Bedford Borough's Labour Market:

Q2 2024/25

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Key Statistics

96,000 employee jobs

Over 8,000 businesses

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

Bedford

Bedford Borough's Economy: *Yearly Comparison*

	2022/ 1 year prior	2023/ 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	78.5%	82.0%	Up
% of the working age population qualified to Level 4	49.5%	53.0%	Up
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	Down
Claimant rate	4.0%	4.6%	Up
Gross Weekly Pay (mean) — By resident	£761.2	£824.5	Up
Gross Weekly Pay (mean) — By workplace	£711.5	£728.7	Up

Job Market: Most advertised jobs

Jobs	2023	% Change
Sales and Retail Assistants (7111)	2,790	1%
Warehouse Operatives (9252)	2,820	14%
Care Workers and Home Carers (6135)	2,282	5%
Other Administrative Occupations n.e.c. (4159)	2,325	11%
Primary Education Teaching Professionals (2314)	1,481	(0%)
Nursing Auxiliaries and Assistants (6131)	1,254	(5%)
Cleaners and Domestics (9223)	1,222	(6%)
Book-keepers, Payroll Managers and Wages Clerks (4122)	1,344	8%
Large Goods Vehicle Drivers (8211)	1,191	(3%)
Kitchen and Catering Assistants (9263)	1,331	17%
Other Registered Nursing Professionals (2237)	1,038	(8%)
Financial Managers and Directors (1131)	1,026	5%
Sales Accounts and Business Development Managers (3556)	1,002	3%
Managers and Directors in Retail and Wholesale (1150)	973	3%
Secondary Education Teaching Professionals (2313)	763	(19%)
Higher Level Teaching Assistants (3231)	902	(3%)
Customer Service Occupations n.e.c. (7219)	870	(0%)
Production Managers and Directors in Manufacturing (1121)	825	0%
Bar Staff (9265)	937	15%

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

Estrella Damn

The beer producer behind Estrella, Damn, is investing £50 million in a new state of the art brewery in Bedford. They have acquired the Eagle Brewery site, previously owned by Carlsberg Marston.

Comline

The Comline group have chosen Bedford for its new UK headquarters and distribution centre. Located on the Bedford commercial park, the business who are global leader in automotive parts, will join other businesses on the development site such as Amazon, Expi8ditors and i-Worx.

Paloma Capital

Private equity real estate investor, Paloma Capital, with development partner Graftongate, has completed the acquisition of a 5.77-acre industrial site in Bedfordshire. The site is located on the multi-let Elm Farm Industrial Estate, Caxton Road, near Bedford town centre, adjacent to the A4280 dual carriageway.

Carlsberg

The company have recently taken a 15 year lease of a warehouse off Edison Road in Bedford. The unit is a mix of warehouse and office space.

Bedford Borough's Economy:
Conclusion

- Warehouse operatives and care assistants remain some of the most advertised jobs. This is a continuation of the trends seen in previous reports. Also ranked in the top 3 was Sales and Retail Assistants which is new compared to the last report.

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

- Bedford claimant count is now at 4.6%.

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.