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Food banks in the UK



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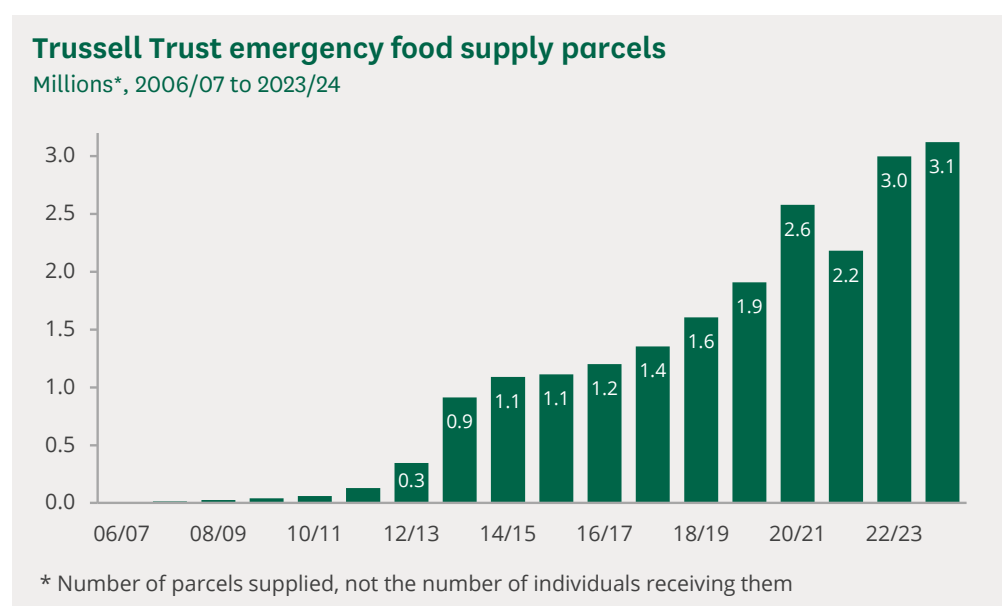
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Summary

The Trussell Trust, an anti-poverty charity that operates a network of food banks across the UK, reported a 37% increase in demand for food parcels between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and another 4% increase between 2022/23 and 2023/24. This continues a general trend of increasing need for food parcels.

How many food banks are there in the UK?

The Trussell Trust distributed parcels from 1,699 locations across the UK in 2023/24 and there are at least 1,172 additional independent food banks. The chart below shows the number of food parcels distributed by the Trussell Trust each year to 2023/24.



Source: [Trussell Trust End of Year Stats April 2023 – March 2024](#)

London was the region with the highest distribution of Trussell Trust food parcels in 2023/24, followed by the North West of England.

People using food banks

The DWP published food bank data for the first time in 2023. In its [Households below average income \(HBAI\) statistics](#), it reported that 3% of all individuals in the UK used a food bank in the previous 12 months in 2022/23.

In June 2023 the Trussell Trust published [a report on Hunger in the UK](#). The report examined the causes of hunger in the UK, its impact and what type of people use food banks. Some of the headline findings of the report are:

- Disabled people make up 26% of the UK population and 69% of people referred to Trussell Trust food banks.
- People who live in social housing make up 8% of the UK population and 46% of those referred to a food bank. Renters make up 22% of the UK population and 68% of those referred to food banks.
- 89% of people referred to Trussell Trust food banks receive means tested benefits.

The rising cost of living means more demand for food banks

The [Independent Food Aid Network surveyed its food banks in March 2024](#) and nearly 75% of respondents said they experienced increased demand in November 2023 to January 2024 compared to the same period a year before. 98% of them supported people seeking help for the first time.

[Citizen's Advice helped 19,810 people with food bank](#) referrals in April 2024, up from 15,675 April 2023 and 13,208 in April 2022. Food bank referrals peaked in January 2024, when Citizen's Advice helped 22,452 people.

The rising cost of living means a fall in food donations. In November 2023 to January 2024, [65% of IFAN organisations reported a drop in food donations](#) and 45% reported a drop in financial donations compared with the same period a year before. The [Trussell Trust also reported that some of its food banks were seeing decreased donations](#) in 2023/24. Overall, donations of food to the Trussell Trust in 2023/24 remained at similar levels to the previous year, but since demand has increased, they had to purchase more food than ever before.

1 Where does food bank data come from?

Food banks are run by volunteers, churches and charities and there is no comprehensive dataset on UK food banks. Data in this briefing comes from the Trussell Trust, the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) as well as the Department for Work and Pensions.¹

1.1 DWP data on food bank use

The DWP started publishing data on food bank use in 2023 in its [Households Below Average Income \(HBAI\)](#) publication.

The food bank statistics show the number and percentage of people living in households where a food bank has been used within the last 30 days or the last 12 months.

1.2 Data from food bank charities

The Trussell Trust is a charity that operates a network of food banks across the UK while campaigning for the end of their necessity. Trussell Trust distribution centres provide food parcels to people referred to them by professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and Citizens Advice.

The Trussell Trust gathers its administrative data from the referrals required to access its support. The Trussell Trust runs over half of the UK's food banks and has an archive of published data. However, as independent food banks operate across the UK this data should be considered incomplete.

The [Independent Food Aid Network](#) represents food banks outside the Trussell Trust network and provides data on the number of independent food banks in the UK, but not the amount of food provided.

Food bank statistics should not be used as a proxy for poverty. The comprehensiveness and accuracy of food bank data and the number of food banks in existence will affect figures regardless of any changes or stability in

¹ The Government does not maintain statistics on the number of food banks – see PQ 182823 [[on Food Banks](#)], 26 April 2023

poverty levels. The Library briefing [Poverty in the UK: statistics](#) provides information and data on UK poverty.

1 Government food insecurity statistics

The UK Government has included data on food insecurity its Household Below Average Income data since 2021.² It uses questions taken from the [US Department of Agriculture's survey](#) to identify households in low and very low food security.³

‘Low food security’ means that the household reduces the quality, variety, and desirability of their diets. ‘Very low food security’ means that household members sometimes disrupt eating patterns or reduce food intake because they lack money or other resources for food.

In 2022/23, 7.2 million people, or 11% of the UK population, were in food insecure households (both low and very low food security). This included 17% of children, 11% of working-age adults, and 3% of pensioners.⁴

The Library Insight [Who is experiencing food insecurity in the UK?](#) presents the latest household food insecurity statistics.

² DWP, [Households Below Average Income](#), 2022/23

³ [New poverty statistics developed to help government target support](#), DWP, 17 May 2019

⁴ DWP, [Households Below Average Income](#), 2022/23, Tables 9.1, 9.3, 9.5 and 9.7

2

How many food banks are there in the UK?

The Trussell Trust distributed parcels from 1,699 locations across the UK in the financial year 2023/24.⁵

The [Independent Food Aid Network \(IFAN\)](#) is the UK network for non-Trussell Trust food aid providers. [IFAN has mapped independent food banks](#) that operate outside of the Trussell Trusts. There are at least 1,172 independent food banks in the UK today.

Added to the Trussell Trust's 1,699 this makes over 2,871 food banks in total.⁶

This figure does not include those operating from schools: a National Governance Association report in 2022 found that 21% of respondents' schools provided food banks, compared with 8.2% in 2019.⁷

2 History of food banks

Food banks were first introduced in the USA in the 1960s⁸ and now exist in many wealthy countries.⁹

The [Trussell Trust](#) opened its first UK food bank in 2000 and operates over half of food banks in the country. IFAN represents food banks outside the Trussell Trust and since 2020 has been collecting data from them across the UK. Both the number of food banks and the quantity of emergency food parcels they distribute has increased over time, except for a partial drop after the Covid-19 pandemic subsided.

⁵ Trussell Trust, [End of year stats 2022-23 Factsheet UK](#)

⁶ [IFAN on Trussell Trust and independent food bank numbers](#)

⁷ The [National Governance Association Report](#) of September 2022, noted an increase in the number of governors reporting that their school has a food bank.

⁸ Where they are called 'food pantries'

⁹ See *Food Bank Nations: poverty, corporate charity and the right to food* by Grahame Riches, Routledge, 2018, p42 for an international comparison table.

3 Statistics on food bank use

3.1 DWP data on food bank use

The DWP's Households Below Average Income publication shows that in 2022/23, 3% of people in the UK used a food bank in the previous 12 months, including 6% of children.¹⁰

Percentage of people using food banks UK, 2022/23			
	Used a food bank in the last 12 months	Used a food bank in the last 30 days	
All people	3%	2%	
Children	6%	2%	
Working-age adults	3%	1%	
Pensioners	1%	low	

Source: DWP, [Households below average income \(HBAI\) statistics](#), Tables 9.1, 9.3, 9.5 and 9.7

3.2 Trussell Trust data on food parcels

The Trussell Trust measures the food it gives out in volume rather than the number of people using food banks. It provides food as 'three-day emergency food parcels'.

A Trussell Trust food parcel typically consists of tinned and dried goods selected across food groups to provide healthy balanced meals,¹¹ following nutritionists' guidelines.¹² These have expanded to include perishable items since the Trussell Trust partnered with Asda and FareShare in February 2018.¹³

¹⁰ DWP, [Households below average income \(HBAI\) statistics](#), Tables 9.1 and 9.3

¹¹ [What's in a Food Parcel?](#) Trussell Trust website

¹² [A Nutritional Analysis of the Trussell Trust Emergency Food Parcel](#), Dr Darren Hughes and Edwina Prayogo, UCL, April 2018

¹³ [What's in a Trussell Trust foodbank parcel and why?](#) Trussell Trust, 8 June 2018, [Asda, the Trussell Trust and FareShare launch £20 million partnership to help a million people out of food poverty](#), Trussell Trust, 8 February 2018

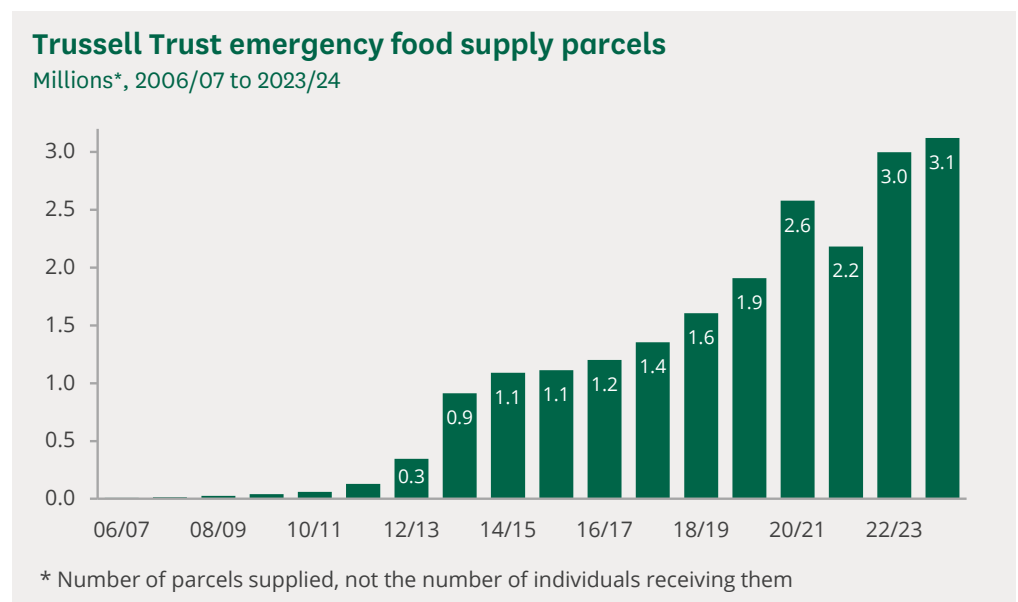
The [Trussell Trust publishes statistics](#) twice a year on its website.

In 2023/24 the Trussell Trust supplied 3.12 million emergency food parcels, the highest number of parcels distributed by the network in a year and nearly double the number supplied five years before in 2018/19 (a 94% increase).¹⁴

The chart below shows that the number of emergency food parcels has been increasing since 2006/07. There was a spike in 2020/21 during coronavirus lockdowns, followed by a decrease when the economy opened up in 2021/22. In 2022/23 and 2023/24 there have been record high numbers of parcels distributed, which the Trussell Trust says is due to the rising cost of living.

In 2023/24, 1.14 million emergency food parcels went to children.¹⁵

Note this data does not include all food parcels distributed in the UK because of the large number of independent food banks that are not part of the Trussell Trust network.



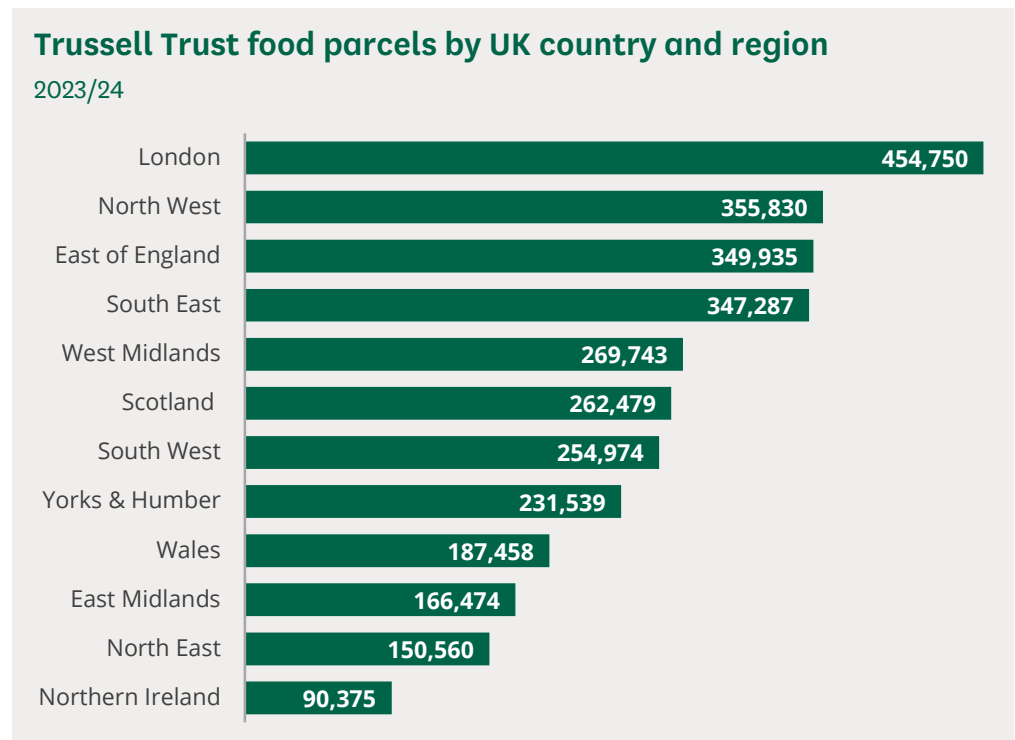
Source: [Trussell Trust End of Year Stats April 2023 – March 2024](#)

Food bank use in UK countries and regions

The distribution of Trussell Trust food parcels varies around the country. The chart below shows the figures across the UK regions and countries for the financial year 2023/24.

¹⁴ Trussell Trust, [End of year stats](#)

¹⁵ Trussell Trust, [End of year stats](#)



Source: [Trussell Trust End of Year Stats April 2023 – March 2024](#)

Around 60% of food banks are run by the Trussell Trust. There are some areas where the Trussell Trust does not operate, but where independent food banks may distribute food parcels.

Compared to the same period last year the regions with the largest increase in parcels distributed were London (17%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (15%).¹⁶

3.3 Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) data

In March 2024, an IFAN survey of independent food banks found nearly three quarters of the contributing organisations reported an increased demand in November 2023 to January 2024, compared to the same period a year before.¹⁷

¹⁶ Trussell Trust, [End of year stats 2023-24, UK factsheet](#)

¹⁷ [Independent Food Aid Network data, March 2024](#) (accessed 28 May 2024)

4 Characteristics of food bank users

4.1 Reasons for food bank referrals

The Trussell Trust records the reasons people are referred to a Trussell Trust food bank. In 2023/24, the top reasons for being referred were:

- income or debt (71%)
- health (22%)
- issues with benefits (18%)
- change in work hours or unemployment (8%)
- insecure housing (7%)
- change in personal circumstances (5%)
- immigration status (5%)
- domestic abuse (2%).¹⁸

4.2 Personal characteristics of food banks users

The Trussell Trust's [Hunger in the UK report](#) in 2023 found that some groups of people in the UK are more likely to use food aid. In 2022/23:

- Disabled people made up 26% of the UK population and 69% of people referred to Trussell Trust food banks.
- People who live in households with children made up 29% of the UK population and 39% of those referred to food banks.
- Asylum seekers made up 0.5% of the population and 5% of people referred to food banks.

¹⁸ Trussell Trust, [End of year stats 2023-24, UK factsheet](#). The Trussell Trust provided a multiple choice questionnaire to referral partners, who could select up to four responses. Data has been recoded to combine categories.

- People who have been in care as a child made up 3% of the UK population, but they represent 16% of people referred to food banks.

Food insecurity and housing

[Hunger in the UK](#) reports that food insecurity and food bank use is linked to rented housing and homelessness. In 2022/23:

- People who live in social housing made up 8% of the UK population and 46% of those referred to a food bank.
- Renters made up 22% of the UK population and 68% of those referred to food banks.
- People who are homeless or who were homeless in the last 12 months made up 4% of the UK population and 34% of those referred to a food bank.
- People from ethnic minority groups referred to food banks were more likely than people from White ethnic groups (45% compared with 32%) to be homeless or have experienced homelessness.
- Men referred to food banks were more likely to be homeless or have experienced homelessness than women (37% compared with 30%).

Universal Credit and food bank use

In 2019, the Trussell Trust published a report on the links between Universal Credit and food bank use. The five-week initial wait for the first payment especially “has led to acute financial hardship, and damaged households’ longer-term financial resilience”.¹⁹

The 2023 Trussell Trust publication [Hunger in the UK](#) reported that the waiting time for the first payment of Universal Credit was still five weeks. It found that 70% of people referred to food banks were in receipt of Universal Credit. The report also said 58% of people in receipt of Universal Credit in the UK had experienced food insecurity in the past year.²⁰

Universal Credit and insufficient income

The Hunger in the UK report found that insufficient income is the main driver for most people needing to use a food bank. It states that three main factors prevent people from having enough money to avoid food insecurity:

- The design and delivery of the social security system is seen as the most significant cause of financial security.

¹⁹ Trussell Trust, [Universal Credit and Food Banks](#)

²⁰ Trussell Trust, [Hunger in the UK](#), June 2023, p44

- Work that doesn't provide sufficient protection from financial insecurity.
- Difficulty accessing suitable jobs. This is especially the case for disabled people and those with caring responsibilities.

Food insecurity and food bank use

Food bank use does not represent the full scale of the need across the country as more than two thirds of those experiencing food insecurity have not accessed food aid.²¹

Barriers to accessing food aid

Some groups are underrepresented in the Trussell Trust food bank network. People from ethnic minority groups and those who are LGBTQ+ are more likely than average to experience food insecurity but less likely to be referred to the Trussell Trust food banks. For example, 11% of the UK population are from ethnic minority groups, with 19% experiencing food insecurity and 26% of people using food aid. But this is not reflected in the people referred to Trussell Trust Food banks: people from a minority ethnic group make up 12% of those referred to a Trussell Trust food bank in 2022/23.

There could be several reasons for this disparity. It could be due to the structural inequalities which affect the number of people being referred: studies have shown that those from ethnic minority backgrounds can face barriers in accessing food banks.²² People from ethnic minority groups could be accessing food from other sources, such as food banks run by religious institutions.²³

More than one in four (27%) in the LGBT+ community experience food insecurity, compared to 13% of the general population. However, this overrepresentation is not reflected among people referred to the Trussell Trust.²⁴

²¹ Trussell Trust, [Hunger in the UK](#), June 2023. Food insecurity, as defined by the Trussell Trust, includes running out of food and not being able to afford more, having a reduced meal size, eating less, and going hungry.

²² Insights, [Improving support for black and minority \(BME\) carers](#).

²³ Trussell Trust, [Hunger in the UK](#), June 2023, p39

²⁴ Trussell Trust, [Hunger in the UK](#), June 2023, p33

5 Food banks and the rising cost of living

The rising cost of living in 2022, 2023 and 2024 has led to more people using food banks. Further information on the cost of living can be found in the Library briefing [Rising cost of living in the UK](#).²⁵

5.1 Demand continued to increase in 2023/2024

The Trussell Trust reported a 37% increase in demand for food parcels between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and another 4% increase between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Citizen's Advice helped 19,810 people with food bank referrals in April 2024, up from 15,675 April 2023 and 13,208 in April 2022. Food bank referrals peaked in January 2024, when Citizen's Advice helped 22,452 people.²⁶

The Independent Food Aid Network surveyed its food banks in March 2024 and nearly 75% of respondents said they saw an increased need in November 2023 to January 2024 compared to the same period a year before.²⁷

Research from the Trussell Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2023 found that the £85 weekly Universal Credit standard allowance is £35 less than the weekly cost of common essential items for a single person.²⁸

More people are using food banks for the first time

The rising cost of living has meant people are using food banks for the first time. The Trussell Trust found that 760,000 people in 2022/23 and over 655,000 people in 2023/24 used a food bank for the first time.²⁹ 98% of IFAN food banks supported people seeking help for the first time in November 2023 to January 2024.³⁰

²⁵ [Rising cost of living in the UK](#), House of Commons Library Briefing Paper 9428

²⁶ Citizens Advice, Cost of living dashboard, [Key COL trends from our data](#), Slide 6 (accessed 24 May 2024)

²⁷ Independent Food Aid Network, [IFAN Data March 2024](#)

²⁸ Trussell Trust, [Giant interactive till roll highlights imbalance between essential living costs and Universal Credit](#), 4 April 2023

²⁹ Trussell Trust, [End of year statistics](#)

³⁰ Independent Food Aid Network, [IFAN Data March 2024](#)

A 2023 survey by NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, reported that [just under 2% of respondents used a food bank in the last 12 months](#).³¹ NHS Charities Together found that in January 2023 21% of NHS charities had an active food bank for NHS staff or are implementing one.³² The Higher Education Policy Institute reported in September 2023 that 27% of universities in the UK have a food bank.³³

A fall in donations

65% of IFAN organisations reported a drop in food donations and 45% reported a drop in financial donations in November 2023 to January 2024 compared to the same period a year before.³⁴ The Trussell Trust reported that some of its food banks were seeing decreased donations in 2023/24. Overall, donations of food to the Trussell Trust in 2023/24 remained at similar levels to the previous year, but since demand has increased, they had to purchase more food than ever before.³⁵

Government intervention

Since early 2022, the government has announced several measures to help households with the cost of living. For further details on government support, please see section 6 in the Library briefing [Rising cost of living in the UK](#).

Calls for more Government intervention

In February 2023 the Trussell Trust launched a Guarantee our Essentials campaign with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), calling on the government to “enshrine in law the amount people need” so that the basic rate of Universal Credit will cover the essentials.³⁶ They submitted a petition signed by around 150,000 people in February 2024.³⁷

In May 2023, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that food banks were increasingly “taking over from the welfare state”, as charities were becoming the “last line of defence against destitution”.³⁸ A letter to the Observer in March 2023 signed by academics and charities said that a “growing reliance”

³¹ [Seven in 10 teachers in England thought of leaving in past year, poll shows](#), The Guardian, 15 April 2022

³² NHS Charities Together, [NHS charities support food banks for the health workforce](#), January 2023

³³ Higher Education Policy Institute, [New report finds more than a quarter of universities have a food bank and one-in-ten distributes food vouchers](#), 14 September 2023

³⁴ Independent Food Aid Network, [IFAN Data March 2024](#)

³⁵ Trussell Trust, [End of year statistics](#)

³⁶ Trussell Trust, [New campaign calls on UK government to guarantee essentials](#), 27 February 2023

³⁷ Trussell Trust, [More than 150,000 people join our call for an essentials guarantee](#), 28 February 2024

³⁸ [When Amazon and Tesco join a 'coalition of compassion', you know the welfare state is failing](#), Gordon Brown, Observer, 7 May 2023

on food banks risks discouraging state policies to deal with food insecurity and poverty.³⁹

³⁹ [“Expanding food banks is no substitute for tackling poverty, charities warn”](#), Guardian, 26 March 2023

6 Food banks in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

6.1 Food banks and parcels in Scotland

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 the Trussell Trust distributed around 262,500 emergency food parcels in Scotland, including 86,000 for children. This was a similar level to 2022/23, which saw the highest number of food parcels that the network in Scotland has ever distributed in one financial year.⁴⁰

Hunger in Scotland

[Hunger in Scotland was published in June 2023 by the Trussell Trust](#). Like the report into food insecurity in the UK it examines the scale of hunger in Scotland, the drivers of that hunger and those at greatest risk of it. More than two thirds of people experiencing food insecurity in Scotland have not received food aid. Food bank use therefore does not reflect the entirety of need in the country.

Profile of those seeking food aid in Scotland

Some groups are overrepresented among those seeking support at food banks. In 2022/23:

- In Scotland, disabled people made up 31% of all people and 73% of people referred to a food bank.
- People in households with children made up 23% of the Scottish population and 35% of people referred to food banks.
- People who are homeless or have been homeless in the last 12 months made up 8% of the Scottish population and 26% of people referred to food banks.
- People living in social housing made up 12% of people living in Scotland and 61% of those referred to food banks. This figure is higher than that for the UK (46%).

⁴⁰ Trussell Trust, [Emergency food parcel distribution in Scotland: April 2023–March 2024](#) (PDF), May 2024

- People who were in care as a child made up 1% of the Scottish population and 20% of people referred to food banks.

6.2 Food banks in Wales

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, the Trussell Trust distributed around 187,500 emergency food parcels in Wales, including around 68,600 for children. This represented the most parcels that the network in Wales has ever distributed in a financial year.⁴¹

Hunger in Wales

[Hunger in Wales was published in June 2023 by the Trussell Trust](#). Like the report into food insecurity in the UK it examines the scale of hunger in Wales, the drivers of that hunger and those at greatest risk of it. Like in Scotland and Northern Ireland, more than two thirds of people experiencing food insecurity in Wales have not received food aid. Food bank use therefore does not reflect the entirety of need in the country.

Profile of those seeking food aid in Wales

Some groups are overrepresented among those seeking support at food banks. In 2022/23:

- Disabled people made up 33% of the Welsh population and 73% of those referred to a Trussell Trust food bank.
- People in households with children made up 27% of the Welsh population and 39% of those referred to food banks.
- People who are homeless or were homeless in the last 12 months made up 3% of the Welsh population and 34% of people referred to food banks.
- Across Wales 7% of people lived in social housing, but 49% of those referred to food banks lived in social housing.
- People who were in care as a child made up 4% of the Welsh population and 15% of those referred to food banks.⁴²

⁴¹ Trussell Trust, [Emergency food parcel distribution in Wales: April 2023 – March 2024](#) (PDF), May 2024

⁴² Trussell Trust, [Hunger in Wales](#), June 2023

6.3

Food banks in Northern Ireland

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, the Trussell Trust distributed around 90,400 emergency food parcels in Northern Ireland, including over 38,000 parcels for children. This was the most parcels that the network in Northern Ireland has ever distributed in a financial year and was 11% higher than 2022/23 levels.

The [first Northern Ireland Trussell Trust food bank](#) opened in 2012 in Newtownards.⁴³ In 2023/24, The Trussell Trust had 51 food banks in Northern Ireland.⁴⁴

Hunger in Northern Ireland

[Hunger in Northern Ireland was published in June 2023 by the Trussell Trust.](#) The report describes an increasing need for food banks in the previous five years, stating that between 2017/18 and 2022/23 the number of parcels distributed in the Trussell Trust network increased by 141% in Northern Ireland, compared to an increase of 120% in the UK.

Hunger in Northern Ireland examines the scale and drivers of hunger and food bank use in the country and looks at the profile and characteristics of those experiencing such insecurity. As in Scotland and Wales, more than two thirds of people experiencing food insecurity in Northern Ireland have not received food aid. Food bank use therefore does not reflect the entirety of need in the country.

Profile of those seeking food aid in Northern Ireland

Some groups are overrepresented among those seeking support at food banks. In 2022/23:

- Disabled people made up 30% of the Northern Ireland population and 61% of people referred to Trussell Trust food banks.
- People in households with children made up 34% of the Northern Ireland population and 48% of those referred to food banks.
- People who are homeless or were homeless in the last 12 months made up 1% of the Northern Ireland population and 26% of those referred to food banks.

⁴³ Trussell Trust, [Four Ways to end the need for emergency food in Northern Ireland](#), 21 April 2022

⁴⁴ Trussell Trust, [Emergency food parcel distribution in Northern Ireland: April 2023–March 2024](#) (PDF), May 2024

- Social renters made up 4% of the Northern Ireland population and 42% of those referred to food banks.⁴⁵

For more details on each of the three countries, see the Trussell Trust report, [Hunger in the UK](#).

⁴⁵ Trussell Trust, [Hunger in Northern Ireland](#), June 2023

7

Other food aid provision

Food aid is not restricted to food banks. The Independent Food Aid Network estimates there are at least another 3,500 independent food aid providers working beyond the food bank model across the UK.⁴⁶ These include social supermarkets, soup kitchens, community food projects and school holiday meal providers.

The following list is not exhaustive but describes some other forms of food aid.

7.1

Meal providers

- [FareShare](#) distributes surplus food to food aid organisations as well as other types of charities. It was founded in 1994, becoming an independent charity in 2004. In 2021/22 FareShare redistributed just under 54,000 tonnes of food, the equivalent of nearly 130 million meals.⁴⁷
- [FoodCycle](#) was founded in 2009 to help communities set up volunteer groups to use surplus food to prepare meals for those in food poverty in their community. Its 2023 impact report stated it served 217,000 meals and opened 22 new projects in 2023.⁴⁸

7.2

Social supermarkets

Social supermarkets are another way to prevent surplus food going to waste. The first, '[Community Shop](#)', which redistributes food and household products, opened in 2013.

In 2019, The Guardian reported that [social supermarkets were on the rise](#).⁴⁹ In 2022, the newspaper reported that [a new social supermarket will open in the City of London](#) in September. It said the benefits of offering food at accessible

⁴⁶ Independent Food Aid Network, [Mapping the UK's Independent Food Banks](#), Sabine Goodwin (accessed 28 May 2024)

⁴⁷ FareShare, [FareShare continues to deliver 4 meals every second to struggling UK families, as cost of living bites](#), 27 May 2022

⁴⁸ FoodCycle, [2023 impact report](#) (PDF), 2023

⁴⁹ Guardian, [The rise of social supermarkets: 'It's not about selling cheap food, but building strong communities'](#), 19 May 2019

prices helps people avoid “the stigma of a handout” and contributes to a sense of community and support.⁵⁰

7.3 Food for schoolchildren

The Library briefings [School meals and nutritional standards \(England\)](#) and [Food poverty: Households, food banks and free school meals](#) provide detailed information on free school meals. Below is a list of other examples of food provision for school children.

- The Government’s [national school breakfast club programme](#) provides funding to schools in disadvantaged areas in England. Participating schools will receive a 75% subsidy for breakfast club provision until the end of July 2025. Schools contribute 25% of the cost so that pupils in the participating schools are offered breakfast supplies for free.⁵¹
- [Magic Breakfast](#) supplies breakfasts to over 200,000 schoolchildren. Its 2022 Hidden Hunger report, found that that 69% of UK schools have either no breakfast provision or have barriers to access.⁵²
- [Feeding Britain](#), a food charity formed in 2015, has also coordinated the [Healthy Holiday programme](#), to feed children during the school holidays.
- In February 2021, a YouGov poll, commissioned by the food company Kellogg’s, surveyed 1,100 primary and secondary school teachers from across the UK. It concluded that one in five UK schools set up a food bank during the Covid pandemic.⁵³
- In 1999, [Greggs Foundation](#) opened its Breakfast Club. The foundation now oversees over 900 clubs across the UK, providing a breakfast to over 62,000 school children each day.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ The Guardian, [Social supermarkets offer choice and self-esteem to hard-up workers](#), 14 May 2022

⁵¹ Department for Education, [National school breakfast club programme](#), 4 March 2024

⁵² Magic Breakfast, [Hidden Hunger – The State of UK Breakfast Provision 2022](#), 27 April 2022

⁵³ The Guardian, [One in five UK schools has set up a food bank in Covid crisis, survey suggests](#), 4 March 2021

⁵⁴ [Greggs Foundation – Breakfast Clubs](#), accessed 28 May 2024

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