



**IFAN's latest figures collated from independent food banks operating in  
Wales<sup>1</sup>  
December 2020**

The UK-wide Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) supports and advocates on behalf of a membership of frontline food aid organisations including over 400 independent food banks.<sup>i</sup> IFAN envisions and campaigns for a society without the need for charitable food aid.<sup>ii</sup> Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, independent food banks across the UK have seen a large increase in need for emergency food parcels.<sup>iii</sup>

**Increase in the number of emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks in Wales:**

As part of a broader UK-wide analysis, we looked at data for February to October 2019 and February to October 2020, contributed by 10 independent food banks in Wales.<sup>2</sup> Figures for April 2020 as compared to April 2019, at the height of the UK-wide lockdown, show an 133% percentage rise in the number of emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks based in Wales.<sup>3</sup> From May 2019 to May 2020 they show a 124% rise, and from July 2019 to July 2020 an increase of 82%. More recently our collated figures demonstrate a 58% increase comparing October 2019 with October 2020. In comparison, excluding the COVID-19 crisis, from February 2019 to February 2020 the rise was 19%.

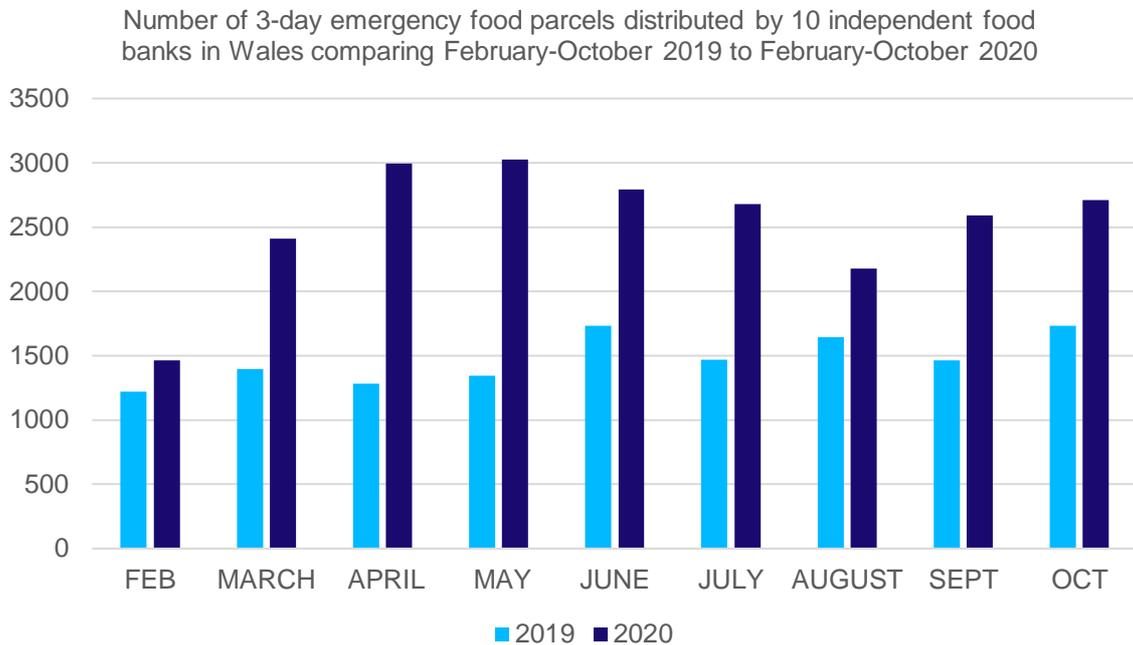
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<sup>1</sup> This report is based on a breakdown of figures from [our most UK-wide report](#).

<sup>2</sup> IFAN member organisations and other independent food banks operating in Wales were invited to participate in our survey. Organisations opted-in to the survey. A total of 12 independent food banks operating in 7 local authorities contributed to the survey but we were only able to a comparative analysis for figures provided for both 2019 and 2020 by 10 independent food banks. IFAN has identified at least 70 independent food banks operating across 15 local authorities in Wales.

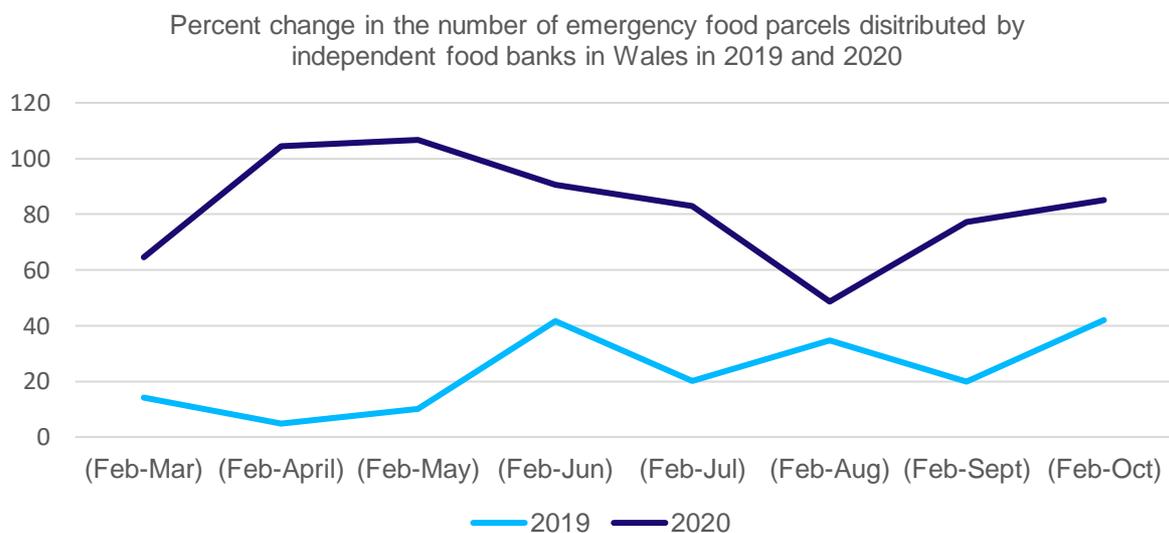
<sup>3</sup> All data contributed was recorded and not approximated.

Fig 1: Number of 3-day emergency food parcels distributed by 10 independent food banks in Wales comparing February to October 2019 and February to October 2020



From February 2020 to March 2020 the number of 3-day emergency food parcels distributed rose by 64% while from February to April 2020, there was a 104% increase in the number of parcels were distributed. This percentage increase was 90% comparing February to July, lessening during the summer months but the percentage increase from February to September 2020 was 77% rising to 85% comparing February to October 2020.

Fig 2: Percentage change in the number of emergency food parcels distributed by independent food banks in Wales during February to October 2019 and 2020



A total of 13,288 3-day emergency food parcels was distributed by these 10 independent food banks from February to October 2019. This figure rose to 22,841 for February to October 2020 representing a 71% increase.

### Unit of measurement used:

Like the Trussell Trust's statistics, the number of parcels we have recorded is based on the number of people, both children and adults who have been provided with one 3-day supply of food per person.<sup>4</sup> Some independent food banks have provided more than 3 days' worth of food per person, so to enable comparison with Trussell Trust data, collated information has been converted into a shared unit of measurement.

*Table 1: Number of 3-day parcels distributed by 10 independent food banks during February to October 2019 and 2020*

Month	2019	2020
February	1222	1464
March	1395	2409
April	1281	2992
May	1345	3026
June	1731	2791
July	1467	2679
August	1647	2176
September	1465	2593
October	1735	2711
<b>Total (Feb to Oct)</b>	<b>13,288</b>	<b>22,841</b>
Total (April to Sep)	8,936	16,257

### Number of people supported from February to October in 2019 and 2020:

We also looked at the number of people supported by independent food banks in Wales contributing to both time periods. The number of people receiving food parcels each month mirrored the same patterns in the numbers of food parcels distributed.

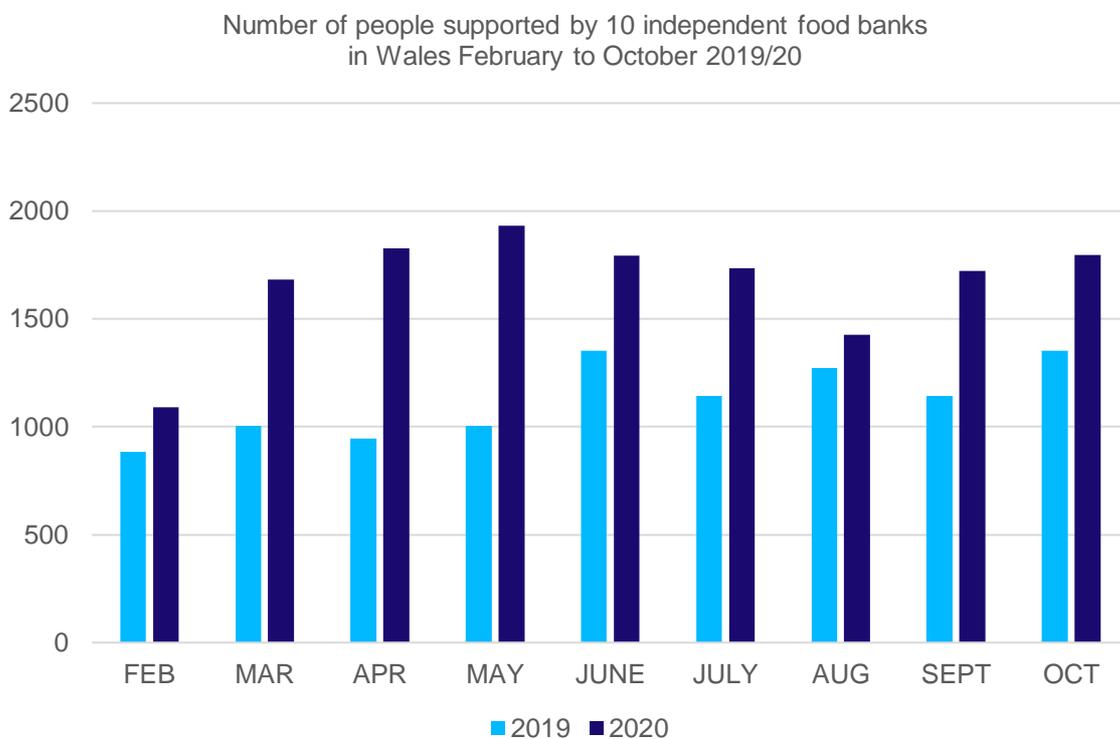
*Table 2: The number of people supported by independent food banks in Wales during February to October 2019 and 2020*

Month	2019	2020
February	884	1090
March	1005	1682

<sup>4</sup> The Trussell Trust's most recent data indicates that 12% of their network supported people with emergency food parcels that supported people with a 7-day rather a 3-day supply.

April	946	1827
May	1003	1933
June	1352	1792
July	1143	1734
August	1272	1426
September	1144	1723
October	1352	1796
<b>Total (Feb to Oct)</b>	<b>10,101</b>	<b>15,003</b>
Total (April to Sep)	6,860	10,435

Fig 3: Number of people supported by 10 independent food banks in Wales during February to October 2019 and 2020.



### Comparison with latest Trussell Trust figures:

Between April and September 2019, 124 Trussell Trust food bank centres distributed 58,272 emergency food parcels while between April and September 2020, 117 Trussell Trust food banks centres distributed 70,393 emergency food parcels. 10 of at least 70 independent food banks distributed a total of 8,936 emergency food parcels from April 2019 to September 2019 while between April 2020 and September 2020 that number increased to 16,257.

## **Other independent food banks contributing data:**

Two further independent food banks contributed to our data collation however, as one started operating in April 2020 and one was formerly a Trussell Trust food bank until April 2020, their figures couldn't be included in our comparative analysis. Between April and October 2020, these additional independent food banks distributed a further 4,367 additional 3-day emergency food parcels. A total of 27,208 emergency food parcels were distributed by 12 independent food banks between April and October 2020. These 12 independent food banks represent 17% of an at least figure of 70 independent food banks operating across Wales.

## **Referral or self-referral:**

11 out of 12 independent food banks accepted self-referrals and third-party referrals while one independent food bank ran on a third-party referral basis only. All 12 independent food banks reported having supported people unable to access a referral agent since the onset of Covid-19. 10 of 12 independent food banks reported having supported more than 40 people in this situation.

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<sup>i</sup> IFAN has identified at least 961 independent food banks operating across the UK. You can find out more [here](#).

<sup>ii</sup> The figures represented in this report represent a fraction of the food aid landscape in Wales while we know that far more people with food insecurity than access emergency food parcel provision. IFAN has identified at least 70 independent food banks and food parcel distributors operating across Wales in 15 local authorities at least once a week. This number does not include food banks running from schools, universities or hospitals. The Trussell Trust currently operates 117 food banks in 22 local authorities in Wales. The Salvation Army also runs a number of centres which distribute emergency food parcels and other types of food aid across Wales. The British Red Cross has also supported people with food parcels. In response to lockdown restrictions, local authorities have run local food hubs often in collaboration with frontline food aid organisations which have helped people with food parcels who have been unable to afford food as well as people unable to access food supply. In addition to food banks and food parcel distribution services, a range of food aid providers from social supermarkets to community kitchens have supported people living food insecurity both during the COVID-19 lockdown and before 2020.

<sup>iii</sup> IFAN's reports on data collated from independent food banks operating across the UK can be found [here](#). This report looks at data included in [our most UK-wide report](#) published on 11.12.20.