

CONWY FULL TIME WORKERS SUFFER WORST DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS IN WALES AS REAL VALUE OF EARNINGS FALLS BY 15.8% DUE TO 'BANKERS RECESSION' AND STALLED RECOVERY

These figures show that the Government's strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in Wales drop by 6.7% says GMB

Full time workers resident in Conwy have suffered the worst drop in living standards in Wales. The real value of their average gross earnings have fallen by 15.8% between April 2007 and November 2011, due to 'bankers recession' and stalled recovery.

Gwynedd's full time workers suffered the next worst fall in living standards in the country with a drop of 15.7%, followed by The Vale of Glamorgan with a drop of 12.2%, the Isle of Anglesey with drops of 11.2%, Blaenau Gwent with a drop of 11.1% and Wrexham with a drop of 10.3%. Living standards are down by 9.8% in Ceredigion, by 9.7% in Cardiff, by 9.3% in Newport, by 9.1% in Caerphilly, by 6% in Neath Port Talbot and by 6.5% in Torfaen. Living standards are also down in Bridgend, Powys, Flintshire, Carmarthenshire, Monmouthshire, Swansea and Rhondda Cynon Taff. In only 3 out of the 22 areas of Wales have the movement in average earnings for fulltime workers kept pace with the rate of inflation over the same period. These are Pembrokeshire, Merthyr Tydfil and Denbighshire.

These figures are from a new analysis by GMB of official earnings data. The table below shows the change in living standards for all 2 areas of Wales, between April 2007 and November 2011. For Wales as a whole the living standards of full time workers have fallen by 6.7% in this period. The fall for the UK as a whole is 5.9% and for England is 6.2% during the same period.

In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings. See Notes to Editors for sources and inflation details.

		Mean gross annual (£) - full-time			Drop in real value of earnings from April 2007 to November 2011* %
		2007 £	2011 £	Change £	
	United Kingdom	30,015	32,837	2,822	-5.9
	England	30,852	33,661	2,809	-6.2
	Wales	25,184	27,346	2,162	-6.7
rank					
1	Conwy	26,227	26,086	-141	-15.8
2	Gwynedd	25,156	25,061	-95	-15.7
3	The Vale of Glamorgan	29,308	30,213	905	-12.2
4	Isle of Anglesey	23,124	24,067	943	-11.2
5	Blaenau Gwent	21,063	21,936	873	-11.1
6	Wrexham	25,088	26,330	1,242	-10.3
7	Ceredigion	23,262	24,530	1,268	-9.8
8	Cardiff	28,425	30,024	1,599	-9.7
9	Newport	27,541	29,198	1,657	-9.3

10	Caerphilly	24,263	25,768	1,505	-9.1
11	Neath Port Talbot	24,023	26,109	2,086	-6.6
12	Torfaen	24,375	26,515	2,140	-6.5
13	Bridgend	24,571	26,861	2,290	-6.0
14	Powys	23,244	25,431	2,187	-5.9
15	Flintshire	25,644	28,289	2,645	-5.0
16	Carmarthenshire	23,712	26,511	2,799	-3.5
17	Monmouthshire	32,461	36,531	4,070	-2.7
18	Swansea	24,439	27,530	3,091	-2.6
19	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	22,458	25,609	3,151	-1.3
20	Pembrokeshire	24,552	28,623	4,071	1.3
21	Merthyr Tydfil	21,583	25,260	3,677	1.8
22	Denbighshire	23,382	28,350	4,968	6.0

Allan Garley GMB Wales Secretary said, **“These figures show that the Government’s strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in Wales drop by 6.7%.**

George Osborne has the economic literacy of a stick of rhubarb.

Full time workers resident in 19 out of the 22 areas in Wales have seen the value of their earnings drop when they have a job. Things have got a lot worse in the past year as the recovery underway at the time of the election stalled and Wales is mired in a new recession.

Two thirds of the economy is consumer driven and Osborne must be the only person who does not get it. Squeezing wages, pay freezes and cutting jobs will not restart the economy. Using the IMF measures his cuts will reduce real private consumption by 4% and GDP by 3.4% over the next few years.

I doubt if the electorate had any notion that a change of government would lead to a loss of 376,000 jobs across the UK and 14,000 in Wales, in the public sector, in the short time since the general election. When the ‘same old Tories’ were returned to power they brought with them the same old philosophy that “if it’s not hurting it’s not working.”

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

1 **2007-2011 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - residence based** *Source: Table 7.7a, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright Reserved*

2 In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings.

3 Between April 2007 and November 2011 inflation has been 16.1%, of which half (7.65%) has taken place since April 2010.