



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# The English Indices of Deprivation 2015



*Statistical Release*

30 September 2015

## About this release

- This release updates the English Indices of Deprivation 2010
- The English Indices of Deprivation measure relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas, in England
- Most of the indicators used for these statistics are from 2012/13

## Key Results

- The majority (83 per cent) of neighbourhoods that are the most deprived according to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation were also the most deprived according to the 2010 Index
- 61 per cent of local authority districts contain at least one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England
- Middlesbrough, Knowsley, Kingston upon Hull, Liverpool and Manchester are the local authorities with the highest proportions of neighbourhoods among the most deprived in England
- The 20 most deprived local authorities are largely the same as found for the 2010 Index, but the London Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Haringey have become relatively less deprived and no longer feature in this list
- Seven of the 10 local authority districts with the highest levels of income deprivation among older people are in London. Tower Hamlets is the most deprived district with regard to income deprivation among both children and older people.

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# Introduction

Since the 1970s the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors have calculated local measures of deprivation in England. This Statistical Release contains the latest version of these statistics, the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 which update the 2010 Indices. It is important to note that these statistics are a measure of relative deprivation, not affluence, and to recognise that not every person in a highly deprived area will themselves be deprived. Likewise, there will be some deprived people living in the least deprived areas.

This statistical release provides an overview of the findings of the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 focussing on the national and sub-national patterns of multiple deprivation, with some analysis of patterns in income and employment deprivation. A full Research Report, Technical Report and guidance documents accompany the release of these statistics along with a series of supporting data tables. The Research Report contains more detailed analysis of the individual domains that contribute to multiple deprivation.

The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 are based on 37 separate indicators, organised across seven distinct domains<sup>1</sup> of deprivation which are combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD 2015). This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA), or neighbourhood, in England. Every such neighbourhood in England is ranked according to its level of deprivation relative to that of other areas.

The analysis presented in this Statistical Release focuses mainly on the 10 per cent of neighbourhoods that are most deprived nationally according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. For ease, these neighbourhoods are referred to interchangeably in the following commentary as the **'most deprived'** or as being **'highly deprived'**. But there is no definitive threshold above which an area is described as 'deprived' or 'highly deprived'; the Indices of Deprivation are a continuous scale of deprivation. Users often take the most deprived 10 per cent or 20 per cent of neighbourhoods (or local authority districts) as the group of highly deprived areas, but other thresholds can be used. Wider analysis, using different cut-off points or summary measures for describing deprivation, is presented in the accompanying Research Report.

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<sup>1</sup> These are Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education, Skills and Training Deprivation; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment Deprivation. Details of these domains and the indicators used to calculate them can be found in the Definitions section of this release.

# Findings

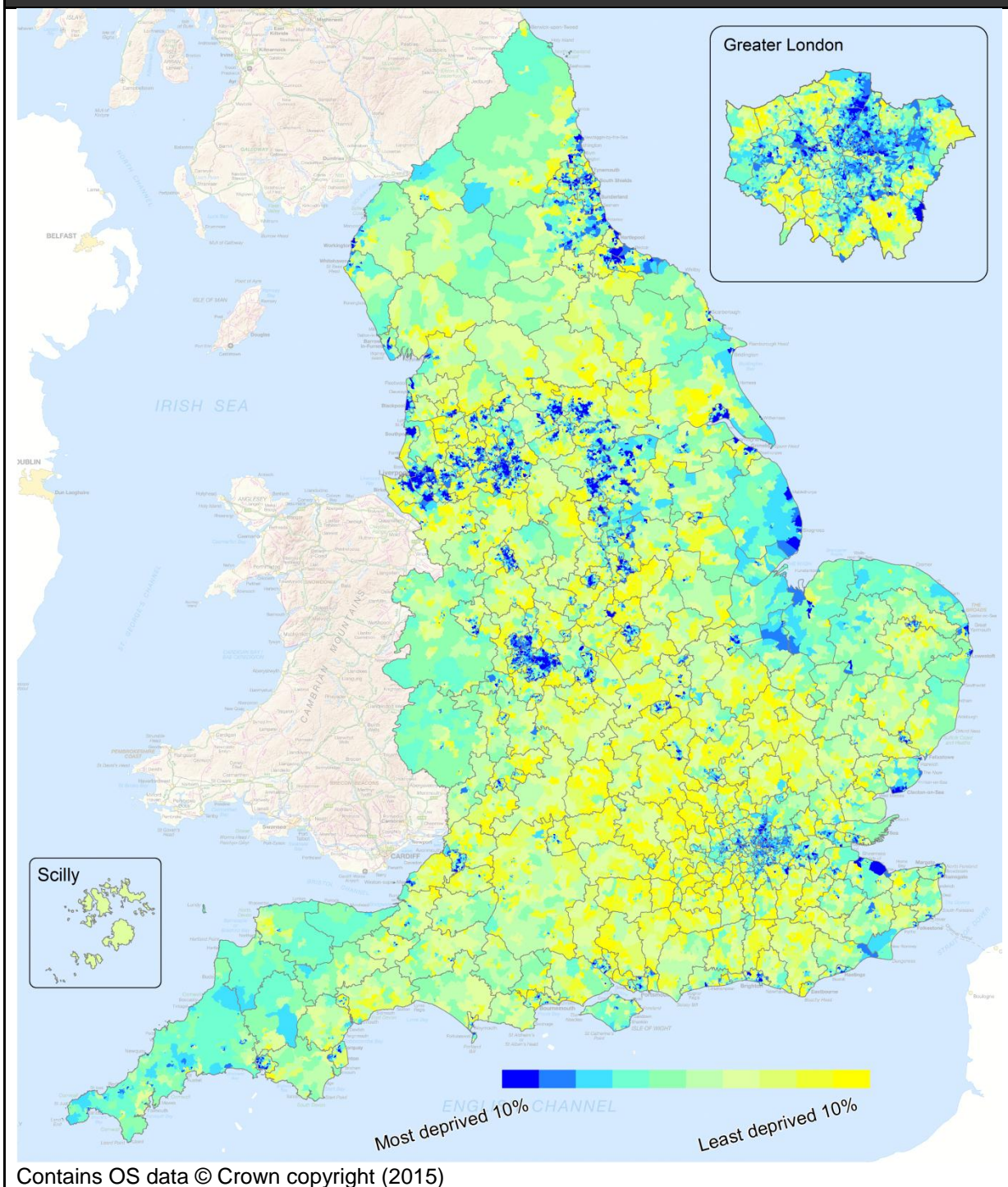
## National Distribution of Deprivation

The patterns of deprivation across England are complex. The most and least deprived neighbourhoods are spread throughout England. Map 1 illustrates the geographical spread of deprivation across England, showing local authority district boundaries for context. The 32,844 neighbourhoods have been divided according to their deprivation rank into 10 equal groups (deciles). Areas shaded dark blue are the most deprived 10 per cent (or decile) of neighbourhoods in England while areas shaded bright yellow are the least deprived 10 per cent.

As was the case in previous versions of the Indices, there are concentrations of deprivation in large urban conurbations, areas that have historically had large heavy industry, manufacturing and/or mining sectors, coastal towns, and large parts of east London. There are also pockets of deprivation surrounded by less deprived places in every region of England.

The most deprived neighbourhood in England is to the east of the Jaywick area of Clacton on Sea (Tendring 018a), and this was also the most deprived neighbourhood according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010. But the Index of Multiple Deprivation is not intended for the purpose of identifying the single most deprived area in England. The Index ranks all 32,844 neighbourhoods and allows users to identify the set of neighbourhoods that are most deprived, and differences between areas in their actual levels of deprivation may be very small.

Map 1: Distribution of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015



According to the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation many of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England face multiple issues. Almost all of them (99 per cent) are highly deprived (i.e. in the most deprived decile) on at least two of the seven domains of deprivation. Nearly two-thirds (64 per cent) of them are highly deprived on four or more domains, and over a quarter (27 per cent) are highly deprived on five or more of the seven domains.

**Table 1: The most deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods nationally based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, by the number of domains on which they are also in the most deprived decile**

Number of domains	Number of Lower-layer Super Output Areas	Percentage of Lower-layer Super Output Areas	Cumulative percentage of Lower-layer Super Output Areas
7	3	0.1	0.1
6	159	4.8	4.9
5	714	21.7	26.7
4	1,210	36.8	63.5
3	894	27.2	90.7
2	271	8.3	99.0
1	33	1.0	100.0
Total	3,284	100	

Of the 3,284 most deprived neighbourhoods in England, 162 rank as highly deprived on six or all seven domains. These neighbourhoods are not evenly distributed across England: 114, or 70 per cent of them, are located within just 12 local authority districts. Birmingham contains 26 such neighbourhoods; Blackpool, 15; Leeds, 14; Bradford, 13; and Liverpool, 11. Blackpool, Barrow in Furness, and Burnley have proportionately more neighbourhoods ranked as highly deprived on six or all seven domains: 16 per cent of all 94 neighbourhoods in Blackpool met this criterion, as did 10 per cent of neighbourhoods in Barrow in Furness and 8 per cent in Burnley.

### **Change since the Indices of Deprivation 2010**

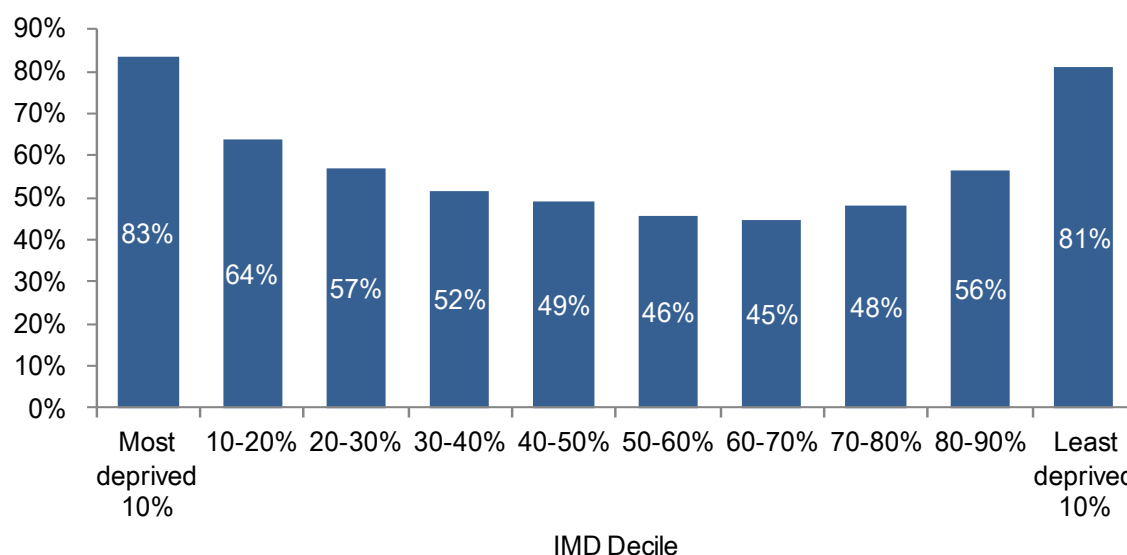
The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 are based on broadly the same methodology as the 2010 Indices. Although it is not possible to use the Indices to measure changes in the level of deprivation in places over time, it is possible to explore changes in *relative* deprivation, or changes in the *pattern* of deprivation, between this and previous updates of the Indices<sup>2</sup>.

Chart 1 shows the proportion of neighbourhoods in each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 that were in the same decile according to the 2010 Index. Analysis is restricted to the 96 per cent of neighbourhoods which have not undergone boundary changes since the 2010 Index.

Overall, 58 per cent of neighbourhoods which had not undergone boundary changes have remained in the same decile of deprivation as they were in according to the 2010 Index. But there was relatively little movement of neighbourhoods between deciles at the extremes of the distribution. This indicates that, in relative terms at least, the most deprived areas and least deprived areas have tended to remain the same.

The majority, 83 per cent, of neighbourhoods that are the most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (and which did not experience boundary changes) were also the most deprived based on the 2010 Index. The remaining 17 per cent of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile of the 2015 Index have moved from the second, third and fourth deciles of the 2010 Index, as shown in Table 2.

**Chart 1: Proportion of neighbourhoods in each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 that were in the same decile of the 2010 Index**



*Analysis is based on the 31,672 Lower-layer Super Output Areas that have not undergone boundary changes since the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation.*

Table 2 presents a more detailed analysis of changes in the relative deprivation of neighbourhoods across deciles between the 2010 Index and the 2015 Index. It shows the numbers of neighbourhoods in each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 and their corresponding deciles according to the 2015 Index.

Comparing the distributions in this way shows the extent of changes in relative rankings, and how large the changes are for those areas that have moved.

Although 2,618 neighbourhoods were in the most deprived decile according to both the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation and the 2015 Index, 471 of those in the most deprived decile of the 2010 Index have become relatively less deprived according to the 2015 Index; the majority of these (449) have shifted to the next decile but 22 have moved further, to the third most deprived decile.

**Table 2: Number of neighbourhoods in each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and the 2010 Index**

Number of Lower-Layer Super Output Areas	IMD 2015 decile										Total
	Most deprived 10%	10-20%	20-30%	30-40%	40-50%	50-60%	60-70%	70-80%	80-90%	Least deprived 10%	
Most deprived 10%	2618	449	22								3089
10-20%	511	2015	575	47	2						3150
20-30%	15	666	1797	624	62	2					3166
30-40%	1	25	709	1637	681	116	7				3176
40-50%			46	768	1558	683	114	13			3182
50-60%			1	86	744	1454	735	149	12	1	3182
60-70%				3	110	803	1426	720	119	3	3184
70-80%					7	113	783	1515	712	49	3179
80-90%						5	122	703	1791	557	3178
Least deprived 10%							4	50	542	2590	3186
Total	3145	3155	3150	3165	3164	3176	3191	3150	3176	3200	31672

*Analysis is based on the 31,672 Lower-layer Super Output Areas that have not undergone boundary changes since the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation. The total number of LSOAs in each decile varies because of the differential impact of these boundary changes.*

## Deprivation at a Local Authority Level

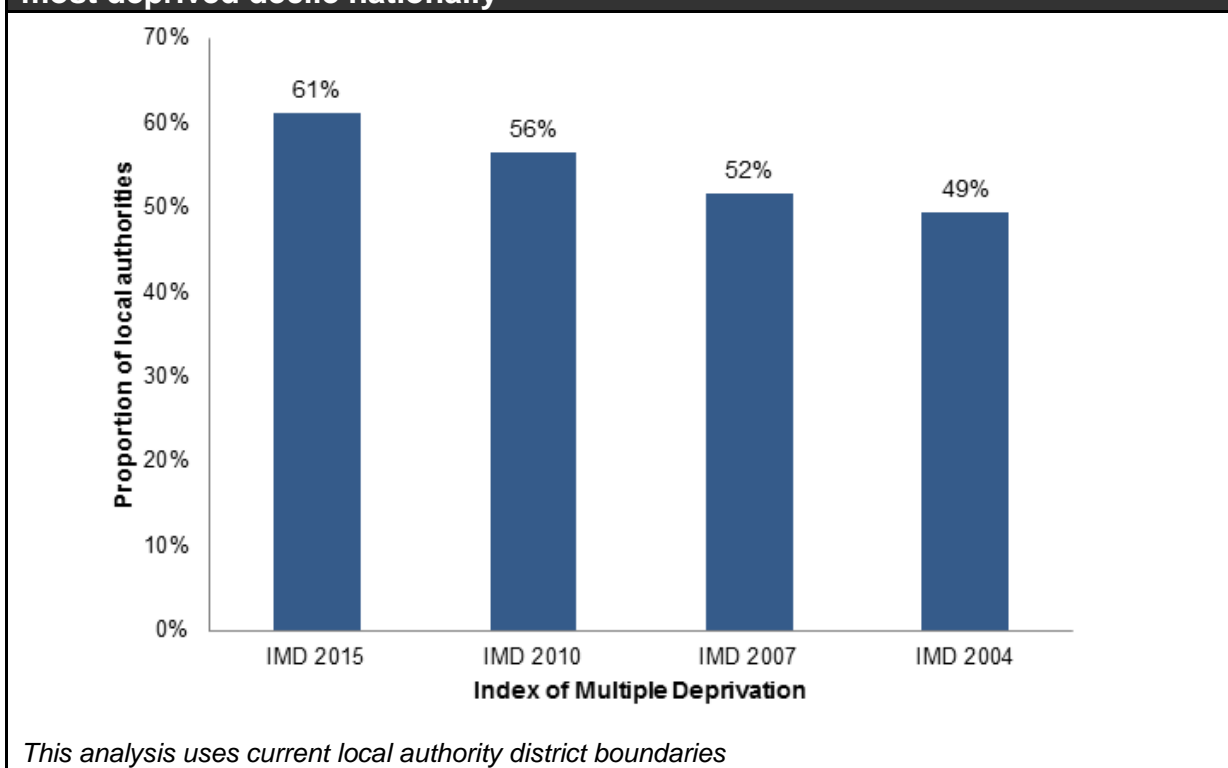
The Indices of Deprivation can be summarised in a range of ways to describe relative deprivation among local authorities as described in the Further Information section of the Technical Notes (p. 29). Each of these will lead to a different ranking of local authorities. For simplicity and continuity with analysis presented earlier, this Statistical Release mainly focuses on just one of the measures in describing deprivation at local authority level: the proportion of neighbourhoods that are in the most deprived decile nationally. Therefore, the most deprived local authority districts are defined as those that contain the largest proportions of highly deprived neighbourhoods.

Three in five (61 per cent) of the 326 local authorities in England contain at least one neighbourhood which is in the most deprived decile nationally according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

More extreme neighbourhood deprivation is concentrated among fewer local authorities: about one in five local authorities (22 per cent) contain at least one neighbourhood which is in the *one per cent* most deprived nationally.

Deprived neighbourhoods have become more dispersed since 2004: the proportion of local authorities containing at least one neighbourhood in the most deprived decile has increased with successive updates of the Indices of Deprivation (see Chart 5). Just under half (49 per cent) of local authorities, based on current boundaries<sup>3</sup>, contained at least one highly deprived neighbourhood according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, compared to 61 per cent on the 2015 Index.

**Chart 5: Proportion of local authorities with at least one neighbourhood in the most deprived decile nationally**

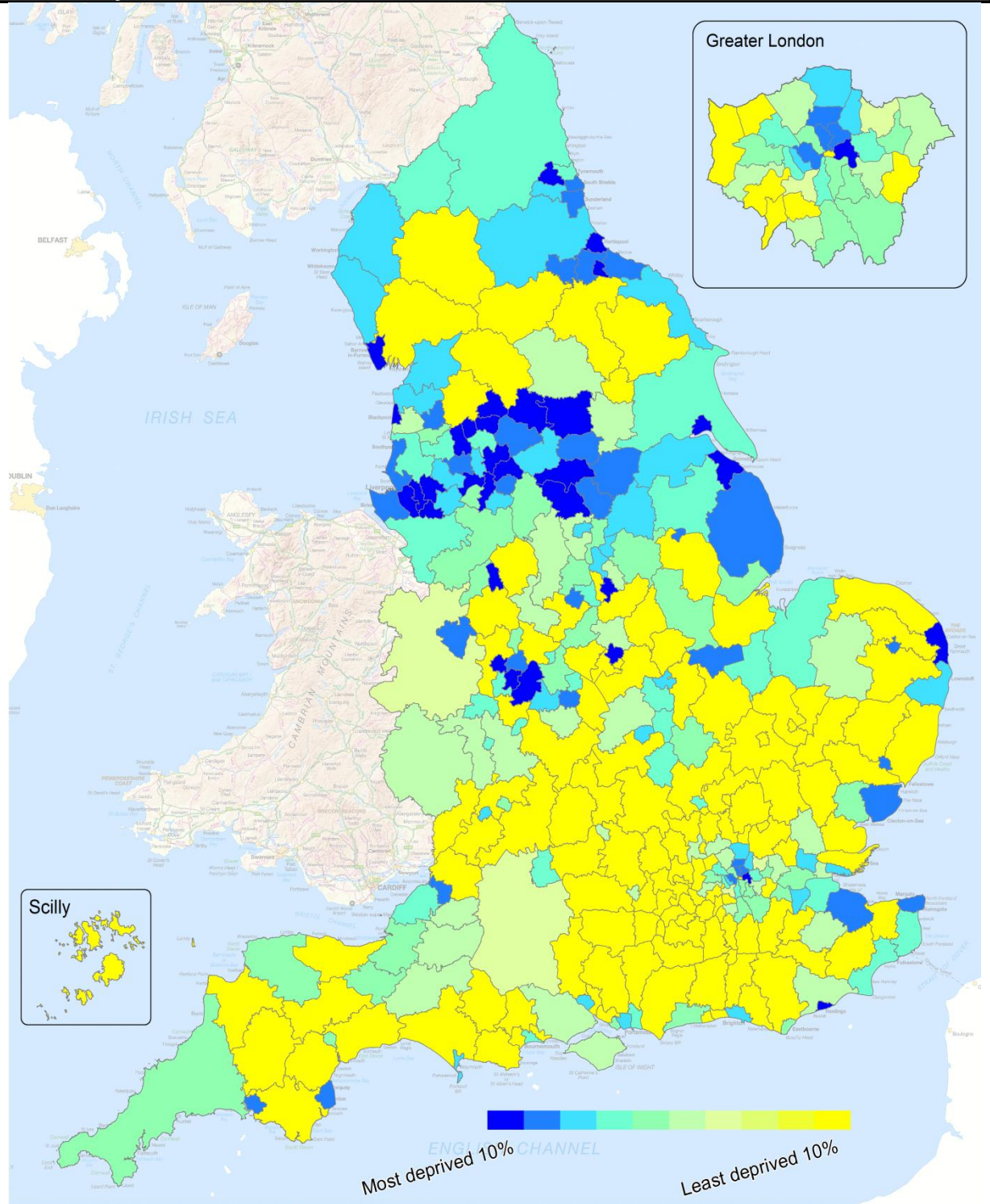


Map 2 illustrates the geographical spread of deprivation for local authority districts across England. This higher level geography masks some pockets of deprivation that are visible in Map 1. Areas shaded dark blue are the 10 per cent of districts in England that contain the largest proportion of highly deprived neighbourhoods. Areas shaded bright green contain proportionately few highly deprived neighbourhoods, and are relatively less deprived. But 127 of the 326 districts (39 per cent) do not contain any highly deprived neighbourhoods and are therefore equally ranked on this measure. These 127 districts are banded together and shown in bright yellow, corresponding to the least deprived decile.

<sup>3</sup> The number and structure of local authorities changed following reorganisation on 1 April 2009.



**Map 2: The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 among local authority districts based on the proportion of their neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile nationally**



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*Note: there are 127 districts with no neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile nationally. These are shown in the least deprived decile.*

It should be noted that geographically large districts shown on the map may have relatively small populations, and geographically small districts may contain larger populations.

Middlesbrough, Knowsley, Kingston upon Hull, Liverpool and Manchester are the five local authority districts with the largest proportions of highly deprived neighbourhoods in England, ranging from 49 per cent in Middlesbrough to 41 per cent in Manchester (see Table 3.) By definition, each district would contain just 10 per cent of such highly deprived neighbourhoods if deprivation was evenly distributed across local authorities.

**Table 3: The 20 local authority districts with the highest proportion of their neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods nationally on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, and change since the 2010 Index**

	IMD 2015		IMD 2010		Percentage point change from 2010
	N	%	N	%	
Middlesbrough	42	48.8	41	46.6	2.2
Knowsley	45	45.9	45	45.5	0.5
Kingston upon Hull	75	45.2	70	42.9	2.2
Liverpool	134	45.0	148	50.9	-5.9
Manchester	115	40.8	118	45.6	-4.8
Birmingham	253	39.6	251	39.2	0.4
Blackpool	36	38.3	35	37.2	1.1
Nottingham	61	33.5	45	25.6	7.9
Burnley	20	33.3	20	33.3	0
Hartlepool	19	32.8	21	36.2	-3.4
Bradford	101	32.6	94	30.6	2.0
Blackburn with Darwen	28	30.8	31	34.1	-3.3
Hastings	16	30.2	15	28.3	1.9
Stoke-on-Trent	48	30.2	50	31.3	-1.1
North East Lincolnshire	31	29.2	27	25.2	4.0
Salford	43	28.7	47	32.6	-4.0
Rochdale	38	28.4	35	25.9	2.4
Pendle	16	28.1	17	29.8	-1.8
Halton	21	26.6	21	26.6	0.0
Great Yarmouth	16	26.2	13	21.3	4.9

*Note: Based on all neighbourhoods i.e. Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Due to boundary changes, the numbers of LSOAs should not be directly compared across the Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2010; changes are measured as percentage point changes.*

*Hastings and Stoke-on-Trent are equally ranked as 13<sup>th</sup> most deprived on this measure according to the 2015 Index.*

Turning for a moment to the very most deprived neighbourhoods in England, Liverpool is the local authority with the largest number of neighbourhoods in the most deprived *one per cent* of all neighbourhoods nationally (26 out of its 298 neighbourhoods, or 9 per cent are in this group). But Blackpool has the highest *proportion* of its neighbourhoods in the most deprived one per cent nationally (19 out of 94, or 20 per cent). (See Table 4.4 of the Research Report.)

## **Change in relative deprivation since the Indices of Deprivation 2010**

This section focuses on changes in relative deprivation since the previous version of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. As explained in the 'Further information' section (p.33), care should be taken in interpreting change between updates of the Indices. The changes being described are relative, in terms of changes in the degree to which the neighbourhoods in a local authority district are among the most deprived nationally, as determined by each version of the Indices. If an area experienced some absolute decrease (i.e. improvement) in deprivation levels but less so than other areas, the Index would still show an increase in *relative* deprivation.

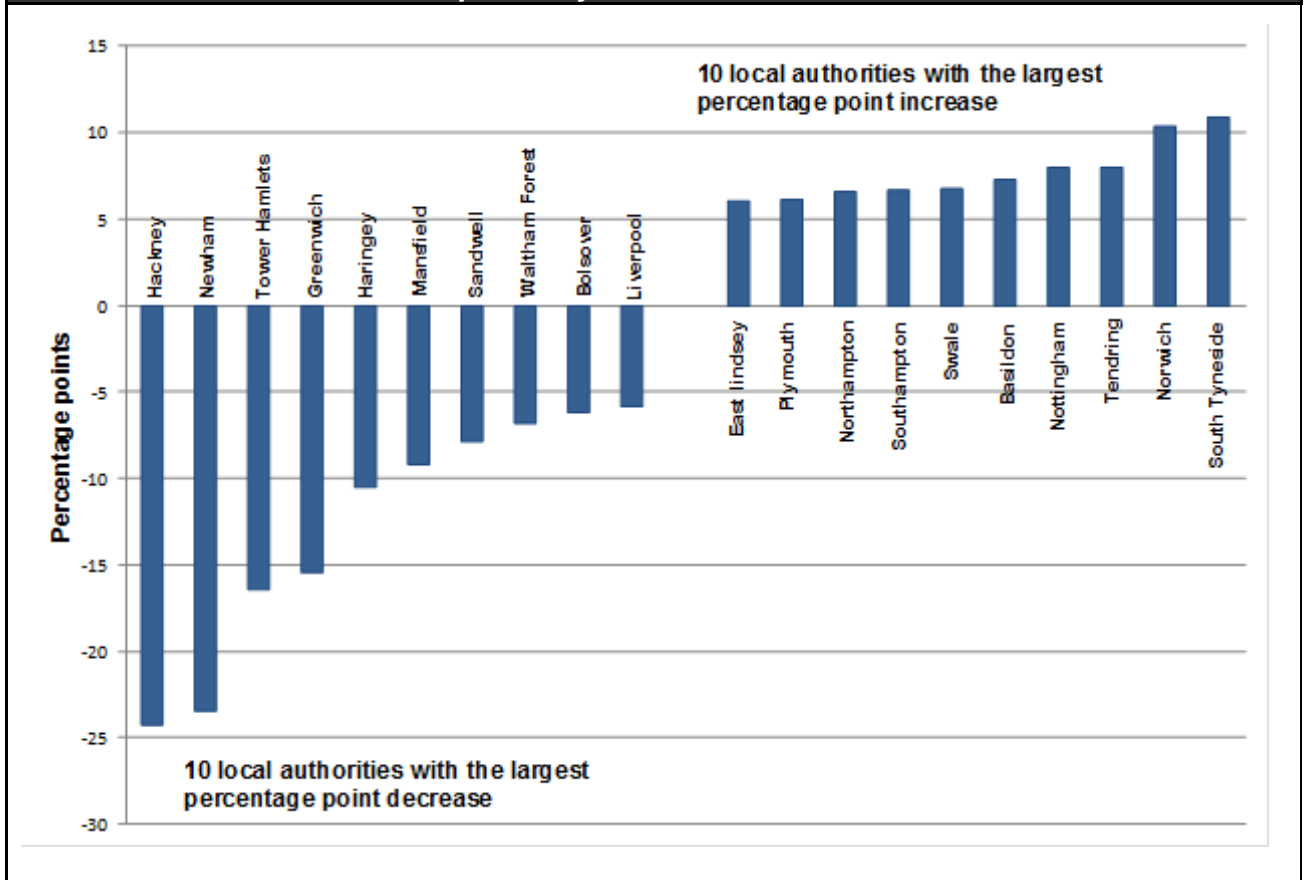
The same five local authority districts have the greatest proportions of highly deprived neighbourhoods according to both the 2015 and 2010 Index (Table 3). Liverpool was ranked most deprived according to the 2010 Index with just over half (51 per cent) of all neighbourhoods in Liverpool in the most deprived decile nationally. This has fallen by 6 percentage points according to the 2015 Index. But there were larger changes between the 2015 Index and its predecessor in other areas. Chart 6 shows the ten local authority districts that experienced the largest decreases on this summary measure and the ten which experienced the largest increases.

There have been large decreases in a number of London Boroughs in the proportions of their neighbourhoods that are highly deprived. In Hackney and Newham in particular, there were reductions of 24 percentage points: from 42 per cent of neighbourhoods in Hackney being highly deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 to 17 per cent following this update, and from 31 per cent of neighbourhoods being highly deprived in Newham on the 2010 Index to 8 per cent following this update.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> While the proportions for Hackney and Newham are described in whole numbers, the percentage point change is calculated from unrounded data.

**Chart 6: Change in the proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and the 2010 Index by local authority district: the ten authorities with the largest percentage point decreases and increases respectively**



It is notable that there were four London Boroughs (Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham and Haringey) among the 20 most deprived local authorities based on this summary measure of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010<sup>5</sup>. But these are no longer among the 20 most deprived districts according to this summary measure of the 2015 Index, indicating that they have become *relatively* less deprived.

Apart from Nottingham, the ten local authority districts with the largest percentage point increases on this summary measure were not among the most deprived districts nationally. This is borne out in Chart 7 which depicts the 33, or 10 per cent of local authority districts which are most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and how they have fared *relative to other areas* since the 2010 Index<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> See Table 4 of the Statistical Release for the 2010 Index

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6871/1871208.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6871/1871208.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Corresponding charts in Chapter 5, Section 5.3, of the Research Report illustrate changes in rank among the most deprived districts according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 over a longer timescale, since the 2010, 2007 and 2004 Indexes.

In Chart 7, districts are ranked according to the proportion of their neighbourhoods that were in the most deprived decile of the Index at the time. The slope of the lines indicates change in rank position, that is whether the local authority district has become *relatively* more or less deprived, and not absolute change. In other words, it is possible that a district may have become *less* deprived in real terms since the previous Index but *more* deprived relative to all other districts (or vice versa). But it should be noted that a change in rank – even of several places – may not represent a large increase or decrease in absolute levels of deprivation.

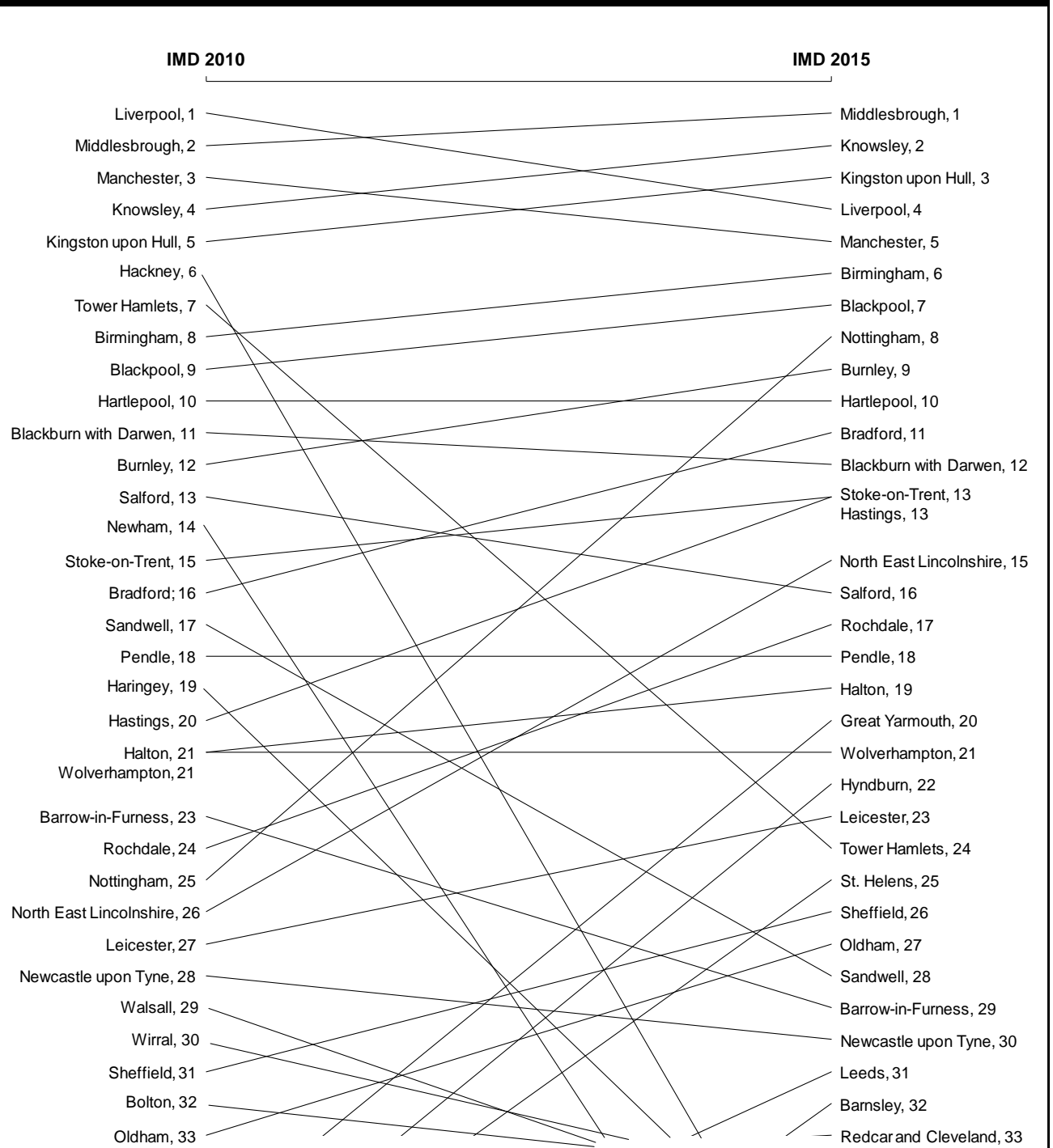
The absence of any notable changes in rank among the most deprived local authority districts is of interest as this indicates areas that have been persistently most deprived. As well as being the five most deprived local authorities according to the 2015 and 2010 Indexes, Middlesbrough, Knowsley, Kingston upon Hull, Liverpool and Manchester were also among the ten most deprived local authorities according to the 2007 and 2004 updates (see Chart 5.4 of the Research Report).

The earlier observation that the London Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Haringey have become relatively less deprived is borne out in this chart. Tower Hamlets is ranked 24<sup>th</sup> on this measure according to the 2015 Index, but was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> most deprived based on the 2010 Index (and 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived based on both the 2004 Index and 2007 Index).

As stated earlier, there are a range of measures that summarise deprivation in local authorities and each leads to a different ranking of these areas. While the measure based on the proportion of neighbourhoods among the most deprived 10 per cent nationally is easy to interpret, a neighbourhood that may be only a few ranks outside the most deprived 10 per cent is not counted as being most deprived. A complementary summary measure of deprivation is the **extent** measure. This focuses on the neighbourhoods in the larger geographic area that are among the most deprived *three* deciles of deprivation, but it gives higher weight to the most deprived decile and gradually less weight to each individual percentile thereafter. By avoiding a sharp cut-off, while still focusing on the most deprived neighbourhoods, it can give a more balanced indication of change in relative deprivation over time.

Chart 8 presents how the most deprived local authorities have changed rank on the Index of Multiple Deprivation since the previous update based on the extent measure. This chart tells a somewhat different story. On this measure, six London boroughs rank among the most deprived 10 per cent of local authorities according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. Notably, Tower Hamlets remains among the three most deprived local authorities on this measure, and the outer east London borough of Barking and Dagenham has become relatively more deprived, moving from 20<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> most deprived since the 2010 Index.

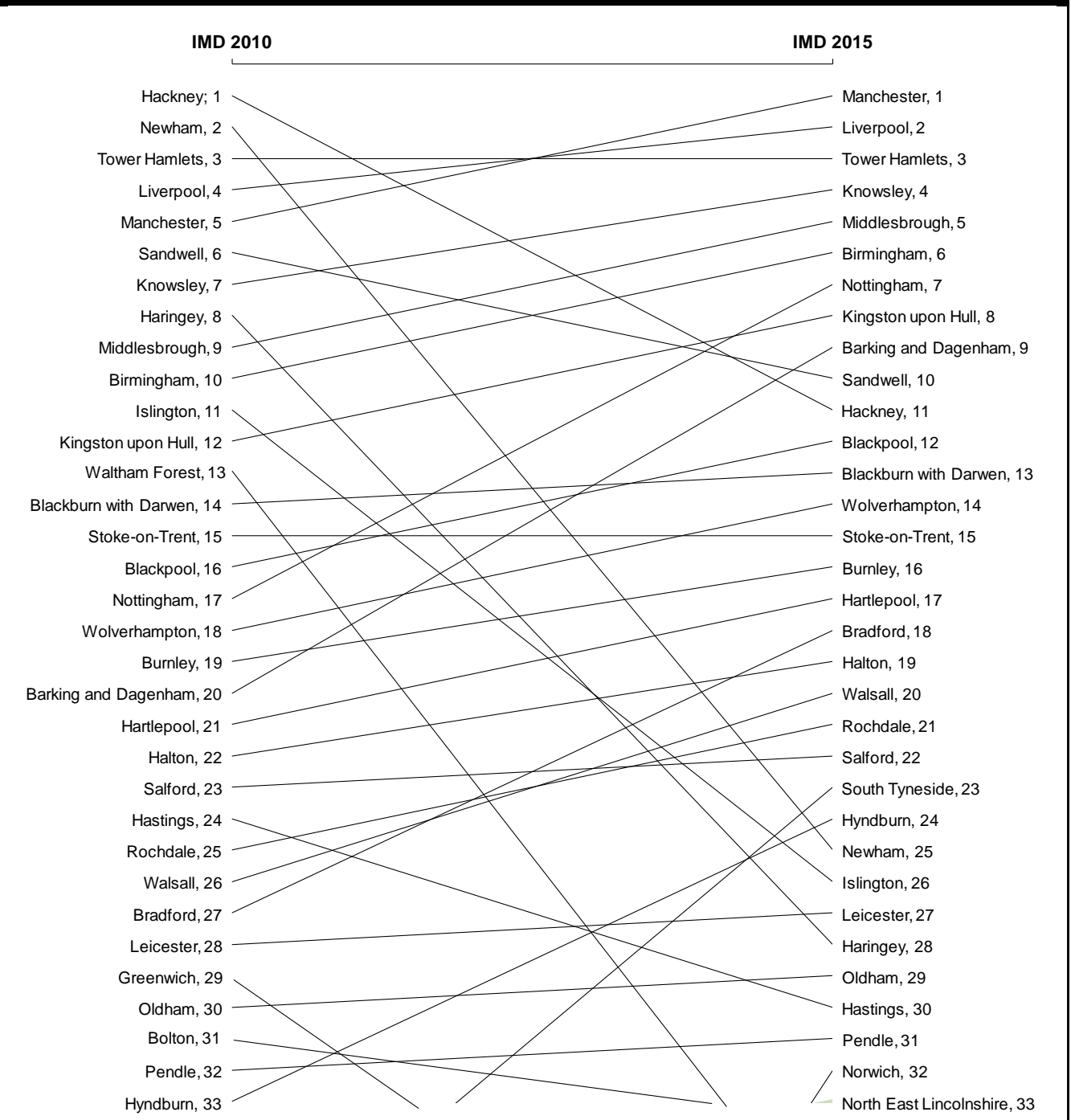
**Chart 7. The most deprived local authority districts according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and the 2010 Index: local authorities are ranked on the proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10 per cent nationally**



*Note: Hastings and Stoke-on-Trent are equally ranked as 13th most deprived on this measure.*

*Any change in rank position represents relative change only. It is possible that a district may have become less deprived in real terms since the previous Index, but more deprived relative to all other districts, or vice versa. Furthermore, a change in rank, even of several places, may not represent a large increase or decrease in the levels of deprivation.*

**Chart 8. The most deprived local authority districts according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 and the 2010 Index: local authorities are ranked on the 'extent' summary measure of deprivation**



*Any change in rank position represents relative change only. It is possible that a district may have become less deprived in real terms since the previous Index, but more deprived relative to all other districts, or vice versa. Furthermore, a change in rank, even of several places, may not represent a large increase or decrease in the levels of deprivation.*

## The distribution of deprivation in Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Indices of Deprivation are being published for Local Enterprise Partnerships for the first time. The purpose is to enable partnerships to understand the extent to which neighbourhoods in their areas are deprived and the types of deprivation experienced within them. The partnership areas vary in size, but all cover large geographical areas and diverse populations.

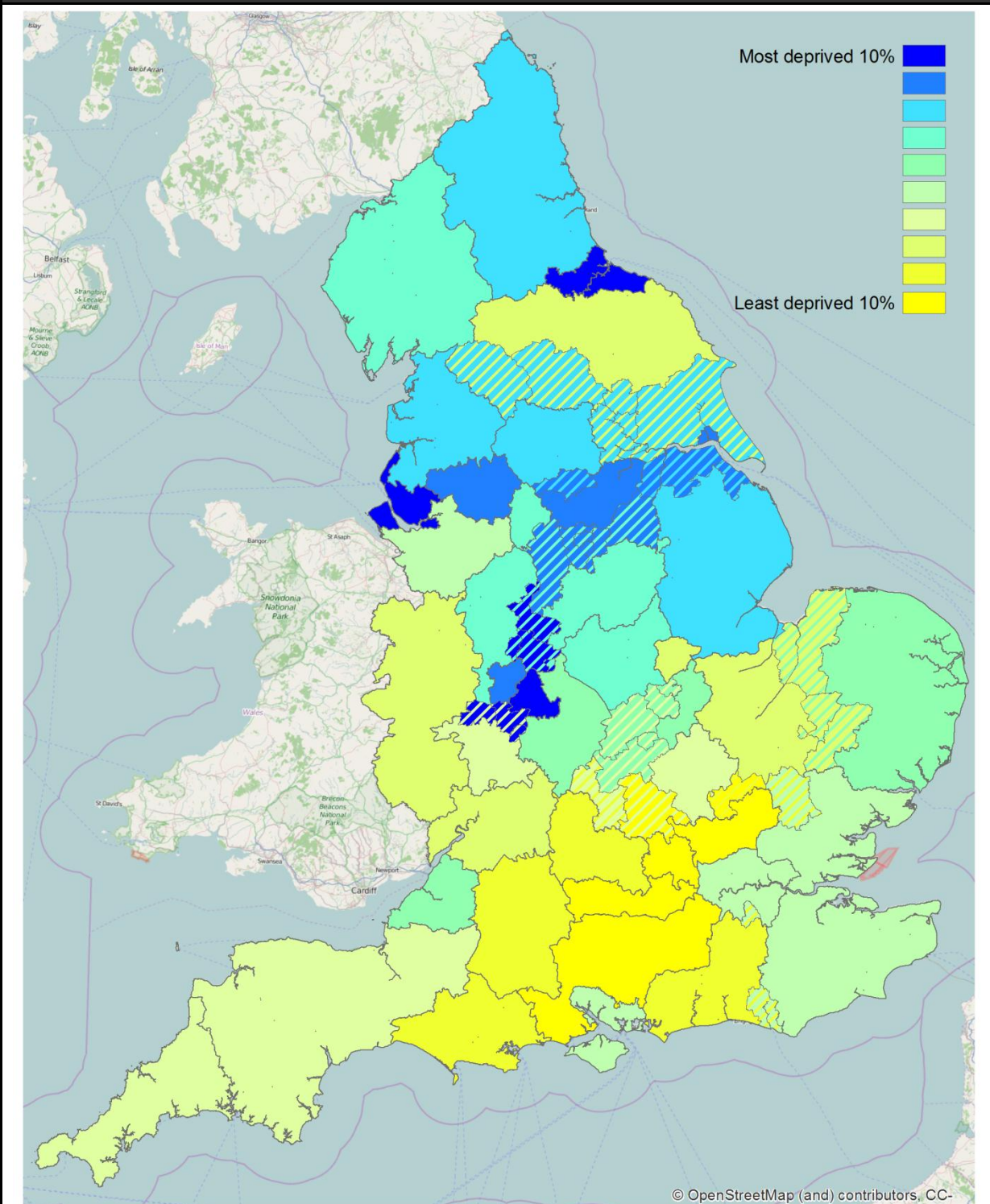
Map 3 and Table 4 rank all 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships in England based on the proportion of neighbourhoods in each that are in the most deprived decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 nationally. Because these partnership areas may experience deprivation in some domains but not others, Table 4 also shows the proportion of neighbourhoods which are among the most deprived decile of the constituent deprivation domain indices.

The five Local Enterprise Partnerships that are most highly deprived according to this summary measure of the Index of Multiple Deprivation are Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Humber, and Greater Manchester. In these areas, between 21 per cent and 31 per cent of neighbourhoods are among the most deprived decile nationally of this Index.

But in the majority of partnerships (27 of the 39), the proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation nationally is less than 10 per cent. There are five partnerships where less than one per cent of neighbourhoods are in the most deprived decile of this Index nationally. These include Enterprise M3 and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley, where none of the neighbourhoods meet this criterion. This is not to say that there are no deprived people in the partnership areas ranked as least deprived; rather where deprivation exists, it may not be concentrated within particular neighbourhoods.



Map 3: The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 among Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) based on the proportion of their neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile nationally



*Note: Some LEP areas partially overlap, such that some local authority districts and neighbourhoods appear in more than one LEP area. Where this occurs, the map is coloured to reflect the decile of deprivation of both the LEPs concerned.*

For further information on named partnership areas and boundaries see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-enterprise-partnerships-map](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-enterprise-partnerships-map)

The most deprived partnership areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation are also among the most deprived in terms of both income deprivation and employment deprivation. This is not unexpected since these two domains carry the greatest weight in contributing to the overall Index.

Income deprivation is a measure of families being on very low incomes whether in or out of work, whereas employment deprivation is based on involuntary exclusion of people of working age from work. In most partnership areas, income deprivation and employment deprivation are closely matched. This is partly expected given the definitions of the domains: families experiencing employment deprivation are very likely to also experience income deprivation. But in some areas, most notably London, a greater proportion of neighbourhoods are among the most highly income deprived nationally than are among the most highly employment deprived nationally. The opposite is found, for example, for the North Eastern, Liverpool City Region, Sheffield and Cumbria partnerships.

Partnership areas that are relatively less deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation may be more highly deprived in particular dimensions. The most notable examples of this are found in the Barriers to Housing and Services domain. Apart from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull partnership, none of the ten most deprived partnership areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation are highly deprived on this domain. Yet a number of less deprived partnership areas according to the overall Index contain high proportions of neighbourhoods that are highly deprived on this domain. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the Marches, and London – although relatively less deprived on the overall Index – contain particularly high proportions of such neighbourhoods. Deprivation on this domain can reflect a mixture of local challenges: low incomes in relation to local housing costs, household overcrowding and homelessness; and distance from services (GPs, food shops, schools and post offices) which tends to affect more sparsely populated areas.

**Table 4: The proportion of neighbourhoods in each Local Enterprise Partnership that are in the most deprived 10 per cent of areas nationally according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, and the underlying domain indices**

Rank	Local Enterprise Partnership	Index of Multiple Deprivation		Education, Skills and Training		Health, Deprivation and Disability		Barriers to Housing and Services		Living Environment
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	Liverpool City Region	31.3	30.1	35.2	18.0	45.8	12.5	0.5	14.9	
2	Tees Valley	26.9	29.0	31.7	23.0	32.9	13.9	1.2	0.7	
3	Greater Birmingham and Solihull	23.9	22.2	20.9	16.7	9.6	9.1	25.2	18.3	
4	Humber	22.0	20.1	21.4	22.1	11.3	20.4	6.9	11.8	
5	Greater Manchester	20.8	20.0	21.2	13.7	31.3	14.2	1.4	7.2	
6	Black Country	18.7	25.1	20.9	21.2	8.1	5.8	0.7	3.9	
7	Sheffield City Region	17.5	15.6	20.3	23.6	19.4	10.8	4.2	3.7	
8	Lancashire	17.2	13.8	16.2	12.3	27.2	15.5	1.7	19.4	
9	Leeds City Region	16.9	13.4	15.9	19.6	15.7	12.9	2.4	15.5	
10	North Eastern	13.8	16.8	24.1	11.6	29.0	3.3	3.7	1.8	
11	Greater Lincolnshire	11.0	9.4	11.5	13.2	9.4	10.7	10.0	9.1	
12	Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and	10.0	9.3	11.0	15.4	10.8	7.6	3.7	7.4	
13	Cumbria	9.0	5.6	10.3	12.8	17.1	6.2	12.5	23.7	
14	Leicester and Leicestershire	8.5	8.7	6.8	11.7	5.6	10.4	3.4	7.5	
15	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	8.4	7.4	10.2	14.7	10.9	6.7	4.2	6.6	
16	Coventry and Warwickshire	8.2	7.7	6.0	8.2	7.5	6.4	8.4	8.8	
17	West of England	7.7	6.9	8.1	10.2	6.5	7.8	2.8	8.6	
18	Northamptonshire	6.9	4.7	5.7	12.8	5.9	11.8	9.0	3.3	
19	New Anglia	6.3	5.1	5.9	13.7	4.7	3.4	15.2	8.7	
20	Solent	6.1	5.2	4.0	12.8	5.3	9.2	2.8	14.4	
21	London	5.7	9.1	2.9	0.3	1.3	21.1	24.2	15.7	
22	Cheshire and Warrington	5.6	5.1	6.5	8.2	8.9	5.9	3.8	6.3	
23	South East	5.3	5.1	5.3	8.5	2.4	9.4	7.6	4.3	
24	Heart of the South West	5.2	4.2	5.5	4.8	5.8	7.0	11.1	18.8	
25	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	5.2	3.7	5.5	3.1	4.0	3.1	23.5	48.0	
26	South East Midlands	4.5	4.5	3.4	7.7	3.5	9.7	12.3	2.0	
27	Worcestershire	4.4	4.4	5.2	8.8	3.0	3.3	17.9	7.7	
28	The Marches	4.1	5.0	5.5	8.4	3.4	2.9	25.7	20.6	
29	Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough	3.5	2.8	2.9	8.8	2.3	2.1	14.9	2.3	
30	Gloucestershire	3.5	2.9	2.4	6.2	1.9	3.2	8.8	4.6	
31	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding	3.4	2.8	3.7	5.4	2.3	2.1	14.4	9.8	
32	Dorset	2.4	2.0	2.2	4.9	2.7	4.0	10.0	7.1	
33	Coast to Capital	2.3	2.5	1.6	4.3	2.6	6.5	11.6	7.0	
34	Swindon and Wiltshire	2.2	2.2	2.2	8.6	0.5	4.3	13.4	1.2	
35	Oxfordshire	0.5	0.7	0.0	6.1	0.5	1.7	9.6	1.7	
36	Thames Valley Berkshire	0.4	0.9	0.4	1.9	0.0	5.2	5.6	4.3	
37	Hertfordshire	0.3	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.4	4.8	0.6	
38	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.3	8.2	0.0	
39	Enterprise M3	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.2	0.8	6.0	0.9	

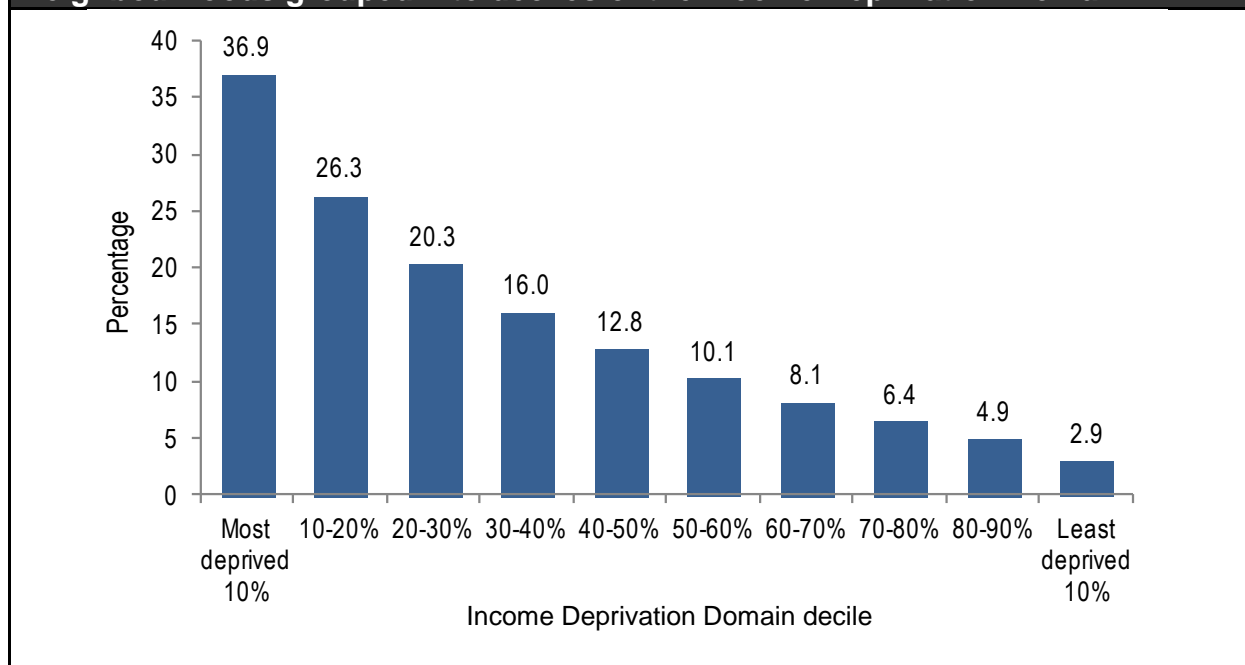
*Note: some local authority districts and neighbourhoods are in more than one partnership area. Where this occurs, the summary statistic for each of the partnership areas concerned is based on all the neighbourhoods within it, even if some neighbourhoods also fall under another partnership area.*

## Income deprivation and employment deprivation

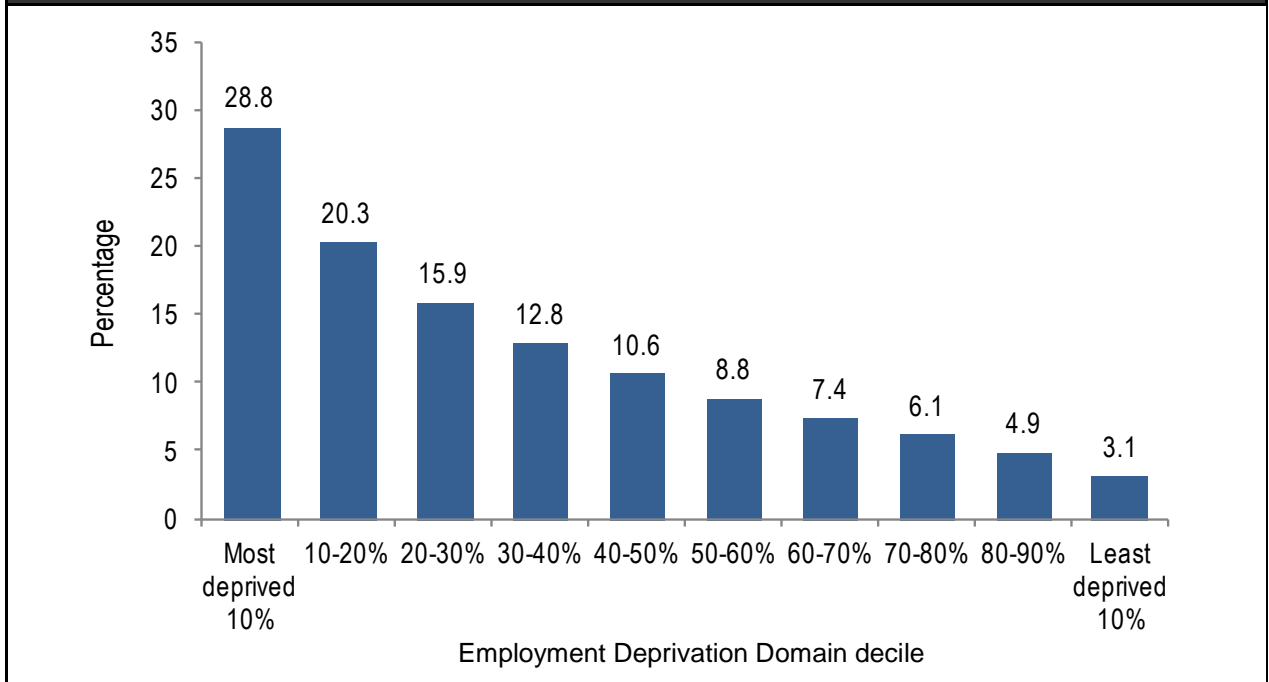
The analysis so far has mainly focused on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. This section focuses on the two domains of deprivation which contribute the most weight to the overall Index: the Income Deprivation Domain and Employment Deprivation Domain. In addition, the section explores the supplementary indices of income deprivation among children and older people. These indices describe deprivation in terms of proportions of deprived people, so allowing direct comparison of deprivation levels between areas.

Levels of income deprivation and employment deprivation vary widely between neighbourhoods. In the most deprived decile of neighbourhoods on the Income Deprivation Domain, on average, 37 per cent of the population are income deprived. But in the least deprived decile of this deprivation domain, only 3 per cent of people are income deprived (Chart 9). A similar pattern is observed for employment deprivation among the working-age population. In the most deprived decile of neighbourhoods on the Employment Deprivation Domain, on average, 29 per cent of the working-age adults are employment deprived, compared with 3 per cent of those in the least deprived decile of this domain (Chart 10).

**Chart 9: Proportion of the population living in income deprived households in neighbourhoods grouped into deciles of the Income Deprivation Domain**



**Chart 10: Proportion of the working-age population in employment deprivation in neighbourhoods grouped into deciles of the Employment Deprivation Domain**



Because families experiencing employment deprivation are very likely to also experience income deprivation, the local authority districts that are ranked as most deprived on the Income Deprivation Domain are also ranked as most deprived on the Employment Deprivation Domain (see Table 5). Levels of income deprivation and employment deprivation are both highest in Knowsley, Middlesbrough and Blackpool. In the ten local authority districts that have the highest proportion of people living in income deprivation, around a quarter of people are income deprived.

**Table 5: The 20 local authority districts with the highest levels of income deprivation and employment deprivation, respectively**

Rank	Income Deprivation Domain		Employment Deprivation Domain	
	Local Authority District	Proportion of the population living in income deprived households	Local Authority District	Proportion of working age adults in employment deprivation
1	Knowsley	27.6%	Knowsley	23.3%
2	Middlesbrough	26.8%	Blackpool	22.8%
3	Blackpool	25.7%	Middlesbrough	21.6%
4	Kingston upon Hull	25.7%	Hartlepool	21.1%
5	Liverpool	25.6%	Liverpool	20.7%
6	Tower Hamlets	25.3%	Kingston upon Hull	20.2%
7	Manchester	24.2%	South Tyneside	19.8%
8	Birmingham	24.2%	Hastings	18.7%
9	Barking and Dagenham	24.2%	Great Yarmouth	18.7%
10	Sandwell	24.1%	Wolverhampton	18.7%
11	Hartlepool	23.9%	Thanet	18.6%
12	Wolverhampton	23.8%	Redcar and Cleveland	18.6%
13	Hackney	23.4%	Sunderland	18.5%
14	Nottingham	22.5%	Burnley	18.5%
15	South Tyneside	22.3%	Rochdale	18.5%
16	Hastings	22.2%	St. Helens	18.3%
17	Leicester	22.1%	Sandwell	18.1%
18	Walsall	21.9%	Barnsley	18.1%
19	Islington	21.7%	Stoke-on-Trent	18.0%
20	Newham	21.7%	Blackburn with Darwen	18.0%

*These are derived from the published 'average score' statistics for the Income Deprivation Domain and the Employment Deprivation Domain.*

Whether the focus is on income deprivation among people of all ages, or that which affects children or older people, there is considerable overlap in the local authority districts which rank in the 20 most income deprived (Tables 5 and 6). Tower Hamlets is the most deprived district with regard to income deprivation among both children and older people.

In the ten local authority districts which rank most deprived according to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, around a third or more of children live in income deprived families. Almost one in four children (39 per cent) in Tower Hamlets is living in an income-deprived family. Furthermore, over half of all neighbourhoods in Tower Hamlets (54 per cent) rank in the 10 per cent most deprived nationally on this index.

In the ten local authority districts which rank most deprived according to the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index, around a third or more of older people are income deprived, rising to half of all older people in Tower Hamlets. Seven of these ten districts are London boroughs. Furthermore, more than three-quarters of neighbourhoods in both Tower Hamlets and Hackney (76 per cent and 78 per cent respectively) rank in the 10 per cent most deprived nationally on this index.

Further findings on these and other domains of deprivation are presented in Appendix E of the Research Report.

**Table 6: The 20 local authority districts with the highest proportions of children and older people in income deprivation, respectively**

Rank	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)		Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)	
	Local Authority District	Proportion of children living in income deprived households	Local Authority District	Proportion of older people living in income deprived households
1	Tower Hamlets	39.3%	Tower Hamlets	49.7%
2	Middlesbrough	35.7%	Hackney	43.1%
3	Islington	35.3%	Newham	41.0%
4	Nottingham	34.5%	Manchester	36.3%
5	Manchester	34.3%	Islington	36.1%
6	Kingston upon Hull	34.0%	Southwark	34.3%
7	Knowsley	33.7%	Lambeth	33.2%
8	Liverpool	33.4%	Liverpool	32.7%
9	Blackpool	32.9%	Knowsley	32.6%
10	Hackney	32.2%	Haringey	31.8%
11	Barking & Dagenham	31.9%	Leicester	31.5%
12	Wolverhampton	31.3%	Sandwell	29.2%
13	Enfield	30.7%	Kingston upon Hull	28.4%
14	Hartlepool	30.7%	Birmingham	28.2%
15	Birmingham	30.5%	Brent	28.0%
16	Lambeth	30.4%	Barking & Dagenham	27.9%
17	Southwark	30.3%	Hammersmith & Fulham	27.5%
18	Sandwell	29.9%	Nottingham	25.9%
19	Lewisham	29.6%	Lewisham	25.7%
20	Norwich	29.0%	Camden	25.4%

*These are derived from the published 'average score' statistics for the supplementary indices of the Income Deprivation Domain, IDACI and IDAOPI.*

# Accompanying tables and reports

The following tables are available to download alongside this release.

## Neighbourhood (Lower-layer Super Output Area) level data

There are a number of files at neighbourhood level. The first of these contains the Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks and deciles, and is sufficient for the purposes of most users. Other files are available for users with more specific requirements.

<b>File 1</b>	Index of Multiple Deprivation
<b>File 2</b>	Domains of deprivation
<b>File 3</b>	Supplementary Indices - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index
<b>File 4</b>	Sub-domains of deprivation
<b>File 5</b>	Scores for the Indices of Deprivation
<b>File 6</b>	Population denominators
<b>File 7</b>	All ranks, deciles and scores for the Indices of Deprivation, and population denominators (CSV file)
<b>File 8</b>	Underlying indicators
<b>File 9</b>	Transformed domain scores

## Summary data for higher-level geographies

<b>File 10</b>	Local Authority District Summaries
<b>File 11</b>	Upper-tier Local Authority Summaries
<b>File 12</b>	Local Enterprise Partnership Summaries
<b>File 13</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group Summaries

Appendix F of the Research Report and Appendix O of the Technical Report 'What data has been published' describe these data files in more detail.

The following additional supporting documents have been published:

- A **Guidance note** which focuses on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, to aid interpretation of this Index, with some caveats on its use.
- An **infographic** which illustrates how the Index of Multiple Deprivation is comprised and some do's and don'ts concerning its use.
- **Frequently asked questions**



- A **Research Report** provides guidance on how to use and interpret the datasets and presents further results from the Indices of Deprivation 2015. It includes a full account of the set of summary statistics available for higher-level geographies such as local authority districts, with an example of their use, and advice on interpreting change over time.
- A **Technical Report** presenting the conceptual framework of the Indices of Deprivation 2015; the methodology for creating the domains and the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation; the quality assurance carried out to ensure reliability of the data outputs; and the component indicators and domains.

All of the data files and supporting documents are available from:  
[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015)

Previous versions of the Indices of Deprivation (2000, 2004, 2007 and 2010) are available from:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation)

A history of the Indices is provided in Appendix N of the Technical Report.

## Definitions

### Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

Each of these domains is based on a basket of indicators. As far as is possible, each indicator is based on data from the most recent time point available; in practice most indicators in the Indices of Deprivation 2015 relate to the tax year 2012/13.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. In addition, there are seven domain-level indices, and two supplementary indices: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index.

A range of summary measures are available for higher-level geographies including local authority districts and upper tier local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, and clinical commissioning groups. These are based on the geographic boundaries for these areas at the time of publication.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, domain indices and the supplementary indices, together with the higher area summaries, are collectively referred to as the Indices of Deprivation 2015.

### **Index of Multiple Deprivation**

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines information from the seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domains are combined using the following weights:

- Income Deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment Deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%)
- Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%)

The weights were derived from consideration of the academic literature on poverty and deprivation, as well as consideration of the levels of robustness of the indicators. A fuller account is given in section 3.7 and Appendix G of the Technical Report.

### **Income Deprivation Domain**

The Income Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).

### **Employment Deprivation Domain**

The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

### **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain**

The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills.

### **Health Deprivation and Disability Domain**

The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The

domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

### **Crime Domain**

The Crime Domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.

### **Barriers to Housing and Services Domain**

The Barriers to Housing and Services Domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and 'wider barriers' which includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability and homelessness.

### **Living Environment Deprivation Domain**

The Living Environment Deprivation Domain measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two sub-domains. The 'indoors' living environment measures the quality of housing; while the 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents.

### **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index**

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families<sup>7</sup>. This is one of two supplementary indices and is a sub-set of the Income Deprivation Domain.

### **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index**

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation. This is one of two supplementary indices and is a sub-set of the Income Deprivation Domain.

### **Lower-Layer Super Output Areas**

Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are small areas designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England. They were produced by the Office for National Statistics for the reporting of small area statistics. LSOAs are referred to as 'neighbourhoods' throughout this release.

Following the 2011 Census, the geography of Lower-layer Super Output Areas was revised, and the number of areas has increased from 32,482 (as used in the 2010, 2007 and 2004 Indices of Deprivation) to 32,844 (used in the 2015 Indices of Deprivation).

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<sup>7</sup> The word 'family' is used to designate a 'benefit unit', that is the claimant, any partner and any dependent children (those for whom Child Benefit is received).

The boundaries of the vast majority (96 per cent) of these 32,844 areas are unchanged since the Indices of Deprivation 2010, 2007 and 2004.

But elsewhere, some neighbourhoods have been combined or split and some new neighbourhoods have been created; this is to account for significant population change occurring in these areas between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. This means that 31,672 areas have the same boundaries as in previous versions of the Indices, and can be used in analysis comparing *relative* deprivation over time (see 'understanding change over time' in the 'Further information' section below for guidance on this).

### **Decile**

Deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 neighbourhoods in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups (i.e. each containing 3,284 or 3,285 neighbourhoods). These deciles range from the most deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods nationally to the least deprived 10 per cent of neighbourhoods nationally.

### **Most deprived or highly deprived neighbourhoods**

For the purposes of this Statistical Release, the 'most deprived' or 'highly deprived' neighbourhoods refer to the 10 per cent of neighbourhoods that are most deprived nationally according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. But there is no definitive threshold above which an area is described as 'deprived' or 'highly deprived'; the Indices of Deprivation are a continuous scale of deprivation.

### **Extent**

Extent is one of the summary measures used to describe deprivation in larger areas such as local authorities. The extent measure focuses on the neighbourhoods in the larger area that are among the most deprived *three* deciles of deprivation, but it gives higher weight to the most deprived decile and gradually less weight to each individual percentile thereafter.

### **Average score**

Average score is another of the summary measures used to describe deprivation in larger areas such as local authorities. For the Income Deprivation Domain, its supplementary indices for children and older people (IDACI and IDAOPI), and the Employment Deprivation Domain, the average score for an area can be interpreted as the proportion of the relevant population experiencing income deprivation or employment deprivation.

### **Local Enterprise Partnerships**

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 are being published for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) for the first time. LEPs are partnerships in England between

local authorities and businesses<sup>8</sup>. They were created in 2011 and their role is to help shape local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive local economic growth and the creation of jobs. There are 39 LEPs. Every local authority in England belongs to at least one LEP. However, some local authorities belong to more than one LEP. One example is the London Borough of Croydon which is in the London LEP and Coast to Capital<sup>9</sup>.

Because some LEP areas partially overlap, some neighbourhoods are in more than one LEP area. The summary statistics for LEPs are based on all the neighbourhoods within the partnership area, even if some of these also fall in other partnership areas.

## Technical notes

### Methodology and data sources

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 have been constructed for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI).

The construction of the Indices of Deprivation 2015 broadly consists of the following seven stages. These stages fulfil the purposes of defining the Indices, data processing, and producing the Index of Multiple Deprivation and summary measures. The stages are as follows:

1. Dimensions (referred to as domains) of deprivation are clearly identified.
2. Indicators are chosen which provide the best possible measure of each domain of deprivation.
3. 'Shrinkage estimation' is used to improve reliability of the small area data.
4. Indicators are combined to form the domains, generating separate domain scores.
5. Domain scores are ranked and the domain ranks are transformed to a specified exponential distribution.
6. The exponentially transformed domain scores are combined using appropriate domain weights to form an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation at small area level. This stage completes the construction of the Indices of Deprivation 2015 at Lower-layer Super Output Area level.
7. The overall Index of Multiple Deprivation, the domains and the supplementary indices are summarised for higher level geographical areas such as local authority districts.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-local-enterprise-partnerships-leps-and-enterprise-zones/2010-to-2015-government-policy-local-enterprise-partnerships-leps-and-enterprise-zones](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-local-enterprise-partnerships-leps-and-enterprise-zones/2010-to-2015-government-policy-local-enterprise-partnerships-leps-and-enterprise-zones)

<sup>9</sup> [www.coast2capital.org.uk/about-us](http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/about-us)

Chapter 3 of the Technical Report describes these steps in detail.

The majority of the data used for the indicators is sourced from administrative data such as benefit records from the Department for Work and Pensions. Census data is used for a minority of indicators where alternative data from administrative sources is not available.

As far as is possible, the data sources used in each indicator were based on data from the most recent time point available. Using the latest available data in this way means that there is not a single consistent time point for all indicators. However in practice most indicators in the Indices of Deprivation 2015 relate to 2012/13.

As a result of the time points for which data is available, the indicators do not take into account changes to policy since the time point of the data used. For example, the 2012/13 benefits data used do not include the impact of Universal Credit, which only began to replace certain income related benefits from April 2013.

Chapter 4 and Appendix A of the Technical Report describe the 37 component indicators in the Indices of Deprivation 2015, including the data sources used, and the chapter explains how the indicators were combined to create each domain.

## Data quality

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 have been carefully designed and developed to ensure the robustness and reliability of the output datasets and reports. The design is based on a set of principles and practices that help to ensure data quality. These are described in Chapter 5 of the Technical Report. For example, the domains and Index of Multiple Deprivation bring together 37 indicators of deprivation, from a wide range of data sources. This sheer diversity of inputs leads to more reliable overall data outputs; to be highly deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, an area is likely to be highly deprived on a number of the domains. Due to the variety of data inputs, there is little chance that an area is identified as highly deprived due to a bias in one of the component indicators; the use of multiple independent indicators increases robustness of the final outputs.

The construction of the Indices involves a number of different processes. The quality assurance procedures for the methods, input data sources, data processing steps and outputs build on the experience held by members of the department's contractor (OCSI) in developing the Indices of Deprivation since 2000. These are described in Chapter 5 of the Technical Report (with further details in Appendices J, K and L) and include, but are not limited to:

- Use of appropriate and robust indicators, based on well understood data sources. The preference was to use, wherever possible, existing high quality published data sources that have themselves been validated as National Statistics (or variations thereof). In the absence of these, the second

preference was to derive indicators from established and well-understood administrative data sources. In a small number of cases, specially-modelled were used. In determining whether the data source was suitable for the purpose of measuring deprivation the quality of each input data source used was assessed and documented, and there was close communication with data suppliers to ensure the strengths and weaknesses of the underlying data were well understood.

- Minimising the impact of potential bias and error in the input data sources through the design principles outlined above.
- Using audited, replicable and validated processing steps to construct the Indices
- Real world validation of the data inputs and outputs.

The quality assurance process also drew on the quality assurance and audit arrangements practice models developed by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that the assessment of data sources and methodology carried out is proportionate to both the level of public interest in the Indices, and the scale of risk over the quality of the data.

## Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy, found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy)

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

### **Non-Scheduled Revisions**

The Indices of Deprivation draw upon the best available data at the time of their production and, as outlined above, undergo a substantial range of quality assurance checks. However, should an error be identified, the department will consider its impact and review whether an unscheduled revision is required.

### **Scheduled Revisions**

There are no scheduled revisions to the Indices of Deprivation 2015.

## Uses of the data

Since their original publication in 2000 the Indices of Deprivation have been used very widely for a range of purposes, including:

- By national and local organisations to identify places for prioritising resources and more effective targeting of funding. For example, the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 was used in conjunction with other data to distribute £448m

of funding to local authorities for DCLG's Troubled Families Programme; and in policies related to the European Regional Development Fund, targeted intervention will be prioritised to address concentrated pockets of deprivation<sup>10</sup>.

- Developing the evidence base for a range of national and local policies and strategies;
- Frequent use in funding bids, including bids made by councillors for their neighbourhoods, and from voluntary and community sector groups.

The Indices of Deprivation are appropriate for such uses where deprivation is concentrated at a neighbourhood level. Examples of uses of the Indices are available in section 1.4 of the research report. These types of uses were confirmed by responses to the survey of nearly 250 users carried out in July 2014. Indices data was used for a variety of purposes, and often respondents mentioned multiple uses. A summary of the findings from the user survey is provided in Appendix C of the Research Report.

## User engagement

The department is grateful to users of the Indices who contributed their thoughts on the development of this update and on how the outputs could be improved, for example through its user survey and consultation in 2014<sup>11</sup>. Following consultation, as well as introducing new indicators and changes to some of the indicators used in measuring deprivation, a number of changes have been made to the outputs to meet the needs highlighted by users, including:

- a short guidance note and infographic which communicate how to use the Indices and are suitable for specialists and non-specialists;
- clearer guidance on how to interpret changes between versions of the Indices; and on the range of summary measures for higher level geographies and how to aggregate the Indices to other areas;
- tools for selecting Indices data based on postcodes, as described in the Frequently Asked Questions.

It has not been possible to meet all the needs expressed by users, for example:

- the department does not publish ward level figures as an additional output as it would be potentially misleading to publish two small area measures of deprivation.

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<sup>10</sup> DCLG, 2015, European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme 2014-2020, see: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/342297/ERDF\\_Operational\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342297/ERDF_Operational_Programme.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/updating-the-english-indices-of-deprivation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/updating-the-english-indices-of-deprivation)



- many users would find it useful to have the data available on nomis. We have explored this with Office for National Statistics, the owners of nomis, but it is not possible at this time. ONS will investigate the possibility of the data being housed on nomis in future.
- there was demand for a supplementary index, like IDACI and IDAOPI, of income deprivation among working-age people but it was not possible to accommodate this request within the timetable for this update.

Users are encouraged to continue to provide feedback on how these statistics and the various outputs are used, and how well they meet their needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are also welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the 'Public enquiries' contact given in the 'Enquiries' section below.

The department will also seek opportunities to disseminate the Indices and meet with users through seminars, conferences and bespoke events. The department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users)

The views expressed on the Indices during the course of this update and following this publication, such as on outputs and changes to indicators, will be revisited when the department embarks on the next update. Information on how users will be kept informed of future updates and how they can contribute their views is given below under 'Date of the next publication'.

## Further information

### Points to consider when using the data

The neighbourhood-level Indices provide a description of areas, but this description does not apply to every person living in those areas. Many non-deprived people live in deprived areas, and many deprived people live in non-deprived areas.

Those areas that are not identified as deprived by the neighbourhood-level Indices are not necessarily affluent areas. It may also be the case that some highly deprived areas contain pockets of affluence; that is, an area might contain both deprived and affluent people. This is because the Index of Multiple Deprivation is designed to identify aspects of deprivation, not affluence.

For example, the measure of income deprivation is concerned with people on low incomes who are in receipt of benefits and tax credits. An area with a relatively small proportion of people (or indeed no people) on low incomes may also have relatively

few or no people on *high* incomes. Such an area may be ranked among the least deprived in the country, but it is not necessarily among the most affluent.

In addition, the Indices of Deprivation methodology is designed to reliably distinguish between areas at the most deprived end of the distribution, but not at the least deprived end. Differences between less deprived areas in the country are therefore less well defined than those between areas at the more deprived end of the distribution.

### **Comparing deprivation across areas**

When comparing areas using the Indices of Deprivation, users should be aware that it is generally not possible to quantify the differences in deprivation between areas.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation is a measure of relative deprivation. Its ranks indicate how deprived areas are relative to others in England. The ranks are generated from scores which summarise deprivation across the seven domains, but the scores are not meaningful measures of deprivation in the sense that they are not proportions of the population who are experiencing multiple deprivation.

Similarly, most of the domain indices provide *relative* measures of deprivation. Their ranks and scores are not meaningful measures of deprivation in each area, but they do measure deprivation relative to all other areas in England.

The exceptions are the Income Deprivation Domain and its supplementary Indices, and the Employment Deprivation domain. Deprivation scores for these indices, although still relative measures, are meaningful as they are simple proportions of the relevant population experiencing income or employment deprivation, respectively. These scores can be used to quantify differences in deprivation between areas.

More information is provided on using and interpreting the Indices in Chapter 3 of the Research Report.

### **Exploring changes in deprivation over time**

The purpose of Indices of Deprivation is to measure as accurately as possible the relative distribution of deprivation at a small area level, but this comes at the expense of 'backwards' comparability. The versions of the Indices should not be construed as a time-series; they provide the best measure of relative deprivation at the time.

When exploring changes in deprivation between the Indices of Deprivation 2015 and previous versions of the indices, users should be aware that changes can only be described in relative terms, for example, the extent to which an area has changed rank or decile of deprivation, as determined by each version of the Indices at the time. They cannot be used to identify real change over time for the reasons outlined below. This is the case for the Index of Multiple Deprivation and all of the domain indices (including the Income Deprivation Domain, Employment Deprivation Domain

and the supplementary indices which are expressed as proportions of the relevant populations).

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 have been produced using the same approach, structure and methodology used to create the previous Indices of Deprivation 2010 (and the 2007 and 2004 versions). Keeping a consistent methodology in this way allows comparisons to be made over time in terms of comparing the rankings between the Indices of Deprivation 2015 and previous versions of the Indices.

For example, an area can be said to have become more deprived *relative to other areas* if it was within the most deprived 20 per cent of areas nationally according to the 2010 Indices of Deprivation but within the most deprived 10 per cent according to the 2015 Indices. However, it would not necessarily be correct to state that the level of deprivation in the area has increased on some absolute scale, as it may be the case that all areas had improved, but that this area had improved more slowly than other areas and so been 'overtaken' by those areas.

As described in section 3.4 of the Research Report, other changes limit the ability to make comparisons over time:

- changes to the basket of indicators used to measure deprivation, which includes changes in eligibility criteria for certain benefits used to measure income deprivation and employment deprivation,
- changes to the geography of Lower-layer Super Output Areas, and
- revisions following the 2011 Census to population estimates used as the basis for denominators in producing the previous Indices.

### **Higher level summaries**

The Indices of Deprivation are designed primarily to be *small-area* or neighbourhood measures of relative deprivation. But the Indices are commonly used to describe relative deprivation for higher-level geographies like local authority districts. To facilitate this, a range of summary measures are produced for larger areas including local authorities.

These summary measures have been carefully designed to help users understand deprivation patterns for a set of higher-level areas.

The measures identify the overall intensity of deprivation, how deprivation is distributed across the larger area, and the overall volume, or 'scale', of deprivation. These measures are described in section 3.8 of the Technical Report and advice on their interpretation is provided in section 3.3 of the Research Report.

Because patterns of deprivation across larger areas can be complex, there is no single summary measure that is the 'best' measure. Rather, each of the summary measures that are published highlight different aspects of deprivation, and each

leads to a different ranking of areas. Comparison of the different measures is needed to give a fuller description of deprivation for larger areas.

It is important to remember that the higher-area measures are *summaries*; the Lower-layer Super Output Area level data provides more detail than is available through the summaries.

This Statistical Release focuses mainly on just one summary measure to describe relative deprivation at local authority level: the proportion of neighbourhoods that are in the most deprived decile nationally. But it also makes use of the Extent measure of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, and average score measures for analysis of income and employment deprivation. These measures are described under 'Definitions' above. More detailed analysis using the range of summary measures is presented in sections 4.4 and 5.3, and Appendix D of the Research Report.

## Devolved administration statistics

Indices of Deprivation data is published for each of the countries in the United Kingdom. These datasets are based on the same concept and general methodology, however there are differences in the domains and indicators, the geographies for which the indices are developed and the time points on which they are based. These differences mean that the English Indices of Deprivation published here should not be directly compared with those from the Indices produced in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Office for National Statistics has put together some information explaining in more detail the similarities and differences between the four Indices. This includes a guidance document for comparing across countries, an indicator comparison table and a table highlighting key components and differences:

[www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm)

The most recent Indices of Deprivation data for the Devolved Administrations are available at:

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 [www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD)

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014: [www.gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation/?lang=en](http://www.gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation/?lang=en)

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010:  
[www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm\\_2010.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

The department will continue its work with the devolved administrations to explore future opportunities for UK wide alignment.

# Enquiries

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0303 444 1201

Email: [press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

## Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Baljit Gill

Email: [indices.deprivation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:indices.deprivation@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Queries submitted to the address above will receive an automatic acknowledgement stating that the query has been received. We will endeavour to respond to queries within 20 working days, and more quickly when possible. Complex queries may take longer than 20 working days to resolve.

Where queries relate to how to use the Indices of Deprivation, users will be referred to the published guidance materials including the frequently asked questions, and users are encouraged to review these documents prior to emailing the department.

The Indices of Deprivation draws upon the best available data at the time of its production and, as outlined above, they undergo a substantial range of quality assurance checks. Where queries relate to the perceived accuracy of the data that feeds into the Indices, it may not be possible to explore all concerns raised but the department will consider referring issues with specific data sources to the suppliers.

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

## Date of the next publication

The Indices of Deprivation are typically updated every 3 to 4 years, but the dates of publication for future Indices have not yet been scheduled.

Users will be kept informed of future updates and how they can contribute their views. This information will be posted on the Indices of Deprivation webpage: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation) and in email alerts to registered users.

To register for e-mails alerts about the Indices, please e-mail [indices.deprivation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:indices.deprivation@communities.gsi.gov.uk) with 'subscribe' in the subject heading.

## NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.



All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm.

The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics, and to improve its statistics on a continuous basis. If a producer becomes concerned about whether its statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, it should discuss its concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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