



Wakefield State of the District: Poverty

Selection: Wakefield

An overview of poverty levels across the district, including multiple deprivation, fuel poverty, child poverty, and problems advised on by Citizen's Advice.

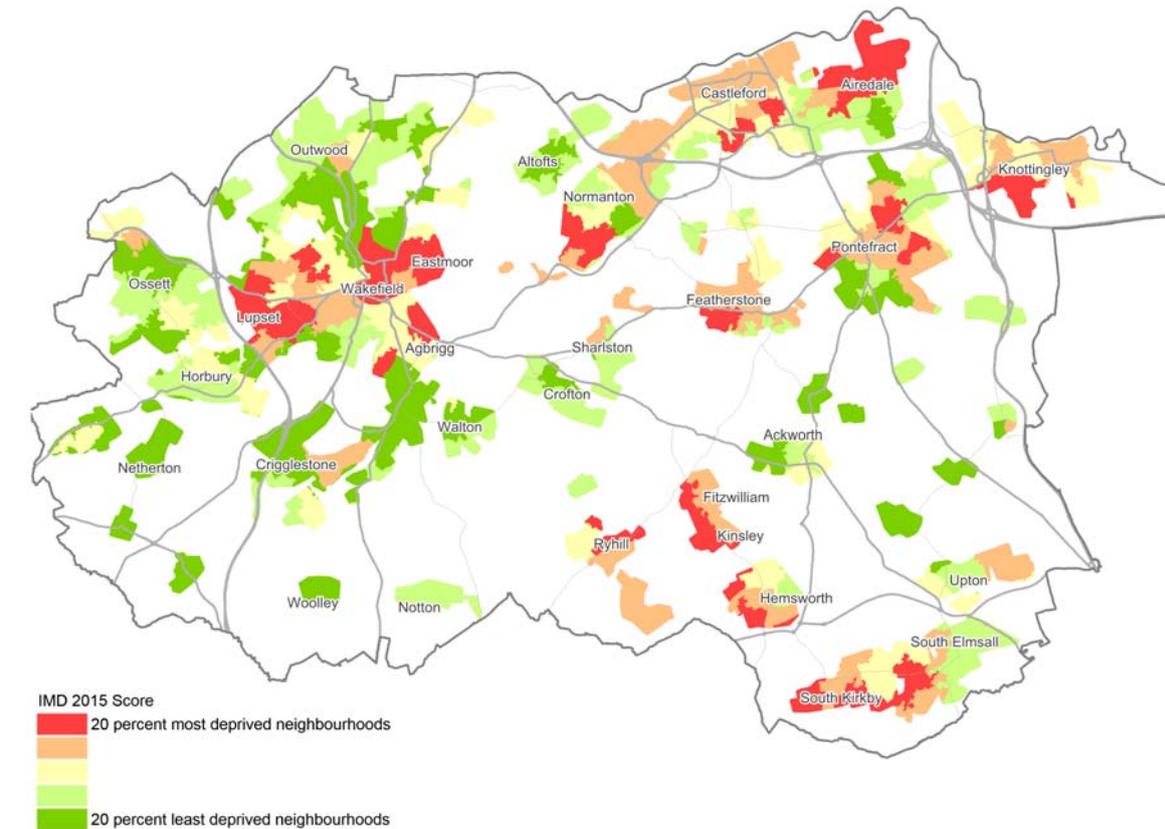
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

As is the case across the country, there are parts of the Wakefield district where more people tend to be poorer, or less healthy, or more likely to be out of work. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is calculated for every neighbourhood in England every three years, and it combines issues such as income, employment, education, crime and housing.

The IMD 2015 shows that conditions have improved for some areas relative to deprivation elsewhere in England, and have worsened elsewhere. At the district level Wakefield is now the 65th most deprived district in England (out of 326 districts). The IMD 2015 also shows that 47,400 people in the district are living in neighbourhoods amongst the top-10% most deprived in England. This is 14.4% of the district's population, similar to the position in 2007 (14.6%). The geography of multiple deprivation is shown below.

The district's deprivation profile is shaped by high levels of education and skills deprivation, and relative to England this situation remained unchanged from 2010. Income and health deprivation are also prominent and both worsened relative to England between 2010 and 2015, but crime and living environment deprivation both improved.

Change over time analysis shows that the deprivation relative to elsewhere in England has stayed the same for 78% of neighbourhoods. For 16% of neighbourhoods the relative deprivation has become worse and 6% of neighbourhoods have improved. Of the neighbourhoods that have seen improvement, all had low levels of deprivation to start with. As a result, the IMD 2015 is showing a widening gap between the most and least deprived parts of the district, something that was also evident in the IMD 2010.



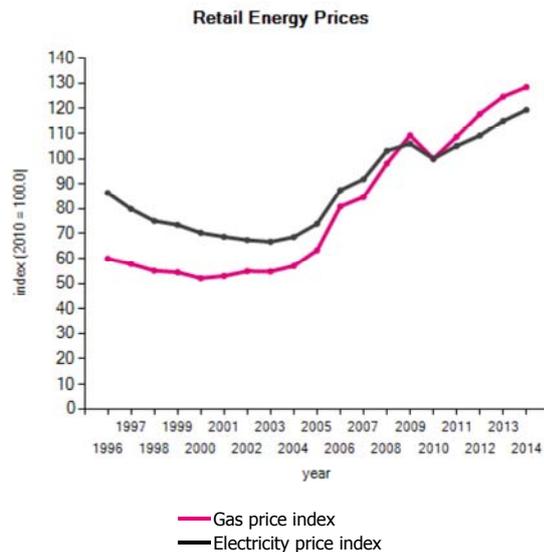
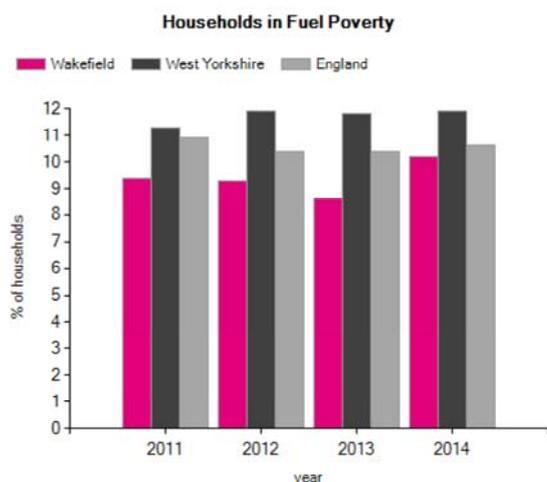
Fuel Poverty

Key Issues Affecting Citizens



The latest estimated data show fuel poverty is decreasing gradually. In **2014, 10.2%** of Wakefield households had required fuel costs that were above average and which, if spent, would leave the household with an income below the official poverty line (low-income high costs, LIHC). Across **West Yorkshire** the rate is higher, at **11.8%**.

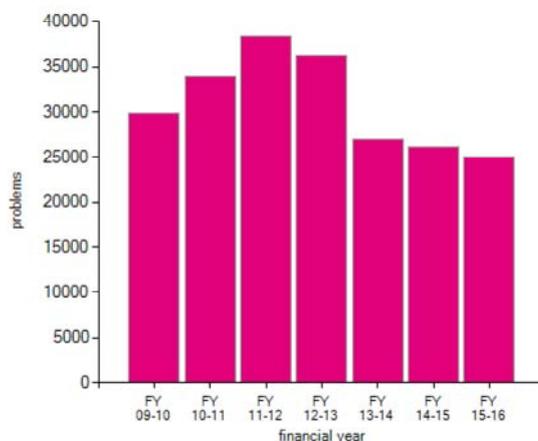
Retail energy prices have risen steeply in recent years, but nationally low income households have seen larger rises in incomes and a smaller increase in fuel costs than the overall population. This has kept the number of fuel poor households broadly unchanged. Data source: Department for Energy and Climate Change.



Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change

The Citizens Advice service provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. The information about clients and the types of advice given provides additional insight into some of the problems affecting people's lives. Between 2009/10 and 2011/12 the numbers of problems presented by Wakefield CAB clients rose by 28%. The extent of the fall in in the last three years has been, in large part, due to the ending of the Wakefield District Community Legal Advice Service (CLAS). This programme ended slightly early due to changes in legal aid funding

Problems Advised on by Citizen's Advice



The most common types of problem people sought advice for in 2015/16 were debt (38% of problems) and benefits and tax credits (26% of problems). Across England and Wales as a whole only 27% of problems were about debt.

Data source: Wakefield Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Council Tax arrears account for 18% of debt issues people seek CAB advice for, compared to 14% across England and Wales. Problems with Personal Independence Payment are the most common benefits issue people seek advice for, with numbers rising 58% last year.

Common Debt and Benefits Problems Advised on by Citizen's Advice				
	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16
Benefits - Employment Support Allowance	2496	1900	1224	1006
Benefits - Personal Independence Payment	0	598	911	1436
Benefits - Housing Benefit	884	716	690	565
Benefits - Child and working tax credits	745	503	689	578
Benefits - Jobseeker's Allowance	681	578	435	311
Benefits - Disability Living Allowance	2129	1071	361	176
Debt - Council Tax arrears	1679	1512	1992	1707
Debt - Unsecured loans	2945	1779	1495	989
Debt - Credit, store and charge cards	2164	1267	1066	803
Debt - Fuel bills	990	721	602	510
Debt - Telephones and broadband	834	576	542	385
Debt - Overdrafts	952	598	530	338
Debt - Bankruptcy	435	234	174	101
Debt - Rent arrears - housing associations	348	350	445	322
Debt - Rent arrears - local authority	279	270	237	113
Debt - Rent arrears - private rented	176	179	154	181
Debt - Mortgages and secured loans	545	403	304	196

Child Poverty

Headline indicators usually focus on financial support given, but child poverty can be the result of a wide range of factors which directly and indirectly influence family resources and income. The State of the District profiles try to include information on all of these subjects individually. However, it is how factors combine at the individual family level that determine child poverty outcomes, and at present this is very difficult to calculate, although the Troubled Families programme has made progress.

Across the district in **May 2014** there were **12360** children aged under-16 (**20.1%** of this age group) living in households where at least one parent or guardian is claiming out-of-work benefits. Income Support is the most common type of financial support being claimed, and the majority of Income Support payments are to lone parents with young children, the average weekly payment being **£71**.

Direct Influences on Families' Resources Today

A more sophisticated indicator of child poverty combines data on child tax credits with information on Council Tax and housing benefits and housing costs. In 2014, this measure estimated 25% of children were living in child poverty in Wakefield District, after housing costs had been taken into consideration.

There are large differences between wards, with the highest child poverty in **Wakefield West Ward (39%)** and the least child poverty in **Stanley and Outwood East Ward (13%)**.

Percentage of children in poverty after housing costs	
	(2014) 
Ackworth, North Elmsall and Upton Ward	19%
Airedale and Ferry Fryston Ward	36%
Altofts and Whitwood Ward	18%
Castleford Central and Glasshoughton Ward	21%
Crofton, Ryhill and Walton Ward	20%
Featherstone Ward	29%
Hemsworth Ward	31%
Horbury and South Ossett Ward	16%
Knottingley Ward	30%
Normanton Ward	25%
Ossett Ward	17%
Pontefract North Ward	22%
Pontefract South Ward	25%
South Elmsall and South Kirkby Ward	26%
Stanley and Outwood East Ward	13%
Wakefield East Ward	33%
Wakefield North Ward	28%
Wakefield Rural Ward	19%
Wakefield South Ward	24%
Wakefield West Ward	39%
Wrenthorpe and Outwood West Ward	14%

Direct Influences on Families' Resources in the Short and Long Term

The Education and Skills section of the State of the District Report describes levels of academic achievement for the population as a whole, and shows how these have changed over time. Focusing in on families with dependent children shows 6,200 parents have no qualifications (12% of all parents, compared to 7% in England), and a further 10,200 only have Level 1 qualifications (19% of all parents, compared to 16% in England).

Only around 9% of couple households with dependent children have no access to a car or van, but 40% of lone parent households have no access to this type of transport. This level of no car ownership is slightly higher than the England average.

Childcare may enable parents to return to work and so boost household incomes, but childcare costs in the region have increased by over 30% over the past seven years. The regional average cost for a child under 2 years in a nursery in **2015-2016** was **£3.86** per hour, or **£193.00** per week (50 hours). Data source: Family and Childcare Trust.

Data source: Family and Childcare Trust.

