

Bedford Borough Local Authority IMD 2025 Summary

Overview

The Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IMD 2025) ranks Bedford Borough as the **94th most deprived local authority out of 153 upper-tier local authorities in England** on the overall *Rank of Average Score* measure. This represents a relatively stable position compared to the IMD 2019 results, when the borough was ranked 96th most deprived out of 151 authorities.

What Does Moving from 96 → 94 Mean?

- Bedford moved **down two places** (from 96th to 94th), but:
 - The total number of authorities increased from 151 to 153.
 - The change is **small**, so Bedford's overall deprivation level is broadly **stable** relative to other local authorities.
- IMD is **relative (not absolute)**, so this shift could mean:
 - Conditions in Bedford worsened slightly compared to other areas, or
 - Other local authorities have improved, making Bedford look relatively more deprived.

Key Interpretation

Bedford Borough remains ranked within decile 7 in 2025, which is the fourth least deprived decile of local authorities nationally, and this is consistent with its ranking in 2019.

IMD Domains

The **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** is made up of 7 standalone indices (see Table 1). Each index represents a different aspect of deprivation, and the domains are combined using a weighted system. The weighting reflects the relative importance of each domain in determining overall deprivation.

There are two supplementary indices, Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People (IDAOPI). IDACI is a ranking of the proportion of children under 16 living in income deprived families, and IDAOPI is a ranking of the proportion of people aged 60 and over who are income deprived.

Table 1: Rank of each domain and supplementary index (2025 vs 2019)

(↑ = improved ranking, ↓ = worsened ranking)

Domain (weight)	2025 Rank	Change since 2019
Health (13.5%)	78	↓ 12
Education (13.5%)	78	↓ 7
Employment (22.5%)	100	↑ 8
Housing (9.3%)	45	↑ 6
Income (22.5%)	88	↓ 5
Crime (9.3%)	99	↓ 1
Living Environment (9.3%)	107	↑ 22

Domain	2025 Rank	Change since 2019
IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children)	90	↓ 6
IDAOP (Income Deprivation Affecting Older People)	105	↓ 1

Most of the changes to individual domains were small, however there was an increase in health deprivation and a marked decrease in deprivation of the living environment, relative to other areas.

The supplementary indices show only small changes in income deprivation affecting children and older adults.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

Within Bedford Borough, there is considerable variation in deprivation levels across the area, with pockets of marked deprivation concentrated in the Harpur, Greyfriars and Cauldwell wards (see Figure 1).

Overall, five LSOAs fall within the most deprived 10% nationally – one more than in 2019. Six LSOAs are among the least deprived 10% nationally. The total number of LSOAs increased by 14 between the 2019 and 2025 data releases.

Note: *The Indices of Deprivation 2025 has been produced using updated datasets, methodologies, and geographical boundaries. As a result, its outputs are not directly comparable with those from previous years. Users should avoid comparing areas over time and instead consider each area’s relative position within the national context at this single point in time.*

Figure 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 – LSOA Map

