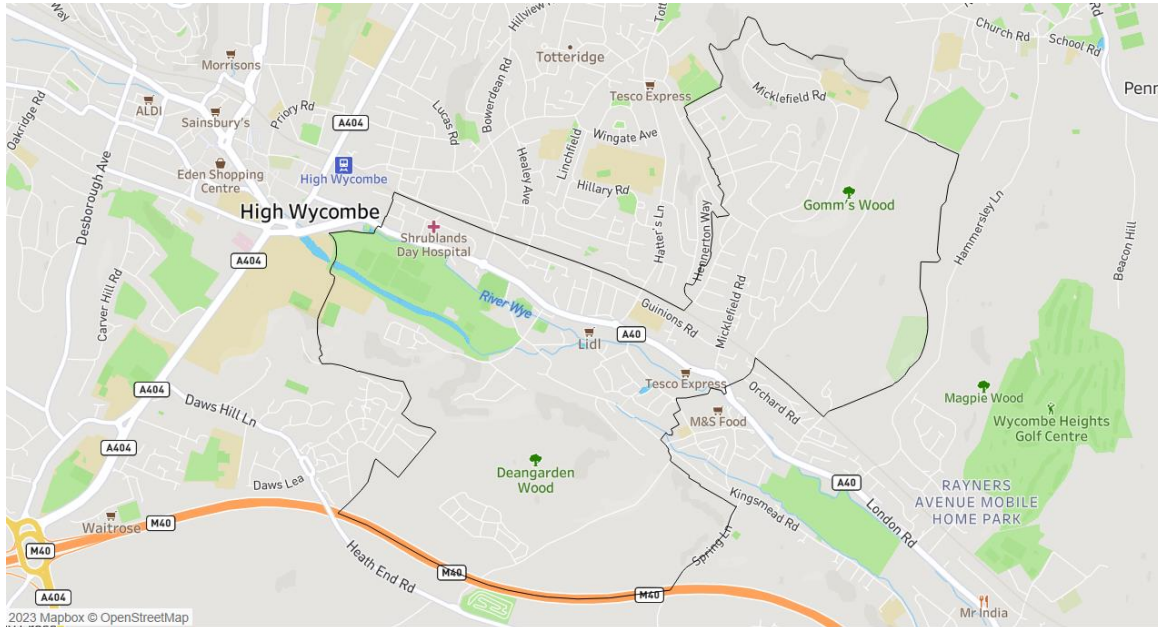


# Ryemead & Micklefield

## Economic Ward Profile



# Summary



Ryemead & Micklefield is an [Opportunity Bucks](#) ward located in High Wycombe.

**12%**  
Of residents are aged 65+  
(19% for Buckinghamshire and  
18% national)

**1**  
Childcare provider registered in  
the Early Years Register

**15%**  
Of residents aged 16+ have no  
qualifications  
(14% for Buckinghamshire and  
18% for England)

**34%**  
Of residents aged 16+ have a  
degree level qualification or  
higher  
(41% for Buckinghamshire and  
34% for England)

**70%**  
Of residents aged 16+ are  
economically active  
(64% for Buckinghamshire and  
61% for England)

**14%**  
Of residents are retired  
(22% for Buckinghamshire and  
England)

**4.8%**  
Of the working age population  
are claiming 'out of work'  
related benefits  
(2.7% for Buckinghamshire and  
3.9% for England)

A greater proportion of residents  
work in **semi-skilled and blue-collar  
occupations** than in the county.

A greater proportion of businesses  
are in the '**information &  
communication**' and '**education**'  
sectors than in the county.

# Section 1: Residents

# Age Profile

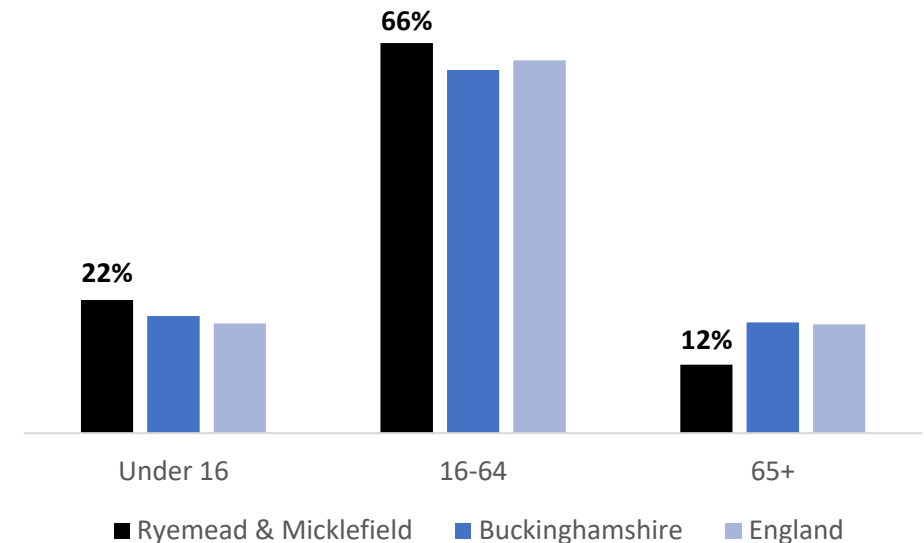
In 2021, approximately 11,500 people lived in Ryemead & Micklefield, of whom 66% were of working age (higher than the Buckinghamshire and national averages of 61% and 63% respectively).

Ryemead & Micklefield had a higher proportion of under 16's (22%) than the Buckinghamshire (20%) and national averages (19%), however there was a lower proportion of people aged 65 and over (12%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (19%) and national averages (18%).

At the county level, a comparatively high proportion of the Buckinghamshire population are over the age of 90. [ONS population projections](#) suggest that between 2018 and 2038, the county will experience a 110% growth in people aged over 90, and a 31% growth in people aged 60 and over. There are also expected to be 2% more 10- to 19-year-olds, and 1% more 20-34 age bracket.

In 2018 there were three 20- to 64-year olds per older dependent (aged 65+) in Buckinghamshire. By 2038, this is predicted to reduce to two.

**A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents are of working age than the Buckinghamshire and national averages**

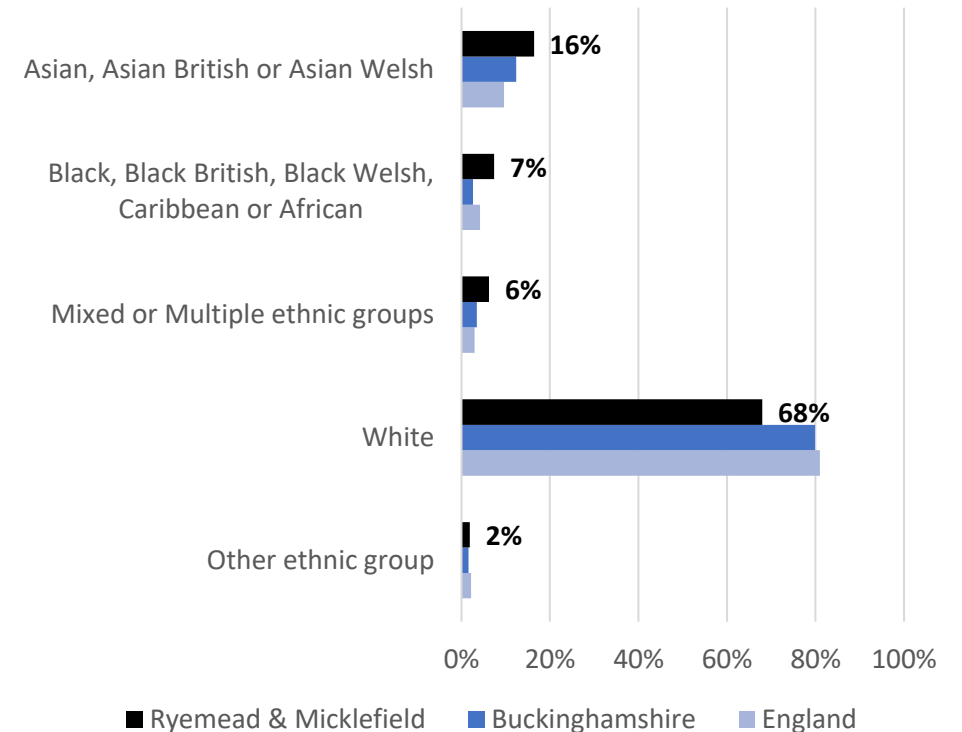


# Ethnicity

In 2021, Ryemead & Micklefield had greater proportions of people identifying themselves by the three broad ethnic groups as Asian (16%), Black (7%) and Mixed (6%) than the Buckinghamshire and national average. A similar proportion to the county and national average identified themselves as Other ethnic groups (2%).

In contrast, a smaller proportion of residents (68%) in Ryemead and Micklefield identified themselves as White than the county (80%) and national (81%) averages.

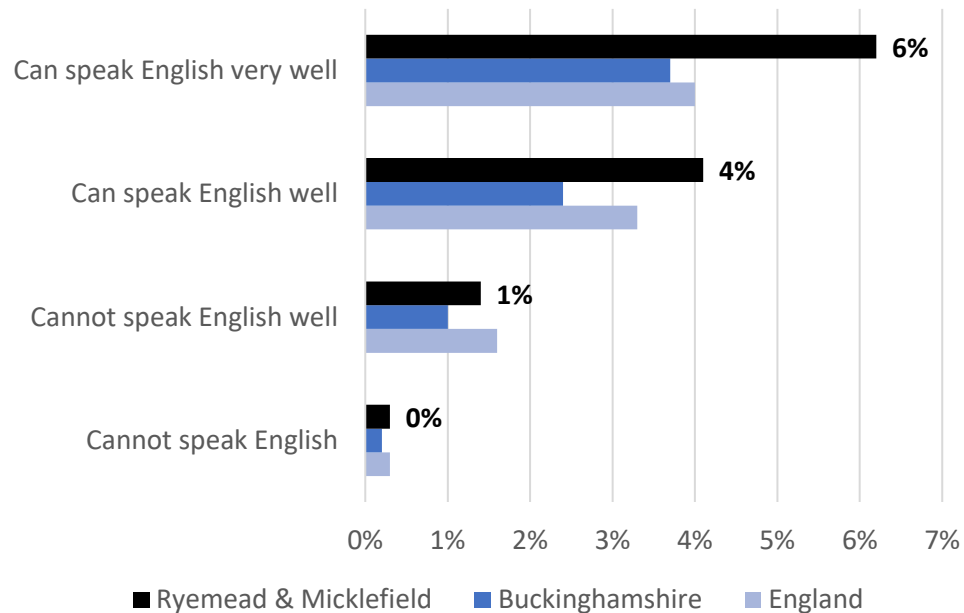
**A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents identify as Asian, Black or Mixed ethnicity than the Buckinghamshire and national averages**



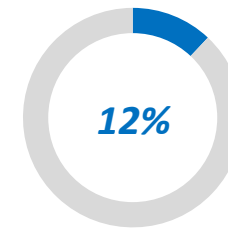
# English Proficiency

In 2021, 88% of Ryemead & Micklefield's population aged 3 and above had English as their main language. This is lower than the Buckinghamshire (93%) and national (91%) averages.

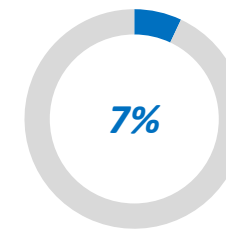
The majority of residents for whom English is not a first language believe they can speak English well or very well. 192 Ryemead & Micklefield residents cannot speak English well or at all.



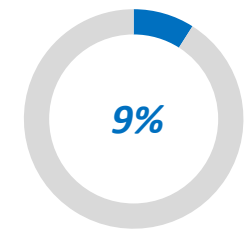
A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents do not have English as their first language than the county and national average



Ryemead & Micklefield



Buckinghamshire



England

People who did not report English (English or Welsh in Wales) as a main language were asked to report how well they could speak English.

6% of Ryemead & Micklefield's population aged 3 and above can speak English very well, and 4% can speak English well despite English not being their main language. This is higher than the Buckinghamshire and national averages.

A small proportion (1%) of Ryemead & Micklefield's population aged 3 and above cannot speak English well, and a smaller proportion (0.3%) cannot speak English. Proportions are similar to the Buckinghamshire and national averages. The number of people that cannot speak English well or at all in Ryemead & Micklefield was 192 people.

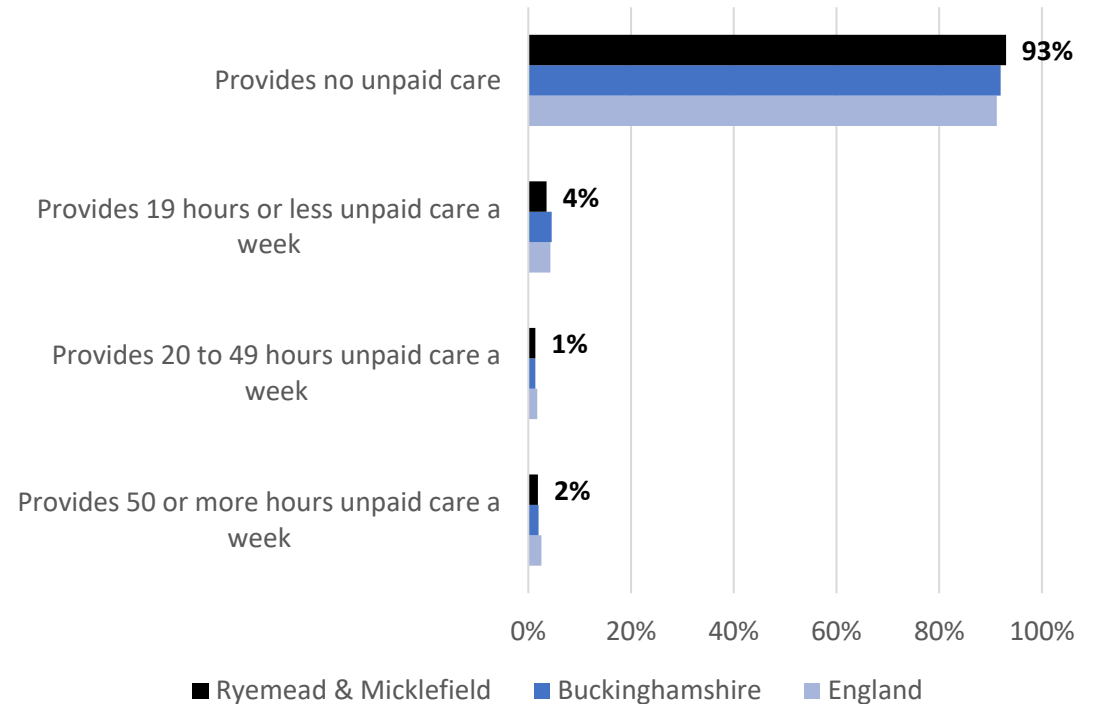
# Unpaid Care Provision

In 2021, a slightly lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents provided unpaid care (7.0%) than the Buckinghamshire (8.0%) and national (8.8%) averages.

3.6% of Ryemead & Micklefield residents provided 19 hours or less unpaid care a week. This was slightly lower than the Buckinghamshire (4.6%) and national averages (4.3%).

Likewise, a slightly lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents provided 20 to 49, and 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week compared to the Buckinghamshire and national averages.

**Ryemead & Micklefield residents are slightly less like to be providing unpaid care than the county and national averages**



Note: An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. This help can be within or outside of the carer's household

[Source: Census, 2021, ONS](#)

# Childcare Provision

Ryemead & Micklefield has two childcare provider registered on the Early Years Register (EYR), offering 74 places at the point of registration. Those registered on the EYR provide childcare for children under the age of 5.

36 childcare providers are located in wards that neighbour Ryemead & Micklefield, offering a total of 1,281 places at the point of registration.

The proportion of childcare places offered compared to the total population of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 5 and under is equivalent to 7%, lower than the 45% Buckinghamshire average. The proportion for Ryemead & Micklefield is also lower than the 24% average across the 10 [Opportunity Bucks](#) wards where people are experiencing the most hardship.

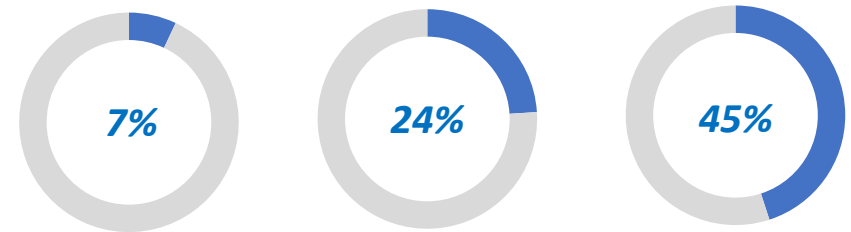
Alternatively, there are an average of 14 residents aged 5 and under for each childcare place offered in Ryemead & Micklefield. This is higher than the average across Opportunity Bucks wards and the average for Buckinghamshire (4 and 2 residents aged 5 and under per childcare place offered respectively).

*Please note: Ofsted Early Years Register data on childcare provider places covers all places for children up to the 31<sup>st</sup> August following their fifth birthday. Place numbers mentioned are actual place numbers where recorded, and not estimated place numbers. Childcare provider data used for the purposes of this research only includes those where a postcode and local authority location have been provided. Childminders in particular are likely to withhold the sharing of postcode data.*

Total number of childcare places offered...



...which is approximately equivalent to...



...of the total number of residents aged 5 and under.

Or approximately...



...residents aged 5 and under per childcare place offered.



# Deprivation

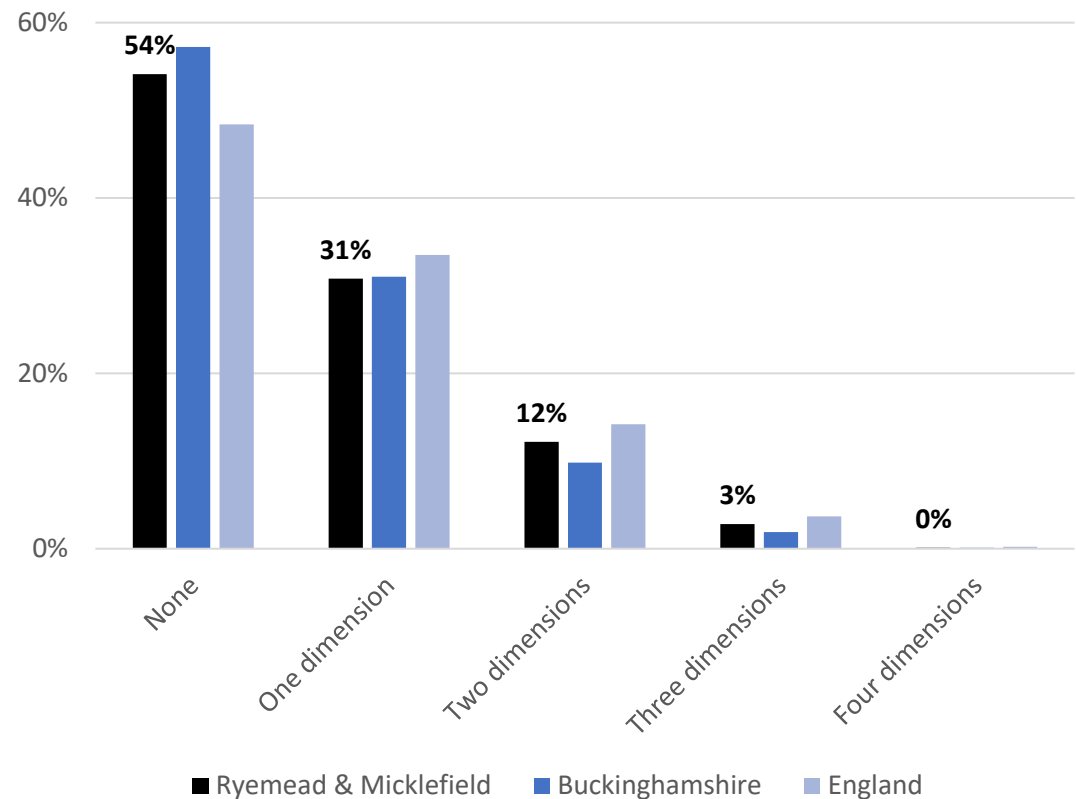
In 2021, Ryemead & Micklefield had a slightly lower proportion of households not deprived in any dimension (54%) than the Buckinghamshire average (57%). However it was a greater proportion than the national average (48%).

The proportion of households deprived in one dimension in Ryemead & Micklefield was equal to the Buckinghamshire average (31%), and was slightly lower than the national average (34%).

However, the proportion of households deprived in two dimensions in Ryemead & Micklefield (12%) was higher than the Buckinghamshire average (10%), albeit lower than the national average (14%). The same was also true for the proportion of households deprived in three dimensions in Ryemead & Micklefield (3%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (2%) and national averages (4%).

6 households, or 0.1% of households in Ryemead & Micklefield were deprived in all four dimensions. The proportion was similar to both Buckinghamshire and national averages.

Proportion of households by deprivation level:



Note: The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics: education, employment, health and housing.

[Source: Census, 2021, ONS](#)

# Qualifications

In 2021, 39% of Ryemead & Micklefield's population aged 16 and above had a Level 4 or higher qualification (see chart). The majority will be degree holders.

This was two percentage points lower than the Buckinghamshire average, but was five percentage points higher than the national average. A similar proportion to county and national averages were qualified to Levels 2 and 3.

A slightly higher proportion had no qualifications (15%) compared to the Buckinghamshire average (14%), however the proportion was still lower than the national average (18%).

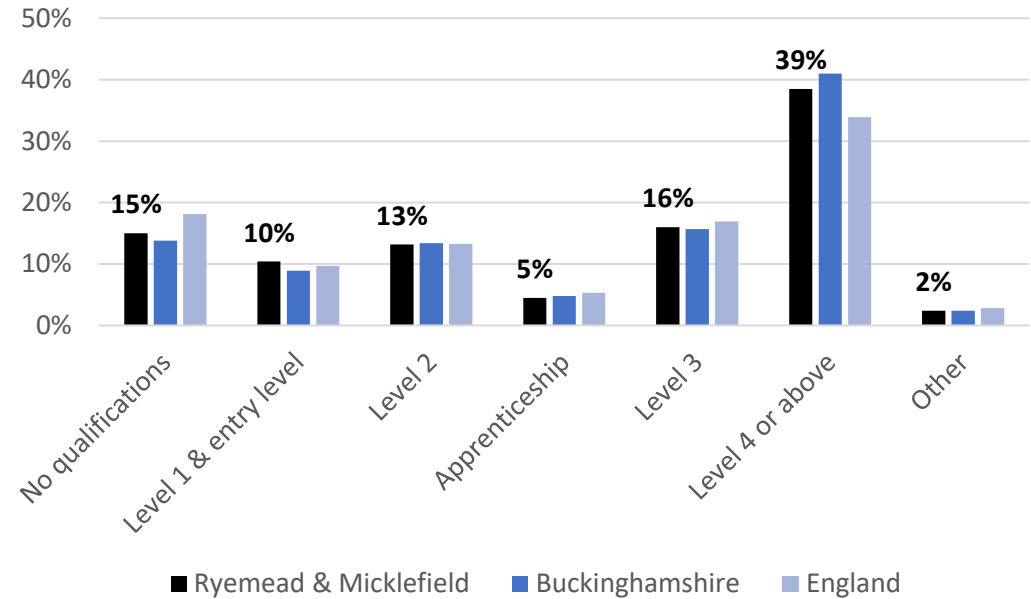
The table shown describes what these levels mean in practice.

There tends to be higher demand from employers for people with higher-level technical qualifications (at Levels 3, 4 and 5) than the number of people achieving or entering the labour market on achieving qualifications at these levels.

Sectors in which there is a high demand for people with qualifications at higher technical level include: high performance engineering, space, film and TV and digital technologies.

In some sectors, employers seek recruits who hold a degree, despite a degree not necessarily being required to undertake the role.

A slightly higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents have no or only low (level 1 & entry) level qualifications than the county average.



Level	Description
Level 1	Fewer than 5+ GCSEs / NVQ 1
Level 2	5+ GCSEs / NVQ 2 or equivalent
Level 3	2+ A-levels / NVQ 3 or equivalent
Level 4+	HNC, HND, NVQ 4 and 5, degree or higher

# Economically active

In 2021, just over 6,250 residents aged 16 and over were economically active in Ryemead & Micklefield. This accounted for 70% of Ryemead & Micklefield's residents of this age, higher than the Buckinghamshire and national averages of 64% and 61% respectively.

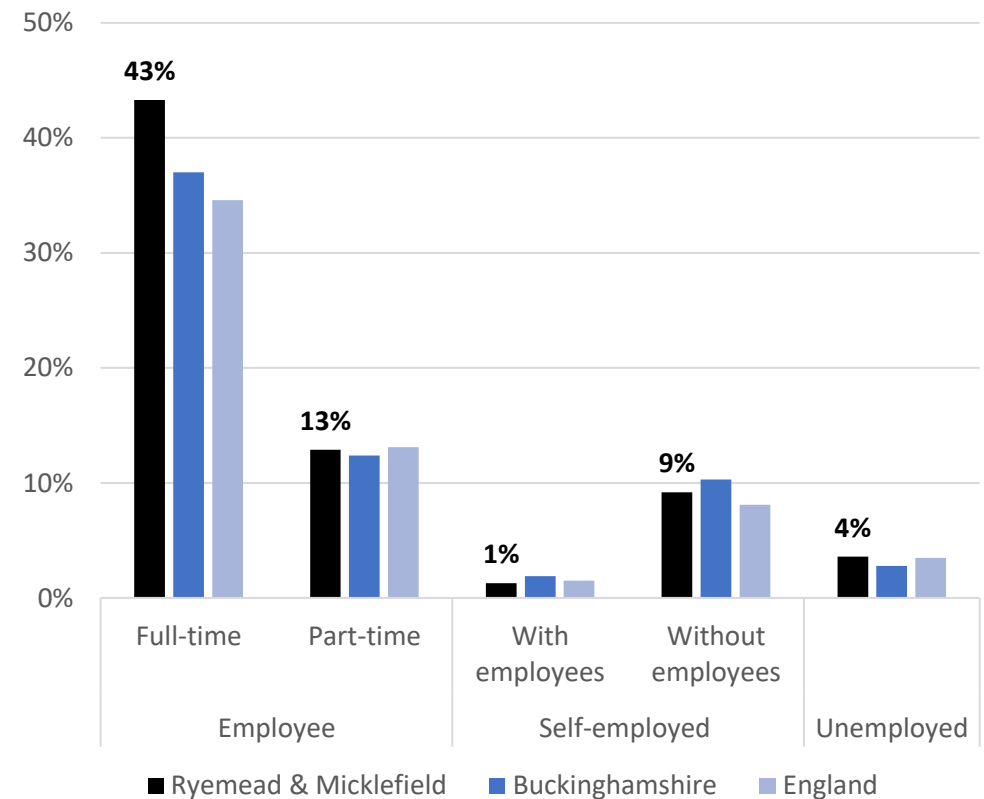
A large difference was shown in the proportion of full-time employees in Ryemead & Micklefield compared to the Buckinghamshire and national averages, with a proportion that was 6% and 8% higher respectively.

In contrast, the proportion of residents aged 16 and over who are part-time employees was relatively similar across all three areas, with the proportion in Buckinghamshire marginally lower than Ryemead & Micklefield and the national average.

Regarding self-employment, over the last decade, a higher proportion of Buckinghamshire residents have worked on a self-employed basis than has been the case nationally. However, whilst the proportion of people self-employed without employees was higher than the national average in Ryemead & Micklefield, it was slightly lower than the Buckinghamshire average.

A slightly higher proportion of residents were unemployed in Ryemead & Micklefield compared with the Buckinghamshire and national averages. The number of unemployed in Ryemead & Micklefield equated to approx. 300 people.

**A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents over the age of 16 are economically active than the county and regional averages. The majority of whom work as employees on a full-time basis.**



Note: Economically active is defined as those in employment plus those that are unemployed. Those that are unemployed are deemed economically active because they are seeking work and willing and able to accept a job.

Source: [Census, 2021, ONS](#)

# Economic Inactivity

In 2021, just over 2,500 residents aged 16 and over were economically inactive in Ryemead & Micklefield. This accounted for 30% of Ryemead & Micklefield's residents of this age, which was lower than the Buckinghamshire and national averages of 36% and 39% respectively.

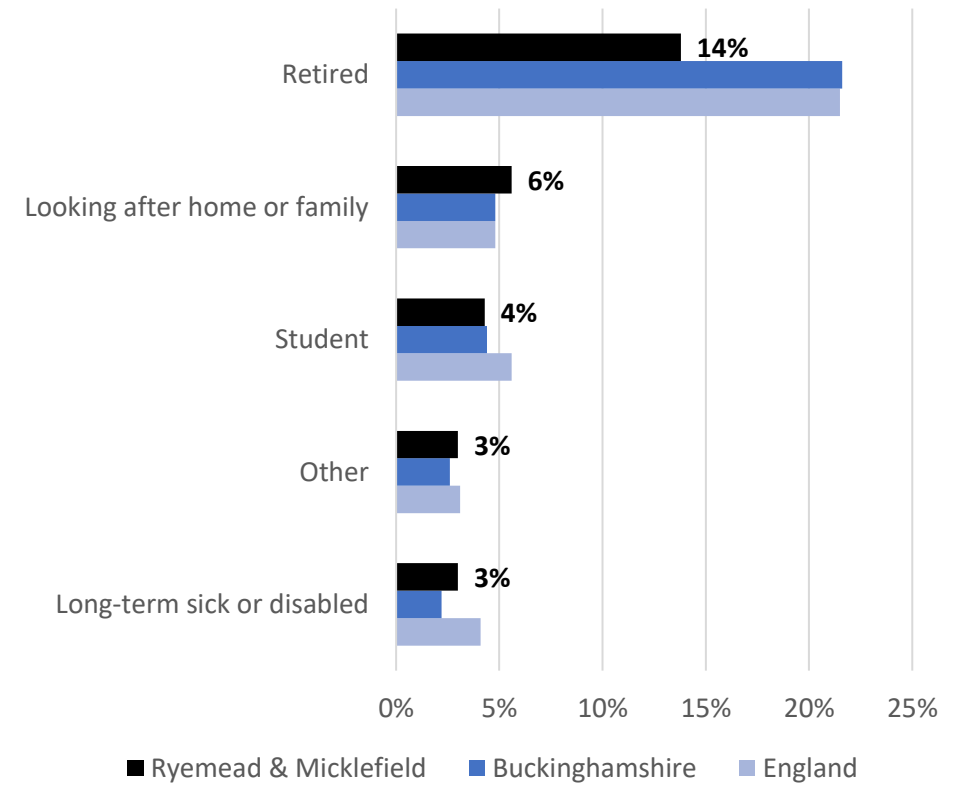
The most common reason for being economically inactive was 'retired', with 14% of Ryemead & Micklefield's population aged 16 and over. This was significantly lower than the 22% average for Buckinghamshire and England.

In contrast, the proportion of people who are 'looking after home or family' in Ryemead & Micklefield (6%) was slightly higher than the 5% Buckinghamshire and national average. The number of people 'looking after home or family' in Ryemead & Micklefield equated to approx. 500 people.

The proportion of people who are economically inactive due to being 'long term sick or disabled' in Ryemead & Micklefield (3%) is also slightly higher than the Buckinghamshire average (2%), although slightly lower than the national average (4%). The number of people 'long term sick or disabled' in Ryemead & Micklefield equated to approx. 250 people.

4% of Ryemead & Micklefield's economically inactive population aged 16 and over are students, equal to the Buckinghamshire average and slightly lower than the national average (6%).

**Ryemead & Micklefield residents (aged 16 plus) are less likely to be economically inactive than the county and national averages. They are particularly less likely to be economically inactive due to retirement.**



Note: To be economically inactive, a person would have to be not in employment, and have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks.

Source: [Census, 2021, ONS](#)

# Unemployment-related benefit claimants (the Claimant Count)

This chart shows the claimant count rate (claimants as a proportion of all residents aged 16-64) for the April of each year since 2019 in Ryemead & Micklefield, Buckinghamshire and England.

Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the claimant rate for Ryemead & Micklefield in 2019 was higher compared to the Buckinghamshire average, with a gap of 0.9 percentage points. However the claimant rate was below the national average with a gap of 0.5 percentage points.

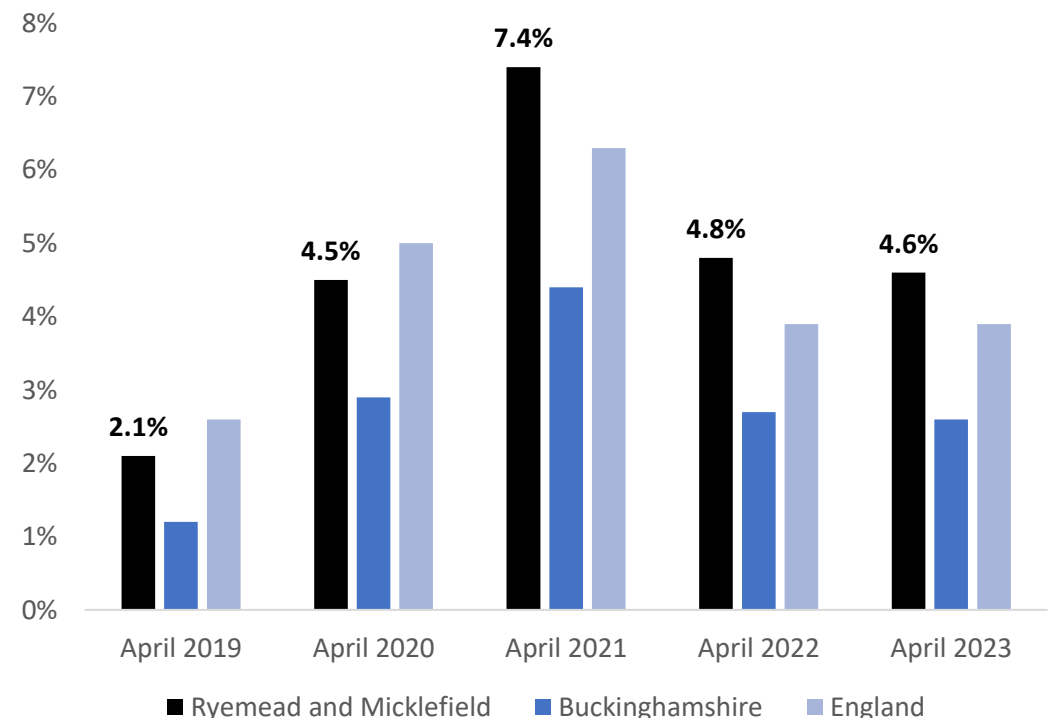
Across all three areas, the claimant rate increased the following year due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst the gap to the claimant rate between Ryemead & Micklefield and England remained at 0.5%, the gap to the Buckinghamshire average widened to 1.6%. As a result, the increase in the claimant rate for Ryemead & Micklefield outpaced the Buckinghamshire average.

The claimant rate continued to increase to an April 2021 peak of 7.5% in Ryemead & Micklefield, far higher than the April 2021 peak recorded in Buckinghamshire (4.4%) and surpassing the national average (6.3%).

In May 2021, the claimant rate started to drop month-on-month, with a sharper drop being recorded in Ryemead & Micklefield. The decline continued throughout 2021 and into the start of 2022, at which time the rate of decline slowed and the claimant rate started to level off.

Despite a sharper drop initially in Ryemead & Micklefield, the claimant rate remained higher than the county and national averages throughout. The claimant rate also remains higher than the pre-pandemic level across all three areas.

The proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents claiming unemployment-related benefits has been higher than both the Buckinghamshire and national averages during the last three years. Rates more than tripled between 2019 and 2021, before slowly declining to 2023



Source: [Claimant count, 2023, DWP](#)

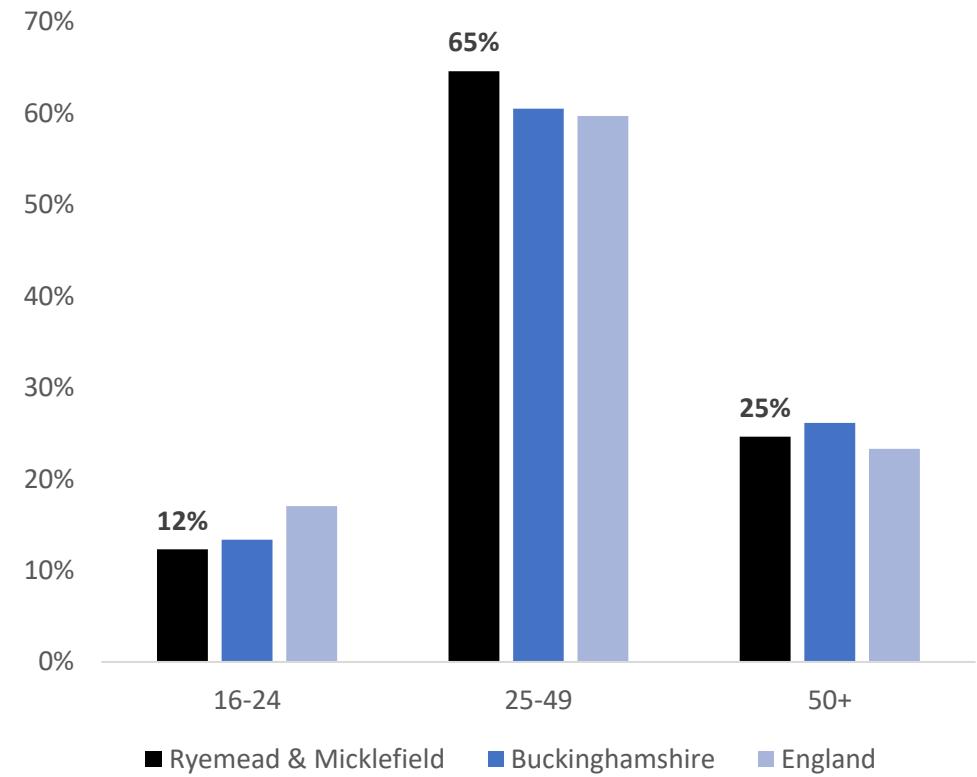
# Claimants by age

In April 2023, a lower proportion of Ryemead & Mickelfield's claimants were aged 16 to 24 (12%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (13%) and national averages (17%). In contrast, the proportion of claimants aged 25 to 49 was higher in Ryemead & Mickelfield (65%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (60%) and national averages (60%).

Of note is the higher proportion of claimants aged 40-44 in Ryemead & Mickelfield (15%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (12%) and national average (11%).

Whilst the proportion of claimants aged 50+ was slightly higher than the national average (23%) in Ryemead & Mickelfield (25%), the proportion was slightly lower than the Buckinghamshire average (26%).

Claimants from Ryemead & Mickelfield are more likely to be aged 25 to 49 than the county and national average and are less likely to be younger (aged 16-24).



# Occupations

In 2021, the largest occupational group of Ryemead & Micklefield's employed residents was 'professional'. However, a slightly smaller proportion of residents worked in professional roles than the Buckinghamshire average.

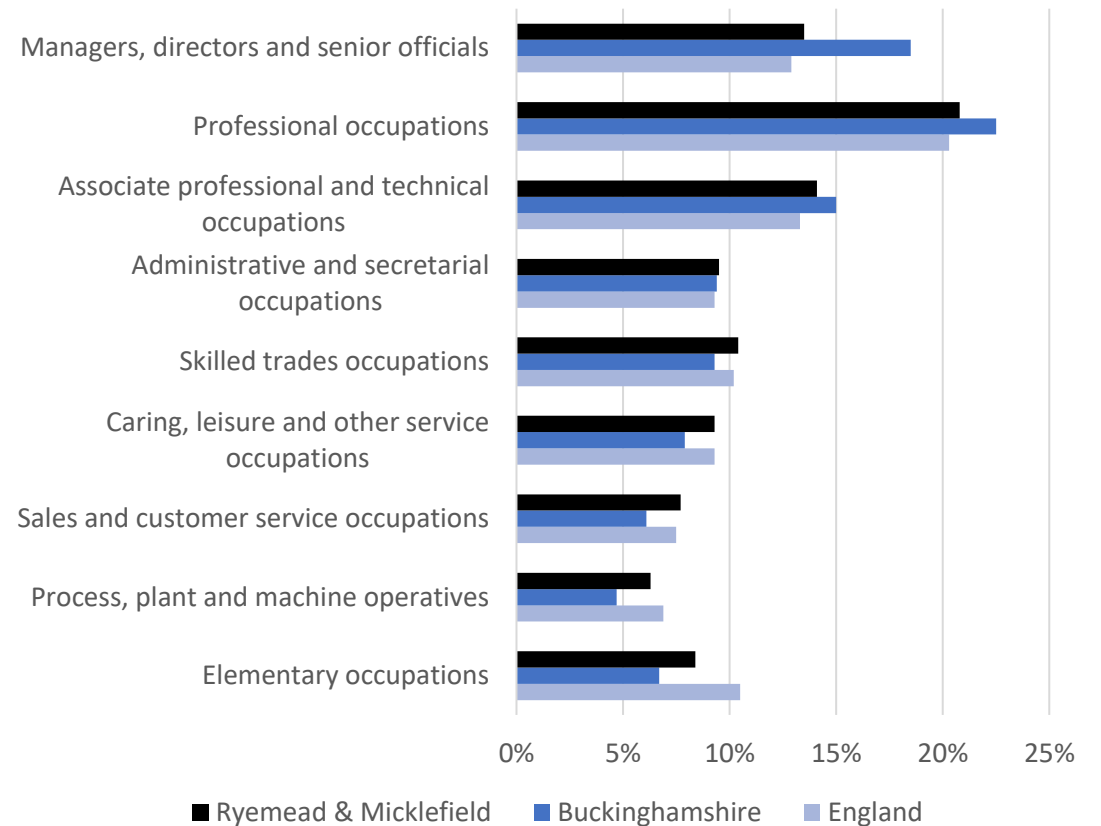
The second largest occupational group in Ryemead & Micklefield was 'associate professional & technical', but again with a slightly smaller proportion than the Buckinghamshire average.

The largest difference occurs in 'managers, directors and senior officials' roles. Whilst the 14% proportion in Ryemead & Micklefield was slightly higher than the 13% national average, it was considerably lower than the 19% Buckinghamshire average.

A reason for this could be attributed to a lower proportion of self-employed compared to the Buckinghamshire average.

A greater proportion of people worked in semi-skilled and blue-collar occupations in Ryemead & Micklefield than in the county as a whole.

The occupational profile of Ryemead & Micklefield's employed residents is very similar to the national picture. It does vary from the County profile however, with fewer residents employed in managerial, professional and associate professional roles than the county average.



# Industry

In 2021, the largest industry group in which Ryemead & Micklefield residents work was 'wholesale & retail; repair of motor vehicles & motorcycles' (15.3%). This was a slightly higher proportion than the Buckinghamshire average (13.6%), and similar to the national average (15.0%).

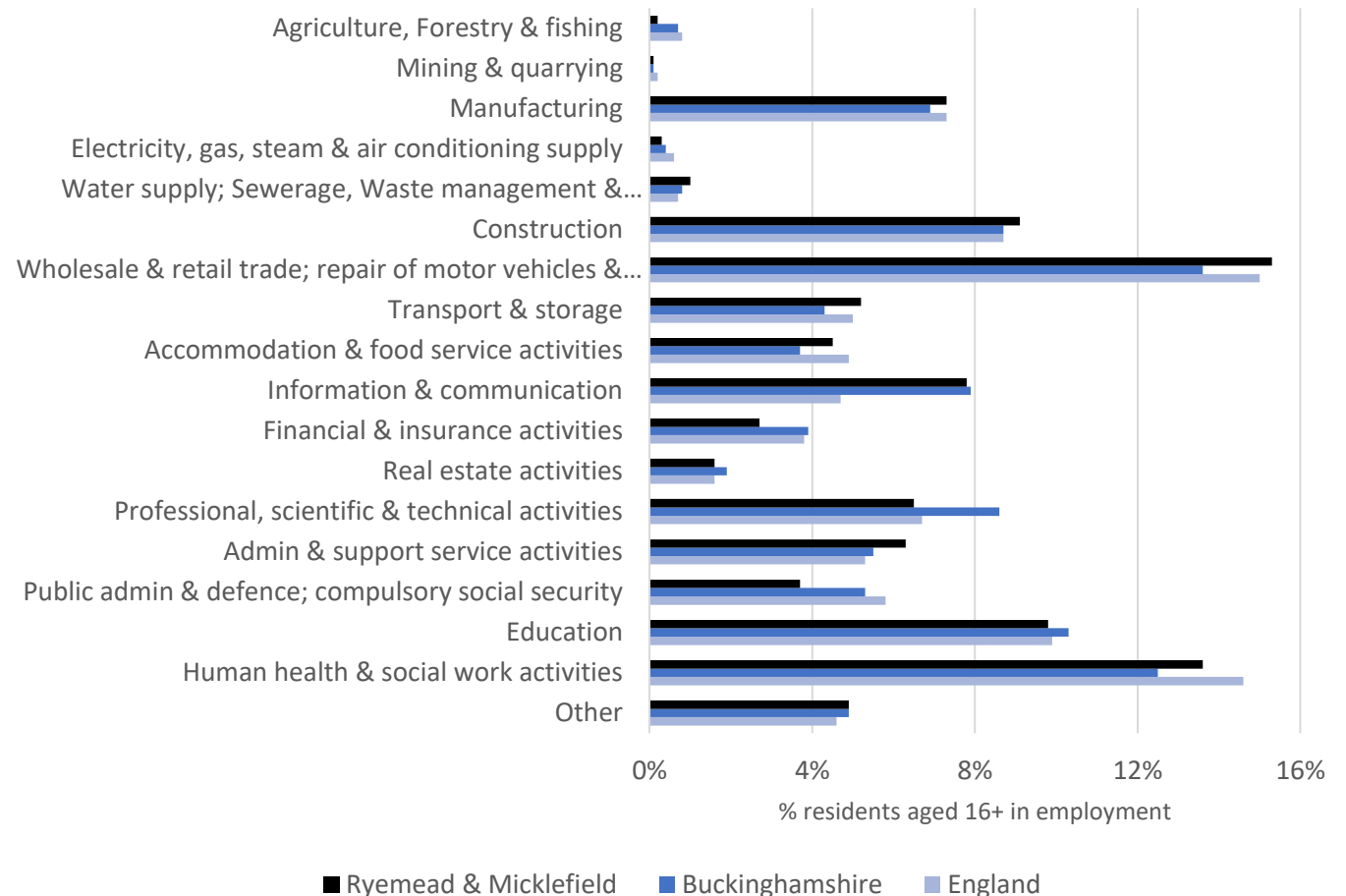
A slightly higher proportion of people in Ryemead & Micklefield (13.6%) work in 'human health & social work activities' than in Buckinghamshire (12.5%). However the proportion was slightly lower than the national average (14.6%).

A significant difference was shown in the proportion of people employed in 'information & communication', with both Ryemead & Micklefield (7.8%) and Buckinghamshire (7.9%) having a higher proportion than the national average (4.7%).

A large difference also occurs in 'professional, scientific & technical activities'. Whilst the 6.5% proportion in Ryemead & Micklefield was slightly lower than the 6.7% national average, it was considerably lower than the 8.6% Buckinghamshire average.

In addition, a lower proportion of people work in 'public admin & defence' and 'financial & insurance activities' in Ryemead & Micklefield than in Buckinghamshire and nationally.

**A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents work in the wholesale & retail; health & social care; admin and support services; transport & storage; and accommodation & food industries than the Buckinghamshire average**





# Section 2: The Local Economy

# Businesses

In May 2023, there were 701 active businesses registered in Ryemead & Micklefield.

The largest proportion of businesses in Ryemead & Micklefield were 'professional, scientific & technical' (18%), higher than both the Buckinghamshire (17%) and national averages (14%).

The second highest proportion was 'information & communication' with 14%, higher than the Buckinghamshire (11%) and national average (9%).

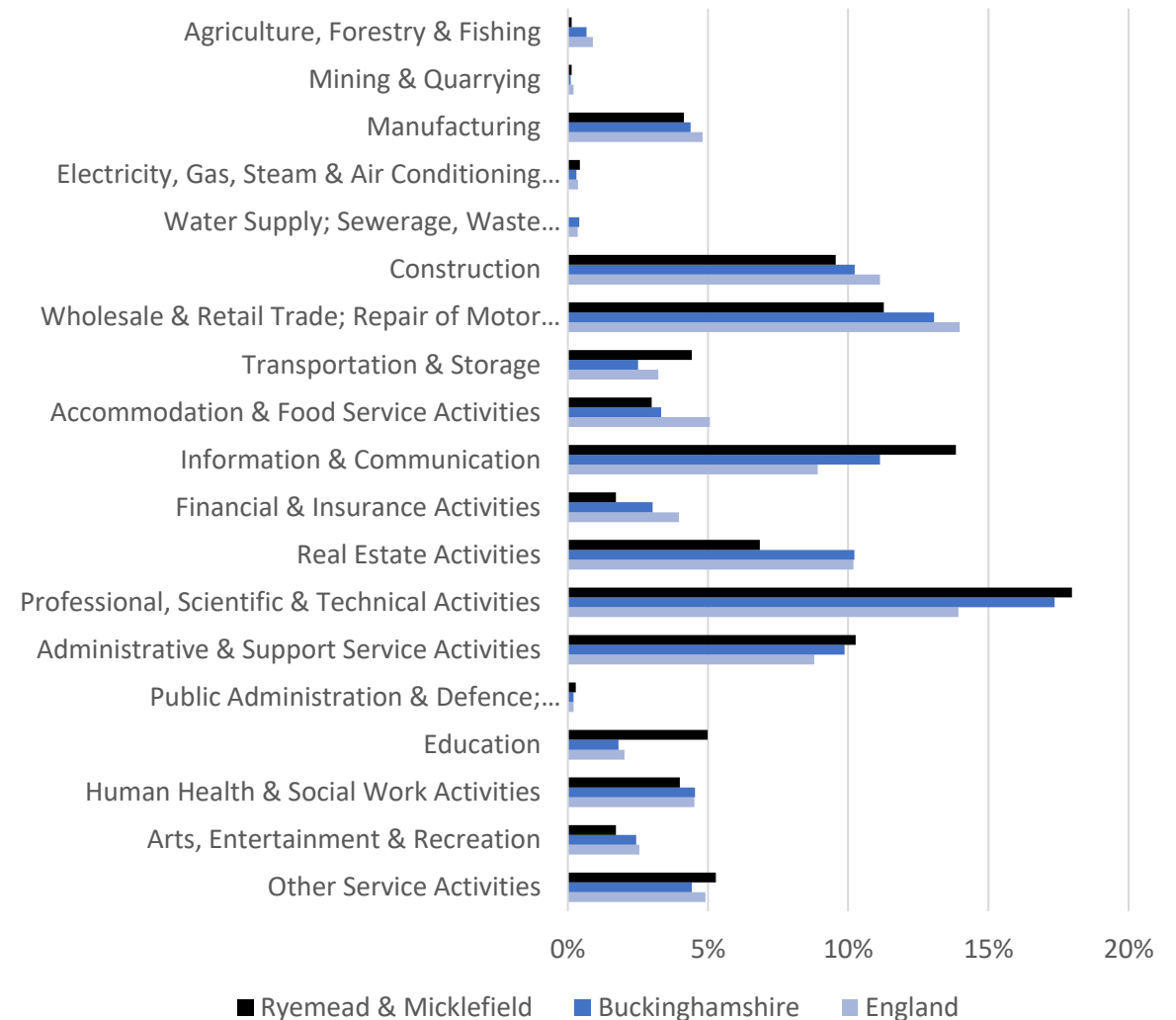
There was also a large difference in the proportion of 'education' businesses in Ryemead & Micklefield (5%) which was much higher than the Buckinghamshire (2%) and national average (2%).

In contrast, a noticeably lower proportion of businesses in Ryemead & Micklefield were in 'wholesale & retail; repair of motor vehicles' (11%, 13% and 14%); 'real estate activities' (7%, 10% and 10%); and 'financial and insurance activities' (2%, 3% and 4%) than the Buckinghamshire and national average respectively.

In addition, the proportion of 'accommodation & food service activities' businesses in both Ryemead & Micklefield and Buckinghamshire (3%) was lower than the national average (5%).

Note: Not including dormant businesses and 97-99 SIC codes.

Similar to Buckinghamshire, the highest proportion of businesses are in the professional, scientific & technical sector in Ryemead & Micklefield. However, a higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield businesses are in the information & communication sector than the Buckinghamshire and national average.



Source: Companies House, May 2023

# Key Employers



**Optima Contracting** – the leading international glass partitioning manufacturer with over 30 years experience providing glass partitions and doors.

Sector: Construction

Employee size band: Large 250+

Incorporation date: 1985

<http://optimasystems.com/>



**OAG** – design, supply and installation of specialist architectural glazing solutions.

Sector: Construction

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

Incorporation date: 2007

<http://oag.uk.com/>



**Asolvi UK** – Development and sale of computer software products.

Sector: Information Technology

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

Incorporation date: 1987

<http://asolvi.com/>



**The Chalfonts Independent Grammar School**

Sector: Secondary Education

Employee size band: Small 10-49

Incorporation date: 2016

<https://www.thechalfontsgrammar.co.uk/>

# Key Employers



**Multipond**– Sale of machinery principally to the food industry.

Sector: Wholesale

Employee size band: Small 10-49

Incorporation date: 1991

<http://multipond.com/>



**Tetra Pak Processing** – The supply of packaging material for liquid foods and the supply and installation of filling and distribution equipment for the liquid food industry.

Sector: Wholesale

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

Incorporation date: 1955

<http://tetrapak.com/>



**TVF (UK)** – Fire protection equipment and the provision of associated maintenance services.

Sector: Fire Service Activities

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

Incorporation date: 1983

<https://tvfltd.co.uk/>



**Seymour Taylor** – Registered auditors and the provision of related services.

Sector: Finance

Employee size band: Micro 0-9

Incorporation date: 2008

<http://stca.co.uk/>

# Key Employers



**Milestone Creative** – An independent creative agency with clients across the UK who operate internationally.

Sector: Marketing

Employee size band: Small 10-49

Incorporation date: 1995

<http://milestonecreative.co.uk/>



**Andrews Hydrographics** – The provision of survey and positioning services to the international oil and gas industry.

Sector: Professional, scientific & technical

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

Incorporation date: 1978

<https://www.andrewssurvey.com/>



**Maria Residential Home** – 8 bed EMI (Dementia) residential care home for adults over the age of 65 years old.

Sector: Care activities

Employee size band: Small 10-49

Incorporation date: 2005

<https://mariaresidentialhome.co.uk/>



**Momote** – MyMobileWorkers' field service management software allows managers to enforce and track jobs, simplifying processes for mobile workforce and clients.

Sector: Digital

Employee size band: Small 10-49

Incorporation date: 2002

<https://www.mymobileworkers.com/>

# High growth companies

SKY MEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGY

**Sky Medical Technology** develops bioelectronic devices integrated with OnPulse neuromodulation technology to prevent and treat a wide range of acute and chronic circulatory conditions.

Stage of evolution: Established  
Number of employees: 25-49  
<https://skymedtech.com/>

BRADBURY  TRACKS

**Bradbury Tracks** manufactures bespoke curtain rails, blinds, and other similar window furnishings.

Stage of evolution: Established  
Number of employees: 10-24  
<https://www.bradburytracks.co.uk/>

 peyk

**Peyk** provides on-demand collection and delivery services for consumers and businesses.

Stage of evolution: Venture  
Number of employees: 25-49  
<https://peyk.uk/>

# Business Parks

## Peregrine Business Park

Units: 6 office  
Floorspace: 51,711 SF  
Floorspace occupied: 74%  
Types of businesses: Manufacturing, Wholesale & Retail, Telecommunications, Recruitment, Training Consultant

## Wye Industrial Estate

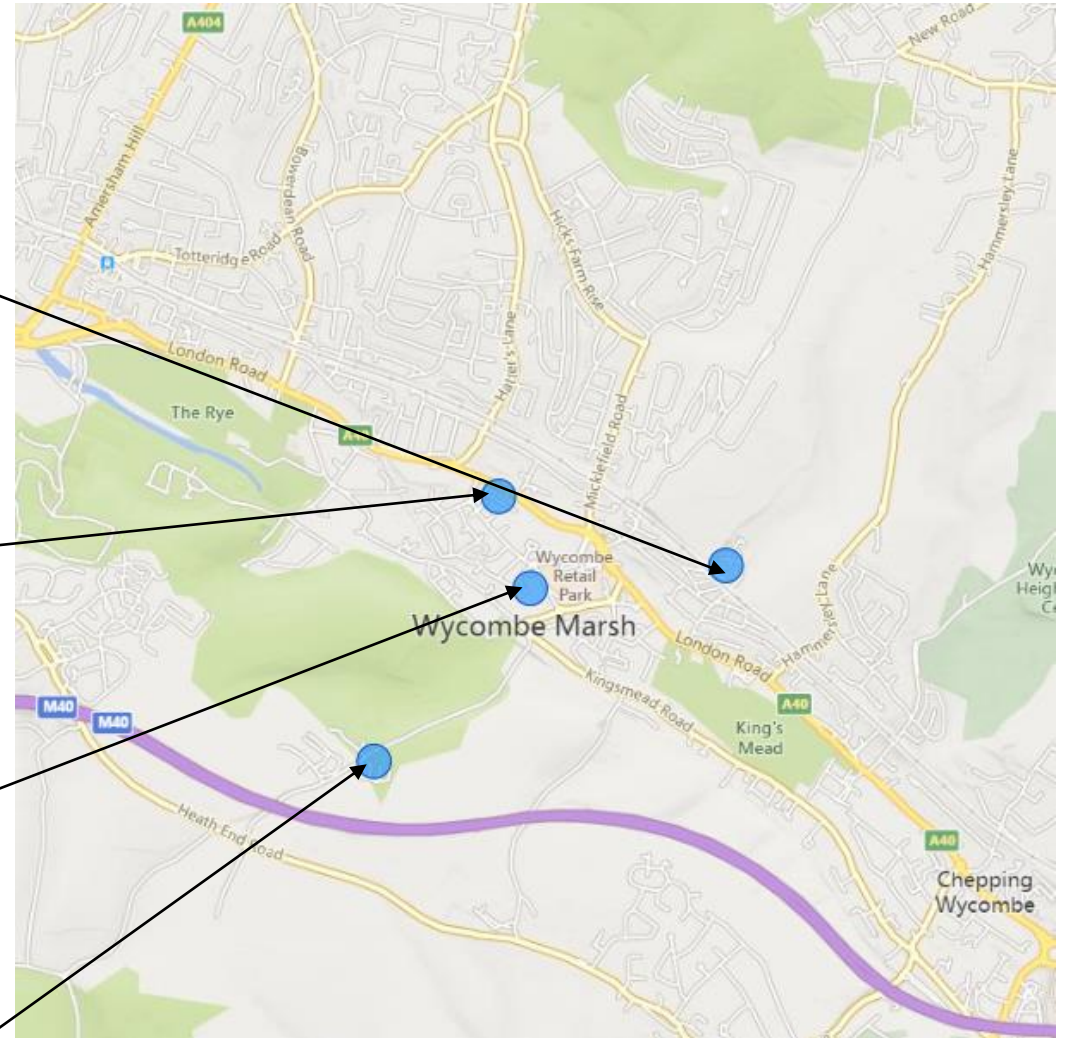
Units: 5 industrial  
Floorspace: 11,766 SF  
Floorspace occupied: 84%  
Types of businesses: Wholesale, Manufacturing

## High Wycombe Business Park

Units: 3 industrial  
Floorspace: 11,629 SF  
Floorspace occupied: 70%  
Types of businesses: Professional, scientific & technical

## Abbey Barn Business Centre

Units: 2 office  
Floorspace: 7,014 SF  
Floorspace occupied: 100%  
Types of businesses: Manufacturing, Professional, scientific & technical



# Glossary



**Unpaid care** - An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long-term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. This help can be within or outside of the carer's household.

**Claimants** - People claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit who are out of work.

**Economically active** - those in employment plus those that are unemployed. Those that are unemployed are deemed economically active as they are seeking work and willing and able to accept a job.

**Economically inactive** - not in employment, and have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks.

**Semi-skilled and blue-collar occupations** - production and maintenance roles.

**High growth companies** – has met one of Beahurst's tracking triggers including:

- secured equity investment;
- secured venture debt;
- underwent a management buyout or buy-in;
- attended a selected accelerator programme;
- has been or is a scale-up;
- spun out of an academic institution;
- was featured in a selected high-growth list;
- accepted a large innovation grant.

# Economic Activity

People aged 16 years and over are **economically active** if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they were:

- In employment (an employee or self-employed)
- Unemployed, but looking for work and could start within two weeks
- Unemployed, but waiting to start a job that had been offered and accepted

It is a measure of whether or not a person was an active participant in the labour market during this period.

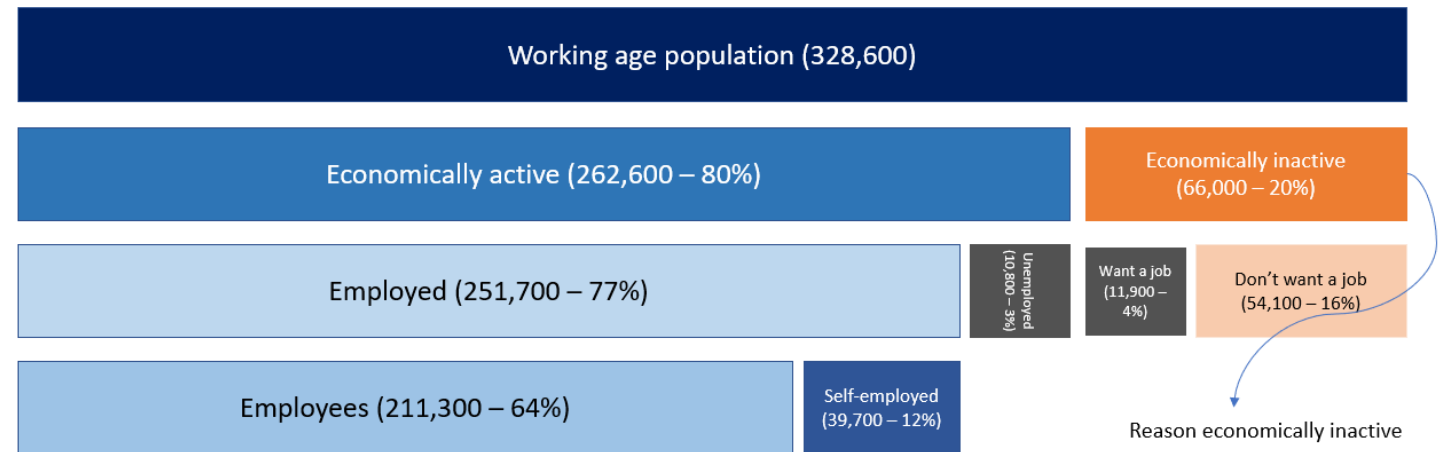
People aged 16 years and over are **economically inactive** if, between 15 March and 21 March 2021, they:

- Did not have a job between 15 March to 21 March 2021 and had not looked for work between 22 February to 21 March 2021

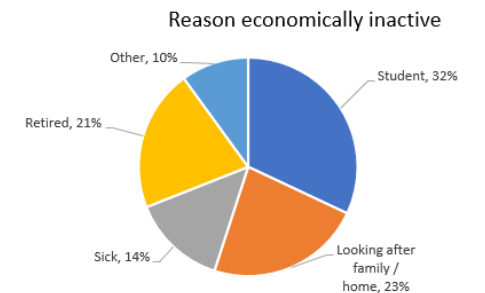
Or...

- Could not start work within two weeks.

A person might be economically inactive for a number of reasons, including being retired, being a student, looking after family/home or being too ill to work.



Source: Annual Population Survey, 12 months to June 2021, ONS



Please note: This diagram is for illustrative purposes.