

**Personal well-being:  
Estimates of life satisfaction  
from the Annual Population  
Survey, April 2020 to March 2021**

**Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area**

## **Business Intelligence Team**

**December 2021**

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

Business Intelligence

Lancashire County Council

2nd floor Christ Church Precinct

Preston

PR1 0LD

E: [businessintelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:businessintelligence.insight@lancashire.gov.uk)

W: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight)

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>KEY FINDINGS FOR THE LANCASHIRE-14 AREA</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LANCASHIRE GEOGRAPHIES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
	4.1 Personal well-being and life satisfaction.....	3
	4.2 Personal well-being interactive tools .....	4
	4.3 Interpreting the results, sample sizes .....	4
<b>5.</b>	<b>ANALYSIS OF LIFE SATISFACTION ESTIMATES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	5.1 Life satisfaction estimates for 2020/21 .....	4
	5.2 Life satisfaction estimates for 2014/15 to 2020/21 .....	7
<b>6.</b>	<b>RELATED WEBSITES</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## 1. Overview

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has identified 10 aspects of life that people said mattered to their well-being. These are known as the national well-being measures. These include personal well-being, our relationships, our health, the economy and the environment. They aim to look beyond gross domestic product (GDP) at what matters most to people in the UK.

The ONS has released personal well-being estimates for the year April 2020 to March 2021 that go down to the local authority level. The data is for persons aged 16 and over. The personal well-being data was first collected in 2011/12, providing a ten-year time series of ratings. Over time, personal well-being data can provide an indication of how the well-being of a nation is changing. This article focuses on the life satisfaction element of personal well-being, which is one of four questions asked about personal well-being in the Annual Population Survey (APS).

## 2. Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

Average reported ratings of personal well-being at the UK level have deteriorated across all indicators in the year ending March 2021, continuing a trend that was seen across most indicators in the previous period, but even more sharply, and which notably takes place entirely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The most recent annual declines in personal well-being in the UK were the greatest seen since the start of measuring personal well-being for life satisfaction (0.27 point decline), anxiety (0.26 point increase), happiness (0.17 point decline) and feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (0.15 point decline).

The estimated average mean life satisfaction rating for the UK as a whole in 2020/21 was 7.39 (with -0.02 and +0.01 confidence intervals). The North West had an estimated rating of 7.36 (with +/-0.05 confidence intervals), which was not statistically lower than the UK figure.

At the local authority level in the UK, the Scottish Orkney Islands (8.17 (+/- 0.48)), Torridge (8.1% (with -0.41 and +0.40 confidence intervals)) located in Devon in the South West region, and also in Devon, South Hams (8.05 (+/- 0.37)), had the highest mean life satisfaction ratings. All of these rates were statistically significantly greater than the UK rate.

For the Lancashire-12 area (7.64 (with -0.13 and +0.12 confidence intervals)), the average mean life satisfaction rating in 2020/21 was statistically higher than the UK rating (7.39 (with -0.02 and +0.01 confidence intervals)). Since 2011/12, the only other time the Lancashire-12 area has had a rating that was significantly different to the UK was in 2015/16. In this year, the average life satisfaction rating for the Lancashire-12 area (7.45 (+/- 0.13)) was significantly lower than the UK rating (7.65 (+/- 0.01)).

The average mean life satisfaction rating for the Lancashire-12 area peaked in 2017/18 at 7.8 (ignoring the confidence intervals). The Lancashire-12 rating has declined over the last three years, by 0.16 points (ignoring the confidence intervals). Owing to the wide confidence intervals, the Lancashire-12 decreases are not statistically significant, however they have reduced by smaller amount than the UK estimate, that has seen a fall of 0.32 points over just two years.

Wyre (7.99 (with -0.28 and +0.27 confidence intervals)), Ribble Valley (7.88 (with -0.40 and +0.41 confidence intervals)) and Preston (7.89 (with -0.45 and +0.46 confidence intervals)) were the only three Lancashire-14 areas to have average mean life satisfaction ratings that were statistically significantly higher than the UK and England ratings in 2020/21. Blackpool (7.16 (+/- 0.17)) was the only Lancashire-14 area to have an average mean life satisfaction rating that was statistically significantly lower than the UK or England ratings in 2020/21. Owing to the wide and overlapping confidence intervals, none of the remaining ten Lancashire-14 areas had average life satisfaction ratings that were statistically different to the UK rating or the England rating.

Wyre (7.99 (with -0.28 and +0.27 confidence intervals)), Ribble Valley (7.88 (with -0.40 and +0.41 confidence intervals)), Preston (7.89 (with -0.45 and +0.46 confidence intervals)), Lancaster (7.74 (+/- 0.38)) and Chorley (7.9 (with -0.54 and +0.53 confidence intervals)) have average mean life satisfaction ratings that were statistically significantly higher than the estimate for Blackpool (7.16 (+/- 0.17)).

Chichester (6.61 (with -0.60 and +0.61 confidence intervals)), in the South East of England, the London Borough of Camden (6.78 (+/- 0.40)) and Gravesham (6.82, (with -0.58 and +0.59 confidence intervals)) in the South East of England, had the lowest life satisfaction estimates in the UK. The estimates for Chichester and Camden were statistically significantly lower than the UK figure, whilst the estimate for Gravesham was not. Five of the 33 London Boroughs were in the bottom 18 places of the UK rankings. Of the North West authorities, Barrow-in-Furness (6.89, (with -0.55 and +0.56 confidence intervals)) had the lowest estimate in the region and was ranked in the fifth lowest position in the UK (ignoring confidence intervals). However, the estimate for Barrow-in-Furness was not statistically significantly lower than the UK figure

### 3. Description of the Lancashire geographies

The Lancashire-12 area is comprised of the 12 local authorities that fall within the Lancashire County Council (LCC) administrative boundary. The Lancashire-14 area incorporates the two additional unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and has the same geographic footprint as the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area.

The 12 local authorities within the LCC boundary are Burnley Borough Council, Chorley Borough Council, Fylde Borough Council, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancaster City Council, Pendle Borough Council, Preston City Council, Ribble Valley

Borough Council, Rossendale Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council.

## 4. Background information

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released personal well-being estimates for the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021 that are available at the local authority level. The data are for persons aged 16 and over. The personal well-being data were first collected in 2011/12, which now provides a ten-year time series of ratings to compare. The data are weighted averages.

After extensive public consultation, the ONS identified 10 aspects of life (or domains) that people said mattered to their well-being. These are known as the national well-being measures. These include personal well-being, our relationships, our health, the economy and the environment. The ten measures are typically updated every 6 months in March and September. In total there are now 41 national well-being indicators across the 10 measures (reduced from 43 previously). The Measures of National Well-being dashboard summarises changes for each indicator at the UK level over time. This replaces the previous wheel of measures chart.

As from July 2016, the personal well-being variables have been included within the main Annual Population Survey (APS) dataset, rather than released as a separate dataset. The local district and unitary authority estimates are released annually for the financial years ending in March each year. As part of this transition, personal well-being estimates now go through the regular APS re-weighting timetable. Based on new population estimates, new well-being weights have been available for the APS data since March 2021. This reweighted data has been used to produce annual personal well-being estimates for the most recent period, while the previous weights are still in use from year ending March 2012 to year ending March 2020.

### 4.1 Personal well-being and life satisfaction

Over time, personal well-being data can provide an indication of how the well-being of a nation is changing. Since 2011, the ONS has asked personal well-being questions to adults in the UK, to better understand how they feel about their lives. The personal well-being questions are a part of the wider Measuring National Well-being programme, which aims to look beyond gross domestic product (GDP) at what matters most to people in the UK.

There are four questions asked in the Annual Population Survey (APS) that are used to measure personal well-being:

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
2. Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
3. Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
4. Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

For the four APS personal well-being questions, a scale of 0-10 is used. For life satisfaction, 0 is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.

This article considers the first question (life satisfaction) and focuses on the estimates for the 12 local authorities within the Lancashire-12 area, plus the two unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. The article also contains regional and national comparator figures. The results for the three other well-being questions within the Annual Population Survey are available from the original source or can be viewed via the interactive tools (see below) within the personal well-being web page published by the ONS.

There is a fifth indicator within the personal well-being domain measure - population mental well-being, which is sourced from the [Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study](#).

## 4.2 Personal well-being interactive tools

The ONS provides interactive tools that are located on the [Personal well-being in the UK: April 2020 to March 2021 web page](#) (section 3). These allow readers to investigate how the four individual APS indicators within the personal well-being domain have changed within different areas over time. The graph permits the comparison of multiple areas at once, whilst the map/graph tool allows the exploration of figures for an individual area against the UK figures.

## 4.3 Interpreting the results, sample sizes

Caution should be applied to the estimates of life satisfaction ratings contained in tables 1 and 2 as they are liable to statistical sampling variability owing to the different sizes of survey samples across these areas. The estimates for the local authorities within the Lancashire-12 area have particularly wide margins of sampling variability owing to their very small sample sizes. Please see the lower and upper statistical confidence intervals in table 1 to ascertain the range of potential ratings for each area at a 95% confidence level (the expected ratings 19 times out of 20).

# 5. Analysis of life satisfaction estimates

## 5.1 Life satisfaction estimates for 2020/21

The estimated average mean life satisfaction rating for the UK as a whole in 2020/21 was 7.39 (with -0.02 and +0.01 confidence intervals). The North West had an estimated rating of 7.36 (with +/-0.05 confidence intervals), which was not statistically lower than the UK figure.

In 2020/21 there were 381 local authority areas in the UK at the district, unitary or metropolitan borough level, but only 377 authorities provided results. The figures for the City of London, Corby, Boston and Oadby and Wigston were not statistically

reliable. In table 1 below, within the rank column, 1 equals the highest average (mean) life satisfaction ranking and 377 equates to the lowest average (mean) life satisfaction ranking.

Although the average life satisfaction rating for the Lancashire-12 area (7.64 (with -0.13 and +0.12 confidence intervals) was higher than the UK rating (7.39 (with -0.02 and +0.01 confidence intervals) in 2020/21, Wyre (7.99 (with -0.28 and +0.27 confidence intervals)), Ribble Valley (7.88 (with -0.40 and +0.41 confidence intervals)) and Preston (7.89 (with -0.45 and +0.46 confidence intervals)) were the only three Lancashire-14 areas to have average mean life satisfaction ratings that were statistically significantly higher than the UK and England ratings in 2020/21. Blackpool (7.16 (+/- 0.17)) was the only Lancashire-14 area to have an average mean life satisfaction rating that was statistically significantly lower than the UK or England ratings in 2020/21. Owing to the wide and overlapping confidence intervals, none of the remaining ten Lancashire-14 areas had average life satisfaction ratings that were statistically different to the UK rating or the England rating. They can therefore be said to be similar to the UK.

**Table 1: Life satisfaction estimates for local authorities in the Lancashire-14 area, 2020/21**

Area	Lower confidence interval	Average (mean) rating 2015/16	Upper confidence interval	Rank out of 377 UK authorities	Sample Size
Burnley	6.61	<b>7.20</b>	7.79	318	60
Chorley	7.36	<b>7.90</b>	8.43	13	120
Fylde	7.20	<b>7.58</b>	7.96	89	110
Hyndburn	6.72	<b>7.30</b>	7.87	270	60
Lancaster	7.36	<b>7.74</b>	8.12	39	130
Pendle	7.00	<b>7.40</b>	7.80	204	60
Preston	7.44	<b>7.89</b>	8.35	15	150
Ribble Valley	7.48	<b>7.88</b>	8.29	18	80
Rosendale	6.64	<b>7.12</b>	7.60	353	60
South Ribble	7.33	<b>7.72</b>	8.12	44	120
West Lancashire	7.00	<b>7.45</b>	7.91	164	120
Wyre	7.71	<b>7.99</b>	8.26	7	120
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	7.51	<b>7.64</b>	7.76	---	1,170
Blackburn with Darwen	7.23	<b>7.43</b>	7.64	182	440
Blackpool	6.99	<b>7.16</b>	7.33	337	640
North West	7.31	<b>7.36</b>	7.41	---	12,550
England	7.37	<b>7.38</b>	7.40	---	81,550
<b>UK</b>	7.37	<b>7.39</b>	7.40	---	110,790

Source: Office for national statistics, Annual Population Survey, [Headline estimates of personal well-being - April 2020 to March 2021 - Local authority update](#). Confidence intervals from [Quality information for personal well-being estimates - April 2020 to March 2021 - Local authority update](#).

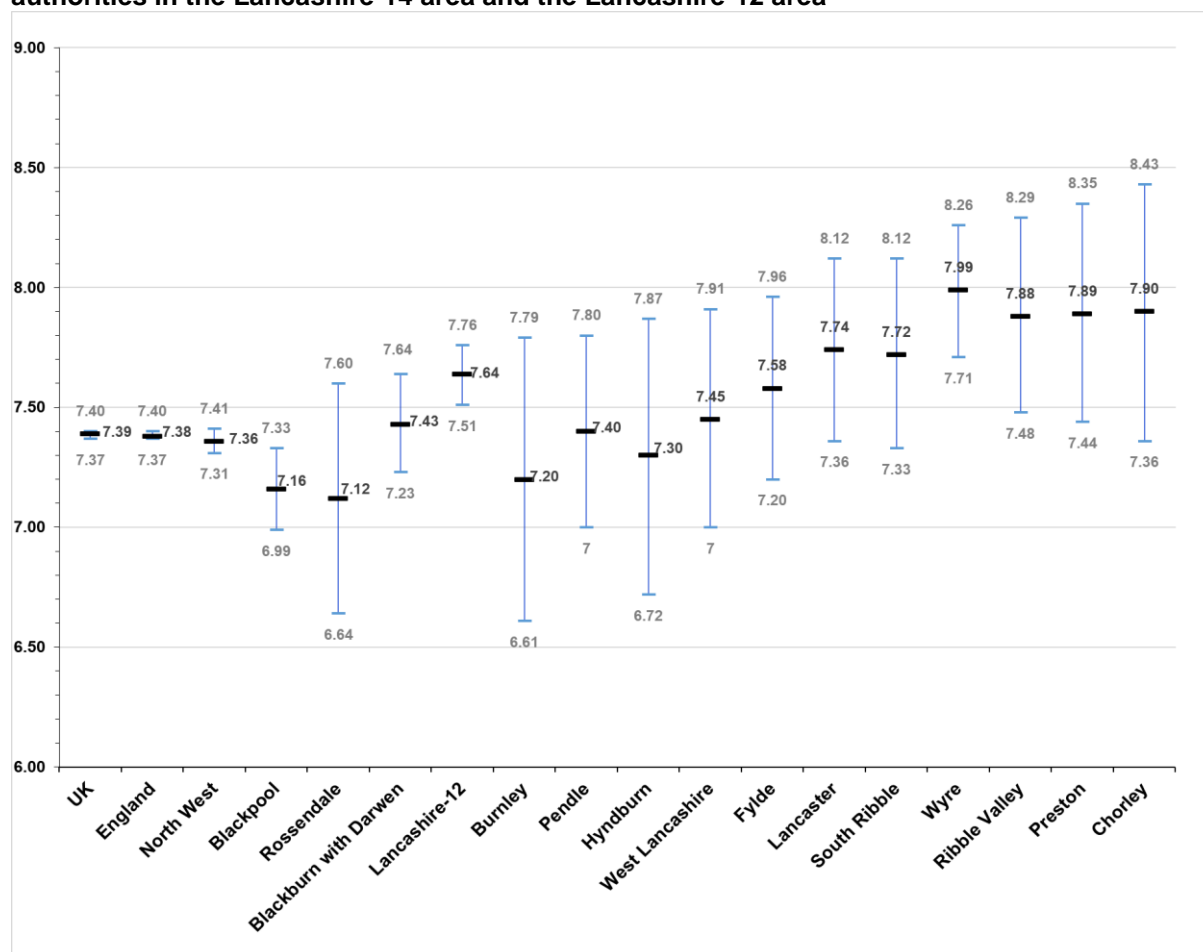
Wyre (7.99 (with -0.28 and +0.27 confidence intervals)), Ribble Valley (7.88 (with -0.40 and +0.41 confidence intervals)), Preston (7.89 (with -0.45 and +0.46 confidence intervals)), Lancaster (7.74 (+/- 0.38)) and Chorley (7.9 (with -0.54 and +0.53 confidence intervals)) have average mean life satisfaction ratings that were statistically significantly higher than the estimate for Blackpool (7.16 (+/- 0.17)).



Rossendale (7.12 (+/- 0.48)) has the lowest average mean life satisfaction rating in the Lancashire-14 area (ignoring the associated confidence intervals). However, owing to the wide confidence intervals for the area, the rate is not statistically significantly different to the UK rate.

At the local authority level in the UK, the Scottish Orkney Islands (8.17 (+/- 0.48)), Torrridge (8.1% (with -0.41 and +0.40 confidence intervals)) located in Devon in the South West region, and also in Devon, South Hams (8.05 (+/- 0.37)), had the highest mean life satisfaction ratings. These three rates were statistically significantly greater than the UK rate.

Figure 1: Life satisfaction ratings for 2020/21 (including confidence intervals) for local authorities in the Lancashire-14 area and the Lancashire-12 area



Source: Office for national statistics, Annual Population Survey, [Headline estimates of personal well-being - April 2010 to March 2021 - Local authority update](#). Confidence intervals from [Quality information for personal well-being estimates - April 2020 to March 2021 - Local authority update](#).

Chichester (6.61 (with -0.60 and +0.61 confidence intervals)), in the South East of England, the London Borough of Camden (6.78 (+/- 0.40)) and Gravesham (6.82, (with -0.58 and +0.59 confidence intervals)) in the South East of England, had the lowest life satisfaction estimates in the UK. The estimates for Chichester and Camden were statistically significantly lower than the UK figure, whilst the estimate for Gravesham was not. Five of the 33 London Boroughs were in the bottom 18 places of the UK rankings. Of the North West authorities, Barrow-in-Furness (6.89, (with -0.55 and +0.56 confidence intervals)) had the lowest estimate in the region and was ranked in the fifth lowest position in the UK (ignoring confidence intervals). However, the estimate for Barrow-in-Furness was not statistically significantly lower than the UK figure.

## 5.2 Life satisfaction estimates for 2014/15 to 2020/21

Table 2 highlights the average life satisfaction ratings for the 14 authorities in the Lancashire-14 area, plus the rating for the Lancashire-12 area since 2014/15.

Reported personal well-being at the UK level improved every year since the financial year ending 2012, when data was first collected, to the 2018/19 year, suggesting that an increasing number of people in the UK were feeling positive about their lives over that period. However, the rate has decreased over the last two years, and especially in 2020/21. The latest UK fall took place entirely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, dropping by 0.27 points over the previous year.

For the Lancashire-12 area (7.64 (with -0.13 and +0.12 confidence intervals)), the average mean life satisfaction rating in 2020/21 was statistically higher than the UK rating (7.39 (with -0.02 and +0.01 confidence intervals)). Since 2011/12, the only other time the Lancashire-12 area has had a rating that was significantly different to the UK was in 2015/16. In this year, the average life satisfaction rating for the Lancashire-12 area (7.45 (+/- 0.13)) was significantly lower than the UK rating (7.65 (+/- 0.01)).

The average mean life satisfaction rating for the Lancashire-12 area peaked in 2017/18 at 7.8 (ignoring the confidence intervals). The Lancashire-12 rating has declined over the last three years, by 0.16 points (ignoring the confidence intervals). Owing to the wide confidence intervals, the Lancashire-12 decreases are not statistically significant, however they have reduced by smaller amount than the UK estimate, that has seen a fall of 0.32 points over just two years.

**Table 2: Life satisfaction, average (mean) ratings for UK local authorities, 2014/15 to 2020/21**

Area	Average (mean) ratings 2014/15	Average (mean) ratings 2015/16	Average (mean) ratings 2016/17	Average (mean) ratings 2017/18	Average (mean) ratings 2018/19	Average (mean) ratings 2019/20	Average (mean) ratings 2020/21
Burnley	7.72	7.01	7.77	7.62	7.34	7.62	7.20
Chorley	7.56	7.54	7.65	8.04	8.02	7.78	7.90
Fylde	7.78	7.87	7.90	7.96	8.45	8.15	7.58
Hyndburn	7.49	7.49	7.53	7.71	7.99	7.46	7.30
Lancaster	7.66	7.46	7.47	7.81	7.62	7.41	7.74
Pendle	7.38	7.64	7.60	7.24	7.52	8.20	7.40
Preston	7.57	7.06	7.55	7.80	7.93	7.76	7.89
Ribble Valley	7.98	7.56	7.80	8.11	8.19	8.05	7.88
Rossendale	7.69	7.82	7.45	7.97	7.58	7.33	7.12
South Ribble	7.96	7.72	7.76	7.83	7.61	7.64	7.72
West Lancashire	7.68	7.00	7.64	7.88	7.65	7.47	7.45
Wyre	7.62	7.60	7.67	7.73	7.78	7.61	7.99
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>7.66</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>7.80</b>	<b>7.79</b>	<b>7.69</b>	<b>7.64</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	7.54	7.59	7.54	7.78	7.80	7.84	7.43
Blackpool	7.31	7.45	7.46	7.46	7.55	7.55	7.16
North West	7.56	7.55	7.59	7.68	7.69	7.64	7.36
England	7.60	7.64	7.68	7.68	7.71	7.66	7.38
<b>UK</b>	<b>7.61</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>7.68</b>	<b>7.69</b>	<b>7.71</b>	<b>7.66</b>	<b>7.39</b>

Source: Office for national statistics, Annual Population Survey, [Headline estimates of personal well-being](#) - April 2020 to March 2021 - Local authority update. Confidence intervals from [Quality information for personal well-being estimates](#) - April 2020 to March 2021 - Local authority update.

## 6. Related websites

The ONS [personal well-being estimates](#) for 2020/21 at the local authority level, including interactive tools.

The ONS [Measuring national well-being: Life in the UK: international comparisons, 2019](#).

The ONS [Personal and economic well-being in Great Britain: May 2021 Bulletin](#) | Released on 25 May 2021 - Estimates from multiple sources for personal and economic well-being to understand the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on households in Great Britain from March 2020 to April 2021.

The ONS [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights: Well-being](#) - Web portal | Regularly updated