

NORTH WEST

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 West summary

Farm land and Woodland bird populations in the North West increased by more than in other regions. Density and new dwellings on previously developed land was the second highest of the regions.

The North West had the highest level of household waste produced per person. Productivity (gross value added per workforce job) in the North West was amongst the lowest of the regions. Experience of burglary (as estimated from the British Crime Survey) was the highest of the regions. The North West had seen the largest increase in the proportion of local sites assessed to have unsatisfactory or poor local environment quality. The proportion of households perceiving difficulties in getting to a doctor or hospital without a car was amongst the highest of the regions.

Progress summary

Green = indicators in the region showing clear improvement

Amber = indicators in the region showing little or no change

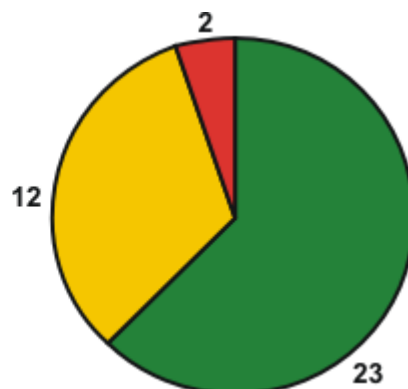
Red^{1,2} = indicators in the region showing clear deterioration

*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): accessibility - post offices and fuel poverty.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Greenhouse gas emissions

- The North West emitted 59 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2006, second only to the South East.
- This equated to 8.7 tonnes per resident, just above the average rate for England as a whole.

Carbon dioxide emissions by end user

- Around 45 per cent (England average 44 per cent) of CO₂ emissions in the North West were from industry, commercial and public, compared with approximately 29 per cent (England average 29 per cent) from domestic sources and 25 per cent (England average 26 per cent) from road transport. Land use land use change and forestry accounted was same as England average (1 per cent).

Waste

Waste - arisings	
Waste - recycling	



- In 2004-5, around 24 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 West; 13 per cent of the England total.
- 47 per cent was produced by construction and demolition (48 per cent, England average) and 35 per cent came from industry and commerce (36 per cent, England average), whilst the remaining 18 per cent was municipal waste (16 per cent, England average).
- 41 per cent of the waste was disposed of by landfill (42 per cent, England average) and 55 per cent was recycled (53 per cent, England average).

Household waste

- On average, 524 kilograms of household waste were produced per person in the North West in 2007-8 (England average 495 kilograms); an increase of 4 per cent compared with 1998-9 (England overall increase 3 per cent).
- The North West had the fifth highest recycling rate of the regions, with 33.4 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 8 per cent. There was a 32 per cent increase in woodland bird populations.
- During the same period, out of the 18 farmland bird species monitored in the region, 44 per cent increased, 28 per cent declined and 28 per cent remained stable.
- Out of the 29 species of woodland birds monitored in the region, 66 per cent increased, 21 per cent declined and 13 per cent remained stable.

Land use


- The North West has 770 thousand hectares of grassland and rough grazing (2007 figures), 113 thousand hectares of land for crops and bare fallow (2007), 96 thousand hectares of woodland (1995-9), 19 thousand hectares for set aside and other agricultural uses (2007) and 160 thousand hectares of urban and suburban land (2001).
- 18 per cent of the North West region is designed as National Park (2005), compared with an overall designation of 8 per cent across the England.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty account for 11 per cent of the region, below the national average of 15 per cent. The North West has only 6 kilometres of Defined Heritage Coasts.

Land recycling

Land recycling - dwellings	
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- In 2007 86 per cent of new dwellings were built on previously developed land; an increase of 29 percentage points since 1994.
- The land recycling rate in the North West has been consistently above the average for England as a whole, which in 2007 was 73 per cent of dwellings.

Dwelling density



Dwelling density	
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- Between 1994 and 2007 the density of new dwellings in the North West followed a similar pattern to the average for England as a whole.
- During this period dwelling density in the North West increased from 25 to 49 dwellings per hectare (96 per cent increase). Most of this increase can be attributed to the last 5 years, resulting in the average density being above England average of 44 dwellings per hectare.

Emissions of air pollutants

- In 2006 the North West emitted 136,200 tonnes of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 50,200 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and 12,000 tonnes of particulates (PM₁₀).
- This accounted for 10 per cent of the total England NO_x emissions, 8 per cent of the total SO₂ emissions, and 9 per cent of all PM₁₀s.


River quality

River quality – biological	
River quality - chemical	

- 56 per cent of the total river lengths in the North West were of good biological quality (England average 71 per cent) in 2006 and 63 per cent were of good chemical quality (England average 66 per cent).
- The North West was ranked eighth of the regions in terms of biological water quality, and sixth for chemical water quality.
- The total river lengths classed as having good biological quality in the North West increased by 12 percentage points between 1990 and 2006, and lengths with good chemical water quality increased by 22 percentage points.




SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Active community participation

Community participation – informal and formal volunteering	
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- There was an increase in the proportion of informal volunteers between 2001 (31 per cent) and 2007-8 (35 per cent) in the North West (England average 35 per cent).
- Formal volunteering increased from 26 per cent to 27 per cent (England average 27 per cent).
- Overall, volunteering in the North West increased from 44 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 – violent (British crime survey)	

- British Crime Survey (BCS) figures showed there to be 376 burglaries (England and Wales average 309), 738 motor vehicle thefts (England and Wales average 634) and 508 violent crime (England and Wales average 493) per 10,000 households in the North West in 2007-8.
- These figures are down by 36 per cent, 46 per cent and 27 per cent respectively since 2001-2.


Fear of crime

Fear of crime – burglary	
Fear of crime – theft of car	
Fear of crime – violent	

- In 2007-8 13 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary; above the national average. 16 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary in 2001-2.
- 14 per cent of people in the region expressed a high level of worry about car crime in 2007-8; above 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 17 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime; higher than 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	
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- In the North West 71.2 per cent (England average 74.4 per cent) of all working age people in the region were employed in 2008, up from 69.3 per cent in 1992.
- 73.7 per cent of working age males (England average 78.4 per cent) were employed in 2008 a decrease of 0.3 percentage points since 1992. 68.4 per cent of working age females (England average 70 per cent) in the region were employed increasing by 4 percentage points. However the proportion for females has fallen slightly since 2007.

Workless households

Workless households – all people	
Workless households - children	



- In 2008 the North West had the second highest proportion of working age people in workless households (13.8 per cent, national average 11.4 per cent) and fourth highest proportion of children living in these households (18.0 per cent), national average 16.0 per cent.
- The proportion of working age people in workless households in the North West decreased by 1.5 percentage points between 1997 and 2008, whilst the proportion of children living in workless households decreased by 5.1 percentage points over the same period.

Economically inactive

Economically inactive - proportion	
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- In the October to December 2008 period the North West had the highest regional economic inactivity (neither employed nor actively seeking work) for males (19.5 per cent, England average 15.7 per cent), fifth highest for females (26.5 per cent, England average 25.6 per cent), and second highest overall (22.8, England average 20.4 per cent).
- Male economic inactivity worsened (by 3.5 percentage points) in the region between 1992 and 2008 whereas female inactivity improved (by 4.2 percentage points), and the overall proportion improved by 0.3 percentage point.

Childhood poverty

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



- Before taking housing costs into account, 25 per cent of children in the North West (England average 22 per cent) lived in relative low-income households in 2004/5-2006/7 (3 year average), rising to 31 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 West 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	
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- 12 per cent of young adults (16 to 18 year-olds) in the North West were not in employment, education or training in the October to December 2008 period (England average 10.5 per cent).
- Since 1995 the percentage of young adults not in employment, education or training has increased slightly by 1.1 percentage points.

Pensioner poverty

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


- In the North West before taking housing costs into account, 24 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, dropping to 19 per cent (England average 18 per cent) after accounting for housing costs.
- The proportion of pensioners living in relative low-income households before housing costs showed little change between 1995/6-1997/8 and 2004/5-2006/7 and decreased by 9 percentage points after housing costs.

Education

19 year olds with level 2 qualifications	
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- 73 per cent of 19 year-olds in the North West 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 8.6 percentage points between these years was in comparison to the national average, a 7.5 percentage point increase from 66.4 to 73.9 per cent.

Health inequality

Infant mortality	
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- Infant mortality in the North West in 2007 was slightly higher than the England average of 4.8, falling from 11.3 in 1981 to 5.0 in 2007 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Infant mortality in 2004-5 stood at 3.32 deaths (England average 3.3 deaths) per 1,000 live births for babies with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations, compared with 7.3 (England average 6.6 deaths) for routine occupations and 6.27 (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 West stood at 66.4 years for males and 69.8 years for females (England Average 69.0 years and 72.3 years respectively).
- The North West had the second 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 2.8 years for males and 3.2 years for females.

Mortality rates

Mortality – circulatory disease	
Mortality – cancer	
Mortality – suicide	

- The mortality rate from circulatory disease in the North West was 96 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 130 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 9.3 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 7.9 per 100,000), down 14 per cent since 1996-8.
- Mortality rates for circulatory disease, cancer and suicide were higher in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas (deprived areas) than in non-NRF areas.

Smoking

Smoking - proportion	
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23 per cent of people in the North West (England average 21 per cent) were considered to be cigarette smokers in 2007, down from 31 per cent in 1998.



24 percent of males in the region smoked cigarettes (England average 24 per cent), as did 23 per cent of females (England average 22 per cent), in 2007.

34 percent of men and 36 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

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

Mobility

Mobility – walking and cycling	
Mobility – public transport	




- In 2005-6, walking and cycling accounted for 27 per cent of all trips in the region, with private transport accounting for 64 per cent of journeys and public transport 9 per cent. The proportion of walking and cycling has fallen by 2 percentage points since 1995-7, the proportion of public transport has remained the same.
- 20 per cent of the total mileage was on shopping and personal business, 29 per cent on commuting and business, 4 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	
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- In 2005-6, 48 per cent (England average 48 per cent) of pupils in the region walked or cycled to school, whilst 32 per cent (England average 31 per cent) used private motor vehicles and 20 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 1 percentage points.



Accessibility

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

- In 2007-8, 9 per cent of people in the North West with access to a vehicle perceived getting to a corner shop or supermarket difficult, compared with 23 per cent of people without a car.

- Accessing a post office in the North West was perceived to be difficult by 9 per cent of people with a vehicle and by 20 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- Accessing a doctor or hospital was perceived to be difficult by 24 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 West.

Road accidents

Road accidents – all people	
Road accidents - children	

- In 2007, 3,391 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the North West (13 per cent of the England total).
- Of these there were 450 children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the region (17 per cent of the England total).
- Deaths and serious injuries decreased in the region between 1994-8 and 2007, by 37 per cent for all people and by 54 per cent for children.
- The road accident casualty rate in the region was 459 casualties per 100,000 population in 2007.

Environmental equality

- No people living in the least deprived areas in the North West experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'. Around 13 per cent of the population in the most deprived areas experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'.

Air quality and health


- Nine sites were used for monitoring air pollution in the North West in 2008 (provisional figures). The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution in the region ranged from 4 days in Carlisle Roadside to 37 days in Preston (provisional figures). Of the eight sites for which comparison was possible, the number of days of moderate or higher air pollution increased between 2007 and 2008 in five sites in the region.
- Eight sites were used for monitoring particulates (PM₁₀) in the North West and PM₁₀ levels decreased between 2007 and 2008 in all of the seven sites for which this comparison was possible.

- Ten sites were used for monitoring ozone in the North West in 2008 and ozone levels increased between 2007 and 2008 in six of the nine sites in the region for which this comparison was possible.

Housing conditions



- 1,010,683 dwellings in the North West failed to meet the 'Decent Homes' standard in 2003. This represented 34 per cent of the region's stock of dwellings (England average 31 per cent).

Households living in fuel poverty

Fuel poverty - proportion	
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- 14.2 per cent (England average 11.5 per cent) of households in the North West lived in fuel poverty (based on income and heating costs) in 2006, up by 4.3 percentage points since 2001. The North East had the second highest level of fuel poverty in any region in 2006.

Homelessness

Rough sleepers	
Homeless households	

- It is estimated that there were 54 people sleeping rough in the North West in 2008, down from 181 in 1998.
- At the end of the third quarter of 2008 there were 1,710 households (up from 2,100 in 1997) in temporary accommodation in the region, 1,060 (62 per cent) of which contained children.

Local environment quality

Local environmental quality	
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- 25 per cent of assessed sites in the North West in 2007-8 were judged to be of good local environmental quality, the second lowest proportion of the regions.
- 7 per cent (England average 4 per cent) of sites in the region were judged as having a poor local environment.
- In total, 46 per cent (England average 49 per cent) of sites were judged to be of good or satisfactory local environmental quality in the region.

Satisfaction in local area

Satisfaction in local area	
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- Householder satisfaction in the characteristics of the local area increased slightly from 84 per cent to 85 per cent, in the North West between 1999-00 and 2007-8 (England average 87 per cent).

UK international assistance

- The North West of England received £237.9 million in EU structural funding in 2007, similar to the £239 million received in 2000. Allocated EU funding for the North West of England in 2013 will fall to £127.2 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 West in 2007 was 7.43, slightly above the national average of 7.31.
- There was little difference in the distribution of answers from 0 to 10 compared to nationally except that no-one gave a rating of 0 in the North West, the only region where this happened.

Child wellbeing

- In 2008, 89 per cent of children in the North West said they felt quite or very safe at school, similar to when going to and from school. Compared to 73 per cent at local area and on public transport.
- 74 per cent of children thought their local area was fairly or very good. Just under half of children (48 per cent) thought the activities and things to do in their area were fairly or very good. Only 42 per cent thought the parks and play areas were fairly or very good.
- 85 per cent of children rated themselves as quite or very healthy, whilst 70 per cent said they spent “3-5 days” or more “doing sports or other active things in the last seven days”.
- 71 per cent of children in the North West said they feel happy about life at the moment. 68 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 55 per cent (to an adult other than their mums and dads).

CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

Economic output

- The North West had a Gross Value Added (GVA - a measure of economic output) level of £17,433 per head in 2007.
- GVA in the region increased by 136 per cent between 1989 and 2007.
- GVA in the region has gradually increased relative to the national average, and is currently around £3,030 lower than the overall England rate.

Productivity

- Labour productivity in the North West was £31,500 Gross Value Added (GVA) per workforce job in 2005, up from £22,600 in 1996; an increase of £8,900.
- Productivity increased in all regions from 1996 to 2005. In the North West this increase (39 per cent) was the lowest of any region.

Investment

- As a percentage of regional Gross Value Added (GVA), the North West had a lower than average level of investment from foreign-owned companies in 2004; 1.2 per cent compared to the England average of 1.4 per cent.
- Investment in the region from UK-owned companies (7.3 per cent) was higher than all other regions (excluding London and the West Midlands) and also higher than the England average of 5.9 per cent.
- During the period 1998 to 2004 investment in the North West from foreign-owned companies increased by 0.2 percentage points, there was a 0.2 percentage point decrease for England as a whole.
- Investment from UK-owned companies declined by 3.2 percentage points between these years (same as England average).

Demography

- Between 1991 and 2007, the total population of the North West increased from 6.84 million to 6.86 million.

- The working age population increased from 4.15 million (60.6 per cent of the population) to 4.24 million (61.8 per cent of the population).

Households and Dwellings

- In 2007 the North West contained 3.05 million dwellings (up from 2.79 million in 1991). In 2004, there were 2.89 million households (up from 2.72 million) and 920,000 one person households (up from 742,000).