

## Barnsley Central 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 63,572 residents in Barnsley Central aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 67.2% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 66.4% in South Yorkshire and 68.4% for the region as a whole.



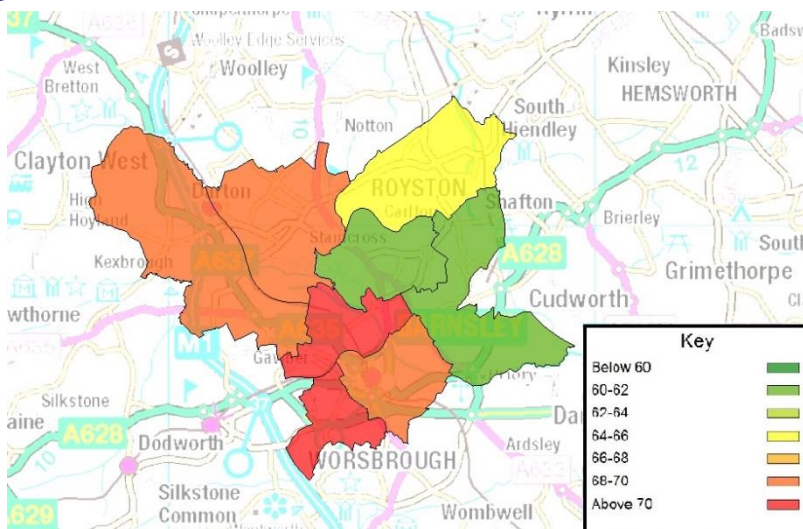
The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 60.1% of residents aged 16 to 74 classed as economically active, whereas Neighbourhood Statistics has this figure at 67.2%. This coincides with an increase in the number of people aged 16 to 74.



Figure 1 below shows economically active are concentrated in the west and particularly the south west of the constituency with Old Town (71.1%) and Kingstone (70.1%) wards having over 70% economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 37.5% are full-time employees, while 14.6% work part-time employees. A further 7.4% are self-employed and 5.3% are unemployed (and looking for work). Whilst those in employment have risen by 5% since 2001, there has been a move to more part-time workers with 2001 figures showing 12.6% working part-time.



**Figure 1: Economically Active by ward**

## Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,395 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 1,585 at the same point in 2015. This represents 2.5% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 25-34 year olds making up 30% 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 between 2014 to 2015 from £11.86 to £11.58, which is 23p lower than in 2013 – contrary to the higher wage 'settlement'.



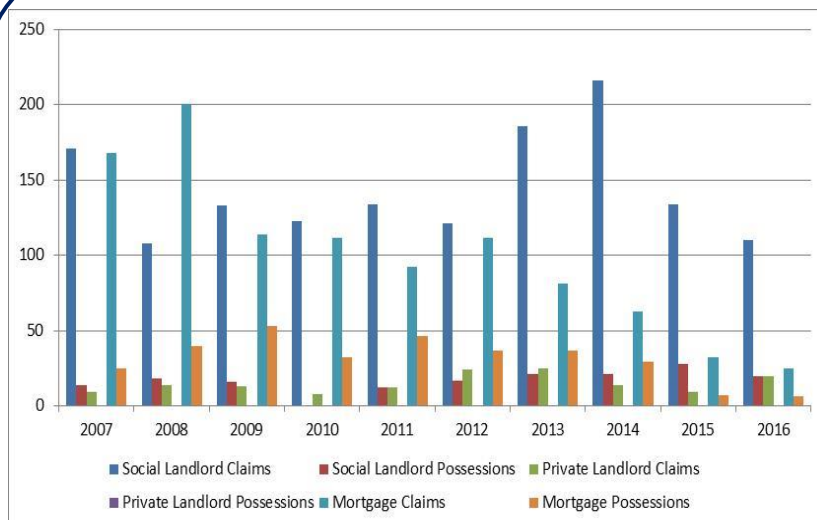
Notwithstanding the fall in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims (-11.4%) and actual possessions (-25.7%) fell in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the local authority area.



The greatest fall was seen in social landlord possessions (-28.6%), while social landlord claims also fell, by 17.9%. Mortgage claims (-21.9%) and actual possessions (-14.3%) are also showing a downward trend as Figure 2 shows.



The data also shows more than a doubling of private landlord claims (122.2%) albeit from a low starting point of 9. There were no actual possessions 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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