

FACT SHEET: GREAT BRITAIN

Background Information

General statistics on population & employment*	Value	Year	Source
Working age population (age 15-64)	41,757	2019	Eurostat ^[1]
Active population, labour force (age 15-64)	32,631	2019	Eurostat ^[1]
Inactive population, outside labour force (age 15-64)	9,126	2019	Eurostat ^[1]
Elderly population (age 65+)	11,970	2019	Eurostat ^[1]
Total population (all ages)	66,833	2019	Eurostat ^[2]

* number of persons reported (in thousands)

Coverage

Number of persons potentially insured in mandatory pension scheme*	Value	Year	Source
New State Pension	32,777	2019	National ^[3]

* number of persons reported (in thousands)

Coverage of funded and private pension plans*	Value	Year	Source
Mandatory/quasi-mandatory pension plans	x	2018	OECD ^[4]
Auto-enrolment	46.0	2018	OECD ^[4]
Voluntary: occupational pension plans	n.a.	2018	OECD ^[4]
Voluntary: private pension plans	5.0	2018	OECD ^[4]
Voluntary: total	n.a.	2018	OECD ^[4]

* % of the working age population (age 15-64);

'n.a.' = information not available; 'x' = not applicable

Additional information on active memberships in occupational pension plans*	Value	Year	Source
Occupational pension plans (total)	17.3	2018	National ^[5]
Occupational pension plans for private sector employees	11.0	2018	National ^[5]
Occupational pension plans for public sector employees	6.3	2018	National ^[5]

* number of persons reported (in millions)

Financial Protection in Old Age

National net pension replacement rates*	Value	Year	Source
Total net (with voluntary)	61.0	2018	OECD ^[6]
Net mandatory public and private	28.4	2018	OECD ^[6]
Net mandatory public	28.4	2018	OECD ^[6]

* % of individual pre-retirement earnings

Reference EU28 and OECD: net pension replacement rates*	Value	Year	Source
EU: total net (with voluntary)	67.0	2018	OECD ^[6]
EU: net mandatory public and private	63.5	2018	OECD ^[6]
EU: net mandatory public	55.5	2018	OECD ^[7]
OECD: total net (with voluntary)	65.4	2018	OECD ^[6]
OECD: net mandatory public and private	58.6	2018	OECD ^[6]
OECD: net mandatory public	47.3	2018	OECD ^[7]

* % of individual pre-retirement earnings

References

- [1] Source: European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), available at [Eurostat](#); dataset: 'Population by Sex, Age, Citizenship and Labour Status (1 000)', ID: [lfsa_pganws](#), accessed on 10/11/2020; unit of measure: number of persons (in thousands); definitions: the 'working age population (age 15-64)' includes all persons of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'active population, labour force (age 15-64)' is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'inactive population, outside the labour force (age 15-64)' consists of all persons who are classified neither as employed nor as unemployed of 15 to 64 years of age; the 'elderly population (age 65+)' includes all persons of 65 years of age or older.
- [2] Source: Annual National Accounts, available at [Eurostat](#); dataset: 'Population and Employment', ID: [nama_10_pe](#), accessed on 10/11/2020; unit of measure: number of persons (in thousands); definition: the 'population (total)' consists of all persons, nationals or foreigners, who are permanently settled in the economic territory of the country, even if they are temporarily absent from it, on a given date. A person staying or intending to stay for at least one year is considered to be settled in the territory. By convention, the total population excludes foreign students and members of foreign armed forces stationed in a country.
- [3] Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS), available at [Office for National Statistics. Employment in the UK: September 2019](#), accessed on 07/01/2021. This number represents an estimate based on the number of people aged 16 years and over in active employment between May and July 2019. Please note that in some ways this number will be under-inclusive, not accounting for those who are credited with making contributions on the basis of receiving certain benefits, while in others it is over-inclusive by including those earning below the threshold amount for contributions. Additional information on benefit recipients is provided by the [OECD Social Benefit Recipients Database](#) (SOCR) and by the [British Department for Work and Pensions](#) (DWP).
- [4] Source: OECD Global Pension Statistics, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 9.1, Coverage of Funded and Private Pension Plans in Selected OECD and Other Jurisdictions (<https://doi.org/10.1787/888934042371>); unit of measure: percentage of the working age population (15-64 years); definition: coverage rates are provided with respect to the total working age population (i.e. individuals aged 15 to 64 years). Active members are individuals with assets in a pension plan who are not retired yet. They may be actively contributing or may be holding rights in a plan. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>.
- [5] Source: [Office for National Statistics](#), dataset: 'Occupational Pension Schemes in the UK', 2018 edition, accessed on 11/01/2021.
- [6] Source: OECD Pension Models, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 5.6, Gross and Net Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory (Public and Private) and Voluntary Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041611>); unit of measure: percentage of individual pre-retirement earnings; definition: the 'net replacement rate' is defined as the individual net pension entitlement divided by net pre-retirement earnings, taking into account personal income taxes and social security contributions paid by workers and pensioners. It measures how effectively a pension system provides a retirement income to replace earnings, the main source of income before retirement. Pension entitlements are based on current legislation in OECD countries. The values of all pension system parameters reflect the situation in 2018 and onwards. The calculations show the pension benefits of a worker who enters the system that year at age 22 and retires after a full career. The baseline results are shown for single individuals. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>. Further information is provided in [OECD country profiles](#).
- [7] The net pension replacement rate of mandatory public schemes is calculated on the basis of the net pension replacement rates of mandatory schemes holding the relationship between the net and the gross pension replacement rate constant [net RR mandatory public = gross RR mandatory public x (net RR mandatory total / gross RR mandatory total)]; source: OECD Pension Models, available at OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019, Table 5.3, Gross Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory Public, Mandatory Private and Voluntary Private Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041497>), Table 5.6, Gross and Net Pension Replacement Rates from Mandatory (Public and Private) and Voluntary Pension Schemes (<http://doi.org/10.1787/888934041611>); unit of measure: percentage of individual pre-retirement earnings; definition: the gross replacement rate is defined as the gross pension entitlement divided by gross pre-retirement earnings. The net replacement rate is defined as the individual net pension entitlement divided by net pre-retirement earnings, taking into account personal income taxes and social security contributions paid by workers and pensioners. For more information see: OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019: OECD and G20 Indicators, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>.