



BRINGING IB NUMBERS DOWN:

New evidence from Blackpool and elsewhere



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NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 2.6m claimants of working age
- Four-fold increase over last 30 years
- Male / female split
- Huge local and regional variations

BLACKPOOL'S INCAPACITY CLAIMANTS, May 2008

as % working age

Men	6,990	15.5
Women	4,200	10.5
Total	11,190	13.2

Sources: DWP, ONS

IB CLAIMANT RATE: Top 10 English authorities, May 2008, % working age

Easington	16.9	Stoke	12.3
Knowsley	13.2	Wear Valley	12.1
BLACKPOOL	13.2	Barrow	12.0
Liverpool	12.9	Burnley	12.0
Hartlepool	12.6	Sedgefield	11.8

Sources: DWP, ONS

BLACKPOOL'S IB NUMBERS

2000	11,370
2001	11,480
2002	11,270
2003	11,590
2004	11,650
2005	11,700
2006	11,370
2007	11,330
2008	11,190

Source: DWP

THE NATIONAL IB PROJECT

- **ESRC core funding**
- **National data analysis**
 - Large scale interview survey of IB claimants**
 - In-depth follow-up interviews**
- **Eight case study areas**

CASE STUDY AREAS

- **Barrow in Furness (Cumbria)**
- **Blackpool (Lancs)**
- **Easington (Durham)**
- **East Lindsey (Lincs)**
- **Great Yarmouth (Norfolk)**
- **Hull (Yorks)**
- **Knowsley (Merseyside)**
- **Wansbeck (Northumberland)**

INTERVIEW SURVEY

- ❑ All face-to-face
- ❑ 3,629 completed interviews
- ❑ 403 in Blackpool
- ❑ Names and addresses from DWP
- ❑ Some opt-out but broadly representative

SURVEY ISSUES

- ❑ Occupation, skills
- ❑ Work history
- ❑ Reasons for job loss
- ❑ Duration on benefit
- ❑ Area of origin
- ❑ Health limitations
- ❑ Contact with Pathways etc
- ❑ Looking for work
- ❑ Job aspirations
- ❑ Target earnings
- ❑ Obstacles to employment
- ❑ Reasons for not looking
- ❑ Area of job search
- ❑ Transport
- ❑ Childcare issues
- ❑ Temporary / casual work
- ❑ Self-employment
- ❑ Benefits
- ❑ Other sources of income
- ❑ Partner's income
- ❑ Household composition
- ❑ Housing tenure
- ❑ Age

AGE OF IB CLAIMANTS: GB

	Men (%)	Women (%)
16-24	6	8
25-34	12	12
35-44	20	23
45-54	24	34
55-65/59	38	23

Source: DWP

DURATION OF IB CLAIM: GB

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Less than 6 months	10	11
6 months – 1 year	7	7
1 – 2 years	9	10
2 – 5 years	21	23
5 years or more	54	49

Source: DWP

USUAL OCCUPATION: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Professional	1	1
Other white collar	14	24
Skilled manual	32	6
Other manual	54	69
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Source: Blackpool survey

SOME TYPICAL OCCUPATIONS: Blackpool

MEN

Engineer
Chef / kitchen assistant
Factory worker
Barman
Shop assistant
Sales rep
Beach attendant
Driver
Labourer
Caretaker

WOMEN

Nurse
Cook
Care assistant
Shop assistant
Cleaner
Factory worker
Secretary / clerical

Source: Blackpool survey

SELECTED QUALIFICATIONS: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Degree	1	1
Trade apprenticeship	2	1
None	69	64

Source: Blackpool survey

MAIN REASON FOR LAST JOB ENDING: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Compulsory severance	14	10
Voluntary - redundancy/retirement	2	1
Voluntary - own reasons	8	6
Pregnancy	-	9
Caring responsibilities	1	2
Ill health, injury or disability	74	71

Source: Blackpool survey

NATURE OF ILL HEALTH OR DISABILITY: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Mental, behavioural	42	44
Musculoskeletal	14	19
Circulation	8	2
Injury, poisoning	7	5
Nervous system	5	9
All other	24	21

Source: DWP records on Blackpool survey respondents

HEALTH LIMITATIONS: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
"Can't do any work"	15	19
"A lot" of limitation	73	64
Some limitation	11	17
No limitation	3	4
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	100	100

Source: Blackpool survey

HEALTH EXPECTATIONS: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Get better	7	5
Stay much the same	20	16
Fluctuate	12	15
Get worse	52	51
Don't know	9	13

Source: Blackpool survey

JOB ASPIRATIONS: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Would like a job	11	11
Might like a job further into future	8	16
Looking now	3	4

Source: Blackpool survey

WOULD LIKE A JOB NOW OR IN FUTURE:

Survey areas

	Men (%)		Women (%)
Easington	40	Easington	34
Gt Yarmouth	27	Barrow	32
Barrow	27	E Lindsey	28
E Lindsey	25	Gt Yarmouth	28
Hull	23	Knowsley	27
Knowsley	20	BLACKPOOL	27
BLACKPOOL	19	Hull	25
Wansbeck	17	Wansbeck	24

Source: Sheffield Hallam surveys

REASONS FOR NOT WANTING JOB: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Poor health	95	97
Too much uncertainty	3	5
Decided to retire	3	1
Family / children	1	7

NB Respondents could give more than one reason

Source: Blackpool survey

BENEFITS RECEIVED: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Incapacity Benefit	84	79
Disability Living Allowance	38	49
Council Tax Benefit	50	56
Income Support	44	56
Housing Benefit	50	51
Other benefits (ex Child Benefit)	2	6

Source: Blackpool survey

OTHER INCOME: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Temp / casual paid work	2	3
Pension income	15	6
Partner in work	9	14
Partner claiming benefit	20	15
Partner with pension income	5	3
Other personal income	2	2

Source: Blackpool survey

FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES TO EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ **Very long duration on benefit**
- ❑ **High share with no formal qualifications**
- ❑ **Low-skill manual experience**
- ❑ **Prominence of ill health**
- ❑ **Low share who say they would like a job**
- ❑ **Even lower share who are presently looking for work**

ASSESSMENT

- ❑ **Long-term weakness of Blackpool economy means that there are not enough jobs - especially well-paid jobs - to go round**

- ❑ **IB numbers have become dominated by men and women squeezed out through normal competition in the labour market**
 - the least skilled**
 - the least healthy**
 - older**
 - and the least motivated**

IS BLACKPOOL DIFFERENT?

- ❑ Characteristics of IB claimants do not vary enormously between areas
- ❑ But.....

LOCATION WHEN IB CLAIM STARTED

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Blackpool	78	75
Rest of Lancashire	4	3
Rest of North West	8	7
Rest of UK	7	13

Source: Blackpool survey

'BACK-TO-WORK' TARGET GROUP: GB

	Men	Women
IB/SDA claimants, May 2008	1.49m	1.09m
Would like a job now or might like one in the future	29%	31%
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Target group	430,000	340,000

Source: DWP and Sheffield Hallam survey data

AGE OF TARGET GROUP: Blackpool

	Men	Women
16-24	70	180
25-34	400	160
35-44	510	250
45-54	140	400
55-59	80	50
60-64	70	0
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	1,270	1,040

Source: Blackpool survey data

ASPIRATIONS: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Would like F-T job only	70	33
 P-T job only	25	58
 F-T or P-T	5	8
To start now/fairly soon	55	33
New occupation	75	71
Only in Blackpool	75	91
Access to a car	20	20

Source: Blackpool survey

EARNINGS AFTER TAX TO COME OFF BENEFIT: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Less than £200 pw	25	42
£200-249 pw	25	29
£250-300 pw	30	4
More than £300 pw	20	8
Don't know	0	17
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Source: Blackpool survey

OBSTACLES TO FINDING WORK: Blackpool

	Men (%)	Women (%)
Health	89	85
Not enough suitable jobs	8	7
Age	11	5
Qualifications etc	23	11
Difficult to get to work	3	4
Childcare responsibilities	0	7

NB Respondents could give more than one answer

Source: Blackpool survey

TARGET GROUP – SOME POINTERS

- ❑ Back-to-work initiatives will interest only a minority
- ❑ Younger, more recent IB claimants are best bet
- ❑ Health difficulties need addressing too
- ❑ Don't neglect opportunities for part-time working
- ❑ Offer guidance on financial side
- ❑ Respond to individual aspirations and preferences

GOVERNMENT REFORMS

- **National roll-out of Pathways to Work**
- **Employment and Support Allowance replaces IB**
- **New, tougher Work Capability Assessment**
- **New 'conditionality' for most ESA claimants**
- **Existing IB claimants to be transferred across to ESA**

THE WAY FORWARD – A TWIN-TRACK STRATEGY

- **Help for IB claimants – training, rehabilitation, advice, re-motivation – and in a sustained way**
- **Economic regeneration in the areas where IB claimants are concentrated**