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Regional Social Exclusion Indicators

In September 1999 the Department of Social Security published the Government's first annual report on social exclusion. *Opportunity for all: tackling poverty and social exclusion* presented a set of 32 indicators against which the Government intends to measure its progress in reducing levels of social exclusion. This Research Paper looks at variations in the extent of inclusion between the constituent countries and regions of the UK. Regional data are presented for 14 out of the 32 indicators.

This is a revised version of the Paper. It has been updated to include the latest incomes data from the DSS.

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I Summary of main points

In September 1999 the Department of Social Security (DSS) published the Government's first annual report on tackling poverty and social exclusion. *Opportunity for all: tackling poverty and social exclusion*¹ presented a set of 32 indicators against which the Government will to measure its progress in reducing levels of social exclusion. The indicators cover six key aspects of exclusion – incomes, employment, health, housing, fuel poverty and fear of crime – measured at three stages in the lifecycle – childhood, working age and retirement.

Opportunity for all assesses the national extent of social exclusion. This Research Paper looks at variations in the extent of inclusion between the constituent countries and regions of the UK. At present it is possible to produce regional data for 14 of the 32 DSS indicators (in some cases one indicator is presented as two or more sub-indicators).² In summary these indicators show:

| Indicator | Geographical level | National rate | Region/country with highest level of exclusion | Region/country with lowest level of exclusion |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--|---|
| 3a – Literacy at age 11 (pupils reaching level 4 in English tests) | England | 70% | Yorkshire & Humberside (67%) | Eastern, South East (72%) |
| 3b – Numeracy at age 11 (pupils reaching level 4 in Mathematics tests) | England | 68% | London, W. Midlands (67%) | North West, South East (70%) |
| 6 – Children in workless households | UK | 18% | London (27%) | South East (10%) |
| 7a – Children in low income households | GB | 35% | London (43%) | South East (26%) |
| 8 – Under 5s in poor housing | England | 14% | E. Midlands, South West (18%) | Eastern, South East (8%) |

¹ Department of Social Security, Cm 4445, September 1999

² The indicator numbers and the underlying definitions are consistent with those detailed in DSS, *Opportunity for all: tackling poverty and social exclusion, Indicators of success: definitions, data and baseline information*, September 1999, available at <http://www.dss.gov.uk/hq/pubs/poverty/indicators/povind.pdf>
The rates shown in the summary table are the latest available in each case.

| Indicator | Geographical level | National rate | Region/country with highest level of exclusion | Region/country with lowest level of exclusion |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| 11 – 16-17 year olds not in education or training | England | 21% | Four regions (22%) | Four regions (20%) |
| 14 – Working age adults in employment | UK | 74% | North East (65%) | South East (80%) |
| 15 – Working age adults in workless households | UK | 13% | North East (20%) | South East (7%) |
| 16 – Working age adults on benefits for 2 or more years | GB | 5% | London (7%) | Eastern, South East (3%) |
| 17a – People with disabilities in employment | UK | 37% | North East, N. Ireland (26%) | South East (51%) |
| 17b – Lone parents in employment | UK | 46% | London (39%) | South East (56%) |
| 17c – Ethnic minorities in employment | GB | 56% | North East (38%) | South West (66%) |
| 17d – People aged 50+ in employment | UK | 65% | North East (51%) | South East (74%) |
| 18a – Working age adults in low income households | GB | 20% | Yorkshire & Humberside (25%) | South East (16%) |
| 19 Working age people with a qualifications | UK | 83% | Northern Ireland (73%) | South East (88%) |
| 22 – Adult cigarette smokers | England | 22% | North East (31%) | Eastern, South East (26%) |

| Indicator | Geographical level | National rate | Region/country with highest level of exclusion | Region/country with lowest level of exclusion |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 23 – Death rates from suicide | England | 9.2 per 100,000 pop'n | North West (10.6) | Eastern (8.1) |
| 27a – Older people in low income households | GB | 30% | Yorkshire & Humberside (34%) | Wales (26%) |
| 31 – Older people in poor housing | England | 20% | North West (23%) | South West (15%) |

In general, the summary table above reveals a fair degree of difference between regions/countries. For example, working age adults in the North East are almost three times more likely to live in a workless household than those in the South East, those living in London are twice as likely to be long-term benefit recipients than those living in the South East.

Clearest of all is the fact that levels of exclusion are lowest in the South East. On 14 of the 19 indicators/sub-indicators presented above the South East has the lowest or equal lowest level of exclusion. The Eastern and South West regions are the only others to exhibit the lowest level of exclusion on more than one indicator.

The table does not, however, illustrate a simple north-south divide. While the North East displays the highest level of exclusion in the greatest number of cases (seven), London is second with five. The dichotomy between London and the South East is most apparent in the indicators relating to children – 27% of London children live in workless households compared with 10% of South East children; 43% live in households with relatively low incomes compared with 26% in the South East.

Just as there can be stark differences between neighbouring regions so too is there great divergence *within* regions. As the Cabinet Office's report to the Prime Minister last year suggested, "the disparity within regions is at least as great as that between them".³ This paper uses regions and countries as convenient geographical areas for which data are generally available. While it illustrates differences between these areas, readers should remember that each region and country is a mosaic of areas with relatively high levels of exclusion and those with relatively low levels.

³ Cabinet Office *Sharing the nation's prosperity: variation in economic & social conditions across the UK* Decemebr 1999

II The Indicators

The following pages present data for each of the DSS's indicators where regional/country figures are available. The data are for Government Office Regions of England and, where appropriate, the constituent countries of the UK. The geographical coverage of the DSS indicators varies in line with the responsibilities of the devolved administrations. In general, economic indicators are for Britain or the UK as a whole, while social indicators are for England only. This paper mirrors that approach and presents indicators at the geographical level used by the DSS. Readers with an interest in a wider set of social exclusion indicators for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may wish to consult publications from the respective administrations.⁴

The indicator pages have a common format consisting of:

- a table showing data for the baseline year and – where possible – two more subsequent or preceding years;
- a brief commentary on regional patterns and regional trends;
- a graph showing the latest available year's data;
- the national baseline from the DSS indicator set is boxed in each table.

Each indicator is numbered as in the DSS report. The indicators are identical to those used by the DSS, except in one or two cases where it is necessary to use close proxies. These exceptions are explained in the accompanying commentary. A glossary at the end of this paper explains some of the terms used in the Paper.

⁴ Scottish Executive *Social Justice ... a Scotland where everyone matters* (November 1999); Welsh Office *Building an inclusive Wales* (March 1999); Northern Ireland Office *The first new targeting social need annual report* (November 1999)

Technical Box: The Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is an important data source for the indicators in this Paper. It is a continuous household survey carried out by National Statistics that collects data on labour market statistics and related topics such as training, qualifications, income and disability. The LFS has been running since spring 1992 in its present form although a LFS has been carried out in the UK since 1973. The UK is required by European Union Regulation to carry out a labour force survey annually. Results from the spring quarter of the LFS are supplied to Eurostat each year to meet this requirement.

The survey sample of addresses is taken from the Postcode Address File. Each quarter interviews are carried out at about 59,000 addresses covering about 138,000 respondents. About 80% of households approached agree to take part in the survey.

In spring 2000 the data for autumn 1993 to autumn 1999 has been revised to take account of more up-to-date information on changes in the population. Previously the survey results used population projections based on 1992 mid-year population. The revised data has led to an increase in the number of people in employment (from about 1.8 million to about 2 million), and a very small fall in the size of the decrease in the numbers of ILO unemployed people.

This recent re-grossing means that the baseline data published in *Opportunity for all, tackling poverty and social exclusion: Indicators of success, definitions, data and baseline information*, will have to be revised. The baselines shown in this Paper are based on the re-grossed data and so will differ marginally from those published.

As with any survey the LFS has its limitations and is subject to the usual sampling variations. Survey estimates are relatively more accurate for larger samples or groups than smaller samples, which means that the national estimates are more reliable than those for regions. This principle is particularly relevant to data collected about regional employment rates of people from ethnic minorities (Indicator 17c). The results will be based on relatively small samples, particularly for regions such as the North East where there are only about 30,000 people of working age from ethnic minority backgrounds. Small changes in the number of people from ethnic minorities or those in employment will translate in to large changes in the proportions. Conclusions should not therefore be

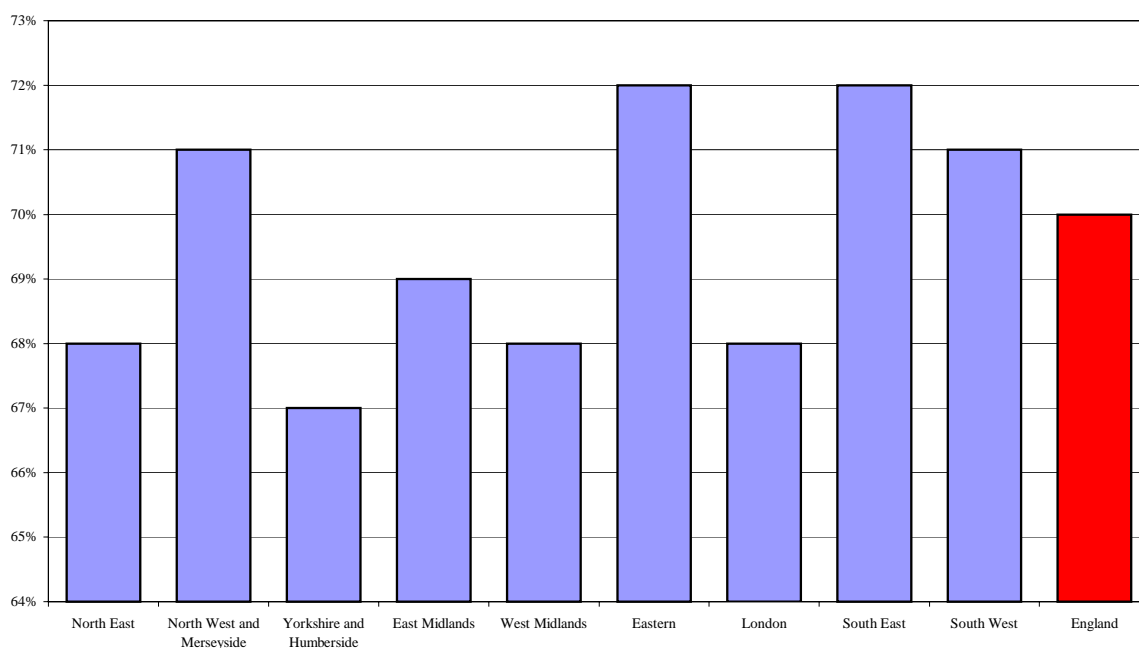
Indicator 3a: Literacy at age 11

Proportion of 11 year olds achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English tests

| | 1998 | 1999 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| North East | 62% | 68% |
| North West and Merseyside | 65% | 71% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 61% | 67% |
| East Midlands | 62% | 69% |
| West Midlands | 63% | 68% |
| Eastern | 66% | 72% |
| London | 64% | 68% |
| South East | 67% | 72% |
| South West | 66% | 71% |
| England | 64% | 70% |

- The baseline for England is 63% in 1997. Regional figures are not available for that year.
- Attainment rose by 7 percentage points nationally between 1997 and 1999. All regions saw an increase between 1998 and 1999.
- Attainment is highest in the south of England (outside London) and in the North West. London remains below the national average and saw the smallest gain in 1999.
- Figures for individual LEAs are available from the DfEE at <http://www.dfee.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SFR/s0088/index.html>.

Source: DfEE National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14 year olds in England



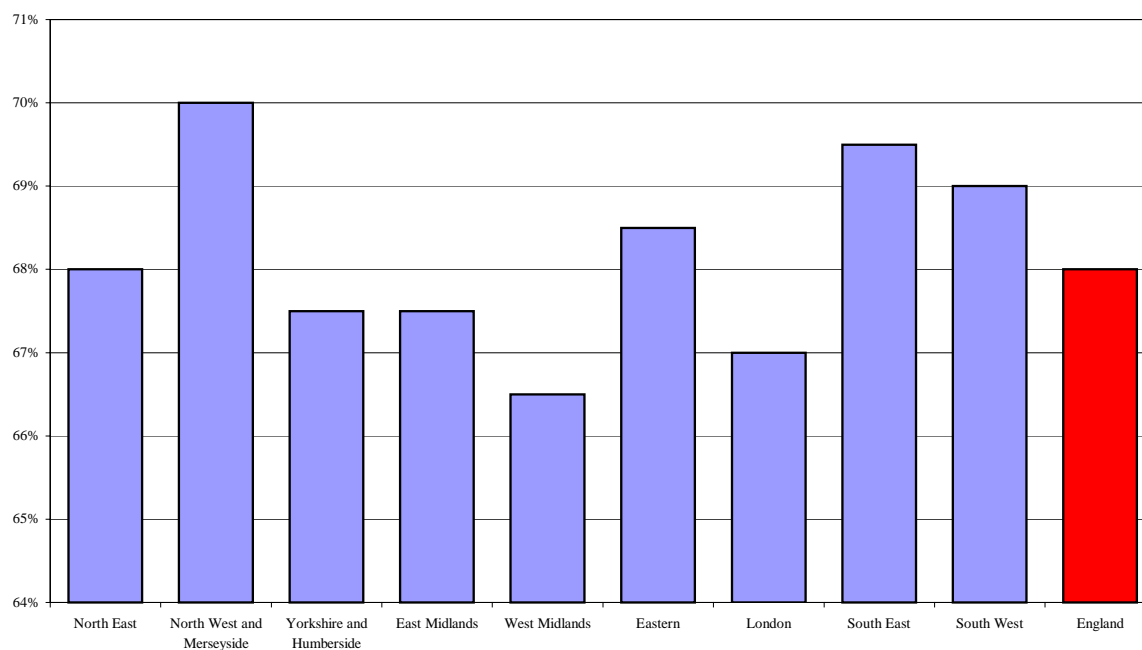
Indicator 3b: Numeracy at age 11

Proportion of 11 year olds achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths tests

| | 1998 | 1999 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| North East | 58% | 68% |
| North West and Merseyside | 60% | 70% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 56% | 68% |
| East Midlands | 57% | 68% |
| West Midlands | 55% | 67% |
| Eastern | 58% | 69% |
| London | 56% | 67% |
| South East | 60% | 70% |
| South West | 59% | 69% |
| England | 58% | 68% |

- The baseline for England is 62% in 1997. Regional figures are not available for that year.
- After a decline in 1998, attainment rose to 68% across England in 1999. All regions saw similar increases.
- Attainment is highest in the south of England (outside London) and in the North West.
- Figures for individual LEAs are available from the DfEE at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SFR/s0088/index.html>.

Source: DfEE National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14 year olds in England



Indicator 6: Children in workless households

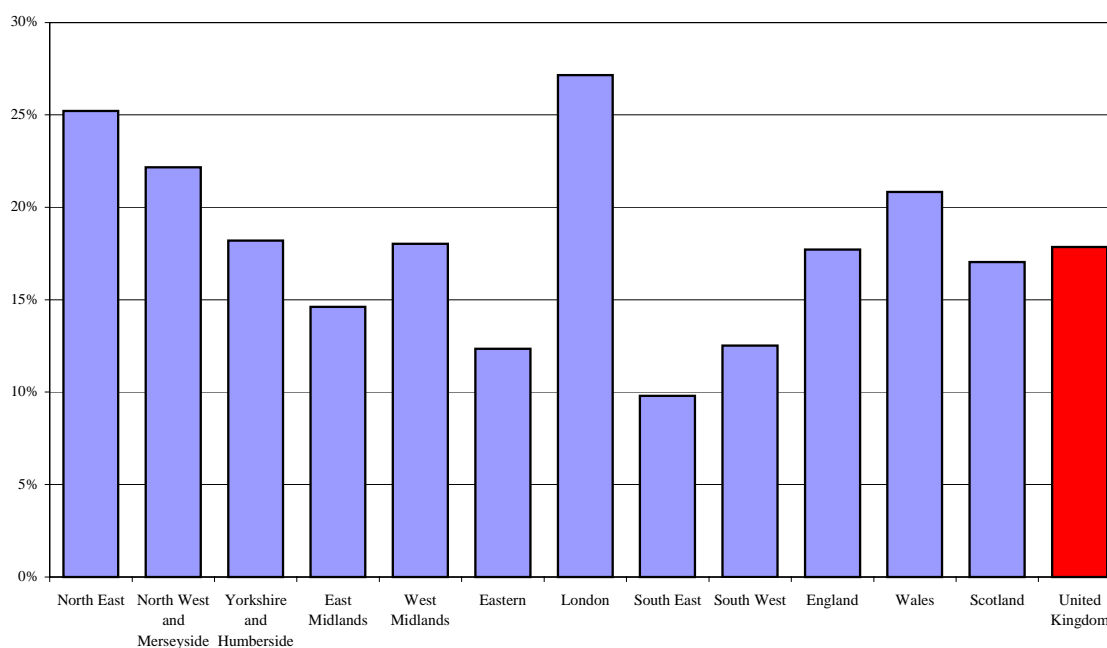
Proportion of children living in households where no one works ^(a)

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| North East | 23% | 25% | 25% |
| North West and Merseyside | 22% | 23% | 22% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 20% | 20% | 18% |
| East Midlands | 16% | 16% | 15% |
| West Midlands | 18% | 17% | 18% |
| Eastern | 14% | 13% | 12% |
| London | 25% | 26% | 27% |
| South East | 12% | 11% | 10% |
| South West | 13% | 13% | 13% |
| England | 18% | 18% | 18% |
| Wales | 21% | 20% | 21% |
| Scotland | 19% | 18% | 17% |
| Northern Ireland | 20% | 19% | 19% |
| United Kingdom | 18% | 18% | 18% |

(a) Proportion of children aged under 16 in households with at least one person of working age, where no one works.

Source: ONS Labour Force Surveys, Spring household datasets

- Nearly a fifth of children live in a household where no one works.
- These data differ slightly from official published data as they have not been adjusted to account for households that contain someone with unknown economic activity. Such households have been excluded from this analysis.
- There is a wide regional variation in the proportion of children in workless households from just under 10% in the South East to 27% in London
- Improvements in some regions have been offset in others, so that the national levels have remained at the baseline.



Indicator 7a: Children in households with relatively low incomes

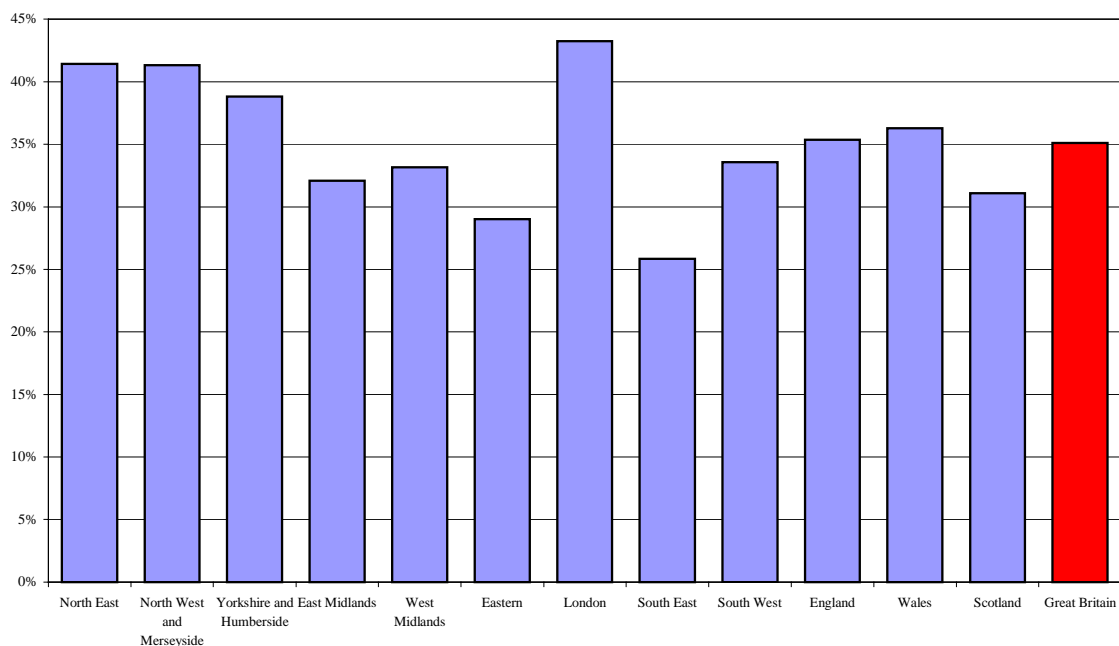
Proportion of children in households with incomes below half the mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 37% | 40% | 41% |
| North West and Merseyside | 38% | 38% | 41% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 37% | 35% | 39% |
| East Midlands | 29% | 30% | 32% |
| West Midlands | 34% | 38% | 33% |
| Eastern | 30% | 27% | 29% |
| London | 41% | 44% | 43% |
| South East | 28% | 25% | 26% |
| South West | 33% | 32% | 34% |
| England | 34% | 34% | 35% |
| Wales | 37% | 36% | 36% |
| Scotland | 34% | 32% | 31% |
| Great Britain | 35% | 34% | 35% |

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99

- In 1998/99 35% of children (4.5 million) lived in households where the income after housing costs is less than half average income.
- London has the highest proportion of children in low-income households, with 43% of all children in households with an income below half the average. This compares to the South East where 26% of children are in households with incomes below the threshold.
- The proportion of children in low-income households increased in 1998/99 in the North East, North West, Yorks and Humberside, East Midlands, Eastern, the South East and the South West.



Indicator 7b: Children in households with absolute low incomes

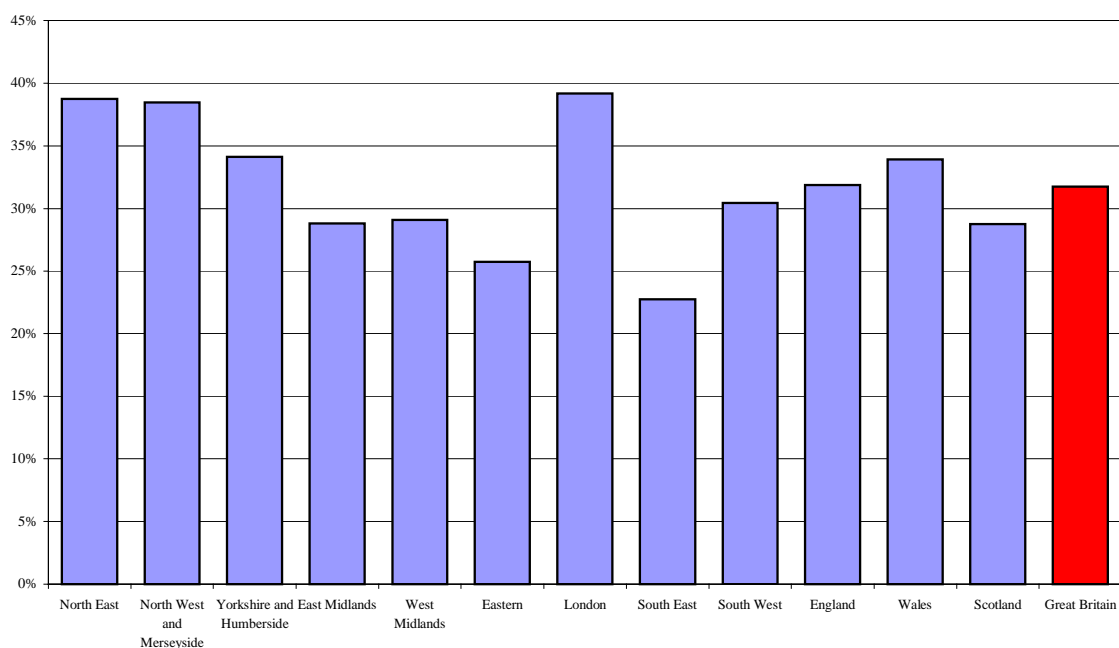
Proportion of children in households with incomes below half of the 1996/97 mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 37% | 37% | 39% |
| North West and Merseyside | 38% | 37% | 38% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 37% | 35% | 34% |
| East Midlands | 29% | 29% | 29% |
| West Midlands | 34% | 35% | 29% |
| Eastern | 30% | 25% | 26% |
| London | 41% | 43% | 39% |
| South East | 28% | 24% | 23% |
| South West | 33% | 31% | 30% |
| England | 34% | 33% | 32% |
| Wales | 37% | 35% | 34% |
| Scotland | 34% | 30% | 29% |
| Great Britain | 35% | 33% | 32% |

- This indicator tracks the proportion of children in households with incomes below a fixed threshold.
- In 1998/99 32% of all children lived in households where the income was less than half of the 1996/97 real terms average income.
- There have been very different trends across the regions. In the South East, the proportion of children in households with incomes below this threshold has fallen from 28% in the baseline year to 23% in 1998/99, while in the North East, it has risen to 39%.

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income fixed at 1996/97 values in real terms, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99



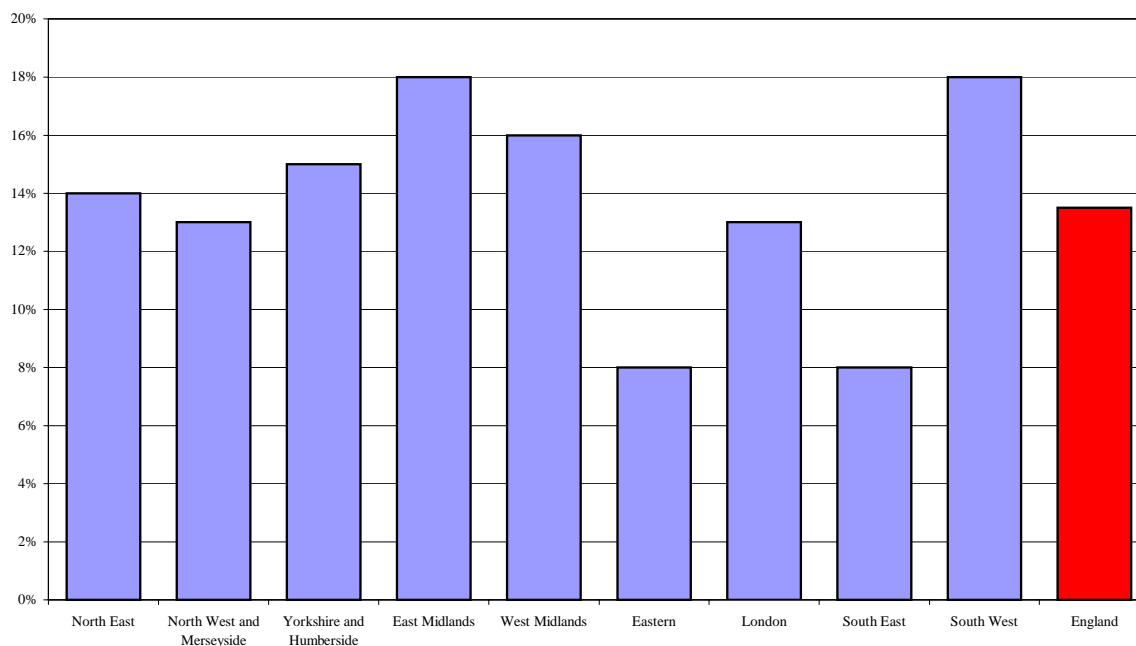
Indicator 8: Infants in poor housing

Proportion of households with one or more children under five in poor housing

| | 1996 |
|---------------------------|------|
| North East | 14% |
| North West and Merseyside | 13% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 15% |
| East Midlands | 18% |
| West Midlands | 16% |
| Eastern | 8% |
| London | 13% |
| South East | 8% |
| South West | 18% |
| England | 14% |

- While the DSS report refers to all dependent children in poor housing (13% in 1996), regional figures are only available for households with a child under five.
- The East Midlands and South West regions have the highest rates, with 18% of households with infants in poor housing. Rates are lowest in the South East and Eastern regions.

Source: DETR English House Condition Survey 1996 Regional Report



Indicator 11: 16-17 year olds not in education or training

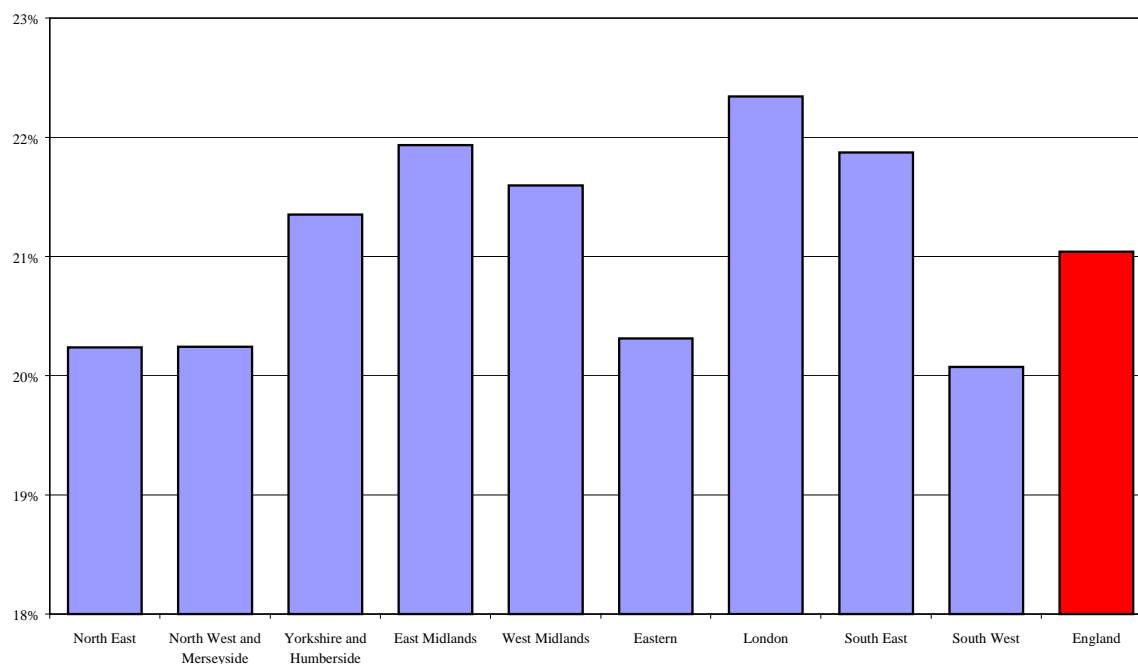
Proportion of 16 and 17 year olds not in education or training^(a)

| | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 17% | 17% | 20% |
| North West and Merseyside | 19% | 20% | 20% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 21% | 20% | 21% |
| East Midlands | 21% | 21% | 22% |
| West Midlands | 19% | 20% | 22% |
| Eastern | 18% | 19% | 20% |
| London | 21% | 21% | 22% |
| South East | 20% | 21% | 22% |
| South West | 17% | 18% | 20% |
| England | 20% | 20% | 21% |

(a) While the DSS indicator focuses on the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education and training (26% in both 1997 and 1998) regional figures are only available for 16-17 year olds.

Source: DfEE Statistical Bulletin 14/99

- The proportion of 16-17 year olds not in education and training has risen slightly over the past three years, with marked increases in the North East and South West. There is little variation between regions.
- There are though important regional differences in *types* of education and training; London and the South East have the highest rates of full-time education, Government-supported training is more prevalent in northern regions.
- Figures for local authorities and TEC areas are available from the DfEE at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SBU/b0112/index.html>.



Indicator 14: Working age people in employment

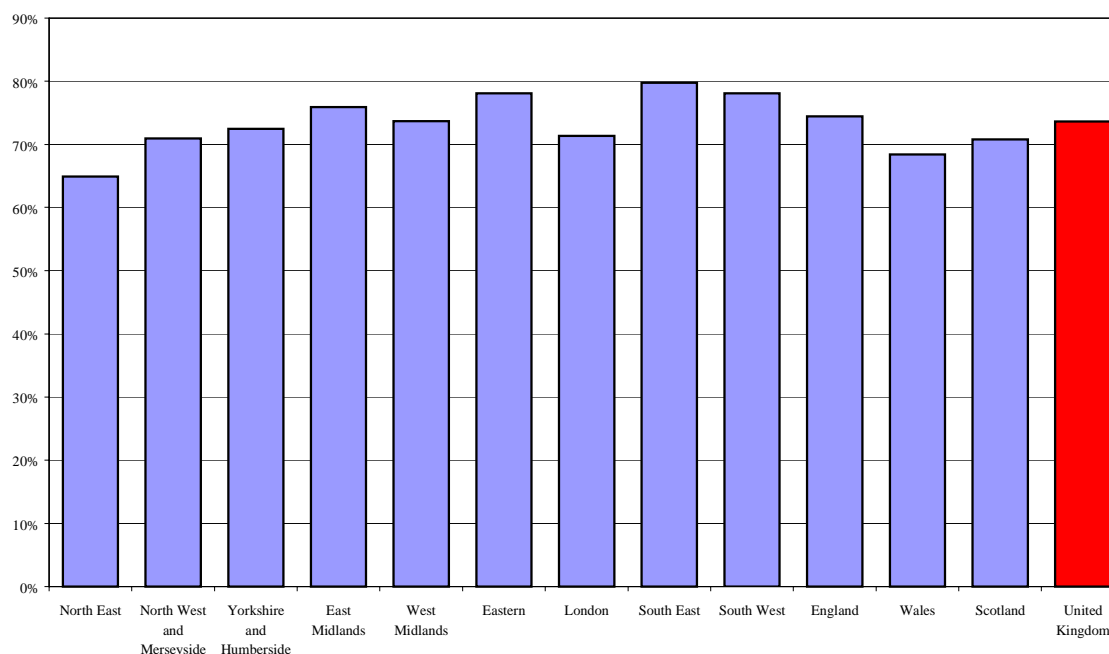
Proportion of working age people in employment ^(a)

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| North East | 67% | 67% | 65% |
| North West and Merseyside | 70% | 69% | 71% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 71% | 72% | 72% |
| East Midlands | 75% | 76% | 76% |
| West Midlands | 73% | 74% | 74% |
| Eastern | 76% | 78% | 78% |
| London | 70% | 70% | 71% |
| South East | 78% | 79% | 80% |
| South West | 77% | 78% | 78% |
| England | 73% | 74% | 74% |
| Wales | 68% | 68% | 68% |
| Scotland | 70% | 71% | 71% |
| Northern Ireland | 67% | 67% | 67% |
| United Kingdom | 73% | 73% | 74% |

- Working age is defined as males aged between 16 and 65 and females aged between 16 and 59. The baseline is 73% of the working age population in employment.
- The North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, London, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland all have 1999 rates lower than the 1997 national baseline.
- Employment among working age people is highest in the South East, with 80% in employment.

(a) Spring quarter of each year, not seasonally adjusted

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Spring Quarters



Indicator 15: Working age people in workless households

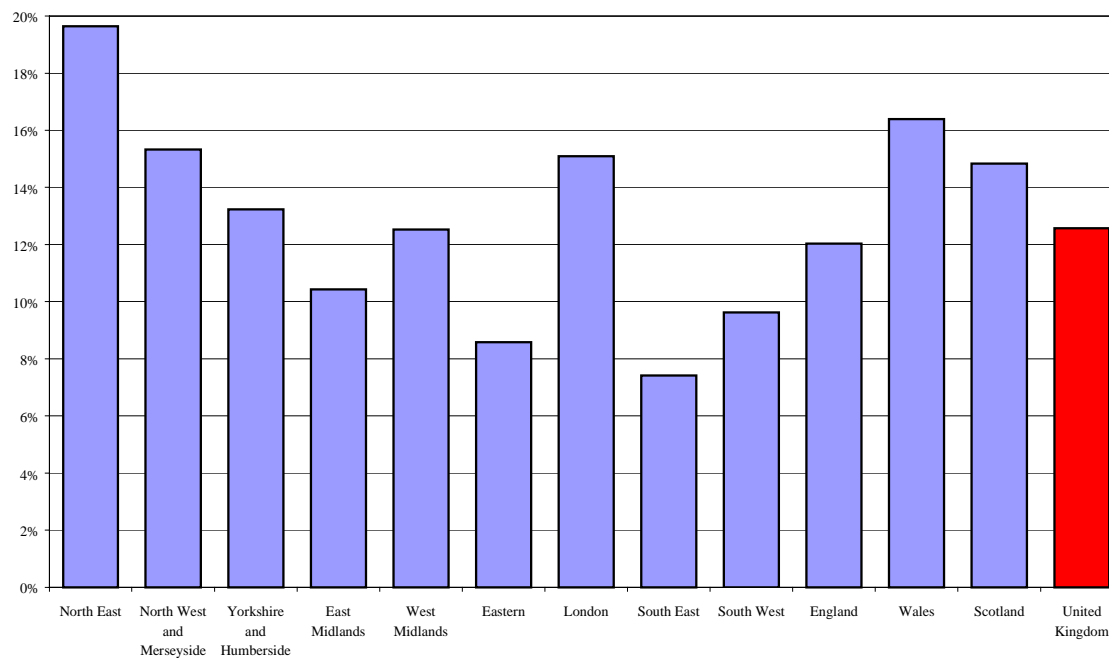
Proportion of working age people living in households where no one works ^(a)

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| North East | 17% | 18% | 20% |
| North West and Merseyside | 15% | 16% | 15% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 15% | 14% | 13% |
| East Midlands | 12% | 11% | 10% |
| West Midlands | 13% | 12% | 13% |
| Eastern | 11% | 9% | 9% |
| London | 15% | 16% | 15% |
| South East | 9% | 8% | 7% |
| South West | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| England | 13% | 12% | 12% |
| Wales | 16% | 17% | 16% |
| Scotland | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| Northern Ireland | 15% | 14% | 15% |
| United Kingdom | 13% | 13% | 13% |

- These data differ slightly from official published data as they have not been adjusted to account for households that contain someone with unknown economic activity. Such households have been excluded from this analysis.
- The West Midlands, the North East and Northern Ireland have all seen increases in this proportion since last year.
- In the South East only 7.4% of those of working age live in households where no one works, compared to 19.6% in the North East.

(a) Working age is defined as males age between 16 and 65 and females age between 16 and 60

Source: ONS Labour Force Surveys, Spring household datasets



Indicator 16: Working age adults on benefits for long periods

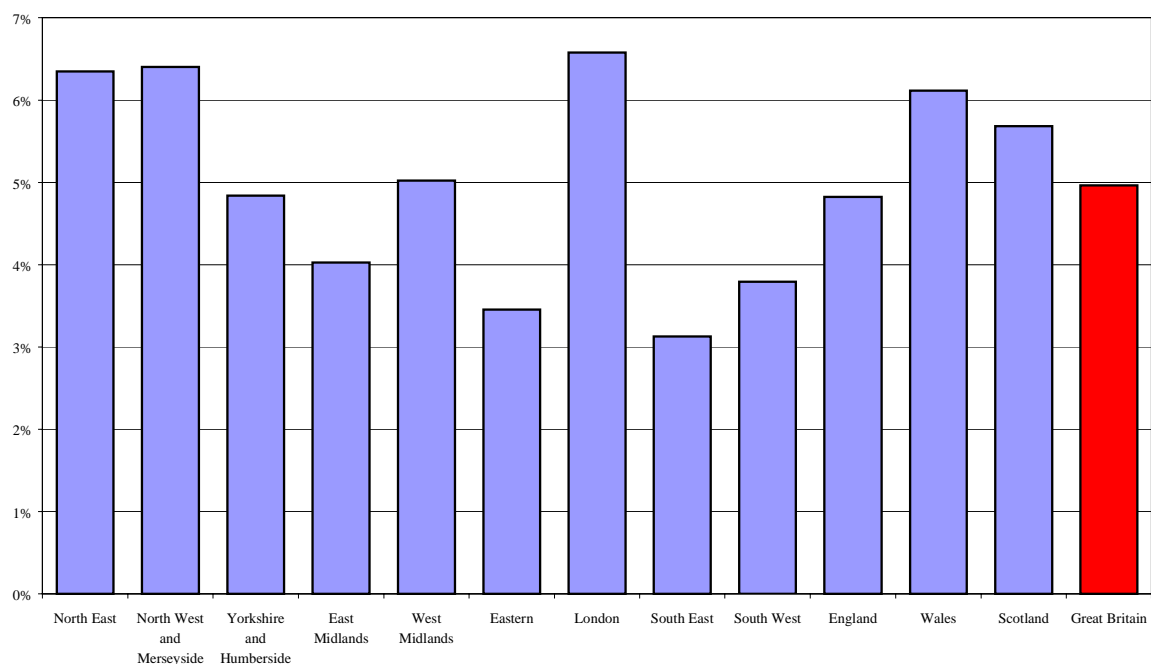
Proportion of working age adults receiving Income Support or income-based JSA for two years or more^(a)

| | May-97 | May-98 | May-99 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| North East | 8% | 6% | 6% |
| North West and Merseyside | 8% | 7% | 6% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 6% | 5% | 5% |
| East Midlands | 5% | 4% | 4% |
| West Midlands | 6% | 5% | 5% |
| Eastern | 4% | 4% | 3% |
| London | 9% | 7% | 7% |
| South East | 4% | 3% | 3% |
| South West | 5% | 4% | 4% |
| England | 6% | 5% | 5% |
| Wales | 7% | 6% | 6% |
| Scotland | 7% | 6% | 6% |
| Great Britain | 6% | 5% | 5% |

(a) Includes claimants and their partners, excludes dependants aged 16-18 in full-time education.

Source: DSS Analytical Services Division

- In the DSS report the indicator is the number of people dependent on benefits for long periods; the number fell from 2.1 million in May 1997 to 1.7 million in May 1999. To allow comparison between regions figures are presented here as proportions of the working age population.
- All regions/countries have experienced falls over the past two years. London retains the highest rate – at 7% of the working age population, more than twice the proportion found in the adjacent South East and Eastern regions.
- Long-term claimants are most commonly people with disabilities (44%) or lone parents (37%). Unemployed claimants constitute only 12% of the total.



Indicator 17a: Employment rates of people with disabilities

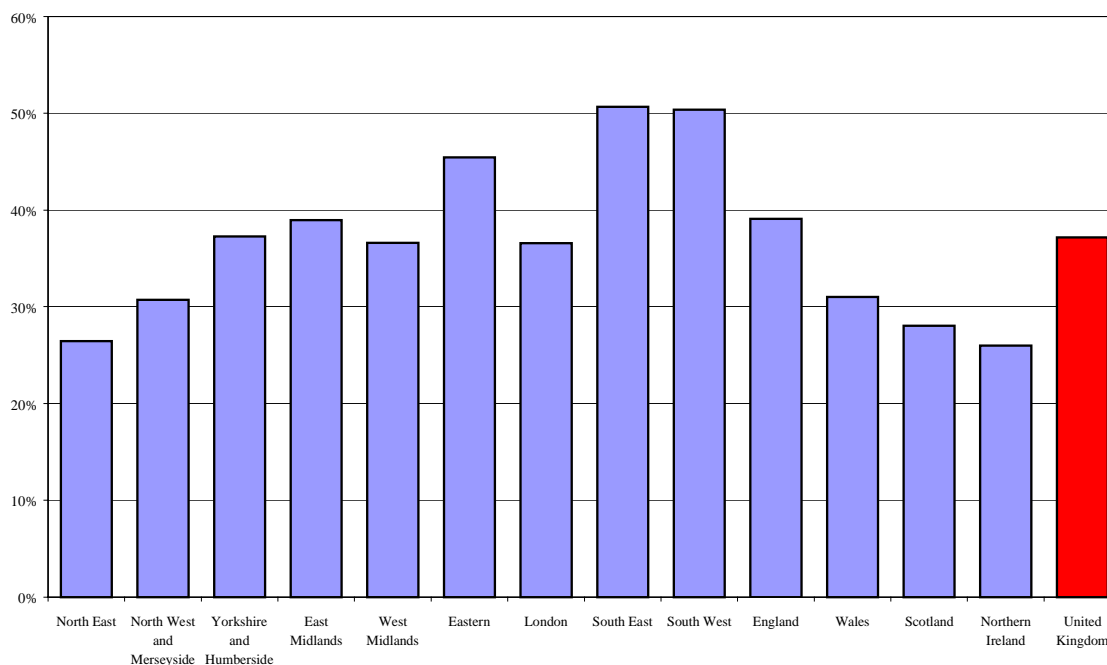
Proportion of people with a limiting condition for 12 months or more, in employment ^(a)

| | Spring 97 | Spring 98 | Spring 99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| North East | 25% | 29% | 26% |
| North West and Merseyside | 26% | 28% | 31% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 28% | 34% | 37% |
| East Midlands | 34% | 39% | 39% |
| West Midlands | 33% | 37% | 37% |
| Eastern | 38% | 46% | 45% |
| London | 33% | 35% | 37% |
| South East | 43% | 48% | 51% |
| South West | 42% | 47% | 50% |
| England | 33% | 37% | 39% |
| Wales | 24% | 26% | 31% |
| Scotland | 23% | 29% | 28% |
| Northern Ireland | 25% | 26% | 26% |
| United Kingdom | 31% | 35% | 37% |

- In Spring 1999 37% of people who had a limiting condition for 12 months or more were in employment; this is an increase from the baseline rate of 31%.
- There has been a rise in the number of disabled people who are in employment in all regions. This is partly explained by the general increase in the overall employment rate.
- In the South East and the South West over 50% of people with disabilities were in employment. However in Northern Ireland the rate is just over a quarter.

(a) Persons of working age, where working age is men between 16 and 65 and women between 16 and 60

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Spring quarters



Indicator 17b: Employment rates of lone parents

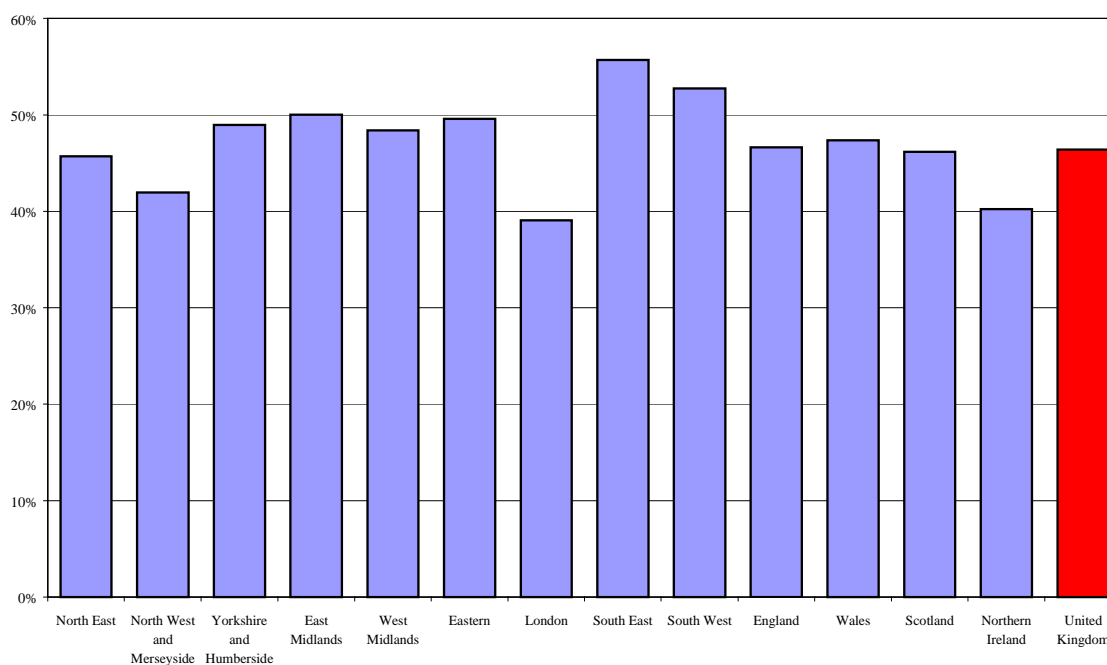
Proportion of working age lone parents in employment ^(a)

| | Spring 97 | Spring 98 | Spring 99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| North East | 44% | 39% | 46% |
| North West and Merseyside | 44% | 45% | 42% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 47% | 48% | 49% |
| East Midlands | 51% | 48% | 50% |
| West Midlands | 43% | 50% | 48% |
| Eastern | 50% | 53% | 50% |
| London | 37% | 36% | 39% |
| South East | 50% | 52% | 56% |
| South West | 47% | 52% | 53% |
| England | 45% | 46% | 47% |
| Wales | 43% | 46% | 47% |
| Scotland | 40% | 42% | 46% |
| Northern Ireland | 41% | 44% | 40% |
| United Kingdom | 44% | 46% | 46% |

- In Spring 1999 there were 2.2 million working age lone parents with dependent children in the UK. Of these 46%, or about 1 million, were in employment.
- The employment rate for lone parents varies from 39% in London to 56% in the South East.
- In the year to Spring 1999 the employment rate of lone parents in Northern Ireland fell from 44% to 40%.

(a) Working age lone parents with dependent children, where working age is men aged 16 and 65 and women aged 16 and 60

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Household datasets, Spring quarters



Indicator 17c: Employment rates of people from ethnic minorities

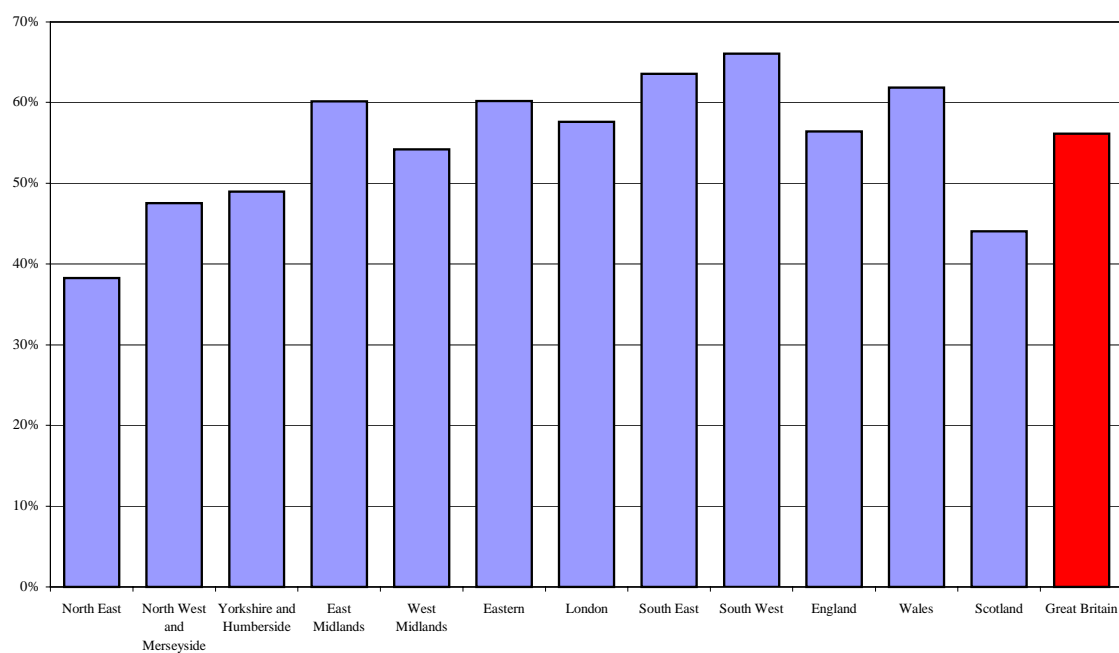
Proportion of working age people from ethnic minorities in employment ^(a)

| | Spring 97 | Spring 98 | Spring 99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| North East | 52% | 52% | 38% |
| North West and Merseyside | 49% | 41% | 48% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 46% | 53% | 49% |
| East Midlands | 58% | 61% | 60% |
| West Midlands | 54% | 57% | 54% |
| Eastern | 62% | 63% | 60% |
| London | 58% | 57% | 58% |
| South East | 63% | 67% | 64% |
| South West | 63% | 54% | 66% |
| England | 57% | 56% | 56% |
| Wales | 59% | 62% | 62% |
| Scotland | 46% | 54% | 44% |
| Great Britain | 57% | 56% | 56% |

- In Spring 1999 there were 2.3 million people from ethnic minorities who were of working age. Of these 56% were in employment. Figures are not available for Northern Ireland.
- The employment rate of people from ethnic minorities is consistently lower than the overall employment rate.
- There is significant variation in the rate between the regions and between the years. (See technical box on the Labour Force Survey for details of robustness of these data)

(a) Persons of working age, where working age is men between 16 and 65 and women between 16 and 60

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Spring quarters



Indicator 17d: Employment rates of people aged over 50

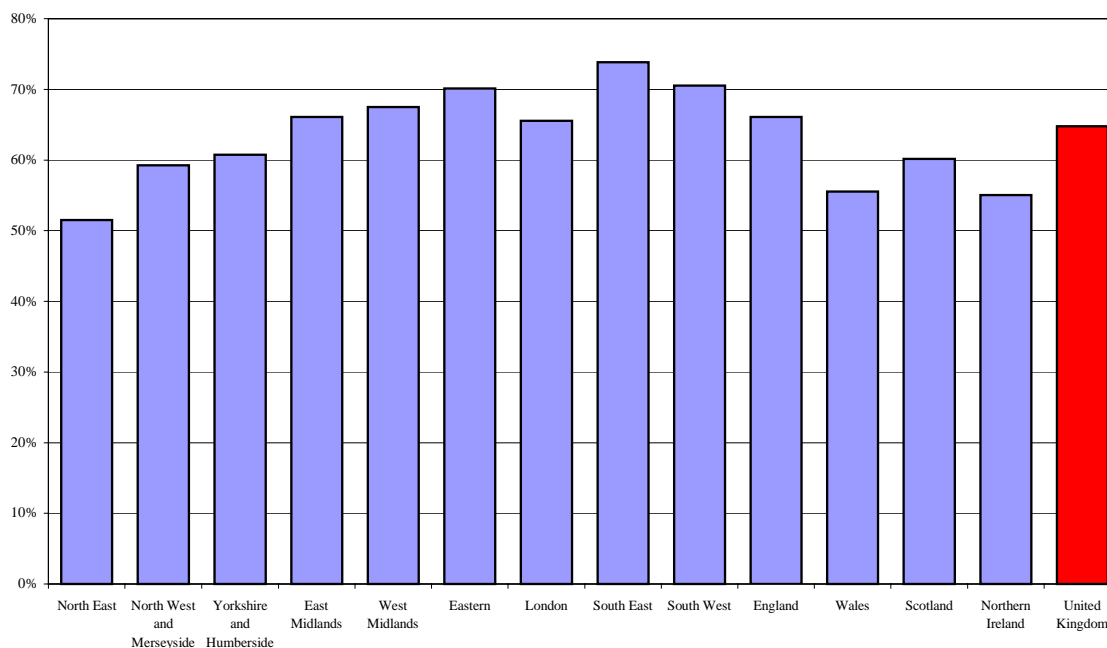
Proportion of people aged over 50 in employment ^(a)

| | Spring 97 | Spring 98 | Spring 99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| North East | 51% | 49% | 51% |
| North West and Merseyside | 57% | 58% | 59% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 59% | 61% | 61% |
| East Midlands | 67% | 67% | 66% |
| West Midlands | 66% | 67% | 68% |
| Eastern | 68% | 71% | 70% |
| London | 64% | 63% | 66% |
| South East | 69% | 73% | 74% |
| South West | 68% | 69% | 71% |
| England | 64% | 65% | 66% |
| Wales | 56% | 53% | 56% |
| Scotland | 57% | 59% | 60% |
| Northern Ireland | 55% | 54% | 55% |
| United Kingdom | 63% | 64% | 65% |

- In Spring 1999, of the 7.7 million people aged over 50 but under 65 (males) or 60 (females), nearly 5 million were in employment.
- In all regions, with the exception of Eastern region, there was a rise in the employment rate of the over 50s.
- The North East had the lowest rate of employment, 52% compared to 74% in the South East.

(a) Persons still of working age but also aged over 50, ie women aged 50 to 59 and men aged 50 to 64

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Spring quarters



Indicator 18a: Working age with relatively low household incomes

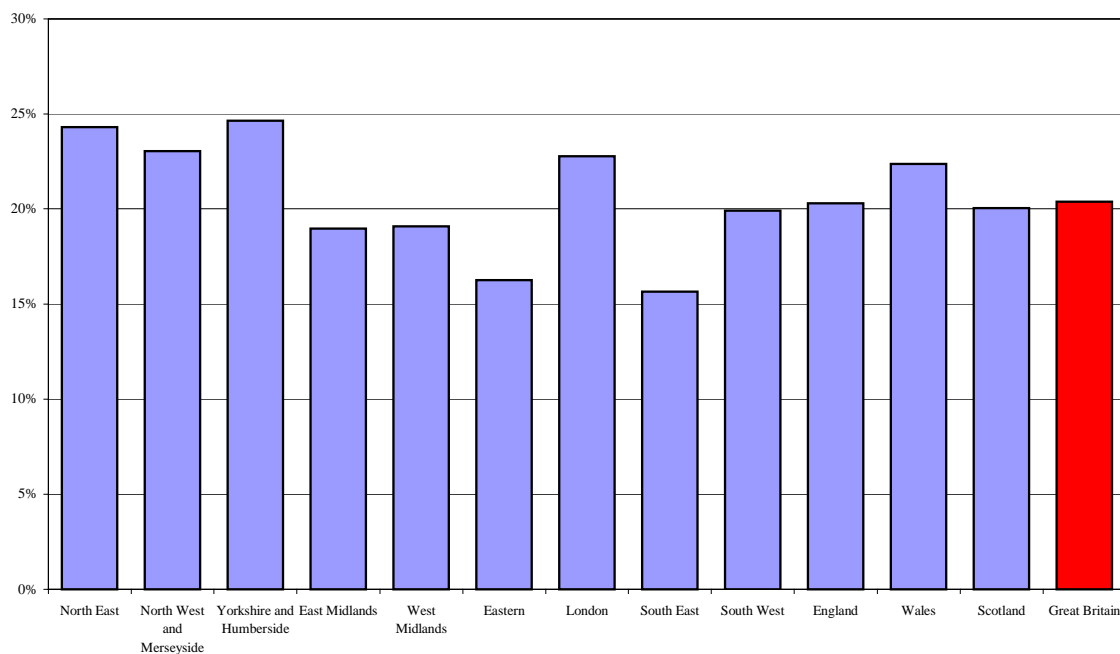
Proportion of working age people in households with incomes below half mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 27% | 26% | 24% |
| North West and Merseyside | 22% | 22% | 23% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 22% | 20% | 25% |
| East Midlands | 20% | 18% | 19% |
| West Midlands | 19% | 19% | 19% |
| Eastern | 18% | 17% | 16% |
| London | 26% | 26% | 23% |
| South East | 16% | 15% | 16% |
| South West | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| England | 21% | 20% | 20% |
| Wales | 24% | 23% | 22% |
| Scotland | 21% | 18% | 20% |
| Great Britain | 21% | 20% | 20% |

- In 1998/99 a fifth (7.0 million people) of all working age people lived in households with an income below half of the national average.
- In 1998/99 a couple with three children aged 3, 8 and 11 with an income of half the national average would have an equivalised household income of £241 a week (February 2000 prices)
- The North East, North West, Yorkshire & Humberside, London and Wales still all had rates worse than the baseline rate in 1998/99.

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99



Indicator 18b: Working age with absolute low household incomes

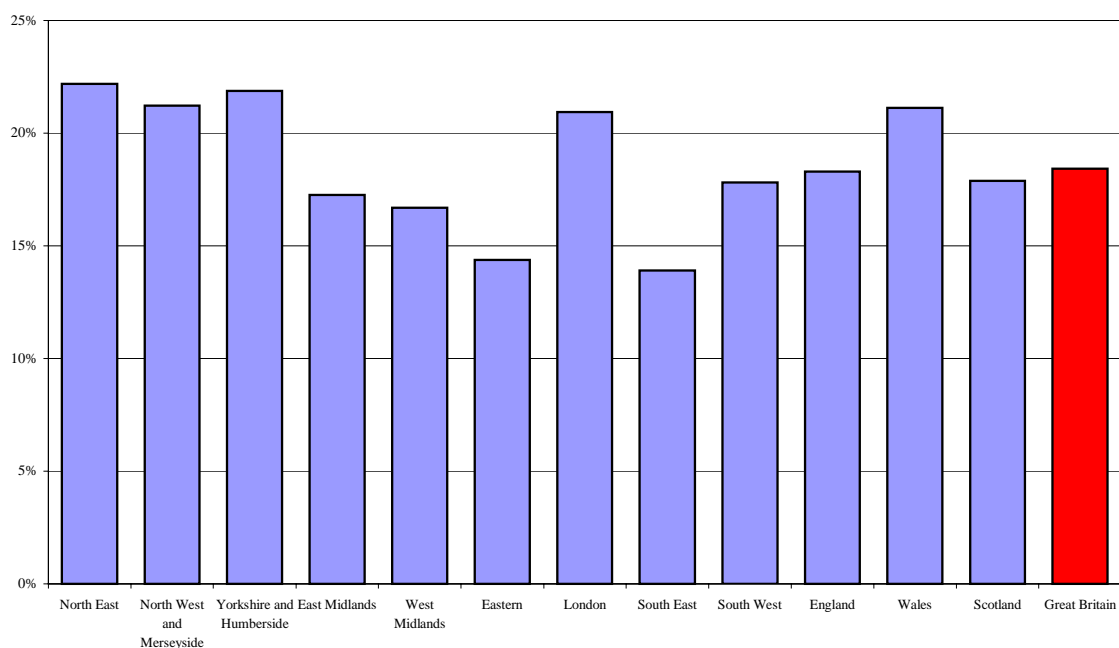
Proportion of working age in households with incomes below half of 1996/97 mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 27% | 25% | 22% |
| North West and Merseyside | 22% | 21% | 21% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 22% | 20% | 22% |
| East Midlands | 20% | 17% | 17% |
| West Midlands | 19% | 18% | 17% |
| Eastern | 18% | 15% | 14% |
| London | 26% | 26% | 21% |
| South East | 16% | 15% | 14% |
| South West | 20% | 19% | 18% |
| England | 21% | 19% | 18% |
| Wales | 24% | 22% | 21% |
| Scotland | 21% | 17% | 18% |
| Great Britain | 21% | 19% | 18% |

- This indicator tracks the proportion of working age people in households with an income below half the mean income in 1996/97.
- In 1996/97 a childless couple with half mean income would have had household equivalised income of £126 a week.
- In 1998/99 18% of working age people lived in households where the income was below half of the 1996/97 average adjusted for inflation. This was a slight improvement from 19% in 1997/98.
- Yorkshire and Humberside and Scotland were the only regions where there were more working age people in households with incomes below this fixed threshold than in the previous year.

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income fixed at 1996/97 values in real terms, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99



Indicator 19: Working age people with a qualification

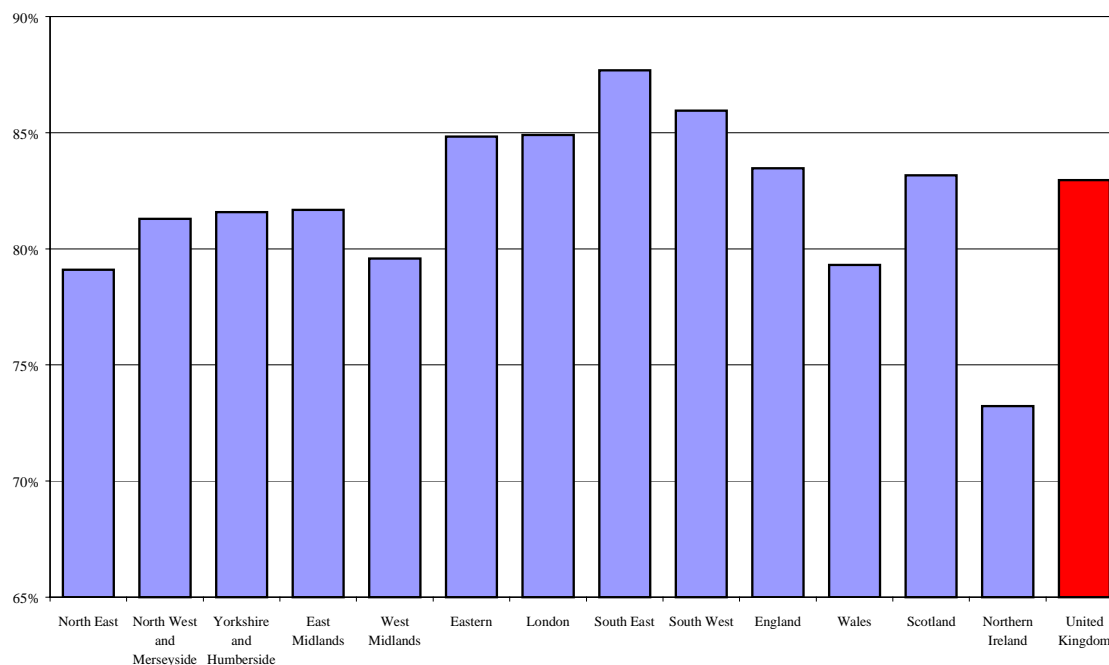
Proportion of working age people with a qualification ^(a)

| | Spring 97 | Spring 98 | Spring 99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| North East | 77% | 77% | 79% |
| North West and Merseyside | 80% | 80% | 81% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 80% | 80% | 82% |
| East Midlands | 80% | 81% | 82% |
| West Midlands | 77% | 78% | 80% |
| Eastern | 83% | 85% | 85% |
| London | 84% | 84% | 85% |
| South East | 86% | 87% | 88% |
| South West | 85% | 86% | 86% |
| England | 82% | 83% | 83% |
| Wales | 77% | 78% | 79% |
| Scotland | 83% | 83% | 83% |
| Northern Ireland | 73% | 73% | 73% |
| United Kingdom | 82% | 82% | 83% |

- In Spring 1999 83% of working age people had some qualification. This was a slight increase from the baseline of 82%.
- There has been a rise in the number of people with a qualification in all regions.
- In the South East 88% of working age people have a qualification. However in Northern Ireland the rate is just 73%.

(a) Persons of working age, where working age is men between 16 and 65 and women between 16 and 60

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey, Spring quarters



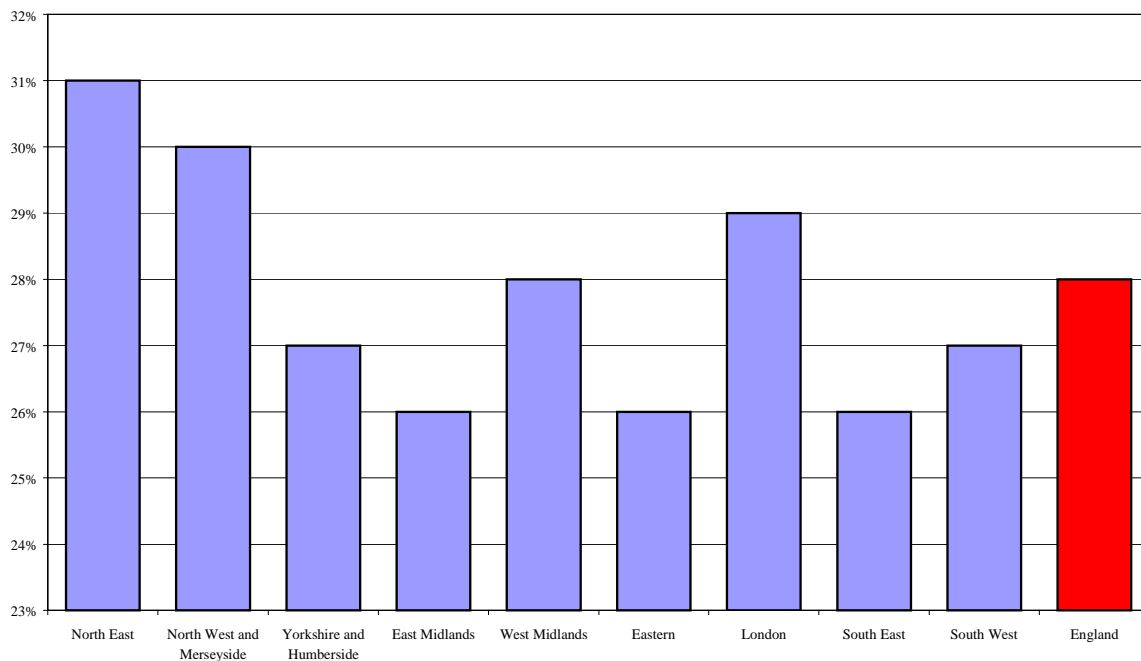
Indicator 22: Cigarette smoking

Proportion of adults who smoke

| 1996/97 | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| North East | 31% |
| North West and Merseyside | 30% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 27% |
| East Midlands | 26% |
| West Midlands | 28% |
| Eastern | 26% |
| London | 29% |
| South East | 26% |
| South West | 27% |
| England | 28% |

- For England as a whole the target is a reduction in smoking across all social classes. Figures by social class are not available at regional level.
- The North East and North West have the highest rates of adult smoking, 31% and 30% respectively.

Source: General Household Survey cited in Cabinet Office Sharing the Nation's Prosperity



Indicator 23: Death Rates from Suicide and Undetermined Injury

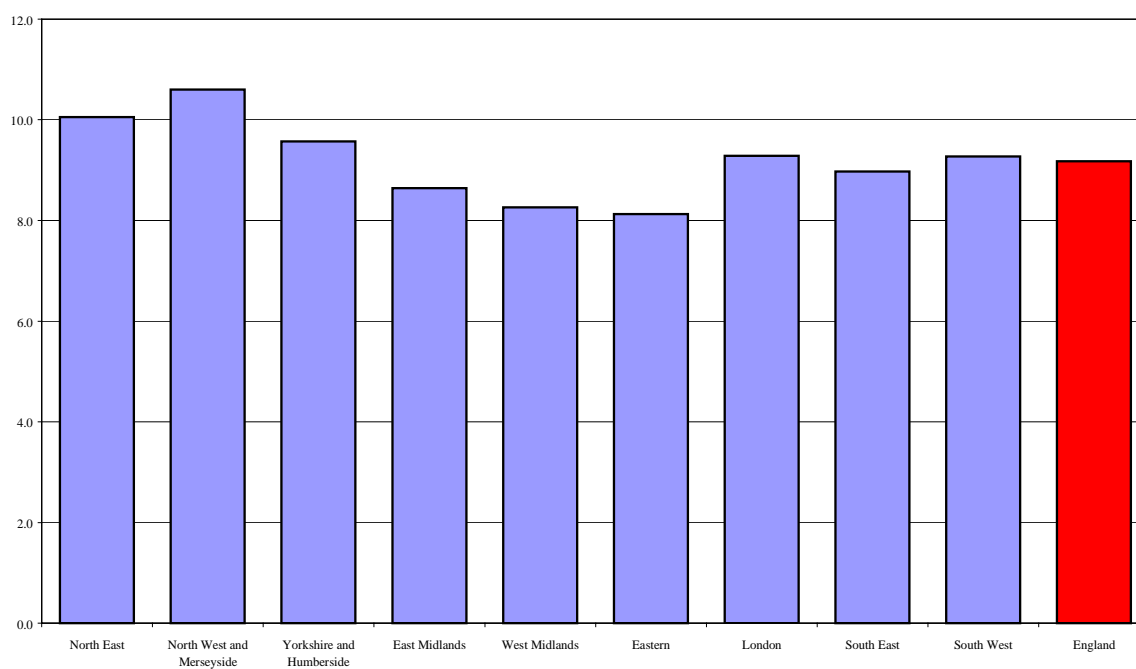
Mortality rates per 100,000 population^(a)

| | 1995-97 | 1996-98 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| North East | 9.9 | 10.1 |
| North West and Merseyside | 10.6 | 10.6 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| East Midlands | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| West Midlands | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| Eastern | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| London | 8.9 | 9.3 |
| South East | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| South West | 9.4 | 9.3 |
| England | 9.1 | 9.2 |

- In the three years from 1996-98 the mortality rate from suicide and undetermined injury was 9.2 per 100,000 population, slightly higher than the baseline rate of 9.1.
- Rates are highest in the North East and North West regions and lowest in the Eastern and Midlands regions.

a) Directly age-standardised rates for ICD-9 codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 excluding E988.8.

Source: Department of Health Compendium of Clinical & Health Indicators



Indicator 27a: Older people in households with relatively low incomes

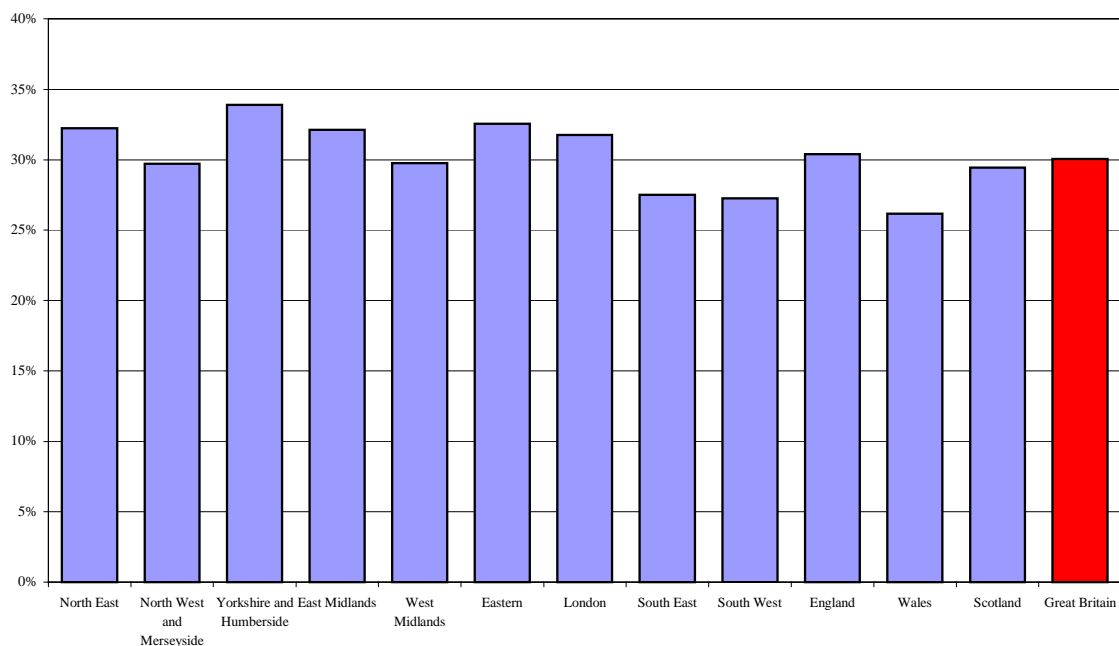
Proportion of older people in households with incomes below half of the mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 29% | 33% | 32% |
| North West and Merseyside | 28% | 28% | 30% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 31% | 32% | 34% |
| East Midlands | 28% | 31% | 32% |
| West Midlands | 30% | 28% | 30% |
| Eastern | 29% | 27% | 33% |
| London | 30% | 30% | 32% |
| South East | 24% | 26% | 27% |
| South West | 26% | 30% | 27% |
| England | 28% | 29% | 30% |
| Wales | 23% | 29% | 26% |
| Scotland | 29% | 27% | 29% |
| Great Britain | 28% | 29% | 30% |

- 30% of older people in 1998/99 were in households with incomes of less than half of the national average.
- In 1998/99 the average household equivalised income (after housing costs) was £264 per week for a pensioner couple and £231 for a single pensioner.
- The Yorkshire and Humberside has the highest proportion of older people in low-income households, with a 34% in households with an income of below half of the average. This compares to Wales where 26% of older people are in households with incomes below the threshold.

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99



Indicator 27b: Older people with absolute low household income

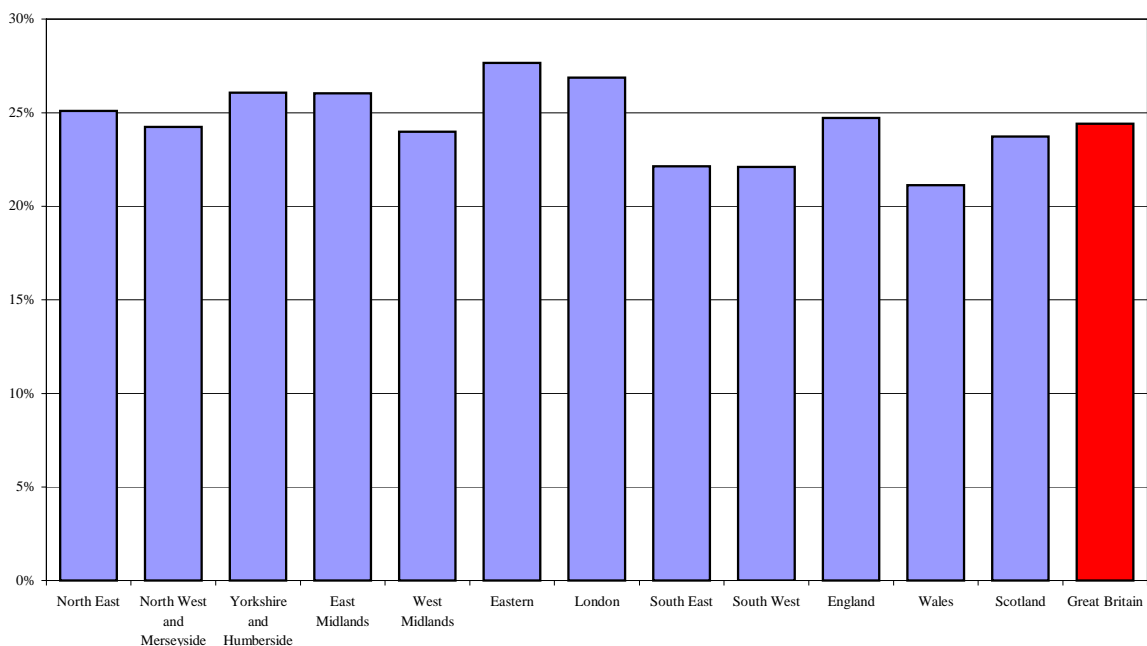
Proportion of older people in households with incomes below half of 1996/97 mean income^(a)

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| North East | 29% | 29% | 25% |
| North West and Merseyside | 28% | 25% | 24% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 31% | 28% | 26% |
| East Midlands | 28% | 27% | 26% |
| West Midlands | 30% | 26% | 24% |
| Eastern | 29% | 24% | 28% |
| London | 30% | 27% | 27% |
| South East | 24% | 24% | 22% |
| South West | 26% | 28% | 22% |
| England | 28% | 26% | 25% |
| Wales | 23% | 27% | 21% |
| Scotland | 29% | 25% | 24% |
| Great Britain | 28% | 26% | 24% |

- This indicator tracks the proportion of older people in households with an income below a fixed threshold.
- In 1998/99 24% of older people lived in households where the income was below half of the 1996/97 real terms average. This was an improvement from 26% in 1997/98.
- In 1998/99 the proportion of people below the thresholds from 21% in Wales to 28% in the Eastern region.
- The Eastern region is the only region where the proportion of older people in households with incomes below this fixed threshold has increased.

(a) Net equivalised disposable household income fixed at 1996/97 values in real terms, **after** housing cost, including the self employed

Source: DSS Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 1998/99



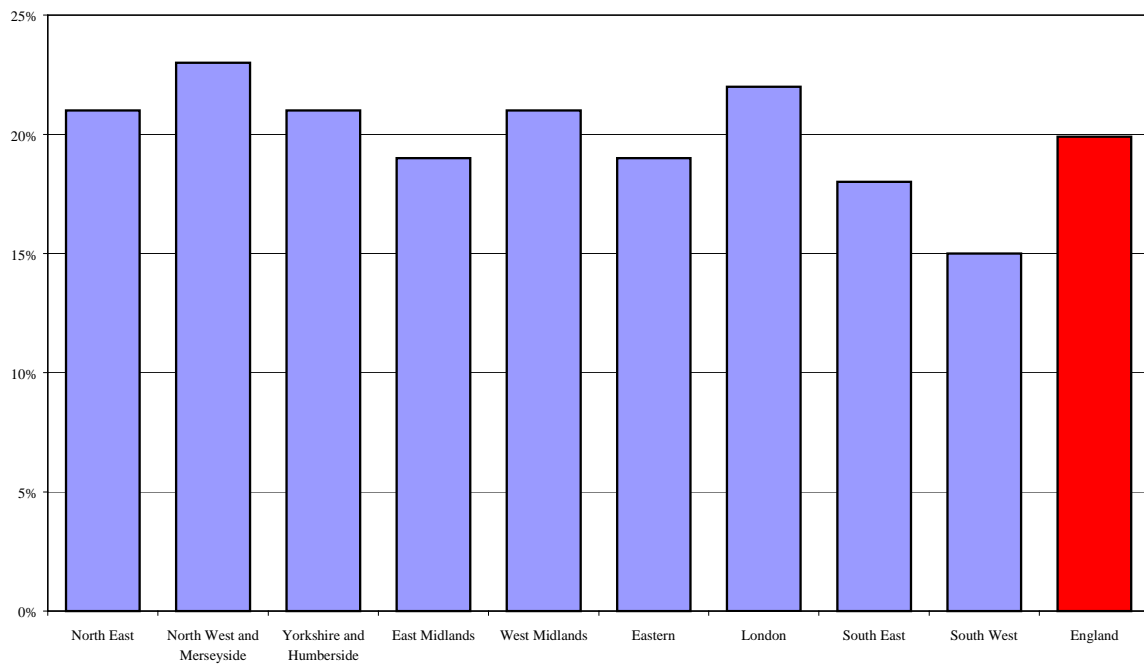
Indicator 31: Older people in poor housing

Proportion of households with one or more people over 75 in poor housing

| | 1996 |
|---------------------------|------|
| North East | 21% |
| North West and Merseyside | 23% |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 21% |
| East Midlands | 19% |
| West Midlands | 21% |
| Eastern | 19% |
| London | 22% |
| South East | 18% |
| South West | 15% |
| England | 20% |

- One in five households with someone aged over 75 live in poor housing. Regional rates vary from 15% to 23%..
- Rates are above the national average in each of the northern regions, London and the West Midlands. The South West has the lowest rate.

Source: DETR English House Condition Survey 1996 Regional Report



Appendix one: Summary of DSS's Social Exclusion Indicators

A. Children and Young People

1. An increase in the proportion of seven-year-old Sure Start children achieving level 1 or above in the Key Stage 1 English and maths tests.
2. Health outcomes in Sure Start areas:
 - a. a reduction in the proportion of low birth-weight babies in Sure Start areas;
 - b. a reduction in the rate of hospital admissions as a result of serious injury in Sure Start areas.
3. An increase in the proportion of those aged 11 achieving level 4 or above in the key stage 2 tests for literacy and numeracy.
4. A reduction in the proportion of truancies and exclusions from school.
5. An increase in the proportion of 19-year-olds with at least a level 2 qualification or equivalent.
6. A reduction in the proportion of children living in workless households, for households of a given size, over the economic cycle.
7. Low-income indicators:
 - a. A reduction in the proportion of children in households with relatively low incomes;
 - b. A reduction in the proportion of children in households with low incomes in the absolute sense; and
 - c. A reduction in the proportion of children with persistently low incomes.
8. A reduction in the proportion of children living in poor housing.
9. A reduction in the proportion of households with children experiencing fuel poverty
10. A reduction in the rate at which children are admitted to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury resulting in a hospital stay of longer than three days.
11. A reduction in the proportion of 16 – 18-year-olds not in education or training.
12. An improvement in the educational attainment of children looked after by local authorities.
13. Teenage pregnancy: a reduction in the rate of conceptions for those aged under 18 and an increase in the proportion of those who are teenage parents, in education, employment or training.

B. People of working age

14. An increase in the proportion of working age people in employment, over the economic cycle
15. A reduction in the proportion of working age people living in workless households, for households of a given size, over the economic cycle.
16. A reduction in the number of working age people living in families claiming Income Support or income-based Job Seekers Allowance who have been claiming these benefits for long periods of time.

17. An increase in the employment rates of disadvantaged groups and a reduction in the difference between their employment rates and the overall rate for
 - a. People with disabilities;
 - b. Lone parents;
 - c. Ethnic minorities; and
 - d. The over 50's.
18. Low-income indicators:
 - a. A reduction in the proportion of working age people in households with relatively low incomes;
 - b. A reduction in the proportion of working age people in households with low incomes in an absolute sense; and
 - c. A reduction in the proportion of working age people with persistently low incomes.
19. An increase in the proportion of working age people with a qualification.
20. A reduction in the number of people sleeping rough.
21. A reduction in cocaine and heroin use by young people.
22. A reduction in adult smoking rates in all social classes.
23. A reduction in the death rates from suicide and undetermined injury.

C. Old people

24. An increase in the proportion of working age people contributing to a non-state pension
25. An increase in the amount contributed to non-state pensions.
26. An increase in the proportion of working age individuals who have contributed to a non-state pension in at least three years out of the last four.
27. Low-income indicators:
 - a. A reduction in the proportion of older people in households with relatively low incomes;
 - b. A reduction in the proportion of older people in households with low incomes in an absolute sense; and
 - c. A reduction in the proportion of older people with persistently low incomes.
28. A reduction in the proportion of elderly households experiencing fuel poverty.
29. A reduction in the proportion of older people whose lives are affected by fear of crime.
30. An increase in healthy life expectancy at age 65.
31. A reduction in the proportion of households containing at least one person aged 75 or more living in poor housing.
32. An increase in the proportion of older people being helped to live independently.

Glossary

| | |
|--|---|
| Absolute low income households | Households with an absolute low income are those households who have an income below a specified level. In the case of this Paper it is defined as half the 1996/97 national mean income. For a couple with no children this was equivalent to net income after housing costs of around £132 per week at April 1998 prices. For a single adult the threshold was £73 per week, and for a couple with three children aged 3, 8 & 11 it is higher at £220 per week. For later years these thresholds are adjusted for inflation to give an absolute threshold against which household's income is measured. |
| Cigarette Smoking | People aged 16 and over who report being regular cigarette smokers. |
| Employment | Employment is as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition. It includes both employees and the self-employed. |
| Equivalised income | The equivalisation process adjusts household income for variation in household size and composition and is an attempt to convert income into a measure of living standards. For example, if a family of four and a single person have the same income, it is generally considered that the single person will enjoy a higher standard of living. All members of a household - adults and children - are assumed to enjoy the same standard of living. |
| Ethnic minorities | Ethnicity is taken from the Labour Force Survey (see technical box) and is self-determined. The responses included in the definition of ethnic minorities include Black, Indian, Pakistani/Bangladeshi, or mixed other origins. |
| Poor housing | Housing that is unfit or in substantial disrepair or requiring essential modernisation. |
| Qualifications | People with a qualification include anyone with any educational qualification from a City and Guilds or an NVQ up to higher degrees. |
| Relatively low incomes | The income indicators in this Paper consider people in households that have an equivalised income that is less than half of the average national income. Equivalisation means that the 50% threshold converts into different monetary amounts for different households. In 1997/98 for a couple with no children it is equivalent to net income, after housing costs, of around £138 per week at April 1999 prices. For a single adult the threshold is lower – £76 per week, and for a couple with three children aged 3, 8 & 11 it is higher – £231 per week. |
| Suicide and Undetermined Injury | Deaths classified as suicide are those where the coroner is satisfied that there is clear evidence of intention. Undetermined injuries or open verdicts are those where there is doubt about the deceased's intention. Research shows that most open verdicts are in fact suicides. |
| Working age | This is defined as men aged between 16 and 64 and women aged between 16 and 59. |
| Workless households | Households containing at least one person of working age with no one in employment. |