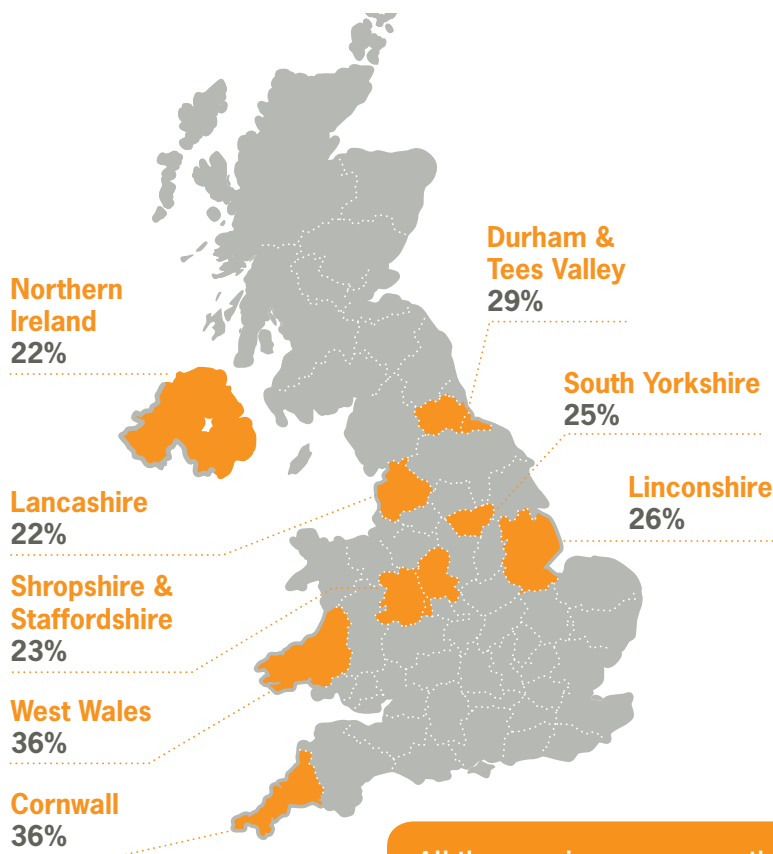


The poorest regions in the UK are poorer than anywhere in Northern Europe

GDP PER HEAD: PERCENTAGE BELOW THE EU AVERAGE



All these regions are poorer than anywhere in France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria, Ireland, Denmark, Finland and Sweden

What does this mean?

The average wealth across a country can sometimes give a mis-leading picture of how rich that country is, if one region is a lot richer than the rest.

We think the UK is as rich as other North European countries, and certainly London and the South East of England are very rich indeed. But other parts of the UK are more impoverished than even the poorest regions of our neighbouring countries. This image shows the gap between the poorest UK regions and the EU average.

Explaining the data

This data was produced by Eurostat, the data agency of the European Union. They measured GDP per head in regions across the EU, taking into account the different prices in different regions. The full data is available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/1-27022014-AP/EN/1-27022014-AP-EN.PDF. We have classed the countries listed above as 'Northern Europe' because they are our nearest geographical neighbours and are commonly considered to have similar levels of prosperity as the UK (unlike countries in Southern Europe or the former Soviet Bloc). As members of the EU, Eurostat provides comparable data for each of these countries.