

Barnstaple

I was born in Barnstaple Devon in 1968, the population in the 2001 census was just over 20,000. I was thinking about the eight car parks full of cars and the seven supermarkets in town. When I was younger there were only two supermarkets and they were both independent and had a very limited variety of foods. I worked in one of them for about four years in my teens but I can say that apart from giving my mother some money at the end of the week there was no way I was going to afford anywhere to live on what I earned and that hasn't really changed since so what do the statistics suggest. I can say that there are several housing estates and an abundance of quality housing in town with apparently an average price of about £245,000, so what are some of the facts?

How about salary? According to payscale.com

Average Salary in Barnstaple, England: Devon, United Kingdom



Education levels

Barnstaple Education Statistics

These statistics are for the highest level education obtained by the residents of Barnstaple and are from the UK Census of 2011. Barnstaple has a high level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below, than the national average.

QUALIFICATION	NORTH DEVON	DEVON	ENGLAND
No Qualifications	24.1%	21.1%	22.5%
Level 1	14.4%	13.3%	13.3%
Level 2	17.2%	16.4%	15.2%
Apprenticeship	4.7%	4.2%	3.6%
Level 3	12.4%	12.9%	12.4%
Level 4	22.9%	27.8%	27.4%
Other	4.3%	4.3%	5.7%

I have four level 4 qualifications

Home ownership is becoming impossible for many, reveals new report

The South West Home Truths 2017/18 report reveals the average home now costs around £245,785 in the North Devon local authority, which is 11 times the local typical salary.

This makes home ownership impossible for many, says local affordable housing provider North Devon Homes.

The report also revealed the cost of renting private swallows up around 35 per cent of private renters' income, at £624 a month on average in North Devon.

Barnstaple Property Ownership & Rental Statistics

TENURE	NORTH DEVON	DEVON	ENGLAND
Owned	39.1%	40.4%	30.6%
Mortgage	29.4%	29.8%	32.8%
Shared	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%
Social Rented (Council)	2.4%	4.8%	9.4%
Social Rented (Housing Assoc)	8.4%	6.4%	8.3%
Private Rented	15.9%	14.6%	15.4%
Other	2.4%	1.7%	1.4%
Rent Free	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%

I rent my studio flat in the private sector

How about the people?

As of 2011, the racial make-up of the town was as follows:^[24]

- White British 93.9%
- Other White 2.6%
- White Irish 0.3%
- Mixed race 1.2%
- Asian 1.6%
- Black 0.3%
- Other 0.1%

24 Office for National Statistics. Barnstaple (Parish): Ethnic Group, 2011

I'm from a white British background

Unemployment and benefits

BENEFIT	NORTH DEVON	DEVON	ENGLAND
Jobseekers Allowance (only)	1.6%	1.6%	3.3%
Incapacity Benefits (IB or ESA)	2.3%	1.9%	2.4%
Any Benefit (includes in work benefits)	11.9%	10.8%	13.5%

I've been on incapacity benefit then ESA for several years now.

In 2018 unemployment in North Devon has come down significantly since its 2010 high to 1.2%, median weekly full time pay stands at £440 per week, average house prices stand at £230,000. [\[25\]](#)

²⁵ House of Commons Library

According to a BBC test I most closely match the precariat

The BBC teamed up with sociologists from leading universities to analyse the modern British class system. They surveyed more than 161,000 people and came up with a new model made up of seven groups. To find out where you fit in use this calculator below.



I have been married for 23 years, and I have two children. I have studied a science degree, an HND, a PCET PGCE and a postgraduate diploma. Both my mother and my wife were postgraduate qualified by the year 1995 when only 3% of women in the UK were qualified to that level, I was postgraduate qualified in 2001 when about 4% of the adult population was qualified to that level. I was born and bred in Barnstaple, Devon. I worked in the town for four years then in West Wales for nearly five years, I then attended Aberystwyth University in 1992/93 studying information science and computer science but I

dropped out. I attended Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education 1994/97 studying for a higher national diploma then a bachelor of science in business information technology. In 2002 I had an interview with a company called Better Training in Barnstaple I was offered one day a week at £80 if I did all the preparation but she couldn't guarantee the one day a week, I was 34 years old at the time and it was the only offer of work I had that summer, Better Training was about to be taken over by Ace Training. I trained to teach at Greenwich University in 2002/03 studying a postgraduate certificate in post compulsory education and training. I have lived and worked in several countries as I have tried to support my wife who had been posted there with her work.



A work photo from the year 2000 when I was teaching in Hong Kong. I was 32 years old at the time.

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