



Living in Lancashire Survey

Community cohesion

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1. Executive summary

This wave of Living in Lancashire looked at people's views on community cohesion. The survey was sent by email or by post to all 2,793 members of the panel on 11 November. No reminder was sent and the fieldwork ended on 2 December 2011. In total 1,619 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 58%. This is slightly lower than previous waves because of the lack of a reminder mailing.

1.1 Key findings

- Two thirds of respondents agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (68%) while only around one in seven disagree (14%).
- Respondents were asked in which situations they regularly meet and talk with people from different backgrounds to themselves. The most common responses are at local shops (59%), at work (43%) and in their neighbourhood (41%).
- Around one in ten respondents don't regularly meet and talk to people from different backgrounds in any of the given situations (11%).
- Over four fifths of respondents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (84%). This is in line with the figure from 2010 (83%, wave 31).
- Just under a fifth of respondents feel that their local area has got worse over the past two years (17%), while one in ten feel it has got better (11%).
- Around four fifths of respondents, and people close to them, have never experienced verbal or physical abuse because of their age, race, religion, gender, sexuality or a disability (78%).
- A fifth of respondents, or people close to them, have experienced verbal abuse (21%) and one in twenty have suffered physical abuse (5%) at some point in their life for one of these reasons.
- Just over a quarter of respondents think there is more racial prejudice in Britain now than there was five years ago (27%), and around a quarter think there is now less racial prejudice (24%).
- Over a third of respondents think that there is more religious prejudice in Britain now than there was five years ago (36%), while only around one in seven respondents think that there is now less religious prejudice (15%).

1.2 Recommendations

The proportion of respondents who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together has increased since the Place Survey¹ in 2008. This is encouraging, but it's interesting to note that, when the same question was asked in June 2010 (wave 29) as part of a survey on immigration, the proportion that agreed had decreased from the Place Survey result. This would suggest that, while, in general, relations between people of different backgrounds are improving, when put in the context of immigration, people are more likely to perceive that there is a problem. Further work should be done to determine if this is genuinely an issue and, if it is, if anything can be done to improve relations between people of different backgrounds.

Respondents in the east of the county are more likely to be dissatisfied with their local area as a place to live. However, in Pendle, the proportion that are dissatisfied has decreased since the last time this question was asked (wave 31, December 2010). It would be useful to find out if there has been any particular action or event in Pendle that might have influenced this result.

The results of the questions on verbal and physical abuse suggest that, at some point in their life, a fifth of respondents have experienced verbal abuse (21%) and one in twenty have suffered physical abuse (5%). In future, it would be useful to ask whether respondents have experienced these forms of abuse recently and whether the abuse was experienced in Lancashire.

It would be useful to ask the questions about racial and religious prejudice again in the future to find out how people feel this has changed locally, within Lancashire, as well as within Britain.

A more in-depth survey on community cohesion and equality is planned for June 2012 (wave 37). This survey should examine some of the issues highlighted here in more detail.

¹ The Place Survey 2008 was a postal survey conducted for Lancashire County Council by Ipsos Mori sent to a random sample of addresses across the county. 16,604 people responded to the Place Survey, giving a response rate of 36%. The two surveys are not exactly comparable due to differing methodologies, but, despite this, it is worth comparing the two sets of responses to give an indication of how opinion has changed.

2. Introduction

Lancashire County Council has used Living in Lancashire regularly since August 2001 (formerly known as Life in Lancashire). A panel of willing participants is recruited and is approached on a regular basis to seek their views on a range of topics and themes. Panel members are voluntary participants in the research and no incentives are given for completion.

The panel has been designed to be a representative cross-section of the county's population. The results for each survey are weighted in order to reflect the demographic profile of the county's population.

The panel provides access to a sufficiently large sample of the population so that reliable results can be reported at a county wide level. It also provides data at a number of sub-area and sub-group levels.

Each wave of Living in Lancashire is themed. Firstly, it enables sufficient coverage on a particular topic to be able to provide insight into that topic. And secondly, it comes across better to the residents completing the questionnaires if there is a clear theme (or 2-3 clear themes) within each survey.

The panel is refreshed periodically. New members are recruited to the panel and some current members are retired on a random basis. This means that the panel remains fresh and is not subject to conditioning ie the views of panel members become too informed with county council services to be representative of the population as a whole.

3. Research objectives

The objective of this survey was to look at people's views on community cohesion. Questions looked specifically at:

- interaction between people from different backgrounds;
- satisfaction with respondents' local area; and
- discrimination.

4. Methodology

This wave of Living in Lancashire was sent to 2,793 members of the panel on 11 November. Due to time constraints, no reminder was sent and the closing date was 2 December 2011.

The survey was conducted through a postal questionnaire, and an online version of the same questionnaire being emailed to members who had previously requested to take part online. The postal questionnaire was sent to 1,968 members and the online questionnaire was sent to 825 members.

In total 1,619 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 58%. This is slightly lower than previous waves because of the lack of a reminder mailing.

The data set is weighted by age, ethnicity and district to reflect the Lancashire overall population, and figures are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. The weighted responses have been scaled to match the effective response of 1,031, which is the equivalent size of the data if it had not been weighted and was a perfect random sample.

4.1 Limitations

The table below shows the sample tolerances that apply to the results in this survey. Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample as well as the percentage results.

Number of respondents	50/50 + / -	30/70 + / -	10/90 + / -
50	14%	13%	8%
100	10%	9%	6%
200	7%	6%	4%
500	4%	4%	3%
1,000	3%	3%	2%
2,000	2%	2%	1%

On a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 1,000 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 out of 100 that the answer would be between 47% and 53% (ie +/- 3%), versus a complete coverage of the entire Lancashire population using the same procedure.

The following table shows what the percentage differences between two samples on a statistic must be greater than, to be statistically significant.

Size of sample A	Size of sample B	50/50	70/30	90/10
100	100	14%	13%	8%
100	200	12%	11%	7%
500	1,000	5%	5%	3%
2,000	2,000	3%	3%	2%

(Confidence interval at 95% certainty for a comparison of two samples)

For example, where the size of sample A and sample B is 2,000 responses in each and the percentage result in each group you are comparing is around 50% in each category, the difference in the results needs to be more than 3% to be statistically significant. This is to say that the difference in the results of the two groups of people is not due to chance alone and is a statistically valid difference (eg of opinion, service usage).

For each question in the survey, comparisons have been made between different sub-groups of respondents (eg age, gender, disability, ethnicity, geographic area) to look for statistically significant differences in opinion. Statistically valid differences between sub-groups are described in the main body of the report.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

5. Main research findings

5.1 Interaction between people from different backgrounds

Panel members were asked about how well people from different backgrounds get on in their local area.

Two thirds of respondents agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (68%) while around one in seven disagree (14%).

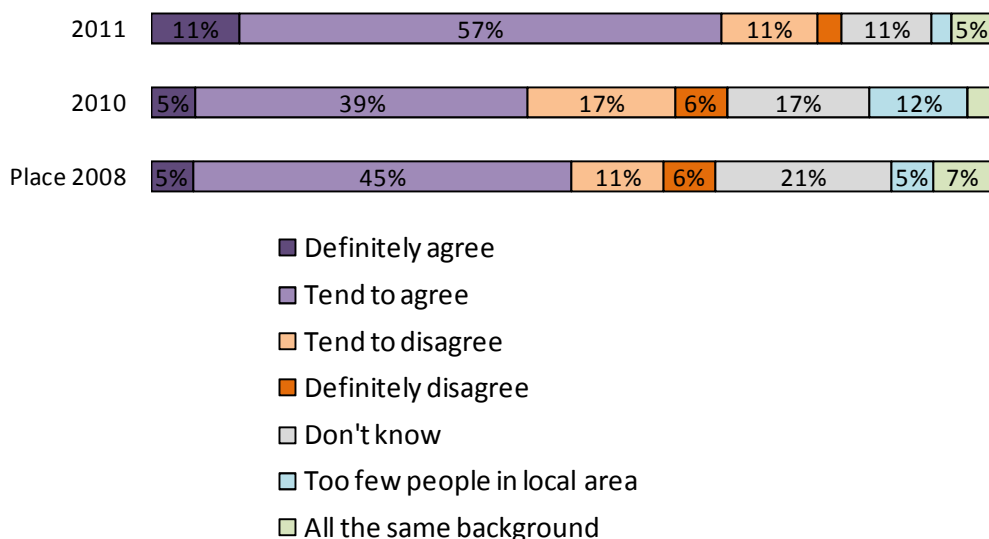
This question was also asked on the Place Survey 2008². The two surveys are not exactly comparable due to differing methodologies. The Place Survey used a random sample of the Lancashire population rather than a specific panel which may contribute to a change in response. Despite this, it is worth comparing the two sets of responses to give an indication of how opinion has changed.

The proportion of respondents that agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together has increased significantly since 2008, from 50% then to 68% in 2011.

This question was also asked in Living in Lancashire in June 2010 (wave 29). In 2010, the proportion of respondents that agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together had dropped from the Place Survey 2008 result to 44%. This was thought to be due to the fact that the theme of the questionnaire was immigration which may have influenced how respondents interpreted 'people from different backgrounds'.

² The Place Survey 2008 was a postal survey conducted for Lancashire County Council by Ipsos Mori. Surveys were sent to a random sample of addresses across the county. 16,604 people responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 36%.

Chart 1 - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?



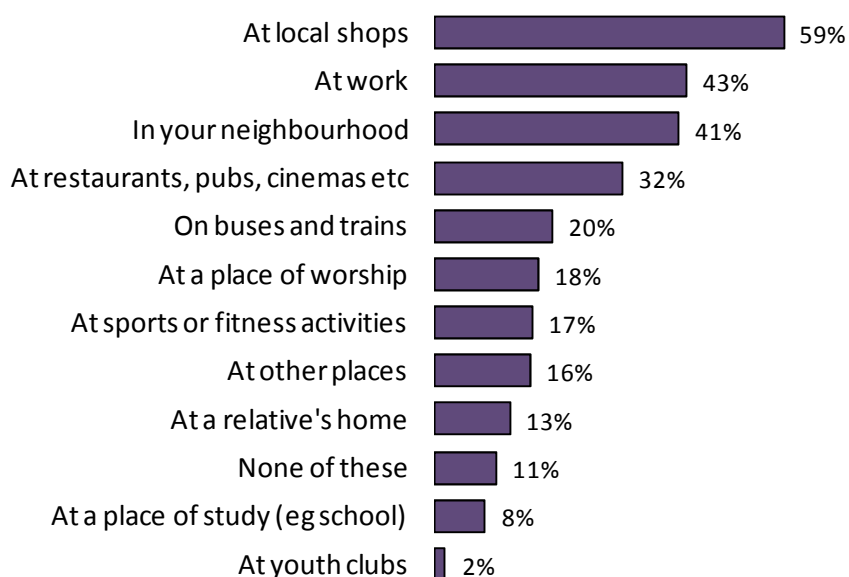
Base: All respondents 2011 (unweighted 1,603, weighted 1,072) 2010 (unweighted 2,024, weighted 1,496) 2008 (unweighted 16,166, weighted 16,233)

Respondents in east Lancashire are less likely to agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (59%).

Respondents were then asked in which situations they regularly meet and talk with people from different backgrounds to themselves. The most common responses are at local shops (59%), at work (43%) and in their neighbourhood (41%).

Around one in ten respondents said they don't regularly meet people from different backgrounds in any of the given situations (11%).

Chart 2 - In which of these situations, if any, would you say you regularly meet and talk with people from different backgrounds to you?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,605, weighted 1,072)

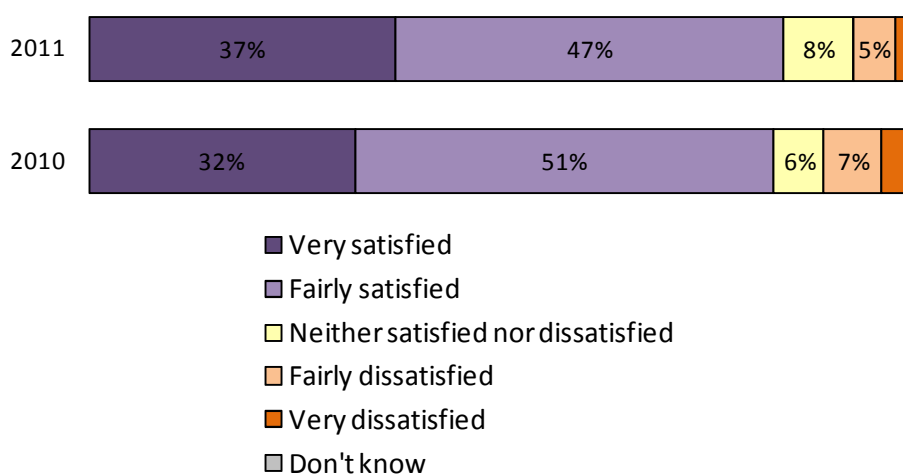
Female respondents are more likely to regularly meet and talk with people from different backgrounds at the local shops (61%) and at work (47%). Respondents in socio-economic group C2 are more likely to say they don't regularly meet and talk with people from different backgrounds in any of these situations (18% say none of these).

5.2 Local area

Over four fifths of respondents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (84%).

This question was also asked in Living in Lancashire in November 2010 (wave 31). Although the overall proportion of respondents that are satisfied is roughly unchanged, the proportion of respondents that are very satisfied has increased from 32% in 2010 to 37% in 2011.

Chart 3 - Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?



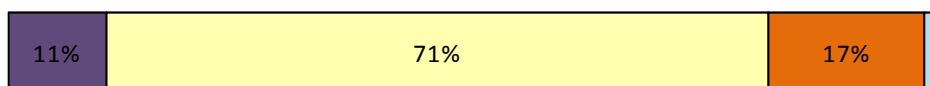
Base: All respondents 2011 (unweighted 1,604, weighted 1,072) 2010 (unweighted 1,929, weighted 1,387)

BME respondents and respondents in socio-economic group DE are less likely to be satisfied with their local area as a place to live (72% and 77% satisfied respectively) while respondents in rural areas are more likely to be satisfied (90%).

Respondents in Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle are more likely to be dissatisfied with their local area as a place to live (24%, 15% and 12% dissatisfied respectively). Encouragingly though, the proportion of respondents in Pendle that are dissatisfied has decreased significantly from the 2010 result (28% dissatisfied in 2010, 12% dissatisfied in 2011).

The majority of respondents feel that their area hasn't changed much over the past two years (71%). However, just under a fifth of respondents feel their area has got worse (17%), while one in ten feel it has got better (11%).

Chart 4 - On the whole, do you think that over the past two years your local area has got better or worse to live in or would you say things haven't changed much?



- The area has got better
- The area has not changed much
- The area has got worse
- I've lived here less than two years
- Don't know

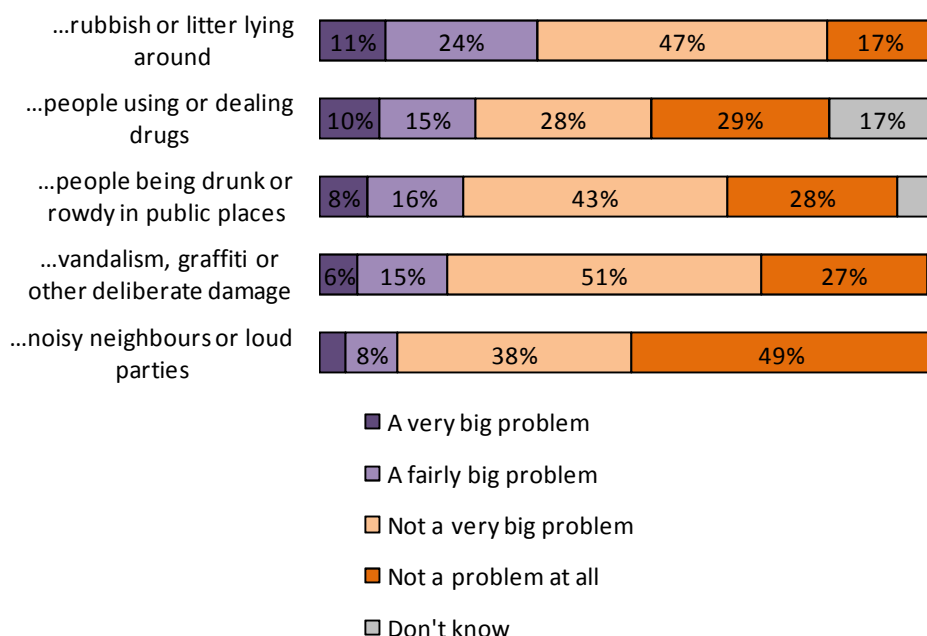
Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,606, weighted 1,073)

Respondents living in council or housing association properties are more likely to think that their local area has got better over the past two years (18%).

5.3 Anti-social behaviour

Encouragingly, when asked about different aspects of anti-social behaviour, most respondents don't think they are a problem in their local area. The biggest problem is rubbish or litter lying around (35% think it is a very or fairly big problem). These figures have not changed significantly since this question was last asking in 2010 (wave 31).

Chart 5 - Thinking about your local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are...



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,590, weighted 1,064)

BME respondents are more likely to say that these issues are a very or fairly big problem in their local area: rubbish or litter lying around 66%; people using or dealing drugs 50%; people being drunk or rowdy in public places 47%; and, noisy neighbours or loud parties 32%.

Respondents from east Lancashire are more likely to say that people using or dealing drugs and people being drunk or rowdy in public places are very or fairly big problems (37% drugs, 31% drunk).

Respondents in rural areas are less likely to say that these issues are a very or fairly big problem: rubbish or litter lying around 20%; vandalism, graffiti or other deliberate damage 9%; people using or dealing drugs 13%; and people being drunk or rowdy in public places 11%.

5.4 Discrimination

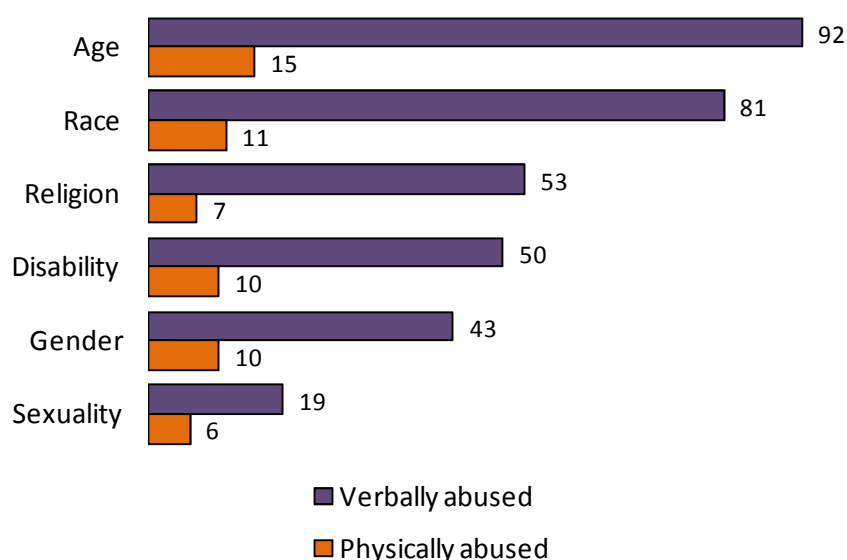
Panel members were asked if they, or someone close to them, have ever been verbally or physically abused because of age, race, religion, a disability, gender or sexuality.

Around four fifths of respondents have never experienced verbal or physical abuse for any of the reasons given (78%). However, at some point in their life, a fifth of respondents, or someone close to them, have experienced verbal abuse (21%) and one in twenty have suffered physical abuse (5%).

As the number of respondents that have experienced abuse is small relative to the size of the sample, the number of respondents rather than the proportion of respondents is given in chart 5.

The most common reasons for both verbal and physical abuse are age and race.

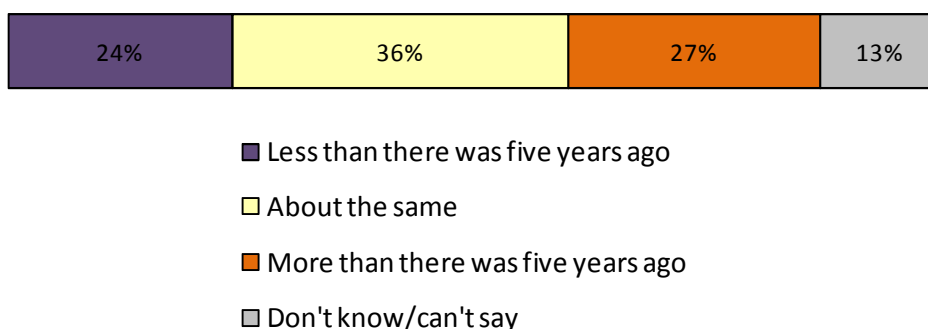
Chart 6 - Have you or someone close to you been verbally or physically abused because of...



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,619, weighted 1,080)

Panel members were asked how they think the amount of racial prejudice in Britain has changed in the last five years. Opinion on this is split with around a quarter of respondents thinking there is less racial prejudice now than five years ago (24%) and just over a quarter thinking there is now more racial prejudice (27%).

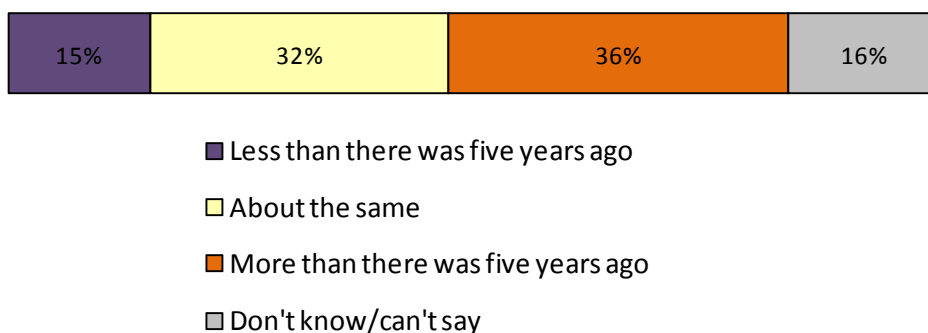
Chart 7 - Thinking about racial prejudice in Britain today, do you think there is now...?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,602, weighted 1,069)

Panel members were then asked the same question about religious prejudice in Britain. Over a third of respondents think that there is more religious prejudice in Britain now than there was five years ago (36%), while only around one in seven respondents think that there is now less religious prejudice (15%).

Chart 8 - Thinking about religious prejudice in Britain today, do you think there is now...?



Base: All respondents (unweighted 1,590, weighted 1,063)

6. Recommendations

The proportion of respondents who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together has increased since the Place Survey³ in 2008. This is encouraging, but it's interesting to note that, when the same question was asked in June 2010 (wave 29) as part of a survey on immigration, the proportion that agreed had decreased from the Place Survey result. This would suggest that, while, in general, relations between people of different backgrounds are improving, when put in the context of immigration, people are more likely to perceive that there is a problem. Further work should be done to determine if this is genuinely an issue and, if it is, if anything can be done to improve relations between people of different backgrounds.

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The results of the questions on verbal and physical abuse suggest that, at some point in their life, a fifth of respondents have experienced verbal abuse (21%) and one in twenty have suffered physical abuse (5%). In future, it would be useful to ask whether respondents have experienced these forms of abuse recently and whether the abuse was experienced in Lancashire.

It would be useful to ask the questions about racial and religious prejudice again in the future to find out how people feel this has changed locally, within Lancashire, as well as within Britain.

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Appendix 1: Socio-Economic-Group Definitions

These groups are based on Market Research Society definitions and on the respondent. They are graded as A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

Group A

- Professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce or top-level civil servants
- Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows

Group B

- Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications
- Principle officers in local government and civil service
- Top management or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments
- Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows

Group C1

- Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions
- Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements
- Retired people, previously grade C1, and their widows

Group C2

- All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people
- Retired people, previously grade C2, with pensions from their job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

Group D

- All semi skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers
- Retired people, previously grade D, with pensions from their late job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

Group E

- All those entirely dependent on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons
- Those unemployed for a period exceeding six months (otherwise classified on previous occupation)
- Casual workers and those without a regular income