Taking Part 2016/17:

VISUAL ARTS
This report provides an overview of engagement in visual arts by adults living in England.

Data is taken from the Taking Part Survey 2016/17 and makes comparisons with 2010/11 where possible.

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 2016/17 and the earliest survey year shown.

---- indicates the period in which statistical significance has been tested. In this report, significance testing has been applied between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

More information about the Taking Part Survey can be found in Appendix A. A Technical Note on the survey is in Appendix B.
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Key findings

- Overall, over four in ten (46.6 per cent) adults in England had engaged in visual arts in 2016/17 – a statistically similar proportion as 2010/11 (fig 1). In 2016/17, over two in ten adults had attended a visual arts event. Between 2010/11 and 2016/17, overall participation had increased significantly to 35.6 per cent (fig 14). During the same period, there was also a significant increase in the proportion of adults who ‘only participated’ in visual arts (fig 2).

- There were statistically significant increases in overall engagement for the following groups between 2010/11 and 2016/17: women, 65-74 year olds, those with longstanding disability or illness, adults in the lower socio-economic group, those living in urban locations (Fig 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 respectively).

- In 2016/17, significant factors affecting visual arts engagement included gender, age, ethnic group, socio-economic group, urban or rural location, and region (fig 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 respectively).

- Regionally, there was an increase in overall visual arts engagement amongst adults living in the South West (fig 9). In 2016/17, adults in East of England and the South West were more likely to have engaged in visual arts, and adults in the North West, North East and Yorkshire were less likely to have engaged in visual arts.

- Between 2010/11 and 2016/17, specific changes to visual arts participation included:
  - Increase: painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture, textile, wood crafts, other crafts (fig 15, 19, 20, 21).
  - Decrease: using a computer to create original artwork or animation (fig 18).

- During the same period, the only statistically significant change to attendance was a decrease in attendance of craft exhibition (fig 12).
**Visual arts**

The Taking Part survey asks adults in England about whether they had engaged in a range of visual arts events and activities in the past 12 months. For this profile, engagement in visual arts is defined as having participated in or attended at least one activity or event listed below in the past year.

**Visual arts events:**
- Exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture
- Craft exhibition (not crafts market)
- Event which included video or electronic art

**Visual arts activities:**
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
- Photography as an artistic activity (not family or holiday)
- Making films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday)
- Using a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making
- Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making
**Engagement in visual arts**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a similar proportion of adults in England who had engaged in visual arts – 44.7 per cent to 46.6 per cent respectively.

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

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of adults who had ‘only participated’ in visual arts.

*Figure 2 – Engagement in visual arts*
**Engagement in visual arts by gender**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of women who had engaged in literature. Men’s level of engagement however was similar to that in 2010/11.

Likewise in 2016/17, gender was a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts.

*Figure 3 – Engagement in visual arts by gender*
Engagement in visual arts by age group

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant increase** in the proportion of **65-74 year olds** that had engaged in visual arts. However all other age group engagement had remained stable during this period.

In 2016/17, **age group was a significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts.

*Figure 4 – Engagement in visual arts by age group*
Engagement in visual arts by disability

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant increase** in the proportion of adults with a **longstanding disability or illness** that had engaged in visual arts.

However in 2016/17, disability status was not a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts.

*Figure 5 – Engagement in visual arts by disability*
Engagement in visual arts by ethnic group

For adults in both the white and other ethnic groups, the proportion of adult visual arts engagement between 2010/11 and 2016/17 was similar.

However ethnic group was a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts in 2016/17.

Figure 6 – Engagement in visual arts by ethnic group
**Engagement in visual arts by socio-economic group**

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a statistically significant **increase** in the proportion of adults in the **lower socio-economic group** who had engaged in visual arts.

Socio-economic group was a **significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts in 2016/17.

*Figure 7 – Engagement in visual arts by socio-economic group*
Engagement in visual arts by urban/rural

There was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of adults in urban areas that had engaged in visual arts between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

Urban or rural location was a significant factor in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts in 2016/17.

*Figure 8 – Engagement in visual arts by urban or rural location*
Engagement in visual arts by region

Figure 9a provides an overview of engagement in visual arts by region. In the **South West** there was a **statistically significant increase** in the proportion of adults engaging in visual arts between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

An adult’s **region was a significant factor** in an adult’s likelihood to engage in visual arts in 2016/17.

*Figure 9a – Engagement in visual arts by region*
In 2016/17, 46.6 per cent of adults in England had engaged in visual arts.

Regions where engagement was significantly higher than the national average:
- East of England – 50.9 per cent
- South West – 59.2 per cent

Regions where engagement was significantly lower than the national average:
- North East – 38.5 per cent
- North West – 41.4 per cent
- Yorkshire and Humberside – 41.7 per cent

All other regions were statistically similar to the national average.
Visual arts attendance

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 the proportion of adults who had attended a visual arts event at least once in the past year was remained the same – 25.6 per cent.

Figure 10 – Attended a visual arts event at least once in the past 12 months
Exhibition of art, photography or sculpture

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no significant change in the proportion of adults who had attended an exhibition of art, photography or sculpture – 19.3 per cent.

Figure 11 – Attended exhibition of art, photography or sculpture in the past year
Craft exhibition

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant decrease** in the proportion of adults in England who had **attended a crafts exhibition** – from 11.4 per cent to 9.9 per cent.

*Figure 12 – Attended a crafts exhibition (not crafts fair) in the past year*
Event which included video or electronic art

A statistically similar proportion of adults had attended an event which included video or electronic art in 2010/11 and 2016/17 – 4.4 per cent at both data points.

Figure 13 – Attended an event which included video or electronic art in the past year
Participation in visual arts

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of adults in England who had participated in visual arts – from 33.5 per cent to 35.6 per cent.

Figure 14 – Participated in visual arts at least once in the past 12 months
A statistically significant increase in proportion of adults had participated in painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture between 2010/11 and 2016/17—12.3 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively.

*Figure 15 – Participated in painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture in the past year*
Photography as an artistic activity

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was no significant change in the proportion of adults in England who had participated in photography as an artistic activity – from 9.3 per cent to 8.9 per cent.

*Figure 16 – Participated in photography as an artistic activity in the past year*
Made films or videos as an artistic activity

A similar proportion of adults had made films or videos as an artistic activity in 2010/11 and 2016/17 – 2.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively.

*Figure 17 – Made films or videos as an artistic activity in the past year*
Used a computer to create original artwork or animation

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant decrease** in the proportion of adults in England who had **used a computer to create original artwork or animation** – from 8.3 per cent to 5.8 per cent.

*Figure 18 – Used a computer to create original artwork or animation in the past year*
Textile crafts

There was a **statistically significant increase** in proportion of adults had **made textile crafts** in 2010/11 and 2016/17 – 12.1 per cent and 14.3 per cent respectively.

*Figure 19 – Made textile crafts (such as embroidery, crocheting, knitting) in the past year*
Wood crafts

A **statistically significant increase** in proportion of adults had **made wood crafts** between 2010/11 and 2016/17 – 4.3 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively.

Figure 20 – Made wood crafts (such as wood turning, carving, furniture making) in the past year
Other crafts

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 there was a **statistically significant increase** in the proportion of adults that had **made other crafts** – 4.3 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively.

*Figure 21 – Made other crafts (such as calligraphy, pottery, jewellery making) 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 Digital, 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 and since 2008 there has also been a child survey.

Findings from Taking Part, including national trends and some regional analysis, are released twice a year by the Department for Digital, 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

In March 2016 DCMS published a strategy outlining proposed developments to the Taking Part survey over the next five years: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taking-part-a-strategy-for-the-next-five-years
Appendix B - Technical note

Arts Engagement

‘Engagement’ in the arts is calculated by looking at attendance and/or participation in a range of arts events and activities. Adult ‘engagement’ is calculated by the proportion of adults who engage in the arts at least once in the past 12 months, whether it is through attending arts events, participating in arts activities, or through a mixture of both. This includes any of the following activities or events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dancing – ballet or other visual arts (not for fitness)</td>
<td>Visual arts exhibition (e.g. paintings, photography or sculpture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing – live performance, rehearsal or practice (not karaoke)</td>
<td>Craft exhibition (not crafts market)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing a visual artsal instrument – live performance, rehearsal,</td>
<td>Event that includes video or digital art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice or playing for own pleasure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing visual arts</td>
<td>Event connected with books or writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre – live performance, rehearsal or practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera or visual artsal theatre - live performance, rehearsal or</td>
<td>Street arts (art in everyday surroundings such as parks, streets or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>practice</td>
<td>shopping centre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnival (e.g. as a visual artsian, visual artists or costume maker)</td>
<td>Public arts display or installation (an artwork such as a sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street arts (art in everyday surrounding such as parks, streets,</td>
<td>which is outdoors or in a public place)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shopping centre)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus skills (not animals) – performance, learning or practice</td>
<td>Circus (not animals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual arts (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday snaps)</td>
<td>Theatre (e.g. play, drama, pantomime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film or video – making as an artistic activity (not family or</td>
<td>Opera or visual artsal theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>holidays)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Live performances (e.g. classical, jazz or other live visual artsal event</td>
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<tr>
<td>but not karaoke)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital art – producing original digital artwork or animation with a computer</td>
<td>Live visual arts event (e.g. ballet, African People’s visual arts, South Asian, Chinese, Contemporary or other live visual arts event).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft – any craft activity (e.g. textiles, wood, mental work, pottery, calligraphy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative writing – original literature (e.g. stories, poems or plays)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Book club – being a member of one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data conventions**

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

Statistically significant differences on the charts:

* indicates a statistically significant difference between 2016/17 and the earliest survey year shown.

---- indicates the period in which statistical significance has been tested. In this report, significance testing has been applied between 2010/11 and 2016/17.
Statistical significance

Significance testing has been used to identify where differences are statistically significant at the 95 per cent 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 per cent level means that there is less than a 5 per cent (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 mid-2016 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.