



Bradford Sector Study

Bradford Council

November 2025



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Introduction and Method

At the start of this study Bradford Council had identified a number of sector strengths and a series of specialisms which they felt were important to the local area. The analysis in this report examines these sectors and their sub-sectors, considering both the specialisms highlighted below and other relevant areas of activity.

While all identified sectors are included, some adjustments have been made. For example, the advanced manufacturing and materials sectors have been combined due to strong interconnections.

Clear sector definitions have been applied to ensure consistency, drawing on sources such as the UK Industrial Strategy IS-8 classifications, government departments including DCMS, and, where necessary, bespoke Bradford-specific definitions.

The analysis includes:

- Employment trends using ONS Business Register and Employment Survey data
- Business base analysis using Growth Flag and Data City
- Policy review of local, regional, and national strategies to identify future plans and investment priorities

Sector	Specialisms
Information and communication	space, satellite networks, defence systems, RF & microwave
Energy	hydrogen, industrial decarbonisation, chemicals, fleet conversion, rail and public transport convergence, key component manufacturing
Transport	
Food	Production hubs, halal meat, agri-tech, food hospitality
Materials	agronomy and turf surfaces, chemical and materials technology
Health	Cancer therapeutics, skincare and wound care, longitudinal health, data-driven healthcare innovation
Financial and business	financial services, back-office operations, business outsourcing
Advanced manufacturing	Aerospace, sustainable textiles
Culture and creativity	short-form content development, bradford UNESCO City of Film
Logistics and distribution	Chemicals logistics, food logistics, warehousing and supply chain operations

Key Sectors

Sector (Definition method)	ONS Employment Data						Growth Flag	
	Current Jobs	% Total Jobs	Employment LQ*	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024	% National Employment Change 2019-2024	Business Count	% Business with high growth potential (no. high growth businesses)
Information and communication (IS-8 Digital)	6,030	3.0%	0.4	-2,855	-32%	7%	1,894	8.4% (159)
Energy (IS-8 Clean Energy)	2,025	1.0%	0.8	-260	-11%	4%	377	10.3% (39)
Transport (Bespoke Definition)	7,730	3.8%	0.8	680	10%	-2%	628	6.1% (38)
Food (Bespoke Definition)	21,445	10.5%	1.1	2,935	16%	6%	2,529	5.6% (142)
Advanced manufacturing and materials (IS-8 Adv Man. plus Materials)	9,725	4.8%	1.2	-3,655	-27%	-8%	706	15.0% (106)
Health/Life Sciences (IS-8 Life Sciences)	450	0.2%	0.6	160	53%	19%	54	9.3% (5)
Financial and business services (IS-8 Prof Services, adjusted)	23,125	11.3%	0.8	2,150	10%	6%	4,056	9.9% (401)
Cultural and Creative activities (DCMS – Creative & Culture + sport)	7,560	3.7%	0.4	-2,060	-21%	8%	2,816	7.0% (198)
Logistics and distribution (ONS Broad sector)	8,060	4.0%	0.8	510	7%	6%	1,204	3.8% (46)



Policy Context



National Policy Alignment

UK Modern Industrial Strategy 2025

The document sets out a 10-year Industrial Strategy to achieve growth by deliberately **backing eight high-potential sectors** and the frontier industries around AI, clean energy and advanced tech. It aims to give firms confidence to invest by cutting energy and regulatory costs, speeding up planning and grid connections, expanding access to finance, investing heavily in R&D, data and skills, and providing clearer, pro-growth tax and trade frameworks.

The Strategy sets out the following objectives for the government:



Drive Sustainable Growth



Take Advantage of UK's Strengths



Alignment with Net-Zero Targets



Unlock Cities and Regions Potential



Economic Security and Resilience

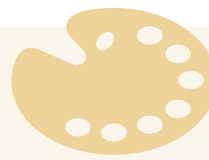
The Government identified the following as the 8 growth-driving sectors:



Advanced Manufacturing



Clean Energy Industries



Creative Industries



Defence



Digital and Technologies



Financial Services



Life Sciences



Profession and Business Services

National Policy Alignment

Relevant IS-8 Plans

Each of the eight growth-driving sectors has a sector plan, establishing the critical role it plays and setting out planned 2035 transformation. The most relevant to Bradford are:



Advanced Manufacturing

Plan to make the UK the best place in the world to start, grow and invest in advanced manufacturing by 2035, focusing on decarbonisation, digitisation and maintaining global competitiveness.



Clean Energy

Aims to double annual investment in frontier clean energy industries to over £30bn by 2035, using clear missions, catalytic public investment, barrier removal and a skilled workforce to deliver the net zero economy.



Creative Industries

Plan to cement the UK's position as a global creative powerhouse by 2035, boosting business investment, innovation, skills, exports and regional growth across high-potential creative sub-sectors.



Financial Services

Plan to secure the UK's position as the world's most innovative full-service financial centre by 2035, balancing high standards with a growth-supportive regulatory environment.



Life Sciences

Aims for globally competitive, self-sustaining life sciences ecosystem through regulation, procurement and measures to keep high-potential firms scaling and investing in the UK, aligned with the NHS 10-Year Health Plan.



Professional and Business Services

Plan for the UK to be the world's most trusted adviser to global industry by 2035, using investment (over £150m) in tech and AI adoption, skills, overseas market development, finance access and leadership on standards

Digital and Technologies are also relevant, however, under a different title 'Information and Communication'.

National Policy Alignment

UK SME Strategy – ‘Backing your Business’

The government state that small and medium sized (SME) businesses are the engine room to their number one mission of growth. Within this the government aims to give SMEs the tools needed to grow and to unlock their business potential.

The Five Pillars for the Plan for Change in Action:



Opening up Opportunities

New Business Growth Service as a single front door to advice, better export support, expanded UK Export Finance, SME-focused procurement reforms (including defence), and help to use IP and manage security risks.



Fixing the Fundamentals

Tackling late payments, cutting regulatory admin costs by 25%, modernising tax and customs (including AI support), speeding up planning and infrastructure, and helping SMEs manage energy costs and decarbonise.



Unlocking Access to Finance

Expanding Start-Up Loans, increasing the British Business Bank’s firepower, extending guarantee schemes, encouraging more diverse finance (including regional and mutual models), and addressing barriers facing under-represented founders and regions outside London.



Backing the Everyday Economy

Measures for high streets (business rates reform, High Street & Growth Incubators, rental auctions, banning upward-only rent reviews), crime and anti-social behaviour (shoplifting, tool theft) and support for co-ops and mutuals.



Future-Proofing Business Skills

Boosting SME adoption of digital tech and AI, expanding Made Smarter for manufacturing SMEs, leadership and mentoring support, extra skills funding and a more flexible Growth and Skills Levy, plus enterprise education and a Youth Entrepreneur award.

Regional Policy Alignment

West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan

The West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan (2025- 2035) brings together detailed evidence about the region and sets out an approach to unlock growth and prosperity for all. It has been produced by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in collaboration with partners. The Local Growth Plan is a ten-year plan which incorporates short, medium and long-term actions. It will deliver sustainable change as part of long-term integrated investment for the region. There are five priorities established with the most relevant being **Priority One: Unlock Growth in Sectors and Clusters**

In Priority One: Unlock Growth in Sectors and Clusters the following regional specialisms are discussed:

Digital and Technology

Leading digital tech sector that underpins other sector strengths in financial and professional services, health and life sciences, manufacturing and the creative industries. Stated that this sector is where growth opportunities lie.

Financial and Professional

27,000 firms within the BFP sector, employing 290,000 people which includes a £6.3bn financial services sector and £2bn legal/accounting sector. Yorkshire Building Society headquarters in Bradford.

Health and Life Sciences

This cluster generates around £3 billion a year with a strong concentration of high-skill/wage jobs. The largest longitudinal research study, Born in Bradford, tracks the lives of over 40,000 people to develop new ways to improve the wellbeing

Creative

The creative sectors account for £1.7 billion of the economy. West Yorkshire has the second-largest creative industries sector in the North and Midlands. It has the largest number of creative industries jobs per capita in the North.

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering

The region's manufacturers (largest manufacturing workforce in the North) employs more than 112,000 people across 5,700 businesses – the 14 percent of high-growth businesses in West Yorkshire are manufacturers, compared to 9 percent nationally. Subsectors of strength in manufacturing include textiles, space, green economy, modern methods of construction, food and drink and chemicals. These sub-sectors contribution to West Yorkshire large clusters and have recent noticeable successes strengthening a national and in cases international relative significance.



Information and Communication



Key Sector Focus: Information and Communication

Sector Definition

Includes both the production of physical hardware, such as computers and communication devices, and the provision of services, including software publishing, telecommunications, and data processing. The information and communication sector uses the IS-8 (Industrial strategy) definition “Digital Technologies.”

Why this sector is important

The Information and Communication sector is a key enabler of modern economic growth. It underpins innovation, productivity, and competitiveness across almost every industry, from manufacturing and logistics to health and education. Nationally, this sector is recognised as part of the IS-8 Digital Technologies grouping, which is central to the UK’s ambitions for a high-tech, knowledge-driven economy.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

For Bradford, the sector plays an enabling role in supporting transformation across traditional industries and driving digital adoption. While the district is not currently specialised in this area, strengthening its digital capabilities is essential for future resilience and for attracting investment. Digital technologies also support inclusive growth by creating flexible, high-value jobs and enabling businesses to compete in national and global markets.

Information and Communication Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019- 2024	% Employment Change 2019- 2024
261 : Manufacture of electronic components and boards	5	0.0	-10	-67%
262 : Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment	30	0.8	-45	-60%
263 : Manufacture of communication equipment	250	3.2	-250	-50%
264 : Manufacture of consumer electronics	0	0.0	0	-
268 : Manufacture of magnetic and optical media	0	0.0	0	-
279 : Manufacture of other electrical equipment	5	0.1	-5	-50%
465 : Wholesale of information and communication equipment	100	0.2	-150	-60%
712 : Technical testing and analysis	350	0.8	100	40%
721 : Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	75	0.1	0	0%
951 : Repair of computers and communication equipment	100	0.5	-25	-20%
26511 : Manufacture of electronic instruments and appliances for measuring, testing, and navigation, except industrial process control equipment	400	1.4	-500	-56%

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	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019- 2024	% Employment Change 2019- 2024
26512 : Manufacture of electronic industrial process control equipment	0	0.0	0	-
26513 : Manufacture of non-electronic instruments and appliances for measuring, testing and navigation, except industrial process control equipment	0	0.0	0	-
26701 : Manufacture of optical precision instruments	0	0.0	0	-
27310 : Manufacture of fibre optic cables	0	0.0	0	-
27320 : Manufacture of other electronic and electric wires and cables	30	0.7	0	0%
7112 : Engineering activities and related technical consultancy	2,000	0.8	-250	-11%
58 : Publishing activities	500	0.6	275	122%
59 : Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	175	0.2	-325	-65%
60 : Programming and broadcasting activities	75	0.3	45	150%
61 : Telecommunications	400	0.4	-850	-68%
62 : Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	1,500	0.3	-750	-33%
63 : Information service activities	35	0.1	-115	-77%
Information and Communication	6,030	0.4	-2,855	-32%

Business Base: Information and Communication

Business Base

Growth Flag has identified 1,894 business in Bradford operating in the information and communication sector, of these 8.4% (159) are likely/very likely to experience growth of over 20%. This suggests a reasonable proportion of high growth potential in a key sector.

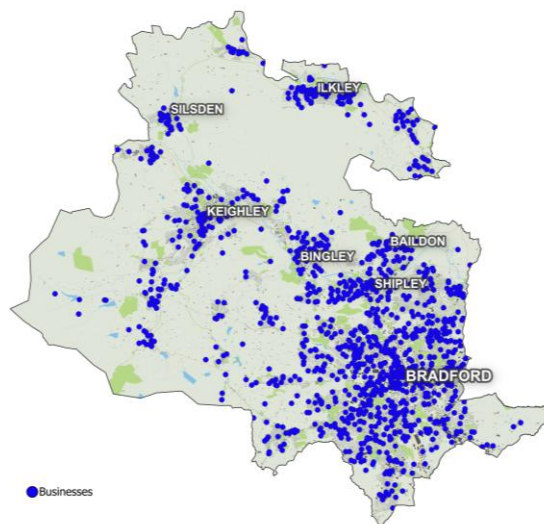
Further analysis has been undertaken to examine the top ten sectors in terms of business count in Bradford’s information and communication sector. Information technology consultancy activities is the dominant sector with 451 businesses; other significant sub-sectors are outlined below.

Information and Communication Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors 2025



Spatial Distribution of Information and Communication Businesses

As an enabling sector that supports a wide range of economic activities, information and communication businesses are generally spread across Bradford’s main population centres. However, there is a noticeable concentration of activity in and around central Bradford, particularly in the western part of the city centre, where clusters of firms are located.



RTIC Analysis: Information and Communication

RTICs are an innovative approach to capture sector activity that may go beyond the scope of SIC definitions. RTICs are utilised by the Data City to capture estimated businesses counts and jobs numbers (using a web-scraping and companies House method).

Job counts using this data included employment where an organisation has operations, not just where a company's head office or accounting address is located.

Looking at the information and communication sector shows Bradford has employment in the data and computing areas of information and communication alongside the presence of businesses in these sectors.

Information and Communication Business Count by RTIC Sector

RTIC Sector	Business Count
Telecommunications: Site Services	19
Cloud Computing: General Cloud Services and Managed Hosting	15
Data Infrastructure: Data Infrastructure Services	11
Software Development: Web Development	11
Telecommunications: Fibre Connectivity	10
Software Development: Mobile Development	10
Data Infrastructure: Data Infrastructure Hardware	10
Software Development: Security Engineering	10
Agency Market: E-commerce platforms	9
E-Commerce: Platform	7
Design and Modelling Technologies: Computer Aided Design	6

Information and Communication Employment Count by RTIC Sector

RTIC Sector	Employment Count
Computer Hardware: Embedded Systems	366
Software Development: Embedded Software	365
Data Infrastructure: Trusted Execution Environments	365
Semiconductors: Functional - RF	324
Software as a Service (SaaS): Development	251
Data Infrastructure: Data Infrastructure Services	231
Telecommunications: Site Services	227
Cloud Computing: General Cloud Services and Managed Hosting	165
Telecommunications: Fibre Connectivity	163
Data Infrastructure: Data Centres	157
Data Infrastructure: Data Centre Cooling	156
FinTech: Alternative Credit Analysis	146

Employment: Information and Communication

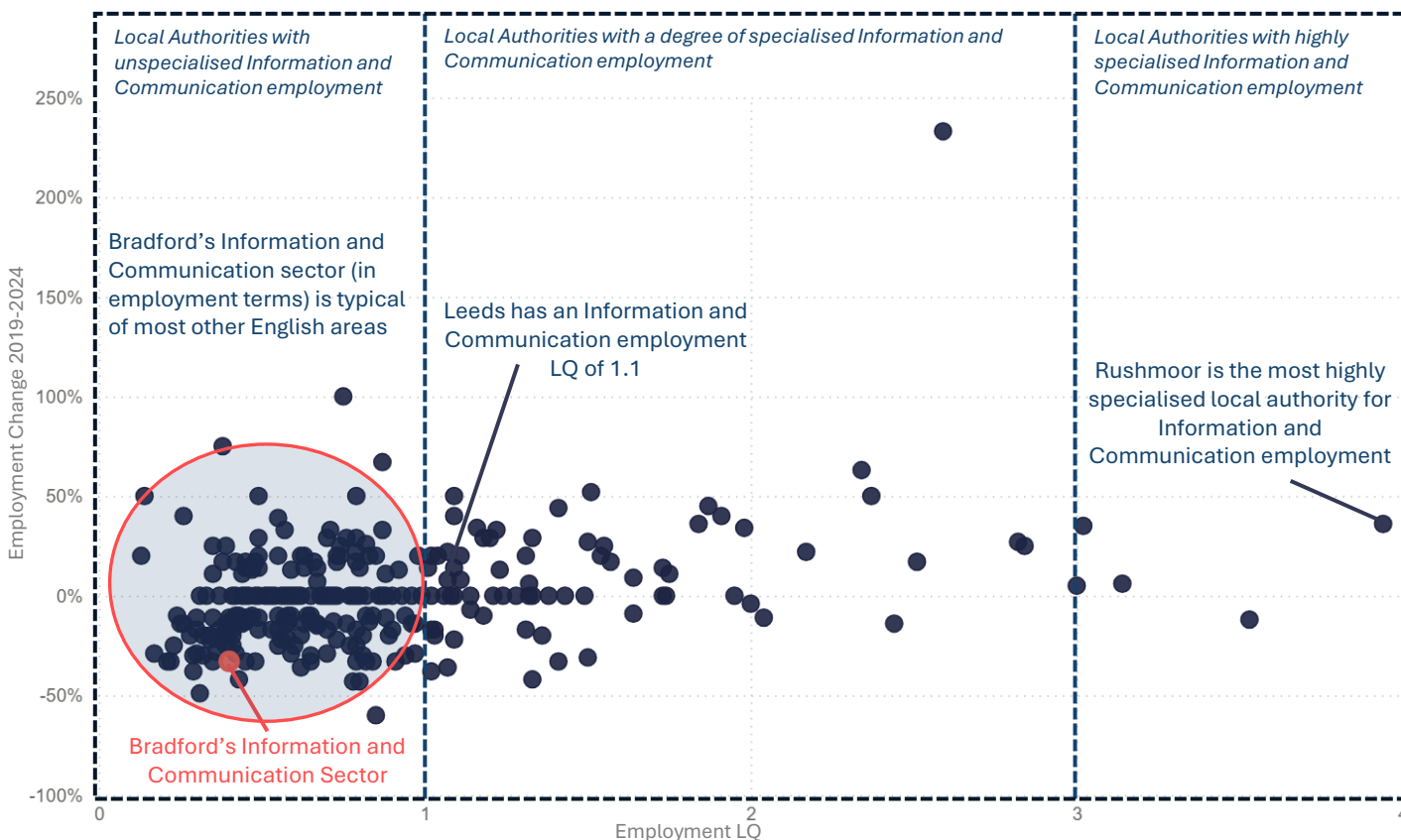
Current position and Growth Trends

Defined using ONS BRES data for IS-8 Digital Technologies, the sector employed 6,030 people in 2024, representing 3% of Bradford’s total jobs. The Employment Location Quotient (LQ) is 0.4, indicating a lower concentration compared to the national average. Employment has contracted sharply, falling by 32% since 2019, a loss of 2,855 jobs. This decline highlights the need for targeted intervention to stabilise and grow the sector.

Although Bradford’s overall LQ is low, evidence from comparable areas suggests significant potential. For example, Derby, sharing similar socio-economic characteristics, has achieved 22% employment growth in this sector since 2019 and now has an LQ of 1.1. Nearby Leeds has also seen strong growth (+8%) and now exceeds an LQ of 1.0, reinforcing the opportunity for Bradford to follow a similar trajectory with the right support.

Information and Communication Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Information and Communication – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s information and communication sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Manufacture of Communication Equipment

This sector employs 250 people in Bradford and is specialised to a high degree, with an employment LQ of 3.2. While there has been significant employment contraction in this sector in the last five years (halving of the number of jobs), it is still a strength for Bradford. Crucially this sector plays a key role in cross-cutting other activity, notably in another key sector: Creative and Culture.

Jobs: 250

Employment LQ: 3.2

Employment Change: -50%

Technical Testing and Analysis

This sub-sector is fairly broad and includes the certification of products through to the testing of various consumer and commercial items. It is significant in Bradford as it represents a reasonable number of jobs in the area and has experienced strong employment growth over the last five years.

Jobs: 350

Employment LQ: 0.8

Employment Change: +40%

Manufacture of electronic instruments and appliances for measuring, testing, and navigation, except industrial process control equipment

Sitting within the manufacturing side of information and communication. This sub-sector is significant in terms of numbers of jobs and represents a good degree of specialisation.

Jobs: 400

Employment LQ: 1.4

Employment Change: -56%

Information and Communication – Sub Sector Focus (cont.)

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford's information and communication sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Engineering activities and related technical consultancy

The largest sub-sector within Bradford's information and communication sector (in employment terms). This sector suggests Bradford's strengths lie in its advisory and technical capabilities. While the sector has contracted recently and it does not represent an employment specialism. It is nevertheless an important sector for Bradford.

Jobs: 2,000

Employment LQ: 0.8

Employment Change: -11%

Publishing Activities

This sub-sector includes both book publishing and software publishing. Given several key businesses in this sector, it is likely that Bradford has its strengths in the latter. The sector, while not the largest, has seen very significant growth over the last five years – with jobs growth more than doubling.

Jobs: 500

Employment LQ: 0.6

Employment Change: +122%

Some other sectors in the information and communication sector may warrant attention but due to challenging growth trends, low currently employment numbers or low LQs they have not been listed here. These include:

- **Computer programming, consultancy and related activities** where there is large employment (1,500 jobs) but the LQ is low, 0.3 and there has been a 33% contraction in jobs numbers since 2019.
- **Programming and broadcasting activities**, this sector has grown rapidly in percentage terms (+150%), though this is a small absolute increase of only 45 jobs. The sector remains only supports 75 jobs overall and the LQ is only 0.3.

Conclusions: Information and Communication

Data

Information and Communications is significant, employing 6,030 people. However, employment is not particularly specialised for the sector as a whole (LQ 0.4). Employment in this sector has also declined in Bradford in the last 5 years whilst it has increased nationally.

Bradford does however have some unique sub-sector strengths within this sector, particularly around manufacturing, engineering and consultancy:

- Manufacture of communication equipment (LQ 3.2)
- Manufacture of electronic instruments and appliances for measuring, testing, and navigation, except industrial process control equipment (LQ 1.4)
- Engineering activities and related technical consultancy (2,000 employees)
- Computer programming, consultancy and related activities (1,500 employees)

There is currently no evidence of a business or employment specialism in Bradford for Space and Satellite Networks.

Defence systems or Cyber Security aligns with the Computer programming, consultancy and related activities SIC code. This employs 1,500 people but there is no evidence of any specialisation. Given the levels of employment though this does point towards some potential strengths.

Policy and Wider Trends

Nationally, **Digital Technologies** is identified as one of the Government's eight priorities within the Modern Industrial Strategy. This is central to the UK's ambitions for a high-tech, knowledge-driven economy.

The **West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan** identifies Digital and Technology as a priority cluster given it underpins a number of other sectors.

The **WY Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Plan** highlights the Radio Frequency (RF) Cluster as important and recognises that this is located around the Shipley-Saltaire corridor.

Space and satellite networks are also important regionally with the presence of **Space Hub Yorkshire** and the **Bradford-Renduchintala Centre for Space AI**. There is also an aspiration to host a Space Centre of Excellence. **Bradford University** has strengths in all of these sub-sectors alongside strengths in cyber security which further makes the case.

Overall Conclusions

The **digital and technology sector** (which aligns with information and communication) is a priority nationally and regionally. Whilst currently the sector is not showing strengths in terms of the degree of specialisation in Bradford, it does underpin a number of other sectors.

There are existing sub-sector strengths in **manufacturing, engineering and consultancy**. There are also potential future strengths in cyber security and RF & microwave technologies. Whilst the data does not support current or emerging strengths in space or satellite networks, there is a strong policy case for focusing on this.

Digital and technologies is recommended as an **opportunity sector**.



Energy



Key Sector Focus: Energy

Sector Definition

All sectors engaged in the generation, distribution, supply, and marketing of energy resources, encompassing both conventional fossil fuels and an increasingly diverse array of renewable and low-carbon alternatives. The energy sector uses the IS-8 definition “Clean Energy.”

Why this sector is important

The energy sector is a cornerstone of the UK’s transition to a low-carbon economy. It underpins the national decarbonisation agenda, driving innovation in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure. As the UK moves towards its net zero ambitions, the sector’s role in delivering clean energy solutions and supporting green technologies is critical for long-term economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

For Bradford, the energy sector represents both a challenge and an opportunity. While the district’s current employment share in energy is modest, the sector is strategically important for future growth, particularly as businesses and households adapt to low-carbon technologies. Bradford’s industrial heritage and manufacturing capabilities position it to benefit from supply chain opportunities in renewables, energy storage, and retrofiting.

Energy Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
24460 : Processing of nuclear fuel	0	0.0	0	-
35110 : Production of electricity	10	0.1	10	-
35130 : Distribution of electricity	100	0.4	0	0%
35140 : Trade of electricity	15	0.2	10	200%
38120 : Collection of hazardous waste	0	0.0	-5	-100%
38210 : Treatment and disposal of non-hazardous waste	75	0.4	-25	-25%
38320 : Recovery of sorted materials	75	0.5	0	0%
43210 : Electrical installation	1,750	1.1	-250	-13%
Energy	2,025	0.8	-260	-11%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS, 2024

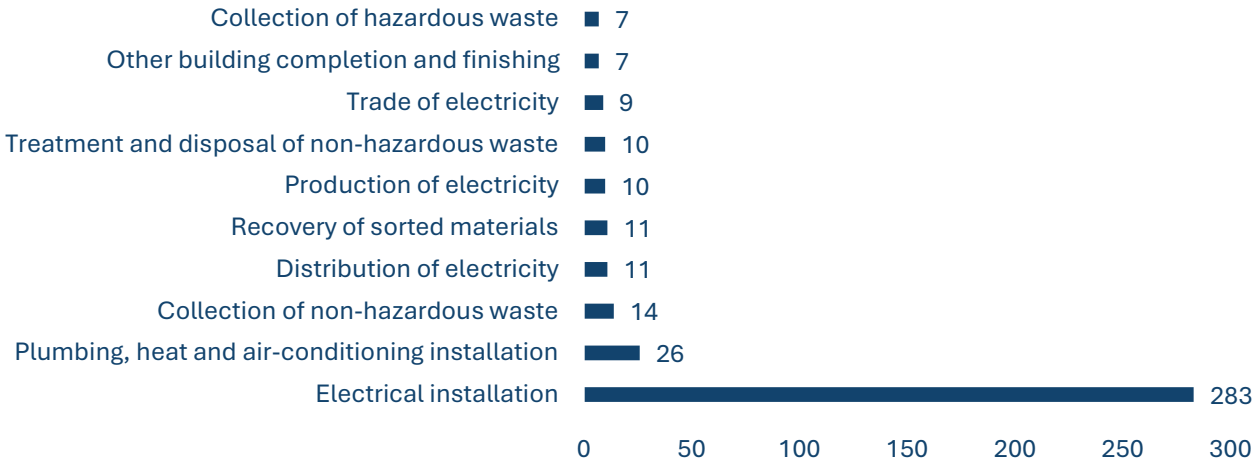
Business Base: Energy

Business Base

Growth Flag has identified 377 energy sector related businesses in Bradford. Over one in ten businesses (10.3%, or 39) are expected to experience high growth over the next year. There is therefore a strong commercial base of significant potential in Bradford’s energy sector.

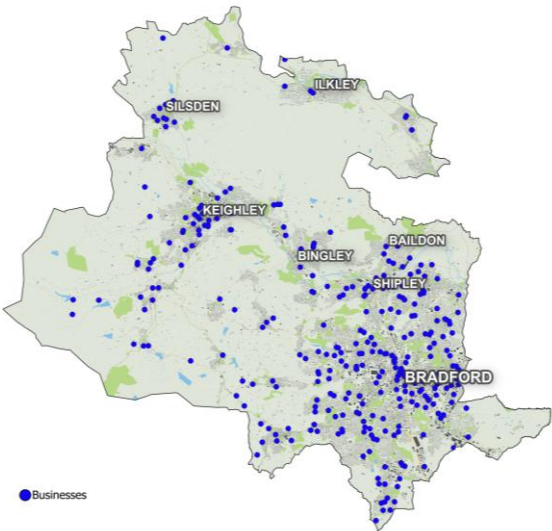
Further analysis has been undertaken to examine the top ten sectors in terms of business count in Bradford’s energy sector. Electrical installation dominates this sector significantly accounting for the majority of energy businesses, other important sectors include plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation and collection of non-hazardous waste.

Energy Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Energy Businesses

The 377 energy businesses in Bradford are distributed across the local authority fairly evenly, while there are clusters of activity in the area’s population centres, there is commercial activity in this sector in more rural parts of the borough such as Wilsden and Cullingworth.



RTIC Analysis: Energy

RTICs are an innovative approach to capture sector activity that may go beyond the scope of SIC definitions. RTICs are utilised by the Data City to capture estimated businesses counts and jobs numbers (using a web-scraping and companies House method).

Job counts using this data included employment where an organisation has operations, not just where a company's head office or accounting address is located.

Looking at the information and communication sector shows Bradford has employment in the data and computing areas of information and communication alongside the presence of businesses in these sectors.

Information and Communication Business Count by RTIC Sector

RTIC Sector	Business Count
Net Zero: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation	26
Net Zero: Waste Management and Recycling	22
Net Zero: Heat Pumps and other Renewable Heating Sources	20
Net Zero: Building Technologies	19
Net Zero: Low Carbon Consultancy, Advisory & Offsetting Services	11
Net Zero: Energy Storage	11
Net Zero: Pollution Remediation	9

Information and Communication Employment Count by RTIC Sector

RTIC Sector	Employment Count
Land Remediation: Remediation Services	424
Net Zero: Low Carbon Consultancy, Advisory & Offsetting Services	224
Land Remediation: Regulatory Services	191
Net Zero: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation	98
Net Zero: Pollution Remediation	83
Net Zero: Waste Management and Recycling	70
Telecommunications: Site Services	227
Cloud Computing: General Cloud Services and Managed Hosting	165
Telecommunications: Fibre Connectivity	163
Data Infrastructure: Data Centres	157
Data Infrastructure: Data Centre Cooling	156
FinTech: Alternative Credit Analysis	146

Employment: Energy

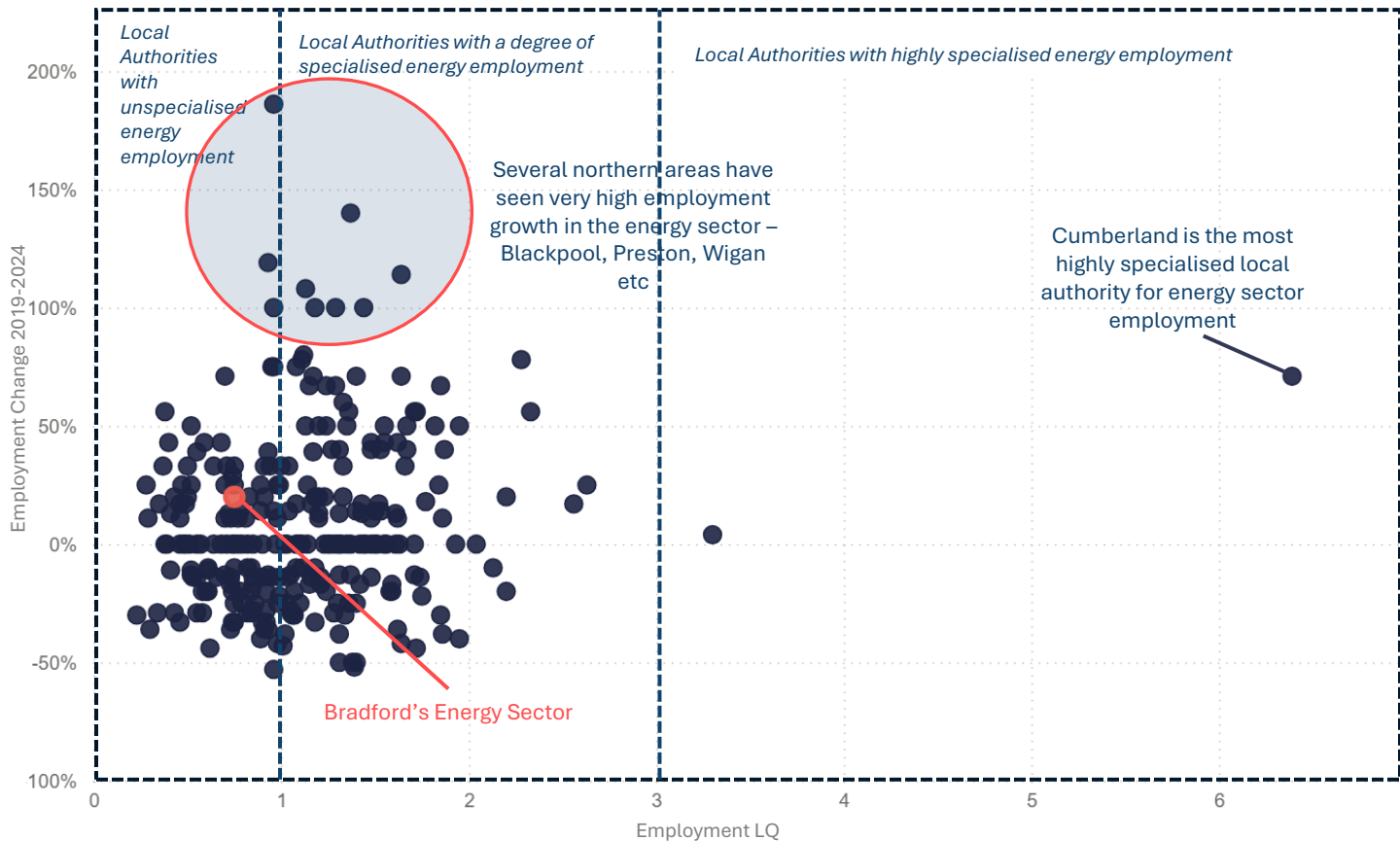
Current position and Growth Trends

The energy sector in Bradford currently employs around 2,025 people, representing 1% of total employment in the district. While this share is relatively small, the sector remains strategically significant, particularly in the context of the UK's decarbonisation agenda. Bradford's employment Location Quotient (LQ) of 0.8 indicates a lower concentration compared to the national average, and employment has declined by 11% (260 jobs) between 2019 and 2024, reflecting structural changes and efficiency improvements within the industry.

Examining where specific strengths lie across the country we can see several northern local authorities are experiencing high growth in the energy sector. While Bradford has its own unique characteristics it could take advantage of this network to stimulate growth in its energy sector.

Energy Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Energy – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s energy sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Electrical installation

This sub-sector covers the installation and maintenance of electrical systems in buildings and infrastructure, including wiring, lighting, and power systems. It is the largest energy-related activity in Bradford, employing around 1,250 people. With an LQ of 1.1, Bradford has a slightly higher concentration of jobs in this area compared to the national average, highlighting its relative strength in electrical contracting and services.

Jobs: 1,250

Employment LQ: 1.1

Employment Change: -13%

Distribution of electricity

This sub-sector involves the operation of networks that deliver electricity from transmission systems to homes and businesses. In Bradford, it is a small but essential part of the energy supply chain, employing around 100 people. Employment has remained stable in recent years, but the LQ of 0.4 indicates a much lower concentration than nationally, suggesting limited local specialisation.

Jobs: 100

Employment LQ: 0.4

Employment Change: 0%

Recovery of sorted materials

This activity focuses on recycling and processing sorted materials, such as metals and other recoverable resources, to support circular economy goals. Bradford has around 75 jobs in this area, with no significant growth or contraction over recent years. The LQ of 0.5 shows that Bradford is less specialised in this sub-sector compared to the national average, though it plays a role in sustainability and waste reduction.

Jobs: 75

Employment LQ: 0.5

Employment Change: 0%

Conclusions: Energy

Data

Energy employs 2,025 people. There is no relative specialism (0.8) and employment has declined over the last five years. Data analysis does suggest there is evidence of strengths in **electrical installation** with an employment LQ of 1.1 and supporting 1,250 jobs.

Hydrogen activity is challenging to define using SIC codes, and falls somewhat outside of the IS-8 energy definition due to the specificity of the sector not aligning with SIC codes. However, using related SIC codes there is not an obvious strength.

Decarbonisation and chemicals is considered under advanced manufacturing and the related SIC code suggests that there may be some strength with the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products having an LQ of 2.5 and supporting 1,500 jobs.

Furthermore, **broader energy** related R&D is covered within the Information and Communications sector. It falls under the sub-sector called Other Research and Experimental Development on Natural Sciences and Engineering where Bradford doesn't currently have a strength according to the data.

Policy and Wider Trends

Nationally, **Clean Energy** is identified as one of the Government's eight priorities within the Modern Industrial Strategy. There is a national aim to double annual investment in frontier clean energy industries to over £30bn by 2035, using clear missions, catalytic public investment, barrier removal and a skilled workforce to deliver the net zero economy.

As the UK moves towards its net zero ambitions, the sector's role in delivering clean energy solutions and supporting green technologies is critical for long-term economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

By 2027, a new 24MW green **hydrogen facility at Birkshall** (Bradford) will fuel up to 800 buses a day and power the shift to cleaner industry and transport.

There are also proposals for a £0.5bn government investment in the **Bradford Hydrogen Hub**.

Overall Conclusions

Currently, the data suggests that there is no overall strength within this sector or key sub-sectors and there are no signs of emerging strengths. From a **policy** perspective though, **clean energy is hugely important** and there are plans for major investments in **hydrogen** locally which does highlight the case for supporting this particular sub-sector within the Regeneration Plan. The council should explore the potential to grow employment in **hydrogen** and **industrial decarbonisation** to strengthen the clean energy sector locally.



Transport

Key Sector Focus: Transport

Sector Definition

Part of the economy responsible for the movement of people and goods by road, rail, air, and water. Encompasses a wide range of activities beyond just vehicles, including infrastructure, planning, manufacturing, and related services.

Why this sector is important

Transport is a critical enabler of economic activity, connecting businesses to markets, supply chains, and customers. It encompasses both the manufacturing of transport equipment and the movement of goods and people, making it essential for productivity and trade. As the UK economy evolves, efficient and sustainable transport systems are central to reducing costs, supporting decarbonisation, and maintaining competitiveness. The sector also drives innovation in areas such as electric vehicles, logistics technology, and infrastructure development.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

For Bradford, transport is a strategic sector due to its geographic position and industrial base. The district sits at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, with strong road and rail links that make it a hub for goods movement across Yorkshire and beyond. Bradford's manufacturing heritage also supports the production of transport-related components, while its growing logistics and distribution network underpins regional supply chains. This combination of manufacturing capability and connectivity means transport is vital for Bradford's economic resilience and future growth, particularly as demand for low-carbon transport solutions accelerates.

Transport Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
45200 : Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles	3,000	1.7	1,000	50%
5221 : Service activities incidental to land transportation	175	0.3	100	133%
5222 : Service activities incidental to water transportation	30	0.2	10	50%
5223 : Service activities incidental to air transportation	15	0.0	10	200%
5229 : Other transportation support activities	1,250	2.4	650	108%
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	2,500	0.7	0	0%
50 : Water transport	10	0.1	10	-
51 : Air transport	50	0.1	0	0%
29 : Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	500	0.5	-1,000	-67%
30 : Manufacture of other transport equipment	200	0.3	-100	-33%
Transport	7,560	0.8	680	10%

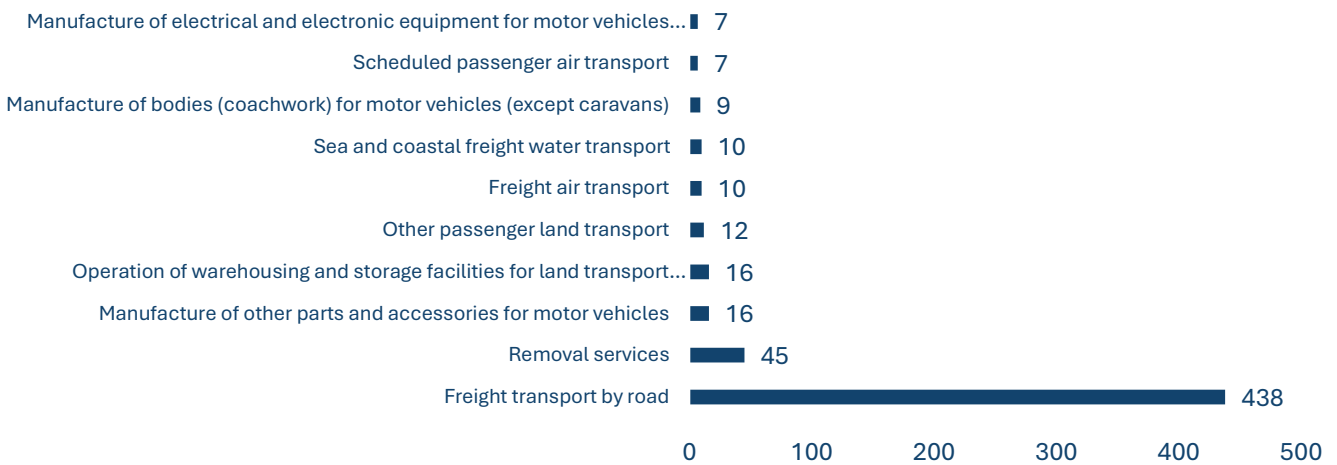
Business Base: Transport

Business Base

Using Growth Flag data, we can estimate there are 628 transport businesses operating in Bradford in 2025. Around 38 businesses or 6.1% are expected to grow by 20%+ over the next 12 months.

Freight transport is a significant sub-sector in the Bradford transport sector, with 438 businesses in the sector. Vehicle manufacturing elements of this sector tend to present with high business counts, though manufacture of parts is a significant sub-sector.

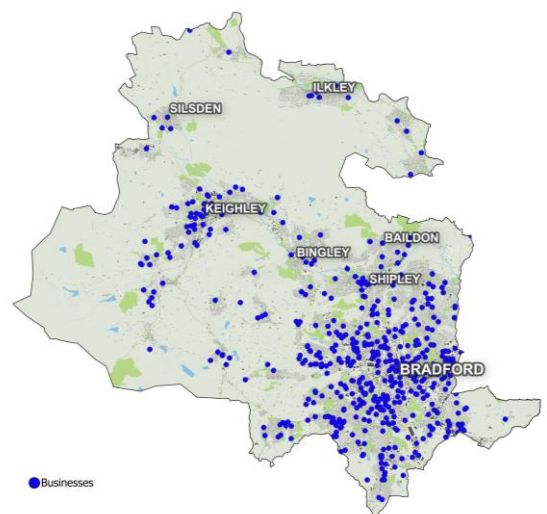
Transport Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Transport Businesses

Transport businesses in Bradford are widely distributed across the district, with the highest concentration in and around Bradford city. Significant clusters are also visible in Keighley, Shipley, and Bingley, reflecting their roles as key population and commercial centres.

Smaller but notable pockets of activity appear in Ilkley, Silsden, and other rural areas. This indicates that transport services and related businesses are present throughout the borough, not just in urban hubs.



Employment: Transport

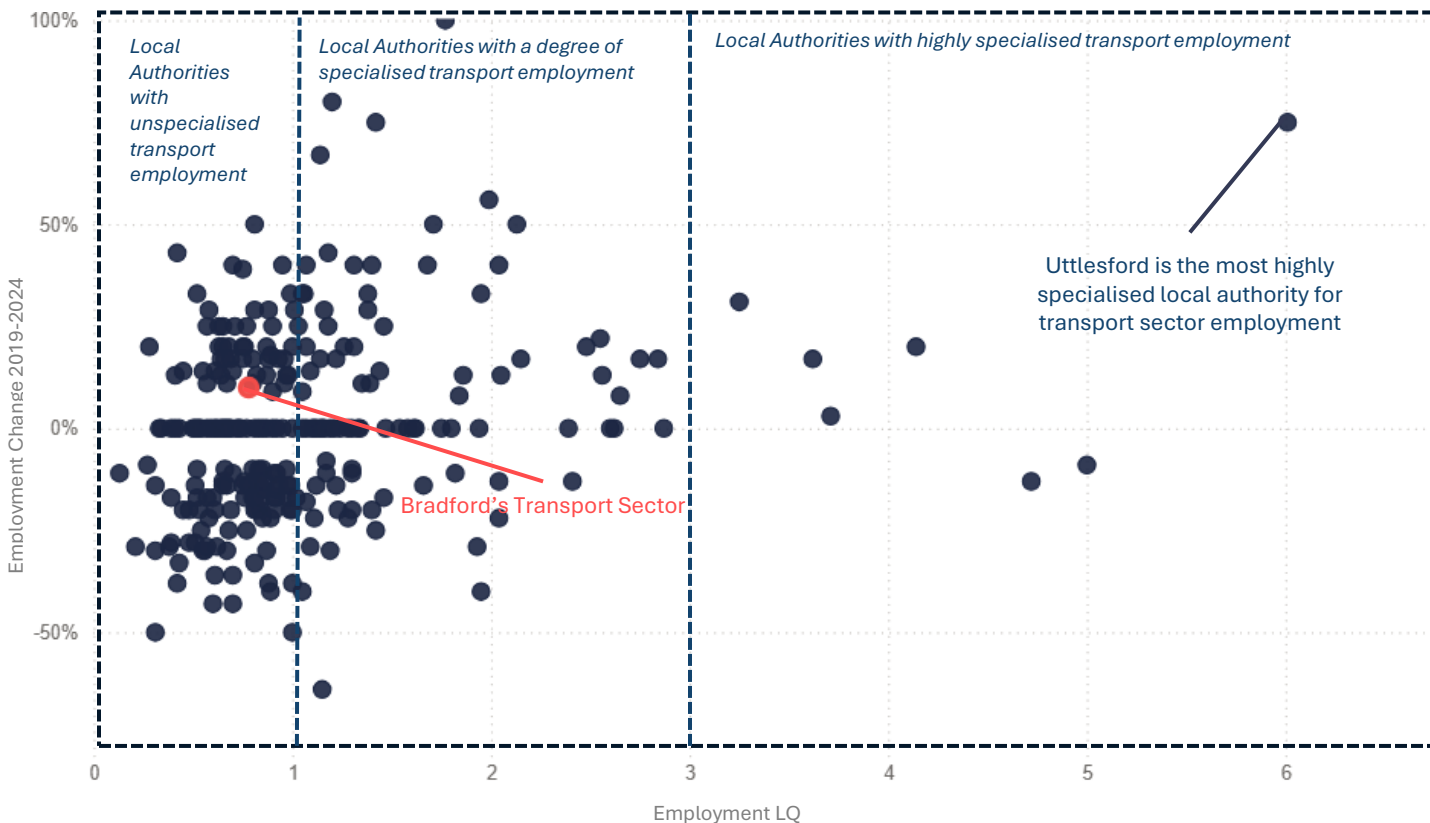
Current position and Growth Trends

The transport sector in Bradford employs around 7,730 people, representing 3.8% of all jobs in the local authority area. The sector has seen healthy growth over the last five years with an increase of 680 since 2019, representing a 10% growth rate.

Bradford does not currently exhibit a strong specialisation in transport, with an employment Location Quotient (LQ) below 1.0, indicating a lower concentration of jobs compared to the national average. However, analysis of other English local authority districts shows no consistent shared characteristics among the top performers in transport. This suggests that Bradford faces no structural barriers and could carve out a niche in this sector, leveraging its geographic position, industrial base, and connectivity to develop competitive strengths.

Transport Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Transport – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s transport sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Land transport and transport via pipelines

This sub-sector covers the movement of goods and passengers by road and rail, as well as the operation of pipelines for transporting liquids and gases. It is the largest transport-related activity in Bradford, employing around 2,500 people in 2024. Employment has remained stable over the past five years, but the LQ of 0.7 indicates a lower concentration compared to the national average. Despite this, its scale and stability make it a core component of Bradford’s transport economy.

Jobs: 2,500

Employment LQ: 0.7

Employment Change: 0%

Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers

This sub-sector includes the production of cars, commercial vehicles, trailers, and related components. In Bradford, it employs around 500 people, but has experienced significant contraction, losing 1,000 jobs (-67%) between 2019 and 2024. With an LQ of 0.5, Bradford is less specialised in this area, reflecting broader challenges in the automotive industry and the shift toward electrification and global supply chain restructuring.

Jobs: 500

Employment LQ: 0.4

Employment Change: -67%

Other transportation support activities

This transport sub-sector is significant for Bradford, employing 1,250 people with an LQ of 2.4, meaning it is more than twice as concentrated locally than nationally. Jobs have surged by 108% (+680), showing rapid growth. In simple terms, this sector covers activities like freight, logistics, and passenger transport, making Bradford an emerging hub for movement of goods and people.

Jobs: 1,250

Employment LQ: 2.4

Employment Change: +108%

Conclusions: Transport

Data

The transport sector employs 7,730 people and Bradford does not have above average levels of specialisation (with an LQ of 0.8). Employment has however been increasing whilst nationally it has been in decline.

Fleet conversion (transferring vehicles to use cleaner technologies such as EV) is a particular area of interest for Bradford. It does not have a specific SIC definition but we have examined certain sub-sectors which may include some related activity. ONS data does suggest the area **may have some particular strengths**. This is also supported by data city data which identifies a relative strength in the **manufacture of bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles (except caravans) sub-sector** with an LQ of 2.49.

Employment in the **rail and public transport convergence sub-sector** (to enable easier transfers by mode of transport) will be picked up within the broad sector of Land Transport and Transport Pipelines where Bradford supports 2,500 jobs. This suggests that the area **may have some particular strengths**.

If we look at **key component manufacturing for transport** in a similar way, the data suggests that the area does not have a particular strength.

The data does have a degree of specialisation (LQ of 2.4) in **other transportation support activities**. This covers activities like freight, logistics, and passenger transport, making Bradford an emerging hub for movement of goods and people.

Policy and Wider Trends

As the UK economy evolves, efficient and sustainable transport systems are central to reducing costs, supporting decarbonisation, and maintaining competitiveness.

The sector also drives innovation in areas such as electric vehicles, logistics technology, and infrastructure development. 'Future transport' or autonomous vehicles will be important to the national economy going forward.

Bradford is supporting a number of initiatives locally and investment in the **Clean Air Zone** has resulted in Bradford's taxi fleet being amongst the greenest in the world.

There are also major transport investments planned which will have significant positive impacts on the area. This includes a £2bn investment in Mass Transit which will connect Bradford with Leeds via tram. There are also plans for a new station in central Bradford which will deliver £2bn investment and improve levels of connectivity.

Overall Conclusions

The data currently suggests that there is **no overall strength** within the **transport** sector. **Fleet conversion** as well as rail and **public transport convergence** are of particular interest to Bradford and the data does suggest that there may be some **evidence of strengths**.

It is recognised that the transport sector is immensely important to Bradford and the need to prioritise future investment in this sector is acknowledged. The need to support new forms of transport including sustainable or innovative forms of transport (such as EV charging or autonomous vehicles) will also be important. Notwithstanding all of this, Bradford does not appear to have particular strengths sufficient to recommend that this becomes an opportunity sector for Bradford.

Food



Key Sector Focus: Food

Sector Definition

All activities from primary production to final consumption. This includes farming, food production, processing, packaging, distribution, wholesale, retail, and catering.

Why this sector is important

The food sector is a cornerstone of the UK economy, encompassing everything from agriculture and food manufacturing to wholesale and hospitality. It plays a vital role in supporting public health, ensuring food security, and sustaining consumer demand. Beyond its economic contribution, the sector is central to innovation in areas such as sustainable farming and agri-tech, supply chain resilience, and low-carbon production. Its scale and diversity make it critical for national growth and stability.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

Food is deeply embedded in Bradford's economic and cultural fabric. The district benefits from a strong base in food production and distribution, supported by its manufacturing heritage and strategic location for regional supply chains. Bradford's diverse population also drives demand for a wide range of food and beverage services, creating opportunities for growth and innovation. There is a strong market for halal meat. This combination of production, logistics, and service activity positions the food sector as a key driver of Bradford's economic resilience and future competitiveness.

Food Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
01 : Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	800	0.4	-200	-20%
10 : Manufacture of food products	5,000	2.1	0	0%
11 : Manufacture of beverages	600	2.1	100	20%
56 : Food and beverage service activities	12,000	0.9	2,000	20%
462 : Wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals	45	0.3	35	350%
463 : Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco	3,000	2.0	1,000	50%
Food	21,445	1.1	2,935	16%

Business Base: Food

Business Base

Bradford’s food sector is substantial, with an estimated 2,529 businesses operating across production, manufacturing, wholesale, and food service activities. This ecosystem is not only diverse but also dynamic—around 142 businesses (5.6%) of businesses in the sector are projected to achieve high growth, expanding by 20% or more in the next 12 months.

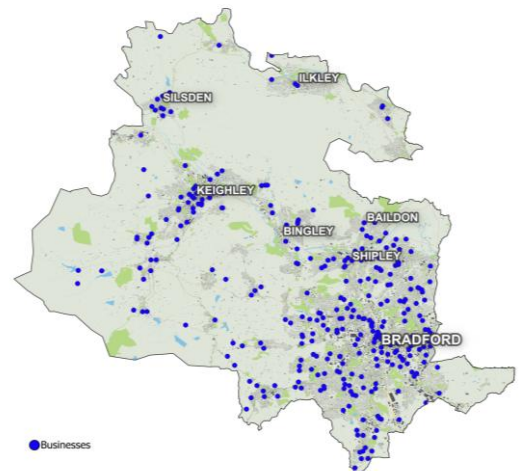
Take-away food shops form the largest sub-sector by business count, with 696 establishments, reflecting Bradford’s vibrant food culture and consumer demand for convenience. Other food service businesses also make up a significant share, underpinning the hospitality economy. While food manufacturing and wholesale account for fewer businesses, their importance should not be underestimated. These activities typically involve larger firms with greater economic impact, supporting supply chains and regional distribution networks. Together, these sub-sectors create a balanced mix of high-volume service businesses and strategically important production and wholesale operations, positioning food as a cornerstone of Bradford’s economy.

Food Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Food Businesses

There are a significant number of food businesses across Bradford. Given the inclusion of public facing food and drink service business as well as takeaways, cafes, restaurants and pubs, it is not surprising that the business base maps closely to population centres across Bradford. Clustering occurs where there are large population centres.



Employment: Food

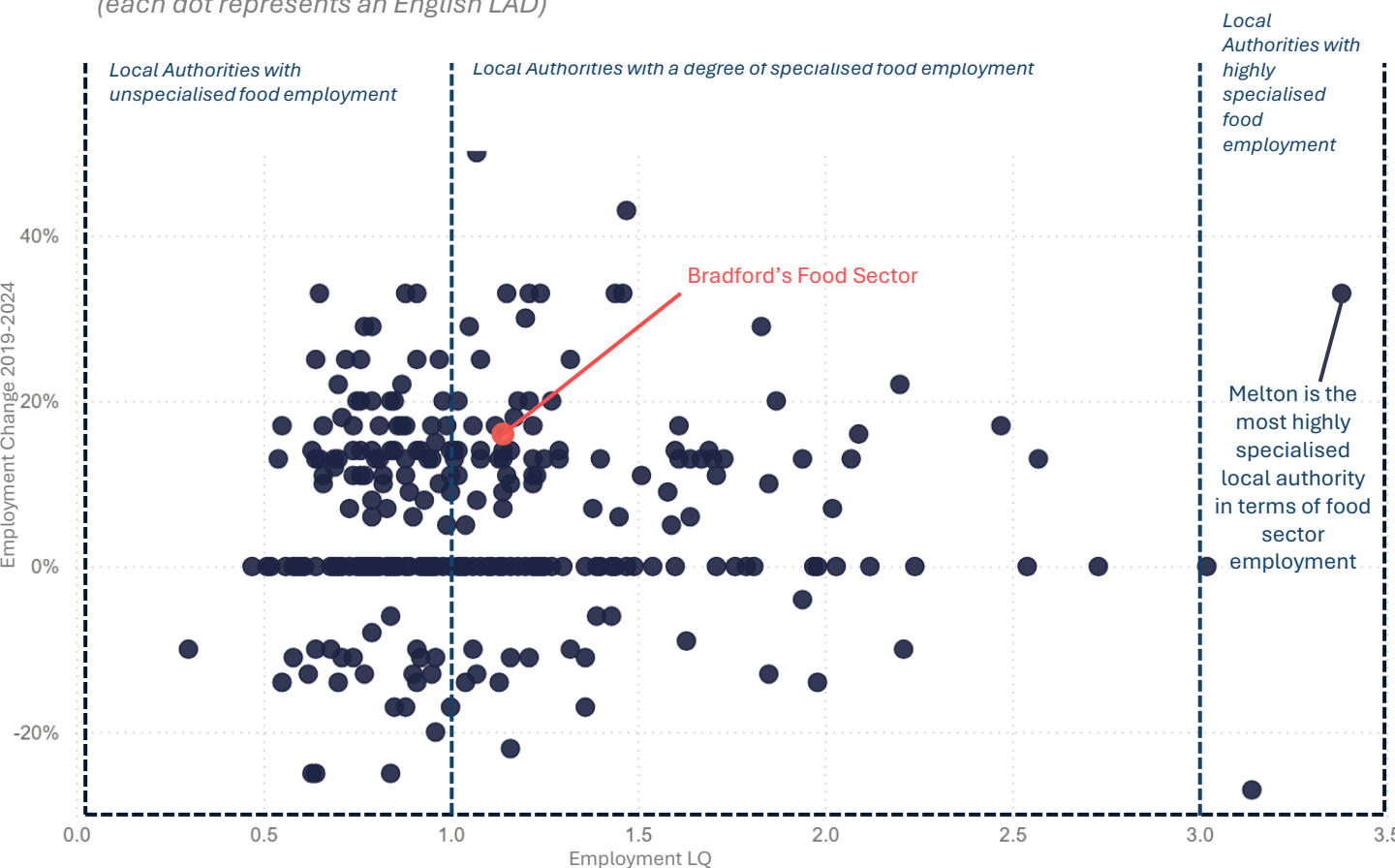
Current position and Growth Trends

The food sector is a major employer in Bradford, accounting for roughly one in ten jobs across the district. This makes it one of the most significant contributors to local employment and a key pillar of the economy. Over recent years, the sector has demonstrated strong growth, reinforcing its role as a driver of economic resilience and opportunity.

Bradford also shows a degree of specialisation in food-related employment, with a Location Quotient (LQ) above 1.0, meaning the area has a slightly higher share of food jobs than the national average. However, the food sector is very broad, covering everything from farming and manufacturing to wholesale and hospitality. Because of this diversity, there are no clear patterns or common traits among other English local authorities that specialise in food. This gives Bradford flexibility to build on its strengths in multiple parts of the sector rather than following a single model.

Food Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Food – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford's food sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Manufacture of Food Products and Beverages*

This sub-sector covers the production of food and drink items, from baked goods and ready meals to soft drinks and alcoholic beverages. In Bradford, it is a major employer despite having a relatively small number of businesses, which suggests the presence of large-scale manufacturers. With a strong employment LQ of 2.1, Bradford is highly specialised in this area, and employment has grown slightly in recent years.

Jobs: 5,600

Employment LQ: 2.1

Employment Change: +2%

Food and beverage service activities

This includes restaurants, cafés, takeaways, and catering services. It is the largest part of Bradford's food sector by employment and business count, reflecting the district's vibrant hospitality scene and diverse food culture. While the sector is not highly specialised nationally (LQ of 0.9), it has seen strong growth in recent years, driven by consumer demand and the expansion of takeaway and delivery services.

Jobs: 12,000

Employment LQ: 0.9

Employment Change: +20%

Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco

This sub-sector focuses on the distribution of food and drink products to retailers, restaurants, and other businesses. It plays a vital role in connecting manufacturers with markets and ensuring supply chain efficiency. In Bradford, wholesale is a significant employer and shows a high degree of specialisation (LQ of 2.0), indicating that the district is a regional hub for food distribution. Employment growth has been exceptional, highlighting the importance of logistics and wholesale operations to Bradford's economy.

Jobs: 3,000

Employment LQ: 2.0

Employment Change: +50%

Conclusions: Food

Data

The food sector accounts for a significant number of jobs (21,445) and there are slightly above average levels of employment specialisation (with an LQ of 1.1). The sector is also growing (16%). ONS data highlights a number of particular sub-sector strengths including the manufacture of Food Products and Beverages (with an LQ of 2.1) and wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco (with an LQ of 2.0). Food and beverage service activities is large supporting 12,000 jobs.

Bradford is interested in **Production Hubs** which is included in the Manufacture of Food Products and Beverages SIC codes. Combined these sectors account for 5,600 jobs and with an LQ of 2.1. This is a clear strength for Bradford.

Food hospitality falls under Food and beverage service activities supporting 12,000 jobs but with an LQ of 0.9. This includes restaurants, take-aways and cafes. This is clearly a large sector and as such it is important.

Agri-tech activity is very difficult to define as it is often undertaken within supply chains and cuts across other sectors e.g. electronics. If we look at Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities, ONS data is not strong. We have also looked at other related sectors and on the whole the data does not tell a compelling story around agri-tech.

Again, **halal meat** cuts across a number of SIC codes. This includes Manufacture of Food Products and Beverages as well as sectors focusing on wholesale, retail and related services. Given Bradford's strengths in the food sector as a whole (alongside what we know about its ethnic mix), we would conclude that Bradford is likely to have strengths in this sub-sector.

Data city also highlights a number of sub-sector strengths particularly around processing and preserving of poultry meat and meat in general, the wholesale of meat and meat products, manufacture of prepared meals and dishes as well as the manufacture of oils and fats.

Policy and Wider Trends

The food sector is a cornerstone of the UK economy, encompasses everything from agriculture and food manufacturing to wholesale and hospitality. It plays a vital role in supporting public health, ensuring food security, and sustaining consumer demand.

Within the **West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan** the food and drink sector is identified as a *sub-sector of regional strength within the **Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering** sector.*

The **West Yorkshire Advanced Manufacturing Cluster Plan** references 'one of the UK's largest food and drink clusters' with 'the highest number in Bradford District'. Well known businesses in Bradford includes Morrisons, Seabrooks and Regal Foods.

Overall Conclusions

There is a compelling case for food and drink to be identified as a priority sector. There are strengths within production and hospitality. Bradford needs to support a move towards higher value opportunities and should therefore look to encourage opportunities around advance manufacturing, higher value food hospitality and potentially agri-tech.

Food and drink is identified as a current strength.



Advanced Manufacturing and Materials



Key Sector Focus: Advanced Manufacturing and Materials

Sector Definition

This approach differs from traditional manufacturing by being capital and knowledge intensive, relying heavily on R&D, innovation, and specialist skills. Integration of science and technology into production processes. This sector uses the IS-8 definition “Advanced Manufacturing”.

Why this sector is important

Advanced manufacturing and materials are a key focus of the UK’s Industrial Strategy because they enable high-value production and innovation across multiple industries. This sector combines precision engineering and automation with the development of new materials such as composites, lightweight alloys, and smart materials. These technologies are essential for improving efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting sectors like aerospace, automotive, energy, and construction. As the UK moves toward low-carbon and digital solutions, advanced manufacturing and materials provide the foundation for sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

Bradford’s industrial heritage and engineering expertise make it well-positioned to benefit from opportunities in advanced manufacturing and materials. The district’s strong transport links and location within the Northern Powerhouse enhance its ability to serve national and international markets. Beyond traditional manufacturing, Bradford can build on its capabilities to develop advanced materials for applications such as renewable energy systems, electric vehicles, and modern construction. Strengthening this sector would help Bradford diversify its economy, attract investment, and create high-quality jobs in areas that align with future technologies.

Advanced Manufacturing and Material Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2024	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
20 : Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	1,500	2.5	-500	-25%
26 : Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	700	1.0	-800	-53%
27 : Manufacture of electrical equipment	250	0.6	-350	-58%
28 : Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	2,250	2.3	-250	-10%
29 : Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	500	0.5	-1,000	-67%
30 : Manufacture of other transport equipment	200	0.3	-100	-33%
3316 : Repair and maintenance of aircraft and spacecraft	0	0.0	-5	-100%
22 : Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	1,000	1.2	-250	-20%
23 : Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	600	1.3	-400	-40%
24 : Manufacture of basic metals	225	0.6	0	0%
25 : Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	2,500	1.5	0	0%
Adv Man and materials	9,725	1.2	-3,655	-27%

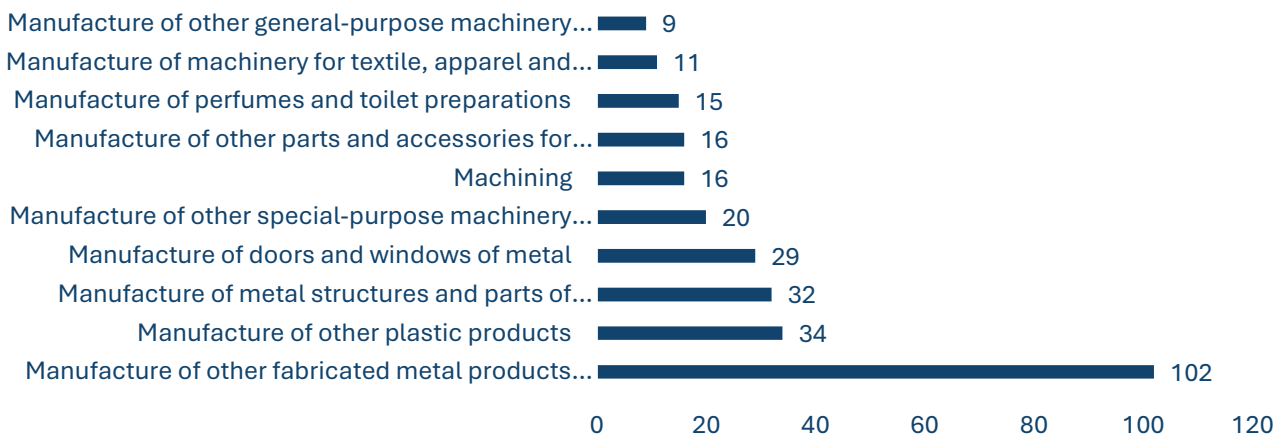
Business Base: Advanced Manufacturing and Materials

Business Base

Bradford’s advanced manufacturing and materials sector comprises 706 businesses, forming a diverse and innovative part of the local economy. Notably, 15% (106 businesses) are projected to achieve high growth of 20% or more in the next year, highlighting strong potential for expansion and investment.

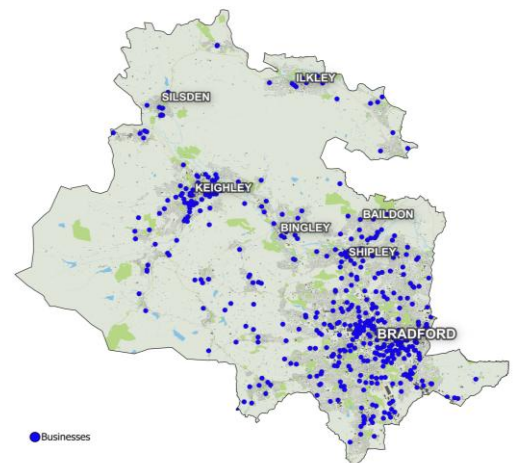
The sector is anchored by firms producing material-based products, with the largest group being the manufacture of other fabricated metal products (102 businesses), followed by manufacture of plastic products. Beyond these core activities, the sector demonstrates significant diversity, including businesses involved in machinery for textile manufacturing, perfume production, and structural manufacturing. This mix of traditional and specialist capabilities positions Bradford to adapt to emerging technologies and supply chain opportunities in advanced manufacturing and materials.

Adv Manufacturing & Materials Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Businesses

The large proportion of advanced manufacturing and materials businesses in Bradford are located around Bradford city centre and its periphery as well as Keighley. There are several businesses in the more rural areas of the district which is likely to represent larger organisations who require significant space for operations.



Employment: Advanced Manufacturing and Materials

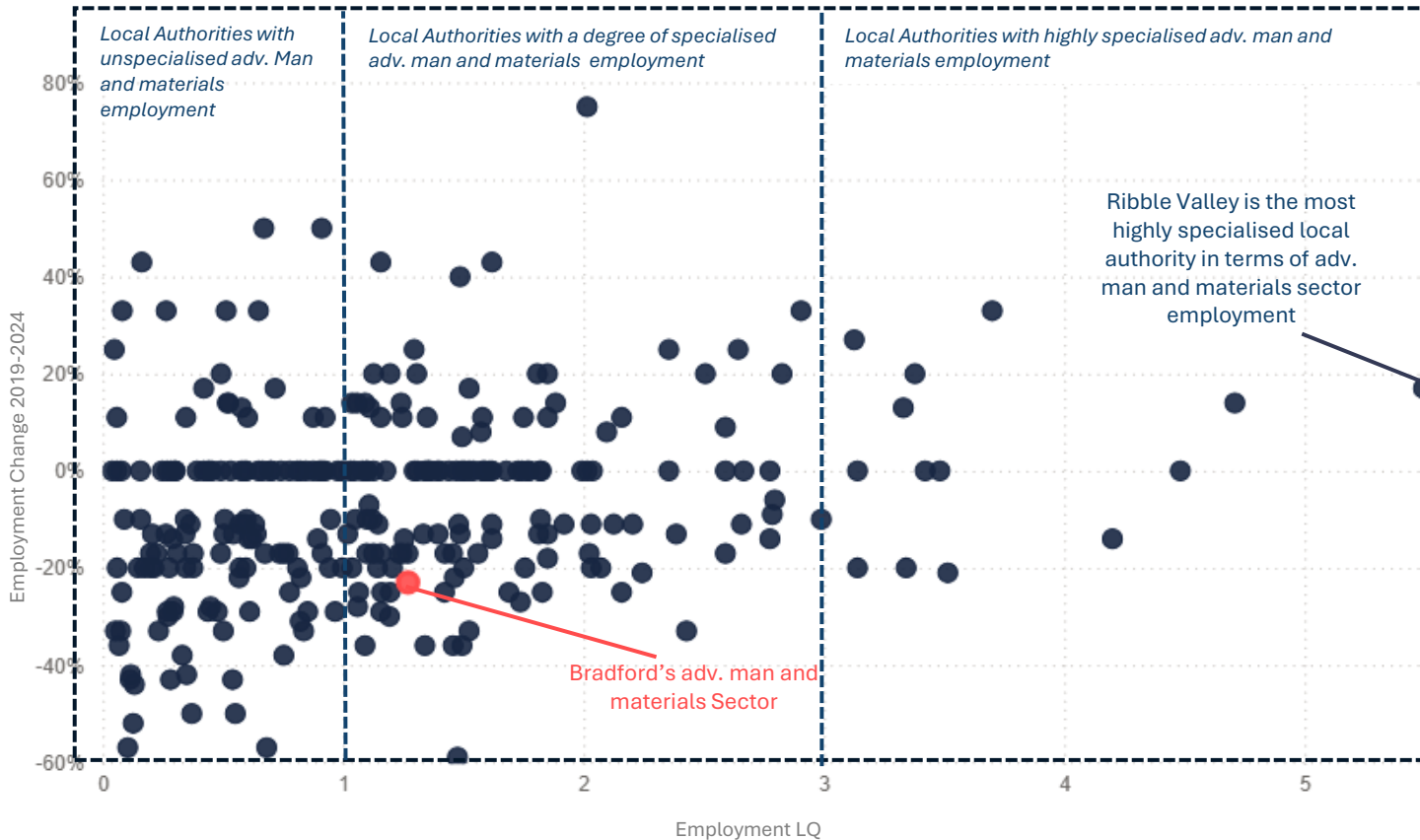
Current position and Growth Trends

Advanced manufacturing and materials remain a significant part of Bradford’s economy, employing around 9,725 people, which represents 4.8% of all jobs in the district. The sector shows a degree of specialisation, with an employment Location Quotient (LQ) of 1.2, meaning Bradford has a higher concentration of jobs in this area than the national average. This reflects the district’s strong industrial base and its role in high-value production.

However, the sector has faced challenges in recent years, with employment falling by 27% between 2019 and 2024, a loss of 3,655 jobs. This contraction highlights the need for Bradford to adapt and explore opportunities for growth. Compared to other English local authority areas, Bradford remains specialised, but performance varies widely across the country. For example, areas with similar economic profiles such as Bolton (+17% growth) and Wakefield (+14% growth) have seen expansion in this sector, suggesting that growth is achievable under the right conditions.

Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Advanced Manufacturing and Materials – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s advanced manufacturing and materials sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Manufacture of Machinery and equipment

This sub-sector involves producing machines and equipment used in industrial processes, construction, and specialist applications. In Bradford, it is a major employer with around 2,500 jobs, although employment has contracted by 10% since 2019. Despite this decline, the sector remains highly specialised locally, with an LQ of 2.3, indicating a strong concentration compared to the national average. Its scale and specialisation suggest it is a core strength within Bradford’s advanced manufacturing base.

Jobs: 2,500

Employment LQ: 2.3

Employment Change: -10%

Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products

This area covers the production of chemicals used in industries such as pharmaceuticals, cleaning products, and industrial applications. Bradford employs around 1,500 people in this sub-sector, with an LQ of 2.5, making it one of the most specialised parts of the local economy. However, employment has fallen by 25% since 2019, a loss of 500 jobs, reflecting structural changes in the chemical industry.

Jobs: 1,500

Employment LQ: 2.5

Employment Change: -25%%

Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment

This sub-sector focuses on producing metal components and structures, such as metal frameworks, parts, and finished products for construction and engineering. It is a large employer in Bradford, with around 2,500 jobs and an LQ of 1.5, showing a higher concentration than the national average. Employment has remained stable over recent years, with no significant growth or decline, potentially suggesting a mature but resilient part of the local economy.

Jobs: 2,500

Employment LQ: 1.5

Employment Change: 0%

Advanced Manufacturing and Materials – Sub Sector Focus (cont.)

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s advanced manufacturing and materials sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Manufacture of rubber and plastic products

This sub-sector involves producing rubber and plastic materials and products used in a wide range of industries, including packaging, automotive components, construction materials, and consumer goods. In Bradford, it is a significant area of strength within advanced manufacturing and materials, employing around 1,500 people. The sector shows a degree of specialisation with an employment LQ of 1.2, meaning Bradford has a higher concentration of jobs here than the national average. However, employment has contracted by 20% since 2019, a loss of 250 jobs, reflecting wider challenges in the manufacturing sector.

Jobs: 1,000

Employment LQ: 1.2

Employment Change: -20%

Some other sectors in the advanced manufacturing and materials sector may warrant attention but are less strong than those cited above. This includes:

- **Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products** this sector is of a reasonable size, 700 jobs and Bradford has a small specialism in this sector, with an employment LQ of 1.0. This sector also aligns with other sector activity such as that in information and communications. However, this sector has reduced by over half – in employment counts – in the last five years.

Conclusions: Advanced Manufacturing and Materials

Data

Bradford's advanced manufacturing and materials sector is large and specialised with 9,725 jobs recorded in 2024 and an employment LQ of 1.2. The sector has, however, experienced a contraction of over 3,600 jobs in the last five years (a reduction of 27%). This compares to an 8% reduction nationally.

Despite high jobs numbers, the sector is not represented by many businesses (706) but a reasonable proportion (15%) are expected to experience high growth.

There are a number of sub-sectors where Bradford shows above average levels of specialisation in terms of employment include in the manufacturing of: machinery and equipment (2.3); chemicals and chemical products (2.5); fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (1.5); rubber and plastic products (1.2) and computer, electronic and optical products (1.0).

The manufacture of textiles supports 2,000 jobs. **Sustainable textiles** is a key sub-sector driving a lot of the specialisation in Bradford's advanced manufacturing and materials sector. Data from Data City suggests strong business LQs in a range of sectors adjacent to sustainable textiles including: *Manufacture of machinery for textile, apparel and leather production* (21.0); *Preparation and spinning of textile fibres* (18.2); *Manufacture of man-made fibres* (11.3); *Manufacture of mattresses* (10.4) *Weaving of textiles* (4.8) and *Manufacture of household textiles* (3.75).

Bradford does not have any identified strengths in agronomy and turf surfaces (with no strengths in crop and animal production which this aligns with). Bradford are also interested in the manufacturing of chemicals and materials technology. The **Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products** accounts for 1,500 jobs in the local authority which suggests a potential strength. **Aerospace** does not currently show specific strengths in Bradford, with no employment showing in the closely related sector of **Repair and maintenance of aircraft and spacecraft**

Policy and Wider Trends

Advanced manufacturing is recognised as a significant sector within the Modern Industrial strategy's IS-8 sectors. At the regional and local level, **West Yorkshire's Growth Plan** acknowledges the importance of the sector as the area is home to the largest manufacturing workforce in the North of England and represents significant employment and growth opportunities. Regional policy highlights the specific textile strengths in Bradford.

Overall Conclusions

The advanced manufacturing and materials sector is an existing strength in Bradford.. There are also many sub-sector strengths in terms of the number of businesses and jobs locally. Despite the fact that employment has been declining locally, this remains a key opportunity sector for Bradford and should be supported.

Advanced manufacturing and materials is identified as an existing strength which presents opportunities for the future.



Health (Life Sciences)

Key Sector Focus: Health (Life Sciences)

Sector Definition

The Health Sector comprises organisations engaged in the development, manufacture, and supply of pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and related technologies, as well as research and experimental development in biotechnology. This sector supports healthcare by producing medicines, diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, and advancing biotechnological solutions. This sector uses the IS-8 definition “Life Sciences”.

Why this sector is important

The Health Sector is essential to societal well-being and economic resilience. By safeguarding public health and driving breakthroughs in biotechnology, it supports productivity, workforce stability, and long-term competitiveness across the economy. Nationally, the sector is recognised as part of the IS-8 Life Sciences grouping, which encompasses Pharmaceuticals and Medical Technology, aligning closely with the UK’s ambition to be one of the world’s top three life sciences economies. It plays a unique role in raising productivity, creating exceptionally valuable jobs, and boosting growth indirectly by enabling innovation across multiple industries.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

For Bradford, the Health Sector is central to future growth and resilience. The £1 billion redevelopment of Airedale Hospital as a world-class healthcare and innovation hub will set new standards in sustainable design, digital technology, and patient-focused care. While the district is not yet a major health cluster, building on this investment will strengthen Bradford’s life sciences capabilities, attract inward investment, and create high-value jobs. The sector also supports inclusive growth by improving health outcomes and enabling Bradford to compete in national and global markets.

Health (Life Sciences) Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2023	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
21 : Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	0	0.0	0	N/A!
266 : Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment	0	0.0	0	N/A
325 : Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies	450	1.6	150	50%
7211 : Research and experimental development on biotechnology	10	0.1	10	N/A
Life sciences	460	0.6	160	53%

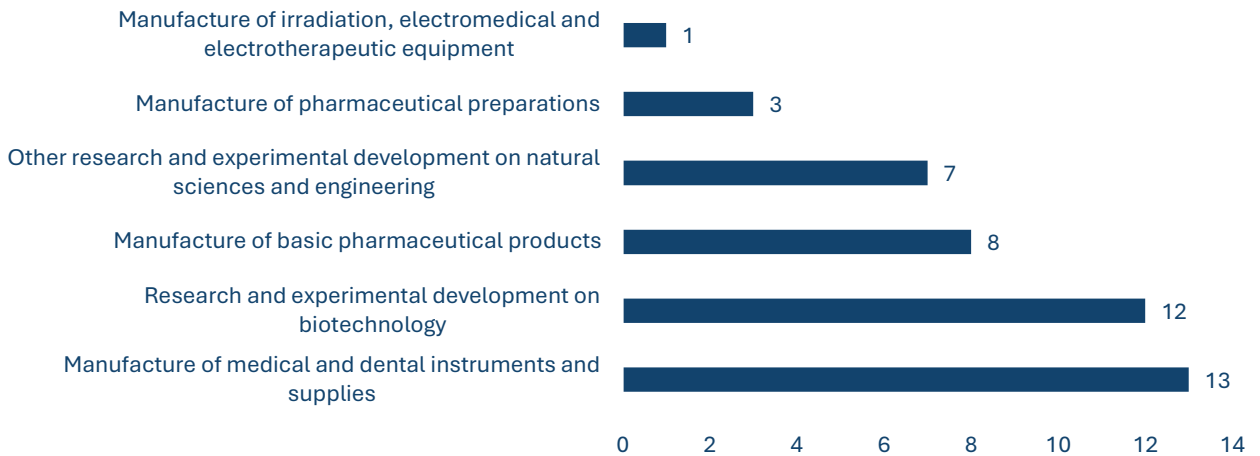
Business Base: Health (Life Sciences)

Business Base

Using Growth Flag data, we can estimate there are 54 Health (Life Sciences) businesses operating in Bradford in 2025. Of these businesses, 9.3%, or 5 businesses are expected to experience high growth over the next 12 months.

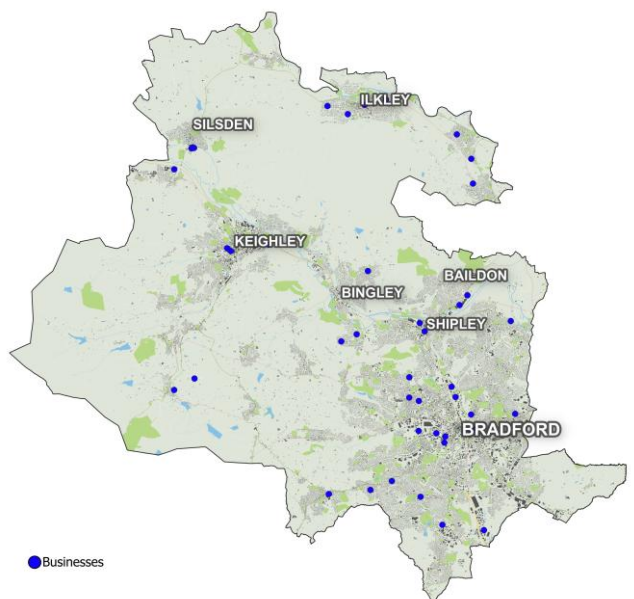
The manufacturing of basic pharmaceutical products, biotechnology research and development, and the production of medical and dental instruments and supplies represent Bradford’s strongest health-related sub-sectors. Collectively they account for over 50% of businesses in this field.

Health Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Health (Life Sciences) Businesses

Health businesses are primarily concentrated in and around the Bradford City Centre, forming the largest cluster (albeit still weak) in the district. West Bradford is aligned to presence of the Uni, St Lukes and Bradford Royal Infirmary. Smaller groupings appear along the Aire Valley in towns such as Shipley, Baildon, and Bingley. This urban-centric pattern reflects the sector’s reliance on proximity to healthcare facilities, research institutions, and strong transport links, with a limited presence in rural areas.



Employment: Health (Life Sciences)

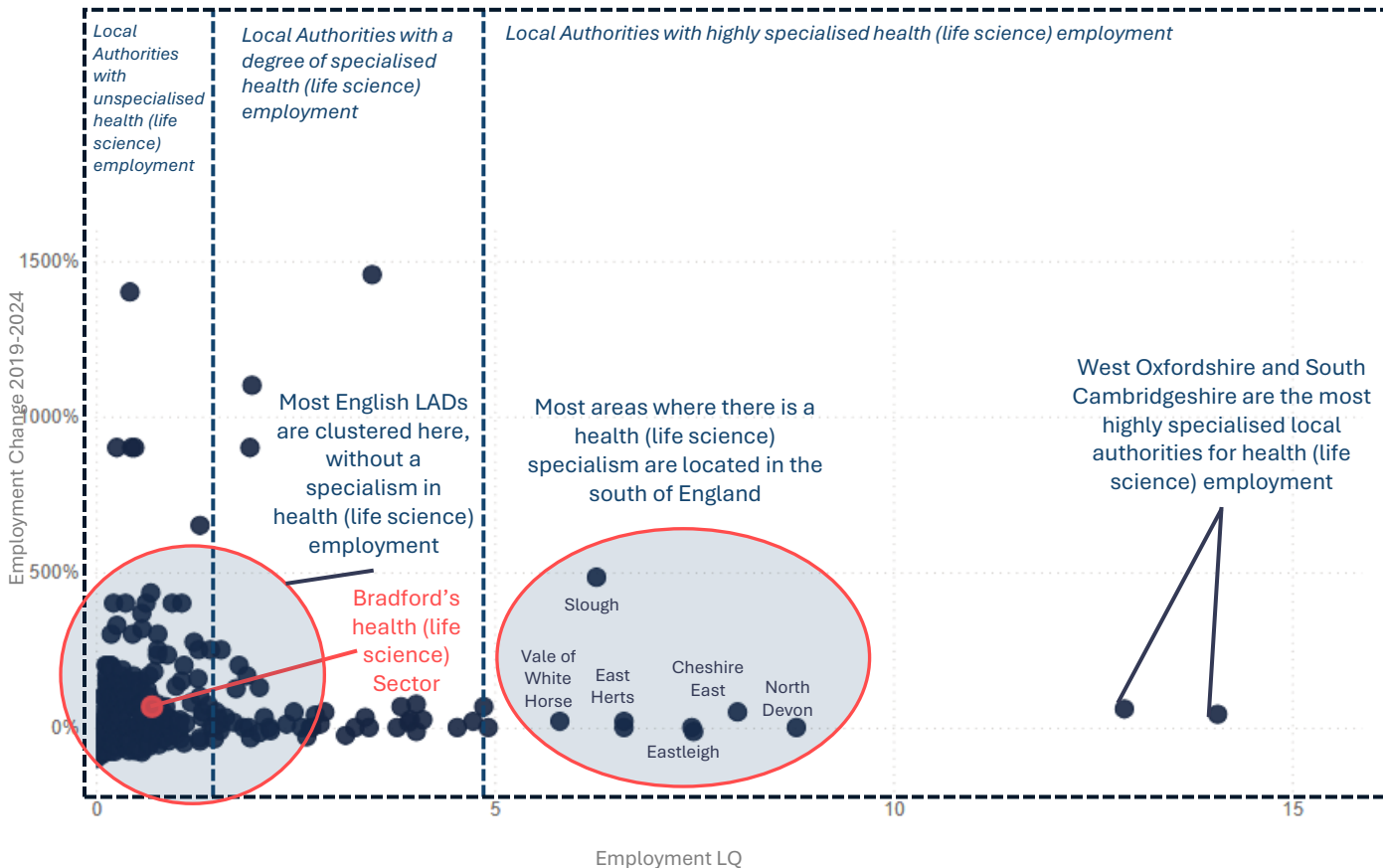
Current position and Growth Trends

The health (life sciences) sector in Bradford employs approximately 460 people, representing 0.2% of all jobs in the local authority area. Since 2019, employment in the sector has grown by 65%, increasing from 300 to 460 jobs, highlighting a period of rapid expansion. However, despite this growth, the sector is still relatively small.

Bradford does not currently demonstrate strong levels of specialisation in health, with an employment Location Quotient (LQ) of 0.6 (well below 1.0) indicating a lower concentration of jobs compared to the national average. Looking at other English local authorities, we can see Bradford's position is similar to most other local authorities. Areas which perform well, tend to be located in the South of England.

Health (Life Science) Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Health (Life Science) – Sub Sector Focus

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford’s health (life sciences) sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies

This category encompasses the manufacture of laboratory apparatus, surgical and medical instruments, appliances, and supplies, as well as dental equipment, orthodontic goods, dentures, and related products. It also includes specialised medical and dental furniture, where integrated functions define their purpose, such as dentist chairs with built-in hydraulic mechanisms. This is the dominant reason for health sector activity in Bradford, employing around 450 people in 2024. Employment has grown rapidly over the past five years, and an LQ of 1.6 indicates a significantly higher concentration of jobs compared to the national average.

Jobs: 450

Employment LQ: 1.6

Employment Change: 50%

Conclusions: Health (Life Sciences)

Data

Life sciences is relatively small in Bradford, supporting just 450 jobs and with an LQ of 0.6. However, this sector has grown rapidly, in employment terms, between 2019 and 2024 with an increase of 160 jobs. A total of 54 businesses have been identified in this sector, of these 5 are expected to experience high growth.

The sub-sector with the greatest strength is: **manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies** supporting 450 jobs and with an employment LQ of 1.6.

Bradford are interested in other sub-sectors including **Cancer therapeutics** which is a challenging sector to define with traditional SIC definitions. Looking at the best fit sectors, none seem to suggest a strength in this area in Bradford. This may however be an issue of sector definitions and under-representation of research and healthcare organisations in ONS data.

Skincare and wound care is also limited by SIC definitions. Given the specialised nature of this sector, there are no appropriate SIC matches. Finally, **Longitudinal health** and **data-driven healthcare innovation** are business and behavioural practices applied to the wider healthcare sector. As such it is not feasible to use data to determine

Policy and Wider Trends

Life sciences is identified as an important sector in the UK's **Modern Industrial strategy**. The UK government aims to establish a globally competitive, self-sustaining life sciences ecosystem through regulation, procurement and measures to keep high-potential firms scaling and investing in the UK. This work is aligned with the NHS 10-Year Health Plan.

In the **West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan, Health and Life Sciences** is seen as significant, with the acknowledgment that this sector generates around £3 billion a year and having a strong concentration of high skill/wage jobs.

Locally, the sector will likely benefit from the £1bn rebuild of Airedale Hospital as part of the UK's New Hospital Programme

Overall Conclusions

Life sciences is not currently an area of specialisation in Bradford (aside from manufacturing of medical and dental instruments). The fact that life sciences is a priority nationally and regionally is recognised. Proposed investment at Airedale hospital will also provide a boost for the sector. Nevertheless, there is not a compelling case to make this a priority sector for Bradford.

While the sector undertakes vital work, a sensible approach would be to monitor its activity to ensure it continues to align to local, regional and national policy as well as health strategies.



Financial and Business Services



Key Sector Focus: Financial and Business Services

Sector Definition

Economic activities provided by the finance industry, including banking, insurance, and investment services that manage money and offer products such as loans and credit. This sector shows the specialised section of the IS-8 Professional Services.

Why this sector is important

Financial and Business services within the IS-8 Professional and Business services sector provide essential support for commercialisation and scale-up, offering expertise in intellectual property strategy, access to growth capital, and compliance navigation. They also drive exports through legal, tax, and regulatory advice, and support the transition to net zero through sustainability consulting, carbon accounting, and engineering solutions. As a fast-growing and highly influential sector, it underpins competitiveness and productivity across multiple industries.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

The sector is a critical enabler of Bradford’s economic growth and competitiveness. The district benefits from its proximity to globally recognised academic institutions, creating a strong pipeline of talent, research, and innovation. This ecosystem supports businesses in accessing expertise in areas such as intellectual property, compliance, and growth capital, while driving innovation in emerging fields like fintech and data analytics. Bradford’s position within the wider West Yorkshire region also strengthens its ability to attract investment and deliver high-value services that underpin productivity across multiple industries. Furthermore, Bradford has plans for faster transport links to Leeds which is the second largest city for financial services.

Financial and Business Services Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2023	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
69 : Legal and accounting activities	3,500	0.6	1,000	40%
70 : Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	6,000	1.0	1,000	20%
73 : Advertising and market research	175	0.1	25	17%
77 : Rental and leasing activities	600	0.6	200	50%
78 : Employment activities	4,000	0.6	-500	-11%
82 : Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	3,500	1.0	1,500	75%
64 : Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	4,500	1.4	-500	-10%
65 : Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security	250	0.4	75	43%
66 : Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	600	0.2	-650	-52%
Financial and Business Services	23,125	0.8	2,150	10%

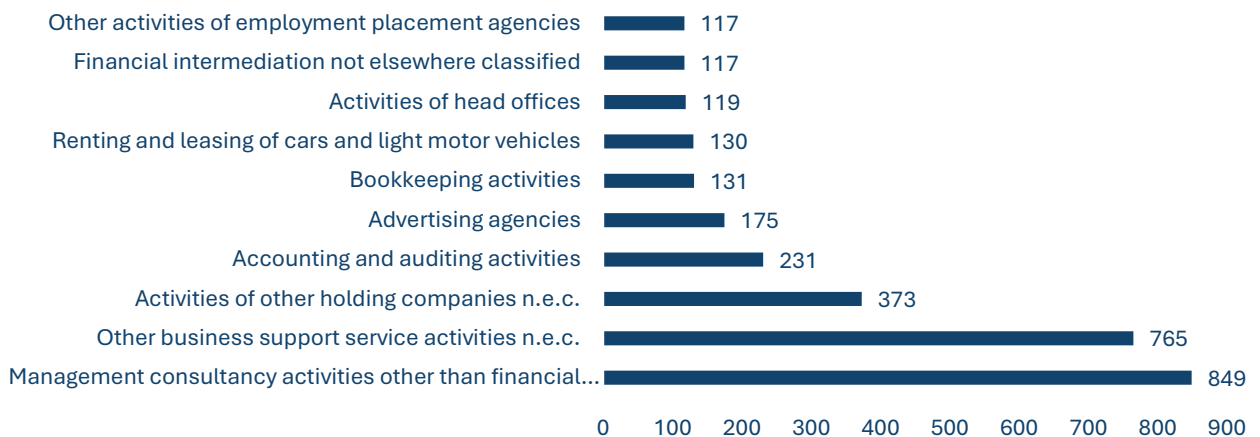
Business Base: Financial and Business Services

Business Base

Using Growth Flag data, we can estimate there are 4,056 Financial and Business Services businesses operating in Bradford in 2025. Of these businesses, 9.9%, or 401 businesses are expected to experience high growth over the next 12 months.

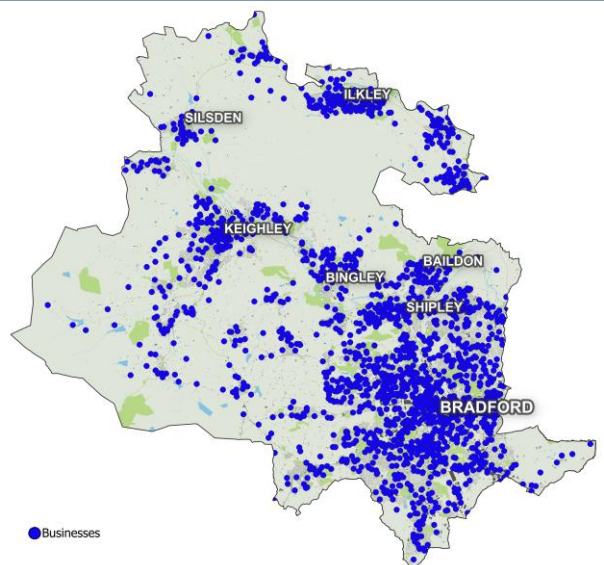
Management consultancy, other business support services, and holding company activities represent Bradford’s strongest financial and business sub-sectors, alongside accounting, auditing, and bookkeeping services. While renting and leasing of cars and light motor vehicles has a location quotient of nearly 15. This concentration highlights Bradford’s competitive position in advisory, compliance, and operational support services, underpinning growth across multiple industries.

Financial and Business Services Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Financial and Business Services Businesses

Financial and business services are widely distributed across Bradford, with the highest concentration in and around the city centre. Dense clusters extend along the Aire Valley through Shipley, Baildon, and Bingley, while significant numbers are also present in Keighley and Ilkley. The pattern shows strong urban coverage with notable spread into suburban and semi-rural areas, reflecting the sector’s broad role in supporting businesses and consumers across the district.



Employment: Financial and Business Services

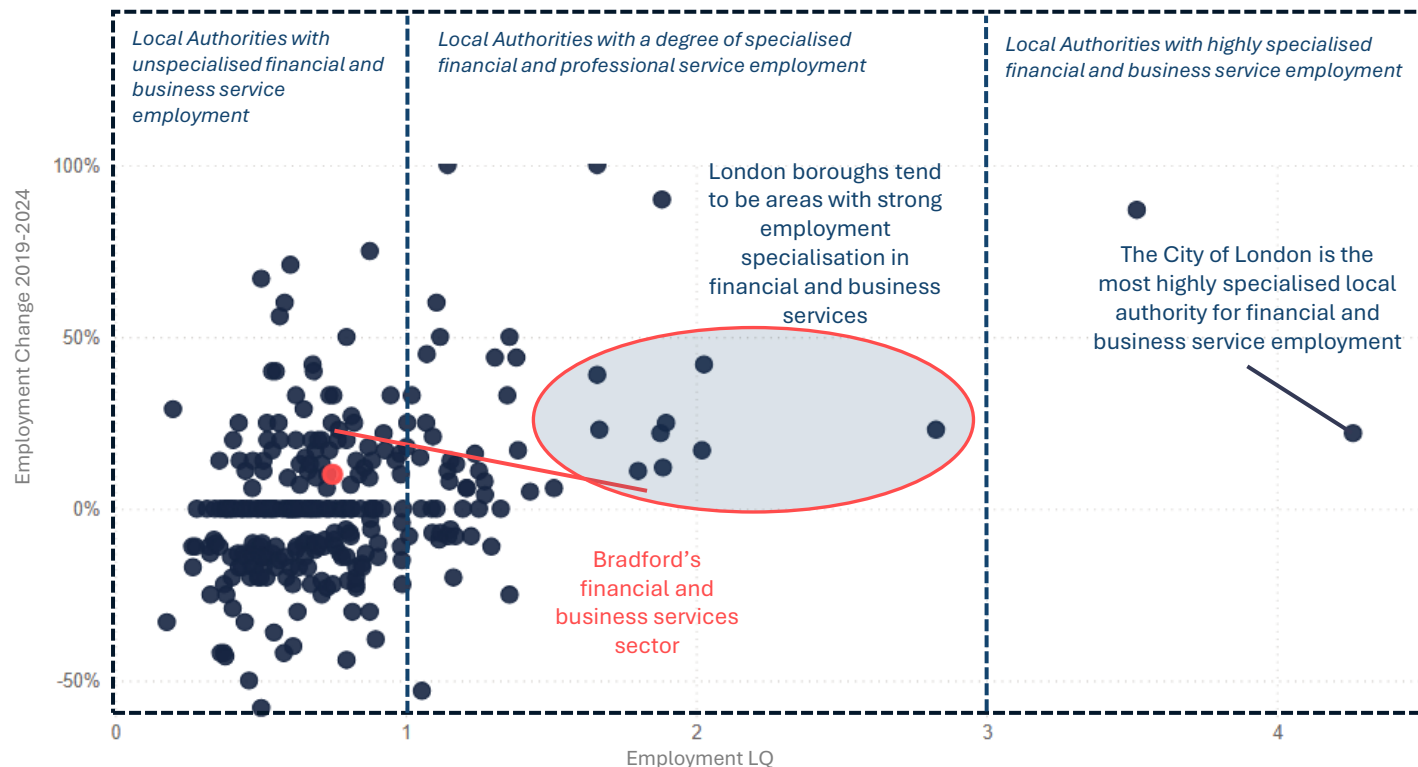
Current position and Growth Trends

The financial and business services sector in Bradford employs approximately 23,130 people, representing 11.3% of all jobs in the local authority area. Since 2019, employment in the sector has grown by 10%, increasing by 2,150 jobs, highlighting a period of rapid expansion.

Bradford does not currently demonstrate strong levels of specialisation in financial and business services, with an employment Location Quotient (LQ) of 0.8 indicating a lower concentration of jobs compared to the national average. As illustrated below, London boroughs and local authorities across the South East tend to be more highly specialised in terms of employment. Bradford may be able to find a specific sub-sector in this broad sector to focus and specialise on and compliment other activity in the district.

Financial and Business Services Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Key Sector Focus: Financial and Business Services

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford's financial and business services sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ. In addition to strengths, legal and accounting as well as employment activities are large on employment terms.

Financial Service Activities, except Insurance and Pension Funding

This sub-sector includes activities such as banking, investment services, and other financial operations excluding insurance and pension funding. It is a major component of Bradford's financial services sector, employing around 4,500 people in 2024. Despite its size, employment has declined by 10% over the past five years. The location quotient (LQ) of 1.6 indicates a significantly higher concentration of jobs to the national average

Jobs: 4,500

Employment LQ:1.6

Employment Change: -10%

Office Administrative, Office Support and other Business Support Activities

This category covers admin support, clerical support, and a range of business support services possible through personal assistances jobs. It employs approximately 3,500 people in Bradford and has experienced rapid growth, with employment increasing by 75% over the past five years. An LQ of 1.0 suggests that the concentration of these jobs is in line with the national average..

Jobs: 3,500

Employment LQ:1.0

Employment Change:75%

Activities of Head Offices; Management Consultancy Activities

Head office and management consultancy roles focus on corporate strategy, financial oversight, HR, compliance, and advising businesses on efficiency, growth, and transformation. Around 6,000 people are employed in Bradford in this area, and employment has grown by 20% over the past five years. The LQ of 1.0 indicates that the concentration of these roles is in line with the national average.

Jobs: 6,000

Employment LQ:1.0

Employment Change: 20%

Conclusions: Financial & Business Services

Data

Financial and business services is a key sector for Bradford. Employment estimates suggest this sector accounts for over 1 in every 10 jobs in the local authority (11.3% of jobs or 23,125 jobs in total). Despite the high rates of employment, the sector cannot be said to be specialised in Bradford as the employment LQ only sits at 0.8. This is in part due to the prevalence of this sector across many areas of the country. However, employment has grown at a faster rate in this sector (+2,150 jobs or 10%) over the last five years, above the national rate of 6%. If Bradford continues to outstrip employment growth nationally, this sector will likely emerge as an area of employment specialisation in the near future.

This sector is represented by 4,056 businesses. Of these 10% are anticipated to achieve high growth rates, indicating a very healthy and growing sector.

*The **Financial Service Activities (except Insurance and Pension Funding)** sub-sector accounts for 4,500 jobs and has an employment LQ of 1.6. This sector has however experienced a minor degree of contraction in employment over the last five years (-10%).*

Back office operations is also fairly broad sector but could be considered to be represented by **Office Administrative, Office Support and other Business Support Activities** which accounts for 3,500 jobs in the local authority and has grown by 75% in the last five years.

Activities of Head Offices; Management Consultancy Activities is also important. This sector experienced strong employment growth (+20%) between 2019-2024 and is represented by a very significant number of jobs – 6,000.

Policy and Wider Trends

Professional Services is one of the IS-8 sectors outlined in the Modern Industrial Strategy. Other national policy emphasises the importance of this sector, with plans to establish the UK as the “most trusted adviser to global industry by 2035” and “secure the UK’s position as the world’s most innovative full-service financial centre by 2035.

The **West Yorkshire Growth Plan** identifies the sector as key to growth. It refers to the agglomerative effect of the **Northern Square Mile**. The presence of large financial and business service firms in Bradford highlight the importance of the sector including Yorkshire Building Society, Santander and PWC amongst others

Overall Conclusions

This is a crucial sector for Bradford, with 1 in 10 jobs in the local authority employed in this sector. Despite growing, it is less specialised than national levels. There is also a strong national and regional policy focus.

There are a number of sub-sector strengths including **financial services** is important as well as **back-office operations** and **head office/management consultancy**.

The financial and businesses services sector is identified as a current strength and opportunity sector.



Cultural and Creative Activities



Key Sector Focus: Cultural and Creative Activities

Sector Definition

Economic activities that create and deliver cultural and creative content, including design, advertising, architecture and IT services

Why this sector is important

Cultural and creative activities form a core part of the UK's Creative Industries (IS-8), acting as a powerful engine for economic growth and innovation. The sector contributes around 2.4 million jobs and £124 billion GVA to the economy, while generating knowledge spillovers that benefit other industries. Beyond economic impact, it plays a vital role in addressing climate goals by supporting net zero priorities and enabling green growth. Design and architecture help create sustainable products and reduce environmental impact, while the sector's storytelling capabilities influence consumer choices. This combination of creativity and sustainability positions the sector as a driver of future growth and social change.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

Bradford's creative strength lies in its vibrant mix of universities, colleges, start-ups, and cultural institutions, all fostering innovation and collaboration. Initiatives like Creative Corridors aim to connect clusters across the UK, sharing ideas, suppliers, and skilled workers to deliver growth together. Culture is deeply embedded in Bradford's identity, from iconic venues like the Alhambra Theatre, Salts Mill and recently opened Bradford Live music venue to grassroots festivals and independent creators. Bradford's position as UK City of Culture in 2025 has showcased Bradford's creative scene and ambition, providing a platform to attract investment, talent, and partnerships that will shape the city's future.

Cultural and Creative Services Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2023	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
2611 : Manufacture of electronic components	5	0.1	-5	-50.00%
2612 : Manufacture of loaded electronic boards	0	0.0	0	N/A
2620 : Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment	30	0.8	-45	-60.00%
2630 : Manufacture of communication equipment	250	3.2	-250	-50.00%
2640 : Manufacture of consumer electronics	0	0.0	0	N/A
2680 : Manufacture of magnetic and optical media	0	0.0	0	N/A
4651 : Wholesale of computers, computer peripheral equipment and software	75	0.3	-150	-66.67%
4652 : Wholesale of electronic and telecommunications equipment and parts	35	0.2	-5	-12.50%
6110 : Wired telecommunications activities	40	0.4	-110	-73.33%

Continued Next Page...

	Employment 2023	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
6120 : Wireless telecommunications activities	200	0.6	170	566.67%
6130 : Satellite telecommunications activities	0	0.0	0	N/A
6190 : Other telecommunications activities	150	0.2	-850	-85.00%
6311 : Data processing, hosting and related activities	15	0.0	-35	-70.00%
6312 : Web portals	10	0.1	0	0.00%
6391 : News agency activities	0	0.0	-10	-100.00%
6399 : Other information service activities n.e.c.	5	0.0	-70	-93.33%
9511 : Repair of computers and peripheral equipment	75	0.4	-25	-25.00%
9512 : Repair of communication equipment	30	0.8	15	100.00%
1820 : Reproduction of recorded media	0	0.0	-10	-100.00%
3212 : Manufacture of jewellery and related articles	15	0.3	5	50.00%
3220 : Manufacture of musical instruments	0	0.0	0	N/A
4763 : Retail sale of music and video recordings in specialised stores	10	0.7	-10	-50.00%
5811 : Book publishing	5	0.0	5	N/A
5812 : Publishing of directories and mailing lists	10	1.4	10	N/A
5813 : Publishing of newspapers	400	3.3	300	300.00%
5814 : Publishing of journals and periodicals	15	0.1	5	50.00%
5819 : Other publishing activities	35	0.2	-115	-76.67%
5821 : Publishing of computer games	0	0.0	0	N/A
5829 : Other software publishing	10	0.1	10	N/A
5911 : Motion picture, video and television programme production activities	75	0.1	-125	-62.50%
5912 : Motion picture, video and television programme post-production activities	5	0.1	-15	-75.00%
5913 : Motion picture, video and television programme distribution activities	0	0.0	0	N/A
5914 : Motion picture projection activities	75	0.5	-175	-70.00%
5920 : Sound recording and music publishing activities	25	0.3	-50	-66.67%
6010 : Radio broadcasting	30	0.3	20	200.00%
6020 : Television programming and broadcasting activities	50	0.2	30	150.00%
6201 : Computer programming activities	400	0.2	-100	-20.00%
6202 : Computer consultancy activities	800	0.3	-450	-36.00%
6203 : Computer facilities management activities	5	0.2	0	0.00%
6209 : Other information technology and computer service activities	250	0.2	-200	-44.44%
7021 : Public relations and communication activities	50	0.3	0	0.00%
7111 : Architectural activities	350	0.6	0	0.00%
7311 : Advertising agencies	150	0.2	25	20.00%
7312 : Media representation	10	0.1	-5	-33.33%
7410 : Specialised design activities	350	0.9	100	40.00%
7420 : Photographic activities	100	0.8	25	33.33%
7430 : Translation and interpretation activities	40	1.1	20	100.00%
8552 : Cultural education	100	1.5	0	0.00%
9001 : Performing arts	225	0.8	75	50.00%
9002 : Support activities to performing arts	75	0.7	60	400.00%
9003 : Artistic creation	250	1.4	100	66.67%
9004 : Operation of arts facilities	100	0.8	0	0.00%
9101 : Library and archive activities	125	0.7	-25	-16.67%
9102 : Museum activities	250	1.2	50	25.00%
93 : Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	2250	0.7	-250	-10.00%
DCMS Creative and Culture	7560	0.4	-2060	-21.41%

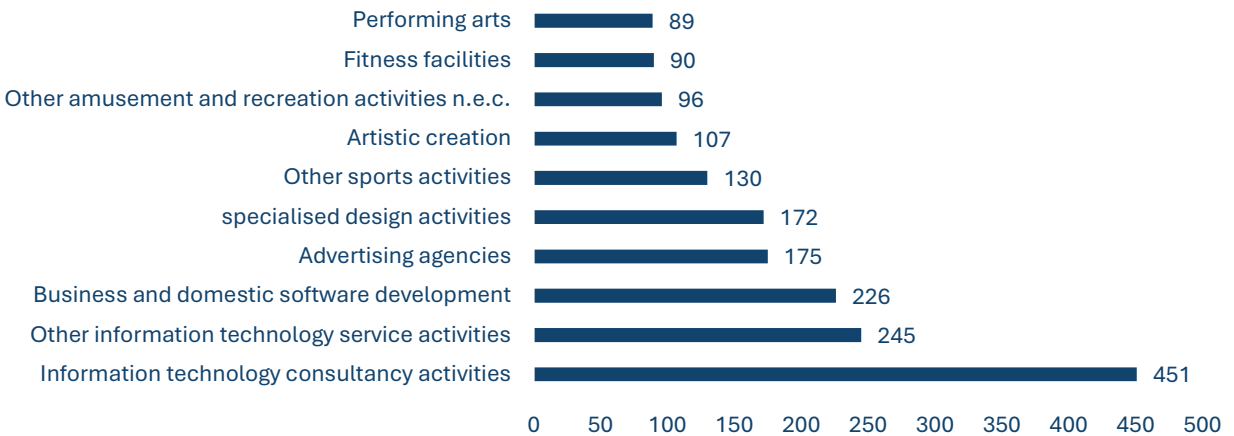
Business Base: Culture and Creative Services

Business Base

Using Growth Flag data, we can estimate there are 2,816 businesses within Cultural and Creatives Services operating in Bradford in 2025. Of these businesses, 7.0%, or 198 businesses are expected to experience high growth over the next 12 months.

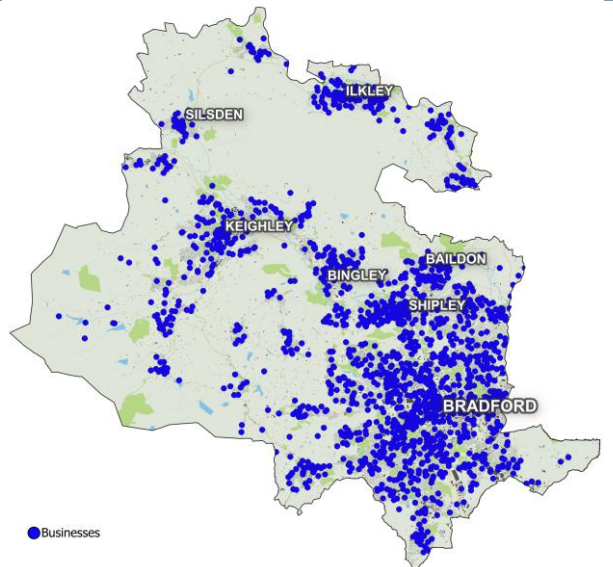
The top 10 sub-sectors with the highest business counts are illustrated below. Information technology consultancy activities accounts for the largest number of businesses, nearly double the next largest sector (other information technology service activities). Both of these sub-sectors focus on information technology. Out of the top 10 sub-sectors, performing arts accounts for the lowest number of businesses (89), however, all the location quotients are far above the national average.

Cultural and Creative Services Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Culture and Creative Services Businesses

Cultural and creative businesses are widely spread across Bradford, with the greatest concentration in the centre. Dense clusters extend along the Aire Valley through Shipley, Baildon, and Bingley, while Keighley and Ilkley also show significant activity. The pattern demonstrates strong urban coverage with notable reach into suburban areas, reflecting the sector's integration into Bradford's economy and its role in supporting diverse creative communities.



Employment: Cultural and Creative Services

Current position and Growth Trends

The culture and creative services sector in Bradford employs approximately 7,560 people, representing 3.7% of all jobs in the local authority area. However, despite the UK City of Culture award, there has been a substantial decrease in employment of 21% (equating to 2,060 jobs) between 2019-2024. In part, this reflects the broad definition of the cultural and creative services sector.

There also does not appear to be strong levels of specialisation within this sector in Bradford, with a location quotient of 0.4. This means that Bradford has 40% of the national average concentration in the cultural and creative services sector. Similar to the financial and business services sector, London boroughs tend to be areas where sector specialisms are found. However, initiatives such as the UK City of Culture in 2025 may help to increase employment in this sector in the future, increasing levels of specialisation.

Cultural and Creative Services Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Key Sector Focus: Cultural and Creative Services

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford's cultural and creative services sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Publishing of Newspapers

Covers the publication of newspapers, magazines, and other journals in both print and digital formats. It is a notable part of Bradford's financial services landscape, employing around 400 people in 2024. With a location quotient of 3.3, Bradford has a significantly higher concentration of jobs in this area compared to the national average. Employment has surged dramatically over the past five years, growing by 300% (300 jobs).

Jobs: 400

Employment LQ: 3.3

Employment Change: 300%

Cultural Education

This sub-sector embodies various art and music courses such as drama, fine art and piano lessons. While it hasn't grown since 2019, it still employs 100 people in Bradford, the degree of concentration is still higher than the national average with a location quotient of 1.5.

Jobs: 100

Employment LQ: 1.5

Employment Change: 0%

Artistic Creation

Services provided by authors, composers, sculptors and other artists, with the exception of performing artists. Around 250 people are employed in Bradford in this area, and employment has grown by 67% over the past five years. The LQ of 1.4 indicates that the concentration of these roles is in line with the national average.

Jobs: 250

Employment LQ: 1.4

Employment Change: 67%

Key Sector Focus: Cultural and Creative Services (Cont.)

Sports Activities and Amusement and Recreation Activities

In Bradford, it employs around 2,250 people, but employment has declined by 10% over the past five years. With a LQ of 0.7, the sector is less concentrated locally than the national average, indicating it is not a major area of specialisation.

Jobs: 2,250

Employment LQ:0.7

Employment Change: -10%

Museum Activities

This sub-sector includes museums dedicated to art, history, science, and specialised collections, as well as open-air museums. It focuses on acquiring, preserving, and showcasing artifacts and specimens to educate and inspire the public. With an LQ of 1.2, the sector is slightly more concentrated locally than the national average, indicating a modest area of specialisation for Bradford. It employs around 250 people and has seen 25% growth over the past five years, reflecting steady expansion.

Jobs: 250

Employment LQ:1.2

Employment Change: 25%

Other sub-sectors

Both the **Translation and interpretation activities** and **Publishing of directories and mailing lists** have higher LQs, however, both employment rates are below 100, making them too small to show specialism.

Previously discussed Manufacturing of Communication Equipment in Information and Communication is a sub-sector strength within Bradford's Culture and Creative sector

Conclusions: Cultural & Creative Services

Data

From a data perspective, the culture and creative sector cannot be deemed a specialised sector in Bradford. The sector employs 7,560 people but has experienced a sharp decline of 21% (-2,060 jobs) in the last five years. This is in contrast to a growing culture and creativity sector nationally where employment increased by 8% between 2019-2024.

A reasonably number of businesses have been identified in this sector (2,816) of these, 7% are anticipated to experience high growth rates.

The **Publishing of Newspapers** represents a sub-sector where Bradford has specific strengths, accounting for 400 jobs this sector, grew by 300% in the last five years and is able to demonstrate an employment LQ of 3.3. **Artistic Creation** is also a sector of strength in Bradford. This is a broad sector and accounts for 250 jobs with an LQ of 1.4 alongside an employment growth rate of 67%. Other important sub-sectors which show employment specialisation include: Cultural Education (1.5) and Museum Activities (1.2). Sports Activities and Amusement and Recreation Activities is also large supporting 2,250 employees.

Short form video content is primarily included within 5911 : Motion picture, video and television programme production activities. This only supports 75 people and there is an LQ of 0.1. It is therefore not considered to be a priority for Bradford.

Policy and Wider Trends

The creative industries sector is a national priority and identified within the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy. It is a sector that will help to "cement the UK's position as a global creative powerhouse by 2035, boosting business investment, innovation, skills, exports and regional growth across high-potential creative sub-sectors."

The West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan identifies the creative industries as a sector of importance, with an estimated value to the economy of £1.7bn. At the Bradford level the City of Culture initiatives will drive growth in this sector to a considerable degree.

Overall Conclusions

The data confirms that this is not a key sector in Bradford at present. However, there are a number of sub-sector strengths including publishing of Newspapers and artistic creation. Other relevant sub-sectors include: cultural education; museum activities; sports activities and amusement and recreation activities (which is significant in size).

There is also an opportunity to build on Bradford being the UK city of Culture. This would be expected to present clear growth opportunities that, if correctly harnessed, could shift this sector into an area of specialism for Bradford.

The cultural and creative sector is identified as an opportunity for Bradford.



Logistics and Distribution



Key Sector Focus: Logistics and Distribution

Sector Definition

Manages the flow of goods from origin to consumption, encompassing activities like transportation, warehousing, inventory management, and order fulfilment.

Why this sector is important

Spanning land, water, and air transport, the logistics sector contributes an estimated £185 billion in GDP annually, representing 12% of the UK's non-financial economy. In 2024, the UK logistics sector comprises around 230,000 businesses and employed around 8.2% of the national workforce. In addition, the latest figures show that logistics businesses generated £1.3 trillion in revenue in 2022, marking a 25.8% increase compared to 2021. These numbers highlight why logistics and distribution are critical drivers of economic growth and connectivity.

Why it matters specifically to Bradford

Bradford's strategic location and transport links make it a vital hub for logistics and distribution. Leeds Bradford Airport provides direct access to European markets, while Manchester Airport connects businesses globally. East and west coast ports keep exporters integrated into international supply chains.

Logistics and Distribution Sub-Sector Employment Analysis

	Employment 2023	Employment LQ	Employment Change 2019-2024	% Employment Change 2019-2024
49 : Land transport and transport via pipelines	2,500	0.7	0	0.0%
50 : Water transport	10	0.1	10	-
51 : Air transport	50	0.1	0	0.0%
52 : Warehousing and support activities for transportation	4,500	1.0	500	12.5%
53 : Postal and courier activities	1,000	0.6	0	0.0%
Logistics and Distribution	8,060	0.8	510	6.75%

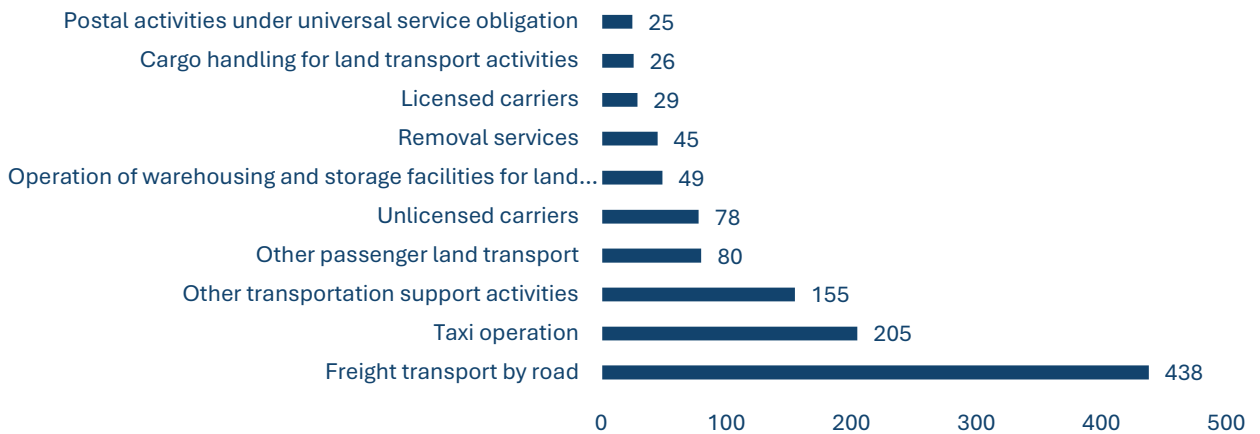
Business Base: Logistics and Distribution

Business Base

Using Growth Flag data, we can estimate there are 1,204 businesses within Logistics and Distribution operating in Bradford in 2025, of these businesses, 3.8%, or 46 businesses are expected to experience high growth over the next 12 months.

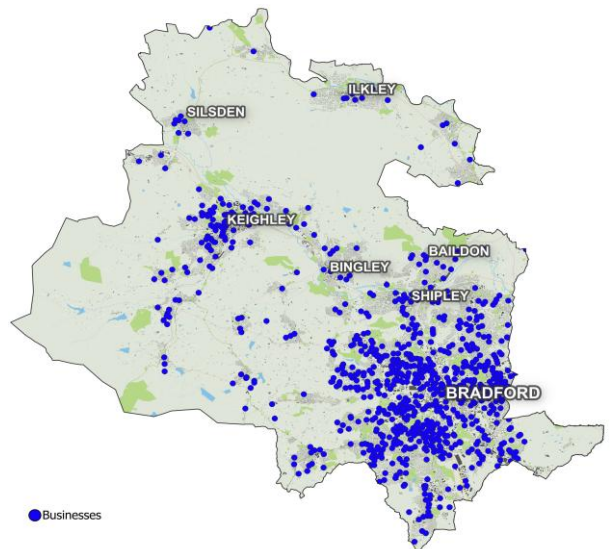
The top 10 sub-sector businesses are illustrated below. The largest sub-sector is freight transport by road (accounting for 39% of the top 10 businesses). Other key sub-sectors include taxi operation and other transportation support activities.

Logistics and Distribution Sub-Sector Business Count, Top Ten Sub-Sectors, 2025



Spatial Distribution of Logistics and Distribution Businesses

The logistics and distribution businesses focus in more urban areas of Bradford particularly in the city centre. There is a noticeable spread toward surrounding towns such as Shipley, Bingley, and Keighley, forming secondary clusters that likely benefit from proximity to arterial roads and regional connectivity. In contrast, northern areas like Ilkley and Silsden have a sparser distribution, reflecting their more rural character and limited transport infrastructure.



Employment: Logistics and Distribution

Current position and Growth Trends

The logistics and distribution sector in Bradford employs approximately 8,060 people, representing 6% of all jobs in the local authority area. The area has further experienced a steady growth over the last 5 years (7%).

Despite this, Bradford is not highly specialised in relation to this sector, with an LQ of 0.8. Areas across England who specialise in this sector tend to be located near strategic transport assets – such as motorways or major ports.

Logistics and Distribution Sector Employment Specialisation (x axis) and 2019-2024 Growth (y axis) Across All English LADs

(each dot represents an English LAD)



Key Sector Focus:

Logistics and Distribution Services

Sub-Sector Employment Strengths

Using employment data and delving into the sub-sectors of Bradford's logistics and distribution services sector we can identify specific areas of strengths using employment counts, employment growth and employment LQ.

Warehousing and Support Activities for Transportation

This division covers warehousing and transport support services, including the operation of infrastructure such as airports, harbours, tunnels, and bridges. It also encompasses the activities of transport agencies and cargo handling services. With a LQ of 1.0, Bradford's specialisation is similar to national levels. Employment has increased over the past five years, growing by 13%.

Jobs: 4,500

Employment LQ: 1.0

Employment Change: 13%

Land Transport and Transport via Pipelines

This includes economic activities that encompasses the transport of passengers and freight by road and rail, as well as the transport of goods via pipelines. While it hasn't grown since 2019, it still employs 2,500 people in Bradford. This isn't enough to show levels of specialisation in line with the national average, with a LQ under 1.

Jobs: 2,500

Employment LQ: 0.7

Employment Change: 0%

Postal and Courier Activities

This subsector includes the pickup, transport, and delivery of letters and parcels by both postal services under a universal service obligation and private courier companies. Around 1,000 people are employed in Bradford in this area, however, this has not grown since 2019, and there are below average levels of specialisation.

Jobs: 1,000

Employment LQ: 0.8

Employment Change: 0%

Conclusions: Logistics and Distribution

Data

The logistics and distribution sector employs an estimated 8,060 people in Bradford, accounting for 6% of all jobs in the local authority. It is not highly concentrated relative to the national position with an employment LQ of 0.8. However, employment has been growing, with 510 more jobs in the sector in 2024 compared to 2019. An employment growth rate in Bradford of 7% is higher than the national rate of 6%.

In terms of businesses, the sector is home to an estimated 1,204 businesses, of these just under 4% are estimated to experience high growth over the next year.

Warehousing and support activities for transportation is a sub-sector where Bradford has strengths with 4,500 jobs and an LQ of 1.0. Employment also grew by 12.5% between 2019-2024. This is a sub-sector where Bradford may focus attention particularly as it relates to the identified specialism of **warehousing and supply chain operations**.

Food logistics also appears to be an area of strength within Bradford's logistics and distribution sector. The closely related sector of **Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco** supported 3,000 jobs in 2024 and experienced a +50% increase in jobs over a 5 year period (+1,000 jobs). The sector also shows a degree of specialisation in Bradford with an employment LQ of 2.0.

Chemicals logistics is closely related to the sector **Wholesale of chemical products** though this sector is currently very small in Bradford with only 100 jobs and so is unlikely to represent a specialism

Policy and Wider Trends

This sector is of significant importance nationally and enables activity across other sectors in the economy. While often a challenging sector to promote due to perceptions of lower paid jobs and significant demands on local land use, this sector is significant nationally and will become more important as the economy continues to shift towards e-commerce.

Overall Conclusions

Whilst overall the logistics and distribution sector is not currently a key strength, this sector has underlying sub-sectors that represent specialisms for Bradford. Key sub-sectors include: Warehousing and support activities for transportation; food logistics (Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco) and Chemicals logistics (Wholesale of chemical products).

Strong growth rates and the application of new technology and technical methods could position Bradford as a key logistics hub. In the meantime, attention should be paid towards its key sub-sector strengths.

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The landscaping team welcome you to the University of Bradford

Conclusion



Existing strengths with opportunities to grow

Advanced Manufacturing and Materials



Bradford's advanced manufacturing and materials sector is large and specialised. Employment in the sector has however been falling faster than national levels.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 1.2	9,725	706

Subsector strengths:

Textiles
Machinery and equipment
Chemicals and chemical products
Fabricated metal products
Rubber and plastic products
Computer, electronic and optical products

Food and Drink



Food and drink accounts for a significant number of jobs and there are slightly above average levels of employment specialisation. The sector is also growing, which confirms food and drink is already important to Bradford.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 1.1	21,445	2,529

Subsector strengths:

Manufacturing (production)
Wholesale
Service activities (food hospitality)

Opportunity Sectors

Digital and Technology



Digital and Technologies is a priority sector nationally and regionally. Whilst currently the sector is not specialised relative to national levels in terms of employment, it does underpin a number of other sectors. Sub-sector strengths are summarised below and whilst space and satellites does not appear to be strong currently, there is a strong policy focus which could suggest it will become important in the future.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.4	6,030	1,894

Subsector strengths:

Manufacturing
Engineering
Consultancy
RF Cluster
(space and satellite)

Culture and Creativity



This is not currently a key sector in Bradford, but the city's UK City of Culture status offers significant growth potential and could position the sector as a future area of specialism

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.4	7,560	2,816

Subsector strengths: publishing of Newspapers and artistic creation, cultural education, recreation activities and museum activities

Financial and Business Services



A crucial sector employing 1 in 10 workers locally. It is also growing and is important in policy terms nationally and regionally.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.8	23,125	4,056

Sub-sectors: financial services, back-office operations, head office/management consultancy.

Other Important Sectors

Energy



Currently, the data suggests that there is no overall strengths within this sector or key sub-sectors.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.8	2,025	377

Future Steps

Clean energy is hugely important and there are plans for major investments in hydrogen locally which does highlight the case for supporting this sector within the Regeneration Plan. The council should explore the potential to grow employment in hydrogen and industrial decarbonisation to strengthen the clean energy sector locally.

Life Science (Health)



The data does not suggest that this is a strength. However, there is a potential strength in the manufacturing of medical and dental instruments.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.6	450	54

Future Steps

Proposed investment at Airedale hospital will also provide a boost for the sector. Nevertheless, there is not a compelling case to make this a priority sector for Bradford. A sensible approach would be to monitor its activity to ensure it continues to align to local, regional and national policy as well as health strategies.

Logistics and Distribution



While not a key strength today, this sector has underlying sub-sectors that represent specialisms for Bradford.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.8	8,060	1,204

Future Steps

Strong growth and the application of new technology and technical methods could position Bradford as a key logistics hub. Attention should be paid towards the very strong food logistics sub-sector as well as Warehousing and support activities and the wholesale of chemical products.

Transport



The transport sector is immensely important to Bradford and the need to prioritise future investment in this sector is acknowledged.

Employment	Current Jobs	Businesses
LQ 0.8	7,730	628

Future Steps

The need to support new forms of transport including sustainable or innovative forms of transport (such as EV charging or autonomous vehicles) will be a priority. However, Bradford does not appear to have particular strengths sufficient to recommend that this becomes an opportunity sector.