



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough's Labour
Market:
Quarterly Report

Quarter 1:
April-June 2020

To note in this report:

Due to the data lag on all data sets, apart from the claimant count and Job information, the data does not reflect recent events including coronavirus.

In the next LMI the other data sets will start to show the first impacts of Covid-19 on Bedford's economy.

Bedford Borough's Economy: Key Statistics

75,000 employee jobs

Gross Week Pay
(By workplace):
£569.70

Key Sectors:

- Logistics
- Advanced Engineering
- Creative
- Food & Drink

Over 7,000 businesses



Bedford Borough's Economy: Yearly Comparison

**Please note due to the time lag on some data releases, all but the claimant count are not reflective of current changes due to the covid-19 pandemic.*

	2019	2020	Movement	
Total Population	171,600	173,300	Up	
Total working age population	105,400 (61.4%)	105,800 (61.1%)	Number up/percentage slightly down	Data sets are not yet reflective of Covid-19 impacts.
% of the working age population that are in employment	76.9	79.5	Up	
% of the working age population qualified to Level 4	40.5	45.7	Up	
% of the working age population with no qualifications	8.6	8.5	Down	
Unemployment rate	4.0	3.8	Down	
Claimant rate	3.3	6.3	Up <i>(Sharp increase seen due to the impact of Covid-19 on employment)</i>	

Bedford Borough's Economy: Quarter Reflection

**Please note due to the time lag on some data releases, all but the claimant count are not reflective of current changes due to the covid-19 pandemic.*

	Q4 2019/20	Q1 2020/21	Movement	Context	
Total Population	173,300	173,300	Same	Data released annually in October Data	
Total working age population	105,400 (61.4%)	105,800 (61.1%)	Number up/percentage slightly down	Data released annually in April	Data sets are not yet reflective of Covid-19 impacts.
% of working age population in employment	76.9	79.5	Up	Higher than GB (76%) and East (77.9%) averages	
% of the working age population qualified to Level 4	45.7	45.7	Same	Data released annually in January	
% of the working age population with no qualifications	8.6	8.6	Same	Data released annually in January	
Unemployment rate	3.9	3.8	Down	Higher than the East (3.2%) Just below GB (3.9%)	
Claimant rate	3.3	6.9	Up	Higher than East (.5%) and GB average (6.3%)	

Top 10 Most Requested:

Job Titles

1. Personal Care Assistant
2. Registered Nurse
3. Primary School Teacher
4. Teaching Assistant
5. Accountant
6. Auxiliary Nurse
7. Science Teacher
8. Social Worker
9. Cleaner
10. HGV1/ LGV Driver

Core Competencies

1. Communication Skills
2. Creativity
3. Planning
4. Organisational Skills
5. People Management
6. Detail Orientated
7. Problem Solving
8. English
9. Writing
10. Microsoft Excel

Most commonly advertised wage: £34,600 (mean)

Bedford Borough's Economy: Advertised Apprenticeship Trends

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 the data published by ESFA is currently unavailable. Hopefully this data will be available for the next quarter.

Bedford Borough's Economy: **Key Investments and Developments**

Recent companies:

Amazon: The company will occupy the 405,000 sqft Bedford 405 warehouse, to the rear of Bedford Commercial Park. The council are assisting the company with recruitment and expect them to commence operations from the unit in the coming months.

Holdsworth Foods: Bedford based frozen food logistic business are relocating to a larger unit on Wilstead Industrial Estate.

Bromoco: A small company named Bromoco International have taken occupation of unit 1 of Bedford i-Worx on Bedford Commercial Park. The company have patented their own compound for the restoration and maintenance of all metal and coated substrates. While the original intention of the product, for application on metals e.g. door plates, handles, sanitary wear (sinks / taps etc.) was for aesthetic purposes, to prevent finger print smudges and marks. The compound also prevents germs transferring and has proven to prevent the spread of various germs, including previous strains of COVID.

Bedford Borough's Economy: **Key Investment and Developments**

Key Developments:

Bedford Link: Speculative development has commenced on plot two on the site. The plot will yield a building of 166,240 sqft and construction of the unit is projected to complete Qtr. 4 2020 / Qtr. 1 2021.

Wilstead Industrial Estate: Speculative development of three industrial units (sized 83,000 sqft, 46,600 sqft and 40,000 sqft) has completed. The 46,600 sqft unit has already been leased to Bedford Business, Holdsworth Foods.

Fuse, Wixams: Planning permission granted on the 6 acre site for a scheme of industrial/warehouse units offering a range of unit sizes from 7,500 sqft up to 31,000 sqft, A further application has been submitted for an amendment on scheme design but when constructed, units will be available either freehold or leasehold.

Bedford Borough's Economy: **Conclusion**

- The key sectors within the Borough have remained the same.
- New businesses in the Borough are linked to our key sectors, Engineering & Manufacturing, and Logistics.
- The claimant count is the first data set within which we are starting to see the impact of Covid-19, many of the other data sets are not reflective of changes yet due to the data time lag .
- The number of job advertisements has fallen since Covid-19 developments.