



Regional Report North West

2009

Research
Centre

Fact Sheet

- The North West ranks third in terms of total population, having recorded a 1% increase over the last ten years.
- 19% of the population were of pensionable age, and 6% were under 5, both in line with the UK average.
- The North West is the third most important region in terms of output, contributing almost 10% towards national output. The North West also provides 10% of total UK exports.
- At £16,482, regional output per head is 15% lower than the UK average.

North West

The North West region covers 14,106 sq km, stretching from Crewe and Nantwich in the south to Carlisle in the north and as far east as Oldham.

Population trends

The North West's population has increased 1% since 1997, whereas the UK's population has increased almost 5% over the same period. In 2007, the North West had a population of 6.9 million, which is equivalent to 11% of the total population of the UK. The North West ranks third out of all the regions in terms of population.

Within the North West, the population of Liverpool has fallen almost 5% and Burnley's population has declined 4%, but Ribble Valley's population has increased almost 12% and Manchester's population has grown by almost 10%. The region has a population density of 487 people per sq km which is almost double the UK average of 251 people per sq km. Blackpool is the most densely populated city in the region, with 4,081 people per sq km.

Age profiles

In 2007, 19% of the population were of pensionable age, which is in line with the UK average. The region also has the

same proportion of under 5's as the UK average, at just under 6%. Wyre has the 'oldest' population, with almost 27% of pensionable age, while Blackburn with Darwen has the largest percentage of under 5's at almost 8%. The high proportion of young people adds its own problems for the region. Over 19% of residents in the North West are under 16, slightly higher than the UK average. Across the region, 62% of the population are of working age.

Households

There are just over 2.9 million households in the North West, and there has been an increase of almost 8% since the early 1990s. Of these households, 71% were owner occupied which is slightly more than the UK average of 70%, while a less than average 7% are rented from the local authority. Average weekly earnings were £451 in the period up to April 2008, which is 6% below the UK average of £479. Average weekly household spending amounted to £419 in the North West which is less than the UK average of £454. The Department for Communities and Local Government estimates that the average house price in the region was £148,658 at the end of 2008, implying that the North West is the tenth most expensive region in the UK. The average house price for the UK as a whole was £195,317.

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Regional Income

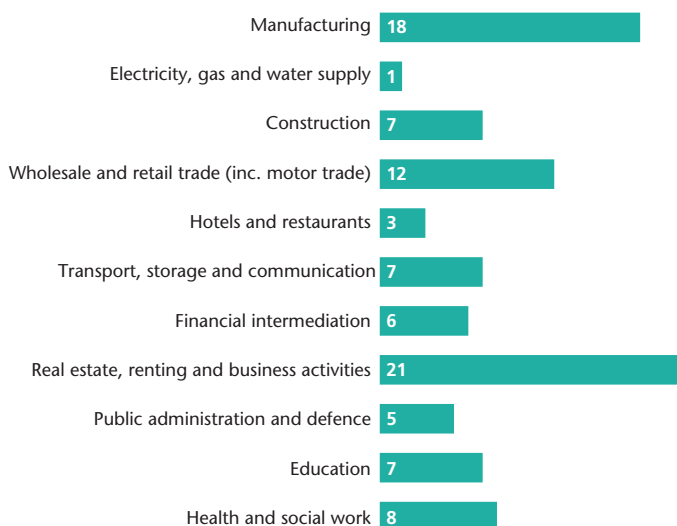
Regional output is commonly measured in terms of gross value added (GVA). Total GVA for the UK increased by 6% in 2006 to £1177.2bn. The North West region produced output worth £113bn, which is equivalent to 10% of national output, ranking it third out of the 12 UK regions. The region's output has increased by 58% since 1996, below the national average of 69% and the ninth largest increase among the 12 regions. Within the North West, Greater Manchester South has grown fastest, rising 72%, while West Cumbria has reported the smallest gain, of only 25%. Greater Manchester is responsible for 40% of the region's total output.

Regional output can be compared on a per head basis by dividing GVA by the region's population. In 2006 the national average for GVA per head was £19,430, while that for the North West region was £16,482, which is 85% of the UK average. However, the North West's GVA per head has increased 57% since 1996, which is slower than the UK's average growth in GVA per head of 62%. Across the region, GVA per head ranges from just £11,199 in the Wirral to £21,795 in Halton and Warrington. Over the last 10 years the largest increase in GVA per head was recorded in Liverpool, at 73%, but West Cumbria recorded the lowest growth, at just 25%.

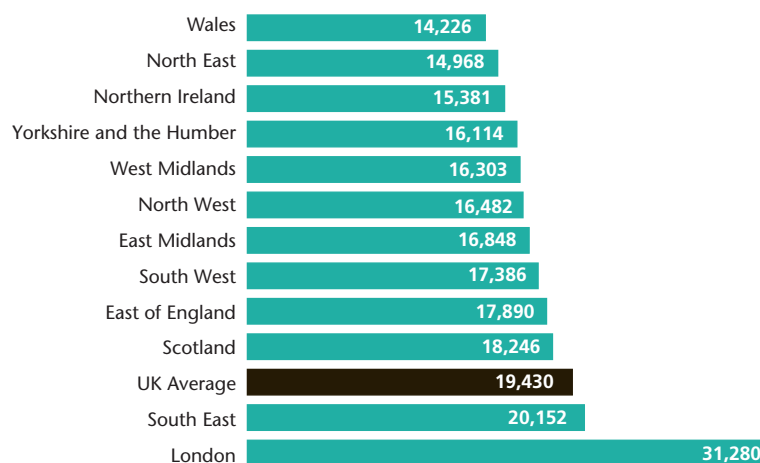
Major Industries

The largest contributor to the area's output is real estate, renting and business services, which produces 21% of output.

Major Regional Industries (% of output)



Regional output per head in 2006 (£)



This is followed by manufacturing, which accounts for 18%, and retail & wholesale, which accounts for a further 12%. Together these three industries produce over half of regional output. Education and health & social work rank higher in terms of regional importance than the UK average, while financial intermediation accounts for almost 6% of total output, which is lower than the national average of 8%.

Exports

Exports from the North West amounted to £23.5bn in 2008, which is equivalent to 10% of all UK exports. Chemical exports accounted for 48% of the region's total. The other main sector is manufacturing which makes up 22%. At present 57% of the North West's exports go to Europe, 19% of exports go to North America and 14% of exports go to Asia.

Workforce

The North West's population ranks ninth in terms of economic activity in the UK. Economic activity measures the proportion of the population either in work or actively seeking work. Current levels show that economic activity, at over 77%, is lower than the UK average of 79%.

Across the region 3.1 million people were in employment, 2008 figures show. Of these people 82% are employed within the service sector, with the majority, 49%, in distribution, transport, finance and business services. A further 33% work within public administration, education, and health. Manufacturing jobs account for 12% of the workforce, which is above the UK average, while construction jobs account for a lower proportion than the national average, at 5%.

At the end of 2008, the North West had an unemployment rate of 7.8% compared to the UK average of 6.3%. In the North West, just over 3% of people in employment have a second job compared with the UK average of just under 4%. Over 4% of women have a second job compared to less than 3% of men who have a second job.

Sources: ONS Regional Trends 2009 Edition, ONS Labour Market Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), HMRC.