The Economic Intelligence Unit

Wolverhampton Growth Clusters

January 2025

Overview

This slide pack aims to support the City of Wolverhampton Council officers and wider partners to identify key sectors and clusters of strength in the City.

Produced by The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), the documents utilise a range of sources, namely:

- Office for National Statistics Data on sectors, using SIC codes
- Raw data from The Data City, a company-level data provider, including estimates on emerging sectors
- Findings from The Innovation Clusters Map from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Findings from a recent CBI and Data City study; Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK

There are 2 main components to the information:

1) **Traditional sector analysis using SIC codes:** confirming strengths in Wolverhampton according to the data, found in the Appendix.
2) **Emerging cluster analysis and opportunities**: harnessing data from DSIT, Data City and CBI to consider future opportunities in key sectors and potential emerging clusters of strength in Wolverhampton.

Together, these three components and their data sources provide some **key findings and conclusions for Wolverhampton to consider (provided on the next slide) in terms of sector /cluster strengths and opportunities.** However, more and deeper analysis can be looked at too from the EIU, as well as linking this intelligence with wider work, including on skills and investment within Wolverhampton's wider offer.

All information is correct as of January 2025 and as per sources utilised. For more information please contact Emma.Forde@theeiu.org

Identifying Key Clusters: Summary

The data collectively suggests **Wolverhampton's core economic strengths and opportunity can be broadly categorised into four cluster areas**, all with emerging opportunities and growth potential:

- **Manufacturing & Materials**, especially automotive and metals / materials supply chains, including rail and aerospace
- **Sustainable Construction**, including brownfield remediation especially
- **Logistics, Transport and E-commerce**, including freight, e-commerce and warehousing opportunities especially
- **Green Economy**, especially energy storage, waste and recycling including circular economy; and decarbonisation of all other sectors, but also supply to nuclear / others

While a **secondary set of "enabling" economy clusters remain extremely important too and the basis of the local economy;** confirmed by the traditional sector analysis as some of the largest sectors locally – often with less local specialisation and growth opportunities as those above, but notable strengths are listed below .

- **Health and Wellbeing,** strengths in human health services
- **Retail and Wholesale**, strengths in wholesale
- **Business Services**, including strengths in finance, recruitment and other business support services such as agency market, and creative services such as media, publishing and printing
- **Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality**
- **Public Sector and Education**, with particular strengths in EdTech which is a fast-growing cluster

Nascent / Emerging Clusters

Validated by Data City and other work / existing knowledge, the following “**nascent” clusters listed in the Plan for Growth are likely to be particularly relevant** to opportunities in Wolverhampton:

- **E-commerce**
- **Space Technology**
- **Cyber Security**
- **5G Adoption**
- **EdTech**
- **Further Evolution of Logistics**
- **Land Remediation**

Using Data City (and other sources) we can seek ways of identifying further new market opportunities in local places. For example, the data (see following slides) suggests **Wolverhampton may also have future opportunities related to:**

- **Advanced Manufacturing**
- **Advanced Materials**
- **Agency Market**
- **Business Support Services**
- **Cloud Computing**
- **Digital Creative Industries**
- **Finance**
- **Food Tech**
- **Sensors**
- **Engineering Biology Application**
- **Biopharmaceutical and Life Sciences**
- **Media and Publishing**
- **Energy Storage**
- **In-Orbit Servicing and Manufacturing**
- **Net Zero**

The West Midlands Innovation Prospectus is co-creating an ambitious **Innovation Settlement** centred around three globally significant innovation clusters of **clean-tech**, **med-tech**, and **creative-tech**.

Cluster activities within these three sectors have been identified within Wolverhampton; such as Land Remediation, Energy Storage, Net Zero **(clean-tech),** Engineering Biology Application, Biopharmaceutical and Life Sciences **(med-tech),** and Agency Market, Business Support Services, Digital Creative Industries, Media and Publishing **(creative-tech).**

Nascent / Emerging Clusters

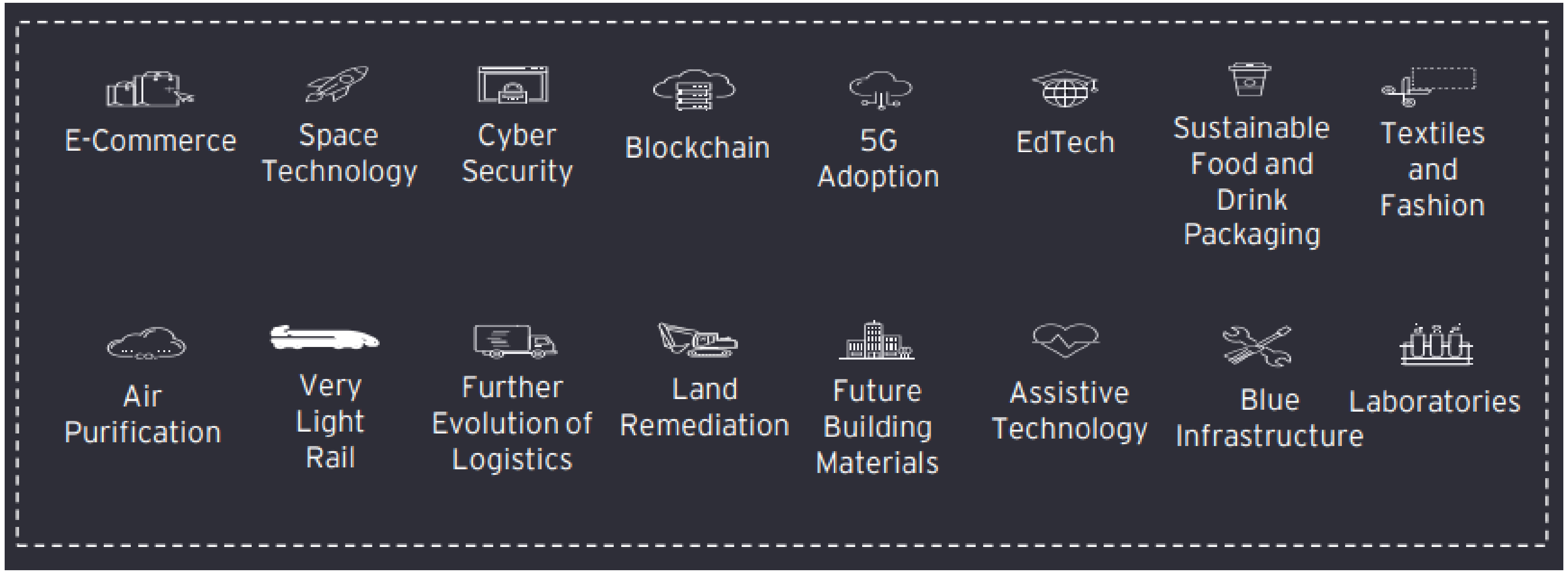
The following **emerging growth clusters** are being explored for the WMCA, with Wolverhampton validation expected in the coming weeks:

- **Advanced Recycling and Circular Economy**
- **AI-Driven Creative Technologies**
- **Autonomous Logistics and Delivery**
- **Biofabrication and Advanced Biomaterials**
- **Circular Economy in Textiles**
- **Cultural and Experiential Tourism**
- **Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure**
- **Decentralised Finance (DeFi) and Blockchain Applications**
- **Energy Storage and Distribution**
- **Ethical AI and Governance / Regulatory Advice**
- **Human Augmentation and Wearable Tech**
- **Immersive and Human-Centric Technologies**
- **Personalised Nutrition and Health**
- **Quantum Technologies**
- **Regenerative Medicine**
- **Smart Agriculture and Food Security**
- **Smart Water Management**
- **Space Resource Utilisation**
- **Synthetic Biology**
- **Urban Greening and Climate-Resilient Design**

Emerging Cluster Opportunities

Nascent / Emerging Clusters

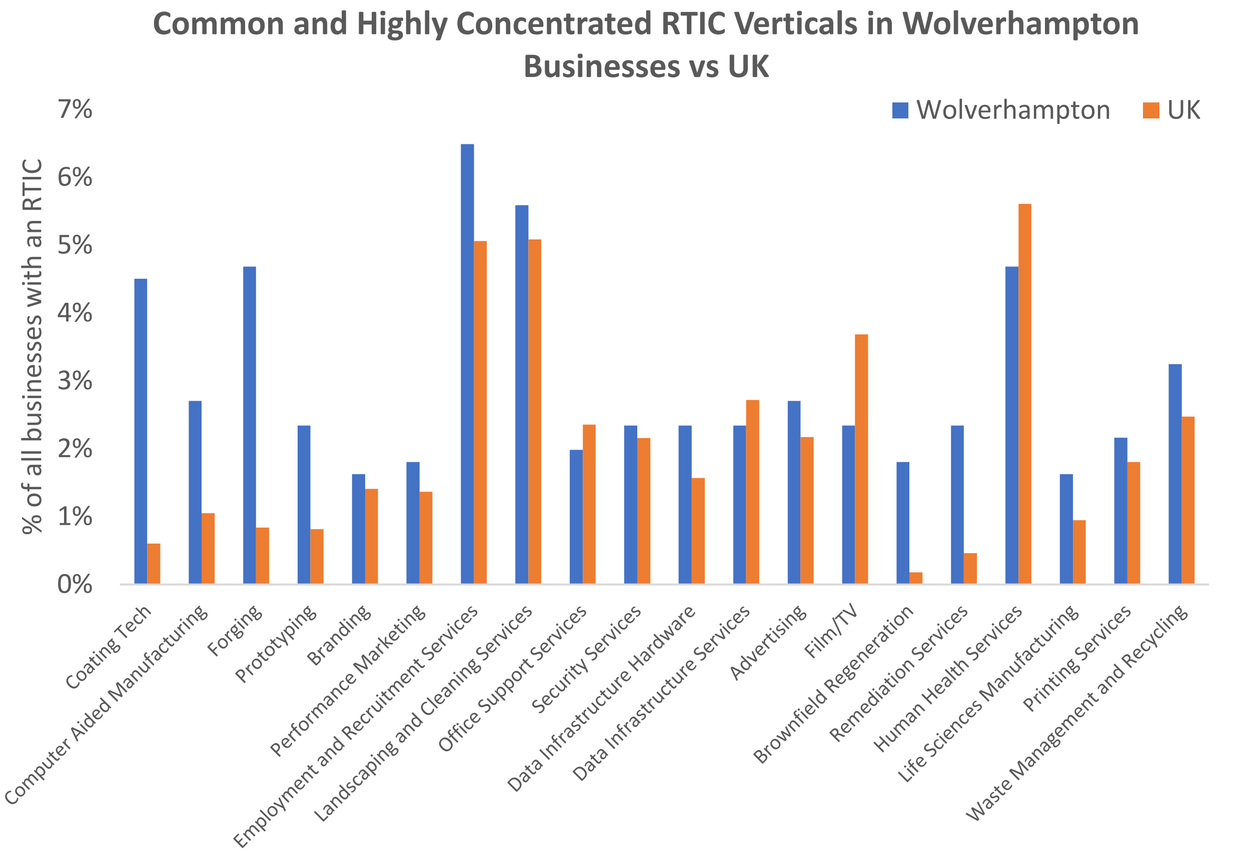
- WMCA's Plan for Growth highlighted the importance of **"nascent" clusters – including some of the following suggestions**



Data City Findings

- To map the modern, emerging and innovative economy, the Data City have produced over 400 'Real-Time Industrial Classifications' (RTICs). This aims to support a better understanding of what companies do on a self-updating basis, while helping identify more specific clusters of activity in local areas.
- The Data City platform includes almost 20,000 companies with a registered Wolverhampton address. Of this total, **555 companies are identified as working in one of the 400+ RTICs defined by Data City (2.78% of the total).**
- These companies contribute over **£1bn in turnover and over 7,800 jobs across their operations, an estimated 6,500 in Wolverhampton itself.** 91 of the companies are female founded, 8 are scaleups, while 55 have been rated as having at least 1 star for innovation within the Data City platform. **43 of these companies are identified as having an estimated 20% average growth per year.**
- The graph on the right reflects the top RTIC sub-categories in Wolverhampton. Most common RTIC sub-categories include a mixture of production and service activities. Some of these include activities linked to **traditional manufacturing industries locally, such as coating tech, forging, forming and computer aided manufacturing (CAD),** while others are more **technology based: data infrastructure services and hardware, security services,** as well as a range of **creative activities such as film/TV, advertising and printing services.**

The graph below demonstrates this through the orange & blue bars: the percentage of which companies in this RTIC make up the total share of all companies with an RTIC in Wolverhampton vs the UK. For example, **coating tech, CAD, forging, brownfield regeneration and remediation services are all specialised in Wolverhampton.**



Emerging Economy

Importantly, some RTIC categories have a high concentration of activity in Wolverhampton compared to the UK average. This reflects cluster activities that are of especially unique to Wolverhampton. The diagram below demonstrates this using employee RTIC location quotients. For example, the following are among RITC sectors that have a specialism in Wolverhampton according to the data: media and publishing, advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, energy storage, land remediation and In-Orbit servicing and manufacturing.

Location Quotient (LQ) of Businesses, Employees and Turnover in Wolverhampton by "Real-Time" Industrial Clusters

RTIC sector counts	
RTIC0075 | Land Remediation	2.8
RTIC0065 | Advanced Manufacturing	2.2
RTIC0034 | Advanced Materials	1.6
RTIC0074 | E-Commerce	1.4
RTIC0089 | Cloud Computing	1.1
RTIC0030 | Sensors	1.0
RTIC0085 | Engineering Biology Application	1.0
RTIC0073 | Rehabilitation	1.0
RTIC0083 | Biopharmaceutical	1.0
RTIC0069 | Business Support Services	0.9
RTIC0077 | Data Intermediaries	0.8
RTIC0007 | Data Infrastructure	0.8
RTIC0068 | Media and Publishing	0.8
RTIC0058 | MedTech	0.8
RTIC0029 | Software as a Service (SaaS)	0.8

Employees by RTIC sector	
RTIC0068 | Media and Publishing	5.0
RTIC0065 | Advanced Manufacturing	2.6
RTIC0075 | Land Remediation	2.6
RTIC0013 | Energy Storage	1.7
RTIC0081 | In-Orbit Servicing and Manufacturing	1.4
RTIC0082 | Space Energy	1.2
RTIC0034 | Advanced Materials	1.0
RTIC0069 | Business Support Services	1.0
RTIC0010 | EdTech	1.0
RTIC0011 | Energy Generation	0.9
RTIC0072 | Agency Market	0.9
RTIC0030 | Sensors	0.8
RTIC0008 | Geospatial Economy	0.7
RTIC0047 | CleanTech	0.7
RTIC0073 | Rehabilitation	0.6

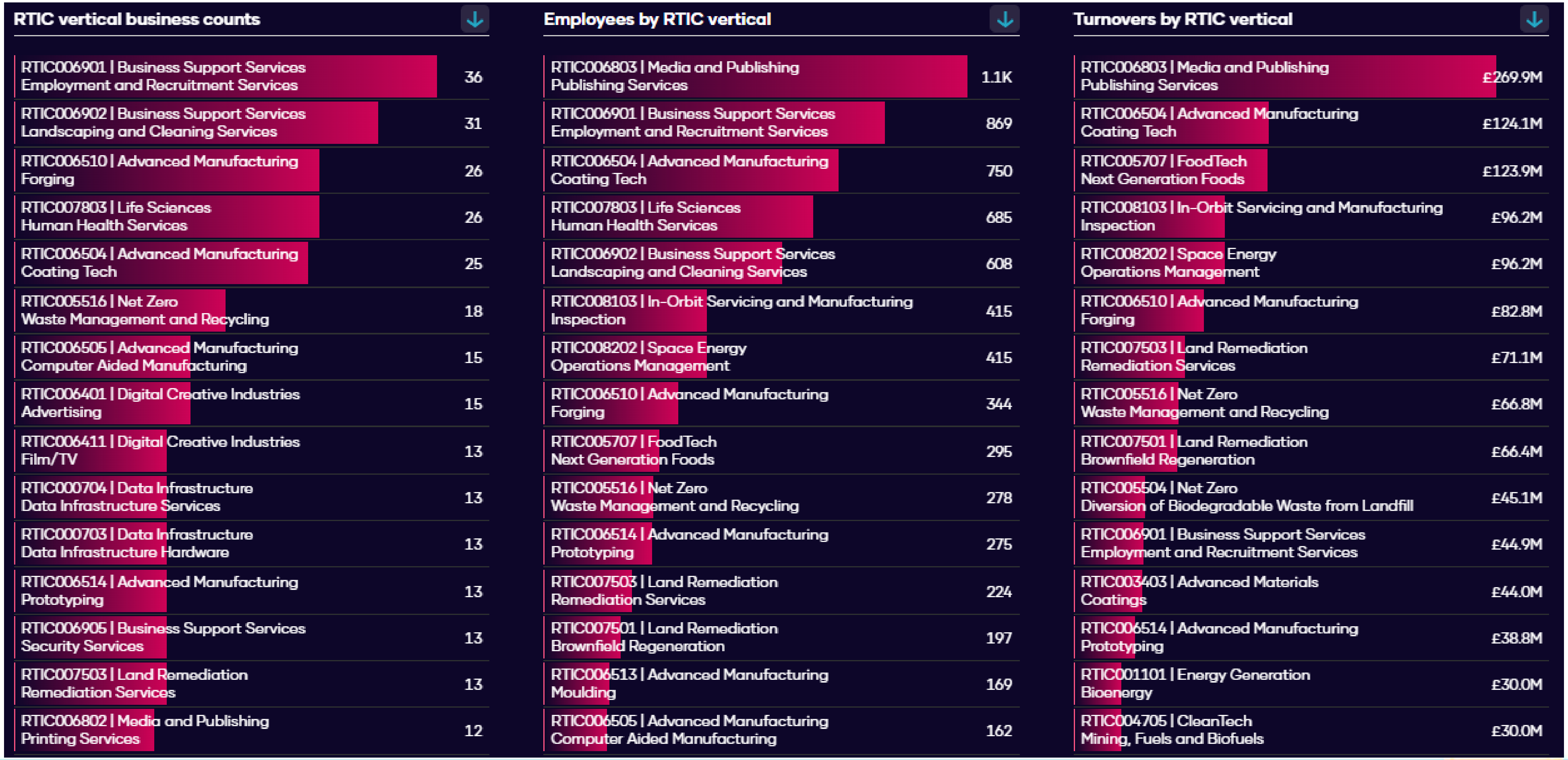
Turnovers by RTIC sector	
RTIC0068 | Media and Publishing	11.5
RTIC0075 | Land Remediation	9.8
RTIC0081 | In-Orbit Servicing and Manufacturing	4.1
RTIC0065 | Advanced Manufacturing	2.6
RTIC0082 | Space Energy	2.2
RTIC0072 | Agency Market	1.7
RTIC0069 | Business Support Services	1.1
RTIC0034 | Advanced Materials	0.9
RTIC0030 | Sensors	0.9
RTIC0008 | Geospatial Economy	0.6
RTIC0064 | Digital Creative Industries	0.6
RTIC0010 | EdTech	0.6
RTIC0073 | Rehabilitation	0.5
RTIC0013 | Energy Storage	0.5
RTIC0011 | Energy Generation	0.5

Source: Data City, 2025

Emerging Economy

When looking at sub-RTIC activity, there is clear strengths in business support systems activities such as employment and recruitment services & landscaping and cleaning services. Life sciences also appear to be strongly represented via human health services. Some more niche activities also appear, such as next generation foods, prototyping, and bioenergy.

Number of Businesses, Employees and Turnover in Wolverhampton by "Real-Time" Industrial Cluster verticals (RTIC sub activities)



Source: Data City, 2025

Emerging Economy

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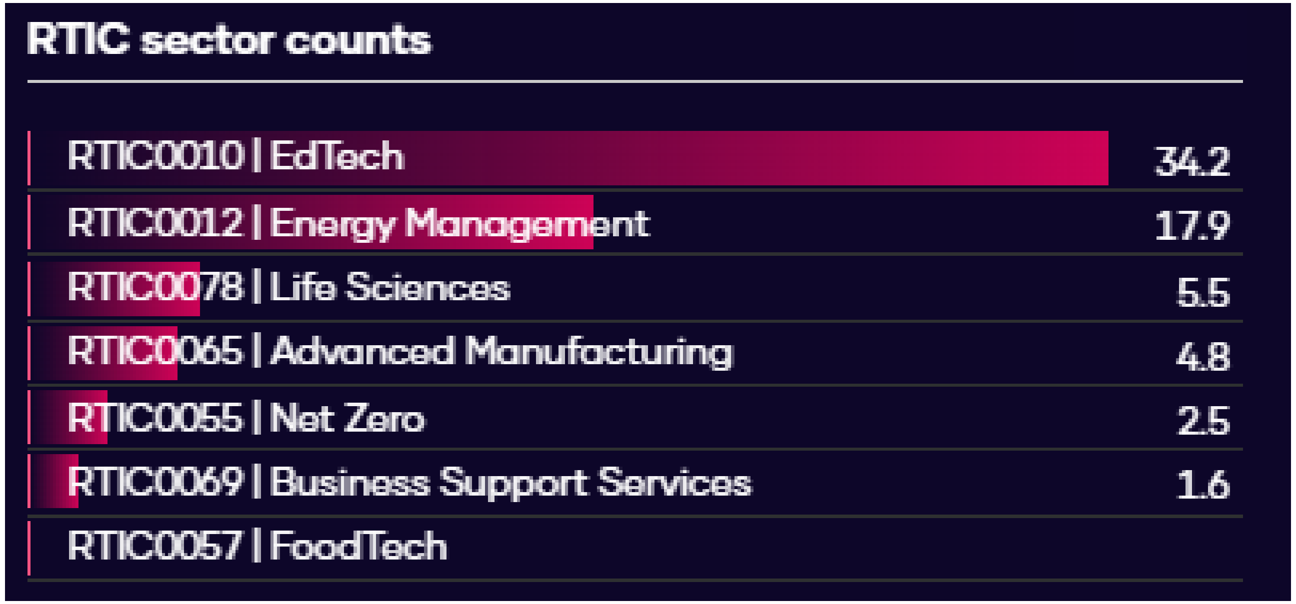
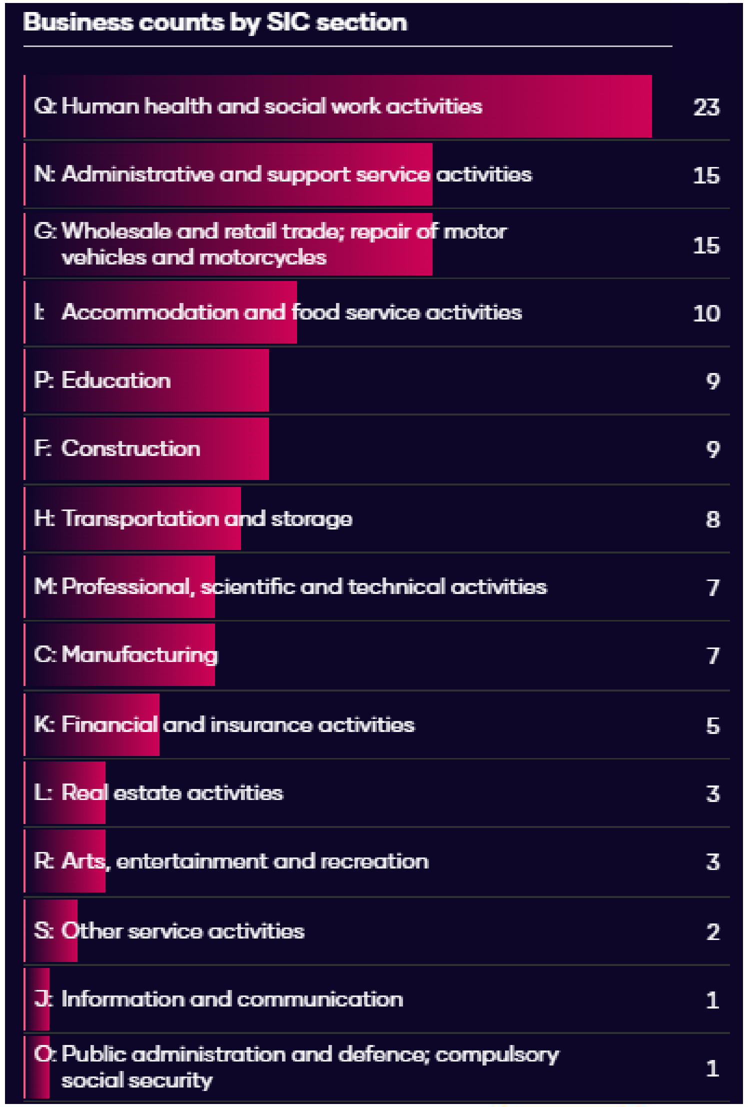
Looking at the SIC section of the **scale-up companies** specifically in the Data City platform (of which there are 102 in Wolverhampton), these appear to be rooted in known sector strengths such as wholesale, retail, construction and manufacturing, as well as service-based sectors such as professional services and administration / support, education and health. RTICs represented comparatively highly include EdTech, energy management, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

LQ of Scaleups in Wolverhampton by RTIC



Number of Scaleups in Wolverhampton by SIC section



Source: Data City, 2025

CBI Analysis

CBI: High-Value Emerging Clusters findings

- CBI Economics were commissioned by Lloyds Banking Group to identify the UK's high-value, innovative and productive clusters, with a focus on regions in the North and **Midlands**. This extensive data-driven exercise looked at how these clusters perform and their contribution to regional and national economies, aiming to build a clearer picture of the UK's competitive advantages and opportunities.

- This research revealed a host of thriving clusters that are driving growth throughout our economy. The North West, with its strong business environment and rich natural resources, is leading the way in the Net Zero sector, especially in urban hubs like Manchester and Liverpool. Life Sciences is flourishing throughout the North East, whilst **urban clusters have developed in the West Midlands thanks to key institutions and facilities in Birmingham and surrounding areas**. **Strong industrial bases in the West Midlands and Yorkshire have paved the way for successful advanced manufacturing clusters**, as South Yorkshire leads the UK Government's investment zone programme.

Key Midlands Findings:

- The UK's thriving regional **Net Zero** clusters are driving decarbonisation and economic opportunities, with most regions benefitting
- The **Life Sciences** sector is pivotal for innovation and healthcare advancements, with significant contributions to the UK's northern regions
- The **Advanced Manufacturing** sector creates significant opportunities in the North and **Midlands**, with wider productivity and innovation benefits to the economy
- **The West Midlands is known for its manufacturing base, but it also showcases significant opportunities in creative sectors such as Telecommunications and Media**
- Regional analysis highlights diverse economic strengths and opportunities beyond traditional sectors, with potential for high-value growth in years to come

Source: [CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025]

CBI: High-Value Emerging Clusters findings

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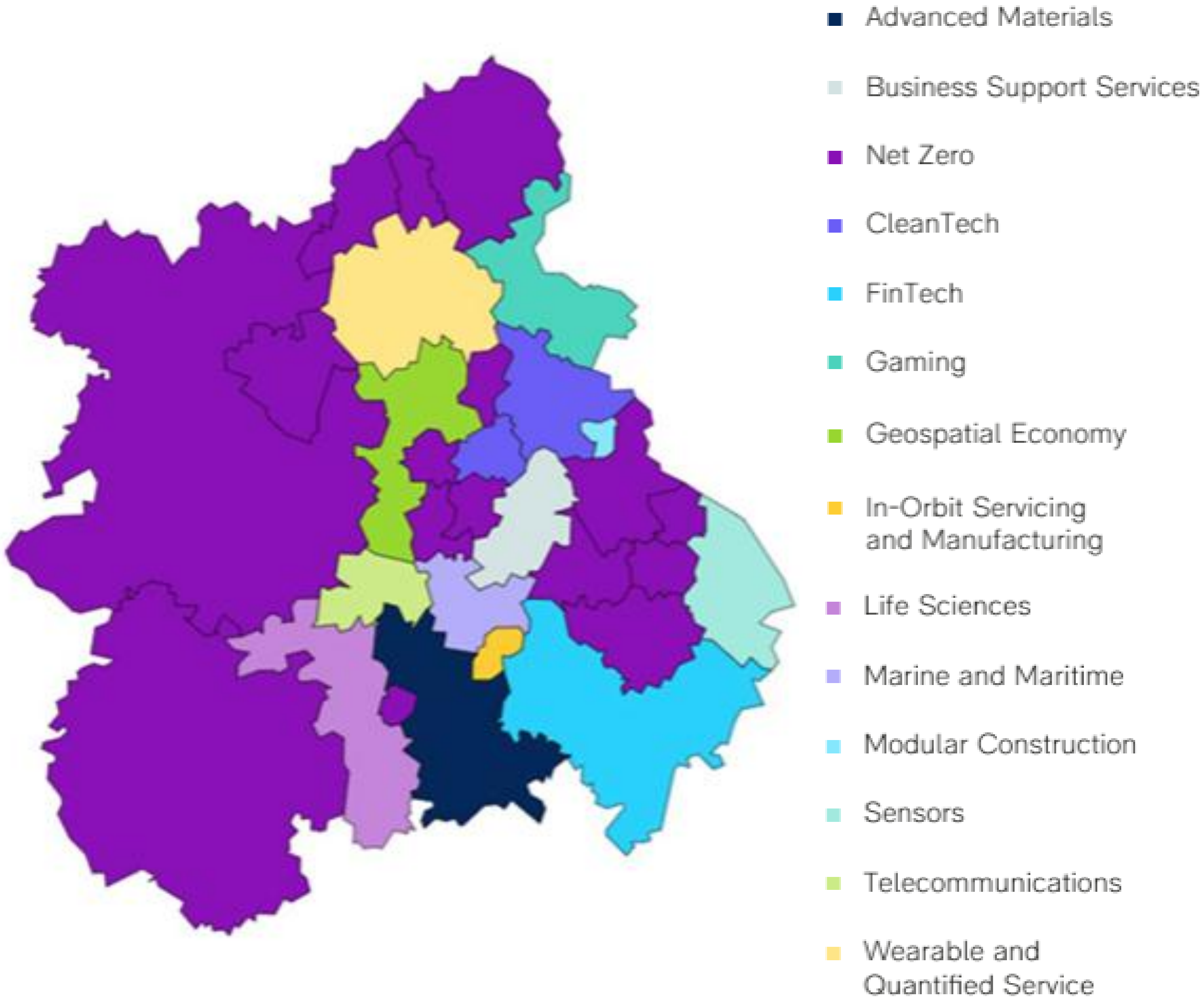
West Midlands top clusters within a local authority by cluster index



West Midlands

Economic Overview		
Working Age Population (% of UK)		3,685,000 (8.7%)
GVA (% of UK)		£160,370 million (7.1%)
Key Sectors	**GVA, (% of Region)**	**FTE (%, of Region)**
Net Zero	£6,239 million (4.5%)	69,434 (3.0%)
Business Support Services	£2,996 million (2.2%)	60,079 (2.6%)
Life Sciences	£2,282 million (1.6%)	37,985 (1.6%)

- The map on the left shows Wolverhampton's top cluster is Net Zero

Source: [CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025]

CBI: High-Value Emerging Clusters findings

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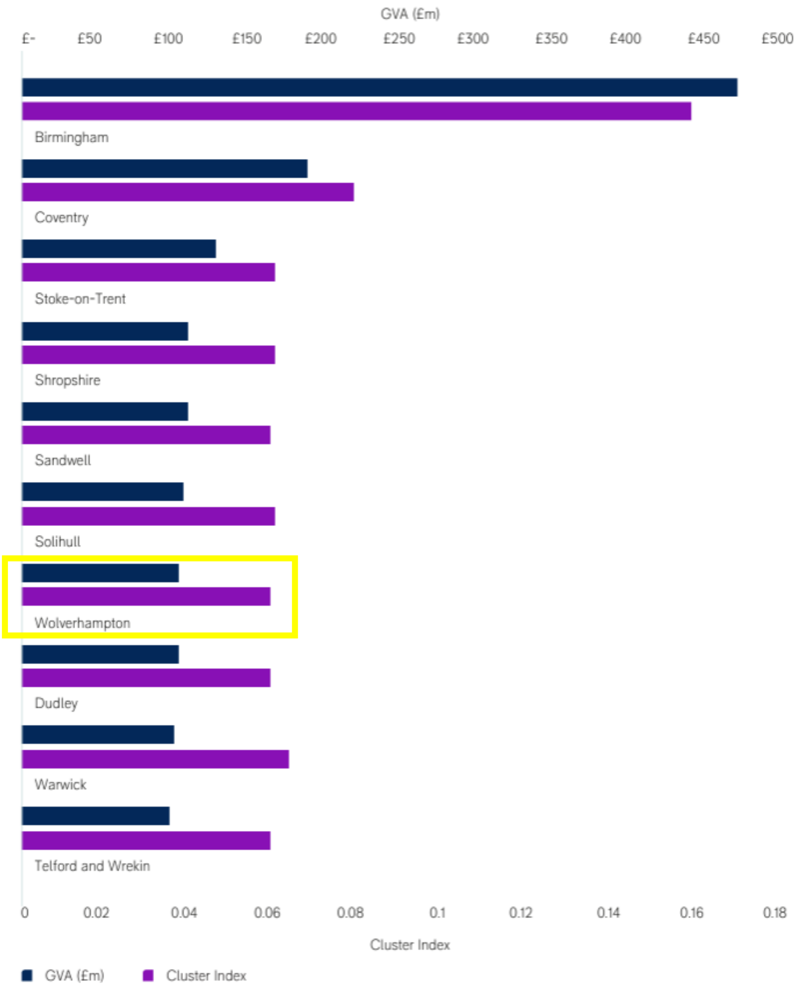
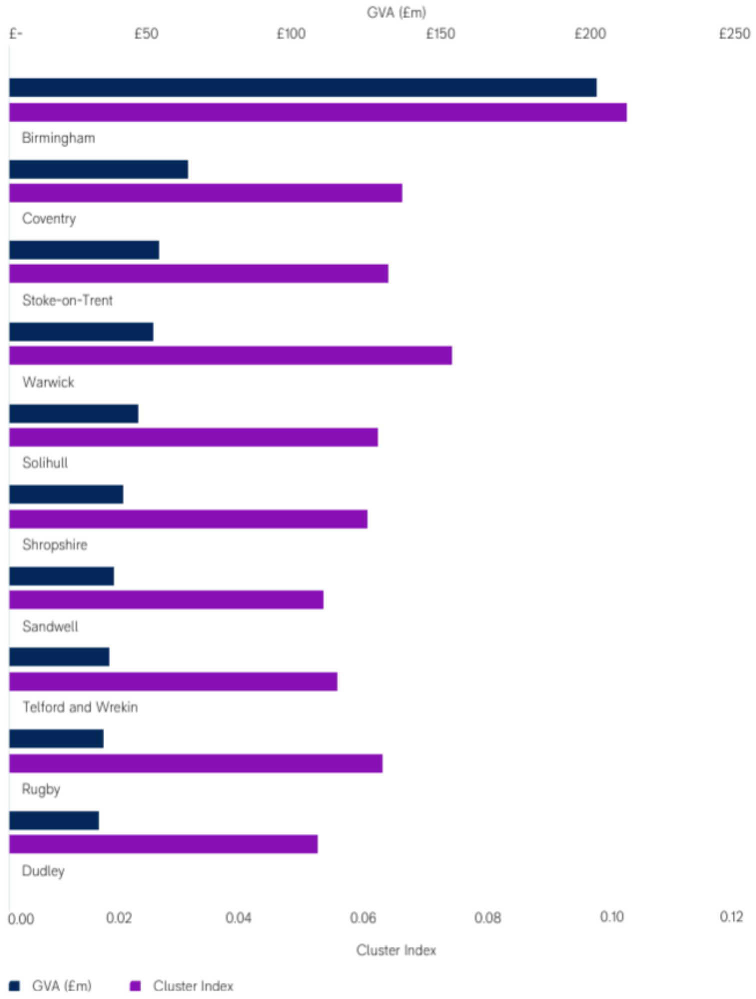
Most significant Net Zero Clusters in the West Midlands, by Local Authority

Most significant Life Sciences Clusters in the West Midlands, by Local Authority



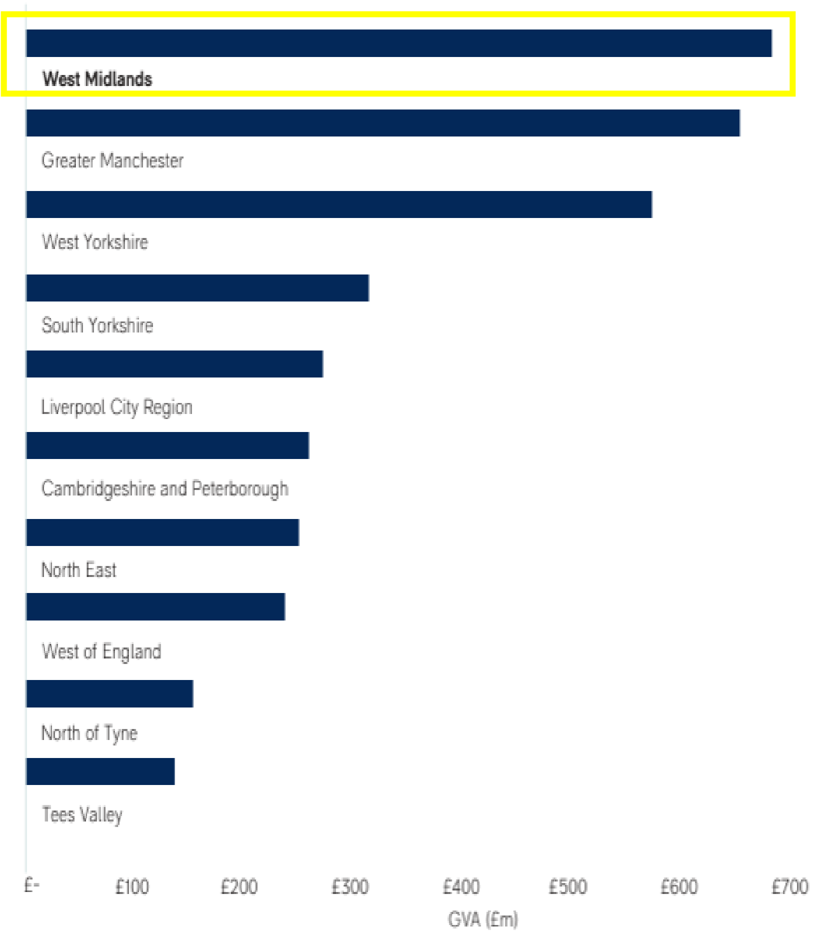
Most significant Telecommunications Clusters in the West Midlands, by Local Authority



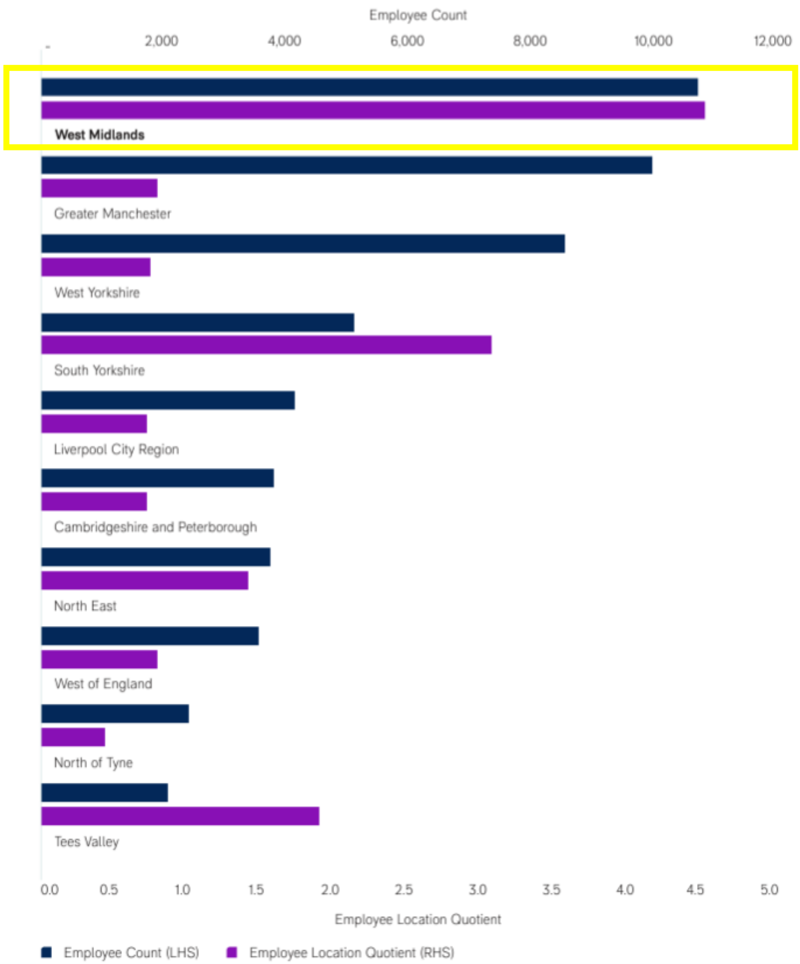
Source: [CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025]

West Midlands Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Overview

Economic contribution of UK combined authority advanced manufacturing clusters (Gross Value Added, £m)



Employee counts and location quotients of UK combined authority advanced manufacturing clusters



The West Midlands has leveraged its deep historical involvement in manufacturing and its strong industrial base to a successful advanced manufacturing cluster, that specialises in **machinery, electronics and transport**. The West Midlands also hosts large **automotive, aerospace and rail clusters.**

Contributing £679 million in GVA to the UK economy, the West Midlands advanced manufacturing cluster is the strongest of all combined authorities nationwide. **Birmingham hosts the UK's fourth-biggest advanced manufacturing sector at local authority level**. The region benefits from a large manufacturing workforce and is instrumental in driving UK exports outside of London and the South East, constituting 8% of UK goods exports in 2022. The 1,600-strong business population in this cluster employs over 10,000 people, placing it in the 96th percentile of all combined authority clusters, with a concentration of employment in this sector that is 4.5 times the UK average.

Source: CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025

West Midlands Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Overview

The West Midlands is a significant hub for automotive and aerospace manufacturing, producing a third of British cars and a quarter of engines. It exported £24.9bn in machinery and transport goods in 2023. A network of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) contributes to cluster growth, with the region hosting 30% of UK-based aerospace manufacturers and benefits from over half of domestic inward investment in the sector. **The cluster is bolstered by infrastructure, government support, and facilities like the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC).** UKBIC is a battery manufacturing scale-up and research facility that hosts over 100 engineers and technicians, convening research, academia and industry to scale up and commercialise battery innovation. Future investment plans include a potential battery gigafactory in Coventry. This is supported by the West Midlands investment zone, known as the Coventry-Warwick corridor, which will benefit from tax incentives, funding for infrastructure improvements, and measures to encourage industry-university collaboration. These interventions could drive £2 billion of new investment and create 10,000 jobs over the next decade.

Business Environment

West Midlands' advanced manufacturing sector is driven by a thriving local business population. Hosting 28 firms with over £100 million turnover and 74 that have experienced annual growth rates of more than 20%. The cluster benefits from a substantial, developed network of successful businesses, particularly in the automotive and aerospace sectors, along with OEMs that support strong local supply chains.

The Tata Group represent one of the biggest industrial cluster stakeholders, making significant contributions through their Steel, Motors and Technologies subsidiaries. Their European headquarters are located in Coventry, a distribution centre in Dudley and operate the UK's largest steel processing and distribution centre in Wednesfield, The Steelpark, the only one to be supported by an on-site mill. The state-of-the-art facilities can process more than 200,000 tonnes of sheet and coil steel annually, providing for the wider manufacturing supply chain.

The cluster's thriving aerospace subsector and activity is driven by two substantial manufacturers – Rolls-Royce and GKN Aerospace. Rolls-Royce Aerospace are the second-biggest producer globally of engines for civil and corporate aircraft. Their control systems are headquartered in the West Midlands and the wider Midlands area hosts their large technology, manufacture and assembly plant. They are also an established supplier for the marine sector, civil nuclear power and high-speed diesel engines, announcing a £80 million zero emissions flights project in 2021 that could create up to 300 jobs in the Midlands. The sector is also supported by OEMs like GKN Aerospace, a components manufacturer that serve over 90% of the world's aircraft and engine manufacturers, with operations across 12 countries. GKN are headquartered in Birmingham and employ 3,600 throughout the UK.

Company Case Study:

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), headquartered in the West Midlands, has significantly contributed to the local and wider economy since its acquisition by Tata Group in 2008. Their UK operations, centred around a 300-acre Solihull site, have seen substantial investment, leading to increased production and workforce. **Recent developments include a £500 million factory for the Jaguar XE and a £350 million engine plant at the i54 business park in Wolverhampton.** Post pandemic, JLR has shifted focus towards electric vehicles, pledging £15 billion over five years into industrial footprint, vehicle programmes, and AI technologies, with plans to make the JLR Merseyside plant an 'all-electric manufacturing facility'. **This commitment has been followed by recruitment drives for technicians and engineers to work on electric vehicle lines.**

Source: CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025

West Midlands Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Overview

Talent, Skills and Job Quality

There are 10,695 people employed in the advanced manufacturing cluster in the West Midlands. However, the WMCA have also indicated that there is a skills gap in the region. The region's strong talent pool, supported by eight higher education institutions producing approximately 57,000 students each year, contributes to its growth. 32,570 studied engineering and technology courses in 2019. Regional further education colleges are receiving £2.4 million to strengthen technology adoption and training for small businesses. However, there are also challenges. Despite 1.4 million people being degree qualified or higher, this is only 29% of the population, which is lower than the national average of 34%. Graduate retention and attraction rates are lower than the national average, particularly for STEM subjects. There are fewer people in higher-skilled jobs compared to other combined authorities.

West Midlands Advanced Manufacturing Cluster SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- West Midlands hosts the biggest advanced manufacturing cluster of all UK combined authorities by GVA contribution, benefitting from very strong local infrastructure through facilities like the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre.
- A thriving population of strategic, high-growth businesses exist in the cluster particularly in the automotive and aerospace sub-sectors, with JLR serving as an anchor institution.

Weaknesses

- The cluster business population is concentrated very heavily in the automotive and aerospace sub-sectors and could potentially lack valuable diversification in the event of any external/ sector shocks.
- The region has lower levels of degree-qualified people, rates of graduate retention and graduate attraction and fewer people in high-skilled jobs than the national average.

Opportunities

- Future plans to develop a battery gigafactory next to the UKBIC in Coventry could potentially attract £1.2 billion of investment and significant new jobs to the cluster, should construction go ahead.

Threats

- The skills gap in the manufacturing sector may persist in the West Midlands, compounded by low graduate retention rates and a smaller employment pool following the UK leaving the EU.

Source: CBI, Data City - Identifying and assessing high-value, emerging clusters throughout the UK, 2025

DSIT Innovative Clusters

Wolverhampton Innovative Clusters

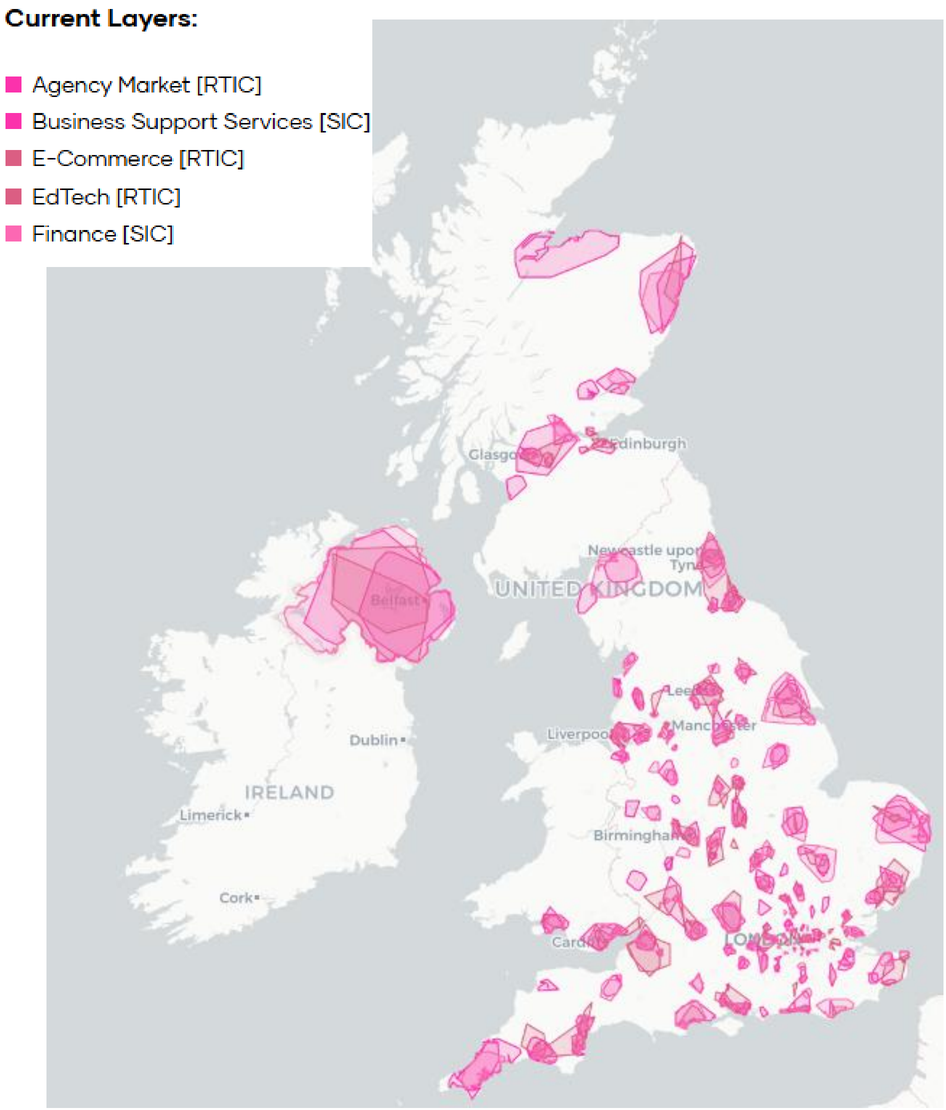
The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) commissioned a consortium of leading data scientists and economists from Cambridge Econometrics, The Data City and Innovation Caucus to produce an interactive mapping tool of the UK's RD&I clusters, accessible via: www.innovationclusters.dsit.gov.uk

Defining and Mapping Clusters

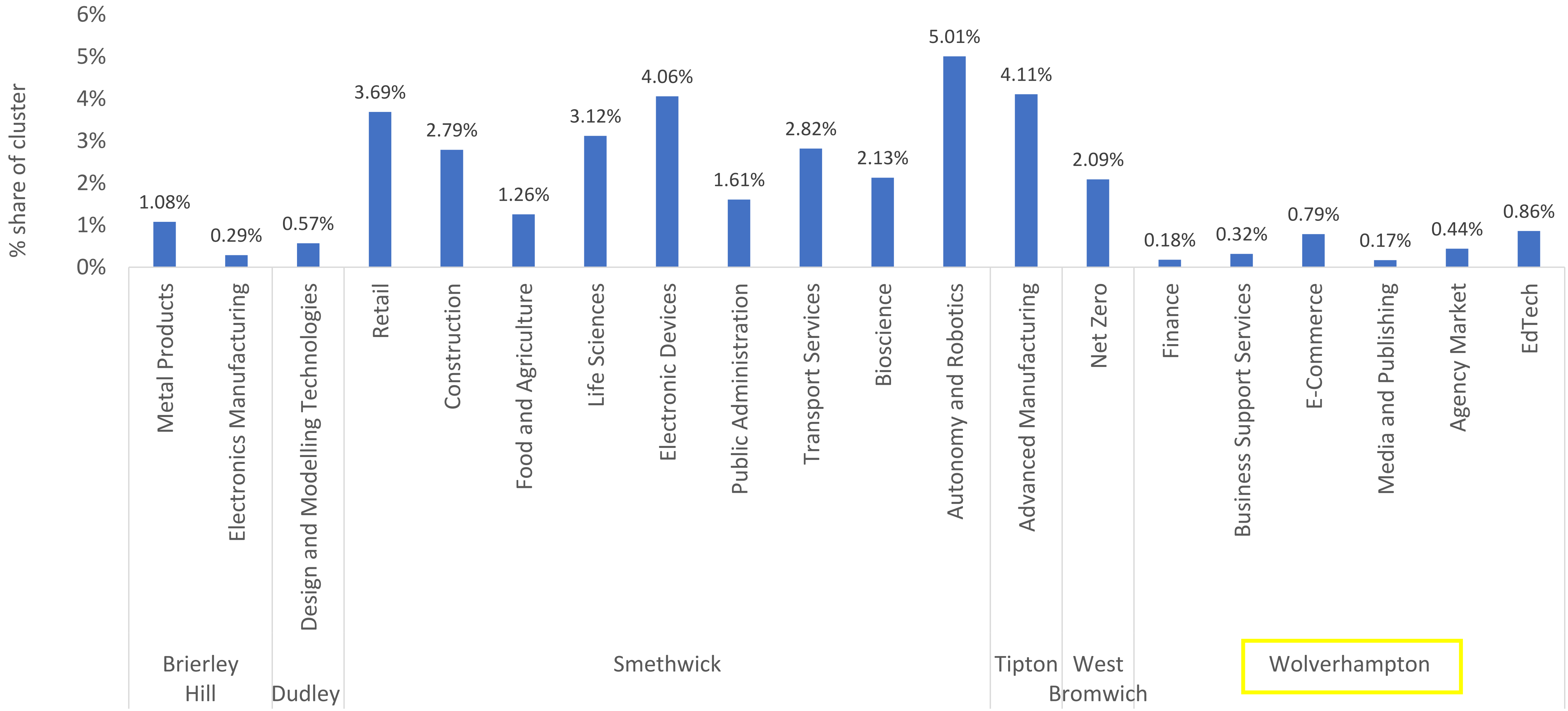
Clusters are **spatially concentrated groups of firms, research capabilities, skills, and support structures in related industries** that benefit from spillovers associated with agglomeration.

Wolverhampton Innovative Clusters identified by DSIT

Sector Name	Estimated Employees	Estimated Turnover	Company Location Count	Distinct Company Count
Agency Market	212	£14,157,000	102	95
Business Support Services	5,470	£429,657,000	820	717
E-Commerce	69	£193,151,000	37	37
EdTech	90	£9,159,000	20	19
Finance	1,687	£777,184,000	241	232
Media and Publishing	665	£84,760,000	164	154

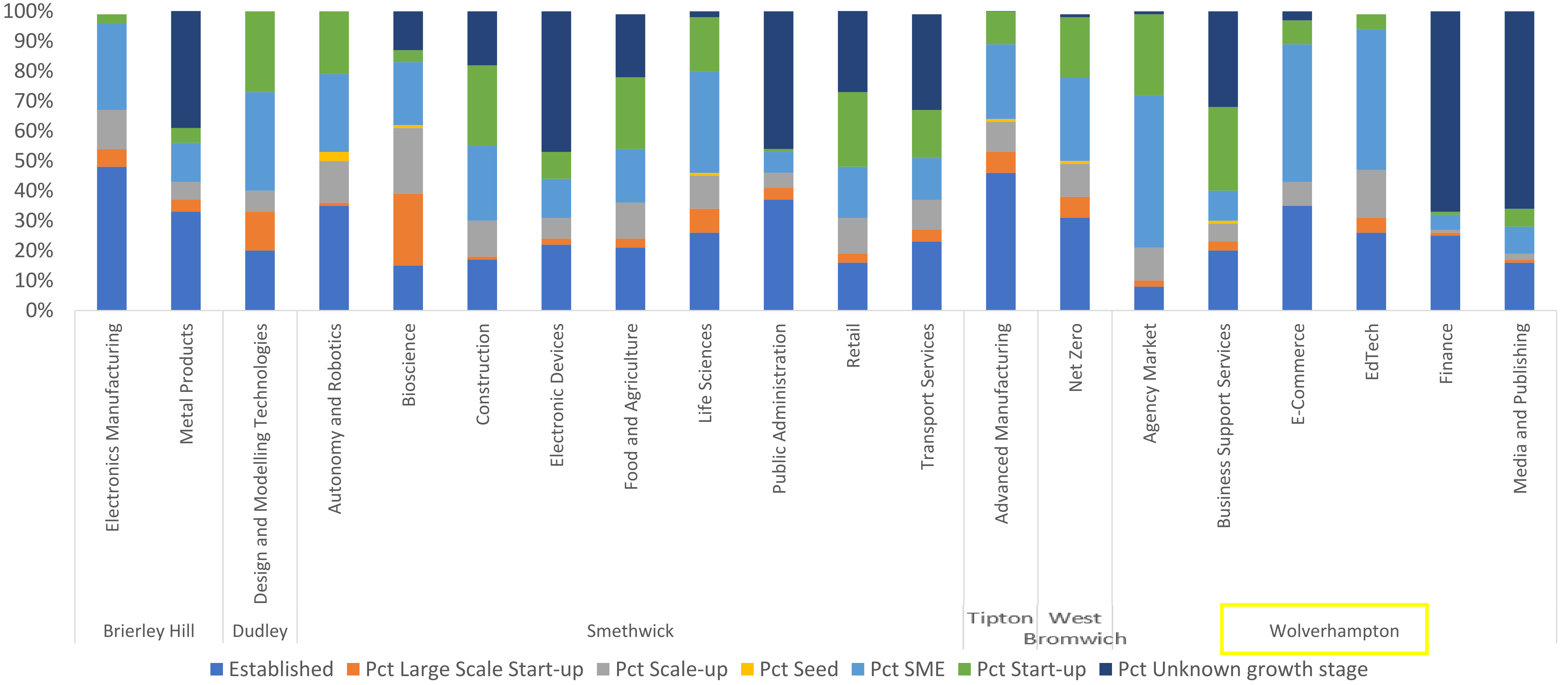


Share of clusters identified across the Black Country, as a % of England total



Source: [DSIT and Data City, 2024]

Composition of the growth stage of Black Country businesses within clusters



Source: DSIT and Data City, 2024

APPENDIX
Traditional Sector Analysis

Sector Make Up of the Economy

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Summary of GVA, jobs and enterprises by defined sector for Wolverhampton (and percentage of total for England):

Shaded boxes indicator Wolverhampton has a higher or same proportion that the national proportion for that sector

	GVA			Jobs			Businesses (Snapshot)		
	W*ton	%	England % of Total	W*ton	%	England % of Total	W*ton	%	England % of Total
Advanced Manufacturing	£1.07bn	17.6%	11.1%	13,595	12.5%	9.7%	735	8.9%	11.5%
Building Technologies	£383m	6.3%	6.2%	4,600	4.2%	4.7%	1,080	13.1%	14.0%
Business Services	£1.51bn	24.9%	42.8%	17,330	16.0%	26.3%	2,415	29.4%	37.7%
Environmental Technologies	£133m	2.2%	2.0%	1,600	1.5%	1.0%	60	0.7%	0.5%
Health & Wellbeing	£940m	15.5%	8.6%	23,525	21.7%	15.7%	500	6.1%	5.8%
Public Sector inc. Education	£910m	15.0%	11.5%	17,500	16.1%	15.3%	225	2.7%	4.1%
Retail	753m	12.4%	10.5%	18,000	16.6%	13.7%	1,650	20.1%	14.6%
Transport Technologies	£247m	4.1%	3.6%	6,750	6.2%	5.1%	980	11.9%	4.4%
Visitor Economy	£120m	2.0%	3.7%	5,550	5.1%	8.5%	575	7.0%	7.4%
Total	**£6.1bn**	**100%**	**100%**	**108,450**	**100%**	**100%**	**8,220**	**100%**	**100%**

Source: ONS Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: local authorities by ITL1 region, 2024, ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024, ONS UK Business Counts, 2024

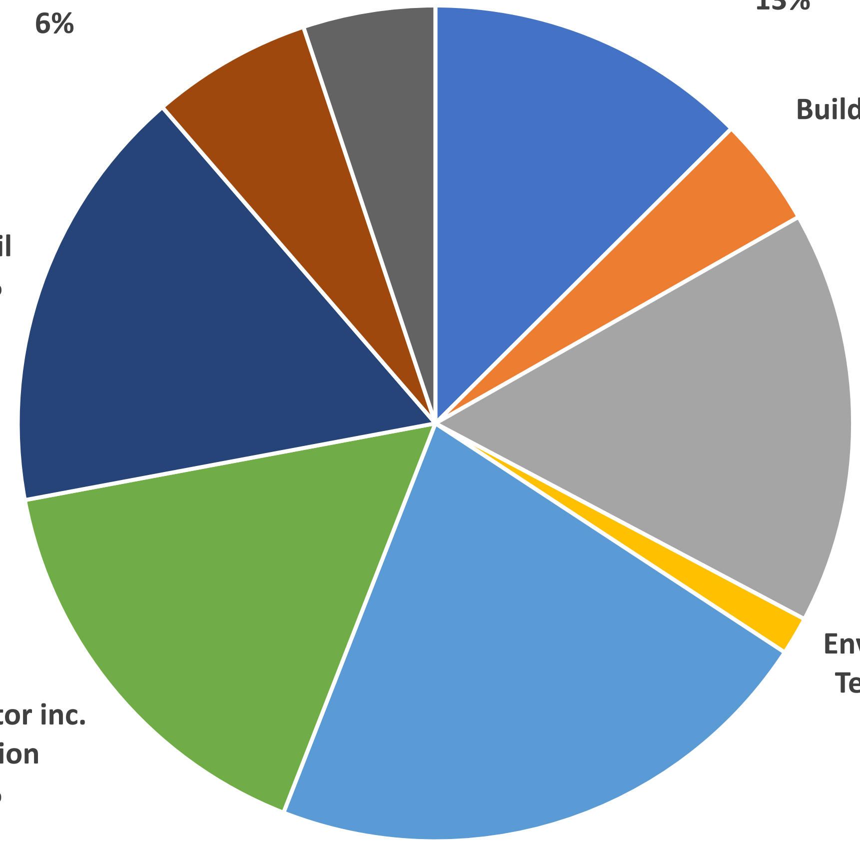
Sector Make Up of the Economy

This chart illustrates the sectoral make-up of the Wolverhampton economy by showing the share of jobs by sectors*.

In 2023, there were approximately 108,450 jobs in Wolverhampton. The largest sectors by the number of jobs in Wolverhampton were **health & wellbeing** (23,525, 21.7%), **retail** (18,000, 16.6%) and **public sector including education** (17,500, 16.1%). These account for 54% of total jobs.

Wolverhampton also has **many jobs in the business services** (17,330, 16.0%) and **advanced manufacturing** – totalling over 13,595 jobs and 12.5% of the total.

Wolverhampton Jobs by Sector (2023)



*EIU defined sectors.
Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024.

Sector Trends (Jobs)

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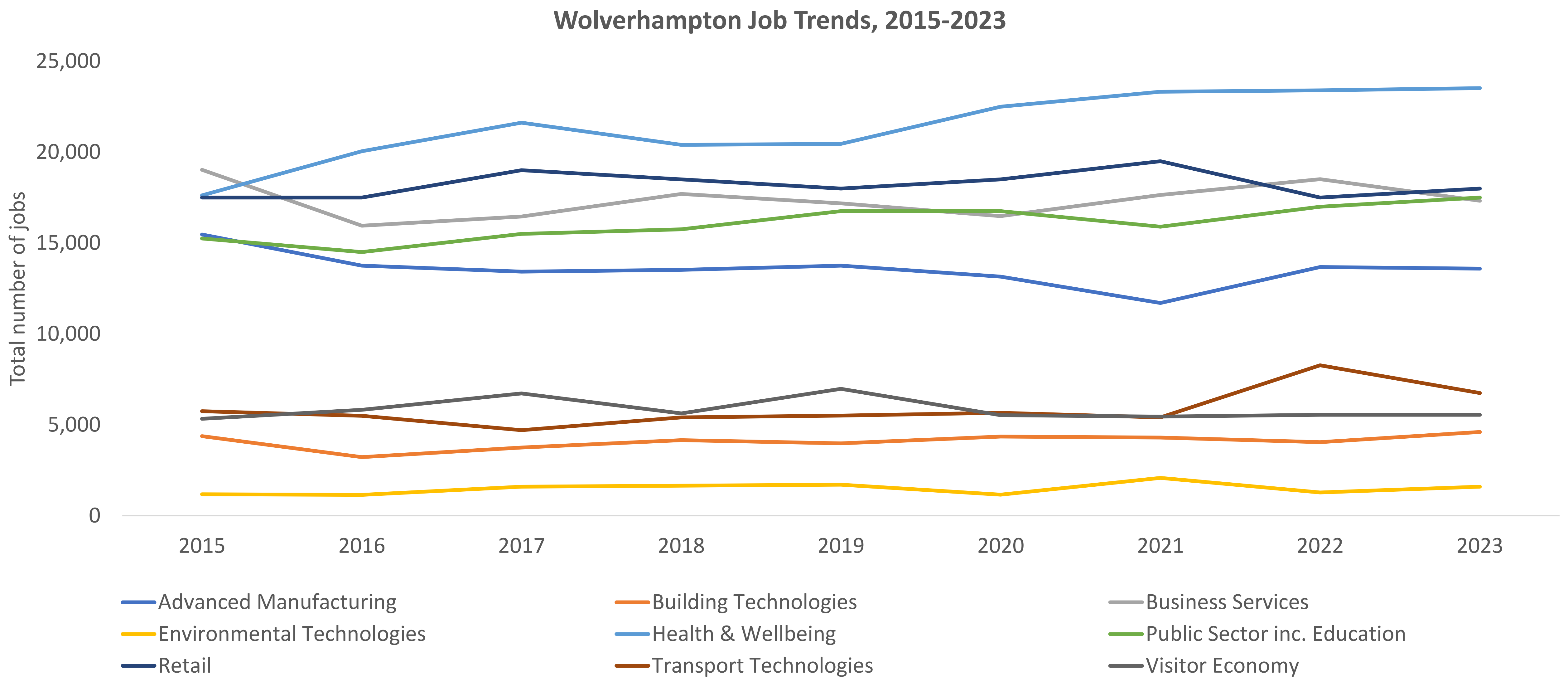


Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024

Specialisation and Location Quotient Analysis

Location Quotient (LQ) analysis helps us understand specialisation patterns in the sectors in a local economy. LQs are ratios for each sector between the local share of employment and share of employment in England. Higher LQs correspond to higher levels of specialisation, with an LQ above 1 indicating that the area is more specialised in that sector than England as a whole. This is a key piece of analysis as building on existing sectoral strengths is likely to increase the chances of economic success.

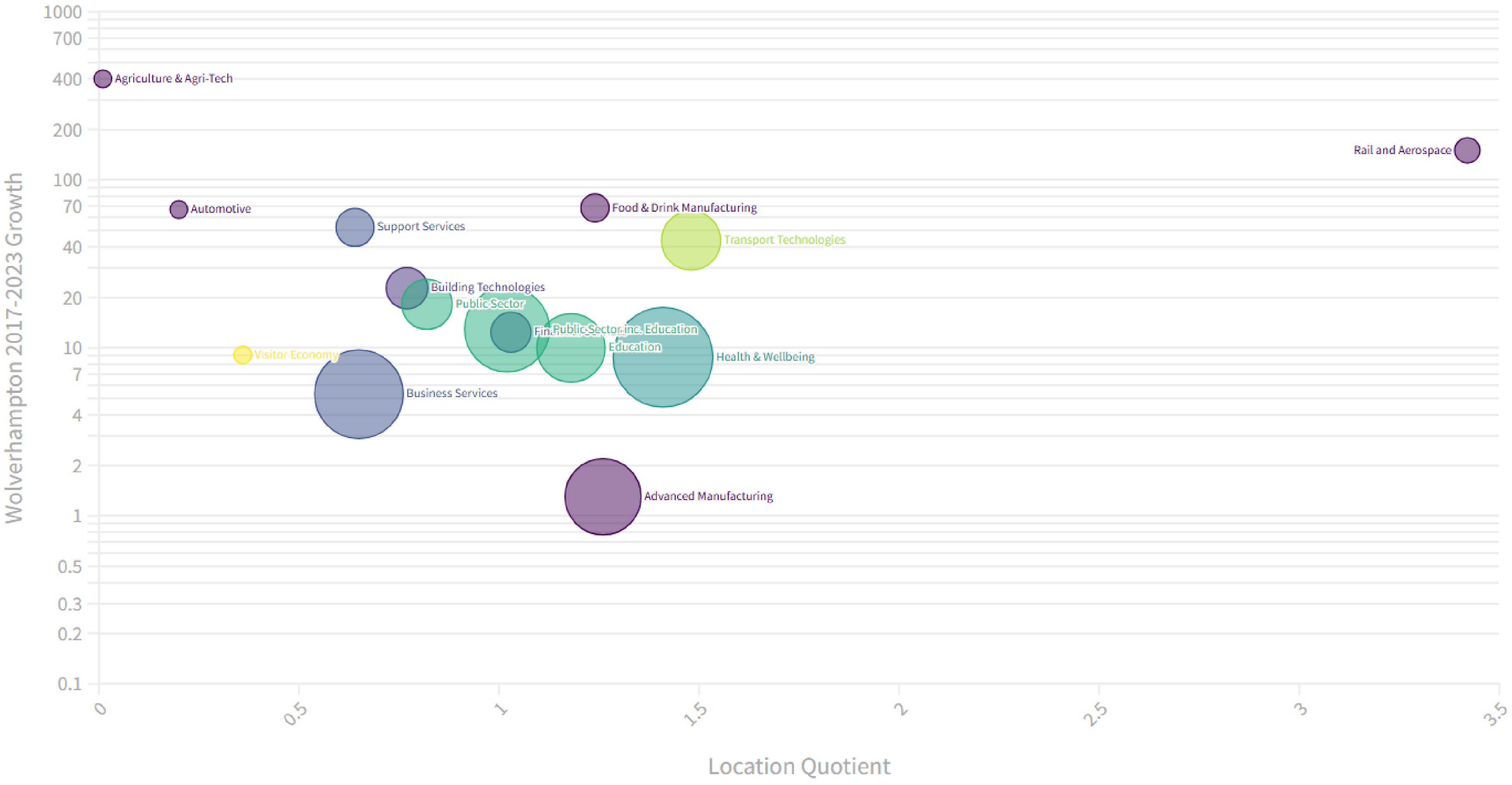
This analysis, highlighted on the table on the next page, shows that there is particular importance on four traditional sectors in Wolverhampton based on SIC code data:

- **Advanced Manufacturing**, including food & drink, metals & materials, rail & aerospace
- **Business and Professional Services**, only in real estate and associated consultancy
- **Environmental Technologies**
- **Transport Technologies**

There are also other sector strengths, including in health & wellbeing, public sector (including education) and retail. The table on the next slide incorporates percentage growth in jobs from 2017-2023, demonstrating additional areas of potential emerging strength. Following on from the table, there is a list of the lower-level SIC industrial activities that are identified as having high LQs (concentrated locally compared to the England average) and growth in Wolverhampton for jobs / businesses.

Wolverhampton Sectors: Jobs

The Economic Intelligence Unit



- Size of bubble = relative size of industry in Wolverhampton
- X axis: Jobs LQ (specialisation in Wolverhampton)
- Y axis: Jobs Growth 2017-2023
- Colour: Sector

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024

Sectors and Sub-Sectors Jobs Summary

Sector and Sub-Sector	Jobs	% of Total	LQ	% Growth 2017-2023
Advanced Manufacturing	**13,595**	**12.5%**	**1.29**	**1.3%**
Agriculture & Agri-Tech	25	0.0%	0.04	400.0%
Automotive	250	0.2%	0.51	66.7%
Food & Drink Manufacturing	1,850	1.7%	1.28	68.2%
Metals and Materials	4,700	4.3%	2.34	-13.0%
Rail and Aerospace	2,000	1.8%	4.65	150.0%
Wider Advanced Manufacturing	4,770	4.4%	0.86	-20.0%
Building Technologies	**4,600**	**4.2%**	**0.90**	**22.7%**
Business Services	**17,330**	**16.0%**	**0.61**	**5.3%**
Creative	325	0.3%	0.29	-28.6%
Digital / IT	1,225	1.1%	0.30	-9.3%
Financial Services	3,530	3.3%	0.94	12.4%
Legal and Accounting	1,000	0.9%	0.35	-20.0%
Other Service Activities	5,500	5.1%	0.59	-3.8%
Real Estate and Associated Consultancy	2,250	2.1%	1.06	0.0%
Support Services	3,500	3.2%	0.67	52.2%
Environmental Technologies	**1,600**	**1.5%**	**1.43**	**0.0%**
Health & Wellbeing	**23,525**	**21.7%**	**1.38**	**8.8%**
Public Sector inc. Education	**17,500**	**16.1%**	**1.06**	**12.9%**
Education	11,000	10.1%	1.19	10.0%
Public Sector	6,500	6.0%	0.89	18.2%
Retail	**18,000**	**16.6%**	**1.21**	**-5.3%**
Transport Technologies	**6,750**	**6.2%**	**1.22**	**43.6%**
Visitor Economy	**5,550**	**5.1%**	**0.60**	**-17.5%**
Accommodation	250	0.2%	0.16	-44.4%
Hospitality	5,000	4.6%	0.72	-16.7%
Visitor Economy	300	0.3%	0.42	9.1%
Grand Total	**108,450**	**100.0%**		**5.5%**

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024

Industrial Activities: High LQ in Jobs

Industry	Wolverhampton Jobs 2023	Wolverhampton LQ 2023
46360 : Wholesale of sugar and chocolate and sugar confectionery	250	42.14
33140 : Repair of electrical equipment	600	33.71
47540 : Retail sale of electrical household appliances in specialised stores	20	22.47
92000 : Gambling and betting activities	30	21.67
24320 : Cold rolling of narrow strip	400	20.23
43330 : Floor and wall covering	30	18.96
82911 : Activities of collection agencies	300	18.96
47650 : Retail sale of games and toys in specialised stores	150	16.85
26600 : Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment	150	15.17
46190 : Agents involved in the sale of a variety of goods	350	14.75
20412 : Manufacture of cleaning and polishing preparations	800	11.90
01621 : Farm animal boarding and care	250	10.53
47799 : Retail sale of second-hand goods (other than antiques and antique books) in stores	200	10.11
46610 : Wholesale of agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies	300	9.48
23700 : Cutting, shaping and finishing of stone	600	8.92

Industry	Wolverhampton Jobs 2021	Wolverhampton LQ 2021
71111 : Architectural activities	600	8.92
47290 : Other retail sale of food in specialised stores	600	8.92
81299 : Cleaning services (other than disinfecting and extermination services) nec	150	8.43
47250 : Retail sale of beverages in specialised stores	2,000	7.78
49320 : Taxi operation	30	7.58
93210 : Activities of amusement parks and theme parks	700	7.37
28410 : Manufacture of metal forming machinery	100	7.22
10910 : Manufacture of prepared feeds for farm animals	10	7.22
03210 : Marine aquaculture	600	6.90
46900 : Non-specialised wholesale trade	50	6.32
65120 : Non-life insurance	100	5.62
28220 : Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment	100	5.62
96090 : Other personal service activities nec	150	5.42
81221 : Window cleaning services	150	5.42
47210 : Retail sale of fruit and vegetables in specialised stores	250	5.27

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024

Industrial Activities: High Growth in Jobs

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Industry	Jobs 2023	Jobs Growth 2017-2023
43110 : Demolition	100	1900.0%
10110 : Processing and preserving of meat	150	1400.0%
53202 : Unlicensed Carriers	450	1185.7%
43120 : Site preparation	50	900.0%
86102 : Medical nursing home activities	225	800.0%
33170 : Repair and maintenance of other transport equipment	150	650.0%
72190 : Other research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	100	566.7%
10890 : Manufacture of other food products nec	125	525.0%
61100 : Wired telecommunications activities	30	500.0%
82920 : Packaging activities	450	500.0%
69202 : Bookkeeping activities	175	483.3%
26200 : Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment	25	400.0%
85510 : Sports and recreation education	75	400.0%
93290 : Other amusement and recreation activities	200	344.4%
10120 : Processing and preserving of poultry meat	600	300.0%

Industry	Jobs 2023	Jobs Growth 2017-2023
35220 : Distribution of gaseous fuels through mains	200	300.0%
84120 : Regulation of the activities of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services, excluding social security	400	300.0%
64921 : Credit granting by non-deposit taking finance houses and other specialist consumer credit grantors	175	288.9%
82110 : Combined office administrative service activities	125	212.5%
26512 : Manufacture of electronic industrial process control equipment	150	200.0%
42120 : Construction of railways and underground railways	30	200.0%
42220 : Construction of utility projects for electricity and telecommunications	15	200.0%
46770 : Wholesale of waste and scrap	150	200.0%
64999 : Other financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding, (not including security dealing on own account and factoring) n.e.c.	45	200.0%
25720 : Manufacture of locks and hinges	200	166.7%
68100 : Buying and selling of own real estate	40	166.7%
24420 : Aluminium production	50	150.0%
30300 : Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery	2,000	150.0%
52103 : Operation of warehousing and storage facilities for land transport activities of division 49	1,250	150.0%
55900 : Other accommodation	25	150.0%

Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2024

Industrial Activities: High LQ in Businesses

The Economic Intelligence Unit

Industry	Businesses	LQ
25940 : Manufacture of fasteners and screw machine products	35	29.86
36000 : Water collection, treatment and supply	5	19.24
24540 : Casting of other non-ferrous metals	20	16.04
24530 : Casting of light metals	10	12.55
38120 : Collection of hazardous waste	5	11.55
82920 : Packaging activities	310	11.35
28120 : Manufacture of fluid power equipment	10	9.62
25610 : Treatment and coating of metals	110	7.70
25500 : Forging, pressing, stamping and roll-forming of metal; powder metallurgy	50	6.79
46720 : Wholesale of metals and metal ores	155	6.64
43130 : Test drilling and boring	5	5.89
24200 : Manufacture of tubes, pipes, hollow profiles and related fittings, of steel	30	5.15
28490 : Manufacture of other machine tools	15	5.15
20160 : Manufacture of plastics in primary forms	20	4.66
25930 : Manufacture of wire products, chain and springs	35	4.66

Industry	Businesses	LQ
20301 : Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, mastics and sealants	5	4.51
28410 : Manufacture of metal forming machinery	5	4.37
28220 : Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment	10	4.28
22220 : Manufacture of plastic packing goods	5	4.12
46770 : Wholesale of waste and scrap	20	4.08
52219 : Other service activities incidental to land transportation, nec (not including operation of rail freight terminals, passenger facilities at railway stations or passenger facilities at bus and coach stations)	40	4.07
49410 : Freight transport by road	575	4.03
52103 : Operation of warehousing and storage facilities for land transport activities of division 49	55	3.72
52243 : Cargo handling for land transport activities of division 49	5	3.70
86102 : Medical nursing home activities	10	3.63
42210 : Construction of utility projects for fluids	5	3.52
47630 : Retail sale of music and video recordings in specialised stores	5	3.52
38320 : Recovery of sorted materials	15	3.33
22190 : Manufacture of other rubber products	5	3.28
25110 : Manufacture of metal structures and parts of structures	30	3.24

Source: ONS UK Business Counts, 2024

Business and GVA growth

Sector	Wton Businesses 2024	Change since '17	% Change	England % change	change since '23	% Change	England % change
Advanced Manufacturing	735	-130	-15.0%	-9.4%	-55	-7.0%	-1.5%
Building Technologies	1,080	120	12.5%	19.5%	-70	-6.1%	0.6%
Business Services	2,415	140	6.2%	-4.4%	-85	-3.4%	0.9%
Environmental Technologies	60	20	50.0%	18.9%	5	9.1%	0.8%
Health & Wellbeing	500	-75	-13.0%	0.3%	55	12.4%	4.0%
Public Sector inc. Education	225	35	18.4%	12.5%	0	0.0%	1.8%
Retail	1,650	175	11.9%	6.6%	10	0.6%	-1.2%
Transport Technologies	980	290	42.0%	5.8%	-400	-29.0%	-9.0%
Visitor Economy	575	115	25.0%	14.8%	-85	-12.9%	-0.1%
Total	**8,220**	**690**	**9.2%**	**2.0%**	**-625**	**-7.1%**	**-0.1%**

Sector	Wton GVA 2022 (£m)	Change since '17 (£m)	% Change	England % change	change since '21 (£m)	% Change	England % change
Advanced Manufacturing	£1,071	£291	37.3%	14.5%	£114	11.9%	7.9%
Building Technologies	£383	£81	26.8%	21.2%	£29	8.2%	16.0%
Business Services	£1,508	£213	16.4%	22.0%	£160	11.9%	9.2%
Environmental Technologies	£133	£30	29.1%	-3.3%	£-5	-3.6%	4.5%
Health & Wellbeing	£940	£220	30.6%	24.6%	£57	6.5%	2.0%
Public Sector inc. Education	£910	£219	31.7%	28.6%	£87	10.6%	10.0%
Retail	£753	£102	15.7%	25.7%	£60	8.7%	7.6%
Transport Technologies	£247	£44	21.7%	7.7%	£71	40.3%	18.7%
Visitor Economy	£120	£8	7.1%	28.5%	£31	34.8%	35.2%
Total	**£6,069**	**£1,213**	**25.0%**	**21.4%**	**£609**	**11.2%**	**9.7%**

Source: ONS Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: local authorities by ITL1 region, 2024, ONS UK Business Counts, 2024

Wolverhampton LQ Data Summary

Sector and Sub-Sector	Jobs	GVA	Businesses
Advanced Manufacturing	1.29	1.59	0.77
Agriculture & Agri-Tech	0.04	0.00	0.03
Automotive	0.51	NA	1.38
Food & Drink Manufacturing	1.28	1.07	1.17
Metals and Materials	2.34	2.00	2.56
Rail and Aerospace	4.65	2.80	0.84
Wider Advanced Manufacturing	0.86	1.20	0.85
Building Technologies	0.90	1.01	0.94
Business Services	0.61	0.58	0.78
Creative	0.29	0.23	0.29
Digital / IT	0.30	0.27	0.70
Financial Services	0.94	0.69	0.76
Legal and Accounting	0.35	0.22	0.55
Other Service Activities	0.59	0.46	0.90
Real Estate and Associated Consultancy	1.06	0.88	0.89
Support Services	0.67	0.41	0.80
Environmental Technologies	1.43	1.09	1.43
Health & Wellbeing	1.38	1.81	1.06
Public Sector inc. Education	1.06	1.31	0.67
Education	1.19	1.44	0.76
Public Sector	0.89	1.17	0.60
Retail	1.21	1.18	1.37
Transport Technologies	1.22	1.14	2.73
Visitor Economy	0.60	0.53	0.94
Accommodation	0.16	0.24	0.37
Hospitality	0.72	0.73	1.16
Visitor Economy	0.42	0.23	0.32

Source: ONS BRES 2024, ONS UK Business Counts 2024, ONS Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: local authorities by ITL1 region, 2024

Wolverhampton Strategic Companies

maelor FOODS

Food

Charter Court Financial Services

Professional and Financial Services

MUELLER EUROPE

Metals and Materials

Est 1834 MARSTON'S

Drinks

Task CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Paper Products Manufacturer

Sports

Brindley Garages Group

Car Dealership

ArcelorMittal

Steel Distributor

Salisbury POULTRY EST. 1989

Poultry Processing

CARLSBERG MARSTON'S BREWING COMPANY

Drinks

TARMAC CRH COMPANY

Construction Products

Source: Data City, 2025