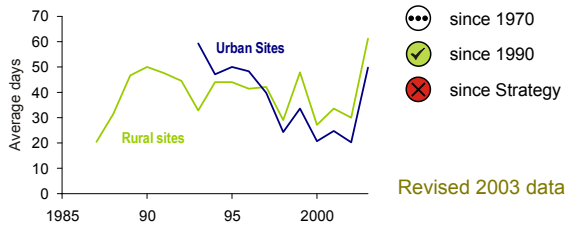


H10 AIR QUALITY

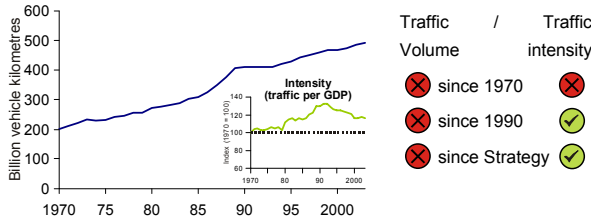
Days when pollution is moderate or higher (UK)



- Owing to an unusually hot summer 50 days in 2003 had moderate or higher air pollution on average at urban sites – down from 59 days in 1993 but up from 20 days in 2002.
- Rural air quality was relatively poor for 61 days in 2003 compared with 50 in 1990, but is highly dependent on the weather and there is no clear overall trend.

H11 ROAD TRAFFIC

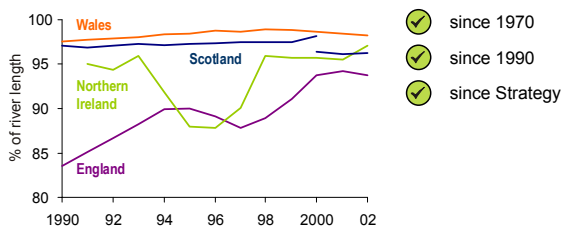
Road traffic (GB)



- Between 1990 and 2003, road traffic volume increased by 20% from 411 to (provisionally) 493 billion vehicle kilometres.
- Road traffic intensity (vehicle kilometres per GDP) fell by 11% between 1990 and 2003. This shows that, whilst traffic volumes have continued to rise, the historical link between road traffic and economic growth is weakening.

H12 RIVER WATER QUALITY

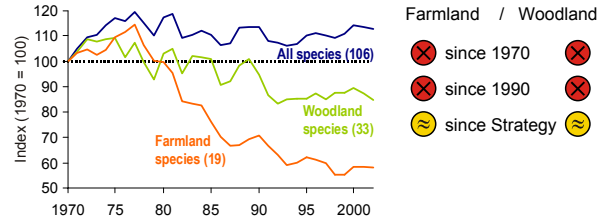
Rivers of good or fair chemical quality (UK)



- In 2002 94% of UK river lengths were of good or fair chemical quality. A similar proportion were of good or fair biological quality (not shown), with 68% of good quality.
- There have been significant improvements in English rivers for both chemical and biological quality.

H13 WILDLIFE

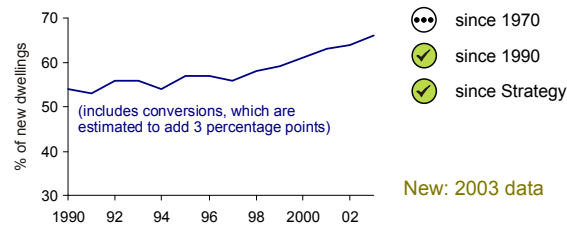
Populations of wild birds (UK)



- The index of farmland bird populations has nearly halved since its 1977 peak and has fallen by 18% since 1990, but has remained at about the same level over the last four years.
- The woodland bird index fell by 29% between its 1974 peak & 1998 since when it has remained roughly constant.

H14 LAND USE

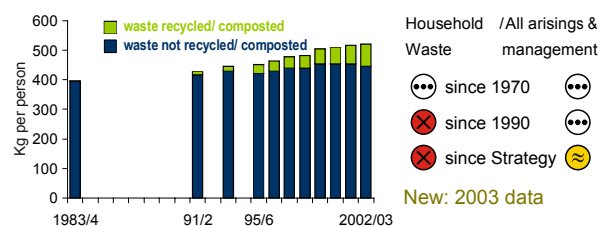
Homes built on previously developed land (England)



- In 2003, 66% of new dwellings were provided on previously developed land and through conversions, up from around 54% in the early 1990s.

H15 WASTE

Household waste (England & Wales)



- Household waste is about a sixth of all controlled waste. Between 1991-2 and 2002-3, the amount not recycled or composted increased by 7% from 417 to 446 kg per person. However, the percentage recycled or composted increased from 3% to 14% in the same period and in 2002-3 the amount not recycled fell for the first time in recent years.
- In 1998-9 UK households, commerce and industry produced about 195 million tonnes of waste (not shown). About 50% of this went to landfill. Estimated figures for 2000-1 suggest the total amount of waste was 220 million tonnes, with 45% going to landfill. (These changes are not statistically significant.)

Quality of Life Barometer

Updated June 2004



Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.

The 15 Headline indicators of sustainable development – a quality of life barometer – provide an overview of progress in meeting the objectives of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy - *A better quality of life* (May 1999).

Headline indicators – assessment of progress

	since 1990	since Strategy
Economic output	✓	✓
Investment	≈	≈
Employment	≈	✓
Poverty & social exclusion	≈	✓
Education	✓	✓
Health	≈	≈
Housing - conditions	✓	✓
Crime - robbery	✗	✗
- vehicle & burglary	✓	✓
Climate change	✓	✓
Air quality	✓	✗
Road traffic - total traffic volumes	✗	✗
- traffic per GDP	✓	✓
River water quality	✓	✓
Wildlife - farmland birds	✗	≈
- woodland birds	✗	≈
Land use	✓	✓
Waste - household waste	✗	✗
- all arisings & management	●●●	≈
Key:		
Significant change, in direction of meeting objective		✓
No significant change		≈
Significant change, in direction away from meeting objective		✗
Insufficient or no comparable data		●●●

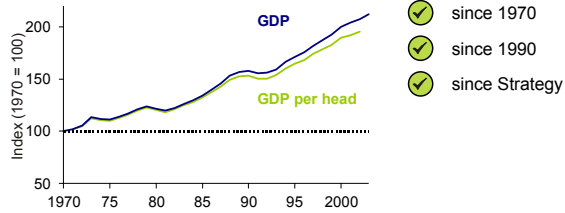
Where a trend is unacceptable, the government will adjust its policies, and look to others to join it in taking action. A full assessment of progress can be found in the fourth Government Annual Report on Sustainable Development 2003: *Achieving a better quality of life*. Data and further details on the Headline and a wider core set of indicators are available on the website below.

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

For additional copies of this leaflet, please call 020 7082 8621

H1 ECONOMIC OUTPUT

GDP per head (UK)

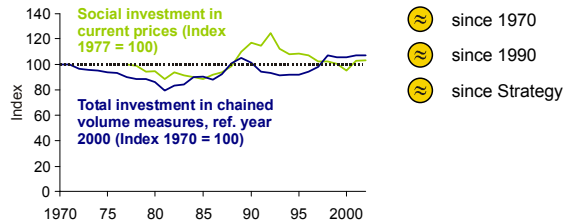


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- 27% increase in real GDP per head between 1990 and 2002 2.0% per year on average.
- Real GDP per head increased by 1.4% in 2002, and has increased by 9% since 1998.

H2 INVESTMENT

Total & Social Investment (UK)

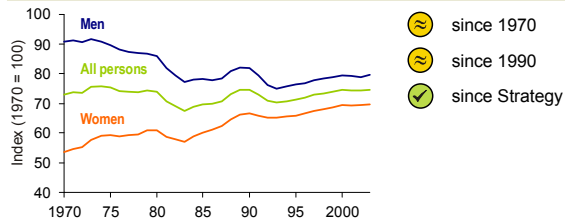


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- Total real investment relative to GDP rose from 16.3% in 1990 to 17.2% in 1998, and was 17.2% in 2002.
- Social investment (railways, hospitals, schools etc.) was around 2% of GDP in 1990 and 1.7% in 2002 (only available on a current price basis).

H3 EMPLOYMENT

Percentage of people of working age in work (UK)

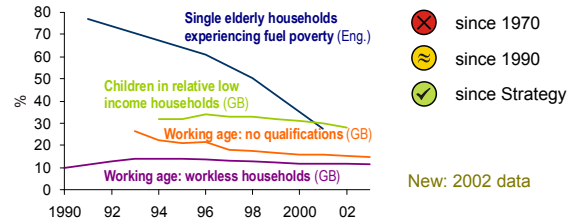


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- The percentage of working age people in work was 74.7% in 2003 – the same as in 1990.
- The percentage for 2003 was 0.3 percentage points up on 2002 and was an increase on the 1999 figure of 73.9%.

H4 POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Selected indicators of poverty & social exclusion



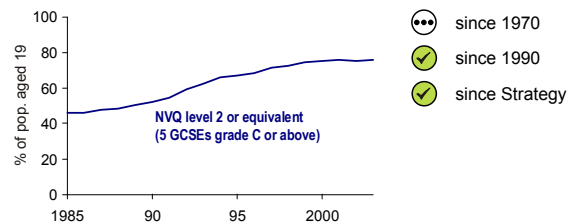
- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

New: 2002 data

- 11.5% of working age people were in workless households in 2003, reduced from 12.8% in 1998; 14.8% were without qualifications, down from 16.7 in 1999.
- 28% of children were in relatively low-income households (after housing costs) in 2002-3, reduced from 34% in 1996-7.
- 28% of single elderly households experienced fuel poverty in 2001, reduced from 77% in 1991 and 61% in 1996.

H5 EDUCATION

Level 2 qualifications at age 19 (UK)

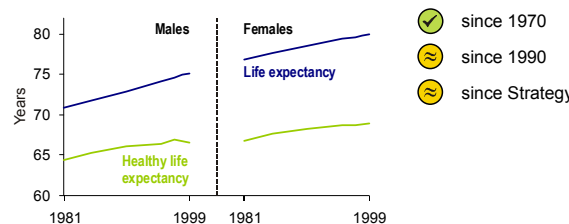


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- In 2003, 76.1% of 19 year-olds achieved NVQ level 2 or equivalent (5 GCSEs grade C), up from 52% in 1990, and 74.5% in 1999. The 2003 figure was the same as that for 2001 (the previous highest level).

H6 HEALTH

Expectancy of good or fairly good health (GB)

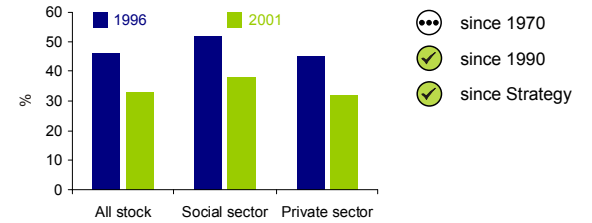


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- Between 1990 and 1999 healthy life expectancy increased only slightly, from 66.1 to 66.6 years for men and from 68.3 to 68.9 years for women.
- Overall life expectancy (75.1 years for men, 80.0 years for women) has increased more than healthy life expectancy, so an increasing proportion of those extra years are in poor health.

H7 HOUSING CONDITIONS

Households in non-decent housing (England)

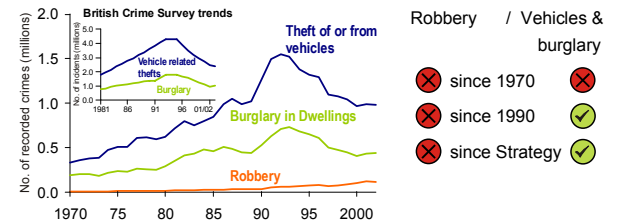


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- Between 1996 and 2001, non-decent housing fell from 52% to 38% and from 45% to 32% in the social and private sectors, respectively.
- Between 1991 and 1996 there was no significant change across a broad range of condition measures. As housing conditions have changed for the better since 1996, the overall assessment is that there has been an improvement since 1990.

H8 CRIME

Recorded crime (England & Wales)

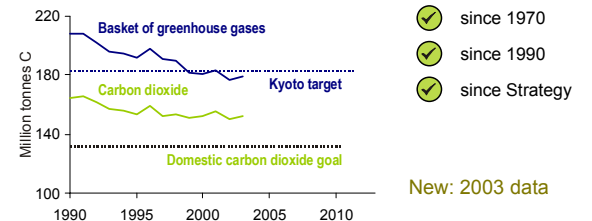


- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

- Both the British Crime Survey and recorded crime show that burglary and vehicle crimes fell substantially from the early 1990s: from 1990 such recorded crimes fell by 17% and 23% respectively (BCS indicates falls from 1991 of 29% and 38%).
- By 2002-3, recorded robbery had risen to 108,000 from 67,000 in 1998-9 but was 11% lower than the previous year.

H9 CLIMATE CHANGE

Emissions of greenhouse gases (UK)



- since 1970
- since 1990
- since Strategy

New: 2003 data

- Emissions of the 'basket' of six greenhouse gases (on which progress is assessed) fell by 12% between 1990 and 2001, and provisionally by 14% between 1990 & 2003.
- CO₂ emissions for 2003 were provisionally 7% lower than in 1990 but rose by about 1.5% between 2002 and 2003.