

St Helens North 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 71,452 residents in St Helens North aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 66.5% 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 62.8% 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 Newton (70.7%) and Windle (69.1%) wards having highest proportions of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 58.2% are full-time employees, while 21% work part-time employees. A further 9.6% are self-employed and 7.4% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 2.7% since 2001.

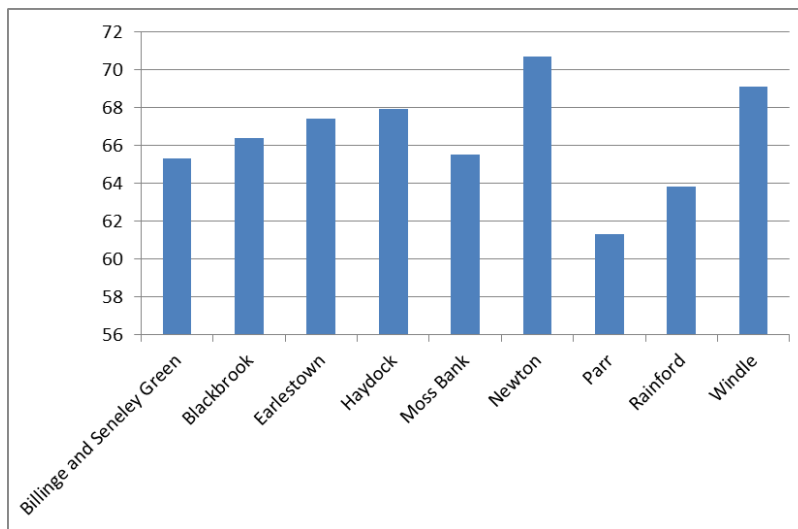


Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,725 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 1,825 at the same point in 2015. This represents 2.8% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 25-34 year olds making up 23.2% of claimants.

Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is being achieved. Furthermore, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers grew from 2014 to 2015 from £11.50 to £12.06 – delivering on the higher wage 'settlement'.

Coinciding with the rise in full time hourly pay, Ministry of Justice figures show that total possession claims fell by 21.9% in the local authority area and that total possessions fell by 20% in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015.

As Figure 2 shows the largest falls were in mortgage sector with claims and possessions falling by 40% and 46.2% respectively. Private landlord claims (-33.3%) also fell over this period.

Furthermore, social landlord claims fell by 15.2% and social landlord possessions by 9.4% in 2016 Q1 compared with 2015 Q1.

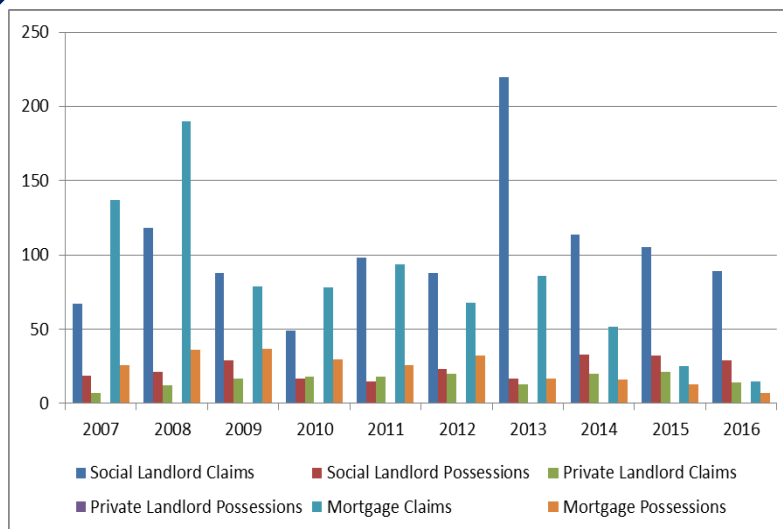


Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

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