

## Midlands Engine Qualifications<sup>1</sup>

*The Annual Population Survey datasets from the Office for National Statistics were updated on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with new figures for the Jan 2020 – Dec 2020 survey period.*

### Headlines

- The number of working age people in the Midlands Engine area with NVQ Level 4+ qualifications has increased by 9.1% to 2,329,600 (from 2,134,600 in 2019) compared to a UK increase of 7.2%.
- This means that 37.0% of the working age population in the Midlands Engine area were educated to NVQ4+ levels in 2020.
- Despite this positive improvement, a further 378,755 of the working age residents are required to obtain a NVQ Level 4+ qualification to equal the UK average of 43.0%.
- There were similar positive results for those with 'No Qualifications', falling from 572,800 people in 2019 to 478,500 people in 2020. This equates to 94,300 fewer people with no qualifications or -16.5% compared to the UK decrease of 16.4%.
- There are however still a higher percentage of people in the Midlands Engine (7.6%) with 'No Qualifications' than the UK average (6.6%) in 2020.
- To eradicate the gap with the UK average, a further 62,799 working age Midlands Engine residents are needed to obtain at least one qualification.
- The number of people with NVQ Level 1 qualifications decreased by 0.4% against a UK drop of 2.6%. The Midlands Engine area remains 0.8 percentage points above the UK average (10.5% compared to 9.7%).
- NVQ Level 2 qualifications increased by 1.2% compared to a -0.8% drop nationally. This leaves the Midlands Engine area 1.5 percentage points above the UK average (17.0% compared to 15.5%).
- The number of people qualified to NVQ Level 3 decreased by 14,100 or -1.2%, compared to a UK wide increase of 0.7%. This leaves the Midlands Engine area 1.8 percentage points above the UK average (18.7% compared to 16.9%).
- The number of people with trade apprenticeships decreased by 23,500 or -12.0%, compared to a UK wide decrease of 2.2%. In 2020, in the Midlands Engine area, there were 2.7% of residents with trade apprenticeships. A further 4,158 Midlands Engine residents would need to obtain a trade apprenticeship to meet the UK average (2.8%).
- Mirroring the UK trends, the number of people with other qualifications decreased by 12.0% (-55,200) against a UK drop of 15.2%. The WMCA area remains 0.8 percentage points above the UK average (6.4% compared to 5.6%).

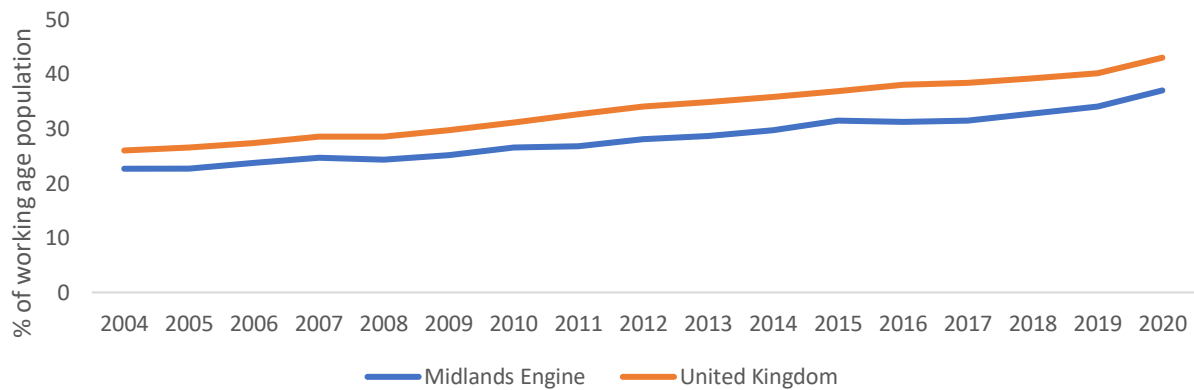
<sup>1</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey, April 2021 release. Please note, qualification data is based on the working age population (16-64 years old).

### Midlands Engine Qualifications (aged 16-64):

	Midlands Engine 2019		Midlands Engine 2020		UK 2020	Midlands Engine 2019-2020	UK Change 2019-2020	Gap to UK
% with NVQ4+	2,134,600	34.0%	2,329,600	37.0%	43.0%	9.1%	7.2%	+378,755
% with NVQ3 only	1,188,900	18.9%	1,174,800	18.7%	16.9%	-1.2%	0.7%	Higher than UK
% with Trade Apprenticeships	195,700	3.1%	172,200	2.7%	2.8%	-12.0%	-2.2%	+4,158
% with NVQ2 only	1,061,300	16.9%	1,073,800	17.0%	15.5%	1.2%	-0.8%	Higher than UK
% with NVQ1 only	667,300	10.6%	664,300	10.5%	9.7%	-0.4%	-2.6%	Higher than UK
% with other qualifications (NVQ)	460,500	7.3%	405,300	6.4%	5.6%	-12.0%	-15.2%	Higher than UK
% with no qualifications (NVQ)	572,800	9.1%	478,500	7.6%	6.6%	-16.5%	-16.4%	-62,799

#### NVQ4+ Trends:

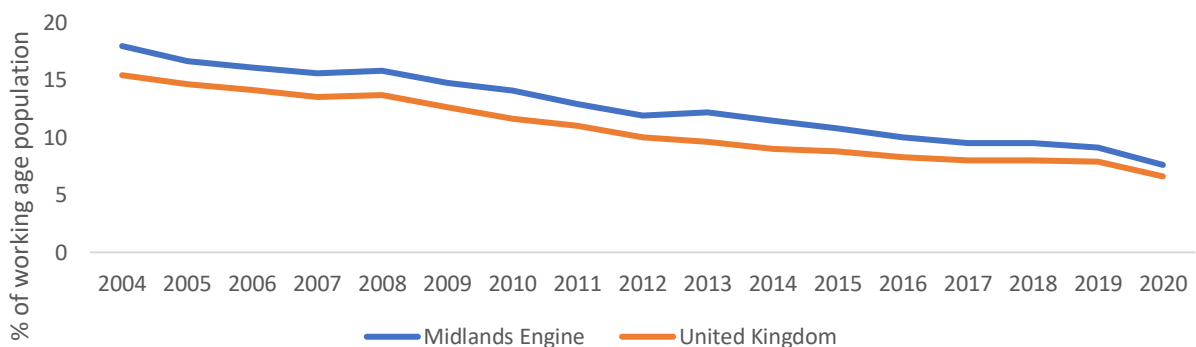
**% of working age population with NVQ4+ qualifications in the Midlands Engine & UK, 2004-2020**



- Since 2004, the number of working age residents with NVQ Level 4+ has increased by 79.9% (+1,035,000) compared to a rise of 83.5% across the UK.

#### No qualifications Trends:

**% of working age population with no qualifications in the Midlands Engine & UK, 2004-2020**



- Since 2004, the number of Midlands Engine working age adults with no qualifications has reduced by -53.3% (-546,100 people). The UK rate decreased by 52.6% over the same period.