



Country Report UK

2010

Research
Centre

Fact Sheet

- The UK's population increased by 3% from 2003 to 2008, with the East of England increasing almost 5% in comparison to the North West which grew little over 1%.
- Average weekly earnings range from £439 in the North East to £599 in London.
- Real estate, renting and business activities are the most important sector to the economy, producing 24% of total national output.
- Exports fell 9% to £225bn in 2009, 61% of total exports in 2009 were destined for Europe in comparison to 63% in 2008.

United Kingdom

The UK covers a total area of 242,495 sq km and its coastline stretches along nearly 12,500 km. Natural resources include coal, petroleum, natural gas and iron ore.

Population trends

The UK's population increased by 3% from 2003 to 2008. The fastest growing region was the East of England, which increased by just under 5%, whilst the North West experienced the slowest growth at just 1%. In 2008, the UK had a population of 61 million. The most populous region in the UK was the South East with 8.4 million residents, while Northern Ireland has the smallest population of just under 1.8 million. The UK has a population density of 253 people per sq km, with London being the most densely populated area with 4,847 people. Scotland has the lowest population density of just 66 people per sq km.

Age profiles

In the UK, almost 19% of the population is below the age of 16, while a further 19% of the nation is of pensionable age. This means that 62% of the population are of working age, while 6% of the nation is under 5 years old. The South West has the 'oldest' population, with nearly 23% of pensionable age and only 60% of the population of a working age.

In contrast, Northern Ireland has the 'youngest' population, with almost 22% of inhabitants aged under 16 and only 17% of a pensionable age.

Households

There are just over 25 million households across the UK, an increase of over 12% since the early 1990s. Since then the East of England has seen the largest rise in the number of households at almost 17% while the North East has seen the smallest gain in the number of households at under 6%. Seventy percent of UK households are owner occupied, while 10% are rented from local authority. Average weekly earnings were £489 in the period up to April 2009. While average weekly earnings in London were £599 during this period, earnings for the North East were 27% less at £439. Average weekly household spending amounted to £460 in the UK, the highest spending being in London at £545, while the North East spends the least at £386. The Department for Communities and Local Government estimates that the UK average house price was £200,307 at the end of 2009. The cheapest region was the North East, with an average of £140,551, whilst London was the most expensive, with an average of £316,695.

Contact

Shona Dobbie

Head of Research Centre

Alliance Trust PLC
8 West Marketgait, Dundee DD1 1QN

Tel +44 (0)1382 321000

Fax +44 (0)1382 321185

Email contact@alliancetrust.co.uk

Web www.alliancetrust.co.uk

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Income

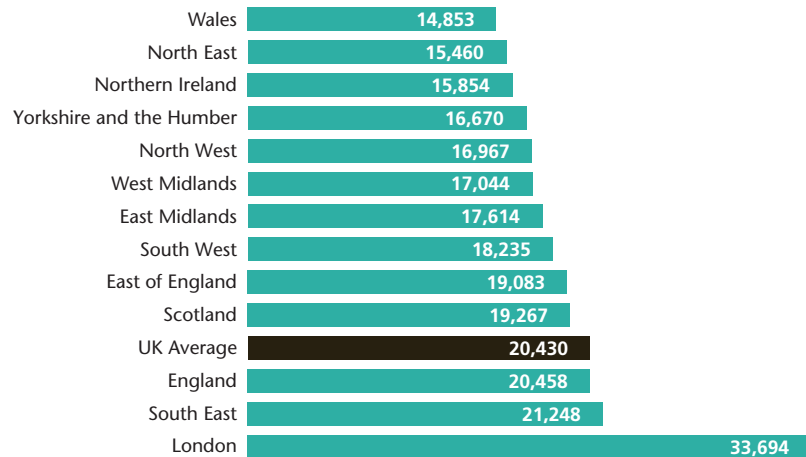
Regional output is commonly measured in terms of gross value added (GVA). Total GVA for the UK increased 6% in 2007 to £1,245.7bn. The smallest regional contributor to UK output was Northern Ireland. It produced output worth £27.9bn, equivalent to just 2% of national output. London produced output of £254.6bn, equivalent to 20% of the UK's total. National output has increased by 69% since 1997. Inner London East's output increased at the fastest national pace, rising by 104% over the same period.

Regional output can also be compared on a per head basis by dividing GVA by the region's total population. In 2007, the national average for GVA per head was £20,430. GVA per head ranges from £33,694 in London, to £14,853 in Wales. London's GVA per head has increased by 73% since 1997, the fastest of all regions. Wales reported the smallest increase, rising by just 49%. Over the last 10 years the largest increase in GVA per head was recorded in Inner London East, at 88%, but Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire achieved the slowest growth across the UK, at just 28%.

Major Industries

The largest contributor to the UK's output is real estate, renting and business activities, which produce 24% of total output. This is followed by manufacturing, which accounts for over 13%, and retail & wholesale, which accounts for a further 12%. These three industries produce almost half of the UK's total output. Financial intermediation

Regional output per head in 2007 (£)



accounts for 18% of London's output, signalling the importance of financial services to the region.

Exports

Exports from the UK amounted to £225bn in 2009. Machinery and transport exports accounted for 35% of foreign sales. Chemical goods, at 21% and miscellaneous manufactured goods, at 12%, were the other main export sectors. At present, 61% of the UK's exports go to Europe, 17% to North America and 12% to Asia.

Workforce

The national economic activity rate stands at 79%. This figure includes those in or actively seeking work. The region with the highest level of economic activity is the South East, at 82%, whilst Northern Ireland has the lowest, at 72%.

At the end of 2009, approximately 31 million people were employed within the UK. The service sector accounted for 82% of total employment. Within that, public administration, education and health jobs accounted for 27% of jobs while the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector employed a further 22% of people in work. Manufacturing and construction jobs account for 16% of jobs.

At the end of 2009, the UK had an unemployment rate of 7.8%. The North East suffered the highest level of unemployment in the country at 9.3%, while the lowest level of unemployment was in Northern Ireland, at just 6.0%. In the UK, just under 4% of people in employment have a second job. Almost 5% of women have a second job compared to 3% of men.

Sources: ONS Regional Trends 2010 Edition, ONS Labour Market Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Major Industries (% of output)

