

Key facts about the solicitors' profession in the East Midlands region

The Law Society conducts research on the solicitors' profession in England and Wales. This fact sheet presents key figures on the profession for the East Midlands region as at November 2010.

Key statistics as at November 2010	No	%
Solicitors with practising certificates	4,569	
Male solicitors with practising certificates	2,320	50.8
Female solicitors with practising certificates	2,249	49.2
Solicitors in private practice	3,483	80.1
Solicitors in commerce and industry	288	6.6
Solicitors in central and local government	522	12.0
Solicitors in other sectors	56	1.3
Solicitors in sole practices	470	10.8
Solicitors in practices with 2-4 partners	1,750	40.2
Solicitors in practices with 5-10 partners	628	14.4
Solicitors in practices with 11-25 partners	506	11.6
Solicitors in practices with more than 26 partners	995	22.9
Trainees		
Number of trainees	191	
Number of male trainees	60	31.4
Number of female trainees	131	68.6
Starting salary (median)	£16,950	
Organisations		
Organisations employing solicitors (head office)	1,024	
Private practices (head office)	587	57.3
Other organisations employing solicitors ¹	808	42.7

¹ Non private practice comprises of organisations employing solicitors by the following type of business: Commerce & Industry; Government (Government Department, Local Government, Court Government funded services, and Crown Prosecution Service); Other (Advice service, Educational establishment, Churches etc.).

EAST MIDLANDS HAS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF SOLE PRACTICES

Practising certificate holders

Table 1 shows the ethnicity of all practising certificate holders in the region compared with all the regions in England and Wales, and Chart A illustrates their age distribution. Just under one-third (30.8%) of solicitors are aged between 26-35 years old which is slightly less than in the profession as a whole where 35.3% fall into this age range. Older solicitors are over-represented in this region. The ethnicity profile shows that the proportion of Asian solicitors is higher in the region than in England and Wales in general.

Table 2 provides details of the number of years of post qualification experience of practising certificate holders within the East Midlands region compared to the profession as a whole. It shows that there are more solicitors with 20-39 years of experience in this region than in England and Wales as a whole.

The top three main areas of work for practising certificate holders in this region are business affairs (16.6%), wills and probate (7.6%) and litigation (general) (5.9%). In comparison with the profession as a whole, litigation (general) is cited by 5.8% and wills and probate by 7.2% of the profession with business affairs dominating at 21.0%.

Trainees

In 2010 42.4% of trainees are aged 25 and under, with 4.2% of trainees aged over 41 years, compared with 45.8% and 3.2% respectively for the profession as a whole.

Table 3 shows trainee registrations by ethnicity for the East Midlands region and for the entire profession. It demonstrates that African Caribbean and Asian trainees are present in higher proportions in the region in comparison with the profession as a whole.

The overwhelming majority (92.1%) of trainees work in law practices, with 3.7% in commerce and industry and 4.2% in local and central government.

More than one-third (34.2%) of trainees are based in small firms of 2 to 4 partners and 27.9% are located within large firms with more than 26 partners. Five percent of registered trainees are based within sole practices, compared with 6.0% for the profession as a whole.

Private practice firms

There are 587 private practice head offices in the region. The distribution of size of firms across the region is shown in table 4. It illustrates that more than half (56.6%) of firms employing solicitors are sole practices.

Table 1 Ethnicity of practising certificate holders

	East Midlands		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
African Caribbean	36	0.8	798	0.7
Asian	362	7.9	7,438	6.6
Chinese	19	0.4	924	0.8
African	15	0.3	1,417	1.3
Other Ethnicity	40	0.9	2,117	1.9
White	3,788	83.0	90,337	79.7
Unknown	309	6.8	10,341	9.1
Total	4,569	100	113,372	100

Chart A Age distribution of practising certificate holders

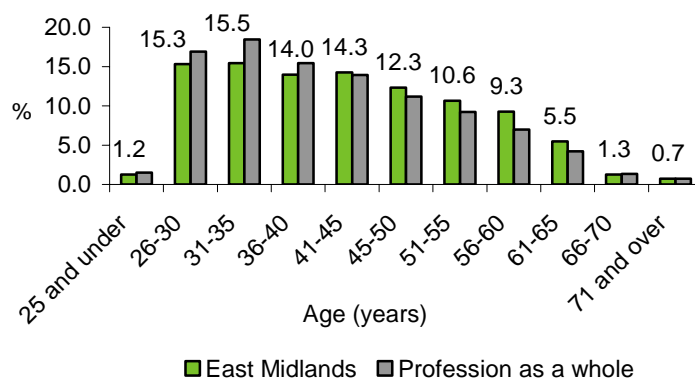


Table 2 Experience of practising certificate holders by years qualified

	East Midlands		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
0-9	1,795	38.9	49,666	43.8
10-19	1,200	26.0	29,646	26.1
20-29	796	17.2	16,146	14.0
30-39	530	11.5	10,136	8.9
40-49	64	1.4	1,734	1.5
50+	11	0.2	291	0.3
Unknown	223	4.8	5,753	5.1
Total	4,619	100	113,372	100

Table 3 Ethnicity of trainees

	East Midlands		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
African Caribbean	3	1.6	45	0.7
Asian	31	16.4	787	11.5
Chinese	1	0.5	152	2.2
African	1	0.5	145	2.1
Other Ethnicity	5	2.6	274	4.0
White	138	73.0	4,972	72.4
Unknown	10	5.3	493	7.2
Total	189	100	6,868	100

Table 4 Size of firms (head office)

	East Midlands		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
Sole practices	332	56.6	4,583	45.1
2-4	173	29.5	4,185	41.1
5-10	58	9.9	898	8.8
11-25	14	2.4	310	3.1
26+	10	1.7	196	1.9
Total	587	100	10,172	100

Source: Law Society REGIS database

Further reading:

Trends in the solicitors' profession, Annual statistical report 2009. Bill Cole, Nina Fletcher, Tara Chittenden and Joanne Cox. Strategic Research Unit. The Law Society. 2009.