CO-OPERATIVES UK

CO-OPERATIVE AND MUTUAL EC©NOMY 2023

A report on the UK's democratic economy #CoopEconomy





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I i fe the wonder ful impact of coand places including: Co-op Grou

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FOREWORD

"The Co-operative and Mutual Economy 2023 is the only comprehensive report on the UK's democratic economy. That sounds like big news – and it is. But what is the democratic economy, and why should we even care?

"Democracy is important. We see it as a f perhaps with most clarity when we vote. Collectively we have the power to make a difference. Yet increasingly it feels like we've less and less control. Less control or influence over the economy, broken systems like social care and housing, the climate emergency...

"The democratic economy is all those businesses and organisations that give people, collectively, genuine control and ownership. It is co-operative employee owned businesses, friendly societies. And it is important. Because of their democracy the do more for people and their communities. They put their members first – giving people a fair share in the wealth they help create – not profit (whatever the distant share holders. I say distant with Record-breaking levels of UK shares are helded. 3% of the value of the UK stock market

Office for National Statistics; March 2022; Ownership of Quoted Shares: 2020 (www.ons.gov.uk/ economy/investmentspensionsandtrusts/bulletins/

"When I joined Co-operatives "YoluKcannot fins a comprehensive wexploration, rs were making it happen, be it where they work, what they eat, or how they're entertained. Add in the pandemic, which brought into growhing + adonofsiode: our scountemparts in the funancial and unfair society, and it felt this demand for fairness and a voice was everywhere.

ago, I was struck by people'şealesbney€ar, mofetbendlembcratic economy - until now. in their day to day lives. I We dwoa'tsk now tf, fojr examtple, aqovde me maeintromee, as unesceno ple Scotland are making a difference. So that's why we've come together to start measuring, mapping out and and mutuals sector - the Co-operative and Mutual Economy. Let's set those baselines.

"But is this demand having a "fWe'ee forfeodictirtg?notWehast bhaseodloon 17Weyeaksroof w businesses are growing faster than ever. Nationwide, is bringing back a type of dividend during tough times – a 'fair share' mechanism to distribute wealth among members. Is this a bli consciousness of the country

about the democratic economy@oEmpeogleboownedat as we enter the fourth industrial revolution, we really are coming full circle, and that the largest owner-member organisperanibn thegukng to be at the heart of economic growth. Everywhere in modern business, from Al to farming and culture to data, there are co-ops. p in the post-pandemic, "We'll show, the prowth and the movers and shakers in real sea-change. Quite simpl terms of sectors . Will it be housing, tech, pubs, clubs... workers, communities, consumers. And this report will evolve over coming years as we look to explore how co-operatives positively impact on the nation's social fabric as well as economic benefits."

Rose Marley

CEO, Co-operatives UK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Co-operative and Mutual the only examination of a combined, comprehensive dataset on the democratic those businesses that prioritise member participation. It provides a baseline to traincankcialogatino Proebphle.are An weektediintthepdenoeosnatiocts a compelling case for harnessing the full potential of co-operatives and mutuals I t nrefiee UKs to be soft of odesir levelifiocods, genuine membership economic growth, but also the betterment of society and communities.

With 9.113 independent businesses, including co-operatives, building soci and employee owned enterprises, the democratic economy offers a competitive alternative to traditional shareholder-owned businesses.

These democratic businesses distinguish themselves by sharing power as well as good; generating substantial reinvesting in the communiti across diverse industries, from farming to finance and energy to education, they collectively contribute an

annual income exceeding £87.9 billion.

Ecoopenya 2 D 2 8 s p r m w t d e b s , and b b e l d e p q r s o a n d e i s s o a e s t h e uniqu in the best interests of their members, ensuring that e c decisions and profits beneficially involved, rather than distant shareholders focused solely on economy - with memberships that offers ioint ownership aligned with individuals' values and priorities.

of co-operatives, emphasising th values, and principles. They offer innovative solutions across various sectors, from social care to housing, contributing to a just transitio senbassing Werknerlwehl-being thro and control of businesses The remarkable growth in employee owned businesses is revealed, with a 37.7% increas

Beyond membership, the democ**Data**cte**eods**mfyoem**ore**dist unions an e vrie e s 4 1 0 i 0 0 0 0 c ii na di i vmiu di uu an ll sa, wi pubbs anlso pfroove tuhast rapidh gropwthoisvo postdiblen inf rewarding, empowering, and wentablingtramienwoorkscame impalance.ing livelihoods.

However, The Co-operative and Mu Co-operatives represent 83.2% I so bughheghes that he he potenti democratic economy, generating a combined, annual mutuals in the UK remains largel weabthb; of ried Oi 8 i b i h b i o o c i a b 3.7% i n c r e a s e f r o m 2022 Isveial Compaperatione resilience is further highlighted withhey8se8%esuOpevaltinate for new-starts over five years; more than double other start-up businesses.

KEY FINDINGS

Increased awareness, more practical support, new £87.9 billion income and 74 million memberships capital raising options and a more enabling legal environment, are all needed to unleash their potential to deliver inclusive, responsible, wellbeing-enharcontrolg growth in the UK.

More data and insight on the democratic economy is also needed. This report sets the baselines to track growth and trends, with scope to evolve and encompass additional key findings, beyond economic, including social impact.

This report evidences that co-operatives and mutuals play an increasingly vital role in the UK economy. They are characterised by resilience, effectiveness, job creation, and a unique potential to address systemic challenges. A thriving democratic economy, with co-operatives and mutuals at its core, is crucial to achieving inclusive, responsible, and well-beingenhancing growth. And enabling government policies can unleash the potential of the democratic economy.

in the democratic economy: Demonstrating the value people place on genuine ownership and

- Resilience and longevity: Co-operatives are over twice as likely to survive the early years of trading when compared to other start up busines
- Sector growth: The number of employee owned businesses increased by 37.7% in just 1
- Community impact: Co-operatives play a significant role in community development, with a remarkable 62.6% increase in the number of community-owned pubs over the past five
- Sustainability: Co-operatives are well-position to contribute to a just transition to g with the number of co-operatives operat the energy and environment sector increasing by 18.58% over the last five years
- Policy advocacy: Leading co-operatives are advocating for policies that support co growth, with a policy platform urging political parties to commit to co-operative expan

THE DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

There are 9,113 independent businesses operating across the UK's democratic economy. They are co-operatives. They are building societies. The are financial mutuals. They can be employee owned businesses.

The democratic economy helps build an inclusive, growing and diverse economy by offering a competitive alternative to sharehoThdevedor-owned businesses. good. They have social impact. They share profits and reinvest in the communities in which they serve.

Democratic businesses operate across all industries from farming to finance and from energy to education. The combined annual income of these businesses exceeds £87.9 billion. Co-operatives, mutuals and building societies all act in the interest of their members, not investors focused on private wealth gain.

There are more than 74 million memberships within the democratic economy. Incredibly, it is a number larger than the UK's population, demonstrating the value people place on genuine membership which offers joi ownership and control of businesses that matter to them.

74 MILLION Memberships in the democratic economy £87.9 Total income People working in the democratic economy

Independen

businesses

The democratic economy employs over 410,000, people across the UK. Because of how they operate, democratic businesses work towards providing more rewarding, empowering, well being-enhancing livelihoods.

We now have a starting point – a baseline – to track growth across business type and within the democratic economy. The untapped potential of democratic businesses is huge. They are a fraction of the millions of UK businesses and remain little known of understood, despite boasting household names like

Co-op Group and Nationwide within their ranks.

The thirst for an economy that does business better; that does more for people and communities, remains unquenched. Yet the answer is already here in businesses that empower their members: in the democratic economy.



MUTUAL BENEFIT

Nationwide Building Society is the world's largest building society, with around 16 million curum for the benefit of those members and the communities it serves. In 2023, Nationwide last scheme, a new reward which returns payments to eligible members. Nationwide also launched a Fairer Share Bond for existing rinterest rate, and announced the return of over £1 billion to members in the form of preferential rates and incentives.

2. Nationwide (www.nationwide.co.uk/about-us/fairer-share/)

DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWN



Financial and other

mutuals



Co-operatives lead the way, with 83.2% of businesses in the democratic economy falling under the co-operative banner. Co-operatives generated income of £40.9 billion in 2022.

Financial mutuals and employee owned businesses

produced income of £28.5 billion and £23.1 billion respectively.buildingesocieties added: further £7.4 billion.

The biggest shift in business numbers is witnessed in the employee owned sector, with an incredible 37.7%

leap in just 12 months (1,030 businesses to 1,418). Over the same time period, combined income from the top

50 employee owned businesses increased by more

than 7.1%, to £23.1 billion (21.6 billion in 2022).

Of the democratic economy's 74 million membersh **GROWTHIN**80.7% are those benefiting from services provided pr







2019





370



CO-OPERATIVES

7.586

Independent in the UK **250,128**

Employees of co-

There are 7,586 independent co-operatives operating across the UK, an increase of 1.1% from 2022. In sharp contrast, the number of businesses overall dropped by 1.7% as company deaths outstripped births by almost 50.000.3

Despite a challenging economic outlook, co-operatives posted a combined turnover of £40.8 billion, an increase of 3.7% on 2022.

Millions of people own and control the nations
co-operatives, as opposed to shareholders focused
to sh members? Co-operatives are flexible businesses its members could be consumers, workers, residents, suppliers or even have a combination of different types of owners.

2023 UK co-operatives have a combined 13.4 million memberships - more than the population of Belgium and a year-on-year increase of over 300,000. Co-op Group remains the largest UK co-operative by tur²⁰²²ver and boasts over 4.4 million of those memberships.

£40.8bn

£39.3bn

£39.3bn

2022

2023

2021

13.1m

13.4m

13.1m

MEMBERSHIPS

OF CO-OPS

3. **Business**

demography, quarterly experimental statistics. UK; www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/ business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ businessdemographyquarterlyexperimentalstatisticsuk 2020

2019

£38.1bn

2021

£38.4bn

EQUAL CARE CO-OP

As versatile businesses that put purpose in line with profit, co-operatives are an innovative way to solve many of today's problems.

Co-operatives are about people. With a common of values and principles at their heart, they are created to serve their members' needs and aspirations. They demonstrate on a daily basis that doing the right thing and success can and should go hand in hand. And they are fairer because they share profits among members, rather than rewarding distant shareholders.

"We are focused on ensuring our members to four co-op, and it is an honrecognised for this strength.

"As we remain close to the wants and needs of our member - owners and our communities, us that the model we share is still so resilient. We continue to support co-operation amongst codelighted to see UK co-operatives

Shirine Khoury-Haq

CEO, Co-op Group

When loved ones need support from a care system

set rpu g g l i n g t h r o u g h c h r o n i c u n d e r - i n v e s t m

are often left feeling powerless. That lack of control

extends beyond those needing care and their families

to care workers, operating on low wages and shackled

by inflexible and impersonal rota systems.

Equal Care Co-op, in West Yorkshire's Cal breaking the mould by giving control both to the people who need care, and also those giving it. innovative, and it works.

Henry Drumm, a 26-year-old care worker at Care Co-op, emphasised the core principle organisation. He said: "The relationship is most important at Equal Care. It's peocare; a relationship-centred service that holistic. It's more meaningful."

Equal Care Co-op proudly claims the title first platform-based social care and suppco-operative. Their online platform, which collaboratively developed with and owned by their members, empowers the people receiving support to build and manage their own team. That team can consist of family members, paid care workers, volunteers, neighbours and friends. Roles are spread across the team, from creating and administering rotas to providing different levels of physical and remote care and support.

This focus on empowerment, collaboration and to ensure a mutual match between those receiving care and those providing it. All involved need to be happy, which helps create meaningful, resilient and consistent care-giving rel government-funded care could Care started because there is a problem with power

a human-centric approach is foro-rated that is the repleciple quetting the appropriate and people social care. With Equal CareqivOnoqsupport.people feel listened

For carers it can be demanding, with increased responsibility along with a Care Co-op is a Real Living to cover the costs of self-employment. But the rewards go beyond financial incentives, which include being paid for travel time.

care package is bespoke. As also in contact with friends and relatives, you're more closely connected.

"If you're more involved, more fulfilling and a more genuine way of delivering care."

Equal Care Co-op is owned by it relationships means that thebeosoppoaters, www.ksers, investo offers all kinds of support, ranging from personal care to mental health and wellbeing support.

in social care. It sits with t Henry said: "It is difficult the hoeart of now haptithme een tiee syssteeno its built arcovlmed and to; they feel empowered and in control of their care."

"Fundamentally, at the heart of social care there is a relationship that has been ignored, exploited and menture capitalisedr Weeset out to eebala fice the power blyanamic inefamout of the prepplewho alreagetting and self-employed workers can chaeqela kwhqharehquvingrateport. Michele Rashman turned to Equa being disillusioned with the level of council-funded support provided

Henry said: "People are indistible is, fsomedems on thativ Seluabus a lack of reentinwity rofkcare, which eaused kevels I'm of distress, and limited care provision due to time constraints on her mum's care workers.

> yo Mirther saids po NVs it vine Equali Sare three or four people and I know what time they're coming. And them. I like the continuity of the care workers aren't being exploited."

"The relationship between people is most import Care. It's people-cen a relationship-centre that's much more holi

more meaningful."

Henry Drumm

Equal Care Co-operati



START-UP SUCCESS AFTER FIVE YEARS

CO-OP RESILIENCE

Co-operatives stand the test of time. They are re, Co-operatives are over twice as likely to survive early years of trading when compared to other sta businesses. More than three quarters of co-op start-ups (83.3%) are still flourishing after the difficult first five years.

Other businesses are far less likely to survive, with just 38.4% of new companies making it beyond the end of year five. 4 This is not a blip. Co-operative resilience CO-OPS been evidenced over many years in successive Co-op Economy reports.

Why are co-ops so resilient? Co-operative purpose, ownership and governance all dictate long-termism. In tough times it is the members calling the shots, in their collective, long-term interests. Co-operatives patiently build-up and reinvest reserves and use members' **GROWTH IN BUSINESS NUMBERS** capital wherever possible, rather than piling on debt to

There is inherent resilience in economic institutions that themselves a powerful evolutionary adaptation that has

harness our natural co-operative instincts, which are been critical to human survival for a more than a million vears.

Growth in number of co-operative businesses

COMPANIES TRADING

Decline in number of UK companies

achieve faster growth.

Business demogra; pwww.ons.ddv.uk/2021 businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/ bulletins/businessdemography/2021

BREAKDOWN BY NATION

£1.8bn Turnover **621** co-operatives 0.7m Members

The vast majority of the UK's co-operatives are in England. Those 6,170 businesses, up 0.85% fr 2022, provide 90% of the total annual turnover.

While starting from a lower baseline, co-operatification Turnover development in Scotland and Wales is enhanced by

more enabling government policy to support co-operative development. Both nations are enjoying co-operatives quicker growth in terms of numbers of co-operation Members businesses.

Numbers in Scotland have increased by 3.17% (602 to 621) and Wales by 2.16% (509 to 520), with new co-operatives pubs prominent in both devolved nations. Northern Ireland has witnessed a more modest 1.61% (equivalent to four co-operatives).

The bulk of consumer retail co-operatives, including Co-op Group, are based in England. The retailers spearhead the year-on-year increase in memberships, driving numbers up by over 250,000.

WALES £0.5bn Turnove **521** co-operatives 0.3m Members

ENGLAND

£37.1bn Turnover **6,188** co-operative 12.4m Members

Channel Islands

£181.6m Turnover; 2 Co-operatives; 129.2k

In terms of turnover, agriculture remains sector in Scotland with organisations incl Milk and United Farmers. While a sector in decline,

44.8% of co-operatives in Wales are in the associations, social clubs and trade unions category.

Farming is prominent in Northern Ireland, unions also playing an important role.

NEW-STARTS PER 1 MILLION POPULATION



WEST GRANTON HOUSING CO-OP

the dcDnaivriadn tQuinn has an acute medical condituding reiquitres care and attention on a weekly daily - basis. For the 31-year-old, soc

me mb ego beyond bricks and mortar, and that is where West

Granton Housing Co-operative in Edinburg.

with credit

David has been a member tenant since Nove This means he is a part-owner in the co-oa say in how the business operates. He sa done nothing but help me. Everybody is really helpful,

absolutely amazing - I can't fault them. working together."

For David it is often the little things t biggest impact, like knowing an eye is being kept on his home when attending appointments. Maintaining

his home when attending appointments. Maintaining the local area and community engagement are also

important. He said: "I don't get any trou community. The co-operative looks after t the parks."

WGHC has a social housing stock of 372 'g needs' properties. It is a not-for-profit with all surpluses used to benefit its member tenants.

Larke Adger is CEO of the social housing said: "It's all about quality and making We're not a housing association, we're a housing co-operative. There's a difference.

all about them. Our members everything we do. We're here for them. A lot of housing associations do good work... but everything we do is about our tenants. That comes across in our service and our values. It's not onlythe ianmerdiantee impepactoif decissionsa holistic service and we're here for all our members."

That holistic service has included providing air fryers, fuel top-ups, food vouchers the last year. Larke added: "Let's do things which work for our tenants. Let's give people a bit of dignity. Sometimes it's those little difference"

approval. In an independent satisfied with the overall service provided. The national picture is not as rosy, with less than 90% of tenants satisfied with levels of service received.

WGHC also offers superior vaheuedeto findlawam, to nincenease the vaenouantopé weekly rent for a one-bed propeopyrasiaehnpsow20% social ho below the Scottish national average (£73.31 versus

£87.80). Two and three-bed properties cost less as well.

"The tenants - the members I-tpay perhavasjenoisus prise when board is made approfinem ber terrants. Larke said: "Tenants tell us how they want to be governed. They come to the table with a business hat on, but they're also a member. They live here.

> "The turnover of properties is very, very low. We provide a community, an environment that's pretty and that's safe.aPeople take apride is their/homes. When people visit, they're shocked that it's social housing."

more co-operative housing stock housing co-ops at the start of Member tenants have given WG bdf@nlytslewen sincea2019. Anodfthat list is not limited to social housing, for which the picture is even bleaker.

> Larke said: "I'd love for co-op much bigger impact in the social housing sector. We demonstrate that tenant-led so

"locdal ove for co-opera have a much bigger impact in the social housing sector. We demonstrate that solutions work."

Larke Adger

CEO, West Granton Hou Co-operative



COMMUNITY-OWNED PUBS

BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

The growth in the number of community owned pubs is dramatic. Numbers have increased by 62.6% over the

past five years, and 15.9% from 2022. It is people power, as communities come together

a unique form of finance available to co-operativ which raises funds while also delivering shared, local

ownership. To date £210 million has been invested

to save valuable assets through community shares.

by 130,000 people in 540 community businesses and organisations through a total of 710 share offers.5

The increased distribution of ownership is clear, with

over 100% more people enjoying a stake and say in the future of their local pub from 2019 to 2023 (an increase

in memberships from 34,562 to 69,535).

Community shares is also driving the increase in local

shops, with a 7.4% uplift over the past five years. It is this ability to provide unique solutions that needs to be fostered in other sectors: in a care system that is failing

its users; in a platform economy that enriches the few

but is used by the many. Across sectors including

social care and digital, media and communications, the business figures are static.

Communities doing it

5.

for themselves - communi; www.shares report 2023 uk.coop/resources/communities-doing-it-themselvescommunity-shares-report-2023

62.6% 2023

2022

2021

2020

Increase in co-operatives operating in the food service and pubs sector

With

Members

2019

334

295

Co-operatives are most prevalent i membership associations, social clubs and trade unions sector. However, associations and clubs have declined in number by 4.9% over the past five (2,612 to 2,484).

Members of

credit unions

Employees

2023

2022

£224.1m

people seek out fairer, more inclusive banking. The strongest sector in relation to turnover remains

While there is a decrease in the number of credit unions, the sector boasts a 13.5% increase in

retail, driven by Co-op Group, alongside other successful and long-standing independent, consumer-owned retailers. Turnover has grown by £135.4 million over the past year and the sector represents 69.7% of total annual turnover within the

year-on-year revenues fr5om £224.1m to £254.2m.

There are also in excess of 40,000 more members,

co-operative economy.

Co-operatives can help power a just transition to green more people are struggling, but there's still a energy and reduced emissions. If we are to succedemand for a fairer, more inclusive, way of banking that the UK's population must be invested in a nation benefits flower population must be invested in a nation benefit sflower population. to reach net zero. Ownership and control, throughost-of-living crisis presents cha community ownership and co-operatives, enables then ding due to affordability issues. At the same time, the buy-in. The number of co-operatives opera<mark>ting in the perative advantage of focusing</mark> energy and environment sector - including community energy and retrofit co-operatives - has increased increasingly coming to the fore.

18.58% over the last five years. Turnover is up "45ch 316 Welopments and a strong value proposition over that same time period (£26.68 million to £3t8od&ther with our mutuality and mo million). credit unions, including Great Wes

people's radar as a more than viable alternative to traditional financial services."

Credit union annual s t a t i s t i pwww.-bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/ credit-union/2022/2022

James Berry

CEO, Great Western Credit Union

NUMBER OF CO-OPS AND TURNOVER BY SECTOR

Agriculture	Arts and culture	Digital	Education	Energy and environment	Finance	Food service and pubs	Health and social care
483 co-ops £8.5bn	188 co-ops £11.4m	150 co-ops £10.2m	257 co-ops £577.3m	300 co-ops £38.8m	444 co-ops £273.7m	387 co-ops £58.9m	120 co-ops £179.8m
Turnover Housing	Turnover Manufacturing	Turnover Social clubs and trade unions	Turnover Professional and legal	Turnover Retail	Turnover Sports and recreation	Turnover Transport	Turnover Other
788 Co-ops	84 Co-ops	2,484 Co-ops	146 Co-ops	771 Co-ops	568 Co-ops	35 Co-ops	355 Co-ops
£636.9m Turnover	£472.0m Turnover	£479.3m Turnover	£104.8m Turnover	£28.5bn Turnover	£797.3m Turnover	£9.2m Turnover	£190.2m Turnover

THE STAR OF GREENWICH

People and communities are often left feeling powerless when valuable local assets – from pubs to cinemas to post offices – shut down.

The Star of Greenwich, in the heart of Lo Greenwich, was established in the early n century.

Local resident James Peet said: "Since the for most of that time it has been an important part of the community. It's the last of the side places that were once so common in the area."

It closed in 2021 before the freeholder deup. James added: "As an asset of community value, they had to put out a notice to do that. A couple of us regulars saw the notice and went about getting a moratorium on the sale of pub."

The team garnered local support, including their MP and councillors, and were able to prove to the freeholder the value of preserving the pub.

James said: "We did surveys and held onli person public meetings – and used that to demonstrate that if the pub were sold to be turned into flats, it would be a loss to the community."



Increase in community owned pubs since 2019



James and his fellow campaigners set up a (CBS) model, and came up withheldabiquevenit with sots of colliferent people coming a community centre. The freeholder bought into our vision and we negotiated a lease."

"The London Marathon runs down the end of the road. co-operative, using the comm**Opitfyibsh**eday socopetying was marathon day, so we said: "It was to run it, nottopjetuhser," saiad slamaes. "New adsondostubobok allubs, o as parents' groups and had a summer party for a local residents' association.

With a successful crowd-funding was mpai way shanticham seed than a regular pub. It always had a strong community around it. Our aim is to make more than double their original target, the team re-opened the pub in April 2.00m2nt@comanuomonty.bdrocadopenamd.nboone.accessible...'s e their vision.

aim of making it a place where people meet other people they wouldn't normally run into, in an incredibly diverse neighbourhood.

"Research shows that vibrant, safe, happy communities are ones where people with different backgrounds, opinions and experiences spend time with each other. In building new and community becomes a nicer place to be."

With that aim in mind, The Stat on€aGsetheviwayptbeiples is run is "Pteople have been whe patred to community support, in addition to selling booze and holding quiz nights. Convers worth ost and what weed with the cooms owe 'teed diven for refugees to learn English. The pub has partnered with Avo Cuddle to provide kids play classes, while the team also work with the Lewislemment fo Bithe cool went untity to a."b, which helps support mental health across the borough by bringing people together.

James and the team are now planning a community He said: "We took on The Stashare offer Gortake the would into common truth nity to law meership. With funds raised from the share offer and their application to the government's Fund, they hope to buy the premises outright and continue to build on their good work.

> profit. We can make decisions that aren't profit driven, d for vexample werearl gave awaynthethireposithe rotoms to groups and charities for free.

people want, from the drinks we serve to the activities by what people suggest. And eventually we will be more democratically run, when there's an ownership

The Globe, on the wes edge of Newcastle city centre, celebrates its tenth anniversary of community-ownershi 2024.

James said: "Other organisations ha "Running a small music venue is often a struggle. that The Globe has because it's communit

> share their skills and experience and invest time and money when we've really needed it."

Stephen Ferrell

Pink Lane Jazz

CONSUMER-OWNED

ANNUAL TURNOVER

MEMBERSHIPS OF CO-OPS

16.1bn The UK's consumer retail co-operatives are some 2013 12.9m the most well known and recognised businesses on the 2023 high street, including Co-op Group, Midcounties £15,6bn Co-operative and Central Co-op. They continue to 2022 grow, contributing £16.1 billion to the UK economy in 2023, an increase of 3.4%. £16.0bn 12,7m 2022 Co-op membership is very different to a store or 2021 loyalty card. It means the businesses are owned by their members, who have a genuine say in how their £15.5bn co-operative operates. The retail societies have 2020

believe in. More than 12.9 million consumers benefit

community focus and stand up for what their members

from having a stake and say in co-operative reta $^{2}\text{P19}\,\text{ers}$ - an increase of over 270,000 since 2022 (2.2%).

£15.1bn

12.7m

Concern for community is one of the seven

Co-operative Principles all co-operatives abide by. Profits are used to provide member value and support

local communities they serve. For example, Co-op Group announced a £70 million investment in price for its members across a range of daily essentials in 2023.

Scotmid Co-operative is a £400 million busing nearly 4,000 people across Scotlar post offices, chemists and funeral directors. Through its democratic structures, Scotmid's participate in decisions about how to distribute profits, including how to channel more than £500,000 to community organisations in 2023.

2021

WORKER-OWNED

Worker co-ops are those co-operatives owned and run by the workers. Turnover suffered a year-on-year drop (-2.4%) in 2023, though is up 28.0% over the particle years. There are 396 worker co-ops operating across the UK, a reduction from 407 in 2022 (-2.8%). It is imperative this downward trend is reversed, by supporting the creation of new worker co-operatives and by transitioning existing businesses to worker control.

The benefits are substantial. While comparatively small in number, worker co-operatives in the UK have a greater propensity to create jobs than UK businesses generally. Proportionally they are much more likely to have 5-9, 10-19 and 20-49 employees.

Worker co-ops can be more productive, motivated and committed than other firms because they align the interests of the workers with the success of the business. They have flatter management structures, more motivated workers and a stronger culture of solidarity and self-responsibility.

-2.8%

FROM 2022 LEVELS

Sumais an award-winning wholefoods distribution business, with a turnover of £59 million. It is also the largest equal pay worker gender pay gap-and sustains rewarding and empowering livelihoods. Suma's warehouse work hour than the average for similar roles in West Yorkshire and more than £5, per hour, above the Real Living Wage-plus substantial cash dividends each year from the profits they create. Workers members have an ed Suma does, and set its strategic of

FIT FOR PURPOSE

OWNERSHIP OF THE UK'S CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives provide solutions. From helping fi broken markets like social care and housing, to engaging people in a just transition to net zero consumer-owned improving worker well-being through more empowering livelihoods.

Community-owned

Co-operatives are flexible. They can be set up in many different ways, using a variety of legal forms, with different types of member-owners. There are 267 co-operatives comprising self-employed workers. Despite offering protection from precarious employment by pooling resources and skills, numbers remain almost the same as in 2019.

Worker-owned

Community co-operatives are increasingly popular, Tenant-owned with growth in business number from 1,505 to 1,836 since 2019. Multi-stakeholder co-operatives provide a tantalising opportunity for ownership to be spread between public, private and community stakeholders.

Yet the number of multi-stakeholder remains static, with 415 in existence in 2023 (415 in 2019).

> zero. There are already great examples of local authorities partnering with communities to generate renewable energy and reinvest proceeds back into those communities. Plymouth City Council convened community and private sector partners to help set up Plymouth Energy Co-operative, a multi-stakeholder renewable energy deployment and low carbon housing.

Co-operatives can help power

Other co-operative ownership models can include employee trusts, enterprises, self-employed and multi-stakeholder.

GRIMBSY COMMUNITY ENERGY

to bringing green energy to the local area since 2016.

With 73 members and six solar panel installations – on local properties totall1Signa2O⊕kWEneGGF/SHEWohks provide is reduçelmissjonsCwOhile saving consumers money.

"Our solar panels have saved - that's tens of thousands of pounds for charities and social enterprises we've saved on their bills."

Rock Foundation, which supports children and adults with learning disabilities, are among the buildings with solar power installations.

Funds for solar panel installations are raised via community share offers, which attract investment from local people and organisations while spreading ownership and awareness. It cleaner energy, to the building owners and offers a return to investors.

with North East Lincolnshire Council and local social enterprise E-Factor on the project, "added Vicky. "The medium sized enterprises make a real difference to their carbon footprint and positively reduce energy costs."

Grimsby Community Energy (GCE)hehpsobeet dédècatedmprehensive e evaluate the business premises and report back on how best to reduce carbon footprint and save money.

to more than 40 businesses of shop to a foundry. In many cas followed by grants for energy saving measures, which GCE Community Energy Managerwillicky, Dumbrestham 70 tonnes 143 tonnes of emissions There are 300 co-operatives and environment sector, an increase of 12 since 2022 (4.2%). Numbers have incre YMCA Humber and a fundraising payetys shout feb mm thity energ according to Vicky.

She said: "The recent £10 mill to help co-operatives develop However, in Wales and Scotland targets to encourage a degree of community ownership in the development of big, commercial clean energy phone ses! sthere cheaner such tard would help increase the number of energy co-operatives."

"Since January of this year, "CWffimulify energy" can commect people with the big issues and give them experience of controlling and S Being involved in Bomething that presents a solution. at mhagrhet be be be ob malbaanda gre what climate change actually is - and what solutions look like on the streets they walk down every day."



energy and energy efficiency projects with, and fo of, local communities.

BEC is owned aboved cont

1,500 members - local residents, community organisations and local businesses - who have pooled £8.5 million t activities, resulting in 10.5 MW of energy generation cap

is responsible for th 33% of Bristol's s generation.

The co-operative focu on green energy proje that enable stakeholders to benefit directly from renewable generation. This includes deployment in some of most deprived neighbourhoods.

CONCLUSION - BRILLIANT BUSINESS (UNTAPPED POTENTIAL)

This is important and positive because they are brilliant businesses. They are resil with huge potential to fix broken systems like finance, housing, care and energy. The democratic economy Yet the baseline remains small in the context of the contributes to inclusive. enhancing growth.

A combined annual turnover of nutifa & 7.9 billion is a big figure. However, by international comparisons, the mutual economy here in the U. We niesd to simspire communities dontake ownership and growing slowly. We have huge, untapped potential.

The data proves that rapid, and mutual growth is possibl employee owned sector; in credit unions; in community pubs and community shares more generally.

Investment in practical supportentations. However, is making a significant diff co-operative development, an impact, with start-up and Scotland than Northern

Co-operatives and mutuals ar Tehanrighte as quality and tax ecos Q site monimes nanpolhie cyma a torunle as h co significant contributor to tfacetor. Utke successnot threvemployee ownership trust mutual potential. The UK's leadi model, driving a 37.7% increase in employee owned backed our Call for Co-op Growth business numbers, in 12 monthsqi(263p21%) biveal fipareties to comm ieptar § ffe & t in & fist i & be § r f fit & r po grewth faut the next election.

> The platform sets out the evidenced and significant rebloss bos ienes vs. I hi bei Gq-operat bees fand my utbahstaee UK til grasp i a 'best-kept-secret'. We mustsumfleiasthedd—vanad yfosur pollioy priontities teo aemalele societal awareness and interestoperationequatives and The Mutuals Prospectus, a collaboration between

leading mutual sector bodies, will also make the control of the economy; to equaseofor the next ogovernment too badk mutuals... Title to reach businesses and peop**prespectus w**illrbe plublisheed laterin 120218.ures With the right support to help them adopt democratic

models t is evidenced in the

A thriving democratic economy with co-operatives and mutuals investing, innovating and reaching their

more evidence of the importance and impact of the ovalemberatyeae Eonbayhayi paquired. This report can

r a t address that in tuture years by examining key aleas es bevond the economic focus gincfuding social impact.

DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY - TOP 10

Top 1	Organisation name	Industry sector	Income	Members
202				
1	Royal London Insurance Group	Finance	£11,833,000,0	80800,000
2	Co-op Group	Retail	£11,480,000,0	000410,000
3	John Lewis Partnership	Retail	£10,534,000,0	006,400
4	Foresters Life	Finance	£5,771,000,000	1,575,000
5	Nationwide	Finance	£3,860,000,00	0 Ф6,300,000
6	Arla Foods	Agriculture	£2,493,835,00	0 0,127
7	BUPA	Health and So	0 £ 2 a 3 8 3 a 2 e 5 , O 0	00,800,000
8	National Merchant Buying Soci	e Retyail (NMBS)	£2,251,210,000	1,230
9	NFU Mutual Insurance Group	Finance	£2,010,000,000	1,468
10	Mott Macdonald Group Limited	Manufacturing	£1,805,503,00	072,625

CO-OPERATIVES - TOP 10

Top 10	Organisation name	Industry sector	Turnover	Members
2023		,		
1	Co-op Group	Retail	£11,480,000,0	000410,000
2	John Lewis Partnership*	Retail	£10,534,000,0	006,400
3	Arla Foods	Agriculture	£2,493,835,00	0 0,127
4	National Merchant Buying Socie	e Retyail (NMBS)	£2,251,210,000	1,230
5	Central Co-operative	Retail	£944,038,000	2,007,747
6	The Midcounties Co-operative	Retail	£676,459,000	640,989
7	Openfield Group	Agriculture	£669,668,000	4, 211
8	Mole Valley Farmers	Agriculture	£615,460,000	107,000
9	Dale Farm Co-operative	Agriculture	£591,635,000	1,468
10	Southern Co-operative	Retail	£447,441,000	172,625

CO-OPERATIVES BY NATION - TOP 5

	land 021	Organisation name	Industry sector	Turnover	Members
1)Z1	Co-op Group	Retail	£11,480,000,0	000410,000
2		The John Lewis Partnership	Retail	£10,534,000,0	006,400
3		Arla Foods	Agriculture	£2,493,835,00	0 0,127
4		National Merchant Buying Soci	e Retyail (NMBS)	£2,251,210,000	1,230
5		Central Co-operative	Retail	£944,038,000	2,007,747

Sc	otland	Organisation name	Industry sector	Turnover	Members
2	2021	organisation name	illuusti y sectoi	ramover	Wellbers
1		Scottish Midland Co-operative	Se-toaitie ty	£403,276,000	158,155
2		First Milk	Agriculture	£331,077,000	693
3		ANM Group	Agriculture	£142,949,000	4,982
4		United Farmers	Agriculture	£119,580,299	32
5		Tarff Valley	Agriculture	£99,387,852	1, 245

Wales	Oversigntian name	Indicates: an atom	Turneyer	Members
2023	Organisation name	Industry sector	Turnover	Members
1	South Caernarvon Creameries	Agriculture	£71,528,236	1 4 3
2	Clynderwen and Cardiganshire Farmers	Agriculture	£67,034,027	7,257
3	Trivallis	Housing	£56,730,000	4 2 9
4	Bron Afon Community Housing	Housing	£48,944,000	2,509
5	Cartrefi Cymru Co-operative	Heath and Soc	£38,1202,1651re	Undisclosed

Northern Ireland	Organisation name	Industry sector	Turnover	Members
2023	Organisation name	ilidusti y sector	Turnover	Mellibers
1	Dale Farm Co-operative	Agriculture	£591,635,000	1,468
2	Fane Valley Co-operative	Agriculture	£301,352,680	1,045
3	LacPatrick Dairies (NI)	Agriculture	£248,395,376	Undisclosed
4	South Armagh Farming Enterpris	s Aegsciulture	£24,046,130	3,003
5	Hilltown Farmers Attested Sale	e A griculture	£10,490,075	1 6 8

CO-OPERATIVES BY SECTOR - TOP 5

Agriculture	Organisation name	Turnover	Members
2023	Organisation name	rumover	Mellibers
1	Arla Foods	£2,493,835,00	0 0,127
2	Openfield Group	£669,668,000	4, 211
3	Mole Valley Farmers	£615,460,000	107,000
4	Dale Farm Co-operative	£591,635,000	1,468
5	First Milk	£331,077,000	693

Digital, Media and Communications	Organisation name	Turnover	Members
2023			
1	The Community Channel	£1,661,278	123
2	Developer Society	£1,151,114	19
3	Calvert's North Star Press	£1,109,128	11
4	Outlandish Co-operative	£974,424	8
5	Peoples Press Printing Society	y £ 8 5 4 , 6 4 3	41,876

Energy and Environment 2023	Organisation name	Turnover	Members
1	Bath and West Community Energy	y£2,037,800	8 1 5
2	Westmill Solar Co-operative	£1,960,134	1,660
3	Heart of England Community En	eff1g,y709,788	7 4
4	High Winds Community Energy So	o£c1,e2:7y1,812	1,164
5	Bristol Community Energy	£1,261,020	1,508

Health and Social Care	Organisation name	Turnover	Members	
2023		1 4.1.1010.	Weinberg	
A 1	Local Care Direct	£36,211,973	583	
2	Cartrefi Cymru Co-operative	£33,202,651	Undisclosed	
3	Community Dental Services	£28,167,000	Undisclosed	
4	South East London Doctors' Co-	- £6 1p 3e, r 7a 8t 3t , v 4e 1 3(S	E WnԾi©c ©\$ed	
5	BARDOC	£13,093,632	3 8 9	

Housing	Organisation name	Turnover	Members
2023			
1	Eastlight Community Homes	£78,599,000	Undisclosed
2	Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	£57,080,000	15,501
3	Trivallis	£56,730,000	4 2 9
4	Bron Afon Community Housing Sc	o£48;t944,000	2,509
5	Watford Community Housing Trus	£38,550,000	2,383

Retail	Organisation name	Turnover	Members
2023			
1	Co-op Group	£11,480,000,0	000410,000
2	The John Lewis Partnership	£10,534,000,0	006,400
3	National Merchant Buying Socie	e £12y251(21N0)(101606)	1,230
4	Central Co-operative	£944,038,000	2,007,747
5	The Midcounties Co-operative	£676,459,000	640,989

METHODOLOGY

Periods

The co-op economy year runs January 31. Where a year is referenced, it is the year that the final day of the period falls. For example, the economic year that runs from 01/02/2022 to 31/01/2023 is called 2023.

Geographic Data

Geographic data is based registered address.

Sources

Financial mutuals courtesy of the Association of Financial Mutuals and the Insteanastiposi CBosenassy Demodraphy, UK: 2021" report. Mutual Insurance Federation. https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/

Credit union data from the Prudential Regulation Credit union data from the Prudential Regulation businessdemography/2021

Authority's 'Annual Credit Union Statistics' Co-operative UK's own list

Building society data from Association's 'BSA Yearbook' building society annual reports.

Numbers of employee Employee Owned Sector Profil Employee Ownership Associati Employee Ownership Centre.

Financial information on employee owned businesses Partnership.

Neither employee ownership report includes financial/ employee/ownership data outside of the top 50 (by employees). Some employee owned businesses in the etmpelovejanovatidotos 50 are are only counted once in democratic economy figures.

Data on companies comes from figures: business/activitysizeandlocation/bulletins/

o Replacement Rate Figures n s . 2022 information from the Of€ompafibesNaavendifferent reporti

t status des series de mography et quart Theye is no requireme eabementendawithadataitsomuk momberter Stmallogs edinbapines are n https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/ b u susiness/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/

business de mography quarterly experimental statistics uk

parandr White Room the ONS's "Business Demography, UK: 2021" report: www.

ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/ business/activitysizeandlocation/bulletins/ businessdemography/2021

Inclusion of Co-operatives In Given Year

from Fēbeuāmploγee Ownership Tγρρς δο Dlypa odo ε e pleb pative will be the Employee Ownership Associasi Regastratheo RMD ate/Deregistra registrar's page. In some circum different dates if, for example, we become aware that a co-operative has ceased tradin shut down.

a | Turnover/Employees/Numbereof Memberse s e

Financial Data is included in th reported in the accounts falls. Where there is missing data for a given year we use previously reported Office for National

Financial Data for societies is AR30. For larger co-operatives, discrepancies are identified, figures are checked against the organisation's accounts.

turnover.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Association of British Credit Unions C

С

The trade body that represents mutual and not-for-profit insurers. financial mutuals across

Building Society

A building society, or mutual, is owned by its members and run for their collective community-led those who bank, save or have a mortgage with the society. A building society is not run for the benefit of shareholders in the same way that banks are.

Building Societies Association

The trade body for all as seven credit unions.

Charitable Community Benefit Society

When the activities of a community benefit society fall under one of the 13 charitable purposes, and the governing document is wholly charitable, then the society can apply to HMRC

Community land trusts - or CLTs - are democratic, non-profit organisations tha the benefit of the community. CLTs can, if fulfilling the criteria, be co-operatives.

Community Benefit Society

in contrast to co-operative enderesosi eti essand mother the UK taking this legal

Community Energy

renewable energy, energy demand reduction and or controlled by communities or through a partnership with commercial or public sector partners. Community ownership and control is often delivered through we I I community shares.

Community Owned

Ownership and control community which the organisation operates.

Community Shares

focommon method mptvcbhaites psatusser-fbyite methoders, to an eree the fireshared needs. Every community benefit societies. Community shares is a r o wn a n d de ve l o p l a n d f o r flexible and effective way to raise finance and provide It is an interest-bearing, investment.

Community Shares Unit

The main trade association f Accommunity objente fit somotiet up is as legislation rmt, the opiste beld. Co-operatives UK is at the heart under The Co-op and Communit \hat{\shape as f Uni \hat{\column} to \column{c} C \hat{\column} U) esa Acong-standi 2014, Chat serves the broade withiLoncability raned Plunsketto Foundation, cannot funding ty, particers Power to Change and Access - the foundation A CBS sacial sonbestament. The CSU w with thous and sthe form rounity os haves matkety through an avaitises f o r **pr**ogrammes and market intelligence and promotes best practice, embedded through its Community Shares Standard Mark.

Community Shares Standard Mark

energy supply projects, whet Thee Woomhun, ibyon Sida a est/Standard Ma community share offers that meet national standards of good practice.

Consumer Retail Society

A type of retail co-operative ow Co-op Group is one of the world' with omemberses for wheed by millions

Co-operative

A business or organisation that is owned and controlled withdrawable, non-transferabte-sparativaeishares appdmadheres of equity uniquely available Cooperapevat Vaveu and and Principl can take any legal form (e.g. a PLC, community benefit society, community interest company, partnership, co-operative ownership to peophpaand pommudintest can satisf padhenenceot on the equiter national C Alliance-ratified values and pri

Co-op Economy Report

Co-operative Movement

Co-op Group

The nation's only comprehens is a winegs, rloans and a range of selfrovicces latck its snembers. registered under The Co-operation cooperative sector and foreruntneirs toownTehde a Chod-copo nathroblled b Behefithe Shibe eighties Act 2014, must Mutual Economy.

Employee Owned

Co-op Group is one of the womajosiltar (jestoaba, sumanesectomothatiresportesected of The co-operatives, owned by mill canon take thorefe formas.mibre-unphadirect employee ownership, employees are registered individual Co-operatives operate across shares are sheld collectively on behalf of employees, collectively form the Co-ope hormally through an employee trust. Temployee Co-operative Principles are bwhership can also take place through a conybination

remain essentially the same as those practiced by the **Employee Ownership Trust** Rochdale Pioneers in 1844. A trust that enables a company to become employee

all co-operatives operate an of in Uividual and collective othership. in g

Co-operatives UK As the voice of the UK's Co-Britofunders stayting a mew employee owned business. Co-operatives UK empowers and tswall of the financ Friendly Society 14 with significant co-operative enterprise with tash a lised knowledge A friendly society is a mutual association for the co-operative enterprise with tas the aksialised knowledge and expertise, to grow the co-operative economy and create a fairer society.

business. While revised and updated, the Principles

Co-operative Values and Principles

There are seven co-operative Financiah Conduct Authority at Clefine how a co-operative operates Take FCA aistan independent, finandiale regulatory body. International Co-operative A Any programication catroling coupt regulated businessare

also based on 10 values. See (uncbodip not a coesperating testing testing the societies and community

owned. It can be set up by owners, perhaps as part of their succession strategy,

Federals

A credit union is a financia Cοεορορα ta v è s e a κν di c b m po u o v t s le s e n e

In an employee owned busines Eederahordanisations sare ausually themselves a member Co-operative movement. Federals support and activities to one particular type of shareholders. Indirect emplogeeopwnatishep Examples include w co-ops) and ABCUL (credit unions end of glossary.

Freelancer Co-operative

A freelancer co-operative is usu employed or sole trader businesses that come together and form a single entity in orde a bemefits suschnas sharedecosts resources, knowledge and expertise.

purposes of insurance, pensions, savings or co-ope Cative banking. The EOA represents the UK's employee owned sector.

benefit societies) must be registered with the FCA.

Credit Union

Housing Co-operative

There are several different types of structures for a housing co-operative. All the owning, renting or management of residential properties. Housing co-operatind poutolisc boodiness, be either fully mutual, where all tenants ar versa) or non-fully mutual, membership base.

International Co-operative Alliance

The apex body representing estimated to be around three million worldwide, at a global level. It provides a knowledge, expertise and co- Unincorporated Go-operative n about co-operatives.

Member

A member is a person or organisation (see secondary co-operative) that trades with or benefits from the activity of a co-operative customers, workers, suppliers and tenants.

Membership Shares

Shares can be issued that are neither withdrawable nor transferable but are forfeited when the member leaves the organisation. These are the typical form of the

Multi-Stakeholder Co-operative

Co-operatives that are ownedThednametforled badimordual than object type of enging berghép class such as consumers. producers, workers, volunteers, community supporters, e members (and vice-Mutual h can have a wider As defined by the Mutuals Manifesto, mutuals are organisations that are owned by, and run for the benefit of, their current and future members. Unlike c mestifinancial services organisations, mutuals have no shareholders to pay.

global voice and A co-operative not registere sthanessare aworth on or mpoorerthantothe purice openid. (legal entity). As such, the law does not recognise any distinction between the organisation and the members, so members have unlimited, personal liability.

O Retail Consumer Co-eperative Les include

Secondary Co-operative

An organisation whose members are organisations

shares in most common owners husuah! X pspapperatives) as opposed to 'natural persons'. Co-operatives UK is an example of a secondary cooperative. It is owned and controlled by its members, who are all co-operatives or organisations that support co-operative values and principles.

Share Offer

a co-operative or community bene community shares.

Transferable Share

Transferable shares can be sold to any company or individual, and so can increase or decrease in value.

Withdrawable Share Capital

Withdrawable shares are largely and community benefit societies and can normally

berwithdrawn on request at the s (traditionally £1). If the organ

Values and Principles

See Co-operative Values and Prin

Worker Co-op

A type of retail co-operative wwhter by or ege casty mets Co-op Group is one of the wofpatsolafdespocansumetively co-operatives, owned by millionshort hears worker co-op

Federal Bodies - full list

ACE Credit Union Services: Association Of British Credit Unions (ABCUL); Association of Conservative Clubs; Association of Financial Mutuals: Club and Institute Union; Community Energy Association (England); Community Leisure UK; Community Owned Asset Management; Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH); Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN); Co-operative Housing in Scotland; Co-operative Personal Management Association; Country Markets; Energy Local; Energy 4All; National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association; National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners: National Market Traders Federation; Plunkett Foundation; Radical Routes; Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society; Scottish League of Credit Unions; Student Co-operative Homes; Supporters Direct Scotland; The Building Societies Association; The Football Supporters' Association: The National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations; The Schools Co-operative Society; UKCreditUnions; Workers.coop.



CO-OPERATIVES UK

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M6 O O A S

Registered in England as a registered society under Co-op Grouperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Reg No. 2783R. Vat Reg. 147 8611 47.

