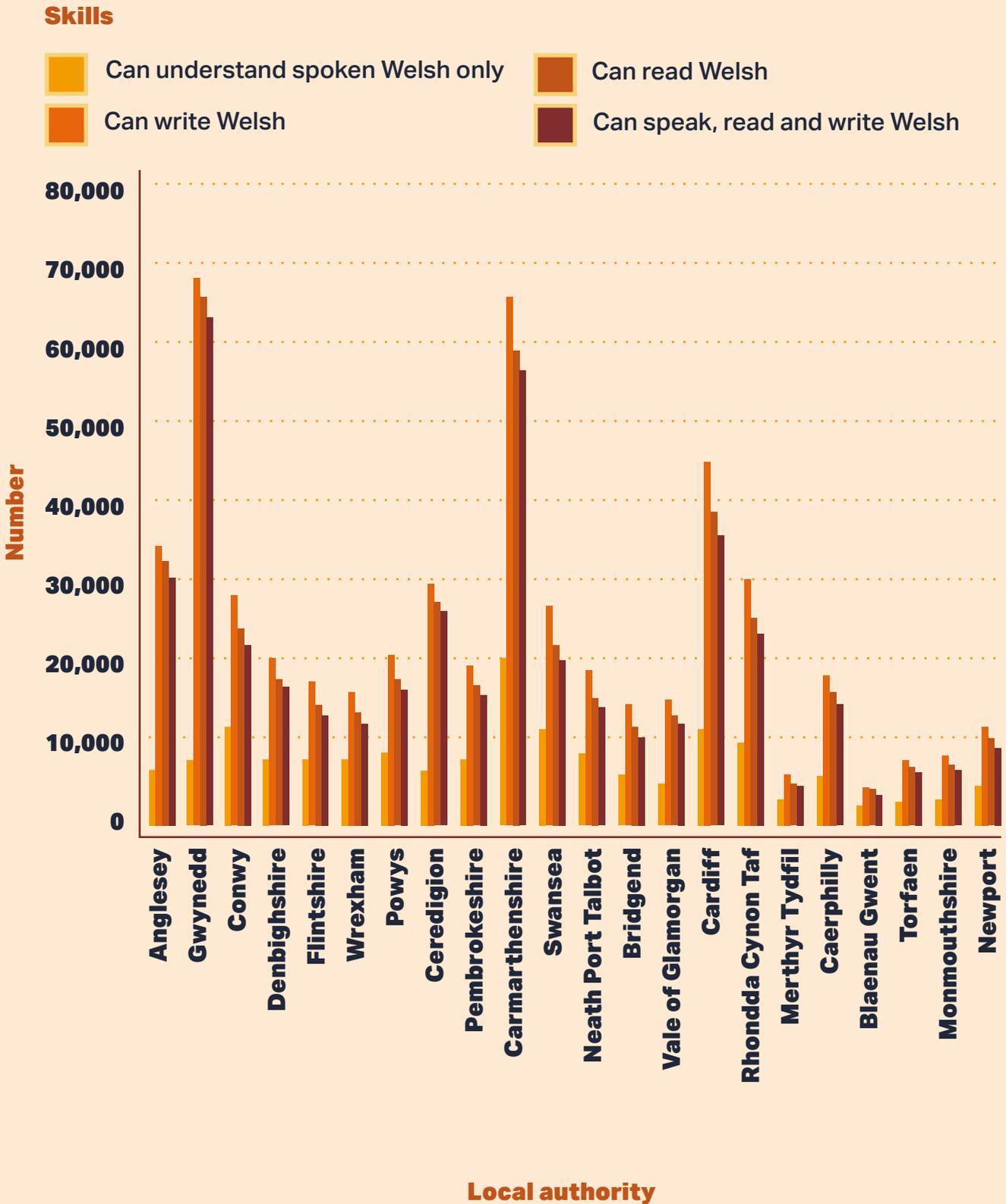


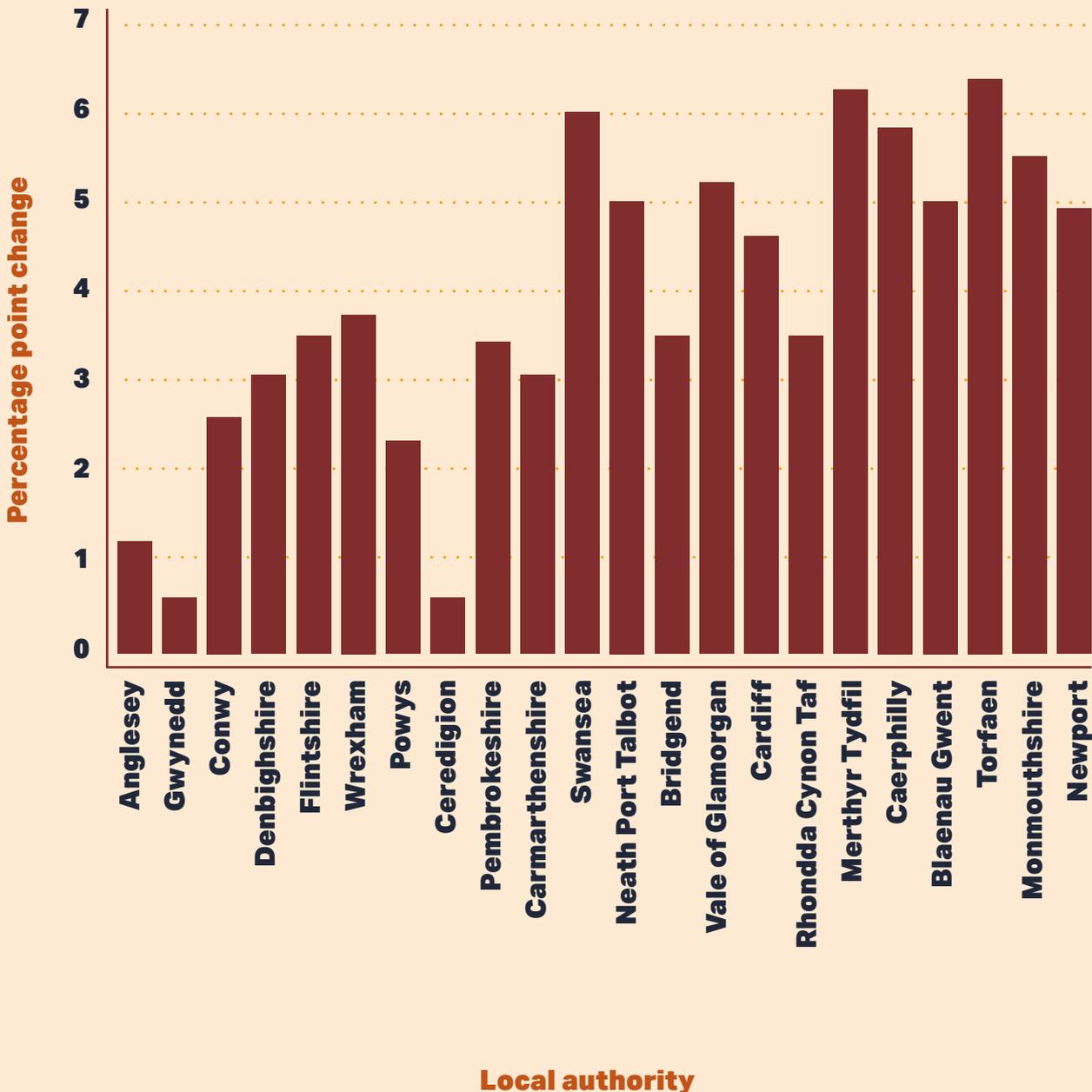
Table 21: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older according to Census 2021, by Welsh language skills and local authority

Local authority	Can understand spoken Welsh only		Can read Welsh		Can write Welsh		Can speak, read and write Welsh	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Anglesey	7,468	11.1	33,967	50.6	31,479	46.9	30,316	45.2
Gwynedd	8,166	7.1	68,645	60.1	65,639	57.4	63,256	55.3
Conwy	10,707	9.6	27,354	24.5	24,010	21.5	22,605	20.2
Denbighshire	7,429	7.9	19,861	21.3	17,441	18.7	16,459	17.7
Flintshire	7,495	4.9	17,216	11.4	14,315	9.5	12,920	8.6
Wrexham	7,468	5.5	15,904	12.1	13,368	10.2	11,957	9.1
Powys	8,318	6.4	20,615	15.9	17,523	13.5	16,256	12.5
Ceredigion	5,948	8.5	29,569	42.3	27,137	38.8	26,104	37.3
Pembrokeshire	7,359	6.1	19,310	16.1	16,661	13.9	15,617	13.0
Carmarthenshire	19,995	10.9	6,5745	36	58,885	32.2	56,493	30.9
Swansea	11,345	4.9	26,801	11.6	21,867	9.4	19,951	8.6
Neath Port Talbot	8,032	5.8	18,582	13.4	15,238	11.0	14,095	10.2
Bridgend	5,500	3.9	14,504	10.3	11,385	8.1	10,177	7.2
Vale of Glamorgan	4,488	3.5	14,998	11.7	12,802	10	11,946	9.3
Cardiff	11,157	3.2	44,910	12.8	38,566	11.0	35,578	10.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	9,261	4.0	30,017	13	25,246	11.0	23,345	10.1
Merthyr Tydfil	2,074	3.6	5,462	9.6	4,453	7.8	4,052	7.1
Caerphilly	5,266	3.1	18,145	10.6	15,746	9.2	14,502	8.5
Blaenau Gwent	1,508	2.3	4,054	6.3	3,514	5.4	3,048	4.7
Torfaen	2,007	2.3	7,329	8.2	6,435	7.2	5,783	6.5
Monmouthshire	2,273	2.5	7,916	8.7	6,816	7.5	6,133	6.8
Newport	3,827	2.5	11,510	7.5	9,938	6.5	8,717	5.7

9.2 Change in language skills over time, at local authority level

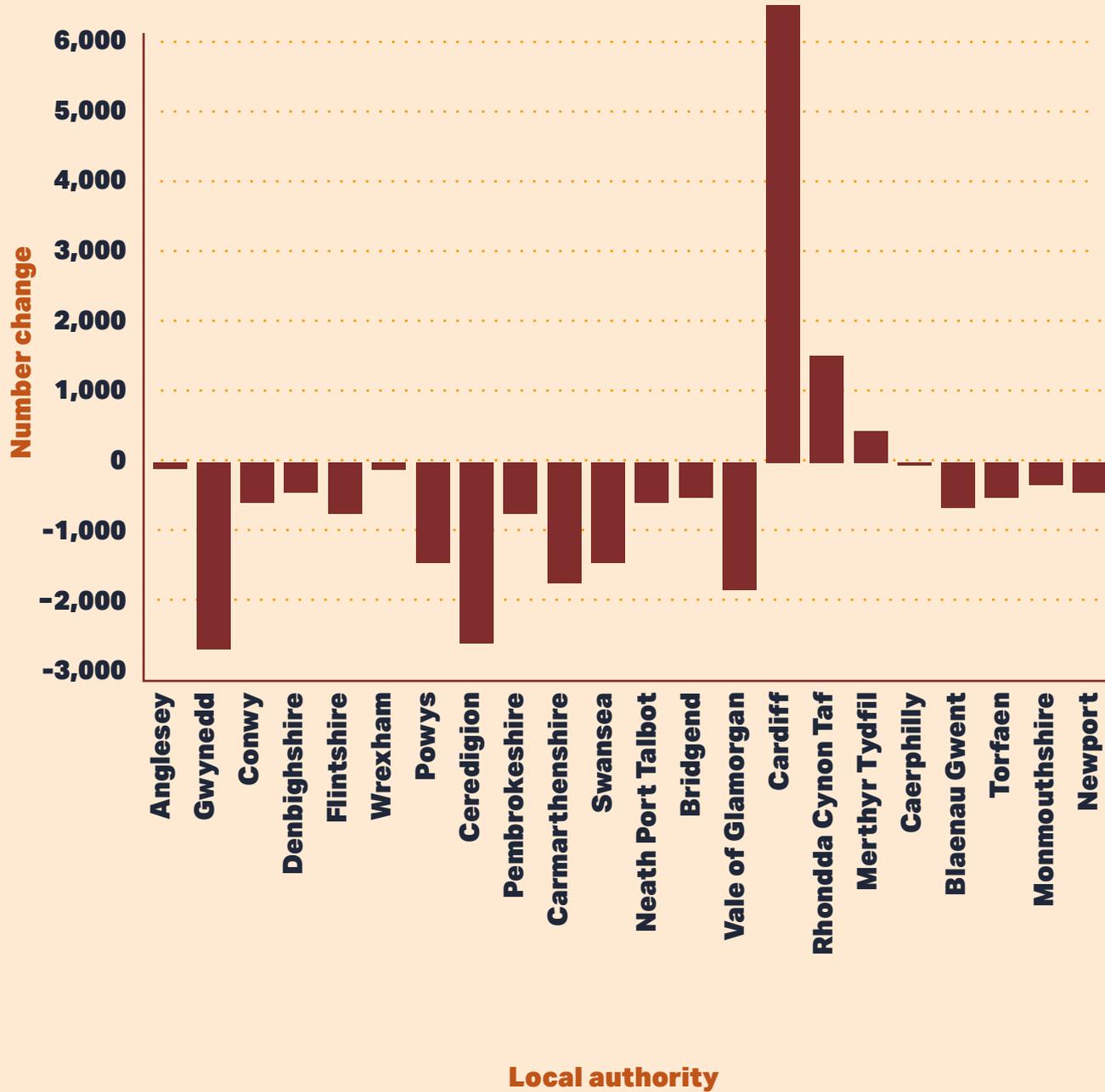
The percentage of Welsh speakers who were able to speak, read and write in Welsh in all local authorities increased since 2011. The percentage increase in the local authorities in the south-east is consistently greater than the increase in the rest of Wales.

Chart 36: Change in the percentage of Welsh speakers who can read and write Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority (percentage point change), 2011–21



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 37: Change in the number of people aged three years or older who are able to speak, read and write Welsh, by local authority, 2011–21



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Torfaen recorded the largest increase, from 72.3% in 2011 to 78.5% in 2021. As the percentage and number of Welsh speakers has decreased in Torfaen over the decade, it is only natural that the number of speakers who have the full range of language skills has also fallen by 467. But although there are fewer speakers in Torfaen today than there were in 2011, the speakers there today have higher skill levels than in 2011.

The second-largest increase in the percentage of speakers able to speak, read and write in Welsh was seen in Merthyr Tydfil from 73.7% in 2011 to 79.8% in 2021, and in Swansea from 70.8% to 76.8%. Unlike in Torfaen, the number of these speakers also increased in both local authorities. There was an increase of 346 people in Merthyr Tydfil and an increase of 1,317 people in Swansea.

There was little change in the percentage and number of Welsh speakers in Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea between 2011 and 2021. **The increase of 6.1 and 6 percentage points in the percentage of speakers possessing the full range of language skills over the decade is therefore positive and shows that there are higher skills among Welsh speakers in both local authorities today.**

The smallest increase in the percentages of Welsh speakers able to speak, read and write were in Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Anglesey where the percentages were already high in 2011. As the number of speakers in these three local authorities decreased, so too did the number of speakers with the full range of language skills.

Four local authorities saw an increase in the numbers of Welsh speakers as noted at the beginning of this section (Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil), and those authorities also saw a corresponding rise in the numbers of people able to speak, read and write Welsh.

There was an increase of 419 people in Bridgend who possessed the full range of language skills and an increase of 90 in Wrexham, but the numbers in the other 15 local authorities decreased with the decrease in the overall number of speakers.

9.3 Passive speakers

Passive speakers – people who can *understand* Welsh to some degree but do not report being able to speak it – are another group of people who deserve attention. According to the 2021 Census, **5.2% of the population of Wales can understand spoken Welsh only**. That equates to 156,762 people. This group is distinct from the 17.8% who report they can speak Welsh.

The aim of focusing on passive speakers is to try to better understand the potential of these people who understand spoken Welsh to facilitate situations where speakers with the full range of skills can confidently use them. For example, by being part of Welsh conversations where the passive speakers can understand everything even though they themselves need to contribute in English.

This group is also significant as they have a linguistic advantage and the potential to cross the bridge to become *Welsh speakers*.

9.4 Passive speakers at local authority level

The highest percentages of passive speakers can be found in the local authorities that have traditionally had a very high density of Welsh speakers. 11.1% of the population of Anglesey noted that they could only understand spoken Welsh. The percentage was 10.9% in Carmarthenshire, 9.6% in Conwy, 8.5% in Ceredigion and 7.1% in Gwynedd.

Table 23: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older who understand spoken Welsh only according to Census 2021, by local authority

Local authority	Number	Percentage
Anglesey	7,468	11.1
Gwynedd	8,166	7.1
Conwy	10,707	9.6
Denbighshire	7,429	8.0
Flintshire	7,495	5.0
Wrexham	7,468	5.5
Powys	8,318	6.4
Ceredigion	5,948	8.5
Pembrokeshire	7,359	6.1
Carmarthenshire	19,995	10.9
Swansea	11,345	4.9
Neath Port Talbot	8,032	5.8
Bridgend	5,500	3.9
Vale of Glamorgan	4,488	3.5
Cardiff	11,157	3.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	9,261	4.0
Merthyr Tydfil	2,074	3.6
Caerphilly	5,266	3.1
Blaenau Gwent	1,508	2.3
Torfaen	2,007	2.3
Monmouthshire	2,273	2.5
Newport	3,827	2.5

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The percentages of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire are significant as both local authorities have experienced a significant reduction in the percentages able to speak Welsh in recent censuses, **but the high percentages of passive speakers in both areas suggest the potential, at the very least, to reverse this linguistic shift.**

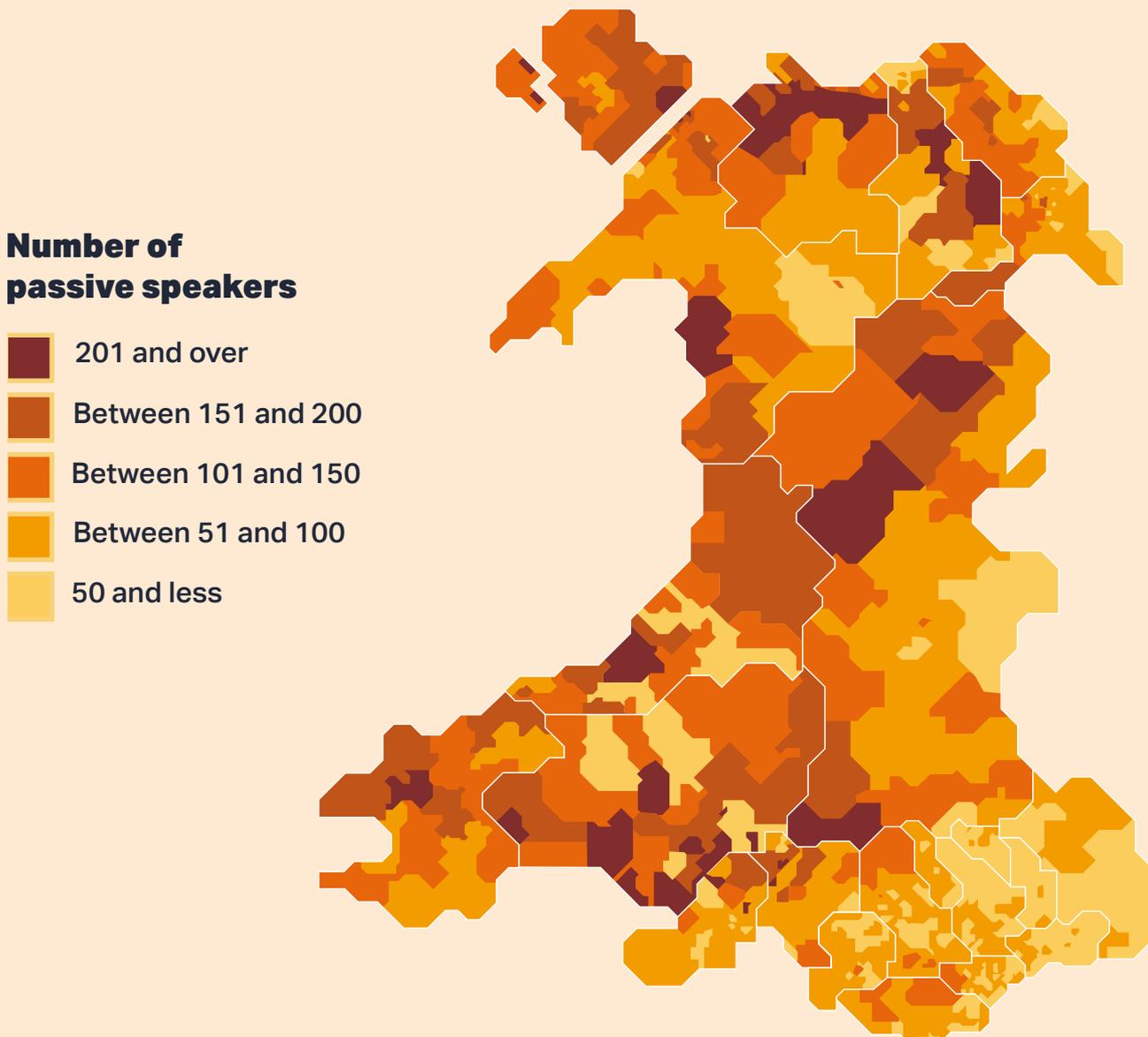
The highest numbers of passive speakers are found either in local authorities where there has been a decrease in the number of speakers (Carmarthenshire and Conwy, for example) or in local authorities where numbers are increasing (Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf are prime examples).

There are 11,157 passive speakers in Cardiff and almost 20,000 in Carmarthenshire.

9.5 Passive speakers at the Lower Super Output Areas level (small areas)

We have already highlighted the benefit of mapping speakers at a small area level and Map 10 highlights the small pockets where high numbers of passive speakers live, for example, in areas of north-east Wales, parts of Powys, east Carmarthenshire and Swansea.

Map 10: Number of people aged three years or older who can understand spoken Welsh only according to the 2021 Census, on the Lower Super Output Area scale (small areas)



9.6 Bringing Welsh speakers and passive speakers together

By combining the data on passive speakers with data about the numbers of people able to speak Welsh, we can better understand the potential of passive speakers to transform the position of the Welsh language.

At local authority level, the patterns seen in Map 11 are familiar enough and confirm the significance of the areas with a high density of Welsh speakers for the development of passive speakers' language skills and the potential for language use.

But it also highlights the **potential to increase the skills and use of Welsh in areas such as Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Rhondda Cynon Taf**, as there are high numbers of Welsh speakers and passive speakers in these areas.

Map 11: Number of people aged three years or older who can speak Welsh and people who can understand spoken Welsh only according to Census 2021, by local authority

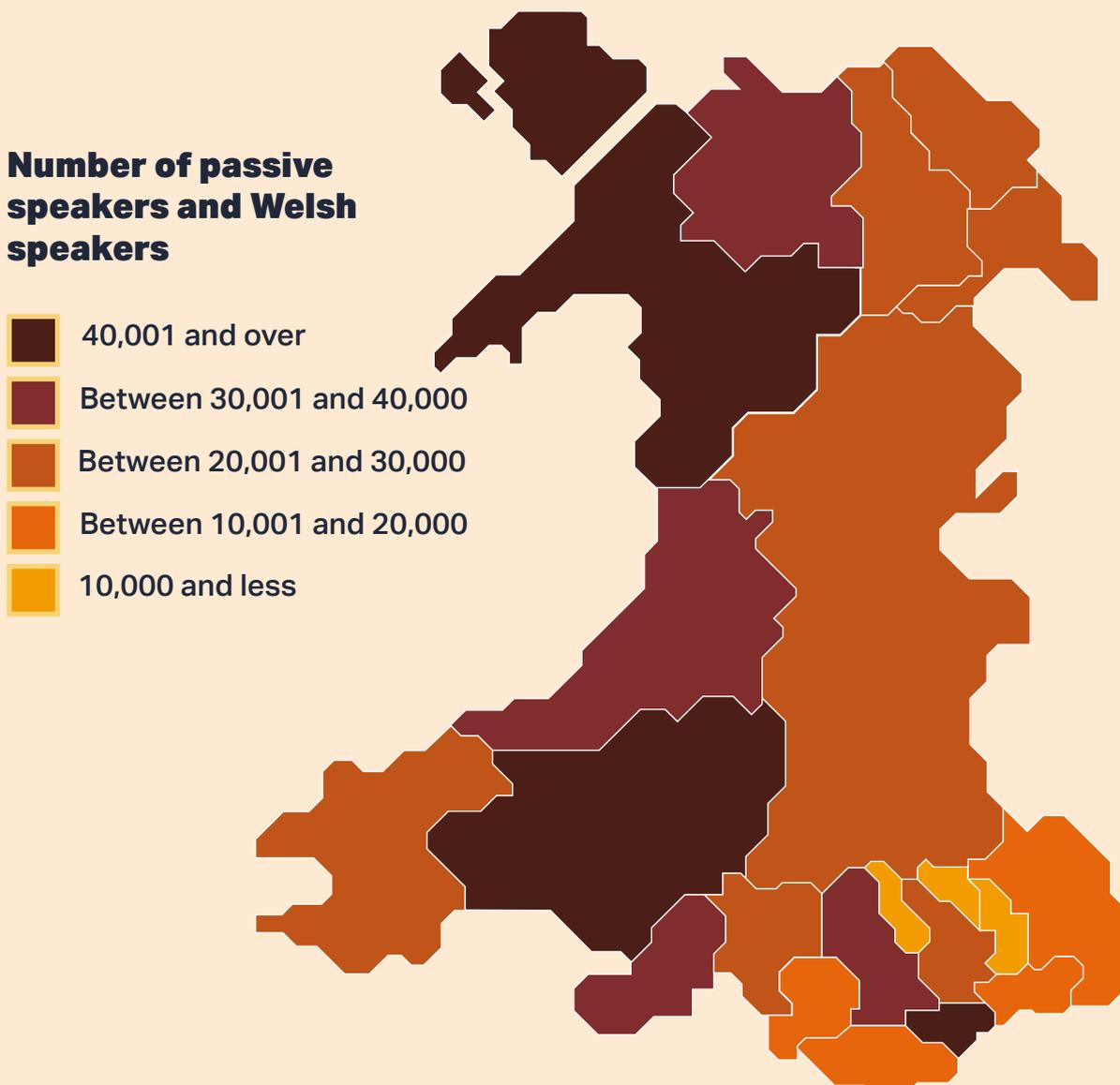


Table 24: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older who can speak Welsh and people who understand spoken Welsh only in 2021, by local authority

Local authority	Can speak Welsh		Can understand spoken Welsh only		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Anglesey	37,413	55.8	7,468	11.1	44,881	66.9
Gwynedd	73,560	64.4	8,166	7.1	81,726	71.5
Conwy	29,000	25.9	10,707	9.6	39,707	35.5
Denbighshire	20,946	22.5	7,429	7.9	28,375	30.4
Flintshire	17,428	11.6	7,495	4.9	24,923	16.5
Wrexham	15,953	12.2	7,468	5.5	23,421	17.7
Powys	21,358	16.4	8,318	6.4	29,676	22.8
Ceredigion	31,678	45.3	5,948	8.5	37,626	53.8
Pembrokeshire	20,626	17.2	7,359	6.1	27,985	23.3
Carmarthenshire	72,838	39.9	19,995	10.9	92,833	50.8
Swansea	25,986	11.2	11,345	4.9	37,331	16.1
Neath Port Talbot	18,662	13.5	8,032	5.8	26,694	19.3
Bridgend	13,037	9.2	5,500	3.9	18,537	13.1
Vale of Glamorgan	14,737	11.5	4,488	3.5	19,225	15.0
Cardiff	42,757	12.2	11,157	3.2	53,914	15.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	28,556	12.4	9,261	4.0	37,817	16.4
Merthyr Tydfil	5,079	8.9	2,074	3.6	7,153	12.5
Caerphilly	17,837	10.5	5,266	3.1	23,103	13.6
Blaenau Gwent	4,035	6.2	1,508	2.3	5,543	8.5
Torfaen	7,366	8.2	2,007	2.3	9,373	10.5
Monmouthshire	7,852	8.7	2,273	2.5	10,125	11.2
Newport	11,594	7.5	3,827	2.5	15,421	10.0

The Commissioner's conclusions



The percentage of people who can speak, read and write in Welsh has remained broadly stable since 2011, with 14.2% of the Welsh population now possessing the full range of language skills.

At least three quarters of Welsh speakers in all local authorities are also able to read and write in Welsh, and the percentage of speakers who can also read and write has increased in all local authorities since 2011. The growth seen in local authorities in south-east Wales is also encouraging and consistently greater than the increase in the rest of Wales. **Although there are fewer Welsh speakers overall than there were in 2011, a larger proportion of those remaining speakers have the full range of language skills.**

With 156,762 people in Wales reporting that they can understand spoken Welsh but not speak it, there is clear potential to support this group to develop their skills and become Welsh speakers. The highest percentages of these passive speakers are found in the areas where the Welsh language is strongest, and therefore it could be assumed that there are opportunities in those areas for passive speakers to practise and use Welsh in social situations. **There is also a need to consider how to utilise these passive speakers in the workplace, for example by upskilling them so that they can provide Welsh language services,** or by creating situations where Welsh speakers can use more Welsh in their company.

10. Where do Welsh speakers come from? And what ethnic groups do they belong to?

10.1 Welsh speakers' country of birth

Understanding where Welsh speakers were born is important in order to see how many people born in Wales are able to speak Welsh, and how many people born outside Wales have the opportunity to become Welsh speakers in due course. As expected, **the vast majority (87.9%) of Welsh speakers were born in Wales**, and the majority of the rest were born in another UK nation (10.5%).

Looking at the population as a whole, 71% of the Welsh population was born in Wales. 21% were born in England, 7% outside the UK, and 1% in another UK country. **Of the people born in Wales aged three or over, 22.3% can speak Welsh**, which equates to 473,059 people.

Chart 38: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by country of birth

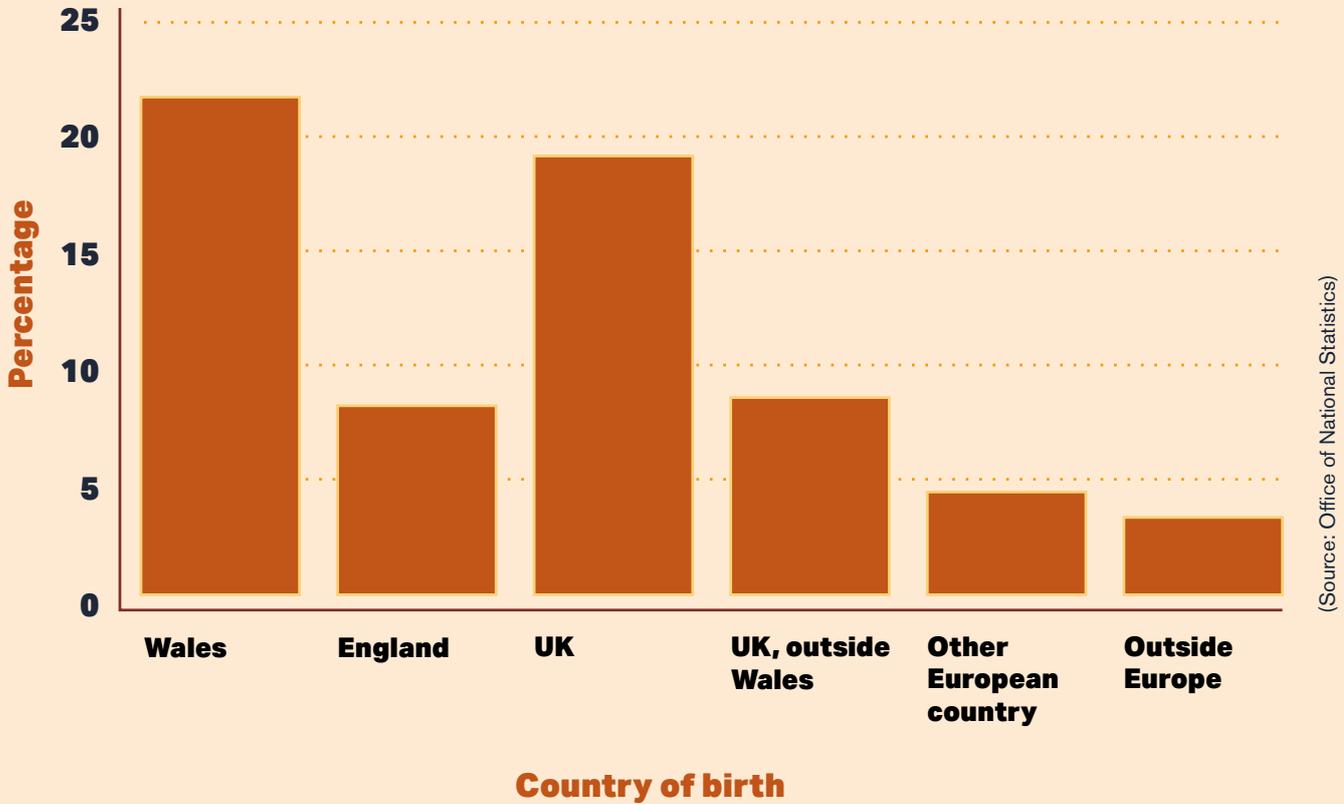
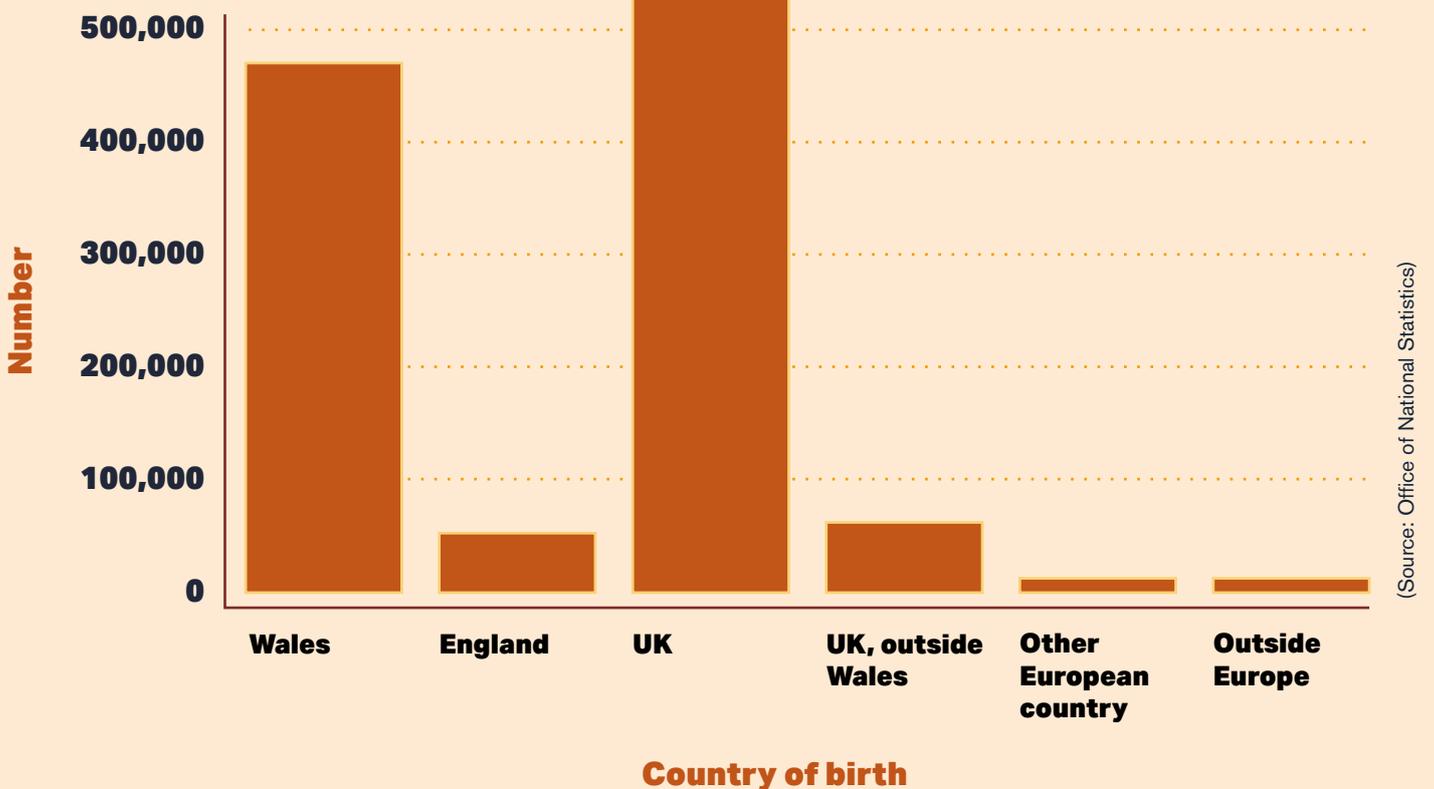
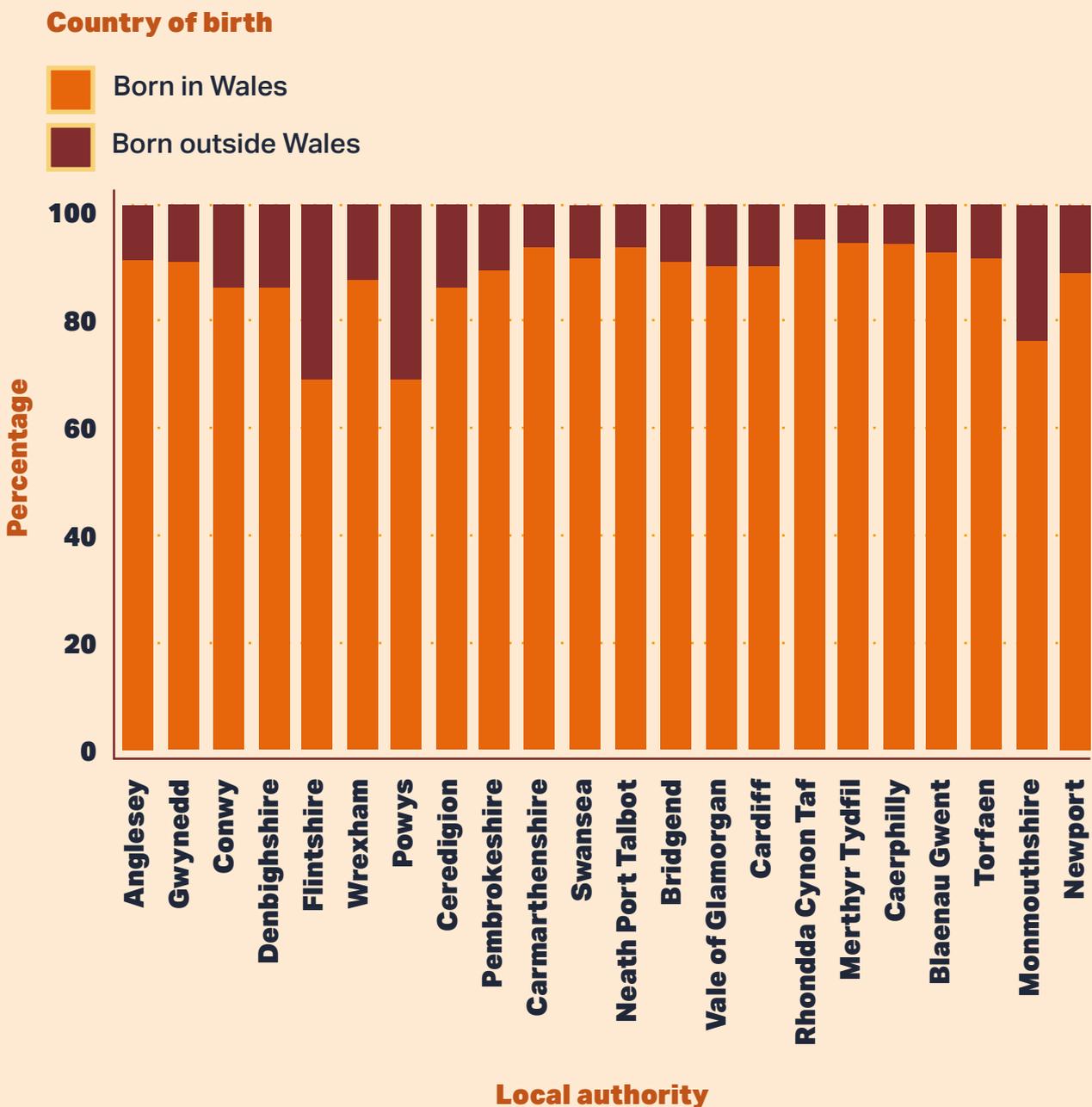


Chart 39: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by country of birth



There are some differences as to where those born outside Wales who speak Welsh live by local authority. The highest numbers of Welsh speakers not born in Wales are found in Gwynedd (8,072), Powys (6,326) and Cardiff (5,894). **The relatively high number of speakers in Powys (6,082) and Flintshire (4,809) born in other parts of the UK highlights mobility across the border in these areas and the key role Welsh education plays in the development of Welsh speakers.**

Chart 40: Percentage of Welsh speakers in Wales according to Census 2021, by country of birth and local authority



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The population composition of local authorities and the percentages that can speak Welsh vary from local authority to local authority. Looking at the population aged three or over in Gwynedd, the local authority with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers, only 65.8% of the population were born in Wales. This means that **around a third of the population of Gwynedd were born outside Wales**, and of those born outside Wales 20.7% can speak Welsh. **Of the other two-thirds born in Wales, 87% of those can speak Welsh.**

Much like Gwynedd, 65.7% of the aged three or over population of Anglesey were born in Wales, and 75.7% of those people can speak Welsh. Of those born outside Wales, 17.4% can speak the language in Anglesey. Of the population of Ceredigion aged three or over, 53.4% were born in Wales and of those people 72% are able to speak Welsh while 14.6% of those born outside Wales can speak Welsh. **It is significant, of course, that a high percentage of the population of these three local authorities, traditionally considered to be strongholds of the language, were born outside of Wales.**

More of Carmarthenshire's population are born in Wales compared with Gwynedd, Anglesey and Ceredigion. **73.1% of people in Carmarthenshire were born in Wales, but of those only 50.4% can speak Welsh.**

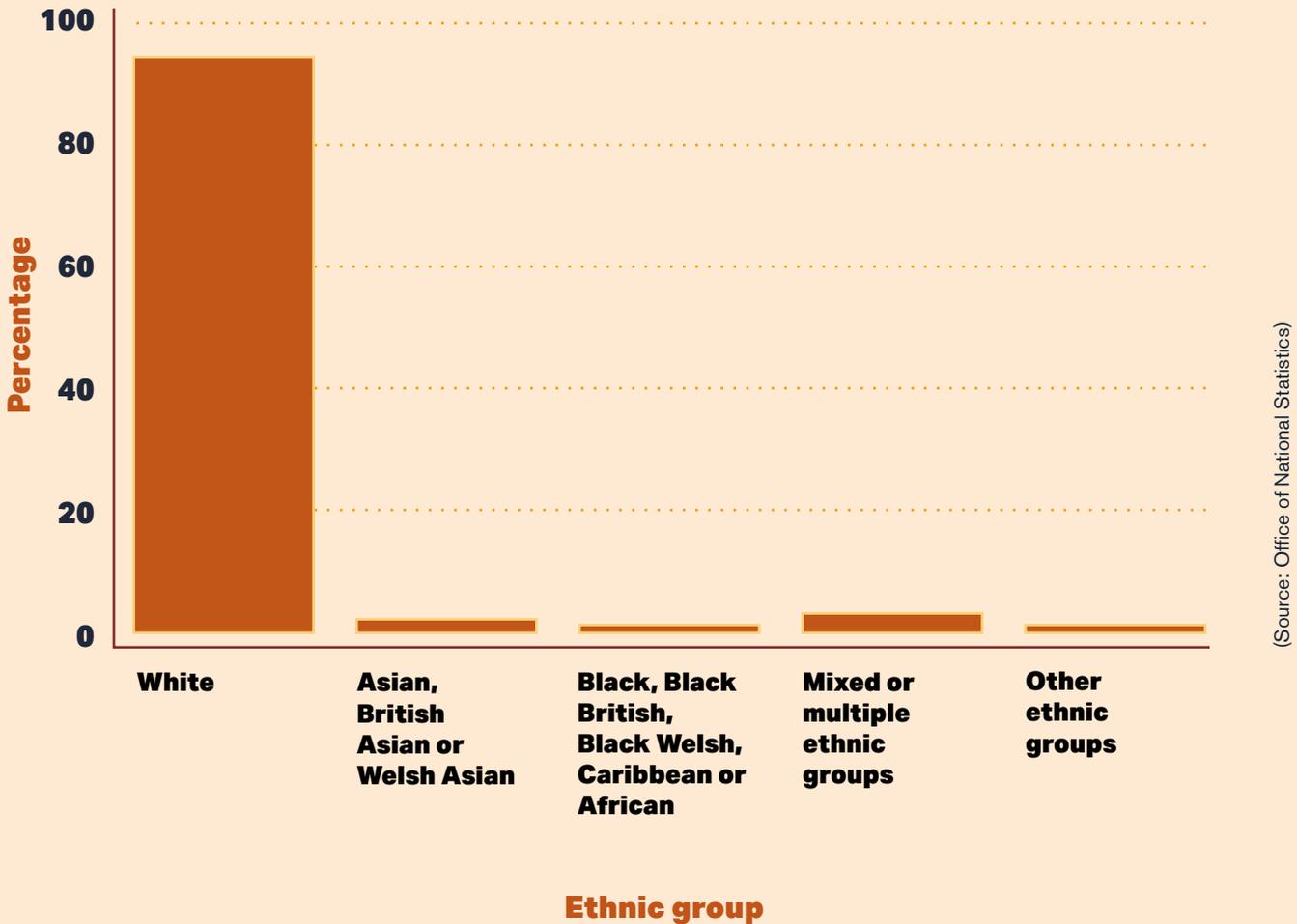
Although Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil have the lowest numbers of Welsh speakers, these are two of the authorities with the highest percentages of their population aged three or over born in Wales. In Blaenau Gwent, 87.6% of the people there were born in Wales while the figure is 87% in Merthyr Tydfil. But the percentage of these people who speak Welsh is low, at 6.6% in Blaenau Gwent and 9.6% in Merthyr Tydfil.

Some local authorities in the south-east have the highest percentage of people born in Wales, and also the highest percentage of people who consider themselves to have a Welsh only national identity. But they are also where the lowest numbers of Welsh speakers are to be found. 70% of the population of Merthyr Tydfil and 68% of the population of Blaenau Gwent consider themselves to be exclusively Welsh, compared with 59.3% in Gwynedd and 55.6% in Anglesey.

Migration into Wales from other parts of the UK has long been a familiar pattern and international migration is also becoming increasingly common. **A far smaller proportion of people born outside the UK are Welsh speakers**, only 4.7% of those born in another European country and 3.5% of those born outside Europe (8,709 people in total) are able to speak the language.

10.2 Ethnic group of Welsh speakers

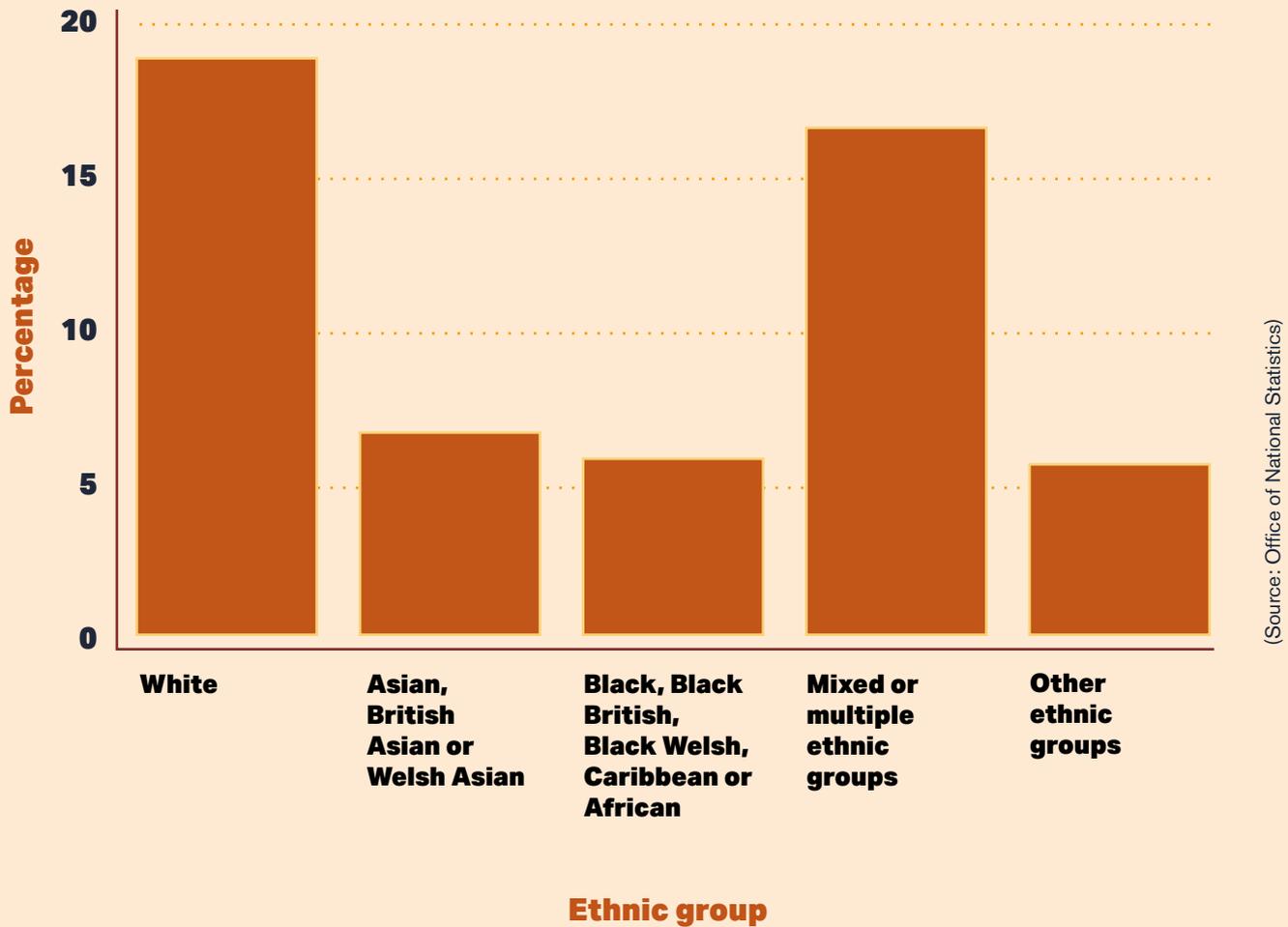
Chart 41: Distribution of Welsh speakers in Wales according to Census 2021, by ethnic group



97% of Welsh speakers are white, 1.4% belong to mixed or multiple ethnic groups, 1% are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, 0.3% are Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, and a further 0.3% belong to other ethnic groups.

The same categories for ethnic groups were not used in the 2021 and 2011 Census which is a barrier to comparing the figures between the two censuses, but we do know that there has been an increase in the number of Welsh speakers belonging to non-white ethnic groups since 2011 – from almost 11,000 to over 16,000.

Chart 42: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by ethnic group



18.4% of the white population of Wales can speak Welsh (522,261 people) and 16.4% of people belonging to mixed or multiple ethnic groups can speak Welsh (7,405 people). The Asian, Asian British or Welsh Asian group follows with 6.4% able to speak Welsh (5,536 people).

10.3 Where do Welsh speakers who do not belong to the white ethnic group live?

Chart 43: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority

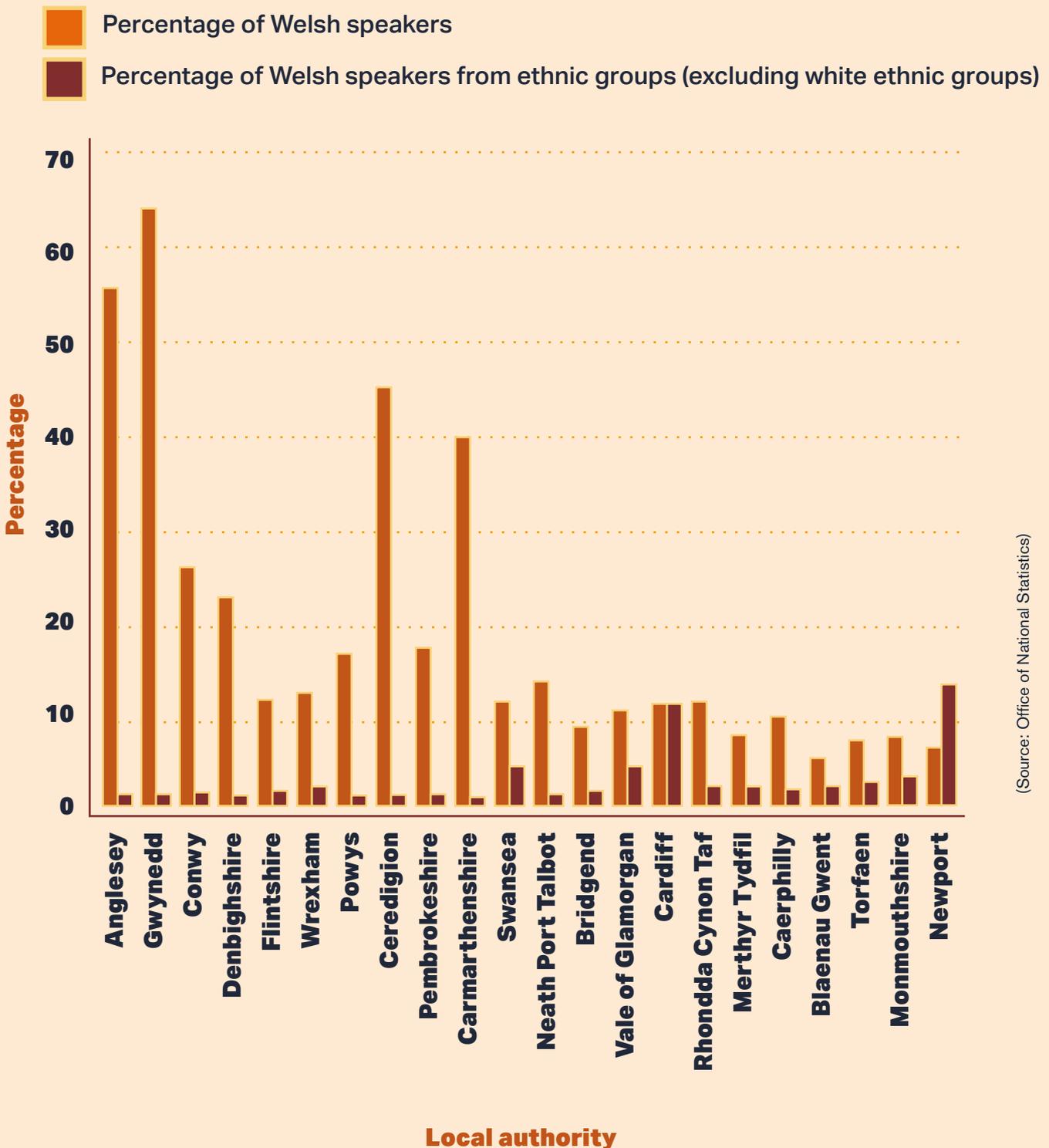
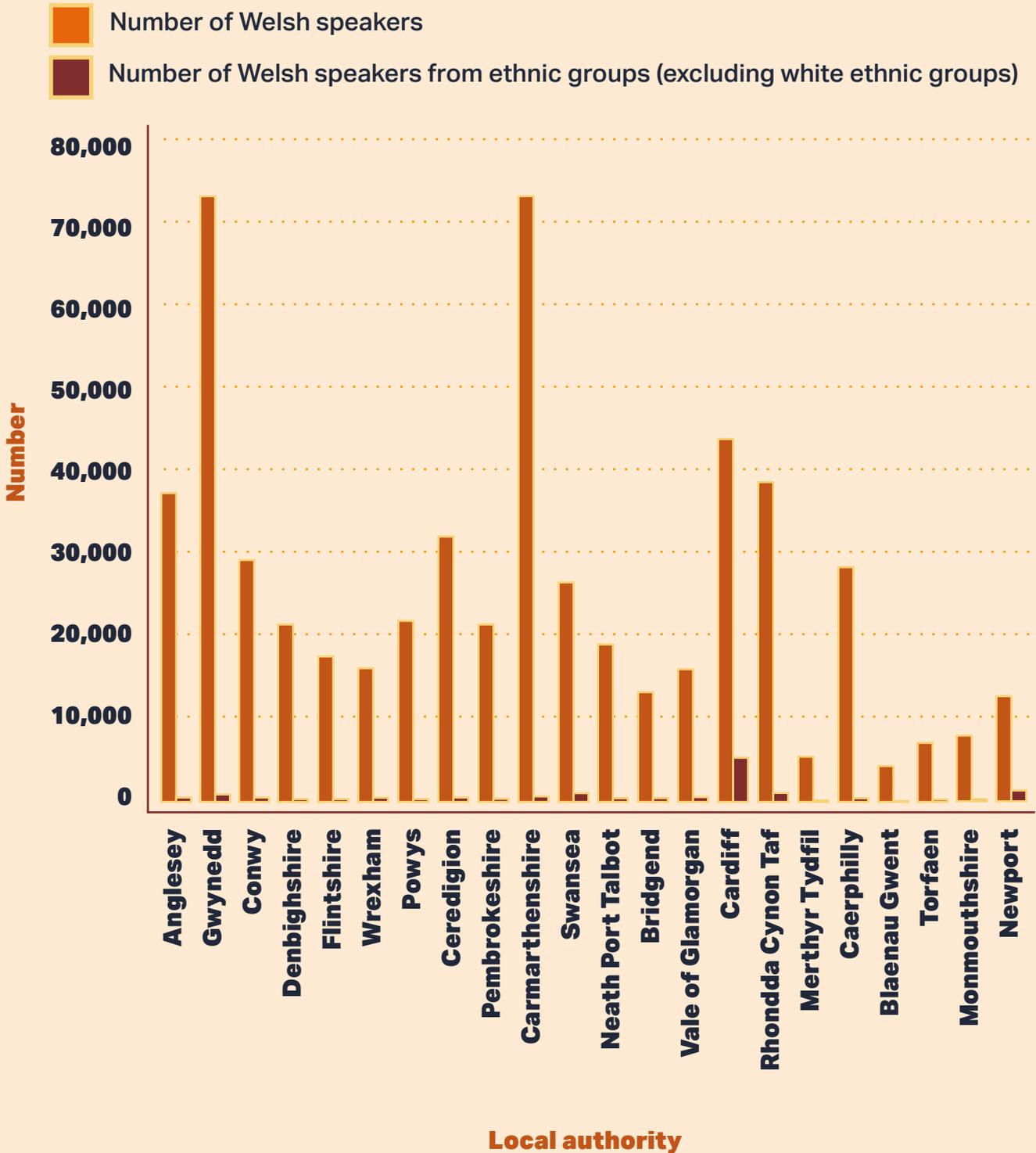


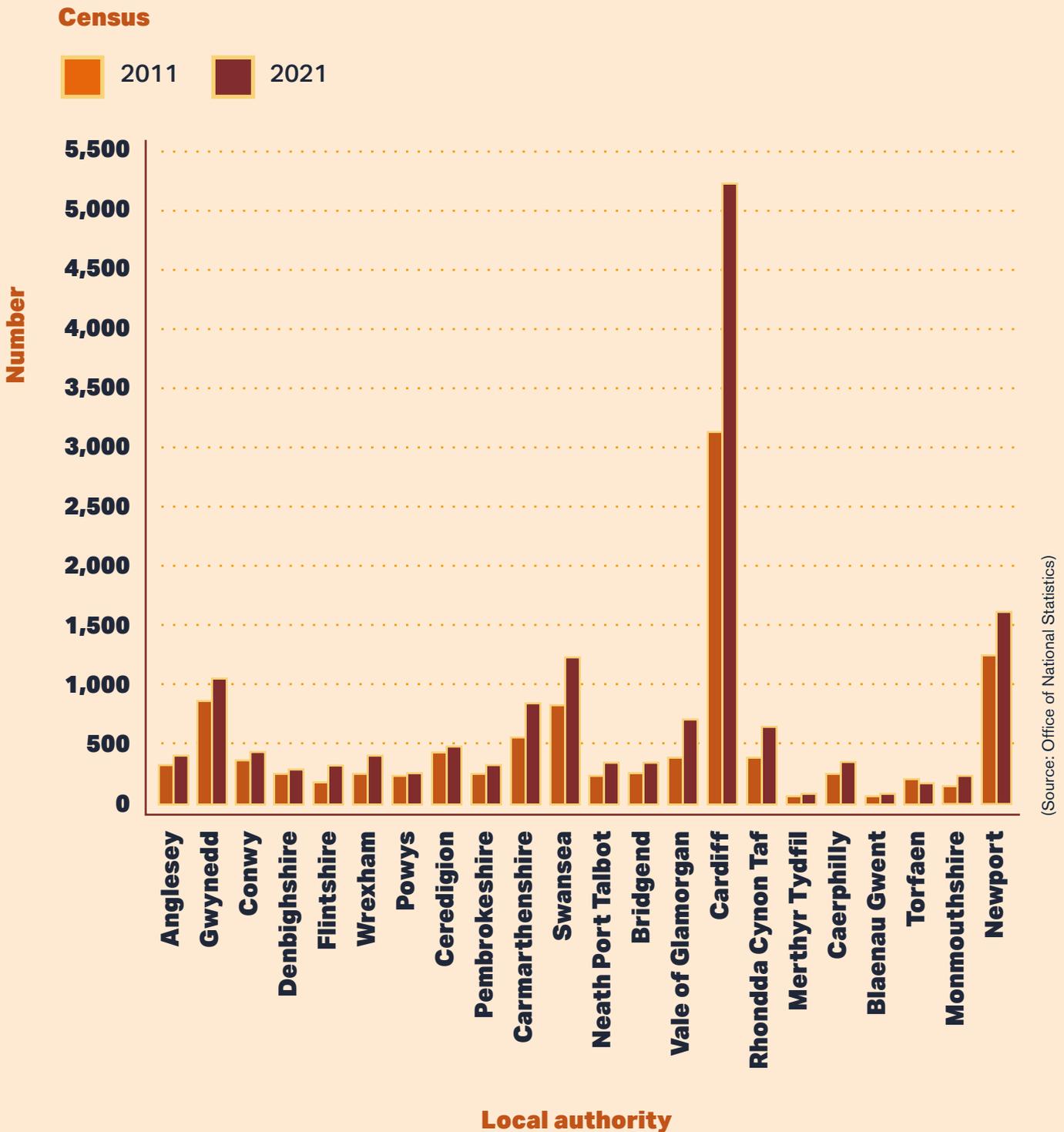
Chart 44: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) and number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by local authority



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Chart 43 and 44 illustrate where Welsh speakers who do not belong to the white ethnic group live, with the highest percentages in south-east Wales. In Cardiff, 12% of Welsh speakers belong to ethnic groups other than white, the figure rises to 13.8% in Newport, and 4.9% of Welsh speakers in the Vale of Glamorgan belong to non-white ethnic groups.

Chart 45: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups), by local authority, 2011–21



Similarly, **the highest numbers of Welsh speakers belonging to these ethnic groups are found in the local authorities of south-east Wales** (with Gwynedd being the notable exception). There are 5,132 living in Cardiff, which is strikingly higher than the rest of the local authorities, with 1,598 in Newport, and 1,217 in Swansea. In Gwynedd, there are 1,049 people from ethnic groups excluding white ethnic groups who can speak Welsh.

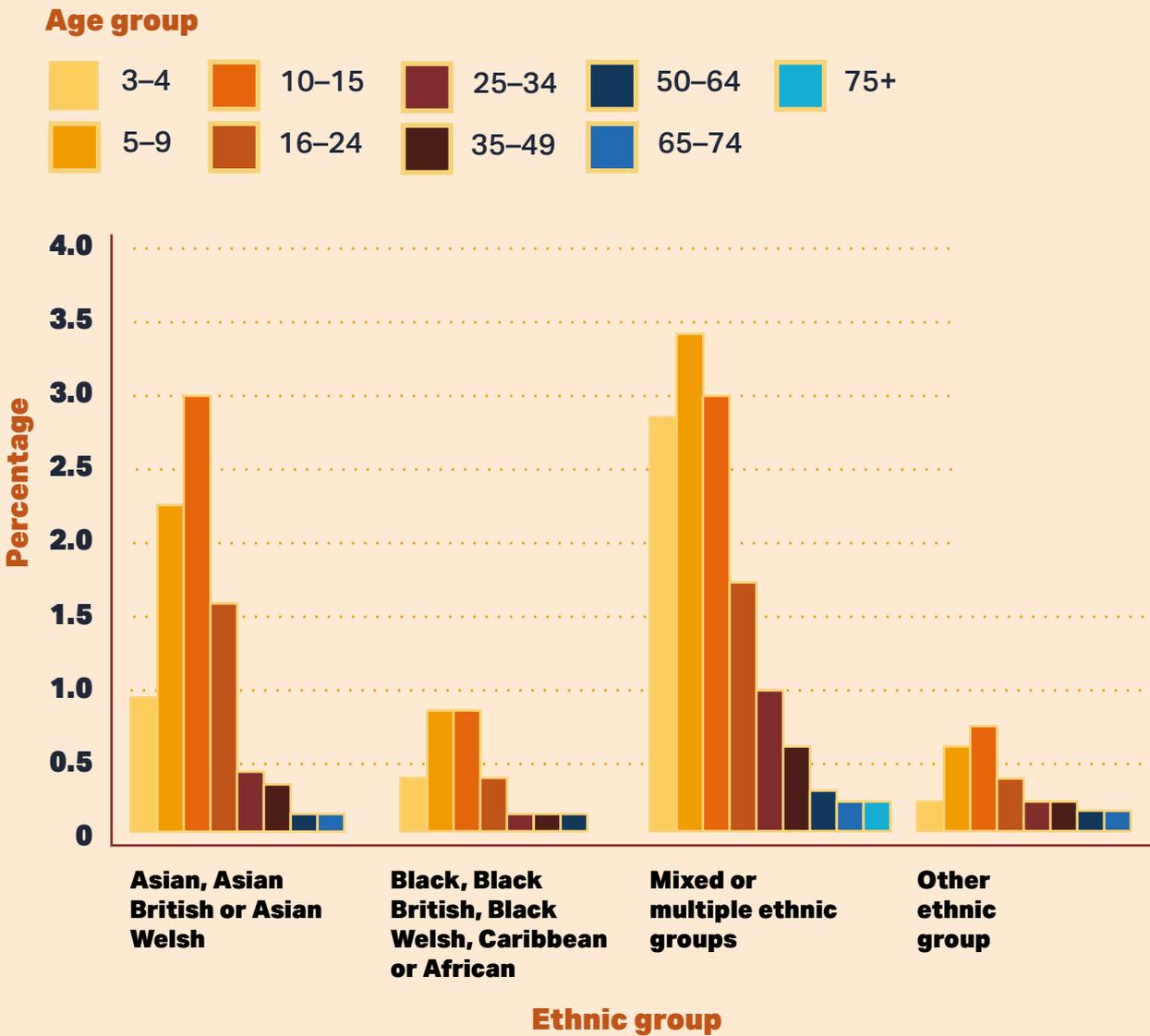
Bringing all non-white ethnic groups together in this way makes it possible to look at patterns across local authorities between 2011 and 2021. Growth in the number of speakers from non-white ethnic groups has been relatively modest during the period with the largest increases seen in Cardiff (2,042 more people), Swansea (399 more people), and Newport (360 more people).

10.4 Age of Welsh speakers belonging to non-white ethnic groups

As with the white ethnic group, **the highest numbers of Welsh speakers in other ethnic groups are found in the 5–15 age category**, and this is true of all ethnic groups. 3.1% of Welsh speakers who are 5–15 years-old are from mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds. That equates to 4,225 children aged 5 to 15. 2.7% or 3,587 of Welsh speakers who are 5–15 years-old are from Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh backgrounds.

The percentages and numbers are significantly lower in the older age categories, with the lowest being 23 people over the age of 65 from Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African backgrounds who can speak Welsh.

Chart 46: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) according to Census 2021, by age group



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The Commissioner's conclusions



In Gwynedd, Anglesey and Ceredigion, a high proportion of those born in Wales can speak Welsh and therefore, **in order to increase the numbers of speakers in these three local authorities, it may be necessary to focus efforts to increase the numbers of those moving to these areas from beyond the border who can speak Welsh,** alongside maintaining the percentages of speakers born in Wales.

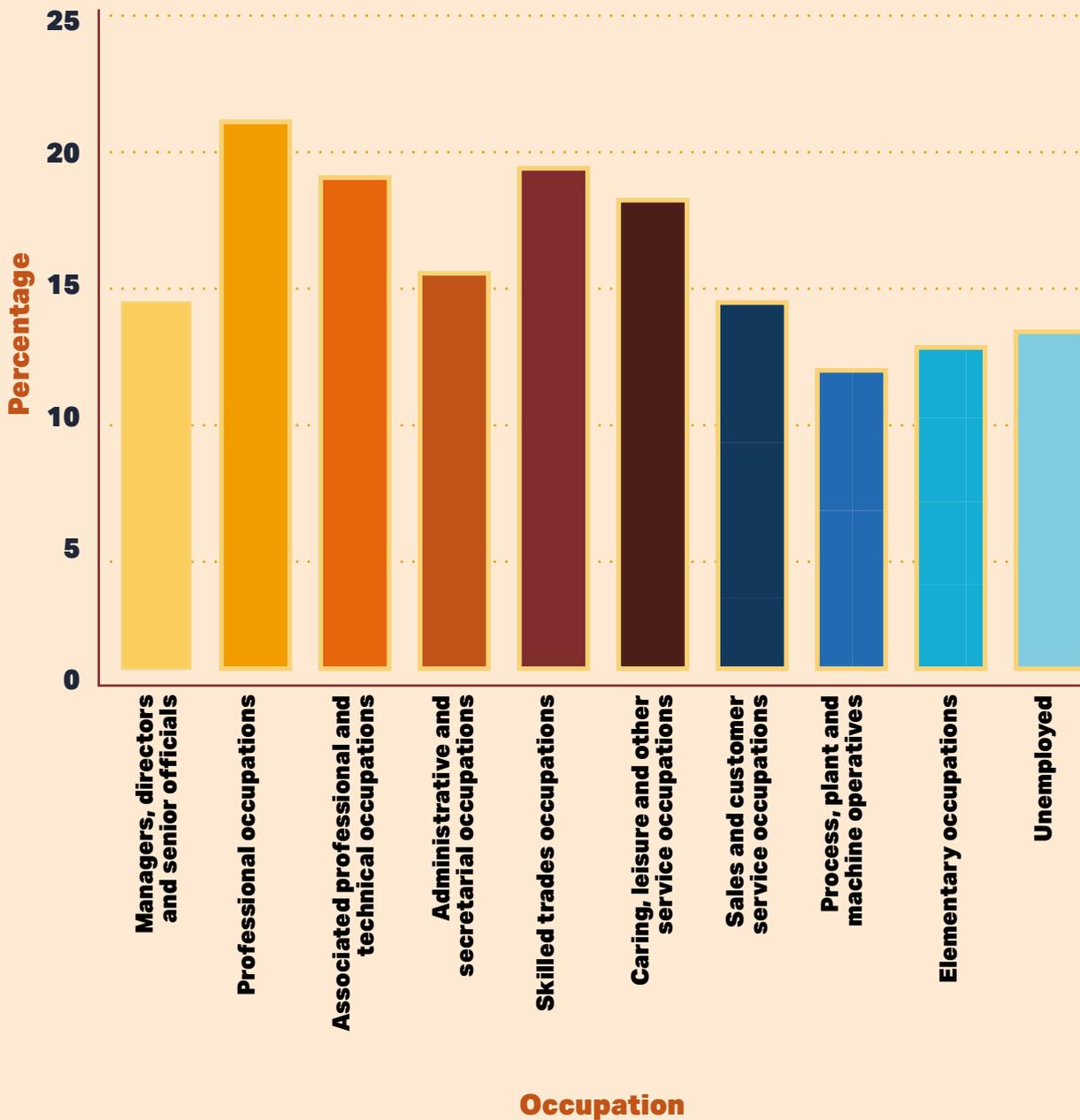
The situation is slightly different in other parts of the country, in Carmarthenshire and in the south-east Wales valleys for example, where much higher percentages are born in Wales and consequently higher percentages identify solely as Welsh. Yet many of those born in Wales in these areas report that they do not speak Welsh, and the deep Welsh identity that belongs to the south-east areas in particular does not translate into linguistic ability. **It is therefore not interventions to encourage assimilation into Welsh and Welsh-speaking communities that are needed here, of course, but rather opportunities to learn and take pride in using the official language of the country in which many of them were born.**

A very low percentage of Welsh speakers are from non-white ethnic backgrounds, but the highest percentages are in the local authorities of south-east Wales and there are more Welsh speakers from non-white ethnic groups in the 5–15 age group. **Ensuring that opportunities to learn Welsh are available to people from all ethnic backgrounds and promoting the fact that the Welsh language belongs to everyone, will be essential for supporting future growth in speaker numbers.**

11. Where do Welsh speakers work?

11.1 Occupation of Welsh speakers

Chart 47: Percentage of people aged 16 and over in employment in the week before the Census who can speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by occupation



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 30: Number and percentage of people aged 16 years and over able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by occupation

Occupation	Number	Can speak Welsh	
		Number	Percentage
Managers, directors and senior officials	143,938	21,228	14.7
Professional occupations	249,466	52,283	21.0
Associated professional and technical occupations	161,273	30,248	18.8
Administrative and secretarial occupations	128,116	19,979	15.6
Skilled trades occupations	166,613	31,761	19.1
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	153,029	27,582	18.0
Sales and customer service occupations	114,559	16,708	14.6
Process, plant and machine operatives	107,475	12,723	11.8
Elementary occupations	143,982	18,884	13.1
Unemployed	1,190,965	160,280	13.5

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

59% of Welsh speakers 16 years and over are currently in work, which equates to 231,400 people. This figure excludes retired people and students unless they indicated that they were employed. **Looking at the working population as a whole, there has been an increase in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers** since 2011 and by today 16.9% can speak Welsh, which is a slight increase since 2011. That aligns with the modest increase in the number of speakers aged 25 to 44 over the same period.

The Office for National Statistics classifies occupations by the level of qualification, training and experience required. **It is in professional occupations that the highest proportion of the workforce can speak Welsh (21%)**, these are usually jobs at a level where a university degree or equivalent qualification is required. 19.1% of the people working in skilled trades occupations can speak Welsh, which are usually jobs where someone has trained for a period at work. And 18.8% of the people who work in associate professional and technical occupations can speak the language, these are usually jobs where a high-level vocational qualification and structured training are required.

Chart 48: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in north Wales, by occupation

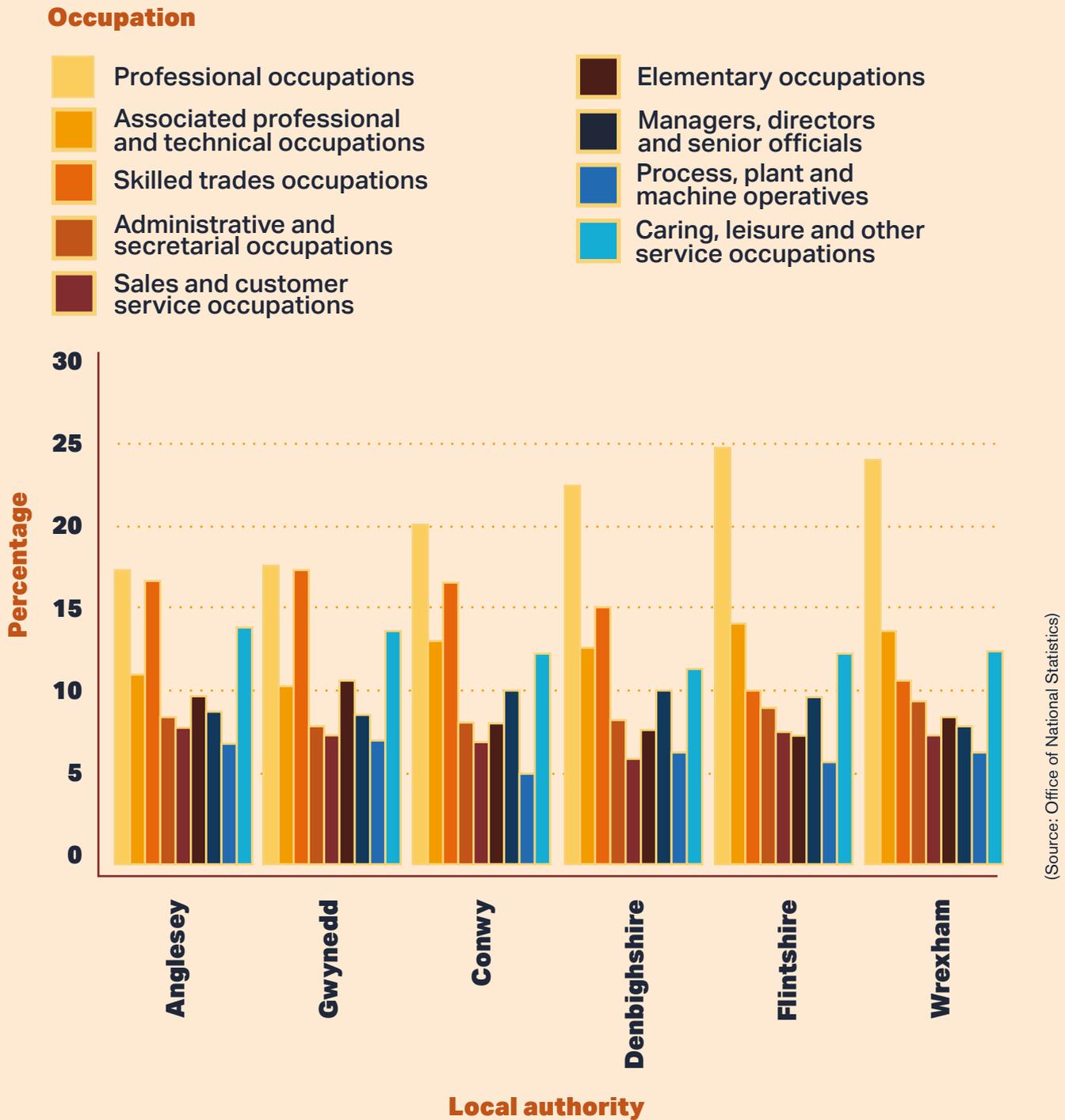


Chart 49: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in south-west and mid Wales, by occupation

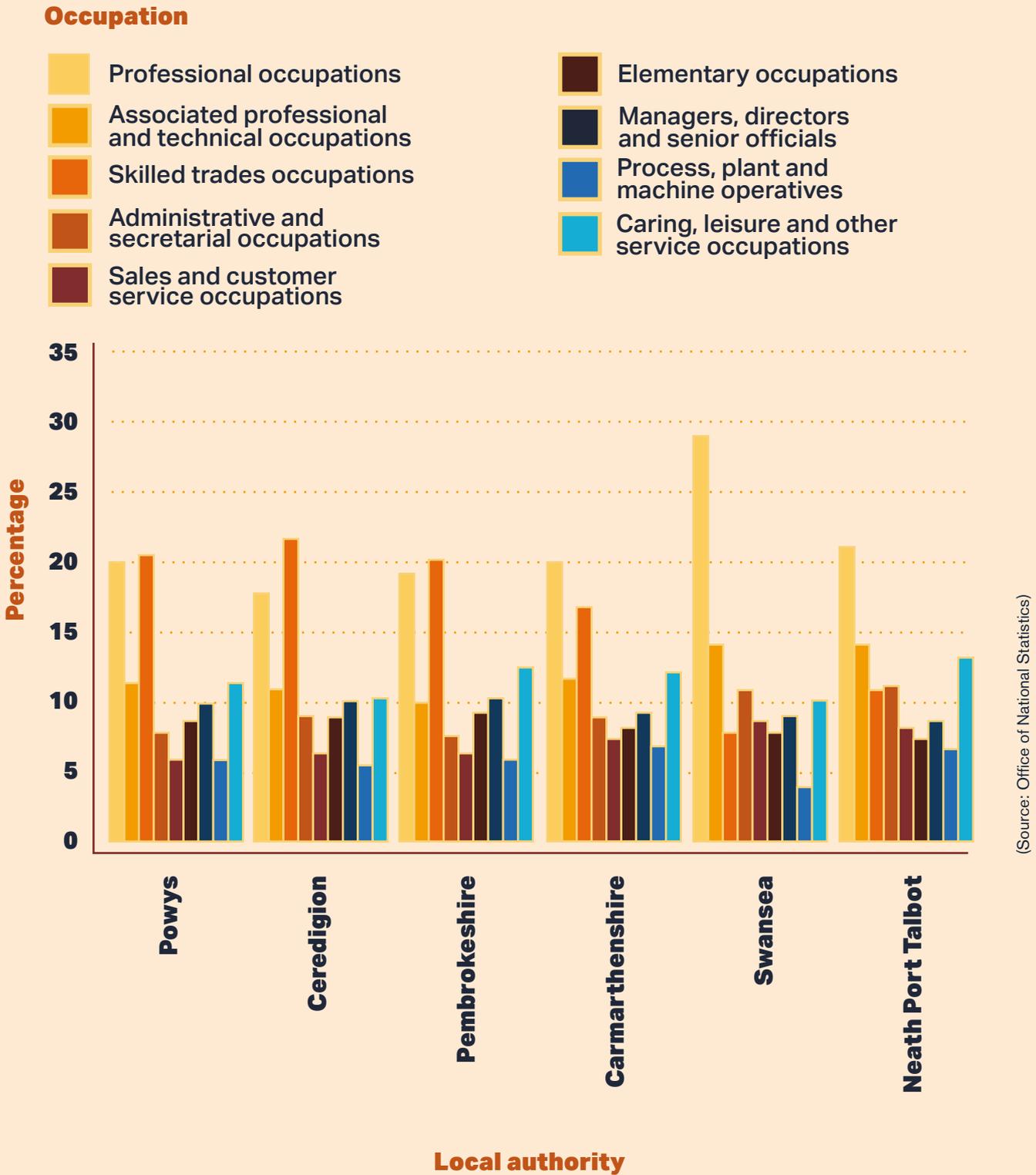


Chart 50: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in central south Wales, by occupation

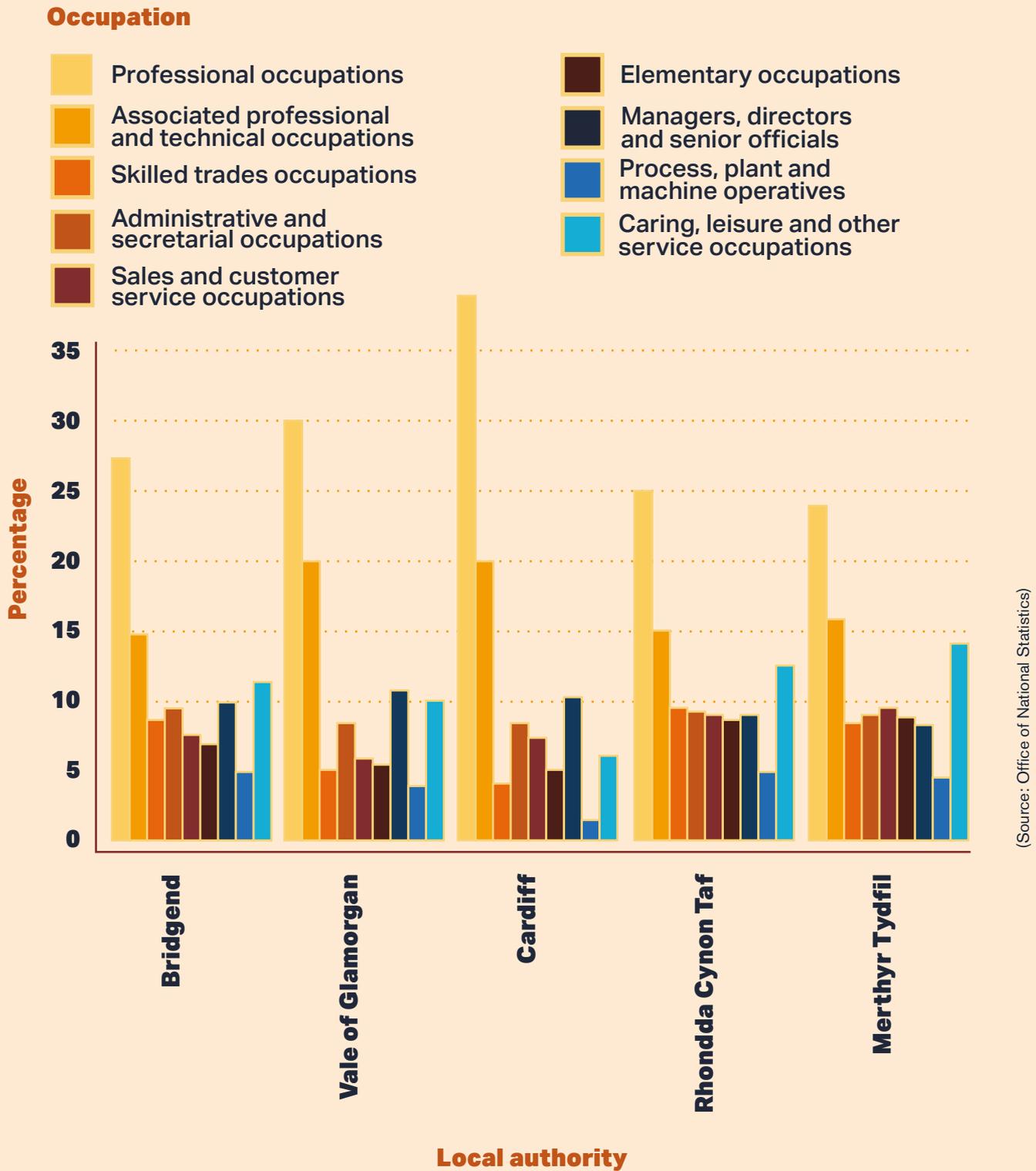
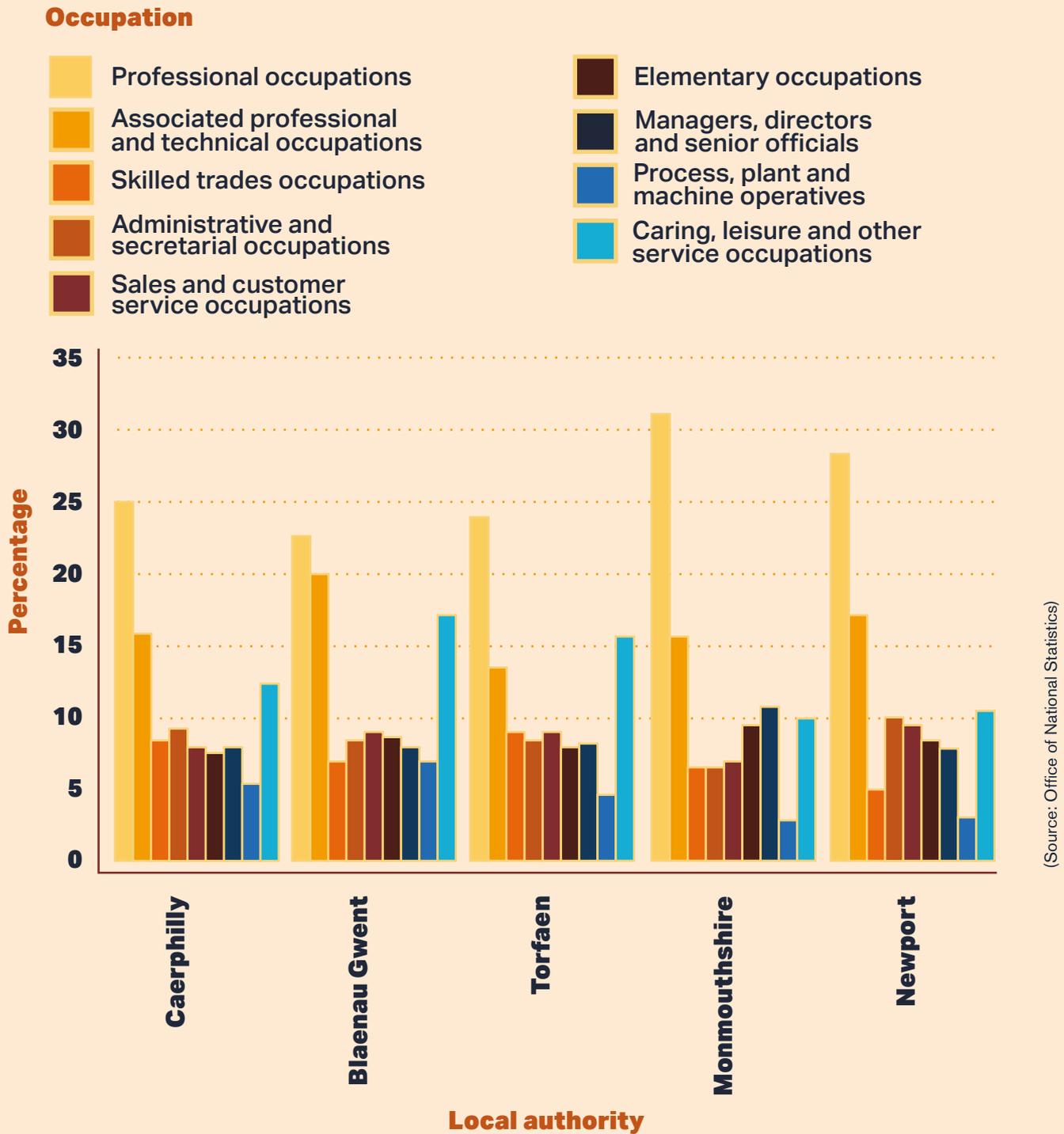


Chart 51: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in south-east Wales, by occupation



When examining occupations at local authority level and considering working Welsh speakers only, the percentage of Welsh speakers working in professional occupations is significantly higher than any other occupation in the north-east and south-east local authorities. **In the west and mid-Wales local authorities, the percentages of Welsh speakers working in professional occupations are still higher than most other occupations, but an equally high percentage are working in skilled trades occupations.** Indeed, there are slightly more working in the skilled trades in the rural local authorities of Powys, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire than there are in professional occupations.

By contrast, **the capital city has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers working in professional occupations.** 38.6% of Cardiff's working Welsh speakers work in professional occupations, while 19.7% work in associate professional and technical occupations. This 38.6% in the professional occupations is more than double the percentage found in Gwynedd and Anglesey, for example, and **Cardiff also has the highest number of speakers in the professional occupations (7,038).**

A change can be seen in the percentage and number of speakers in different occupations between 2011 and 2021. There has been an increase in all local authorities in the percentage of working Welsh speakers who work in the professional and associate professional and technical occupations, and those working as managers, directors and senior officials. And the biggest increases in these categories are concentrated, overall, in the south-east.

There has also been an increase in all local authorities in the number of Welsh speakers working in the professional and associate professional and technical occupations. The number of Welsh speakers working in skilled trades decreased in the north, mid and south-west local authorities, while there was a slight increase in the south-east local authorities.

Chart 52: Change in the percentage of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to the 2011 and 2021 Census, by occupation and local authority (percentage point change)

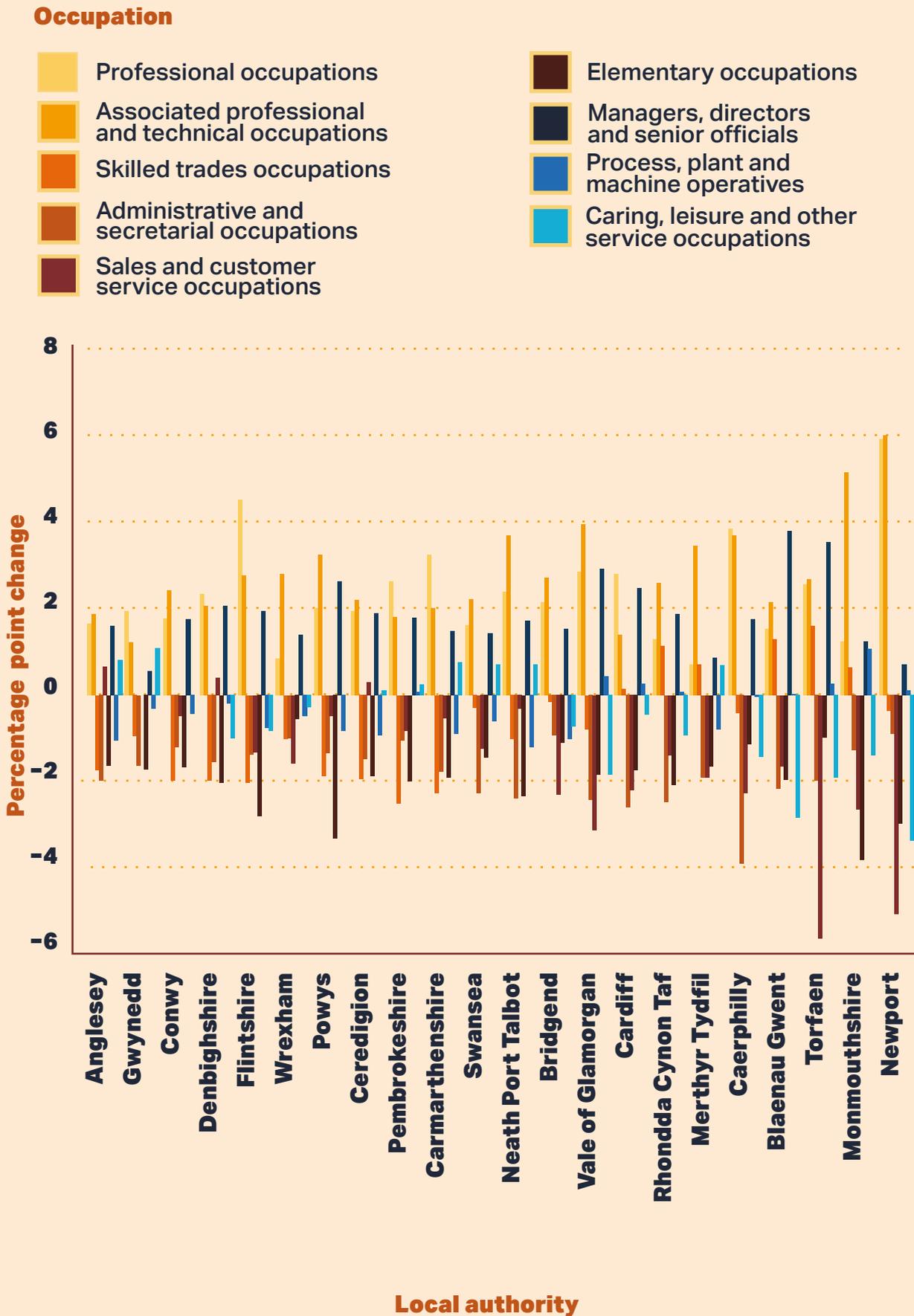
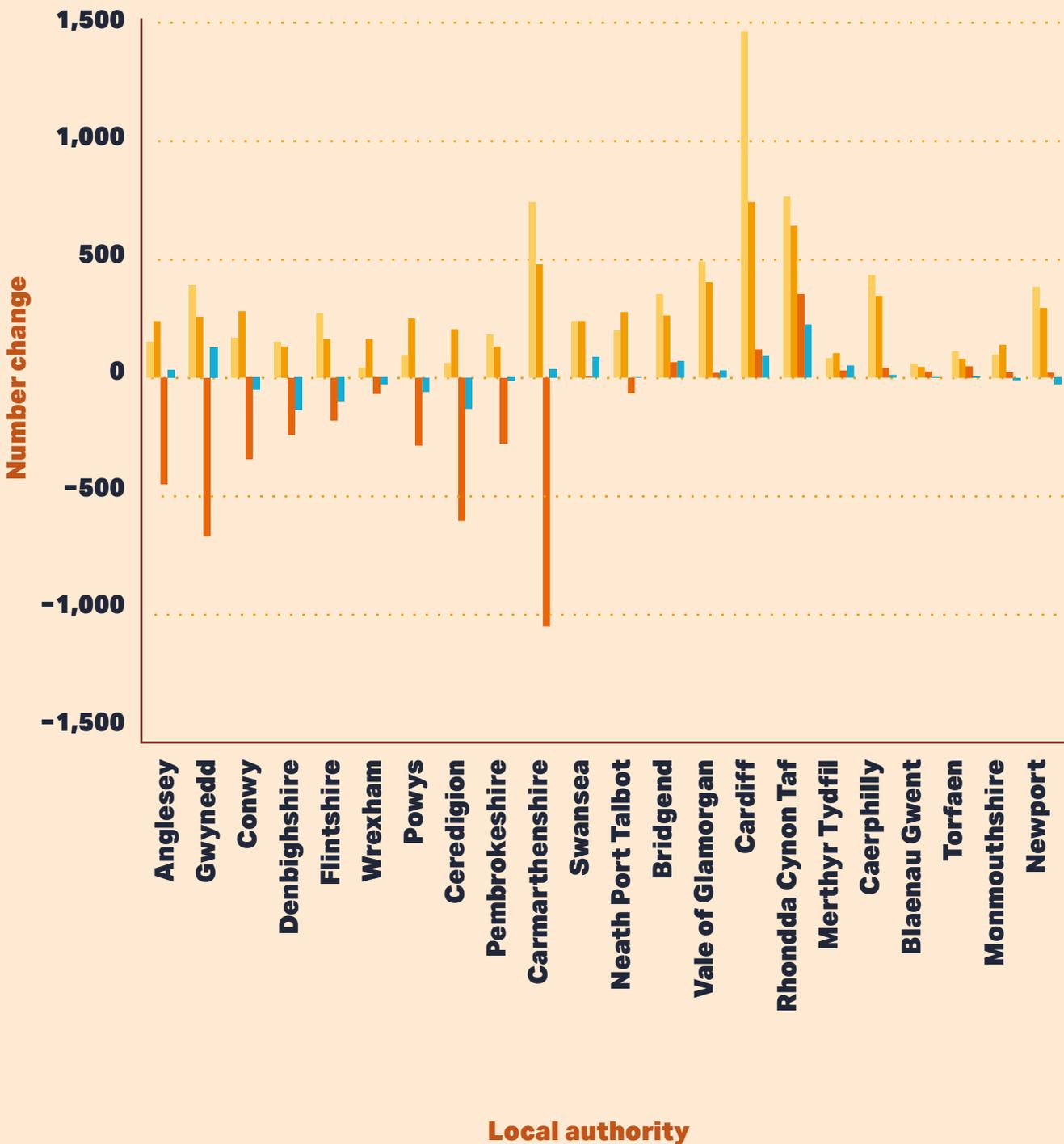


Chart 53: Change in the number of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week preceding the 2011 and 2021 Census, by occupation and local authority

Occupation

- Professional occupations
- Associated professional and technical occupations
- Skilled trades occupations
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

11.2 Industry

Chart 54: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in north Wales, by industry

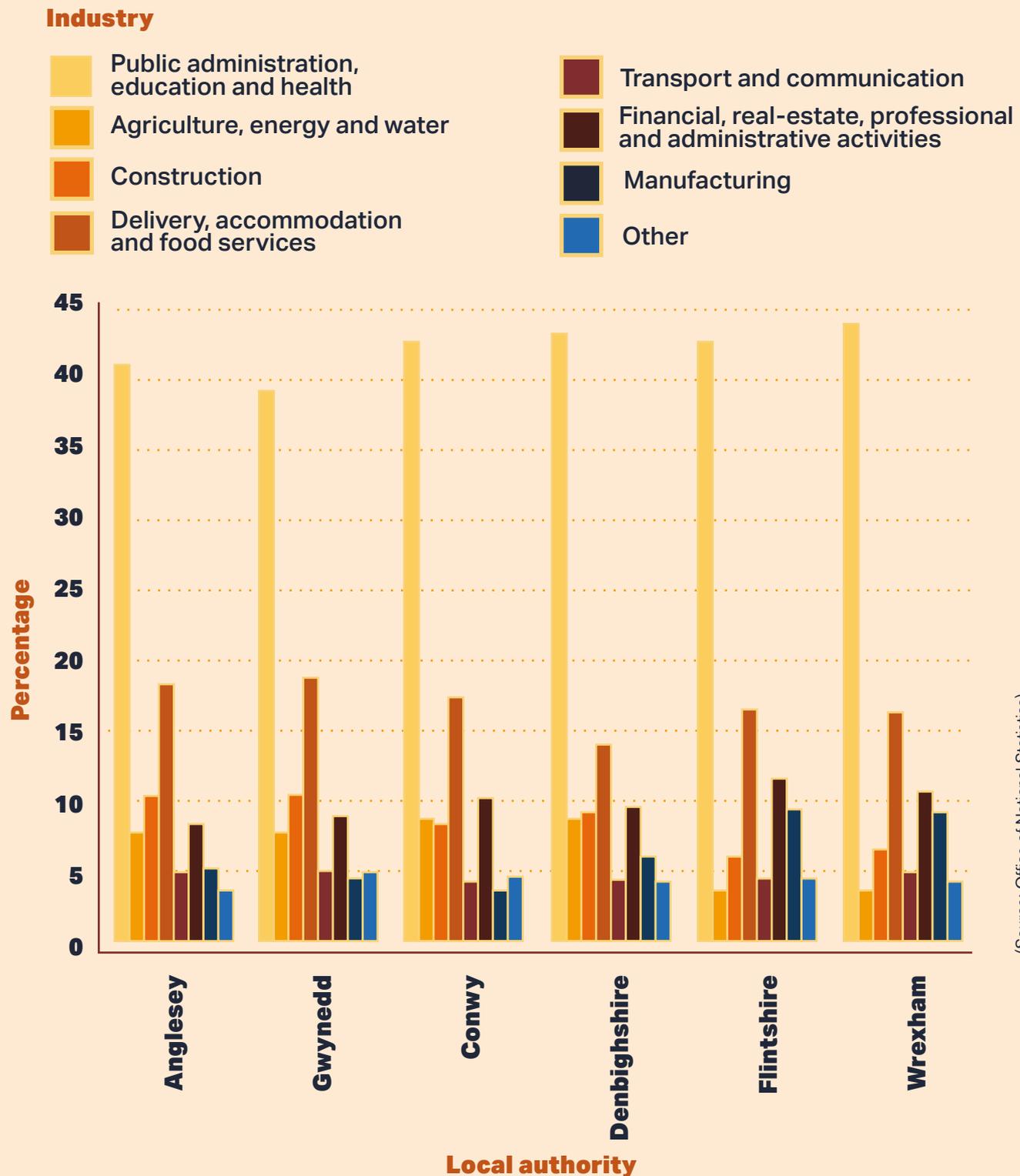


Chart 55: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in south-west and mid Wales, by industry

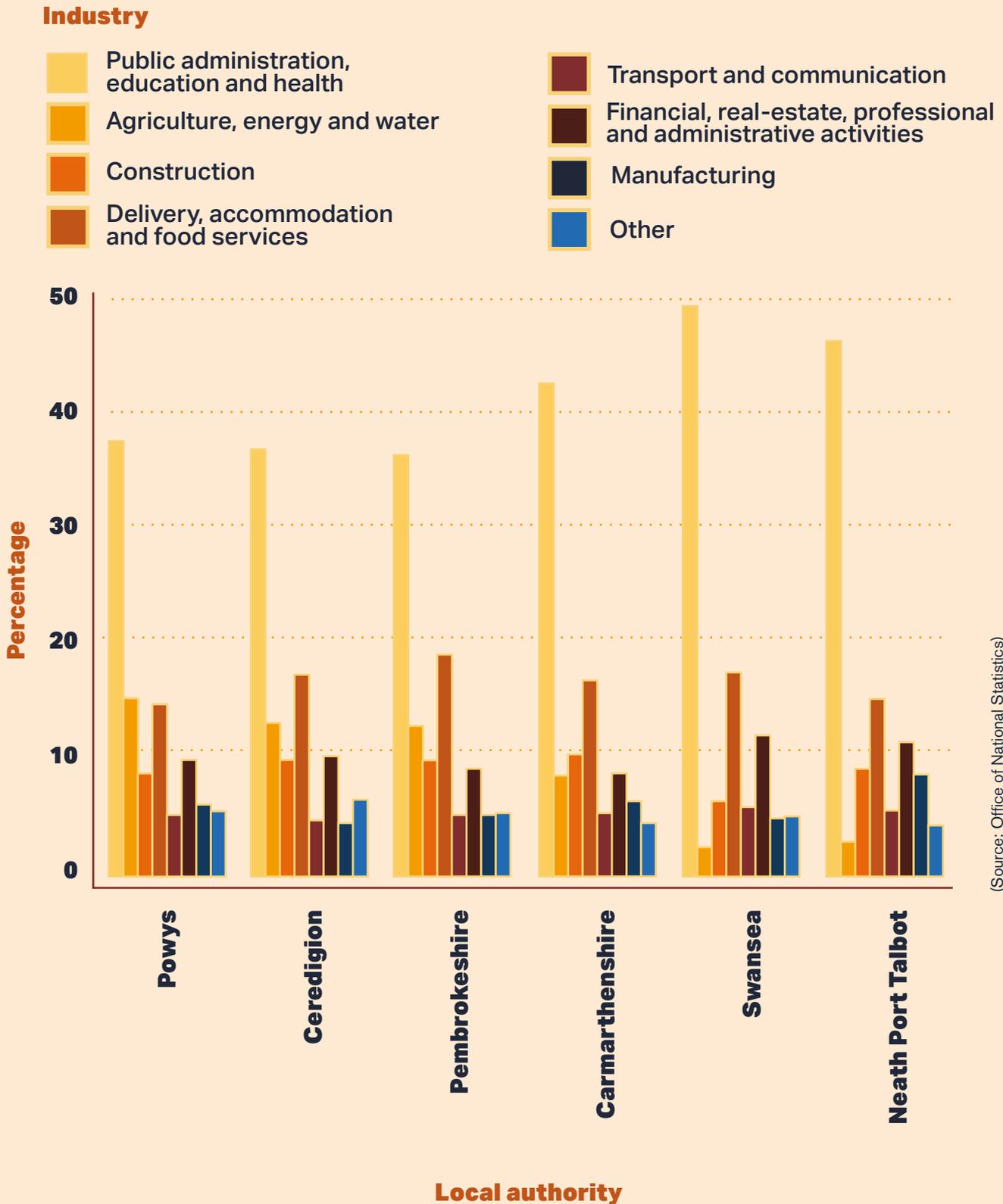


Chart 56: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in central south Wales, by industry

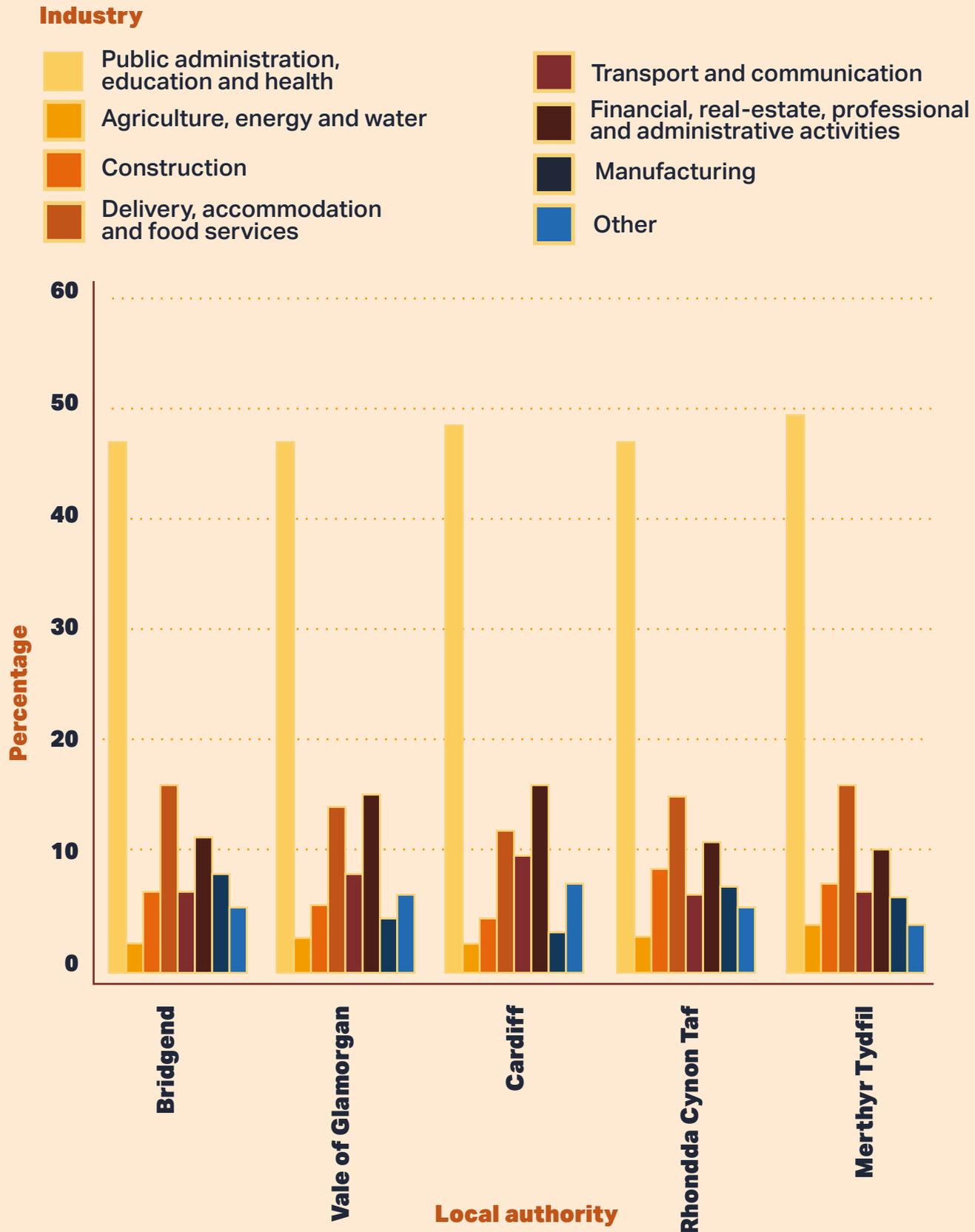
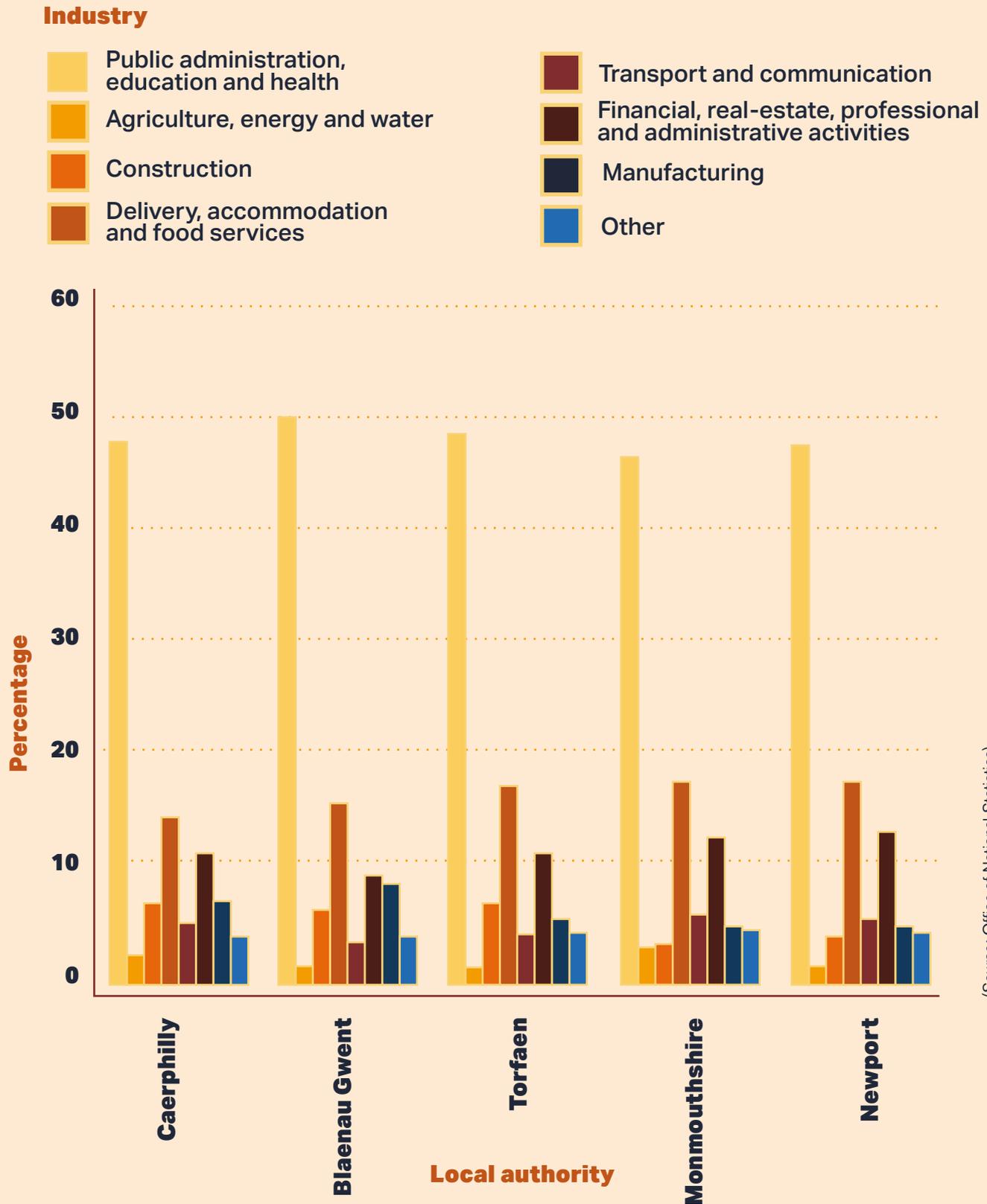


Chart 57: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority in south-east Wales, by industry

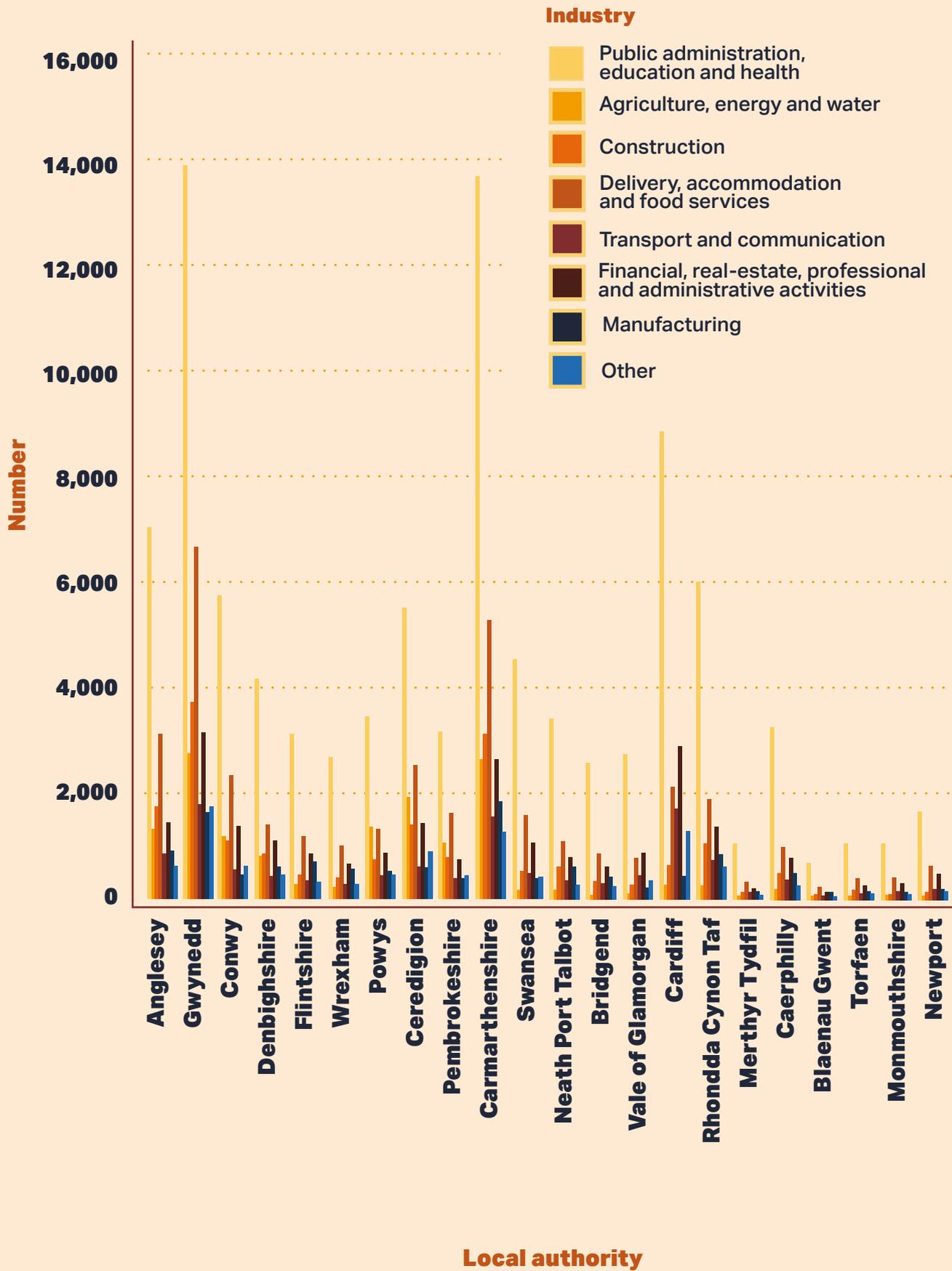


The largest proportion of Welsh speakers are employed in public administration, education and health, and that pattern is consistent across all local authorities. Around half of the working Welsh speakers in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea work in one of these areas, for example. The highest numbers working in these industries, on the other hand, are found in Gwynedd (13,874) and Carmarthenshire (13,661).

Looking at the industries themselves rather than the distribution of Welsh speakers, **the agriculture, energy and water industry has the highest percentage of workers who can speak Welsh with 30% of the workforce able to speak the language**. The percentage of the workforce able to speak Welsh in this sector is as high as 84% in Gwynedd, 73.4% in Anglesey, and 70.8% in Ceredigion.

The sector with the second highest proportion of Welsh-speaking workers is education where 27.3% are able to speak Welsh. The lowest percentage is found in manufacturing, where 10.4% of the workforce can speak Welsh. But despite this low national figure, over half of the manufacturing workforce can speak Welsh in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Chart 58: Number of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority and industry



(Source: Office of National Statistics)

The Commissioner's conclusions



The largest proportion of Welsh speakers work in professional occupations. It can be assumed that these are the types of jobs found in organisations that have duties to comply with Welsh language standards and therefore there is opportunity to take advantage of the language skills of Welsh speakers in these types of jobs.

It is also significant that the largest proportion of Welsh speakers work in health and education and **there is a need to ensure that Welsh speakers use their language skills in these fields as there is a demand for more teachers and health professionals who can speak Welsh.**

When dealing with specific sectors, it is important to remember that a high percentage of agriculture, energy and water workers, and education workers speak Welsh. **It is therefore necessary to emphasise the importance of providing Welsh language resources, training and services to the workforce in these sectors, and recognise the contribution that Welsh speakers in these sectors make to the vitality of the Welsh language, especially in rural communities.**

The fact that fewer Welsh speakers work in certain sectors or fields does not mean that the language skills of those people should be overlooked. **It is important to look at each local authority individually to find out where Welsh speakers work and encourage everyone to use their language skills in the workplace.** Although the manufacturing sector has the lowest percentage of speakers nationally, the percentage is high in Gwynedd and Anglesey for example, and this should be borne in mind when providing for the sector in those areas in particular.

APPENDIX

Additional tables

Table 3: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority

Local authority	Total usual residents aged 3 and over	Can speak Welsh	
		Number	Percentage
Anglesey	67,085	37,413	55.8
Gwynedd	114,307	73,560	64.3
Conwy	111,805	29,000	25.9
Denbighshire	93,059	20,946	22.5
Flintshire	150,556	17,428	11.6
Wrexham	131,080	15,953	12.2
Powys	129,907	21,358	16.4
Ceredigion	69,917	31,678	45.3
Pembrokeshire	120,203	20,626	17.2
Carmarthenshire	182,718	72,838	39.9
Swansea	231,888	25,986	11.2
Neath Port Talbot	138,322	18,662	13.5
Bridgend	141,306	13,037	9.2
Vale of Glamorgan	128,088	14,737	11.5
Cardiff	351,244	42,757	12.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	230,325	28,556	12.4
Merthyr Tydfil	56,957	5,079	8.9
Caerphilly	170,683	17,837	10.4
Blaenau Gwent	64,793	4,035	6.2
Torfaen	89,367	7,366	8.2
Monmouthshire	90,690	7,852	8.7
Newport	153,872	11,594	7.5

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 5: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales by local authority (percentage point change), 1981–2021

Local authority	Percentage point change				1981–2021
	1981–1991	1991–2001	2001–2011	2011–2021	
Anglesey	1.0	-1.9	-2.9	-1.4	-5.2
Gwynedd	-1.7	-3.1	-3.6	-1.0	-9.4
Conwy	-1.0	-1.2	-2.0	-1.5	-5.7
Denbighshire	-1.3	-0.5	-1.8	-2.1	-5.7
Flintshire	0.8	0.9	-1.2	-1.6	-1.1
Wrexham	-0.9	0.8	-1.7	-0.7	-2.5
Powys	0.0	0.4	-2.5	-2.2	-4.3
Ceredigion	-4.1	-7.1	-4.7	-2.0	-17.9
Pembrokeshire	0.3	3.5	-2.6	-2.0	-0.8
Carmarthenshire	-4.2	-4.5	-6.4	-4.0	-19.1
Swansea	-1.4	0.1	-2.0	-0.2	-3.5
Neath Port Talbot	-1.2	0.1	-2.7	-1.8	-5.6
Bridgend	0.1	2.5	-1.1	-0.5	1.0
Vale of Glamorgan	0.9	4.5	-0.5	0.7	5.6
Cardiff	0.7	4.4	0.1	1.1	6.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	-0.1	3.5	-0.2	0.1	3.3
Merthyr Tydfil	-0.9	2.7	-1.3	0.0	0.5
Caerphilly	0.7	5.2	0.0	-0.8	5.1
Blaenau Gwent	0.0	7.3	-1.7	-1.6	4.0
Torfaen	-0.1	8.7	-1.3	-1.6	5.7
Monmouthshire	-0.6	7.1	0.6	-1.2	5.9
Newport	-0.1	8.7	-0.7	-1.8	5.1

Table 6: Change in the number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales, by local authority (person change), 1981–2021

Local authority	Person change				1981–2021
	1981–1991	1991–2001	2001–2011	2011–2021	
Anglesey	1,918	-2,353	-325	-1,155	-1,915
Gwynedd	170	-873	-846	-3,440	-4,989
Conwy	888	-150	-698	-1,600	-1,560
Denbighshire	-396	890	-1,524	-1,290	-2,320
Flintshire	1,739	2,196	-1,256	-1,915	764
Wrexham	-466	1,745	-1,446	-706	-873
Powys	1,297	2,044	-1,824	-2,632	-1,115
Ceredigion	863	1,898	-2,954	-3,286	-3,479
Pembrokeshire	875	4,238	-1,181	-2,160	1,772
Carmarthenshire	-4,056	-5,010	-6,148	-5,210	-20,424
Swansea	-3,496	348	-2,606	-346	-6,100
Neath Port Talbot	-2,208	-358	-2,706	-2,036	-7,308
Bridgend	209	3,115	-294	-66	2,964
Vale of Glamorgan	1,264	5,320	195	1,548	8,327
Cardiff	2,358	14,433	4,231	6,022	27,044
Rhondda Cynon Taf	-671	7,911	-167	777	7,850
Merthyr Tydfil	-669	1,307	-504	51	185
Caerphilly	1,196	8,504	1,014	-1,414	9,300
Blaenau Gwent	-86	4,878	-1,133	-1,249	2,410
Torfaen	-50	7,661	-1,139	-1,275	5,197
Monmouthshire	-371	6,022	1,092	-928	5,815
Newport	-161	10,258	-133	-1,408	8,556

Table 9: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales by age group, 1981–2021

Age group	Can speak Welsh									
	Number					Percentage				
	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
3–4	8,326	12,160	13,239	16,495	11,947	13.3	16.2	18.8	23.3	18.2
5–15	82,713	101,076	171,168	152,255	134,673	18.3	25.9	40.8	40.3	34.3
16–24	55,353	59,539	70,060	80,909	73,738	15.0	17.1	22.2	21.6	22.4
25–44	109,800	113,265	116,715	113,484	118,848	15.6	14.5	15.1	15.0	16.0
45–64	131,414	111,165	112,742	107,941	107,345	20.7	17.4	15.6	13.3	13.0
65+	115,926	110,893	98,444	90,932	91,745	27.4	22.6	19.5	16.2	13.9

Table 12: Percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group

Local authority	Can speak Welsh					
	Percentage					
	3–4	5–15	16–24	25–44	45–64	65+
Anglesey	53.3	75.6	68.9	60.5	49.2	45.8
Gwynedd	71.0	88.6	60.2	68.2	60.2	54.7
Conwy	23.2	43.8	36.7	27.2	21.1	19.4
Denbighshire	23.2	37.3	28.5	21.6	18.1	18.4
Flintshire	10.7	27.4	17.2	9.8	7.8	6.7
Wrexham	11.6	27.6	17.4	10.2	6.9	9.1
Powys	17.5	35.5	24.0	15.4	12.0	11.8
Ceredigion	52.2	74.9	37.9	48.3	40.6	39.9
Pembrokeshire	18.0	34.0	24.2	15.6	12.2	13.3
Carmarthenshire	38.3	57.9	45.6	36.0	32.9	40.1
Swansea	11.0	25.8	13.7	8.6	6.6	9.8
Neath Port Talbot	13.6	25.8	17.2	12.2	8.9	11.6
Bridgend	9.0	20.4	14.6	9.4	5.5	4.7
Vale of Glamorgan	15.1	29.2	18.1	10.5	6.6	4.9
Cardiff	13.4	28.4	13.9	10.6	7.5	5.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	15.9	27.0	20.4	13.9	6.3	4.2
Merthyr Tydfil	8.8	21.7	15.5	9.1	4.0	3.2
Caerphilly	13.0	28.5	18.8	10.1	4.6	2.6
Blaenau Gwent	6.0	20.4	14.0	5.3	2.0	1.2
Torfaen	9.8	28.2	16.1	6.1	2.5	1.8
Monmouthshire	11.6	33.1	17.9	5.5	3.6	2.9
Newport	7.1	25.2	13.9	4.6	2.4	1.7

Table 13: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by local authority and age group

Local authority	Can speak Welsh					
	Number					
	3–4	5–15	16–24	25–44	45–64	65+
Anglesey	757	6,445	3,976	8,428	9,468	8,340
Gwynedd	1,605	12,474	8,588	17,002	18,975	14,918
Conwy	485	5,848	3,416	6,330	6,836	6,085
Denbighshire	467	4,527	2,430	4,334	4,820	4,368
Flintshire	344	5,414	2,386	3,638	3,411	2,235
Wrexham	344	4,928	2,210	3,424	2,551	2,497
Powys	430	5,288	2,585	4,015	4,645	4,397
Ceredigion	598	5,525	3,977	6,541	7,694	7,343
Pembrokeshire	438	5,179	2,543	3,977	4,179	4,310
Carmarthenshire	1,486	13,518	7,586	14,881	17,124	18,243
Swansea	530	7,527	4,246	4,930	3,986	4,768
Neath Port Talbot	417	4,653	2,548	4,173	3,372	3,499
Bridgend	284	3,798	1,961	3,404	2,180	1,410
Vale of Glamorgan	451	5,143	2,088	3,305	2,341	1,407
Cardiff	1,076	13,332	8,373	10,937	6,018	3,022
Rhondda Cynon Taf	826	8,430	5,094	8,272	3,967	1,967
Merthyr Tydfil	125	1,705	885	1,384	624	356
Caerphilly	513	6,616	3,128	4,453	2,201	929
Blaenau Gwent	86	1,676	860	883	366	164
Torfaen	207	3,433	1,367	1,411	611	336
Monmouthshire	196	3,559	1,339	1,063	1,000	693
Newport	284	5,655	2,157	2,063	978	457

Table 14: Change in the percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by age group and local authority (percentage point change), 2011–21

Local authority	Can speak Welsh					
	Percentage point change					
	3–4	5–15	16–24	25–44	45–64	65+
Anglesey	-0.8	-4.5	1.7	2.1	-0.7	-3.7
Gwynedd	-2.0	-3.7	1.6	-0.3	0.8	-3.3
Conwy	-8.5	-5.4	3.2	-0.1	0.4	-2.8
Denbighshire	-4.4	-8.6	2.2	-0.6	-0.4	-3.0
Flintshire	-3.7	-8.6	0.5	-0.3	0.5	-1.3
Wrexham	-3.8	-3.4	2.0	1.7	-1.1	-2.6
Powys	-7.6	-6.8	-1.4	1.4	-0.2	-3.0
Ceredigion	-6.1	-7.1	2.6	1.0	-1.7	-6.5
Pembrokeshire	-4.0	-9.6	-0.1	1.8	-1.2	-2.2
Carmarthenshire	-7.2	-2.1	-0.6	-0.8	-5.2	-8.7
Swansea	-3.6	-0.2	2.7	1.3	-0.9	-3.1
Neath Port Talbot	-4.3	-7.1	-1.3	1.5	-1.2	-4.1
Bridgend	-6.3	-6.7	-0.2	1.8	1.2	-0.5
Vale of Glamorgan	-1.6	-2.8	2.5	2.7	1.5	0.0
Cardiff	-1.7	-0.8	1.5	1.3	1.7	0.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	-4.4	-5.7	0.9	3.2	1.5	-0.6
Merthyr Tydfil	-4.8	-2.8	1.0	2.2	0.5	-1.0
Caerphilly	-7.7	-7.8	1.1	1.9	1.2	0.1
Blaenau Gwent	-7.5	-13.6	1.5	1.8	0.1	-0.1
Torfaen	-7.4	-12.1	0.3	1.7	0.3	-0.2
Monmouthshire	-6.6	-8.9	2.6	1.5	0.3	0.2
Newport	-6.9	-13.4	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.0

Table 15: Number and percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in Wales, by household composition, 2001–21

Household composition		2001		2011		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Lone-parent household	No adults can speak Welsh	1,358	9.8	2,012	14.4	1,060	7.2
	One adult can speak Welsh	1,134	55.1	1,220	53.3	1,240	52.2
	Two or more adults can speak Welsh	12	70.6	16	61.5	20	50
	Total	2,504	15.7	3,248	19.9	2,320	13.5
Couple household	No adults can speak Welsh	3,244	8.6	4,775	13.2	2,335	7.3
	One adult can speak Welsh	2,822	39.8	3,668	45.4	2,860	40.4
	Two or more adults can speak Welsh	3,890	81.8	3,707	82.2	3,615	80.7
	Total	9,956	20	12,150	24.8	8,810	20.3
All single-family households	Total	12,460	19	15,398	23.6	11,130	18.4

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 16: Percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family households who can speak Welsh in Welsh local authorities according to Census 2021, by household composition

Local authority	Lone-parent household		Couple household		
	No adults can speak Welsh	One adult can speak Welsh	No adults can speak Welsh	One adult can speak Welsh	Two or more adults can speak Welsh
Anglesey	11.1	65.9	16.7	42.9	81.2
Gwynedd	31.0	77.0	28.6	60.0	88.7
Conwy	8.8	40.9	8.6	32.4	71.4
Denbighshire	11.2	45.0	9.3	40.7	82.5
Flintshire	5.1	37.5	6.1	23.9	76.5
Wrexham	7.8	43.8	5.1	35.7	68.8
Powys	9.3	50.0	7.6	31.2	75.0
Ceredigion	27.3	77.8	19.6	49.1	83.6
Pembrokeshire	7.2	50.0	8.1	40.0	66.7
Carmarthenshire	15.1	52.6	14.7	52.0	82.6
Swansea	5.8	50.0	6.5	43.1	68.4
Neath Port Talbot	6.3	38.9	7.5	37.3	66.7
Bridgend	4.8	50.0	4.5	27.4	61.5
Vale of Glamorgan	7.1	46.2	8.6	40.9	80.0
Cardiff	5.2	45.8	6.7	48.3	88.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7.7	47.2	6.4	43.2	74.3
Merthyr Tydfil	-	33.3	5.2	33.3	-
Caerphilly	7.6	30.4	7.6	37.2	71.4
Blaenau Gwent	5.7	-	3.8	18.8	-
Torfaen	6.1	45.5	7.3	28.0	60.0
Monmouthshire	7.3	-	8.1	33.3	80.0
Newport	3.6	22.2	5.9	28.6	62.5

Table 17: Change in the percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family couple households, who can speak Welsh, by household composition, by local authority (percentage point change), 2001–21

Local authority	Couple households								
	No adults can speak Welsh			One adult can speak Welsh			Two or more adults can speak Welsh		
	2001–11	2011–21	2001–21	2001–11	2011–21	2001–21	2001–11	2011–21	2001–21
Anglesey	5.1	-3.9	1.2	-1.6	-4.6	-6.2	1.2	1.1	2.3
Gwynedd	0.8	-4.7	-3.8	7.7	-3.4	4.3	0.3	-1.3	-1.0
Conwy	9.4	-10.0	-0.6	1.8	-4.2	-2.4	-1.1	-2.5	-3.7
Denbighshire	7.2	-4.3	2.8	11.4	-0.2	11.2	2.0	0.1	2.1
Flintshire	4.2	-4.6	-0.4	2.7	-4.9	-2.1	2.5	17.4	19.8
Wrexham	2.9	-5.0	-2.0	14.6	-4.7	9.9	10.6	-11.3	-0.7
Powys	6.9	-8.2	-1.4	5.5	-13.8	-8.3	10.1	-3.8	6.3
Ceredigion	2.5	-8.9	-6.4	5.7	-9.9	-4.2	-4.5	0.3	-4.2
Pembrokeshire	2.0	-6.2	-4.2	5.9	0.5	6.4	5.6	-10.0	-4.5
Carmarthenshire	9.3	-10.4	-1.1	9.1	-5.0	4.1	0.1	-2.3	-2.1
Swansea	3.1	-3.6	-0.6	7.1	-4.7	2.5	3.0	-7.1	-4.0
Neath Port Talbot	4.5	-4.2	0.3	-5.6	-5.1	-10.6	-10.7	-5.1	-15.9
Bridgend	3.5	-5.6	-2.1	5.5	-8.9	-3.4	-1.5	-9.4	-11.0
Vale of Glamorgan	2.8	-1.5	1.3	10.0	-3.1	6.9	5.7	-7.3	-1.6
Cardiff	2.6	-2.1	0.5	8.4	-0.7	7.7	1.1	4.5	5.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3.5	-7.3	-3.7	-1.7	-2.5	-4.2	-2.9	7.1	4.2
Merthyr Tydfil	2.4	-5.5	-3.0	-5.2	-3.0	-8.1	7.0	-	-
Caerphilly	8.1	-9.6	-1.5	10.2	-7.4	2.8	7.3	-1.4	5.9
Blaenau Gwent	5.9	-9.2	-3.3	11.0	-11.5	-0.5	-	-	-
Torfaen	6.3	-8.9	-2.6	4.0	-6.2	-2.2	1.7	-6.7	-5.0
Monmouthshire	10.4	-7.8	2.6	21.5	-10.7	10.7	-6.2	33.3	27.1
Newport	3.7	-6.6	-2.9	18.9	-9.4	9.5	29.5	-14.4	15.1

Table 18: Change in the percentage of children aged 3 to 4 in single-family lone-parent households, who can speak Welsh, by household composition, by local authority (percentage point change), 2001–21

Local authority	Lone-parent households					
	No adults can speak Welsh			One adult can speak Welsh		
	2001–11	2011–21	2001–21	2001–11	2011–21	2001–21
Anglesey	0.2	-14.3	-14.1	-9.0	5.1	-3.9
Gwynedd	-3.3	-6.6	-10.0	8.1	-4.5	3.6
Conwy	8.9	-12.8	-3.8	-2.9	-5.3	-8.2
Denbighshire	10.3	-8.9	1.5	1.3	-3.1	-1.8
Flintshire	2.5	-5.1	-2.6	5.3	12.5	17.8
Wrexham	4.2	-1.5	2.6	15.4	0.1	15.5
Powys	11.4	-10.8	0.6	-11.4	10.3	-1.1
Ceredigion	16.8	-23.7	-6.9	-2.7	14.3	11.5
Pembrokeshire	6.7	-10.6	-4.0	1.7	1.3	3.0
Carmarthenshire	7.7	-9.2	-1.5	-4.6	-3.4	-8.1
Swansea	3.3	-3.4	-0.2	8.0	-4.7	3.3
Neath Port Talbot	-0.6	-4.3	-4.9	-4.2	-12.7	-16.9
Bridgend	9.0	-10.2	-1.3	-4.1	-1.7	-5.8
Vale of Glamorgan	6.3	-8.2	-1.8	2.3	7.4	9.6
Cardiff	5.4	-6.4	-1.0	-3.5	7.7	4.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0.7	-6.2	-5.6	-11.5	-0.6	-12.0
Merthyr Tydfil	2.6	-	-	-5.0	13.3	8.3
Caerphilly	2.9	-6.7	-3.8	-11.3	-5.2	-16.5
Blaenau Gwent	0.2	-5.2	-5.1	2.0	-	-
Torfaen	6.5	-8.5	-2.0	-5.0	2.1	-2.8
Monmouthshire	6.8	-7.2	-0.4	27.1	-	-
Newport	4.9	-9.8	-4.9	-7.5	-12.6	-20.1

Table 19: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak, understand, read and write Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by specific skill

Skill	Number	Percentage
Can understand spoken Welsh only	156,762	5.2
Can speak Welsh but cannot read or write Welsh	68,391	2.3
Can speak and read Welsh but cannot write Welsh	33,971	1.1
Can speak, read and write Welsh	429,313	14.2
Other combination of Welsh skills	70,718	2.3
No skills	2,259,017	74.9
Total	3,018,172	100.0

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 20: Comparison of the number and percentage of Welsh speakers able to read or write Welsh in Wales, 1981–2021

Number					Percentage				
1981	1991	2001	2011	2021	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
358,995	369,609	457,946	430,717	429,313	70.6	72.7	78.6	76.6	79.8

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 22: Change in the number and percentage of Welsh speakers three years and older who can speak, read and write Welsh, by local authority (percentage point change), 2011–21

Local authority	Percentage able to speak, read and write			Number able to speak, read and write		
	2011	2021	Percentage point change 2011–21	2011	2021	Person change 2011–21
Anglesey	79.7	81.0	1.3	30,756	30,316	-440
Gwynedd	85.6	86.0	0.4	65,921	63,256	-2,665
Conwy	75.4	77.9	2.5	23,063	22,605	-458
Denbighshire	75.7	78.6	2.9	16,842	16,459	-383
Flintshire	70.6	74.1	3.5	13,650	12,920	-730
Wrexham	71.2	75.0	3.8	11,867	11,957	90
Powys	73.9	76.1	2.2	17,724	16,256	-1,468
Ceredigion	81.9	82.4	0.5	28,629	26,104	-2,525
Pembrokeshire	72.3	75.7	3.4	16,466	15,617	-849
Carmarthenshire	74.7	77.6	2.9	58,321	56,493	-1,828
Swansea	70.8	76.8	6.0	18,634	19,951	1,317
Neath Port Talbot	70.7	75.5	4.8	14,634	14,095	-539
Bridgend	74.5	78.1	3.6	9,758	10,177	419
Vale of Glamorgan	75.9	81.1	5.2	10,013	11,946	1,933
Cardiff	78.8	83.2	4.4	28,932	35,578	6,646
Rhondda Cynon Taf	78.4	81.8	3.4	21,774	23,345	1,571
Merthyr Tydfil	73.7	79.8	6.1	3,706	4,052	346
Caerphilly	75.4	81.3	5.9	14,524	14,502	-22
Blaenau Gwent	70.5	75.5	5.0	3,723	3,048	-675
Torfaen	72.3	78.5	6.2	6,250	5,783	-467
Monmouthshire	72.6	78.1	5.5	6,373	6,133	-240
Newport	70.4	75.2	4.8	9,157	8,717	-440

Table 25: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in Wales according to Census 2021, by ethnic group

Ethnic group	Total usual residents aged 3 and over	Can speak Welsh	
		Number	Percentage
White	2,835,561	522,261	18.4
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	86,049	5,536	6.4
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	26,282	1,596	6.1
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	45,018	7,405	16.4
Other ethnic group	25,260	1,498	5.9

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 26: Number and percentage of people aged three years or older who can speak Welsh and people who can speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) according to Census 2021, by local authority

Local authority	Number of Welsh speakers	Percentage of Welsh speakers	Number of Welsh speakers from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups)	Percentage of Welsh speakers from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups)
Anglesey	37,413	55.8	426	1.1
Gwynedd	73,560	64.4	1,049	1.4
Conwy	29,000	25.9	453	1.6
Denbighshire	20,946	22.5	316	1.5
Flintshire	17,428	11.6	334	1.9
Wrexham	15,953	12.2	424	2.7
Powys	21,358	16.4	273	1.3
Ceredigion	31,678	45.3	492	1.6
Pembrokeshire	20,626	17.2	346	1.7
Carmarthenshire	72,838	39.9	847	1.2
Swansea	25,986	11.2	1,217	4.7
Neath Port Talbot	18,662	13.5	360	1.9
Bridgend	13,037	9.2	357	2.7
Vale of Glamorgan	14,737	11.5	726	4.9
Cardiff	42,757	12.2	5,132	12.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	28,556	12.4	658	2.3
Merthyr Tydfil	5,079	8.9	116	2.3
Caerphilly	17,837	10.4	372	2.1
Blaenau Gwent	4,035	6.2	97	2.4
Torfaen	7,366	8.2	202	2.7
Monmouthshire	7,852	8.7	234	3.0
Newport	11,594	7.5	1,598	13.8

Table 27: Change in the number of people able to speak Welsh from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups), by local authority, 2011–21

Local authority	Number of Welsh speakers 2021	Number of Welsh speakers from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) 2011	Number of Welsh speakers from ethnic groups (excluding white ethnic groups) 2021	Person change
Anglesey	37,413	329	426	+97
Gwynedd	73,560	868	1,049	+181
Conwy	29,000	362	453	+91
Denbighshire	20,946	256	316	+60
Flintshire	17,428	184	334	+150
Wrexham	15,953	250	424	+174
Powys	21,358	237	273	+36
Ceredigion	31,678	435	492	+57
Pembrokeshire	20,626	259	346	+87
Carmarthenshire	72,838	554	847	+293
Swansea	25,986	818	1,217	+399
Neath Port Talbot	18,662	249	360	+111
Bridgend	13,037	268	357	+89
Vale of Glamorgan	14,737	391	726	+335
Cardiff	42,757	3,090	5,132	+2,042
Rhondda Cynon Taf	28,556	398	658	+260
Merthyr Tydfil	5,079	95	116	+21
Caerphilly	17,837	254	372	+118
Blaenau Gwent	4,035	68	97	+29
Torfaen	7,366	204	202	-2
Monmouthshire	7,852	162	234	+72
Newport	11,594	1,238	1,598	+360

Table 28: Distribution of Welsh speakers according to Census 2021, by ethnic group and age group

Ethnic group	Percentage by age group								
	3–4	5–9	10–15	16–24	25–34	35–49	50–64	65–74	75+
White	95.8	93.0	92.6	96.0	98.3	98.8	99.4	99.6	99.8
Asian, Asian British or Welsh Asian	0.9	2.3	3.0	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	2.8	3.4	3.0	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
Other ethnic group	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 29: Number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh according to Census 2021, by ethnic group and age group

Ethnic group	Number by age group								
	3–4	5–9	10–15	16–24	25–34	35–49	50–64	65–74	75+
White	11,438	51,484	73,500	70,753	63,136	80,415	80,075	45,726	45,732
Asian, Asian British or Welsh Asian	106	1,244	2,343	1,157	273	254	94	44	20
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	42	415	597	301	82	76	59	14	9
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	331	1,856	2,369	1,266	669	483	276	85	68
Other ethnic group	29	329	536	261	94	127	80	32	11

(Source: Office of National Statistics)

Table 31: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by occupation and local authority

Local authority	Occupations								
	Professional	Professional and technical contact	Skilled trades	Administrative and secretarial	Sales and customer services	Elementary	Managers, directors and senior officers	Process, equipment and machinery operators	Caring, leisure and other service occupations
Anglesey	17.1	10.9	16.5	8.4	7.8	9.6	8.8	6.9	13.9
Gwynedd	17.5	10.2	17.2	7.9	7.3	10.6	8.6	7.0	13.7
Conwy	20.1	13.0	16.4	8.1	7.0	8.1	9.8	5.1	12.3
Denbighshire	22.4	12.5	15.1	8.3	6.0	7.7	10.1	6.4	11.4
Flintshire	24.5	14.1	9.9	9.0	7.5	7.3	9.7	5.7	12.3
Wrexham	23.8	13.7	10.5	9.4	7.4	8.4	7.9	6.4	12.5
Powys	19.9	11.3	20.5	7.7	5.6	8.5	9.6	5.5	11.4
Ceredigion	17.9	10.8	21.7	8.9	6.3	8.7	9.9	5.4	10.5
Pembrokeshire	19.2	9.9	20.2	7.4	6.1	9.0	10.2	5.7	12.3
Carmarthenshire	20.0	11.5	16.7	8.7	7.1	7.9	9.1	6.7	12.2
Swansea	28.9	14.1	7.5	10.7	8.6	7.7	8.8	3.6	10.1
Neath Port Talbot	21.2	13.9	10.8	11.1	7.8	7.2	8.4	6.5	13.0
Bridgend	27.0	15.1	8.1	9.5	7.5	7.0	9.8	4.1	12.0
Vale of Glamorgan	29.9	19.1	5.2	8.4	6.5	5.7	11.8	3.1	10.4
Cardiff	38.6	19.7	3.9	8.3	6.9	4.7	9.8	1.6	6.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24.9	15.2	9.5	9.1	8.1	7.1	8.0	5.1	12.9
Merthyr Tydfil	23.3	16.2	8.3	8.9	9.4	8.0	7.5	4.5	13.9
Caerphilly	25.0	15.9	8.4	9.4	8.0	7.7	7.9	5.3	12.4
Blaenau Gwent	22.7	13.5	7.0	7.6	8.9	8.6	7.9	6.8	17.1
Torfaen	24.1	13.5	9.0	8.2	9.0	7.8	8.1	4.6	15.6
Monmouthshire	31.2	15.6	6.5	6.6	7.0	9.6	10.8	2.9	9.8
Newport	28.4	17.4	4.9	10.0	9.5	8.5	7.8	3.1	10.5

Table 32: Number of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by occupation and local authority

Local authority	Galwedigaethau								
	Professional	Professional and technical contact	Skilled trades	Administrative and secretarial	Sales and customer services	Elementary	Managers, directors and senior officers	Process, equipment and machinery operators	Caring, leisure and other service occupations
Anglesey	2,942	1,871	2,833	1,449	1,347	1,639	1,517	1,178	2,385
Gwynedd	6,193	3,629	6,095	2,796	2,572	3,738	3,061	2,495	4,836
Conwy	2,722	1,765	2,225	1,102	946	1,092	1,331	687	1,665
Denbighshire	2,136	1,196	1,443	796	575	733	963	608	1,084
Flintshire	1,786	1,029	725	654	550	530	705	414	894
Wrexham	1,454	836	645	577	456	512	486	392	764
Powys	1,846	1,045	1,900	711	521	788	886	513	1,058
Ceredigion	2,673	1,612	3,244	1,328	935	1,307	1,481	801	1,565
Pembrokeshire	1,668	864	1,757	648	531	780	884	500	1,073
Carmarthenshire	6,418	3,704	5,366	2,807	2,273	2,527	2,926	2,144	3,930
Swansea	2,664	1,301	693	983	791	713	816	331	930
Neath Port Talbot	1,569	1,031	796	824	575	530	621	484	965
Bridgend	1,483	830	445	520	412	385	539	225	658
Vale of Glamorgan	1,744	1,110	303	489	377	333	685	180	605
Cardiff	7,038	3,597	706	1,506	1,254	863	1,789	289	1,206
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,188	1,946	1,219	1,170	1,031	911	1,026	651	1,651
Merthyr Tydfil	487	339	173	186	197	168	157	95	290
Caerphilly	1,708	1,089	573	644	548	525	542	364	847
Blaenau Gwent	312	185	96	104	122	118	109	94	235
Torfaen	544	304	203	186	204	176	183	104	351
Monmouthshire	715	358	148	152	161	220	248	66	224
Newport	993	608	173	349	331	296	272	108	367

Table 33: Distribution of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority, by industry

Local authority	Industry							
	Public administration, education and health	Agriculture, energy and water	Construction	Delivery, accommodation and food services	Transport and communication	Financial, real-estate, professional and administrative activities	Manufacturing	Other
Anglesey	40.9	7.8	10.3	18.3	5.0	8.5	5.4	3.8
Gwynedd	39.2	7.8	10.5	18.8	5.1	8.9	4.7	5.0
Conwy	42.5	8.8	8.3	17.4	4.2	10.2	3.7	4.8
Denbighshire	43.2	8.9	9.1	14.1	4.4	9.7	6.2	4.4
Flintshire	42.7	3.8	6.3	16.5	4.7	11.7	9.6	4.6
Wrexham	44.0	3.8	6.7	16.4	4.8	10.7	9.2	4.3
Powys	37.5	14.8	8.3	14.4	4.7	9.6	5.6	5.1
Ceredigion	36.9	12.9	9.4	17.0	4.1	9.6	4.0	6.1
Pembrokeshire	36.4	12.4	9.4	18.8	4.7	8.7	4.6	5.0
Carmarthenshire	42.6	8.2	9.7	16.5	4.9	8.3	5.8	4.0
Swansea	49.3	2.0	5.7	17.2	5.4	11.7	4.3	4.5
Neath Port Talbot	46.1	2.5	8.6	14.7	5.1	11.0	8.2	3.8
Bridgend	46.8	1.9	6.3	15.8	5.9	11.1	7.6	4.7
Vale of Glamorgan	47.2	1.9	5.0	13.7	7.6	15.0	3.7	6.0
Cardiff	48.5	1.5	3.5	11.7	9.5	15.8	2.4	7.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	46.9	2.0	8.2	14.8	5.8	10.7	6.6	4.9
Merthyr Tydfil	49.4	3.1	6.9	15.8	6.2	9.7	5.7	3.2
Caerphilly	47.6	2.7	7.1	14.5	5.3	11.4	7.2	4.1
Blaenau Gwent	49.7	1.6	6.5	16.0	3.7	9.5	9.0	4.1
Torfaen	48.1	1.6	7.1	17.5	4.5	10.9	5.7	4.6
Monmouthshire	46.3	3.1	3.4	17.9	6.2	13.0	5.2	4.9
Newport	47.1	1.7	4.0	18.0	5.8	13.5	5.2	4.7

Table 34: Number of Welsh speakers aged 16 and over in work the week leading up to Census 2021, by local authority, by industry

Local authority	Industry							
	Public administration, education and health	Agriculture, energy and water	Construction	Delivery, accommodation and food services	Transport and communication	Financial, real-estate, professional and administrative activities	Manufacturing	Other
Anglesey	7,018	1,336	1,771	3,142	866	1,450	922	653
Gwynedd	13,874	2,760	3,722	6,674	1,805	3,169	1,657	1,754
Conwy	5,758	1,194	1,128	2,353	567	1,384	505	646
Denbighshire	4,121	851	868	1,341	415	928	588	423
Flintshire	3,111	277	460	1,204	346	856	697	336
Wrexham	2,690	234	413	1,004	295	653	565	266
Powys	3,472	1,375	769	1,334	432	886	523	475
Ceredigion	5,514	1,928	1,405	2,546	617	1,428	602	906
Pembrokeshire	3,171	1,076	821	1,633	411	760	400	432
Carmarthenshire	13,661	2,637	3,127	5,296	1,572	2,656	1,858	1,288
Swansea	4,543	184	528	1,582	494	1,075	399	417
Neath Port Talbot	3,407	184	635	1,089	377	811	609	284
Bridgend	2,570	102	346	869	325	608	420	257
Vale of Glamorgan	2,749	108	289	797	445	875	218	347
Cardiff	8,853	268	647	2,132	1,726	2,888	442	1,293
Rhondda Cynon Taf	6,006	258	1,052	1,889	737	1,375	847	630
Merthyr Tydfil	1,035	65	145	331	129	204	120	66
Caerphilly	3,257	185	488	991	364	776	493	283
Blaenau Gwent	683	22	89	220	51	130	123	56
Torfaen	1,085	37	159	394	102	245	129	104
Monmouthshire	1,061	72	78	411	142	297	119	113
Newport	1,650	58	141	631	202	471	182	165