Bedford Borough's Labour Market:

Q4 2022/23

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Key Statistics

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

79,000 employee jobs

Over 7,000 businesses

Key Sectors:
 - Logistics
 - Advanced Engineering
 - Creative
 - Food & Drink

Bedford Borough's Economy: *Yearly Comparison*

*Please note due to the time lag on some data releases, all but the claimant count are not reflective of current changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

	2021/ 1 year prior	2022/ Most up to date data	Movement
Total Population	174,700	185,800	Up
Total working age population	106,400 (60.9%)	117,400 (63.2%)	Up
% of the working age population that are in employment	72.9%	75.5%	Up
% of the working age population qualified to Level 4	53.0%	49.5%	Down
% of the working age population with no qualifications	3.9%	5.3%	Up
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.1%	Down
Claimant rate	3.9%	3.9%	Down
Gross Weekly Pay (mean) — By resident	£736.20	£762.0	Up
Gross Weekly Pay (mean) — By workplace	£684.40	£709.60	Up

Source: NOMIS. Data extracted on 06/07/2023

Job Market

The total number of jobs adverts for Q4 was 13,981. This was the quarter that saw the highest number of job advertisements.

	Job Title	Q1
1	Support Workers	278
2	Warehouse Operatives	172
3	Care Assistants	129
4	Administrators	122
5	Cleaners	110
6	Health Care Assistants	72
7	Team Leads	62
8	Vehicle Technicians	55
9	Project Managers	54
10	Learning Support Assistants	52

	Job Title	Q1
11	Registered Nurses	51
12	Maintenance Engineers	51
13	Field Service Engineers	50
14	Design Engineers	50
15	Residential Support Workers	50
16	Customer Service Advisors	49
17	Production Engineers	49
18	Production Operatives	46
19	Deputy Managers	44
20	Cleaning Operatives	43

Source: Lightcast

Employability Skills

Basic Skills

Literacy   Numeracy   Spoken English   Basic Digital

Core Transferable Skills

Communication		Time management
Organisation	Problem solving	Analytical
Digital literacy	Creativity/Innovation	Teamwork/Collaboration
Planning	Leadership	Resilience

Attitudes & Behaviours

Detail orientated		Reliability
Work ethic	Independent working	Politeness
Willingness to learn	Flexibility	Humility
Enthusiasm	Adaptability	Empathy
Self-motivation	Honesty	Curiosity

Technical/Vocational Skills

Job specific		
Operations	Management	Financial awareness
Customer service	Specialist digital skills	Working with hands
Sales	Commercial acumen	Driving

Qualifications and Certification

Digital literacy defined as: Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, Teams
Basic digital is defined as: search online, access a bank account, sending/receiving emails.
Spoken English includes ESOL

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Key Investments and Developments

Recent Companies:

Metro Supply-Chain:
The occupiers of three large industrial units at Wixams, MH Star, post COVID have experienced a reduction in revenue, and therefore reduced presence into one unit.
They have now sub-let unit 2 at Wixams Business Park (126,132 sqft) to Canadian third party fulfilment company Metro-Supply-Chain. The company will be utilising the unit for bulky retail goods distribution.

Greenmill Air Conditioning:
The newly refurbished former Terinex unit (60,000sqft) on Elms Estate has been leased to Greenmill Air Conditioning, who will relocate from Postley Road, Woburn Road Industrial Estate. Established in 2000, Greenmill originally started as an AC installation company, but quickly saw an opportunity to move up the supply chain and begin wholesaling to contractors and installers, in an industry ready for service innovation.

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Key Investments and Developments

Key Developments:

Bedford Innovation Campus
The ambitious vision for Bedford Innovation Campus (BIC) is to integrate the land West of Elstow with Peartree Farm. This will create a 120-acre world class destination for national and regional scientific, business and educational research incorporating manufacturing facilities for the science and innovation sectors.
At the heart of the masterplan will be an on-going process of thought leadership putting 'science and innovation' at the centre of what is developed moving forward. Furthermore, best practice master-planning will be responsive to ecology, providing connections and protecting features and creating opportunities for new habitats.

Land East of Bedford near Renhold
Located 2 miles east of Bedford, and building on Bedfordshire's engineering legacy and strategic location on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the vision is to create an internationally renowned 30-hectare innovation campus where companies will research, develop and manufacture high-value products aimed at improving the lives of all. The proposed campus will deliver a built environment that benefits the local community, improves the natural landscape and delivers high-skilled employment in a sensitively designed setting for the benefit of the Bedfordshire economy.

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Conclusion

- Support workers, warehouse operatives and care assistants remain the most advertised jobs. This is a continuation of the trend from Q1, Q2 and Q3.

- Range of employability skills that employers are looking for, including but not limited to qualifications only.

- Highest number of job advertisements of the year compared to previous quarters.

- Bedford claimant count has remained at 3.9%.

LMI Statistics Definitions

Total working age population:

This is the number of 16-64 year olds living within the Borough boundary, who are in employment. This is taken from the Annual Population Survey from the Office of National Statistics. This is updated every quarter but as a whole year, for example January 2020- December 2020.

% of the working age population that are in employment

This is the number of 16-64 year olds living within the Borough boundary. This is taken from the Annual Population Survey from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This is updated every quarter but as a whole year, for example January 2020- December 2020.

Gross Value Added (GVA)

GVA is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy. The GVA used is current price by industry. This is taken from ONS and is updated annually but is often delayed (2019 released in 2021).

% of the working age population qualified to Level 4/ No qualification

This is the number of 16-64 year olds living within the Borough boundary, who have the related level of qualification. This is taken from the Annual Population Survey from the Office of National Statistics, this is updated once a year.

Business Numbers

This is the number of businesses in Bedford Borough at the time data was collected. These are sorted into:
- Micro (0-9 employees)
- Small 10-49 employees)
- Medium (50-249 employees)
- Large (250+ employees)

This is from the Inter Departmental Business Register, from ONS, and is released yearly.

Job Numbers

This is the number of employee jobs by sector. This is taken from the ONS Business Register and Employment Survey and is updated yearly.
These are sorted into the 'type' of job, eg administration or manufacturing.

LMI Statistics Definitions

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate consists of those people, aged 16-64 years who are out of work, who are actively looking for work and are available to start immediately. The data is taken from the Annual Population survey from ONS.

The results are model based and uses the APS results to do this, where a percentage of the population is interviewed and results extrapolated to the whole population. This is updated every quarter but as a whole year, for example January 2020- December 2020.

Claimant count

The Claimant Count is the number of people who are receiving benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. This includes Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit.

This is released every month detailing information from the month prior.

Unemployment Rate vs Claimant Count

There is a large degree of overlap between the claimant count and unemployment rate. In some circumstances people can claim benefits while they have relatively low earnings from part time work; these claimants in a paid job would not appear in the model based measure of unemployment.

Similarly claimants of unemployment benefits may not appear in the model based measure if, when interviewed for the survey, they stated that they are not seeking, or are not available to start work. Both of these types of people would appear within the Claimant Count but would not be classified as unemployed.

Similarly, people who are not claimants can appear among the model based unemployed if they are not entitled to, or choose not to claim unemployment benefits. For example:
- People whose partner was working
- People who are looking for work alongside full-time study
- People beyond or around State Pension Age who are looking for work.