

Smoking and drinking among adults, 2009

A report on the 2009 General Lifestyle Survey

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Office for National Statistics

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Introduction

In 2008 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) launched the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). In the IHS questionnaires are comprised of two sections: a suite of core IHS questions followed by individual survey modules. In 2009 the modules of the IHS were:

- General LiFestyle Survey (GLF)
- Living Cost and Food Survey (LCF)
- Opinions Survey (OPN)
- English Housing Survey (EHS)
- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Annual Population Survey (APS)
- Life Opportunities Survey (LOS)

Questions on smoking and drinking behaviour formed part of the General Household Survey (GHS) until 2008 when, to mark its entry into the IHS, it was renamed the General LiFestyle Survey (GLF). This report provides information about smoking and drinking based on data collected by the GLF in 2009. It also includes tables showing data on the trends and changes in smoking and drinking measured by the GLF in 2008 and by the GHS over several decades.

An overview of the General Lifestyle Survey

The GLF 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 as the GHS in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks to review it in 1997/1998 and to redevelop 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 person¹ 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 GLF 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
- employment

- education
- health and use of health services
- smoking
- drinking
- family information, including marriage, cohabitation and fertility
- income

The 2009 GLF was sponsored by ONS; the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care; Department for Work and Pensions; HM Revenue & Customs; and Scottish Government.

The GHS was conducted on a financial year basis between 1994 and 2005, with fieldwork spread evenly across the year from April to March. However, in 2005 the survey period reverted to a calendar year and the whole of the annual sample was dealt with in the nine months April to December 2005. From 2006 the GHS ran from January to December.

Another change in 2005 was that, in line with European requirements, the GHS adopted a longitudinal sample design, in which respondents remain in the sample for four years (waves) with around a quarter of the sample being replaced each year. Approximately 70 per cent of the 2009 sample was also interviewed in 2008. More details are given in Appendix B.

The response rate for the 2009 survey was 73 per cent, giving an achieved sample size of 8,206 households and 15,325 adults aged 16 and over. The smoking and drinking questions were answered in person by 13,488 of these adults (interviews obtained by proxy from another member of the household do not include all questions on smoking and drinking).

Other GLF results for 2009

Results for other GLF topics will be combined with those from other sources in Social Trends and other reports to be published in 2011. Tables from all GLF topic areas are published on the ONS website: www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5756. Technical information about the GLF in the form of appendices is also available, 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 (Appendix D)
- the household and individual questionnaires used in 2009, excluding self-completion forms and prompt cards (Appendix E)
- a list of the main topics covered by the survey since 1971 (Appendix F)

Smoking

As smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in Great Britain, reducing its prevalence is a key element in improving public health. The GLF and GHS have been monitoring smoking prevalence for over 35 years.

Respondents to the GHS aged 16 and over were asked questions about smoking behaviour in alternate years from 1974 to 1998. 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 in order to keep the tables in this report to a manageable size they only show data from each fourth year from 1974 to 1998.

This report updates information about trends in cigarette smoking presented in earlier GLF and GHS reports and on the ONS 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 report² 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 2009 include cigarette consumption, type of cigarette smoked, how old respondents were when they started smoking, and dependence on cigarettes.

Government policy and targets for the reduction of smoking

In December 1998 *Smoking Kills – a White Paper on tobacco*³ 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 Public Service Agreement (PSA) which revised the target downwards: to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults in England to 21 per cent or less by 2010⁴. In 2010 the white paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People*⁵ set out the government's long term policy for improving public health that includes the announcement that a new *Tobacco Control Plan* will be published in 2011.

Since smoking is estimated to be the cause of about a 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 2000⁶. In particular, the *Cancer Plan* focused 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 banning cigarette advertising on billboards and in the press and magazines in the UK, 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 with similar bans in England and Wales being introduced in

2007. On 1 October 2007 it became illegal in Great Britain to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. In England, from 1 October 2011, it will become illegal to sell tobacco products from vending machines.

The reliability of smoking estimates

As noted in earlier GHS reports, it is likely that the survey underestimates cigarette consumption and, perhaps to a lesser extent, prevalence (the proportion of people who smoke). For example, evidence suggests (Kozlowski, 1986⁷) 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.⁸

The prevalence of cigarette smoking

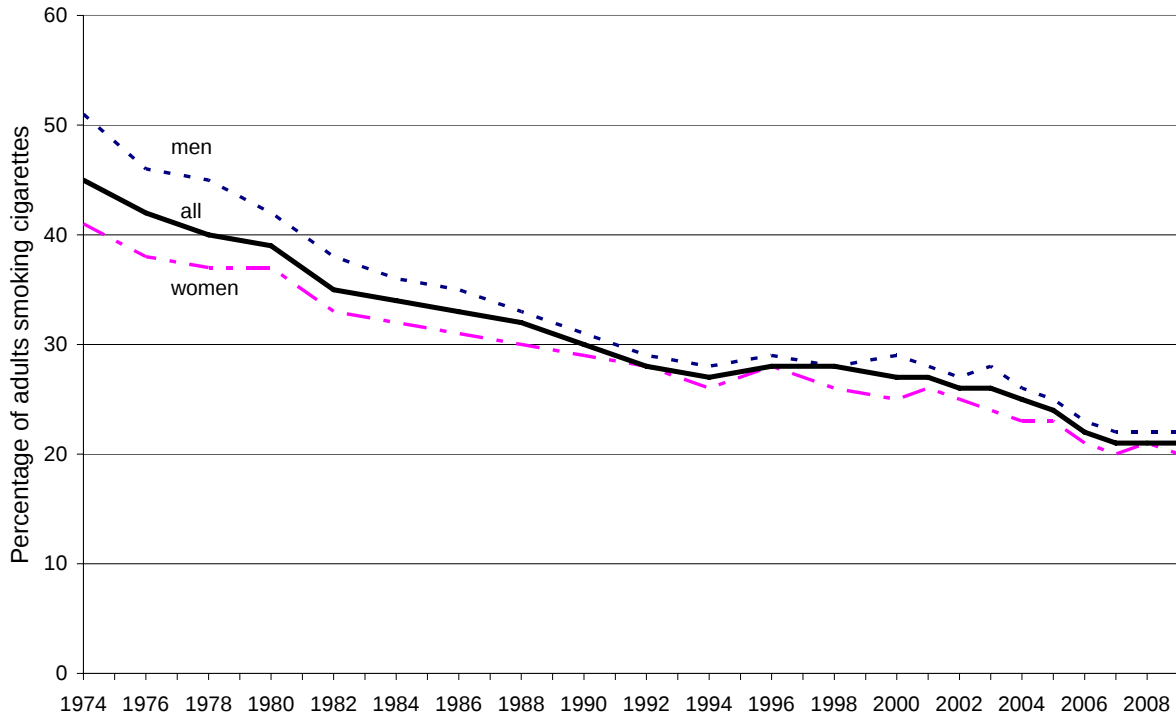
Trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking

In 2009, 21 per cent of the adult population of Great Britain were cigarette smokers. The overall prevalence of smoking has been at this level since 2007.

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.

Smoking prevalence was higher among men than women from 1974 until 2008 but in 2008 the difference between men and women was not statistically significant. In 2009, smoking prevalence was slightly higher among men (22 per cent) than among women (20 per cent).

Figure 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking: by sex*
Great Britain



* weighted data are shown from 1998 onwards

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

The difference in smoking prevalence between men and women has decreased considerably since the 1970s. In 1974, for example, 51 per cent of men smoked cigarettes, compared with 41 per cent of women. This 10-point difference has narrowed to just 2 points in 2009.

Overall, the proportion of respondents saying that they had never smoked did not change significantly between 2008 and 2009. There was, however, a significant increase in males aged 20 to 24 reporting that they have never smoked, rising from 61 per cent in 2008 to 71 per cent in 2009. This finding should be treated with caution as it is based on a small number of respondents. The proportion of women who reported being ex-smokers did not change but the proportion of men who reported being ex-smokers decreased from 30 per cent to 28 per cent.

Over the last 30 years there have been falls in the prevalence of smoking in all age groups. Since the survey began, the GHS has shown considerable fluctuation in smoking prevalence 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 occurred within a pattern of overall decline in smoking prevalence in this age group from 31 per cent in 1998 to 24 per cent in 2009. Since the early 1990s the prevalence of cigarette smoking has been higher among those aged 20 to 34 than among those in other age groups. In 2009, this group has the same prevalence as the 35 to 49 group: 26 per cent of the 20 to 24, 25 per cent of the 25 to 34,

and 25 per cent of the 35 to 49 age group were smokers. Smoking prevalence continued to be lowest among adults aged 60 and over at 14 per cent.

Figure 1.1, Tables 1.1-1.3

Cigarette smoking and marital status

The prevalence of cigarette smoking varies considerably according to marital status. The groups with the highest proportion of smokers were cohabiting adults (33 per cent) and single adults (27 per cent). Smoking prevalence was much lower among married people (15 per cent) 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, married people were less likely to be smokers than other respondents. For example, among those aged 25 to 34, 32 per cent of those who were single and 33 per cent of those who were cohabiting were smokers, compared with only 15 per cent of those who were married.

Tables 1.4-1.5

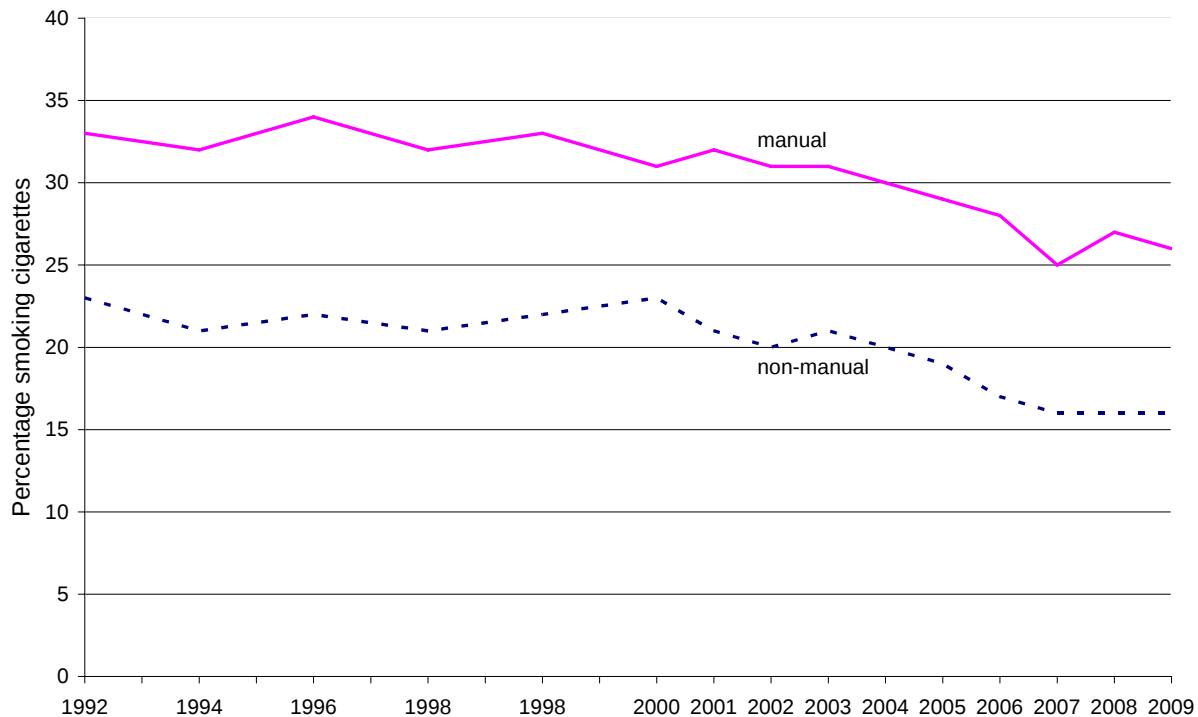
Cigarette smoking and socio-economic classification

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. As a result of the new occupation coding, the classifications are not exactly the same, and comparisons with previous years should be made 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, 1980s and 1990s, 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).

In the period between 1998 and 2009 smoking continued to fall more quickly in the non-manual group than in the manual group. In the non-manual group smoking fell by a quarter over this period while in the manual group it fell by a fifth. In England in 2009, 26 per cent of those in manual groups were cigarette smokers, compared with 33 per cent in 1998. In the non-manual group 16 per cent were smokers in 2009 compared with 22 per cent in 1998.

Figure 1.2 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by socio-economic group*
England



* weighted data are shown from 1998 onwards

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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 coded.

Table 1.7 shows similar trends in England since 2001 using the new socio-economic classification⁹ (NS-SEC) of the household reference person. The previously mentioned Public Service Agreement (PSA) target was 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 2009, the prevalence of cigarette smoking fell by five percentage points among those in routine and manual households (from 33 per cent to 28 per cent), and by eight percentage points among those in intermediate households (from 27 per cent to 19 per cent). Smoking prevalence fell by four percentage points among those in managerial and professional households (from 19 per cent in 2001 to 15 per cent in 2009). In England, smoking is nearly twice as common in routine and manual households as it is in managerial and professional households (28 per cent compared to 15 per cent).

The prevalence of cigarette smoking in Great Britain in 2009 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. Smoking

prevalence was lowest among those in higher professional households (10 per cent) and highest, at 32 per cent, among those whose household reference person was in a routine occupation. Between 2008 and 2009 the percentage of women smokers in the intermediate classification decreased from 22 per cent to 16 per cent, leading to a fall in smoking prevalence from 21 per cent to 17 per cent among all adults in that group. In Great Britain, smoking is nearly twice as common in routine and manual households as it is in managerial and professional households (29 per cent compared to 15 per cent).

Figure 1.2, Tables 1.6-1.8

Cigarette smoking and economic activity

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.

Smoking prevalence was highest among economically inactive people aged 16 to 59: 30 per cent of this group were smokers, compared with 22 per cent of economically active people and only 13 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, 50 per cent of them were cigarette smokers. This figure shows a significant increase from 2008, when the smoking prevalence of the same group was 42 per cent.

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

Variation in cigarette smoking between countries and regions

The data presented so far have been mainly for Great Britain, but the PSA targets and those included in the *NHS Cancer Plan* related to England only. Table 1.10 shows that in 2009, overall prevalence in England was 21 per cent, the same as in Great Britain as a whole.

In every previous year except 2004, smoking prevalence has been higher in Scotland than in England, although the difference has not always been large enough to be statistically significant. In 2009, 25 per cent of adults in Scotland were smokers, a significantly higher proportion than in England. In Wales, 23 per cent of adults were smokers. This figure is not significantly different to the ones for England or Scotland due to sample size.

The region of England with the highest prevalence was the North West, where 23 per cent of people were cigarette smokers. The prevalence of cigarette smoking was lowest, at 18 per cent, in the South West.

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.

Tables 1.10-1.12

Cigarette consumption

The overall decline in smoking prevalence in Great Britain 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 adults smoking on average 20 or more cigarettes a day fell, between 1974 and 2009, from 26 per cent to 7 per cent among men and from 13 per cent to 5 per cent among women. Over the same period the proportion smoking fewer than 20 per day fell from 25 per cent to 15 per cent for men and from 28 per cent to 15 per cent for women.

In all age groups, respondents were much more likely to be light to moderate than heavy smokers, the difference was most pronounced among those aged under 35. For example, 21 per cent of both men and women aged 25 to 34 were light to moderate smokers in 2009, and only 6 per cent and 3 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. As in previous years, male smokers smoked slightly more cigarettes a day on average than female smokers: in 2009, men smoked on average 14 cigarettes a day, compared with 13 for women. Among both men and women smokers, cigarette consumption varied by age. The highest average was 16 cigarettes a day among men in the 50 to 59 age group although the difference between this group and the 35 to 49 and 60 and over age groups was not statistically significant.

GHS reports have consistently shown cigarette consumption levels to be higher among men and women smokers in manual socio-economic groups than among those in non-manual groups. A similar pattern is evident in relation to NS-SEC. In 2009, 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 2009 this had risen to 37 per cent and 21 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 2009, so that the proportion of all adults who smoke hand-rolled tobacco has not increased so sharply: it rose from about 3 per cent to about 6 per cent (no table shown).

Figure 1.3, Tables 1.17-1.18

Figure 1.3 Type of cigarette smoked: by sex:
Great Britain



Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Tar yield

In 1986, 40 per cent of those who smoked manufactured cigarettes smoked brands yielding 15 mg 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 12 mg per cigarette by the beginning of 1998. A European Union 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 12 mg or more since 2003, even though these were the main brand of more than a third of smokers in previous years. There was a corresponding increase in the next highest category: the proportion of smokers smoking brands with a yield of 10 to 11mg increased from 13 per cent in 1998 to 71 per cent in 2003 staying at about the same level until 2007 when it dropped to 62 per cent¹⁰. In 2009 the proportion of smokers smoking brands with a yield of 10 to 11mg was 59 per cent.

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: 36 per cent of smokers in managerial and professional households smoked cigarettes with a tar yield less than 8 mg, 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.

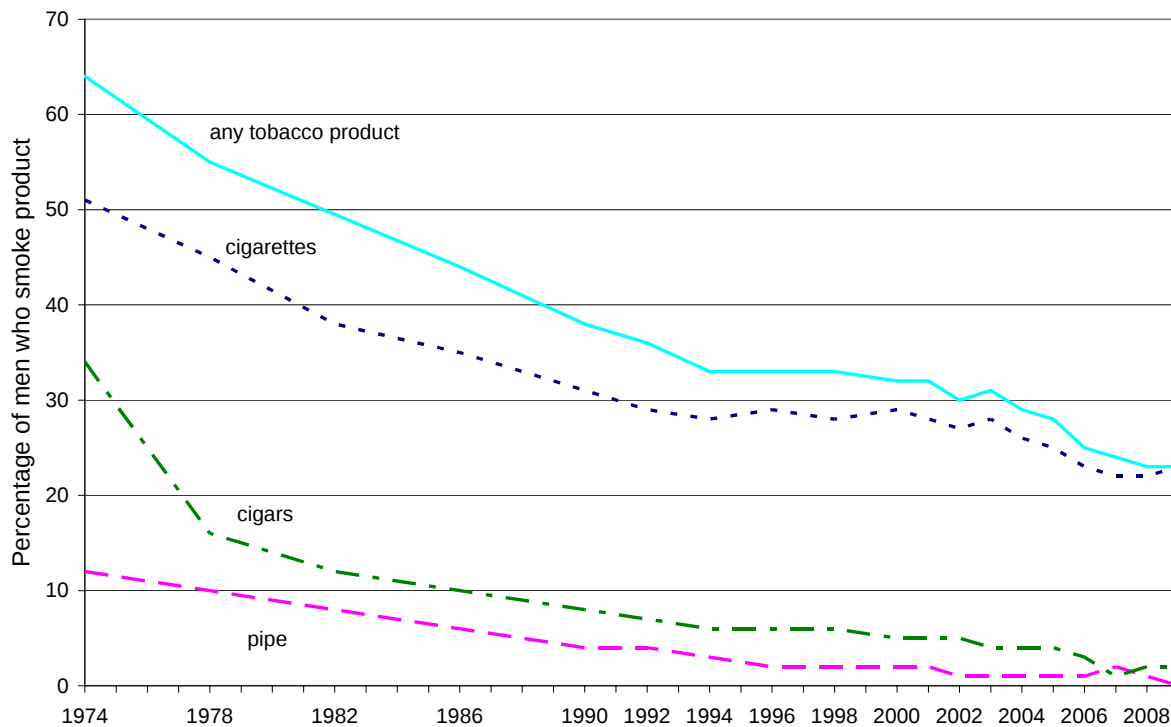
In 2009 only 2 per cent of men smoked at least one cigar a month, compared with 34 per cent in 1974. Only a small number of women smoked cigars in 1974, and since 1978 the percentages have been scarcely measurable on the GHS.

Less than half of 1 per cent of men in 2009 said they smoked a pipe (rounded to zero in the tables), and they were almost all aged 50 and over. Cigar smoking is slightly more common among men aged 30 and over than it is among men aged under 30.

Figure 1.4, Tables 1.23-1.24

Figure 1.4 Type of tobacco product smoked by men

Great Britain



Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Age started smoking

The White Paper *Smoking Kills* 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 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 has been illegal to sell cigarettes to people aged under 16 since 1908 and has recently become illegal to sell cigarettes to people under 18 years of age¹¹. Men were more likely than women to have started smoking before they were 16 (42 per cent of men who had ever smoked regularly, compared with 37 per cent of women in 2009).

Since the early 1990s there has 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 started before they were 16. In 2009 the corresponding figure was 37 per cent. 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. In managerial and professional households, 33 per cent of smokers had started smoking before they were 16, compared with 47 per cent of those in routine and manual households.

Current heavy smokers were more likely than light or ex-smokers to have started smoking at an early age. Of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day, 52 per cent started smoking regularly before they were 16, compared with 39 per cent of those currently smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

Tables 1.25-1.27

Dependence on cigarette smoking

Since 1992 the GHS/GLF 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 little change since 1992 in any of the three measures.

In 2009, 63 per cent of smokers said they would like to stop smoking altogether and 57 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 – 81 per cent of those smoking 20 or more cigarettes a day did so, compared with only 28 per cent of those smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes a day.

In 2009, 15 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: 32 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.

Smokers in routine and manual households were more likely than those in managerial and professional households to say they would find it difficult to go without smoking for a whole day (61 per cent compared with 50 per cent). 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 those in routine and manual households to have had their first cigarette within five minutes of waking than those in routine and manual households (11 per cent compared with 18 per cent).

Tables 1.28-1.33

Notes and references

- 1 The term 'household reference person' is defined in appendix A of the GLF overview report. Available at: www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5756
- 2 Goddard E, General Household Survey 2005, Smoking and drinking among adults, 2005, ONS 2006.
- 3 Smoking kills – a White Paper on tobacco. The Stationery Office (London 1998)
- 4 Available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr04_psaindex.htm
- 5 Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England, Department of Health, 2010: available at http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122347.pdf
- 6 The NHS Cancer Plan, Department of Health, 2000: available at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/01/45/13/04014513.pdf
- 7 Kozlowski L T, Pack size, reported smoking rates and public health, American Journal of Public Health, 76 (11) pp1337–8 November 1986
- 8 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
- 9 Further information on National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification is available at: 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 tables

Figures for unweighted sample sizes are rounded independently. The sum of component items does not, therefore, necessarily add to the totals shown.

The following conventions have been used within tables:

- Category not available.

* Information is suppressed as a measure of disclosure control.

Table 1.1 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age: 1974 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over																			Great Britain	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²		
Percentage smoking cigarettes																				
Men																				
16-19	42	35	31	30	28	28	30	30	30	25	22	27	23	23	20	22	18	24	1,083	280
20-24	52	45	41	41	38	40	42	41	35	40	37	38	36	34	33	32	29	24	1,232	280
25-34	56	48	40	37	36	34	37	38	39	38	36	38	35	34	33	29	30	27	2,867	690
35-49	55	48	40	37	34	31	32	33	31	31	29	32	31	29	26	25	24	26	5,578	1,530
50-59	53	48	42	35	28	27	27	28	27	26	27	26	26	25	23	22	23	22	3,088	1,030
60 and over	44	38	33	29	24	18	16	16	16	16	17	16	15	14	13	13	13	15	5,753	2,340
All aged 16 and over	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	22	22	19,602	6,160
Women																				
16-19	38	33	30	30	32	27	31	32	28	31	29	25	25	26	20	20	26	24	1,092	290
20-24	44	43	40	38	39	38	39	39	35	35	38	34	29	30	29	30	31	28	1,444	330
25-34	46	42	37	35	34	30	33	33	32	31	33	31	28	29	26	23	25	24	3,148	890
35-49	49	43	38	34	33	28	28	29	27	28	27	28	28	26	25	23	23	23	6,411	1,940
50-59	48	42	40	35	29	26	27	27	28	25	24	23	22	23	22	21	20	20	3,422	1,180
60 and over	26	24	23	22	20	17	16	16	15	17	14	14	14	13	12	12	12	13	6,747	2,660
All aged 16 and over	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	21	20	22,263	7,290
Total																				
16-19	40	34	30	30	30	27	31	31	29	28	25	26	24	24	20	21	22	24	2,175	560
20-24	48	44	40	39	38	39	40	40	35	37	38	36	32	32	31	31	30	26	2,676	620
25-34	51	45	38	36	35	32	35	35	35	34	34	34	31	31	30	26	27	25	6,015	1,580
35-49	52	45	39	36	34	30	30	31	29	29	28	30	29	27	25	24	24	25	11,988	3,470
50-59	51	45	41	35	29	27	27	28	27	26	26	25	24	24	22	21	22	21	6,510	2,220
60 and over	34	30	27	25	21	17	16	16	16	17	15	15	14	14	12	12	13	14	12,500	5,000
All aged 16 and over	45	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	21	21	41,865	13,450

1 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004/05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.2 Ex-regular cigarette smokers by sex and age: 1974 to 2009

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																			<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	3	3	1,083	280
20-24	9	9	9	11	8	7	8	9	7	9	7	7	8	7	11	9	11	6	1,232	280
25-34	18	18	20	20	16	16	13	13	12	15	13	13	15	14	16	17	17	17	2,867	690
35-49	21	26	32	33	32	27	22	21	20	20	20	20	20	19	20	21	25	24	5,578	1,530
50-59	30	35	38	38	42	40	41	40	36	36	35	32	34	34	31	33	31	31	3,088	1,030
60 and over	37	43	47	52	52	55	54	54	52	47	51	50	50	51	49	49	50	48	5,753	2,340
All aged 16 and over	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27	28	30	28	19,602	6,160
Women																				
16-19	4	5	6	7	6	6	7	8	6	6	5	6	4	4	4	2	3	6	1,092	290
20-24	9	8	9	9	8	10	8	8	11	12	10	10	8	9	11	11	10	10	1,444	330
25-34	12	14	15	16	14	14	14	14	13	16	16	16	14	15	17	16	18	18	3,148	890
35-49	10	13	15	20	20	21	19	19	19	19	17	16	18	18	18	19	19	21	6,411	1,940
50-59	13	18	19	18	20	22	25	25	24	24	26	27	27	25	25	25	23	23	3,422	1,180
60 and over	11	16	20	23	27	29	29	29	29	29	30	29	28	29	30	29	31	31	6,747	2,660
All aged 16 and over	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21	21	22	22	22,263	7,290

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.3 Percentage who have never smoked cigarettes regularly by sex and age: 1974 to 2009

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>																			<i>Great Britain</i>	
Age	Unweighted							Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	80	74	1,083	280
20-24	38	46	50	47	54	53	49	50	58	51	55	54	55	59	56	59	61	71	1,232	280
25-34	26	33	39	43	48	50	50	49	49	47	51	49	50	53	51	54	54	56	2,867	690
35-49	24	26	28	30	34	42	46	45	49	49	51	48	50	52	54	53	50	50	5,578	1,530
50-59	16	17	20	26	31	33	32	32	37	38	38	41	40	41	46	45	46	48	3,088	1,030
60 and over	18	18	20	19	24	27	30	30	32	36	32	34	35	35	38	38	37	38	5,753	2,340
All aged 16 and over	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50	50	49	50	19,602	6,160
Women																				
16-19	58	62	64	62	62	67	62	61	66	63	66	69	70	70	76	78	71	70	1,092	290
20-24	47	49	51	54	53	52	53	53	54	53	52	55	62	61	61	60	59	62	1,444	330
25-34	42	44	48	48	52	55	53	53	54	53	51	53	58	56	57	61	57	58	3,148	890
35-49	41	44	47	46	48	51	52	52	54	53	55	55	54	56	58	58	57	56	6,411	1,940
50-59	38	39	41	47	51	52	48	48	48	51	50	50	51	51	53	55	56	57	3,422	1,180
60 and over	63	60	57	55	54	54	55	56	56	54	55	57	58	58	58	58	57	56	6,747	2,660
All aged 16 and over	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58	59	58	57	22,263	7,290

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.4 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and marital status

Persons aged 16 and over					Great Britain: 2009 ¹			
Marital status	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)	Total	Ex-regular cigarette smokers	Never or only occasionally smoked cigarettes			
Percentages								
Men								
Single	20	6	27	13	61	4,766	1,180	
Married/cohabiting	13	6	19	33	48	12,652	4,280	
Married couple	11	5	16	36	49	10,577	3,670	
Cohabiting couple	25	9	35	20	45	2,075	610	
Widowed/divorced/separated	16	12	29	36	35	2,185	700	
All aged 16 and over	15	7	22	28	50	19,602	6,160	
Women								
Single	22	7	28	12	59	4,199	1,190	
Married/cohabiting	13	4	17	23	60	13,443	4,540	
Married couple	11	4	14	23	63	11,181	3,860	
Cohabiting couple	26	5	31	24	45	2,262	680	
Widowed/divorced/separated	15	6	22	30	48	4,621	1,560	
All aged 16 and over	15	5	20	22	57	22,263	7,290	
Total								
Single	21	7	27	13	60	8,965	2,370	
Married/cohabiting	13	5	18	28	54	26,095	8,820	
Married couple	11	4	15	29	56	21,758	7,530	
Cohabiting couple	26	7	33	22	45	4,337	1,290	
Widowed/divorced/separated	16	8	24	32	44	6,805	2,260	
All aged 16 and over	15	6	21	25	54	41,865	13,450	

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.5 Cigarette-smoking status by age and marital status*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Marital status	Age					Total
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	
Percentage smoking cigarettes						
Single	23	32	35	27	20	27
Married/cohabiting	32	22	20	18	12	18
Married couple	20	15	17	17	11	15
Cohabiting couple	38	33	35	30	17	33
Widowed/divorced/separated	*	52	39	31	17	24
All aged 16 and over	25	25	25	21	14	21
<i>Weighted base (000s)= 100%</i>						
Single	4,052	1,752	1,890	510	761	8,965
Married/cohabiting	792	4,142	8,719	4,999	7,444	26,095
Married couple	291	2,551	7,143	4,620	7,154	21,758
Cohabiting couple	500	1,591	1,576	379	290	4,337
Widowed/divorced/separated	8	121	1,380	1,001	4,296	6,805
All aged 16 and over	4,852	6,015	11,988	6,510	12,500	41,865
<i>Unweighted sample</i>						
Single	1,000	450	490	160	270	2,370
Married/cohabiting	180	1,090	2,570	1,730	3,240	8,820
Married couple	50	670	2,100	1,590	3,110	7,530
Cohabiting couple	130	420	470	140	130	1,290
Widowed/divorced/separated	0	40	410	320	1,490	2,260
All aged 16 and over	1,180	1,580	3,470	2,220	5,000	13,450

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

* Information is suppressed for low cell counts as a measure of disclosure control.

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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.6 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and whether household reference person is in a non-manual socio-economic group: England 1992 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over																England	
Socio-economic group of household reference person ³	Unweighted				Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ⁵	Unweighted sample ⁵ 2009
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ⁴	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²		
Percentage smoking cigarettes																	
Men																	
Non-manual	22	21	21	21	22	24	22	21	22	22	19	18	18	16	17	8,908	2,770
Manual	35	34	35	34	35	34	34	32	33	31	31	29	27	28	27	6,852	2,160
Total ⁶	29	28	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	21	22	16,765	5,220
Women																	
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	22	20	20	20	19	18	16	16	16	15	10,491	3,420
Manual	30	30	33	31	31	29	31	30	29	28	28	27	24	26	25	7,288	2,360
Total ⁶	27	25	27	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	20	20	18,991	6,160
All persons																	
Non-manual	23	21	22	21	22	23	21	20	21	20	19	17	16	16	16	19,400	6,190
Manual	33	32	34	32	33	31	32	31	31	30	29	28	25	27	26	14,140	4,520
Total ⁶	28	26	28	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	21	21	35,756	11,370

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 from 2006 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 GLF/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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.7 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and socio-economic classification of the household reference person: England, 2001 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over										England	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Weighted									Weighted base 2009 (000s) = 100% ⁴	Unweighted sample ⁴ 2009
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006 ¹	2007 ¹	2008 ¹	2009 ¹		
Percentage smoking cigarettes											
Men											
Managerial and professional	21	20	20	20	18	17	16	15	15	7,298	2,270
Intermediate	29	27	28	26	24	22	21	21	20	2,761	860
Routine and manual	34	32	34	32	32	32	28	31	29	5,725	1,810
Total ³	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	21	22	16,777	5,220
Women											
Managerial and professional	17	17	17	17	16	14	14	14	14	7,689	2,490
Intermediate	26	25	24	22	22	20	18	21	18	3,455	1,120
Routine and manual	31	31	30	30	29	28	24	27	27	6,719	2,180
Total ³	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	20	20	19,019	6,160
All persons											
Managerial and professional	19	19	18	19	17	15	15	14	15	14,987	4,760
Intermediate	27	26	26	24	23	21	20	21	19	6,216	1,980
Routine and manual	33	31	32	31	31	29	26	29	28	12,444	3,980
Total ³	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	21	21	35,796	11,380

1 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2009¹

Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²	Men	Women	Total
Percentage smoking cigarettes			
Managerial and professional			
Large employers and higher managerial	12	13	13
Higher professional	11	10	10
Lower managerial and professional	18	16	17
Intermediate			
Intermediate	19	16	17
Small employers and own account	23	21	22
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	25	27	26
Semi-routine	31	26	28
Routine	34	30	32
Total ²	22	20	21
<i>Weighted bases (000s) =100%</i>			
Large employers and higher managerial	1,282	1,326	2,607
Higher professional	2,092	1,789	3,881
Lower managerial and professional	4,976	5,668	10,642
Intermediate	1,292	2,176	3,468
Small employers and own account	1,893	1,859	3,753
Lower supervisory and technical	2,472	2,303	4,775
Semi-routine	2,247	3,218	5,464
Routine	2,134	2,388	4,521
Total ²	19,563	22,150	41,713
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employers and higher managerial	420	440	860
Higher professional	630	590	1,220
Lower managerial and professional	1,570	1,870	3,450
Intermediate	400	710	1,100
Small employers and own account	600	610	1,210
Lower supervisory and technical	800	760	1,550
Semi-routine	690	1,040	1,730
Routine	690	790	1,480
Total ²	6,140	7,250	13,400

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Persons aged 16 and over											Great Britain: 2009 ¹				
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	25	8	10	15	15	14	10	11	14	16	17	9	11	15
Intermediate	21	42	14	18	21	19	21	11	13	19	20	26	12	15	20
Routine and manual	31	59	19	29	30	30	45	17	26	27	31	50	18	27	29
Total ²	23	35	13	20	22	21	28	13	19	20	22	30	13	19	21
Weighted bases (000s) =100%															
Managerial and professional	5,493	241	1,557	1,799	7,292	4,979	638	1,299	1,936	6,915	10,472	879	2,856	3,735	14,207
Intermediate	2,201	126	669	795	2,996	2,927	470	1,449	1,919	4,846	5,128	596	2,118	2,714	7,842
Routine and manual	4,439	617	1,905	2,522	6,966	4,016	1,203	2,561	3,765	7,784	8,455	1,821	4,466	6,287	14,750
Total ²	13,419	1,822	4,352	6,174	19,602	12,974	3,523	5,763	9,287	22,263	26,393	5,346	10,115	15,461	41,865
Unweighted sample															
Managerial and professional	1,610	70	660	720	2,340	1,530	200	520	720	2,250	3,150	270	1,180	1,440	4,590
Intermediate	660	40	270	310	970	900	140	580	720	1,620	1,560	180	850	1,030	2,590
Routine and manual	1,280	170	780	950	2,230	1,230	400	990	1,380	2,620	2,510	570	1,760	2,330	4,850
Total ²	3,870	500	1,790	2,280	6,160	3,960	1,070	2,260	3,330	7,290	7,830	1,560	4,050	5,610	13,450

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.10 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and country: 1978 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over																			Great Britain	
Country	Unweighted						Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009	
	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²			
Percentage smoking cigarettes																				
Men																				
England	44	37	34	31	28	28	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	21	22	16,816	5,230	
Wales	44	36	33	30	28	28	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	21	20	21	1,035	370	
Scotland	48	45	37	33	31	33	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	24	23	25	1,751	550	
Great Britain	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	22	22	19,602	6,160	
Women																				
England	36	32	31	28	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	20	20	19,121	6,190	
Wales	37	34	30	31	27	26	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	20	21	24	1,162	430	
Scotland	42	39	35	35	29	29	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	24	24	24	1,980	670	
Great Britain	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	21	20	22,263	7,290	
All persons																				
England	40	35	32	29	26	27	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	21	21	35,937	11,430	
Wales	40	35	31	31	27	27	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	21	21	23	2,198	800	
Scotland	45	42	36	34	30	30	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	24	24	25	3,731	1,220	
Great Britain	40	35	33	30	27	27	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	21	21	41,865	13,450	

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.11 Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex, country, and region of England: 1998 to 2009

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>											<i>Great Britain</i>	
Government Office Region	Weighted										Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²	
Men												
Percentage smoking cigarettes												
England												
North East	28	27	33	24	30	28	28	25	21	17	20	702
North West	29	29	28	28	30	27	26	26	25	25	24	2,584
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	29	30	27	25	30	27	24	21	24	23	1,732
East Midlands	27	27	28	24	31	27	25	21	22	20	19	1,589
West Midlands	32	27	27	25	26	26	23	25	25	21	22	1,754
East of England	26	27	27	25	28	26	25	22	20	20	20	1,980
London	34	31	29	29	28	26	25	24	22	21	26	2,199
South East	28	28	26	27	25	25	24	21	21	21	21	2,803
South West	26	30	27	27	26	25	26	22	21	21	19	1,472
All England	29	29	28	27	27	26	25	23	22	21	22	16,816
Wales	29	25	27	27	29	24	24	19	21	20	21	1,035
Scotland	35	30	32	29	35	29	28	25	24	23	25	1,751
Great Britain	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	22	22	19,602
Women												
England												
North East	30	28	26	29	27	30	30	25	22	23	23	925
North West	32	30	29	28	30	28	23	23	22	22	22	2,677
Yorkshire and the Humber	28	26	28	27	24	26	23	23	23	25	22	1,931
East Midlands	26	24	27	24	24	28	25	19	17	19	18	1,724
West Midlands	26	24	22	21	24	21	21	19	21	19	21	2,058
East of England	24	23	25	25	22	23	21	17	16	18	18	2,160
London	27	24	26	21	20	19	20	19	17	18	19	2,622
South East	21	23	23	25	22	20	21	19	17	18	18	3,196
South West	25	24	22	24	22	21	25	23	20	22	17	1,828
All England	26	25	25	25	24	23	22	21	19	20	20	19,121
Wales	27	24	26	27	26	22	21	20	20	21	24	1,162
Scotland	29	30	30	28	28	22	25	25	24	24	24	1,980
Great Britain	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	21	20	22,263
All persons												
England												
North East	29	27	29	27	28	29	29	25	22	21	22	1,627
North West	31	30	29	28	30	28	24	25	23	23	23	5,261
Yorkshire and the Humber	29	28	29	27	25	28	25	23	22	25	22	3,664
East Midlands	27	25	28	24	27	27	25	20	19	20	19	3,313
West Midlands	29	26	24	23	25	23	22	22	23	20	22	3,812
East of England	25	25	26	25	25	24	23	19	18	19	19	4,139
London	31	27	27	24	24	22	22	21	19	19	22	4,822
South East	24	25	24	26	24	22	22	20	19	20	19	5,999
South West	25	27	24	25	24	23	25	23	21	21	18	3,300
All England	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	22	21	21	21	35,937
Wales	28	25	27	27	27	23	22	20	21	21	23	2,198
Scotland	31	30	31	28	31	25	27	25	24	24	25	3,731
Great Britain	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	22	21	21	21	41,865

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

2 Results from 2006 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.12 Cigarette-smoking status by sex, country and region of England: 2009*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

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		
Percentages								
Men								
England								
North East	10	8	2	20	29	51	702	250
North West	8	8	7	24	30	46	2,584	750
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	9	6	23	27	50	1,732	600
East Midlands	6	8	5	19	28	53	1,589	550
West Midlands	7	8	6	22	29	49	1,754	530
East of England	5	8	7	20	31	50	1,980	660
London	6	8	12	26	24	50	2,199	520
South East	6	8	6	21	31	49	2,803	840
South West	6	7	6	19	33	48	1,472	540
All England	7	8	7	22	29	49	16,816	5,230
Wales	7	10	4	21	25	54	1,035	370
Scotland	8	10	6	25	24	51	1,751	550
Great Britain	7	8	7	22	28	50	19,602	6,160
Women								
England								
North East	10	9	4	23	23	54	925	330
North West	6	9	7	22	23	55	2,677	840
Yorkshire and the Humber	5	11	6	22	21	57	1,931	700
East Midlands	4	9	5	18	21	61	1,724	620
West Midlands	5	9	7	21	24	55	2,058	630
East of England	3	7	8	18	24	58	2,160	740
London	5	8	6	19	22	59	2,622	640
South East	4	8	6	18	23	58	3,196	990
South West	3	7	6	17	27	57	1,828	700
All England	5	8	6	20	23	57	19,121	6,190
Wales	7	11	6	24	21	55	1,162	430
Scotland	7	12	5	24	17	59	1,980	670
Great Britain	5	9	6	20	22	57	22,263	7,290
Total								
England								
North East	10	8	3	22	26	53	1,627	580
North West	7	9	7	23	27	50	5,261	1,580
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	10	6	22	24	53	3,664	1,300
East Midlands	5	9	5	19	24	57	3,313	1,170
West Midlands	6	9	7	22	26	52	3,812	1,160
East of England	4	7	7	19	27	54	4,139	1,400
London	6	8	8	22	23	55	4,822	1,160
South East	5	8	6	19	27	54	5,999	1,830
South West	4	7	6	18	29	53	3,300	1,240
All England	6	8	7	21	26	53	35,937	11,430
Wales	7	11	5	23	23	54	2,198	800
Scotland	7	11	6	25	20	55	3,731	1,220
Great Britain	6	9	6	21	25	54	41,865	13,450

¹ Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.13 Cigarette-smoking status by sex: 1974 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over																Great Britain				
	Unweighted							Weighted												
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	15	15		
Heavy (20 or more per day)	26	23	18	15	14	12	10	11	10	10	10	10	9	8	8	7	7	7		
Total current cigarette smokers	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	22	22		
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	23	27	30	32	32	31	31	29	27	27	28	27	28	27	27	28	30	28		
Never or only occasionally	25	29	32	34	37	40	41	42	44	45	46	45	46	47	50	50	49	50		
Weighted base (000s) =100% ³								19,229	20,350	19,913	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,496	19,918	19,994	19,498	19,602		
Unweighted sample ³	9850	10480	9200	8870	8110	7640	6580		6590	7060	6840	8100	6870	10040	7680	7240	6700	6160		
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	15	15		
Heavy (20 or more per day)	13	13	11	10	9	8	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	5		
Total current cigarette smokers	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	21	20		
Ex-regular cigarette smokers	11	14	16	18	19	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	20	21	21	21	22	22		
Never or only occasionally	49	49	51	51	52	54	53	53	54	53	54	55	57	57	58	59	58	57		
Weighted base (000s) =100% ³								21,654	22,044	21,987	22,236	21,842	22,396	22,315	22,721	22,594	22,435	22,263		
Unweighted sample 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	7,930	7,290		

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

2 Results from 2006 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.14 Cigarette-smoking status by sex and age*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

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		
Percentages							
Men							
16-19	23	*	24	3	74	1,083	280
20-24	20	3	24	6	71	1,232	280
25-34	21	6	27	17	56	2,867	690
35-49	17	10	26	24	50	5,578	1,530
50-59	13	8	22	31	48	3,088	1,030
60 and over	9	5	15	48	38	5,753	2,340
All aged 16 and over	15	7	22	28	50	19,602	6,160
Women							
16-19	19	5	24	6	70	1,092	290
20-24	23	5	28	10	62	1,444	330
25-34	21	3	24	18	58	3,148	890
35-49	16	7	23	21	56	6,411	1,940
50-59	15	6	20	23	57	3,422	1,180
60 and over	9	4	13	31	56	6,747	2,660
All aged 16 and over	15	5	20	22	57	22,263	7,290
Total							
16-19	21	3	24	4	72	2,175	560
20-24	22	4	26	8	66	2,676	620
25-34	21	4	25	17	57	6,015	1,580
35-49	17	8	25	22	53	11,988	3,470
50-59	14	7	21	27	52	6,510	2,220
60 and over	9	5	14	39	47	12,500	5,000
All aged 16 and over	15	6	21	25	54	41,865	13,450

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.15 Average daily cigarette consumption per smoker by sex and age: 1974 to 2009

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over

Great Britain

Age	Unweighted							Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) = 100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1974	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	10	8	255	60
20-24	19	17	16	15	16	13	14	13	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	11	11	290	70
25-34	19	19	17	16	16	15	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	13	12	12	12	775	200
35-49	20	20	20	19	19	18	17	18	17	17	17	16	16	15	16	16	15	15	1,468	380
50-59	18	20	18	17	17	20	18	18	17	18	18	18	18	17	16	16	16	16	666	210
60 and over	14	15	16	15	15	14	16	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	18	15	15	15	834	320
All aged 16 and over	18	18	17	16	17	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	14	14	14	4,287	1,240
Women																				
16-19	12	13	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	12	12	10	11	10	9	9	11	12	258	70
20-24	14	14	14	12	13	13	12	11	10	11	10	11	11	11	11	10	11	10	401	100
25-34	15	16	16	14	15	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	11	10	10	749	230
35-49	15	16	15	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	1,485	450
50-59	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	14	14	698	230
60 and over	10	11	11	12	12	13	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	900	340
All aged 16 and over	13	14	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	4,491	1,400

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²	Men	Women	Total	
Mean number of cigarettes a day				
Managerial and professional				
Large employers and higher managerial	12	9	10	
Higher professional	11	10	10	12
Lower managerial and professional	12	12	12	
Intermediate				
Intermediate	12	13	13	
Small employers and own account	15	14	15	14
Routine and manual				
Lower supervisory and technical	15	13	14	
Semi-routine	15	13	14	14
Routine	18	13	15	
Total ²	14	13	13	
Weighted bases (000s) =100%				
Large employers and higher managerial	151	177	328	
Higher professional	235	170	405	
Lower managerial and professional	876	890	1,766	
Intermediate	241	353	594	
Small employers and own account	429	398	827	
Lower supervisory and technical	619	606	1,225	
Semi-routine	691	845	1,536	
Routine	719	709	1,428	
Total ²	4,280	4,457	8,737	
Unweighted sample				
Large employers and higher managerial	50	50	100	
Higher professional	60	50	110	
Lower managerial and professional	250	270	530	
Intermediate	70	100	170	
Small employers and own account	130	120	240	
Lower supervisory and technical	180	190	370	
Semi-routine	200	270	470	
Routine	220	230	450	
Total ²	1,240	1,390	2,630	

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.17 Type of cigarette smoked by sex: 1974 to 2009

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	2008 ²	2009 ²	
Percentages																			
Men																			
Mainly filter	69	75	72	78	80	78	74	74	69	68	66	68	65	65	65	64	61	62	
Mainly plain	18	11	7	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	
Mainly hand-rolled	13	14	21	18	18	21	25	25	30	31	33	32	34	34	35	35	38	37	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%³</i>								5,687	5,802	5,643	5,246	5,367	5,158	4,927	4,618	4,428	4,186	4,292	
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>	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	1,320	1,240		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Women																			
Mainly filter	91	95	94	96	97	96	92	92	89	87	86	87	85	84	83	82	79	78	
Mainly plain	8	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Mainly hand-rolled	1	1	3	2	2	4	7	8	10	12	13	12	14	16	16	17	20	21	
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%³</i>								5,735	5,619	5,635	5,560	5,287	5,156	5,060	4,743	4,449	4,624	4,506	
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>	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	1,540	1,410		

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

2 Results from 2006 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.18 Type of cigarette smoked by sex and age

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over						Great Britain: 2009 ¹
Type of cigarette smoked	Age					
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	60 and over	All aged 16 and over
Percentages						
Men						
Mainly filter	73	67	58	66	55	62
Mainly plain	*	*	*	0	*	0
Mainly hand-rolled	26	33	42	34	45	37
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>547</i>	<i>777</i>	<i>1,474</i>	<i>666</i>	<i>829</i>	<i>4,292</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>1,240</i>
Women						
Mainly filter	82	70	75	84	84	78
Mainly plain	1	*	0	0	0	0
Mainly hand-rolled	16	29	24	16	16	21
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>659</i>	<i>751</i>	<i>1,487</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>4,506</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>1,410</i>
Total						
Mainly filter	78	68	67	75	70	71
Mainly plain	1	1	0	0	*	0
Mainly hand-rolled	21	31	33	25	30	29
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<i>1,528</i>	<i>2,961</i>	<i>1,366</i>	<i>1,738</i>	<i>8,798</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>430</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>2,650</i>

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

* Information is suppressed for low cell counts as a measure of disclosure control.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.19 Grouped tar yield per cigarette: 1986 to 2009

Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes											Great Britain						
Tar yield	Unweighted					Weighted											
	1986	1988	1990	1992	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²	
Percentages																	
less than 10mg	19	21	24	25	28	28	27	26	27	26	26	24	25	38	37	38	
10mg to 14mg	32	58	54	68	70	69	71	71	71	71	71	73	72	62	63	59	
15mg or more	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	-	-	3	
Weighted base (000s) =100% ³						9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,987	6,539	6,187	6,217	
Unweighted sample ³	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	2,020	1,870		

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

2 Results from 2006 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.

- No data available.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.20 Tar yield per cigarette: 1998 to 2009

Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes											Great Britain	
Tar yield	Weighted											
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²	
Percentages												
Less than 4mg	5	5	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	3	2	
4 to 7mg	17	22	17	17	17	19	17	17	22	20	23	
8 to 9mg	11	9	7	8	7	6	6	7	12	14	13	
10 to 11mg	13	27	35	34	71	71	73	72	62	63	59	
12 to 14mg	51	34	36	37	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	
No regular brand/dk tar yield	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	-	-	3	
Weighted base (000s) =100%	9,568	9,104	8,850	8,317	8,306	7,812	7,510	6,989	6,539	5,796	6,217	
Unweighted sample	3,290	2,960	3,170	2,870	3,420	2,720	3,760	2,610	2,260	2,020	1,870	

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

2 Results from 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

- No data available.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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: 2009¹</i>	
	<i>Tar yield</i>				<i>Weighted base</i>	<i>Unweighted sample</i>
	<i>Less than 4mg</i>	<i>4 to 7mg</i>	<i>8 to 9mg</i>	<i>10 to 11mg</i>	<i>No regular brand/dk tar yield</i>	
					<i>(000s) =100%</i>	
Percentages						
Men						
16-19	*	16	11	66	*	191
20-24	0	10	15	72	*	209
25-34	*	26	9	59	5	519
35-49	2	26	9	59	4	853
50-59	*	19	12	65	2	439
60 and over	*	21	8	65	6	454
Total	1	22	10	62	4	2,665
Women						
16-19	0	19	13	62	6	200
20-24	*	27	15	53	4	351
25-34	2	28	14	54	3	526
35-49	2	22	14	59	4	1,127
50-59	2	24	14	59	*	586
60 and over	5	26	16	51	2	763
Total	2	24	14	56	3	3,552
Total						
16-19	*	18	12	64	5	390
20-24	*	21	15	60	3	560
25-34	1	27	12	56	4	1,045
35-49	2	24	12	59	4	1,980
50-59	2	22	13	62	*	1,025
60 and over	4	24	13	56	3	1,217
Total	2	23	13	59	3	6,217

1 Results for 2009 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.

* Information is suppressed for low cell counts as a measure of disclosure control.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Current smokers of manufactured cigarettes aged 16 and over						Great Britain: 2009 ¹	
Socio-economic class of household reference person ²	Tar yields					Weighted base (000s) =100%	Unweighted sample
	Less than 4mg	4 to 7mg	8 to 9mg	10 to 11mg	No regular brand/dk tar yield		
Percentages							
Men							
Managerial and professional	4	32	9	53	2	893	260
Intermediate	0	26	9	61	4	427	120
Routine and manual	*	14	10	70	5	1,179	340
Total ²	1	22	10	62	4	2,665	750
Women							
Managerial and professional	3	32	15	48	3	1,066	330
Intermediate	2	26	17	51	4	632	190
Routine and manual	2	19	13	64	2	1,590	510
Total ²	2	24	14	56	3	3,552	1,110
All persons							
Managerial and professional	4	32	12	50	2	1,960	590
Intermediate	1	26	14	55	4	1,059	310
Routine and manual	1	17	12	67	4	2,769	840
Total ²	2	23	13	59	3	6,217	1,870

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.23 Prevalence of smoking by sex and type of product smoked: 1974 to 2009

Persons aged 16 and over																	Great Britain			
	Unweighted							Weighted												
	1974	1978	1982 ¹	1986	1990	1994	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006 ³	2007 ³	2008 ³	2009 ³		
Percentage smoking																				
Men																				
Cigarettes ⁴	51	45	38	35	31	28	28	30	29	28	27	28	26	25	23	22	22	22		
Pipe	12	10	..	6	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0		
Cigars ⁵	34	16	12	10	8	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	2	2	2		
All smokers ⁶	64	55	45	44	38	33	33	34	32	32	30	31	29	28	25	24	23	23		
Weighted base (000s) = 100% ⁷								19,225	20,350	19,972	19,561	19,187	19,561	19,498	19,920	19,996	19,518	19,607		
Unweighted sample ⁷								9,860	10,440	9,170	8,880	8,120	7,660	6,580						
Women																				
Cigarettes ⁴	41	37	33	31	29	26	26	26	25	26	25	24	23	23	21	20	20	20		
Cigars ⁵	3	1	0	1	0	0	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	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	22,458	22,266		
Unweighted sample ⁷								11,420	12,080	10,560	10,310	9,460	9,140	7,830						

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 from 2006 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 2009) the weighted base (000s) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Men aged 16 and over					Great Britain: 2009 ¹	
Age	Cigarettes ²	Pipe ³	Cigars ³	All smokers ⁴	Weighted base (000s) = 100%	Unweighted sample
Percentage smoking						
16-19	24	0	*	24	1,083	280
20-24	24	0	1	24	1,232	280
25-29	25	*	1	25	1,383	310
30-34	30	*	3	32	1,489	380
35-49	26	*	2	27	5,578	1,530
50-59	22	1	2	23	3,088	1,030
60 and over	15	1	2	17	5,753	2,340
All aged 16 and over	22	0	2	23	19,607	6,160

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.25 Age started smoking regularly by sex: 1992 to 2009*Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly**Great Britain*

Age started smoking regularly	Unweighted				Weighted										
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 ²
Percentages															
Men															
Under 16	40	41	41	43	42	43	42	42	42	42	41	41	41	40	42
16-17	27	27	27	26	26	27	26	28	26	26	26	26	26	27	26
18-19	17	16	17	17	17	15	16	16	16	16	17	17	18	18	16
20-24	12	11	11	10	11	11	11	11	11	10	11	12	11	11	12
25 and over	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	5
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i> <i>=100%</i>					11,146	11,016	10,608	10,469	10,431	10,506	10,194	9,931	9,919	9,028	8,415
<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	3,090	2,720
Women															
Under 16	28	30	32	31	32	33	35	33	35	35	36	36	36	37	37
16-17	28	28	28	29	28	27	27	28	26	18	27	28	27	27	28
18-19	19	19	17	18	17	19	17	18	19	18	17	17	18	18	17
20-24	15	13	13	14	14	12	12	13	13	12	12	12	13	12	11
25 and over	10	9	9	8	8	8	9	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	7
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i> <i>=100%</i>					10,101	9,663	10,222	10,067	9,738	9,591	9,589	9,404	9,183	8,426	8,058
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	4640	4180	3990	3640		3300	3820	3590	4140	3450	4990	3700	3450	2280	2,600
All persons															
Under 16	34	36	37	37	37	38	39	38	38	39	39	39	39	38	39
16-17	27	28	28	27	27	27	26	28	26	27	27	27	27	27	27
18-19	18	18	17	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	17
20-24	14	12	12	12	12	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	11	11
25 and over	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	6
<i>Weighted base (000s)</i> <i>=100%</i>					21,247	20,679	20,830	20,537	20,169	20,097	19,783	19,337	19,103	17,454	16,473
<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	5,970	5,320

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly

Great Britain 2009¹

Age started smoking regularly	Socio-economic classification of household reference person ²			
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	Total
Percentages				
Men				
Under 16	35	38	50	42
16-17	25	28	25	26
18-19	22	15	11	16
20-24	12	14	11	12
25 and over	6	5	4	5
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>3,246</i>	<i>1,342</i>	<i>3,333</i>	<i>8,415</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>1,060</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>2,720</i>
Women				
Under 16	31	32	44	37
16-17	28	27	28	28
18-19	22	20	12	17
20-24	14	13	8	11
25 and over	6	8	8	7
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>2,934</i>	<i>1,410</i>	<i>3,243</i>	<i>8,058</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>2,600</i>
All persons				
Under 16	33	35	47	39
16-17	26	27	26	27
18-19	22	18	11	17
20-24	13	13	9	11
25 and over	6	7	6	6
<i>Weighted base (000s) =100%</i>	<i>6,180</i>	<i>2,752</i>	<i>6,577</i>	<i>16,473</i>
<i>Unweighted sample</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>2,120</i>	<i>5,320</i>

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 1.27 Age started smoking regularly by sex, whether current smoker and if so, cigarettes smoked a day*Persons aged 16 and over who had ever smoked regularly**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Age started smoking regularly	Current smoker			Ex-regular smoker	All who have ever smoked regularly	
	20 or more a day	10-19 a day	0-9 a day			
All current smokers ²						
Percentages						
Men						
Under 16	53	49	34	46	39	42
16-17	24	24	23	24	26	26
18-19	10	12	21	14	18	16
20-24	8	9	15	10	12	12
25 and over	4	6	6	5	4	5
Weighted base (000s) =100%	887	1,103	847	2,845	5,570	8,415
Unweighted sample	250	300	210	760	1,950	2,720
Women						
Under 16	50	46	42	46	31	37
16-17	28	26	23	26	29	28
18-19	8	13	18	13	20	17
20-24	11	9	11	10	12	11
25 and over	3	6	5	5	8	7
Weighted base (000s) =100%	790	1,351	913	3,060	4998	8,058
Unweighted sample	230	380	260	880	1,720	2,600
All persons						
Under 16	52	47	39	46	35	39
16-17	26	25	23	25	28	27
18-19	9	12	20	14	19	17
20-24	9	9	13	10	12	11
25 and over	4	6	5	5	6	6
Weighted base (000s) =100%	1677	2454	1,760	5,904	10,568	16,473
Unweighted sample	480	680	470	1,640	3,680	5,320

¹ Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).² Includes a few smokers who did not say how many cigarettes a day they smoked.*Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics*

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 2009

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over																	Great Britain	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted												Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	62	59	1,324	410	
10-19	70	72	69	73	73	76	71	71	67	68	68	68	66	65	65	1,651	480	
0-9	58	61	62	62	62	64	62	62	61	64	68	65	69	59	60	1,307	340	
All smokers ⁴	66	69	66	69	69	72	68	68	64	67	68	67	66	62	62	4,298	1,250	
Women																		
20 or more	70	69	69	68	68	73	66	67	64	70	67	67	61	64	63	1,107	340	
10-19	72	71	70	75	75	76	67	71	71	70	70	72	68	66	66	1,985	620	
0-9	58	62	59	65	65	63	60	67	66	67	67	69	66	69	63	1,399	440	
All smokers ⁴	68	68	67	70	70	71	65	69	67	69	68	70	66	67	64	4,506	1,410	
Total																		
20 or more	69	70	68	69	69	74	68	68	64	68	67	67	62	63	61	2,430	750	
10-19	71	71	70	74	74	76	69	71	69	69	69	70	67	66	66	3,636	1,100	
0-9	58	61	60	64	64	63	61	65	64	66	68	67	67	64	61	2,706	780	
All smokers ⁴	67	68	67	69	69	72	66	68	66	68	68	68	66	65	63	8,804	2,650	

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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 2009

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over																	Great Britain	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Unweighted				Weighted											Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100% ³	Unweighted sample ³ 2009	
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	79	78	1,316	410	
10-19	54	57	54	54	54	56	55	57	53	57	60	64	63	61	58	1,644	480	
0-9	20	17	20	25	23	14	21	23	19	16	23	24	26	23	28	1,307	340	
All smokers ⁴	55	56	56	56	56	53	52	56	53	52	55	59	58	55	55	4,283	1,240	
Women																		
20 or more	86	86	87	87	86	88	87	86	83	82	84	84	90	86	86	1,107	340	
10-19	68	68	66	66	65	67	65	66	64	67	65	70	65	67	68	1,981	620	
0-9	23	20	24	24	25	22	24	21	22	21	27	27	26	28	28	1,399	440	
All smokers ⁴	61	60	61	59	59	58	58	59	56	57	58	60	59	59	60	4,502	1,400	
Total																		
20 or more	80	82	83	82	82	82	80	81	80	79	80	82	85	82	81	2,422	750	
10-19	61	63	60	61	60	62	61	62	58	62	63	67	64	64	63	3,625	1,100	
0-9	21	19	23	24	24	18	22	22	21	19	25	26	26	25	28	2,706	780	
All smokers ⁴	58	59	58	58	57	56	55	57	55	55	56	59	58	57	57	8,785	2,650	

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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 2009

<i>Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over</i>																<i>Great Britain</i>	
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	<i>Unweighted</i>				<i>Weighted</i>											<i>Weighted base 2009 (000s) =100%³</i>	<i>Unweighted sample³ 2009</i>
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2007 ²	2008 ²	2009 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	35	29	1,324	410
10-19	10	13	9	11	11	13	11	11	11	13	15	13	13	14	12	1,647	480
0-9	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	1	2	2	3	2	4	1,293	340
All smokers ⁴	16	18	16	16	17	16	15	16	16	17	17	18	17	17	15	4,279	1,240
Women																	
20 or more	29	34	32	31	31	32	35	31	31	33	31	37	34	36	35	1,107	340
10-19	10	9	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	11	12	16	11	15	1,983	620
0-9	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	2	1,394	440
All smokers ⁴	14	14	15	14	14	14	15	14	14	16	14	15	16	15	16	4,498	1,400
Total																	
20 or more	29	33	30	31	31	31	32	31	31	34	33	36	35	36	32	2,430	750
10-19	10	11	10	12	12	13	11	11	11	14	13	12	14	13	13	3,630	1,100
0-9	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	2,686	770
All smokers ⁴	15	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	16	16	17	16	15	8,777	2,640

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
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	61	55	60	59
10-19	75	64	61	65
0-9	62	50	64	60
All smokers ³	67	57	61	62
Women				
20 or more	54	65	67	63
10-19	66	70	66	66
0-9	65	66	58	63
All smokers ³	63	67	64	64
Total				
20 or more	57	60	63	61
10-19	70	67	64	66
0-9	64	59	61	61
All smokers ³	65	62	63	63
Weighted base (000s)=100%				
Men				
20 or more	272	219	731	1,324
10-19	506	258	764	1,651
0-9	480	192	532	1,307
All smokers ³	1,263	670	2,035	4,298
Women				
20 or more	243	225	536	1,107
10-19	497	310	1030	1,985
0-9	497	216	594	1,399
All smokers ³	1,243	751	2,169	4,506
Total				
20 or more	514	445	1,267	2,430
10-19	1,003	568	1,795	3,636
0-9	977	408	1127	2,706
All smokers ³	2,506	1,421	4,204	8,804
Unweighted sample				
Men				
20 or more	90	70	220	410
10-19	140	70	230	480
0-9	130	50	150	340
All smokers ³	360	200	610	1,250
Women				
20 or more	80	60	170	340
10-19	150	90	330	620
0-9	150	70	190	440
All smokers ³	380	220	690	1,410
Total				
20 or more	160	140	390	750
10-19	290	170	560	1,100
0-9	280	120	330	780
All smokers ³	740	420	1,300	2,650

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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

Current cigarette smokers aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
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	74	78	78	78
10-19	50	63	60	58
0-9	30	29	29	28
All smokers ³	47	58	58	55
Women				
20 or more	81	83	89	86
10-19	68	68	70	68
0-9	24	30	31	28
All smokers ³	53	61	64	60
Total				
20 or more	77	80	83	81
10-19	58	66	66	63
0-9	27	30	30	28
All smokers ³	50	60	61	57
Weighted base (000s)=100%				
Men				
20 or more	272	216	726	1,316
10-19	506	258	758	1,644
0-9	483	192	530	1,307
All smokers ³	1,266	667	2,021	4,283
Women				
20 or more	243	225	536	1,107
10-19	495	310	1,028	1,981
0-9	497	216	594	1,399
All smokers ³	1,241	751	2,167	4,502
Total				
20 or more	514	441	1,262	2,422
10-19	1,001	568	1,786	3,625
0-9	980	408	1,124	2,706
All smokers ³	2,507	1,417	4,188	8,785
Unweighted sample				
Men				
20 or more	90	70	220	410
10-19	140	70	230	480
0-9	130	50	150	340
All smokers ³	360	200	600	1,240
Women				
20 or more	80	60	170	340
10-19	150	90	330	620
0-9	150	70	190	440
All smokers ³	380	220	690	1,400
Total				
20 or more	160	130	390	750
10-19	290	170	560	1,100
0-9	280	120	330	780
All smokers ³	740	420	1,290	2,650

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

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: 2009¹</i>
Number of cigarettes smoked a day	Socio-economic classification ²			Total
	Managerial & professional	Intermediate	Routine & manual	
Percentage who smoke within 5 minutes of waking				
Men				
20 or more	31	19	30	29
10-19	9	11	12	12
0-9	4	0	6	4
All smokers ³	12	11	17	15
Women				
20 or more	22	41	36	35
10-19	12	11	18	15
0-9	*	*	4	2
All smokers ³	9	18	19	16
Total				
20 or more	27	30	33	32
10-19	10	11	15	13
0-9	2	*	5	3
All smokers ³	11	14	18	15
<i>Weighted base (000s)=100%</i>				
Men				
20 or more	272	219	731	1,324
10-19	506	258	760	1,647
0-9	475	190	527	1,293
All smokers ³	1,259	667	2,026	4,279
Women				
20 or more	243	225	536	1,107
10-19	495	310	1,030	1,983
0-9	497	210	594	1,394
All smokers ³	1,241	746	2,169	4,498
Total				
20 or more	514	445	1,267	2,430
10-19	1,000	568	1,791	3,630
0-9	972	400	1,121	2,686
All smokers ³	2,499	1,413	4,195	8,777
<i>Unweighted sample</i>				
Men				
20 or more	90	70	220	410
10-19	140	70	230	480
0-9	130	50	140	340
All smokers ³	360	200	600	1,240
Women				
20 or more	80	60	170	340
10-19	150	90	330	620
0-9	150	70	190	440
All smokers ³	380	220	690	1,400
Total				
20 or more	160	140	390	750
10-19	290	170	560	1,100
0-9	280	110	330	770
All smokers ³	740	410	1,290	2,640

1 Results for 2009 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.

* Information is suppressed for low cell counts as a measure of disclosure control.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Drinking

The Department of Health estimates that the harmful use of alcohol costs the NHS around £2.7bn a year and 7 per cent of all hospital admissions are alcohol related. Drinking can lead to over 40 medical conditions, including cancer, stroke, hypertension, liver disease and heart disease. The General LiFestyle Survey (GLF) and its predecessor the General Household Survey (GHS) have, between them, been measuring drinking behaviour for over 30 years.

Questions about drinking alcohol were included in the General Household Survey (GHS) 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 in 2005 and 2006. The General LiFestyle Survey (GLF) has included both sets of questions in both 2008 and 2009. 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, the amounts consumed in the week before the interview took place and average weekly consumption. It also presents data on the association between consumption of alcohol and characteristics of individuals such as sex, age, socio-economic classification, and region of residence.

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 sales. This is partly because people may consciously or unconsciously underestimate how much alcohol they consume. Drinking at home is particularly likely to be underestimated 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 period¹. However, this is time-consuming and is not suitable for the GLF, where drinking is only one of a number of subjects covered.

In 2009 two measures of alcohol consumption were used:

- average weekly alcohol consumption;
- maximum amount drunk on any one day in the previous seven days

Average weekly alcohol consumption

Questions to establish average weekly alcohol consumption were included on the GHS in their current form periodically since 1986. The measure was developed in response to earlier medical guidelines suggesting maximum recommended weekly amounts of alcohol of 21 units for men and 14 units for women. These guidelines have now been replaced by daily alcohol limits but the average weekly figures continue to provide a consistent measure of alcohol consumption through which trends can be monitored. Respondents are asked how often over the last year they have drunk normal strength beer; strong beer (6 per cent or greater ABV²); wine; spirits; fortified wines and; alcopops, and how much they have usually drunk on any one day. This information is combined to give an estimate of the respondent's weekly alcohol consumption (averaged over a year) in units of alcohol.

The method used for calculating usual weekly alcohol consumption is to multiply the number of units of each type drunk on a usual drinking day by the frequency with which it was drunk using the factors shown below, and then to total across all drinks.

Drinking frequency	Multiplying factor
Almost every day	7.0
5 or 6 days a week	5.5
3 or 4 days a week	3.5
Once or twice a week	1.5
Once or twice a month	0.375 (1.5 ÷ 4)
Once every couple of months	0.115 (6 ÷ 52)
Once or twice a year	0.029 (1.5 ÷ 52)

Maximum daily amount drunk last week

These questions were included in the GHS from 1998 onwards, 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 levels of the limits were set after consideration of evidence of associations between alcohol consumption and increased risk of haemorrhagic stroke, hypertension and some types of cancer.

The report stated that low levels of alcohol consumption are associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular heart disease in men aged over 40 and postmenopausal women: 'In terms of all cause mortality and morbidity the benefit can be largely gained by drinking as little as 1 unit a day on a regular basis. Consumption above 2 units a day does not confer any major additional health benefit'.

The report also provided evidence, however, that ‘men who drink more than 3 to 4 units a day run an increasingly significant risk of illness and death from a number of conditions, including haemorrhagic stroke, some cancers, accidents and hypertension’.

The report concluded 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 advisable because of the progressive health risk it carries. The government’s advice on sensible drinking is now based on these daily limits.

The sensible drinking limits for women are set slightly lower than those for men because:

‘The tissue in a woman’s body contains a lower proportion of water than a man’s and this means that, in a man and a woman of the same weight, a given amount of alcohol will produce a higher tissue concentration in the woman. In addition the average woman weighs 58kg, considerably less than the average man (70 kg), and has correspondingly less tissue to absorb the alcohol. Taking these two factors together means the same amount of alcohol will produce a significantly higher tissue concentration in the average woman. In addition, women may metabolise alcohol at a slower rate than men, so the alcohol may remain in their tissues longer’.

People responding to the GLF 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.

Recent changes in methodology

The conversion of volumes of alcoholic drinks to units of alcohol is based on assumptions about the size of a given measure (for example, a glass of wine) and the alcohol content of the type of drink, that is, the percentage of alcohol by volume (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 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 per cent) and the size of a glass of wine. Wine is sold on licensed premises and consumed at home in a variety of glass sizes. Until 2006 a glass of wine was assumed to be 125 ml. In 2006 and 2007 an average size of 170 ml was assumed. The changes in both glass size and ABV of wine 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.

In addition to the revised method, a question about wine glass size has been included in the survey since 2008. Respondents are now asked whether they have consumed small (125 ml), standard (175 ml) or large (250 ml) glasses of wine. The data from this question are used when calculating the number of units of alcohol consumed by the respondent. It is now assumed that a small glass contains 1.5 units, a standard glass contains 2 units and a large glass contains 3 units.

The main impact of the 2006 change in methodology can be seen in the 2006 data for which figures using both the original and revised methods were produced⁶. There are also two sets of figures based on the 2008 data to show the effect of introducing the new glass size question. In tables showing time series there are, therefore, three sections showing the original method up to 2006, then the revised method from 2006 to 2008 and finally the updated method from 2008 which uses the data about wine glass size.

The addition of the wine glass size question has had little effect on the estimates of average weekly alcohol consumption but has slightly reduced the proportion of women exceeding 3 units on their heaviest drinking day in the week before interview. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, when glass size was analysed by sex and age, for most groups the average size was close to the average assumed under the previous method but for women aged 45 to 64 average size was lower and for men and women aged 65 and over it was much lower. Secondly, approximately 60 per cent of the units of alcohol consumed by women come from wine whereas only around 25 per cent of men's units do so. This means that any change to the calculation of units of alcohol coming from wine has a much greater effect on the total units for women than on the total for men.

Trends in alcohol consumption

Due to the change in methodology, this section contains discussion of both the trend up to 2006 and the trend since 2006. Figures 2.1 and 2.2 show the trends to 2006 only.

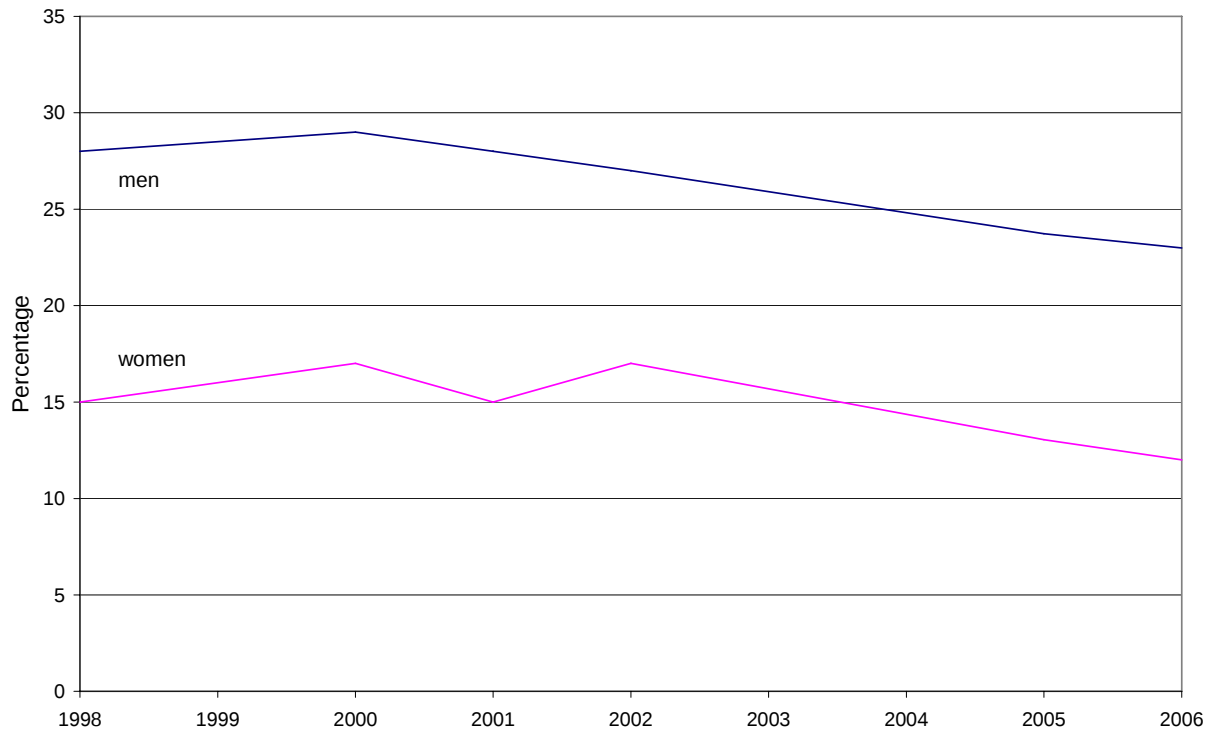
Trends in average weekly alcohol consumption

During the 1990s the GHS showed a slight increase in overall weekly alcohol consumption among men and a much more marked one among women. Following an increase between 1998 and 2000, there has been a decline since 2002 in the proportion of men drinking more than, on average, 21 units a week and in the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units (Figure 2.1). At first sight, the fall appears most marked between 2002 and 2005, but this is largely due to the longer time interval between surveys. The proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week on average fell from 29 per cent in 2000 to 23 per cent in 2006. There was also a fall in the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units a week (from 17 per cent in 2000 to 12 per cent in 2006).

Figure 2.1 Percentage of men drinking more than 21 units a week, and women drinking more than 14 units a week: original method

Great Britain

Percentages



Source: General Household Survey, Office for National Statistics

The fall in consumption between 2000 and 2006 occurred among men and women in all age groups, but was most evident among those aged 16 to 24. Among young men in this age group the proportion drinking more than 21 units a week fell from 41 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2006 and among young women the proportion drinking more than 14 units a week fell from 33 per cent to 19 per cent over the same period.

This trend seems to be continuing under the new methodology; between 2006 and 2009 the proportion of men drinking more than 21 units a week fell from 31 per cent to 26 per cent and the proportion of women drinking more than 14 units a week fell from 20 per cent to 18 per cent. These falls were driven by falls in the younger age groups. Among men, the percentage drinking more than 21 units a week fell in the 16 to 24 (from 30 to 21 per cent) and 25 to 44 age groups (from 33 to 26 per cent). Among women, the percentage drinking more than 14 units a week fell in the 25 to 44 age group from 23 to 19 per cent.

On the average weekly measure, heavy drinking is defined as consuming more than 50 units a week for men and consuming more than 35 units a week for women. In the 16 to 24 age group there were significant falls, between 2000 and 2006, in the proportion of men and women drinking heavily (from 14 per cent to 7 per cent for men and from 9 per cent to 5 per cent for women). Under the new methodology, between 2006 and 2009, the proportion of men who drink more than

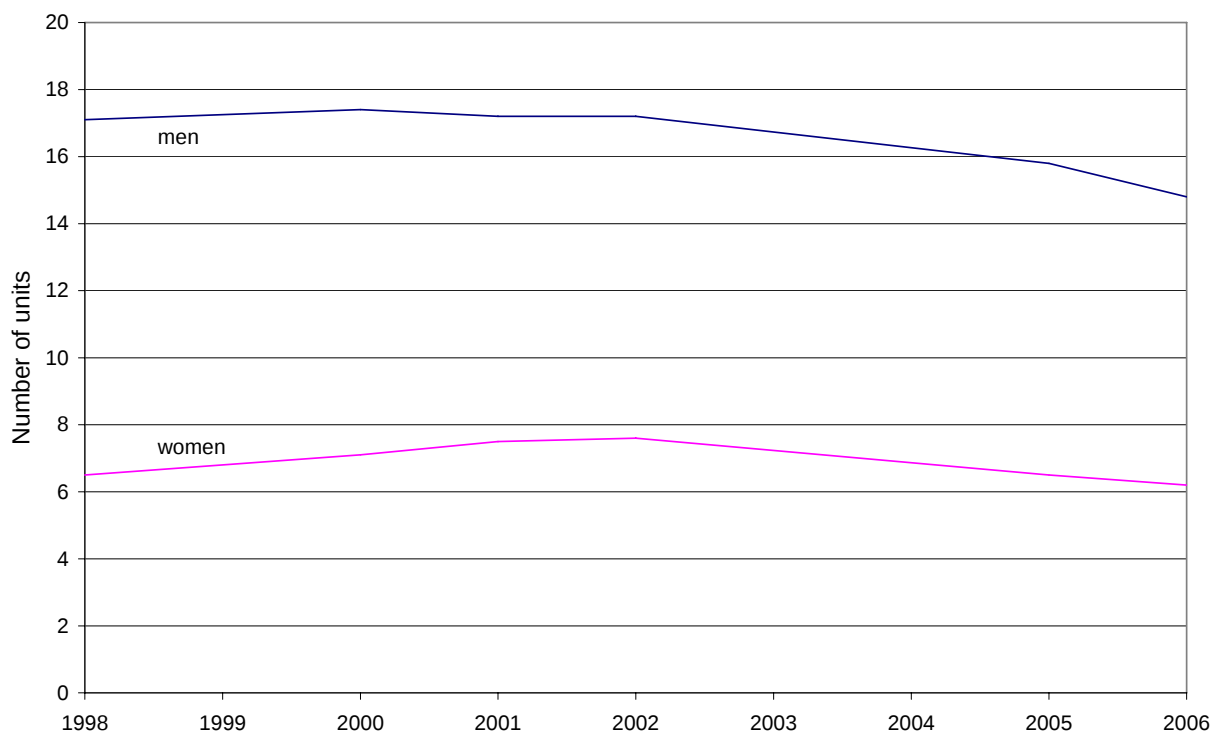
50 units a week fell from 8 per cent to 7 per cent and the proportion of women who drink more than 35 units a week fell from 5 per cent to 4 per cent.

The average number of units of alcohol consumed in a week rose steadily in the 1990s and reached a peak of around 17 units for men and 7.5 units for women in the period 2000 to 2002. These levels fell to 14.8 units for men and 6.2 units for women in 2006. The figures produced using the updated methodology suggests that the average number of units consumed may be continuing to fall from 2006 onwards but there is no statistically significant change between 2008 and 2009.

Figure 2.2 Average weekly alcohol units: by sex. Original method

Great Britain

Number of units



Source: General Household Survey, Office for National Statistics

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) makes annual estimates of per capita alcohol consumption using data provided by HM Revenue and Customs⁷. These show a steady increase in consumption from 1998 to 2004, followed by a decline of about 5 per cent to 2006, and then a further decline of about 7 per cent from 2006 to 2009. The decline measured by the GHS is much greater, at about 15 per cent between 2002 and 2006. Both sources show that there has been a fall in consumption in recent years, but two factors are likely to account for the different sizes of the falls:

1. There may be an increased tendency among respondents to under-report consumption. Recent extensive publicity about the dangers of drinking, in particular binge drinking, may

have led some people to moderate their behaviour, but might equally have made people less inclined to admit to how much they have been drinking

2. The introduction of updated methods of estimating units occurs as a step change, whereas the actual changes which the updated method takes into account happened over a number of years. It is therefore likely that progressive underestimation of wine consumption has occurred as glass sizes and alcoholic strength have increased

Tables 2.1-2.2

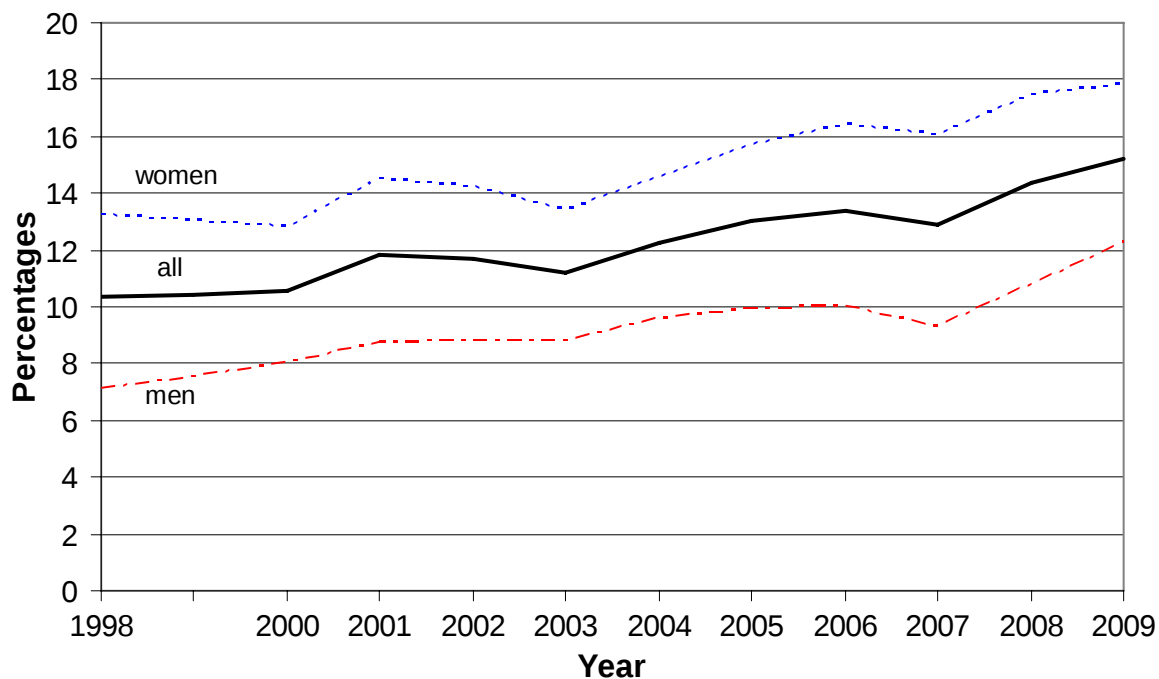
Trends in abstinence

The falls in average consumption in recent years (shown in figure 2.2) are partly due to rises in the proportion of people who abstain from alcohol altogether. The table below shows the trend in abstinence since 1998.

Figure 2.3 Percentage of adults who report never drinking alcohol

Great Britain

Percentages



Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

The proportion of people who abstain from alcohol altogether increased from 10 per cent in 1998 to 15 per cent in 2009. The biggest falls in the average weekly consumption figures were from 12.1 to 10.2 units between 2002 and 2006 using the original method of converting volumes to units and from 13.5 to 11.9 units between 2006 and 2009 using the revised method. Excluding non-drinkers from the analyses causes the average consumption figures to rise but the falls between the years remain. The figures for 2002 to 2006 fall from 13.7 to 11.8 units and the figures for 2006 to 2009

fall from 15.6 to 14.0 units. This shows that the falls in alcohol consumption as measured by the GHS/GLF are largely due to people who drink alcohol drinking less.

Trends in last week's drinking

There has been a fall in the proportions of men and women who say that they had an alcoholic drink in the previous week compared with five years ago. Table 2.3 shows that following a period of little change between 1998 and 2003, the figures fell from 75 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women in 2003 to 72 per cent and 57 per cent in 2005; the figures were then fairly stable until 2007. The proportion of men and women reporting drinking alcohol in the last seven days fell from 72 per cent of men and 57 per cent of women in 2007 to 68 per cent of men and 54 per cent of women in 2009.

The proportions of men exceeding four units and women exceeding three units on their heaviest drinking day were fairly stable between 1998 and 2004 but have since decreased. The figures produced using the original method of converting to units show falls for both men and women between 2004 and 2006. The figures produced using the revised method show a continuing downward trend. The proportion of men exceeding 4 units on their heaviest drinking day was 41 per cent in 2007 and 37 per cent in 2009. The proportions for women exceeding 3 units were 34 per cent in 2007 and 29 per cent in 2009.

The figures for heavy drinking follow a similar pattern for men. There was little change between 1998 and 2004 in the proportion of men drinking heavily (more than 8 units) on at least one day in the previous week. Since 2004 this proportion has decreased from 22 per cent to 18 per cent in 2006. Using the revised methodology this trend seems to be continuing with the proportion falling from 23 per cent in 2006 to 20 per cent in 2009. There appears to be a similar downward trend in the proportion of women drinking heavily (more than 6 units) on at least one day in the previous week, falling from 10 per cent in 2002 to 8 per cent in 2006. Using the revised method of converting volumes to units of alcohol the proportion of women drinking heavily was 15 per cent in 2006 and 13 per cent in 2009.

The most pronounced changes have occurred for men in the 16 to 24 age group where the proportion drinking more than 4 units on their heaviest drinking day fell from 50 per cent in 2000 to 39 per cent in 2006 and the proportion drinking more than 8 units decreased from 37 per cent to 27 per cent over the same period. Since the introduction of the revised methodology in 2006 however, there has been little significant change. The falls between 2008 and 2009, from 42 per cent to 36 per cent exceeding 4 units and from 30 to 24 per cent drinking heavily, should be treated with caution due to the small sample size for this age group.

There have also been marked falls for women in this age group with the proportion drinking more than 3 units on their heaviest drinking day falling from 42 per cent in 2000 to 34 per cent in 2006 and the proportion drinking more than 6 units falling from 27 per cent to 20 per cent. It is too soon to tell whether this trend will continue under the revised methodology. So far there are no

significant changes in this age group in the proportion exceeding 3 units or in the proportion exceeding 6 units between 2006 and 2009.

Tables 2.3- 2.4

Average weekly alcohol consumption in 2009

Weekly alcohol consumption and sex and age

In 2009 average levels of alcohol consumption were similar in all age groups from 16 to 64 at around 12 or 13 units a week but were about a third lower among those aged 65 and over at 8.2 units a week. The average consumption for men was twice that of women (16.3 units compared with 8.0 units). The difference between men and women was particularly large in the 65 and over age group. In this group average consumption for women was 4.6 units per week but for men was nearly three times that at 12.7 units.

Table 2.5

Weekly alcohol consumption and household socio-economic class

A review of information on inequalities in health, undertaken by the Department of Health⁸, noted that both mortality and morbidity show a clear association with socio-economic position, with death rates much higher among unskilled men than among those in professional households (overall, up to 22,000 premature deaths a year are thought to be attributable to alcohol misuse⁹). Over many years, the GHS showed little difference in usual weekly alcohol consumption between those in non-manual and manual households. Where differences existed, it was those in the non-manual categories who tended to have the higher weekly consumption. When the revised method of converting volumes of alcohol to units was introduced in 2006 these differences were amplified. This is due, at least in part, to the relatively low prevalence of wine consumption in routine and manual households compared with the other groups.

The socio-economic classification of a household is based upon the current or last job of the household reference person. The classification takes into account the occupation and details of employment status (whether an employer, self-employed or employee; whether a supervisor, manager etc). The 40 operational categories and sub-categories are usually collapsed into 8 or 3 classes for analysis¹⁰. Using the three-category classification, average weekly consumption in 2009 was highest, at 13.5 units, in the managerial and professional group, and lowest, at 10.7 units, among those in routine and manual worker households. This difference is found for both men and women but is particularly pronounced for women where the managerial and professional group average 9.7 units and the routine and manual group average 6.6 units a week.

Table 2.6

Weekly alcohol consumption, income and economic activity

A clear association between household income and alcohol consumption can be seen in table 2.7. As household income rises from £400 per week, so does average weekly alcohol consumption. The group with the highest income has the highest average consumption. Among those living in households with a gross income of more than £1,000 a week, men drank on average 18.7 units a week, and women 10.8 units. In households with an income of £200 or less the levels were 16.1 units and 5.7 units respectively.

In the 16 to 64 age group people who are economically inactive tend to drink less than those who are working. Among people aged between 16 and 64 and in full-time employment those earning £600.01 or more a week showed higher average weekly consumption than those earning £600 or less.

Tables 2.7-2.9

Variation in average weekly alcohol consumption between countries and regions

There were no significant differences in average weekly alcohol consumption between countries in Great Britain. In the English regions average weekly consumption was highest in the North East (14.4 units) and lowest in London (9.3 units). Average weekly consumption in London was significantly lower than in all other regions apart from the West Midlands where it was similarly low. In the West Midlands average consumption was lower than in the North West, North East, South East and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Table 2.10

Abstinence in 2009

In 2009, 85 per cent of adults consumed alcohol and 15 per cent of adults abstained from drinking alcohol. Abstinence was more common among women (18 per cent) than among men (12 per cent). Levels of abstinence were highest, at 26 per cent, among women aged 65 and over and were next highest among men and women aged from 16 to 24 at 17 per cent. The levels of abstinence among men aged 65 and over (14 per cent) were similar to those among women aged 25 to 44 (14 per cent) and women aged 45 to 64 (15 per cent). Only 10 per cent of men aged 25 to 64 were non-drinkers.

Of those who reported never drinking alcohol, 57 per cent said they had always been a non-drinker and 43 per cent said they had given up drinking. Of those who had always been non-drinkers, 48 per cent said the main reason was that they didn't like it and 28 per cent said it was for religious reasons. Of those who had given up drinking, 51 per cent had done so for health reasons and 22 per cent gave up because they didn't like it.

Drinking in the week before interview in 2009

Frequency of drinking during the last week

Patterns of drinking behaviour in 2009 were broadly similar to those described in earlier GHS and GLF reports. Men were more likely than women to have had an alcoholic drink in the week before interview: 68 per cent of men and 54 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: 18 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women had drunk on at least five of the preceding seven days. Men were much more likely than women to have drunk alcohol every day during the previous week (10 per cent compared with 6 per cent).

The proportions drinking during the 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; 43 per cent of whom had done so, compared with 66 per cent of men in that age group and 59 per cent of women aged 45 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 (47 per cent). This was also the group with the highest proportion of people who drank every day (14 per cent). The proportion of people who drink every day rises as age group rises. For example, 2 per cent of men and 1 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 had drunk every day during the previous week, compared with 19 per cent of men and 10 per cent of women aged 65 and over.

Table 2.11

Maximum daily amount drunk last week

Two measures of daily consumption are shown. The first is the proportion of men exceeding four units and women exceeding three units on their heaviest drinking day. This measure is based on the government recommendations that men should not regularly drink more than three to four units and women more than two to three units of alcohol a day but is not the same as the recommendations since there is no measure of how regular this drinking is. In the following sections this measure will be referred to as drinking more than '4/3 units'. 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 and is referred to as drinking more than '8/6 units'.

The proportion of people who exceeded 4/3 units on at least one day during the previous week was higher for men (37 per cent) than it was for women (29 per cent). The proportion drinking heavily was also greater for men (20 per cent) than for women (13 per cent).

It was noted earlier that older people tend to 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 4/3 units on at least one day. For example, 20 per cent 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 36 per cent, 44 per cent and 41 per cent (16 to 24, 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 respectively). Among women, 11 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 37 per cent, 36 per cent and 32 per cent (16 to 24, 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 respectively).

Similar patterns were evident for heavy drinking: 24 per cent of men aged 16 to 24, 27 per cent of men aged 25 to 44, 21 per cent of men aged 45 to 64, but only 5 per cent of those aged 65 and over, had drunk more than eight units on at least one day during the previous week. Among women the figures for the corresponding age groups were 24 per cent, 19 per cent and 11 per cent compared with only 2 per cent of women in the oldest age group.

Table 2.12b shows the above analysis with those people who did not consume alcohol in the week before interview excluded. When looking only at those people who drank alcohol in the last week, over half (54 per cent) consumed more than 4/3 units and over a quarter (27 per cent) consumed more than 8/6 units on at least one day. The proportion exceeding 4/3 units varied with age group. In the 16 to 24 group, 69 per cent of those who consumed alcohol in the last week consumed more than 4/3 units on their heaviest drinking day. This is higher than the 62 per cent who exceeded 4/3 units in the 25 to 44 group, which in turn is higher than the 56 per cent who did so in the 45 to 64 age group. The proportion of drinkers exceeding 4/3 units was lowest, at 29 per cent, in the 65 and over group.

Among those who consumed alcohol in the week before interview, the differences between age groups in heavy drinking were even more marked. In the 16 to 24 age group 46 per cent of those who consumed alcohol in the last week consumed more than 8/6 units on their heaviest drinking day. The corresponding figures for the other age groups were 35 per cent, 25 per cent and 6 per cent (25 to 44, 45 to 64 and 65 and over respectively).

Overall, men and women who consumed alcohol in the week before interview were just as likely as each other to consume more than 4/3 units on their heaviest drinking day but men were more likely than women to consume more than 8/6 units on that day (30 per cent compared with 24 per cent). Differences between men and women varied with age group. In the 16 to 24 age group, there were no significant differences between men and women in the proportion drinking more than 4/3 units or in the proportion drinking heavily on their heaviest drinking day. In the 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 age groups, there was no significant difference between men and women in the proportion exceeding 4/3 units but a higher proportion of men than of women reported heavy drinking (39 per cent compared with 32 per cent in the 25 to 44 group and 30 per cent compared with 19 per cent in the 45 to 64 group). In the 65 and over group a higher proportion of men than of women consumed more than 4/3 units (31 per cent and 26 per cent) and a higher proportion of men than of women reported heavy drinking (8 per cent and 4 per cent).

Tables 2.12-2.12b

Drinking last week and socio-economic characteristics

Households where the household reference person 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 (77 per cent and 65 per cent), while men and women in routine and manual households had the lowest (59 per cent and 44 per cent). There was a similar pattern in the proportions drinking on five or more days in the previous week. For example, 18 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 10 per cent.

Variations in amounts drunk were also marked, particularly for women. Women in large employer/higher managerial households were twice as likely than those in the routine group to have drunk more than three units on any one day (44 per cent compared with 20 per cent), and were also twice as likely to have drunk heavily on at least one day in the previous week (18 per cent compared with 9 per cent). A similar but less pronounced pattern was seen for men. In large employer/higher managerial households 49 per cent of men exceeded four units on their heaviest drinking day in the week before interview. In the routine group this falls to 35 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 (25 per cent compared with 19 per cent).

Overall the proportion of people exceeding 4/3 units was greater in managerial and professional households (38 per cent) than in routine and manual households (28 per cent); the proportion drinking heavily was also greater in managerial and professional households (19 per cent) than in routine and manual households (15 per cent).

Tables 2.13-2.14

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 also rises. In households with a gross weekly income of over £1,000, 74 per cent drank in the previous week and 17 per cent drank on five or more days compared with 46 per cent and 11 per cent in households with a gross weekly income of £200 or less.

The proportions of people exceeding 4/3 units and of people drinking heavily rose with increasing gross weekly household income. In households with a gross weekly income of £200 or less, for example, 30 per cent of men drank more than 4 units and 14 per cent drank more than 8 units on at least one day in the previous week. In households with an income of over £1,000 the figures were 46 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. The difference for women was even more marked. In households with income of £200 or less per week, 17 per cent of women exceeded 3 units and 8

per cent exceeded 6 units on their heaviest drinking day. These proportions rise to 43 and 19 per cent respectively in households with income in excess of £1,000 per week.

Tables 2.15-2.16

Drinking last week, economic activity 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 – 74 per cent had done so compared with 58 per cent of the unemployed and 52 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 – 44 per cent, compared with 37 per cent and 31 per cent respectively. Working men were also more likely than economically inactive men to have drunk more than 8 units on one day – 26 per cent compared with 17 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, 64 per cent of those who were working; 44 per cent of those who were unemployed; and 45 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 - 38 per cent, compared with 25 per cent. Working women were also more likely than the economically inactive to have drunk more than 6 units on one day - 18 per cent, compared with 11 per cent.

Among those aged 16 to 64 and working full time, drinking behaviour showed a similar pattern of association with earnings from employment as it did with household income. The prevalence of alcohol consumption was highest among those earning the most. In the £800.01 or more group 83 per cent of adults had consumed alcohol in the week before interview – higher than any other group. The figures for drinking on five or more days in the week are less straight forward. Prevalence of this was higher for those earning over £600.01 per week than it was for those earning between £200.01 and £600 per week. For those earning £200 or less however, the figures were more similar to the over £600.01 group. The sample size in this very low income group is small and the figures are therefore subject to quite high levels of sampling error.

High earners were similarly more likely to exceed 4/3 units than low earners. For example, 52 per cent of adults earning over £800 per week exceeded 4/3 units compared with 38 per cent of those earning £200 or less per week. The relationship between earnings and heavy drinking is similar. The proportion of people who drank heavily on at least one day in the week before interview is similar in the middle and high income groups at between 25 and 28 per cent but is lower in the low income groups at 19 per cent.

Tables 2.17-2.20

Variation in drinking last week between countries and regions

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

In 2009 a higher proportion of men (69 per cent) and women (55 percent) in England consumed alcohol in the week before interview than did so in Scotland (58 per cent and 48 per cent respectively). Men in England and men in Wales were more likely than men in Scotland to have had an alcoholic drink on at least five days in that week (19 per cent and 17 per cent compared with 12 per cent). There were, however, no significant differences between the countries of Great Britain in the proportions of men and women consuming more than 4/3 units on their heaviest drinking day or in the proportions reporting heavy drinking (more than 8/6 units) on that day. It should be noted, however, that the countries of Great Britain also conduct their own health surveys that include questions on drinking and that results between surveys can differ.¹¹

Of the English regions, London had the lowest prevalence of drinking in the week before interview (57 per cent of men, 46 per cent of women, 51 per cent of adults). The West Midlands had the next lowest prevalence with the other regions being broadly similar to each other. The highest proportions of adults exceeding 4/3 units on their heaviest drinking day were found in the North East, North West and in Yorkshire and the Humber (40, 39 and 41 per cent of adults). The lowest proportions doing so were in London, the West Midlands and the South West (26, 27 and 28 per cent of adults). The North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber also showed the highest levels of heavy drinking (21, 21 and 22 per cent of adults) while the West Midlands showed the lowest at 11 per cent.

Tables 2.21-2.22

Notes and references

- 1 Goddard E. Obtaining information about drinking through surveys of the general population. National Statistics Methodology Series NSM 24 (ONS 2001)
- 2 ABV is the percentage of Alcohol by Volume.
- 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 3.6% 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), www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15067
- 6 Goddard E Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006. (ONS 2008), www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=5756
- 7 BBPA Statistical Handbook 2010: a compilation of drinks industry statistics. (British Beer & Pub Association, Brewing Publications Ltd, 2010).
- 8 Inequalities in Health, (The Stationery Office 1998) also available at www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/doh/ih/contents.htm
- 9 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
- 10 Further information on the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification is available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/current/ns-sec/index.html>
- 11 A discussion of the differences between countries based on health surveys is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/08/31093025/0>

Alcohol consumption tables

Table 2.1 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and age: 1992-2009

Persons aged 16 and over														Great Britain		
Age	Unweighted				Weighted							2008 ⁴ Updated method	2009 ⁴	Weighted base 2009 (000's) =100%	Unweighted sample ⁵ 2009	
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2006 ³					2008 ³
Men																
16-24	19.1	17.4	20.3	23.6	25.5	25.9	24.8	21.5	18.2	16.4	18.6	16.3	16.3	14.8	2,281	550
25-44	18.2	17.5	17.6	16.5	17.1	17.7	18.4	18.7	16.2	15.6	19.7	16.6	16.8	16.4	6,649	1,680
45-64	15.6	15.5	15.6	17.3	17.4	16.8	16.1	17.5	17.7	16.0	20.8	18.7	18.7	18.7	6,558	2,190
65 and over	9.7	10.0	11.0	10.7	10.6	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.4	10.4	13.5	13.6	13.2	12.7	4,017	1,710
Total	15.9	15.4	16.0	16.4	17.1	17.4	17.2	17.2	15.8	14.8	18.7	16.7	16.6	16.3	19,505	6,130
Women																
16-24	7.3	7.7	9.5	10.6	11.0	12.6	14.1	14.1	10.9	9.0	10.8	10.0	10.3	10.3	2,540	620
25-44	6.3	6.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.3	8.4	7.1	6.8	10.1	9.5	9.6	8.7	7,479	2,180
45-64	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.8	6.7	6.3	6.2	9.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	7,218	2,540
65 and over	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.6	5,005	1,940
Total	5.4	5.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.5	6.2	9.0	8.4	8.4	8.0	22,242	7,280
All persons																
16-24	12.9	12.3	14.7	16.6	18.0	19.3	19.4	17.6	14.3	12.5	14.6	13.0	13.1	12.5	4,821	1,180
25-44	11.8	11.4	11.9	11.4	12.0	12.9	13.3	13.3	11.3	11.0	14.6	12.8	12.9	12.3	14,127	3,860
45-64	10.2	10.2	10.5	11.6	11.7	11.4	11.3	11.9	11.7	10.9	15.0	13.7	13.6	13.6	13,777	4,730
65 and over	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.5	8.7	8.8	8.5	8.2	9,022	3,650
Total	10.2	10.0	10.7	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.1	12.1	10.8	10.2	13.5	12.3	12.2	11.9	41,747	13,410

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

2 Results from 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures produced using the updated methodology for converting volumes of alcohol to units assuming an average wine glass size

4 Figures produced using the updated methodology including data on wine glass size

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.2 Weekly alcohol consumption: percentage exceeding specified amounts by sex and age: 1992-2009

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain

Age	Unweighted data				Weighted data										2008 ⁴ Updated method	2009 ⁴	Weighted base 2009 (000's) =100%	Unweighted sample ⁵ 2009	
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2006 ³	2008 ³							
Men																			
Percentage of men who drank more than 21 units																			
16-24	32	29	35	36	38	41	40	37	27	26	30	25	25	21	2,281	550			
25-44	31	30	30	27	28	30	30	29	26	24	33	27	27	26	6,649	1,680			
45-64	25	27	26	30	30	28	26	28	25	24	34	31	31	31	6,558	2,190			
65 and over	15	17	18	16	16	17	15	15	14	14	21	22	22	20	4,017	1,710			
Total	26	27	27	27	28	29	28	27	24	23	31	27	27	26	19,505	6,130			
Percentage of men who drank more than 50 units																			
16-24	9	9	10	13	14	14	15	12	9	7	9	7	7	6	2,281	550			
25-44	8	7	6	6	6	7	7	8	5	5	9	6	6	7	6,649	1,680			
45-64	6	6	5	6	7	6	5	6	6	6	10	8	8	8	6,558	2,190			
65 and over	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	5	6	5	5	4,017	1,710			
Total	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	5	8	7	7	7	19,505	6,130			
Women																			
Percentage of women who drank more than 14 units																			
16-24	17	19	22	25	25	33	32	33	24	19	24	22	22	23	2,540	620			
25-44	14	15	16	16	16	19	17	19	14	14	23	21	21	19	7,479	2,180			
45-64	11	12	13	16	15	14	14	14	13	12	21	21	21	20	7,218	2,540			
65 and over	5	7	7	6	6	7	6	7	5	5	10	10	9	10	5,005	1,940			
Total	11	13	14	15	15	17	15	17	13	12	20	19	19	18	22,242	7,280			
Percentage of women who drank more than 35 units																			
16-24	4	4	5	6	7	9	10	10	6	5	7	6	7	6	2,540	620			
25-44	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	6	5	5	4	7,479	2,180			
45-64	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	6	5	5	4	7,218	2,540			
65 and over	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5,005	1,940			
Total	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	4	4	4	22,242	7,280			

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

2. Results from 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3. Figures produced using the updated methodology for converting volumes of alcohol to units assuming an average wine glass size

4. Figures produced using the updated methodology including data on wine glass size

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.3 Drinking last week, by sex and age: 1998 to 2009

<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	2008 ²	2009 ²	<i>Weighted base 2009 (000s)=100%</i>	<i>Unweighted sample 2009³</i>
Percentages													
Men													
Drank last week													
16-24	70	70	70	69	70	66	64	60	64	63	55	2,341	570
25-44	79	78	78	77	77	76	74	73	74	72	70	6,660	1,680
45-64	77	77	76	76	78	76	77	76	76	74	72	6,579	2,190
65 and over	65	67	68	67	69	68	66	67	67	66	66	4,022	1,710
Total	75	75	75	74	75	73	72	71	72	70	68	19,603	6,160
Drank on 5 or more days last week													
16-24	13	11	14	11	14	8	10	8	9	6	7	2,341	570
25-44	21	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	18	14	13	6,660	1,680
45-64	29	26	25	26	26	28	28	26	27	24	23	6,579	2,190
65 and over	25	28	27	28	29	28	26	27	29	27	27	4,022	1,710
Total	23	22	22	22	23	23	22	21	22	19	18	19,603	6,160
Women													
Drank last week													
16-24	62	64	59	61	61	60	56	53	54	52	51	2,552	630
25-44	65	67	66	65	65	62	62	60	61	59	59	7,483	2,180
45-64	61	61	61	63	64	62	61	61	61	60	59	7,232	2,540
65 and over	45	43	45	46	45	45	43	44	45	43	43	5,003	1,940
Total	59	60	59	59	60	58	57	56	57	55	54	22,271	7,290
Drank on 5 or more days last week													
16-24	8	7	8	7	4	5	5	3	4	2	2	2,552	630
25-44	12	11	11	11	10	9	11	9	11	9	7	7,483	2,180
45-64	15	15	17	17	17	18	17	15	15	15	14	7,232	2,540
65 and over	14	14	15	15	16	16	14	15	15	15	14	5,003	1,940
Total	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	12	11	10	22,271	7,290

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

2 Results from 2006 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.4 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and age: 1998 to 2009

<i>Persons aged 16 and over</i>										<i>Great Britain</i>					
Maximum daily amount	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2006 ²	2006 ³	2007	2008	2008 ⁴ updated method	2009	Weighted base 2009 (000s)=100%	Unweighted sample 2009 ⁵
Percentages															
Men															
Drank more than 4 units on at least one day															
16-24	52	50	50	49	51	47	42	39	42	44	42	42	36	2,342	570
25-44	48	45	49	46	47	48	42	42	48	48	41	42	44	6,664	1,690
45-64	37	38	37	38	41	37	35	33	42	44	40	41	41	6,578	2,190
65 and over	16	16	18	16	19	20	16	14	21	23	21	21	20	4,022	1,710
Total	39	39	40	38	40	39	35	33	40	41	37	37	37	19,606	6,160
Drank more than 8 units on at least one day															
16-24	39	37	37	35	37	32	30	27	30	32	30	30	24	2,342	570
25-44	29	27	30	28	30	31	25	25	31	31	26	27	27	6,664	1,690
45-64	17	17	17	18	20	18	16	15	21	24	21	21	21	6,578	2,190
65 and over	4	5	5	5	6	7	4	4	7	8	7	7	5	4,022	1,710
Total	22	21	22	21	23	22	19	18	23	24	21	21	20	19,606	6,160
Women															
Drank more than 3 units on at least one day															
16-24	42	42	40	42	40	39	36	34	39	40	37	36	37	2,548	630
25-44	28	31	31	31	30	28	26	27	40	43	38	37	36	7,481	2,180
45-64	17	19	19	19	20	20	18	17	35	36	35	32	32	7,229	2,540
65 and over	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	14	14	13	10	11	5,005	1,940
Total	21	23	23	23	23	22	20	20	33	34	32	29	29	22,263	7,290
Drank more than 6 units on at least one day															
16-24	24	27	27	28	26	24	22	20	25	24	23	24	24	2,548	630
25-44	11	13	14	13	13	13	11	12	21	22	20	20	19	7,481	2,180
45-64	5	5	5	5	5	6	4	4	12	13	13	13	11	7,229	2,540
65 and over	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	2	2	2	5,005	1,940
Total	8	10	10	10	9	9	8	8	15	15	14	14	13	22,263	7,290

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

2 Results from 2006 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

3 Figures produced using the updated methodology for converting volumes of alcohol to units assuming an average wine glass size

4 Figures produced from 2008 are using the updated methodology including data on wine glass size

5 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 GLF/GHS reports for each year.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.5 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and age*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Age	Average weekly alcohol consumption			<i>Weighted base (000's) =100%</i>			<i>Unweighted sample²</i>		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
16-24	14.8	10.3	12.5	2,281	2,540	4,821	550	620	1,180
25-44	16.4	8.7	12.3	6,649	7,479	14,127	1,680	2,180	3,860
45-64	18.7	8.9	13.6	6,558	7,218	13,777	2,190	2,540	4,730
65 and over	12.7	4.6	8.2	4,017	5,005	9,022	1,710	1,940	3,650
Total	16.3	8.0	11.9	19,505	22,242	41,747	6,130	7,280	13,410

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.6 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and socio-economic class based on the current or last job of the household reference person

Persons aged 16 and over

Great Britain: 2009¹

Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Men	Women	Total
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	19.9	11.7	15.7
Higher professional	17.3	9.8	13.8
Lower managerial and professional	17.0	9.2	12.8
Intermediate			
Intermediate	15.0	6.8	9.8
Small employers/own account workers	16.3	9.1	12.7
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	15.4	7.1	11.4
Semi-routine	14.9	6.7	10.1
Routine	15.9	6.1	10.7
Total⁴	16.3	8.0	11.9
Weighted bases (000's) =100%			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,276	1,332	2,608
Higher professional	2,084	1,787	3,871
Lower managerial and professional	4,927	5,664	10,591
Intermediate	1,289	2,177	3,466
Small employers/own account workers	1,890	1,849	3,740
Lower supervisory and technical	2,462	2,296	4,758
Semi-routine	2,235	3,211	5,447
Routine	2,130	2,382	4,512
Total⁴	19,505	22,242	41,747
Unweighted sample			
Large employer and higher managerial	420	440	860
Higher professional	630	590	1,220
Lower managerial and professional	1,560	1,870	3,440
Intermediate	400	710	1,100
Small employers/own account workers	600	600	1,210
Lower supervisory and technical	790	750	1,550
Semi-routine	690	1,040	1,720
Routine	690	790	1,480
Total⁴	6,130	7,280	13,410

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.7 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and usual gross weekly household income (£)*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Usual gross weekly household income (£)	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample ²		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Up to 200.00	16.1	5.7	9.9	2,674	3,970	6,644	830	1,340	2,170
200.01 - 400.00	12.8	6.7	9.4	3,289	4,194	7,483	1,180	1,500	2,680
400.01 - 600.00	14.7	7.5	10.8	2,854	3,257	6,111	960	1,120	2,080
600.01 - 800.00	16.7	8.9	12.8	2,819	2,787	5,606	840	880	1,720
800.01 - 1000.00	18.3	9.0	13.6	2,084	2,067	4,151	620	630	1,250
1000.01 or more	18.7	10.8	14.8	4,489	4,455	8,944	1,300	1,310	2,610
Total	16.3	8.0	11.9	18,208	20,731	38,939	5,720	6,790	12,510

1 Results for 2009 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.

*Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics***Table 2.8 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and economic activity status***Persons aged 16-64**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Economic activity status	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample ²		
	Men	Women	Total ³	Men	Women	Total ³	Men	Women	Total ³
Working	17.3	9.7	13.5	11,531	11,763	23,294	3,300	3,580	6,880
Unemployed	16.6	11.0	14.4	1,359	868	2,227	360	250	600
Economically inactive	16.8	7.0	10.5	2,590	4,603	7,192	770	1,520	2,280
Total ³	17.2	9.0	12.9	15,480	17,234	32,713	4,420	5,340	9,760

1 Results for 2009 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.

3 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.9 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex and usual gross weekly earnings (£)*Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Usual gross weekly earnings (£)	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample ²		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Up to 200.00	16.7	10.3	13.9	605	484	1,090	180	150	330
200.01 - 300.00	16.3	8.2	12.1	1,194	1,288	2,482	330	380	710
300.01 - 400.00	19.7	8.9	14.5	1,511	1,411	2,922	440	410	850
400.01 - 600.00	15.6	10.2	13.7	2,855	1,545	4,400	790	450	1,240
600.01 - 800.00	19.3	11.7	16.9	1,485	684	2,169	420	210	630
800.01 or more	20.8	13.0	18.7	1,760	643	2,402	530	190	710
Total	18.0	9.9	14.8	9,410	6,054	15,464	2,680	1,790	4,470

1 Results for 2009 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.

*Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics***Table 2.10 Average weekly alcohol consumption (units), by sex, country, and region of England***Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Government Office Region	Average weekly alcohol consumption			Weighted base (000's) =100%			Unweighted sample ²		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
North East	21.0	9.4	14.4	700	918	1,617	250	330	580
North West	17.3	9.0	13.1	2,565	2,676	5,242	740	840	1,580
Yorkshire and the Humber	17.7	9.8	13.6	1,735	1,922	3,657	590	700	1,290
East Midlands	16.3	7.8	11.9	1,587	1,719	3,306	550	620	1,170
West Midlands	14.0	6.9	10.2	1,748	2,062	3,810	530	630	1,160
East of England	15.8	7.8	11.6	1,962	2,161	4,123	650	740	1,390
London	13.4	6.0	9.3	2,184	2,622	4,806	520	640	1,160
South East	17.1	8.4	12.5	2,773	3,190	5,964	830	990	1,820
South West	17.6	7.9	12.2	1,469	1,826	3,294	540	700	1,240
England	16.4	8.0	11.9	16,722	19,098	35,820	5,210	6,190	11,390
Wales	16.7	8.6	12.4	1,029	1,164	2,193	370	430	800
Scotland	15.0	7.8	11.2	1,754	1,980	3,734	550	670	1,220
Great Britain	16.3	8.0	11.9	19,505	22,242	41,747	6,130	7,280	13,410

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.11 Whether drank last week and number of drinking days by sex and age*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Drinking days last week	Age				
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Men					
Percentages					
0	45	30	28	34	32
1	24	21	15	16	19
2	14	18	15	11	15
3	7	11	12	7	10
4	3	7	8	4	6
5	3	5	5	5	5
6	2	3	5	3	4
7	2	5	12	19	10
% who drank last week	55	70	72	66	68
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	2,341	6,660	6,579	4,022	19,603
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	570	1,680	2,190	1,710	6,160
Women					
0	49	41	41	57	46
1	24	23	17	16	20
2	15	14	14	6	12
3	7	9	9	4	8
4	2	5	6	3	5
5	0	3	4	2	3
6	1	2	3	1	2
7	1	3	7	10	6
% who drank last week	51	59	59	43	54
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	2,552	7,483	7,232	5,003	22,271
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	630	2,180	2,540	1,940	7,290
All persons					
0	47	36	35	47	39
1	24	22	16	16	19
2	14	16	14	8	14
3	7	10	10	6	9
4	3	6	7	4	5
5	2	4	4	3	4
6	1	2	4	2	3
7	1	4	10	14	8
% who drank last week	53	64	65	53	61
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i> <i>=100%</i>	4,894	14,144	13,811	9,025	41,874
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>	1,190	3,870	4,740	3,650	13,450

¹ Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.12 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and age*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Maximum daily amount	Age					Total
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over		
Percentages						
Men						
Drank nothing last week	45	30	28	34		32
Up to 4 units	19	27	31	45		31
More than 4, up to 8 units	11	17	20	15		17
More than 8 units	24	27	21	5		20
	36	44	41	20		37
Women						
Drank nothing last week	50	41	41	57		46
Up to 3 units	13	23	27	32		25
More than 3, up to 6 units	13	17	20	9		16
More than 6 units	24	19	11	2		13
	37	36	32	11		29
All persons						
Drank nothing last week	48	36	35	47		39
Up to 4/3 units	16	25	29	38		28
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	12	17	20	12		16
More than 8/6 units	24	23	16	3		16
	36	40	36	15		33
Weighted base (000's) = 100%						
Men	2,342	6,664	6,578	4,022		19,606
Women	2,548	7,481	7,229	5,005		22,263
All persons	4,890	14,145	13,807	9,028		41,869
Unweighted sample						
Men	570	1,690	2,190	1,710		6,160
Women	630	2,180	2,540	1,940		7,290
All persons	1,190	3,870	4,740	3,650		13,450

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.12b Maximum drunk on any one day by those who consumed alcohol last week, by sex and age*Persons aged 16 and over who drank alcohol last week**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Maximum daily amount	Age				
	16-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Men					
Up to 4 units	35	38	42	69	45
More than 4, up to 8 units	21	24	28	23	25
More than 8 units	45	39	30	8	30
	65	62	58	31	55
Women					
Up to 3 units	27	39	46	74	46
More than 3, up to 6 units	25	30	34	22	29
More than 6 units	48	32	19	4	24
	73	61	54	26	54
All persons					
Up to 4/3 units	31	38	44	71	46
More than 4/3, up to 8/6 units	23	26	31	22	27
More than 8/6 units	46	35	25	6	27
	69	62	56	29	54
<i>Weighted base (000's) = 100%</i>					
Men	1,279	4,684	4,735	2,643	13,342
Women	1,280	4,388	4,276	2,135	12,079
All persons	2,559	9,073	9,011	4,779	25,422
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>					
Men	300	1,210	1,630	1,150	4,280
Women	310	1,280	1,530	850	3,970
All persons	610	2,490	3,160	2,000	8,250

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.13 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: 2009¹</i>	
Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Men	Women	All persons
Percentage who drank last week			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	87	73	80
Higher professional	77 77	69 65	74 71
Lower managerial and professional	75	62	68
Intermediate			
Intermediate	69	52	58
Small employers/own account workers	66 67	57 55	62 60
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	62	49	56
Semi-routine	56 59	45 44	50 51
Routine	60	37	48
Total ²	68	54	61
Percentage who drank on 5 or more days last week			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	29	15	22
Higher professional	24 23	16 14	20 18
Lower managerial and professional	20	13	16
Intermediate			
Intermediate	17	9	12
Small employers/own account workers	21 19	12 10	16 14
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	17	8	13
Semi-routine	11 14	6 7	8 10
Routine	13	7	10
Total ²	18	10	14
<i>Weighted bases (000's) = 100%</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,280	1,332	2,612
Higher professional	2,087	1,787	3,874
Lower managerial and professional	4,981	5,678	10,659
Intermediate	1,289	2,181	3,471
Small employers/own account workers	1,898	1,854	3,752
Lower supervisory and technical	2,467	2,301	4,768
Semi-routine	2,243	3,209	5,452
Routine	2,137	2,381	4,518
Total ²	18,953	21,431	40,384
<i>Unweighted sample</i>			
Large employer and higher managerial	420	440	860
Higher professional	630	590	1,220
Lower managerial and professional	1,580	1,880	3,450
Intermediate	400	710	1,100
Small employers/own account workers	600	610	1,210
Lower supervisory and technical	790	750	1,550
Semi-routine	690	1,040	1,730
Routine	690	790	1,480
Total ²	5,970	7,040	13,010

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.14 Maximum number of units drunk on any 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: 2009¹

Socio-economic classification of household reference person	Men	Women	All persons
Percentage who drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day last week ³			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	49	44	46
Higher professional	40	39	39
Lower managerial and professional	39	32	35
Intermediate			
Intermediate	35	24	28
Small employers/own account workers	37	32	35
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	35	28	32
Semi-routine	32	22	26
Routine	35	20	27
Total ²	37	29	33
Percentage who drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ³			
Managerial and professional			
Large employer and higher managerial	25	18	21
Higher professional	23	18	21
Lower managerial and professional	22	14	18
Intermediate			
Intermediate	21	12	15
Small employers/own account workers	19	12	16
Routine and manual			
Lower supervisory and technical	18	13	16
Semi-routine	19	11	14
Routine	19	9	14
Total ²	20	13	16
Weighted bases (000's) =100%			
Large employer and higher managerial	1,280	1,332	2,612
Higher professional	2,085	1,787	3,872
Lower managerial and professional	4,985	5,675	10,660
Intermediate	1,289	2,177	3,466
Small employers/own account workers	1,903	1,857	3,760
Lower supervisory and technical	2,469	2,301	4,770
Semi-routine	2,241	3,203	5,444
Routine	2,132	2,385	4,517
Total ²	18,956	21,423	40,379
Unweighted sample			
Large employer and higher managerial	420	440	860
Higher professional	630	590	1,220
Lower managerial and professional	1,580	1,880	3,450
Intermediate	400	710	1,100
Small employers/own account workers	610	610	1,210
Lower supervisory and technical	800	750	1,550
Semi-routine	690	1,040	1,720
Routine	690	790	1,480
Total ²	5,970	7,040	13,010

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 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.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.15 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly household income

Persons aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹					
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly household income (£)						Total ²
	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 last week							
Men	55	61	68	68	75	78	68
Women	39	45	52	58	64	70	54
All persons	46	52	59	63	70	74	61
Drank on 5 or more days							
Men	16	18	17	18	17	20	18
Women	7	9	9	11	9	14	10
All persons	11	13	13	14	13	17	14
Weighted base (000's)							
=100%							
Men	2,686	3,289	2,867	2,848	2,086	4,523	18,300
Women	3,977	4,194	3,254	2,797	2,077	4,465	20,765
All persons	6,663	7,483	6,121	5,646	4,164	8,988	39,064
Unweighted sample ³							
Men	830	1,180	960	850	620	1,310	5,750
Women	1,340	1,500	1,120	880	630	1,320	6,800
All persons	2,180	2,680	2,080	1,730	1,250	2,630	12,550

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.16 Maximum drunk on any one day last week by sex and usual gross weekly household income

Persons aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹					
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly household income (£)						Total ²
	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 ³							
Men	30	28	36	39	43	46	37
Women	17	22	26	31	35	43	29
All persons	22	24	31	35	39	45	33
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day last week ³							
Men	14	13	21	22	26	26	20
Women	8	8	13	16	16	19	13
All persons	10	10	17	19	21	23	16
Weighted base (000's) =100%							
Men	2,689	3,289	2,863	2,853	2,086	4,523	18,303
Women	3,971	4,190	3,257	2,797	2,077	4,462	20,754
All persons	6,659	7,479	6,119	5,650	4,164	8,985	39,057
Unweighted sample							
Men	840	1,180	960	850	620	1,310	5,750
Women	1,340	1,500	1,120	880	630	1,310	6,800
All persons	2,180	2,680	2,080	1,740	1,250	2,630	12,550

¹ Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

² The total includes those for whom household income was not available

³ The first of each pair of figures shown relates to men, and the second, to women.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.17 Drinking last week, by sex and economic activity status*Persons aged 16-64**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Drinking last week	Economic activity status			
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total
Percentages				
Drank last week				
Men	74	58	52	69
Women	64	44	45	58
All persons	69	53	48	63
Drank on 5 or more days last week				
Men	17	12	15	16
Women	10	7	8	9
All persons	13	10	10	13
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>				
<i>=100%</i>				
Men	11,585	1,382	2,601	15,571
Women	11,760	882	4,620	17,265
All persons	23,345	2,264	7,221	32,837
<i>Unweighted sample²</i>				
Men	3,310	360	770	4,440
Women	3,580	250	1,520	5,350
All persons	6,890	610	2,300	9,800

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.18 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and economic activity status

Persons aged 16-64		Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
Drinking last week	Economic activity status			
	Working	Unemployed	Economically inactive	Total
Percentages				
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²				
Men	44	37	31	41
Women	38	29	25	34
All persons	41	34	27	38
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²				
Men	26	24	17	24
Women	18	17	11	16
All persons	22	22	13	20
Weighted base (000's)				
=100%				
Men	11,584	1,385	2,604	15,575
Women	11,758	877	4,616	17,255
All persons	23,342	2,262	7,219	32,830
Unweighted sample ³				
Men	3,310	360	770	4,450
Women	3,580	250	1,520	5,350
All persons	6,890	610	2,290	9,790

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.19 Drinking last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings*Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ² (£)						Total
	Up to 200.00	200.01 -300.00	300.01 -400.00	400.01 -600.00	600.01 -800.00	800.01 or more	
	Percentages						
Drank last week							
Men	70	64	76	72	79	85	75
Women	55	56	64	68	71	77	65
All persons	64	60	70	71	77	83	71
Drank on 5 or more days							
Men	26	12	17	13	22	21	17
Women	11	7	8	9	15	18	10
All persons	20	9	12	12	20	21	15
<i>Weighted base (000's)</i>							
<i>=100%</i>							
Men	607	1,217	1,516	2,857	1,486	1,760	9,443
Women	479	1,288	1,411	1,545	686	643	6,051
All persons	1,086	2,505	2,926	4,402	2,172	2,402	15,494
<i>Unweighted sample³</i>							
Men	180	330	440	790	420	530	2,690
Women	150	380	410	450	210	190	1,790
All persons	330	720	850	1,240	630	710	4,480

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Usual gross weekly earnings for the respondent

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.20 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex and usual gross weekly earnings

Persons aged 16-64 in full-time employment					Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
Drinking last week	Usual gross weekly earnings ² (£)						Total
	Up to 200.00	200.01 -300.00	300.01 -400.00	400.01 -600.00	600.01 -800.00	800.01 or more	
Percentages							
Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ³							
Men	42	41	48	44	46	52	46
Women	32	33	38	44	44	54	41
All persons	38	37	43	44	45	52	44
Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ³							
Men	21	21	29	28	29	29	27
Women	17	17	20	22	20	27	20
All persons	19	19	25	26	26	28	24
Weighted base (000's)							
=100%							
Men	612	1,208	1,516	2,857	1,489	1,760	9,442
Women	481	1,288	1,411	1,545	686	643	6,053
All persons	1,093	2,496	2,926	4,402	2,175	2,402	15,495
Unweighted sample ⁴							
Men	180	330	440	790	420	530	2,690
Women	150	380	410	450	210	190	1,790
All persons	330	710	850	1,240	630	710	4,480

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

2 Usual gross weekly earnings for the respondent

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

4 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.21 Drinking last week, by sex, country, and region of England

Persons aged 16 and over		Great Britain: 2009 ¹		
Government Office Region	Drinking last week		Weighted base (000's) =100%	Unweighted sample ²
	Drank last week	Drank on 5 or more days last week		
Men	Percentages			
North East	75	19	702	250
North West	71	16	2,582	750
Yorkshire and the Humber	70	17	1,738	600
East Midlands	70	21	1,591	550
West Midlands	66	21	1,757	530
East of England	71	20	1,975	660
London	57	17	2,189	520
South East	73	21	2,803	840
South West	75	22	1,472	540
England	69	19	16,808	5,230
Wales	66	17	1,035	370
Scotland	58	12	1,759	560
Great Britain	68	18	19,603	6,160
Women				
North East	57	10	925	330
North West	56	9	2,679	840
Yorkshire and the Humber	60	11	1,927	700
East Midlands	56	10	1,724	620
West Midlands	52	12	2,066	630
East of England	57	13	2,161	740
London	46	8	2,628	650
South East	59	12	3,190	990
South West	54	11	1,826	700
England	55	11	19,127	6,190
Wales	52	7	1,164	430
Scotland	48	8	1,980	670
Great Britain	54	10	22,271	7,290
All persons				
North East	65	14	1,627	580
North West	63	12	5,262	1,580
Yorkshire and the Humber	65	14	3,665	1,300
East Midlands	63	15	3,315	1,170
West Midlands	58	16	3,822	1,170
East of England	64	16	4,136	1,400
London	51	12	4,817	1,160
South East	65	16	5,993	1,830
South West	64	16	3,298	1,240
England	62	15	35,935	11,420
Wales	58	12	2,199	800
Scotland	53	10	3,739	1,230
Great Britain	61	14	41,874	13,450

1 Results for 2009 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.

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 2.22 Maximum drunk on any one day last week, by sex, country, and region of England*Persons aged 16 and over**Great Britain: 2009¹*

Government Office Region	Drank more than 4/3 units on at least one day ²	Drank more than 8/6 units on at least one day ²	Weighted base (000's) =100%	Unweighted sample ³
Men				
North East	45	27	702	250
North West	43	25	2,585	750
Yorkshire and the Humber	45	27	1,738	600
East Midlands	37	19	1,591	550
West Midlands	32	16	1,757	530
East of England	34	20	1,980	660
London	31	16	2,191	520
South East	39	20	2,803	840
South West	34	17	1,472	540
England	37	20	16,818	5,240
Wales	38	20	1,029	370
Scotland	34	20	1,759	560
Great Britain	37	20	19,606	6,160
Women				
North East	36	17	925	330
North West	34	17	2,678	840
Yorkshire and the Humber	37	18	1,925	700
East Midlands	31	13	1,724	620
West Midlands	23	8	2,066	630
East of England	28	10	2,167	740
London	22	11	2,620	640
South East	31	13	3,190	990
South West	24	9	1,824	700
England	29	13	19,119	6,190
Wales	32	15	1,164	430
Scotland	26	14	1,980	670
Great Britain	29	13	22,263	7,290
All persons				
North East	40	21	1,627	580
North West	39	21	5,263	1,580
Yorkshire and the Humber	41	22	3,663	1,300
East Midlands	34	16	3,315	1,170
West Midlands	27	11	3,822	1,170
East of England	31	15	4,147	1,400
London	26	13	4,811	1,160
South East	34	17	5,993	1,830
South West	28	13	3,296	1,240
England	33	16	35,937	11,430
Wales	35	17	2,193	800
Scotland	30	17	3,739	1,230
Great Britain	33	16	41,869	13,450

1 Results for 2009 include longitudinal data (see Appendix B).

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

3 Figures for unweighted sample have been rounded independently.

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

Source: General Lifestyle Survey, Office for National Statistics