



Civil Service employees March 2018

Key findings for the Lancashire-12 area

David Jenks, Business intelligence analyst

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For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
2nd floor Christ Church Precinct
County Hall
Fishergate Hill
Preston
PR1 8XJ

E: BusinessIntelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk

W: www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

Follow us on Twitter [@lancsinsight](https://twitter.com/lancsinsight)

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Overview

Civil Servants are employed by departments of national Government. The Civil Service is a major employer nationally. Before 1980 there were over 700,000 Civil Service employees in the United Kingdom, but there are now around 300,000 fewer than that. Changes to numbers of Civil Service Personnel are largely a matter of Government policy.

The data in tables 1 to 3 are sourced from the National On-line Manpower Information System website ([Nomis](#)), which allows users to download the Civil Service employee numbers located within each of the 12 districts within the Lancashire County Council area, plus the two unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 employees, hence there may be rounding errors giving discrepancies in and between these tables. The Nomis website allows the number of civil servants employed by the various civil service departments to be analysed by local authority area. Figures are also available by permanent and temporary status by a number of other variables via the [civil service statistics](#) published on the ONS website.

Headcount statistics are based on the number of employees with an employment contract who are being paid by the organisation. Employees can be permanent, on a fixed-term contractor or employed on a casual basis. The self-employed and contract workers are excluded.

There are around 500 civilian staff employed by the Ministry of Defence in the Lancashire-12 area. These are also mentioned, and counted, in the Lancashire Insight article on [Armed forces and support personnel](#).

Key findings for the Lancashire-12 and Lancashire-14 areas Summary

[Civil Service employee numbers](#) released by the Office for National Statistics reveal that the Lancashire-12 area recorded a headcount of 8,080 in 2018, which equated to a reduction of -5,470 employees (-40.4%), or two fifths since 2008. It should be noted that between 2017 and 2018 there seems to have been a transfer of over 1,000 personnel from Fylde to bases in Blackpool.

In total, 1.9% of the Civil Service jobs in the UK were in the Lancashire-12 area in 2018.

Preston (4,200) accounted for over half of the total Civil Service headcount in the Lancashire-12 area in 2018. Chorley (1,150) had the next largest civil service headcounts locally. In contrast, Pendle (40), had the lowest numbers of civil servants, having just 0.5% of the Lancashire-12 figure.

Compared to the 20% of civil service employees in the UK who work for the Department of Work and Pensions, the rate for the Lancashire-12 area is 28.7%, and for the Lancashire-14 area the rate is 54.1%. Of the 4,820 civil servants based in Blackpool 4,620 (95.9%) work in the DWP.

Recent changes in Civil Service employee numbers

The Civil Service employee headcount has fallen by -4,660 (-25.8%) in the Lancashire-14 area and by -5,470 (-40.4%) in the Lancashire-12 area since 2008, though between 2017 and 2018 there seems to have been a transfer of over 1,000 personnel from Fylde to bases in Blackpool. For this data series (2008 to 2018), the number of civil service employees peaked in 2008 for both the Lancashire-14 and Lancashire-12 areas. For the UK as a whole however, the Civil Service headcount peaked in 2010 at 527,480 employees, and has fallen by -104,850 (-19.9%). This is a lower percentage reduction than recorded for the Lancashire-14 or Lancashire-12 areas.

Wyre has seen the greatest reduction in the Civil Service headcount of the local authorities within the Lancashire-12 area, decreasing by -1,980 employees (-83.5%), from 2,370 in 2010, to 390 in 2017 and 2018.

Civil Service headcounts have fallen in all of the Lancashire-14 authorities except Blackpool between 2008 and 2018. The 4,820 headcount recorded for 2018 is the highest for any Lancashire-14 authority, and the difference between the 2008 and 2018 figures constitutes an increase of 1,030, or 27.2%.

Civil Service employee numbers in Fylde district have fluctuated considerably in recent years. The headcount in Fylde fell to 1,460 in 2013, from 1,800 in 2009, rose by 500 employees to 1,960 in 2016, fell sharply to 1,870 in 2017 then again very steeply by -1,220 (-65.2%) to just 650 employees in 2018.

Yearly change in Civil Service employees, 2017 to 2018

Between 2017 and 2018, the total number of Civil Service employees in the UK (including overseas and unknown) rose by 10,680 employees (2.6%). Full-time employees rose by 10,230 (3.2%), and there was a gain of 440 part-time staff (0.5%).

By way of contrast to the UK, the Civil Service headcount fell in the Lancashire-14 area by -200 employees (-1.5%) between 2017 and 2018, and by -1,500 employees (-15.7%) in the Lancashire-12 area.

Fylde (-1,220) recorded the largest numeric decrease in Civil Service employees within the Lancashire-14 area between 2017 and 2018, followed by Preston (-440). Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley had falls of -40 or fewer. Pendle, Rossendale and Wyre saw no change in employee numbers over the year.

By way of contrast to the above, Blackpool (+1,320) registered the greatest increase in the Civil Service headcount in the Lancashire-14 area between 2017 and 2018, followed by Chorley (+130) and South Ribble (+60). Lancaster and West Lancashire recorded small increases (+20 and +10) in employees over the previous year.

Analysis of the Lancashire-14 figures

The 2018 figures in table 1 show that Blackpool (4,820) accounted for over a third (36.0%) of the total Civil Service headcount in the Lancashire-14 area, followed by Preston (4,200) with nearly a third (31.3%). Chorley district's figure (1,150) was 8.6% of the Lancashire-14 total. In contrast, West Lancashire (80), Hyndburn (50), Pendle (40) and Rossendale (20) had the lowest numbers of civil servants, ranging between 0.6% and 0.1% of the Lancashire-14 total. When analysed by department, most (4,620) of the Blackpool based staff are employed by the Department for Work and Pensions. This department employs 1,150 in Preston, but most of the Preston staff (2,070) work for HM Revenue and Customs, with a further 620 Prison officers, or other Ministry of Justice rôles. Those based in Chorley are mostly Prison staff as are about a third (210) of those in Fylde, with about half (290) working at the Land Registry offices. Nearly all of the 390 employees in Wyre work for the Ministry of Defence in the Veterans Welfare Service. See Figure 1 on this articles's web page.

Table 1: Civil service employment in Lancashire, 2018, employee headcount

Area	Full-time headcount	Part-time headcount	All employees headcount
Burnley	260	110	370
Chorley	990	160	1,150
Fylde	500	150	650
Hyndburn	40	10	50
Lancaster	390	100	490
Pendle	30	10	40
Preston	2,780	1,420	4,200
Ribble Valley	310	150	460
Rossendale	20	10	20
South Ribble	140	40	180
West Lancashire	50	30	80
Wyre	250	140	390
Lancashire-12	5,750	2,330	8,080
Blackburn with Darwen	300	200	500
Blackpool	3,080	1,730	4,820
Lancashire-14	9,140	4,260	13,400
North West	37,920	14,870	52,790
England	264,880	78,270	343,150
United Kingdom ^[1]	331,390	98,680	430,080

Note: [1] Includes a small number of overseas and not reported employees.

Source: Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (Office for National Statistics) – from [NOMIS](#)

Recent change in Civil Service employee numbers

The Civil Service employee headcount has fallen by -4,660 (-25.8%) in the Lancashire-14 area and by -5,470 (-40.4%) in the Lancashire-12 area since 2008, though between 2017 and 2018 there seems to have been a transfer of over 1,000 personnel from Fylde to bases in Blackpool. For this data series (2008 to 2018), the number of Civil Service employees peaked in 2008 for both the Lancashire-14 and

Lancashire-12 areas. For the UK as a whole however, the Civil Service headcount peaked in 2010 at 527,480 employees, and has fallen by -104,850 (-19.9%). This is a lower percentage reduction than recorded for the Lancashire-14 or Lancashire-12 areas.

Wyre has seen the greatest reduction in the Civil Service headcount of the local authorities within the Lancashire-12 area, decreasing by -1,980 employees (-83.5%), from 2,370 in 2010, to 390 in 2017 and 2018. Following the closure of the Department for Work and Pensions office at Norcross, Thornton Cleveleys, in 2013 some staff transferred to the Peel Park site in Blackpool. Table 3 shows that over 60% of employees based in Wyre worked for the DWP in 2008, but the rate fell to just 7.7% in the most recent years.

Civil Service headcounts have fallen in all of the Lancashire-14 authorities except Blackpool between 2008 and 2018. The 4,820 headcount recorded for 2018 is the highest for any Lancashire-14 authority, and the difference between the 2008 and 2018 figures constitutes an increase of 1,030, or 27.2%. New offices at Warbreck House, Layton and Faraday Court and Ryscar House, Bispham house Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC facilities.

Civil Service employee numbers in Fylde district have fluctuated considerably in recent years. The headcount in Fylde fell to 1,460 in 2013 from 1,800 in 2009, rose by 500 employees to 1,960 in 2016, fell sharply to 1,870 in 2017 then again very steeply by -1,220 (-65.2%) to just 650 employees in 2018. The Department of Work and Pensions offices at the Heyhouses Lane / Moorlands Road site, formerly the home of the Premium Savings Bonds was earmarked for closure by 2008. Hewlett Packard have been based there subsequently providing IT services to the DWP. In Table 3 we can see that the percentage of DWP employees based in Fylde was 49.4% in 2008, reached 70.1% in 2017 but fell to 12.3% in 2018.

Table 2: Civil Service employment in the Lancashire-14 area, 2008-2017, employee headcount

Area	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Burnley	490	470	520	530	500	510	480	360	420	380
Chorley	1,280	1,300	1,320	1,280	1,170	1,110	1,050	1,050	1,120	1,020
Fylde	1,780	1,800	1,680	1,630	1,460	1,460	1,940	1,890	1,960	1,870
Hyndburn	330	310	310	210	190	170	150	120	110	90
Lancaster	910	900	890	730	600	550	490	440	430	470
Pendle	70	80	80	70	60	60	50	50	40	40
Preston	5,320	5,220	5,310	5,130	4,910	4,960	4,610	4,620	4,810	4,640
Ribble Valley	610	590	590	570	570	540	530	460	460	470
Rosendale	40	40	50	40	40	40	40	30	20	20
South Ribble	270	240	70	90	80	80	80	70	30	120
West Lancashire	160	180	200	170	150	90	80	70	80	70
Wyre	2,300	2,280	2,370	2,270	1,700	1,630	500	470	420	390
Lancashire-12	13,560	13,410	13,390	12,720	11,430	11,200	10,000	9,640	9,890	9,580
Blackburn with Darwen	720	760	810	700	630	570	550	690	550	520
Blackpool	3,790	3,670	3,680	3,550	3,380	3,200	3,190	3,060	3,080	3,500
Lancashire-14	18,070	17,840	17,880	16,970	15,440	14,970	13,740	13,390	13,520	13,600
North West	64,850	64,900	65,210	61,610	56,960	55,010	52,820	52,150	51,690	52,100

Civil Service employees, 2018

Area	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
England	423,170	423,190	428,360	404,040	372,780	360,440	353,360	348,470	333,990	332,800
United Kingdom ^[1]	525,160	524,420	527,480	498,430	463,810	448,840	439,940	433,810	418,340	419,400

Note: [1] Includes a small number of overseas and not reported employees.

Source: Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (Office for National Statistics) – from NOMIS

Civil Service headcounts also fell by considerable numbers in Blackpool (-710, -18.7%), Preston (-1,120, -21.1%) and Lancaster (-420, -46.2%) between 2008 and 2018.

Although not of the same magnitude numerically, Hyndburn has seen Civil Service employment fall by -84.8% (-280 employees) between 2008 and 2018. Blackburn with Darwen (-260 employees, -32.1%) and Chorley (-200 employees, -15.2%) saw similar numeric reductions to South Ribble and Hyndburn between 2010 and 2016.

Yearly change in Civil Service employees, 2017 to 2018

Between 2017 and 2018, the total number of Civil Service employees in the UK (including overseas and unknown) rose by 10,680 employees (2.6%). Full-time employees rose by 10,230 (3.2%), and there was a rise of 440 part-time staff (0.4%).

By way of contrast to the UK, the Civil Service headcount fell in the Lancashire-14 area by -200 employees (-1.5%) between 2017 and 2018, and by -1,500 employees (-15.7%) in the Lancashire-12 area.

Fylde (-1,220) recorded the largest numeric decrease in Civil Service employees within the Lancashire-14 area between 2017 and 2018, followed by Preston (-440). Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley had falls of -40 or fewer. Pendle, Rossendale and Wyre saw no change in employee numbers over the year.

By way of contrast to the above, Blackpool (+1,320) registered the greatest increase in the Civil Service headcount in the Lancashire-14 area between 2017 and 2018, followed by Chorley (+130) and South Ribble (+60). Lancaster and West Lancashire recorded small increases (+20 and +10) in employees over the previous year

Table 3: Change and percentage change in Civil Service employment (headcounts) in the Lancashire-14 area, 2008 to 2018 and 2017 to 2018 with proportions employed by the Department for Work and Pensions

Area	Change 2008 to 2018	% Change 2008 to 2018	Change 2017 to 2018	% Change 2017 to 2018	Percentage employed by Department for Work and Pensions		
					2008	2017	2018
Burnley	-120	-24.5%	-10	-2.6%	69.4%	68.4%	67.6%
Chorley	-130	-10.2%	130	12.8%	0.0%	2.9%	3.5%
Fylde	-1,130	-63.5%	-1,220	-65.2%	49.4%	70.1%	12.3%
Hyndburn	-280	-84.8%	-40	-44.4%	66.6%	66.7%	80.0%
Lancaster	-420	-46.2%	20	4.3%	18.7%	29.8%	26.5%
Pendle	-30	-42.9%	0	0.0%	71.4%	75.0%	75.0%
Preston	-1,120	-21.1%	-440	-9.5%	32.0%	23.9%	27.4%
Ribble Valley	-150	-24.6%	-10	-2.1%	98.4%	97.9%	100.0%
Rossendale	-20	-50.0%	0	0.0%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%
South Ribble	-90	-33.3%	60	50.0%	29.6%	16.7%	11.1%
West Lancashire	-80	-50.0%	10	14.3%	56.3%	85.7%	87.5%

Area	Change 2008 to 2018	% Change 2008 to 2018	Change 2017 to 2018	% Change 2017 to 2018	Percentage employed by Department for Work and Pensions		
					2008	2017	2018
Wyre	-1,910	-83.0%	0	0.0%	61.7%	7.7%	7.7%
Lancashire-12	-5,470	-40.4%	-1,500	-15.7%	41.2%	37.0%	28.7%
Blackburn with Darwen	-220	-30.6%	-20	-3.9%	55.6%	59.6%	62.0%
Blackpool	1,030	27.2%	1,320	37.7%	82.8%	95.4%	95.9%
Lancashire-14	-4,660	-25.8%	-200	-1.5%	50.5%	52.9%	54.1%
North West	-12,060	-18.6%	690	1.3%	37.6%	34.7%	33.9%
England	-80,020	-18.6%	-10,350	-3.1%	22.8%	21.4%	20.6%
UK ^[1]	-95,080	-18.1%	10,680	2.6%	22.4%	20.7%	20.0%

Note: [1] Includes a small number of overseas and not reported employees.

Source: Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (Office for National Statistics) – from NOMIS

The proportion of employees in the Department for Work and Pensions for the United Kingdom was only 20% in 2018, much less than the 33.9% in the North West. Following the major fall in employees in Fylde, the rate for the Lancashire-12 area was 28.7% in the DWP, but as much as 54.1% for Lancashire-14. The DWP rate is consistently high in some districts, such as Ribble Valley, Rossendale and Blackpool, but not in Preston, where nearly a third of civil service staff are based. The rate in Chorley district is consistently low. The recent closures of offices in Wyre and Fylde has caused the DWP proportions for those boroughs to fluctuate between high and low rates.

The impact on locations of Civil Service employment of changes to the benefits system

The major re-locations of staff that have been seen recently in the Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool authority areas partly reflect changes to the benefits system which the Civil Service staff deliver. The Heyhouses Lane site in Fylde was supporting Personal Independence Payments and Job Seekers' Allowance delivery. Much of the operation at the new Faraday Court site in Bispham, Blackpool revolves around the delivery of Universal Credit. Disability Living Allowance is administered at the Warbreck House site. Currently Job Seekers Allowance is being phased out and a number of benefits are being replaced by Universal Credit.

Related information

The public administration and defence article highlights a selection of organisations in Lancashire that employ civil servants.

The UK government properties database is a searchable list of all UK government property holdings and assets. The web page for the North West region lists properties by towns including those within the Lancashire-14 area. A number of these sites are important locations for civil service employment in the county.