



Urban Issues and Challenges

Urban Growth in the UK

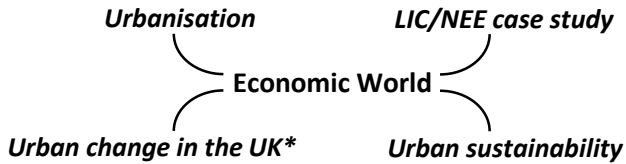


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The Big Picture



Key Terms



Population distribution – the pattern of where people live.

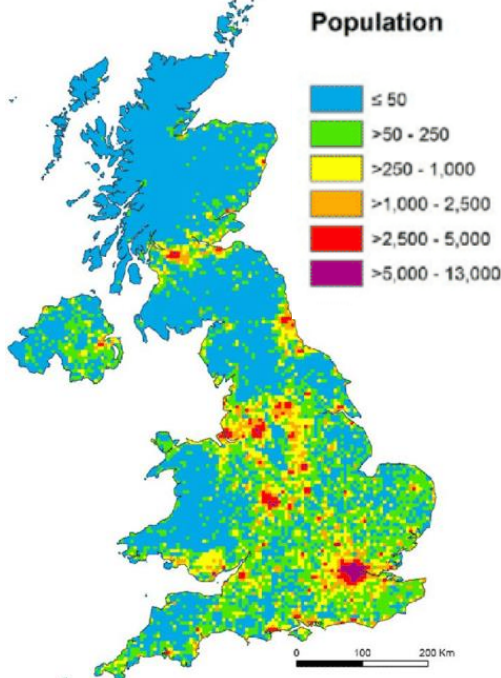


Population density – The number of people per km².



UK Population Distribution

The UK is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. Approximately 82 per cent of people live in towns and cities. The choropleth map below shows population density in the UK.



- The average population density is around 260 people per km²
- Population density varies considerably, from over 5000 people per km² in parts of London to fewer than 50 people per km² in northern Scotland.
- Population density is high across England, particularly in the south and east.
- The highest densities are focused on the major cities regions e.g. London, Manchester and Glasgow.
- The lowest densities are in the north and west of the UK, especially in the uplands of Wales and Scotland.



UK Towns and Cities



- Most major towns and cities are located in England, with few in the west and north.
- Cities are relatively evenly spread out in the south of England. They are relatively clustered in the north due to the concentration of heavy industry and manufacturing.
- Many cities in the industrial heartland of northern England witnessed a slow population growth.
- Cities in the south and east have grown due to the growing service sector.