

Census 2021

Education

May 2023



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Census 2021 Education - Introduction

The ONS has recently released the Census 2021 results linked to highest education qualification per resident and the population who are in full time education. This document provides some high-level analysis of this data, which was collected in Spring 2021 (the Census presents a snapshot in time and will not account for anything that has happened since). This analysis also looks at the highest qualification level and student percentage for the Liverpool City Region and its local authorities.

Where possible we have compared the data to regional and national averages, as well looking at changes from the Census 2011.

Going forward, the ONS plans to release further datasets with more detailed information from Census 2021 throughout the rest of this year, with plans for small area and multivariate data to be released into next year. As a result, the Analyst Team will provide analysis of Census 2021 results, as and when they are released.

More information on the release schedule and its future phases can be found on the ONS website:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021outputs/releaseplans>

We hope that you find this document useful. If you have any queries or need further information, please get in touch with the Analyst team (AnalystTeam@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk).

Census 2021 Education - Executive Summary

Highest Level of qualification

- Between 2011 and 2021, Liverpool City Region saw strong improvement in its qualifications profile.
- However, there is still work to be done as LCR residents typically have fewer qualifications than the national average.
- Out of the LCR local authorities, Wirral residents were more likely to have higher levels of qualifications, while Knowsley and Halton residents had fewer qualifications on average.
- 29% of the adult population have at least degree-level qualifications, compared to 34% nationally. However, this rate grew by 7.0 p.p. in LCR between 2011 and 2021.
- 67% of the adult population have at least qualifications equivalent to 5 GCSEs, compared to 69% nationally. However, this rate grew by 11.7 p.p. in LCR between 2011 and 2021.
- 21% of the adult population have no qualifications, compared to 18% nationally. However, this rate fell by 6.1 p.p. in LCR between 2011 and 2021.

Workforce education

- The Liverpool City Region saw a 39% (+76,400) increase of the workforce population with NVQ4+ qualifications.
- The Liverpool City Region saw a -3% (- 2,200) reduction of the workforce population with no qualifications.
- 80% (579,400) of the City Region's workforce population has NVQ2+ qualifications, which is similar to national levels.

Schoolchildren and full-time students

- In total, 19% of the City Regions population are school children or in full-time education, which is similar to national levels.
- Overall, 24% of the LCR population in education are adults in full-time education.

Highest level of qualification



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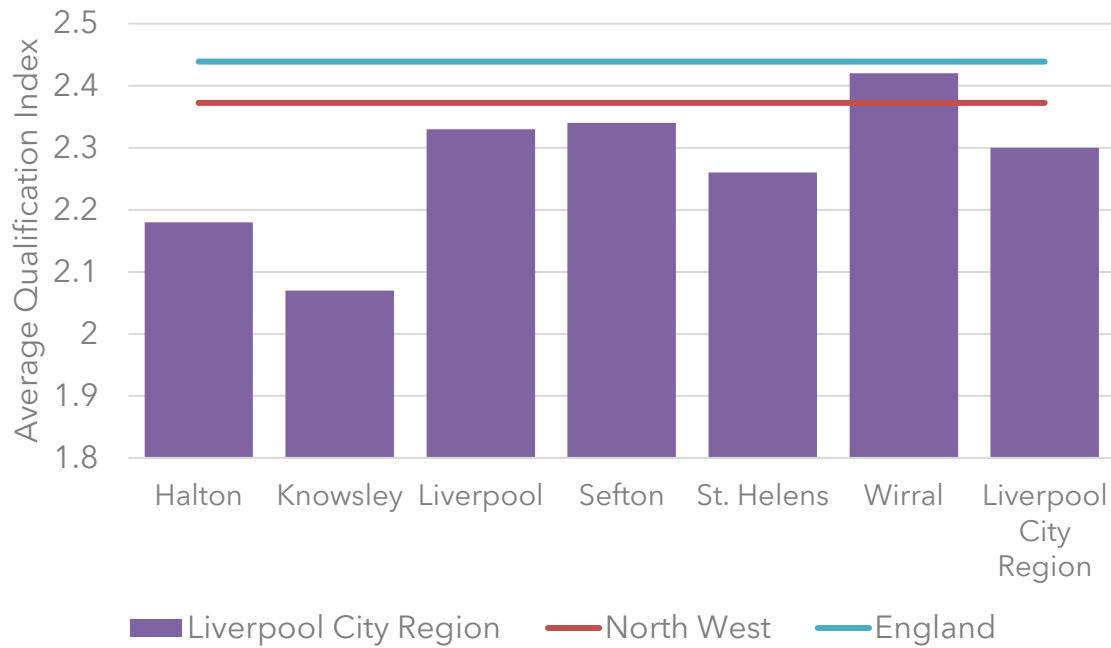
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LCR residents typically have fewer qualifications than the regional and national averages

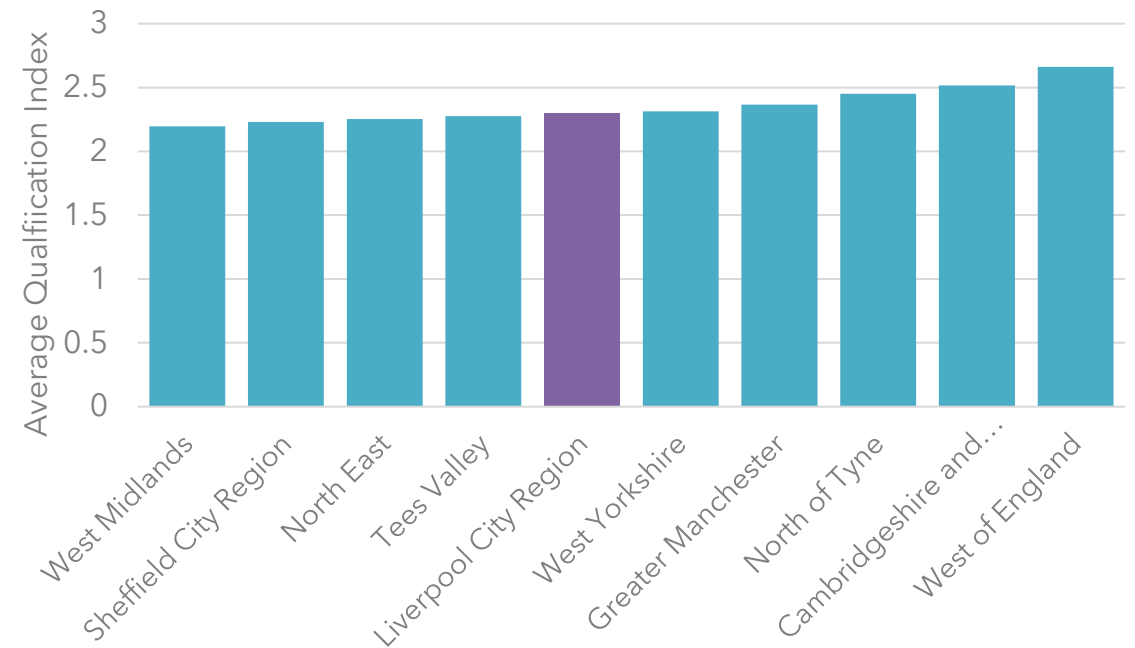
Liverpool City Region has an average qualification index of 2.3. This compares to 2.4 in England, indicating that LCR residents typically have fewer qualifications than average. LCR ranks 6th out of all English Mayoral Combined Authorities in terms of average qualification index.

Wirral had the highest qualification index score out of all LCR local authority areas, while Knowsley and Halton had the lowest. However, all had lower scores than the national average.

Qualification index score, 2021



Qualification index score, 2021



Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

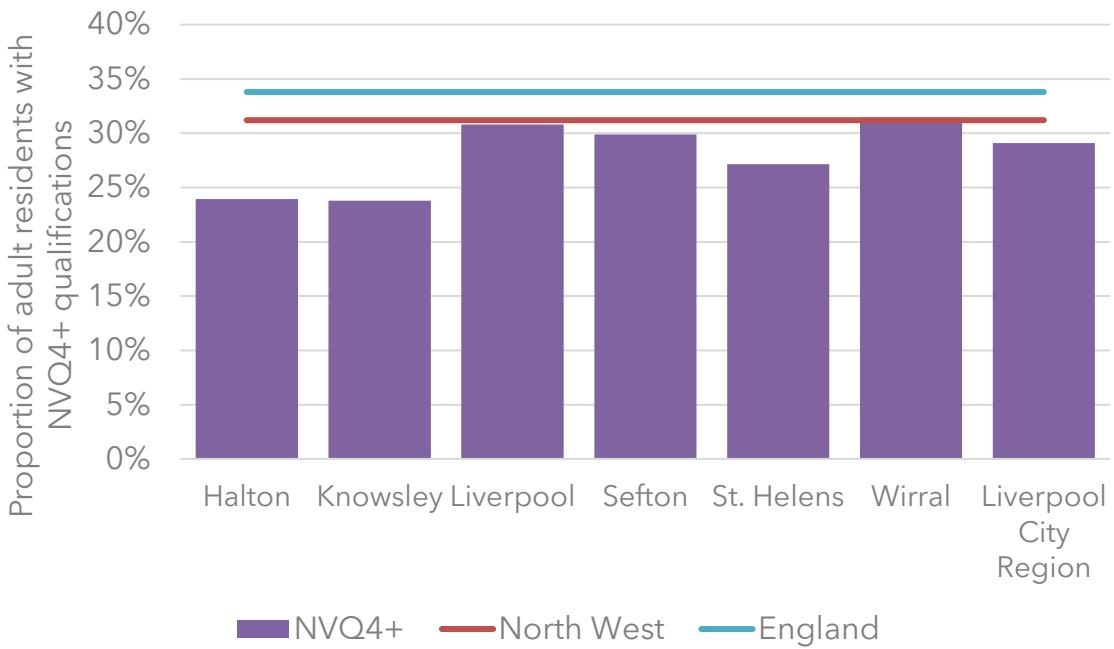
Notes: The Qualification index score is the average NVQ qualification across the region.

There are fewer LCR residents with at least degree-level qualifications than the national average, but we have made good progress

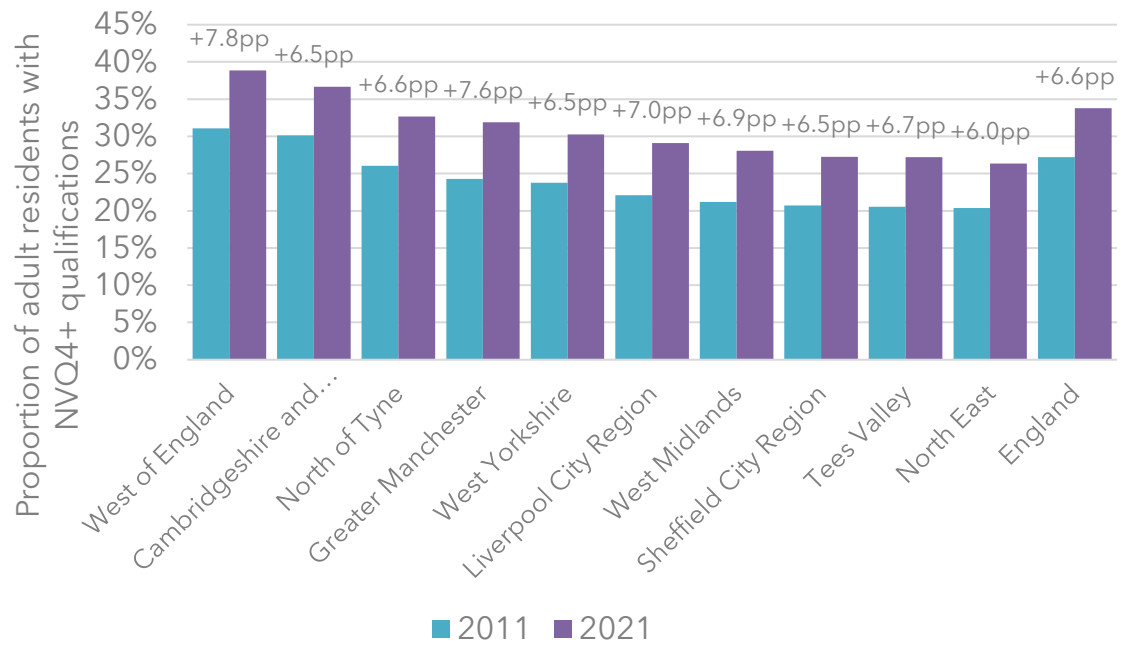
29% (or 371,400) of LCR’s adult residents have NVQ4 qualifications or higher. However, this is less than the regional and national averages of 31% and 34%. LCR also lags behind other MCAs, with the 6th largest proportion of residents with NVQ4+ qualifications.

However, the proportion of residents with NVQ4+ qualifications has grown faster in LCR than many other MCAs. Between 2011 and 2021, the share grew by 7.0 p.p. This compares to 6.6 p.p. nationally and is the 3rd fastest growth rate of any MCA.

Proportion of adult residents with NVQ4+ qualifications



Proportion of adult residents with NVQ4+ qualifications



Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

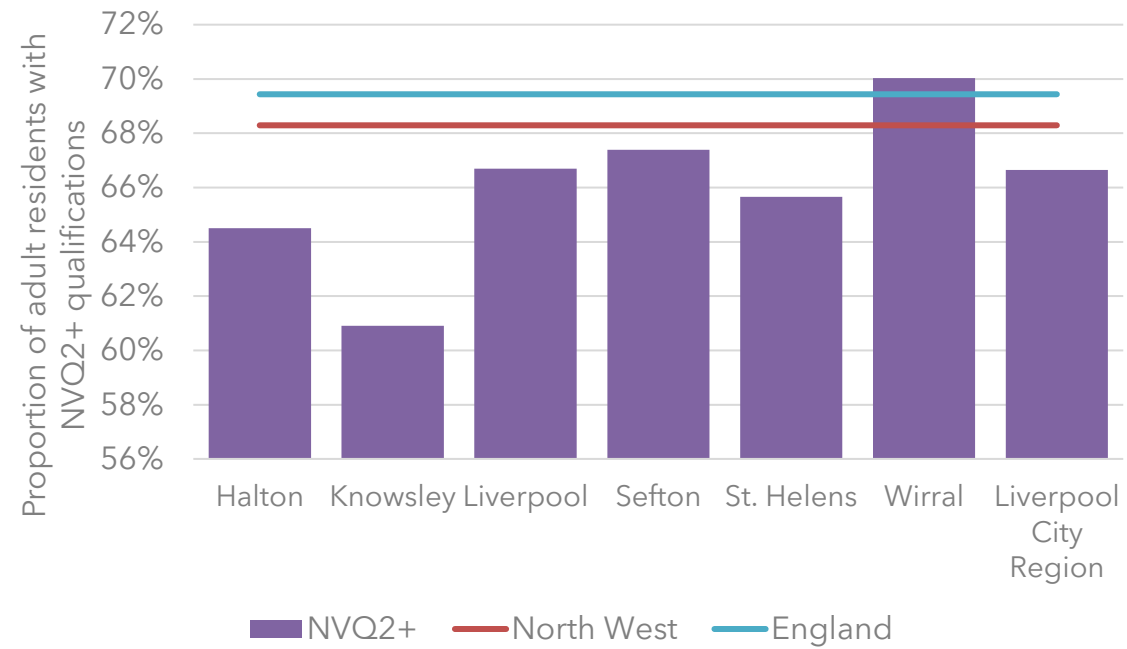
Notes: p.p stands for percentage points

There are fewer residents within LCR with qualifications equivalent to 5 GCSEs compared to national levels, but we have made good progress

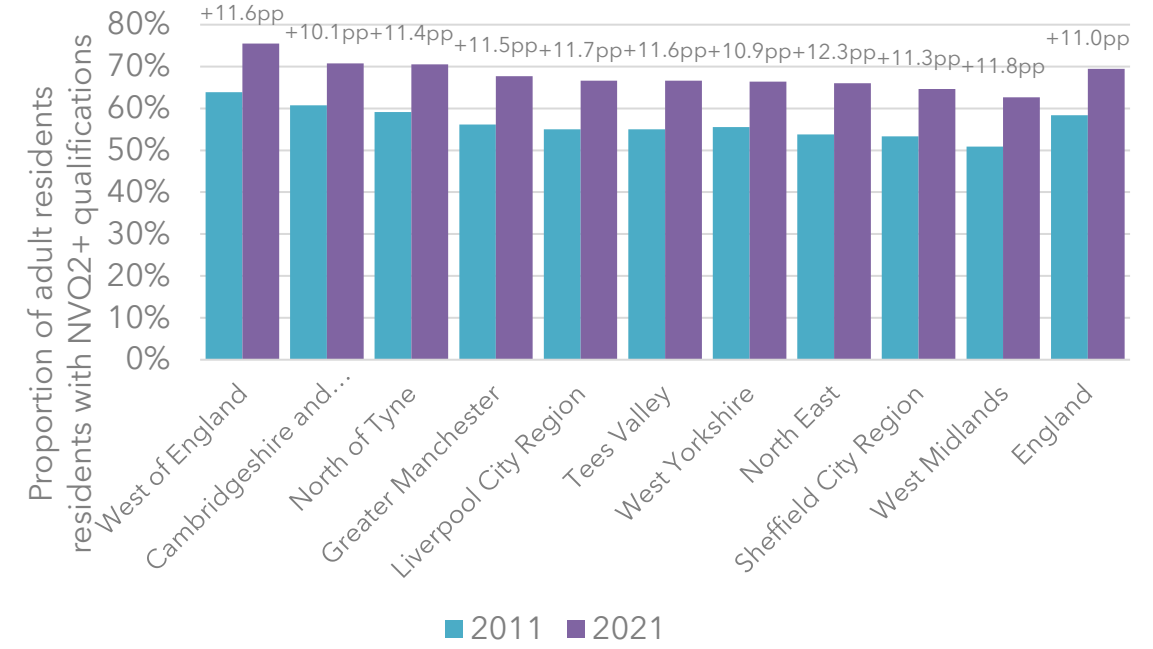
67% (or 850,000) of LCR’s adult residents have NVQ2 qualifications or higher. However, this is less than the regional and national averages of 68% and 69%. LCR also lags behind other MCAs, with the 5th largest proportion of residents with NVQ2+ qualifications.

However, the proportion of residents with NVQ2+ qualifications has grown faster in LCR than many other MCAs. Between 2011 and 2021, the share grew by 11.7 p.p. This compares to 11.0 p.p. nationally and is the 3rd fastest growth rate of any MCA.

Proportion of adult residents with NVQ2+ qualifications



Proportion of adult residents with NVQ2+ qualifications



Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

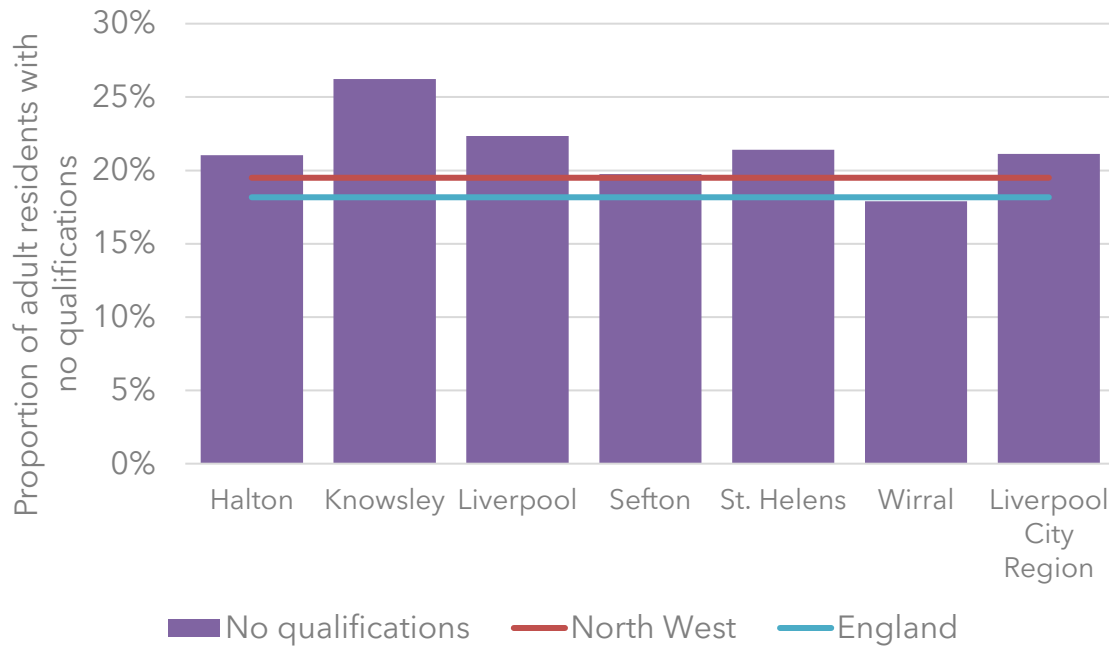
Notes: p.p stands for percentage points

LCR has a greater share of residents with no qualifications than average, but this gap is shrinking

21% (or 270,000) of LCR’s adult residents do not have any qualifications. This is greater than the regional and national averages of 19% and 18%. LCR also lags behind other MCAs, with the 6th lowest rate of residents with no qualifications.

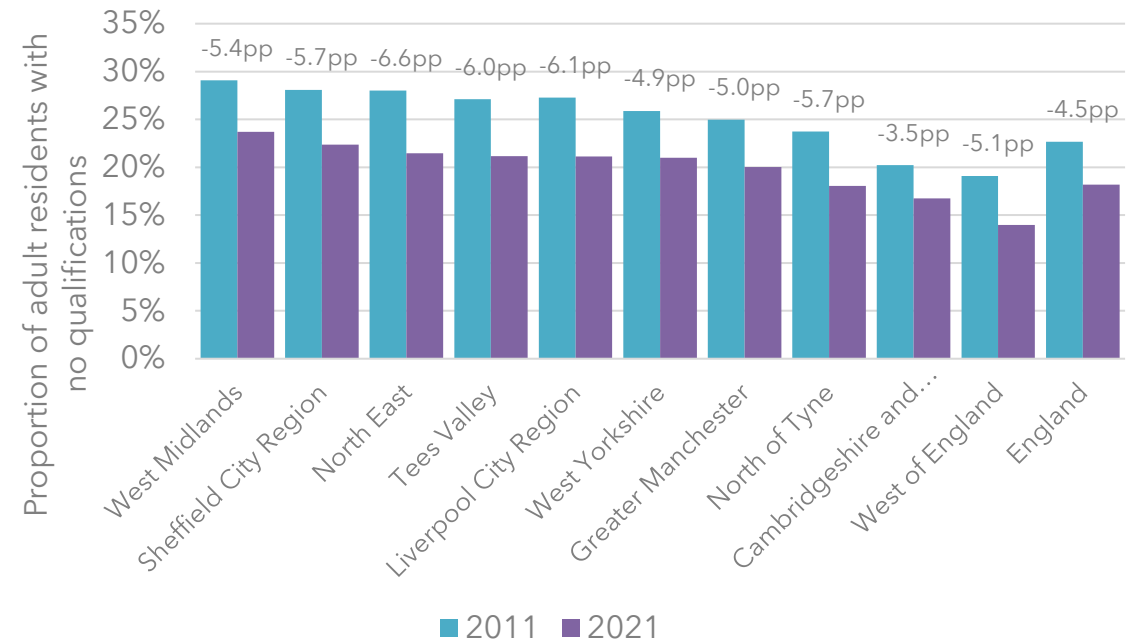
However, the proportion of residents with no qualifications has decreased faster in LCR than many other MCAs. Between 2011 and 2021, the share fell by 6.1 p.p. This compares to 4.5 p.p. nationally and is the 2nd largest decrease of any MCA.

Proportion of adult residents with no qualifications



Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

Proportion of adult residents with no qualifications



Notes: p.p stands for percentage points

Workforce Education



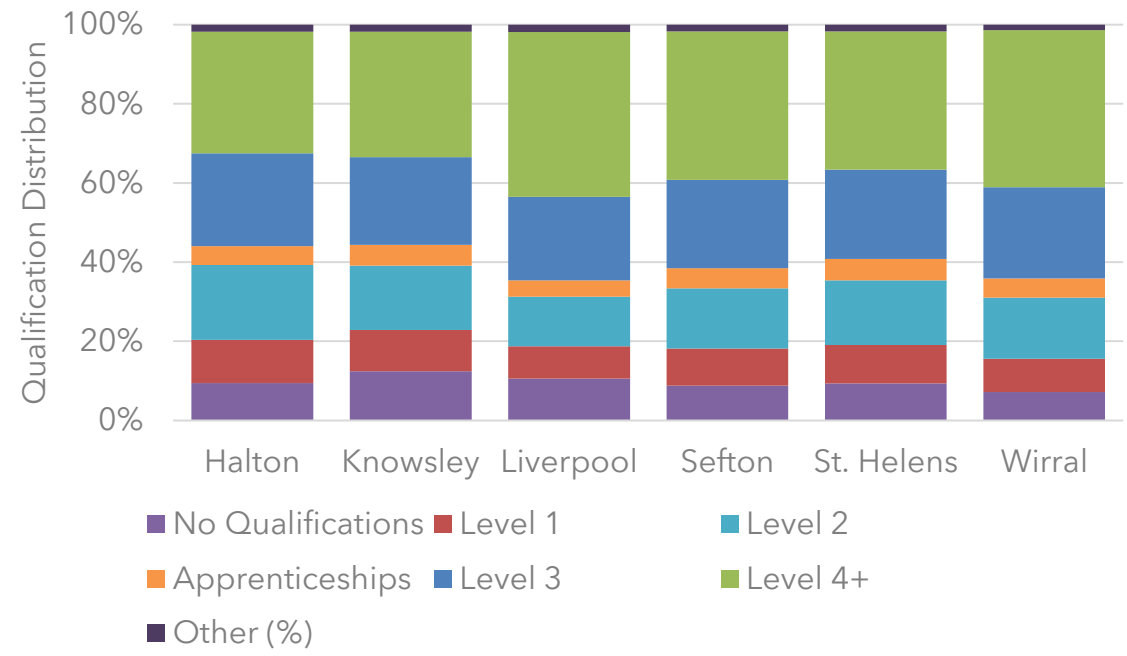
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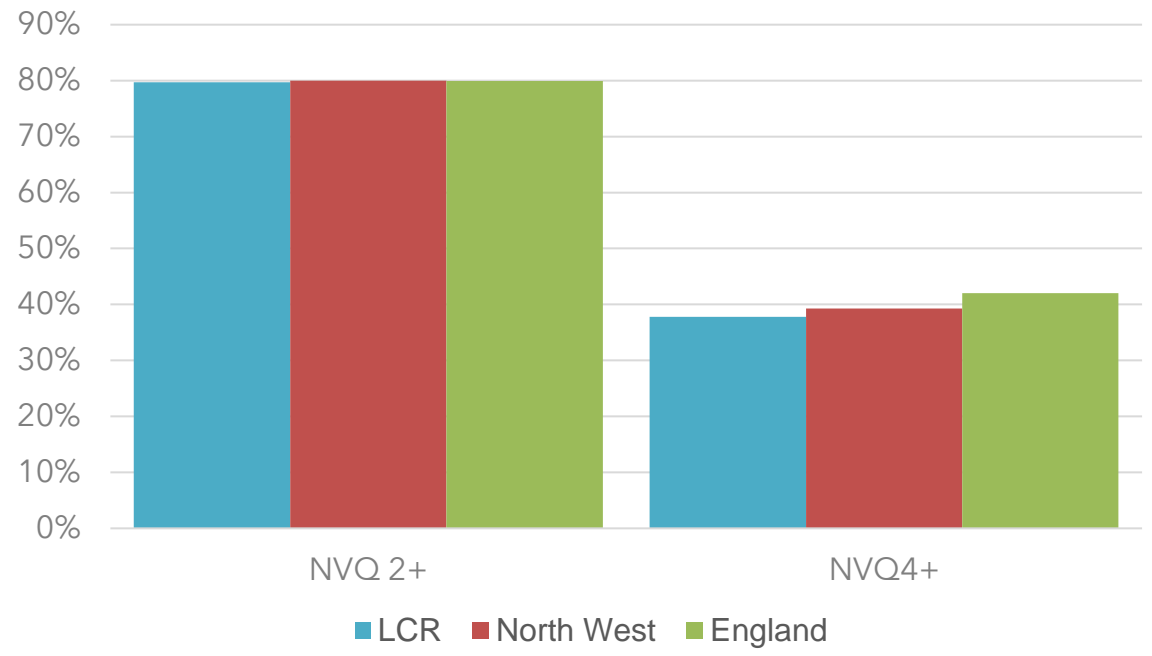
The City Region has 80% (579,400) of the workforce population with NVQ 2+ which is the same as regional and national levels

The adult population with NVQ4+ qualification in the City Region is 38% (247,500) which is smaller than both national (42%) and regional (39%) levels. This smaller portion is distributed between Level 3 and Apprenticeships qualifications which have a 2% and 1% percent increase respectively from national levels.

Highest Level of qualification in the work place distribution, 2021



Highest Level of qualification in the work place, 2021



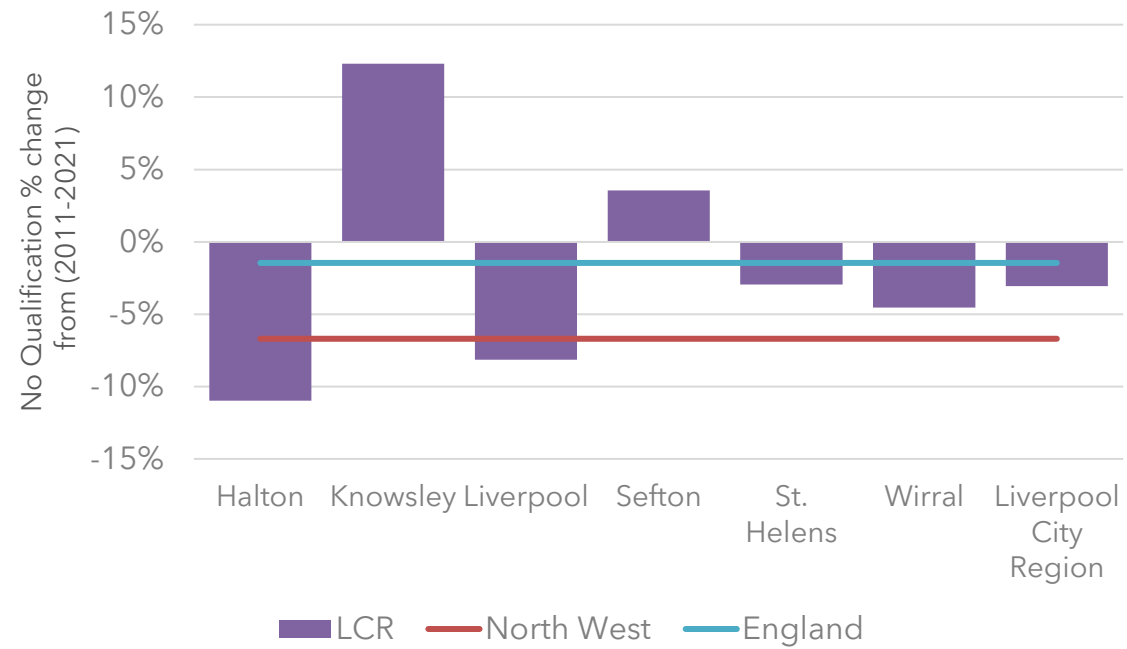
Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

Notes: This estimates are presented as a share of the whole population. Therefore they cannot be directly compared with Annual Population Estimates which are presented as a share of the 16-64 population.

The Liverpool City Region saw a 39% (+76,400) increase of the workforce population with NVQ4+ qualification

NVQ4+ qualifications increased more rapidly in the City Region than nationally, with an increase of 39% versus 34%. A similar trend was present among residents with NVQ4+ qualifications. The City Region has also shown a faster decline in residents without qualifications, shrinking by -3% compared to -1% nationally.

Change in the number of workers with no qualifications, 2011- 2021



Change in the number of workers with NVQ4+ qualifications, 2011- 2021



Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

Notes: This estimates are presented as a share of the whole population. Therefore they cannot be directly compared with Annual Population Estimates which are presented as a share of the 16-64 population.

Schoolchildren and full-time students



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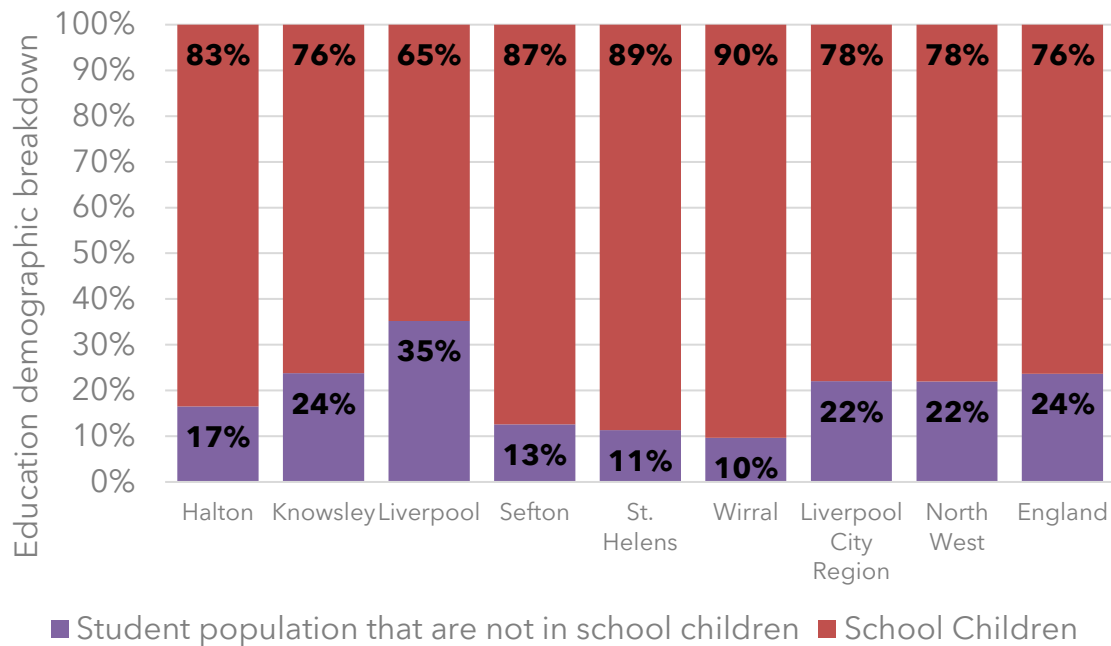
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The proportion of LCR residents in full-time education is the same as regional and national rates

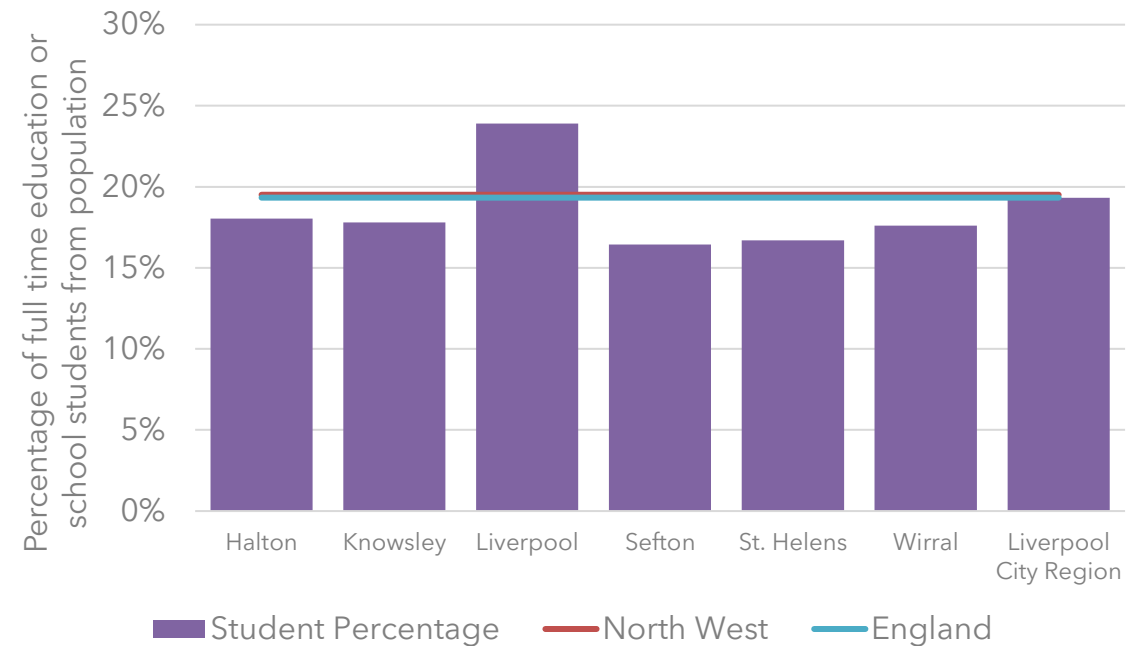
19% (299,650 residents) of the LCR population are in full-time education, which matches regional and national trends (19%).

78% (133,720 residents) of the LCR population that are in full-time education are school children. This is similar to the regional average but is slightly less than the national levels of 76%. Liverpool notably has a high proportion of residents in full-time education that are not school children (35%) reflecting the large Higher Education sector.

Breakdown of residents in full-time education, 2021



Number of school children or full-time students as a proportion of total population, 2021



Source: Department for Education 2022, Census 2021, ONS 2023
Note: school census total count used for school children population

Source: Census 2021, ONS, 2023

Glossary



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Definitions

- No qualifications
- Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 1 to 4 GCSEs grade A* to C , Any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), 1 AS level, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic or Essential Skills
- Level 2 qualifications: 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4), O levels (passes), CSEs (grade 1), School Certification, 1 A level, 2 to 3 AS levels, VCEs, Intermediate or Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First or General Diploma, RSA Diploma
- Apprenticeship
- Level 3 qualifications: 2 or more A levels or VCEs, 4 or more AS levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression or Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advance Diploma, NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
- Level 4+ qualifications and above: degree (BA, BSc), higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ level 4 to 5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy)
- Other: vocational or work-related qualifications, other qualifications achieved in England or Wales, qualifications achieved outside England or Wales (equivalent not stated or unknown)
- NVQ2+: Qualification sub groups Level 2, Level 3, Level 4+ and Apprenticeships
- NVQ4+: Level 4+ Qualification
- P.P: Percentage Point
- Qualification index score: The average qualification score per resident for each given area