

POPULATION

- 322,000 people live in Wigan, of which 202,500 are of working age (16-64). Wigan is the second most populous authority in Greater Manchester
- The population of Wigan grew by 5.2% (15,900) between 2005 and 2015 compared to 8.3% nationally
- Population growth across Greater Manchester was as follows:
 - Bolton — 6.3% (16,600)
 - Bury—3.8% (6,900)
 - Manchester—16.3% (74,600)
 - Oldham—5.2% (11,500)
 - Rochdale—3.4% (7,000)
 - Salford—11.9% (26,100)
 - Stockport—2.7% (7,500)
 - Tameside—3.8% (8,200)
 - Trafford—8.3% (17,900)

ECONOMY

- Wigan's economy generates £4.2 bn of Gross Value Added (GVA) on an annual basis (a common measure of economic output), accounting for 2.8% of GVA output in the North West
- There are 158,300 people working in the Wigan Borough in 8,250 businesses. These businesses can be broken down by number of employees as follows:
 - Micro, 0-9 employees: 7,275 (88.2%)
 - Small, 10-49 employees: 825 (10%)
 - Medium, 50-249 employees: 115 (1.4%)
 - Large, 250+ employees: 35 (0.4%)
- 2,900 additional jobs are forecast to be created in Wigan between 2014-2024
- GVA is forecast to rise by an average of 2.3% per year between 2014 and 2024 in Wigan, increasing to more than £5.3bn per annum by the end of this period

KEY SECTORS

- Business, Financial and Professional Services employ 19,800 people and generates £899m of GVA each year
- The Health and Social Care Sector employs 14,900 people and generates annual GVA of £357m each year
- Creative Digital employs 2,500 people and generates GVA of 112m each year
- The Education Sector employs 9,400 people generating £311m in GVA each year
- Manufacturing employs 14,200 people in Wigan, generating £876m of GVA every year.
- Retail employs 12,800 people in Wigan, generating £312m in GVA each year
- The Construction sector employs 10,800 people and generates £392m in GVA each year

HEALTH

- The life expectancy of residents in Wigan at birth stands at 77.7 for males and 81.3 for females. This is slightly lower than the North West (M:78.0; F:81.8) and the England average (M:79.4; F:83.1)
- In February 2016, 15,410 people claimed Employment and Support Allowance in Wigan.
- In the 12 months to March 2016, over a fifth (22%) of people aged 16-64 in Wigan were disabled, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West average of 21.8%
- Less than half (49.7%) of all disabled individuals in Wigan were in employment, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West averages of 44.6% and 45.3% respectively
- 20,330 people in Wigan claimed Disability Living Allowance in February 2016

SKILLS & EDUCATION

- Across Wigan 56,600 people aged 16-64 are educated to level 4/degree level or higher. This is 28.4% of the working age population. At a UK level the figure is 37.1%.
- 16,800 people aged 16-64 across Wigan have no qualifications. This is 8.4% of the working age population. At a UK level the figure is 8.6%.
- 102,000 people aged 16-64 have an NVQ level 3 (2+ A Levels) qualification only. This is 51.1% of the working age population, compared to the UK level of 57.4%.
- 141,000 people aged 16-64 have an NVQ Level 2 (5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C) qualification only. This is 70.8% of the working age population, compared to 73.6% in the UK.
- The percentage of pupils in Wigan achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including English and Maths) in 2015 was 68.8%, compared to 66% in the North West and 64.9% in England.

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- In 2014 there were 1,195 new businesses created in Wigan, a decrease of 6% from 2013, but an increase of 36% from 2009.
- There were around 437 businesses per 10,000 resident working age population in Wigan in 2014, lower than the Great Britain average (623).
- There were 59 business births per 10,000 resident working age population in Wigan in 2014, below the Great Britain average of 86.
- In the same year, there were 810 business deaths which was a 23% decrease compared to 2009 (1,050).

LABOUR MARKET

- Unemployment rate in Wigan is 4.9%, below the North West average of 5.3%
- Median residence based earnings in 2015 were £503 per week. Higher than North West average of £492. Residents who commute out of the borough earn, on average, £44 per week more than those working in the borough
- 5,080 Wigan residents (2.5% of the working age population) were claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or unemployment-based Universal Credit in July 2016. 1,205 (23%) of these claimants were aged 16-24
- 59,800 residents leave the borough every day to access jobs with a net outward commute of 32,186. The top 3 commuting destinations were as follows:
 - Bolton—9,110
 - Warrington—6,539
 - Salford—5,845

HOUSING

- The average price of a property in Wigan was £120,998, below the UK average of £213,927 (June 2016)
- In 2015, the average house price in Wigan was 5.5 times the average annual salary.
- Home ownership rates in Wigan was 68% compared with the Greater Manchester average of 60%
- 12% of Wigan residents privately rent below the GM average of 16%. The private rented market in Wigan has increased 59% in the last 10 years below the average GM growth of 77%.
- 46% of housing stock in Wigan is semi-detached with 29% made up of terraced properties

CHALLENGES

- 29% of neighbourhoods in Wigan are in the top 20% most deprived in England. Deprived areas are concentrated within Borough's urban core
- Health deprivation and employment deprivation are heavily concentrated in Wigan
- Mental Health conditions make up 33% of all out-of-work benefit claims
- Youth unemployment makes up 24% of total unemployment higher than the GM average of 23%
- The proportions of residents qualified to NVQ level 3 and 4 are below the Greater Manchester average.
- Transport infrastructure within the Borough requires development to enhance connectivity to major arterial routes in order to enable growth