

The impact of devolution

Indicators of poverty and social exclusion

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This report uses UK-wide data to provide a ‘fact pack’ about the impact or otherwise of devolution on the scale of poverty and social exclusion. It shows how a variety of relevant statistical indicators compare between the four countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The material covers the subjects of low income, work, low pay, health and education. For each indicator within each subject, there are two types of analysis:

- the first shows how the four countries compare by providing time trends for a selected statistic;
- the second shows how the twelve regions of the UK (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the nine English regions) compare.

Subjects such as housing and crime are not covered as their data is collected separately by each of the four countries and is therefore not directly comparable.

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Executive summary

Current situation

For each of the indicators, Table 1 provides a visual summary of where each country currently stands. The colour coding is as follows:

	More than 5% 'better' than the unweighted average of the four countries
	Within 5% of the unweighted average of the four countries
	More than 5% 'worse' than the unweighted average of the four countries
	Not applicable

Unweighted averages, rather than population-weighted averages (i.e. the UK average), have been used to avoid the results for England always being near the average (in other words, because it has a much bigger population than the other four countries, England is always very close to the UK average).

All the data has been analysed using the average for the latest three years.

Table 1: Relative current situation by country

Subject area	Indicator	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Low Income	Whole Population (BHC)				
	Whole Population (AHC)				
	Children (BHC)				
	Children (AHC)				
	Pensioners (BHC)				
	Pensioners (AHC)				
	Working-Age Adults (BHC)				
	Working-Age Adults (AHC)				
	In-Work Poverty (AHC)				
	Children Of Lone Parents				
Lack Of Work	Unemployment				
	Lacking, But Wanting, Paid Work				
	Not In Paid Work				
	Out-Of-Work Benefit Recipients				
Low Pay	All Employees				
	Full-Time Employees				
	Part-Time Employees				
Health	Infant Deaths				
	Premature Deaths				
Education	Children (fewer than 5 GCSEs)		n/a		
	Children (fewer than 5 GCSEs at grade A-C)		n/a		
	Working-Age Adults				

Note: BHC = before deducting housing costs; AHC = after deducting housing costs.

Trends over time

Using the same colour coding as Table 1, the Table 2 provides a visual summary of how the trends over the last decade compare between the countries.

The trend is taken to be the average for the latest three years divided by the average for the first three years, where the time period for the first three years varies slightly between indicators but is always around 10 years ago (and is 1995/96 to 1997/98 for the low-income indicators).

Table 2: Relative trends by country

Subject area	Indicator	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Low Income	Whole Population (BHC)				n/a
	Whole Population (AHC)				n/a
	Children (BHC)				n/a
	Children (AHC)				n/a
	Pensioners (BHC)				n/a
	Pensioners (AHC)				n/a
	Working-Age Adults (BHC)				n/a
	Working-Age Adults (AHC)				n/a
Lack Of Work	Unemployment				
	Lacking, But Wanting, Paid Work				
	Not In Paid Work				
	Out-Of-Work Benefit Recipients				
Low Pay	All Employees				
	Full-Time Employees				
	Part-Time Employees				
Health	Infant Deaths				
	Premature Deaths				
Education	Children (fewer than 5 GCSEs)		n/a		
	Children (fewer than 5 GCSEs at grade A-C)		n/a		
	Working-Age Adults				

Note: BHC = before deducting housing costs; AHC = after deducting housing costs.

Introduction

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has commissioned a series of projects to look at the impact or otherwise of devolution on the scale and nature of poverty and social exclusion in the four home countries of the UK. This report is the product of one of those projects. Its remit is to act as a 'fact pack' showing how a variety of statistical s relevant to poverty and social exclusion compare between the four countries.

Because the objective is to produce factual material that others can use as they wish, the report contains very little by way of opinion or interpretation.

The material in this report is presented in the form of a number of indicators grouped into a number of chapters. Each indicator comprises two figures:

- The first figure typically shows how England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland compare by providing time trends for a selected statistic.
- The second figure typically shows how the 12 regions of the UK (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the nine English regions) compare on the selected statistic. (The nine English regions are East, East Midlands (EM), London, North East (NE), North West (NW), South East (SE), South West (SW), West Midlands (WM) and Yorkshire & the Humber (Y&H).)

The idea is that, while the first figure meets the basic remit of providing cross-country comparisons, the second figure can sometimes provide further insight into the differences. For example, the prevalence of low pay in Scotland is similar to that in England but the regional figure shows that Scotland has a lower prevalence than that in most (seven of the nine) of the English regions. More specifically, it is only because of the much higher rates of pay in London that the English average is brought up to be the same as the Scottish average.

In terms of the scope of the subjects covered, the aim has been to include as many of the subjects

from the JRF's annual monitoring poverty and social exclusion reports and their associated website (www.poverty.org.uk) as possible. In practice, however, data limitations have meant that this has not been fully achievable. More specifically, a basic principle of comparative analysis is that it can only be confidently undertaken when the data comes from the same (i.e. UK-wide) source – if the data comes from different sources then, even if they sound like the same thing, subtle differences in data definition or data collection method are likely to make it non-comparable in truth. In this context, the subjects fall into three broad categories:

- fully comparable: low income, lack of work and low pay;
- some, but not most, aspects comparable: health, education and housing;
- little comparable: neighbourhoods and other aspects of 'community'.

It is noteworthy – and, from the perspective of this project, unfortunate – that this breakdown is inversely correlated with the extent to which the subjects are devolved. In other words, the policy areas that are fully devolved are precisely those where fully comparable data is not available. This, in turn, is because part of devolution is itself devolution of the data collection and analysis processes.

Finally, note that a lack of comparable data does not mean that there is a paucity of data. For example, each country undertakes regular surveys on neighbourhoods, crime, etc. But these surveys ask slightly different questions in slightly different ways and the net result is that they are not directly comparable. In this context, this report does not provide any cross-country comparisons on neighbourhoods or any other aspects of 'community'. It also does not include anything on housing as this is being done by another project.

1 Low income

Data sources and definitions

Data on low income comes from the annual Households Below Average Income datasets, based on the Family Resources Survey. While data for England, Scotland and Wales is available back to the first survey in 1994/95, Northern Ireland was only added to the survey in 2002/03.

In this context, country-specific versions of any of the statistics from The Poverty Site (www.poverty.org.uk) can be produced except for time series for Northern Ireland. This chapter contains a selection of such statistics but, clearly, others can be produced on request.

The latest data on low income is for 2007/08. When looking at the number of people in low income, there are choices about what low-income threshold to use. The most commonly used threshold, however, is a household income that is 60% or less of the average (median) British household income in that year. This income is measured after Income Tax and Council Tax have been deducted. All incomes are adjusted for household size and composition to put them on a comparable basis (a process known as 'equivalisation').

Two variants of the 60% threshold are commonly used, namely either before or after deducting housing costs.

The 'before deducting housing costs' (BHC) variant is the threshold that is now used by the UK government when monitoring progress against its 2010 child poverty target. In 2007/08, the BHC 60% threshold was worth: £158 per week for single adult with no dependent children; £236 per week for a couple with no dependent children; £283 per week for a single adult with two dependent children aged 5 and 14 respectively; and £361 per week for a couple with two dependent children aged 5 and 14 respectively.

The BHC threshold does, however, have a number of disadvantages. First, housing costs can vary considerably for people in otherwise identical circumstances (e.g. pensioners who have paid off

their mortgage versus pensioners who are renting) without the people having any realistic ability to change these costs. Second, Housing Benefit – which provides for the housing costs of many of the poorest – is considered to be income and so people in otherwise identical circumstances will have differing BHC incomes (but the same standard of living) depending on whether they are living in areas of high or low housing cost. For these reasons, many outsider commentators continue to use the 'after deducting housing costs' (AHC) variant on the grounds that it is the money left over after deducting housing costs which is the measure of a household's standard of living as it represents what the household has available to spend on everything else it needs, from food and heating to travel and entertainment. To calculate the AHC income from the BHC income, the housing costs that are deducted include rents, mortgage interest (but not the repayment of principal), buildings insurance and water charges.

In 2007/08, the AHC 60% threshold was worth: £115 per week for a single adult with no dependent children; £199 per week for a couple with no dependent children; £239 per week for a single adult with two dependent children aged 5 and 14 respectively; and £322 per week for a couple with two dependent children aged 5 and 14 respectively.

The indicators

Indicator	
1	Whole population (BHC)
2	Whole population (AHC)
3	Children (BHC)
4	Children (AHC)
5	Pensioners (BHC)
6	Pensioners (AHC)
7	Working-age adults (BHC)
8	Working-age adults (AHC)
9	In-work poverty (AHC)
10	Children of lone parents

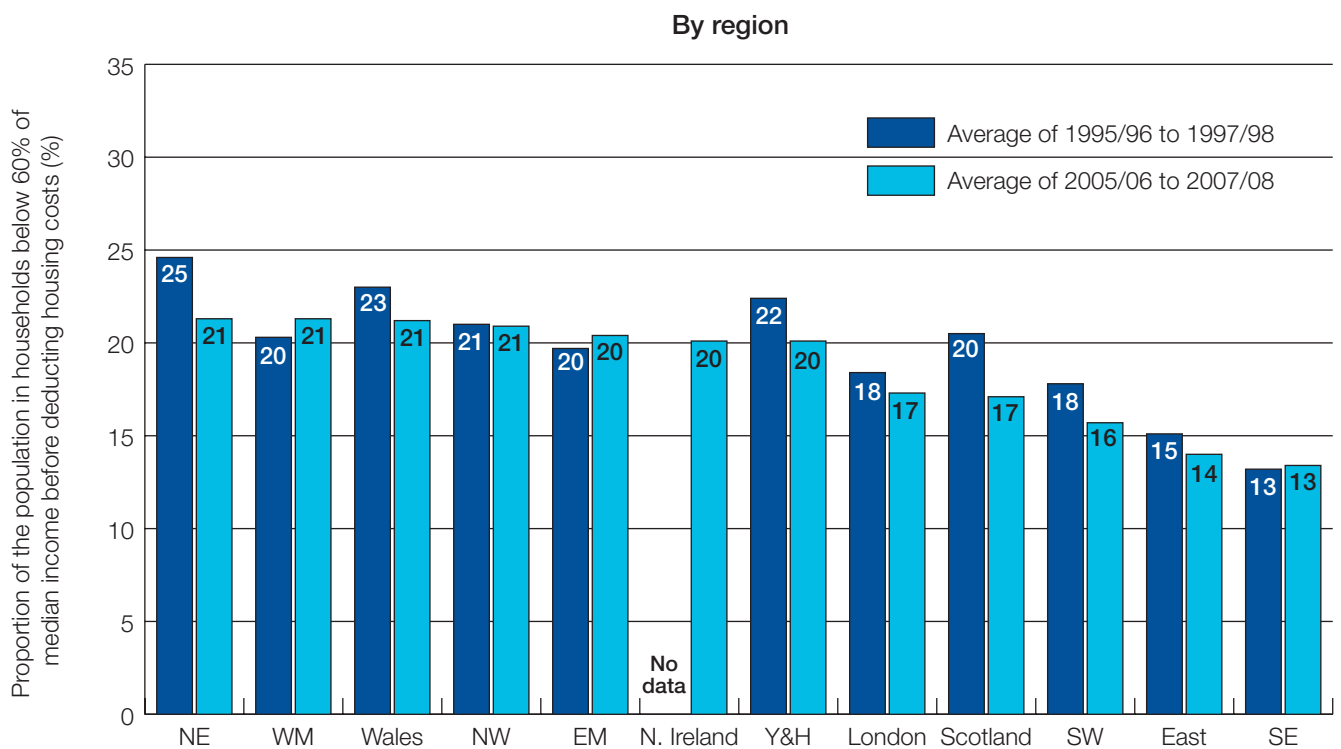
1 Whole population (BHC)

Figure 1a: Proportion of the population in low income before deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

Figure 1b: Proportion of the population in low income before deducting housing costs – by region, over time

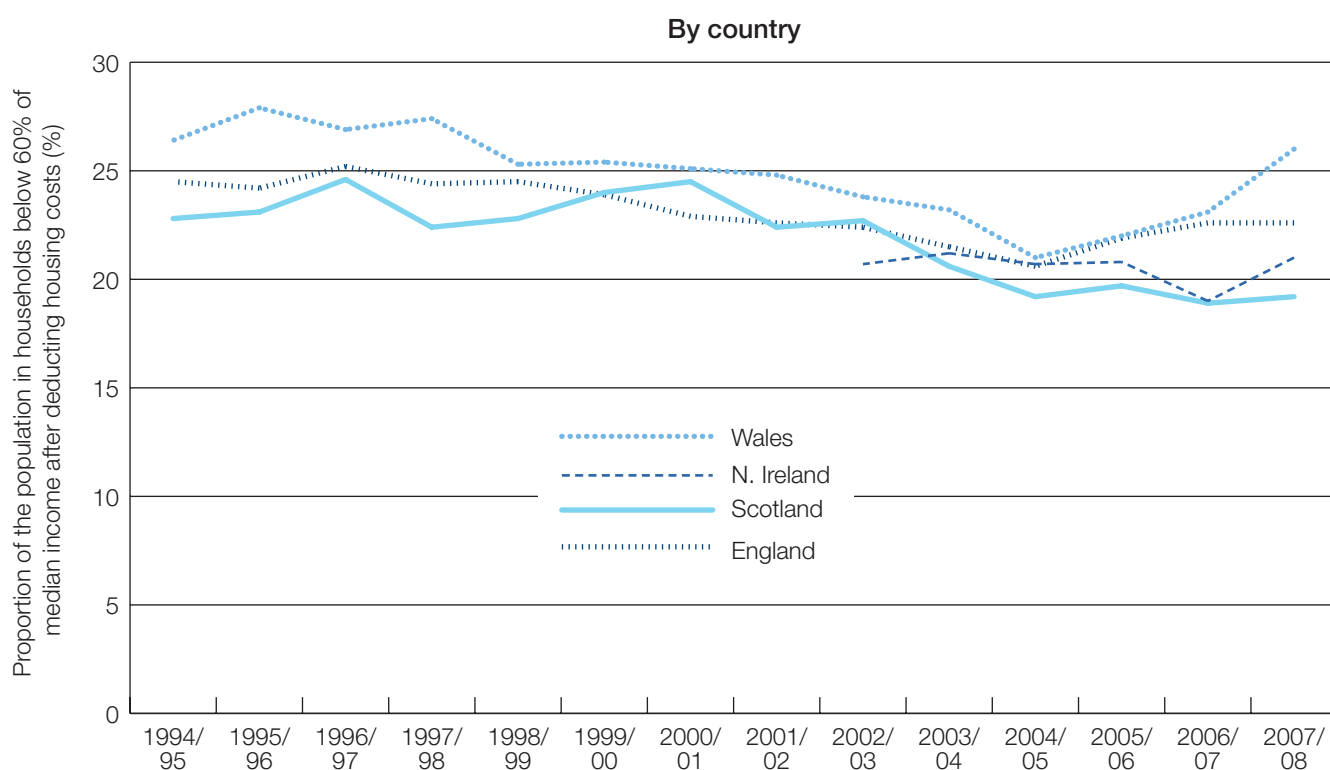


Note: Northern Ireland's relative position differs significantly depending on whether the before housing costs or after housing costs measure is used. More specifically, its relative before housing costs position is worse than its relative after housing costs position because of the very low housing costs in Northern Ireland.

Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

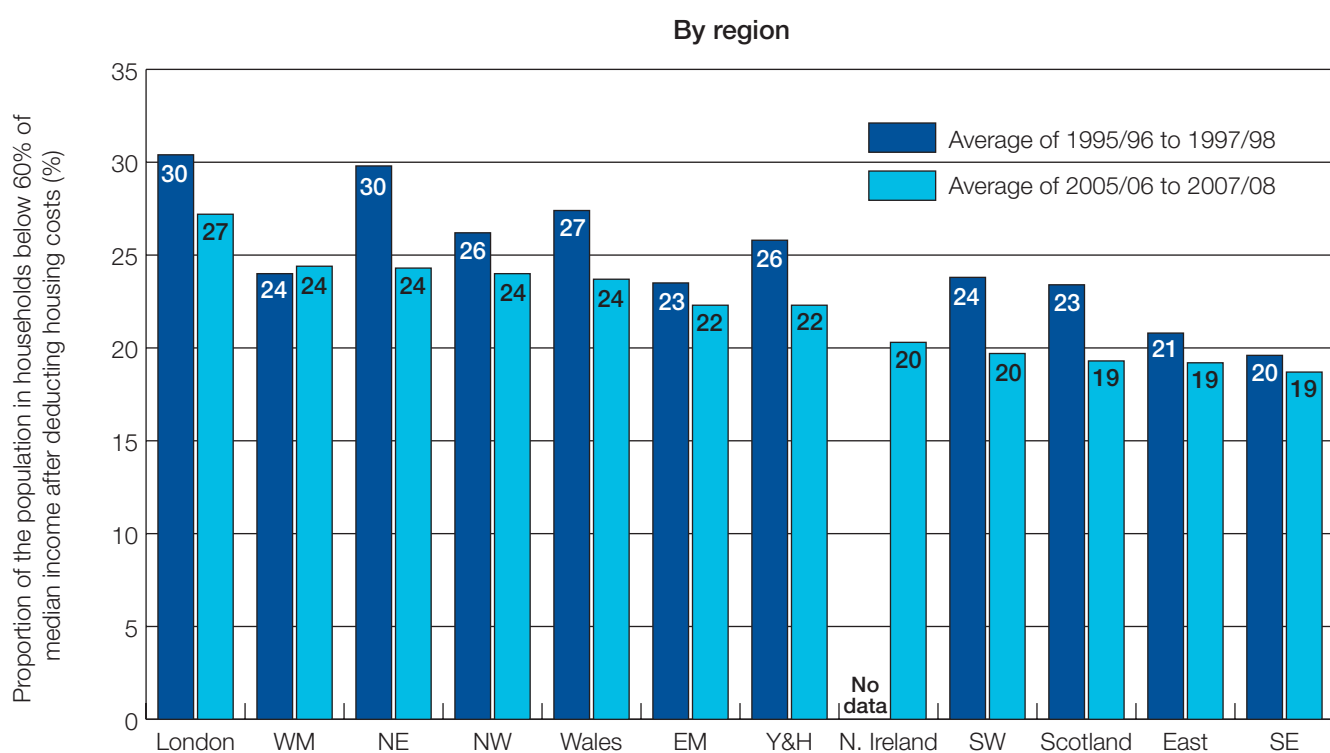
2 Whole population (AHC)

Figure 2a: Proportion of the population in low income after deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

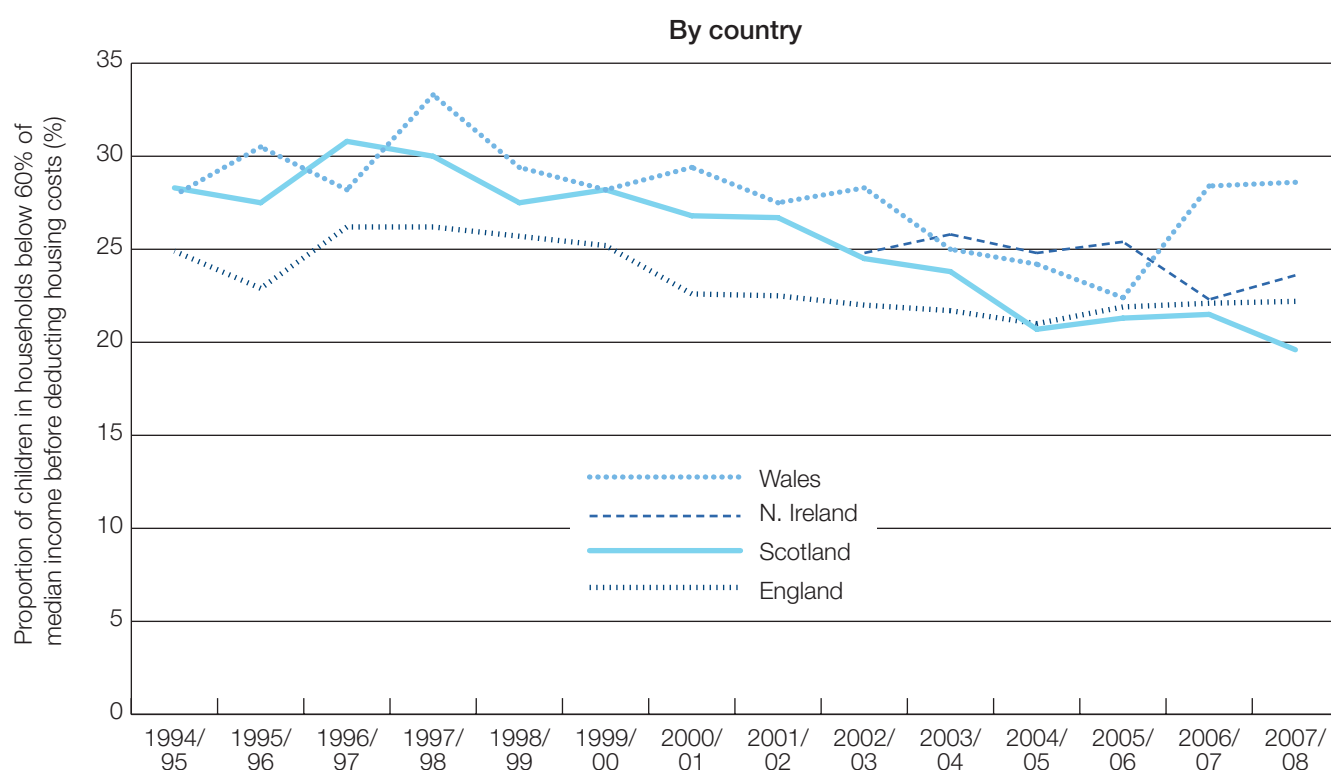
Figure 2b: Proportion of the population in low income after deducting housing costs – by region, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

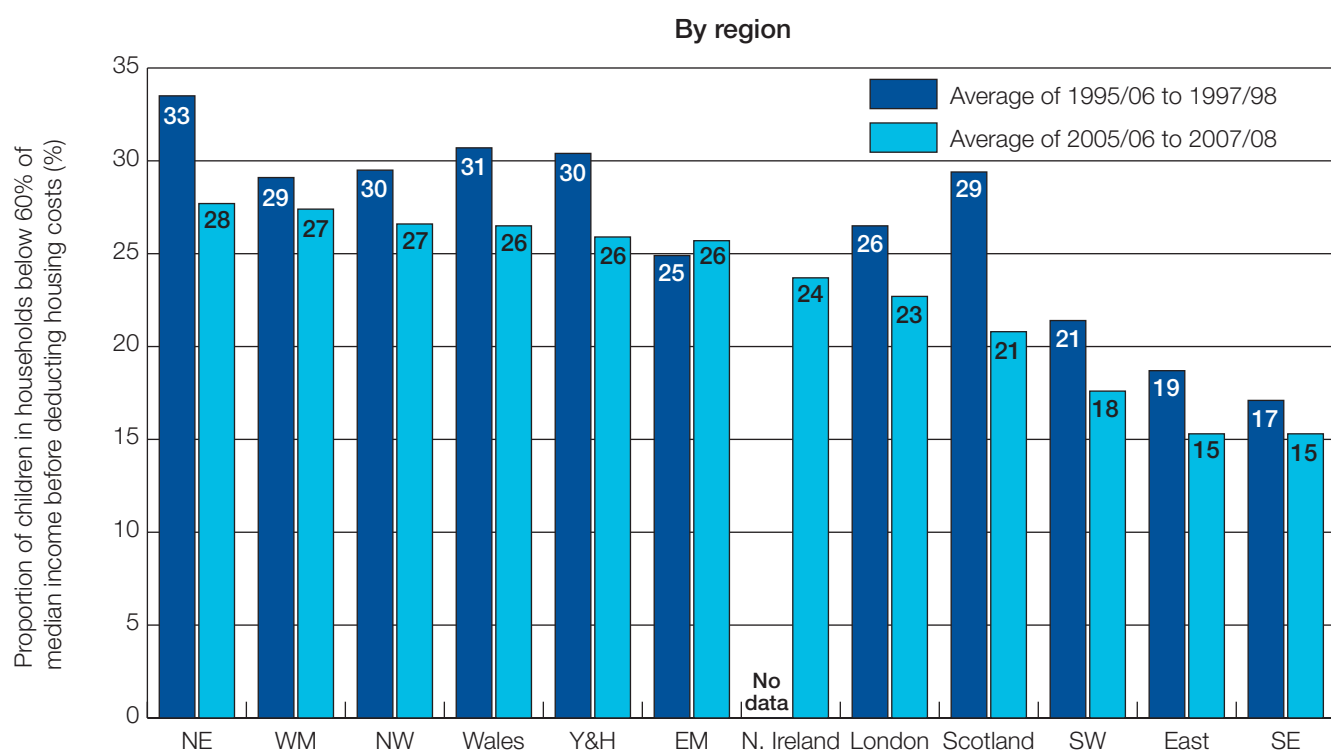
3 Children (BHC)

Figure 3a: Proportion of children in low income before deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

Figure 3b: Proportion of children in low income before deducting housing costs – by region, over time

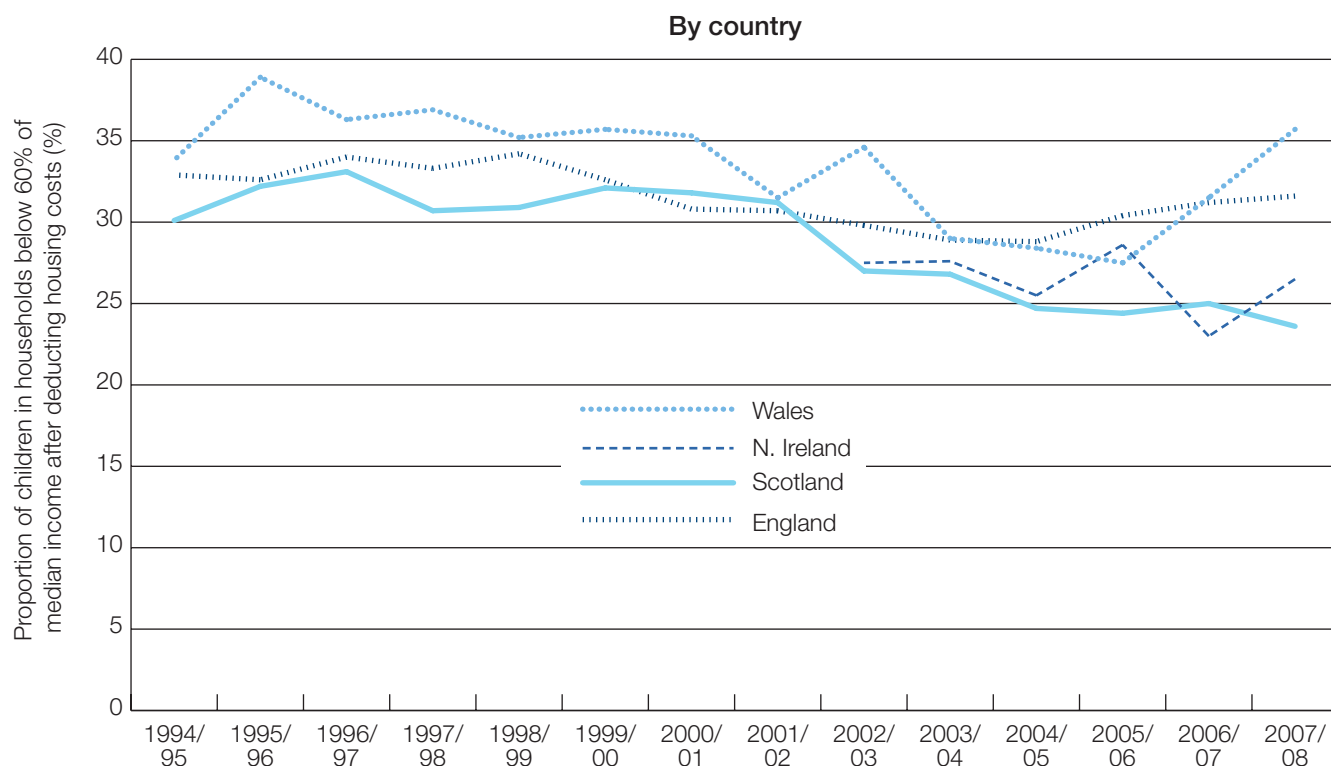


Note: Northern Ireland's relative position differs significantly depending on whether the before housing costs or after housing costs measure is used. More specifically, its relative before housing costs position is worse than its relative after housing costs position because of the very low housing costs in Northern Ireland.

Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

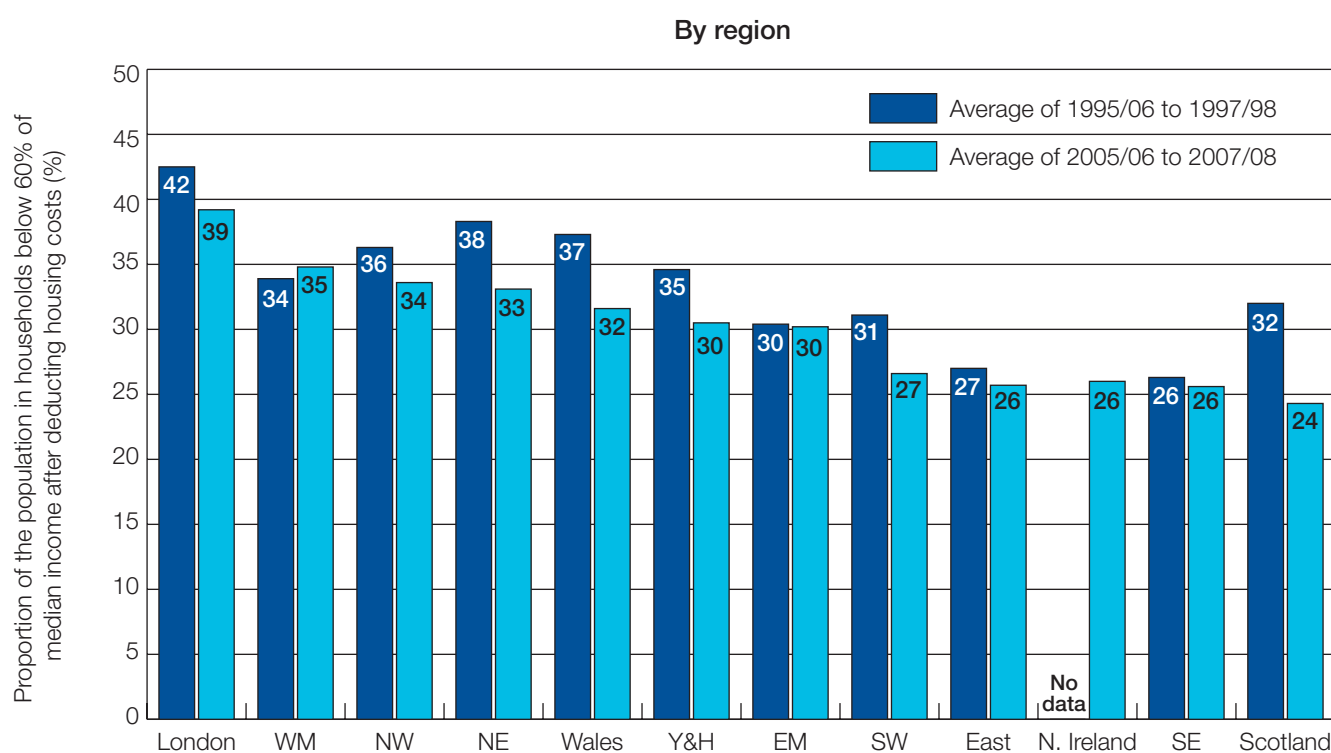
4 Children (AHC)

Figure 4a: Proportion of children in low income after deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

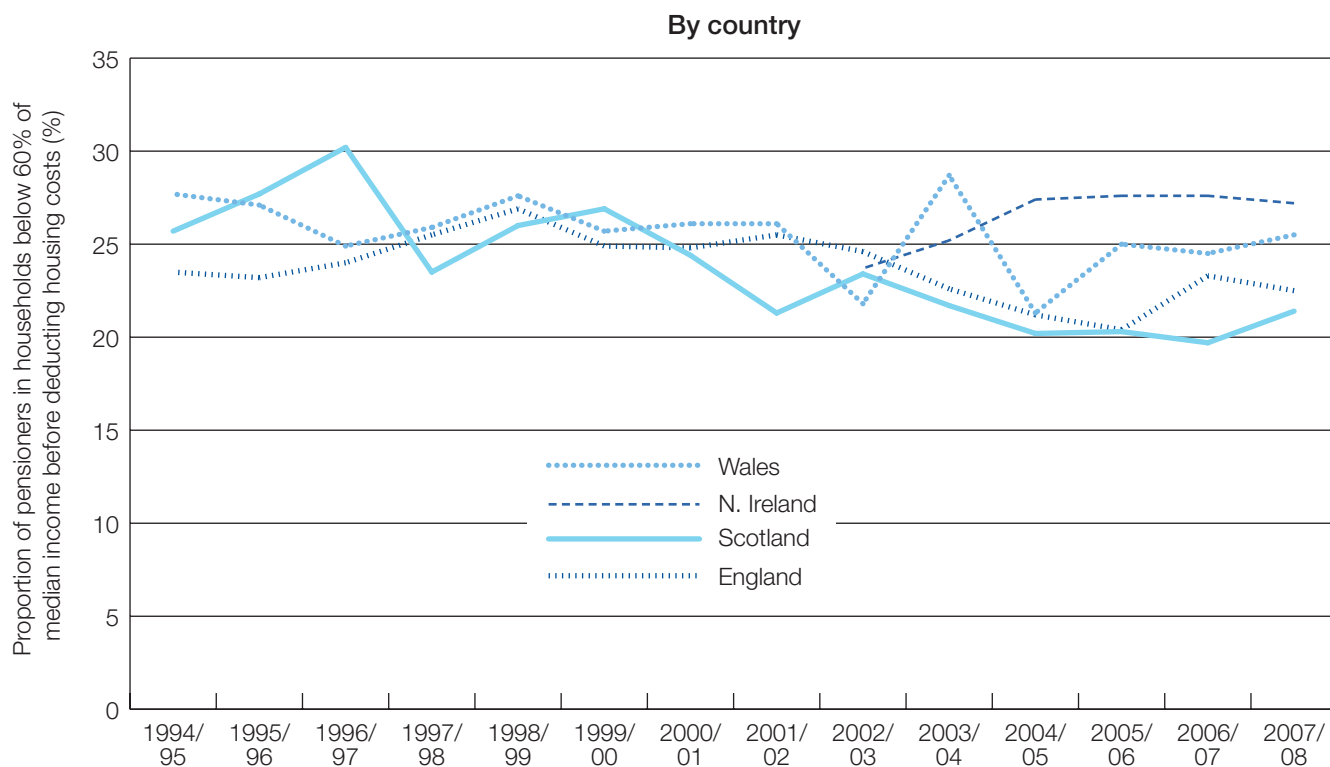
Figure 4b: Proportion of children in low income after deducting housing costs – by region, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

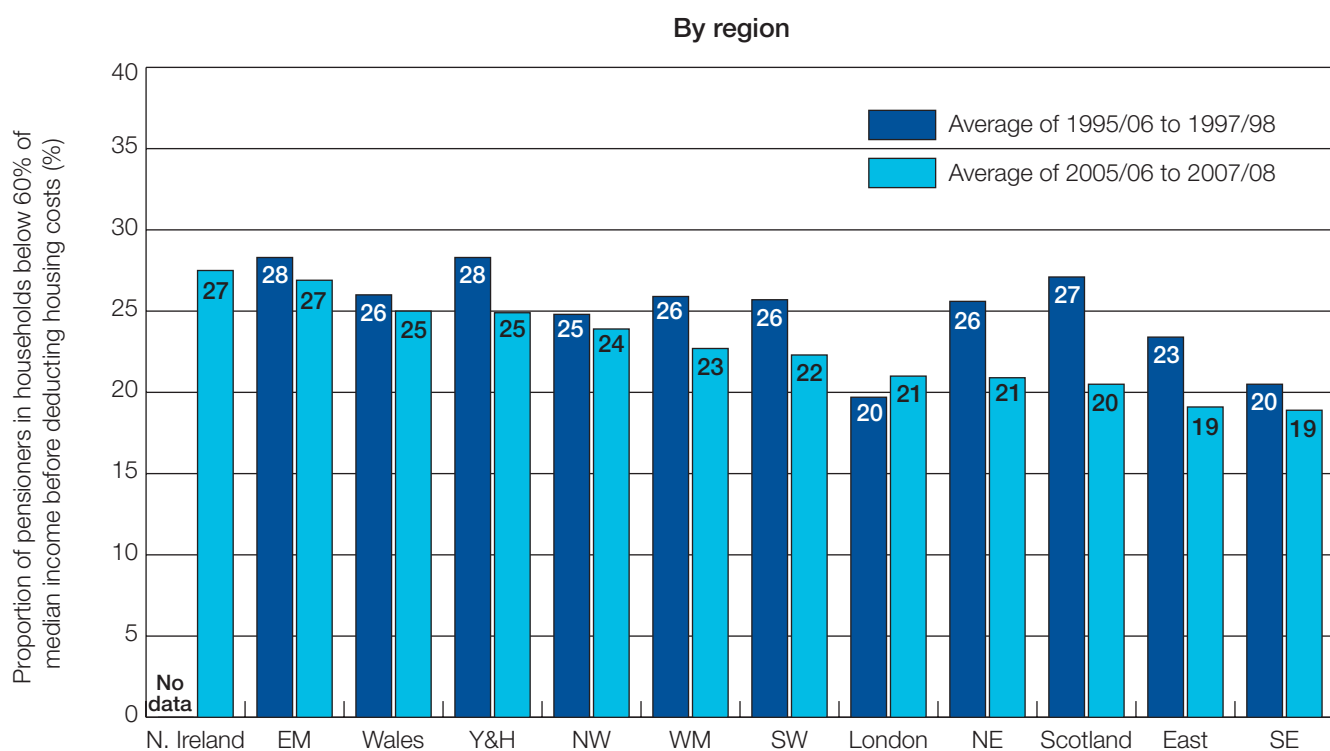
5 Pensioners (BHC)

Figure 5a: Proportion of pensioners in low income before deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

Figure 5b: Proportion of pensioners in low income before deducting housing costs – by region, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

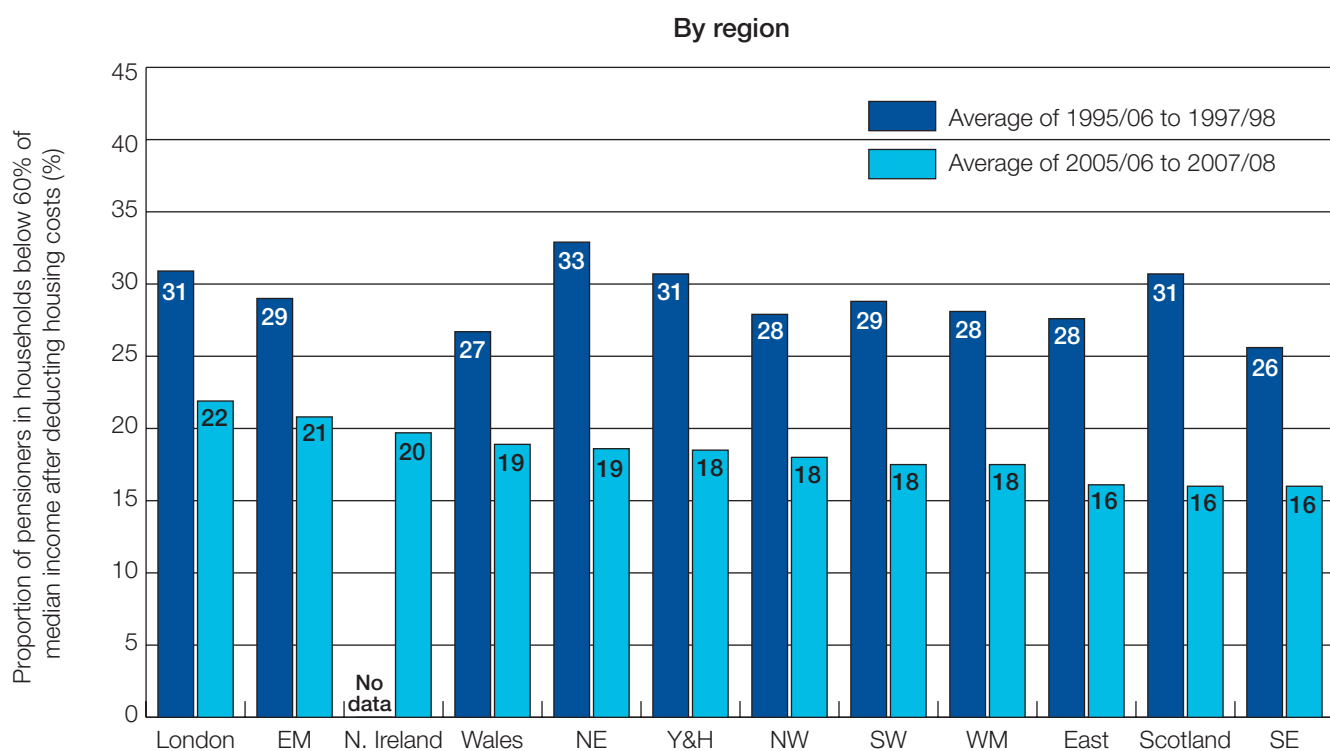
6 Pensioners (AHC)

Figure 6a: Proportion of pensioners in low income after deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

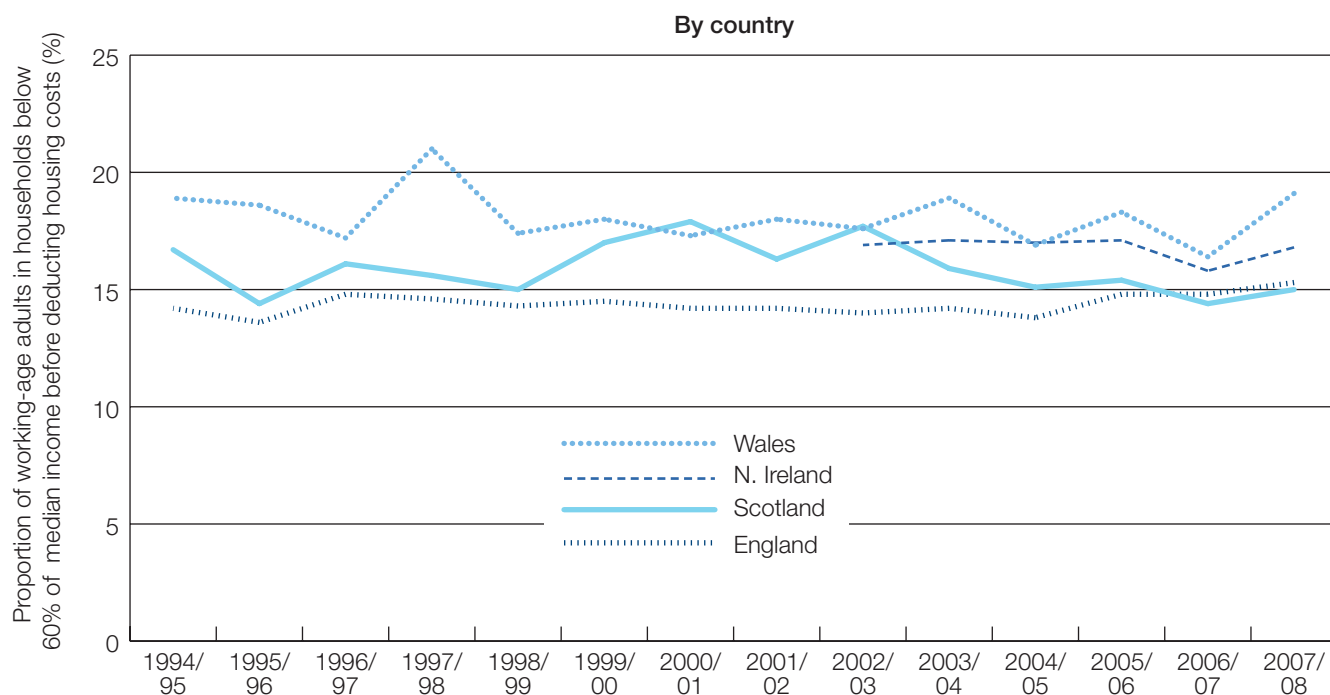
Figure 6b: Proportion of pensioners in low income after deducting housing costs – by region, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

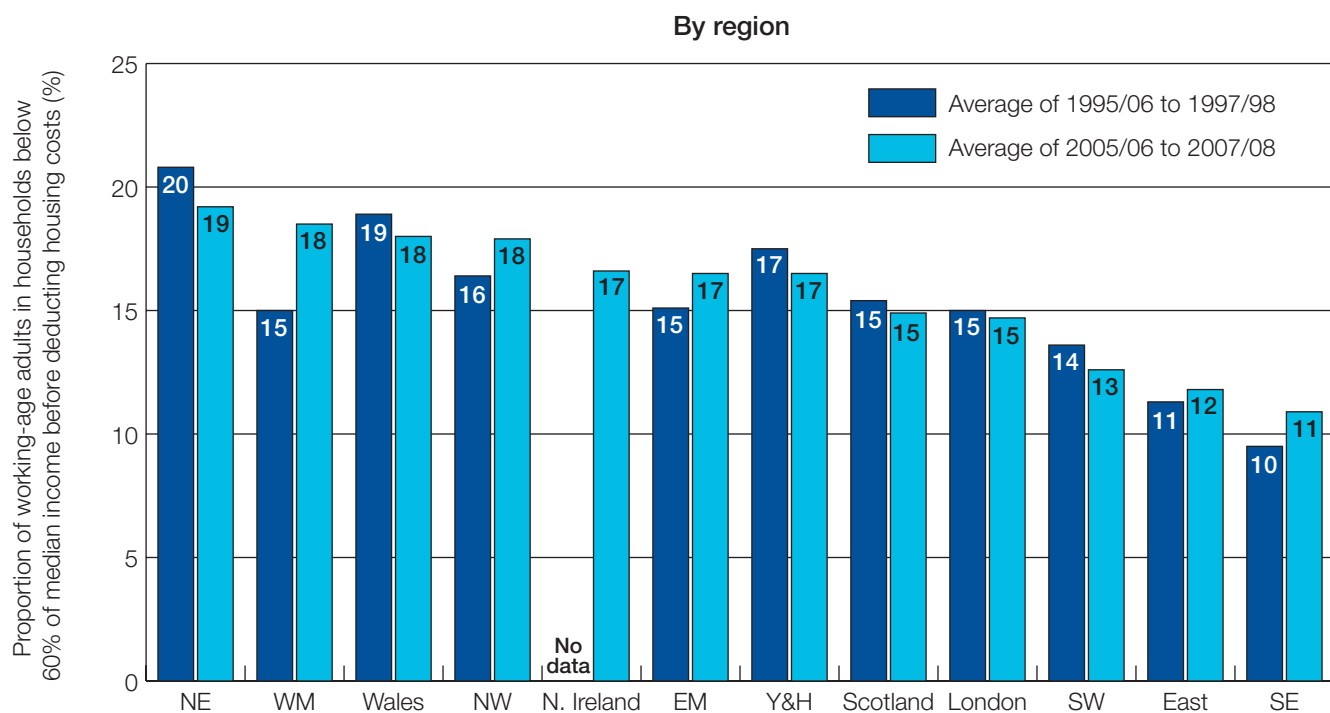
7 Working-age adults (BHC)

Figure 7a: Proportion of working-age adults in low income before deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

Figure 7b: Proportion of working-age adults in low income before deducting housing costs – by region, over time

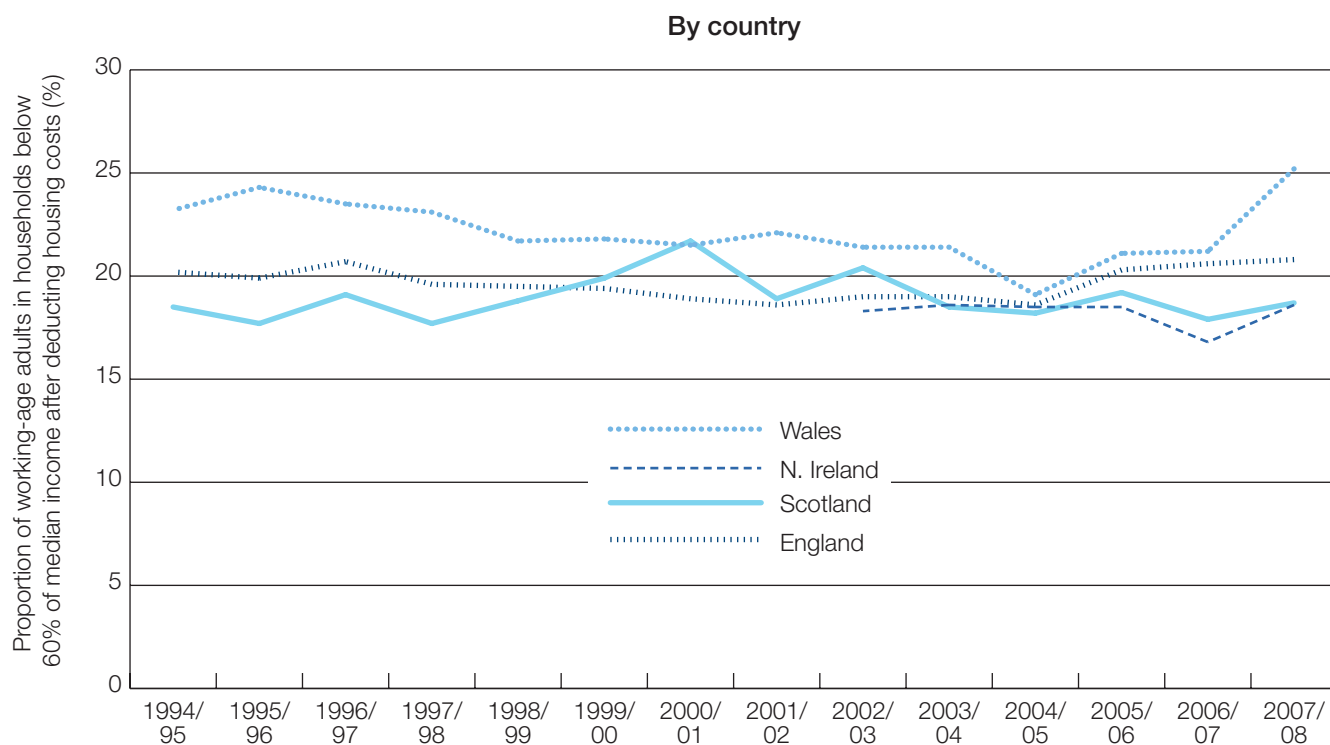


Note: Northern Ireland's relative position differs significantly depending on whether the before housing costs or after housing costs measure is used. More specifically, its relative before housing costs position is worse than its relative after housing costs position because of the very low housing costs in Northern Ireland.

Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

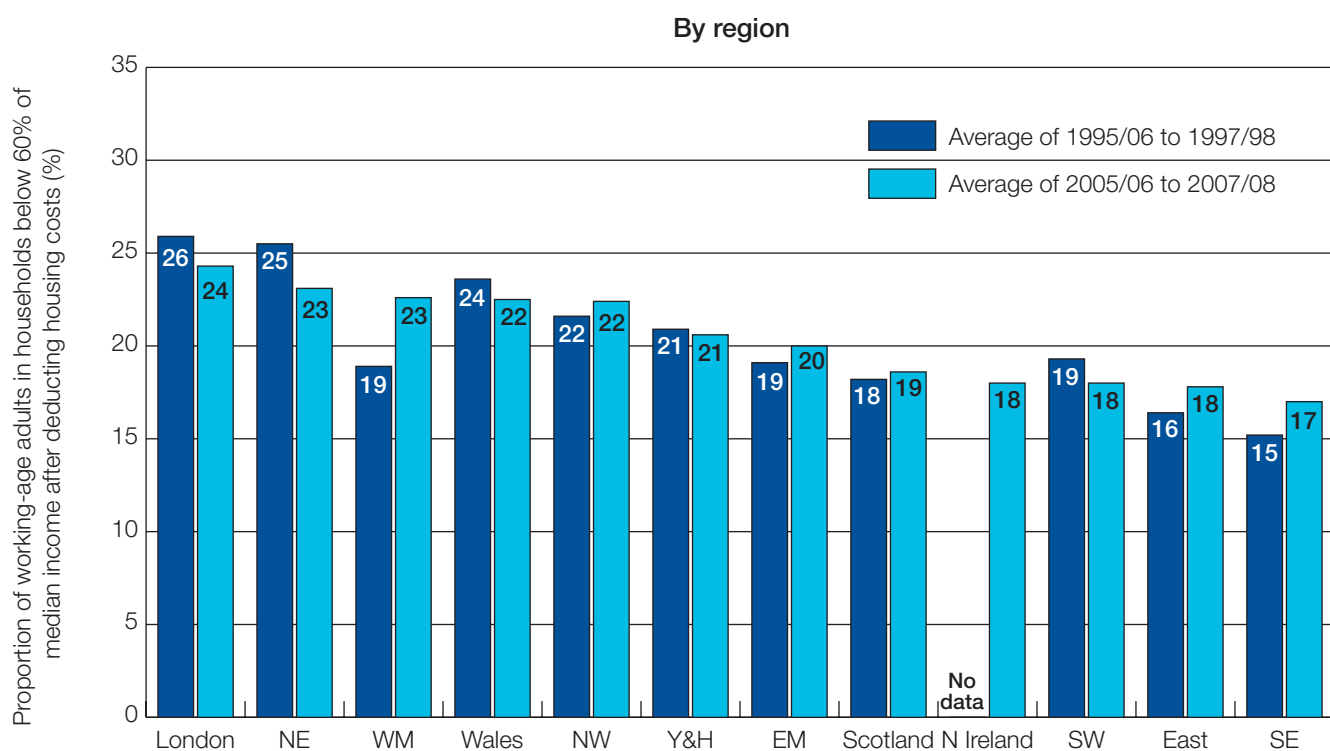
8 Working-age adults (AHC)

Figure 8a: Proportion of working-age adults in low income after deducting housing costs – by country, over time



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

Figure 8b: Proportion of working-age adults in low income after deducting housing costs – by region, over time



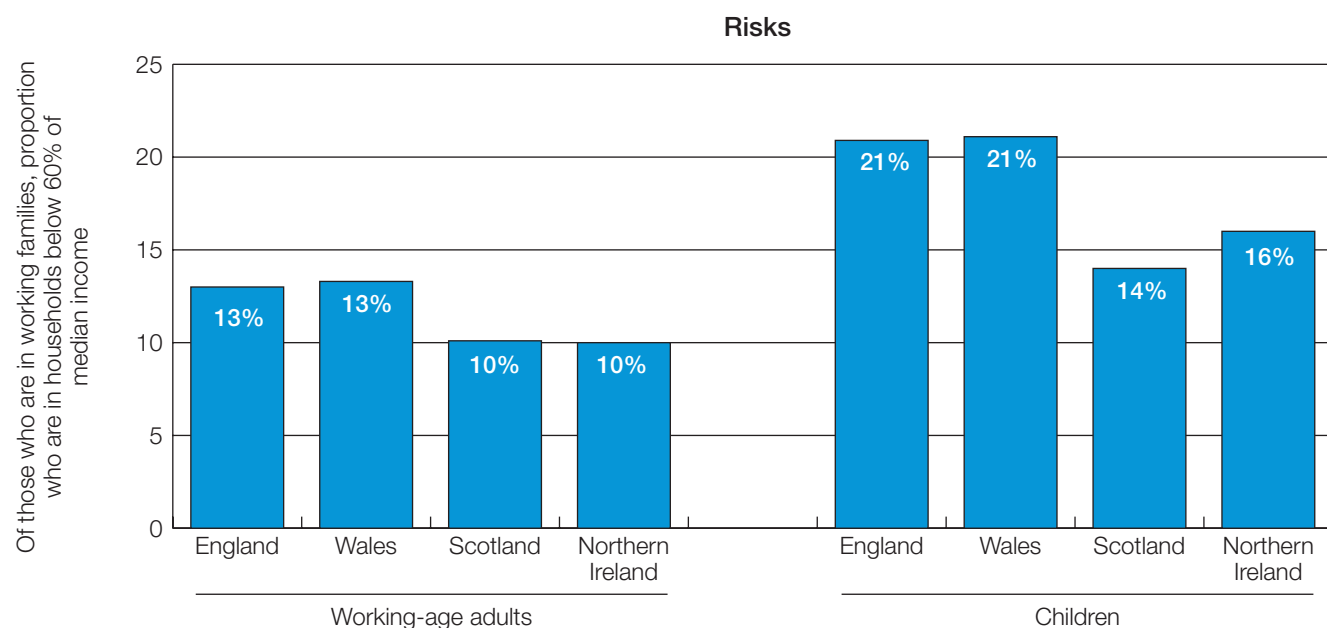
Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP

9 In-work poverty (AHC)

Note: These statistics are of interest because, although work reduces the chance of being in low income, around half of those in low income nevertheless have at least one of the adults in the

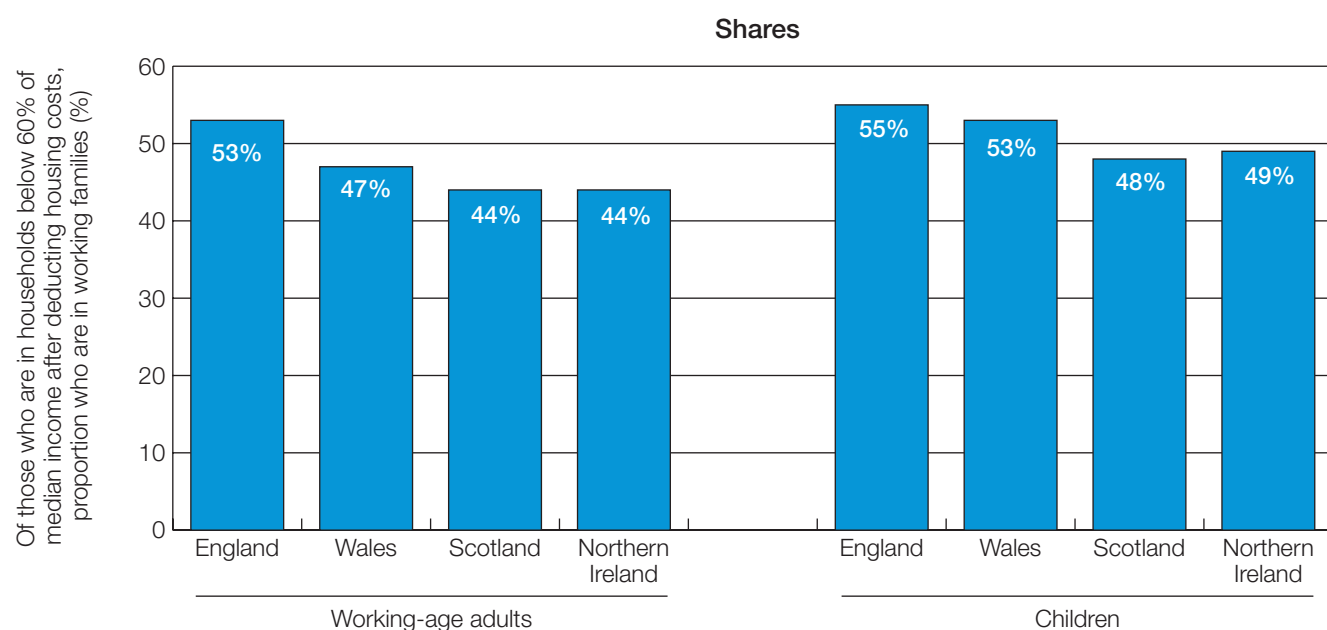
family in paid work. In the interests of simplicity, only the AHC figures are presented (the BHC proportions are similar).

Figure 9a: Of those in working (as opposed to workless) families, risk of being in low income – by country



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP; the data is the average for 2005/06 to 2007/08

Figure 9b: Of those in low income, proportion of these who are in working (as opposed to workless) families – by country



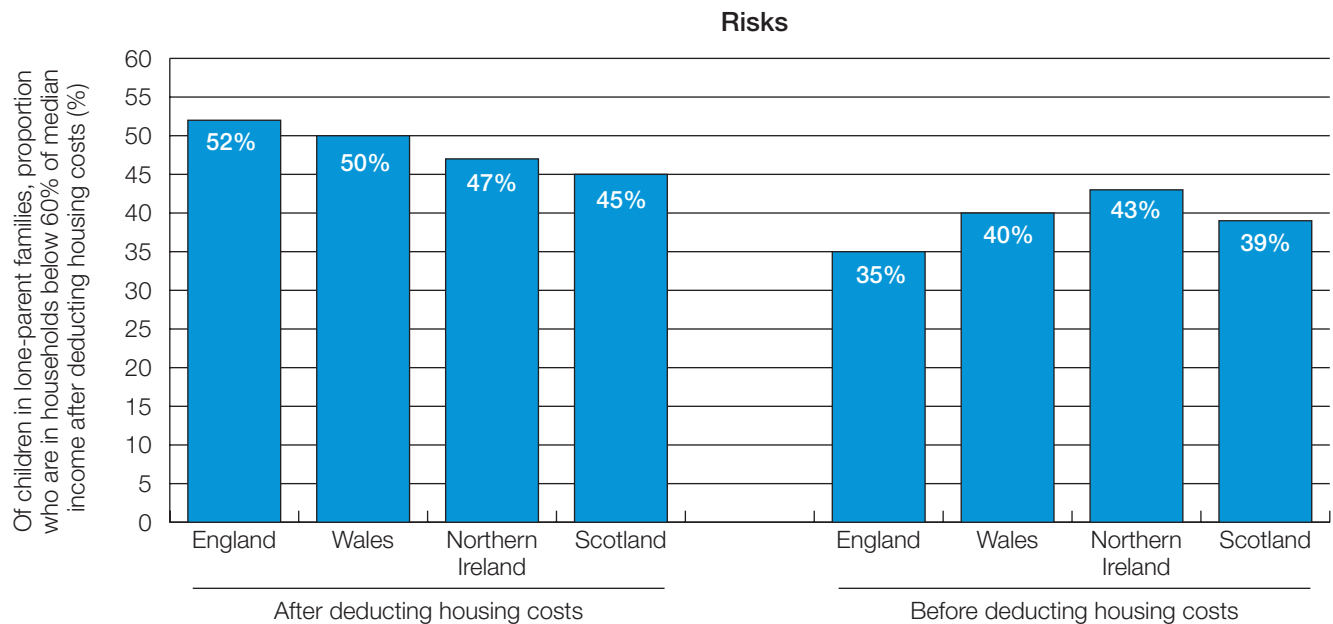
Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP; the data is the average for 2005/06 to 2007/08

10 Children of lone parents

Note: These statistics are of interest because lone parents are the family type at highest risk of being in low income. Both AHC and BHC figures are presented as they are rather different; one reason for this is that many lone parents are not in paid work and many of these will be in receipt of

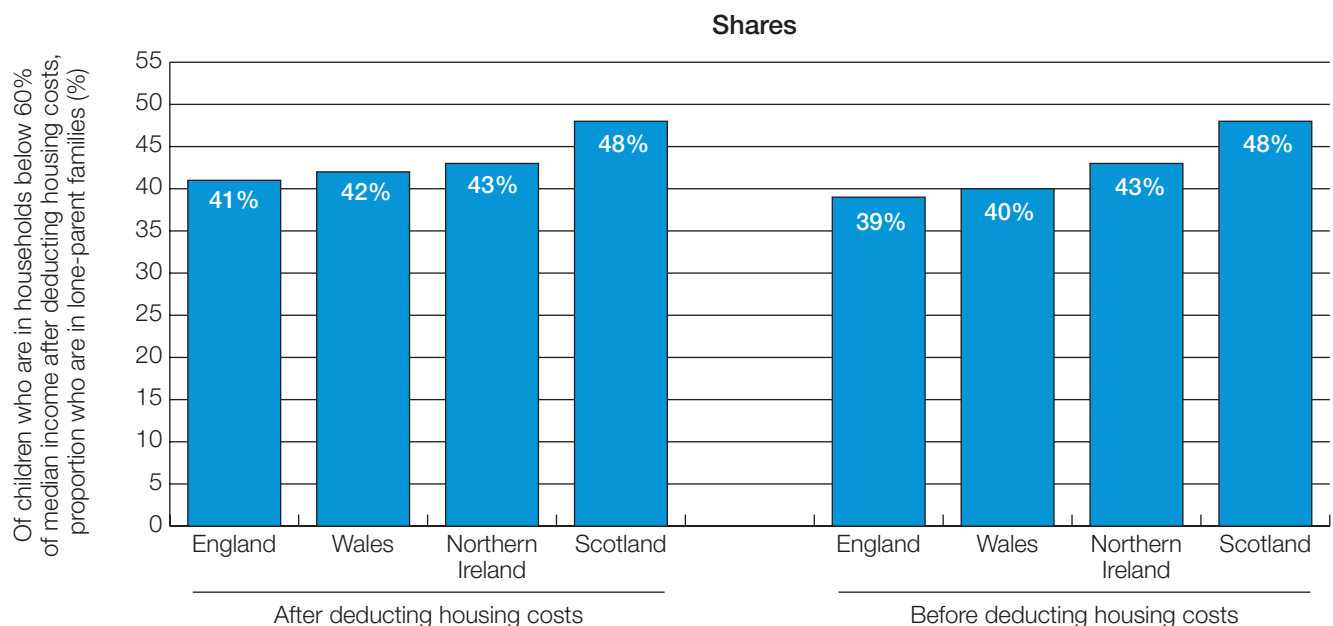
Housing Benefit. Because of the definition of BHC income (which counts Housing Benefit as 'income'), the net effect of this is to substantially reduce the proportion of lone parents who are in low income using the BHC measure.

Figure 10a: Of children in lone-parent (as opposed to couple) families, risk of being in low income – by country



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP; the data is the average for 2005/06 to 2007/08

Figure 10b: Of children in low income, proportion of these who are in lone-parent (as opposed to couple) families – by country



Source: Households Below Average Income, DWP; the data is the average for 2005/06 to 2007/08

2 Lack of work

Data sources and definitions

The main data source on lack of work is the Labour Force Survey, which covers the whole of the UK. The latest full-year data is for 2008.

The widest definition of lack of work is everyone of working age who is not working. The problem with this, however, is that many of these people do not want to work and therefore cannot reasonably be characterised as being excluded from the job market.

The narrowest definition of lack of work is those who are officially unemployed. As defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), this group comprises those with no paid work who are both available to start work in the next fortnight and have looked for work in the last month. While this is a useful measure, it is only part of the overall picture of people who lack, but want, paid work: just over half of all those who lack, but want, paid work are considered to be 'economically inactive', either because they are unable to start work immediately or because they are not actively seeking work. For example, lone parents and those who are sick or disabled usually count as 'economically inactive' rather than 'unemployed'. In other words, the people who lack but want paid work divide into two broad groups of roughly equal size, namely those who are officially (ILO) unemployed and those who are considered to be economically inactive but nevertheless want paid work.

So, lack of work can be looked at at any of the following three levels:

- those who are officially (ILO) unemployed (the narrowest measure);
- those who lack, but want, paid work;
- everyone not in paid work (the widest measure).

Note that none of the above groups is the same as the 'claimant count' numbers that are often published in the media, which are effectively

the numbers of people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance. The reason that the media often use the claimant count numbers is simply that they are available on a more timely basis, particularly at a sub-regional level.

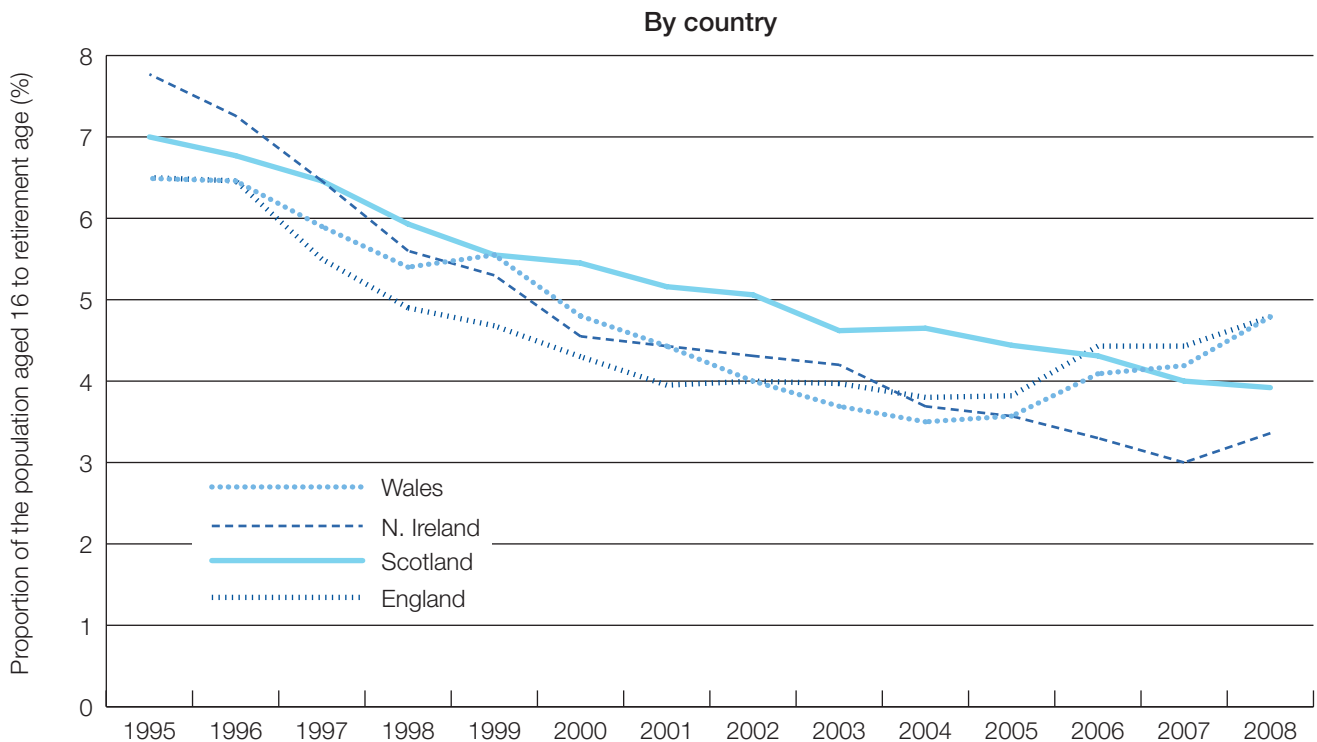
Finally, another way of looking at lack of work is to look at the number of working-age people who are in receipt of key out-of-work benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Carer's Allowance) from the state. In principle, this number includes all those who are unemployed (in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance) plus those who are economically inactive and either disabled (in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance) or pass the criteria for means-tested support (Income Support).

The indicators

Indicator	
11	Unemployed
12	Lacking, but wanting, paid work
13	Not in paid work
14	Out-of-work benefit recipients

11 Unemployed

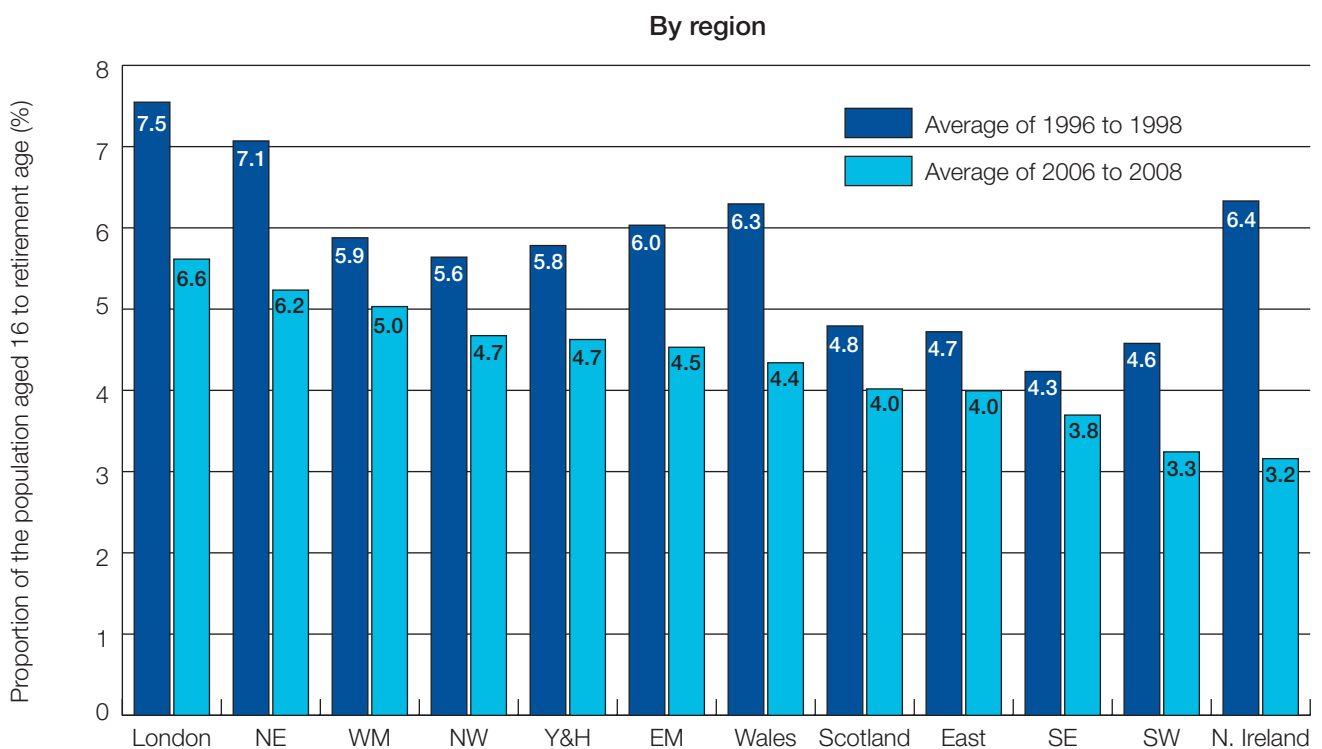
Figure 11a: Proportion of the working-age population who are ILO unemployed – by country, over time



Note: The annual averaging of the figures has been done to ameliorate sample size uncertainties. In practice, at a time of rising unemployment, the end of 2008 figures were generally higher than the 2008 averages.

Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

Figure 11b: Proportion of the working-age population who are ILO unemployed – by region, over time



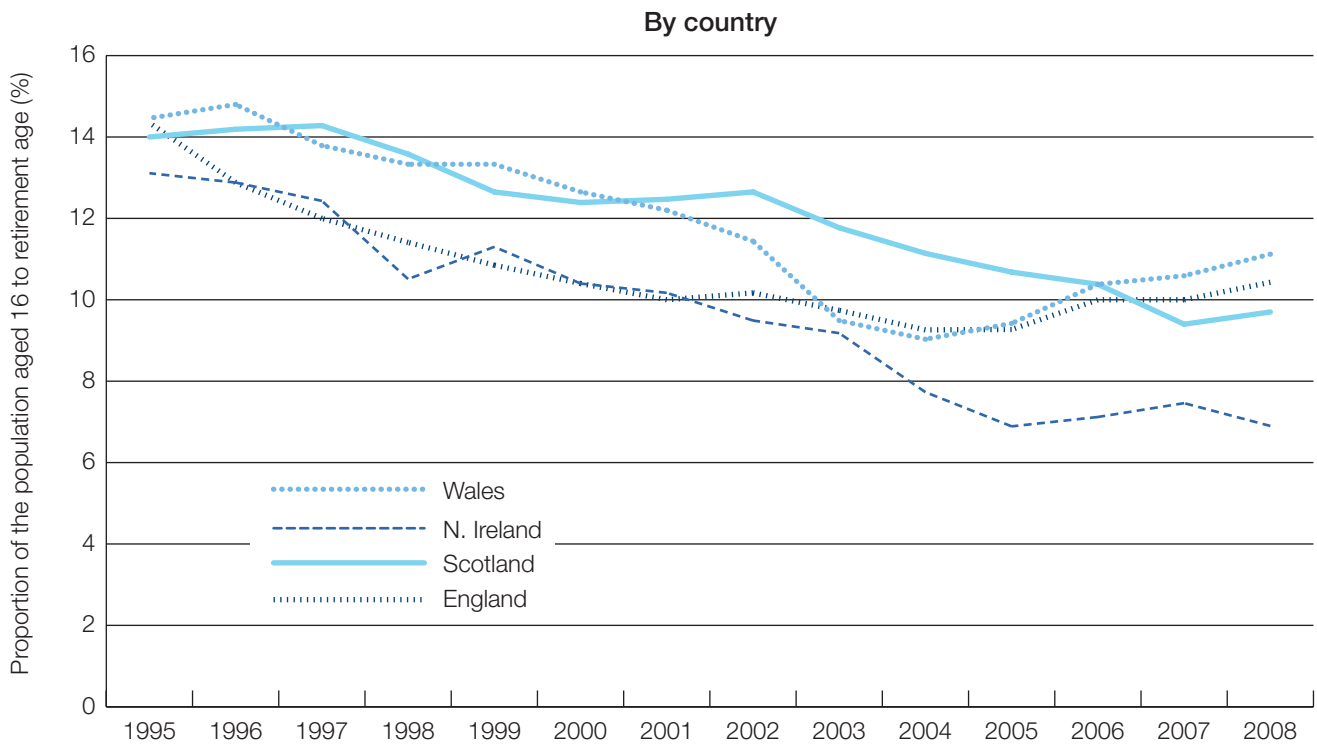
Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

12 Lacking, but wanting, paid work

Note: The number 'lacking, but wanting, paid work' is the number who are ILO unemployed plus the

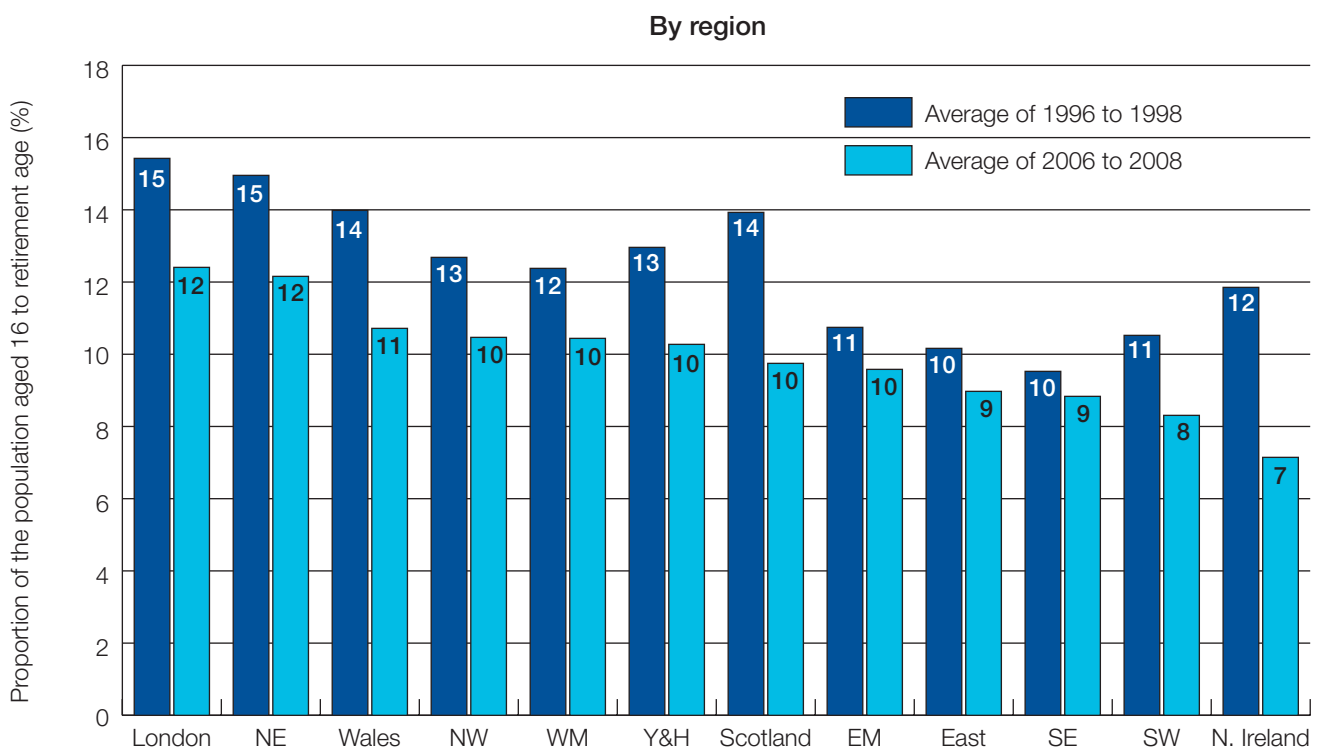
number who are economically inactive but still say that they want paid work.

Figure 12a: Proportion of the working-age population who lack, but want, paid work – by country, over time



Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

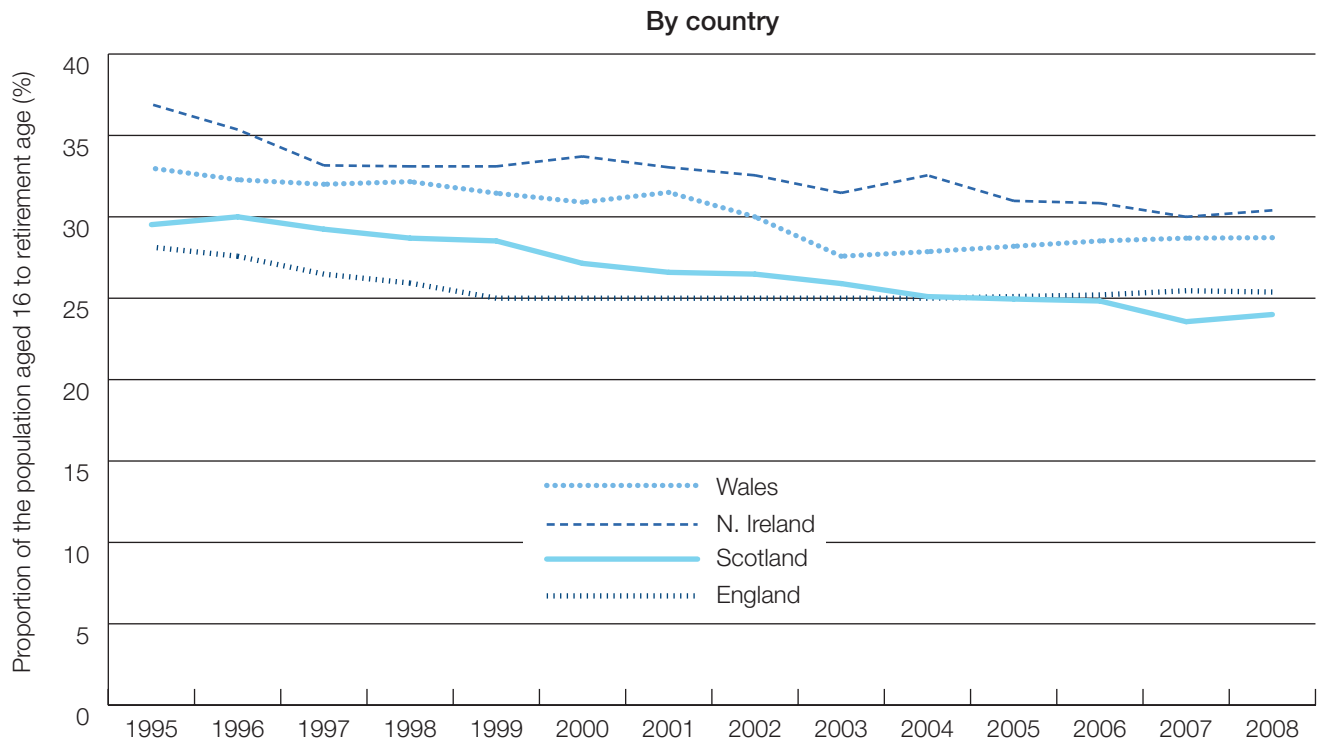
Figure 12b: Proportion of the working-age population who lack, but want, paid work – by region, over time



Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

13 Not in paid work

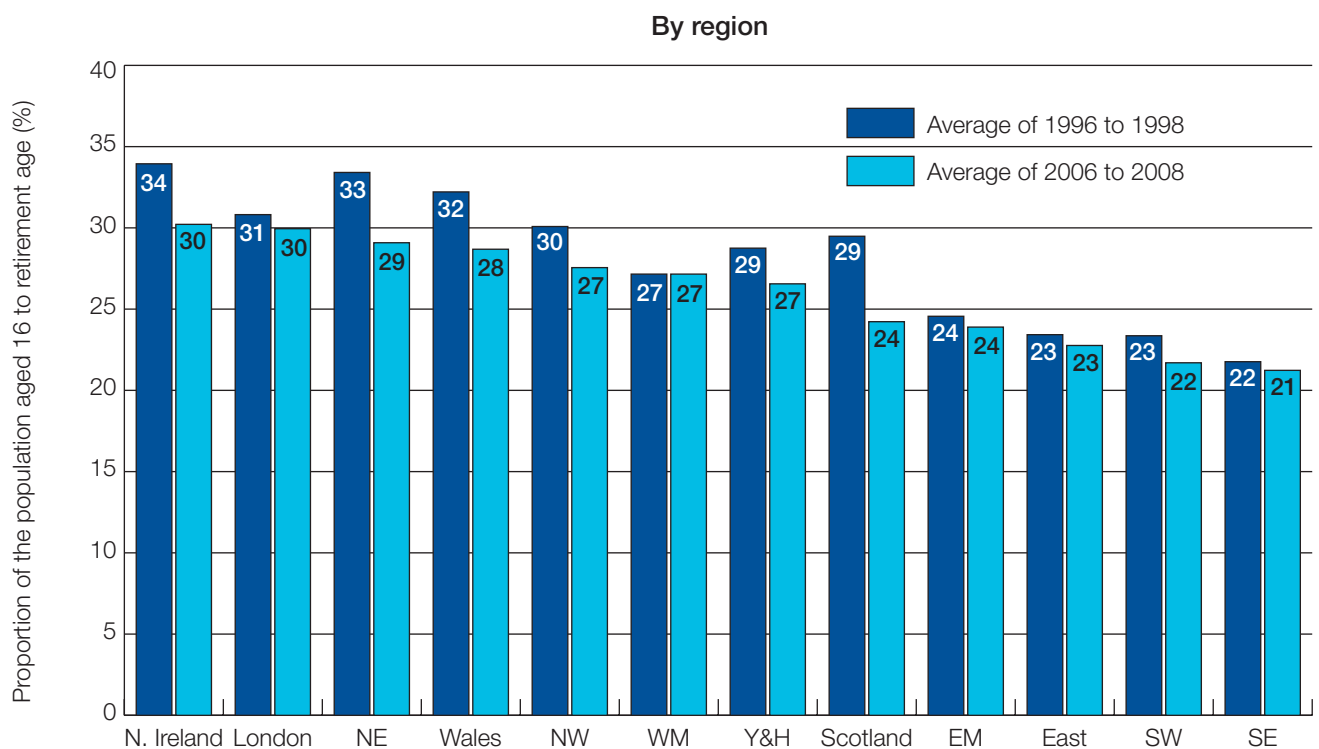
Figure 13a: Proportion of the working-age population who are not in paid work – by country, over time



Note: Northern Ireland's relative position on this measure (higher than the other countries) is very different from its position on the two previous (narrower) measures. This is because a relatively high proportion of those who are economically inactive in Northern Ireland say that they do not want paid work.

Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

Figure 13b: Proportion of the working-age population who are not in paid work – by region, over time



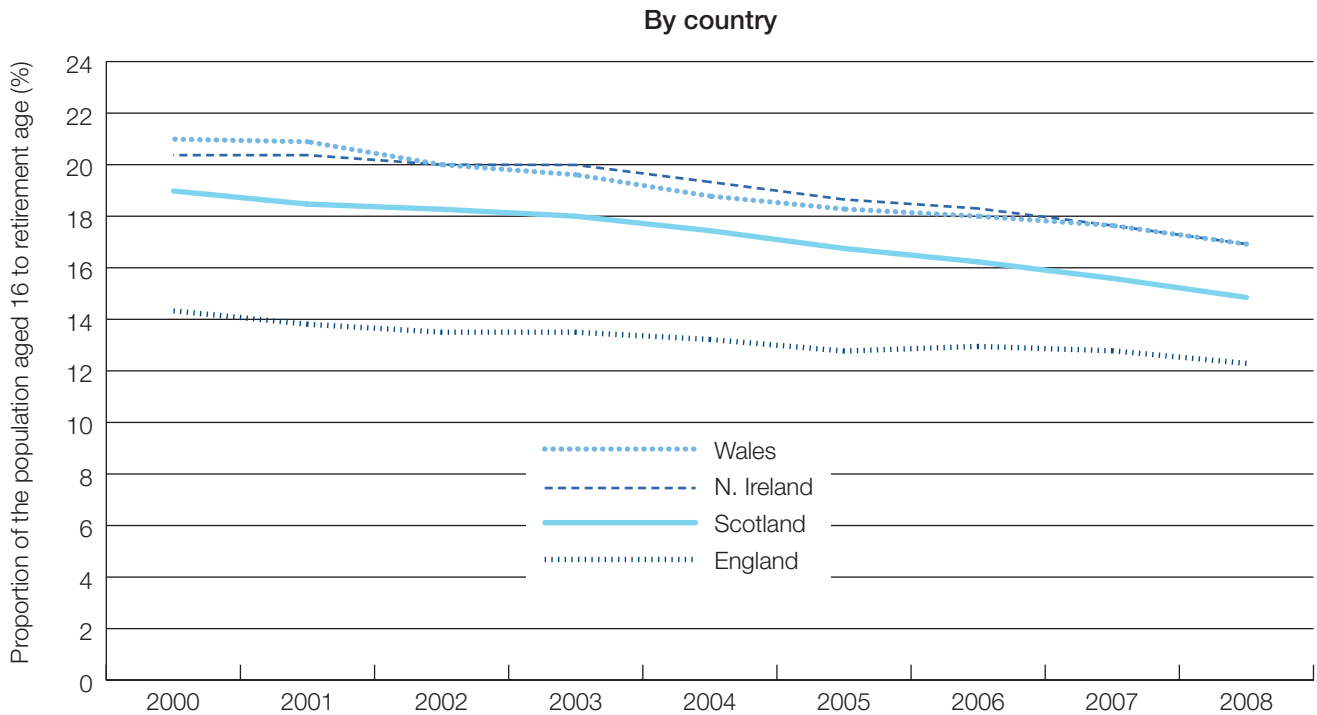
Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

14 Out-of-work benefit recipients

Note: The out-of-work benefits included in the analysis are Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance,

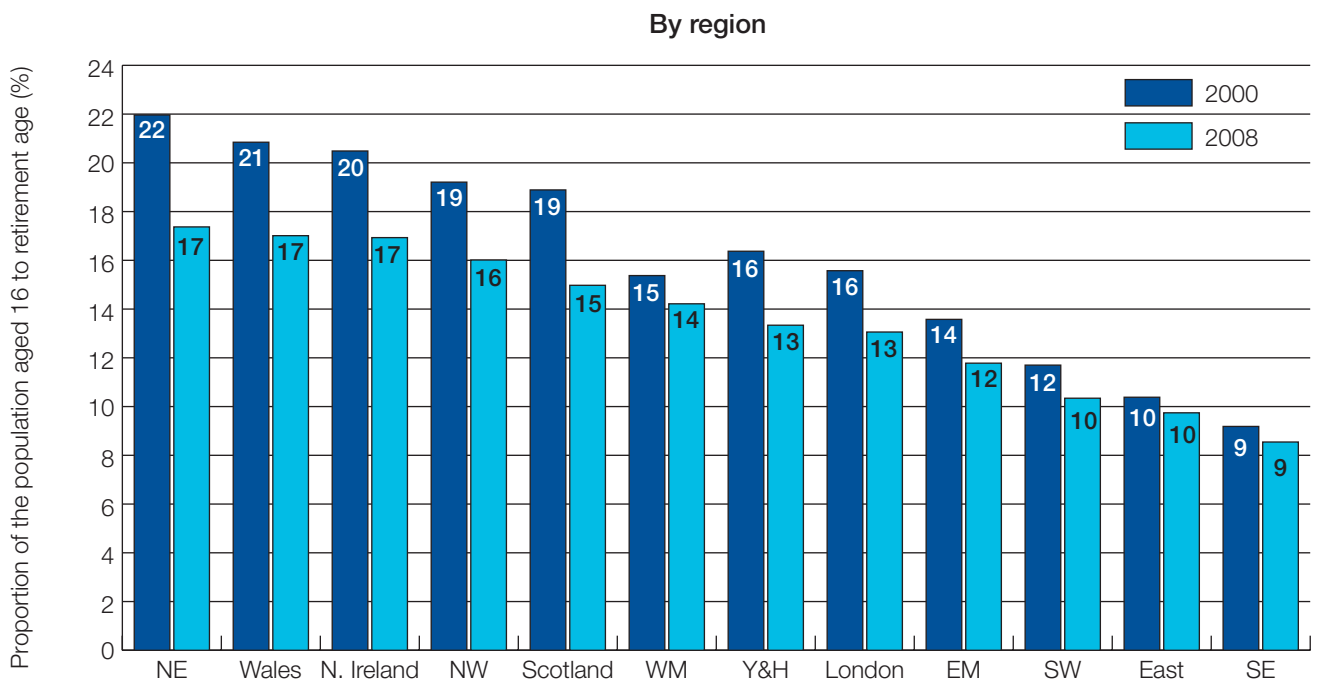
Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance. The data is for the month of February in each year.

Figure 14a: Proportion of the working-age population who are in receipt of a key out-of-work benefit – by country, over time



Source: Client Group Analysis, DWP (Great Britain) and DSD (Northern Ireland)

Figure 14b: Proportion of the working-age population who are in receipt of a key out-of-work benefit – by region, over time



Source: Client Group Analysis, DWP (Great Britain), DSD (Northern Ireland) and ONS (population estimates)

3 Low pay

Data sources and definitions

The main data source on low pay is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, which covers the whole of the UK. The latest data is for 2008.

Unlike 'low income', there is no agreed definition of what constitutes 'low pay'. In this context, the analysis in this chapter shows hourly pay at the 20th percentile, in other words, the amount of money that a fifth of employees are paid less than and four-fifths are paid more than. For all UK employees in 2008, this figure was £6.90 per hour, which was about 60% of median hourly pay. In this sense, the 20th percentile pay threshold has some analogies with the 60% of median income threshold.

A further complication is that, partly because of inflation and partly because earnings throughout the earnings distribution tend to increase with time, any simplistic presentation of the hourly rates over time would simply show sharply rising lines. To compensate for this, all figures for the years prior to 2008 have been inflated by the difference between contemporary UK median pay and 2008 median pay. Again, this approach has analogies with the way that the low-income threshold is defined by reference to contemporary medians.

So, for example, UK median hourly pay for all employees was £10.53 in 2008 and £7.27 in 1998. The 1998 figures for all employees have therefore been increased by a factor of 10.53/7.27.

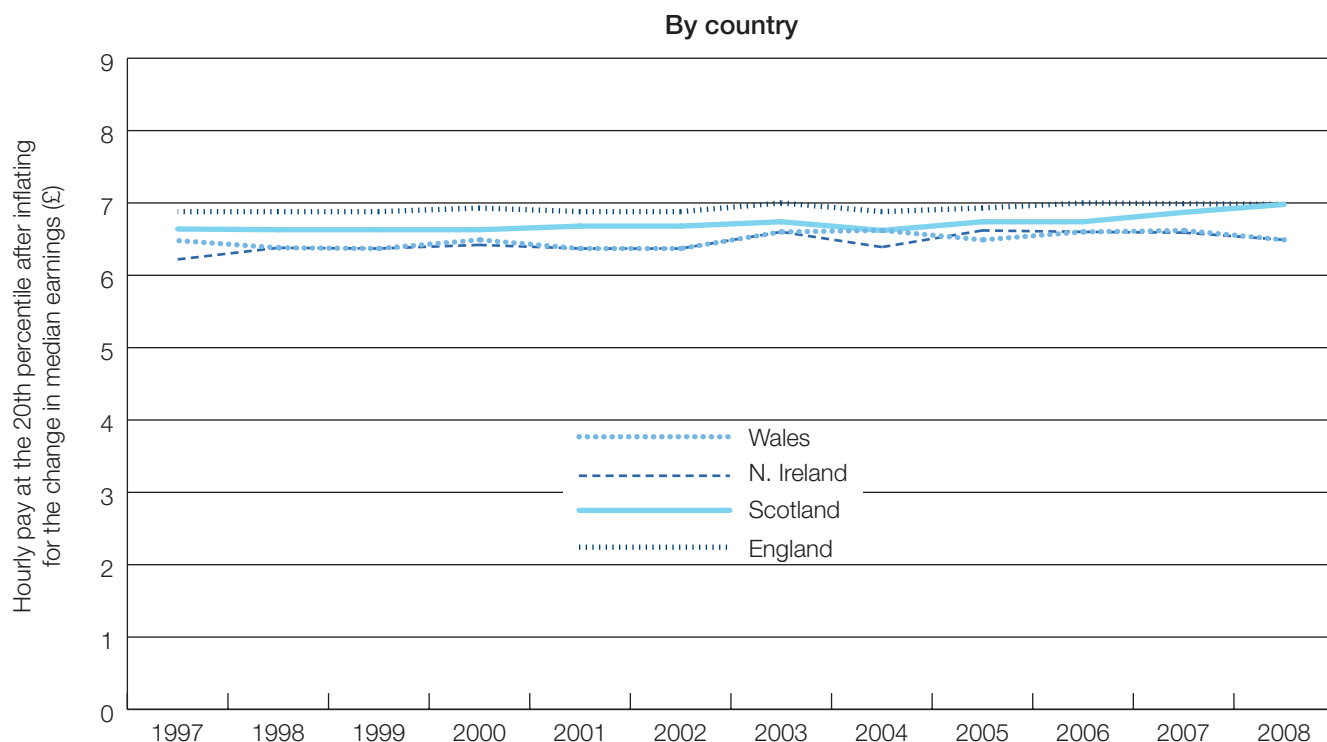
Another way of looking at the prevalence of low pay is to look at receipt of in-work tax credits over and above the family element (i.e. the means-tested component of tax credits). HM Revenue & Customs has published UK-wide data on this since 2001, with the latest data being for April 2009.

The indicators

Indicator	
15	All employees
16	Full-time employees
17	Part-time employees
18	In receipt of tax credits

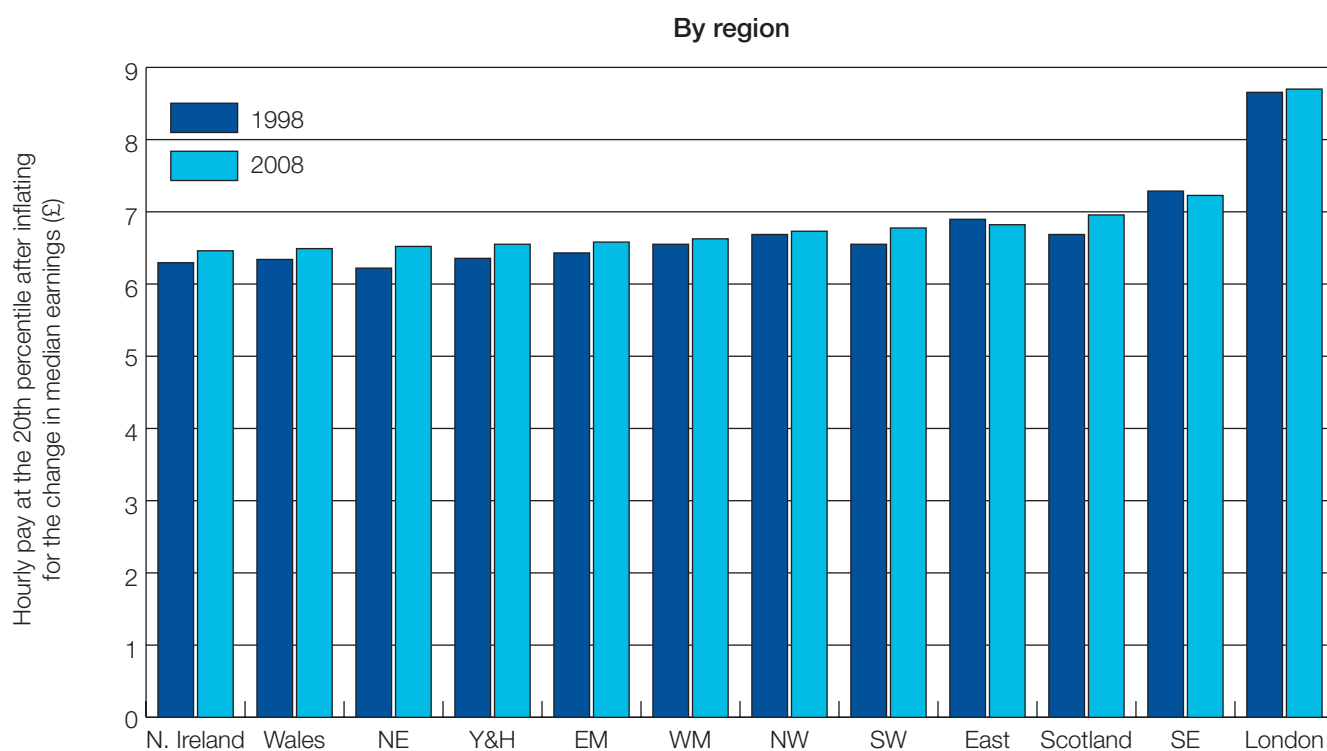
15 All employees

Figure 15a: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – all employees – by country, over time



Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

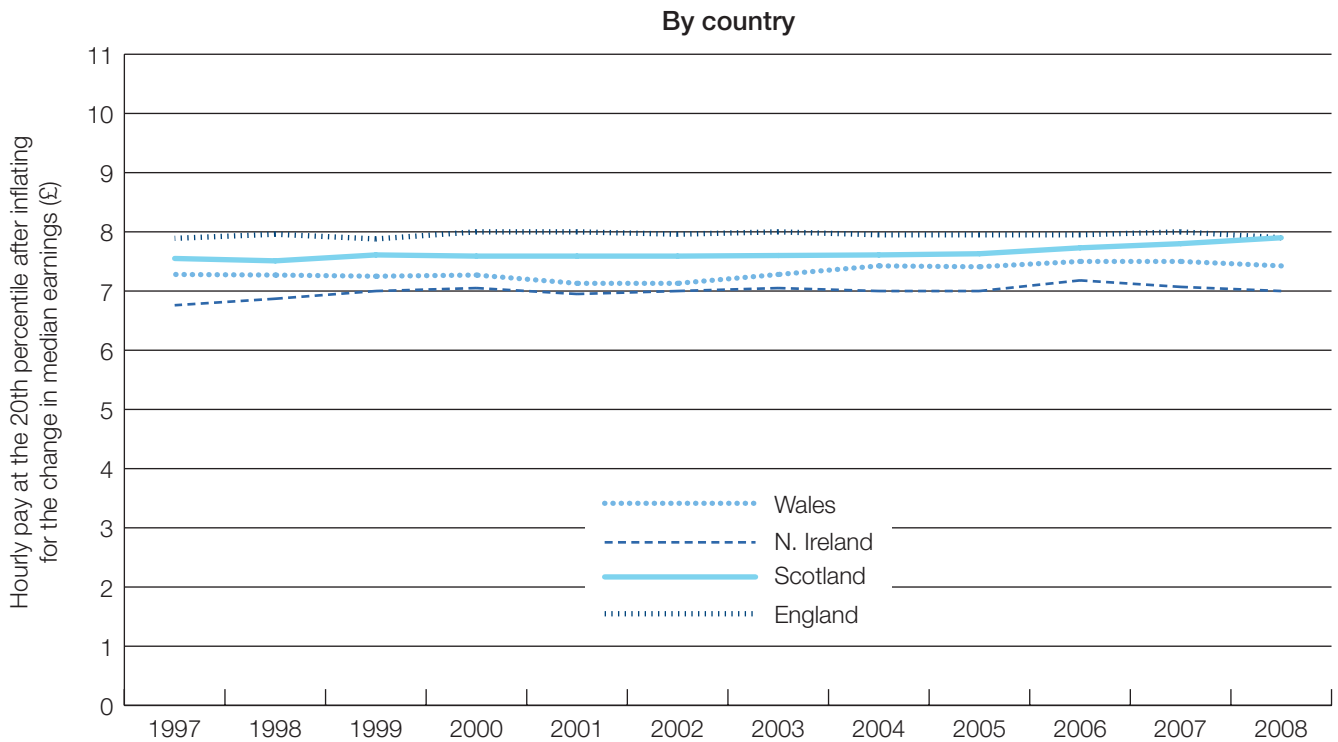
Figure 15b: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – all employees – by region, over time



Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

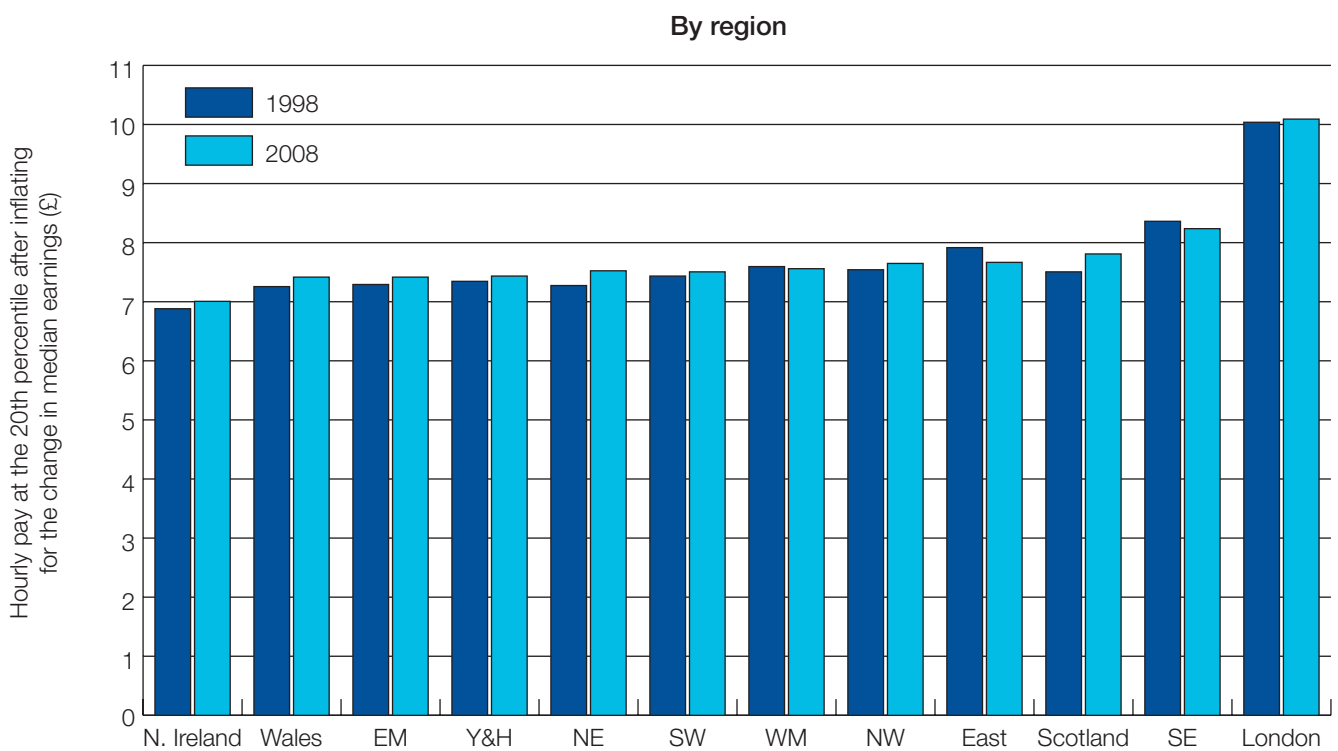
16 Full-time employees

Figure 16a: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – full-time employees – by country, over time



Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

Figure 16b: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – full-time employees – by region, over time



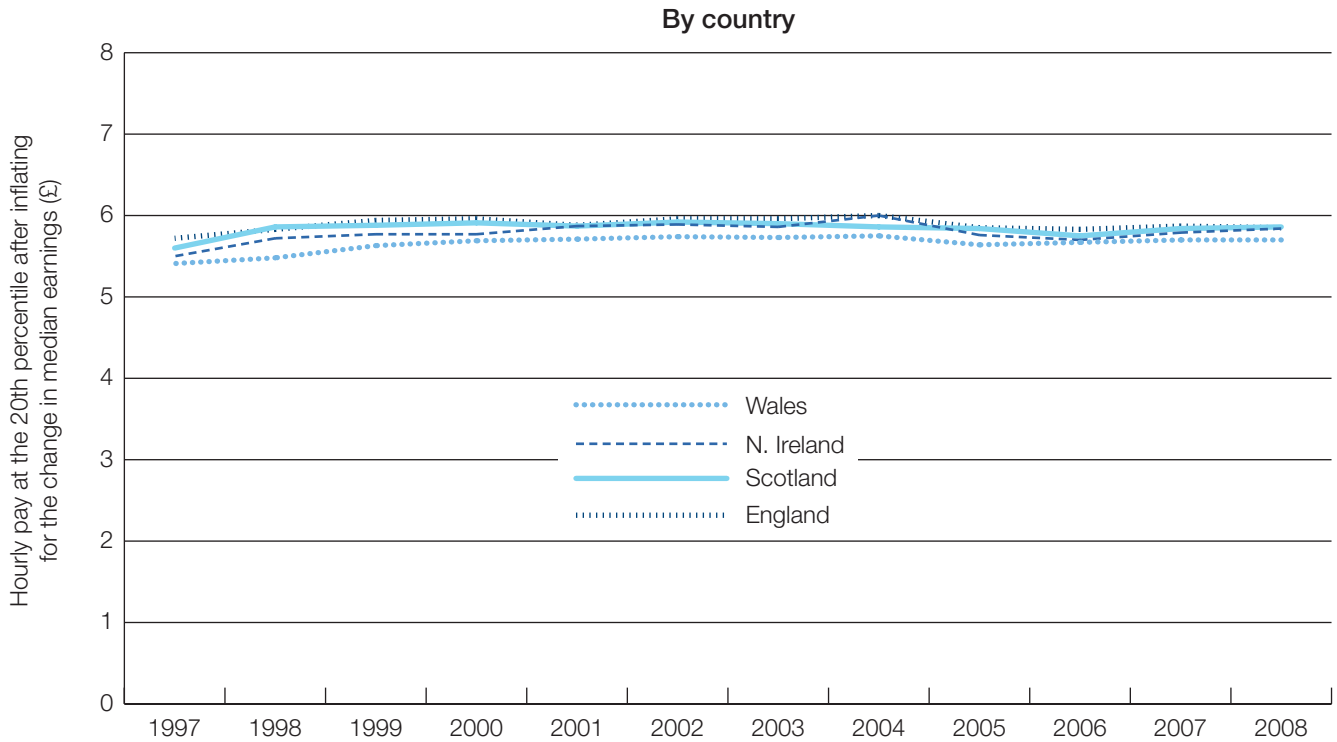
Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

17 Part-time employees

Note: Low pay is much more prevalent among part-time employees (both men and women) than among full-time employees. Also, note that low pay among part-time employees and low pay among

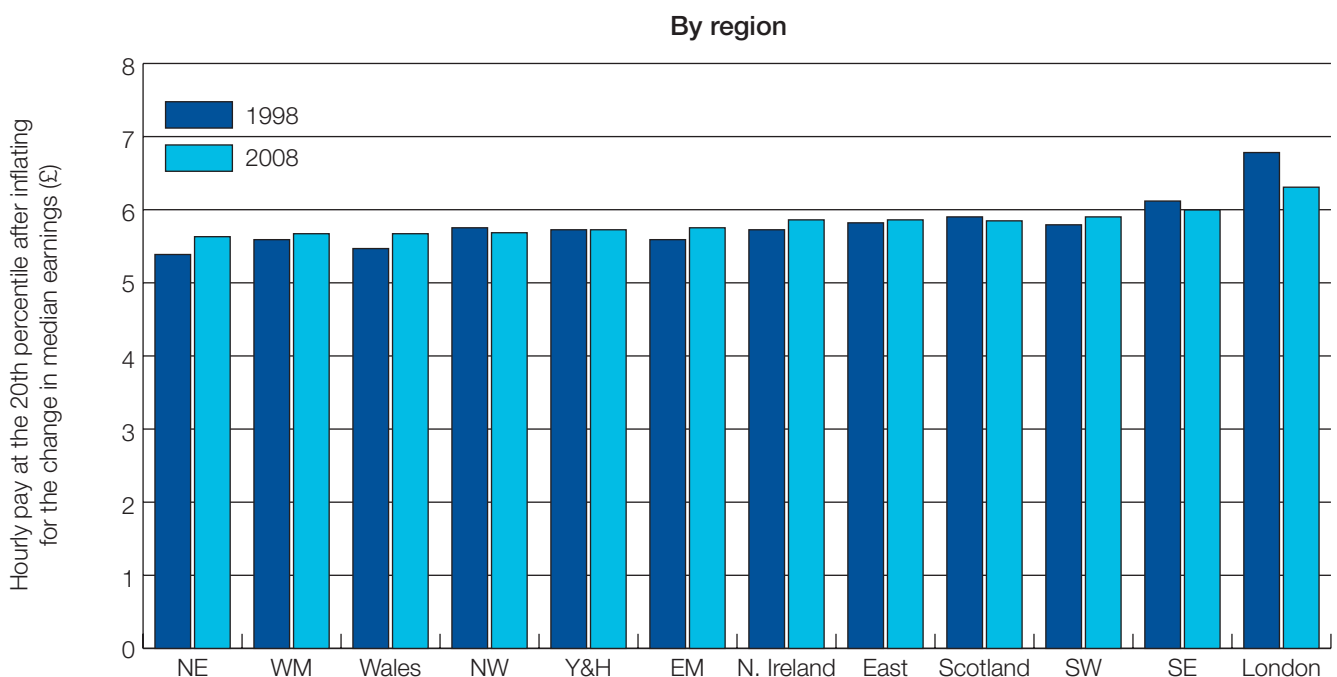
women are closely connected subjects. This is because most part-time employees are women and the majority of low-paid women (even using hourly rates) are part time.

Figure 17a: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – part-time employees – by country, over time



Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

Figure 17b: Hourly pay at the 20th percentile – part-time employees – by region, over time



Source: Annual Survey of House and Earnings, ONS

18 In receipt of tax credits

Note: Working Tax Credit (WTC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) replaced Working Families' Tax Credit between May 2002 and July 2003. Because of their more generous eligibility criteria, the number of households in receipt of tax credits rose sharply in

this period. Also note that all the numbers exclude both families in receipt of the family element only (because it is effectively not means-tested) and workless families.

Figure 18a: Proportion of working-age households in receipt of tax credits – by country, over time

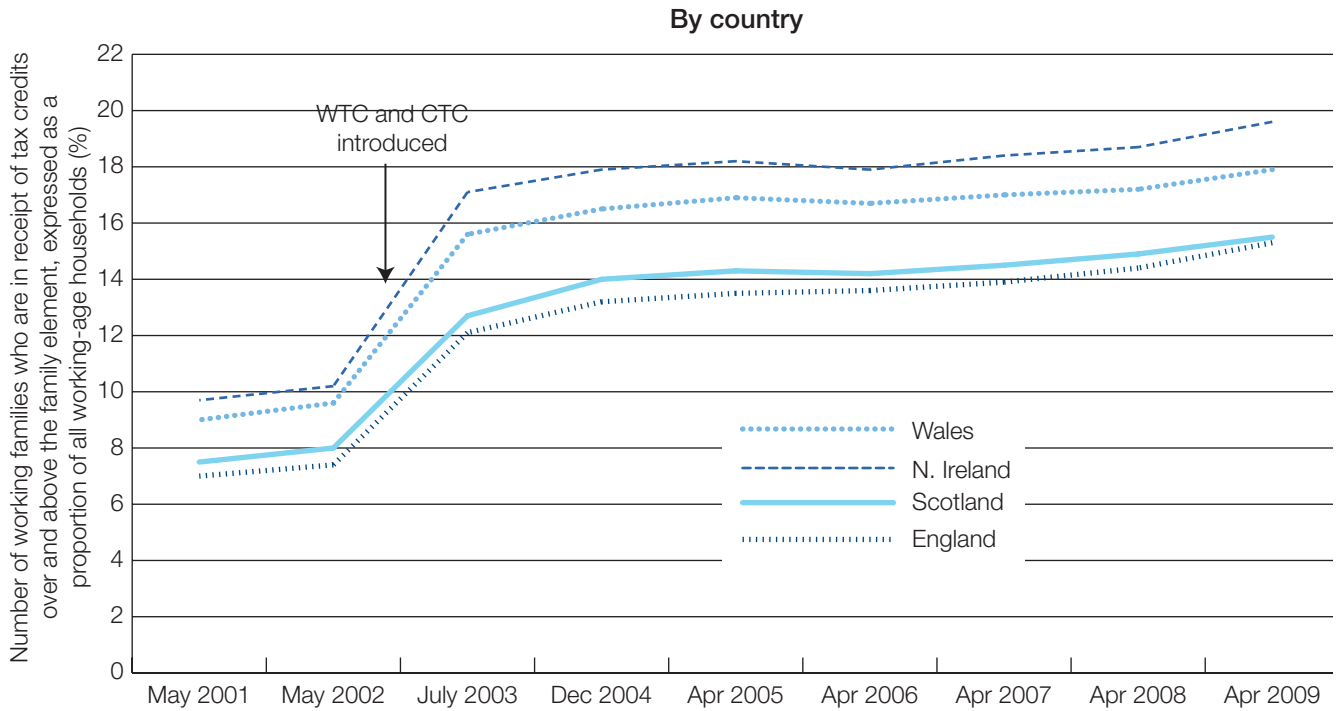
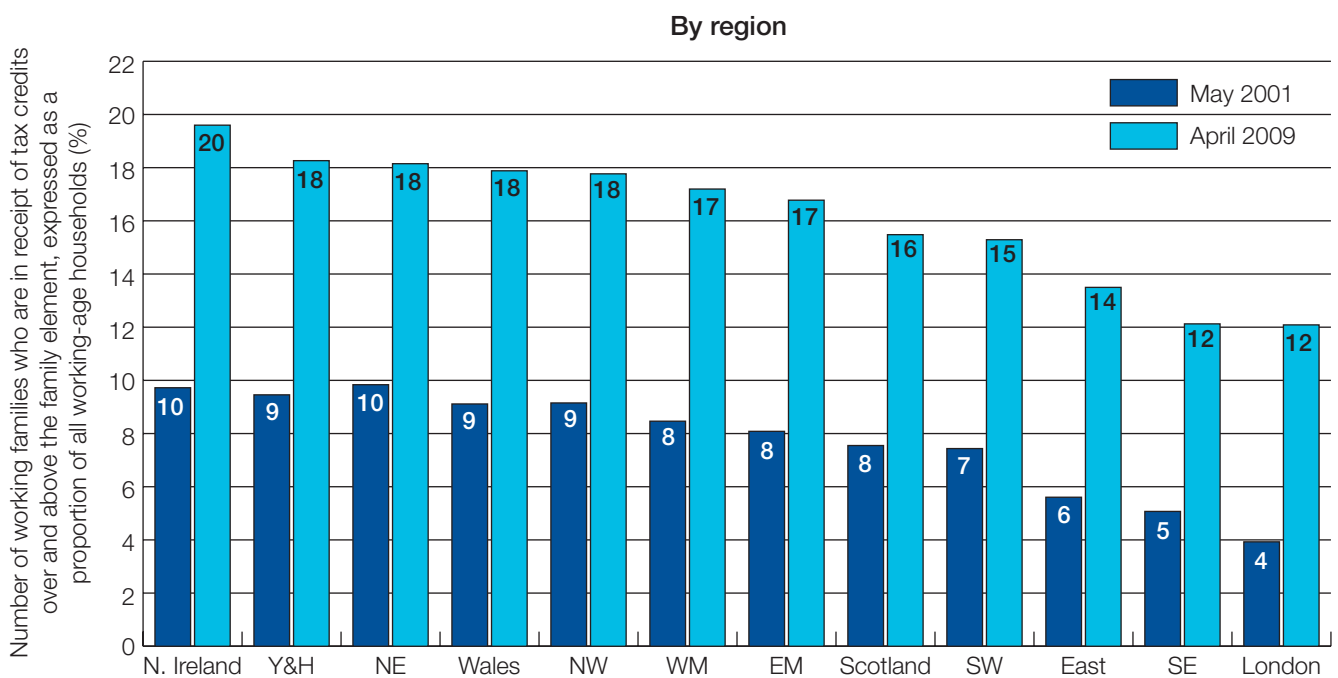


Figure 18b: Proportion of working-age households in receipt of tax credits – by region, over time



Source: Geographic analyses, HM Revenue & Customs

Data sources and definitions

Health data is available from a variety of sources but very few of these are UK-wide. Rather, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes data for either England only or England and Wales, the General Registrar Office for Scotland and ISD Scotland publish data for Scotland, and the General Register Office publishes data for Northern Ireland. As a result, directly comparable cross-country data is not available for most aspects of either ill-health or health inequalities (excepting the 2001 Census, which is now rather out of date).

The main area where some directly comparable cross-country data is available concerns mortality:

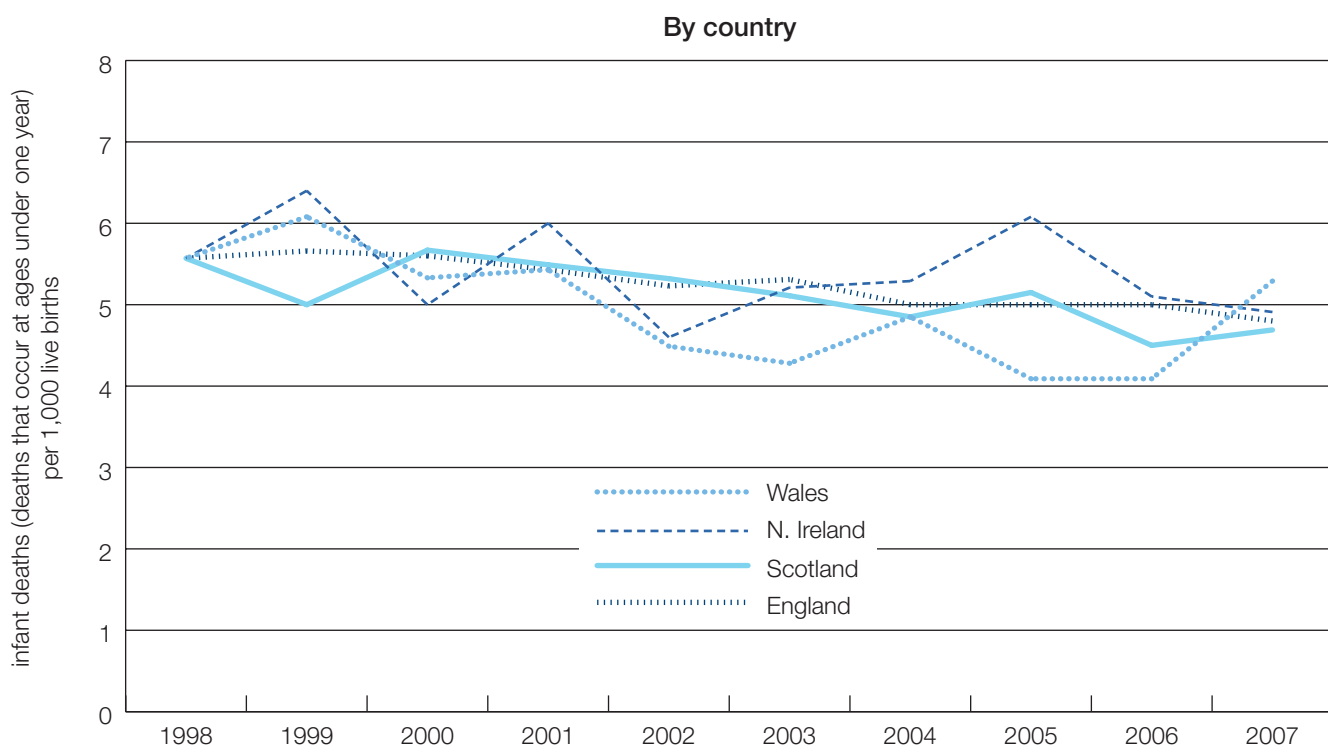
- The annual *Key population and vital statistics* publication includes data on infant mortality rates (from 1998 onwards).
- Comparable data on premature death rates is available on request.

The indicators

Indicator	
19	Infant deaths
20	Premature deaths

19 Infant deaths

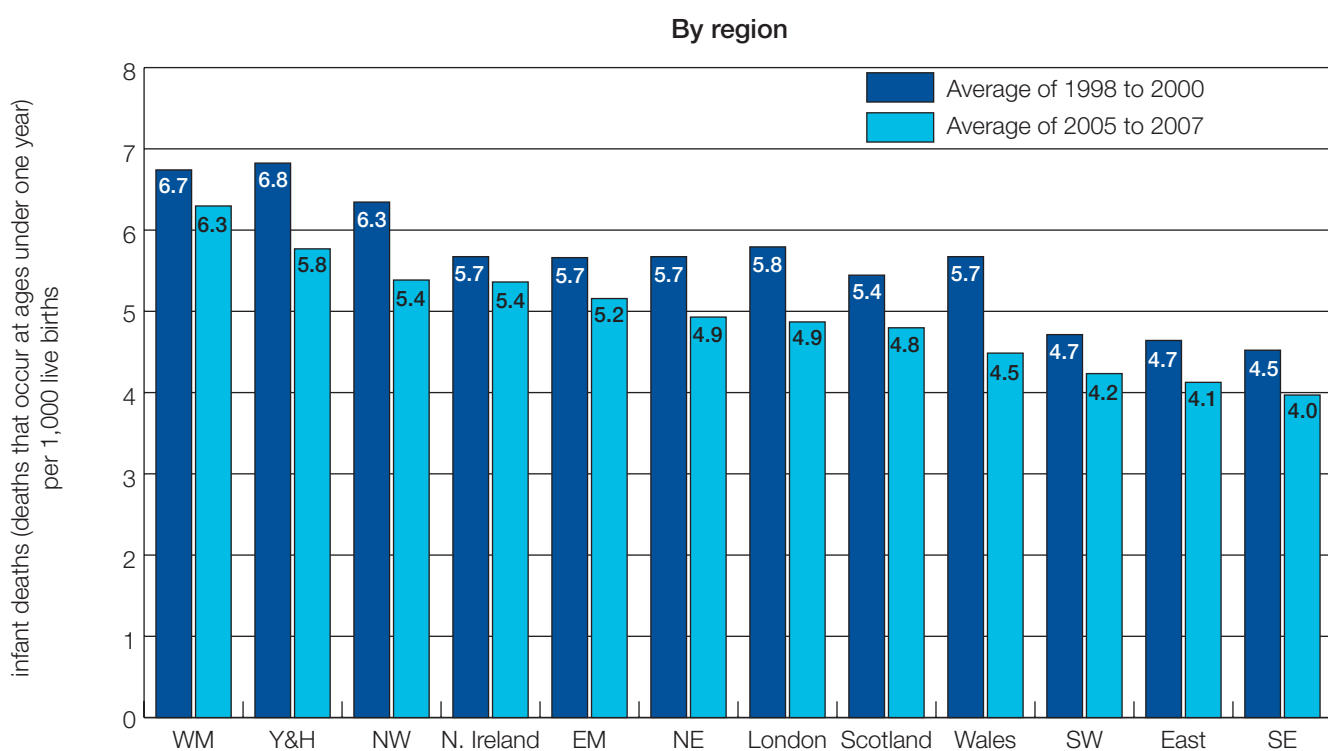
Figure 19a: Rate of infant death – by country, over time



Note: The rates jump around from year-to-year because the numbers are so small.

Source: Key population and vital statistics, ONS

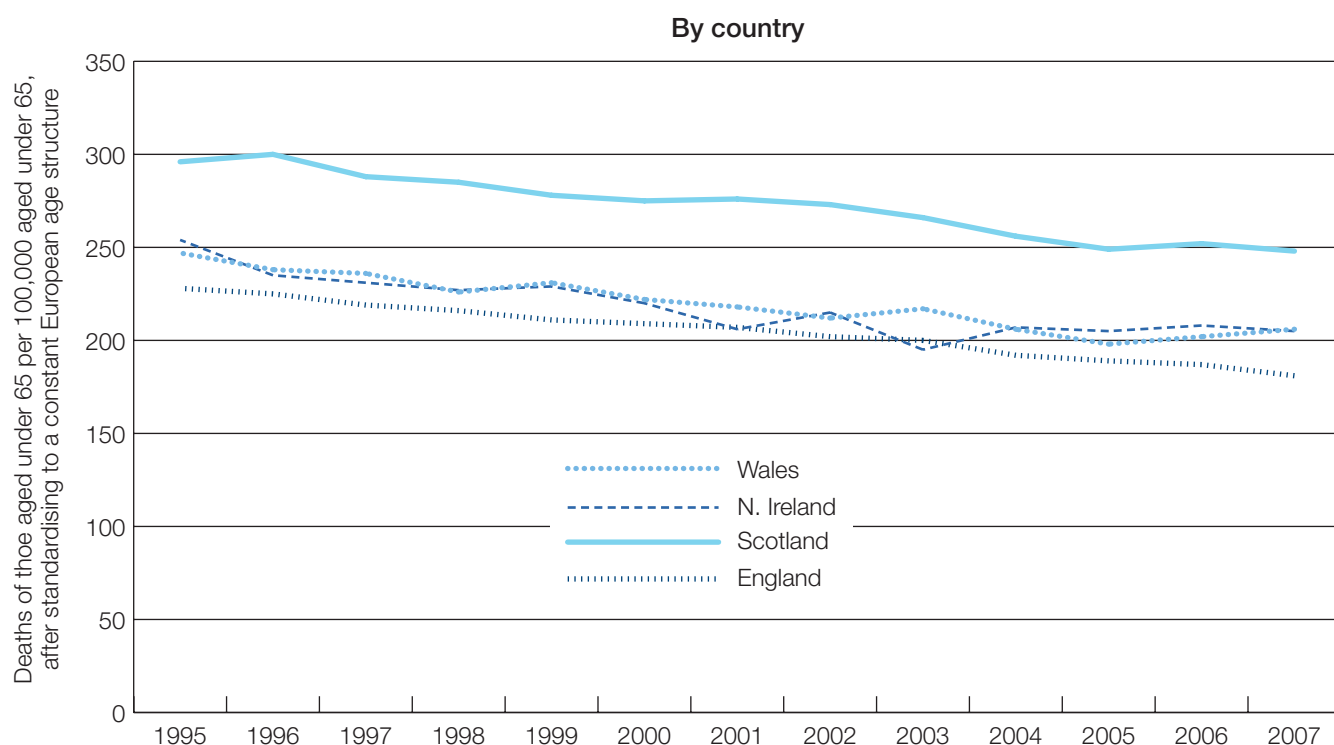
Figure 19b: Rate of infant death – by region, over time



Source: Key population and vital statistics, ONS

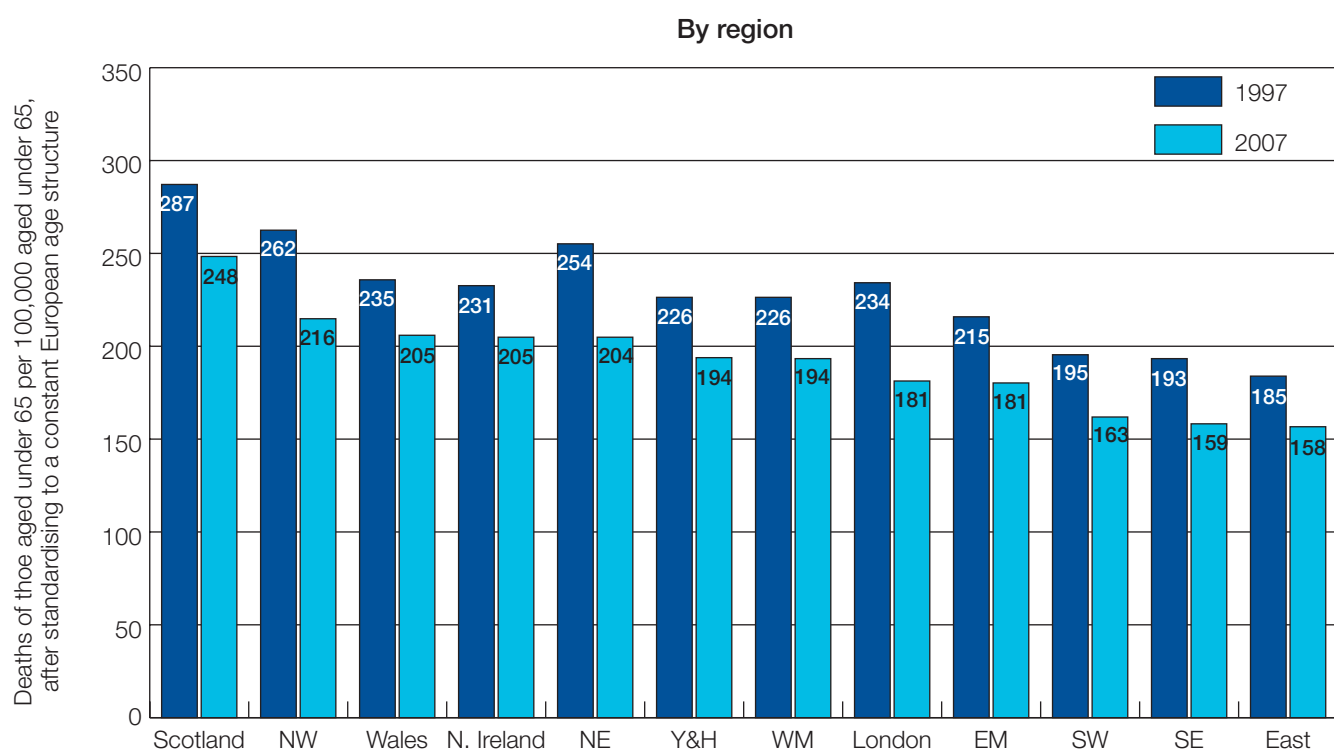
20 Premature deaths

Figure 20a: Rate of premature death – by country, over time



Source: General Register Office (Scotland), Registrar General (Northern Ireland) and Mortality Statistics Division, ONS (England and Wales)

Figure 20b: Rate of premature death – by region, over time



Source: General Register Office (Scotland), Registrar General (Northern Ireland) and Mortality Statistics Division, ONS (England and Wales)

5 Education

Data sources and definitions

The main source for data about education is the various publications and datasets published by the four country education departments. This data is not directly comparable between the four countries. For Scotland, this is obvious (their education system is different), but, more subtly, it is also the case when comparing England, Wales and Northern Ireland even when the statistics look as though they are the same thing.

For example, consider children who obtain fewer than five GCSEs or vocational equivalent: the precise statistics depend on precisely which children are included (e.g. 16-year-olds, those of compulsory school age or school leavers), which schools are included (e.g. special schools and referral units), and which vocational equivalents are included. While such issues do generally not arise when considering the statistics within a country (because their decision-making on such issues is consistent), they do when considering cross-country comparisons (because their default decisions are different). Furthermore, while the quantitative impact is relatively small in absolute terms, it is actually big enough to affect the country relativities given that these are reasonably small. In principle, it should be possible to adjust each country's statistics to make sure that they are using precisely the same definitions but, in practice, this is very difficult to do with any degree of confidence.

An alternative potential approach to obtaining directly comparable cross-country data is to use the Labour Force Survey, which is UK-wide and which contains data about highest levels of educational qualification. However, while this data is considered to be reliable for most age groups, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has – crucially – declared it to be unreliable (at least in England) for young adults on the grounds that it fails to capture the diversity of vocational qualifications that have been introduced in recent years.

In this context, the analysis in this chapter is restricted to two subjects only:

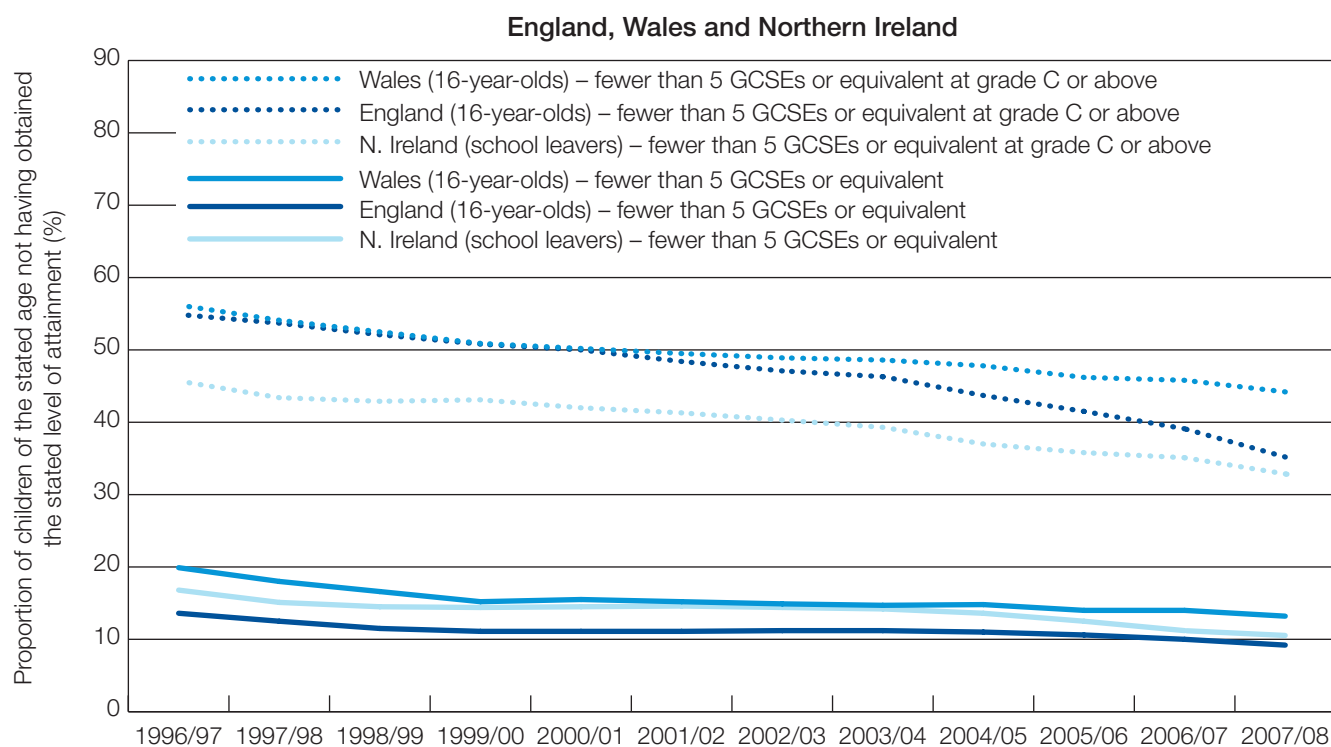
- *educational attainment at age 16*: while there are concerns about comparability, such statistics are clearly central to any analysis of education. In terms of comparisons between England, Wales and Northern Ireland, an attempt has been made to get the definitions as close as possible and two thresholds are shown, namely: those not obtaining five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grade C or above and those not obtaining the lower threshold of five GCSEs or equivalent at any grade. Some related, although different, statistics are then presented separately for Scotland;
- *working-age adults without any educational qualifications*: all people under the age of 20 have been excluded, partly because of the DCSF's concerns noted above and partly because many are still in the process of achieving educational qualifications.

The indicators

Indicator	
21	Children
22	Working-age adults

21 Children

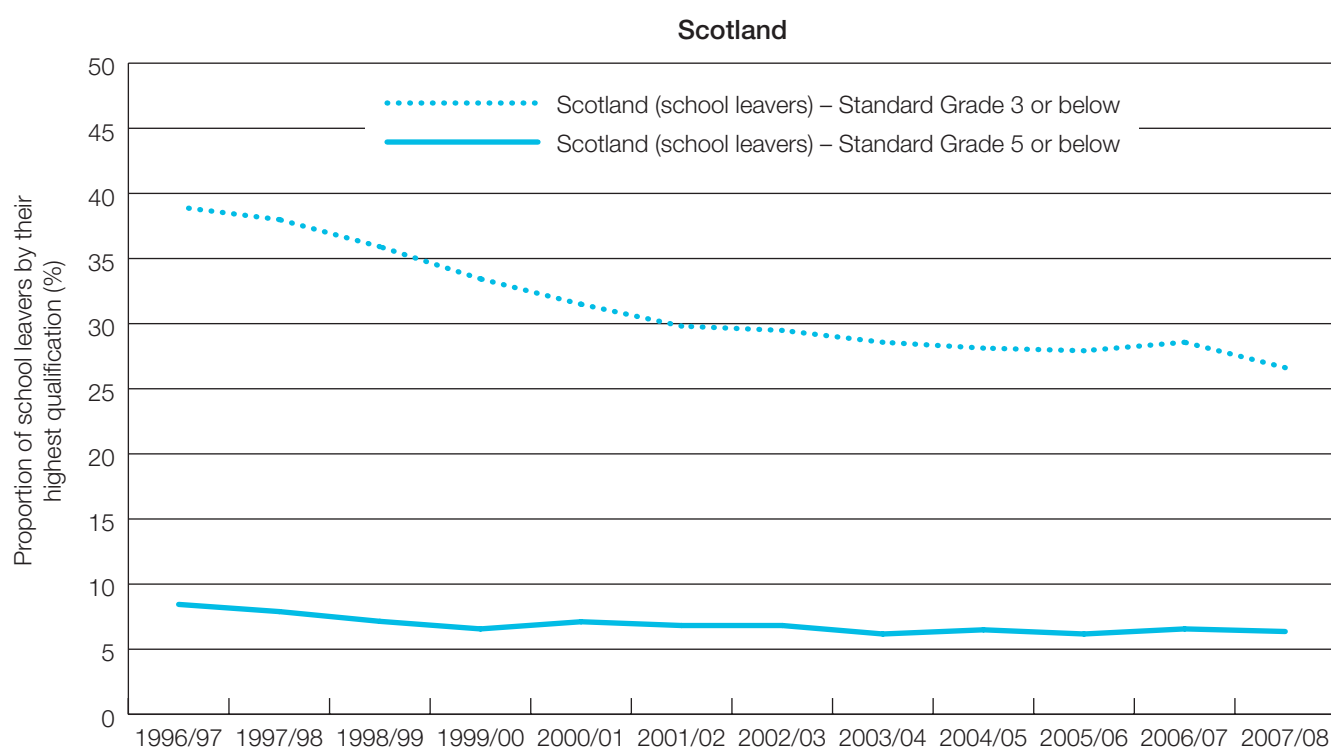
Figure 21a: Education attainment at age 16 – by country, over time



Note: The range of vocational qualifications included in the thresholds has increased in recent years.

Source: Statistical Releases from DCSF (England), National Assembly for Wales (Wales) and DENI (Northern Ireland)

Figure 21b: Education attainment at age 16 – by country, over time



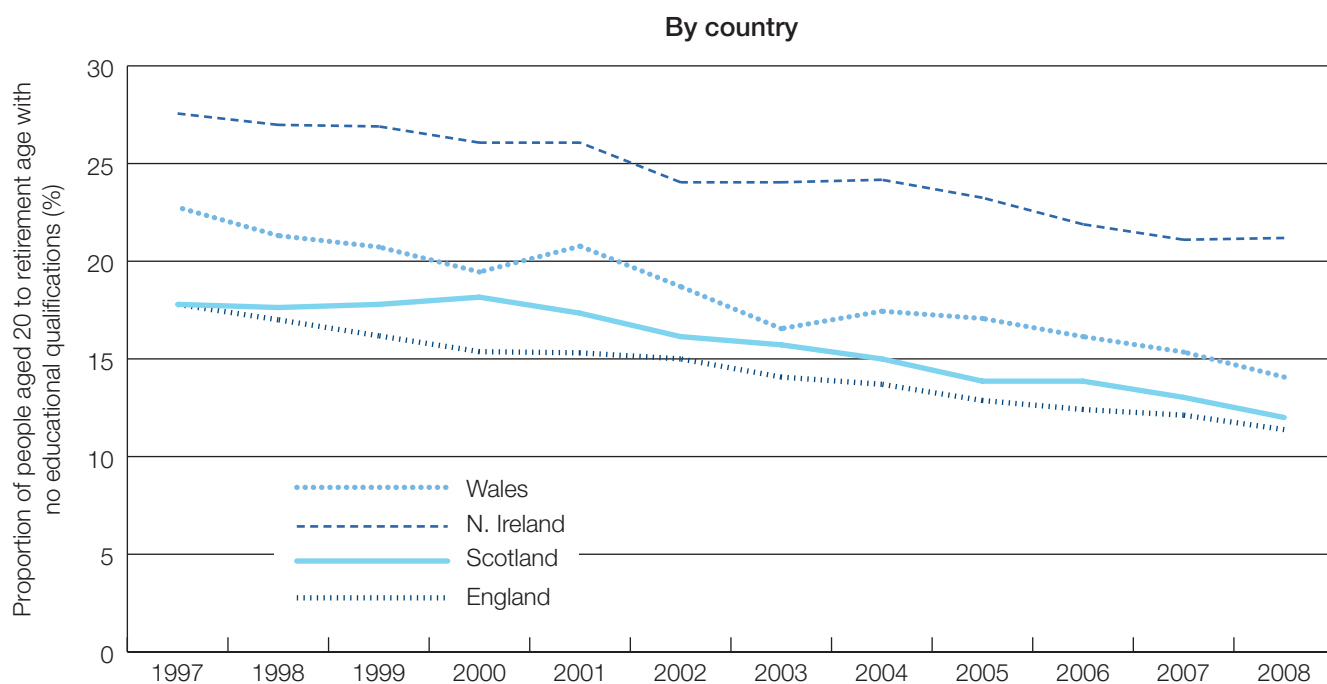
Source: Scottish Executive

22 Working-age adults

Note: The main reason that these statistics have declined over time is that relatively few people now entering working age have no formal educational

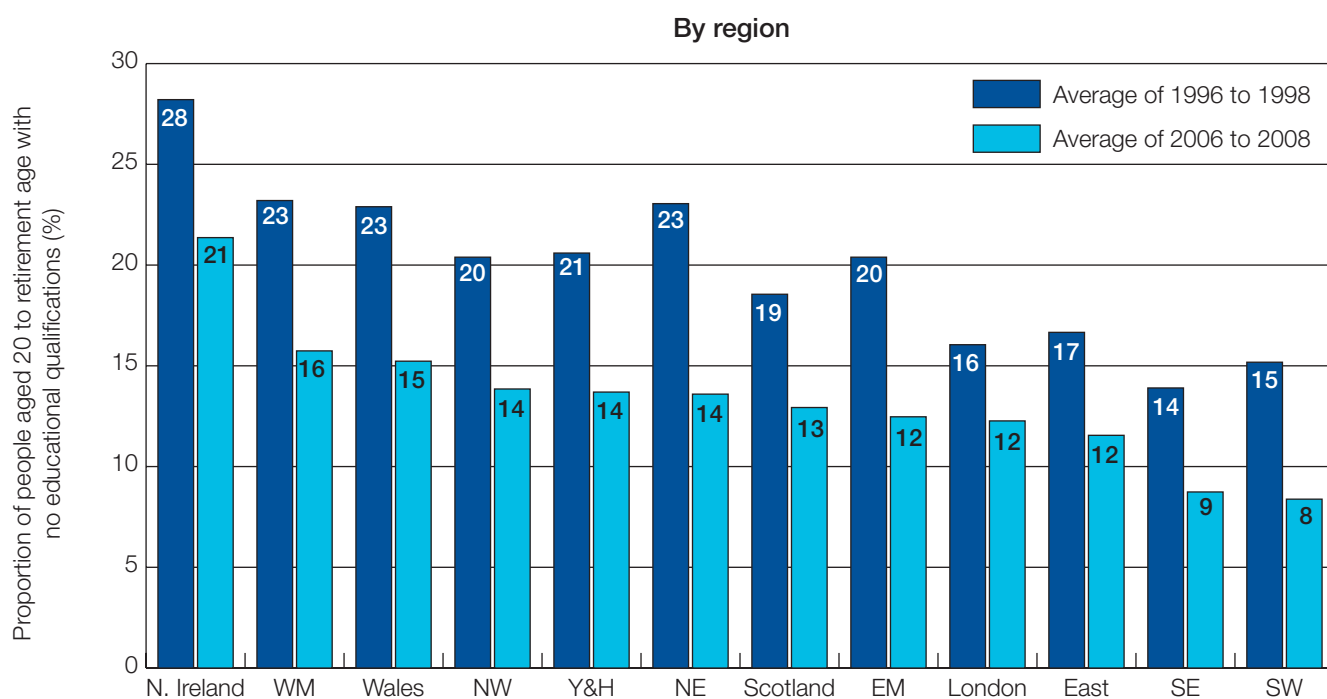
qualifications whereas relatively many people now entering pensionable age (and thus leaving working age) have no such qualifications.

Figure 22a: Proportion of the working-age population with no educational qualifications – by country, over time



Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

Figure 22b: Proportion of the working-age population with no educational qualifications – by region, over time



Source: Labour Force Survey, ONS

Appendix

Related reports

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About the author

Guy Palmer is the webmaster of The Poverty Site – www.poverty.org.uk – a site which is widely recognised as the most authoritative source of analyses about poverty and social exclusion in the UK. The site is supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is the source for all the material in the Foundation's annual *Monitoring poverty and social exclusion* reports – see www.poverty.org.uk/summary/reports.shtml.

Prior to his recent emigration to Australia, Guy was Director and co-Founder of the New Policy Institute – a UK-based think tank which researches issues of social justice. In this capacity, his research covered topics ranging from low pay and labour market disadvantage through financial exclusion and utilities to homelessness and child play services.