

Equalities Monitoring – Services

Appendix E – Economic Development

Annual Report – 2017-18



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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 2018, 83.1% of the residents of working age in the borough are in employment, compared to 74.7% nationally.

Unsurprisingly Bracknell Forest also has very low unemployment rates amongst those of working age, with only 3.8% unemployed, compared with 4.6% nationally. (Source: LGINform)

2. Employment Rate by Gender

Employment and unemployment (Apr 2016-Mar 2017)

	Bracknell Forest (Numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Economically Active†	69,600	87.0	81.3	78.4
In Employment†	67,600	84.5	78.5	75.0
Employee‡	58,100	73.3	66.2	64.0
Self Employed‡	9,200	11.0	12.0	10.6
Unemployed (Model-Based)§	1,800	2.7	3.4	4.3
Males				
Economically Active†	35,900	90.2	86.1	83.3
In Employment†	35,200	88.4	83.2	79.6
Employee‡	29,700	75.4	67.3	65.2
Self Employed‡	5,500	12.9	15.5	14.1
Unemployed§	#	#	3.3	4.4
Females				
Economically Active†	33,600	83.9	76.5	73.6
In Employment†	32,300	80.5	73.9	70.4
Employee‡	28,400	71.2	65.1	62.9
Self Employed‡	3,700	9.0	8.5	7.2

	Bracknell Forest (Numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Unemployed§	1,300	3.9	3.4	4.2

(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	85.4	81.8	77.1
Ethnic Minorities	73.8	74.2	65.1

Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64 (Source: ONS – Annual Population Survey 2018)

Comments

Data from the Annual Population Survey 2018 shows that within Bracknell Forest, individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds have a lower employment rate than the white population average by 11.6%. The gap is larger in Bracknell Forest than Thames Valley Berkshire LEP average.

This is a big jump from the previous year where Bracknell Forest only had a gap of 5.3% and the disparity was less prominent compared to the wider Thames Valley.

4. Employment Rate by Disability

	Bracknell Forest %	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP %	Great Britain %
% In employment with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	66.0	57.7	45.8
% Unemployed with health conditions or illnesses lasting more than 12 months	2.7	2.7	2.8
% Employment rate - aged 16-64	84.5	80.3	75.2
% Unemployed - All persons aged 16 - 64	3.0	2.9	4.4

(Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey 2017)

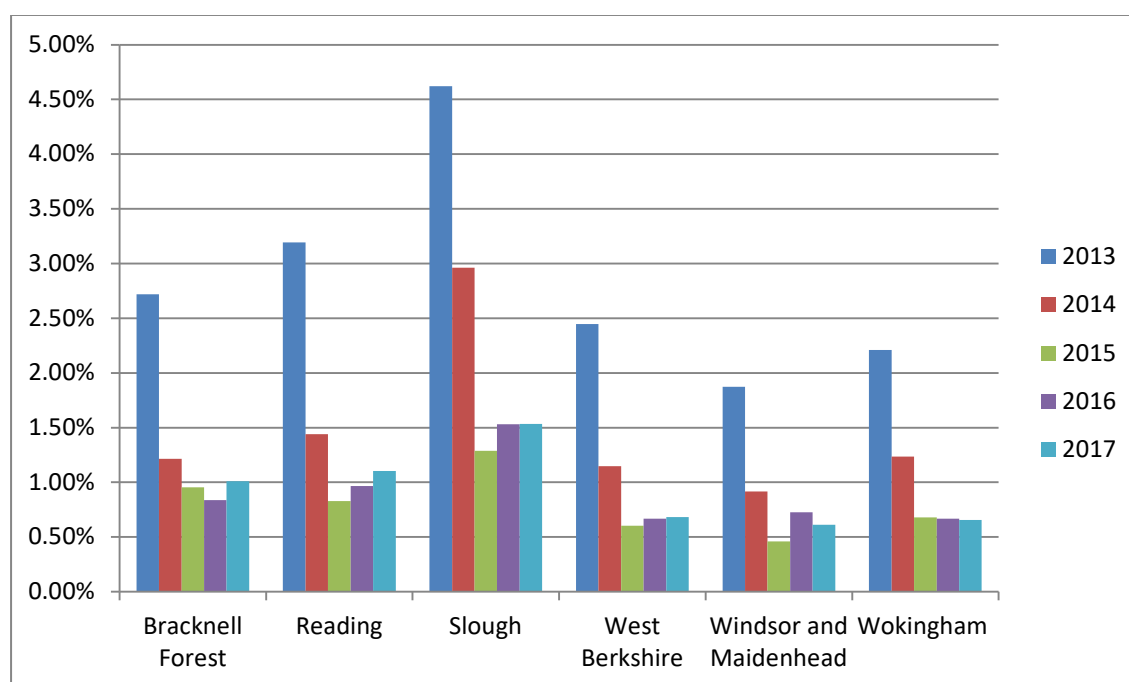
Comments

Bracknell Forest residents with health conditions or illness lasting more than 12 months are less likely to be employed than the average Bracknell Forest population, mirroring a national trend.

However the employment rate for people with health conditions or illness lasting more than 12 months is overall higher in Bracknell Forest compared to the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and Great Britain averages and has risen by 1.8% since the previous year. Unemployment rates for this group are similar to average. This is likely to be due to people being classified as economically inactive as they are not available for work.

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

The number of young people claiming job seeker allowance has dropped in the entire Thames Valley Berkshire area over the past years, but has increased again slightly in the past two years. Bracknell Forest is performing average in the Berkshire area with 1% of young people ages 16-24 claiming job seeker allowance (now: Universal Credit).

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

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.

The number of young people aged 16-24 who are NEET (Not in employment, education or training) is currently at 0.8% (October 2018).

6. Earnings by place of residence

The tables below show the difference between the median earnings of men and women who live or work in Bracknell Forest (**March 2018**).

Earnings by place of residence (2017)

	Bracknell Forest (Pounds)	South East (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full-Time Workers	628.3	596.8	552.7
Male Full-Time Workers	673.9	651.6	594.2
Female Full-Time Workers	533.1	522.1	494.4
Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime			
Full-Time Workers	16.03	15.33	14.00
Male Full-Time Workers	16.62	16.23	14.56
Female Full-Time Workers	14.57	13.95	13.18

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living 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 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 - not seasonally adjusted (July 2018)

	Bracknell Forest (Numbers)	Bracknell Forest (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People	555	0.7	1.3	2.2
Males	315	0.8	1.6	2.6
Females	240	0.6	1.1	1.7

Source: ONS Claimant count by sex and age

Note: % is the number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender

Comments

In July 2018 the percentage of working age people who claim any out-of-work benefit is very low, with only 0.7% of Bracknell Forest claiming benefits. The South East also has only 1.3% claiming and nationally 2.2%; both are still low figures and this demonstrates a strong economy.

8. Economic Development in Bracknell Forest

The council's Economic vision for Bracknell Forest is:

Bracknell Forest is an exceptional place for business and for individuals. In 2025 the Borough will still be amongst the best places to do business at the heart of the Thames Valley. It will be an inspirational place for families to grow and thrive. The Environment will be protected; town centre modern and schools will be good. New homes will add to the community and be sustainable. Bracknell Forest will be the home to companies from the BRIC countries. The Council will be amongst the best in Europe for its business friendliness.

This vision is being achieved by an economic development plan consisting of ten programmes. These programmes aim to retain and attract business; to support local companies and the workforce and to work in partnership with key stakeholders to maintain Bracknell Forest's status as a prime business location in the South East of England.

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