



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Count of Traveller Caravans, July 2016 England

- The total number of traveller caravans in England in July 2016 was 21,419, which was 335 more than in July 2015.
- 6,292 caravans were on authorised socially rented sites, a decrease of 181 since the July 2015 count.
- The number of caravans on authorised privately funded sites was 11,646, which was 168 more than in July 2015.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments, on land owned by travellers, was 2,216, which was 284 above the number in July 2015.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments, on land not owned by travellers, was 1,265. This was 64 caravans more than in July 2015.
- Overall, the July 2016 count indicated that 84 per cent of traveller caravans in England were on authorised land and that 16 per cent were on unauthorised land.

Housing *Statistical Release*

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Housing

Introduction

This statistical release presents official statistics on the count of traveller caravans in England. The count is carried out to provide local data on the number and the seasonal movement of caravans.

This publication is compiled from information submitted by local authorities in England. Local authorities carry out the count of caravans on traveller sites twice a year, in January and July, providing a snapshot of the number of caravans on the day of the count. Information is collected about caravans on authorised socially rented sites, authorised privately funded sites, unauthorised developments (sites on land owned by travellers for which planning permission had not been granted) and unauthorised encampments (on land not owned by travellers and which do not have planning permission).

The traveller caravan count covers data on the number of caravans and traveller sites in England; it does not cover the number of occupants residing in these caravans or caravan sites.

The count takes place twice a year to reflect winter residence and summer travelling trends and changes in demands on services. Due to the strong seasonal differences between the January and July counts, all comparisons refer to year-on-year changes.

Further information is given in four accompanying live tables, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-july-2016>

Count of Traveller Caravans

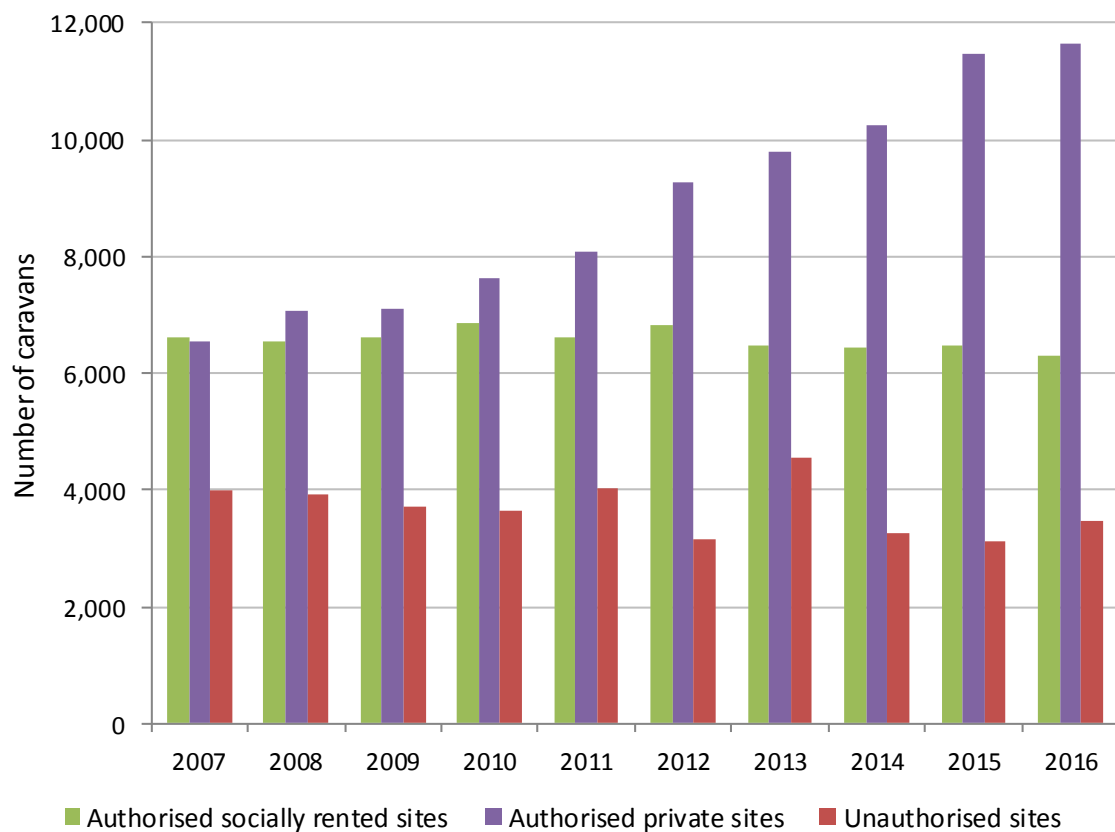
Local authorities carried out the July 2016 count on or around 14th July. Key totals from the count are given in the table below, together with comparative figures from the previous two July counts.

Table 1: Number of Traveller Caravans by type of site, England						
	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	% of total caravans	Change from July 2015 to July 2016	% Change from July 2015 to July 2016
Caravans on Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	16,694	17,951	17,938	84%	-13	0%
Socially Rented Caravans	6,452	6,473	6,292	29%	-181	-3%
Private Caravans	10,242	11,478	11,646	54%	168	1%
Temporary Planning Permission	945	1,018	634	3%	-384	-38%
Permanent Planning Permission	9,297	10,460	11,012	51%	552	5%
Caravans on Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)	3,264	3,133	3,481	16%	348	11%
Caravans on sites on Travellers' own land	1,982	1,932	2,216	10%	284	15%
Tolerated	968	1,010	1,138	5%	128	13%
Not tolerated	1,014	922	1,078	5%	156	17%
Caravans on site not on Travellers' own land	1,282	1,201	1,265	6%	64	5%
Tolerated	311	257	198	1%	-59	-23%
Not tolerated	971	944	1,067	5%	123	13%
Overall Total	19,958	21,084	21,419	100%	335	2%

At the time of the July 2016 count, the total number of traveller caravans in England was 21,419. Of these, 6,292 (29 per cent) were on socially rented sites; 11,646 (54 per cent) were on privately funded sites; 2,216 (10 per cent) were in unauthorised developments on land owned by travellers; and 1,265 (6 per cent) were in unauthorised encampments on land not owned by travellers. This information is also shown in Figure 1. Corresponding figures at local authority level for the five most recent counts are given in accompanying Live Table 1.

Figure 1 shows that the total number of traveller caravans in England has increased in recent years, by 25 per cent since 2007. Caravans on authorised private sites have formed a growing proportion of the total number of caravans over the last ten years, rising from 38% in July 2007 to 54% in the latest count. The proportion of caravans on all authorised sites has risen from 77% in July 2007 to 84% in July 2016. The underlying figures are included in accompanying Live Table 4.

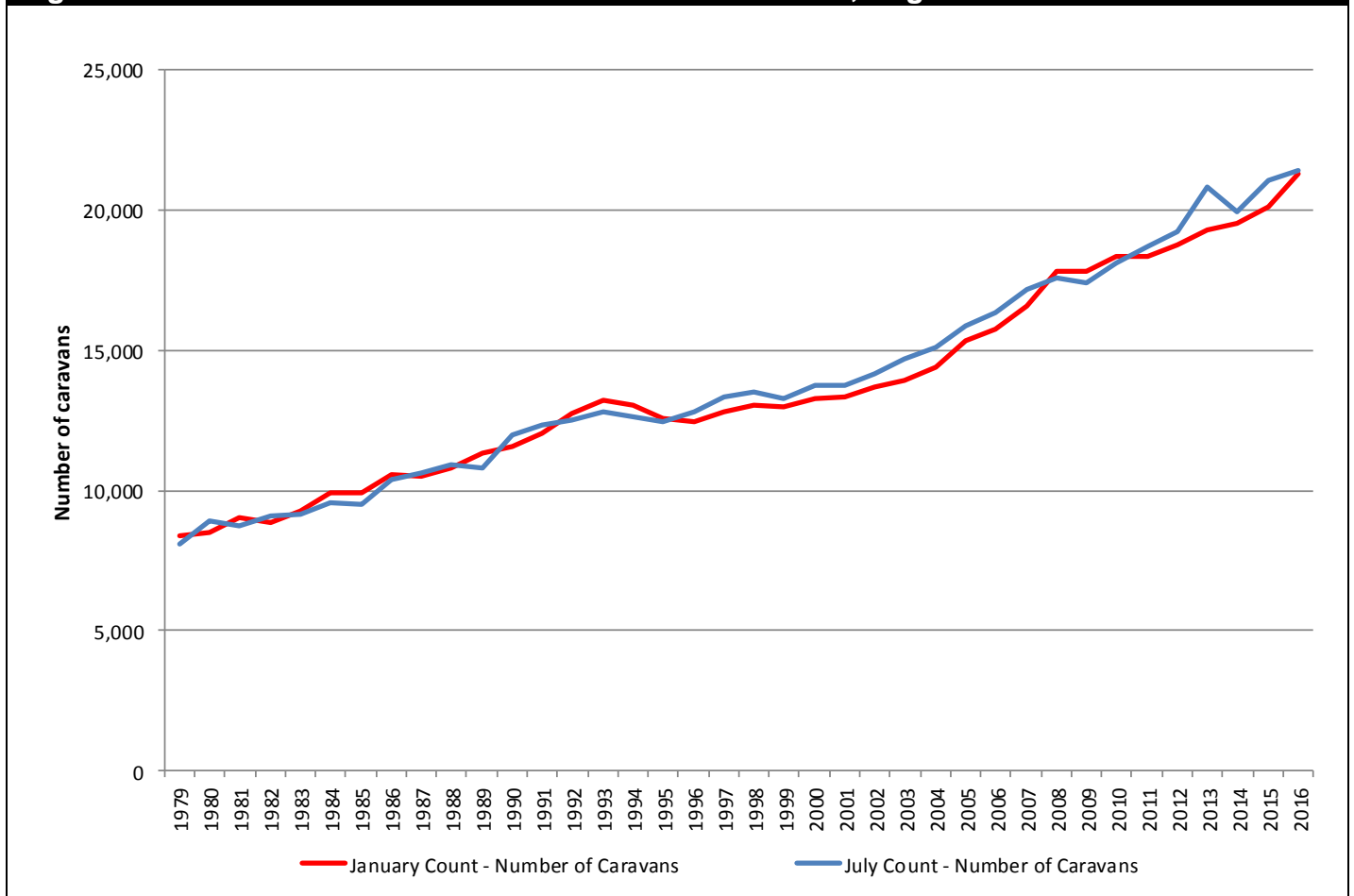
Figure 1: Number of Traveller Caravans by type of site, July counts, England



Historic data

The traveller caravan count has taken place twice a year since January 1979. National totals from each count of the main categories of authorised and unauthorised sites are given in accompanying Live Table 4. The figures show an increase in the overall total from 8,358 caravans in January 1979 to 21,419 in July 2016. Figure 2 shows how the total number of traveller caravans in England has changed since 1979.

Figure 2: Number of Traveller Caravans from 1979 to 2016, England



New Affordable Residential Pitches

The July 2016 count was the sixth July count to include a count of new affordable residential pitches in each local authority area in England. This was done to allow such pitches to be included in the calculation of the New Homes Bonus for individual local authorities. Table 2 shows that altogether, local authorities reported that 27 such pitches on socially-rented sites and 26 such pitches on privately-funded sites had been created between July 2015 and July 2016. Further details are given in accompanying Table 5. The next count of new affordable residential pitches is expected to take place as part of the July 2016 count of traveller caravans. More details of the New Homes Bonus are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/new-homes-bonus>

Table 2: Count of Traveller Caravans: new affordable residential pitches constructed between July 2015 and July 2016

Year (July count)	Number of new affordable residential pitches ¹		
	On socially-rented traveller sites with planning permission	On privately-funded traveller sites with either temporary or permanent planning permission	Total
2011	44	3	47
2012	96	88	184
2013	35	22	57
2014	49	0	49
2015	162	22	184
2016	27	26	53

1. The guidance notes required these to be new affordable residential pitches that met the 'affordable housing' definition in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release within a single workbook. These are:

- Table 1** Count of traveller caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites for the last five counts, nationally and by local authority area
- Table 2** Location and size of traveller sites operated by local authorities and private registered providers
- Table 3** Number of Travelling Showpeople caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites for the 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 January counts nationally and by local authority area (This table is not updated for this July statistical releases)
- Table 4** National total for the main categories of authorised and unauthorised sites for each count since January 1979
- Table 5** Count of Traveller Caravans: new affordable residential pitches constructed between July 2015 and July 2016

These tables can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-july-2016>

No count of Travelling Showpeople caravans takes place in the July Caravan Counts. These counts began in January 2011 and now take place once a year. The next one will be carried out in January 2017.

Statistical releases and accompanying tables for previous caravan counts are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traveller-caravan-count>.

Definitions

Local authorities carry out counts of caravans on traveller sites in England which provide a snapshot of caravans on the day of the count. These take place twice a year, in January and July, to capture information about the number of caravans on:

- *authorised public sites* – operated by local authorities and private registered providers of social housing, including housing associations, trusts and cooperatives;
- *authorised private sites* – privately funded sites with planning permission;
- *unauthorised developments* – sites on land owned by travellers for which planning permission had not been granted; and
- *unauthorised encampments* – sites on land not owned by travellers and which do not have planning permission.

Unauthorised sites are classified as either 'Tolerated' or 'Not Tolerated':

- A '*Tolerated*' site is one where the local authority has decided not to seek the removal of the encampment, and where the encampment has been, or is likely to be, allowed to remain for an indefinite period of months or years.
- Some examples of a site which would be classified as '*Not Tolerated*' are where:
 - A planning enforcement notice has been served (including Temporary Stop Notices),
 - The results of a planning enquiry are pending,
 - An injunction has been sought,
 - The compliance period has been extended.

This count was previously known as the 'Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count', however there has been no change in the coverage of the count. It continues to include caravans lived in by Traditional and Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers as well as members of the non-traditional New Traveller groups who live in caravans or other moveable dwellings. We do not collect information on the ethnicity or any other characteristics of caravan occupants.

Technical notes

Data collection and methods

The count of traveller caravans publication is compiled on a particular count day and this information is submitted by local authorities in England via Interform, the department's housing and planning electronic data collection system. This data is collected and published twice yearly to take into account seasonal variation in the use of Caravan sites. A count of Travelling Showpeople's caravans or moveable dwellings is included in the January count only.

Although there is no statutory requirement on local authorities to submit data, the count is included on the Single Data List, a list of all the datasets that local government must submit to central government. A large majority of local authorities do, however, carry out the count and provide information to the Department. Those that do not do so are footnoted in the accompanying Live Table 1.

More details on the Single Data List are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-local-councils-more-transparent-and-accountable-to-local-people/supporting-pages/single-data-list>.

The analysis carried out by the department involves checking the data submitted by local authorities for duplicate sites, checking that figures across different types of pitches add up, checking for unlikely combinations of caravan counts, and so on. Any discrepancies are followed up with the authority and figures are amended where needed. Some figures are imputed due to one of the following reasons:

- Local Authority non-response
- Incomplete returns
- Inability to carry out count due to not being able to access site

Site and pitch level data are then aggregated to produce local authority figures as in the live tables.

Data quality

The data are collected by the Department and undergo a process of scrutiny to ensure that the published count is as accurate as possible. The Department follows up late returns and conducts further validation checks to ensure overall response is as complete and accurate as possible.

The count data are subject to the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order, which means that advance access to the statistics is controlled and publicised. The number of people granted pre-release access to these statistics is ten.

In total, 93 per cent of the 326 English local authorities with housing responsibilities submitted at least some figures for July 2016, compared with an 89% response rate for the July 2015 count. Where a local authority has not submitted a return for the most recent count, figures for the number of caravans in the area are taken – without adjustment - from the most recent corresponding count for which a completed return has been received. For example, for the January count, the most recent completed return from a previous January count is used.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revision that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release and accompanying tables will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Where a local authority notifies DCLG of an error in the information they have submitted after publication of the release a decision on whether to revise will be made based upon the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the data.

Scheduled Revisions

We do not currently have scheduled revisions for this release. Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) will be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition.

Uses of the data

The data are collected to inform central government and local authority policy, and the delivery of local services, covering travellers, and their sites and encampments. In particular, figures are used by DCLG to identify the need for site provision and in tackling unauthorised encampments and developments.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to housing.statistics@communities.gov.uk

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

Notes

1. Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the count of traveller caravans up to 24 hours before release can be found in the section on 'Pre-release access to official statistics' at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>
2. The next count of traveller caravans is due to take place on or around 12 January 2017.

Devolved administration statistics

The Welsh Government collects and publishes statistics on traveller caravans in Wales. Published information is available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/gypsy-traveller-caravan-count/?lang=en>.

The Scottish Government collects and publishes information on travellers in Scotland and further details are available at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/gypsiestravellers>. A review of the evidence base is available at

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/Equalities/GypsyTravellerScotland>

Information on traveller accommodation in Northern Ireland is available at:

http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp_home/strategies/travellers.htm

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Information on the UK statistical system is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/index.html>

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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