

Equalities Monitoring – Services

Appendix E – Economic Development

Annual Report – 2016-17



Published: January 2018

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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 high. At the end of March 2017, 82% of the residents of working age in the borough are in employment, compared to 77.7% in the South East region and 74.2% nationally.

Unsurprisingly Bracknell Forest also has very low unemployment rates amongst those of working age, with only 3% unemployed, compared with 3.8% in the South East and 4.7% nationally.

(Source: Office for National Statistics)

2. Employment Rate by Gender

Employment and unemployment (Apr 2016-Mar 2017)

Employment and unemployment (Apr 2016-Mar 2017)				
	Bracknell Forest (numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All people				
Economically active†	65,900	83.9	80.8	78.0
In employment†	64,400	82.0	77.7	74.2
Employees†	55,600	71.1	65.2	63.2
Self employed†	8,500	10.6	12.1	10.6
Unemployed (model-based)§	2,000	3.0	3.8	4.7
Males				
Economically active†	35,100	89.3	86.2	83.2
In employment†	34,300	87.5	82.8	79.0
Employees†	29,000	74.2	66.9	64.5
Self employed†	5,200	13.0	15.6	14.2
Unemployed§	800	2.2	3.8	4.9
Females				
Economically active†	30,800	78.6	75.5	72.8
In employment†	30,000	76.6	72.6	69.4
Employees†	26,600	67.9	63.6	62.0

Employment and unemployment (Apr 2016-Mar 2017)				
	Bracknell Forest (numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Self employed†	3,300	8.3	8.7	7.1
Unemployed§	800	2.6	3.8	4.5

(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 the South East region and national statistics in most aspects related to gender based employment. 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	82.6	80.8	75.9
Ethnic Minorities	77.3	71.7	64

Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64 (Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey 2017)

Comments

Data from the Annual Population Survey 2017 shows that within Bracknell Forest, individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds have a lower employment rate than the white population average by 5.3%. 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 around 10% less likely to be in employment.

4. Employment Rate by Disability

Bracknell Forest residents - Employment Rate for people aged 16-64 (Apr 2016 - Mar 2017)

	Bracknell Forest %	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP %	Great Britain %
% In employment with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	64.2	59.4	45
% Unemployed with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	1.5	2.4	3
% Employment rate - aged 16-64	82	78.9	74.2

% Unemployed - All persons aged 16 - 64	2.3	3.2	4.8
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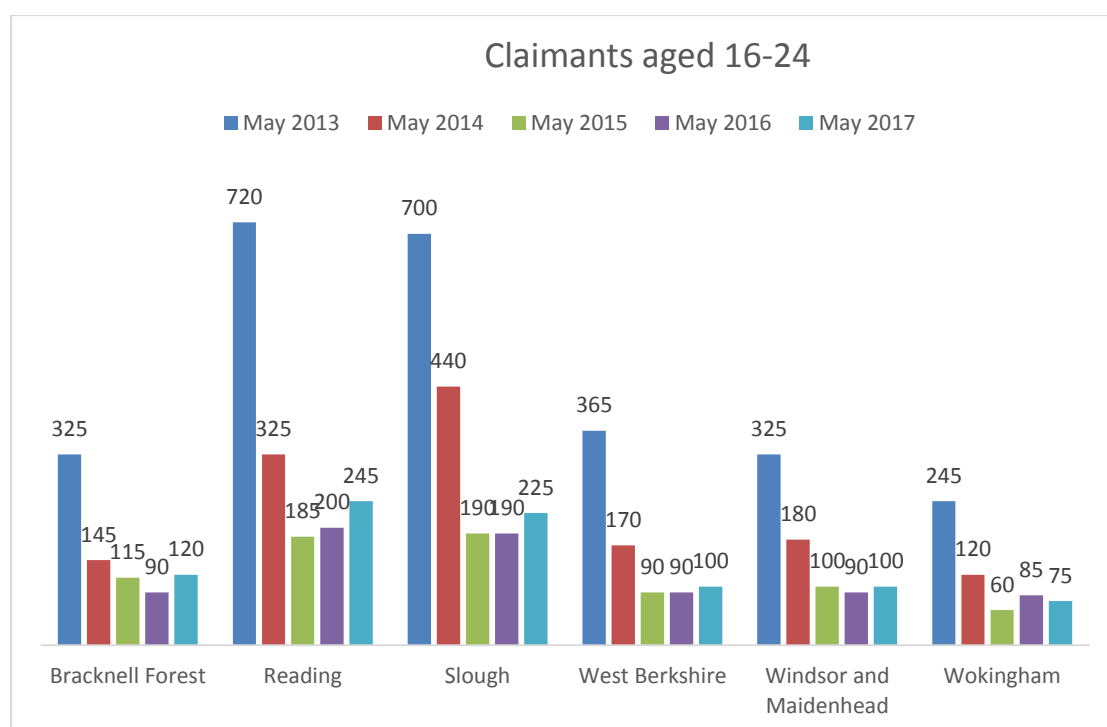
(Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey 2017)

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.

5. Education, training or employment

16 to 24 year olds who are claiming Job Seekers Allowance



(Source: Department of Work & Pensions – extracted from Elevate data provided by Thames Valley Berkshire LEP 2017)

Comments

Bracknell Forest (alongside the other five Berkshire unitary authorities) champions Elevate. This is a programme to facilitate a system change that aims to increase opportunities for young people aged 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 can need very targeted and specific interventions to get (back) into the labour market or full-time education. Elevate works 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 to a positive destination.

6. Earnings by Gender

The tables below show the difference between the median earnings of men and women who live or work in Bracknell Forest (**March 2017**).

Median Earnings by residence (2017)			
Gross weekly pay	Bracknell Forest	South East	Great Britain
Full-time workers	608	582	541
Male full-time workers	641.1	634.5	581.2
Female full-time workers	563.5	512.3	481.1
Hourly pay - excluding overtime			
Full-time workers	15.06	14.85	13.66
Male full-time workers	15.51	15.76	14.25
Female full-time workers	14.55	13.59	12.84
Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis			
Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.			

Earnings by workplace (2017)			
Gross weekly pay	Bracknell Forest	South East	Great Britain
Full-time workers	697.6	566	540.2
Male full-time workers	757.6	611.5	580.6
Female full-time workers	599.5	497.8	480.8
Hourly pay - excluding overtime			
Full-time workers	17.45	14.31	13.64
Male full-time workers	19.32	15.1	14.24
Female full-time workers	15.26	13.2	12.83
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 and women earn slightly more in Bracknell Forest. However, both areas earn significantly more than the national average.

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, 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 Job Seekers Allowance (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.

Claimant count by sex - (June 2017)

	Bracknell Forest (numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All people	620	0.8	1.2	1.9
Males	380	1.0	1.4	2.4
Females	240	0.6	0.9	1.4

Source: NOMIS - Official Labour Market Statistics June 2017

Comments

In June 2017 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 1.2% claiming and nationally 1.9%; 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. Bracknell Forest is disproportionately made up of foreign owned corporate businesses that by their nature can be highly mobile. These companies contribute most of the business rates for the borough and therefore 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 uncertainty of Brexit.

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