

Release 3.5b

Key Findings on Highest Level of Qualification in London

December 2013

Introduction

The 19th of December 2013 saw Census release 3.5b from the Office of National Statistics which included Detailed Characteristics data on qualifications. This document sets out the key findings for London from that release

The 2011 Census publishes data on qualifications for usual residents aged 16 and over in seven categories: No qualifications, Level 1, Level 2, Apprenticeship, Level 3, Level 4 and above, Other. The data given are for the highest qualification of the resident. If, for example, a resident has GCSEs, A levels and a degree they are recorded as having a level 4 and above qualification.

For the purposes of analysis the qualification levels have been aggregated into the following categories in this document:

- Low or None No qualifications or Level 1 qualification
- Intermediate Level 2, Level 3 and Apprenticeships
- High Level 4 and above
- Other Other qualifications

Other qualifications are those which cannot be placed into the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF, see page 2 for details). These are often non-UK qualifications for which there is no agreed upon comparative level. As a result qualifications of different types and levels are included in this category.

Qualifications & Credit Framework

The QCF is the national credit transfer system for qualifications in England & Wales. The framework has eight levels, as follows:

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|-------------|
| Level 1 | GCSE – Grade D-G | Apprenticeships | The Diploma |
| Level 2 | GCSE – Grade A*-C | | |
| Level 3 | A-level | | |
| Level 4 | Certificate of Higher Education | | |
| Level 5 | Diploma of Higher Education Foundation degree HND | | |
| Level 6 | Bachelor degree | | |
| Level 7 | Master's degree Postgraduate Certificate | | |
| Level 8 | Doctorate | | |

Source: Ofqual

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Demography

- Of residents aged 16 and over, 28.3 per cent of residents in London had low or no qualifications (35.9 per cent in E&W), 24.0 per cent had intermediate qualifications (31.2 per cent in E&W) and 37.7 per cent had higher qualifications (27.2 per cent in E&W).
- In each age category London had higher proportions of residents with higher qualifications than E&W and had lower percentages in low or no qualifications and intermediate qualifications.
- The age group 25 to 29 had the largest percentage points difference between London and E&W in each qualification category. In low or no qualifications there was a 7.1 percentage point difference, in intermediate qualifications there was a 13.2 percentage point difference and in higher qualifications there was a 16.2 percentage point difference.
- The largest difference between the share of residents in London and E&W in any qualification category was residents aged 25 to 29 with a higher qualification (16.2 percentage point difference).
- In London, the age category with the highest proportion of residents with low or no qualifications was 65 and over with 55.8 per cent.
- The age group with the highest proportion of intermediate qualifications was 16 to 18 (57.1 per cent).
- Over half (55.6 per cent) of residents aged 25 to 29 and 54.7 per cent aged 30 to 34 had higher qualifications.

Table: Age by Highest Qualification in London

| | All usual residents age 16 & over | Low or no qualifications | Intermediate qualifications | Higher qualifications |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| All usual residents age 16 & over | 6,549,173 | 28.3% | 24.0% | 37.7% |
| Age 16 to 18 | 281,375 | 39.1% | 57.1% | 1.7% |
| Age 19 to 24 | 726,657 | 18.0% | 44.0% | 30.6% |
| Age 25 to 29 | 832,966 | 14.4% | 19.3% | 55.6% |
| Age 30 to 34 | 796,888 | 14.8% | 18.2% | 54.7% |
| Age 35 to 39 | 664,046 | 19.7% | 19.0% | 49.1% |
| Age 40 to 44 | 610,020 | 26.4% | 22.3% | 40.4% |
| Age 45 to 49 | 556,656 | 29.7% | 24.2% | 36.5% |
| Age 50 to 54 | 461,290 | 32.5% | 23.8% | 34.1% |
| Age 55 to 59 | 371,936 | 34.9% | 22.0% | 33.1% |
| Age 60 to 64 | 342,590 | 39.4% | 19.9% | 30.5% |
| Age 65 and over | 904,749 | 55.8% | 14.1% | 20.2% |

Source: DC5107EW/a

Note: Higher percentage = darker colour

- Over a quarter (27.2 per cent) of residents with low or no qualifications were aged 65 and over. The age categories ranging from 40 to 54 each had a share of over eight per cent of residents with low or no qualifications, totalling 25.7 per cent. This is similar in E&W where 33.2 per cent of residents with low or no qualifications were aged 65 and over, and 23.9 per cent were aged 40 to 54.
- A fifth of residents (20.4 per cent) with intermediate qualifications were aged 19 to 24, 10.2 percentage points higher than any other age category.
- Almost a fifth (18.7 per cent) of residents with higher qualifications were aged 25 to 29, while 17.7 per cent were aged 30 to 34. The proportion of 25 to 34 year olds with higher qualifications in London is 11.9 percentage point greater than the same proportion in England & Wales.

Table: Highest Qualification by Age in London

| Age | All usual residents age 16 & over | Low or no qualifications | Intermediate qualifications | Higher qualifications |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| All usual residents age 16 & over | 6,549,173 | 1,855,204 | 1,569,101 | 2,470,225 |
| Age 16 to 18 | 4.3% | 5.9% | 10.2% | 0.2% |
| Age 19 to 24 | 11.1% | 7.1% | 20.4% | 9.0% |
| Age 25 to 29 | 12.7% | 6.5% | 10.2% | 18.7% |
| Age 30 to 34 | 12.2% | 6.4% | 9.2% | 17.7% |
| Age 35 to 39 | 10.1% | 7.1% | 8.0% | 13.2% |
| Age 40 to 44 | 9.3% | 8.7% | 8.7% | 10.0% |
| Age 45 to 49 | 8.5% | 8.9% | 8.6% | 8.2% |
| Age 50 to 54 | 7.0% | 8.1% | 7.0% | 6.4% |
| Age 55 to 59 | 5.7% | 7.0% | 5.2% | 5.0% |
| Age 60 to 64 | 5.2% | 7.3% | 4.3% | 4.2% |
| Age 65 and over | 13.8% | 27.2% | 8.1% | 7.4% |

Source: DC5107EW1a

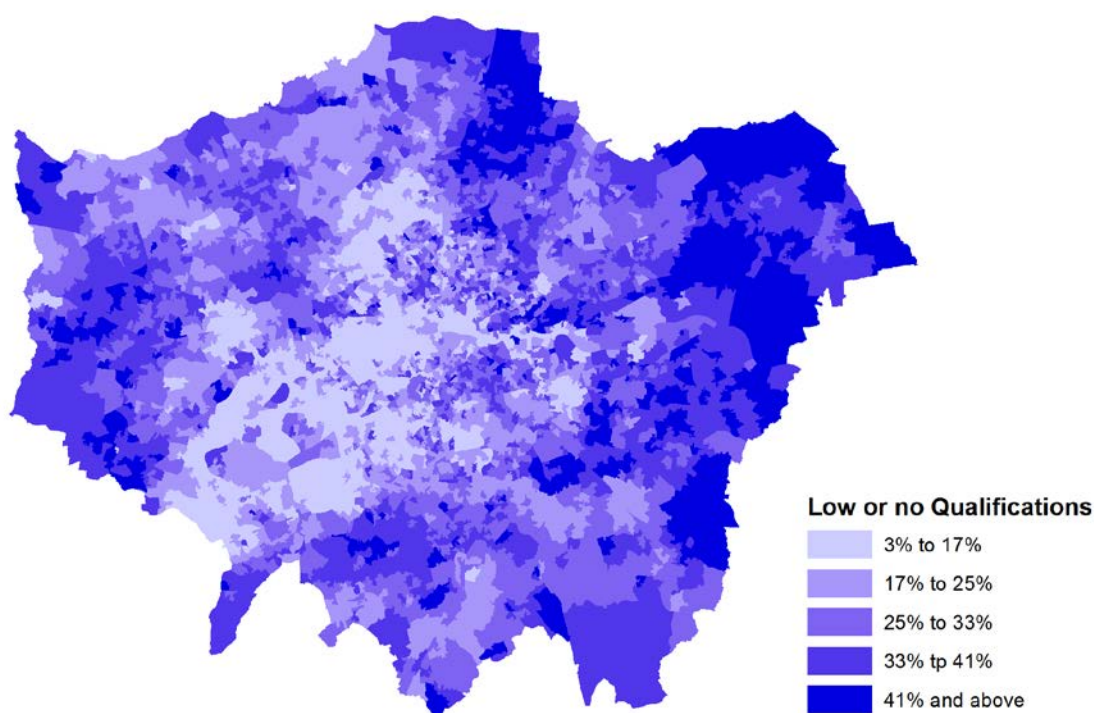
- Males in London were 10.9 percentage points more likely to have higher qualifications than their equivalents in England & Wales.
- Females in London are 3.5 percentage points more likely to have low or no qualifications than their male counterparts.

Table: Highest Qualification by Gender

| | All usual residents age 16 & over | Low or no qualifications | Intermediate qualifications | Higher qualifications |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All persons | 6,549,173 | 28.3% | 24.0% | 37.7% |
| Males | 3,203,018 | 26.5% | 24.5% | 38.7% |
| Females | 3,346,155 | 30.0% | 23.5% | 36.8% |

Source: DC5107EW/a

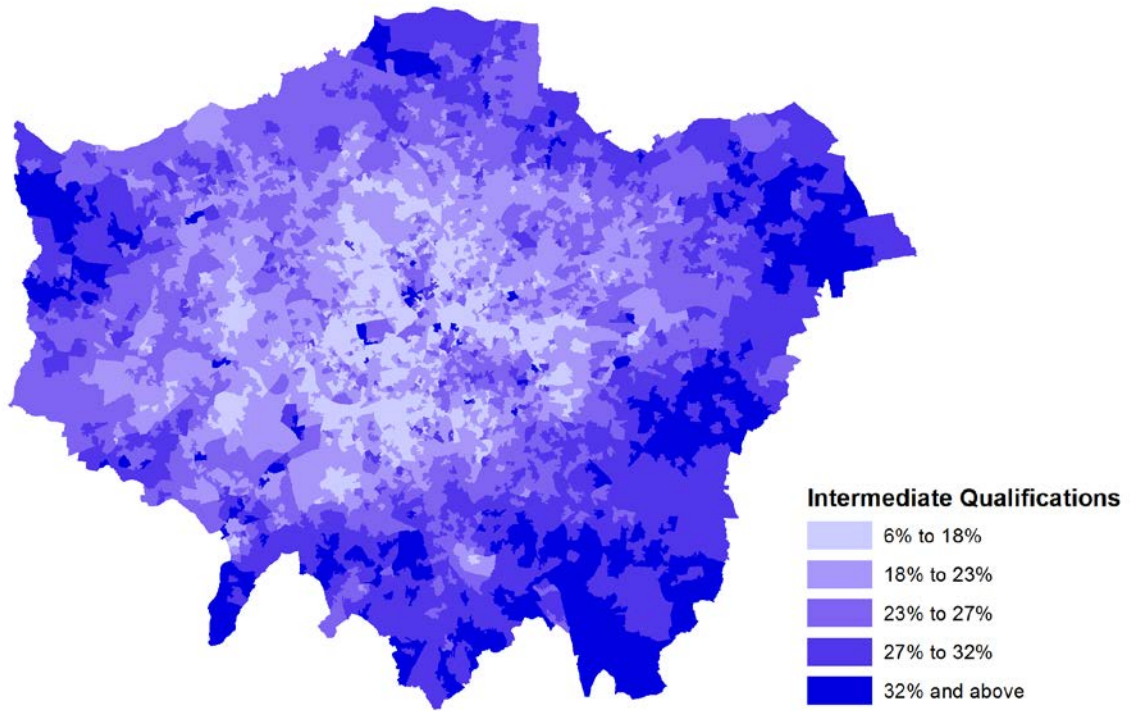
Map 1: Low or no Qualifications by LSOA



Source: QS510EW

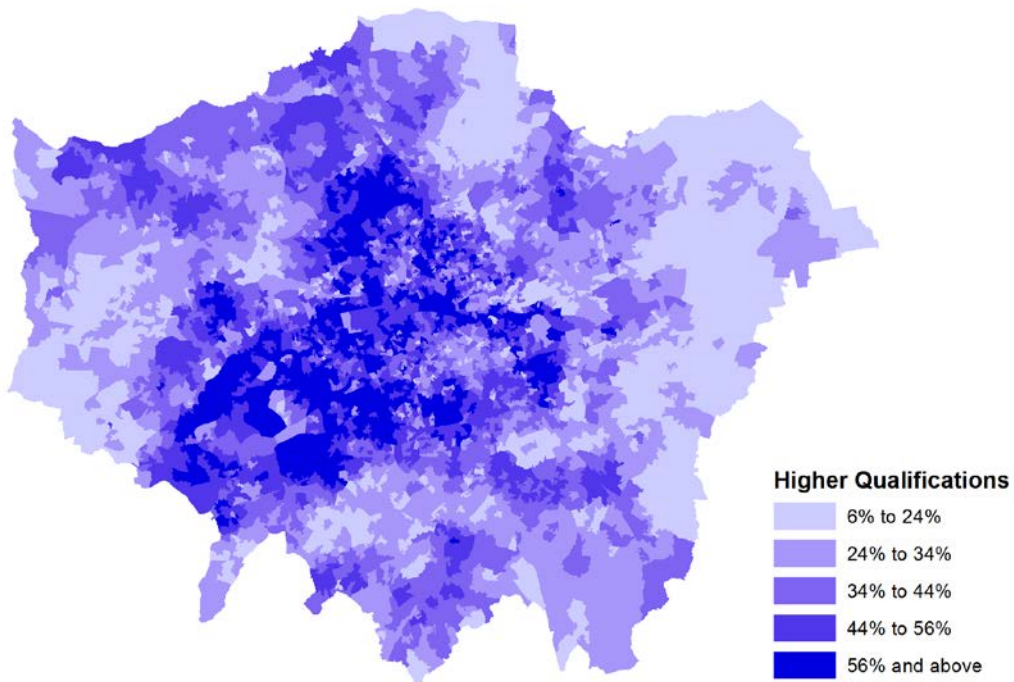
Maps 1 to 3 show the distribution of different qualification levels across London. Broadly speaking those with higher qualifications were more likely to be concentrated in Inner London (Map 3) while those with low or no qualifications were more likely to be resident in Outer London, particularly in the east (Map 1).

Map 2: Intermediate Qualifications by LSOA



Source: Q5510EW

Map 3: Higher Qualifications by LSOA

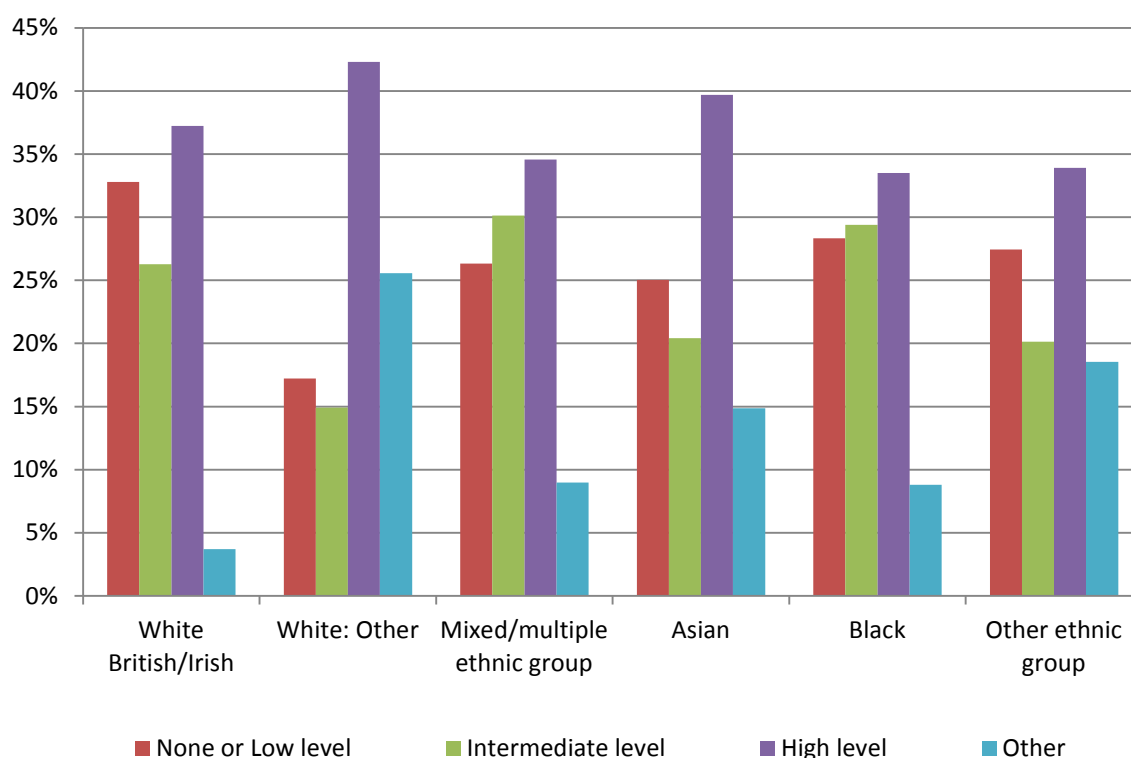


Source: Q5510EW

Ethnic groups

Data on ethnicity is published in the census for 18 ethnic groups. The analysis here aggregates those groups in to six 'main' groups. They are: White British/Irish, White Other, Mixed/Multiple ethnicity, Asian, Black and Other.

Figure: Highest Level of Qualification by Ethnic Group, London, 2011



Source: DC5209EW

None or Low Level

White British residents were the most likely to have no or low level qualifications in 2011 with almost a third falling into this category (32.8 per cent). The group least likely to have no or low qualifications were Other White. Just 17.2 per cent of this ethnic group were classified in the lowest category. The other main ethnic groups all ranged between 25.0 per cent and 28.3 per cent.

Intermediate level

A quarter (26.3 per cent) of White British residents had intermediate qualifications. The group most likely to have an intermediate qualification was Mixed/Multiple ethnicity (30.1 per cent) and those least likely were residents with Other ethnicity (20.1 per cent).

High Level

High level qualifications accounted for more people than any other qualification level in each ethnic group. White Other residents were most likely to have a high level qualification (42.3 per cent) followed by Asian

(39.7 per cent) and White British (37.2 per cent). Those least likely to hold a high level qualification were Black residents (33.5 per cent).

Other qualifications

The category 'other qualifications' includes all qualifications that ONS were unable to match to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (see introduction).

A quarter of Other White residents had other qualifications. Many in this ethnic group will be migrants from Europe and will have non-UK qualification which have been classed as other. The next largest group were other ethnicities (which includes Arab and anyone not categorised in one of the other ethnic groups). Almost a fifth (18.5 per cent) of this group had an Other qualification. White British (3.7 per cent) and Black (8.8 per cent) were the ethnicities with the lowest levels of Other qualifications.

Country of Birth

Table: Highest level of qualification by region of birth

| | All Usual Residents Age 16+ | Low or no quals | Intermediate quals | Higher quals | Other |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| UK/Ireland | 3,872,293 | 31.4% | 28.6% | 36.9% | 3.1% |
| EU countries | 642,440 | 18.8% | 15.3% | 37.5% | 28.5% |
| Non-EU Europe | 147,576 | 31.1% | 15.2% | 33.4% | 20.2% |
| Africa | 588,663 | 24.6% | 23.3% | 38.9% | 13.2% |
| Middle East | 112,311 | 24.2% | 16.1% | 40.5% | 19.1% |
| Eastern Asia | 94,792 | 16.9% | 14.0% | 51.3% | 17.8% |
| Southern Asia | 591,212 | 29.8% | 14.9% | 34.8% | 20.5% |
| South-East Asia | 107,365 | 21.9% | 16.7% | 43.0% | 18.4% |
| Central Asia | 4,485 | 11.0% | 18.1% | 48.8% | 22.0% |
| North America and the Caribbean | 215,334 | 28.9% | 18.6% | 39.9% | 12.6% |
| Central and South America | 90,768 | 20.0% | 16.3% | 38.2% | 25.5% |
| Other (including Australasia) | 81,934 | 6.3% | 13.6% | 64.0% | 16.1% |

Source: DC5205EW

None or low level

There was a large range of values between the region of birth with the lowest proportion of residents with no or low level qualifications (Other including Australasia – 6.3 per cent) and the region with the highest proportion (UK/Ireland – 31.4 per cent). Residents born in Central Asia (11.0 per cent) and Eastern Asia (including China and Hong Kong) (16.9 per cent) also had low proportions of no or low qualifications.

Intermediate level

Residents born in UK/Ireland (28.6 per cent) and Africa (23.3 per cent) were the most likely to have an intermediate qualification. All other regions of birth saw proportions below a fifth in this qualification level.

High level

Those with higher level qualifications accounted for a greater proportion of the population than any other qualification level in each of the countries of birth detailed table DC5205EW. By far the largest group here was the Other group (including Australasia) where 64.0 per cent of residents held a high level qualification. Eastern Asia was the only other region where a majority held a high level qualification (51.3 per cent). The

lowest proportions in this category were Non-EU Europe (33.4 per cent), Southern Asia (34.8 per cent) and UK/Ireland (36.9 per cent).

Other qualifications

As would be expected very few of those born in the UK and Ireland were classified as having other qualifications (3.1 per cent). This is because this group is more likely to have a qualification which fits into the Qualifications and Credit Framework (see introduction).

Among the non-UK born population, those born in the Americas and the Caribbean had the lowest proportion of residents with other qualifications (12.6 per cent) followed by Africa (13.2 per cent). The highest proportions were found in residents born in EU countries (28.5 per cent), reflecting what was seen in the Other White ethnic group population. High proportions were also found in the Central and South American born population (25.5 per cent) and those born in Central Asia (22.0 per cent).

Age by Country of Birth

The age breakdown in the data provides detail on the population aged 16-64 and those aged 65 and over. Proportions vary across the different regions of birth but there is a common structure to both age categories.

The 16-64 group tended to have lower proportions in the no and low qualifications and the intermediate qualifications and a larger share in the high level qualifications. Among those aged 65 and over the most common qualification level was no or low qualifications while very low proportions had intermediate qualifications. The other qualifications category was the category which is most similar across the two age groups.

Main language

- Six in ten (59.4 per cent) usual residents whose main language was Sign Language had low or no qualifications, which was double the London average.
- Usual residents whose main language was English or South Asian were more likely to hold higher qualifications (39.7 and 39.5 per cent respectively) than speakers of any other main language.
- Those whose main language was African or Sign Language were the least likely to hold a higher qualification (25.0 per cent and 15.2 per cent respectively).
- All main languages other than English and Sign Language had over the London average proportion of people holding 'Other' qualifications, with Western European and Other European main language speakers having the highest shares at triple the average (28.2 per cent and 30.8 per cent).
- The low or no qualifications group had the highest proportion of residents speaking Arabic, West/Central or South Asian, African and Sign or Other language.

Year of arrival

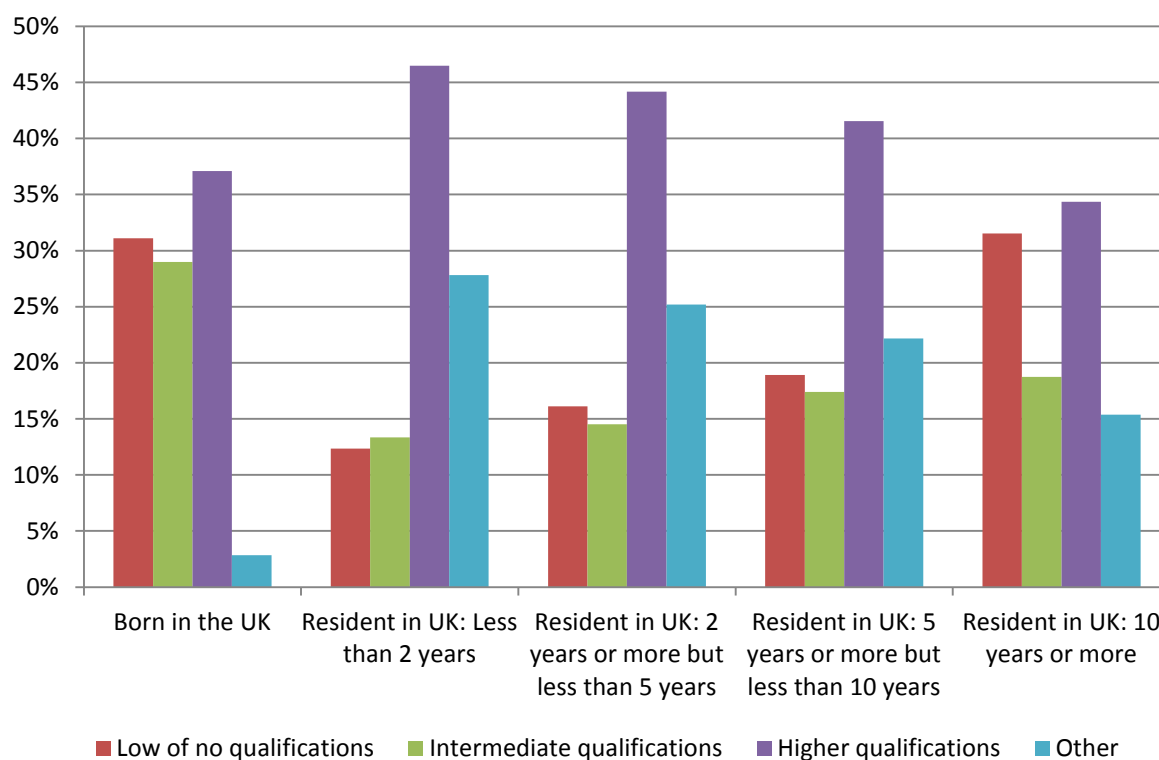
- The rate of low or no qualifications was higher among Londoners born in the UK (31.1 per cent) than those born outside the UK (24.6 per cent).
- Half (51.2 per cent) of people born outside the UK that arrived before 1961 had low or no qualifications.
- Of all people born outside the UK in London, the earlier the date of arrival in the UK, the greater the likelihood of having low or no qualifications (51.2 per cent arrived before 1961, 11.7 per cent arrived 2010-2011), and the lower the likelihood of holding higher qualifications (22.3 per cent and 46.9 per cent respectively).

Year of arrival by age

- Three in ten (30.7 per cent) 16-24 year olds who arrived in the UK between 2010 and 2011 held other qualifications, compared with the London average of just 5.9 per cent.
- Those aged 16-24 years old born outside the UK who arrived between 2001 and 2003 had double the chance of having no or low qualifications (27.87 per cent) than those who arrived between 2010 and 2011 (14.4 per cent).
- Of those born outside the UK aged 65 and over, half (49.2 per cent) had low or no qualifications, and just over one in five (22.4 per cent) had higher qualifications. Proportions did not significantly fluctuate by year of arrival.
- More than half (55.2 per cent) of those aged 25-49 born outside the UK who arrived between 2010 and 2011 held higher qualifications.

Length of residence

Figure: Highest qualification by length of residence



Source: DC5802EW

- Those born outside the UK, but with UK residency of ten years or longer, had the same proportion with low or no qualifications (31.5 per cent) as those born in the UK (31.1 per cent). The same group had half the likelihood of holding higher qualifications (15.4 per cent compared to 27.8 per cent).
- Those born in the UK had double the likelihood of holding intermediate qualifications (29.0 per cent) than those who had been resident in the UK for less than 5 years (14.0 per cent).
- Those that had been in the UK less than two years had double the likelihood of holding other qualifications (27.8 per cent) than those who had been resident for over ten years (15.4 per cent), and triple the London average (10.0 per cent).
- All London residents born outside the UK (regardless of the length of residency) had higher proportions in the higher qualifications category than any other qualification category.
- Residents who had been in the UK for less than ten years had larger shares of people holding higher qualifications (43.6 per cent) than those born in the UK (37.1 per cent).

Economic Activity

- Two-fifths of Londoners aged 16 to 64 had higher qualifications - nearly 2.3 million persons. For England and Wales outside London less than three in ten had higher qualifications. Less than a quarter of Londoners aged 16 to 64 had low or no qualifications. Persons aged 25 to 34 had the highest proportion of higher qualifications, 55 per cent, compared to 23 per cent of those aged 16 to 24.
- Amongst Londoners in employment, nearly half had higher qualifications while less than a fifth had low or no qualifications. Those aged 25 to 34 had the highest proportion of higher qualifications, 61 per cent, and the lowest proportion of low or no qualifications, at only ten per cent.
- A third of unemployed persons, and two-fifths of economically inactive persons had low or no qualifications.

Students

- There were 700,000 full-time students aged 16 to 64 in London in 2011 out of a total of 3.7 million in England and Wales. Half of London students had intermediate qualifications, and a quarter had higher qualifications. For students in the rest of England and Wales, three-fifths had intermediate qualifications and only one in eight had higher qualifications.
- Around two-thirds of students in London were economically inactive, a slightly higher proportion than nationally. Economically inactive students were least likely to have higher qualifications (19 per cent) and most likely to have low or no qualifications (25 per cent). Conversely, students in employment were twice as likely to have higher qualifications (35 per cent) and half as likely to have low or no qualifications (11 per cent).

Occupation of those in employment

- Nearly nine in ten London residents with Professional occupations had higher qualifications as did two-thirds of Associate professionals and over half Managers and senior officials.
- Caring and leisure occupations had the highest proportion of workers with intermediate level qualifications, nearly four in ten, while 34 per cent of Sales and customer service workers were qualified to this level. Nearly three in ten Sales and customer service workers had higher qualifications, twice the rate nationally.
- Process and plant operatives had the highest proportion of workers with low or no qualifications, 41 per cent compared to 37 per cent for workers in Elementary occupations. Perhaps more surprisingly, nearly three in ten skilled trades workers in London had low or no qualifications.

Industry of those in employment

- The industry with the highest proportion of workers with higher qualifications was Professional, scientific and technical. Three-quarters (75 per cent) of London residents who worked in this industry had higher qualifications. Other industries with high proportions were Information and communication (70 per cent) and Finance and insurance (67 per cent). The industry with the lowest proportion of higher qualifications was Construction at 21 per cent.
- Transport and storage had the highest rate of workers with low or no qualifications at 35 per cent, followed by Manufacturing (27 per cent) and Construction (26 per cent). For the Information and communication and Professional, scientific and technical industries only one worker in 14 had low or no qualifications.
- Finance and insurance showed the largest divergence in qualifications between London and England and Wales. The rate of higher qualifications in London (67 per cent of the workforce) was 26 percentage points higher than in England and Wales outside London (42 per cent). Industries with the most similar qualifications profiles in London and in the rest of the country were Education, Transport and storage, and Construction.

Country of Birth by Economic Activity

- Among employed residents there was a common structure to qualification attainment across all countries of birth. Residents tended to have low levels of no or low qualifications and intermediate qualifications with the largest proportion in the high level category. The lowest proportion of high level qualifications among the employed was among residents born in EU countries (excluding UK & Ireland) but even here 43.1 per cent had high qualifications. Those born in UK/Ireland, Africa, Middle East & Asia and The Americas and the Caribbean were all within one percentage point of having of half of their employed population in this category.
- Among the unemployed there was much less variation. Residents tended to have slightly higher proportions in the no or low qualifications group and the intermediate level group. However, this was not true for all countries of birth. Both EU-born and those born in Other countries (including Australasia) showed a structure similar to the employed with most people having high level qualifications.
- Among the economically inactive most countries of birth showed a high proportion of residents in the no or low level qualifications group. Economically inactive UK and Irish born residents with no or low qualifications made up 43.7 per cent while among non-EU European residents the proportion was 46.6 per cent. Again, the group that bucked the trend here was the Other countries (including Australasia) where 45.1 per cent had a high level qualification.

Hours worked by sex

- Full-time workers had a 14.4 percentage point higher proportion of people holding higher qualifications (47.4 per cent) than part-time workers (32.9 per cent).
- Over a third (34.5 per cent) of females working part-time held higher qualifications; 6.3 percentage point higher than their male counterparts (28.2 per cent).
- There were no noticeable differences in the level of qualifications held between males and females working full-time; just under half of both held higher qualifications, just over 20 per cent held intermediate, and around 20 per cent held no or low qualifications.
- Of all people in work, women were more likely to hold intermediate qualifications (26.2 per cent) than men (21.7 per cent).
- Males in part-time work had an eight percentage point higher share of those holding no or low qualifications (34.7 per cent) than their female equivalents (26.7 per cent).
- One in five (20.2 per cent) of males working part-time held 'Other' qualifications; double the proportion for part-time working females (10.4 per cent).

Health

- The proportion of residents in London whose day-to-day activities were not limited was higher than that of E&W by 4.4 percentage points (83.2 per cent and 78.8 per cent respectively).
- Three-fifths (61.3 per cent) of residents whose day-to-day activity was limited a lot had low or no qualifications, slightly lower than the percentage share in E&W (65.7 per cent).
- Just under half of residents whose day-to-day activities were limited a little had low or no qualifications, whereas E&W had over half with 51.6 per cent.
- Under a fifth (19.5 per cent) of residents whose day-to-day activities were limited a little had an intermediate qualification, which was also true for residents whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot (14.5 per cent).
- Just over a fifth (22.2 per cent) of residents whose day-to-day activities were limited a little had a higher qualification, whereas 14.2 per cent of those whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot had a higher qualification.

Table: Disability by Qualification in London

| Disability | All categories: Highest level of qualification | Low or no Qualifications | Intermediate Qualifications | Level 4 qualifications and above |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| All categories: Long-term health problem or disability | 6,549,173 | 28.3% | 24.0% | 37.7% |
| Day-to-day activities limited a lot | 527,470 | 61.3% | 14.5% | 14.2% |
| Day-to-day activities limited a little | 574,162 | 47.8% | 19.5% | 22.2% |
| Day-to-day activities not limited | 5,447,541 | 23.1% | 25.3% | 41.6% |

Source: DC5301EW

Appendix 1: Main Languages

For the purposes of analysis some of the languages detailed in table DC5208EW have been aggregated. This appendix shows how that aggregation was undertaken.

English

Western European languages includes French, Portuguese and Spanish

Other European languages (EU) include Polish and any other EU European Language

Other European languages (non EU) - category not broken down any further in table

Arabic

West/Central Asian language - category not broken down any further in table

South Asian languages include Panjabi, Urdu, Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya), Gujarati, Tamil, and any other South Asian language

East Asian languages include Chinese, and any other East Asian language

African languages - category not broken down any further in table

Sign language includes British, all other, and any sign communication system

Other language - category not broken down any further in table