

A KIRKLEES PROFILE

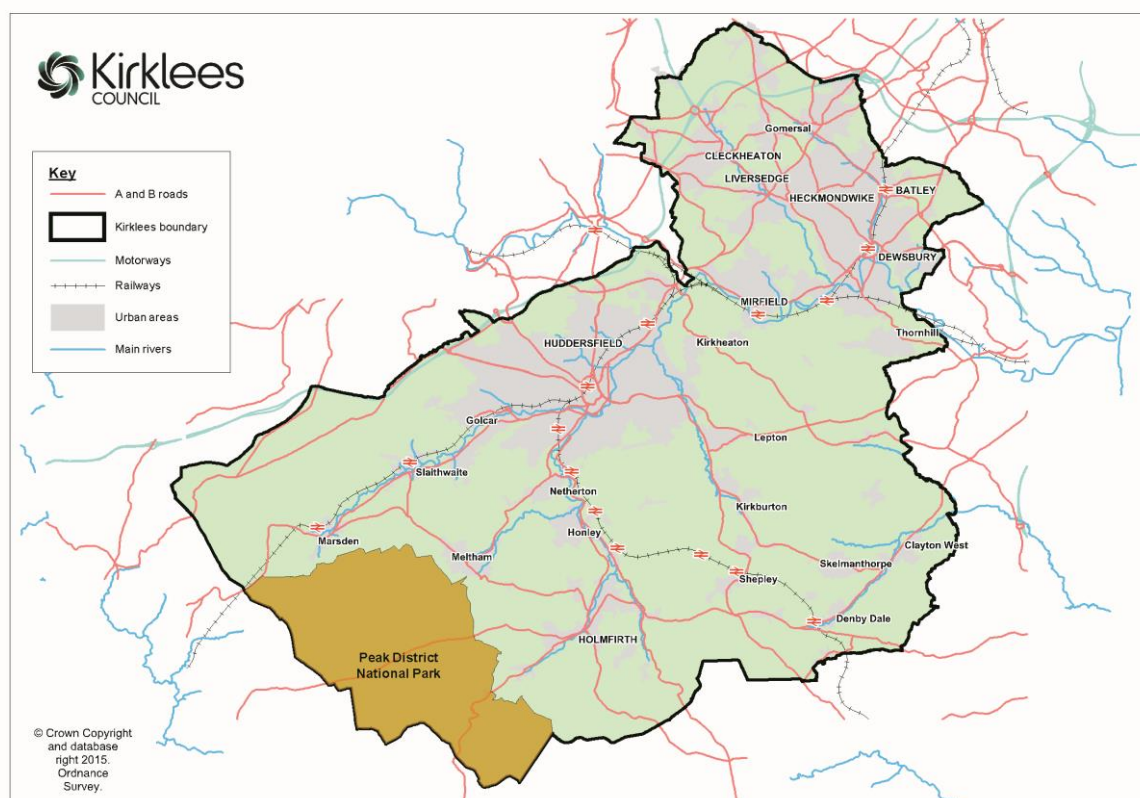
The Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees is one of five Local Authorities in West Yorkshire. It covers an area of 157 square miles and has a population of around 437,100¹ of which 22.8% are aged 0 to 17 (nationally 21.3%). The District emerged from local government re-organisation in 1974 and is made up of eleven former local authority Boroughs and Districts in the former West Riding of Yorkshire.

It has three distinct areas:

*North Kirklees, which includes the urban centres of Mirfield, Dewsbury, Batley and Cleckheaton along with the more rural Spenn Valley:

*Huddersfield; the largest town in Kirklees with around 141,600 residents²

*The rural and semi-rural area south and west of Huddersfield, including small towns such as Holmfirth, Meltham, Skelmanthorpe, Kirkburton, Slaithwaite, Marsden, Honley and Denby Dale.



Huddersfield is the business, administrative and retail centre of Kirklees. The Kingsgate Centre, opened in 2002, brought a number of nationally known retailers into the area. Huddersfield University is now a major regional centre of learning, with 18,245 students and 2,045 staff³, creating a significant presence in the town. In 2013 Kirklees College, a Further Education provider, moved into a brand new, state-of-the-art campus at the Waterfront Quarter in Huddersfield (talks are underway to redevelop the former site (Trinity One) with a supermarket and hotel). Kirklees Stadium Development Ltd has recently gained planning permission to transform a 54 acre Huddersfield site into a multi-use leisure, entertainment and sporting destination.

To the north of Huddersfield, Dewsbury is Kirklees' second-largest town, but neighbouring Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Mirfield are also significant urban areas. North Kirklees built its reputation as one of this country's major centres of woollen textile production in the nineteenth century.

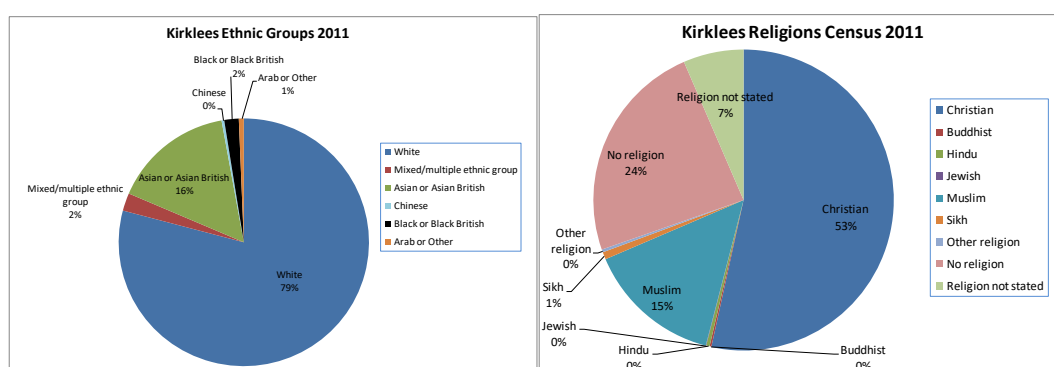
Kirklees has a significant rural dimension. Much of its southern and western edges are open, uninhabited Pennine moor land of outstanding natural beauty and high environmental value. The western fringe of Kirklees (about 10% of the total area) is within the boundary of the Peak District National Park.

A distinctive feature of the District is that the small towns of rural south Kirklees developed an industrial base during the Industrial Revolution and tend to be as reliant, if not more so, on manufacturing jobs for their survival as the rest of Kirklees. For example in the semi rural Colne Valley area (around Marsden and Slaithwaite), 32% of jobs are in manufacturing⁴.

Relatively low house prices, an impressive urban/rural environment on the edge of the South Pennines and its suitability as a commuter base make Kirklees attractive as a place to move to and live in. It has the highest levels of out-commuting in West Yorkshire and amongst the highest in the whole of the Leeds City Region. Only 69% of employed Kirklees residents work in the District, compared with 81% in Leeds and 75% in Bradford (2011)⁵.

It has good trans-Pennine and commuter rail links. The M62 runs through the north of the district and provides quick access to the M1 and M6 motorways and the A1. Three of the largest metropolitan areas in the North of England (Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds/Bradford), three major airports and the Humber ports are within easy reach.

The area benefits from its cultural diversity. Post-war in-migration, largely from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, means that Kirklees' minority ethnic communities make up 21% of its resident population. Most live in the District's urban centres of Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley. Kirklees' Muslim population of 61,300 is the 18th highest in England and Wales⁶.



Since 2004, there has been a significant influx of people from the EU Accession States (mostly from Poland, around 3,100 people, 2011 Census)⁶ coming to work in the District. In 2017 for example, 2,100 people registered for National insurance numbers [NINO]; the top four countries of origin were Romania (403), Pakistan (301), Poland (179) and Hungary (149). There are also refugees and asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and parts of the former Yugoslavia.

Kirklees has one of the oldest industrial heritages in the world, with a long history of skilled working that pre-dates the Industrial Revolution. The area's reputation was built on the woollen and worsted textile trade, but it also developed world-class engineering and chemical enterprises, with a reputation for the highest quality. This heritage still shapes the local economy today, which in 2017 was valued at around £7.7bn per year⁷.

The District is home to around 14,520 businesses⁸, providing employment for 160,500 people including self-employed. Currently (2017), 77% of all jobs in Kirklees are in service sector industries, with a further 16% in manufacturing⁹. Since 1991, manufacturing's share of all jobs has fallen from 35%, whilst the service sector's share has risen from 60%. Nevertheless, manufacturing remains a significant force locally compared to GB as whole, where it accounts for around 8% of jobs⁹.

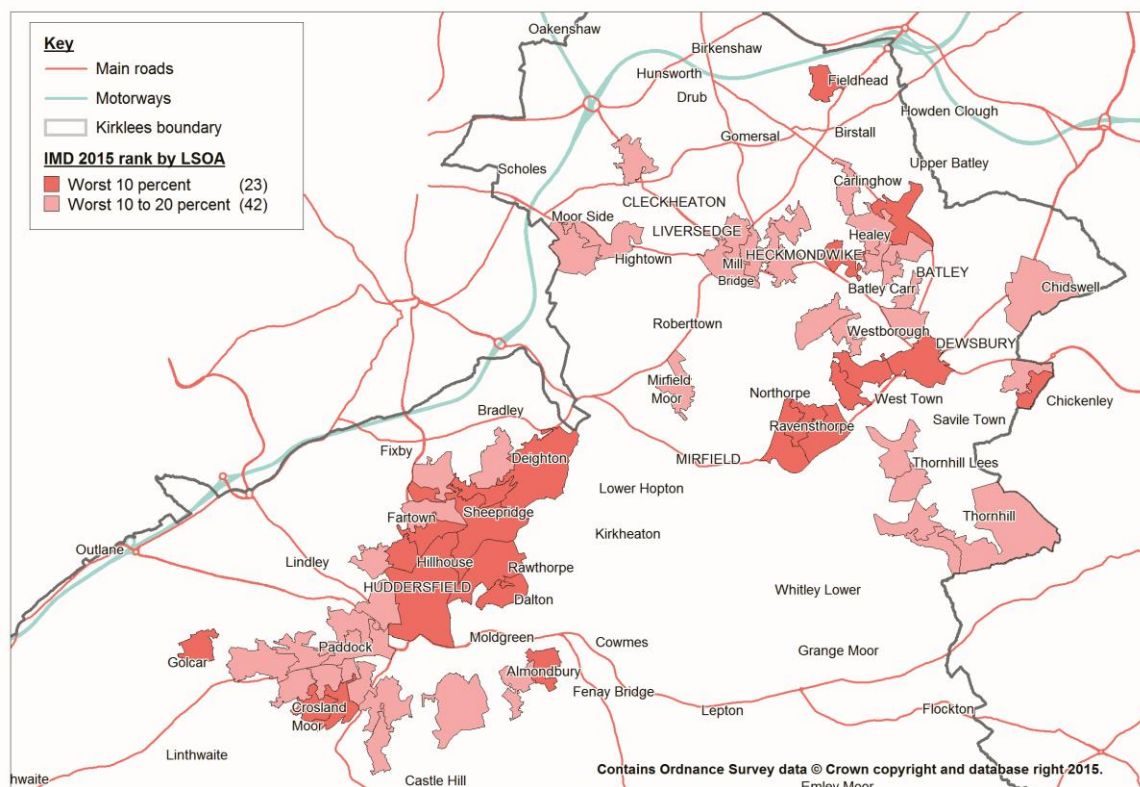
Despite good growth in recent years, the local economy is still under developed in most knowledge-based, service sector industries, consumer services and some high-tech manufacturing industries. It needs to grow in areas capable of producing high value output and earnings and also sustainable job opportunities.

The area's reputation for traditional, high quality products and services in textiles and other industries means that it already has a significant business community to modernise and strengthen.

There are some positive trends. The area retains some world class manufacturers, including Cummins Turbo Technologies (formerly Holset Engineering), Huddersfield Cloth and Syngenta. The education sector has expanded in the last two decades and Huddersfield University is a key catalyst for future growth. There has also been significant development in the creative, cultural and media related industries, centred on Huddersfield. This is ongoing and was boosted by the opening (by the Queen) of Phase 3 of the Media Centre in May 2007.

Recent changes have shown a move towards higher level, customer-focussed, knowledge-based jobs and away from relatively low skilled manual jobs. Data from the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey for 1999 and 2017 highlights the job changes that have accompanied the industrial re-structuring in Kirklees. Most significant was an increase of around 29,200 Kirklees residents working in higher level occupations – managerial, professional and associate professional and technical level¹⁰.

Like many parts of urban Britain, Kirklees has a mix of relatively affluent and poor areas. The poorest areas are concentrated in inner urban Wards in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley and on edge of town estates, though the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation showed a relative improvement, with 23 Lower Super Output Areas in worst 10% in England compared to 37 in 2010¹¹. Minority ethnic communities tend to live in these poorest areas.



Low-income levels are common to all the most deprived parts of Kirklees. Household income levels (2018)¹² in the poorest wards are only 71% of the District average, and in some parts of Kirklees around 37% of children live in out-of-work families (2017)¹³. Wage levels (2018, median) for full time workers in Kirklees companies are below the national average, and are the second lowest in West Yorkshire after Bradford; in 2011 Kirklees wages were higher than both Calderdale and Bradford¹⁴. Leeds has the highest wage levels in West Yorkshire.

The Kirklees population is generally less qualified than the national average, particularly at degree level and above, and a significant minority of people aged 16-64 have difficulty with basic skills having attained no qualifications (10.4%, Great Britain 7.6%, 2018)¹⁵. Attainment levels of young people at GCSE are, however, better than national measures¹⁶ with an Attainment 8 score of 45.4 compared to England 44.5.

Median house prices¹⁷ in Kirklees have been consistently lower than the median prices for Yorkshire and the Humber and England. Overall, prices have increased from £55,000 in 2000 to £145,000 in 2018, an increase of 164%. Prices previously peaked at £132,000 in 2007 but then fell slightly. Prices have been stable at around £125,000-130,000 over the period 2009 to 2015, since then they have increased year on year.

Sources

¹Office for National Statistics, Mid-year estimates 2017.

²Office for National Statistics, Mid-year estimates 2017. The area of Huddersfield approximates to the former Huddersfield County Borough.

³Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited 2017/18.

⁴Nomis - Business Register and Employment Survey/Annual Business Inquiry 2017.

⁵Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census Origin-Destination data WU01EW.

⁶Kirklees Local Migration Profile June 2018.

⁷ONS, Regional gross value added (balanced), 2017.

⁸Nomis UK Business Counts – Enterprises 2018.

⁹Nomis - Business Register and Employment Survey/Annual Business Inquiry 2017.

¹⁰Nomis - Annual population survey January 2018-December 2018. Note: data is survey based and results are subject to some variation each quarter.

¹¹Indices of Deprivation Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2010, 2015.

¹²Paycheck Model 2018, CACI Ltd, ward median income data.

¹³Kirklees Observatory, DWP WPLS 100% May 2017 and MYE 2017.

¹⁴Nomis - Annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis 2018, 2011.

¹⁵Nomis - Annual population survey January 2018 – December 2018.

¹⁶Department for Education, 2018 KS4 results, Attainment 8 score.

¹⁷Kirklees Observatory.