

Academic qualifications from the annual population survey, January 2018 to December 2018

**Key findings for the Lancashire-12 and
Lancashire-14 areas**

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1 Overview

1.1 Data source

The figures in this report consider estimates of the academic qualification levels of working age populations (persons aged 16 to 64) for the year from January 2018 to December 2018. The data is sourced from the [annual population survey](#) (APS), published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and has been downloaded from National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](#)).

1.2 Qualification levels and categories analysed

The dataset for this variable is named 'Qualifications (GCSE) by age' on the Nomis website, but the qualifications cover a much wider range than GCSE alone. The six categories analysed in this report are for those persons of working age

- with degree, or equivalent, and above
- with higher education below degree level
- with GCE A level, or equivalent
- with GCSE grades A-C, or equivalent
- with other qualifications (GCSE)
- with no qualifications (GCSE)

1.3 Analysis at the lower geographic level

Because the statistical confidence intervals associated with the survey based central estimates can be quite large for some districts in the Lancashire-12 area, the geographic analysis in this report, and the related dashboards, are based on the European-defined [NUTS3](#) geographic statistical units – the so-called "Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics".

The four NUTS3 areas in the Lancashire-12 area are the Lancaster and Wyre NUTS-3 area (two local authorities), the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS-3 area (two local authorities), the East Lancashire NUTS-3 area and the Mid Lancashire NUTS-3 area. The composition of the East Lancashire NUTS-3 area is made up of the four local authorities of Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Rossendale. The Mid Lancashire NUTS-3 area is comprised of the four local authorities of Fylde, Preston, South Ribble and Ribble Valley.

The geographic boundaries for the two NUTS3 areas of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool are the same as their respective unitary authority area boundaries. The confidence intervals for these two areas are lower because the sample sizes are much greater.

Together, the six [NUTS3 areas](#) combine to form the Lancashire 14 area.

2 Key findings

2.1 Estimated percentages of working age populations with degree or equivalent and above qualifications

For the year from January 2018 to December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 188,700 people of working-age (16-64 years) in the Lancashire-12 area, or 26.6% (± 2.2), had a degree or equivalent qualification and above. This percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate of 31.6% (± 0.2). However, the Lancashire-12 percentage was not significantly different to the North West estimate of 28.4% (± 0.6) for this category in statistical terms.

As a consequence of a lower percentage of the working age population having a degree or equivalent qualification and above in the Lancashire-12 area, four of the remaining five qualification categories for the Lancashire-12 area tend to have higher percentages than Great Britain. However, only two of these four categories are significantly higher than the GB estimates in statistical terms. These two categories are for those persons with higher education qualifications below degree level and for those persons with GCSE grades A to C or equivalent. The Lancashire-12 percentage estimates for those people with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications and for those people with no qualifications are not statistically different to the GB estimates for these categories.

For the Lancashire-12 area, the percentage of the working age population with other qualifications was significantly lower than the GB estimate for this category.

The situation was similar for the Lancashire-14 area. The APS estimated that 224,900 people of working-age, or 25.5% (± 1.4), had a degree or equivalent and above. This percentage estimate was again significantly lower than the GB figure of 31.6% (± 0.2) in statistical terms. The Lancashire-14 estimate was also statistically lower than the North West estimate of 28.4% (± 0.6) for this category.

Again, as a result of a smaller percentage of the working age population having a degree or equivalent qualification and above in the Lancashire-14 area, four of the remaining five qualification categories in the Lancashire-14 area tend to have higher percentages than Great Britain. However, in the Lancashire-14 area, an additional qualification category had a percentage that was significantly higher than the GB estimate in statistical terms, making three in total. These three categories were for those persons with higher education qualifications below degree level, for those persons with GCSE grades A to C or equivalent, plus for those persons with GCE A level or equivalent. The Lancashire-14 percentage estimate for those people with no qualifications was not statistically different to the GB estimate.

In the Lancashire-14 area, the percentage of the working age population with other qualifications was again significantly lower than the GB estimate for this category.

Four of the six NUTS3 areas in the Lancashire-14 area also had estimated percentages of their working age populations with degree level, equivalent, or above qualifications that were significantly lower than the GB figure (31.6% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms. These were the East Lancashire (18.6% (± 3.7)), Blackpool (18.9% (± 2.5)), Blackburn with Darwen (22.9% (± 2.5)) and Lancaster and Wyre (24.7% (± 4.4)) NUTS3 areas.

For the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.3% (± 5.3)) and the Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (26.8% (± 3.8)), which incorporates Fylde, Preston, South Ribble and Ribble Valley districts, the estimated percentages of the working age populations with degree level, equivalent, or above qualifications were not significantly different to the GB (31.6% (± 0.2)) or the North West (31.6% (± 0.2)) figures in statistical terms.

2.2 Estimated percentages of working age populations with higher education (below degree level) qualifications.

For the year ending December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 73,700 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 10.4% (± 1.5)), had higher education qualifications (below degree level). The percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (8.4% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, the APS estimated that there were 87,200 people of working-age, or 9.9% (± 1.0)), who had higher education qualifications (below degree level). Again, this percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (8.4% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

Lancaster and Wyre (12.4% (± 3.6)) was the only Lancashire-14 NUTS3 area to have an estimated percentage of its working-age population with higher education qualifications (below degree level) that was significantly higher than the GB percentage (8.4% (± 0.1)). The percentages for the remaining five Lancashire NUTS3 areas were not significantly different to the GB estimate or the North West estimate (7.8% (± 0.4)) in statistical terms.

2.3 Estimated percentages of working age populations with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 174,600 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 24.6% (± 2.1)), had GCE A level or equivalent qualifications for the year ending December 2018. The percentage estimate was similar to the GB estimate 22.5% (± 0.2) and was not significantly different in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 215,400 people of working-age, or 24.4% (± 1.4)), had GCE A level or equivalent qualifications. This percentage however, was significantly higher than the GB estimate (22.5% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

Both the Lancaster and Wyre (29.1% (± 4.7)) and Blackpool (26.3% (± 2.8)) NUTS3 areas had estimated percentages of their working age populations with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB (22.5% (± 0.2)),

North West (23.5% (± 0.6)) and Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (21.3% (± 2.4)) estimates in statistical terms.

2.4 Estimated percentages of working age populations with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications

For the year ending December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 170,300 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 24.0% (± 2.1), had GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications. The percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 216,300 people of working-age, or 24.5% (± 1.4), had GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications. Again, this percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

The four Lancashire NUTS3 areas of Blackpool (27.6% (± 2.8)), Chorley and West Lancashire (27.0% (± 5.1)), East Lancashire (26.4% (± 4.1)) and Blackburn with Darwen (25.9% (± 2.6)) had estimates of their working age populations with GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms. The Blackpool NUTS3 estimate was also significantly higher than the North West estimate (23.4% (± 0.6)) in statistical terms.

2.5 Estimated percentages of the working age populations with other qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 42,000 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 5.9% (± 1.2), had other qualifications for the year ending December 2018. The percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.5% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 58,200 people of working-age, or 6.6% (± 0.8), had other qualifications. Again, the percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.5% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

The Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (10.5% (± 1.8)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with other qualifications that was significantly higher than the GB (8.5% (± 0.1)), North West (7.6% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (5.9% (± 1.2)) and Lancashire-14 (6.6% (± 0.8)) figures, plus the estimates for the Mid Lancashire (4.3% (± 1.8)) and Chorley and West Lancashire (5.8% (± 2.7)) NUTS3 areas in statistical terms.

The Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (4.3% (± 1.8)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with other qualifications that was significantly lower than the GB (8.5% (± 0.1)) and North West (7.6% (± 0.4)) figures, plus the estimates for the Blackpool (8.2% (± 1.7)) and Blackburn with Darwen (10.5% (± 1.8)).

2.6 Estimated percentages of working age populations with no qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 59,900 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 8.5% (± 1.4), had no qualifications for the year ending December 2018. This estimate was similar to the GB estimate 8.0% (± 0.1), and was not significantly different in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, the APS estimated that 79,500 people of working-age, or 9.0% (± 0.9), had no qualifications for the year ending December 2018. This percentage estimate was again not significantly different to the GB estimate of 8.0% (± 0.1) in statistical terms.

The East Lancashire NUTS3 area (15.0% (± 3.3)) and the Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (12.6% (± 2.0)) each had estimated percentages of their working age populations with no qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB (8.0% (± 0.1)), North West (9.2% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (8.5% (± 1.4)) and Lancashire-14 (9.0% (± 0.9)) figures, plus the estimates for the Mid Lancashire (7.9% (± 2.3)), Chorley and West Lancashire (5.3% (± 2.6)) and Lancaster and Wyre (3.9% (± 2.0)) NUTS3 areas.

The Lancaster and Wyre NUTS3 area (3.9% (± 2.0)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with no qualifications that was significantly lower than the GB (8.0% (± 0.1)) North West (9.2% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (8.5% (± 1.4)) and Lancashire-14 (9.0% (± 0.9)) figures, plus the estimates for the East Lancashire (15.0% (± 3.3)), Blackburn with Darwen (12.6% (± 2.0)) and Blackpool (9.9% (± 1.9)) NUTS3 areas.

2.7 Estimated change in the percentage of working age populations with the two higher levels of qualifications

The time-series from the year ending December 2012 to the year ending December 2018 reveals an improving trend at the national and regional levels for the percentage of the working age population with the two highest levels of qualifications (degree, or equivalent and above, plus higher education (below degree level) combined). The trend is more volatile for the Lancashire-14 and Lancashire-12 areas.

At the GB level, the percentage of the working age population qualified to the highest two levels of qualification grew from 34.6% (± 0.2) in 2012, to 40.0% (± 0.2) in 2018. This is a statistically significant increase. In the North West, the percentage increased from 30.6% (± 0.6) in 2012, to 36.2% (± 0.7) for the year ending December 2018. Again, this is a statistically significant increase.

For the Lancashire-14 area over the same period, the increase was from 31.1% (± 1.5) to 35.4% (± 1.5). This is also a statistically significant change. For the Lancashire-12 area, the increase was from 33.1% (± 2.2) in 2012, to 37.0 (± 2.4) in 2018. This is not a statistically significant change. Estimates at the Lancashire-12

and Lancashire-14 levels can be volatile and the change over time should be re-evaluated in the future.

The broad trend towards higher qualifications for people of working age, will have some impact on many people's increased employment aspirations for higher quality jobs and remuneration.

3 Background information

3.1 The annual population survey

The [annual population survey](#) (APS) is a survey of households in the United Kingdom, produced by the Office for National Statistics, with the aim of providing information on key economic and social variables at the local level between the 10-yearly censuses. APS data are yearly estimates, produced quarterly, for the years ending March, June, September and December in each year. However, qualifications data is only available for the period ending December each year.

For the year to December 2017, there were 230,987 people surveyed in the UK, with 4,751 of these interviews taking place in the Lancashire-14 area, and 2,133 in the Lancashire-12 area. In Blackburn with Darwen, the survey sample totalled 1,328 people and in Blackpool, the sample numbered 1,290 persons. For the local authority areas in the Lancashire-12 area, the number in each of the survey samples were much smaller, ranging from 96 people in Rossendale to 278 in Lancaster.

The qualification level estimates are for people of working age, which is 16-64 for both males and females. As the figures shown are from a survey, and are based on samples of the size shown, the numbers shown here are estimates. The NOMIS data selection tool provides 95% confidence intervals for each figure, and where we show an estimated percentage figure in the two associated dashboards, we also provide the confidence interval. We use the confidence intervals by adding them to and subtracting them from the estimated percentages, thereby calculating ranges within which we can be 95% confident that the true figures lie. Where these ranges for different geographic areas overlap, we cannot be confident that the values are 'statistically significantly different'.

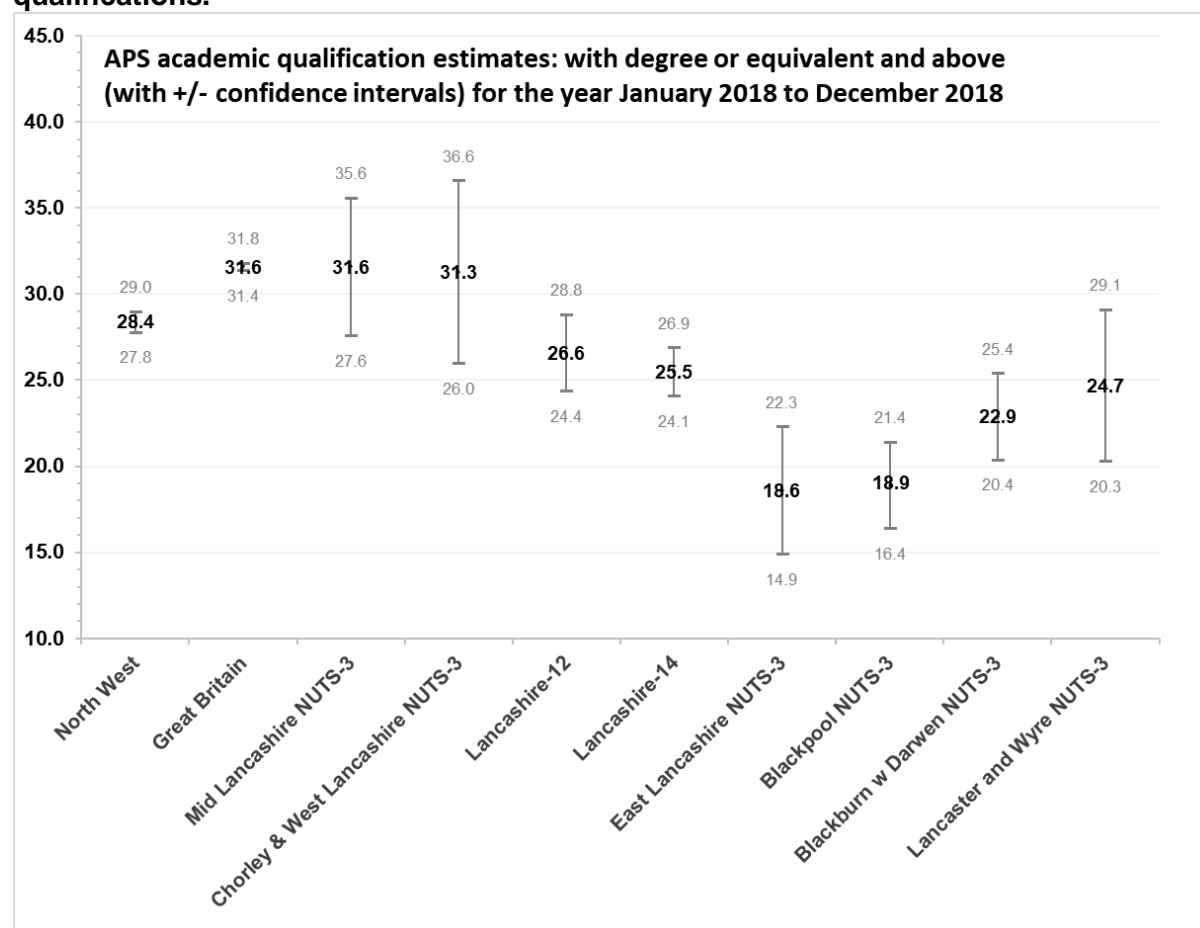
It is because the confidence intervals can be quite large for some districts in the Lancashire-12 area that we have based the dashboards on [NUTS3](#) areas. All of these areas are combinations of whole districts apart from Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool where the NUT3 area is the same as the unitary authority area. Confidence intervals for these two authorities are not too high because the sample sizes are much greater.

4 Analysis

4.1 Estimated percentages of working age populations with degree or equivalent and above qualifications

For the year from January 2018 to December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 188,700 people of working-age (16-64 years) in the Lancashire-12 area, or 26.6% (± 2.2), had a degree or equivalent qualification and above. This percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate of 31.6% (± 0.2). However, the Lancashire-12 percentage was not significantly different to the North West estimate of 28.4% (± 0.6) for this category in statistical terms.

Figure 1: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with degree, or equivalent, and above qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Annual population survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)).

For the Lancashire-14 area, the APS estimated that 224,900 people of working-age, or 25.5% (± 1.4), had a degree or equivalent and above. This percentage estimate was again significantly lower than the GB figure of 31.6% (± 0.2) in statistical terms. The Lancashire-14 estimate was also statistically lower than the North West estimate of 28.4% (± 0.6) for this category.

Four of the six NUTS3 areas in the Lancashire-14 area also had estimated percentages of their working age populations with degree level, equivalent, or above qualifications that were significantly lower than the GB figure (31.6% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms. These were the East Lancashire (18.6% (± 3.7)), Blackpool (18.9% (± 2.5)), Blackburn with Darwen (22.9% (± 2.5)) and Lancaster and Wyre (24.7% (± 4.4)) NUTS3 areas. The first three of these areas also had figures that were statistically lower than the North West estimate (28.4% (± 0.6)).

The estimates for the East Lancashire NUTS3 area (18.6% (± 3.7)) and the Blackpool NUTS3 area (18.9% (± 2.5)) were also statistically lower than the Lancashire-12 (26.6% (± 2.2)) and Lancashire-14 (25.5% (± 1.4)) percentages, plus the estimates for the Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.6% (± 4.0)) and the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.3% (± 5.3)).

The Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 estimate (22.9% (± 2.5)) was also statistically lower than the estimates for the Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.6% (± 4.0)) and the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.3% (± 5.3)).

The estimated percentages of the working age populations with degree level, equivalent, or above qualifications in For the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (31.3% (± 5.3)) and the Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (26.8% (± 3.8)), which incorporates Fylde, Preston, South Ribble and Ribble Valley districts, were not significantly different to the GB (31.6% (± 0.2)) or the North West (31.6% (± 0.2)) figures. They were however significantly higher than the estimates for the East Lancashire (18.6% (± 3.7)), Blackpool (18.9% (± 2.5)) and Blackburn with Darwen (22.9% (± 2.5)) NUTS3 areas.

The North West percentage (28.4% (± 0.6)) was significantly lower than the GB estimate (31.6% (± 0.2)) for this category in statistical terms.

4.2 Estimated percentages of working age populations with higher education (below degree level) qualifications.

For the year ending December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 73,700 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 10.4% (± 1.5)), had higher education qualifications (below degree level). The percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (8.4% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

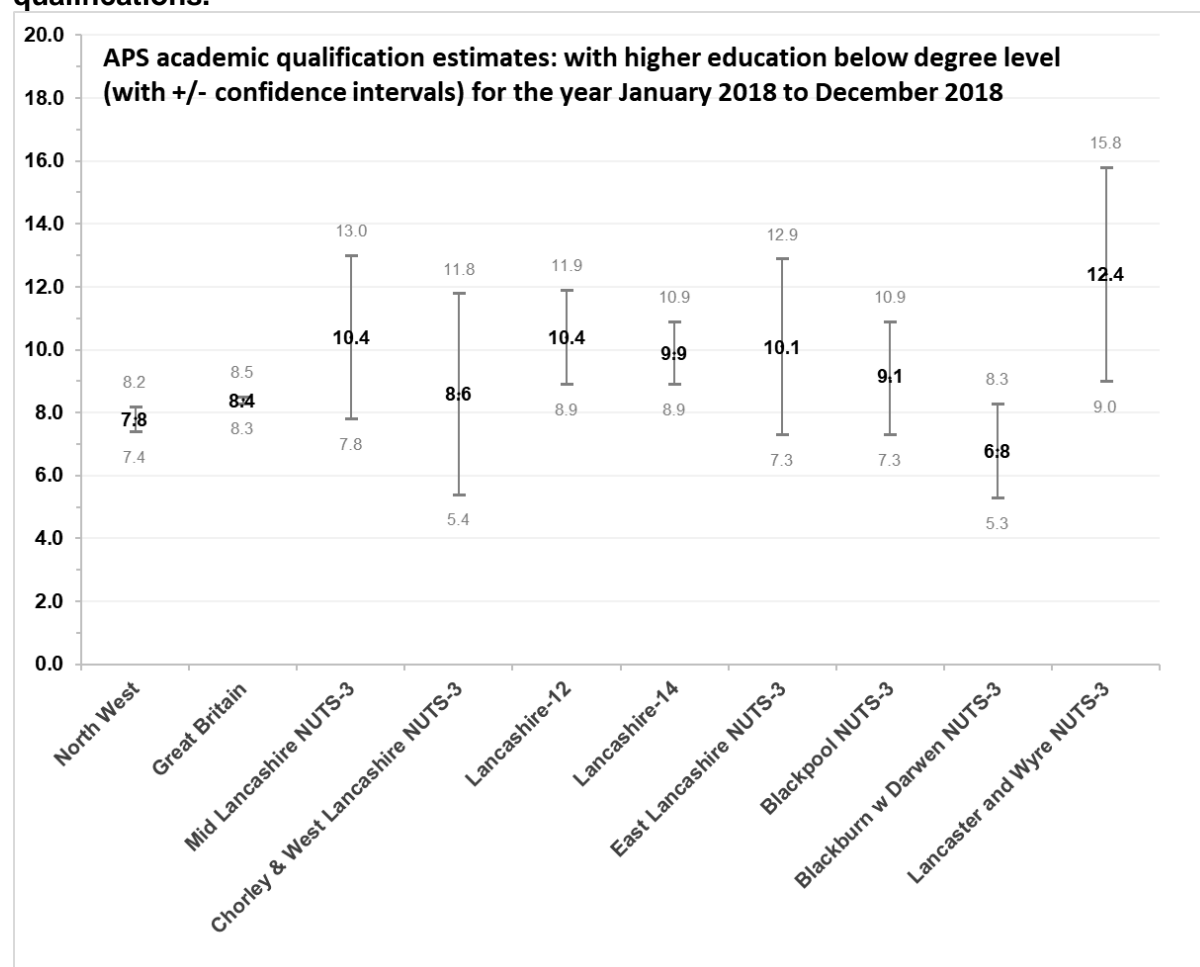
For the Lancashire-14 area, the APS estimated that there were 87,200 people of working-age, or 9.9% (± 1.0)), who had higher education qualifications (below degree level). Again, this percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (8.4% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

Lancaster and Wyre (12.4% (± 3.6)) was the only Lancashire-14 NUTS3 area to have an estimated percentage of its working-age population with higher education qualifications (below degree level) that was significantly higher than the GB percentage (8.4% (± 0.1)). Its percentage was also significantly higher than the North

West estimate (7.8% (± 0.4)) in statistical terms. The percentages for the remaining five Lancashire NUTS3 areas were not significantly different to the GB estimate or the North West estimate (7.8% (± 0.4)) in statistical terms.

The North West percentage (7.8% (± 0.4)) was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.4% (± 0.1)) for this category in statistical terms.

Figure 2: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with higher education (below degree level) qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Annual population survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)).

4.3 Estimated percentages of working age populations with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 174,600 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 24.6% (± 2.1), had GCE A level or equivalent qualifications for the year ending December 2018. The percentage estimate was similar to the GB estimate 22.5% (± 0.2) and was not significantly different in statistical terms.

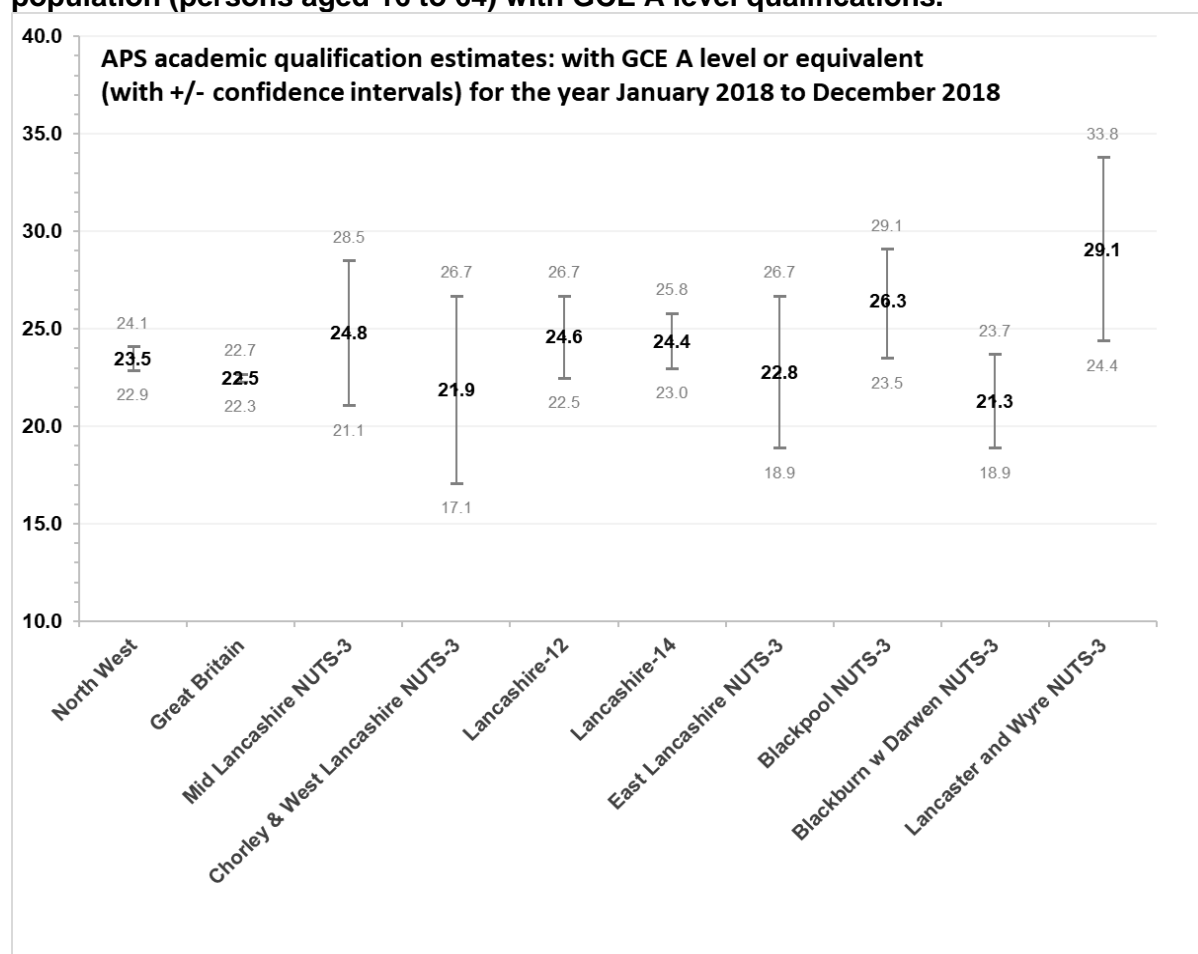
For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 215,400 people of working-age, or 24.4% (± 1.4), had GCE A level or equivalent qualifications. This percentage however, was significantly higher than the GB estimate (22.5% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

Both the Lancaster and Wyre (29.1% (± 4.7)) and Blackpool (26.3% (± 2.8)) NUTS3 areas had estimated percentages of their working age populations with GCE A level or equivalent qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB figure (22.5% (± 0.2)). The Lancaster and Wyre NUTS3 figure (29.1% (± 4.7)) was also statistically higher than the North West (23.5% (± 0.6)) and Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (21.3% (± 2.4)) estimates in statistical terms.

The estimated percentages for the Mid Lancashire (24.8% (± 3.7)), Chorley and West Lancashire (21.9% (± 4.8)), East Lancashire (22.8% (± 3.9)) and Blackburn with Darwen (21.3% (± 2.4)) NUTS3 areas were not significantly different to the GB (22.5% (± 0.2)) or North West (23.5% (± 0.6)) estimates for this category in statistical terms.

The North West percentage (23.5% (± 0.6)) was significantly higher than the GB estimate (22.5% (± 0.2)) for this category in statistical terms.

Figure 3: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with GCE A level qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

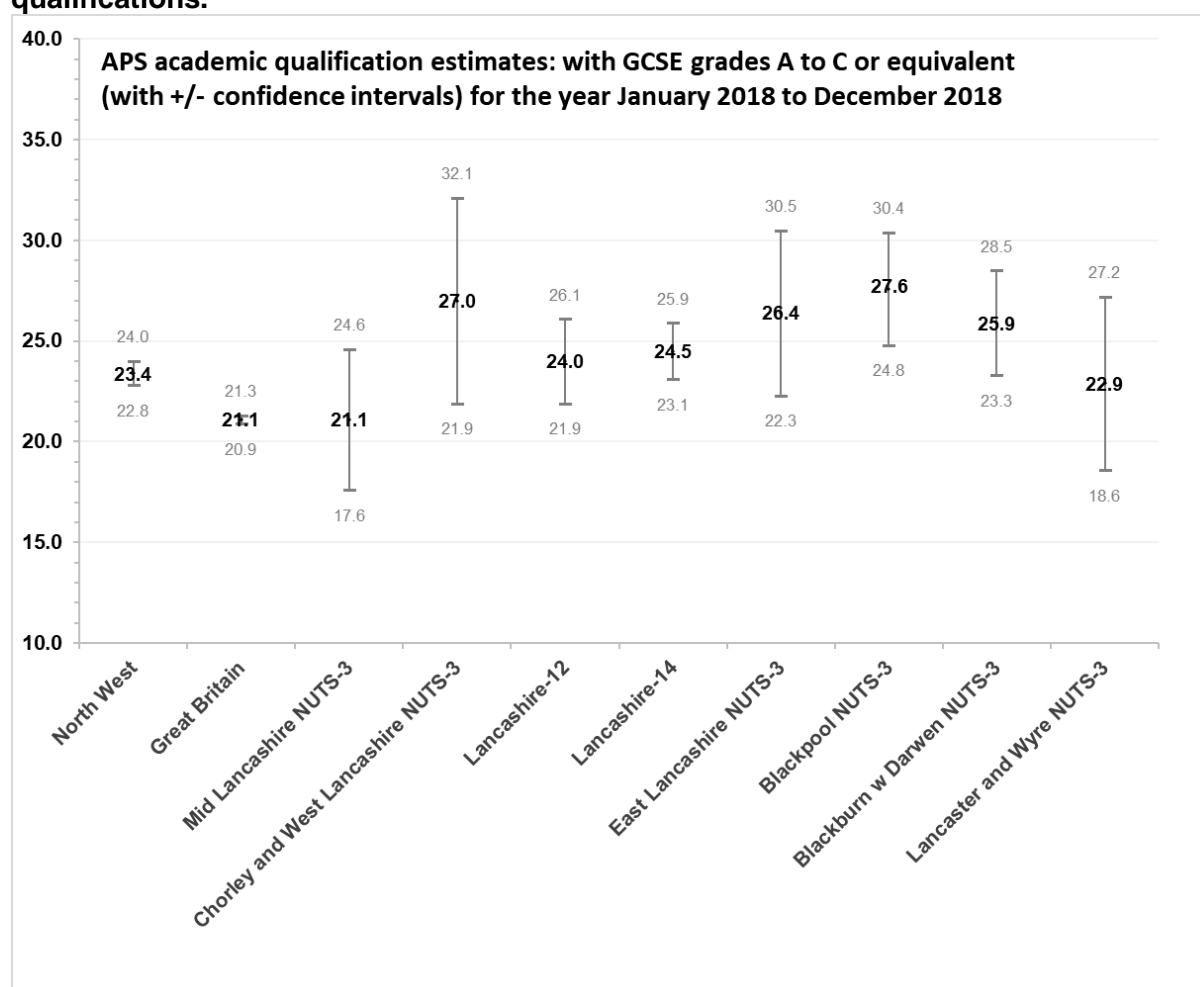
Source: Annual Population Survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)).

4.4 Estimated percentages of working age populations with GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications

For the year ending December 2018, the annual population survey estimated that 170,300 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 24.0% (± 2.1), had GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications. The percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 216,300 people of working-age, or 24.5% (± 1.4), had GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications. Again, this percentage was significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms.

Figure 4: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with GCSE grades A to C, or equivalent, qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Annual population survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)).

The four Lancashire NUTS3 areas of Blackpool (27.6% (± 2.8)), Chorley and West Lancashire (27.0% (± 5.1)), East Lancashire (26.4% (± 4.1)) and Blackburn with Darwen (25.9% (± 2.6)) had estimates of their working age populations with GCSE grades A to C or equivalent qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB

estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) in statistical terms. The Blackpool NUTS3 estimate was also significantly higher than the North West estimate (23.4% (± 0.6)) in statistical terms.

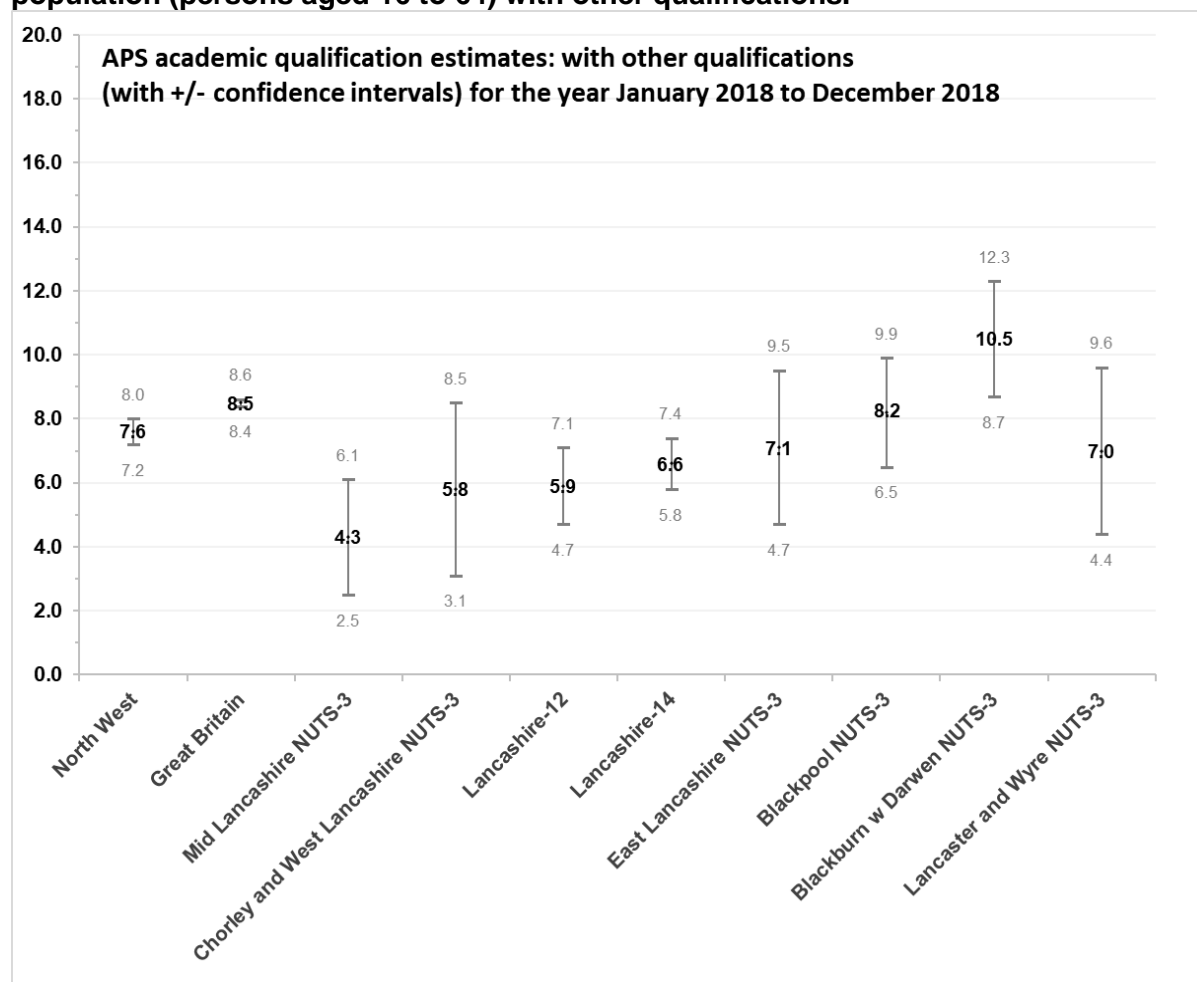
The percentages for the Mid Lancashire ((21.1% (± 3.5)) and Lancaster and Wyre (22.9% (± 4.3)) NUTS3 areas were not significantly different to the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) for this category in statistical terms.

The North West percentage (23.4% (± 0.6)) was significantly higher than the GB estimate (21.1% (± 0.2)) for this category in statistical terms.

4.5 Estimated percentages of the working age populations with other qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 42,000 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 5.9% (± 1.2), had other qualifications for the year ending December 2018. The percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.5% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

Figure 5: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with other qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Annual population survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://nomisweb.co.uk/)).

For the Lancashire-14 area, an estimated 58,200 people of working-age, or 6.6% (± 0.8), had other qualifications. Again, the percentage was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.5% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

The Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (10.5% (± 1.8)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with other qualifications that was significantly higher than the GB (8.5% (± 0.1)), North West (7.6% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (5.9% (± 1.2)) and Lancashire-14 (6.6% (± 0.8)) figures, plus the estimates for the Mid Lancashire (4.3% (± 1.8)) and Chorley and West Lancashire (5.8% (± 2.7)) NUTS3 areas in statistical terms.

The Mid Lancashire NUTS3 area (4.3% (± 1.8)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with other qualifications that was significantly lower than the GB (8.5% (± 0.1)) and North West (7.6% (± 0.4)) figures, plus the estimates for the Blackpool (8.2% (± 1.7)) and Blackburn with Darwen (10.5% (± 1.8))

The estimated percentages for the remaining four Lancashire NUTS3 areas were not significantly different to the GB estimate for this category in statistical terms.

The estimated percentage for the North West (7.6% (± 0.4)) for this category was significantly lower than the GB estimate (8.5% (± 0.1)) in statistical terms.

4.6 Estimated percentages of working age populations with no qualifications

The annual population survey estimated that 59,900 people of working-age in the Lancashire-12 area, or 8.5% (± 1.4), had no qualifications for the year ending December 2018. This estimate was similar to the GB estimate 8.0% (± 0.1), and was not significantly different in statistical terms.

For the Lancashire-14 area, the APS estimated that 79,500 people of working-age, or 9.0% (± 0.9), had no qualifications for the year ending December 2018. This percentage estimate was again not significantly different to the GB estimate of 8.0% (± 0.1) in statistical terms.

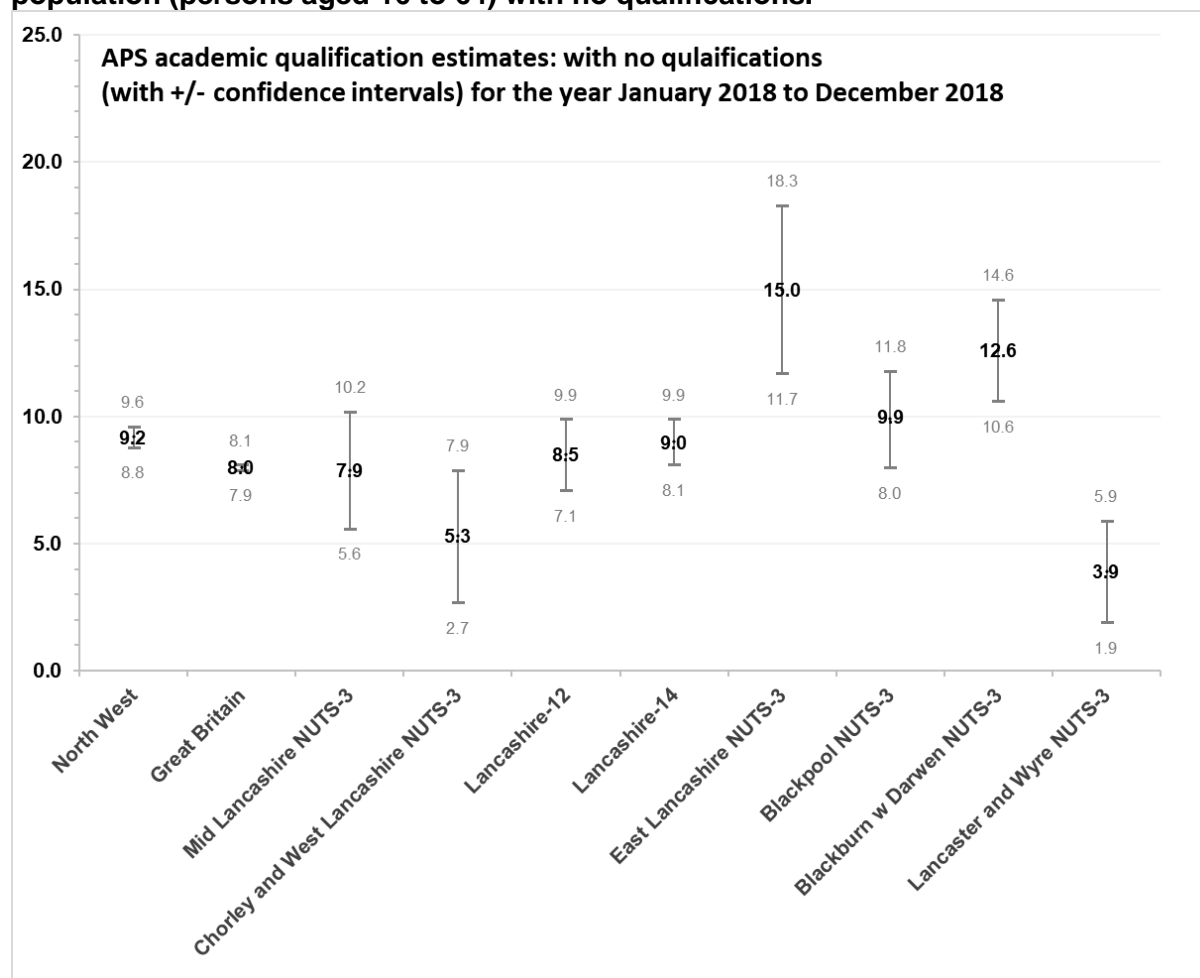
The East Lancashire NUTS3 area (15.0% (± 3.3)) and the Blackburn with Darwen NUTS3 area (12.6% (± 2.0)) each had estimated percentages of their working age populations with no qualifications that were significantly higher than the GB (8.0% (± 0.1)), North West (9.2% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (8.5% (± 1.4)) and Lancashire-14 (9.0% (± 0.9)) figures, plus the estimates for the Mid Lancashire (7.9% (± 2.3)), Chorley and West Lancashire (5.3% (± 2.6)) and Lancaster and Wyre (3.9% (± 2.0)) NUTS3 areas.

The Lancaster and Wyre NUTS3 area (3.9% (± 2.0)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with no qualifications that was significantly lower than the GB (8.0% (± 0.1)) North West (9.2% (± 0.4)), Lancashire-12 (8.5% (± 1.4)) and Lancashire-14 (9.0% (± 0.9)) figures, plus the estimates for the East Lancashire (15.0% (± 3.3)), Blackburn with Darwen (12.6% (± 2.0)) and Blackpool (9.9% (± 1.9)) NUTS3 areas.

The estimated percentages for the remaining three Lancashire NUTS3 areas of Mid Lancashire, Chorley and West Lancashire and Blackpool were not significantly different to the GB estimate for this category in statistical terms.

Blackpool NUTS3 area (9.9% (± 1.9)) had an estimated percentage of the working age population with no qualifications that was significantly higher than the figures for the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (5.3% (± 2.6)) and the Lancaster and Wyre (3.9% (± 2.0)) NUTS3 area in statistical terms.

Figure 6: Annual population survey estimates of the percentage of the working age population (persons aged 16 to 64) with no qualifications.



Note: 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Annual population survey for the year January 2018 to December 2018, via the National Online Manpower Information System ([Nomisweb](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)).

The North West percentage (9.2% (± 0.4)) was significantly higher than the GB (8.0% (± 0.1)) figure, plus the estimates for the Chorley and West Lancashire NUTS3 area (5.3% (± 2.6)) and the Lancaster and Wyre (3.9% (± 2.0)) NUTS3 area in statistical terms.

4.7 Estimated change in the percentage of working age populations with the two higher levels of qualifications

The time-series from the year ending December 2012 to the year ending December 2018 reveals an improving trend at the national and regional levels for the percentage of the working age population with the two highest levels of qualifications (degree, or equivalent and above, plus higher education (below degree level) combined). The trend is more volatile for the Lancashire-14 and Lancashire-12 areas.

At the GB level, the percentage of the working age population qualified to the highest two levels of qualification grew from 34.6% (± 0.2) in 2012, to 40.0% (± 0.2) in 2018. This is a statistically significant increase. In the North West, the percentage increased from 30.6% (± 0.6) in 2012, to 36.2% (± 0.7) for the year ending December 2018. Again, this is a statistically significant increase.

For the Lancashire-14 area over the same period, the increase was from 31.1% (± 1.5) to 35.4% (± 1.5). This is also a statistically significant change. For the Lancashire-12 area, the increase was from 33.1% (± 2.2) in 2012, to 37.0 (± 2.4) in 2018. This is not a statistically significant change. Estimates at the Lancashire-12 and Lancashire-14 levels can be volatile and the change over time should be re-evaluated in the future.

The broad trend towards higher qualifications for people of working age, will have some impact on many people's increased employment aspirations for higher quality jobs and remuneration.

5 Associated Microsoft Power BI dashboards

5.1 Qualification level analysis

Business intelligence have produced a number of slides within a Microsoft Power BI dashboard which analyse the estimated results for the various geographies by qualification level, by number and percentages, and for all persons and by gender. The data is primarily analysed for the year ending December 2018, however, slide 3 allows analysis of the data from the year ending December 2012 to the year ending December 2018. The dashboard is available to view on the related Lancashire Insight web page - [Academic qualifications from the annual population survey](#).

6 Related articles and websites

Readers may also be interested in related qualifications analysis from the 2011 Census on our Lancashire Insight website. These articles are '[Highest qualifications of workplace populations](#)' and '[Qualifications and full-time students](#)'.

The GOV.UK website has a web page '[What qualification levels mean](#)', which readers may find useful.