

Cornwall Overview

Cornwall is a picturesque region in the southwest of England, known for its stunning coastlines, rich history, and vibrant culture. The English Local Area District of Cornwall encompasses beautiful rural and urban communities, each with its unique challenges and opportunities.

Population:

Cornwall has a population of approximately 560,000 residents.

Local election results:

In recent local elections, the Conservative Party secured a majority, reflecting a trend of support for conservative policies among local constituents.

Parliamentary election results:

In the last parliamentary elections, Cornwall predominantly voted Conservative, though some areas leaned towards independents or the Liberal Democrats.

Employment:

Employment rates in Cornwall are slightly below the national average, at around 76% compared to 79% nationally. Major sectors include tourism, agriculture, and fisheries, with key companies such as the St Austell Brewery and local tourism operators.

Housing supply, prices, and comparisons with neighbourhood areas:

The average house price in Cornwall stands at £290,000, which is higher than many neighbouring areas but lower than national averages. The housing supply has been under pressure due to the influx of second-home buyers.

Flood risk:

Certain areas of Cornwall have a moderate to high flood risk, particularly along the coastline and near rivers. Awareness and planning are crucial for mitigating these risks.

Radon levels:

Radon levels in Cornwall are generally higher than the national average,

with about 10% of homes estimated to exceed recommended levels, particularly in areas with granite bedrock.

Hospitals, with key waiting lists:

Cornwall has several hospitals, including the Royal Cornwall Hospital. Waiting times for treatments can extend beyond the regional average, with figures showing longer waits for non-emergency treatments.

Healthcare:

Access to healthcare is relatively good, but rural areas may face challenges. Initiatives are in place to improve service delivery, especially for specialist care.

Transport:

The nearest major railway hubs include Truro and Penzance, which connect to larger towns such as Exeter and Plymouth. Local bus services provide additional connectivity, but some rural areas lack frequent services.

Policing, with statistics comparing the area with local figures:

Crime rates have been decreasing, but specific areas still report higher incidents, particularly in urban settings. Policing strategies are being adjusted to address these trends effectively.

Crime, with statistics comparing the area with local figures:

Overall, Cornwall has a lower crime rate than the national average. However, certain crimes, particularly related to anti-social behaviour, have been above local averages in specific regions.

Homelessness, with statistics comparing the area with local figures:

Homelessness remains an issue, with numbers reported higher than in neighbouring regions, primarily driven by the affordability crisis and lack of available housing.

These statistics outline the current state of Cornwall, revealing a mix of strengths and challenges in various areas from employment to healthcare.

Good places to live in Cornwall:

- **Fowey:**

- Good schooling with options for both primary and secondary education.
- Growing employment opportunities, particularly in tourism and local businesses.
- Low crime rate, making it a safe community.
- Low risk of flooding due to its elevated position.
- **Bodmin:**
 - Good educational institutions, including secondary schools with positive reputations.
 - Diverse job market with local businesses and connection to larger towns.
 - Generally low crime statistics compared to urban areas.
 - Limited flood risk with existing infrastructure to manage heavy rainfall.
- **Truro:**
 - Excellent schooling options, with several well-regarded schools.
 - Major employment center with various sectors represented.
 - Low crime rate compared to national averages.
 - Effective flood management systems in place.

Areas facing larger challenges:

- **St Austell:**
 - Higher rates of crime, particularly linked to anti-social behaviour.
 - Below-average employment statistics, with challenges in job opportunities.
 - Increased reports of homelessness and associated social issues.
 - Recognized issues with alcohol and drugs, impacting community safety.
- **Newquay:**
 - Seasonal fluctuations in employment affecting job security.
 - Concerns about crime rates, especially in tourist-heavy periods.

- Challenges surrounding homelessness in peak seasons.
- Notable issues with substance use impacting local health services.
- **Penzance:**
 - High levels of unemployment, particularly among younger residents.
 - Elevated crime rates compared to other Cornish towns.
 - Significant homelessness rates, often exacerbated by tourism pressures.
 - Community issues associated with substance abuse and mental health.