

Introduction to the Indices of Deprivation 2019

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019), produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 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 2019, and update the indices published in 2015, 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 2019 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 39 separate indicators used in total. Each indicator is based on the most recently available time point, so these vary and in practice most indicators used relate to 2015/16.

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 2019

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 remained 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.

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

Borough-level Deprivation

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 25th most deprived local authority district (out of 317). This puts it well within the most deprived 8% of areas in England, and is a worsening of position since 2015 when it was at 11% and in all previous releases of the indices over the past 15 years. However, this does not necessarily mean that Walsall is more or less deprived that it was previously in absolute terms, nor does it describe how the number of people experiencing deprivation has changed – what it does show is that the borough is now relatively more deprived when compared with other local authorities. So it is entirely possible that improvements may have been made across Walsall as a whole over time, with fewer people living in deprivation as a result, but that these have not been as significant as the reductions in deprivation elsewhere (hence a relative decline).

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

*Where 1 is most deprived

Measure	England Percentile (i.e. within the most deprived ...% of local authorities)					England Rank* 2019 rank out of 317 2015/2010 rank out of 326 2007/2004 rank out of 354				
	2019	2015	2010	2007	2004	2019	2015	2010	2007	2004
	Average of LSOA scores	8%	11%	10%	13%	15%	25	33	30	45

Table 4 shows the summary measures of deprivation for Walsall and neighbouring local authorities. Using the rank of average LSOA scores, the borough is less deprived than neighbouring Birmingham, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, but more deprived than other close neighbours.

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

Local Authority	England Rank (out of 317)*				
	Average Score	Average Rank	LSOAs in most deprived 10%	Extent	Local Concentration
Birmingham	7	6	7	4	30
Sandwell	12	8	44	10	53
Wolverhampton	24	19	38	16	67
Walsall	25	31	22	15	56
Coventry	78	81	64	75	66
Telford & Wrekin	86	99	51	78	49
Dudley	91	104	79	73	80
Cannock Chase	134	126	144	138	148
Solihull	171	206	74	118	74
South Staffs	239	235	195	248	243
Lichfield	247	250	195	218	219

*Where 1 is most deprived and 317 is least deprived

However, 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 22. More than 1 in 4 of its neighbourhoods (26%) are in the most deprived decile; this is more than two and a half times the proportion that would be expected if deprivation was evenly distributed across all local authorities in England. Of particular concern, Walsall is one of the local authorities with the largest percentage point increase on this measure in the country since 2015. And while neighbouring Sandwell and Wolverhampton perform worse than Walsall on most other measures, they have shown some improvement on this. In practice, this means that 44 of Walsall's 167 neighbourhoods are now among the most deprived 10% in England, compared with 34 in 2015.

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 very poorly on income deprivation, ranking 16th 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 38. However, the borough performs the worst on the education, skills and training deprivation domain, with an average score that ranks it as the 11th 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. The borough's relative performance on these domains is similar to 2015, worsening only slightly for income and education, but showing some relative improvement for employment.

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.

The borough has lower levels of health and crime deprivation – although it still ranks in the worst 17% of local authorities for health and worst 30% for crime. Walsall’s position for crime has improved slightly since 2015 (previously in most deprived 27%), while relative health deprivation has worsened (from most deprived 21%).

A rank of 68 for living environment puts Walsall in the most deprived 22% of local authorities in England. This is a significant fall since 2015 when it was 118th and only in the 37% most deprived.

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.

Further analysis will be carried out to understand which indicators within the domains are contributing to these patterns of deprivation within Walsall.

Table 5: Summary of all deprivation domains for Walsall

Domain	England Rank (out of 317)*		
	Average LSOA Score	% of LSOAs in the most deprived 10%	% of population experiencing deprivation
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	25	22 (26%)	-
Income deprivation	16	11 (32%)	20.0%
- affecting children (IDACI)	17	15 (29%)	26.1%
- affecting older people (IDAOPI)	35	24 (24%)	21.2%
Employment deprivation	38	44 (20%)	14.3%
Education, skills and training deprivation	11	17 (28%)	-
Health deprivation and disability	53	65 (14%)	-
Crime	93	113 (6%)	-
Barriers to housing & services	234	250* (0%)	-
Living environment deprivation	68	146 (5%)	-

* All local authorities with no LSOAs in the most deprived 10% share a rank of 250

However, Walsall continues to rank very well on barriers to housing and services deprivation, and has no LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally;

Neighbourhood-level deprivation

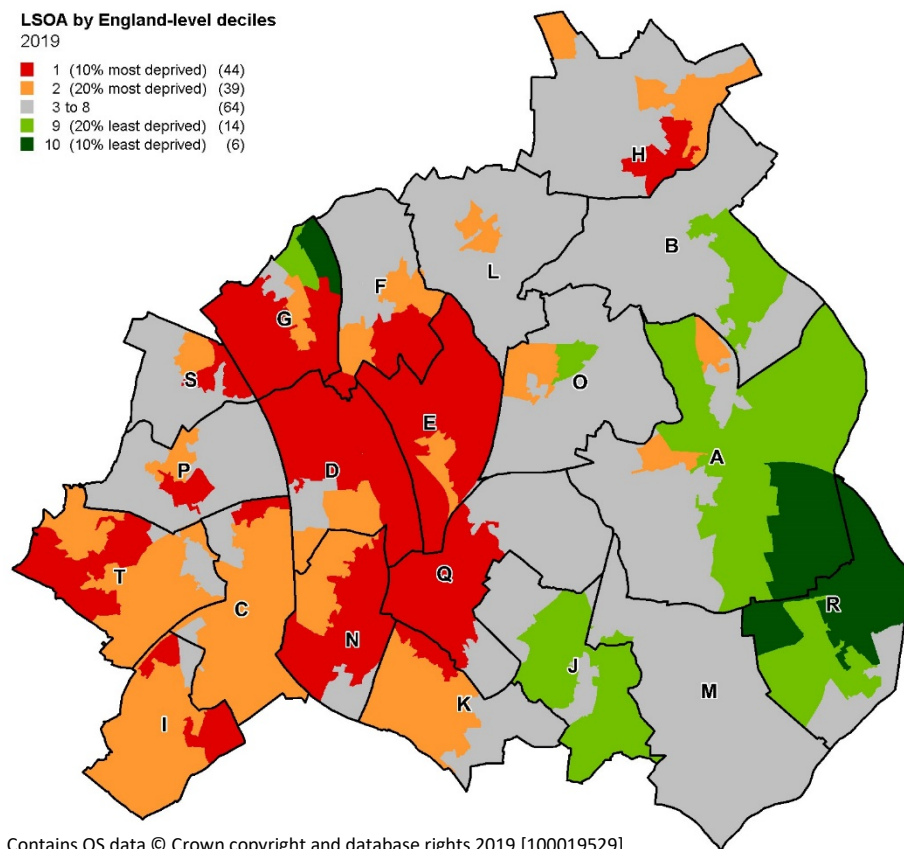
Within Walsall, there is considerable variation in the levels of deprivation experienced in neighbourhoods across the borough. Figure 1 shows deprivation relative to England overall, highlighting the most deprived and least deprived LSOAs in the borough in 2019.

There are pockets of extreme deprivation in some areas and over a quarter of neighbourhoods (44 of 167) are amongst the most deprived 10% in England. This is more than the 34 highly deprived neighbourhoods in 2015 and the 41 in 2010. These highly deprived LSOAs are located primarily in Blakenall, Birchills Leamore, Pleck, St Matthew's and Bloxwich East and West wards. Darlaston and Willenhall South also have very widespread multiple deprivation.

Walsall has 6 LSOAs that are within the least deprived 10% nationally, only half as many as the 12 in 2015. A further 14 are in the 20% least deprived. 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 most striking in Blowich West, where the Turnberry Estate is significantly less deprived than its surrounding neighbourhoods, and there are LSOAs in the most and least deprived in England adjacent to one another. Conversely, parts of Aldridge – such as the Redhouse Estate – are much more deprived than the surrounding ward.

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.



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Figure 1: IMD 2019 shown by England-level percentiles

NOTE: Key to ward names is given in Table 6

Ward-level deprivation

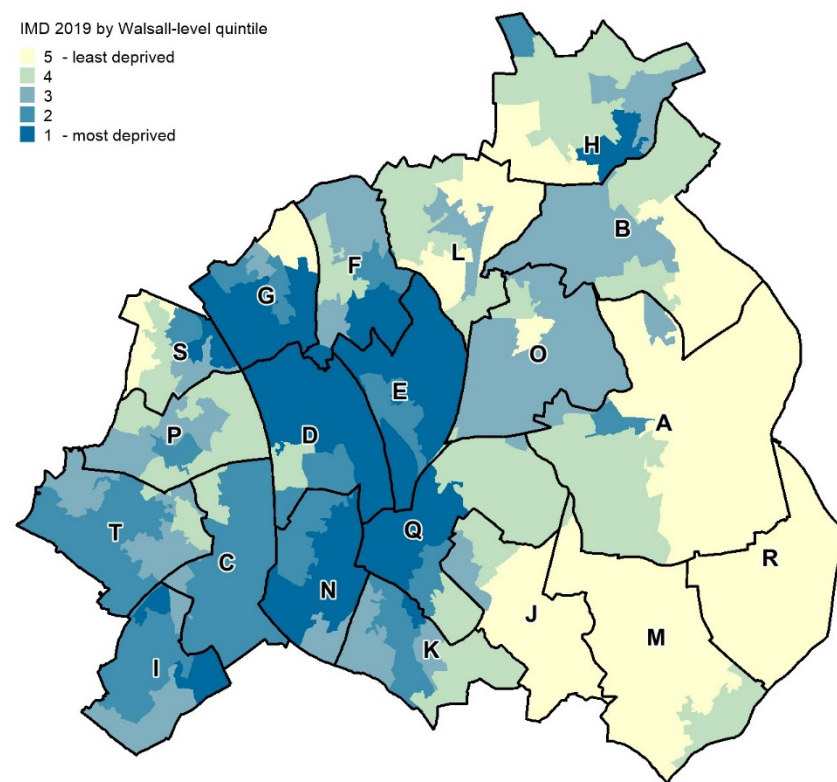
Table 6: Ward-level summary measures for Walsall

Ward	2019 Rank	Av. IMD Score	Eng. Decile	2015 Rank	2010 Rank	Map Key
Blakenall	1	53.6	1	1	1	E
Birchills Leamore	2	48.9	1	2	2	D
Pleck	3	45.3	1	3	3	N
Bloxwich East	4	42.1	1	4	4	F
Darlaston South	5	40.8	1	5	5	I
Bentley & Darlaston North	6	39.2	1	7	7	C
Willenhall South	7	38.3	1	9	9	T
St Matthew's	8	38.2	1	6	8	Q
Palfrey	9	36.9	1	8	6	K
Bloxwich West	10	36.8	1	10	10	G
Brownhills	11	28.0	3	11	11	H
Short Heath	12	26.2	3	12	13	P
Willenhall North	13	26.0	3	13	14	S
Rushall-Shelfield	14	25.7	3	14	12	O
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	15	19.4	4	15	15	B
Pelsall	16	18.8	5	16	16	L
Aldridge Central & South	17	15.0	6	17	17	A
Paddock	18	14.6	6	18	18	J
Pheasey Park Farm	19	12.8	7	19	19	M
Streetly	20	6.2	10	20	20	R

The Indices of Deprivation do not include measures of ward-level deprivation as they are not designed to understand deprivation at this geography. However, to aid local understanding, these have been calculated for Walsall using MHCLG's 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. 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 wards nationally: half of Walsall's 20 wards are among the most highly deprived wards in England. Only 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 2019 by Walsall-level quintile

Useful Links

Further information, including guidance and datasets:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

English Indices of Deprivation 2019: mapping resources:

www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 explorer, an interactive map allowing users to explore IoD data more accessibly at a local level:

<https://fryford.github.io/imdmap/>

Walsall resources

Interactive Dashboard available at:

<https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/home/demographics/deprivation/>

Datasets, maps and additional analysis for Walsall are available from the report author.

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

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019

Datasets for Walsall are available from the report author.

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