

Local area walking and cycling statistics: England 2010/11

This Statistical Release presents information on walking and cycling amongst adults (aged 16 and over) in England, by local area. **This is the first release in this series of statistics.**

The statistics in this release are based on results from the Active People Survey (APS), an annual household telephone survey administered by Sport England. The APS is designed to measure participation in sport and active recreation but includes questions about all cycling and walking activity. The APS covers more than 160,000 persons, which is sufficient to enable detailed analysis at local authority level.

This release presents results from the fifth Active People Survey (APS5), which ran from October 2010 to October 2011. Some results from APS5 have been published previously by Sport England (see section 7), but this release presents **additional measures and more detailed analysis specifically related to walking and cycling.**

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The key findings from Local area walking and cycling: England 2010/11 include

- 10 per cent of adults cycle at least once per week. This figure varies significantly by area, from over 50 per cent to less than 5 per cent.
- 11 per cent of adults cycle for at least half an hour, at least once per month. Across different areas, this proportion ranges from 35 per cent to 4 per cent.
- Amongst those who do some cycling for at least half an hour, 16 per cent always do so for utility purposes (getting from place to place), rather than for recreational or health reasons.
- 71 per cent of adults walk for at least half an hour, at least once per month. Across different areas, this proportion ranges from over 80 per cent to around 60 per cent.
- 23 per cent of those who do some walking for at least half an hour do so exclusively for utility purposes. The share of utility walking is highest in London, where 35 per cent of those who walk do so only for utility purposes.

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1. Overall walking and cycling participation

Walking and Cycling

- Overall, 91 per cent of adults **do some walking or cycling** at least once per month.

Cycling

- 15 per cent of adults in England **cycle at least once per month**. This includes any cycling, **irrespective of its length or purpose**.
- 10 per cent of adults **cycle at least once per week**; 4 per cent **cycle at least 3 times per week** and 3 per cent **cycle at least 5 times per week**.
- There is significant variation in cycling participation across different areas. The proportion of adults who **cycle at least once per week** ranges from 52 per cent to 4 per cent, a thirteen-fold difference.
- The ten local authorities with the highest proportion of adults cycling **at least once per week** are¹:

1. Cambridge	(52 per cent)	6. Richmond-upon-Thames	(21 per cent)
2. Oxford	(30 per cent)	7(=). Hackney	(20 per cent)
3. Gosport	(24 per cent)	7(=). Worthing	(20 per cent)
4. York	(23 per cent)	9(=). Lambeth	(18 per cent)
5. South Cambridgeshire	(22 per cent)	9(=). Norwich	(18 per cent)

- The majority of the areas with the highest rates of cycling are cities or boroughs within cities. Other characteristics associated with a number of these areas are a large student population and a flat local landscape.
- Out of 326 local authorities, there are 32 (10 per cent) where **at least 15 per cent of adults cycle at least once per week**. In 30 local authorities (9 per cent), the **proportion of adults cycling at least once per week is 5 per cent or less**.

Walking

- 90 per cent of adults in England **do some walking at least once per month**. This includes any walks of at least 5 minutes, for any purpose.
- Compared to cycling, there is **far less variation across different areas** in the proportion of adults who do some walking. The proportion of adults who walk at least once per month ranges from 96 per cent to 84 per cent.

Detailed statistics (tables) on walking and cycling for any purpose or length can be found on the Walking and Cycling web tables, table numbers [CW0101 to CW0112](#)

¹Results for the Isles of Scilly and City of London are not directly comparable with other local authorities, due to their very small sample sizes and low populations. For this reason, they are excluded from the lists in this bulletin.

2. Walking and cycling for 30 minutes or longer

The statistics in this section relate to walks and cycle rides of at least 30 minutes, irrespective of purpose.

Walks and cycle rides of at least 30 minutes

- Overall, 72 per cent of adults do **some walking or cycling for at least half an hour**, at least once per month.

Cycle rides of at least 30 minutes

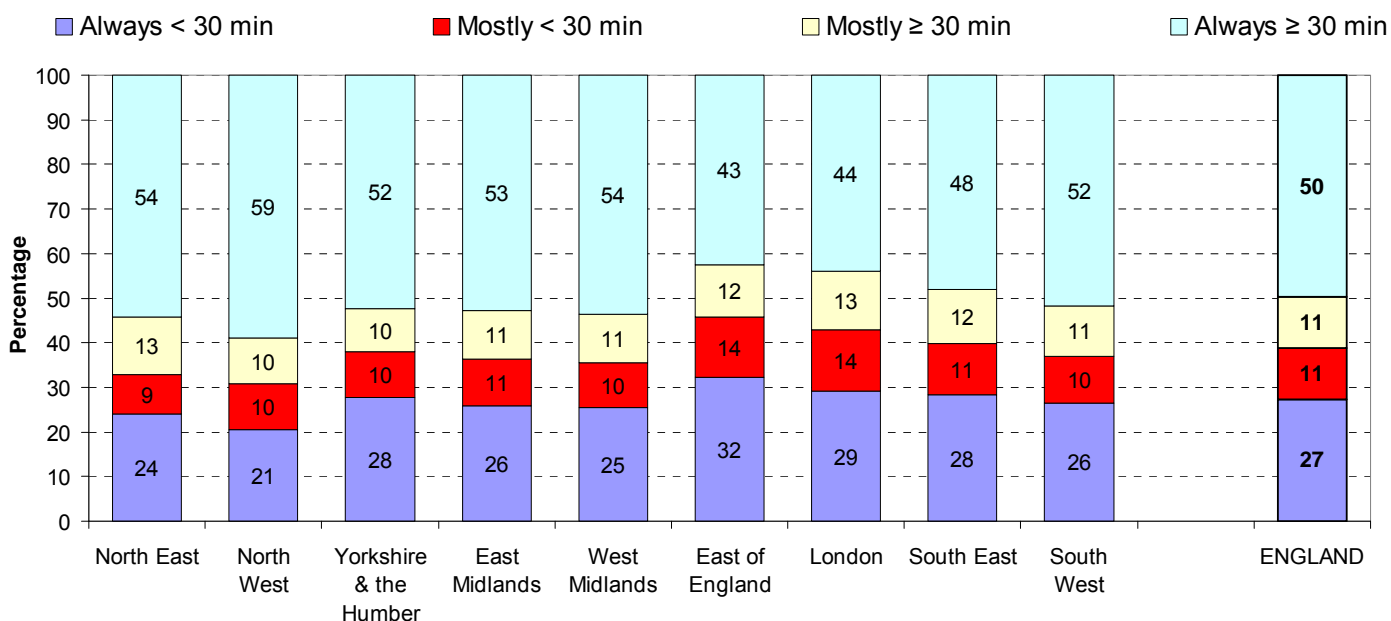
- 11 per cent of adults do a **cycle ride of at least half an hour, at least once per month**. As before, there is significant variation in this proportion across different areas, ranging from 35 per cent to 4 per cent, almost a factor of nine different.
- The local authorities with the highest proportion of adults cycling for **at least half an hour, at least once per month** are:

1. Cambridge	(35 per cent)	5(=).South Cambridgeshire	(20 per cent)
2. Gosport	(24 per cent)	5(=).Lancaster	(20 per cent)
3(=).Richmond-Upon-Thames	(22 per cent)	5(=).Bristol	(20 per cent)
3(=).Rutland	(22 per cent)	5(=).Hart	(20 per cent)

Characteristics of cycle ride lengths

- Amongst those who cycle at least once per month, 50 per cent **always cycle for at least 30 minutes**; 27 per cent **always cycle for less than 30 minutes**.
- The proportion who **always cycle for less than half an hour** is highest in the East of England region, where 32 per cent of those who cycle **never do so for more than half an hour**.

Proportion of cyclists who usually or always cycle for more or less than 30 minutes (Walking and Cycling web table CW0701)



Walks of at least 30 minutes

- 71 per cent of adults in England **walk for at least half an hour, at least once per month**. Across different areas this proportion ranges from 83 per cent to 58 per cent, a factor of around one and a half different.
- The local authorities with the highest proportion of adults walking **for at least half an hour, at least once per month** are:

1. Camden	(83 per cent)	5(=).High Peak	(80 per cent)
2. Wandsworth	(82 per cent)	5(=).Tonbridge and Malling	(80 per cent)
3(=). Exeter	(81 per cent)	5(=).Brighton and Hove	(80 per cent)
3(=). Lancaster	(81 per cent)	5(=).Richmond-Upon-Thames	(80 per cent)
5(=).Stroud	(80 per cent)		
- Areas with a high prevalence of walking include both rural and urban areas, particularly London boroughs. Several of the areas with a high prevalence of walking are in or near a National Park, implying that the figure is driven by some recreational countryside walking.
- 55 per cent of adults **do a walk of at least half an hour at least once per week**; 29 per cent do so **at least 3 times per week** and 21 per cent do so **at least 5 times per week**.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on walking and cycling for at least 30 minutes can be found on the Walking and Cycling web tables, table numbers [CW0201 to CW0222](#) and [CW0701](#)

3. Walking and cycling for utility purposes

Respondents to the Active People Survey are asked how often they do a walk or cycle ride for 30 minutes or longer. They are also asked how often they do this for health, recreation, training or competition, rather than just to get from place to place. By comparing the answers to these questions, we have extracted measures relating to **cycling and walking for utility purposes**, that is, **for purposes other than recreation, health, competition or training**. As these questions only consider walking and cycling of 30 minutes or longer, the utility measures in this section **only cover walks and cycle rides of at least 30 minutes**.

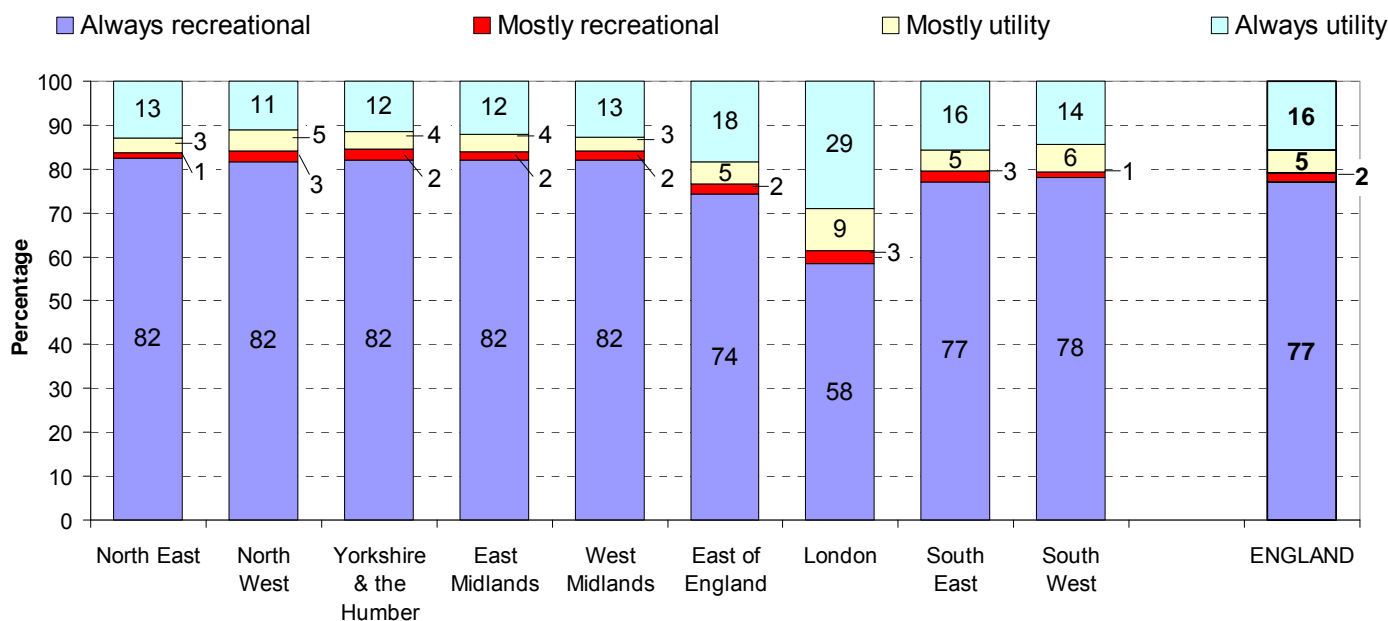
Utility cycling

- Overall, 3 per cent of adults do a **half hour cycle ride for utility purposes at least once per month**. Across different areas, this proportion ranges from 20 per cent to less than 1 per cent.

Purpose share of cycling

- Amongst adults who do some cycling of at least half an hour, 16 per cent **always do so for utility purposes**; 77 per cent always do so for recreational purposes.
- Utility purposes comprise a far greater share of cycling in London, compared to other regions. **29 per cent of those cycling in London always do so for utility purposes**, compared to 16 per cent nationally.

Proportion of cyclists who usually or always cycle for recreational or utility purposes (Walking and Cycling web table CW0801)



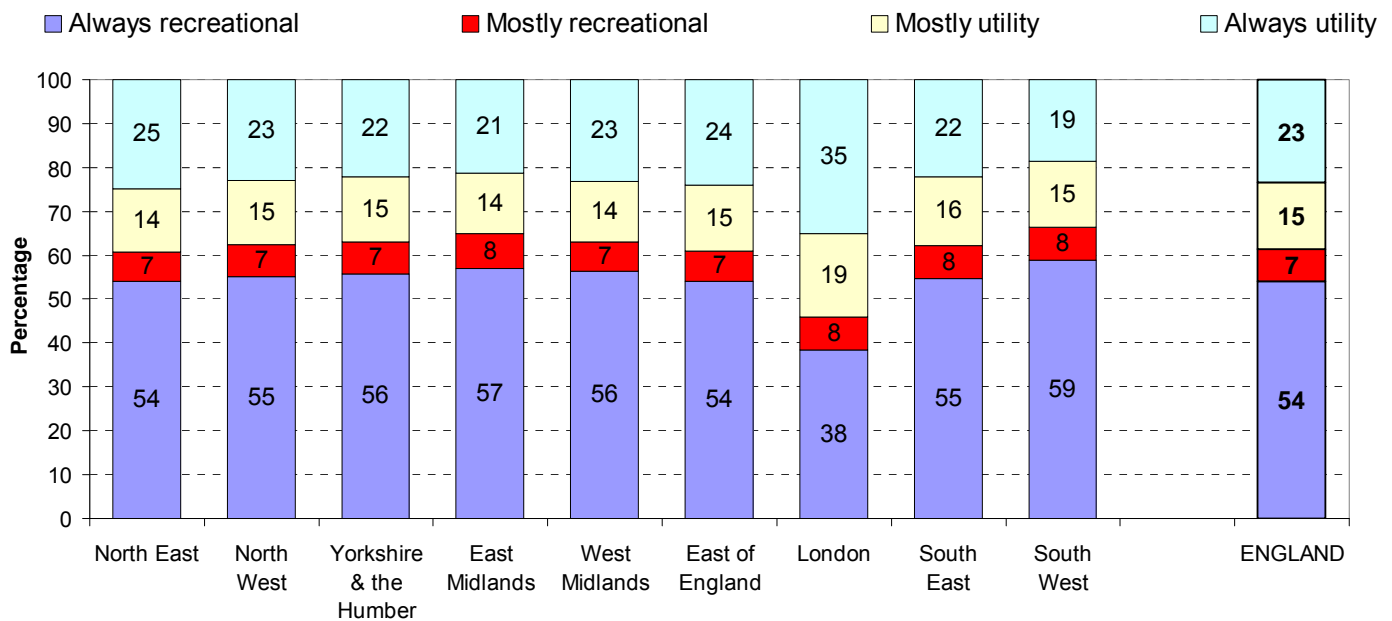
Utility walking

- Overall, 35 per cent of adults **do a half hour walk for utility purposes at least once per month**. This proportion ranges from 59 per cent to 23 per cent across different areas.
- There are 11 local authorities in which **at least half of adults do some utility walking, at least once per month for 30 minutes for longer**. Of these, eight are London boroughs.
- The highest rates of utility walking are associated with urban areas, particularly cities and boroughs within cities.

Purpose share of walking

- Amongst adults who walk for at least 30 minutes at least once per month, 23 per cent **always do so for utility purposes**; 54 per cent always do so for recreational purposes.
- As for cycling, London exhibits a higher proportion of utility walking than other regions. **35 per cent of those walking in London always do so for utility purposes**, compared with 23 per cent nationally.

Proportion of those who walk at least once per month for half an hour, who usually or always do so for recreational or utility purposes (Walking and Cycling web table CW0802)



Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on walking and cycling for utility purposes can be found on the Walking and Cycling web tables, table numbers [CW0301 to CW0312](#) and [CW0801 to CW0802](#)

4. Related information

Walking and cycling in context

These statistics provide a picture of the variation in walking and cycling in different areas. According to the National Travel Survey (NTS), **cycling accounts for 2 per cent of all journey stages** made by adults in England and **walking accounts for 25 per cent²**.

The NTS collects detailed information about personal travel by all modes. Tables from the NTS relating to walking and cycling can be accessed from the Walking and Cycling Statistics page (link below).

Other statistics on walking and cycling

Information about walking and cycling also appears in several other statistical releases produced by the Department for Transport:

- Public attitudes to walking and cycling
- Road accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians
- Travel to work by walking and cycling
- Traffic counts of pedal cycles
- Access to services by cycling

These statistics can be accessed from the Walking and Cycling Statistics page:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/walking-and-cycling/>

² A stage is part of a journey. A journey consists of one or more trips, with each trip being defined by a different mode of transport.

5. Users and uses of these statistics

This is the first release of statistics on local area walking and cycling. Within the Department for Transport, we anticipate them being used in the evaluation of local area interventions to encourage sustainable travel (for example, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund³), as background information in the development and targeting of walking and cycling policies, for ministerial briefing and to answer public enquiries.

Outside the Department, we anticipate users will include local authorities, who may be interested in studying the prevalence of walking and cycling in their area and comparator areas and for evaluating interventions. Other users are likely to include Parliamentary Groups, organizations, researchers and individuals with an interest in walking and cycling.

Request for feedback

In designing this statistical release we gathered views from stakeholders and potential users, including local authorities, on what they would find most useful. We would welcome any feedback on this first release, on the content, format or timing of the statistics, to inform future releases on this topic. A two page survey form is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/65XPNSC>

6. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

The figures in this release are based on the Active People Survey (APS), which is used by Sport England to derive official estimates of participation in sport and active recreation. The APS has a sample size of over 160,000 persons, which is the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey, thus enabling statistics at local authority level. Statistics at this level are not available from the National Travel Survey, which has an annual sample of around 19,000 persons.

The national level results derived from the APS have been compared with those from the National Travel Survey and found to be broadly consistent. Any differences are likely to be due to differences in methodology and definitions between the two surveys.

Results from the APS are grouped by the area where survey respondents live, which may not be the same as the area where they walk or cycle. Therefore, caution is required when interpreting the results, particularly for urban areas where there are multiple local authorities in a relatively small area.

The tables accompanying this release include 95 per cent confidence intervals for the estimates derived from the survey, to demonstrate the reliability of the estimates. The confidence intervals used here are Wilson Score intervals. More detailed explanation of the confidence intervals can be found in the Notes and Definitions document (link below).

Although the APS has a standard sample size of at least 500 persons per local authority, because the numbers of those cycling are small (only 13% nationally), some of the measures relating to cycling are based on only a few people per local authority and may not be robust. This is reflected in some of the large confidence intervals reported.

³ <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-guidance-on-the-application-process/>

The APS sample is weighted to ensure that the results are representative of the population. However, it is exclusively a telephone survey and only covers households with a fixed landline. The 15% of households in England that are mobile-only⁴ are excluded from the survey, which may introduce bias into the sample. A comparison of sports participation measures derived from a telephone survey and a face-to-face survey revealed some small but systematic differences between the reporting of walking and cycling between the two modes. Work is ongoing by Sport England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to better understand these modal differences, with a view to redesigning the future format of the Active People Survey.

Further information is available in the Notes and Definitions document (link below).

7. Background notes

1. The web tables give further details of the results presented in this statistical release. They are available here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/local-area-walking-and-cycling-in-england-2010-11/>

2. Guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics, including the calculation of confidence intervals is available in the “Notes and Definitions” document:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/local-area-walking-and-cycling-in-england-2010-11/local-area-walking-and-cycling-notes.pdf>

3. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/local-area-walking-and-cycling-in-england-2010-11/cw-pre-release.pdf>

4. Further information about the Active People Survey and published sports participation measures for APS5 can be found on Sport England’s website:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

5. Details of changes considered for the format of the Active People Survey in future can be found here:

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/consultation.aspx

6. The next Local Area Walking and Cycling Statistics release is due to be published in the spring of 2013 and will contain statistics from APS6, covering the period October 2011 to October 2012.

⁴ See paper commissioned from the Office for National Statistics Methodology Advisory Service available on this page: http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/consultation.aspx