

## Batley and Spen 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 77,762 residents in Batley and Spen aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 68.6% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 68.5% in West Yorkshire and 68.4% for the region as a whole.



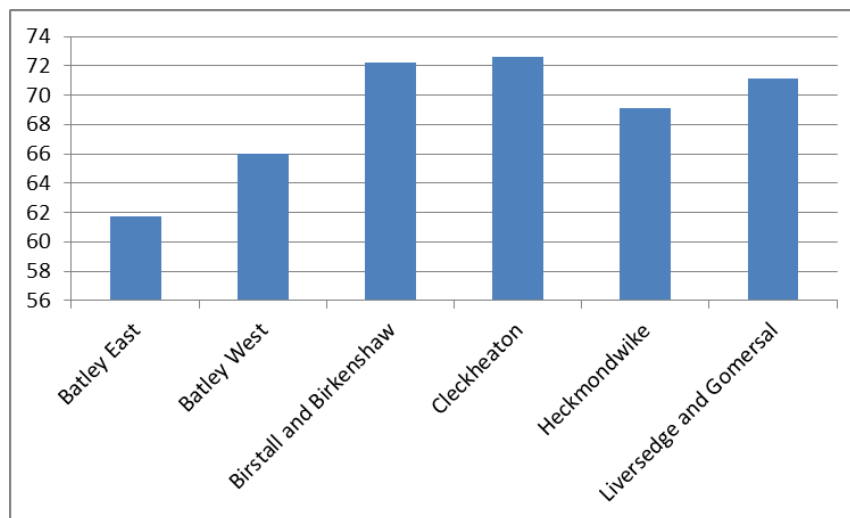
The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 67% of residents aged 16 to 74 classed as economically active. This coincides with an increase in the number of people aged 16 to 74.



Figure 1 below shows that the economically active are concentrated in Cleckheaton (72.6%), Birstall and Birkenshaw (72.2%) and Liversedge and Gomersal (71.1%) wards having the highest proportion of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 37.4% are full-time employees, while 15.1% work part-time employees. A further 8.6% are self-employed and 4.9% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 1.5% since 2001 and there has been a move to more part-time workers with 2001 figures showing 13.1% working part-time.



**Figure 1: Economically Active by ward**

## Benefits and affordability



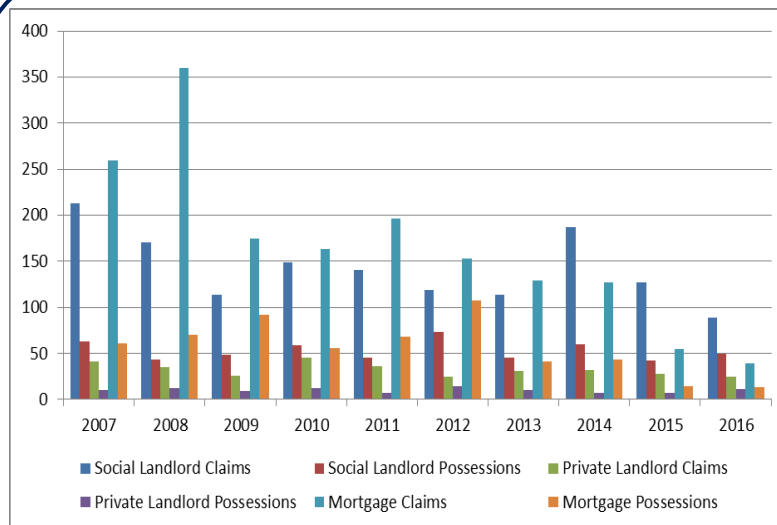
Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,400 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 1,465 at the same point in 2015. This represents 2% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 25-34 year olds making up 26.4% of claimants.

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 between 2014 to 2015 from £11.32 to £12.05 – delivering the higher wage 'settlement'.

Notwithstanding the fall in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims have fallen (-27.1%) but that actual possessions have risen (17.5%) in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the Kirklees local authority area.

The greatest fall was seen in social landlord claims (-29.9%), while mortgage claims also fell, by 29.1%. Private landlord claims fell by 10.7%, while mortgage possessions are also showing a downward trend (-7.1%) as Figure 2 shows.

There was an upward trend on rented possessions, however. Both social landlord (19%) and private landlords (57.1%) took possession of more properties in the first quarter of this year than the same period on 2015.



**Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions**

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