

I've always had a keen interest in data analysis. Some would say an unhealthy interest, but I've always seen it as an essential part of leadership. Whether its business; sport or construction the first steps must be to gather and analyse the evidence. It is only then can informed decisions can be made.

I started to look at the data that's publically availble on construction, with a focus on Wales – and there's a lot of it!! Not all are aligned and there are plenty of caveats and terminology variations, like others in the construction industry I'm not an economist and therefore making sense of the data was not easy. I wondered how the 'average person' in construction could possibly glean the relevant information to assist with their business decisions.

I decided to review the information and initially it was going to be a blog with the aim of producing some simple analysis, but it resulted in 'Construction by numbers' – a document that hopefully helps CEWales members and others in the industry.

My starting point was the national picture, Welsh construction is a part of that, and with Brexit looming it was also timely to take stock of the current position to allow reflection later. It also allows us to compare the Welsh situation to other regions in Great Britain.

For example: -



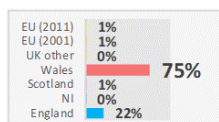
UK GDP has contracted in Q2 2019 and the services sector slowed to its lowest rate in three years. In July 2019 construction output fell in the same period at negative 1.3%.



Wales has the second lowest weekly full-time earnings in the UK.



The 2018 gender pay gap on a median weekly full-time basis in Wales was 11.1% in Wales and 13.7% in the GB. Since 2009 in Wales the gap has decreased by 6.3 percentage points while GB has decreased by 2.6 percentage points. But the Welsh average for males (512) is 88% of their GB counterparts (586), while Welsh females (456) are 91% of their GB counterparts (501).



The population of Wales is 4.9% of GB (5.6% of Wales and England). Only 75% of Welsh residents were born in Wales, and 51% of the population are female. 71% of the Welsh population live in the Cardiff Capital or Swansea Bay City Regions



99% of Welsh contractors can be categorised as SME's. 96% of them employ less than 13 people. In 2017 55% are sole contractors (or employ 1 person).



Of the 83,012 in full time employment in Welsh construction, only 6,393 (7.7%) are female.

An early decision was to develop a new matric – a per capita approach, this presents a fairer comparison that to the best of my knowledge has not been published before.



While the Welsh per capita output value has increased slightly from 2009 the per capita output for all construction in Wales is now 40% of the equivalent GB value. The gap appears to be increasing.

The detail behind these and more is in the full document that is attached.

Do you agree?

I welcome feedback and encourage your comments. Do you have other data that would add value to the paper? Would you like to see something else added?

If so, please email info@CEWales.org.uk with your comments (add Constructing by Numbers in the header)

I hope you find it interesting