



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport



# Taking Part 2015/16 Quarter 2

Statistical Release

December 2015



Historic England

**Taking Part is a National Statistics publication and has been produced to the standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. [See the UK Statistics Authority assessment<sup>1</sup>](#).

This publication has been updated in January 2016 to correct data in the Taking Part 2015/16 Quarter 2 statistical release published on 17 December 2015.

The only changes relate to figures presented in Figure 7.1. No other figures in the statistical release (or associated data tables) have been affected.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-statistics-authority-assessment>

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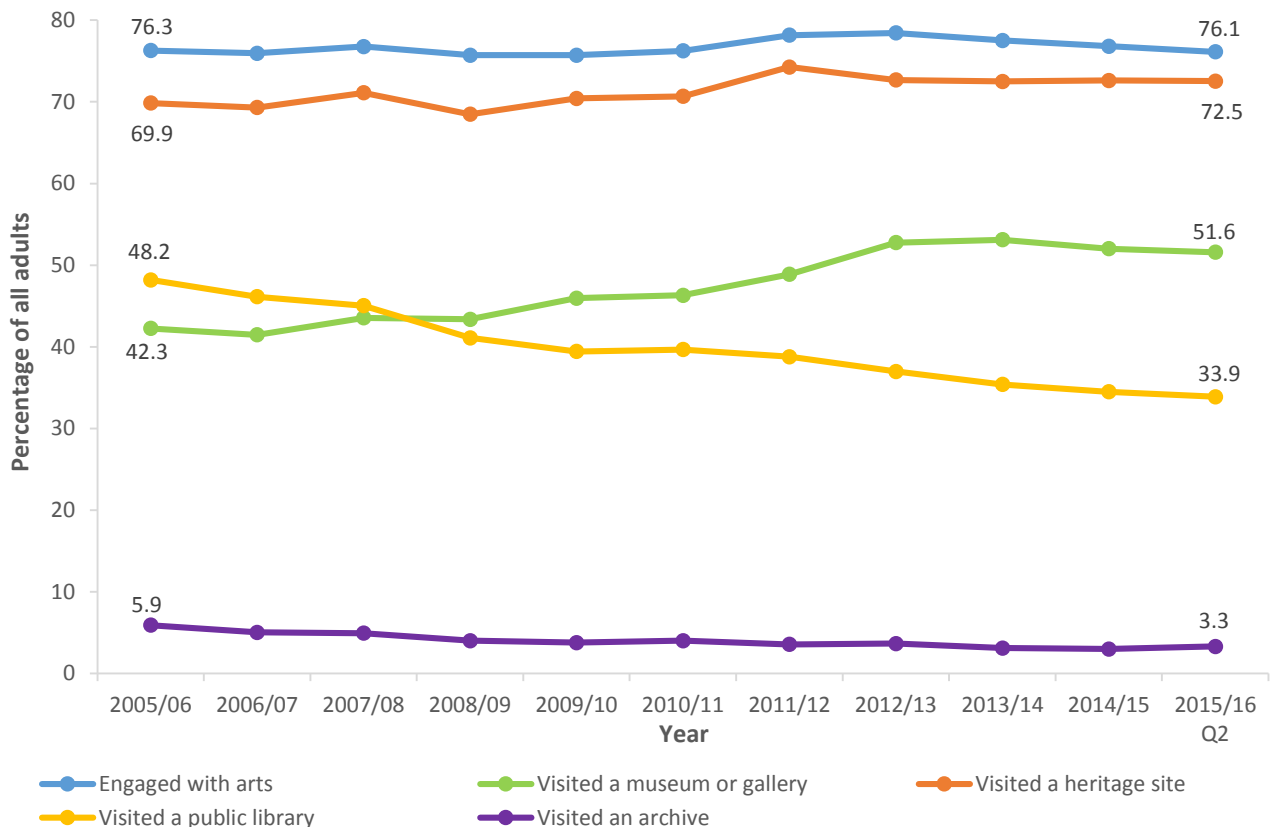


# Key findings

Taking Part is a household survey in England. It looks at participation in the cultural sectors. **This report presents the latest headline estimates for the year October 2014 to September 2015.** The survey, which began in 2005/06, is used widely by policy officials, practitioners, academics and charities to measure participation in the cultural sectors.

## Culture

Headline trends for participation in DCMS sectors are illustrated below:



- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 76.1 per cent of adults had attended or participated in the arts at least once in the previous year. This is a similar rate to 2005/06 and 2013/14, but a statistically significant decrease<sup>2</sup> since a peak in 2012/13 (when 78.4 per cent of adults had attended or participated in the previous year).
- Since 2005/06, there has been a significant increase in arts engagement in the North West of England (from 71.5 per cent to 76.9 per cent). Engagement in all other regions has remained at a similar rate to 2005/06.

<sup>2</sup> A significant increase or decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is due to chance, or is not representative of the English population as a whole. All differences and changes reported are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level unless otherwise stated.

- In the year to September 2015, more than seven in ten adults (72.5%) had visited a heritage site at least once in the previous 12 months. This is a statistically significant increase since the survey began in 2005/06 (when 69.9 per cent of adults had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months), but a significant decrease since a peak in 2011/12 (74.3%).
- Visitation rates to heritage sites across most of the nine English regions has remained at a similar level to 2005/06, with the exception of the North East and the West Midlands where attendance has significantly increased.
- Between October 2014 and September 2015, over half of adults (51.6%) had visited a museum or gallery in the last year. This proportion has remained constant since 2012/13, but is significantly higher than in any survey year between 2005/06 and 2011/12. The increase since 2005/06 was seen across all English regions.
- In the year ending September 2015, 33.9 per cent of adults had used a library in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. This is a significant decrease from 48.2 per cent in 2005/06 but a similar proportion to 2013/14.
- The proportion of adults who had visited an archive (in their own time or for voluntary work) between October 2014 and September 2015 was 3.3 per cent, a significant decrease from the 2005/06 level (5.9%). Using a wider measure, which includes paid work visits and visits for academic study, there has also been a decrease (from 5.1 percent in 2008/09, when the data were first collected, to 4.3 per cent in the latest results). A significantly higher proportion of adults aged 65-74 had visited an archive in the last 12 months (6.4%) than in any other age group.

## Volunteering and charitable giving

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 24.2 per cent of adults had volunteered in the last 12 months, a similar rate to 2005/06. 8.1 per cent of all adults had volunteered in a DCMS sector (arts, museums or galleries, heritage, libraries, archives, sport), a significant increase since 2005/06 (when this number was 7.0 per cent) and a slight but significant decrease on the 2012/13 peak (when it was 9.3 per cent).
- In the year to September 2015, 86.4 per cent of adults reported that they had donated money in the 12 months prior to interview, a significant decrease since 2010/11 (88.4%) when the data were first collected. 29.4 per cent of adults had donated to a DCMS sector, a significant decrease from 33.0 per cent in 2010/11.

## Digital engagement

- The proportion of adults who have digitally participated in culture has significantly decreased from 39.8 per cent in 2011/12 to 36.4 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.
- In the year ending September 2015, the proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery website, a library website, a heritage website or a sport website significantly increased compared with 2005/06. For example, 27.9 per cent of adults visited a museum or gallery website between October 2014 and September 2015, compared with 15.8 per cent in 2005/06.

## Equalities

- In the 12 months prior to being interviewed women had significantly **higher** engagement rates than men across the following sectors and activities:



- Arts: 80.3 per cent of women had engaged in the arts in the last 12 months, compared with 71.8 per cent of men. The gap between the sexes has widened, from 5.4 percentage points in 2005/06 to 8.5 percentage points in the latest year.
  - Libraries: 38.1 per cent of women had visited a library in the last 12 months, compared with 29.4 per cent of men.
  - Volunteering: 25.5 per cent of women had taken part in voluntary work, compared with 22.8 per cent of men. This gap has narrowed slightly in the last few years.
- A significantly higher proportion of adults from the black and minority ethnic (BME) group had visited a library in the last 12 months than those from the white group (49.3 per cent, compared to 31.8 per cent).
  - In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, those with a long-standing illness or disability had a significantly lower engagement rate than non-disabled people in the following sectors:
    - Arts: 73.0 per cent of those with an illness or disability had engaged in the arts, compared with 77.5 per cent of those without. This gap has narrowed since 2005/06, from 9.2 percentage points in 2005/06 to 4.4 percentage points in the latest year.
    - Heritage: 67.6 per cent of those with an illness or disability had engaged with heritage, compared with 74.7 per cent without.
    - Museums and galleries: 45.6 per cent of those with an illness or disability had visited a museum or gallery, compared with 54.2 per cent without.
  - Those in the upper socio-economic group had significantly higher participation and engagement rates than those in lower socio-economic group for all sectors reported on in Taking Part. However, since 2005/06, there have been significant increases in engagement for the lower socio-economic group in the heritage and the museums and galleries sectors.

## First World War

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 58.0 per cent of adults stated that they were aware of local or national events or activities being held in the UK between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.
- 78.4 per cent of adults were supportive of the UK commemorating the Centenary of the First World War, reporting that they were either slightly or strongly supportive.

## 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- In the year ending September 2015, 24.3 per cent of adults who had taken part in sport or recreational activity in the last 12 months answered that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had motivated them to do more of these activities, a significant increase from 19.8 per cent in 2012/13 (the year in which the games were held).
- Among adults who had taken part in cultural activities, there has been a significant increase in the proportion who felt that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had motivated them to take part in more cultural activities, from 4.0 per cent in 2010/11 to 7.7 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.
- Among adults who had volunteered, the proportion of adults who felt that the UK hosting the Olympics had motivated them to do more voluntary work has remained statistically similar between 2010/11 and the year ending September 2015, when it was 8.1 per cent.

Headline measures from Taking Part Survey - Adult

Percentage

	Significant changes since earliest data	Trend	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 Q2
<b>Culture</b>													
Has engaged with the arts in the last year	■		76.3	75.9	76.8	75.7	75.7	76.2	78.2	78.4	77.5	76.8	76.1
Has engaged with the arts three or more times in the last year	▼		62.5	61.3	62.2	59.9	60.7	61.2	63.3	64.1	62.8	61.6	60.9
Has visited a museum or gallery in the last year	▲		42.3	41.5	43.5	43.4	46.0	46.3	48.9	52.8	53.1	52.0	51.6
Has visited a public library in the last year*	▼		48.2	46.1	45.0	41.1	39.4	39.7	38.8	37.0	35.4	34.5	33.9
Has visited a heritage site in the last year	▲		69.9	69.3	71.1	68.5	70.4	70.7	74.3	72.7	72.5	72.6	72.5
Has visited an archive or records office in the last year (own time and voluntary)	▼		5.9	5.0	4.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.3
<b>Volunteering and charitable giving</b>													
Has volunteered in last 12 months	■		23.8	24.0	24.0	25.0	N/A	24.2	23.3	25.9	23.9	24.2	24.2
Has volunteered in DCMS sectors in last 12 months	▲		7.0	6.9	7.2	7.8	N/A	7.7	7.1	9.3	7.4	7.9	8.1
Has donated money in the last 12 months **	▼		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.4	89.7	89.7	88.2	86.7	86.4
Has donated money to the DCMS sectors in last 12 months **	▼		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.0	30.9	32.0	28.7	29.8	29.4
<b>Digital participation (Has visited a...)</b>													
Museum or gallery website	▲		15.8	16.5	18.3	19.3	N/A	25.0	26.2	31.3	27.5	27.9	27.9
Library website	▲		8.9	9.6	10.4	10.9	N/A	15.5	16.2	16.9	14.2	14.7	14.5
Heritage website	▲		18.3	18.9	21.0	21.3	N/A	26.7	28.6	31.3	27.4	27.5	27.4
Arts Websites (including music, theatre, dance, visual arts and literature)***	▼		30.5	32.2	34.6	35.3	N/A	42.6	32.2	30.3	25.1	24.5	24.7
Archive or records office website	■		9.7	10.5	11.0	11.0	N/A	10.9	11.6	13.5	11.6	10.6	10.5
Sport website	▲		26.1	27.9	30.6	31.3	N/A	36.4	37.6	40.1	35.8	34.8	35.4

N/A Data not available for this year

\* Excludes visits for paid work and academic study except in 2008/09 and 2009/10

\*\* Data only available for January - March in 2011

\*\*\* Prior to July 2011 this question was worded as " Theatre/Concert websites or other websites about art"

# Introduction

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## This report

Taking Part is a household survey in England. It looks at participation in the cultural and sport sectors. This report presents findings specifically on participation in culture<sup>3</sup>. This report presents the latest headline estimates **for the year from October 2014 to September 2015**. The survey is now in its eleventh year and was commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in partnership with Arts Council England, Historic England, and Sport England. The statistics are used widely by policy officials, practitioners, academics, the private sector and charities to measure and understand participation in the cultural sectors.

Taking Part is the key evidence base for DCMS, providing reliable national estimates of participation and supporting the Department's aim of improving the quality of life for everyone, by providing people with the chance to get involved in a variety of cultural and sporting opportunities.

This report presents headline findings for the main cultural estimates along with updates on data which are used to measure the influence of London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Data are also provided to measure volunteering and charitable giving policy objectives. Where analysis has been extended to look at digital engagement within the DCMS sectors (heritage, museums and galleries, libraries, archives, arts, volunteering and charitable giving), this is presented alongside the relevant sector figures.

Government policies which might have had an impact on participation figures have been outlined at the beginning of relevant chapters throughout the report. This does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any of the changes in participation that have been observed, simply that they might be a factor. Where observations are made over time, the latest data are compared with the earliest available data (typically 2005/06) unless otherwise stated. Key terms and definitions are provided in Annex B of this release. Sector definitions are provided in Annex C.

The latest results presented in this report are based on interviews conducted between October 2014 and September 2015. The total sample size for this period is 10,193. All differences and changes reported are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level unless otherwise stated<sup>4</sup>. This means the probability that any given difference happened by chance is low (at most 1 in 20).

[See the spreadsheets and documents accompanying this release.](#)

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<sup>3</sup> The measurement of sport participation for adults is available in Sport England's Active People Survey at <https://www.sportengland.org/research/who-plays-sport/>.

<sup>4</sup> A significant increase or decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of the English population as a whole.



## Forthcoming releases

Adult releases of Taking Part are published every six months. The next biannual release is in July 2016 and will present data covering the period April 2015 to March 2016. Future adult releases will follow a similar schedule, being released every six months in July and December.

In addition, a series of “Taking Part, Focus on...” reports will be published in April 2016. Each ‘short story’ in this series will look at a specific topic in more detail, providing more in-depth analysis of the 2014/15 Taking Part data than seen in the biannual report. The [last set of short stories](#)<sup>5</sup>, which were also based on 2014/15 data, was published in November 2015.

Finally, DCMS will publish its plan for the future of the Taking Part survey in early 2016. This will be based on the responses received in the user consultation, as well as opinions from the public user event in July 2015, meetings with policy leads in DCMS and meetings held with external academics and the DCMS Science Advisory Council.

If you would like further information on these releases or the Taking Part survey, please contact the Taking Part team on [TakingPart@culture.gov.uk](mailto:TakingPart@culture.gov.uk).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/taking-part-201415-focus-on-reports>



# Chapter 1: Arts

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Taking Part asks respondents whether they have attended or participated in a range of arts events and activities. These two forms of engagement (attendance and participation) are combined to provide the overall measure of arts engagement (See Annex C for full details). Examples of arts engagement include participating in activities such as practising circus skills and painting, or attending events such as live music performances and seeing a play/drama.

Digital engagement with the arts is defined as viewing or downloading part or all of a performance or exhibition, discussing the arts or sharing art that others have created, uploading or sharing art that you have created yourself or finding out how to take part or improve your creative skills.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

Government is committed to enhancing access to the arts, increasing the number of those who both take part in and attend arts events. DCMS funds Arts Council England, an Arm's Length Body independent of Ministers, to champion and support the arts in England.

The Arts Council's ten-year strategy, [Great art and culture for everyone](#), aims to encourage more people to be involved in arts in their communities and be inspired by arts experiences.

Many other public, private and voluntary organisations make up the funding landscape that supports the arts in this country. DCMS and Arts Council England work with a range of such partner organisations to advocate for the arts, to highlight the benefits the arts bring to the nation, and to inspire greater participation.

Further details of the department's role in relation to arts and culture are available on our [website](#).

## Key findings

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 76.1 per cent of adults had attended or participated in the arts at least once in the previous year. This is a similar rate to 2005/06 and 2013/14, but a statistically significant decrease<sup>6</sup> since a peak in 2012/13 (when 78.4 per cent of adults had attended or participated in the previous year).
- Since 2005/06, there has been a significant increase in arts engagement in the North West of England (from 71.5 per cent to 76.9 per cent). Engagement in all other regions of England has remained at a similar rate to 2005/06.
- Those living in rural areas had a significantly higher engagement rate than those in urban areas (79.3 per cent compared to 75.4 per cent).
- Adults aged 65-74 have seen a significant increase in engagement since 2005/06, from 70.7 per cent to 77.0 per cent in the latest results. Those aged 75 and above have also seen a significant increase in arts engagement between 2005/06 and the year ending September 2015 (from 57.7 per cent to 61.7 per cent): however, they continue to have a significantly lower arts engagement rate than any other age group.

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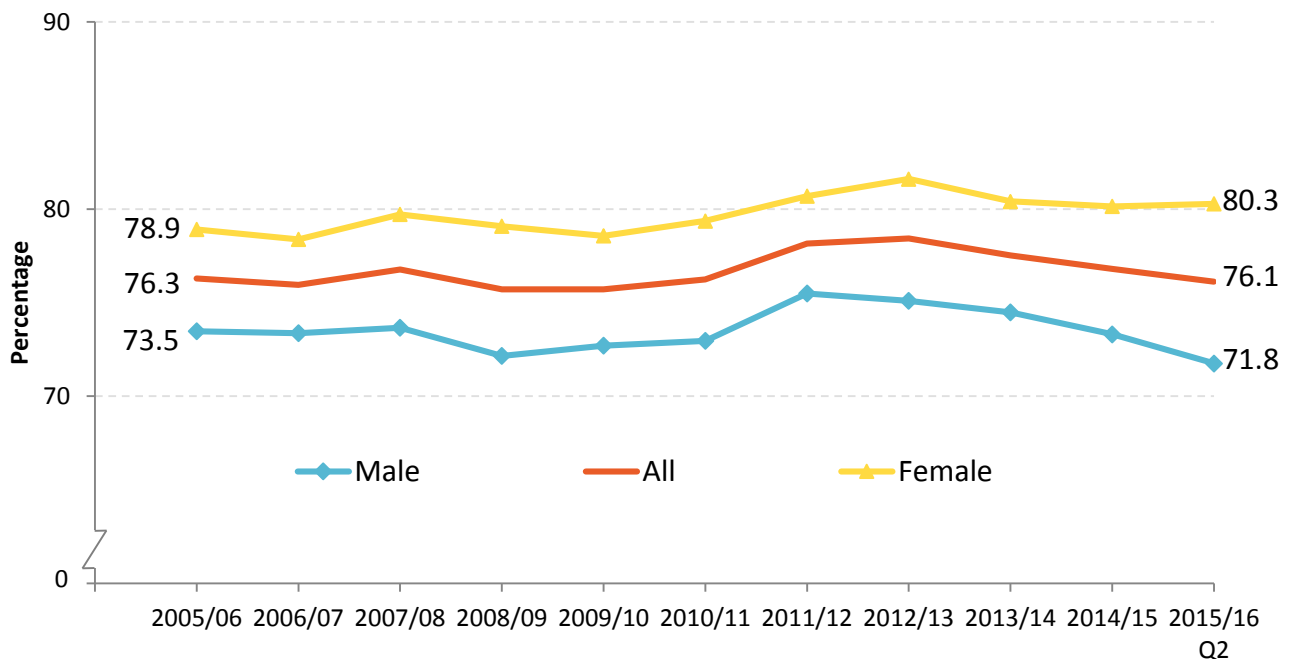
<sup>6</sup> A significant increase or decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of the English population as a whole.

## Arts engagement

The latest results show that in the year to September 2015, 76.1 per cent of adults had engaged in the arts at least once in the last 12 months, a similar rate to 2005/06 and 2013/14: however, this is a significant decrease on the 2012/13 high of 78.4 per cent.

Significantly more women than men engaged in the arts. In the year to September 2015, 80.3 per cent of women engaged in the arts compared with 71.8 per cent of men. The gap between the sexes has widened, from 5.4 percentage points in 2005/06 to 8.5 percentage points in the latest year.

**Figure 1.1: Proportion of adults who had attended or participated in the arts in the last year, by gender, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

(1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.7 and +/-3.1 from 2005/06 onwards.

In the year to September 2015:

- 60.9 per cent of adults had engaged with the arts three or more times in the previous 12 months, a significant decrease from 64.1 per cent in 2012/13, and from 62.5 per cent in 2005/06.
- 8.2 per cent of adults had engaged in the arts only once in the previous 12 months, a significant increase from 7.2 per cent in 2005/06.

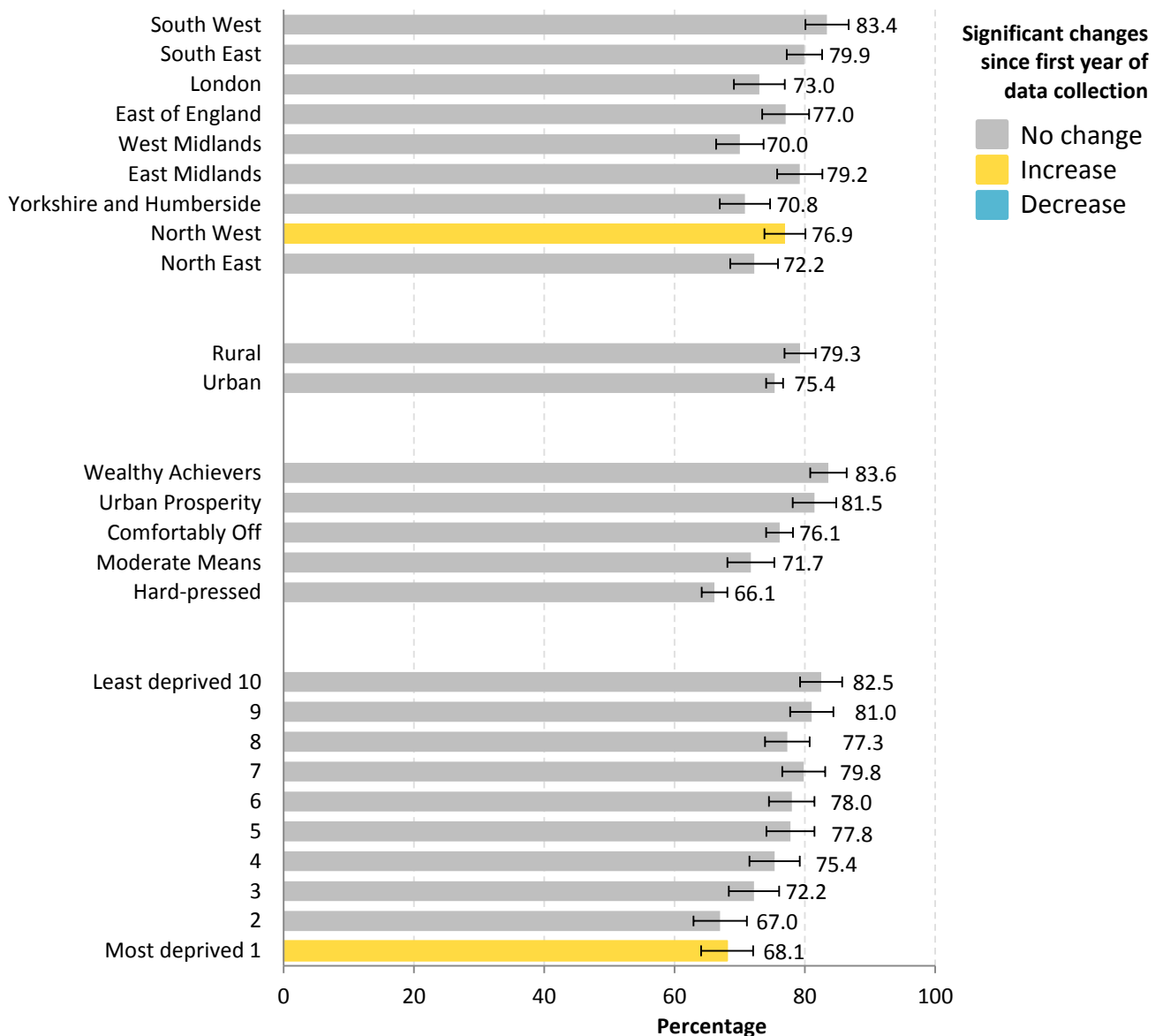
### Engagement by characteristics of the area

- Since 2005/06, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults engaging with the arts in the North West of England (from 71.5 per cent to 76.9 per cent). In all other English regions rates of arts engagement have remained at similar levels to 2005/06.
- There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults engaging in the arts in the East of England since a peak in engagement in 2012/13 (from 83.6 per cent to 77.0 per cent). A similar trend is also evident for Yorkshire and Humberside (from 76.4 per cent to 70.8 per cent) and the West Midlands (from 75.4 per cent to 70.0 per cent).



- In the year between October 2014 and September 2015, adults living in rural areas have a higher engagement rate (79.3%) than those living in urban areas (75.4%). For both rural and urban areas, the level of engagement is at a similar rate to 2005/06.
- In the same period, the proportion of adults who engaged in the arts has significantly decreased for those who are “comfortably off”, (from 78.5 per cent to 76.1 per cent).
- The proportion of adults engaging in the arts in the most deprived areas of England has significantly increased since 2009/10 (when these data were first collected), from 59.9 per cent to 68.1 per cent.

**Figure 1.2: Arts participation by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>7</sup> and ACORN category: 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes:**

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.3 and +/-4.1.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>5</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

<sup>7</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).

## Engagement by demographics

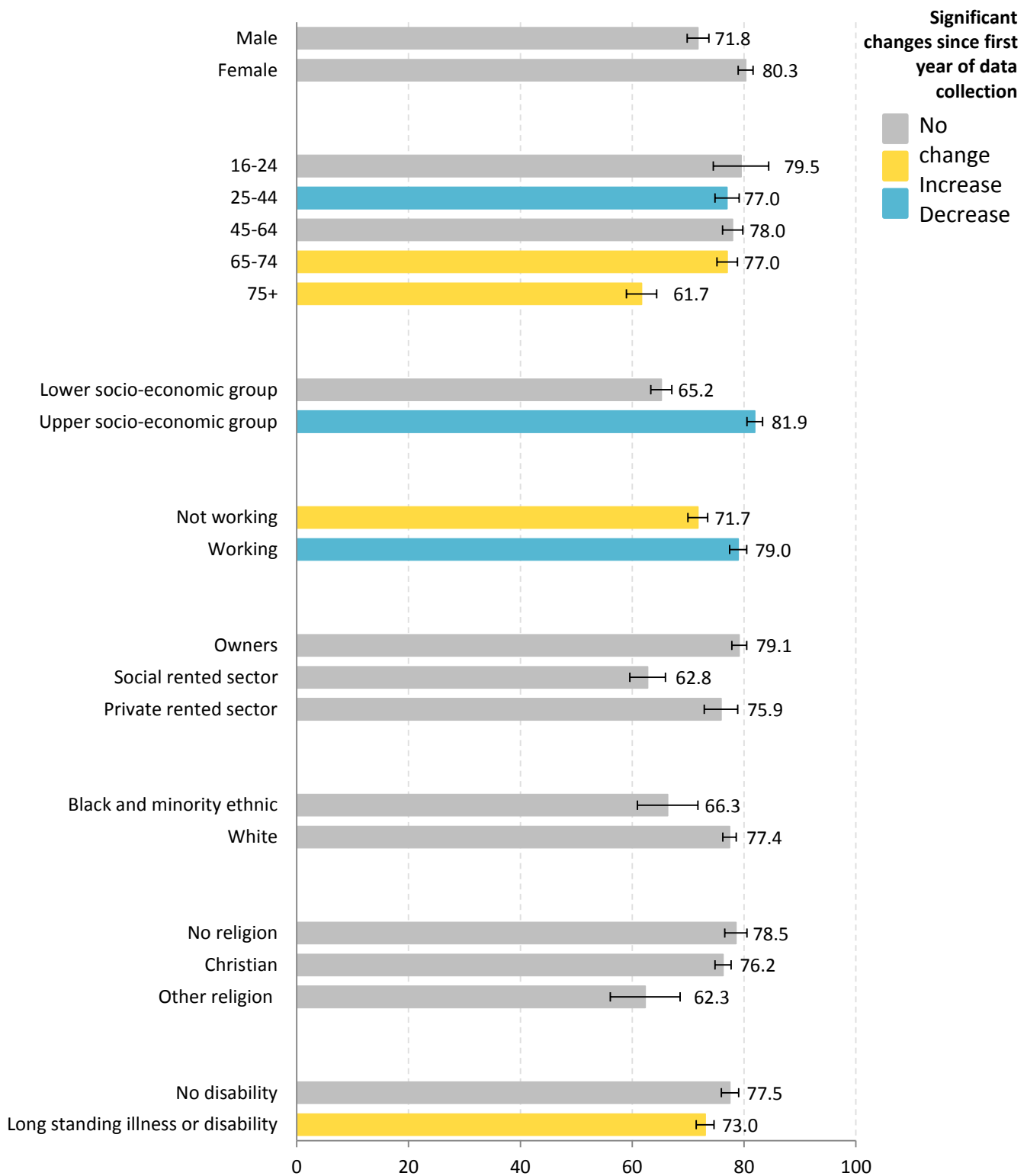
Between October 2014 and September 2015, the following patterns of arts engagement were observed among demographic groups:

- The proportion of adults aged between 65 and 74 who engaged in the arts has significantly increased since 2005/06 (from 70.7 per cent to 77.0 per cent). Despite having the lowest engagement rate among age groups, the proportion of adults aged 75 and above who engage in the arts has also significantly increased (from 57.7 per cent to 61.7 per cent).
- Over the same period of time, the proportion of adults aged between 25 and 44 who engage in the arts has significantly decreased (from 79.7 per cent to 77.0 per cent). This is the first time that arts participation among this group has been significantly lower than in 2005/06.
- Significantly more women than men engage in the arts. In the year to September 2015, 80.3 per cent of women engaged in the arts compared with 71.8 per cent of men. The gap between the sexes has widened, from 5.4 percentage points in 2005/06 to 8.5 percentage points in the latest year.
- Arts engagement is significantly higher amongst adults in the upper socio-economic group<sup>8</sup> (81.9%) compared with those in the lower socio-economic group (65.2%). The proportion of adults who engage in the arts in the upper socio-economic groups has significantly decreased since 2005/06 (when it was 84.4 per cent).
- Arts engagement is also significantly higher amongst adults from the white group (77.4%) than among adults from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups (66.3%).
- Adults with no long-standing illness or disability have significantly higher arts engagement rates (77.5%) than those with a long-standing illness or disability (73.0%). However, the proportion of adults with a long-standing illness or disability who engage in the arts has significantly increased since 2005/06 (when it was 69.8 per cent), and the gap between those with and without a long-standing illness or disability has narrowed, from 9.2 percentage points in 2005/06 to 4.4 percentage points in the latest year.
- Adults who were working have significantly higher arts engagement rates (79.0%) than those who were not working (71.7%). The proportion of working adults who engage in the arts is at its lowest level since 2005/06, when it was 81.2 per cent: indeed, this is the first time that arts participation among this group has been significantly lower than in 2005/06. In contrast, the proportion of non-working adults who engage in the arts has significantly increased since 2005/06 (when it was 68.8 per cent).

<sup>8</sup> Definitions of socio-economic groups and their classifications are available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010-user-manual/index.html>



Figure 1.3: Arts participation by demographics, 2015/16 Q2

**Notes:**

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.2 and +/-6.2.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06.

## Digital engagement

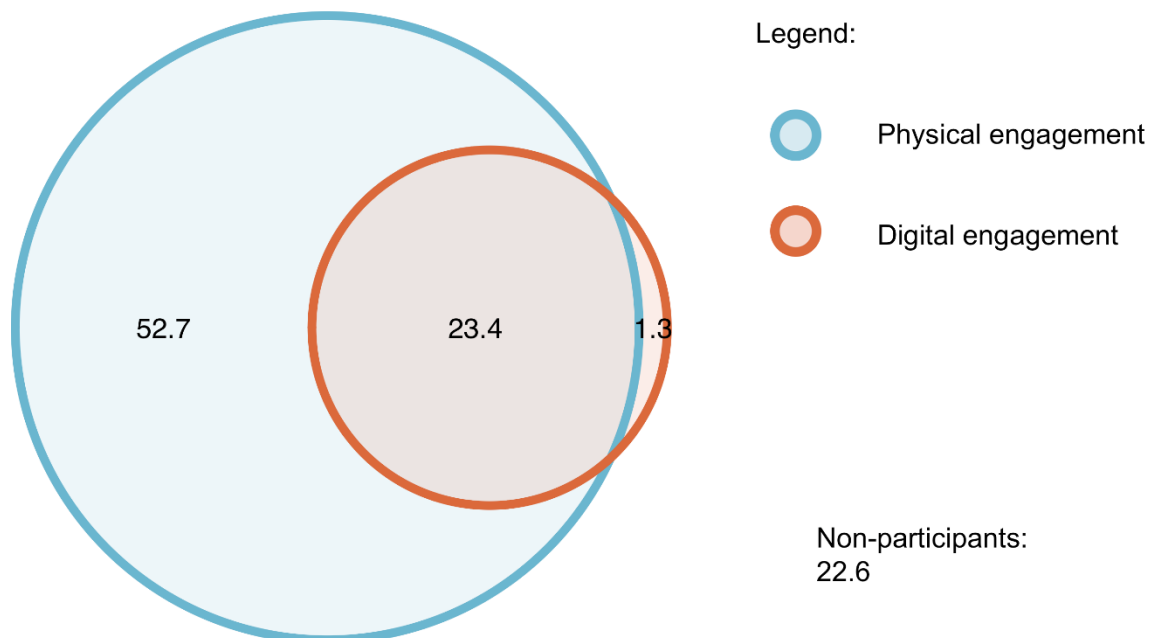
- In the year to September 2015, 24.7 per cent of adults had visited a theatre or concert website, a similar rate to 2013/14 and 2014/15, but a significant decrease compared to 2012/13.
- Of those who had visited a theatre or concert website, 49.8 per cent of adults had visited to buy tickets for an arts performance or exhibition, a similar rate to 2013/14 but a significant decrease on the 2010/11 peak of 67.7 per cent and on 2011/12 (54.7%).

The Taking Part survey added new questions asking about visits to arts websites from July 2011. Between October 2014 and September 2015, of those who had visited an arts website:

- 69.7 per cent did so to find out more about an artist, performer or event, a similar proportion to in 2011/12.
- 20.3 per cent of adults had visited an arts website to view or download part or all of a performance or exhibition, again a similar proportion to 2013/14 but a significant decrease on the 2012/13 high of 24.9 per cent.
- 2.4 per cent did so to find out upload or share art that they had created: this is a significant decrease on 2013/14 (3.9%) and 2012/13 (4.7%).

The majority of adults who had participated in the arts digitally had also engaged physically by attending or performing at an arts event at least once in the 12 months prior to questioning (Figure 1.4). Overall, when considering physical arts participation **and** digital participation, 77.4 per cent of adults had engaged with the arts in some way between October 2014 and September 2015.

**Figure 1.4: Proportion of adults engaging in the arts in the last 12 months, either through physical participation or digital participation, 2015/16 Q2**



Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).



## Chapter 2: Heritage

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The Taking Part survey measures adult participation in heritage by whether respondents visited a heritage site in the 12 months prior to interview, as well as the frequency with which heritage sites were visited. A definition of participation in heritage can be found in Annex C. Details on the ways that people digitally engage with heritage are given at the end of this chapter. Digital engagement with the heritage sector includes visiting a heritage website to take a virtual tour of a historical site, to learn about history or the historic environment, or to discuss history or the historic environment on a forum.

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) published two reports in 2011 which built on the Taking Part survey to explore participation within the Heritage sector in more detail.

1. The [Visiting the Past](#)<sup>9</sup> report analyses the factors which affect people's likelihood of visiting three kinds of historic sites:

- Historic parks and gardens
- Historic places of worship
- Monuments, castles and ruins

It examines the effects of the demographic characteristics of visitors (e.g. age), other activities and social circumstances on the probability of visiting these sites. The findings are based on a statistical analysis of the visiting patterns of over 25,000 people surveyed in Taking Part.

2. The [Mapping Leisure](#)<sup>9</sup> report uses visualization techniques to create a series of pictures of Taking Part data (2007/08), allowing the landscape of cultural and sporting participation in England to be visually explored. The pictures visualize the participation levels, demographics, and connections, of over 100 cultural and sporting activities (including heritage). The report interprets the pictures and discusses the questions they raise.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

Government is committed to ensuring that the historic environment of England is properly protected and conserved, so that present and future generations can enjoy the benefits of engaging with our heritage. Through the bodies it funds, DCMS seeks to promote understanding and access to the historic environment, allowing people to appreciate the heritage assets around them.

DCMS funds Historic England, the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment. From the 1st of April 2015, English Heritage separated into two organisations:

- 1) A new charity, retaining the name English Heritage, is running the National Heritage Collection of historic properties.
- 2) The newly-named non-departmental public body, Historic England, is dedicated to offering expert advice, championing the wider historic environment and providing support for stakeholders in the heritage sector.

The Department also provides funding and support to a number of other bodies, including the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Churches Conservation Trust.

Of course many other public, private and voluntary organisations fund and support heritage in this country. DCMS works with a range of partner organisations to highlight the benefits heritage brings to the nation and to inspire greater engagement.

Further details of the department's role in relation to heritage are available on our [website](#).

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/current-research/social-and-economic-research/sector-insight/encouraging-participation/>



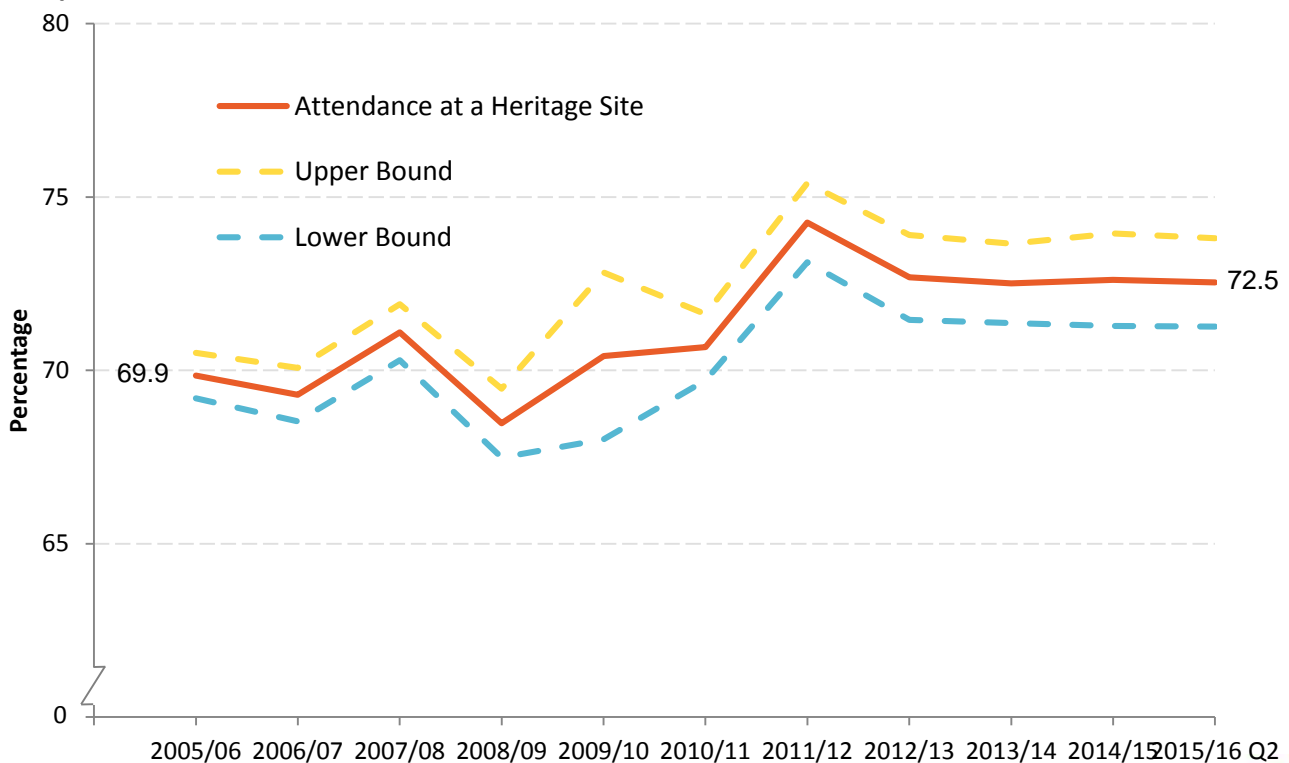
## Key findings

- In the year to September 2015, more than seven in ten of all adults in England (72.5%) had visited a heritage site at least once in the previous 12 months. This is a statistically significant increase since the survey began in 2005/06 (69.9%).
- Visitation rates to heritage sites across most of the nine English regions remained at a similar level to 2005/06 with the exception of the North East and the West Midlands, where attendance has significantly increased (from 69.1 per cent to 74.6 per cent, and from 65.8 per cent to 71.7 per cent, respectively).
- The proportion of adults in the most deprived areas who have visited a heritage site at least once in the last 12 months has significantly increased since 2009/10 (from 39.8 per cent to 55.6 per cent). The gap in participation between those in most deprived areas and those in least deprived areas has decreased from 44.4 percentage points in 2009/10 (when these data were first collected) to 26.6 percentage points in the latest year.
- Visits to heritage sites in the last 12 months have significantly increased across many demographic groups since 2005/06. This includes adults 65 and over, both men and women, non-working adults, adults in the lower socio-economic group and those with or without a long-standing illness or disability.

## Heritage visits

- The latest results from the period October 2014 to September 2015 show that 72.5 per cent of adults visited a heritage site in the 12 months prior to interview. This was a significant increase from 69.9 per cent in 2005/06.

**Figure 2.1: Proportion of adults who had visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.7 and +/-2.4 from 2005/06 onwards.
- (2) The upper and lower bounds show the 95% confidence interval.



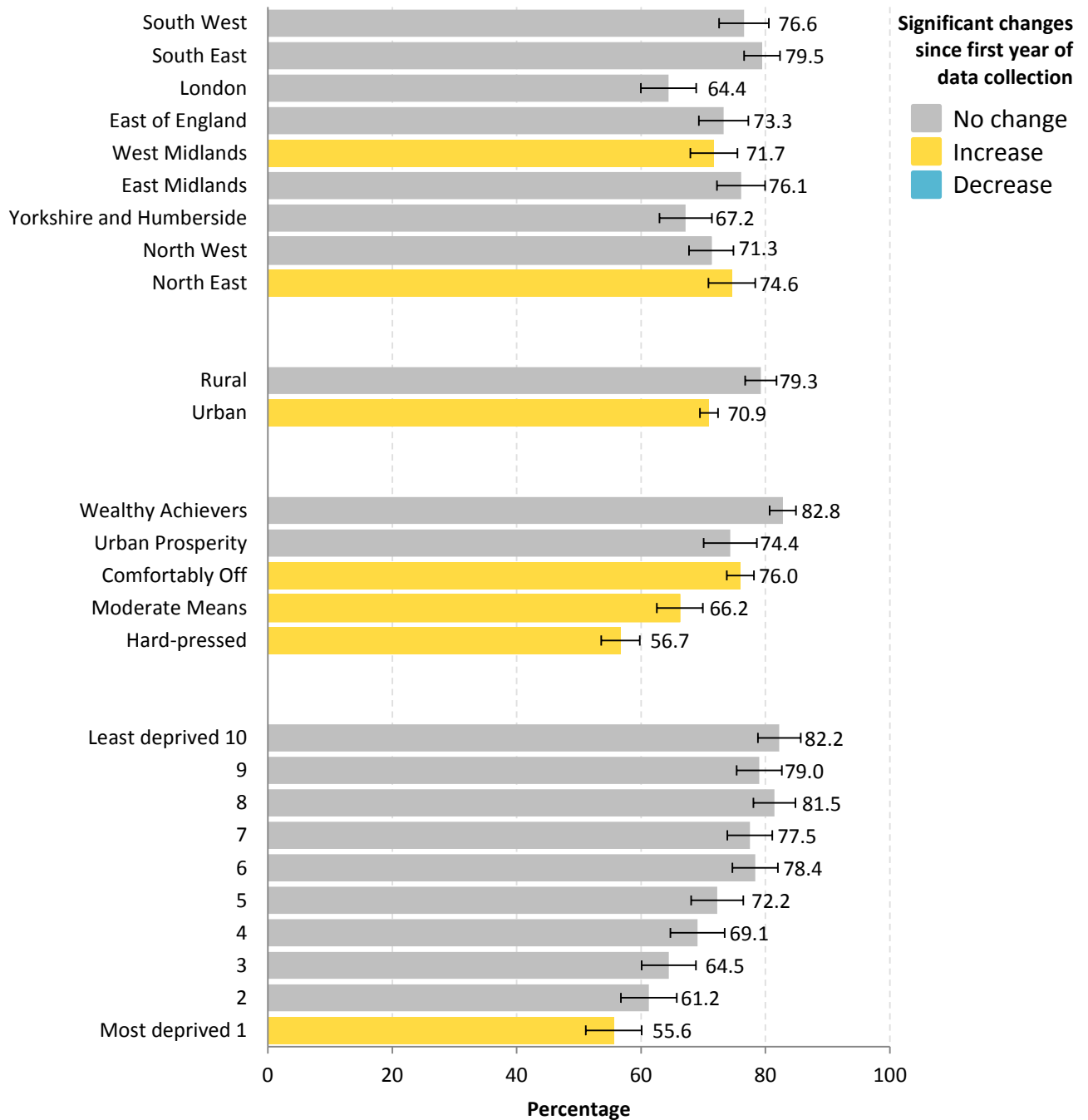
## Engagement by characteristics of the area

- The proportion of adults in the most deprived areas who visit heritage sites has significantly increased since 2009/10 (from 39.8 per cent to 55.6 per cent). The gap in participation between those in most deprived areas and those in least deprived areas has decreased from 44.4 percentage points in 2009/10 (when these data were first collected) to 26.6 percentage points in the latest year.
- Since 2005/06, there has been significant increases in the proportion of adults visiting heritage sites in the North East of England (from 69.1 per cent to 74.6 per cent) and the West Midlands (from 65.8 per cent to 71.7 per cent).
- There has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults from urban areas who visit heritage sites, from 68.0 per cent in 2005/06 to 70.9 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015. However, the proportion of adults who visit heritage sites in rural areas (79.3%) is still significantly higher than in urban areas.
- In terms of ACORN<sup>10</sup> groups, which classify local areas according to a range of characteristics; since 2005/06, there has been a statistically significant increase in the proportion of adults visiting heritage sites among those described as 'comfortably off' (from 73.2 per cent to 76.0 per cent), of 'moderate means' (from 62.0 per cent to 66.2 per cent) and 'hard pressed' (from 53.0 per cent to 56.7 per cent).

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<sup>10</sup> A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN) is a geo-demographic information system categorising some United Kingdom postcodes into various types based upon census data and other information such as lifestyle surveys.

Figure 2.2: Heritage site visits by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>11</sup> and ACORN category; 2015/16 Q2



**Notes:**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.5 and +/-4.5.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>8</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

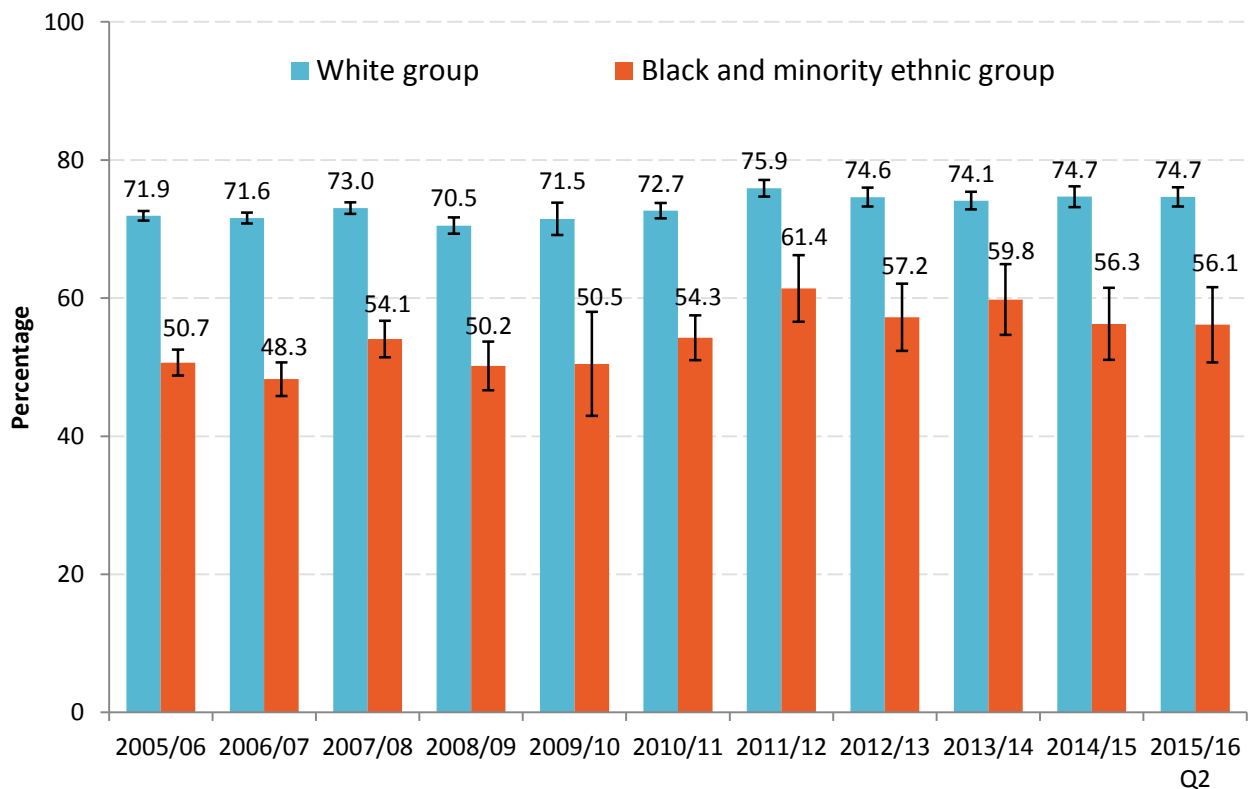
<sup>11</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).



## Visits by demographics

- The proportion of adults between the age of 65 and 74 and those aged 75 and above who visit heritage sites has significantly increased since 2005/06. Between October 2014 and September 2015, 77.3 per cent of adults between the age of 65 and 74 and 57.3 per cent of adults aged 75 and above had visited a heritage site at least once in the last 12 months.
- The proportion men and women who visit heritage sites has significantly increased since 2005/06. In the year ending September 2015, 73.5 per cent of men had visited a heritage site compared with 70.0 per cent in 2005/06. Over the same period, 71.7 per cent of women visited heritage sites, compared with 69.7 per cent in 2005/06.
- Between 2005/06 and the year ending September 2015, there were also significant increases in the proportion of adults visiting heritage sites amongst adults in the lower socio economic group (from 57.1 per cent to 60.5 per cent), non-working adults (from 61.3 per cent to 65.9 per cent) and adults with a long-standing illness or disability (from 63.9 per cent to 67.6 per cent) and without a long-standing illness (from 72.3 per cent to 74.7 per cent).
- In the year ending September 2015, 56.1 per cent of adults belonging to black and minority ethnic (BME) groups had visited a heritage site at least once in the past 12 months. Although this is an increase of 5.5 percentage points since 2005/06, it is not a statistically significant increase. In contrast, the proportion of adults belonging to the white ethnic group who visited a heritage site has increased from 71.9 per cent in 2005/06 to 74.7 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.

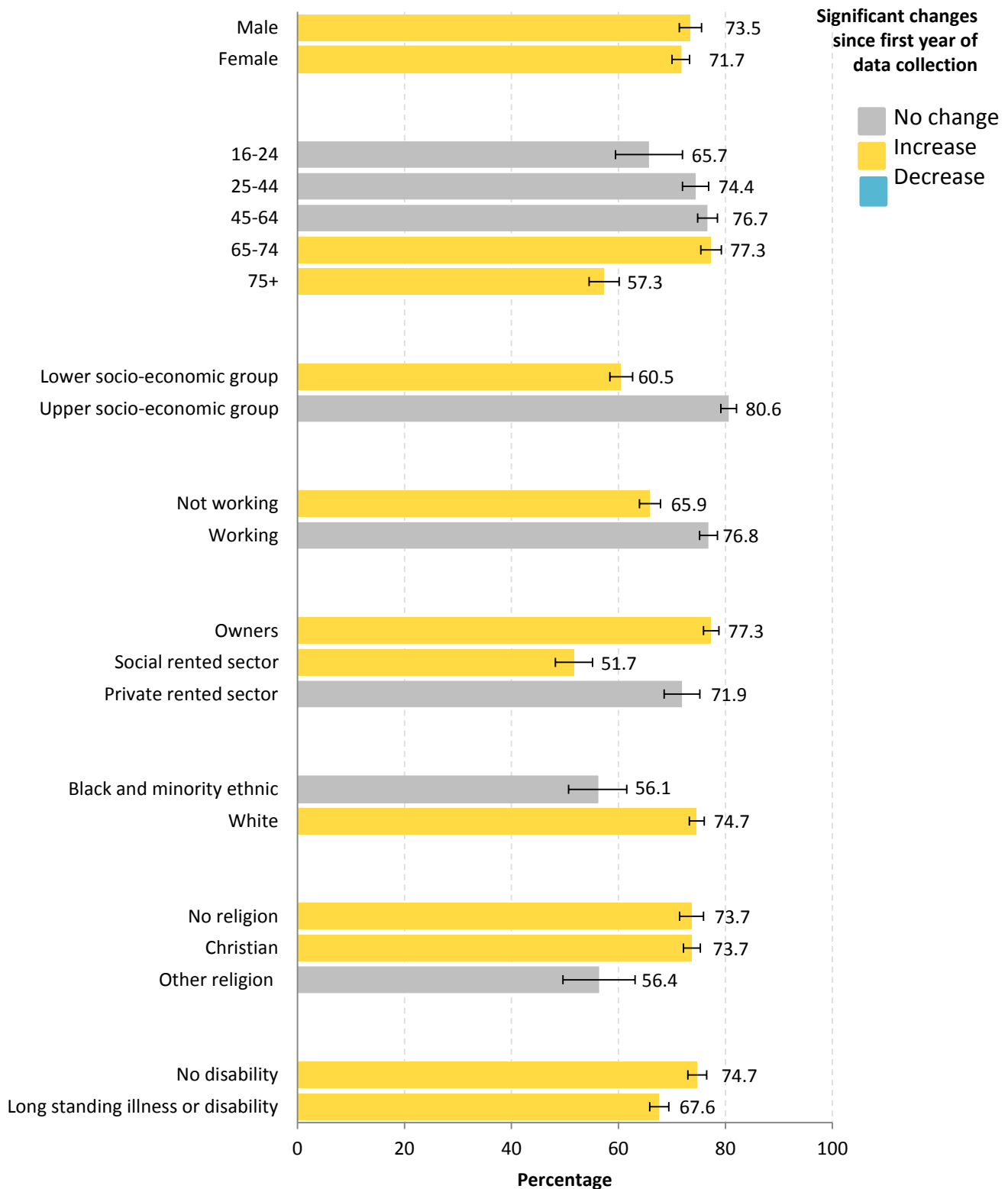
**Figure 2.3: Black and minority ethnic participation in the last year compared to the white group, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.7 and +/-7.5 from 2005/06 onwards.

Figure 2.4: Heritage participation by demographics, 2015/16, Q2



**Notes:**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.4 and +/-6.7.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06.



## Digital engagement

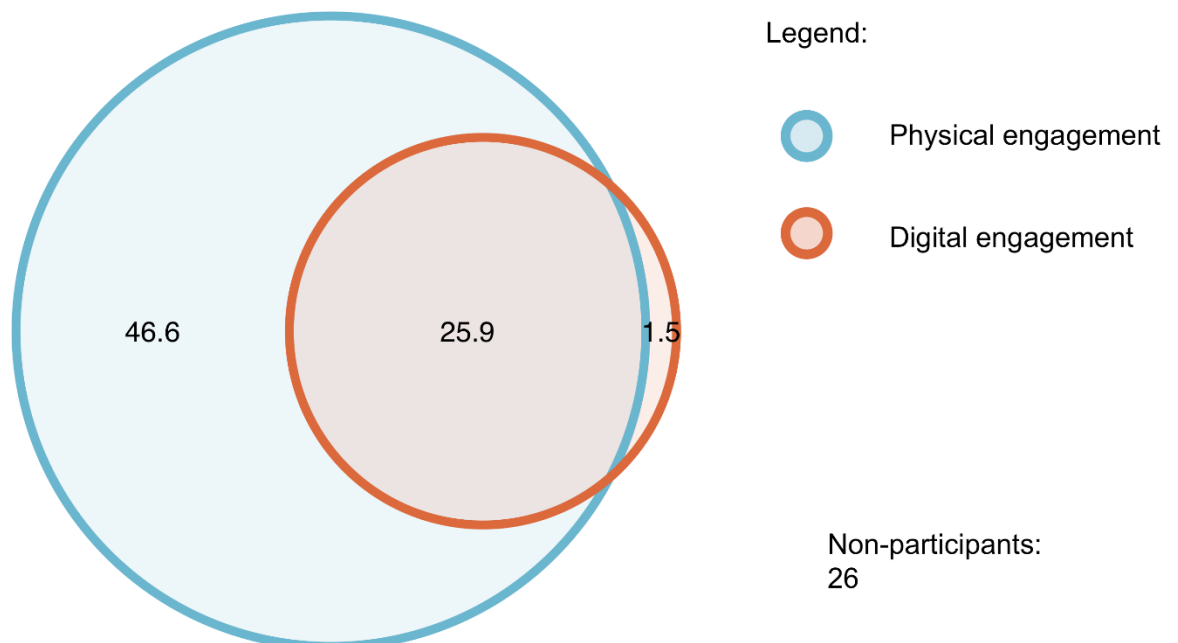
In the year to September 2015, 27.4 per cent of adults had visited a heritage website, a similar proportion to 2013/14 but a significant increase from 2005/06 (18.3%).

The Taking Part Survey added new questions on heritage websites from July 2011. Between October 2014 and September 2015, of the people who visited a heritage website:

- Almost three in five used a heritage website to plan how to get to a historic site (58.8%), a similar rate to 2011/12.
- Almost half used a heritage website to learn about history or the historic environment (a significant decrease since 2011/12, from 51.5 per cent to 48.1 per cent, but a similar rate to 2012/13 and 2013/14).
- Just over a quarter used a heritage website to buy tickets to visit a historic site (27.4%), a similar rate to 2011/12 (24.6%) but a significant increase from 2012/13 (24.3%).
- There has been a significant decrease in the proportion who visited to take a virtual tour of a historical site, from 26.9 per cent in 2011/12 to 14.8 per cent.

The majority of adults who had participated digitally had also engaged physically by visiting a heritage site at least once in the 12 months prior to questioning (Figure 2.5). Overall, when considering physical visits to heritage sites **and** digital visits to a heritage website, 74.0 per cent of adults had engaged with heritage in some way between October 2014 and September 2015.

**Figure 2.5: Proportion of adults engaging in heritage either through physical attendance or digital participation, 2015/16 Q2**



Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).

## Chapter 3: Museums and galleries

This chapter examines museum and gallery attendance in the last 12 months, by a range of area-level and socio-demographic breakdowns. It also provides details on the ways that people digitally engage with museums and galleries. Digital engagement with museums and galleries is defined as using websites to look at items from a collection, find out about a particular subject, take a virtual tour of a museum or gallery or to view or download an event or exhibition.

The Department also publishes [monthly museum and gallery visits figures](#)<sup>12</sup> for the sponsored museums. These figures are from the perspective of individual museums and galleries; one person may visit a number of museums and galleries, or visit one museum or gallery more than once, and therefore be counted more than once. Data also includes visits from overseas and countries in the UK other than England. Taking Part, on the other hand, is a household survey in England and measures engagement from the view point of the individual. Despite these differences the overall trend has been similar, showing an upward trend since 2005/06.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

DCMS directly sponsors 15 [museums and galleries](#), of which 13 were founded by Act of Parliament and are defined as “National Museums”. All DCMS sponsored institutions receive Grant-in-Aid funding from DCMS. Details of how much funding individual museums will receive are published [in an annual report](#). Providing free admission (since 2001) to the permanent collections remains a condition of the national museums and galleries’ Grant-in-Aid funding. DCMS’ stewardship of sponsored museums is at arm’s length.

DCMS also sponsors Arts Council England, the national body which supports museums and galleries in England. It distributes direct government funding, as well as providing advice and guidance, and running programs to raise standards in regional museums and galleries with permanent collections. Arts Council England's updated [strategy](#) covers their main programs, which include:

- Running the [Major Partner Museums Scheme](#), the Museum development grants program and the Museums strategic funding programs, which provide funding and support to regional museums.
- Running 2 schemes which help regional museums to improve and develop:
  - The [Accreditation Scheme](#), which allows museums to receive official accreditation if they meet a set of standards covering collection management to visitor experience;
  - The [Designation Scheme](#), which identifies and recognizes collections of national or international importance in regional museums.

DCMS and the [Wolfson Foundation](#) fund the [DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund](#), which supports projects in English museums and galleries that improve the quality of displays, and collection interpretation, public spaces, and access and facilities for disabled visitors. Many other public, private and voluntary organisations make up the funding landscape that supports museums and galleries in this country. DCMS and Arts Council England work with a range of such partner organisations to advocate for museums and galleries, to highlight the benefits they bring to the nation, and to inspire greater participation. Further details of the department’s role in relation to museums and galleries are available on our [website](#).

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/museums-and-galleries-monthly-visits>



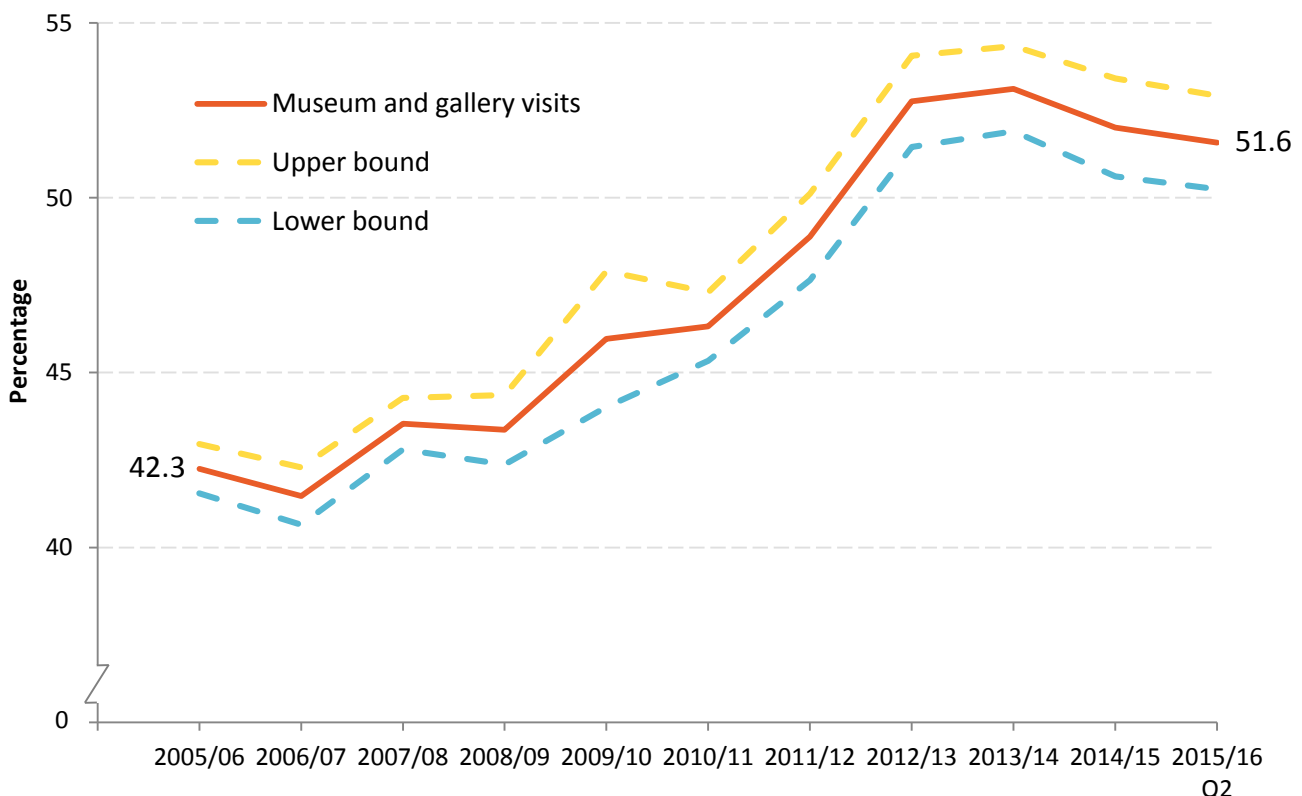
## Key findings

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, over half of adults (51.6%) had visited a museum or gallery in the last year. This proportion has remained constant since 2012/13, but is significantly higher than in any survey year between 2005/06 and 2011/12. This increase was seen across all English regions.
- There have been significant changes in the proportion of adults attending a museum or gallery:
  - 1-2 times a year: 30.0 per cent of adults said they had visited museums or galleries, a significant increase from 25.6 per cent in 2005/06.
  - 3-4 times a year: 18.0 per cent had visited 3-4 times a year, a significant increase from 13.2 per cent in 2005/06.

## Overall attendance at museums and galleries

Between October 2014 and September 2015, 51.6 per cent of adults visited a museum or gallery, an increase in attendance from 2005/06 (42.3%) but a similar proportion to in 2013/14 and 2014/15 (Figure 3.1). The vast majority of visits were made in people's free time (98.1%), with a small proportion attending for paid work or for academic study (2.7 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively<sup>13</sup>).

**Figure 3.1: Proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery in the last year, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.7 and +/-1.9 from 2005/06 onwards.
- (2) The upper and lower bounds show the 95% confidence interval.

<sup>13</sup> Percentages do not total to 100% as some people may have visited a museum or gallery for more than one reason. Visits to museum and galleries for voluntary work have also not been included.



## Engagement by characteristics of the area

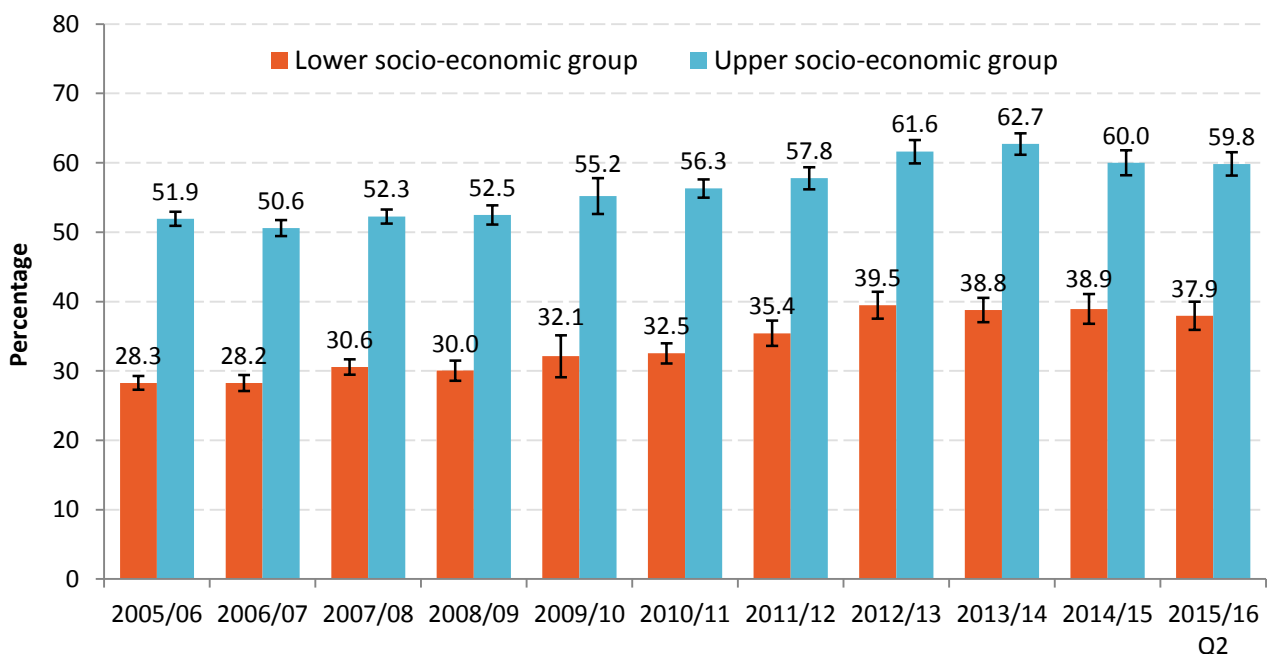
Between October 2014 and September 2015, 58.9 per cent of those from London had visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months. This was a significantly higher proportion than in all other regions of England, except for the South East, where 55.4 per cent had visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months, and the North West (53.4%). Attendance was lowest in the West Midlands, where only 42.7 per cent of adults had visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months. Since 2005/06, the proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery increased significantly in all English regions (Figure 3.3).

## Attendance by demographics

Attendance has significantly increased since 2005/06 across all demographics (Figure 3.4). Almost three in five adults (59.8%) in the upper socio-economic group<sup>14</sup> visited a museum or gallery in the last year, a significantly higher proportion than the lower socio-economic group (37.9%) (Figure 3.2). There was also a significant difference between those adults who were working (55.2%) and those adults who were not working (46.0%).

In the year to September 2015, over half of respondents aged between 25 and 44 years (53.5%), 45 and 64 years (55.6%) and 65 and 74 years old (55.7%) had visited a museum or gallery in the 12 months prior to interview. Those aged 75 and above had a significantly lower attendance rate than any other age group, with just over one third of adults in this age range having visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months (33.6%).

**Figure 3.2: Proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery in the last year, by NS-SEC<sup>14</sup> classification, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**

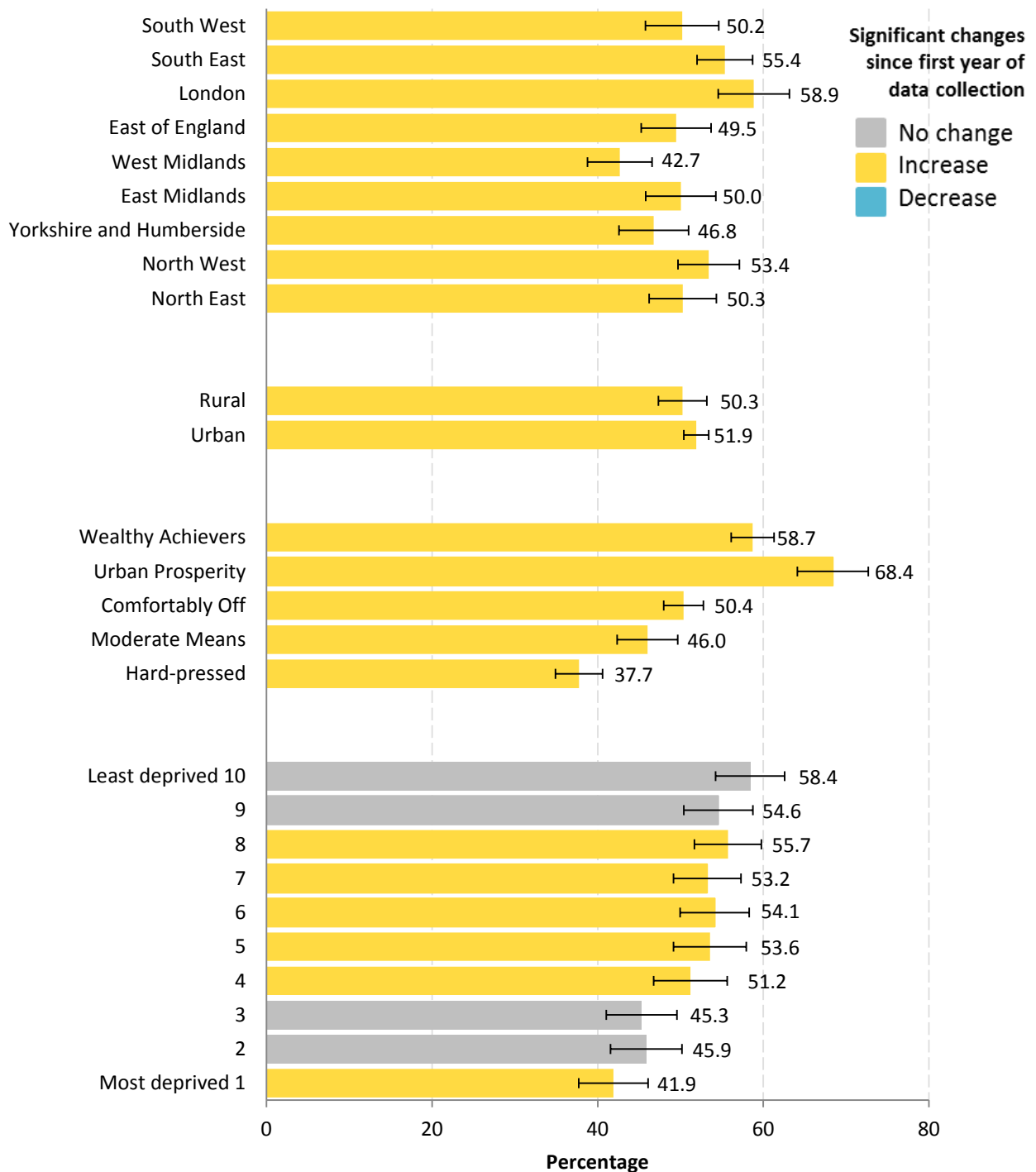


### Notes

(1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.0 and +/-3.0 from 2005/06 onwards.

<sup>14</sup> Definitions of socio-economic groups and their classifications are available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010--user-manual/index.html>

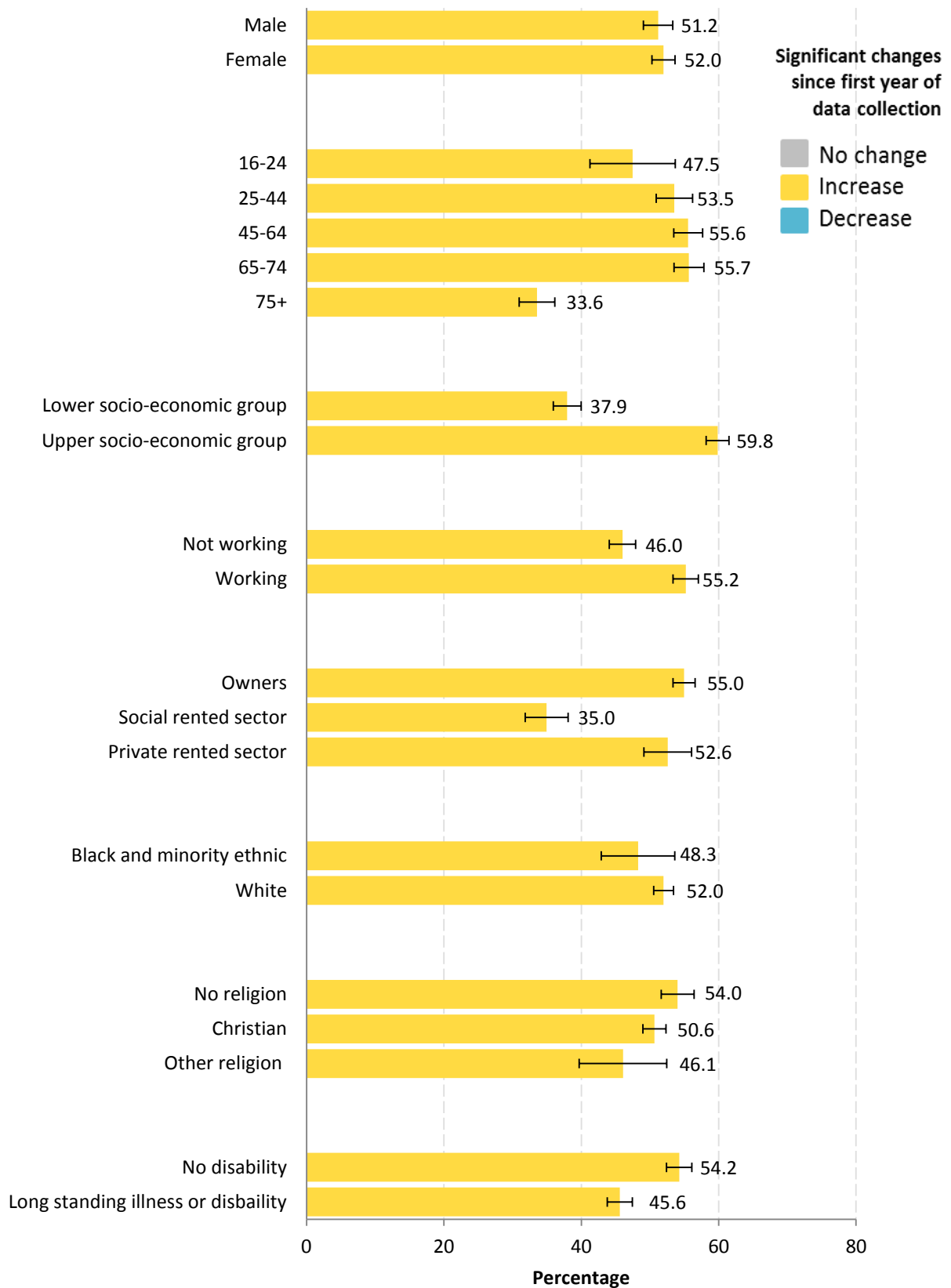


**Figure 3.3: Museum or gallery participation by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>15</sup> and ACORN category, 2015/16 Q2****Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.5 and +/-4.4.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>12</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

<sup>15</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).

Figure 3.4: Museum or gallery participation by demographics, 2015/16 Q2



**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.4 and +/-6.2
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06.



## Digital engagement

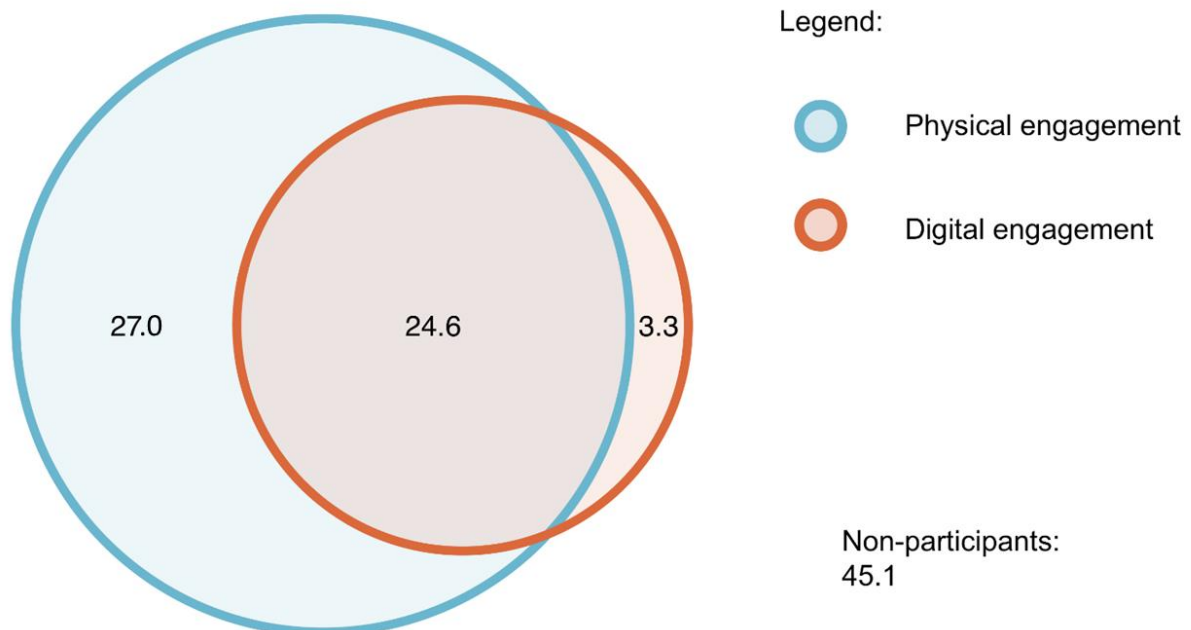
27.9 per cent of adults had visited a museum or gallery website between October 2014 and September 2015. Though this was a significant increase on 2011/12 (26.2%) and the same proportion to 2014/15, it was a significant decrease on the 2012/13 peak of 31.3 per cent.

Between 2011/12 and the latest results, of those who had visited a museum or gallery website, there was:

- A significant increase in the proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery website to find out about or order tickets for an exhibition or event (from 58.1 per cent to 64.5 per cent),
- A significant decrease in the proportion of adults who had taken a virtual tour (from 16.4 per cent to 13.1 per cent),
- A significant decrease in the proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery website to view or download an event or exhibition (from 13.5 per cent to 10.6 per cent),
- A significant decrease in the proportion of adults who had visited a museum or gallery website to find out about a particular subject (from 47.5 per cent to 41.1 per cent).

The majority of adults who had participated digitally had also engaged physically by visiting a museum or gallery at least once in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (Figure 3.5). Overall, when considering physical visits to museums or galleries **and** digital visits to an associated website, 54.9 per cent of adults had engaged in some way between October 2014 and September 2015.

**Figure 3.5: Proportion of adults engaging in museums or galleries either through physical attendance or digital participation, 2015/16 Q2**



Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).

# Chapter 4: Libraries

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This chapter examines public library engagement, as measured by attendance in the last 12 months, by a range of area-level and socio-demographic breakdowns (see Annex C for a definition of public library engagement). Details on the ways that people digitally engage with library services are also given. Digital engagement with libraries is defined as completing a transaction (e.g. reserving or renewing items or paying a fine), searching and viewing online information or making an enquiry.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (1964 Act) requires all local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. Public libraries in England are funded and run by 151 local authorities and it is therefore for individual local authorities to determine how their funds are used to finance their activities, including how best to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service. In considering how best to deliver this statutory duty, each local authority is responsible for determining the local needs and to deliver a modern and efficient library service that meets the requirements of their communities within available resources. Local authorities therefore decide how to allocate funding to public libraries in the light of their statutory duties and local priorities, and in 2014-15 the total net expenditure for authorities in England on the public library service was £713.9 million.

The 1964 Act imposes a duty on the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service and to secure discharge of the statutory duties of local authorities as well as providing certain powers to take action where a local authority is in breach of its own duty.

The Government is responsible for national library policy and works closely with the development agency for libraries, Arts Council England. Further information about the Arts Council's [strategy](#) and support for public libraries is available on [their website](#).

Further details of the department's role in relation to libraries are available on our [website](#).

## Key findings

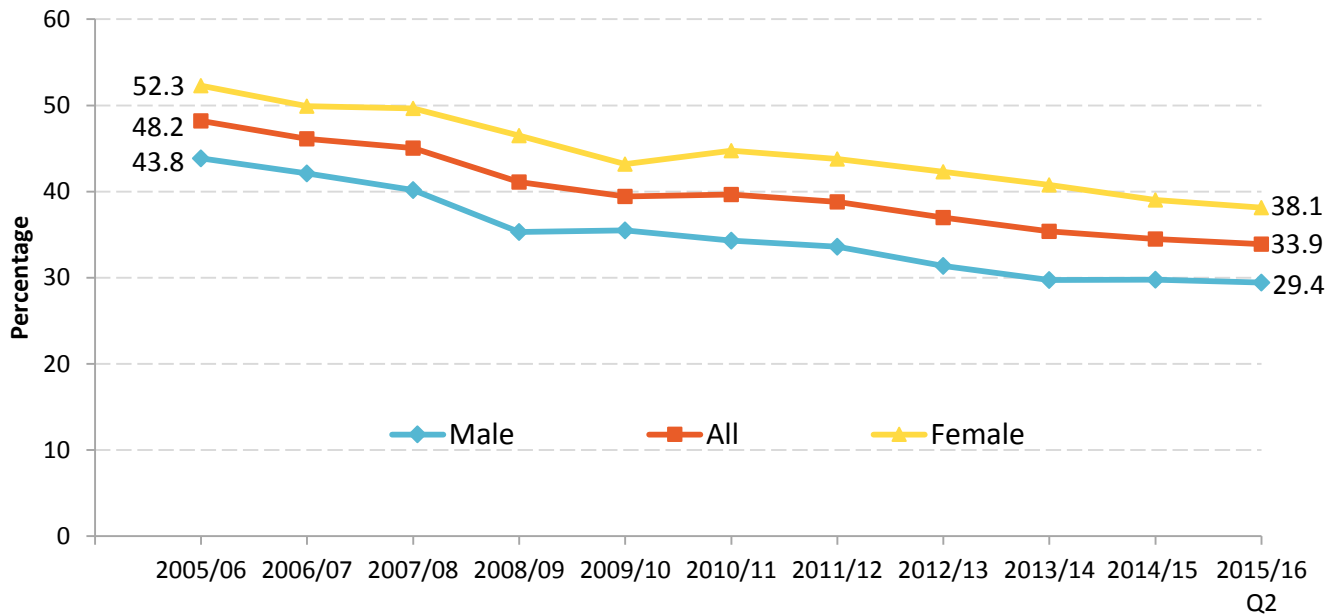
- In the year ending September 2015, 33.9 per cent of adults had used a library in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. This is a significant decrease from 48.2 per cent in 2005/06, but of a similar proportion to 2013/14.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of library visits across all English regions since 2005/06. Over the same period, the proportion of adults who visited the library has significantly decreased in both urban and rural areas and across all ACORN groups.
- For the first time since data collection began (2005/06), there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who visited a library in the 12 months prior to interview across all demographics groups. These include: age; sex; employment status; and ethnicity.



## Library visits

In the year to September 2015, 33.9 per cent of adults reported using a library service in the last 12 months, a significant decrease from 48.2 per cent in 2005/06.

**Figure 4.1: Proportion of adults who had visited a library in the last year by gender, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



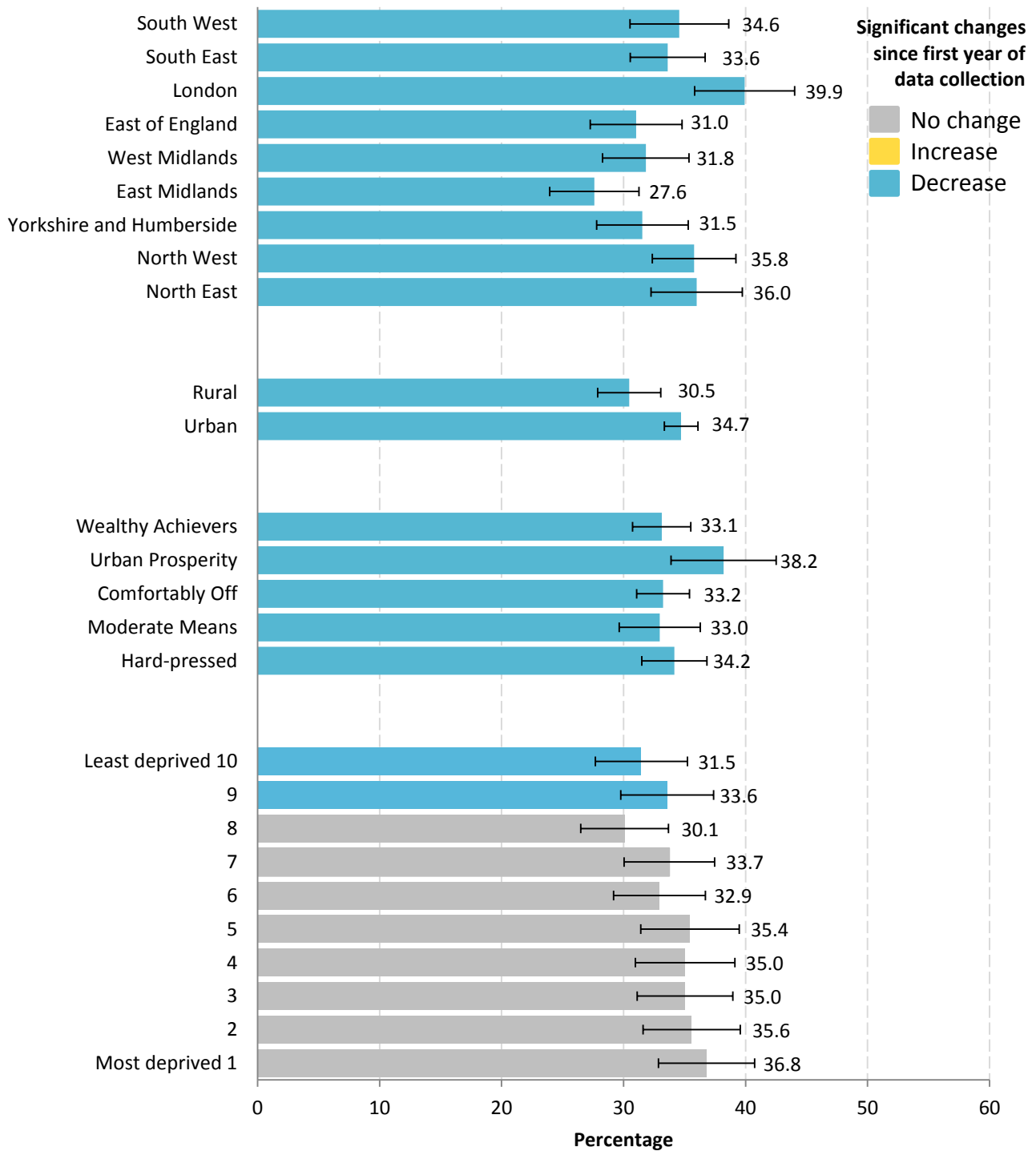
**Notes:**

(1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.7 and +/-2.5 from 2005/06 onwards.

## Visits by characteristics of the area

- The proportion of adults visiting a public library in the least deprived areas (9 and 10) has significantly declined since 2009/10 (when this data were first collected). In the year ending September 2015, 31.5 per cent of adults in the least deprived area visited a public library compared with 46.3 per cent in 2009/10.
- There has been a significant decline in the proportion of adults visiting a public library across all English regions compared with 2005/06. For example, in the East of England, 31.0 per cent of adults visited a public library between October 2014 and September 2015 compared with 50.5 per cent in 2005/06, and in West Midlands, 31.8 per cent of adults visited a public library compared with 47.6 per cent in 2005/06.
- Both rural and urban areas have seen a significant decline in the proportion of adults visiting a public library. In the year ending September 2015, 34.7 per cent of adults in urban areas visited a public library in the 12 months prior to the interview compared with 48.5 per cent in 2005/06. Over the same period of time, 30.5 per cent of adults visited a public library in rural areas compared with 47.1 per cent in 2005/06.
- Across all ACORN groups, there has been a significant decline in the proportion of adults who visited a public library. For example, the proportion of adults who visited a library from the wealthy achievers group fell from 50.9 per cent in 2005/06 to 33.1 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015. Over the same period, the proportion of adults who visited a library from the moderate means group fell from 45.3 per cent to 33.0 per cent.

Figure 4.3: Library visits by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>16</sup> and ACORN category; 2015/16 Q2



**Notes:**

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.4 and +/-4.3.
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>13</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

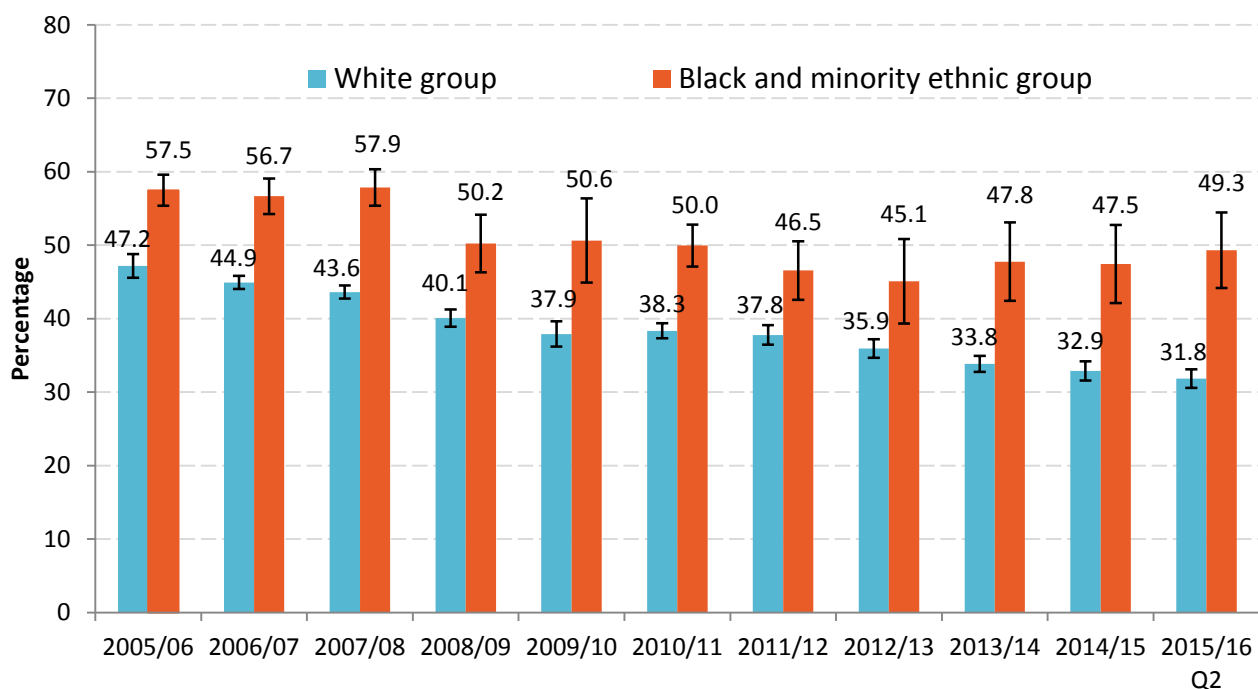
<sup>16</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).



## Visits by demographics

- For the first time since data collection began (2005/06), there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who visited a library in the 12 months prior to interview across all demographics groups. These include: age; sex; employment status; and ethnicity.
- Across all adult age groups, 16 to 24 year olds had the largest significant decrease in the proportion of adults who visited the library, from 51.0 per cent in 2005/06 to 25.2 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.
- Significantly more women visited a library than men. In the year ending September 2015, 38.1 per cent of women had visited a library 12 months prior to the interview compared with 29.4 per cent of men. However, both sexes have seen a significant decline in library visits since 2005/06, when 43.8 of men and 52.3 per cent of women visited a library.
- Significantly more non-working adults visited a library compared with adults who are working. In the year ending September 2015, 37.8 per cent of non-working adults visited a library compared with 31.3 per cent of adults who are working. However, both groups have had a significant decline in library visits since 2005/06.
- A higher proportion of adults from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups visited a library than adults from the white group (49.3 per cent compared with 31.8 per cent). There has been a significant decline in library visits by adults in both groups since 2005/06, as shown in Figure 4.2. The gap between ethnic groups appears to be increasing: in 2005/06 there was a difference of 10.3 percentage points between the two groups; in the latest year there was a difference of 17.5 percentage points.

**Figure 4.2: Proportion of adults who had attended a library in the last year by ethnicity, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**

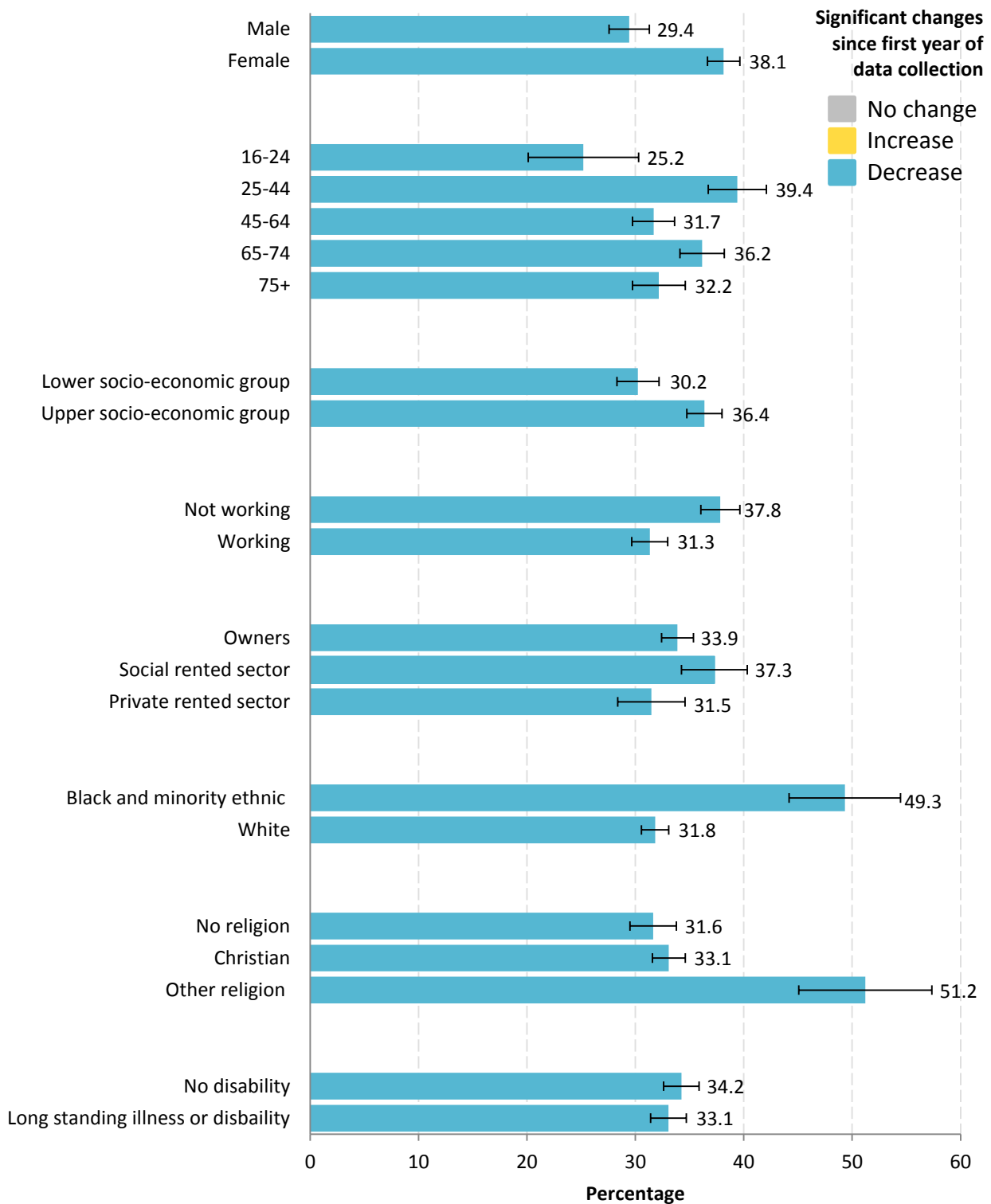


### Notes

(1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.9 and +/-5.7 from 2005/06 onwards.



Figure 4.4: Library visits by demographics, 2015/16 Q2



**Notes**

(1) Confidence intervals range between +/-1.3 and +/-6.1.



## Digital engagement

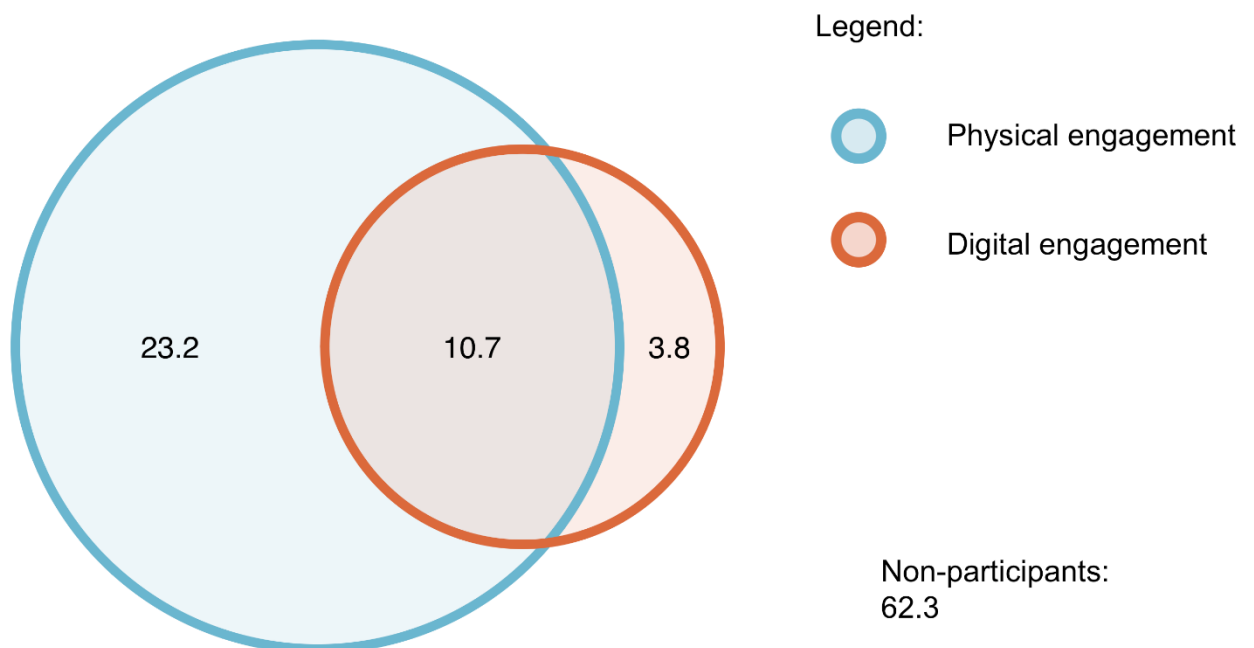
Between October 2014 and September 2015, 14.5 per cent of adults had visited a library website in the 12 months prior to being interviewed, a significant increase from 8.9 per cent in 2005/06.

Of those who had visited a library website:

- 68.8 per cent had searched and viewed online information or made an enquiry, a similar proportion to 2013/14 but a significant decrease from 75.5 per cent in 2006/07 (when this question was first asked).
- 39.7 per cent had completed a transaction e.g. reserved or renewed items or paid a fine, a significant increase from 28.1 per cent in 2006/07, but a similar proportion to 2013/14 and 2012/13.

The majority of adults who had visited a library website had also engaged physically by visiting a library at least once in the 12 months prior to being interviewed (Figure 4.5). Overall, when considering physical visits to a library **and** digital visits to a library website, 37.7 per cent of adults had engaged with the library sector in some way between October 2014 and September 2015.

**Figure 4.5: Proportion of adults engaging in libraries either through physical attendance or digital participation, 2015/16 Q2**



Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).

# Chapter 5: Archives

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This chapter examines attendance at archives in the 12 months prior to interview by a range of area-level and socio-demographic breakdowns (see Annex C for a definition of attendance at an archive or record office). Details on the way that people digitally engage with archives are also given. Digital engagement with archives is defined as completing a transaction, viewing digitized documents online or searching a catalogue.

## Key findings

- The proportion of adults who had visited an archive (in their own time or for voluntary work) was 3.3 per cent, a significant decrease from the 2005/06 level (5.9%).
- Using the wider measure, which includes paid work visits and visits for academic study, there has also been a decrease from 5.1 percent in 2008/09, when the data were first collected, to 4.3 per cent in the latest results.
- In the year to September 2015, over half of adults who visited an archive (50.8%) did so just once in the last 12 months.
- The 65-74 year old age group had a significantly higher proportion of archive visits in the last 12 months (6.4%) than all other age groups. The 16-24 year olds also had a significantly lower proportion of archive visits (1.1%) than adults aged 45-64 (3.9%) and aged 75 and above (3.5%).

## Overall participation in archives

In the latest period, 3.3 per cent of adults had visited an archive in the last year in their own time or as part of voluntary work. This was significantly lower than in 2005/06 (5.9%). Using the wider measure, including paid work visits and academic study visits, the proportion in the latest period was 4.3 per cent of all adults, a significant decrease since 2008/09 when the data were first collected (5.1%). The trend over time, shown in Figure 5.1, was a downward one for both measures.

Three quarters of all archive visits (75.0%) were in visitors' own time, followed by 14.3 per cent visiting for paid work, 11.6 per cent for academic study, and 3.8 per cent as part of voluntary work<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Percentages will not total to 100% as some people may have visited an archive for more than one reason.



**Figure 5.1: Percentage of adults who had visited an archive or records office in the last year, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.3 and +/-0.8 from 2005/06 onwards.
- (2) Some archive questions were not asked prior to the 2008/09 survey.

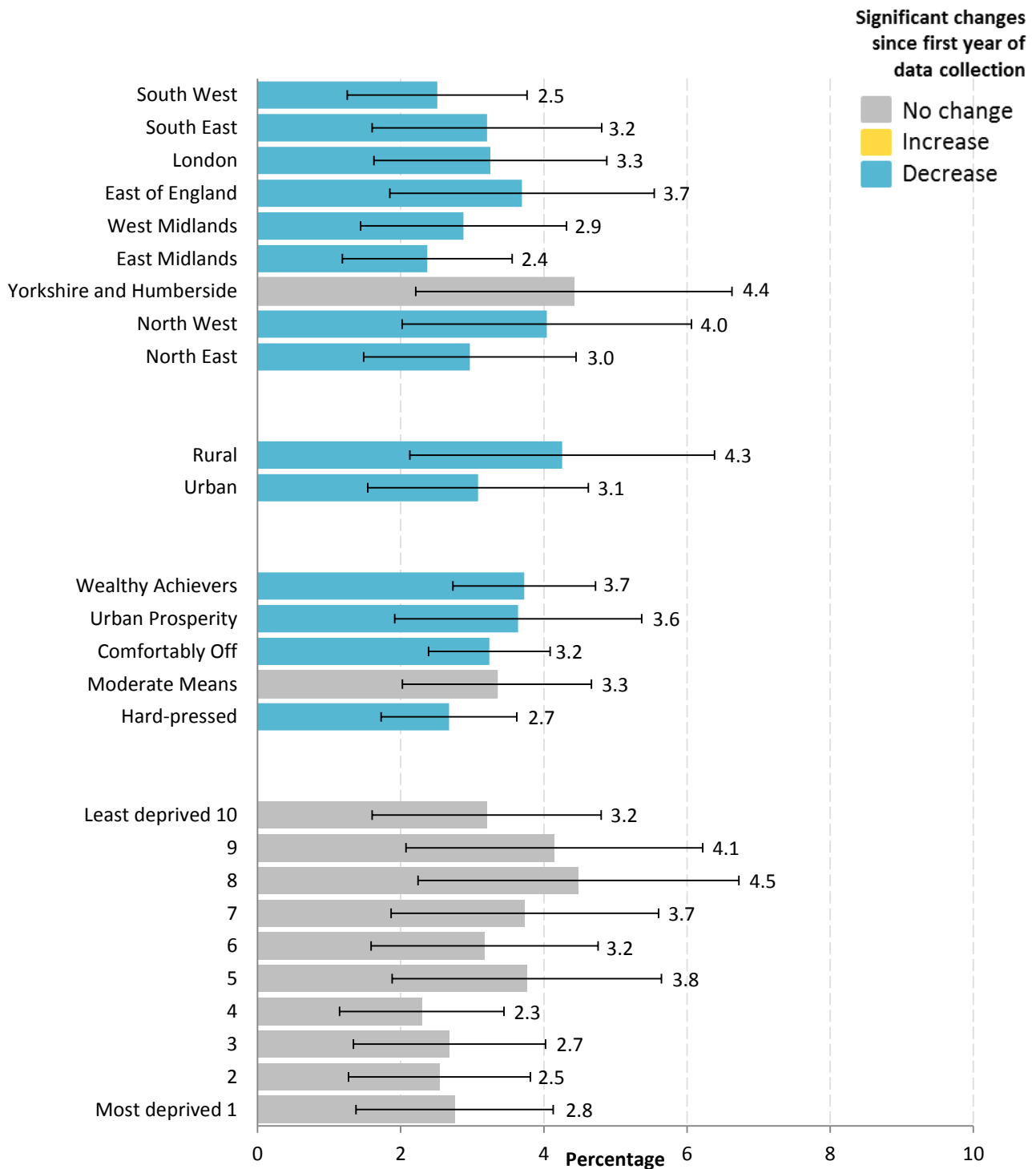
There was some variation in archive attendance between different demographic groups. Between October 2014 and September 2015:

- Adults from upper socio-economic groups had a significantly higher attendance rate (4.1%) than those in lower socio-economic groups (2.3%).
- The proportion of 65-74 year olds that had visited an archive in the last 12 months (6.4%) was significantly higher than for adults in all other age groups.
- The proportion of 16-24 year olds that had visited an archive in the last 12 months (1.1%) was significantly lower than for adults aged 45-64 (3.9%), 65-74 (6.4%) and aged 75 and above (3.5%).
- A higher proportion of people who were not working visited an archive (4.2%) than those who were working (2.7%).

There was no significant difference between the proportions of men (3.6%) and women (3.0%) who had visited an archive or record office and also no significant difference in attendance between people with a disability (3.6%) and people without a disability (3.2%).

Comparing the latest figures to 2005/06, when the data were first collected, there has been a significant decrease in archive and record office attendance by adults across all English regions, except for in Yorkshire and Humberside (Figure 5.2). There has also been a significant decrease in attendance for almost every demographic variable, with the exception of the 65-74 and the 75 and above age groups, the black and minority ethnic group and those who identified themselves as 'other religion'.

**Figure 5.2: Archive or record office participation by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>18</sup> and ACORN category, 2015/16 Q2**



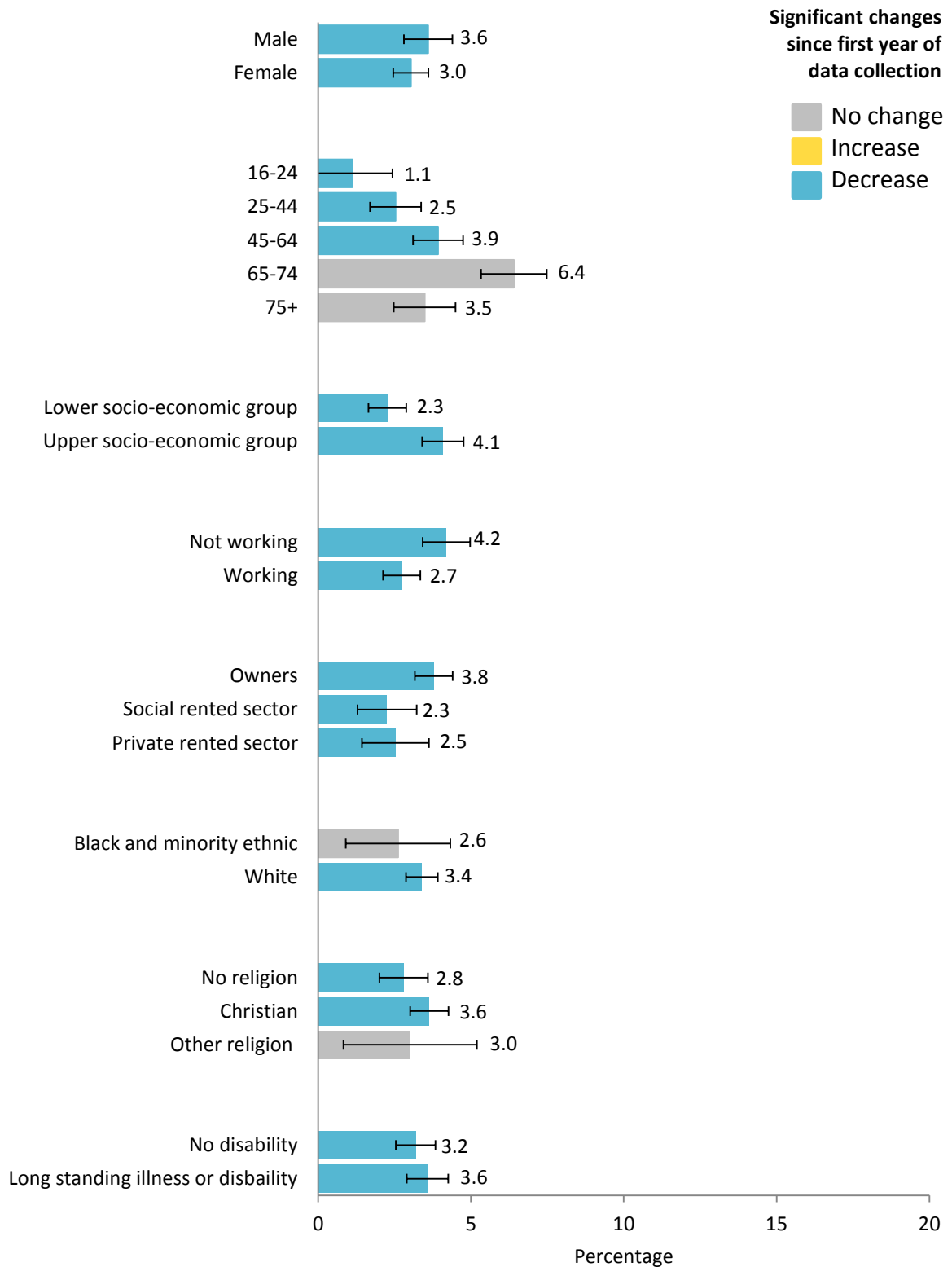
**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.8 and +/-2.2
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>5</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

<sup>18</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).



Figure 5.3: Archive or record office participation by demographics, 2015/16 Q2

**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.6 and +/-2.2
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06.

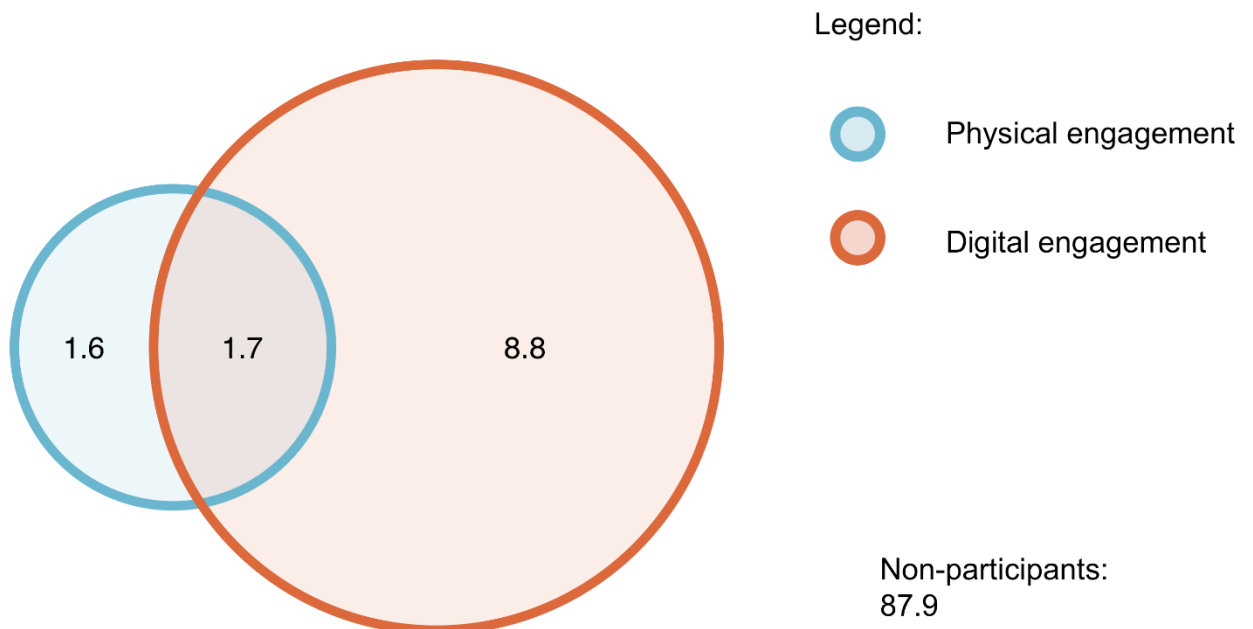
## Digital engagement

In contrast to all other sectors in this report, a higher proportion of adults visited an archive or records office online than in person. Between October 2014 and September 2015, 10.5 per cent of adults had visited an archive or records office website in the last 12 months, a similar proportion to 2013/14 but a significant decrease from a 2012/13 peak of 13.5 per cent.

Of those who had visited an archive or records office website, 70.3 per cent had done so to view digitised documents, 30.3 per cent of adults had searched a catalogue, 19.1 per cent of adults had found information out about the archive (e.g. opening hours) and 16.3 per cent had completed a transaction, for example, to purchase records.

Overall, when considering physical visits to an archive or record office **and** digital visits to an archive or record office website, 12.1 per cent of adults had engaged with the sector in some way between October 2014 and September 2015 (Figure 5.3).

**Figure 5.3: Proportion of adults engaging in the archives either through physical attendance or digital participation, 2015/16 Q2**



Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).



# Chapter 6: Volunteering and charitable giving

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Taking Part asks whether respondents have participated in voluntary work in the last 12 months and whether this relates to one of the DCMS sectors (sport, art, heritage, museum and galleries, libraries and archives). The survey also includes a range of questions on social capital and cohesion, as well as charitable donations and whether these relate to DCMS sectors. Annex C provides a definition for participation in voluntary work.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

The Government has a policy to encourage charitable giving across society as a whole, to make it easier to give and provide better support to organisations that facilitate giving, whether through digital technology or simplification of the tax system.

For example:

- To encourage more private giving through initiatives such as ACE's new £17.5m Catalyst: Evolve programme announced in October and the last administration's £100 million [Catalyst](#) match funding programme, which helped cultural organisations build endowments and increase their fundraising capacity through skills development.
- Tax incentives aimed at boosting [legacy giving](#) to cultural bodies and other charities
- Establishing the first ever tax incentive policy to encourage lifetime giving of works of art to public collections through the [Cultural Gifts Scheme](#).

## Key findings

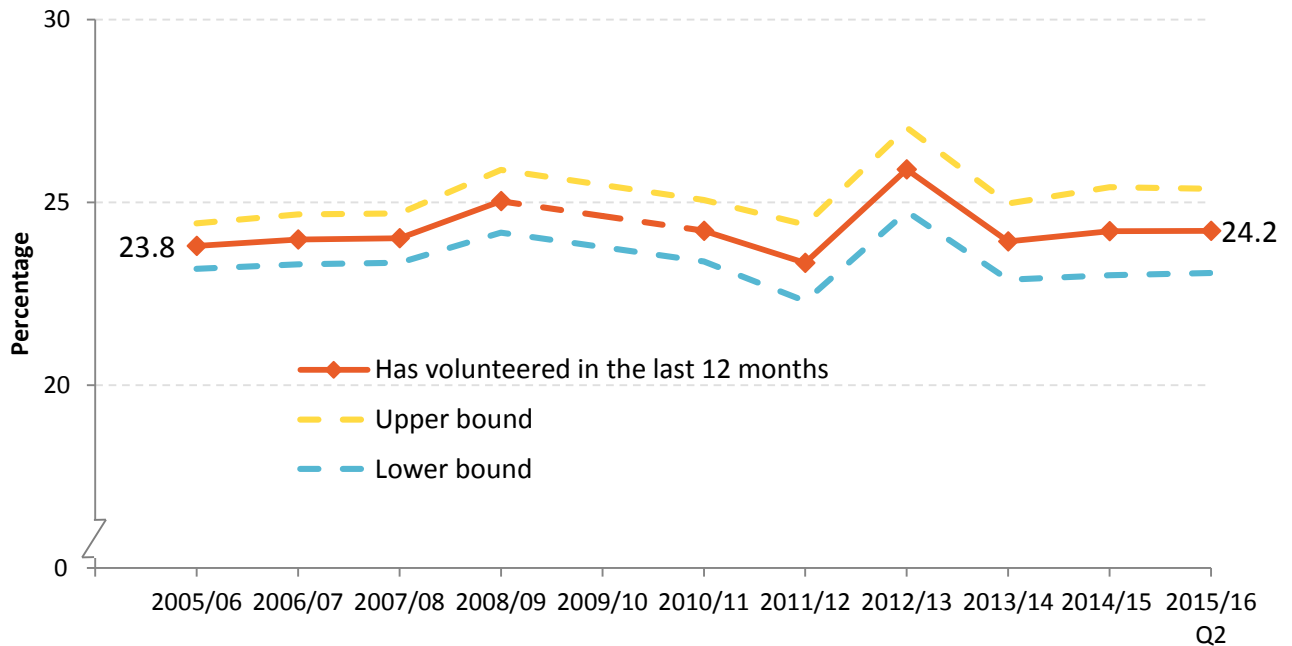
- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 24.2 per cent of adults had volunteered in the last 12 months, a similar rate to 2005/06. 8.1 per cent of all adults had volunteered in a DCMS sector (arts, museums or galleries, heritage, libraries, archives, sport), a significant increase since 2005/06 (7.0%) and a slight but significant decrease on the 2012/13 peak (9.3%).
- In the year to September 2015, 86.4 per cent of adults had reported that they had donated money in the 12 months prior to interview, a significant decrease since 2010/11 (88.4%) when the data were first collected. 29.4 per cent of adults had donated to a DCMS sector, a significant decrease from 33.0 per cent in 2010/11.



## Volunteering

Almost a quarter of adults (24.2%) reported that they had taken part in voluntary activities in the last 12 months, a similar proportion to 2005/06 (Figure 6.1). Amongst those who volunteered, the most common thing to have done was to “Offer practical help” (33.2 per cent of volunteers had done this).

**Figure 6.1: Percentage of adults who had volunteered in the last 12 months, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.6 and +/-1.2 from 2005/06 onwards.
- (2) No data are available for 2009/10.
- (3) The upper and lower bounds show the 95% confidence interval.

The proportion of all adults that had volunteered in a DCMS sector in the last 12 months was 8.1 per cent, a significant increase from 7.0 per cent in 2005/06, the first year of data collection, but significantly lower than the peak of 9.3 per cent in 2012/13. This peak in 2012/13 may have been influenced by London hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

20.8 per cent of those who had volunteered had done so in connection with the sport sector, a greater rate than any other DCMS sector. There has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults volunteering in the heritage sector (from 4.9 per cent in 2005/06 to 6.5 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015), but no other significant changes in the proportion of adults volunteering in DCMS sectors since 2005/06.

Apart from in the archives sector, adults who had actually participated in a particular DCMS sectors had higher volunteering rates within those sectors than adults who had not actually participated. For example, of adults who had participated in sport, 27.9 per cent of them had also volunteered in sport; however, of adults who had not participated in sport themselves, 12.1 per cent had volunteered in the sports sector.

Respondents who volunteered in the heritage sector, on average did so for 8 hours, 3 minutes during the four weeks prior to being interviewed. For those who volunteered in the arts sector, the average time spent volunteering was 11 hours, 18 minutes. The corresponding average volunteering time for the sport sector was 8 hours, 19 minutes, for libraries was 5 hours, 54 minutes and for the museum and gallery sector was 6 hours, 28 minutes.



## Engagement by characteristics of the area

Between October 2014 and September 2015 the proportion of adults from urban areas who had volunteered in the last 12 months (23.0%) was of a similar rate to the 2005/06 period. However, the proportion of urban respondents who had volunteered was significantly lower than it was for rural respondents (29.4%) over the same time period.

Since 2005/06, there has been a significant increase in the proportions of adults who had volunteered in the previous 12 months from the North West (from 19.0 per cent to 24.2 per cent). There has been no change since 2005/06 in any other England regions.

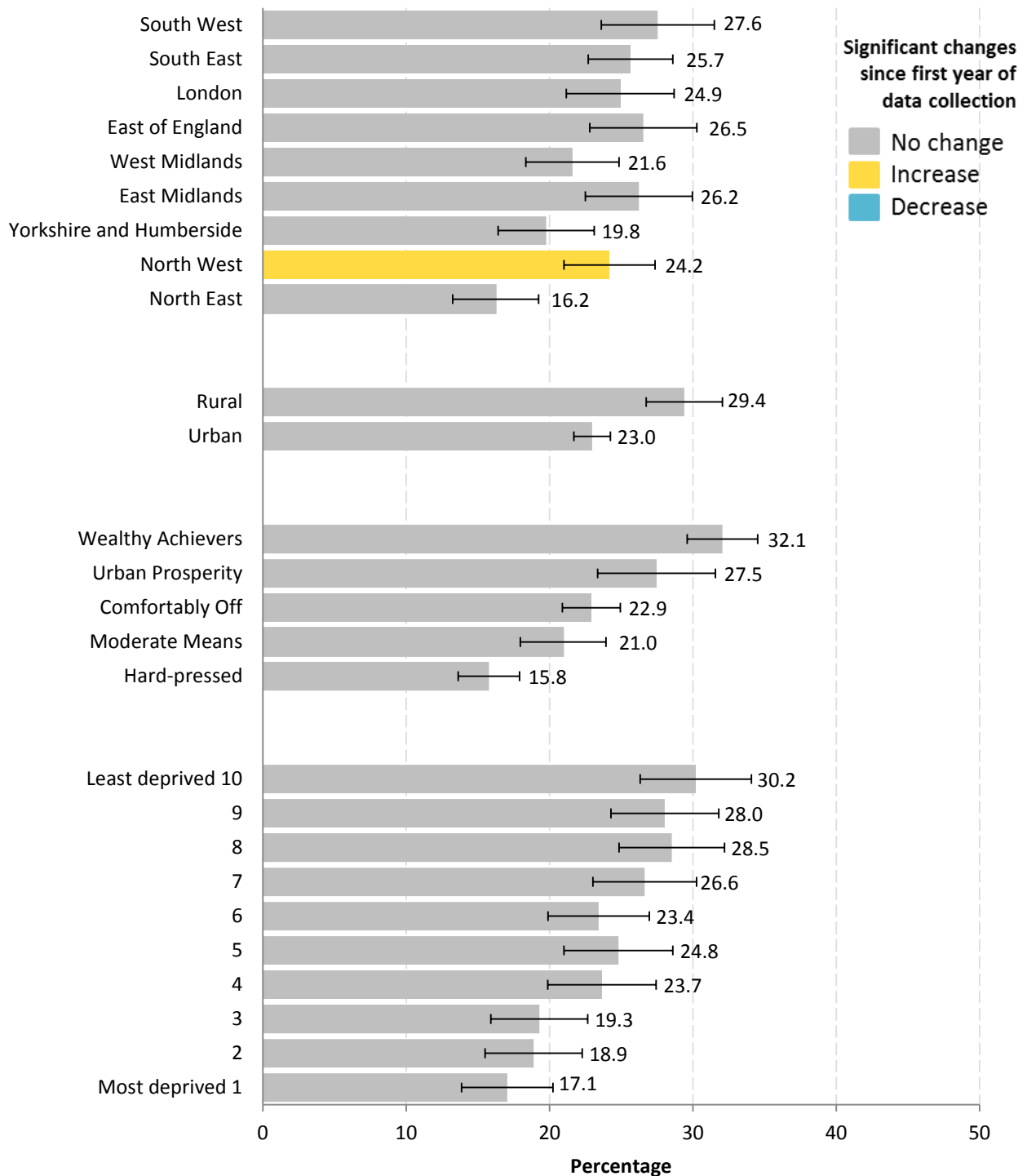
## Engagement by demographics

In the year to September 2015 there was a significant difference between the proportion of men and women who had volunteered in the last 12 months (22.8 per cent for men and 25.5 per cent for women) (Figure 6.3). The proportion of men that had volunteered in the sport sector was more than double the proportion of women (29.9 per cent for men and 13.6 per cent for women). This has been the case in past survey years too. Over the same period, of adults who volunteered, significantly more women (1.9%) volunteered in the libraries than men (0.6%) and significantly more men (7.2%) volunteered in the heritage sector than women (4.0%). In all other DCMS sectors there was no significant difference in the proportion of men and women who had volunteered.

There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of 45-64 year olds volunteering from 25.8 per cent in 2005/06 to 23.7 per cent in the latest results. There has been no change in the proportion of people volunteering in other age groups over the same period. The proportion of adults who volunteered was lowest (21.2%) among those aged 75 years and over (Figure 6.2).

Between October 2014 and September 2015 8.1 per cent of those who volunteered said the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has motivated them to do more voluntary work.

**Figure 6.2: Proportion of adults who had volunteered by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>19</sup> and ACORN category, 2015/16 Q2**

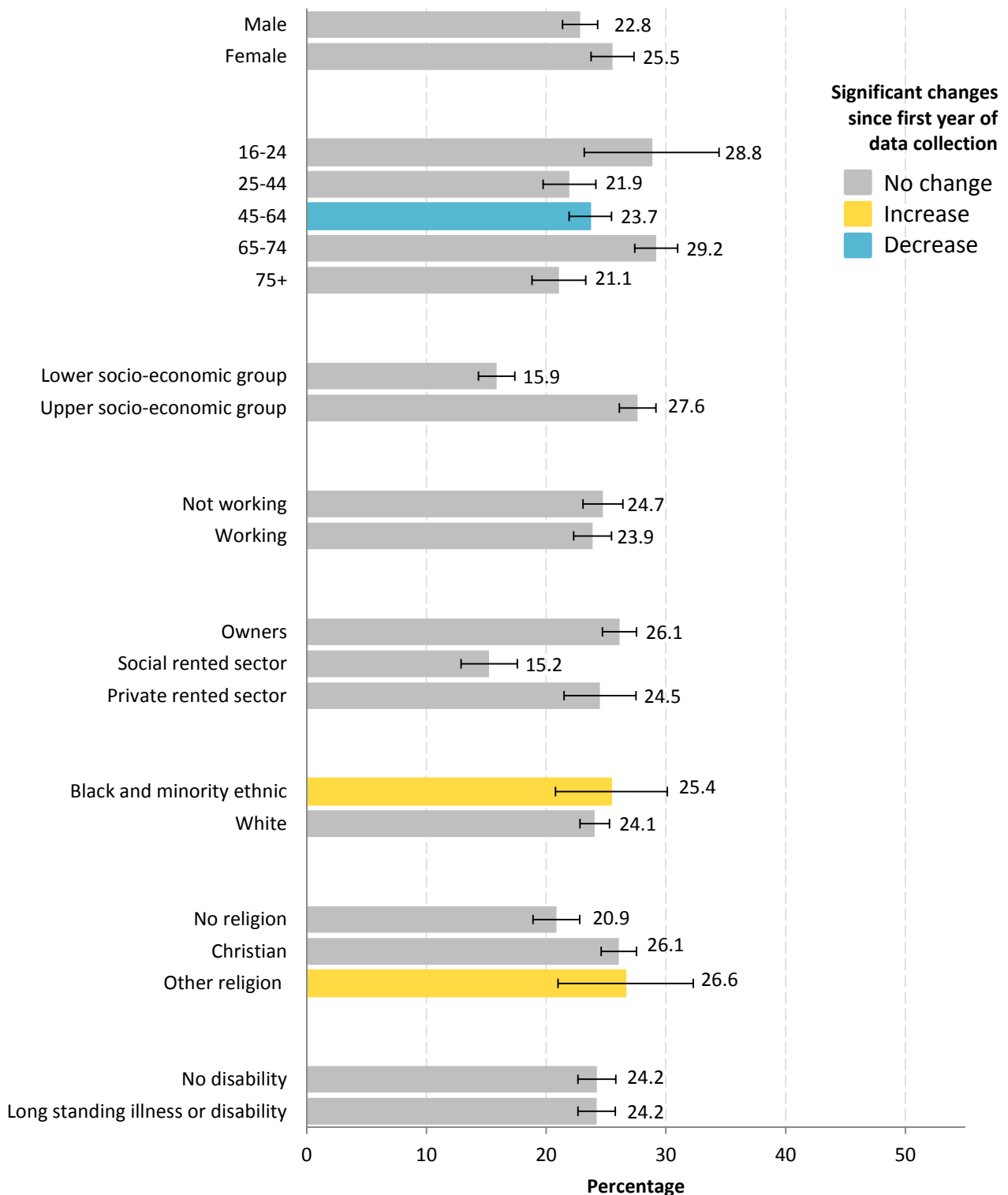


**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.3 and +/-4.1
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06, apart from IMD<sup>16</sup> which relates to 2009/10.

<sup>19</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).



**Figure 6.3: Proportion of adults who had volunteered by demographics, 2015/16 Q2****Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.2 and +/-5.6
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2005/06.

## Charitable giving

Taking Part asks whether respondents had donated money in the last 12 months and whether this was to a DCMS sector. In the year to September 2015, 86.4 per cent of adults had donated money (including any donations into a collection box) in the last 12 months, a significant decrease from 88.4 per cent in 2010/11, when data were first collected.

29.4 per cent of all adults had donated to at least one of the DCMS sectors, a decrease from 33.0 per cent in 2010/11. Of the DCMS sectors:

- 15.9 per cent of adults had donated to the museums and galleries sector in the last 12 months (a similar proportion to 2010/11)
- 13.3 per cent had donated to heritage (a significant decrease from 16.0 per cent in 2010/11)
- 5.1 per cent had donated to the arts (a significant decrease from 6.9 per cent in 2010/11)
- 5.4 per cent had donated to sport (a significant decrease from 7.4 per cent in 2010/11)
- 0.6 per cent had donated to libraries (a similar proportion to 2010/11).

In the year to September 2015, 38.7 per cent of adults donated money less than once a week, but at least once a month, a significant increase from 32.8 per cent in 2010/11. A further 33.1 per cent donated less often than once a month but at least three or four times a year, a similar proportion to 2010/11.

### Charitable giving by characteristics of the area

Charitable giving to the DCMS sectors significantly decreased between 2010/11 and the year ending September 2015 in the North East (from 35.0 per cent to 20.6 per cent) and in the East of England (from 37.3 per cent to 29.3 per cent), but has significantly increased in the West Midlands (from 22.8 per cent to 29.4 per cent). Charitable giving to DCMS sectors remained at a similar level to 2010/11 in all other regions (Figure 6.4).

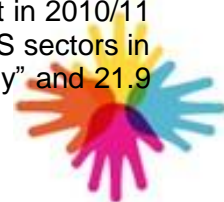
The proportion of adults who had donated money in the least deprived areas (36.1%) has significantly decreased since 2010/11 (when it was 43.8 per cent). Figure 6.4 shows how the rate varies across IMD groups, from the most deprived (group 1) to the least deprived (group 10).

### Charitable giving by demographics

Charitable giving to the DCMS sectors significantly decreased between 2010/11 and the year ending September 2015. During this period decreases in giving have been seen across many demographic groups, including:

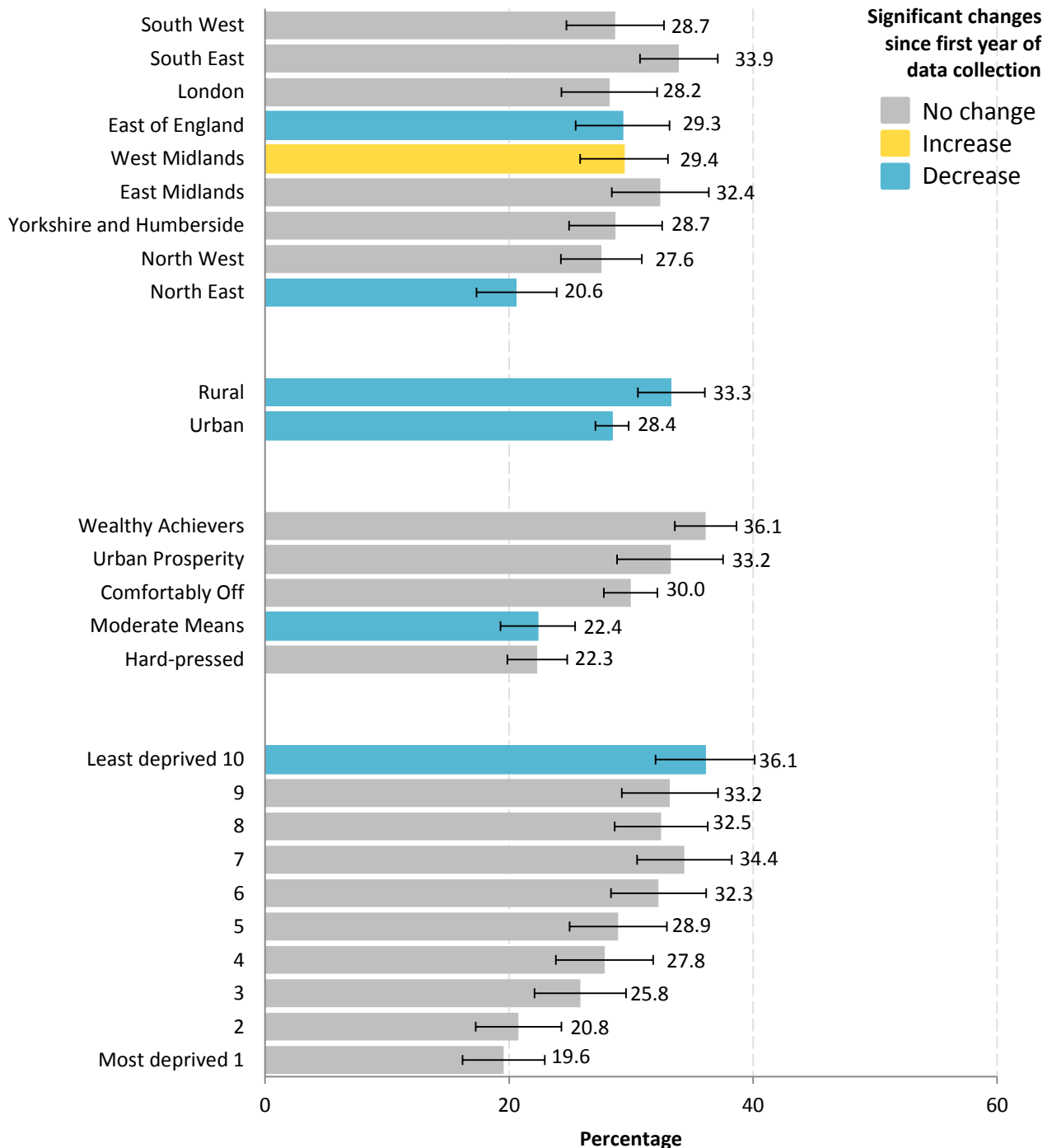
- 25-44 year olds (from 33.0 per cent to 28.7 per cent), 45-64 year olds (from 38.0 per cent to 33.0 per cent) and 65-74 year olds (from 38.0 per cent to 32.5 per cent)
- Men (from 35.3 per cent to 30.7 per cent)
- Respondents from the upper socio-economic groups (from 39.8 per cent to 35.4 per cent)
- Those who are working (from 36.1 per cent to 31.8 per cent)
- Home owners (from 36.8 per cent to 32.1 per cent)
- White respondents (from 34.9 per cent to 30.3 per cent)
- Those who had identified themselves as Christian (from 34.4 per cent to 30.1 per cent)
- Non-disabled people (from 34.1 per cent to 29.8 per cent)

Of those respondents who said they donated money to the DCMS sectors, over four in five (86.6%) said they intended to give the same amount to DCMS sectors in the next 12 months, a significant increase from 76.8 per cent in 2010/11. The proportion of respondents that said they intended to give less money to DCMS sectors in the next 12 months has almost halved from 10.2 per cent in 2010/11 to 5.4 per cent in the latest results. Of those who said they intended to give more to DCMS sectors in the next 12 months (6.3%), 17.8 per cent gave the reason “because they need the money” and 21.9



per cent said it was because “I have more money /can afford to give more”. However, of those who said they intended to give less to DCMS sectors in the next 12 months (5.4%), one in three (33.7%) said this was because they “have less money / can’t afford to give”.

**Figure 6.4: Proportion of adults who had donated money to a DCMS sector by area characteristics, deprivation<sup>20</sup> and ACORN category, 2015/16 Q2**

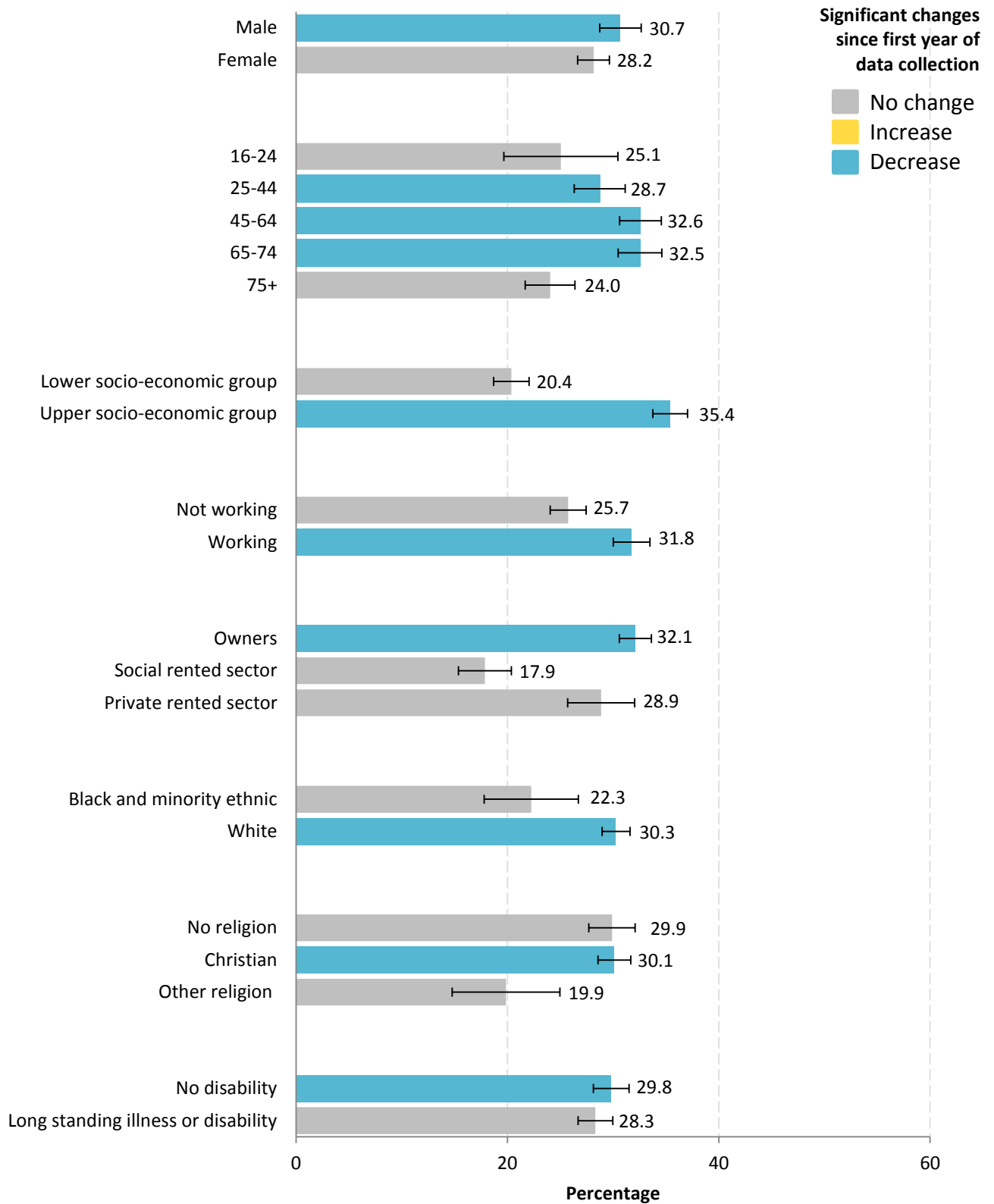


**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.4 and +/-4.3  
 (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2010/11.

<sup>20</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).

**Figure 6.5: Proportion of adults who had donated money to a DCMS sector by demographics, 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes**

- (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-1.3 and +/-5.4
- (2) Significant differences relate to the year 2010/11.



## Civic participation

Taking Part asks a series of questions on sport and cultural facilities in the respondent's local area.

Around one in four adults had taken action<sup>21</sup> to try to get something done about sport and cultural facilities in their area or felt that they did not need to take action. The most common action that had been taken was to contact the council, with 11.8 per cent of adults having done so. A further 7.1 per cent of adults had contacted their local councillor or MP.

39.5 per cent of adults had been involved in groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months; this was a significant decrease since 2010/11 (45.7%) when these data were first collected.

Of these adults, the most popular type of group belonged to was *sport/exercise groups* (52.2%) followed by *hobbies/social clubs* (37.8%). Participation in *hobbies/social clubs* has significantly increased from 34.5 per cent in 2010/11 while participation in *sport/exercise groups* has remained at a similar level to 2010/11. There were also significant decrease in the proportion of adults that had:

- attended *religious groups* (from 14.1 per cent to 11.0 per cent),
- taken part in *local community or neighbourhood groups* (from 13.8 per cent to 10.2 per cent),
- taken part in *groups for children or young people* (from 12.5 per cent to 8.2 per cent).

Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).

<sup>21</sup> Actions include those that had, contacted a local radio station, TV station or paper; talked to / written to a sporting or cultural facility, contacted the council, contacted a local councillor or MP, joined a local group or attended a neighbourhood forum, attended a protest meeting or joined a campaign group, or helped to organise a petition.



# Chapter 7: Equalities

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This chapter explores the variation in engagement rates in the arts, heritage, museums and galleries, libraries, archives, volunteering and charitable giving sectors between different demographic groups. It looks at differences by age, gender, socio-economic classification, ethnicity and disability, over the period of October 2014 to September 2015.

Engagement level varied among sub-demographic groups across most activities. However, it should be noted that these differences may be linked to factors other than the demographic group itself. This is particularly likely to be the case with charitable giving, which is strongly related to an individual's level of income, which may explain why certain groups are more or less likely to give money to charity.

A range of barriers are likely to be at the root of the differences between demographic sub-groups<sup>22</sup>: external (influences that lie beyond the control of the individual); *intra*-personal (the attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, and skills that individuals build from their environment, culture, and past experiences); and *inter*-personal (an individual's social environment).

## Key findings

- In the 12 months prior to being interviewed women had significantly **higher** engagement rates than men across the following sectors and activities:
  - Arts: 80.3 per cent of women had engaged in the arts in the last 12 months, compared with 71.8 per cent of men. The gap between the sexes has widened, from 5.4 percentage points in 2005/06 to 8.5 percentage points in the latest year.
  - Libraries: 38.1 per cent of women had visited a library in the last 12 months, compared with 29.4 per cent of men.
  - Volunteering: 25.5 per cent of women had taken part in voluntary work, compared with 22.8 per cent of men. This gap has narrowed slightly in the last few years.
- A significantly higher proportion of adults from black and minority ethnic (BME) group had visited a library in the last 12 months than those from the white group (49.3 per cent, compared to 31.8 per cent).
- In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, those with a long-standing illness or disability had a significantly lower engagement rate than non-disabled people in the following sectors:
  - Arts: 73.0 per cent of those with an illness or disability had engaged in the arts, compared with 77.5 per cent of those without. This gap has narrowed since 2005/06, from 9.2 percentage points in 2005/06 to 4.4 percentage points in the latest year.
  - Heritage: 67.6 per cent of those with an illness or disability had engaged with heritage, compared with 74.7 per cent without.
  - Museums and galleries: 45.6 per cent of those with an illness or disability had visited a museum or gallery, compared with 54.2 per cent without.
- Those in the upper socio-economic group had significantly higher participation and engagement rates than those in lower socio-economic group for all sectors reported on in Taking Part. However, since 2005/06, there have been significant increases in engagement for the lower socio-economic group in the heritage and the museums and galleries sectors.

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<sup>22</sup> Report published on barriers to participation available on the [DCMS website](#).



## Engagement by age

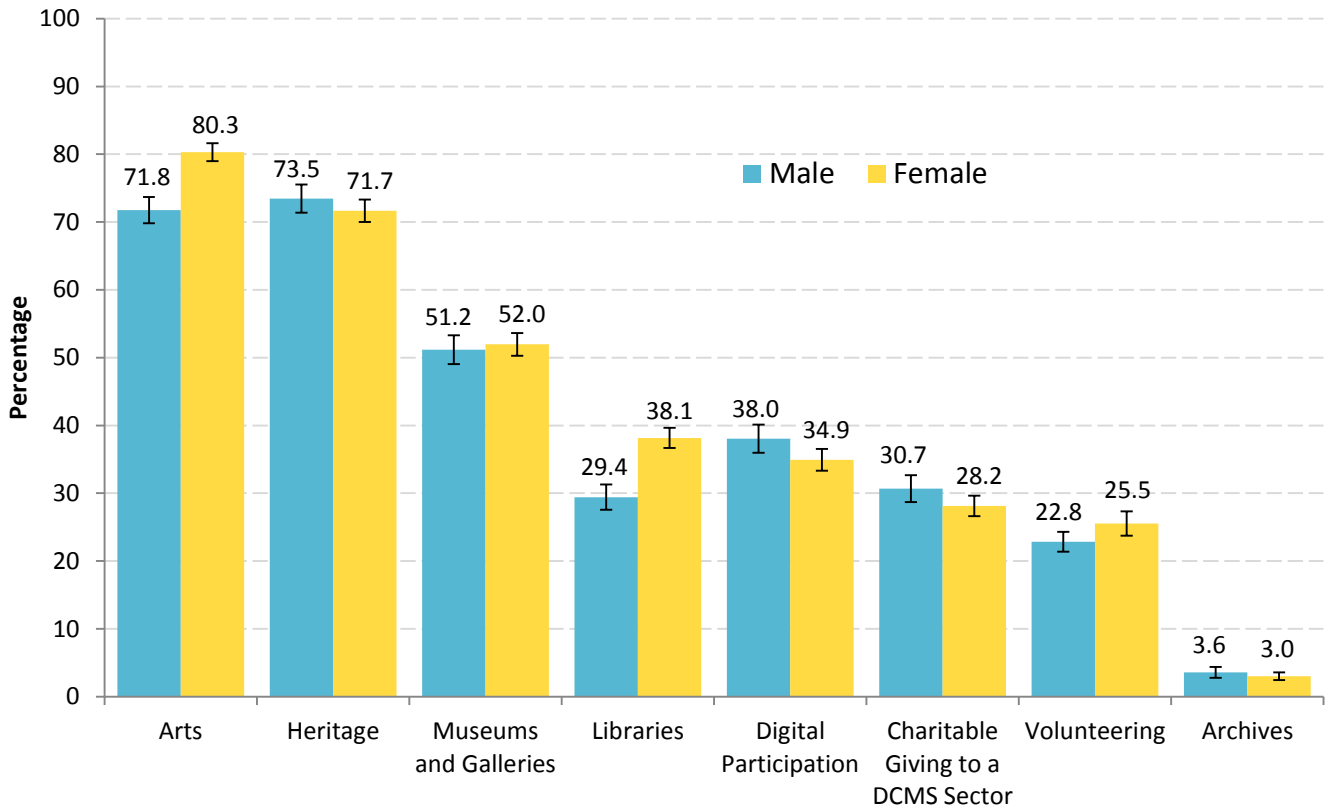
There were variations in engagement rates across sectors among different age groups. In general, engagement rates decreased with age. In the 12 months prior to being interviewed the oldest age group (those aged 75 and above) were significantly less likely to have participated in the following activities than all other age groups:

- Engagement with the arts: 61.7 per cent of adults aged 75 and above engaged with the arts compared to the other age groups (where rates varied between 77.0 per cent and 79.5 per cent). There has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults aged 75 and above who engaged in the arts from 57.7 per cent in 2005/06 to 61.7 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.
- Visiting a museum or gallery: in the year ending September 2015, 33.6 per cent of those aged 75 or over had visited a museum or gallery, compared with the other age groups where the rate varied between 47.5 per cent for 16-24 year olds and 55.7 per cent for those aged 65-74. This is a significant increase compared with 2005/06, when 25.2 per cent of adults aged 75 and above visited a museum.
- Visiting a heritage site: in the year ending September 2015, 57.3 per cent of adults aged 75 and above had visited a heritage site, compared with other age groups where the rate varied between 65.7 per cent and 77.3 per cent.

## Engagement by gender

- Women had significantly higher levels of arts participation and attendance than men. In the year ending September 2015, 80.3 per cent of women participated in or engaged in the arts compared with 71.8 per cent of men. The gap between the sexes has widened, from 5.4 percentage points in 2005/06 to 8.5 percentage points in the latest year.
- Significantly more women than men visited the library in the year ending September 2015: 38.1 per cent compared with 29.4 per cent. Significantly more women than men had also volunteered: 25.5 per cent compared with 22.8 per cent (although this gap has narrowed slightly in the last few years).
- In contrast, a significantly higher proportion of men digitally engaged with culture through websites than women in the year ending September 2015 (38.0 per cent of men compared with 34.9 per cent of women), and a significantly higher proportion of men gave money to charity (30.7 per cent of men compared with 28.2 per cent of women).

**Figure 7.1: Proportion of adults who had attended or participated in activities in the last year by gender, 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes**

1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.6 and +/- 2.1

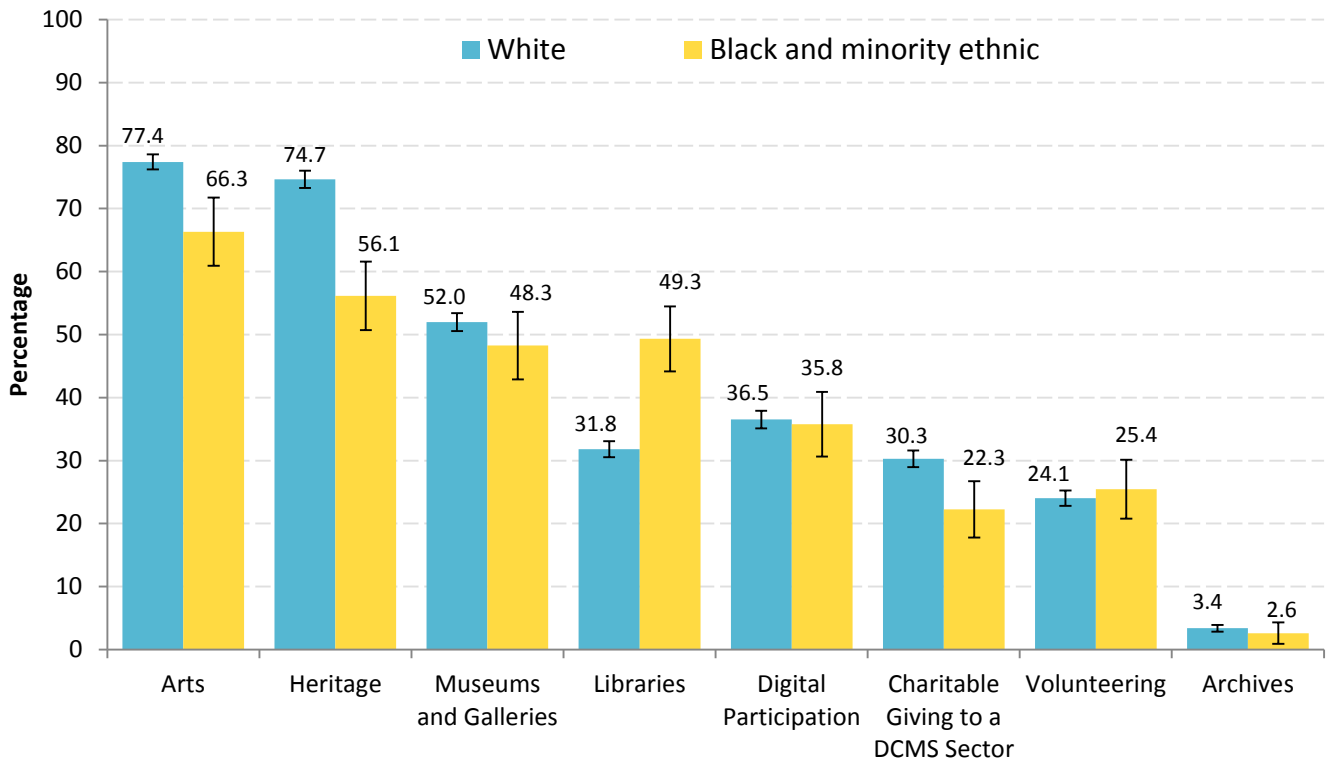
**Engagement by ethnicity**

Participation rates in a number of activities were lower for those from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups than for respondents from the white group. In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, adults from BME groups were less likely to have:

- Visited a heritage site: 56.1 per cent of adults from BME groups compared to 74.7 per cent of adults from the white group. There has been no significant changes in the proportion of adults from the BME ethnic group who visit heritage sites since 2005/06.
- Engaged with the arts: 66.3 per cent compared to 77.4 per cent.
- Visited a museum or gallery: 48.3 per cent compared to 52.0 per cent. There has been significant increases in visits to museums for both ethnic groups since 2005/06, from 43.0 to 52.0 per cent for the white ethnic group and from 35.4 per cent to 48.3 per cent for the BME ethnic group.

In contrast, significantly more adults from the BME ethnic group visit libraries than adults from the white ethnic group: 49.3 per cent compared with 31.8 per cent. There has been a significant decline in the proportion of adults who visit libraries from both ethnic groups since 2005/06. The gap between ethnic groups appears to be increasing: in 2005/06 there was a difference of 10.3 percentage points between the two groups; in the latest year there was a difference of 17.5 percentage points.



**Figure 7.2: Proportion of adults who had attended or participated in activities in the last year by ethnicity, 2015/16 Q2****Notes:**

- 1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.5 and +/- 5.4

**Engagement of disabled people**

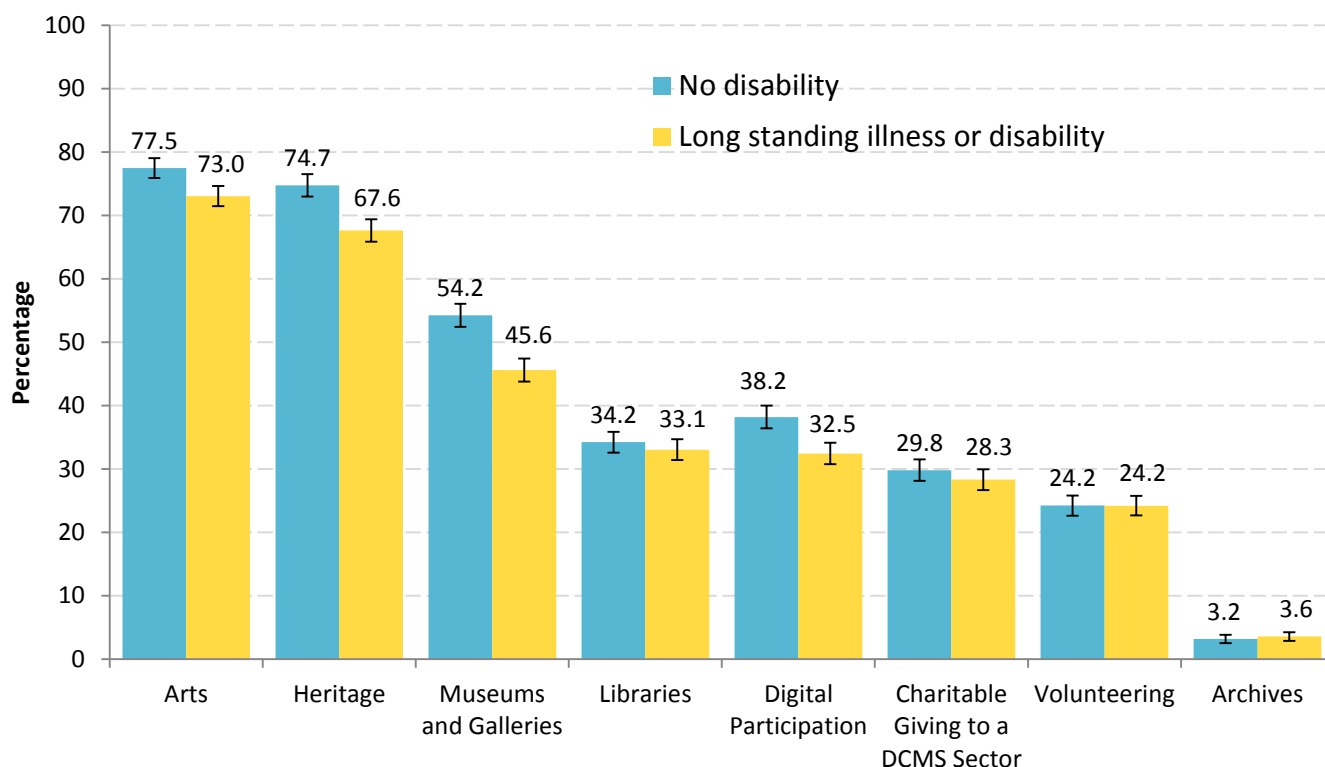
Disabled people (including those with a long-standing illness or disability) had significantly lower levels of engagement for the following activities:

- Visiting a heritage site: 67.6 per cent of those with an illness or health condition visited a heritage site, compared to 74.7 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Visiting a museum or gallery: 45.6 per cent visited compared to 54.2 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Engagement with the arts: 73.0 per cent engaged compared to 77.5 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Visiting a library: 33.1 per cent visited compared to 34.2 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Digital engagement with the cultural sectors: 32.5 per cent digitally engaged compared to 38.2 per cent of non-disabled people.

DCMS has also published analysis of barriers to participation using additional data from the Taking Part survey<sup>23</sup>. These barriers may have had an impact on engagement rates for disabled adults.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/taking-part-201415-focus-on-reports>

**Figure 7.3: Proportion of adults who had attended or participated in activities in the last year by disability status, 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes:**

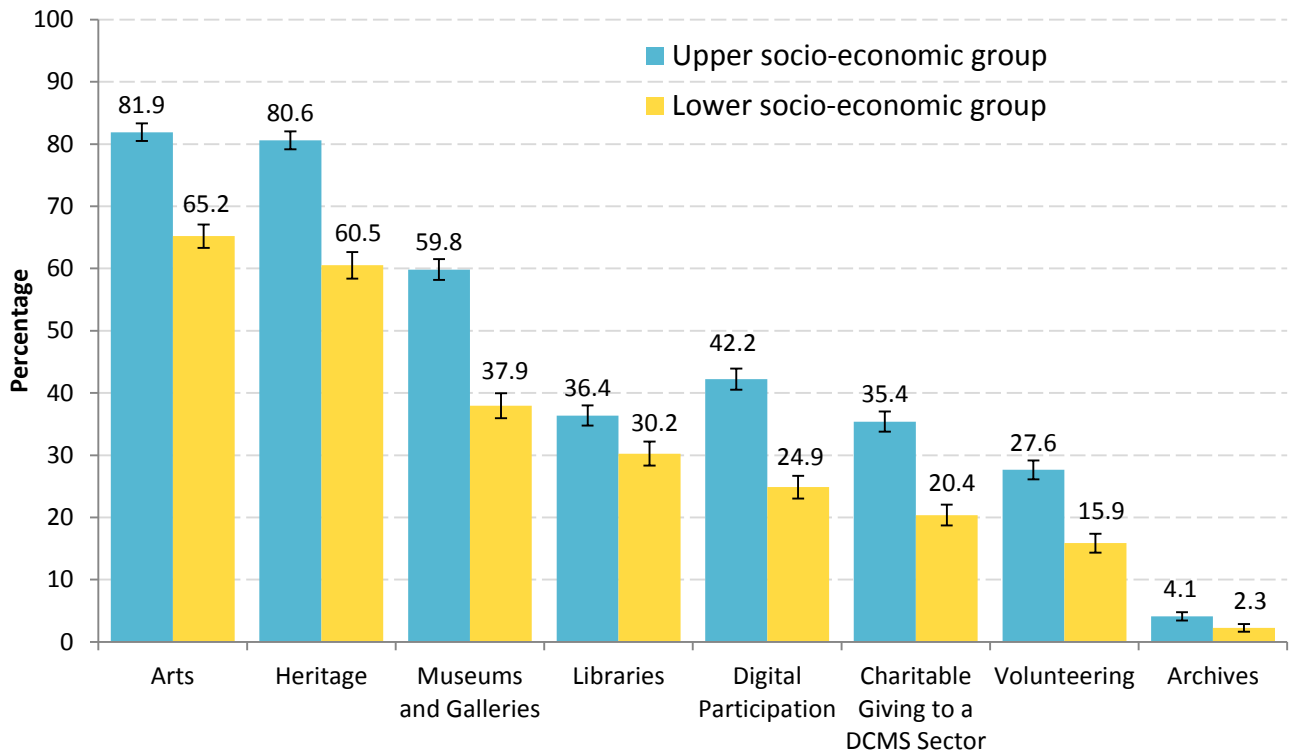
1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.6 and +/- 1.8

**Engagement by Socio-economic Status**

- Attendance and participation rates for the arts, heritage sites, museums and galleries, libraries and archives were significantly higher amongst the upper socio-economic group<sup>24</sup> than the lower socio-economic group.
- The same pattern was also observed when looking at the proportion of adults that had digitally engaged with culture, made a charitable donation to a DCMS sector or taken part in voluntary work in the last 12 months (Figure 7.4).

<sup>24</sup> Definitions of socio-economic groups and their classifications are available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010-user-manual/index.html>



**Figure 7.4: Proportion of adults who had attended or participated in activities in the last year by socio-economic status, 2015/16 Q2****Notes**

- 1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.6 and +/- 2.1

## Chapter 8: Special Events

This chapter looks at two special events connected to DCMS and its sectors. The first event is the First World War Centenary, where Taking Part has measured attitudes towards the UK commemorating the event, as well as intentions to follow the events. The second event is the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Previous releases have reported on attitudes towards hosting the Games, however, this release covers analysis of whether the Games motivated people to participate in more voluntary work, cultural activities or sport.

### First World War Centenary

#### Key findings

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 58.0 per cent of adults stated that they were aware of local or national events or activities being held in the UK between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.
- 78.4 per cent of adults were supportive of the UK commemorating the Centenary of the First World War, reporting that they were either slightly or strongly supportive.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

In 2012 the Prime Minister set out the Government's plans for commemorating the centenary of the First World War ([www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-at-imperial-war-museum-on-first-world-war-centenary-plans](http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-at-imperial-war-museum-on-first-world-war-centenary-plans)). The guiding principle of the centenary is not celebration but commemoration. There are three distinct themes around which the commemorations are based:

**Remembrance:** gratitude and respect for the fallen, reflection on the nature of war, honouring our ancestors.

**Youth:** helping young people connect with the stories and experiences of the war, given that those who lived through 1914-18 are no longer with us.

**Education:** deepening understanding of the war and the huge changes that the War helped bring about in our society.

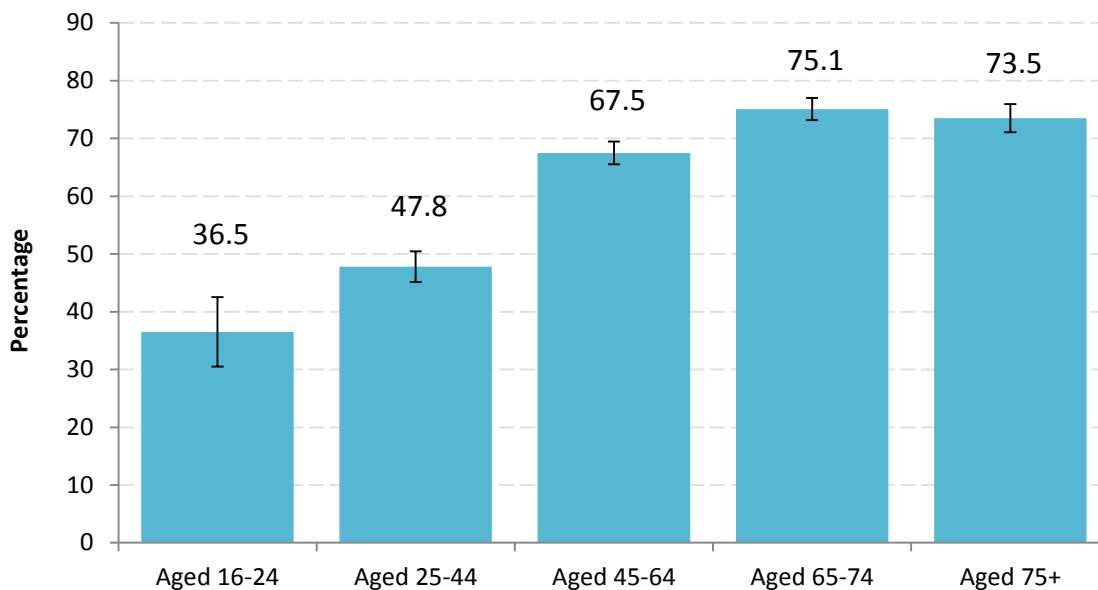
The national events to mark the start of the centenary (Gallipoli, Jutland, the Somme, Passchendaele and the Armistice) will set an appropriate tone and will lead the nation in acts of remembrance and commemoration. Different strands of the commemorations are delivered through our relationships with a range of partners, stakeholders and other Government Departments. Further details are at the Government's First World War Centenary web page: [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary).

#### First World War Centenary

- From July 2014 the Taking Part survey added new questions about the First World War Centenary events and people's attitudes towards these events. Between October 2014 and September 2015, 58.0 per cent of adults stated that they were aware of local or national events or activities being held in the UK between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the First World War, however there were differences among age groups (Figure 8.1).



**Figure 8.1: Awareness of local or national events or activities being held in the UK between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War, 2015/16 Q2**

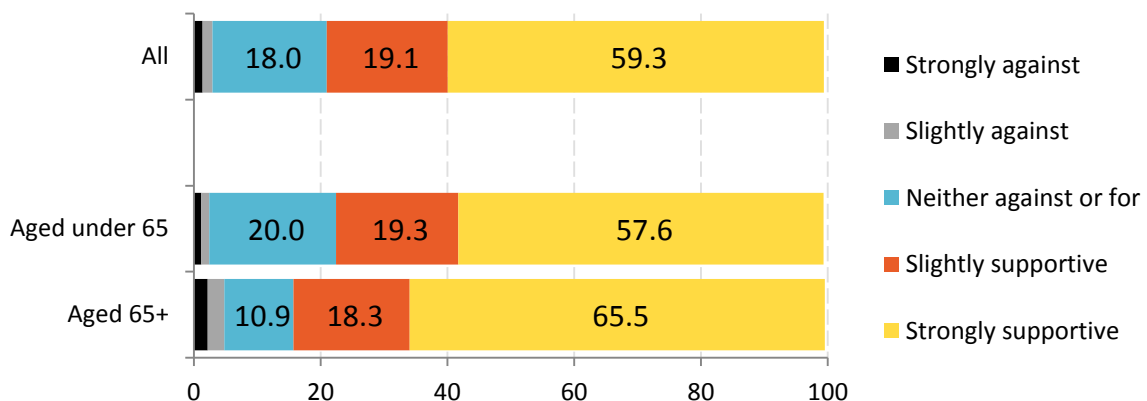


**Notes**

1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 1.9 and +/- 6.0.

- Between October 2014 and September 2015, 78.4 per cent of all adults supported the UK commemorating the Centenary of the First World War, reporting that they were slightly or strongly supportive (Figure 8.2).
- A significantly higher proportion of adults aged 65 or over were strongly supportive of commemorating the Centenary than of adults below the age of 65 (65.5 per cent compared to 57.6 per cent). A slightly higher proportion of adults aged 65 or over were also against commemorating the Centenary than of adults below the age of 65. However, only 4.8 per cent of those aged 65 or over and 2.4 per cent of those below the age of 65 were either slightly or strongly against commemoration.

**Figure 8.2: Attitudes towards the UK commemorating the Centenary of the First World War, 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes**

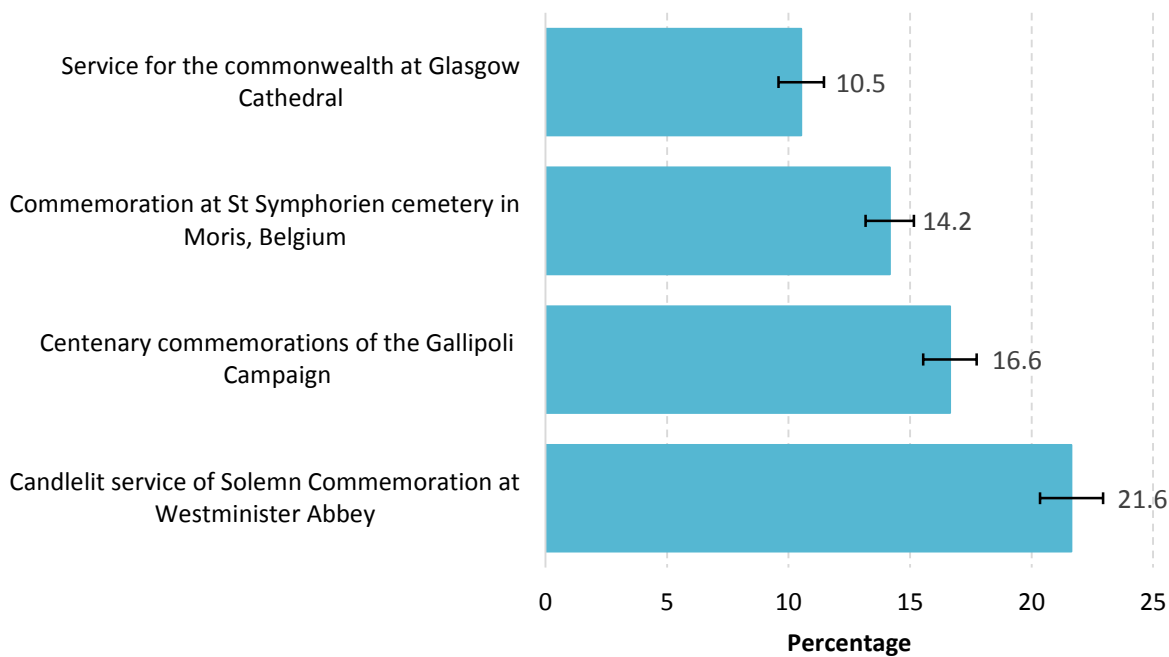
1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.2 and +/- 2.2



## Commemorative events

Whilst 58.0 per cent of all adults were aware that events have been and are being held in the UK between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War, awareness of individual events varied (Figure 8.3). More adults were aware of the Candlelit Service of Solemn Commemoration at Westminster Abbey than of any other event: 21.6 per cent of all adults demonstrated awareness of this event. 16.6 per cent of adults said they were aware of Centenary commemorations for the Gallipoli Campaign.

**Figure 8.3: Awareness of events to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War, 2015/16 Q2**



**Notes**

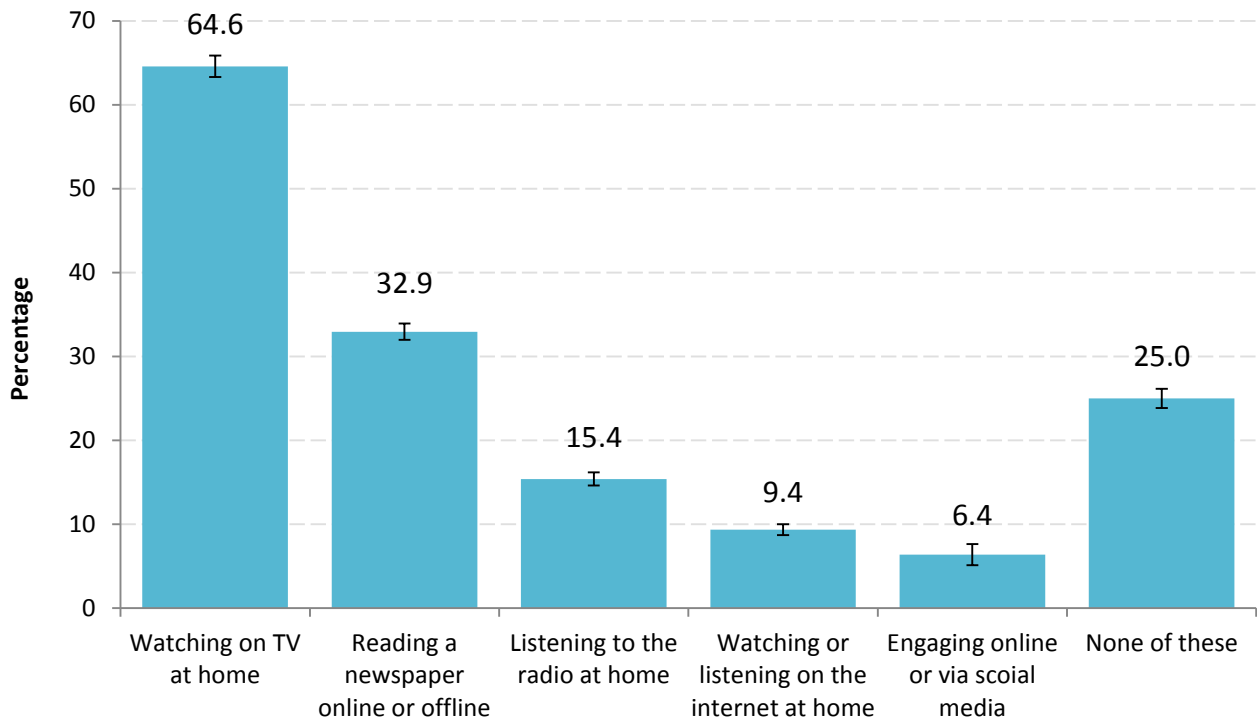
1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.8 and +/- 1.1

## Ways of following First World War Centenary events

Respondents were also asked how they have followed, or intend to follow any of the Centenary events:

- 64.6 per cent stated that they had followed, or intended to follow, by watching at least one event on the TV.
- 32.9 followed or intended to follow events by reading a newspaper online or offline.
- 15.4 per cent had followed, or intended to follow, by listening to the radio.
- 9.4 per cent had followed, or intended to follow, by watching or listening on the internet.



**Figure 8.4: Ways of following the First World War Centenary events, 2015/16 Q2****Notes**

1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.4 and +/- 1.3

- Respondents were also asked two separate questions about which events or activities they had followed or got involved in since January 2014, and which events and activities they planned to follow or get involved with in the future (see Annex C for a full list of responses).
- The most popular response for both questions was learning more about the First World War, with 36.5 per cent of respondents stating they had done this since January 2014 and 36.7 per cent of respondents stating that they intended to do this (Table 8.1).

Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).

**Table 8.1: Ways in which adults have followed the First World War Centenary since January 2014, and how they plan to follow in the future<sup>25</sup>, 2015/16 Q2**

	Since January 2014, which events have you followed or got involved in?	Which events do you think you will follow or get involved in?
Learning about the First World War	36.5%	36.7%
Visiting a museum or exhibition related to the First World War	11.8%	16.5%
Attending a local or national commemorative event (including remembrance services)	16.9%	17.1%
Marking or remembering the First World War (for example - lighting a candle, planting poppy seeds)	12.2%	13.6%
Visiting a First World War battlefield, memorial or burial site	7.1%	11.7%
Researching local or family history related to the First World War	7.7%	8.3%
Attending or taking part in a related cultural event	2.0%	4.3%
None of the above	48.6%	46.4%

**Notes**

1) Confidence intervals range between +/- 0.4 and +/- 1.3

<sup>25</sup> Adults may have responded that they have followed in some way and that they intend to follow in the same way in the future, therefore they would be counted in both columns.



## The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

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This section relates to the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Questions asking respondents how they followed or were involved in the 2012 Games have now been removed from the questionnaire so this chapter only covers analysis of whether the Games motivated people to participate in more voluntary work, cultural activities or sport.

The latest survey results are from interviews conducted between October 2014 and September 2015. The UK hosted the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games between July and September 2012, so data collected and reported on in this report are from a period entirely after the Games.

Government policy is provided below for context. This may have influenced the participation figures but does not indicate that these policies have directly caused any change.

The Government has a policy to make the most of the 2012 Games; to deliver a legacy over the next ten years, across the five themes of sport and healthy living, growth and the economy, communities and volunteering, regeneration of East London and Paralympic legacy. This includes encouraging more people to take part in sport, volunteering and culture. The Government is using the success of Games-related volunteering to promote volunteering, including through initiatives such as [‘Join in’](#), which is funded by the Office for Civil Society to promote sport related volunteering.

Legacy planning was part of the planning for the Games from the bid stage onwards. The Government and the Mayor of London have published update reports [‘inspired by 2012’](#) in the summer of 2013, 2014 and 2015 setting out progress against legacy plans. Also published in July 2013 was an [independent meta-evaluation of the Games’ legacy benefits](#), commissioned by DCMS and produced by a consortium led by Grant Thornton. In February 2014 the Government and the Mayor of London have published a [long-term vision](#) for the Games’ legacy.

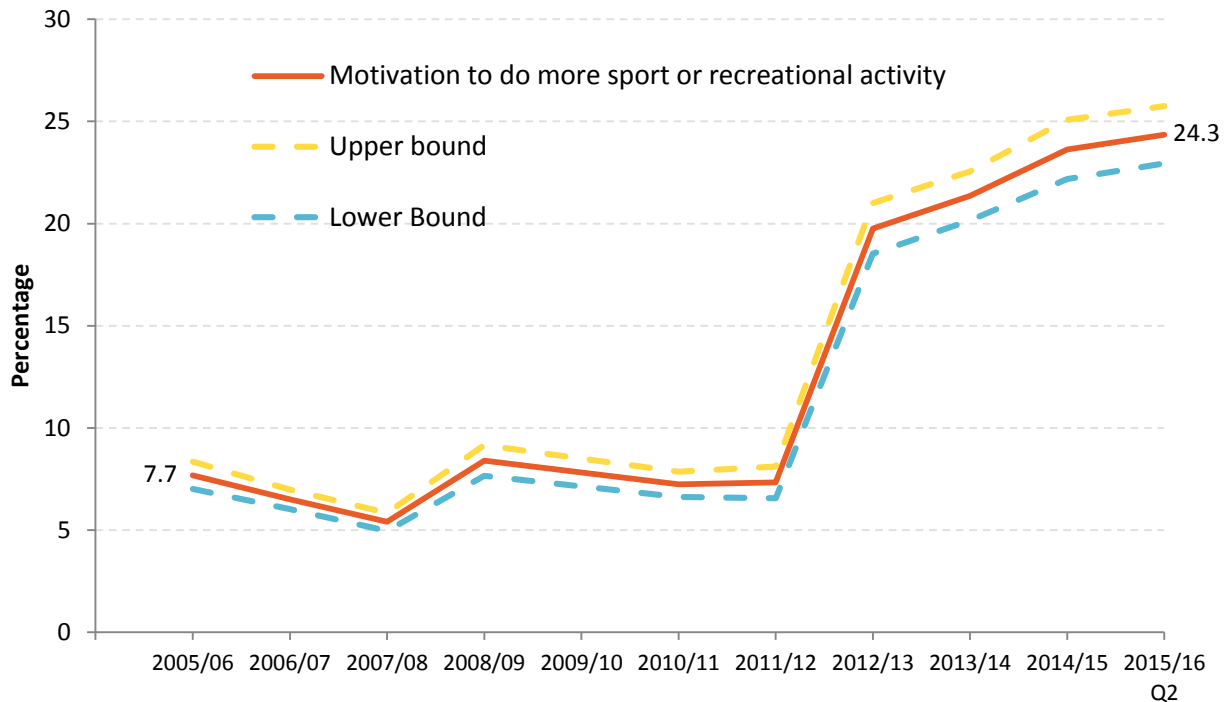
### Key findings

- In the year ending September 2015, 24.3 per cent of adults who had taken part in sport or recreational activity in the last 12 months answered that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had motivated them to do more of these activities, a significant increase from 7.3 per cent in 2011/12.
- Among adults who had taken part in cultural activities, there has been a significant increase in the proportion who felt that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had motivated them to take part in more cultural activities, from 4.0 per cent in 2010/11 to 7.7 per cent between October 2014 and September 2015.
- Among adults who had volunteered, the proportion of adults who felt that the UK hosting the Olympics had motivated them to do more voluntary work has remained similar between 2010/11 and the year ending September 2015, when it was 8.1 per cent.

## The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- In the year to September 2015, 24.3 per cent of respondents who had taken part in sport or recreational activity answered that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had motivated them to do more of these activities (Figure 8.4).

**Figure 8.5: Proportion of respondents who were motivated to do more sport or recreational physical activity as a result of the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 2005/06 to 2015/16 Q2**



### Notes

- (1) Confidence intervals range between +/-0.43 and +/-1.45 from 2005/06 onwards.
- (2) The upper and lower bounds show the 95% confidence interval.

Significantly more young adults (aged 16 to 44) who had taken part in sport or recreational physical activities felt that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games has motivated them to do more sport and recreational physical activities compared with older adults. In the year ending September 2015, 36.3 per cent of 16 to 24 year olds and 27.0 of 25 to 44 year olds felt they were motivated to do more sport or recreational activities, compared with 20.3 per cent of 45 to 64 year olds, 10.7 per cent of 65 to 74 year olds and 8.9 per cent of adults aged 75 and above.

In the year ending September 2015, 13.3 per cent of adults aged 16 to 24 who had taken part in voluntary work felt that the UK hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games has motivated them to do more voluntary work, compared with 8.9 per cent of 25 to 44 year olds, 6.9 per cent of 45 to 64 year olds, 5.5 per cent of 65-74 year olds and 2.7 per cent of those aged 75 and above.

Further detail on this section can be found in the [accompanying spreadsheets to this release](#).



# Annex A: Background note

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1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and its partner Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). For 2011 to 2015 these are Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England.
2. Taking Part is a National Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. See the [Statistics Authority code of practice](#) for more information.

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. See the [UK Statistics Authority assessment](#) for more information.

3. Stringent quality assurance procedures have been adopted for this statistical release. All data and analysis has been checked and verified by two different members of the DCMS team and TNS-BMRB to ensure the highest level of quality.
4. Guidance on the quality that is expected of Taking Part statistical releases is provided in a [quality indicators document](#). These quality indicators outline how statistics from the Taking Part survey match up to the six dimensions of quality defined by the European Statistical System (ESS). These are: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability and coherence.
5. The latest results presented here are based on interviews conducted between October 2014 and September 2015. The total sample size for this period is 10,193.
6. The survey measures participation by adults (aged 16 and over) and children (5-10 and 11-15) living in private households in England. No geographical restriction is placed on where the activity or event occurred. Further information on data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found in question 2 of the "[Taking Part: Guidance Note](#)".
7. Participation in activities must be for the purpose of recreation or leisure, including voluntary work. It excludes involvement in activities where the prime motivation is paid work or academic studies. The exceptions to this are attendance at historic environment sites which includes visits made for academic study. Paid work visits and academic study visits are also included in one of the archive attendance measures.
8. The range has been calculated using a 95% confidence interval. This means, had the sample been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 of these intervals would contain the true value. All estimates have been rounded to one decimal place. An overall design

factor<sup>26</sup> of **1.381** has been applied to the adult dataset for the period October 2014 to September 2015. Individual adult design factors have also been calculated for each sector and different demographic groups in this period.

9. Statistical significance tests have been run at the 95% level. A significant increase at the 95% level means that there is less than 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents was not also observed in the English population as a whole.
10. Some figures may have been revised from previous releases, in which case the figures in this release supersede those from previous statistical releases. For more detailed information on the DCMS revisions policy and how revisions are handled for the Taking Part Survey, please see the [DCMS statement of compliance](#).
11. The data are weighted to ensure the representativeness of the Taking Part sample. There are two types of weighting: i) to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection; and ii) to adjust for differential non-response. Weighting is based on mid-2014 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.
12. For more information see the [Taking Part Survey](#) webpages, including previous publications. Versions of the [questionnaires](#) from all years of the survey are available.
13. As published in previous statistical releases and on our [consultation pages](#) in September 2013, sport participation data are no longer analysed or reported on by DCMS in the adult Taking Part publications. Sport participation data are reported on by Sport England in the [Active People Survey](#).
14. The fieldwork for the survey has been conducted by TNS-BMRB. For more information, see <http://www.tns-bmr.com>.
15. We can help to meet the specific requirements of people with disabilities. Please call 020 7211 6000 or email [takingpart@culture.gov.uk](mailto:takingpart@culture.gov.uk).
16. This report has been produced by Wilmah Deda and Helen Miller-Bakewell (DCMS). Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within the DCMS, partner ALBs and TNS-BMRB for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.
17. The responsible statistician for this release is Helen Miller-Bakewell. For enquiries on this release, please contact Helen on 0207 211 6355.
18. For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200 or email [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk). You can also subscribe to the Taking Part newsletter [here](#).

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<sup>26</sup> Design factors are calculated to correct for imperfect sample design. For example, Taking Part uses a clustered sample, rather than a random sample and this may affect the results for particular demographic groups – design factors are used to correct for this bias.



## Annex B: Key terms and definitions

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Term	Definition
2015/16 Q2	This is the time period covering October 2014 to September 2015. It is also referred to as the year or 12 months to September 2015.
ACORN classification	<b>A classification of residential neighbourhoods</b> is a geo-demographic information system categorising some United Kingdom postcodes into various types based upon Census data and other information such as lifestyle surveys.
Archives	Archives are collections of documents that have been created by families, individuals, businesses or organisations and have been specially chosen to be kept permanently. Further information is available in Annex C.
Arts	A list of arts that the respondent may have participated or attended is available in Annex C: Sector definitions.
Attendance	This refers to the respondent going to a place, for example, attending a library or a heritage site.
Civic participation	Actions include, contact a local radio station, TV station or paper; talk to / written to a sporting or cultural facility, contact the council, contact a local councillor or MP, join a local group or attend a neighbourhood forum, attend a protest meeting or joined a campaign group, or help organise a petition.
Confidence interval	This provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value will lie within. For the Taking Part survey, 95% confidence intervals are used which means, had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 of these intervals would contain the true value.
DCMS sectors	The DCMS sectors are the culture, arts, museums and galleries, heritage, libraries, archives and sport sectors.
Digital participation	This refers to visiting websites for a number of reasons. These are outlined in Annex C: Sector definitions.
Digitally engage	This refers to the respondent engaging with the DCMS sectors via the internet.
Engagement	This refers to either attending and/or participating in the sport, culture or arts sector. For example, if the respondent attended an art gallery (attendance) or gave a dance performance (participation).
Following the Centenary of the First World War	This covers watching the events on TV at home, listening to the radio at home, watching or listening on the internet at home, reading the newspaper online or offline or engaging via social media.
Historic environment	A list of all historic environments is available in Annex C: Sector definitions.
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) decile group	The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a composite index which measures neighbourhood deprivation across seven domains (for example housing and income deprivation). The IMD decile group splits neighbourhoods into ten groups according to the level of deprivation (e.g. 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).



Term	Definition
Participation	This refers to the respondent actively taking part in the activity. For example heritage participation could refer to visiting a monument such as a castle, fort or ruin, whilst participating in the arts may refer to painting.
Public library service	A list of valid uses of a public library is available in Annex C: Sector definitions.
Significant increase/decrease	A significant increase/decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of the English population as a whole.
Socio-demographic groups	Categorising the respondents by different social classes such as age, gender, employment status, housing tenure, ethnicity, religion, disability/illness status and National Statistics Socio-Economic Classes (NS-SEC).
Taking Part Survey	A survey commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in partnership with the Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England, looking at engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport. Further information is available on the <a href="#">Taking Part Web pages</a> .
Volunteering	Offering one's time for free. This could be organising or helping to run an event, campaigning, conservation, raising money, providing transport or driving, taking part in a sponsored event, coaching, tuition or mentoring for no expense.



# Annex C: Sector definitions

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The following annex presents the various definitions for adult participation in DCMS sectors.

## Libraries

The respondent is asked if they have used a public library service. If the respondent is unsure what is in scope, the interviewer has the following definition to refer to.

“Use of a public library can include:

- A visit to a public library building or mobile library to make use of library services (including to print/use electronic resources or to take part in an event such as a reading group or author visit)
- The use of on-line library resources or services remotely (i.e. used a computer outside the library to view the website, catalogue or databases)
- Access, and receipt, of the library service by email, telephone, fax or letter
- Receipt of an outreach service such as home delivery or library events outside a library building

Use of other libraries and archive services is excluded.”

## Museum, gallery or archive

The respondent is asked if they have attended a museum, gallery or archive. If the respondent is unsure what is in scope for ‘archive’, the interviewer has the following definition to refer to.

“Archives are documents that have been created by families, individuals, businesses or organisations and have been specially chosen to keep permanently. They can be written papers such as letters or diaries, maps, photographs or film or sound recordings. Archives are historical documents but do not have to be very old. Places that keep archives are usually called a record office or archive centre.

Registering a birth, death or marriage happens at a registry office, not at an archive center/record office.”

## Arts

The respondent is asked if they have participated in a given list of arts activities, or attended a given list of arts events. Eligible activities and events are as follows.

Participation:

- Dance – ballet or other dance (for fitness and not for fitness)
- Singing – live performance or rehearsal/practice (not karaoke)
- Musical instrument – live performance, rehearsal/practice or played for own pleasure
- Written music
- Theatre – live performance or rehearsal/practice (e.g. play or drama)
- Opera/musical theatre – live performance or rehearsal/practice
- Carnival (e.g. as a musician, dancer or costume maker)
- Street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets, shopping centre)
- Circus skills (not animals) – learnt or practised
- Visual art – (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture)
- Photography – (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday ‘snaps’)
- Film or video – making as an artistic activity (not family or holidays)
- Digital art – producing original digital artwork or animation with a computer
- Craft – any craft activity (e.g. textiles, wood, metal work, pottery, calligraphy etc.)
- Creative writing – original literature (e.g. stories, poems or plays)
- Book club – being a member of one

#### Attendance:

- Visual art exhibition (e.g. paintings, photography or sculpture)
- Craft exhibition (not crafts market)
- Event which included video or digital art
- Event connected with books or writing
- Street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets or shopping centre)
- Public art display or installation (an art work such as sculpture that is outdoors or in a public place)
- Circus (not animals)
- Carnival
- Culturally specific festival (e.g. Mela, Baisakhi, Navratri)
- Theatre (e.g. play, drama, pantomime)
- Opera/musical theatre
- Live music performance (e.g. classical, jazz or other live music event but not karaoke)
- Live dance event (e.g. ballet, African People's dance, South Asian, Chinese, contemporary or other live dance)

#### Historic environment

The respondent is asked if they have visited the following list of historic environment sites.

- A city or town with historic character
- A historic building open to the public
- A historic park, garden or landscape open to the public
- A place connected with industrial history or historic transport system
- A historic place of worship attended as a visitor
- A monument such as a castle, fort or ruin
- A site of archaeological interest
- A site connected with sports heritage

#### Digital Participation

Digital Participation includes visiting websites for at least one of the following reasons:

- Museum or gallery website – To look at items from a collection.
- Museum or gallery website – To find out about a particular subject.
- Museum or gallery website – To take a virtual tour of a museum or gallery
- Museum or gallery website – To view or download an event or exhibition
- Library website – To complete a transaction (e.g. reserve or renew items, pay a fine).
- Library website – To search and view online information or make an enquiry.
- Heritage website – To take a virtual tour of a historical site.
- Heritage website – To learn about history or the historic environment
- Heritage website – To discuss history or visits to the historic environment on a forum
- Arts Website – To view or download part or all of a performance or exhibition
- Arts Website – To discuss the arts or share art that others have created
- Arts Website – To upload or share art that you have created yourself
- Arts Website – To find out how to take part or improve your creative skills
- Archive or records office website – To complete a transaction.
- Archive or records office website – To view digitized documents online.
- Archive or records office website – To search a catalogue.



### First World War Centenary

The respondent is asked which events they have followed or got involved in since January 2014 and which they think they will follow in the future from the list below.

- Attending a local or national commemorative event (including remembrance services)
- Attending or taking part in a related cultural event (e.g. the 14-18 NOW cultural programme)
- Visiting a First World War battlefield, memorial or burial site
- Visiting a museum or exhibition related to the First World War
- Researching local or family history related to the First World War
- Learning about the First World War (watching TV programmes, listening to radio programmes, reading books, internet research, attending lectures)
- Marking or remembering the First World War (for example - lighting a candle, planting poppy seeds)
- Some other way

### Volunteering

The respondent is asked about any voluntary work they have done, including:

- Raising or handling money / taking part in sponsored events
- Leading a group
- Being a member of a committee
- Organising or helping to run an activity or event
- Visiting people
- Befriending / mentoring people
- Coaching or tuition
- Giving advice/ information/ counselling
- Secretarial, administrative or clerical work
- Providing transport or driving
- Representing – e.g. addressing meetings, leading a delegation
- Campaigning – e.g. lobbying, canvassing, letter writing
- Conservation/restoration
- Officiating – e.g. judging, umpiring or refereeing
- Other practical help - e.g. helping out a school, religious group, with shopping/refreshments
- Work in a charity shop

The respondent is also asked whether this activity was connected to any of the following areas:

- Arts
- Museum or gallery
- Heritage
- Libraries
- Archives
- Sport
- Any other sector



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