

Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) 2025

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Version: 1.0

Last updated: March 2026

Executive summary

- The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are published by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and rank relative deprivation amongst areas in England.
- Luton is currently ranked the 45th (15 percentile) most deprived area out of 296 local authorities. In 2019 Luton was ranked the 70th (22 percentile) most deprived area from 317 local authorities. Therefore, Luton is more relatively deprived than in 2019. This is the highest ranking since comparable data began in 2004.
- The proportion of neighbourhoods in Luton considered highly deprived has risen from 3.3 to 13.6 per cent, with the town having 17 neighbourhoods in the top 10 per cent most deprived. Previously Luton had four areas in the top 10 per cent (2019 IMD).
- Total number of residents who live in these highly deprived areas is 32,057 people in Luton, or 14 per cent of the population based on the latest 2022 small area estimates by the ONS
- The 17 highly deprived neighbourhoods located as: five in Central ward, four in Beech Hill, two in Biscot and Farley and one each in Dallow, Northwell, Round Green and South. The previous four most deprived areas from 2019 are still in the top 10 per cent most deprived.
- This increase in deprivation has been driven by income and income affecting children. These account for 22.5 per cent of the IMD score. This sharp increase shows that residents have become relatively poorer compared to other national averages.
- Luton's highest deprivation rankings are (out of 296 authorities, 1= most deprived area):
 - 9th in income affecting children (IDACI)
 - 14th in income
 - 24th in barriers to housing and services
 - 37th in education

- Luton's lowest deprivation rankings are:
 - 98th in crime - the highest (least deprived) ranking
 - 95th in living environment
 - 91st in health

Map 1: 2025 IMD for Luton by lower super output area (LSOA) (2024)

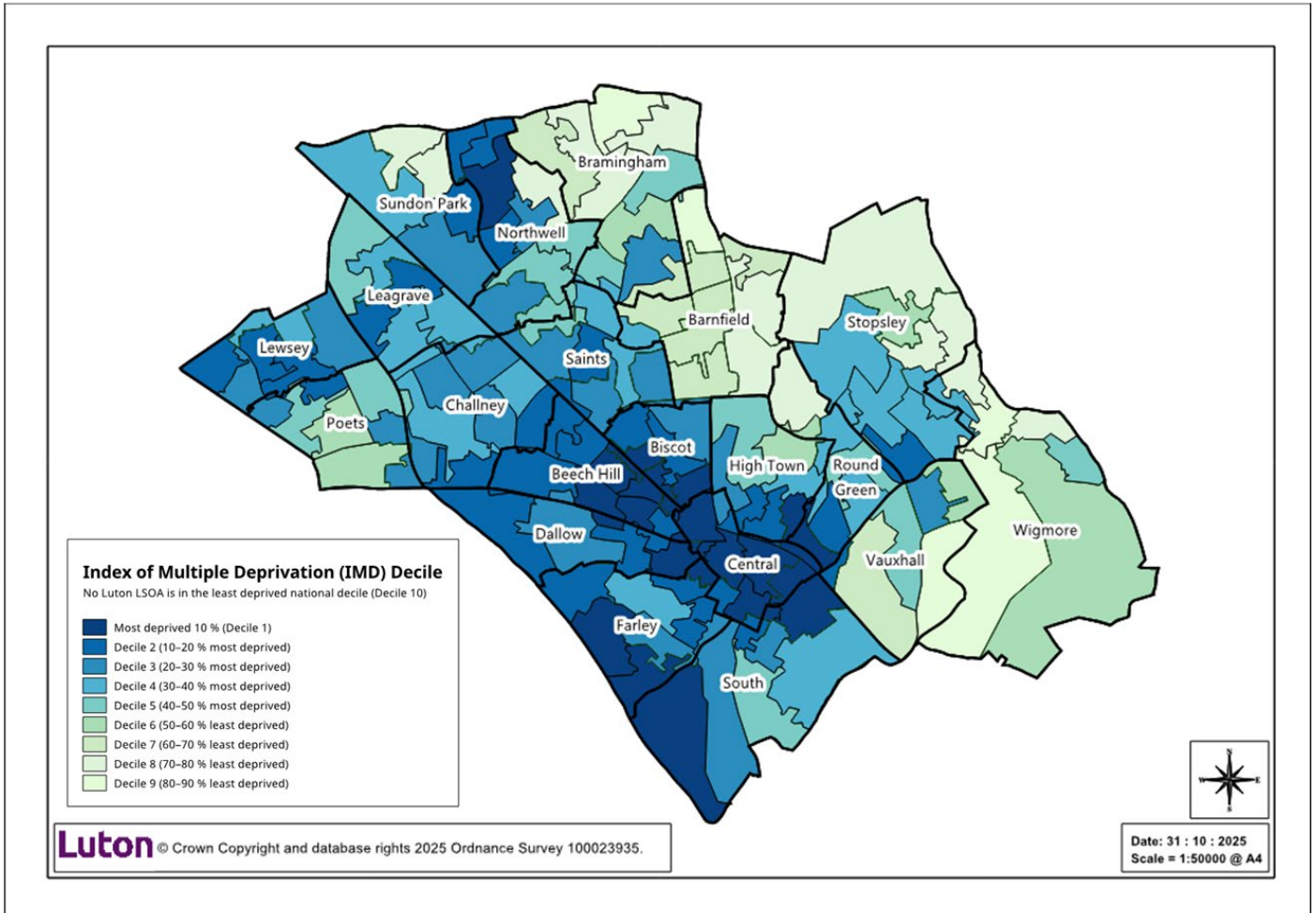


Table 1: National position, 2025

2025 Education Rank	Local Authority
1	Blackpool
2	Middlesbrough
3	Burnley
4	Manchester
5	Birmingham
45	Luton
292	Surrey Heath
293	Epsom & Ewell
294	Rushcliffe
295	Wokingham
296	Hart

- Luton is ranked 45th in the overall deprivation rankings, with Blackpool being the most deprived area nationally and Hart the least deprived.

Table 2: comparison of ranks for 2004-25

- 1 is the most deprived and 296 is least deprived in 2025
- 1 is the most deprived and 317 is the least deprived in 2019
- 1 is the most deprived and 326 is the least deprived in 2010 and 2015
- 1 is the most deprived and 354 is the least deprived in 2007 and 2004

	2004 rank	2007 rank	2010 rank	2015 rank	2019 rank	2025 rank
Local concentration is the population weighted average of the ranks of a district's most deprived LSOAs that contain exactly 10% of the district's population.	134	120	112	114	122	67
Extent is the proportion of a district's population living in the most deprived LSOAs in the country. This aims to portray how widespread high levels of deprivation are in a district.	95	85	74	57	72	41
Average of ranks: population weighted average of the combined ranks for the wards in a district. This summarises the district as a whole, including both deprived and less deprived wards.	103	86	60	40	52	33
Rank of average scores: population weighted average of the combined scores for a district. This also summarises the district as a whole, taking into account the complete range of scores across the district.	101	87	69	59	70	45

- Luton has moved into the more deprived end of the national rankings across all these indicators since 2004. The fall in the extent rank suggests that deprivation is affecting a greater proportion of residents, not just those in a few highly deprived neighbourhoods.

Table 3: domain comparison of ranks for 2015-25

- 1 is the most deprived and 296 is least deprived in 2025
- 1 is the most deprived and 317 is the least deprived in 2019
- 1 is the most deprived and 326 is the least deprived in 2010 and 2015
- 1 is the most deprived and 354 is the least deprived in 2007 and 2004

Domain	2015 rank	2019 rank	2025 rank
Income	58	66	14
Income affecting children	66	81	9
Income affecting older people	45	43	40
Employment	103	115	81
Education	101	75	37
Health	85	85	91
Crime	24	58	98
Housing	15	25	24
Living environment	104	120	95

- In 2025, Luton faces worsening deprivation in income, education and employment, with child poverty emerging as a concern. Improvements in crime and modest stability in housing are positive signs but insufficient to offset the broader socioeconomic challenges.

Table 4: percentage of LSOAs by decile 2004-25

- 1 is most deprived
- 10 is least deprived

Domain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2025	13.6%	21.6%	16.0%	14.4%	9.6%	5.6%	4.8%	11.2%	3.2%	0%
2019	3.3%	24.0%	14.9%	14.9%	17.4%	5.8%	7.4%	8.3%	4.1%	0%
2015	7.4%	22.3%	17.4%	16.5%	11.6%	4.1%	7.4%	6.6%	6.6%	0%
2010	7.4%	17.4%	15.7%	16.5%	13.2%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	4.1%	0.8%
2007	5.0%	16.5%	19.0%	13.2%	14.9%	5.8%	7.4%	8.3%	8.3%	1.7%
2004	2.5%	18.2%	18.2%	13.2%	9.9%	14.0%	5.0%	8.3%	9.9%	0.8%

- The proportion of LSOAs in the top 10 per cent most deprived areas increased from 3.3 per cent in 2019 to 13.6 per cent in 2025. There are now 35.2 per cent of areas in Luton in the top 20 per cent most deprived areas in the country.

Table 5: percentage of LSOAs and population in top and bottom half IMD decile

	Top 50% most deprived	Top 50% least deprived
2025	75.2%	24.8%
2019	74.4%	25.6%
2015	75.2%	24.8%
2010	70.2%	29.8%
2007	68.6%	31.4%
2004	62.0%	38.0%

Table 4 shows the percentage of LSOAs in the top and bottom half of deprivation scores. In Luton the proportion of areas in the most deprived 50 per cent in the country has increased from 62 per cent in 2004 to 75.2 per cent in 2025.

Data sources

The [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#) published the IMD for 2025. These indices show relative deprivation for all 296 local authorities and the 33,755 lower layer statistical output areas (LSOA) of England.

The categories are:

- barriers to housing services
- crime
- education
- employment
- income
- health
- living environment

There are also supplementary indices measuring income deprivation amongst children and older people:

- Income affecting children index
- Income affecting older people index