
Social Trends online: 1999-

INTRODUCTION

Social Trends draws together social and economic data from a wide range of government departments and other organisations to provide a comprehensive guide to UK society, and how it has been changing. Data is presented in a combination of tables, figures and text providing the ideal tool for researching life and lifestyles in the UK.

Social Trends online is made available from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) website via the Bradford University Library catalogue and covers the years from 1999 to date.

GETTING STARTED

1. From the University Library home page
<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/index.php> type **social trends** into the search box. *Social Trends* should be the first item shown.
2. Click on **Available online, 1999- via the Government Statistics Services**. You will then see, in the centre of the screen, a list of the available online editions of *Social Trends*.

SOCIAL TRENDS: REPORTS

Most editions of *Social Trends* have a full report consisting of 13 chapters, each focusing on a different social policy area, described in tables, figures and text. The chapter headings are: population, households and families, education and training, labour market, income and wealth, expenditure, health, social protection, crime and justice, housing, environment, transport, lifestyles and social participation.

Viewing the text

1. To see the text of a particular full report, click on the appropriate heading e.g. **Social Trends 37 Full Report**. The full text will be shown as a pdf file which you can print off or save in the usual way.

SOCIAL TRENDS: DATA

Most editions of Social Trends have additional datasets in the form of Excel spreadsheets.

Viewing the data

1. To see the full list of spreadsheets for a particular edition, click on the appropriate heading e.g. **Social Trends 37 Full Data**.
2. You will see the individual spreadsheets for this edition. The filenames start with a number which corresponds to the chapter heading and table number for that particular edition of *Social Trends*
e.g. 02_01.xls = Table 2.1 from chapter 2.
3. Click on the spreadsheet you want to see.
4. Click on the **Open** button.

OTHER FEATURES

From the web page you are taken to via the Library catalogue (see the section “Getting started” above), it is also possible to obtain information from the whole of the Office for National Statistics site.

Browse by theme

This is in the form of a drop-down menu in the top left hand corner of the main page. There are 12 themes to choose from: Agriculture, fishing & forestry; Commerce, energy & industry; Crime & justice; Economy; Education & training; Health & care; Labour market; Natural and built environment; Public sector; Population & migration; Social & welfare; Transport, travel & tourism.

1. Click on the down arrow next to the **Select theme** drop down menu under the **Browse by theme** heading in the top left hand corner of the screen
2. Select the them you are interested in and click on **Go**

Searching

It is possible to search across the whole of the ONS website by using the search options at the top of the screen. There is a basic as well as an advanced search option.

Basic search

1. Simply enter a single word or short phrase in the search box. Enclose phrases in inverted commas e.g. "ethnic minorities".
2. Click on the **Search** button.

Advanced search

This enables you to specify the scope of your search and to search using e.g. exact phrases.

1. Click on **Advanced** in the top right hand corner of the screen
2. Fill in the search boxes as appropriate, using the drop down menus to choose what sort of search you want.