

Economic Ward Profile

Ryemead & Micklegate

About this profile

Buckinghamshire LEP have produced a set of economic profiles for the 10 wards of Buckinghamshire where people are experiencing the most hardship to inform the work of the [Opportunity Bucks programme](#). The 10 wards are:

Town	Ward
Aylesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aylesbury North• Aylesbury North-West• Aylesbury South-West
Chesham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chesham
High Wycombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbey• Booker, Cressex & Castlefield• Ryemead & Mickelfield• Terriers & Amersham Hill• Totteridge & Bowerdean• West Wycombe

This profile is for the **Ryemead & Mickelfield** ward in High Wycombe.

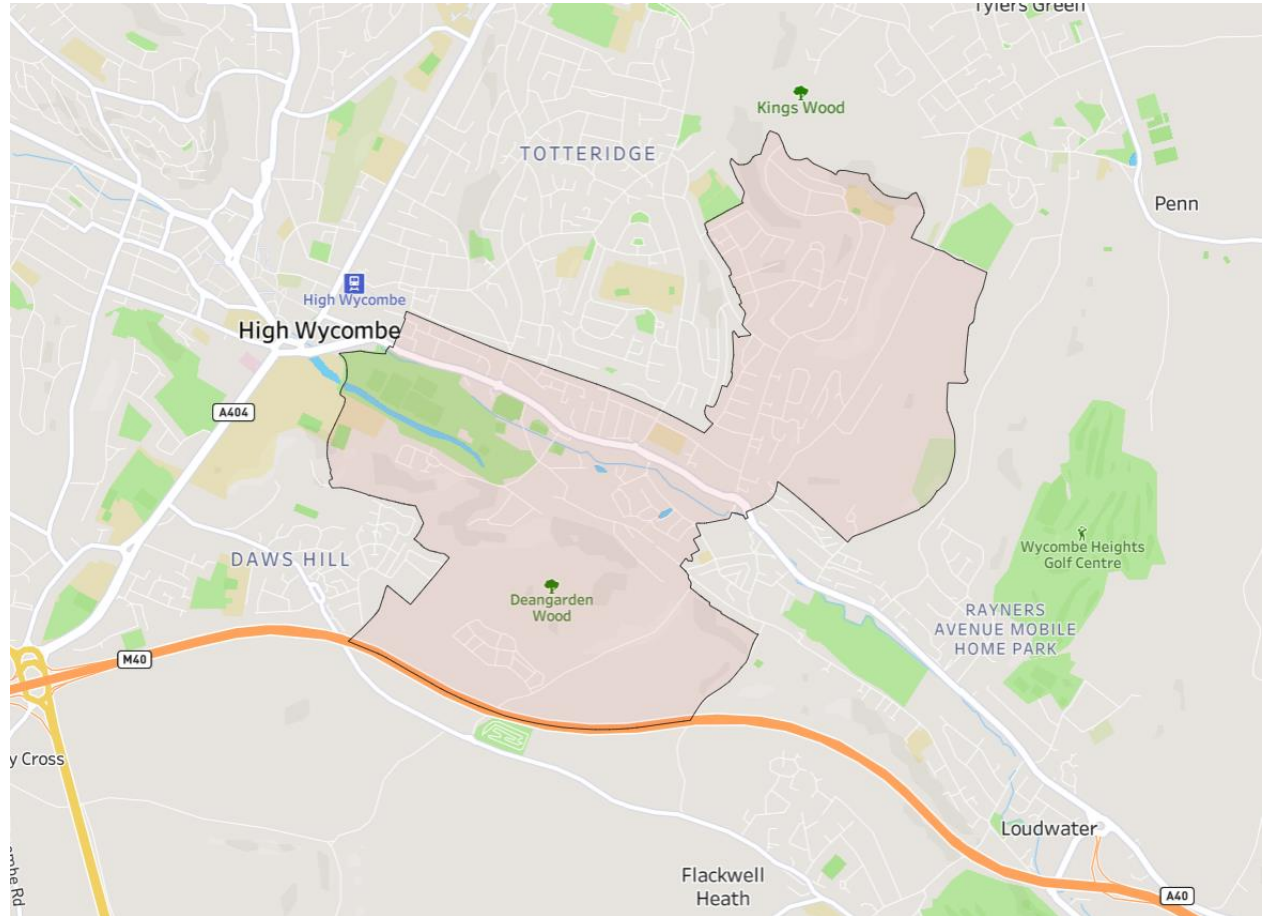
It sets out:

- An overview of the local economy (businesses, employment hotspots, high growth firms, business parks)
- A profile of residents (demographics, labour market status)
- Potential barriers to employment (health, transport, caring responsibilities, English language proficiency, qualifications)

The majority of data presented within this profile is from the 2021 Census (ONS). Other data sources used are: childcare provider data (Ofsted); claimant count (DWP); business data (Companies House); data on high growth firms (Beauhurst); the Business Register and Employment Survey (ONS) and property data (CoStar).

Maps showing the location of each ward can be found [here](#).

Ryemead & Mickelfield ward is located in High Wycombe, to the south-east of the town centre.



Click [here](#) for interactive map

Fast facts

11,500 residents

7,600 residents of working age (16-64)

5.3% unemployment rate (March 2021)

315 people claiming unemployment-related benefits (the Claimant Count)¹ (April 2023)

1,100 economically inactive residents of working age (excluding students)

4,700 households

700 active companies²

4 business parks³

2 high growth / high growth potential companies⁴

All data from Census 2021, ONS, unless otherwise stated

¹ DWP, via NOMIS

² Companies House

³ Bucks LEP

⁴Beauhurst

Key statistics

	Ryemead & Micklefield	Buckinghamshire	England	Ward v Bucks average	Rank (of all 49 Buckinghamshire wards)
Employment rate (<i>no. of working-age residents in employment / no. of working age residents – excluding students</i>)	80%	81%	77%	-1 percentage point	37 th
Unemployment rate (<i>no. of working-age residents who are unemployed / no. of working age residents who are economically active – i.e. employed or unemployed</i>)	5.3%	4.4%	5.8%	+0.9 percentage points	7 th
Claimant count rate ¹ (<i>no. of claimants / working age population</i>)	4.4%	2.6%	3.8%	+1.8 percentage points	4 th
% of working age never worked or long-term unemployed	6%	5%	7%	+1 percentage points	10 th
% of working age employed in routine occupations	9%	8%	11%	+1 percentage points	8 th
% of working age with below Level 2 qualifications	21%	18%	22%	+3 percentage points	9 th
% not in good health	13%	11%	15%	+2 percentage points	7 th
Under 5s per childcare place ²	14	3		+11	

All data from Census 2021, ONS, unless otherwise stated

¹ DWP, via NOMIS

² Ofsted

What the data tells us

The ward is mainly residential but has some **employment sites including four business parks and retail units** (mainly occupied by national chains) **located along the A40**

The ward has a mixed economy, with a **few medium-to-large** employers.

The ward is home to a **younger** and more **ethnically diverse** population than the Buckinghamshire average.

Working-age residents of the ward (excluding full-time students) are **slightly less likely to be in employment** and **slightly more likely to be unemployed** than the county average.

Of those who are economically inactive, a **greater proportion are 'looking after home or family'** than the county or national average.

It is estimated that there is **less childcare provision** within the Ryemead & Micklefield ward than the county average.

Residents of the ward are **more likely to be unemployed** and are **more likely to be claiming unemployment-related benefits** than the county average.

Residents more likely to be unemployed include: **men**; those with **lower-level qualifications**; and those from **Black or Minority Ethnic** backgrounds.

A **higher proportion** of Ryemead & Micklefield households **do not have access to a car or van** than the Buckinghamshire average. And a higher proportion travel between 2 and 5km to work.

Issues for exploration



- Improving connections between local employers and the resident population. Working with employers to understand their recruitment challenges and providing support to help them develop more flexible recruitment approaches to attract and develop pathways into work for lower skilled residents.
- Maximising occupancy of local business parks to provide more jobs within walking distance for residents, given lower than average levels of access to a car or van and lower than average proportion of residents travelling less than 2km to work.
- Expansion of local business parks to provide more jobs within walking distance for residents, for the reasons outlined above.
- Increasing childcare provision within the ward to make it easier for parents to work, given that higher proportions of economically inactive residents of working-age are 'looking after home/family' and indications are that childcare provision is relatively scarce.
- Understanding the extent to which bus services are connecting residents to key existing and future employment sites, to ensure routes / timetables are maintained, or are improved.
- Targeting of tailored interventions for who are unemployed or economically inactive but would like a job but face specific or multiple barriers.

Section 1: The Local Economy

Local economic content

Buckinghamshire current economic performance is on par with the national average, both in terms of economic output (GVA) per head of population and productivity (GVA per hours worked in the local economy).

However, the local economy experienced slower-than-average growth over the last two decades and has been more susceptible to adverse economic events (i.e. the great financial crisis of 2008 and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21). Economic growth is important because a growing economy can help facilitate improvements in the economic position of families and individuals, particularly those on low-to-middle incomes.

As is the case nationally, the Buckinghamshire economy is dominated by the service sector, and by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). However, Buckinghamshire's SMEs play a more important role in the local economy than nationally, generating 57% of all jobs (compared with 44% nationally).

Buckinghamshire has higher levels of self-employment than the national average, although the number of residents classified as self-employed has dropped in recent years.

For more information about the Buckinghamshire economy, please visit the Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory website –

www.buckseconomy.co.uk

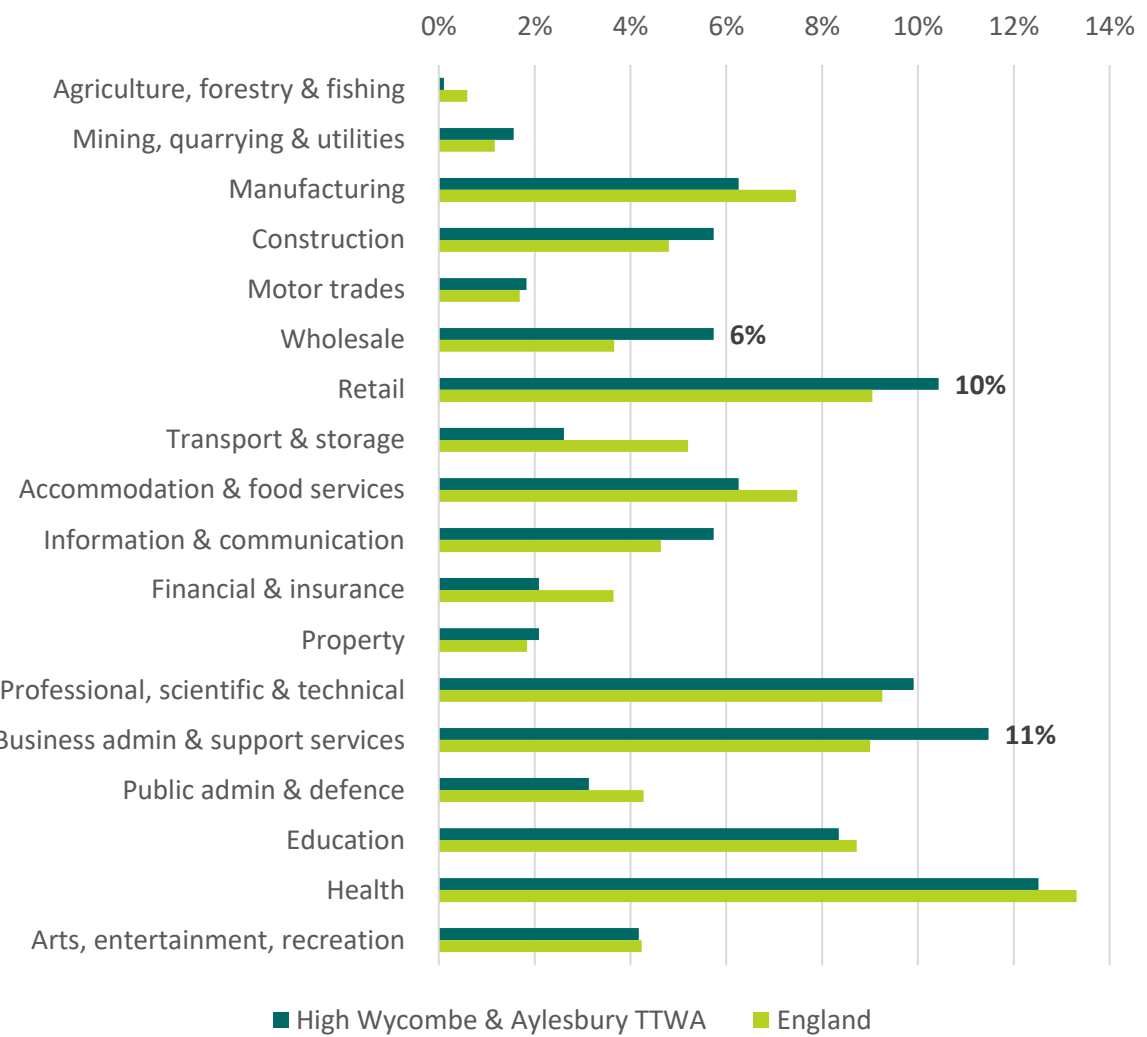
Structure of the local economy

Ryemead & Micklefield is situated within the [High Wycombe & Aylesbury](#) travel to work area (TTWA)¹. This area roughly covers the southern two-thirds of the county of Buckinghamshire.

The health, business admin & support, retail and professional, scientific & technical sectors provide the greatest number of jobs in the High Wycombe & Aylesbury TTWA. The latter three being more significant providers of jobs locally than nationally. Whilst employing fewer people, the wholesale, construction and information & communication sectors are also more significant locally than nationally. The latter includes the film and TV industry, a significant and growing sector with a nucleus at Pinewood Studios. Outside of the county, significant employment areas within commuting distance include London, Slough and Heathrow Airport.

Employment hotspots are shown on the maps on the two following slides.

The health, business admin & support, retail and professional, scientific & technical sectors provide the greatest number of jobs in the High Wycombe & Aylesbury area. The latter three being more significant providers of jobs locally than nationally.



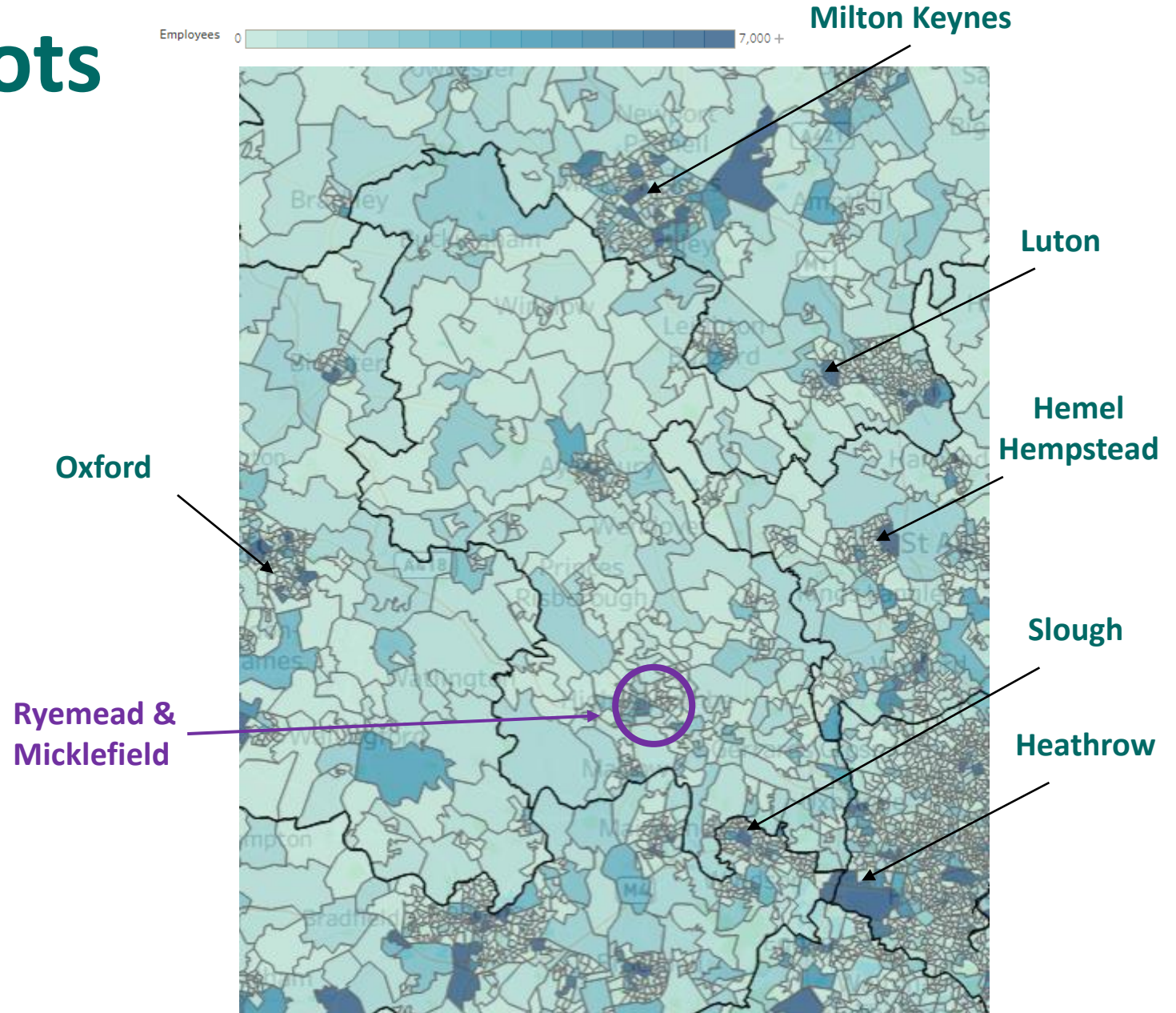
Source: BRES 2021, ONS

¹A travel to work area is a collection of wards for which "of the resident east 75% actually work in the area, and also, that of everyone working in the area, at least 75% actually live in the area".

Employment Hotspots

Wider area

Areas within commutable distance of Ryemead & Micklefield where high numbers of jobs are located include: London, Slough, Heathrow and Hemel Hempstead.



Click [here](#) for an interactive map

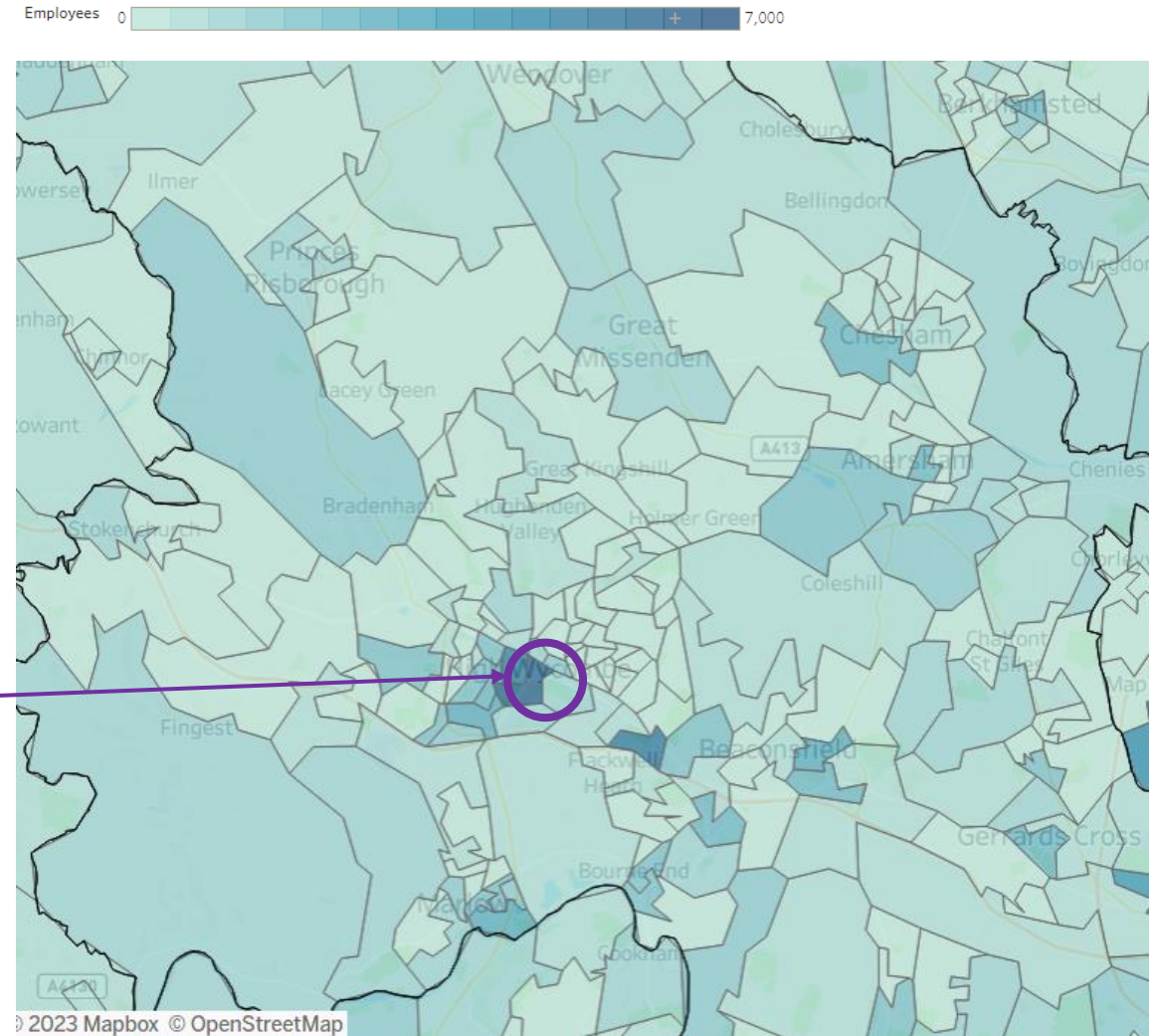
Source: BRES 2021, ONS

Employment Hotspots

Local area

More local areas with high concentrations of jobs are highlighted in the darker colours on this map. They include: central High Wycombe, the Cressex Business Park, Loudwater, Marlow, Chesham, Amersham and Beaconsfield.

Ryemead & Micklefield



Click [here](#) for an interactive map

Source: BRES 2021, ONS

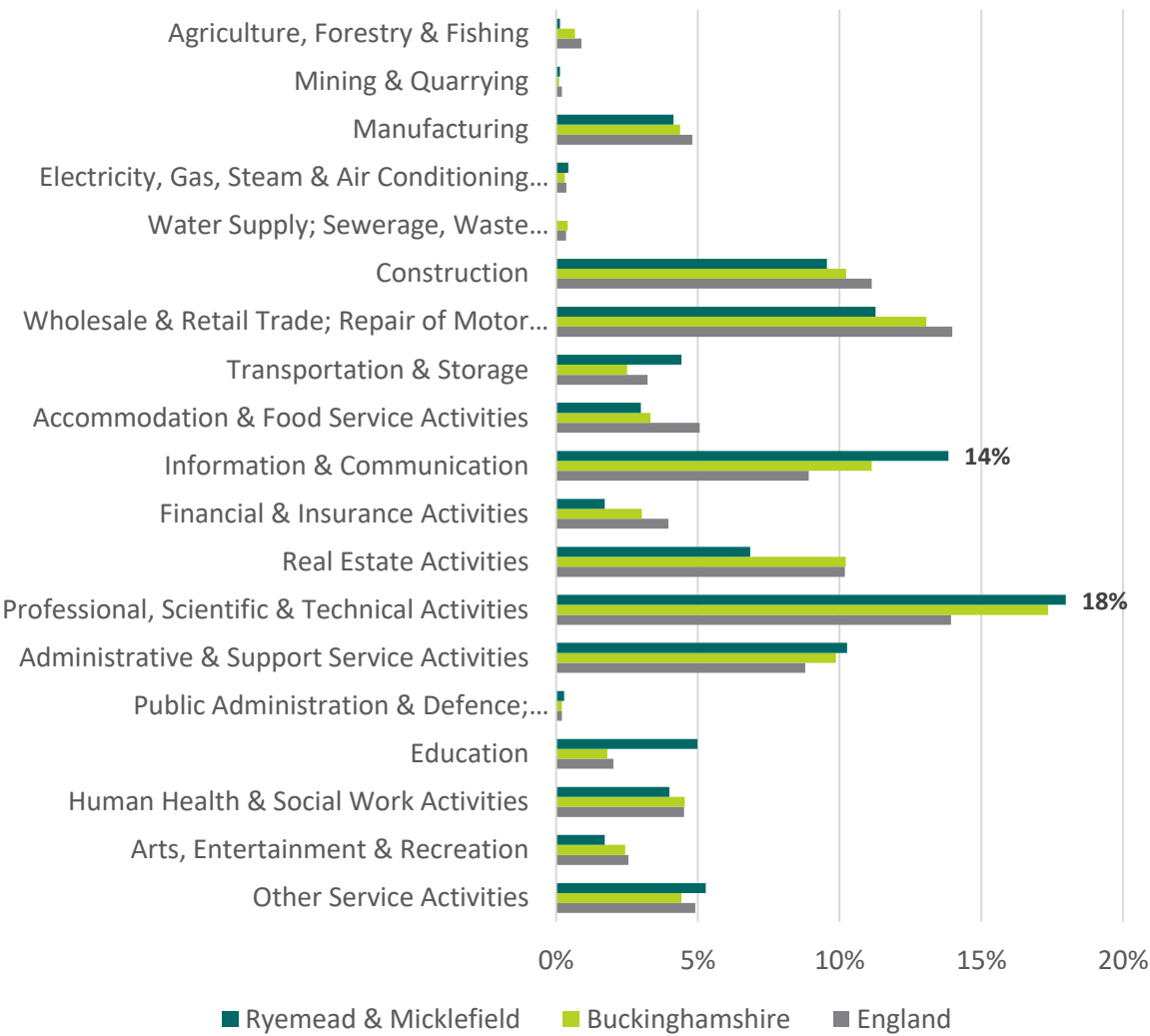
Businesses

In May 2023, approximately **700 active businesses** registered with Companies House¹ had their head office in the Ryemead & Micklefield ward. Many will not have employees.

The largest proportion of businesses located within the ward were in the ‘professional, scientific & technical’ sector (18%), higher than both the Buckinghamshire (17%) and national (14%) averages. The second highest proportion were in the ‘information & communication’ sector (14%), higher than the Buckinghamshire (11%) and national (9%) averages.

The ward has fewer businesses in the wholesale & retail and retail sectors than the county average, but more operating in the education and transport & storage sectors.

As with Buckinghamshire as a whole, the highest proportion of businesses in Ryemead & Micklefield are in the ‘professional, scientific & technical’ sector.



¹ Companies House data has been used to estimate the number of businesses at ward level, as other sources (such as ONS’s Inter-Departmental Business Register) do not provide data for 2022 ward geographies at present. Limitations of Companies House data can be found within the Appendix.

Large employers

- There are four business parks within the ward (see slide 17).
- Some of the wards larger employers are listed below:
 - NHS (adult mental health services)
 - Tesco
 - Lidl
 - Optima
 - Tetra Pak
 - TVF Ltd
 - OAG
 - Asolvi
 - Star Micronics
 - Ryevie Manor Care Home
- Profiles of a selection of businesses situated within the ward are provided on the following slides.

Business profiles



Optima Contracting – leading international glass partitioning manufacturer providing glass partitions and doors.

Sector: Construction

Employee size band: Large 250+

<http://optimasystems.com/>



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

Sector: Construction

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

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



Asolvi UK – Development and sale of computer software products.

Sector: Information Technology

Employee size band: Medium 50-249

<http://asolvi.com/>



The Chalfonts Independent Grammar School

Sector: Secondary Education

Employee size band: Small 10-49

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



Star Micronics – manufacturer of point of sale hardware thermal and dot matrix receipt printers, ticket, barcode and label printers for the retail and hospitality industries.

Sector: Manufacturing

Employee size band: Small 10-49



Tetra Pak Processing – suppliers 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

<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

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



Multipond – Sale of machinery principally to the food industry.

Sector: Wholesale

Employee size band: Small 10-49

<http://multipond.com/>

High growth companies

There are **two** high growth / high growth potential companies located within the Ryemead & Micklefield ward

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.

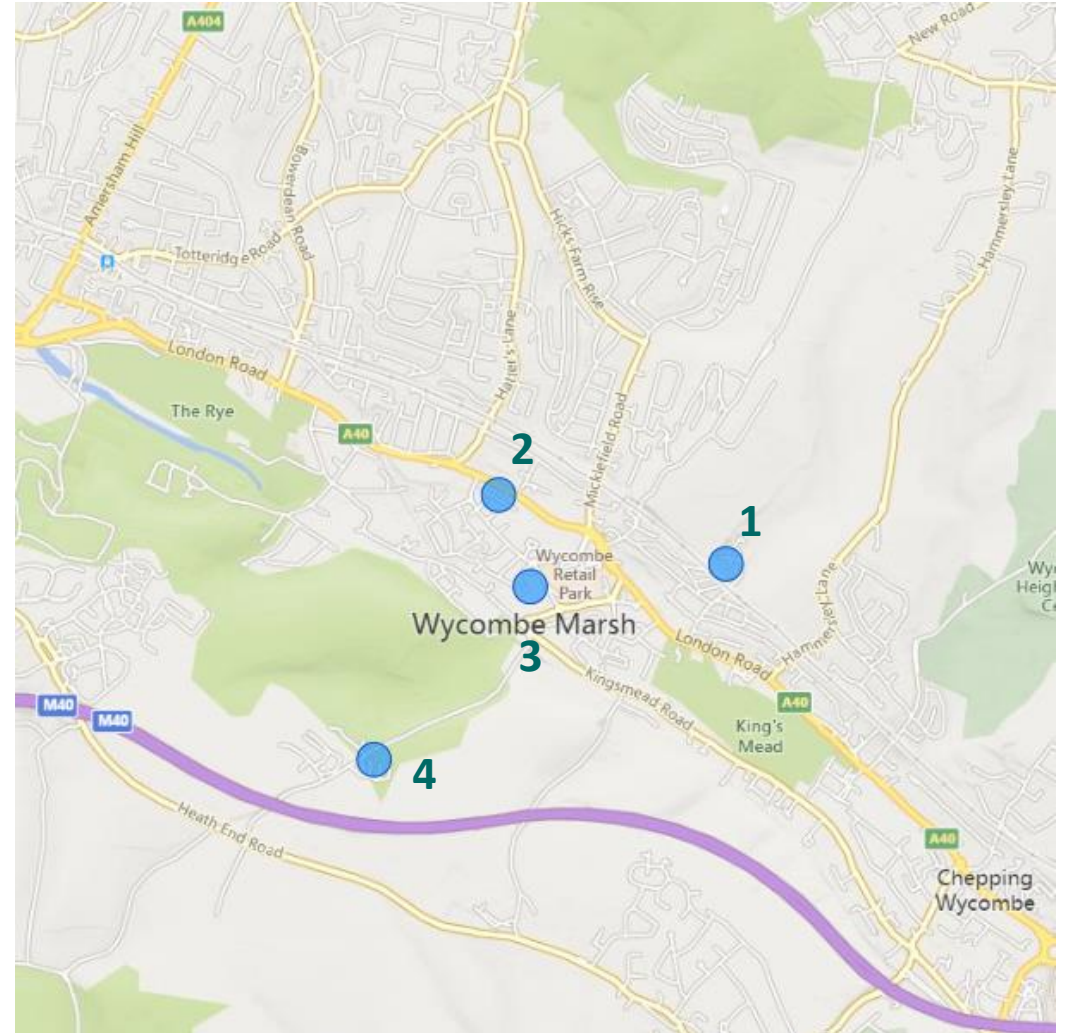
Stage of evolution: Established

Number of employees: 10-24

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

Key employment sites

1. Peregrine Business Park
2. Wye Industrial Estate
3. High Wycombe Business Park
4. Abbey Barn Business Centre



Source: CoStar, 2023

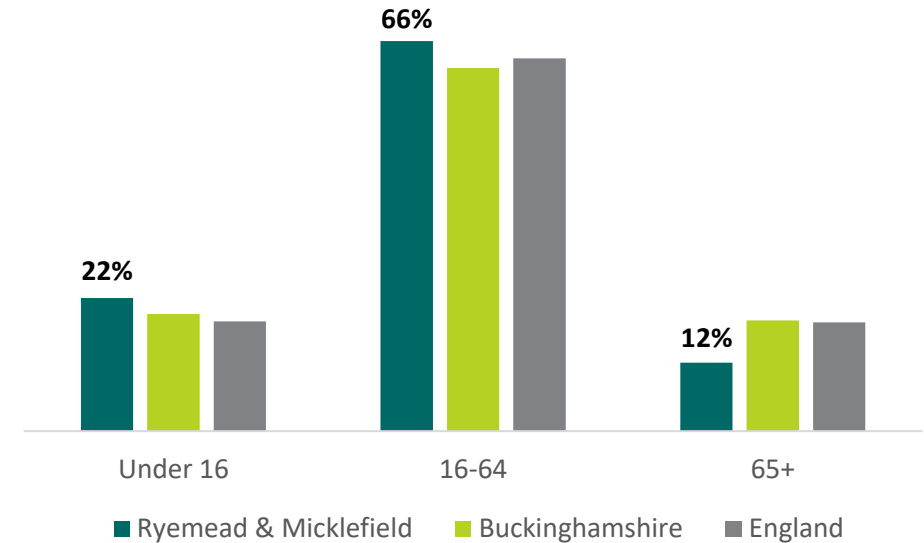
Section 2: Profile of Residents

Age Profile

At the time of the Census (2021), approximately 11,500 people lived in the Ryemead & Micklefield ward, of whom 66% (8,900) were of working age, higher than the Buckinghamshire and national averages of 61% and 63% respectively.

Ryemead & Micklefield also had a higher proportion of under 16s (22%) than the Buckinghamshire (20%) and England (19%) averages, but a lower proportion of people aged 65 and over, (12%) compared with the Buckinghamshire (19%) and national (18%) averages.

A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents are of working age (16-64) than the Buckinghamshire and national averages



Base: 11,500 residents

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

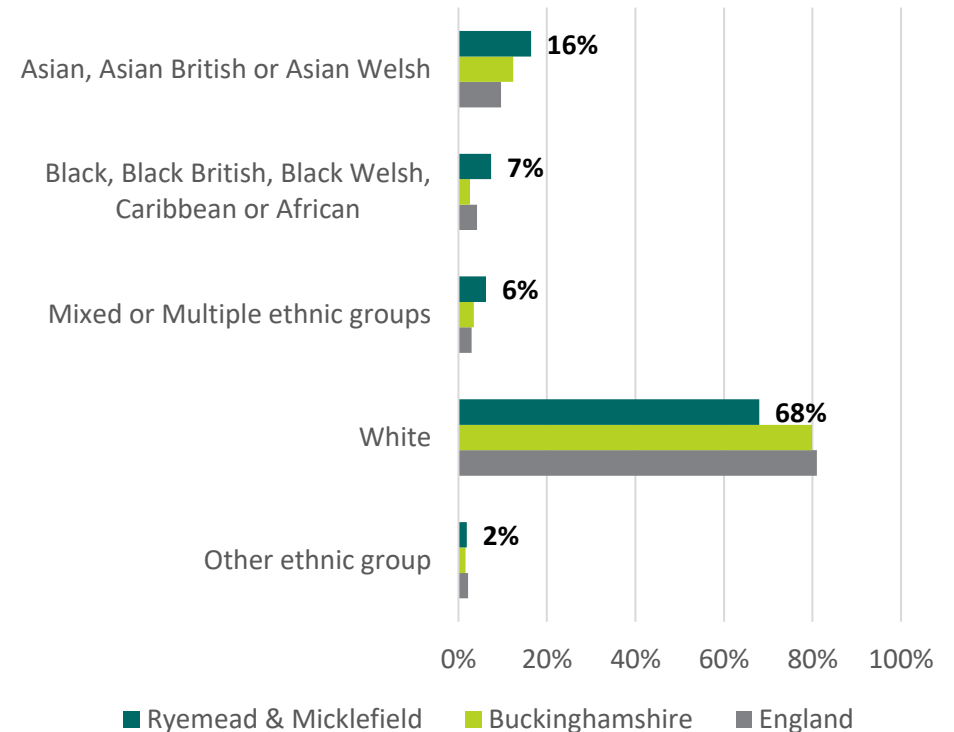
Ethnicity

Ryemead & Micklefield has a **more ethnically diverse population** than Buckinghamshire and England as a whole. In 2021, approximately 32% of residents were of Asian, Black, Mixed or Other ethnicity, higher than the county (20%) and national (19%) averages.

16% of Ryemead & Micklefield residents identified themselves as being Asian, 7% as Black and 6% as Mixed.

Conversely, a smaller proportion of residents (68%) in Ryemead & Micklefield identified themselves as being of White ethnicity 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



Base: 11,500 residents

Note: This data based on individual's perceived ethnic group and cultural background.

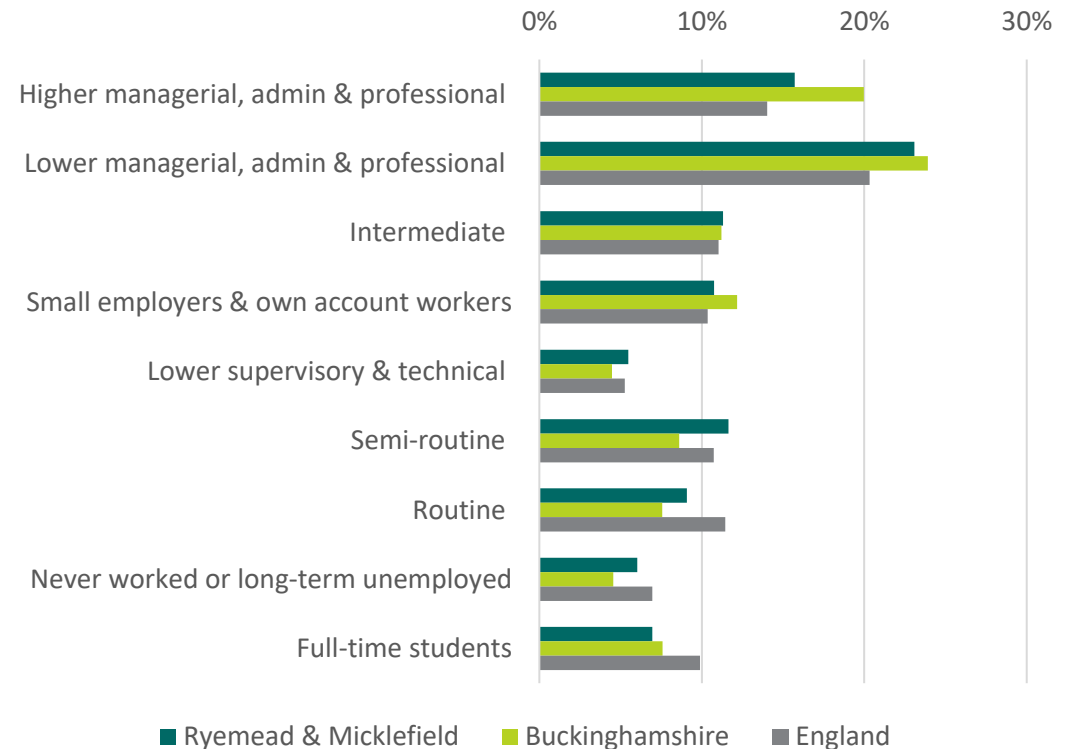
[Source: Census, 2021, ONS](#)

Socio-economic classification

The social-economic classification profile of Ryemead and Micklefield residents is broadly similar to the national profile.

When compared with Buckinghamshire as a whole, a higher proportion of the ward's residents usually work in semi-routine or routine occupations than the county average, and fewer in higher managerial, admin or professional roles. A slightly higher proportion have never worked or are long-term unemployed than the county average. Although the figure is slightly below the national average.

A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield's working-age population work in semi-routine or routine occupations than the county average, and fewer in higher managerial, admin or professional roles.



Base: 7,600 working-age residents

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

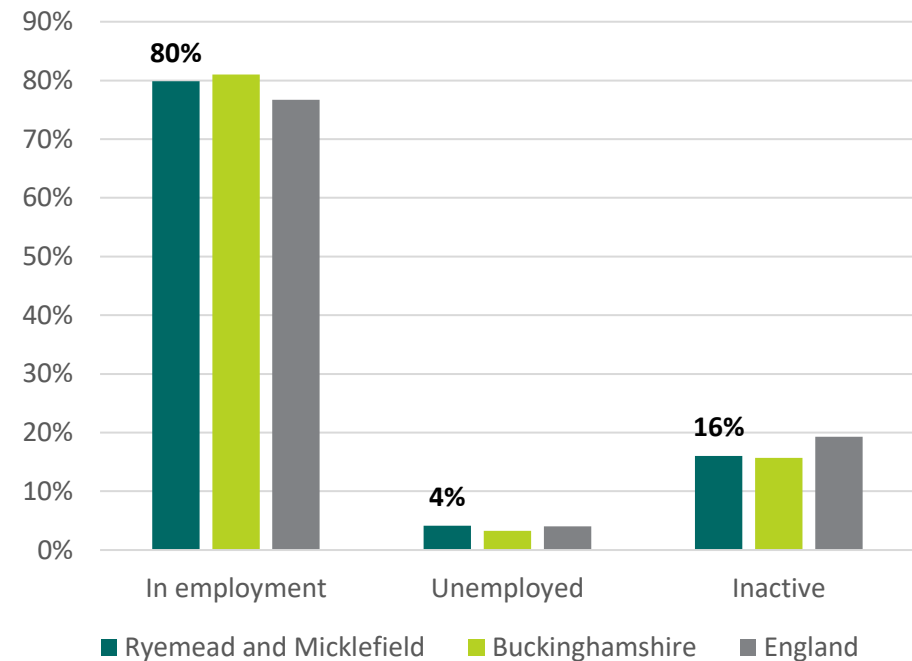
Labour market participation

Ryemead and Micklefield's working-age residents (excluding full-time students) are slightly less likely to be in employment and slightly more likely to be unemployed than the county average. A similar proportion of working-age residents (excluding students) are economically inactive (i.e. not working and not currently seeking work) as the county average.

The unemployment rate at the time of the census (the number of people who are unemployed divided by the number who are economically active (i.e. employed or unemployed) was 5.3%. This is the official way of measuring unemployment. This was higher than the county average (4.4%) and lower than the national average of (5.8%).

This differs from the 'unemployed' percentage figure in the chart to the right which shows the proportion of all working-age residents (excluding students) - whether they are economically active or inactive - who are unemployed.

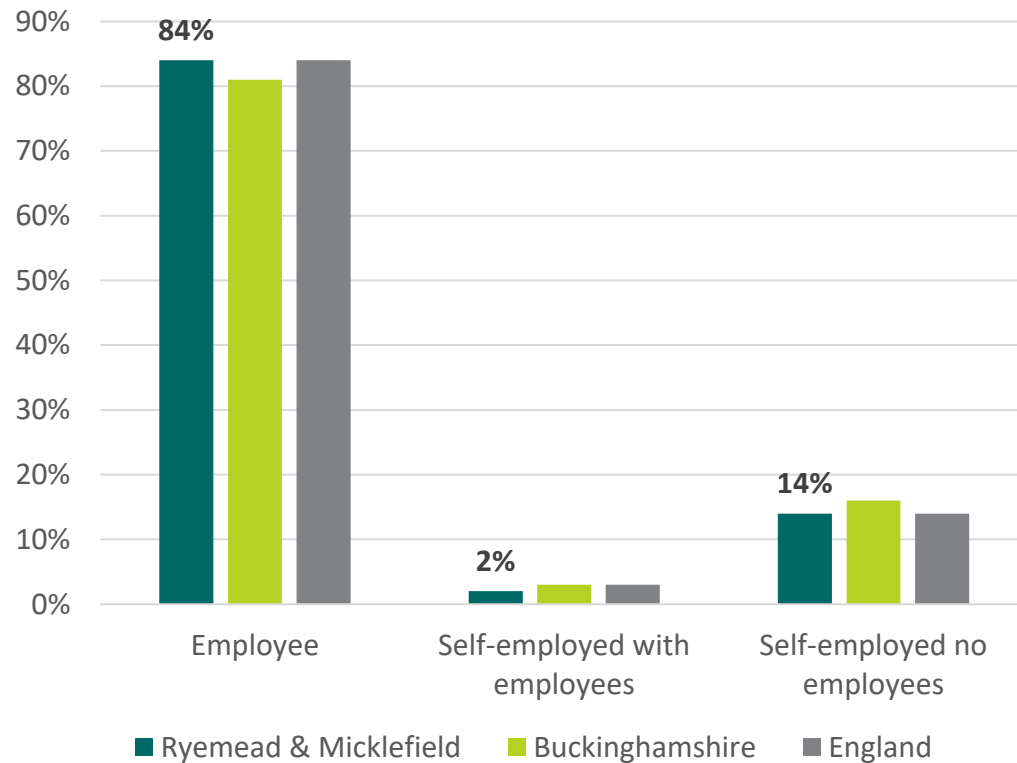
Working-age residents of the ward (excluding full-time students) are slightly less likely to be in employment and slightly more likely to be unemployed than the county average.



Base: 7,000 working-age residents (excluding full-time students)

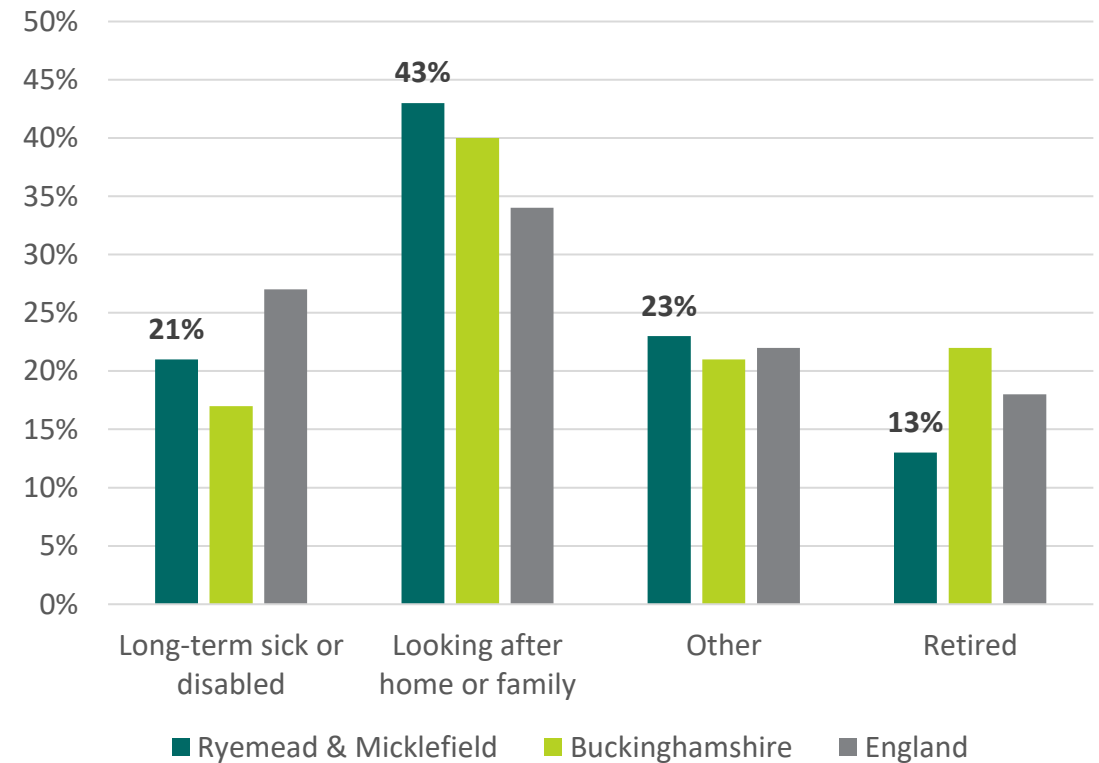
Labour market participation

The vast majority of working-age Ryemead & Micklefield residents (excluding full-time students) who are in employment work as employees. 16% are self-employed, the majority of whom employ no other people.



Base: 5,600 working-age residents (excluding full-time students) who are in employment

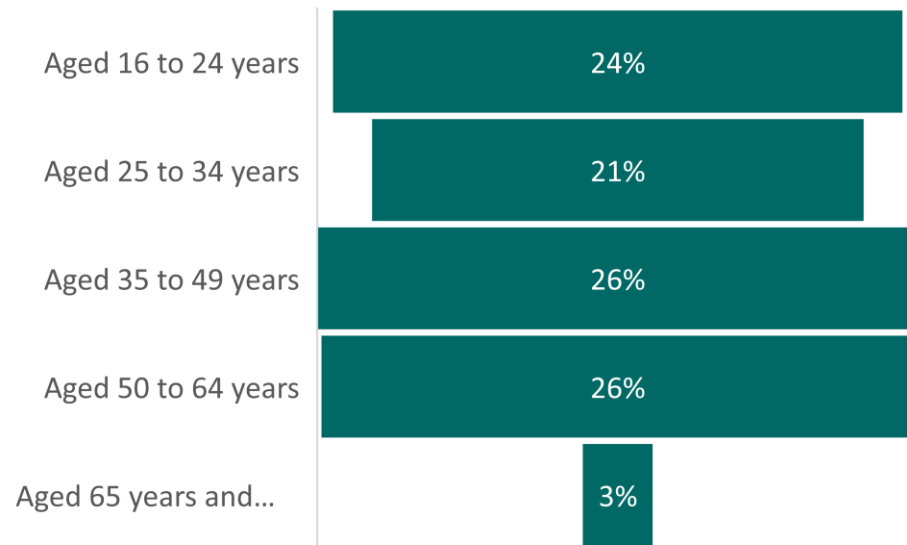
Working-age residents of Ryemead & Micklefield (excluding full-time students) who are economically inactive, are more likely to be 'looking after home or family' than the county and national average. Fewer have taken early retirement.



Base: 1,110 working-age residents (excluding full-time students) who are economically inactive (i.e. not working and not currently seeking work)

Unemployed residents by age and sex

The ward's unemployed residents are fairly evenly distributed across the four main age bands

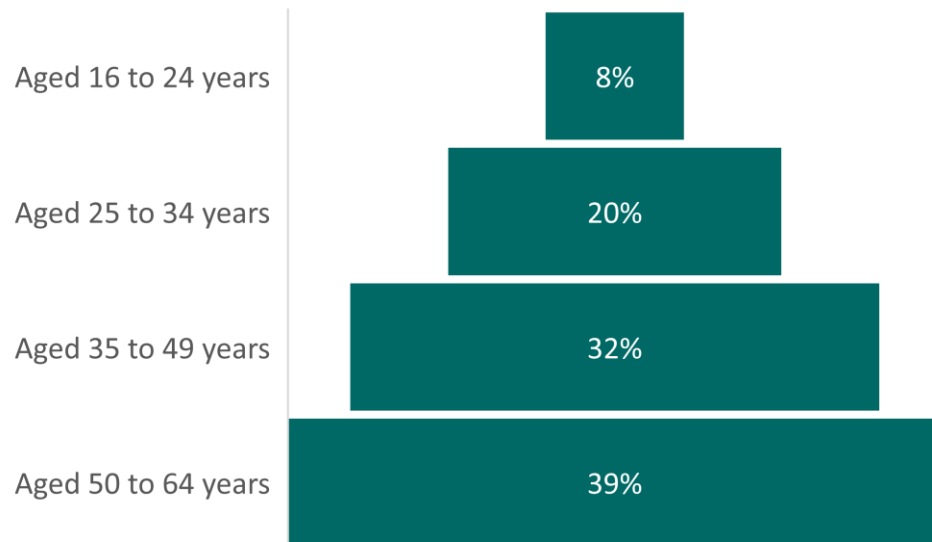


A higher proportion of the ward's unemployed residents are male than female



Economically inactive residents of working age by age and sex

The ward's economically inactive residents of working age tend to be older, with 4 in 10 being over the age of 50. Few are in the 16–24-year-old age bracket



A higher proportion of the ward's economically inactive working age residents are female than male

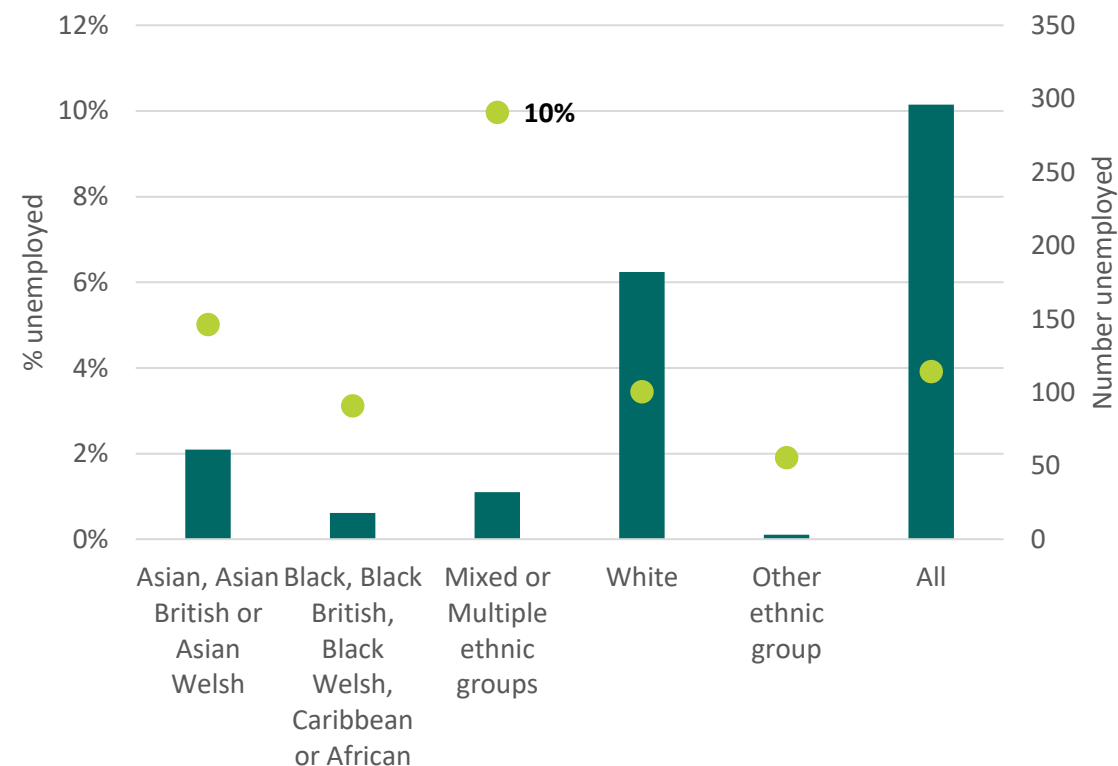


Unemployed residents by ethnicity

Of the 300 residents classified as unemployed at the time of the 2021 Census, the majority (180) were of White ethnicity, followed by those of Asian ethnicity (60).

When comparing the ethnic profile of the ward's unemployed population with the ethnic profile of the population of the ward as a whole, those who identify themselves as having Mixed or multiple ethnicity are more likely to be unemployed than those from other ethnic groups.

Whilst overall numbers are low, residents of working age who identify as Mixed ethnicity or from multiple ethnic groups were most likely to be unemployed at the time of the 2021 Census

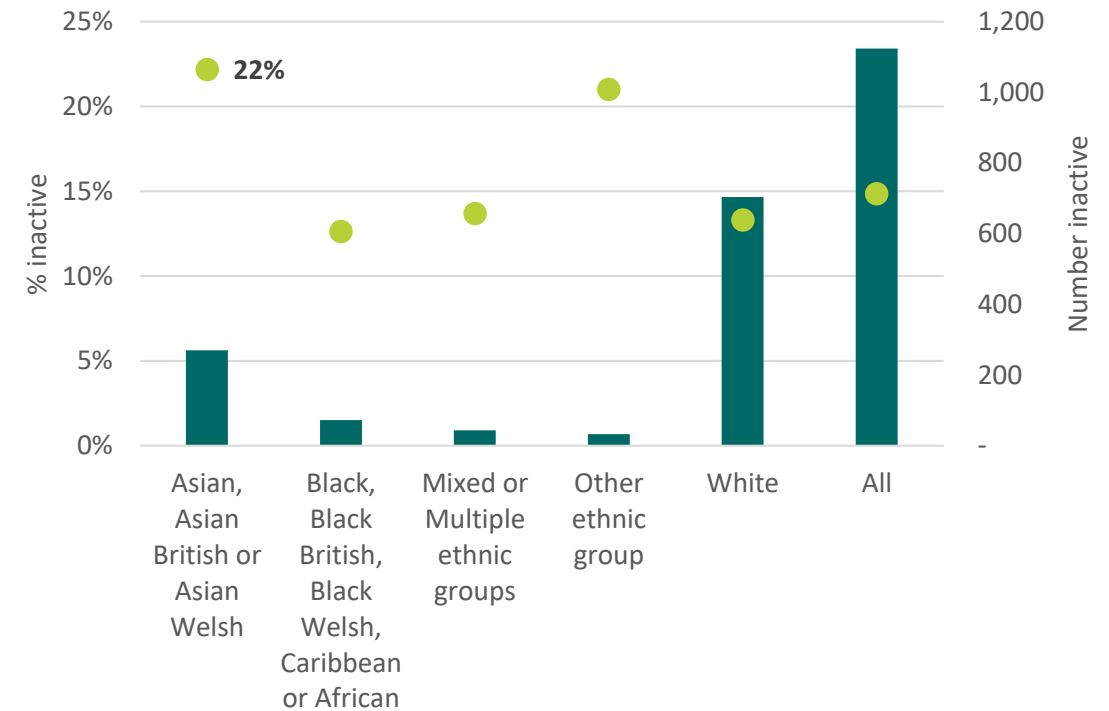


Economically inactive residents by ethnicity

Of the 1,100 working age residents (excluding full-time students) classified as being economically inactive at the time of the 2021 Census, the majority (700) were of White ethnicity.

When comparing the ethnic profile of the ward's economically inactive population with ethnic profile of the population of the ward as a whole, those who identify themselves as having Asian ethnicity are more likely to be economically inactive than those from other ethnic groups.

Residents of working age who identify as Asian ethnicity were most likely to be economically inactive at the time of the 2021 Census

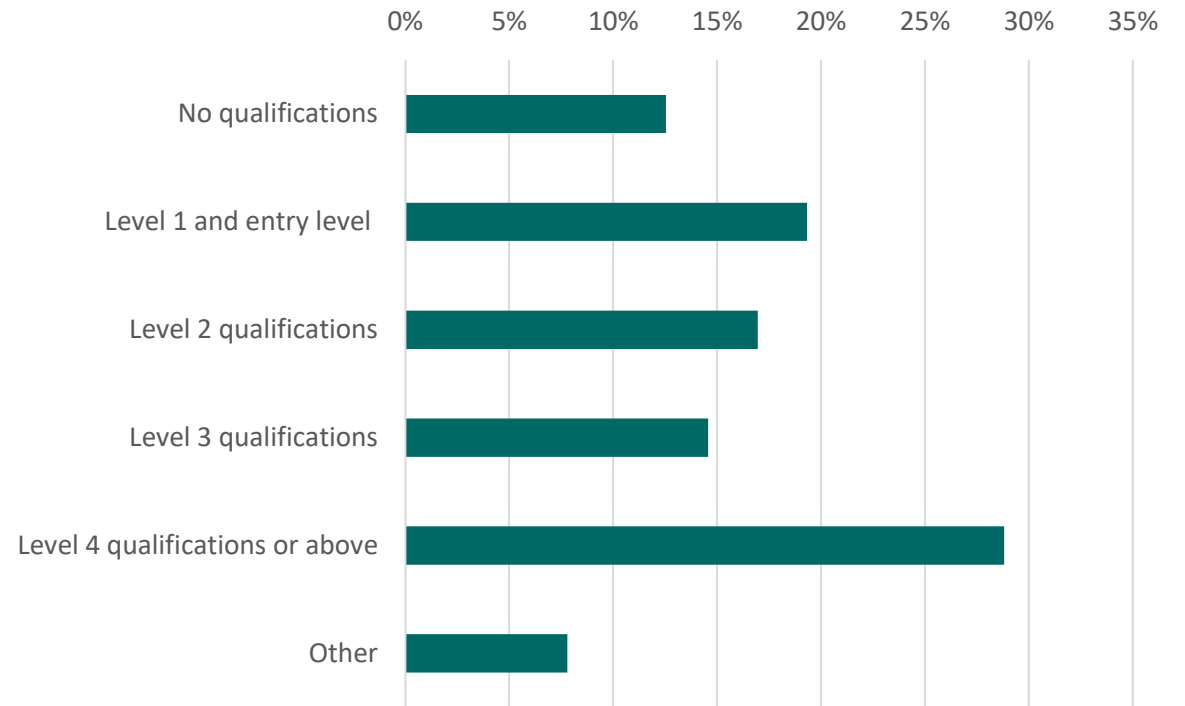


Unemployed residents by highest level of qualification

Over a quarter of Ryemead & Micklefield residents who were unemployed at the time of the 2021 Census had a degree (or higher) level qualification. Approximately a third (32%) had no or level 1 / entry level qualifications.

When compared to the qualification levels held by all working-age residents (slide 46), those who are unemployed are more likely to have lower-level qualifications.

Over a quarter of Ryemead & Micklefield residents who were unemployed at the time of the 2021 Census had a degree (or higher) level qualification. Approximately a third had no or level 1 / entry level qualifications.

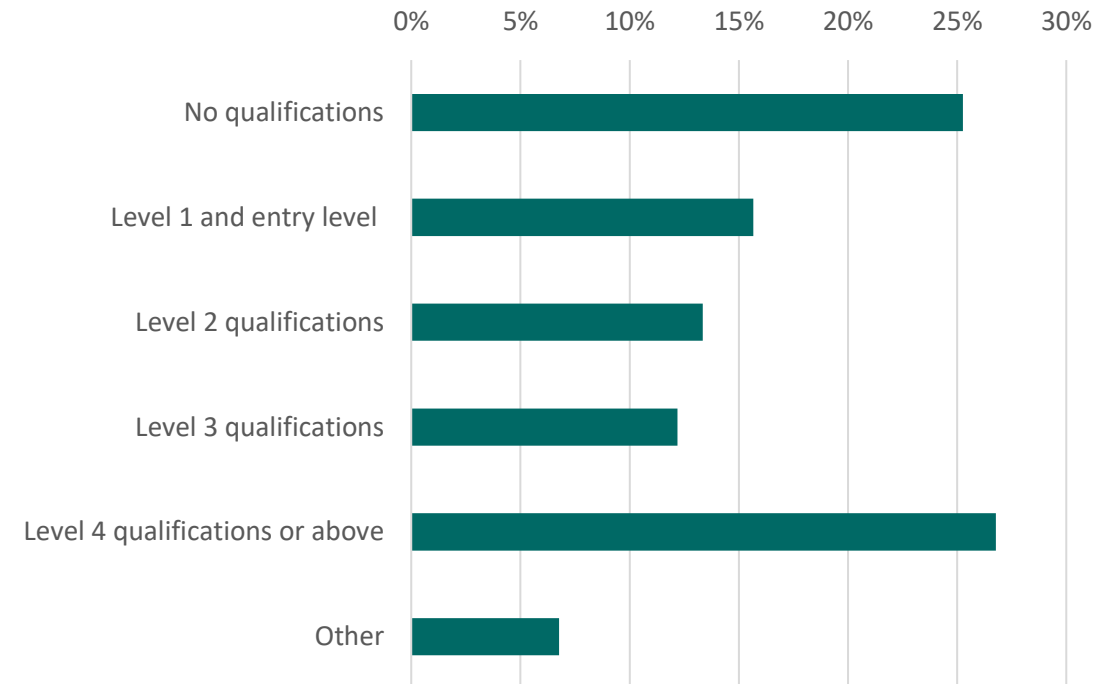


Economically inactive residents by highest level of qualification

A quarter of Ryemead & Micklefield working-age residents who were economically inactive at the time of the 2021 Census have no qualifications. With a further 16% having low level qualifications (level 1 and below).

When compared to the qualification levels held by working-age residents (slide 46), those who are economically inactive are much more likely to have no or lower-level qualifications. They are also much more likely to have no or lower-level qualifications than those who are unemployed.

A quarter of Ryemead & Micklefield working-age residents who were economically inactive at the time of the 2021 Census have no qualifications. With a further 16% having low level qualifications (level 1 and below).



Unemployed residents by socio-economic classification

At the time of the 2021 Census, just over half (53%) of Ryemead & Micklefield's unemployed residents had never worked or were long-term unemployed. This was slightly higher than the county average (48%) and slightly lower than the national average (54%).

17% usually worked in managerial, admin or professional roles and 17% usually worked in semi-routine or routine operations.

Just over half of the ward's unemployed residents are classified as long-term unemployed or have never worked.



Base: 300 unemployed residents (excluding full-time students)

Note, we are unable to replicate this analysis for economically inactive residents of working age.

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

Unemployment-related benefit claimants (the Claimant Count)

In April 2023, **315** Ryemead & Micklefield residents were claiming unemployment-related benefits.

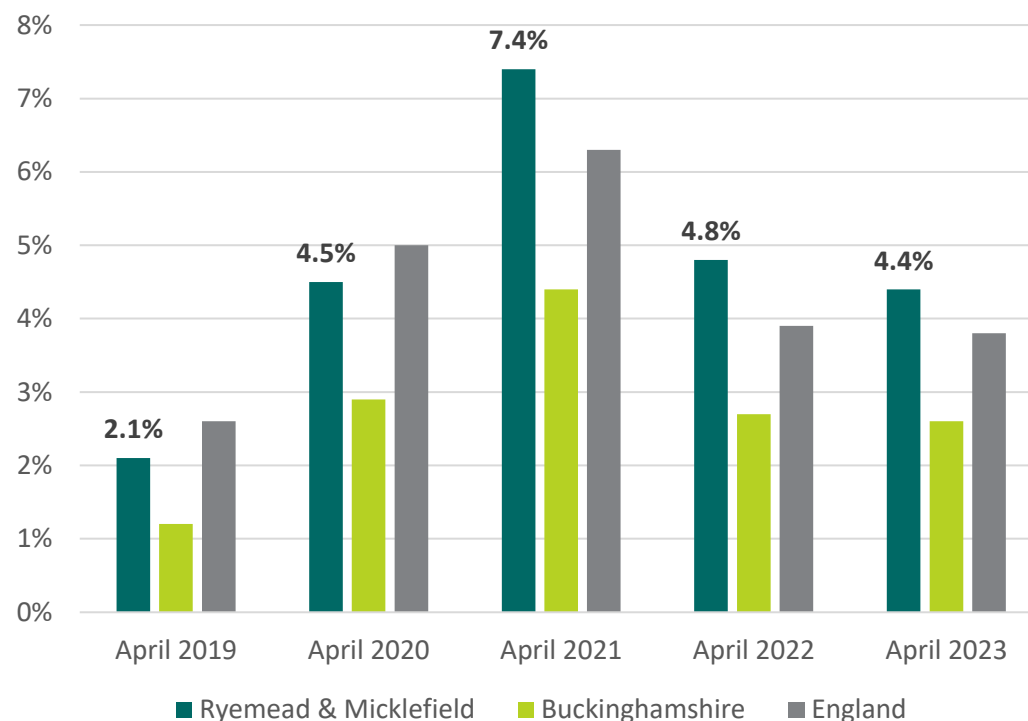
Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the claimant rate¹ for Ryemead & Micklefield was higher than the Buckinghamshire average but below the national average.

Across all three areas, the claimant rate increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between 2019 and 2021, the increase in the claimant rate for Ryemead & Micklefield outpaced the Buckinghamshire and national average.

In April 2021² the claimant count rate in Ryemead & Micklefield was 7.4%, far higher than the Buckinghamshire average (4.4%) and higher than the national average (6.3%).

In April 2023, Ryemead & Micklefield's claimant rate had fallen to 4.4%, but remained higher than the county and national averages and more than twice the pre-pandemic rate.

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



¹ Unemployment-related benefit claimants as a proportion of all residents aged 16-64

² Data is presented for the month of April as this is estimated to be the month least affected by job market seasonality

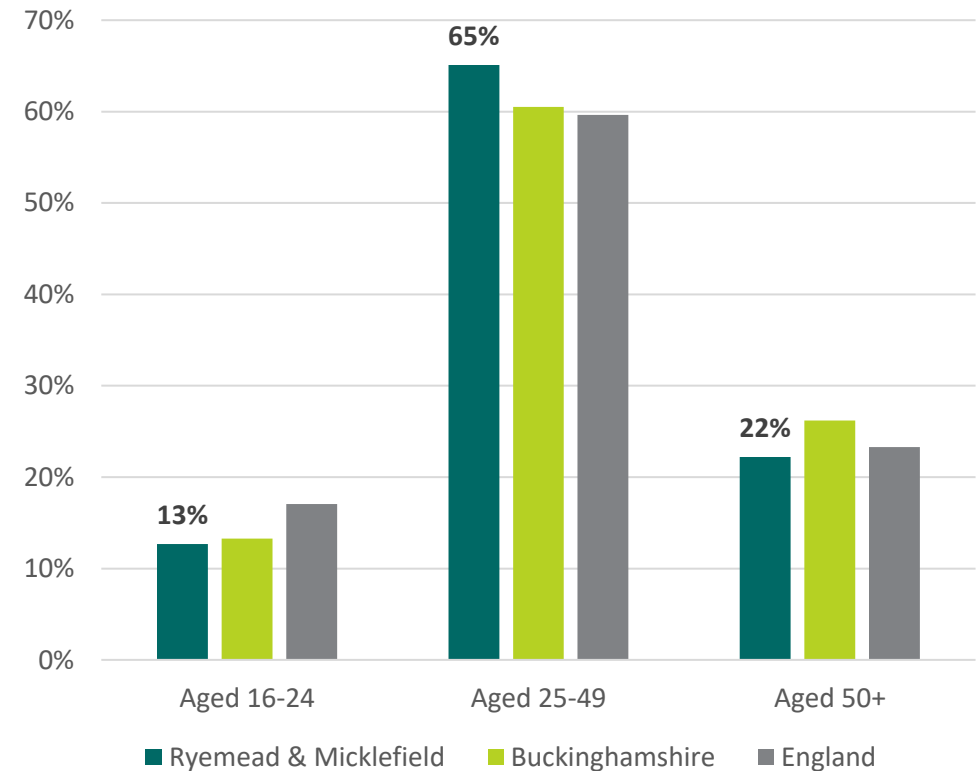
Unemployment-related benefit claimants by age

Claimants from Ryemead & Micklefield are more likely to be aged 25-49 than the county and national average, which is likely to reflect the age profile of the ward.

Of note is the higher proportion of claimants aged 40-44 in Ryemead & Micklefield (16%) compared to the Buckinghamshire (12%) and national average (11%).

The proportion of claimants aged 50+ in Ryemead & Micklefield (22%) is lower than the Buckinghamshire (26%) and national (23%) average.

Claimants from Ryemead & Micklefield are more likely to be aged 25 to 49 than the county and national average.



Base: 315 claimants

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

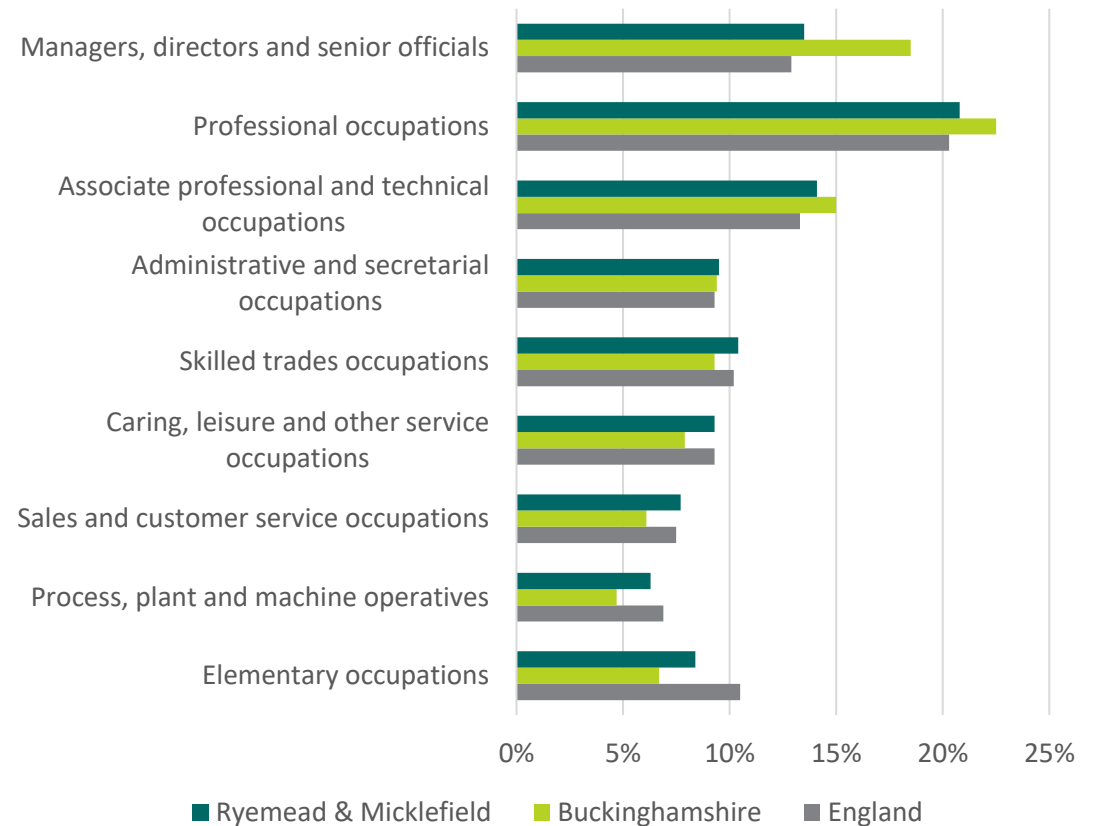
Employment by occupation

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 of residents than the Buckinghamshire average.

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

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 Buckinghamshire average.



Base: 5,900 residents over the age of 16 and in employment

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

Employment by industry

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

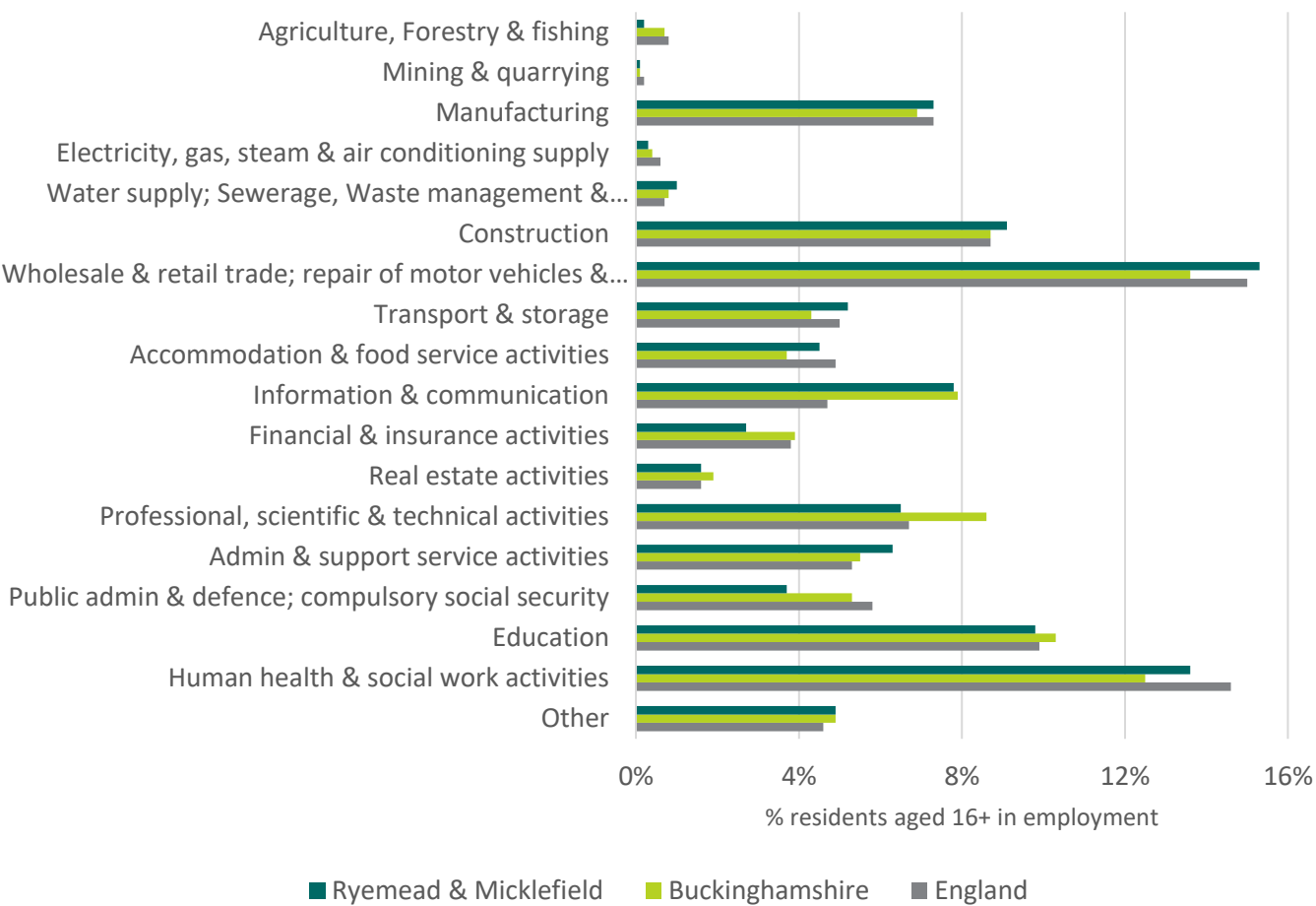
A slightly higher proportion of people in Ryemead & Micklefield (13.6%) work in ‘human health & social work activities’ than in Buckinghamshire (12.5%). However, the proportion was slightly lower than the national average (14.6%).

The proportion of people employed in ‘information & communication’, in both Ryemead & Micklefield (7.8%) and Buckinghamshire (7.9%) is higher 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 much 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 & support services; transport & storage; and accommodation & food industries than the Buckinghamshire average



Base: 5,900 residents over the age of 16 and in employment

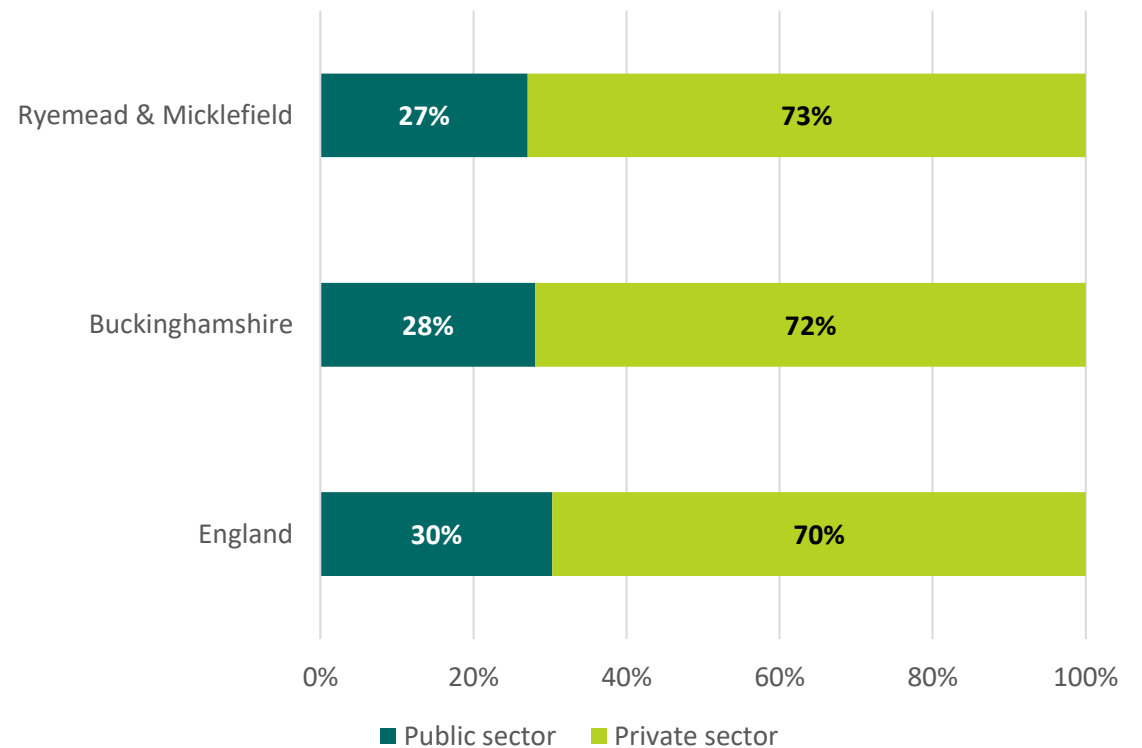
Source: Census, 2021, ONS

Public and private sector employment

As is the case at the county and national level, residents of Ryemead & Micklefield are estimated* to be more likely to be employed in the private sector than in the public sector.

In 2021, 27% of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment were estimated to be working in the public sector. This was slightly lower than the Buckinghamshire (28%) and national (30%) average.

A lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment are estimated to work in the public sector than the Buckinghamshire and national average.



*Data shown are estimates and should be treated with caution. Public sector employment has been calculated using data for the 'public administration and defence; compulsory social security'; 'education'; and 'human health & social work activities' SIC sectors. As these sectors are broad, data will include some private sector employment.

Base: 5,900 residents over the age of 16 and in employment

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

Ryemead & Mickelfield residents employed by Buckinghamshire NHS

In total, approximately 100 residents are employed by Buckinghamshire NHS, a quarter of whom are employed on the lowest pay scale. Just over half of residents working for the NHS are doing so in graduate-level positions.

Band	Ward residents	% of residents working in Bucks NHS	Pay range £s	Educational level requirement
Band 2	24	24%	£22,383	None
Band 3	10	10%	£22,816-£24,336	NVQ L3
Band 4	12	12%	£25,147-£27,596	Foundation degree
Band 5	22	22%	£28,407-£34,581	Graduate
Band 6	13	13%	£35,392-£42,618	Graduate
Band 7 or above	17	17%	Above £43,742	Masters or equivalent
Medical staff	< 10	n/a	£29,384 - £119,133	Post graduate +
Total (excluding medical staff)	98	100%		

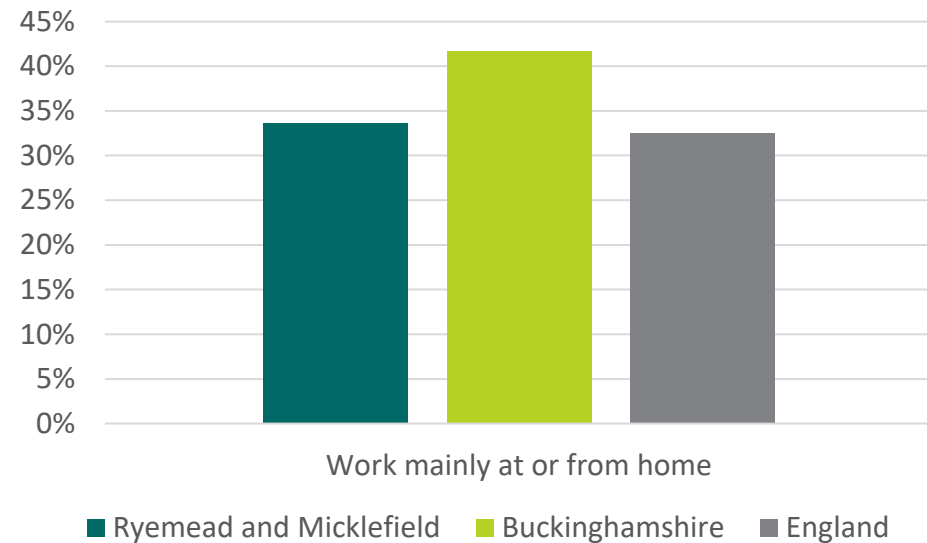
Source: Bucks NHS

Home working

In 2021, 34% of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment worked mainly at or from home. This was a slightly higher proportion than the national average (32%). However, it was lower than the Buckinghamshire average (42%).

Please note that as the 2021 Census took place in March 2021, during a period of rapid change stemming from Covid-19, this data should be treated with caution.

A lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment work 'mainly at or from home' than the Buckinghamshire average.



Base: 5,900 residents over the age of 16 and in employment

Distance travelled to work

In 2021, almost a third (31%) of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over in employment¹ travelled '2 to 5km' to their place of work. This was much higher than the Buckinghamshire (17%) and national (23%) average.

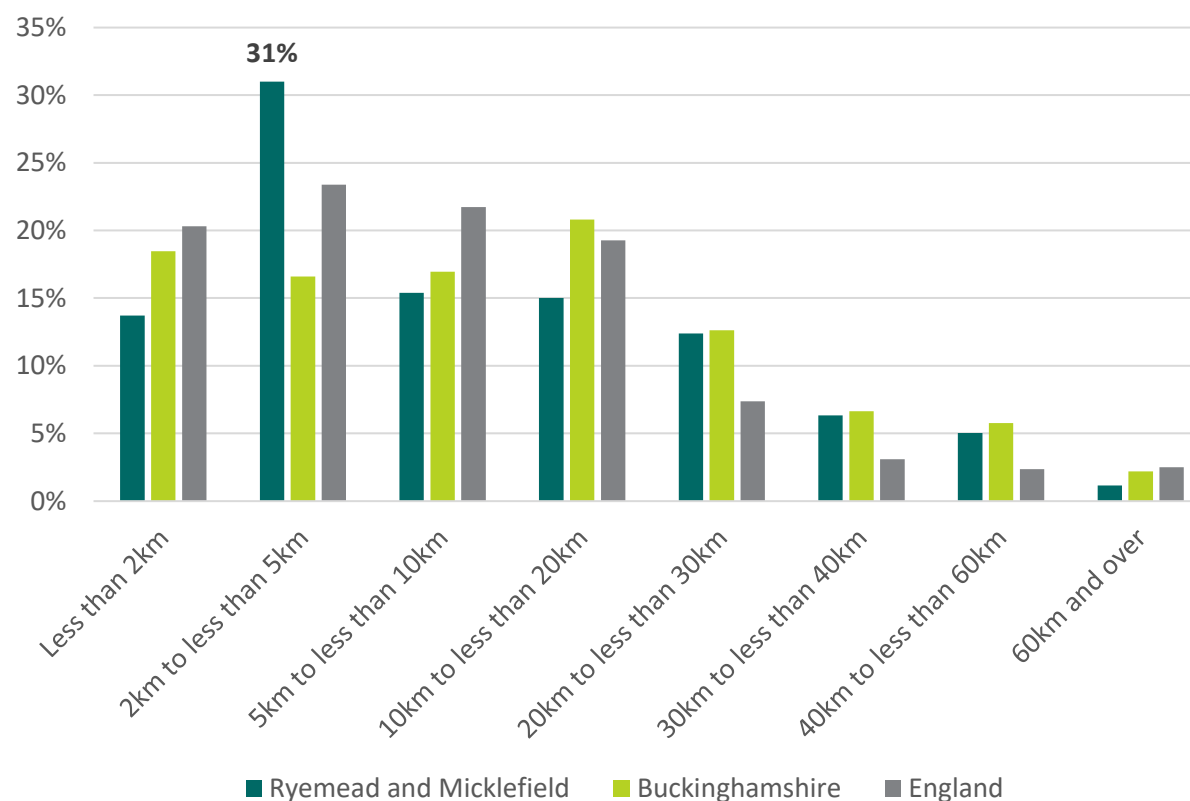
A lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents travelled 'less than 2km' (14%) than the Buckinghamshire (18%) and national (20%) average.

A higher proportion of residents in Ryemead & Micklefield and Buckinghamshire travel 30km and over to their place of work than the national average. This is likely primarily due to Buckinghamshire's close proximity to employment hotspots outside of the county, such as London and Heathrow airport.

In 2011 (latest available data at the time of writing) Buckinghamshire had one of the least 'self-contained' labour markets in England. With around a third of working residents travelling out of the county for work, and 28% of all those working within the Buckinghamshire economy travelling into the county from elsewhere.

¹ This chart excludes those who work mainly or at home, or work mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK.

A much higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment travel '2 to 5km' to work than the Buckinghamshire and national average.



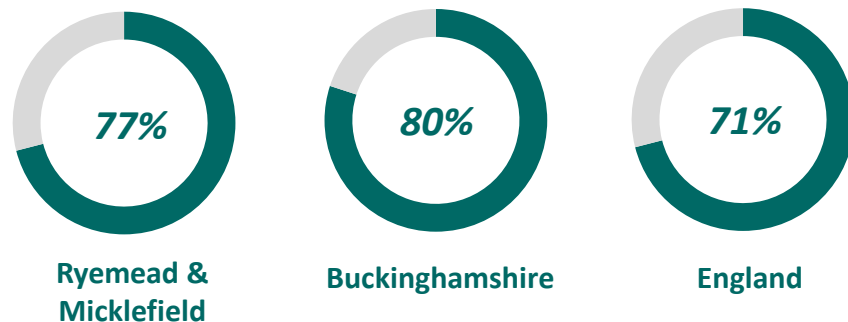
Base: 3,100 residents over the age of 16 and in employment who travel to work

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

Method of travel to work

In 2021, of the Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 16 and over and in employment who travelled to their place of work, just over three quarters (77%) travelled by car or van. This was lower than the Buckinghamshire average (80%), but higher than the national average (71%).

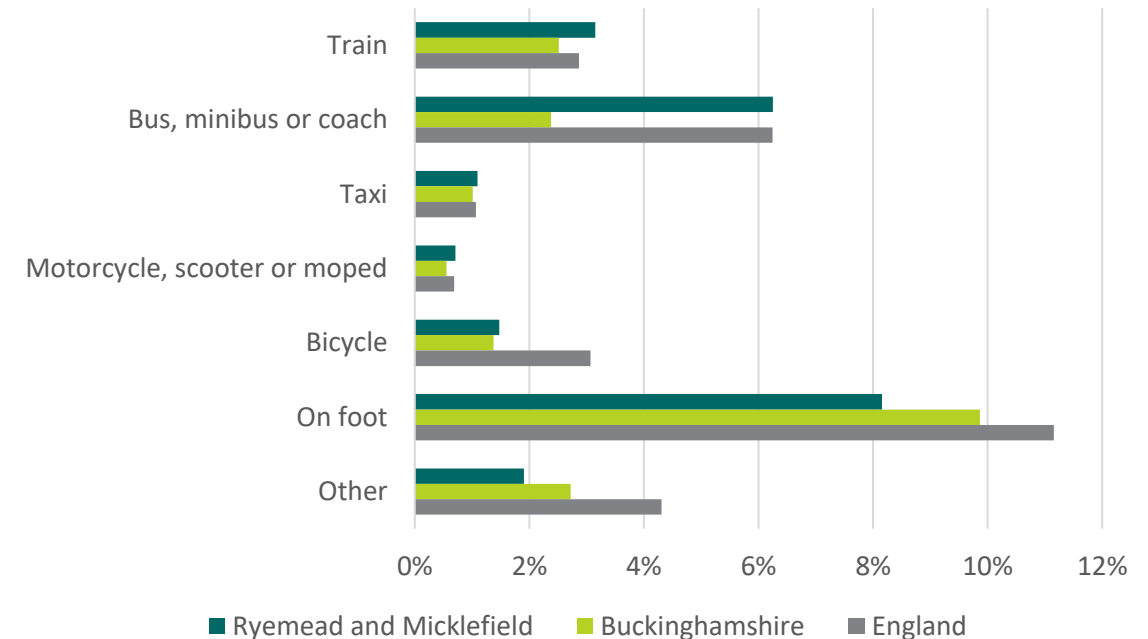
Of those who travel to work, a lower proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents travelled by car or van than the Buckinghamshire average.



Base: 3,100 residents over the age of 16 and in employment who travel to work

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

A much higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield residents travel by 'bus, minibus or coach' to work than the Buckinghamshire average.



Looking in more detail at those not travelling by car or van, 8% travel by foot (lower than the county and national averages), and 6% by bus, minibus or coach (in line with the national average but higher than the Buckinghamshire average).

Section 3: Barriers to employment

In this section we present data for some potential barriers to sustained employment. These are:

- Health status
- English language proficiency
- Access to childcare provision
- Providing unpaid care
- Access to a car or van
- Highest level of qualifications

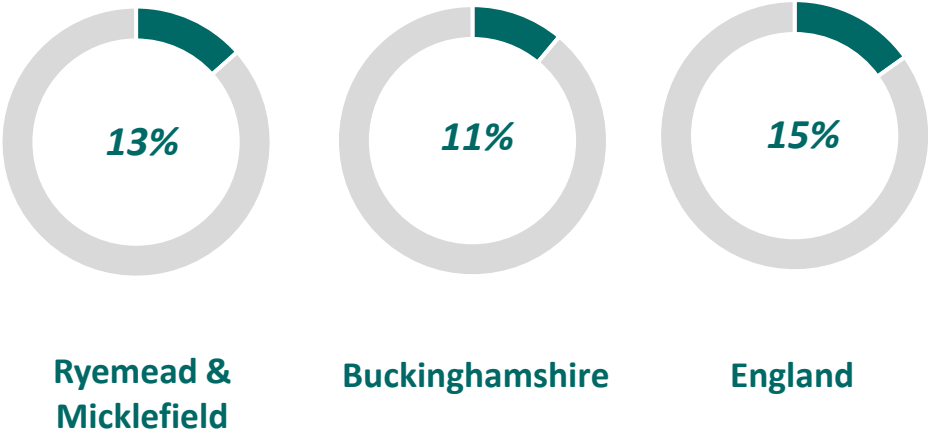
There will be additional factors that could be hindering residents' ability to access sustained employment.

Health status

Based on responses to the 2021 Census, 13% of those of working-age living in the Abbey ward were deemed to be ‘not in good health’.

This was a higher proportion than the county average (11%) but lower than the national average (15%).

This equated to approximately 1,000 people.

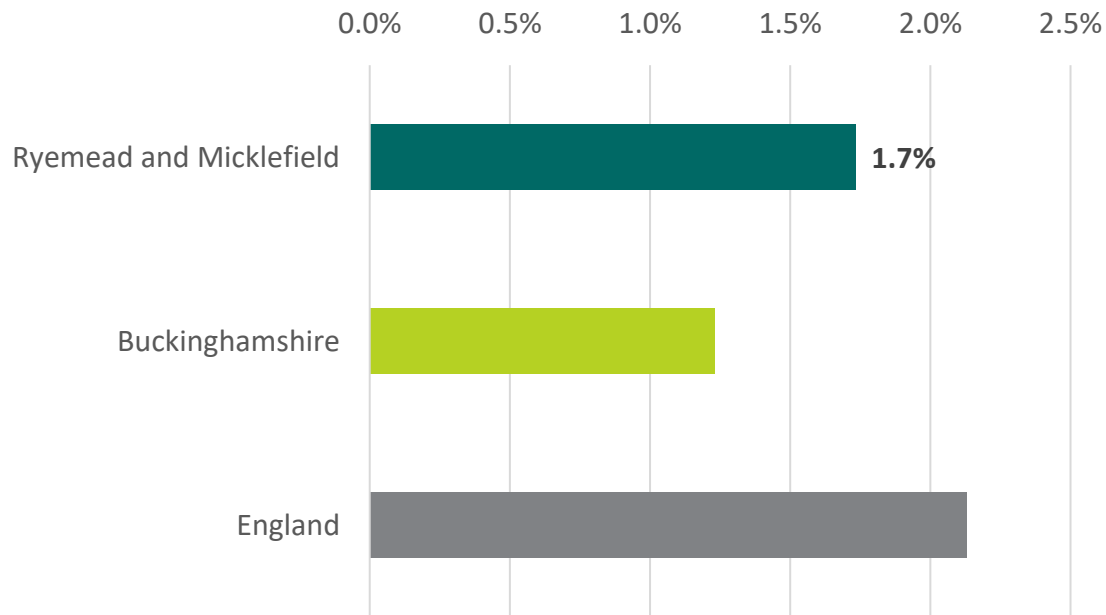


Base: 7,600 working-age residents

English language proficiency

Overall, 1.7% of Ryemead & Micklefield’s working-age residents cannot speak English well or at all. This was higher than the Buckinghamshire average (1.2%) but lower than the national average (2.1%).

This equated to approximately 130 people.



Base: 7,600 working-age residents

Childcare Provision

In 2022, Ryemead & Micklefield had two childcare providers registered on the Early Years Register (EYR)¹, offering 74 places at the point of registration². 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 within the ward compared to the total population of Ryemead & Micklefield residents aged 5 and under is equivalent to 7%, lower than the 39% Buckinghamshire average³. 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.

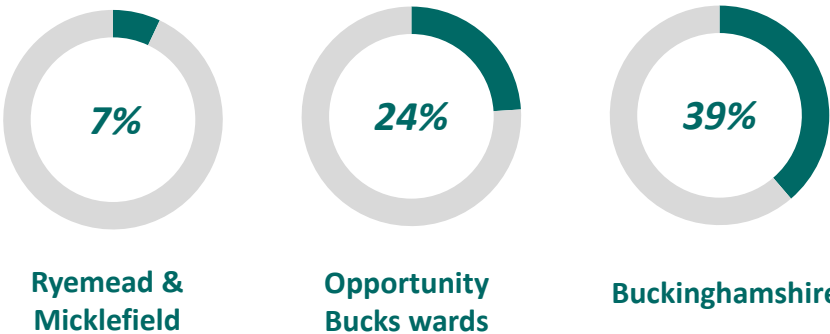
Alternatively, there are an average of 14 residents aged 5 and under for each childcare place offered in Ryemead & Micklefield. This was higher than the average across Opportunity Bucks wards and the average for Buckinghamshire.

¹ Ofsted Early Years Register data on childcare provider places covers all places for children up to the 31st August following their fifth birthday. Place numbers mentioned are actual place numbers where recorded, and not estimated place numbers.

² This analysis should be treated with caution as childcare provider data only includes those where a local authority location has been provided. Childminders in particular are likely to withhold the sharing of postcode data.

³ Approximately 14% of childcare places in Buckinghamshire cannot be assigned to a ward as the provider has redacted their postcode. In order to provide a comparison between wards and county, figures for Buckinghamshire (county) do not include postcode redacting providers. If included, the proportion of childcare places offered in the county would be approximately equivalent to 45% of residents aged 5 and under.

Total number of childcare places offered is approximately equivalent to:



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

Or approximately...



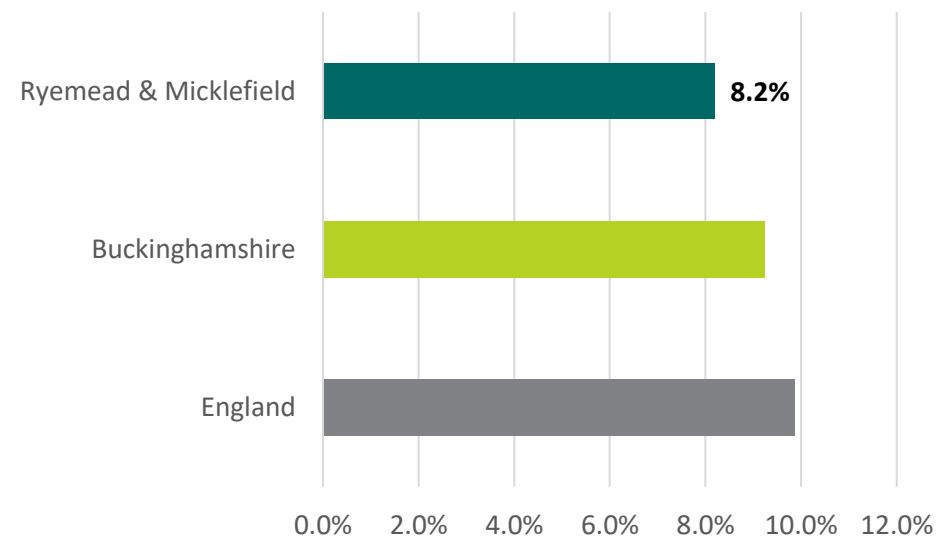
...residents aged 5 and under per childcare place offered.

EYR places are available to children aged up to the 31st August following their fifth birthday. The number of residents aged 5 are aged up to 31st December following their fifth birthday.

Provision of unpaid care

In 2021, approximately 620 Ryemead & Micklefield residents of working age were providing unpaid care¹. This equated to 8.2% of the working age population, lower than the county (9.2%) and national (9.9%) averages.

Ryemead & Micklefield's working-age residents are slightly less likely to be providing unpaid care than the county and national averages



Base: 7,600 working-age residents

¹ 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

Access to car or van

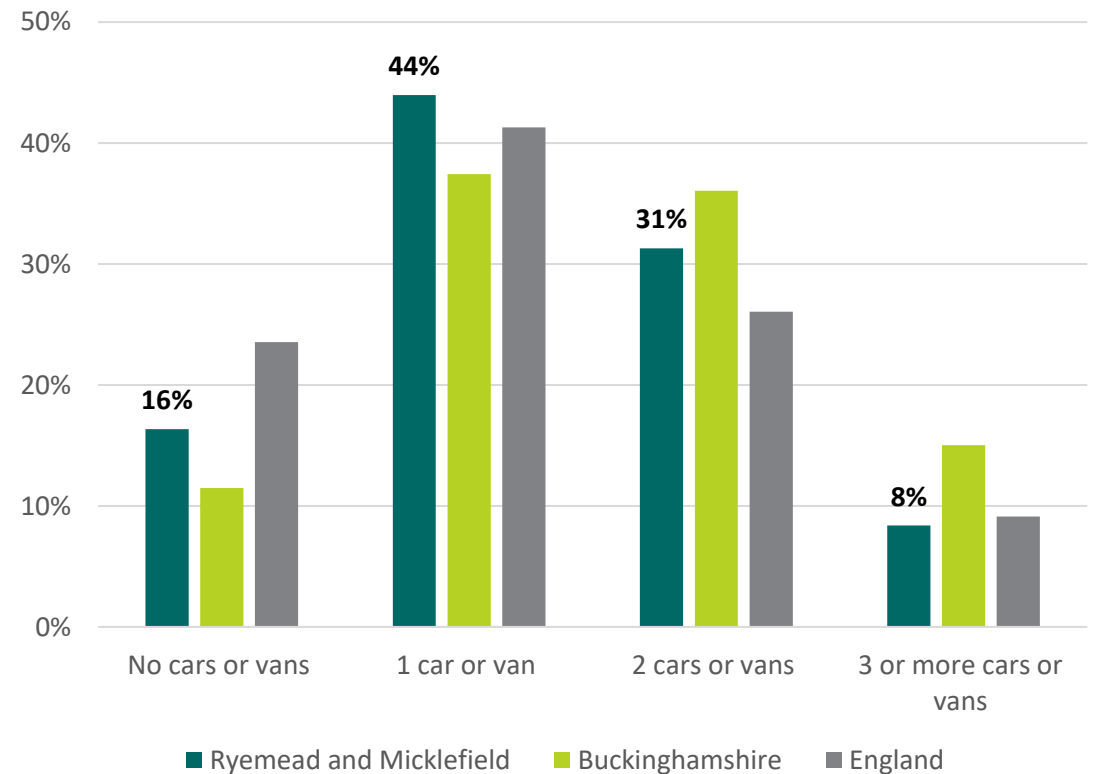
In 2021, a higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield households did not have access to a car or van (16%) than the Buckinghamshire average (11%). However, this is lower than the national average of 24%.

44% of households in Ryemead & Micklefield had access to 1 car or van. This was higher than both the Buckinghamshire (37%) and national (41%) average.

The proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield households with access to 2 cars or vans (31%) was lower than the Buckinghamshire average (36%), but was higher than the national average (26%).

Despite a similar proportion of households in Ryemead & Micklefield having access to 3 or more cars (8%) compared to the national average (9%), it was lower than the Buckinghamshire average (15%).

A higher proportion of Ryemead & Micklefield households did not have access to a car or van than the Buckinghamshire average.



Base: 4,700 households

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

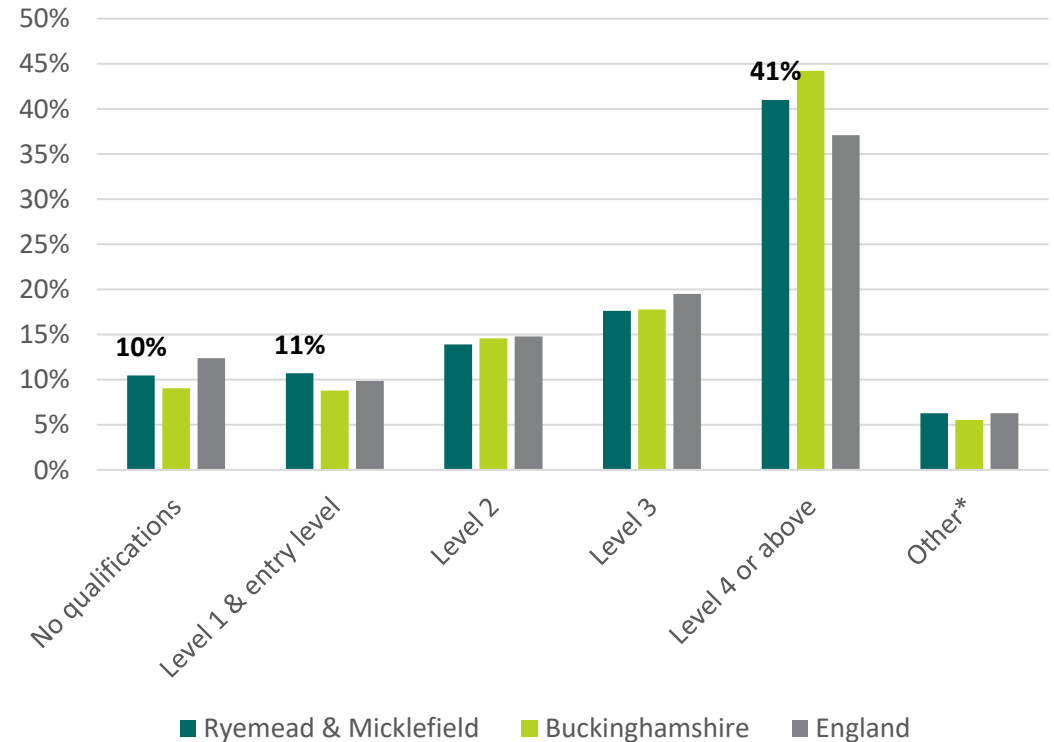
Highest level of qualifications

In 2021, 41% of Ryemead & Micklefield's working-age population had a Level 4 or higher qualification (see chart). The majority will be degree holders. This was three percentage points lower than the Buckinghamshire average, but was four 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 (10%) compared with the Buckinghamshire average (9%) however, the proportion was still lower than the national average (12%).

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
Other	Includes Apprenticeships, vocational quals and quals obtained overseas

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



Base: 7,600 working-age residents

Appendix

Glossary

Term	Definition
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. For further details see the economic activity diagram here .
Economically inactive	Those 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 Beauhurst's tracking triggers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Key employment sites	A business park, retail park or industrial estate.

Data limitations

Data source	Limitations
Companies House	Data is sourced from the information that companies submit to Companies House. Submitted data is not checked or verified by Companies House. This includes SIC codes, which are chosen by a company to designate which industry they are active in. A company is expected to choose an appropriate SIC code, however it may not accurately reflect their business activities. A company can also be both 'active' and classified as a dormant company not trading under SIC code 9999 (dormant companies have been removed from analysis in this resource). Companies House figures are also likely to be overestimated as a single parent trading company can register multiple subsidiaries. A company can also be added to the register before it begins trading.
Claimant Count	The claimant count is a proxy measure for unemployment. It is useful because it is produced at a granular geographic level (e.g. ward level) and is timely (produced monthly). When using claimant count data be aware that not all those who are unemployed will claim unemployment-related benefits. And not all claimants are unemployed. Some will be working but on low incomes / few hours and therefore will be entitled to claim unemployment-related benefits.
Estimates of public and private sector employment	Data shown are estimates and should be treated with caution. Public sector employment has been calculated using data for the 'public administration and defence; compulsory social security'; 'education'; and 'human health & social work activities' Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code sectors. As these sectors are broad, data will include some private sector employment.