

City of Wolverhampton Annual Economic Review 2024

January 2025



Our Measures of Success - The Black Country Performance Management Framework

In the Black Country we will:	Where we are now		Change over the last year ¹		Direction of Travel Relative to National Average since 2004		Scale of the Challenge (To reach England where applicable)	
Grow our Population and Reverse Net Outward Migration Particularly to Environs	DUD	326,680	DUD	+1,749 (+0.5%)	DUD	+20,509 (+6.7%)		
	SAN	347,551	SAN	+2,969 (+0.9%)	SAN	+58,702 (+20.3%)		
	WAL	288,736	WAL	+2,518 (+0.9%)	WAL	+32,034 (+12.5%)		
	WOL	272,425	WOL	+4,537 (+1.7%)	WOL	+31,858 (+13.2%)		
	BC	1,235,395	BC	+11,773 (+1.0% BC) +1.0% Eng.	BC	+143,103 (+13.1% BC) +14.9% Eng.		
Raise Incomes	DUD	£34,909	DUD	+£3,294 (+10.4%)	DUD	+£15,718 (+81.9%)	DUD	+£2,708
	SAN	£31,915	SAN	+£2,154 (+7.2%)	SAN	+£13,206 (70.6%)	SAN	+£5,702
	WAL	£32,624	WAL	+£2,144 (+7.0%)	WAL	+£13,946 (+74.7%)	WAL	+£4,993
	WOL	£33,205	WOL	+£2,730 (+9.0%)	WOL	+£14,640 (+78.9%)	WOL	+£4,412
	BC	£33,163 (avg.)	BC	+£2,581 (+8.4% BC) +6.9% Eng.	BC	+£14,378 (+76.5% BC) +67.6% Eng.	BC	+£4,454 Eng.: £37,617
Achieve Better Population Balance	DUD	17.0%			DUD	-0.1pp	DUD	+16,257
	SAN	10.8%			SAN	0pp	SAN	+36,179
	WAL	13.7%			WAL	-0.5pp	WAL	+22,370
	WOL	13.4%			WOL	-0.3pp	WOL	+21,620
	BC	13.6%			BC	-0.3pp BC +0.5pp Eng.	BC	+96,427 Eng.: 23.5% AB's
Transform the Environment	70.5% of residents satisfied with Black Country as a place to live						77.8% resident satisfaction	
Regenerated Our Economy (pp = percentage points)								
Reduce the Output Gap	DUD	£5.1bn	DUD	+£427m	DUD	+£2.8bn	DUD	-£5.1bn
	SAN	£4.9bn	SAN	+£608m	SAN	+£3.4bn	SAN	-£4.9bn
	WAL	£4.6bn	WAL	+£479m	WAL	+£2.6bn	WAL	-£4.6bn
	WOL	£3.0bn	WOL	+£227m	WOL	+£1.9bn	WOL	-£3.0bn
	BC	£17.7bn	BC	+£1.7bn	BC	+£10.7bn	BC	-£17.7bn
Raise the Number of Local Jobs	DUD	111,000	DUD	+1,000 (+0.9%)	DUD	-7,000 (-5.9%)		
	SAN	127,000	SAN	+1,000 (+0.8%)	SAN	+4,000 (+3.3%)		
	WAL	99,000	WAL	-3,000 (-2.9%)	WAL	+5,000 (+5.3%)		
	WOL	110,000	WOL	+1,000 (+0.9%)	WOL	+6,000 (+5.8%)		
	BC	447,000	BC	0 (0% BC) +1.3% Eng.	BC	+8,000 (+1.8% BC) +19.2% Eng.		
Increase the Total Employment Rate	DUD	75.9%	DUD	-0.6pp	DUD	+2.9pp	DUD	Above England
	SAN	67.4%	SAN	+2.0pp	SAN	+3.0pp	SAN	+17,326
	WAL	76.0%	WAL	+4.3pp	WAL	+7.6pp	WAL	Above England
	WOL	62.6%	WOL	-3.8pp	WOL	-6.2pp	WOL	+21,197
	BC	70.6%	BC	+0.6pp BC -0.1pp Eng.	BC	+1.9pp BC +2.8pp Eng.	BC	+37,495 Eng.: 75.7%
Increase the Percentage of Knowledge Workers	DUD	44.1%	DUD	-5.9pp	DUD		DUD	+14,108
	SAN	30.5%	SAN	-3.9pp	SAN		SAN	+33,445
	WAL	35.5%	WAL	-1.5pp	WAL		WAL	+24,740
	WOL	53.3%	WOL	+15.7pp	WOL		WOL	+94
	BC	40.0%	BC	-0.1pp BC +0.9pp Eng.	BC		BC	+72,387 Eng.: 53.4%
Raise Enterprise Births	DUD	1,145	DUD	-245 (-17.6%)	DUD	-45 (-3.8%)	DUD	+451 P.A.
	SAN	1,540	SAN	-95 (-5.8%)	SAN	+600 (+63.8%)	SAN	+158 P.A.
	WAL	1,310	WAL	+40 (+3.1%)	WAL	+265 (+25.4%)	WAL	+101 P.A.
	WOL	1,300	WOL	-210 (-13.9%)	WOL	+300 (+30.0%)	WOL	+31 P.A.
	BC	5,295	BC	-510 (-8.8%) -6.2% Eng.	BC	+1,120 (+26.8% BC) +13.4% Eng.	BC	+741 P.A. Eng.: 49 per 10,000 pop.
Reduce the Percentage of Workless Households	DUD	9.6%	DUD	-4,300 (-31.9%)	DUD	-6,500 (-41.4%)	DUD	Below England
	SAN	18.6%	SAN	0 (0%)	SAN	-400 (-2.1%)	SAN	-5,317
	WAL	10.6%	WAL	-6,300 (-42.3%)	WAL	-7,200 (-45.6%)	WAL	Below England
	WOL	18.1%	WOL	+1,100 (+8.0%)	WOL	-300 (-2.0%)	WOL	-3,827
	BC	14.3%	BC	-9,500 (-15.5%) +0.9% Eng.	BC	-14,500 (-21.9% BC) -14.6% Eng.	BC	-2,948 Eng.: 13.5%
Increase the Number of Visitors to the Area	33.66m		+61,000				A leading UK visitor destination	

In the Black Country we will:	Where we are now		Change over the last year ¹		Direction of Travel Relative to National Average since 2004		Scale of the Challenge (To reach England where applicable)	
Sustainable Environmental Transformation								
Increase the Hectares of Local Nature Reserves	887.3ha		0ha		-		1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 pop.	
Have a Sustainable Environment- Reduce CO ² Emissions (Tonnes per capita)	DUD	3.1	DUD	-0.3	DUD	-3.2	Net Zero by 2041	
	SAN	3.6	SAN	-0.3	SAN	-4.2		
	WAL	3.4	WAL	-0.3	WAL	-3.7		
	WOL	3.2	WOL	-0.3	WOL	-3.7		
	BC	3.3	BC	-0.3 BC -0.3 Eng.	BC	-3.7 BC -4.4 Eng.		
Raised Education and Skills								
Reduce the Number of People with No Qualifications	DUD	4.5%	DUD	-2,300 (-21.1%)	DUD	-19,100 (-69.0%)	DUD	Below England
	SAN	11.8%	SAN	+1,900 (+8.5%)	SAN	-15,900 (-39.6%)	SAN	-11,545
	WAL	11.1%	WAL	+1,400 (+8.0%)	WAL	-12,700 (-40.1%)	WAL	-8,448
	WOL	11.7%	WOL	-1,400 (-7.1%)	WOL	-16,300 (-47.0%)	WOL	-8,640
	BC	9.7%	BC	-500 (-0.7% BC) -3.4% Eng.	BC	-64,100 (-47.7% BC) -54.3% Eng.	BC	-25,449 Eng.: 6.2%
Increase the Number of People with RQF4+	DUD	40.0%	DUD	+14,100 (+22.7%)	DUD	+37,100 (+95.1%)	DUD	+12,904
	SAN	31.2%	SAN	+19,600 (+43.8%)	SAN	+37,100 (+136.4%)	SAN	+32,044
	WAL	31.9%	WAL	-2,900 (-5.1%)	WAL	+26,400 (+94.6%)	WAL	+25,402
	WOL	40.8%	WOL	+12,400 (+23.9%)	WOL	+39,500 (+159.3%)	WOL	+9,419
	BC	35.7%	BC	+43,300 (+20.1% BC) +6.3% Eng.	BC	+140,200 (+118.0% BC) +99.1% Eng.	BC	+79,769 Eng.: 46.7%
Improve Pupils Progress 8 Score	DUD	-0.12	DUD	-0.11	DUD		DUD	Improve by 0.09
	SAN	-0.16	SAN	-0.09	SAN		SAN	Improve by 0.13
	WAL	-0.22	WAL	-0.02	WAL		WAL	Improve by 0.19
	WOL	-0.05	WOL	-0.03	WOL		WOL	Improve by 0.02
	BC	-0.14	BC	-0.04	BC		BC	Improve by 0.11 Eng.: -0.03
Reduce the No. of 16–17-Year-Olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	DUD	7.4%	DUD	-61 (-9.7%)	DUD		DUD	-571
	SAN	1.9%	SAN	-5 (-2.7%)	SAN		SAN	-181
	WAL	3.4%	WAL	+55 (27.9%)	WAL		WAL	-252
	WOL	3.1%	WOL	+27 (+15.4%)	WOL		WOL	-202
	BC	3.9%	BC	+16 (+1.3% BC) +13.6% Eng.	BC		BC	No NEETs -1,206
Transformed our Environmental Infrastructure								
Increase Net New Homes	DUD	141,550	DUD	+743 (+0.5%)	DUD	+12,424 (+9.6%)	DUD	
	SAN	136,406	SAN	+647 (+0.5%)	SAN	+15,999 (+13.3%)	SAN	
	WAL	118,581	WAL	+388 (+0.3%)	WAL	+12,090 (+11.4%)	WAL	
	WOL	115,164	WOL	+722 (+0.6%)	WOL	+13,318 (+13.1%)	WOL	
	BC	511,701	BC	+2,500 (+0.5% BC) +0.9% Eng.	BC	+53,832 (+11.8% BC) +18.1% Eng.	BC	
Provide Industrial Floorspace	DUD	2,371,000 sqm	DUD	+15,000 sqm	DUD	-590,000 sqm	DUD	
	SAN	3,908,000 sqm	SAN	-2,000 sqm	SAN	-915,000 sqm	SAN	
	WAL	2,201,000 sqm	WAL	+25,000 sqm	WAL	-596,000 sqm	WAL	
	WOL	2,194,000 sqm	WOL	+9,000 sqm	WOL	-574,000 sqm	WOL	
	BC	10,674,000 sqm	BC	+47,000 sqm	BC	-2,675,000 sqm	BC	
Provide Office Floorspace	DUD	258,000 sqm	DUD	-1,000 sqm	DUD	-48,000 sqm	DUD	
	SAN	180,000 sqm	SAN	-2,000 sqm	SAN	-16,000 sqm	SAN	
	WAL	166,000 sqm	WAL	-4,000 sqm	WAL	-7,000 sqm	WAL	
	WOL	211,000 sqm	WOL	+1,000 sqm	WOL	-32,000 sqm	WOL	
	BC	815,000 sqm	BC	-6,000 sqm	BC	-103,000 sqm	BC	
Provide Retail Floorspace	DUD	598,000 sqm	DUD	-5,000 sqm	DUD	-20,000 sqm	DUD	
	SAN	564,000 sqm	SAN	-3,000 sqm	SAN	+71,000 sqm	SAN	
	WAL	507,000 sqm	WAL	-4,000 sqm	WAL	+39,000 sqm	WAL	
	WOL	501,000 sqm	WOL	-6,000 sqm	WOL	-28,000 sqm	WOL	
	BC	2,170,000 sqm	BC	-18,000 sqm	BC	+62,000 sqm	BC	

¹ The **green** shading illustrates those indicators where the Black Country moved in a positive direction of travel compared to the national average (excluding output gap where the latest change is shaded green due to the positive change and not compared to England), the **red** shading indicates the reverse and the **orange** indicates no change or a growth rate in the right direction but less than the national average growth rate. Please note for qualifications, RQF's have replaced NVQs and caution should be used when comparing change over time. West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) provided the visitor economy figure for the Black Country via the STEAM model.

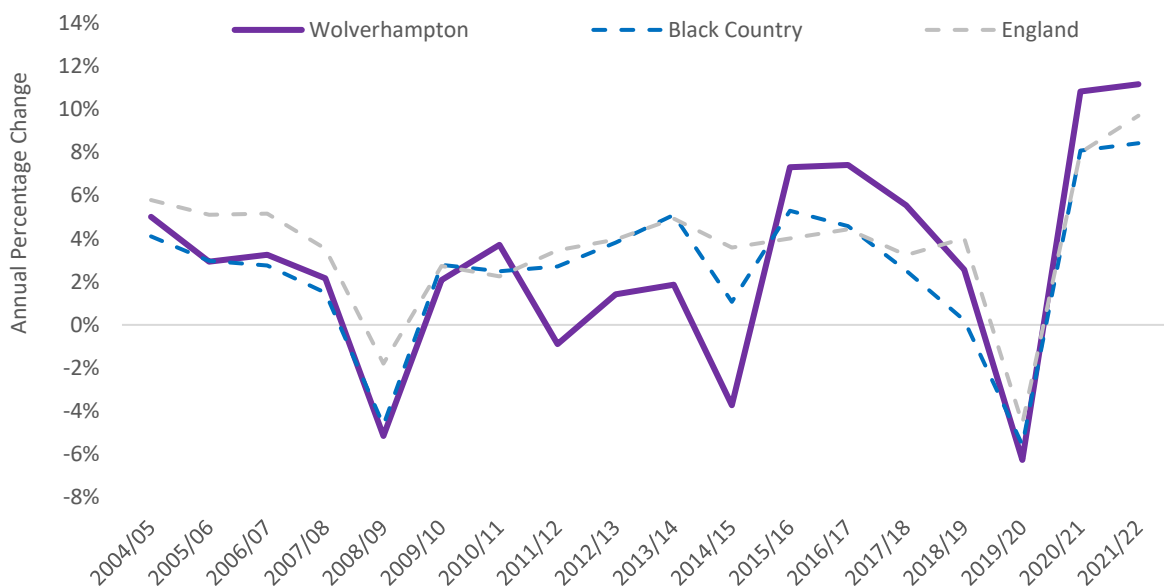
2024 KEY MESSAGES

1.1. Economy

Economy and Productivity

- The Black Country has long-standing and complex socio-economic challenges, but data shows there has been some recovery from the recent years of economic shocks. **Wolverhampton's total Gross Value Added (GVA)² increased from nearly £5.5bn in 2021 to £6.1bn in 2022.** This equated to a fastest growth in the Black Country and above the nationally average at 11.2% compared to 9.7%. However, national insights show that 2024 has been a difficult year for business and despite a strong start for the UK economy at the start of the year, growth fell in the second half.

Annual Changes in Total GVA:



- Wolverhampton's GVA per head remains substantially lower than the national average at £22,677 compared to £33,976 in 2022.** Although, there was an annual increase of 9.8% which was above the national growth rate (+8.6%). Despite this, for Wolverhampton, there was still an **overall output gap³ of £3.0bn**, an annual increase of £227m and longer-term (since 2004) an increase of £1.9bn.
- GVA per hour worked⁴ for Wolverhampton was £34.00 in 2022**, with an annual growth rate double of the national rate (+3.0% vs +1.5%). Also, when compared to 2019, Wolverhampton performed above the national average growth rate (+13.7% vs +8.5%). Despite this, in 2022 there was a **shortfall of £5.70 to reach the UK average (£39.70).**
- Wolverhampton's Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head increased from £16,148 in 2021 to £16,987 in 2022**, which equated to a **growth of 5.2%**, slightly below the national growth rate of 5.3%. Across all ITL3 areas, Wolverhampton had the 19th lowest GDHI per person (moving from 18th place in 2021) and had a **shortfall of £5,802 to the national average (£22,789).**

² Office for National Statistics (ONS), Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, released 2024.

³The EIU calculations based off ONS, Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, released 2024 and mid-year population estimates, released 2024.

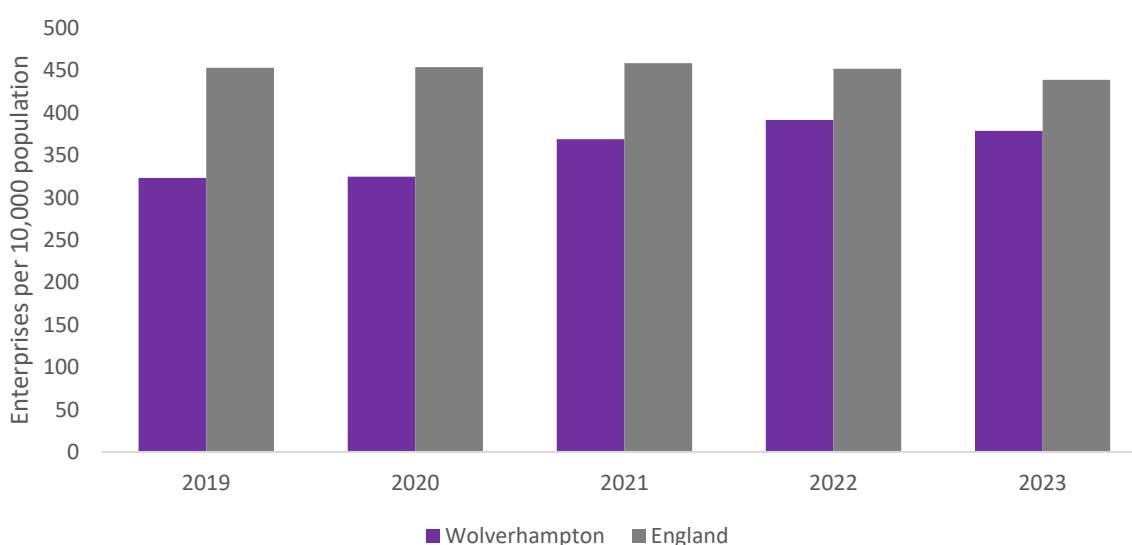
⁴ ONS, Subregional productivity in the UK, released 2024

1.2. Business

Business Environment

- In 2023, there were **10,315 enterprises**⁵ in Wolverhampton, an annual decrease of 1.6% which reflected the national trend (-1.9%). However, **longer-term growth (2018 - 2023) shows enterprise growth in Wolverhampton has been higher than the national average (+20.0% compared to +1.1%).**
- There are still **too few enterprises in Wolverhampton at 379 enterprises per 10,000 population compared to 439 per 10,000 population for England in 2023.** For Wolverhampton to reach the national average requires **an additional 1,639 active enterprises.**

Trends in Active Enterprises per 10,000 population:

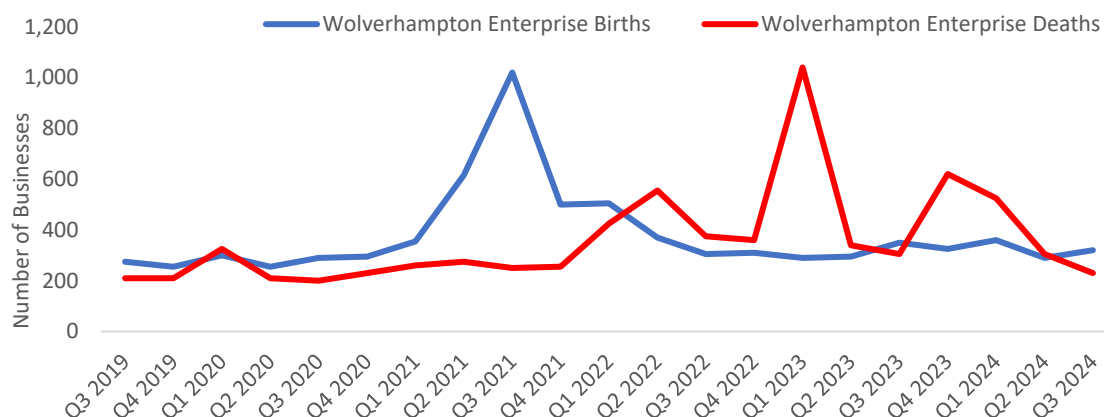


- **Wolverhampton's enterprise survival rates are lower than national levels on both a short-term and long-term basis.** Of the 1,510 enterprise births in 2022, there were 91.4% still active after 1 year with the UK at 92.3%. Of the 1,095 enterprise births in 2018 in Wolverhampton, 36.5% were still active after 5 years with the UK at 39.4%.
- Between 2018 and 2023, **enterprise births in Wolverhampton rose by 18.7%, from 1,095 to 1,300.** This bucked the national trend (-9.5%). However, there are **worrying more recent annual trends** as there has been **two consecutive years of declines** in enterprise births, with the latest data for between 2022 and 2023, showing an overall 13.9% decline, but reflects the national trend (-6.2%).
- There were **48 enterprise births per 10,000 population for Wolverhampton compared to 49 per 10,000 population for England** in 2023, to match the national average, requires an overall increase of 31 births per year.
- Experimental quarterly data⁶ shows an overall positive picture locally and nationally as **business births were back ahead of business deaths in Q3 2024.**

⁵ ONS, Business Demography, released 2024

⁶ ONS, Business demography, quarterly experimental statistics, low-level geographic breakdown, released 2024

Wolverhampton's Enterprise Births and Deaths Quarterly Trends:



- There is an opportunity to **harness innovative activity of the diverse business base locally** as 21.3% of companies in Wolverhampton are female-led⁷, (UK average 19.1%).

Sectoral Composition

- Out of 9 defined sectors, Wolverhampton has a **higher than the national proportion in 7 sectors for GVA⁸, 6 sectors in jobs⁹ and 4 sectors for enterprises¹⁰** (illustrated by the green shading in the following three tables).

GVA per Sector:

Sector	Wolverhampton GVA	Percentage of Wolverhampton GVA	Percentage of England GVA
Advanced Manufacturing	£1.1bn	17.6%	11.1%
Building Technologies	£384m	6.3%	6.2%
Business Services	£1.5bn	24.9%	42.8%
Environmental Technologies	£133m	2.2%	2.0%
Health & Wellbeing	£941m	15.5%	8.6%
Public Sector inc. Education	£910m	15.0%	11.5%
Retail	£754m	12.4%	10.5%
Transport Technologies	£248m	4.1%	3.6%
Visitor Economy	£120m	2.0%	3.7%
Total	£6.1bn	100%	100%

Jobs per Sector:

Sector	Wolverhampton Jobs	Percentage of Wolverhampton Jobs	Percentage of England Jobs
Advanced Manufacturing	13,595	12.5%	9.7%
Building Technologies	4,600	4.2%	4.7%
Business Services	17,330	16.0%	26.3%
Environmental Technologies	1,600	1.5%	1.0%
Health & Wellbeing	23,525	21.7%	15.7%
Public Sector inc. Education	17,500	16.1%	15.3%
Retail	18,000	16.6%	13.7%
Transport Technologies	6,750	6.2%	5.1%
Visitor Economy	5,550	5.1%	8.5%
Total	110,000	100%	100%

⁷ Gender Index, released 2024

⁸ ONS, Regional economic activity by gross domestic product, released 2024

⁹ ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey, released 2024

¹⁰ ONS, UK Business Counts, released 2024

Enterprises per Sector:

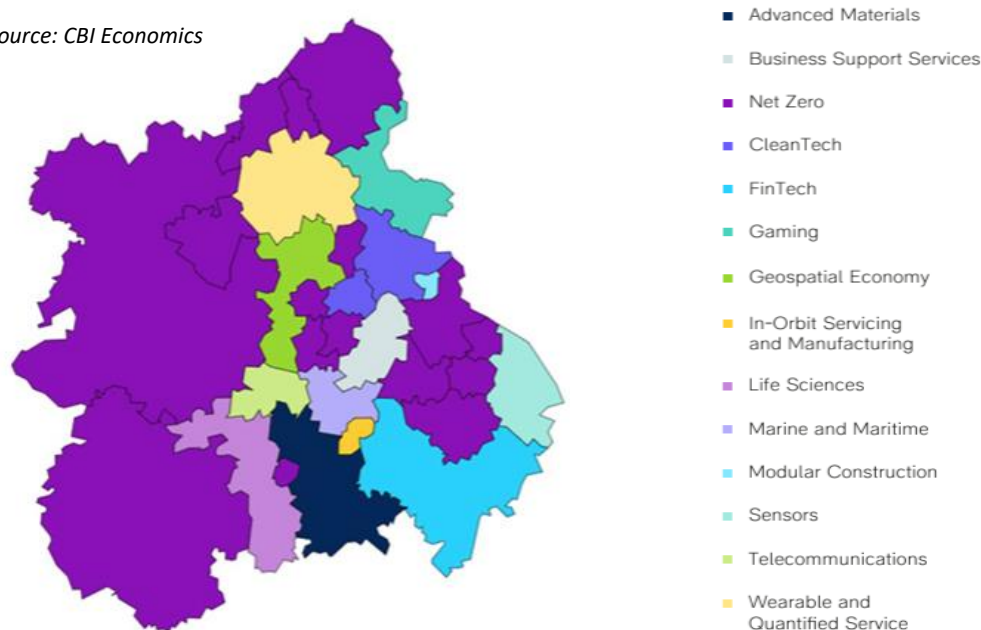
Sector	Wolverhampton Enterprises	Percentage of Wolverhampton Enterprises	Percentage of England Enterprises
Advanced Manufacturing	735	8.9%	11.5%
Building Technologies	1,080	13.1%	14.0%
Business Services	2,415	29.4%	37.7%
Environmental Technologies	60	0.7%	0.5%
Health & Wellbeing	500	6.1%	5.8%
Public Sector inc. Education	225	2.7%	4.1%
Retail	1,650	20.1%	14.6%
Transport Technologies	980	11.9%	4.4%
Visitor Economy	575	7.0%	7.4%
Total	8,220	100%	100%

Sub-Sectors / High-Value Emerging Clusters

- There are similar strengths across all Black Country local authorities – especially in **manufacturing, in particular metals and materials supply chains and links to transport manufacturing along with retail / wholesale, and logistics / transport technologies.**
- CBI Economics have identified the UK’s **high-value, innovative and productive clusters**¹¹. The research (based off a Cluster Index) revealed locally that **Wolverhampton’s top cluster was Net Zero.**

West Midlands Top Clusters Within a Local Authority by Cluster Index:

Source: CBI Economics



Innovation Funding

- Focusing on the project-level Innovate UK data¹²:, since 2013/14, the Black Country has received almost £46m worth of funding across 333 grant awards. This represents 1.9% of the total West Midlands region awards over this time period, and 0.3% of the UK total. **Of the Black Country local authorities, Wolverhampton received £14.1m in funding but had the highest number of awards (129).**

¹¹ CBI Economics, realising regional potential, released 2024

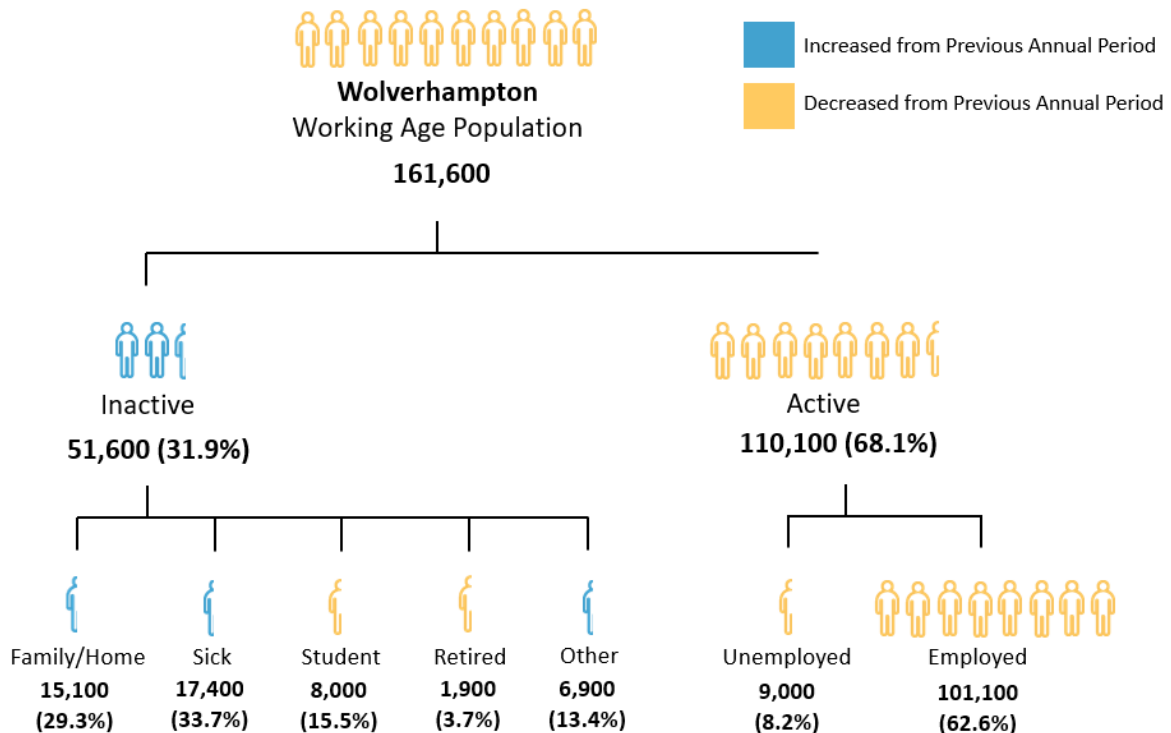
¹² Innovate UK, released 2024. Please note this relates to direct awards to all organisations including Catapults, which may distort the true picture as funding is spent on supporting businesses directly beyond the organisation’s geography.

1.3 People

Labour Market

- In the year ending June 2024, **Wolverhampton’s employment rate remained below the national average** (62.6% vs 75.7%) and significantly below the **government’s new 80% employment rate target**. For Wolverhampton to reach this target would require an **additional 28,180 people to be employed**.
- **Economic inactivity¹³ is an issue in Wolverhampton as it continues to rise, and the latest figures show that 31.9% of this working age population is inactive.** Economic inactivity in the last year has been heavily influenced by those looking after the family / home (+41.1% or +4,400) and those that are long-term sick (+27.0% or +3,700).

Labour Market Activity, for the Period of July 2023 – June 2024 and the Change Since July 2022 - July 2023:

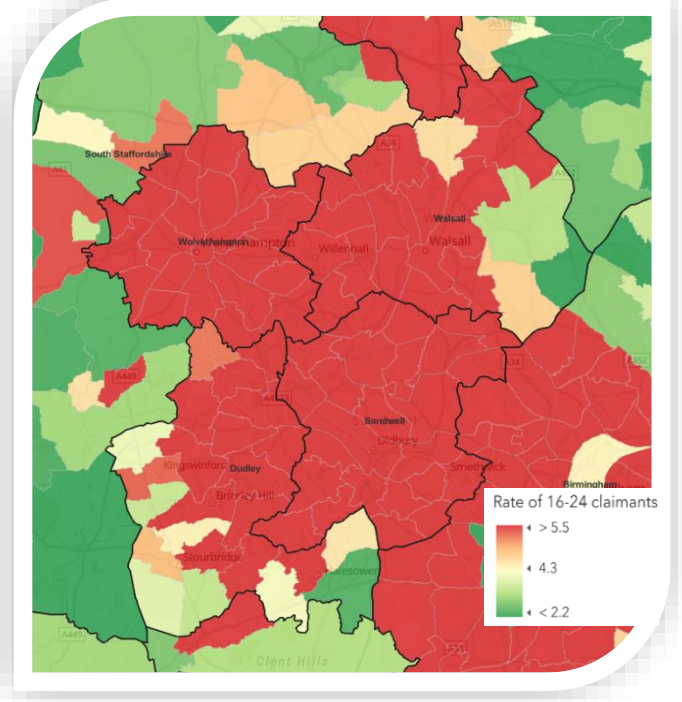
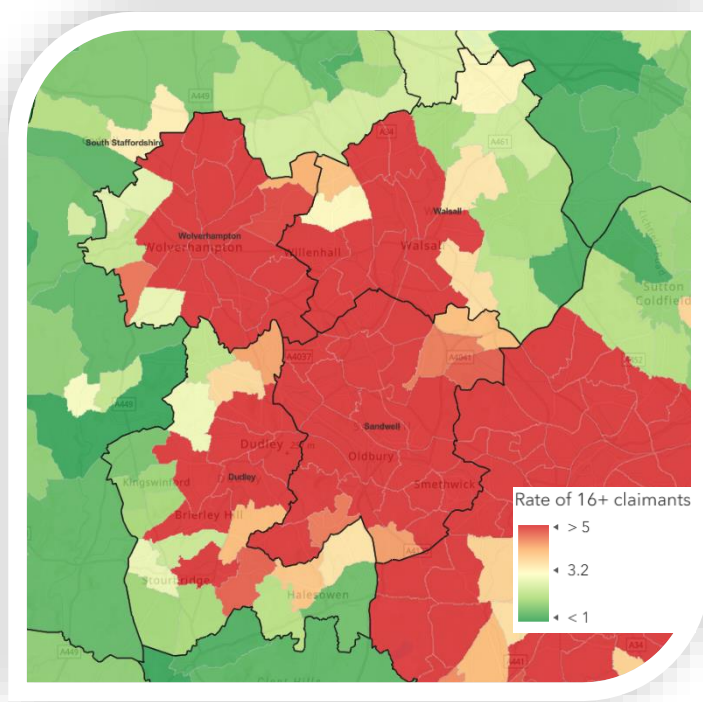


- **Also, total claimant¹⁴ numbers remain heightened across Wolverhampton.** There are approximately 13,000 people claiming benefits looking for work. This equates to 6.3% of the population aged 16 years and over, nearly double the national rate (3.2%).
- **Worryingly, youth claimants (aged 16-24) remain stubbornly high with a rate of 8.7% compared to 4.3% nationally.** Across all local authorities, Wolverhampton came in joint 2nd highest.

¹³ ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2024

¹⁴ ONS/ Department for Work and Pensions, claimant count, released 2024

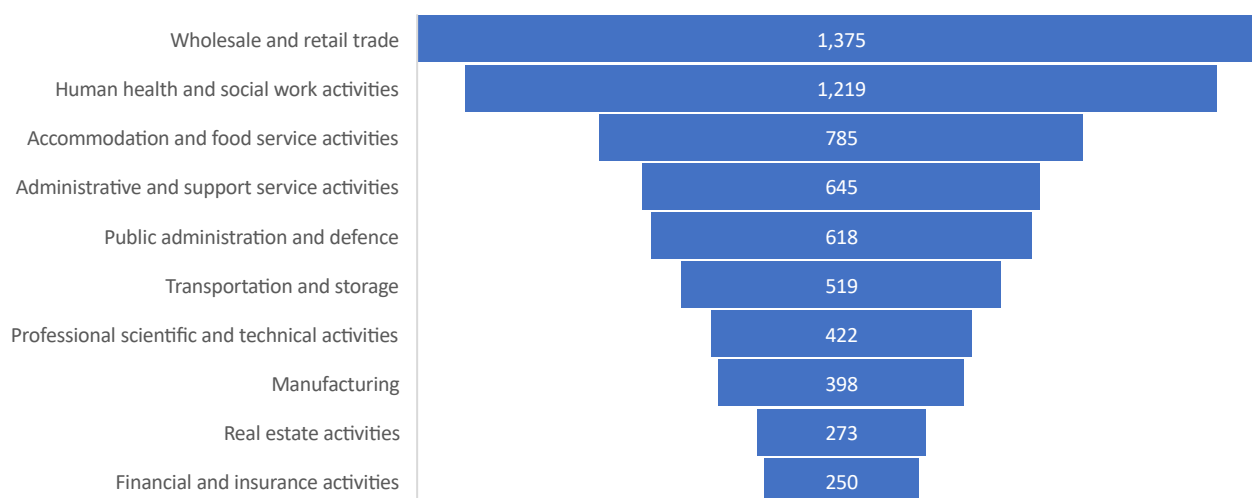
Claimant Rates for 16+ (Left) and 16-24 (Right) Compared to National:



- Throughout 2024, the UK labour market experienced a **marked slowdown in job postings and vacancies**. **Rising costs and economic uncertainty led businesses to scale back recruitment efforts** as employers prioritised cost control and workforce retention. **For employees this meant increased caution, with fewer switching jobs**. This shift created a **restrained labour market**, where both business demand and workforce mobility reflected a focus on stability rather than expansion.
- **In Wolverhampton, job posting trends mirrored the national decline**, with the total number of postings dropping by 19.2% to 32,069, compared to a 25.2% fall across the UK. This **downward trajectory appears set to persist into 2025**, as new postings also continue to decrease (-19.8%). **Despite this challenging environment, interest among job seekers, measured by the Interest Quotient¹⁵, remains relevantly buoyant**.
- Despite the overall decline in job postings, **some sectors in Wolverhampton continued to show notable activity**. Wholesale and retail trade and human health and social work activities recorded high levels of postings, **reflecting sustained demand in these essential industries**. As **transport and storage reported more moderate activity** and financial and insurance activities had the fewest unique postings.

¹⁵ Adzuna Intelligence, accessed January 2025. Please note, Interest quotient (IQ) is a metric that uses jobseeker data to quantify the level of jobseeker interest in roles for specific occupations, roles within specific industries, or roles requesting specific skills. This metric provides a proxy for talent supply to complement market demand data. By comparing interest quotient and demand, we can identify where there are mismatches in talent/supply and demand.

Top Industries (SIC 2007) Hiring¹⁶ in Wolverhampton:



- Analysis of the types of occupations reveals a **strong demand for ‘teaching assistant’, ‘primary school teacher’ and ‘SEN assistant’**. Although, there is also **notable demand for ‘maintenance engineer’**.

Top 10 Most In-Demand Occupations for Wolverhampton in 2024:

Occupation	Median Salary	Demand	Location Quotient	Interest Quotient
Teaching Assistant	£21,439	558	1.43	14.98
Primary School Teacher	£36,254	422	1.33	2.6
Manager	£35,050	371	0.7	9.78
SEN Assistant	£21,602	331	1.35	7.05
Maintenance Engineer	£44,889	303	2.09	5.42
Teacher	£38,260	276	1.72	5.75
Assistant	£25,927	242	0.91	24.39
Healthcare Support Worker	£24,078	220	0.73	65.7
Science Teacher Secondary School	£42,231	208	1.91	1.16
Engineer	£38,000	202	0.67	4.45

- **Understanding which sectors show the most significant demand can help pinpoint where there might be skills gaps, enabling targeted training and development initiatives to fill those gaps.**

Early Years and Skills

- **Poor educational achievement** is one of the strongest predictors of low healthy life expectancy, and a bad educational start in life fuels a trajectory of reduced educational attainment and weaker prospects. **Approximately 37% of Wolverhampton pupils do not achieve a good level of development at the end of reception¹⁷ (England 32%).**
- **40.8% (64,300) of Wolverhampton’s working age residents had RQF 4+ qualifications¹⁸** compared to 46.7% nationally in 2023, an annual increase of 23.9%, (+12,400) which was above the national increase of 6.3%. **For Wolverhampton to reach the national level requires 9,419 residents to gain a qualification at Level 4 and above.**

¹⁶ Note only postings where the employer can be identified are included.

¹⁷ Department for Education, released 2024

¹⁸ ONS, Annual Population Survey, released 2024

- At the other end of the scale, **11.7% (18,400)** of **Wolverhampton's working age population had no formal qualifications**, above the national average of 6.2% in 2023. **For Wolverhampton to reach the national level requires 8,640 residents to gain a qualification.**

Qualification Profile, 2023:

		Wolverhampton	Black Country	England
RQF4+	Numerator	64,300	259,000	16,043,100
	Percent	40.8%	35.7%	46.7%
	Shortfall	9,419	79,769	
	Annual Change	23.9%	20.1%	6.3%
RQF3 only	Numerator	30,900	154,000	7,103,000
	Percent	19.6%	21.2%	20.7%
	Shortfall	1,738	-	
	Annual Change	1.3%	3.5%	-0.3%
RQF2 only	Numerator	24,900	173,400	6,558,900
	Percent	15.8%	23.9%	19.1%
	Shortfall	5,238	-	
	Annual Change	-82.7%	-74.0%	-80.4%
RQF1 only	Numerator	6,600	23,700	893,200
	Percent	4.2%	3.3%	2.6%
	Shortfall	-	-	
	Annual Change	-2.9%	21.5%	-3.3%
Other qualifications	Numerator	12,600	44,300	1,597,500
	Percent	8.0%	6.1%	4.7%
	Shortfall	-	-	-
	Annual Change	43.2%	4.0%	-1.1%
No qualifications	Numerator	18,400	70,300	2,124,000
	Percent	11.7%	9.7%	6.2%
	Shortfall	-8,640	25,449	-
	Annual Change	-7.1%	-0.7%	-3.4%

- New official statistics in development on skills and qualification suitability in the labour market¹⁹, shows **29.8% of employed Wolverhampton adults were less qualified than average for their current occupation** (national average 21.3%).

Apprenticeship Starts

- In the 2023/24 academic year, there were **1,641 apprenticeship starts²⁰ in Wolverhampton**. When compared to 2022/23, the only Black Country local authority to reflect the national trend (+0.7%), there was an **annual increase of 3.1% (+50)**. Exploring apprenticeship starts by level, there was an annual increase of 1.5% in advanced apprenticeship starts (England -1.0%) and a 16.4% increase in higher apprenticeship starts (England +8.2%).

Workforce Jobs

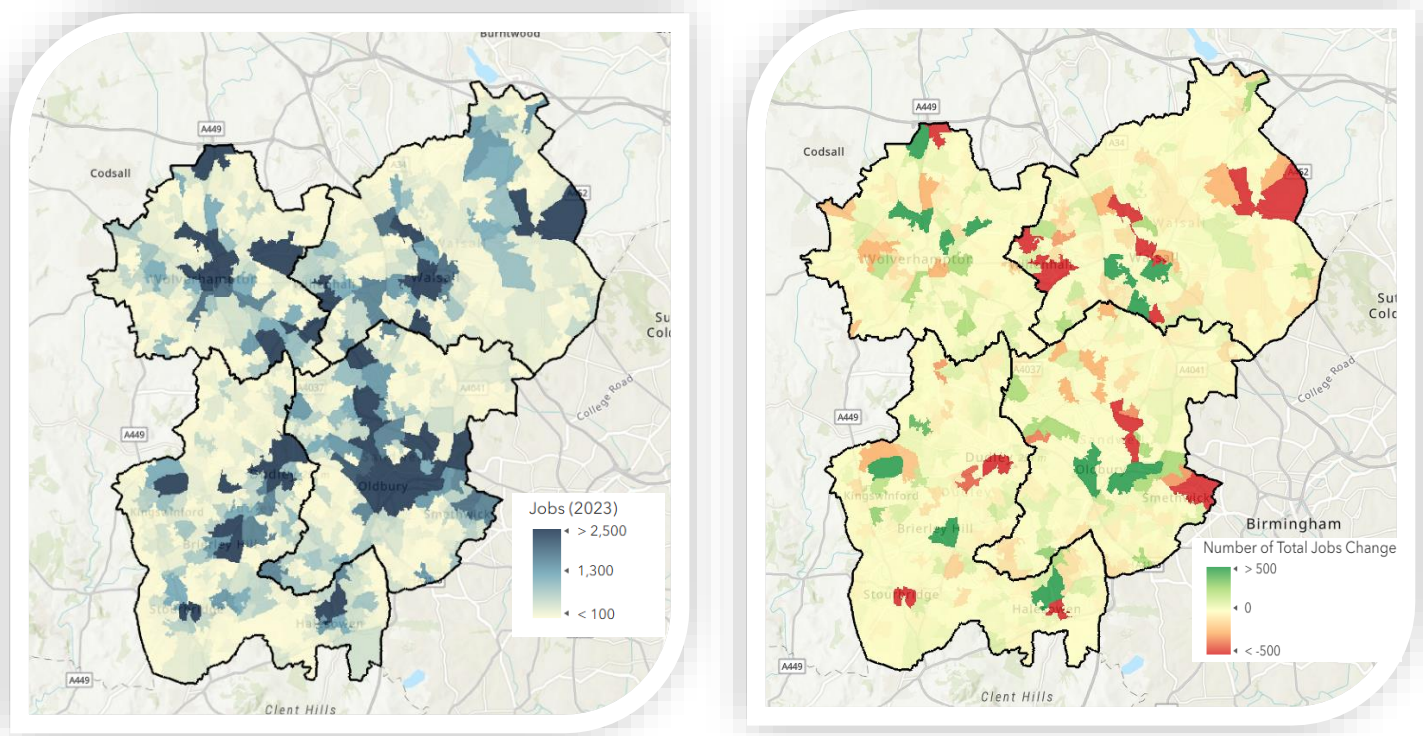
- Jobs²¹ in Wolverhampton have now increased for three consecutive years. **The latest data shows an annual increase of 0.8% between 2022 and 2023 and jobs now totalling 110,000**. Nationally there was an annual increase of 1.3%.

¹⁹ ONS, Understanding skill and qualification suitability in the labour market, released 2024

²⁰ Department for Education, apprenticeships, released 2024

²¹ ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey, released 2024

Total Number of Jobs (Left) and Annual Change (Right):



Earnings

- In 2024, full-time annual resident earnings²² for Wolverhampton reached **£33,205** an annual increase of **9.0% (+£2,730)** compared to an increase of **6.9%** nationally. However, earnings were approximately **88.3%** of the England average (£37,617 - a shortfall of £4,412).
- Whereas in 2024, full-time annual workplace earnings for Wolverhampton were higher at **£34,726**, (92.3% of the England average, £37,630). An annual increase of 9.3% (+£2,955), compared to an increase of 6.9% nationally. Notably for Wolverhampton on a worker basis, earnings were higher for females than males (-3.3%).

Population and Health

- In 2023, there were **272,425** residents in Wolverhampton, an annual increase of 1.7% (+4,537) – the only Black Country authority above the national rate growth of 1.0%.
- In the 2021-23 period, life expectancy²³ in Wolverhampton remains below the national average, for males it was 77.0 years and for females it was 80.9 years (England 79.1 years and 83.1 years respectively).
- Healthy life expectancy²⁴ for males in Wolverhampton was **57.6 years (England 61.5 years)** and **56.7 years for females (England 61.9 years)**. When compared to the 2018-20 period, in Wolverhampton healthy life expectancy decreased by 0.8 years for males and by 2.9 years for females.

²² ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, released 2024

²³ ONS, Life expectancy for local areas of Great Britain, released 2024

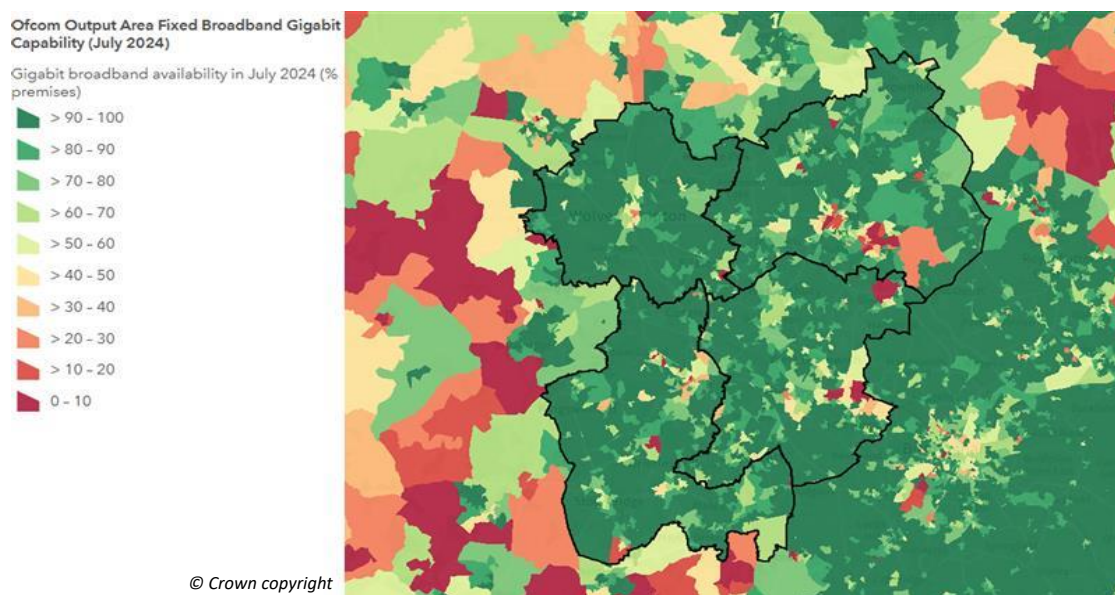
²⁴ ONS, Health state life expectancies in England and Wales, released 2024

1.4. Place

Infrastructure

- Wolverhampton performs well overall for broadband connectivity²⁵. As of July 2024, **96.4% of premises in Wolverhampton had gigabit connectivity**, above the UK-wide figure of 81.7% and 9th highest out of 361 areas. Also, **87.9% of premises in Wolverhampton had full fibre connectivity**, significantly above the UK-wide figure of 67.4%.

Gigabit Broadband Connectivity:



- There are **shortfalls in housing supply to the demand**; to address this, the government has set a national target of building 1.5 million new homes in the next five years. **Provisional estimates for Wolverhampton, in 2024, show 722 net additional homes** leading to a total of **approximately 115,164 homes overall**²⁶. With the new government target, Wolverhampton would need to increase to 1,086 net new homes per year.
- Housing affordability ratios²⁷ show that in 2023, residents in Wolverhampton could **expect to spend 6.8 times their annual earnings buying a home**. The equivalent figure in England is 8.3 times annual earnings.
- In 2023/24, **there was a total of 63 additional affordable dwelling starts and 119 completions**²⁸ **in Wolverhampton**.
- Looking at the efficiency of housing, by using Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)²⁹ shows in the year ending March 2023 (based of rating bands for a 10-year period), **where Band A is very efficient and Band G is very energy inefficient, shows that 87% of Wolverhampton lodgements were in Band D (42.4%), Band C (28.9%) and Band E (15.7%)**.

²⁵ Ofcom, Connected Nations, released 2024

²⁶ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Live tables on housing supply: net additional dwellings and on dwelling stock, both released 2024.

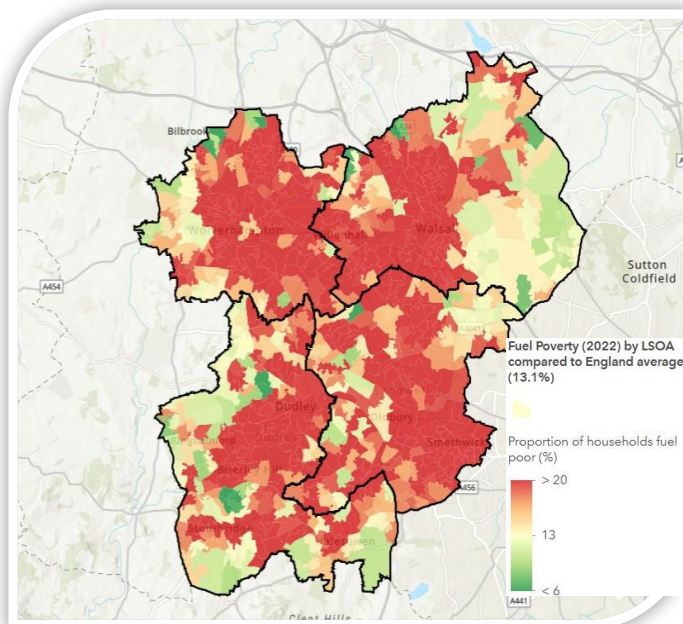
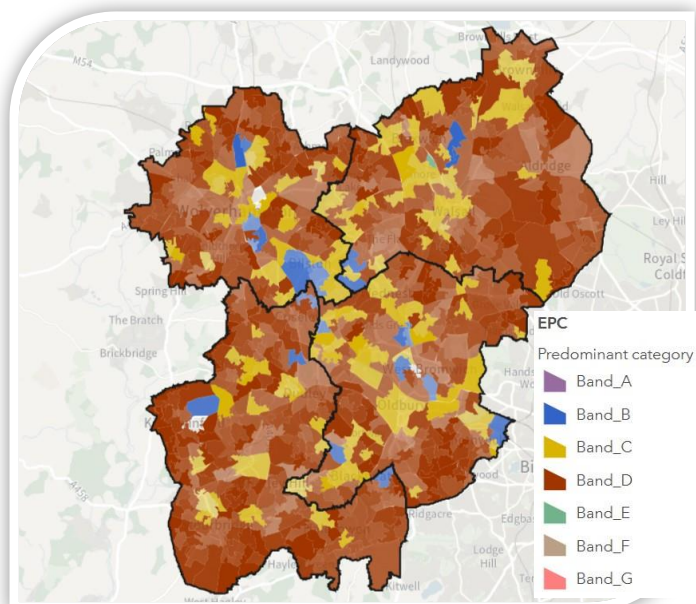
²⁷ ONS, Housing affordability in England and Wales, released 2024

²⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Live tables on affordable housing supply, released 2024

²⁹ ONS, Energy efficiency of housing, released 2024. This data does not reflect all dwellings in England and Wales, because not every dwelling has an EPC

- **Challenges remain with households in fuel poverty³⁰**, figures show in 2022 that the West Midlands region continues to have the highest rates of any region at 19.6%, meaning it is significantly above the overall England average of 13.1%. **In Wolverhampton, 23.0% (24,991) of households were in fuel poverty. Across all local areas in England, this was the 3rd highest (remaining in the same place as 2021).**

EPCs (Left) and Fuel Poverty (Right):



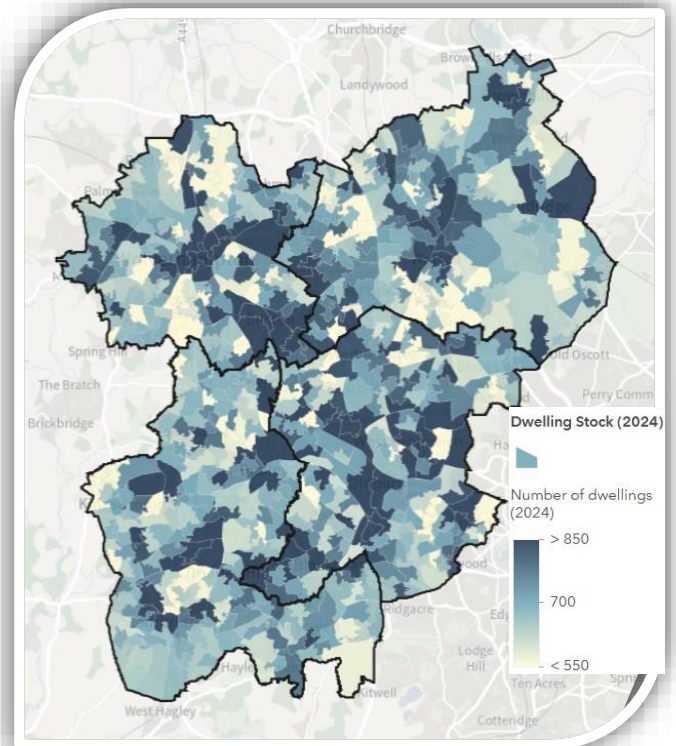
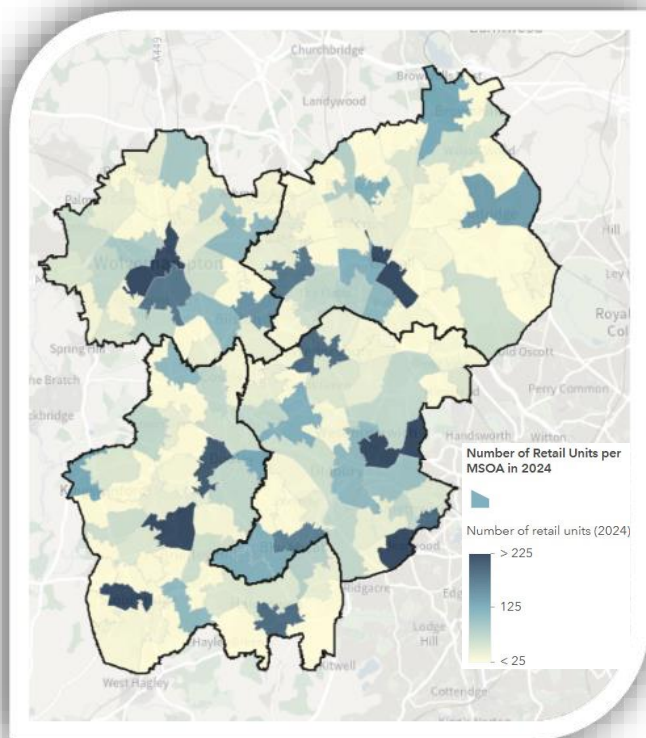
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- Across Wolverhampton as of March 2024, there was a total of **8,870 non-domestic properties³¹**, this has decreased by 0.7% (-60) compared to a 0.6% decrease nationally. Although, for Wolverhampton, **these latest figures are the second highest recorded.**
- Analysing non-domestic properties by type, there was a total of **2,410 retail properties across Wolverhampton.** There was an annual decrease of 0.8% (-20) compared to a national decline of 0.3%. **The rateable value of retail properties in Wolverhampton fell from nearly £54.6m in 2023 to £46.5m in 2024 (-14.8% vs -10.5% nationally).**
- **Industrial properties decreased by 10 to 2,930 properties overall in Wolverhampton (-0.3% vs +0.5% nationally).** **Office properties declined annually in Wolverhampton by 30 to a total of 1,740 properties (-1.7% vs -1.5% nationally).**

³⁰ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, Sub-regional fuel poverty in England, released 2024

³¹ Valuation Office Agency, Non-domestic rating: stock of properties collection, released 2024

Retail Properties (Left) and Dwellings (Right):

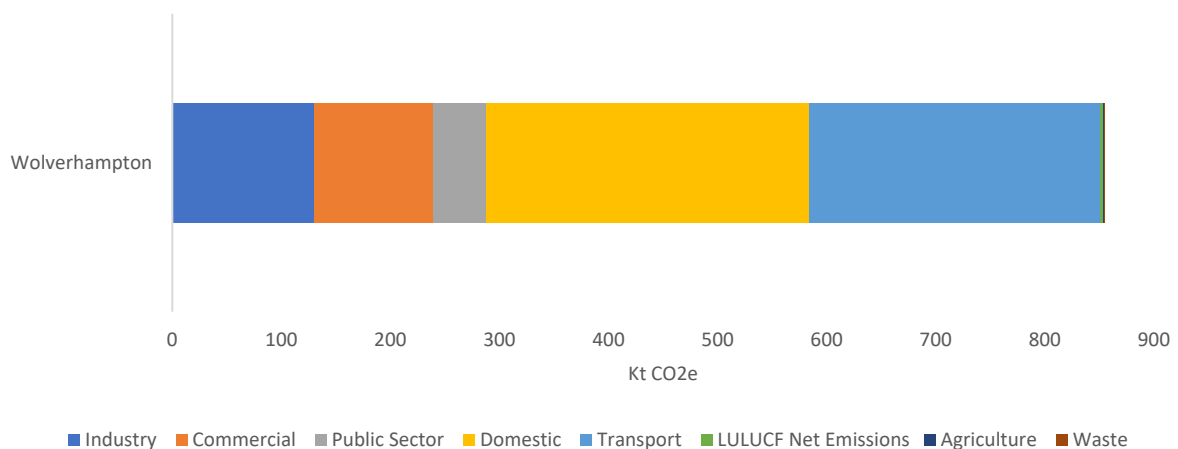


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Emissions

- In 2022, **Wolverhampton produced a total of 855 kt of carbon dioxide emissions.**³² This **decreased at a faster rate than nationally since 2021** (-8.1% vs -6.1% respectively). Longer term (since 2005), emissions have decreased by 48.5% for Wolverhampton (England decreased by 43.9%). However, **there is still a long way to go to reach Net Zero by 2041, especially in the domestic and transport sectors.**

Breakdown of Wolverhampton's Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2022:



³² Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK local authority & regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, released 2024

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