

# UK in the 21st Century

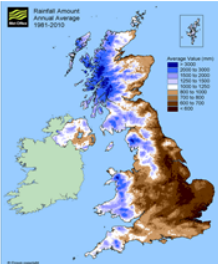
## UK Physical Characteristics

- Most mountains are located in the **north and west**, such as Wales and Scotland.
- These areas have **few roads and settlements** but beautiful scenery. – Sparsely populated.
- South and east** of the UK is **flat** with a few hilly areas.
- These areas are suited for **settlements, roads and railways** – Densely populated.
- Rivers flow from mountainous areas down to the sea.



## UK Rainfall Patterns

- Highest rainfall** is in the **north and west** where average rainfall is **2500mm**.
- Lowest rainfall** is in the **south and east** with average rainfall of **500 – 625mm**.



## UK Relief Rainfall

Most UK rainfall is caused by **prevailing wind** blowing from the southwest.

When air carrying moisture reaches upland areas, it is **forced up** to produce **relief rainfall**.

The other side of the upland area has **little moisture**, this is called the **rain shadow**.



## Water stress in the UK

**Water stress is when areas have limited water supply.**

### Problems

- Most rainfall occurs in **North & West** but least rainfall in **South & East**.
- South & East UK therefore have **High demands**.
- Demands involve domestic, industrial & agricultural uses.

### Solutions

- Water can be **transferred** from the wetter west to drier east by **pipelines** or rivers.
- Construct **new reservoirs** in the east to capture/store more water.
- Greater **water conservation**.

## Land use in the UK

Land use varies **throughout the UK**. However our land is **always changing**. Nonetheless, the **vast majority of the UK is farmland**.



**Arable farmland** dominates because of the warm, sunny and dry climate. Crops such as cereals and vegetables are found in the South and East.

**Coniferous woodland** are found in northern England, Wales and Scotland. There areas have poor soils and are remote.

**UK mountain areas** (Scotland) have rough pastures and moorlands. The climate is harsh and soil is poor for crops

**Grasslands** are found in the west. It is ideal for cattle and sheep because of the mild and wet climate.

Grasses	52%
Arable	20%
Urban	14%
Forest	12%
Water	1%
Other	1%

**Urban areas** are growing. This outward growth or sprawling urban developments is caused by population growth.

# UK in the 21st Century

## Population in the UK

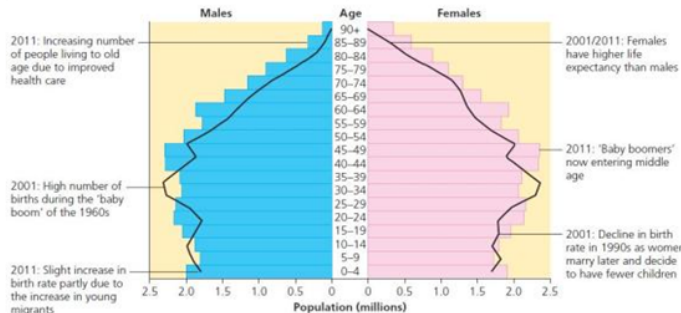
The UK population is **65 million** and still rising. It is predicted to reach **70 million** by 2030.

### Reasons for growth

- Natural increase** – the difference between deaths and births.
- Net migration** – the difference between immigration to the UK and emigration from the UK.
- Life expectancy** – the average age someone will live up to.

### Future of growth

The UK's **population pyramid** shows that the country's birth rate is fairly low and death rate is also low meaning there are more elderly people. **Population pyramids** are useful to help plan for the future.



## UK Population Distribution

### Low

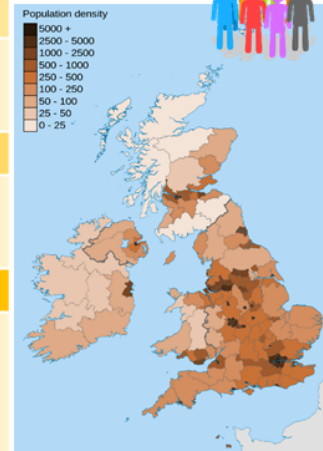
Much of Northern Scotland is **spare** due to a **mountainous landscape and difficult climate**.

### High

Rest of the UK because of the **gentle hills, moderate climate and good transport routes**.

### Very High

Population is **concentrated** around the South East of England, in cities such as London, due to attractions of **employment, shops and entertainment**.



## Factors affecting population density

Moderate climate.	Remote and poor communications.	Opportunities for work
A presence of raw materials.	Steep and mountainous.	Fertile and suitable for farming.
Poor quality of soil.	Plentiful supplies of water.	Flat land for farming.

## UK Housing Shortage

### Problem and Reasons

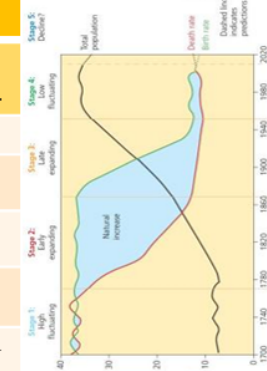
- The UK **population is rising** and therefore **more houses are needed**.
- UK needs to build **240,000 homes a year**, but only half that are built.
- As a result, **house prices are rising** and becoming too expensive.
- Planning permission for new houses leads to **local opposition**.
- Green belt areas** prevents urban areas becoming bigger.
- The **price of lands keeps rising** due to demand.



## Demographic Transition Model (DTM)

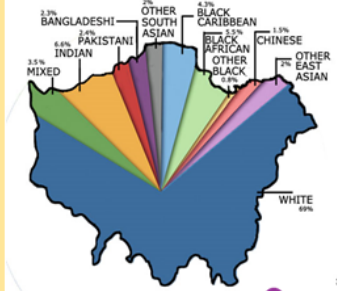
As countries experience economic development they also go through **stages of population transition**. The DTM describes this change and shows the UK in stage 4.

- Birth rates high and death rates fluctuates.
- Birth rate high but death rate is falling rapidly. Natural change increases.
- Birth rate and death rate falling rapidly. Natural change is rapid.
- Birth rate and death rate is low and fluctuating. Little Natural changes.
- Birth rate is falling and death rate is rising slightly. Natural change falls.



## Ethnic Diversity in the UK

- **13%** of the population in the UK where **born in another country**.
- In **London**, this value is about **37%**. This has increased between 2001 and the present day.
- The change was driven by an increase in **white non-British, Black African and Asian** people.



## UK Ageing Population

### Distribution of Ageing Population

Around **18%** of the population are over 65. The distribution of older people is high in coastal areas, especially in east and south-west England. However, it is lower in Northern Ireland and Scotland and generally in big cities.

### Causes

- Large number of people were born after the WW2 and are now moving into old age – **Baby boomers**.
- **Improved healthcare** and new treatments to prolong life.
- Greater awareness of the benefits of a **good diet and exercise**.

### Effects

- **Healthcare cost are very high** and will increase with an increasing ageing population.
- **Shortage of places in care homes**, many of which are becoming **increasingly expensive**.
- Many older people join clubs and spend on travel therefore helping to boost the economy – **the grey pound**.

### Response

- **Government pension bonds** to encourage older people to save money for the future.
- Pensioners receive **support in care, transport and heating allowance** to make life more comfortable.
- **Allowing more immigration** will provide the demand needed of a younger workforce needed for the economy.

## UK's Changing Economy

- **UK has one of the largest economies in the world.**
- **The last few decades, heavy manufacturing industries have declined due to competition from abroad.**
- **Now the UK is moving into the service industry such as finances, technology and media.**

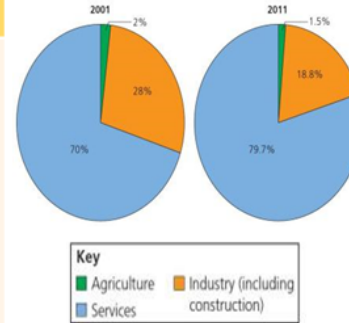
### Political Changes

- Between **1997-2007**, the **UK economy grew strongly & unemployment decreased**. This was due to increase investment in **education & technology**.
- In **2008** the UK entered a **recession and unemployment increased**. Recession ended in **2009**, creating a strong focus for **decreasing the national debt** occurred in **2010 elections**.

## UK Employment Sector

### Key changes since 2001

- The **quaternary industry** has **increased**, whilst **secondary** has **decreased**.
- Number of people employed in **primary and tertiary industry** has **stayed the steady**.
- Big increase in **professional and technical jobs**.
- Employment in **manufacturing** has **decreased** the most due to **cheap labour abroad**.



## UK Working Hours

- In **2011** the average number of hours worked in the UK was **42.7**.
- This figure is the **3<sup>rd</sup>** highest figure within the EU.
- Fathers now work fewer hours to look after children.
- Number of mothers in fulltime work has increased.

## UK's Core Economic Hubs

An economic hub is a central point or area associated with economic success and innovation. Many of these economic hubs are located near universities. Below is a selection of economic hubs throughout the UK.

### Belfast Titanic Quarter

Film studio, offices and education based on the old shipyard.

### Salford

Media industry including BBC and ITV. Manufacturing of chemicals.

### Bristol

Creative and digital industries. Key services such as law and finance.



### Aberdeen

Centre for the North Sea oil and gas industry, now developing as a research and development hub.

### Silicon Glen

High-tech industries based in key Scottish cities. They focus on electronics and software.

### Silicon Fen

High tech research hubs associated with Cambridge University.

## Case Study: UK Economic Hub - London

With a population of 8.6 million, London is the economic hub for the UK, and has a global economic influence as well. It is a key location for trade and financial markets with many headquarters of major banks and other businesses located there.

### Change Over Time

- Key trade conducted through its **docklands have declined**.
- New investment in communication infrastructure and transport links such as **Crossrail**.
- London has become a **major world city** with a **key financial industry** in the City of London & Canary Wharf.

### Significance to the UK

- London has **13%** of the **UK's population** and produces **22%** of the **country's wealth**.
- London **ranks higher** than other UK cities for **economic performance**.
- Many **start-up companies in media and hi-tech industries**, along with **well established companies** such as Amazon and Facebook.

## The UK's Role in the World

The UK may be a small island state, but it does play a significant role in the wider world. It is also part of several key international organisations.

### NATO



A group of **28 countries** who **work militarily and politically** to resolve conflict as a last resort.

### UN



Is made up of **193 member states** with the aim of **maintaining peace and resolving issues**. UK is part of the **Security Council**.

### G7

Involves **seven of the wealthiest western countries** to discuss relevant issues and come to economic agreements.

## Case Study: The UK in Resolving Conflict in Ukraine

### Basic Background

- Ukraine is in Eastern Europe, **bordering Russia**.
- In **2013**, many Ukrainians were **displeased** with their government becoming **closer to Russia**.
- In **2014**, the Russian president took control of **Crimea** and **supported Russian separatists**.



### UK Involvement

- The UK, as part of NATO, sent **troops and the RAF** to neighbouring countries.
- In **2015**, the UK gave **£15 million** in aid to Ukraine as well as military support.
- The UK, as part of the G7, **imposed sanctions** on Russian banks and trade.

### UK Media Exports

- The UK exports many different types of media products such as **films, TV and music and books**.
- Exporting media is key to the UK economy as it **employs 1.7 million** people and generates **£17 billion**.
- **Example: Harry Potter sold 400 million copies to 200 territories.**

### UK's Media's influences

- Most exports are in English, meaning it **develops other's understanding of our language**.
- Many people around the world **copy fashion & styles** seen in UK media.
- Can attract people to visit the UK.

## Multicultural UK

The UK is a multicultural country due to many ethnic minorities moving here from **India, Pakistan, Caribbean and parts of Africa**. These groups have shared their culture and have influenced the UK in many ways.

### Fashion



- Many shops sell **traditional clothing**.
- As these traditional clothing become **more common**, other cultures have started to wear them too. i.e. Saris
- **Hair styles** from other cultures such as dreadlocks from the Jamaica.

### Media



- Many ethnic minorities have **influenced music** (i.e. dubstep) and **television** (i.e. Bollywood).
- With greater influence, **greater understanding** from other ethnic groups have been established.

### Food



- Food that has originated from other countries have become **very established** (i.e. Curry and Pizza).
- Many mainstream **supermarkets** sell a great range of ingredients and ready made foods from other cultures.