

Bolton West 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 69,893 residents in Bolton West aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 70.6% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 67.8% in Greater Manchester 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 68.5% 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 Westhoughton South (74.1%) and Westhoughton North and Chew Moor (73.9%) wards having highest proportions of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 58.2% are full-time employees, while 19.4% work part-time employees. A further 12.8% are self-employed and 5.6% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 2.9% since 2001.

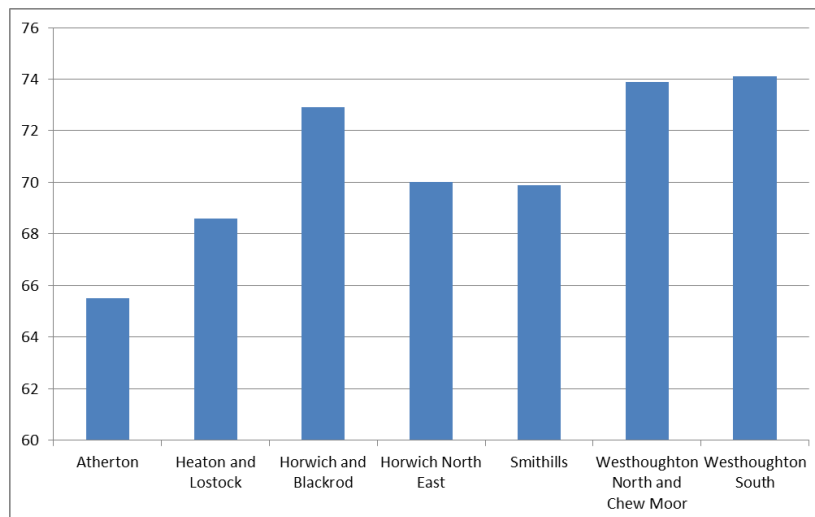


Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,220 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a rise from 1,075 at the same point in 2015. This represents 2% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 35-44 year olds making up 23.8% of claimants.



Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is not being achieved. However, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers grew between 2014 to 2015 from £12.43 to £12.88 – delivering on the higher wage 'settlement'.



Coinciding with the rise in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims fell by 11.9% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the local authority area but that possessions increased (56.5%) over this period.



As Figure 2 shows the social landlord claims (-9.5%), private landlord claims (-11.4%) and mortgage claims (-25%) fell from the first quarters of 2015 and 2016.



Conversley, the actual possession figures of social landlords (36%), private landlords (from 0 to 9) and mortgages (66.7%) grew over the same period.

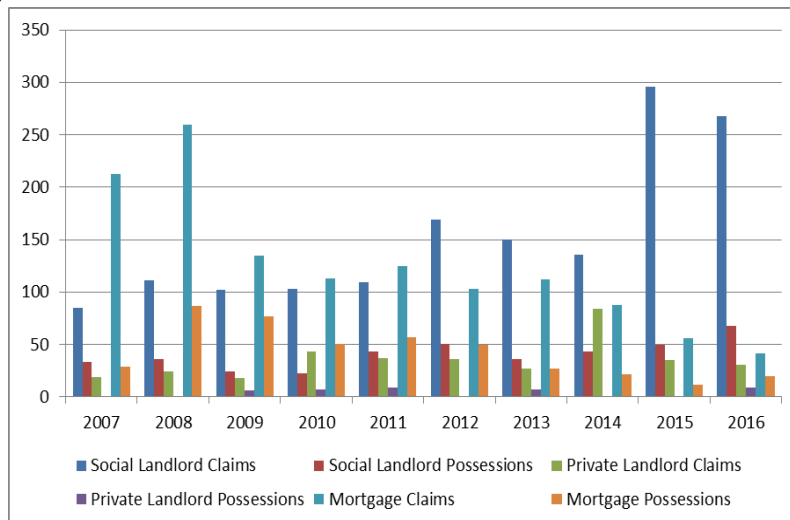


Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

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