

Equalities Monitoring – Services

Appendix E – Economic Development

Annual Report – 2015-16



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1. Introduction

Economic deprivation directly connected to employment is one of the key issues affecting people's lives and future prospects. It has been shown to have an impact on a variety of aspects of people's lives, including health and well being, education and housing. It is for these reasons that the council monitors the data below.

The proportion of the resident working age population who are in employment in Bracknell Forest is very high. At the end of March 2016, 84.3% of the residents of working age in the borough are in employment, whereas Thames Valley Berkshire* only has 78.8% in employment, and nationally average is only 73.7%.

Unsurprisingly Bracknell Forest also has very low unemployment rates amongst those of working age, with only 2.3% who are unemployed, compared with 3.9% in Thames Valley Berkshire and 5.1% nationally.

* Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership - this covers 6 unitary authorities: Bracknell Forest, Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire.

(Source: Office for National Statistics)

2. Employment Rate by Sex

Employment and unemployment (Apr 2015-Mar 2016)

	Bracknell Forest	Bracknell Forest	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	Great Britain
	(numbers)	(%)	(%)	(%)
All people				
Economically active	68,000	86.3	82.0	77.8
In employment	66,200	84.3	78.8	73.7
Employees	58,300	74.7	68.1	63.2
Self employed	7,600	9.1	10.4	10.2
Unemployed (model-based)	2,200	2.3	3.9	5.1
Males				
Economically active	35,700	90.8	87.7	83.2
In employment	34,800	88.7	84.3	78.7
Employees	30,000	77.2	70.3	64.6
Self employed	4,600	10.9	13.7	13.7
Unemployed	900	2.6	3.8	5.2
Females				
Economically active	32,200	82	76.2	72.5
In employment	31,400	80	73.3	68.8
Employees	28,300	72.2	65.9	61.8
Self employed	2,900	7.4	7.0	6.6
Unemployed§	800	2.5	3.9	5

(Source: NOMIS – Official Labour Market Statistics) Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64)

Comments

As the table above shows, Bracknell Forest is out-performing Thames Valley Berkshire and National statistics in most aspects related to employment based on sex. This is a very positive illustration that the borough provides strong employment opportunities for men and women, over and above its neighbours.

3. Employment Rate by Race

Race	Bracknell Forest %	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP %	Great Britain %
White	84.7	81.0	75.4
Ethnic Minorities	80.5	69.7	63.4

Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64 (Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey 2016)

Comments

Data from the Annual Population Survey 2016 shows that within Bracknell Forest, individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds have a lower employment rate than the population average by 4%. However, this disparity is less prominent in Bracknell Forest compared to the wider area of Thames Valley Berkshire and Great Britain where people with ethnic minority backgrounds are 10% less likely to be in employment.

4. Employment Rate by Disability

Bracknell Forest residents - Employment Rate for people aged 16-64 (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016)

	Bracknell Forest %	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP %	Great Britain %
% In employment with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	83.4	74.5	64.4
% Unemployed with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	3.2	4.5	4.9
% Employment rate - aged 16-64	84.3	78.8	73.7
% Unemployed - All persons aged 16 - 64	2.3	3.9	5.3

(Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey 2016)

Comments

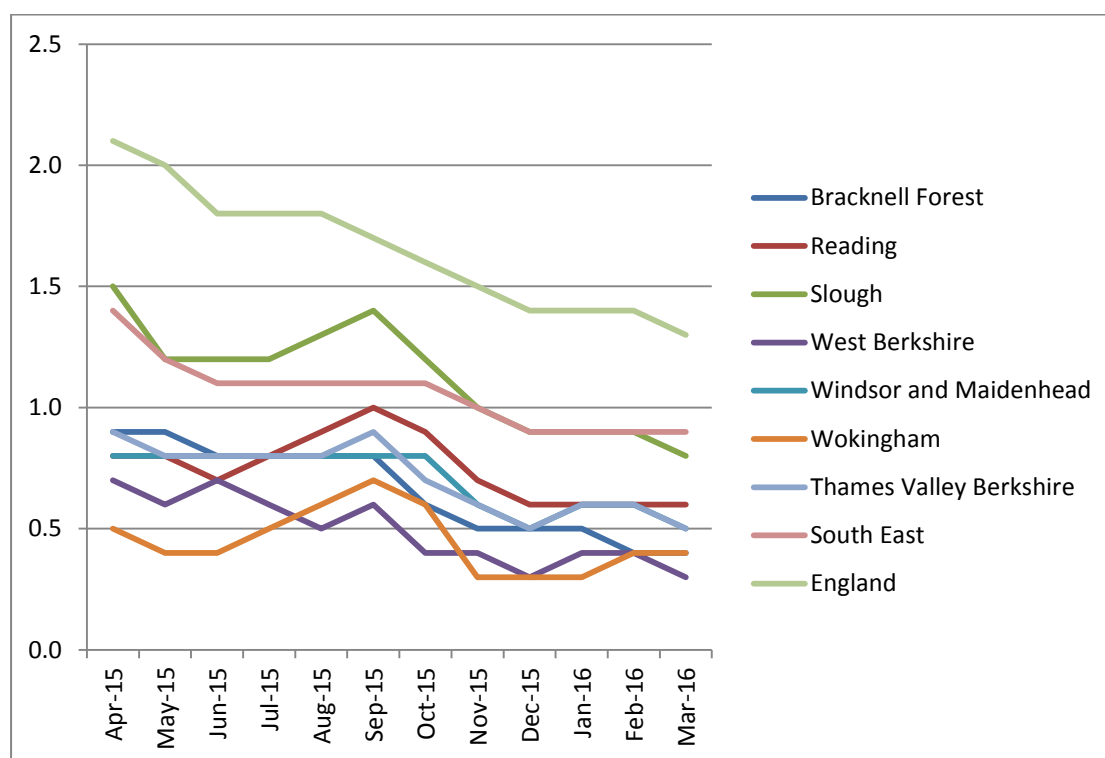
Bracknell Forest has higher levels of employment and lower levels of unemployment amongst people with long-term health conditions when compared with the national average and Thames Valley Berkshire LEP.

Breakthrough is a supported employment service offering a personalised approach to support people with a learning disability or autism to look for access and retain employment. As a result of their work Bracknell Forest Council is on track to deliver above the target set for enabling people with learning disabilities to gain employment, whilst in a challenging climate. The target has been set at 15% and the estimated year-end outturn is 19.5%. For further information about their service go to <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/breakthroughsupportedemployment>

The 2015-16 performance for the number of people with mental health problems being helped to find or keep a job achieved the target of 13%, although analysis of the Bracknell Forest data reported by the Health & Social Care Information Centre has revealed some concerns over the accuracy of the data. These concerns are now being addressed through communication with the Health and Social Care Information Centre and enquiries are ongoing.

5. Education, training or employment

16 to 24 year olds who are claiming JSA*



* Jobseeker's Allowance

(Source: Department of Work & Pensions – extracted from Elevate data provided by Thames Valley Berkshire LEP 2016)

Comments

Bracknell Forest has significantly fewer 16-24 year olds out of employment, education or training compared to the South East and the national average. Bracknell Forest, alongside the other five Berkshire Unitary Authorities, champions a scheme called Elevate. This programme facilitates a system change that aims to increase opportunities for young people between 16-24 and streamline their pathways into employment, education or training. While Berkshire has been scoring low on unemployment for a while, young residents that are out of education or unemployed often face multiple barriers and often need very targeted and specific interventions to get (back) into the labour market or full-time education. Elevate is working with local employment support organisations, agencies and council departments to streamline the available services and provide a one-stop shop for young people to find the support and information they need in order to get into a positive destination.

6. Earnings by Sex

The tables below show the difference between the median earnings of men and women who live or work in Bracknell Forest (**March 2015**).

Earnings by residence (2015)			
	Bracknell Forest	South East	Great Britain
Gross weekly pay			
Full-time workers	586.4	574.9	529.6
Male full-time workers	617.3	626.5	570.4
Female full-time workers	514.9	499.5	471.6
Hourly pay- excluding overtime			
Full-time workers	14.55	14.62	13.33
Male full-time workers	15.47	15.54	13.93
Female full-time workers	13.76	13.29	12.57
Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis			
Note:	Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.		

Earnings by workplace (2015)			
Gross weekly pay	Bracknell Forest	South East	Great Britain
Full-time workers	613.3	552.1	529
Male full-time workers	685.1	600	569.9
Female full-time workers	527.3	484.7	471.5
Hourly pay - excluding overtime			
Full-time workers	16.21	14.06	13.32
Male full-time workers	17.97	14.85	13.91
Female full-time workers	13.92	12.82	12.56
Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis			
Note:	Median earnings in pounds for employees working in the area.		

Comments

Earnings by residence in the borough and the South East are comparatively similar, though men earn slightly less and women earn slightly more. However, both areas earn significantly more than the national average. When men and women are compared from the same area, the difference is high and men are earning substantially more.

Workplace earnings however, are significantly higher in Bracknell Forest compared with regional and national figures. This would suggest that employers in Bracknell Forest offer higher wages on average which illustrates the strength of the local economy. On the other hand, again, women are earning significantly less than men and this gap is more apparent compared to the resident wages.

7. Out-of-working Benefits

This section records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices.

The figures express the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the working age population. Working age is defined as 16-64.

Out-of-Work Benefits	May 2016			
	Bracknell Forest (numbers)	Bracknell Forest %	South East %	Great Britain %
All people	590	0.8	1	1.8
Males	355	0.9	1.3	2.3
Females	240	0.6	0.8	1.3
Source: NOMIS - Official Labour Market Statistics May 2016				
Note:	% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 and sex			

Comments

In May 2016 the percentage of working age people who claim any out-of-work benefit is very low, with only 0.8% of Bracknell Forest claiming benefits. The South East also has only 1% claiming and nationally 1.8%; both are still low figures and this demonstrates a strong economy.

8. Economic Development in Bracknell Forest

Bracknell Forest is an economic success story, one of the most productive and dynamic economies in the country. Whilst outperforming much of the rest of the country, the borough must now prioritise retention of business rates above all other mechanisms to sustain economic prosperity. This decision comes in the wake of the Government's choice to significantly reduce local government funding and to give a higher proportion of business rate collection to the local level. Furthermore, as Bracknell Forest is disproportionately made up of foreign owned corporate businesses that contribute most of the business rates for the borough (and who by their nature can be highly mobile), the council must connect with these companies to influence any potential decisions to leave Bracknell Forest. This is now more important than ever in light of the recent EU referendum result.

The report this year does not contain any recommendations since the findings did not support any.