

This guide covers work in sport and active leisure including leisure and theme parks. In 2014 there were a total of 28,000 people working in this sector in Yorkshire and the Humber - a relatively small number, but then this is a specialised field.

Employment by industry, Yorkshire and the Humber

Sports facilities	11,900
Sport clubs	10,300
Other sports activities	2,400
Amusement parks and theme parks	900
Other amusement and recreation activities	2,400
Total	28,000

Business Register Employment Survey 2015

1 in every 8
people in the UK
belong to a gym, an
all-time high of 13.7%

The Leisure Database
Company 2015

Where are the jobs?

- Sports clubs, leisure companies, health and fitness clubs
- Local authority sports centres, swimming pools, community sport development, Sports Councils
- Companies offering outdoor activities and activity holidays
- Leisure and theme parks
- Schools, colleges and adult education
- Self-employed sports coaching or fitness training



Nearly 2
million adults in
England contribute at
least one hour a week
to volunteering in sport

Sport England 2010

A high
proportion of
workers in this
sector are
under 34

Sport and leisure businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber

Sports facilities	555
Sports clubs	730
Fitness facilities	200
Other sports activities	765
Amusement and theme parks	35
Other amusement and recreation activities	450

Note that all but 120 are small or micro businesses employing fewer than 50 people
UK Business Counts 2015



43% of workers are part-time
14% are self-employed
15% are on temporary contracts

Around 1.6 million people are involved in coaching in the UK, most on a voluntary basis.
Around 355,000 are paid to coach, but of these only 78,000 are full-time.

Typical job titles

Health and fitness instructor	Sports development officer
Holiday centre assistant/manager	Sports event steward
Leisure centre assistant/manager	Sports professional
Outdoor activities leader/instructor	Sports scientist
Pool attendant/lifeguard	Yoga/Pilates teacher
Sports coach	

Working hours

Most professional sports people train every day. Others in the sector may work unsocial hours. Part-time and seasonal work are common, as is self-employment.

Pay

Sports and leisure managers	£18,014-39,456+
Sports players	Not known
Sports coaches, fitness instructors and officials	Average £24,387
Fitness instructors	Average £19,368
Sports and leisure assistants	£11,588-20,743+
Leisure and theme park attendants	Not known

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS 2015

There are 1,100 licensed providers of outdoor activities, and more than 30,000 instructors and trainers, of whom 75% are volunteers. The industry is growing, but there is still strong competition for jobs.

Skills and personal qualities

People who like

- Being organised
- Keeping fit
- Motivating others
- Training
- Team work and/or working alone
- Pressure and competition
- Working with people

People who are

- Able to assess and solve problems
- Aware of health and safety
- Enthusiastic about sport
- Good communicators
- Good leaders
- Patient and supportive
- Self-motivated and determined



Qualifications and training

- This sector has a wide range of jobs with various entry requirements, from degrees to few formal qualifications. Search www.ucas.com for sport-related degrees and foundation degrees. Entry qualifications may include first aid, health and safety, introductory coaching or sports leadership awards or a lifeguard qualification.
- There are work-based training courses for qualifications to progress within the industry. Some are necessary to meet legal or health and safety regulations. Where jobs involve contact with children, staff will need to meet Ofsted standards for supervision of children and require a Disclosure and Barring Service check. For apprenticeships, see www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- SkillsActive, the Sector Skills Council, provides information on courses and approved training providers. See the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure at www.skillsactive.com
- A recognised fitness instructor qualification is usually required to work in health and fitness.

- Many instructors are registered with the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) which regulates the industry and ensures members are qualified and work to agreed industry standards
www.exerciseregister.org
- Sports coaches need a qualification recognised by the national governing body for their chosen sport. There are UK Coaching Certificates (UKCC) for each sport. See www.sportscoachuk.org



Jobs - where to look

Local, regional and national papers

Specialist journals/magazines

Getting involved in sport is a good way to hear about jobs

Visit your local Jobcentre Plus or search on www.gov.uk/jobsearch

Specialist recruitment agencies, search on www.yell.com

Websites that advertise vacancies:

www.careers-in-sport.co.uk

www.globalsportsjobs.com

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.health-club.co.uk

www.humbersport.com

www.leisurejobs.com

www.keepfit.org.uk

www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk

www.outdoor-learning.org

www.sta.co.uk

www.sysport.co.uk

www.uksport.gov.uk

Vacancies advertised online in 2015 (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Sports coaches, instructors and officials	557
Fitness instructors	508
Leisure and sports and assistants	412
Leisure and sports managers	273
Sports players	174
Leisure and theme park attendants	149
Total vacancies	2,073

Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass Technologies 2015



More information...

Active IQ awarding body www.activeq.co.uk

British Activity Providers Association www.thebapa.org.uk

Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity www.cimspa.co.uk

Fitness Industry Association www.fia.org.uk

National Careers Service <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

See 'job profiles' for information on different jobs in sport and active leisure



Further help...

National Careers Service advisers are available in your local area to provide information, advice and guidance on learning and work. See the website or call 0800 100 900.

