

Birkenhead Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2016 produced by Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) providing analysis of housing-related data for the Parliamentary Constituencies in the North of England. The report provides analysis of the impacts of welfare reform and the housing market in the constituency.

We have used the following symbols to indicate your performance against the relevant regional or national statistics.



Above average



Reference point



Below average

Economic Activity



Neighbourhood Statistics shows that there are 64,665 residents in Birkenhead aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 64.5% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 65.4% in Merseyside and 67.8% for the region as a whole.



The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 57.5% of residents aged 16 to 74 classed as economically active. This coincides with an increase in the number of people aged 16 to 74.



Figure 1 below shows economically active are concentrated in Oxton (69%) and Prenton (68.7%) wards having highest proportions of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 52.8% are full-time employees, while 22.9% work part-time employees. A further 9.8% are self-employed and 10.7% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 2.4% since 2001.

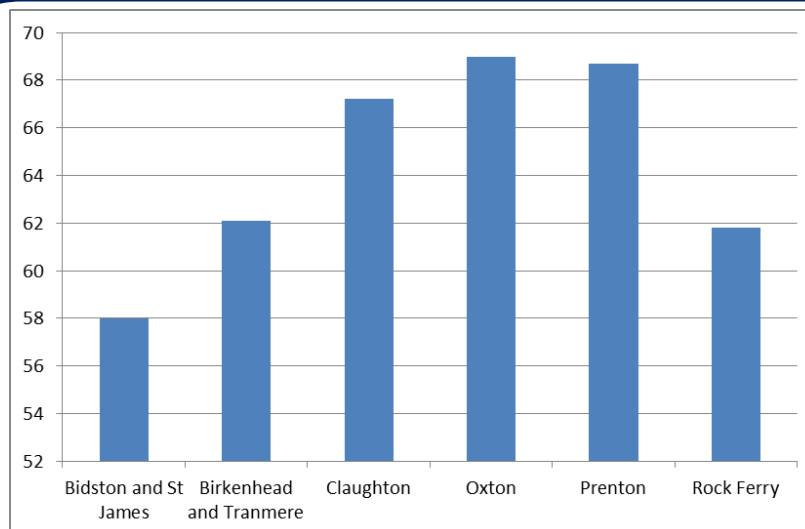


Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,945 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 2,150 at the same point in 2015. This represents 3.5% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 35-44 year olds making up 23.4% of claimants.



Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is being achieved. However, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers fell from 2014 to 2015 from £11.60 to £10.80 – failing to deliver on the higher wage 'settlement'.



Coinciding with the fall in full time hourly pay, Ministry of Justice figures show that total possession claims grew by 15.7% in the local authority area and that total possessions grew by 40.7% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015.



As Figure 2 shows the largest increases were in social landlord sector with claims and possessions growing by 32.9% and 96.4% respectively. Private landlord possessions (-14.3%) also grew over this period.



Conversley, mortgage claims fell by 24.5% and mortgage possessions by 31.6% in 2016 Q1 compared with 2015 Q1. Private landlord claims (-7.1%) also fell over this period.

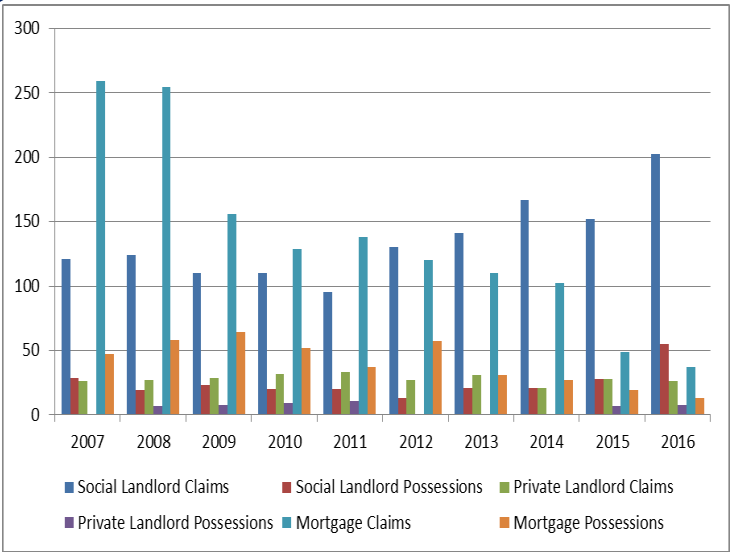


Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
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