

Data Management and Analysis Group

Summary of *Social Trends* 2008

A London perspective of the ONS publication



DMAG Briefing 2008-28

June 2008

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i. Summary of Main Findings

Population and Households

- The number of people living in the UK increased between 1981 and 2006: the population of England and London grew by 8 per cent and 10 per cent respectively during this time;
- London experienced the largest net internal population loss, with almost 79,000 more people moving from, rather than to, the capital from the rest of the UK;
- However, London remained the most popular destination for international migration;
- The number of households in Great Britain rose by 5.8 million to 24.4 million due to more lone-parent families, smaller family sizes and an increase in one-person households;
- Marriage is still the most common form of partnership, but the proportion of unmarried and cohabiting couples have doubled in the last decade;
- More than 16,000 civil partnerships were formed in the UK in 2006, of which 25 per cent took place in London.

Education and Labour market

- Participation in education in the UK has increased between two and threefold over the last 35 years: in 2006/07, there were nearly 33,900 schools with 9.8 million pupils;
- Average class sizes in London for primary and secondary schools were some of the largest in England, but London also had some of the lowest percentage of classes with 31 pupils or over;
- Employment rates for men and women are converging (79 per cent for men and 70 per cent for women in Quarter 2 (Q2) 2007), however, the lowest employment rates are in London;
- Unemployment rates in 2006 were 5.4 per cent in England and three of the four areas with rates over 10 per cent were Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney.

Wealth, Income and Expenditure

- Household expenditure was highest in the South East and London (15 per cent and 12 per cent above the UK average) in 2006;
- Kensington and Chelsea and Croydon had some of the highest weekly household disposable incomes in the UK in 2004/05, placing them in the top 12.5 per cent of the distribution;
- However, variations within a single local authority area can be considerable: some areas in Tower Hamlets had average incomes within both the top and bottom 12.5 per cent.

Health, Lifestyles and Social protection

- In 2006, 24 per cent of both men and women were classified as obese in England;
- The mortality rate for heart disease or stroke has declined for both males and females;
- Between 1991 and 2006, the number of alcohol-related deaths in the UK more than doubled
- However, attitude surveys indicate little has changed in satisfaction with standard of living in the last three decades;
- In 2005/06, 21 per cent of adults in England regularly took part in sport and active recreation, with one of the highest rates in Richmond-upon-Thames (30 per cent);
- One of the lowest participation rates in active recreation of 14 per cent was in Newham and Barking and Dagenham, where participation was between 14 and 15 per cent.

Housing

- Housebuilding in England has been rising year-on-year since 2001/02, particularly in London, where completions increased by 58 per cent;
- The density of new homes has also increased, from 24 dwellings per hectare in 1995 to 41 per hectare in 2006 in England, compared with 80 per hectare in London;
- In 2006, London still had the highest property prices in England plus the second highest price increase from 2005.

Environment

- Municipal waste disposed to landfill has fallen significantly over the last decade in England, at 58 per cent in 2006/07 (compared with 84 per cent in 1996/97);
- There was a wide variation across England and Wales ranging from 12 per cent in Tower Hamlets to 49 per cent in Cambridgeshire in 2006/07;
- Eleven waste disposal authorities or councils had a household waste recycling rate of less than 20 per cent including Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, East London Waste Authority and Southwark.

Transport

- The total distance travelled by people within Great Britain increased by 94 per cent between 1971 and 2006, to 812 billion passenger kilometres;
- In Q4 2006, 70 per cent of trips to work in England were made by car or van: Warrington ranked the highest, with 89 per cent of people, compared with 47 per cent in Outer London and just 20 per cent in Inner London;
- The most commonly used transport for travel to work in Inner London was the London Underground or light rail, used by 26 per cent of commuters;
- Passenger numbers on local buses have decreased over the ten years since 1996/97 in most parts of Great Britain, yet passengers increased by 62 per cent from 1,230 million to 1,993 million in London;
- According to the Civil Aviation Authority, in 2006 passenger traffic at the five main London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City Airport) grew by 2 per cent since 2005 to 137 million passengers and by more than 50 per cent since 1996;
- The casualty rate per 100 billion vehicle kilometres for people killed or seriously injured has fallen throughout all the regions of Great Britain between the period 1994 –1998 and 2006: the rate in London fell by 45 per cent.

Crime

- Overall levels of crime have remained broadly stable in recent years;
- In 2006/07 London had the highest total recorded crime rate of all the regions in England and Wales, at 124 offences per 1,000 population, but also had the largest fall in total recorded crime compared with 2005/06, at 6 per cent;
- London had the highest rates of recorded violence (24 offences per 1,000 population) and other theft (32 offences per 1,000).

NOTE: London is not strictly comparable with other regions, because a large number of the crimes in London are committed against non-residents (commuters and tourists).

ii. Introduction

This report summarises the 2008 edition of *Social Trends 38* by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and highlights issues relevant to London. *Social Trends* presents social and economic data from government departments and other organisations to provide a comprehensive guide to British society.

The theme of this year's report is societal well-being. ONS states that people in the UK have enjoyed a steady improvement in their standard of living in the last 30 years and on average they are healthier. However, a study by Eurobarometer shows that satisfaction levels during this time have changed very little.

There are 13 chapters, each focusing on a different social policy area: population, households and families, education and training, labour market, income and wealth, expenditure, health, social protection, crime and justice, housing, environment, transport, lifestyles and social participation.

The structure of the report includes an overview of the chapter, information and statistics referring to London and finally, a section containing more information on the policy area, with links to relevant teams within DMAG, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and external websites. Please note that London refers to the region of Greater London (both inner and outer) in this report.

If you would like to view the full ONS report, please visit the [Social Trends](#) website or go to GLA Information Services library for a hard copy. For more London-specific data, please see the forthcoming *Focus on London 2008* report, to be published in June 2008, produced by the Greater London Authority, which provides a broad picture of London using demographic, social and economic datasets. Please see the [Focus on London](#) website for more information.

1. Population

- The number of people living in the UK increased between 1981 and 2006: the population of England and London grew by 8 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Wales and Northern Ireland's populations also grew, however Scotland's population fell by 1 per cent (Table 1.1);
- The UK has an ageing population: the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to exceed the number aged under 16 in 2021;
- From 2001 the net flow of internal migration from south to north grew year on year peaking in 2003 at around 35,000 before declining to around 2,700 in 2006;
- Between 1996 and 2006, the net outflow of Britons leaving the UK more than doubled from 62,000 to 126,000;
- In 2006, one in five births in England and Wales were to mothers born outside the UK, compared with around one in eight in 1996;
- In 2006, there was a 32 per cent reduction in applications for UK citizenship compared with 2005, when new legislation relating to English language was introduced.
- The biggest net gains in population at local authority level were in Milton Keynes which increased by more than 78 per cent between 1981 and 2006, followed by Tower Hamlets and East Cambridgeshire, both increasing by 47 per cent;
- The biggest net losses in population were in Liverpool, which decreased by 16 per cent.

Table 1.1 Population¹ of the United Kingdom

	Millions							
	1971	1981	1991	2001	2006	2011	2021	2031
United Kingdom	55.9	56.4	57.4	59.1	60.6	62.8	67.2	71.1
England	46.4	46.8	47.9	49.5	50.8	52.7	56.8	60.4
Wales	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.3
Scotland	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4
Northern Ireland	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
London ²	7.4	6.8	6.8	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.1	8.5

¹ Mid-year estimates for 1971 to 2006; 2006-based projections for 2011 to 2031. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 1: Population estimates and projections.

² 2007 Round GLA population projections, PLP Low

Source: ONS; General Register Office for Scotland; Government Actuary's Department; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency; Greater London Authority

Internal migration

- The South West saw the largest net inflow from internal migration in the UK (28,000 people) whilst London experienced the largest net loss, with almost 79,000 more people moving from, rather than to, the capital;
- In 2006, nine out of ten local authorities with the highest outflows in England and Wales were London boroughs: Newham recorded a net loss of around 9,500 people, accounting for almost 4 per cent of its population (see Table 1.2);
- Torridge in Devon recorded a net gain of more than 1,000 people, or less than 2 per cent of its population.

Table 1.2 Internal migration:¹ highest *outflows* by local authority,² 2006

Percentage			Percentage		
1	Newham	-3.84	6	Hackney	-2.04
2	Brent	-2.44	7	Luton ³	-1.96
3	Ealing	-2.26	8	Hammersmith and Fulham	-1.54
4	Haringey	-2.11	9	Waltham Forest	-1.49
5	Lambeth	-2.10	10	Southwark	-1.44

¹ Net flow estimates are for year ending mid-2006 and are based on patient register data system (PRDS) and patient re-registration recorded in the NHS Central Register. Rates are as a percentage of the mid-2006 population estimates.

² Local authorities by top ten highest and lowest rates of internal migration inflows and outflows

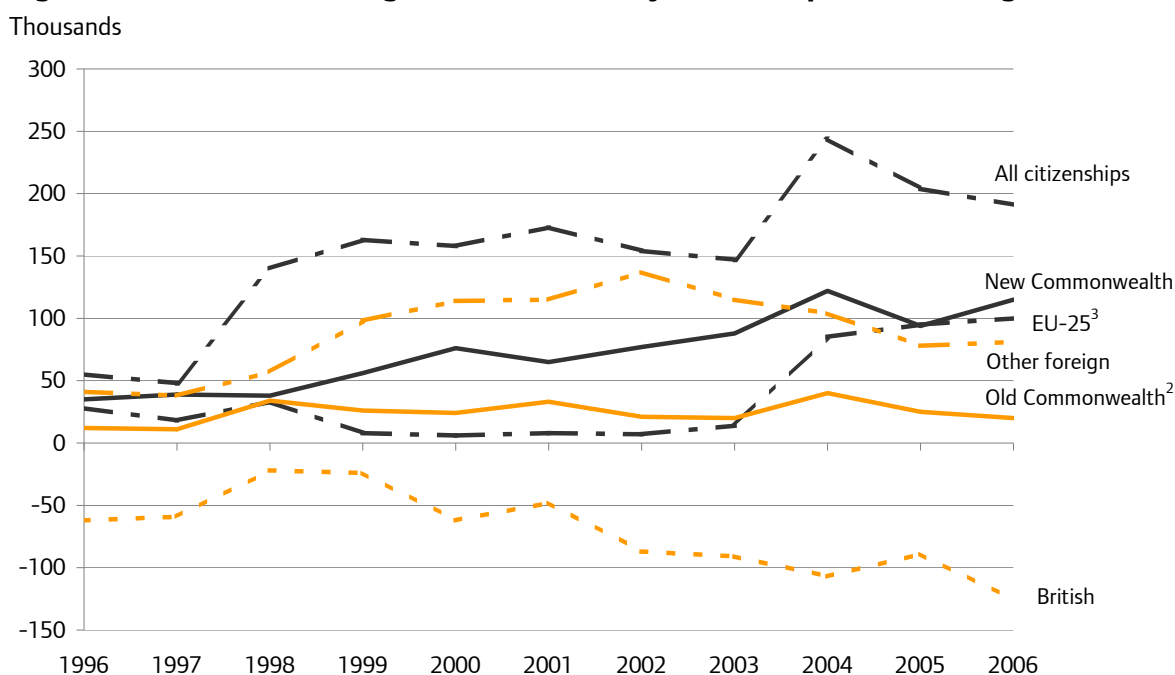
³ Luton is a Unitary Authority

Source: Office for National Statistics

International migration

- In 2006, there was a net inflow of around 191,000 people to the UK, equivalent to around 500 each day (Figure 1.1);
- London remained the most popular destination and its population decline due to internal migration was more than offset by the inflow of around 170,000 international migrants;

Figure 1.1 Estimates of migration net flows by citizenship¹, United Kingdom



¹ These data have been revised following changes to the Total International Migration methodology, so may not agree with previously published estimates. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 1: International Migration Estimates.

² Old Commonwealth comprises Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. New Commonwealth is the rest.

³ Up to and including 2003, estimates are for the EU-15. From 2004 onwards, estimates are for the EU-25.

Source: *Total International Migration*, Office for National Statistics

More information

- [DMAG Demography Team](#)

2. Households and families

- More people than ever are living alone: between 1971 and 2007, the number of households in Great Britain rose by 5.8 million to 24.4 million (Table 2.1);
- Reasons for this increase in households and the decrease in average household size include more lone-parent families, smaller family sizes and an increase in one-person households;
- In 2006, around one-quarter of unmarried men and women were cohabiting in Great Britain, nearly double the proportion 20 years earlier, although marriage remains the most common form of partnership;
- In 2005 there were just under 284,000 marriages in the UK, around 27,000 fewer than in 2004, and 197,000 fewer than in 1972, when the number of marriages peaked at 480,000;
- Married women giving birth for the first time were, on average, age 30 in England and Wales in 2006, compared with age 24 in 1971;
- The proportion of births outside marriage are increasing, reaching 44 per cent in 2006 in the UK, mainly the result of births to cohabiting parents;
- More than 16,000 civil partnerships were formed in the UK in 2006, of which 25 per cent took place in London.

Table 2.1 Households:¹ by size Great Britain

	Percentages				
	1971	1981	1991	2001 ²	2007 ²
One person	18	22	27	29	29
Two people	32	32	34	35	35
Three people	19	17	16	16	16
Four people	17	18	16	14	13
Five people	8	7	5	5	5
Six or more people	6	4	2	2	2
All households (=100%) (millions)	18.6	20.2	22.4	23.8	24.4
Average household size (number of people)	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4

¹ See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 2: Multi-sourced tables, Households, and Families.

² Data are at spring for 2001 and Q2 for 2007. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 4: Labour Force Survey.

Source: Census, Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

More Information

- [Household and population estimates](#) (DCLG)
- [Birth statistics](#) (ONS)
- [Marriage, Divorce and Adoption statistics](#) (ONS)
- [DMAG Demography Team](#)

3. Education and training

- Participation in education in the UK has increased between two and threefold over the last 35 years: in 2006/07, there were nearly 33,900 schools with 9.8 million pupils;
- Table 3.1 shows that the average class size for Key Stage 1 pupils in England was 26 pupils, whereas it was 27 for London, the highest of all English regions;
- Key Stage 2 pupils (seven to eleven-year-olds) in London were far more likely than Key Stage 1 pupils to be in classes of 31 or more pupils, 8.5 per cent compared with 1.7 per cent;
- More than one in four Key Stage 2 classes in the South West had 31 or more pupils in 2006/07 compared with less than one in ten classes in London;
- In 2005/06, 59 per cent of pupils entered for the GCSE or equivalent exam in the UK achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or the equivalent, an increase of 14 percentage points since 1995/96;
- The increased participation in education over the last 35 years was particularly notable among females, where enrolments in further education increased by three and a half times between 1970/71 and 2005/06;
- In 2005/06, there were 4.5 million further education students in the UK, more than two and a half times the number in 1970/71.

Table 3.1 Class sizes in schools:¹ by region, 2006/07

	Primary schools				Secondary schools	
	Key Stage 1 ²		Key Stage 2 ²		Average number in class	Percentage of classes with 31 or more pupils
	Average number in class	Percentage of classes with 31 or more pupils	Average number in class	Percentage of classes with 31 or more pupils		
England	25.6	2.1	27.2	19.6	21.3	7.4
North East	24.3	2.0	26.1	15.3	20.9	6.7
North West	25.2	1.8	27.3	23.7	21.1	8.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	25.4	3.1	27.3	21.1	21.2	7.5
East Midlands	24.8	2.4	27.2	24.0	21.3	7.4
West Midlands	25.6	2.0	27.2	17.5	21.1	7.3
East	25.6	2.4	27.2	18.4	21.3	7.0
London	27.1	1.7	27.3	8.5	21.3	5.8
South East	25.9	1.9	27.5	23.3	21.4	7.7
South West	25.3	1.6	27.3	25.5	21.4	8.6

¹ Maintained schools only. Figures relate to all classes, not just those taught by one teacher.

² Pupils in composite classes that overlap Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are not included. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 3: Stages of education.

Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families

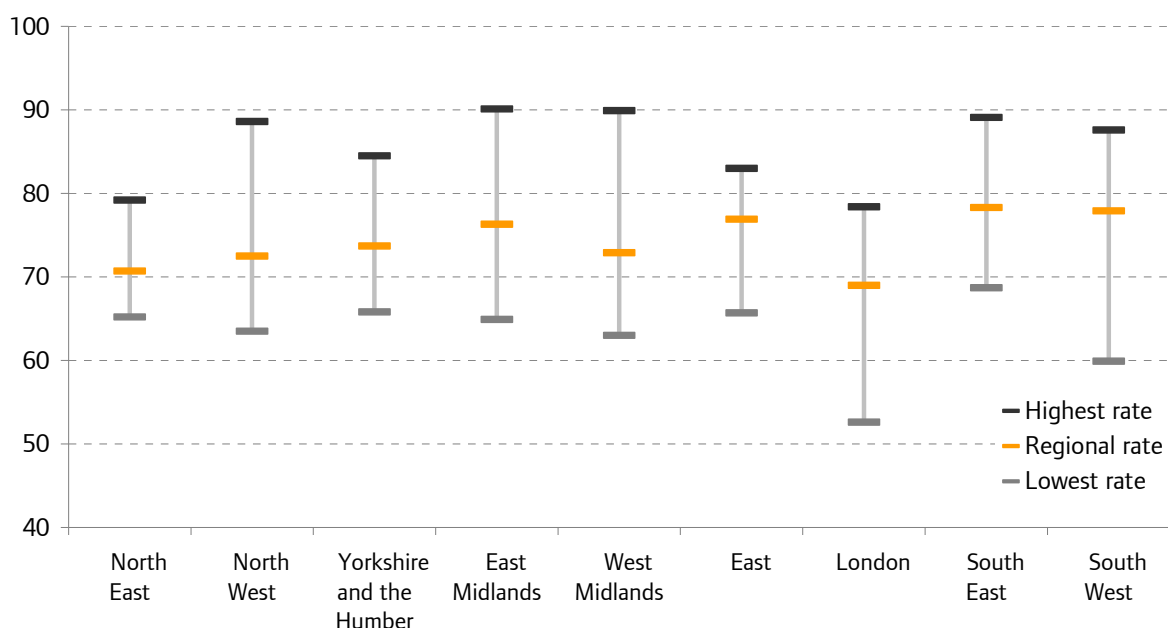
More Information

- [Department for Children, Schools and Families](#)
- [DMAG Education Team](#)
- [GLA Children and Young People policy](#)

4. Labour Market

- In Quarter 2 (Q2) 2007, 15.7 million men and 13.3 million women were in employment in the UK;
- The UK employment rate of working-age men fell from 92 per cent in Q2 1971 to 79 per cent in Q2 2007, while the rate for working-age women rose from 56 per cent to 70 per cent;
- However, employment rates differ across the UK: Figure 4.1 shows the highest was in the South East (78 per cent) and the lowest was in London (69 per cent);
- Three of the four areas with working-age employment rates lower than 60 per cent were in London: Tower Hamlets (53 per cent), Newham (58 per cent) and Hackney (59 per cent).
- Unemployment rates in 2006 were 5.4 per cent in England
- Three of the four areas with unemployment rates over 10 per cent were in London: Tower Hamlets (14.2 per cent), Newham (11.8 per cent) and Hackney (11.6 per cent);
- The number of economically inactive working-age men in the UK increased by 2.4 million to 3.2 million between Q2 1971 and Q2 2007 and fell by 1.5 million to 4.8 million for women;
- More than one-fifth of full-time employees in the UK had some form of flexible working arrangement in Q2 2007;
- In 2006, nine in ten employees in Great Britain said they were satisfied with their work, and seven in ten said they were satisfied with their pay.

Figure 4.1 Employment rates:¹ by region,² 2006³



¹ Men aged 16 to 64, women aged 16 to 59.

² By region and lowest and highest unitary authorities or local authority districts. Excludes the Isles of Scilly.

³ January to December. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 4: Annual Population Survey.

Source: *Annual Population Survey*, Office for National Statistics

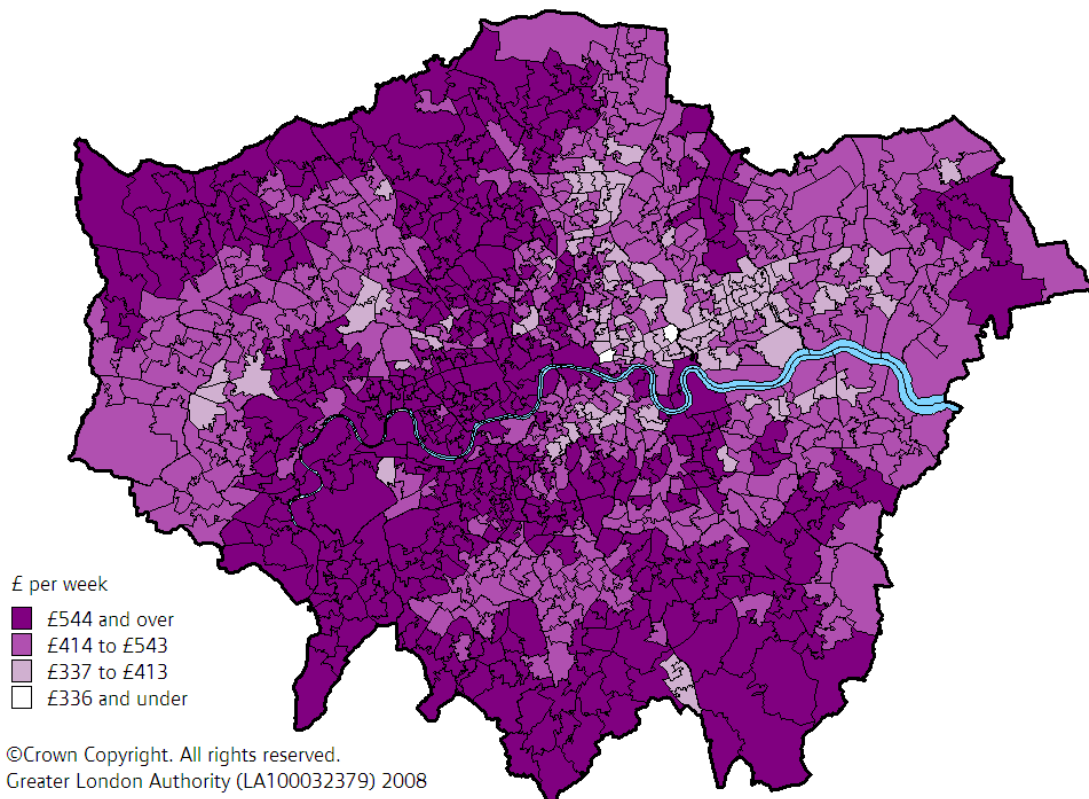
More Information

- [Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform](#) website
- [DMAG Social Exclusion Team](#)

5. Income and Wealth

- Household net wealth in the UK more than doubled in real terms between 1987 and 2006;
- Kensington and Chelsea and Croydon had some of the highest weekly household disposable incomes in the UK in 2004/05, placing them in the top 12.5 per cent of the distribution;
- However, variations within a single local authority area can be considerable: some areas in Tower Hamlets had average incomes within both the top and bottom 12.5 per cent (Map 5.1);
- The pay gap between men and women in the UK has narrowed from 17 per cent in 1997 to 12 per cent in 2006;
- In spring 2007, nearly 9 in 10 adults in England were very or fairly satisfied with their standard of living, however, fewer (around six in 10) were satisfied with their future financial security;
- Around one in three families in the UK had no savings in 2005/06, but one in five couples where one or both were aged 60 or over had savings in excess of £20,000.

Map 5.1 Average household disposable income:¹ by area², 2004/05



¹ Equivalised household disposable income before deduction of housing costs.

² Middle layer super output area. See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 5: Model based estimates of income.

Note: white shaded areas are those in the bottom 12.5 per cent of the income distribution and the darkest purple areas are those in the top 12.5 per cent of the distribution.

Source: Office for National Statistics

More Information

- [The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#) (ONS)
- [DMAG Social Exclusion Team](#)

6. Expenditure

- Between 1971 and 2006, the volume of expenditure by households in the UK increased by two and a half times;
- Household expenditure varies across regions and was highest in the South East and London (15 per cent and 12 per cent respectively above the average for the UK) and lowest in the West Midlands and North East (11 per cent and 16 per cent below average respectively) in 2006;
- Expenditure on communication (postal services, telephone equipment and services) in the UK in 2006 has increased by nine times in real terms since in 1971;
- Total net lending to individuals by banks, building societies and other lenders in the UK doubled in real terms between 2000 and 2003 and remained high until 2007;
- Between 1993 and Q4 (October to December) 2007, the amount owed by individuals in the UK more than doubled, from £574 billion to £1,320 billion;
- In 2006, 42 per cent of individuals in Great Britain had some form of unsecured debt, 19 per cent owed money on a credit card, 16 per cent on a personal loan and a further 9 per cent on a car loan;
- In England and Wales there were 106,700 individual insolvencies in 2007, compared with 67,600 in 2005.

Figure 6.1 Household expenditure¹ per head: by region, 2006

Index numbers (UK=100)



¹ See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 6: Expenditure and Food Survey

Source: *Expenditure and Food Survey*, Office for National Statistics

More Information

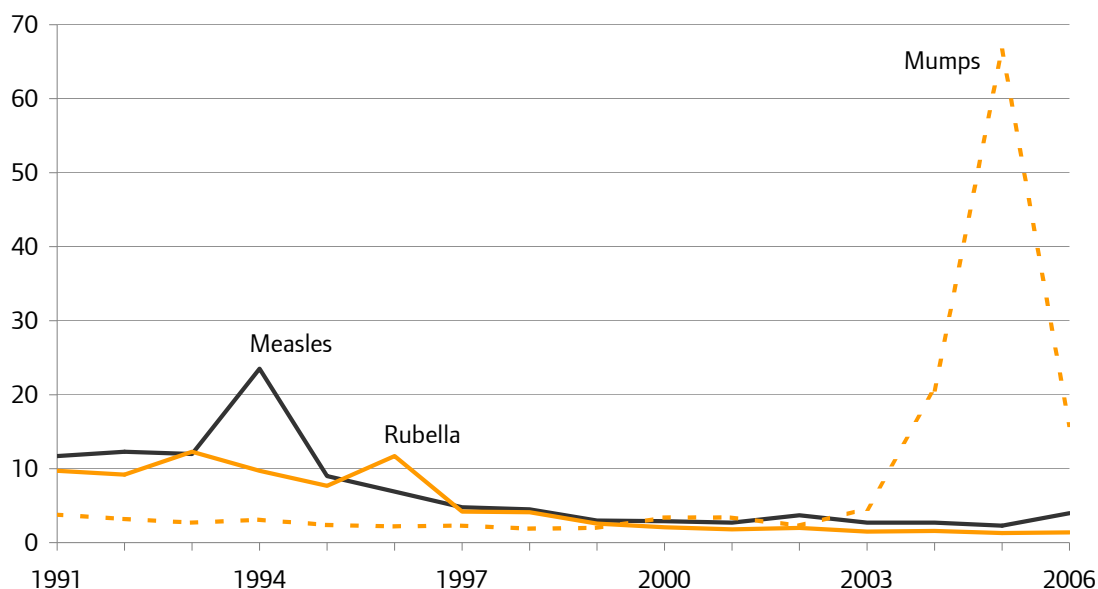
- [Expenditure and Food Survey](#)

7. Health

- The UK population is living longer, with life expectancy standing at 77 for males and 82 for females in 2006 (69 for males and 75 for females in 1971);
- However, UK adults are spending more years in poor health: in 2004, males could expect to live 62.3 years free from a limiting long-standing illness or a disability and females 63.9 years;
- Between 1971 and 2006, age-standardised death rates for circulatory diseases in the UK fell from 6,936 to 2,462 per million males and from 4,285 to 1,559 per million females;
- Between 1994 and 2006 the proportion of men classified as obese in England increased from 14 per cent to 24 per cent and from 17 per cent to 24 per cent for women;
- The proportion of alcohol-related deaths in the UK has more than doubled between 1991 and 2006: from 9.1 to 18.3 per 100,000 men and from 5.0 to 8.8 per 100,000 for women;
- In 2004 in Great Britain, the proportion of children aged 5 to 16 with a mental disorder was more than twice as high among those living in 'hard pressed' areas than those in areas populated by 'wealthy achievers';
- There was a mumps epidemic in 2005 with 66,500 notifications in the UK, which can partly be explained by the reduction in take up of the Measles Mumps and Rubella vaccine - especially in London - with only 75 per cent of children immunised by their second birthday in 2006/07 compared with 89 per cent in the North East of England (see Figure 7.1).

Figure 7.1 Notifications of measles, mumps and rubella in the UK

Thousands



Source: Health Protection Agency; National Health Service in Scotland; Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (Northern Ireland)

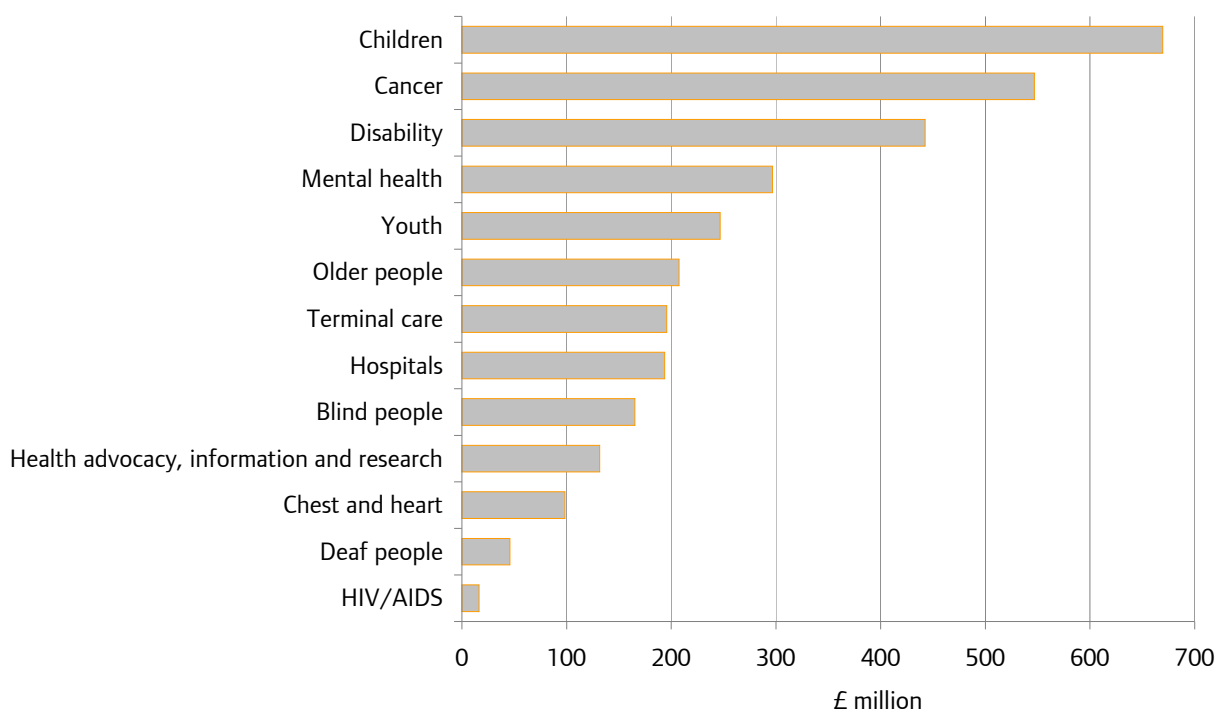
More Information

- [Department of Health statistics](#)
- [London Health Observatory](#) website
- [DMAG Demography Team](#) and [GLA Health policy](#)

8. Social protection

- Social protection deals with the help given to those who are in need or at risk of hardship for reasons such as illness, low income, family circumstances or age;
- Over the last 30 years social security benefit expenditure in the UK has more than doubled in real terms to £134 billion in 2006/07;
- In 2006/07, 2.9 million people in Great Britain were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and 1.5 million received Attendance Allowance, both having increased by around 10 per cent since 2003/04;
- In 2005/06, 39 per cent of single male and 46 per cent of single female pensioners in the UK received income-related benefits compared with 21 per cent of pensioner couples;
- At March 2006 there were 32,100 children on child protection registers in the UK and nearly half of all cases were due to neglect;
- In 2005/06, local authorities in England spent £19.3 billion on personal social services, 43 per cent was directed at older people and 25 per cent was directed at children and families;
- Charities offer another source of social protection in the UK: in 2005/06, the top 500 fundraising charities spent nearly £3.3 billion, £231 million more than in 2004/05 (Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1 UK social protection expenditure by top 500 charities:¹ by category,² 2005/06



¹ Charities Aid Foundation top 500 fundraising charities. Direct charitable expenditure.

² Category, also known as cause, is self-classified by charity.

Source: *Charity Trends 2007*, Charities Aid Foundation

More Information

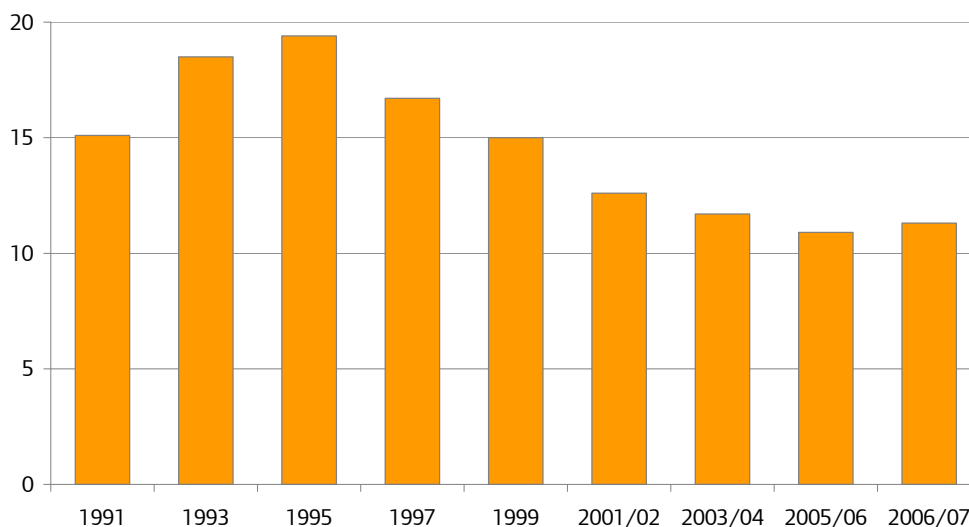
- [NHS Statistics website](#)
- Benefit Expenditure information from [Department for Work and Pensions website](#)

9. Crime and Justice

- Overall levels of crime have remained broadly stable in the last few years (see Figure 9.1), however, according to the 2006/07 British Crime Survey (BCS), 65 per cent of adults believed there was more crime in the country than two years ago;
- The BCS showed that 11.3 million crimes were committed against adults living in private households in England and Wales in 2006/07;
- In 2006/07, around one-third of crime recorded in Great Britain was theft and handling stolen goods and one-quarter was vandalism (the only offence group with a significant increase of 10 per cent since 2005/06);
- In England and Wales, 55 per cent of adult offenders released from prison or beginning community service in the first quarter of 2004 re-offended within two years and were subsequently reconvicted;
- In 2006/07 London had the highest total recorded crime rate of all the regions in England and Wales, at 124 offences per 1,000 population, but also had the largest fall in total recorded crime compared with 2005/06, at 6 per cent;
- The region with the lowest recorded crime rate was the East of England, at 83 offences per 1,000 population whilst the North East and North West had the highest rates for recorded criminal damage (at 28 offences per 1,000 population in both regions);
- London had the highest rates of recorded violence (24 offences per 1,000 population) and other theft (32 offences per 1,000) *NOTE: London is not strictly comparable with other regions, because a large number of the crimes in London are committed against non-residents (commuters and tourists).*

Figure 9.1 British Crime Survey offences¹ in England & Wales

Millions



¹ Until 2000, respondents were asked to recall their experience of crime in the previous calendar year. From 2001/02 the British Crime Survey became a continuous survey and the recall period was changed to 12 months before interview.
Source: *British Crime Survey, Home Office*

More Information

- [Metropolitan police crime statistics](#) and [City of London police statistics](#)
- DMAG London Analyst Support Service (LASS) Team and [GLA Crime and Policing](#)

10. Housing

- Housebuilding completions in England have been rising year-on-year since 2001/02, particularly in London, where the number increased by 58 per cent to 22,000 in 2006/07;
- However, in terms of new homes built on previously developed land between 1996 and 2006, the region with the smallest increase was London (8 per cent)
- In 2006/07 in England, nearly half of new dwellings completed were flats, compared with less than one-fifth in 1996/97, reflecting in part the increase in one person households;
- In 2005, nine per cent of all new dwellings in England were built in flood risk areas and 80 per cent of the land used had been previously developed;
- The density of new homes has also increased, from 24 dwellings per hectare in 1995 to 41 per hectare in 2006;
- The density of new dwellings in London in 2006 was 80 per hectare, higher than in any other English region, while the East of England and the East Midlands had the lowest density, each with 34 per hectare;
- Between 1981 and 2006, the number of owner-occupied dwellings in the UK increased by 49 per cent to reach 18.5 million;
- In 2006, 37 per cent of dwellings bought in the UK cost more than £200,000 while 15 per cent cost less than £100,000
- In 2006, London had the highest property prices in England plus the second highest price increase from 2005 (see Table 9.1);
- Access to the housing market remains a challenge for first time buyers: in 2006 average prices paid by first time buyers rose to three and a half times their average income, compared with two and a half times ten years previously.

Table 9.1 Average dwelling prices:¹ by region, 2006 United Kingdom

	All dwellings (£)	Percentage change 2005–06
England	200,697	5.6
North East	139,481	6.7
North West	152,606	6.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	152,595	8.2
East Midlands	162,543	3.5
West Midlands	169,854	4.7
East	211,337	4.1
London	281,438	7.1
South East	240,655	4.7
South West	207,018	5.1

¹ See *Social Trends* Appendix, Part 10: Mix adjusted prices.

Source: *Regulated Mortgage Survey and BankSearch, Council of Mortgage Lenders*

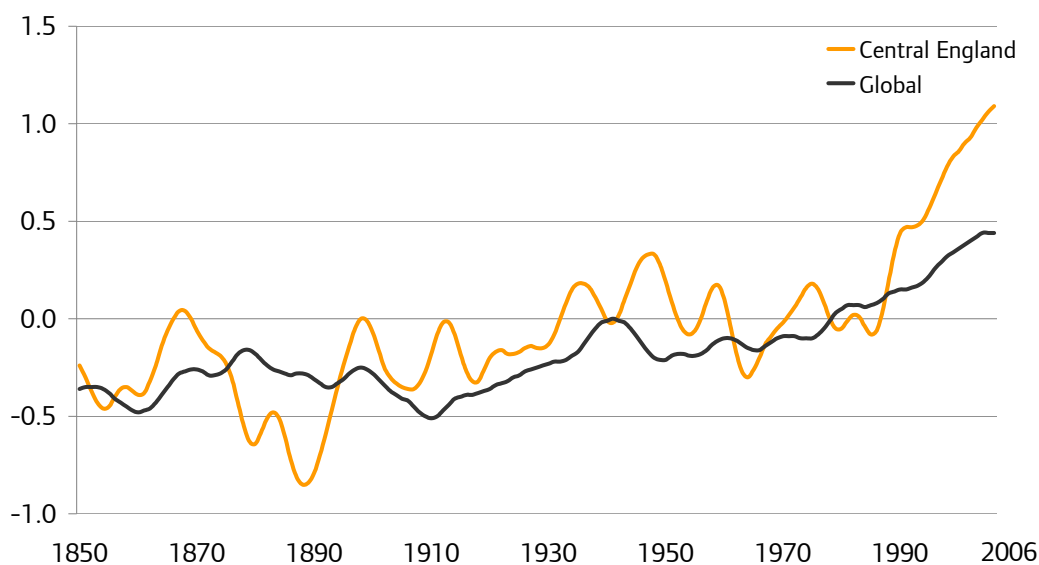
More Information

- [Government housing statistics](#) (DCLG)
- [Land registry](#) website
- [GLA Housing policy](#)

11. Environment

- The year 2007 saw the wettest May to July period in the 241-year England and Wales rainfall series, with 387.6 mm of rain;
- Ten of the warmest years globally have all occurred in the last 12 years (1995 to 2006), with 1998 the hottest year since records began in 1850;
- Both global and Central England average temperatures have risen over the long term since the late 19th century, though there have been fluctuations around this trend (Figure 11.1);
- Municipal waste disposed to landfill has fallen significantly over the last decade in England, at 58 per cent in 2006/07 (compared with 84 per cent in 1996/97);
- Recycling rates increased from 7 to 31 per cent in the ten years from 1996/97, although there was a wide variation across England and Wales ranging from 12 per cent in Tower Hamlets to 49 per cent in Cambridgeshire in 2006/07;
- Eleven waste disposal authorities or councils had a household waste recycling rate of less than 20 per cent including Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, East London Waste Authority and Southwark;
- UK emissions of carbon monoxide in the air fell by 71 per cent between 1990 and 2005;
- In 2006, the UK generated over 18,000 GWh of electricity from renewable sources, almost three and a half times more than in 1991.

Figure 11.1 Difference in average surface temperature: deviation from 1961–90 average¹
Degrees Celsius



¹ Data are smoothed to remove short-term variation from a time series to get a clearer view of the underlying changes.
Note: Central England is defined as the triangular area of the UK enclosed by Bristol, Lancashire and London
Source: Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research

More Information

- [Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs statistics](#)
- [Environment Agency facts and figures](#)
- [GLA Environment policy](#)

12. Transport

- The total distance travelled by people within Great Britain increased by 94 per cent between 1971 and 2006, to 812 billion passenger kilometres;
- The number of people licensed to drive a car in Great Britain increased by more than 14 million between 1975/76 and 2006 to just under 34 million, making the car the most popular form of transport;
- The proportion of households with regular use of two cars in Great Britain increased fourfold between 1971 and 2006, to 26 per cent;
- Despite increased awareness of more environmentally friendly behaviour, such as sharing lifts or making greater use of public transport, the most common use of the car by car drivers was for commuting (28 per cent of all trips by car) while leisure was the main reason for trips made by car passengers;
- In Q4 2006, 70 per cent of trips to work in England were made by car or van: Warrington ranked the highest, with 89 per cent of people commuting by car or van, compared with 47 per cent in Outer London and just 20 per cent in Inner London;
- The most commonly used transport for travel to work in Inner London was the London Underground or light rail, used by 26 per cent of commuters;
- Passenger numbers on local buses have decreased over the ten years since 1996/97 in most parts of Great Britain, yet passengers increased by 62 per cent from 1,230 million to 1,993 million in London (see Table 12.1);
- Journeys made on Great Britain's railway network (including underground and metro systems) rose by 173 million between 2005/06 and 2006/07 to 2.4 billion (see Figure 12.1);
- Journeys on light railways and trams more than doubled from around 80 million to 192 million between the mid-1990s and 2006/07.

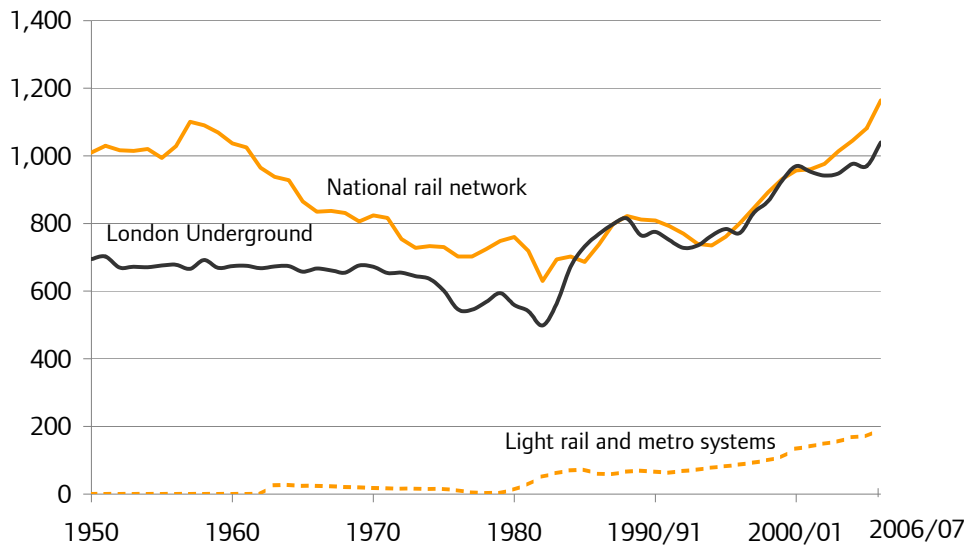
Table 12.1 Passengers on local buses: by area

	Millions		
	1996/97	2001/02	2006/07
England	3,844	3,881	4,371
North East	271	242	206
North West	587	516	498
Yorkshire and the Humber	431	387	376
East Midlands	215	212	210
West Midlands	462	455	402
East	162	178	183
London	1,230	1,422	1,993
South East	290	285	308
South West	196	185	195

Source: Department for Transport

Figure 12.1 Passenger railway¹ journeys in Great Britain

Millions



¹ Excludes railways operated principally as tourist attractions.

Source: Department for Transport

- According to the Civil Aviation Authority, in 2006 passenger traffic at the five main London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City Airport) grew by 2 per cent since 2005 to 137 million passengers and by more than 50 per cent since 1996;
- The casualty rate per 100 billion vehicle kilometres for people killed or seriously injured has fallen throughout all the regions of Great Britain between the period 1994 –1998 and 2006 (Table 12.2): the rate in London fell by 45 per cent.

Table 12.2 Killed or seriously injured casualty rate: by region in England

Rate per 100 billion vehicle kilometres

	1994–98 average	2006	Percentage change
England	10.8	6.3	-41.7
North East	8.4	5.7	-32.0
North West	10.8	6.5	-39.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	11.5	7.6	-34.4
East Midlands	11.4	6.2	-46.1
West Midlands	11.0	5.2	-53.0
East	10.2	5.9	-42.4
London	21.2	11.7	-44.7
South East	7.9	5.1	-36.0
South West	7.9	5.1	-35.5

Source: Department for Transport

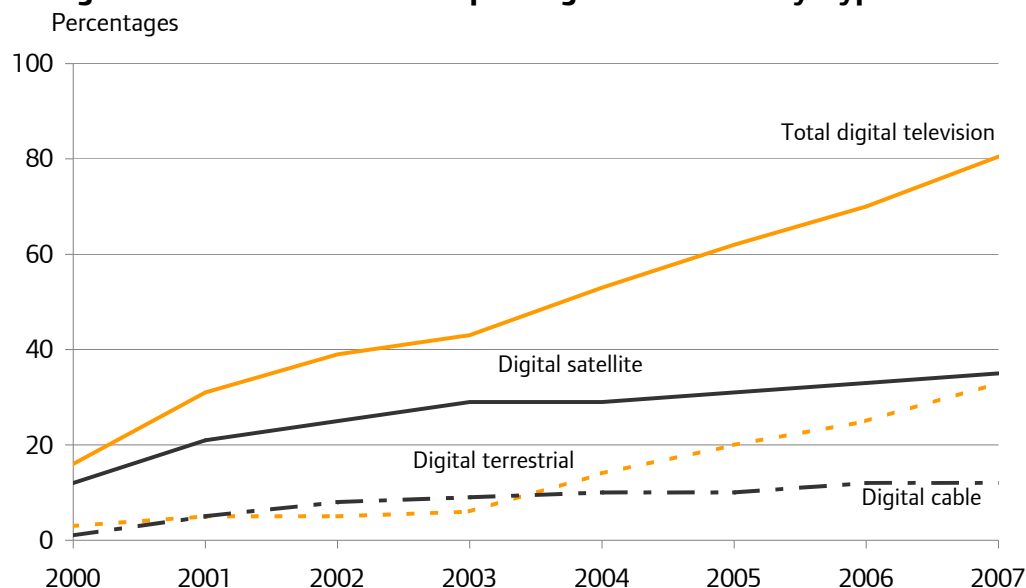
More Information

- [Department for Transport statistics](#)
- [GLA Transport policy](#) and [Transport for London Travel Reports](#)

13. Lifestyles and Social Participation

- Watching television is the most popular activity undertaken during free time in England;
- Spending time with family and friends is the second most popular way to spend free time with nearly half feeling that it was more important to do so;
- In 2005/06, 21 per cent of adults in England regularly took part in sport and active recreation, yet 31 per cent had not participated in sport in the previous 12 months;
- Rates of regular participation in sport and active recreation vary among local and unitary authorities with the highest rate in 2005/06 in the Isles of Scilly (32 per cent based on a sample size of less than 1,000 people) followed by Richmond-upon-Thames (30 per cent);
- The lowest participation rate of 14 per cent was in Boston in the East Midlands, closely followed by Newham, and Barking and Dagenham and Sandwell in the West Midlands, where participation was between 14 and 15 per cent;
- In the UK, 81 per cent of homes had a digital television service at the end of the first quarter in 2007, a rise of 65 percentage points since 2000 (Figure 13.1);
- Excluding the National Lottery draw, around 23 million people in Great Britain gambled in the 12 months prior to interview in 2006 and 2007, around 1 million more than in 1999;
- The average charitable donation made by each adult in the UK in 2006/07 in a four-week period was £16 and the total amount donated was £9.5 billion;
- More than one-half (53 per cent) of formal volunteers in England in 2006/07 became involved because they wanted to improve things or help people.

Figure 13.1 Household take up of digital television by: type of service¹ in the UK



¹ Data are at the end of the first quarter in each year.

Source: Ofcom

More information

- [Visit London](#)

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