

# Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach), 1997 to 2014



Coverage: UK

Date: 09 December 2015

Geographical Area: European (NUTS)

Theme: Economy

## Main points

- In 2014 Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population increased in all NUTS1 regions. The highest annual growth was in London at 5.3% and the lowest annual growth was in Northern Ireland at 1.9%.
- An interactive map showing GVA per head of population is available, along with an article discussing GVA for the main UK cities (see summary for links).
- At the regional level, in 2014 London had the highest GVA per head at £42,666, while Wales had the lowest at £17,573.
- In 2014 at the sub-regional level, Outer London South had the highest annual growth in GVA per head at 7.4%, while Cornwall and Isles of Scilly was the only sub-region to see a decrease in GVA per head, falling by 0.1%.
- At the local area level in 2014, Tower Hamlets had the highest annual growth in GVA per head at 9.9%. Swindon and York had the greatest decrease in GVA per head, both falling by 0.6%.
- The North East shows the least amount of variation in levels of GVA per head within a region, with a difference of £8,766 between the highest and lowest local areas. London shows the highest amount of variation, with a difference of £247,956 in 2014.

## Summary

Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. It is measured at current basic prices, which include the effect of inflation, excluding taxes (less subsidies) on products (for example, Value Added Tax). GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products is equivalent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

These regional estimates of GVA are measured using the income approach, which involves adding up the income generated by resident individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services. ONS also publishes [experimental estimates of GVA measured using the production approach](#), with the effect of inflation removed.

Total GVA estimates in millions of pounds (£m) are divided by the resident population of a region to give GVA per head in pounds (£). This can be a useful way of comparing regions of different sizes, provided there are no large commuting flows into or out of the region (background note 4).

The UK per head figure in 2014 was £24,958. With Extra-Region and the Statistical Discrepancy excluded, the UK per head figure was £24,616. Of the four UK countries, only England had a higher GVA per head value at £25,367. Wales had the lowest GVA per head at £17,573. The largest growth in GVA per head between 2013 and 2014 was in Scotland at 4.2%, while the lowest growth was in Northern Ireland at 1.9%.

**Table 1: UK Countries GVA[1,2], 2014[3]**

	GVA per head (£) <sup>2</sup>	GVA per head growth on 2013 (%)	GVA per head index (UK=100)	Total GVA (£m) <sup>2</sup>	Total GVA growth on 2013 (%)
United Kingdom <sup>4</sup>	24,616	3.4	100.0	1,618,346	4.6
England	25,367	3.7	103.1	1,377,851	4.6
Wales	17,573	2.1	71.4	54,336	2.4
Scotland	23,102	4.2	93.9	123,543	4.6
Northern Ireland	18,682	1.9	75.9	34,384	2.5

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**

1. GVA at current basic prices on workplace basis (background note 3).
2. Figures may not sum due to rounding in totals; per head (£) figures are rounded to the nearest pound.
3. 2014 estimates are provisional.
4. Per head and per head index figures exclude the statistical discrepancy and Extra-Region: the off-shore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region (background note 1). These are included in the total GVA figure.

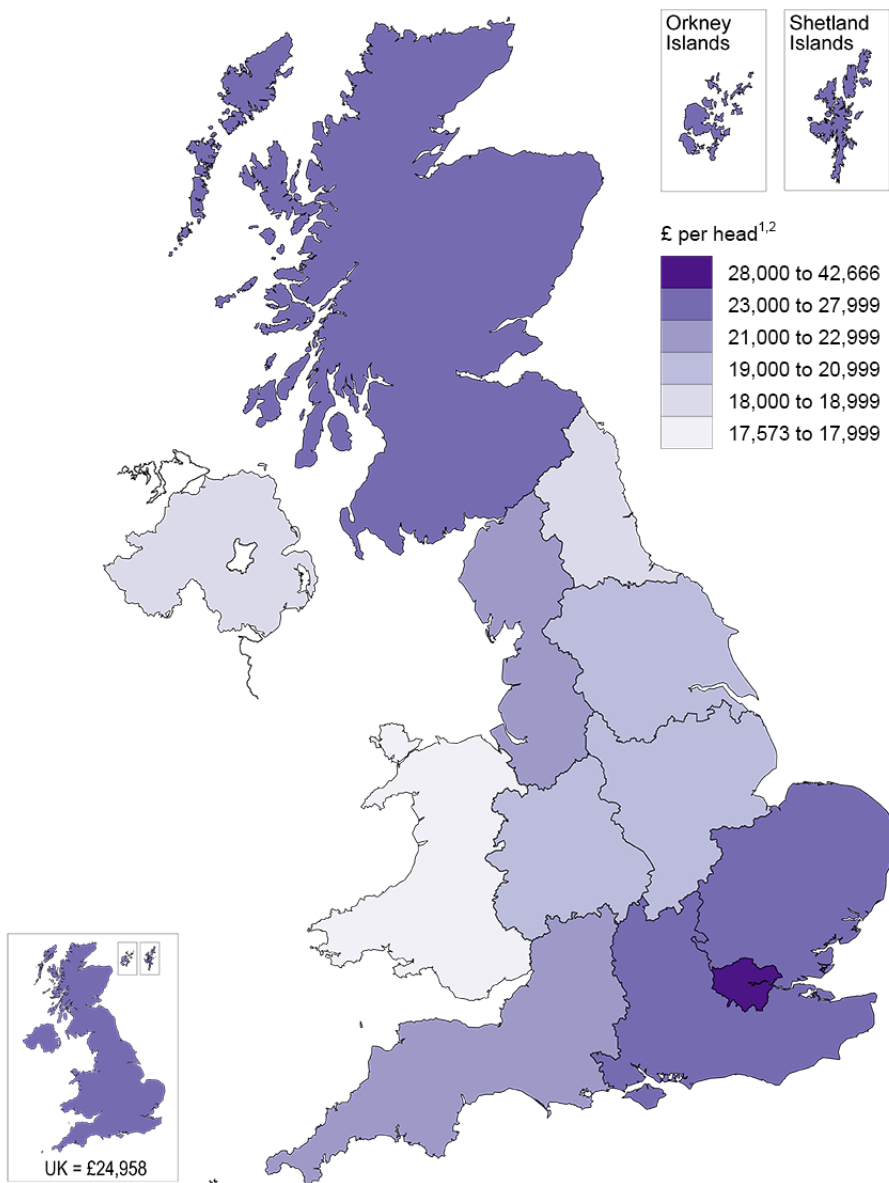
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Regional figures for the UK are presented for areas according to the Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) (background note 1 has more information).

In 2014 GVA per head was highest in London, at £42,666, and lowest in Wales, at £17,573. Map 1 shows the variation in GVA per head across the UK. ONS has also published an [Interactive Map](#) and an [article on the major cities](#) to accompany this release.

**Map 1: Regional GVA per head by NUTS 1 area, United Kingdom, 2014**



1 Regional Gross Value Added (GVA) per head has been calculated using the 'Income Approach'.

2 Boundaries shown are for nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) level 1 areas.

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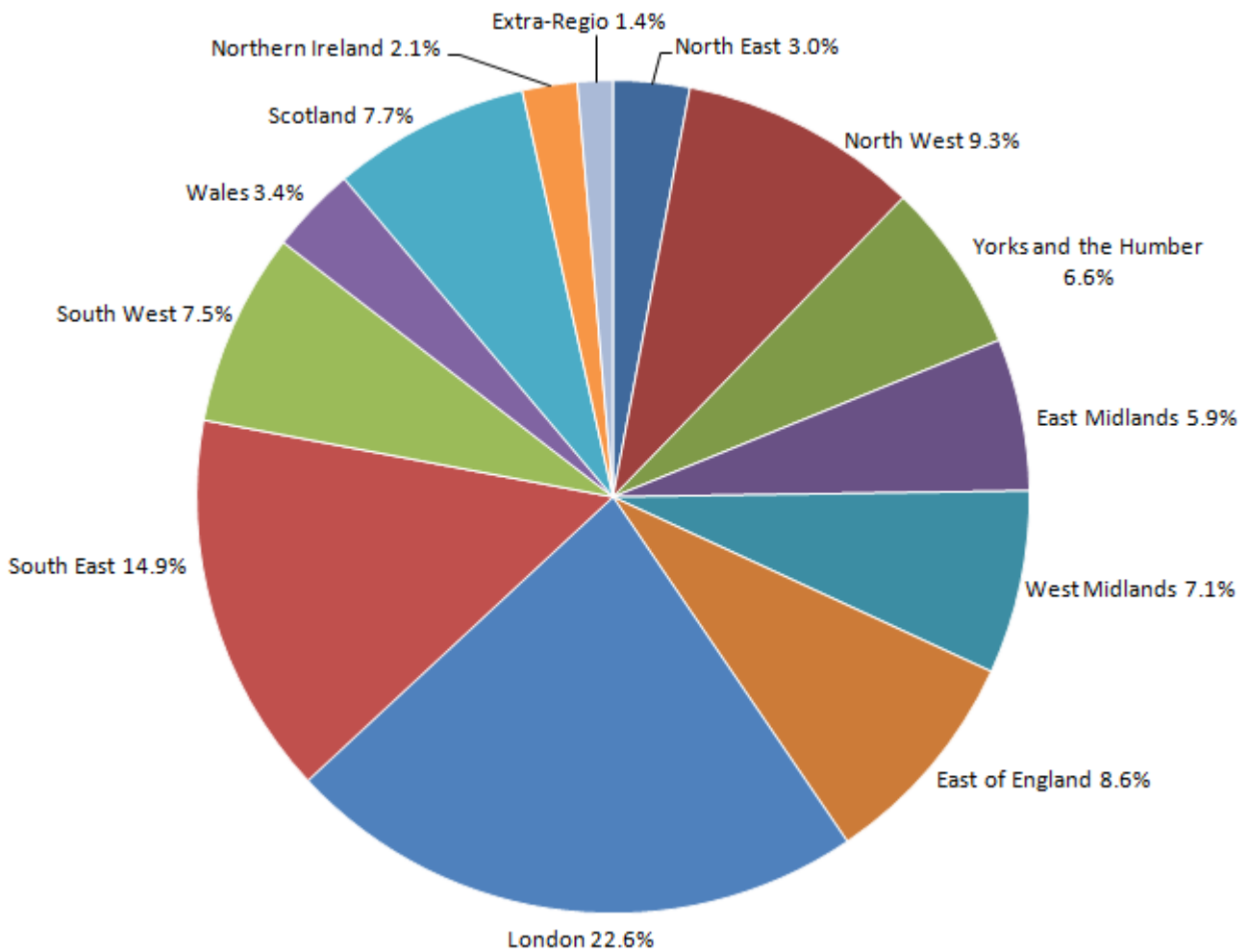
Source: Office for National Statistics

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In 2014 London had the highest share of UK GVA, with 22.6%, followed by the South East with 14.9%. The lowest share after Extra-Region was Northern Ireland, with 2.1%, followed by the North East with 3.0%.

Since the start of the time series in 1997 London has increased its share by 3.7 percentage points. The South East has also increased, by 0.3 percentage points. All other regions decreased, with the West Midlands decreasing the most, by 0.9 percentage points.

**Figure 1: Regional share of total GVA, 2014**

Source: Office for National Statistics

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(69 Kb)

## About this release

1. These regional estimates of Gross Value Added are measured using the income approach. This involves adding up the income generated by resident individuals or corporations in the production of goods and services. It is calculated gross of deductions for consumption of fixed capital, which is the amount of fixed assets used up in the process of production in any period.
2. A more detailed breakdown of the components of income has also been published for the first time in the [reference tables](#) and via the [ONS Data Explorer tool](#). This comprises regional estimates of Compensation of Employees; Mixed Income; Rental Income; Non-Market Capital Consumption; Holding Gains; Gross Trading Profits; Gross Trading Surplus; and Taxes on Production. More information on these components can be found in the [Regional Accounts Methodology Guide \(498.7 Kb Pdf\)](#).
3. These estimates are consistent with the [National Accounts Blue Book 2015](#). National aggregates for the components of GVA are allocated to regions using the most appropriate regional indicator available. These estimates are produced at current prices, which include the effect of inflation.
4. GVA estimates in this bulletin are available at three geographical levels, in accordance with the NUTS classification. These estimates are published for the first time using new NUTS boundaries from the 2013 review, which came into force on 1 January 2015 (see background note 1).
5. GVA per head of population is a useful way of comparing regions of different sizes and is an important indicator for both domestic and European policy purposes. It is calculated using the entire population (including the economically inactive).
6. These regional GVA estimates update [those published in December 2014 for the period 1997-2013](#). Additionally, provisional estimates for the year 2014 are released for the first time. These figures are provisional as national estimates have not been through Supply and Use balancing at the time of this publication.
7. Industry estimates are also published at t-1 (where t is the current year) for all levels of geography for the first time (previously only available at t-2) (see background note 6).
8. Regional GVA(I) data are now available via the [ONS Data Explorer tool](#). The data previously published via the Timeseries section of the ONS website will no longer be updated from this release and henceforth, although old versions of the figures may remain for some time.

## Economic background for 2014

The [UK economy \(3.73 Mb Excel sheet\)](#) grew in real terms by an estimated 2.9% in 2014, displaying the strongest annual economic growth since 2005. During 2014 the expansion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was relatively consistent on a quarterly basis, with growth of 0.6% during quarter 1 (Jan to March) and quarter 3 (July to Sept), 0.9% during quarter 2 (April to June) and 0.8% during quarter 4 (Oct to Dec).

The increase in GDP during 2014 was supported by growth in [household final consumption expenditure \(1 Mb Excel sheet\)](#) of 2.7% year-on-year. There was also a positive contribution to GDP growth from an improvement in the UK's net trade balance during the year. Gross fixed capital formation, with a 7.5% year-on-year increase, and Government Expenditure (up 1.9%) also positively impacted on GDP. The Bank of England base rate remained at 0.5% throughout 2014. During the year inflation stayed below the 2% target. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual average rate for 2014 stood at 1.5%, decreasing from the 2.6% in 2013.

In 2014 [business demography figures for the UK](#) show a total business birth rate of 13.7% and a death rate of 9.6%. These rates imply an increase of around 102,000 active businesses compared to 2013. The business birth rate exceeded the death rate in all UK countries. At regional level, London had the highest business birth rate at 17.7%, followed by the North East (14.0%) and the North West (13.7%). The lowest birth rate was recorded for Northern Ireland, at 8.7%.

Workforce jobs increased in all UK regions except Northern Ireland between the fourth quarter of 2013 (Oct to Dec) and the corresponding period in 2014. The largest percentage increase was in the North West, with 4.1%, followed by London with 3.8%, while Northern Ireland decreased by 0.6%. During the same period, employment rates increased in all regions except Wales, which decreased by 1.5%. The highest increases were in the North East (2.5%) and the North West (2.2%).

[The unemployment rate \(73 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) also declined in all UK regions over the same period. The largest contractions in unemployment rates were in Yorkshire and The Humber (-2.4%), the West Midlands (-2.2%) and East Midlands (-2.0%). The smallest declines in the rates were in Wales (-0.3%) and the South East (-0.5%).

[Total foreign export of goods](#) decreased from all UK countries between 2013 and 2014. However, at the regional level total exports increased from the North East (7.6%), West Midlands (6.2%) and the South West (1.0%). The North East and the West Midlands increased their export towards both EU and non-EU destinations. The total increase in the South West was instead due to EU export growth that compensated a slight decline in non-EU exports. An increase of export towards EU countries was also recorded for Northern Ireland, but this was not sufficient to offset the contraction to other destinations.

## Regional (NUTS1) GVA estimates

Table 2: NUTS1 regional GVA[1,2], 2014[3]

NUTS1 regions	GVA per head (£) <sup>2</sup>	GVA per head growth on 2013 (%)	GVA per head index (UK=100)	Total GVA (£m) <sup>2</sup>	Total GVA growth on 2013 (%)	Share of UK total GVA (%) <sup>4</sup>
United Kingdom <sup>5</sup>	24,616	3.4	100.0	1,618,346	4.6	100.0
North East	18,216	2.9	74.0	47,702	3.3	3.0
North West	21,011	2.7	85.4	149,869	3.1	9.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	19,863	2.8	80.7	106,467	3.3	6.6
East Midlands	20,524	3.1	83.4	95,178	4.0	5.9
West Midlands	20,086	2.3	81.6	114,755	3.0	7.1
East of England	23,063	4.2	93.7	138,801	5.3	8.6
London	42,666	5.3	173.3	364,310	6.8	22.6
South East	27,012	2.8	109.7	239,698	3.7	14.9
South West	22,324	3.1	90.7	121,070	4.0	7.5
England	25,367	3.7	103.1	1,377,851	4.6	85.5
Wales	17,573	2.1	71.4	54,336	2.4	3.4
Scotland	23,102	4.2	93.9	123,543	4.6	7.7
Northern Ireland	18,682	1.9	75.9	34,384	2.5	2.1
Extra-Regio	n/a	n/a	n/a	22,097	-9.5	1.4

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**

1. GVA at current basic prices on workplace basis (background note 3).
2. Figures may not sum due to rounding in totals; per head (£) figures are rounded to the nearest pound.
3. 2014 estimates are provisional.

4. Shares have been calculated as the regions' proportions of the UK total excluding statistical discrepancy.
5. Per head and per head index figures exclude the statistical discrepancy and Extra-Regio: the off-shore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region (background note 1). These are included in the total GVA figure.

### Download table

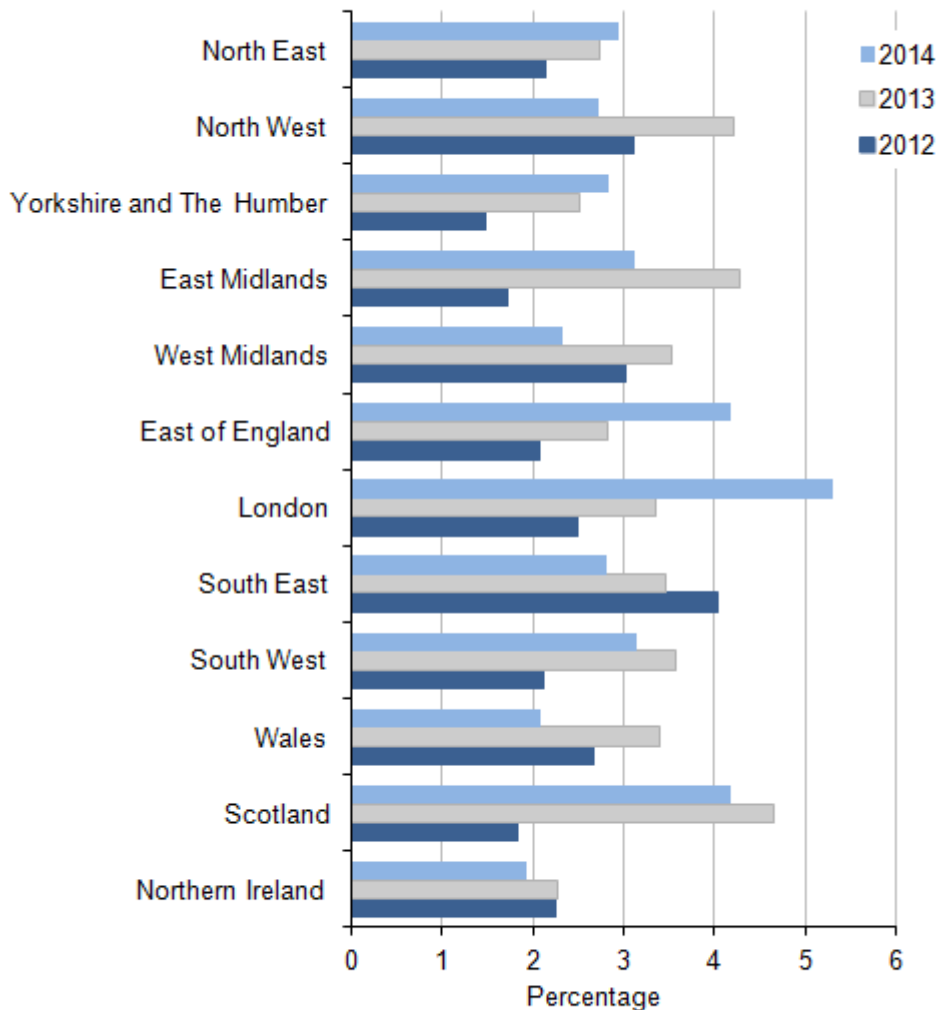
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In 2014 GVA per head of population increased in all NUTS1 regions. The largest percentage increase was in London at 5.3%, over 1 percentage point ahead of the next two regions, Scotland and East of England, both at 4.2%. Northern Ireland had the smallest percentage increase at 1.9%, followed by Wales at 2.1%. All other regions had increases of between 2.3% and 3.1%.

Figure 2 shows the annual growth in GVA per head for each UK region in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The North East, Yorkshire and The Humber, East of England and London are the only regions that have shown increasing growth in each of these years.



**Figure 2: NUTS1 GVA per head growth, 2012, 2013 and 2014**

Source: Office for National Statistics

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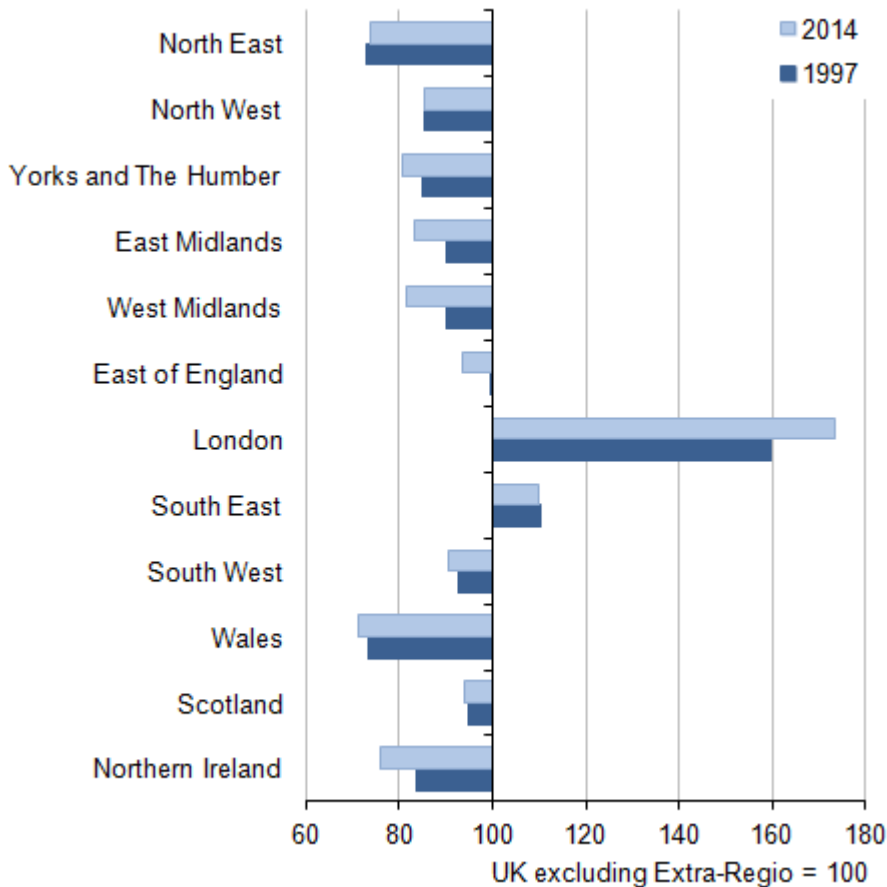
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GVA per head indices show how a region compares with the UK average (where the UK is equal to 100). When compared with the UK average, in 1997 and 2014 respectively, only London and the South East had per head indices above the UK value. During this period only two regions' per head indices increased compared with the UK average:

- London, which increased 13.5 points to 173.3
- North East, which increased 0.9 points to 74.0

All other regions decreased compared to the UK average. The largest decrease was in the West Midlands, which fell 8.6 points to 81.6, followed by Northern Ireland, which fell 7.7 points to 75.9. Figure 3 illustrates each region's GVA per head indices compared with the UK average of 100 for the years 1997 and 2014.

**Figure 3: NUTS1 GVA per head indices, 1997 and 2014**



Source: Office for National Statistics

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**Sub-regional (NUTS2) GVA estimates****Table 3: NUTS2 top 5 and bottom 5 sub-regions[1] by GVA[2] per head, 2014[3]**

NUTS2 sub-regions	GVA per head (£)	GVA per head growth on 2013 (%)	GVA per head index (UK=100)	Total GVA (£m)	Total GVA growth on 2013 (%)
United Kingdom <sup>4</sup>	24,616	3.4	100.0	1,618,346	4.6
Top five GVA per head					
Inner London - West	123,406	4.5	501.3	138,573	5.8
Inner London - East	46,793	6.0	190.1	106,349	8.2
North Eastern Scotland	37,460	2.9	152.2	18,336	3.9
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	34,230	3.1	139.1	80,076	4.1
Cheshire	28,267	2.8	114.8	25,803	3.3
Bottom five GVA per head					
Lincolnshire	18,496	2.1	75.1	13,530	3.1
South Yorkshire	17,462	3.8	70.9	23,850	4.4
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	17,278	-0.1	70.2	9,462	0.6
Tees Valley and Durham	17,055	2.8	69.3	20,194	3.0
West Wales and The Valleys	15,745	2.5	64.0	30,666	2.8

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**

1. Data for all NUTS2 sub-regions are included in reference tables 1 to 5.
2. GVA at current basic prices on workplace basis (background note 3).
3. 2014 estimates are provisional.
4. Per head and per head index figures exclude the statistical discrepancy and Extra-Regio: the off-shore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region (background note 1). These are included in the total GVA figure.

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The NUTS 2015 boundary changes (see background note 1) have increased the number of NUTS2 sub-regions from 37 to 40. The change was to increase the number of London sub-regions from two to five.

In 2014 GVA per head increased in 39 of the 40 NUTS2 sub-regions. The largest percentage increases were in:

- Outer London South, 7.4%
- Inner London East, 6.0%
- South Western Scotland, 5.1%
- Outer London - East and North East, 5.1%

The only sub-region not to increase was Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, where GVA per head decreased by 0.1%.

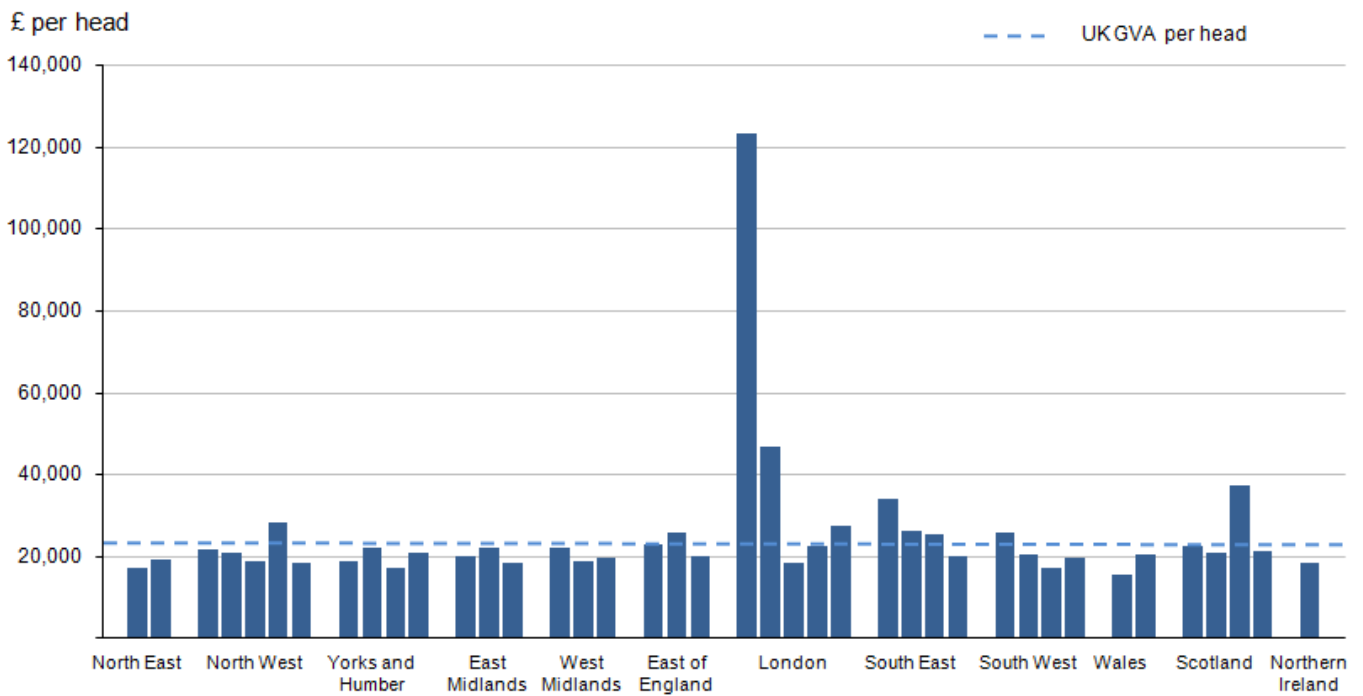
Ten sub-regions had GVA per head higher than the UK average of £24,616, with four sub-regions having a GVA per head of above £30,000:

- Inner London – West, £123,406
- Inner London – East, £46,793
- North Eastern Scotland, £37,460
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, £34,230

West Wales and The Valleys had the lowest GVA per head with £15,745.

Figure 4 shows each NUTS2 region grouped into its parent NUTS1 region, with the horizontal line representing the UK average GVA per head.

**Figure 4: NUTS2 GVA per head grouped by NUTS1 region, 2014**



Source: Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. Please click on the image to view a larger version.

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**Local area (NUTS3) GVA estimates****Table 4: NUTS3 top 10 and bottom 10 local areas[1] by GVA[2] per head, 2014[3]**

NUTS3 local areas	GVA per head (£)	GVA per head growth on 2013 (%)	GVA per head index (UK=100)	Total GVA (£m)	Total GVA growth on 2013 (%)
United Kingdom <sup>4</sup>	24,616	3.4	100.0	1,618,346	4.6
Top ten GVA per head					
Camden and City of London	263,789	3.1	1071.6	64,079	5.5
Westminster	208,475	2.8	846.9	48,636	5.8
Tower Hamlets	125,570	9.9	510.1	35,664	14.3
Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham	50,018	5.7	203.2	16,734	5.8
Haringey and Islington	47,760	3.5	194.0	23,334	5.5
Milton Keynes	39,709	4.4	161.3	10,294	5.8
Berkshire	38,961	1.9	158.3	34,506	2.8
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	37,460	2.9	152.2	18,336	3.9
Lewisham and Southwark	35,973	3.5	146.1	21,385	5.3
Edinburgh, City of	35,779	2.3	145.4	17,628	3.4
Bottom ten GVA per head					
Dudley	14,980	1.9	60.9	4,731	2.4
Northumberland	14,979	2.6	60.8	4,733	2.6
Blackpool	14,907	0.8	60.6	2,094	0.1
Sefton	14,742	3.7	59.9	4,032	3.8

NUTS3 local areas	GVA per head (£)	GVA per head growth on 2013 (%)	GVA per head index (UK=100)	Total GVA (£m)	Total GVA growth on 2013 (%)
East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Helensburgh & Lomond	14,532	0.8	59.0	3,235	1.2
North of Northern Ireland	14,349	2.2	58.3	4,183	2.6
Wirral	13,589	2.0	55.2	4,361	2.2
East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland	13,546	3.9	55.0	3,422	3.6
Gwent Valleys	13,479	1.3	54.8	4,599	1.5
Isle of Anglesey	13,162	3.1	53.5	924	3.4

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**

1. Data for all NUTS3 local areas are included in reference tables 1 to 5.
2. GVA at current basic prices on workplace basis (background note 3).
3. 2014 estimates are provisional.
4. Per head and per head index figures exclude the statistical discrepancy and Extra-Region: the off-shore contribution to GVA that cannot be assigned to any region (background note 1). These are included in the total GVA figure.

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The NUTS 2015 boundary changes (see background note 1) have increased the number of NUTS3 local areas from 139 to 173. Key changes occurred in London and Manchester.

In 2014 GVA per head increased in 169 of the 173 NUTS3 local areas. The largest percentage increases were in:

- Tower Hamlets, 9.9%
- Croydon, 9.3%
- Darlington, 8.9%

The largest decreases in GVA per head were in Swindon and York, which both decreased by 0.6% and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, which decreased by 0.1%.

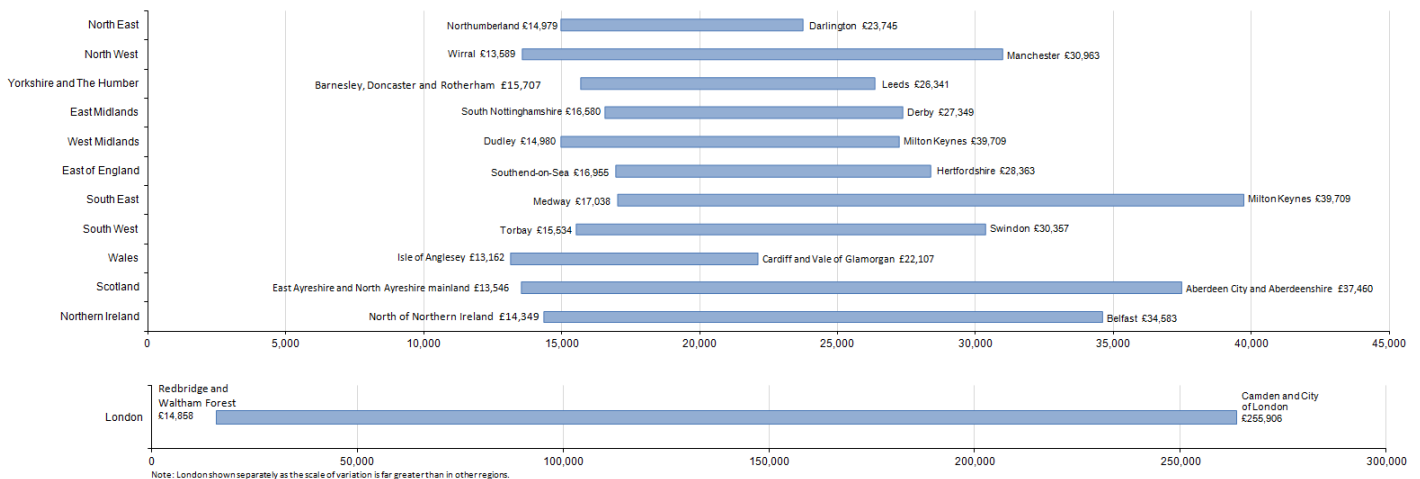
There were 45 local areas that had GVA per head higher than the UK average of £24,616 in 2014, the top five of which were within London. These were followed by Milton Keynes, Berkshire, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

The two local areas with the lowest GVA per head were in Wales, Isle of Anglesey with £13,162 and Gwent Valleys with £13,479.

There is considerable variation in the range of GVA per head within NUTS1 regions of the UK. Variation in 2014 is illustrated in Figure 5. The NUTS3 local areas with the highest and lowest GVA per head within a NUTS1 region determine the range of GVA per head within that region.

In 2014 the North East had the least amount of variation between its constituent local areas, from £14,979 in Northumberland to £23,745 in Darlington. London had the greatest amount of variation, from £15,833 in Redbridge and Waltham Forest to £263,789 in Camden and City of London.

**Figure 5: NUTS3 GVA per head variation within NUTS1 regions, 2014**



Source: Office for National Statistics

#### Notes:

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## Industrial analysis

In this release, industry estimates for the years 2013 and 2014 have been published for the first time. Industry estimates were previously only available at t-2 (where t is the current year). It should be noted that all 2014 data in this release are provisional as they are based on national data that



have not been through the Supply and Use balancing process. The provisional industry estimates compiled using the income approach will not match those published in the UK National Accounts, compiled using the output approach. The difference is shown in the statistical discrepancy that can be found in the reference tables released with this bulletin.

Figure 6 shows the industrial composition of total GVA for each country in 2014. Looking at the growth between 2013 and 2014:

- at the UK level the strongest annual growth in 2014 was seen in the construction industry (9.2%). Construction was the strongest growing industry in all countries except Northern Ireland, where it was second only to recreation and other services
- the lowest annual growth in 2014 at the UK level was in agriculture, mining and the utilities (electricity, gas and water), which decreased by 4.5%. It was also the lowest growing industry in all four countries
- at the UK level the public services industry also showed little growth in 2014, growing by only 1.0%. There were some differences around the countries, however, with England and Northern Ireland growing by 0.7% and 1.7% respectively, Wales decreasing by 0.8%, and Scotland showing relatively strong growth at 4.2%

**Figure 6: Industrial variation in total GVA in the UK countries, 2014**



Source: Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

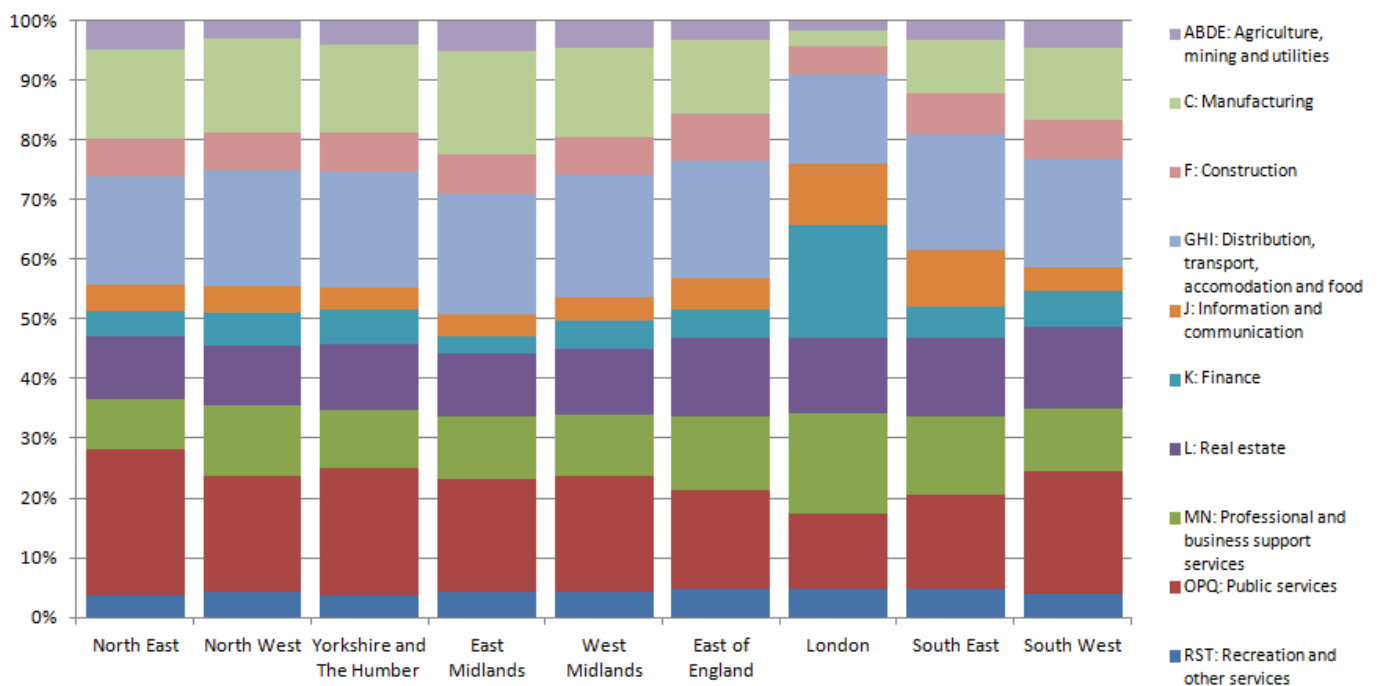
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Figure 7 shows the industrial composition of total GVA for each NUTS1 region of England in 2014. Looking at the growth between 2013 and 2014:

- In 2014 construction was the strongest growing industry in the East of England (13.2%), East Midlands (12.1%), South East (9.7%) and South West (9.4%), and the second strongest in Yorkshire and The Humber (12.5%) behind finance (12.9%).
- Agriculture, mining and the utilities (electricity, gas and water) decreased in 2014 in all regions except the East of England and South East, where it grew by 0.8%.
- In 2014 the public services industry also showed little growth across most of the regions of England, ranging from -1.4% in the South East to 1.9% in the East Midlands. London was the exception with a slightly stronger annual growth of 3.3%.

**Figure 7: Industrial variation in total GVA in English NUTS1 regions, 2014**

Source: Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. Please click on the image to view a larger version.

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## Recent methodological changes

1. This year has seen a big change to the treatment of household rental income, with three separate changes occurring simultaneously. The first of these is a change in the average house prices used to calculate the regional allocation of imputed rental of owner-occupied dwellings. This change has been necessary because the former data source (provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government) is no longer available. The new data use median house prices from ONS instead of mean house prices, which reduces the impact of the most expensive houses and improves the consistency of estimates over time. The estimates of dwelling stock used have also been changed to build up from Local Authority/Council level data, providing a coherent and consistent framework for use across the Regional Accounts at all NUTS levels. This change has had a considerable impact on GVA estimates for London, Scotland and Northern Ireland in particular.
2. The second change to household rental income only affects the NUTS2 and NUTS3 areas. Here we have improved the regional allocation of rental income by separating the household sector from other sectors and allocating the household part using housing stock and average house prices (so the change at 1 above also impacts here). This has improved the distribution of rental income at the lower levels of geography, where the housing market was previously regionalised using compensation of employees. This change has had a very wide impact across the NUTS2 and NUTS3 areas.
3. In keeping with the UK National Accounts commitment to meeting the European Commission definition of [Gross National Income](#) and the new [European System of Accounts \(ESA2010\)](#), we have made changes to regional GVA to reflect cross-border income relating to the ownership of second homes, including those in the UK owned by foreign nationals and those owned by UK residents but located in other countries. The activity has two components: property income (import and export), which will feature in the next release of regional Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI); and housing services (import and export), which features in both regional GVA and GDHI as a part of rental income (the third change to rental income this year). For the regional allocation of second homes we have used data from Council Tax records and the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, with gaps in coverage filled by modelling using overall housing stock. Differences in regional house prices have also been accounted for in the regional indicator for foreign-owned second homes in the UK. No further ESA2010 changes have required a specific regional methods change in the production of these estimates.
4. All other changes made to the UK National Accounts measure of GVA, to satisfy the requirements of Gross National Income or ESA2010, impact upon the regional GVA estimates in the form of different national totals for the various components of income, even where no explicit changes to the regional allocation have been needed. Of these, changes to the treatment of [non-profit institutions serving households \(NPISH\) \(185.9 Kb Pdf\)](#) and [exhaustiveness \(225.9 Kb Pdf\)](#) have resulted in the greatest impact on the national figures.
5. Since the early 1990s adjustments have been applied to GVA estimates for areas of Scotland in order to address a perceived bias in the earnings and employment data that were used to calculate compensation of employees. Following a [review and user consultation](#) we have concluded that the data and methods used are now of sufficient quality that the adjustment is no longer needed. The adjustments have been removed from the entire time series and have mostly affected the GVA estimates for the Highlands and Islands and parts of Eastern Scotland.
6. We have carried out a review of the way we measure the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (SIC Section A) in regional GVA and have made some changes to improve consistency

and coherence with other data sources. The new methods exclusively use data from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) agricultural accounts for the agriculture industry, with other sources (mostly ONS surveys) being used to measure the forestry and fishing industries.

7. We have made a change to the mining and quarrying industry (SIC Section B) to exclude oil and gas extraction from the Annual Business Survey (ABS) data used to allocate corporate profits to regions. This activity, which mostly belongs in the Extra-Regio category (see background note 1), represents a large part of the mining and quarrying industry as a whole and its presence in the dataset used to allocate the remainder of the industry was causing distortions. These have now been corrected.
8. Finally, improved data have been used to measure the compensation of employees allocated to armed forces personnel both in the UK and posted overseas, to include Ministry of Defence civilian personnel in support roles. This has resulted in a considerable change to the Extra-Regio estimate for public administration and defence (SIC Section O), and a small corresponding impact on all other regions.

## Future work plans

- On 16 December 2015 ONS Regional Accounts will again publish [experimental estimates of regional real Gross Value Added, compiled using the production approach \(GVA\(P\)\)](#). They are in constant prices, deflated to remove the effect of inflation. ONS delivered real GVA growth rates to Eurostat for the first time in December 2014, three years ahead of schedule. GVA(P) will remain experimental and GVA(I) will continue to be the lead National Statistic. In the longer term (2016-17), a regional GVA balancing project will consider the viability of producing a single balanced measure of regional GVA.
- ONS plans to publish estimates of regional Gross Value Added using the income approach (GVA(I)) for 1997 to 2015, in December 2016.
- The publication of regional Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) estimates, for the period 1997 to 2014, is currently planned for spring 2016.
- The Regional Accounts team are always looking for ways to continuously improve the data used in the calculation of regional GVA(I). If you have any comments, suggestions or feedback, please contact [regionalaccounts@ons.gov.uk](mailto:regionalaccounts@ons.gov.uk).

## Domestic use of regional, sub-regional and local GVA estimates

These statistics provide an overview of economic performance at regional and sub-regional level, allowing comparison between the countries and regions of the UK. They provide information about regional economic diversity and the relative importance of different industries to regional economies.

They are used by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to formulate and monitor economic policy and allocate resources.

- These statistics are used in the compilation of business survey statistics in Northern Ireland. They are also used in the production of the [Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index \(NICEI\)](#) – a short-term output measure of the Northern Ireland economy which is used to inform the Economic Strategy and Northern Ireland Budget. The Regional Accounts estimates are also

currently used in the development of experimental Supply and Use tables which form a key basis for economic statistics for Northern Ireland.

- The Scottish Government uses regional GVA estimates in the production of Supply and Use tables and other related economic statistics, including Quarterly National Accounts Scotland. Regional GVA per head is also used by the Scottish Government to monitor the relative economic performance of countries and regions over time.
- Regional GVA estimates are one of the [Welsh Government's eight key indicators in measuring the Welsh economy](#).
- The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) uses regional and sub-regional GVA estimates in monitoring regional economic performance.
- Local authorities and regional observatories use these statistics to facilitate evidence-based policy making and economic intervention, for example assisting Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) applications and regional growth funding bids. These figures also provide local authorities with a context for their economic strategies and lobbying activities.
- The House of Commons Library produces a standard note about these statistics and they are frequently the subject of parliamentary questions raised by Members of Parliament.

These statistics inform the general public about the state of the economy and provide insight into the relative economic positions of local areas and issues.

The ONS Regional Accounts team also receives general enquiries relating to these estimates from a diverse range of bodies including the Bank of England, other government departments, local authorities, business analysts, consultancy firms, financial institutions, economists, academics and the media (local and national).

## European Union use of UK sub-regional GVA estimates

The production of regional GVA is a legal requirement under the European System of Accounts. The sub-regional (NUTS2) estimates are used to inform European Union (EU) structural funding decisions. GDP is calculated in the currencies of the Member States and converted initially into Euros and then into an artificial common currency, called the Purchasing Power Standard (PPS). This makes it possible to compare the purchasing power of different national currencies.

The resulting GDP per inhabitant estimates (expressed in terms of PPS), provide a measure of the total economic activity in a region and may be used to monitor and compare the economic development of regions over time.

The purpose of EU structural funding is to redress regional imbalances, by supporting the development of regional economies. Convergence funding provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) is allocated within the current round of funding (covering the period 2014 to 2020), to promote growth-enhancing conditions and factors leading to economic convergence for the least developed EU Member States and regions.

Where the average GDP per inhabitant of a region (in PPS), over an agreed three year period, falls below 75% of the average for the 28 EU Member States (EU-28), full convergence funding is allocated to promote economic development. A transitional element of the current funding process is allocated to regions with GDP per inhabitant between 75% and 90% of the EU-28 average. Under

the current allocation, determined in 2012 on the basis of statistics covering the years 2007-2009, the UK receives full convergence assistance for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and West Wales and The Valleys, while a further 11 NUTS2 regions receive transitional support.

The most recent [Eurostat GDP per inhabitant estimates](#) published in May 2015 (expressed in PPS), show the EU-28 average for 2013 at 26,600 PPS, up from 26,500 PPS in 2012. Figure 8 illustrates the variation in the range of GDP per inhabitant (expressed in PPS) within the EU Member States, at NUTS2 level, in 2013. Inner London had the highest GDP per inhabitant (PPS) of the NUTS2 regions within the EU, at 86,400 PPS.

The estimates published by Eurostat were based on the NUTS boundaries implemented in January 2012, so there are differences between these and the regional GVA estimates being discussed in other parts of this Statistical Bulletin.

There were three UK NUTS2 regions under 75% of the EU average in 2013:

- Tees Valley and Durham (73%)
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (70%)
- West Wales and The Valleys (67%)

A further 16 UK NUTS2 regions were between 75% and 90% of the EU average.

The allocation of structural funding will be reviewed in 2016, on the basis of statistics for the years 2012 to 2014. This review may affect the funding for 2017 to 2020.

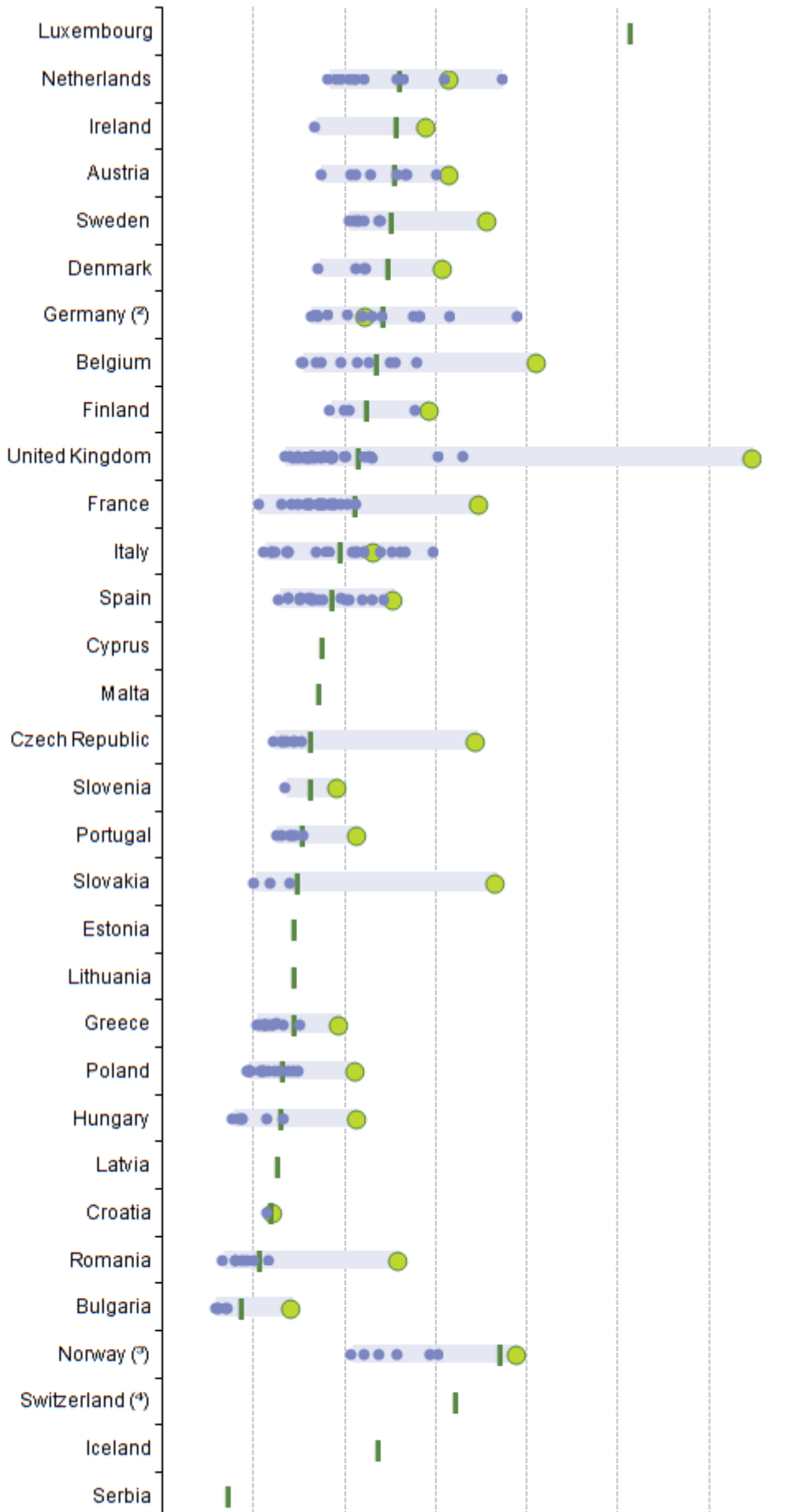
Figure 8 shows the differences across the NUTS2 sub-regions of the EU countries:

- the light purple shaded bar shows the range of the highest to lowest region for each country
- the dark green bar shows the national average
- the green circle shows the capital city region
- the dark purple circles show the other NUTS2 regions

The greatest variation in GDP per inhabitant is seen in the UK, however the national average figure is similar to that of the EU average.

**Figure 8: Regional disparities in gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant, in purchasing power standard (PPS), by NUTS level 2 region, 2013<sup>1</sup>**

(% of the EU-28 average, EU-28 = 100)



Source: Eurostat

#### Notes:

1. Consistent with the May 2015 Regional GDP Eurostat publication.
2. Only available for NUTS level 1 regions.
3. Only available at national level.
4. 2012.

#### Download chart

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#### Background notes

1. The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the EU. These regional GVA estimates are published for the first time using new NUTS boundaries from the 2013 review, which came into force on 1 January 2015:
  - NUTS1: Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the nine English regions
  - NUTS2: 40 sub-regions – mainly groups of counties and unitary authorities
  - NUTS3: 173 local areas – principally individual counties and unitary authorities
  - Some areas appear at more than one level, for example Northern Ireland appears at NUTS1 and NUTS2 levels

The NUTS classification was established by Eurostat in the early 1970s as a single, coherent system for dividing up European Union territory in order to produce regional statistics for the EU. Since 2003, any changes to boundaries to account for changes in, for instance, local authority boundaries, have needed to go through a formal process of application to the EU, with any changes being implemented at the end of pre-set periods of enforced stability.

The term Extra-Regio is applied to economic activity that cannot be assigned to any specific region within a country. For the UK the contribution of UK embassies abroad, UK armed forces and support personnel stationed overseas and activities taking place on the continental shelf (North Sea oil and gas extraction) are treated as Extra-Regio in the workplace-based estimates of regional GVA.

2. These estimates are presented in current basic prices. They do not allow for different regional price levels or changes in prices over time (inflation). The income approach to calculating GVA produces only current price estimates because some income components cannot easily be converted into prices and volume (e.g. gross operating surplus).
3. These GVA estimates presented here are on a workplace basis (allocated to the location where the economic activity takes place).
4. GVA per head can be a useful way of comparing regions of different sizes. This is particularly the case where there are no large net-commuting effects, when GVA per head can act as a



good proxy for measures of economic performance such as productivity. However, it is not such a good proxy for those areas with high net in- or out-commuting. This is because it compares a workplace measure of economic output (GVA), which includes the contribution of in-commuters, with a residence-based denominator (population). For such areas it is advisable to refer to ONS productivity data for a direct measure of economic performance. ONS estimates of regional and sub-regional productivity, based on the GVA data in this publication, will follow in subsequent ONS bulletins. [Regional productivity](#) data will be released on 23 December 2015, and productivity data for [sub-regions](#) will follow in the first quarter of 2016.

## Quality

5. ONS Regional Accounts annually review [Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) reports](#) for regional GVA and regional GDHI, detailing methods used to produce these statistics.
6. Figures for 2014 are provisional as national estimates have not been through Supply and Use balancing at the time of this publication. Industry estimates of regional GVA are published at t-1 (where t is the latest year) for the first time in this release. Regional industry estimates for the components of income in 2014 have been calculated by applying growth in GDP(O) industry figures and then constraining these to sum to the income component totals. The figures used in this process are consistent with those published in the National Accounts Blue Book 2015. These data have not yet been through the Supply and Use balancing process so they are subject to the income statistical discrepancy and are therefore marked as provisional.
7. The statistical discrepancy is the difference between the sum of the national income components and the definitive national estimate of GVA.
8. As with the National Accounts, regional, sub-regional and local GVA estimates are calculated as reliably as possible. There is no easy way to measure the reliability of the estimates but ONS carries out consistency checks on data inputs, applies methods consistently and makes use of local knowledge for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland through consultation with key users in the Devolved Administrations and other government departments. The estimates are partly based on sample surveys and the quality of the results therefore varies according to sample size. This means that the results for smaller regions may be subject to a greater degree of uncertainty than those for larger regions.

## Revisions

9. Revisions to NUTS1, NUTS2 and NUTS3 regional GVA estimates in this statistical bulletin cover the period 1997 to 2013.

Very few statistical revisions arise as a result of errors in the popular sense of the word. All estimates, by definition, are subject to statistical error but in this context the word refers to the uncertainty in any process or calculation that uses sampling, estimation or modelling. Most revisions reflect either the adoption of new statistical techniques or the incorporation of new information which allows the statistical error of previous estimates to be reduced. Only rarely are there avoidable errors such as human or system errors and such mistakes are made clear when they are discovered and corrected.

The main reasons for revisions are detailed below:

- in Blue Book 2015, the totals for national GVA by industry were revised as far back as 1997 and included methodological changes to meet the European Commission definition of Gross National Income and the new European System of Accounts (ESA2010). These changes led to larger than usual revisions in the regional estimates, which are constrained to sum to the national figures. More information about these changes can be found in the 'Recent Methodological Changes' section of this bulletin
- at the regional level there have been significant revisions to the estimates of household rental income at all NUTS levels. We have implemented a coherent and consistent framework for regional dwelling stock and house prices built up from small areas, which has changed the regional allocation at the NUTS1 level, and have used this framework for the smaller areas for the first time. These changes have resulted in considerable revisions to many areas across the UK. Again, you can find more details of the changes in the 'Recent Methodological Changes' section of this bulletin

Final estimates for 2013 became available from various data providers. Information is delivered by suppliers in accordance with the Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (UK SIC 2007).

Revisions to GVA estimates for 2012 and 2013 are shown in table 5. Further detail is available in the [revisions triangles \(2.29 Mb Excel sheet\)](#) on the ONS website.

**Table 5: NUTS1: percentage revisions to workplace-based GVA in 2012 and 2013**

Region	2012	2013
UK	0.7	1.6
North East	1.9	1.8
North West	1.8	2.6
Yorkshire and The Humber	1.3	1.4
East Midlands	0.8	3.0
West Midlands	0.3	1.0
East of England	0.7	1.1
London	0.0	0.7
South East	0.3	1.7
South West	1.2	2.3
Wales	1.9	1.9

Region	2012	2013
Scotland	-1.1	0.9
Northern Ireland	0.7	2.1
Extra-Region	5.9	5.7

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

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