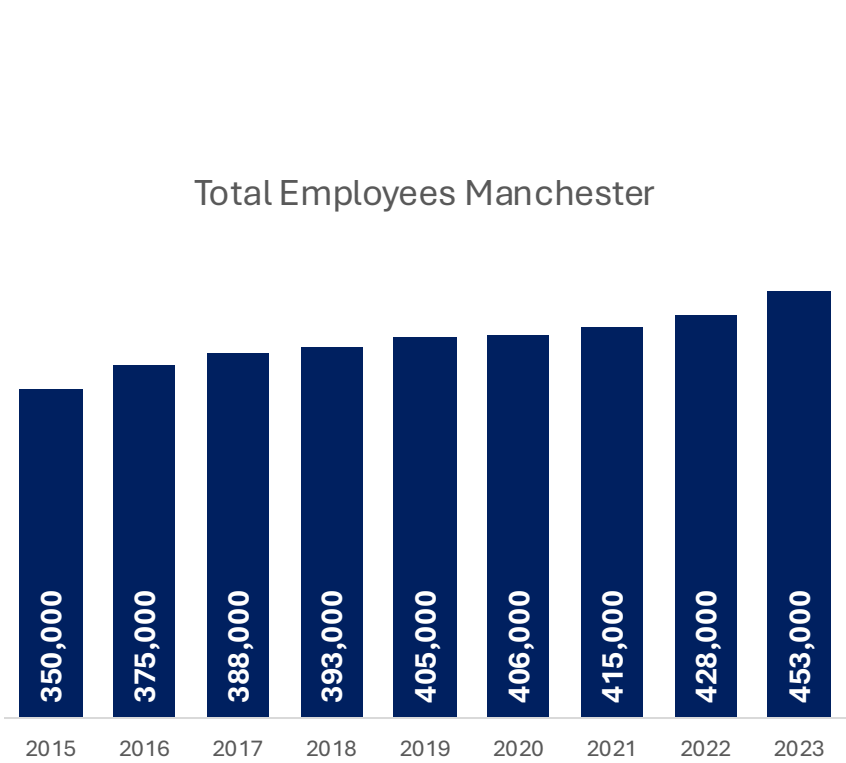


Skills Shortages within the Manchester Labour Market

May 2025

Business Register and Employment Survey

The total number of employees in Manchester has risen to 453,000 between 2022 and 2023, a rise of 5.8%. The largest sector in Manchester is the Professional, Scientific and Technical with 63,000, this sector saw a 6.8% rise between 2022 and 2023. Both Information and Communication and Financial and Insurance saw a rise of 25.0% over the same period.



MCC Employees
% Change
(2022 -2023)

5.8%

GM Employees
% Change
(2022 -2023)

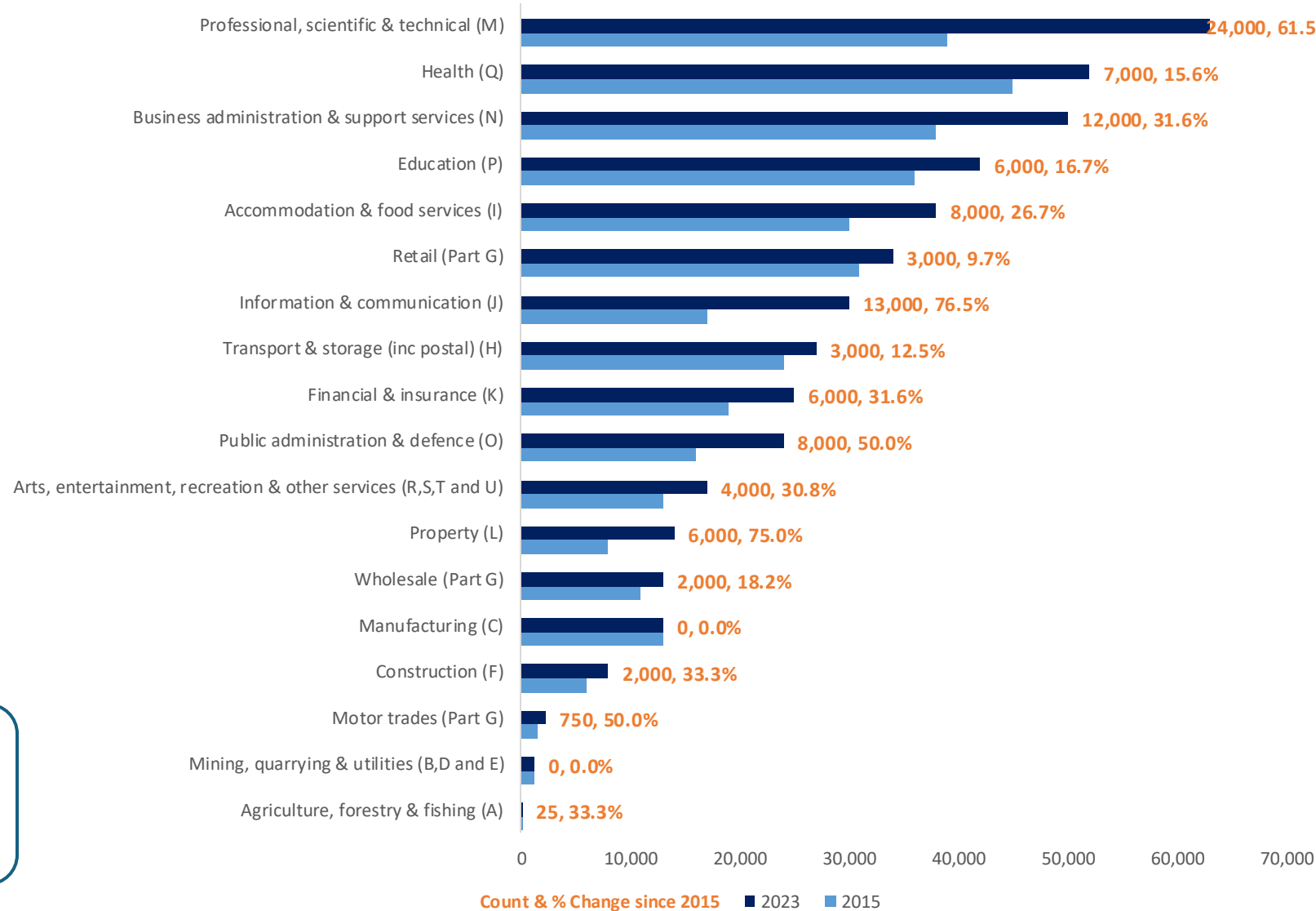
2.1%

NW Employees
% Change
(2022 -2023)

2.0%

Eng Employees
% Change
(2022 -2023)

1.3%



Business Register and Employment Survey

Broad Industry Sector	Employees 2023	Change Since 2015	% Change Since 2015
Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	100	25	33.3%
Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	1,250	0	0.0%
Motor trades (Part G)	2,250	750	50.0%
Construction (F)	8,000	2,000	33.3%
Manufacturing (C)	13,000	0	0.0%
Wholesale (Part G)	13,000	2,000	18.2%
Property (L)	14,000	6,000	75.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)	17,000	4,000	30.8%
Public administration & defence (O)	24,000	8,000	50.0%
Financial & insurance (K)	25,000	6,000	31.6%
Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	27,000	3,000	12.5%
Information & communication (J)	30,000	13,000	76.5%
Retail (Part G)	34,000	3,000	9.7%
Accommodation & food services (I)	38,000	8,000	26.7%
Education (P)	42,000	6,000	16.7%
Business administration & support services (N)	50,000	12,000	31.6%
Health (Q)	52,000	7,000	15.6%
Professional, scientific & technical (M)	63,000	24,000	61.5%

- In Manchester, the sector that has seen the largest percentage increase since 2015 is the **Information & Communication which rose by 76.5%** and is now the seventh largest sector, having been the ninth largest sector in 2015.
- In 2015 the Health sector was the largest in Manchester, however this has now been overtaken by the **Professional, Scientific & Technical which grew 61.5%** over that period.
- Whilst these sectors have grown significantly, both Manufacturing and Mining, Quarrying & Utilities saw no changes.

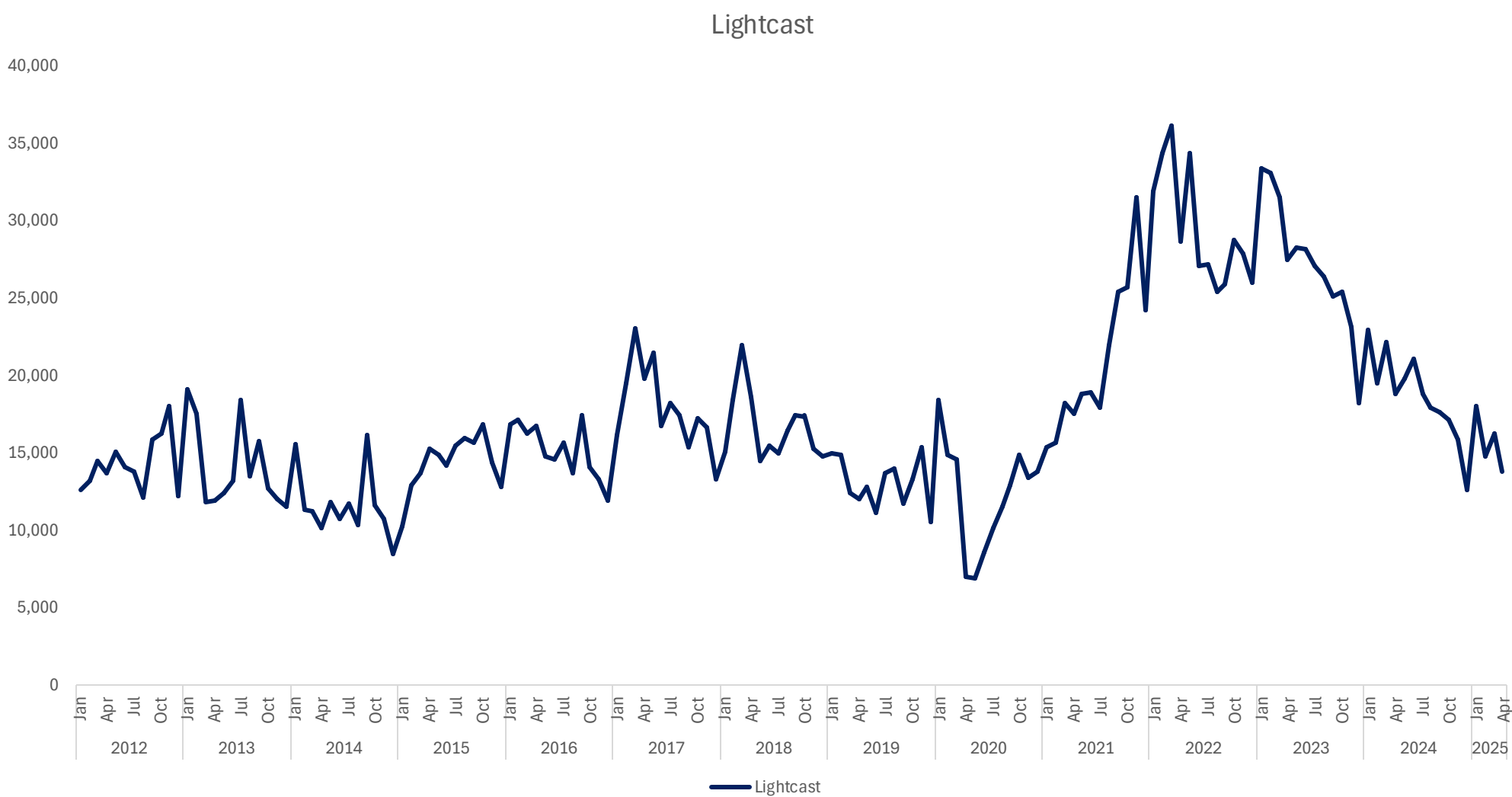
Business Register and Employment Survey

Broad Industry Sector	Manchester	Greater Manchester	North West	England
Agriculture, forestry & fishing (A)	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%
Manufacturing (C)	2.9%	7.0%	8.9%	7.4%
Construction (F)	1.8%	4.6%	4.9%	4.7%
Motor trades (Part G)	0.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.7%
Wholesale (Part G)	2.9%	4.5%	4.0%	3.8%
Retail (Part G)	7.5%	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%
Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	6.0%	4.7%	4.5%	5.1%
Accommodation & food services (I)	8.4%	6.5%	7.4%	7.8%
Information & communication (J)	6.6%	4.5%	3.2%	4.8%
Financial & insurance (K)	5.5%	3.2%	2.5%	3.4%
Property (L)	3.1%	2.1%	1.8%	1.9%
Professional, scientific & technical (M)	13.9%	11.4%	9.8%	9.6%
Business administration & support services (N)	11.0%	10.0%	8.8%	8.9%
Public administration & defence (O)	5.3%	4.7%	4.9%	4.4%
Education (P)	9.3%	8.2%	8.2%	8.6%
Health (Q)	11.5%	14.1%	15.0%	13.5%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)
Data released: 09/10/2024 Next Updated: 23/10/2025

- In 2023 Manchester's largest sector Professional, Scientific & Technical had a greater share of employees when compared to Greater Manchester, the North West and England. The third largest sector share in Manchester is Business Administration & Support Services is greater than the comparators and 2.1 percentage points greater than England. The Financial, Professional & Scientific and Business services (FPSB) is a designated local priority in Manchester.
- Health is the second largest sector in Manchester and is marginally smaller than what we see at the national level by 2.0 percentage points. The Health and Social Care sector is also defined as a local authority priority.
- The Construction sector in Manchester is smaller than the comparators. In comparison to England Manchester's Construction sector share is 2.9 percentage points smaller than that of England. The LSIP identified that roles in surveying and retrofit assessment as employers have reported difficulties.
- Additionally, the Manufacturing sector share in Manchester is 2.9%, which is 4.5 percentage points less than the sector share in England.

Lightcast



Unique job postings in
Apr 2024

13,748

% change in monthly job posting
vs previous month
(Mar 2025)

-15.2%

% change in annual job posting
(Apr 2024)

-26.8%

% change in annual job
posting
(Apr 2019)

14.4%

GM Job Posting (Excluding
MCR)
(Apr 2025)

13,391

GM Job Posting (Excluding
MCR) % change
(Apr 2024 – Apr 2025)

-6.6%

Lightcast

Occupation	Apr-24	Apr-25	Change	% Change
Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.	1,541	1,307	-234	-15.2%
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	1,647	969	-678	-41.2%
Solicitors and Lawyers	1,329	919	-410	-30.9%
Human Resources and Industrial Relations Officers	824	759	-65	-7.9%
Managers and Directors in Retail and Wholesale	1,115	694	-421	-37.8%
Teaching Assistants	674	516	-158	-23.4%
Customer Service Occupations n.e.c.	632	447	-185	-29.3%
Cleaners and Domestic	427	441	14	3.3%
Chartered and Certified Accountants	649	424	-225	-34.7%
Book-keepers, Payroll Managers and Wages Clerks	792	424	-368	-46.5%
Project Support Officers	627	408	-219	-34.9%
Advertising and Marketing Associate Professionals	568	379	-189	-33.3%
Secondary Education Teaching Professionals	611	368	-243	-39.8%
IT Business Analysts, Architects and Systems Designers	511	364	-147	-28.8%
Buyers and Procurement Officers	469	351	-118	-25.2%

- Between April 2024 and April 2025 the total number of Unique Job postings has declined from 18,776 to 13,748.
- The profession that saw the most job postings in April 2025 was Sales Related Occupations n.e.c., but this occupation did see a decline of 15.2% when compared with April 2024.
- Programmers and Software Development Professionals in April 2024 saw the most job postings, however there has been a significant reduction in those roles being advertised for April 2025.
- It is worth bearing in mind that between April 2024 and April 2025 the number of unique job postings as a whole has declined by 26.8%. One factor of this slowdown in vacancy postings could be linked to the uncertainty prevailing in the global economy as a result of Trump tariffs and trade policy.
- Vacancies in the UK have also been trending downwards since an all time high in April 2022. UK vacancies have fallen for 34 consecutive quarters.

LSIP / Local Area Report

Prepared by: Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
August 2023



- From the report, among those businesses that recruited 63.8% reported recruitment problems although this figure was less than what was reported in Greater Manchester (68.4%).
- Slightly above half of the respondents (50.5%) reported that difficulties in recruitment were mainly due to a “low number of applicants with the required skills”
- As for soft skills, the ‘ability to manage own time and prioritise own tasks’ was the hardest to get from candidates, with 30% of respondents selecting this option.
- The LSIP also identified that junior employees face a skills gap in leadership and management which consequently impacts on their ability to take on positions in management.