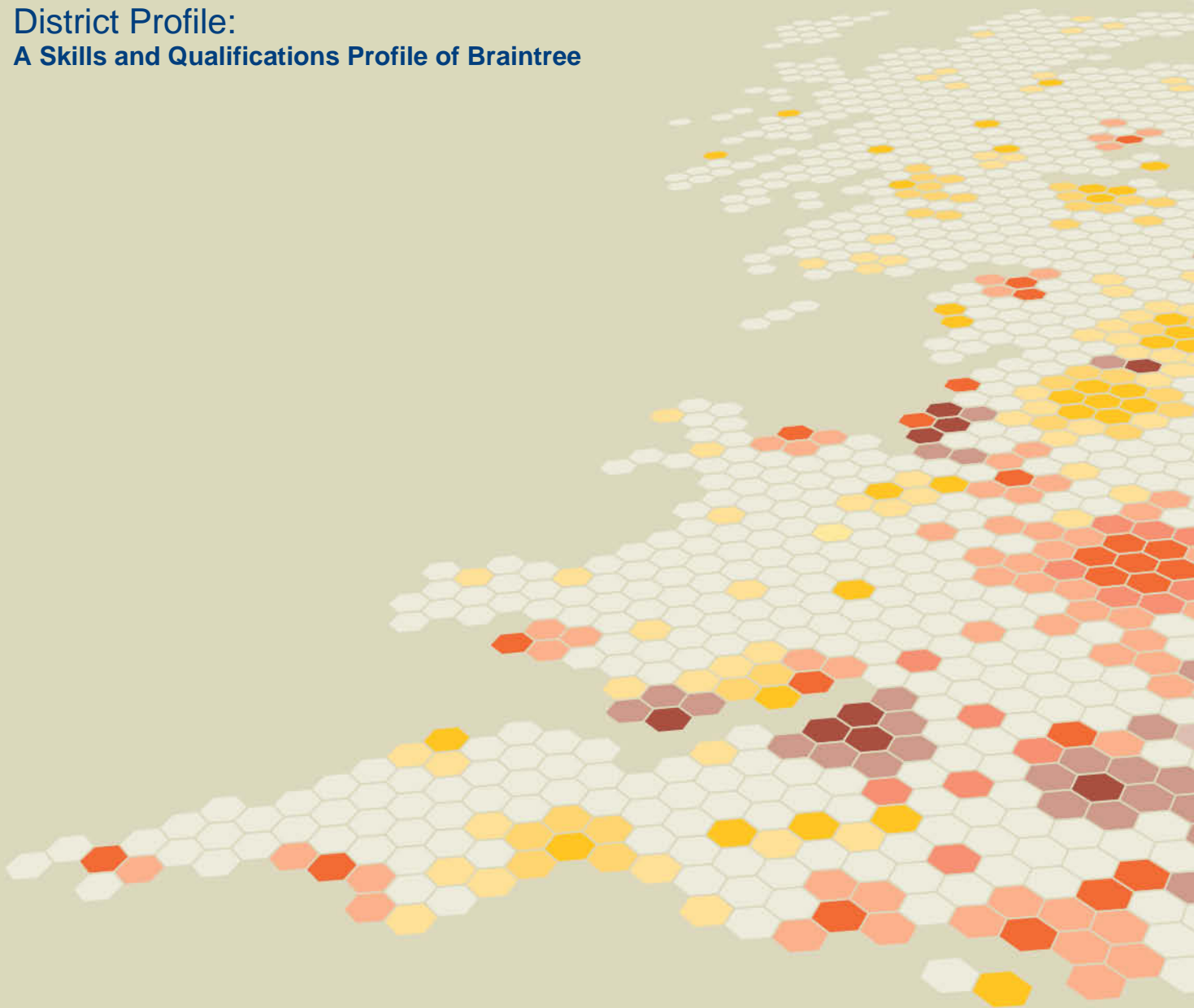


April 2009

District Profile: A Skills and Qualifications Profile of Braintree



About Place Profiles

Place Profiles are a series of reports available from the Local Futures Group that provide an assessment of local conditions. Using the latest data at the time of creation, they are available for a range of economic, social and environmental themes at sub-region through to neighbourhood level. The reports present a range of graphical outputs, together with a summary analysis of performance that is set within a regional and national context.

More information about the profiles and how to purchase further copies is available at the end of this report.

About the Local Futures Group

The Local Futures Group comprises a team of researchers and consultants with academic, corporate and policy backgrounds. We provide a geographical perspective on economic, social and environmental change. We introduce this perspective into public policy and corporate strategies, both in the UK and internationally. Our services include:

- **Benchmarking:** a family of benchmarking services that ensure future strategies are underpinned by a clear and shared understanding of current conditions. These provide a comprehensive analysis set within a regional and national context.
- **Strategy:** research and support services to identify future drivers of change and develop long-term strategies.
- **Monitoring:** online services to monitor change and assess the impact of strategies.

These services are underpinned by our subscription service **Local Knowledge:**

Local Knowledge is regarded as a powerful web-based service for local strategies and marketing. Incorporating the latest thinking on competitiveness and sustainable development, it provides researchers and policy-makers with access to an unrivalled decision support tool that is interactive and easy to use.

To find out more about our services or to arrange a free trial of Local Knowledge please give us a call on 020 7440 7360 or email info@localfutures.com

Skills and Qualifications Profile: Braintree

Introduction

Human capital is a prerequisite of a successful knowledge economy. The resident workforce should ideally be characterised by a good blend of academic and vocational skills. In our overall assessment of skills and qualifications in Braintree, we have used a composite measure based on each of the four NVQ levels, with greater weighting attached to the higher levels. We also provide GCSE rates, as a precursor to the future potential workforce and a measure of the quality of local schools.

Braintree is ranked 331 out of 407 districts on our skills and qualifications score, indicating a resident workforce that performs in the bottom 20% of districts by national standards, in terms of human capital.

With a skills and qualifications score of 93.50, Braintree is well below the national median. This is shown in the map, where areas with very dark shadings score highly and those with very light shadings score poorly.

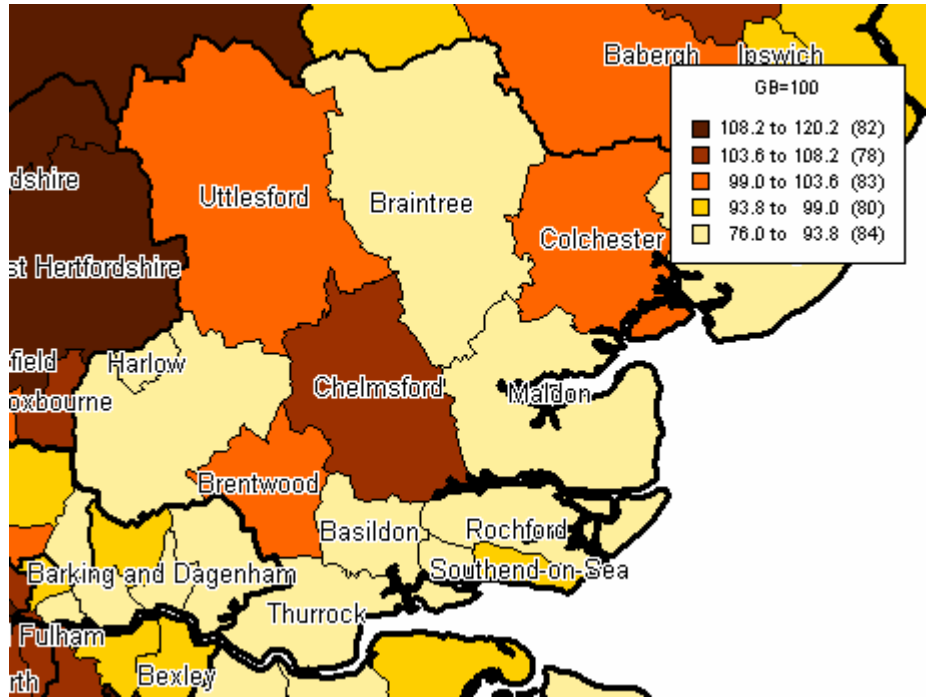
The proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 4 and above in Braintree is high by national standards, with 22.63% of all residents qualified to this level in 2007. By comparison, the Essex figure was 22.11%, the East of England figure was 25.99% and the national figure was 28.59%.

A glossary of the terms and definitions used in this profile are included at the end of the report.

Skills And Qualifications Score (Residence Based)

The map shows the performance of districts within Essex on our skills and qualifications score. The areas with very dark shading score highly and those with very light shading score poorly.

With a score of 93.50, Braintree is in the bottom 20% of districts and is in a sub region that is in the bottom 20% of sub regions nationally.



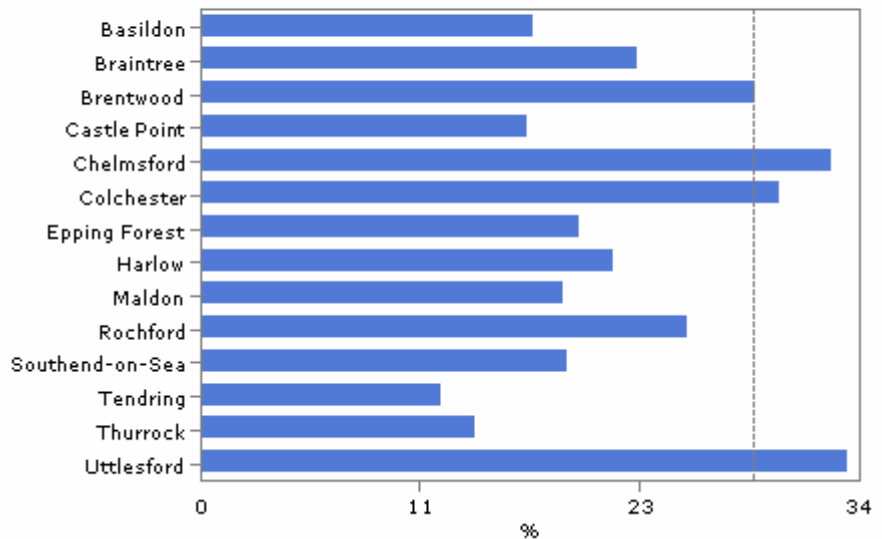
Source: Annual Population Survey

Proportion Of Working Age Population With NVQ4+ (Residence Based)

The bar chart shows the proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 4 and above for districts in Essex.

The chart shows that at 22.63%, Braintree has a below average proportion of working age population qualified to NVQ4 and above. By comparison the Great Britain figure, shown by the dashed line, is 28.59%.

Proportion of working age population with NVQ4+ (residence based) (January - December 2007)



Source: Annual Population Survey

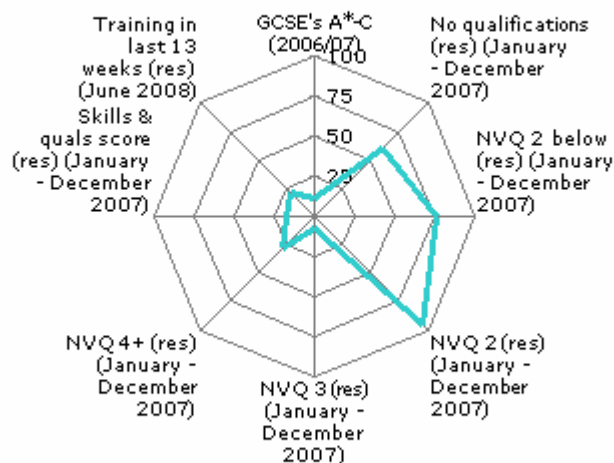
Skills and Qualifications Profile

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Skills And Qualifications Indicators

The spider chart is a way of showing how Braintree rates against the national median. Data for every district in Great Britain is converted into a percentile score, with the top ranking area scoring 100 and the bottom zero. The national median is shown by the 50th percentile.

The chart shows that Braintree scores very poorly by national standards on our skills and qualifications composite score. The chart also shows how Braintree performs on a range of related skills and qualifications measures.



— Braintree

Source: Annual Population Survey

Skills And Qualifications Indicators

Areas	GCSE's A*-C (%) 2006/07	Training in last 13 weeks (res) (%) June 2008	NVQ 2 below (res) (%) January - December 2007	NVQ 2 (res) (%) January - December 2007	NVQ 3 (res) (%) January - December 2007	NVQ 4+ (res) (%) January - December 2007	Skills & quals score (res) (GB=100) January - December 2007	Rank
Chelmsford	67.60	17.93	17.52	23.09	17.45	32.65	105	134/407
Brentwood	66.40	15.64	14.13	24.82	19.95	28.74	103.34	168/407
Colchester	61.10	21.26	22.16	19.87	18.47	29.98	102.38	185/407
Uttlesford	67.80	21.11	16.33	21.95	15.67	33.49	101.60	198/407
Southend-on-Sea	66.10	21.19	25.33	25.48	18.68	18.96	94.32	314/407
Rochford	78.70	23.08	13.82	25.51	16.71	25.21	93.68	326/407
Braintree	52.70	17.59	21.30	28.41	14.61	22.63	93.50	331/407
Epping Forest	54.60	17.18	26.03	23.79	16.45	19.60	90.42	360/407
Harlow	62.60	23.86	24.29	15.50	20.37	21.37	90.41	361/407
Castle Point	58.10	16.44	24.27	27.18	15.98	16.86	88.08	380/407
Basildon	58.20	18.19	28.52	23.64	15.57	17.24	86.91	382/407
Thurrock	60.60	15.89	27.06	22.85	17.75	14.16	84.56	396/407
Maldon	57.60	9.60	21.96	25.01	14.16	18.77	84.52	397/407
Tendring	48.80	15.80	27.88	21.14	15.89	12.48	78.06	405/407
Essex	60.78	18.37	22.97	23.41	17.01	22.11	92.81	49/53
East of England	60.81	18.97	21.16	22.09	18.30	25.99	98.07	6/11
England Average	62	20.27	18.43	21.16	18.70	28.59	100	

Skills And Qualifications Indicators Summary

Looking at some of the indicators from the table we find that:

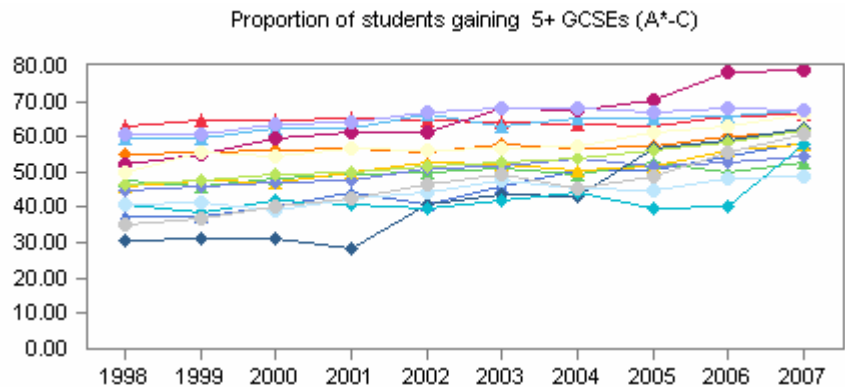
- The proportion of the working age resident population qualified below NVQ level 2 in Braintree is high, with the area ranking in the top 40% of districts nationally. In 2007, 21.30% of working age residents had either NVQ level 1 or no qualifications, compared with 22.97% in Essex and 18.43% nationally.
- The proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 2 in Braintree is very high, with the area ranking in the top 20% of districts nationally. In 2007, 28.41% of working age residents were qualified to NVQ level 2, compared with 23.41% in Essex and 21.16% nationally.
- The proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 3 in Braintree is very low, with the area ranking in the bottom 20% of districts nationally. In 2007, 14.61% of the working age population held 2 A-Levels or equivalent, compared with 17.01% in Essex and 18.70% nationally.
- The proportion of the working age resident population qualified to NVQ level 4 and above in Braintree is low, with the area ranking in the bottom 40% of districts nationally. In 2007, 22.63% held a degree or equivalent, compared with 22.11% in Essex and 28.59% nationally.

Source: Annual Population Survey

Change In Proportion Of Students Gaining 5+ GCSEs (A*-C)

The chart shows how GCSE rates have changed over recent years, for districts in Essex.

For Braintree, it shows that the proportion of 15 year olds achieving 5 grades A*-C at GCSE has increased from 47.50% to 52.70% between 1998 and 2007.



Source: Local Knowledge; GCSE results (LAD level)

Notes: Reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use License. This indicator is



Source: GCSE results (LAD level)

Nearest Neighbours

For the indicators in the spider chart shown earlier, the areas in the country with the most similar profiles are shown opposite. These are statistically the nearest neighbours to Braintree, with Epping Forest in Essex being the most similar on the skills and qualifications indicators.

Rank	Place Name	Sub Region
1	Epping Forest	Essex
2	Crewe and Nantwich	Cheshire & Warrington
3	Breckland	Norfolk
4	North Warwickshire	Coventry & Warwickshire
5	Castle Point	Essex
6	Peterborough City	Cambridgeshire
7	Corby	Northamptonshire
8	Bolsover	Derbyshire
9	Hastings	Sussex
10	Fenland	Cambridgeshire

Source: Annual Population Survey

Glossary of terms

Proportion of students gaining 5+ GCSEs (A* - C)	The percentage of 15 years olds achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A*-C).
Proportion of working age population qualified below NVQ 2 (residence based)	This residence based indicator provides the percentage of males aged 16-65 and females aged 16-60, who are qualified to NVQ level 1 (GCSE grades D-G) or below.
Proportion of working age population with NVQ 2 (residence based)	This residence based indicator provides the percentage of males aged 16-65 and females aged 16-60, who are qualified to NVQ level 2 (5 GCSE's at grades A*-C).
Proportion of working age population with NVQ 3 (residence based)	This residence based indicator provides the percentage of males aged 16-65 and females aged 16-60, who are qualified to NVQ level 3 (2 A levels).
Proportion of working age population with NVQ4+ (residence based)	This residence based indicator provides the percentage of males aged 16-65 and females aged 16-60, who are qualified to NVQ level 4 (degree-level) or above.
Proportion of workforce who have received training in last 13 weeks (residence based)	Proportion of full and part-time employees who have received training in the last 13 weeks.
Skills and qualifications score GB=100 (workplace based)	This composite presents an index of the qualifications of an area's workforce, relative to the GB value. A higher score indicates a high level of local area qualifications amongst the labour market.

Data Sources and Definitions

Proportion of students gaining 5+ GCSEs (A* - C)	Data is provided at district level. Supplied by the Department for Education and Skills. These results are based on the location of the educational establishment where the pupil gained their results, and not where they live.
Proportion of working age population qualified below NVQ 2 (residence based)	The number of resident working age population with NVQ1 and below as a proportion of the total working age population. This indicator includes 55% of those who have Other Qualifications.
Proportion of working age population with NVQ 2 (residence based)	The number of resident working age population with NVQ2 as a proportion of the total working age population. This indicator includes 35% of those who have Other Qualifications and 50% of those with Trade Apprenticeships.
Proportion of working age population with NVQ 3 (residence based)	The number of resident working age population with NVQ3 as a proportion of the total working age population. This indicator includes 10% of those who have Other Qualifications and 50% of those with Trade Apprenticeships.
Proportion of working age population with NVQ4+ (residence based)	The number of resident working age population qualified to NVQ4+ as a proportion of the total working age population.
Proportion of workforce who have received training in last 13 weeks (residence based)	The number in the resident workforce who have participated in training in the last 13 weeks as a proportion of the total workforce.

Skills and Qualifications Profile

Braintree
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Skills and qualifications score
GB=100 (workplace based)

Skills and qualifications scores are generated from summing the weighted percentages of an area's workforce qualified below NVQ2, at NVQ2, NVQ3 and NVQ4 and above, with each indicator indexed to the GB value. The sum of these indices are then divided by 4 to gain an overall composite.

Source: Local Knowledge; Annual Population Survey (ONS Crown Copyright); Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Skills and Qualifications Profile

Braintree
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We hope that you have found this report useful. If you would like a more comprehensive guide which benchmarks and analyses a specific area's performance, please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Ordering further Place Profiles

Place Profiles are available at a range of spatial levels from Sub-Region to Lower Layer Super Output Area. The reports are produced using the latest information. They cover the following economic, social and environmental themes which, in combination, provide a comprehensive analysis of local conditions:

Economy

Economic Performance
Industrial Structure
Business and Enterprise
Skills and Qualifications
Labour Market

Society

Age
Ethnicity
Households
Migration and Change
Occupations
Prosperity
Deprivation
Health
Crime

Environment

Housing
Commercial Property
Transport and Communications
Amenities
Natural Environment

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