

## Civil partnership numbers in Lancashire

The office for national statistics publishes the number of civil partnerships each year in the Lancashire-12 area and in Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool unitary authorities. The Civil Partnership Act came into force in December 2005 allowing same-sex couples in the UK to register their relationship for the first time. The Act is one example of how the government looks to achieve a more tolerant and equitable society.

Table 1 charts the recent numbers between 2011 and 2015. It highlights the numbers new partnerships each year geographic area and gender. Blackpool is said to have a notable gay community and social scene. The number of civil partnerships in the authority between 2011 and 2013 formed a significant proportion of the totals for the Lancashire-14 area.

The county council's website has details of how to [arrange a civil partnership](#) and possible venue locations. The government compiles a list of list of [approved premises](#) for civil marriages and civil partnerships in England and Wales.

**Table 1. Civil Partnership Formations, 2011 to 2015**

Area	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Total	male	female	Total	male	female	Total	male	female	Total	male	female	Total	male	female
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	6	2	4	9	2	7	6	4	2	4	2	2	3	2	1
Blackpool	44	22	22	44	21	23	31	12	19	4	2	2	4	2	2
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
North West	650	282	368	686	268	418	587	251	336	160	87	73	57	37	20
England and Wales	6,152	3,171	2,981	6,362	3,138	3,224	5,646	2,673	2,973	1,683	954	729	861	570	291

Source [Office for National Statistics: Civil Partnerships](#)

From 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014, couples in England and Wales in civil partnerships have been able to [convert them into a marriage](#). The first marriages of same sex couples took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Because marriage of same sex couples is not currently permitted in Northern Ireland we are not including United Kingdom level figures in table 1, as transition from civil partnership to marriage could not take place in the province.

### The effect on formation of civil partnerships by introduction of same-sex marriages at national level

The number of partnerships formed appears to have fallen dramatically in 2014, but this is almost certainly affected by the introduction of same-sex marriages. As 2014 was thereby a transitional year, and the introduction was three days before the end of a month, we are showing in Table 2 the relative and combined numbers of civil partnership formations and same-sex marriages in England and Wales split into three periods of differing legal situations. In January and February only civil partnerships were available. In March, same-sex marriages were introduced, and many marriages were conducted as soon as the law was changed. In the subsequent months both arrangements were in force. Please note that the statistics on same-sex marriages are provisional, they are not broken down by the gender of the couple or any geographical level, only by month of the ceremony. The combined total of 6,536 for 2014 is therefore even higher than the total formation of Civil Partnerships of 6,362 in 2012. In 2015 the number of partnerships formed basically halved at the Lancashire-14 and national level but if the rate of same-sex marriages remained the same throughout the year, then the combined figure for the two types of union would be similar to recent years.

**Table 2. Civil Partnership formations and same-sex marriages, England and Wales, 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months 2015**

England and Wales	Civil Partnership formations			Same-sex marriages <sub>1</sub>	Civil Partnerships plus Same-sex marriages <sub>1</sub>
	Total	male	female		
Jan-Feb 2014	459	242	217		459
March 2014	242	132	110	98	340
Apr-Dec 2014	982	580	402	4,755	5,737
<b>2014 Total</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>6,536</b>
Jan-June 2015	418	273	145	2,513	2,931

<sub>1</sub>: Provisional data.

Sources Office for National Statistics: Civil Partnerships

Office for National Statistics: Provisional same-sex marriages

The conversion of older partnerships into marriages allowed from December 2014 does not have any bearing on the figures in table 2. The number of marriages was only 356 during December, one of the lowest monthly figures in 2014. We are not currently showing the total present number of partnerships or marriages, only their formation. The source table for the same-sex marriages by month was extended to June 2015 before being archived, and we do not have figures for later months.

### National and regional rates of sexual orientation

The office for national statistics published results from the Labour Force Survey that classifies respondents by various sexual orientation categories. Table 3 details the national and North West region results for 2015.

**Table 3, Sexual identity, United Kingdom and North West region, Percentages for 2015**

Identity	United Kingdom			North West
	Total	Male	female	Total
Heterosexual / Straight	93.7	93.5	93.9	93.3
Gay / Lesbian	1.1	1.6	0.7	1.3
Bisexual	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.7
Other	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Don't know / Refusal	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.5

Source: Office for National Statistics, [annual population survey](#)

Last updated March 2017