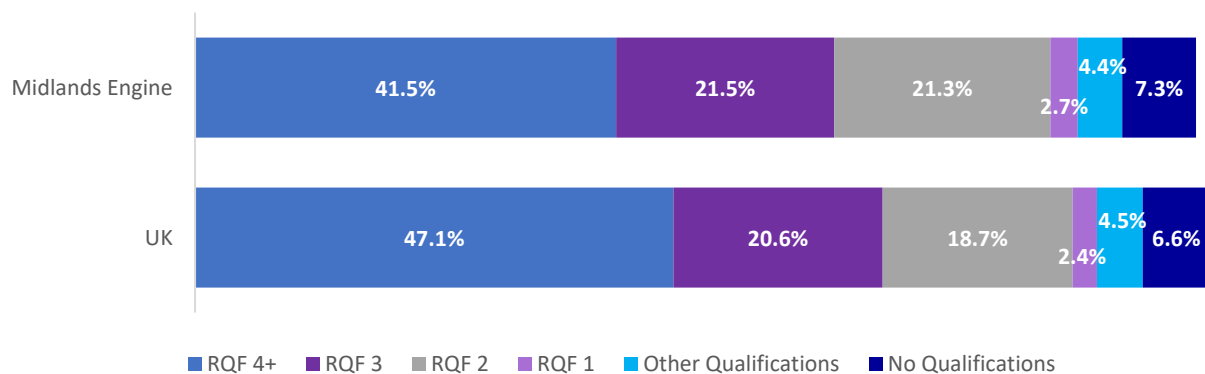# Midlands Engine: Qualifications (RQF) Profile[1]

Headline Summary

- 41.5% (just over 2.55m) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area were educated to RQF 4+ levels compared to 47.1% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was an increase of 8.5% (+201,000) which was above the national increase of 5.9%.
- Despite this improvement, a further 345,411 of the working age Midlands Engine residents are required to obtain an RQF 4+ qualifications to equal the UK average.
- Approximately 7.3% (447,500) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area had no formal qualifications compared to 6.6% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was a decrease of 2.9% (-13,500) which matched the UK rate.
- To eradicate the gap with the UK average, 38,808 of the working age Midlands Engine residents are needed to obtain at least one qualification.

The graph below shows the breakdown of qualifications for the Midlands Engine and UK in 2023:

In Full:

RQF 4+

- 41.5% (just over 2.55m) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area were educated to RQF 4+ levels compared to 47.1% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was an increase of 8.5% (+201,000) which was above the national increase of 5.9%. Despite this improvement, a further 345,411 of the working age Midlands Engine residents are required to obtain an RQF 4+ qualifications to equal the UK average.
- Within the Midlands Engine, the local authorities with the highest levels of people with RQF 4+ qualification include Derbyshire Dales (73.6%), Rushcliffe (63.9%) and Bromsgrove (62.2%). Conversely, the areas with the lowest rates of people with RQF 4+ qualifications include East Lindsey (20.0%), Tamworth (23.5%) and Cannock Chase (24.3%). Since 2022, 46 out of the 65 local authorities increased.

No qualifications

- Approximately 7.3% (447,500) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area had no formal qualifications compared to 6.6% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was a decrease of 2.9% (-13,500) which matched the UK rate. To eradicate the gap with the UK average, 38,808 of the working age Midlands Engine residents are needed to obtain at least one qualification.

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[1] Please note, approximate figures have been used for the Midlands Engine area for RQF1, other qualifications and no qualifications due to data gaps at a local authority level.

- Within the Midlands Engine area (where available), the local authorities with the highest levels of people with no qualifications include Mansfield (19.6%), Staffordshire Moorlands (16.7%) and Leicester (16.1%). Conversely, the areas with the lowest rates of people with no qualifications include Rushcliffe (1.5%), Warwick (1.5%) and Stratford-on-Avon (2.2%).

RQF 3 Only
- 21.5% (just over 1.32m) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area were educated to RQF 3 levels compared to 20.6% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was a decrease of 2.5% (-33,500) for the Midlands Engine compared to a 0.1% decrease nationally.

RQF 2 Only
- 21.3% (just over 1.31m) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area were educated to RQF 2 levels compared to 18.7% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was an increase of 2.6% (+33,300) for the Midlands Engine compared to a 1.1% increase nationally.

RQF 1 Only
- Approximately 2.7% (165,700) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area were educated to RQF 1 levels compared to 2.4% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was a decrease of 4.4% (-7,600) for the Midlands Engine compared to a 6.4% decrease nationally.

Other Qualifications
- Approximately 4.4% (269,500) of working age residents in the Midlands Engine area had other qualifications compared to 4.5% UK-wide in 2023. Since 2022, this was a decrease of 18.1% (-59,600) for the Midlands Engine compared to a 1.4% decrease nationally.

Midlands Engine Qualifications Summary:

	Midlands Engine 2022		Midlands Engine 2023		UK 2023	Midlands Engine Change 2022-2023	UK Change 2022-2023	Midlands Engine Gap to UK
RQF 4+	2,352,200	39.3%	2,553,200	41.5%	47.1%	8.5%	5.9%	345,411
RQF 3 Only	1,355,900	22.6%	1,322,400	21.5%	20.6%	-2.5%	-0.1%	Above UK
RQF 2 Only	1,278,200	21.3%	1,311,500	21.3%	18.7%	2.6%	1.1%	Above UK
RQF 1 Only	173,300	2.9%	165,700	2.7%	2.4%	-4.4%	-6.4%	Above UK
Other Qualifications	329,100	5.5%	269,500	4.4%	4.5%	-18.1%	-1.4%	9,223
No Qualifications	461,000	7.7%	447,500	7.3%	6.6%	-2.9%	-2.9%	-38,808