

'HOW TO' | November 2022

Use the Index of Multiple Deprivation

What is the Index of Multiple Deprivation?

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official relative measure of deprivation in England. It combines data from each of the seven domains of deprivation (income, employment, education, health, crime, housing and living environment) and ranks every small area in England from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived). You can use the IMD to identify the most deprived neighbourhoods in your area, and you can view the separate indices to explore how your local area is affected by different types of deprivation. See our IMD infographic to find out more.

Why is the IMD important for women?

The IMD is not disaggregated by gender, so it can't tell us anything specific about how women are affected by deprivation in our communities. However, it can provide us with a useful overview, and its data can be used to support what you notice happening in your local area. The IMD can also provide a starting point for further research. For example, we know that women tend to have lower incomes than men (largely due to the gender pay gap), so if you notice that an area has high levels of income deprivation, this may warrant some research into how this is affecting women and what interventions may be useful.

It is important to remember that the IMD is most useful as a general measurement and comparison tool. You should always think critically about the data, remembering that it will not tell you everything you need to know about deprivation. For example, pockets of deprivation exist even in the least deprived areas, and there may be aspects of deprivation that are not well-measured by the IMD (e.g. food deserts). However, so long as you remember the above, the IMD can provide a useful and easy-to-use source of data for thinking about deprivation across England.

What to expect

We will show you where to access IMD data including the statistical release, interactive Local Authority dashboard and the mapping tool. We also show you how to use IMD data in Excel, including how to create a bar chart that compares deprivation between two areas.

Let's work through the different parts together.

(LSOA) within your LA. The column that shows the IMD decile of each LSOA is colour coded in line with the map displayed on the right of your screen. Dark blue represents the most deprived areas, moving into pale green for the least deprived areas.

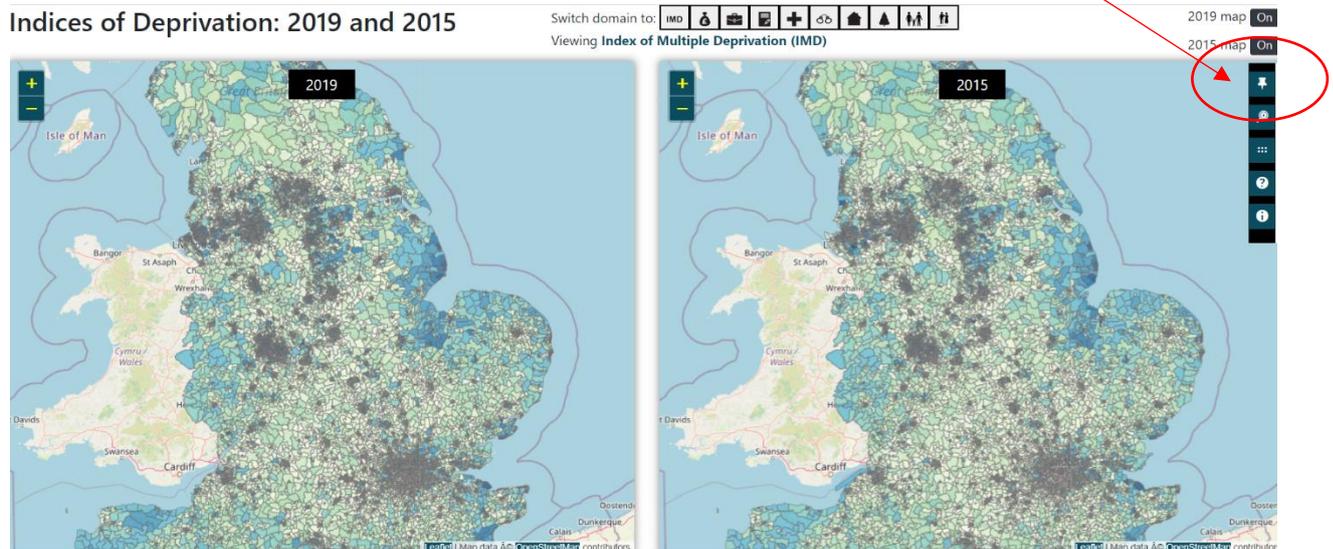
Interpreting IMD data

If you need some help interpreting the data (for example, the difference between rank and score), take a look at the [FAQ document for the English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#). The information about rank, score and deciles is on page 11, but the document contains lots of other useful information as well.

How to Use the IMD Mapping Tool

The ONS have released a [mapping tool for the IMD and each of the Indices of Deprivation](#)³. This provides a simple way to view local deprivation information and to compare this information to the 2015 data.

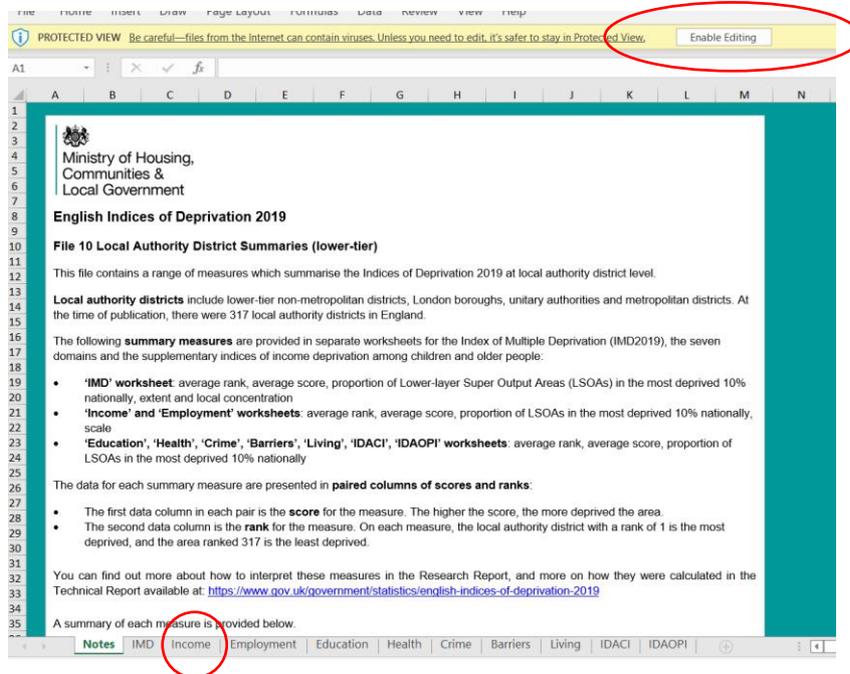
You can find your local area by clicking on its location on the map, or by searching for your postcode/local area name (to do this, click on the button that looks like a pin).



³ http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html

How to Access and Use IMD Data

First, head to the [main webpage for the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)⁴ and scroll down until you see the list of data files. I want to view data for my Local Authority district, so I'm going to download File 10. Click on the file to download it, then open it in Excel. If you see a yellow bar at the top of the screen, click 'Enable Editing'.



This is the cover page of the workbook. Read the information to make sure you understand what each column is telling you.

In this example, I want to make a chart that compares levels of income and employment deprivation between the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Tower Hamlets. It can be really useful to compare different areas when looking at data, for instance if you want to highlight inequalities between boroughs.

Here's how to make the chart...

Step 1:

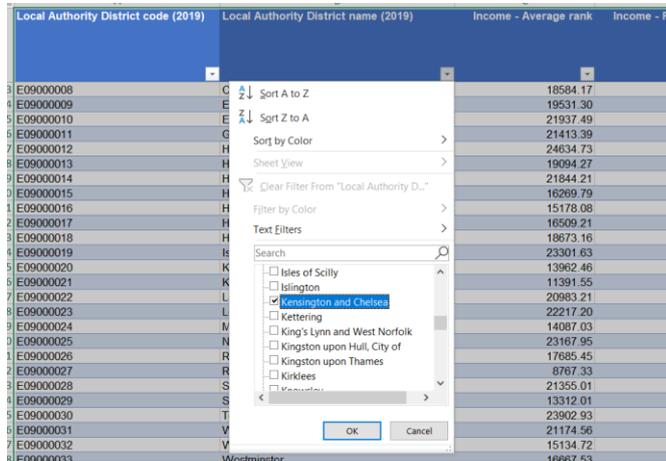
First, click on the 'Income' tab at the bottom of the page (circled in red above). This will take you to a worksheet that lists every local authority and its income deprivation data. Click on any cell and press 'ctrl t' on your keyboard, then click 'ok'. This will turn the worksheet into a table, which makes filtering the data more simple. Your table should look like this:

Local Authority District code (2018)	Local Authority District name (2019)	Income - Average rank	Income - Rank of average rank	Income - Average score	Income - Rank of average score
295 E09000010	Enfield	21007.40	30	0.171	30
295 E09000011	Greenwich	21413.39	39	0.158	39
297 E09000012	Hackney	24624.73	5	0.196	5
298 E09000013	Hammersmith and Fulham	19091.27	76	0.142	76
295 E09000014	Haringey	21584.21	31	0.170	31
300 E09000015	Harrow	16299.79	132	0.109	132
201 E09000016	Islington	15179.88	159	0.108	159
301 E09000017	Hillingdon	16599.21	120	0.114	120
201 E09000018	Isleworth	18073.65	89	0.129	89
304 E09000019	Islington	23291.63	17	0.179	17
205 E09000020	Kensington and Chelsea	13069.46	187	0.117	187
305 E09000021	Kingston upon Thames	11391.66	236	0.076	236
207 E09000022	Lambeth	20983.21	45	0.153	45
308 E09000023	Lewisham	22217.60	28	0.164	28
209 E09000024	Merton	14887.63	164	0.100	164
310 E09000025	Newham	23187.95	19	0.189	19
311 E09000026	Newcastle	17696.42	110	0.121	110
312 E09000027	Richmond upon Thames	8787.33	285	0.084	285
313 E09000028	Southwark	21550.91	49	0.162	49
314 E09000029	Sutton	13312.81	199	0.095	199
315 E09000030	Tower Hamlets	23892.61	19	0.192	19
316 E09000031	Waltham Forest	21174.96	43	0.152	43
317 E09000032	Wandsworth	15134.72	192	0.107	192
318 E09000033	Wandsworth	16887.53	141	0.135	141

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Step 2:

Next, click the down arrow underneath where it says, 'Local Authority District name (2019)', uncheck the 'select all' box, then individually select Kensington and Chelsea and Tower Hamlets. Click 'OK'. This will transform your table so that it only shows you the data for those two areas.

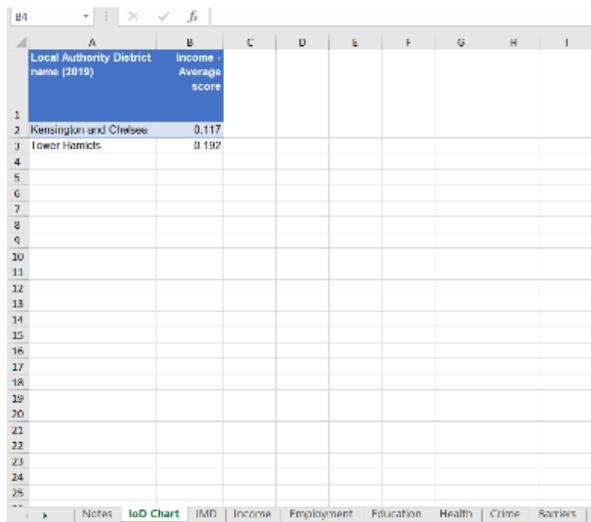


Step 3:

Highlight the data you want to include in your chart, then press 'ctrl c' on your keyboard to copy it. Next, click the '+' to the right of the worksheet tabs to create a new worksheet.



Double click the new worksheet tab to rename it (I've gone with 'IoD chart'). Finally, paste the incomes data into this new worksheet by clicking on the first cell and then entering 'ctrl v' on your keyboard. You may want to delete any columns that you don't want to include in your final table. For my chart, I just want to focus on average score, so that's all I've copied over.



Note: you may want to round the figures to the nearest decimal place or integer (whole number), but for the sake of this example I have left the data as is.

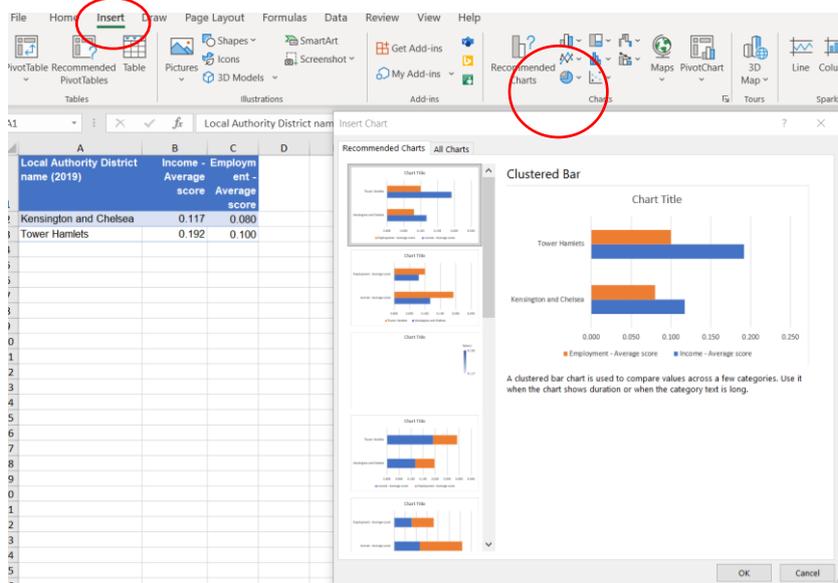
Step 4:

Complete steps 1 and 2 in exactly the same way for the employment worksheet. Then, copy the 'Employment - Average score' column into the worksheet you created in Step 3. Your table should look like this:

	A	B	C	D
	Local Authority District name (2019)	Income - Average score	Employment - Average score	
1				
2	Kensington and Chelsea	0.117	0.080	
3	Tower Hamlets	0.192	0.100	
4				
5				
6				
7				

Step 5:

All that's left to do now is to make our chart! This bit is easy – just select your table, go to the 'Insert' tab at the top of the screen, and click on 'Recommended Charts'. I've selected the clustered bar chart, but you can choose whichever chart you feel best represents your data.



Finally, you can edit the title, axes or design of your chart by clicking on the icons to the right of your table.



That's it! You can now insert your chart into reports, presentations, social media posts or anywhere else you can think of!

What next?

We hope this guide has made you feel confident in accessing, viewing and using data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation. If you use IMD data in any of your reports, briefings or communications (including social media) after reading this, we'd love for you to [get in touch](#) to let us know how you got on!

If you'd like a little more hands on help with accessing and using data, [get in touch with our Local Data Project Team](#) to request some free training! We offer general or bespoke training based on your needs, interests and level of existing knowledge. Don't worry if you're a complete novice – we would be glad to help you through the steps and give you the confidence you need to use data in your work.