

EDS Briefing Note No. 2

Annual Employment Survey 1997

The Annual Employment Survey (AES) is a survey of employees in employment. Data is collected from workplaces through questionnaires, providing details on employment structure and patterns for national and local areas. This Briefing Note summarises the results from the 1997 survey, considering recent trends, some regional and national comparisons, and provides general employment information for the Kirklees area.

The Kirklees Position 1997

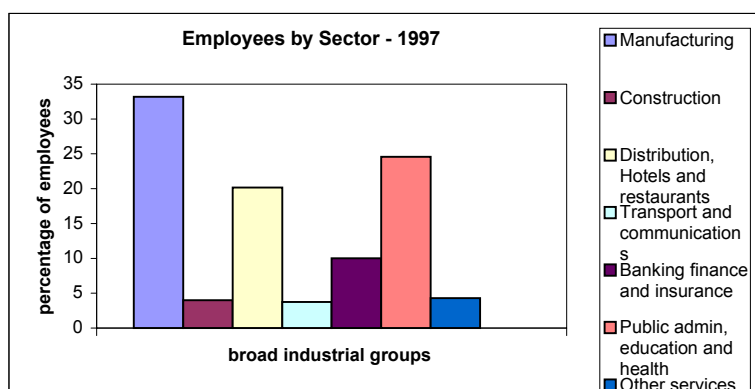
The number of people who work within Kirklees district is around 138,500, distributed across approximately 11,000 workplaces. This does not take account of people having more than one job and jobs not necessarily being held by local residents.

Most employees work full time and slightly more men work than women. Women dominate part time employment, with 24% of all jobs across the district being female and part time. The vast majority of full time posts are in production and construction industries or manufacturing, although part time work is more evident in service industries.

Over 90% of work places employ less than 25 employees. Compared to the national position employers of between 25 and 100 employees are more significant in Kirklees employing 29% of employees compared to 24% nationally.

Employment in Kirklees is dominated by three of the 10 broad industrial groups – 1) public administration, health and education; 2) manufacturing and, 3) distribution, hotels and restaurants, accounting for two thirds of all employment.

Larger employers are more likely to be in the manufacturing sector whereas smaller employers are more likely to be in distribution, hotels and restaurant and banking finance and insurance industries.



Employment Trends in 1990s



Between 1991 and 1997 the number of people employed in Kirklees increased by over 5000. Numbers in employment peaked in 1995 at around 139,500. 1996 saw a decrease from 1995 but numbers in employment have risen again between 1996 and 1997. This is supported by the general downward trend in unemployment.

There has also been an increase in the number of workplaces, with at least 3000 more workplaces being evident in 1997 than in 1991. New workplaces tend to be smaller employers with an average of 1.5 new jobs per new workplace. The size distribution of data units has changed little in the 1990s with smaller units of less than 5 employees dominating.

The distribution of employment across the sectors has stayed much the same, though there is some evidence of increases in service sector groups. Employment in manufacturing has consistently dominated employment, although there has been some decline recently.

Declining sectors include – manufacturing, distribution, hotels and restaurants.
Growth sectors include – construction, public administration, education and health.

Summary and Conclusions

On the whole, employment in the district appears to be maintaining a healthy upward trend, with some degree of diversification also evident. Manufacturing continues to dominate and is likely to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This should compliment developments in the service sector.

The main trends and issues arising from the results of the 1997 Annual Employment Survey are:

- 16% of West Yorkshire's employment is located in Kirklees.
- Most employees work full time although part time working is becoming more popular.
- In 1997 there were 2500 more men working part time than in 1991.
- The majority of workplaces employ less than 5 employees.
- 33% of employment is in manufacturing.
- There were approximately 3000 more workplaces in 1997 than in 1991.
- The distribution of employment across sectors has changed little over the last few years.
- There remains a need to maintain support services for self-employed and small businesses.

- Work needs to continue on diversifying business and employment across the district.
- Growth sectors should continue to be monitored and opportunities to develop appropriate skills in the local workforce expanded.

A more detailed report of results from the 1997 Annual Employment Survey is available from the contacts below.

This is one of a series of Briefing Notes produced by the Economic Development Service on key policy and research issues. For further information please contact:

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