

Table 1: Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of contemporary median income, United Kingdom^{1,2}

| Percentage of pensioners | | Source: FES/FRS | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| | | Before Housing Costs | | After Housing Costs | |
| | | Below median ⁵ | | Below median ⁵ | |
| | | 40% | 45% | 40% | 45% |
| FES (UK)⁴ | 1979 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| | 1981 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | 1987 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| | 1988 and 1989 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| | 1990 and 1991 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 8 |
| | 1991 and 1992 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| | 1992 and 1993 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| | 1993/94 to 1994/95 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| | 1994/95 to 1995/96 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| | 1995/96 to 1996/97 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| FRS (GB) | 1994/95 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| | 1995/96 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| | 1996/97 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| | 1997/98 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| FRS (UK) | 1998/99 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| | 1999/00 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| | 2000/01 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| | 2001/02 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| | 2002/03 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| | 2003/04 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| | 2004/05 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| | 2005/06 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| | 2006/07 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| | 2007/08 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| | 2008/09 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| | 2009/10 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Change | 1998/99-2009/10 ^{2,3} | -1 | -3 | 0 | -1 |
| | 2008/09-2009/10 ^{2,3} | -1 | -2 | -1 | -1 |

Notes:

1. FRS figures are for Great Britain up to 1997/98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998/99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998/99 through 2001/02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.
3. Due to rounding, the estimates of change in percentages of pensioners below low-income thresholds may not equal the difference between the total percentage of pensioners below thresholds for any pair of years shown.
4. FES figures are for the United Kingdom. These are single calendar years for 1979, 1981, and 1987; two combined calendar years from 1988 to 1993 and two financial years combined from 1993/94 to 1996/97.
5. This analysis is based on a threshold under 50 per cent of median income. The Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances conducted by Frank Field stated that the "40% threshold would result in a measure that was not robust and did not capture with sufficient accuracy those children who were suffering from the severest material poverty." Figures have been italicised to highlight the greater uncertainty.

Table 2: Median unequivalised incomes of pensioner households and percentage of pensioner households with incomes below 60 per cent of contemporary median income, 2009/10, United Kingdom^{1,2,3}

| Source: FRS | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | Before Housing Costs | | After Housing Costs | |
| | Median income | Proportion in low income | Median income | Proportion in low income |
| 2009/10 | £309 | 17 | £281 | 23 |

Notes:

1. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
2. A pensioner household has been defined as a household containing at least one member over state pension age
3. Unequivalised income has been used for this analysis. This means that the statistics presented here are on a different basis to those in the HBAI publication, and are also on a different basis to international best practice in terms of looking at low-income statistics