



Regional Report North West

2010

Research
Centre

Fact Sheet

- The North West ranks third in terms of total population, having recorded a 1% increase from 2003 to 2008.
- 19% of the population are of pensionable age, and 6% are under 5, both in line with the UK average.
- The North West is the third most important region in terms of output, contributing 9% of national output. The North West also provides 11% of total UK exports.
- At £16,967, GVA per head is 17% 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% from 2003 to 2008, whereas the UK's population has increased 3% over the same period. In 2008, 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 Sefton has fallen by just over 2% and Burnley's by just under 2%, but Ribble Valley's population has increased almost 5% and Manchester's population has grown by almost 8%. The region has a population density of 487 people per sq km which is almost double the UK average of 253 people. Blackpool is the most densely populated city in the region, with 4,064 people per sq km.

Age profiles

In 2008, over 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 5s as the UK average, at 6%. Wyre has the 'oldest' population, with 27% of pensionable age, while Blackburn with Darwen has the largest percentage of under 5s at almost 8%. Approximately 19% of residents in the North West are under 16, in line with 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% are 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 £460 in the period up to April 2009, which is 6% below the UK average of £489. Average weekly household spending amounts to £421 in the North West which is less than the UK average of £460. The Department for Communities and Local Government estimates that the average house price in the region was £152,233 at the end of 2009, implying that the North West is the ninth most expensive region in the UK. The average house price for the UK as a whole was £200,307.

Contact

Shona Dobbie

Head of Research Centre

Alliance Trust PLC
8 West Marketgait, Dundee DD1 1QN

Tel +44 (0)1382 321000

Fax +44 (0)1382 321185

Email contact@alliancetrust.co.uk

Web www.alliancetrust.co.uk

Alliance Trust PLC is the largest generalist investment trust company listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Research Centre is part of Alliance Trust and was formed to carry out economic and social analysis to deepen our understanding of economies, markets and socio-economic issues.

The views, information and data in this publication are those of the Research Centre and this publication is not a financial promotion or recommendation to make any particular investment. Alliance Trust is not authorised to give financial advice.

Regional Income

Regional output is commonly measured in terms of gross value added (GVA). Total GVA for the UK increased by 6% in 2007 to £1,246bn. The North West region produced output worth £117bn, which is equivalent to 9% of national output, ranking it third out of the 12 UK regions. The region's output increased by 55% from 1997 to 2007, 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 69%, while West Cumbria has reported the smallest gain, of only 29%. 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 2007 the national average for GVA per head was £20,430, while that for the North West region was £16,967, which is 83% of the UK average. However, the North West's GVA per head has increased 54% since 1997, which is slower than the UK's average growth in GVA per head of 61%. Across the region, GVA per head ranges from just £11,257 in the Wirral to £22,324 in Halton and Warrington. Over the last 10 years the largest increase in GVA per head was recorded in Liverpool, at 74%, but West Cumbria recorded the lowest growth, at just 29%.

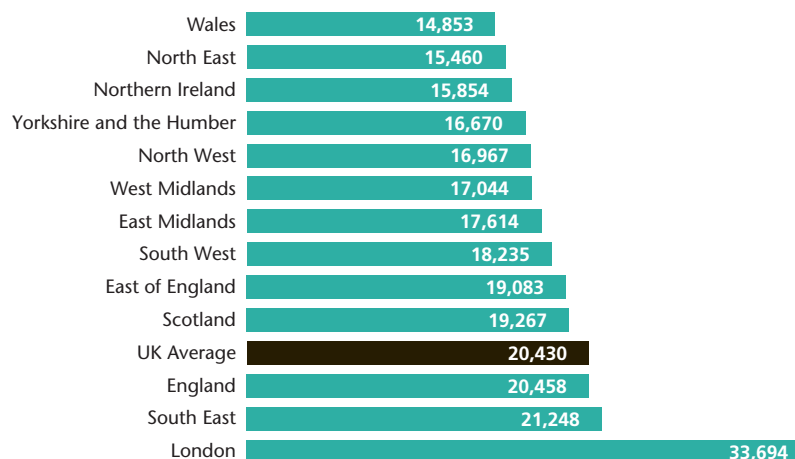
Major Industries

The largest contributor to the area's output is real estate, renting and business services, which produces 22% of output.

Major Regional Industries (% of output)



Regional output per head in 2007 (£)



This is followed by manufacturing, which accounts for 17%, and wholesale & retail, 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 9%.

Exports

Exports from the North West amounted to £23.8bn in 2009, which is equivalent to 11% of all UK exports. Chemical exports accounted for 56% of the region's total. The other main sector is machinery and transport equipment which makes up 18%. At present 53% of the North West's exports go to Europe, 25% of exports go to North America and 14% of exports go to Asia.

Workforce

The North West's population ranks eighth 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 78%, is lower than the UK average of 79%.

Across the region 3.1 million people were in employment, 2009 figures show. Of these people 83% are employed within the service sector, with the majority, 49%, in distribution, transport, finance and business services. A further 35% 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 2009, the North West had an unemployment rate of 8.5% compared to the UK average of 7.8%. In the North West, almost 4% of people in employment have a second job which is in line with the UK average. Over 4% of women have a second job compared to less than 3% of men.

Sources: ONS Regional Trends 2010 Edition, ONS Labour Market Statistics, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).