

Overview of Wakefield Demographic Profile

In addition to the location of the District, it is also important to consider the demographic make up of the area as key demographic and socio-economic characteristics are known to influence demand characteristics.

For example certain age-groups are known to register higher participation rates in a number of sport and leisure activities; deprived communities often experience issues relating to accessing services and opportunities; cultural backgrounds may result in some passive and active recreation pursuits being favoured over others; car ownership levels can impact on the range of facilities that can be accessed.

Wakefield encompasses 21 wards as listed below:-

Table 2: City of Wakefield Council Electoral Wards

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton | 13. Pontefract South |
| 2. Airedale & Ferry Fryston | 14. South Elmsall & South Kirkby |
| 3. Altofts & Whitwood | 15. Stanley & Outwood East |
| 4. Castleford Central & Glasshoughton | 16. Wakefield East |
| 5. Crofton, Ryhill & Walton | 17. Wakefield North |
| 6. Featherstone | 18. Wakefield Rural |
| 7. Hemsworth | 19. Wakefield South |
| 8. Horbury & South Ossett | 20. Wakefield West |
| 9. Knottingley | 21. Wrenthorpe & Outwood West |
| 10. Normanton | |
| 11. Ossett | |
| 12. Pontefract North | |

The population breakdown for the District is as follows:

Table 3: Wakefield Council Population Figures

	Wakefield Council	Percentage %
Under 16	64,763	21%
16-19	15,204	5%
20-29	35,816	11%
30-59	134,982	43%
60-74	42,149	13%
75 and over	22,257	7%
Total Population	315,172	100%

Based on figures from the 2001 Census [Source: Nomis]

The average age of the population in Wakefield is 38.6 years, compared with an average for England and Wales of 38.7 years.

In Wakefield there were 132,212 households in April 2001. 99 per cent of the resident population lived in households and 1 per cent lived in communal establishments. [A communal establishment is one providing managed residential accommodation, for example in supervised hostels, hotels, large hospitals and prisons]. The average size of households in Wakefield was 2.4 people compared with an average of 2.4 people for England and Wales.

The District of Wakefield is an area with a predominantly white population – 97.7% compared with 90.9% in England and Wales. The largest ethnic minority group is Asian or Asian British which accounts for 1.4% of the population.

The 2001 Census asked people to describe their health over the preceding 12 months as 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'. People were also asked if they had any limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability that restricted their daily activities or the work they could do. The results provided are indicated as follows:-

Table 4: Percentage of resident population in each group, April 2001

	Wakefield %	Yorkshire and The Humber %	England and Wales %
General health: Good ¹	64.6	67.0	68.6
General health: Fairly good ¹	23.1	22.7	22.2
General health: Not good ¹	12.3	10.3	9.2
People with a limiting long-term illness ¹	22.4	19.5	18.2
People of working age with a limiting long-term illness ¹	17.9	14.6	13.6
Households with one or more person with a limiting long-term illness ¹	40.7	36.2	34.1

Of the people in Wakefield who were of working age (i.e. those people aged 16-74) 64.3% were economically active (66.9% in England) with 35.7% inactive. The number of residents retired is above the England and Wales average, 14.4% compared to 13.5%.

In terms of car ownership, 30.6% of households are without a car/van (26.8% in England and Wales) although households with one car (44.6%) is slightly higher than the England and Wales average of 43.7%.

Wakefield's location at the heart of England and at the centre of the UK's communications network offers unsurpassed transport links, providing fast connections by road, rail and air. At the intersection between the M1 and M62 and with the A1 at its eastern boundary, the district is well placed to access other regional centres such as Leeds, Sheffield and York.

The district suffers from specific types of deprivation across substantial local areas:

- A third (34%) of the District's population resides in areas that are among the 10% most deprived in the Country (compared to 29% in Leeds)
- Areas of higher deprivation centre on former coalfields and Wakefield town centre
- 31 of the (209) Districts super output areas (SOAs) are ranked in the 10% most deprived SOAs in England
- 13 SOAs are ranked in the 5% most deprived in England. (20,594 Wakefield district residents live in SOAs ranked among the %5 most deprived in England)
- Wakefield District is among the 30 most deprived income and employment areas in England, ranking 29th on income deprivation and 11th on the employment deprivation
- 15.7% of the total population of Wakefield district live on low incomes
- 14 of the Districts SOA are ranked among the 10% most deprived In England within the income deprivation affecting young people index, which is based on the proportion of children under 16 living in income-deprived households
- Poor health, predominantly Coronary Heart Disease and Respiratory diseases, affect a significant proportion of the District's population

Based on the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Wakefield is ranked 54th (out of 345) and demonstrates significant overall deprivation.

Neighbourhood Management and Regeneration in the District

There are a number of Neighbourhood Management projects in the District, including city centre re-development of the station area, and a new retail centre, plus various projects in the five town's area. Although community sport and leisure provision is not a feature of these schemes, there is potential to consider the need for additional facility provision in relation to new residential development, particularly in the south east of the District.

Regeneration in the District is now focussed on the towns and the City Centres, as opposed to motorway junctions, as sites like the Snowdome have been successfully developed. The hierarchy of priority development areas is:

- Wakefield
- Pontefract and Castleford
- Places like Hemsworth and South Emsall