

London and the Countryside

Different Englands?

It is tempting to assume that London and the countryside represent polarities in English life.

Instead, this poster makes the case that, put together, they are set apart from everywhere else.

LONDON	7,517,700
Birmingham	992,400
Sheffield	516,600
Liverpool	444,500
Leeds	443,247
Manchester	437,000
Bristol	393,000

London is special

Even for a European capital city, London has a large population (twice as big as the next biggest). It has a bigger share of the national population than other capitals. Added together, the next six biggest English cities total less than half the population of London.

	City Population	National Population (million)	City as % of Nation
LONDON	7,517,700	60.1	12.5
Amsterdam	743,393	16.3	4.6
Berlin	3,396,990	82.4	4.1
Madrid	3,155,359	40.2	7.8
Paris	2,144,700	60.2	3.6
Rome	2,547,932	58.0	4.4

Occupational Classification and Residential Location

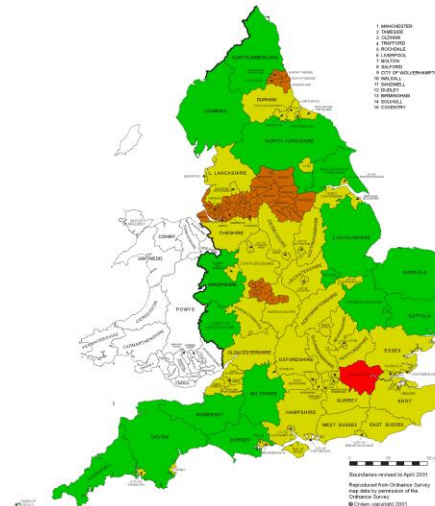
(Geographical distribution: percentage of relevant National Total in each area)

	London	The Countryside	Metro-Urban	Elsewhere
All People	15	15	22	48
Population Aged 16-74	15	15	22	48
Population Aged 16-74 in Employment	15	15	20	50
Managers and Senior Officials	17	15	17	52
Professional Occupations	20	13	18	49
Associate Professional & Technical	19	14	18	49
Administrative & Secretarial	17	13	20	50
Skilled Trades	10	19	21	51
Personal Services	13	16	22	50
Sales & Customer Service	13	15	23	50
Process, Plant & Machinery Operatives	9	16	25	50
Elementary	11	16	23	50
Large Employers & Higher Managers	19	13	16	52
Higher Professionals & Lower Managerial & Professional	19	14	18	49
Self-Employed & Own-Account	14	20	17	50
Self-Employed (excluding FT Farmers)	14	18	17	50
Intermediate & Lower Supervisory & Technical	14	15	22	50
Semi-routine & Routine	11	16	25	49
Never Worked & Long-term Unemployed	24	9	31	35
Full-time Students	19	11	24	45
Not Classifiable	12	16	24	47

What sort of people live where?

Professionals are disproportionately more common in London, whereas routine or semi-routine jobs are much less common there. The countryside has a disproportionately large share of skilled tradespeople and of the self-employed (even when farmers are taken out of the account). The countryside contains only a relatively small proportion of those who have been unemployed for a long time or who have never worked.

The rural areas shown in the map are the most agricultural parts of England; with more than half the farming, and a population equivalent to that of London.



Made by Stephen Parsons, Stephanie Masters & Robert Bullard

Weekly Household Spending (£)

	London	Rural	Town & Suburb	Metro-urban
1 Food & non-alcoholic drinks	45.20	48.90	42.46	40.30
2 Alcoholic drinks, tobacco & narcotics	10.70	12.00	11.34	12.50
3 Clothing & footwear	26.20	23.80	21.69	23.40
4 Housing (net), fuel & power	55.90	38.50	35.94	35.70
5 Household goods & services	33.30	39.50	29.06	23.70
6 Health	5.60	5.90	4.83	3.30
7 Transport	61.80	76.40	57.65	44.30
8 Communication	14.10	11.50	10.62	10.70
9 Recreation & culture	59.60	67.40	56.05	52.20
10 Education	10.90	7.10	4.37	[3.90]
11 Restaurants & hotels	43.90	36.40	33.63	32.20
12 Miscellaneous goods & services	39.40	41.00	31.50	28.10
13 Other expenditure items	81.30	78.10	57.73	48.00
Total expenditure	487.90	486.40	396.87	358.50

The Economic Significance of the Countryside

The data in the tables presented here are derived from the annual survey of household expenditure 'Family Spending 2004-05', published by the UK Office of National Statistics. In the ONS classification, 14% of households are in London, 16% in rural areas, 10% in metropolitan-urban centres and the rest (60%) elsewhere in towns and suburban parts of the country. Looking at the spending figures, there is little difference in the breakdown of household expenditure (see below) but there are considerable differences in the absolute spending levels (see above). As well as having similar numbers of households, the average weekly spending of households in London and the countryside is also similar: at around £487 per week it is 35% more than the average metro-urban household, and 20% above households everywhere else. These disparities remain even when spending on transport and housing costs (arguably naturally higher in London and the countryside) are taken out of the account. The only thing Londoners spend least on is drugs!

Breakdown of Weekly Household Spending (%)

	London	Rural	Town & Suburb	Metro-urban
1 Food & non-alcoholic drinks	9.3	10.1	10.7	11.3
2 Alcoholic drinks, tobacco & narcotics	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.5
3 Clothing & footwear	5.4	4.9	5.5	6.5
4 Housing (net), fuel & power	11.5	7.9	9.1	10.0
5 Household goods & services	6.8	8.1	7.3	6.6
6 Health	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.9
7 Transport	12.7	15.7	14.5	12.4
8 Communication	2.9	2.4	2.7	3.0
9 Recreation & culture	12.2	13.8	14.1	14.6
10 Education	2.2	1.5	1.1	[]
11 Restaurants & hotels	9.0	7.5	8.5	9.0
12 Miscellaneous goods & services	8.1	8.4	7.9	7.8
13 Other expenditure items	16.7	16.1	14.5	13.4
Total expenditure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Capital and the Countryside

Together, the households occupying the capital and the countryside of England are an economy apart from the rest. The consumers of the capital balance agricultural surpluses in the most rural areas. The international economies of primary commodities and high finance merge to create an English meta-society dominated by professionals and the self-employed. As globalisation keeps speeding ahead, does this increase the potential for separation and social division in England?