

Cities Outlook 2023

Deep Dive Series

North West

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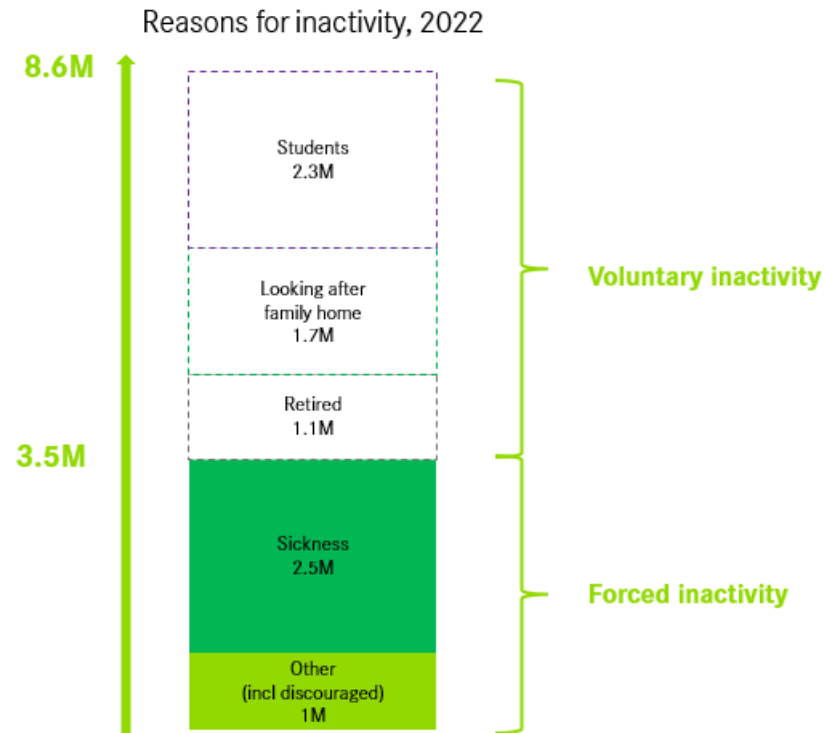


The national picture: an army of missing workers

Historically low unemployment

- A total of **1.2 million** people are unemployed
- The lowest it's been since the **1970s**

Hide high levels of 'forced inactivity'



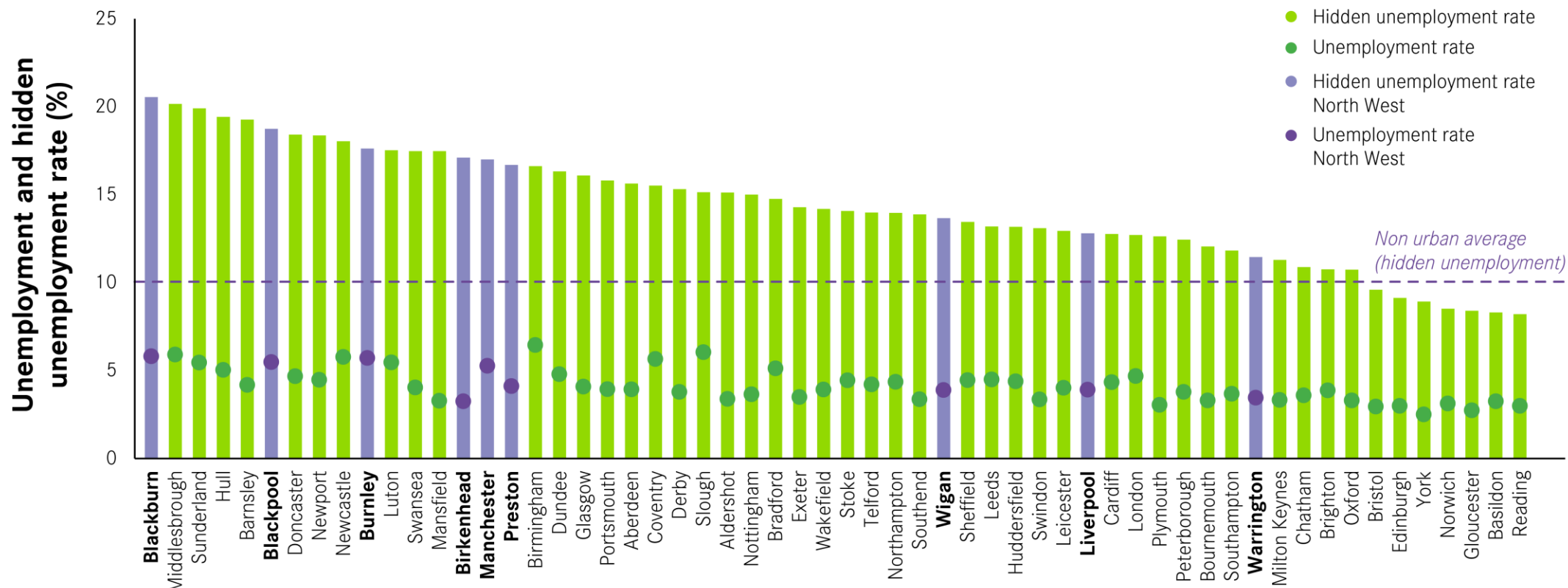
Source: ONS

Resulting in high hidden unemployment

More than triples unemployment numbers to **4.7 million**

The regional picture: the North West has relatively higher hidden unemployment than the rest of the country

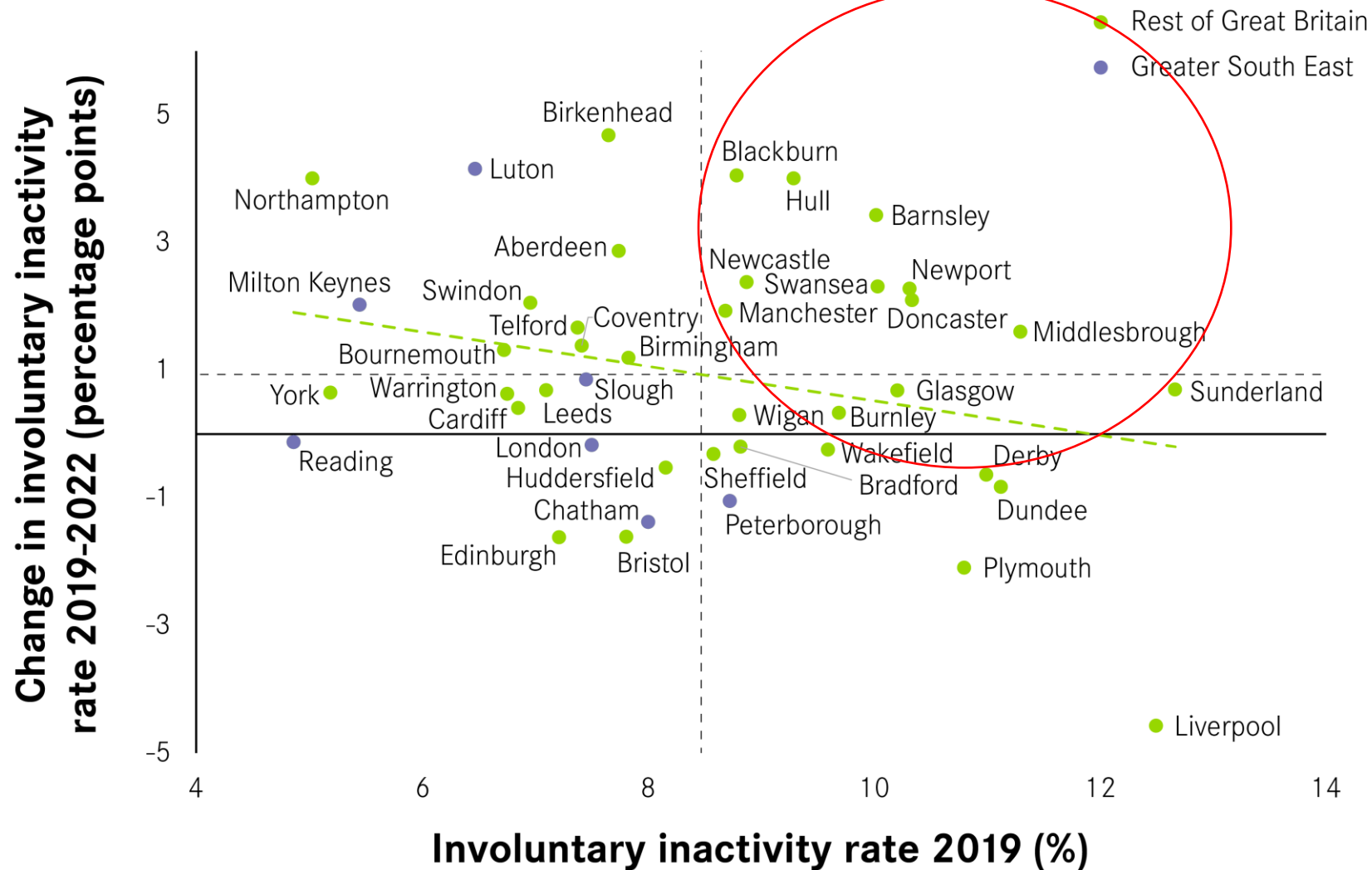
Unemployment and hidden unemployment, June 2022



In total, there are about 450,000 'involuntary inactive' and nearly 600,000 hidden unemployed in the North-West

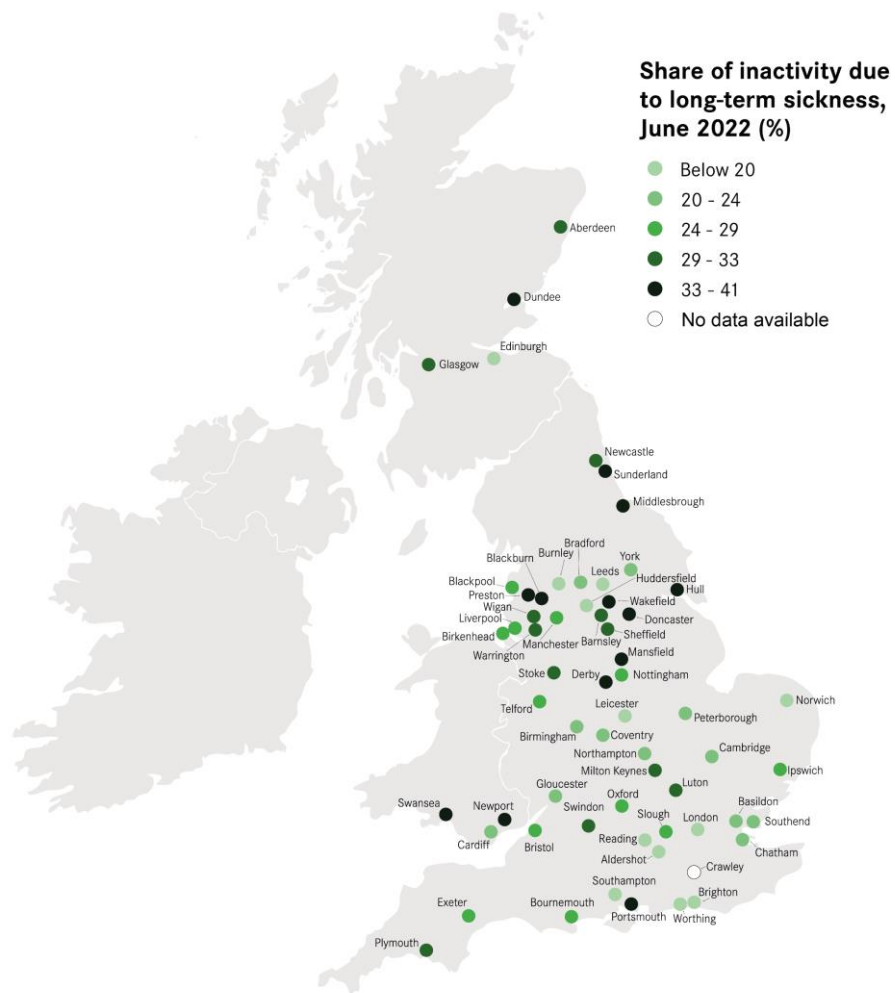
Across many cities in the North-West, the increases in the past three years have compounded already high levels of inactivity

Adjusted inactivity in 2019 and change to 2022



Two reasons why the North-West has relatively higher hidden unemployment levels

Poor health is more of an issue



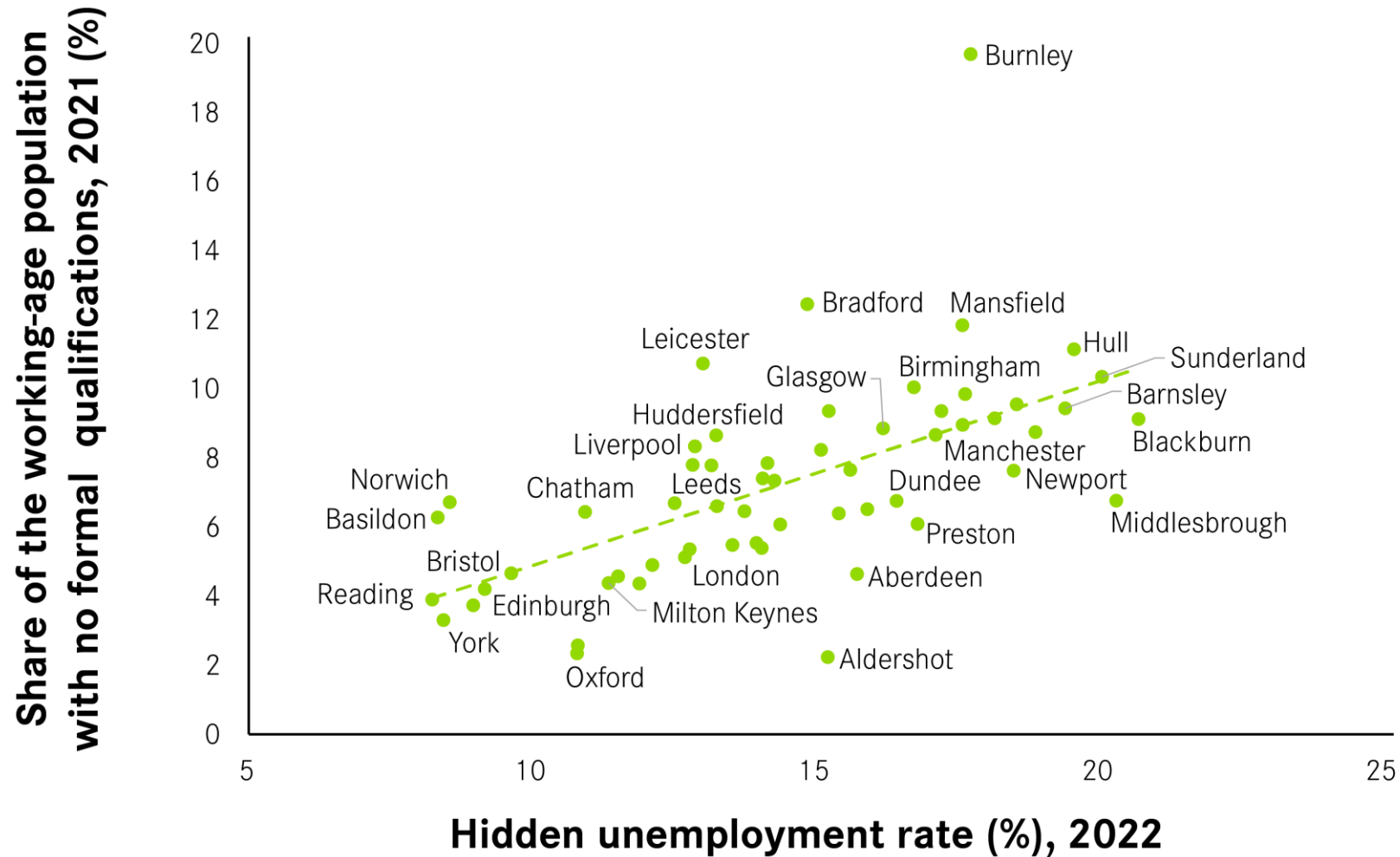
The fundamentals of the economy are weaker

38% of people have **high-levels qualifications**, compared to **40%** in the UK and **54%** in the South-East

14% of jobs are **private-knowledge services** against **19%** in the South-East

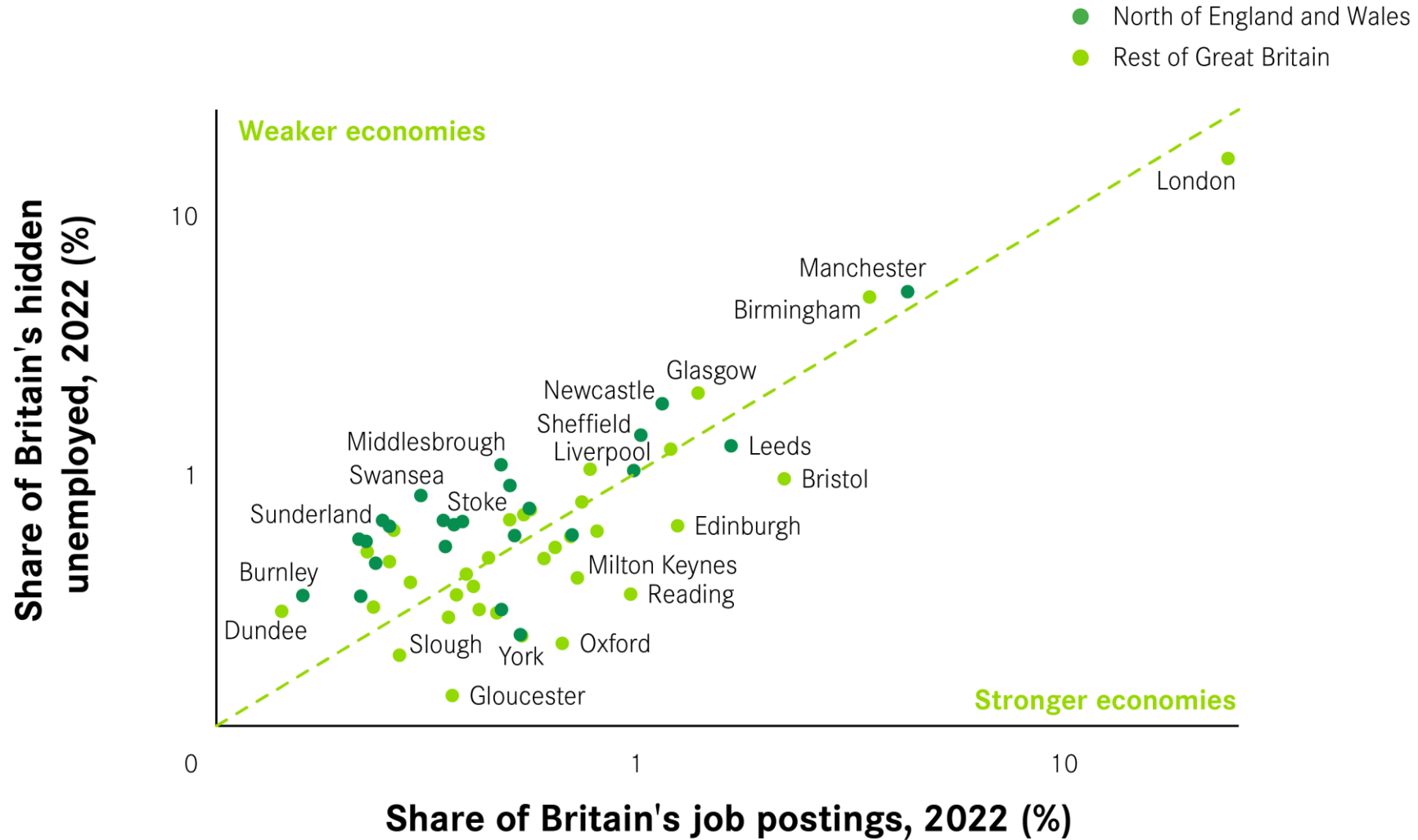
It is both a supply issue, with more low-skilled workers who are disadvantaged in the labour market

Hidden unemployment and share of low skilled workers



... and demand side issue. Many cities in the North-West aren't facing a labour shortage, but a job shortage

Job postings and hidden unemployment





More data on Centre for Cities' data tool

<https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all>