

Group F: **Suburban Mindsets**

Kevin, Lynn, Nathan or Jenna

Type F26: Mid-Market Families

Families with many grown-up children still living at home, living in cheaper suburban semis

2.70%  |  3.75%

Overview

Key Features

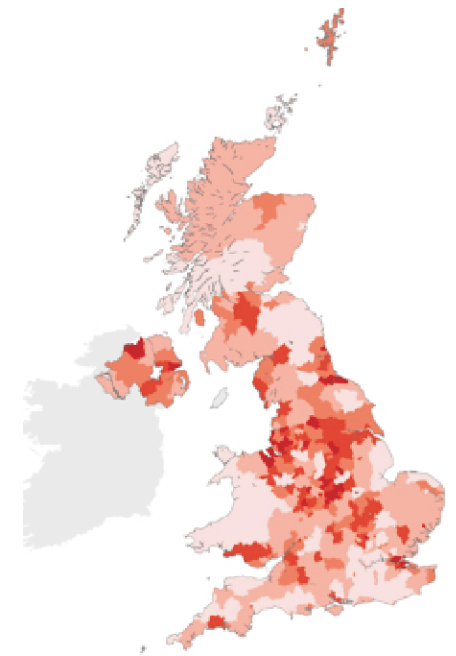
- Spacious housing and gardens
- Couples in their 40s and 50s
- Modest ambitions
- Price conscious
- Settled in communities
- Mid to lower incomes
- Children lacking money to leave
- Mid market tastes
- Self esteem independent of material success
- Traditional

Rankings

Age 36/67
 Presence of Children <18 27/67
 Household Income 33/67
 Gross Financial Assets 33/67
 Non-Mortgage Debt 20/67
 Indebtedness Indicator 32/67
 Level of Urbanisation 33/67



Typical Houses



Top Postal Areas

- Birmingham B
- Sheffield S
- Northern Ireland (Belfast) BT
- Leicester LE
- Newcastle on Tyne NE

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Overview

Mid-Market Families are lower middle class families, often with older children still at home, living in early inter war semi-detached houses, mostly in large provincial cities. People live in a transitional zone between the poorer terraced streets of the inner city, and the more spacious and modern semis of the outer suburbs. Many of these neighbourhoods have suffered from a general lack of recent investment, whether by the local council or by private enterprise, and from the movement of better paid jobs either to the city centre or to new industrial and office parks on the urban periphery.

Although the houses themselves are spacious and have pleasant sized gardens, and although they date from an era of good quality workmanship, these homes have become rather less attractive to better off young families, who prefer the conviviality and convenience of living in older terraces closer to shops and public transport, or living with people of a similar age in modern estates on the edge of the city.

Many Mid-Market Families work for local manufacturing companies in junior management and supervisory roles and many have justifiable worries about redundancy. Many wives also work to supplement household incomes.

Adults are typically in their 40s and 50s and have children who are studying at college or are entering the workforce for the first time. The type of job they do seldom provides sufficient means to own a flat of their own and many of them continue to live at home, contributing valuable additional income towards their households' costs.

This type has few pretensions and modest ambitions, where families enjoy the company of their children and have time to talk to them and their friends. These are people whose families are likely to have lived in their towns for many generations and who still meet people they went to school with when they visit the nearest shopping centre. These are people therefore whose self esteem is not greatly dependent on their material success. The subject of conversation is more likely to be personal behaviour and relationships than newly launched products.

The neighbourhood shopping centres tend to contain a newsagent, an off-licence, and a hairdressers, perhaps with a post office and symbol grocery chains if it is a large centre. Adults share the use of a family car and undertake their weekly food shopping at Asda or Morrisons, which provide keen prices within a friendly environment. Whilst most grocery shopping will be for mainstream branded goods these consumers are not averse to experimenting with foreign foods and new products.

Demographics and Behaviour

Who we are

These are lower-middle class families with aspirations towards a middle class lifestyle. Mid-Market Families is made up of parents in the later stages of their careers at local industrial employers. They are distinctive in that their children, to a very great extent, choose to remain living with them after they finish school and go on to earn a wage. Both parents work, for modest incomes, and the children contribute in the form of a small rent payment or by buying food occasionally.

Where we live

Mid-Market Families live in comfortable semi-detached houses dotted around the edges of northern inner-cities, which they bought many years ago, when the children were still young. These houses are not very expensive or fashionable, but provide space for a family to live comfortably into the parents' old age. They are pretty happy with the area they live in, having built up an extensive network of acquaintances there through having their children grow up there. They talk to their immediate neighbours occasionally, and can rely on them to keep an eye on things if they are on holiday. Not that they need to – crime is not a major problem in these areas. While they would like to move into a nicer property, this is unlikely to be possible, at least until the children move out and thoughts of downsizing begin to occupy them.

How we live our lives

Mid-Market Families are people who live extremely unpretentious lifestyles. The way they have got to where they are is by not spending too much, working hard and being happy with what they have. They don't tend to buy fancy foods, and don't eat out very often, preferring standard ranges from the local supermarket, prepared at home. They don't donate much to charity, or go to the cinema often, preferring to watch films on the TV and save their money for occasional treats.

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Living where they do, they are very reliant on their cars, often having one each, but they tend to buy them secondhand, and keep them for a few years, until they feel they can get a good bargain by trading them in. They drive to work, they drive to the shops, they drive to see their friends and they drive to go anywhere that isn't next door. They also take a couple of holidays a year, often package holidays booked a few months in advance for the parents, or city breaks with friends to Eastern Europe or Amsterdam for the kids. Low cost airlines have opened up a whole new world to this type, and they try to enjoy it as often as they can afford to.

They all have Internet connections, and have done for a couple of years, as the kids needed it for their education. But usage is quite low – most don't log in every day, and not many do the more advanced activities that broadband allows – video on demand, DVD rental by post and social networking are all activities that they do less often than average. They have yet to weave the Internet into the fabric of their everyday lives, and prefer to hop into the car and drive to the nearest shopping centre to get a new washing machine than to order it online.

How we view the world

Mid-Market Families are relatively unconcerned about the world beyond their doorsteps. Many do not vote, and care little for politics. If they do remember to cast their ballot, they have tribal instincts to vote for Labour, though these areas can also be fertile ground for the BNP, as their central message of unaffordable housing appeals to young people on low income forced to stay with their parents.

Work is not an important part of their identity. They go there from 9 till 5 to earn a living, but they don't think about it once they clock off. They have little desire to take control in the workplace, to become the boss, or start their own companies. Very few of them went to university, and the younger generation are unlikely to see the point of accruing vast debts for a degree. Their education finished with a vocational qualification and that has enabled them to get a job which they see as fine by them.

Overall, Mid-Market Families are very centred around the household. They enjoy neatness, order and tidiness in their lives, and pride themselves on their homes. They spend a lot of time doing housework and being with their families. With respect to the outside world, they are just keen to get by without causing too much trouble, or drawing attention to themselves.

How we get by

The central feature of Mid-Market Families' finances is their conservatism. They have low expenses and save as much as they can out of their incomes. Through steady saving rather than any spectacular income (though theirs is slightly better than average), many have amassed some considerable savings. Most have not, however, and still need to work more and save more to retire.

Some have loans and credit cards, but generally these are manageable and most managed to keep out of the consumer credit boom and bust altogether. As this type does not have enormously aspirational tastes, it finds it easy to delay gratification rather than incur debt. Propositions that work for them may involve highlighting value rather than intangible benefits.

Most work in sales, or skilled manual work in local industries, often supervising a couple of people at work. Others may work in the public sector, for the post office, public transport or local council. Apart from their employer pension, few have made much provision for retirement. Few claim benefits of any sort, except a small minority who are more likely than average to be on incapacity benefit, perhaps through injuries sustained in the course of their work.

Online Behaviour

The Internet is a source of entertainment for this type. They enjoy sport and playing online games, and the two interests come together via a high propensity to visit fantasy football and gambling websites. When the house contains older children, the Internet is also used for social networking and the purchase of entertainment products such as films and video games. Family holidays are also booked online and there is a strong preference for big travel agency brands over independent travel. Mid-Market Families are reliant on the car, and motor insurance is typically purchased via price comparison websites.

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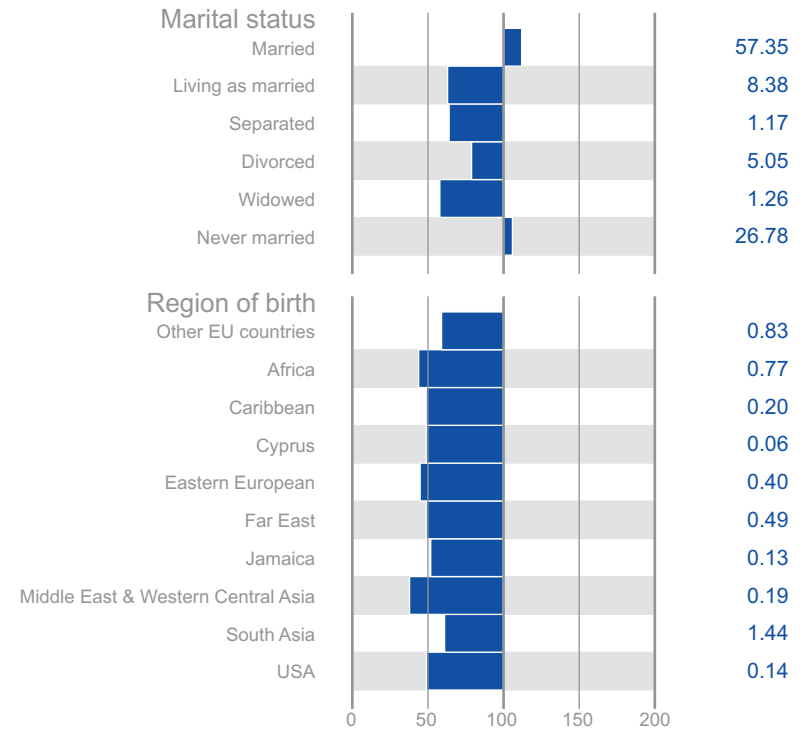
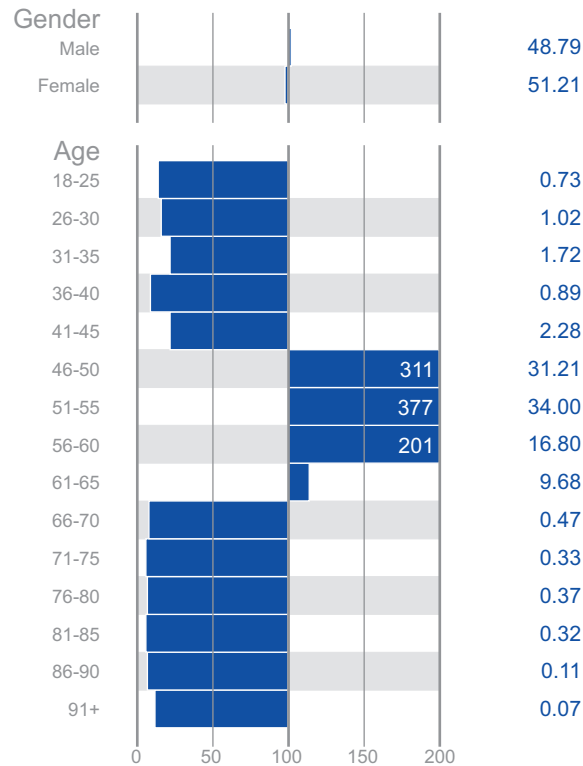
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Understanding Charts
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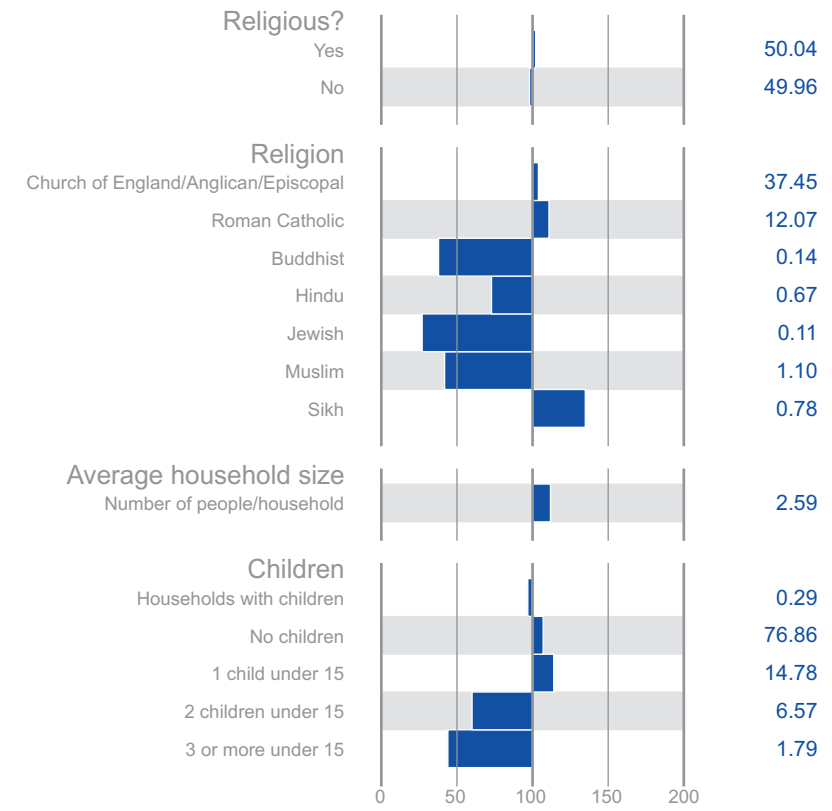
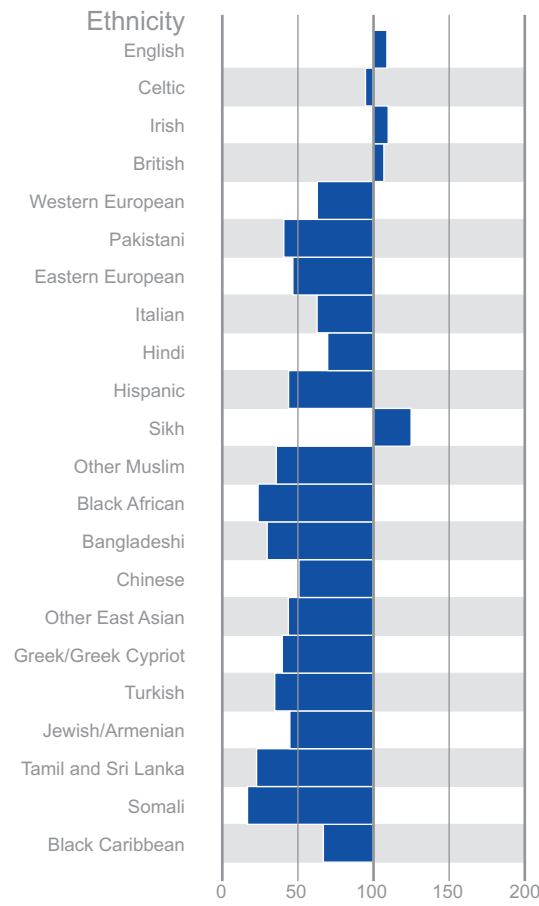
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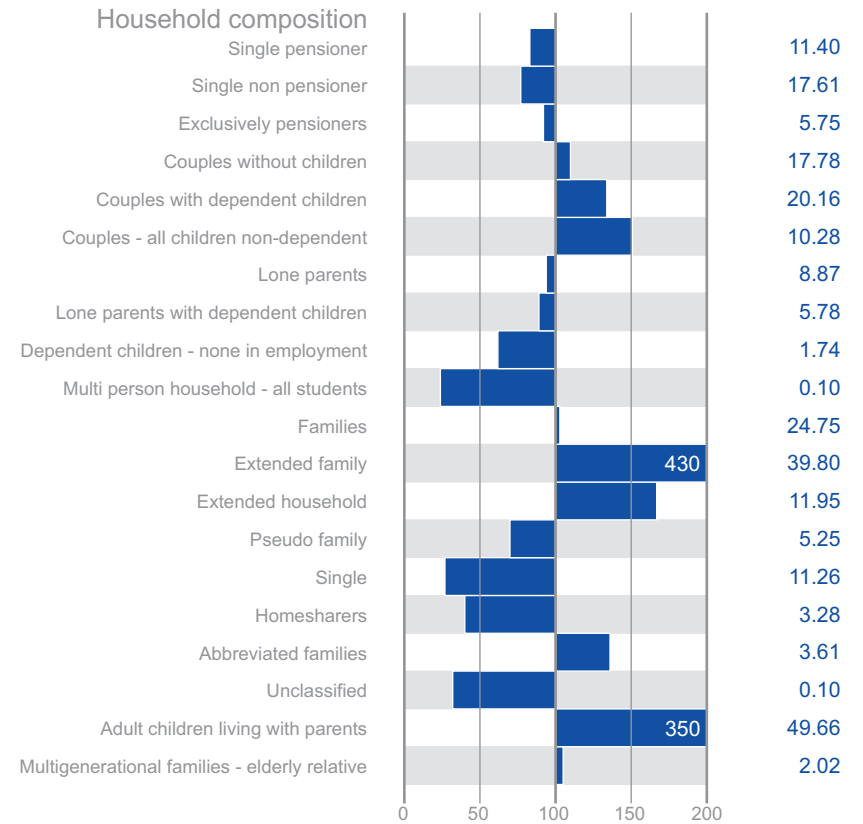
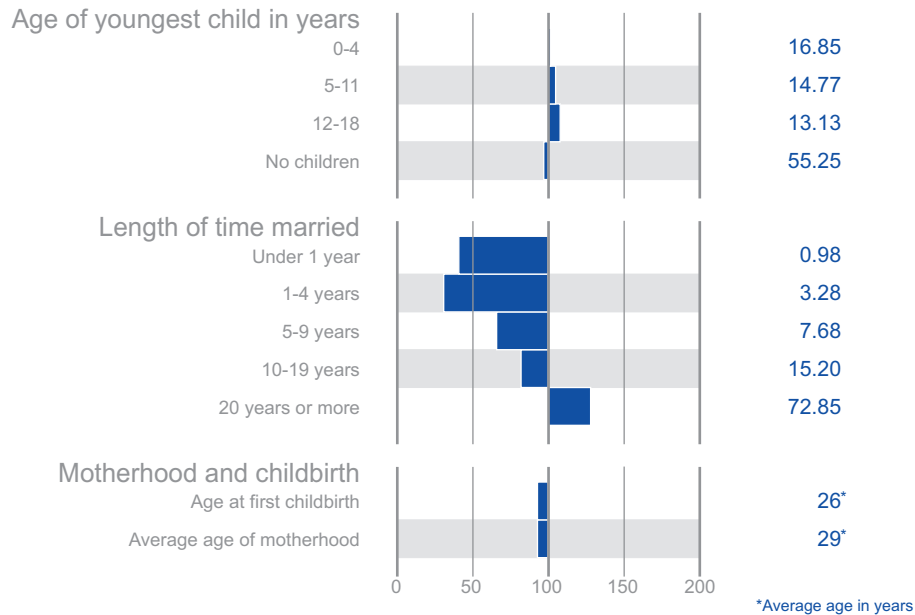
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Mean % 12.48%

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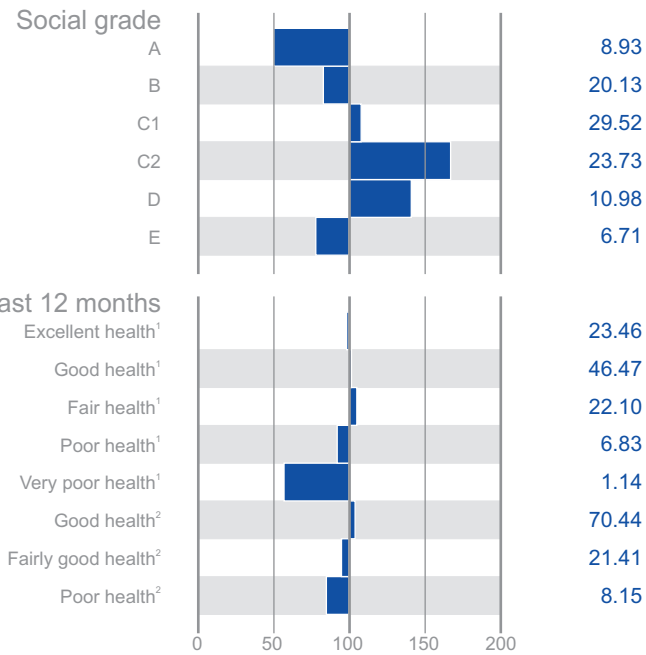
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¹ BHPS data
² Census CYE data

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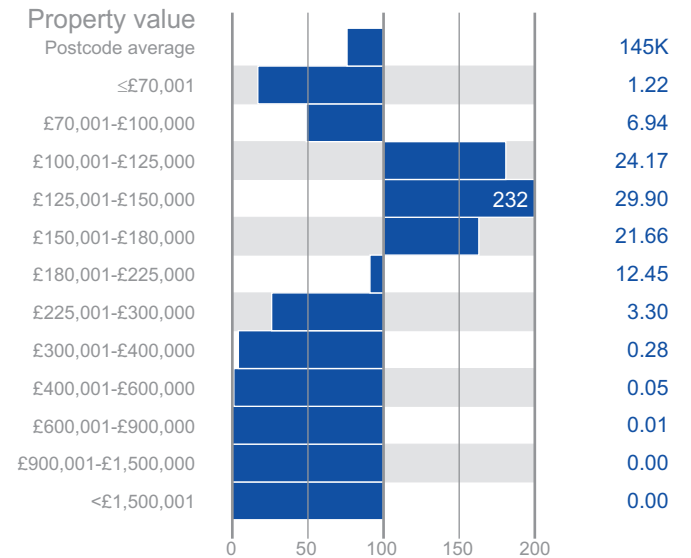
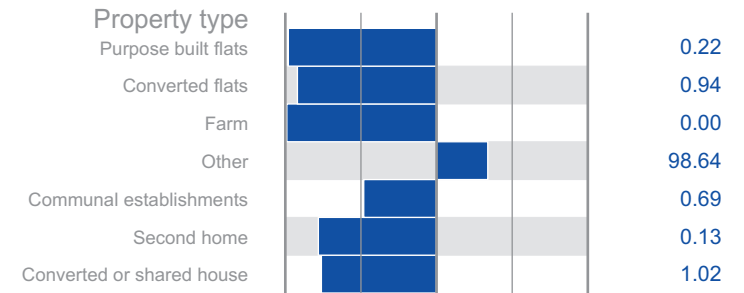
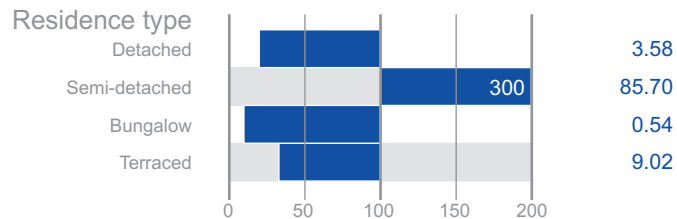
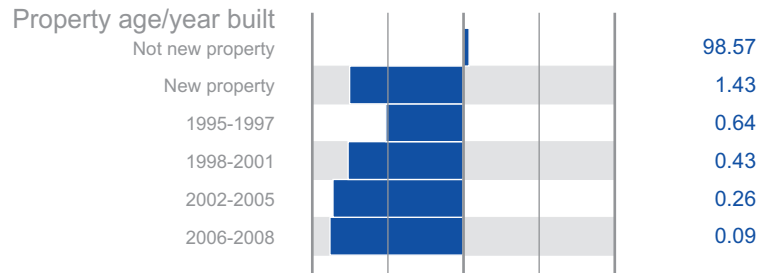
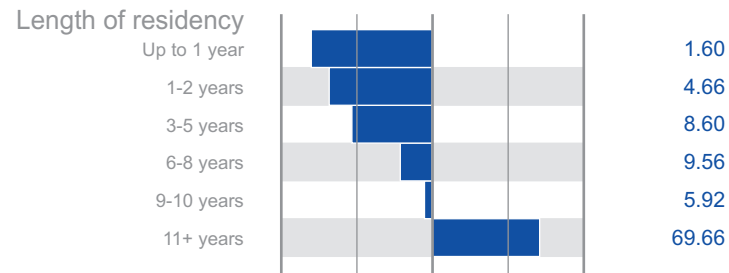
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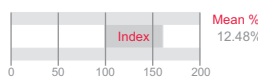
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Where we live



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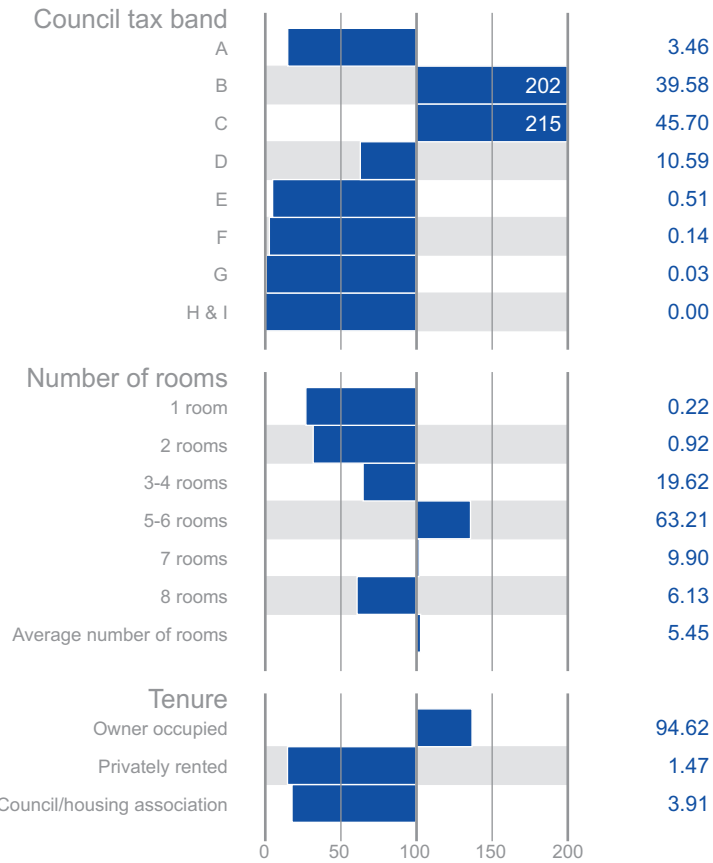
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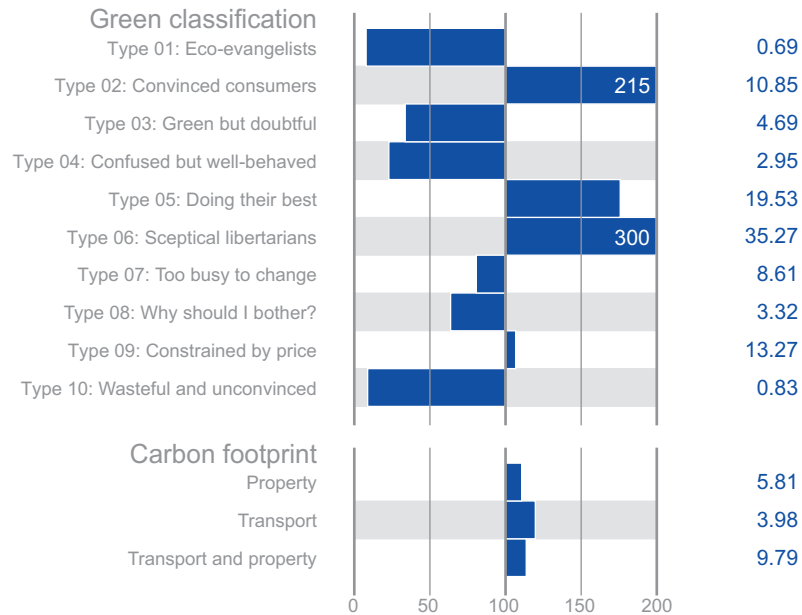
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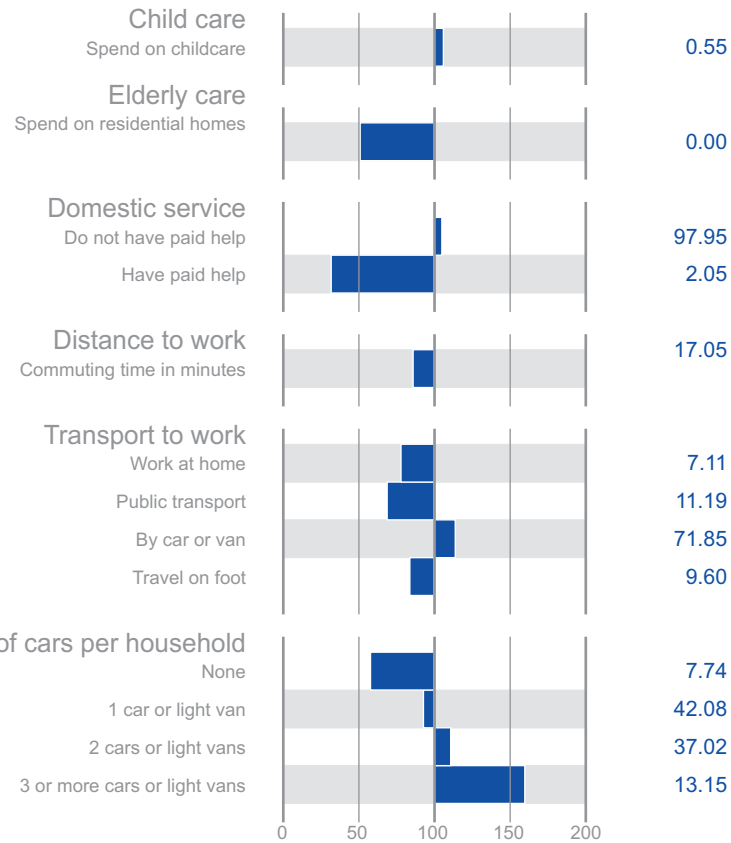
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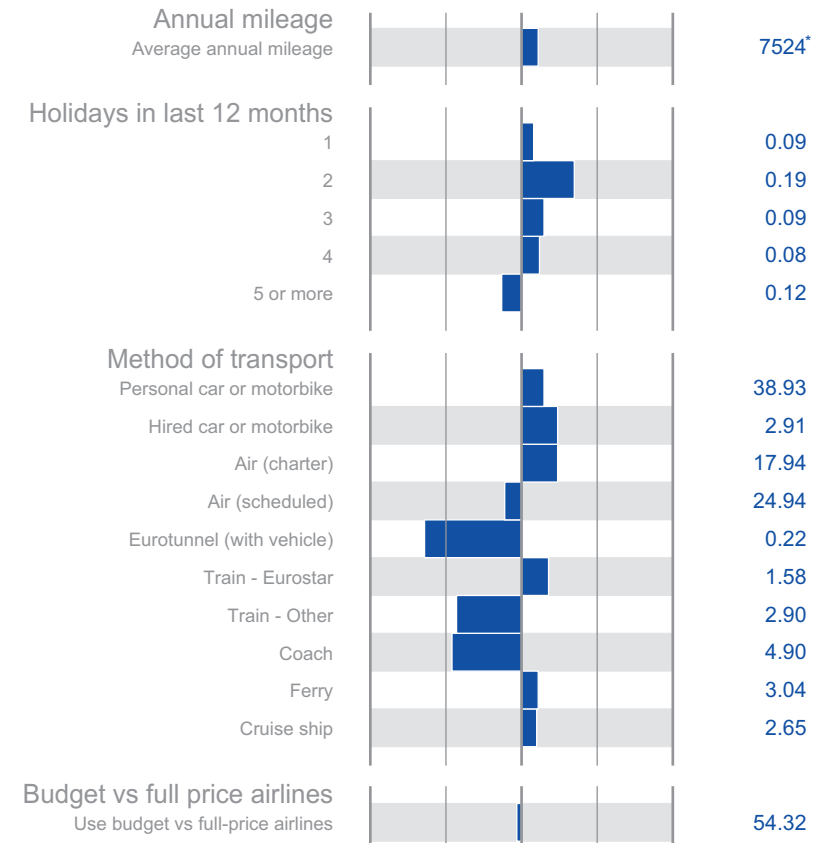
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How we live our lives



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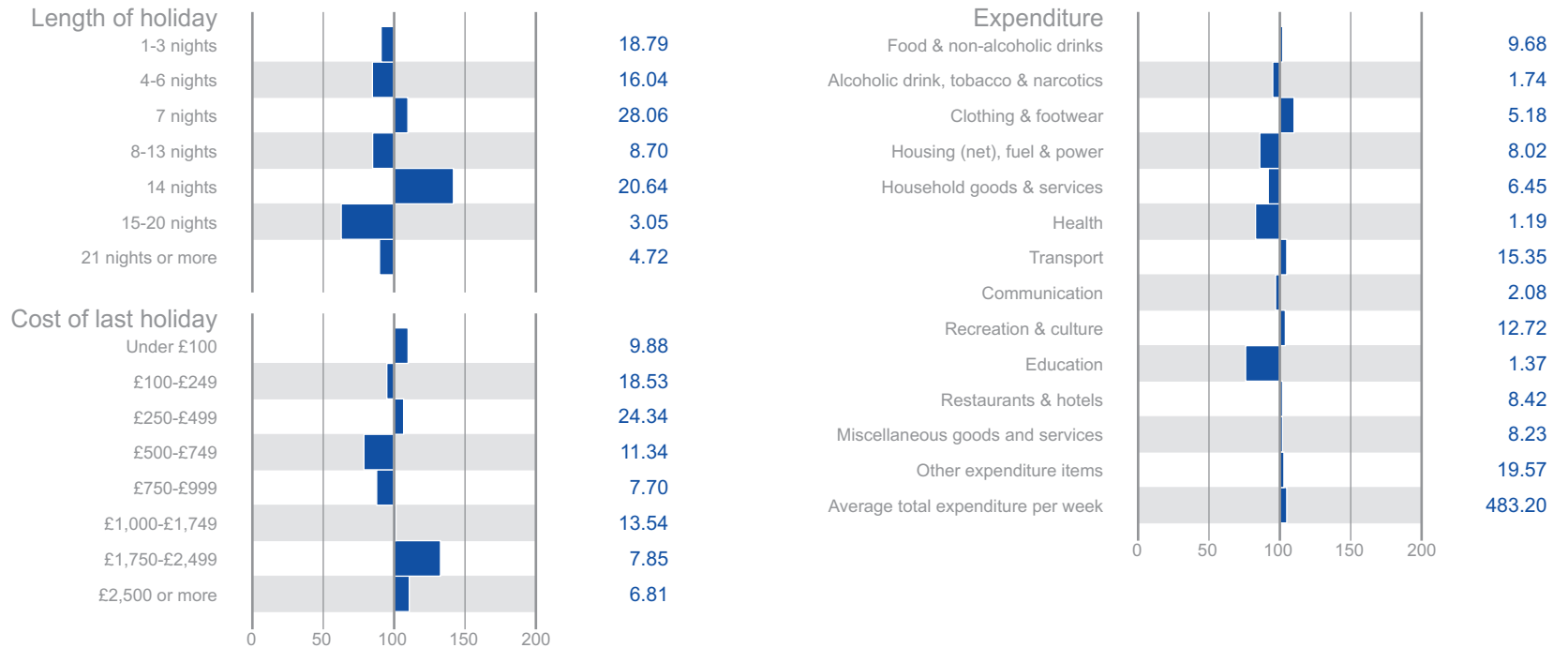
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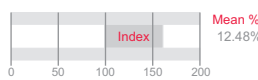
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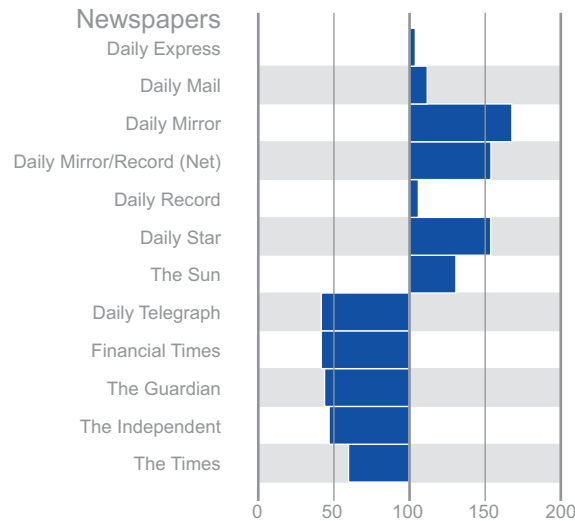
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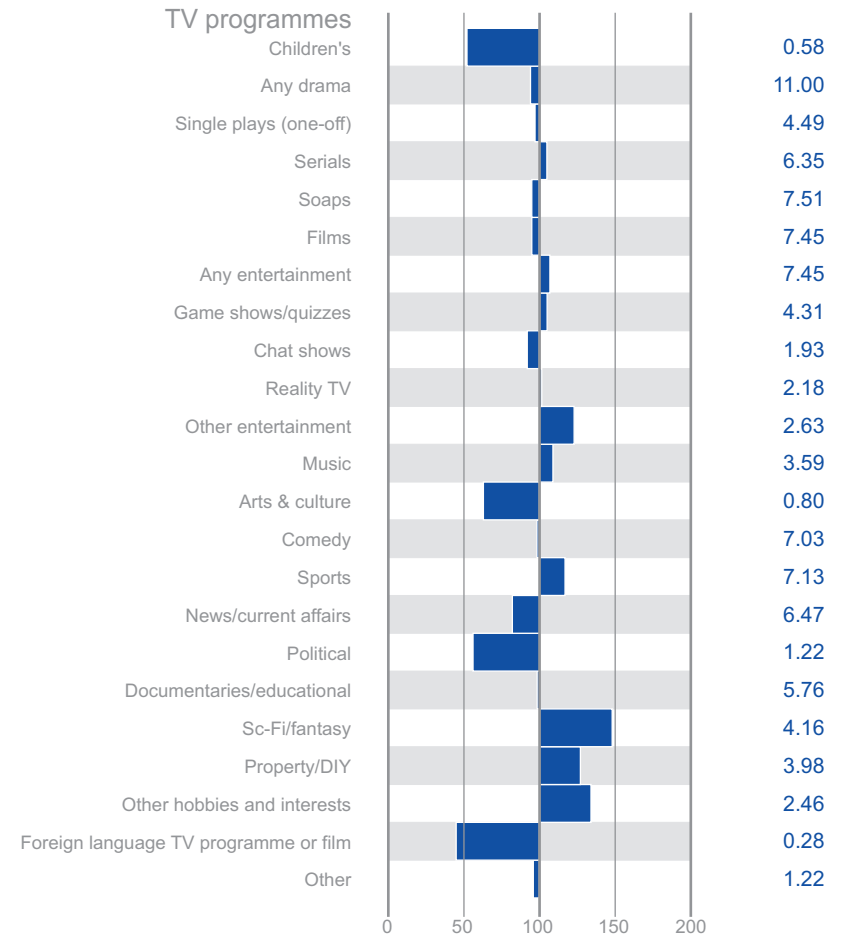
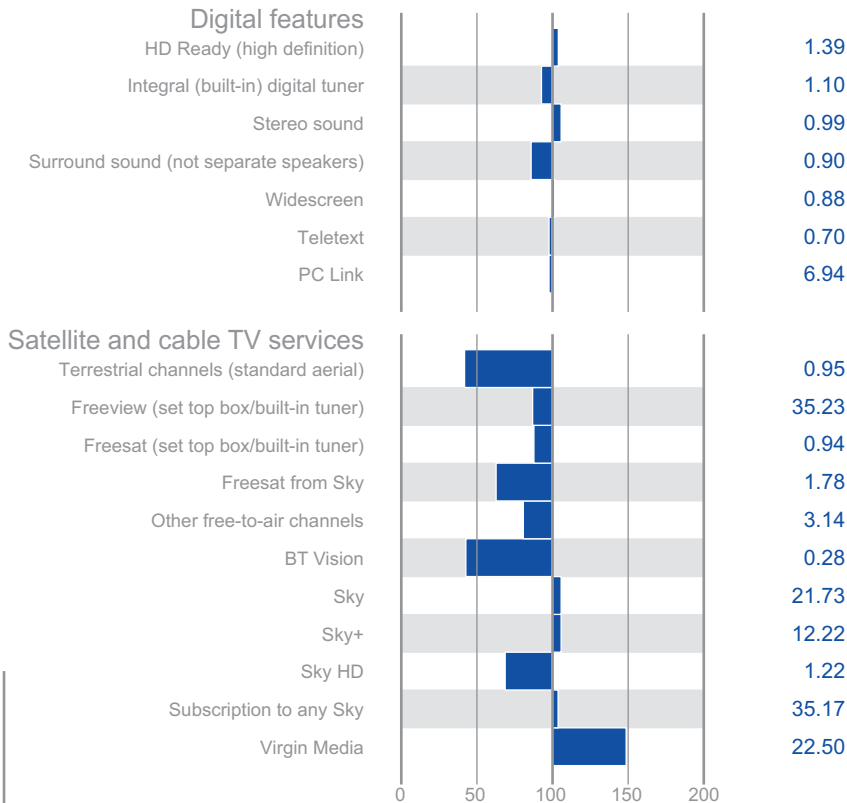
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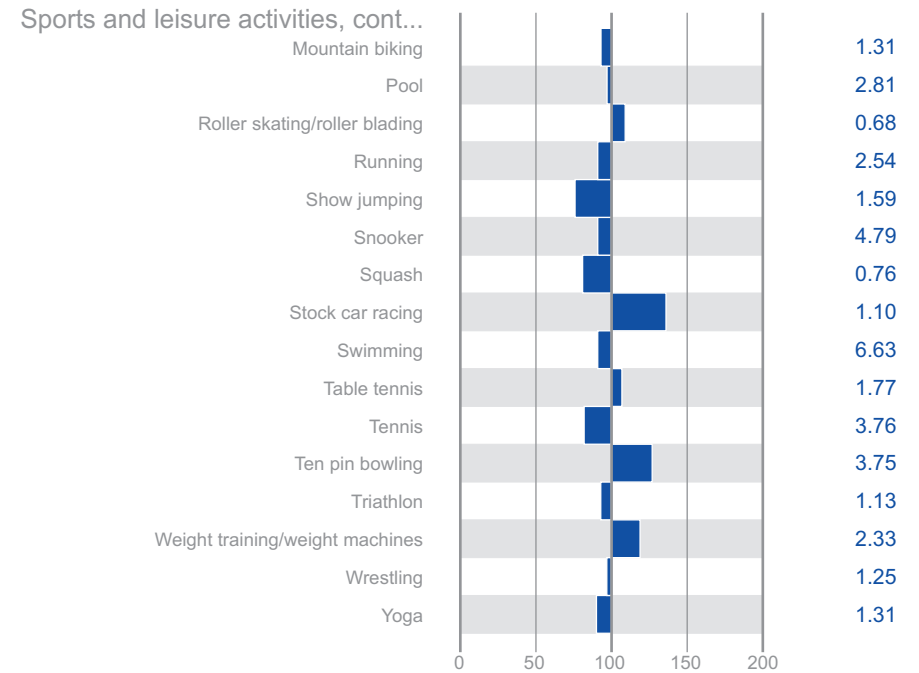
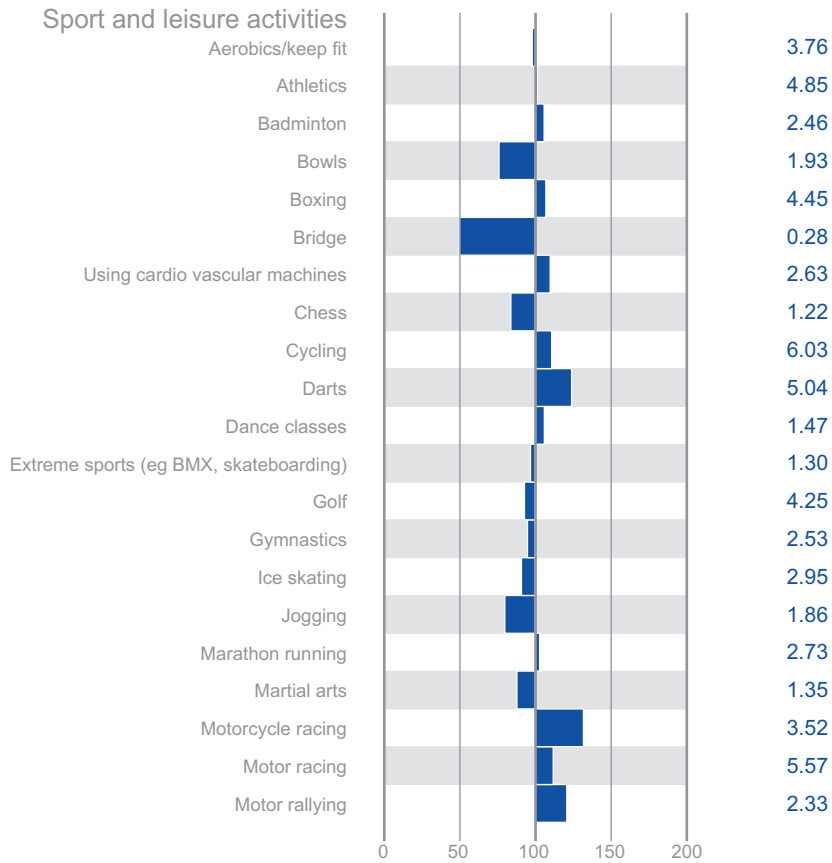
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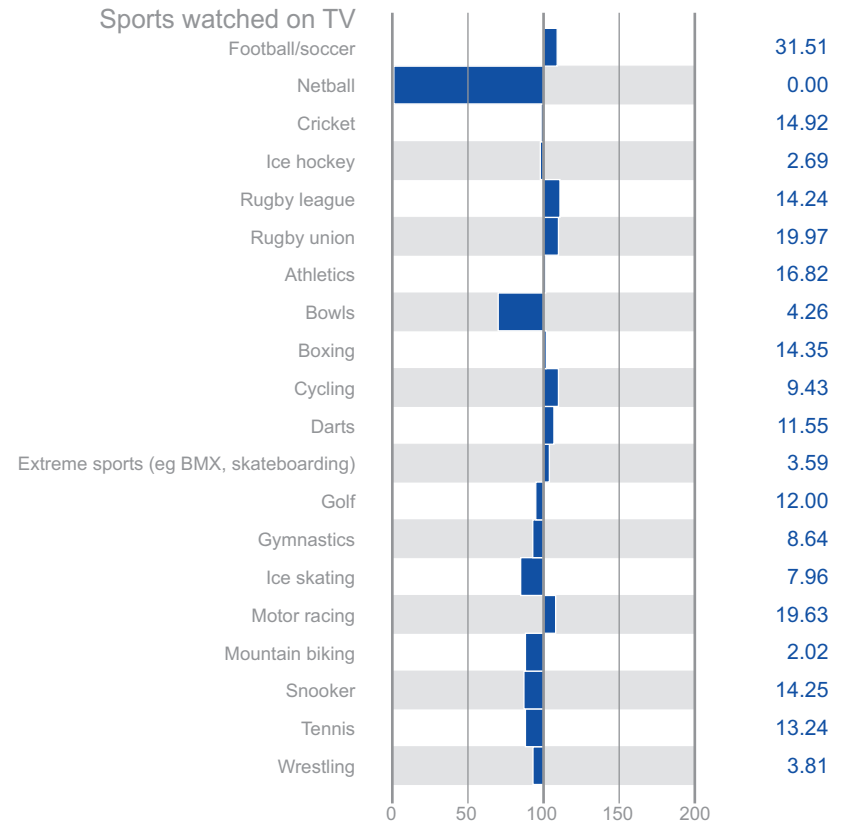
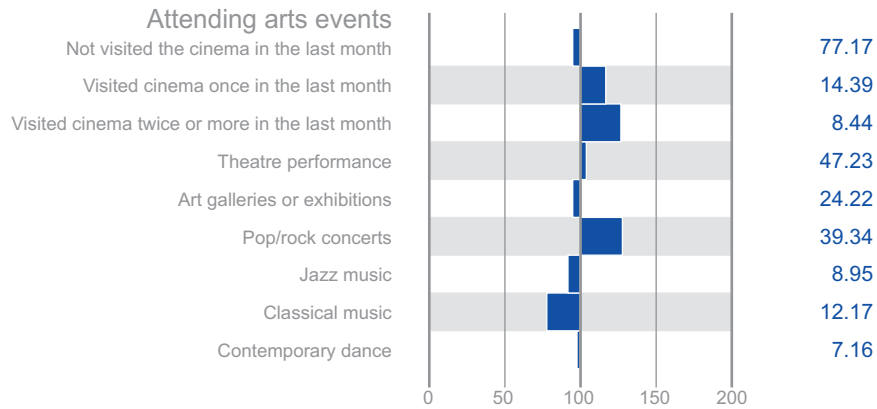
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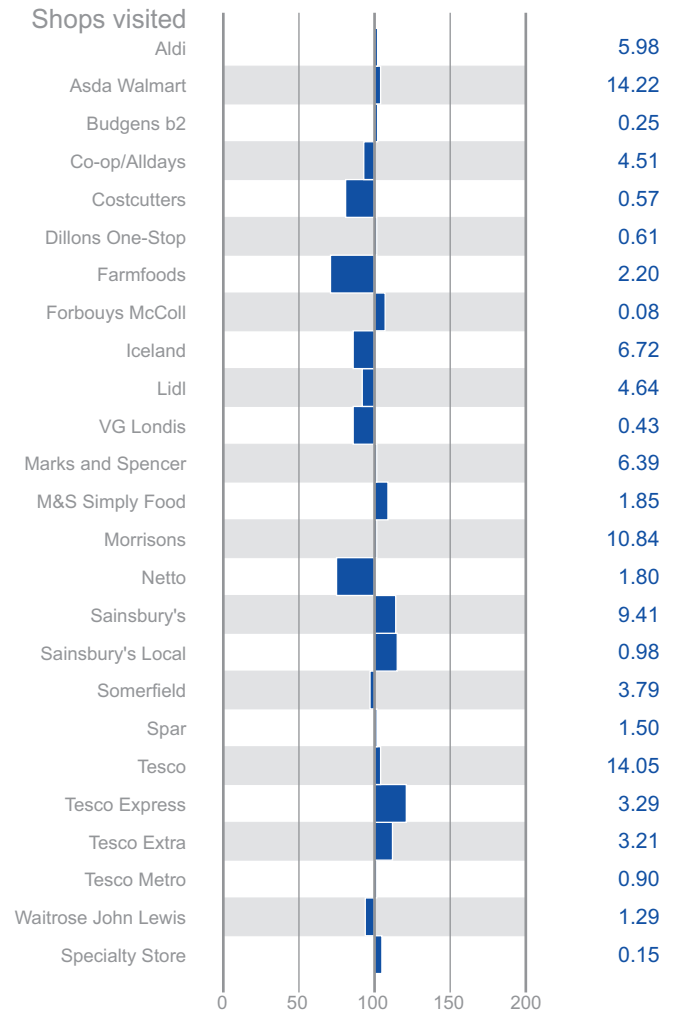
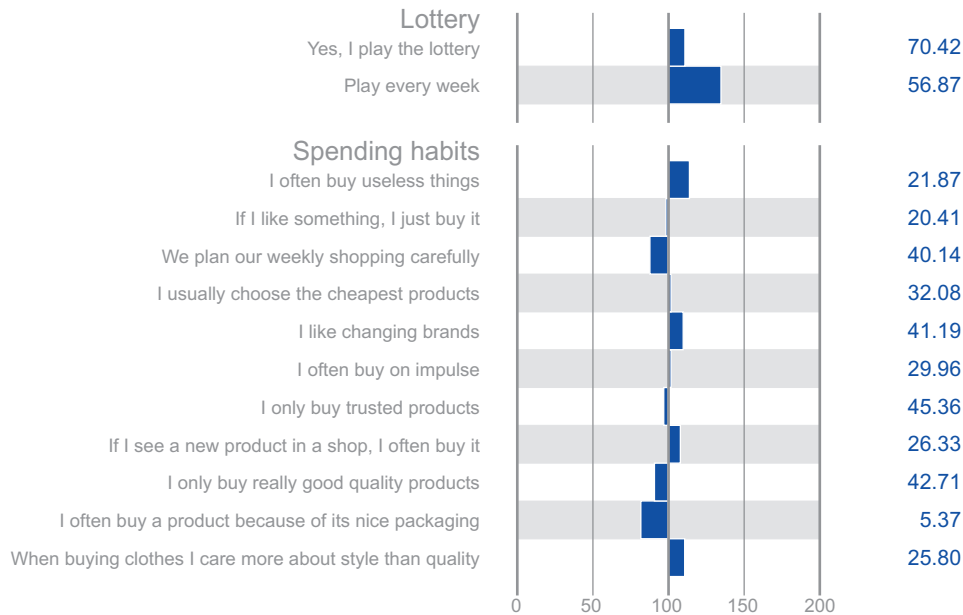
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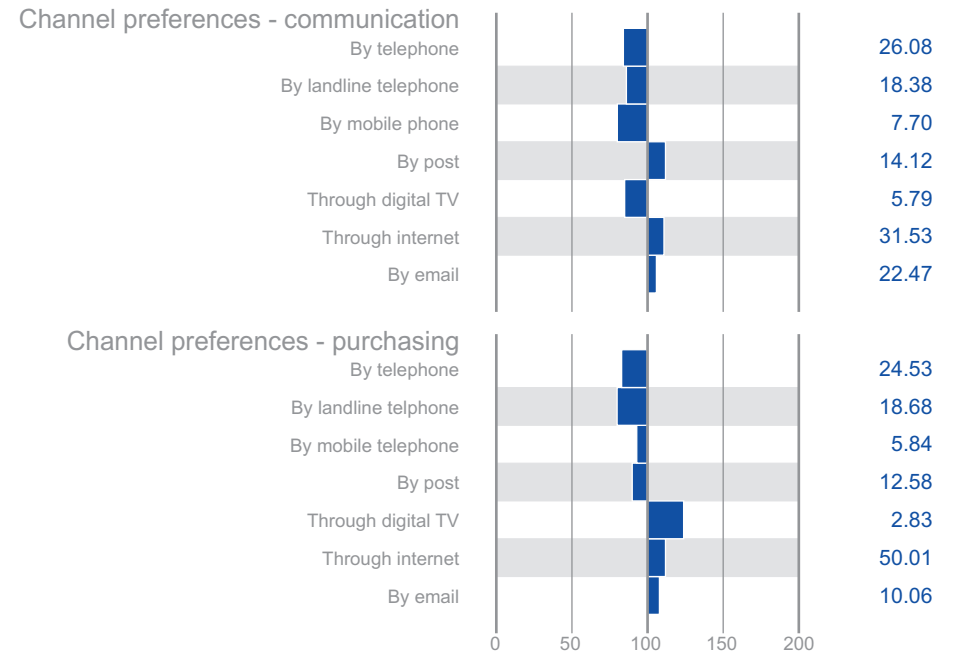
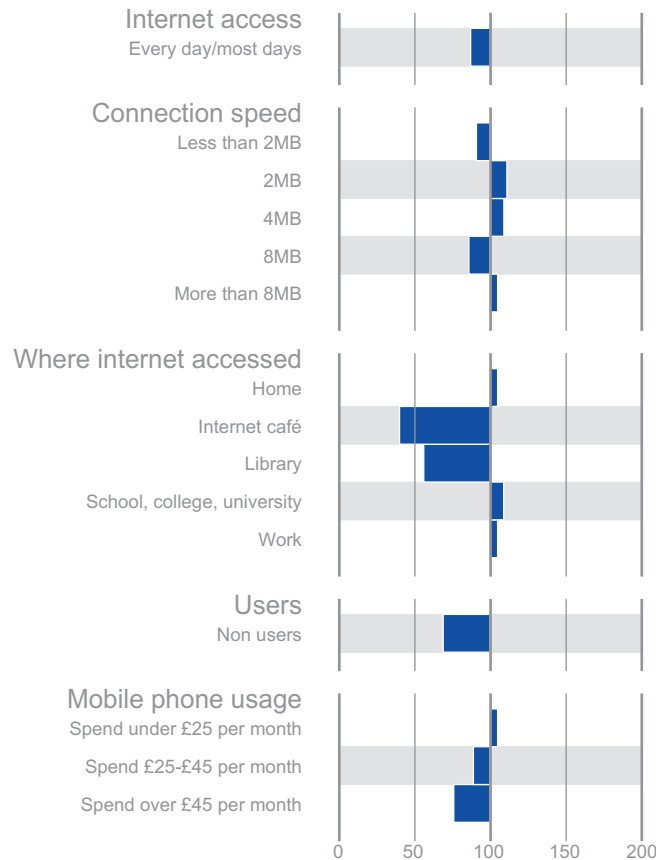
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How we communicate



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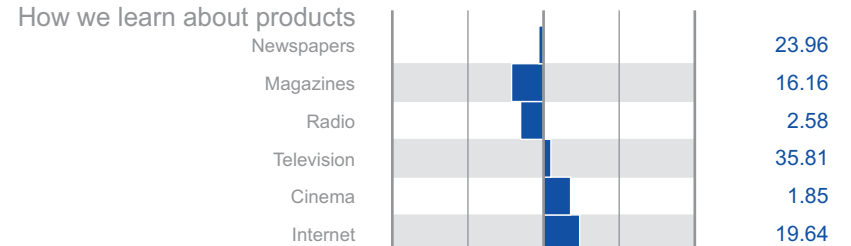
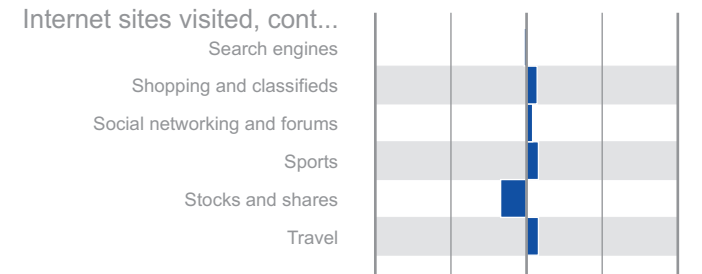
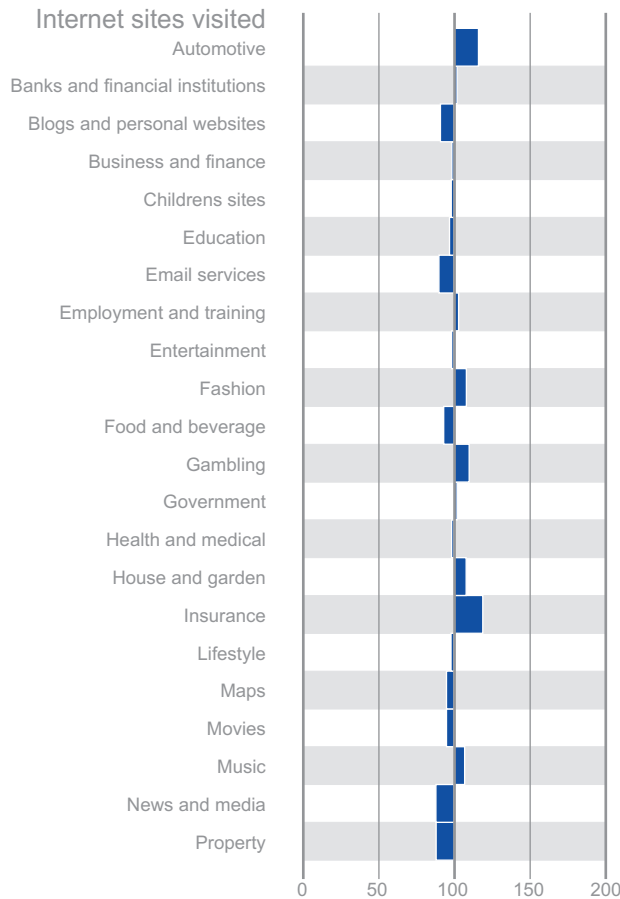
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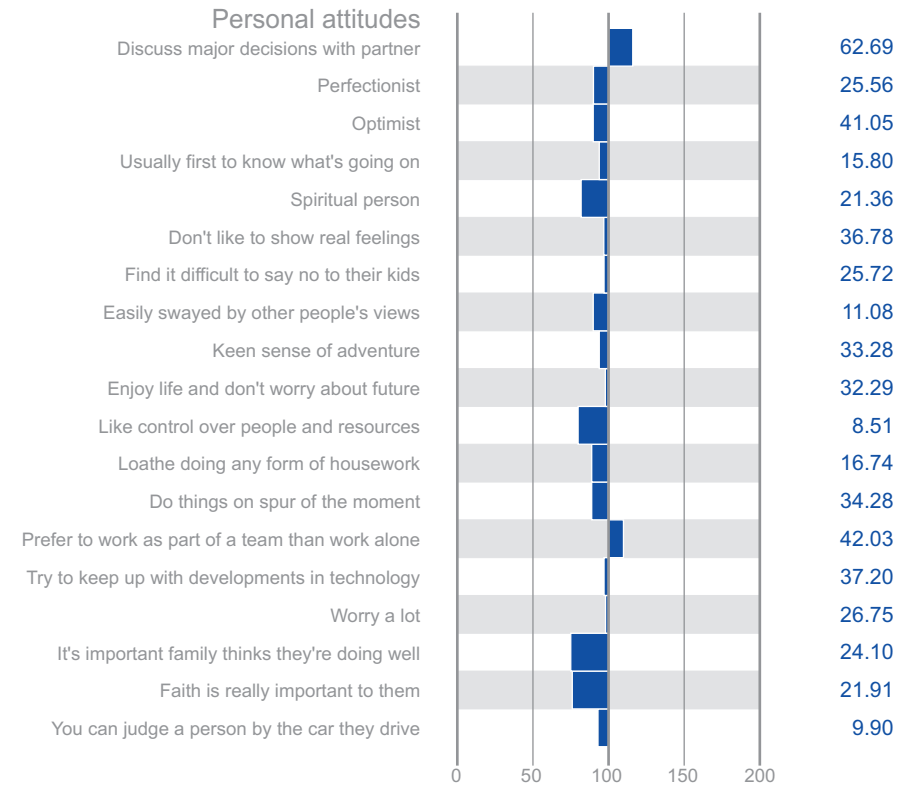
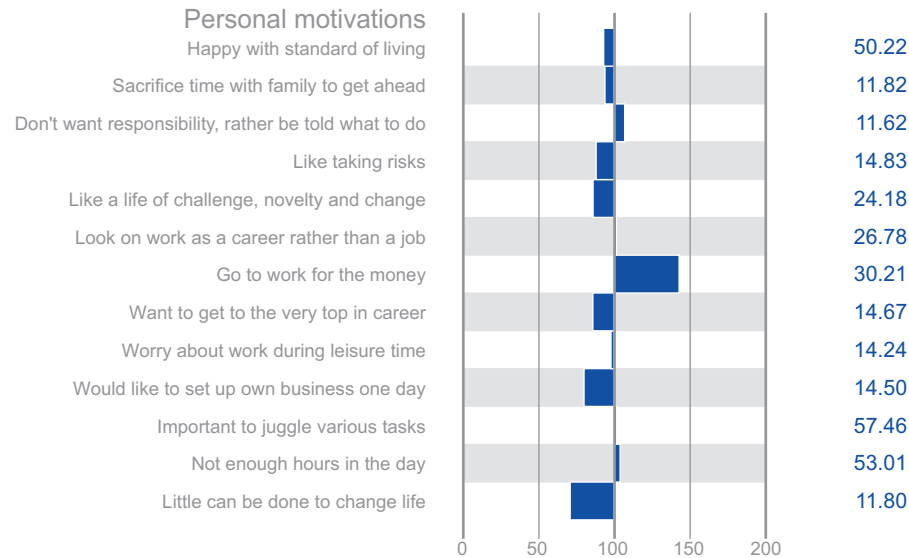
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How we view the world



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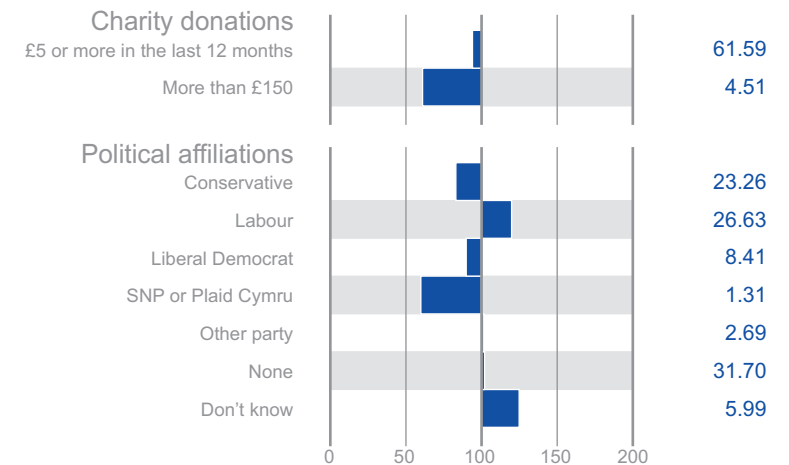
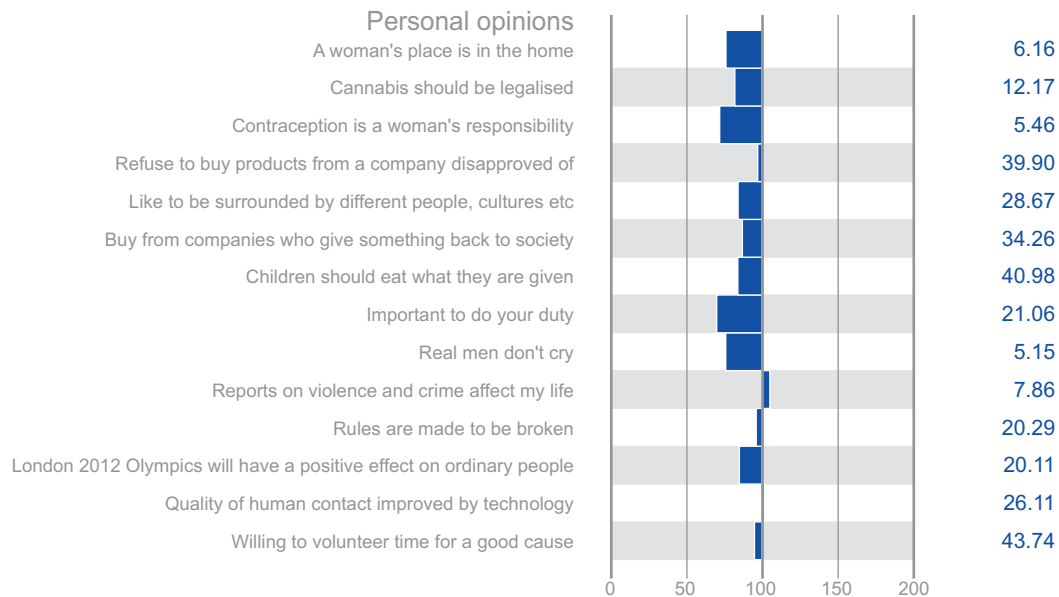
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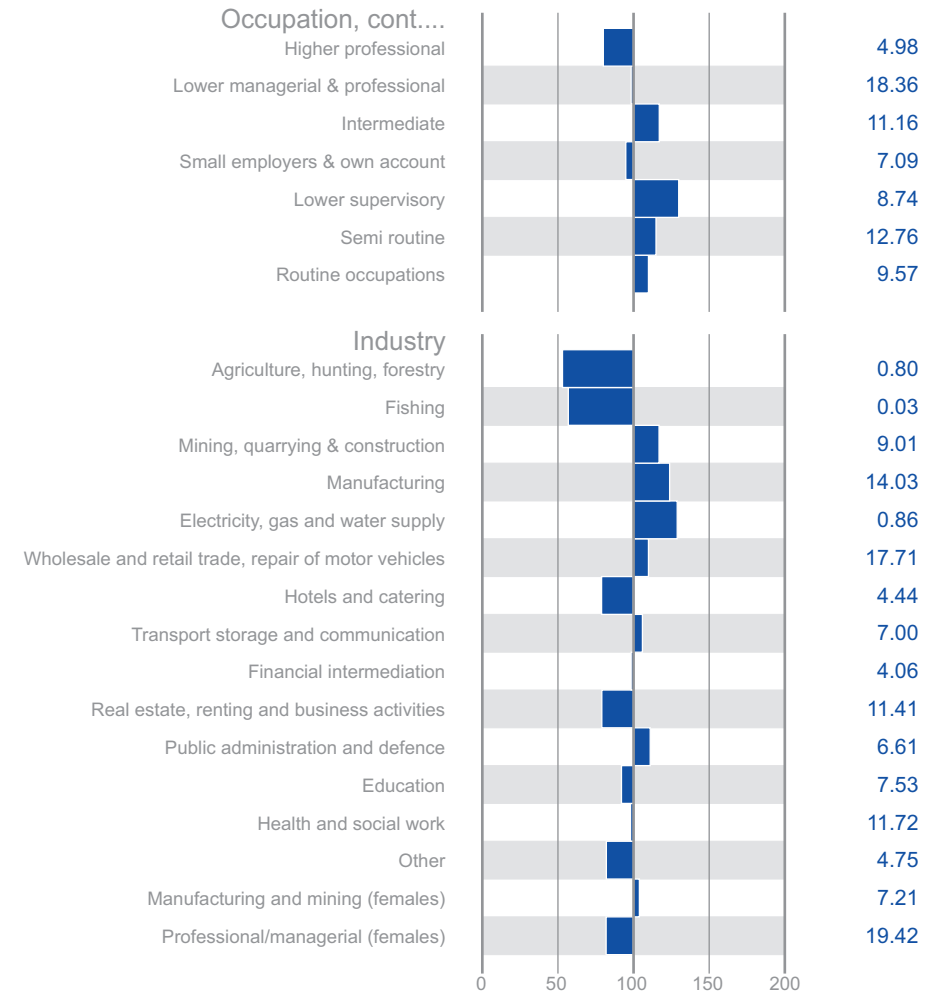
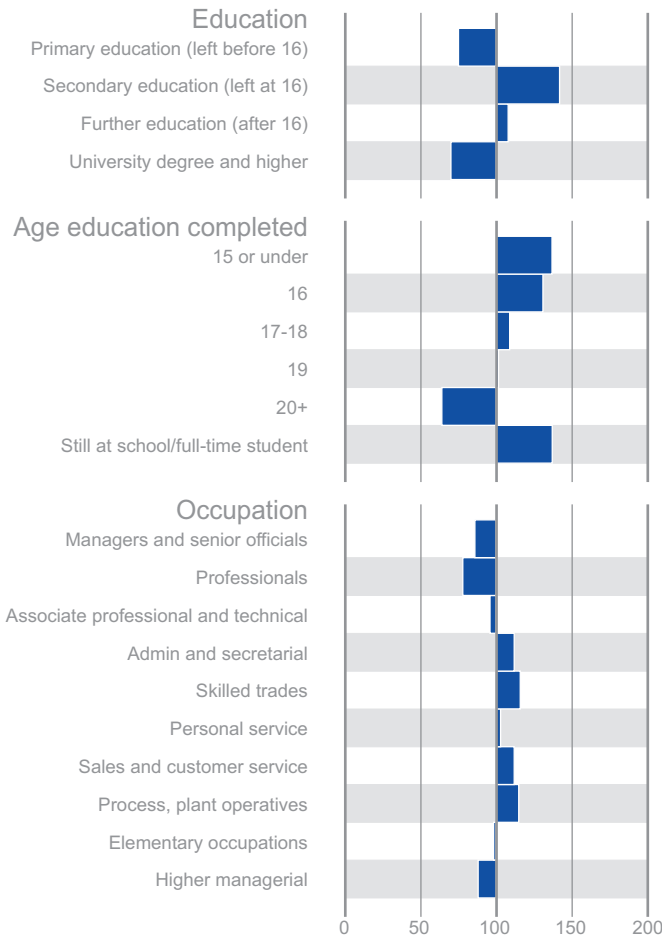
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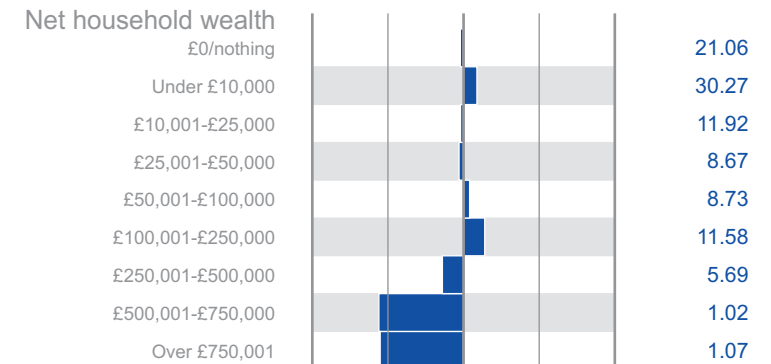
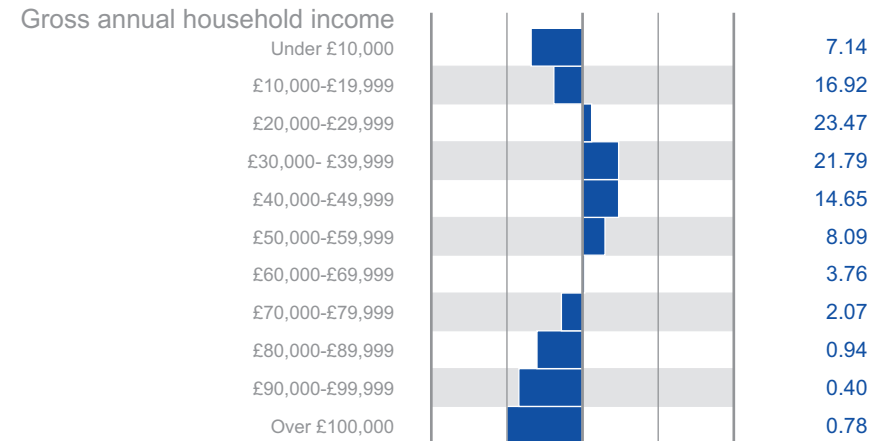
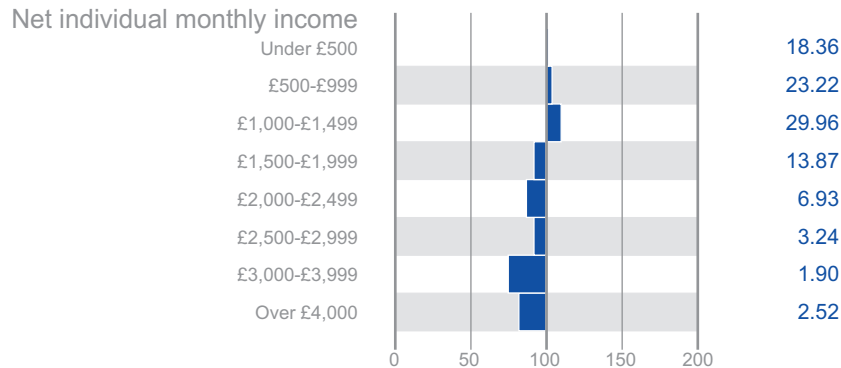
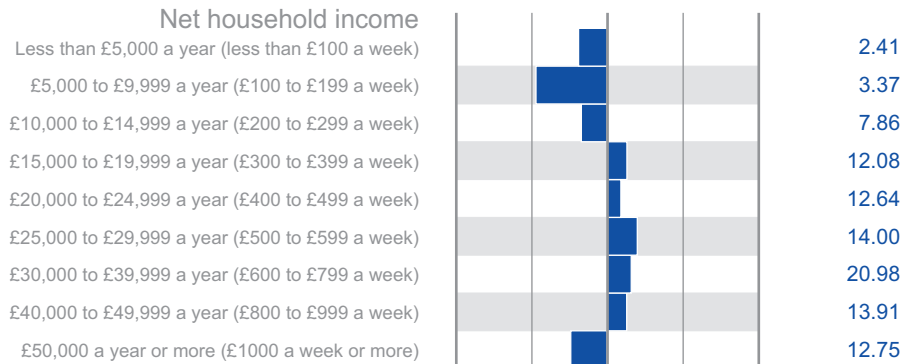
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Our financial circumstances



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Group F: Suburban Mindsets

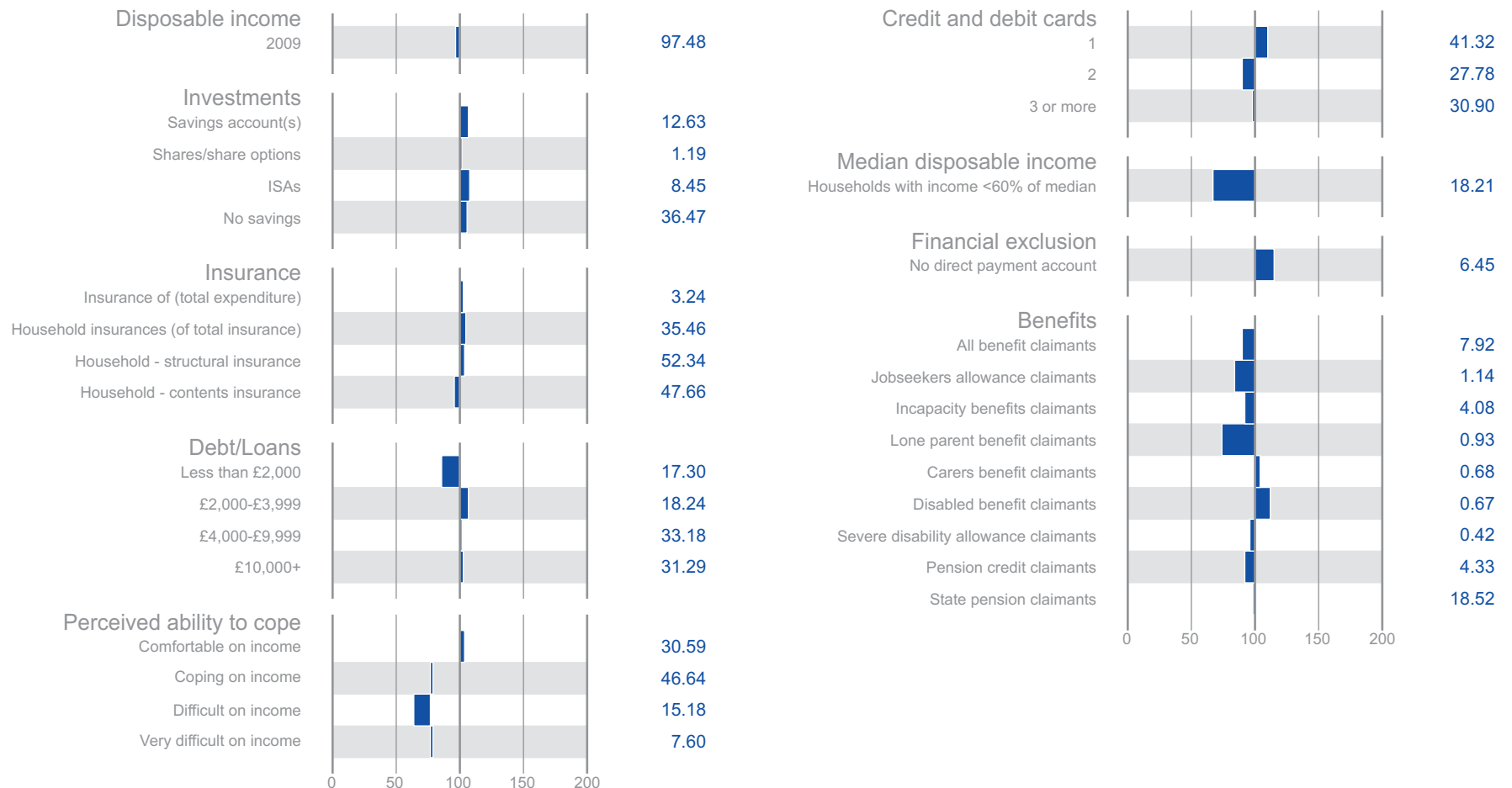
Kevin, Lynn, Nathan or Jenna

Type F26: Mid-Market Families

Families with many grown-up children still living at home, living in cheaper suburban semis

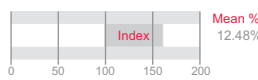
2.70%  |  3.75%

Our financial circumstances



Understanding Charts
Unless otherwise stated, charts show the Index and Mean %.

The Index is shown as a bar, and the Mean % is shown to the right:



Mean % 12.48%

Supporting Notes

These pages have been designed to help you understand the essence of each of the groups and types. We have sought to highlight the key features which make each group distinctive, and which would be useful to bear in mind when devising communications or treatment strategies. The descriptive pages are necessarily subjective and are intended to highlight key issues rather than to be comprehensive.

We have taken account of a wealth of information from both census and non census sources - such as the electoral register, shareholder and directors' lists, and local levels of council tax. This information is supplemented with information from market research surveys which can be cross tabulated by Mosaic, including the ONS Annual Expenditure and Family Survey, University of Essex's British Household Panel Survey, Research Now's online panel, YouGov's specialist financial survey, GfK NOP's Financial Research Survey, BMRB's Target Group Index Survey, Experian Hitwise's online competitor intelligence, the National Readership Survey and the British Crime Survey.

We have also made use of information cross tabulated by Mosaic from Experian's lifestyle questionnaires. To complement this formal information there is of course a large body of knowledge, accumulated over the years, on the relationship between customer behaviour and previous versions of Mosaic which has been used to support the patterns highlighted in these pages.

In building a picture of each of these categories this wealth of statistical information has been enhanced by a comprehensive series of visits to each of the different types of neighbourhood. Likewise much of the historic context which is contained within these portraits results from many decades of geodemographic analysis and of visits to assess the vitality of different regions.

Caveats

Clearly not every postcode matches exactly to just one of the groups and types. These descriptions are therefore what sociologists would describe as 'ideal types', pure examples to which individual cases approximate only with various degrees of exactness. They focus on the statistical bias of a type of neighbourhood, on the demographic categories which are more numerous there than elsewhere in the area and which give the neighbourhood its distinctive character. In addition, because the boundaries of postcodes and census output areas do not exactly match boundaries in housing type, it is inevitable that addresses close to the boundary of many output areas may in certain cases not appear to have been allocated to the most suitable category. There are cases too where the same types of neighbourhood will contain people of similar character and behaviour but living in very different types of accommodation according to where in the area they may live.

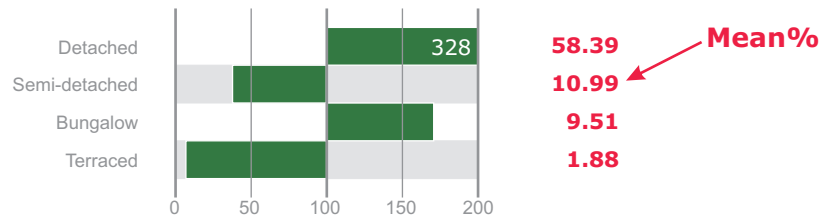
Supporting Notes

Variables - Mean% and Index

Charts are provided for each of the variables used to build and describe the UK segments. The variables are grouped together by category. For each group, the charts show the Mean% and Index for each variable.

Understanding Mean% and Index

Mean% show the percentage of this group/type with this characteristic. For example, consider Residence Type for Group C:

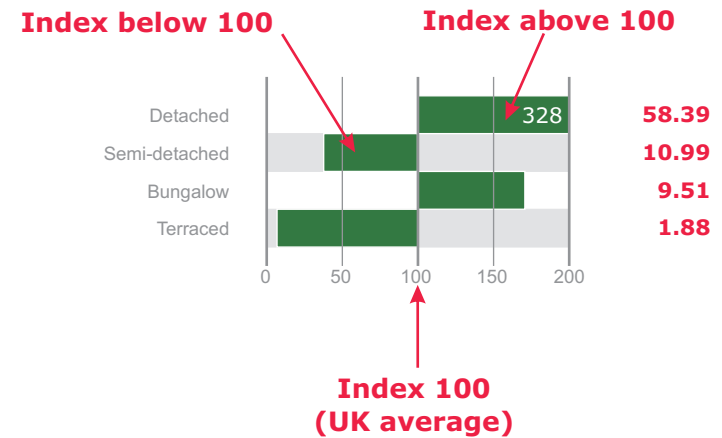


This shows that:

- 58.39% of Group C have a detached house
- 10.99% of Group C have semi-detached house
- 9.51% of Group C have a bungalow
- 1.88% of Group C have a terraced house

The **Index** shows how the variable compares with all households in the UK. An **Index of 100** is the average. An **Index greater than 100** shows that this variable is over-represented when compared with the average. An **Index less than 100** shows that this variable is under-represented when compared with the average.

The Index is shown on the chart as a bar:



The chart shows the Index value from 0 to 200. If the Index value is greater than 200, the bar is shown as 200 along with the exact Index.