

UK Business Register and Employment (BRES) Survey: 27th September Release

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

The data displays a really positive story. In the Black Country overall there were **18,000 more employees in 2017 compared to the previous year, an increase of 4%. This is over three times higher than the national average of 1.1% growth.** The number of jobs in all four areas of the Black Country has increased between 2016 and 2017.

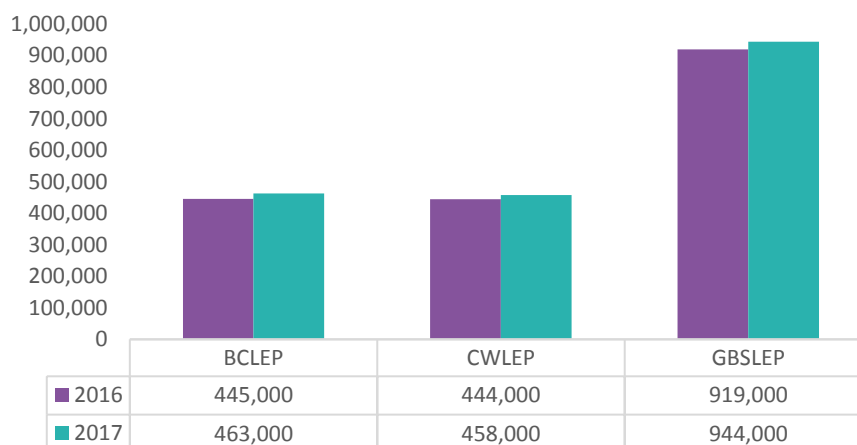
The **largest growth was in Walsall (6.7%), followed by Dudley (5.3%).** The percentage increase in Sandwell and Wolverhampton was lower (2.3% and 2.0% respectively), but still higher than the national average.

Jobs Change in the Black Country and England

Area	2016 Jobs	2017 Jobs	% Change
Dudley	113,000	119,000	+5.3%
Sandwell	130,000	133,000	+2.3%
Walsall	104,000	111,000	+6.7%
Wolverhampton	98,000	100,000	+2.0%
Black Country	445,000	463,000	+4.0%
England	25,530,000	25,821,000	+1.1%

The number of jobs in the Black Country has **increased faster than the other two WMCA LEP areas** in the last year. In the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP there was an increase in employees by 14,000 (3%), and in Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP there was an increase by 32.7% (25,000 employees). It's excellent to see **jobs increasing across the West Midlands and at a rate higher than the national average.**

Jobs Growth Across WMCA LEPs



Across all English LEP areas, only Worcestershire and Hertfordshire have experienced a greater increase than the Black Country, confirming that **in terms of jobs creation the area is one of the highest-performing areas in the country.**

¹ Source; ONS: UK Business Register & Employment Survey (2018)



Jobs by Broad Industry Group for the Black Country

The change in jobs by sector is set out in the following table. The largest increase was recorded in the **real estate sector with an additional 5,000 jobs in 2017 compared to 2016**, a 83.3% increase compared to 4.3% nationally, with the largest increase reported in Dudley (+ 2,500 jobs.)

Sectors	2016	2017	Change	% change
Manufacturing	61,000	63,000	2,000	3.3%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3,500	4,500	1,000	28.6%
Construction	18,000	21,000	3,000	16.7%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	86,000	86,000	0	0.0%
Transportation and storage	28,000	25,000	-3,000	-10.7%
Accommodation and food service activities	21,000	24,000	3,000	14.3%
Information and communication	7,000	7,000	0	0.0%
Financial and insurance activities	8,000	8,000	0	0.0%
Real estate activities	6,000	11,000	5,000	83.3%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	20,000	21,000	1,000	5.0%
Administrative and support service activities	39,000	45,000	6,000	15.4%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	13,000	14,000	1,000	7.7%
Education	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
Human health and social work activities	66,000	67,000	1,000	1.5%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%
Other service activities	12,000	12,000	0	0.0%
Black Country Total	445,000	463,000	18,000	4.0%