

Smoothed GVA per Hour Worked and GVA per Filled Job 2023¹: WMCA Area

GVA per hour Worked²

- In 2023, GVA per hour in the WMCA area was £35.72. Since 2022, the WMCA area increased by 1.5% (+£0.54), behind the UK growth of 2.2%. Compared to five years ago, GVA per hour in the WMCA area increased by 12.8% (+£4.06) while the UK increased by 18.3% (+£6.50). In 2023, UK GVA per hour was £41.87 meaning the WMCA area had a shortfall of £6.15.
- Across the fourteen³ Combined Authority areas, the WMCA area was fourth lowest for GVA per hour in 2023. West of England Combined Authority was the highest at £42.01. The lowest GVA per hour was in the South Yorkshire Combined Authority with £33.77. In percentage terms, the WMCA had the third lowest annual growth. York & North Yorkshire had the lowest growth at 1.2% up to Greater Manchester with 3.1%. When compared to five years ago, the West Midlands had the lowest growth rate, this was followed by Tees Valley increasing by 13.4% up to Hull & East Yorkshire increasing by 25.8%.
- Within the WMCA, Solihull was the closest to the UK GVA per hour figure, however, this was the only local authority to have a decrease when compared to five years ago (-3.9%). The strongest annual growth was in Wolverhampton, increasing by 2.0% (+£0.90) to £35.29 in 2023. When compared to 2018, there was strong growth for Wolverhampton (+25.1% or +£7.09), Dudley (+21.5%, or +£5.65) and Walsall (+20.1% or +£5.22).

Smoothed GVA per hour worked in the WMCA and the UK, 2018 to 2023:

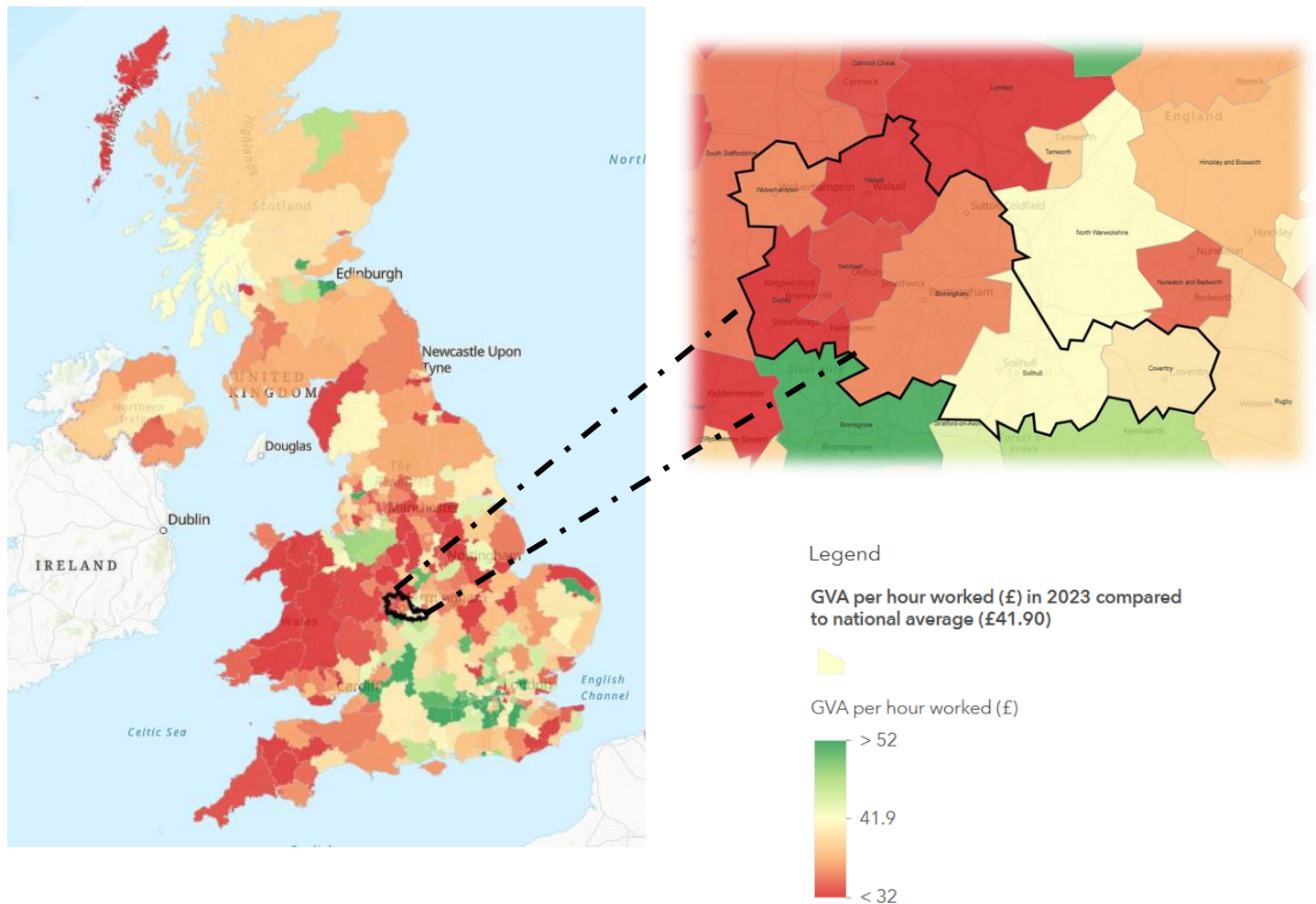
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Gap to National	% Change Since 2022	% Change Since 2018
Birmingham	£31.01	£31.70	£32.50	£33.64	£34.57	£35.14	-£6.73	1.6%	13.3%
Solihull	£43.51	£42.41	£41.28	£40.67	£41.16	£41.80	-£0.07	1.6%	-3.9%
Coventry	£36.91	£37.12	£37.71	£38.87	£39.75	£40.39	-£1.48	1.6%	9.4%
Dudley	£26.26	£27.57	£29.35	£30.51	£31.50	£31.91	-£9.96	1.3%	21.5%
Sandwell	£29.12	£30.27	£31.31	£31.81	£32.50	£32.84	-£9.03	1.0%	12.8%
Walsall	£25.98	£27.11	£28.89	£30.25	£31.00	£31.20	-£10.67	0.6%	20.1%
Wolverhampton	£28.20	£29.49	£31.23	£33.21	£34.61	£35.29	-£6.58	2.0%	25.1%
WMCA	£31.66	£32.36	£33.25	£34.27	£35.18	£35.72	-£6.15	1.5%	12.8%
UK (less Extra-Regio)	£35.38	£36.58	£38.00	£39.53	£40.97	£41.87		2.2%	18.3%

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), [Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2023](#), released June 2025
Please note, data is current prices; i.e., data are not adjusted for inflation and the data is smoothed using a weighted 5-year moving average

² GVA per hour worked divides GVA by the total hours worked by the workforce in the area.

³ In this publication, the Combined Authorities are Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, West of England, York & North Yorkshire, East Midlands, North East, Hull & East Yorkshire, Greater Lincolnshire and Lancashire.

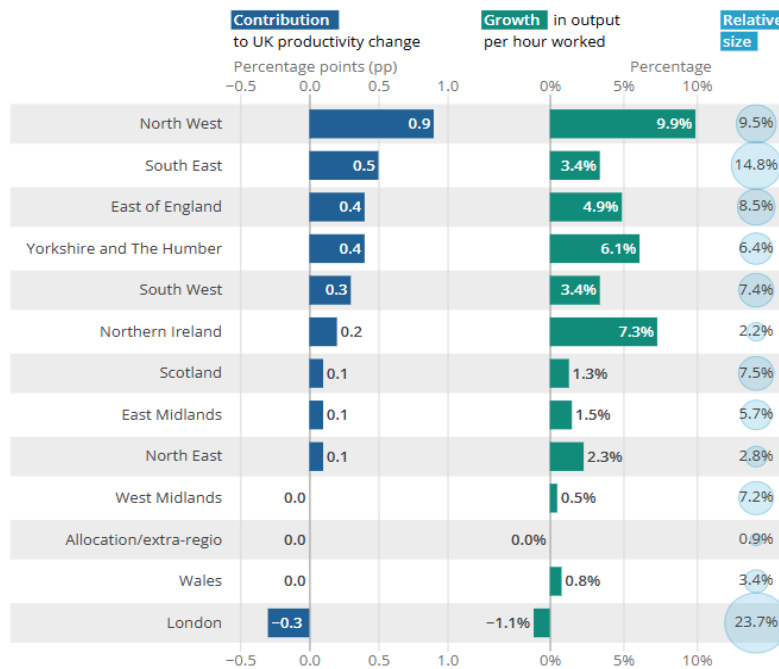
GVA per hour worked compared to National, 2023:



Regional Analysis of GVA per Hour

- Wales, the West Midlands, the East Midlands and the North East had the four lowest levels of output per hour worked, at negative 15.1%, 14.8%, 14.7% and 14.6%, respectively compared with the UK average.
- Shifts of economic activity from one region to another (the allocation effect) can be an important factor for productivity growth. The following figure shows the growth and the contribution of each region to the total output per hour growth alongside the allocation/extra region contribution (0.0%) and the relative size of GVA output in current price (bubbles) of the region. Growth differs from contributions, as contributions measure growth weighted by the relative size of GVA output in current price of the region.
- The North West contributed the most to UK output per hour growth in 2023, compared with 2019, and showed the strongest growth. In contrast, London made the only negative contribution to UK output per hour growth in 2023, compared with 2019. This is because of a negative growth, weighted by its large relative size of GVA output. However, the West Midlands made no contribution (along with Wales).

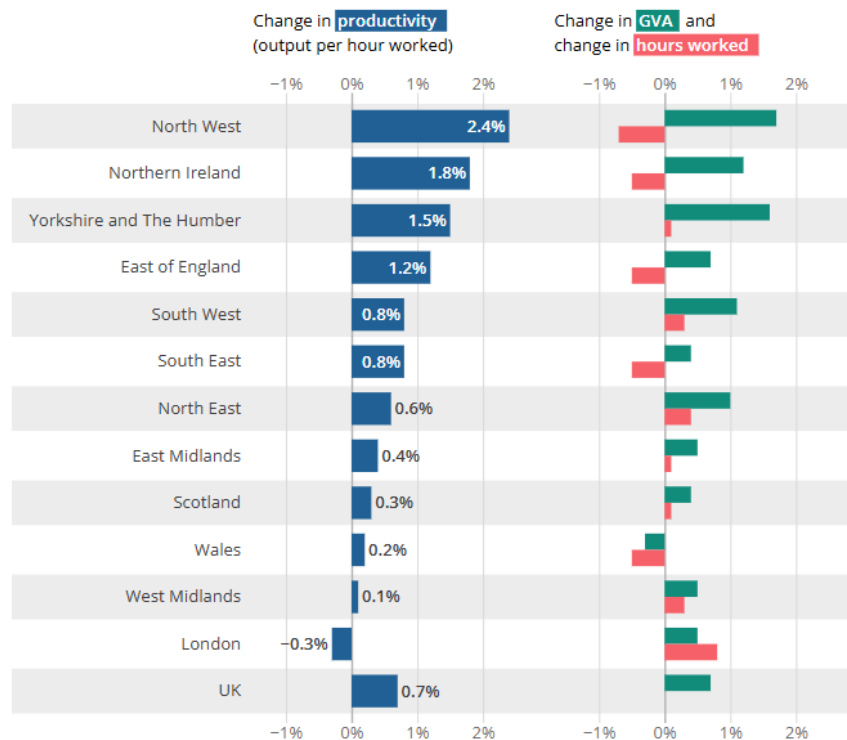
Contributions to UK growth in output per hour by region 2023 (compared to 2019):



Source: Regional productivity from the Office for National Statistics

UK output per hour worked has grown at a cumulative average annual rate of 0.7% from 2019 to 2023. The following figure shows the North West experiencing growth of 2.4% annually, which is the largest of any region. London had the largest fall of any region, at negative 0.3%. The West Midlands had the lowest growth at 0.1%.

Cumulative average annual growth rates between 2019 and 2023 for total hours worked, output per hour worked, GVA:



Source: Regional productivity from the Office for National Statistics

GVA per Filled Job⁴

- In 2023, GVA per filled job in the WMCA area was £56,319. Since 2022, the WMCA area increased by 3.0% (+£1,625), while the UK increased by 3.4%. When compared to 2018, GVA per job filled in the WMCA area increased by 12.0% (+£6,037) while the UK increased by 18.0%. In 2023, UK GVA per job filled was £66,402 meaning the WMCA area had a shortfall of £10,083.
- Across the fourteen Combined Authority areas, the WMCA area was fifth lowest for GVA per job filled in 2023. West of England Combined Authority was the highest at £67,126. The lowest GVA per job filled was in the South Yorkshire Combined Authority with £53,222.
- Within the WMCA, Solihull had a higher GVA per job filled when compared to national with £68,037, with an annual increase of 3.6% (+£2,395) and a 2.0% (+£1,334) increase when compared to five years ago. There was strong annual growth for Dudley and Wolverhampton (+3.4% and +3.2% respectively) and when compared to 2018 (+16.9% and +17.0% respectively), however these areas still had the largest gaps to national average.

Smoothed GVA per Job Filled in the WMCA and the UK, 2018 to 2023:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Gap to National	% Change Since 2022	% Change Since 2018
Birmingham	£49,084	£49,310	£49,926	£51,992	£54,203	£55,796	-£10,606	2.9%	13.7%
Solihull	£66,703	£64,107	£61,920	£63,117	£65,642	£68,037	£1,635	3.6%	2.0%
Coventry	£58,612	£57,594	£57,588	£59,416	£61,813	£63,575	-£2,827	2.9%	8.5%
Dudley	£41,426	£41,613	£42,474	£44,394	£46,865	£48,438	-£17,964	3.4%	16.9%
Sandwell	£48,409	£49,476	£50,314	£51,370	£52,619	£53,581	-£12,821	1.8%	10.7%
Walsall	£41,081	£41,170	£42,060	£44,192	£46,371	£47,758	-£18,644	3.0%	16.3%
Wolverhampton	£45,072	£45,818	£46,623	£48,901	£51,119	£52,732	-£13,670	3.2%	17.0%
WMCA	£50,282	£50,250	£50,624	£52,488	£54,693	£56,319	-£10,083	3.0%	12.0%
UK (less Extra-Regio)	£56,286	£57,224	£58,465	£61,264	£64,236	£66,402		3.4%	18.0%

⁴ GVA per filled job allocates GVA to the number of jobs in the area.