

Introduction

Population density is the number of people living in a particular area, e.g. the population density of the UK is approximately 259 people per km². Some areas will be much higher than others, e.g. cities such as London, Portsmouth and Liverpool. The population density in a city is always very high, e.g. in 2011, Greater London had a population density of approximately 5,200 people per km².

Student tasks

Use the table on the next page.

1. Which region of the UK had the highest population density in 2011?

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2. Which region of the UK had the lowest population density in 2011?

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3. What was the average density for all of the UK in 2011?

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4. Which region of the UK was nearest the average population density in 2011?

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5. The average density in Scotland was approximately 67 people per km². Name an area or place in Scotland that has a higher population density.

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6. Construct a bar graph of the population densities of the UK in 2011. Use a vertical scale of 1 cm to 1,000 people per km².

Population density in the UK

Region	Population (2011)	Population density (2011)
England	53,012,456	406.55/km ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East • Greater London • North West • East • West Midlands • South West • Yorkshire and Humber • East Midlands • North East 	8,634,750 8,173,941 7,052,177 5,846,965 5,601,847 5,288,935 5,283,733 4,533,222 2,596,886	452.20/km ² 5199.71/km ² 497.86/km ² 305.80/km ² 430.00/km ² 221.95/km ² 342.65/km ² 290.09/km ² 302.24/km ²
Scotland	5,295,000	67.22/km ²
Wales	3,063,456	147.43/km ²
Northern Ireland	1,810,863	130.81/km ²
United Kingdom	63,181,775	259.16/km²

Data adapted from Office of National Statistics, under Open Government Licence v3.0
ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration

Extension task

Use the table of population densities of the UK in 2011 to construct a bar graph of regional population densities on the map on the next page:

Population density in the UK



Map used courtesy of NordNordWest, 2008
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