



## City employment:

### An overview from the Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES)

Rachel Smith, September 2012

On 28 September, the latest employment estimates for 2011, taken from the Business Register and Employment Survey, were released.

This data is most welcome given the recent jobs-output conundrum. Indeed, the most recent figures on the economy revealed that whilst employment has been rising and unemployment falling in 2012, output contracted. This implies that the productivity of the UK economy is falling and it is hard to see how employment can continue to rise if output continues to fall.

The release provides more information on employment levels for a year earlier, 2011. And, although this data is not comparable with previous years,<sup>1</sup> it does provide additional information on employment levels in Great Britain's cities as well as shedding light on the share of employment across different sectors of the economy.

The analysis we present here looks on a city-by-city basis at:

- Total employment;
- The share of employment in the private and public sectors;
- The share of employment in manufacturing and service sectors;
- The share of employment in knowledge intensive businesses (KIBs).

### Total employment

**In 2011, 58 percent of employment in Great Britain could be found in cities.**

As Table 1 shows, London was the city with the most employment, which was five times the size of the next largest city, Birmingham.

Hastings was Great Britain's smallest city with 31,400 people in employment and was almost one third smaller than the next smallest city, Worthing.

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1. The Office for National Statistics has rescaled some of the 2010 data for its BRES Statistical Bulletin. However, the full revised data set has yet to be released and will be published at some point later this year.

**Table 1: Total employment, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Total employment
1	London	5,027,300
2	Birmingham	1,021,800
3	Manchester	901,000
4	Glasgow	542,100
5	Leeds	404,500

Rank	City	Total employment
59	Burnley	66,100
60	Gloucester	63,100
61	Blackburn	58,400
62	Worthing	45,800
63	Hastings	31,400
	<b>City average</b>	<b>256,800</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

Note: All data in this note has been rounded for presentational purpose but has been ranked using the full values.

The map in Figure 1 displays total employment across all Great Britain's cities. The larger the dot, the larger the level of employment in a city.

The map clearly shows that in the South of Great Britain, London is the largest city whilst the cities surrounding it such as Cambridge, Crawley and Swindon are relatively small. Towards the North however, there is more of a mix of mid to large sized cities such as Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle as well as smaller cities such as Blackpool, Doncaster and Hull.

## Employment in the private and public sectors

The data presented in Table 2 shows the share of employment in the private and public sectors. The definitions we use can be found in the technical appendix of this note. Our definition is slightly different to that used by the Office for National Statistics and we use it here for consistency with past Centre for Cities work.

The data shows that Swindon and Crawley had the highest share of employment in the private sector of all Great Britain's cities – ten percentage points (pp) higher than the city average. It was the wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector that contained the highest share of private sector employment in both cities.

Oxford, Dundee and Cambridge however had relatively low shares of jobs in the private sector. In Oxford the share of employment in the public sector was almost 20pp above the city average. Large educational sectors explain in part the predominance of the public sectors in Oxford and Cambridge. In Dundee on the other hand there was significant employment in human health and social work activities.



**Table 2: Share of total employment in the private and public sectors, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in the:	
		Private sector	Public sector
1	Swindon	81%	19%
2	Crawley	80%	20%
3	Aldershot	79%	21%
4	Warrington	79%	21%
5	Milton Keynes	79%	21%

Rank	City	Share of total employment in the:	
		Private sector	Public Sector
59	Hastings	60%	40%
60	Swansea	60%	40%
61	Cambridge	58%	42%
62	Dundee	58%	42%
63	Oxford	51%	49%
<b>City average</b>		<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Note: data ranked according to the size of the private sector i.e. a rank of 1 indicates a high share of employment in the private sector. Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

### Employment in service and manufacturing sectors

It was those cities in the South of the country that tended to have the largest share of employment in service sectors. In London, Reading and Crawley over 70 percent of jobs were in service industries. In all three of these cities the highest share of service sector employment was in the wholesale and retail trade and the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector. London and Reading also specialised in employment in professional, scientific and technical activities whilst Crawley had much employment in transportation and storage sector and in Reading in the information and communication sector.

In contrast, in Burnley, Oxford and Mansfield employment in the service sector was at least 10pp below the average for all Great Britain's cities.

**Table 3: Share of total employment in service sectors, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment
		in service sectors
1	London	72%
2	Reading	71%
3	Crawley	71%
4	Milton Keynes	69%
5	Aldershot	67%

Rank	City	Share of total employment
		in service sectors
59	Dundee	47%
60	Blackburn	47%
61	Mansfield	46%
62	Oxford	45%
63	Burnley	44%
<b>City average</b>		<b>56%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

Table 4 below shows the cities that had the highest and lowest shares of employment in manufacturing. Cities in the North and Midlands had the most employment in manufacturing. Burnley 23 percent of jobs were in manufacturing, 4pp higher than in Telford, the city with the second highest share of employment in this sector. In contrast, just two percent of employment in Edinburgh was in manufacturing, a staggering 21pp lower than in Burnley.

**Table 4: Share of total employment in manufacturing, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in manufacturing sectors
1	Burnley	23%
2	Telford	19%
3	Blackburn	18%
4	Huddersfield	17%
5	Derby	17%
Rank	City	Share of total employment in manufacturing sectors
59	York	4%
60	Reading	3%
61	Cambridge	3%
62	London	3%
63	Edinburgh	2%
<b>City average</b>		<b>10%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

### Employment in knowledge intensive businesses

In Cambridge 3 in 10 employment positions were in knowledge intensive businesses in 2011, significantly more than the city average of just over 1 in 10. The city's significant higher educational assets play a large role in providing knowledge intensive jobs. In Mansfield however, only five percent of employment was in knowledge intensive businesses – 25pp lower than in Cambridge and eight pp below the average across Great Britain's cities.

**Table 5: Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses
1	Cambridge	30%
2	Oxford	27%
3	Edinburgh	26%
4	London	23%
5	Reading	22%
Rank	City	Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses
59	Hastings	7%
60	Grimsby	7%
61	Doncaster	6%
62	Wakefield	6%
63	Mansfield	5%
<b>City average</b>		<b>13%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

## Annex: City-by-city tables

**Table A1: Total employment, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Total employment	Rank	City	Total employment
1	London	5,027,300	33	Derby	120,300
2	Birmingham	1,021,800	34	Warrington	118,200
3	Manchester	901,000	35	Sunderland	115,900
4	Glasgow	542,100	36	Hull	115,300
5	Leeds	404,500	37	Doncaster	111,500
6	Bristol	387,500	38	Swindon	110,100
7	Newcastle	384,100	39	Oxford	108,800
8	Liverpool	346,200	40	Plymouth	106,500
9	Sheffield	340,700	41	York	105,900
10	Nottingham	309,000	42	Southend	105,100
11	Edinburgh	302,000	43	Swansea	104,400
12	Reading	226,900	44	Bolton	104,400
13	Leicester	226,600	45	Wigan	98,700
14	Portsmouth	212,800	46	Peterborough	97,200
15	Bradford	198,200	47	Cambridge	90,500
16	Cardiff	196,900	48	Aldershot	90,300
17	Preston	184,900	49	Luton	84,900
18	Middlesbrough	180,300	50	Mansfield	83,500
19	Aberdeen	177,600	51	Chatham	82,800
20	Southampton	170,800	52	Telford	77,600
21	Bournemouth	170,600	53	Newport	74,200
22	Huddersfield	154,400	54	Dundee	74,100
23	Stoke	153,900	55	Barnsley	73,700
24	Milton Keynes	145,100	56	Rochdale	70,700
25	Crawley	144,700	57	Grimsby	68,100
26	Brighton	144,700	58	Ipswich	67,700
27	Coventry	141,900	59	Burnley	66,100
28	Wakefield	138,600	60	Gloucester	63,100
29	Northampton	131,500	61	Blackburn	58,400
30	Norwich	130,600	62	Worthing	45,800
31	Blackpool	129,800	63	Hastings	31,400
32	Birkenhead	128,200			
<b>Great Britain</b>		<b>27,765,000</b>	<b>City average</b>		<b>256,800</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

**Table A2: Share of total employment in the private and public sectors, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in the private sector	Share of total employment in the public sector	Rank	City	Share of total employment in the private sector	Share of total employment in the public sector
1	Swindon	81%	19%	33	Stoke	70%	30%
2	Crawley	80%	20%	34	Glasgow	70%	30%
3	Aldershot	79%	21%	35	Hull	69%	31%
4	Warrington	79%	21%	36	Sunderland	69%	31%
5	Milton Keynes	79%	21%	37	Newport	69%	31%
6	Reading	78%	22%	38	Edinburgh	69%	31%
7	London	78%	22%	39	Southend	69%	31%
8	Peterborough	75%	25%	40	Blackpool	69%	31%
9	Aberdeen	75%	25%	41	Barnsley	68%	32%
10	Leeds	75%	25%	42	Doncaster	68%	32%
11	Norwich	74%	26%	43	Blackburn	68%	32%
12	Telford	74%	26%	44	Sheffield	68%	32%
13	Luton	74%	26%	45	Preston	68%	32%
14	Northampton	74%	26%	46	Chatham	68%	32%
15	Bristol	73%	27%	47	Bradford	68%	32%
16	Manchester	73%	27%	48	Coventry	68%	32%
17	Bolton	73%	27%	49	Leicester	67%	33%
18	Wigan	73%	27%	50	Cardiff	67%	33%
19	Bournemouth	72%	28%	51	Ipswich	67%	33%
20	Rochdale	72%	28%	52	Newcastle	66%	34%
21	Huddersfield	72%	28%	53	Middlesbrough	66%	34%
22	Wakefield	72%	28%	54	Birkenhead	66%	34%
23	Derby	72%	28%	55	Plymouth	66%	34%
24	Southampton	71%	29%	56	Liverpool	65%	35%
25	Burnley	71%	29%	57	Gloucester	64%	36%
26	Nottingham	71%	29%	58	Worthing	62%	38%
27	York	71%	29%	59	Hastings	60%	40%
28	Birmingham	71%	29%	60	Swansea	60%	40%
29	Brighton	70%	30%	61	Cambridge	58%	42%
30	Portsmouth	70%	30%	62	Dundee	58%	42%
31	Grimsby	70%	30%	63	Oxford	51%	49%
32	Mansfield	70%	30%				
<b>Great Britain</b>		<b>73%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>City average</b>		<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

**Table A3: Share of total employment in service sectors, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in services	Rank	City	Share of total employment in services
1	London	72%	33	Liverpool	53%
2	Reading	71%	34	Newport	53%
3	Crawley	71%	35	Chatham	53%
4	Milton Keynes	69%	36	Gloucester	53%
5	Aldershot	67%	37	Grimsby	53%
6	Swindon	67%	38	Wigan	53%
7	Warrington	67%	39	Worthing	53%
8	Edinburgh	64%	40	Sheffield	52%
9	Leeds	63%	41	Telford	52%
10	Brighton	63%	42	Doncaster	52%
11	York	63%	43	Aberdeen	52%
12	Peterborough	62%	44	Leicester	51%
13	Northampton	62%	45	Bradford	51%
14	Norwich	61%	46	Derby	51%
15	Bristol	61%	47	Swansea	51%
16	Manchester	60%	48	Plymouth	51%
17	Southampton	60%	49	Middlesbrough	50%
18	Luton	59%	50	Preston	50%
19	Bournemouth	59%	51	Rochdale	50%
20	Glasgow	59%	52	Huddersfield	50%
21	Cardiff	58%	53	Blackpool	50%
22	Ipswich	58%	54	Hull	49%
23	Nottingham	57%	55	Sunderland	49%
24	Southend	56%	56	Birkenhead	49%
25	Wakefield	55%	57	Barnsley	47%
26	Portsmouth	55%	58	Hastings	47%
27	Bolton	55%	59	Dundee	47%
28	Coventry	55%	60	Blackburn	47%
29	Birmingham	54%	61	Mansfield	46%
30	Cambridge	54%	62	Oxford	45%
31	Stoke	53%	63	Burnley	44%
32	Newcastle	53%			
<b>Great Britain</b>		<b>58%</b>	<b>City average</b>		<b>56%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data



**Table A4: Share of total employment in manufacturing, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in manufacturing	Rank	City	Share of total employment in manufacturing
1	Burnley	23%	33	Aldershot	9%
2	Telford	19%	34	Manchester	8%
3	Blackburn	18%	35	Nottingham	8%
4	Huddersfield	17%	36	Middlesbrough	8%
5	Derby	17%	37	Preston	8%
6	Rochdale	16%	38	Newcastle	8%
7	Sunderland	15%	39	Southend	8%
8	Hull	15%	40	Norwich	8%
9	Mansfield	15%	41	Liverpool	8%
10	Barnsley	14%	42	Northampton	8%
11	Blackpool	14%	43	Bristol	7%
12	Grimsby	13%	44	Aberdeen	7%
13	Newport	13%	45	Leeds	7%
14	Bradford	13%	46	Milton Keynes	7%
15	Bolton	12%	47	Gloucester	7%
16	Wigan	12%	48	Southampton	7%
17	Leicester	12%	49	Worthing	7%
18	Stoke	12%	50	Warrington	6%
19	Birkenhead	11%	51	Dundee	6%
20	Plymouth	11%	52	Glasgow	6%
21	Birmingham	11%	53	Swansea	5%
22	Wakefield	11%	54	Crawley	5%
23	Portsmouth	11%	55	Cardiff	4%
24	Sheffield	11%	56	Ipswich	4%
25	Swindon	11%	57	Brighton	4%
26	Luton	11%	58	Oxford	4%
27	Coventry	10%	59	York	4%
28	Peterborough	10%	60	Reading	3%
29	Hastings	10%	61	Cambridge	3%
30	Chatham	9%	62	London	3%
31	Doncaster	9%	63	Edinburgh	2%
32	Bournemouth	9%			
<b>Great Britain</b>		<b>9%</b>	<b>City average</b>		<b>10%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

**Table A5: Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses, 2011 data**

Rank	City	Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses	Rank	City	Share of total employment in knowledge intensive businesses
1	Cambridge	30%	33	Dundee	12%
2	Oxford	27%	34	Nottingham	12%
3	Edinburgh	26%	35	Luton	11%
4	London	23%	36	Gloucester	11%
5	Reading	22%	37	Leicester	11%
6	Milton Keynes	20%	38	Telford	11%
7	Leeds	19%	39	Newport	11%
8	Cardiff	19%	40	Bolton	11%
9	Bristol	18%	41	Southend	11%
10	Coventry	18%	42	Middlesbrough	10%
11	Brighton	18%	43	Plymouth	10%
12	Aberdeen	17%	44	Blackpool	10%
13	York	17%	45	Bradford	10%
14	Manchester	17%	46	Sunderland	10%
15	Norwich	17%	47	Stoke	9%
16	Southampton	17%	48	Chatham	9%
17	Aldershot	16%	49	Preston	9%
18	Bournemouth	16%	50	Portsmouth	9%
19	Ipswich	15%	51	Huddersfield	9%
20	Crawley	14%	52	Burnley	9%
21	Glasgow	14%	53	Birkenhead	8%
22	Northampton	14%	54	Hull	8%
23	Swindon	14%	55	Barnsley	8%
24	Swansea	13%	56	Blackburn	8%
25	Sheffield	13%	57	Wigan	8%
26	Birmingham	13%	58	Rochdale	7%
27	Warrington	13%	59	Hastings	7%
28	Newcastle	13%	60	Grimsby	7%
29	Derby	12%	61	Doncaster	6%
30	Worthing	12%	62	Wakefield	6%
31	Peterborough	12%	63	Mansfield	5%
32	Liverpool	12%			
<b>Great Britain</b>		<b>13%</b>	<b>City average</b>		<b>13%</b>

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2011 data

## Technical notes

### Geography

All data presented here is at the Primary Urban Area (PUA) level. This is a city level definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government in The State of the English Cities report. PUAs are an aggregate of local authorities that make up the 'built-up' area of a city, defined as having a population of 125,000 or more. See [www.centreforcities.org/puas](http://www.centreforcities.org/puas) for the full list of PUA definitions. Please note that data is only available for cities in Great Britain.

### Employment data

The data provided in this release is for 2011. Unfortunately, due to changes in the questionnaire distributed to businesses it is not possible to compare employment data collected in previous years. Because of this data presented here is for 2011 only.

The data provided here measures employment which is defined as employees plus working proprietors. An employee is anyone aged 16 or over that an organisation directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. It excludes voluntary workers, self-employed, working owners who are not paid via PAYE. Working proprietors are sole traders, sole proprietors, partners and directors (registered charities are not included).

### Sectoral definitions

The following definitions have been constructed using 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.

#### Public sector

- O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
- P : Education
- Q : Human health and social work activities

All other sections are defined as private sector activity.

#### Services

- D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- H : Transportation and storage
- I : Accommodation and food service activities
- J : Information and communication
- K : Financial and insurance activities
- L : Real estate activities
- M : Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N : Administrative and support service activities
- Q : Human health and social work activities
- R : Arts, entertainment and recreation
- S : Other service activities

- T : Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use
- U : Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies

### Manufacturing

- C : Manufacturing

### Knowledge Intensive Businesses

- 64 : Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding
- 65 : Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security
- 66 : Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities
- 6810 : Buying and selling of own real estate
- 6832 : Management of real estate on a fee or contract basis
- 6311 : Data processing, hosting and related activities
- 6201 : Computer programming activities
- 6202 : Computer consultancy activities
- 5821 : Publishing of computer games
- 5829 : Other software publishing
- 6910 : Legal activities
- 6920 : Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy
- 7320 : Market research and public opinion polling
- 7022 : Business and other management consultancy activities
- 6420 : Activities of holding companies
- 711 : Architectural and engineering activities and related technical consultancy
- 712 : Technical testing and analysis
- 731 : Advertising
- 781 : Activities of employment placement agencies
- 854 : Higher education<sup>2</sup>

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2. This definition is taken from the State of the English Cities database

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