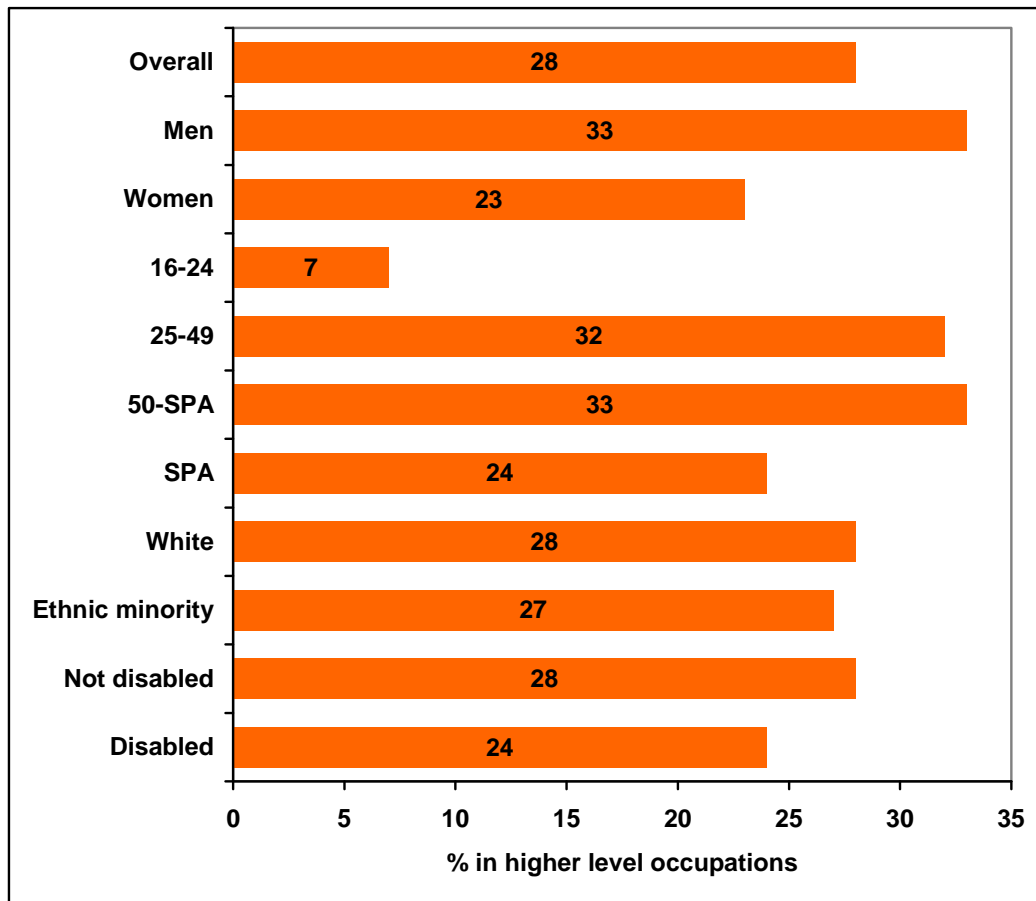


- EMPLOYMENT IN MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS -

Just over one quarter (28%) of employed South West and UK residents work in managerial and professional occupations. This percentage is considerably lower for 16-24 year olds, reflecting the fact that many of those individuals who will later go into these occupations are in Further or Higher Education and that many of those that are in work at this age will have lower qualifications and therefore more limited access to managerial and professional jobs. It may also reflect the fact that young workers will have shorter work histories and will not have acquired the experience typically required for managerial roles. People of state pension age are considerably less likely than those aged 25 to state pension age to work in these higher level occupations. This may be partly because many managers and professionals (can afford to) retire before or upon reaching state pension age – although this may not necessarily be voluntary – leaving a residue of older workers in poorer status jobs. It may also reflect the difficulties in accessing higher level occupations in later life, even with prior experience of working at that level.

Disabled people and women are also less likely to be found in these high level occupations although ethnic minorities access these posts in equal measure to the white population (the estimates are subject to reasonably wide but undisclosed confidence intervals). The gender differential is the second largest behind that for age and may well reflect the difficulties many women face in accessing flexible but high level managerial occupations when they start a family. According to the Workplace Employment Relations Survey, managers are the least likely occupational group to be offered flexible working arrangements.

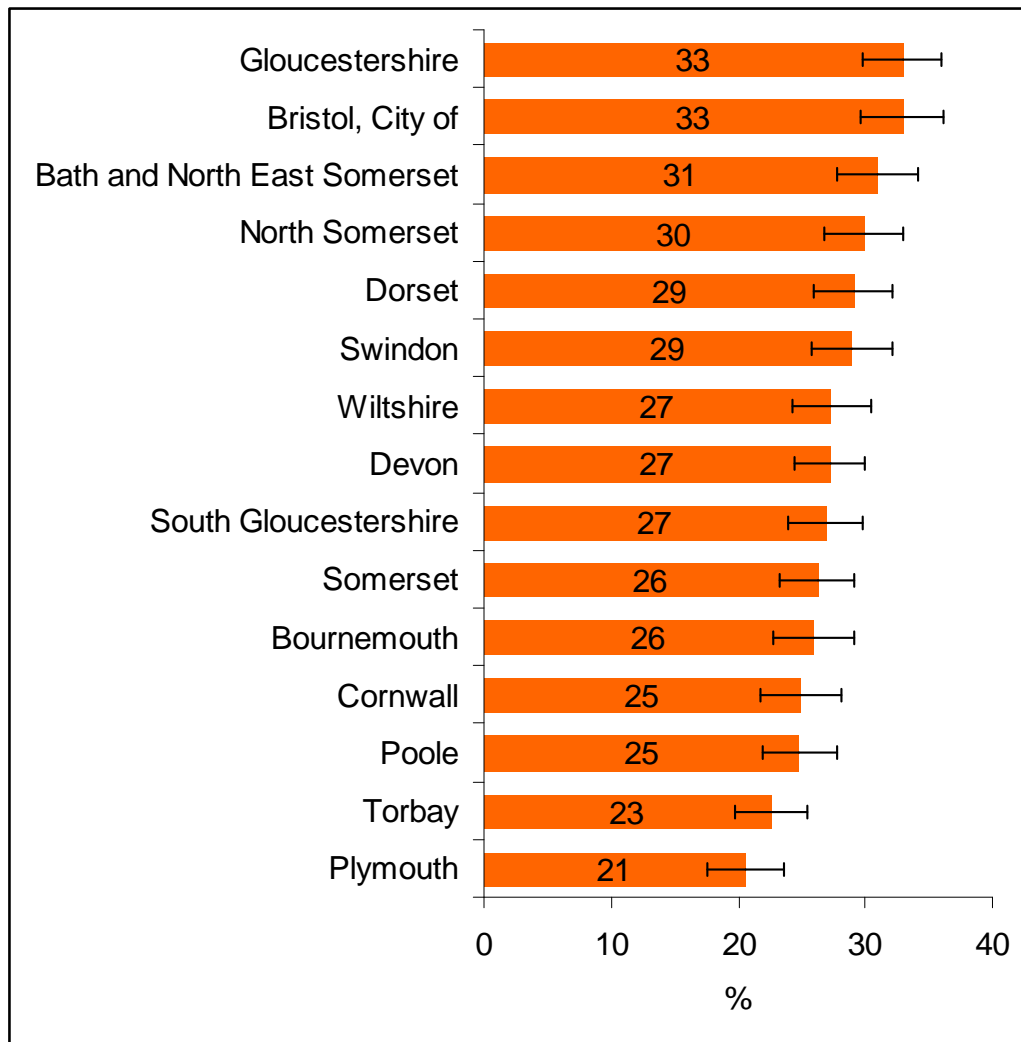
Figure 7: Percentage of employed residents working in managerial or professional occupations, September 2007 to October 2008, South West



Source: Annual Population Survey (UK Data Archive)

Within the South West, only the City of Bristol and Gloucestershire have a higher percentage of high-status employment than the regional average (Figure 8). At 33% the proportion in these local authority areas is at least 10 percentage points higher than the areas with below average employment in these occupations - Plymouth and Torbay.

Figure 8: Percentage of employed residents working in managerial or professional occupations by higher tier local authority area, September 2007 to October 2008, South West



Source: Annual Population Survey