



Census 2021 Topic Summary: Labour Market & Travel to Work

West Yorkshire Research & Intelligence Team

13th December 2022

Information on this release (I)

- The data for the Census 2021 the labour market & travel to work topic summary was released on the 8th December 2022.
- The Census 2021 took place on the 21st March 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; national lockdowns, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market and travel to work topic. For example, as the Census took place in lockdown 3 in England, considerably fewer people reported travelling to work compared to Census 2011. ONS have released some guidance on this [in a quality information note here](#). **Take care when using these data for planning and policy purposes.**
- Because of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the UK labour market, in some areas the estimated number of people who were economically inactive might be higher than anticipated. It is possible that some people on furlough may have identified as economically inactive, instead of temporarily away from work.
- The economically active population includes people who were put on furlough at the time of Census 2021, who were considered to be temporarily away from work. In England and Wales, HM Revenue and Customs statistics state that 3.8 million employees were enrolled on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on Census Day while 1.8 million self-employed people made a claim to the fourth grant of the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme.

Information on this release (II)

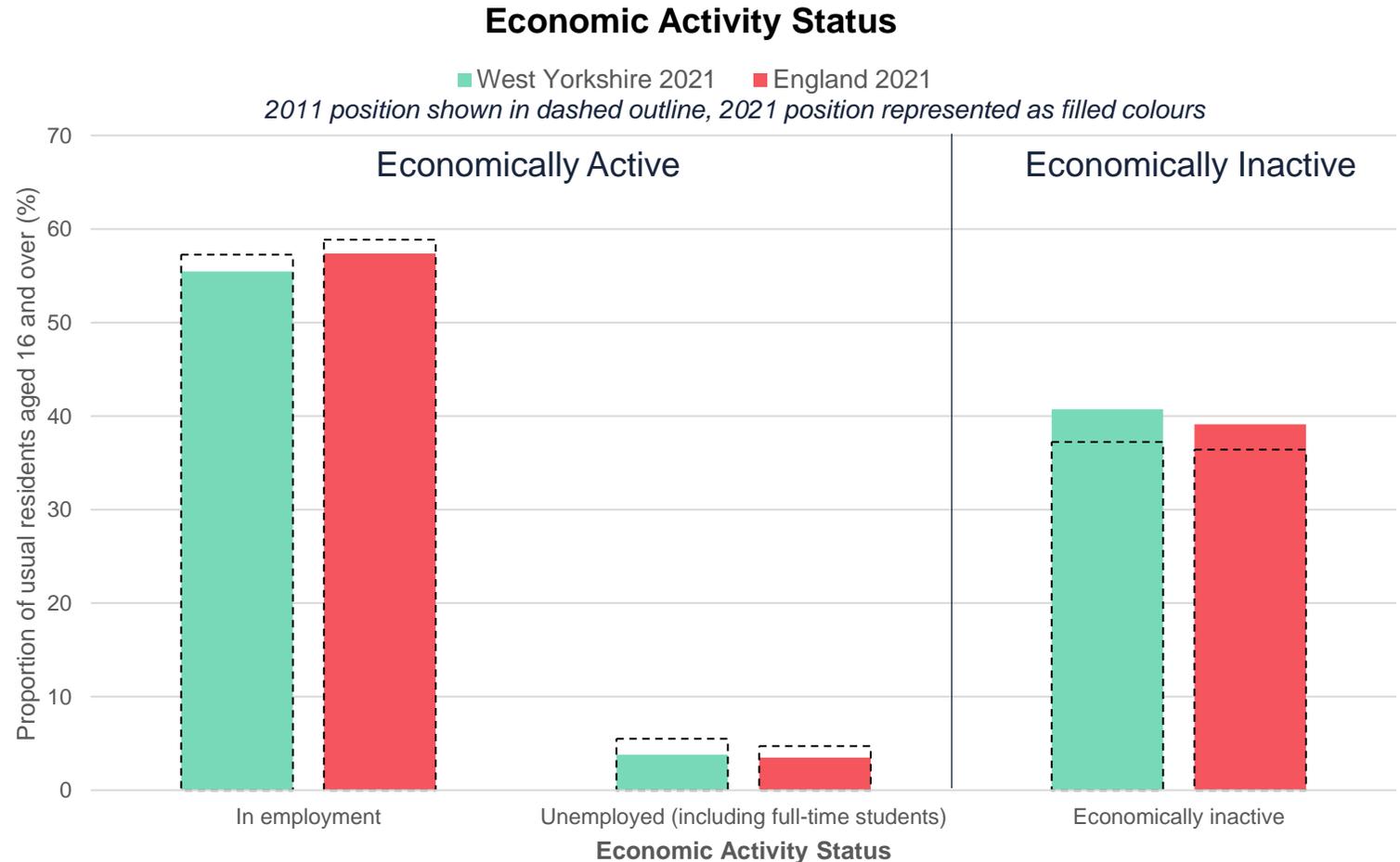
- For labour force statistics, the census provides unparalleled spatial detail and the ability to cross-tabulate with other household and demographic characteristics, however other data sources (e.g. [Labour Force Survey](#) and the [Business Register and Employment Survey](#)) provide a more robust picture of the labour force with better temporal coverage than the Census. There are some differences in the estimates provided by the Census versus the Labour Force Survey – for example in terms of overall employment rate and profile of employment by occupation.
- The Census uses different labour market definitions from those that the Labour Force Survey. You can find further information in the ONS article [Comparing Census 2021 and Labour Force Survey estimates of the labour market, England and Wales: March 2021](#).
- Census 2021 data were classified using the 2020 update of the Standard Occupational Classification, while Census 2011 used the 2010 version. These two classifications are not directly comparable because of changes in the way some detailed occupations were classified.
- Census estimates of the number of people employed by industry differ from estimates from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). BRES collects data directly from business, whilst the Census relies on respondent information about the business they work for in their main job only. The BRES estimates are the preferred measure of the number of jobs within each industry while the Census estimates allow analysis of characteristics of people working in each industry not possible with the BRES data.
- **Please consult the R&I Team for advice on the most appropriate data sources to address your needs with regards to these labour market indicators.**

Economic Activity Status

Economic Activity Status – West Yorkshire vs England

At the time of the 2021 Census:

- 59.3% (1.1 million) West Yorkshire residents aged 16 and over were economically active (in employment or looking for a job).
- 55.5% of residents aged 16 and over were in employment, 1.9% points lower than the England average
- 3.8% residents aged 16 and over were unemployed in West Yorkshire (just over 71k people)
- 40.7% were economically inactive (not looking for work or unable to start work in the next 2 weeks), 1.6% points higher than the England average.



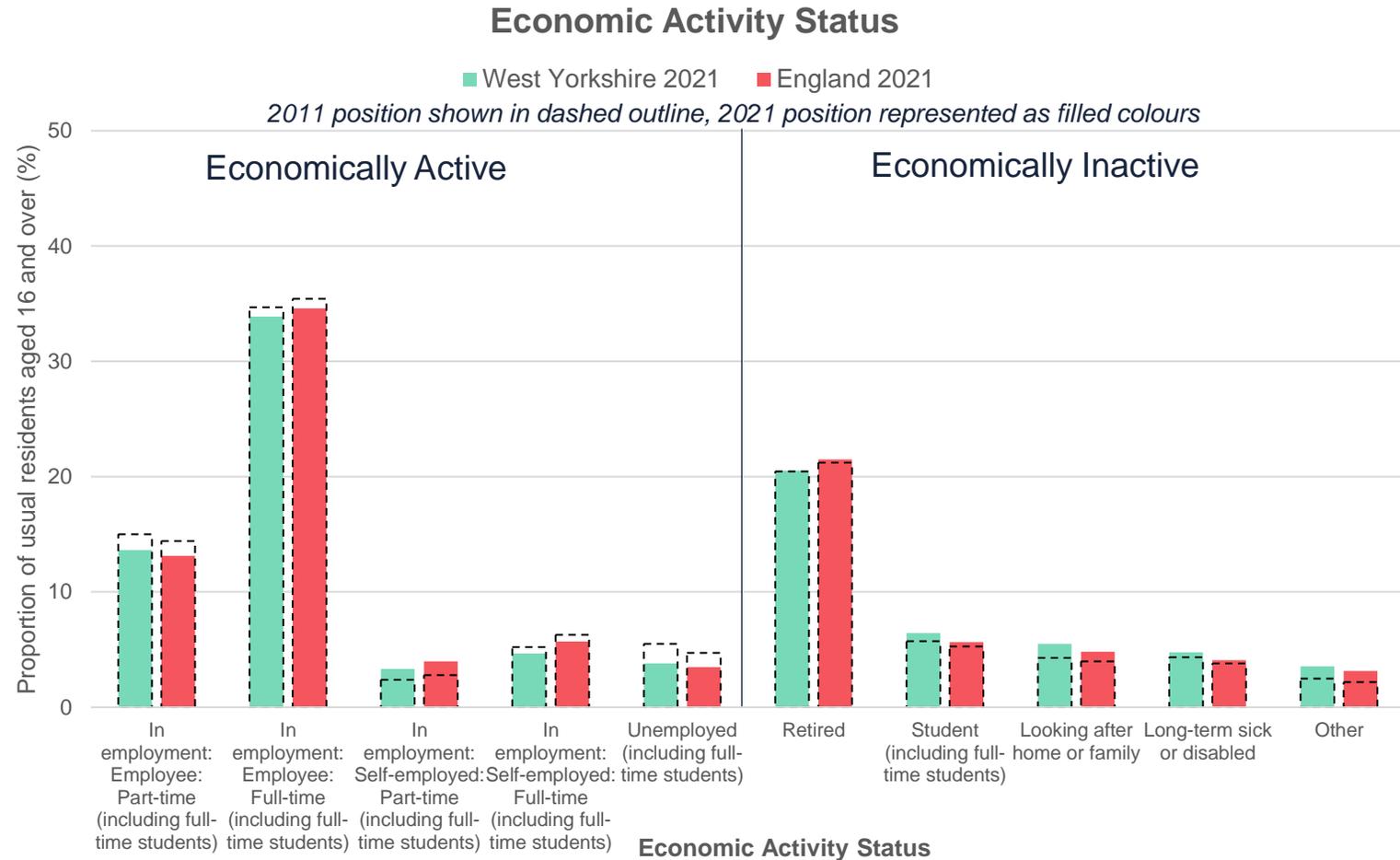
Economic activity relates to whether or not a person who was working or looking for work in the week before census.

The Census 2021 was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour force topic

Economic Activity Status – Further breakdown

A further breakdown of economic activity status for West Yorkshire residents aged 16 and over at the time of the 2021 Census reveals:

- 1 in 3 (33.9%) were full time employees, whilst 13.6% were part-time employees.
- 8% were self-employed, lower than the England average (9.7%).
- 1 in 5 (20.5%) were retired, making up the greatest share of those classed as economically inactive.
- 5.5% were looking after the home or family.
- 4.8% were long-term sick or disabled.



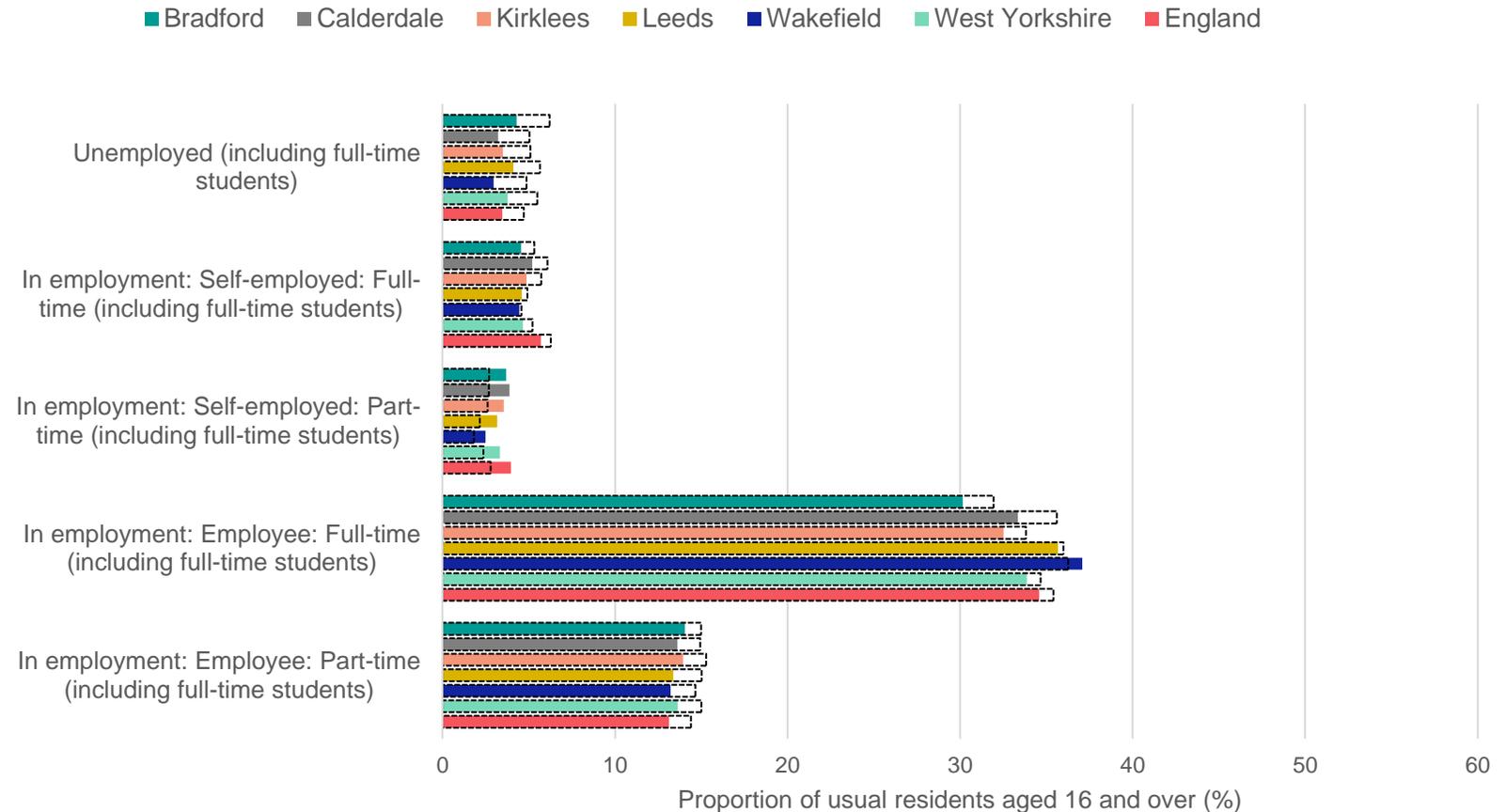
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Economic Activity Status – Economically Active

- The status of economically active residents aged 16 and over is broadly similar across the districts of West Yorkshire.
- At the time of the 2021 Census, a greater share of residents reported being part-time self-employed compared to in 2011.
- The share of West Yorkshire residents aged 16 and over who reported being in employment at the time of the 2021 Census fell by 1.8% points since 2011, with larger falls in Calderdale, Bradford and Kirklees.

Economic Activity Status - Economically Active 2021 vs 2011



Economic activity relates to whether or not a person who was working or looking for work in the week before census.

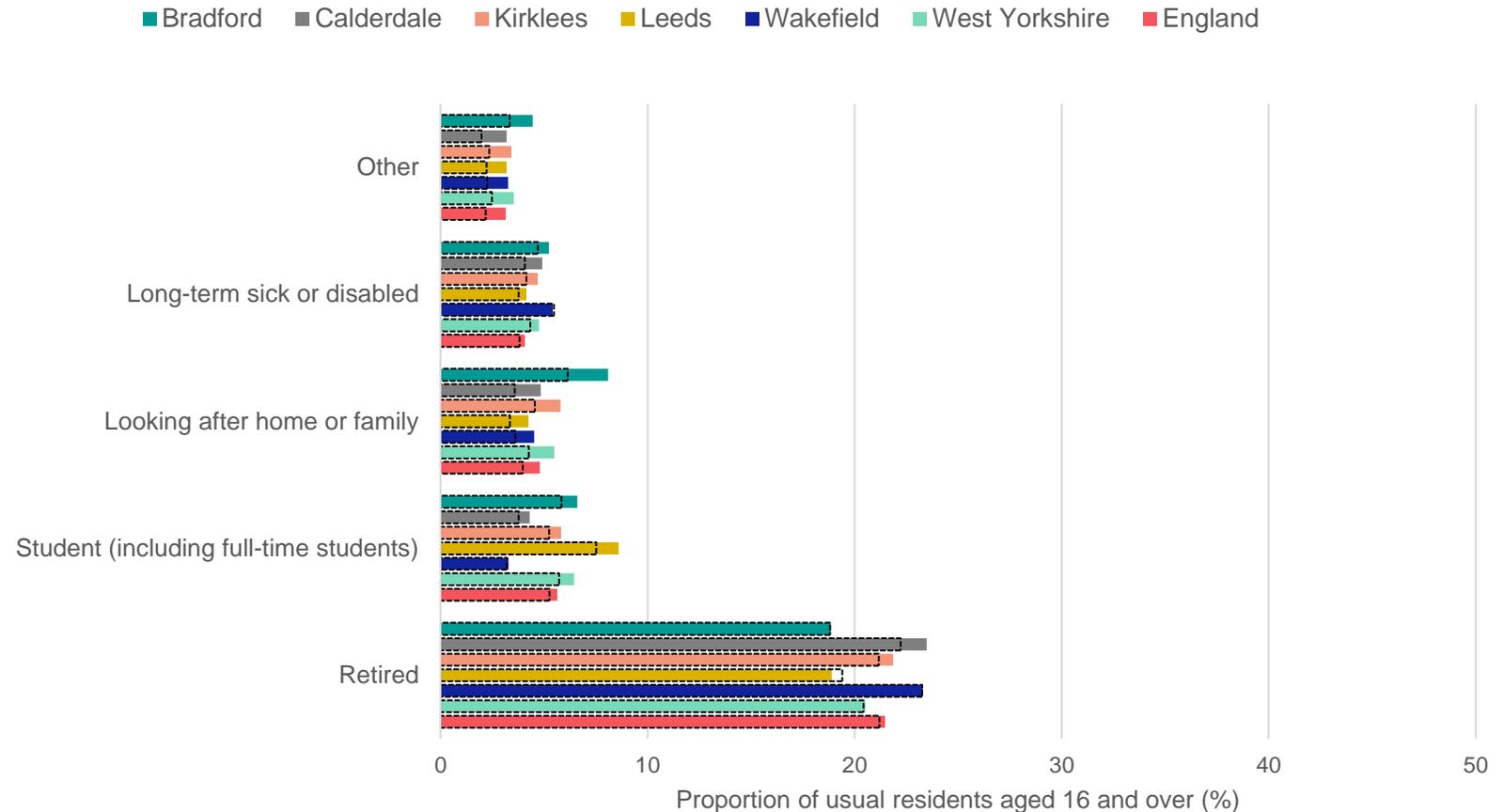
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Economic Activity Status – Economically Inactive

For residents aged 16 and over within West Yorkshire:

- Wakefield and Bradford have a higher share of those who are long term sick or disabled (5.4% and 5.2%) relative to the England average (4.1%).
- Calderdale and Wakefield have a higher share of retired residents (23.5% and 23.3%) compared to other West Yorkshire districts and the England average.
- 8.1% of those aged 16 and over in Bradford reported looking after the family or home, 3.3% points higher than the England average (4.8%).

Economic Activity Status - Economically Inactive 2021 vs 2011



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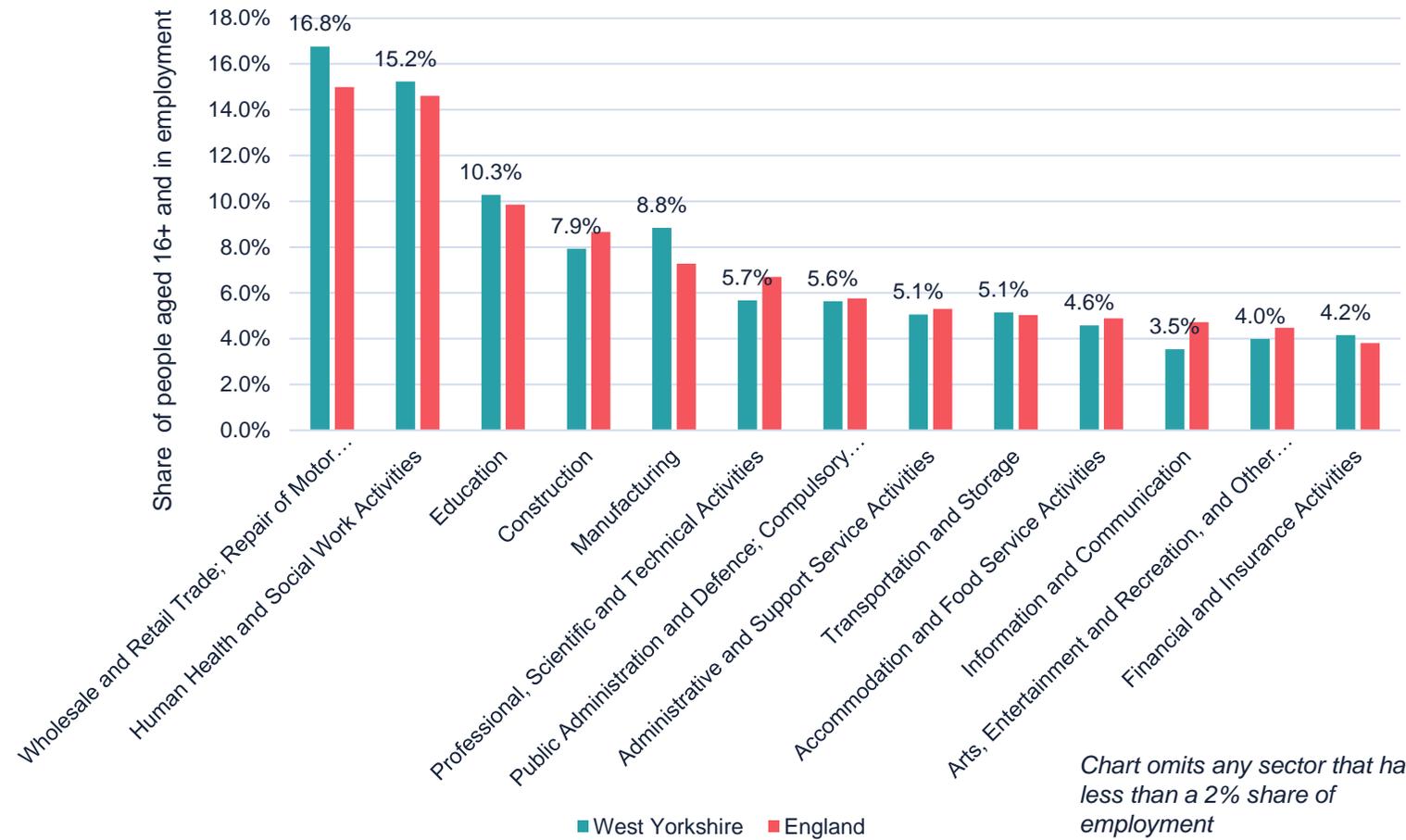


Industry

Wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing make up a greater proportion of West Yorkshire employment than the national average

- West Yorkshire's strongest sectors for employment are also strengths of the region relative to the England average. Wholesale and retail trade, human health and social work, and manufacturing all make up a significantly greater proportion of the West Yorkshire employment base than at the national level.
- Information and communication, and the professional services sector account for a significantly lower share of West Yorkshire jobs than across England as a whole.

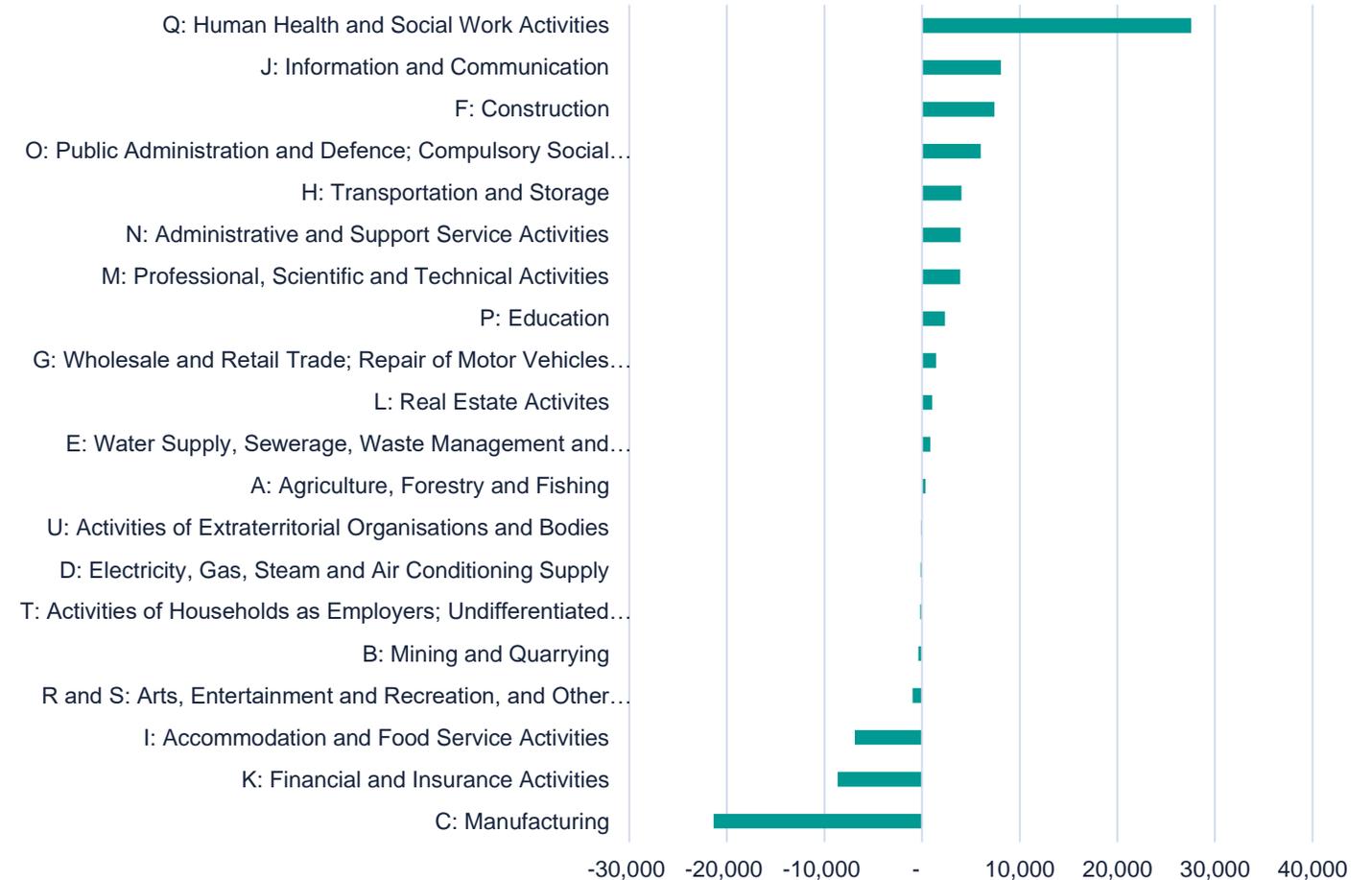
Share of employment by sector, West Yorkshire and England, 2021



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Employment in human health and social work sector grown the most since the 2011 Census

- The number of West Yorkshire residents in employment has risen by 28,000 since the 2011 Census.
- The largest gains have been seen in the human health and social work sector, and the information and communication sector. This is in line with the national picture. West Yorkshire's human health and social work sector growing by 21% in the past decade, whilst England's rose by 24%.
- Conversely, manufacturing and the financial services sectors have seen the largest falls in employment.



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In all West Yorkshire districts, 2 in 5 people are employed in the three largest sectors, which is a greater share than the England average

- There is a great deal of similarity in the key industries of employment across West Yorkshire's districts.
- Wholesale and retail trade is the largest industry of employment in all districts other than Leeds, where it is the second largest industry of employment.
- Human health and social work activities is the largest industry of employment in Leeds, and it is the second largest employer in the other four districts.

	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Largest employment sector	Wholesale and retail trade (18%)	Wholesale and retail trade (15%)	Wholesale and retail trade (17%)	Human health and social work (16%)	Wholesale and retail trade (21%)
2 nd largest employment sector	Human health and social work (15%)	Human health and social work (15%)	Human health and social work (15%)	Wholesale and retail trade (15%)	Human health and social work (14%)
3 rd largest employment sector	Education (11%)	Education (11%)	Manufacturing (12%)	Education (11%)	Manufacturing (10%)
<i>sum</i>	44%	41%	44%	42%	45%

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Occupation

West Yorkshire has a smaller share of employment in the highest skilled occupations than nationally

- Occupational categories reflect the work that people do and the type and level of skills needed to do that work.
- West Yorkshire has a broadly similar occupational profile to the England average.
- A key difference is its lower shares of employment in the three highest skilled *Management, Professional* and *Associate professional* categories – in combination 43% of people are employed in these categories in West Yorkshire, compared with 46% nationally
- People in West Yorkshire are slightly more likely to be employed in *Caring, Sales* and semi-skilled manual roles (*Process, plant and machine operatives*) and the lowest skilled *Elementary* roles.



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Over the last decade net employment growth has been concentrated in the highest skilled occupations

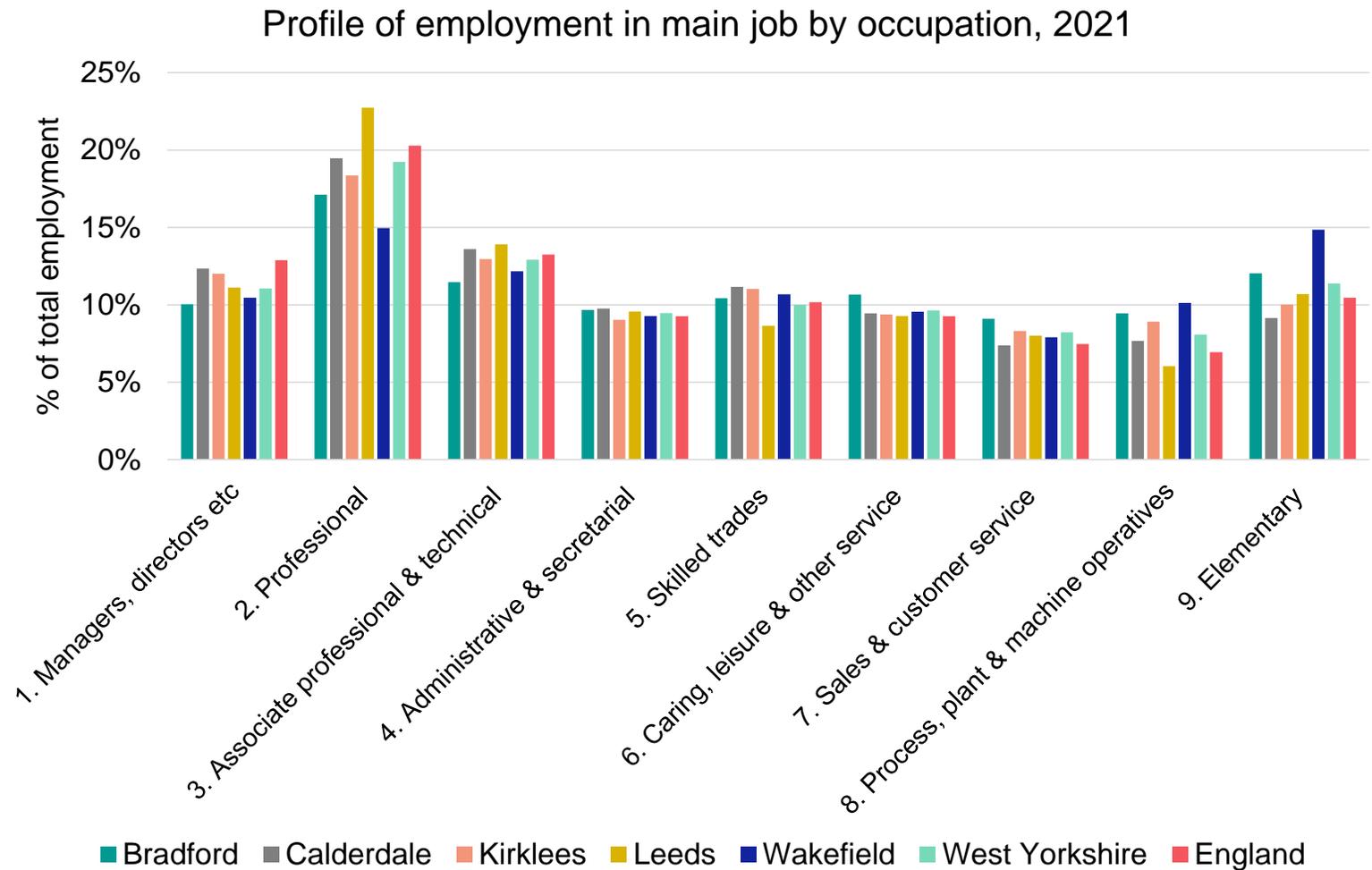
- Net growth in employment between the 2011 and 2021 censuses was mainly concentrated in the three highest skilled management, professional and associate professional occupations.
- There was also growth in Caring, leisure and other occupations, reflecting growth in the care sector during this period.
- There was a decline in employment in intermediate Skilled Trades and Administrative & secretarial roles, with smaller reductions in the remaining occupational categories.
- This pattern of change reflects long-standing trends in the labour market.



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There is significant variation in occupational profile at local authority level

- Leeds is the only local authority with a share of employment in the three highest skilled occupations that is above the national average (48% vs 46%).
- Leeds has a big share of employment in *Professional* roles, whilst it has relatively low shares in *Skilled Trades* and *Operative* roles.
- Wakefield and Bradford are strongly represented in *Operative* and *Elementary* roles and Wakefield is poorly represented in *Professional* employment.
- Bradford also has large shares of employment in *Caring* and *Sales* occupations

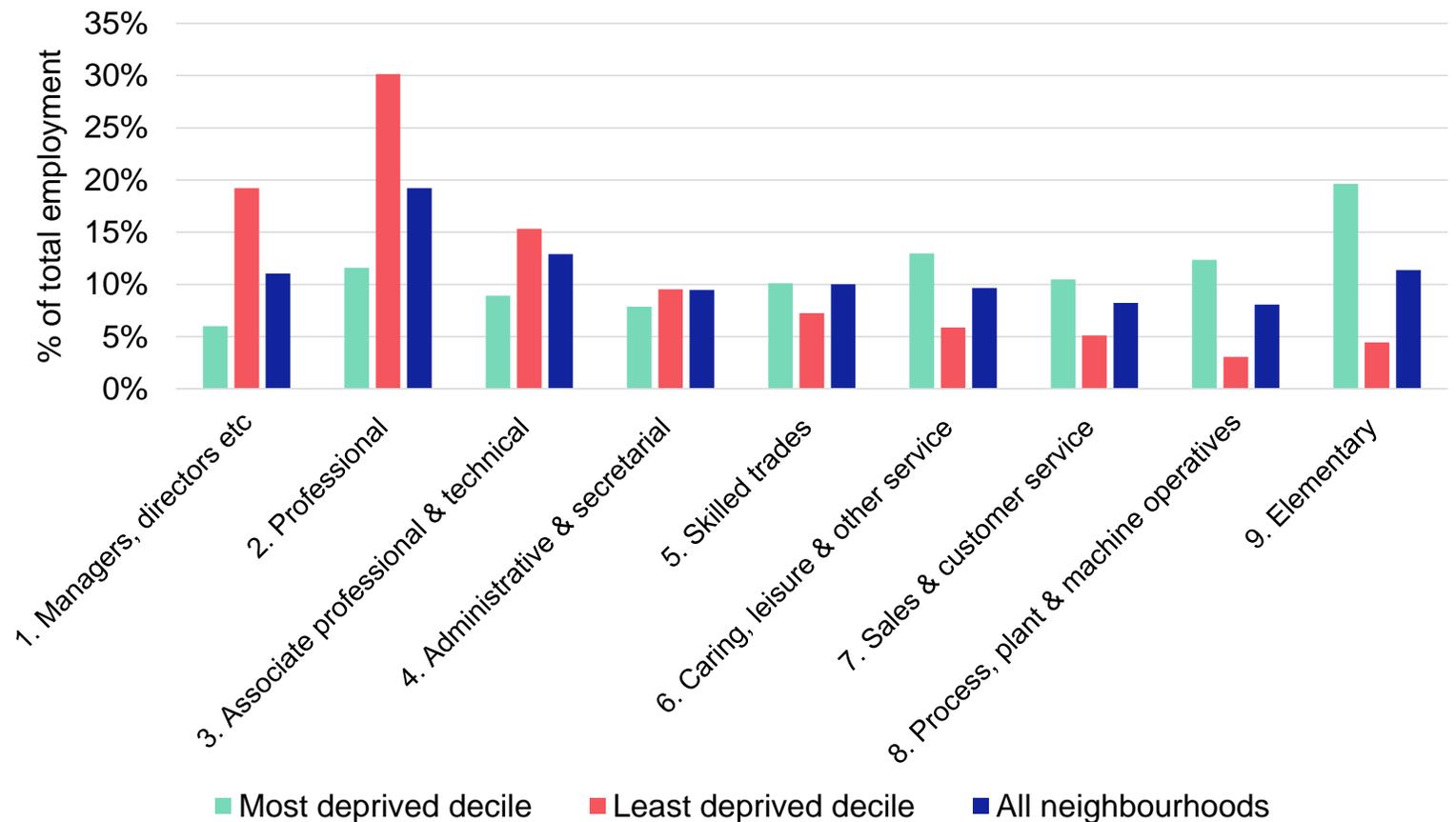


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Residents of acutely deprived neighbourhoods are much less likely to be employed in the higher skilled occupations

- The chart shows the occupational profile of West Yorkshire residents in employment according to the deprivation decile of the place that they live.
- It shows that people living in the most acutely deprived neighbourhoods are less than half as likely to work in *Management, Professional* or *Associate professional* roles but are five times as likely to work in the lowest skilled *Elementary* roles.

Profile of employment by occupation and deprivation decile, West Yorkshire, 2021

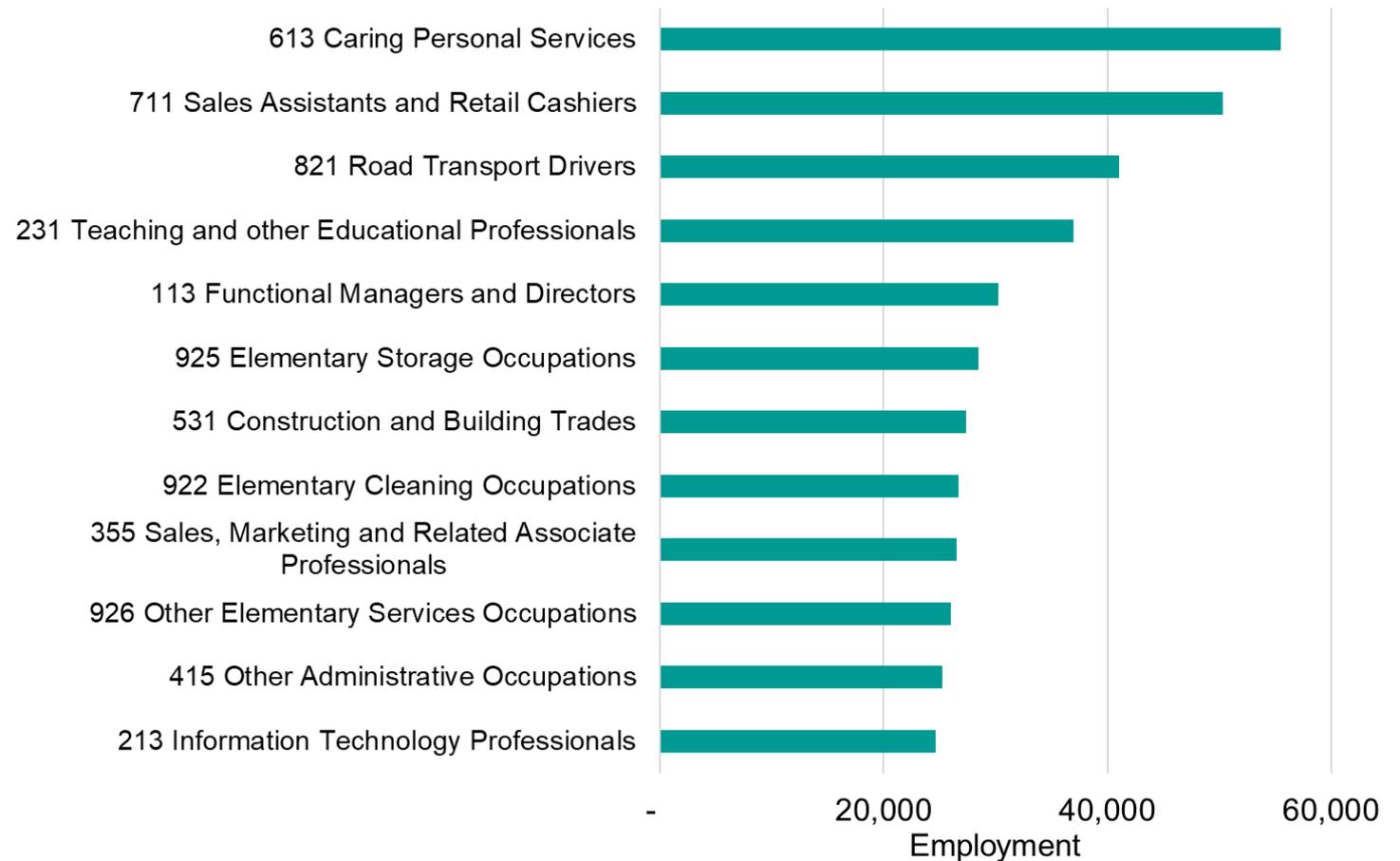


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Caring, Retail and Driving occupations are among those with the highest level of employment in West Yorkshire

- *Caring Personal Services* includes Care workers and home carers and Nursing auxiliaries and assistants
- *Other Elementary Services Occupations* includes roles like Waiters and waitresses, Kitchen and catering assistants and Hospital porters

Top detailed occupations in West Yorkshire by level of employment



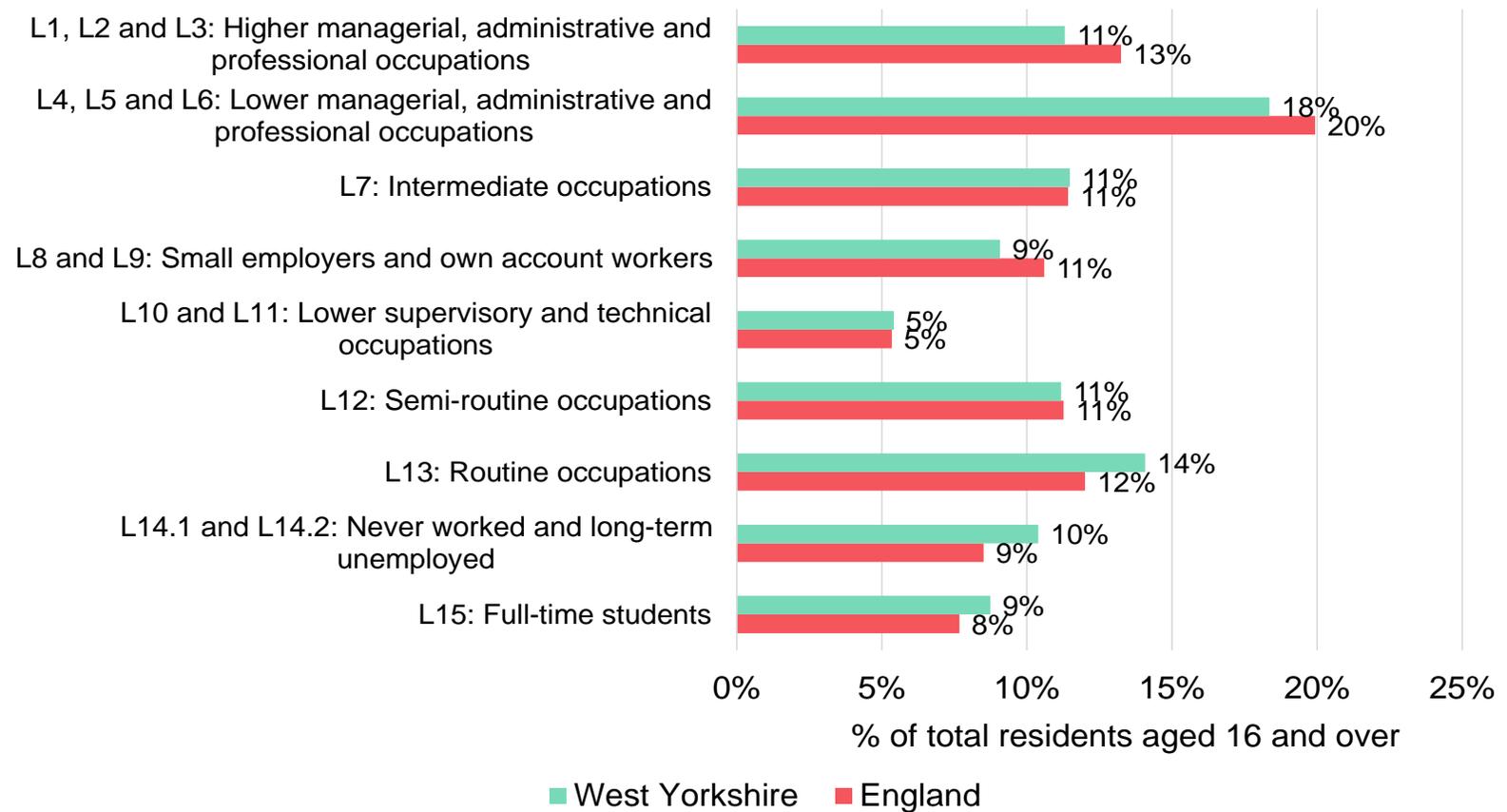
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National Statistics Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC) Occupation

West Yorkshire has a socio-economic profile that is weaker than the England average

- The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position, based on economic activity status, occupation and employment history
- West Yorkshire has a socio-economic profile that is weaker than the England average.
- The key differences between West Yorkshire and England are that the top two categories in the hierarchy are under-represented in West Yorkshire, as are *Small employers and own account workers*
- West Yorkshire is strongly represented in terms of *Routine occupations* and people who have *Never worked and long-term unemployed* as well as *Full-time students*

Profile of residents aged 16 years and over by Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)



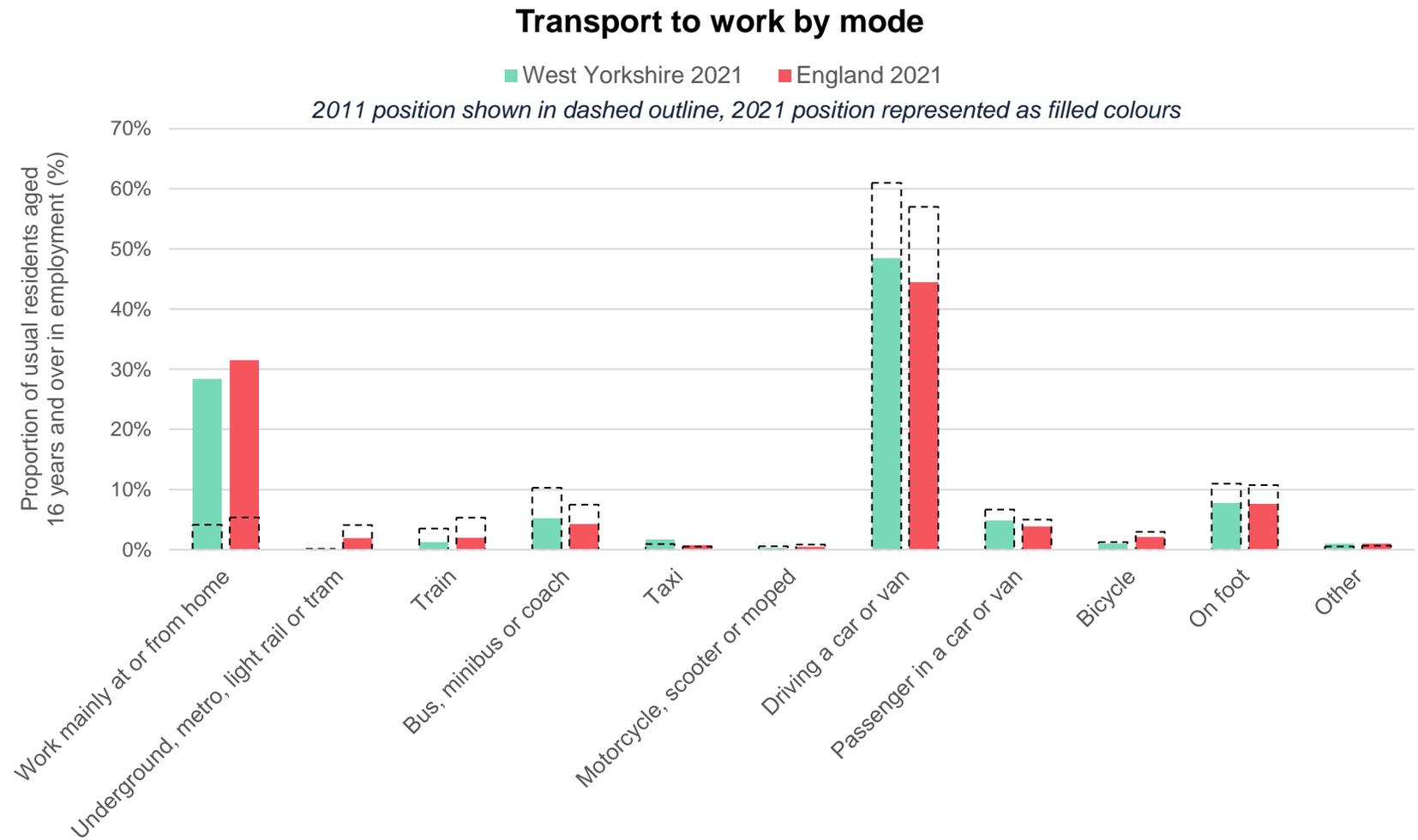
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Travel to Work

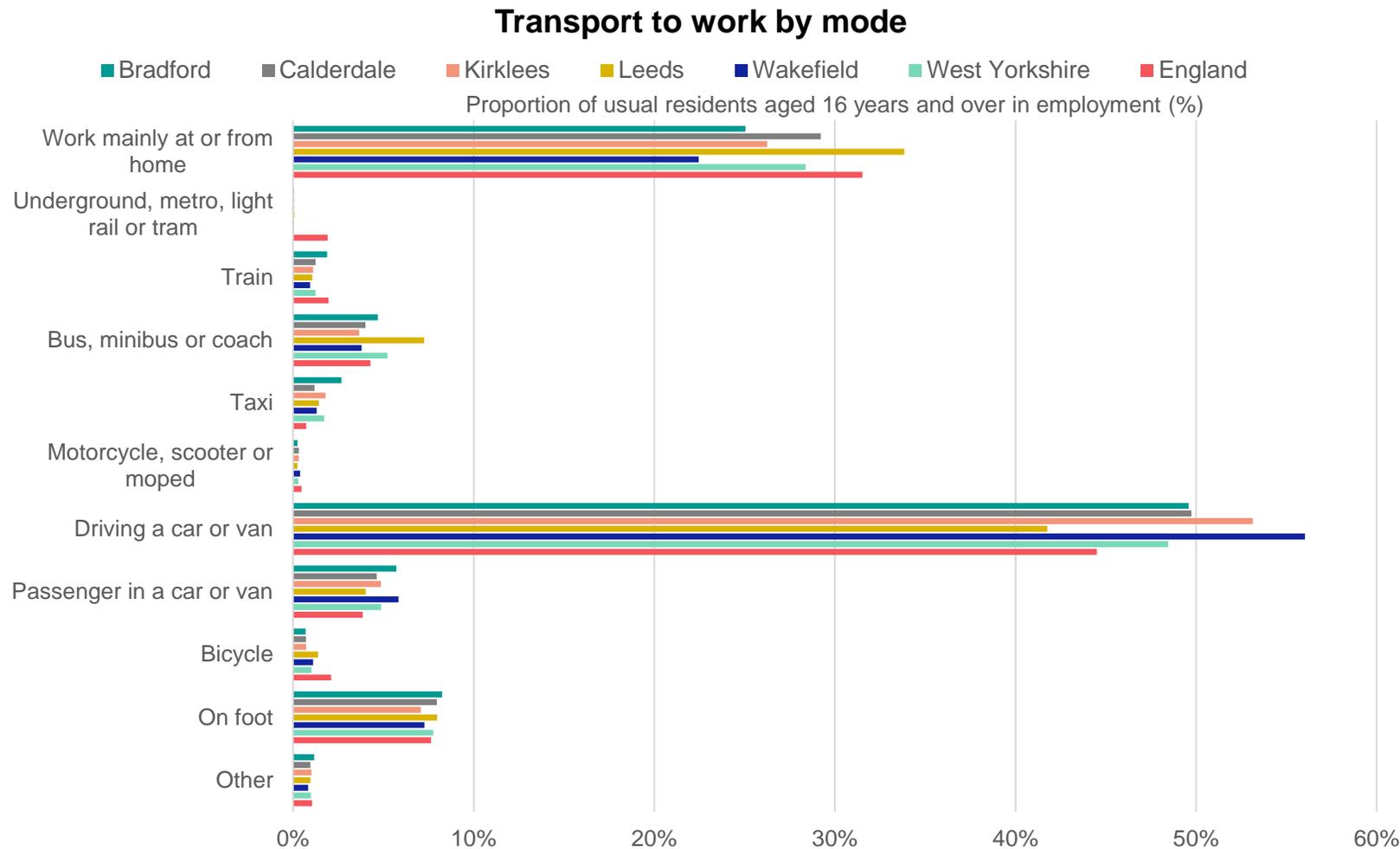
Method of travel to work – West Yorkshire vs England

- As the Census 2021 took place during lockdown 3 in England, the results show a shift towards working at home compared to Census 2011, which we know from other data sources has not been sustained at the same magnitude.
- In West Yorkshire, 296,000 (28%) usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment worked mainly at or from home in the week before Census Day, 21 March 2021, compared to 32% in England.



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Method of travel to work – West Yorkshire Districts



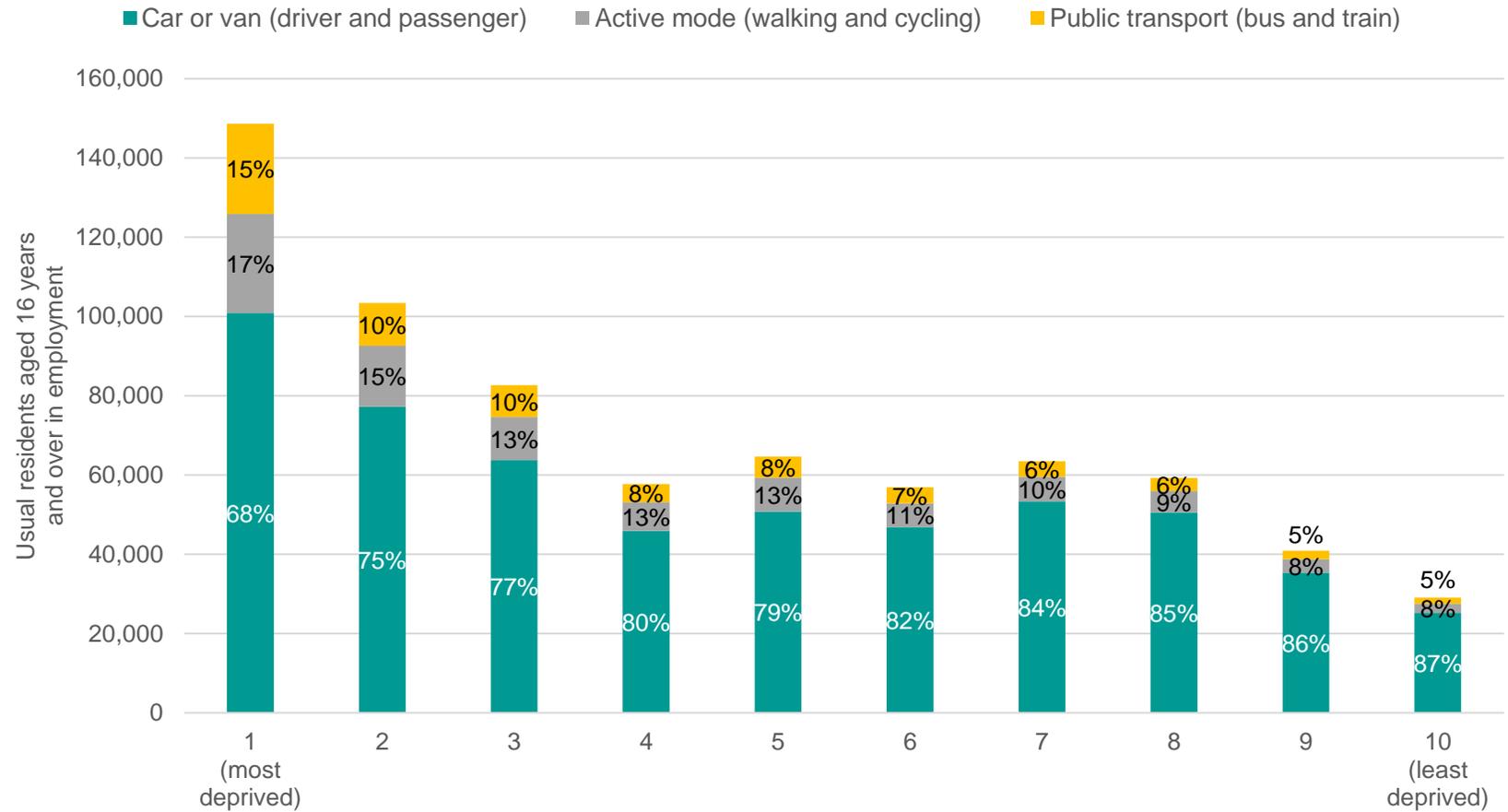
- The most selected mode of travel to work was driving a car or a van, ranging from 56% in Wakefield to 42% in Leeds.
- Working mainly at or from home was the second most selected, ranging from 34% in Leeds to 22% in Wakefield.
- Walking ranged 7% to 8% while cycling to work was 1% in each district.
- Bus use was 7% in Leeds, other districts ranged 4% to 5%.
- Train use was 1% except Bradford which reached 2%.

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Method of travel to work – Deprivation

- Combining travel to work data with English indices of deprivation 2019 reveals that those in the most deprived areas are least likely to use a car, and most likely to use an active mode or public transport.
- Public transport accounts for 15% of travel to work in the most deprived areas, compared to 5% in the least deprived.

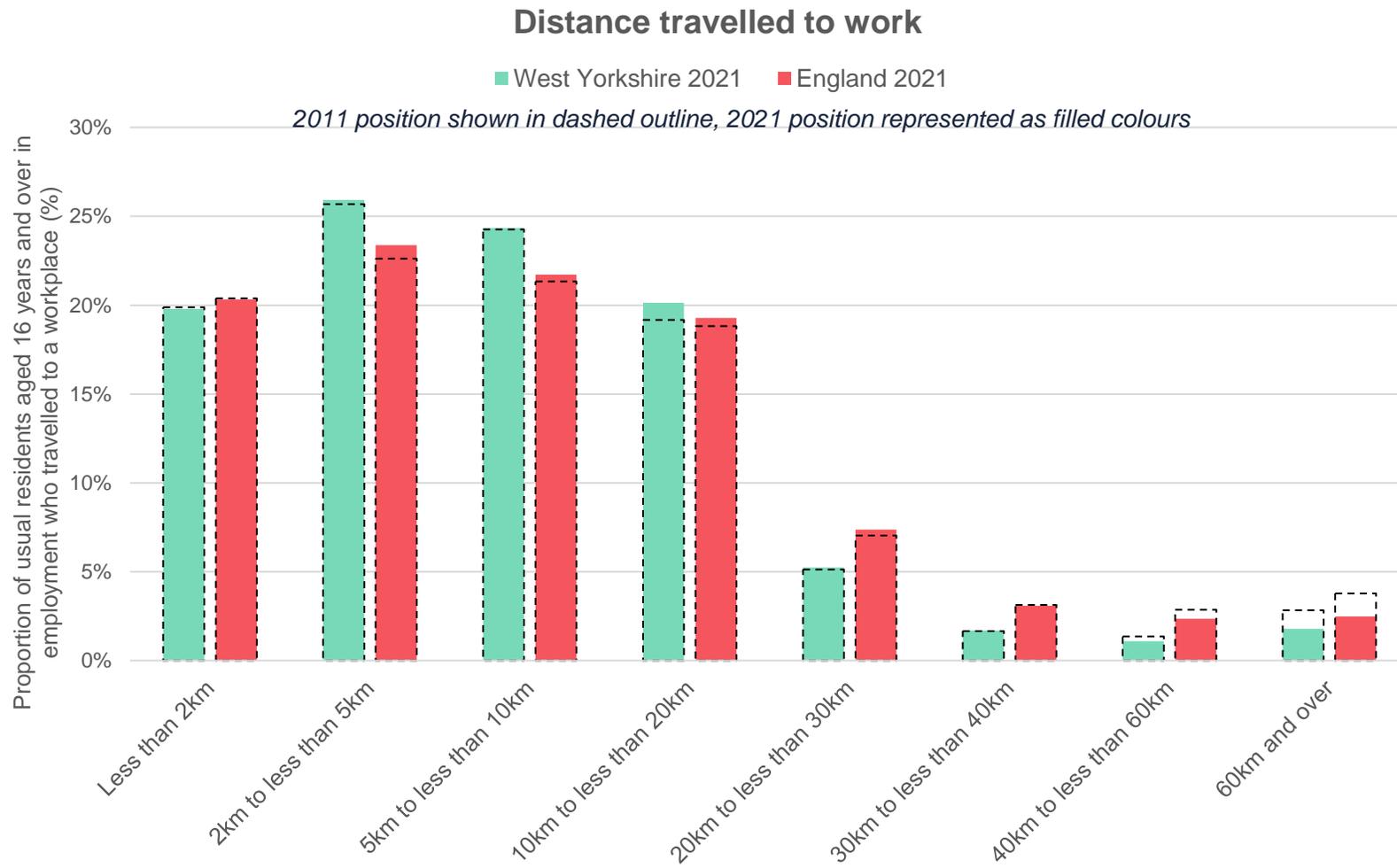
Number of people by travel to work group in each deprivation decile



English indices of deprivation 2019

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Distance travelled to work – West Yorkshire vs England

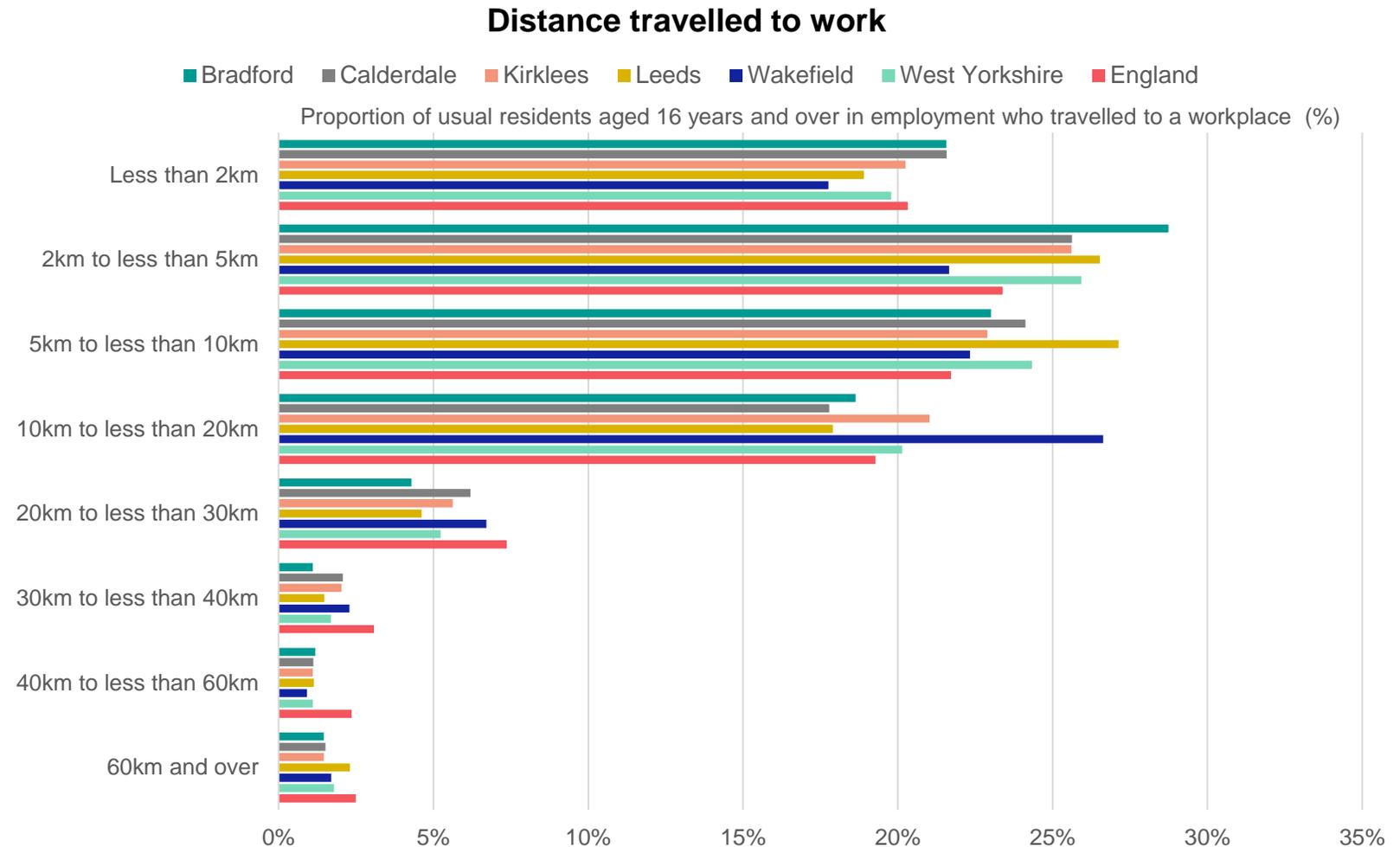


- The national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures have affected the travel to work topic, resulting in fewer people travelling to work compared to Census 2011.
- Of usual West Yorkshire residents aged 16 years and over in employment who travelled to a workplace or depot, 423,000 (70%) travelled short distances to work (less than 10 kilometres), compared to 65% in England.

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Distance travelled to work – West Yorkshire Districts

- Bradford and Leeds have the highest proportion of short distances travelled to work (less than 10 kilometres) at 73%, compared to 62% in Wakefield.
- Conversely, Wakefield has the highest proportion of long distances travelled to work, particularly in the 10km to 20km range, where Wakefield has 27% compared to Calderdale and Leeds at 18%.



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Census Maps

The Office for National Statistics have released an (alpha) interactive mapping application (links below) which allows users to visualise the spatial variation of Census 2021 topics at a range of geographical scales.

Economic activity status - [Economic activity status - Census Maps, ONS](#)

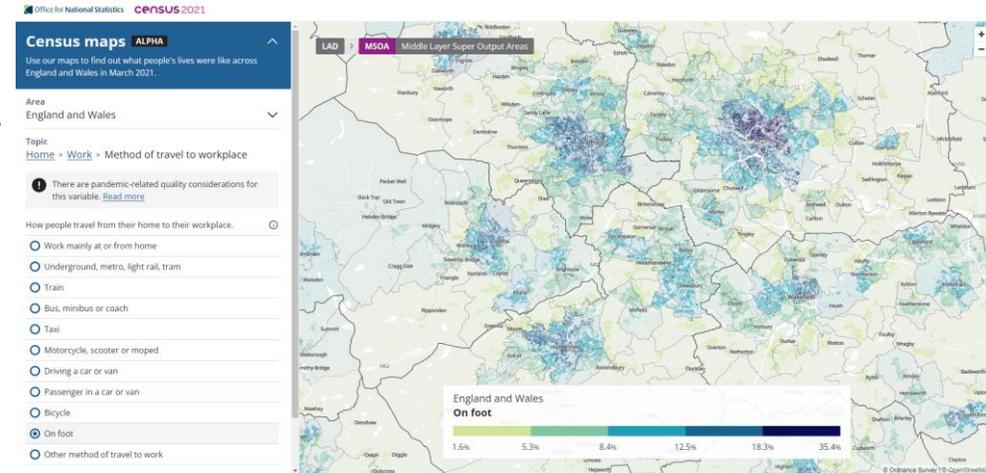
Occupation - [Occupation current - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Industry - [Industry current - Census Maps, ONS](#)

National statistics socio-economic classification - [National statistics socio economic classification ns sec - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Method of travel to work - [Method of travel to workplace - Census Maps, ONS](#)

Distance travelled to work - [Distance travelled to work - Census Maps, ONS](#)



What next?

Topic Summary	Release date (expected)
Housing	5 th January 2023
Sexual orientation and gender identity	6 th January 2023
Education	10 th January
Health, disability and unpaid care	19 th January

Phase 2: Feb – April 2023 – Multivariate data & short term resident population

Phase 3: April 2023 onwards – small populations, detailed migration data, Origin-Destination pairs