

RUGBY LEAGUE

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

- 88,000 adults (age 16 and over) have participated in rugby league at least once a week. There has been a significant increase (from 0.18% to 0.21%) of 14,500 rugby league participants between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- Male participation has increased from 0.34% in Active People Survey 1 to 0.41% in Active People Survey 2. This represents an increase of 15,700 male participants. (Male participation, in numbers, has increased by more than the overall which indicates that female participation has declined, impacting on the overall participation figure, however with insufficient data on female participation this cannot be verified).
- Participation in rugby league has increased among 16-34 year olds by 15,400.
- Participation among student and unclassified socio-economic groups (NS SEC 9) and people from white communities has also increased between 2005/6 and 2007/8.

Participation – once in the last four weeks

- 132,000 adults have participated in rugby league at least once in the last four weeks. This represents 0.32% of the adult population, and participation has significantly increased from 0.27% (an increase of 21,400 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 is insufficient data to provide the participation rate for rugby league among 18 year olds for 2007/8.

Rugby league participation – once a week, 30 minutes moderate intensity



Active People Survey (APS)	APS 1 (2005/06)		APS 2 (2007/08)		Change (Numbers)	Significant Difference
	Number	%	Number	%		
Grow						
Overall	73,800	0.18%	88,300	0.21%	14,500	TRUE
Male	67,200	0.34%	82,900	0.41%	15,700	TRUE
Female	6,600	0.03%		*		
Age 16-34	66,000	0.52%	81,400	0.63%	15,400	TRUE
Age 35-54	8,600	0.06%	6,600	0.05%		FALSE
Age 55+		*		*		
White	68,300	0.18%	84,600	0.23%	16,300	TRUE
Non White	5,500	0.15%		*		
Limiting Disability or Illness	3,400	0.05%		*		
No Limiting Disability or Illness	70,500	0.21%	86,200	0.25%	15,700	TRUE
NS SEC 1-4	21,200	0.10%	17,800	0.08%		FALSE
NS SEC 5-8	26,700	0.17%	26,500	0.18%		FALSE
NS SEC 9	26,000	0.63%	44,000	1.01%	18,000	TRUE
Sustain						
Age 18	8,000	1.2%		*		

Rugby league and organised sport*

Club membership

101,400 adults are members of a club where they participate in rugby league, this is **76.8%** of those who have participated in rugby league in the last four weeks.

Tuition

97,900 adults have received tuition in rugby league in the last 12 months, this is **74.2%** of those who have participated in rugby league in the last four weeks.

Organised Competition

84,400 adults have taken part in organised competition in rugby league in the last 12 months, **63.9%** of those who have participated in rugby league in the last four weeks.

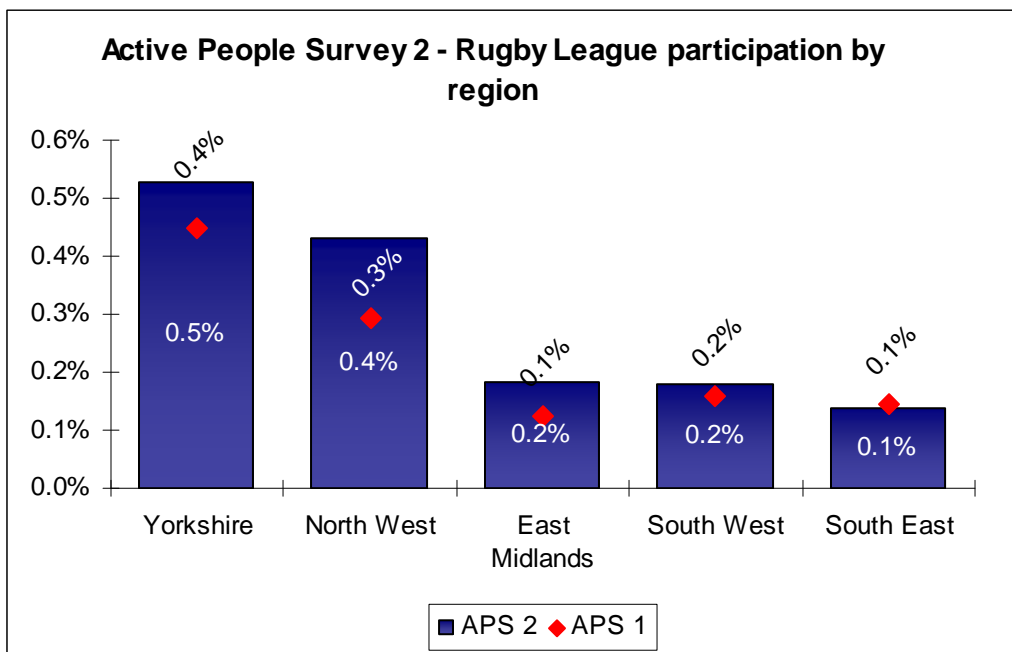
Latent demand for rugby league**

Rugby league is the one sport that 110,500 adults (0.3%) said they would like to participate in, or participate in more often. This represents 0.5% 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). Rugby league is the one sport that 0.4% of males would like to do, or do more often, and the equivalent figure for females is 0.1%.

Rugby league participation – once a week, 30 minutes moderate intensit
by region



Active People Survey (APS)	APS 1 (2005/06)		APS 2 (2007/08)		Change (Numbers)	Significant Difference
	Number	%	Number	%		
Overall	73,800	0.18%	88,300	0.21%	14,500	TRUE
East	4,700	0.10%		*		
East Midlands	4,300	0.12%	6,600	0.18%		FALSE
London	7,000	0.12%		*		
North East		*		*		
North West	16,200	0.29%	24,000	0.43%	7,800	TRUE
South East	9,500	0.14%	9,200	0.14%		FALSE
South West	6,600	0.16%	7,700	0.18%		FALSE
West Midlands	6,200	0.14%		*		
Yorkshire	18,300	0.45%	22,300	0.53%		FALSE



- Whilst participation in rugby league has increased across England as a whole, only the North West region shows a statistically significant increase in participation (from 0.3% to 0.4%).
- There is insufficient data to provide information on participation in all of the English regions (denoted by asterisks in the table above).

Notes

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 rugby league 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

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