

Working, Mixed and Workless Households Results from the Annual Population Survey, 2014

Introduction

The office for national statistics has released 2014 estimates for working, mixed and workless households down to the local authority level. Figures are also available for previous years that allow a time-series comparison.

The results are derived from the annual population survey (APS), and the sample size means that, although the national figures are robust, the Lancashire, and especially the results for the district authorities in Lancashire, are subject to wide margins of error and should be viewed with caution.

For the year to December 2014, there were 255,235 people surveyed in Great Britain, with 4,916 of these interviews taking place in the Lancashire -14 area. Broken down by the individual authorities, over half (2,505) of the Lancashire interviews were undertaken in the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. The remaining numbers varied between 268 interviews in Preston to just 111 in Ribble Valley. With such a relatively small number of interviews being undertaken in Lancashire districts, most of the results in Table 1 are open to some margin of error.

A working household contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment. A mixed household is a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where at least one person aged 16 and over is in employment, and at least one other is either unemployed or inactive.

The Lancashire and national results

Table 1 reveals that at the national level, 3.38 million or 16.4% of households with at least one person aged 16-64 were classified as workless in 2014. For the Lancashire-14 area, the number of workless households was estimated at 92,000 or 19.7% of the total. For the Lancashire-12- area, the percentage was lower at 18.7%.

Within Lancashire, the somewhat volatile local authority results range between highs of 26.3% in Pendle and 25.4% in Blackpool, to only 11.1% in Fylde and just 9.3% in Ribble Valley.

Table 1. Working, Mixed and Workless Households, 2014

Area	Working		Mixed		Workless	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
Burnley	14	50.1	7	22.9	8	27.0
Chorley	24	58.7	11	27.7	6	13.6
Fylde	12	62.1	5	26.8	2	11.1
Hyndburn	11	45.9	8	34.7	5	19.4
Lancaster	24	50.9	15	31.4	8	17.7
Pendle	11	41.7	9	32.0	7	26.3
Preston	21	45.4	14	30.9	11	23.7
Ribble Valley	10	58.8	5	32.0	2	9.3
Rosendale	13	56.8	4	18.8	6	24.4
South Ribble	18	55.7	11	32.3	4	12.0
West Lancashire	17	49.8	10	30.0	7	20.2
Wyre	21	59.1	9	24.4	6	16.5
Lancashire-12	197	52.4	109	28.8	71	18.7

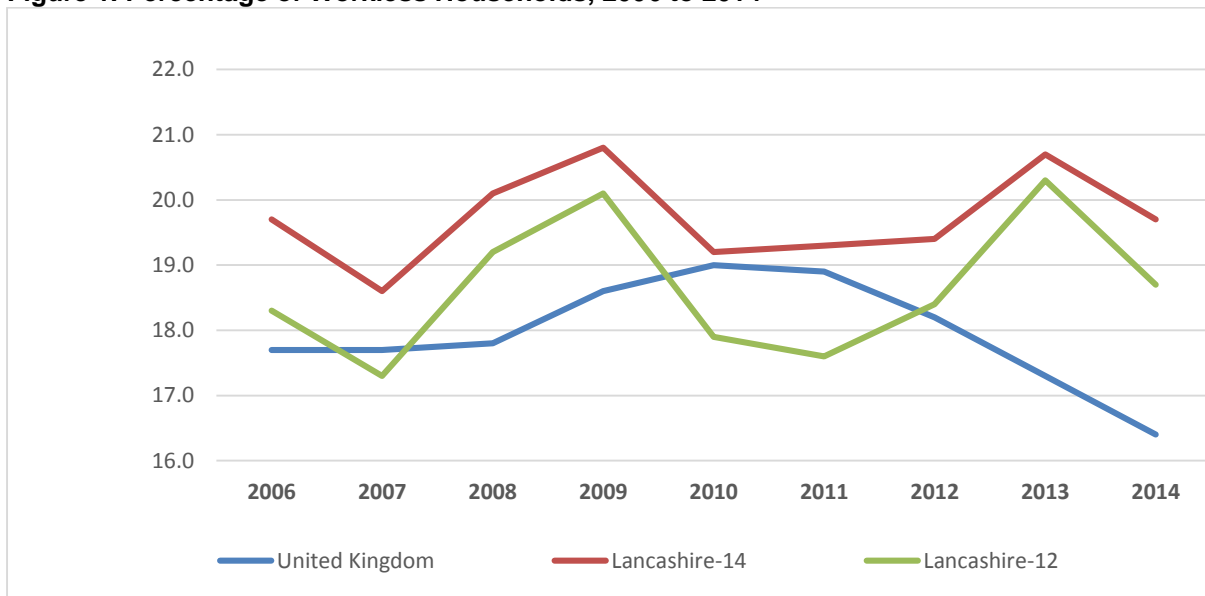
Blackburn with Darwen	21	47.1	14	30.7	10	22.2
Blackpool	22	49.4	11	25.3	12	25.4
Lancashire-14	241	51.6	134	28.7	92	19.7
North West	1,200	51.9	649	28.1	462	20.0
United Kingdom	11,310	54.7	5,976	28.9	3,380	16.4

Source Office for National Statistics, Workless Households

Figure 1 reveals that between 2006 and 2014, the percentage of workless households in the UK increased quite noticeably between 2008 and 2009, before reaching a high of 19% in 2010. The past four years have seen the rate decline quite sharply to reach 16.4% in 2014.

The Lancashire results are more volatile, but indicate that workless household rates were increasing between 2011 and 2013 at a time when the national picture was one of decline. The latest 2014 results revealed sharp declines in the rates at the both the Lancashire-12 and Lancashire-14 levels.

Figure 1. Percentage of Workless Households, 2006 to 2014



Source Office for National Statistics, Workless Households

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