

Live/Work Business Briefing

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



Welcome

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

This briefing is designed to give an easy to use summary of statistics on home-based businesses in the UK each year, including workforce trends and figures by region.

The source is a specially commissioned annual dataset from the Office of National Statistics' Labour Force Survey.

Why now?

The aim of the briefing is to track the trends towards self-employment and homeworking, with a comparison to trends in the numbers of traditional workers: those who are employees and who travel to a separate workspace.

Our term 'live/work business' applies to those people who are both self-employed and who mainly work at/from home.

Media summary

This briefing shows the changes in the UK workforce between the last census year of 2001 and the end of 2010. It therefore gives a broad indication of the trends we believe this year's 2011 census will show when the results are published.

The key finding is a major shift towards homeworking, accompanied by a strong correlation in most regions between self-employment and homeworking. These live/work businesses have been the fastest growing part of the UK workforce since 2001, their numbers rising by around 24% to 2,346,365 (1 in 12 of all UK workers).

2011 headlines

Live/work businesses (self-employed home-workers) are the **fastest growing** part of the UK workforce, increasing 23.89% between the end of 2001 and the end of 2010

2.35 million people (1 in 12 of those in work) now run a business from home

Homeworking in general has risen 21.44% since 2001, now accounting for 12.83% of the workforce (3,744,451)

The overall total workforce grew by 4.82% in the same period

The number of **commuting employees** rose by 1.96% to 23,806,047. This figure represents 81.54% of all workers, down from 83.82% in 2001

The South West is the region with the highest proportion of the workforce running live/work businesses: 10.61% (270,123), followed by the South East: 9.21% (385,981)

The North West region saw the largest growth in live/work businesses: up 39.07% to 224,603

Wales saw the largest rise in overall homeworking: 43.34% to 181,886

Source:

Labour Force Survey Q4 2001 to Q4 2010

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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network

WORK HUBS

UK experts on home-based business

Table 1: the numbers

Region	Q4 2001				Q4 2010			
	All Workers	Home workers	Self employed	Live/work businesses*	All Workers	Home workers	Self employed	Live/work businesses*
North East	1085245	81838	78977	46588	1,135,476	103,455	103,396	52,770
North West	3048277	268995	311483	161506	3,170,145	365,654	394,882	224,603
Yorkshire & Humberside	2277161	207208	237668	122732	2,393,034	241,539	293,670	156,742
East Midlands	2010573	232038	223804	135696	2,132,993	266,979	286,107	167,494
West Midlands	2464949	268476	263814	150836	2,419,312	301,016	283,343	176,562
Eastern	2695235	317808	341344	194034	2,820,534	416,262	420,413	253,627
London	3525042	400334	484299	262173	3,787,678	463,319	601,682	312,902
South East	4064693	555170	542160	333688	4,190,874	637,061	629,509	385,981
South West	2402263	356381	352444	221760	2,545,615	430,434	385,448	270,123
Wales	1226769	126891	153246	85133	1,333,573	181,886	192,855	116,765
Scotland	2348143	194883	228153	126335	2,494,486	247,689	274,882	159,941
Northern Ireland	706317	73364	98921	53371	772,505	89,157	125,905	68,855
TOTAL	27,854,667	3,083,386	3,316,313	1,893,852	29,196,225	3,744,451	3,992,092	2,346,365

* Live/work businesses are those who are both self-employed and working mainly at/from home. Home workers are those 'working mainly at/from home'

Table 2: the % of workforce

Region	Home-working Q4 2010	Self-employed Q4 2010	Live/work businesses Q4 2010
North East	9.11%	9.11%	4.65%
North West	11.53%	12.46%	7.08%
Yorkshire & Humberside	10.09%	12.27%	6.55%
East Midlands	12.52%	13.41%	7.85%
West Midlands	12.44%	11.71%	7.30%
Eastern	14.76%	14.91%	8.99%
London	12.23%	15.89%	8.26%
South East	15.20%	15.02%	9.21%
South West	16.91%	15.14%	10.61%
Wales	13.64%	14.46%	8.76%
Scotland	9.93%	11.02%	6.41%
Northern Ireland	11.54%	16.30%	8.91%
TOTAL	12.83%	13.67%	8.04%

Table 3: the trends Q4 2001 to Q4 2010

Region	% change all in work	% change home-workers	% change self-employed	% change live/work businesses	% change commuting employees
North East	4.63	26.41	30.92	13.27	1.07
North West	4.00	35.93	26.77	39.07	0.19
Yorkshire & Humberside	5.09	16.57	23.56	27.71	3.05
East Midlands	6.09	15.06	27.84	23.43	3.37
West Midlands	-1.85	12.12	7.40	17.06	3.45
Eastern	4.65	30.98	23.16	30.71	0.33
London	7.45	15.73	24.24	19.35	4.58
South East	3.10	14.75	16.11	15.67	0.28
South West	5.97	20.78	9.36	21.81	4.42
Wales	8.71	43.34	25.85	37.16	4.25
Scotland	6.23	27.10	20.48	26.60	3.92
Northern Ireland	9.37	21.53	27.28	29.01	6.62
TOTAL	4.82	21.44	20.38	23.89	1.96