

Population

The population of the Barnsley area grew rapidly between 1850 and 1940, as the coal mining industry expanded. For example, between 1900 and 1930, the number of people living within the present Borough boundary increased by 45%. The population stabilized after 1945 and until fairly recently, remained at around 225,000. However, since 1991 numbers have fallen by 2.4% (compared with an average fall of 2.5% across England and Wales), and in 2001 the population stood at 218,062, with a population density of 6.6 persons per hectare¹.

Table 3.1 Population Characteristics of Barnsley Borough, 2001

Age band	Barnsley		England & Wales
	Population	% by age	% by age
0 - 4	12,498	5.7	5.9
5 - 9	14,570	6.7	6.4
10 - 14	14,544	6.7	6.6
15 - 24	23,840	10.9	12.2
25 - 39	47,678	21.9	22.1
40 - 59	58,352	26.8	26.0
60 - 74	30,417	13.9	13.3
75+	16,163	7.4	7.6

Source: Census 2001

Population growth in recent decades has occurred mainly to the west of Barnsley town. Growth areas have been Darton, Dodworth, Barugh Green, Penistone, Silkstone and Cawthorne, which have increased in population by between 20% and 40% over the last 25 years. Some areas in the east of the Borough have experienced a gradual population decline due to people moving away, notably the inner parts of Barnsley town, Athersley, Thurnscoe, Grimethorpe, Wombwell, Worsbrough and Cudworth.

The population of Barnsley Borough in 2001 was 218,063, a decline of 5,100 (2.3%) since 1991. The population peaked in 1971 at 226,350 and has been declining slowly for thirty years. The age structure of the Borough is similar to the national average although there are fewer young people, partly a reflection of the 1,165 local students living away from home. The proportion of children has changed little at 23% of the population but young people aged 20-24 have declined by 39% since 1991. The 75+ age group has increased by 14% with the number in the 90+ age group increasing by 77%. Women outnumber men at all ages over 20 years.

The total population of Barnsley is not expected to change much in the near future. However, there will be changes in the different age groups. Although the total number of children is fairly static at present, the number of children aged 0-4 has been falling due to declining births. Children aged 11-17 have been increasing in recent years but the number is now levelling off²

The largest growth rate is amongst the most elderly. Between 1991 and 2001 the number of people over 75 years of age increased by 14% and is expected to continue rising.

Employment Structure

¹ Census 2001

² Barnsley.gov.uk

The employment structure of the Barnsley economy has changed greatly over the last twenty years. In 1981, 24% of jobs were in the coal mining industry but by 1994 every mine had closed. This has resulted in a net reduction in the number of employee jobs from 78,000 in 1981 to 69,100 in 2001. Manufacturing employment has reduced by 27% and overall jobs in the production industries have declined by more than half. Service sector has grown by 40% from 1981 to 2001, not counting the self-employed.

Employment distribution

Employment is concentrated in Barnsley town centre, especially services. Central Ward has 15,700 employee jobs (23.9% of the total) and 1.5 jobs per resident. The only other ward with more than 5,000 jobs is South West where Barnsley District General Hospital is located. Jobs are fewest relative to population in the east of the Borough where there are 5.1 residents per job.

Main Employers

Barnsley employment was for many years dominated by the National Coal Board, later British Coal, which employed 20,000 workers in 1981. The largest production employer today is the construction firm MP Burke with 1,500 employees. The largest manufacturing employers are manor bakeries and SR Gent with 2,400 employees between them. The largest employer since the late 1980s has been the local authority, Barnsley MBC, with about 10,000 staff. The second largest employer is Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust with 2,000 staff. Other large public service employers are the Barnsley Community and Priority Services NHS Trust and Barnsley College.

Disadvantage

Physically, economically and socially, the west-east line of the M1 motorway divides the Borough. The west of the Borough is rural in nature and lightly populated with relative affluence, although there still, nevertheless, exists pockets of disadvantage. To the east can be found the towns and villages of the former coalfield areas where 80% of the Borough's population reside. It is within many of these communities where there are severe economic and social difficulties.

Barnsley ranks 16th most deprived district out of 354 English districts in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000. The general pattern of disadvantage in Barnsley compared to all wards in England is as follows³:

Most deprived 10% of English wards – 41% (9) of Barnsley wards fall within the most 10% of deprived wards in England. These cover two areas: seven wards from Worsbrough to Brierley, on the south and east sides of Barnsley, including Athersley. The other area is the Dearne, of which Thurnscoe is the most disadvantaged in the Borough.

Most deprived 10 – 20% of English wards – 36% (8) of wards fall in the category of being within the top 10 – 20% of the most deprived in England. The main grouping is of five wards in southeast Barnsley, covering Hoyland, Wombwell and Darfield, Royston to the north and the town wards of Central and North West.

Most deprived 20 – 30% of English Wards – 14% of Barnsley wards (3) fall outside of the most 20% deprived in England but are still more deprived than the national average. Locally, they are significantly less deprived than the Barnsley average. They form a cluster to the west of Barnsley, including Darton, Dodworth, Barugh Green, Gawber and Pogmoor.

³ Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000

Education

Children and young people from Silkstone Parish attend a number of schools both within and outside Barnsley Borough. Their educational achievement is indicated in the following performance tables, based on schools and colleges whose catchment area includes Silkstone Parish

Table 3.2 Performance Tables 2002 - Key Stage 2 Test Results

	Eligible pupils with SEN	English L4 + A-D	Maths L4 + A-D	Science L4 + A-D	Average Point Score
England Average	N/A	75%	73%	86%	27.4
LEA Average	N/A	65.5%	63.5%	79.5%	26.4
Cawthorne Church of England Primary School	N/A	100%	100%	100%	31.4
Hoylandswaine Primary School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oxspring Primary School	3	69%	81%	88%	26.9
St Ann's Catholic Primary School	5	60%	63%	73%	24.9
St John the Baptist Church of England Junior School	16	68%	65%	84%	26.6
Silkstone Common Junior and Infant School	4	83%	83%	91%	28.4
Silkstone Primary School	N/A	93%	90%	100%	29.4
Springvale Primary School	10	69%	69%	86%	27.2
Thurgoland Church of England Primary School	7	76%	83%	100%	28.6

Source – Department for Education and Skills

Table 3.3 Performance Tables 2002 – GCSE/GNVQ Results

	Eligible pupils with SEN	5 + A* - C	5 + A* - G	No passes	Average Point Score
England Average	N/A	51.5%	88.9%	5.4%	34.7
LEA Average	N/A	35.4%	84.4%	7.0%	28.5
Penistone Grammar School	17	51%	91%	2%	35.3

Source – Department for Education and Skills

Table 3.4 Performance Tables 2002 - Post 16 years Results (Combined A/AS/AGNVQ)

	Combined A/AS/AGNVQ	
	Number entered	Average point score per student
England Average	N/A	17.4
Local Average	N/A	13.9
Barnsley College	615	13.3
Penistone Grammar School	114	17.6

Source: Department for Education and Skills

Funding

The area has access to a number of short-term funding sources including:

- England Rural Development Programme
- Parish Transport Grants
- European Objective 1, Measures 24, 25 and 26 – Promoting the adaptation and development of rural areas – Rural Diversification
- The Market Towns Initiative
- Standards Fund
- National Lottery funding including the Community Fund; Arts Lottery; New Opportunities Fund: Sport England
- WREN
- Private Sector
- Charitable Trusts