

NORTH EAST

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FACTSHEET

31 March 2009

Introduction

Regional indicators pull together already published statistics to enable comparisons to be made between regions and with progress nationally. These data were published on 31st March 2009.

North East summary

In the North East the proportion of pensioners in low income households was amongst the lowest of the regions. A greater proportion of school trips were made by walking and cycling than in other regions. The region had the lowest number of rough sleepers and homeless households. The proportions of people fearing crime had seen the largest reductions of the regions. The proportions of rivers of good quality were amongst the highest of the regions.

The North East had the lowest rates of employment and economic output. The proportion of workless households and those experiencing fuel poverty are highest of any regions. Percentage of smokers was amongst the highest of the regions and life expectancy was amongst the lowest.

Progress summary

Green = indicators in the region showing clear improvement

Amber = indicators in the region showing little or no change

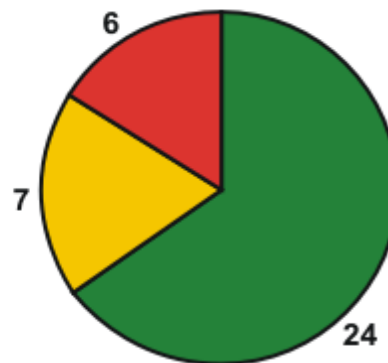
Red^{1,2} = indicators in the region showing clear deterioration

*Sustainable consumption & production
Natural resources (SCP & NR)*

Sustainable communities (SC)



Based on 8 assessments



Based on 37 assessments

¹ Clear deterioration (SCP & NR): household waste - arisings.

² Clear deterioration (SC): crime - violent; mobility - walking and cycling; getting to school; accessibility - shops/supermarkets, doctor/hospitals; fuel poverty

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Greenhouse gas emissions

- The North East emitted 33 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2006, less than any other region.
- However, this equated to 12.7 tonnes per resident; the highest rate of the regions.

Carbon dioxide emissions by end user

- Around 66 per cent (England average 44 per cent) of CO₂ emissions in the North East were from industry, commerce and public compared with approximately 20 per cent (England average 29 per cent) from domestic sources and 15 per cent (England average 26 per cent) from road transport.

Waste

Waste - arisings	
Waste - recycling	



- In 2004-5, around 11 million tonnes of waste (arising from construction and demolition, industry and commerce and the municipal sector which includes household waste) were produced in the North East; 6 per cent of the England total (the lowest regional contribution to England's total waste of any region).
- 44 per cent was produced by construction and demolition (48 per cent, England average) and 42 per cent came from industry and commerce (36 per cent, England average), whilst the remaining 14 per cent was municipal waste (16 per cent, England average).
- 48 per cent of the waste was disposed of by landfill (42 per cent, England average) and 47 per cent was recycled (53 per cent, England average).

Household waste

- On average, 495 kilograms of household waste were produced per person in the North East in 2007-8 (England average 495 kilograms); an increase of 6 per cent compared with 1998-9 (England overall increase 3 per cent).
- The North East had the second lowest recycling rate of the regions, with 28.4 per cent of household waste recycled (England average 34.5 per cent)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Bird populations


Farmland	
Woodland	

- Between 1994 and 2006, farmland bird populations increased by 7 per cent. There was a 9 per cent increase in woodland bird populations.
- During the same period, out of the 18 farmland bird species monitored in the region, 56 per cent increased, 28 per cent declined and 16 per cent remained stable.
- Out of the 32 species of woodland birds monitored in the region, 50 per cent increased, 34 per cent declined and 16 per cent remained stable.

Land use


- The North East has 397 thousand hectares of grassland and rough grazing (2007 figures), 151 thousand hectares of land for crops and bare fallow (2007), 103 thousand hectares of woodland (1995-9), 25 thousand hectares for set aside and other agricultural uses (2007) and 60 thousand hectares of urban and suburban land (2001).
- 13 per cent of the North East region is designated as National Park (2005), compared with an overall designation of 8 per cent across the England. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty account for 17 per cent of the region; higher than the overall coverage of 15 per cent for England. The North East has 138 kilometres of Defined Heritage Coast.

Land recycling

Land recycling - dwellings	
-----------------------------------	---

- In 2007 66 per cent of new dwellings were built on previously developed land; an increase of 14 percentage points since 1994.
- The land recycling rate in the North East remained below the average for England as a whole, but in 2006 was equal to England average.

Dwelling density



Dwelling density	
-------------------------	---

- Between 1994 and 2007 the density of new dwellings in the North East followed a similar pattern to the average for England as a whole.
- During this period dwelling density in the North East increased from 24 to 41 dwellings per hectare (71 per cent increase), slightly below the England average of 44 dwellings per hectare. Most of this increase can be attributed to the last 5 years.

Emissions of air pollutants

- In 2006 the North East emitted 62,500 tonnes of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 45,200 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and 7,300 tonnes of particulates (PM₁₀).
- This accounted for 4 per cent of the total England NO_x emissions, 8 per cent of the total SO₂ emissions, and 5 per cent of all PM₁₀s.


River quality

River quality – biological	
River quality - chemical	

- 80 per cent of the total river lengths in the North East were of good biological quality (England average 71 per cent) in 2006 and 82 per cent were of good chemical quality (England average 66 per cent).
- The North East is currently the best ranked region in terms of chemical water quality, and second best for biological water quality (behind the South West).
- The total river lengths classed as having good biological quality in the North East increased by 11 percentage points between 1990 and 2006, and river lengths classed as having good chemical quality increased by 12 per cent. Biological water showed a gradual improvement in the North East up to 2000 and has fluctuated around 80 per cent since. Chemical quality gradually increased to 85 per cent in 1999 and has fluctuated around 83 per cent of river lengths since.




SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Active community participation

Community participation – informal and formal volunteering	
---	---




- There was an increase in the proportion of informal volunteers between 2001 (31 per cent) and 2007-8 (37 per cent) in the North East (England average 35 per cent).
- Formal volunteering increased from 20 per cent to 26 per cent (England average 27 per cent).
- Overall, volunteering in the North East increased from 38 per cent to 47 per cent of the population (England average 48 per cent) between 2001 and 2007-8.

Crime (British Crime Survey)

Crime – burglaries (British crime survey)	
Crime – vehicles (British crime survey)	
Crime – physical attack (British crime survey)	

- British Crime Survey (BCS) figures showed there to be 346 burglaries (England and Wales average 309) , 548 motor vehicle thefts (England and Wales average 634) and 598 violent crime (England and Wales average 493) per 10,000 households in the North East in 2007-8.
- Whilst Burglary and motor vehicle theft figures are down by 44 and 39 per cent, violent crime has risen by 58 per cent since 2001-2.

Fear of crime

Fear of crime – burglary	
Fear of crime – theft of car	
Fear of crime – physical attack	

- In 2007-8, 10 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary; below the national average. 18 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary in 2001-2.
- 12 per cent of people in the region expressed a high level of worry about car crime in 2007-8, equal to the national average. 19 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about car crime in 2001-2.



- In 2007-8, 14 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime; below the national average. 25 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime in 2001-2.

Employment

Employment - proportion	
--------------------------------	---


- In the North East 71 per cent (England average 74 per cent) of all working age people in the region were employed in 2008, up from 65.9 per cent in 1992.
- 74 per cent of working age males (England average 78 per cent) and 67 per cent of working age females (England average 70 per cent) in the region were employed, increasing by 4 and 5 percentage points respectively. However the proportion for males decreased slightly in the recent year.

Workless households

Workless households – all people	
Workless households - children	



- In 2008 the North East had the highest proportion of working age people in workless households in 2008 (16.1 per cent, national average 11.4 per cent) and second highest proportion of children living in these households (19.5 per cent), national average 16.0 per cent.
- The proportion of working age people in workless households in the North East declined slightly by 0.9 per cent between 1997 and 2008, and the proportion of children living in workless households decreased by 3.9 percentage points.

Economically inactive

Economically inactive - proportion	
---	---

- In the October to December 2008 period the North East had the second highest regional economic inactivity for males (18.7 per cent, England average 15.7 per cent), second highest for females (28.4 per cent, England average 25.6 per cent), and the highest overall (23.3, England average 20.4 per cent).
- Male economic inactivity worsened slightly (by 0.1 percentage point) in the region between 1992 and 2008, whereas female inactivity improved (by 4.4 percentage points), and the overall proportion improved by 2.2 percentage points.

Childhood poverty

Childhood poverty – before housing costs	
Childhood poverty – after housing costs	



- Before taking housing costs into account, 28 per cent of children in the North East (England average 22 per cent) lived in relative low-income households in 2004/5-2006/7 (3 year average), rising to 33 per cent (England average 30 per cent) after accounting for housing costs.
- The percentage of children living in relative low-income households decreased in the North East between 1995/6-1997-8 and 2004/5-2006/7, by 5 percentage points before and after taking housing costs into account.

Young adults

Young adults currently not in employment, education or training	
---	---

- Almost 12 per cent of young adults (16 to 18 year-olds) in the North East were not in employment, education or training in the October to December 2008 period (England average 10.5 per cent).
- Overall, the proportion decreased by 5.2 percentage points between 1995 and 2008.

Pensioner poverty

Pensioner poverty – before housing costs	
Pensioner poverty – after housing costs	

- In the North East before taking housing costs into account, 20 per cent (England average 22 per cent) of pensioners lived in relative low income households in the region in the 2004/5-2006/7 (3 year average) period. This dropped to 17 per cent (England average 18 per cent) after accounting for housing costs.
- The proportion of pensioners living in relative low-income households decreased in the North East between 1995/6-1997/8 and 2004/5-2006/7, by 6 percentage points before taking housing costs into account and by 16 percentage points (the best regional improvement) after housing costs.


Education

19 year olds with level 2 qualifications	
---	---



- 73 per cent of 19 year-olds in the North East were qualified to Level 2 or above (e.g. five GCSEs at grades C or above, NVQ level 2 or equivalent) in Spring 2007, up from around 64 per cent in 2004.
- The increase of 8.9 percentage points represented the second largest regional increase between these years, whilst the national average increased by 7.5 per cent from 66.4 to 73.9 per cent.



Health inequality

Infant mortality	
-------------------------	---






- Infant mortality in the North East in 2007 was similar to the England average of 4.8, falling from 10.4 in 1981 to 4.7 in 2007 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Infant mortality in 2004-5 stood at 2.89 deaths (England average 3.3 deaths) per 1,000 live births for babies with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations, compared with 5.72 (England average 6.6 deaths) for routine occupations and 3.52 (England average 6.4 deaths) for semi-routine occupations.

Healthy life expectancy

Life expectancy – males	
Life expectancy - females	


- In 1999-2003, healthy life expectancy in the North East stood at 65.6 years for males and 69.2 years for females (England Average 69.0 years and 72.3 years respectively).
- The North East had the lowest male and female healthy life expectancy in comparison to any other region, although between 1992-5 and 1999-2003 healthy life expectancy increased by 0.8 years for males and 2.5 years for females.

Mortality rates

Mortality – circulatory disease	
Mortality – cancer	
Mortality – suicide	

- The mortality rate from circulatory disease in the North East was 93 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 79 per 100,000) in 2005-7), down by 45 per cent since 1996-8.
- The rate from cancer was 134 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 116 per 100,000), down by 18 per cent since 1996-8.
- The suicide rate in the region in 2005-7 was 8.7 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 7.9 per 100,000), down 15 per cent since 1996-8.
- Mortality rates for circulatory disease and cancer were higher in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas (deprived areas) than in non-NRF areas although suicide rates were lower.

Smoking



Smoking - proportion	
-----------------------------	---

- 22 per cent of people in the North East (England average 21 per cent) were considered to be cigarette smokers in 2007, down from 29 per cent in 1998.
- 29 per cent of males in the region smoked cigarettes (England average 24 per cent), as did 30 per cent of females (England average 22 per cent), in 2007.
- 35 percent of men and 33 percent of women in manual households in the region smoked cigarettes in 2003 compared with 25 per cent of men and 23 percent of women in non-manual households smoked cigarettes.

Childhood obesity

- 17.5 per cent (England average 16.5 per cent) of 2 to 15 year-olds in the North East were obese in 2007; up from 5 percent in 1990.

Mobility

Mobility – walking and cycling	
Mobility – public transport	




- The number of walking and cycling trips and public transport trips in the North East decreased between 1995-7 and 2005-6.
- Walking and cycling accounted for 24 per cent of all trips in the region, with private transport accounting for 63 per cent of journeys and public transport 13 per cent (2005-6 figures).
- The region had the second highest regional proportion of journeys made by public transport (behind London).
- The total distance travelled per person in the region in 2005-6 (6,140 miles) was lower than any other region except London.
- 21 per cent of the total mileage was on shopping and personal business, 28 per cent on commuting and business, 3 per cent on education (and escorting children to education), and the remaining 47 per cent on leisure and other pursuits.

Getting to school

Getting to school – proportion walking or cycling	
--	---



- In 2005-6, 57 per cent (England average 48 per cent) of pupils in the region walked or cycled to school, whilst 27 per cent (England average 31 per cent) used private motor vehicles and 17 per cent (England average 20 per cent) used public transport.
- Between 1995-7 and 2005-6 the proportion of pupils walking or cycling to school in the region decreased by 4.7 percentage points.

Accessibility

Accessibility – supermarkets / corner shop	
Accessibility – post office	
Accessibility – doctor / hospital	

- In 2007-8, 8 per cent of people in the North East with access to a vehicle perceived getting to a corner shop or supermarket difficult, compared with 27 per cent of people without a car.
- Accessing a post office in the North East was perceived to be difficult by 5 per cent of people with a vehicle and by 13 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- Accessing a doctor or hospital was perceived to be difficult by 18 per cent with a vehicle and by 48 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- In general, access to all amenities has worsened since 1997-8 in the North East.

Road accidents

Road accidents – all people	
Road accidents - children	

- In 2007, 1,109 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the North East (4 per cent of the England total).
- Of these there were 149 children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the region (6 per cent of the England total).
- Deaths and serious injuries decreased in the region between 1994-8 and 2007, by 31 per cent for all people and by 52 per cent for children.
- The road accident casualty rate in the region was 377 casualties per 100,000 population in 2007.

Environmental equality

- No people living in the least deprived areas in the North East experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'. Around 1.5 per cent of the population in the most deprived areas experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'.

Air quality and health


- One site was used for monitoring air pollution in the North East in 2008. The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution from this site in Newcastle Centre was 19 days (provisional figures), an increase for this site from the 2007 figure of 17 days.

- One site was used for monitoring particulates (PM₁₀) in the North East in which PM₁₀ levels increased from 2007 to 2008.
- Three sites were used for monitoring ozone in the North East in 2008 and ozone levels increased in one site, remained the same in one and decreased in one between 2007 and 2008.

Housing conditions



- 262,910 dwellings in the North East failed to meet the 'Decent Homes' standard in 2003. This represented 23 per cent of the region's stock of dwellings (England average 31 per cent)

Households living in fuel poverty

Fuel poverty - proportion	
----------------------------------	---


- 16.4 per cent (England average 11.5 per cent) of households in the North East lived in fuel poverty (based on income and heating costs) in 2006, up by 6.2 percentage points since 2001. The North East had the highest levels of fuel poverty level of fuel poverty in any region in 2006.

Homelessness

Rough sleepers	
Homeless households	

- It is estimated that there were 2 people sleeping rough in the North East in 2008, down from 14 in 1998.
- At the end of the third quarter of 2008 there were 380 households (down from 480 in 1997) in temporary accommodation in the region, 240 (63 per cent) of which contained children - fewer in absolute terms than any other region.


Local environment quality

Local environmental quality	
------------------------------------	---

- 28 per cent of assessed sites in the North East in 2007-8 were judged to be of good local environmental quality.
- An average number of sites in the region were judged as having poor local environment (4 per cent).

- In total, 55 per cent (England average 49 per cent) sites were judged to be of good or satisfactory local environmental quality in the region.

Satisfaction in local area

Satisfaction in local area	
----------------------------	---

- Householder satisfaction in the characteristics of the local area increased slightly from 85 per cent to 88 per cent, in the North East between 1999-00 and 2007-8 (England average 87 per cent).

UK international assistance

- The North East of England received £73.8 million in EU structural funding in 2007, down from £100 million received in 2000. Allocated EU funding for the North East of England in 2013 will rise to £83.1 million. England as a whole received £919.3 million in 2007, which will fall to £707.7 million in 2013.

Wellbeing

- The average life satisfaction rating in the North East in 2007 was 7.28, close to the national average of 7.31.
- A greater proportion than nationally rated their satisfaction with life as 10, and fewer gave a rating between 0 and 5.

Child wellbeing

- In 2008, 88 per cent of children in the North East said they felt quite or very safe at school, similar to when going to and from school. Compared to 71 per cent at local area and 74 per cent on public transport.
- 71 per cent of children thought their local area was fairly or very good. Less than half of children (45 per cent) thought the activities and things to do in their area were fairly or very good. Only 38 per cent thought the parks and play areas were fairly or very good.
- 84 per cent of children (87 per cent) rated themselves as quite or very healthy, whilst 72 per cent said they spent “3-5 days” or more “doing sports or other active things in the last seven days”.
- 70 per cent of children in the North East said they feel happy about life at the moment. 67 per cent said they can talk to their mums and dads when they are worried about something, compared to 72 per cent (to friends) and 53 per cent (to an adult other than their mums and dads).

CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

Economic output

- The North East had a Gross Value Added (GVA) level of £15,688 per head in 2007, lower than all other regions.
- GVA in the region increased by 131 per cent between 1989 and 2007.
- GVA in the region has gradually declined relative to the national average, and is currently around £4,775 lower than the overall England average.

Productivity

- Labour productivity in the North East was £32,400 Gross Value Added (GVA) per workforce job in 2005, up from £22,800 in 1996; an increase of £9,600.
- Productivity increased in all regions from 1996 to 2005. In the North East this increase (42 per cent) was slightly lower than the England average increase of 47 percent.

Investment

- As a percentage of regional Gross Value Added (GVA), the North East had a higher than average level of investment from foreign-owned companies in 2004, 3.1 percent compared to the England average of 1.4 per cent.
- Investment in the region from UK-owned companies (5.1 per cent) was lower than all other regions (excluding London and the West Midlands) and also lower than the England average of 5.9 per cent.
- In the period 1998 to 2004 investment in the North East from foreign-owned companies decreased by 0.1 percentage points, there was a 0.2 percentage point decrease for England as a whole.
- Investment from UK-owned companies declined by 5.3 percentage points between these years (the England average decreased by 3.2 percentage points).

Demography

- The population of the North East of 2.6 million (including 1.59 million people of working age) is the lowest in comparison with the other regions.
- Between 1991 and 2007, the total population of the North East decreased slightly from 2.59 million to 2.56 million, the only region to show a drop in total population.

- The working age population increased from 1.58 million (61.0 per cent of the population) to 2.56 million (62.0 per cent of the population).

Households and Dwellings

- In 2007 the North East contained 1.14 million dwellings (up from 1.07 million in 1991). In 2004 there were 1.09 million households (up from 1.05 million in 1991), and 347,000 one person households (up from 283,000).