



Wakefield State of the District: Income and Benefits

Selection: Wakefield

Information about household income and benefits.

Earnings, Income and Borrowing

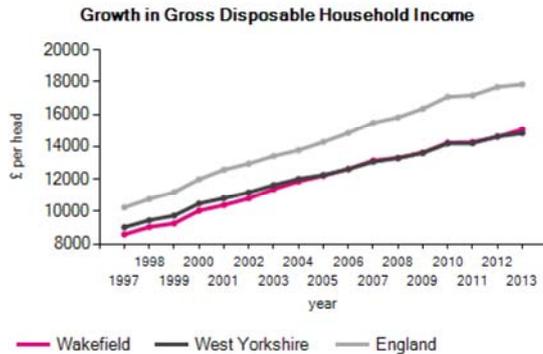
Average weekly earnings in **2015** were **£ 536**, **15.7% lower than** the England average. Average and lower-quartile earnings growth slowed during the economic downturn, but both started to increase again in 2013. Data source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Weekly Earnings (Gross)			
	Wakefield	West Yorkshire	England
Mean earnings for full time workers by place of residence (Earnings) (2015) i	536	563	636
Mean earnings for part time workers by place of residence (Earnings) (2015) i	185	212	206
Median earnings for full time workers by place of residence (Earnings) (2015) i	460	481	533
Lower quartile earnings for full time workers by place of residence (Earnings) (2015) i	350	356	383

Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) is the amount of money that all of the individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after income distribution measures (for example, taxes, social contributions and benefits) have taken effect.

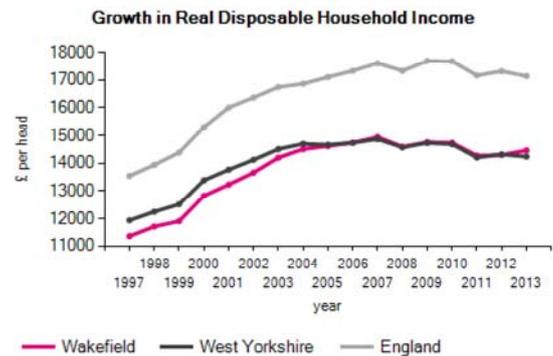
The household sector comprises all individuals in an economy, including people living in traditional households as well as those living in institutions such as retirement homes and prisons. The sector also includes sole trader enterprises (the self-employed) and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH). Examples of the latter include charities and most universities.

GDHI per head has increased and is now slightly higher than the West Yorkshire average. Proportionately, the gap between Wakefield and England had been narrowing gradually, but has widened again slightly since the start of the economic downturn. Data source: Office for National Statistics



Real households' disposable income (RDHI) is the estimate of the total amount of money from income that households have available from wages received, revenue of the self-employed, social benefits and net income (such as interest on savings and dividends from shares) less taxes on income and wealth, adjusted for the effects of inflation.

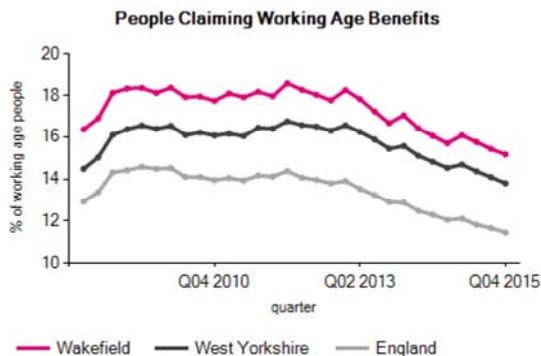
RDHI per head had been increasing markedly, but has been falling again since the outset of the economic downturn in 2008. Data source: Wakefield Council, based on data from ONS.



Working Age Benefits

Benefit claiming among working age people increased during economic downturn, principally due to increased numbers of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. As the national and local economies have recovered the numbers of benefit claimants has fallen again. There has also been a narrowing of the gap between Wakefield and the West Yorkshire average, but the gap between Wakefield and England has remained about the same.

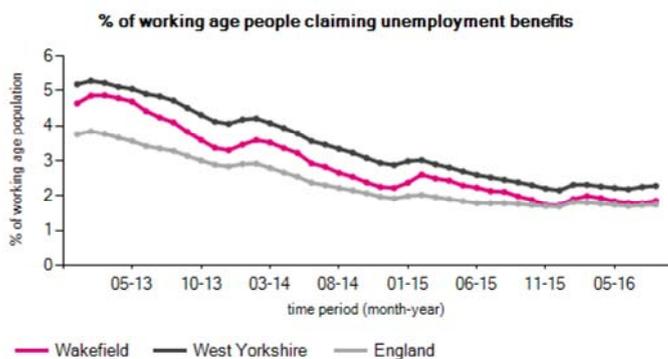
At **Q04 2015**, **15.16%** of working age people (16-64) in **Wakefield** were claiming a working age benefit, compared to **11.45%** across **England** as a whole. Data source: Working Age Client Group, Department for Work and Pensions.



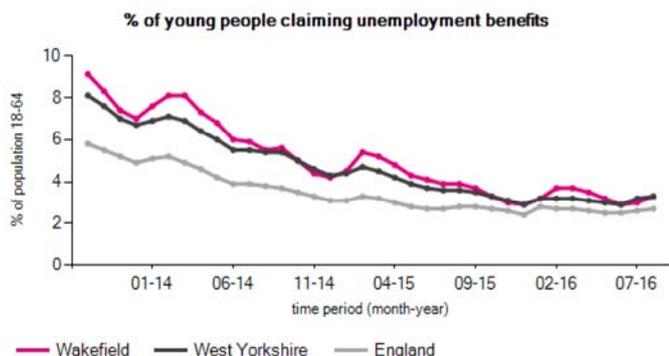
Unemployment Benefits



1.86% of working age people in **Wakefield** are claiming unemployment benefits (Job Seeker's Allowance or Universal Credit), compared to **% in West Yorkshire** and **% in England, (08-16 month-year)**. Claiming rates have fallen back to pre-downturn levels but a small gap remains between the Wakefield and England which had not existed prior to the economic downturn. Data source: Department for Work and Pensions



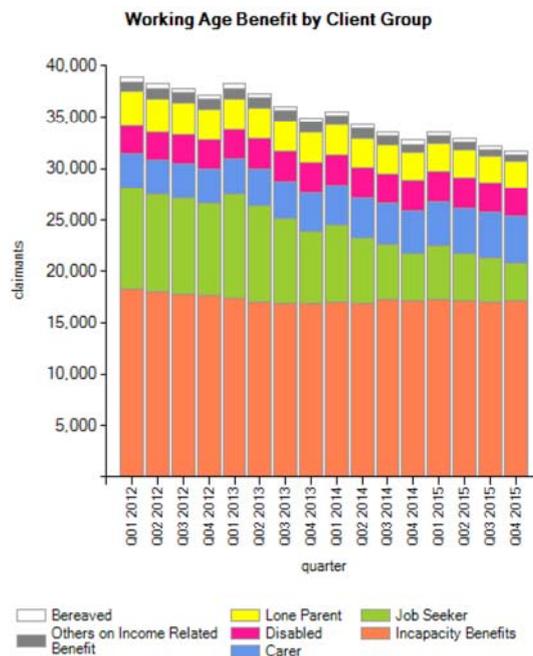
In **08-16**, **3.3%** of people aged 18-24 in **Wakefield** were claiming unemployment benefits, compared to **% in West Yorkshire** and **% in England**. The gap between the Wakefield and England claiming rates has remained relatively unchanged. Data source: Department for Work and Pensions



Almost half of all benefit claimants are claiming an incapacity benefit as their principal benefit (they may be claiming more than one type of benefit). The next largest client group are people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. The numbers claiming an incapacity benefit have been falling gradually, in part as a result of the replacement of Incapacity Benefit with Employment Support Allowance and the 'fit for work' decisions that have been reached following the Work Capability Assessments that have been part of this process.

The number of jobseekers has fallen more markedly as the local economy has recovered and jobs have been (re)created.

There have been increases in the number of people receiving Carers Allowance as their principal benefit. Some of this increase will be because women are now claiming Carers Allowance beyond the age as 60, as their state pension age increases. (Carers Allowance is only paid to working age people). Data source: Department for Work and Pensions.



Unemployment Benefits Claimant Rates			
	Wakefield	West Yorkshire	England
Unemployment benefit claimants (Jobseekers Allowance and out of work Universal Benefit claimants) (% of all working age people) (08-16) ¹	1.86 (3895 people)	2.29	1.75
Gender			
Claimant count, males (%) (08-16) ¹	1.4 (1490 people)	1.7	1.3
Claimant count, females (%) (08-16) ¹	2.3 (2405 people)	2.9	2.2
Age Group			
Claimant count, claimants aged 18-24 (monthly) (%) (08-16) ¹	3.3 (870 people)	3.3	2.7
Claimant count, claimants aged 25-49 (monthly) (%) (08-16) ¹	1.9 (2075 people)	2.4	1.8
Claimant count, claimants aged aged 50 and over (monthly) (%) (08-16) ¹	2.1 (945 people)	2.6	2.1

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) can apply sanctions to Jobseekers Allowance claimants if they believe they have not met the rules for claiming. A sanction means that benefit is stopped or reduced for either a fixed or open-ended period of time.

Examples of when a sanction can be applied include:

- Failing to attend or take part in a work-focused interview without good reason.
- Failing to take part in compulsory work-related activity without good reason.
- Not keeping to the Jobseeker's Agreement and not taking enough steps to find work without good reason.
- Not being available for work without good reason.
- Not attending an adviser interview without good reason.
- Refusing or failing to apply for a suitable job.
- Leaving a job voluntarily.

At the district level there had been a large increase in the use of sanctions over the past few years, but numbers fell during 2014. Typically, around half of sanctions have been imposed for failure to engage with the [Work Programme](#). Other key reasons are failure to attend an advisor interview and not actively seeking employment.

