



## From recession to recovery?

### Evidence from the Business Register & Employment Survey

Rachel Smith, September 2011

On 30 September jobs data for 2010 from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) was released. We use this data here to provide an initial analysis of what the figures mean for the economic health of Great Britain's cities.

Our analysis looks at jobs growth between 2009 and 2010, a period that covers the early stages of the UK's recovery from the recession. It shows that:

- Just under **40 percent of cities experienced a net increase in total jobs.**
- **Three quarters** of cities saw a **net decline** in their private sector jobs base.
- **Two thirds** of cities experienced a **net gain in public sector jobs.**
- **Three in ten cities** saw **net growth** in their **manufacturing** jobs base.
- Just over **40 percent of cities saw a net increase in the number of private sector service jobs.**

In our annual health check of UK cities – [Cities Outlook](#) – we will provide a more detailed assessment of city level jobs growth using BRES and other data sources. *Cities Outlook* will look at trends in job creation over a longer period of time smoothing out the peaks and troughs that inevitably occur when jobs data is compared across just two points in time.

### Jobs growth in cities

The latest BRES data reveals that just under 40 percent of cities experienced a net increase in total jobs from 2009 to 2010 indicating that the road to recovery in cities is a bumpy one. Across Great Britain as a whole there was a slight contraction in net jobs growth of 0.5 percent.

As can be seen in Table 1, cities like Crawley, Hastings and Worthing experienced a net increase in jobs of over three percent between 2009 and 2010. However, places like Swindon, Rochdale and Glasgow continued to lose private sector jobs. From our past research in publications like [Private Sector Cities](#), it is interesting to see that Hastings has experienced strong jobs growth and this is something we will look into in more detail in future research.

Looking in more detail at private sector jobs growth, three quarters of cities saw a net decline in their private sector jobs base from 2009 to 2010. Chart 1 shows the five cities experiencing the fastest and slowest net private sector jobs growth over this period.

**Table 1: Net total jobs growth, 5 cities with the highest and lowest growth, 2009 to 2010**

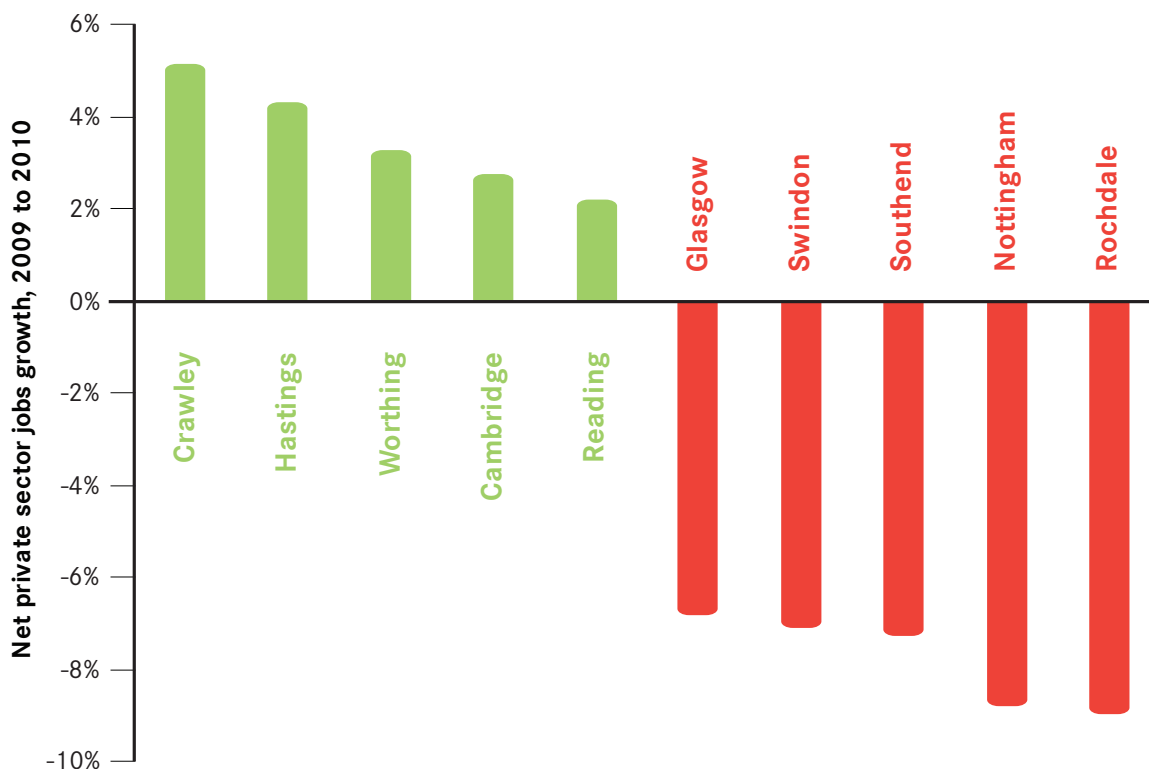
**5 cities with the highest increase in total jobs**

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
1	Crawley	6,500	4.8%
2	Hastings	1,200	4.4%
3	Worthing	1,400	3.2%
4	Telford	2,300	3.0%
5	Bournemouth	3,100	1.9%

**5 cities with the lowest increase in total jobs**

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
59	Blackburn	-2,400	-4.1%
60	Southend	-4,600	-4.5%
61	Glasgow	-28,800	-5.2%
62	Rochdale	-4,800	-6.5%
63	Swindon	-9,000	-7.8%

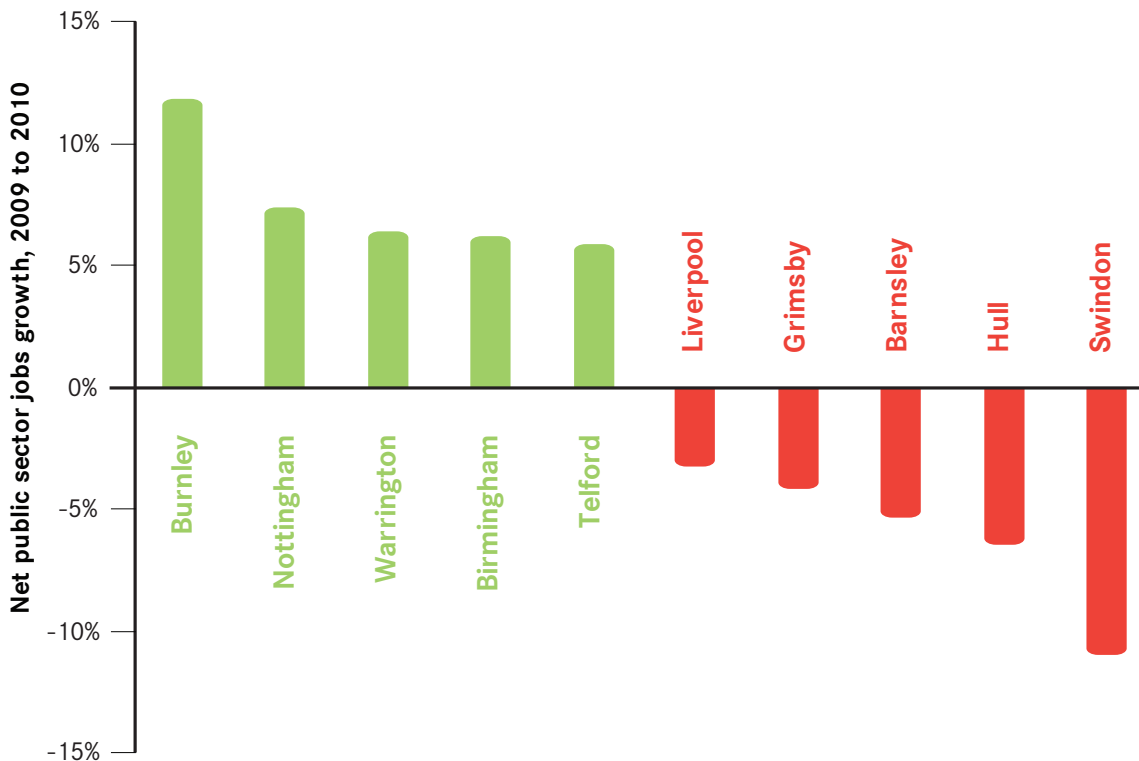
**Chart 1: Net private sector jobs growth, 5 cities with the highest and lowest growth, 2009 to 2010**



Jobs growth in the public sector shows a slightly different story however. Two thirds of cities experienced a net gain in public sector jobs. Burnley, for instance, saw a net increase in its public sector jobs base of 12 percent. That said, some cities lost public sector jobs. Swindon for example experienced a contraction in its public sector jobs base of 11 percent from 2009 to 2010 (see Chart 2).

This private and public sector jobs data highlights the continuing challenge Government and cities face. Creating conditions which support private sector job creation in cities will be key as job losses in the public sector really begin to bite.

**Chart 2: Net public sector jobs growth, 5 cities with the highest and lowest growth, 2009 to 2010**



## Manufacturing and private sector service jobs in cities

It is also possible through the BRES to analyse net job creation in different sectors in Great Britain’s cities.

Looking at the manufacturing sector, at the national level there was a two percent decline in jobs from 2009 to 2010. In cities only three in ten places experienced net jobs growth in their manufacturing jobs base. The table below sets out the five fastest and slowest growing cities in terms of manufacturing jobs between 2009 and 2010. It is interesting to see that Cambridge has increased its manufacturing base so significantly (although the absolute increase in jobs was not that substantial).

**Table 2: Net manufacturing jobs growth, 5 cities with the highest and lowest growth, 2009 to 2010**

### 5 cities with the highest growth in manufacturing jobs

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
1	Cambridge	400	17%
2	Chatham	1,100	15%
3	Stoke	2,000	12%
4	Hastings	300	11%
5	Leicester	2,200	8%

### 5 cities with the lowest growth in manufacturing job

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
59	Bolton	-1,900	-14%
60	Birkenhead	-1,400	-15%
61	Dundee	-800	-15%
62	Middlesbrough	-2,900	-15%
63	Cardiff	-1,500	-17%

Turing finally to look at job creation in private sector services the latest BRES data shows that across Great Britain there was a net contraction in jobs of one percent. This aggregate loss was not reflected across all cities – 41 percent of places saw a net increase in the number of private sector service jobs in their economies.

**Table 3: Net private sector service jobs growth, 5 cities with the highest and lowest growth, 2009 to 2010**

### 5 cities with the highest growth in private sector service jobs

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
1	Crawley	6,600	7%
2	Coventry	3,400	5%
3	Bournemouth	4,400	5%
4	Worthing	800	4%
5	Hastings	400	3%

### 5 cities with the lowest growth in private sector service jobs

Rank	City	Absolute Change	Percentage change
59	Huddersfield	-4,000	-6%
60	Glasgow	-20,600	-6%
61	Swindon	-5,200	-7%
62	Rochdale	-2,900	-8%
63	Nottingham	-15,500	-10%

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