

## Qualifications and full-time students, 2011 census

### Introduction

This Census statistical release of qualification levels is based on the highest academic or professional qualification achieved by individuals, and looks at qualifications ranging from Level 1 (O-levels or equivalent: any grade) to Level 4 or higher (degree level or equivalent, or higher), and also other qualifications including foreign (unspecified).

The 2011 Census figures for number of students and school children include all ages over 16, whereas in 2001 the age range was from 16 to 74. Apprenticeships are also listed separately for the first time in 2011 - the highest qualification for over 52,000 persons throughout the Lancashire-14 area.

Direct comparison of qualification levels against the 2001 census is not possible because of the difference in age ranges used, however the 2011 results indicate there has been a large increase in the number of persons with Level 4 or above. Around a quarter of usual residents in Lancashire now have a degree or equivalent as their highest qualification. There has similarly been a reduction in numbers who have no academic or professional qualifications, down from approximately 30% in 2001 to around 24% in 2011. Level 3 qualifications (A-level or equivalent) have also increased in percentage terms since 2001.

### The 2011 results for Lancashire

According to the 2011 census, students and school children aged 16 or over accounted for 76,245 persons in the Lancashire-14 area, equating to 8% of the usual resident population aged 16 or over. This was slightly lower than the national average of 8.2% for England and Wales and the North West region. However the district rates for the 16–17 year old students at school or college were fairly consistent with the national average.

The percentages of the over-16 year old usual residents who were students aged 18 or over were much more varied and highlight those districts with a strong university / higher educational presence such as Lancaster (13,603 persons, 11.8%) and Preston (12,055 persons, 10.6%). West Lancashire also had a score higher than the national average with 6.1% in this category.

### Number of full-time students

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of full-time students or school children in education compared with all usual residents aged 16 or over. There is a further breakdown between the younger age groups (16-17) and those aged 18 and over. Nationally around 8.2% of all residents 16 plus in England and Wales are classed as full-time students or schoolchildren.

**Table 1: Schoolchildren and full-time students: % of usual residents**

Area	Usual Residents Aged 16+	All Full-time students and school children Age 16+		Full-time students and school children Age 16 to 17		Full-time students and school children Age 18 and over	
Burnley	69,915	4,276	6.2%	1,884	2.7%	2,392	3.4%

Area	Usual Residents Aged 16+	All Full-time students and school children Age 16+		Full-time students and school children Age 16 to 17		Full-time students and school children Age 18 and over	
Chorley	87,532	4,522	5.2%	2,204	2.5%	2,318	2.6%
Fylde	63,757	3,203	5.0%	1,573	2.5%	1,630	2.6%
Hyndburn	64,092	4,184	6.5%	1,880	2.9%	2,304	3.6%
Lancaster	115,405	16,423	14.2%	2,820	2.4%	13,603	11.8%
Pendle	71,128	4,368	6.1%	1,889	2.7%	2,479	3.5%
Preston	113,422	14,935	13.2%	2,880	2.5%	12,055	10.6%
Ribble Valley	46,552	2,673	5.7%	1,391	3.0%	1,282	2.8%
Rossendale	54,811	3,314	6.1%	1,641	3.0%	1,673	3.1%
South Ribble	89,163	4,919	5.5%	2,336	2.6%	2,583	2.9%
West Lancashire	90,712	8,087	8.9%	2,548	2.8%	5,539	6.1%
Wyre	90,467	5,341	5.9%	2,471	2.7%	2,870	3.2%
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>887,041</b>	<b>71,969</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>23,633</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>48,336</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	113,122	9,140	8.1%	3,834	3.4%	5,306	4.7%
Blackpool	116,699	6,845	5.9%	2,942	2.5%	3,903	3.3%
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>956,956</b>	<b>76,245</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>25,517</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>50,728</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
North West	5,727,629	466,870	8.2%	155,844	2.7%	311,026	5.4%
England and Wales	45,496,780	3,715,369	8.2%	1,230,368	2.7%	2,485,001	5.5%

Source: ONS Census Table KS501EW

Table 2 shows a breakdown of the highest qualification for Lancashire local authorities. The levels are based on academic or professional qualifications ranging from Level 1 to Level 4 or higher. Definitions of these Levels are given at the end of Table 2.

A significant percentage of the population still had no formal academic or professional qualifications, ranging from 31.3% in Blackpool down to 18.3% in Ribble Valley. This compared with a national average of 22.7% or just over a fifth of the resident population aged over 16 in England and Wales.

Apprenticeships offer formal training alongside practical acquisition of important skill sets, and in Lancashire-14 was the highest qualification held for over 4% of persons over 16, compared with 3.6% nationally. Two Lancashire districts score particularly highly - South Ribble ranking in this category is the fourth highest out of 304 districts, Hyndburn is 8th. This may change in the future, dependent on what further professional qualifications are undertaken later in life, but is also reflective of training opportunities/links with employment and industry.

**Table 2: Highest Level of Qualification (Percentages)**

Area	No qualification	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship	Level 3	Level 4 or higher	Other (including foreign)
Burnley	29.3	14.4	15.8	4.6	12.3	18.7	4.8
Chorley	21.2	13.4	16.2	4.8	12.6	27.8	3.8
Fylde	21.2	12.0	16.6	4.2	12.3	29.8	4.0
Hyndburn	28.0	13.8	16.2	5.5	12.5	18.9	4.9
Lancaster	20.6	11.4	15.2	3.7	17.5	27.2	4.4
Pendle	28.2	13.3	15.1	4.8	12.5	20.2	5.8
Preston	23.5	12.6	14.5	3.9	15.1	24.6	5.8
Ribble Valley	18.3	11.1	15.3	5.0	12.5	34.0	3.7
Rossendale	24.0	13.7	16.5	4.0	13.0	25.1	3.6
South Ribble	20.3	13.5	16.6	5.8	13.7	26.4	3.6
West Lancashire	23.5	13.4	15.8	4.0	13.9	25.4	4.1
Wyre	25.9	13.4	16.6	4.8	12.0	23.0	4.2
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	28.7	14.3	15.2	3.9	11.4	19.8	6.6
Blackpool	31.3	15.5	17.1	4.2	11.6	15.5	4.7
<b>Lancashire-14</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>
North West	24.8	13.6	15.8	3.9	12.9	24.4	4.5
England and Wales	22.7	13.3	15.3	3.6	12.3	27.2	5.7

Source: ONS Census Table KS501EW

Level 1 qualifications: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills

Level 2 qualifications: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A\*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma Apprenticeship

Level 3 qualifications: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma

Level 4+ qualifications: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)

Other qualifications: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications (Not stated/ level unknown).