

Liverpool City Region Labour Market Information May 2022

Top Line Take:

Things are getting better but there are still issues across the labour market. There are around 18,000 live vacancies in Liverpool City Region – the most we have ever had, but there are issues around the large number of roles vacant in certain sectors – eg: Hospitality & Catering.

Employees actually have a huge amount of sway and power – it is an employees, rather than employers market but we are increasingly finding that young people in particular are finding it difficult to adapt to the labour market after years of remote, at-home working or learning.

Our Youth Unemployment figures over the last 18 months have actually been better than most of the national rates, but the last quarter (up to December 2021) show a small rise in the number out of work.

- Prior to the economic slowdown caused by the public health pandemic, the City Region's economy was performing well. Employment rates were high (and above Greater Manchester), unemployment was lower than national averages and the proportion of economically people was reducing. Over the first three quarters of 2021; rates across employment, unemployment and economic inactivity have fluctuated, reaching recent highs, but the latest data released in April 2022 for the period of September – December 2021 show rates appear to be stabilising across the city region. Our employment levels remain higher and our unemployment levels remain lower than our regional average and we continue to see a reduction in our rates of economic inactivity.
- During this period (September – December 2021), the unemployment rate in LCR decreased by 600 individuals, to a total of 33,100 unemployed people in the City Region, although the actual rate remained the same as the previous quarter at 4.6%. In England, the unemployment rate fell further from 5.0% to 4.6%. The North West rate dropped slightly at 4.7%. LCR's unemployment rate continues to perform at the same rate as the national rate and outperforms the local regional rate.

- The latest statistics from December 2021 show that employment has remained stable. The number of people in work in LCR slightly decreased by 1,000 people from 705,700 to 704,700; but the employment rate remained the same at 73.6%. The rates for England increased slightly to 75.1%, with the North West at 72.9%.
- Economic inactivity remains higher than the national average but has defied the trends seen nationally and in the North West this quarter. A decrease of 500 individuals during September – December 2021 kept our rate stable at 22.9%, a recent low. England saw increases to 21.3% and the North West rate increased to 23.5%.
- With the overall fall in unemployment across the city region, the number of claimants to Universal Credit continued to stabilise. The number of individuals on Universal Credit classed as ‘searching, planning or preparing for work’ in March 2022 was 59,995. This represented an increase of around 500 compared with January 2022.
- Unfortunately, for those young people aged 16-24, unemployment rose from 12.1% to 13.2%, increasing by 1,500 individuals. This is higher than the national rate from 12.9%. In total, there are 13,300 16–24-year-olds classed as unemployed by the Office for National Statistics. Youth Employment 16-24 did however rise 85,700 to 87,400 in LCR, a rate increase to 51.6%. The national employment rate for 16-24 year olds is 56%. There are 66,500 16-24 year-olds classed as economically inactive in LCR, at a rate of 39.8% - this is a fall from the previous quarter of 3,800 people.

Local Authority	No. Of Live Vacancies [April 2022]
Halton	1867
Knowsley	1019
Liverpool	11853
Sefton	1295
St Helens	1112
Wirral	1959
LCR	19,105

Employment Rate [16-64] 73.6% LCR

The number of people in work decreased from 705,700 to 704,700. The Employment Rate remained at 73.6% in LCR. The Employment Rate in December 2021 for England rose from 74.9% to 75.1%.

Unemployment Rate [16-64] 4.6% LCR

During September 2021 – December 2021 unemployment in LCR decreased by 600 unemployed individuals, but the unemployment rate remained at 4.6%. In England, the unemployment rate fell from 5.2% to 4.6%.

Economic Inactivity Rate [16-64] 22.9% LCR

The number of economic inactive individuals in LCR fell by 500 during this period, but the inactivity rate remained at 22.9%. In England it increased from 21.2% to 21.3%. In the North West, it increased from 23.1% to 23.5%.

Ethnic Minority Rates

- Employment Rate [16-64] decreased from 71.3% to 71% (This is despite an extra 500 people in work) in LCR. (National Rates rose from 67% to 67.6%)
- The unemployment rate [16+] decreased from 8.7% to 6.7% falling from 4,100 to 3,100 individuals in LCR. (National Rates fell to 8.0%)
- The Economic Inactivity Rate [16-64] increased from 21.8% to 23.9%, with 1,400 more ethnic minority individuals economically inactive in LCR. (National Rates fell slightly to 26.4%)

Disability Rates [Equality Act or Work-Limiting Disabled]

- Employment Rate [16-64] rose from 136,200 to 137,800 increasing overall from 51.4% to 51.6% in LCR. (National Rate remained at 56%)
- Unemployment Rate [16-64] decreased from 13,100 to 12,500, with the overall rate falling from 8.8% to 8.3%. (National Rate is 7.5%)
- Economic Inactive Rate [16-64] increased from 115,800 to 116,800. The rate remained at 43.7%. (National Rate is 39.4%)

Young People [16-24]

- Youth Unemployment in LCR increased by 1,500. A rate increase from 12.1% to 13.2%. The national rate decreased from 13.7% to 12.9%. In total there are 13,300 16–24-year-olds in Liverpool City Region classed as 'unemployed' by the ONS.
- Youth Employment 16-24 rose from 85,700 to 87,400 in LCR, a rate increase from 51.1% to 52.3%. The national employment rate for 16-24 year olds is 51.3%.

- There are 66,500 16-24 year-olds classed as 'economically inactive' in LCR (A rate of 39.8%), falling 3,800 over the period of Sep - Dec 2021.
- There are 52,000 18–24-year-olds in full-time education, up from 48,000 in Sep 2021. This is a rate of 37.9% higher than both the national (34.4%) and regional (34.8%) rates.

Qualifications [% of People with Qualifications as of Dec 2021– Aged 16-64]

- Level 4+ 39.1% (Up from 37.9% last year) *National Figure 43.1%*
- Level 3+ 58.6% (Up from 56.5% last year) *National Figure 61.3%*
- Level 2+ 78.3% (Up from 75.5% last year) *National Figure 78.2%*
- Level 1+ 87% (Up from 84.9% last year) *National Figure 87.8%*
- Other Qualifications 5.3% (Down from 5.5% last year) *National Figure 5.9%*
- No Qualifications 7.7% (Down from 9.5% last year) *National Figure 6.4%*

<u>Latest ONS Nomis Release December 2021 16-64 % Rates</u>			
<i>*Please note the Local Authority Rate Breakdowns do not have the same statistical confidence levels as those at the Liverpool City Region, National or Regional Figure Level.</i>			
Local Authority/ Area	Employment Rate [16-64]	Unemployment Rate [16-64]	Economic Inactivity Rate [16-64]
Halton	76.1%	4.8%	20.1%
Knowsley	75.0%	3.7%	22.2%
Liverpool	73.1%	6.0%	22.2%
Sefton	74.9%	3.2%	22.6%
St Helens	75.0%	4.9%	21.1%
Wirral	70.7%	3.7%	26.6%
LCR	73.6%	4.6%	22.9%
England	75.1%	4.6%	21.3%
North West	72.9%	4.7%	23.5%