

LEEDS CITY REGION

The Big Facts 2018



Largest City Region economy outside London

Our GVA is **£66.5 billion**, the largest in England after London and South East, the largest in the Northern Powerhouse and bigger than nine EU countries. (ONS 2016)



Second centre for banking

Leeds City Region is the second centre for banking in the UK employing **21,000 people**, more than Greater Manchester (13,000) and Greater Birmingham (13,000) (BRES 2016).

The City Region is also home to over 30 national and international banks.



Skilled workforce

We have a fast growing young population with more under 24 year olds than any other LEP area outside the South East, and the second largest population centre and workforce in the UK.

Over 3 million people live within Leeds City Region, with over 7 million within a one hour's drive. (ONS mid-year population estimates 2016)

A pipeline bursting with talent

Leeds City Region has significant strengths in:

Healthcare and Life Sciences

- Health informatics
- Medtech

Digital Technologies

- Corporate technology
- Data analytic

Advanced Manufacturing

- Precision engineering of pumps, gears, valves and turbos
- Food and drink

Financial and Professional Services

- FinTech
- Legal
- Banking

Leeds City Region is an internationally renowned education centre offering direct access to an annual talent pipeline of **38,900 graduates**.

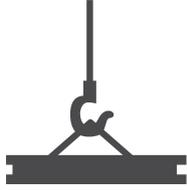
The City Region is home to 2 world class business schools, 9 universities and 14 further education colleges and one of Europe's largest teaching hospitals. The University of Leeds was voted University of the Year 2017 (The Times).

Number of STEM Graduates Annually

Source: HESA Students in Higher Education 2015/16

15,400	Leeds City Region
14,700	Greater Manchester
10,700	Greater Birmingham & Solihull
9,900	Sheffield City Region





Record-breaking investment

Leeds saw a record-breaking year in 2017 with city centre office take-up reaching over one million square foot, the highest ever recorded, according to data compiled by the Leeds Office Agents' Forum (LOAF).

Office costs are over **55% lower than London city** for grade A headline rent per square foot (Colliers Q4 2017).



A cultural hotspot

Home to award-winning cultural assets such as:

- The Hepworth Wakefield - winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017.
- The Piece Hall in Halifax reopened in 2017 following a £20 million restoration.
- The historic city of York attracted 3 million visitors to 2017.
- A new David Hockney gallery opened in Bradford in 2017.



Location location location

Leeds City Region is a central UK transport hub, well connected by road, rail, air and sea. London is two hours away by rail and under one hour by air, with hourly direct trains also to Edinburgh.

Leeds City Station is one of the busiest stations in the Northern Powerhouse, with **over 34 million** passengers in 2016/17 (Office for Road & Rail Estimates of Station Usage)



Globally competitive

EY's 2017 'UK Attractiveness Survey' reported the region's most successful year for foreign direct investment since 1997. We have a global outlook. Goods exported from Leeds City Region are worth **£9.75 billion annually**.



Investing in innovation

- The University of Huddersfield is undertaking £260 million of expansion and improvements.
- Bradford College has recently completed a new state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Centre.
- Nexus is a £40 million investment by the University of Leeds for tech-led businesses to accelerate growth.



Ambitious business

Centre for Cities reported that Leeds had the fastest growing private sector in the UK in 2016, with over 6% annual growth in private sector jobs.

Bradford is the best city in the UK to start a business (Barclays SME Growth Factors Index 2017).