Taking Part 2013/14:

Findings for LITERATURE
This report provides an overview of the engagement in literature by adults living in England.

Trend data between 2008/9 and 2013/14 are provided as well as comparisons between 2008/9 and 2013/14 by key demographic and regional variables.

All statistically significant differences are noted in the text and on the charts:
- a statistically significant difference is a difference which is probably true and not due to chance
- a non statistically significant difference is probably not a true difference and is likely to be due to chance

* indicates a statistically significant difference between 2008/9 and 2013/14.

More information about the Taking Part Survey can be found in Appendix A and a Technical Note in Appendix B.
Contents

Key Findings ................................................................................................................................................. 4
Literature .......................................................................................................................................................... 5
Engagement in literature ................................................................................................................................. 6
  Engagement in literature by gender ............................................................................................................. 8
  Engagement in literature by age group ......................................................................................................... 9
  Engagement in literature by disability ......................................................................................................... 10
  Engagement in literature by ethnic group ................................................................................................. 11
  Engagement in literature by socio-economic group ............................................................................... 12
  Engagement in literature by urban/rural ................................................................................................. 13
  Engagement in literature by region .......................................................................................................... 14
Literature attendance .................................................................................................................................... 15
Participation in literature ............................................................................................................................... 16
  Written stories or plays .............................................................................................................................. 17
  Written poetry ........................................................................................................................................... 18
  Been a member of a book club .................................................................................................................... 19
Appendix A - About the Taking Part survey ................................................................................................. 20
Appendix B - Technical note ......................................................................................................................... 21
Key Findings

- 8.6% of adults in England had engaged in literature in 2013/14 – a statistically significant decrease from 9.6% in 2008/9.

- In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 a greater proportion of women had engaged in literature in the past year compared with men.

- In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 the 75+ age group had lower engagement in literature than younger age groups.

- Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults in the white ethnic group who had engaged in literature – from 9.4% to 8.4%.

- In 2008/9 and 2013/14 adults in the upper socio-economic group were more likely to have engaged in literature than adults in the lower socio-economic group.

- Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a decrease in the proportion of adults in the lower socio-economic group who had engaged in literature in the past year – from 6.1% to 4.2%.

- Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a decrease in the proportion of adults in the South East who had engaged in literature – from 12.6% to 9.0%.

- 3.2% of adults in England had attended a literature event in 2013/14 – a statistically similar proportion as 2008/9.

- 6.4% of adults in England had participated in literature activities in 2013/14 – a statistically significant decrease from 7.5% in 2008/9.
Literature

The Taking Part survey asked adults in England about whether they had engaged in a range of literature events and activities in the past 12 months. Engagement in literature is defined as having participated in or attended at least one activity or event listed below in the past year.

**Literature events:**
- Event connected with books or writing

**Literature activities:**
- Written any stories or plays
- Written any poetry
- Been a member of a book club
Engagement in literature

8.6% of adults in England had engaged in literature in 2013/14 – a statistically significant decrease from 9.6% in 2008/9.

Figure 1 - Engagement in literature in the past 12 months
Figure 2 outlines how adults in England engaged with literature; whether through attendance of literature events, participation in literature activities, both or neither.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a small but statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults who only participated in literature events (from 6.5% to 5.4%) and a statistically significant increase in the proportion who neither attended nor participated (from 90.4% to 91.4%).

**Figure 2 - Engagement in literature**
**Engagement in literature by gender**

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 a greater proportion of women had engaged in literature in the past year compared with men – for example in 2013/14, 9.8% of women compared with 7.4% of men. These differences are statistically significant.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant changes in the proportion of men and the proportion of women who had engaged in literature.

**Figure 3 - Engagement in literature by gender**
Engagement in literature by age group

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 the 75+ age group had lower engagement in literature than younger age groups. These differences are statistically significant.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant changes in the proportion of adults engaging in literature in any age group.

Figure 4 - Engagement in literature by age group
Engagement in literature by disability

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant differences in the proportion of adults with a disability and the proportion of adults without a disability who had engaged in literature.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant changes in the proportion of adults with a disability and the proportion of adults without a disability who had engaged in literature.

Figure 5 - Engagement in literature by disability
Engagement in literature by ethnic group

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant difference in the proportion of adults in the white ethnic group and adults in the non-white ethnic group who had engaged in literature.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults in the white ethnic group who had engaged in literature – from 9.4% to 8.4%.

**Figure 6 - Engagement in literature by ethnic group**
Engagement in literature by socio-economic group

In 2008/9 and 2013/14 adults in the upper socio-economic group were more likely to have engaged in literature than adults in the lower socio-economic group – for example in 2013/14, 11.0% compared with 4.2%. These differences are statistically significant.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a decrease in the proportion of adults in the lower socio-economic group who had engaged in literature in the past year – from 6.1% to 4.2%.

**Figure 7 - Engagement in literature by socio-economic group**
Engagement in literature by urban/rural

In 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was no statistically significant difference in engagement between adults in urban areas and adults in rural areas.

Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there were no statistically significant changes in the proportion of adults in urban areas and the proportion of adults rural areas who had engaged in literature.

Figure 8 - Engagement in literature by urban or rural location
Engagement in literature by region

Figure 9 provides an overview of engagement in literature by region. Between 2008/9 and 2013/14 there was a decrease in the proportion of adults in the South East who had engaged in literature – from 12.6% to 9.0%.

**Figure 9 - Engagement in literature by region**
Literature attendance

Just 3.2% of adults in England had attended a literature event in 2013/14 – a statistically similar proportion as 2008/9 (3.1%).

**Figure 10 - Attended an event connected with books or writing at least once in past 12 months**
Participation in literature

6.4% of adults in England had participated in literature activities in 2013/14 – a statistically significant decrease from 7.5% in 2008/9.

![Figure 11 - Participated in literature at least once in past 12 months](image-url)
Written stories or plays

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14, 2.8% of adults in England had written stories or plays in the past year.

Figure 12 - Written stories or plays in the past year
Written poetry

In both 2008/9 and 2013/14, 3.1% of adults in England had written poetry in the past year.

Figure 13 - Written poetry in the past year
Been a member of a book club

In 2013/14 1.5% of adults in England had been a member of a book club – a small but statistically significant decrease from 2008/9 (2.7%).

**Figure 14 - Been a member of a book club in the past year**
Appendix A - About the Taking Part survey

Taking Part is a major, continuous survey of cultural and sport participation in England, commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in partnership with Arts Council England, Sport England and Historic England.

Every year it collects detailed information from adults (aged 16 and over) in England about their attendance at a wide variety of arts events, museums, galleries, libraries and heritage sites, and about their participation in creative activities and sport in the last 12 months. The survey has been conducted since July 2005\(^1\) and since 2008 there has also been a child survey.

Findings from Taking Part, including national trends and some regional analysis, are released quarterly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. An annual report summarises trends over the financial year. All these reports can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-sport/series/taking-part

\(^1\) Due to changes in the way the literature attendance and participation questions have been asked by the survey, it is only possible to provide robust trend data from 2008/9 to 2013/14.
Appendix B - Technical note

Base sizes

The table below outlines the unweighted base sizes for the Taking Part data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey year</th>
<th>Unweighted base size</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/9</td>
<td>14,452</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>6,097</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>14,102</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>9,188</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>9,838</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>10,355</td>
<td>All adult respondents aged 16+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data conventions

The figures in this report are rounded to the nearest per cent – therefore the totals may not always add up to 100%.

Statistically significant differences are noted on the charts – * indicates a statistically significant difference between 2013/14 and the earliest time point on the chart.

Statistically significant differences between sub-groups are stated in the text.
Statistical significance

Significance testing has been used to identify where differences are statistically significant at the 95% level and not due to chance. Only where the differences are significant are they noted in the text and on the charts. 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 population as a whole.

Weighting

The data are weighted to ensure the representativeness of the Taking Part sample. Weighting is based on population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.