

LEEDS CITY REGION

The Big Facts 2019



Largest City Region economy outside London

Our GVA is **£69.6 billion**, the largest in England after London and South East, the largest in the Northern Powerhouse and bigger than ten EU countries (ONS 2017).



Second centre for banking

Leeds City Region is the second centre for banking in the UK employing **25,000 people**, more than Greater Manchester (13,000) and Greater Birmingham (14,000) (BRES 2017).



Direct access to talent

Over 3 million people live within Leeds City Region, with over 7 million within a one hour's drive (ONS 2017).

A pipeline bursting with talent

Leeds City Region has significant strengths in:

Healthcare and Life Sciences

- Health informatics
- Medtech

Digital Technologies

- Corporate technology
- Data analytics
- Creative industries

Advanced Manufacturing

- Precision engineering
- 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 **38,800 graduates**.

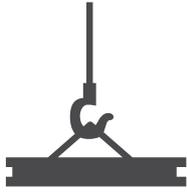
The City Region is home to 2 world class business schools, 9 universities and 14 further education colleges and one of Europe's largest teaching hospitals. The University of Leeds was voted University of the Year 2017 (The Times).

Number of STEM graduates annually

Source: STEM Graduates (HESA (2016-17))

15,000	Leeds City Region
14,100	Greater Manchester
9,900	Greater Birmingham and Solihull
9,400	Sheffield City Region





Record-breaking investment

At 845,000 sq ft, the Leeds office sector has the largest volume of office floorspace under construction in the history of the Leeds Crane Survey. (Deloitte 2019).

Office costs are 50% lower than the City of London for grade A headline rent per square foot (Colliers 2018).



A cultural hotspot

- National Geographic Traveller names West Yorkshire on cool list 2019
- The UK's largest sculpture festival will take place across Leeds and Wakefield in 2019
- The NEC's Bradford Live venue will create the largest mid-size venue outside London, opening in 2020



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 31 million** passengers in 2017/18 (Office of Road and Rail).



Investing in innovation

- The University of Huddersfield is undertaking £260 million of expansion and improvements.
- Leeds Beckett University is investing £80m in a cutting edge creative arts building.
- Nexus is a £40 million investment by the University of Leeds for tech-led businesses to accelerate growth and is part of over £500 million of investment across the University of Leeds campus.



Ambitious business

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

Leeds voted as the best English city to set up a business in a co-working space (Rightmove) and has the highest concentration of scale ups outside of London (Scale Up Index 2018).