

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24

Income

Summary points

- Average household income in local areas of Bristol differed by £42,200, from the lowest (£32,900 in Hartcliffe) to the highest (£75,100 in Henleaze)
- Average household disposable income (net) after housing costs differed by £23,800, from the lowest (£19,900 in Hartcliffe) to the highest (£43,700 in Henleaze).

Introduction

Data for household income estimates is published every two years by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)¹. Data is produced for England and Wales at small area levels known as Middle-layer Super Output Areas (MSOA²). There are 55 MSOAs in Bristol based on the 2011 boundaries.

The ONS have published income estimates using four different definitions but for the purpose of this section we are focusing on 2 definitions which show the extremes for each MSOA, and are:

- 1. Total annual household income:** This is the sum of the gross income of every member of the household plus any income from benefits, that is, wages and salaries, self-employment, pensions, investments, benefits.
- 2. Net annual household income *after housing costs* (equivalised³):** This is the sum of the net income of every member of the household, that is, all income minus Income Tax, National Insurance, rates and Council Tax, maintenance and child payments deducted through pay, contribution to students living away, contributions to occupational pensions. It also deducts housing costs, that is, rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance premiums, ground rent and service charges prior to the equivalisation scale.

Total annual household income

Average (mean) household income in local areas of England and Wales differed by just over £86,000 from the lowest £22,200 to the highest £108,100 in the financial year ending (FYE) 2020. In Bristol average (mean) household income differed by £42,200, ranging from £32,900 in Hartcliffe to £75,100 in Henleaze.

Figure 1 overleaf illustrates the spread of income by MSOA and clearly shows the cluster of higher household incomes to the north of the City Centre in local areas such as Redland / Bishopston / Westbury Park / Clifton village / Westbury-on-Trym / Henleaze.

¹ The latest data available is for 2020 and was released in October 2023

² MSOAs are local areas with between 5,000 -15,000 households allowing meaningful comparisons across areas

³ Equivalised income means that the household income values have been adjusted to take into consideration the household size and composition; it represents the income level of every individual in the household

MSOA's with the lower household incomes are more dispersed over the city although there is a cluster in the south (Hartcliffe / Worthywood / Knowle West / Highridge) and closer to the City Centre (Easton / Barton Hill).

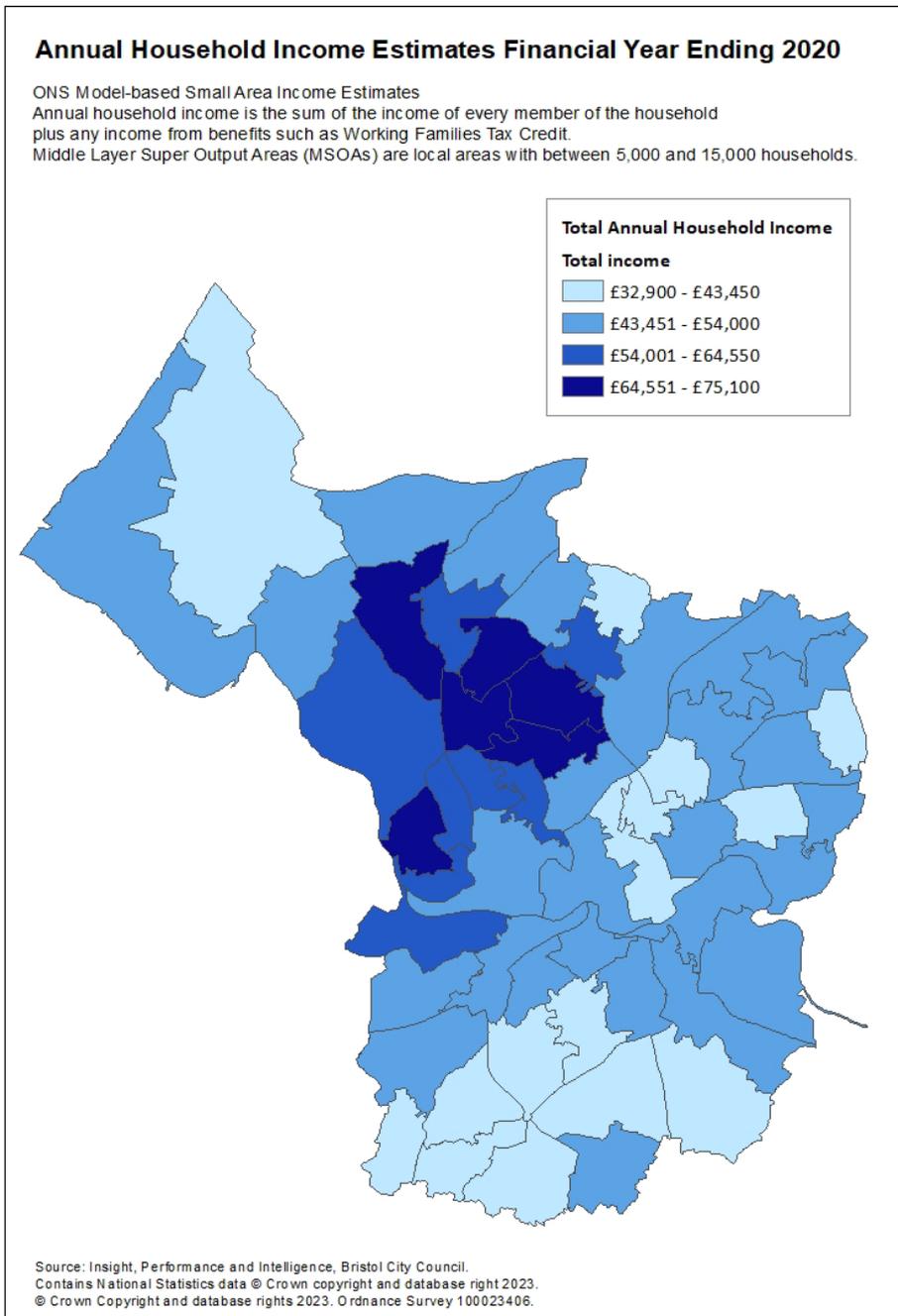


Figure 1: Total annual household income by Bristol MSOA11.
 Source: ONS

Net annual household income *after housing costs* (equivalised)

Average (mean) household disposable income (net) after housing costs in local areas of England and Wales differed by just under £50,000 from the lowest £14,400 to the highest £63,900, in the financial year ending (FYE) 2020. In Bristol average (mean) household disposable income (net) after housing costs differed by £23,800, ranging from £19,900 in Hartcliffe to £43,700 in Henleaze.

There are stark gaps in disposable household income between the outlying areas (Lawrence Weston / Hillfields / Knowle West) and most other parts of Bristol, though Hartcliffe in the South is lowest (Figure 2). Bristol’s MSOAs have a fairly even distribution across the national income scales (from lowest to highest, and approximately half on each side) whereas many cities have big clusters of MSOAs in the lower income end.

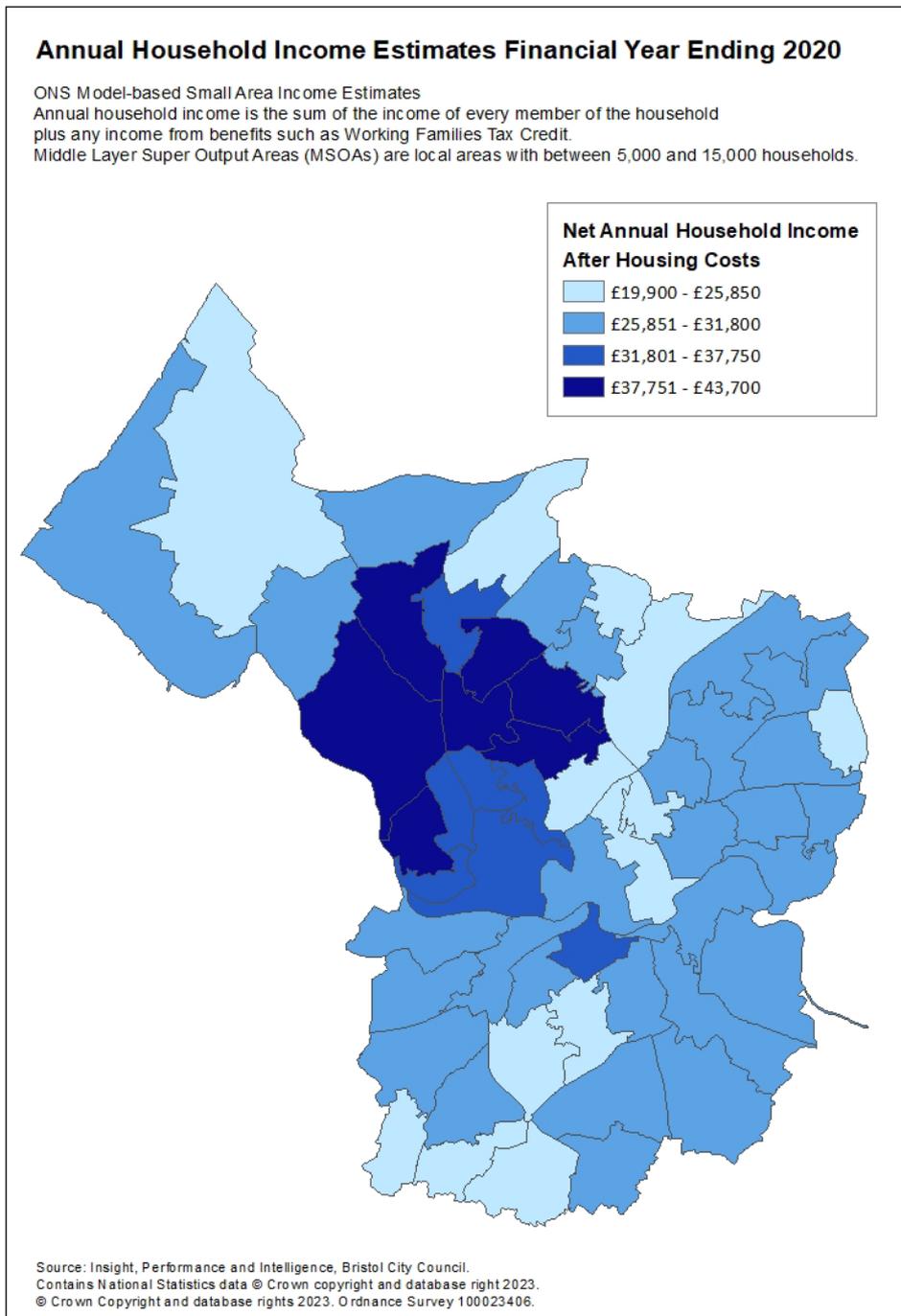


Figure 2: Total net annual household income after housing costs, by Bristol MSOA11. Source: ONS

Equalities data:

As income is one of the measures of deprivation it is clear that the deprivation decile slices will reflect the MSOA's range of income eg MSOA's with the lowest levels of income are in the top 10% most deprived areas, MSOA's with the highest levels of income are in the 10% least deprived areas.

Data is not available at person level.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Office for National Statistics: [Income estimates for small areas, England and Wales](#)

Covid-19 impact:

Data in this section precedes the pandemic and therefore represents a true and accurate representation of that time.

Date updated: October 2023

Date of next update: October 2025