

Luton and its Audit Family

Comparisons using data from the 2001 Census

Research and Intelligence Team
Department of Environment & Regeneration
March 2003



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Luton Borough Council has an 'Audit Family' of areas with similar characteristics. Included in this Audit Family are:

• Blackburn with Darwen	• Leicester City	• Rochdale
• Bolton	• Medway	• Slough
• Bradford	• Milton Keynes	• Telford and Wrekin
• Coventry	• Oldham	• Thurrock
• Derby City	• Peterborough	• Walsall

Source: Audit Commission

This paper makes comparisons across the Audit Family using the Key Statistics for Local Authorities from the 2001 Census.

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Resident Population								
	1991 (number)	2001 (number)	% change 1991- 2001	Area (hectares)	Population density (persons per hectare)	Average no of people per household	% lone parent households ¹	% of 16-74 year olds with no qualifications
Luton	173,700	184,371	6.2%	4,335	42.5	2.59	10.3%	31.3%
Blackburn with Darwen	137,400	137,470	0.1%	13,701	10.0	2.54	11.8%	37.2%
Bolton	261,300	261,037	-0.1%	13,980	18.7	2.39	10.7%	33.3%
Bradford	468,800	467,665	-0.2%	36,642	12.8	2.55	10.4%	35.1%
Coventry	303,900	300,848	-1.0%	9,864	30.5	2.40	11.7%	31.4%
Derby City	222,900	221,708	-0.5%	7,803	28.4	2.35	10.2%	31.4%
Leicester City	281,500	279,921	-0.6%	7,332	38.2	2.46	12.1%	38.5%
Medway	242,500	249,488	2.8%	19,203	13.0	2.48	9.8%	30.0%
Milton Keynes	178,300	207,057	16.2%	30,863	6.7	2.46	10.1%	24.4%
Oldham	218,500	217,273	-0.6%	14,236	15.3	2.45	11.5%	37.7%
Peterborough	154,200	156,061	1.2%	34,338	4.5	2.37	10.3%	30.6%
Rochdale	203,900	205,357	0.7%	15,808	13.0	2.43	11.6%	36.1%
Slough	105,400	119,067	13.0%	3,254	36.6	2.63	8.7%	28.1%
Telford and Wrekin	141,300	158,325	12.1%	29,031	5.5	2.45	11.1%	31.8%
Thurrock	128,700	143,128	11.2%	16,338	8.8	2.44	10.2%	34.5%
Walsall	261,300	253,499	-3.0%	10,395	24.4	2.48	10.7%	42.7%
East of England	5,121,100	5,388,140	5.2%	1,910,981	2.8	2.37	8.0%	27.9%
England and Wales	50,748,000	52,041,916	2.5%	15,101,270	3.4	2.36	9.5%	29.1%

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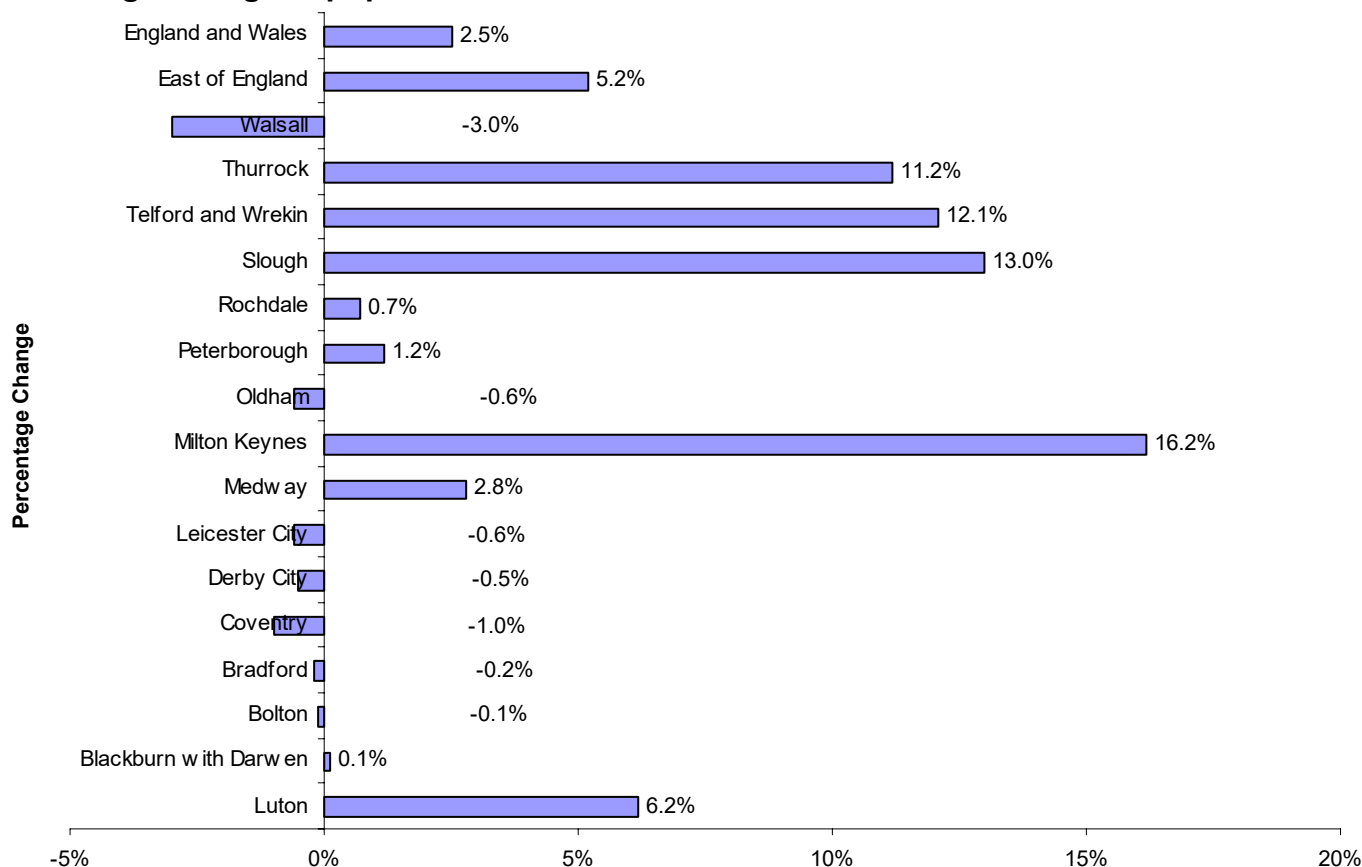
¹ This shows the percentage of all households that are lone parent households

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Percentage change in population, 1991 - 2001



- Luton's population has increased by 6.2%, the fifth largest rise in its audit family.

- The increase in population is similar to the East of England figure, at 5.2%, but significantly above the average figure for England and Wales.

- Estimates produced by Bedfordshire County Council and Luton Borough Council predict a slight decline in Luton's population between 2001 and 2011.

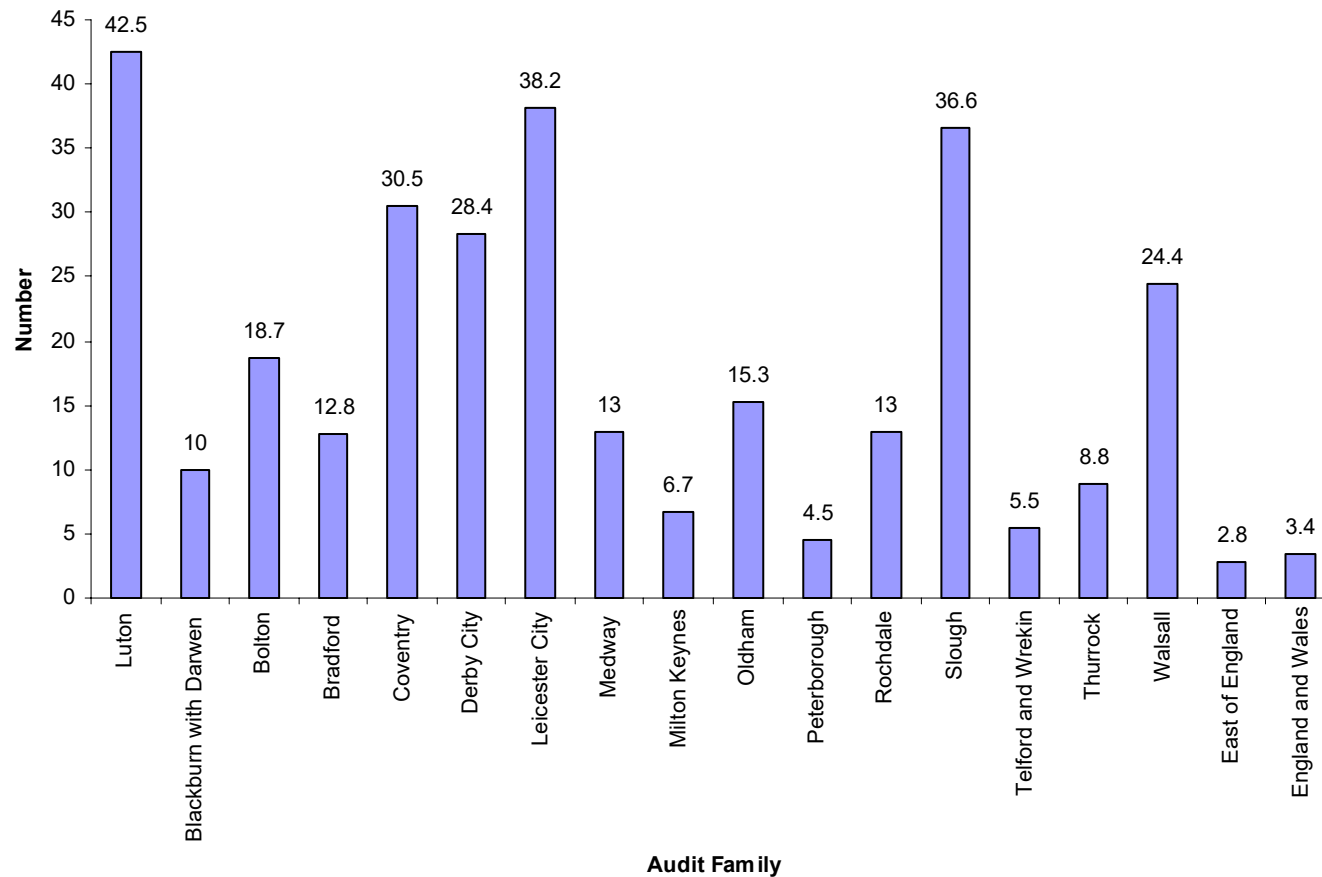
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Population Density, persons per hectare 2001



- Luton is clearly the most densely populated of its audit family – some 39.7 persons per hectare above the East of England average and 38 persons per hectare above the least densely populated area, Peterborough.

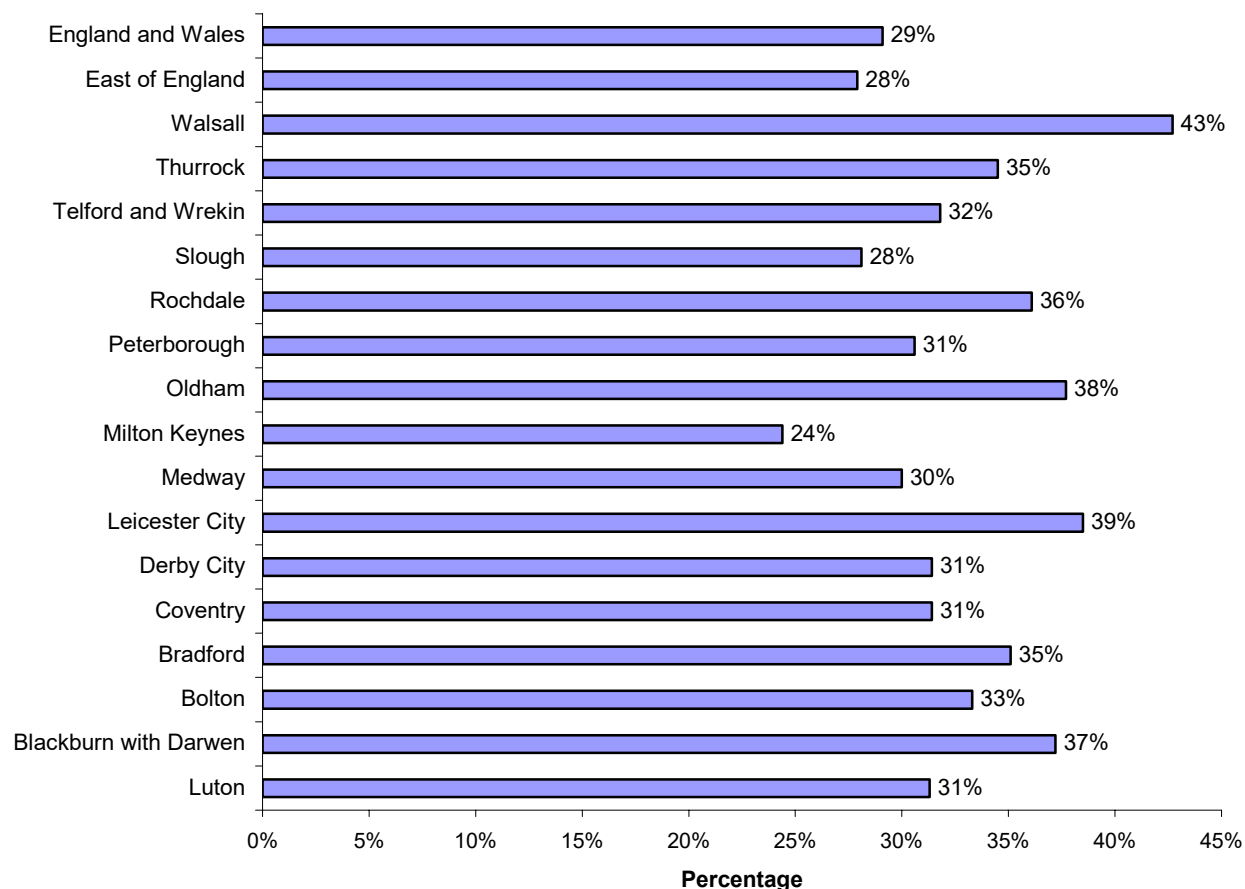
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% of resident population with no qualifications, 2001



- The percentage of the resident population with no qualifications in Luton mirrors both the national and regional figures.

- Within its audit family, Luton has the fourth lowest percentage of population with no qualifications, 31.3%.

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Resident Population - % of all people							
	Age			Health			Misc
	Aged 0-15	Aged 16-74	Aged 75 & over	General Health 'Not Good'	Limiting long term illness	Providing unpaid care	Without a car/van
Luton	23.5%	71.4%	5.1%	8.1%	15.3%	8.7%	26.4%
Blackburn with Darwen	25.2%	68.6%	6.2%	11.1%	20.3%	10.2%	33.5%
Bolton	21.7%	71.2%	7.1%	11.0%	20.3%	10.9%	30.3%
Bradford	23.4%	69.9%	6.7%	10.2%	18.5%	10.3%	32.5%
Coventry	21.2%	71.4%	7.4%	10.0%	18.6%	10.0%	33.1%
Derby City	21.0%	71.3%	7.6%	9.9%	19.3%	10.7%	30.6%
Leicester City	22.3%	71.1%	6.7%	10.2%	18.8%	9.6%	38.3%
Medway	22.5%	71.9%	5.7%	7.6%	15.6%	8.6%	23.0%
Milton Keynes	22.9%	72.3%	4.8%	7.1%	14.1%	8.4%	19.2%
Oldham	23.0%	70.2%	6.8%	11.2%	20.3%	10.8%	34.4%
Peterborough	22.0%	71.6%	6.5%	8.5%	16.8%	9.4%	26.0%
Rochdale	22.8%	70.6%	6.5%	11.2%	20.6%	10.7%	33.5%
Slough	22.3%	72.4%	5.2%	7.8%	14.3%	8.6%	23.2%
Telford and Wrekin	22.3%	72.2%	5.6%	9.3%	18.0%	9.9%	22.4%
Thurrock	22.0%	72.0%	6.1%	7.8%	16.1%	9.3%	21.3%
Walsall	21.7%	71.3%	7.0%	11.0%	20.4%	11.0%	31.0%
East of England	20.1%	72.1%	7.8%	7.6%	16.2%	9.7%	19.8%
England and Wales	20.2%	72.3%	7.6%	9.2%	18.2%	10.0%	26.8%

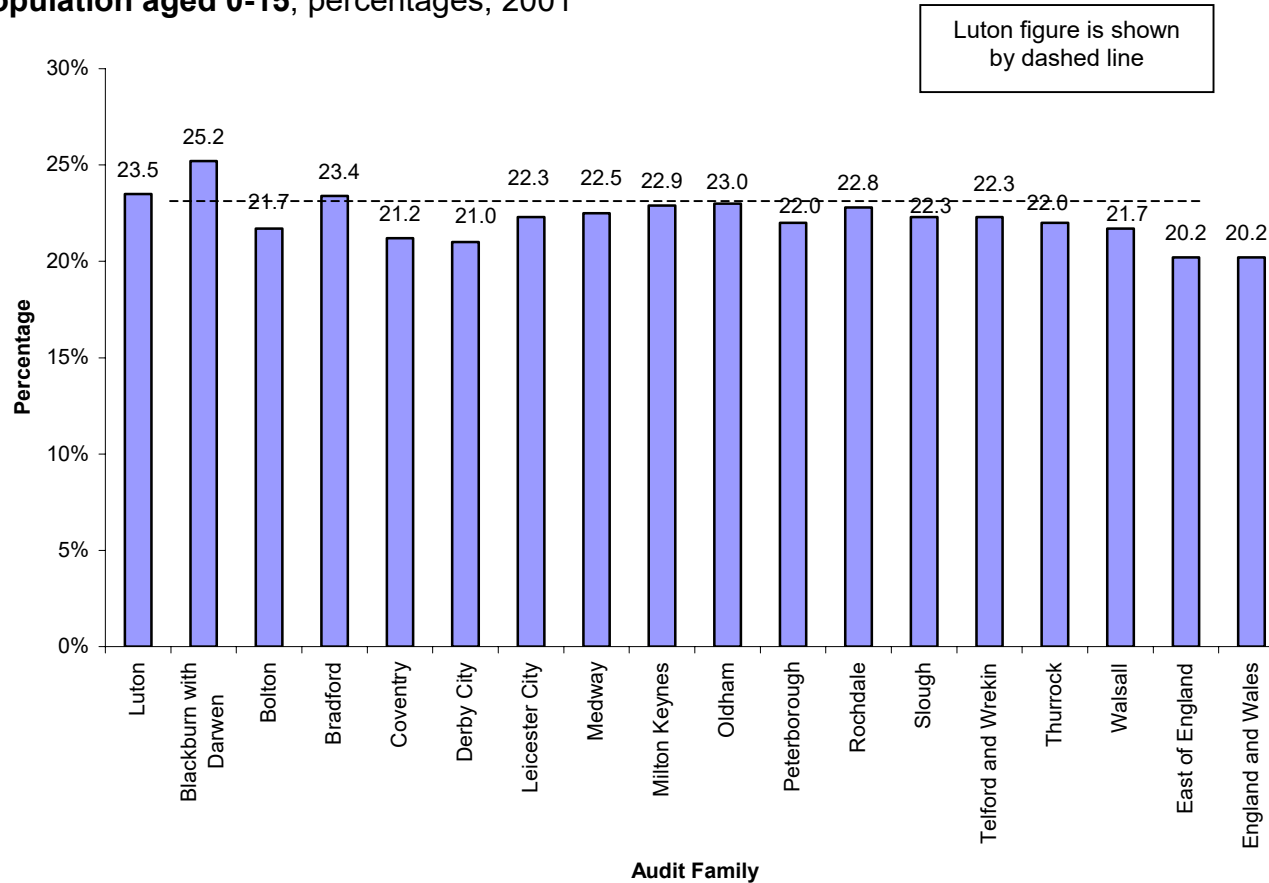
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Population aged 0-15, percentages, 2001



- Luton’s population remains young, with 23.5% of its resident population being between the ages of 0-15.
- Within the audit family, the percentage 0-15 year olds is only higher in Blackburn with Darwen, at 25.2%.
- The Luton figure is just over 3% higher than the East of England and England and Wales figures, which are almost identical at 20.1% and 20.2% respectively.

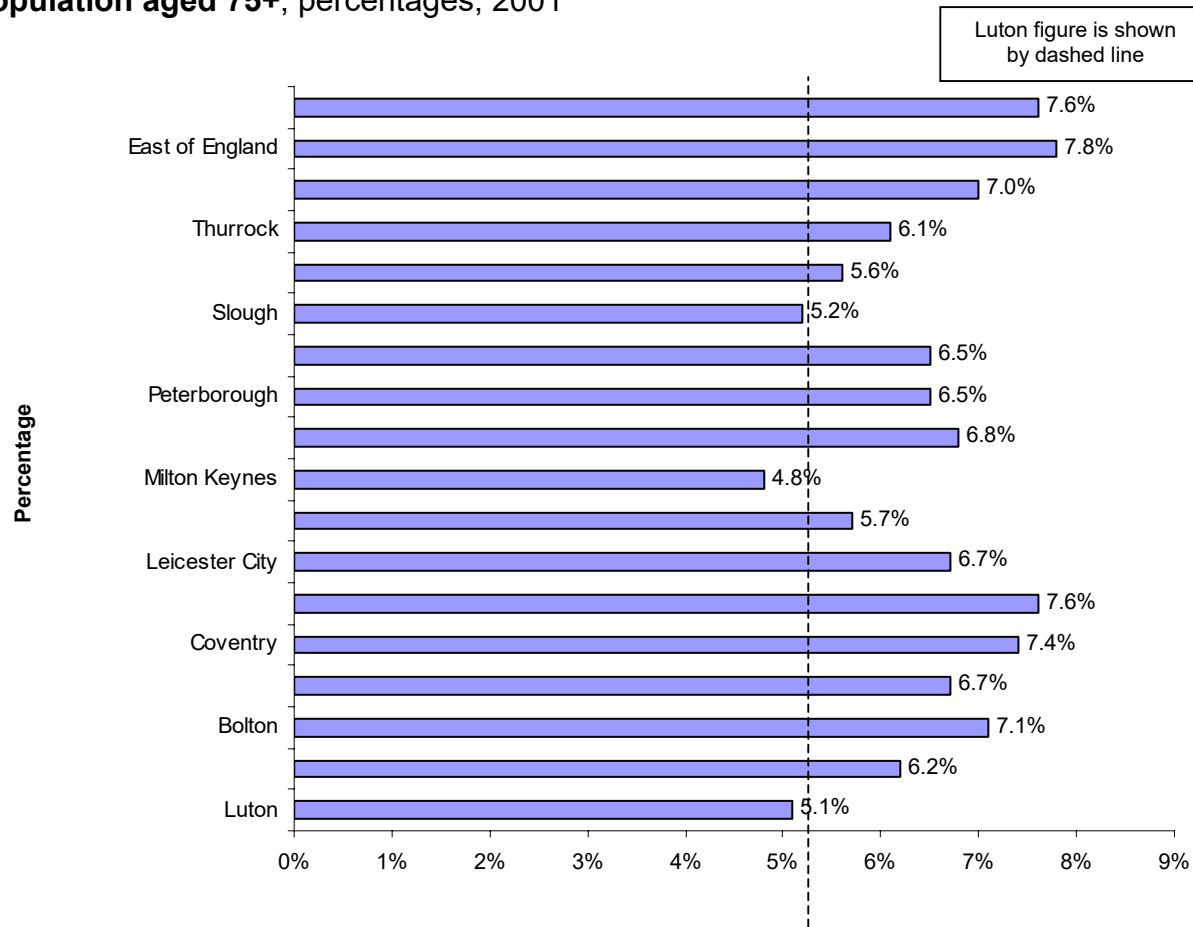
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Population aged 75+, percentages, 2001



- Adding further demonstration to the young population of Luton, it is shown that there is a relatively low percentage of 75+ year old in Luton's population.

- At 5.1%, Luton's proportion of over 75s is the second lowest in its audit family, with Milton Keynes slightly lower at 4.8%.

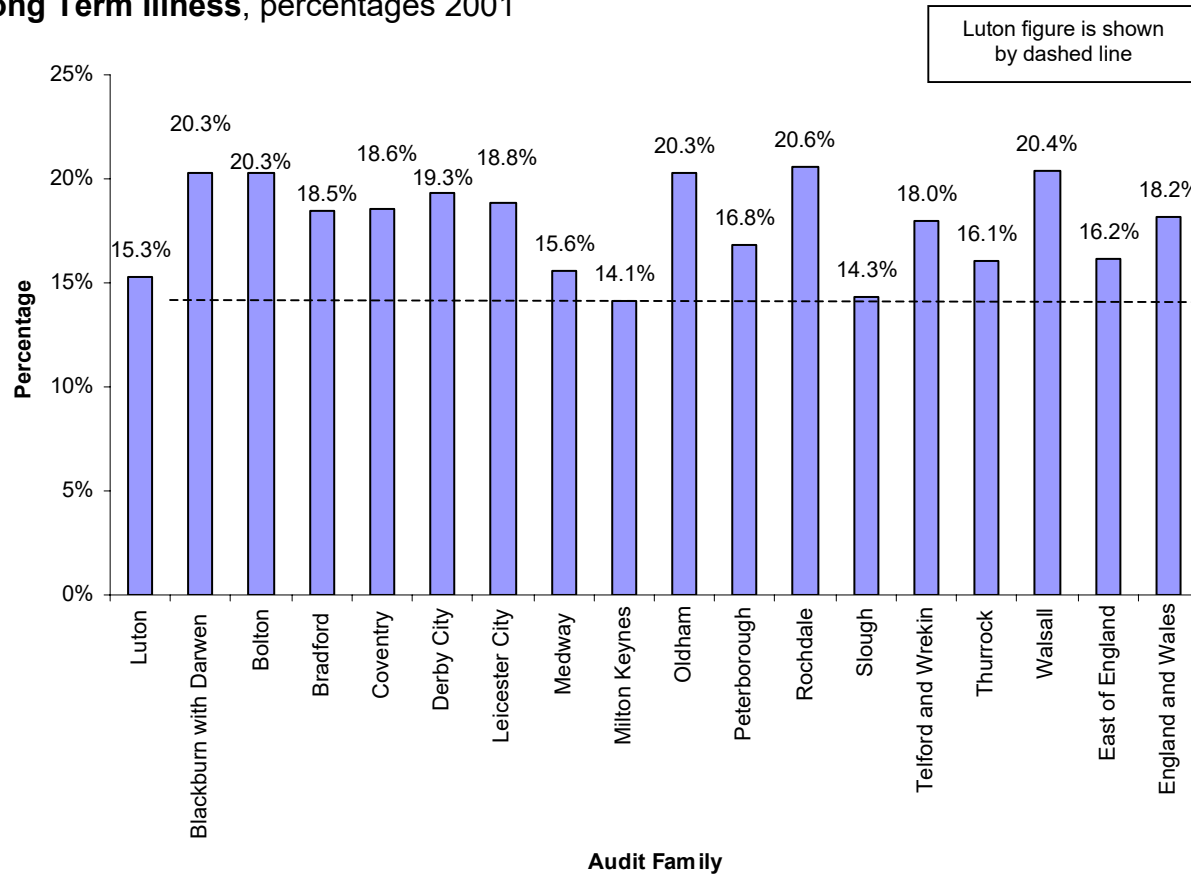
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Long Term Illness, percentages 2001



- The percentage of those with a long term illness in Luton is similar to the East of England average, whilst it is below the England and Wales figure by almost 3 percentage points.
- Within the audit family, Luton has the third lowest percentage of population with a long term illness, 5.3 percentage points below the highest area, Rochdale.

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Ethnicity [1] - % of all people								
	<i>British</i>	<i>Irish</i>	Other White	White & Black Caribbean	White % Black African	White & Asian	Other Mixed	Indian
Luton	65.0%	4.7%	2.3%	1.3%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	4.1%
Blackburn with Darwen	76.1%	0.9%	1.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	10.7%
Bolton	87.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	6.1%
Bradford	76.1%	0.7%	1.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	0.2%	2.7%
Coventry	78.3%	3.5%	2.2%	0.8%	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	8.0%
Derby City	84.4%	1.4%	1.7%	1.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	3.8%
Leicester City	60.5%	1.3%	2.0%	1.0%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%	25.7%
Medway	92.2%	0.9%	1.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	2.0%
Milton Keynes	86.8%	1.4%	2.5%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	1.9%
Oldham	84.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%
Peterborough	85.7%	1.1%	2.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	1.8%
Rochdale	86.1%	1.5%	1.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%
Slough	58.3%	2.1%	3.3%	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%	14.0%
Telford and Wrekin	93.1%	0.7%	1.0%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	1.7%
Thurrock	92.8%	1.1%	1.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	1.3%
Walsall	85.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	5.4%
East of England	91.5%	1.1%	2.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%
England and Wales	87.5%	1.2%	2.6%	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	2.0%

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Ethnicity [2] - % of all people								
	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Caribbean	African	Other Black	Chinese	Other Groups
Luton	9.2%	4.1%	0.8%	4.2%	1.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.3%
Blackburn with Darwen	8.7%	0.4%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Bolton	2.5%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Bradford	14.5%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Coventry	2.1%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%
Derby City	4.0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Leicester City	1.5%	0.7%	2.0%	1.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Medway	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Milton Keynes	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	1.3%	0.2%	0.9%	0.5%
Oldham	6.3%	4.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Peterborough	4.5%	0.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Rochdale	7.7%	1.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Slough	12.1%	0.1%	1.7%	2.9%	1.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.7%
Telford and Wrekin	1.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Thurrock	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Walsall	3.7%	1.0%	0.4%	1.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
East of England	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%
England and Wales	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%	0.9%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%

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Economic Activity - % of all people aged 16-74						
	Full time employed	Part time employed	Self employed	Unemployed	Economically active student	% of unemployed who are long term unemployed
Luton	42.5%	10.4%	6.7%	3.9%	3.7%	28.3%
Blackburn with Darwen	36.8%	11.8%	6.5%	4.1%	2.1%	29.1%
Bolton	40.5%	12.0%	7.1%	3.5%	2.5%	29.6%
Bradford	37.7%	12.0%	6.8%	4.4%	2.5%	31.9%
Coventry	39.4%	10.9%	5.2%	4.0%	3.7%	29.6%
Derby City	39.7%	12.5%	5.4%	4.0%	3.2%	33.3%
Leicester City	37.4%	10.5%	5.2%	4.9%	3.9%	29.5%
Medway	44.6%	12.4%	7.6%	3.5%	2.3%	29.2%
Milton Keynes	51.2%	11.4%	7.3%	3.0%	2.6%	20.2%
Oldham	40.7%	11.6%	6.8%	3.7%	2.1%	28.4%
Peterborough	44.8%	12.5%	6.4%	3.3%	2.2%	24.6%
Rochdale	39.5%	11.6%	7.0%	3.9%	2.2%	28.7%
Slough	49.6%	9.5%	6.2%	3.4%	2.9%	28.0%
Telford and Wrekin	45.6%	11.5%	6.0%	3.3%	2.3%	27.0%
Thurrock	46.0%	12.6%	7.1%	3.4%	2.1%	26.3%
Walsall	39.1%	11.9%	6.0%	4.4%	1.9%	32.2%
East of England	42.6%	12.5%	9.3%	2.6%	2.3%	27.1%
England and Wales	40.6%	11.8%	8.3%	3.4%	2.6%	30.3%

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Economic Inactivity - % of all people aged 16-74					
	Retired	Student	Looking after home/family	Permanently sick or disabled	Other inactive
Luton	10.9%	5.5%	7.6%	4.6%	4.2%
Blackburn with Darwen	12.4%	4.5%	8.7%	8.4%	4.6%
Bolton	13.3%	4.0%	6.4%	7.4%	3.4%
Bradford	12.8%	5.5%	7.6%	6.1%	4.5%
Coventry	12.6%	8.7%	5.9%	6.1%	3.6%
Derby City	14.4%	5.1%	6.6%	5.8%	3.3%
Leicester City	10.8%	8.8%	7.5%	6.5%	4.7%
Medway	11.8%	3.3%	7.8%	4.0%	2.8%
Milton Keynes	9.0%	2.7%	6.3%	3.9%	2.7%
Oldham	13.0%	4.0%	6.7%	7.7%	3.8%
Peterborough	12.4%	2.9%	7.2%	5.0%	3.2%
Rochdale	13.0%	4.0%	6.5%	8.3%	4.1%
Slough	9.6%	4.4%	7.0%	3.9%	3.6%
Telford and Wrekin	11.5%	3.7%	7.1%	6.2%	2.8%
Thurrock	11.8%	2.2%	7.6%	4.5%	2.8%
Walsall	14.8%	3.7%	7.7%	6.8%	3.9%
East of England	14.0%	3.6%	6.7%	3.9%	2.5%
England and Wales	13.6%	4.7%	6.5%	5.5%	3.1%

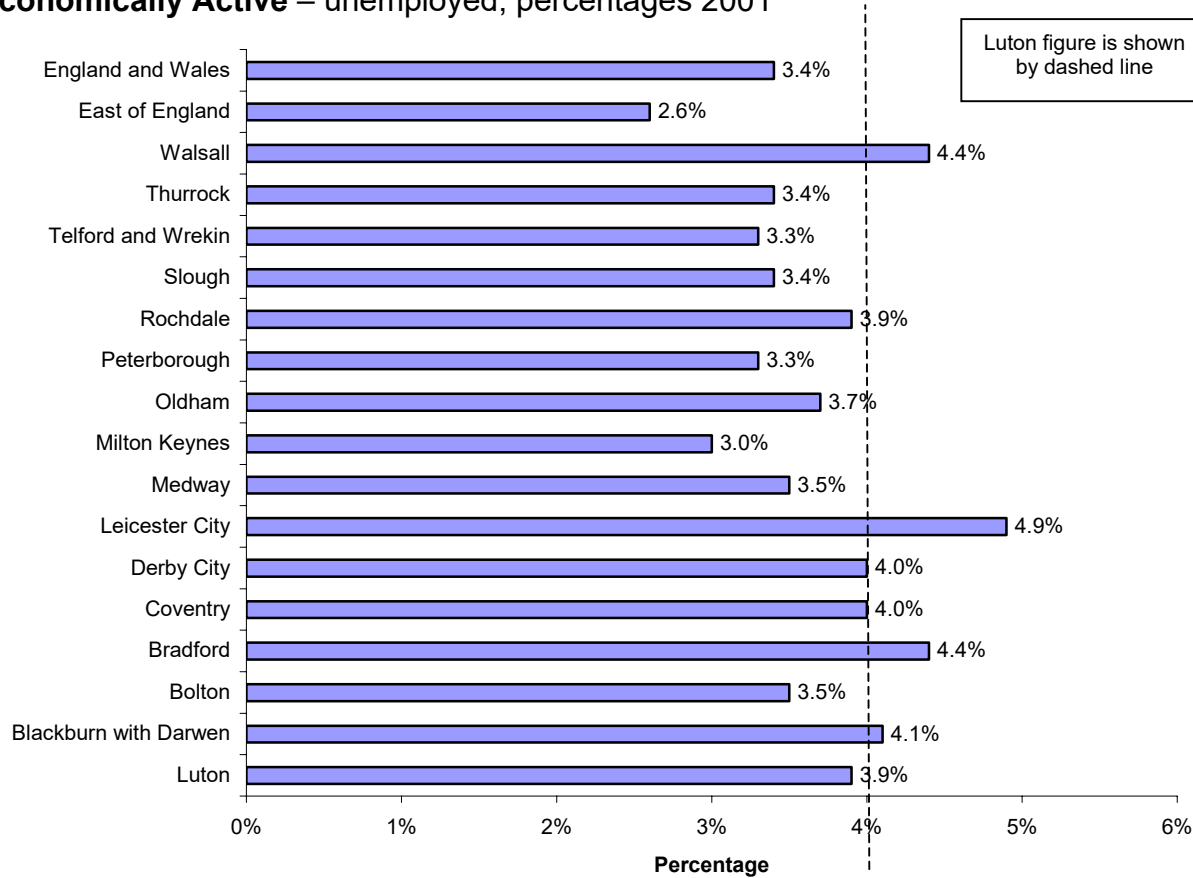
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Economically Active – unemployed, percentages 2001



- Luton’s unemployment level is above the regional and national figures, but is around the average for its audit family.

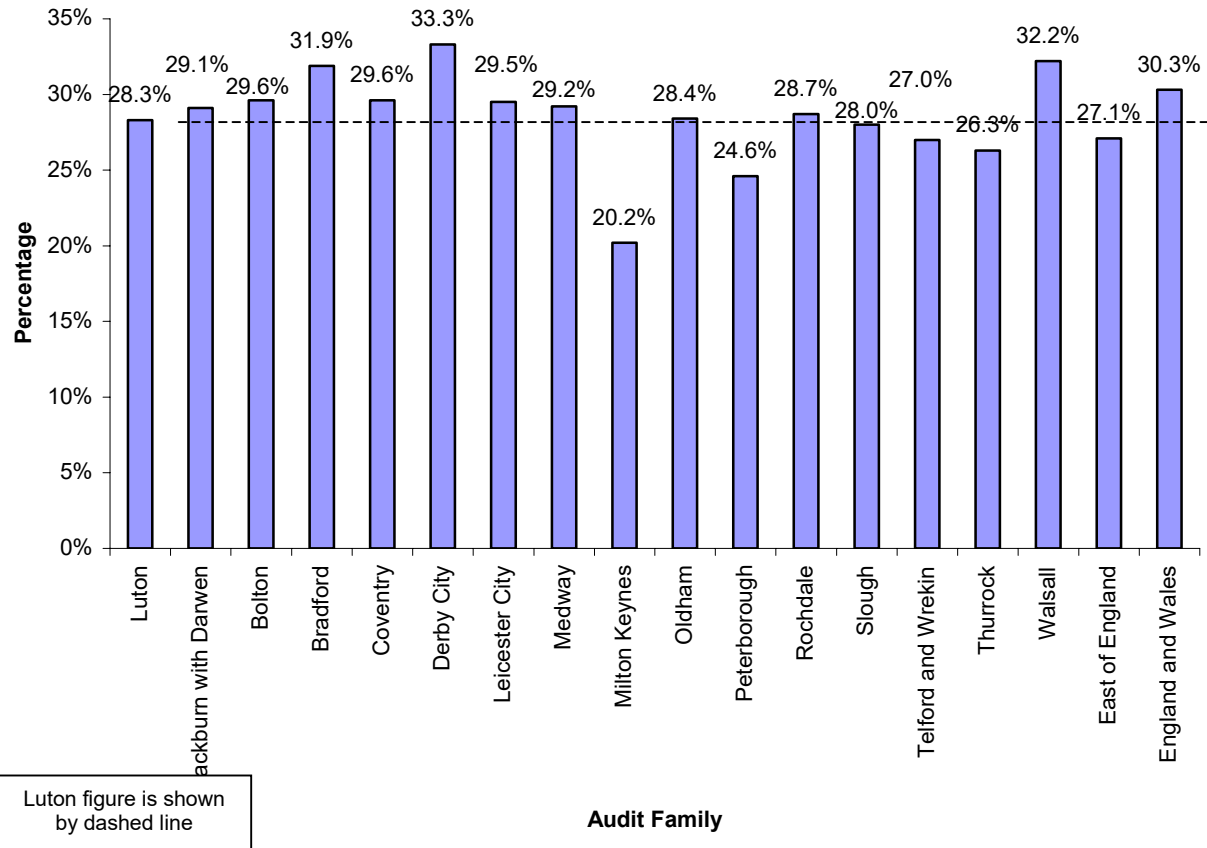
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Long-term unemployed, percentage of the unemployed classified as long-term unemployed, 2001



- At 28.3%, the percentage of unemployed classified as 'long term' is relatively low within the audit family – the 5th lowest figure.

- Although below the East of England average, the percentage for Luton is below the national figure by 2 percentage points.

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