Economic Activity

The economic activity tables in the 2011 Census are based on the population aged 16-74, of who there are 411,004 in Sheffield. Depending on their relationship to the labour market, these people are categorised as economically active or inactive.

The Economically Active

Those who are economically active are basically either working or unemployed.

Over a third of this group are employed full-time. Since 2001, there has been a small movement of workers from full-time employees to part-time or self-employment. The proportion of the economically active who are unemployed has increased slightly from 4.2% to 4.8%.

More than a third of the unemployed have been out of work for more than a year. There are 5,909 unemployed people aged under 25.

Women are more than three times as likely as men to be employed part-time. Men are more likely to be self-employed. The unemployment rate for men is double that for women.
The Economically Inactive

This group includes all of those aged 16-74 who are neither working nor seeking work. The chart below shows how this group is made up.

The largest group are the retired, who make up 1 percent of the economically inactive. This number only includes those up to age 74. It is assumed that most of the 41,000 people aged 75 or over will be retired.

Less than one percent of men are looking after the home or family, compared to over 7 percent of women.

Students

There are more than 67,000 students aged 16-74 in Sheffield. These include 10,970 aged under 18.

Some full-time students are classed as economically active because they work part-time to fund their studies. Other active students may be studying part-time. The numbers have increased since 2001, when they represented 3.3% of the economically active, to 2011 when that proportion had risen to 5.5%. 5,166 of the 22,791 economically active students are unemployed.

There are 44,212 inactive students to add to the 22,791 who were economically active. Of these, 35,045 are aged 18 or over. Most of the remainder will be school pupils aged 16-17.

Hours Worked

The Key Statistics tables show the number of hours worked in bands, by men and women. These are shown in the chart on the following page.
Just over 50,000 men work part-time, compared to over 135,000 women. Two-thirds of female part-time workers work more than 15 hours per week. More than 18,000 men and 5,600 women work 49 hours or more per week.

**Occupations**

Types of job are categorised using Census occupation groups or the NS-SeC categories. The chart below shows the Census groups for men and women.
Some groups are more dominated by men, whilst others are female dominated. Professional, associate professional and elementary occupations are more evenly divided. Managers and directors, skilled tradesmen and process operatives are more likely to be men; administrative and secretarial, caring, leisure and service and sales and customer service occupations are more likely to be done by women.

Of the nine groups, there are more people in professional occupations than any of the others. This group has also increased significantly since 2001, from 12.2% to 19.6%. The groups that have reduced the most since 2001 are the managers and directors and the skilled trades. These may well reflect the contraction of the manufacturing industries.

**Industry**

The chart shows the number of men and women employed in each industrial sector.
Around a third of all jobs in Sheffield are provided by the public sector, which includes public administration and defence, education and health and social work. This is higher than the national average at 28%, although as a large city Sheffield has two universities and several teaching hospitals, plus a number of Government offices. Employment in this sector is dominated by women with 69% of the jobs.

Manufacturing, Construction, Transport and Storage, and the Utilities are more male dominated, with the others more evenly divided.

The proportion of people employed in the public sector has increased from 29% in 2001. The sector that has contracted the most is manufacturing, down to 9.3% from 15.5% in 2001.

Qualifications

Qualifications are classified by NVQ levels, based on the highest level achieved. The classifications are described in the table below.

| NVQ1 | 1+ 'O' levels/CSE/GCSE (any grade 1), NVQ Level 1, Foundation GNVQ or equivalents |
| NVQ2 | 5+ 'O' Levels, 5 CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSE (grade A*-C), School Certificate, 1+ ‘A’ Levels/AS Levels, NVQ Level 2, Intermediate GNVQ or equivalents |
| NVQ3 | 2+ 'A' Levels, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, NVQ Level 3, Advanced GNVQ or equivalents |
| NVQ4 | First Degree, Higher Degree, NVQ Level 4/5, HND, HNC, Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor or equivalents |

Other forms of qualification are grouped together in a single category, although apprenticeships are separately identified. The chart below shows the number of Sheffield residents aged 16 or over and their highest level of qualification.
Almost a quarter of Sheffield’s residents aged 16 or over have no formal qualifications. Some of these will be older residents no longer in the labour market.

Of those qualified to the NVQ levels, the numbers rise with the level of qualification. Highest is NVQ Level 4; 26% of residents aged 16 or over are qualified to this level. The proportion with Level 4 qualifications are a little below the national average of 27%, although the proportion in Sheffield with Level 3 qualifications are above the national average. This is likely to be due to the number of full-time students in the city who have qualified to enter university but have not yet completed their studies.

There are almost 66,000 full-time students aged 16 or over who are aiming to increase the levels of qualifications in the city, although many will not stay in the city once qualified.

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