

Indicator specification:

PLDR collection of population health indicators

Finance Indicators: Local Authority Finance
(FIN_07_02L)



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Overview

Indicator title

Local Authority Finance: Net Current Expenditure – Total Services, Lower Tier (FIN_07_02L)

Indicator family name

Local Authority Finance

Summary

This indicator describes the annual net service expenditure for all services provided by every Lower Tier Local Authority in England since 2002. The Total Net Service expenditure is defined as the total (gross) service expenditure minus any income that may be related to delivering services, such as sales, fees and charges.

Technical description

The indicator was compiled from annual revenue outturn estimates of Local Authority (LA) revenue expenditure and financing. The Total Net Service expenditure is defined as the gross service expenditure minus any income that is related to delivering services, in particular a) Sales, fees and charges and b) Other types of income. Expenditure values are given on the basis of financial years, i.e. from April 1st to March 31st. Values are expressed in thousands (£). Since some services are provided in Upper Tier and others in Lower Tier LAs, individual spending figures from Upper Tier LAs were distributed to Lower Tier LAs based on annual population ratios. Expenditure values from historic LA geography have been referenced to the 2018 LA geography. This includes changes in name/codes, merges, or splits of old LAs to new LAs based on population ratios for that year. The service expenditure is expressed as the total amount as well as per capita, for direct comparisons. However, expenditure figures were not adjusted for inflation.

Unique Identifier

FIN_07_02L

Construction

Data sources

Outturn revenue data of LAs in England are published annually by the *Local Government Finance - Data Collection Analysis and Accountancy* division of the *Department for Communities and Local Government*. The Local Authority Net Current Expenditure figures were extracted from the *Revenue Outturn Summary* datasets. The collection of datasets and additional information about LA revenue outturn data estimates can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and->

[financing](#). Data before the financial year 2007/08 were obtained directly through Freedom of Information requests.

Construction of LA-level data

Some services are provided in Lower and some in Upper tier local authorities (e.g. at County level). LA spending figures thus includes both Upper Tier (UTLA) and Lower Tier (LTLA) authorities (i.e. 152 and 326 respectively in England as of 2018). In order to provide a common denominator for direct comparisons with other types of data, LA expenditures were distributed from Lower to Upper and from Upper to Lower. Further expenditures on specific services also includes spending from “other” authorities. In particular, these are:

- The Greater London Authority
- Combined Authorities
- Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable Authorities
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Waste Authorities
- Transport Authorities

All spending by all of the above types of authorities has been included in the calculations of the total LA-level service expenditure, and has been referenced either to LTLAs or UTLAs. Note that the only type of authority for which expenditures have not been taken into account are Park Authorities (however, these show generally low levels of expenditure, mainly within the Cultural and Related services and Central Services). Also note that many of these special local authorities have been abolished and their services incorporated (in part or in whole) into other administrations (for instance Transport Authorities’ services have been transferred to Combined Authorities).

The specific methodology by which the total levels of expenditure per service category are calculated for each Local Authority is as follows:

- LTLA Methodology: Shire Counties’ expenditures were disaggregated to Shire Districts by means of population-based ratios, i.e. annual expenditure was distributed to LTLAs based on their share of population, derived from their total population estimates for that particular year (Source: ONS).

The Greater London Authority expenditure was distributed to London Boroughs by means of distributing expenditure according to population. Expenditures from Combined Authorities, Police Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Waste Authorities and Transport Authorities were also attributed to LTLAs by means of distributing expenditure according to population for that year. All the above expenditures are aggregated and added to the recorded LTLA service expenditure in order to produce the estimated total service expenditure for that LA.

For the construction of LTLA measures, all expenditure values from historic LA geography have been referenced to the 2018 LA geography. This includes changes in name/codes, merges, or splits of old LAs to new LAs based on population ratios for that year. For instance, after 2009 the (upper tier) Cheshire County Council and the

(lower tier) 6 Cheshire Local Authority Districts were abolished and replaced by two new unitary authorities, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. In order to calculate the “would-be” Cheshire East’s spending figures in 2008, values for the 3 of the 6 historic districts that formed Cheshire East as well as 47.28% of the historical Cheshire County spending were aggregated.

- UTLA Methodology: Shire Districts’ expenditures are attributed to Shire Counties by means of aggregating. Expenditures from the Greater London Authority, Combined Authorities, Police Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Waste Authorities and Transport Authorities have been disaggregated to UTLAs by means of population ratio, and referenced to the 2018 Local Authority geography, similarly to the LTLA methodology.

Note that spending categories are not fully consistent within the time period; introduction of new services (and removal of others) suggests that total expenditure values may not be directly comparable between years. For instance, Public Health was introduced in 2013, while Court services were removed in 2009.

Presentation

Breakdowns

Time period

Financial year (April 1st to March 31st) data: 2002/2003 to 2018/2019.

Geography

Lower Tier Local Authorities (2018 reference).

Coverage

England.

Disclosure control

This indicator has been produced using only publicly available datasets.

Output FIN_07_02L.csv

Column name	Description
Year	Start of financial year, i.e. “2015” refers to the financial year “2015/16”.
LTLA18CD	Lower Tier Local Authority Code.
LTLA18NM	Lower Tier Local Authority Name.
Total_Services_NetExpen	The total amount of services net expenditure in £1000’s.
Pop_Est_Total	The total population estimate of that LA in that year.

Total_Services_NetExpen _PerCap	The total services net expenditure per capita in £1000's.
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Revision history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.01	Feb 2020	Update to 2018-2019 data; other minor changes
1.00	Aug 2019	First release