

FUEL POVERTY MONITORING INDICATORS 2011

**Annex to the Annual
Report on Fuel Poverty
Statistics 2011**

URN 11D/813



Fuel Poverty Monitoring – Indicators 2011

Introduction

This annex to the Government's Annual Statistics Report on Fuel Poverty 2011 summarises a range of indicators that can provide a useful background to consider alongside the report. A copy of the 2011 Report can be downloaded from http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx.

The Annual Statistics Report on Fuel Poverty provides explanation of the headline figures, projections and trends in fuel poverty over time. As with previous years, detailed breakdowns of fuel poverty in England are published, as is documentation on how official fuel poverty estimates for England are calculated.

We welcome comments on the usefulness of this work and would welcome views on the need to incorporate them more closely with the latest Statistical Report.

To provide feedback and comments, please contact either Alison Colquhoun at Alison.colquhoun@decc.gsi.gov.uk or Laura Williams at laura.williams@decc.gsi.gov.uk

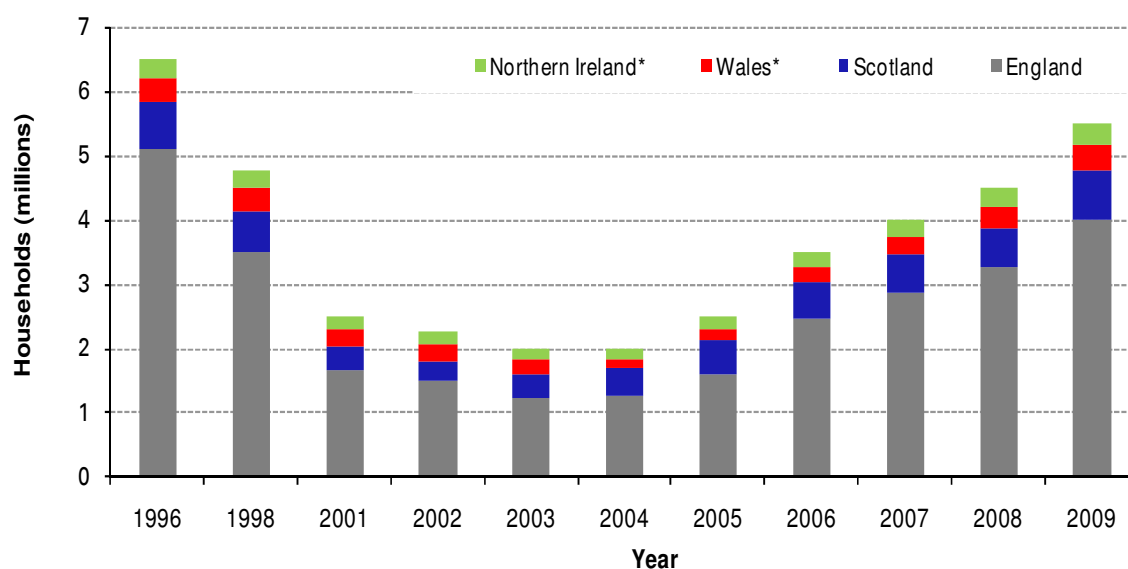
Indicators of fuel poverty

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Headline Indicator

1. The number of households in fuel poverty

a) Estimated total number of households in fuel poverty

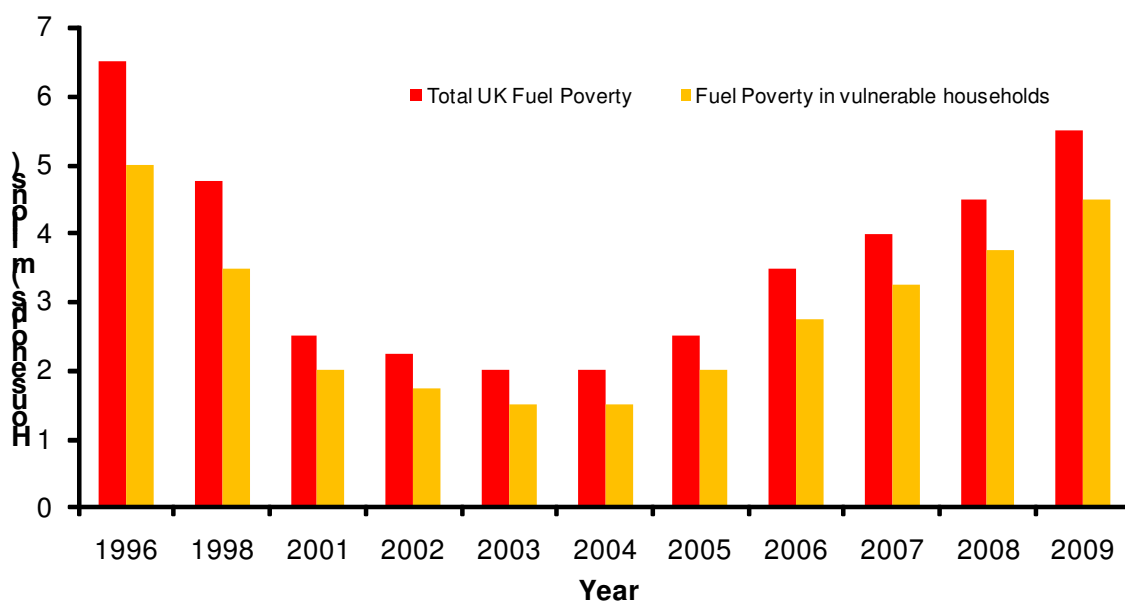


Note: Chart is based on the full income definition of fuel poverty, which includes Housing Benefit /Income Support for Mortgage Interest as income

Estimated number of households in fuel poverty (millions)											
	1996	1998*	2001	2002*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England	5.1	3.4	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.5	2.4	2.8	3.3	4.0
UK Estimate	6.5	4.75	2.5	2.25	2	2	2.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.5

* Figures for England in 1998 and 2002 are estimates based on movements in energy prices, incomes and energy efficiency.

b) Estimated number of vulnerable households in fuel poverty



Note: Chart is based on the full income definition of fuel poverty, which includes Housing Benefit /Income Support for Mortgage Interest as income

Estimated number of vulnerable households in fuel poverty (millions)											
	1996	1998*	2001	2002*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England	4.0	2.8	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.9	2.3	2.7	3.2
UK Estimate	5	3.5	2	1.75	1.5	1.5	2	2.75	3.25	3.75	4.5

* Figures for England in 1998 and 2002 are estimates based on movements in energy prices, incomes and energy efficiency.

Source: **England** – 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 English House Condition Survey, 2008 and 2009 English Housing Survey, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG); 1998 Energy Follow-Up Survey, Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)
Scotland – 1996, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005/06, 2007, 2008, 2009 Scottish House Condition Survey
Wales – 1997/98 Welsh House Condition Survey, National Assembly for Wales; 2004 Welsh Household & Dwelling Survey; Living in Wales 2008 survey
Northern Ireland –2001 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey, Department for Social Development; 2004 Interim House Condition Survey, Department for Social Development; 2006 House Condition Survey, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 2008; 2009 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey

Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages:

The number of households in fuel poverty in 2009 in the UK was around 5.5 million, 1 million households lower than 1996. However, the 2009 figure is approximately 1 million households higher than in 2008 and continues the upward trend seen since 2004. This rise is attributable to the higher energy prices experienced in recent years.

The number of vulnerable fuel poor households in the UK is estimated to have fallen from about 5 million to about 4.5 million between 1996 and 2009. However, approximately 3 million more vulnerable households were in fuel poverty in 2009 than in 2004.

There were around 4 million fuel poor households in England in 2009, a rise of 2.8 million households since the low seen in 2004.

Technical Notes:

Estimates of fuel poverty at aggregate UK level should be treated as a broad approximation as different data collection periods and methods are used across countries.

An overview of differences in the methodology in each country is available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/UKfuelpoverty>

Data for England has been sourced from DCLG's English House Condition Survey (EHCS) which, since 2002, has been conducted on a rolling annual basis. From 2008, the EHCS merged with the Survey of English Housing to form the English Housing Survey (EHS).

Data is available for Scotland based on the annual Scottish House Condition Survey.

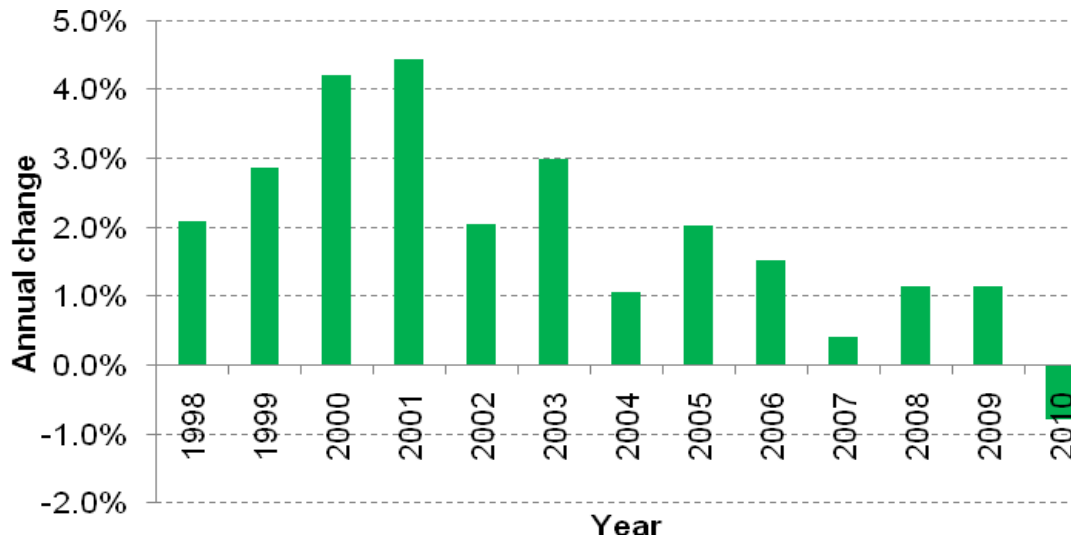
Northern Ireland has results available for 2004 from an Interim House Condition Survey, for 2006 from the new House Condition Survey run by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and for 2009 from the 2009 House Condition Survey.

Data for Wales for 2004 comes from the Welsh Household and Dwelling Survey and for 2008 comes from the 2008 Living in Wales survey. Figures between these years have been extrapolated.

Income Indicators

2. Disposable income

Year-on-year change in real disposable household income, UK, 1996-2010



Source: Office for National Statistics

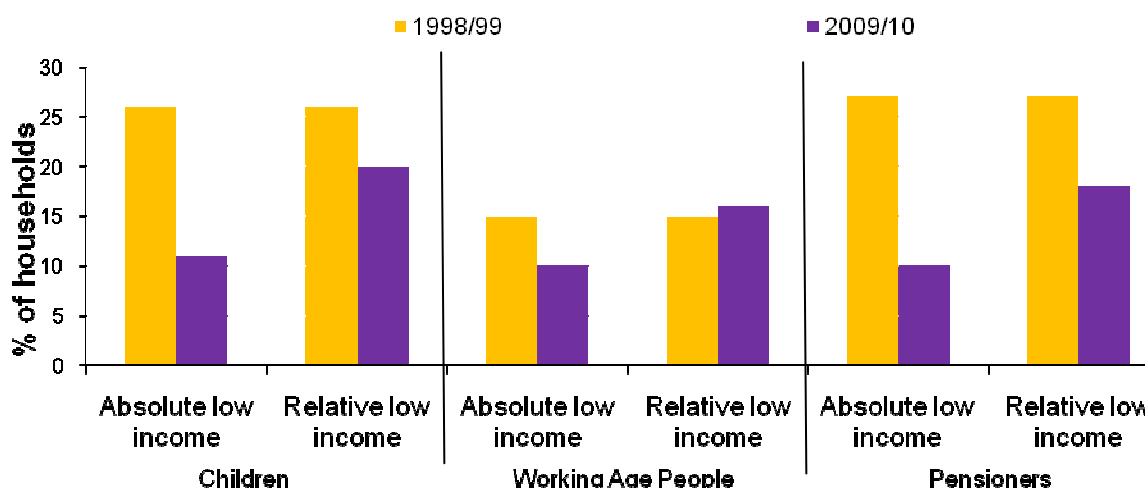
Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: Real disposable household income growth steadily increased from 1996 to 2009. However, in 2010 there was a decrease of 0.8 per cent from the previous year.

Technical Notes: This indicator shows real disposable income and is based on the Real Disposable Income series, using calendar years.

3. Proportion of children, working age adults and pensioners living in households with low incomes (absolute and relative)

Percentages of children, working-age adults and pensioners living in households with equivalised⁽¹⁾ income below 60 per cent of median (before housing costs)⁽²⁾



(1) The process of equivalisation is used in determining household income for this indicator. Equivalisation attempts to account for variations in the size and composition of the households in which individuals live.

(2) Net equivalised income before housing costs (BHC) consists of income from all sources net of National Insurance Contributions, Income Tax, Council Tax, private/occupational pension contributions, child maintenance payments, parental contributions to students living away from home, and student loan repayments.

Source: Households Below Average Income (HBAI), DWP

Coverage: United Kingdom

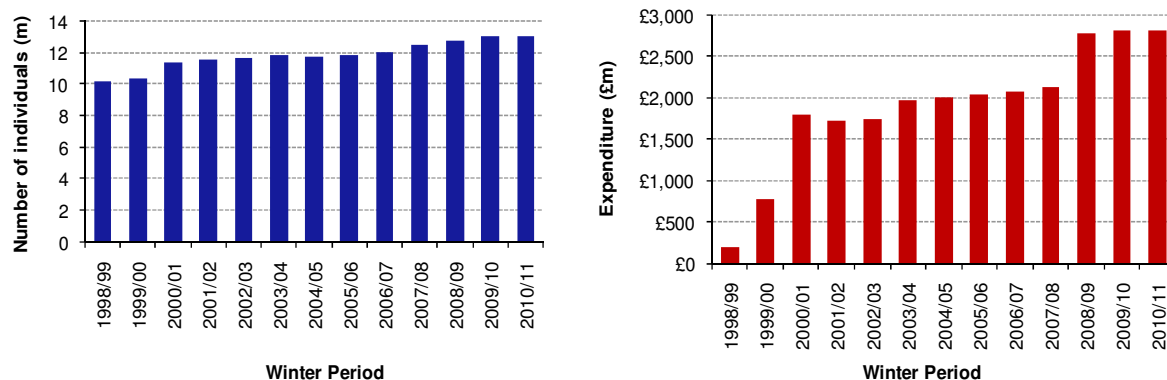
Key Messages: Rising incomes of low income households containing children or pensioners have led to a fall in the proportion of the children and pensioners living in households with relative low income between 1998/99 and 2009/10.

Technical Notes: The Government's *Households Below Average Income (HBAI)* report presents statistics for a range of low-income thresholds. For the charts above, low income is based on households that are below 60 per cent of median threshold. A more comprehensive picture of changes in incomes at the bottom of the distribution is set out in the HBAI first release and the report itself available at <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai>

The absolute measure shown here fixes the low-income threshold at 60 per cent of the 1998/99 level in real terms. The relative measure uses 60 per cent of the annual median income.

4. Winter Fuel Payments

Annual number of payments and total expenditure on Winter Fuel Payments



Source: DWP, DSD NI

Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: Expenditure on Winter Fuel Payments increased to around £2.8 billion in 2010/11, from around £775 million in 1999/2000. In 2010/11, approximately 13 million older people benefitted from a winter fuel payment. An additional payment of £50 and £100 to households with someone aged 60 up to 79 and aged 80 and over respectively was originally introduced for winter 2008/09. It continued for winters 2009/10 and 2010/11. However, in winter 2011/12, the payments will revert back to £200 for households containing 60 to 79 years olds and £300 for households containing someone aged 80 or over.

Technical Notes: The Winter Fuel Payments started in 1997/98 and are payable to all eligible individuals who have reached state pension age for women, to help towards the cost of winter fuel bills. They do not relate specifically to the fuel poor, although around half of those living in fuel poverty in England are of pensionable age.

This indicator shows trends in the amount of financial support (and number of payments) provided through Winter Fuel Payments. The rates were increased to £100 for all pensioners in winter 1999/2000 and increased again to £200 the following winter. In 2003/04 an extra £100 was awarded to households with a person aged 80 or over.

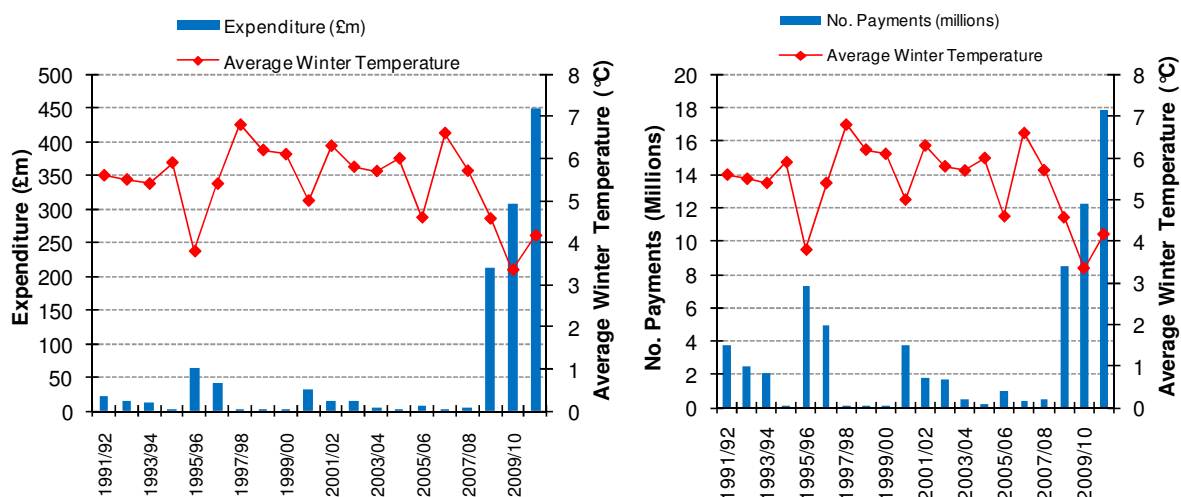
When more than one qualifying individual lives in a household, a shared rate is payable to each.

In the context of fuel poverty, winter fuel payments are treated as income, rather than offsetting fuel bills.

Number of awards for Northern Ireland in 2010/11 is estimated.

5. Cold Weather Payments

Total Expenditure and annual number of payments on Cold Weather Payments



Source: DWP records of Cold Weather Payments made automatically via benefit systems or made clerically after being identified from disabled child scans, Northern Ireland Annual Report on the Social Fund (Northern Ireland Assembly), DECC

Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: People within the vulnerable groups qualify for an automatic payment of £8.50 for each week of very cold weather in their area (see technical notes). In September 2008, it was announced that a temporary increase would be made for the 2008/9 winter, raising the payment to £25. The payment remained at this level for the 2009/10 winter. This increase was then made permanent during the Spending Review announcements in October 2010.

In 2010/11 there was a large increase in the number of payments made, which is attributed to the colder winter temperatures seen in this period compared to recent years. There was also a substantial increase in the total expenditure, which is driven by both the high number of payments as well as the increase in the payment amount introduced in winter 2008/09.

Cold Weather Payments reflect very cold periods within a winter and thus do not necessarily follow the average winter temperature. This helps to explain the low number of payments in 1994/95 (just under 11,000) and in the three winters from 1997/98 to 1999/2000 when there were few significant periods of very cold weather throughout the UK.

**Technical
Notes:**

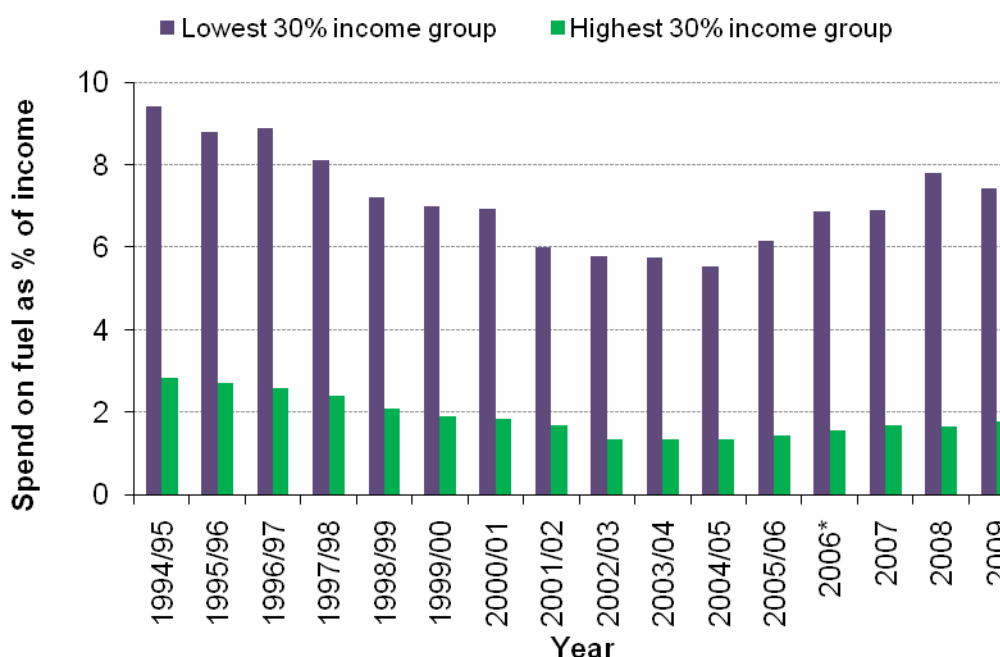
Cold Weather Payments are made to those eligible without the need to claim for every week of very cold weather (defined by the average temperature being, or forecast to be, 0°C or below over 7 consecutive days at the weather station linked to an eligible customer's postcode). People in receipt of Income Support, Pension Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance are eligible for Cold Weather Payments. Those receiving Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance in the assessment phase must also be receiving a pensioner or disability premium, or have a child who is disabled or under the age of five.

The Cold Weather Payment season runs from 1st November to 31st March. The temperature data used for this indicator relates to the average winter temperature during the months of December to March and is consistent with the temperature data used in the indicator on excess winter deaths.

Fuel Prices Indicators

6. Actual expenditure on fuel (as a percentage of total income)

Percentage of income spent on fuel for households in the lowest and highest 30 per cent income groups



Source: Office for National Statistics, Living Costs and Food Survey (formerly Expenditure and Food Survey, Family Expenditure Survey)

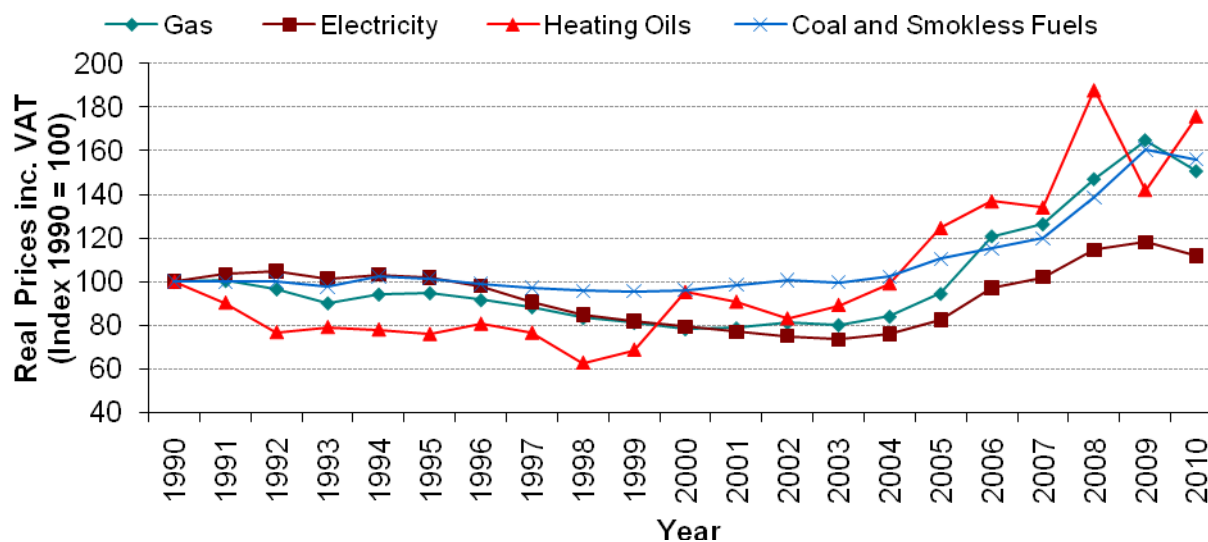
Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: The proportion of expenditure on fuel has changed over the last 15 years for both the lowest and highest income groups. Whilst there was an overall reduction in the proportion spent by both groups between 1994/95 and 2004/05, a significant difference still exists.

Since then, expenditure on fuel as a proportion of total expenditure had increased by around 35 percentage points for the lowest 3 income groups and by 33 percentage points for the highest 3 income groups by 2009. Between 1994/95 and 2009, expenditure on fuel as a proportion of income fell by around 20 percentage points for the lowest 30 per cent income group and by around 40 percentage points for the highest 30 per cent of income households.

7. Fuel prices

Average domestic energy prices in real terms



Source: Office for National Statistics, Retail Prices Index; DECC, Quarterly Energy Prices

Coverage: United Kingdom

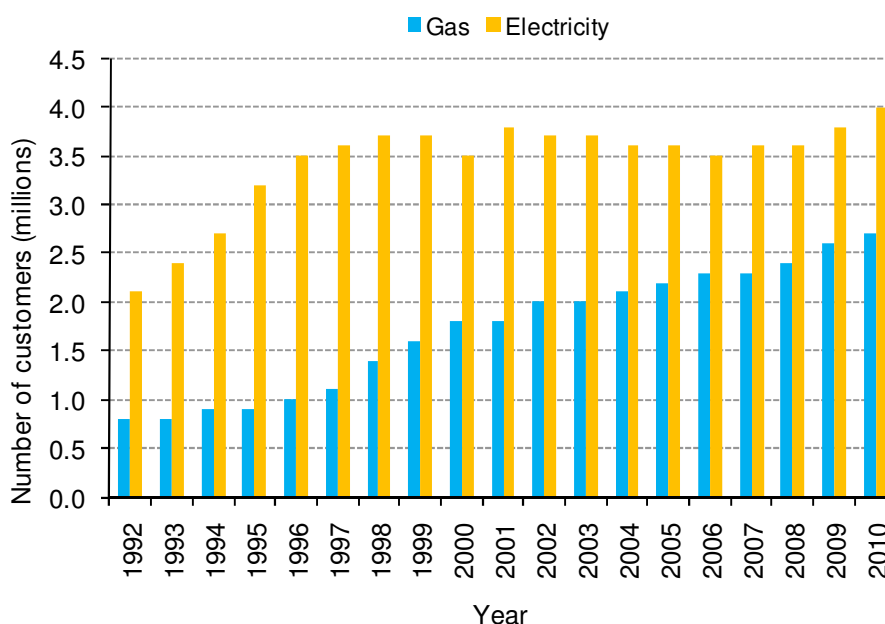
Key Messages: This indicator shows changes in average domestic fuel prices throughout the UK. Since 2004, prices have risen sharply, mainly due to increasing wholesale gas prices, higher international oil and coal prices and the resulting increase in wholesale electricity prices.

Between 2009 and 2010, the price of gas decreased in real terms by 8.6 per cent, compared to an increase of 12.1 per cent between 2008 and 2009. Over the same period, the price of electricity decreased in real terms by 5.2 per cent, compared to an increase of 3 per cent between 2008 and 2009.

Prices for heating oils in real terms rose by 23.9 per cent from 2009 to 2010 following a 24.4 per cent fall between 2008 and 2009. Heating oil has had the biggest price increase relative to 1990 of the four energy types, due to a rise in crude oil prices. Prices for coal and smokeless fuels fell 2.8 per cent between 2009 and 2010.

8. Number of customers on prepayment meters

Customers on prepayment meters for gas and electricity



Source: Ofgem Domestic Suppliers' Social Obligations: 2010 Annual Report available online at: <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=71&refer=SUSTAINABILITY/SOCACTION/MONITORING/SOOBMONITOR>

Coverage: Great Britain

Key Messages: There was an increase in the number of customers using prepayment meters during the 1990s for both fuels, although especially for electricity, where they are largely used for debt management instead of disconnection. Between 2001 and 2006 there was a reduction in electricity prepayment meter customer numbers, while gas prepayment meter customer numbers continued to increase. Between 2007 and 2010, there were increases in both the number of gas and electricity prepayment meter customers. At the end of 2010, around 15 per cent of electricity customers and 12 per cent of gas customers paid through a pre-payment meter.

In addition to the households shown in the chart above there were, at the end of 2010, approximately 257,000 electricity prepayment meters and approximately 73,000 gas prepayment meters in Northern Ireland, an increase on 2009.

Aside from managing a debt, many households prefer using pre-payment meters as they allow the householders to manage their budgets closely.

Technical Notes:

Prepayment meter customers have historically paid higher prices than customers paying by quarterly credit or direct debit, although the differentials have narrowed in recent years, especially between standard credit and pre-payment – see DECC’s Quarterly Energy Prices <http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx>.

In 2009, around 26 per cent of electricity and 27 per cent of gas pre-payment customers were fuel poor. Amongst standard credit customers, 24 per cent of gas and 26 per cent of electricity customers were in fuel poverty. These compare to 12 per cent of direct debit gas customers, 14 per cent of direct debit electricity customers and 28 per cent of customers not on the gas network.

The table below shows how average annual bills have changed since 1996. Average annual bills are calculated assuming annual consumption of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas.

Average Annual Gas and Electricity Bills by Payment Method

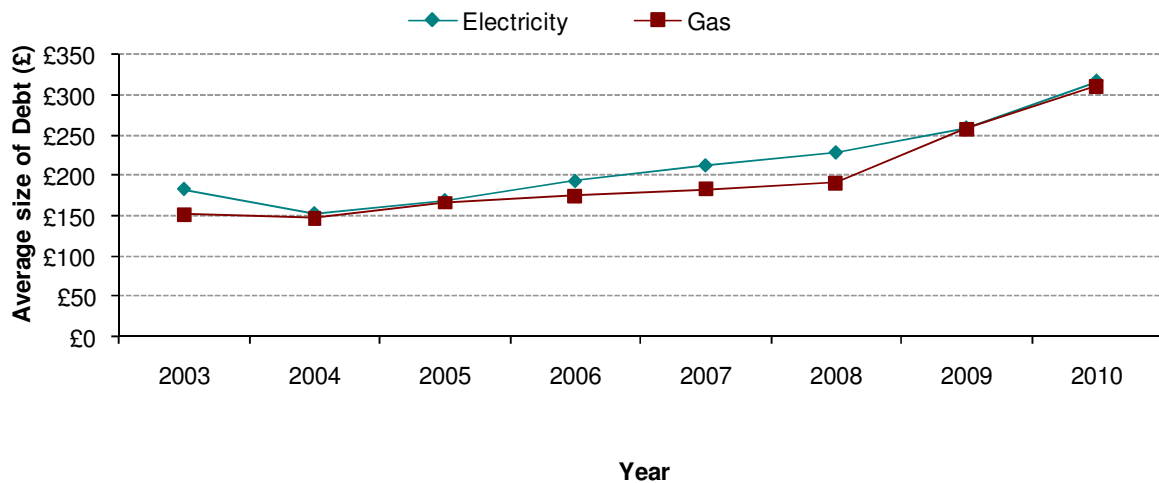
Average gas & electricity bills for indicators text											Different methodology from 2007 onwards, see QEP for details					
Cash terms (£)		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Electricity	Credit	297	285	268	264	257	250	249	250	257	285	338	378	435	448	435
	Direct Debit	291	277	258	253	245	239	237	238	244	269	313	348	400	409	398
	Prepayment	317	302	285	281	274	267	265	266	274	304	359	394	454	457	446
Prepayment less credit		20	17	17	17	17	17	16	16	17	19	21	16	19	9	11
Prepayment less Direct Debit		26	25	27	28	29	28	28	28	30	35	46	46	54	48	48
Gas	Credit	330	328	315	305	295	293	310	320	333	386	474	536	625	708	681
	Direct Debit	308	307	277	268	264	266	281	292	309	353	424	485	579	652	639
	Prepayment	350	349	331	318	311	309	327	336	351	401	498	573	651	739	683
Prepayment less credit		20	21	16	13	16	16	17	16	18	15	24	37	26	31	2
Prepayment less Direct Debit		42	42	54	50	47	43	46	44	42	48	74	88	72	87	44
Real 2005 terms (£) ⁽¹⁾		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Electricity	Credit	366	342	314	303	292	278	269	262	262	285	328	356	398	404	381
	Direct Debit	358	332	302	290	278	266	256	249	249	269	304	328	366	369	349
	Prepayment	390	362	334	323	311	297	286	278	280	304	348	371	415	413	391
Prepayment less credit		24	20	20	20	19	19	17	16	18	19	20	15	17	9	10
Prepayment less Direct Debit		32	30	32	33	33	31	30	29	31	35	44	43	49	44	42
Gas	Credit	406	393	369	350	335	326	334	335	339	386	460	505	572	639	597
	Direct Debit	379	368	325	308	300	296	303	305	315	353	412	457	530	588	559
	Prepayment	431	418	388	365	353	343	353	351	358	401	484	540	595	667	598
Prepayment less credit		25	25	19	15	18	17	19	16	19	15	24	35	23	28	1
Prepayment less Direct Debit		52	50	63	57	53	47	50	46	43	48	72	83	65	79	39
(1) Bills deflated to 2005 terms using the GDP (market prices) deflator																
Source: http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx																
Coverage: UK for electricity, Great Britain for gas																
Bills are calculated assuming annual consumption of 3,300kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas.																

9. Fuel Debt

Amounts owed by gas customers on a debt payment arrangement (as in the final quarter of each year)



Average Level of Customer Debt



Source: Ofgem

Coverage: Great Britain

Key Messages:

Overall, at the end of 2010, 3.2 per cent of electricity customers and 3.2 per cent of gas customers were in debt. Of the gas customers in debt, 59 per cent owed more than £100, compared to 52 per cent in the same quarter in 2009. Of the electricity customers in debt, 58 per cent owed more than £100, compared to 46 per cent in 2009 Q4.

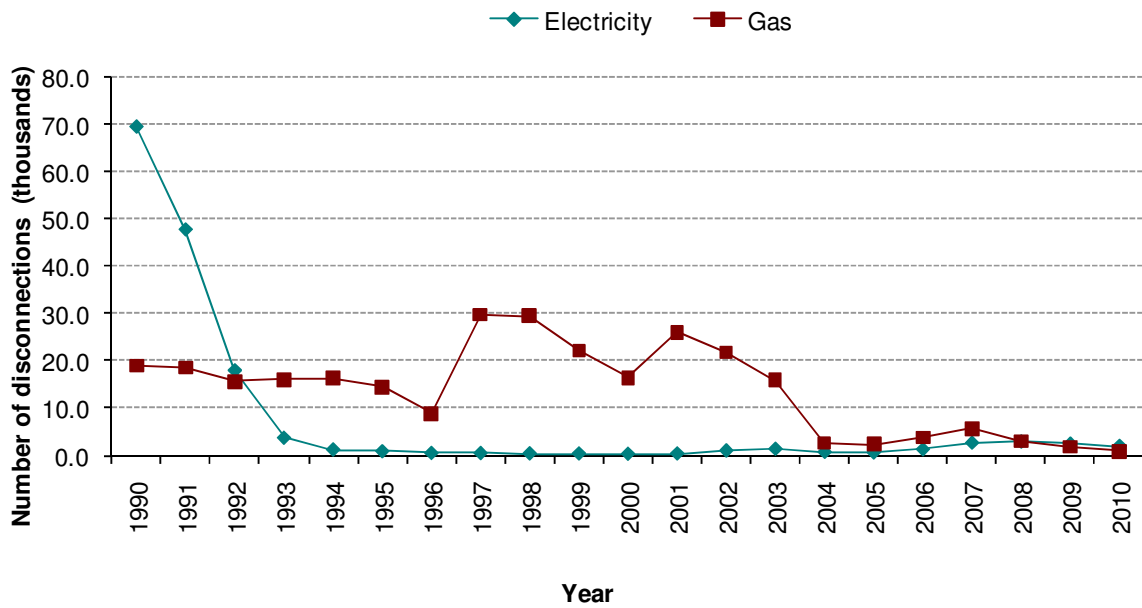
While the overall numbers repaying a debt has decreased, there are signs that the recession and high energy bills are continuing to have an impact on customers struggling to pay. The average debt owed by electricity customers at the end of 2010 was £316, and the average owed by gas customers was £310. This is an increase of 13 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, on the same quarter in 2009.

In 2010 Q4, approximately 9 per cent of electricity prepayment meter customers (0.4m) and 11 per cent of gas prepayment meter customers (0.3m) are repaying a debt through a prepayment meter, slightly down from 2009 Q4.

‘Debt’ refers either to customers who have a PPM set to collect a debt or customers who are on a rescheduled debt repayment programme due to last longer than 91 days/13 weeks. Direct debit customers would only fall within this definition if they have specifically set up a direct debit in order to repay a debt¹.

¹ See Ofgem review of suppliers' approaches to debt management and prevention: <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Publications/Documents1/Debt%20Review%20Report.pdf>

Number of customers disconnected due to debt

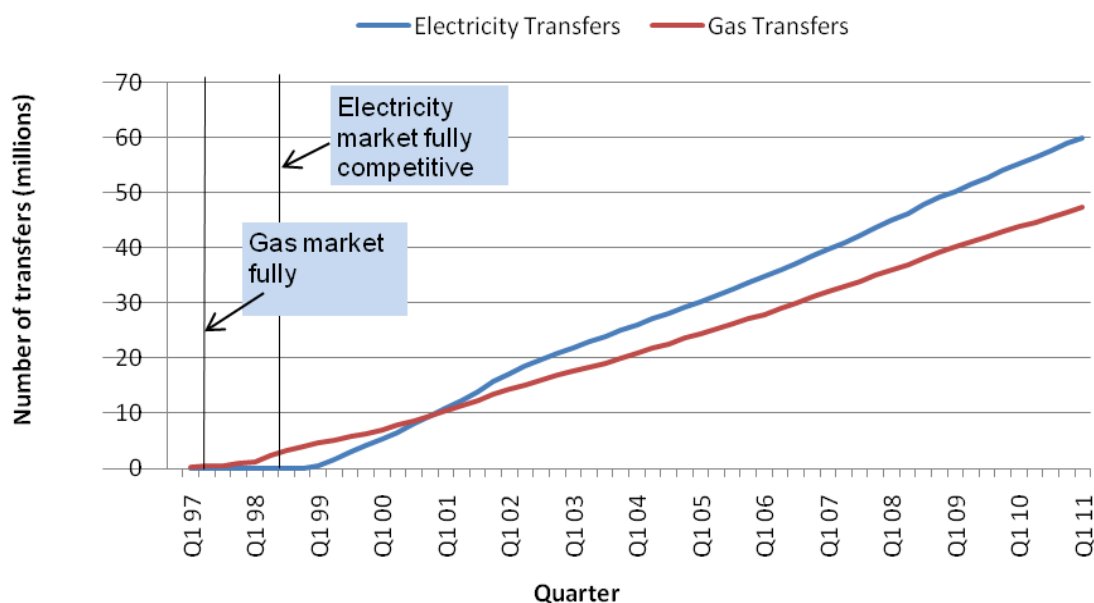


Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: Between 2009 and 2010, disconnections for debt dropped slightly for both gas and electricity to 813 for gas and 1,988 for electricity. For both fuels, the levels are significantly reduced from the early 1990s.

10. Customers switching supplier

Cumulative numbers of gas and electricity transfers



Source: Ofgem; DECC

Coverage: Great Britain

Key Messages: By the end of March 2011, there had been 60 million changes of electricity supplier and 47 million changes of gas supplier since their respective markets opened to competition.

There are different rates of switching supplier between customers on the three main payment methods. In March 2011, gas Direct Debit customers were the most likely to transfer away from their home supplier, with 67 per cent being with a non home supplier. Customers paying for their gas by Standard Credit were the least likely to have switched from their home supplier with only 42 per cent of customers with a non home supplier. Of pre-payment customers, 54 per cent were with a non-home supplier.

For electricity, again Direct Debit customers are most likely to have transferred away from their home supplier, with 65 per cent of customers no longer with their home supplier. Standard Credit and pre-payment customers were less likely to have switched away, with 53 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively, of customers using a non-home provider at the end of March 2011.

**Technical
Notes:**

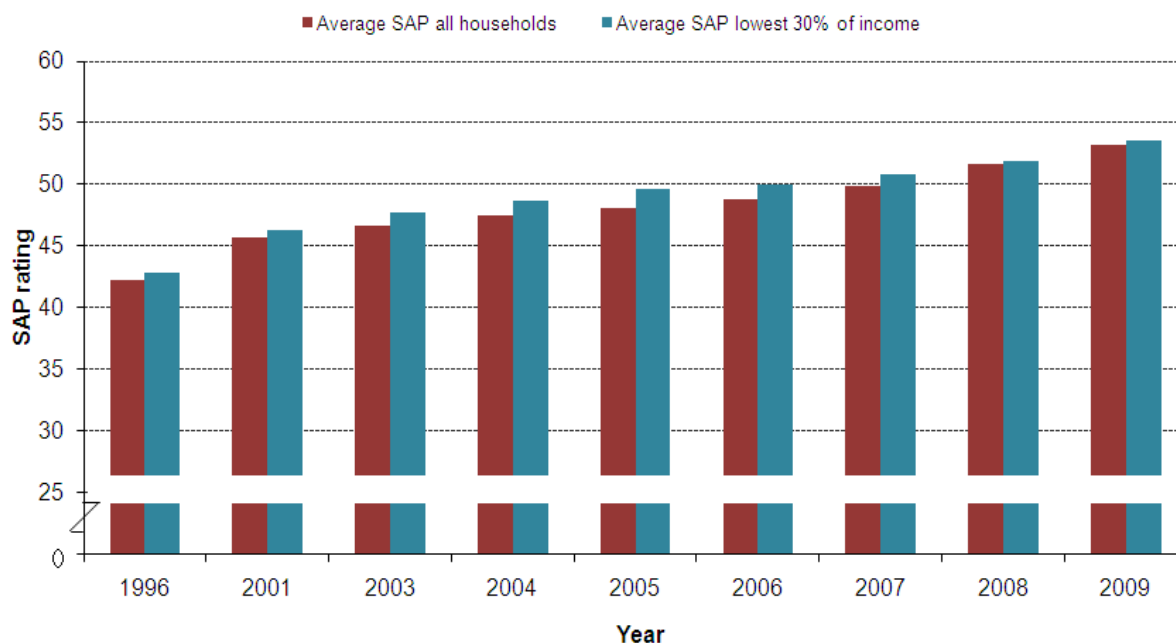
The term “original supplier” or “home supplier” refers to the former Public Electricity Suppliers operating within their historical distribution boundaries in the electricity market and to British Gas in the gas market.

All domestic customers in Great Britain have been able to choose their gas supplier since May 1998 and their electricity supplier from May 1999.

Housing Indicators

11. Energy efficiency (SAP rating) of the housing stock

SAP rating of households in the lowest 30 per cent of income groups and the average SAP rating for England



Source: EHCS 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; EHS 2008, 2009 (DCLG)

Coverage: England

Key Messages: The average SAP rating for occupied households in England has increased from 42.2 in 1996 to 53.2 in 2009. The average SAP rating of dwellings occupied by households in the lowest three income deciles has been consistently higher than the overall average during this period, however the gap has narrowed in recent years.

Results from the 2009 EHS have again indicated that there is a direct relationship between the degree of fuel poverty experienced, and SAP ratings. This is illustrated in the detailed tables available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx.

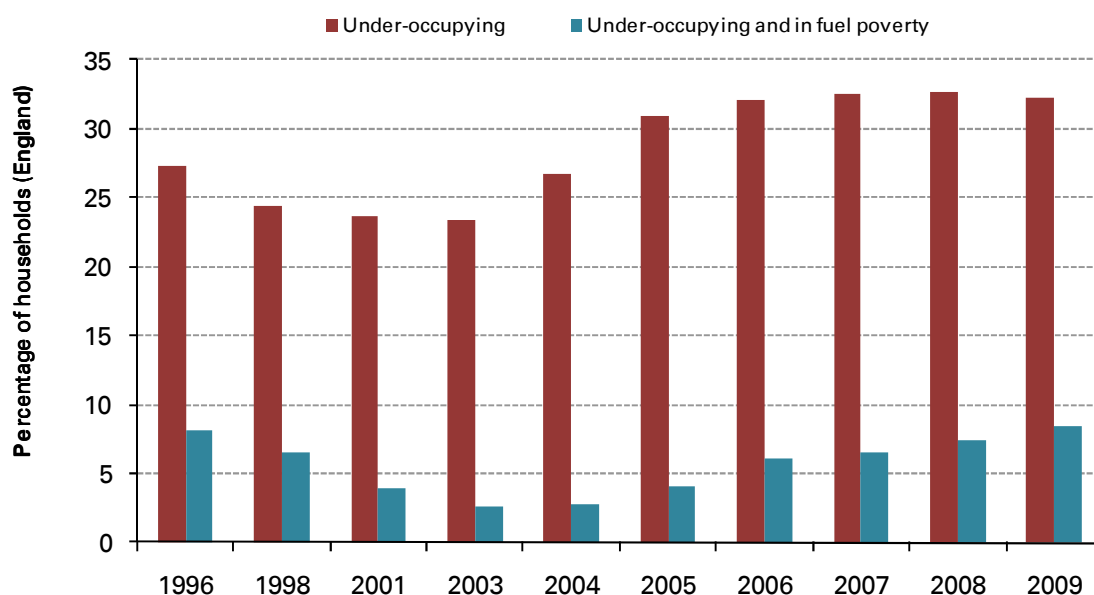
**Technical
Notes:**

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is adopted by Government as the methodology for calculating the energy performance of dwellings. The SAP rating is based upon the energy costs associated with space heating, water heating, ventilation and lighting in a dwelling. It is adjusted for floor area so that it is essentially independent of floor area for a given built form. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 to 100, the higher the number the lower the running costs.

The SAP rating calculation is based on the energy efficiency of the dwelling, taking into account (among other factors) the materials used for construction of the dwelling, thermal insulation of the building fabric, ventilation of the dwelling, efficiency and control of the heating systems and the different fuels used within the dwelling.

12. Occupancy levels

Percentage of underoccupied households in England



Source: EHCS 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007; EHS 2008, 2009
DCLG: EFUS 1998, DEFRA/BERR

Coverage: England

Key Messages: Underoccupied households have a higher likelihood of being fuel poor, as they tend to have larger homes to heat (so have higher modelled levels of consumption), and often will have single incomes. In 2009 there was a slight decrease in the proportion of homes under-occupying for the first time since 2003. The ratio of fuel poor underoccupied households decreased from three in ten in the late 1990s to one in ten in 2004, but has risen every year since, and in 2009 was almost one in three again.

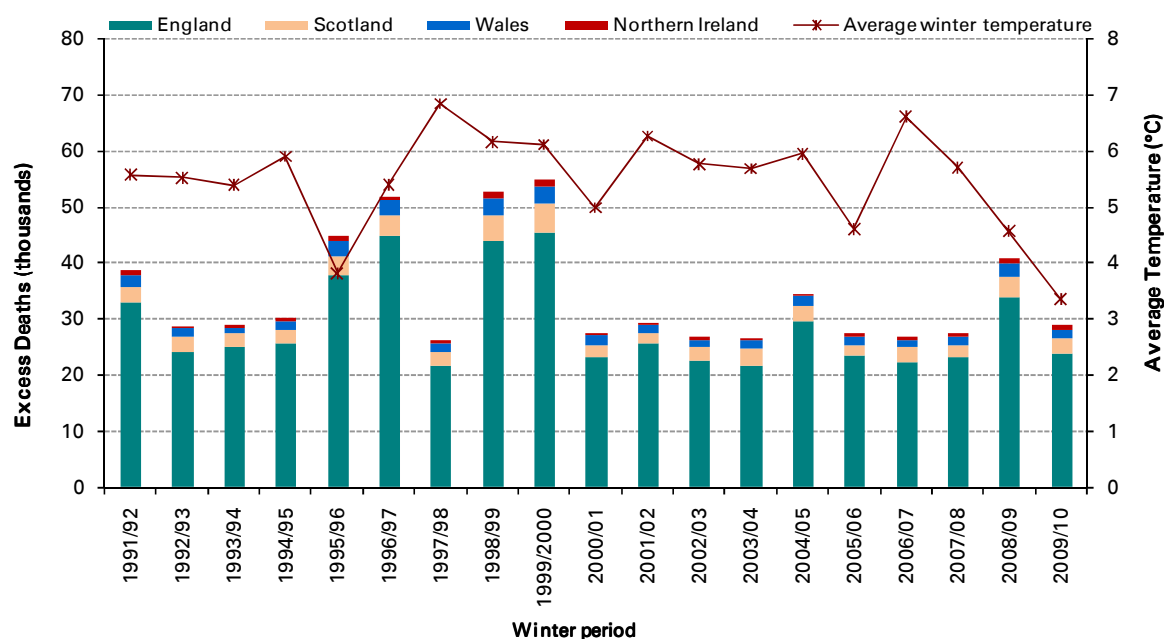
Technical Notes: Underoccupancy is defined in terms of the 1968 Parker Morris standard and the bedroom standard. The Parker Morris standard gives a minimum floor area for a home depending upon the number of occupants as shown in the table below:

Number of occupants	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Minimum floor area (m ²)	33	48.5	61	79	89.5	97	114.5

Under the bedroom standard a separate bedroom is allocated to each co-habiting couple, any person aged 21 or over, each pair of young persons aged 10 to 20 of the same sex and each pair of children under 10 regardless of sex. Unpaired young persons aged 10 to 20 are paired with a child under 10 of the same sex or if possible, allocated a separate bedroom. The calculated standard for the household is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms available for its sole use. Bedroom includes bedsitters, boxrooms and bedrooms, identified as such by informant even though they may not be in such use. It has been assumed that all homes where the floor area is over twice the minimum set down in the Parker Morris standard and the number of bedrooms are in excess of the bedroom standard are under occupied.

13. Excess winter deaths

Excess winter deaths in countries of the UK



Source: Office for National Statistics; The Scottish Executive Government; Northern Ireland Assembly; Met Office

Coverage: United Kingdom

Key Messages: The risks of cold-related ill health apply to all people, however those in the vulnerable groups are particularly at risk. Between 1991/92 and 1999/00 the average number of excess deaths per year were around 40,000 in the UK. Between 2000/01 and 2009/10 this had fallen to around 28,000, apart from in 2008/09 when there were excess deaths of 41,000. Excess winter deaths in 2009/10 were broadly the same level as in 2006/7, when the average temperature was 3.3 degrees warmer than in 2009/10

Technical Notes: Links between cold, damp housing and poor health are well documented. However, excess winter deaths cannot solely be attributed to fuel poverty. There is also strong evidence that cold temperature contributes to winter mortality - there are more deaths in colder winters and in colder spells within winters. It has long been recognised that the level of excess winter deaths in the United Kingdom is above the average of other European countries. Although annual data relating to excess winter deaths must be considered against such factors as the severity of the winter and other key factors e.g. flu epidemics, these figures provide a useful insight into how improvements in housing stock and other measures to address fuel poverty might be affecting some of the most vulnerable.

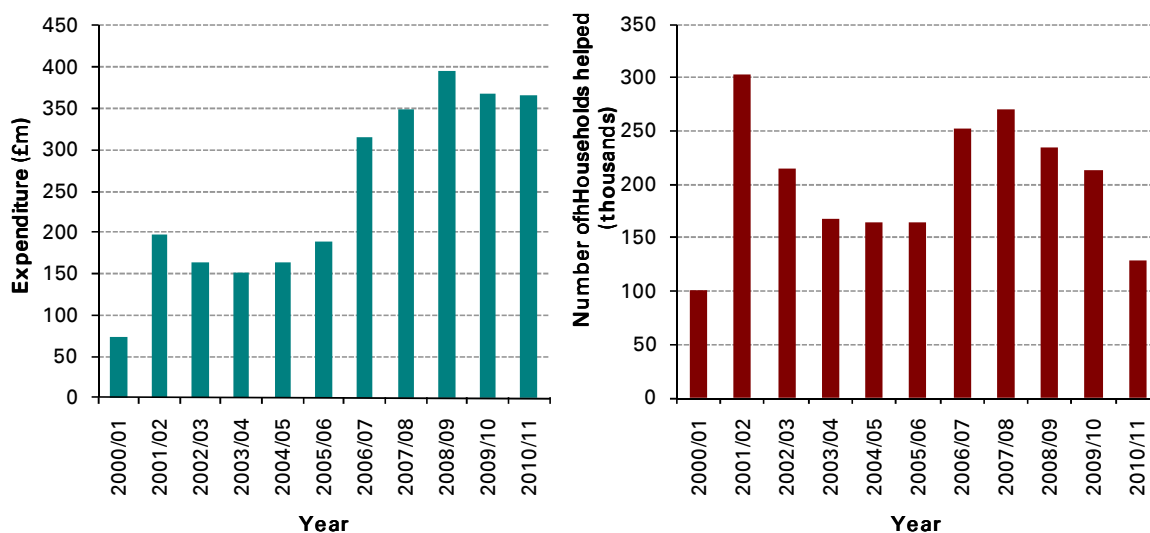
Excess winter deaths are defined as the difference between the number of deaths which occurred in winter (December to March), and the average number of deaths during the preceding and subsequent four month periods (August to November and April to July).

The temperature data used for this indicator relates to the average

temperature during the months of December to March and is consistent with the temperature data used in the indicator on cold weather payments.

14. Expenditure on, and number of households helped through, Warm Front

Expenditure and number of households helped through Warm Front, England



Source: DECC

Coverage: Private domestic housing sector of England

Key Messages: Funding for the Warm Front Scheme was over £1.1 billion for the spending round to March 2011. As part of the Spending Review 2010, the Government committed to continue to fund a smaller, targeted Warm Front programme for the next two years, with £110m available in 2011/12 and £100m in 2012/13 for the Scheme. Following Government consultation the scheme's eligibility was revised with effect from April 2011. Eligibility is now based on a combination of income related benefits, mirroring those used to identify Cold Weather Payment recipients, and the thermal efficiency of the applicant's property. This ensures those most vulnerable to fuel poverty, who are also living in the most energy inefficient homes, are targeted for help under the scheme. Eligible applicants continue to receive a grant of up to £3,500, or up to £6,000 awarded to those off the gas-grid.

The charts show a general increase in funding for the scheme over time and a decrease in the number of households helped. This is due to changes made to scheme architecture and a shift in the volumes of the various measures installed over time (i.e. a movement away from insulation to predominantly heating measures being provided). Funding for 2010/11 includes £345m plus £21m of additional monies made available for outstanding works.

**Technical
Notes:**

Warm Front, launched in June 2000, is designed to tackle fuel poverty amongst vulnerable low income households across England. The insulation and heating measures installed through Warm Front deliver a range of benefits including reductions in household energy bills, carbon savings and positive health impacts. The scheme has evolved during time, in terms of scheme architecture, delivery and in the range of measures and value of support provided. In 2009 the grant maxima was increased to reduce the number of fuel poor households having to make a contribution to the cost of installing the proposed heating and insulation measures. At the same time a number improvements were made to the delivery of the scheme to improve the quality of customer service and to drive greater value for money. For further information see: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront>

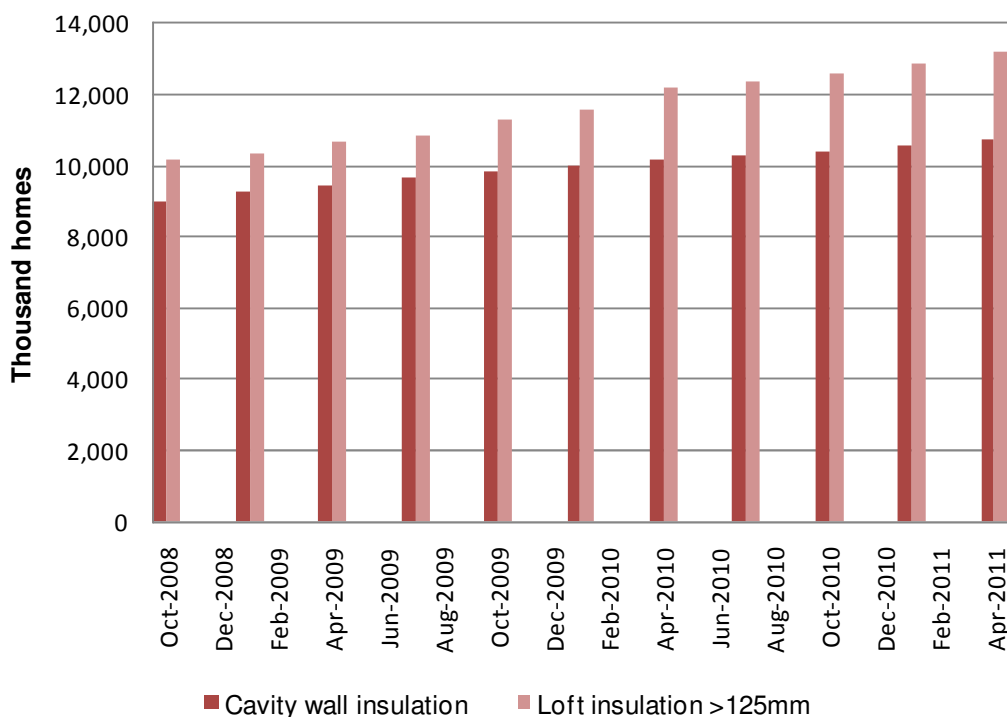
Similar schemes operate in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland:
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Scotland-Welcome-page/At-Home/Energy-Assistance-Package>

<http://www.nestwales.org.uk/>

<http://www.warm-homes.com/>

15. Number of insulated homes

Time series of homes with cavity wall insulation and loft insulation in Great Britain since 2008



Source: DECC Insulation Statistics

Coverage: Great Britain

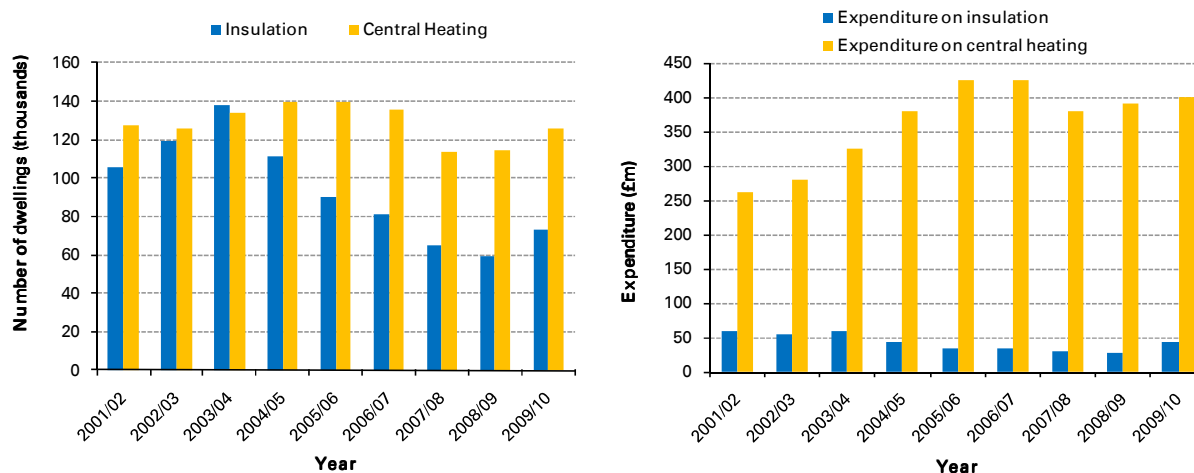
Key Messages: There are 26.6 million homes in Great Britain. Of these, 23.3 million have lofts and 18.7 million have cavity walls with the remaining 7.9 million having solid walls. IN April 2011, 13 million homes had loft insulation of at least 125mm, around 357,000 higher than in January 2011. Nearly 11 million homes had cavity wall insulation, around 203,000 more than in January 2011.

Technical Notes: The high level methodology for producing the estimates for this statistical series is to take the starting point from the 2008 housing surveys, which coincides with the start of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), and add known changes delivered through this and other schemes based on quarterly updates published by OFGEM and data on new buildings from Communities & Local Government.

The English Housing Survey (EHS) and equivalent surveys for other Devolved Administrations collect information on insulation measures in homes. Due to the nature of these surveys and the sample sizes needed to produce robust estimates, figures are not available until two years after the reported date.

16. Local Authority housing investment on energy efficiency improvements

Number of Local Authority-owned dwellings receiving insulation and central heating



Source: DCLG, Local Authority Housing Statistics, England 2008/09: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) & Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) Statistical Release

Coverage: England

Key Messages: Works that improve household energy efficiency may either be part of a specific programme to improve energy efficiency or a result of routine repair work where materials and methods are used that will increase the energy efficiency of the dwelling. Installing cavity or loft insulation and efficient heating are the most effective improvements to increase the energy efficiency of a dwelling.

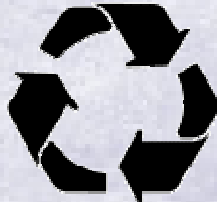
The BPSA records the number of local authority owned dwellings that undergo renovation works including energy efficiency. The number of insulations (either thermal/and or sound), had been falling since 2003/04, but increased in 2009/10, with 73,000 insulations being installed.

The number of local authority dwellings which have had new central heating systems (either for the first time or as a renewal/replacement), has seen an increase for the second year in a row. There was an increase of around 11,500 between 2008/09 and 2009/10 when a total of 126,000 systems installed in 2009/10.

**Technical
Notes:**

Dwellings in receipt of more than one type of measure are counted under each category of works, e.g. a dwelling counted as having new insulation installed may be counted again as having central heating installed. Therefore, the dwellings receiving new insulation cannot simply be added to those receiving central heating as an estimate of the number receiving either measure.

Installations under the CERT programme are included in the expenditure figures. The increase in dwellings receiving insulation during 2009/10 was mainly due to cavity wall insulation from the SHESP Programme, which concluded in March 2011. Local authority-owned dwellings receiving insulation are also counted in the number of insulated homes in Indicator 15.



Department of Energy and Climate Change. www.decc.gov.uk
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