

Public Health Directorate

Indices of Deprivation (IoD) 2025 – Bolton

Contents

Summary	1
1 What is deprivation?.....	3
2 Small areas within Bolton	4
3 Bolton as a whole.....	6
4 Change over time.....	6
5 Domains of deprivation	8
6 Bolton compared to other areas	10
7 Other local geographies	12
8 Further information.....	12

Summary

- Deprivation is defined as “unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds”. It is a deficit measure – but all areas will have assets (people, groups, or places) that can be strengthened to address the needs of the area. It is an area based measure, so people living within the area may have different experiences.
- England’s official measure of deprivation is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), from the Indices of Deprivation suite. The IMD combines 7 domains of deprivation into one measure. IMD is often used to target activity and funds.
- Bolton is 30th most deprived of 296 local council areas in England, it falls just outside the top 10% most deprived council areas.
- 46% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 20% most deprived nationally – decile 1+2.
13% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 20% least deprived nationally – decile 9+10.
- Bolton’s most deprived small area is: Bolton 016F (in Central Bolton) – ranked 225 in England.
Bolton’s least deprived small area is: Bolton 001C (in Dunscar & Egerton) – ranked 32,025 in England.
- Each release of the IoD updates data sources to improve it, so they are not directly comparable over time. Comparisons can only be made relative to other areas. This means, for example, that if an area becomes relatively more deprived it may be that it has improved or stayed the same in real world terms, but other areas improved more.
- The deprivation of Bolton as a whole is similar to that on IMD 2019.

- Considering changes to smaller areas, Bolton's biggest moving LSOAs have become less deprived, both moving 2 deciles: Bolton 014A (In Horwich East); Bolton 030B (in Over Hulton). 57 LSOAs have moved 1 decile: 27 becoming less deprived, 30 more deprived.
- The 7 domains of deprivation can also be used separately to inform specific work. Bolton is most deprived relatively in the crime domain, though middling for GM. Bolton is more deprived compared to GM in the living environment domain. This measures the quality of the home and local neighbourhood environment. Bolton is least relatively deprived in the barriers to housing and services domain. This measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.
- Bolton's most deprived health and care neighbourhood is Central South; Bolton's least deprived neighbourhoods are North; West.
- Bolton's most deprived wards are: Queen's Park & Central; Rumworth; Halliwell; Bolton's least deprived wards: Bromley Cross; Heaton Lostock & Chew Moor

See [Bolton JSNA → Our people → Deprivation](#) for more information and maps

1 What is deprivation?

Deprivation is defined as “unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds”.

Deprivation is measured in England using the Indices of Deprivation (IoD). This is a suite of indicators covering 7 domains of deprivation. Each domain is made up of a basket of indicators.

Deprivation domains:

- Income
 - Income deprivation affecting children
 - Income deprivation affecting older people
- Employment
- Education, skills & training
- Health & disability
- Crime
- Barriers to housing & services
- Living environment

England’s official measure of deprivation is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD combines all 7 domains into one measure. IMD is often used to target activity and funds.

Deprivation is a deficit measure – but it’s important to note that all areas will have assets (people, groups, or places) that can be strengthened to address the needs of the area. It is an area based measure, so people living within the area may have different experiences, although it describes the area as a whole and individuals will be influenced by the people and place around them.

2 Small areas within Bolton

The main geography used by the IoD is LSOA (a small administrative geography) – Bolton has 177. The Indices of Deprivation are designed to be more sensitive, that is more able to differentiate between experiences, at the more deprived end of the scale.

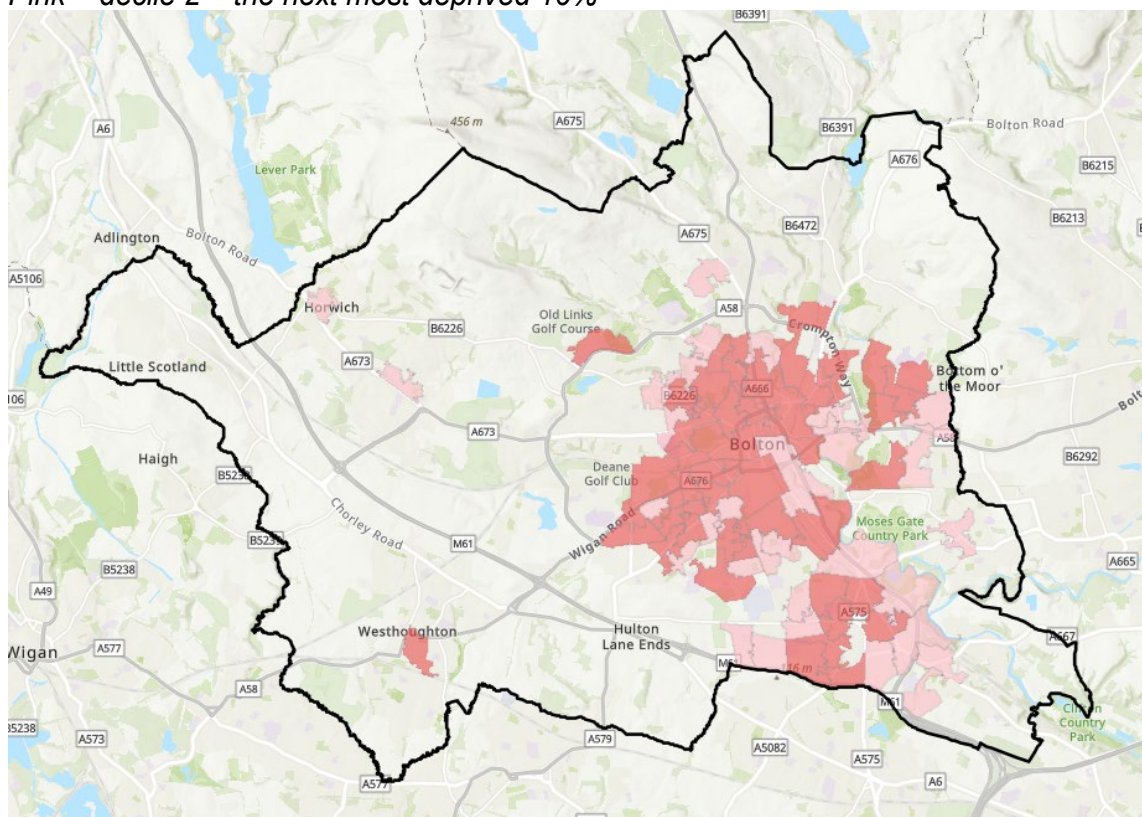
Deprivation deciles are often used:

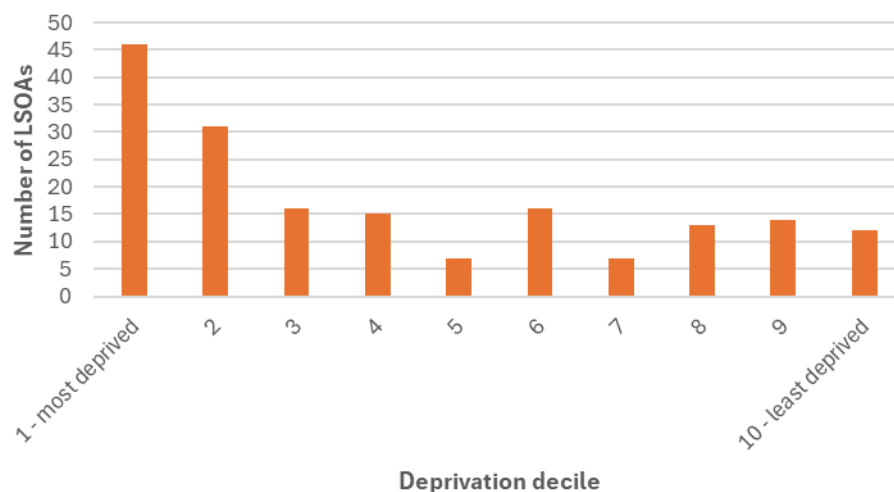
- All areas are ordered and cut into 10 groups with 10% in each.
- The most deprived 10% is decile 1
- The least deprived 10% is decile 10
- There is no definitive cut-off to be 'deprived', but the most deprived 10% (decile 1) or most deprived 20% (decile 1+2) are often used

Figure 1: Bolton's most deprived small areas

Red = decile 1 = among the most deprived 10% in England

Pink = decile 2 = the next most deprived 10%





Bolton has 46 LSOAs in decile 1 (the most deprived 10%). Bolton's most deprived areas are:

- Bolton 016F (in Central Bolton) – ranked 225 in England
- Bolton 016C (in Central Bolton) – ranked 228 in England
- Bolton 012B (in Doffcocker & Moss Bank) – ranked 236 in England
- Bolton 013A (in Breightmet North) – ranked 295 in England
- Bolton 019E (in Breightmet South & Darcy Lever) – ranked 362 in England

Bolton's has 12 LSOAs in decile 10 (the least deprived 10%). Bolton's least deprived areas are:

- Bolton 028E (in Westhoughton East) – ranked 32,828 in England
- Bolton 001E (in Duncscar & Egerton) – ranked 32,303 in England
- Bolton 002A (Bromley Cross & Bradshaw) – ranked 32,202 in England
- Bolton 014B (in Horwich East) – ranked 32,148 in England
- Bolton 001C (in Duncscar & Egerton) – ranked 32,025

3 Bolton as a whole

There are various ways of combining LSOAs to calculate deprivation for a larger area. Rank of average score is used here.

Bolton is 30th most deprived of 296 local council areas in England, it falls just outside the top 10% most deprived council areas.

- 28% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 10% most deprived – decile 1
- 46% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 20% most deprived – decile 1+2
- 6% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 10% least deprived – decile 10
- 13% of Bolton residents live in an area in the 20% least deprived – decile 9+10

4 Change over time

Each release of the IoD updates data sources to improve it, so they are not directly comparable over time. The 2025 IoD has made a larger number of changes to data sources than previous releases, though the conceptual framework and the 7 domains remain the same. There have also been changes in the number of councils. Comparisons can therefore only be made relative to other areas. This means, for example, that if an area becomes relatively more deprived it may be that it had improved or stayed the same in real world terms, but other areas improved more.

The deprivation of Bolton as a whole is similar to that on IMD 2019. Bolton remains just outside the top 10% most deprived council areas, with a marginal increase in deprivation from 10.7% most deprived to 10.1%.

- IMD 2025 Bolton is ranked 30/296
- 2019 Bolton was ranked 34/317

Considering changes to smaller areas, Bolton's biggest moving LSOAs have become less deprived, moving 2 deciles 7 → 9 (see Figure 3, p6)

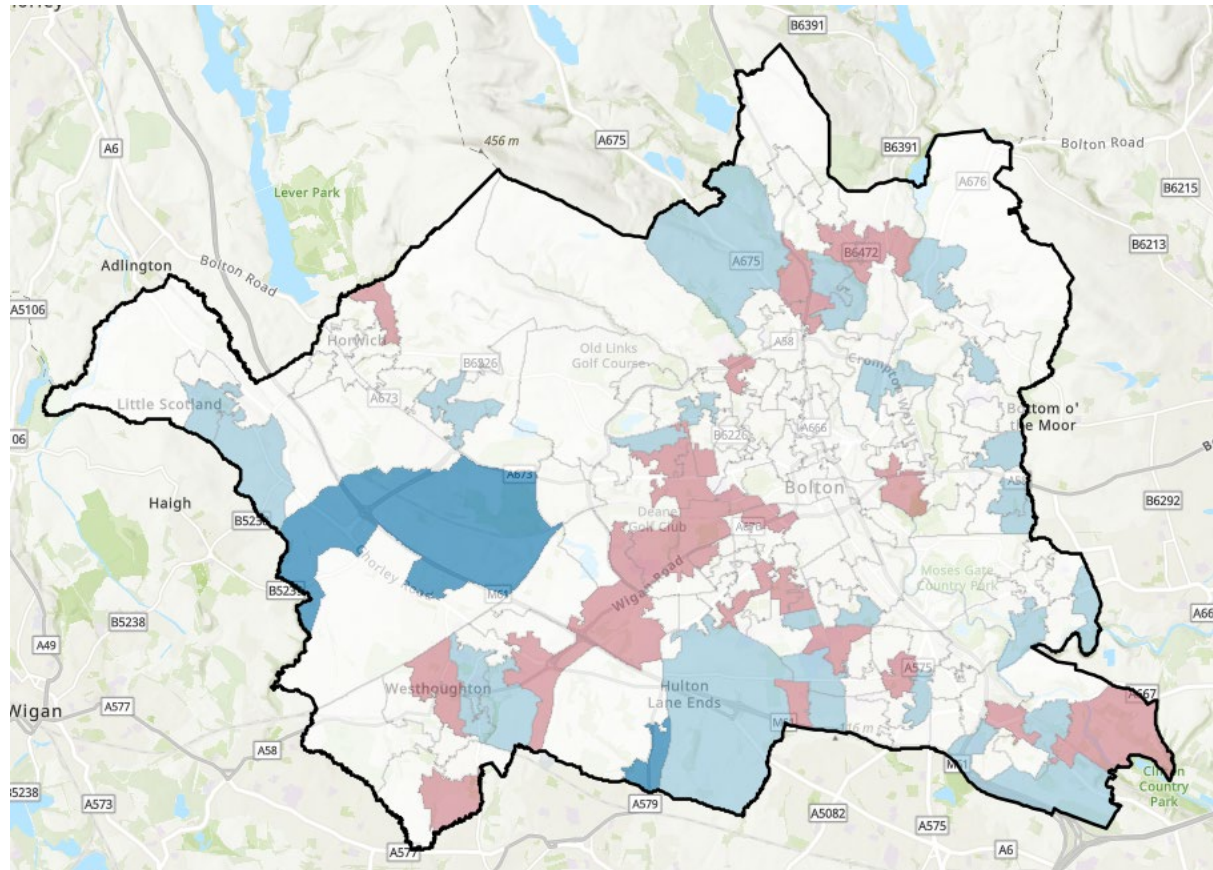
- Bolton 014A (In Horwich East) 6,600 places
- Bolton 030B (in Over Hulton) 6,200 places

57 LSOAs have moved 1 decile: 27 becoming less deprived, 30 more deprived

Figure 3: Change in decile between IMD 2019 and 2025

Blue = become less deprived, darker blue = 2 deciles less deprived, paler blue = 1 decile less deprived

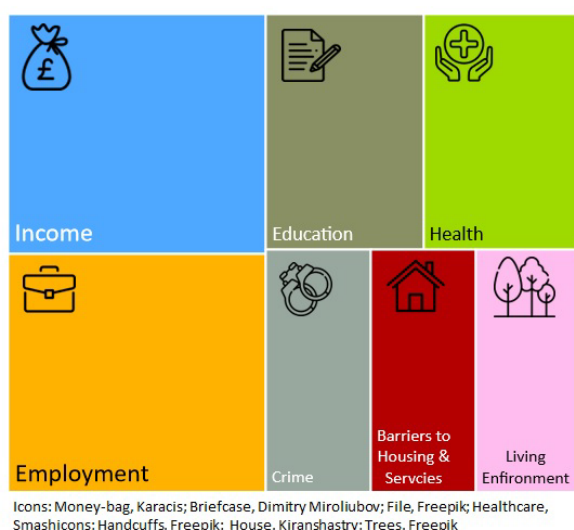
Red = become more deprived by 1 decile



5 Domains of deprivation

The domains look at different aspects of deprivation which often interact. The 7 domains of deprivation are not equally weighted in the IMD. Income; and employment domains contribute the biggest portion to the IMD, crime; barriers to housing and services, and living environment the least (see Figure 4, p8). The domains can also be used separately to inform specific work, as they put different lenses on people's experiences. Being more deprived in multiple domains can also affect the experience of deprivation.

Figure 4: Domains of deprivation, sized by the amount they contribute to the IMD



Bolton's worst deprivation domain is crime, though middling for GM. This domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at a local level, so this may be more of a concern for Bolton (and Greater Manchester as a whole) than nationally. It is measured by: Measured by: recorded crime rates for violence with/ without injury, stalking and harassment, burglary, theft, criminal damage, public order and possession of weapons, and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Greater Manchester Police (GMP) was placed under special measures in December 2020 and exited in October 2022. This period, along with the broader impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, may have influenced the crime statistics used in the IoD. Since then, GMP has made substantial improvements across all areas of policing, leading to significant reductions in reported crime—particularly in 2024/25. However, these improvements are not reflected in the IMD source crime data, which used data 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Bolton is worse than average for GM in the living environment domain. This measures the quality of the home and local neighbourhood environment. It has an indoor subdomain measured by: private/ social housing failing to meet Decent Homes standard, housing Energy Performance Score, housing lacking private outdoor space. It has an outdoor subdomain measured by: air quality; road traffic collisions involving injury to cyclists/ pedestrians; noise pollution.

Bolton does best in the barriers to housing and services domain. This measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, and Bolton residents may face fewer challenges in these areas. It has a geographical barriers sub-domain measured by travel time to retail, education, health, employment, leisure/ entertainment destinations by walking, cycling and public transport, from the DfT Connectivity tool. It has a wider barriers subdomain – looking at broader issues of accessibility measured by: housing affordability (owner/ private rent), household overcrowding, homelessness, broadband speed, patient to GP ratio.

Bolton ranks on the domains nationally, and compared with other GM authorities are as follows:

- Income – 30th in England (4th in GM)
 - Income deprivation affecting children – 34th in England (5th in GM)
 - Income deprivation affecting older people – 52th in England (4th in GM)
- Employment – 31st in England (3rd in GM)
- Education, skills & training – 69th in England (5th in GM)
- Health & disability – 53rd in England (7th in GM)
- Crime – 15th in England (6th in GM)
- Barriers to housing & services – 175th in England (6th in GM)
- Living environment – 51st in England (3rd in GM)

6 Bolton compared to other areas

Bolton is 5th most deprived in Greater Manchester. Manchester is most deprived, followed by Oldham and Rochdale. Trafford is least deprived, followed by Stockport.

Table 1: Bolton and Greater Manchester deprivation

Local authority	Rank in England
Manchester	4
Oldham	11
Rochdale	17
Salford	24
Bolton	30
Tameside	44
Wigan	78
Bury	90
Stockport	158
Trafford	201

Bolton is 8th most deprived amongst its 16 most similar areas¹. Most deprived is: Middlesbrough, followed by Blackburn with Darwen. Least deprived is: Swindon followed by Thurrock.

Table 2: Bolton and similar areas deprivation

Local authority	Rank in England
Middlesbrough	2
Blackburn with Darwen	10
Derby	52
Telford and Wrekin	84
Swindon	167
Peterborough	54
Thurrock	122
Oldham	11
Rochdale	17
Salford	24
Bolton	30
Tameside	44
Bury	90
Walsall	28
Bradford	12
Kirklees	70

Bolton is 3rd most deprived amongst its 6 immediate geographical neighbours. Most deprived is: Blackburn with Darwen followed by Salford. Least deprived is Chorley followed by Bury.

Table 3: Bolton and immediate geographical neighbours deprivation

Local authority	Rank in England
Blackburn with Darwen	10
Salford	24

¹ NHS England nearest neighbours model, based on census data

<i>Bolton</i>	30
Wigan	78
Bury	90
Chorley	179

7 Other local geographies

Health and care neighbourhoods are a local geography used to run and plan health and care services. Bolton has 6 neighbourhoods made up of LSOAs. Bolton's most deprived neighbourhood is Central South; Bolton's least deprived neighbourhoods are North; West.

Neighbourhood	Average score	Bolton rank
5 - Central S	43.5	1
6 - Central N	38.6	2
1 - South	37.0	3
4 - East	36.7	4
2 - West	17.5	5
3 - North	17.3	6

Bolton has 20 wards which each elect 3 councillors. LSOA boundaries aren't an exact match to wards, so using best fits, Bolton's most deprived wards are: Queen's Park & Central; Rumworth; Halliwell; Bolton's least deprived wards: Bromley Cross; Heaton Lostock & Chew Moor

Table 4: Bolton ward (best fit) deprivation

Ward (best fit)	Average score	Bolton rank
Queens Park & Central	54.3	1
Rumworth	50.1	2
Halliwell	47.3	3
Breightmet	44.3	4
Great Lever	43.8	5
Farnworth South	43.5	6
Farnworth North	41.2	7
Tonge with the Haulgh	39.8	8
Hulton	29.5	9
Smithills	27.5	10
Kearsley	24.3	11
Horwich North	23.3	12
Little Lever & Darcy Lever	22.1	13
Westhoughton South	21.7	14
Astley Bridge	19.1	15
Bradshaw	15.7	16
Horwich South & Blackrod	14.6	17
Westhoughton North & Hunger Hill	13.8	18
Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor	9.5	19
Bromley Cross	7.9	20

8 Further information

See Bolton [JSNA → Our people → Deprivation](#) for more information and maps

All data is from MHCLG (2025). English Indices of deprivation 2025.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025>

5/11/2025

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