

RUGBY UNION

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

- 230,000 adults (age 16 and over) have participated in rugby union at least once a week. There has been a significant increase (from 0.5% to 0.6%) of 44,700 rugby union participants between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- Male participation has increased from 0.9% in Active People Survey 1 to 1.1% in Active People Survey 2. This represents an increase of 36,500 male participants. Female participation has also increased from 0.04% to 0.08%, an increase of 8,300 female participants.
- Participation in rugby union has increased among 20-24 year olds and 35-44 year olds.
- Participation among those from lower socio-economic groups (NS SEC 5-8), 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

- 314,000 adults have participated in rugby union at least once in the last four weeks. This represents 0.8% of the adult population, and participation has significantly increased from 0.7% (an increase of 46,100 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 rugby union among 18 year olds from 2005/6 (2.3%) to 2007/8 (2.2%).

Rugby union 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	185,600	0.46%	230,300	0.56%	44,700	TRUE
Male	176,500	0.89%	213,000	1.06%	36,500	TRUE
Female	9,000	0.04%	17,300	0.08%	8,300	TRUE
Age 16-19	69,900	2.64%	83,100	3.08%		FALSE
Age 20-24	36,300	1.11%	51,100	1.48%	14,800	TRUE
Age 25-29	26,100	0.82%	29,900	0.89%		FALSE
Age 30-34	15,700	0.44%	16,500	0.50%		FALSE
Age 35-44	23,700	0.30%	29,600	0.38%	5,900	TRUE
Age 45-64	10,800	0.09%	9,400	0.07%		FALSE
Age 65+		*		*		
White	176,500	0.47%	217,900	0.58%	41,400	TRUE
Non White	9,200	0.26%	13,100	0.31%		FALSE
Limiting Disability or Illness	4,000	0.06%		*		
No Limiting Disability or Illness	181,700	0.53%	224,600	0.64%	42,900	TRUE
NS SEC 1-4	73,900	0.35%	80,600	0.36%		FALSE
NS SEC 5-8	51,600	0.34%	61,800	0.41%	10,200	TRUE
NS SEC 9	60,200	1.45%	88,000	2.03%	27,800	TRUE
Sustain						
Age 18	15,000	2.26%	14,600	2.17%		FALSE

Rugby union and organised sport*

Club membership

271,500 adults are members of a club where they participate in rugby union, this is **86.5%** of those who have participated in rugby union in the last four weeks.

Tuition

267,600 adults have received tuition in rugby union in the last 12 months, this is **85.2%** of those who have participated in rugby union in the last four weeks.

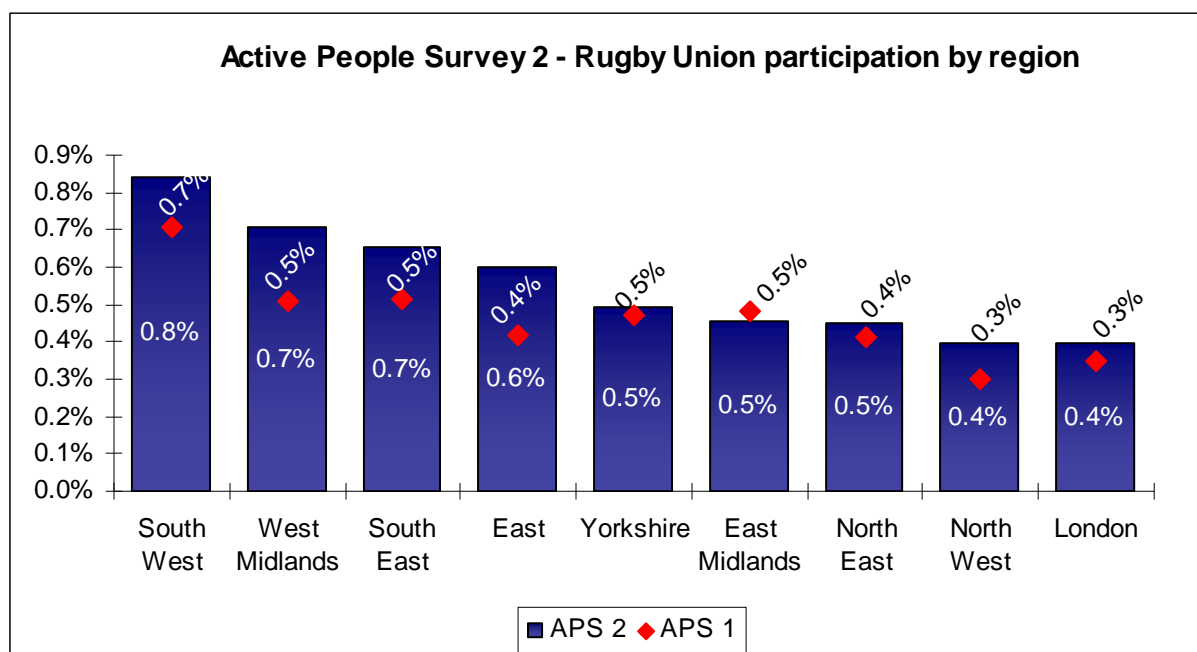
Organised Competition

260,700 adults have taken part in organised competition in rugby union in the last 12 months, **83.0%** of those who have participated in rugby union in the last four weeks.

Latent demand for rugby union**

Rugby union is the one sport that 167,600 adults (0.4%) said they would like to participate in, or participate in more often. This represents 0.8% 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 union is the one sport that 0.8% of males would like to do, or do more often, and the equivalent figure for females is 0.1%.

Active People Survey (APS)	APS 1 (2005/06)		APS 2 (2007/08)		Change (Numbers)	Significant Difference
	Number	%	Number	%		
Overall	185,600	0.46%	230,300	0.56%	44,700	TRUE
East	18,700	0.42%	27,600	0.60%	8,900	TRUE
East Midlands	16,900	0.48%	16,400	0.46%		FALSE
London	21,200	0.35%	24,100	0.39%		FALSE
North East	8,700	0.41%	9,500	0.45%		FALSE
North West	16,700	0.30%	22,200	0.40%	5,500	TRUE
South East	34,000	0.51%	43,900	0.65%	9,900	TRUE
South West	29,300	0.71%	35,800	0.84%		FALSE
West Midlands	21,900	0.51%	30,700	0.71%	8,800	TRUE
Yorkshire	19,300	0.47%	20,700	0.49%		FALSE



- Participation in rugby union has increased across England as a whole, between 2005/6 and 2007/8. There have also been statistically significant increases in participation in the East, North West, South East and West Midlands regions.

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 union 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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