

Live/Work Business Briefing 2012

UK update from Live/Work Network (www.liveworknet.com)



Welcome

This is the second annual live/work business briefing from Live/Work Network, the experts on home-based business in the UK.

The briefing is designed to give an easy-to-use summary of statistics on home-based businesses in the UK each year. Our figures are based on a specially-commissioned annual dataset from the Office of National Statistics' Labour Force Survey.

What's new?

This year our briefing reports for the first time on the gender of homeworkers and home-based businesses. New ONS workforce figures, for the 4th quarter of 2011, show that it is predominantly men that work from home (66% of the UK total) and run a business from home (68%). In contrast, men and women are almost equally represented in the traditional commuting employee workforce.

Media briefing

In the media and among policy makers, homeworking is often reported as being particularly relevant to women and most useful as a flexible working tool to promote work-life balance for employees.

The new figures challenge these assumptions. They show that two thirds of those 'working mainly at/from home' are men. And over 63% of homeworkers are self-employed, not employees.



2012 headlines

2.43 million people (over 1 in 12 of those in work) now run a business from home in the UK, up 80,000 over the last year. In contrast, the number of traditional workers (commuting employees) fell over 100,000 to 23.7 million.

These self-employed home-workers are the fastest growing part of the UK workforce. Over the last ten years (Q4 2001 to Q4 2011) their number rose by 28.16%.

The total number of all homeworkers (both self-employed and employees working at/from home) rose by 24.1%. They now account for 13.1% of the workforce - 3.83 million people.

In contrast the number of commuting employees rose only 1.56%. One in five UK workers is now either self-employed, a homemaker or both.

The South West is the region with the highest proportion of the workforce running live/work businesses: 11% (279,512), followed by the South East: 9.7% (403,928).

In 2011 the regions with the fastest growing live/work workforce were the North East (33% up to 70,054) and London (up 16% to 364,376).

Source:

Labour Force Survey Q4 2001 to Q4 2011

Note: The ONS does not track the numbers of people running limited companies from home. These home-based businesses are included in the overall homeworking data ('mainly working at/from home') since company directors are employees, not self-employed. This means that the figures for live/work businesses are understating the true numbers of home-based businesses.



Find out more

If you would like us to analyse and report on live/work businesses in your county, district or area (including data at ward level), contact us:

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Table 1: the numbers

Region	Q4 2001				Q4 2011			
	All Workers	Home workers	Self employed	Live/work businesses*	All Workers	Home workers	Self employed	Live/work businesses*
North East	1085245	81838	78977	46588	1,144,490	117,960	120,957	70,054
North West	3048277	268995	311483	161506	3,134,417	321,712	352,482	192,921
Yorkshire & Humberside	2277161	207208	237668	122732	2,405,772	273,809	318,418	170,023
East Midlands	2010573	232038	223804	135696	2,115,324	292,069	285,408	178,765
West Midlands	2464949	268476	263814	150836	2,420,357	282,845	309,113	172,827
Eastern	2695235	317808	341344	194034	2,849,118	405,547	404,923	244,460
London	3525042	400334	484299	262173	3,825,531	521,081	669,177	364,376
South East	4064693	555170	542160	333688	4,163,721	642,209	635,320	403,928
South West	2402263	356381	352444	221760	2,534,462	421,507	428,791	279,512
Wales	1226769	126891	153246	85133	1,345,270	185,651	175,018	120,470
Scotland	2348143	194883	228153	126335	2,465,440	269,305	283,210	163,267
Northern Ireland	706317	73364	98921	53371	799,263	92,214	116,600	66,543
TOTAL	27,854,667	3,083,386	3,316,313	1,893,852	29,203,165	3,825,909	4,099,417	2,427,146

* Live/work businesses are those who are both self-employed and working mainly at/from home. Home workers are all those 'working mainly at/from home' (whether self-employed or employees)

Table 2: current % of workforce

Region	Homeworking Q4 2011	Self-employed Q4 2011	Live/work businesses Q4 2011
North East	10.3%	10.6%	6.1%
North West	10.3%	11.3%	6.2%
Yorkshire & Humberside	11.4%	13.2%	7.1%
East Midlands	13.8%	13.5%	8.5%
West Midlands	11.7%	12.8%	7.1%
Eastern	14.2%	14.2%	8.6%
London	13.6%	17.5%	9.5%
South East	15.4%	15.3%	9.7%
South West	16.6%	16.9%	11.0%
Wales	13.8%	13.0%	9.0%
Scotland	10.9%	11.5%	6.6%
Northern Ireland	11.54%	14.6%	8.3%
TOTAL	13.1%	14.0%	8.3%

Table 3: men and women homeworking

Region	Men as % of home workers	Total male home workers	Men as % of commuter employees	Men as % of live/work business*	Total male live/work business*
North East	71%	83,980	51%	77%	53,876
North West	69%	222,424	50%	75%	144,856
Yorkshire & Humberside	65%	178,807	51%	67%	113,472
East Midlands	69%	201,449	50%	70%	125,771
West Midlands	65%	184,920	51%	68%	117,329
Eastern	65%	262,986	50%	67%	162,852
London	63%	326,936	52%	64%	233,486
South East	64%	413,118	50%	66%	267,852
South West	62%	262,012	50%	66%	183,184
Wales	69%	128,422	49%	73%	87,938
Scotland	67%	181,110	49%	68%	111,341
Northern Ireland	69%	63,347	48%	75%	49,769
TOTAL	66%	2,509,511	50%	68%	1,651,726