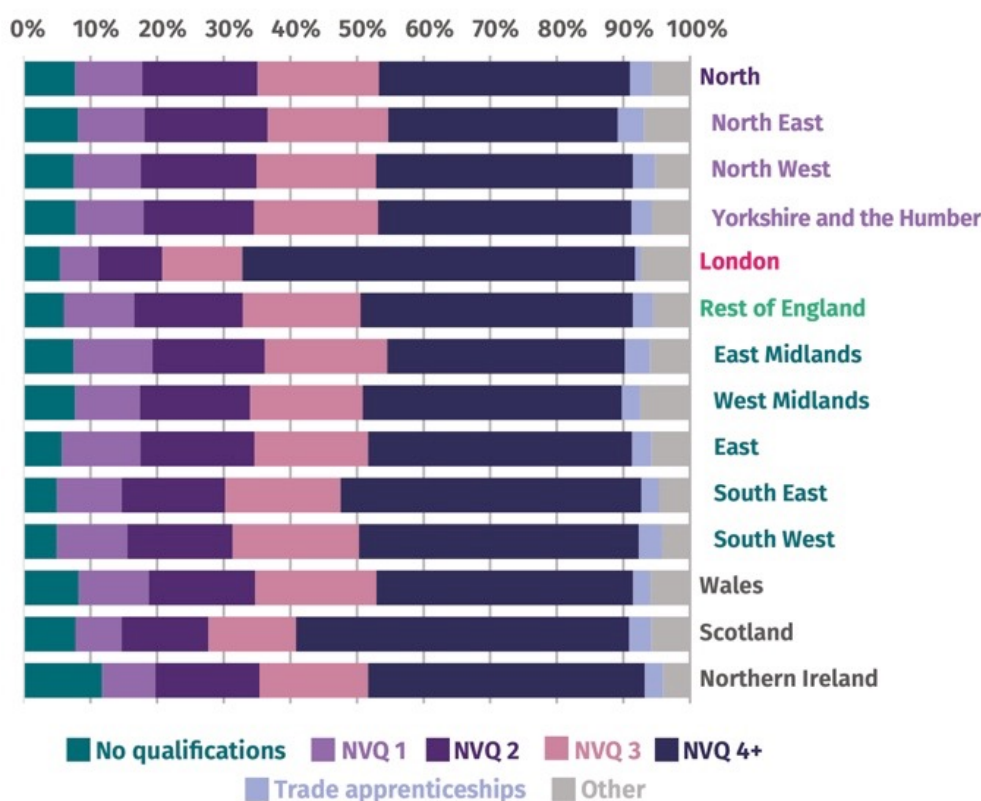


Institute for Public Policy Research – State of the North 2023 Report

# Looking out to Level Up – How the North and the UK Measure Up

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Proportion of the population aged 16-64 highest level of qualification by region

## Overview of the Data Fellowship

My data fellowship at the Institute for Public Policy Research has allowed me to gain an in-depth understanding of research and public policy. Through co-authoring the State of the North 2023 report I gained valuable research and data analysis skills. I investigated international regional inequalities through the use of large datasets from the OECD, ONS, and Eurostat, and analysing all of these within Excel. The paper received mass media coverage and informed readers of the stark regional inequalities in the UK, with the North so often falling on the stark side of these.

## Data Analysis

The key data analysis for the report was to identify regional inequalities on an international level and discover where the UK stood within these. Through the analysis of large datasets from a variety of sources, predominantly the OECD, ONS, and Eurostat, continuing and growing regional divides in the UK were revealed. The analysis of different datasets presented divides within productivity, incomes, job creation, unemployment, pollution, emissions, and educational outcomes. The data was made readable and presentable through the production of graphs, charts and their indexes in Excel.

## Findings

Through data analysis it was discovered that the UK is the most regionally unbalanced large, advanced economy.

- The productivity gap between the North and London had a stark difference with the average job in London producing £83,220 GVA per annum compared with the North's £50,330 GVA. Assuming a five day work week this amounts to Londoners working three days to produce the same value as norther workers in a whole week.

- The North has higher levels of people with no and low qualifications than the rest of England. When compared internationally, the UK is more unequal in regional distribution of university-level skills than comparable countries in Europe and even smaller nations like Slovenia and Croatia.
- The UK is the most unequal country of its size and development in terms of exposure to harmful air pollution and is relatively unequal in terms of regional emissions.

If the North of England were a country it would be second-to-last in the OECD for investment, ahead of only Greece.

## Key Skills Learnt

The highlight of my data fellowship at the Institute for Public Policy Research was the publication of the report and getting to see my name on it, as well as the sheer amount of attention it received in the media. Not only did I make good friends with the team at IPPR North, but I also learnt so much from them about national regional inequalities and how the UK can learn from international examples to improve the North. I learnt data analysis skills on Excel from the lead author of the report, Marcus Johns, these skills I lacked in completely before beginning my data fellowship. I gained so much valuable experience during my two months at the institute, providing me with key workplace skills of research and data analysis which will be vital for my career development.



Theil index of regional inequality among OECD nations across air quality and emissions measures (bubble size = country population)