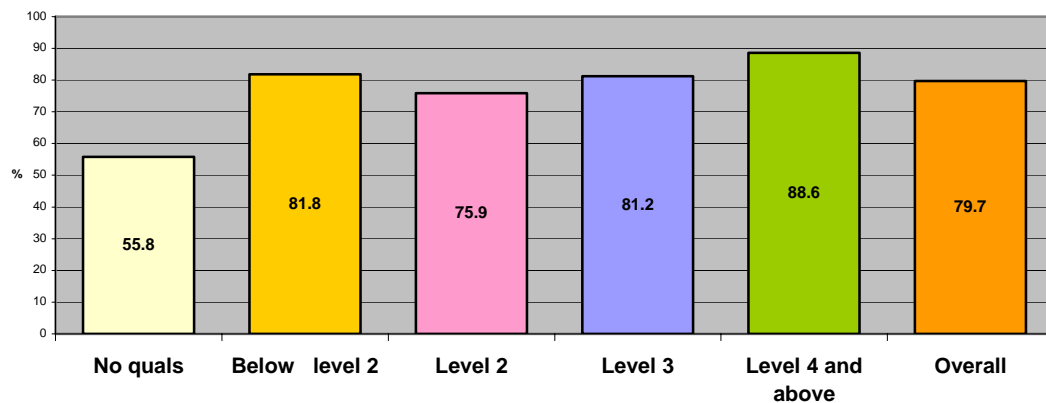


What Difference do Qualifications Make?

Two very obvious differences can be seen from figures about working in and around Portsmouth

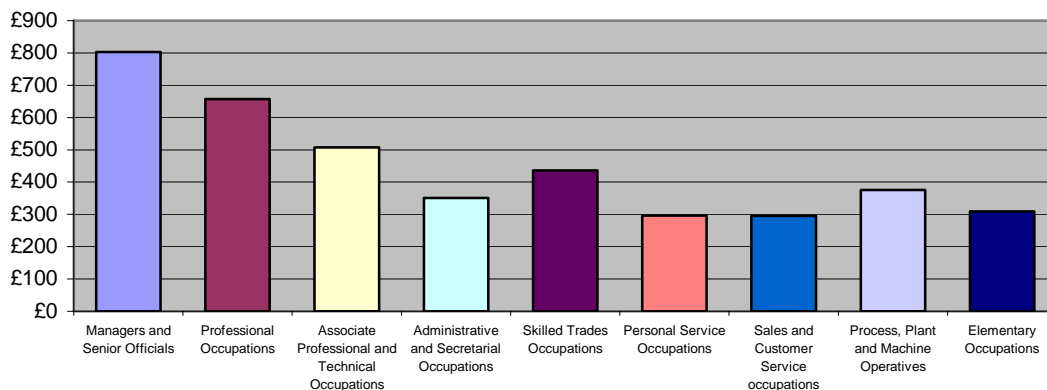
- the more qualified you are, the more likely you are to have a job – only a little over half of Portsmouth residents without any qualifications have a job, compared with nearly 90% of those qualified to degree level or above (figures from the Department for Education & Skills for 2002/03)

Portsmouth Employment Rates by Level of Qualification



- the more highly skilled jobs, for which you need higher qualifications, will give you much higher earnings – managers are paid more than twice the wages of admin. and secretarial staff, while skilled workers earn nearly 50% more than unskilled (figures from the Office of National Statistics, New Earnings Survey 2003)

Average Weekly Earnings (gross) by Occupation in Hampshire (2003)



Other evidence about the difference that qualifications can make to your working life comes from a recent survey of over 5,000 people, carried out by the Office of National Statistics for the University of Surrey. This survey found that workers with higher qualifications

- have a more rewarding experience at work, being more in control and having more choice
- are more likely to be able to choose early retirement, or work beyond retirement age if they wish
- are more able to change jobs for positive reasons, such as promotion or higher pay – two thirds of graduates change jobs for career related reasons compared to only a quarter of the unqualified
- will gain increased responsibility and skills as they change jobs
- are more likely to get training and guidance to help them change jobs

Changing Work in Later Life: a study of job transitions, University of Surrey, 2004.