

UK Business Register and Employment (BRES) Survey: 26th September Release

The latest annual BRES data was released this week, reporting the number of employees across areas and within sectors.¹

Key points

- There were 450,000 employees in the Black Country in 2018, a decrease of 2.6% (-12,000 employees) from 2017, nationally there was an increase of 0.6%. However, within the Black Country, Wolverhampton increased by 1,000 employees (+1.0%) from 2017 to reach 103,000 employees.
- In the Black Country, retail accounts for the highest percentage of jobs at 19.1% (approximately 86,000 jobs), followed by business services at 17.9% (80,185 jobs).
- Strong growth from 2017 was seen in transport technologies by 16.3% (+4,905 jobs) to reach 29,160 jobs, and also in building technologies with an increase of 9.3% (2,000 jobs) to reach 23,500 jobs.

In Summary

- In the Black Country there were 450,000 employees in 2018, this is a decrease of 2.6% (-12,000 employees) from 2017. However, since 2013 the Black Country has increased by 3.0% (+13,000 employees)
- Nationally there was a 0.6% increase in employees from 2017, whereas the West Midlands region decreased by 0.7% (-18,000 employees to 2,561,000).
- Within the Black Country, Wolverhampton were the only local authority to experience an increase compared to 2017 by 1,000 employees (+1.0%) to reach 103,000. Dudley and Sandwell both decreased by 6,000 employees when compared to 2017 (to 113,000 and 126,000 employees respectively).

Figure 1: Jobs Change in the Black Country and England

	2017	2018	Change over the last year	% Change over the last year
Dudley	119,000	113,000	-6,000	-5.0%
Sandwell	132,000	126,000	-6,000	-4.5%
Walsall	110,000	109,000	-1,000	-0.9%
Wolverhampton	102,000	103,000	1,000	1.0%
Black Country	462,000	450,000	-12,000	-2.6%
West Midlands Region	2,579,000	2,561,000	-18,000	-0.7%
England	25,829,000	25,976,000	147,000	0.6%

¹ Source; ONS: UK Business Register & Employment Survey (2019)

Jobs by Sector²

- The Black Country has a higher percentage of jobs in 6 sectors when compared to nationally; advanced manufacturing (12.9% vs 8.8%), environmental technology (1.3% vs 1.1%), transport technologies (8.7% vs 6.5%), health (14.4% vs 13.4%), building technology (5.2% vs 4.6%) and retail (19.1% vs 15.3%).
- In the Black Country the retail sector accounts for the highest percentage of jobs at 19.1% (approximately 86,000 jobs). For the Black Country, this sector has remained the same from the previous year.
- The second highest percentage of jobs is in the business services sector at 17.9% (80,185), however this has decreased by 4.2% (-3,550 jobs) from 2017.
- Transport technologies has increased by 16.3% (+4,095 jobs) in the Black Country to reach 29,160 in 2018. Whereas environmental technologies decreased by 32.8% (-2,950 jobs) in the Black Country, however nationally there was also a decrease by 0.7%.

Figure 2: Jobs by Sector for the Black Country

	Black Country 2017	Black Country 2018	% Of Total Black Country	Black Country Difference from 2017	England 2018	% Of Total England
Advanced Manufacturing (Transformational Sector)	66,840	67,805	15.1%	965 (+1.4%)	2,714,300	10.4%
Building Technologies (Transformational Sector)	21,500	23,500	5.2%	2,000 (+9.3%)	1,202,000	4.6%
Business Services (Transformational Sector)	83,735	80,185	17.9%	-3,550 (-4.2%)	6,605,000	25.4%
Environmental Technologies (Transformational Sector)	9,000	6,050	1.3%	-2,950 (-32.8%)	295,000	1.1%
Transport Technologies (Transformational Sector)	25,065	29,160	6.5%	4,095 (+16.3%)	1,279,000	4.9%
Health (Enabling Sector)	67,800	64,800	14.4%	-3,000 (-4.4%)	3,360,000	12.9%
Public Sector (Enabling)	69,000	63,000	14.0%	-6,000 (-8.7%)	3,972,000	15.3%
Retail (Enabling Sector)	86,000	86,000	19.1%	0	3,983,000	15.3%
Sports (Enabling Sector)	7,750	7,000	1.6%	-750 (-9.7%)	469,000	1.8%
Visitor Economy (Enabling Sector)	25,200	21,600	4.8%	-3,600 (-14.3%)	2,100,000	8.1%
Total	462,000	450,000		-12,000 (-2.6%)	25,976,000	

² Please note, when broken down by 2-digit sic code for sectors the figures will vary and when all sectors added together it will not equal the overall figure.