



Bedford Borough's Labour Market:

Q4 2024/25

Bedford Borough's Economy: Key Statistics

82,000 employee jobs

Over 8,000 businesses

Key Sectors:

- Logistics
- Advanced Engineering
- Creative
- Food & Drink



Bedford Borough's Economy: *Yearly Comparison*

		2022/ 1 year prior	2023/ Most up to date	Movement
Total Population		174,700	185,800	Up
Total working age population		106,400 (60.9%)	117,400 (63.2%)	Up
% of the working age population that are in employment		81.1%	78.3%	Down
% of the working age population qualified to Level 4		53.0%	44.9%	Down
Unemployment rate		4.2%	4.1%	Down
Claimant rate		4.0%	4.7%	Up
Gross Weekly Pay (mean)	By resident	£823.70	£858.70	Up
	By workplace	£718.80	£768.0	Up

Job Market: *Most Advertised Jobs*

Top Posted Job Titles

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Job Title	Total/Unique (Jan 2025 - Mar 2025)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
Support Workers	297 / 113	3 : 1 	30 days
Cleaners	161 / 84	2 : 1 	22 days
Warehouse Operatives	153 / 75	2 : 1 	29 days
Vehicle Technicians	217 / 68	3 : 1 	31 days
Care Assistants	165 / 54	3 : 1 	30 days
HGV Class 1 Drivers	152 / 53	3 : 1 	30 days
Nursery Practitioners	124 / 45	3 : 1 	31 days
Quantity Surveyors	99 / 45	2 : 1 	28 days
HGV Class 2 Drivers	86 / 44	2 : 1 	33 days
Team Leads	117 / 41	3 : 1 	23 days
Teaching Assistants	116 / 38	3 : 1 	23 days
Forklift Drivers	97 / 38	3 : 1 	25 days
Van Drivers	55 / 34	2 : 1 	33 days
Class 1 Drivers	66 / 33	2 : 1 	26 days

Job Market: *Top Advertised Industry*

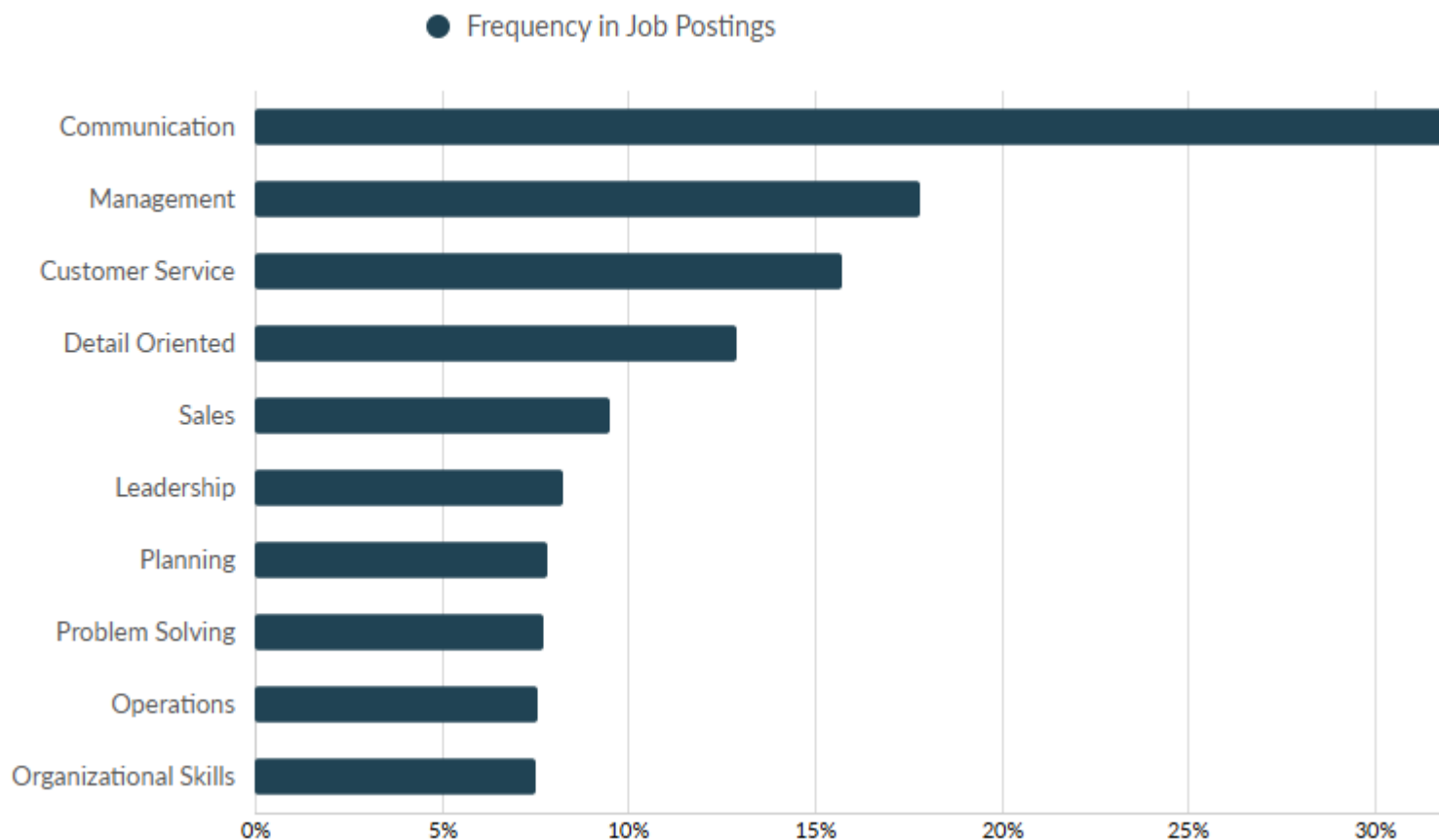
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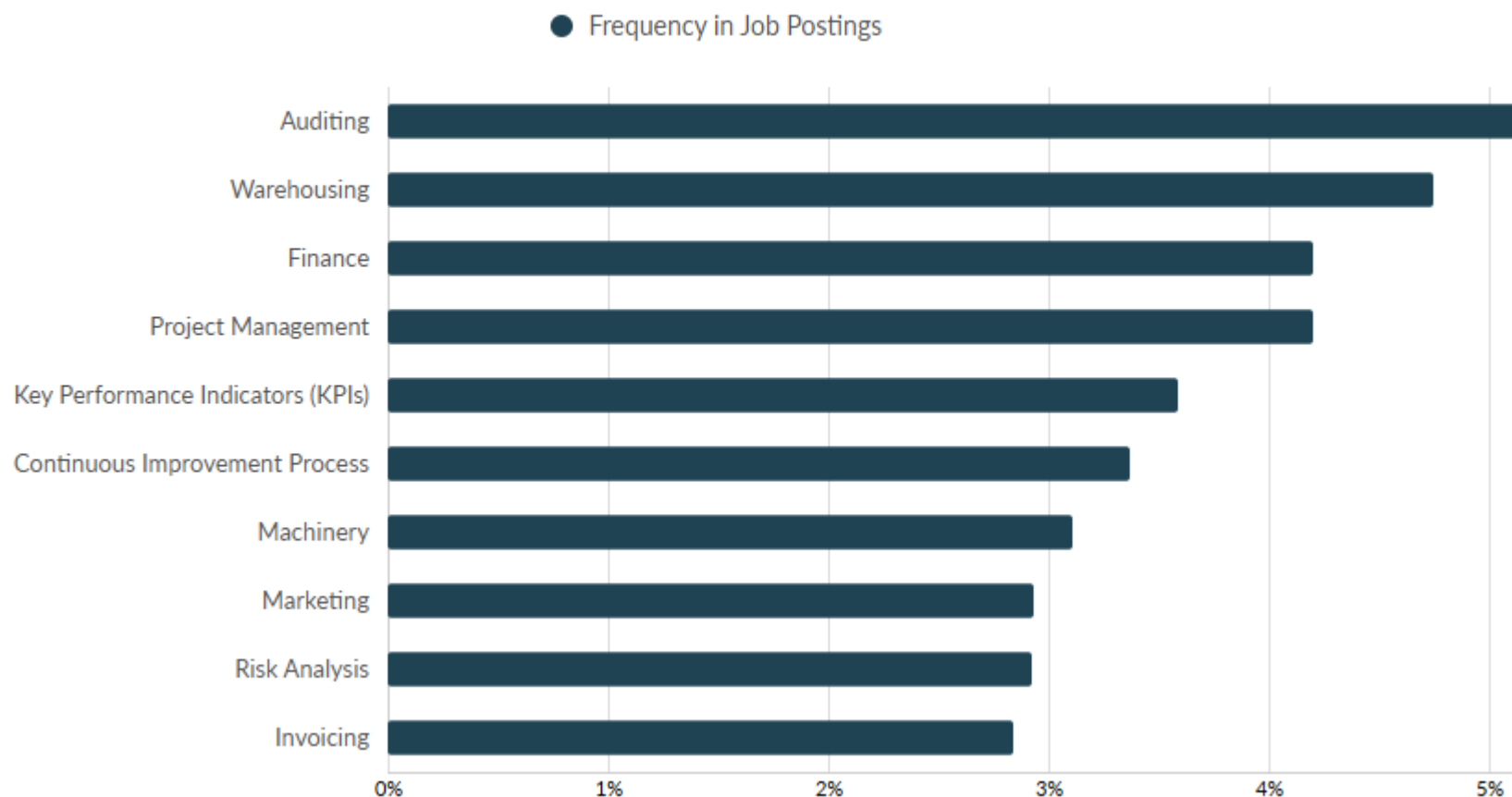
Job Adverts: *Top Common Skills*

Top Common Skills



Job Adverts: *Top Specialised Skills*

Top Specialized Skills



Employability Skills

Basic Skills

Literacy

Numeracy

Spoken English

Basic Digital

Core Transferable Skills

Communication
Organisation
Digital literacy
Planning

Problem solving
Creativity/Innovation
Leadership

Time management
Analytical
Teamwork/Collaboration
Resilience

Attitudes & Behaviours

Detail orientated
Work ethic
Willingness to learn
Enthusiasm
Self-motivation

Independent working
Flexibility
Adaptability
Honesty

Reliability
Politeness
Humility
Empathy
Curiosity

Technical/Vocational Skills

Job specific
Operations
Customer service
Sales

Management
Specialist digital skills
Commercial acumen

Financial awareness
Working with hands
Driving

Qualifications and Certification

**Digital literacy defined as: Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word, Teams*

**Basic digital is defined as: search online, access a bank account, sending/receiving emails.*

**Spoken English includes ESOL*

Bedford Borough's Economy:

Key Investments and Developments

Universal Destinations and Experiences

Bedford Borough has been chosen as the proposed home of **Universal Destinations & Experiences' first UK theme park and resort.**

The announcement in April marks one of the most significant inward investments in the country – and the result of over two years of work by Bedford Borough Council in collaboration with Universal, Government, and partners across the region.

If it receives planning approval, the resort will be built on the former brickworks site south of Bedford and is expected to bring:

- Up to 12 million visitors annually
- £50bn of direct and indirect economic benefit for the UK
- Universal would become one of the largest employers in the region
- Transformative regional impact, facilitating several infrastructure upgrades
- Major boost to local and UK tourism, attracting millions of new visitors
- Approx. 80% of employees to come from Bedfordshire and the surrounding areas
- Bolstering the UK's creative industries, delivering the first Universal theme park in Europe
- 20,000 jobs projected during construction with 5,000+ on site at the peak
- 8,000 new jobs generated once operational
- Investing billions of pounds and unlocking wider investment in the UK
- Play an active role in our communities with a proven track record of local partnerships

Bedford Borough's Economy:

Conclusion

- Support workers, cleaners and warehouse operatives are the most advertised jobs this quarter.
- Range of employability skills that employers are looking for, including but not limited to qualifications only.
- Bedford's claimant count is now at 4.7%.

LMI Statistics Definitions

Total working age population:

This is the number of 16-64 year olds living within the Borough boundary, who are in employment.

This is taken from the Annual Population Survey from the Office of National Statistics. This is updated every quarter but as a whole year, for example January 2020- December 2020.

% of the working age population that are in employment

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

Gross Value Added (GVA)

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

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

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

Business Numbers

This is the number of businesses in Bedford Borough at the time data was collected. These are sorted into:

- Micro (0-9 employees)
- Small 10-49 employees)
- Medium (50-249 employees)
- Large (250+ employees)

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

Job Numbers

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

LMI Statistics Definitions

Unemployment rate

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

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

Claimant count

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

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

Unemployment Rate vs Claimant Count

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

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

Similarly, people who are not claimants can appear among the model based unemployed if they are not entitled to, or choose not to claim unemployment benefits. For example:

- People whose partner was working
- People who are looking for work alongside full-time study
- People beyond or around State Pension Age who are looking for work.