

FOOTBALL

Central to [Sport England's 2008-11 strategy](#) is the commissioning of national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) by Sport England. NGBs will contribute to Sport England's strategic 'grow' outcome by setting targets to increase the 'once a week' adult participation rates in their sport. The growth targets across sports will contribute to Sport England's overall target of getting one million people doing more sport by 2012/13.

In addition, within the 'sustain' outcome of Sport England's strategy, a number of sports will aim to reduce the drop off in participation among 16-18 year olds. This document summarises key data in relation to the above strategic outcomes, drawn from Sport England's [Active People Survey](#).



Creating sporting opportunities in every community

Sport England strategic outcome: Grow

Participation – once a week, 30 minutes moderate intensity

- 2.1 million adults (age 16 and over) have participated in football at least once a week. There has been a significant increase (from 5.0% to 5.2%) of 123,000 football participants between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- Male participation has increased from 9.5% in Active People Survey 1 to 9.9% in Active People Survey 2. This represents an increase of 126,500 male participants. There has been no statistically significant change in female participation.
- Participation in football has increased among 35-44 year olds and decreased amongst those aged over 65.
- Participation among those from lower socio-economic groups (NS SEC 5-8) has also increased between 2005/6 and 2007/8 from 4.6% to 4.9% (an increase of 14,000 adults).
- Participation has also increased among socio economic group NS SEC 9 (students and unclassified occupations) by 71,800 participants (from 12.9% in 2005/06 to 14.0% in 2007/08).

Participation – once in the last four weeks

- 3.1 million adults have participated in football at least once in the last four weeks. This represents 7.6% of the adult population, and participation has significantly increased from 7.1% (an increase of 232,000 participants) when compared with Active People Survey 1.

Sport England strategic outcome: Sustain

Reducing drop off: 16 and 18 year old participation. This is measured by the change in participation rates (once a week, 30 minutes, moderate intensity) among 18 year olds.

- There has been no statistically significant change in participation in football among 18 year olds from 2005/6 (20.1%) to 2007/8 (19.6%).

Active People Survey (APS)	APS 1 (2005/06)		APS 2 (2007/08)		Change (Numbers)	Significant Difference
	Number	%	Number	%		
Grow						
Overall	2,021,800	4.97%	2,144,700	5.18%	122,900	TRUE
Male	1,870,000	9.47%	1,996,500	9.90%	126,500	TRUE
Female	149,800	0.71%	146,700	0.69%		FALSE
Age 16-19	630,900	23.83%	615,700	22.82%		FALSE
Age 20-24	440,100	13.48%	482,200	13.94%		FALSE
Age 25-29	291,000	9.18%	319,500	9.51%		FALSE
Age 30-34	214,200	6.06%	201,800	6.09%		FALSE
Age 35-44	297,100	3.82%	324,600	4.17%	27,500	TRUE
Age 45-64	130,100	1.06%	142,500	1.13%		FALSE
Age 65+	12,400	0.15%	8,800	0.11%	-3,600	TRUE
White	1,755,000	4.72%	1,880,700	5.04%	125,700	TRUE
Non White	266,700	7.54%	295,500	7.13%		FALSE
Limiting Disability or Illness	76,800	1.19%	71,100	1.10%		FALSE
No Limiting Disability or Illness	1,944,900	5.67%	2,073,700	5.92%	128,800	TRUE
NS SEC 1-4	771,500	3.64%	808,100	3.65%		FALSE
NS SEC 5-8	713,600	4.65%	728,000	4.86%	14,400	TRUE
NS SEC 9	536,900	12.92%	608,700	14.04%	71,800	TRUE
Sustain						
Age 18	132,500	20.07%	131,100	19.56%		FALSE

Football and organised sport*

Club membership

642,000 adults are members of a club where they participate in football, this is **20.4%** of those who have participated in football in the last four weeks.

Tuition

462,000 adults have received tuition in football in the last 12 months, this is **14.7%** of those who have participated in football in the last four weeks.

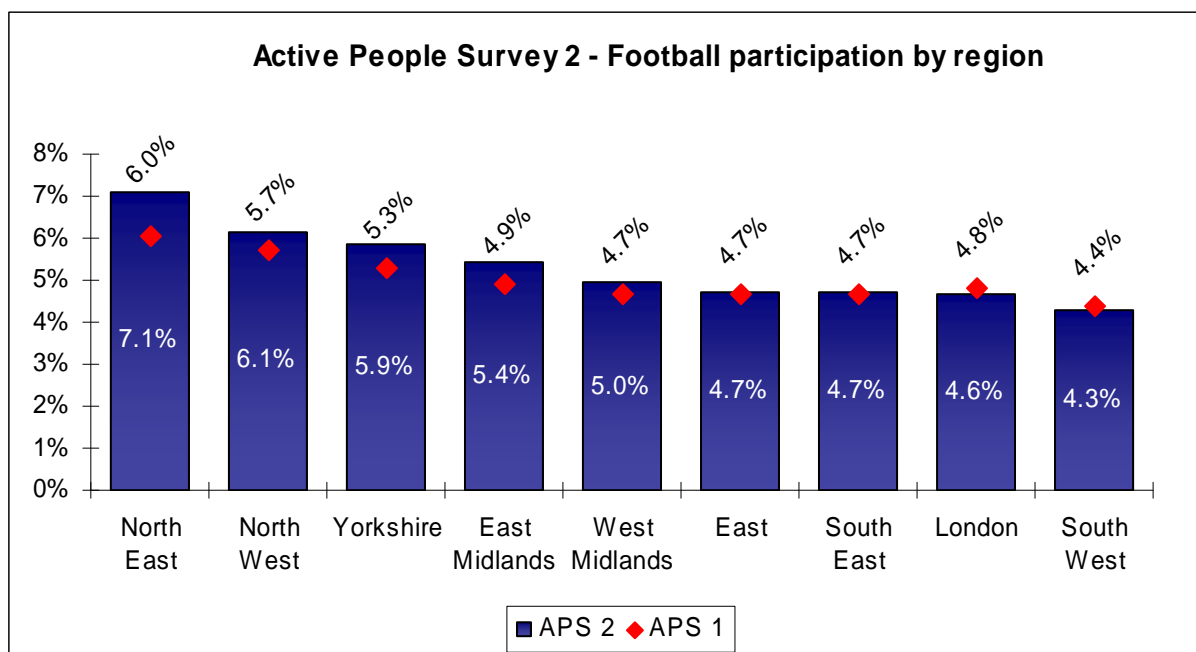
Organised Competition

963,000 adults have taken part in organised competition in football in the last 12 months, **30.6%** of those who have participated in football in the last four weeks.

Latent demand for football**

Football is the one sport that 1.37 million adults (3.3%) said they would like to participate in, or participate in more often. This represents 6.2% of all adults who would like to do more sport and active recreation (22.3 million adults, or 53.8% of adults would like to participate in sport, or participate in sport more often). Football is the one sport that 6.2% of males would like to do, or do more often, and the equivalent figure for females is 0.5%. Football is one of the top three sports people would like to participate in or participate more often in.

Active People Survey (APS)	APS 1 (2005/06)		APS 2 (2007/08)		Change (Numbers)	Significant Difference
	Number	%	Number	%		
Overall	2,021,800	4.97%	2,144,700	5.18%	122,900	TRUE
East	208,400	4.67%	216,900	4.73%		FALSE
East Midlands	170,300	4.89%	195,200	5.45%	24,900	TRUE
London	291,500	4.80%	283,700	4.65%		FALSE
North East	126,000	6.05%	148,600	7.07%	22,600	TRUE
North West	315,100	5.72%	341,500	6.15%	26,400	TRUE
South East	307,600	4.67%	315,600	4.69%		FALSE
South West	181,800	4.39%	181,800	4.27%		FALSE
West Midlands	201,600	4.69%	214,900	4.96%		FALSE
Yorkshire	216,100	5.30%	247,100	5.88%	31,000	TRUE



- Participation in football has increased in four out of the nine English regions: the North East, North West, East Midlands and Yorkshire regions.

Notes

Football includes: football (indoor), football (outdoor).

Active People Survey 2 took place between October 2007 and October 2008 and interviewed c.191,000 adults (aged 16 and over) by telephone. Active People Survey 1 took place between October 2005 and October 2006, and interviewed 363,724 adults (age 16 and over) by telephone. For more information on Active People, visit the Sport England website www.sportengland.org/research

Participation once a week is defined as participation on at least four days out of the previous 28 days.

Please note that this report highlights whether changes from Active People Survey 1 to Active People Survey 2 are statistically significant. A statistically significant increase is indicated by 'TRUE' or green shading and red shading and 'TRUE' indicates a statistically significant decrease. This means we are 95% certain that there has been a real change in the population (increase or decrease). Where there has been no statistically significant change this is indicated by 'FALSE'.

For more information on measuring statistically significant change between Active People Survey 1 and Active People survey 2, see the briefing note on Sport England's website:

http://www.sportengland.org/active_people_2.htm

Office for National Statistics (ONS) population data has been used - ONS mid year 2005 estimates and ONS mid year 2007 population estimates. To view a briefing note on population data used within Active People Survey see:

http://www.sportengland.org/index/active_people_2.

Disability is defined by how the question is asked within the survey which is consistent with the 2001 Census definition: 'do you have a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity? By longstanding I mean anything that has troubled you over a long period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?'

NS-SEC is the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification. It is derived by combining information on occupation and employment status. NS-SEC: 1. Higher managerial and professional occupations; 2. Lower managerial and professional occupations; 3. Intermediate occupations; 4. Small employers and own account workers; 5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations; 6. Semi-routine occupations; 7. Routine occupations; 8. Never worked and long-term unemployed; 9. Full time students and Occupations not stated or inadequately described.

*Sport specific information on organised sport (club membership, tuition and competition) was not collected in Active People Survey 1 so no comparison data is available. Club membership is based on those who have been a member of a sports club to participate in football in the last four weeks.

**Data on latent demand is based on 88,000 (half the overall sample) adults from APS2. This question was not included in Active People Survey 1 so no comparison data is available. The question was asked as follows: 'would you like to do more sport and recreational physical activity than you do at the moment?'. If yes, 'which one sport or recreational physical activity would you most like to do, or to do more often?'

Further headline sport-based analysis is available via the Sport England website:

http://www.sportengland.org/active_people_2.htm

Sport England, 3rd Floor, Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1B 4SE

www.sportengland.org/research Tel: 0845 555555 email: research@sportengland.org