



General Household Survey 2007

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2007

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Introduction

This report provides information about smoking and drinking based on data collected by the General Household Survey in 2007. It also includes tables showing data on the trends and changes in smoking and drinking measured by the GHS over several decades.

An overview of the General Household Survey

The General Household Survey (GHS) is a multi-purpose continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It collects information on a range of topics from people living in private households in Great Britain. The survey started in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks to review it in 1997/1998 and to re-develop it in 1999/2000.

The survey presents a picture of households, families and people living in Great Britain. This information is used by government departments and other organisations, such as educational establishments, businesses and charities, to contribute to policy decisions and for planning and monitoring purposes.

The interview consists of questions relating to the household, answered by the household reference person or spouse, and an individual questionnaire, asked of all resident adults aged 16 and over. Demographic and health information is also collected about children in the household. The GHS collects data on a wide range of core topics which are included on the survey every year. These are:

- demographic information about households, families and people
- housing tenure and household accommodation
- access to and ownership of consumer durables, including vehicles
- migration
- employment
- education
- health and use of health services
- smoking
- drinking
- family information, including marriage, cohabitation and fertility
- income

The 2007 GHS was sponsored by the Office for National Statistics, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue & Customs, Scottish Government and Eurostat.

The GHS was conducted on a financial year basis between 1994 and 2005, with fieldwork spread evenly across the year from April to March. Since 2005 the survey has been conducted over the calendar year with fieldwork spread evenly from January to December.

Another change in 2005 was that, in line with European requirements, the GHS adopted a longitudinal sample design, in which households remain in the sample for four years (waves) with one quarter of the sample being replaced each year. Thus approximately three quarters of the 2006 sample were re-interviewed in 2007. More details are given in Appendix B.

A major advantage of the longitudinal component of the design is that it is more efficient at detecting statistically significant estimates of change over time than the previous cross-sectional design. This is because an individual's responses to the same question at different points in time tend to be positively correlated and this reduces the standard errors of estimates of change.

The response rate for the 2007 survey was 75 per cent, giving an achieved sample size of 9,080 households and 17,123 adults aged 16 and over, of whom 15,687 gave a full interview in person (interviews obtained by proxy from another member of the household do not include questions on smoking and drinking).

Other GHS results for 2007

Results for other GHS topics will be combined with those from other sources in *Social Trends* and other reports due to be published in 2009. Tables from all GHS topic areas are published on the National Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/ghs. Technical information about the GHS in the form of appendices is also available at www.statistics.gov.uk/ghs, including:

- a glossary of definitions and terms used throughout the report and notes on how these have changed over time (Appendix A)
- information about the sample design and response (Appendix B)
- sampling errors (Appendix C)
- weighting and grossing (Appendix D)
- the household and individual questionnaires used in 2007, excluding self-completion forms and prompt cards (Appendix E)
- a list of the main topics covered by the survey since 1971 (Appendix F)

1 Smoking

GHS respondents aged 16 and over have been asked questions about smoking behaviour in alternate years since 1974. Following the review of the GHS carried out in 1997, the smoking questions became part of the continuous survey and have been included every year from 2000 onwards. Note, however, that the tables in this report show data for every four years from 1974 to 1998.

This report updates information about trends in cigarette smoking presented in earlier GHS reports and on the National Statistics website. It also discusses variations according to personal characteristics such as sex, age, socio-economic classification and economic activity status, and comments briefly on the prevalence of cigarette smoking in different parts of Great Britain. Smoking prevalence in relation to ethnicity is not included in this report; the 2005 report¹ covered this topic in some detail, based on five years combined data, to give large enough samples for analysis in minority ethnic groups. Other topics covered in 2007 include cigarette consumption, type of cigarette smoked, how old respondents were when they started smoking, and dependence on cigarettes.

The reliability of smoking estimates

As noted in earlier GHS reports, it is likely that the GHS underestimates cigarette consumption and, perhaps to a lesser extent, prevalence (the proportion of people who smoke). For example, evidence suggests (Kozlowski, 1986²) that when respondents are asked how many cigarettes they smoke each day, there is a tendency to round the figure down to the nearest multiple of 10. Underestimates of consumption are likely to occur in all age groups.

Under-reporting of prevalence, however, is most likely to occur among young people. To protect their privacy, particularly when they are being interviewed in their parents' home, young people aged 16 and 17 complete the smoking and drinking sections of the questionnaire themselves, so that neither the questions nor their responses are heard by anyone else who may be present. This is probably only partially successful in encouraging honest answers³.

When considering trends in smoking, it is usually assumed that any under-reporting remains constant over time. However, since the prevalence of smoking has fallen, this assumption may not be entirely justified. As smoking has become less acceptable as a social habit, some people may have become less inclined to admit how much they smoke – or, indeed, to admit to smoking at all.

The effect of weighting on the smoking data

Weighting to compensate for non-response was introduced on the GHS in 2000 and was described in detail in the GHS 2000 report⁴. The effect of weighting on the smoking data is slight, increasing the overall prevalence of cigarette smoking by one percentage point. The change occurs because weighting reduces the contribution to the overall figure of those aged 60 and over, among whom prevalence is relatively low.

Government policy and targets for the reduction of smoking

In December 1998 *Smoking Kills – a White Paper on tobacco*⁵ was released, which included targets for reducing the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults in England to 24 per cent by 2010. In 2004, the Department of Health agreed a new Public Service Agreement (PSA) which revised the target downwards: the aim now

is to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults to 21 per cent or less by 2010⁶.

Since smoking is estimated to be the cause of about one third of all cancers, reducing smoking is also one of three key commitments at the heart of the NHS *Cancer Plan*, which was published in 2000⁷. In particular, the *Cancer Plan* focuses on the need to reduce the comparatively high rates of smoking among those in manual socio-economic groups, which result in much higher death rates from cancer among unskilled workers than among professionals. The more recent PSA targets mentioned in the previous paragraph also included reducing prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26 per cent or less by 2010.

Legislation came into force in February 2003 which banned cigarette advertising on billboards and in the press and magazines, and further restrictions on advertising at the point of sale were introduced in December 2004. A ban on smoking in enclosed public places came into force in Scotland during the spring of 2006 and similar bans in England and Wales were introduced in 2007. On the first of October 2007 it became illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.

The GHS interview cannot accommodate extensive questions about people's views on smoking, but the NHS Information Centre for health and social care regularly commissions such questions on the ONS Omnibus Survey, most recently in October/November 2007⁸.

The prevalence of cigarette smoking

Trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking

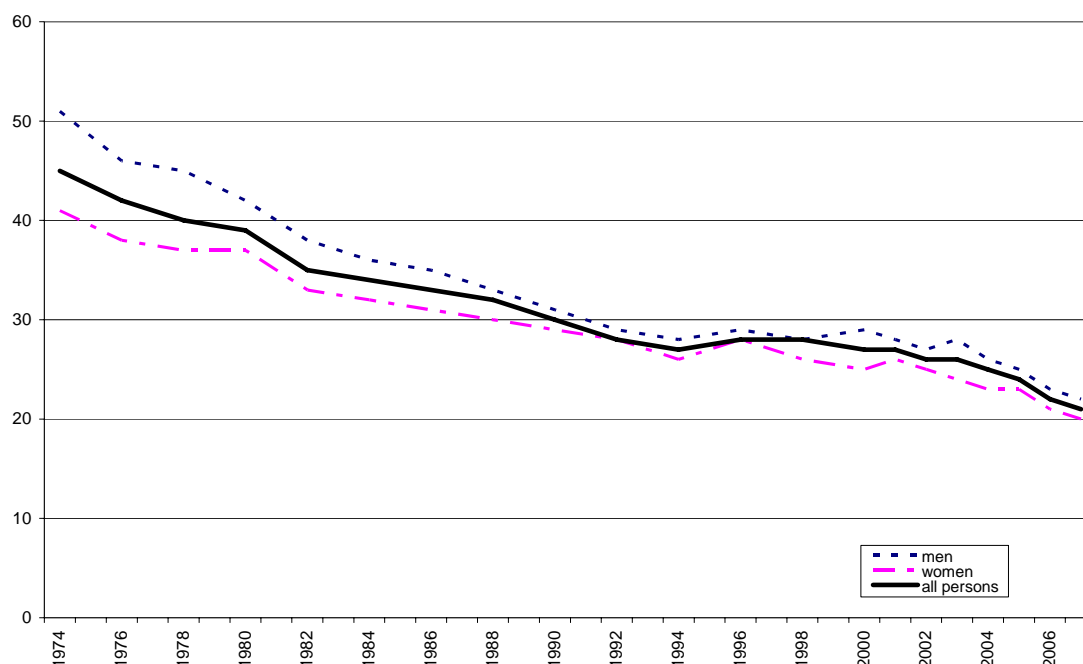
The overall prevalence of smoking among the adult population was 21 per cent in 2007, compared with 22 per cent the previous year. This is not a statistically significant change.

There has been a period of little change since the second half of the 1990s: the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell substantially in the 1970s and the early 1980s, from 45 per cent in 1974 to 35 per cent in 1982. The rate of decline then slowed, with prevalence falling by only about one percentage point every two years until 1994, after which it levelled out at about 27 per cent before resuming a slow decline in the 2000s.

It should be noted that during periods when the prevalence of smoking in the general population is changing little, upward and downward movements in survey estimates are to be expected, and this can make the detection of trends over a short period difficult.

Throughout the period in which the GHS has been monitoring cigarette smoking, prevalence has been higher among men than women, and this continues to be the case: in 2007, 22 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women were cigarette smokers.

Figure 1.1: Prevalence of cigarette smoking: Great Britain, 1974 to 2007



The present difference of two percentage points in prevalence between men and women is considerably less than it was in the 1970s. In 1974, for example, 51 per cent of men smoked cigarettes, compared with 41 per cent of women. The reduction in the difference results mainly from a combination of two factors.

1. First, there is a cohort effect resulting from the fact that smoking became common among men several decades before it did among women. In the 1970s there was a fall in the proportion of women aged 60 and over who had never smoked regularly.
2. Second, men are more likely than women to have given up smoking cigarettes. It should be noted, however, that this difference conceals the fact that some men who give up smoking cigarettes remain smokers (by continuing to smoke cigars and pipes). This is very rare among women who stop smoking cigarettes.

The proportion of respondents saying that they used to smoke regularly or that they never smoked has also not changed between 2006 and 2007.

Smoking among different age groups is another key area of interest. Since the early 1990s, the prevalence of cigarette smoking has been higher among those aged 20 to 24 than among those in other age groups, but the difference relative to the next age group, those aged 25 to 34, has generally reduced in recent years. The 2007 data, however, show the gap between the 20 to 24 group and the 25 to 34 group has widened. This is due to a fall in prevalence in the 25 to 34 age group from 30 per cent in 2006 to 26 per cent in 2007.

Since the survey began, the GHS has shown considerable fluctuation in prevalence rates among those aged 16 to 19, particularly if young men and young women are considered separately. However, this is mainly because of the relatively small sample size in this age group and has occurred within a pattern of overall decline in smoking prevalence in this age group from 31 per cent in 1998 to 21 per cent in 2007. Sampling fluctuations have also affected comparisons between young men

and women in this age group. In recent years, prevalence has tended to be higher among young women than among young men, but this was not the case in 2006 or 2007, when it was at similar levels for both sexes (22 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women aged 16-19 smoked in 2007).

At 12 per cent in 2007, prevalence continues to be lowest among adults aged 60 and over. Although they are more likely than younger people to have ever been smokers, they are also much more likely to have given up.

Figure 1.1, Tables 1.1-1.3

Cigarette smoking and marital status

The prevalence of cigarette smoking varies considerably according to marital status. It is much lower among married people than among those in any of the three other marital status categories (single, cohabiting, and widowed, divorced or separated). This is not explained by the association between age and marital status (for example, married people and those who are widowed, divorced or separated are older, on average, than single people). Table 1.5 shows that in every age group except the youngest, married people were less likely to be smokers than were other respondents (although the difference is not statistically significant among those aged 60 and over). For example, among those aged 25 to 34, 36 per cent of those who were single and 29 per cent of those who were cohabiting were smokers, compared with only 16 per cent of those who were married.

Tables 1.4-1.5

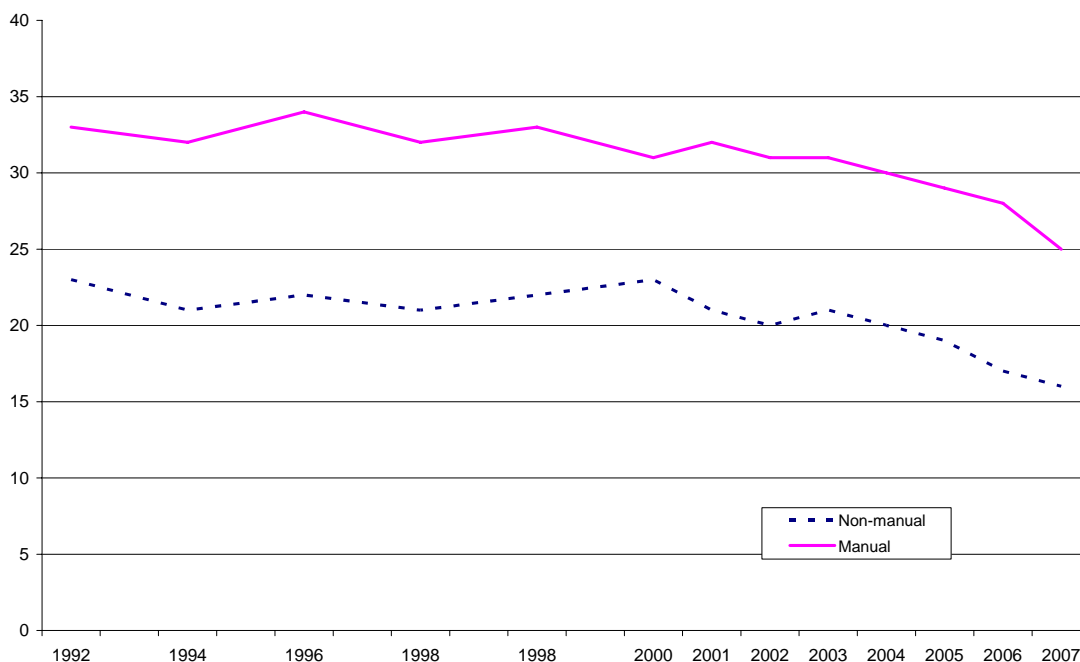
Cigarette smoking and socio-economic classification

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC), which was introduced in 2001, does not allow categories to be collapsed into broad non-manual and manual groupings. So, since the *Cancer Plan* targets for England relate particularly to those in the manual socio-economic groups, the old socio-economic groupings have been recreated for this report in Table 1.6. Because of the new occupation coding, the classifications are not exactly the same, and comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution.

The GHS has consistently shown striking differences in the prevalence of cigarette smoking in relation to socio-economic group, with smoking being considerably more prevalent among those in manual groups than among those in non-manual groups. In the 1970s and 1980s, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell more sharply among those in non-manual than in manual groups, so that differences between the groups became proportionately greater (table not shown). There was little further change in the relative proportions smoking cigarettes during the 1990s.

In England in 2007, 25 per cent of those in manual groups were cigarette smokers, compared with 33 per cent in 1998, suggesting that the targets set out in the *Cancer Plan* have been achieved. These are to reduce prevalence among those in the manual group to 26 per cent in 2010. However, since the proportion of those in non-manual groups who are cigarette smokers has fallen by a similar amount (from 22 per cent in 1998 to 16 per cent in 2007) the differential between non-manual and manual has not reduced greatly.

Figure 1.2: Prevalence of cigarette smoking by socio-economic group: England, 1992 to 2007*



* weighted data are shown from 1998 onwards

However, caution is advisable when making comparisons over this period: the re-created socio-economic groups may have been affected by the change from head of household to household reference person as the basis for assessing socio-economic group, and by revisions to the way in which occupation is coded⁹.

Table 1.7 shows similar trends in England since 2001 using the new socio-economic classification of the household reference person⁹. It was noted earlier that there is a PSA target to reduce the prevalence of smoking among those in households classified as routine or manual to 26 per cent or lower by 2010. Over the period 2001 to 2007, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell by seven percentage points among those in routine and manual households (from 33 per cent to 26 per cent), and among those in intermediate households (from 27 per cent to 20 per cent). Prevalence also fell by four percentage points among those in managerial and professional households (from 19 per cent in 2001 to 15 per cent in 2007).

The prevalence of cigarette smoking in Great Britain in 2007 in relation to the eight- and three- category versions of NS-SEC is shown in Table 1.8. As was the case with the socio-economic groupings used previously, there were striking differences between the various classes. Prevalence was lowest among those in higher professional households (11 per cent) and highest, at 29 per cent, among those whose household reference person was in a routine occupation.

Figure 1.2, Tables 1.6-1.8

Cigarette smoking and economic activity status

Those who were economically active were more likely to smoke than those who were not, but this is largely explained by the lower prevalence of smoking among those aged 60 and over, who form the majority of economically inactive people.

Prevalence was highest among economically inactive people aged 16 to 59: 26 per cent of this group were smokers, compared with 23 per cent of economically active people and only 12 per cent of economically inactive people aged 60 and over. Prevalence was particularly high among economically inactive people aged 16 to 59 whose last job was a routine or manual one, 39 per cent of whom were cigarette smokers.

It should be noted that these figures refer to the socio-economic classification of the current or last job of the individual whereas the figures in the previous section refer to the socio-economic classification of the current or last job of the household reference person.

Table 1.9

Regional variation in cigarette smoking

The data presented so far have been mainly for Great Britain, but the PSA targets and those included in the NHS *Cancer Plan* relate to England only. Table 1.10 shows that in 2007, overall prevalence in England was 21 per cent, the same as in Great Britain as a whole.

In every previous year except 2004, prevalence has been higher in Scotland than in England, although the difference has not always been large enough to be statistically significant. In 2007, 24 per cent of adults in Scotland were smokers, a significantly higher proportion than in England. In Wales, 21 per cent of adults were smokers, the same as the proportion in England but not significantly fewer than in Scotland. The proportion of adults who have never smoked regularly is not statistically different between the three countries, so that the variation in prevalence is due to different proportions of ex-smokers.

Care should be taken in interpreting the results for regional variation in any one year because sample sizes in some regions are small, making them subject to relatively high levels of sampling error.

The regions of England with the highest prevalence were the North East, the North West, the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber, where 22-23 per cent of people were cigarette smokers (similar to the level in Scotland, and significantly higher than in all other regions except the South West). The prevalence of cigarette smoking was lowest, at 18 per cent, in the East of England.

Much of the overall regional variation in prevalence is contributed by differences in the proportions of smokers smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day. This ranges from 3 per cent in London to 9 per cent in the North East.

Tables 1.10-1.12

Cigarette consumption

The overall decline in smoking prevalence since the mid 1970s has been due to a fall in the proportions of both 'light to moderate' smokers (defined as fewer than 20 cigarettes per day) and heavy smokers (20 cigarettes or more per day). The proportion of all adults smoking on average 20 or more cigarettes a day has fallen

among men from 26 per cent in 1974 to 7 per cent in 2007, and from 13 per cent to 5 per cent of women over the same period.

In all age groups, respondents are much more likely to be 'light to moderate' than heavy smokers, the difference being most pronounced among those aged under 35. For example, 20 per cent of young men and 18 per cent of young women aged 16 to 19 were 'light to moderate' smokers in 2007, and only 1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively were heavy smokers.

The overall reported number of cigarettes smoked per male and female smoker has changed little since the early 1980s: the apparent slight fall among men smokers since the 1990s appears to be due to the introduction of weighting.

As in previous years, male smokers smoked slightly more cigarettes a day on average than female smokers: in 2007, men smoked on average 14 cigarettes a day, compared with 13 for women. Cigarette consumption also varied by age. Among both men and women smokers, those aged 35 to 59 smoked the most – men smokers in this age group smoked on average 16 cigarettes a day and women smoked 14 a day.

GHS reports have consistently shown cigarette consumption levels to be higher among male and female smokers in manual socio-economic groups than among those in non-manual groups. A similar pattern is evident in relation to NS-SEC. In 2007, smokers in households where the household reference person was in a routine or manual occupation smoked an average of 14 cigarettes a day, compared with 12 a day for those in managerial or professional households.

Tables 1.13-1.16

Cigarette type

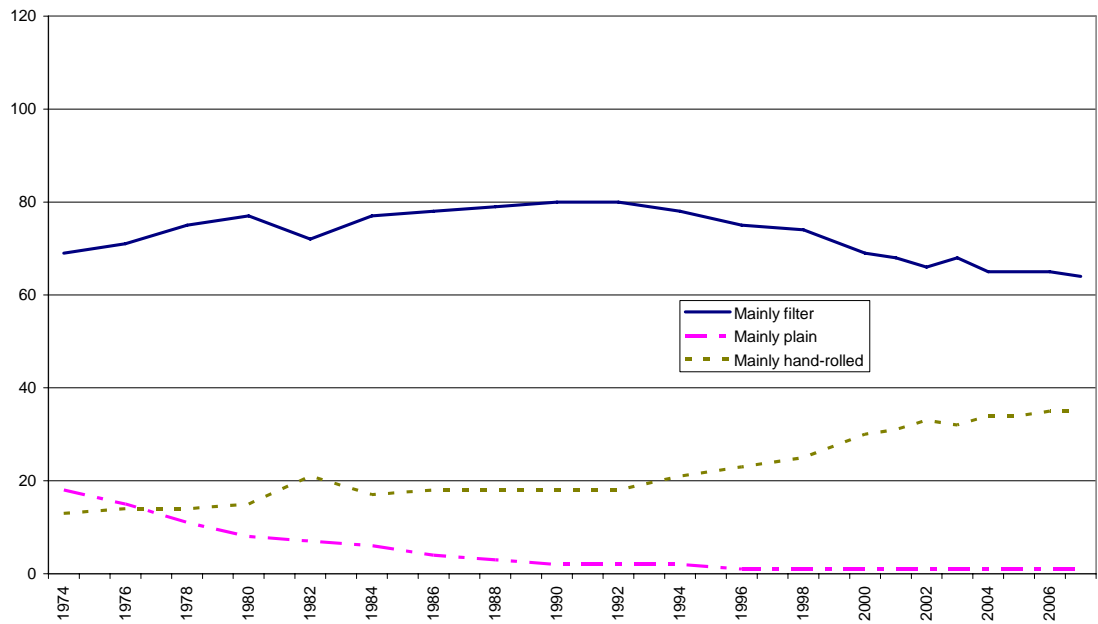
Filter cigarettes continue to be the most widely smoked type of cigarette, especially among women, but there has been a marked increase since the early 1990s in the proportion of smokers who smoke mainly hand-rolled tobacco. In 1990, 18 per cent of men smokers and 2 per cent of women smokers said they smoked mainly hand-rolled cigarettes, but by 2007 this had risen to 35 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. It should be noted that this increase in the proportion of smokers smoking mainly hand-rolled tobacco coincides with a fall in the prevalence of cigarette smoking from 30 per cent in 1990 to 21 per cent in 2007, so that the proportion of all adults who smoke hand-rolled tobacco has not increased so sharply: it has risen from about 3 per cent to about 5 per cent (no table shown).

The use of hand-rolled tobacco was higher among men aged 35 and over than among younger men. Among women smokers there was less variation with age.

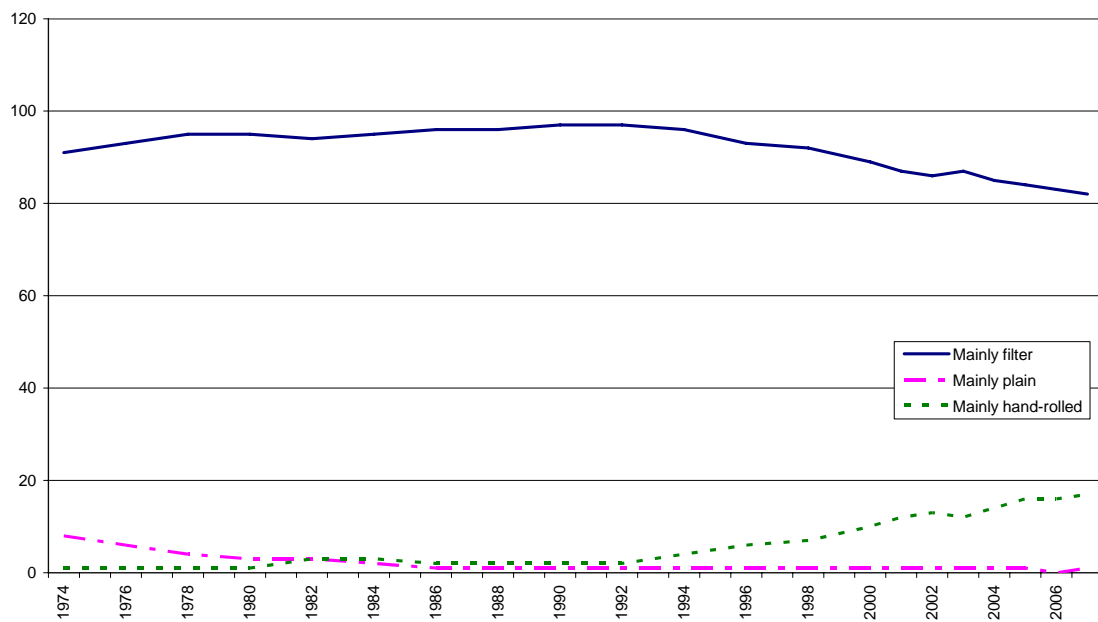
Figure 1.3, Tables 1.17-1.18

Figure 1.3: Type of cigarette smoked, by sex: Great Britain, 1974 to 2007

(a) Men



(b) Women



Tar yield¹⁰

In 1986, 40 per cent of those who smoked manufactured cigarettes smoked brands yielding 15mg or more of tar per cigarette. In the following decade, the proportion smoking this type of cigarette fell to zero. Initially, this was partly due to smokers switching to lower tar brands, but the main factor has been the requirement for manufacturers to reduce substantially the tar yields of existing brands. Following legislation in 1992, they were required to reduce the tar yield to no more than 12mg per cigarette by the beginning of 1998. An EU Directive which came into force at the end of 2002 further reduced the maximum tar yield to 10 mg per cigarette from January 2004.

The effect of the recent changes in legislation can be seen in Table 1.20, in that there have been no brands with a yield of 12mg or more since 2003, even though these were the main brand of more than one third of smokers in previous years. There has been a compensating increase in the next highest category: the proportion of smokers smoking brands with a yield of 10 but less than 12mg increased from 13 per cent in 1998 to 71 per cent in 2002 since when it has remained at about the same level until 2007 when it dropped to 62 per cent. Although this may seem surprising in view of the maximum legal declared yield of 10mg, the Directive relates to the tar yield as declared by the manufacturer, and this is permitted to vary by up to 15 per cent from the yield as measured for the Laboratory of the Government Chemist. Thus the yield as measured, which is what the GHS tables show, may be up to 11.5mg for a declared value of 10mg.

Differences between men and women in the tar yield of their usual brand were small.

There was a difference in tar yield of cigarettes smoked according to the socio-economic class of the smoker's household reference person. Those in managerial and professional households were more likely than other smokers to smoke lower tar cigarettes: 35 per cent of smokers in managerial and professional households smoked cigarettes with a tar yield less than 8mg, compared with only 18 per cent of smokers in routine and manual households.

Tables 1.19-1.22

Cigar and pipe smoking

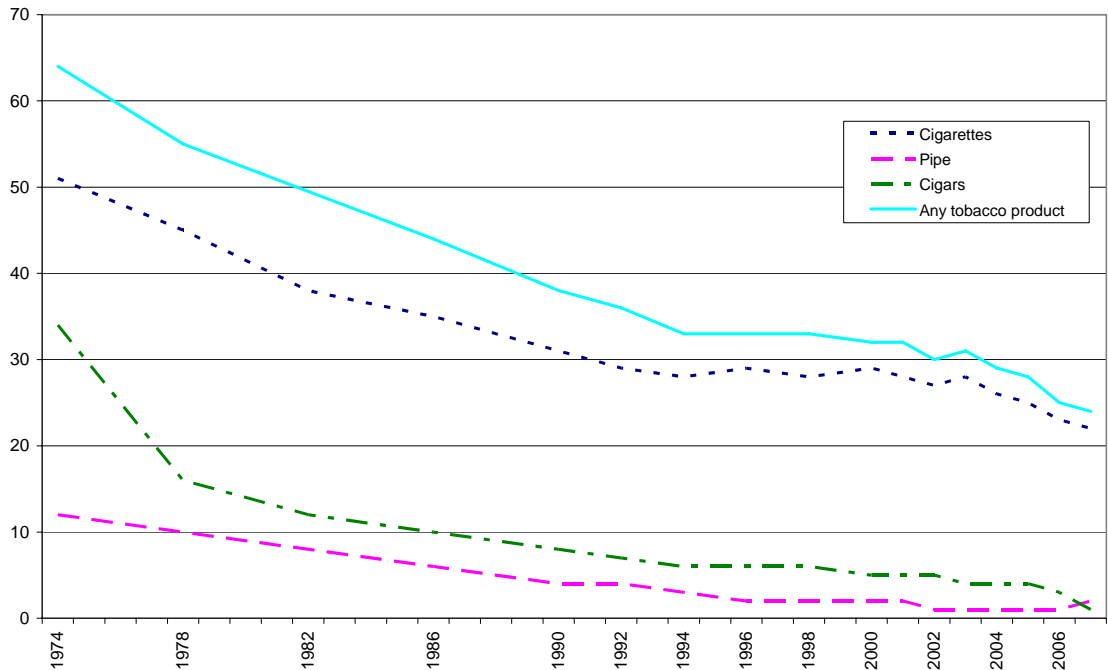
A decline in the prevalence of pipe and cigar smoking among men has been evident since the survey began, with most of the reduction occurring in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 2007, only 2 per cent of men smoked at least one cigar a month, compared with 34 per cent in 1974. Only a small number of women smoked cigars in 1974, and since 1978 the percentages have been scarcely measurable on the GHS.

Only 1 per cent of men in 2007 said they smoked a pipe, and they were almost all aged 50 and over. There was no evidence, on the other hand, that cigar smoking was related to age.

Figure 1.4, Tables 1.23-1.24

Figure 1.4: Type of tobacco product smoked by men, 1974 to 2007



Age started smoking

The White Paper *Smoking Kills*⁵ noted that people who start smoking at an early age are more likely than other smokers to smoke for a long period of time and more likely to die prematurely from a smoking-related disease.

About two thirds of respondents who were either current smokers or who had smoked regularly at some time in their lives had started smoking before they were 18. Almost two fifths had started smoking regularly before the age of 16 even though it is has been illegal to sell cigarettes to people under 16 since 1908 and has recently become illegal to sell cigarettes to people less than 18 years of age¹¹. Men were more likely than women to have started smoking before they were 16 (41 per cent of men who had ever smoked regularly, compared with 36 per cent of women in 2007).

Since the early 1990s there appears to have been an increase in the proportion of women taking up smoking before the age of 16: in 1992, 28 per cent of women who had ever smoked had started before they were 16: this had risen to 36 per cent in 2005, but there was no further increase in 2006 or 2007. There has been little change since 1992 in the proportion of men who had ever smoked who had started smoking regularly before the age of 16.

As the GHS has shown in previous years, there was an association between age started smoking regularly and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person. Of those in managerial and professional households, 30 per cent had started smoking before they were 16, compared with 45 per cent of those in routine and manual households.

Current heavy smokers were much more likely than light or ex-smokers to have started smoking at an early age. Of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day, 50 per cent started smoking regularly before they were 16, compared with only 35 per cent of those currently smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

Tables 1.25-1.27

Dependence on cigarette smoking

In order for the prevalence of cigarette smoking to reduce, young people have to be discouraged from starting to smoke and existing smokers have to be encouraged to stop. Since 1992, the GHS has asked three questions relevant to the likelihood of a smoker giving up. First, whether they would like to stop smoking, and then two indicators of dependence: whether they think they would find it easy or difficult not to smoke for a whole day; and how soon after waking they smoke their first cigarette. There has been very little change since 1992 in any of the three dependence measures used.

For an attempt to stop smoking to be successful, the smoker must want to stop. In 2007, 66 per cent of smokers said they would like to stop smoking altogether. The relationship between wanting to stop smoking and the number of cigarettes smoked is not straightforward. In every survey since the questions were first included in 1992, the proportion wanting to give up has been highest among those smoking on average 10-19 cigarettes a day, although, as in 2007, differences have not always been statistically significant.

It is interesting that it is not the heaviest smokers who are most likely to want to stop. This may be because they feel it would be too difficult or because they have been discouraged from wanting to stop by previous unsuccessful attempts. Furthermore, some previously heavy smokers who would like to give up may have cut down their consumption prior to an attempt to do so.

In 2007, 58 per cent of smokers felt that it would be either very or fairly difficult to go without smoking for a whole day. Not surprisingly, heavier smokers were more likely to say they would find it difficult – 85 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day did so, compared with only 26 per cent of those smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

In 2007, 17 per cent of smokers had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking up. Heavy smokers were more likely than light smokers to smoke immediately on waking up: 35 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes did so, compared with only 3 per cent of those smoking fewer than 10 a day. Men were no more likely than women to say they had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking - 17 per cent of men smokers, compared with 16 per cent of women smokers did so.

Smokers in routine and manual households were less likely than smokers in managerial and professional or intermediate households to say they would like to give up smoking altogether (62 per cent compared with 70 per cent and 68 per cent respectively). The differences were less clear among those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day.

Overall, smokers in routine and manual households were more likely than others to say they would find it difficult to go without smoking for a whole day (63 per cent compared with 53 per cent among those in managerial and professional households, and 58 per cent among those in intermediate households). However, once amount smoked was taken into account (smokers in the routine and manual group smoke more on average than smokers in other social classes) the pattern of association was less clear.

Overall, smokers in managerial and professional households were less likely than other smokers to have had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking than those in routine and manual households. Again, the pattern of association was less clear when allowing for amount smoked.

Tables 1.28-1.33

Notes and references

- 1** Goddard E, *General Household Survey 2005, Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005*, ONS 2006.
- 2** Kozlowski L T, Pack size, reported smoking rates and public health, *American Journal of Public Health*, 76 (11) pp1337-8 November 1986
- 3** See *Chapter 4, General Household Survey 1992*, HMSO 1994. This includes a discussion of the differences found when smoking prevalence reported by young adults on the GHS was compared with prevalence among secondary school children
- 4** See Appendix D, *Living in Britain: results from the 2000 General Household Survey*. The Stationery Office (London 2001).
- 5** *Smoking kills – a White Paper on tobacco*. The Stationery Office (London 1998)
- 6** Available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/8/7/sr04_psa_ch3.pdf
- 7** *The NHS Cancer Plan*, Department of Health, 2000: available at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/01/45/13/04014513.pdf
- 8** The results are published in Lader D, *Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes, 2007* ONS (London 2008)
- 9** The term 'household reference person' is defined in appendix A of the GHS overview report. Available at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5756>
Further information on Socio-economic classification is available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/current/ns-sec/index.html>
- 10** An error was found in the automated procedure for coding the brand of cigarette smoked which was introduced when the GHS moved to computerised interviewing in April 1994. The net effect of this was that from 1994 to 2000, some brands were wrongly assigned to a low tar category. The coding procedure was revised for the 2001 survey. Corrected data for 1998 and 2000 are given in Tables 1.19 and 1.20
- 11** The legal minimum age was raised to 18 on 1 October 2007.

Smoking in Great Britain

The individual figures for unweighted sample sizes are rounded to the nearest 10 cases and may not add up to the figures shown as the totals.

Table 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age: 1974 to 2007

Persons aged 16 and over																Great Britain		
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007		
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹			2006 ²	2007 ²
Percentage smoking cigarettes																		
Men																		
16-19	42	35	31	30	28	28	30	30	30	25	22	27	23	23	20	22	1,302	380
20-24	52	45	41	41	38	40	42	41	35	40	37	38	36	34	33	32	1,255	360
25-34	56	48	40	37	36	34	37	38	39	38	36	38	35	34	33	29	3,020	860
35-49	55	48	40	37	34	31	32	33	31	29	32	31	29	26	25	22	5,738	1,970
50-59	53	48	42	35	28	27	27	28	27	26	27	26	26	25	23	22	3,255	1,260
60 and over	44	38	33	29	24	18	16	16	16	16	17	16	15	14	13	13	5,424	2,400
All aged 16 and over	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	19,994	7,240
Women																		
16-19	38	33	30	30	32	27	31	32	28	31	29	25	25	26	20	20	1,172	370
20-24	44	43	40	38	39	38	39	39	35	35	38	34	29	30	29	30	1,444	410
25-34	46	42	37	35	34	30	33	33	32	31	33	31	28	29	26	23	3,346	1,100
35-49	49	43	38	34	33	28	28	29	27	28	27	28	28	26	25	23	6,595	2,400
50-59	48	42	40	35	29	26	27	27	28	25	24	23	22	23	22	21	3,520	1,380
60 and over	26	24	23	22	20	17	16	16	15	17	14	14	14	13	12	12	6,518	2,700
All aged 16 and over	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	22,594	8,380
Total																		
16-19	40	34	30	30	30	27	31	31	29	28	25	26	24	24	20	21	2,474	760
20-24	48	44	40	39	38	39	40	40	35	37	38	36	32	32	31	31	2,699	780
25-34	51	45	38	36	35	32	35	35	35	34	34	34	31	31	30	26	6,366	1,970
35-49	52	45	39	36	34	30	30	31	29	29	28	30	29	27	25	24	12,333	4,370
50-59	51	45	41	35	29	27	27	28	27	26	26	25	24	24	22	21	6,775	2,640
60 and over	34	30	27	25	21	17	16	16	16	17	15	15	14	14	12	12	11,941	5,110
All aged 16 and over	45	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	42,588	15,620

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
 2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).
 3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.2 Ex-regular cigarette smokers by sex and age: 1974 to 2007

Persons aged 16 and over																Great Britain		
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007		
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹			2006 ²	2007 ²
Percentage of ex-regular cigarette smokers																		
Men																		
16-19	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	1	1,302	380
20-24	9	9	9	11	8	7	8	9	7	9	7	7	8	7	11	9	1,255	360
25-34	18	18	20	20	16	16	13	13	12	15	13	13	15	14	16	17	3,020	860
35-49	21	26	32	33	32	27	22	21	20	20	20	20	20	19	20	21	5,738	1,970
50-59	30	35	38	38	42	40	41	40	36	36	35	32	34	34	31	33	3,255	1,260
60 and over	37	43	47	52	52	55	54	54	52	47	51	50	50	51	49	49	5,424	2,400
All aged 16 and over	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27	28	19,994	7,240
Women																		
16-19	4	5	6	7	6	6	7	8	6	6	5	6	4	4	4	2	1,172	370
20-24	9	8	9	9	8	10	8	8	11	12	10	10	8	9	11	11	1,444	410
25-34	12	14	15	16	14	14	14	14	13	16	16	16	14	15	17	16	3,346	1,100
35-49	10	13	15	20	20	21	19	19	19	19	17	16	18	18	19	19	6,595	2,400
50-59	13	18	19	18	20	22	25	25	24	24	26	27	27	25	25	25	3,520	1,380
60 and over	11	16	20	23	27	29	29	29	29	29	30	29	28	29	30	29	6,518	2,700
All aged 16 and over	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21	21	22,594	8,380

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
 2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).
 3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.3 Percentage who have never smoked cigarettes regularly by sex and age: 1974 to 2007

Persons aged 16 and over																	Great Britain	
Age	Unweighted						Weighted										Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ²	Unweighted sample ³ 2007
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²			
Percentage who have never smoked regularly																		
Men																		
16-19	56	61	65	65	68	67	64	65	67	71	75	68	72	74	77	77	1,302	380
20-24	38	46	50	47	54	53	49	50	58	51	55	54	55	59	56	59	1,255	360
25-34	26	33	39	43	48	50	50	49	49	47	51	49	50	53	51	54	3,020	860
35-49	24	26	28	30	34	42	46	45	49	49	51	48	50	52	54	53	5,738	1,970
50-59	16	17	20	26	31	33	32	32	37	38	38	41	40	41	46	45	3,255	1,260
60 and over	18	18	20	19	24	27	30	30	32	36	32	34	35	35	38	38	5,424	2,400
All aged 16 and over	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50	50	19,994	7,240
Women																		
16-19	58	62	64	62	62	67	62	61	66	63	66	69	70	70	76	78	1,172	370
20-24	47	49	51	54	53	52	53	53	54	53	52	55	62	61	61	60	1,444	410
25-34	42	44	48	48	52	55	53	53	54	53	51	53	58	56	57	61	3,346	1,100
35-49	41	44	47	46	48	51	52	52	54	53	55	55	54	56	58	58	6,595	2,400
50-59	38	39	41	47	51	52	48	48	48	51	50	50	51	51	53	55	3,520	1,380
60 and over	63	60	57	55	54	54	55	56	56	54	55	57	58	58	58	58	6,518	2,700
All aged 16 and over	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58	59	22,594	8,380

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.4 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and marital status

Persons aged 16 and over							Great Britain: 2007 ¹	
Marital status	Current cigarette smokers			Total	Current non-smokers of cigarettes		Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample
	Light to moderate (under 20 per day)	Heavy (20 or more per day)	Ex-regular cigarette smokers		Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Men								
Single	%	21	6	28	11	62	4,743	1,380
Married/cohabiting	%	13	6	19	33	48	13,136	5,090
Married couple	%	12	5	17	35	48	10,860	4,310
Cohabiting couple	%	22	10	32	22	46	2,276	780
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	16	11	26	37	36	2,114	770
All aged 16 and over	%	16	7	22	28	50	19,994	7,240
Women								
Single	%	23	5	28	12	61	4,093	1,350
Married/cohabiting	%	13	4	17	22	61	13,817	5,340
Married couple	%	10	4	14	22	64	11,489	4,530
Cohabiting couple	%	24	7	31	21	48	2,328	810
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	15	6	21	26	52	4,684	1,690
All aged 16 and over	%	15	5	20	21	59	22,594	8,380
Total								
Single	%	22	5	28	11	61	8,837	2,730
Married/cohabiting	%	13	5	18	27	55	26,953	10,420
Married couple	%	11	4	15	29	56	22,349	8,840
Cohabiting couple	%	23	8	31	22	47	4,604	1,580
Widowed/divorced/separated	%	15	7	23	30	47	6,799	2,460
All aged 16 and over	%	15	6	21	24	55	42,588	15,620

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.5 Cigarette-smoking status by age and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>						<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>
Marital status	Age					Total
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	
Percentage smoking cigarettes						
Single	24	36	33	27	15	28
Married/cohabiting	35	21	21	18	11	18
Married couple	29	16	18	18	10	15
Cohabiting couple	37	29	33	31	18	31
Widowed/divorced/separated	*	42	35	31	15	23
All aged 16 and over	26	26	24	21	12	21
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>						
Single	4,263	1,760	1,646	475	693	8,837
Married/cohabiting	894	4,377	9,270	5,146	7,265	26,953
Married couple	210	2,595	7,694	4,789	7,061	22,349
Cohabiting couple	685	1,782	1,576	357	204	4,604
Widowed/divorced/separated	15	229	1,417	1,154	3,984	6,799
All aged 16 and over	5,173	6,366	12,333	6,775	11,941	42,588
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Single	1,270	540	500	160	260	2,730
Married/cohabiting	260	1,350	3,400	2,060	3,340	10,420
Married couple	50	820	2,820	1,900	3,240	8,840
Cohabiting couple	210	540	580	160	100	1,580
Widowed/divorced/separated	10	80	480	410	1,500	2,460
All aged 16 and over	1,530	1,970	4,370	2,640	5,110	15,620

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.6 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and whether household reference person is in a non-manual or manual socio-economic group: England 1992 to 2007^{1,2}

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>													<i>England</i>		
Socio-economic group of household reference person ³	Unweighted				Weighted								Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ⁵	Unweighted sample ⁵ 2007	
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ⁴	2006 ²			2007 ²
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Men															
Non-manual	22	21	21	21	22	24	22	21	22	22	19	18	18	9,276	3,470
Manual	35	34	35	34	35	34	34	32	33	31	31	29	27	6,973	2,450
Total ⁶	29	28	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	17,060	6,150
Women															
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	22	20	20	20	19	18	16	16	10,899	4,140
Manual	30	30	33	31	31	29	31	30	29	28	28	27	24	7,371	2,650
Total ⁶	27	25	27	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	19,222	7,090
All persons															
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	23	21	20	21	20	19	17	16	20,175	7,610
Manual	33	32	34	32	33	31	32	31	31	30	29	28	25	14,344	5,100
Total ⁶	28	26	28	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	36,282	13,240

1 Figures for 1992 to 1996 are taken from Department of Health bulletin Statistics on smoking: England, 1978 onwards. Figures for 2001 to 2006 are based on the NS-SEC classification recoded to produce SEG and should therefore be treated with caution.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Head of household in years before 2000.

4 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

5 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

6 Respondents whose head of household/household reference person was a full time student, in the Armed forces, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or were long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total

Table 1.7 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification of the household reference person: England, 2001 to 2007¹

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>								<i>England</i>	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Weighted							Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ⁴	Unweighted sample ⁴ 2007
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006 ¹	2007 ¹		
Percentage smoking cigarettes									
Men									
Managerial and professional	21	20	20	20	18	17	16	7,431	2,810
Intermediate	29	27	28	26	24	22	21	3,019	1,080
Routine and manual	34	32	34	32	32	32	28	5,816	2,040
Total ³	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	17,036	6,140
Women									
Managerial and professional	17	17	17	17	16	14	14	7,950	3,070
Intermediate	26	25	24	22	22	20	18	3,586	1,300
Routine and manual	31	31	30	30	29	28	24	6,752	2,430
Total ³	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	19,198	7,080
All persons									
Managerial and professional	19	19	18	19	17	15	15	15,381	5,880
Intermediate	27	26	26	24	23	21	20	6,605	2,380
Routine and manual	33	31	32	31	31	29	26	12,568	4,470
Total ³	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	36,234	13,220

1 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

3 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed these are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

4 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.8 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²	Men	Women	Total	
Percentage smoking cigarettes				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	13	15	14	
Higher professional	12	10	11	15
Lower managerial and professional	19	16	17	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	20	17	18	20
Small employers and own account	22	20	21	
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	25	22	23	
Semi-routine	31	27	28	27
Routine	31	27	29	
Total²	22	20	21	
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	1,758	1,742	3,450	
Higher professional	2,196	1,948	4,145	
Lower managerial and professional	4,582	5,423	10,005	
Intermediate	1,337	2,154	3,491	
Small employers and own account	2,205	2,108	4,313	
Lower supervisory and technical	2,399	2,174	4,573	
Semi-routine	2,224	3,208	5,432	
Routine	2,310	2,619	4,929	
Total²	19,895	22,388	42,282	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	690	700	1,390	
Higher professional	810	760	1,560	
Lower managerial and professional	1,740	2,090	3,830	
Intermediate	490	800	1,280	
Small employers and own account	780	760	1,530	
Lower supervisory and technical	850	800	1,640	
Semi-routine	770	1,150	1,920	
Routine	830	950	1,780	
Total²	7,210	8,300	15,510	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Table 1.9 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification based on own current or last job, whether economically active or inactive, and, for economically inactive persons, age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>	
Socio-economic classification	Men					Women					All persons				
	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total	Active	Inactive 16-59	Inactive 60 and over	Total inactive	Total
Percentage smoking cigarettes															
Managerial and professional	16	23	8	10	14	16	14	8	10	14	16	16	8	10	14
Intermediate	24	40	12	16	22	19	20	10	12	16	21	24	10	14	19
Routine and manual	32	47	18	26	30	31	35	15	22	26	32	39	16	23	28
Total ²	24	29	13	18	22	22	25	12	17	20	23	26	12	18	21
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>															
Managerial and professional	5,693	234	1,549	1,783	7,476	5,005	603	1,246	1,849	6,854	10,698	837	2,795	3,632	14,330
Intermediate	2,442	138	764	902	3,344	2,990	538	1,459	1,997	4,989	5,432	676	2,224	2,899	8,333
Routine and manual	4,679	733	1,927	2,660	7,338	3,957	1,522	2,788	4,310	8,268	8,636	2,255	4,714	6,969	15,606
Total ²	13,610	2,063	4,283	6,346	19,955	12,823	3,951	5,770	9,722	22,547	26,432	6,014	10,053	16,067	42,502
<i>Unweighted sample</i>															
Managerial and professional	2,040	100	730	830	2,870	1,830	240	530	770	2,600	3,870	330	1,260	1,600	5,470
Intermediate	840	50	330	380	1,220	1,100	200	630	840	1,940	1,940	250	670	1,220	3,160
Routine and manual	1,560	230	820	1,050	2,610	1,400	540	1,110	1,650	3,050	2,950	770	1,940	2,700	5,660
Total ²	4,660	660	1,900	2,570	7,230	4,600	1,380	2,380	3,760	8,360	9,260	2,050	4,280	6,330	15,590

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Full time students, those who had never worked or were long-term unemployed, and those whose occupation was inadequately described are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.10 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and country: 1978 to 2007

Country	<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>						<i>Great Britain</i>												
	Unweighted						Weighted						Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³		Unweighted sample ³ 2007				
	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	(000s)	= 100% ³		
Percentage smoking cigarettes																			
Men																			
England	44	37	34	31	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	17,122		6,170	
Wales	44	36	33	30	28	28	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	21	1,105		420	
Scotland	48	45	37	33	31	33	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	24	1,767		650	
Great Britain	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	19,994		7,240	
Women																			
England	36	32	31	28	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	19,395		7,150	
Wales	37	34	30	31	27	26	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	20	1,138		450	
Scotland	42	39	35	35	29	29	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	24	2,062		780	
Great Britain	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	22,594		8,380	
All persons																			
England	40	35	32	29	26	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	36,517		13,330	
Wales	40	35	31	31	27	27	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	21	2,242		860	
Scotland	45	42	36	34	30	30	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	24	3,829		1,430	
Great Britain	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	42,588		15,620	

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.11 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex, country, and region of England: 1998 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>		
Government Office Region	Weighted									<i>Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100%³</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2007</i>	
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²			
Men												
Percentage smoking cigarettes												
England												
North East	28	27	33	24	30	28	28	25	21	794	290	
North West	29	29	28	28	30	27	26	26	25	2,293	830	
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	29	30	27	25	30	27	24	21	1,754	650	
East Midlands	27	27	28	24	31	27	25	21	22	1,549	630	
West Midlands	32	27	27	25	26	26	23	25	25	1,813	630	
East of England	26	27	27	25	28	26	25	22	20	2,141	800	
London	34	31	29	29	28	26	25	24	22	2,161	580	
South East	28	28	26	27	25	25	24	21	21	2,858	1,070	
South West	26	30	27	27	26	25	26	22	21	1,759	700	
All England	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	17,122	6,170	
Wales	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	21	1,105	420	
Scotland	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	24	1,767	650	
Great Britain	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	19,994	7,240	
Women												
England												
North East	30	28	26	29	27	30	30	25	22	930	360	
North West	32	30	29	28	30	28	23	23	22	2,622	970	
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	26	28	27	24	26	23	23	23	2,087	800	
East Midlands	26	24	27	24	24	28	25	19	17	1,707	710	
West Midlands	26	24	22	21	24	21	21	19	21	2,044	730	
East of England	24	23	25	25	22	23	21	17	16	2,207	860	
London	27	24	26	21	20	19	20	19	17	2,581	700	
South East	21	23	23	25	22	20	21	19	17	3,235	1,230	
South West	25	24	22	24	22	21	25	23	20	1,982	800	
All England	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	19,395	7,150	
Wales	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	20	1,138	450	
Scotland	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	24	2,062	780	
Great Britain	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	22,594	8,380	
All persons												
England												
North East	29	27	29	27	28	29	29	25	22	1,724	650	
North West	31	30	29	28	30	28	24	25	23	4,915	1,800	
Yorkshire and the Humber	29	28	29	27	25	28	25	23	22	3,841	1,440	
East Midlands	27	25	28	24	27	27	25	20	19	3,257	1,340	
West Midlands	29	26	24	23	25	23	22	22	23	3,856	1,360	
East of England	25	25	26	25	25	24	23	19	18	4,348	1,660	
London	31	27	27	24	24	22	22	21	19	4,742	1,280	
South East	24	25	24	26	24	22	22	20	19	6,092	2,300	
South West	25	27	24	25	24	23	25	23	21	3,742	1,500	
All England	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	36,517	13,330	
Wales	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	21	2,242	860	
Scotland	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	24	3,829	1,430	
Great Britain	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	42,588	15,620	

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.12 Cigarette-smoking status by sex, country and region of England: 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Government Office Region	Current cigarette smokers			Current non-smokers of cigarettes			Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample	
	Heavy (20 or more per day)	Moderate (10-19 per day)	Light (fewer than 10 per day)	All current smokers	Ex-regular cigarette smokers	Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Men									
England									
North East	%	9	8	5	21	26	53	794	290
North West	%	7	10	8	25	29	46	2,293	830
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	6	10	4	21	26	54	1,754	650
East Midlands	%	5	10	6	22	26	53	1,549	630
West Midlands	%	8	10	7	25	27	48	1,813	630
East of England	%	6	10	4	20	29	51	2,141	800
London	%	4	10	8	22	26	52	2,161	580
South East	%	6	8	7	21	33	46	2,858	1,070
South West	%	7	8	7	21	33	46	1,759	700
All England	%	6	9	6	22	29	49	17,122	6,170
Wales	%	8	9	4	21	27	52	1,105	420
Scotland	%	9	9	6	24	23	53	1,767	650
Great Britain	%	7	9	6	22	28	50	19,994	7,240
Women									
England									
North East	%	9	8	6	22	20	58	930	360
North West	%	5	10	6	22	23	55	2,622	970
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	6	11	6	23	22	55	2,087	790
East Midlands	%	4	8	5	17	21	62	1,707	710
West Midlands	%	5	9	7	21	19	60	2,044	730
East of England	%	3	7	6	16	23	60	2,207	860
London	%	3	8	6	17	19	64	2,581	700
South East	%	3	7	6	17	23	60	3,235	1,230
South West	%	4	10	7	20	24	56	1,982	800
All England	%	4	9	6	19	22	59	19,395	7,150
Wales	%	5	10	5	20	19	61	1,138	450
Scotland	%	7	12	5	24	16	60	2,062	780
Great Britain	%	5	9	6	20	21	59	22,594	8,380
Total									
England									
North East	%	9	8	5	22	23	56	1,724	650
North West	%	6	10	7	23	26	51	4,915	1,800
Yorkshire and the Humber	%	6	10	5	22	23	54	3,841	1,440
East Midlands	%	4	9	6	19	23	57	3,257	1,340
West Midlands	%	6	9	7	23	23	54	3,856	1,360
East of England	%	5	8	5	18	26	56	4,348	1,660
London	%	3	9	7	19	22	58	4,742	1,280
South East	%	5	8	6	19	28	53	6,092	2,300
South West	%	5	9	7	21	28	51	3,742	1,500
All England	%	5	9	6	21	25	54	36,517	13,330
Wales	%	7	9	5	21	23	56	2,242	860
Scotland	%	8	10	5	24	19	57	3,829	1,430
Great Britain	%	6	9	6	21	24	55	42,588	15,620

¹ Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.13 Cigarette-smoking status by sex: 1974 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																	<i>Great Britain</i>									
	Unweighted							Weighted																		
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²										
																	Percentages									
Men																										
Current cigarette smokers																										
Light to moderate (under 20 per day)	25	22	20	20	17	17	18	19	18	19	17	18	18	17	15	16										
Heavy (20 or more per day)	26	23	18	15	14	12	10	11	10	10	10	10	9	8	8	7										
Total current cigarette smokers	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22										
Ex-regular cigarette smokers																										
	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27	28										
Never or only occasionally																										
	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50	50										
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								19,229	20,350	19,913	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,496	19,918	19,994										
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³	9,850	10,480	9,200	8,870	8,110	7,640	6,580		6,590	7,060	6,840	8,100	6,870	10,040	7,680	7,240										
Women																										
Current cigarette smokers																										
Light to moderate (under 20 per day)	28	23	22	21	20	18	19	19	19	19	18	18	17	17	16	15										
Heavy (20 or more per day)	13	13	11	10	9	8	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	6	5	5										
Total current cigarette smokers	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20										
Ex-regular cigarette smokers																										
	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21	21										
Never or only occasionally																										
	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58	59										
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								21,654	22,044	21,987	22,236	21,842	22,396	22,315	22,721	22,594										
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³	11,480	12,160	10,640	10,300	9,440	9,110	7,830		7,500	8,300	7,950	9,330	8,030	11,630	9,000	8,380										

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.14 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and age

Persons aged 16 and over							Great Britain: 2007 ¹	
Age	Current cigarette smokers			Current non-smokers of cigarettes			Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample
	Light to moderate (under 20 per day)	Heavy (20 or more per day)	All current smokers	Ex-regular cigarette smokers	Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Men								
16-19	%	20	1	22	1	77	1,302	380
20-24	%	27	5	32	9	59	1,255	360
25-34	%	22	7	29	17	54	3,020	860
35-49	%	16	9	25	21	53	5,738	1,970
50-59	%	14	8	22	33	45	3,255	1,260
60 and over	%	8	4	13	49	38	5,424	2,400
All aged 16 and over	%	16	7	22	28	50	19,994	7,240
Women								
16-19	%	18	2	20	2	78	1,172	370
20-24	%	25	4	30	11	60	1,444	410
25-34	%	20	3	23	16	61	3,346	1,100
35-49	%	16	6	23	19	58	6,595	2,400
50-59	%	14	7	21	25	55	3,520	1,380
60 and over	%	9	3	12	29	58	6,518	2,700
All aged 16 and over	%	15	5	20	21	59	22,594	8,380
Total								
16-19	%	19	2	21	2	78	2,474	760
20-24	%	26	5	31	10	59	2,699	780
25-34	%	21	5	26	17	57	6,366	1,970
35-49	%	16	8	24	20	56	12,333	4,370
50-59	%	14	7	21	29	50	6,775	2,640
60 and over	%	9	4	12	38	49	11,941	5,110
All aged 16 and over	%	15	6	21	24	55	42,588	15,620

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.15 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex and age: 1974 to 2007

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over																	Great Britain	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted							Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007		
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹			2006 ²	2007 ²
Mean number of cigarettes per day																		
Men																		
16-19	16	14	12	12	13	10	10	10	12	11	11	13	11	13	10	10	283	80
20-24	19	17	16	15	16	13	14	13	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	404	110
25-34	19	19	17	16	16	15	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	13	12	884	250
35-49	20	20	20	19	19	18	17	18	17	17	17	16	16	15	16	16	1,449	470
50-59	18	20	18	17	17	20	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	17	16	16	712	260
60 and over	14	15	16	15	15	14	16	16	15	15	16	15	14	15	18	15	687	290
All aged 16 and over	18	18	17	16	17	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	14	4,418	1,470
Women																		
16-19	12	13	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	12	12	10	11	10	9	9	235	80
20-24	14	14	14	12	13	13	12	11	10	11	10	11	11	11	11	10	427	130
25-34	15	16	16	14	15	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	11	11	776	270
35-49	15	16	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	1,498	520
50-59	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	718	280
60 and over	10	11	11	12	12	13	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	784	320
All aged 16 and over	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	4,439	1,600

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 1.16 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex, and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	Total	
Mean number of cigarettes a day				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	12	10	11	
Higher professional	11	12	11	12
Lower managerial and professional	13	11	12	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	14	13	13	
Small employers and own account	14	13	14	14
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	15	13	14	
Semi-routine	14	14	14	14
Routine	16	13	15	
Total ¹	14	13	13	
<i>Weighted bases (000s) = 100%</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	236	264	500	
Higher professional	265	198	463	
Lower managerial and professional	883	843	1,726	
Intermediate	265	370	635	
Small employers and own account	491	421	912	
Lower supervisory and technical	593	473	1,066	
Semi-routine	680	853	1,533	
Routine	723	706	1,429	
Total ²	4,400	4,401	8,802	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Large employers and higher managerial	80	100	180	
Higher professional	80	80	160	
Lower managerial and professional	300	310	610	
Intermediate	100	130	230	
Small employers and own account	160	150	310	
Lower supervisory and technical	200	180	380	
Semi-routine	220	300	520	
Routine	240	250	500	
Total ²	1,460	1,580	3,040	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Table 1.17 Type of cigarette smoked by sex: 1974 to 2007

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over								Great Britain								
Type of cigarette smoked	Unweighted							Weighted								
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²
Men	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mainly filter	69	75	72	78	80	78	74	74	69	68	66	68	65	65	65	64
Mainly plain	18	11	7	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mainly hand-rolled	13	14	21	18	18	21	25	25	30	31	33	32	34	34	35	35
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								5,687	5,802	5,643	5,246	5,367	5,158	4,927	4,618	4,428
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³	4,990	4,650	3,470	3,070	2,510	2,150	1,860		1,800	1,900	1,760	2,170	1,750	2,400	1,660	1,470
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Women																
Mainly filter	91	95	94	96	97	96	92	92	89	87	86	87	85	84	83	82
Mainly plain	8	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Mainly hand-rolled	1	1	3	2	2	4	7	8	10	12	13	12	14	16	16	17
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i> ³								5,735	5,619	5,635	5,560	5,287	5,156	5,060	4,743	4,449
<i>Unweighted sample</i> ³	4,600	4,420	3,520	3,190	2,750	2,340	2,040		1,900	2,100	1,960	2,230	1,830	2,580	1,820	1,600

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.18 Type of cigarette smoked by sex and age

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over							Great Britain: 2007 ¹
Type of cigarette smoked	Age						
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	All aged 16 and over	
Men	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Mainly filter	70	73	64	53	60	64	
Mainly plain	1	0	1	-	0	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	30	26	35	47	40	35	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	686	884	1,449	719	691	4,428	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	190	250	470	260	290	1,470	
Women							
Mainly filter	82	76	82	81	89	82	
Mainly plain	1	2	0	-	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	17	22	18	19	9	17	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	662	776	1,498	722	791	4,449	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	200	270	520	280	320	1,600	
Total							
Mainly filter	76	75	73	67	75	73	
Mainly plain	1	1	1	-	1	1	
Mainly hand-rolled	23	24	26	33	24	26	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	1,348	1,660	2,947	1,441	1,482	8,878	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	400	520	1000	540	610	3,070	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.19 Grouped tar yield per cigarette: 1986 to 2007

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes</i>											<i>Great Britain</i>				
Tar yield	Unweighted					Weighted									
	1986	1988	1990	1992	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<10mg	19	21	24	25	28	28	27	26	27	26	26	24	25	38	
10<15mg	32	58	54	68	70	69	71	71	71	71	71	73	72	62	
15+mg	40	17	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	
No regular brand/dk tar	10	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	-	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%³</i>						9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,987	6,539	
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>	5,620	5,360	4,740	4,660	3,290	2,960	3,170	2,870	3,420	2,720	3,760	2,610	2,260		

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.20 Tar yield per cigarette: 1998 to 2007

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes</i>											<i>Great Britain</i>
Tar yield	Weighted										
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Less than 4mg	5	5	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	
4<8mg	17	22	17	17	17	19	17	17	17	22	
8<10mg	11	9	7	8	7	6	6	7	7	12	
10<12mg	13	27	35	34	71	71	73	72	62		
12<15mg	51	34	36	37	0	0	0	0	-		
No regular brand/dk tar yield	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	-		
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,989	6,539		
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	3,290	2,960	3,170	2,870	3,420	2,720	3,760	2,610	2,260		

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.21 Tar yields by sex and age of smoker

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes aged 16 and over</i>						<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
		Tar yield				No regular brand/dk tar yield	Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample
		Less than 4mg	4<8mg	8<10mg	10<12mg			
Men								
16-19	%	1	13	10	76	-	205	50
20-24	%	1	26	10	63	-	277	80
25-34	%	4	26	18	52	-	650	180
35-49	%	4	26	7	64	-	932	310
50-59	%	2	14	7	77	-	379	140
60 and over	%	5	15	14	66	-	413	170
Total	%	3	22	11	64	-	2,855	930
Women								
16-19	%	3	12	9	76	-	198	60
20-24	%	3	17	10	71	-	354	110
25-34	%	2	31	14	52	-	605	220
35-49	%	4	21	15	61	-	1,234	430
50-59	%	2	21	11	66	-	582	230
60 and over	%	4	22	17	58	-	711	280
Total	%	3	22	14	61	-	3,684	1,330
Total								
16-19	%	2	13	9	76	-	402	120
20-24	%	2	21	10	67	-	631	190
25-34	%	3	28	16	52	-	1,255	400
35-49	%	4	23	11	62	-	2,167	740
50-59	%	2	18	10	70	-	961	370
60 and over	%	4	19	16	61	-	1,124	460
Total	%	3	22	13	62	-	6,539	2,260

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.22 Tar yields by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes aged 16 and over</i>							<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>	
Socio-economic class of household reference person ³	Tar yields					Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample	
	Less than 4mg	4<8mg	8<10mg	10<12mg	No regular brand/dk tar yield			
Men								
Managerial and professional	%	5	30	10	55	-	1,060	360
Intermediate	%	4	21	13	62	-	478	160
Routine and manual	%	1	15	12	71	-	1,149	380
Total ¹	%	3	22	11	64	-	2,847	930
Women								
Managerial and professional	%	3	32	16	49	-	1,122	410
Intermediate	%	3	23	10	64	-	693	240
Routine and manual	%	3	16	14	67	-	1,611	590
Total ¹	%	3	22	14	61	-	3,651	1,320
All persons								
Managerial and professional	%	4	31	13	52	-	2,182	770
Intermediate	%	4	22	11	63	-	1,171	400
Routine and manual	%	2	16	13	69	-	2,760	960
Total ¹	%	3	22	12	63	-	6,498	2,250

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Table 1.23 Prevalence of smoking by sex and type of product smoked: 1974 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>		
	Unweighted							Weighted								
	1974	1978	1982 ¹	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006 ³	2007 ³
Percentage smoking																
Men																
Cigarettes ⁴	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22
Pipe	12	10	..	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cigars ⁵	34	16	12	10	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	2
All smokers ⁶	64	55	45	44	38	33	33	34	32	32	30	31	29	28	25	24
Weighted base (000s) = 100%								19,225	20,350	19,972	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,498	19,920	19,996
Unweighted sample ⁷	9,860	10,440	9,170	8,880	8,120	7,660	6,580	6,590	7,070	6,840	8,100	6,870	10,040	7,680	7,240	
Women																
Cigarettes ⁴	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20
Cigars ⁵	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All smokers ⁶	41	37	34	31	29	26	26	27	26	26	25	24	23	23	21	20
Weighted base (000s) = 100% ⁷								21,653	22,044	22,032	22,236	21,842	22,393	22,315	22,723	22,594
Unweighted sample ⁷	11,420	12,080	10,560	10,310	9,460	9,140	7,830	7,500	8,320	7,950	9,330	8,030	11,630	9,010	8,380	

1 In 1982 and 1984 men were not asked about pipe smoking, and therefore the figures for all smokers exclude those who smoked only a pipe.

2 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

3 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

4 Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.

5 For 1974 the figures include occasional cigar smokers, that is, those who smoked less than one cigar a month.

6 The percentages for cigarettes, pipes and cigars add to more than the percentage for all smokers because some people smoked more than one type of product.

7 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2006) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Table 1.24 Prevalence of smoking among men by age and type of product smoked¹

<i>Men aged 16 and over</i>					<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Age	Cigarettes ²	Pipe ³	Cigars ³	All smokers ⁴	Weighted base (000s)	Unwgt'd sample	
Percentage smoking							
16-19	22	1	1	22	1,304	380	
20-24	32	0	2	33	1,255	360	
25-29	34	0	1	34	1,367	380	
30-34	26	0	3	27	1,653	480	
35-49	25	0	2	26	5,738	1,970	
50-59	22	2	3	25	3,255	1,260	
60 and over	13	2	2	15	5,424	2,400	
All aged 16 and over	22	1	2	24	19,996	7,240	

- 1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).
- 2 Figures for cigarettes include all smokers of both manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes.
- 3 Young people aged 16-17 were not asked about cigar or pipe-smoking.
- 4 The percentages for cigarettes, pipes and cigars add to more than the percentage for all smokers because some people smoked more than one type of product.

Table 1.25 Age started smoking regularly by sex: 1992 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>				
Age started smoking regularly	<u>Unweighted</u>				<u>Weighted</u>									
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Men														
Under 16	40	41	41	43	42	43	42	42	42	42	41	41	41	
16-17	27	27	27	26	26	27	26	28	26	26	26	26	26	
18-19	17	16	17	17	17	15	16	16	16	16	17	17	18	
20-24	12	11	11	10	11	11	11	11	11	10	11	12	11	
25 and over	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>					11,146	11,016	10,608	10,469	10,431	10,506	10,194	9,931	9,919	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	5,140	4,520	4,300	3,850		3,620	3,880	3,700	4,410	3,700	5,280	3,900	3,680	
Women														
Under 16	28	30	32	31	32	33	35	33	35	35	36	36	36	
16-17	28	28	28	29	28	27	27	28	26	18	27	28	27	
18-19	19	19	17	18	17	19	17	18	19	18	17	17	18	
20-24	15	13	13	14	14	12	12	13	13	12	12	12	13	
25 and over	10	9	9	8	8	8	9	7	7	7	7	6	6	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>					10,101	9,663	10,222	10,067	9,738	9,591	9,589	9,404	9,183	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	4,640	4,180	3,990	3,640		3,300	3,820	3,590	4,140	3,450	4,990	3,700	3,450	
All persons														
Under 16	34	36	37	37	37	38	39	38	38	39	39	39	39	
16-17	27	28	28	27	27	27	26	28	26	27	27	27	27	
18-19	18	18	17	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	
20-24	14	12	12	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	
25 and over	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	5	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>					21,247	20,679	20,830	20,537	20,169	20,097	19,783	19,337	19,103	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	9,780	8,700	8,290	7,500		6,960	7,700	7,280	8,550	7,150	10,260	7,640	7,130	

- 1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
- 2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 1.26 Age started smoking regularly by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>			
Age started smoking regularly	Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²			Total	
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual		
	%	%	%	%	
Men					
Under 16	33	39	49	41	
16-17	29	26	23	26	
18-19	21	18	15	18	
20-24	12	10	9	11	
25 and over	5	6	4	5	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>3,724</i>	<i>1,765</i>	<i>4,037</i>	<i>9,884</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1,450</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>1,450</i>	<i>3,660</i>	
	%	%	%	%	
Women					
Under 16	28	34	42	36	
16-17	30	26	27	27	
18-19	22	18	15	18	
20-24	14	15	11	13	
25 and over	6	7	6	6	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>3,250</i>	<i>1,707</i>	<i>3,751</i>	<i>9,113</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1,260</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>3,430</i>	
	%	%	%	%	
All persons					
Under 16	30	37	45	38	
16-17	29	26	25	27	
18-19	22	18	15	18	
20-24	13	12	10	12	
25 and over	5	7	5	5	
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>6,974</i>	<i>3,471</i>	<i>7,788</i>	<i>18,997</i>	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>2,720</i>	<i>1,290</i>	<i>2,850</i>	<i>7,090</i>	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

Table 1.27 Age started smoking regularly by sex, whether current smoker and if so, cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly</i>					<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>	
Age started smoking regularly	Current smoker			All current smokers ²	Ex-regular smoker	All who have ever smoked regularly
	20 or more a day	10-19 a day	0-9 a day			
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Men						
Under 16	50	46	36	44	38	41
16-17	24	25	26	25	27	26
18-19	14	15	17	15	20	18
20-24	8	10	15	11	10	11
25 and over	5	4	6	5	4	4
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,292</i>	<i>1,841</i>	<i>1,225</i>	<i>4,367</i>	<i>5,552</i>	<i>9,919</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>610</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>1,450</i>	<i>2,230</i>	<i>3,680</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Women						
Under 16	50	44	34	43	30	36
16-17	25	25	25	25	30	27
18-19	11	16	20	16	19	18
20-24	8	10	14	11	14	13
25 and over	6	5	6	6	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>1,057</i>	<i>2,005</i>	<i>1,351</i>	<i>4,424</i>	<i>4,759</i>	<i>9,183</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>1,590</i>	<i>1,860</i>	<i>3,450</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
All persons						
Under 16	50	45	35	43	34	39
16-17	24	25	26	25	28	27
18-19	13	16	19	16	20	18
20-24	8	10	15	11	12	12
25 and over	5	4	6	5	5	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) = 100%</i>	<i>2,348</i>	<i>3,846</i>	<i>2,576</i>	<i>8,791</i>	<i>10,312</i>	<i>19,103</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>890</i>	<i>3,040</i>	<i>4,090</i>	<i>7,130</i>

1 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.28 Proportion of smokers who would like to give up smoking altogether, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2007

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted									Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²		
Percentage who would like to stop altogether															
Men															
20 or more	68	70	66	69	69	74	70	68	64	67	66	67	62	1,301	450
10-19	70	72	69	73	73	76	71	71	67	68	68	68	66	1,864	620
0-9	58	61	62	62	62	64	62	62	61	64	68	65	69	1,250	400
All smokers ⁴	66	69	66	69	69	72	68	68	64	67	68	67	66	4,424	1,470
Women															
20 or more	70	69	69	68	68	73	66	67	64	70	67	67	61	1,060	390
10-19	72	71	70	75	75	76	67	71	71	70	70	72	68	2,005	700
0-9	58	62	59	65	65	63	60	67	66	67	67	69	66	1,372	500
All smokers ⁴	68	68	67	70	70	71	65	69	67	69	68	70	66	4,448	1,600
Total															
20 or more	69	70	68	69	69	74	68	68	64	68	67	67	62	2,361	840
10-19	71	71	70	74	74	76	69	71	69	69	69	70	67	3,869	1,320
0-9	58	61	60	64	64	63	61	65	64	66	68	67	67	2,622	900
All smokers ⁴	67	68	67	69	69	72	66	68	66	68	68	68	66	8,872	3,070

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

4 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.29 Proportion of smokers who would find it difficult to go without smoking for a day, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2007

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted									Weighted base 2007 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²		
Percentage who would find it difficult not to smoke for a day															
Men															
20 or more	76	78	78	78	78	78	74	77	78	77	77	80	81	1,296	450
10-19	54	57	54	54	54	56	55	57	53	57	60	64	63	1,854	610
0-9	20	17	20	25	23	14	21	23	19	16	23	24	26	1,250	400
All smokers ⁴	55	56	56	56	56	53	52	56	53	52	55	59	58	4,410	1,460
Women															
20 or more	86	86	87	87	86	88	87	86	83	82	84	84	90	1,058	390
10-19	68	68	66	66	65	67	65	66	64	67	65	70	65	2,001	700
0-9	23	20	24	24	25	22	24	21	22	21	27	27	26	1,372	500
All smokers ⁴	61	60	61	59	59	58	58	59	56	57	58	60	59	4,442	1,600
Total															
20 or more	80	82	83	82	82	82	80	81	80	79	80	82	85	2,354	830
10-19	61	63	60	61	60	62	61	62	58	62	63	67	64	3,855	1,320
0-9	21	19	23	24	24	18	22	22	21	19	25	26	26	2,622	900
All smokers ⁴	58	59	58	58	57	56	55	57	55	55	56	59	58	8,852	3,060

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

4 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.30 Proportion of smokers who have their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, by sex and number of cigarettes smoked per day: 1992 to 2007

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>														<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted									Weighted base 2007 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2007
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²		
Percentage smoking within 5 minutes of waking															
Men															
20 or more	29	31	29	31	32	30	30	31	31	34	34	35	36	1,301	450
10-19	10	13	9	11	11	13	11	11	11	13	15	13	13	1,864	620
0-9	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	1	2	2	3	1,240	400
All smokers ⁴	16	18	16	16	17	16	15	16	16	17	17	18	17	4,414	1,460
Women															
20 or more	29	34	32	31	31	32	35	31	31	33	31	37	34	1,060	390
10-19	10	9	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	11	12	16	2,005	700
0-9	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	1,369	500
All smokers ⁴	14	14	15	14	14	14	15	14	14	16	14	15	16	4,445	1,600
Total															
20 or more	29	33	30	31	31	31	32	31	31	34	33	36	35	2,361	840
10-19	10	11	10	12	12	13	11	11	11	14	13	12	14	3,869	1,320
0-9	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	3	2,609	900
All smokers ⁴	15	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	16	16	17	8,859	3,060

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

4 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Table 1.31 Proportion of smokers who would like to give up smoking altogether, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	
Percentage who would like to stop altogether				
Men				
20 or more	60	65	61	62
10-19	73	72	61	66
0-9	70	75	65	69
All smokers ³	69	70	62	66
Women				
20 or more	63	72	57	61
10-19	72	67	67	68
0-9	73	62	61	66
All smokers ³	71	66	63	66
Total				
20 or more	61	69	59	62
10-19	73	69	64	67
0-9	72	68	63	67
All smokers ³	70	68	62	66
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	317	246	656	1,301
10-19	580	294	890	1,864
0-9	487	215	446	1,250
All smokers ³	1,391	756	1,995	4,424
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	265	215	503	1,060
10-19	497	341	1,042	2,005
0-9	543	235	485	1,372
All smokers ³	1,305	798	2,034	4,448
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	583	461	1,158	2,361
10-19	1,076	635	1,932	3,869
0-9	1,030	450	931	2,622
All smokers ³	2,696	1,554	4,029	8,872
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
<i>Men</i>				
20 or more	110	80	230	450
10-19	200	100	290	620
0-9	160	70	140	400
All smokers ³	470	260	660	1,470
<i>Women</i>				
20 or more	100	80	190	390
10-19	180	120	370	700
0-9	200	80	180	500
All smokers ³	480	280	730	1,600
<i>Total</i>				
20 or more	210	160	420	840
10-19	380	220	660	1,320
0-9	360	160	320	900
All smokers ³	950	540	1,400	3,060

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

3 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.32 Proportion of smokers who would find it difficult to go without smoking for a day, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>			
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total	
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual		
Percentage who would find it difficult to stop for a day					
Men					
20 or more	80	78	81	81	
10-19	65	61	65	63	
0-9	22	26	28	26	
All smokers ³	53	56	62	58	
Women					
20 or more	92	90	90	90	
10-19	64	62	67	65	
0-9	22	31	30	26	
All smokers ³	52	60	64	59	
Total					
20 or more	86	84	85	85	
10-19	64	61	66	64	
0-9	22	29	29	26	
All smokers ³	53	58	63	58	
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	317	243	654	1,296	
10-19	580	292	883	1,854	
0-9	487	215	446	1,250	
All smokers ³	1,391	750	1,987	4,410	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	265	215	501	1,058	
10-19	494	341	1,040	2,001	
0-9	543	235	485	1,372	
All smokers ³	1,303	798	2,030	4,442	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	583	458	1,155	2,354	
10-19	1,074	633	1,924	3,855	
0-9	1,030	450	931	2,622	
All smokers ³	2,694	1,548	4,017	8,852	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	110	80	230	450	
10-19	200	100	290	620	
0-9	160	70	141	400	
All smokers ³	470	260	660	1,460	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	100	80	180	390	
10-19	180	120	360	700	
0-9	200	80	180	500	
All smokers ³	480	280	730	1,600	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	210	160	410	830	
10-19	380	220	650	1,320	
0-9	360	160	320	900	
All smokers ³	950	540	1,390	3,060	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

3 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Table 1.33 Proportion of smokers who have their first cigarette within five minutes of waking, by sex, socio-economic classification of household reference person, and number of cigarettes smoked a day

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>			
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²				
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	Total	
Percentage who smoke within 5 minutes of waking					
Men					
20 or more	34	30	36	36	
10-19	9	10	15	13	
0-9	0	2	8	3	
All smokers ³	12	14	21	17	
Women					
20 or more	28	37	34	34	
10-19	12	18	17	16	
0-9	1	1	6	3	
All smokers ³	11	18	18	16	
Total					
20 or more	32	33	36	35	
10-19	10	14	16	14	
0-9	1	2	6	3	
All smokers ³	11	16	20	17	
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	317	246	656	1,301	
10-19	580	294	890	1,864	
0-9	484	213	441	1,240	
All smokers ³	1,388	754	1,991	4,414	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	265	215	503	1,060	
10-19	497	341	1,042	2,005	
0-9	543	235	482	1,369	
All smokers ³	1,305	798	2,031	4,445	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	583	461	1,158	2,361	
10-19	1,076	635	1,932	3,869	
0-9	1,027	448	924	2,609	
All smokers ³	2,693	1,552	4,022	8,859	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>					
<i>Men</i>					
20 or more	110	80	230	450	
10-19	200	100	290	620	
0-9	160	70	140	400	
All smokers ³	470	260	660	1,460	
<i>Women</i>					
20 or more	100	80	190	390	
10-19	180	120	370	700	
0-9	200	80	180	500	
All smokers ³	480	280	730	1,600	
<i>Total</i>					
20 or more	210	160	420	840	
10-19	380	220	660	1,320	
0-9	360	160	320	900	
All smokers ³	950	540	1,390	3,060	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Respondents whose household reference person was a full time student, had an inadequately described occupation, had never worked or was long-term unemployed are not shown as separate categories but are included in the total.

3 Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

2 Drinking

Questions about drinking alcohol were included in the General Household Survey every two years from 1978 to 1998. Following the review of the GHS, the questions about drinking in the last seven days form part of the continuous survey, and have been included every year from 2000 onwards. Questions designed to measure average weekly alcohol consumption were included from 2000 to 2002 and again in 2005 and 2006 but were not included in the 2007 questionnaire. Before 1988 questions about drinking were asked only of those aged 18 and over, but since then respondents aged 16 and 17 have answered the questions using a self-completion questionnaire.

This report presents information on the frequency of drinking alcohol and the amounts consumed in the week before the interview took place. It also presents data on the association between consumption of alcohol and characteristics of individuals such as sex, age, socio-economic classification, and region.

Measuring alcohol consumption

Obtaining reliable information about drinking behaviour is difficult, and social surveys consistently record lower levels of consumption than would be expected from data on alcohol sales¹. This is partly because people may consciously or unconsciously under-estimate how much alcohol they consume. Drinking at home is particularly likely to be under-estimated because the quantities consumed are not measured and are likely to be larger than those dispensed in licensed premises.

There are different methods for obtaining survey information on drinking behaviour. One approach is to ask people to recall all episodes of drinking during a set period². However, this is time-consuming and is not suitable for the GHS, where drinking is only one of a number of subjects covered. In 2007 the GHS asked about the maximum amount drunk on any one day in the previous seven days.

Maximum daily amount drunk last week

These questions have been included in the GHS since 1998, following the publication in 1995 of an inter-departmental review of the effects of drinking³. This concluded that it was more appropriate to set benchmarks for daily than for weekly consumption of alcohol, partly because of concern about the health and social risks associated with single episodes of intoxication. The report considered that regular consumption of between three and four units⁴ a day for men and two to three units a day for women does not carry a significant health risk, but that consistently drinking above these levels is not advised.

The government's advice on sensible drinking is now based on these daily benchmarks, and GHS data are used to monitor the extent to which people are following the advice given. Respondents are asked on how many days they drank alcohol during the previous week. They are then asked how much of each of six different types of drink (normal strength beer, strong beer, wine, spirits, fortified wines and alcopops) they drank on their heaviest drinking day during the previous week. These amounts are converted to units of alcohol and added to give an estimate of the number of units the respondent consumed on that day.

The conversion of volumes of alcoholic drinks to units of alcohol is based on assumptions about the size of a given measure (e.g. a glass of wine) and the alcohol

content of the type of drink (i.e. the percentage of alcohol by volume or ABV). In recent years there have been changes to both of these factors and these have been reflected in revisions to the conversion method which was first used on the 2006 data.

The survey does not ask about the specific ABV of every alcoholic drink consumed but assumes an average for each type of drink. The revised method has changed the number of units assumed to be in drinks in the 'normal strength beer, lager and cider' and 'strong beer, lager and cider' categories but the main impact was on drinks in the 'wine' category.

The revised method has had a large impact on the estimates of units of alcohol consumed from wine because it changed both the assumed ABV of wine (from 9% to 12%) and the size of a glass of wine. Wine is sold on licensed premises and consumed at home in a variety of glass sizes. To take account of this the GHS, from 2008 onwards, includes a question about wine glass size. In this report on 2007 data and in the previous report on 2006 data an average size of 170ml was assumed. The changes in both glass size and ABV of wine have resulted in the number of units assumed to be in a 'glass' of wine doubling from 1 to 2 units. The changes in conversion factors are discussed in detail in a paper in the National Statistics Methodology series⁵.

The impact of the change in methodology can be seen in the 2006 data for which figures using both the original and revised methods were produced⁶. All figures produced from 2007 onwards will use the revised method of converting volumes to units of alcohol. There are currently only figures for 2006 and 2007 using this method and so interpretation of trend data will be limited.

Trends in last week's drinking

There has been a slight fall in the proportions of men and women who say that they had an alcoholic drink in the previous week compared to four years ago. Table 2.1 shows that following a period of little change between 1998 and 2003, the figures fell from 75% of men and 60% of women in 2003 to 72% and 57% in 2005 but since then the figures have been effectively constant. In 2007, 72% of men and 57% of women reported having an alcoholic drink in the last seven days.

Similarly, following a period of stability, there was a fall in the proportions of both men and women exceeding the daily benchmarks between 2003 and 2005 but they have remained at approximately their 2005 levels since then. The figures produced using the original method of converting to units show little change from 2005 to 2006. This stability is continued in the figures produced using the revised method. The proportion of men exceeding 4 units on their heaviest drinking day was 40 per cent in 2006 and this is virtually unchanged at 41 per cent in 2007. The proportions for women exceeding 3 units were 33 per cent in 2006 and 34 per cent in 2007.

The figures for heavy drinking follow a similar pattern. There was little change between 2005 and 2007 in the proportions of men and women drinking heavily (more than 8 units, and 6 units respectively) on at least one day in the previous week. The figures produced using the original method of calculating units show little change between 2005 and 2006. This stability is continued in the figures produced using the revised method. The proportion of men reporting heavy drinking was 23 per cent in 2006 and 24 per cent in 2007. The proportion of women reporting heavy drinking was 15 per cent in both years.

There is considerable fluctuation in the trends within some age groups which makes it difficult to be confident about the overall pattern but there are some groups where the patterns seem clearer. Since 2002 there is a clear downward trend in the proportion of young women aged 16 to 24 drinking heavily. The estimate has fallen each year from 28 per cent in 2002 to 20 per cent in 2006. Although the changes from one year to the next are not statistically significant the changes over several years are significant. This pattern is continued into 2007. The figures for 2006 and 2007 using the updated method are 25 per cent and 24 per cent.

Tables 2.1- 2.2

Last week's drinking in 2007

Frequency of drinking during the last week

Patterns of drinking behaviour in 2007 were broadly the same as those described in earlier GHS reports. Men were more likely than women to have had an alcoholic drink in the previous week: 72 per cent of men and 57 per cent of women had had a drink on at least one day during the previous week. Men also drank on more days of the week than women. More than one in five men (22 per cent) compared with just over one in ten women (12 per cent) had drunk on at least five of the preceding seven days. In particular, men were much more likely than women to have drunk alcohol every day during the previous week (13 per cent compared with 7 per cent).

The proportions drinking last week also varied between age groups. Those in the youngest and oldest age groups (16 to 24 and 65 and over) were less likely than those in the middle age range to report drinking alcohol during the previous week. The proportion who had drunk alcohol in the previous week was particularly low among women aged 65 and over, 45 per cent of whom had done so, compared with 61 per cent of women aged 25 to 64.

The age group with the highest proportion of people who didn't drink in the last week was the 65 and over group (45 per cent). This is also the group with the highest figure for proportion of people who drank every day (16 per cent). The proportion of people who drink every day rises as age group rises. For example, 3 per cent of men and 2 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 had drunk every day during the previous week, compared with 22 per cent of men and 12 per cent of women aged 65 and over.

Table 2.3

Maximum daily amount drunk last week

Two measures of daily consumption are shown in the tables. The first is the proportion exceeding the recommended daily benchmarks (men drinking more than four units and women drinking more than three units in one day). The second measure is intended to indicate heavy drinking that would be likely to lead to intoxication and is set at more than eight units on one day for men and more than six units for women.

The proportion of people who exceeded the daily benchmarks on at least one day during the previous week was higher for men (41 per cent) than it was for women (34 per cent). The proportion drinking heavily was also greater for men (24 per cent) than for women (15 per cent).

It was noted earlier that older people drink more frequently than younger people. However, among both men and women, those aged 65 and over were significantly less likely than respondents in other age groups to have exceeded the recommended number of daily units on at least one day. For example, 23% of men over 65 exceeded four units on at least one day during the previous week. The corresponding figures for the younger three age-bands were 44%, 48% and 44% (16-24, 25-44 and 45-64 respectively). Among women, 14 per cent of those aged 65 and over exceeded three units on at least one day. The corresponding figures for the younger three age-bands were 40%, 43% and 36% (16-24, 25-44 and 45-64 respectively).

Similar patterns were evident for heavy drinking: 32 per cent of men aged 16 to 24, but only 8 per cent of those aged 65 and over, had drunk more than eight units on at least one day during the previous week. Among young women aged 16 to 24, 24 per cent had drunk heavily on at least one day during the preceding week, compared with only 3 per cent of women in the oldest age group.

Table 2.4

Drinking last week and age, sex, and marital status

Analysis of alcohol consumption by marital status is complicated by the strong association between marital status and age. Single people tend, on average, to be younger than married people.

Overall it appears that married people tend to drink more often than single people (20 per cent of married people and 10 per cent of single people drank on 5 or more days in the previous week). This may be largely due to the fact that older people tend to drink more often than younger people. A greater proportion of single people than married people drink heavily (26 per cent and 19 per cent respectively). Again this mirrors the finding that a larger proportion of younger people than older people drink heavily.

In the age group 16 to 44 years there were no significant differences between married and single men or between married and single women in the proportions exceeding the daily benchmarks for safe drinking. In the 45 years and over group, however, a greater proportion of married men than of single men exceeded four units on their heaviest drinking day (38 per cent and 29 per cent). Similarly, a greater proportion of married women than of single women in that age group exceeded three units on their heaviest drinking day (32 per cent and 22 per cent).

Table 2.5

Drinking last week and socio-economic characteristics

Households where the household reference person (HRP) was classified as 'managerial and professional' had the highest proportions of both men and women who had an alcoholic drink in the last seven days (80 per cent and 68 per cent), while men and women in 'routine and manual' households had the lowest (66 per cent and 45 per cent). There was a similar pattern in the proportions drinking on five or more days in the previous week. For example, 22 per cent of people in 'managerial and professional' households had an alcoholic drink on five or more days in the previous week. In households where the reference person was in an occupation in the 'routine and manual' classification, this proportion was much lower, at 11 per cent.

Variations in amounts drunk were also marked, particularly for women. Women in large employer/higher managerial households were much more likely than those in the routine group to have drunk more than the recommended three units on any one day (49 per cent compared with 24 per cent), and also more likely to have

drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week (21 per cent compared with 11 per cent). A similar but less pronounced pattern is seen for men. As with women 49 per cent of men in large employer/higher managerial households exceeded the daily benchmark (4 units for men). In the routine group this falls to 36 per cent. Men in large employer/higher managerial households were also more likely to have drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week than those in the routine group (28 per cent compared with 21 per cent).

Overall the proportion of people exceeding the daily benchmark was greater in managerial and professional households (43 per cent) than in routine and manual households (31 per cent) and the proportion drinking heavily and was also greater in managerial and professional households (22 per cent) than in routine and manual households (17 per cent).

Tables 2.6-2.7

Drinking last week and household income

As the level of gross weekly household income rises, the proportion of people who drank alcohol in the previous week and the proportion drinking on five or more days also rise. In households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000, 78 per cent drank in the previous week and 21 per cent drank on five or more days compared to 47 per cent and 13 per cent in households with a gross weekly income of under £200.

The proportions of people exceeding the daily benchmark and of people drinking heavily also rise as gross weekly household income rises. In households with a gross weekly income of over £400, a much higher proportion of people drink heavily than in households with an income of less than £400. In households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000, for example, 54 per cent of men drank more than 4 units and 33 per cent drank more than 8 units on at least one day in the previous week. In households with an income of under £200 the figures were 27 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. The difference for women was even more marked. In households with income in excess of £1000 per week, 47 per cent of women exceeded 3 units and 21 per cent exceeded 6 units on their heaviest drinking day. This falls to 18 and 7 per cent in households with income of £200 or less per week.

Tables 2.8-2.9

Drinking last week, economic activity status and earnings from employment

Variations in alcohol consumption by economic status reflect differences in both the income and age profiles of the groups. Among men aged 16 to 64, those in employment were most likely to have drunk alcohol during the previous week - 78 per cent had done so compared with 59 per cent of the unemployed and 56 per cent of those who were economically inactive. Working men were more likely than unemployed and economically inactive men to have drunk more than 4 units on one day - 49 per cent, compared with 38 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Working men were also more likely than economically inactive men to have drunk more than 8 units on one day - 30 per cent compared with 20 per cent. As noted above, lower levels of drinking among economically inactive men are probably due in part to the large proportion of this group who are aged 60 to 64.

Among women aged 16 to 64, 66 per cent of those who were working, 54 per cent of those who were unemployed, and 48 per cent of those who were economically inactive had drunk alcohol in the previous week. Working women were more likely than the economically inactive to have drunk more than 3 units on one day - 44 per

cent, compared with 29 per cent. Working women were also more likely than the economically inactive to have drunk more than 6 units on one day - 21 per cent, compared with 12 per cent.

Among those aged 16-64 and working full time, variations in the frequency of drinking in relation to earnings from employment showed a similar pattern of association as that with household income. Men and women who were high earners were more likely than the lower paid both to have drunk alcohol at all and to have drunk on five or more days. For example, among full-time workers aged 16 to 64 who were earning more than £800 per week, 26 per cent had drunk on five or more days in the previous week, compared with 20 per cent of those earning £200 or less per week.

High earners are similarly more likely to exceed the daily drinking guidelines than low earners. For example, 57 per cent of adults earning over £800 per week exceeded the benchmark compared to 45 per cent of those earning £200.01 to £300 per week. The relationship between earnings and heavy drinking, however, is less clear, especially for men. The figures do suggest, however, that there is more heavy drinking among adults earning over £600 per week (33 per cent) than among those earning between £200.01 and £400 per week (26 per cent).

Tables 2.10-2.13

Regional variation in drinking last week

Care should be taken in interpreting the results for regional variation in any one year because sample sizes in some regions are small, making them subject to relatively high levels of sampling error.

In 2007, men and women in Scotland were less likely to have drunk on at least five days in the previous week than those living in England or Wales (15 per cent compared with 23 per cent and 21 per cent respectively for men; 8 per cent compared with 13 per cent and 12 per cent for women). Men in Scotland were no less likely to have drunk more than the recommended maximum of four units or to have drunk heavily than those in England and Wales. The proportion of women drinking heavily was lower in Scotland (12 per cent) than it was in England (16 per cent).

Looking at the English regions, the daily benchmarks were most likely to be exceeded in the North West (50 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women) and Yorkshire and the Humber (45 per cent and 39 per cent respectively). The lowest proportions doing so were in the West Midlands, where 36 per cent of men had drunk more than four units, and 28 per cent of women had drunk more than three units.

The same broad pattern of regional variation in daily drinking has been evident since these questions were first included in 1998. As noted above, however, sample sizes in some regions are small and this can lead to fluctuations in results from year to year which may not be due to real differences in the population from which the sample is drawn.

Tables 2.14-2.15

Notes and references

- 1 *Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy.* (Department of Health 2007).
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/publications/PublicationsPolicyandGuidance/DH_075218
- 2 Goddard E. *Obtaining information about drinking through surveys of the general population.* National Statistics Methodology Series NSM 24 (ONS 2001)
- 3 *Sensible drinking: the report of an inter-departmental group.* (Department of Health 1995).
- 4 A unit of alcohol is defined as 10ml of pure ethanol. This is equivalent to a standard measure of spirits (25ml at 40% ABV) or half a pint of standard strength beer (284ml at 3.5% ABV)
- 5 Goddard E *Estimating alcohol consumption from survey data: updated method of converting volumes to units* National Statistics Methodology Series NSM 37 (ONS 2007), <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15067>
- 6 Goddard E *Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006.* (ONS 2008), <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=5756>

Alcohol consumption in Great Britain

Table 2.1 Drinking last week, by sex and age: 1998 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>	
Drinking last week	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	<i>Weighted base 2007 (000s)=100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample 2007³</i>
Percentages											
Men											
Drank last week											
16-24	70	70	70	69	70	66	64	60	64	2,591	760
25-44	79	78	78	77	77	76	74	73	74	7,021	2,180
45-64	77	77	76	76	78	76	77	76	76	6,512	2,550
65 and over	65	67	68	67	69	68	66	67	67	3,879	1,760
Total	75	75	75	74	75	73	72	71	72	20,003	7,240
Drank on 5 or more days last week											
16-24	13	11	14	11	14	8	10	8	9	2,591	760
25-44	21	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	18	7,021	2,180
45-64	29	26	25	26	26	28	28	26	27	6,512	2,550
65 and over	25	28	27	28	29	28	26	27	29	3,879	1,760
Total	23	22	22	22	23	23	22	21	22	20,003	7,240
Women											
Drank last week											
16-24	62	64	59	61	61	60	56	53	54	2,661	800
25-44	65	67	66	65	65	62	62	60	61	7,818	2,740
45-64	61	61	61	63	64	62	61	61	61	7,210	2,860
65 and over	45	43	45	46	45	45	43	44	45	4,922	1,990
Total	59	60	59	59	60	58	57	56	57	22,611	8,380
Drank on 5 or more days last week											
16-24	8	7	8	7	4	5	5	3	4	2,661	800
25-44	12	11	11	11	10	9	11	9	11	7,818	2,740
45-64	15	15	17	17	17	18	17	15	15	7,210	2,860
65 and over	14	14	15	15	16	16	14	15	15	4,922	1,990
Total	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	12	22,611	8,380

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.2 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and age: 1998 to 2007

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>											<i>Great Britain</i>	
Maximum daily amount	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ² original method	2006 ² updated method	2007 ²	<i>Weighted base 2007 (000s)=100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample 2007³</i>
Percentages												
Men												
Drank more than 4 units on at least one day												
16-24	52	50	50	49	51	47	42	39	42	44	2,564	760
25-44	48	45	49	46	47	48	42	42	48	48	7,010	2,180
45-64	37	38	37	38	41	37	35	33	42	44	6,493	2,540
65 and over	16	16	18	16	19	20	16	14	21	23	3,873	1,750
Total	39	39	40	38	40	39	35	33	40	41	19,940	7,230
Drank more than 8 units on at least one day												
16-24	39	37	37	35	37	32	30	27	30	32	2,564	760
25-44	29	27	30	28	30	31	25	25	31	31	7,010	2,180
45-64	17	17	17	18	20	18	16	15	21	24	6,493	2,540
65 and over	4	5	5	5	6	7	4	4	7	8	3,873	1,750
Total	22	21	22	21	23	22	19	18	23	24	19,940	7,230
Women												
Drank more than 3 units on at least one day												
16-24	42	42	40	42	40	39	36	34	39	40	2,675	800
25-44	28	31	31	31	30	28	26	27	40	43	7,818	2,740
45-64	17	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	35	36	7,202	2,860
65 and over	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	14	14	4,915	1,990
Total	21	23	23	23	23	22	20	20	33	34	22,611	8,380
Drank more than 6 units on at least one day												
16-24	24	27	27	28	26	24	22	20	25	24	2,675	800
25-44	11	13	14	13	13	13	11	12	21	22	7,818	2,740
45-64	5	5	5	5	5	6	4	4	12	13	7,202	2,860
65 and over	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	4,915	1,990
Total	8	10	10	10	9	9	8	8	15	15	22,611	8,380

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/5 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results for 2006 & 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.

Table 2.3 Whether drank last week and number of drinking days, by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>				
Drinking days last week	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
0	36	26	24	33	28	
1	22	20	16	18	19	
2	18	15	14	9	14	
3	11	14	12	7	11	
4	5	7	8	4	6	
5	4	6	6	5	6	
6	2	4	4	2	3	
7	3	9	17	22	13	
% who drank last week	64	74	76	67	72	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	2,591	7,021	6,512	3,879	20,003	
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	760	2,180	2,550	1,760	7,240	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Women						
0	46	39	39	55	43	
1	24	21	17	15	19	
2	14	14	13	6	12	
3	9	10	10	5	9	
4	3	5	6	3	5	
5	2	4	4	2	4	
6	0	2	2	2	2	
7	2	5	9	12	7	
% who drank last week	54	61	61	45	57	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	2,661	7,818	7,210	4,922	22,611	
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	800	2,740	2,860	1,990	8,380	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons						
0	41	33	32	45	36	
1	23	20	17	16	19	
2	16	14	14	7	13	
3	10	12	11	6	10	
4	4	6	7	4	6	
5	3	5	5	3	4	
6	1	3	3	2	2	
7	2	7	12	16	10	
% who drank last week	59	67	68	55	64	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	5,252	14,839	13,722	8,800	42,614	
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	1,560	4,920	5,410	3,740	15,630	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.4 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and age

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007²</i>				
Maximum daily amount	Age					
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Men						
Drank nothing last week	37	26	24	33	28	
Up to 4 units	<u>20</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>31</u>	
More than 4, up to 8 units	<u>12</u> 44	<u>17</u> 48	<u>20</u> 44	<u>14</u> 23	<u>17</u> 41	
More than 8 units	<u>32</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>24</u>	
	%		%	%	%	
Women						
Drank nothing last week	46	39	39	55	43	
Up to 3 units	<u>13</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>	
More than 3, up to 6 units	<u>16</u> 40	<u>20</u> 43	<u>23</u> 36	<u>11</u> 14	<u>19</u> 34	
More than 6 units	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	
All persons¹						
Drank nothing last week	42	33	32	45	36	
Up to 4/3 units	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>27</u>	
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	<u>14</u> 42	<u>19</u> 45	<u>21</u> 40	<u>13</u> 18	<u>18</u> 37	
More than 8/6 units	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>	
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>						
<i>Men</i>	2,564	7,010	6,493	3,873	19,940	
<i>Women</i>	2,675	7,818	7,202	4,915	22,611	
<i>All persons</i>	5,239	14,828	13,696	8,789	42,552	
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>						
<i>Men</i>	760	2,180	2,540	1,750	7,230	
<i>Women</i>	800	2,740	2,860	1,990	8,380	
<i>All persons</i>	1,560	4,920	5,400	3,740	15,620	

1 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

2 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.5 Drinking last week, by sex, age and marital status

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain: 2007</i>									
Marital status	Men			Women			All persons												
	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	16-44	45 and over	Total	
Percentage who drank last week																			
Single	66	60	65	58	47	56	62	54	61										
Married/cohabiting	76	76	76	60	61	61	67	69	68										
Divorced/separated	70	71	71	62	51	55	65	59	61										
Widowed	*	61	62	34	38	38	39	44	44										
Total	72	73	72	59	55	57	65	63	64										
Percentage who drank on five or more days last week																			
Single	11	20	13	5	15	7	8	18	10										
Married/cohabiting	19	29	25	11	17	15	15	23	20										
Divorced/separated	15	23	21	11	10	10	12	15	14										
Widowed	*	23	23	9	12	12	16	14	14										
Total	16	27	22	9	15	12	12	21	17										
Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ¹																			
Single	46	29	43	43	22	39	44	26	41										
Married/cohabiting	48	38	42	41	32	36	44	35	39										
Divorced/separated	37	39	39	46	28	34	43	32	36										
Widowed	*	24	24	34	11	11	39	14	15										
Total	47	36	41	42	27	34	44	31	37										
Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ¹																			
Single	31	17	28	26	10	24	29	14	26										
Married/cohabiting	31	19	24	21	10	15	26	15	19										
Divorced/separated	25	23	24	25	10	15	25	15	18										
Widowed	*	10	10	29	3	3	35	4	5										
Total	31	18	24	23	9	15	27	13	20										
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>																			
Single	3,875	856	4,730	3,466	684	4,152	7,341	1,540	8,881										
Married/cohabiting	5,329	7,775	13,104	6,242	7,542	13,783	11,571	15,316	26,888										
Divorced/separated	366	941	1,308	743	1,516	2,259	1,110	2,457	3,567										
Widowed	*	*	798	*	*	2,418	46	3,171	3,217										
Total	*	*	19,940	*	*	22,611	20,067	22,484	42,552										
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>																			
Single	1,080	300	1,390	1,120	250	1,370	2,200	550	2,760										
Married/cohabiting	1,750	3,330	5,080	2,140	3,180	5,320	3,900	6,510	10,400										
Divorced/separated	100	340	450	270	560	830	370	900	1,270										
Widowed	*	*	320	*	*	860	10	1,180	1,190										
Total	*	*	7,230	*	*	8,380	6,480	9,140	15,620										

Shaded figures indicate the estimates are unreliable and any analysis using these figures may be invalid. Any use of these shaded figures must be accompanied by this disclaimer.

Cells with small counts have been suppressed for disclosure control purposes

1 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

2 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently. The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.6 Drinking last week, by sex, and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>	<i>Great Britain: 2007²</i>		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	All persons
Percentage who drank last week			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	84	77	81
Higher professional	82	69	76
Lower managerial and professional	77	65	70
Intermediate			
Intermediate	72	56	62
Small employers/own account workers	72	59	66
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	70	50	60
Semi-routine	63	45	52
Routine	64	42	52
Total ¹	72	57	64
Percentage who drank on 5 or more days last week			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	32	23	28
Higher professional	29	18	24
Lower managerial and professional	24	15	19
Intermediate			
Intermediate	21	12	15
Small employers/own account workers	25	14	19
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	18	9	14
Semi-routine	17	7	11
Routine	14	6	9
Total ¹	22	12	17
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,751	1,742	3,493
Higher professional	2,199	1,940	4,139
Lower managerial and professional	4,577	5,419	9,996
Intermediate	1,340	2,153	3,493
Small employers/own account workers	2,208	2,117	4,325
Lower supervisory and technical	2,396	2,192	4,587
Semi-routine	2,229	3,212	5,442
Routine	2,315	2,625	4,940
Total ¹	19,397	21,897	41,295
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	690	700	1,380
Higher professional	810	760	1,560
Lower managerial and professional	1,740	2,090	3,830
Intermediate	490	800	1,280
Small employers/own account workers	780	760	1,540
Lower supervisory and technical	850	800	1,650
Semi-routine	770	1,150	1,930
Routine	830	950	1,790
Total ¹	7,060	8,160	15,220

1 Full-time students, members of the Armed Forces, the long term unemployed and those who have never worked are not shown as separate categories but are included in the totals.

2 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.7 Maximum number of units drunk on at least one day last week, by sex and socio-economic classification based on the current or last job of the household reference person

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2007³

Socio-economic classification of household reference person ¹	Men	Women	All persons
Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ²			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	49	49	49
Higher professional	46 45	43 40	45 43
Lower managerial and professional	44	37	40
Intermediate			
Intermediate	42 40	33 35	37 37
Small employers/own account workers	40	36	38
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	41	30	36
Semi-routine	35 37	26 26	30 31
Routine	36	24	29
Total ¹	41	34	37
Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ²			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	28	21	25
Higher professional	29 27	19 17	24 22
Lower managerial and professional	25	16	20
Intermediate			
Intermediate	25 23	16 17	20 20
Small employers/own account workers	22	18	20
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	25	12	19
Semi-routine	21 22	12 12	16 17
Routine	21	11	16
Total ¹	24	15	19
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,751	1,740	3,491
Higher professional	2,195	1,942	4,137
Lower managerial and professional	4,560	5,412	9,971
Intermediate	1,332	2,153	3,485
Small employers/own account workers	2,206	2,115	4,321
Lower supervisory and technical	2,389	2,197	4,587
Semi-routine	2,221	3,209	5,429
Routine	2,312	2,631	4,942
Total ¹	19,347	21,891	41,238
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	690	700	1,380
Higher professional	810	760	1,560
Lower managerial and professional	1,740	2,090	3,830
Intermediate	480	800	1,280
Small employers/own account workers	780	760	1,530
Lower supervisory and technical	850	800	1,650
Semi-routine	770	1,150	1,920
Routine	830	950	1,790
Total ¹	7,050	8,150	15,210

1 Full-time students, members of the Armed Forces, the long term unemployed and those who have never worked are not shown as separate categories but are included in the totals.

2 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

3 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.8 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007²</i>						
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly household income (£)							
	Up to 200.00	200.01 - 400.00	400.01 - 600.00	600.01 - 800.00	800.01 - 1000.00	1000.01 or more	Total ¹	
Percentages								
Drank last week								
Men	59	63	70	74	79	84	72	
Women	39	52	55	62	65	71	57	
All persons	47	57	62	68	72	78	64	
Drank on 5 or more days								
Men	17	19	20	22	24	27	22	
Women	10	10	12	16	12	15	12	
All persons	13	14	16	19	18	21	17	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>								
<i>= 100%</i>								
Men	2,358	3,293	3,056	2,758	2,150	4,427	18,043	
Women	3,749	3,949	3,317	2,720	2,128	4,476	20,340	
All persons	6,108	7,243	6,373	5,478	4,278	8,903	38,383	
<i>Unweighted sample</i>								
Men	850	1,250	1,100	1,000	780	1,580	6,560	
Women	1,370	1,550	1,230	1,010	780	1,630	7,570	
All persons	2,210	2,800	2,330	2,010	1,560	3,210	14,130	

1 The total includes those for whom household income was not available

2 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.9 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and usual gross weekly household income

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007³</i>					
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly household income (£)						Total ¹
	Up to 200.00	200.01 - 400.00	400.01 - 600.00	600.01 - 800.00	800.01 - 1000.00	1000.01 or more	
Percentages							
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ²							
Men	27	29	40	42	49	54	41
Women	18	27	35	39	40	47	34
All persons	22	28	37	41	44	51	37
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ²							
Men	16	16	24	24	31	33	24
Women	7	11	17	20	18	21	15
All persons	10	13	20	22	25	27	20
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>							
<i>= 100%</i>							
Men	2,342	3,289	3,048	2,758	2,148	4,402	17,986
Women	3,753	3,945	3,317	2,720	2,128	4,476	20,340
All persons	6,095	7,234	6,365	5,478	4,276	8,878	38,327
<i>Unweighted sample</i>							
Men	840	1,250	1,100	1,000	770	1,580	6,540
Women	1,370	1,550	1,230	1,010	780	1,630	7,570
All persons	2,210	2,800	2,330	2,010	1,560	3,210	14,120

- 1 The total includes those for whom household income was not available
2 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.
3 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Table 2.10 Drinking last week, by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Drank last week					
Men	78	59	56	73	
Women	66	54	48	60	
All persons	72	57	51	66	
Drank on 5 or more days last week					
Men	21	14	16	20	
Women	12	10	11	12	
All persons	17	12	13	16	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
<i>= 100%</i>					
Men	12,779	529	2,816	16,124	
Women	12,228	398	5,061	17,687	
All persons	25,007	927	7,877	33,811	
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>					
Men	4,360	160	970	5,490	
Women	4,380	140	1,880	6,400	
All persons	8,730	300	2,860	11,890	

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.11 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and economic activity status

<i>Persons aged 16-64</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007²</i>			
Drinking last week	Economic activity status				
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total	
Percentages					
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	49	38	33	46	
Women	44	37	29	39	
All persons	46	38	31	42	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹					
Men	30	26	20	28	
Women	21	29	12	19	
All persons	26	27	15	23	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>					
<i>= 100%</i>					
Men	12,731	524	2,811	16,067	
Women	12,221	398	5,075	17,693	
All persons	24,952	922	7,886	33,760	
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>					
Men	4,340	160	970	5,480	
Women	4,370	140	1,890	6,400	
All persons	8,720	300	2,860	11,870	

1 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

2 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.12 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007²</i>					
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ¹ (£)						
	Up to 200.00	200.01 -300.00	300.01 -400.00	400.01 -600.00	600.01 -800.00	800.01 or more	Total
	Percentages						
Drank last week							
Men	76	72	73	79	83	87	79
Women	60	63	65	68	74	81	67
All persons	70	67	70	76	80	86	75
Drank on 5 or more days							
Men	24	17	19	19	25	28	22
Women	15	7	9	14	23	20	13
All persons	20	12	14	18	25	26	18
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>							
<i>= 100%</i>							
Men	823	1,435	1,814	3,101	1,550	1,891	10,613
Women	566	1,476	1,510	1,576	780	547	6,456
All persons	1,389	2,912	3,324	4,677	2,330	2,437	17,069
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>							
Men	280	460	600	1,050	540	700	3,630
Women	190	500	530	540	280	200	2,250
All persons	470	960	1,140	1,590	820	900	5,880

1 Usual gross weekly earnings for the respondent

2 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.13 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

<i>Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007³</i>						
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ¹ (£)							
	Up to 200.00	200.01 -300.00	300.01 -400.00	400.01 -600.00	600.01 -800.00	800.01 or more	Total	
Percentages								
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²								
Men	52	46	44	51	51	57	50	
Women	48	44	47	48	54	58	48	
All persons	50	45	46	50	52	57	49	
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²								
Men	32	30	28	31	34	34	31	
Women	26	21	24	25	29	28	25	
All persons	30	25	26	29	33	33	29	
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>								
<i>= 100%</i>								
Men	819	1,420	1,814	3,099	1,545	1,888	10,584	
Women	566	1,476	1,510	1,574	780	547	6,454	
All persons	1,385	2,896	3,324	4,673	2,325	2,435	17,038	
<i>Unweighted sample⁴</i>								
Men	280	460	600	1,050	540	700	3,630	
Women	190	500	530	540	280	200	2,250	
All persons	470	960	1,140	1,590	820	900	5,870	

1 Usual gross weekly earnings for the respondent

2 The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women

3 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

4 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.14 Drinking last week, by sex and Government Office Region

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>		<i>Great Britain: 2007¹</i>		
Government Office Region	Drinking last week		<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample²</i>
	Drank last week	Drank on 5 or more days last week		
Men				
	Percentages			
North East	71	18	794	290
North West	76	20	2,296	830
Yorkshire and the Humber	76	21	1,761	650
East Midlands	76	27	1,559	630
West Midlands	72	22	1,808	630
East of England	70	22	2,129	800
London	64	23	2,158	580
South East	75	23	2,859	1,070
South West	78	23	1,761	700
England	73	23	17,126	6,180
Wales	71	21	1,105	420
Scotland	65	15	1,773	650
Great Britain	72	22	20,003	7,240
Women				
North East	58	9	924	360
North West	62	12	2,609	970
Yorkshire and the Humber	60	15	2,089	800
East Midlands	57	14	1,716	710
West Midlands	53	12	2,047	730
East of England	61	13	2,218	860
London	44	13	2,562	700
South East	61	14	3,253	1,230
South West	60	12	1,984	800
England	57	13	19,401	7,160
Wales	60	12	1,139	450
Scotland	51	8	2,071	780
Great Britain	57	12	22,611	8,380
All persons				
North East	64	13	1,717	650
North West	68	16	4,905	1,800
Yorkshire and the Humber	67	18	3,851	1,450
East Midlands	66	20	3,275	1,340
West Midlands	62	17	3,855	1,360
East of England	65	18	4,347	1,660
London	53	17	4,720	1,280
South East	67	18	6,112	2,300
South West	68	18	3,745	1,500
England	65	17	36,527	13,330
Wales	65	16	2,244	860
Scotland	57	11	3,843	1,430
Great Britain	64	17	42,614	15,630

1 Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.

Table 2.15 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and Government Office Region

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2007²

Government Office Region	Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ¹	Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ¹	Weighted base (000's) = 100%	Unweighted sample ³
Percentages				
Men				
North East	43	22	789	290
North West	50	33	2,281	820
Yorkshire and the Humber	45	30	1,757	650
East Midlands	43	26	1,559	630
West Midlands	36	21	1,784	620
East of England	38	22	2,133	800
London	39	24	2,153	580
South East	40	23	2,859	1,070
South West	39	22	1,761	700
England	41	25	17,077	6,170
Wales	39	20	1,096	410
Scotland	41	23	1,767	650
Great Britain	41	24	19,940	7,230
Women				
North East	32	11	925	360
North West	41	21	2,619	970
Yorkshire and the Humber	39	21	2,086	790
East Midlands	34	16	1,716	710
West Midlands	28	12	2,039	730
East of England	33	13	2,218	860
London	28	12	2,561	700
South East	36	15	3,253	1,230
South West	35	17	1,984	800
England	34	16	19,401	7,160
Wales	35	16	1,139	450
Scotland	31	12	2,071	780
Great Britain	34	15	22,611	8,380
All persons				
North East	37	16	1,714	650
North West	45	27	4,900	1,800
Yorkshire and the Humber	42	25	3,842	1,440
East Midlands	38	21	3,275	1,340
West Midlands	32	16	3,824	1,350
East of England	35	17	4,351	1,660
London	33	18	4,715	1,270
South East	38	19	6,112	2,300
South West	37	19	3,745	1,500
England	38	20	36,479	13,320
Wales	37	18	2,235	860
Scotland	36	17	3,838	1,430
Great Britain	37	20	42,552	15,620

¹ The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

² Results for 2007 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

³ Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

The sum of component items does not therefore necessarily add to the totals shown.