

**REGIONAL TRENDS 40**

**RESTRICTED - STATISTICS**

**EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 09.30 HOURS ON THURSDAY 08 MAY 2008**

You are reminded that these are National Statistics to which you have privileged access in advance of release.

Any accidental or wrongful release should be reported immediately and may lead to an inquiry. Wrongful release includes indications of the content, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.

Please prevent inappropriate use by treating this information as restricted.

08 May 2008

Coverage  
United Kingdom



## Gender wage gap biggest in South East, despite highest employment in UK *Regional Trends 40*

The South East of England has the highest employment rate of any region in the UK, but the wage gap between men and women is also wider than anywhere else, according to the latest issue of *Regional Trends*, published today by the Office for National Statistics.

Employment among people of working age stood at 79 per cent in the second quarter of 2007, compared with a UK rate of 74 per cent, but the gap between men and women in full-time earnings was £137 a week compared with a national average of £104.

Households in the South East also spend more than any other region on transport. From 2003/04 to 2005/06, households in the South East spent £70 per week on transport, nearly ten pounds more than the UK average of £61.

In 2006, the South East had a population of 8.2 million according to the mid-year population estimates. The resident population increased by 214,000 (2.7 per cent) between 2001 and 2006. Over the 25 years between 1981 and 2006 the population increased by 14 per cent. The largest percentage increase was seen in the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority area, with an increase of 78 per cent.

*Regional Trends* is an annual report which paints a statistical picture of areas within the UK, to assist in understanding the complex relationships between locations and the people who live there. The information gathered aids decision-making at local, national and European level.

Further key statistics for the South East from *Regional Trends* include:

**Issued by**

Office for National Statistics  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

**Contact**  
Media Office 0845 604 1858

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

- Households in the South East spent almost £7.50 per week on health compared with the UK average of £5.20 from 2003/04 to 2005/06.
- Gross Value Added (GVA) per head, a measure of economic performance, was higher in the South East in 2006 than the UK as a whole, at £20,300 compared with £19,100.
- The proportion of people of working age in the South East qualified to GCE A-level equivalent or higher was 55 per cent in the second quarter of 2007, compared with a UK average of 51 per cent.

***\*Regional Trends 40***

**Palgrave Macmillan £45. ISBN 1 4039 9000 0**

Available free on the National Statistics website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303)

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

1. All the data presented in Regional Trends have been released previously and are brought together in Regional Trends.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. Not all the statistics contained within this publication are national statistics because it is a compilation from various sources. © Crown copyright 2008.

