**Who are we?**

**Projected percentage increases in population by 2033**

The population of the UK is expected to increase from 61 million in 2008 to 72 million by 2033. The fastest increase is expected to be England, whose population will rise by one sixth by that date.

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

**Proportion of population by age group 2008 and 2033**

The population is expected to age between 2008 and 2033. The proportion of those aged 75 and older will increase from eight to 12 per cent. The proportion of young people is also projected to rise.

*Source: Office for National Statistics*

**Changes in proportion of children in poverty**

Between 1996 and 2009 the proportion of children in poverty has fallen by 2.8 percentage points. There were 400,000 fewer children in poverty in 2009 than 1996. *Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies*

**Teenage pregnancies**

The proportion of under 18 year-old girls conceiving in England and Wales has fallen steadily over the course of the last decade. In 2008, it stood at 40.2 per cent. *Source: Office for National Statistics*
In England and Wales, the total fertility rate stood at 1.96 in 2009, below the replacement rate of 2.1 although it has been rising over the past few years. Source: Office for National Statistics

The number of men aged 25-34 living with their parents stood at around 666,000 in 2008. Less than half that number of women in the same age group were living with their parents. Source: Office for National Statistics

The average age of brides has been rising and now stands at 33.8. The mean age at childbirth has been rising more slowly, both for births inside and outside marriage. Source: Office for National Statistics
Three quarters of those asked agreed that they belonged fairly or very strongly to their neighbourhoods in 2009-10. Source: Citizenship Survey, Department for Communities and Local Government

Those aged 65 and over are more likely to live alone than the young. Over the age of 65 women are also far more likely to live alone than men. Source: Office for National Statistics, General Household Survey

The proportion of children growing up in married couples from 1997-2009 has fallen from 72 per cent to 63 per cent as the numbers in homes with cohabiting couples and lone parents has risen. Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey

75%

63%

65%
British exports of goods were valued at £228 billion in 2009. The largest category was finished manufactured goods. The total value of British service exports was £159 billion of which the largest category was financial services (valued at £43 billion). 

Source: Office for National Statistics Pink Book

The UK imports more than it exports in goods, while it exports more than it imports in terms of services. Overall the UK continues to run a trade deficit. The current account deficit which includes the balance of trade plus income and transfers from abroad declined from 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2006 to 1.1 per cent in 2009. Source: Office for National Statistics Pink Book
Sterling exchange rates

Foreign direct investment

Sterling has fallen in value relative to the US dollar and euro over the past two years. The decline was greater versus the dollar than the euro. 
Source: Bank of England

Foreign Direct Investment to the UK in 2009 was valued at just over £1 trillion. The UK continues to receive more in FDI than it invests in other countries. Source: Office for National Statistics Pink Book

Economy

Public sector net borrowing, outturns and forecasts

The government is set to reduce the size of the deficit to just over 2.1 per cent of GDP in 2014-15 according to the forecasts of the new Office for Budget Responsibility. Source: Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR)

Mortgage approvals

The number of new mortgage approvals by major UK lenders has yet to recover to its level of 2007, although it has increased from a trough of 32,000 in November 2008 to 48,000 in June 2010. Source: Bank of England
Long-term unemployment accounts for a larger share of total unemployment than it has in the past. Roughly a third of the unemployed in the second quarter of 2010 had been out of work for longer than 12 months. Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Market Trends

Youth unemployment has increased much faster than general unemployment since the beginning of the recession, increasing from 12.4 per cent to 17.5 per cent between 2007 and 2010. Total unemployment has only increased from 5.6 per cent to eight per cent over the same period. Source: Office for National Statistics Labour Market Statistics

SMEs, change in numbers employed

SMEs have been shrinking over the past year but at a decreasing rate. Survey responses suggest firms started expanding again from the third quarter of this year. Source: CBI
The richest region in the UK is London with a GDP per capita over twice as high as the poorest (Wales). Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The UK was the sixth lowest for the number of high technology patents per million people in the EU 15 as well as being lower than both the US and Japan in 2007. Source: OECD.

New businesses make up a greater proportion of businesses in London than any other region of the UK at 15 per cent in 2008. In Northern Ireland, just 9.5 per cent of businesses were start-ups. Source: Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register.

Men were over three times as likely as women to commit suicide in the UK in 2008. For men suicides were most common among 25-44 year olds. Among women 45-64 year olds were most at risk. Source: Office for National Statistics.
The safety of British roads has been improving steadily. In 2007, 3,058 people were killed on British roads. Source: Eurostat.

The average Briton worked for an average 36.5 hours a week on their main job. The most hard-working country for which there is data was Turkey. Source: OECD.

Reported life satisfaction in the UK was slightly higher than the OECD average in the World Gallup poll of 2006 (at 7.0 vs an average of 6.7). Life satisfaction in OECD countries was highest in Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands. Source: OECD.
BRITAIN IN FACTS AND FIGURES

**TOP UK CITIES**
- London
- Aberdeen
- Birmingham
- Glasgow
- Belfast

**MERCER ECO LIVING**
- Aberdeen
- Belfast
- Glasgow
- London
- Birmingham

The consultancy Mercer ranks cities worldwide for quality of life and also compares them using an eco-living index. The results suggest that of major UK cities London had the highest quality of life and Aberdeen was the most ecologically friendly. Worldwide, Vienna topped the rankings for quality of life and Calgary for Eco Living.

**Percentage of coastal areas not complying with bathing standards during the bathing season 2009**

In the UK, Wales had the cleanest beaches in 2009. Source: Office for National Statistics Regional Trends

**Satisfaction with aspects of life**

Satisfaction with aspects of life was generally higher among the upper middle class in 2009. Of all aspects of life, respondents were least satisfied with their communities. Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Child well-being**

The proportion of children receiving free school meals reporting positive feelings is lower than those not receiving free school meals. A quarter of children on free school meals were worried about being bullied, and less than two thirds of children in both groups said they were happy to talk to their parents when worried. Source: Ofsted

**Air pollution**

Particulate emissions in urban and roadside areas reached record lows in 2009. Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Education

University acceptances by subject

Creative arts were the most popular subjects among UK students in 2010. Overseas students studying in the UK were most likely to study business and administration.

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Maths and further maths A-levels

40.5%

The numbers sitting maths and further maths A-levels have risen year on year since 2006. Boys are still more likely to sit both exams than girls. Though the proportion of maths A-levels taken by women rose from 39-40.5 per cent over the period, and the proportion of further maths A-levels rose from 30-32 per cent.

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

15.3%

From 2008 to 2009 there was a 15.3 per cent increase in students aged 25 years and over accepted into higher education.

Source: UCAS
Migration and travel

Stock of foreign born population 1999-2008

The number of UK residents who were born abroad doubled between 1999 and 2008. Source: OECD

Overseas visits to the UK, seasonally adjusted

Tourist numbers to the UK fell with the recession in 2009 and have yet to recover. Source: Office for National Statistics.

Net migration

Annual net long-term migration to the UK peaked at around 250,000 in 2005 but has since fallen to around 150,000 in the summer of 2009. Source: International Air Passenger Survey

Asylum seekers accepted

Within OECD countries, only the US, Canada and France accepted more refugees in 2008. In that year, the UK accepted 31,300 asylum seekers. Source: OECD

31,300

150,000

Big society

Charitable donations

- Religious
- Medical research
- Hospitals and hospices
- Overseas
- Children and young people
- Animals
- Education
- Other

15%

Religious organisations were the single group that attracted the most charitable donations in 2008/09, accounting for 15 per cent of all donations.

Proportion of people involved in formal volunteering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>At least once in last year</th>
<th>Once a month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/4

Formal volunteering has fallen since a peak in 2005. Roughly a quarter of those surveyed in 2009/10 participated in formal volunteering in 2009-10.
Volunteering by age

Regular formal volunteering, by socio-economic group

Selected types of voluntary work undertaken, by gender

People employed in higher/lower managerial or professional occupations were more likely to take part in regular formal volunteering in 2009-10 than other groups (with the exception of full-time students).

Thirty-eight per cent of women volunteered informally at least once a month in 2009-10 compared with 31 per cent of men.