

Safest Places to Live & Work in the UK

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According to Home Office statistics for the year to July, 2012, crime levels have shown a decreasing trend in recent years. While this is encouraging, there are still more than 5,000 incidences of household crimes, predominantly burglaries, each year. Crime statistics in the United Kingdom are arrived at through the use of two sets of information; official police figures, which traditionally under-record the true level of crimes, and the British Crime Survey, also known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales, which records the direct experiences of crime of some 40,000 interviewees. During 2011, the Crime Survey states that 9.1 million crimes occurred, yet, only 3.9 million were recorded by the police. The most recent data collection shows a four per cent decrease in household crimes with some 5,795 incidents and an eight per cent decrease in violent crimes with some 2,199 incidents, including 551 murders. This report also shows that 60 per cent of those interviewed believe that the police in their area are efficient in their crime prevention efforts. These decreases are contrary to widely held views that crime would rise as the recession continued and unemployment increased, as has happened during similar climates in the past.

When deciding where to live and work in the UK, wide-ranging factors including crime statistics, safety, property prices, job prospects, public transportation options, the quality of educational and health care facilities, the prevalence of parks and open spaces, the architecture and character of a city and shopping, social and recreational amenities should all be considered. Rightmove's quarterly consumer confidence survey, which analyses the responses of some 25,000 people has produced it's top ten safest places to live. This top ten is also reflective of the findings of many other sources:

1. Exeter
2. York
3. Plymouth
4. Norwich
5. Bournemouth
6. Swansea
7. Worcester
8. Oxford
9. Ipswich
10. Swindon

While crime may be decreasing, burglaries are still a cause for serious concern, and people should still be vigilant in their efforts to protect themselves and their property, in both their residential and commercial environments. One of the most effective means of protecting valuables in homes and places of business is the use of a safe. Jewellery, cash, expensive technological gadgetry and important documents are all highly desirable to a thief. By placing them in a safe, they will be far better protected from opportunistic thieves, who must quickly enter, gather items and exit without detection.

Safes are available in a variety of sizes (<http://www.safeoptions.co.uk>) and for a variety of purposes, and in addition to protecting assets, they can also be a means to getting a significant discount on residential and commercial insurance policies. When selecting the most appropriate safe, it is important

to consider its main purpose - burglary protection, fire resistance and/or water resistance. It is also important to select an appropriate size of safe. One of the simplest means of determining the most appropriate size of safe is to gather up the contents to be stored in the safe in a neat pile and measure it. One of the most popular sizes of home safe has a capacity of 1.3 cubic feet, which, for example, will easily accommodate a foot-high stack of A4 papers.

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