

Insight Team Briefing Note

October 2025



2024 Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) Employee Estimates

1. Background

- 1.1 On Tuesday 28th October, provisional 2024 and revised 2023 Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) estimates were released.
- 1.2 BRES publishes employee and employment estimates at detailed geographical and industrial levels.
- 1.3 BRES is regarded as the definitive official government source of employee statistics by industry.
- 1.4 The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is an employer survey conducted in September of each year.
- 1.5 The BRES records a job at the location of an employee's workplace (rather than at the location of the business's main office).
- 1.6 Employee jobs includes employees plus the number of working owners (typically sole traders, sole proprietors or partners who receive drawings or a share of the profits).
- 1.7 BRES therefore includes self-employed workers as long as they are registered for VAT or Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) schemes.
- 1.8 Self-employed people not registered for these, along with HM Forces and Government Supported trainees are excluded.
- 1.9 An employee is anyone aged 16 years or over that an organisation directly pays from its payroll(s), in return for carrying out a full-time or part-time job or being on a training scheme. It excludes voluntary workers, self-employed, working owners who are not paid via PAYE.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Over the last year there has been a decrease in employees in Hull (-2,000; -1.6%) from 128,000 to 126,000.
- 2.2 This decrease occurred despite small employee growth both regionally (+0.1%) and nationally (+0.6%).
- 2.3 The decrease in employees in Hull (-1.6%) was similar to that experienced in both Sheffield (-1.5%) and Wakefield (-1.8%); but contrasted against employee growth in York (+2.6%), Leeds (+1.4%) and Doncaster (+0.8%).

- 2.4 Seven employment industries in Hull represent approximately a quarter (26.7%) of all employees in Hull; with high levels of employment in the Human Health and Social Work, Education, and Administration and Support Services sectors.
- 2.5 Hull's strength / specialist industries are heavily focused within the manufacturing sector; most notably the manufacture of vegetable and animal oils / fats, the manufacture of tanks / reservoirs / containers, the manufacture of bodies / coachwork for motor vehicles / trailers / semi-trailers, the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations, and the processing and preserving of fish.
- 2.6 Notably, employment in call centers is both one of Hull largest employment industries and one of Hull's strength / specialist industries.
- 2.7 However, a high number of Hull's largest employment industries have shrunk in employment size over the last year; including, importantly, employment in call centers which is both a large scale and strength / specialist employment sector in Hull

3. Total Employees

3.1 **There are estimated to be a total of 126,000 employees in Hull in 2024.**

3.2 This represents:

- 56% of the 227,000 employees in the wider Hull Travel to Work Area (TTWA)
- 32% of the 395,000 employees in the Humber sub region
- 5% of the 2,499,000 employees in the Yorkshire and Humber region

4. Annual Change

4.1 **Compared to 2023, there has been a decrease of 2,000 employees (-1.6%) in Hull in 2024.**

Table 1: Change in Total Employees, 2023 - 2024

	Change in total Employees 2023 – 2024	
	Number	Percentage
Hull	-2,000	-1.6%
Hull TTWA	-2,000	-0.9%
East Riding of Yorkshire	-1,000	-0.8%
North East Lincolnshire	+1,000	+1.5%
North Lincolnshire	-2,000	-2.7%
Humber Sub Region	-4,000	-1.0%
Yorkshire and Humber	+3,000	+0.1%
England	+158,00	+0.6%

- 4.2 The percentage decrease in employees in Hull (-1.6%) was greater than in the East Riding (-0.8%) but not as large as in North Lincolnshire (-2.7%).
- 4.3 North East Lincolnshire was the only part of the sub region which experienced employee growth (+1.5%)

- 4.4 The percentage decrease in employees in Hull (-1.6%) also occurred despite small employee growth both regionally (+0.1%) and nationally (+0.6%).

Table 2: Change in Total Employees, 2023 – 2024 – Yorkshire and Humber Cities

	Change in total Employees 2023 – 2024	
	Number	Percentage
Hull	-2,000	-1.6%
Bradford	No change	No change
Doncaster	+1,000	+0.8%
Leeds	+7,000	+1.4%
Sheffield	-4,000	-1.5%
Wakefield	-3,000	-1.8%
York	3,000	+2.6%

- 4.5 Amongst the seven cities in the Yorkshire and Humber region, Hull was one of three authorities to experience a percentage decrease in employees.
- 4.6 The percentage decrease in employees in Hull (-1.6%) was similar to that experienced in both Sheffield (-1.5%) and Wakefield (-1.8%).
- 4.7 Three of the remaining authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region experienced employee growth. In York (+2.6%) and Leeds (+1.4%) this employee growth was significantly higher than nationally, whilst growth in Doncaster (+0.8) was more average.

5. Largest Employment Industries in Hull

- 5.1 SIC codes are used to organize companies, track economic trends, and understand industry growth. They're also used by governments to understand government work and by companies to fulfil tax obligations.
- 5.2 In 2024, the top eighteen employment industries in Hull, by 3-digit Standard industrial Classification (SIC) code, are shown overleaf.
- 5.3 **The top seven employment industries in Hull in 2024, represent approximately a quarter (26.7%) of all employees in Hull.**
- 5.4 Of the top eighteen largest employment industries in Hull
- 3 are in Human Health and Social Work Activities (15,000 employees, 11.9% of total)
 - 3 are in Education (10,000 employees, 8.0% of total)
 - 3 are in Administrative and Support Services (9,000 employees, 7.2% of total)
 - 2 are in Wholesale and Retail Trade (7,500 employees, 6.0% of total)
 - 2 are in Construction (5,500 employees, 4.4% of total)
 - 2 are in Public admin and Defence (4,500 employees, 3.6% of total)
 - 2 are in Manufacturing (4,000 employees, 3.2% of total)
 - 1 is in Accommodation and Food Services (4,000 employees, 3.2% of total)

Table 3: Largest Industries in Hull by Number of Employees, 2024

Industry	Number	% of All Employees
861 : Hospital activities	8,000	6.4%
471 : Retail sale in non-specialised stores	5,000	4.0%
782 : Temporary employment agency activities	4,500	3.6%
852 : Primary education	4,500	3.6%
561 : Restaurants and mobile food service activities	4,000	3.2%
889 : Other social work activities without accommodation	4,000	3.2%
853 : Secondary education	3,500	2.8%
432 : Electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities	3,000	2.4%
869 : Other human health activities	3,000	2.4%
412 : Construction of residential and non-residential buildings	2,500	2.0%
477 : Retail sale of other goods in specialised stores	2,500	2.0%
812 : Cleaning activities	2,500	2.0%
841 : Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community	2,250	1.8%
842 : Provision of services to community as a whole	2,250	1.8%
101 : Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products	2,000	1.6%
222 : Manufacture of plastics products	2,000	1.6%
822 : Activities of call centres	2,000	1.6%
854 : Higher education	2,000	1.6%

6. Strong and Weak Employment Industries in Hull

- 6.1 Strong and weak employment industries in Hull are based on Hull's location quotient (LQ).
- 6.2 A location quotient (LQ) is an analytical statistic that measures an area's industrial specialization relative to a larger geographic unit (in this case England).
- 6.3 The LQ is computed as an industry's share of the local authorities total for some economic statistic divided by the industry's share of the national total for the same statistic. For example, an LQ of 1.0 in mining means that the local authority and England are equally specialized in mining; while an LQ of 1.8 means that the local authority has a higher concentration in mining than England.

Strength Employment Industries

6.4 Hull's strength employment industries in 2024 are those with the largest LQ.

Table 4: Strength Industries in Hull by Location Quotient, 2024

Industry	LQ
104 : Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats	33.00
252 : Manufacture of tanks, reservoirs and containers of metal	31.43
292 : Manufacture of bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles; manufacture of trailers and semitrailers	16.18
212 : Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations	14.26
102 : Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs	13.75
822 : Activities of call centres	10.23
281 : Manufacture of general-purpose machinery	8.25
234 : Manufacture of other porcelain and ceramic products	7.33
774 : Leasing of intellectual property and similar products, except copyrighted works	7.33
422 : Construction of utility projects	6.77
162 : Manufacture of products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials	6.74
101 : Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products	6.47
192 : Manufacture of refined petroleum products	6.29
161 : Sawmilling and planing of wood	6.11

6.5 Of the fourteen industries in Hull with the largest LQ, eleven are classified as within the Manufacturing sector (as highlighted).

6.6 The following industries have significantly high LQ:

- Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats; representing 0.2% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.0% nationally.
- Manufacture of tanks, reservoirs and containers of metal; representing 0.8% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.0% nationally
- Manufacture of bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles; manufacture of trailers and semitrailers; representing 1.0% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.1% nationally.
- Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations; representing 1.4% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.1% nationally.
- Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs; representing 0.4% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.0% nationally.
- Activities of call centres; representing 1.6% of employees in Hull, compared to 0.2% nationally.

6.7 Note that that the following SIC codes are both one of Hull's largest employment industries and one of Hull's strength industries:

- **822 : Activities of call centres**
- **101 : Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products**

Weak Employment Industries

6.8 Conversely, Hull's weak employment industries in 2024 are those with the lowest LQ.

Table 5: Weak Industries in Hull by Location Quotient, 2024

** This does not include 76 SIC codes with a LQ of 0.00 (i.e. there is no one in Hull working in these industries)*

Industry	LQ
721 : Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	0.02
663 : Fund management activities	0.03
265 : Manufacture of instruments and appliances for measuring, testing and navigation; watches and clocks	0.05
552 : Holiday and other short stay accommodation	0.05
631 : Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals	0.07
201 : Manufacture of basic chemicals, fertilisers and nitrogen compounds, plastics and synthetic rubber in primary forms	0.08
236 : Manufacture of articles of concrete, cement and plaster	0.10
291 : Manufacture of motor vehicles	0.10
823 : Organisation of conventions and trade shows	0.10
732 : Market research and public opinion polling	0.11
301 : Building of ships and boats	0.11
651 : Insurance	0.13
813 : Landscape service activities	0.15
612 : Wireless telecommunications activities	0.15

6.9 **Of the fourteen industries in Hull with the lowest LQ, five are also within the Manufacturing sector**

6.10 There are two each within each of the following sectors:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
- Financial and Insurance Activities
- Information and Communication
- Administrative and Support Service Activities

6.11 Finally, one industry is within the Accommodation and Food Service sector.

7. Growing and Shrinking Employment Industries in Hull

7.1 The following is based on the increase or decrease in actual employee numbers in Hull between 2023 and 2024.

Growing Employment industries

7.2 The eleven industries which saw the largest increase in total employment are as follows:

Table 6: Industries in Hull With Largest Growth in Employee Numbers. 2023 – 2024

Industry	Change in Employee Numbers 2023 - 2024
181 : Printing and service activities related to printing	+750
432 : Electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities	+500
433 : Building completion and finishing	+500
931 : Sports activities	+500
562 : Event catering and other food service activities	+400
960 : Other personal service activities	+350
682 : Renting and operating of own or leased real estate	+300
281 : Manufacture of general purpose machinery	+250
463 : Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco	+250
467 : Other specialised wholesale	+250
711 : Architectural and engineering activities and related technical consultancy	+250

7.3 Of the eleven industries in Hull with the largest growth in employment, two are within the Construction sector, two are within the Manufacturing sector, and two are within the Wholesale and Retail trade sector.

7.4 **The following industries are both one of Hull's largest employment industries and one of Hull's growing employment industries:**

- **432 : Electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities**

7.5 **The following industries are both one of Hull's strength employment industries and one of Hull's growing employment industries:**

- **281 : Manufacture of general purpose machinery**

Shrinking Employment Industries

7.6 The eleven industries which saw the largest decrease in total employment are shown overleaf.

7.7 Of the eleven industries in Hull with the largest decline in employment, two are within the Education sector, two are within the Transportation and Storage sector, and two are within the Information and Telecommunications sector.

7.8 **The following industries are one of Hull's largest employment industries but one of Hull's shrinking employment industries:**

- **471 : Retail sale in non-specialised stores**
- **412 : Construction of residential and non-residential buildings**
- **822: Activities of call centres**
- **852: Primary education**
- **869 : Other human health activities**

Table 7: Industries in Hull With Largest Decline in Employee Numbers. 2023 – 2024

Industry	Change in Employee Numbers 2023 - 2024
471 : Retail sale in non-specialised stores	-1,000
162 : Manufacture of products of wood, cork, straw & plaiting	-500
412 : Construction of residential and non-residential buildings	-500
822 : Activities of call centres	-500
852 : Primary education	-500
869 : Other human health activities	-500
493 : Other passenger land transport	-450
494 : Freight transport by road and removal services	-450
620 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	-450
855 : Other education	-450
619 : Other telecommunications activities	-400

7.9 The following industries are one of Hull's strength employment industries but one of Hull's shrinking employment industries:

- **162 : Manufacture of products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials**
- **822: Activities of call centres**

8. Summary

8.1 Over the last year there has been a decrease in employees in Hull (-2,000; -1.6%) from 128,000 to 126,000.

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8.6 However, a high number of Hull's largest employment industries have shrunk in employment size over the last year; including, importantly, employment in call centers which is both a large scale and strength / specialist employment sector in Hull

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