

Corporate sectors – Executive summary

This report aims at assessing the specialness of the six districts that make up the Combined Authority. To this purpose, specialness is gauged by examining a number of key features characterising the corporate sectors in these districts, namely:

- The sectors where particular concentration exists with respect to employment and turnover.
- The key sectors that drive employment and turnover growth in the district.
- The relative contribution of different groups of firms (i.e. micro firms, SMEs and large firms) to employment and turnover (as well as their growth) in the district.
- The key players that are either based or active in the district and the sectors in which they operate.

This report is structured by district and provides an analysis of the key sectors, the distribution of employment and turnover by firm size, the largest companies that operate in each district as well as the main differences with BRES data. The detailed reports for the individual districts are available as separate documents. All data refer to Cambridge Ahead data produced by Dr Andy Cosh at the Centre for Business Research unless otherwise indicated.

Cambridge
Key sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge contributes 16.1% of total employment and 15.7% of total turnover in the Combined Authority. • The largest share of employment is found in the Information Technology and Telecoms sector (22.6% of total employment in Cambridge and 44.4% of total employment in the sector for the Combined Authority). • KI sectors constitute 37.8% of total employment in the area, the second highest figure after South Cambridgeshire (44.6%) and well above the Combined Authority (26.4%). • Significant shares of turnover are observed in Information Technology and Telecoms (31.8% and 56.3%), High-Tech Manufacturing (20.1% and 24.2%) and Other Business Services (9.8% and 25.1%). • There is particular concentration in the KI sectors, especially in Information Technology and Telecoms, and in Knowledge Intensive Services. • Six-year employment growth in the district (5.6%) has been lower compared to the Combined Authority (6.0%). • Employment growth for KI sectors in Cambridge (6.8%) has been remarkably higher than that for the Combined Authority (4.9%). • Concentration has increased over time in Information Technology and Telecoms, Knowledge Intensive Services, and Life Science and Healthcare.
Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs account for the largest share of employment in the district (42.0%), while over a third of employment is at large firms. • Half of total turnover in Cambridge is accounted for by large firms, whilst turnover generated by SMEs represents around a third of total turnover in the district. • Total employment growth in the area appears to be driven by the growth of large firms. • Large firms have witnessed higher growth rates relative to the Combined Authority, particularly during the three years to 2016-17. • The fastest rates of growth in turnover are found among firms with more than 250 employees.
Largest companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the largest companies that are based in Cambridge are found in the KI sectors, namely Information Technology and Telecoms (e.g. Arm Limited and Aveva Group PLC), Life Science and Healthcare (e.g. Carl Zeiss Ltd), and High-Tech Manufacturing (Qualcomm Technologies International, Ltd.). • Key examples of companies that are active in the district include Glaxosmithkline PLC and Astrazeneca PLC (Life Science and Healthcare) as well as Vodafone Limited and Telefonica UK Limited (Information Technology and Telecoms).
Comparison with BRES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents approximately 37% of total BRES employment. • Six-year employment growth is 5.6% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 2.3% according to BRES data. • Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 2.4%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

South Cambridgeshire

Key sectors

- South Cambridgeshire contributes 24.2% of total employment and 28.0% of total turnover in the Combined Authority, the highest contribution in the region.
- The largest sector in terms of employment is given by Life Science and Healthcare (17.5% of total employment in the district and 71.0% of total employment in the sector for the Combined Authority).
- Particularly high is employment in Biotechnology R&D (7,044) and in High-Tech Manufacturing – Life Sciences (2,193).
- Among non-KI sectors, employment is high in the Wholesale and Retail Distribution sector (12.4% and 28.5%).
- Turnover in the Life Science and Healthcare sector in South Cambridgeshire alone accounts for over 70% of total turnover in the sector for the Combined Authority.
- During the six years to 2016-17, total employment growth (7.4%) has been greater than that for the Combined Authority (6.0%) and the highest in the region.
- The fastest growing KI sector based on employment is Information Technology and Telecoms (8.4%).
- Growth in turnover has been particularly high in Information Technology and Telecoms (10.8%), and Life Science and Healthcare (10.0%).
- Relative concentration in terms of employment for KI sectors, although still high, has slightly decreased throughout the entire period.

Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size

- Firms with more than 250 employees account for the largest share of employment in South Cambridgeshire (41.8%), while SMEs contribute over one third of total employment.
- The largest portion of turnover in the district is generated by large firms (49.0%), followed by SMEs (33.7%) and micro firms (17.3%).
- The highest six-year employment growth rates in the district are found among SMEs (7.7%), although their three-year growth rates are well below those for large firms.
- Firms with more than 250 employees have seen the largest increase in turnover throughout the three-year window (14.6%), substantially higher than the Combined Authority (6.4%).

Largest companies

- A number of the largest companies based in the district belong to High-Tech Manufacturing (e.g. Marshall of Cambridge (Holdings) Limited and Domino UK Limited) and to Life Science and Healthcare (e.g. PPD Global Ltd, Genome Research Limited and Abcam PLC).
- Some of the largest companies that are active in South Cambridgeshire are found in Information Technology and Telecoms (e.g. Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe Limited and IBM United Kingdom Limited), Knowledge Intensive Services (e.g. Intertek Group PLC and WS Atkins Limited) and High-Tech Manufacturing (e.g. Spirax-Sarco Engineering PLC).

Comparison with BRES

- Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents approximately 71% of total BRES employment.
- Six-year employment growth is 7.4% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 2.2% according to BRES data, the largest difference among the six districts.
- Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 3.8%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

East Cambridgeshire
Key sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Cambridgeshire contributes 10.0% of total employment and 7.7% of total turnover in the Combined Authority. • The largest number of employees are in the Primary sector (25.6% of total employment in the district and 50.3% of total employment in the sector for the Combined Authority). • The share of employment in KI sectors (10.5%) is the second lowest after Fenland (6.9%) and well below the average for the Combined Authority (26.4%). • The greatest shares of turnover are generated in the Primary sector (24.3%) and in the Wholesale and Retail Distribution sector (21.9%). • Employment LQs suggest that there is high concentration in the Primary sector, in the Transport and Travel sector, and in the Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care sector. • Total employment in East Cambridgeshire has increased at a higher rate compared to the Combined Authority (6.7% and 6.0%, respectively, for the six-year growth). • Employment growth in the Primary sector (6.0%) has witnessed a higher rate relative to the Combined Authority (4.9%). • The largest rates of growth in turnover are observed for Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care (32.5%), Other Services (14.9%), Construction and Utilities (11.5%), and Primary (7.8%). • Concentration in terms of employment has increased over time in a number of non-KI sectors, including Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care, Primary and Other Services.
Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large firms account for over half of total employment in the area, a figure that is considerably higher compared to the Combined Authority (46.2%). • Over 47% of total turnover in the district is generated by the 14 firms with more than 250 employees that are based in the area, while SMEs contribute almost a third of total turnover. • Employment growth for large firms (7.0% for the six years to 2016-17) appears to be the major driver of total employment growth in the district. • Large firms in East Cambridgeshire have seen greater turnover growth (9.4%) than the average for the entire region (7.6%).
Largest companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The largest companies based in the district tend to be concentrated in non-KI sectors, namely Primary (e.g. G'S Group Holdings Limited), Transport and Travel (e.g. Turners (Soham) Holdings Limited), Manufacturing (e.g. Elliott Group Limited), and Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. George Thurlow And Sons (Holdings) Limited). • Among the key sectors in terms of active companies are Manufacturing (e.g. Wittington Investments Limited), Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. Volkswagen Group United Kingdom Limited and DS Smith PLC), and Construction and Utilities (e.g. European Metal Recycling Limited).
Comparison with BRES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents around 75% of total BRES employment, the highest value among the six districts. • Six-year employment growth is 6.7% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 3.8% according to BRES data. • Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 4.3%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

Huntingdonshire
Key sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdonshire contributes 20.8% of total employment and 19.6% of total turnover in the Combined Authority. • The largest sector in terms of employment is Other Business Services (19.5% of the total for the district and 34.9% of the total in the sector for the Combined Authority). • KI sectors account for 17.1% of total employment in the area, significantly below the average for the Combined Authority (26.4%). • The largest share of turnover is generated in the Manufacturing sector (23.7%). • There is particular concentration in Construction and Utilities, Manufacturing and Other Business Services. • During the six years to 2016-17, Huntingdonshire has witnessed a lower growth rate in total employment (4.9%) compared to the Combined Authority (6.0%). • Among the fastest growing sectors based on employment are Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care (17.4%), Other Services (9.0%), and Wholesale and Retail Distribution (7.7%). • Growth in employment for the KI sectors (3.0%) has been lower than the average for the Combined Authority (4.9%). • The highest growth rates in turnover over the entire period can be seen for Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care (13.4%), Property and Finance (10.3%), and Transport and Travel (8.6%). • Relative concentration in employment has increased for Manufacturing, Wholesale and Retail Distribution, Education, Arts, Charities, Social Care, and Construction and Utilities.
Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large firms contribute the largest share of employment in the district (42.6%), while employment at SMEs constitutes around one third of total employment. • Almost half of total turnover in Huntingdonshire is originated by large firms. • The highest rates of employment growth are reported by SMEs (6.1% over the entire period), whereas more limited appears to be employment growth among large firms (3.3%). • Micro firms have the highest rate of turnover growth in the district (7.8%). • The lowest growth rate in turnover is observed for large firms (5.0%).
Largest companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the largest Huntingdonshire-based companies operate in Construction and Utilities (e.g. Osprey Acquisitions Limited (Anglian Water)), Manufacturing (e.g. Hilton Food Group PLC), Other Business Services (e.g. RR Donnelley UK Limited), Life Science and Healthcare (e.g. Envigo CRS Limited), and High-Tech Manufacturing (e.g. Bosch Rexroth Limited). • Most of the largest companies active in the area are concentrated in non-KI sectors, including Transport and Travel (e.g. TUI UK Limited), Other Business Services (e.g. Serco Group PLC), Property and Finance (e.g. Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance PLC), Construction and Utilities (e.g. Skanska UK PLC), and Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. Wilko Retail Limited).
Comparison with BRES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents approximately 62% of total BRES employment. • Six-year employment growth is 4.9% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 1.7% according to BRES data. • Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 2.2%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

Peterborough

Key sectors

- Peterborough contributes 23.8% of total employment and 24.5% of total turnover in the Combined Authority, the second largest contribution after South Cambridgeshire.
- Employment is particularly high in Property and Finance (30.2% of total employment in the district and 63.4% of total employment for the sector in the region), Wholesale and Retail Distribution (11.5% and 26.1%), and Other Business Services (11.0% and 22.5%).
- The largest KI sector is High-Tech Manufacturing, which accounts for almost a third of total employment for the sector in the Combined Authority.
- The largest sector based on turnover is Transport and Travel (27.5%).
- Employment is concentrated in several non-KI sectors, including Property and Finance, as well as in some KI sectors such as High-Tech Manufacturing.
- Total employment growth in Peterborough over the six-year period (5.7%) has been lower compared to the Combined Authority (6.0%).
- The sector that has exhibited the largest growth in employment is Property and Finance (11.0%), followed by Other Business Services (9.1%).
- Peterborough has seen rather limited turnover growth over the entire period (2.2% as opposed to 6.5% in the Combined Authority).
- Concentration in terms of employment has increased primarily in Property and Finance, and Other Business Services.

Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size

- Employment in Peterborough is concentrated among firms with more than 250 employees, which account for 62.5% of total employment in the district.
- The share of turnover generated by large firms (71.1%) is substantially higher relative to the Combined Authority (53.1%).
- Total employment growth is mostly driven by large firms, which have been growing at higher rates compared to the whole region (6.9% and 6.2%, respectively).
- Turnover growth for large firms has slowed down during the past three years (-0.3%).

Largest companies

- Sectors where large Peterborough-based companies are represented are Transport and Travel (e.g. Thomas Cook Tour Operations Limited), High-Tech Manufacturing (e.g. Perkins Engines Company Limited), Property and Finance (e.g. BGL Group Limited and Aldermore Bank PLC), Manufacturing (e.g. Johnston Publishing Limited), and Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. Ideal Shopping Direct Limited).
- Two of the largest companies active in the district (i.e. SKY PLC and Amazon UK Services Ltd.) operate in Information Technology and Telecoms, while other large companies are found in Property and Finance (e.g. RSA Insurance Group PLC), Construction and Utilities (e.g. Balfour Beatty Group Limited), and Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. Ikea Limited).

Comparison with BRES

- Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents around 49% of total BRES employment.
- Six-year employment growth is 5.7% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 2.3% according to BRES data.
- Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 3.4%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

Fenland

Key sectors

- Fenland contributes 5.1% of total employment and 4.7% of total turnover in the Combined Authority, the smallest contribution among the six districts.
- The largest share of employment is in the Primary sector (20.8% of total employment in the area and 20.9% of total employment for the sector in the Combined Authority).
- The share of employment in KI sectors (6.9%) is the lowest in the Combined Authority.
- The greatest contribution in terms of turnover comes from the Wholesale and Retail Distribution sector, which accounts for 33.1% of total turnover in Fenland.
- Employment in the district tends to be concentrated in the Primary sector, although relatively high concentration is also observed in Construction and Utilities, and Manufacturing.
- During the six years to 2016-17, total employment in Fenland has grown at a rate (6.3%) similar to that of the Combined Authority (6.0%).
- High rates of growth in employment have been experienced by Construction and Utilities (11.5%), and Other Business Services (10.3%).
- Key sectors in terms of employment, such as Primary, Manufacturing, and Construction and Utilities, have had higher rates of growth compared to the Combined Authority.
- Six-year turnover growth in the district (4.8%) has been lower than that for the Combined Authority (6.5%), yet greater than that for Peterborough (2.2%).
- Relative concentration for employment has increased in a number of key sectors, namely Construction and Utilities, and Manufacturing.

Distribution of employment and turnover by firm size

- Over half of total employment in Fenland is concentrated in SMEs, while micro firms account for approximately 30% of total employment.
- The largest share of turnover in the area is originated by firms with 10-49 employees (29.4%).
- SMEs have exhibited the highest rates of employment growth in the district (7.8%) and have grown at a faster rate relative to the Combined Authority (5.7%).
- The highest rate of growth in turnover is reported for large firms (7.8%).

Largest companies

- Some of the key players based in Fenland are found in Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. MM (UK) Limited), Primary (e.g. Produce Investments PLC and Alan Bartlett & Sons (Chatteris) Limited), Manufacturing (e.g. LH Holdings Limited and Fencor Packaging Group Limited) and Other Business Services (e.g. Lamb-Weston/Meijer UK Limited).
- Most of the largest companies active in the area belong to non-KI sectors, including Wholesale and Retail Distribution (e.g. Princes Limited and Farmfoods Limited), Primary (e.g. Aggregate Industries UK Limited), Construction and Utilities (e.g. Biffa Waste Services Limited), Manufacturing (e.g. Smurfit Kappa UK Ltd and McCain Foods (G.B.) Limited), and Transport and Travel (e.g. Ceva Logistics Limited).

Comparison with BRES

- Total employment based on Cambridge Ahead data represents over a third of total BRES employment, the lowest value among the six districts.
- Six-year employment growth is 6.3% based on Cambridge Ahead data and 2.6% according to BRES data.
- Six-year employment growth based on the compromise estimate is 3.6%. This estimate takes the growth rates from Cambridge Ahead data for the first ten sectors and the growth rates from BRES data for the last ten sectors.

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