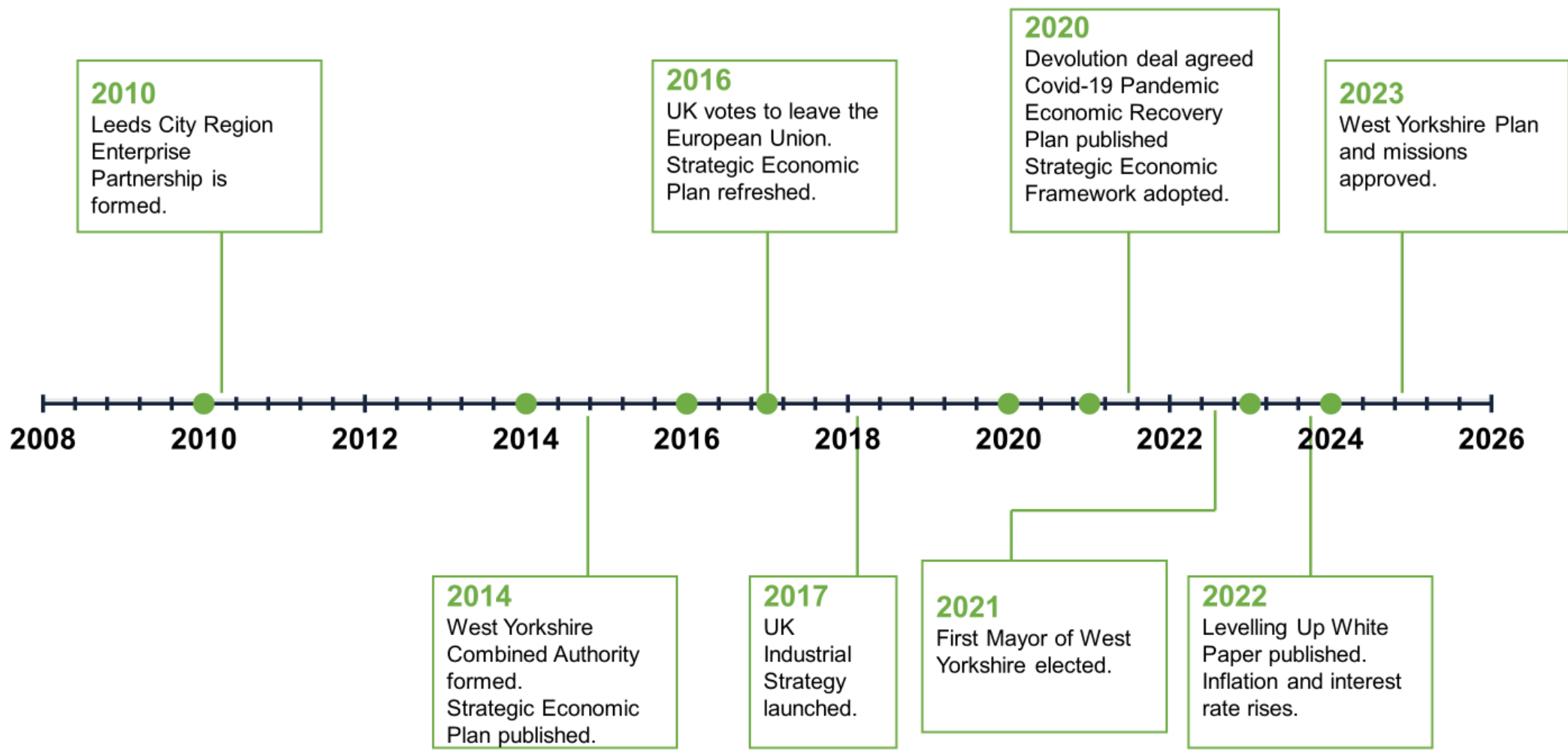


**West Yorkshire
Combined Authority**

Levers of Devolution and Graduate Opportunities

Helen Hawxwell, Adult Upskilling Manager, West Yorkshire Combined Authority

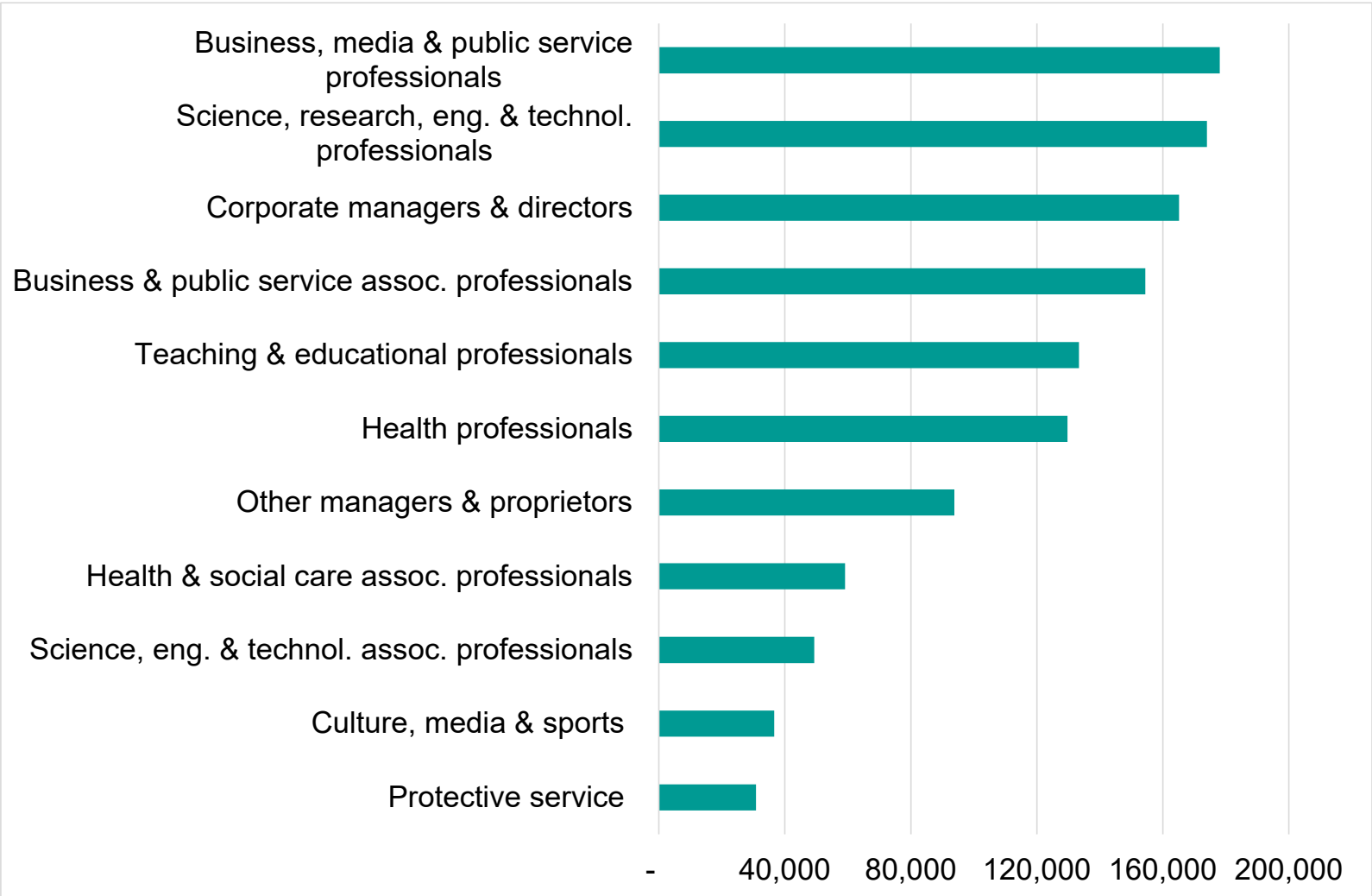
Our journey



Our region

Business / media professional and STEM Professional are largest higher skilled employment categories in region

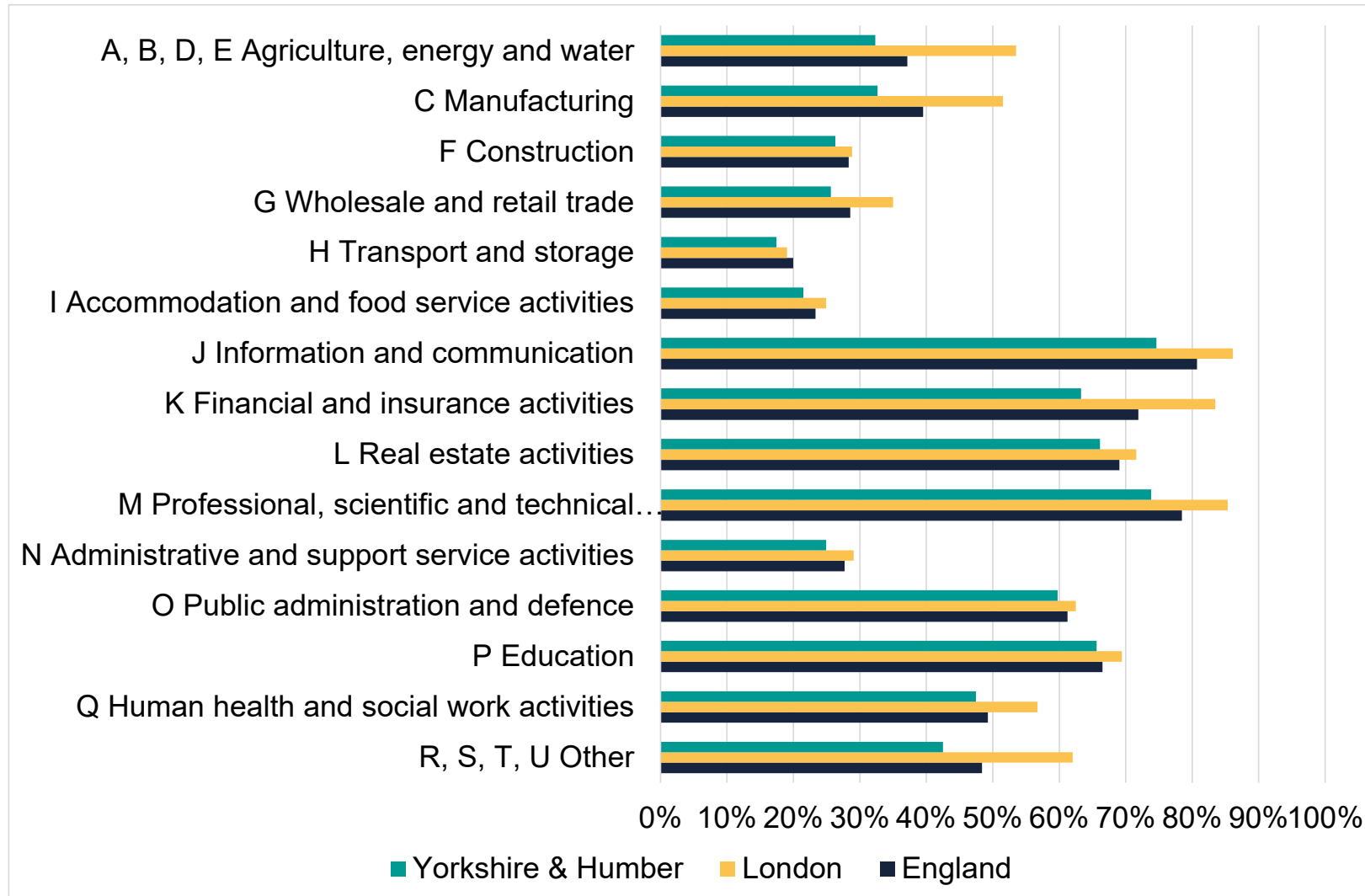
Figure: Employment by higher skilled SOC sub-major group, Yorkshire and the Humber



Source: Annual Population Survey, Average of JD22 to OS22/23

Employment in higher skilled occupations is more strongly represented across all sectors at national level than in Yorkshire and the Humber

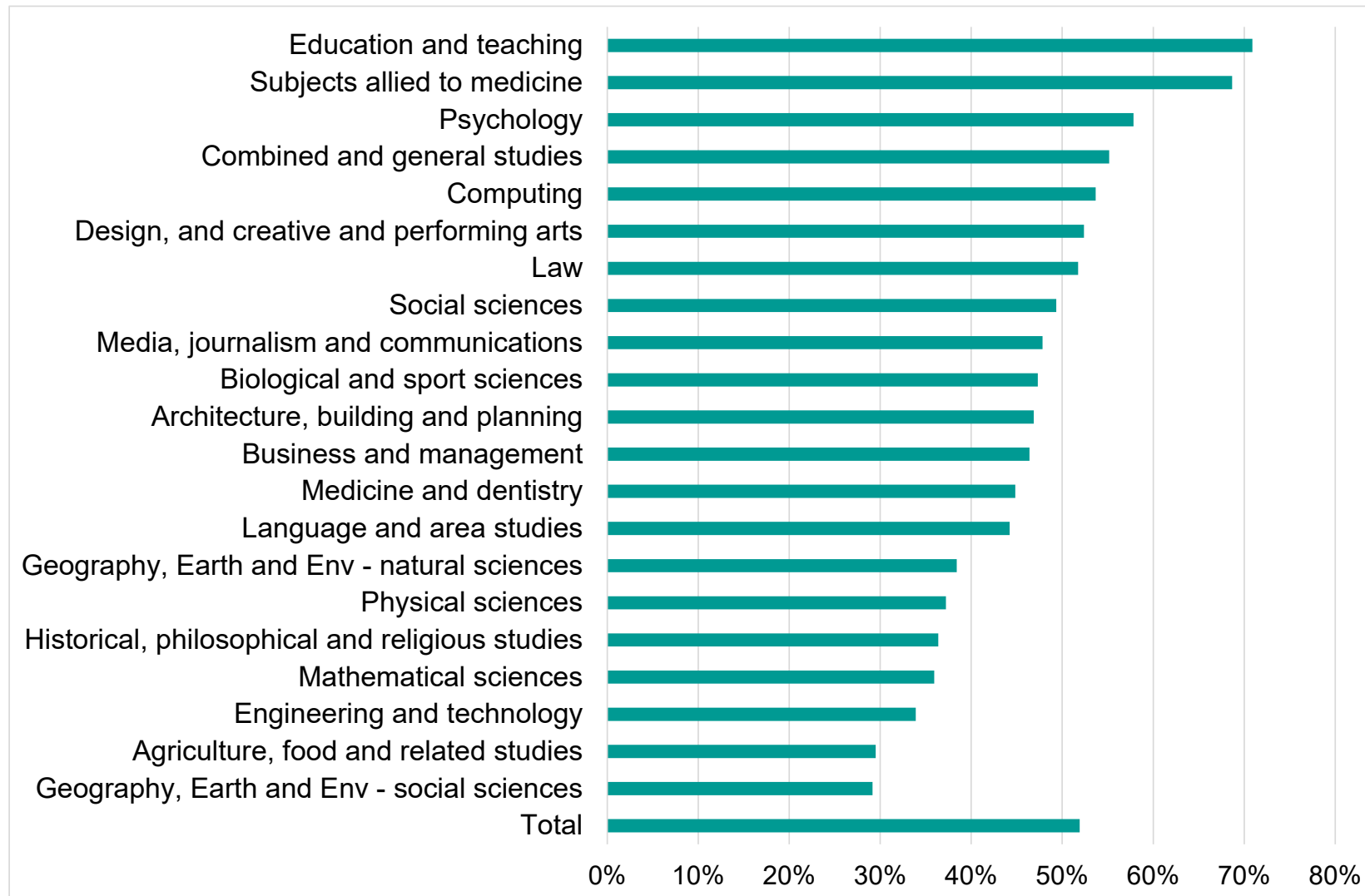
Figure: Proportion of employment in higher level occupations by industry sector



Source: Census 2021

Retention in the region varies by subject of study

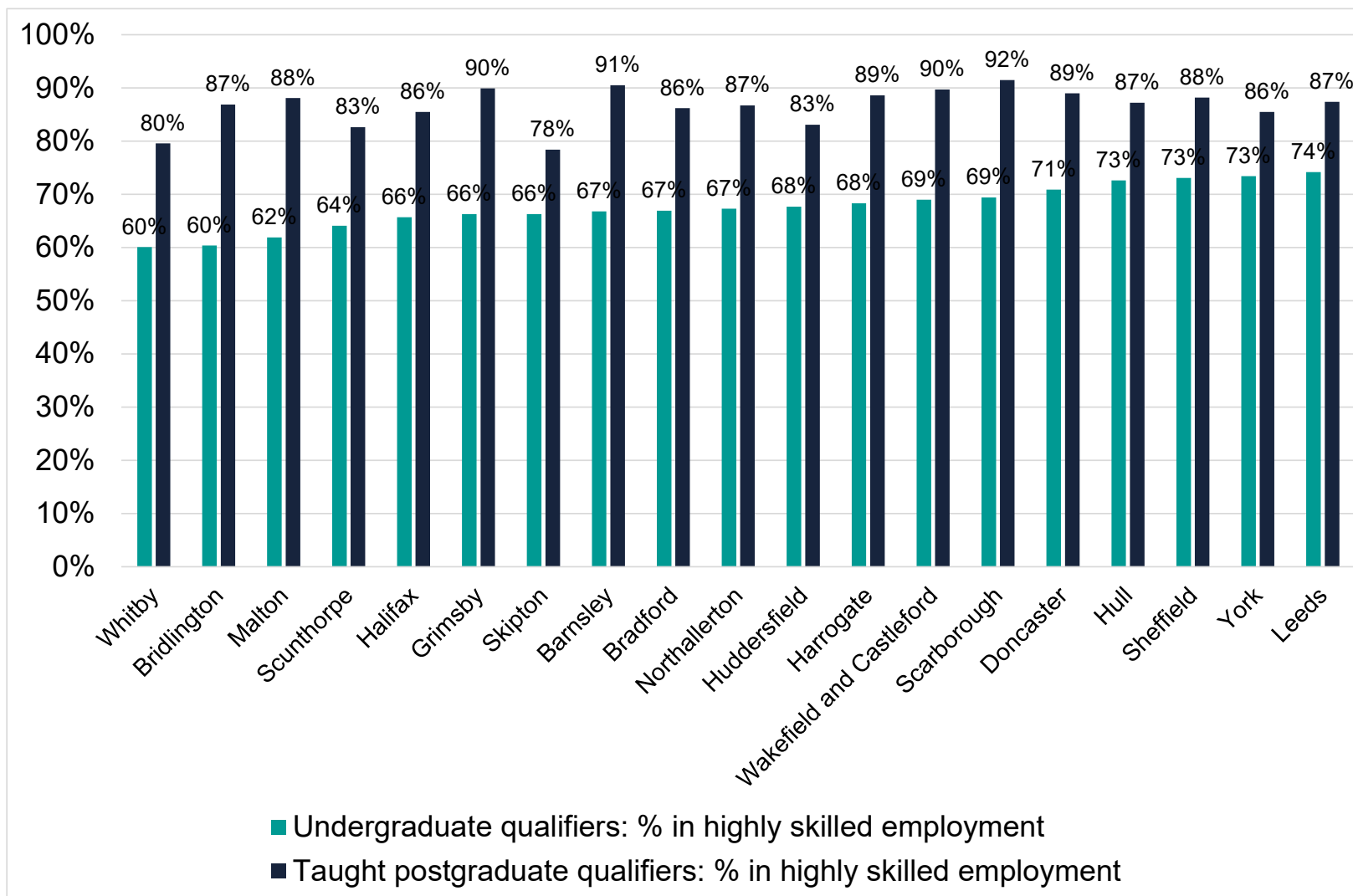
Figure: Proportion of qualifiers from Y&H institutions in employment retained in Yorkshire at 15 months by subject of study



Note: UK domiciled leavers from Y&H institutions in employment after 15 months. Excludes not knowns and overseas destinations.
Source: Graduate Outcomes Survey, 2020/21

Undergraduate qualifiers have relatively low entry rates into highly skilled jobs across much of the region

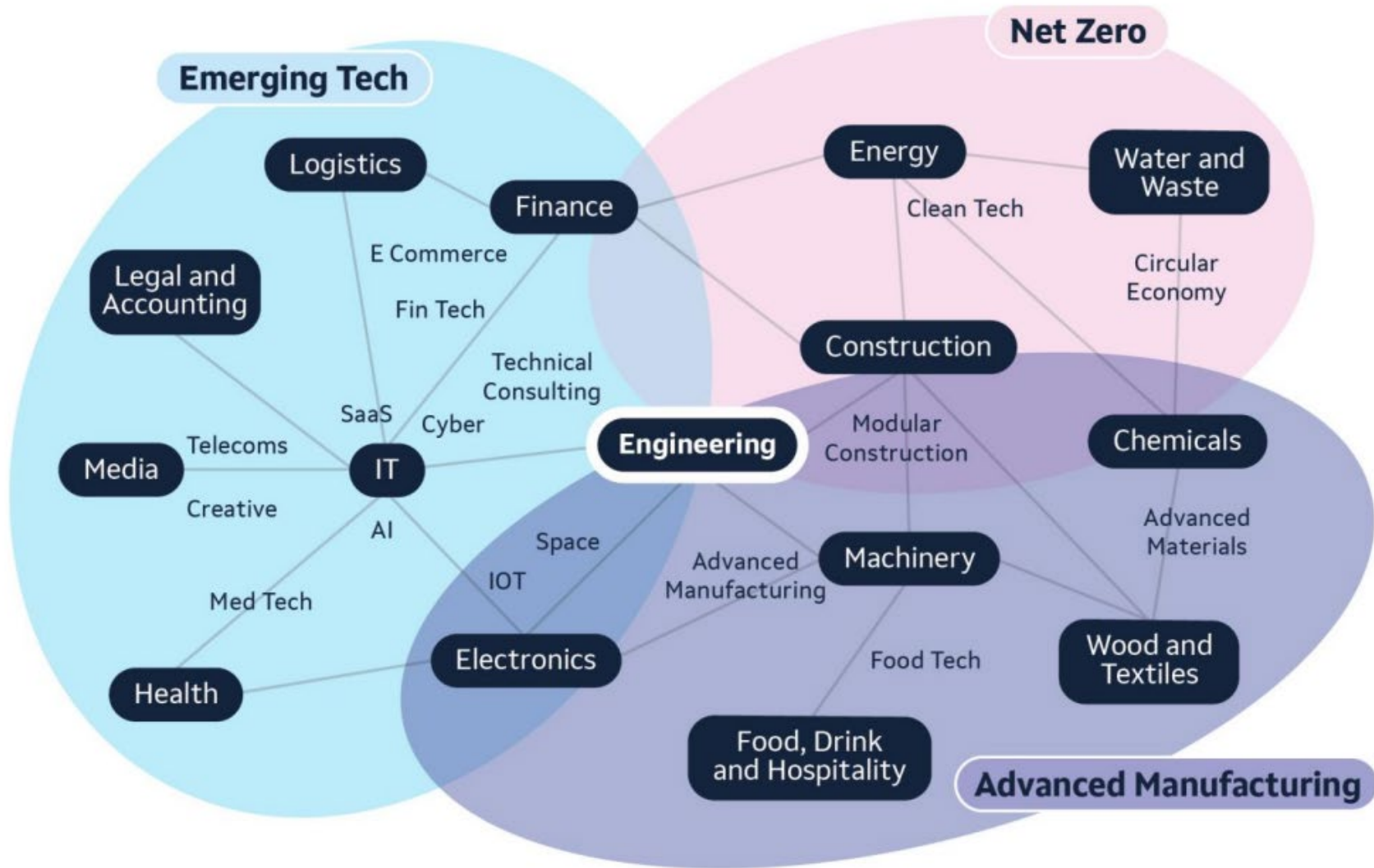
Figure: Proportion of graduates and postgraduate qualifiers in highly skilled employment by location of employment (travel-to-work-area) 15 months after qualifying



Y&H TTWAs in lowest quintile for undergraduate qualifiers up to Doncaster in ranking

Among top ranked TTWAs nationally are: Oxford (79%), Reading (78%), Cambridge (77%) and Bristol (77%)

Source: Office for Students, *A Geography of Employment*, 2022



West Yorkshire:

Diverse industries, business sizes and strengths, with key high growth clusters

Our work so far

£1.8 Billion Devolution

Adult education powers and AEB budget

£38m per year Gainshare funding

Specific focus on West Yorkshire graduates:

- Partnership with Go Higher West Yorkshire led by Leeds Trinity University
- GradSkills programme:
 - Jumpstart Your Career
 - Graduate Accelerator



£1.8 Billion Devolution

Sectoral focus on Level 3+ technical/vocational training:

1375 graduates across all courses (42% of participants), including:

- Digital Marketing
- Live Event Management
- Green Skills for Construction
- Cybersecurity
- Clinical Care

Employment West Yorkshire

Mayoral Graduate Pilot – starts summer 2025

Physics Graduate with a masters degree had not been able to secure work 2 years after graduation. He had been applying for graduate programmes with large corporate organisations, but had not been able to secure a position as he found interviews challenging. He attended a 'reverse' jobs fair held by Employment West Yorkshire in Calderdale, in March 2024. Local business Elland Steel needed a capable physics graduate to work in one of their departments but had not been able to find a suitable match. As a result of meeting the physics graduate and inviting him for interview, he was offered a role. He is now an invaluable member of the team and is making a significant difference to the business.

What next

New Mayoral term, new government, new opportunities

Region of Learning and Creativity

West Yorkshire Promise

38,000 new homes announced

Home Energy West Yorkshire

Mass Transit opportunities

Focus on high growth sectors – i.e. health tech, Industry 4.0

All age careers service

CA role as influencer

