

Introduction to the Indices of Deprivation 2015

The English Indices of Deprivation, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), identify small areas of England which are experiencing multiple aspects of deprivation. This makes them an important tool for identifying and understanding deprived areas, and for targeting resources effectively. The most recent figures were released in September 2015, and update the indices published in 2010, 2007 and 2004. Figures are released at Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level – a ‘neighbourhood’ level geography. Summary measures of the IMD presented at local authority district level are also provided.

The Indices of Deprivation 2015 provide a *relative* measure of deprivation in small areas across England. They are based on the concept that deprivation consists of more than just poverty; so while poverty is related to not having enough money to live on, deprivation refers to a much broader lack of resources and opportunities. Conversely, areas that are not deprived cannot therefore be described as ‘affluent’.

The Indices are based on seven different aspects (or ‘domains’) of deprivation. These are distinct domains, each with their own scores and ranks – and people may be counted as deprived in one or more of the domains, depending on the types of deprivation that they experience. Each domain is based on a basket of indicators, with a total of 37 separate indicators used in total. Each indicator is based on the most recently available time point, and in practice most indicators used relate to the tax year 2012/13.

These seven domains combine to produce an overall measure – the **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** – each contributing a weighting, as shown in Table 1. IMD is the most commonly cited element of the Indices, and has become the main measure of neighbourhood and local authority deprivation in England.

Table 1: Weighting of domains in the IMD 2015

Domain	Weighting
Income deprivation	22.5%
Employment deprivation	22.5%
Health deprivation and disability	13.5%
Education, skills and training deprivation	13.5%
Crime	9.3%
Barriers to housing & services	9.3%
Living environment deprivation	9.3%

In addition to the seven domain-level indices, there are two supplementary indices: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI).

Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

The Indices of Deprivation are a small-area measure of deprivation reported by Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs); this is a nationally defined geography equivalent to a ‘neighbourhood’ level and designed to be of a consistent size and stable over time. Following the 2011 Census, there are now 167 LSOAs in Walsall, with an average population size of 1,600 each.

This is a reduction from the 169 LSOAs that were in place initially and used in IMD 2010. The 2011 Census showed that the population had fallen below the minimum threshold in some areas, which resulted in 4 LSOAs in Blakenall ward being merged into 2 by the Office for National Statistics. All other LSOA boundaries in Walsall remain unchanged.

There are 32,844 LSOAs in England, and the Indices of Deprivation calculate scores for each of these. The LSOAs are then ranked, so that 1 is the most deprived and 32,844 is the least deprived.

Borough-level deprivation

Although designed primarily to be small-area measures of relative deprivation, the indices are often used to describe higher-level geographies.

The pattern of deprivation across local authorities can be complex, and may be concentrated in pockets or spread relatively evenly throughout the area. In order to understand these deprivation patterns, a set of summary measures have been released. No single measure is the ‘best’ measure – rather they all describe different aspects of local authority deprivation. A brief summary of the types of measure are included in Table 2.

One of the most commonly used measures of local authority level deprivation is the average LSOA score. Like the average rank, this describes the local authority as a whole by taking into account the full range of its LSOA scores. However, the advantage is that it retains the effect of ‘extreme’ scores, which is not the case if the average ranks are used.

Table 2: Summary measure of district-level deprivation

Measure	Description
Average of LSOA scores	Population-weighted average for the combined scores for the LSOAs in the LA
Average of LSOA ranks	Population-weighted average of the combined ranks for the LSOAs in the LA
LSOAs in most deprived 10%	Proportion of the LSOAs in an LA that fall within the most deprived 10% nationally (i.e. are within the 1 st decile)
Extent	Proportion of a LA’s population living in the most deprived LSOAs in the country - shows how widespread high levels of deprivation are in a district.
Local concentration	Population-weighted average of the ranks of the LA’s most deprived LSOAs that contain exactly 10% of the district’s population

Based on the rank of its average score, Walsall is now the 33rd most deprived local authority (out of 326). This puts it just outside the most deprived 10% in England, and is an improvement in ranking of 3 places since 2010. Although by this measure the borough is slightly less deprived in relation to the rest of

England than it was in 2010, it has not regained its position from 2007 or 2004 when it was within the most deprived 15% (see Table 3). However, this does not necessarily mean that Walsall is more or less deprived that in was in 2010 in absolute terms, nor describe how the number of people experiencing deprivation has changed – what it does show is that the borough is now relatively slightly less deprived when compared with other local authorities.

Table 3: Walsall borough’s rank of average LSOA scores

Measure	England Percentile (i.e. within the most deprived ...% of local authorities)				England Rank* 2015/2010 rank out of 326 2007/2004 rank out of 354			
	2015	2010	2007	2004	2015	2010	2007	2004
Average of LSOA scores	11%	10%	13%	15%	33	30	45	61

*Where 1 is most deprived

Table 4 shows the summary measures of deprivation for Walsall and neighbouring local authorities. Based on the proportion of LSOAs in the borough that are highly deprived (i.e. in the most deprived 10% in England), Walsall ranks at 39 – slightly better than it ranks on average LSOA score. Just over 20% of its neighbourhoods are in the most deprived decile; this is double the proportion that would be expected if deprivation was evenly distributed across all local authorities in England.

Walsall is less deprived overall than its neighbouring authorities of Birmingham, Sandwell and Wolverhampton on all summary measures of deprivation. However it is more deprived than the unitary authorities of Dudley and Solihull, and much more deprived than neighbouring district authorities of Staffordshire. Compared with Coventry and Telford & Wrekin, Walsall is more deprived on all measures except for local concentration, suggesting that while Walsall is generally more deprived overall, these two areas have a larger proportion of their residents living in extremely highly deprived areas.

Table 4: District-level summary measures for surrounding Local Authorities

Local Authority	England Rank (out of 326)*				
	Average Score	Average Rank	LSOAs in most deprived 10%	Extent	Local Concentration
Birmingham	7	11	6	6	21
Sandwell	13	12	28	10	55
Wolverhampton	17	19	21	14	47
Walsall	33	41	39	20	59
Coventry	54	60	46	55	38
Telford & Wrekin	86	97	65	77	56
Dudley	110	118	101	90	93
Cannock Chase	133	128	152	140	148
Solihull	178	216	77	124	66
Lichfield	247	252	200	220	223
South Staffs	254	253	200	255	243

*Where 1 is most deprived and 326 is least deprived

Domains of Deprivation

Table 5 summarises Walsall’s rank for all seven domains of deprivation, along with the supplementary income indices for children and older people. Walsall performs poorest on income deprivation, ranking 18th for average LSOA score and 11th based on the proportion of highly deprived neighbourhoods in the borough. Employment deprivation is also an issue, with an average score rank of 30. However, the borough performs the worst on the education, skills and training deprivation domain, with an average score that ranks it as the 12th most deprived local authority in England. Together these three domains account for 58.5% of the IMD score, contributing to Walsall’s low IMD rank.

Scores in the income and employment deprivation domains are based on the actual proportion of residents experiencing that aspect of deprivation (unlike the other domains, which are modelled scores). The final column of Table 5

therefore shows the percentages of residents affected – the population at risk for income deprivation is all residents, IDACI for dependent children aged 0-15, IDAOPI for older people aged 60+, and employment deprivation for the working age population.

In comparison, the borough has lower levels of health and crime deprivation – although it still ranks in the worst 21% of local authorities for health and worst 27% for crime. A rank of 118 for living environment puts Walsall in the most deprived 37% in England.

However, Walsall ranks very well on barriers to housing and services deprivation, and has no LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally; this domain is made up of geographical barriers to services, and wider barriers including overcrowding or homelessness – in Walsall, neighbourhoods do not tend to experience both of these types of deprivation in combination, so the overall score is low.

Table 5: Summary of all deprivation domains for Walsall

Domain	England Rank (out of 326)*		
	Average LSOA Score	% of LSOAs in the most deprived 10%	% of population experiencing deprivation
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	33	39	-
Income deprivation	18	11	21.9%
- affecting children (IDACI)	27	23	28.4%
- affecting older people (IDAOPI)	34	21	23.7%
Employment deprivation	30	42	16.9%
Education, skills and training deprivation	12	18	-
Health deprivation and disability	68	92	-
Crime	85	108	-
Barriers to housing & services	218	264*	-
Living environment deprivation	118	231	-

* All local authorities with no LSOAs in the most deprived 10% share a rank of 264

Neighbourhood-level deprivation

Within Walsall, there is considerable variation in the levels of deprivation experienced in neighbourhoods across the borough. Figure 1 shows deprivation relative to England overall, highlighting the most deprived and least deprived LSOAs in the borough in 2015.

There are pockets of extreme deprivation in some areas and a fifth of neighbourhoods (34 of 167) are amongst the most deprived 10% in England. However, this is an improvement from 2010 when 41 LSOAs were highly deprived¹, and similar to 2007 when there were 33. These highly deprived LSOAs are located primarily in Blakenall, Birchills Leamore, Pleck, St Matthew's and Bloxwich East and West wards. Darlaston and South Willenhall also have very widespread multiple deprivation.

However, 12 areas (over 5% of the total) are within the least deprived 10% nationally, representing an improvement over time from 9 LSOAs in 2010 and 7 in 2007. These areas of relatively low deprivation are predominantly located in the east of borough, in Streetly and Aldridge.

However, there are also pockets of very low deprivation adjacent to areas of extremely high deprivation. This is the case in parts of Willenhall North, Rushall-Shelfield, Pelsall, and particularly in Bloxwich West (where the Turnberry Estate is significantly less deprived than its surrounding neighbourhoods). Conversely, parts of Aldridge – such as the Redhouse Estate – are much more deprived than the surrounding ward.

¹ Following the 2011 Census, some LSOAs no longer met the minimum population threshold and were merged (reducing the number of LSOAs in Walsall from 169 to 167). Situated in Blakenall ward, these merged LSOAs were among some of the most deprived in the borough. However, even taking this into account, there is still a reduction in the number of neighbourhoods in Walsall that are among the most highly deprived in England.

So while there is a general trend for areas of high deprivation to be concentrated towards the centre and west of the borough, there is not a straightforward divide – pockets of deprivation exist across Walsall.

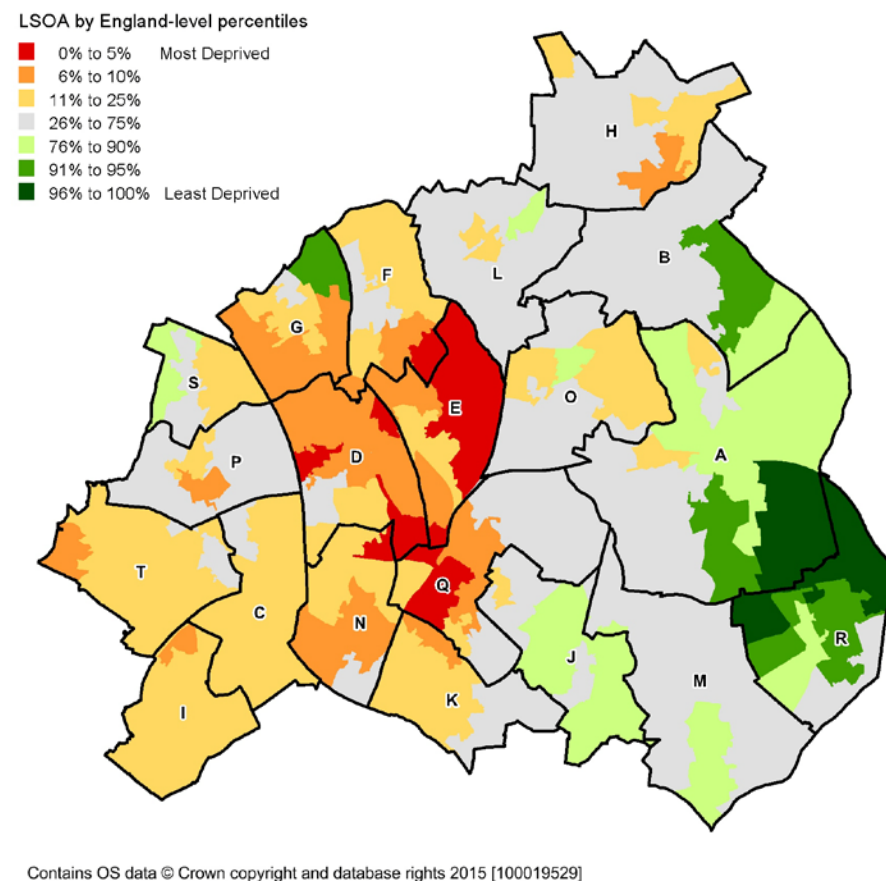


Figure 1: IMD 2015 shown by England-level percentiles

NOTE: Key to ward names is given in Table 6

Ward-level deprivation

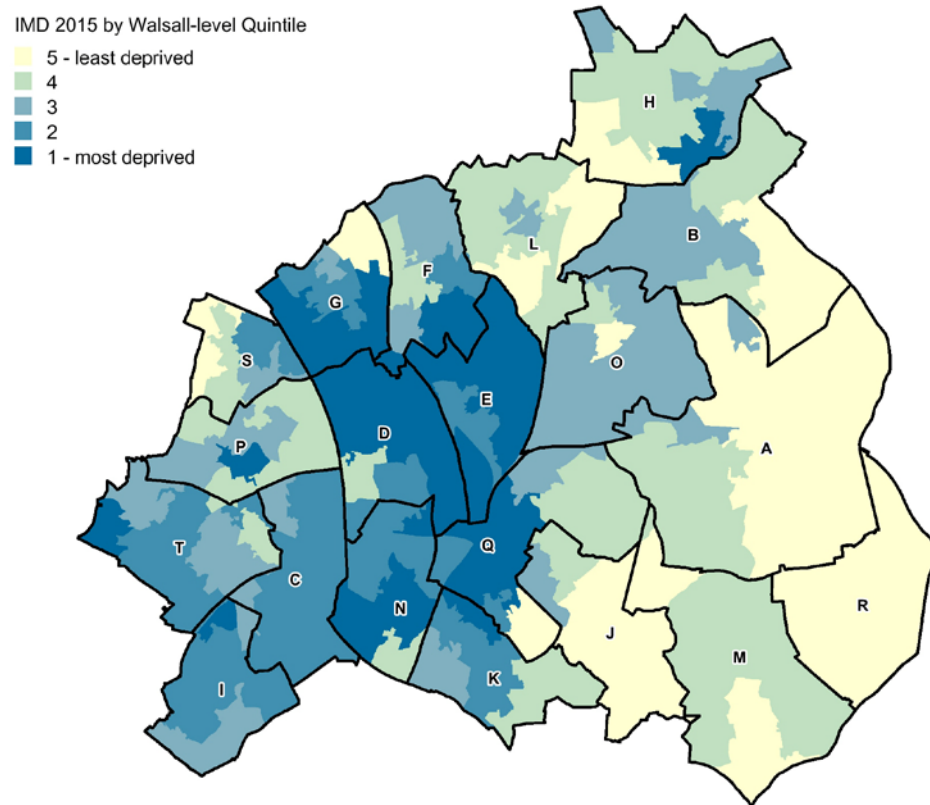
Table 6: Ward-level summary measures for Walsall

Ward	2015 Rank	Average IMD Score	England Decile	2010 Rank	Map Key
Blakenall	1	52.9	1	1	E
Birchills Leamore	2	48.1	1	2	D
Pleck	3	44.0	2	3	N
Bloxwich East	4	41.4	2	4	F
Darlaston South	5	39.9	2	5	I
St Matthew's	6	38.9	2	8	Q
Bentley & Darlaston North	7	38.3	2	7	C
Palfrey	8	37.6	2	6	K
Willenhall South	9	37.4	2	9	T
Bloxwich West	10	35.0	2	10	G
Brownhills	11	26.7	4	11	H
Short Heath	12	24.5	4	13	P
Willenhall North	13	23.8	4	14	S
Rushall-Shelfield	14	23.5	4	12	O
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	15	17.8	5	15	B
Pelsall	16	17.4	5	16	L
Aldridge Central & South	17	13.9	6	17	A
Paddock	18	13.8	7	18	J
Pheasey Park Farm	19	11.6	7	19	M
Streetly	20	5.5	10	20	R

DCLG's Indices of Deprivation do not include measures of ward-level deprivation. However, these have been calculated for Walsall using their approved method. The average IMD score for each Walsall ward is shown in Table 6, based on a population-weighted average of the scores of the best-fit of LSOAs in each ward.

Ranked for Walsall, these scores show Blakenall remains the most deprived ward overall, while Streetly is the least deprived. The ranking of the wards is largely unchanged since 2010. Table 6 also shows where the wards' average scores would lie if placed in the distribution of all LSOA scores nationally: Blakenall and Birchills Leamore are in the 1st decile, so equivalent to the 10% most deprived small areas in England, while Streetly is among the 10% least deprived.

Figure 2 shows IMD relative to the rest of Walsall, split into quintiles. So within the borough as a whole, the most deprived quintile (i.e. the most deprived 20% of LSOAs) is shown in the darkest blue, and the least deprived quintile (i.e. the least deprived 20% of LSOAs) is pale yellow.



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Figure 2: IMD 2015 by Walsall-level quintile

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Further information, including guidance and datasets, can be downloaded at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015

Datasets for Walsall are available from the report author.

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