CDRC Retail Centres
Definitions, Typology and Catchments
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Great Britain’s Retail Structure

The CDRC Retail Centre Definitions, Typology and Catchments are openly available data that together define the retail structure of Great Britain today. Retail Centres are defined using an innovative clustering method that exploits the geography of retail units in Great Britain. Matching these data with their corresponding retail catchments makes it possible to take a 360 degree view of retail health, including measures of economy, diversity and function.

The typology comprises five Supergroups which can be further broken down into fifteen constituent Groups that together define the key characteristics of each retail centre and its associated catchment, highlighting the varying consumption-focused services offered across different areas.

Mapping Great Britain’s Town Centres

These data products enable insight into the operation of the conventional retail and leisure industries throughout Great Britain. Detailed information on the classification methodology and taxonomy are available on the CDRC website at data.cdrc.ac.uk.

The classification provides an effective tool for local planning and benchmarking the provision of retail services. The linked data products are an important resource for understanding the form and functioning of Britain’s fast-evolving retail and leisure spaces and the ways in which they shape, and are shaped by, consumer behaviour.

Data Partnership and Collaboration

Through an innovative collaborative partnership with the Local Data Company, open tools and software have been co-produced that enable the creation of retail centre definitions (livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3009673/); catchments (doi.org/10.1016/j.jretconser.2015.08.013) and a typology of retail supply and consumer demand (doi.org/10.1177/2399808319840666).

Leeds Retail Centres and Typology

City of London Retail Centres and Typology

Local Retail & Service Centres
Retail, Shopping & Leisure Parks
Leading Comparison & Leisure Destinations
Primary Food & Secondary Comparison Destinations
Traditional High Streets & Market Towns

All data are openly available to download from data.cdrc.ac.uk and visible through our interactive web mapping tool: maps.cdrc.ac.uk