# **Workplace Employment in Birmingham 2022**

## **Introduction**

The latest official workplace based employment figures for 2022 were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in October 2023. The data is taken from the 2022 Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), which provides workplace based employment data for Birmingham (those who work in the city including in-commuters).

This report sets out the change in overall employment in the city in 2022 with comparisons with other areas. The report also explores the changes in private and public sector employment and which sub-sectors in the local economy have seen the largest increases in employment during 2022.

## **Key Findings**

## During 2022 workplace employment in Birmingham increased by 14,000 on the previous year, to stand at 555,000, a 2.6% increase in employment for the year, compared to a 2.0% growth in employment nationally (GB).

Employment increased in both the public and private s in 2021. Private sector employment in the city increased by 12,000 (2.9%) and the public sector workforce locally increased by 5,000 (4.5%).



**Workplace Employment**

**2021**

**555,000**

**Annual Employment Change**

**+14,000**

**+2.6% (GB +2.0%)**





**Private Sector Public Sector**

**437,000 118,000**

**+12,000 (+2.8%) +2,000 (+1.7%)**

## **Employment in the West Midlands**

Employment growth for the 7 West Midlands Met areas is shown in figure 1 below. Overall employment in the Met area increased by 20,000, a rise in employment of 1.5%. Employment rose in 5 of the 7 Met areas last year with Birmingham (+14,000) and Solihull (+6,000) seeing the largest increase. Employment was unchanged in Coventry and fell by 6,000 in Dudley in 2022.



**Table 1: Employment Growth by West Midlands Met Authorities**

| **Area** | **2021** | **2022** | **Annual Change** | **Annual Change %** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Birmingham | 541,000 | 555,000 | 14,000 | 2.6% |
| Coventry | 165,000 | 165,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Dudley | 118,000 | 112,000 | -6,000 | -5.1% |
| Sandwell | 126,000 | 128,000 | 2,000 | 1.6% |
| Solihull | 144,000 | 150,000 | 6,000 | 4.2% |
| Walsall | 102,000 | 103,000 | 1,000 | 1.0% |
| Wolverhampton | 108,000 | 111,000 | 3,000 | 2.8% |
| West Midlands Met Area | 1,304,000 | 1,324,000 | 20,000 | 1.5% |
| West Midlands Region | 2,689,000 | 2,750,000 | 61,000 | 2.3% |
| GB | 31,284,000 | 31,919,000 | 635,000 | 2.0% |

## **Employment in the Core Cities**

The table below shows the change in employment for the core cities and nationally. Birmingham saw the second largest growth in employment numbers between 2021 and 2022 amongst the 10 UK core cities. All the core cities saw employment increases or remain unchanged last year.

**Table 2: Employment Growth by Core City Ranked**

|  | **Area** | **2021** | **2022** | **Annual Change** | **Annual Change %** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Leeds | 478,000 | 498,000 | 20,000 | 4.2% |
| 2 | Birmingham | 541,000 | 555,000 | 14,000 | 2.6% |
| 3 | Manchester | 421,000 | 432,000 | 11,000 | 2.6% |
| 4 | Cardiff | 218,000 | 225,000 | 7,000 | 3.2% |
| 5 | Bristol | 296,000 | 303,000 | 7,000 | 2.4% |
| 6 | Glasgow | 429,000 | 436,000 | 7,000 | 1.6% |
| 7 | Nottingham | 204,000 | 210,000 | 6,000 | 2.9% |
| 8 | Liverpool | 273,000 | 279,000 | 6,000 | 2.2% |
| 9 | Sheffield | 268,000 | 272,000 | 4,000 | 1.5% |
| 10 | Newcastle  | 194,000 | 194,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
|  | Core Cities | 1,166,000 | 1,197,000 | 82,000 | 2.5% |
|  | GB | 31,284,000 | 31,919,000 | 635,000 | 2.0% |
|  | London | 5,434,000 | 5,716,000 | 282,000 | 5.2% |

## **Employment Growth Over Time**

Since 2010 Birmingham has seen overall employment grow by 86,900 an increase of 19%. Within the overall increase in employment in the city over the past 12 years there has been divergence in the performance of the private and public sector. Public sector employment has declined (-11,300) but the local economy has produced enough private sector employment growth (+98,200) to more than compensate for this.

The changes in employment set out above have seen the proportion of public sector employment in the city decline over the last 12 years from 28% in 2010 to 21% in 2022.

 

**Figure 2: Employment Change in Birmingham 2010 -2022**

## **Employment by Sector**

The chart below shows the share of workplace based employment in the city by broad sector. The largest sector locally is health & social care which employs 94,000 people and accounts for 17% of employment in the city, followed by retail employing 71,000 (13%). Professional & technical which includes professional services like legal and accounting and R&D is the next largest, employing 63,000 (11%). The wider combined Business, Professional & Financial Services sector employs 135,000 (24%).

Other large employers in the city are the Education sector employing 50,000 (9%) and Accommodation & food services 34,000 (6%). Despite being much smaller than in the city's industrial past, Manufacturing still remains a key sector locally employing 33,000 (6%).



**Employment Share (%) by Sector 2022**

**Growth in Employment by Sector**

Between 2021 and 2022 the city has seen workplace based employment increase by 14,000 (+2.6%). Within this overall growth the sectors that have seen the largest growth in employment numbers are shown in the chart opposite. Real estate has seen the largest increase in employment numbers up by 7,000 (+70%). Professional & technical activates also saw strong growth up b 6,000 (11%), highlighting the city’s continued growth as a business hub.

Other services and Health & social care also saw strong growth up by 4,000 (+36%) and 3,000 (+3%) respectively. Growth in Transport &storage of 2,000 (+9%) rounded out the top 5 growing sub sectors.

The sectors that saw the largest decline in employment numbers in 2022 were Business admin & support services down by 5,000 (-9%), ICT down 3,000 (-14%) and Arts, entertainment and recreation down by 3,000 (-27%).

**Employment by Sub Sector**

Table 3 shows the largest sub sectors in the city by number of people employed. Health, education, and retail are the three largest sub sectors. Many of the largest sub sectors are public sector related activity and activities related to retail and hospitality. Other notable sub sectors locally are activities of head offices and management consultancies, legal and accounting and computer programming.

**Table 3 – Top 40 Sub-Sectors by Number Employed**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Sub Sector** | **2021** | **2022** | **Change 2021-2022** | **% Change 2020-2021** |
| 1 | Human health activities | 63,000 | 64,000 | 1,000 | 1.6% |
| 2 | Education | 51,000 | 50,000 | -1,000 | -2.0% |
| 3 | Retail trade | 44,000 | 42,000 | -2,000 | -4.5% |
| 4 | Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 30,000 | 32,000 | 2,000 | 6.7% |
| 5 | Food and beverage service activities | 30,000 | 29,000 | -1,000 | -3.3% |
| 6 | Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities | 22,000 | 25,000 | 3,000 | 13.6% |
| 7 | Employment activities | 27,000 | 25,000 | -2,000 | -7.4% |
| 8 | Legal and accounting activities | 21,000 | 24,000 | 3,000 | 14.3% |
| 9 | Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 20,000 | 21,000 | 1,000 | 5.0% |
| 10 | Social work activities without accommodation | 16,000 | 19,000 | 3,000 | 18.8% |
| 11 | Real estate activities | 10,000 | 17,000 | 7,000 | 70.0% |
| 12 | Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 13 | Residential care activities | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 14 | Land transport and transport via pipelines | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 15 | Warehousing and support activities for transportation | 7,000 | 10,000 | 3,000 | 42.9% |
| 16 | Computer programming, consultancy and related activities | 11,000 | 10,000 | -1,000 | -9.1% |
| 17 |  Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities | 7,000 | 9,000 | 2,000 | 28.6% |
| 18 | Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis | 10,000 | 9,000 | -1,000 | -10.0% |
| 19 | Services to buildings and landscape activities | 10,000 | 9,000 | -1,000 | -10.0% |
| 20 | Other personal service activities | 5,000 | 9,000 | 4,000 | 80.0% |
| 21 | Specialised construction activities | 8,000 | 8,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 22 | Wholesale and retail and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 9,000 | 8,000 | -1,000 | -11.1% |
| 23 | Office administrative, office support and other business support activities | 7,000 | 8,000 | 1,000 | 14.3% |
| 24 | Construction of buildings | 7,000 | 7,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 25 | Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment | 5,000 | 6,000 | 1,000 | 20.0% |
| 26 |  Accommodation | 3,500 | 6,000 | 2,500 | 71.4% |
| 27 | Activities of membership organisations | 5,000 | 6,000 | 1,000 | 20.0% |
| 28 | Telecommunications | 6,000 | 5,000 | -1,000 | -16.7% |
| 29 | Postal and courier activities | 5,000 | 4,500 | -500 | -10.0% |
| 30 | Security and investigation activities | 6,000 | 4,500 | -1,500 | -25.0% |
| 31 | Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities | 7,000 | 4,500 | -2,500 | -35.7% |
| 32 | Manufacture of food products | 2,000 | 4,000 | 2,000 | 100.0% |
| 33 | Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers | 7,000 | 4,000 | -3,000 | -42.9% |
| 34 | Civil engineering | 4,000 | 3,500 | -500 | -12.5% |
| 35 | Manufacture of rubber and plastic products | 2,500 | 3,000 | 500 | 20.0% |
| 36 | Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. | 2,250 | 3,000 | 750 | 33.3% |
| 37 | Other professional, scientific and technical activities | 2,000 | 3,000 | 1,000 | 50.0% |
| 38 | Other manufacturing | 4,000 | 2,000 | -2,000 | -50.0% |
| 39 | Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 40 | Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products | 1,250 | 1,750 | 500 | 40.0% |
|  | **Total Employment** | **541,000** | **555,000** | **14,000** | **2.6%** |



**Development Policy**

**Place, Prosperity, Sustainability**