

Summary

The data presents a mixed picture regarding unemployment and in-work poverty. While the percentage of residents claiming out of work benefits has decreased and the proportion of those with level 3 qualifications increased, however both the percentage of those NEET and the claimant count have increased.

Claimant count

The claimant count rate (proportion of working age population claiming JSA or Universal Credit) has decreased since 2012 but risen again slightly in Nov 2017. The rate is higher in Reading than for the South East in general.

	% JSA claimants with children
Reading	22.2%
South East	24.8%
England	24.5%

Source: NOMIS May 2017

Reading count	Reading rate	SE rate	England rate
1,700	1.6%	1.2%	1.9%

Source: NOMIS Nov 2017

Out of work poverty

6.8% of the resident working age population in Reading is claiming a key out of work benefit (JSA, ESA, Incapacity Benefit, Lone Parent and other benefits). 13% of children are in out of work families, down from 14% in 2015.

	Reading number	Reading rate	South East rate	England rate
total key out-of-work benefits	7,500	6.8	6.1	8.1

Source: NOMIS Nov 2016

Skills and qualifications

The proportion achieving level 4 and above qualifications has increased significantly and is higher than that for the South East and England; a lower proportion have no qualifications.

% people aged 16 - 74 achieving qualifications

	Reading		South East		England	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
No qualifications	22.8	17.4	23.9	19.1	28.9	22.5
Highest level of qualification: Level 4 qualifications and above	28.3	34.8	21.7	29.9	19.9	27.4

Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

19 year olds gaining level 3 and 4 qualifications

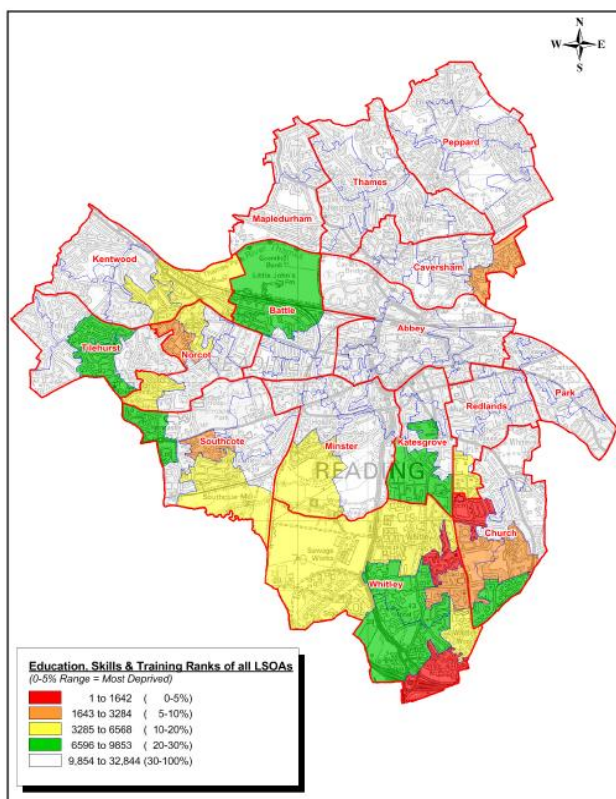
84% of young people aged 19 have gained a level 2 qualification, lower than both the national and regional averages (though higher than the South East for those on free school meals). At level 3, Reading's performance is higher than that at the national and regional levels. Fewer of those eligible for free school meals achieve level 2 or 3 qualifications at age 19.

	Level 2	Level 3
Reading	84%	59%
SE	86%	58%
England	85%	57%

Source: Department for Education 2016

NEETs (Not in employment, education or training)

After struggling for a few years with a consistently high comparative NEET percentage, which resulted in DCLG monitoring, a renewed focus and a shift of reporting requirements from DfE (namely combining the NEET and Not Known statistic) has resulted in a significant improvement in Reading's position against the national and regional backdrop, with the Reading NEET figure 5.4% at the end of 2016 (compared with 6% for England).



IMD 2015: Education, skills and training domain

Reading ranks 77th out of 326 local authorities nationally on the IMD Education, Skills and Training domain. 18 LSOAs fall within the 20% most deprived nationally (similar in 2010), 9 in the 10% most deprived (8 in 2010) and 3 in the 5% most deprived (1 in 2010). There are LSOAs in the 5% most deprived on both the 'adult' and 'children and young people' sub-domains.