

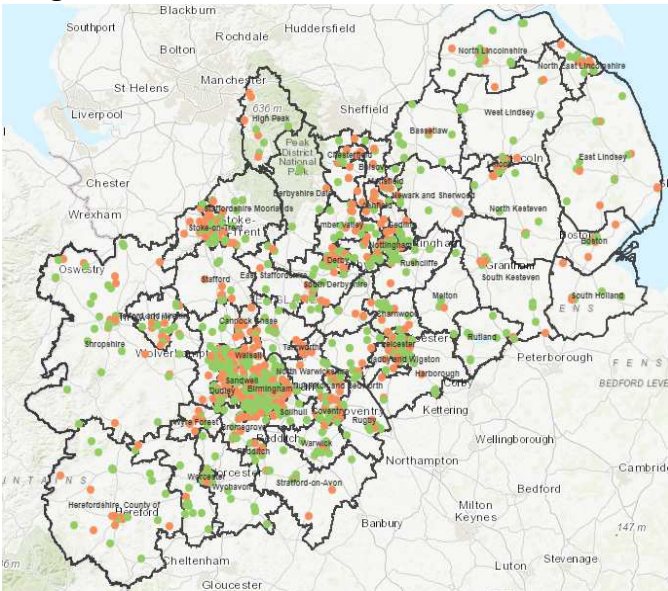
Midlands Engine Education and Skills Summary

Impact of COVID-19 on Schools

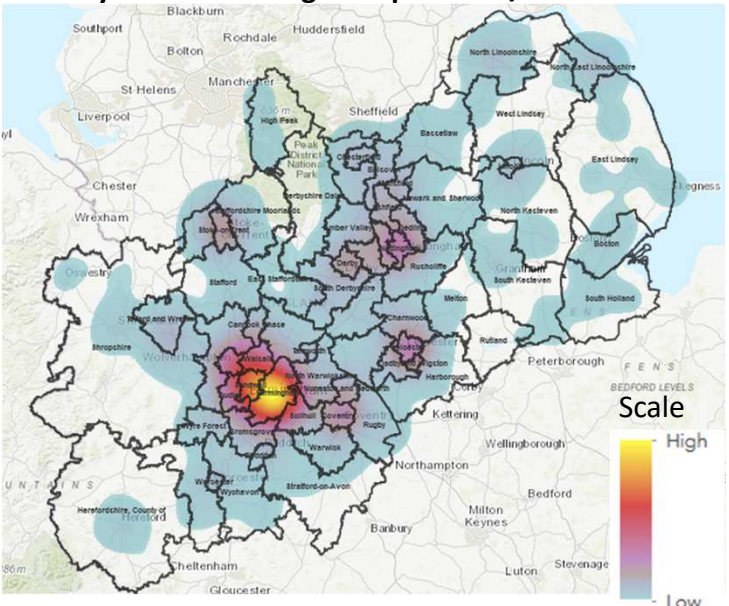
Across the Midlands Engine there were 1.54m pupils attending 3,489 primary and 728 secondary schools in the 2018/19 academic year. The average Progress 8 score in the Midlands Engine in 2018/19 was -0.10 compared to the national average of -0.03. The [government announced](#) they will not publish any school level educational performance data based on tests, assessments or exams for 2020. National results are available for 2019/20 which shows for GCSEs, 25.9% of students awarded grade 7 or higher (20.7% for 2018/19). Pass rates for students achieving grade 4 or above was 76% (from 67.1% in 2018/19).

The Sutton Trust 2020, Social Mobility and COVID-19 report outlines how the closure of schools is likely to have the largest impact on those from the poorest families. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are already twice as likely to leave formal education without GCSEs in English and Maths compared to their better off classmates.

Progress 8 2018/19:



Density of Disadvantaged Pupils 2018/19:



Key to Progress 8 map: Green Above National Average (NA), Orange Below NA and Grey is Not Applicable)

Impact of COVID-19 on A Levels

National A Level results were released and as predicted results were higher, this was corrected by an approach which ensured balance at the national level, but resulted in uneven and severe issues where grades were downgraded specifically which impacted on certain schools and individuals at a local level.

Skills Profile

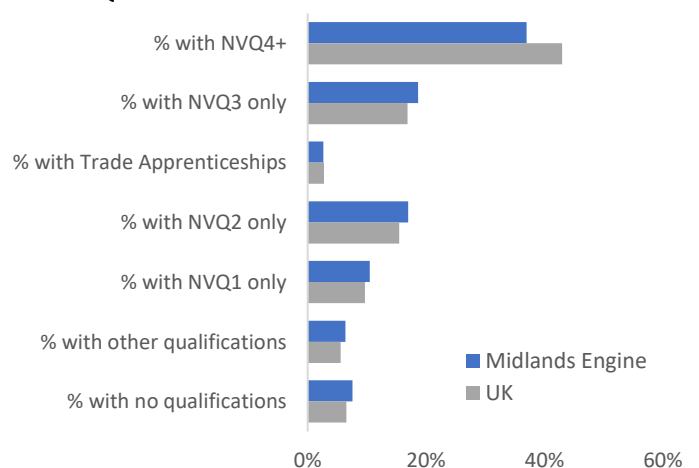
37.0% (2,329,600) of the working age population in the Midlands Engine were educated to NVQ level 4+ compared to the UK average of 43.0% in 2020.

To reach the UK NVQ level 4+ average requires an additional 378,755 people .

In 2020, 7.6% (478,500) of the working age population in the Midlands Engine had no qualifications compared to the UK average of 6.6%.

To eradicate the gap with the national average for no qualifications, a further 62,799 Midlands Engine residents need to be upskilled.

APS Qualifications 2020:

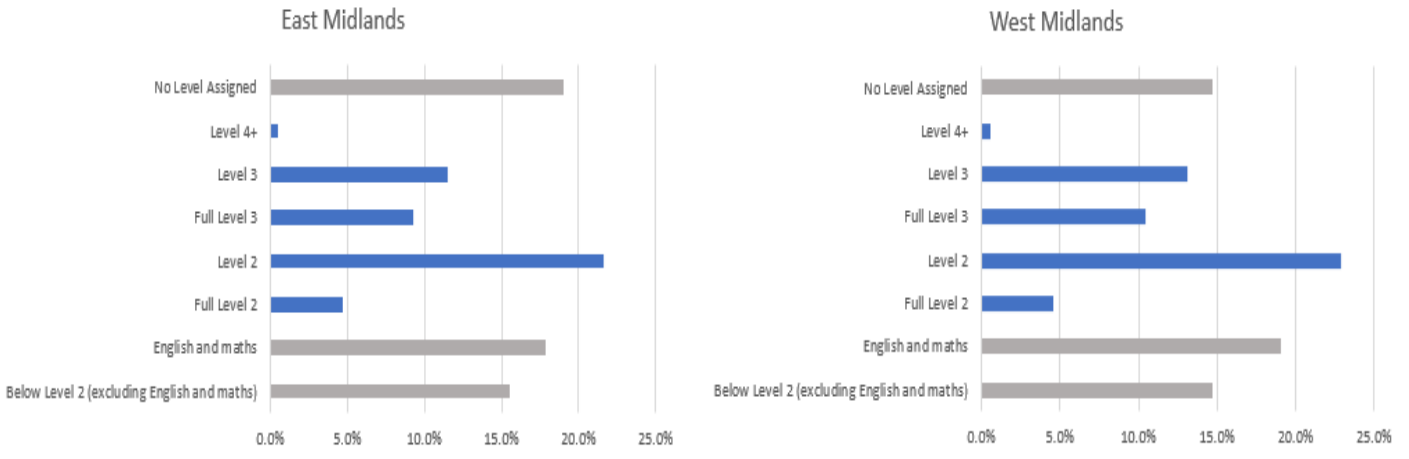


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Further Education

Data for 2019 shows that further education in the Midlands concentrated at the lower end of the skills spectrum raising concerns that new entrants to the job market may struggle to compete with more experienced candidates who have previously worked in the field and have lost their jobs from COVID-19.

Achievements by NVQ Level:



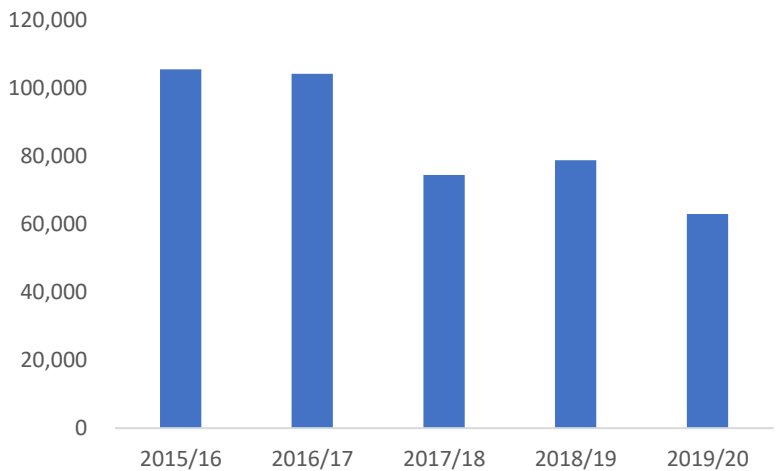
Apprenticeship Starts

The latest full year data for 2019/20 shows there were 62,940 apprenticeship starts in the Midlands Engine, a decrease of 20.0% (-15,760) apprenticeships from 2018/19 compared to the national decrease of 18.0%.

Of the 62,940 apprenticeships, 18,970 were at Intermediate (-35.5% since 2018/19), 28,520 Advanced (-19.4%) and 15,500 Higher Level (+11.4%).

The latest data for Q2 2020/21 shows there were 30,870 apprenticeship starts in the Midlands Engine area.

Overall Apprenticeship Starts Trends:

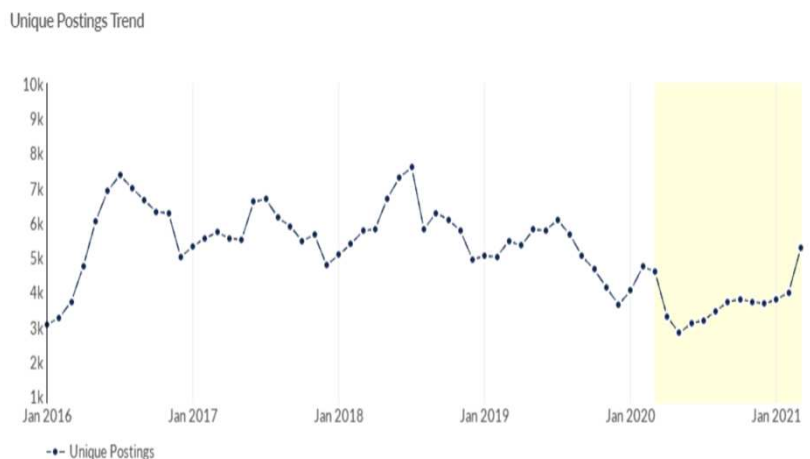


Apprenticeship Vacancies

There was 18,312 apprenticeship job postings across the Midlands Engine area between March 2020 and March 2021. Of the total apprenticeship postings in March 2021, 5,277 were unique vacancies - up 32.4% from the previous month and up 14.9% compared to the same period last year.

Posting Intensity is 3-to-1, meaning that for every 3 postings there is 1 unique job posting. This is lower than the Posting Intensity for all other occupations in the region (6-to-1), indicating continuing weaker demand from employers.

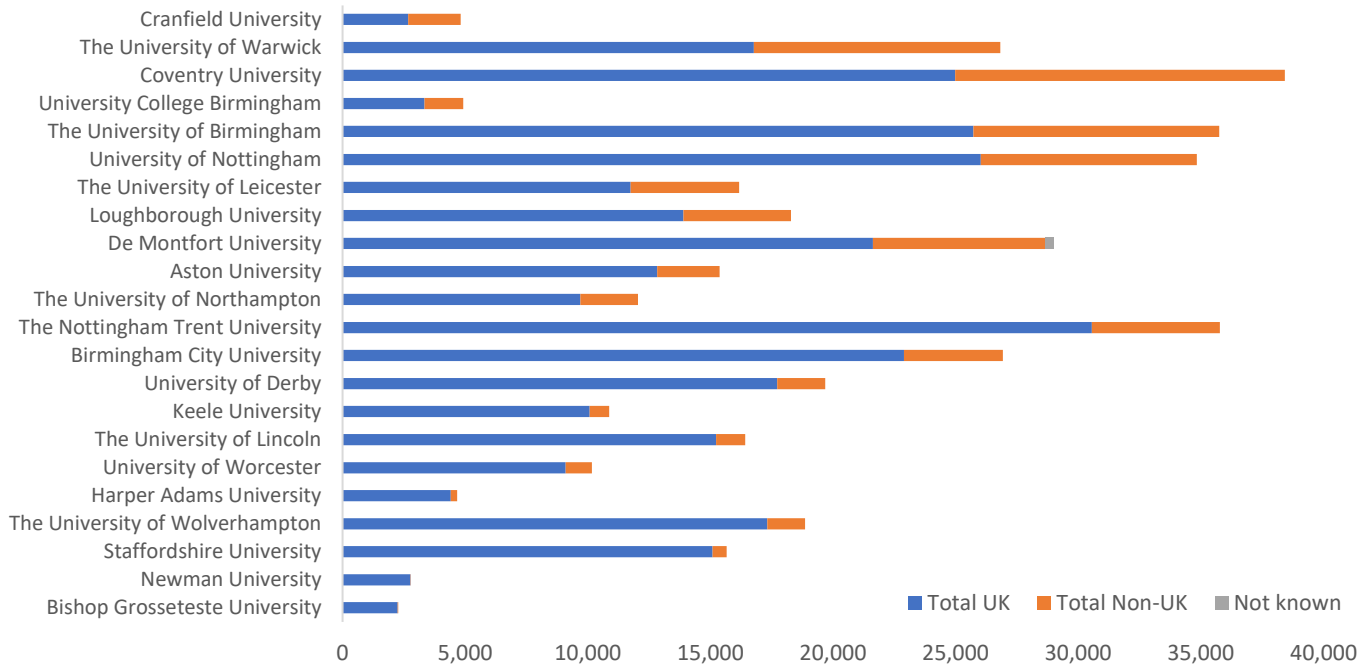
Apprenticeship Vacancies Trend:



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Higher Education

Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) data shows that in the 2019/20 academic year there were 400,720 enrolments across 22 universities, an increase of 3.7% (+14,200) when compared to 2018/19. Of which 316,935 (79.1%) were UK domiciled (compared to 80.1% in 2018/19), 83,400 (20.8%) were non UK domiciled (compared to 19.1% previously) and 345 (0.1%) were unknown (compared to 0.01% previously). **In 2019/20 these were distributed across the universities as follows, with the orange in each bar representing the share of students of non-UK domicile:**



When compared to 2018/19, University College Birmingham and Keele University decreased by 25 and 125 respectively for the number of non-UK domiciled students. There were seven universities that saw a decrease of UK students when compared to 2018/19, examples include; The University of Leicester (-1,115), The University of Wolverhampton (-855) to University of Worcester (-325) and Newman University (-5).

Overall Skills Demand

The following provides insight into the supply and demand of relevant skills, since (March 2020) by comparing the frequency of skills present in job postings against skills present in the workforce.

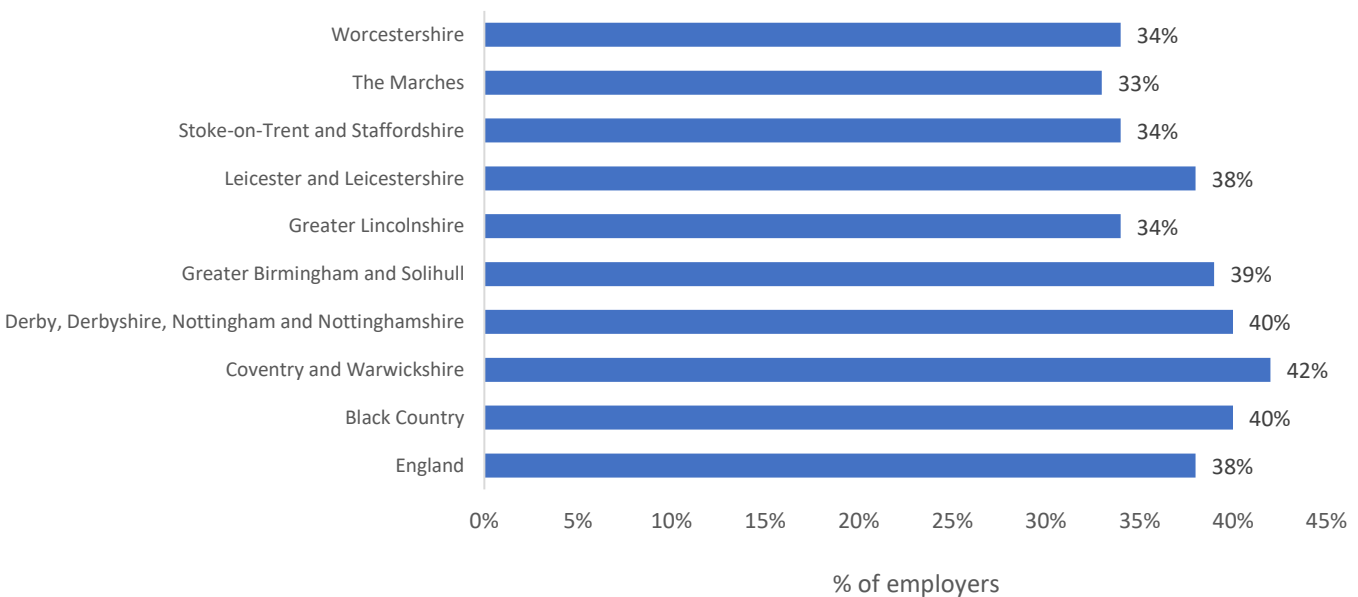


Midlands Engine Education and Skills Summary

Digital Skills Gaps for the Workforce

The lack of basic ICT skills amongst Midlands Engine residents is inhibiting their employment opportunities. Unemployed people who get online could increase their chances of getting employment and people with good ICT skills earn between 3% and 10% more than people without such skills. Jobcentre Plus estimates that 20% of people currently unemployed lack the skills and/or capacity to apply for benefits online without additional support. This amounts to over 44,600 people across the Midlands Engine.

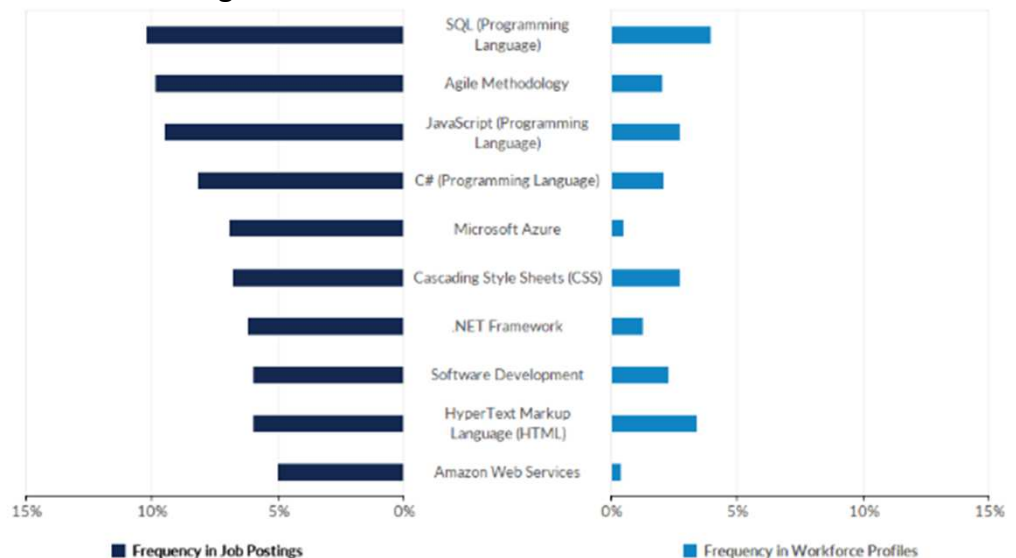
The digital skills gap is an opportunity for people of all ages – not just young people – to jump into a new sector or to get a better job in their current one. **The following chart shows the percentage of employers that believe digital skills need improving amongst their staff.** The England average is 38%, 5 Midlands Engine LEPs have the same or higher percent.



In-Demand Digital Skills (Hard Skills)

The following chart shows insight into the supply and demand of relevant skills by comparing the frequency of skills present in job postings over the last year against skills present in the digital and creative sector workforce across the Midlands Engine geography.

In-Demand Digital Skills



The top 10 in-demand skills suggests for this sector that the biggest skills gap is SQL (Programming Language).