# Local authority Skills levels

## England

**February 2022**

# Contents

# Local authority Skills levels in England

This analysis shows for each local authority in England the proportion of 16-64 year olds with level 3+ qualifications to support measurement of the Government's levelling up mission covering skills. This is a preliminary metric for monitoring progress against the mission, and will continue to be developed.

## Data source

The data for this analysis is sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS is a continuous household survey, covering the UK, with the aim of providing estimates of main social and labour market variables at a local area level.

The APS is not a stand-alone survey; it uses data combined from 2 waves of the main Labour Force Survey (LFS), combined with a local sample boost. Due to boosted sample sizes, the APS allows more robust analysis of sub groups such as by characteristics or lower level geography.

Further information on the APS can be found here:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/methodologies/annualpopulationsurveyapsqmi

## Measures and coverage

This analysis uses APS data for the 12 month periods ending December 2017, 2018 and 2019 published on Nomis[1] provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The data have been filtered for households in England only and analysis is presented at upper tier local authority level using boundary definitions as of April 2021.

The level 3+ definition used in this analysis combines, for 16-64 year olds, the number of people with the following qualification levels[2,3]:
- Level 4+
- Level 3 only
- Trade apprenticeships (assumed 50% of these are level 3+)
- Other qualifications (assumed 10% of these are level 3+)

## Data quality

The APS provides estimates of population characteristics based on samples of the population rather than exact measures. In principle, many random samples could be drawn and each would give different results, due to the fact that each sample would be made up of different people, who would give different answers to the questions asked in

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[1] www.nomisweb.co.uk

[2] Qualification levels in APS data are labelled as "NVQ" on Nomis but the derivation is consistent with the general definitions for educational attainment levels.

[3] Assumptions are based on established methodology used for previous regular publication of adult educational attainment levels:
https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/+/thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodology/

the household survey. The spread of these results is the sampling variability, which generally increases with smaller sample sizes, for this reason the analysis presented here uses the average of three years worth of APS data.

**Table 1: Upper tier local authorities in England ranked by proportion of 16-64 year olds with level 3+ qualifications, average of 12 month periods ending December 2017, 2018 and 2019[4]**

| Local authority code | Local authority | Proportion of 16-64s with L3+ |
|---|---|---|
| E08000028 | Sandwell | 36.9% |
| E08000031 | Wolverhampton | 40.4% |
| E08000027 | Dudley | 42.1% |
| E06000012 | North East Lincolnshire | 43.6% |
| E08000017 | Doncaster | 43.8% |
| E08000011 | Knowsley | 43.8% |
| E06000021 | Stoke-on-Trent | 44.6% |
| E08000032 | Bradford | 44.9% |
| E06000034 | Thurrock | 45.0% |
| E06000002 | Middlesbrough | 45.2% |
| E06000031 | Peterborough | 45.5% |
| E06000013 | North Lincolnshire | 45.9% |
| E08000024 | Sunderland | 47.5% |
| E08000005 | Rochdale | 47.7% |
| E09000002 | Barking and Dagenham | 47.9% |
| E08000008 | Tameside | 48.0% |
| E06000001 | Hartlepool | 48.1% |
| E08000004 | Oldham | 48.1% |
| E06000008 | Blackburn with Darwen | 48.5% |
| E09000016 | Havering | 48.6% |
| E08000037 | Gateshead | 48.8% |
| E06000009 | Blackpool | 48.8% |
| E08000030 | Walsall | 48.9% |
| E08000018 | Rotherham | 48.9% |
| E06000010 | Kingston upon Hull, City of | 49.0% |
| E06000016 | Leicester | 49.1% |
| E08000036 | Wakefield | 49.2% |
| E06000061 | North Northamptonshire | 49.8% |
| E06000032 | Luton | 49.9% |
| E06000033 | Southend-on-Sea | 49.9% |
| E06000006 | Halton | 50.0% |
| E08000010 | Wigan | 50.1% |
| E10000019 | Lincolnshire | 50.7% |
| E08000016 | Barnsley | 51.0% |
| E06000003 | Redcar and Cleveland | 51.0% |
| E08000013 | St. Helens | 51.1% |
| E06000057 | Northumberland | 51.2% |
| E10000012 | Essex | 51.2% |
| E08000034 | Kirklees | 51.4% |
| E10000020 | Norfolk | 51.6% |
| E08000023 | South Tyneside | 51.8% |
| E06000030 | Swindon | 51.9% |
| E08000025 | Birmingham | 52.2% |
| E08000014 | Sefton | 52.4% |
| E06000020 | Telford and Wrekin | 52.6% |
| E10000029 | Suffolk | 52.9% |

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[4] Grey highlighted rows form the bottom third local authorities according to Skills mission

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|---|---|---|
| E06000047 | County Durham | 53.0% |
| E08000001 | Bolton | 53.2% |
| E06000015 | Derby | 53.2% |
| E06000035 | Medway | 53.3% |
| E08000006 | Salford | 53.4% |
| E10000024 | Nottinghamshire | 53.4% |
| E06000004 | Stockton-on-Tees | 54.1% |
| E08000015 | Wirral | 54.1% |
| E06000046 | Isle of Wight | 54.7% |
| E08000033 | Calderdale | 54.8% |
| E08000012 | Liverpool | 55.1% |
| E06000005 | Darlington | 55.4% |
| E06000027 | Torbay | 55.5% |
| E08000022 | North Tyneside | 55.6% |
| E06000019 | Herefordshire, County of | 55.8% |
| E08000026 | Coventry | 55.8% |
| E10000017 | Lancashire | 55.8% |
| E06000026 | Plymouth | 55.8% |
| E10000011 | East Sussex | 55.9% |
| E10000016 | Kent | 55.9% |
| E06000018 | Nottingham | 56.0% |
| E10000006 | Cumbria | 56.2% |
| E10000028 | Staffordshire | 56.6% |
| E06000039 | Slough | 56.7% |
| E06000011 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 57.0% |
| E10000027 | Somerset | 57.2% |
| E09000004 | Bexley | 57.3% |
| E10000007 | Derbyshire | 57.6% |
| E06000062 | West Northamptonshire | 57.6% |
| E10000034 | Worcestershire | 57.7% |
| E06000059 | Dorset | 58.0% |
| E09000010 | Enfield | 58.1% |
| E08000002 | Bury | 58.3% |
| E06000042 | Milton Keynes | 58.4% |
| E06000055 | Bedford | 58.8% |
| E08000035 | Leeds | 58.8% |
| E09000025 | Newham | 58.9% |
| E06000051 | Shropshire | 59.0% |
| E06000056 | Central Bedfordshire | 59.0% |
| E10000023 | North Yorkshire | 59.0% |
| E06000052 | Cornwall | 59.1% |
| E06000044 | Portsmouth | 59.2% |
| E06000050 | Cheshire West and Chester | 59.8% |
| E10000032 | West Sussex | 60.0% |
| E09000005 | Brent | 60.0% |
| E08000003 | Manchester | 60.0% |
| E10000015 | Hertfordshire | 60.1% |
| E09000031 | Waltham Forest | 60.2% |
| E10000031 | Warwickshire | 60.2% |
| E06000058 | Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole | 60.4% |
| E10000013 | Gloucestershire | 60.4% |
| E06000036 | Bracknell Forest | 60.5% |
| E06000007 | Warrington | 60.6% |
| E06000054 | Wiltshire | 60.6% |
| E09000017 | Hillingdon | 60.9% |
| E08000029 | Solihull | 61.1% |
| E10000014 | Hampshire | 61.8% |
| E10000018 | Leicestershire | 61.9% |
| E09000026 | Redbridge | 61.9% |
| E08000021 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 62.3% |
| E06000049 | Cheshire East | 62.5% |
| E06000045 | Southampton | 62.5% |
| E06000024 | North Somerset | 62.5% |
| E10000003 | Cambridgeshire | 62.8% |
| E09000008 | Croydon | 63.1% |
| E10000008 | Devon | 63.2% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| E08000007 | Stockport | 63.3% |
| E06000025 | South Gloucestershire | 63.5% |
| E08000019 | Sheffield | 64.2% |
| E06000037 | West Berkshire | 64.7% |
| E09000018 | Hounslow | 65.2% |
| E06000017 | Rutland | 65.2% |
| E09000030 | Tower Hamlets | 65.4% |
| E09000029 | Sutton | 65.6% |
| E09000011 | Greenwich | 66.2% |
| E10000002 | Buckinghamshire | 66.4% |
| E09000015 | Harrow | 66.6% |
| E06000038 | Reading | 66.6% |
| E10000030 | Surrey | 67.5% |
| E08000009 | Trafford | 67.6% |
| E09000014 | Haringey | 67.9% |
| E09000006 | Bromley | 68.0% |
| E09000003 | Barnet | 68.0% |
| E09000012 | Hackney | 68.1% |
| E09000009 | Ealing | 68.1% |
| E10000025 | Oxfordshire | 69.0% |
| E06000023 | Bristol, City of | 69.4% |
| E06000041 | Wokingham | 70.4% |
| E06000014 | York | 70.5% |
| E06000022 | Bath and North East Somerset | 70.6% |
| E09000024 | Merton | 71.1% |
| E06000040 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 71.1% |
| E09000007 | Camden | 72.6% |
| E09000023 | Lewisham | 72.9% |
| E09000021 | Kingston upon Thames | 73.9% |
| E09000019 | Islington | 74.5% |
| E09000028 | Southwark | 74.7% |
| E06000043 | Brighton and Hove | 75.5% |
| E09000020 | Kensington and Chelsea | 75.8% |
| E09000013 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 77.2% |
| E09000022 | Lambeth | 77.4% |
| E09000033 | Westminster | 77.7% |
| E09000027 | Richmond upon Thames | 78.7% |
| E09000032 | Wandsworth | 79.2% |
| E09000001 | City of London | * 94.8% |

* City of London has a very small sample size relative to other local authorities.

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