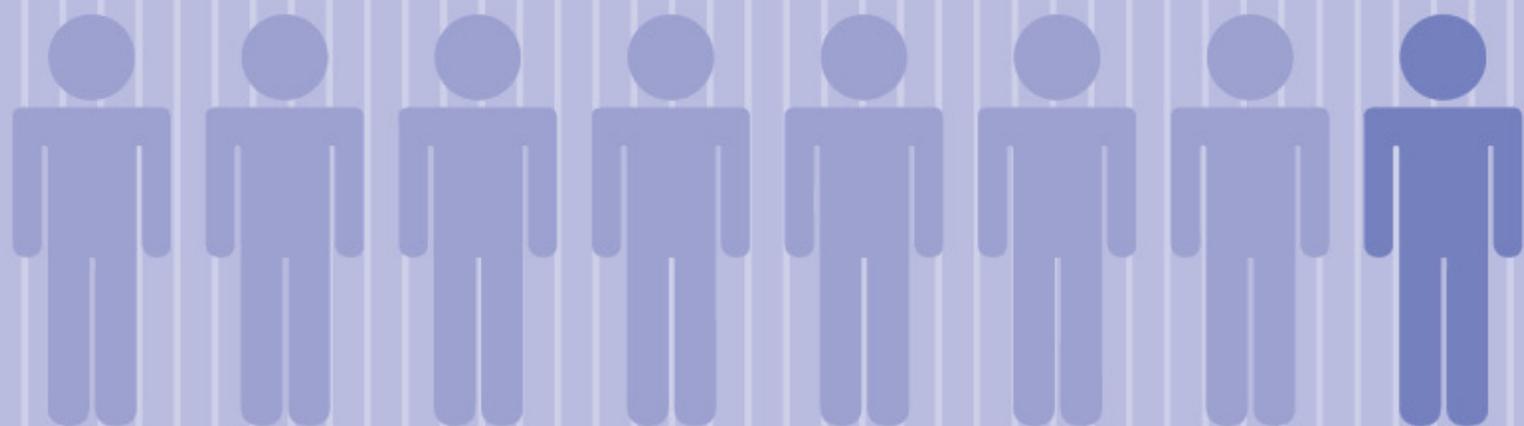


The state of the coalfields

*Economic and social conditions
in the former mining communities
of England, Scotland and Wales*

Mike Foden
Steve Fothergill
Tony Gore



THE STATE OF THE COALFIELDS

**Economic and social conditions in the former mining
communities of England, Scotland and Wales**

Mike Foden, Steve Fothergill and Tony Gore

**Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research
Sheffield Hallam University**

June 2014

Report commissioned by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Contents

Summary

1. Introduction

- Scope and purpose of the report
- Geographical coverage
- Pre-recession trends

2. Main points from the statistics

- Population
- Health and well-being
- Jobs and business
- Employment and earnings
- Skills and qualifications
- Unemployment
- Other welfare benefits
- Housing
- Deprivation

3. The availability of funding to communities

- National survey evidence
- Cuts in local authority funding
- The density of voluntary sector organisations
- The view on the ground

4. An assessment

Statistical appendix

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Christina Beatty for her input to several aspects of the study, Tom Archer and Ellen Bennett for their assistance in interviewing voluntary and community organisations, and Chris Dayson and Peter Wells for their helpful advice. Thanks are also due to the individuals who took time to speak to the research team.

Summary

The former coalfields are a distinctive part of England, Scotland and Wales. This report examines a wide range of contemporary social and economic statistics on the coalfields. It also assesses the health of the local voluntary and community sector.

The report covers 16 individual coalfield areas, each accurately defined at the local level. These coalfields have a combined population of 5.5 million. This represents 9 per cent – or one-in-eleven – of the entire population of Great Britain.

In the wake of the miners' strike of 1984/5 the coal industry experienced massive job losses. In all, since the beginning of the 1980s the British coal industry has shed some 250,000 jobs, bringing mining to an end in most parts of the country. Prior to 2008 and the onset of recession there was substantial progress in generating new jobs in the coalfields. The legacy of job loss, however, continued to be substantial unemployment and in particular a very large diversion of working-age men out of the labour market into 'economic inactivity', often on incapacity benefits.

The new figures in this report, which cover the post-recession years, show that there continues to be a major employment shortfall:

- In every individual coalfield, the 'job density' – the ratio between the number of jobs in the area and the number of working age residents – is below the GB average.
- Across the coalfields as a whole, there are just 50 jobs for every 100 residents of working age. In South Wales there are just 41 for every 100.
- The 'employment rate' in the larger coalfields – the share of adults of working age with jobs – is 5-10 percentage points below the level in South East England.
- The business stock and the business formation rate in the coalfields are both well below the national average.

Coalfield residents in work are more likely to be employed in lower-grade or manual occupations, and the coalfield workforce is more likely to lack higher grade qualifications.

Ill health is widespread:

- In most of the coalfields, the proportion of residents reporting ill health or limitations on day-to-day activities is almost double the level in South East England.
- 7.9 per cent of all coalfield residents claim Disability Living Allowance, compared to 5.6 per cent across Britain as a whole and 4.3 per cent in the South East.

The combination of a shortfall in job opportunities and poor health has resulted in exceptionally high numbers in receipt of welfare benefits:

- 14 per cent – one-in-seven – of all adults of working age in the coalfields are out-of-work and in receipt of benefits
- The claimant unemployment rate in the coalfields – the numbers in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance – is 3.7 per cent, only 0.7 percentage points above the GB average.
- But the incapacity claimant rate in the coalfields of 8.4 per cent – one-in-twelve of all adults between the ages of 16 and 64 – is sky-high.
- Wider measures also point to unemployment that in most coalfields is well in excess of the GB average

In most coalfields the share of pensioners living in poverty, measured by the Pension Credit claimant rate, is around double the average in South East England. In the coalfields, welfare reform is also anticipated to have a substantially greater impact – measured by the average financial loss per adult of working age – than across Britain as a whole.

Unsurprisingly, deprivation is widespread:

- 43 per cent of all neighbourhoods in the coalfields fall into the worst 30 per cent in Britain, according to Indices of Deprivation.

The statistics do however reveal that five smaller coalfields – South Staffordshire, North Warwickshire, S Derbyshire/NW Leicestershire, Kent and Lothian – now appear less disadvantaged than the rest. Excluding these five, which account for just 12 per cent of the total coalfield population, the average for the remaining coalfields would appear distinctly worse.

Faced with substantial socio-economic challenges in the areas they serve, the voluntary and community organisations in the coalfields are themselves often in difficulty:

- National survey data for England shows that even in 2010, before the main impact of austerity, community organisations in the coalfields were more likely to report that they had insufficient overall income to meet their objectives.
- The same national survey data shows that in the coalfields a higher proportion of organisations were more likely to express dissatisfaction with the range of grants available locally.
- Cuts in local authority funding in England have hit deprived areas disproportionately hard.
- Across the country as a whole, the density of voluntary organisations in deprived areas is anyway far lower than in more prosperous areas.
- The financial cuts since 2010 have driven many voluntary and community organisations in the coalfields into crisis, and often led to substantial redundancies.

The report concludes that the miners' strike of 1984/5 may now be receding into history but the job losses that followed in its wake are still part of the everyday economic reality of most mining communities. The consequences are still all too visible in statistics on jobs, unemployment, benefits and health.

On balance, the evidence provides a compelling case that most of the coalfield communities of England, Scotland and Wales still require support.

1. INTRODUCTION

Scope and purpose of the report

The former coalfields are a distinctive part of England, Scotland and Wales.

Their long history of mining has moulded their economy, culture and landscape. It has also shaped their settlement pattern. Because coal can only be mined where it is found, many mining towns and villages grew up in locations away from Britain's main urban centres. Coalfield communities often relied on this single industry to an extraordinary extent.

The contraction of the British coal industry is well known. Since the year-long miners' strike of 1984/5 the coal industry has disappeared entirely from most of the country. Just a handful of collieries and opencast mines remain.

This report examines the current state of the coalfields. Offsetting the pit closures and job losses there have been substantial regeneration efforts and many of these have delivered tangible results. But thirty years on from the miners' strike, to what extent have the coalfields caught up with regional and national averages? Have the coalfields been restored to full, or at least acceptable, economic and social health? Or do they remain mired in difficulty, far behind the rest of the country?

The report looks at a wide range of official statistics on current social and economic conditions. It presents figures for the British coalfields as a whole and for each individual coalfield area. The main features of these statistics are described below and the full statistics are presented in the appendix. This is a 'benchmarking' approach that has previously been deployed in government-funded studies of seaside towns¹ but its application here to the coalfields is new.

In addition, the report considers the changing availability of funding to support the community and voluntary sectors. This is of particular relevance to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, established by government in 1999, which has hitherto played a key role both as a provider of grants to mining communities and as a source of advice and support.

¹ See in particular C Beatty, S Fothergill and I Wilson (2008) *England's Seaside Towns: a benchmarking study*, CLG, London.

Geographical coverage

The main body of the report presents statistics on 16 individual coalfields across England, Scotland and Wales, all accurately defined at ward level. Figures for these coalfields are compared with averages for the English regions, for Scotland and for Wales, and with the averages for Great Britain as a whole.

A ward-based map of the coalfields was first developed by Sheffield Hallam University in the mid-1990s². This defined the coalfields as wards where in 1981 at least 10 per cent of male residents in employment worked in the coal industry. In two areas (Lancashire and North Staffordshire) where mining took place in a more urban context alongside other industries, a slightly lower threshold was applied. The Sheffield Hallam map had the merit of defining the coalfields on the basis of labour market data just prior to the major job losses of the 1980s and 90s. It was subsequently deployed by the government's Coalfields Task Force³ and in government-funded studies of Lottery funding⁴ and educational attainment⁵.

The Sheffield Hallam map of the English coalfields was later revised for government by the University of Durham⁶. This added a number of wards, for example where colliery site reclamation was occurring, that had failed to meet the original labour market criteria.

The present report uses a slightly modified version of the revised Sheffield Hallam ward-based map. By region, the coalfields it covers are:

North East

Northumberland
Durham

North West

Lancashire
West Cumbria

Yorkshire & the Humber

Yorkshire

East Midlands

Nottinghamshire
North Derbyshire
S Derbyshire / NW Leicestershire

West Midlands

North Staffordshire
South Staffordshire
North Warwickshire

South East

Kent

Wales

South Wales

Scotland

Fife
Lothian
Ayrshire/Lanarkshire

² C Beatty and S Fothergill (1996) 'Labour market adjustment in areas of chronic industrial decline: the case of the UK coalfields', *Regional Studies*, vol 30, pp 637-650.

³ Coalfields Task Force (1998)

⁴ Gore T, Dabinett G and Breeze J (1999) *Coalfields and the Lottery Phase I*, Report to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, London.

⁵ T Gore and N Smith (2001) *Patterns of Educational Achievement in the British Coalfields*, DfES, London.

⁶ International Centre for Regional Regeneration & Development Studies (2003) *Updating Coalfield Areas*, ODPM, London.

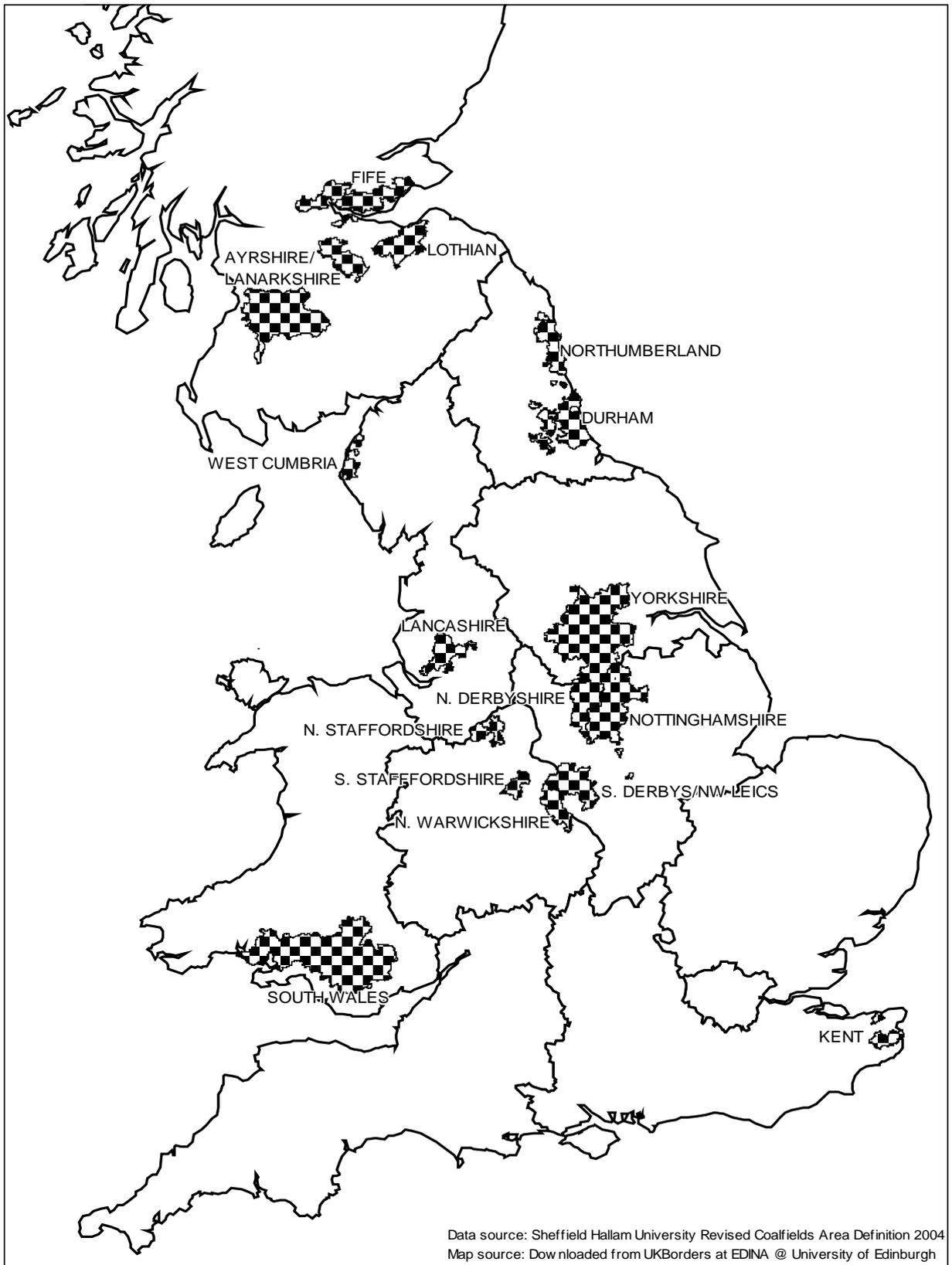


Figure 1: Location of GB coalfields

These coalfields are shown in Figure 1.

The list excludes North Wales and the former Strathkelvin district near Glasgow, where in both cases only a handful of wards were included in the original Sheffield Hallam definition. It also excludes the Forest of Dean, where only very small-scale mining has taken place since the mid-1960s. The list also excludes a number of other areas (in West Durham for example) where coalmining ended long before the 1980s, but it includes parts of West Cumbria, where the last colliery closed in the 1980s and opencast mining continued, that did not meet the original Sheffield Hallam criteria.

The names used here are abbreviations – ‘Fife’ includes neighbouring parts of Clackmannanshire and Stirling for example, ‘Ayrshire/Lanarkshire’ includes a small area within Dumfries and Galloway, ‘Lothian’ includes parts of East Lothian and Midlothian, and ‘Lancashire’ is made up of areas that fall administratively into Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire.

Each of the coalfields has been matched to its constituent Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), or datazones in Scotland, to enable local statistics to be generated. Most of the data presented in the report therefore refers specifically to the coalfields, accurately defined at ward level, rather than to the wider local authority districts of which they may form only one part.

In a small number of cases, where LSOA data is unavailable, the statistics are an average of the figures for the principal local authority districts within each coalfield⁷.

What needs to be kept in mind is that the coalfields cover a wider range of places than just ‘pit villages’. This reflects the geography of mining, which took place in and around towns such as Sunderland, South Shields, Wigan, Barnsley and Stoke on Trent as well as in smaller places. As a general rule, it would be a reasonable assumption that the more acute historic dependence on mining in pit villages probably means they have a greater concentration of the socio-economic problems that today characterise the coalfields as a whole.

⁷ Where district data is deployed instead of ward/LSOA data the coalfields are defined as follows:

Northumberland: Northumberland (or where possible Blyth Valley, Wansbeck)
Durham: Durham County (or where possible Easington), Sunderland, South Tyneside
Lancashire: St Helens, Wigan
West Cumbria: Allerdale, Copeland
Yorkshire: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wakefield
Nottinghamshire: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood
N Derbyshire: Bolsover, Chesterfield, NE Derbyshire
S Derbys/NW Leics: S Derbyshire, NW Leicestershire
N Staffordshire: Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent
S Staffordshire: Cannock Chase
N Warwickshire: Nuneaton & Bedworth, N Warwickshire
Kent: Dover
South Wales: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath PT, Rhondda CT, Torfaen
Fife: Fife, Clackmannanshire
Lothian: Midlothian
Ayrshire/Lanarkshire: E Ayrshire, N Lanarkshire, S Lanarkshire

Pre-recession trends

It is worth beginning by looking at some of the key trends in the coalfields before the onset of recession in 2008.

The UK coal industry has shed around 250,000 jobs since the start of the 1980s. Nearly all these were jobs that had been held by men. The way this job loss impacted on the coalfield labour market has been documented in previous research⁸. The most recent estimates, all rooted in official statistics, cover the period from 1981 to 2008 and are based on the original Sheffield Hallam map, so the coalfields are all accurately defined, but shortcomings in official statistics mean that the figures only cover England and Wales.

Job loss always feeds through to much more than just recorded unemployment. Commuting patterns, migration between areas and labour force participation all take some of the strain. In the coalfields, there have also been substantial efforts to generate replacement jobs. 'Labour market accounts' for men in the coalfields show exactly what happened:

Working age men, E & W coalfields, 1981-2008

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| | Job loss in coal | 225,000 |
| <i>plus</i> | Recorded unemployment in 1981 | 160,000 |
| <i>plus</i> | Natural increase in workforce | 95,000 |
| | | ----- |
| <i>equals</i> | Total surplus labour | 480,000 |
| | | |
| <i>minus</i> | Net out-migration | 40,000 |
| <i>minus</i> | Increase in net out-commuting | 10,000 |
| <i>minus</i> | Increase in 'economic inactivity' | 150,000 |
| <i>minus</i> | Increase in non-coal jobs | 180,000 |
| | | ----- |
| <i>equals</i> | Recorded unemployment in 2008 | 100,000 |

Source: Sheffield Hallam estimates based on official data

The coal job losses since the beginning of the 1980s added to a substantial pre-existing unemployment problem. It is worth recalling that even before the pit closures the early 1980s were a period of mass unemployment, especially in the Midlands, North, Scotland and Wales. Over the following years the natural increase in the workforce – the excess of the number reaching the age of 16 over the number reaching state pension age or dying – further exacerbated the labour surplus.

⁸ See: C Beatty and S Fothergill (1996) op.cit., and C Beatty, S Fothergill and R Powell (2007) Twenty years on: has the economy of the UK coalfields recovered?, *Environment and Planning A*, vol 39, pp 1654-1675.

The vast surplus of male labour in the coalfields was absorbed in two main ways.

First, there was substantial growth in employment in other sectors of the coalfield economy, at least up to 2008. Overall, this growth provided additional jobs for 180,000 men. This is clear evidence that regeneration efforts have delivered substantial results.

More detailed local figures show that in six coalfields – S Staffs, N Warwicks, S Derbys/NW Leics, Kent, N Derbys and Durham – the job growth in other sectors of the local economy had by 2008 been sufficient to offset all the coal job losses since 1981. Elsewhere there was less progress. In South Wales only half the coal jobs had been replaced, in Lancashire there was virtually no net forward progress, and in Northumberland and North Staffordshire job losses in other sectors of the local economy had compounded the job shortfall.

The other key way in which the surplus of labour in the coalfields was absorbed was through a withdrawal from the labour market into 'economic inactivity'. Between 1981 and 2008 this withdrawal accounted for 150,000 men of working age.

In the early years, much of this labour market withdrawal will have been among ex-miners who opted for early retirement or went 'on the sick'. In later years, as the ex-miners reached state pension age, the normal competitive forces in the labour market have pushed out substantial numbers of men in the generations behind them. A great many of these younger men have ended up on incapacity benefits, as the figures presented later show.

The net effect of all these labour market adjustments is that by 2008, at least, recorded unemployment among men in the coalfields – at 100,000 – was actually *lower* than before the pit closures started in the 1980s.

This apparently remarkable achievement is however misleading. In truth, recorded unemployment in the coalfields was held in check only by the very large increase in economic inactivity. In so far as elements of this inactivity are really only a form of 'hidden unemployment' – and there is plenty of evidence to suggest this is the case⁹ – even in 2008 the true state of the coalfield labour market was far, far worse than the superficial unemployment figures suggested.

The evidence on pre-recession trends, therefore, is that there was real progress in rebuilding the economy of the coalfields but that the unemployment problem was still a long way from being solved.

⁹ See for example C Beatty and S Fothergill (2005) The diversion from 'unemployment' to 'sickness' across British regions and districts, *Regional Studies*, vol 39, pp 650-667.

2. MAIN POINTS FROM THE STATISTICS

Population (Tables 1-3)

The coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales, as defined here, have a combined population of 5.5 million. This represents 9 per cent – or one-in-eleven – of the entire population of Great Britain. The coalfields are, in other words, a substantial part of the country as a whole.

The coalfields account for 8 per cent of the population in England, 10 per cent in Scotland, and 25 per cent in Wales.

The coalfields vary greatly in size, from Yorkshire with more than 1.2m people to Kent with just 44,000:

Population by coalfield, 2011

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Yorkshire | 1, 218,000 |
| South Wales | 757,000 |
| Durham | 599,000 |
| Lancashire | 566,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 526,000 |
| North Derbyshire | 332,000 |
| North Staffordshire | 279,000 |
| Fife | 267,000 |
| N Warwickshire | 190,000 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 165,000 |
| Northumberland | 145,000 |
| Lothian | 144,000 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 125,000 |
| South Staffordshire | 122,000 |
| West Cumbria | 65,000 |
| Kent | 44,000 |

The age distribution of the population in the coalfields is not fundamentally different from the national average. The population of working age (16-64) accounts for just under two-thirds of the total, with the remainder split fairly evenly between under-16s and over 65s.

The population of the coalfields is growing more slowly than the national average. Britain as a whole is going through a period of quite rapid population growth – between 2001 and 2011 its population grew by 4.2m, or 7.5 per cent. But the growth in the coalfields was just 3.5 per cent, or less than 200,000

Health and well-being (Tables 4-6)

Average life expectancy in the coalfields is around a year less than the national average. This disparity applies at birth, and at age 65. This gap in life expectancy applies to the coalfield population as a whole, but if figures were available specifically for ex-miners the gap would almost certainly be larger because of exposure to conditions at work that damaged their health.

There is a distinctly higher incidence of ill health in the coalfields. The 2011 Census of Population provides two measures – the share of residents reporting poor health, and the share reporting long-term health problems that limit their activities. The figures for the ten worst-affected coalfields are striking and worth comparing with not only the national average but also the average for South East England:

| | % with general health bad or very bad | % with a lot of limitation on day-to-day activity |
|----------------------|--|--|
| South Wales | 9.8 | 14.9 |
| Durham | 8.6 | 12.6 |
| N Staffordshire | 7.9 | 11.8 |
| West Cumbria | 7.7 | 11.8 |
| N Derbyshire | 7.6 | 11.6 |
| Northumberland | 7.6 | 11.1 |
| Lancashire | 7.5 | 11.3 |
| Yorkshire | 7.4 | 11.2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7.1 | 11.0 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 6.9 | 11.7 |
| <i>GB average</i> | 5.6 | 8.6 |
| <i>SE England</i> | 4.3 | 6.9 |

In quite a number of coalfields, the incidence of self-reported ill health is approaching double the average in South East England.

The incidence of poor health is underlined by the numbers claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DLA is a welfare benefit paid to help offset the costs of care and/or mobility arising from disability. Among the working age population, DLA is claimed by individuals both in work and out-of-work (though out-of-work claimants account for around four-in-five) and it is also paid to substantial numbers above state pension age.

In the coalfields, 7.9 per cent of the entire population – some 440,000 people – are DLA claimants. This proportion is fifty per cent higher than the GB average (5.4 per cent) and twice as high as in South East England (4.0 per cent). All but one of the coalfields have a DLA claimant rate above the GB average:

**DLA claimant rate, August 2013
(% of total population)**

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| South Wales | 10.7 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 8.6 |
| Durham | 8.2 |
| West Cumbria | 7.9 |
| N Derbyshire | 7.9 |
| Lancashire | 7.8 |
| N Staffordshire | 7.8 |
| Yorkshire | 7.6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7.3 |
| Fife | 7.3 |
| Northumberland | 7.2 |
| S Staffordshire | 6.8 |
| Lothian | 6.7 |
| Kent | 6.6 |
| N Warwickshire | 6.3 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 5.1 |

Jobs and business (Tables 7-11)

The government's Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) provides figures on the number of jobs located in the coalfields. Because of commuting flows in both directions these figures are not the same as the number of coalfield residents in employment, which is considered later. The BRES figures also exclude the self-employed.

The most recent BRES data, for 2012, shows that just under 1.8m jobs are located in the coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales. This represents 6.7 per cent of the GB total.

Between 2008 and 2012 the coalfields as a whole lost 46,000 jobs, with most individual coalfields sharing in the loss. This represented a reduction of 2.5 per cent, compared to just 1 per cent across Britain as a whole. That the post-2008 recession was not associated with greater job loss may come as a surprise. In fact, during the recession output fell much more steeply than employment. The figures show that in terms of jobs the coalfields were on average hit rather harder than the national average, while London still steamed ahead.

Part-time employment accounts for around a third of the jobs located in the coalfields, which is roughly the same as across Britain as a whole. There has been some increase in part-time employment, but not consistently across all coalfield areas.

The ratio between the number of jobs located in the coalfields and the size of the local working age population (the 'job density') nevertheless shows the coalfields in a very unfavourable light:

Number of jobs in area per 100 residents of working age, 2012

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| <i>GB average</i> | 67 |
| N Derbyshire | 61 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 57 |
| Lancashire | 56 |
| N Warwickshire | 56 |
| Yorkshire | 55 |
| S Staffordshire | 52 |
| Nottinghamshire | 51 |
| West Cumbria | 51 |
| Durham | 48 |
| Fife | 48 |
| N Staffordshire | 45 |
| Lothian | 42 |
| South Wales | 41 |
| Northumberland | 40 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 37 |
| Kent | 36 |
| <i>Coalfield average</i> | 50 |

The job density in every single coalfield is below the national average. The job density in every coalfield is also below the average for its region. Across the GB coalfields as a whole, there are just 50 jobs for every 100 adults of working age.

A low job density is not always a sign of economic weakness. The coalfields are part of a complex network of commuting flows, particularly into neighbouring cities¹⁰, so the number of residents in work is generally well ahead of the number of jobs located in the area. This helps explain the low job density in Lothian for example (where there is commuting into Edinburgh) and in Northumberland (commuting into Tyneside).

But a low job density can also be a symptom of a weak local economy. This is clearest in the case of the South Wales coalfield, where there are just 41 jobs for every 100 residents of working age. The South Wales coalfield, in the Welsh Valleys, is a major area in its own right – it has a population of three-quarters of a million. Though there are substantial commuting flows to Cardiff, Swansea and Newport on the coast, it is hard to escape the conclusion that one of the reasons so many people travel out of the area for work is that there are so few jobs in the Valleys themselves.

¹⁰ See for example T Gore, S Fothergill, E Hollywood, C Lindsay and K Morgan (2007) *Coalfields and their neighbouring cities*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.

Statistics on the number of VAT-registered businesses present a similar picture, and for similar reasons. The stock of businesses in the coalfields, in relation to the local population, is on average only two-thirds of the national average, and less than half the level in London. The business formation rate too is only two-thirds of the national average.

Employment and earnings (Tables 12-13)

The 'employment rate' – the share of adults of working age in employment – is one of the most telling of all statistics.

The best local figures come from the 2011 Census of Population because the government's Labour Force Survey, which produces more up-to-date figures, does not generate reliable district-level data. However, the Census statistics published so far mean that the age-range covered by the Scottish figures differs from those for England and Wales.

There is a further complication. These days the large number of students in further and higher education distorts the raw figures. Full-time students are heavily concentrated in university towns, where they lower the employment rate, but there are few higher education institutions in the coalfields so a simple comparison of overall employment rates is misleading. The best statistic is the employment rate *excluding students*.

If four relatively small coalfields in the Midlands and South are excluded, the figures for the remaining English and Welsh coalfields are stark:

Employment rate (excluding students) %, 2011

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| <i>SE England average</i> | 79 |
| <i>England and Wales average</i> | 76 |
| Nottinghamshire | 74 |
| N Derbyshire | 74 |
| Lancashire | 73 |
| Yorkshire | 73 |
| West Cumbria | 72 |
| N Staffordshire | 72 |
| Northumberland | 71 |
| Durham | 71 |
| South Wales | 69 |

The employment rate in all these coalfields is between two and seven percentage points behind the England and Wales average, and between five and ten percentage points behind the average in South East England.

In Scotland, the employment rate in the Fife and Ayrshire/Lanarkshire coalfields is around three percentage points below the Scottish average. A higher employment rate in the Lothian coalfield reflects the proximity of job opportunities in Edinburgh.

Unsurprisingly, the weakness of the labour market in the coalfields is reflected in earnings. Here the available figures are for the local authority districts covering the coalfields but they still show a clear pattern. On average, hourly earnings for men living in coalfield districts are eight per cent below the GB average¹¹, and seven per cent below for women.

Skills and qualifications (Tables 14-16)

Across Britain as a whole, 48 per cent of the employed workforce are in manual occupations. In London the proportion falls as low as 38 per cent. The average in the coalfields, in contrast, is that 57 per cent work in manual occupations. All the coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales have an occupational structure that is skewed towards manual occupations:

% of residents in work in manual jobs, 2011

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| N Staffordshire | 62 |
| West Cumbria | 61 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 59 |
| Nottinghamshire | 58 |
| N Derbyshire | 58 |
| Yorkshire | 57 |
| N Warwickshire | 57 |
| South Wales | 57 |
| Fife | 57 |
| S Staffordshire | 56 |
| Northumberland | 55 |
| Durham | 55 |
| Lancashire | 55 |
| Lothian | 53 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 52 |
| Kent | 52 |
| <i>GB average</i> | 48 |

The coalfields also have a high proportion of workers with few or no formal qualifications. Taking just England and Wales (the data for Scotland is compiled differently and therefore not comparable) the averages expressed as a share of all working age residents are:

¹¹ The figures for two coalfield areas that diverge from the general pattern are likely to be explained by high wages in specific local employers – Sellafield (in West Cumbria) and Pfizer (in Kent, but closed since the most recent figures were produced).

| | No qualifications (%) | Level 1 only (%) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| E & W coalfields average | 20 | 18 |
| England & Wales average | 15 | 15 |
| SE England | 12 | 15 |
| London | 12 | 12 |

In the English and Welsh coalfields, the proportion of the working age population with low or no qualifications is roughly 60 per cent higher than in London and 40 per cent higher than in South East England.

The low level of qualifications among coalfield residents is to an important extent the result of selective migration. Areas where job opportunities are poor, like the coalfields, tend to lose better qualified workers to the areas where jobs are more plentiful. These days, one of the main mechanisms through which this occurs is when young people move away to university and then stay away when they move into employment. Successive cohorts of bright, well-qualified youngsters are being stripped from the coalfields and other weaker local economies.

On average, educational achievement in the coalfields – based on the share of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE – is the same in the coalfields as the England and Wales average, at 83 per cent. The South Wales coalfield, at 76 per cent, lags a little behind. Durham, at 90 per cent, is faring impressively well.

These figures (for 2012) differ from comparable figures for the late 1990s¹² which pointed to educational under-performance in the coalfields. In the intervening years it would appear either that the coalfields have caught up with the national average or that, with rising national standards, the ‘five A*-Cs’ measure no longer captures the extent of educational inequality.

Unemployment (Tables 17-20)

Unemployment is a lot wider than the numbers out-of-work on Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA). Over the last thirty years the benefits system has very effectively diverted the unemployed onto other benefits or out of the system altogether.

Claimant unemployment in the coalfields – the numbers on JSA – at an average of 3.7 per cent in February 2014 is only 0.7 percentage points above the GB average. Even in Northumberland, the coalfield with the highest JSA claimant rate, it is only 1.9 percentage points above the GB average. It would be wrong, however, to

¹² T Gore and N Smith (2001) op. cit.

interpret these figures as showing that coalfield unemployment is only marginally worse than average.

The overall numbers on out-of-work benefits provide a wider view. These figures add in incapacity claimants¹³ and lone parents on Income Support as well as JSA claimants. The out-of-work benefit claimant rate in the coalfields presents a strikingly different picture:

Out-of-work benefit claimant rate (%), August 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| South Wales | 17.1 |
| Durham | 15.8 |
| Fife | 15.7 |
| West Cumbria | 15.3 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 15.2 |
| Northumberland | 14.7 |
| N Staffordshire | 14.7 |
| Lancashire | 14.5 |
| Yorkshire | 13.6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 12.9 |
| N Derbyshire | 12.6 |
| Lothian | 11.6 |
| S Staffordshire | 10.4 |
| Kent | 10.4 |
| N Warwickshire | 10.1 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 8.3 |
| <i>Coalfields average</i> | <i>14.1</i> |
| <i>GB average</i> | <i>10.9</i> |
| <i>SE England average</i> | <i>7.6</i> |

There are two key points here.

First, the overall out-of-work claimant rate is far in excess of the JSA claimant rate. Across the GB coalfields as a whole, one-in-seven of all adults of working age – 14 per cent – are out-of-work on benefits.

Second, the out-of-work benefit claimant rate in most of the larger coalfields is well ahead of the GB average (by between 3 and 6 percentage points) and approaching double the level in South East England. The South Wales coalfield, with a working age benefit claimant rate of 17 per cent, is an especially stark example.

The very high out-of-work claimant rate in the coalfields is driven in particular by a very high incapacity benefit claimant rate:

¹³ Claimants of Incapacity Benefit (including Income Support on the grounds of incapacity), Severe Disablement Allowance, and Employment and Support Allowance.

Incapacity benefit claimant rate (%), August 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| South Wales | 11.2 |
| West Cumbria | 9.7 |
| Durham | 9.1 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 9.1 |
| N Staffordshire | 9.0 |
| Fife | 8.7 |
| Lancashire | 8.5 |
| N Derbyshire | 7.9 |
| Yorkshire | 7.8 |
| Northumberland | 7.7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7.6 |
| Lothian | 7.0 |
| Kent | 6.9 |
| S Staffordshire | 6.3 |
| N Warwickshire | 5.8 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 5.0 |
| <i>Coalfields average</i> | <i>8.4</i> |
| <i>GB average</i> | <i>6.2</i> |
| <i>SE England average</i> | <i>4.5</i> |

Back in the 1980s and 90s, ex-miners made up a high proportion of the incapacity claimants but they have now mostly passed out of the figures as they have reached state pension age, to be replaced by a younger generation of workers with poor health and/or disability who find it hard to find work in a difficult and competitive labour market.

That the coalfields have a very high incapacity claimant rate is not a new observation. It is well documented that the principal labour market adjustment in response to the loss of mining jobs was in fact a big increase in the numbers on incapacity benefits rather than on unemployment benefits¹⁴. The diversion onto incapacity benefits has for many years hidden the true scale of unemployment and labour market distress in the coalfields.

Two wider measures of unemployment address the shortcomings of the JSA claimant rate, though in both cases the data is only available for local authority districts. The first is the ILO (International Labour Organisation) measure, which is based on survey data and counts those who are out-of-work, available for work and looking for work. This is the basis of the headline national figure of 2.3m unemployed in early 2014. The ILO unemployment rate in coalfield districts averaged 6.9 per cent in the year to September 2013.

¹⁴ See in particular C Beatty, S Fothergill and R Powell (2007) op.cit.

The other measure is 'real unemployment', which adds in those on incapacity benefits who might reasonably be expected to have been in work in a fully employed economy. The real unemployment estimates are based on comparisons with the parts of the country where the economy is operating at or close to full employment and also adjust for underlying differences in the incidence of incapacitating ill health or disability¹⁵. The real level of unemployment in coalfield districts averaged 10.1 per cent in April 2012. In the South Wales coalfield the estimated real unemployment rate was almost 14 per cent.

Since the onset of recession in 2008, JSA unemployment in the coalfields has increased by slightly more than the national average. The overall out-of-work benefit claimant rate in the coalfields has actually fallen, and by more than the national average, in part no doubt because the squeeze on the numbers claiming incapacity benefits.

What the changes since 2008 tell us is that the problem in the coalfields is not that the recession hit so much harder than elsewhere but that the coalfields entered the recession with an already weak labour market, a long way off full employment.

Youth unemployment in the coalfields can be measured from the 2011 Census of Population, which uses the ILO definition of unemployment. All bar two small coalfields have youth unemployment rates above the GB average, though generally only by 2-4 percentage points:

Unemployed 16-24s (%), 2011

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Northumberland | 16.5 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 16.4 |
| Durham | 15.6 |
| Fife | 15.5 |
| Lancashire | 14.5 |
| Yorkshire | 14.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14.5 |
| South Wales | 14.5 |
| N Derbyshire | 14.0 |
| S Staffordshire | 14.0 |
| West Cumbria | 13.6 |
| N Staffordshire | 13.1 |
| Kent | 13.1 |
| N Warwickshire | 12.9 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 11.4 |
| Lothian | 11.1 |
| <i>GB average</i> | 12.2 |

¹⁵ See C Beatty, S Fothergill and T Gore (2012) *The Real Level of Unemployment 2012*, CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University.

Other welfare benefits (Tables 21-22)

A good measure of the extent of low income among older people is provided by the Pension Credit claimant rate. This shows that in most coalfields more than a quarter of all over-65s are claiming Pension Credits:

% of over-65s claiming Pension Credit, August 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Durham | 32 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 30 |
| South Wales | 30 |
| Lancashire | 29 |
| N Staffordshire | 28 |
| West Cumbria | 27 |
| Yorkshire | 26 |
| S Staffordshire | 26 |
| N Warwickshire | 26 |
| Northumberland | 26 |
| N Derbyshire | 26 |
| <i>GB average</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>SE England average</i> | <i>17</i> |

These figures suggest that the incidence of 'pensioner poverty' in most coalfields is at least 50 per cent higher than in the South East of England.

Welfare reform is also set to bite deeper. Estimates show the overall financial loss, by local authority, expected to arise from the reforms when they have come to full fruition (mostly by 2015/16 but in a few cases later)¹⁶. The impact is expected to be significantly greater in most coalfield districts than across the country as a whole. In South Wales, for example, the annual financial loss is expected to average £670 per adult of working age – 40 per cent above the GB average and 80 per cent above the average impact in the South East of England.

Substantial elements of the welfare reform package focus on reducing eligibility for incapacity and disability benefits, so it is hardly surprising that the coalfields are hit especially hard. It should also be kept in mind that the reforms to incapacity and disability benefits are among the last to come to full fruition, so by 2014 much of the impact is still to be felt.

¹⁶ C Beatty and S Fothergill (2013) *Hitting the Poorest Places Hardest: the local and regional impact of welfare reform*, CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University

Housing (Tables 23-24)

In terms of tenure, the composition of the housing stock in the coalfields does not differ fundamentally from the national average. Around two-thirds of households, in the coalfields and nationally, are owner-occupiers. Social housing, rather than private renting, is a little more prevalent among other household in the coalfields though not markedly or consistently.

Estimates by the Department for Energy and Climate Change suggest that, in England, fuel poverty is more widespread in coalfield districts than across England as a whole. This is consistent with the higher numbers out-of-work and/or claiming benefits.

Deprivation (Table 25)

The Westminster government and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all produce highly sophisticated indices of deprivation but these have not been designed to be comparable between the four countries. A Cambridge team has however re-worked the data to produce deprivation statistics for the UK as a whole¹⁷.

The coalfields generally lack the acute segregation between rich and poor areas that often develops within cities, so coalfield neighbourhoods tend not to be among the very most deprived. In the coalfields, poverty and deprivation tends to be more evenly spread across larger areas. The share of LSOAs (or datazones) in the worst 30 per cent therefore provides the best guide to coalfield deprivation:

% of LSOAs/datazones in most deprived 30 % in GB

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------------------|-----------|
| South Wales | 54 | S Staffordshire | 24 |
| West Cumbria | 52 | N Warwickshire | 23 |
| Durham | 51 | Lothian | 23 |
| N Staffordshire | 51 | S Derbys/NW Leics | 11 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 50 | Kent | 10 |
| Lancashire | 48 | | |
| Fife | 45 | <i>Coalfields average</i> | <i>43</i> |
| Northumberland | 43 | <i>GB average</i> | <i>30</i> |
| Yorkshire | 42 | | |
| Nottinghamshire | 38 | | |
| N Derbyshire | 38 | | |

¹⁷ R Payne and G Abel (2012) UK indices of multiple deprivation – a way to make comparisons across constituent countries easier, *Health Statistics Quarterly*, vol 53, pp 1-16.

These figures provide a snapshot based on data for the late 2000s. What they show is that, taken as a whole, the coalfields are significantly more deprived than the GB average.

Overall, 43 per cent of coalfield neighbourhoods are among the most deprived 30 per cent in Britain. In South Wales, West Cumbria, Durham and North Staffordshire the proportion is above 50 per cent.

The figures also show that there is a group of five smaller coalfields with *below-average* levels of deprivation. These are South Staffordshire, North Warwickshire, Lothian, S Derbyshire/NW Leicestershire and Kent. These figures on deprivation are consistent with quite a number of the statistics presented earlier, which also point to lower levels of social and economic disadvantage in these places.

Collectively, however, these five less deprived coalfields have a population of only 665,000 – less than the population of the South Wales coalfield (757,000) and way behind that of Yorkshire (1.2m). The five less deprived coalfields account for just 12 per cent of the overall coalfield population.

3. THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING TO COMMUNITIES

A strong community spirit and a dense network of family and social ties have long been defining features of coalfield communities. But if coalfield communities are to cope with the complex array of social and economic problems documented in the statistics they also need financial support.

This part of the report deploys national survey data and evidence from discussions with community organisations to review the availability of funding to coalfield communities.

National survey evidence

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises¹⁸ provides the most comprehensive evidence on the availability of funding to charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in England¹⁹. These organisations go by many names and many consider themselves to be a community group, a co-operative or mutual, a club or society, or a non-profit organisation, housing association, faith group or trust. The most recent survey, carried out in the autumn of 2010, involved responses from more than 44,000 organisations.

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises provides statistics for each of 151 upper-tier local authorities (i.e. counties and unitaries). The number of local organisations responding in each of these – typically around 200 in an authority of 200-300,000 people – offers a reliable guide to local views on the availability of funding.

The former coalfields in England do not fit neatly into the boundaries of upper-tier local authorities, but 13 authorities where the coalfield forms a large part of the authority as a whole can be used as a guide. Two questions in the survey are of particular relevance here.

The first asked the leaders of organisations whether over the last 12 months they had sufficient income from all sources (including grants, lottery, earned income and fundraising etc.) to meet their main objectives. In the 13 predominantly coalfield authorities the responses were:

¹⁸ National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises, carried out by Ipsos MORI for the Office for Civil Society, Cabinet Office <http://www.nscsesurvey.com>

¹⁹ Comparable information is not available for Scotland and Wales.

**% of community organisations reporting
insufficient overall income**

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| South Tyneside | 59 |
| Barnsley | 45 |
| Wakefield | 45 |
| Doncaster | 45 |
| Rotherham | 44 |
| Durham County | 42 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 40 |
| Sunderland | 39 |
| Nottinghamshire | 39 |
| Wigan | 39 |
| <i>All England average</i> | 36 |
| St Helens | 35 |
| Derbyshire | 32 |
| Northumberland | 32 |

Source: NSCSE

In this instance, in 10 of the 13 coalfield authorities, organisations were more likely than the national average to report a shortfall in income. It is also worth noting that two of the authorities where a below-average shortfall in income was recorded (Derbyshire and Northumberland) include substantial rural areas as well as former mining communities.

The second relevant question asked whether organisations were satisfied with the range of grants available locally:

**% of community organisations expressing
dissatisfaction with range of grants available locally**

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Rotherham | 39 |
| Doncaster | 38 |
| South Tyneside | 38 |
| Barnsley | 37 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 35 |
| Wigan | 33 |
| Durham County | 30 |
| Sunderland | 30 |
| St Helens | 28 |
| Wakefield | 28 |
| Nottinghamshire | 27 |
| Northumberland | 25 |
| <i>All England average</i> | 24 |
| Derbyshire | 23 |

Source: NSCSE

In this instance, the organisations in all bar one of the coalfield authorities expressed an above-average dissatisfaction with the availability of grants locally.

These key statistics from the most comprehensive official survey of the community and voluntary sector provide strong evidence that in the former coalfields the availability of funding is distinctly more problematic than average.

The figures are for England only, but in so far as they reflect underlying social circumstances and inequalities it is reasonable to suppose that the situation in the former coalfields of Scotland and Wales will be broadly similar.

All these figures, from 2010, pre-date subsequent cuts in public spending.

Cuts in local authority funding

The cuts in central government funding to local authorities since 2010 are likely to have rebounded on the community and voluntary sector. Local authorities are often a source of financial support, service delivery contracts and advice, and the community sector may often have had to take second place to statutory claims on resources.

Monitoring the impact of local authority funding cuts is not easy. Local authority funding is labyrinthine in its complexity and there is the added complication that funding arrangements differ between England, Scotland and Wales.

Analysis by Newcastle City Council²⁰ finds a clear relationship between the scale of funding cuts and the level of deprivation. Councils in the ten most deprived areas of England face cuts in government funding averaging 25.3 per cent between the financial years 2010-11 and 2015-16, compared to just 2.5 per cent in the ten least deprived areas.

The scale of the cuts facing individual authorities in the coalfields will vary. The clear implication of the Newcastle analysis, however, is that as relatively deprived areas the former coalfields in England (though not necessarily Scotland or Wales) are likely to have local authorities with above-average cuts in funding. In turn, this is likely to have added to the local demand for community and voluntary services and exacerbated existing funding shortfalls in the sector.

Overall, the voluntary and community sector's income from government is now falling, and it is currently projected to carry on falling through to at least 2017²¹.

²⁰ Reported in the *Guardian* 30 January 2014.

²¹ National Council for Voluntary Organisations (2014) *UK Civil Society Almanac 2014*, NCVO, London.

The density of voluntary sector organisations

The problems facing the former coalfields are compounded by the uneven distribution of voluntary sector organisations across the country.

The best evidence here comes from a study drawing on the 2008 version of the national survey data on the charitable and social sector²². This looked at the location of voluntary organisations working at the neighbourhood scale and compared this with local area deprivation statistics, from the government's Indices of Deprivation. The figures are again England-only, but there is no reason to suppose that the general relationships do not also apply in Scotland and Wales.

The study found that there is a much higher concentration of local voluntary organisations in less deprived areas. On average, in the least deprived 20 per cent of areas there are 1.6 local voluntary organisations per 1,000 people. In the most deprived 20 per cent this falls to 0.6 per 1,000, though in the most deprived 5 per cent of all the number rises again to 0.8 per 1,000.

The significance of this observation for the former coalfields is that a disproportionate share of coalfield LSOAs fall into the most deprived 30 per cent. We may safely assume, therefore, that although the former coalfields may still enjoy strong family and community networks they have one of the lowest densities of local voluntary sector organisations anywhere in Britain.

The view on the ground

During the course of April 2014 the research team interviewed senior staff from 20 voluntary and community sector organisations in the coalfields.

Eleven of the interviews were with Councils for Voluntary Service (or their equivalent) which oversee the sector and provide services at a district or county level. The eleven areas²³ covered major coalfields in Scotland, Wales and the English regions.

The remaining nine interviews were with front-line service delivery organisations within these areas. The organisations included a Citizens Advice Bureau, a charity supporting older people, an adult education provider, a community arts project, two disability charities and three community centres.

²² D Clifford (2012) Voluntary sector organisations working at the neighbourhood level in England: patterns by local area deprivation, *Environment and Planning A*, vol 44, pp 1148-1164.

²³ Barnsley, Bolsover, Caerphilly, East Ayrshire, East Durham, Fife, Mansfield, St Helens, Wakefield Wansbeck (Northumberland) and Wigan.

The dominant theme, emerging from all the interviews, is the immense human and financial pressure now facing voluntary and community organisations in coalfield areas, and how in just about all cases this pressure has ratcheted up since 2010.

Sources of financial pressure

It comes as no surprise that the key source of financial pressure has been the reduction in public spending since 2010 that has been an integral part of the Coalition Government's deficit reduction strategy. These pressures have been felt in Scotland and Wales as well as in England.

- Local authorities can increasingly not be relied upon to provide grants to fund core activities. Where grant-aid continues, it is often for smaller sums or more specific activities. There are exceptions where local authorities have decided to protect particular services but these cases are not the norm.
- The winding-up of specific central government funding streams, notably the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in England, has rebounded on the scale of voluntary and community sector activity in the coalfields.
- Welfare-to-work activities have mostly been rolled up into the Work Programme and in practice have offered little scope for involvement by smaller, voluntary sector players.
- In North East England, the demise of the Northern Rock Foundation – a victim of the financial crisis – has added a further twist to the difficulties.
- The reduction in funding from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust (CRT) since the beginning of the decade has already made itself felt with several organisations reporting that they can no longer access larger sums from CRT or support specific activities with CRT funding.

Ways of adapting

Few voluntary and community organisations are willing to give up without a fight, though the Councils for Voluntary Service do report instances of closures and of organisations that are now reduced to working on a shoe-string. More frequently, the approach is to try to adapt and survive, often by operating on a reduced scale and by trying to generate new revenue streams.

- More voluntary and community organisations are bidding for contracts as a way of securing funding. This isn't an option available to all organisations and it is unavoidably hit-and-miss in terms of its outcomes. It also brings the community and voluntary sector into direct competition with large private-sector providers and sometimes with public sector bodies.
- The Lottery – and in particular BIG Lottery – is increasingly relied upon to fund activities. Lottery funding is usually short-term, and only rarely renewable.

- There is a scramble to generate income through commercial activities. This includes renting out surplus office space and letting out rooms for conferences, weddings and other functions.
- Charitable donations and other fund raising are also being pursued with greater vigour.
- Where the number of paid staff has had to be reduced there is a greater reliance on volunteers. Where paid staff have been retained, this is often on reduced hours and in some cases there have been no pay increases for several years.
- Drawing on financial reserves to maintain the funding of core activities is a common approach, though there is recognition that this is not a sustainable strategy.
- There have been mergers between organisations in neighbouring areas, ultimately aimed at reducing costs.

The scale of the cuts: some examples

- In Bolsover, the Community and Voluntary Partnership used to receive £300,000 a year in government funding – five times its core budget. All this government funding has gone.
- Still in Bolsover, in 2011-12 groups with an income of more than £50,000 a year accounted for 29 per cent of all voluntary organisations in the district. By the following year (2012-13) this was down to just 13 per cent.
- Mansfield used to have 12 community development workers across all agencies. Now this is reduced to “just one or two”.
- In Wansbeck in Northumberland (which covers the Ashington area) the Council for Voluntary Service has reduced its staffing from 41 to 15.
- In St Helens, the Council for Voluntary Service has cut its staff from 48 to 28, with many of the remaining 28 reducing their hours.
- In Wakefield, a merger between the Council for Voluntary Service and the Wellbeing Consortium involved losing 50 per cent of the staff.
- In Wigan, the local authority funding for the Council for Voluntary Service went down from £135,000 to £50,000 to zero in successive years.
- Staff working for the Bellsbank Project, an adult education provider in East Ayrshire, have not had a pay rise for seven years.

- The St Helens Deafness Resource Centre used to have an income of around £500,000 a year. It's now down to around £250,000.

Prognosis for the future

A number of the organisations interviewed were essentially 'hanging on' for the future, getting by on the basis of whatever funding they could assemble, and had little conception of what the final outcome would be. The widespread use of financial reserves to fund day-to-day activities is indicative of the unsustainability of present business models and structures.

There is little optimism that the situation will improve. In particular, there is an awareness that reductions to local authority funding are likely to continue for a number of years. This major source of funding for the voluntary and community sector in the former coalfields is expected to dwindle, if not in some cases disappear entirely.

4. AN ASSESSMENT

The statistics on the coalfields present an apparently complex picture. On a small number of indicators, the coalfields are broadly in line with the national average:

- Age structure of the population
- Extent of part-time working
- Educational achievement at GCSE
- Housing tenure

On a rather larger number of indicators, the coalfields are adrift of the national average but not by a huge margin:

- Population growth
- Life expectancy
- Job loss during the recession
- Average earnings (outside London and South East)
- JSA unemployment rate
- Increase in unemployment during the recession
- Youth unemployment

But there is a much longer list of indicators on which the coalfields are, on average, seriously adrift of the national average:

- Extent of ill health
- DLA claimant rate
- Job density
- Business stock
- Business formation rate
- Employment rate
- Occupational structure
- Workforce qualifications
- Incapacity benefit claimant rate
- Overall working-age claimant rate
- Wider measures of unemployment
- Pension Credit claimant rate
- Financial loss arising from welfare reform

Unsurprisingly, the effect of being adrift of the national average on so many indicators is that on average the coalfields have significantly above-average levels of deprivation.

Although this statistical picture is seemingly complex it does tell a clear story. The first important point is that the disadvantage in the coalfields is deep-seated rather

than rooted in the post-2008 recession. In fact, the recession only marginally widened the gap in prosperity and well-being that was already there before 2008.

For those familiar with the coalfields this is perhaps a self-evident observation but it needs to be emphasised. The core of the problem in the coalfields goes back much further, to the job losses of the 1980s and 90s and also to the fact that even before the pit closures the coalfields were plagued by high unemployment. Additionally, a local occupational structure that has long been skewed towards manual work, including of course in the coal industry, has contributed to widespread ill health.

The combination of an imbalance in the local labour market and poor health has generated distinctive outcomes. Unemployment is high in the coalfields but it takes unconventional forms. In particular, because worklessness often comes to rest with those in poor health, who are rarely employers' first choice, the unemployed have often been diverted onto incapacity benefits. The low job density in the coalfields and the low employment rate should really be understood as driving the high IB and DLA claimant rates and the high overall working-age benefit claimant rate.

In effect, the job losses of the 1980s and 90s still cast a very long shadow. The coalfield economy never did recover fully prior to the 2008 recession and this is reflected in a wide range of contemporary socio-economic data.

The statistics demonstrate that there is an on-going need for economic regeneration in the coalfields and that in the meantime coalfield communities remain under acute stress. Indeed, the welfare reforms that are currently underway – and still have some way to run – are hitting the coalfields disproportionately hard.

Against this backdrop, the evident crisis in the voluntary and community sector is deeply worrying. The national survey data shows that even back in 2010 there were greater funding problems in the coalfields than elsewhere in the country. The new age of austerity has compounded these difficulties, as the interviews with organisations in the coalfields show only too clearly.

There is also another important conclusion to emerge from the study. This is that it is increasingly misleading to generalise about 'the coalfields' a whole. What is true about the coalfields *on average* does not necessarily apply to every *individual coalfield area*.

On a wide range of socio-economic statistics there is evidence that a group of smaller coalfields are distinctly less disadvantaged than the rest. This group comprises South Staffordshire, North Warwickshire, S Derbyshire/NW Leicestershire, Kent and Lothian. Their relative prosperity is clearest in the statistics on deprivation but also shines through a number of other indicators. Within each of these areas there will still be communities and households that face acute disadvantage, but on average in each of these areas the recovery from coal job losses now seems well entrenched. This is perhaps partly because the absolute scale of the job loss was less than elsewhere and partly because residents in each of these areas have been able to benefit from jobs and growth in surrounding areas.

On the other hand, if these five coalfields were to be excluded from the statistics, the average for the remaining coalfields would be significantly worse. Growth and prosperity in these five smaller coalfields is helping to hide the scale of problems elsewhere.

On balance, the evidence provides a compelling case that most of the coalfield communities of England, Scotland and Wales require support. The miners' strike of 1984/5 may now be receding into history but the job losses that followed in its wake are still part of the everyday economic reality of most mining communities. The consequences are still all too visible in statistics on jobs, unemployment, benefits and health.

Statistical appendix

Table 1: Population, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | Population |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Northumberland | 145,000 |
| Durham | 599,000 |
| Lancashire | 566,000 |
| West Cumbria | 65,000 |
| Yorkshire | 1,218,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 526,000 |
| North Derbyshire | 332,000 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 165,000 |
| North Staffordshire | 279,000 |
| South Staffordshire | 122,000 |
| North Warwickshire | 190,000 |
| Kent | 44,000 |
| South Wales | 757,000 |
| Fife | 267,000 |
| Lothian | 144,000 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 125,000 |
| All GB coalfields | 5,540,000 |
| North East | 2,600,000 |
| North West | 7,050,000 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 5,280,000 |
| East Midlands | 4,530,000 |
| West Midlands | 5,600,000 |
| Eastern England | 5,850,000 |
| London | 8,170,000 |
| South East | 8,630,000 |
| South West | 5,290,000 |
| Wales | 3,060,000 |
| Scotland | 5,300,000 |
| Great Britain | 61,370,000 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 2: Age distribution of population, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | % of total population | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 0-15 | 16-64 | 65+ |
| Northumberland | 18 | 64 | 19 |
| Durham | 18 | 64 | 18 |
| Lancashire | 19 | 65 | 16 |
| West Cumbria | 18 | 64 | 18 |
| Yorkshire | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| Nottinghamshire | 19 | 64 | 18 |
| North Derbyshire | 18 | 64 | 18 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| North Staffordshire | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| South Staffordshire | 19 | 65 | 17 |
| North Warwickshire | 20 | 65 | 16 |
| Kent | 18 | 62 | 20 |
| South Wales | 19 | 64 | 18 |
| Fife | 18 | 65 | 17 |
| Lothian | 19 | 65 | 17 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 18 | 65 | 17 |
| All GB coalfields | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| North East | 18 | 65 | 17 |
| North West | 19 | 65 | 17 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 19 | 65 | 17 |
| East Midlands | 19 | 65 | 17 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 64 | 17 |
| Eastern England | 19 | 64 | 18 |
| London | 20 | 69 | 11 |
| South East | 19 | 64 | 17 |
| South West | 18 | 63 | 20 |
| Wales | 18 | 64 | 18 |
| Scotland | 17 | 66 | 17 |
| Great Britain | 19 | 65 | 17 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 3: Population growth, 2001-2011

| Coalfields / regions | no. | % |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Northumberland | 5,100 | 3.6 |
| Durham | -600 | -0.1 |
| Lancashire | 23,000 | 4.2 |
| West Cumbria | 1,600 | 2.5 |
| Yorkshire | 32,600 | 2.8 |
| Nottinghamshire | 23,400 | 4.7 |
| North Derbyshire | 13,800 | 4.3 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 15,900 | 10.6 |
| North Staffordshire | 5,700 | 2.1 |
| South Staffordshire | 6,400 | 5.5 |
| North Warwickshire | 6,700 | 3.6 |
| Kent | 2,200 | 5.3 |
| South Wales | 23,600 | 3.2 |
| Fife | 13,700 | 5.4 |
| Lothian | 10,200 | 6.9 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 3,900 | 3.6 |
| All GB coalfields | 187,000 | 3.5 |
| North East | 81,000 | 3.2 |
| North West | 322,000 | 4.8 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 319,000 | 6.4 |
| East Midlands | 361,000 | 8.7 |
| West Midlands | 335,000 | 6.4 |
| Eastern England | 459,000 | 8.5 |
| London | 1,002,000 | 14.0 |
| South East | 634,000 | 7.9 |
| South West | 361,000 | 7.3 |
| Wales | 160,000 | 5.5 |
| Scotland | 233,000 | 4.6 |
| Great Britain | 4,267,000 | 7.5 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 4: Average life expectancy (district data)

| Coalfields / regions | At birth (yrs) | | At age 65 (yrs) | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Northumberland | 79 | 82 | 18 | 20 |
| Durham | 77 | 81 | 17 | 19 |
| Lancashire | 77 | 81 | 17 | 19 |
| West Cumbria | 78 | 82 | 18 | 20 |
| Yorkshire | 77 | 81 | 17 | 20 |
| Nottinghamshire | 78 | 82 | 17 | 20 |
| North Derbyshire | 78 | 82 | 17 | 20 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 79 | 82 | 18 | 20 |
| North Staffordshire | 77 | 81 | 17 | 19 |
| South Staffordshire | 77 | 82 | 17 | 20 |
| North Warwickshire | 78 | 82 | 17 | 20 |
| Kent | 79 | 82 | 18 | 21 |
| South Wales | 76 | 81 | 17 | 19 |
| Fife | 76 | 81 | 17 | 20 |
| Lothian | 77 | 81 | 17 | 19 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 75 | 80 | 16 | 19 |
| All GB coalfields | 77 | 81 | 17 | 20 |
| North East | 77 | 81 | 17 | 20 |
| North West | 77 | 81 | 17 | 20 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 78 | 82 | 18 | 20 |
| East Midlands | 78 | 82 | 18 | 21 |
| West Midlands | 78 | 82 | 18 | 21 |
| Eastern England | 80 | 83 | 19 | 21 |
| London | 79 | 83 | 18 | 21 |
| South East | 80 | 84 | 19 | 21 |
| South West | 79 | 83 | 19 | 21 |
| Wales | 78 | 82 | 18 | 20 |
| Scotland | 76 | 80 | 17 | 19 |
| Great Britain | 78 | 82 | 18 | 20 |

Source: ONS data for 2008-10

Table 5: Poor health, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | % of residents | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | General health bad or very bad | Long-term health problem: day-to-day activities limited a lot |
| Northumberland | 7.6 | 11.1 |
| Durham | 8.6 | 12.6 |
| Lancashire | 7.5 | 11.3 |
| West Cumbria | 7.7 | 11.8 |
| Yorkshire | 7.4 | 11.2 |
| Nottinghamshire | 7.1 | 11.0 |
| North Derbyshire | 7.6 | 11.6 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 5.3 | 8.6 |
| North Staffordshire | 7.9 | 11.8 |
| South Staffordshire | 6.7 | 10.3 |
| North Warwickshire | 6.0 | 9.1 |
| Kent | 6.4 | 10.2 |
| South Wales | 9.8 | 14.9 |
| Fife | 6.1 | 10.7 |
| Lothian | 5.1 | 9.1 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 6.9 | 11.7 |
| All GB coalfields | 7.6 | 11.7 |
| North East | 7.4 | 11.0 |
| North West | 6.8 | 10.3 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 6.0 | 9.1 |
| East Midlands | 5.6 | 8.7 |
| West Midlands | 6.1 | 9.1 |
| Eastern England | 4.7 | 7.4 |
| London | 5.0 | 6.7 |
| South East | 4.3 | 6.9 |
| South West | 5.2 | 8.3 |
| Wales | 7.6 | 11.9 |
| Scotland | 5.6 | 9.6 |
| Great Britain | 5.6 | 8.6 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 6: Disability Living Allowance claimant rate, August 2013

| Coalfields / regions | % of pop. aged 16-59 | % of total population |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Northumberland | 5.7 | 7.2 |
| Durham | 6.1 | 8.2 |
| Lancashire | 5.8 | 7.8 |
| West Cumbria | 6.7 | 7.9 |
| Yorkshire | 5.6 | 7.6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 6.0 | 7.3 |
| North Derbyshire | 6.4 | 7.9 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 4.1 | 5.1 |
| North Staffordshire | 6.0 | 7.8 |
| South Staffordshire | 5.3 | 6.8 |
| North Warwickshire | 4.8 | 6.3 |
| Kent | 6.0 | 6.6 |
| South Wales | 7.6 | 10.7 |
| Fife | 6.0 | 7.3 |
| Lothian | 5.5 | 6.7 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 6.6 | 8.6 |
| All GB coalfields | 6.1 | 7.9 |
| North East | 5.5 | 7.0 |
| North West | 5.6 | 6.8 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 4.7 | 5.8 |
| East Midlands | 4.6 | 5.4 |
| West Midlands | 4.8 | 5.7 |
| Eastern England | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| London | 3.6 | 4.2 |
| South East | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| South West | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| Wales | 6.2 | 8.0 |
| Scotland | 5.7 | 6.6 |
| Great Britain | 4.6 | 5.4 |

Sources: DWP, ONS

Table 7: Employment, 2012

| Coalfields / regions | No. of employee jobs in area |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Northumberland | 36,800 |
| Durham | 186,600 |
| Lancashire | 205,300 |
| West Cumbria | 21,500 |
| Yorkshire | 432,300 |
| Nottinghamshire | 172,800 |
| North Derbyshire | 129,900 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 60,400 |
| North Staffordshire | 80,200 |
| South Staffordshire | 41,200 |
| North Warwickshire | 68,900 |
| Kent | 9,600 |
| South Wales | 196,600 |
| Fife | 83,700 |
| Lothian | 39,100 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 30,000 |
| All GB coalfields | 1,795,000 |
| North East | 1,002,000 |
| North West | 2,985,000 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 2,158,000 |
| East Midlands | 1,895,000 |
| West Midlands | 2,318,000 |
| Eastern England | 2,421,000 |
| London | 4,447,000 |
| South East | 3,767,000 |
| South West | 2,234,000 |
| Wales | 1,178,000 |
| Scotland | 2,316,000 |
| Great Britain | 26,720,000 |

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey

Table 8: Change in employment, 2008-12

| Coalfields / regions | No*. | % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Northumberland | -5,600 | -13.2 |
| Durham | -600 | -0.3 |
| Lancashire | -7,100 | -3.4 |
| West Cumbria | -700 | -3.3 |
| Yorkshire | -10,200 | -2.3 |
| Nottinghamshire | -5,200 | -2.9 |
| North Derbyshire | 5,000 | 4.0 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | -1,100 | -1.8 |
| North Staffordshire | 1,600 | 2.0 |
| South Staffordshire | -1,700 | -4.0 |
| North Warwickshire | 6,300 | 10.0 |
| Kent | -500 | -5.1 |
| South Wales | -8,100 | -3.9 |
| Fife | -11,200 | -11.8 |
| Lothian | -1,600 | -4.0 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | -4,700 | -13.5 |
| All GB coalfields | -46,000 | -2.5 |
| North East | -55,000 | -5.2 |
| North West | -24,000 | -0.8 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | -88,000 | -3.9 |
| East Midlands | -20,000 | -1.1 |
| West Midlands | -69,000 | -2.9 |
| Eastern England | -12,000 | -0.5 |
| London | 194,000 | 4.6 |
| South East | 0 | 0 |
| South West | -32,000 | -1.4 |
| Wales | -17,000 | -1.4 |
| Scotland | -147,000 | -6.0 |
| Great Britain | -270,000 | -1.0 |

*Excluding self-employed

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey

Table 9: Part-time employment

| Coalfields / regions | % of jobs* in area 2012 | Increase in p-t jobs 2008-2012 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Northumberland | 38 | -4,600 |
| Durham | 33 | 3,200 |
| Lancashire | 35 | 6,100 |
| West Cumbria | 38 | 200 |
| Yorkshire | 33 | -4,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 36 | -600 |
| North Derbyshire | 36 | 2,100 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 31 | 400 |
| North Staffordshire | 31 | 300 |
| South Staffordshire | 32 | 1,000 |
| North Warwickshire | 37 | 5,200 |
| Kent | 34 | -200 |
| South Wales | 36 | 3,900 |
| Fife | 32 | -4,600 |
| Lothian | 37 | 900 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 31 | -1,100 |
| All GB coalfields | 34 | 8,200 |
| North East | 35 | 3,000 |
| North West | 33 | 53,000 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 34 | -28,000 |
| East Midlands | 33 | 3,000 |
| West Midlands | 33 | 28,000 |
| Eastern England | 35 | 21,000 |
| London | 27 | 114,000 |
| South East | 33 | 30,000 |
| South West | 37 | 22,000 |
| Wales | 36 | 10,000 |
| Scotland | 33 | -27,000 |
| Great Britain | 33 | 228,000 |

*Excluding self-employed

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey

Table 10: Job density, 2012

| Coalfields / regions | no. of jobs* in area per 100 working age residents |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Northumberland | 40 |
| Durham | 48 |
| Lancashire | 56 |
| West Cumbria | 51 |
| Yorkshire | 55 |
| Nottinghamshire | 51 |
| North Derbyshire | 61 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 57 |
| North Staffordshire | 45 |
| South Staffordshire | 52 |
| North Warwickshire | 56 |
| Kent | 36 |
| South Wales | 41 |
| Fife | 48 |
| Lothian | 42 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 37 |
| All GB coalfields | 50 |
| North East | 59 |
| North West | 66 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 63 |
| East Midlands | 66 |
| West Midlands | 65 |
| Eastern England | 65 |
| London | 79 |
| South East | 68 |
| South West | 67 |
| Wales | 61 |
| Scotland | 66 |
| Great Britain | 67 |

*Excluding self-employed

Sources: Business Register and Employment Survey, Census of Population

Table 11: VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses, 2012 (district data)

| Coalfields / regions | per 10,000 residents | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Stock | New registrations |
| Northumberland | 300 | 29 |
| Durham | 220 | 24 |
| Lancashire | 254 | 29 |
| West Cumbria | 333 | 37 |
| Yorkshire | 251 | 28 |
| Nottinghamshire | 292 | 29 |
| North Derbyshire | 297 | 30 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 383 | 39 |
| North Staffordshire | 252 | 25 |
| South Staffordshire | 350 | 36 |
| North Warwickshire | 325 | 34 |
| Kent | 285 | 30 |
| South Wales | 208 | 21 |
| Fife | 236 | 25 |
| Lothian | 257 | 25 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 231 | 27 |
| All GB coalfields | 256 | 27 |
| North East | 245 | 28 |
| North West | 330 | 38 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 314 | 34 |
| East Midlands | 345 | 37 |
| West Midlands | 335 | 35 |
| Eastern England | 408 | 43 |
| London | 538 | 80 |
| South East | 441 | 48 |
| South West | 390 | 38 |
| Wales | 287 | 27 |
| Scotland | 299 | 33 |
| Great Britain | 377 | 43 |

Source: ONS

Table 12: Employment rates, 2011

| E & W coalfields /regions | % of working age (16-64) | % excluding students |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Northumberland | 68.0 | 70.7 |
| Durham | 68.0 | 70.7 |
| Lancashire | 70.2 | 73.1 |
| West Cumbria | 69.8 | 72.1 |
| Yorkshire | 70.3 | 73.1 |
| Nottinghamshire | 70.9 | 73.8 |
| North Derbyshire | 70.9 | 73.8 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 75.6 | 78.7 |
| North Staffordshire | 67.3 | 71.5 |
| South Staffordshire | 73.3 | 76.4 |
| North Warwickshire | 74.4 | 77.4 |
| Kent | 70.8 | 74.1 |
| South Wales | 65.7 | 69.2 |
| English and Welsh coalfields | 69.6 | 72.7 |
| North East | 67.0 | 71.6 |
| North West | 69.0 | 73.5 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 69.4 | 74.2 |
| East Midlands | 71.4 | 76.3 |
| West Midlands | 69.1 | 73.9 |
| Eastern England | 74.2 | 78.1 |
| London | 69.2 | 75.3 |
| South East | 74.7 | 79.2 |
| South West | 74.2 | 78.4 |
| Wales | 68.0 | 72.7 |
| England and Wales | 71.0 | 75.8 |

Source: Census of Population

| Scottish coalfields | % of 16-74 year olds | % excluding students |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fife | 61.4 | 63.4 |
| Lothian | 66.2 | 68.6 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 61.2 | 63.2 |
| Scottish coalfields | 62.6 | 64.7 |
| Scotland | 63.4 | 66.5 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 13: Median hourly earnings of residents, 2012 (district data)

| Coalfields / regions | GB=100 | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Male | Female |
| Northumberland | 98 | 92 |
| Durham | 89 | 96 |
| Lancashire | 92 | 95 |
| West Cumbria | 107 | 91 |
| Yorkshire | 88 | 86 |
| Nottinghamshire | 89 | 90 |
| North Derbyshire | 89 | 94 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 99 | 96 |
| North Staffordshire | 82 | 91 |
| South Staffordshire | 86 | 85 |
| North Warwickshire | 98 | 91 |
| Kent | 116 | 96 |
| South Wales | 88 | 93 |
| Fife | 98 | 93 |
| Lothian | 85 | 98 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 96 | 100 |
| All GB coalfields | 92 | 93 |
| North East | 91 | 93 |
| North West | 93 | 95 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 91 | 92 |
| East Midlands | 93 | 92 |
| West Midlands | 92 | 93 |
| Eastern England | 105 | 100 |
| London | 121 | 135 |
| South East | 114 | 108 |
| South West | 94 | 96 |
| Wales | 90 | 92 |
| Scotland | 98 | 100 |
| Great Britain | 100 | 100 |

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Table 14: Occupational structure of residents in employment, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | % of the workforce | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Managers & professional | Other white collar | Skilled manual | Other manual |
| Northumberland | 22 | 23 | 12 | 43 |
| Durham | 21 | 23 | 12 | 43 |
| Lancashire | 22 | 23 | 12 | 43 |
| West Cumbria | 19 | 19 | 15 | 46 |
| Yorkshire | 22 | 21 | 13 | 44 |
| Nottinghamshire | 22 | 21 | 14 | 44 |
| North Derbyshire | 22 | 21 | 14 | 44 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 26 | 22 | 13 | 39 |
| North Staffordshire | 19 | 19 | 15 | 47 |
| South Staffordshire | 21 | 22 | 15 | 41 |
| North Warwickshire | 21 | 23 | 13 | 44 |
| Kent | 26 | 22 | 13 | 39 |
| South Wales | 21 | 22 | 13 | 44 |
| Fife | 21 | 22 | 13 | 44 |
| Lothian | 22 | 26 | 14 | 39 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 20 | 21 | 15 | 44 |
| All GB coalfields | 21 | 22 | 13 | 44 |
| North East | 24 | 23 | 12 | 41 |
| North West | 26 | 23 | 11 | 39 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 25 | 22 | 12 | 40 |
| East Midlands | 26 | 22 | 12 | 40 |
| West Midlands | 26 | 23 | 12 | 39 |
| Eastern England | 28 | 25 | 12 | 35 |
| London | 34 | 28 | 8 | 30 |
| South East | 31 | 25 | 11 | 33 |
| South West | 28 | 23 | 14 | 36 |
| Wales | 25 | 22 | 14 | 40 |
| Scotland | 25 | 24 | 13 | 38 |
| Great Britain | 28 | 24 | 12 | 36 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 15: Highest qualifications, 2011

| E & W coalfields /regions | No qualifications | % of working age (16-64) residents | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4/5 | Other* |
| Northumberland | 18 | 17 | 20 | 15 | 22 | 7 |
| Durham | 19 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 21 | 8 |
| Lancashire | 19 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 21 | 8 |
| West Cumbria | 21 | 18 | 19 | 15 | 18 | 9 |
| Yorkshire | 21 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 20 | 9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 20 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 20 | 8 |
| North Derbyshire | 20 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 8 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 17 | 16 | 19 | 15 | 25 | 8 |
| North Staffordshire | 24 | 17 | 19 | 15 | 18 | 8 |
| South Staffordshire | 19 | 19 | 21 | 15 | 20 | 7 |
| North Warwickshire | 19 | 19 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 8 |
| Kent | 16 | 17 | 20 | 15 | 25 | 8 |
| South Wales | 23 | 17 | 19 | 13 | 21 | 7 |
| English and Welsh coalfields | 20 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 21 | 8 |
| North East | 18 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 24 | 8 |
| North West | 17 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 27 | 8 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 18 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 25 | 9 |
| East Midlands | 16 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 26 | 9 |
| West Midlands | 18 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 26 | 8 |
| Eastern England | 14 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 28 | 8 |
| London | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 41 | 12 |
| South East | 12 | 15 | 18 | 15 | 32 | 8 |
| South West | 13 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 30 | 8 |
| Wales | 18 | 15 | 18 | 15 | 27 | 7 |
| England & Wales | 15 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 30 | 9 |

*Other' includes apprenticeships
Source: Census of Population

| Scottish coalfields | No qualifications | % of all residents aged 16 and over | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4/5 |
| Fife | 31 | 26 | 13 | 11 | 20 |
| Lothian | 28 | 27 | 15 | 9 | 21 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 35 | 26 | 13 | 9 | 17 |
| Scottish coalfields | 31 | 26 | 14 | 10 | 20 |
| Scotland | 27 | 23 | 14 | 10 | 26 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 16: Share of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, 2012

| E & W coalfields / regions | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Northumberland | 84 |
| Durham | 90 |
| Lancashire | 83 |
| West Cumbria | 79 |
| Yorkshire | 84 |
| Nottinghamshire | 86 |
| North Derbyshire | 80 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 79 |
| North Staffordshire | 84 |
| South Staffordshire | 83 |
| North Warwickshire | 84 |
| Kent | 86 |
| South Wales* | 76 |
| English and Welsh coalfields | 83 |
| North East | 88 |
| North West | 84 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 84 |
| East Midlands | 83 |
| West Midlands | 86 |
| Eastern England | 81 |
| London | 84 |
| South East | 82 |
| South West | 80 |
| Wales | 78 |
| England and Wales | 83 |

*Based on local authority figures

Equivalent figures are not available for Scotland

Source: Department for Education

Table 17: Working age claimant rates, 2013/14

| Coalfields / regions | % of working age population | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | JSA | IB/SDA/ESA | IS as a lone parent | All out-of-work benefits |
| Northumberland | 4.9 | 7.7 | 1.6 | 14.7 |
| Durham | 4.4 | 9.1 | 1.6 | 15.8 |
| Lancashire | 3.7 | 8.5 | 1.6 | 14.5 |
| West Cumbria | 3.5 | 9.7 | 1.4 | 15.3 |
| Yorkshire | 3.9 | 7.8 | 1.4 | 13.6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3.5 | 7.6 | 1.5 | 12.9 |
| North Derbyshire | 3.0 | 7.9 | 1.3 | 12.6 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 1.9 | 5.0 | 0.9 | 8.3 |
| North Staffordshire | 3.6 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 14.7 |
| South Staffordshire | 2.3 | 6.3 | 1.2 | 10.4 |
| North Warwickshire | 2.3 | 5.8 | 1.4 | 10.1 |
| Kent | 2.5 | 6.9 | 1.2 | 10.4 |
| South Wales | 3.9 | 11.2 | 1.6 | 17.1 |
| Fife | 4.7 | 8.7 | 1.5 | 15.7 |
| Lothian | 3.2 | 7.0 | 1.4 | 11.6 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 4.3 | 9.1 | 1.3 | 15.2 |
| All GB coalfields | 3.7 | 8.4 | 1.5 | 14.1 |
| North East | 4.4 | 7.9 | 1.5 | 14.4 |
| North West | 3.4 | 7.9 | 1.4 | 13.3 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 3.9 | 6.4 | 1.3 | 12.2 |
| East Midlands | 2.8 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 10.3 |
| West Midlands | 3.7 | 6.2 | 1.4 | 12.0 |
| Eastern England | 2.3 | 4.8 | 1.1 | 8.7 |
| London | 3.0 | 5.6 | 1.4 | 10.7 |
| South East | 1.9 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 7.6 |
| South West | 2.0 | 5.6 | 1.0 | 8.9 |
| Wales | 3.5 | 8.4 | 1.4 | 13.6 |
| Scotland | 3.3 | 7.7 | 1.1 | 12.5 |
| Great Britain | 3.0 | 6.2 | 1.3 | 10.9 |

JSA: February 2014

Other working age benefits and total: August 2013

The total includes a small number of others on income related benefits

Sources: DWP, ONS

Table 18: Wider measures of unemployment 2012/13 (district data)

| Coalfields / regions | % of working age | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | ILO unemployment | 'Real' unemployment |
| Northumberland | 5.9 | 9.5 |
| Durham | 8.1 | 11.4 |
| Lancashire | 6.5 | 11.9 |
| West Cumbria | 5.2 | 9.6 |
| Yorkshire | 8.0 | 11.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 5.9 | 10.0 |
| North Derbyshire | 5.4 | 10.1 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 4.6 | 6.8 |
| North Staffordshire | 6.2 | 9.9 |
| South Staffordshire | 5.2 | 8.5 |
| North Warwickshire | 5.3 | 7.4 |
| Kent | 6.2 | 9.2 |
| South Wales | 7.5 | 13.9 |
| Fife | 6.9 | 11.5 |
| Lothian | 4.8 | 9.4 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 7.5 | 11.7 |
| All GB coalfields | 6.9 | 10.1 |
| North East | 7.9 | 11.8 |
| North West | 6.0 | 11.1 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 7.3 | 9.1 |
| East Midlands | 6.0 | 8.3 |
| West Midlands | 6.9 | 9.1 |
| Eastern England | 5.3 | 6.8 |
| London | 6.6 | 9.9 |
| South East | 5.1 | 6.0 |
| South West | 4.9 | 6.8 |
| Wales | 6.1 | 10.3 |
| Scotland | 6.0 | 9.9 |
| Great Britain | 6.1 | 8.8 |

ILO unemployment : October 2012 – September 2013

'Real unemployment': April 2012

Sources: Labour Force Survey, Sheffield Hallam University estimates

Table 19: Change in working age claimant rates, 2008-2013/14

| Coalfields / regions | Percent point | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | JSA | All out-of-work benefits |
| Northumberland | 1.3 | -0.5 |
| Durham | 1.5 | -0.8 |
| Lancashire | 1.1 | -1.0 |
| West Cumbria | 0.5 | -1.5 |
| Yorkshire | 1.6 | 0.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1.3 | -0.3 |
| North Derbyshire | 0.7 | -0.7 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| North Staffordshire | 0.9 | -1.4 |
| South Staffordshire | 0.5 | -0.6 |
| North Warwickshire | 0.3 | -0.3 |
| Kent | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| South Wales | 1.4 | -1.9 |
| Fife | 1.6 | 0.0 |
| Lothian | 1.7 | 0.9 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 1.8 | -0.2 |
| All GB coalfields | 1.3 | -0.6 |
| North East | 1.3 | -0.6 |
| North West | 0.9 | -0.4 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| East Midlands | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| West Midlands | 0.9 | -0.1 |
| Eastern England | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| London | 0.7 | -0.3 |
| South East | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| South West | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Wales | 1.3 | -0.9 |
| Scotland | 1.1 | -0.3 |
| Great Britain | 0.9 | -0.1 |

JSA: February 2008 to February 2014

All out-of-work benefits: August 2008 to August 2013

Sources: DWP, ONS

Table 20: Youth unemployment, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | % 16-24 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Northumberland | 16.5 |
| Durham | 15.6 |
| Lancashire | 14.5 |
| West Cumbria | 13.6 |
| Yorkshire | 14.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14.5 |
| North Derbyshire | 14.0 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 11.4 |
| North Staffordshire | 13.1 |
| South Staffordshire | 14.0 |
| North Warwickshire | 12.9 |
| Kent | 13.1 |
| South Wales | 14.5 |
| Fife | 15.5* |
| Lothian | 11.1* |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 16.4* |
| All GB coalfields* | 14.3 |
| North East | 14.1 |
| North West | 13.0 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 13.1 |
| East Midlands | 11.9 |
| West Midlands | 13.3 |
| Eastern England | 10.9 |
| London | 12.2 |
| South East | 10.3 |
| South West | 9.8 |
| Wales | 12.1 |
| Scotland | 9.0* |
| Great Britain* | 12.2 |

*Scottish figures exclude full-time students looking for work
Sources: Census of Population

Table 21: Pension Credit claimant rate, August 2013

| Coalfields /regions | % of persons aged over 65 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Northumberland | 25.7 |
| Durham | 32.0 |
| Lancashire | 29.4 |
| West Cumbria | 26.6 |
| Yorkshire | 26.4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 23.4 |
| North Derbyshire | 25.5 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 19.3 |
| North Staffordshire | 28.2 |
| South Staffordshire | 25.9 |
| North Warwickshire | 25.7 |
| Kent | 22.5 |
| South Wales | 29.6 |
| Fife | 24.9 |
| Lothian | 23.4 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 30.1 |
| All GB coalfields | 27.2 |
| North East | 30.2 |
| North West | 26.9 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 25.5 |
| East Midlands | 22.3 |
| West Midlands | 25.7 |
| Eastern England | 19.4 |
| London | 29.8 |
| South East | 17.2 |
| South West | 19.3 |
| Wales | 25.7 |
| Scotland | 26.4 |
| Great Britain | 23.6 |

Sources: DWP, ONS

Table 22: Estimated impact of welfare reform (district data)

| Coalfields / regions | £ loss pa per adult of working age |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Northumberland | 450 |
| Durham | 590 |
| Lancashire | 590 |
| West Cumbria | 460 |
| Yorkshire | 580 |
| Nottinghamshire | 500 |
| North Derbyshire | 520 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 380 |
| North Staffordshire | 590 |
| South Staffordshire | 490 |
| North Warwickshire | 460 |
| Kent | 490 |
| South Wales | 670 |
| Fife | 490 |
| Lothian | 480 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 540 |
| All GB coalfields | 550 |
| North East | 560 |
| North West | 560 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 500 |
| East Midlands | 450 |
| West Midlands | 490 |
| Eastern England | 400 |
| London | 520 |
| South East | 370 |
| South West | 430 |
| Scotland | 480 |
| Great Britain | 470 |

Source: Sheffield Hallam University estimates

Table 23: Housing tenure, 2011

| Coalfields / regions | % of households | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Owner-occupiers | Social rented | Private rented |
| Northumberland | 64 | 23 | 14 |
| Durham | 64 | 25 | 12 |
| Lancashire | 66 | 21 | 13 |
| West Cumbria | 64 | 26 | 10 |
| Yorkshire | 67 | 20 | 13 |
| Nottinghamshire | 69 | 17 | 14 |
| North Derbyshire | 66 | 21 | 13 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 74 | 14 | 12 |
| North Staffordshire | 64 | 23 | 13 |
| South Staffordshire | 70 | 17 | 13 |
| North Warwickshire | 71 | 17 | 13 |
| Kent | 70 | 14 | 17 |
| South Wales | 70 | 17 | 13 |
| Fife | 61 | 28 | 10 |
| Lothian | 64 | 27 | 9 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 63 | 29 | 8 |
| All GB coalfields | 67 | 21 | 13 |
| North East | 62 | 23 | 15 |
| North West | 65 | 18 | 17 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 65 | 18 | 17 |
| East Midlands | 68 | 16 | 16 |
| West Midlands | 66 | 19 | 16 |
| Eastern England | 68 | 16 | 16 |
| London | 50 | 24 | 26 |
| South East | 69 | 14 | 18 |
| South West | 68 | 13 | 19 |
| Wales | 68 | 17 | 16 |
| Scotland | 62 | 24 | 14 |
| Great Britain | 64 | 18 | 18 |

Source: Census of Population

Table 24: Fuel poverty, 2011 (district data)

| English coalfields / regions | Households in fuel poverty (%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Northumberland | 12.7 |
| Durham | 12.3 |
| Lancashire | 11.3 |
| West Cumbria | 11.3 |
| Yorkshire | 10.4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 13.5 |
| North Derbyshire | 12.6 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 12.5 |
| North Staffordshire | 15.1 |
| South Staffordshire | 11.8 |
| North Warwickshire | 12.7 |
| Kent | 10.0 |
| English coalfields | 12.1 |
| North East | 12.4 |
| North West | 12.5 |
| Yorkshire Humber | 11.0 |
| East Midlands | 13.3 |
| West Midlands | 13.8 |
| Eastern England | 10.2 |
| London | 9.9 |
| South East | 8.2 |
| South West | 9.4 |
| England | 10.9 |

Source: DECC

Table 25: Multiple deprivation

| Coalfields / regions | % LSOAs in most deprived 30% in UK |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Northumberland | 43 |
| Durham | 51 |
| Lancashire | 48 |
| West Cumbria | 52 |
| Yorkshire | 42 |
| Nottinghamshire | 38 |
| North Derbyshire | 38 |
| S Derbys/NW Leics | 11 |
| North Staffordshire | 51 |
| South Staffordshire | 24 |
| North Warwickshire | 23 |
| Kent | 10 |
| South Wales | 54 |
| Fife | 45 |
| Lothian | 23 |
| Ayrshire/Lanarkshire | 50 |
| All GB coalfields | 43 |
| North East | 45 |
| North West | 41 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 37 |
| East Midlands | 26 |
| West Midlands | 37 |
| Eastern England | 15 |
| London | 42 |
| South East | 13 |
| South West | 17 |
| Wales | 34 |
| Scotland | 32 |
| Great Britain | 30 |

Source: Payne and Abel (2012)

CRESR
Sheffield Hallam University
City Campus
Sheffield S1 1WB

0114 225 3073
e: cresr@shu.ac.uk
w: shu.ac.uk/cresr
ISBN: 978-1-84387-372-3

**Sheffield
Hallam
University** | Centre for
Regional Economic
and Social Research