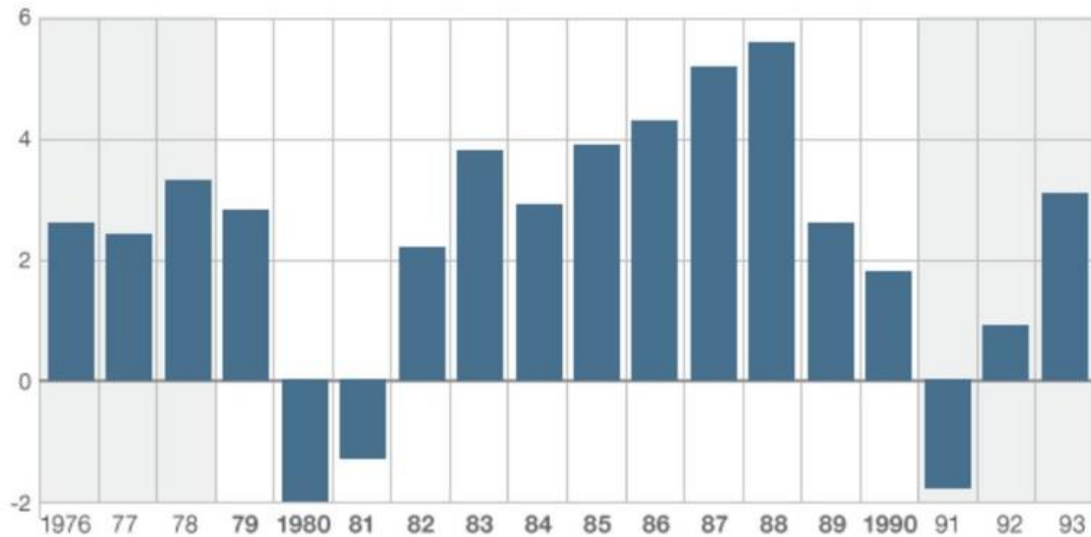


## Source 1

### GDP

Growth, year on year, %



Source: ONS

Inflation was running at more than 25% at times in the 1970s, so a key tenet of the incoming Conservative government was to bring it down.

However tough budgetary measures meant that growth suffered in Mrs Thatcher's first term, with a deep recession in the early 1980s followed later in the decade by a boom.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-22070491>

## Source 2



**The  
INDEPENDENT**

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## Why privatisation has been a success story

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JEREMY WARNER | SATURDAY 04 JANUARY 1997

... British Telecom, now seen as a triumph of privatisation.

Think back to 1987. Here was this vast, unwieldy public utility, making profits of pounds 100 a second or whatever it was, and yet half its telephone boxes didn't work, quality of service was lousy, it was generally perceived to be expensive, there was no realistic alternative and you still had to join a waiting list to get a new telephone line.

BT was once memorably described, probably accurately, as the most hated institution in the land... BT was forced to reform itself, and fast.

None of these strictures are recognisable in today's British Telecom. Even the Labour Party has embraced it as a model for the rest of corporate Britain. Today we have better quality of service, more choice and lower prices in Britain than almost anywhere else in the world apart from the United States. BT is also at the forefront of international developments in telecoms. Liberalisation and privatisation are the two key causes of this extraordinary turnaround.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130919054829/https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/why-privatisation-has-been-a-success-story-1281602.html>

## HOW THATCHER BROKE THE MINERS' STRIKE BUT AT WHAT COST?



Margaret Thatcher | Wikimedia | [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike](#)

The miners had gone on strike twice in the previous decade. In 1972 and 1974, strikes shut down every coal mine in Britain, and a combination of solidarity strikes by the steel and railway unions and targeted picketing of coking works, ports and industrial sites brought the country to a standstill. This led to power cuts, the introduction of a three-day working week and the downfall of the Conservative government of Edward Heath. The miners were on top of the world in the 1970s, able to hold the country to ransom to stop pit closures and raise wages. But galloping over the horizon would be the woman who would prove to be their nemesis – [Margaret Thatcher](#).

Thatcher had taken note of the way the miners had brought down her predecessor and was determined the same thing would not happen to her premiership. After coming to power in 1979, she had her ministers and civil servants draw up secret plans that would keep coal moving around the country were the miners to attempt another strike.

By the early 1980s, domestic coal production was becoming ever more unprofitable. The industry relied heavily on government subsidies. Thatcher appointed the ruthless Ian McGregor to the head of the National Coal Board in 1983.

In the 1970s, the police had treated the miners with kid gloves. This time around the gloves would be off. Police from outside affected counties were bussed in to prevent picketing and strike action, and to ensure no disruption to supply lines. This led to violent clashes between the police and pickets, most notoriously at the Battle of Orgreave, where 5,000 miners faced a similar force of police officers. The police launched mounted truncheon charges against the miners, leading to 51 pickets and 72 police being injured.

The strike was officially called to a halt on March the 3rd 1985. The pit closures the miners had fought so hard to prevent began in earnest. In 1984 there were 174 deep coal mines in the UK by 1994 – the year the industry was finally privatized – there were just 15 left.

So, was it a good thing that the miners lost? From a purely economic point of view, it can be argued that it was. Deep mining for coal was already on its death bed by 1984 as cheaper exports from abroad combined with a reluctance on the part of government to continue with subsidies, a changing energy culture and a rising environmental movement all conspired against the industry. Coal was a profit-losing business in a country increasingly turning towards a services-led economy. Logically, coal mining had to go.

<https://www.history.co.uk/article/how-thatcher-broke-the-miners-strike-but-at-what-cost>

Source 4



End of a protest: police girl helps to arrest a demonstrator

Picture: NEVILLE MARRINER

'Pit strike demonstrators battled with police in Whitehall yesterday. In scenes reminiscent of picket line violence, a surging mob hurled stones, chunks of wood and plastic beer bottles at officers. Close to the Houses of Parliament, mounted police rode in to disperse the crowd...

The first fighting started outside Whitehall's Theatre of War with the black and red flag of the International Anarchists Movement at the thick of it. As Mr Arthur Scargill, miners' union president, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and others spoke to the massed crowd in Trafalgar Square, skirmishes started again.

<https://history-is-made-at-night.blogspot.com/2022/08/riot-in-whitehall-london-miners-demo.html>

## Source 5



"Say . . . You're beautiful when you're angry."

cartoons from Punch magazine by Ken Mahood

"Say...You're beautiful when you're angry," (a 1980s cartoon from Punch shows President Ronald Reagan on battle training as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shoots a machine gun at a target of a Soviet leader Yuri Andropov and nuclear rockets fly overhead)

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Cold-War-Reagan-Thatcher-Nuclear-War-Punch-Magazine-1982.06.09.926.1.tif

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<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/thatcher-end-of-cold-war/>

## Source 6

It was also on Friday 2 April that I received advice from the Foreign Office which summed up the flexibility of principle characteristic of that department. I was presented with the dangers of a backlash against the British expatriates in Argentina, problems about getting support in the UN Security Council, the lack of reliance we could place on the European Community or the United States, the risk of the Soviets becoming involved, the disadvantage of being looked at as a colonial power. All these considerations were fair enough. But when you are at war you cannot allow the difficulties to dominate your thinking: you have to set out with an iron will to overcome them. And anyway what was the alternative? That a common or garden dictator should rule over the Queen's subjects and prevail by fraud and violence? Not while I was Prime Minister.

Extract from Margaret Thatcher's memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*

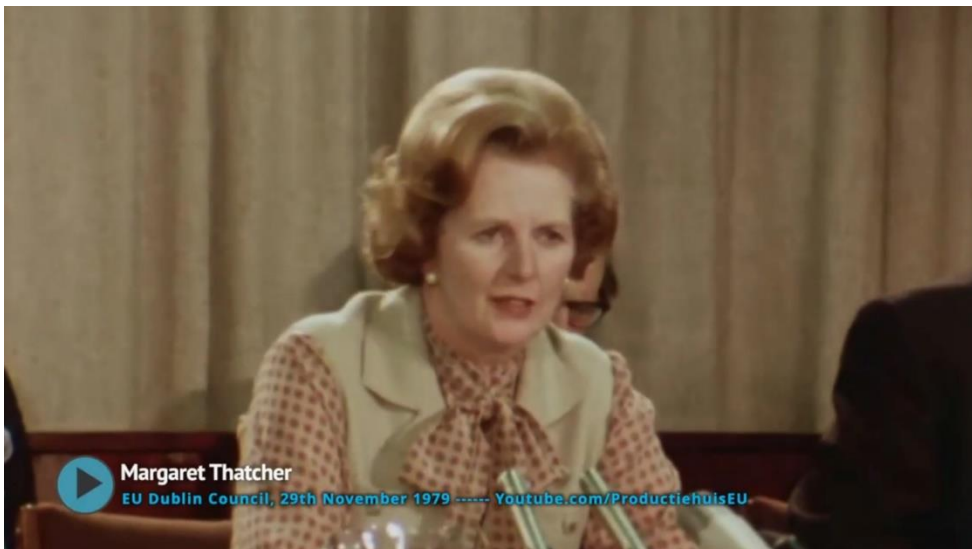
<https://www.history.com/news/margaret-thatcher-falklands-war>

## Source 7



<http://sectioneuroterminale.blogspot.com/2014/05/the-european-project-in-1980s.html>

## Source 8



“One of the difficulties here has been to get clear the nature of the problem. We are not asking for a penny piece of [European] Community money for Britain, what we are asking is for a very large amount of our own money back”

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/politics/2017/03/22/the-day-maggie-demanded-our-money-back/>

## Source 9

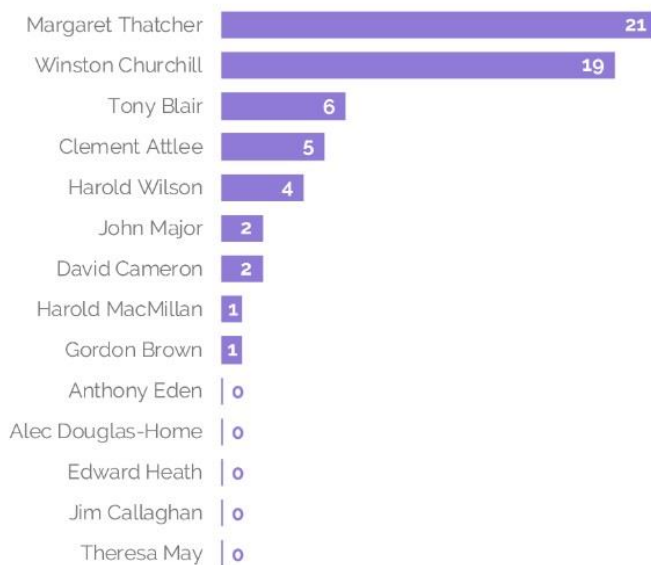


<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/1999/apr/20/labour.labour1997to99>

## Source 10

### Margaret Thatcher is seen as Britain's greatest post-war PM

Who do you think has been the greatest British Prime Minister since 1945?  
% (don't knows are not shown)



<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2019/05/03/margaret-thatcher-public-view-40-years>

Source 11

*"What we are now doing to the world ... is new in the experience of the Earth. It is mankind and his activities that are changing the environment of our planet in damaging and dangerous ways. The result is that change in future is likely to be more fundamental and more widespread than anything we have known hitherto. Change to the sea around us, change to the atmosphere above, leading in turn to change in the world's climate, which could alter the way we live in the most fundamental way of all. "The environmental challenge that confronts the whole world demands an equivalent response from the whole world. Every country will be affected and no one can opt out. Those countries who are industrialised must contribute more to help those who are not."*

Extract from Thatcher's speech to the UN general assembly in November 1989

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2013/apr/09/margaret-thatcher-green-hero>