

“Charity workforce shrinks”

(Executive Summary)

Background

These findings are part of a stream of research on the voluntary sector workforce produced in partnership between the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC), the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), and Skills - Third Sector. Analysis of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in relation to voluntary sector employment has been ongoing since 1996, initially being undertaken by NCVO and the UK Workforce Hub.

Summary of key findings

Total Employment

- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 voluntary sector employment fell from 793,000 to 723,000. In percentage terms this represents a decrease of 8.7%.
- In comparison, public sector employment fell by 4.3% whilst private sector employment rose by 1.5% over the same period.
- The most significant drop took place in 2011 with Q2 figures (Apr-Jun) showing voluntary sector employment at 768,000 individuals against 723,000 in Q3 (July-Sep).

Gender

- In Q3 2011 (July-Sep) there were 492,000 female employees and 231,000 male employees in the voluntary sector.
- Within the voluntary sector, there has been a steeper decline in female employment than in male employment.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 female employment fell from 548,000 to 492,000. In percentage terms this represents a decrease of 10.2%.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 male employment fell from 244,000 to 231,000. In percentage terms this represents a decrease of 5.4%

Region

- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 voluntary sector employment in the North East of England fell by over 18,000. Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 voluntary sector employment in London fell by 41,000.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 voluntary sector employment in the South East of England fell by nearly 14,000.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 voluntary sector employment in Scotland fell by over 12,000.

Pay

- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 median gross hourly pay in the voluntary sector fell from £10.29 per hour to £10.00 per hour. In percentage terms this represents a decrease of 2.8%.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 median gross hourly pay in the public sector increased from £12.22 per hour to £12.63 per hour. In percentage terms this represents an increase of 3.4%.
- Between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011 median gross hourly pay in the private sector increased from £9.14 per hour to £9.36 per hour. In percentage terms this represents an increase of 2.4%.

Methodology

- The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly survey of households living at private addresses in the United Kingdom. It is conducted by the Office for National Statistics and its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies. The LFS has been running since 1973, moving to a quarterly basis in 1992. The survey asks individuals whether they work for a 'charity, voluntary organisation or trust'.