

WEST MIDLANDS

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.

West Midlands summary

The West Midlands recycled the highest proportion of total waste arising from construction and demolition, industrial and commercial and municipal waste. The region had the biggest increase of new dwellings built on previously developed land and experienced the largest reduction in road accidents.

The proportion of adults who smoked was amongst the highest of the regions. The West Midlands had the highest rate of infant mortality of the regions and the proportion of trips to school made by car was amongst the highest.

Progress summary

Green = indicators in the region showing clear improvement

Amber = indicators in the region showing little or no change

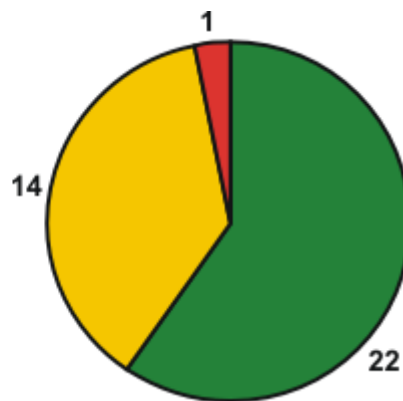
Red^{1,2} = indicators in the region showing clear deterioration

*Sustainable consumption & production
Natural resources (SCP)*

Sustainable communities (SC)



Based on 8 assessments



Based on 37 assessments

¹ Clear deterioration (SCP & NR): household waste – arisings, bird populations - farmland

² Clear deterioration (SC): accessibility – post office

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Greenhouse gas emissions

- The West Midlands emitted 45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2006; the fifth joint highest amount of the regions.
- This equated to 8.4 tonnes per resident; just below the average rate for England.

Carbon dioxide emissions by end user

- Around 41 per cent (England average 44 per cent) of CO₂ emissions in the West Midlands were from industry, commercial and public, compared with approximately 29 per cent (equal to England average) from domestic sources and 28 per cent (England average 26 per cent) from road transport. Land use land use change and forestry accounted for 1 per cent same as England average.

Waste

Waste - arisings	
Waste - recycling	



- In 2004-5, around 20 million tonnes of waste (arising from construction and demolition, industry and commerce and the municipal sector which includes household waste) were produced in the West Midlands in 2004-5; 11 per cent of the England total.
- 48 per cent was produced by construction and demolition and 36 per cent came from industry and commerce (equal to England average), whilst the remaining 15 per cent was municipal waste (16 per cent, England average).
- 34 per cent of the waste was disposed of by landfill (42 per cent, England average) and 59 per cent was recycled (53 per cent, England average).

Household waste

- On average, 495 kilograms of household waste were produced per person in the West Midlands in 2007-8 (England average 495 kilograms); an increase of 7 per cent compared with 1998-9 (England overall increase 3 per cent).
- The West Midlands had the fourth lowest recycling rate of the regions, with 33 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 decreased by 17 per cent. There was a 2 per cent decrease in woodland bird populations.
- During the same period, out of the 19 farmland bird species monitored in the region, 32 per cent increased, 63 per cent declined and 5 per cent remained stable.
- Out of the 32 species of woodland bird monitored in the region, 50 per cent increased, 31 per cent declined and 19 per cent remained stable.

Land use


- The West Midlands has 527 thousand hectares of grassland and rough grazing (2007 figures), 357 thousand hectares of land for crops and bare fallow (2007), 98 thousand hectares of woodland (1995-9), 47 thousand hectares for set aside and other agricultural uses (2007) and 129 thousand hectares of urban and suburban land (2001).
- 2 per cent of the West Midlands 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 10 per cent of the region, below the national average of 15 per cent.

Land recycling

Land recycling - dwellings	
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- In 2007 81 per cent of new dwellings were built on previously-developed land; an increase of 32 percentage points since 1994 – the biggest increase of the regions.
- The land recycling rate in the West Midlands has closely followed the average rate for England as a whole, but in 2007 was above the average for England of 73 per cent.

Dwelling density



Dwelling density	
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- Between 1994 and 2007 the density of new dwellings in the West Midlands followed a similar pattern to the average for England as a whole.
- During this period dwelling density in the West Midlands increased from 26 to 46 dwellings per hectare (77 per cent increase). Most of this increase can be attributed to the last 5 years.

Emissions of air pollutants

- In 2006 the West Midlands emitted 111,700 tonnes of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 38,400 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and 11,400 tonnes of particulates (PM₁₀).
- This accounted for 8 per cent of the total England NO_x emissions, 6 per cent of the total SO₂ emissions, and 8 per cent of all PM₁₀s.


River quality

River quality – biological	
River quality - chemical	

- 59 per cent of the total river lengths in the West Midlands were of good biological quality (England average 71 per cent) in 2006 and 64 per cent were of good chemical quality (England average 66 per cent).
- The West Midlands was ranked seventh of the regions in terms of biological water quality and fifth for chemical water quality.
- The total river lengths classed as having good biological quality in the West Midlands increased by 11 percentage points between 1990 and 2006, and lengths with good chemical water quality increased by 25 percentage points.




SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Active community participation

Community participation – informal and formal volunteering	
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- There was a slight decrease in the proportion of informal volunteers between 2001 (33 per cent) and 2007-8 (32 per cent) in the West Midlands (England average 35 per cent).
- Formal volunteering decreased from 28 per cent to 25 per cent (England average 27 per cent).
- Overall, volunteering in the West Midlands decreased from 47 per cent to 45 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 308 burglaries (England and Wales average 309), 611 motor vehicle thefts (England and Wales average 634) and 517 (England and Wales average 493) per 10,000 households in the West Midlands in 2007-8.
- These figures are down by 35 per cent, 52 per cent and 6 per cent respectively since 2001-2.


Fear of crime

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

- In 2007-8, 14 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary; this was higher than the national average. 18 per cent of people in the region were very worried about burglary in 2001-2.
- 15 per cent of people in the region expressed a high level of worry about car crime in 2007-8; this was higher than the national average. 21 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about car crime in 2001-2.



- In 2007-8, 19 per cent of people in the region had a high level of worry about violent crime; this was 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 West Midlands 71.9 per cent (England average 74.4 per cent) of all working age people in the region were employed in 2008, up from 69.6 per cent in 1992.
- 75.9 per cent of working age males (England average 78.4 per cent) and 67.4 per cent of working age females (England average 70 per cent) in the region were employed, overall increases of 0.4 and 4.3 percentage points. However, there has been a decrease in the proportion of males since 2005.

Workless households

Workless households – all people	
Workless households - children	

- In 2008 the West Midlands had the fourth highest proportion of working age people in workless households (13.1 per cent, national average 11.4 per cent) and third highest proportion of children living in these households (19.1 per cent, national average 16.0 per cent).
- The proportion of working age people in workless households in the West Midlands increased slightly by 0.6 percentage point between 1997 and 2008, whilst the proportion of children living in workless households increased by 1.4 percentage points over the same period.



Economically inactive

Economically inactive - proportion	
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- In the October to December 2008 period the West Midlands had the fourth highest regional economic inactivity (neither employed nor actively looking for work) for males (16.8 per cent, England average 15.7 per cent), third joint highest for females (27.9 per cent, England average 25.6 per cent), and fifth highest overall (22.1, England average 20.4 per cent).
- Male economic inactivity worsened (by 2.9 percentage points) in the region between 1992 and 2008 whereas female inactivity improved (by


2.5 percentage points), and the overall proportion remained about the same.

Childhood poverty

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



- Before taking housing costs into account, 26 per cent of children in the West Midlands (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 West Midlands between 1995/6-1997-8 and 2004/5-2006/7, by 3 percentage points before taking housing costs into account and by 1 percentage point after housing costs.

Young adults

Young adults currently not in employment, education or training	
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- 13 per cent of young adults (16 to 18 year-olds) in the West Midlands 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 1.7 percentage points.

Pensioner poverty

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


- In the West Midlands before taking housing costs into account, 22 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 18 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 decreased by 4 percentage points between 1995/6-1997/8 and 2004/5-2006/7 and by 10 percentage points after housing costs

Education

19 year olds with level 2 qualifications	
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- 72 per cent per cent of 19 year-olds in the West Midlands 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 63 per cent in 2004.
- The increase of 8.6 percentage points was above the national average increase of 7.5 percentage points from 66.4 to 73.9 per cent.

Health inequality

Infant mortality	
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- Infant mortality in the West Midlands in 2007 was the highest of any region despite falling from 11.7 in 1981 to 5.9 in 2007 deaths per 1,000 live births. This compared with the England average of 4.8 in 2007.
- Infant mortality in 2004-5 stood at 4.85 deaths (England average 3.3 deaths) per 1,000 live births for babies with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations, compared with 8.0 (England average 6.6 deaths) for routine occupations and 8.47 (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 West Midlands stood at 68.0 years for males and 71.3 years for females (England Average 69.0 years and 72.3 years respectively).
- The West Midlands had the fourth lowest male and female healthy life expectancy in comparison to any other region, and between 1992-5 and 1999-2003 healthy life expectancy increased by 2.0 years for males and 3.3 years for females.

Mortality rates

Mortality – circulatory disease	
Mortality – cancer	
Mortality – suicide	

- The mortality rate from circulatory disease in the West Midlands was 85 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 79 per 100,000) in 2005-7, down by 42 per cent since 1996-8.
- The rate from cancer was 119 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 116 per 100,000), down by 14 per cent since 1996-8.
- The suicide rate in the region in 2005-7 was 7.3 deaths per 100,000 people (England average 7.9 per 100,000), down 13 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 West Midlands (England average 21 per cent) were considered to be cigarette smokers in 2007, down from 29 per cent in 1998.
- 22 percent of males in the region smoked cigarettes (England average 24 per cent), as did 21 per cent of females (England average 22 per cent), in 2007.
- 31 percent of men and 27 percent of women in manual households in the region smoked cigarettes in 2003 compared with 20 per cent of men and 19 percent of women in non-manual households smoked cigarettes.

Childhood obesity

- 18.5 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. The West Midlands had the highest rate of obesity in any region.

Mobility

Mobility – walking and cycling	
Mobility – public transport	

- In 2005-6, walking and cycling accounted for 23 per cent of all trips in the region, with private transport accounting for 69 per cent of journeys and public transport 8 per cent. The proportion of walking and cycling

has fallen by 2 percentage points since 1995-7, the proportion of public transport has fallen by 1 percentage point.




- 20 per cent of the total mileage was on shopping and personal business, 27 per cent on commuting and business, 5 per cent on education (and escorting children to education), and the remaining 48 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 37 per cent (England average 31 per cent) used private motor vehicles and 16 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 increased by 2.8 percentage points.

Accessibility

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

- In 2007-8, 6 per cent of people in the West Midlands 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 West Midlands was perceived to be difficult by 7 per cent of people with a vehicle and by 18 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- Accessing a doctor or hospital was perceived to be difficult by 21 per cent with a vehicle and by 46 per cent of those without a vehicle.
- In general, access to all amenities has worsened since 1997-8 in the West Midlands.

Road accidents

Road accidents – all people	
Road accidents – children	

- In 2007, 2,610 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the West Midlands (10 per cent of the England total).

- Of these there were 326 children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the region (12 per cent of the England total).
- Deaths and serious injuries decreased in the region between 1994-8 and 2007, by 45 per cent for all people and by 54 per cent for children.
- The road accident casualty rate in the region was 455 casualties per 100,000 population in 2007.

Environmental equality

- No people living in the least deprived areas in the West Midlands experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'. Around 17 per cent of the population in the most deprived areas experience 3 or more environmental conditions that are 'least favourable'.


Air quality and health

- Four sites were used for monitoring air pollution in the West Midlands in 2008. The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution in the region ranged from 21 days in Stoke-on-Trent Centre to 39 days in Coventry Memorial Park and Birmingham Tyburn (provisional figures). The number of days of moderate or higher air pollution decreased between 2007 and 2008 in two of four sites in the region for which this comparison was possible.
- Four sites were used for monitoring particulates (PM₁₀) in the West Midlands in 2008 and PM₁₀ levels decreased between 2007 and 2008 in three of four sites in the region for which this comparison was possible.
- Seven sites were used for monitoring ozone in the West Midlands in 2008 and ozone levels increased between 2007 and 2008 in six of the seven sites for which a comparison was possible.

Housing conditions

- 725,219 dwellings in the West Midlands failed to meet the 'Decent Homes' standard in 2003. This represented 32 per cent of the region's dwellings (England average 31 per cent).



Households living in fuel poverty

Fuel poverty - proportion	
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- 13.7 per cent (England average 11.5 per cent) of households in the West Midlands lived in fuel poverty (based on income and heating costs) in 2006, up by 2.8 percentage points since 2001.

Homelessness

Rough sleepers	
Homeless households	


- It is estimated that there were 18 people rough in the West Midlands in 2008, down from 99 in 1998.
- At the end of the third quarter of 2008 there were 1,440 households (up from 1,070 in 1997) in temporary accommodation in the region, 1,130 (78 per cent) of which contained children.

Local environment quality

Local environmental quality	
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- 27 per cent of assessed sites in the West Midlands in 2007-8 were judged to be of good local environmental quality.
- 5 per cent (England average 4 per cent) of sites in the region were judged as having a poor local environment.
- In total, 51 per cent (England average 49) 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 has remained stable at around 85 per cent in the West Midlands between 1999-00 and 2007-8 (England average 87 per cent).

UK international assistance

- The West Midlands of England received £92.7 million in EU structural funding in 2007, down from £119 million received in 2000. Allocated EU funding for the West Midlands of England in 2013 will rise to £104.5 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 West Midlands in 2007 was 7.33, close to the national average of 7.31.
- Compared to nationally, there were only minor differences in the distribution of ratings from 0 to 10 given.

Child wellbeing

- In 2008, 89 per cent of children in the West Midlands said they felt quite or very safe at school, similar to when going to and from school. Compared to 74 per cent at local area and 67 per cent on public transport.
- 73 per cent of children thought their local area was fairly or very good. Less than half of children (47 per cent) thought the activities and things to do in their area were fairly or very good. Only 44 per cent thought the parks and play areas were fairly or very good.
- 86 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”.
- 70 per cent of children in the West Midlands said they feel happy about life at the moment. 66 per cent said they can talk to their mums and dads when they are worried about something compared to 71 per cent (to friends) and 54 per cent (to an adult other than their mums and dads).

CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

Economic output

- The West Midlands had a Gross Value Added (GVA - a measure of economic output) level of £17,161 per head in 2007.
- GVA in the region increased by 130 per cent between 1989 and 2007.
- GVA in the region has gradually declined relative to the national average, and is currently around £3,302 lower than the overall England average.

Productivity

- Labour productivity in the West Midlands was £32,000 Gross Value Added (GVA) per workforce job in 2005, up from £22,100 in 1996; an increase of £9,900.
- Productivity increased in all regions from 1996 to 2005. In the West Midlands this increase (45 per cent) was slightly lower than the England average of 47 per cent.

Investment

- 2003 and 2004 data were not available at the time of publication.
- As a percentage of regional Gross Value Added (GVA), foreign-based investment in the West Midlands was slightly lower than average in 2002; 1.3 per cent compared to the England average of 1.5.
- Investment in the region from UK-owned companies was similar to the average for England.
- In the period 1998 to 2002 investment in the West Midlands from foreign-owned companies decreased by 0.4 percentage points (the England average stayed fairly constant).
- Investment from UK-owned companies dropped by 2.3 per cent similar to the average for England between these years.

Demography

- Between 1991 and 2007, the total population of the West Midlands increased from 5.23 million to 5.38 million.
- The working age population increased from 3.2 million (61.3 per cent of the population) to 3.29 million (61.1 per cent of the population).

Households and Dwellings

- In 2007 the West Midlands contained 2.3 million dwellings (up from 2.08 million in 1991). In 2004, there were 2.2 million households (up from 2.05 million) and 656,000 one person households (up from 516,000).