

About my thinking in this website.

I think about work and education a lot partly because I did pass some fairly high level qualifications and although no one is very interested the facts and statistics suggest that this is probably wrong and I am right to feel upset about my lack of success with my postgraduate university education.

I just really feel that the last ten years have been wasted work wise due to finding it impossible to get a reasonable job commensurate with my education despite my best efforts which has lead me to the conclusion that we are far more than our work and that some people are lucky with their careers but when you think that you compete with 20 to 30 people for any good job the odds are that you aren't going to be successful but no one ever really talks about that. It hasn't been all bad, I have travelled and had support from my family.

We live in modern times as an article I share on this website says only 5% of the adult population had a degree in 1981 which I can still remember but now a lot of people have one. I passed mine in 1997 and it was still quite difficult to find a good job then and I've really struggled most of my adult life even as I've passed postgraduate qualifications as I've applied for work over the years I've gotten the sense that I haven't had anything that people needed or wanted and it's been really upsetting.

Looking specifically at the year 2009 and Education and training statistics published by the national statistics agency it said that 7% of the adult population had a postgraduate qualification that year, of the totals for each job group it found the following for people with a postgraduate qualification: 3% were unemployed and 3% were inactive, only 1% was employed in elementary occupations, 1% as machine operatives, 1% as sales and customer service operatives, 1% in skilled trades, 2% in personal services, 3% in administrative and secretarial, 9% in associate professional and technical, 35% in professional and finally 12% in managerial positions. This compares very favourably with all the other possible groups. I was 41 years old and inactive in 2009 but very eager to find a reasonable job.

Mark Benniman 2019

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESTINATIONS

TABLE 3.8: Highest qualification held by people of working age¹, by gender, age, region and economic activity and, for employees of working age¹, by occupation, 2009

United Kingdom

Thousands and percentages

	All people of working age ¹ (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5 ²	NVQ level 4 ³	NVQ level 3 ⁴	NVQ level 2 ⁵	Below NVQ level 2 ⁶	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	19,804	7	22	22	21	17	12
Females	18,153	7	24	17	23	18	12
By age							
16-19	3,151	-	1	21	39	20	18
20-24	4,199	2	20	33	22	15	8
25-29	4,162	10	29	19	19	15	8
30-39	8,123	10	29	17	19	17	8
40-49	9,093	8	24	17	21	19	11
50-64	9,228	7	22	18	19	15	18
By ethnic origin⁷							
White	33,530	7	23	20	22	17	11
Non-white	4,411	10	22	15	18	19	16
of which:							
Mixed	361	6	21	19	23	18	14
Asian or Asian British	2,182	10	21	14	18	18	18
Black or Black British	963	8	25	16	19	18	14
Chinese	200	16	33	14	11	15	11
Other Ethnic Group	705	11	21	13	17	22	17
By Government Office region⁸							
United Kingdom	37,956	7	23	19	22	17	12
North East	1,600	5	19	20	24	17	14
North West	4,247	6	21	19	23	17	13
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,221	6	22	20	22	19	12
East Midlands	2,729	5	21	21	22	18	12
West Midlands	3,297	6	19	19	23	18	14
East	3,452	7	20	20	24	19	10
London	5,151	12	27	15	17	16	12
South East	5,077	7	25	20	22	18	8
South West	3,084	7	23	21	23	18	8
England	31,858	7	23	19	22	18	11
Wales	1,791	7	21	20	21	16	14
Scotland	3,212	7	27	21	20	13	13
Northern Ireland	1,096	5	20	20	22	12	21
By economic activity							
Employees ^{7,9,10}	23,852	9	27	20	22	16	7
of which:							
Managers and senior officials	3,696	12	38	19	17	11	3
Professional occupations	3,288	35	49	7	5	3	1
Associate professional and technical	3,538	9	47	18	15	9	2
Administrative and secretarial	2,893	3	22	21	29	20	4
Skilled trades	1,918	1	9	37	27	18	9
Personal service occupations	2,125	2	20	29	29	15	5
Sales and customer service occupations	1,937	1	12	24	30	23	11
Process, plant and machine operatives	1,601	1	5	18	29	31	17
Elementary occupations	2,836	1	7	16	28	29	20
Self-employed ^{9,11}	3,478	8	25	22	20	15	10
ILO unemployed ¹²	2,374	3	14	18	25	24	16
Inactive ¹³	8,084	3	13	18	22	19	26

Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2, 2009^{14,15}

- Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females 16-59. These figures include unpaid family workers, those on government employment and training programmes, or those who did not answer, who are excluded from the economic activity analyses below.
- Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- Vocational qualifications include those with International Baccalaureate, RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDS, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 3. Academic qualifications include those with more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- Apart from rounding, figures may not sum to grand totals because of questions in the LFS which were unanswered or did not apply.
- Usual region of residence - Government Office Regions in England and each UK country.
- Employees are those in employment excluding the self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- The split into employees and self-employed is based on respondents' own assessment of their employment status.
- Self-employed are those in employment excluding employees, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- Unemployed according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition.
- People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- Users of these data should read the LFS entry in the 'Sources of Education and Training Statistics' section, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.
- More up-to-date information may be available through the DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway 'www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/'.