Labour Market Participation & Deprivation

About this release

This release describes the relationship between highest qualification, socio-economic classification and economic activity of adults in Bradford; and explores differences for ethnic groups and highest qualification, and socio-economic class and economic activity of residents in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Summary findings

- Higher qualifications are often associated with increased socio-economic classification, with an implied comparative higher income.

- The more qualified you are the more likely are you to be active as an employee, and less likely to be inactive or unemployed.

- In the most deprived neighbourhoods the White English and White Irish groups are most likely to have no qualifications.

- British Black in areas most deprived are the least likely to hold no qualifications and most likely to hold a degree level qualification.

- For areas most deprived economic activity is more prevalent in the semi and routine occupations, but also for lower managerial and intermediate occupations.

- The trend for areas most deprived is economic inactivity for the long-term unemployed, with a rate more than double that of areas not deprived.

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Bradford District

Responsible officer

Alan Yaqub
alan.yaqub@bradford.gov.uk

1. Introduction

Around 3 in 10 of the population or 165,500 persons resident in Bradford live within the most deprived neighbourhoods in England. The level of household income from employment is a key driver in deprivation, itself correlated to educational outcomes and in turn affecting social class.

Our previous bulletin Ethnicity & Deprivation in Bradford found ethnic minorities were at a greater risk of living within deprived neighbourhoods, in particular Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups. Furthermore we found the likelihood of being unemployed was less when resident in non-deprived areas of the district for all ethnic groups; however the rate was more than double for minority groups.

Using data from the 2011 Census this bulletin explores these issues further. We begin by describing the relationship between highest qualification and socio-economic class, then economic activity and qualifications. We consider differences between ethnic groups and highest qualification, and the relationship between socio-economic class and economic activity for residents in the most deprived areas of Bradford.

2. Distribution of Highest Qualification[1] by Socio-Economic Classification
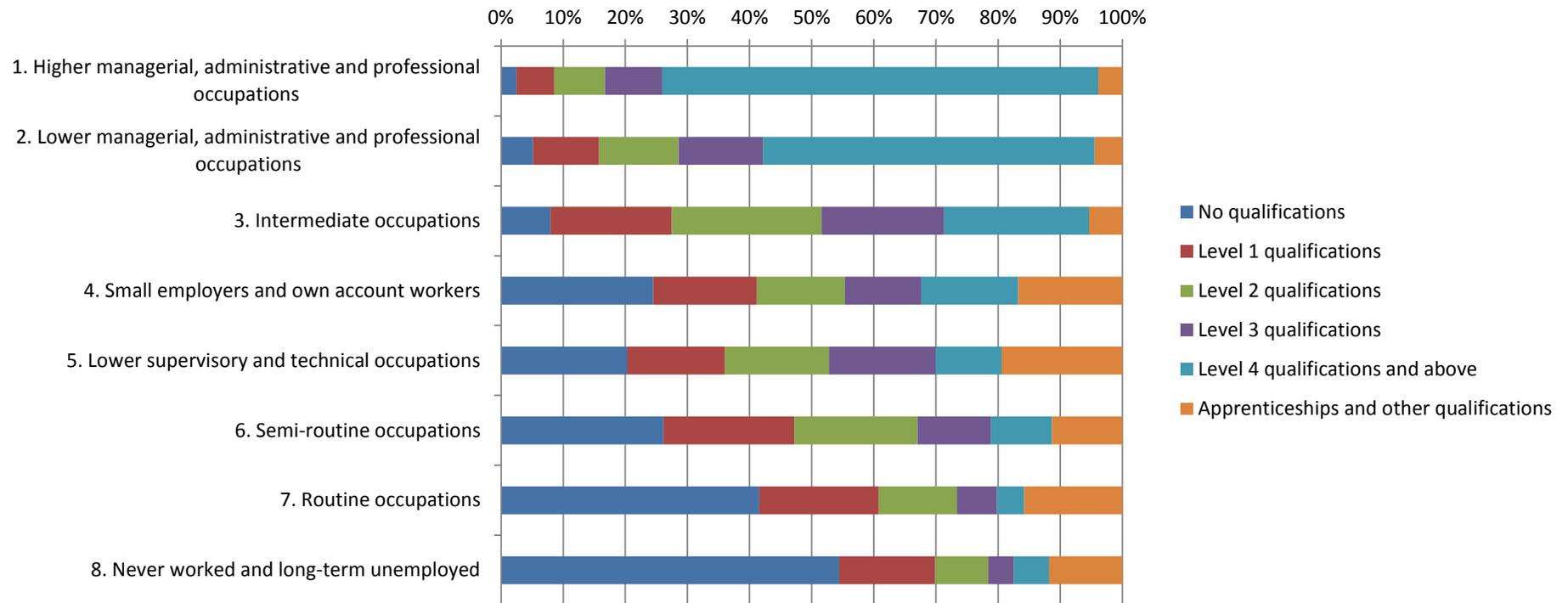
Figure 1 describes how economic active adults in Bradford are distributed in their highest qualification for each National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SeC) grouping. The proportion of highest qualifications for each grouping is considered only, as we are interested in the *relationship* between the two.

The chart shows a greater proportion of adults holding increasingly higher qualifications as socio-economic classification increases. For example the percentage of adults with no qualifications working in routine occupations is far larger compared to the percentage in managerial, administrative and professional occupations. Similarly adults holding degree level qualifications (Level 4+) are far less likely to be working in routine occupations.

This result isn't surprising as we would expect the higher level of qualification a person holds affects the type or class of job they do, with associated level of earnings or income.

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[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Qualifications_Framework

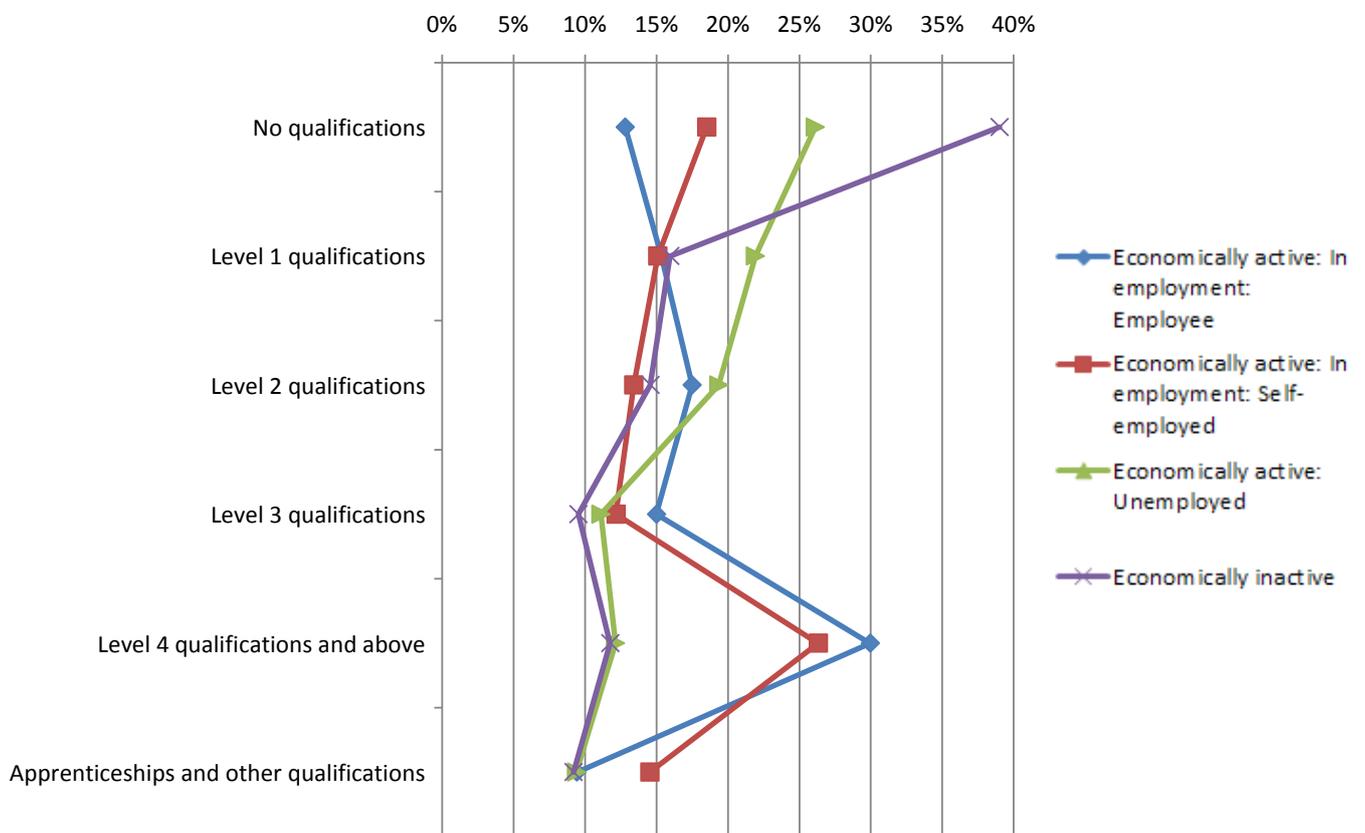**Figure 1: Percentage of residents' economically active in Bradford**

Source: ONS, DC6502EWla

3. Relationship between Economic Activity[2] and Highest Qualification

Figure 2 shows the proportion of adults at each qualification level for each type of economic activity. Adults with no qualifications are most likely to be inactive (39%) or unemployed (26%), with those holding degree level qualifications more likely to be an employee (28%) or self-employed (30%).

There is a general relationship between highest qualification held and economic activity for adults in Bradford. The more qualified you are the more likely are you to be active as an employee, and less likely to be inactive or unemployed. The exemption is those self-employed, with adults having no qualifications more likely (19%) than those holding Level 1 to 3 qualifications.

Figure 2: Percentage of residents' highest qualification within each economic activity category in Bradford

Source: ONS, LC5601EW

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[2] People are classed as economically active if they are aged over 16 years and in employment or actively looking for work. This category consists of people who are employed, self-employed or unemployed.
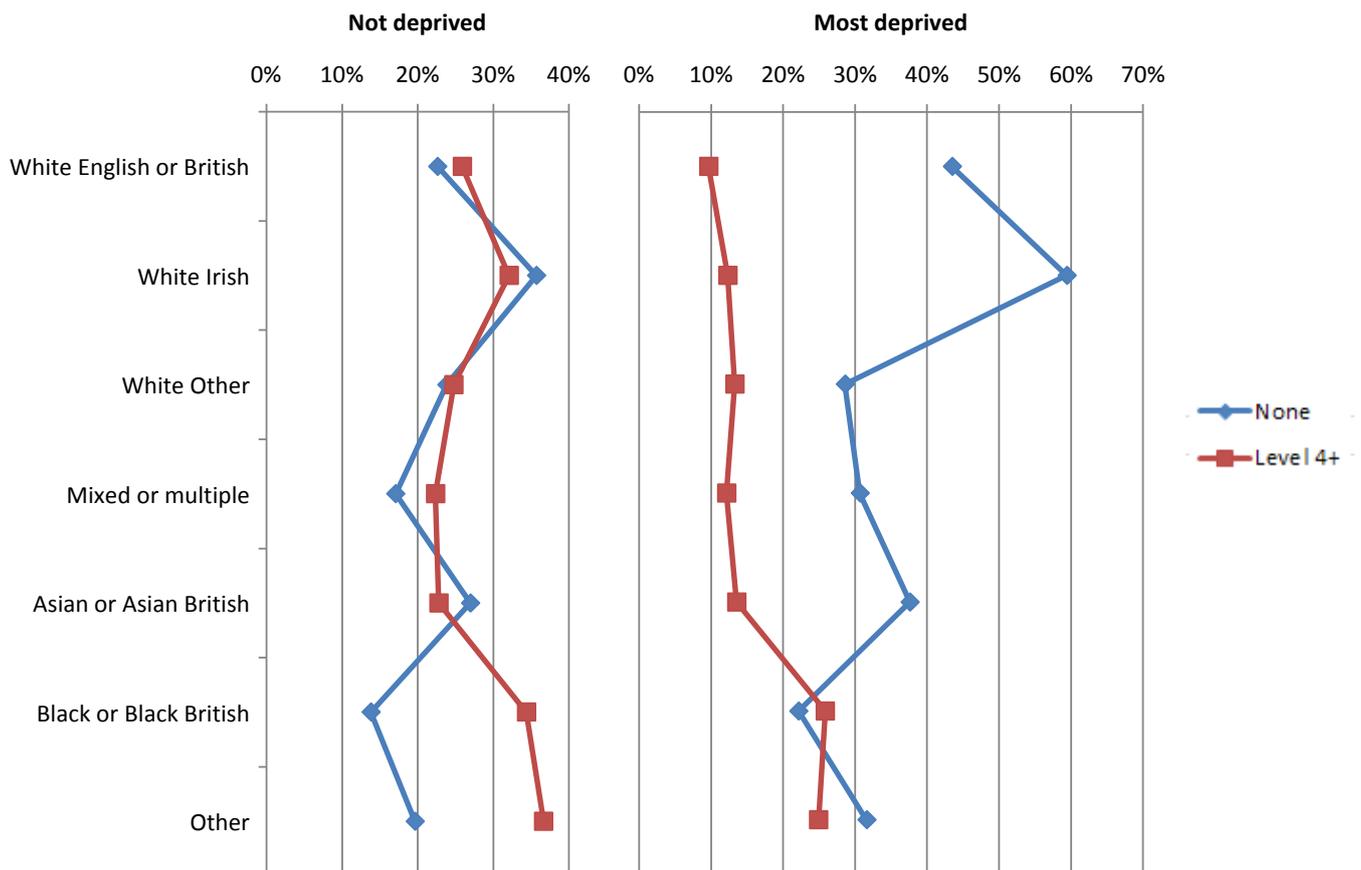
4. Differences for Ethnic Groups in Highest Qualification within most deprived areas

This section considers differences between broad ethnic groups in highest qualification for adults resident in the most deprived areas; specifically variation in those holding a degree level qualification (Level 4+) and no qualifications.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of adults holding none and Level 4+ qualifications for the most deprived neighbourhoods and not deprived areas. In the most deprived neighbourhoods the White English (44%) and White Irish (59%) groups are most likely to have no qualifications. British Black is the least likely to hold no qualifications (22%) and most likely to hold a degree level qualification (26%). Except for the Other ethnic grouping (25%), the proportion of adults in other groups with a degree level qualification is between 9% to 14%.

This can be contrasted with areas not deprived which have a very different distribution.

Figure 3: Percentage of residents' highest qualification within not deprived and 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in Bradford
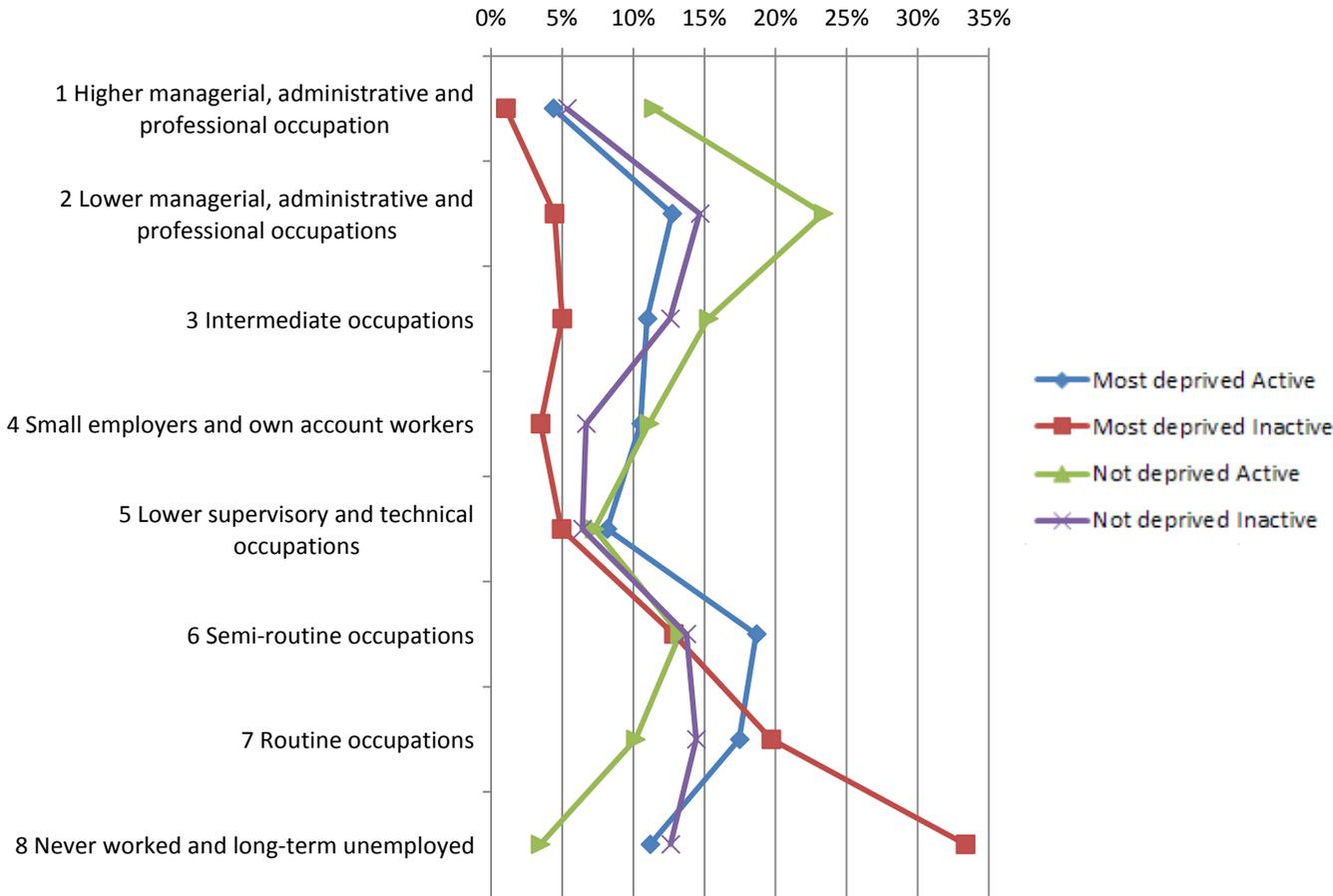

Source: ONS, LC5202EW

5. Variation in Socio-Economic Classification and Economic Activity between most deprived and non-deprived areas

Finally we look at the relationship between socio-economic class of adults in the most deprived areas and their economic activity. Figure 4 shows the proportion of residents in each socio-economic classification for those economically active and inactive, in the most deprived neighbourhoods and areas not deprived. For areas most deprived economic activity is more prevalent in the semi (19%) and routine (17%) occupations, but also for lower managerial (13%) and intermediate (11%) occupations. Economic activity in areas not deprived is skewed toward lower managerial (23%) occupations.

The trend for areas most deprived is economic inactivity for the long-term unemployed (33%) who can be contrasted against areas not deprived (13%).

Figure 4: Percentage of residents in each economic activity category within 10% most and not deprived neighbourhoods by their socio-economic classification in Bradford

Source: ONS, LC6606EW

6. Further Information

The 2011 Census outputs provide a wealth of detailed and complex statistics about people and households at various geographies, including small areas. A key resource for 2011 Census data is www.nomisweb.co.uk which has easy to use tools to find, explore and map data tables.

UK Data Explorer has developed a thematic mapping tool holding over 400 Census variables. Topics include age, religion, national identity and housing tenure.

Bradford Council website has an Economic Intelligence page with detailed analysis using data beyond the 2011 Census.

Bradford Observatory hosts 2011 Census data including *area profiles* for standard geographies in Bradford and our blog site with news items, articles and further resources.

http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/bradford