Sustainable development indicators in your pocket **2005**

Securing the future
delivering UK sustainable development strategy

national STATISTICS

Sustainable development indicators in your pocket **2005**

A baseline for the
UK Government Strategy indicators

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone 020 7238 6000
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

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Please quote product code PB11008. An A4-size publication is available, code PB11008A.
A previous edition 'Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2004' is also available in A6 size (PB9541) and A4 size (PB9541A)

This document is also available on the Government sustainable development website www.sustainable-development.gov.uk.

Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Printed in the UK, June 2005, on material containing 80% post-consumer waste and 20% Totally chlorine free virgin pulp. Product code PB11008

CONTENTS

*UK Framework indicator

Note: Some indicators are relevant to more than one priority area as set out in the Strategy, but are only presented once.

UK FRAMEWORK INDICATORS SUMMARY

Indicator		Change since 1990	Change since 1999	Direction in latest year*
Greenhouse gas emissions		✔	≈	✘
Resource use		✔	≈	≈
Waste		…	≈	≈
Bird populations	farmland	✘	≈	≈
	woodland	≈	≈	≈
	coastal	✔	✔	≈
Fish stocks		…	✔	✔
Ecological impacts of air pollution	acidity	…	✔	✔
	nitrogen		✘	✘
River quality	biological	✔	≈	✔
	chemical			✘
Economic output		✔	✔	✔
Active community participation		…	✔	✔

Indicator		Change since 1990[1]	Change since 1999	Direction in latest year*
Crime	vehicles & burglary	✔	✔	✔
	robbery	✘	✘	✔
Employment		≈	✔	≈
Workless households		✔ 1992	✔	≈
Childhood poverty		✔	✔	≈
Pensioner poverty		✔	✔	✔
Education		✔	✔	✘
Health inequality	Infant mortality	✘ 1994	✘	✘
	Life expectancy	✘ 1991	≈	✘
Mobility	Walking/ cycling	✘	✘	✘
	Public transport	✘	≈	≈

[1] Year as shown if not 1990

Indicator	Change since 1990	Change since 1999	Direction in latest year*
Social justice	...	...	...
Environmental equality	...	...	...
Wellbeing	...	...	...

✔ = clear improvement since base year

≈ = little or no change since base year

✘ = clear deterioration since base year

... = insufficient or no comparable data

*The third column, *Direction of change in latest year* (comparing the latest and penultimate years for which data are available) is provided to give an indication only and may not represent a clear improvement or deterioration. This is presented only in this summary table and not within the body of the booklet and only for the UK Framework indicators. Indication of change is based on a 1 per cent threshold over which change in the indicator value was deemed to warrant a tick or cross. Exceptions are for waste and bird populations where, owing to methodological issues, recent figures are known not to represent a genuine change.

INTRODUCTION

The new UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the future*, was launched by the Prime Minister on 7 March 2005, and builds on the 1999 strategy, *A better quality of life*. It sets out the goal of sustainable development as enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

This means:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly.

The Strategy highlights four priority areas for action:

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate change and energy
- Protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment
- Creating sustainable communities and a fairer world.

For each of these areas, the Strategy identifies indicators through which to review progress and, along with other evidence, determine whether we are succeeding in our goals or whether we need to develop different policies and act accordingly. It is important to recognise that actions in a priority area have the potential to influence a range of impacts beyond that area and many indicators are therefore relevant to more than one area. There are a number of indicators relevant to *sustainable consumption and production* that are equally relevant to *climate change and energy* or *protecting natural resources*. There are also many linkages between health, peoples' lifestyles, and the environment.

In all, 68 indicators are outlined in the Strategy. These include 20 'UK Framework indicators', outlined in *One future – different paths: The UK's shared framework for sustainable development* (7 March 2005). This framework is shared by the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The 20 'UK Framework indicators' are intended to cover key impacts and outcomes that reflect the priority areas we share across the UK and take on the role of 'headline' indicators. The remaining 48 indicators in the Strategy highlight additional priorities relevant to the UK Government Strategy.

This booklet provides baseline data and assessments for all the UK Government Strategy indicators (subject to data availability) from which future progress will be reviewed.

The Framework indicators are interspersed amongst other relevant indicators within the booklet rather than being presented together. However, the summary table on page 7 lists the Framework indicators along with summaries of their trends.

The aim of the booklet is to make the indicators easily accessible and readers will find that it includes measures of everyday concerns including health, housing, jobs, crime, education and our environment. It is hoped this handy-sized publication will be a useful reference to experts but also to others less familiar with the concept of sustainable development.

The indicators help to illustrate the breadth of issues covered by the sustainable development agenda, and it is hoped they will encourage readers to find out more. For example, on the sustainable development website we will provide further information, where available, on international comparisons and global trends.

For further information visit:

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

The UK was one of the first countries to establish a set of indicators to review sustainable development (1996), and these were further developed to establish a set of 147 indicators, *Quality of life counts* (1999, updated 2004).

Fifteen headline indicators, within *Quality of life counts*, have been reported on regularly and reviewed in annual reports.

The indicators in this new set build upon the experience of *Quality of life counts*, the headline indicators and other indicator sets. They also take into account, as far as possible, responses from *Taking it on – the consultation to develop new UK sustainable development strategy* (2004), which included questions on the future use of indicators.

Of the 68 indicators, there are eight indicators for which we do not yet have data and hence may require new research and data collection.

For the majority of indicators in this new set, the data are already well established, collected and reported for other purposes. Although the new set of 68 indicators is less than half the size of the previous *Quality of life counts* set, this does not mean that many issues will no longer be monitored, or that they are no longer relevant to sustainable development. The volume of statistical reports and indicators across Government and beyond is vast, and these will continue to be used to review progress and influence policymaking. However, to highlight the priority areas within the Strategy, the new indicators are intended to be a select, focused and more manageable set.

REVIEWING PROGRESS

Not everyone is able to look at a graph and immediately understand the messages, and it is useful to be able to summarise what the indicators tell us. So to highlight whether or not things are moving in the right or wrong direction, a set of 'traffic lights' are used.

The traffic lights are:

 = clear improvement

 = little or no change

 = clear deterioration

 = insufficient or no comparable data

based on an assessment of the latest data compared with the position for earlier years.

For most indicators it will be very clear whether there has been an improvement or a deterioration, and hence whether a green or red traffic light is warranted. However where the amounts of change are small it can be difficult to judge whether they are sufficient to indicate that there has been a clear improvement or deterioration. So as a basic rule of thumb where an indicator value has changed by less than 3 per cent, the traffic light has been set at amber, indicating little or no change. The choice of 3 per cent as the threshold is arbitrary but has proven to be helpful in deciding on the most appropriate traffic light. There are a few exceptions to this rule, where for example the indicator has been historically stable and/or almost at the level it can be expected to achieve. In such cases a smaller amount of change may be regarded as indicating an improvement or

deterioration. In one or two cases the level of change may be greater than 3 per cent but the traffic light is nevertheless amber. This will apply where the limits of data collection imply that a larger percentage change is necessary for it to be regarded as showing a clear change.

For each indicator, where possible, two traffic light assessments of progress have been made by comparing the latest data with the position at two baselines:

- Since 1990 (medium-term change)
- Since 1999 (short-term change)

The 'since 1999' assessment reflects the change that has occurred since the earlier strategy *A better quality of life*.

The choice of baselines is of course also to some extent arbitrary. We could just as reasonably use 1991 and 2000 as baselines, but the assessments are after all only intended to help communicate the more detailed information shown by the indicators themselves.

However, owing to year on year variation the position in 1990 or 1999 may be unrepresentative of the trend and could unduly influence our assumptions about the degree of progress made. To reduce the impact of the precise baseline year a three-year average around the baseline year has been used, where possible. So the assessment of change since 1990 will be based on a comparison of the latest year's data with the average of data for 1989-1991, and similarly change since 1999 based on a comparison with an average of 1998-2000, if data are available. Where trends are volatile it is likely that for some indicators subsequent traffic light assessments will still vary from year to year, owing to fluctuations in the latest years' data.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Within the indicator set there is some variation in the geographic coverage of the indicators. In the case of the 20 UK Framework indicators, these are intended to cover England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

However it is not always possible to produce consistent figures for the whole of the UK as in some cases data constraints remain, owing to differences in definitions and structures, or simply the data not being available.

Data collection must be related to the specific policy and monitoring needs of each administration, and so it will not necessarily be possible for indicators to be applied consistently across the UK.

For Scotland and Wales, separate indicator sets have been established that meet those administrations' needs for monitoring sustainable development. In Northern Ireland work to develop a sustainable development strategy will include a review of indicators before establishing their own set.

For the wider indicators in the UK Government Strategy, in some cases the data are presented for the UK, and in others the indicators are presented either for England, England and Wales, or Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) – depending on whether in policy terms it is appropriate to cover the devolved administrations, and for what area the data are available.

For some indicators that are presented in this booklet for England – reflecting the appropriate coverage in policy terms – additional data if available for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland may be presented on the sustainable development website for comparison.

In addition, for many indicators the sustainable development website will provide access to international data providing comparison with other countries and overall global trends. We will be also exploring the feasibility of indicators to measure UK impacts overseas. This would be on a pilot basis, looking at specific countries and key sectors (like timber or mineral extraction).

INDICATOR PRESENTATION

For each indicator for which we currently have data, one or more charts are provided that show the change in the indicator since 1990. In many cases a small chart is additionally shown within the main chart to illustrate the longer-term change – going back as far as 1970 if data are available. The presentation of the charts has been simplified as far possible. For example, on the x-axis not all years for which data are presented have been indicated.

Many indicators have several components and these may be shown as an index, which means that the value of the component for a base year, mainly 1990, is treated as representing 100 (per cent). Subsequent or preceding values of the indicator are then shown in relation to that base value – in effect as a percentage of it. This allows trends in components with different units to be more easily compared from the base year.

The traffic lights, summarising the medium and short-term change, are shown beneath the charts. If trends in individual components of an indicator are moving in the same direction then a combined assessment will be made, rather than presenting multiple traffic lights.

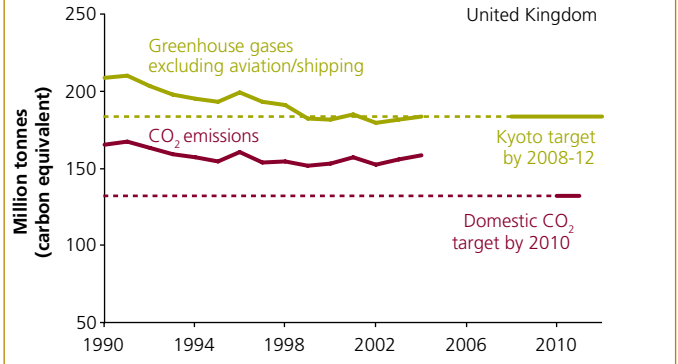
A short statistical commentary on the indicator is then provided to highlight and explain the trends. Some of the indicators show trends in environmental pollution or other impacts with the perceived driver of these impacts (e.g. economic growth). Comparing these shows the degree to which the trends have diverged or 'decoupled'.

Our website will provide access to all the figures used to compile the indicator to allow readers to more closely scrutinise the trends and our assessments.

Most of the data used to compile the indicators come from Government sources and are National Statistics. The assessments of progress and the compilation of the compendium and website have been undertaken by statisticians within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), in collaboration with statisticians and other colleagues within other Government departments and within the Devolved Administrations.

Greenhouse gas emissions*

Kyoto target and CO_2 emissions, 1990 to 2012



Source: Defra, DTI, netcen

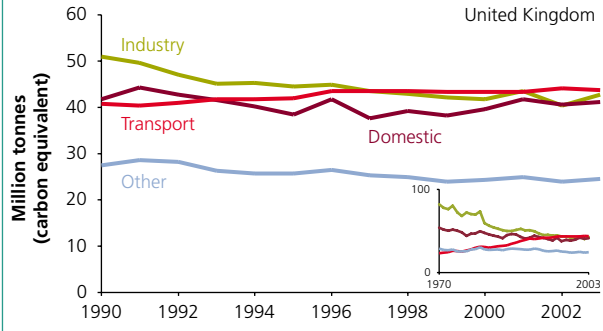
Greenhouse gas emissions since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ≈

- Emissions of the 'basket' of six greenhouse gases in 2004 were provisionally estimated to have been about 12.5 per cent below the base year. (The base year is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for fluorinated compounds.)
- Emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, were provisionally estimated at some 158.5 million tonnes (carbon equivalent) in 2004, about 4 per cent lower than in 1990. Emissions increased by about 1.5 per cent between 2003 and 2004, mainly owing to increases in industrial and transport sector emissions.

*UK Framework indicator

Carbon dioxide emissions by end user

CO_2 emissions from industry, domestic, transport sectors (excluding international aviation and shipping), 1990 to 2003



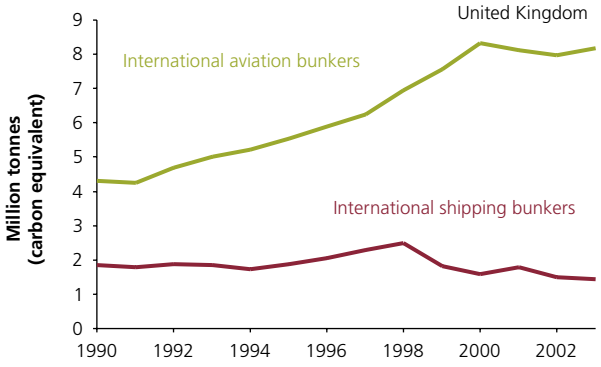
Source: netcen

Industry	since: 1990 ✔	1999 ✔
Domestic	since: 1990 ✔	1999 ✘
Transport	since: 1990 ✘	1999 ≈

- End user emissions include allocated emissions from electricity generation. By 2003 carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from industry had reduced by 21 per cent from 1990 levels (and were 51 per cent less than in 1970), and emissions from domestic users had reduced by 3 per cent (and were 25 per cent less than in 1970). However domestic emissions rose by 6 per cent between 1999 and 2003.
- In 2003 transport sector emissions were 8 per cent higher than in 1990 (91 per cent higher than in 1970). However in recent years the growth in emissions has slowed.

Aviation and shipping emissions

Greenhouse gases from UK-based international aviation and shipping fuel bunkers, 1990 to 2003



Source: netcen

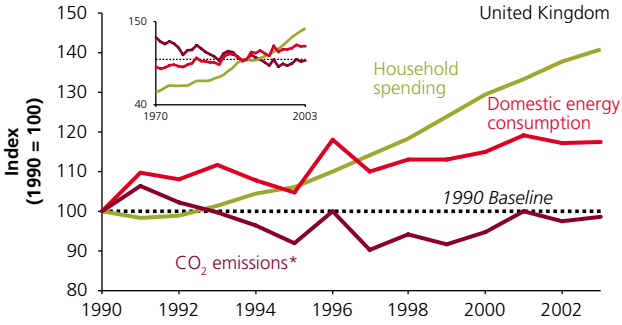
Aviation bunkers since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ✘

Shipping bunkers since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation and shipping can be estimated from refuelling from bunkers at UK airports and ports (whether by UK or non-UK operators).
- Between 1990 and 2003, emissions from aviation fuel use increased by almost 90 per cent. High altitude aviation has a greenhouse effect over and above that of carbon dioxide emissions alone, but this is not reflected in this indicator. Emissions from UK shipping bunker fuel use fell by about a fifth, but UK shipping operators purchase most of their bunker fuel outside the UK.

Household energy use

Domestic CO_2 emissions, domestic energy consumption and household spending, 1990 to 2003



*Includes an estimate of share of energy industry emissions

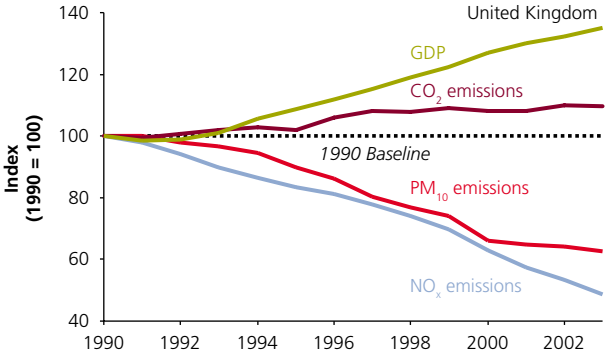
Source: netcen, DTI, ONS

Domestic CO_2 emissions since: 1990 ≈ 1999 ✘

- Domestic energy consumption increased by 18 per cent between 1990 and 2003, but the associated domestic carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have remained at 1990 levels – largely the result of electricity generators switching from coal to gas or nuclear fuels.
- Following a drop in domestic CO_2 emissions in the late 1990s, there has been an 8 per cent increase in emissions since 1999.
- Household spending (household final consumption expenditure) is likely to affect energy use but spending rose by 41 per cent between 1990 and 2003, at a much faster rate than energy use.

Road transport

CO_2, NO_x, PM_{10} emissions from road transport and Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2003



Source: ONS

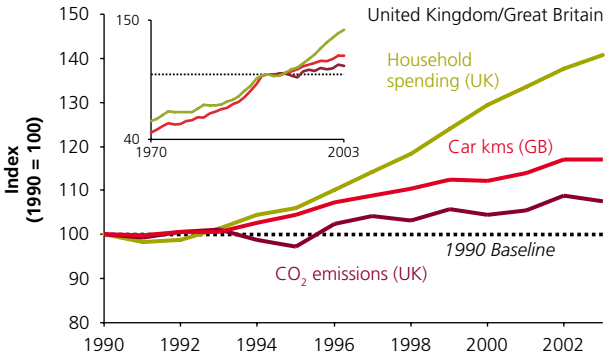
CO_2 emissions since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ≈

NO_x, PM_{10} emissions since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from all road transport rose roughly in line with economic growth (GDP) until 1993, but then grew more slowly and between 1990 and 2003 increased by 10 per cent, compared with GDP growth of 39 per cent. Emissions in 2003 were virtually unchanged from those in 1999. (Supporting indicators showing separately the emissions from private cars and heavy goods vehicles included in the total are shown overleaf.)
- By 2003 emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulates (PM_{10}) were respectively 51 per cent and 37 per cent lower than in 1990.

Private cars

Private car CO_2 emissions, car-kilometres and household spending, 1990 to 2003



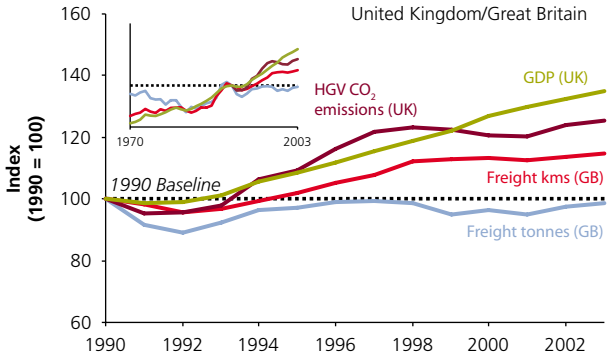
Source: ONS, DfT

CO_2 emissions since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ≈

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from private cars increased by 8 per cent between 1990 and 2003.
- Road traffic volume (measured as total car-kilometres travelled) increased by 17 per cent between 1990 and 2003. Road traffic volumes increased in line with household spending (household final consumption expenditure) in the early 1990s but spending has since risen much faster and by 2003 was 41 per cent higher than in 1990.

Road freight

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) CO_2 emissions, kilometres, tonnes and Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2003



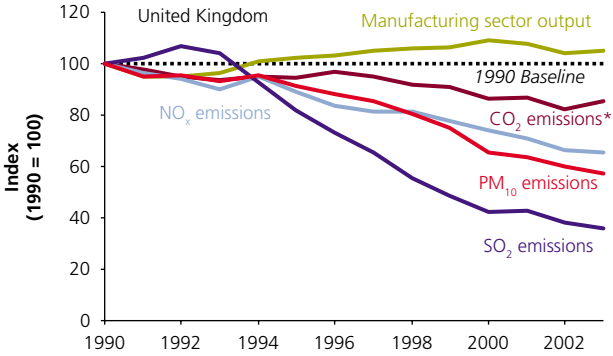
Source: DfT, ONS

CO_2 emissions since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ≈

- The total weight of goods carried by road has remained at about the same level as in 1990. However freight traffic (kilometres travelled) increased in line with economic growth (Gross Domestic Product) between 1993 and 1998 and since then has remained 12 to 15 per cent higher than in 1990.
- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) rose broadly in line with economic growth until 1998 and overall emissions were 25 per cent higher in 2003 than in 1990, compared with economic growth of 39 per cent.

Manufacturing sector

Manufacturing sector CO_2, NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10}, emissions and output, 1990 to 2003



* Includes an estimate of share of emissions from electricity generation

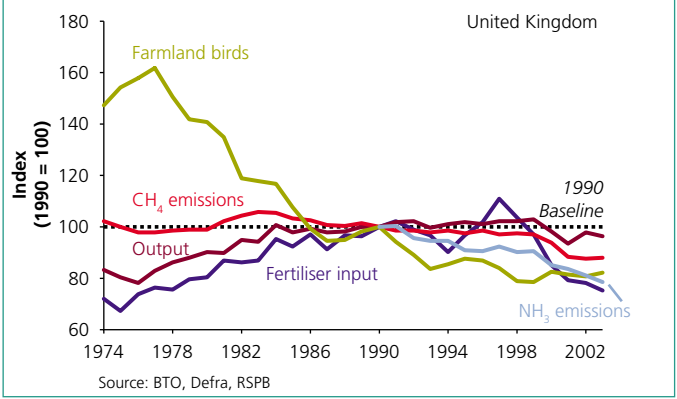
Source: ONS

CO_2, NO_x, SO_2, PM_{10} emissions — since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Manufacturing accounts for roughly 15 per cent of UK Gross Value Added (monetary output), employs about the same proportion of UK workers and is responsible for a similar proportion of UK emissions.
- Manufacturing GVA rose by 5 per cent between 1990 and 2003. However reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) by 15 per cent, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 35 per cent, particulates (PM_{10}) by 43 per cent and sulphur dioxide (SO_2) by 64 per cent, were made over the same period.

Agriculture sector

Fertiliser input, farmland bird population, ammonia and methane emissions and output, 1974 to 2003

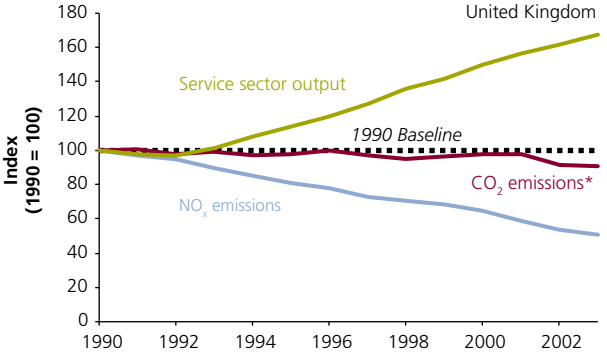


Fertiliser, NH_3, CH_4	since: 1990	✔	1999	✔
Farmland birds	since: 1990	✘	1999	≈

- Between 1990 and 2003 output from UK agriculture changed little, but in 2003 was 16 per cent higher than in the mid-1970s. By 1997 fertiliser use had risen by over half compared with the mid-1970s but thereafter was considerably reduced. Methane (CH_4) and ammonia (NH_3) emissions have fallen by 12 and 22 per cent respectively since 1990.
- In 2003 farmland bird populations were 18 per cent lower than in 1990, and were 44 per cent lower than in the mid-1970s.

Service sector

Service sector CO_2, NO_x emissions and output, 1990 to 2003



* Includes an estimate of share of emissions from electricity generation

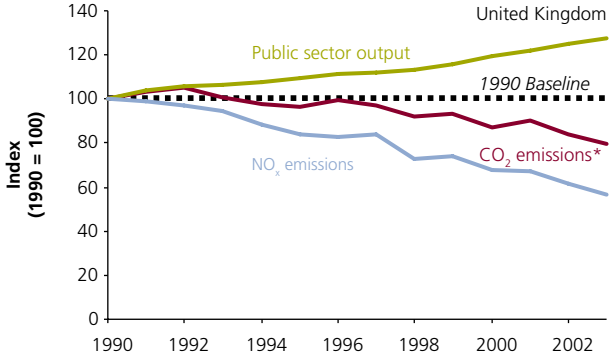
Source: ONS

CO_2, NO_x emissions since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The service sector is the largest and fastest growing UK sector. It employs about half of the workforce and generates just under half of Gross Value Added (monetary output).
- Service sector GVA increased rapidly in the 1990s and in 2003 was 67 per cent higher than in 1990. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from the sector's energy use fell by 9 per cent between 1990 and 2003. Emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) reduced steadily over the period and by 2003 were 49 per cent less than in 1990. (Figures for the public sector are overleaf.)

Public sector

Public sector CO_2, NO_x emissions and output, 1990 to 2003



* Includes an estimate of share of emissions from electricity generation

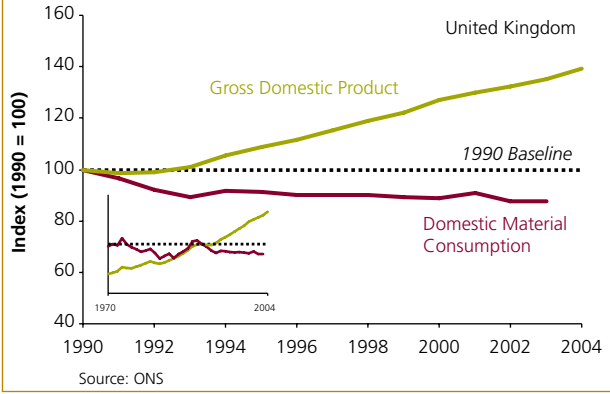
Source: ONS

CO_2, NO_x emissions — since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The public sector generates a fifth of UK Gross Value Added (monetary output), employs a quarter of workers, and produces 4 per cent of UK carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.
- Public sector GVA rose by 28 per cent between 1990 and 2003. CO_2 emissions from the sector's energy use and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions fell by 20 per cent and 44 per cent respectively.

Resource use*

Domestic Material Consumption and Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2004



Source: ONS

Domestic Material Consumption

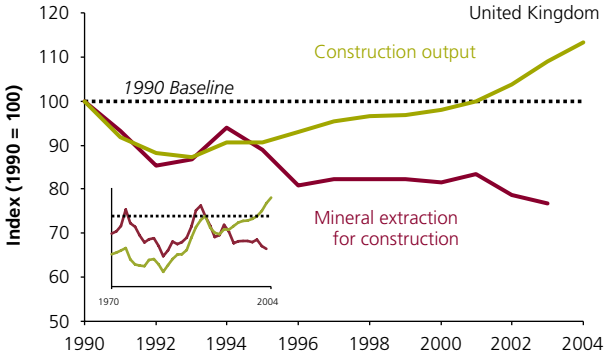
since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ≈

- Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) is the total mass of materials directly consumed by the economy (it excludes waste from manufacture of imported goods).
- The economy (Gross Domestic Product) grew by 39 per cent in real terms between 1990 and 2004. In contrast DMC was 12 per cent lower in 2003 than in 1990 having remained relatively stable since 1993 – with reductions in use of UK resources balanced by increases in imports.

*UK Framework indicator

Stone, sand and gravel extraction

Construction output and extraction of construction materials, 1990 to 2003

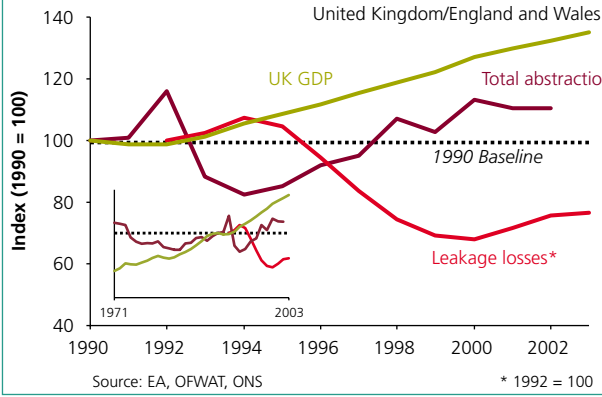


Source: ONS

- This is a contextual indicator for Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) opposite. Mineral extraction, primarily used for construction, accounted for 39 per cent of DMC in 2003. The level of construction mineral extraction decreased by 23 per cent between 1990 and 2003.
- The amount of material extracted and the value of output (GVA) from the construction industry were closely linked until the early 1990s. However, since 1994 the two have diverged markedly, with output value increasing steadily whilst being less dependent on mineral extraction.

Water resource use

Total abstractions from non-tidal surface and ground water, leakage losses and Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2003



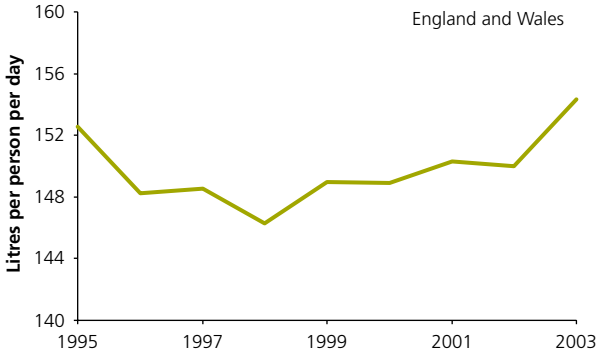
Abstractions since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ≈

Leakage losses since: 1992 ✔ 1999 ✘

- In 2002 over 43 billion litres of water were abstracted per day from non-tidal surface and ground water sources in England and Wales. This was virtually unchanged from 1971, but had been lower during the 1970s and 1980s. In the mid-1990s abstractions increased in line with economic growth. The abstractions in 2001 and 2002 levelled off but were 10 per cent higher than in 1990.
- Leakage losses increased in the early 1990s but by 2000 had decreased by 40 per cent compared with 1992. However since 2000 leakages have increased.

Domestic water consumption

Litres per person per day, 1995 to 2003



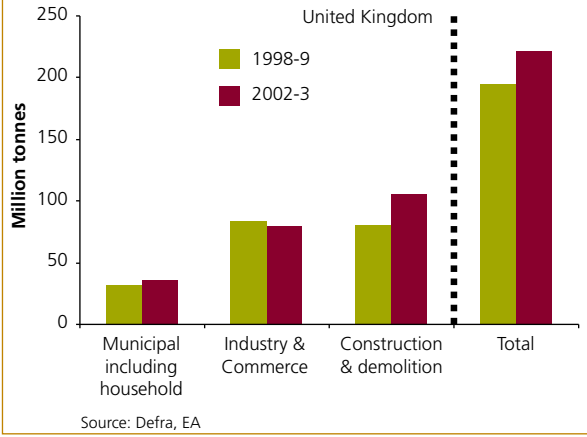
Source: OFWAT

Water consumption since: 1995 ≈ 1999 ≈

- Household water consumption accounts for around two-thirds of water in the public supply (excluding leaks).
- Households consumed an average of 154 litres per person each day in 2003. Annual changes in consumption rates are largely owing to summer weather, and 2003 was particularly warm and dry. It is believed that there has been no clear underlying increase in per person consumption rates. (Data prior to 1995 are less reliable owing to early data collection systems and have been excluded.)

Waste*

Waste (a) arisings by sector, 1998-9 to 2002-3



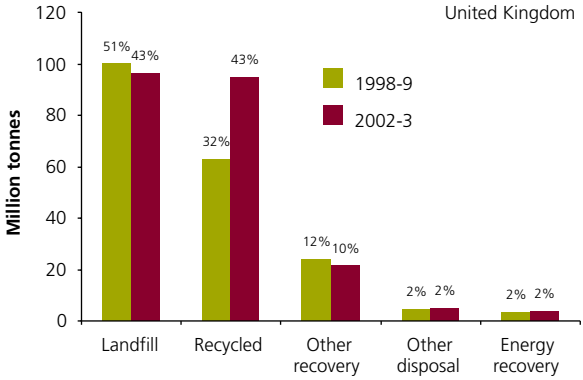
Source: Defra, EA

Waste arisings since: 1990 (...) 1999 (≈)

- In 2002-3, around 220 million tonnes of waste were produced by households, commerce and industry (including construction and demolition). (This is estimated from waste survey data and the apparent increase in total arisings from 1998-9 to 2002-3 is not regarded as showing a clear increase.)
- In 2002-3, municipal waste (household and other waste collected by local authorities) made up about 16 per cent of total waste, industry and commerce accounted for a third, and construction and demolition made up about half.

*UK Framework indicator

Waste (b) arisings by disposal, 1998-9 to 2002-3



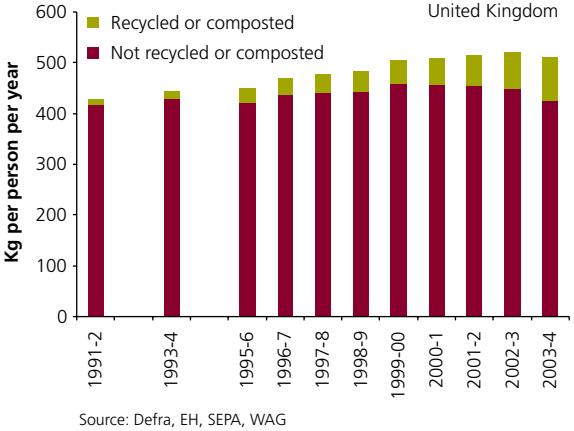
Note: Percentages show the percentage of the total waste for that year disposed of in this way

Source: Defra, EA, ODPM

- In 2002-3, 43 per cent of the waste was disposed of in landfill sites. The amount disposed of in this way had not changed compared with 1998-9.

Household waste per person

(a) arisings (b) recycled or composted, 1991-2 to 2003-4



Source: Defra, EH, SEPA, WAG

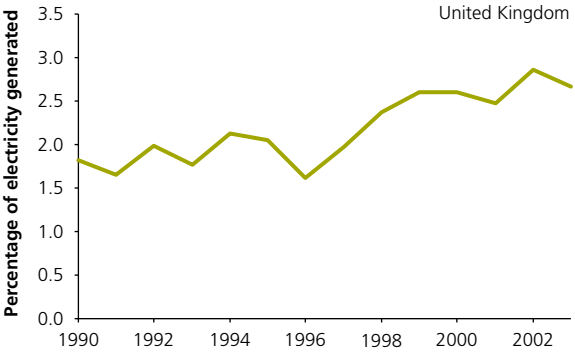
Waste arisings since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ≈

Recycled or composted since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Between 1999-00 and 2003-4 household waste per person increased by only 1.4 per cent, with each person generating half a tonne on average.
- The amount recycled or composted has increased and accounted for 17 per cent of household waste in 2003-4.
- The amount of non-recycled waste per person has decreased in the last two years and is at a similar level to 1995 – most of this goes to landfill.

Renewable energy

Renewable electricity generated as a percentage of total electricity, 1990 to 2003



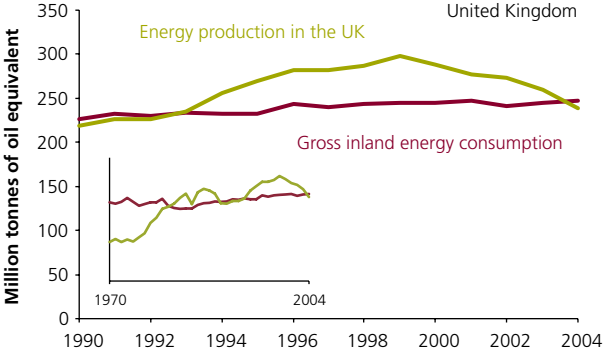
Source: DTI

Renewable electricity since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- In 2003, renewable sources represented 2.7 per cent of all electricity generated, increasing from 1.8 per cent in 1990.
- Between 1990 and 2003 generation from non-hydro sources (wind, wave, solar and biofuels) increased from being 13 per cent of all renewable electricity generated to 70 per cent.

Energy supply

UK indigenous energy production and gross inland energy consumption, 1990 to 2004



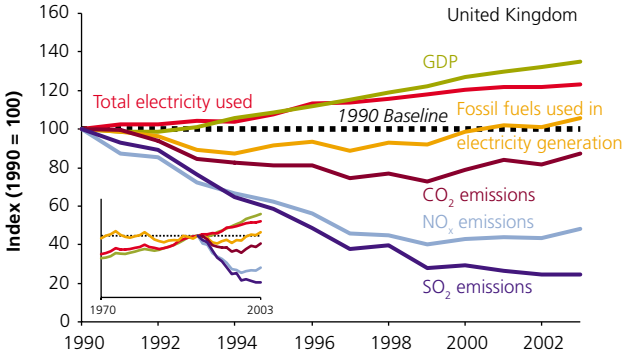
Source: DTI

Production over consumption since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✘

- The UK's indigenous energy production (i.e. within the UK) has broadly met or exceeded gross inland energy consumption during the 1990s.
- Since 1999 indigenous energy production has fallen from being 22 per cent above consumption, with the UK a net exporter of energy, to 4 per cent less than consumption, with the UK a net importer of energy (provisional figures for 2004).

Electricity generation

Electricity generated, CO_2, NO_x and SO_2 emissions by electricity generators and GDP, 1990 to 2003



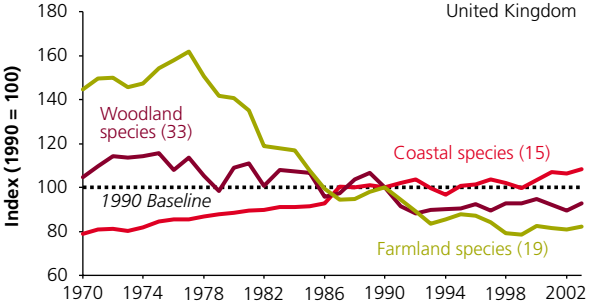
Source: DTI, ONS

Electricity, fossil fuels	since: 1990	✘	1999	✘
CO_2, NO_x	since: 1990	✔	1999	✘
SO_2	since: 1990	✔	1999	✔

- Between 1990 and 2003 electricity consumption rose by 23 per cent, and fossil fuel used in electricity generation rose by 6 per cent, though it had fallen in the early 1990s.
- Associated carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emissions all fell between 1990 and 1999, by 27 per cent, 60 per cent and 72 per cent respectively, but CO_2 and NO_x have both increased since then, reflecting an increase in fossil fuel use.

Bird Populations*

Bird population indices (a) farmland birds (b) woodland birds (c) coastal birds, 1970 to 2003



Note: Figures in brackets give the number of species included in each category

Source: Defra, RSPB, BTO

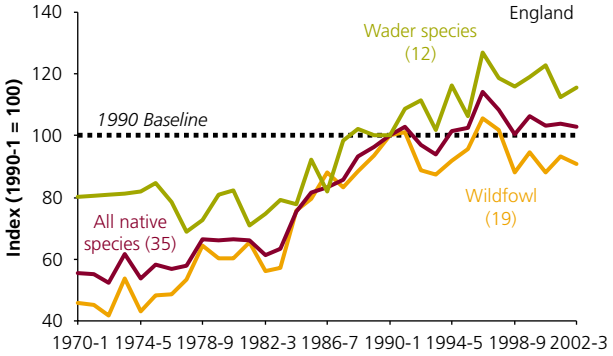
Farmland birds	since: 1990	✘	1999	≈
Woodland birds	since: 1990	≈	1999	≈
Coastal birds	since: 1990	✔	1999	✔

- Farmland bird populations fell by 42 per cent between 1970 and 1993, but remained fairly stable thereafter. Woodland bird populations in 2003 were about 20 per cent lower than the peak of the mid 1970s but remained fairly stable from 1991.
- Britain's breeding coastal bird populations are of international importance. Steady increases between 1970 and 2003 meant that the coastal bird population index increased by 37 per cent over this period.

*UK Framework indicator

Bird populations: wintering wetland birds

Bird population indices: wintering wetland birds, 1970-1 to 2002-3



Note: Figures in brackets give the number of species included in each category

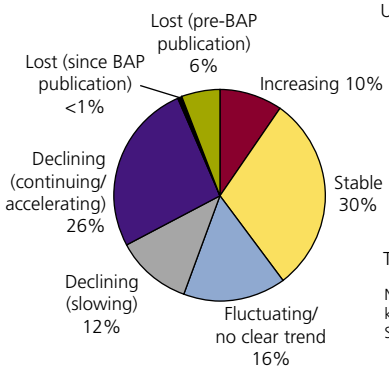
Source: BTO, RSPB

Wintering wetland birds since: 1990 ≈ 1999 ≈

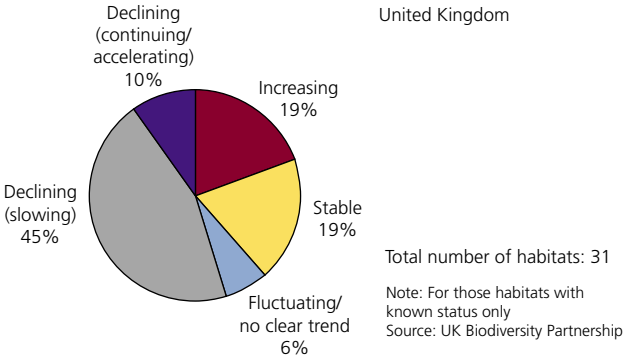
- The UK is internationally important for wintering wetland birds. Within England, between 1970-1 and 1996-7, wading bird populations increased by 59 per cent and waterfowl by 130 per cent. The overall wetland birds index more than doubled.
- However the index fell by 10 per cent between 1996-7 and 2002-3, to about the same level as in 1990-1.

Biodiversity conservation

(a) priority species status, 2002



(b) priority habitat status, 2002

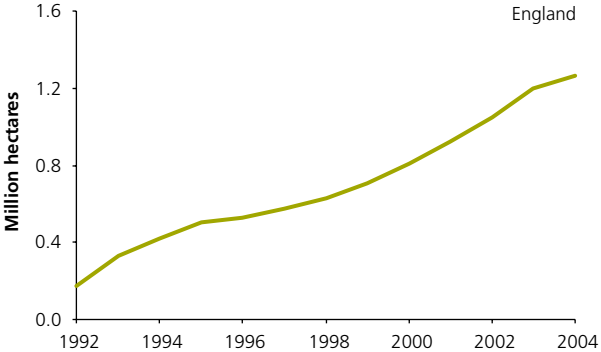


Species and habitat status 

- UK priority species and habitats are those that have been identified as being most threatened. Biodiversity Action Plans have been put in place to establish the factors for their decline and the work necessary for recovery.
- In 2002, of the 254 assessed priority species 44 per cent were declining or had been lost, 10 per cent were found to be increasing, and 46 per cent were stable, fluctuating or showed no clear pattern. A further 137 species had not yet been assessed.
- Of the 31 assessed priority habitats, 55 per cent were declining or lost, 19 per cent were found to be improving, and 26 per cent were stable, fluctuating or showed no clear pattern. A further 14 habitats had not yet been assessed.
- It is not possible to assess trends since the 1990 and 1999 baselines. However, on the basis that 44 per cent of species and 55 per cent of habitats were declining in 2002, the assessment in sustainable development terms is that there has been a clear deterioration in species and habitat status. (This assessment is not made on the same basis as assessments for the England Biodiversity Strategy, which takes account of a slowing in the decline for some species and habitats.)

Farming and environmental stewardship

Land covered by environmental schemes,1992 to 2004



Note: Includes land covered by the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, Countryside and Arable Stewardship Schemes and the Entry Level Scheme (pilot)

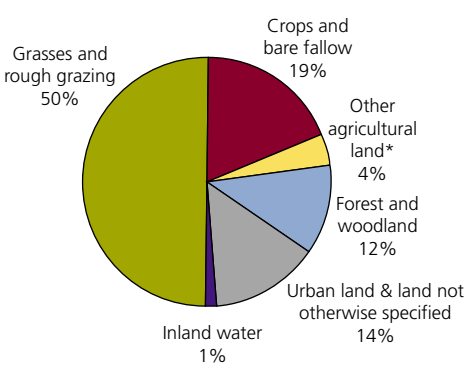
Source: Defra

Stewardship schemes since: 1992 ✔ 1999 ✔

- There are currently no data on new stewardship schemes initiated in 2005, but measures are to be established and this indicator will be revised accordingly. Data are available for earlier schemes.
- Since 1992, the amount of land covered by Countryside and Arable Stewardship schemes or by the Entry Level pilot (prior to new schemes introduced in 2005) have increased from 175 thousand hectares to over 1.2 million hectares. These schemes require farms to demonstrate good environmental practice.

Land use

Area covered by agriculture, woodland, water or river, urban, 2003



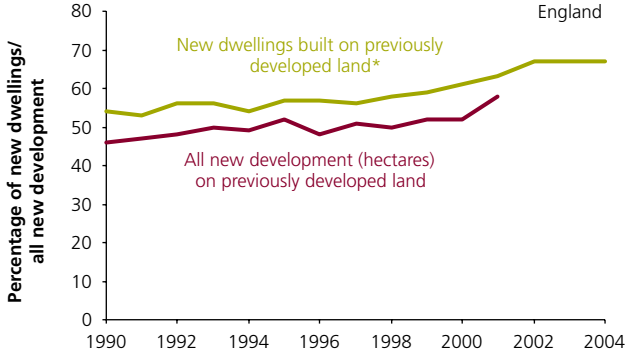
*Set aside and other land on agricultural holdings. Excludes woodland
Source: Defra; Ordnance Survey; Forestry Commission; Forest Service

Contextual indicator

- In 2003, 50 per cent of land in the UK was either grass or rough grazing land, and 19 per cent of land was covered by crops or left bare fallow. Other forms of agriculture accounted for 4 per cent of UK land.
- Twelve per cent of UK land area was forest and woodland whilst 14 per cent of land area was urban land or 'land not otherwise specified'. Inland water covered 1 per cent of UK land area.

Land recycling

(a) new dwellings built on previously developed land or through conversions (b) all new development on previously developed land, 1990 to 2004



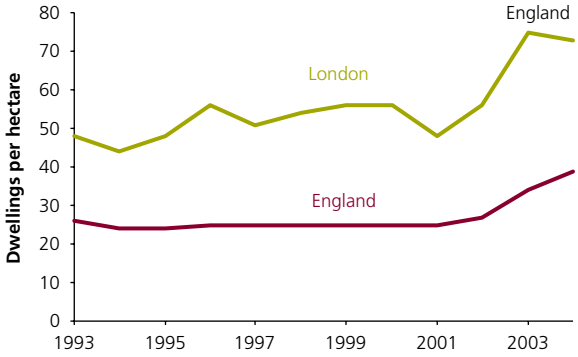
*Includes conversions which are estimated to add 3 percentage points
Note: 2004 figure is provisional
Source: ODPM

Land recycling since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The percentage of new dwellings arising from building on previously developed land or through the conversion of existing buildings increased from 54 per cent in 1990 to 67 per cent in 2004 (provisional estimate).
- The percentage of all new development (not just residential) occurring on previously developed land (measured by land area) also increased: from 46 per cent in 1990 to 58 per cent in 2001.

Dwelling density

Average density of new housing, 1993 to 2004



Note: 2004 data are provisional

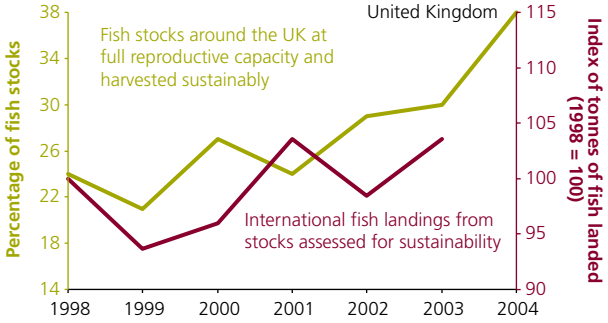
Source: ODPM

Density of newly built dwellings — since: 1993 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The density of newly built dwellings in England remained fairly constant between 1993 and 2001, at an average of 25 new dwellings per hectare. Recently, however, density has increased and in 2004 the figure was 39 new dwellings per hectare (provisional estimate), representing a third more new dwellings per hectare.
- For London, dwelling density rose from 48 new dwellings per hectare in 1993 to 56 in 2000. After a drop in 2001, density rose to 73 new dwellings per hectare in 2004 (provisional estimate).

Fish Stocks*

Sustainability of fish stocks around the UK, 1998 to 2004



Notes: Based on results for 47 stocks
Stock figures relate to finfish stocks only and are derived from ICES ACFM stock assessment reports

Source: ICES, CEFAS

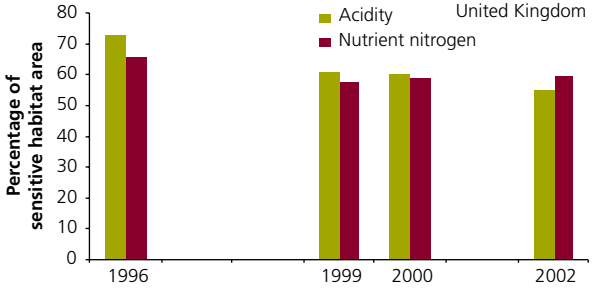
Fish stocks harvested sustainably — since: 1990 (...) 1999 ✔

- In 2004, 38 per cent of fish stocks around the UK were at full reproductive capacity and were being harvested sustainably, up from 24 per cent in 1998. However that means that nearly two-thirds of UK fish stocks were suffering reduced reproductive capacity.
- Between 1998 and 2003 fish landings increased by 4 per cent from those stocks that are assessed for sustainability of harvest. There are insufficient data to currently make an assessment of the overall trends and the relationship between fish landings and stock viability.

*UK Framework indicator

Ecological impacts of air pollution*

Area of sensitive UK habitats exceeding critical loads for acidification and eutrophication, 1996 to 2002



Source: Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Area affected by acidity — since: 1990 (...) 1999 ✔

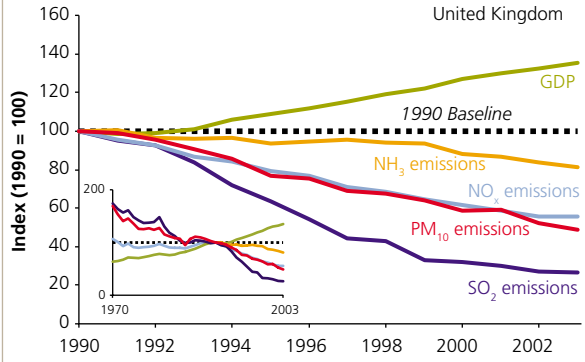
Area affected by nitrogen — since: 1990 (...) 1999 ✘

- Critical loads are thresholds above which the deposition of pollutants causing acidification and eutrophication (e.g. excessive freshwater algae growth due to nitrogen) causes significant harm to the environment. The pollutants come mainly from burning fossil fuels and waste from farm animals. Around a third of UK land area is sensitive to acid deposition, and a third to eutrophication (with some sensitive to both). Between 1996 and 2002, the percentage of sensitive habitat area where acid deposited exceeded critical loads fell from 73 to 55 per cent. The percentage of sensitive habitat area where eutrophying pollutants exceeded critical loads rose slightly in 2002.

*UK Framework indicator

Emissions of air pollutants

NH_3, NO_x, PM_{10} and SO_2 emissions and GDP, 1990 to 2003



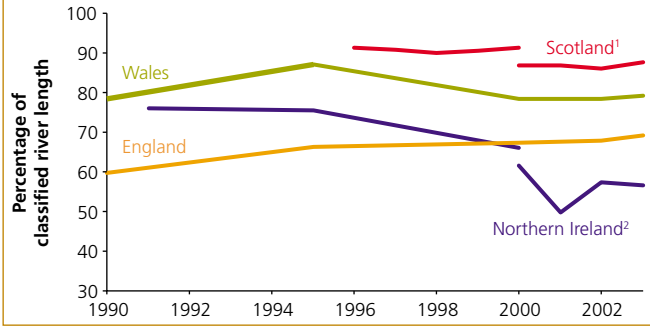
Source: EA, netcen, ONS

NH_3, NO_X, PM_{10}, SO_2 since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

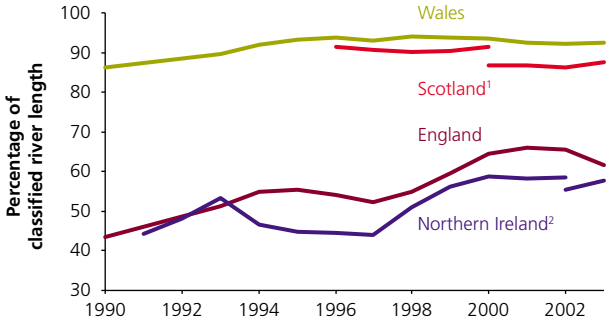
- Between 1990 and 2003 emissions of air pollutants were reduced: ammonia (NH_3) by 19 per cent, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 44 per cent, particulates (PM_{10}) by 51 per cent and sulphur dioxide (SO_2) by 74 per cent.
- The reduction in these pollutants was at the same time as the economy (Gross Domestic Product) grew by 35 per cent.

River quality*

(a) Rivers of good biological quality, 1990 to 2003



(b) Rivers of good chemical quality, 1990 to 2003



1. Scottish river classification is based on a combined chemical, biological and aesthetic assessment and is not directly comparable with other countries. The Scottish classification network changed in 2000
2. Northern Ireland classified network significantly expanded in 2000/2002

Source: EA, SEPA, EHS

*UK Framework indicator

Biological and chemical quality

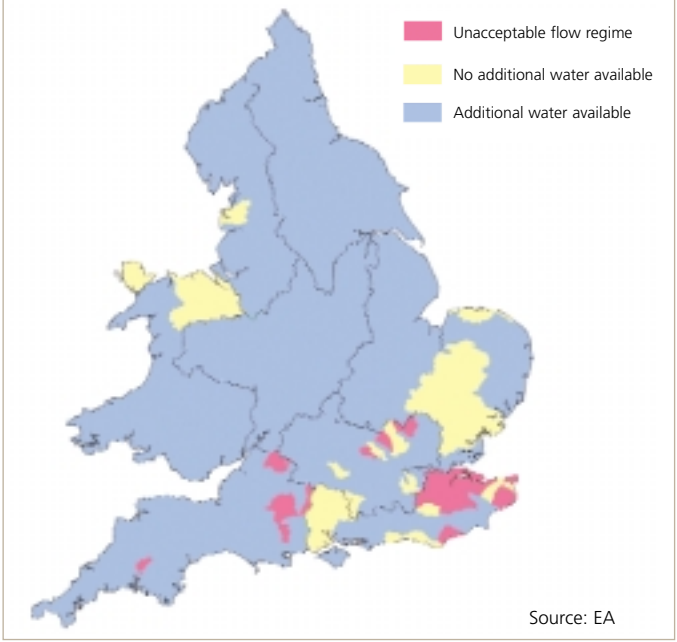
since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ≈

- Between 1990 and 2003 the percentage of rivers of good biological quality in England rose from 60 to 69 per cent. In 2003, 57 per cent of rivers in Northern Ireland and 79 per cent of rivers in Wales were of good biological quality.
- In 2003, 62 per cent of English rivers were of good chemical quality, compared with 43 per cent in 1990. In Northern Ireland 58 per cent of rivers were of good chemical quality in 2003 compared with 44 per cent in 1991. In all years since 1993 over 90 per cent of rivers in Wales have been of good chemical quality.
- In Scotland, 88 per cent of rivers were of good quality in 2003 based on a combined chemical, biological and aesthetic assessment, compared with 87 per cent in 2000.
- The traffic light assessments above are based on the biological and chemical quality of rivers in England and Wales only. It is not possible to produce aggregate UK measures.
- This indicator will in due course be changed to reflect assessments of ecological status as required by the EU Water Framework Directive.

Water stress

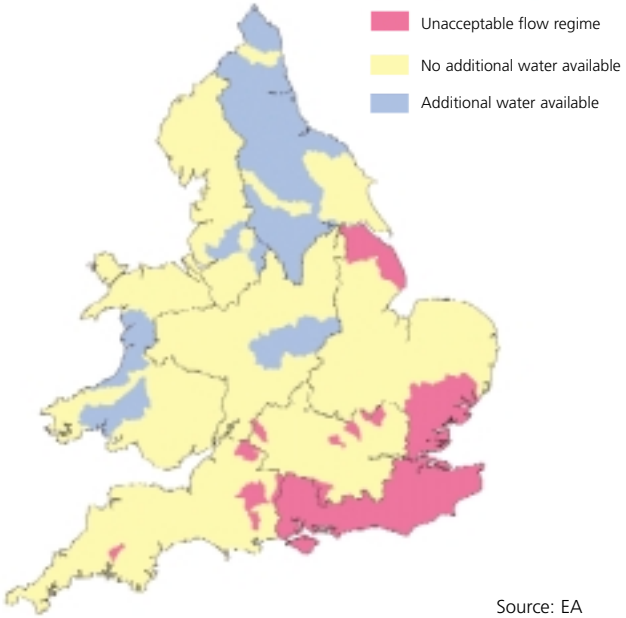
To be developed to monitor the impacts of water shortages

Assessments of water availability: Winter surface water



Source: EA

Assessments of water availability: Summer surface water

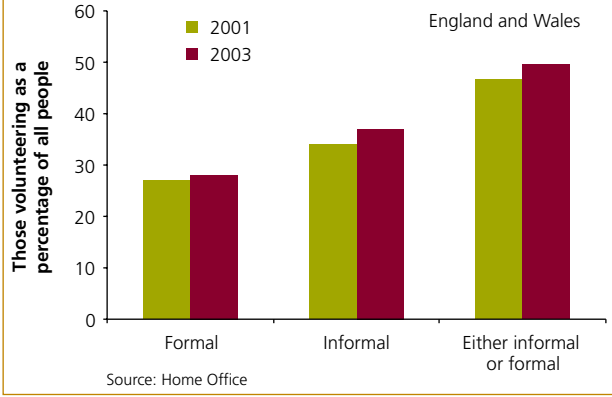


Source: EA

- Water is abstracted from surface and ground waters to provide public water supplies and serve industry and agriculture. The maps of assessments of water availability made in 2001 show that abstractions from surface water are at their limit in the summer for much of England and Wales and also in the winter for parts of the south and east.
- Available data will be reviewed to identify the most suitable measures for an indicator of water stress.

Active community participation*

Informal and formal volunteering at least once a month in the last 12 months, 2001 to 2003



Source: Home Office

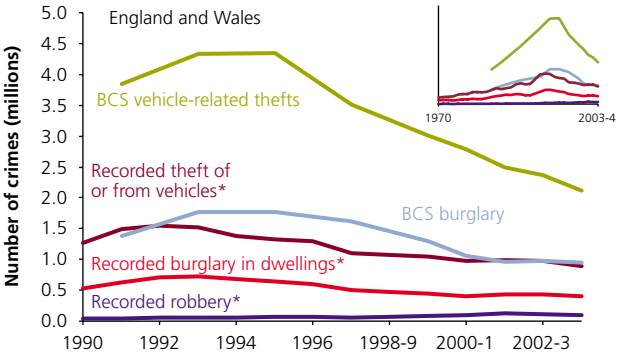
Active community participation since: 1990 (...) 2001 (✔)

- In 2003, 28 per cent of people volunteered formally at least monthly (giving unpaid help through groups, clubs, organisations, or their employer to benefit other people or the environment), unchanged from 2001. In Scotland (not shown) 24 per cent of people formally gave up time to help as an organiser or volunteer in the past year.
- Thirty-seven per cent of people volunteered informally (giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives), up from 34 per cent in 2001. Overall 50 per cent of people were regular formal or informal volunteers in 2003. Volunteering informally at least once per year (not shown) fell from 67 to 62 per cent.

*UK Framework indicator

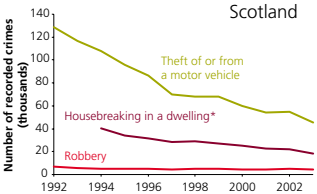
Crime*

Crime survey and recorded crime for (a) vehicles (b) domestic burglary (c) robbery, 1990 to 2003-4



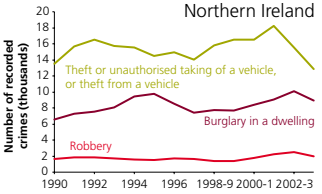
*The coverage and rules for recording crimes were changed in 1998 and a new National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002

Source: Home Office



*This is the Scottish crime category most equivalent to burglary in a dwelling

Source: Scottish Executive



Note: See as above for England and Wales

Source: PSNI

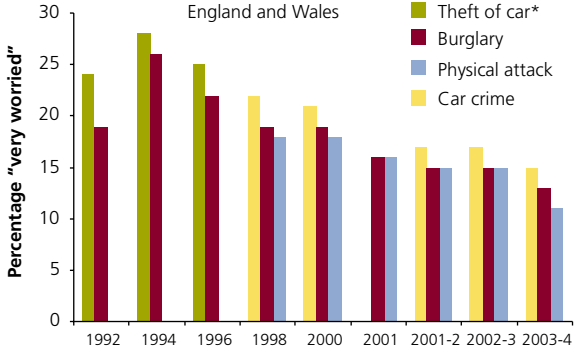
*UK Framework indicator

Vehicles and burglary	since: 1990 ✔	1999 ✔
Robbery	since: 1990 ✘	1999 ✘

- In England and Wales, from the British Crime Survey (BCS), vehicle thefts fell by 45 per cent and burglary fell by 32 per cent between 1991 and 2003-4, whether or not reported to the police. Of the crimes recorded by the police, vehicle crime fell by 30 per cent, and burglary in dwellings fell by 24 per cent between 1990 and 2003-4.
- The number of robberies recorded by the police increased from about 36,000 in 1990 to 67,000 in 1998-9 and 101,000 in 2003-4. However 2003-4 represented a fall of 6 per cent from 2002-3.
- Recorded burglary and robbery increased in Northern Ireland between 1990 and 2003-4, by 36 per cent and 21 per cent respectively (from 1995 burglary included attempted burglary). Recorded vehicle theft in Northern Ireland decreased by 5 per cent over this period.
- Differences in legal systems and police recording mean that the recorded crime figures for Scotland are not directly comparable with recorded crime figures for England and Wales. In Scotland, recorded vehicle theft decreased by 65 per cent and recorded robbery by 39 per cent between 1992 and 2003. Recorded housebreaking in a dwelling fell by 54 per cent between 1994 and 2003.

Fear of crime

Fear of crime (a) car theft (b) burglary (c) physical attack, 1992 to 2003-4



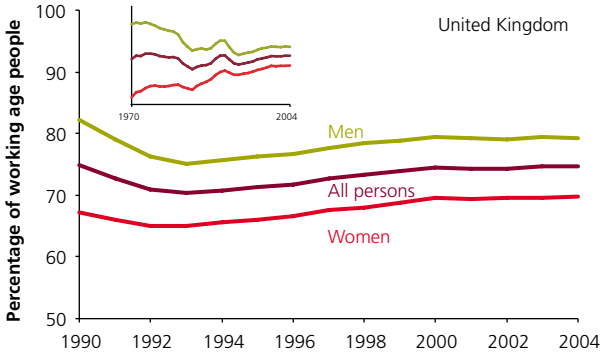
*Based on car owners only
Source: Home Office

Fear of crime since: 1992 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Fear of car crime and of burglary have fallen since 1994. The percentage of people saying that they were "very worried" about car crime fell from 28 to 14 per cent, and about burglary from 26 to 13 per cent.
- In 2003-4, 11 per cent of people were "very worried" about physical attack, down from 18 per cent in 1998.
- Fear of all three types of crime has fallen for both men and women, although a higher proportion of women were worried about these crimes than men.

Employment*

People of working age in employment, 1990 to 2004



Note: Percentage as in May-July quarter each year

Source: ONS

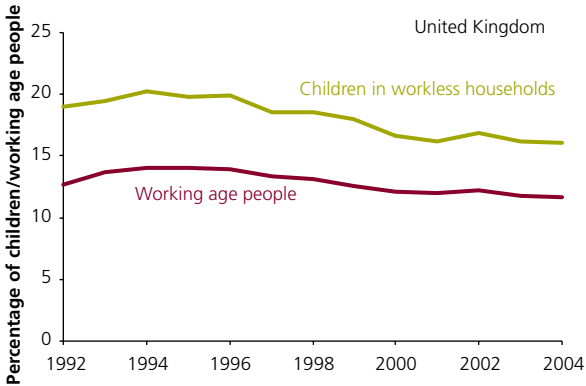
Employment rate since: 1990 ≈ 1999 ✔

- In 2004, the percentage of working age people in work was 74.7 per cent, almost the same level as in 1990, but an increase from 73.9 per cent in 1999.
- There was a reduction in the percentage of working age men in employment between 1970 and 1993, from 90.7 to 75.1 per cent. The percentage has increased subsequently and was 79.2 per cent in 2004.
- Between 1970 and 2004, the percentage of women in employment rose steadily, from 53.5 to 69.8 per cent.

*UK Framework indicator

Workless Households*

Population living in workless households (a) children (b) working age, 1992 to 2004



Note: Percentage as in March-May quarter each year

Source: ONS

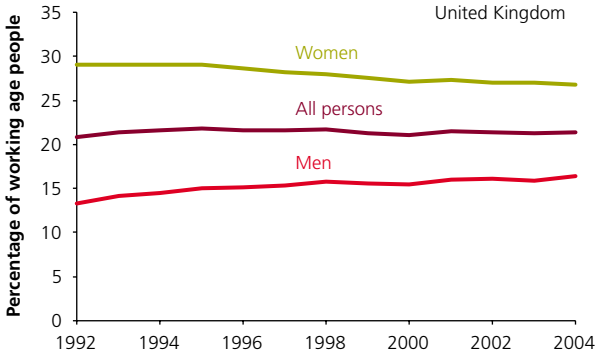
Workless households since: 1992 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The percentage of working age people who live in households where no-one works has fallen gradually since the mid 1990s, and was 11.7 per cent in 2004.
- The percentage of children living in working age households where no-one works has fallen in a similar way, from 20.3 per cent in 1994 to 16.1 per cent in 2004.

*UK Framework indicator

Economically inactive

Percentage of people of working age who are economically inactive, 1992 to 2004



Note: Percentage as in March-May quarter each year

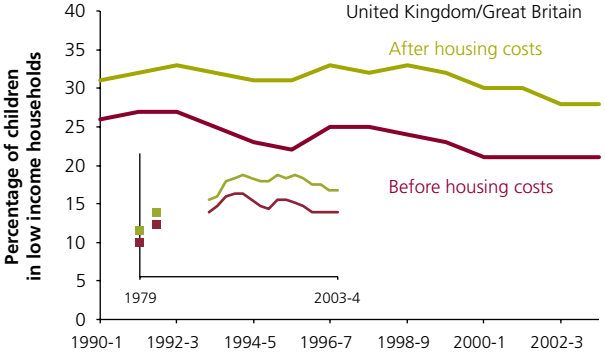
Source: ONS

Economically inactive since: 1992 ≈ 1999 ≈

- People who are economically inactive (neither employed nor actively seeking work) have represented between 21 and 21.5 per cent of the working age population since 1992.
- 7.5 million people were economically inactive in 2004, up from 7.2 million in 1992. Of these 7.5 million, 39 per cent were male and 61 per cent female.
- The percentage of men economically inactive rose from 13.5 per cent to 16.3 per cent. The percentage for women fell from 28.9 per cent to 26.5 per cent.

Childhood poverty*

Children in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs, 1990-1 to 2003-4



Notes: Based on 60 per cent of median income relative income thresholds
Data prior to 1994-5 are from the Family Expenditure Survey for the UK
Data from 1994-5 are from the Family Resources Survey for Great Britain

Source: DWP

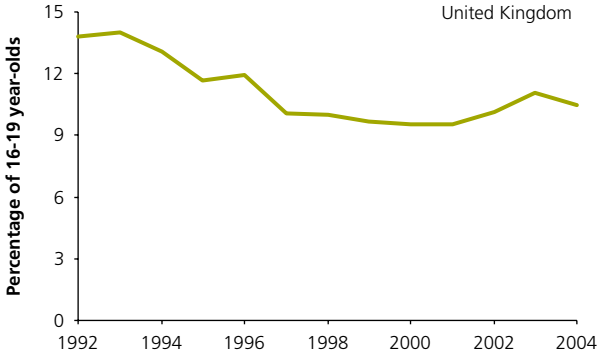
Childhood poverty since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- In 2003-4, 21 per cent of children were living in households with relative low-incomes before taking housing costs into account, down from 25 per cent in 1996-7.
- After additionally taking housing costs into account, 28 per cent of children were regarded as living in households with relative low incomes, down from 33 per cent in 1996-7.

*UK Framework indicator

Young adults

16-19 year-olds not in employment, education or training, 1992 to 2004



Note: Percentage as in March-May quarter each year

Source: ONS

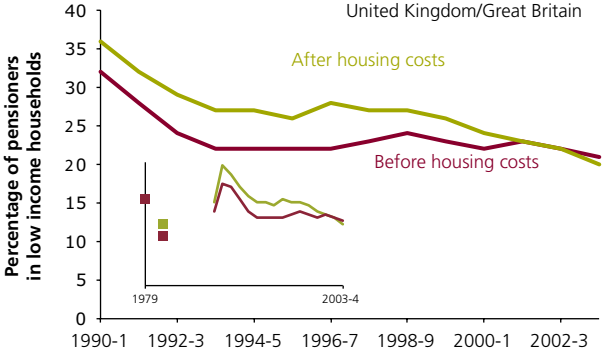
Not in employment, education, or training

since: 1992 ✔ 1999 ≈

- The percentage of 16-19 year olds not in employment, education or training decreased from 13.8 per cent in 1992 to 9.5 per cent in 2000 and 2001.
- Recently, however, the proportion may have begun to rise: in 2004 the figure was 10.5 per cent (although this is estimated from survey data and is not thought to indicate a clear increase from 1999).

Pensioner poverty*

Pensioners in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs, 1990-1 to 2003-4



Notes: Based on 60 per cent of median income relative income thresholds
Data prior to 1994-5 are from the Family Expenditure Survey for the UK
Data from 1994-5 are from the Family Resources Survey for Great Britain

Source: DWP

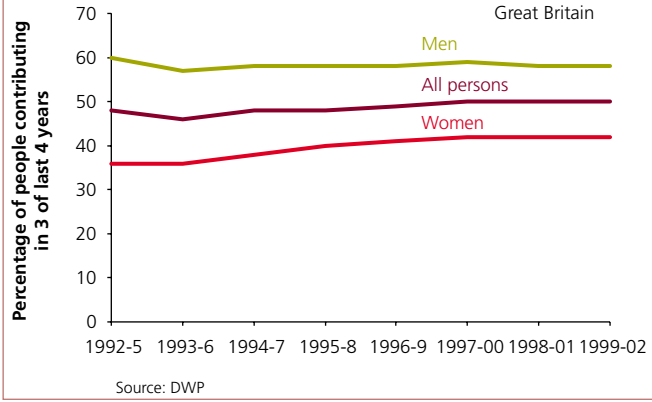
Pensioner poverty since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- In 2003-4, 21 per cent of pensioners were living in households with relative low-incomes before taking housing costs into account, down from 32 per cent in 1990-1.
- After additionally taking housing costs into account, 20 per cent of pensioners were living in households with relative low incomes, down from 36 per cent in 1990-1.

*UK Framework indicator

Pension provision

Proportion of working age people contributing to a non-state pension in at least three years out of the last four, 1992-5 to 1999-02



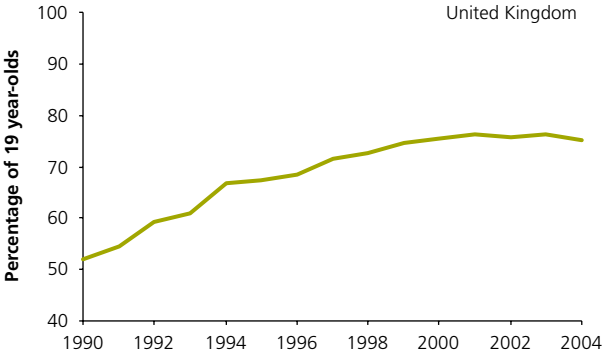
Source: DWP

People contributing since: 1992 ≈ 1999 ≈
to a non-state pension

- In 1999-02, half of all working age people in Great Britain had contributed to a non-state pension in at least three years out of the last four. This figure has remained fairly constant over the past decade.
- The proportion of men contributing to a pension has remained fairly stable over this period (at around 58 per cent of men) and for women the proportion increased from 36 per cent in 1992-5 to 42 per cent in 1999-02.

Education*

19 year-olds with Level 2 qualifications and above, 1990 to 2004



Note: Percentage as in March-May quarter each year with level 2 qualifications, for example 5 GCSEs at grade C or above

Source: ONS

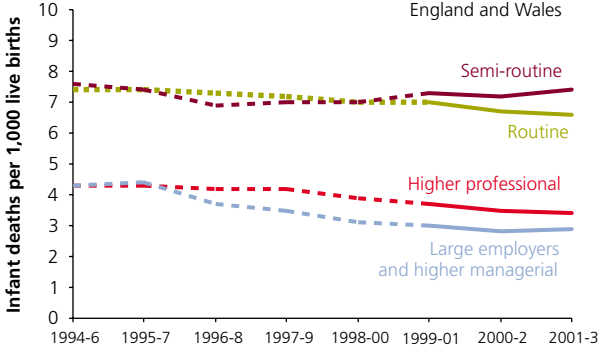
19-year-olds with Level 2 qualifications — since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- The percentage of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (e.g. five GCSEs at grades C or above, NVQ level 2 or equivalent) increased steadily from 52 per cent in 1990 to a peak of 76 per cent in 2001 and 2003. It declined slightly to 75 per cent in 2004.
- At present, just under a quarter of young people do not achieve qualifications equivalent to Level 2 by the age of 19, and 7 per cent have no qualifications at all.

*UK Framework indicator

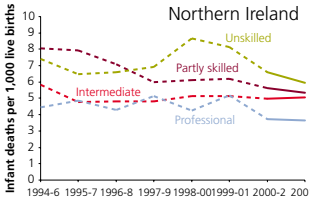
Health inequality*

(a) Infant mortality: differences between socio-economic groups,1994-6 to 2001-3



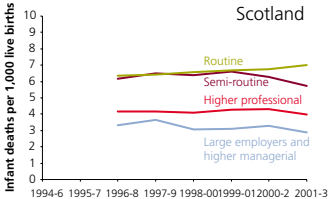
Note: The way socio-economic groups are recorded changed in 2001

Source: DH



Note: The way socio-economic groups are recorded changed in 2000-2

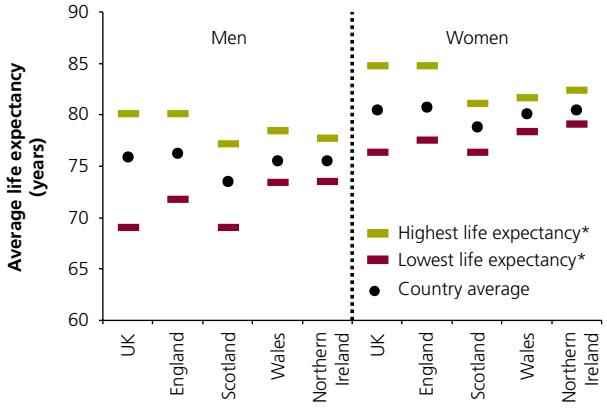
Source: NISRA



Source: GROS

*UK Framework indicator

(b) Life expectancy: differences in average life expectancy between local authority areas, 2001-3



*Highest and lowest average amongst Local Authority Districts

Source: ONS

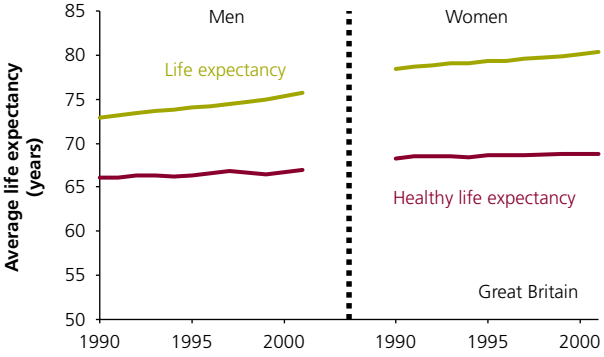
Infant mortality differences	since: 1994	✘	1999	✘
Life expectancy differences	since: 1991	✘	1999	≈

- Although infant mortality rates have fallen for all socio-economic groups in England and Wales, the difference in rates between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups has widened. In England and Wales in 1994-6, there were 3.3 more infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the lowest socio-economic group than in the highest group. In 2001-3 the difference was 4.5 more infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

- In Scotland, the overall infant mortality rate has changed little since 1994-6. However, the difference in rates between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups has widened. In 1994-6 there were 3.0 more infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the lowest group compared with the highest. In 2001-3 this had risen to 4.1 more infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In Northern Ireland the overall infant mortality rate (not shown) fell between 1994-6 and 1999-01, but increased slightly between 2000-2 and 2001-3. The difference between the lowest and highest employed socio-economic groups narrowed. However the difference in infant mortality rates widened between those who were employed and those who had never worked, were long-term unemployed, or otherwise not classified (not shown).
- Average life expectancy can be estimated for each local authority area. Comparing across the UK, overall average life expectancies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are broadly similar, but the average is lower in Scotland.
- Although overall average life expectancy has increased (see Healthy life expectancy overleaf), the differences in average expected years of life between local authorities with the highest and lowest averages have widened.
- In 1991-3 (not shown) the difference in average life expectancy for men between local authority areas in the UK with the highest and lowest average life expectancy was 9.7 years. This widened to 11.0 years in 2001-3. For women the difference was 7.5 years in 1991-3 and widened to 8.4 years in 2001-3.

Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy (a) men and (b) women, 1990 to 2001



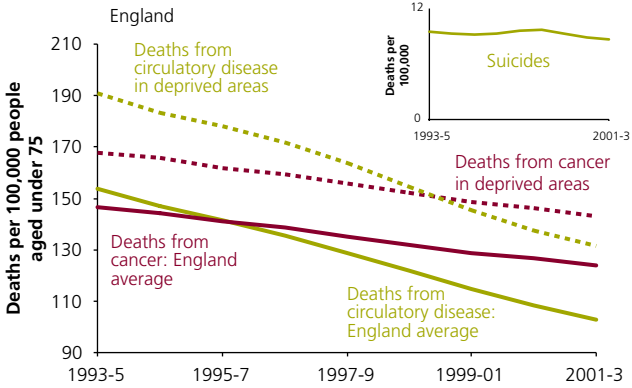
Source: ONS

Healthy life expectancy since: 1990 ≈ 1999 ≈

- Average life expectancy for men in 2001 was 75.7 years and for women 80.4 years. Since 1990 average life expectancy had increased by 2.8 years for men and by 2.0 years for women.
- In 2001 average healthy life expectancy (based on self assessment surveys of health) was 67.0 years for men, an increase of 1.0 years since 1990, and was 68.8 years for women, an increase of 0.5 years since 1990. Healthy life expectancy did not increase to the same extent as life expectancy, so an increasing proportion of the extra years of life gained are in poor health.

Mortality rates

Death rates from (a) circulatory disease and (b) cancer, below 75 years and for areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators, and (c) suicides, 1993-5 to 2001-3



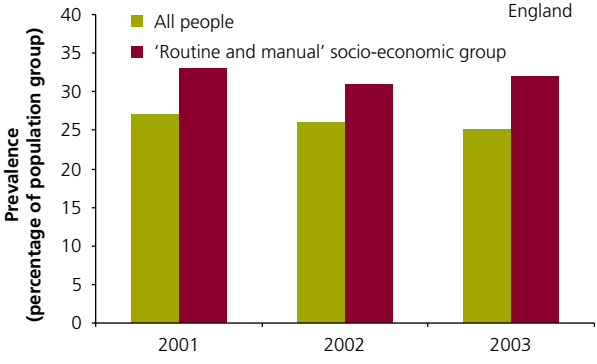
Source: DH, ONS

Death rates since: 1993 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Deaths from circulatory diseases and cancer (below 75 years) decreased by 33 and 15 per cent respectively between 1993-5 and 2001-3. The decline in death rates is also reflected in deprived areas, but they remain higher than the England average: 143 compared with 124 people per 100,000 from circulatory diseases and 131 compared with 103 people per 100,000 from cancer.
- The suicide rate in England fell from 9.5 per 100,000 in 1993-95 to 8.6 per 100,000 in 2001-3.

Smoking

Prevalence of smoking (a) all adults (b) 'routine and manual' socio-economic groups, 2001 to 2003



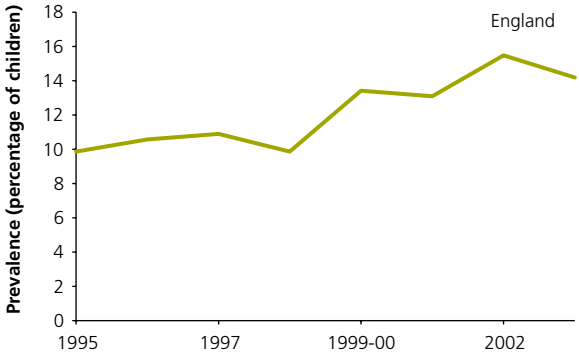
Source: ONS

Difference in prevalence of smoking since: 1990 2001

- Between 2001 and 2003 the prevalence of smoking in both the routine and manual socio-economic group and the population as whole showed little change, a reduction of 2 and 1 percentage points respectively.
- In 2003, 32 per cent of 'routine and manual' workers smoked compared with 25 per cent of the population as a whole.
- This difference in prevalence between 'routine and manual' workers and the population as a whole showed little change at around 6 percentage points.

Childhood obesity

Prevalence of obesity in 2-10 year-olds, 1995 to 2003



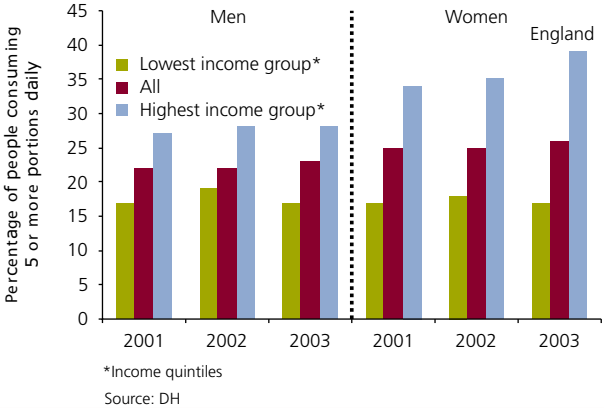
Source: DH

Prevalence of obesity since: 1995 ✘ 1999 ✘

- Childhood obesity has been linked to a number of illnesses later on in life.
- The prevalence of obesity in 2-10 year-olds increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent between 1995 and 2003.

Diet

Proportion of people consuming (a) five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day and (b) in low income households, 2001 to 2003

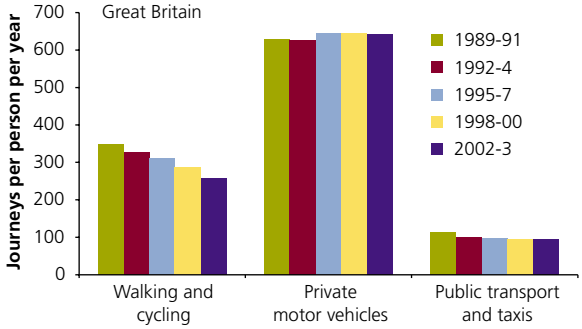


Consumption in low income groups since: 1990 (···) 2001 (≈)

- Overall, in each year from 2001 to 2003, more women consumed five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day than did men, and consumption was greatest in the highest income groups.
- In 2003, 17 per cent of both men and women in the lowest income quintile consumed five or more portions compared with 28 per cent of men and 39 per cent of women in the highest income group.

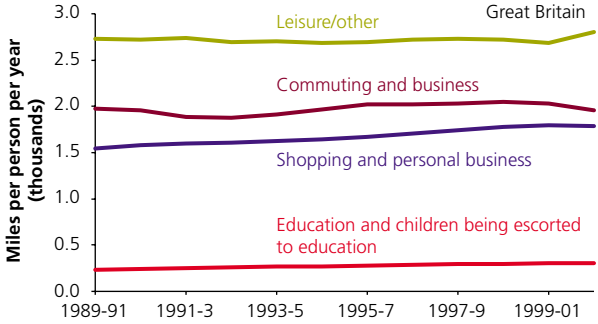
Mobility*

(a) Number of trips per person by mode, 1989-91 to 2002-3



Note: Changes in sample size and methodology were made in 2002-3
Source: DfT

(b) Distance travelled per person per year by broad trip purpose, 1989-91 to 2002-3



Note: Changes in sample size and methodology were made in 2002-3
Source: DfT

*UK Framework indicator

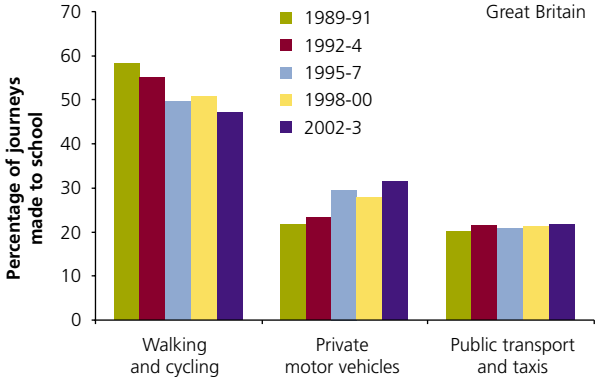
Walking and cycling since: 1990  1999 

Public transport since: 1990  1999 

- The average number and percentage of trips people make by walking or cycling has declined. In percentage terms the decline was from 32 per cent of journeys in 1989-91 to 26 per cent in 2002-3. The use of public transport (including taxis) declined slightly from 10.3 per cent of journeys in 1989-91 to 9.6 per cent in 2002-3, but since 1992-4 the number of trips changed little.
- There has been little change in the average number of trips made by private motor vehicles. However owing to declines in trips by other modes, in percentage terms such trips increased from 58 per cent of trips in 1989-91 to 64 per cent in 2002-3.
- In 2002-3, an average of 6,855 miles were travelled per person, an increase of 6 per cent compared with 1989-91. (This is domestic travel by residents in Great Britain. It excludes international travel and travel by visitors to the UK.) The greatest total distance travelled was for leisure purposes. Commuting and business travel distance fell by 4 per cent between 1998-00 and 2002-3. Between 1989-91 and 2002-3 total distance travelled increased for shopping or personal business by 16 per cent and for education or escorting children to education by 32 per cent.
- There are other transport-related indicators showing environmental and other impacts in this booklet.

Getting to school

How children get to school, 1989-91 to 2002-3



Note: Changes in sample size and methodology were made in 2002-3

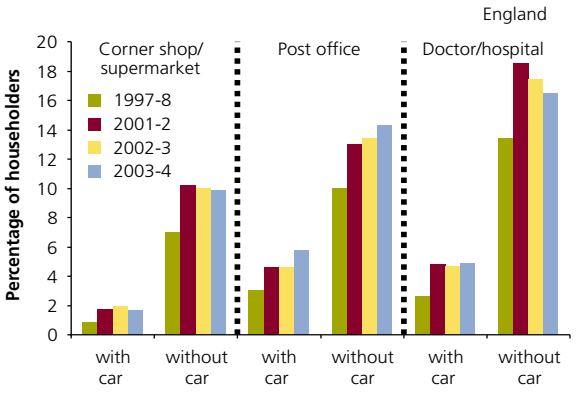
Source: DfT

Children walking or cycling to school — since: 1990 ✘ 1999 ✘

- Walking or cycling are still the main ways for children to get to school. However the percentage doing so fell from 58 per cent in 1989-91 to 47 per cent in 2002-3.
- Those going to school by private motor vehicle increased from 22 per cent in 1989-91 to 31 per cent in 2002-3. The percentage of children travelling to school by public transport remained relatively constant over this period.

Accessibility

Access to key services, 1997-8 to 2003-4



Note: People perceiving getting to amenities to be fairly or very difficult

Source: ODPM

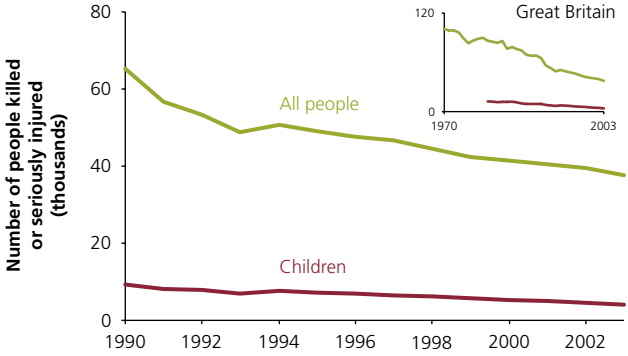
Differences in access for those with and without a car

since: 1990 (...) 1999 (≈)

- In 2003-4, 16 per cent of householders without a car perceived access to a doctor or hospital to be difficult; to a post office it was 14 per cent and to a corner shop or supermarket it was 10 per cent. For householders with access to a car the percentages were lower at 5 per cent, 6 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.
- Comparisons with perceptions in 1997-8 suggest that perceived difficulty increased for both those with cars and those without, and more so for those without. (However, this is estimated from survey data and is not thought to indicate a clear increase.)

Road accidents

Number of people and children killed or seriously injured, 1990 to 2003



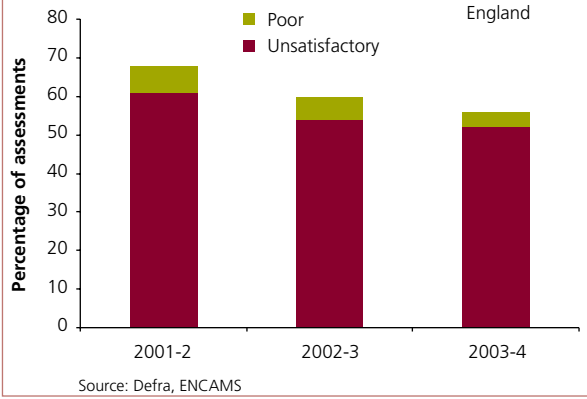
Source: DfT

Number killed or seriously injured since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- In 1970 over 100,000 people were killed or seriously injured in road accidents. In 2003 the total was 37,500 – a decrease of 63 per cent.
- The number of children killed or seriously injured in accidents fell from 12,400 in 1979 to 4,100 in 2003 (a drop of 67 per cent).

Local environmental quality

Assessment of local environmental quality, 2001-2 to 2003-4



Source: Defra, ENCAMS

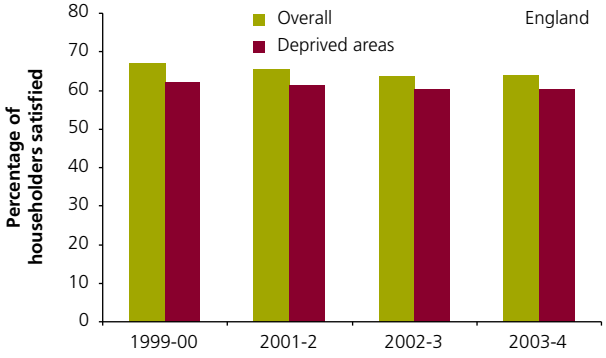
Unsatisfactory/ poor quality

since: 1990 (...) 2001 ✔

- A sample of sites were assessed in terms of litter, dog-fouling, detritus, weeds, fly-tipping, fly-posting, graffiti, physical appearance, condition and maintenance etc. 56 per cent of local environments in England were deemed to be of 'unsatisfactory' (52 per cent) or 'poor' (4 per cent) quality in 2003-4, down from 68 per cent in 2001-2.
- The remaining 44 per cent was classed as 'satisfactory' (16 per cent) or 'good' (28 per cent).

Satisfaction in local area

Percentage of households satisfied with the quality of the places in which they live (a) overall (b) in deprived areas, 1999-00 to 2003-4



Source: ODPM

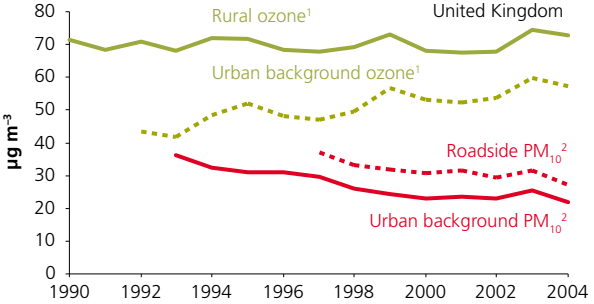
Overall households satisfied — since: 1990 (...) 1999 (✘)

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Areas satisfied — since: 1990 (...) 1999 (≈)

- The percentage of households satisfied with their local area stood at 64 per cent in 2003-4, a fall of 4.6 per cent since 1999-00. Traffic was identified as a problem by 53 per cent of households, litter/rubbish by 45 per cent and vandalism/hooliganism by 43 per cent.
- 60 per cent of households in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Districts were satisfied with their local area in 2003-4. This had shown little change since 1999-00.

Air quality and health

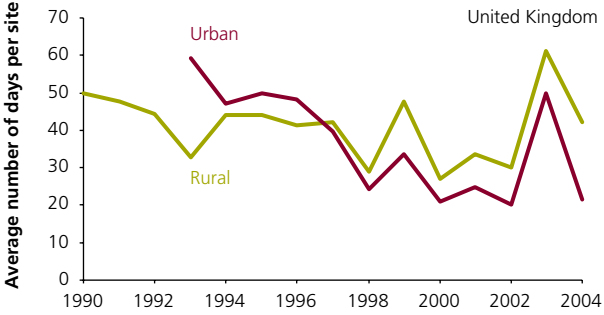
(a) annual levels of particles and ozone, 1990 to 2004



1 Ozone index shows annual mean of the daily maximum 8 hour running mean
2 PM_{10} index shows annual average

Source: Defra, netcen

(b) days when air pollution is moderate or higher, 1990 to 2004



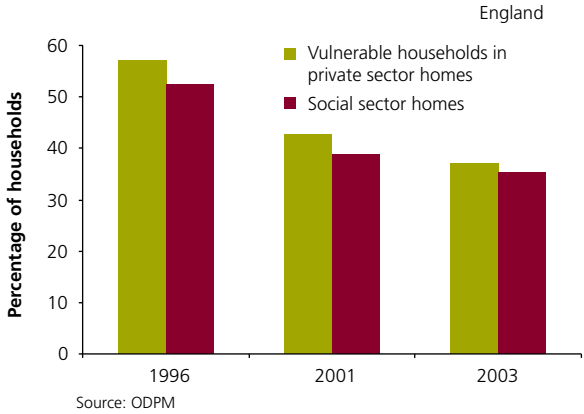
Source: Defra, netcen

PM_{10} concentrations	since: 1990 ✔	1999 ✔
Urban ozone concentrations	since: 1990 ✘	1999 ✘
Rural ozone concentrations	since: 1990 ✘	1999 ✘

- The two types of air pollution believed to have the most significant impacts on public health are long-term exposure to particulate matter (PM_{10}) and daily peak ozone levels.
- Annual average particulate levels have been decreasing, although the trend may be levelling off. There is a very slight upward trend in background ozone levels, and a more marked increase in urban areas, due to the reduction in urban emissions of nitrogen oxides, which destroy ozone close to their emission source.
- The number of days when air pollution was assessed as being moderate or higher at urban sites has reduced significantly since 1993 (with the exception of a peak in 2003) while the number of days affected in rural areas, caused largely by ozone, has shown no overall trend.
- The weather can cause significant variation from year to year in the number of days of moderate or higher air pollution. The hot summer and other pollution episodes in 2003 led to an unusually high number of pollution days.

Housing conditions

(a) social sector homes (b) vulnerable households in the private sector in homes below the decent homes standard, 1996 to 2003



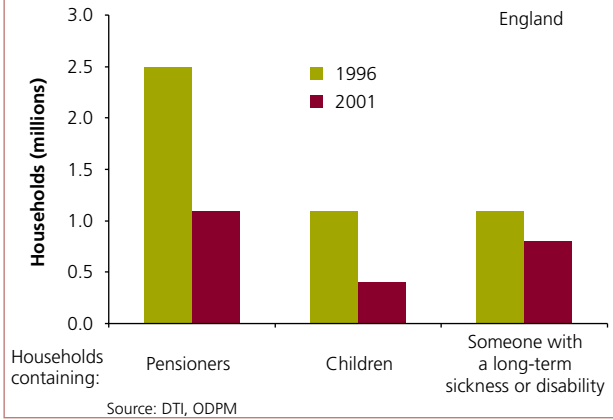
Source: ODPM

Homes below standard since: 1991 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Between 1991 (not shown) and 1996 there was no change in housing conditions across a broad range of measures. However, in 2003 1.4 million dwellings (35 per cent) in the social sector were below the Decent Homes Standard in 2003, down from 2.3 million in 1996.
- 28 per cent of owner-occupied and 48 per cent of private rented dwellings were below the Standard in 2003.
- Just over 1 million vulnerable households (37 per cent) were living in private sector properties below the Standard in 2003.

Households living in fuel poverty

Households living in fuel poverty containing (a) pensioners (b) children (c) disabled/long-term sick, 1996 and 2001



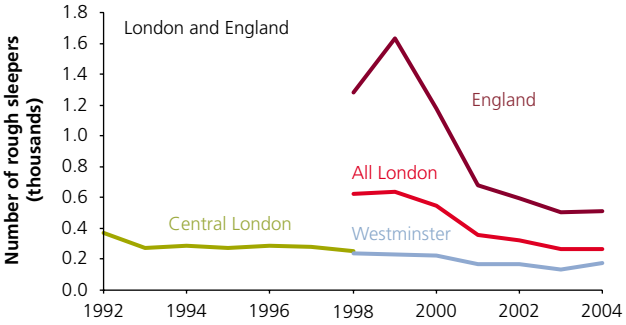
Source: DTI, ODPM

Households in fuel poverty — since: 1990 (...) 1999 ✔

- In 2001, 1.1 million households containing pensioners (18 per cent of such households) were fuel poor (spending more than 10 per cent of income excluding housing benefit on fuel) – a reduction by half from the 1996 figure of 2.5 million households (41 per cent of pensioner households).
- The number of households living in fuel poverty containing children or someone with a long-term sickness/disability also decreased, by 0.7 million and by 0.3 million households respectively.

Homelessness

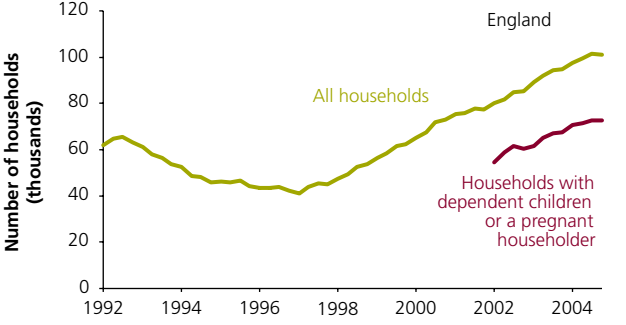
(a) number of rough sleepers, 1992 to 2004



Note: November each year for 1992-6; May 1997 and then June each year for 1998 onwards

Source: ODPM

(b) number of households in temporary accommodation (i) total (ii) households with children, 1992 to 2004



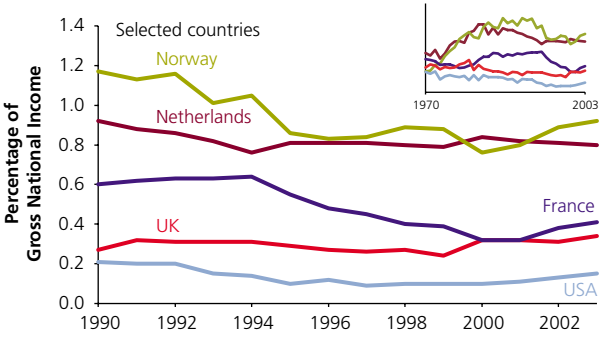
Source: ODPM

Rough sleepers	since: 1992 ✔	1999 ✔
Homeless households	since: 1992 ✘	1999 ✘

- In June 1998 there were 621 rough sleepers in London and 1,282 in England overall.
- By June 2004, the number of rough sleepers had fallen to 265 in London and 508 in England overall.
- The number of households in temporary accommodation in England as at December 2004 was 101,000, having increased by 139 per cent since 1996. (This relates to households statutorily recognised as homeless by local authorities under homelessness legislation, or awaiting a decision on their formal application.)

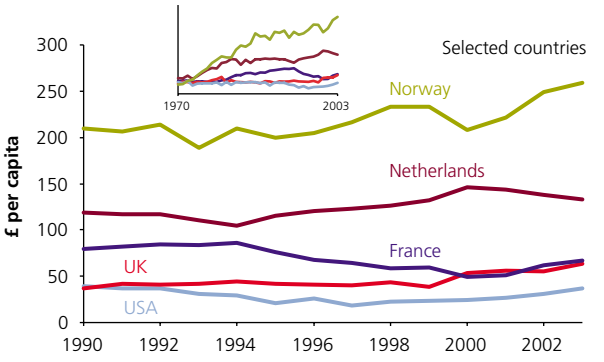
UK International assistance

Net Official Development Assistance
(a) per cent of Gross National Income, 1990 to 2003



Source: DfID, OECD

(b) per capita, 1990 to 2003



Source: DfID, OECD

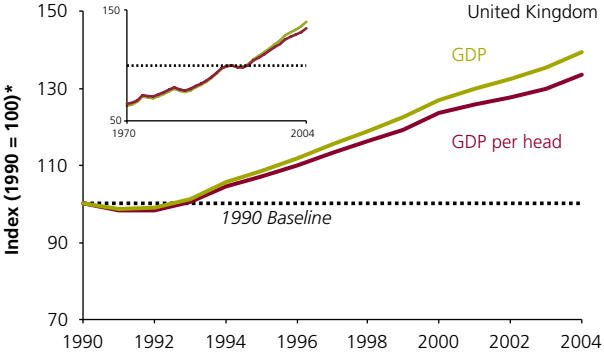
Level of UK assistance

since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- In 2003 the UK Government contributed 0.34 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) as official development assistance (oda), an increase from 0.27 per cent of GNI in 1990. In 2003 France contributed 0.41 per cent, the Netherlands 0.80 per cent and Norway 0.92 per cent of their GNI.
- The UK contribution in 2003 was the equivalent (at 2002 constant prices) of £63 per person, an increase of 72 per cent on the equivalent of £37 per person in 1990. France contributed the equivalent of £67, the Netherlands £133 and Norway £259 per person in 2003.

Economic Output*

Gross Domestic Product, 1990 to 2004



*Chained volume measures rebased to 1990 = 100

Source: ONS

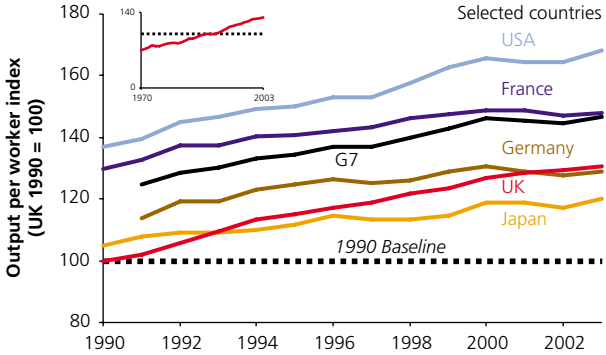
Economic output since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- Between 1990 and 2004, GDP grew in real terms by 39 per cent. Output increased steadily from the early 1990s, with a 14 per cent rise between 1999 and 2004.
- Output per head increased by 33 per cent between 1990 and 2004 and 12 per cent from 1999 to 2004.

*UK Framework indicator

Productivity

UK output per worker, 1990 to 2003



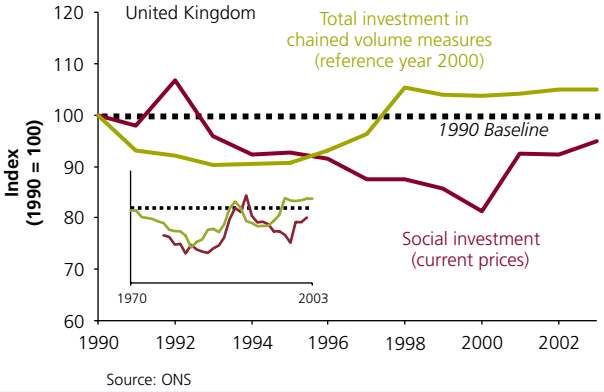
Source: ONS

Output per worker since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ✔

- UK output per worker has risen steadily and in 2003 was 30 per cent higher than in 1990.
- Labour productivity in other G7 countries was on average 13 per cent higher than in the UK in 2003, although in 1991 it was 24 per cent higher.

Investment

(a) Total investment (b) social investment relative to GDP, 1990 to 2003



Source: ONS

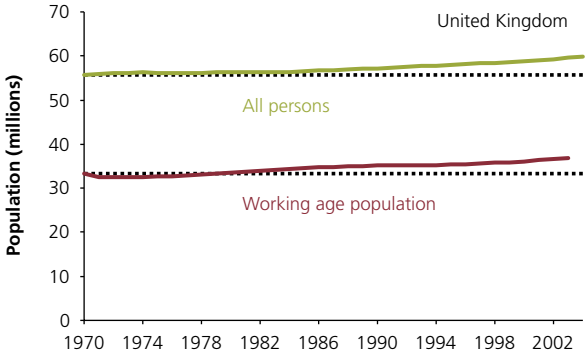
Total investment since: 1990 ✔ 1999 ≈

Social investment since: 1990 ≈ 1999 ✔

- Total investment in real terms grew by 5 per cent relative to GDP between 1990 and 1998, but has since remained relatively stable.
- Social investment (railways, hospitals, schools) in current prices was around 2.0 per cent of GDP in 1990, falling slightly to 1.9 per cent in 2003.

Demography

Population and population of working age, 1970 to 2004



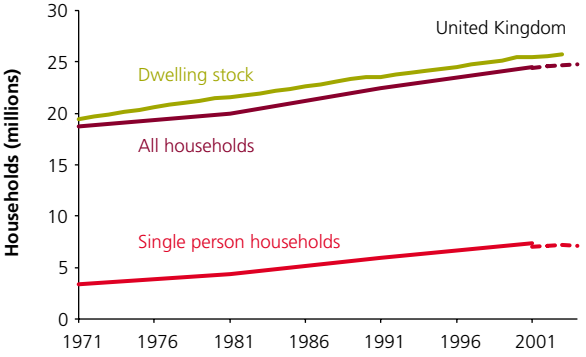
Source: GAD, ONS

Contextual indicator

- The overall population of the UK was estimated to be 59.8 million in 2004, up from 55.6 million in 1970 and 57.2 million in 1990.
- The working age population of the UK was 36.8 million in 2003, up from 35.1 million in 1990 and 32.5 million in 1972 (the current definition of working age was introduced in this year).
- In 2003, 62 per cent of the total population was of working age. The corresponding figures for 1972 and 1990 were 58 and 61 per cent respectively.

Households and dwellings

Households, single person households and dwelling stock, 1971 to 2004



Note: Household numbers from 2001 are from the Labour Force Survey

Source: ODPM, ONS, GROS, NICB

Contextual indicator

- The number of UK households increased by 5.7 million between 1971 and 2001, from 18.7 to 24.5 million. Almost 70 per cent of the increase was due to an increase in the number of single person households, from 3.4 million in 1971 (18 per cent of households) to 7.4 million in 2001 (30 per cent of households).
- In 1971 there were about 700,000 more dwellings than households, rising to one million by 2001.

INDICATORS NOT YET AVAILABLE

There were eight indicators outlined in the UK Government Strategy for which we were unable to specify how they should be measured.

For three of these, ***Water stress***, ***Farming and environmental stewardship*** and ***Local environmental quality*** proxy measures are now presented. For a fourth, ***Flooding***, the Environment Agency have work underway, due for completion in autumn 2005, to provide a substantially improved assessment of flood risk, at which time we should be able to review the best approach to establishing a suitable flooding indicator.

It will be somewhat more difficult to establish measures for the remaining four indicators, as new research and data collection may be needed. In some cases the policy thinking behind the indicators is at an early stage and it is not yet clear what precisely ought to be measured.

The sustainable development website will be kept up-to-date with progress reports on the establishment of these indicators:

Sustainable development education: the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) will be considering the best approach to establishing an indicator that monitors the impact of formal learning on knowledge and awareness of sustainable development. It may involve undertaking a new survey or adding to an existing one. It is hoped an indicator can be reported in 2006.

Social justice and ***Environment equality:*** building on an evidence review by the Sustainable Development Research Network, a working group will be established to review indicators across Government that may contribute to a better understanding of social justice and environment equality.

On the sustainable development website we will aim by the end of 2005 to include geographic and socio-economic breakdowns of relevant indicators.

Wellbeing: the concept of wellbeing is at an early stage of development. As set out in the Strategy, existing research and international experience will be brought together to explore how policies might change with an explicit wellbeing focus. The Sustainable Development Research Network will report on a review of existing research in autumn 2005 as a first stage to this work.

Some aspects of wellbeing may be captured through subjective 'life satisfaction' surveys. We may therefore look to undertake a new survey or add to an existing one in 2006, which will explore life satisfaction.

Enquiries about indicators or this publication

This publication has been produced by Environment Statistics and Indicators (ESI) Division, Defra.

Editorial team:
Stephen Hall
Fernley Symons
Billy Denyer

If you have comments or questions about the indicators or this publication please contact us.

- E-mail: *sdindicators@defra.gsi.gov.uk*
- Telephone: +44 *(0) 20 7082 8621, 8620 or 8619*
- Postal address: *SD Indicators Branch, Environment Statistics and Indicators Division, Defra, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6DE.*

Website address:

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/index.htm

For enquiries regarding wider aspects of sustainable development please refer to the sustainable development website, or contact the Sustainable Development Unit in Defra

- E-mail: *sdudiv@defra.gsi.gov.uk*
- Telephone: +44 *(0) 20 7238 5811*
- Postal address: *Sustainable Development Unit, Defra, 4E, 9 Millbank, c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR*

Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Printed in the UK, June 2005, on recycled paper containing 80% post-consumer waste and 20% Totally Chlorine Free virgin pulp.

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Product code PB11008