



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Count of Traveller Caravans, January 2015 England

- The total number of traveller caravans in England in January 2015 was 20,123, which was 604 more than in January 2014.
- 6,867 caravans were on authorised socially rented sites, an increase of 21 since the January 2014 count.
- The number of caravans on authorised privately funded sites was 10,585, which was 572 more than in January 2014.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments, on land owned by travellers, was 1,893, which was 211 above the number in January 2014.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments, on land not owned by travellers, was 778, which was 200 less than in January 2014.
- Overall, the January 2015 count indicated that 87 per cent of traveller caravans in England were on authorised land and that 13 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 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-january-2015>

Count of Traveller Caravans

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

Table 1: Number of Traveller Caravans by type of site, England						
	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015	% of total caravans	Change from January 2014 to January 2015	% Change from January 2014 to January 2015
Caravans on Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	16,448	16,859	17,452	87%	593	4%
Socially Rented Caravans	6,839	6,846	6,867	34%	21	0%
Private Caravans	9,609	10,013	10,585	53%	572	6%
Temporary Planning Permission	1,051	1,018	815	4%	-203	-20%
Permanent Planning Permission	8,558	8,995	9,770	49%	775	9%
Caravans on Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)	2,841	2,660	2,671	13%	11	0%
Caravans on sites on Travellers' own land	1,840	1,682	1,893	9%	211	13%
Tolerated	927	903	1,060	5%	157	17%
Not tolerated	913	779	833	4%	54	7%
Caravans on site not on Travellers' own land	1,001	978	778	4%	-200	-20%
Tolerated	459	403	328	2%	-75	-19%
Not tolerated	542	575	450	2%	-125	-22%
Overall Total	19,289	19,519	20,123	100%	604	3%

At the time of the January 2015 count, the total number of traveller caravans in England was 20,123. Of these, 6,867 (34 per cent) were on socially rented sites; 10,585 (53 per cent) were on privately funded sites; 1,893 (9 per cent) were in unauthorised developments on land owned by travellers; and 778 (4 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 28 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 37% in January 2006 to 53% in the latest count. The proportion of caravans on all authorised sites has risen from 79% in January 2006 to 87% in January 2015. The underlying figures are included in accompanying Live Table 4.

Figure 1: Number of Traveller Caravans by type of site, 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 20,123 in January 2015.

Travelling Showpeople Caravans

The January 2015 count also included a count of the caravans/moveable dwellings occupied by Travelling Showpeople in each local authority area in England. The results from previous years are published in Live Table 3, as 'experimental statistics'. Further information about experimental statistics is available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/general-methodology/guide-to-experimental-statistics/index.html>.

The overall number of Travelling Showpeople caravans counted in January 2015 was 3,159, up 17 per cent from 2,698 in January 2014. This, in turn, was a decrease of 4 per cent from 2,822 caravans in January 2013, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Number of Travelling Showpeople Caravans, January 2012 to January 2015



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.

These tables can be accessed at:

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

No count of Travelling Showpeople caravans took place in July 2014. These counts began in January 2011 and now take place once a year. The next one will be carried out in January 2016.

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.

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 eight. In total, 92 per cent of the 326 English local authorities with housing responsibilities submitted at least some figures for January 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 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.

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-government/about/statistics>
2. The next count of traveller caravans is due to take place on or around 16 July 2015.

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> and 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 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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