

Indices of Deprivation analysis

Summary of Indices for Greater Manchester

31st October 2025

Executive Summary

The latest iteration of the English Indices of Deprivation (IOD), the first update in six years, was released on 30th October 2025. They measure relative deprivation in small areas in England called lower layer super output areas (LSOAs). The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the most widely used of these indices. This is because it is often used to understand and identify areas with more significant levels of need and thereby target activity and funding.

The IMD provides a score and a ranking for all LSOAs, which is built from a range of indicators, grouped into thematic domains. This report provides a snapshot summary of the rankings and information contained within the newly released data.

How is Greater Manchester doing?

The city region continues to have relatively high levels of deprivation compared to the national average. Nearly one in four LSOAs (23%) in GM – home to over 733,000 residents – are within the 10% most deprived nationally. Half of our local authority areas are within the top 30 most deprived in England. And despite some relative improvements in deprivation since 2019, no local authority is within the ten least deprived in England

Manchester's national ranking has risen from sixth to fourth most deprived local authority area in England – behind only Blackpool, Middlesbrough, and Burnley.

Within GM, there remain large disparities in deprivation:

- Just three miles separates the most deprived and least deprived areas of the city region – and both are within Stockport.
- In both Manchester and Oldham, over 42% of residents live within the most deprived areas.
- Yet in Trafford, nearly one in four residents (24.6%) live in some of the least deprived areas in the country.

New data sources, a gap of more than six years between iterations, and the long-term impacts of the COVID pandemic on society make comparison with previous versions of the IOD more difficult.

But it is clear that there has been a widening in the relative deprivation of GM from the most to least deprived areas. While Manchester, Oldham, Bolton and Bury have become more deprived relatively, Trafford, Stockport and Tameside have become relatively less deprived. Even though there have been changes in local government reducing the number of local authorities, the gap in rankings between most deprived and least deprived has widened from 185 places in 2019 to 197 places in 2025.

GM as a whole ranks as the fourth most deprived combined authority out of 18 areas. It sits behind only West Midlands (which ranks first), Liverpool City Region, and Tees Valley.

What is driving deprivation?

The IOD dataset provides information in seven major domains: income; employment; crime; health and disability; living environment; education, skills and training; and barriers to housing and services. Both income and employment indicators have a greater weighting when calculating the IMD.

GM is comparatively better performing in the income domain – which largely tracks welfare-related indicators – than in other domains. Its highest-ranking area is Manchester, with the tenth highest income deprivation nationally. However, GM performs less well on employment outcomes: only one local authority area is within the 50% least employment deprived areas in the country.

Though representing a weighting of only 9.3% of the overall IMD score, the crime domain appears to also have an effect on GM's relative rankings. Four of the top 10 local authorities in the country for recorded crime rates are within GM – Manchester in third, Rochdale in sixth, Oldham in eighth, and Salford tenth.

What next?

The Research Team will be engaging with directorates to understand what further information can be gleaned from the newly released data to give us a clearer picture about the areas we can support, and what is driving inequality changes.

Background and context

What are the Indices of Deprivation?

The Indices of Deprivation (IOD) measure relative deprivation in small areas in England called lower super output areas (LSOAs). The indices include a range of indicators, which are brought together to provide an understanding of the different components of deprivation. The most commonly used of the indices is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), but there are also indices covering income deprivation affecting older people (IDAOPI), and income deprivation affecting children (IDACI). The IOD dataset has been published every few years since 1996, with this iteration being the ninth version.

What is the Index of Multiple Deprivation?

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is one of the main datasets within the IOD release. The IMD is the official measure of relative deprivation for LSOAs across England. There are two main figures produced for each LSOA: a score, which provides an idea of the relative deprivation level of each LSOA; and a rank, which identifies the order of LSOAs from most deprived (rank of 1) to least deprived (rank of 33,755). This score and ranking provides a detailed picture of where deprivation is most concentrated. It supports evidence-based decision-making, enabling us to identify and target areas with the greatest need.

The IMD is constructed from a wide range of indicators within seven broad domains: income; employment; education, skills and training; health and disability; crime; barriers to housing; and the living environment. Each indicator is converted into a

score, weighted, and combined to produce a domain score. Each domain score is then weighted and combined to produce an overall deprivation score and ranking for each LSOA.

Why is it important?

The IMD – and the associated information in the IOD – goes beyond income and offers a multidimensional view of deprivation. This allows us to understand where we might allocate resources more effectively. For example, some skills funding is based on levels of deprivation. It also plays a key role in shaping policy decisions. The IMD helps us to identify where deprivation is most acute, how it varies between small areas, and how patterns are changing over time.

Why do we look at the rank of average scores?

The IOD data is presented for LSOAs and aggregated to local authority level. There are two ways this is done: a rank of average ranks (ROAR); and a rank of average scores (ROAS).

The ROAR finds the average rank a local authority based on the population-weighted LSOA ranks. Local authority areas are then ranked on how high or low this average rank is. The ROAS does much the same thing, instead using the score.

In discussion with local authorities, the ROAS provides the best district level ranking. This is because it takes account of the relative deprivation scores. Ranking may hide large differences in scores, and therefore ranking based on average ranks may not reflect the relative difference in scores between districts. Throughout this report, we have used the ROAS for district or city-regional rankings.

What changes have occurred?

Geographies

There have been two major geographic changes since the last iteration. The first is a change to the statistical geographies used in the IOD – Lower Super Output Areas. These were reviewed and updated following the 2021 Census, with almost a wholesale change to boundaries and populations within those boundaries. Changes to these boundaries means that data is applied to different areas, and a direct comparison with previous rankings is not recommended at an LSOA level.

The second major geographic change has been local government reorganisation. The number of lower-tier local authorities has decreased overall since 2019. So while some comparison is possible, not every area – or ranking of areas – is always comparable.

New and updated data

The new IOD contains more up-to-date data than the last iteration in 2019, such as the 2021 Census.

The number of indicators comprising the 2025 release is 55. This is up from 39 in the 2019 release. However, not all are new:

- There are 20 new indicators, including claims for several welfare payments; persistent pupil absences; a mental health composite indicator; violence, stalking, and harassment measures; public order and anti-social behaviour measures; homelessness; broadband speeds; patient-to-GP ratios; energy performance of homes; noise pollution; and housing lacking outdoor space.
- 14 indicators have been significantly modified and 21 have been updated to more recent timepoints.
- Three indicators have been removed.

For more details on specific indicators, see [here](#).

Updates and revisions have also been made to population denominator data. This could cause changes in rankings / magnitude of deprivation despite there not being any real change in conditions.

Economic and social changes

Many datasets are relatively recent, with most data coming from the last few years. There have been significant changes and upheavals in recent years, such as the impacts from the COVID pandemic, and the rising cost of living. Both social and economic impacts may have altered some of the indicators used, especially those in the Census, which was conducted during the COVID pandemic.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation measures relative deprivation in small areas in England called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). These areas are usually home to around 1,500 people. The IMD is the most widely used of the Indices of Deprivation, as it brings together multiple domains of deprivation.

The IMD merges the seven domain scores with the following weightings:

- 'Income' and 'Employment' – 22.5% each
- 'Health and disability' and 'Education, skills and training' – 13.5% each
- 'Crime', 'Barriers to Housing and Services', and 'Living Environment' – 9.3% each

This means that the income and employment-based indicators have significantly more sway over the overall IMD score and ranking than crime or housing indicators.

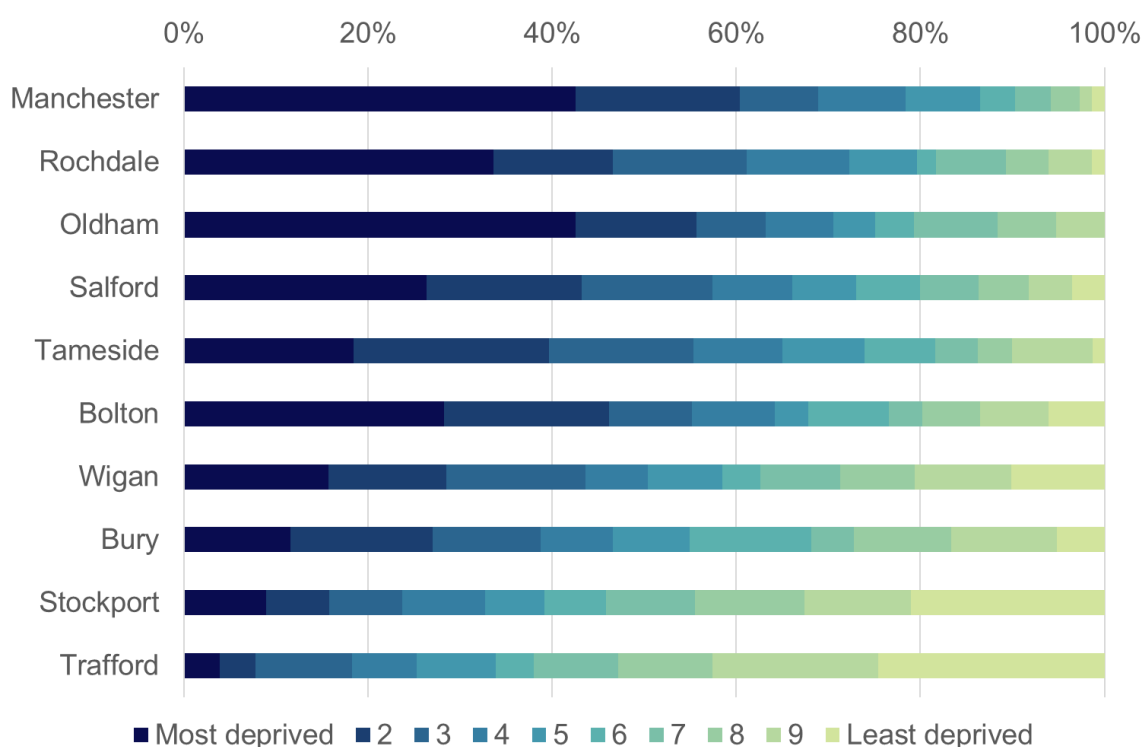
Greater Manchester's position

- Across GM there are 392 LSOAs within the 10% most deprived nationally in the overall IMD. These LSOAs are home to over 733,000 residents. This

means that just below one in four LSOAs (23.0%) and just above one in four residents (25.2%) are within the 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally.

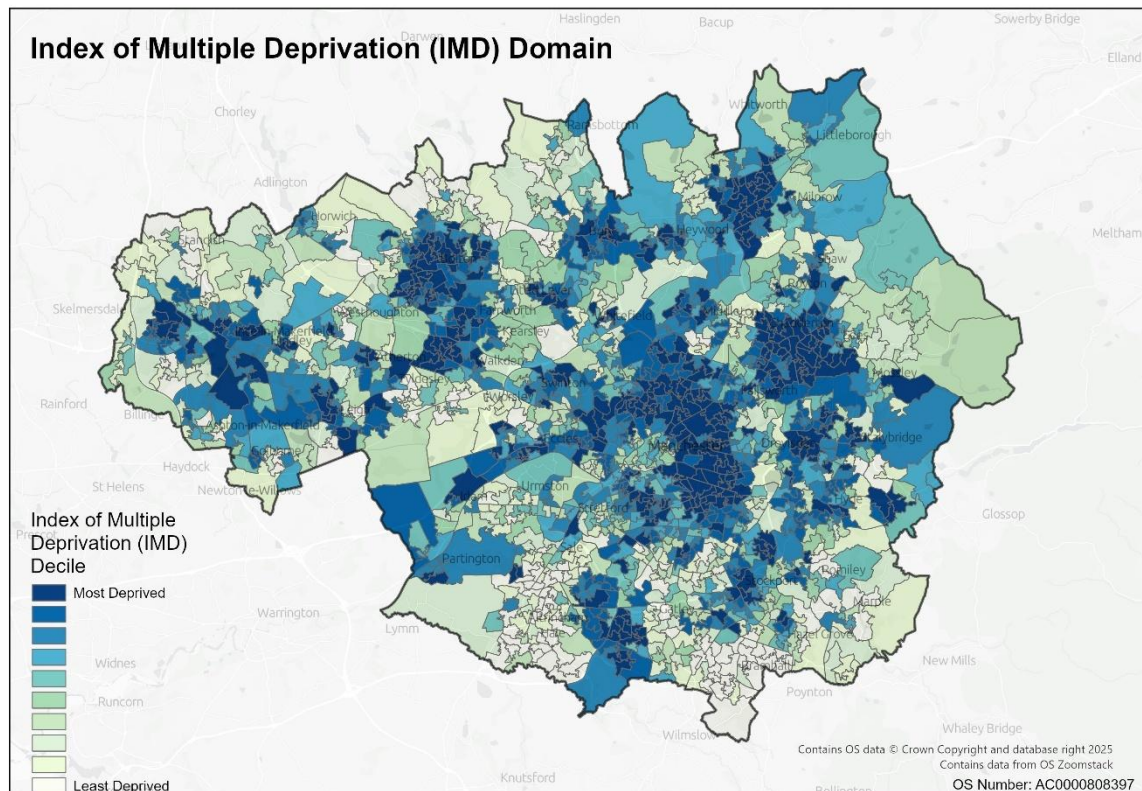
- Manchester has the highest proportion of its LSOAs within the most deprived decile at 40.7%. In contrast, Trafford has the lowest proportion of its LSOAs within the most deprived decile at 4.3% (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Proportion of LSOAs in GM local authorities by IMD decile, 2025



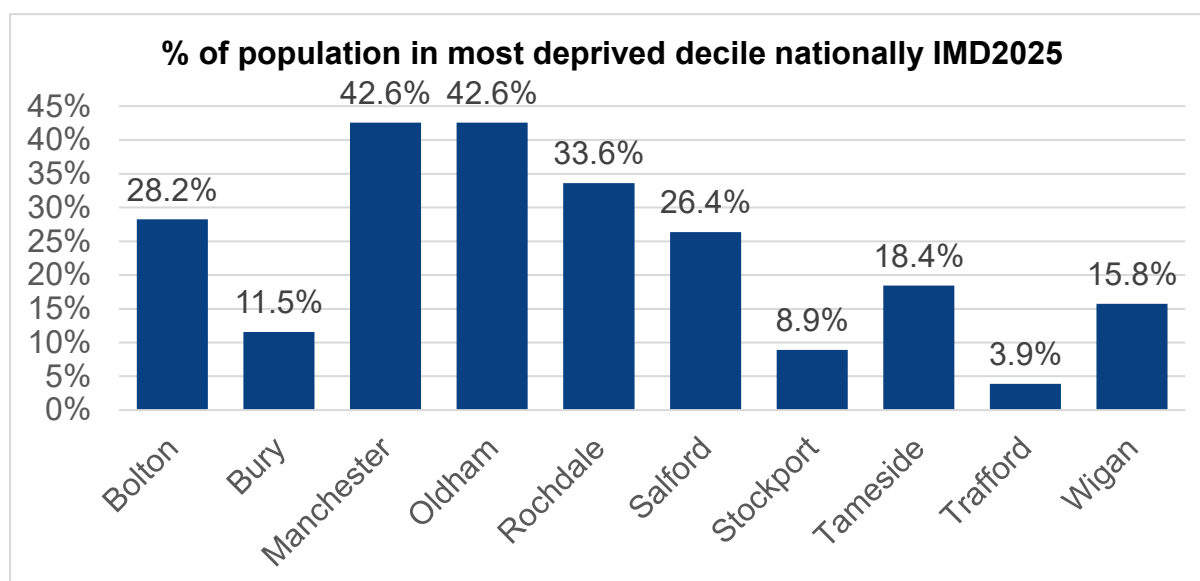
- Stockport has both the most deprived and the least deprived LSOAs in GM. One LSOA in the Reddish South ward is ranked 21st nationally in the IMD, out of 33,755 LSOAs. It is followed closely by an LSOA in Central Rochdale ward, ranked 24th, and an LSOA in Pendleton and Charlestown in Salford, ranked 28th. The least deprived LSOA in GM is the Cheadle Hulme South Ward in Stockport which is ranked 33,750th – the fifth least deprived LSOA nationally.
- As can be seen from the map below (Figure 2), the more deprived areas of GM are in and around our major town and city centres, suggesting that the more densely populated areas are experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.

Figure 2: Index of Multiple Deprivation by decile for each LSOA in GM, 2025



- Both Manchester and Oldham have the highest proportions of their respective populations living within the top 10% most deprived areas nationally at 42.6% each (or 241,215 and 103,859 residents, respectively). In contrast, Trafford has the lowest proportion living within the most deprived areas nationally at 3.9% (9,200 residents) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Percentage of LSOAs in GM local authorities that are within the most deprived decile in England, 2025



National picture

- Local authorities are ranked based on the average scores or average ranks of their constituent LSOAs. We report the ROAS, as this takes account of the potentially large variation in scores that are not reflected in the LSOA rankings.
- Five of GM's local authority areas were in the top 30 (approximately top 10%) nationally: Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford and Bolton. Each of these local authority areas also had more than 25% of their LSOAs in the top 10% nationally, with Manchester experiencing the highest proportion (40.7%).
- These factors contribute to Manchester's position as the fourth most deprived local authority nationally – the highest in GM – and is the only local authority in GM in the top 10.
- In comparison, Trafford had the lowest rank of GM local authorities – 201st nationally out of 296. Only six of its 139 LSOAs were in the top 10% nationally.
- The highest ranked lower tier local authority in England was Blackpool. This was followed by Middlesbrough and Burnley. The least deprived areas

nationally were Rushcliffe (in the East Midlands), Wokingham, and Hart (both in the South East).

- Between the last IMD release and now, four local authority areas have moved up the ranking, showing higher relative deprivation – Bolton, Bury, Manchester, and Oldham, which saw the greatest increase of eight places. All other local authority areas have seen drops in their rankings, with the largest drop in Stockport, of 28 places from 130th to 158th.

Figure 4: Ranking of local authorities' IMD decile by rank of average score, 2025

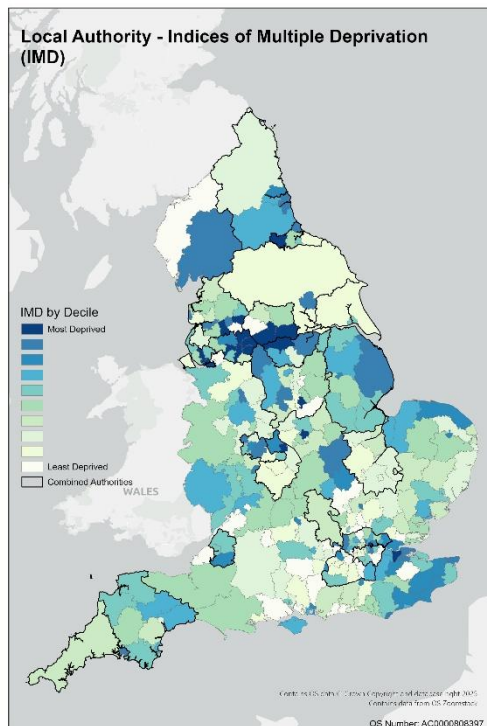
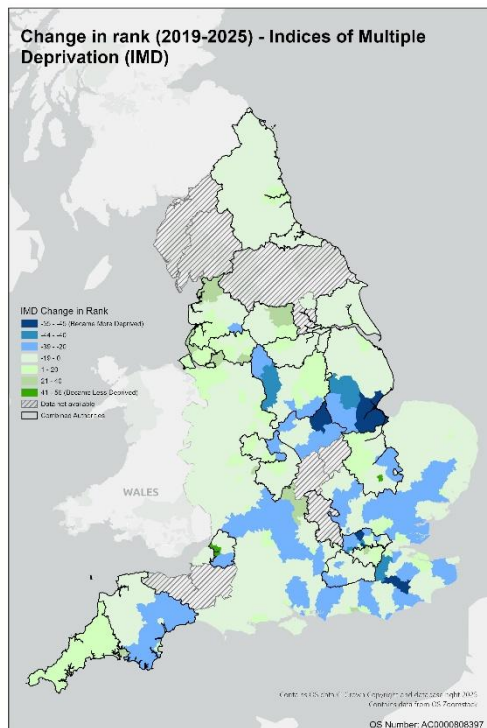


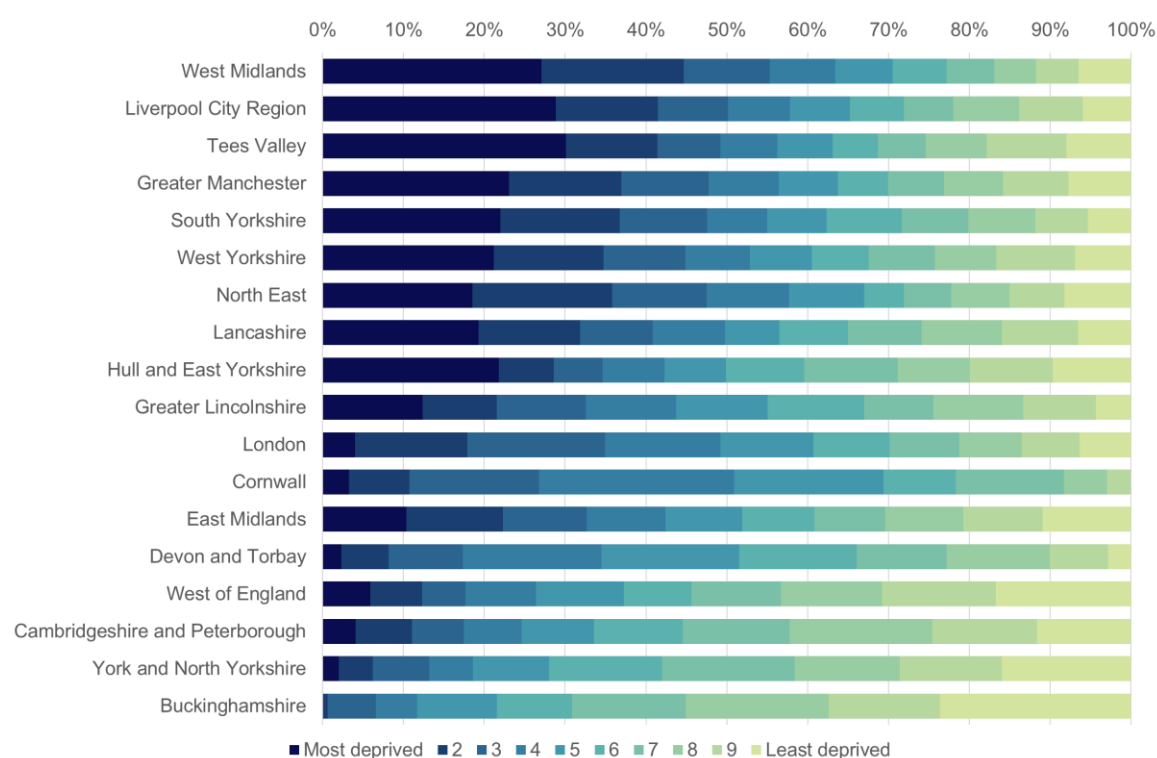
Figure 5: Change in IMD ranking of local authorities by rank of average score, 2019 to 2025



Mayoral authorities and devolved areas

- Although not released by MHCLG, it is prudent to review GM's relative position between combined authorities and Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs), as well as non-mayoral devolved areas. We have utilised the range of authorities and devolved areas covered in [this House of Commons Library Paper on Mayoral Strategic Authorities](#).
- Using the ROAS for all LSOAs in MSAs, GM comes fourth out of 18 MSAs. This is behind West Midlands, Liverpool City Region, and the Tees Valley. Comparatively, the lowest ranking MSAs were Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, York and North Yorkshire, and the Buckinghamshire devolved area (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Proportion of LSOAs in each MSA by IMD decile, 2025



Domains and sub-indices

The Indices of Deprivation provide a range of data collated into different domains.

The sections below provide the main information of note about each domain's scores and rankings.

Income deprivation domain

The income domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of income deprivation used here includes people who are dependent upon the state for some form of means-tested benefit, and includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings and are claiming a means tested benefit.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- In GM, 21.0% of LSOAs are in the most deprived income decile. Manchester has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived income decile at 38.0%. Trafford and Stockport hold the lowest proportion of LSOAs at 5.8% and 6.3% respectively.
- In contrast, 11.2% of GM 's LSOAs are in the least deprived 10% nationally. Stockport and Trafford hold the largest share of these areas at 20.4% and 27.3% in GM. Whereas Oldham (4.9%) and Rochdale (3%) hold the lowest proportion.

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- Approximately 673,438 residents (or 23.1% of residents in GM) live within the most deprived decile of LSOAs nationally. An estimated 299,395 (10.3% of GM's population) residents live within the least deprived income decile.

District ranking: ROAS

- Comparing GM local authorities against all national local authority areas by ROAS highlights Manchester as the highest ranked deprived area in GM at 10 out of 296 local authority areas. Contrastingly, Trafford and Stockport ranked the lowest at 189 and 163.
- Within GM's ten local authority areas, Manchester and Oldham rank first and second for income deprivation whereas Stockport and Trafford rank ninth and tenth.

District ranking: change over time

- Out of the ten GM local authority areas, Oldham had the largest negative change in rank (-8 places) whereas Stockport had the greatest positive change in rank (+28 places).

Income deprivation affecting children

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. Family is used here to indicate a 'benefit unit', that is the claimant, any partner and any dependent children for whom Child Benefit is received. This is one of two supplementary indices and is a sub-set of the Income Deprivation Domain.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- In GM there are around 260,000 children affected by income deprivation, or around 44.1% of dependent children.
- Across the city region, 289 of the area's 1,702 LSOAs (17.0%) are within the top 10% with the highest proportion of income-deprived children nationally. This equates to around 102,000 children – 39.1% of all income deprived children, or 17.3% of all dependent children.
- The proportion of LSOAs varies between local authority areas, though, with Manchester (31.9%), Oldham (28.2%) and Rochdale (20.7%) all experiencing more than one in five LSOAs with the highest rates of income deprived children nationally. Just 4.3% of areas in Trafford, by comparison, are within the top 10% nationally.
- The LSOA with the highest rate of income deprived children is in the Reddish South ward in Stockport, ranked 10th nationally. Comparatively, the lowest ranked LSOA in GM is in Hale Barns and Timperley South in Trafford, ranked 33,742nd.

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- Nationally, Tower Hamlets has the highest rank for income deprivation affecting children. Manchester – GM's highest-ranking district – is ranked sixth, while Trafford – GM's lowest ranking district – is ranked 251st. Just three districts – Manchester, Oldham, and Salford – rank within the top 10% of local authorities nationally.

District ranking: change over time

- Oldham, Bolton and Bury have all seen significant increases in their rankings from 2019. Though ranked only 97th, Bury has seen the largest jump in position, rising 22 places with higher relative levels of income deprivation affecting children than in 2019. Oldham has jumped 20 places to the 15th highest proportion of income deprived children nationally. In comparison, both Stockport and Trafford have seen decreases in their ranking, with Trafford falling by 37 places.

Income deprivation affecting older people

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index measures the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation. This is one of two supplementary indices and is a sub-set of the Income Deprivation Domain.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- In GM there are around 132,700 older people affected by income deprivation, or around 21.5% of older people.
- Across the city region 287 of the area's 1,702 LSOAs (16.9%) are within the top 10% with the highest proportion of income-deprived older people nationally. This equates to around 41,000 older people – 30.9% of all income deprived older people in GM.
- The proportion of LSOAs varies between local authority areas, though, with Manchester (41.0%), Oldham (20.4%) and Salford (23.6%) all experiencing more than one in five LSOAs with the highest rates of income deprived older people nationally. Just 3.7% of areas in Stockport, by comparison, are within the top 10% nationally.
- The LSOA with the highest rate of income deprived older people is in the Hulme ward in Manchester, ranked 23rd nationally. Comparatively, the lowest ranked LSOA in GM is in Marple North in Stockport, ranked 33,627th.

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- Nationally, Tower Hamlets has the highest rank for income deprivation affecting older people. Manchester – GM's highest-ranking district – is ranked 7th, while Stockport – GM's lowest ranking district – is ranked 164th. Just two districts – Manchester and Salford – rank within the top 10% of local authorities nationally.

District ranking: change over time

- Only Salford has seen a relative worsening of their position since 2019 – rising two places to 28th. Stockport and Wigan, by comparison have seen significant falls in their ranking showing an improving situation relatively.

Employment deprivation domain

The employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who may want to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- Across GM, 350 (20.6%) of 1,702 LSOAs are within the most deprived decile nationally within the employment domain. Manchester has the highest proportion in GM within the most deprived decile – 32.5% of LSOAs fall within this decile. Manchester ranks 12th as the area with LSOAs in the most deprived decile, with Rochdale 17th and Oldham 19th.
- Trafford has the lowest proportion in GM within the most deprived decile at 5.8%. Trafford also has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the least deprived decile at 20.9%.
- The most deprived LSOA is within Brinnington & Stockport Central (Stockport) with the least deprived in Deansgate (Manchester).

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- In GM, it is estimated there are 388,221 residents (21.1% of the total population) living within the most deprived decile nationally. Manchester has the highest number in GM living in the most deprived decile; 113,478. Rochdale has the highest percentage of residents living in the most deprived decile (30.7% of residents).
- In contrast, Trafford has both the lowest proportion in GM living within the most deprived decile at 5.7% and the fewest number of residents (8,200) in this decile.

District ranking: ROAS

- GM local authorities rank relatively high in terms of employment deprivation scores, with six out of ten ranking in the top 50 most deprived LAs nationally. Nine out of ten ranked in the top half, with only Trafford in the least deprived half (ranking 162 of 296). Within GM, Oldham (first), Rochdale (second), Bolton (third) are the three most deprived LAs based on ROAS, with Trafford (10th), Stockport (ninth), and Bury (eighth) the least deprived.
- The highest ranking (i.e., most deprived) is Blackpool, with the lowest ranking (least deprived) the Isles of Scilly.

District ranking: change over time

- Comparison with IOD 2019 suggests a mixed picture for GM LAs. Since 2019, Bolton, Manchester, and Oldham have seen worsening rankings, indicating higher levels of deprivation relative to other LAs nationally. Tameside (unchanged) and Rochdale (improved by one place) saw minimal change, whilst the remaining LAs saw improved rankings. Stockport saw the greatest relative improvement, rising 24 places from 100 to 124 in 2025.

Issues with the data/methodology

- The employment domain uses a different population weighting to other domains, focusing on the 'working-age population' defined in the IMD dataset as those aged between 18-66.
- This ensures that involuntary exclusion is captured by IMD through only including the working-age population, rather than the population as whole.

Education, Skills and Training deprivation domain

The Education, Skills and Training domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- In the Education, Skills and Training domain, 218 (12.8%) of GM's 1,702 LSOAs are within the most deprived decile nationally. Oldham has the highest proportion in GM within the most deprived decile – 28.2% of the LSOAs in Oldham fall within this decile.
- Trafford has the lowest proportion in GM within the most deprived decile at 1.4%. Trafford also has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the least deprived decile, with nearly half of all LSOAs (48.9%) in this decile.
- The most deprived LSOA is within Brinnington & Stockport Central (Stockport) with the least deprived in Didsbury East (Manchester).

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- In GM, it is estimated there are 404,980 (13.9%) of the population living within the most deprived decile nationally. Oldham has the highest number in GM within the most deprived decile (81,077 residents). Oldham also has the highest percentage of residents living in the most deprived decile (33.2% of Oldham residents).

- In contrast, Trafford has both the lowest proportion in GM within the most deprived decile at 1.4% and the fewest number of residents (3,339) in that decile.
- Three GM local authorities rank in the top 50 most deprived LAs nationally; Oldham, Rochdale and Salford, ranking first, second, and third most deprived in GM, respectively. Three LAs (Bury, Stockport and Trafford) fall outside the top 100 most deprived LAs. Trafford is the least deprived GM LA (276 out of 296) with Oldham the most deprived (ranking 14th).
- The highest ranking (i.e. most deprived) is Boston, with the lowest ranking (least deprived) Richmond upon Thames.

District ranking: change over time

- Comparison with IOD 2019 suggests a worsening picture for many GM LAs. Since 2019, five LAs have seen worsening rankings (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, and Rochdale), indicating higher levels of deprivation relative to other LAs nationally. Salford and Stockport saw no change in their ranking, whilst Trafford rose by a single place.
- The only two LAs to see any notable positive movement were Wigan and Tameside, though Tameside saw the greatest relative improvement, rising from 61 to 88 in 2025, with Wigan rising from 86 to 92. Bolton and Bury saw large falls, dropping 21 and 25 places, respectively.

Crime domain

The crime domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- GM ranks third nationally when considering MSAs for the proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally for crime (Tees Valley is first, followed by Leeds City Region).

- Five of the ten GM local authorities rank in the top 30 most deprived local authorities in England when considering the proportion of LSOAs in that local authority that are in the 10% most deprived nationally for crime (Manchester, Oldham, Bolton, Rochdale and Salford). GM has 34 LSOAs ranked within the top 1% most deprived nationally for the crime domain, representing 10% of all LSOAs in the England that fall within this highest deprivation bracket.

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- 22.4% (381) of GM's LSOAs are ranked within the top 10% most deprived areas for crime nationally. 34 of these LSOAs also rank in the top 1% nationally, accounting for 2.4% of LSOAs in GM.
- Manchester has the highest proportion of LSOAs (39.0%, or within the most deprived decile with 39.0% (115), followed by Oldham with 27.5% (142) and Bolton with 26.6% (177).
- Manchester has 10 LSOAs within the top 1% most deprived areas for crime nationally, accounting for 3.4% of the authorities total LSOAs. The proportion of top 1% in Oldham is greater than in Manchester (3.5%) however the count is half (5).
- Nationally, Manchester is ranked third for its proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% for crime (first is Middlesbrough in Tees Valley, and second is Kingston upon Hull, in Hull and East Yorkshire).
- Trafford has the lowest number of LSOAs that rank in the top 10% most deprived areas for crime with just 10 (5.8%).
- Conversely, 2.6% of GM's LSOAs rank in the least deprived decile in relation to the crime domain. Stockport has the largest proportion of least deprived LSOAs with 9.4% (16). Trafford and Wigan follow each with a count of 10 (7.2% of total LSOAs in Trafford, and 5.0% in Wigan).

- Notably, Rochdale and Tameside have no LSOAs that rank in the top 10% least deprived in relation to the crime domain. Manchester, Oldham, and Salford each have just one.
- 688,696 residents (23.7% of GM's 2.9 million population) fall within LSOAs within the most deprived crime decile nationally. Manchester has the highest proportion of its population in these areas at 39.6% (224,641), followed by Oldham (69,198) and Bolton (84,279) at 28% each. Trafford has the lowest proportion at 5.3% (12,515).
- In contrast, only 2.6% of GM's population live in LSOAs within the least deprived crime decile nationally.
- Stockport has the highest proportion of its population within LSOAs that are in the top 10% least deprived nationally at 7.5% (15,813), followed by Trafford at 6.7% (236,651).
- Rochdale and Tameside have 0% of their respective populations in this category, and Manchester (1,574), Salford (1,412), and Oldham (1,465) each have very small proportions (between 0.3% and 0.6%).

District ranking: ROAS

- Within GM, Manchester ranks the highest based on ROAS followed by Rochdale, Oldham, Salford, Tameside, Bolton, Wigan, Bury, Stockport, and Trafford.
- When comparing to ROAS in 2019, the top three local authorities have remained unchanged. There has been some modest movement between the other areas, with Salford showing the most notable deterioration (+2 places), followed by Wigan (+1 place).
- Tameside and Bolton have moved down the ranks slightly, each dropping one place to fifth and sixth. Bury also dropped one place, falling from seventh to eighth.
- Trafford and Stockport continue to have the lowest ROAS within GM.

District ranking: change over time

- Looking at the national ROAS for the crime domain, Salford and Wigan were the only two GM authorities to see an increase in rank, indicating worsening relative deprivation. Salford moved from 16th in 2019 to 10th in 2025 (+6 places), while Wigan shifted from 59th to 51st (+8 places).
- Stockport saw the most significant improvement, dropping 49 places from 65th in 2019 to 114th in 2025, as did Bury, moving 10 to 60th in 2025.
- Oldham and Rochdale saw moderate changes in their ROAS, moving four and three places respectively.
- Bolton, Manchester, Tameside, and Trafford each improved slightly, moving down two places. Notably, Manchester's ROAS improved from first nationally in 2019 to third in 2025, although it remains among the most deprived for crime.

Issues with the data/methodology

- The IMD 2025 Crime Domain – rather unexpectedly – uses a broad reference period spanning 2018/19 to 2023/24. This approach therefore combines data from pre, during, and post-pandemic. Unsurprisingly crime patterns shifted significantly during and after the pandemic, and these changes may affect comparability over time.
- Due to the introduction of GM Police's current data system (iOPS) in 2019, data prior to this cannot be extracted at LSOA level. This means further analysis of the crime rankings will be limited to the consideration of GM wide trends.

Living Environment deprivation domain

The living environment domain measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two sub-domains. The 'indoors' living environment measures the

quality of housing; while the 'outdoors' living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- For the Living Environment domain, 11.0% of GM's LSOAs are in the most deprived decile (188 LSOAs out of 1,702), with representation across all Local Authorities. Oldham has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived decile at 19.0% (27), whilst Salford has the lowest at 5.0% (8).
- 2.8% of GM's LSOAs are in the least deprived decile, with representation from all LAs (48 LSOAs out of 1,702). Trafford and Wigan have the highest proportion of LSOAs within the least deprived decile at 6.5% (9) and 7.5% (15) respectively.
- The LSOA with the highest level of deprivation in GM for the Living Environment domain is within the Rumworth ward in Bolton. Out of all LSOAs in England (33,755), this LSOA is ranked 25th most deprived for this domain. The LSOA with the lowest level of deprivation in GM for the Living Environment domain is within the Ramsbottom ward in Bury (33,665 out of 33,755).

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- Out of the total population of 2,910,993 in GM, 11.8% (343,395) live in the most deprived decile, whilst 2.8% live in the least deprived decile (81,447 out of 2,910,993).
- Oldham has the highest proportion of its population living in the most deprived decile with 22.8% (55,683 out of 244,223), whilst Salford has the lowest at 4.8% (13,337 out of 278,867).
- Wigan and Trafford have the highest proportions of their populations living in the least deprived decile at 7.4% (17,406 out of 236,651) and 8.2% (27,492 out of 334,014) respectively.

District ranking: ROAS

- For the Living Environment domain, when using the ROAS, two GM local authorities rank in the top 50 most deprived LAs nationally: Oldham (29th out of 296 local authorities) and Manchester (46th out of 296).
- Wigan falls outside of the top 100 most deprived LAs, ranked 129th.
- The highest ranked Local Authority in England is the Isles of Scilly and the lowest ranked is Milton Keynes.

District ranking: change over time

- Comparison with IOD 2019 suggests GM local authorities are becoming more deprived across the board.
- The only LA to move up is Manchester, which increased four places from 42nd most deprived in 2019 to 46th most deprived in 2025.
- All other LAs moved down significantly, with the biggest change seen in Wigan which moved from 248th place in 2019 to 129th place in 2025 (down 119 points).
- Bury saw the next biggest change from the 124th place to 53rd, followed by Rochdale which moved from the 149th place to 86th.

Barriers to Housing and Services

The barriers to housing and services domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relates to the geographical (in)accessibility of key local services and amenities; and 'wider barriers' which relates to broader issues of accessibility, such to access to affordable housing and other important services.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- For the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, 6.9% of GM's LSOAs are in the most deprived decile (117 out of 1,702).
- Manchester has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived decile with 31.2% (92 out of 295), whilst five local authorities do not have any LSOAs in the most deprived decile (Bolton, Bury, Stockport, Trafford, Wigan).
- 15.4% of GM's LSOAs are in the least deprived decile (262 out of 1,702).
- Stockport has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the least deprived decile with 60.7% (116 out of 191), followed by Trafford with 51.1% (71 out of 139). Manchester has the lowest proportion of LSOAs in the least deprived decile with 1.0% (3 out of 295), followed closely by Oldham and Tameside, both with 1.4% (2 out of 142 for both).
- The LSOA with the highest level of deprivation in GM is within the Saddleworth North ward in Oldham. Notably, out of all LSOAs in England (33,755), this LSOA is ranked fifth most deprived for this domain. The LSOA with the lowest level of deprivation in GM is within the Wigan Central ward in Wigan.

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- Out of the total population of 2,910,993 in GM, 8.1% (237,231) live in the most deprived decile, whilst 14.2% (412,439) live in the least deprived decile.
- Manchester has the highest proportion of its population living in the most deprived decile with 33.5% (189,737 out of 566,778), whilst five authorities do not have any of their population living in the most deprived decile (Bolton, Bury, Stockport, Trafford, Wigan).
- Stockport has the highest proportion of its population living in the least deprived decile with 60.7% (180,301 out of 297,191), with Manchester having the lowest proportion of its population living in the least deprived decile with 0.7% (4,187 out of 566,778).

District ranking: ROAS

- Using the ROAS, Manchester (29th) is the highest ranked GM local authority out of 296 authorities in England, with the next highest being Oldham (102nd).
- The lowest ranked are Stockport (290th), Trafford (287th), Wigan (248th) and Bury (247th), meaning four local authorities in GM are ranked outside the top 200 most deprived local authorities.
- The highest ranked local authority in England is Brent, in London, whilst the lowest ranked authority being Richmond upon Thames, also in London.

District ranking: change over time

- From the IOD 2019 to 2025, overall, the local authorities in GM have become notably more deprived. Five GM local authorities have had a large negative change over time: Oldham (-205 places), Bolton (-110 places), Tameside (-109 places), Rochdale (-92 places) and Salford (-70 places). Stockport is the only GM local authority which did not change negatively, by staying the same rank (290th).
- Previously, in 2019, Manchester was the highest ranked GM local authority as the 63rd out of all local authorities in England, changing by –34 places in 2025.

Health deprivation and disability domain

The health and disability domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain is comprised of four separate indicators measuring: illness and disability; premature mortality; acute morbidity; and mental health.

Proportion of LSOAs within top 10% nationally

- For health and disability, 24% (409 out of 1,702) of GM LSOAs are in the most deprived decile and only 1.8% (31) are in the least deprived decile. 46.4% of

Manchester LSOAs (137 out of 295) are in the most deprived decile, this contrasts with Trafford's 4.3% (six out of 139).

- Only Stockport and Trafford have LSOAs in the least deprived decile. 19.4% of Trafford's LSOAs (27 out of 139) are in the least deprived decile, compared to 2.1% (four out of 191) for Stockport.
- Stockport has the two most deprived ranking LSOAs in GM for health and disability, with one ranked 14th and the other ranked 24th. The LSOA ranked 14th is in the Reddish South ward, and the one ranked 24th is in the Brinnington & Stockport Central ward.
- Manchester, Rochdale, Tameside and Wigan have no LSOAs in deciles nine and 10 (the least deprived deciles).

Proportion of GM population within top 10% most deprived areas nationally

- 25.3% of the GM population (737,780 residents) live in the most deprived decile for health and disability whereas only 1.8% (51,240) live in the least deprived decile.
- Of the 5,561,186 people living in the most deprived decile nationally for this domain, around one in seven live in GM.
- 76.7% of the GM population live in deciles one to five (the most deprived deciles), this is over 2.2 million people.
- 35.9% of people living in the most deprived decile in GM live in Manchester (264,575). Only 1.3% live in Trafford (9,787).

District ranking: ROAS

- GM has six areas in the 50 highest scoring areas.
- Manchester is ranked the fifth most deprived area in this sub-domain nationally. This is behind Hartlepool, Knowsley, Liverpool and Blackpool.

- Salford is ranked 16th, Rochdale is ranked 23rd, Tameside 31st, Oldham 35th, and Wigan is 46th.

District ranking: change over time

- On average, GM areas improved rankings by five places, however this was driven by Stockport and Trafford which improved their rankings by 25 (78 to 103) and 26 (147 to 173) places respectively. Bury lowered their ranking by 10 places moving from 84 to 74, becoming relatively more deprived.

Other considerations

- **Interpretation of the data:** The indices measure relative deprivation. If a particular area has improved, but other similar areas have improved more, the area is now relatively more deprived. Deprived areas can also have high levels of population churn in a short period of time and those leaving may be replaced by equally or more deprived households.
- **Lack of geographical granularity:** Localities can vary enormously from the very rural to the heavily urbanised and it is difficult to encapsulate all types of local issues within a single or combination of indices. What might be relevant in one area might not be so elsewhere.
- **Data changes:** There are several changes in data compared to the IOD 2019 and these changes will account for a significant amount of the change over time in rankings. Overall, a total of 55 indicators comprise the IOD 2025. This is an increase from 39 indicators in the IOD 2019.
- **Data sources:** The Census data is now approaching over four years old. Moreover, the Census took place during the COVID pandemic and some answers, and therefore outputs from the Census, were affected. Other variables used include even older data, such as in the crime domain which includes data from 2018.

- **Thresholds and modifications:** Threshold changes and other modifications occurred on several variables.
- **Crime domain:** There can be variance in crime recording which in the past has shown some unexpected patterns in GM. We will be doing extra checks on this domain. Early comparisons show some very large changes to higher and lower levels of deprivation which require further investigation.

Initial comments from local authority contacts

Bolton

- Bolton's borough IMD position seems to have remained largely the same as 2019. Ranking position of 30 in the latest Index and 34 in 2019 on ROAS. On ROAR, changing from 47 to 43. On Rank of Extent, changing from 26 to rank 24.

Bury

- Bury now ranks 90 out of 296 LAs compared to 95 out of 317 LAs in 2019.
- Bury now has 13 (of 120) LSOAs in decile 1 compared to 12 in 2019. Two LSOAs have moved from the most to second most deprived decile and three have moved from second most to most deprived decile.
- Bury ranks eighth most deprived of the 10 GM LAs, which remains the same as 2019.

Manchester

- The main concern is the significant number of changes to the indicators.

- Of note is the Education deprivation domain, scanning a period pre- and post-pandemic.
- The Heath domain is expected to show the pandemic impact.
- Manchester are encouraging discretion with comparing change over time on the IMD and caveat that the population estimates fall short of Manchester City Council's projections and given that many of the domains are population rates, it is believed this may overstate some of the scores for Manchester.

Oldham

- *Awaiting input.*

Rochdale

- The overall picture for Rochdale in the 2025 IMD is mixed. While changes to district-level scores are relatively small, they mask a more complex picture at the neighbourhood level.
- Rochdale has become relatively less deprived in four of the five district-level domains, although the improvements in rank for each measure are slight. The borough is now ranked the 17th most deprived in England (previously 15th), based on the average scores of its Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs).
- There are 10 LSOAs in the 3% most deprived nationally, one fewer than the 11 recorded in the 2019 indices. Of the 11 LSOAs in the 3% most deprived in 2019, seven have remained, while four have improved and are no longer in this category. In 2025, three additional LSOAs have moved into the 3% most deprived nationally.
- Rochdale's lowest ranked LSOA remains E01005482, which has become relatively more deprived, moving from 31st to 24th most deprived nationally. This LSOA includes parts of the Lower Falinge estate, College Bank, and the town centre, and has consistently ranked among the 100 most deprived LSOAs in each IMD release. While slight improvements were seen in its

relative rankings for the Employment and Income domains (though it remains in the bottom 100 for both), its position worsened in the other five domains — particularly in Education, Skills and Training and Barriers to Services, which saw significant declines.

- There are now 42 LSOAs in the 10% most deprived nationally, compared with 40 in 2019. The vast majority (88%) of these were also in the 10% most deprived in 2019, which is slightly above the national average of 82%. As a result, the proportion of Rochdale's population living in the 10% most deprived areas has increased from 32.6% in 2019 to 33.6% in 2025.
- The number of LSOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally remains unchanged at 59.
- In 2019, the least deprived LSOA in Rochdale was ranked in the 83.9% least deprived nationally. In 2025, eight LSOAs are now relatively less deprived than this, including two that are in the 90% least deprived nationally.
- At the GM level, the picture is similarly mixed. Some areas, such as Oldham, have seen a relative worsening across several district-level domains, while Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, and Salford have experienced relative improvements.

Salford

- Salford are not surprised to see an improvement in overall rank, given the growth in population and new buildings.
- There are bigger changes than seen between 2015 and 2019; this is not surprising given big impacts economic changes over recent years, plus new Census data.
- Comparisons have been more difficult to make given Salford has gone from 150 to 161 LSOAs.
- A PowerPoint presentation has been produced with much more detail. From which these facts are extracted:

- Salford is the 24th most deprived local authority in England, 18th in previous IMD (2019). Salford is the fourth most deprived in GM improvement from third in 2019.
- Salford has also improved compared to the current list of statistical nearest neighbours (CIPFA), from fourth most deprived out of 16 (2019) to sixth most deprived (2025).

Stockport

- In relation to the crime domain, Stockport has less than half the amount of LSOA in 10% most deprived compared to previous IOD.
- More work is required to understand how the crime data has been pulled together for GM. This is a main concern at Stockport, and this will impact on the overall IMD ranks.

Tameside

- Tameside welcome the news that relative deprivation in the borough is seemingly improving.
- Contrary to other GM boroughs, Tameside has remained consistent in the Crime domain, however the significant swings in ROAS for the Education, Health and Disability, Barriers to Housing and Services, and Living Environment domain raise a number of questions regarding the comparability of these figures to previous releases given the observed reality in Tameside and the significant alterations to the suite of underlying indicators used to construct the domains in 2025.

Trafford

- Trafford welcomes this update to the indices of deprivation; it will provide a chance to reevaluate the disparity of deprivation across the borough with more recent relevant information. As a whole Trafford's IMD status has

improved but there still remains pockets within the borough of higher deprivation.

- Trafford will be making use of the individual domains to identify further investigation in line with corporate priorities, with an initial focus on the housing, climate, and environmental indicators factors relating to Trafford's 52 rank change in the 'Living Environment' domain.
- The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) shows that child poverty has increased in several LSOAs, particularly in the west of the borough. The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) also highlights growing vulnerability among elderly residents, especially those living alone.
- While Trafford overall remains one of the least deprived boroughs in GM, the gap between its most and least deprived neighbourhoods has widened. This could impact on funding for targeted support for areas of deprivation to address the inequalities gap.

Wigan

- Wigan's overall ranking has improved slightly compared to 2019. It now ranks 78th out of 296 lower-tier authorities, placing it within the top 30% most deprived nationally. This is a relative improvement from its 2019 position of 75th out of 317.
- Population level analysis found that in 2019, 33.3% of residents lived in areas ranked among the top 20% most deprived nationally. According to the 2025 data, this has decreased to 28.5% - a reduction of nearly 5%, equating to almost 16,000 fewer people living in the most deprived areas.
- A comparison of the individual deciles at LSOA level show a decline in decile scores in both the Living Environment and Barriers to Housing Domains, which were offset with improved performance in the Income and Employment Domains.

- Wigan have not had time to explore what might be impacting the Living Environment and Housing decile scores. The same for the Crime Domain.

Annex: Summary tables

Table 1: Change in IMD rank (based on ROAS) for GM's local authorities between 2019 and 2025

Local authority	ROAS 2019	ROAS 2025	Change in ranking
Bolton	34	30	4
Bury	95	90	5
Manchester	6	4	2
Oldham	19	11	8
Rochdale	15	17	-2
Salford	18	24	-6
Stockport	130	158	-28
Tameside	28	44	-16
Trafford	191	201	-10
Wigan	75	78	-3

NOTE: A negative number means a drop in ranking, indicating the area has become relatively less deprived; a positive number is a rise in ranking, meaning increased relative deprivation.

Table 2: IMD Rank, proportion of LSOAs in 10% most deprived nationally, and proportion of population in 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally, 2025

Local authority	IMD Rank 2025	Proportion of LSOAs in 10% most deprived nationally	Proportion of population in 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally
Bolton	30	26.0%	28.2%
Bury	90	10.8%	11.5%
Manchester	4	40.7%	42.6%
Oldham	11	37.3%	42.6%
Rochdale	17	31.1%	33.6%
Salford	24	25.5%	26.4%
Stockport	158	7.9%	8.9%
Tameside	44	17.6%	18.4%
Trafford	201	4.3%	3.9%
Wigan	78	15.5%	15.8%
Greater Manchester	-	23.0%	25.2%

Map 1: Location of LSOAs in the top 10% most deprived nationally, overlaid with Mayoral Combined Authorities and other devolved regions, 2025

