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1 East Midlands Key Facts

Geography:
The East Midlands covers an area of 15,600km² (6% of the total area of the UK). Its three largest cities (Leicester, Nottingham and Derby) had a population of around 884,300 at the time of the last Census. In contrast, the Peak District National Park accounts for 6% of the region and the Lincolnshire Wolds is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

The region includes the urban centres of:
- Nottingham
- Derby
- Lincoln
- Leicester
- Northampton

and the counties of:
- Nottinghamshire
- Leicestershire
- Derbyshire
- Lincolnshire
- Rutland

Smaller towns include:
- Loughborough
- Boston
- Daventry
- Melton Mowbray
- Grantham
- Kettering

Transport:
The East Midlands is at the heart of the country’s strategic transport network – literally the crossroads of England. Good transport links are required for the movement of food, goods and services, efficient labour markets and to support local visitor economies.

There have been recent examples of major investment in the East Midlands, such as improvements to the A453 (M1-Nottingham) and the A46 (Newark-Widmerpool), and upgrades and electrification of the Midland Main Line. Future priorities include investment in the East Coast Main Line to improve east-west connectivity and reduce journey times; improvements to A5 (M42-M69) to reduce accidents and improve journey times; improvements to A38 Derby Junctions to improve journey times, reduce accidents and open up the area to investment; and development of a new junction on the A14 (Junction 10a) to support housing and employment growth in Kettering. Other proposals under discussion include improved HS2 connectivity to maximise its economic potential across the East Midlands; and a strategic approach to addressing the delivery of major growth in Newark and the interchange between the A1, A17 and A46.

Housing:
In the East Midlands, the delivery of housing remains at only about 50% of actual need; with the level of housing need at around 20-22,000 houses per annum, but the latest figures available for 2013-14 show delivery falling short at only 10,050 per annum. (source: DCLG Live Tables on House Building)

In total, councils are planning for 400,000 new homes across the East Midlands over the next 20 years to support the needs of current and future local communities.

The average house in the region cost £131,610 in November 2014, up 5.7% on the year. By contrast the England and Wales average house price was £176,581 in November 2014, up 7.1% on the year. (source: Land Registry)
**Resident Population**

The UK mid-year population estimates for 2013 show that the population of the East Midlands grew to 4.6 million in mid-2013 – a gain of 31,000 (0.68%) from the previous year. This represents 7.2% of the UK population. Natural change (that is, the number of births less the number of deaths) contributed slightly less than net international migration to the regional population increase in the year. There were 11,700 more births than deaths and 12,700 more immigrants arriving than emigrants leaving in the East Midlands. (source: ONS mid-year population estimates)

63.4% of the population is aged between 16-64 compared with 63.8% of the UK. (source: mid year population estimates)

Life expectancy at birth in the region has risen from 73.7 years (males) / 79.0 years (females) in 1991-93 to 79.1 years (males) / 82.9 years (females) by 2010-12. This ranked the region in 5th place for both men and women out of the 9 English regions in 2010-12 (in each case behind the East, South East, South West and London). (source: ONS life expectancy data)

**Labour Supply**

78.6% of the population of the East Midlands is economically active, 0.9% higher than the UK as a whole. Of these, 74.1% were in employment and 5.6% were unemployed (August - October 2014). (source: Labour Force Survey)

**Qualifications**

The population of the East Midlands has relatively lower levels of qualifications compared to the rest of the UK. 30.1% of the region is qualified to level NVQ4 and above, compared to 35% of the UK. (Source: ONS annual population survey)

**Gross Weekly Pay**

Reflecting the lower level of qualifications and industrial structure of the region, gross weekly pay is below the UK average. Full-time workers in the East Midlands earn £483.40/week compared to £518.00 in the UK. Full-time male workers earn on average £106.30/week more than their female counterparts (UK full-time male workers earn on average £95.90/week more than their female counterparts). (source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings)

**Unemployment**

The employment rate for working age people in the UK was 73.0% for the period August to October 2014. For the East Midlands, employment rates over the same period were 74.1% (up 0.4% from previous quarter). This compared to 70.1% in the West Midlands (unchanged from previous quarter) and 76.5% in the East of England (down 0.1% from previous quarter). Compared to the same quarter in 2013 the employment rate in the UK as a whole has risen by 1.1%. East Midlands saw a rise of 1.6%, West Midlands 0.9% and East of England 0.8%.

The Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week.

The unadjusted count of people receiving job seekers allowance in the region at November 2014 was 54,351 (2.4% of the claimant count + workforce jobs total), of which 34,036 were male (2.8%) and 20,315 were female (1.9%). The percentages are slightly lower than for the UK as a whole in each case (total 2.5%; males 3.0%; females 2.0%). (source ONS: Claimant Count)
Analysis of the JSA claimants by age and duration show that 15,615 people of all ages had been out of work for over 12 months in the region at November 2014 (0.5%). This compares to 0.6% of those available for and seeking full-time work in the UK. Those aged 18-24 who have been claiming JSA in the region over 12 months stood at 2,145 which equates to 0.5% of job seekers and the same proportion of this group for the UK as a whole. (source: ONS claimant count)

Those described as NEET (not in education, employment or training) in the East Midlands stood at 62,000 in Q2 of 2014. This is down from 96,000 since the same quarter in 2013. (source: DCLG).

**Businesses and Labour Demand**

Micro enterprises dominate the East Midlands business structure, with 133,055 businesses employing between 0 – 9 workers (87.7% of businesses but slightly behind the UK rate of 88.3%). Small businesses (10-49 workers) make up a further 10.2% (UK 9.6%) of businesses (15,445) with large businesses (250+ workers) comprising only 0.4% of all businesses in the region (605), the same rate as in the UK as a whole. (source: Inter Departmental Business Register)

Job density in the region (the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64 was 0.75 in 2012, compared to 0.78 in the UK as a whole. (source: ONS jobs density)

Seasonally adjusted workforce jobs by industry sector (SIC 2007) at June 2014 shows ‘wholesale and retail trade’ employing 15.7% of the workforce, followed by ‘human health and social work activities’ (13.1%), ‘manufacturing’ (12.4%) and ‘education’ (9.4%). The breakdown in the UK shows a similar picture albeit one less dominated by manufacturing. For the UK as a whole ‘wholesale and retail trade’ again dominate (14.7%) followed by ‘human health and social work activities’ (12.7%), ‘education’ (8.7%), and ‘professional, scientific and technical activities’ (8.5%). (source: ONS workforce jobs by industry (SIC 2007))

**Regional GVA**

Once a year, the Office for National Statistics releases annual estimates of GVA by country, region and local area. The latest figures cover 1997-2013. GVA per head of population rose in all UK regions and countries in 2013 compared to 2012. The North West and Wales had the largest percentage increase in GVA per head at 3.4%. The increase in the East Midlands was 2.0%. This was the lowest of the English regions (along with the South East which also saw an increase of 2.0%). Only Northern Ireland was lower at 0.9% (UK increase was 2.6%). The percentage share of UK total GVA by (NUTS1) countries and regions is shown in the chart below.
2 Map of East Midlands showing Investment Corridor
### 3 East Midlands Key Assets and Capacity for Growth

- **Transport Equipment Manufacturing:**
  This sector includes aerospace, automotive and rail, and is 40% more productive in the East Midlands than for the UK as a whole. The sector employs over 26,000 people and generates around £2.4 billion of GVA per year.

- **Food and Drink Manufacturing:**
  This sector is closely related to the East Midlands agricultural strengths and is around 5% more productive in the East Midlands than for the country as a whole. It employs over 57,000 people and generates around £3.6 billion of GVA per year.

- **Construction:**
  Construction is a key enabling sector for the economy, and is around 10% more productive in the East Midlands than for England as a whole. The sector generates around £5.9 billion GVA per year.

- **Other Related Strengths:**
  Power generating machinery; life sciences; logistics; low carbon goods and services; and visitor economy.

- **Exploiting Broadband:**
  There is a strong business case for extending super-fast broadband like that being developed in Derby, to at least Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton, and for increasing the speed and reach of broadband across the East Midlands as a whole.

- **Flood Resilience:**
  The long term future of the Lincolnshire Coast is a national, not just a local issue. Government must work with councils and local partners in taking a more strategic approach to the whole of the coast south of the Humber, respecting local circumstances.

- **Energy Resilience:**
  Refurbishment, replacement and restructuring of the energy distribution systems will need to be a significant part of the regional investment over the coming years.

For further information on any of the topics in this Profile or on the East Midlands please contact Peter Williams at East Midlands Councils

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