

WAKEFIELD FULL TIME WORKERS SUFFER WORST DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS IN YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE AS REAL VALUE OF EARNINGS FALLS BY 11% DUE TO 'BANKERS RECESSION' AND STALLED RECOVERY

These figures show that the Government's strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in Yorkshire & Humberside drop by 7.1% says GMB

Full time workers resident in Wakefield have suffered the worst drop in living standards in Yorkshire & Humberside region. The real value of their average gross earnings have fallen by 11% between April 2007 and November 2011, due to 'bankers recession' and stalled recovery.

York's full time workers suffered the next worst fall in living standards in the region with a drop of 10.3%, followed by Kingston upon Hull with a drop of 9.1%, Rotherham with a drop of 8.9%, the East Riding of Yorkshire with a drop of 8.7%. In Sheffield and Calderdale the real value of average earnings for full time workers is down by 8.6%, for Kirklees it the fall is 8.1% and for Leeds the fall is 6.9%. Living standards also fell in North Yorkshire, Doncaster, North Lincolnshire, Bradford, Barnsley and North East Lincolnshire. None of the 15 areas in the region saw any improvement in real value earnings.

These figures are from a new analysis by GMB of official earnings data. The table below shows the change in living standards for all 15 areas in the region, between April 2007 and November 2011. For the Yorkshire & Humberside region as a whole the living standards of full time workers have fallen by 7.1% in this period. The fall for the UK as a whole is 5.9% and for England is 6.2% during the same period.

In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011 are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings. See Notes to Editors for sources and inflation details.

		Mean gross annual (£) - full-time			Drop in real value of earnings from April 2007 to November 2011* %
		2007 £	2011 £	Change £	
	United Kingdom	30,015	32,837	2,822	-5.9
	England	30,852	33,661	2,809	-6.2
	Yorkshire & Humberside	26,368	28,527	2,159	-7.1
rank					
1	Wakefield	25,523	26,609	1,086	-11.0
2	York	29,430	30,909	1,479	-10.3
3	Kingston upon Hull	21,269	22,588	1,319	-9.1
4	Rotherham	26,506	28,208	1,702	-8.9
5	East Riding of Yorkshire	28,886	30,779	1,893	-8.7
6	Sheffield	26,344	28,094	1,750	-8.6
7	Calderdale	25,997	27,731	1,734	-8.6
8	Kirklees	27,160	29,099	1,939	-8.1
9	Leeds	26,991	29,241	2,250	-6.9

10	North Yorkshire	29,360	32,300	2,940	-5.3
11	Doncaster	24,206	26,746	2,540	-4.8
12	North Lincolnshire	27,122	30,064	2,942	-4.4
13	Bradford	23,934	26,597	2,663	-4.2
14	Barnsley	24,032	26,931	2,899	-3.2
15	NE Lincolnshire	23,861	27,000	3,139	-2.1

Tim Roache GMB Regional Secretary for Yorkshire and Humberside said, **“These figures show that the Government’s strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in the region drop by 7.1%.**

George Osborne has the economic literacy of a stick of rhubarb.

Full time workers resident in all 15 areas in Yorkshire and Humberside have seen the value of their earnings drop when they have a job. Things have got a lot worse in the past year as the recovery underway at the time of the election stalled and the region is mired in a new recession.

Two thirds of the economy is consumer driven and Osborne must be the only person who does not get it. Squeezing wages, pay freezes and cutting jobs will not restart the economy. Using the IMF measures his cuts will reduce real private consumption by 4% and GDP by 3.4% over the next few years.

I doubt if the electorate had any notion that a change of government would lead to a loss of 376,000 jobs across the UK and 26,000 in Yorkshire and Humberside, in the public sector, in the short time since the general election. When the ‘same old Tories’ were returned to power they brought with them the same old philosophy that “if it’s not hurting it’s not working.”

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

1 **2007-2011 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - residence based** *Source: Table 7.7a, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright Reserved*

2 In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings.

3 Between April 2007 and November 2011 inflation has been 16.1%, of which half (7.65%) has taken place since April 2010.