



**Social Mobility
Commission**



**Easy
Read**

State of the Nation 2026

Who's getting ahead?



Easy Read

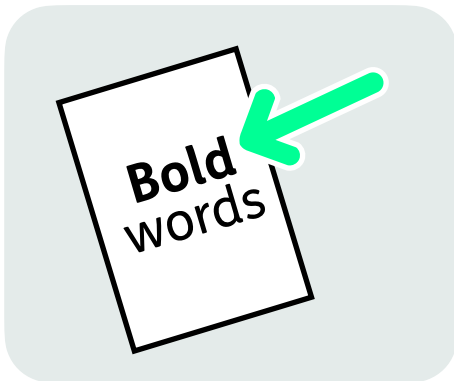


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

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About the Social Mobility Commission



**Social Mobility
Commission**

We are the **Social Mobility Commission**.

We look at **social mobility** across the UK and suggest ways to improve it in England.



Social mobility means giving people a chance to have a better life than their parents.



For example, earn more money, learn more and get a better job and home than their parents.



Our job is to find out what helps people have better lives and what gets in their way.

About this booklet



We look at whether people's chances of having a better life are affected by things like:

- Where they live.



- Their age, sex or race.



- The family they grew up in.



Every year we write a report about what we have found out.

This booklet is our report for 2026.

How we wrote this report



To write this report, we collected lots of information about people and places around the UK.

This included:



- Using our **Social Mobility Index**.

This brings together information to help us understand people's chances of having better lives.



- Learning about children becoming adults and how well they do compared to their parents.



Next, we will tell you about some of the things we found out.

Education



We found that more people are reaching a higher level of education than their parents.



People whose parents have a university **degree** are still more likely to get one themselves.

A **degree** is a qualification you usually get at university.



But more people whose parents did not have degrees are now getting degrees themselves.



This shows that parents' education has less effect on their children's chances of getting a degree than before.



But the number of people getting degrees whose parents did not have one is growing more slowly than before.



We also found that children from families with less money still face difficulties at school.

For example, they are less likely to get good **GCSE** results in English and maths than children from other families.



GCSEs are qualifications children usually work towards at school, between the ages of 14 and 16.



We also found that since 2020, fewer girls have got good GCSE results in English and maths.

This includes girls from families with less money.

Jobs



We found that more people from **working-class families** are getting **professional jobs**.



Working-class families include families where parents have jobs such as cleaners, factory workers or delivery drivers.



Professional jobs include jobs like teachers, doctors and lawyers.

These jobs usually need special qualifications or training.



But the number of people from working-class families getting professional jobs is growing more slowly than before.



There are more professional jobs in the UK than there were 20 years ago.



But professional jobs are not spread evenly across the country.



Some places have more professional jobs than others.



This shows that the chance of getting a professional job can depend on where you live.

Homes



We found that fewer young adults who grew up in **rented homes** now own their own homes.



A **rented home** is a house or flat you pay to live in.

The person or organisation you rent from is called a **landlord**.



In the past, more young adults whose parents rented their homes went on to own a home themselves.



More young adults whose parents owned their homes are now renting instead of owning a home themselves.

Different chances for different people



Getting the chance to have a better life can be different for different groups of people.

Girls and women



We found that girls and young women usually do better in education than boys and young men.



This starts in their early school years and continues through university.



But doing well in education does not always help women get better jobs or earn more money.



This shows that how well women do in education does not always lead to them doing as well as men at work.

Ethnic groups



Your **ethnic group** is your race and the country that your family comes from.



We found that children from some ethnic groups do better at school than children from other ethnic groups.

But for some groups, doing well in education does not lead to them doing as well at work.

Disabled young people



We found that more disabled young people are getting university degrees than before.



But disabled young people still face difficulties getting into work.



These difficulties are worse for disabled young people from working-class families.



Disabled young people with degrees usually earn less than non-disabled young people with the same qualifications.

Young people



We found that moving from education into work has become harder for young people.



More young people aged 16 to 18 are not in education, work or training than before.



More young people aged 16 to 24 are looking for work but cannot find a job.



There are also fewer jobs available.



Young people from working-class families are less likely to be in education, work or training.

Young people who have difficulty getting a job can be affected in later life. For example:



- They may not get paid as much money.



- They may feel less confident.



- They may find it harder to stay in a job.

Where people live



We found that where people live can affect their chances of getting good jobs.



Many places with chances to get a good job are in southern England and around large cities.



But there are also chances to get a good job in other places, including Leeds, Derby, Preston and York.



Some smaller places near the coast, in the countryside or where factories have closed have fewer chances to get good jobs.



When we look at larger areas it can show there are plenty of jobs available.



But within those areas, people often live in 1 place and travel to another place for work.



So we looked at places that include both where people live and where they work.



This helped us find places with fewer jobs available that we might have missed by looking at larger areas.



It also helped us understand where people have better chances of getting good jobs.

What needs to happen



We are suggesting ways to help more people have better lives.

We think there should be:



- More good jobs available across the whole country.



- Help to start and grow new businesses that create more jobs.



- Support for businesses to make new products and services, which create more good jobs.

We also think:



- Local councils should plan how to create more good jobs in their area and help local people get them.



- People should have chances to get good jobs without having to move away from where they grew up.



We know education is important, but we also think people should be able to get a good job based on their skills.

We also think there should be:



- Different ways for young people to get ready for work, including **practical training** as well as university.

Practical training means learning skills you can use in a job, such as building or gardening.



- More support for children and young people who find it harder to do well in education.



- More homes that young people can afford and stay in.



- Better chances for young people to buy their own homes.

Find out more

If you would like to find out more, you can:



- Send a letter to us:

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London
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- Email us:
contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk

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