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Bucks Trends, Spring 2014

30 April 2014

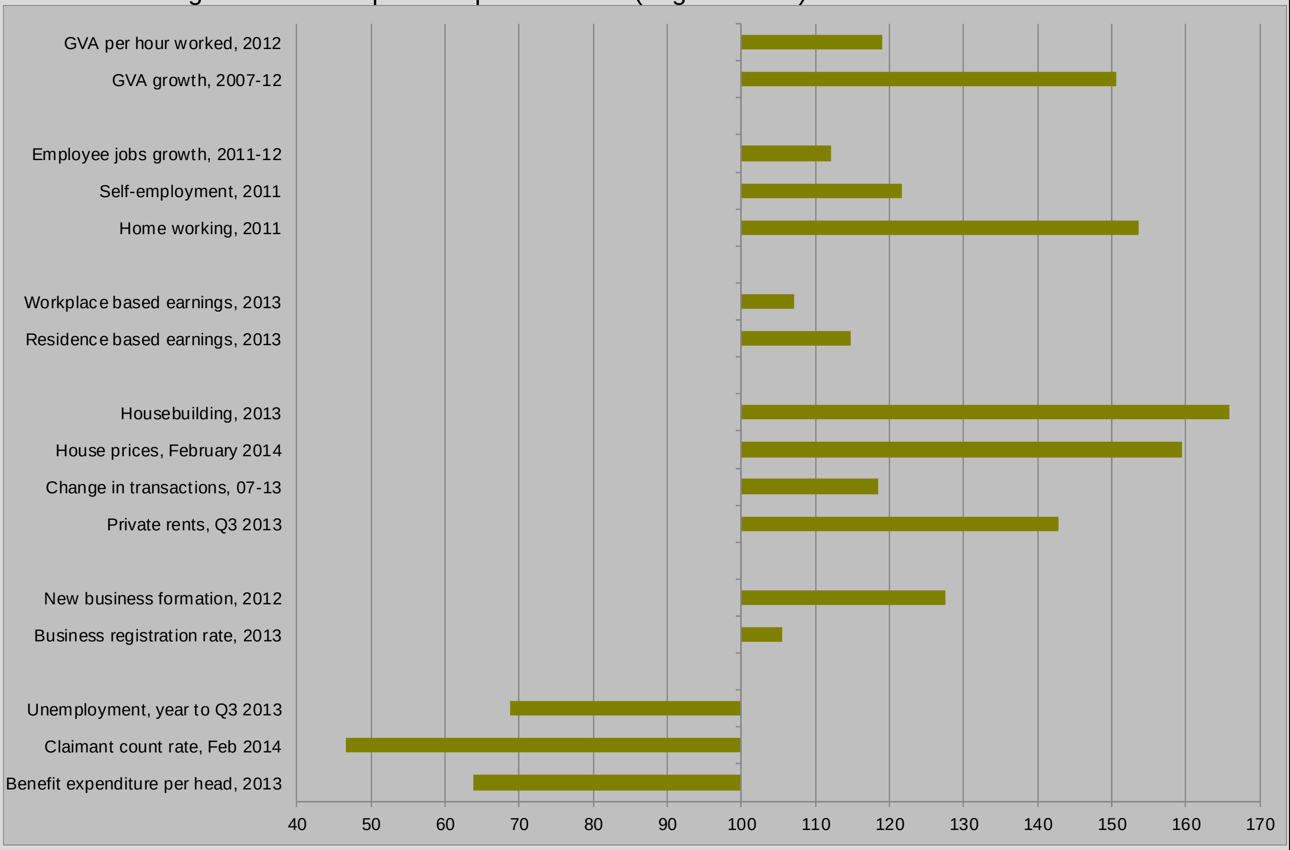
SUPPORTING BUSINESSES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Executive Summary

Buckinghamshire is the fourth most productive place in the UK behind only Inner and Outer London and Berkshire and overall is home to well-paid, well qualified residents experiencing very low levels of deprivation.

While Buckinghamshire betters the national level of performance for productivity, enterprise, employment and growth and has comparatively low levels of unemployment, there are challenges, particularly concerning the cost of living, with workplace based earnings falling short of residence based earnings and house prices and rents continuing to rise despite the county already having very expensive stock and one of the fastest rates of house building in the country.

Chart 1: Buckinghamshire comparative performance (England=100)



Sources: Regional Accounts, ONS, 2014; BRES, ONS, 2013; Census 2011, ONS, 2013; ASHE, ONS, 2013; DCLG, 2014, Land Registry, 2014, VOA, 2013, Business Demography, 2013, APS, ONS, 2014; DWP, 2014

While recent trends in economic and employment growth are positive, providing evidence of Buckinghamshire's resilience to the recession, Buckinghamshire's performance over the medium term has been more mixed, with the number of jobs in the county still below the levels seen ten years ago, despite marked population increase. So that while forecasters expect Buckinghamshire to be among the best performing local economies in the UK in the coming year, the gains so far have not yet returned the number of jobs in the county to the levels seen at the start of the Millennium.

Employment growth in the UK as whole has been achieved through self-employment, lengthening working lives and through population growth. All of these factors are present in Buckinghamshire.

1.0 Introduction

Buckinghamshire is a productive and enterprising economy, providing well-paid jobs for highly skilled residents. Buckinghamshire, and its districts, outperform the country as a whole across a range of indicators, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary indicators

	Earnings				Educational Attainment				Enterprise		Employment			
	Workplace Annual Full Time Median (£), 2013	Rank	Residence Annual Full Time Median (£), 2013	Rank	Working Age Population Qualified to NVQ4+ (%), 2013	Rank	Working Age Population With No Qualications (%), 2013	Rank	New Business Registration Rate (per 10,000 residents), 2012	Rank	Working Age Employment Rate (%), Year to September 2013	Rank	16+ Unemployment Rate (%), Year to September 2013	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	27,255	115	29,197	100	41.1	80	5.6	304	60.1	90	76.4	110	5.5	123
Chiltern	28,809	75	-	-	53.3	18	2.7	372	76.5	32	77.3	82	4.5	50
South Bucks	30,135	49	32,907	38	43.4	65	7.2	240	99.8	14	78.5	56	4.4	42
Wycombe	30,460	47	30,456	72	42.3	70	7.8	216	66.3	60	74.7	151	6.8	197
Buckinghamshire	29,329	2	31,396	3	43.9	4	6.0	22	70.5	2	76.3	12	5.3	8
BTVLEP	29,329	2	31,396	3	43.9	3	6.0	36	70.5	3	76.3	8	5.3	7
Hertfordshire	28,737	4	31,949	2	41.7	6	7.0	17	69.8	4	77.8	2	5.4	8
Northamptonshire	25,622	13	26,798	13	31.0	23	10.5	3	55.2	9	76.2	9	7.6	27
Oxfordshire	29,074	3	29,393	6	46.0	2	5.5	25	53.6	10	78.3	1	5.6	11
SEMLEP	Not currently available for LEPs				34.5	16	9.0	19	57.4	8	75.4	12	6.7	21
TV Berkshire					43.1	4	5.7	37	72.7	2	77.0	5	4.7	2
Enterprise M3					42.4	5	4.5	39	69.6	5	76.9	6	5.2	5
South East	28,400	2	29,732	2	38.3	3	6.5	12	58.4	2	74.8	2	6.2	2
England	27,376	-	27375	-	35.0	-	9.1	-	55.3	-	71.4	-	7.7	-

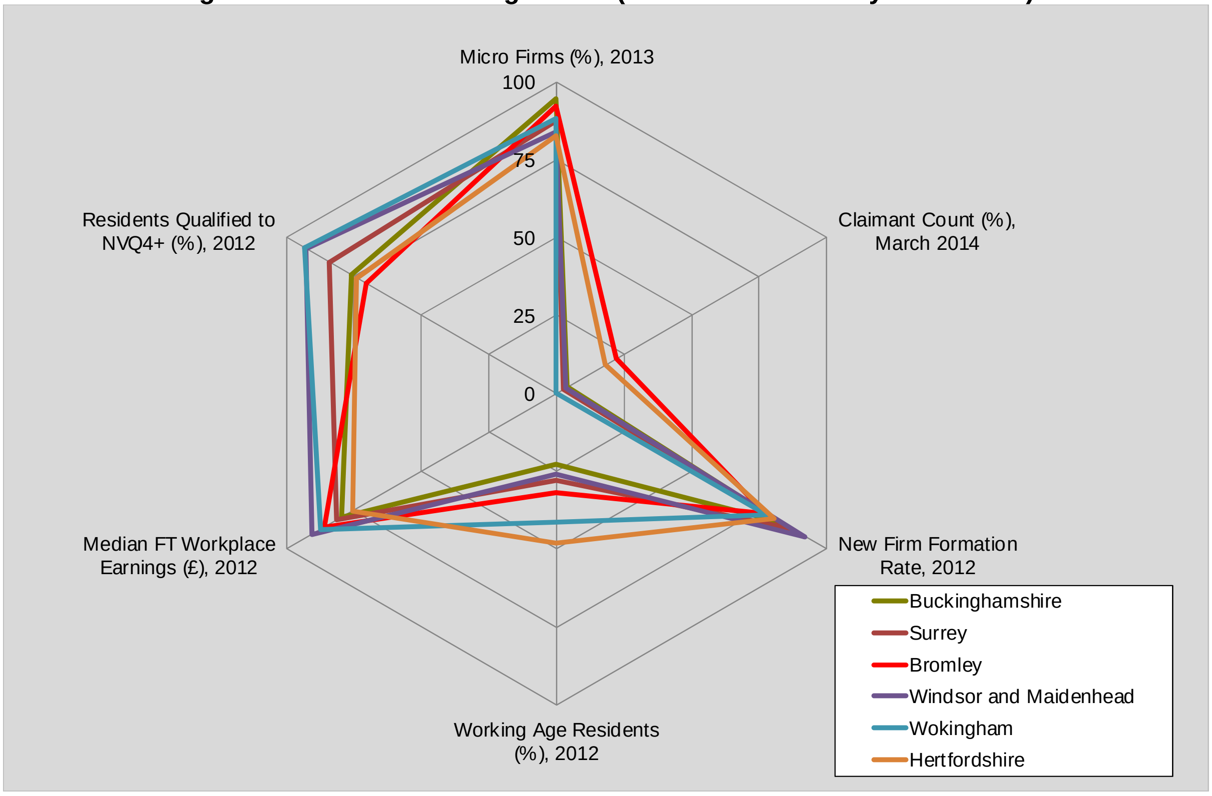
Sources: ASHE, ONS, 2012; APS, ONS 2013; Business Demography, ONS, 2013, APS, ONS, 2013

Note: Cells are green where indicators exceed the national level and red where the national level is not met

Buckinghamshire does not perform well in isolation. It is a part of a wider area of economic strength, with its neighbouring LEPs and counties also outperforming the national level.

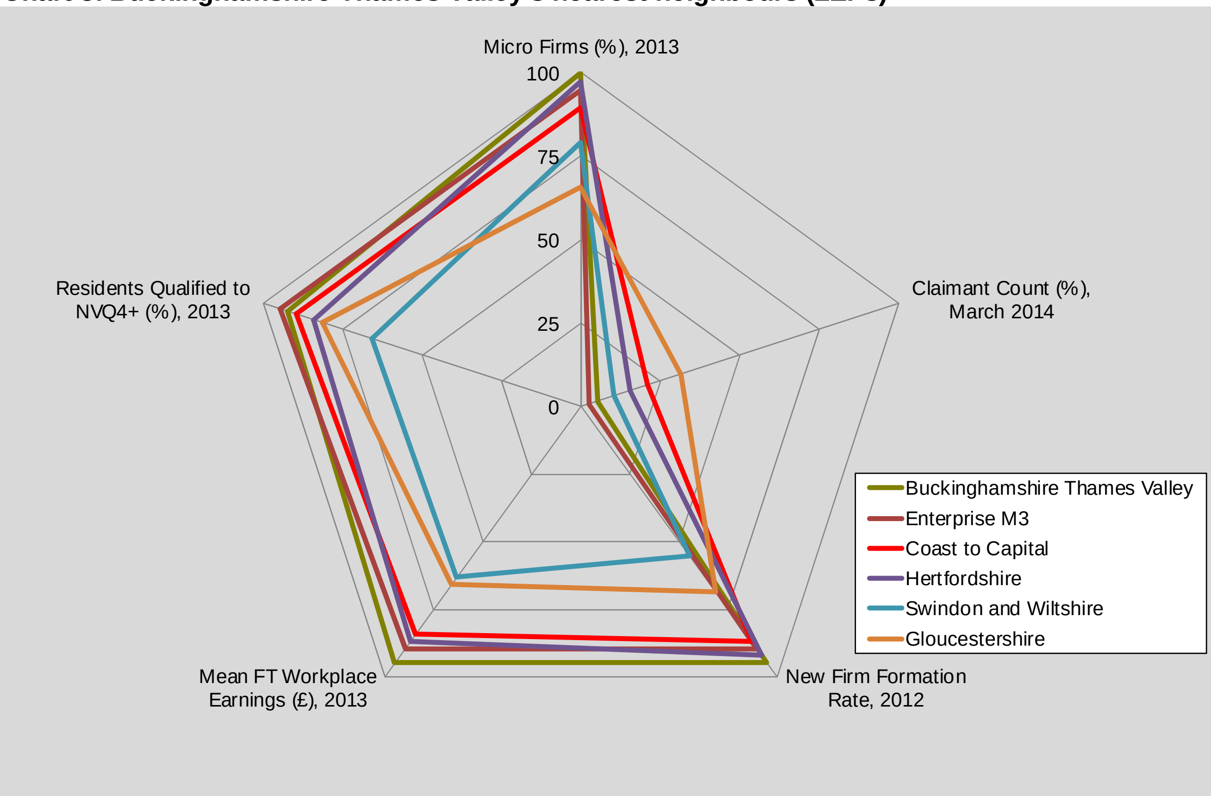
When Buckinghamshire is compared to all other parts of the country, either as an upper tier authority or as a LEP, the most similar places are part of the Greater Thames Valley as shown in the following two charts, with Surrey and Enterprise M3 respectively being the places most similar to Buckinghamshire.

Chart 2: Buckinghamshire's nearest neighbours (counties and unitary authorities)



Sources: ASHE, ONS, 2013; APS, ONS 2013; Business Demography, ONS, 2013, Job Centre Plus, 2014, IDBR, ONS, 2013

Chart 3: Buckinghamshire Thames Valley's nearest neighbours (LEPs)



Sources: ASHE, ONS, 2013; APS, ONS 2014; Business Demography, ONS, 2013, Job Centre Plus, 2014, IDBR, ONS, 2013

2.0 National Picture

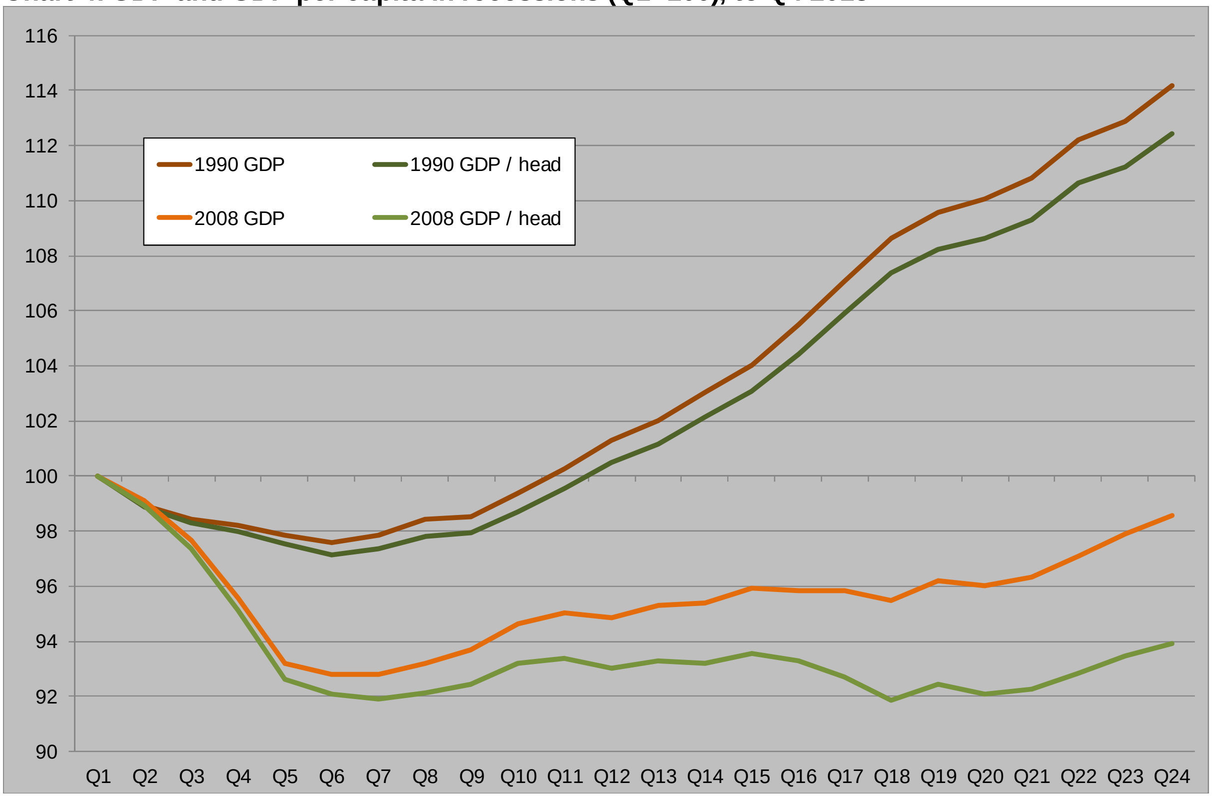
"For the first time in a long time, there's a real sense that Britain is on the rise. Jobs are being created. The deficit is coming down"

George Osborne, 6 January 2014

The UK's output grew by 0.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2014. This fifth successive quarterly rise saw the UK's gross domestic product reach its fourth highest ever level and return to within 0.6 per cent of the pre-recession peak. GDP grew 1.9 per cent during 2013, the fourth successive annual rise and by 3.5 per cent since Q1 2013. Services output is now at its highest ever level, 2.0 per cent above the pre-recession peak, although no other industry grouping has returned to pre-recession levels despite recent improvements. Output in the agriculture, production and construction sectors remain 7.1, 11.5 and 12.2 per cent below the levels seen in the first quarter of 2008.

While GDP has returned to close to pre-recession levels, GDP per capita remains 6 per cent below. Growth has been achieved by increasing consumption, helped by the additional two million residents aged 16+ since 2008, rather than by increased productivity. In the 1990s recession, GDP per capita increased 13.9 between Q10 and Q24, in the current recession the increase has been 0.7 per cent.

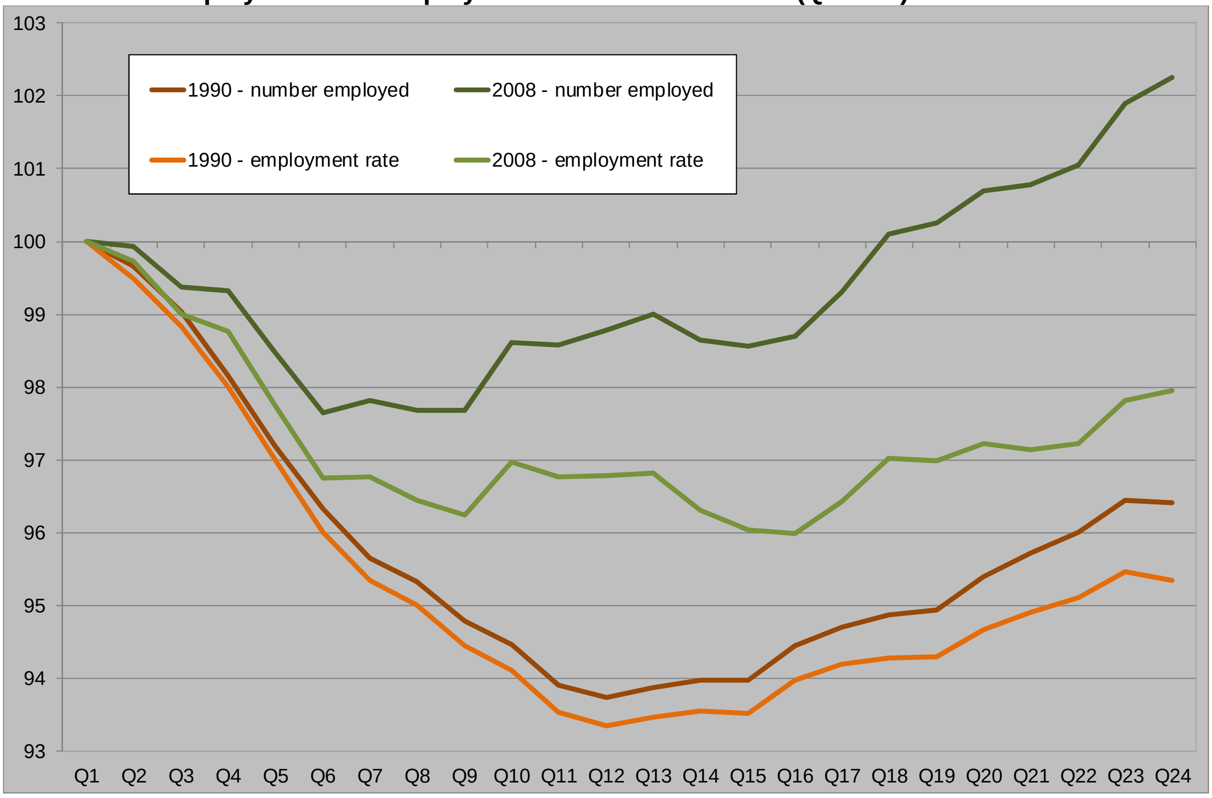
Chart 4: GDP and GDP per capita in recessions (Q1=100), to Q4 2013



Source: ONS (series IHXW), 2013; ONS (series ABMI), 2014

Similarly, while employment has reached record levels of more than 30m people in work, at 72.6 per cent, the working age employment rate is only the 42nd highest of the 172 quarters since 1971, while the number of full-time employees remains 102,605 below the level at the start of the recession. Over that period self-employment has grown by 18.3 per cent, while the number employees has increased by 0.9 per cent. As shown in Table 2, since 2010, the balance of the labour market has improved with full-time work and employees accounting for an increased share of employment.

Chart 5: 16+ employment and employment rates in recessions (Q1=100)



Source: ONS (series MGRZ & MGSX), 2014

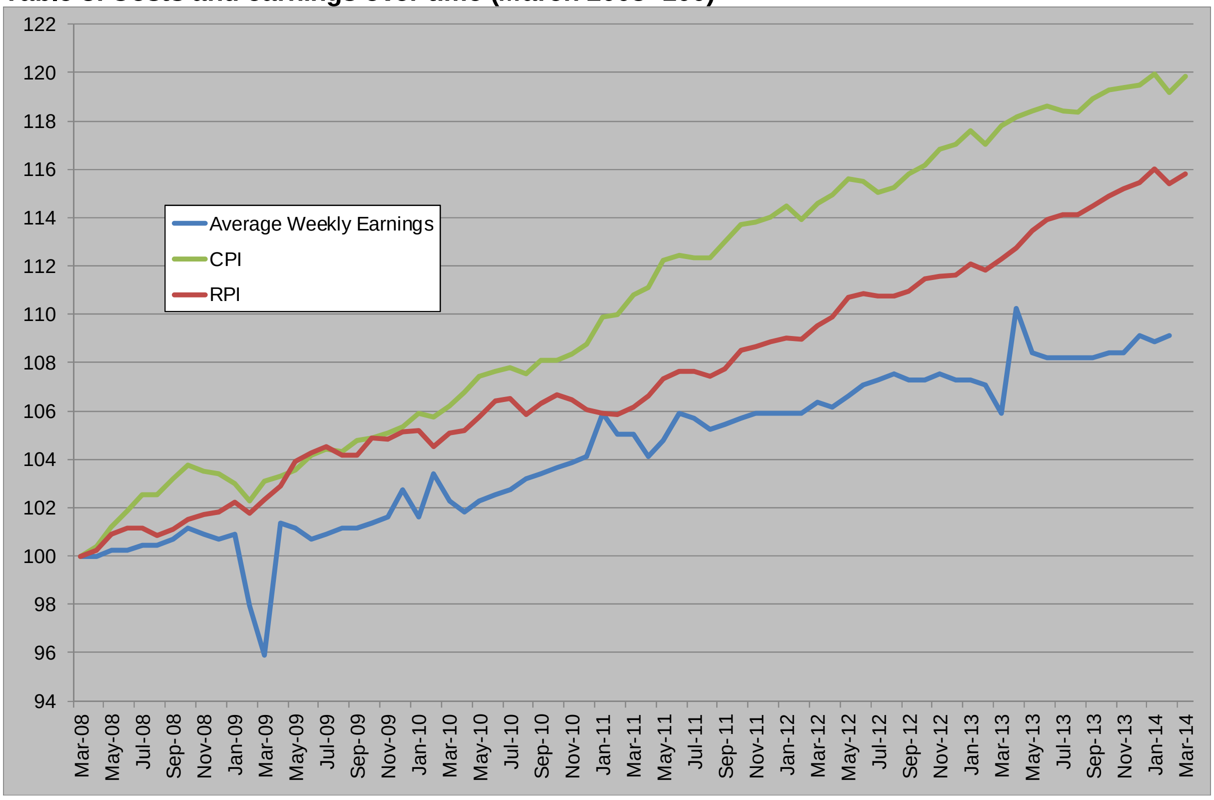
Table 2: Selected labour market indicators to Q1 2014 (December 2013-February 2014)

				Change Since			
				Q3 2008		Q2 2010	
	Q3 2008	Q2 2010	Latest	No.	%	No.	%
Population 16+	49,103,799	49,738,086	51,158,070	2,054,271	4.2	1,419,984	2.9
Population 16-64	39,611,360	39,944,383	40,358,679	747,319	1.9	414,296	1.0
Employed 16+	29,418,043	28,930,289	30,389,058	971,015	3.3	1,458,769	5.0
Employed Working Age	28,730,869	28,130,071	29,300,502	569,633	2.0	1,170,431	4.2
Employed 18-24	3,629,638	3,393,060	3,407,825	-221,813	-6.1	14,764	0.4
Employed 65+	687,174	800,219	1,088,556	401,382	58.4	288,338	36.0
Private sector employment	23,303,000	22,826,000	24,684,000	1,381,000	5.9	1,858,000	8.1
Public sector employment	6,043,000	6,292,000	5,507,000	-536,000	-8.9	-785,000	-12.5
Employees	25,417,892	24,776,259	25,636,020	218,127	0.9	859,760	3.5
Self Employed	3,804,904	3,933,088	4,501,621	696,717	18.3	568,533	14.5
Unemployed 16+	1,787,849	2,490,567	2,242,867	455,018	25.5	-247,700	-9.9
Unemployed 16-64	1,771,360	2,468,643	2,212,108	440,749	24.9	-256,535	-10.4
Unemployed 16-24	746,082	941,992	881,431	135,349	18.1	-60,561	-6.4
Economically Inactive Working Age	9,109,131	9,345,669	8,846,069	-263,062	-2.9	-499,600	-5.3
Economically Inactive 18-24	1,545,768	1,694,915	1,625,508	79,740	5.2	-69,408	-4.1
Full time employees	18,977,207	18,142,744	18,874,601	-102,605	-0.5	731,858	4.0
Part time employees	6,440,685	6,633,515	6,761,418	320,733	5.0	127,903	1.9
Self Employed Full Time	2,895,452	2,912,015	3,249,455	354,003	12.2	337,440	11.6
Self Employed Part Time	909,452	1,021,073	1,252,166	342,715	37.7	231,093	22.6
Underemployment	2,069,000	2,739,562	3,079,816	1,010,816	48.9	340,254	12.4
Part-time who cannot find full time work	700,925	1,072,311	1,421,154	720,229	102.8	348,843	32.5
Temporary workers	1,375,651	1,527,938	1,615,303	239,652	17.4	87,365	5.7
Workers with second jobs	1,114,682	1,128,460	1,148,053	33,371	3.0	19,593	1.7

Source: ONS, 2014

Since March 2008, prices have risen by 19.8 per cent (CPI and by 15.8 per cent RPI), while average weekly earnings have risen by 9.1 per cent. Average weekly earnings would need to rise by 10.0 per cent (£48 per week or £2,502 per annum) to match the rise in inflation over that period.

Table 3: Costs and earnings over time (March 2008=100)



Source: ONS, 2014

3.0 Economic Growth

"There is a dimension to this recovery that represents a strength in the economy that is underexamined and half-understood – a burgeoning network of high-growth, innovative, knowledge-intensive small or medium-sized firms clustered in "knowledge" towns along the M40, M4 and M3 motorways within 30 miles of Heathrow"

Will Hutton, Observer, 26 January 2014[1]

Buckinghamshire is the 4th most productive place in the UK, with Gross Value Added per hour worked 19.1 per cent above the national level. Only 23 of Great Britain's 134 NUTS 3 regions have GVA per hour worked above that of the country as a whole, down from 31 in 2005. From 2008 to 2012, Buckinghamshire's labour productivity has grown faster than the national rate and 11th fastest among all NUTS 3 areas.

Of the ten most productive places in England, three are in London, three are unitary authorities or groups of unitaries, two are in Scotland and two are county council areas

[1] http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/26/george-osborne-economic-recovery-jogs-growth-self-employment

(Buckinghamshire and Surrey). The highest placed core city is Bristol, ranking 23rd, matching the UK's GVA per hour worked and the only core city where labour productivity is not below the national level. Of the 20 wave 2 City Deal areas Reading as part of Berkshire), Milton Keynes and Swindon are best placed, all ranking in the top 10.

Since the start of the recession, no wave one city deal has bettered Buckinghamshire's performance, while Bristol, Leeds, Greater Manchester and Nottingham have seen their productivity fall compared to the national level. Buckinghamshire has also seen the second strongest performance among county council areas behind Cambridgeshire, with eight of the 27 improving their productivity compared to the country as a whole.

Buckinghamshire's gross value added (GVA) rose by 1.0 per cent in 2012 to stand at £12.3bn. This was the 77th highest rate of growth among the 139 NUTS3 regions in the UK, below the regional and national levels and ahead of only Kent in the South East. GVA per capita rose to £24,109 ,the 15th highest in the UK, making Buckinghamshire one of only 25 NUTS3 areas to exceed the national level.

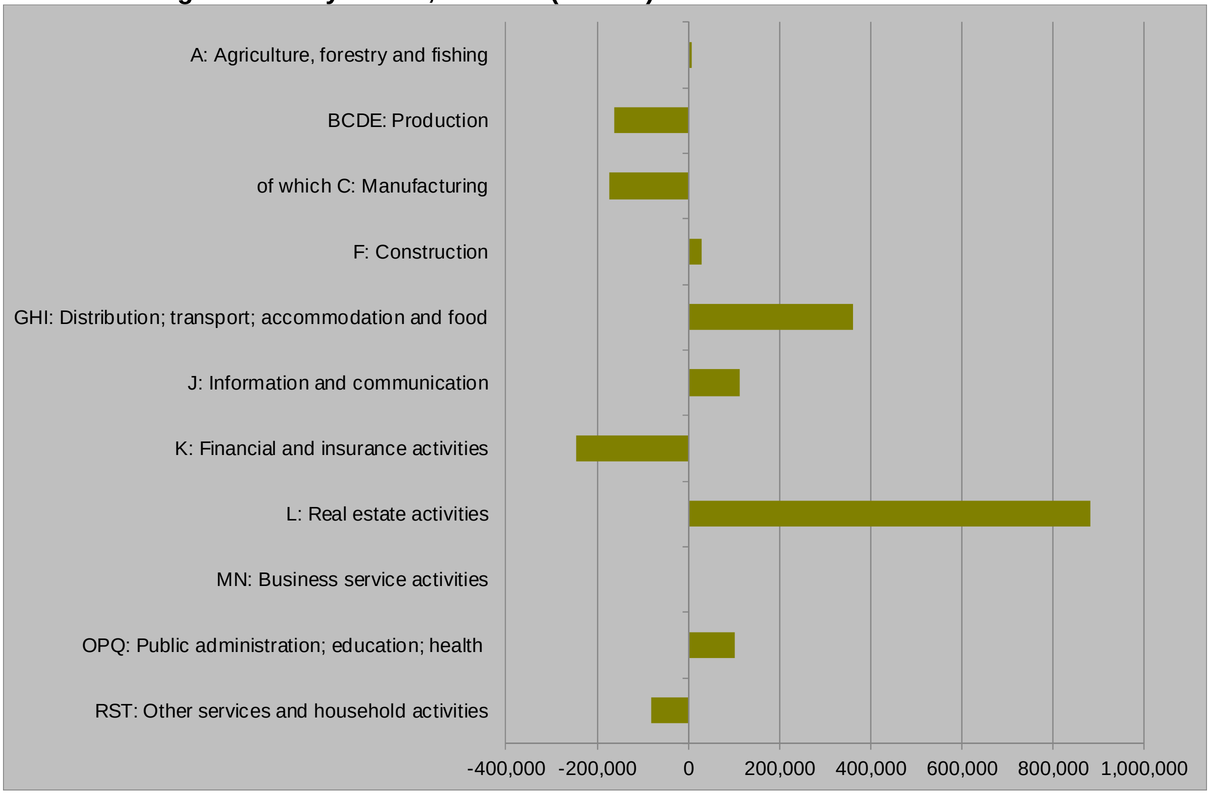
Table 4: GVA and GVA per capita, 2012 (NUTS 0, 1, 2, 3)

	GVA per capita		GVA (£m)			
	£	Rank	2011	2012	Change	Rank
Buckinghamshire CC	24,109	15	12,203	12,331	1.0	77
Surrey	28,628	6	30,293	32,736	8.1	1
Milton Keynes	34,296	4	8,242	8,655	5.0	10
Hertfordshire	24,155	14	26,410	27,273	3.3	33
Oxfordshire	24,895	11	15,998	16,450	2.8	42
Central Bedfordshire	16,558	68	4,187	4,305	2.8	43
West Northamptonshire	21,976	25	8,169	8,333	2.0	59
Berkshire	34,978	2	30,060	30,465	1.3	68
Bedford	20,197	35	3,201	3,215	0.4	89
North Northamptonshire	16,437	70	5,500	5,282	-4.0	133
Luton	18,812	42	4,183	3,872	-7.4	137
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	29,579	2	66,503	67,901	2.1	8
Surrey, East and West Sussex	22,911	4	60,017	63,363	5.6	1
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	21,395	7	39,694	40,974	3.2	2
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	22,043	6	37,981	38,666	1.8	13
Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	18,642	12	32,398	32,174	-0.7	34
South East	23,221	2	196,105	202,597	3.3	1
England	21,937		1,152,438	1,173,512	1.8	-
UK	21,674		1,360,925	1,383,082	1.6	-

Source: Regional Accounts, ONS, 2013

The growth of Buckinghamshire's economy since the recession has been led by the real estate sector, with financial and insurance activities and manufacturing experiencing the largest falls in output.

Table 5: Change in GVA by sector, 2008-11 (£ 000's)



Source: Regional Accounts, ONS, 2013

3.0 Industrial structure

"If Britain isn't leading the world in science and engineering, then we are condemning our country to fall behind"

George Osborne, Budget Speech, 19 March 2014[2]

There were 217,300 people employed in Buckinghamshire in 2012 comprising 207,800 employees and 9,500 working proprietors. Total employment increased by 500, or 0.2 per cent, over the year, while the number of employees rose 1,500, or 0.7 per cent.

The increases were not split evenly across the county. While total employment rose 2.3 per cent in Aylesbury Vale (1,600) and by 1.7 per cent in South Bucks (600) to record the 77th and 97th fastest rates of growth respectively of all 380 local authority districts, Chiltern saw a fall of 1.1 per cent (300) and total employment in Wycombe fell by 1,400 or 1.7 per cent, the 108th weakest growth of any local authority in Great Britain.

More than two thirds of employees in Buckinghamshire work full-time. Over the last year while full-time employment in Buckinghamshire rose 0.7 per cent (1,500), part-time employment fell 1.3 per cent (1,000). At the national level, full-time employment was static (increasing 0.1 per cent) while part-time employment rose 1.2 per cent. Buckinghamshire had the 10th highest increase in employees in 2012 but the 6th highest increase of full-time employment, suggesting a strengthening of the local labour market's recovery.

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-george-osbornes-budget-2014-speech

Buckinghamshire’s rural areas saw employment rise by 800 (1.3 per cent) while employment in urban areas fell by 300 (0.2 per cent). Rural areas increased their share of total employment in Buckinghamshire to 27.8 per cent, the highest since comparable records began in 2009.

Health is the largest sector in Buckinghamshire employing 23,700 ahead of professional, scientific and technical (22,500), retail (22,300), education (20,300) and administrative and support services (18,200). Over the last year administrative and support services have seen the greatest increase (up 2,100) ahead of education (800) and real estate activities (500).

Buckinghamshire continues to have the smallest public sector of any LEP, now accounting for only 13.4 per cent of total employment in the county, at 29,100 a fall of 600 from the previous year.

However, by intensity, Buckinghamshire is most over-represented in wholesale and information and communication, having 1.8 and 1.6 times more employment in these sectors than the country as a whole, with information and communication being particularly strong in Wycombe. Although retail is one of the biggest employers in Buckinghamshire, it is fairly evenly spread across the country, with Buckinghamshire matching the national level.

Table 6: Location Quotient by SIC category, 2012 (green for high LQs, red for low)

	3: Manufacturing (C)	4: Construction (F)	5: Motor trades (Part G)	6: Wholesale (Part G)	7: Retail (Part G)	8: Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	9: Accommodation & food services (I)	10: Information & communication (J)	11: Financial & insurance (K)	12: Property (L)	13: Professional, scientific & technical (M)	14: Business administration & support services (N)	15: Public administration & defence (O)	16: Education (P)	17: Health (Q)	18: Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)
Aylesbury Vale	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
Chiltern	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.8	1.8	0.7	1.5	1.7	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.9	1.4
South Bucks	0.6	1.2	1.3	2.2	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.3
Wycombe	0.9	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.1	0.6	0.8	2.2	0.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.0
BTVLEP	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.6	0.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.1
Coast to Capital	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Enterprise M3	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.8	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.3
Hertfordshire	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9
London	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.2
Northamptonshire	1.6	0.9	1.5	1.9	0.9	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0
Oxfordshire	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.4	0.4	0.9	1.5	0.8	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.0
SEMLEP	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.1
TV Berkshire	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	3.4	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.1
South East	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.1

Source: BRES, ONS, 2013

Buckinghamshire is over-represented in six of the nine industrial strategy sectors defined in the Witty Review and in the Plan for Growth sectors including creative industries, where Buckinghamshire ranks 3rd among both county council areas and LEPs with 3.5 per cent of all employment compared to only 2.3 per cent across the country as a whole.

Table 7: Employment by industrial strategy sector (Witty Review definitions), 2012)

	Aerospace			Automotive			Life Sciences			Agri-tech			Education		
	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	800	1.2	36	100	0.2	160	100	0.1	262	100	0.1	165	7,200	10.1	129
Chiltern	100	0.3	84	100	0.2	129	1,200	3.6	1	-	0.1	150	3,900	12.0	55
South Bucks	600	1.8	24	-	0.0	241	-	0.1	228	-	0.0	336	2,300	6.9	334
Wycombe	100	0.2	110	-	0.0	272	100	0.1	271	100	0.1	166	6,800	8.6	241
Buckinghamshire	1,700	0.8	6	200	0.1	22	1,300	0.6	6	200	0.1	21	20,300	9.3	16
BTVLEP	1,700	0.8	7	200	0.1	33	1,300	0.6	7	200	0.1	26	20,300	9.3	27
Coast to Capital	1,300	0.2	24	1,700	0.2	27	4,100	0.5	9	500	0.1	30	77,000	9.6	19
Hertfordshire	2,000	0.4	14	300	0.1	36	4,400	0.8	2	300	0.1	32	43,000	8.0	37
London	1,400	0.0	36	4,300	0.1	34	4,900	0.1	37	700	0.0	39	371,000	8.1	35
Northamptonshire	300	0.1	31	2,900	0.9	10	500	0.1	34	300	0.1	24	25,700	8.1	36
Oxfordshire	400	0.1	30	3,600	1.1	7	2,200	0.7	5	300	0.1	25	48,800	14.7	1
South East Midlands	4,200	0.5	9	4,400	0.6	17	1,300	0.2	30	500	0.1	28	70,000	8.9	31
Thames Valley Berkshire	300	0.1	34	800	0.2	28	2,300	0.5	11	100	0.0	38	39,300	8.3	34
South East	13,100	0.3	6	11,800	0.3	9	19,700	0.5	1	51,100	1.3	8	382,800	9.8	3
Great Britain	102,300	0.4	-	129,800	0.5	-	90,700	0.3	-	474,000	1.7	-	2,540,800	9.1	-

	Information Economy			Professional and Business			Oil & Gas			Construction		
	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	1,900	2.7	117	11,600	16.3	46	-	0.0	173	3,800	5.4	163
Chiltern	1,700	5.1	38	5,100	15.5	56	-	0.0	173	1,800	5.6	147
South Bucks	800	2.3	143	5,800	17.0	35	-	0.0	115	1,900	5.6	151
Wycombe	5,200	6.6	18	10,000	12.6	101	-	0.0	173	4,500	5.7	136
Buckinghamshire	9,600	4.4	4	32,500	15.0	5	-	0.0	20	12,000	5.5	12
BTVLEP	9,600	4.4	3	32,500	15.0	7	-	0.0	35	12,000	5.5	7
Coast to Capital	24,100	3.0	12	97,400	12.1	18	2,000	0.2	6	36,200	4.5	28
Hertfordshire	23,100	4.3	4	100,400	18.6	1	-	0.0	36	34,800	6.5	2
London	191,600	4.2	5	835,300	18.2	2	3,600	0.1	13	158,300	3.4	39
Northamptonshire	3,800	1.2	36	42,400	13.3	12	-	0.0	34	12,900	4.1	37
Oxfordshire	10,500	3.2	8	49,900	15.0	6	-	0.0	31	14,200	4.3	31
South East Midlands	22,000	2.8	14	108,100	13.7	9	100	0.0	29	35,100	4.5	30
Thames Valley Berkshire	57,100	12.1	1	78,200	16.5	3	1,600	0.3	4	18,200	3.8	38
South East	182,300	4.6	1	521,000	13.3	2	5,500	0.1	3	186,900	4.8	7
Great Britain	776,000	2.8	-	3,429,000	12.3	-	47,600	0.2	-	1,288,500	4.6	-

Source: BRES, ONS, 2013

4.0 Enterprise

Buckinghamshire’s new firm formation rate of 70.5 businesses for every 10,000 residents is the 2nd highest of all 27 county council areas, behind Surrey, and the 3rd highest among Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), behind London and the Thames Valley Berkshire. With 2,875 businesses formed, compared to 2,850 business “deaths”, formations outnumbered closures for a second successive year, leaving the total number of businesses at 29,205, the highest level since the start of the recession.

Buckinghamshire’s new firm formation rate fell in 2012 with Aylesbury Vale being the only district to see an improved rate, although all districts saw their national ranking fall. Buckinghamshire and all four districts continue to have new firm formation rates above the national and regional levels, however the gap closed for all in 2012.

Table 8: Business births and deaths in 2012

	Business Births			Business Deaths			Annual Change (%)	
	No.	Rate	Rank	No.	Rate	Rank	Births	Deaths
Aylesbury Vale	850	60.1	90	905	64.0	50	1.8	5.8
Chiltern	565	76.5	32	575	77.8	21	-6.6	10.6
South Bucks	545	99.8	14	485	88.8	10	-5.2	2.1
Wycombe	915	66.3	60	885	64.1	49	-1.1	4.1
Buckinghamshire	2,875	70.5	2	2,850	69.9	2	-2.2	5.6
BTVLEP	2,875	70.5	3	2,850	69.9	2	-2.2	5.6
Coast to Capital	9,300	58.9	6	9,030	57.2	6	0.7	11.5
Enterprise M3	9,265	69.6	5	8,695	65.3	4	0.8	13.7
Hertfordshire	6,295	69.8	4	5,955	66.0	3	0.0	11.4
London	65,095	98.0	1	51,525	77.6	1	6.0	19.0
Northamptonshire	3,095	55.2	9	2,760	49.3	15	6.9	4.7
Oxfordshire	2,875	53.6	10	2,705	50.4	13	3.0	10.2
South East Midlands	7,890	57.4	8	7,020	51.0	11	7.2	6.8
Thames Valley Berkshire	5,010	72.7	2	4,365	63.3	5	-1.0	14.1
South East	41,245	58.4	2	39,280	55.6	2	1.2	9.5
Great Britain	265,630	52.8		249,570	49.6		3.1	11.0

Source: Business Demography, ONS, 2013, Mid-year population estimates, ONS, 2013

In 2013, Buckinghamshire saw 4,685 businesses registered with Companies House, at a rate of 114.8 for every 10,000 residents, to rank 5th among LEPs, well ahead of the 102.5 recorded across Great Britain. South Bucks saw the highest rate of registration at 178.8 per 10,000 residents, the 24th highest rate recorded across all 380 local authority districts. This strong performance has continued into 2014, with 1,272 companies having been registered in the first quarter.

There were 4,899 new business bank accounts opened in Buckinghamshire in 2013, the lowest annual total since 2009. By type, limited companies accounted for 60.8 per cent of new accounts, ahead of sole traders (26.6) and not for profits (8.0). By sector, the professional, scientific and technical sector accounted for 18.7 per cent of new business bank accounts (879), ahead of the personal and community service sector (11.5, 541), administrative and support service (11.1, 540) and retail trade and repair (8.6, 405). Although well down on the 1,042 new bank accounts opened by professional, scientific and technical companies in 2012, 2013's total was the second highest on record, well above the 274 recorded in 2008, when the sector accounted for only 6.5 per cent of all new accounts. In contrast, while administrative and support services accounted for 30.9 per cent of new business bank accounts in 2008, by 2013 this had fallen to 11.1 per cent.

5.0 Occupational structure

Buckinghamshire has the highest proportion of residents employed in managerial, professional and technical occupations of any county council area or LEP, at 55.6 per cent. Professionals make up the largest part of this group, although it is the 15.1 per cent of residents employed as managers, directors and senior officials (SOC1) is most distinctive about Buckinghamshire. This is a third higher than the national share. Buckinghamshire has the smallest share of residents employed in skilled trades occupations of any LEP, at only 6.7 per cent (16,600 people)

There are marked differences in occupational structure by sex among Buckinghamshire's residents, with women outnumbering men five to one in caring, leisure and other services, four to one in administrative and secretarial occupations and 1.6 to one in sales and customer service occupations. Median pay in all three sectors is below the overall median, however men are more commonly employed in elementary occupations, where pay is lowest. Women are more likely than men to be employed in professional occupations, the group with the highest median pay. Of the 24,963 women living in Buckinghamshire and working in professional occupations, 63.8 per cent are employed as either health or education professionals compared to only 19.8 per cent of men, while only 11.3 per cent are employed as science, research, engineering and technology professionals, compared to 43.6 per cent of men, with men outnumbering women by more than four to one. The most extreme overrepresentation is in skilled trades, where men outnumber women by more than eight to one, rising to 49 to one for skilled building and construction trades.

Table 9: Residents' occupations, 2011

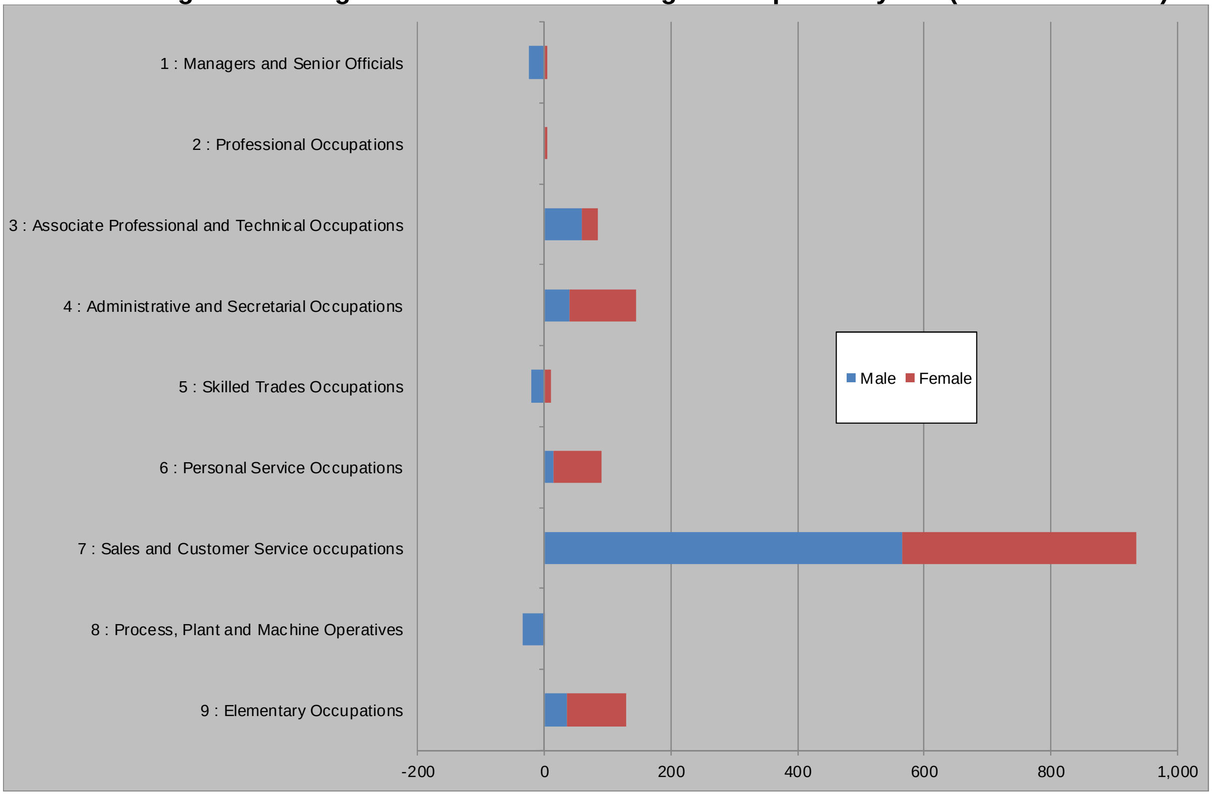
	Number			%			Difference	
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	No.	%
Managers, directors and senior officials	39,225	26,721	12,504	15.3	19.5	10.5	14,217	9.0
Professional	51,273	26,580	24,693	20.0	19.4	20.7	1,887	-1.3
Associate professional and technical	38,661	22,144	16,517	15.1	16.1	13.8	5,627	2.3
Administrative and secretarial	29,217	5,482	23,735	11.4	4.0	19.9	-18,253	-15.9
Skilled trades	26,986	24,184	2,802	10.5	17.6	2.3	21,382	15.3
Caring, leisure and other service	21,277	3,294	17,983	8.3	2.4	15.1	-14,689	-12.7
Sales and customer service	17,730	6,731	10,999	6.9	4.9	9.2	-4,268	-4.3
Process, plant and machine operatives	12,720	11,332	1,388	5.0	8.3	1.2	9,944	7.1
Elementary	19,694	10,862	8,832	7.7	7.9	7.4	2,030	0.5
Total	256,783	137,330	119,453				17,877	

Source: Census, ONS, 2013

A similar pattern emerges by industry with 39.3 per cent of employed women in Buckinghamshire working in the public sector compared to 14.1 per cent of men, while 22.7 per cent of men work in construction and manufacturing, compared to 7.2 per cent of women. Real estate, which has dominated economic growth in Buckinghamshire employs 1.8 per cent of women and 1.5 per cent of the county's working residents.

Among Buckinghamshire's Jobs Seekers' Allowance claimants, sales and retail assistant was the most common sought occupation in February 2014, accounting for a record 27.7 per cent of all claimants, rising to 32.5 per cent of female claimants. Claimants looking for work in managerial, professional and technical occupations now account for only 15.6 per cent of claimants, the lowest share on record, while at 675, the number of claimants has returned to pre-recession levels. The change in sought occupations of claimants from March 2008 to March 2014 is presented below.

Chart 6: Change in Buckinghamshire claimants' sought occupation by sex (Mar 2008 – 2014)



Source: DWP, 2014

There were 5,036 jobs advertised in Buckinghamshire in March, professional occupations accounting for almost a third of vacancies and associate professionals accounting for 22.1 per cent. The most commonly advertised jobs were nurses (184 openings in March), programmers and software development professionals, IT business analysts, business sales executives and primary and nursery teaching professionals. There were 28 advertised vacancies for sales and retail assistants, or one advertisement for every 44 claimants.

The most commonly sought baseline skills were communication skills (15.8 per cent of vacancies); management (11.9); training (11.5); organisational skills (10.4) and leadership (7.1). Project management was specified in 4.6 per of advertisements. The sought "specialised" skills were sales; relationship building; contract management and SQL. Where academic subjects were mentioned, these were most commonly business administration, computer science; and nursing science.

5.0 Educational attainment

"Education is the best inoculation against unemployment. It's what gives our children the skills they need to compete, get a job and secure their future and it's what gives our country the platform from which to innovate, create new products and take on the world. So an economic plan that doesn't include delivering a first-class, world-class education system, is no economic plan at all".

David Cameron, 4 March 2014[3]

Buckinghamshire has the fourth lowest proportion of residents holding no qualifications out of all Local Enterprise Partnerships. The BTVLEP proportion (6.0 per cent) is higher than TV Berkshire (5.7 per cent), Oxfordshire (5.5 per cent) and Enterprise M3 (4.5 per cent).

Only 2.6 per cent of Chiltern residents hold no qualifications, this is the 7th lowest proportion of all 380 local authority districts in Great Britain. Wycombe has the highest share of residents with no qualifications at 7.8 per cent, still well below the 9.3 per cent recorded across the country as a whole.

At 43.9 per cent, Buckinghamshire has the third highest proportion working age residents holding degree level qualifications of all 39 LEPs, behind London (49.1 per cent) and Oxfordshire (46.0). All Buckinghamshire districts better the national and regional share of residents qualified to NVQ level 4 or above. Chiltern has the highest proportion of residents with degree level qualifications, in Buckinghamshire at 53.3 per cent, to rank 18th of all 380 local authority districts in Great Britain.

Table 10: Educational attainment (working age), 2013

	NVQ4+			NVQ3			NVQ2			NVQ1			No Quals		
	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	45,000	41.1	80	22,930	21.0	234	19,555	17.9	257	15,815	14.5	220	6,100	5.6	75
Chiltern	28,500	53.3	18	10,360	19.4	287	7,410	13.9	351	5,830	10.9	340	1,400	2.6	7
South Bucks	18,600	43.4	65	7,700	18.0	318	6,200	14.5	346	6,700	15.7	168	3,100	7.2	141
Wycombe	43,400	42.3	70	18,580	18.1	313	18,780	18.3	238	13,940	13.6	268	8,000	7.8	164
Buckinghamshire	135,500	43.9	4	59,520	19.3	26	52,320	17.0	25	42,360	13.7	21	18,600	6.0	6
BTVLEP	135,500	43.9	3	59,520	19.3	37	52,320	17.0	37	42,360	13.7	32	18,600	6.0	4
Enterprise M3	428,800	42.4	5	209,590	20.7	32	188,665	18.7	27	137,745	13.6	33	45,900	4.5	1
Hertfordshire	300,000	41.7	6	144,780	20.1	34	133,230	18.5	28	91,190	12.7	38	50,000	7.0	11
Oxfordshire	194,200	46.0	2	87,580	20.7	31	63,680	15.1	38	53,540	12.7	37	23,100	5.5	2
London	2,667,900	49.1	1	855,020	15.7	39	783,020	14.4	39	711,060	13.1	36	421,700	7.8	15
Northamptonshire	136,100	31.0	23	102,100	23.2	12	79,950	18.2	33	75,050	17.1	9	46,200	10.5	28
SEMLEP	385,100	34.5	16	244,300	21.9	23	210,100	18.8	25	174,900	15.7	21	100,800	9.0	21
TV Berkshire	251,600	43.1	4	115,140	19.7	35	104,590	17.9	35	79,170	13.6	35	33,300	5.7	3
South East	2,076,600	38.3	3	1,167,160	21.5	9	1,030,160	19.0	9	799,280	14.7	9	350,100	6.5	1
Great Britain	13,743,400	35.2		8,258,420	21.2		7,370,870	18.9		5,984,610	15.3		3,634,600	9.3	

Source: APS, ONS, 2014

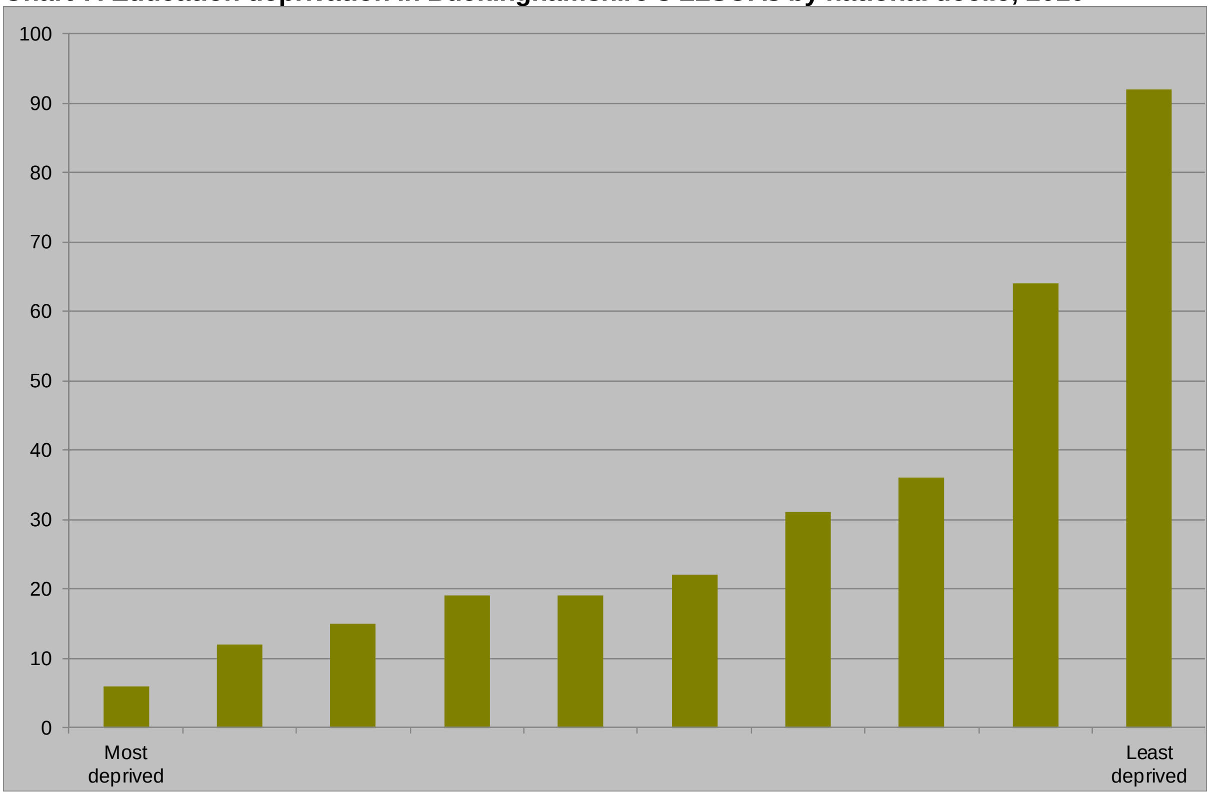
Buckinghamshire has the best schools in the country, with 88 per cent of the county's 19 year olds being qualified to NVQ level 2 and 72 per cent being qualified to this level including mathematics and English and over a quarter of school leavers attending Russell Group universities, to rank first among LEPs and counties on all three measures[4].

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-values-that-underpin-our-long-term-economic-plan
[4] See http://www.bbf.uk.com/download/228 and http://www.bbf.uk.com/download/226

The success of Buckinghamshire's schools and the poor retention rate is reflected by the county's comparative standings for educational attainment by age. While Buckinghamshire outperformed the national level for degree level attainment for all age groups at the last Census, the county ranked 16th of all 174 upper tier authorities in England and Wales for residents aged 65 and over, progressively falling to 44th for those aged 25-44 and 49th for those aged 16-24.

Despite this high overall level of achievement, of the 316 lower level super output areas in Buckinghamshire, 26 rank among the most deprived quartile on the education, skills and training deprivation. Deprivation is measured across seven domains including points scores at key stages 2 and 3, numbers leaving school at 16 and absences. The most deprived part of Buckinghamshire is part of Oakridge and Castlefield ward in Wycombe, ranking 1,022nd most deprived of the 32,485 LLSOAs in England, ahead of parts of Quarrendon, (2,413rd), Southcourt (2,561st and 2,661st) and Gatehouse(2,675th), all in Aylesbury Vale. However, 55.4 per cent of Buckinghamshire residents live in the country's least deprived quartile. The distribution is presented in Chart 7.

Chart 7: Education deprivation in Buckinghamshire's LLSOAs by national decile, 2010



Source: IMD, DCLG, 2010

Only 61 per cent of Buckinghamshire firms had recruited in the last two to three years, below the 64 per cent recorded across the country as a whole, with only 24 per cent – the joint lowest of all LEPs – having recruited directly from education – well below the 32 per cent recorded in neighbouring Oxfordshire.

Only 3 per cent of business in Buckinghamshire reported skills shortage vacancies in 2013, however this accounted for 30.5 per cent of all vacancies. This skills most commonly missing were:

- Technical, practical or job specific skills (87 per cent);
- Oral communication (59 per cent);
- Problem solving skills (55 per cent);
- Planning and organisation skills (53 per cent); and
- Written communication (51 per cent)

Skills gaps in their current workforce were identified by 6.1 per cent of Buckinghamshire businesses, the 5th highest proportion among LEPs. With planning and organisation skills (68 per cent); team working skills (67 per cent) and technical, practical or job specific skills (64 per cent) being most commonly cited. Skills gaps in Buckinghamshire are most commonly met by increasing the workload of other staff.

Only 57 per cent of staff in Buckinghamshire's businesses received training in 2013. With employees receiving an average of 2.9 days training per employee per year, the lowest of any LEP.

6.0 Earnings

Gross median full-time earnings for those working in Buckinghamshire rose 3.1 per cent in 2013 to stand at £29,329. This was the 8th highest rate of growth among the 27 county council areas and well above the 2.1 per cent recorded across the country as a whole. For residents, pay fell 2.7 per cent to £31,396, the weakest growth of any of the 27 county council areas.

Workplace based earnings rose relative to residents' earnings for a second successive year, reducing the gap between the two to 7.0 per cent (£2,067), still the 8th largest gap of all county council areas. The gap is largest in South Bucks at 9.2 per cent (£2,772) the 116th largest gap of all 380 local authority districts in Great Britain. In Wycombe, those employed in the district earn more than residents for the first time, albeit with a gap of only £4. Wycombe now has the 47th highest paid workers in Great Britain, the 29th highest outside London.

Table 11: Annual gross median full-time residence & workplace based earnings, 2013

	Residence				Workplace			
	£	Rank	% change	Rank	£	Rank	% change	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	29,197	100	-3.5	348	27,255	115	-1.9	307
Chiltern	-	-	-	-	28,809	75	0.0	240
South Bucks	32,907	38	-3.6	349	30,135	49	-5.7	360
Wycombe	30,456	72	-5.0	364	30,460	47	6.7	55
Buckinghamshire	31,396	3	-2.7	27	29,329	2	3.1	8
South East	29,732	2	0.9	10	28,400	2	0.8	11
England	27,375	-	2.0	-	27,376	-	2.1	-
Great Britain	27,126	-	2.1	-	27,110	-	2.1	-

Source: ASHE, ONS, 2013

7.0 Housing

> *"The mortgage surge is fuelling a housing price boom in London and the South East; the SME lending squeeze is impeding recovery in business investment, exports and in the productive, real economy. Fortunately, the Governor of the Bank of England is alert to the house price danger, and I am confident that action will be taken to stop another damaging property bubble".*
>
> Vince Cable, 6 March 2014[5]

There were 1,630 dwellings completed in Buckinghamshire in 2013, representing 0.78 per cent of existing stock. This was the 5th highest rate of growth among the 27 county council areas, ranking 3rd among the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). While the number of dwellings completed in Buckinghamshire fell for a second consecutive year, house building in the county remains above the levels seen before the recession. Aylesbury Vale is responsible for all the growth in Buckinghamshire, with house building rates only half the pre-recession levels in both South Bucks and Wycombe.

Of the four Buckinghamshire districts, only Aylesbury Vale bettered the national rate of growth for both completed and started dwellings, while Wycombe bettered the national rate for starts only. The 1,020 dwellings completed in Aylesbury Vale represented 1.4 per cent of stock, the 4th highest growth rate of all 326 local authorities in England, behind only Cambridge, North West Leicestershire and Tower Hamlets.

With 1,630 dwellings completed in the last year, more homes were built in Buckinghamshire than in any of the core cities, while with 1,020 completed dwellings Aylesbury Vale alone built more homes than Manchester (770), Liverpool (650), Sheffield (480), Newcastle (470) and Nottingham (190). Buckinghamshire also completed more dwellings in the last year than 31 of the 32 London Boroughs.

Across England 109,670 dwellings were completed in 2013, with 123,010 started. This was 5,670 fewer than 2012 and 66,970 (37.9 per cent) fewer than 2007. The number of starts was the highest since the start of the recession, 25,370 higher than 2012, but still 60,590 below 2007's pre-recession total and at least 21.0 per cent below the annual totals from 1969-70 to 2007-08.

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/mansion-house-trade-and-industry-dinner-2014

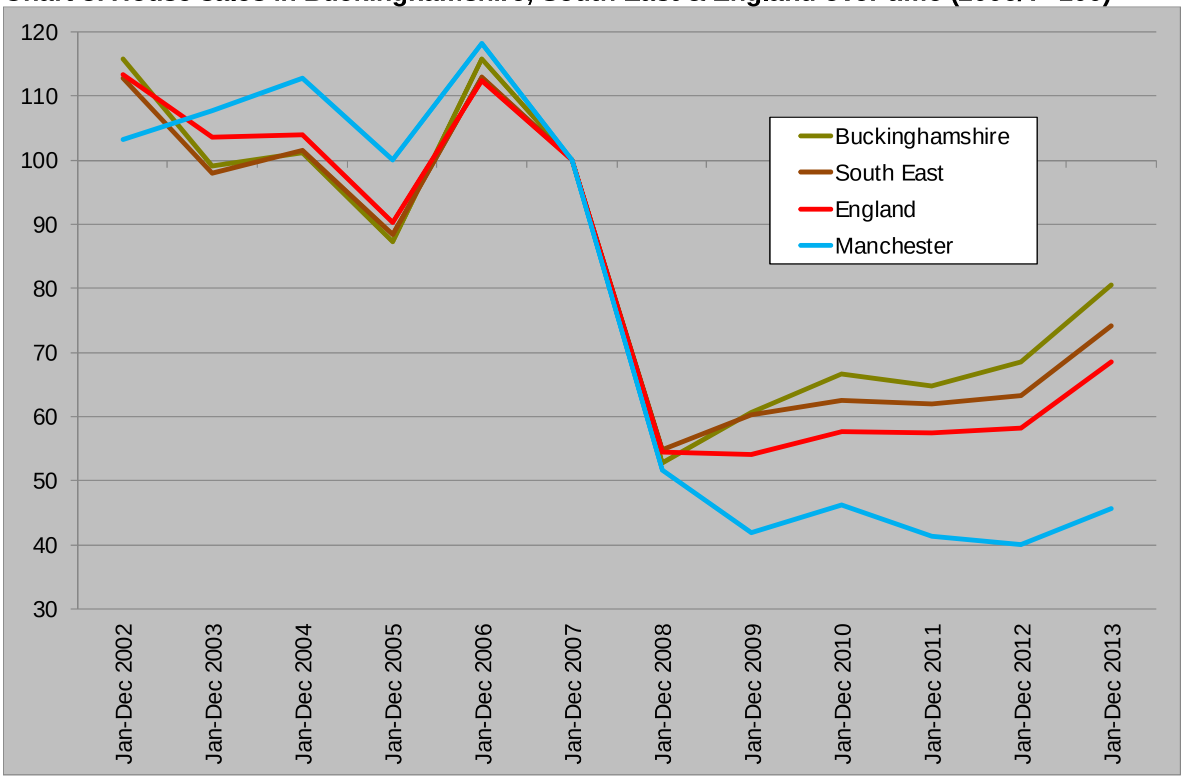
Table 12: Annual housing completions

	Stock, 2012	Year to Q4 2010	Q4 2011	Q4 2012	Q4 2013	Growth %	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	72,990	660	1,000	950	1,020	1.4	4
Chiltern	38,460	110	150	270	170	0.4	154
South Bucks	27,840	80	130	190	120	0.4	158
Wycombe	70,600	360	680	300	310	0.4	155
Buckinghamshire	209,890	1,180	1,950	1,690	1,630	0.8	5
BTVLEP	209,890	1,210	1,960	1,710	1,620	0.8	3
Coast to Capital	839,340	3,840	3,680	4,170	4,650	0.6	14
Enterprise M3	690,680	5,100	4,280	4,130	4,110	0.6	10
Hertfordshire	471,040	2,590	2,470	2,580	2,420	0.5	18
London	3,383,020	15,260	17,630	21,470	16,870	0.5	21
Northamptonshire	300,210	1,730	1,770	1,730	1,950	0.6	8
Oxfordshire LEP	271,310	1,360	1,260	1,480	1,420	0.5	17
South East Midlands	720,040	5,650	6,050	6,050	5,840	0.8	2
Thames Valley Berkshire	353,690	1,440	1,490	1,740	1,990	0.6	13
England	23,111,080	106,730	113,350	115,340	109,670	0.5	

Source: DCLG, 2014

There were 791 house sales in Buckinghamshire in December, the fewest transactions for six months but an increase of 17.7 per cent over the last 12 months. However, the 8,471 houses sold in the year to December 2013 was the highest annual total since the recession. Although transactions remain 25.5 per cent below the levels seen in 2007, Buckinghamshire's house sales have been the 23rd most resilient in the country.

Chart 8: House sales in Buckinghamshire, South East & England over time (2006/7=100)



Source: Land Registry, 2014

Help to Buy was used in 125 house sales across Buckinghamshire in 2013, including 87 in Aylesbury Vale alone. Aylesbury Vale saw the 12th most Help to Buy purchases of all 326 local authorities in England.

House prices in Buckinghamshire rose 4.5 per cent in the year to February to return to within 2.0 per cent below the pre-recession peak at £271,108. Buckinghamshire's house prices are the 33rd highest of the 172 upper tier authorities in England and Wales and the 4th highest outside London, behind Windsor & Maidenhead, Surrey and Wokingham.

Reflecting house prices and the prevalence of larger properties in the county, Buckinghamshire has the second highest mean rents among both the 27 county council areas and the 39 LEPs at £1,042 per month. At £850 per month median rents are the third highest among county council areas. At £1,100 per month, South Bucks has the highest median rent of any local authority outside London.

Table 13: Private rents, Q3 2013

					Annual change			
	Mean		Median		Mean		Median	
	£	Rank	£	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	785	102	695	112	0.6	216	1.0	173
Chiltern	1,352	20	975	35	16.8	5	8.9	24
South Bucks	1,435	15	1,100	22	-14.3	322	-12.0	325
Wycombe	1,009	50	850	59	5.4	61	6.3	43
Buckinghamshire	1,042	2	850	3	1.4	17	6.3	1
BTVLEP	1,042	2			1.3	25		
Enterprise M3	1,001	4			1.4	22		
Hertfordshire	921	6			-1.6	37		
London	1,468	1			10.5	1		
Northamptonshire	580	25			1.4	24		
Oxfordshire	1,014	3			2.3	11		
SEMLEP	639	15			1.5	21		
TV Berkshire	971	5			5.9	4		
South East	857	2	750	2	3.4	3	3.4	3
England	728	-	595	-	3.3	-	3.5	-

Source: VOA, 2013

The median rent for a studio in Buckinghamshire is £525 a month, the 5th highest of any of the 27 county council areas, at only 8.2 per cent above national level. Rooms are 21.2 per cent more expensive, with successive rises from 30.0 per cent above for one bedroom properties to 68.2 per cent for houses with four or more bedrooms. Smaller properties have seen the highest year on year increases, with median rents rising 10.5 per cent for studios and by 8.3 per cent for one bedroom homes, respectively the third and second highest rates of increase of all county councils. Rent inflation was above the national level for all property types except rooms and houses with four or more bedrooms.

9.0 Benefits

Benefit expenditure in Buckinghamshire was £1.06bn in 2012/13, with state pension payments accounting for 62.4 per cent of that total. At £780 per capita, expenditure on benefits other than state pensions in Buckinghamshire was the lowest of any county council area or Local Enterprise Partnership and less than half the level in five of the 39 LEPs (Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, London, Black Country and North Eastern).

However, benefit expenditure excluding state pension rose 10.4 per cent (and 7.7 per cent per capita) from 2009/10 to 2012/13, the third highest level among the 27 county council areas and second highest among LEPs.

Table 14: Benefit expenditure, 2012/13

	Benefit Expenditure			Benefit Expenditure (excl state pension)			State pension		
	£m	Per capita	Rank	£m	Per capita	Rank	£m	Per capita	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	353	1,985	308	145	816	285	208	1,169	240
Chiltern	204	2,194	259	63	676	318	141	1,518	84
South Bucks	149	2,205	257	49	727	313	100	1,478	97
Wycombe	357	2,059	297	142	821	282	215	1,238	214
Buckinghamshire	1,062	2,077	26	399	780	27	663	1,297	23
BTVLEP	1,062	2,077	37	399	780	39	663	1,297	21
Enterprise M3	3,530	2,147	35	1,325	806	38	2,204	1,341	16
Hertfordshire	2,452	2,172	34	1,081	957	33	1,371	1,214	30
London	19,689	2,370	29	13,305	1,601	3	6,383	768	39
Northamptonshire	1,586	2,263	31	722	1,030	29	864	1,233	29
Oxfordshire	1,330	2,013	38	546	826	37	784	1,187	33
SEMLEP	3,704	2,134	36	1,770	1,020	30	1,933	1,114	36
TV Berkshire	1,692	1,942	39	785	901	36	907	1,041	38
South East	20,810	2,385	9	9,431	1,081	9	11,379	1,304	5
England	138,159	2,583	-	72,690	1,359	-	65,469	1,224	-

Source: DWP, 2013

There were 17,690 Buckinghamshire residents in receipt of out of work benefits in August 2013, having fallen 1,530 from the previous August, with job seekers accounting for the largest share of the fall at 1,100 or 71.9 per cent, with lone parents accounting for 13.7 per cent (210).

Table 15: Out of work benefit claimants by stat group, August 2013

	Out-of-work benefits			Job seeker			ESA and incapacity benefits			Lone parent			Others on income related benefit		
	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
Aylesbury Vale	6,500	5.7	332	1,620	1.4	320	3,800	3.3	341	870	0.8	249	220	0.2	287
Chiltern	2,650	4.8	362	730	1.3	328	1,530	2.8	366	300	0.5	351	90	0.2	287
South Bucks	1,960	4.8	362	490	1.2	341	1,140	2.8	366	250	0.6	320	80	0.2	287
Wycombe	6,580	6.0	319	2,120	1.9	255	3,380	3.1	352	830	0.8	249	250	0.2	287
Buckinghamshire	17,690	5.5	26	4,950	1.6	21	9,850	3.1	26	2,250	0.7	25	640	0.2	22
BTVLEP	17,690	5.5	38	4,950	1.6	37	9,850	3.1	39	2,250	0.7	37	640	0.2	35
Enterprise M3	55,980	5.4	39	13,130	1.3	38	33,540	3.3	38	7,280	0.7	37	2,030	0.2	35
Hertfordshire	51,410	7.1	35	14,910	2.1	27	27,850	3.9	35	6,980	1.0	22	1,670	0.2	35
London	605,400	10.6	13	191,590	3.4	10	312,940	5.5	17	81,580	1.4	6	19,290	0.3	20
Northamptonshire	41,420	9.3	22	13,150	2.9	14	21,500	4.8	27	5,330	1.2	13	1,430	0.3	20
Oxfordshire	24,200	5.7	37	5,490	1.3	38	14,610	3.4	37	3,280	0.8	36	820	0.2	35
SEMLEP	96,410	8.6	26	29,420	2.6	18	50,700	4.5	31	13,160	1.2	13	3,120	0.3	20
TV Berkshire	37,310	6.6	36	10,660	1.9	34	20,090	3.5	36	5,290	0.9	29	1,270	0.2	35
South East	418,700	7.6	11	107,830	2.0	11	242,190	4.4	11	54,120	1.0	10	14,560	0.3	8
Great Britain	4,336,860	10.9	-	1,262,290	3.2	-	2,432,680	6.1	-	497,520	1.3	-	144,380	0.4	-

Source: DWP, 2014

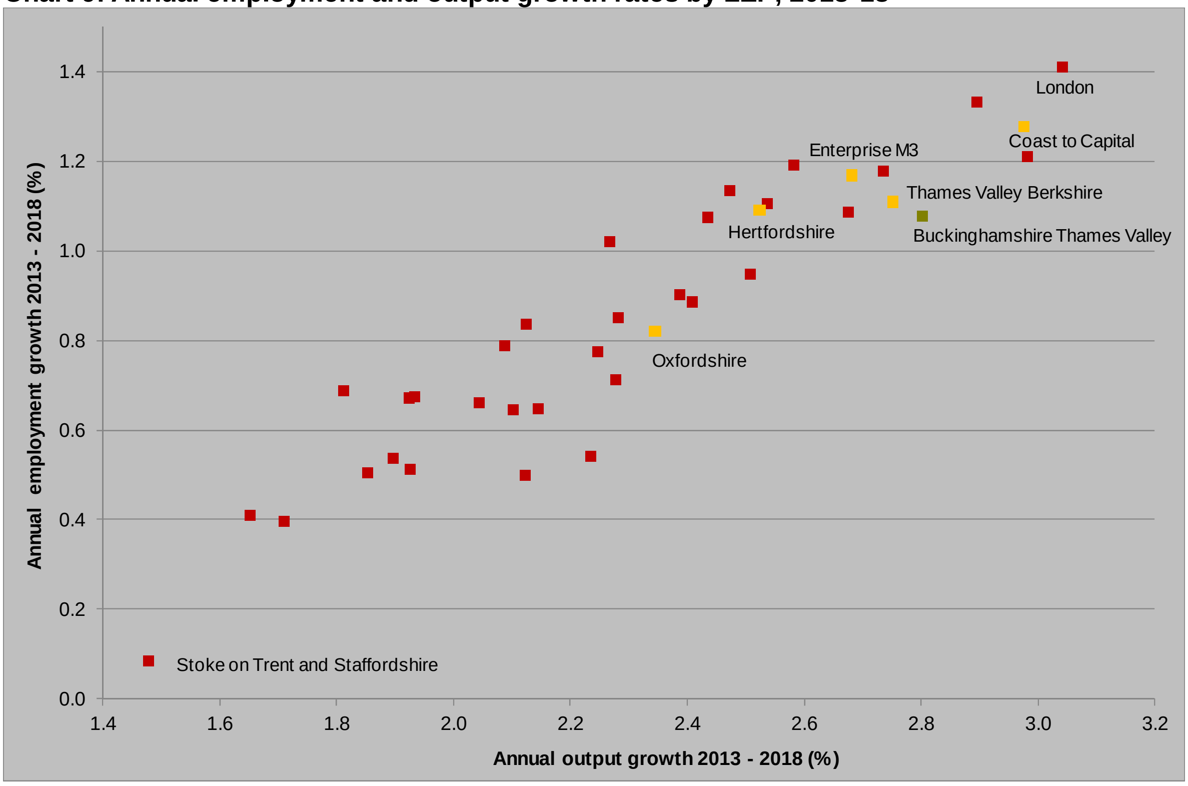
The ESA and incapacity *stat group* now accounts for 55.7 per cent of out of work benefit claimants, the highest share since the recession. With the *stat group* population having not been more than 4.0 per cent larger or smaller than at present in the last ten years.

10.0 Forecasts

Buckinghamshire will continue to outperform the national level for output and employment growth, according to the March 2014 update to Experian's Local Market Forecasts. From 2013 to 2018, employment is forecast to increase by 1.1 per cent per annum, with output rising 2.8 per cent per annum, compared to 1.0 and 2.5 per cent respectively for the UK as a whole. Buckinghamshire will have fifth fastest rate of output growth among LEPs but will rank only 11th for employment growth.

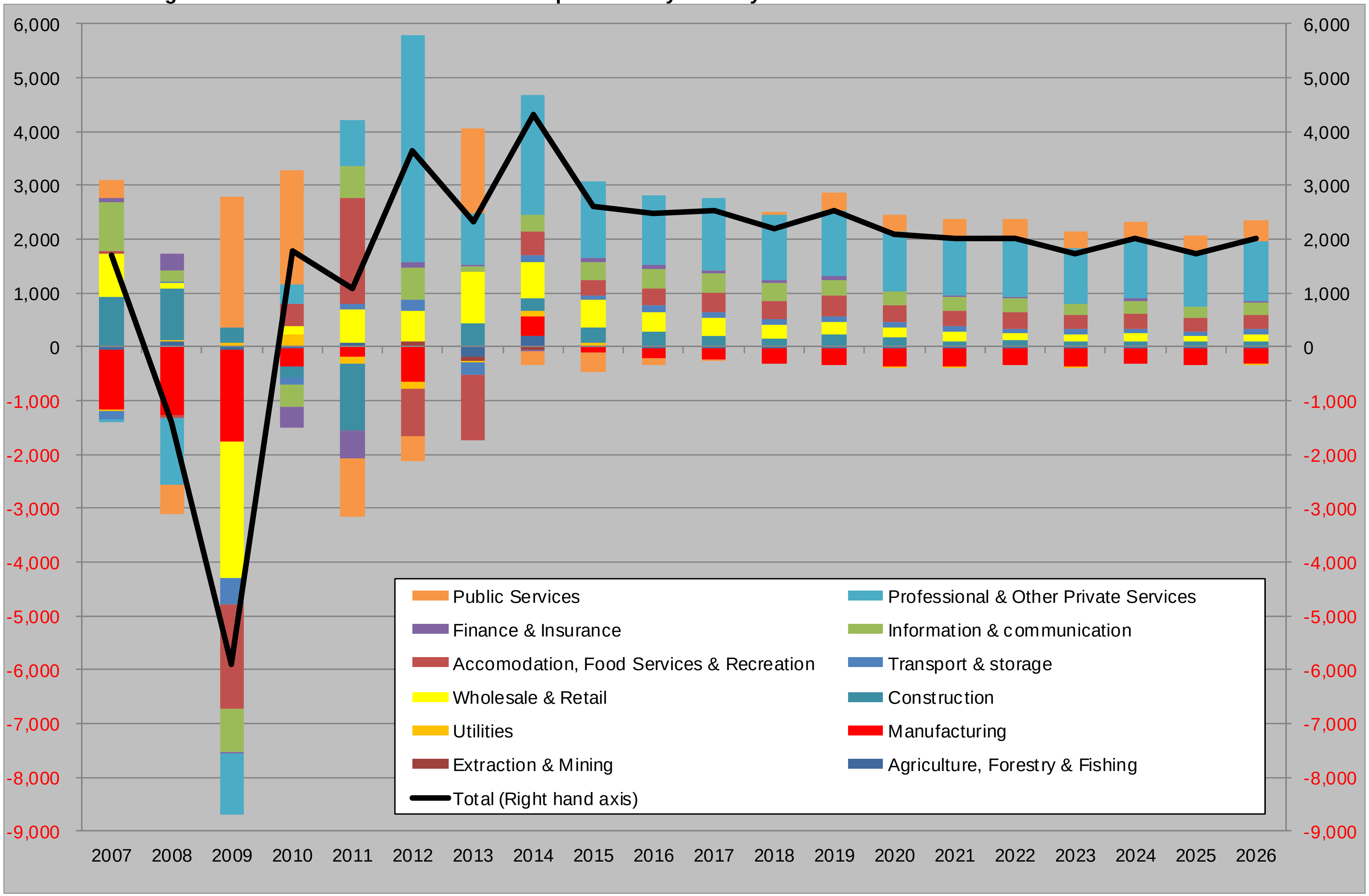
Of the 14,252 additional jobs forecast for Buckinghamshire from 2013 to 2018, the largest contributions will come from professional services (3,160 or 22.2 per cent of the total) ahead of administrative and support services (3,060, 21. per cent); wholesale (1,370, 9.6); accommodation and food service (1,290, 9.1) and computing and information services (7.9, 1,130). Manufacturing employment will fall by 460 (2.6 per cent). Annual changes to 2026 are presented in Chart 10 below.

Chart 9: Annual employment and output growth rates by LEP, 2013-18



Source: Local Markets Forecast ©, Experian, March 2014

Chart 10: Buckinghamshire's annual additional labour requirement by industry to 2026



Source: Local Markets Forecast ©, Experian, March 2014

Appendix

Chart A1: Aylesbury Vale's nearest neighbours

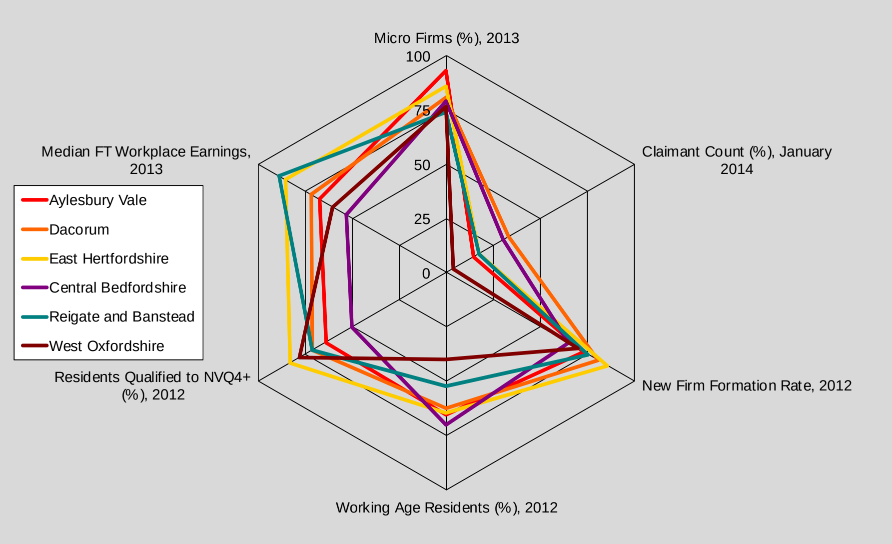


Chart A3: South Bucks' nearest neighbours

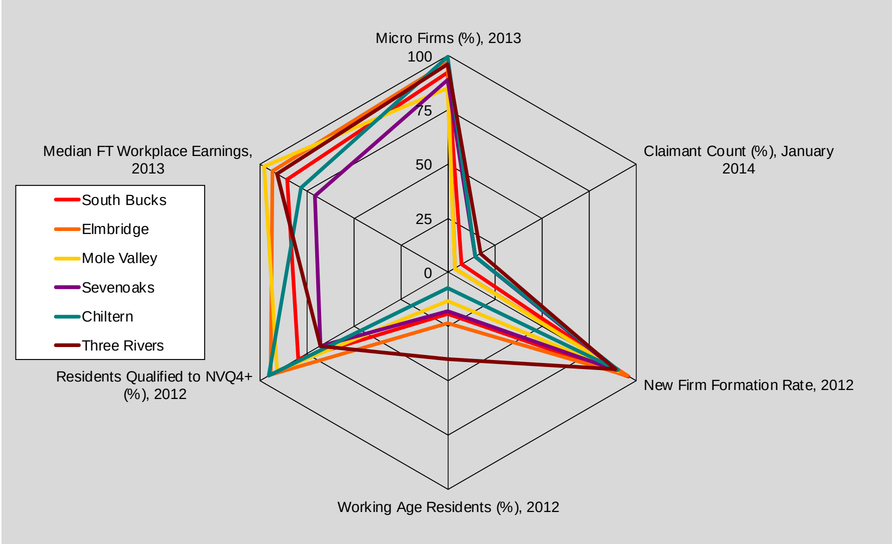


Chart A2: Chiltern's nearest neighbours

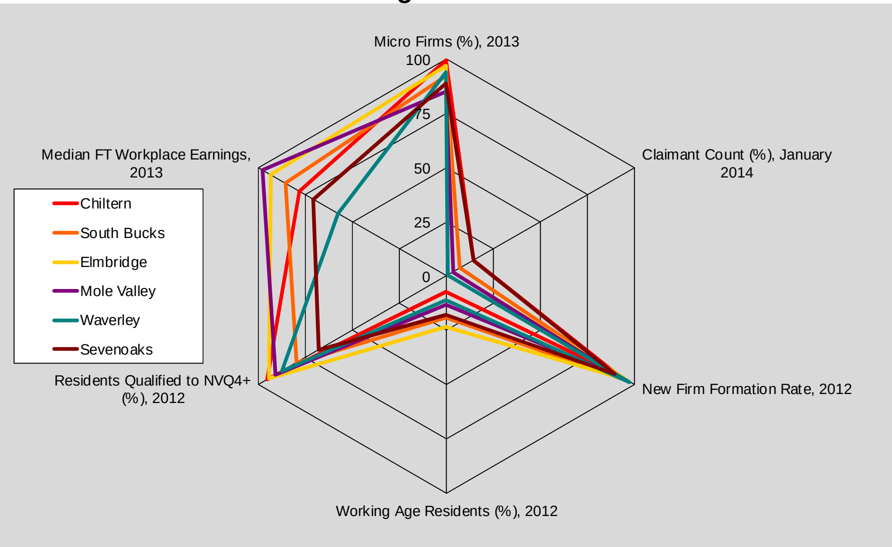


Chart A4: Wycombe's nearest neighbours

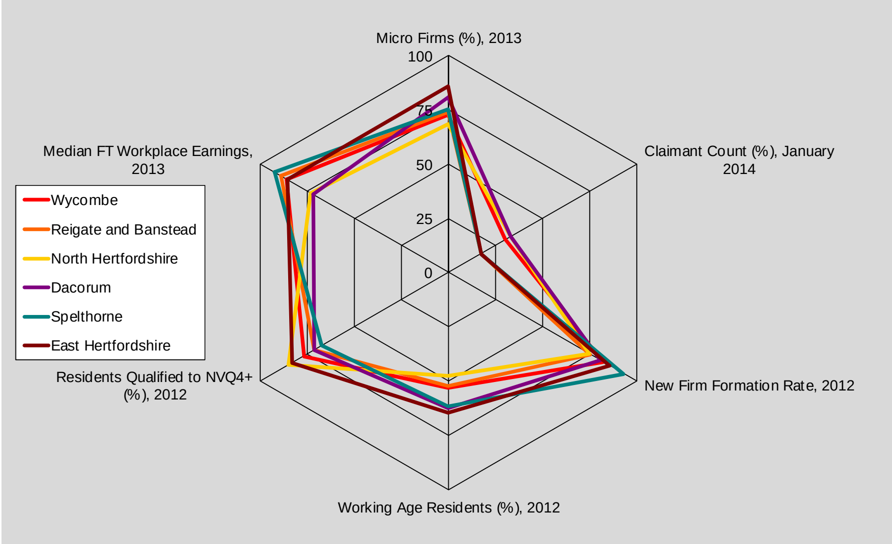


Chart A5: Output & employment in services (Q1 2006=100)

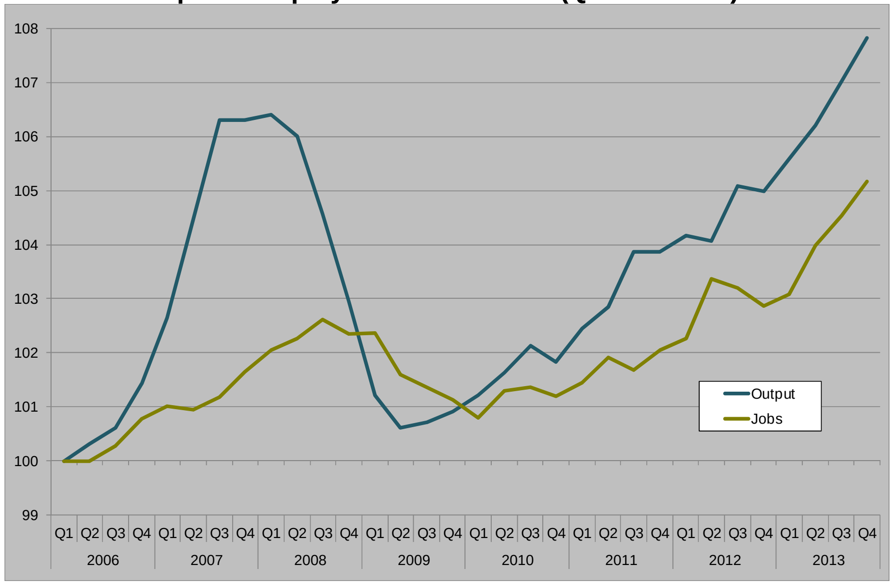


Chart A7: Output & employment in construction (Q1 2006=100)

Chart A6: Output & employment in manufacturing (Q1 2006 =100)

Chart A8: Output & employment in business & finance (Q1 2006=100)