

Assess the gendered nature of part-time work and economic inactivity in your area

Why is assessing part-time work and economic inactivity important for women?

The UK government has recently announced plans to cut benefits paid via Universal Credit to many people who do not look to increase their working hours to at least 15 hours per week. Further, they believe the UK has too many 'economically inactive' people and want to encourage as many as possible back into paid work.

Women are more likely to be affected by these cuts because they are more likely than men to work part-time or be economically inactive (this is largely because women generally perform more unpaid care than men). Women are already more likely to be poor than men, so these cuts risk widening economic gender inequalities still further.

Finally, without reform of our faltering childcare and adult social care sectors, attempts to drive women away from unpaid care into employment risks the creation of an unpaid care gap, whereby there is no adequate replacement for the care these women are no longer able to provide.

What to expect

We will show you how to use Nomis to see rates of economic inactivity between males and females, by reason, in your area. We will also show you where to find data on part-time working hours between men and women where you live. This will allow you to see how women in your area may be disproportionately impacted by the benefit cutting measures set out in the recent mini budget, or by measures designed to encourage economically inactive people into the labour force.

Let's work through the different parts together.

First, head to www.nomisweb.co.uk. You'll see this homepage.

Scroll down until you see 'Local Area Report', type your local area in the box, and click 'search'. For the sake of this example, we're going to look at Telford.

On the next page you can select the area you want to see a report for. We're going to select 'Local Authority'. Click on the option that makes most sense for what you want to see, but beware when looking at data for very small areas as these may be less accurate.

The next page will take you to your local area report. It contains a lot of information which you may find useful. For now, however, we want to focus on employment. Click on 'Number of people in employment and unemployed' under the section 'What we do'.

Telford and Wrekin Local Authority

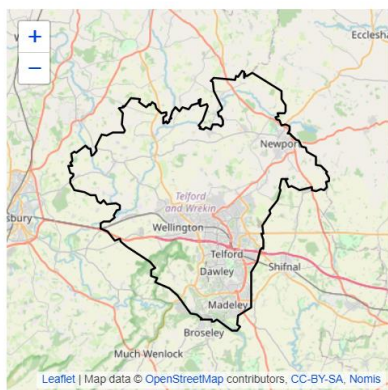
Local Area Report

Summary

This report covers the characteristics of people and households in Telford and Wrekin Local Authority in West Midlands (GSS code E06000020). Figures are sourced from the 2011 Census key statistics.

There were 166,641 usual residents as at Census day 2011. Of these, 98.7% lived in households and 1.3% lived in communal establishments. The average (mean) age of residents was 38.1 years.

In total there were 68,730 household spaces. Of these, 66,608 (96.9%) had at least one usual resident and 2,122 (3.1%) had no usual residents.



Contents

Who we are

Information about the personal characteristics of people who usually live in an area including: Resident population, Age, Marital status, Living arrangements, Ethnic group, National identity, Country of birth, Passports held, Household language, Religion and Unpaid care.

How we live

The characteristics of the households we live in including: Number of households and type of accommodation, Whether owned or rented, Number of rooms and central heating, Number of cars, Household composition, Households with no adults in employment, Lone parent households and Communal establishments.

What we do

This section covers work-related topics including: Number of people in employment and unemployed, Qualifications and students, Hours worked, and the Industries and Occupations we work in.

Definitions

Look at the first table, 'Economic Inactivity'.

'Economically inactive' people are people not in employment, who have not been seeking work in the last four weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next two weeks. The UK government is concerned that too many people are economically inactive and want to encourage as many of them as possible [back into work](#)¹. So, let's look at economic inactivity in our local area.

What we do

Economic activity

	Persons	
	count	%
Telford and Wrekin Local Authority		
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	122,279	100.0
Economically active	84,947	69.5
In employment	75,685	61.9
Employee: Part-time	16,530	13.5
Employee: Full-time	50,567	41.4
Self-employed	8,588	7.0
Unemployed	5,806	4.7
Full-time student	3,456	2.8
Economically inactive	37,332	30.5
Retired	16,798	13.7
Student (including full-time students)	6,213	5.1
Looking after home or family	5,923	4.8
Long-term sick or disabled	6,001	4.9
Other	2,397	2.0
Unemployed: Age 16 to 24	1,826	1.5
Unemployed: Age 50 to 74	859	0.7
Unemployed: Never worked	833	0.7
Long-term unemployed	2,359	1.9

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-opening-remarks-at-business-leader-roundtable-21-september-2022>

In Telford we can see that only 2% of people are economically inactive for a reason other than being retired, a student, looking after their home or family or being long-term sick or disabled.

Now let's look at the differences between men and women in their reasons for being economically inactive. We're going to focus on those who are out of the labour force because they are performing unpaid care or domestic work. First, scroll down to the table 'Economic activity – males'.

Economic activity - males

	Persons	
	Telford and Wrekin Local Authority	
	count	%
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	61,199	100.0
Economically active	46,004	75.2
In employment	40,935	66.9
Employee: Part-time	3,384	5.5
Employee: Full-time	31,442	51.4
Self-employed	6,109	10.0
Unemployed	3,487	5.7
Full-time student	1,582	2.6
Economically Inactive	15,195	24.8
Retired	7,176	11.7
Student (including full-time students)	3,246	5.3
Looking after home or family	702	1.1
Long-term sick or disabled	3,044	5.0
Other	1,027	1.7
Unemployed: Age 16 to 24	1,108	1.8
Unemployed: Age 50 to 74	536	0.9
Unemployed: Never worked	500	0.8
Long-term unemployed	1,336	2.2

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies

Source: ONS - 2011 Census (KS602EW)

We can see that 15,195 men in Telford are economically inactive. This is 24.8% of all usual male residents aged 16 - 74. Now let's look at the numbers of men who are economically inactive because they are looking after their home or family. 702 men – that's 1.1% of all men in Telford – are outside the labour force for this reason. Now, let's compare these figures against those for women. Scroll down to the next table (Economic activity – females).

Economic activity - females

	Persons	
	Telford and Wrekin Local Authority	
	count	%
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	61,080	100.0
Economically active	38,943	63.8
In employment	34,750	56.9
Employee: Part-time	13,146	21.5
Employee: Full-time	19,125	31.3
Self-employed	2,479	4.1
Unemployed	2,319	3.8
Full-time student	1,874	3.1
Economically Inactive	22,137	36.2
Retired	9,622	15.8
Student (including full-time students)	2,967	4.9
Looking after home or family	5,221	8.5
Long-term sick or disabled	2,957	4.8
Other	1,370	2.2
Unemployed: Age 16 to 24	718	1.2
Unemployed: Age 50 to 74	323	0.5
Unemployed: Never worked	333	0.5
Long-term unemployed	1,023	1.7

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies

Source: ONS - 2011 Census (KS603EW)

We can see that far more women than men in Telford are economically inactive (22,137 women vs. 15,195 men, or 36.2% of women vs. 24.8% of men. Now let's look at the number of women who are economically inactive because they perform unpaid care or domestic labour ('Looking after home or family'). 5,221 women – that's 8.5% of all women in Telford – are outside the labour force for this reason. Remember that only 1.1% of men are economically inactive for the same reason.

Note:

Looking at the reasons why people are economically inactive helps us to understand why there is such a large gap between women and men. In Telford, the answer is largely unpaid care. Almost 8 times more women than men in Telford are economically inactive because they are looking after their home or family. This will include mothers who are caring for their children, grandmothers who are caring for their grandchildren, and women providing care for elderly or disabled relatives. If these women are pushed into paid employment, who will do this care work when both the childcare and adult social care sectors are not currently fit to plug the gaps?

Now let's look at the figures for men and women who work 15 hours or less per week. Scroll down your Local Area Report until you see the table labelled 'Hours worked'.

Hours worked

	Persons	
	Telford and Wrekin Local Authority	
	count	%
All usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment the week before the census	78,372	100.0
Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	6,637	8.5
Part-time: 16 to 30 hours worked	14,513	18.5
Full-time: 31 to 48 hours worked	48,181	61.5
Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	9,041	11.5
Males	42,122	53.7
Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	2,093	2.7
Part-time: 16 to 30 hours worked	3,337	4.3
Full-time: 31 to 48 hours worked	29,563	37.7
Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	7,129	9.1
Females	36,250	46.3
Part-time: 15 hours or less worked	4,544	5.8
Part-time: 16 to 30 hours worked	11,176	14.3
Full-time: 31 to 48 hours worked	18,618	23.8
Full-time: 49 or more hours worked	1,912	2.4

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies

Source: ONS - 2011 Census (KS604EW)

We're going to look at the numbers of men and women who work 15 hours per week or less. This is because the government plans to cut Universal Credit payments to many of those who do not look to increase their working hours to at least 15 per week.

In Telford, we can see that 2.7% of employed men work 15 hours or less per week (2,093 men). 5.8% of employed women work 15 hours or less per week (4,544 women). This is more than double the number of men.

By looking at this data, we can see the extent to which government plans to cut Universal Credit for part-time workers could disproportionately affect women. In Telford, more than double the number of women work 15 hours or less than men, and so it's likely that these cuts will impact them more.

A Note of Caution:

While looking at these figures gives us an indication that women will be impacted by these measures to a greater extent than men, they cannot tell us this for sure. This is because a proportion of the people included in the data we're looking at will be exempt from the changes (e.g. because they are not on Universal Credit, or because they have a very young child or a long-term health condition. You should be sure to clarify this when sharing your findings.

What Next?

Could the proposed benefit cuts for those working less than 15 hours per week disproportionately affect women where you live? What is the percentage of women compared to men who are economically inactive in your area, and to what extent does unpaid care and domestic work play a role in this? If people are forced to spend less time performing unpaid care in favour of paid work (or travelling to and from appointments with ['work coaches'](#)²), would this create an unpaid care gap in your town?

Look at the figures in your area and please let us know your results! You can get in touch via our website – wbg-localdata.org.uk – where you'll find lots more resources which aim to demystify data and empower you to learn about the situation in your local area.

Finally, if you'd like to learn how to use Nomis to compare your local data to other areas in England and Wales, head to the next page for a quick guide.

² <https://www.civilserviceworld.com/professions/article/kwarteng-mini-budget-universal-credit-benefit-sanctions-dwp-failure-publish-research-effectiveness>

Digging Deeper – Comparing Different Areas

You can get a lot of important information from Nomis just by reading the tables in your Local Area Report, but if you want to dig a bit deeper into the data, you can use the 'query dataset' function to create your own custom tables. We will go through a quick example below, but for a more in-depth resource that shows you how to go about this, head to our worksheets titled '[How to Use Nomis](#)³'.

Let's say we want some more information about Economic Inactivity in Telford. Specifically, we want to see how Telford and Wrekin Local Authority compares to the West Midlands region and to England and Wales when looking at the numbers of women vs. men who are economically inactive because they are looking after their home or family.

The first thing we need to do is to click 'Query Dataset' under the relevant table in the Local Area Report.

Economic activity

	Persons	
	Telford and Wrekin Local Authority	
	count	%
All usual residents aged 16 to 74	122,279	100.0
Economically active	84,947	69.5
In employment	75,685	61.9
Employee: Part-time	16,530	13.5
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Unemployed: Age 16 to 24	1,826	1.5
Unemployed: Age 50 to 74	859	0.7
Unemployed: Never worked	833	0.7
Long-term unemployed	2,359	1.9

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some counts will be affected, particularly small counts at the lowest geographies

Source: ONS - 2011 Census (KS601EW)



[Download this table \(.xlsx\)](#)



[Query dataset...](#)



[Definitions](#)

³ <https://www.wbg-localdata.org.uk/resource-hub/how-to-use-nomis/>

This will take us to a page where we will be able to set which information we'd like to see (and exclude what we don't want to see). We can make specific selections to do with Geography, Economic, Sex, Percent (i.e. we can choose if we want to see percentages in the table, values, or both), and Rural – Urban (here we can compare urban and rural areas to see if there are any interesting disparities).

KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity by sex [Change dataset](#)

Population : All usual residents aged 16 to 74
Unit of measure : Persons

Guide me step-by-step

Make selections:

- [Geography](#)
- [Economic Activity](#)
- [Sex](#)
- [Percent](#)
- [Rural - Urban](#)

Review selections:

- [Summary Of Selections](#)

Get your data:

- [Format / Layout](#)
- [Download Data](#)

Summary Of Selections

Below is a summary of your current selections:

Geography	This needs to be selected
Economic Activity	All usual residents aged 16 to 74 (default)
Sex	All persons (default)
Percent	value (default) percent (default)
Rural - Urban	Total (default)

Economic activity

This table provides information that classifies usual residents aged 16 to 74 by economic activity, for England and Wales as at additional information about the unemployed population (including full-time students), with estimates of the number of long-t and the classification of unemployed by key age groups.

Statistical Disclosure Control

Click on each option (in blue on the left-hand side of the page) to make your own selections. If you get stuck, you can click where it says, 'guide me step-by-step', or head to the Women's Budget Group worksheets linked to above.

Note:

Here are the options we selected to create our tables on economic inactivity, which are shown further down. You can choose the same options, or tailor them to your preferences:

Geography: Local Authorities: county / unitary (Telford and Wrekin); countries (England and Wales); **Economic Activity:** All usual residents aged 16 – 74, Economically inactive due to looking after home or family; **Sex:** Males and Females; **Percent:** Values and Percentages; **Rural / Urban:** (none – left as default).

Once you've made your selections, you can click on 'Format / Layout' to make any changes you want regarding your data will be presented, but it is usually fine to leave this on the default setting.

Next, click on 'Download Data'. If you have access to Microsoft Excel, click the first option. If you don't have Excel, click 'View data in your web browser'.

KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity by sex [Change dataset](#)

Population : All usual residents aged 16 to 74
 Unit of measure : Persons

Guide me step-by-step

Make selections:

- Geography
- Economic Activity**
- Sex
- Percent
- Rural - Urban

Review selections:

- [Summary Of Selections](#)

Your data is ready for Download

[Download data for Excel 2007 \(.xlsx\)](#) - old version of Excel? Try Excel 2003 format (.xls) instead.

[View data in your web browser](#)

What next?

- Start a new query with a different dataset

Once you have downloaded and opened your file (you should be able to find it in your 'downloads' folder if it doesn't show up automatically), you will see your chosen data laid out in table format like the examples below.

Note, if you see a yellow bar at the top of your spreadsheet in Excel, click 'Enable Editing'.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity by sex							
2	ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 26 September 2022]							
3								
4	population	All usual residents aged 16 to 74						
5	units	Persons						
6	date	2011						
7	rural urban	Total						
8	sex	Males						
9								
10	Economic Activity	uacounty09:Telford and Wrekin		country:England and Wales		gor:West Midlands		
11		number	%	number	%	number	%	
12	All usual residents aged 16 to 74	61,199	100.0	20,391,391	100.0	2,024,562	100.0	
13	Economically Inactive	15,195	24.8	5,115,588	25.1	530,392	26.2	
14	Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	702	1.1	167,204	0.8	18,769	0.9	
15								
16								
17								
18								
19	KS601EW to KS603EW - Economic activity by sex							
20	ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 26 September 2022]							
21								
22	population	All usual residents aged 16 to 74						
23	units	Persons						
24	date	2011						
25	rural urban	Total						
26	sex	Females						
27								
28	Economic Activity	uacounty09:Telford and Wrekin		country:England and Wales		gor:West Midlands		
29		number	%	number	%	number	%	
30	All usual residents aged 16 to 74	61,080	100.0	20,735,149	100.0	2,042,557	100.0	
31	Economically Inactive	22,137	36.2	7,351,083	35.5	757,868	37.1	
32	Economically inactive: Looking after home or family	5,221	8.5	1,614,326	7.8	166,559	8.2	

We can use these tables to compare data between Telford and Wrekin to the West Midlands region and to England and Wales. For example, if we look at the second table, we can see that the percentage of females who are economically inactive because they are looking after their home or family is higher in Telford (8.5%) than in both the West Midlands region (8.2%) and in England and

Wales overall (7.8%)⁴. This means that any policy to encourage or force those performing unpaid care/domestic work back into the labour force is likely to impact women in Telford to a greater extent than women in the general region or the country.

You can also create tables that look at rates of part-time work of 15 hours or less using exactly the same process described above. Simply click 'Query Dataset' underneath the table 'Hours Worked'.

⁴ If you are having trouble deciphering the tables, head to our resource titled 'how to read a data spreadsheet': <https://www.wbg-localdata.org.uk/resource-hub/how-to-read-a-data-spreadshee/>