

## Economic activity and inactivity, 2011 Census of Population

This short article contains some of the economic activity results from the 2011 Census of Population. The figures have been downloaded from the [Office for National Statistics](#) website and complement a range of other census data sets that have been added to our website.

### The 2011 results for Lancashire

On the day of the census, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2011, 720,763 people in the Lancashire-14 area stated that they were economically active. This included people in full-time and part-time work, the self-employed, economically active students and unemployed people seeking a job. The total amounted to 67.5% of all people in Lancashire-14 aged between 16 and 74.

**Table 1, 2011 census: economically active (16-74 years)**

	All Persons	All Economically Active	Rate (All)	Rank* (1-348)
Burnley	63,376	41,879	66.1	301
Chorley	79,951	56,645	70.8	156
Fylde	54,544	36,447	66.8	284
Hyndburn	58,356	39,118	67.0	278
Lancaster	103,296	67,262	65.1	318
Pendle	64,440	42,765	66.4	295
Preston	104,085	70,509	67.7	260
Ribble Valley	41,285	29,672	71.9	120
Rossendale	50,075	35,186	70.3	178
South Ribble	80,458	58,577	72.8	87
West Lancashire	81,601	55,680	68.2	244
Wyre	77,663	51,450	66.2	299
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>859,130</b>	<b>585,190</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>----</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	104,417	67,033	64.2	329
Blackpool	103,813	68,540	66.0	303
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>1,067,360</b>	<b>720,763</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>----</b>
North West	5,184,216	3,515,910	67.8	<b>----</b>
England and Wales	41,126,540	28,659,869	69.7	<b>----</b>

Source: 2011 Census of Population

\*Rank out of 348 authorities in England and Wales where '1' has the highest rate of economic activity.

In comparison to the England and Wales average (69.7%) the Lancashire-14 area had a lower rate of economic activity. At the Lancashire local authority level, Chorley, Ribble Valley, Rossendale and South Ribble all recorded activity rates in excess of 70%. In contrast, the rate in Burnley was just 66.1% and for Blackburn with Darwen it was even lower at 64.2%.

Out of 348 local authorities across England and Wales, the authority with the highest economic activity rate would be ranked in first position. In Lancashire-14, only South Ribble was in the top 100, whilst Chorley, Ribble Valley

and Rossendale were the only other Lancashire authorities in the top 200. In contrast, Burnley, Lancaster, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool were all ranked below 300.

**Table 2, 2011 census: reasons for economic inactivity, percentages (16-74 years)**

	Retired %	Student %	Looking after home/family	Long-term sick/disabled	Other
Burnley	15.4	4.3	4.5	7.0	2.7
Chorley	16.1	3.2	2.9	4.1	2.8
Fylde	20.6	3.3	3.1	4.0	2.2
Hyndburn	15.1	4.3	4.5	6.7	2.4
Lancaster	15.2	10.9	2.8	4.3	1.7
Pendle	15.1	4.1	5.7	6.1	2.6
Preston	11.7	8.2	4.4	5.4	2.6
Ribble Valley	18.0	3.6	2.4	2.7	1.4
Rossendale	14.7	4.3	3.6	5.4	1.7
South Ribble	16.5	3.3	2.7	3.5	1.2
West Lancashire	17.0	5.7	3.3	4.3	1.4
Wyre	21.2	3.9	2.9	4.4	1.3
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	12.7	5.8	6.8	7.1	3.5
Blackpool	16.2	3.7	3.8	7.9	2.4
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>
North West	14.8	5.6	3.9	5.6	2.2
England and Wales	13.8	5.8	4.3	4.2	2.2

Source: 2011 Census of Population

Table 2 reveals that the reasons behind the low activity rates. One factor is that in the Lancashire-14 area, a higher percentage of the economically inactive state that they were retired (15.8%) than the England and Wales average (13.8%). Fylde and Wyre are authorities popular with older age-groups and the retired represented over 20% of the economically inactive in these two authorities.

Students accounted for a substantial 10.9% of the economically inactive in Lancaster and represented the prime reason behind the low activity rate in the authority. Preston (8.2%) also had a high rate of economically inactive students. In contrast, students represented less than 4% of the economically inactive in Chorley, Fylde, Ribble Valley, South Ribble, Wyre and Blackpool.

Looking after home or family was the reason given by 3.9% in Lancashire-14. This was less than the national average (4.3%), but percentages above the national average were recorded in Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Preston and Blackburn with Darwen. This may reflect local factors such as the ethnic mix of the area.

Lancashire had a higher percentage of people stating that they were economically inactive because they were sick/disabled than the national average of 4.2%. Rates in excess of 7% were recorded in Burnley, Blackburn with

Darwen and Blackpool. South Ribble (3.5%) and Ribble Valley (2.7%) were the only Lancashire authorities with rates below 4%.

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