



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Count of Traveller Caravans, July 2015 England

- The total number of traveller caravans in England in July 2015 was 21,084, which was 1,126 more than in July 2014.
- 6,473 caravans were on authorised socially rented sites, an increase of 21 since the July 2014 count.
- The number of caravans on authorised privately funded sites was 11,478, which was 1,236 more than in July 2014.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments, on land owned by travellers, was 1,932, which was 50 below the number in July 2014.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments, on land not owned by travellers, was 1,201, which was 81 less than in July 2014.
- Overall, the July 2015 count indicated that 85 per cent of traveller caravans in England were on authorised land and that 15 per cent were on unauthorised land.

Housing

Statistical Release

19 November 2015

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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 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-2015>

Count of Traveller Caravans

Local authorities carried out the July 2015 count on or around 16 July. Key totals from the count are given in the table below, together with comparative figures from the previous two July counts.

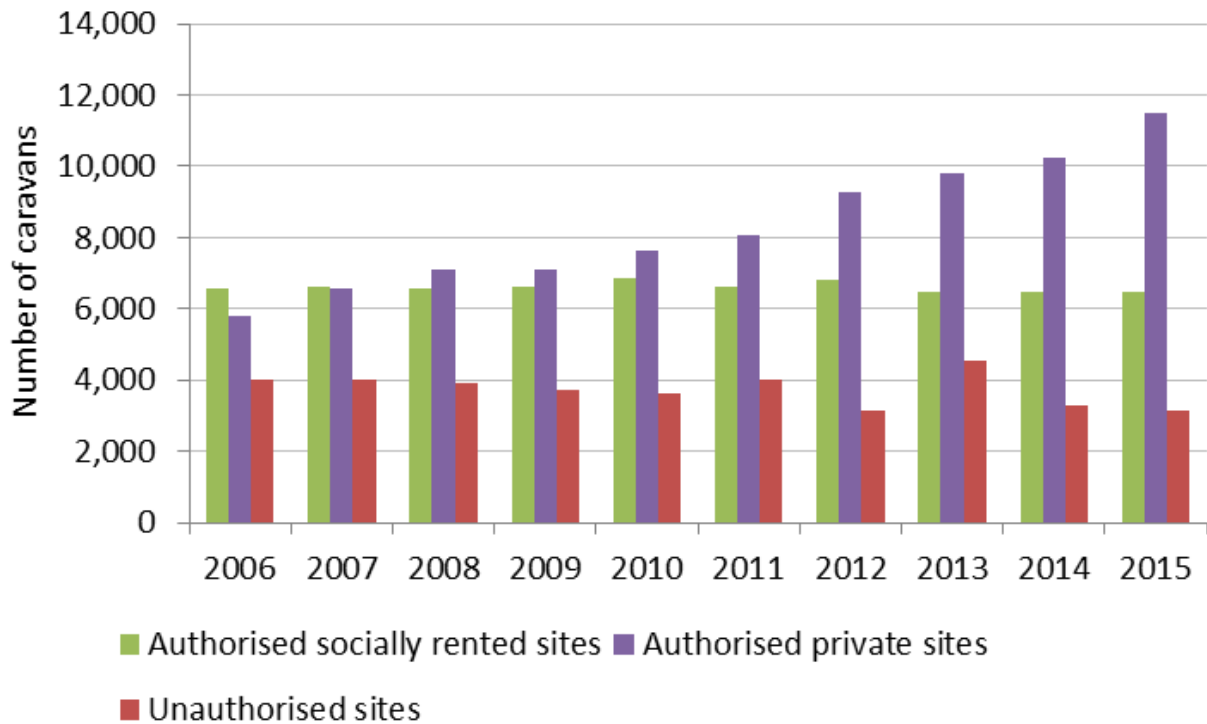
Table 1: Number of Traveller Caravans by type of site, England

	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	% of total caravans	Change from July 2014 to July 2015	% Change from July 2014 to July 2015
Caravans on Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	16,281	16,694	17,951	85%	1,257	8%
Socially Rented Caravans	6,484	6,452	6,473	31%	21	0%
Private Caravans	9,797	10,242	11,478	54%	1,236	12%
Temporary Planning Permission	1,116	945	1,018	5%	73	8%
Permanent Planning Permission	8,681	9,297	10,460	50%	1,163	13%
Caravans on Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)	4,553	3,264	3,133	15%	-131	-4%
Caravans on sites on Travellers' own land	2,057	1,982	1,932	9%	-50	-3%
Tolerated	1,030	968	1,010	5%	42	4%
Not tolerated	1,027	1,014	922	4%	-92	-9%
Caravans on site not on Travellers' own land	2,496	1,282	1,201	6%	-81	-6%
Tolerated	1,466	311	257	1%	-54	-17%
Not tolerated	1,030	971	944	4%	-27	-3%
Overall Total	20,834	19,958	21,084	100%	1,126	6%

At the time of the July 2015 count, the total number of traveller caravans in England was 21,084. Of these, 6,473 (31 per cent) were on socially rented sites; 11,478 (54 per cent) were on privately funded sites; 1,932 (9 per cent) were in unauthorised developments on land owned by travellers; and 1,201 (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 29 per cent since 2006. Caravans on authorised private sites have formed a growing proportion of the total number of caravans over the last ten years, rising from 36 per cent in July 2006 to 54 per cent in the latest count. The proportion of caravans on all authorised sites has risen from 76 per cent in July 2006 to 85 per cent in January 2015. 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 21,084 in July 2015.

New Affordable Residential Pitches

The July 2015 count was the fifth 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. Altogether, local authorities reported that 162 such pitches on socially-rented sites and 22 such pitches on privately-funded sites had been created between July 2014 and July 2015. Details are given in accompanying Table 5, described below. 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>

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 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 counts nationally and by local authority area
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 2014 and July 2015

These tables can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traveller-caravan-count-july-2015>

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

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

No count of Travelling Showpeople caravans took place in July 2015. These counts began in January 2011 and now take place once a year. The next one will be carried out in January 2016.

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.

Technical notes

Data collection

The count of traveller caravans publication is compiled from information submitted by local authorities in England. 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>

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 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, 89 per cent of the 326 English local authorities with housing responsibilities submitted at least some figures for July 2015. 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 July count, the most recent completed return from a previous July 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 revisions 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, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

Local authorities can update their returns following publication of the data. At the time of each count the previous returns will be reviewed for revision. Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) should be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition. Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

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-governments/about-us/pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>

[government/about/statistics](#)

2. The next count of traveller caravans is due to take place on or around 14 January 2016.

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. In particular, a recent review of the evidence base is available at:

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

Further details are available at:

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

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 Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

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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