

# South Ribble Evidence Base

The following sections present a snapshot of the evidence base at the time that the South Ribble Economic Strategy was drafted. Links to data sources have been included as the statistics are live and the source data dashboards will be continuously updated.

## Business Space and Infrastructure

### Commercial Premises

#### Supply

South Ribble has a good stock of different commercial premises including offices, industrial premises and distribution facilities. The premises range from older, established industrial estates through to new facilities, distributed across the borough.

The larger employment areas include:

- Lancashire Business Park
- Walton Summit
- Moss Side Development Park
- Matrix Park
- Cuerden Business Village
- South Rings Business Park

In addition to these areas, there are two strategic sites:

- Cuerden Strategic Employment Site
- Samesbury Enterprise Zone

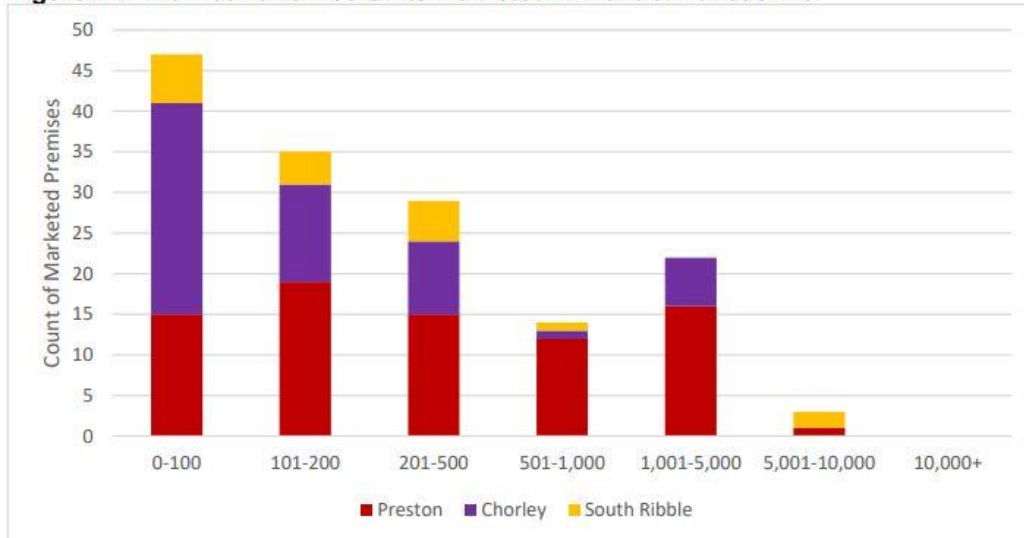
#### Demand

An updated Central Lancashire Employment Land Study was published in February 2022. The Employment Land Study Update aims to support the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan and to provide updated employment land forecasting, including modelling of jobs growth.

The study shows that South Ribble's land supply has seen only modest change since 2017. Against the realistic employment land supply of Central Lancashire, the study estimates that there are shortfalls in South Ribble and recommends that a further 25.68 ha is needed. For office premises, South Ribble generally has enquiries for small suites, with 47 percent of enquires for sub 100 sqm units.

The graph below illustrates that South Ribble has a limited supply of office space.

**Figure 22 – Number of Office Units Marketed in Central Lancashire**



The Study found smaller light industrial/industrial units of 0-500 sqm (requiring up to 0.13 ha each) are most consistently required, even during period of economic weakness by SMEs. They can be accommodated on small sites largely anywhere in Central Lancashire with good main road access, nearby services and ideally a critical mass of existing firms close by to which South Ribble has plenty.

The demand for larger business premises remains strong enough to support development on any of the main road corridors in the Borough and particularly of course close to motorway junctions. Evidence is that the Cuerden Strategic Site will be developed for larger B2/B8 units, which are in demand locally, as evidenced by development proposals at Farington. Although, Cuerden has been viewed as a purely strategic site in recent policy and in this Study, there is no reason to assume that land and property on the Site would not be offered to local businesses looking to grow and thus land here could be considered towards meeting local land needs for South Ribble.

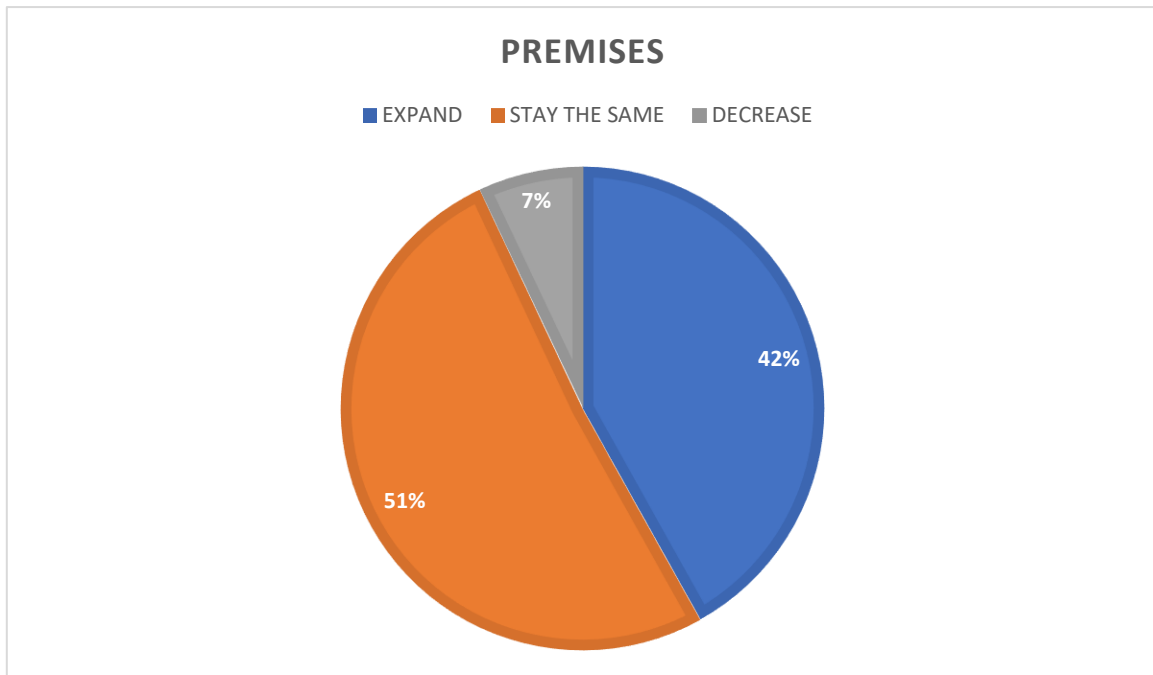
The total quantity of floor space being marketed at the time of the study has decreased in South Ribble by 25,217 sqm showing need for further industrial units in the borough.

The study estimates that South Ribble requires an additional 25.68 hectares of employment land.

*Source:* Central Lancashire Employment Land Study Update February 2022

## South Ribble Business Survey 2022

A South Ribble Business Support Needs Survey was carried out during August and September 2022. The survey shows that 42% of businesses would like to expand their business and increase their premises over the coming years, which supports the need for additional commercial premises.



**Issue: There is a lack of sufficient, suitable, available, commercial space for business growth and inward investment**

## Roundtable Research

A series of roundtable discussions have been held to inform economic strategy development in Chorley and South Ribble. One issue highlighted by businesses during the roundtable discussions was the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff. Competition from nearby cities, the mobility of the labour market and perceptions of the local area as a place to live and work were identified as contributory factors.

**Issue: We need suitable places to retain and attract the skilled workforce to meet current and projected business needs including STEM and cyber skills**

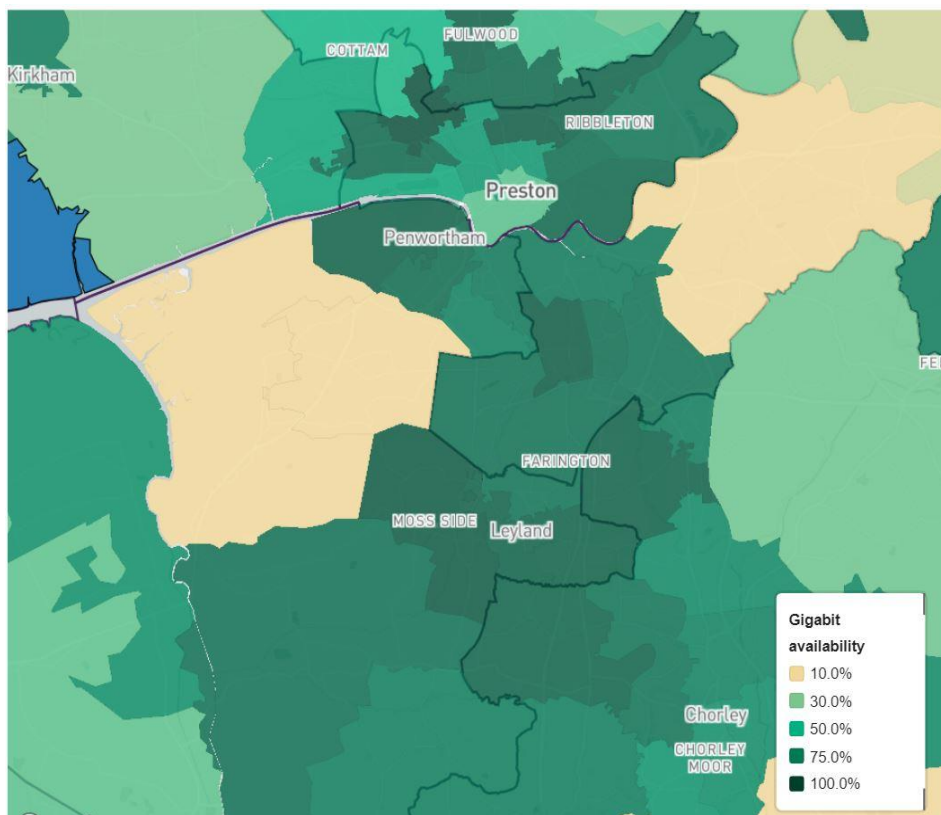
## Transport Infrastructure

South Ribble offers a good base for business investment thanks to the excellent road and rail communications network. The West Coast Mainline runs through the borough, accessed from stations at Leyland and Preston, and the local rail network provides good links to Manchester and Liverpool. There are numerous junctions accessing the M6, M65 and M61 motorways and the local road network connections have seen significant investment in recent years. Manchester Airport, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and the Port of Liverpool provide excellent international connections.

Opportunities have been identified for further transport improvements through re-opening local railway stations and creating a new bridge across the River Ribble to improve road connectivity.

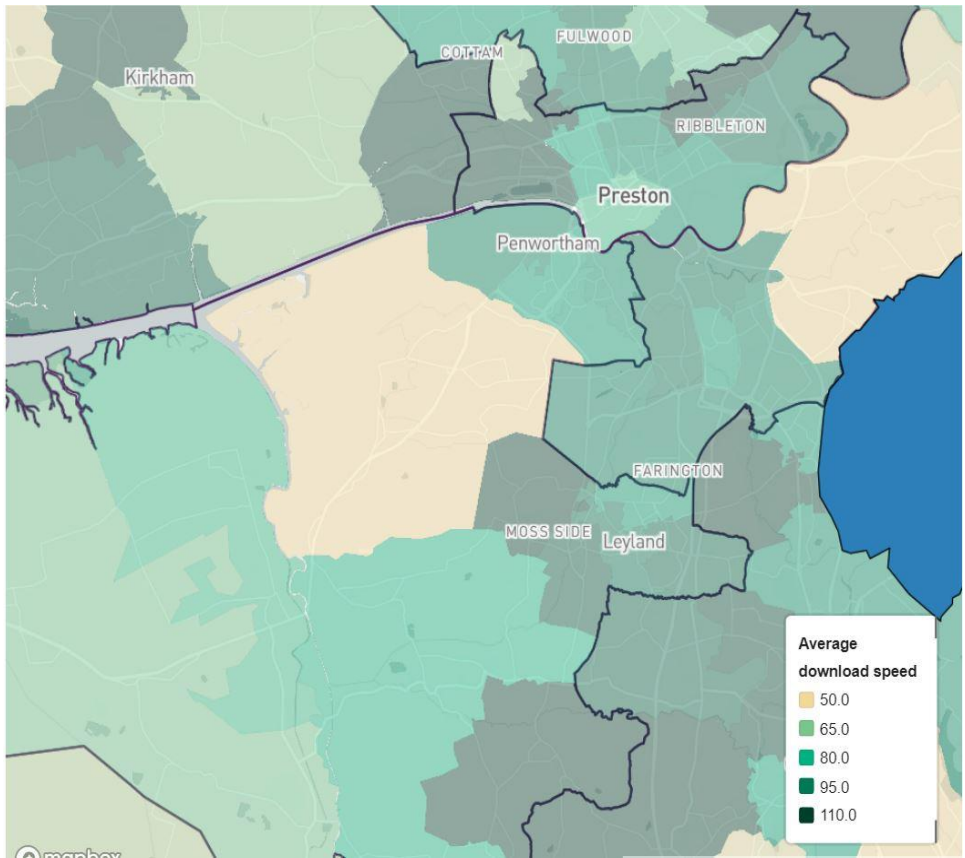
## Broadband Connectivity

The House of Commons Library Data Dashboard publishes data on broadband coverage and speeds. The following maps illustrate that gigabit connectivity is good within the central area of South Ribble (Leyland, Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge) but that there is a need for better connectivity in the more rural areas to the East and West (Longton, Much Hoole and parts of Samlesbury).



This map shows the wards in South Ribble with limited Gigabit availability. New Longton, Hutton, Longton and Walmer Bridge rank the lowest on gigabit availability which is vital in the modern day with multiple device uses being prevalent in most homes.

**Issue: Gigabit connectivity is good within the central area of South Ribble (Leyland, Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge) but there is a need for improved connectivity in the more rural areas to the East and West (the A59 corridor near Longton and parts of Samlesbury)**



This map shows the wards in South Ribble with low download speed again the same wards are affected by slow download speed which again has the same effects as previously stated on our residents and businesses.

## Which small areas overlapping the constituency have the best and worst connectivity?

Key to table shading:

Best 10% of areas in the UK

Best 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 10% of areas in the UK

You can also view [maps of small area data](#)

Area name	Average download speed (Mbps)	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Lines receiving under 10 Mbps	Lines receiving over 30 Mbps
Bamber Bridge East	93.8	98.8%	81.6%	0.0%	3.2%	80.2%
Bamber Bridge West	87.1	99.2%	83.6%	0.0%	2.9%	81.7%
Farington	94.8	97.2%	82.8%	0.0%	5.3%	85.1%
Lostock Hall	97.5	99.3%	91.2%	0.0%	6.6%	83.2%
Walton-le-Dale	97.1	98.7%	78.6%	0.0%	6.2%	82.7%
Leyland North	87.8	98.8%	81.5%	0.0%	2.4%	80.5%
Leyland South East & Buckshaw ...	101.2	99.7%	89.2%	0.0%	6.0%	83.7%
Leyland South West	97.9	95.2%	89.3%	0.0%	12.0%	80.7%
Longton & Walmer Bridge	45.5	91.9%	0.9%	0.0%	8.6%	71.7%
Lower Penwortham North	90.1	99.0%	78.9%	0.0%	9.6%	82.9%
Lower Penwortham South	86.9	99.9%	75.0%	0.0%	9.4%	81.9%
Moss Side	111.9	97.5%	91.6%	0.0%	6.7%	89.9%
New Longton & Hutton	46.5	88.5%	4.6%	0.0%	8.9%	67.2%
Penwortham North	93.4	98.9%	89.2%	0.0%	2.3%	83.9%
Penwortham South	86.2	98.9%	85.1%	0.0%	3.5%	80.5%
Seven Stars	104.8	97.7%	91.9%	0.0%	13.0%	84.7%
Gregson Lane & Coupe Green	49.3	91.9%	7.5%	0.4%	8.9%	72.7%

The table above shows the best and worst connectivity areas from South Ribble and Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituencies, the areas named in the graphs above fall into the bottom 10% of areas in the UK.

NB: Data is not published for some wards

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-broadband-coverage-and-speeds/#postcode>

## Net Zero

In July 2019 South Ribble Borough Council declared a climate emergency and set a goal to become Carbon neutral by 2030

Within the 2019 climate emergency Council declaration, the following statement is made:

'This Council declares that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and well-being of our residents and therefore proclaims a Climate Emergency with immediate effect.'

'To combat this threat, the borough sets a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030.'

South Ribble Climate Change Strategy sets out the evidence and the steps towards 2030.

<https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/1548/Towards-2030-The-way-forward>

**Issue: The effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and wellbeing of residents therefore there is a need to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint to help make the borough carbon neutral by 2030**

## **Jobs and Workforce Skills**

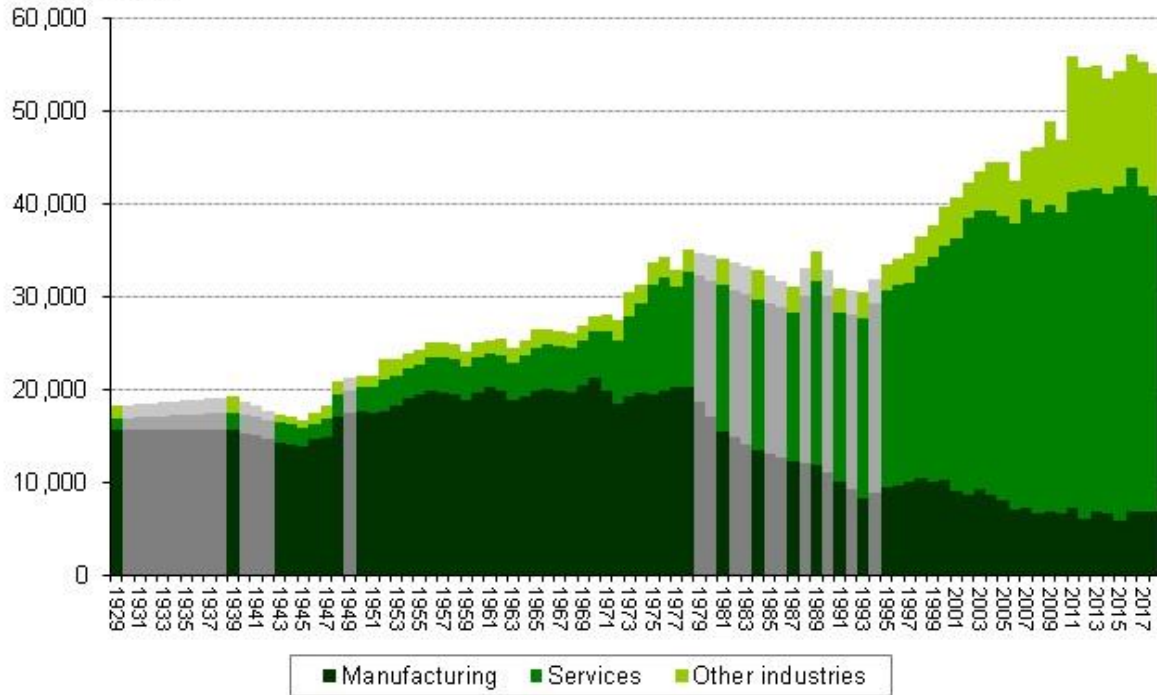
### **Areas of growth and success**

Across Lancashire, there are several key sectors of growth and future opportunity. There are four universities across the county with a student population of over 55,000 which, alongside local colleges, produce the largest source of STEM graduates in the UK. The region also holds the greatest concentration of aerospace production in the UK, 85,000 specialists in manufacturing and engineering, and 400 creative and digital businesses.

In South Ribble more specifically, there are several large businesses within STEM sectors including BAE, who provide defence, aerospace and security solutions, and the business support agency North West Aerospace Alliance.

The number of employee jobs has increased steadily in South Ribble over time, following national trends with a decrease in manufacturing jobs and increase in employment in services and other industries.

### Employee jobs



Source: Lancashire Insight



### Employment by Sector

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, 2020.

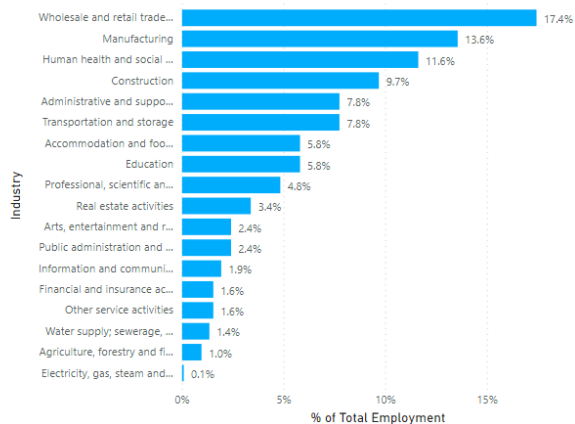
Data presented from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) pertains to 2020 levels of employment by sector, this was published in 2021 and is the latest available data. Data is for Employment, not just Employees, and thus includes those who are self-employed in these sectors.

Local Authority District:  Year:

#### % of Total Employment and Number Employed by Industry and Local Authority Area

Local Authority Area:  South Ribble

Local Authority District:



Industry	Number Employed
Accommodation and food service activities	3,000
Administrative and support service activities	4,000
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,250
Construction	5,000
Education	3,000
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	50
Financial and insurance activities	800
Human health and social work activities	6,000
Information and communication	1,000
Manufacturing	7,000
Other service activities	800
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2,500
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,250
Real estate activities	1,750
Transportation and storage	4,000
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	700
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,600</b>

<https://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/our-people/evidence-base/>



## Projected Growth Sectors

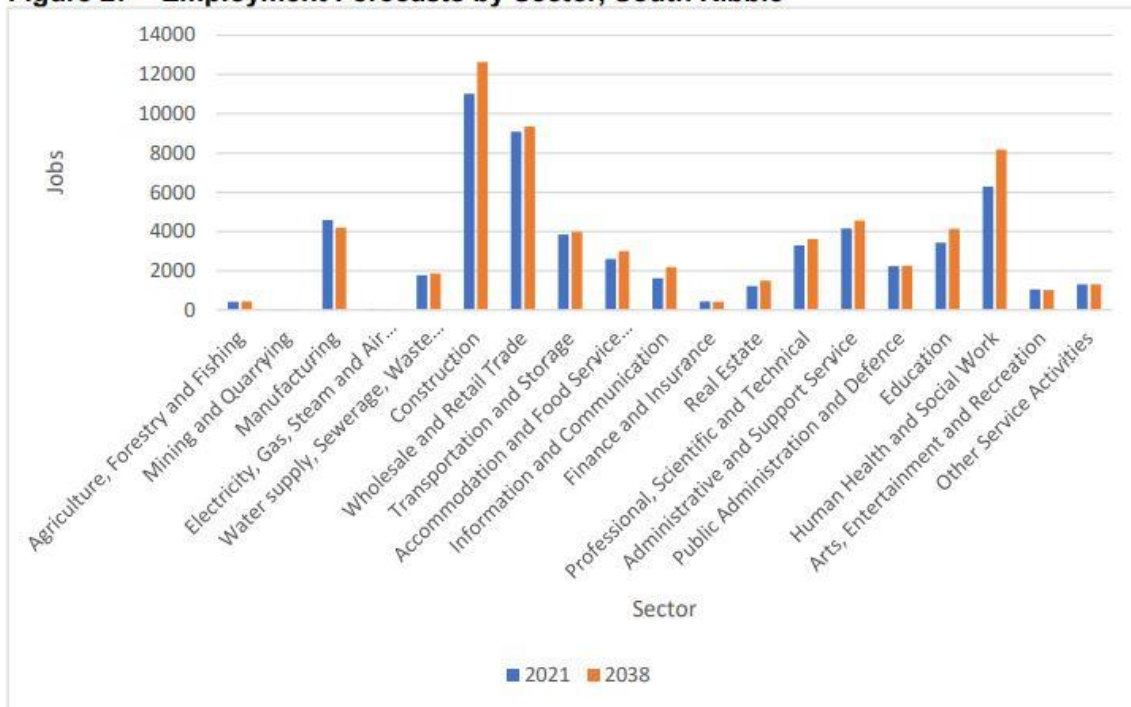
Employment Forecasts 2018-2028 – Which Sectors will employ people in Preston, Chorley and South Ribble in future?



Source: Oxford Economics 2018

The Labour Market Intelligence report (pre-pandemic) for central Lancashire illustrates the projected job growth sectors.

**Figure 27 – Employment Forecasts by Sector, South Ribble**



Source: Cambridge Econometrics, 2021

Source: Central Lancashire Employment Land Study Update February 2022

The Central Lancashire Employment Land Study Update set a forecast of what types of employment are set to be most prevalent in South Ribble over the next 16 years with Construction and Human Health and Social Work being the biggest growth sectors.

The announcement of the National Cyber Force development at Samesbury Enterprise Zone will impact the growth sector projections. It is projected to create 2,000 jobs in the ICT/Digital sector by 2030 (Lancashire Digital Strategy).

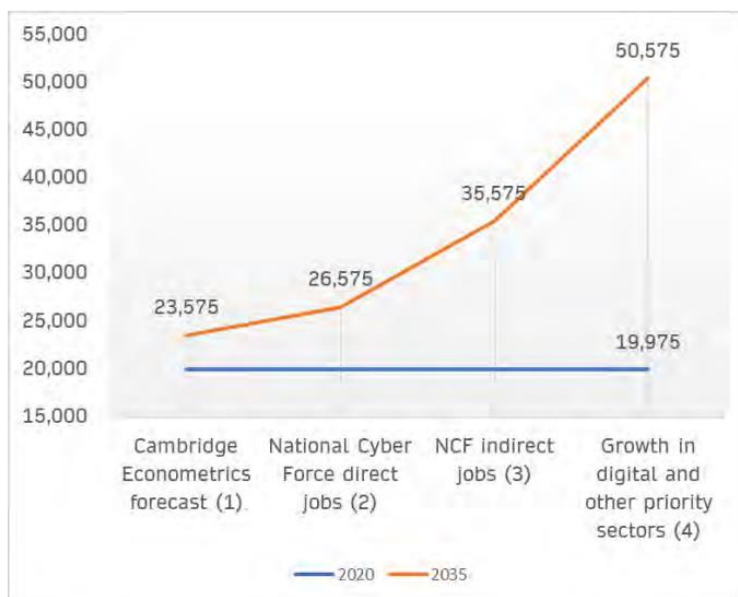


Figure 7 Scenarios for digital jobs growth to 2035

South Ribble needs to be ready for such eventualities and can do so by further developing partnerships with education providers and the launch of 'Skills Factory' to help fill any skills gaps we may have in the Borough.

South Ribble does hold a higher than average percentage of jobs in manufacturing industries, alongside the construction sector, with large employers including Conlon Construction, Eric Wright and Rowland Homes, alongside the beverage and food products sectors with AB InBev, Dr Oetker and Shazans Foods.

## Skills shortages and demand

The Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub are part of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership with a focus on creating the conditions for a balanced, skilled and inclusive labour market, which supports both productivity and growth across the LEP area.

The Lancashire Skills Improvement Plan published in March 2022 used a range of market research methods such as surveys, focus groups, one to one interviews, roundtable discussions and a series of roadshows to identify both anticipated changes and those skills that are required more urgently. Its findings suggest that across Lancashire, shortages in essential technical skills are rising and that this shortage applies to the majority of sectors. Two-thirds of employers surveyed believed that their sector was suffering from a shortage of qualified individuals with indications suggesting that this has worsened since the Covid-19 pandemic and will present a key challenge for employers moving forwards.

Skills levels and qualifications at Level 1 and 2 are higher in South Ribble than across the national as a whole but are lower at level 3 and 4 plus. Many highly skilled employees who study in Lancashire FE and HE leave the area following study, leaving a smaller skilled workforce of those aged 21-34 across South Ribble.

	South Ribble (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 And Above	34.7	38.6	43.6
NVQ3 And Above	52.8	58.2	61.5
NVQ2 And Above	66.3	77.2	78.1
NVQ1 And Above	86.0	87.2	87.5

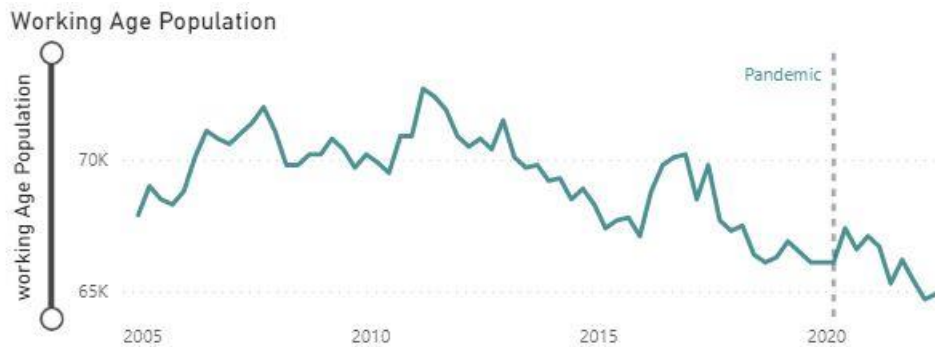
*ONS Annual Population Survey 2021*

**Issue: Skills levels (NVQ3 +) are lower than National average in South Ribble and many highly skilled employees who study in Lancashire leave the area following study, leaving a lower skilled workforce available locally**

There is already a significant demand for labour across the borough with a high job density ratio of 0.89 jobs for every resident in 2020 and only 39% of people who reside in South Ribble working within the borough.

Indications suggest that the future jobs market could provide a risk for South Ribble businesses, with a skills demand across key industries which is likely to be worsened by a declining working age population across the borough and a high level of out commuting to neighbouring areas.

## Age profile of workforce



Population growth in South Ribble is expected to slow down over the next 20 years growing by only 2.8% compared to the 6.2% in Central Lancashire and 12.7% nationally. The local population is also expected to get older and by 2037 there will be an additional 9,000 residents over 65, while the number of working age residents is expected to fall by 5,200. This will have implications for business growth and will present further recruitment challenges for local businesses.

**Issue: South Ribble has an ageing population, which results in a reduction in the working age population and in the loss of skills as people retire**

## Roundtable Research

A series of roundtable discussions have been held to inform economic strategy development in Chorley and South Ribble. One issue highlighted by businesses during the roundtable discussions was the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff. Insufficient, suitably skilled and experienced workforce was identified as an issue.

**Issue: Businesses face significant recruitment challenges because there is insufficient workforce with the skills, qualifications and behaviours needed by businesses**

## Out Commuting Travel to Work

The 2011 census figures (table WU03EW) reveal the [commuter flows](#) between local authorities. The largest flow between a Lancashire authority and a neighbouring authority occurred between South Ribble and Preston. A substantial 13,492 South Ribble residents commuted to work in Preston district. The authority had a low percentage of people aged 16+ (39.1%) who lived and worked in the authority.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/transport/transport-articles-2011-census/commuter-flows-in-lancashire-and-beyond/>

**Issue: Out-commuting by workers with higher skill levels poses a risk to the local economy because there will be insufficient workforce skills to match the needs of local growth sectors**

## Employability in Communities

### Claimant Count by Age

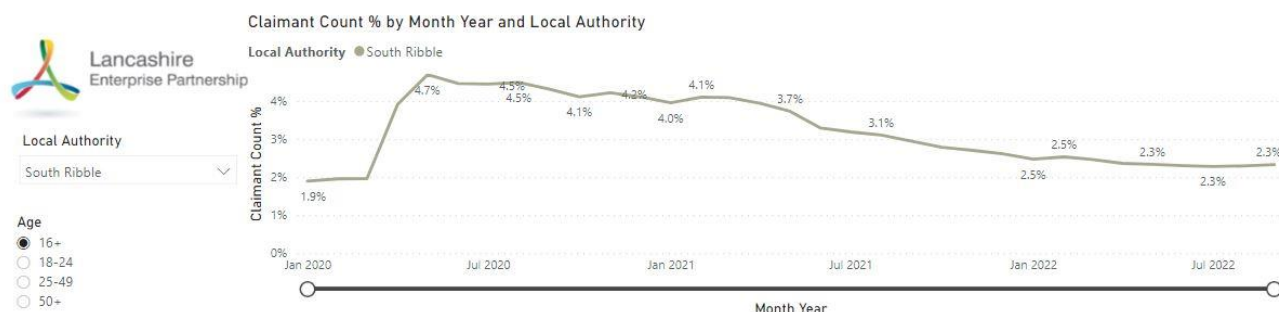
Claimant count by age - not seasonally adjusted (September 2022)				
	South Ribble (Level)	South Ribble (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Aged 16+	1,565	2.3	4.2	3.7
Aged 16 To 17	5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Aged 18 To 24	325	4.3	5.5	4.6
Aged 18 To 21	185	4.6	5.7	4.6
Aged 25 To 49	890	2.6	5.0	4.2
Aged 50+	345	1.5	3.0	2.8

Source: ONS Claimant count by sex and age  
Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of the same age

Source - NOMIS

The claimant count is the actual number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance, there are currently 1,565 residents who fall into this category. The highest percentage of unemployed people in South Ribble are in 18-24 age group (% is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of the same age) This equates to 325 people in this category, however, there are 890 unemployed residents within the 25-49 age category and 345 in the over 50 age group. In comparison with the North West and national unemployment figures, the area of South Ribble is performing reasonably well. A concern to note is the percentage of unemployed residents in the 18-21 age group, although at 4.6% this is the same as the national average, any increase in this age range could result in this figure being higher than the national average.

## Claimant Count Trend



Source - NOMIS

The claimant count figures show that there has been a considerable increase in claimants to Universal Credit for the purposes of being unemployed. Young people in the borough of South Ribble had been particularly badly affected throughout the period of the pandemic, however, post-pandemic this has improved due to additional support and interventions. The claimant count rates are expressed as a percentage of the population of the same age bracket who are claiming Universal Credit. The rate fell in consecutive months across all ages between February 2021 and December 2021, until January 2022 where the overall rate remained static and small increases were seen in the 25-49 rate and the 50+ rate.

**Issue: Residents in the 18-24-year age group were most significantly impacted in terms of unemployment during the pandemic. However, the trend during 2022 has been for the youth unemployment rate to reduce and for people claiming jobseekers' allowances in the 25 year plus age groups to increase**

### Claimant count by sex and age – by ward

ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 14 October 2022]

gender Total  
 age All categories: Age 16+  
 measure Claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16-64

Area	September 2018	September 2019	September 2020	September 2021	September 2022
South Ribble	1.4	1.9	4.3	2.9	2.3
Bamber Bridge East	1.2	2.6	5.3	3.8	3.2
Bamber Bridge West	1.8	2.5	5.9	4.8	3.8
Broad Oak	0.9	1.2	2.2	2.1	1.1
Broadfield	2.5	2.8	5.9	4.0	3.9
Buckshaw & Worden	0.8	1.1	2.9	1.6	1.4

Charnock	1.1	2.8	4.5	3.6	3.0
Coupe Green & Gregson Lane	0.8	1.3	3.5	1.8	1.6
Earnshaw Bridge	1.6	2.2	5.6	3.3	2.2
Farington East	1.6	1.3	4.0	2.0	2.3
Farington West	0.8	1.3	3.8	2.1	2.0
Hoole	1.2	1.3	3.4	2.0	1.7
Howick & Priory	0.9	1.1	2.5	1.5	1.5
Leyland Central	1.4	2.1	4.5	3.5	2.3
Longton & Hutton West	0.8	0.9	2.7	2.0	1.1
Lostock Hall	1.3	1.9	4.4	3.1	2.2
Middleforth	1.9	2.5	5.7	4.3	3.9
Moss Side	1.7	3.2	5.0	3.5	2.3
New Longton & Hutton East	0.8	1.0	3.5	2.1	1.2
Samlesbury & Walton	1.3	1.5	4.6	2.9	2.2
Seven Stars	3.8	4.8	8.3	5.8	4.4
St Ambrose	1.9	2.9	4.6	3.0	2.3
Walton-le-Dale East	0.6	0.9	3.4	2.5	2.1
Walton-le-Dale West	0.6	1.0	2.7	1.7	1.3
Great Britain	2.2	2.8	6.4	4.9	3.7
North West	2.8	3.4	7.0	5.5	4.2

Source - NOMIS

### **Claimant Count by Ward-data analysis**

The overall claimant count in South Ribble has risen from a low of 1.4% in September 2018 to a high of 2.3% in September 2022, the rise has affected all districts across the borough. The highest number of Universal credit recipients reside in the following districts; Seven Stars (4.4%) Broadfield (3.9%) Middleforth (3.9%) and Bamber Bridge West (3.8%). Across the North West of England 4.2% of the working age population 16-64) are in receipt of Universal Credit, all our districts are below the North West average except for Seven Stars which at 4.4% is above the average for the North West.

The areas with the lowest claimant count both at 1.1% are the districts of Longton & Hutton West and Broad Oak.

### **Issue: Residents in some areas of the borough face greater challenges in accessing work and career opportunities**

## Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity (Jul 2021-Jun 2022)				
	South Ribble (Level)	South Ribble (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
<b>All People</b>				
Total	9,700	14.9	23.4	21.4
Student	#	#	26.5	27.1
Looking After Family/Home	#	#	18.8	19.7
Temporary Sick	!	!	3.0	2.2
Long-Term Sick	4,000	41.6	28.0	25.4
Discouraged	!	!	#	0.2
Retired	#	#	13.2	13.7
Other	#	#	10.4	11.6
Wants A Job	!	!	18.7	18.5
Does Not Want A Job	8,700	90.2	81.3	81.5

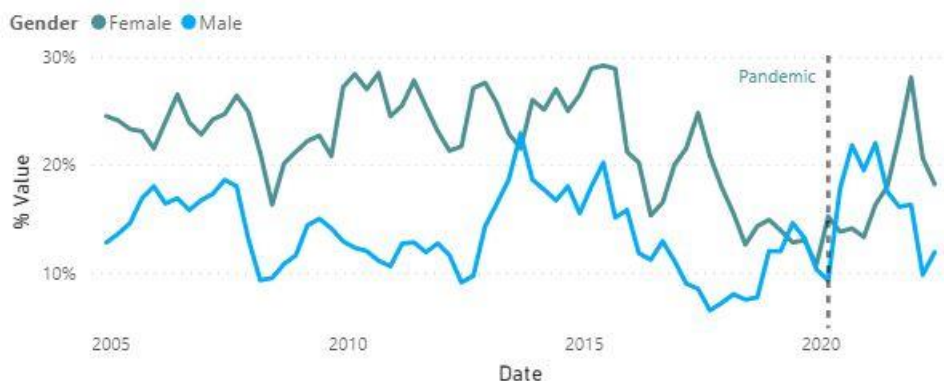
Source: ONS annual population survey  
 # Sample size too small for reliable estimate (see definitions)  
 ! Estimate is not available since sample size is disclosive (see definitions)  
 Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64.  
 % is a proportion of those economically inactive, except total, which is a proportion of those aged 16-64

Source - NOMIS

### Economic Inactivity statistical analysis

The latest data reveals that 14.9% of residents in the 16-64 age group are economically inactive, this equates to 9,700 residents and is an increase of 2.5% versus pre-pandemic figures. Of the 9,700 economically inactive residents, 8,700 are not actively seeking work. There is a female gender predominance of economical inactivity in all ages this is largely due to childcare/caring responsibilities.

Economically Inactive % by Male/Female





Source: <https://www.lancashireskillshub.co.uk/our-people/evidence-base/>

**Issue: Economic inactivity rates are increasing, which results in a reduction in the available skilled workforce to meet business needs**

### Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training

<b>Table 1: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), 2018/19 to 2020/21 Dec to Feb 3 month average performance</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>No NEET</b>	<b>% NEET</b>	<b>No NEET</b>	<b>% NEET</b>	<b>No NEET</b>	<b>% NEET</b>	<b>% NEET</b>
Burnley	73	3.7%	73	3.5%	57	2.6%
Chorley	47	2.1%	55	2.4%	76	3.1%
Fylde	18	1.3%	28	2.1%	26	1.8%
Hyndburn	49	2.5%	56	2.8%	46	2.2%
Lancaster	61	2.3%	72	2.7%	75	2.7%
Pendle	34	1.6%	50	2.3%	51	2.2%
Preston	80	2.7%	96	3.0%	115	3.4%
Ribble Valley	12	0.9%	13	1.0%	13	1.0%
Rossendale	32	2.0%	46	2.8%	45	2.8%
South Ribble	38	1.6%	71	3.0%	83	3.4%
West Lancashire	36	1.5%	56	2.3%	43	1.7%
Wyre	37	1.8%	49	2.3%	50	2.2%
Lancashire-12	519	2.1%	667	2.6%	680	2.5%
Blackburn with Darwen	*	3.1%	*	2.9%	*	2.6%
Blackpool	*	3.8%	*	4.7%	*	4.4%
Lancashire-14	*	*	*	*	*	*
North West	*	3.1%	*	3.3%	*	3.4%
England	*	2.6%	*	2.7%	*	2.8%

\* = data not available/published

Source: Children and Family Wellbeing Service (Young People's Service)

### South Ribble -Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training

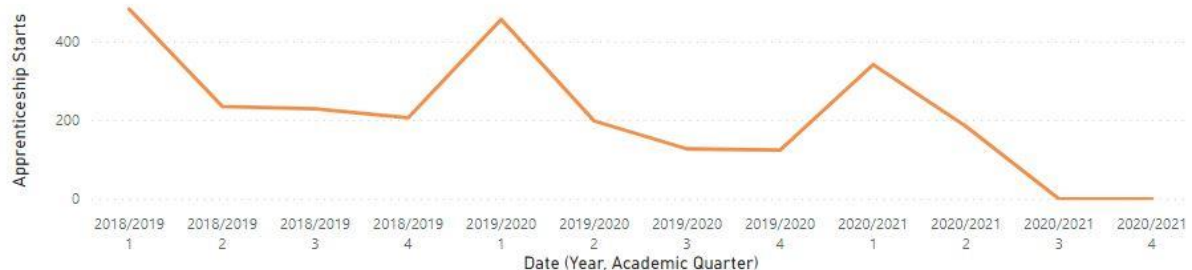
South Ribble has been identified as one of the areas that has seen the biggest increase in young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), rising from 1.6% pre-pandemic to a post -pandemic figure of 3.4%. The percentage figures of young people who are not in education, employment and training in South Ribble is now one of the highest in Lancashire and higher than the all-England average figure of 2.8%.

**Issue: South Ribble has seen a large increase in people who are not in education, employment or training. The percentage is higher in South Ribble than the national average.**

## Apprenticeship Starts Trend

Apprenticeship Starts by Year, Quarter and Selected Analysis Level

Selected Analysis Level ● South Ribble



Source: <https://www.lancshireskillshub.co.uk/our-people/evidence-base/>

The data shows that apprenticeship starts remain at lower levels than pre-pandemic, which impacts on opportunities for residents to up-skill and re-skill. The Lancashire Apprenticeship Action Plan and Levy Transfer projects aim to address this regional trend.

## Pay – Residents

### Earnings by place of residence (2021)

	South Ribble (Pounds)	North West (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
<b>Gross Weekly Pay</b>			
Full-Time Workers	550.4	578.0	613.1
Male Full-Time Workers	610.3	615.8	655.5
Female Full-Time Workers	487.5	529.0	558.1
<b>Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime</b>			
Full-Time Workers	14.38	14.70	15.65
Male Full-Time Workers	15.22	15.33	16.26
Female Full-Time Workers	13.03	14.02	14.86

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

Source - NOMIS

## Pay – Workplace

<b>Earnings by place of work (2021)</b>			
	<b>South Ribble (Pounds)</b>	<b>North West (Pounds)</b>	<b>Great Britain (Pounds)</b>
<b>Gross Weekly Pay</b>			
Full-Time Workers	591.7	575.8	612.8
Male Full-Time Workers	600.3	613.3	654.3
Female Full-Time Workers	518.5	529.0	558.1
<b>Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime</b>			
Full-Time Workers	14.60	14.63	15.64
Male Full-Time Workers	14.60	15.18	16.25
Female Full-Time Workers	13.67	14.13	14.86

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis  
Notes: Median earnings in pounds for employees working in the area.

Source - NOMIS

### Pay Analysis

The data shows that pay levels (Gross Weekly Pay) for South Ribble residents are below regional and national levels. Pay levels for female residents are significantly lower than for male residents. However, for people working in South Ribble, pay levels are higher than the regional levels overall, although still lower than national rate. Again, pay for female workers is significantly lower. This illustrates the impact of commuting patterns and shows that the higher paid jobs in South Ribble are not necessarily being taken by residents. Attracting higher skilled, higher paid jobs into South Ribble and helping residents to upskill so they can access those jobs would help to address this pattern.

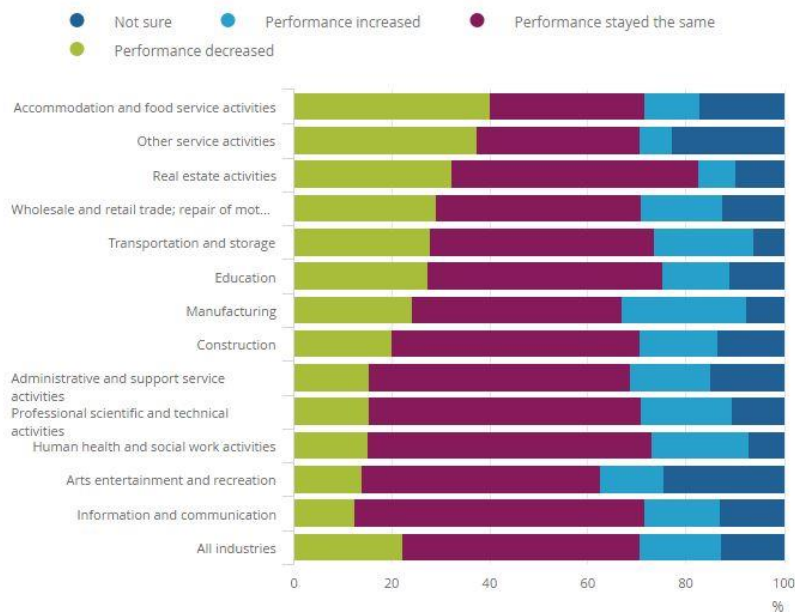
# Business Structure and Support Needs

## Business Confidence

17 November 2022

Almost a quarter (22%) of UK trading businesses reported a decline in overall performance in October 2022 compared with October 2021

Business performance, businesses currently trading, broken down by industry, weighted by count, UK, 1 to 31 October 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Business Insights and Conditions Survey

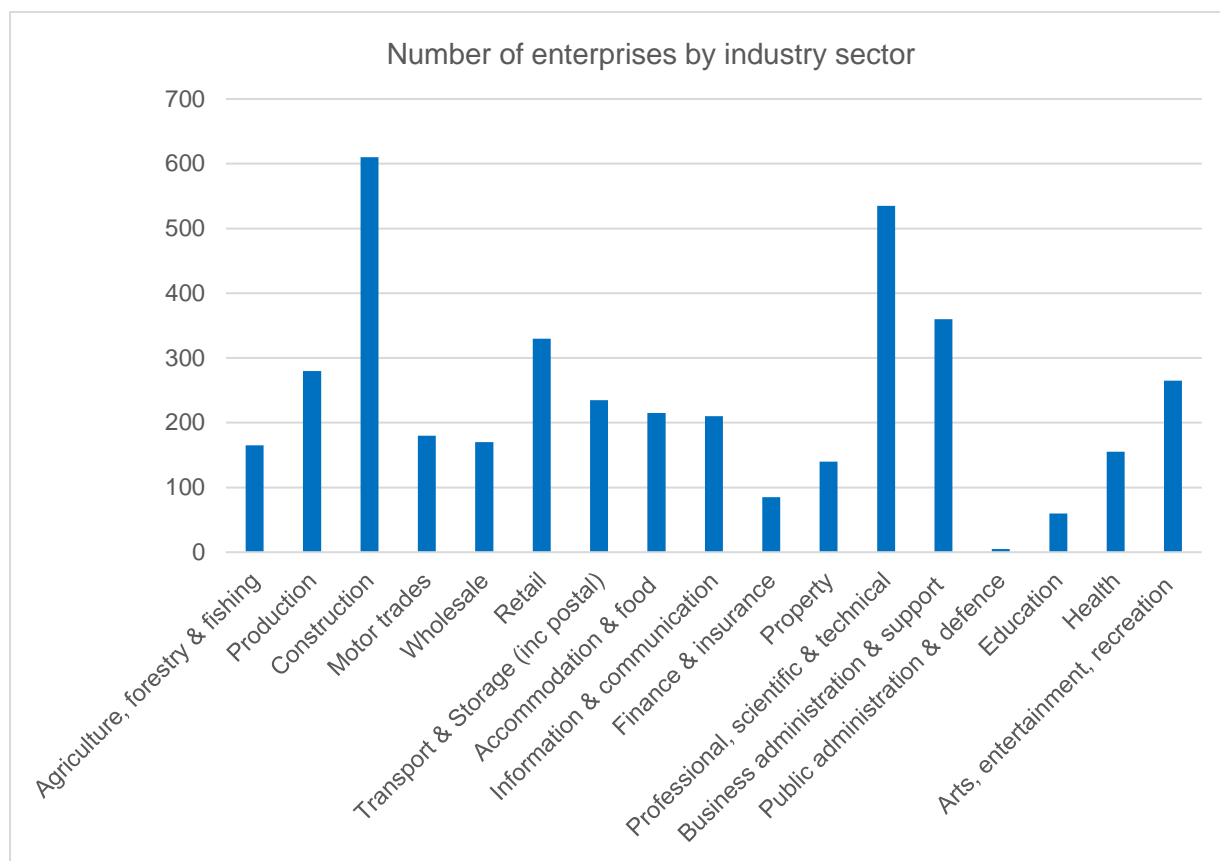
This table highlights issues for South Ribble as major sectors in our economy such as Transportation & Storage have shown a sharp decrease.

Source: Central Lancashire Employment Land Study Update February 2022

**Issue: Nationally, there is an economic downturn and businesses are at increased risk of insolvency**

## Type of businesses by sector

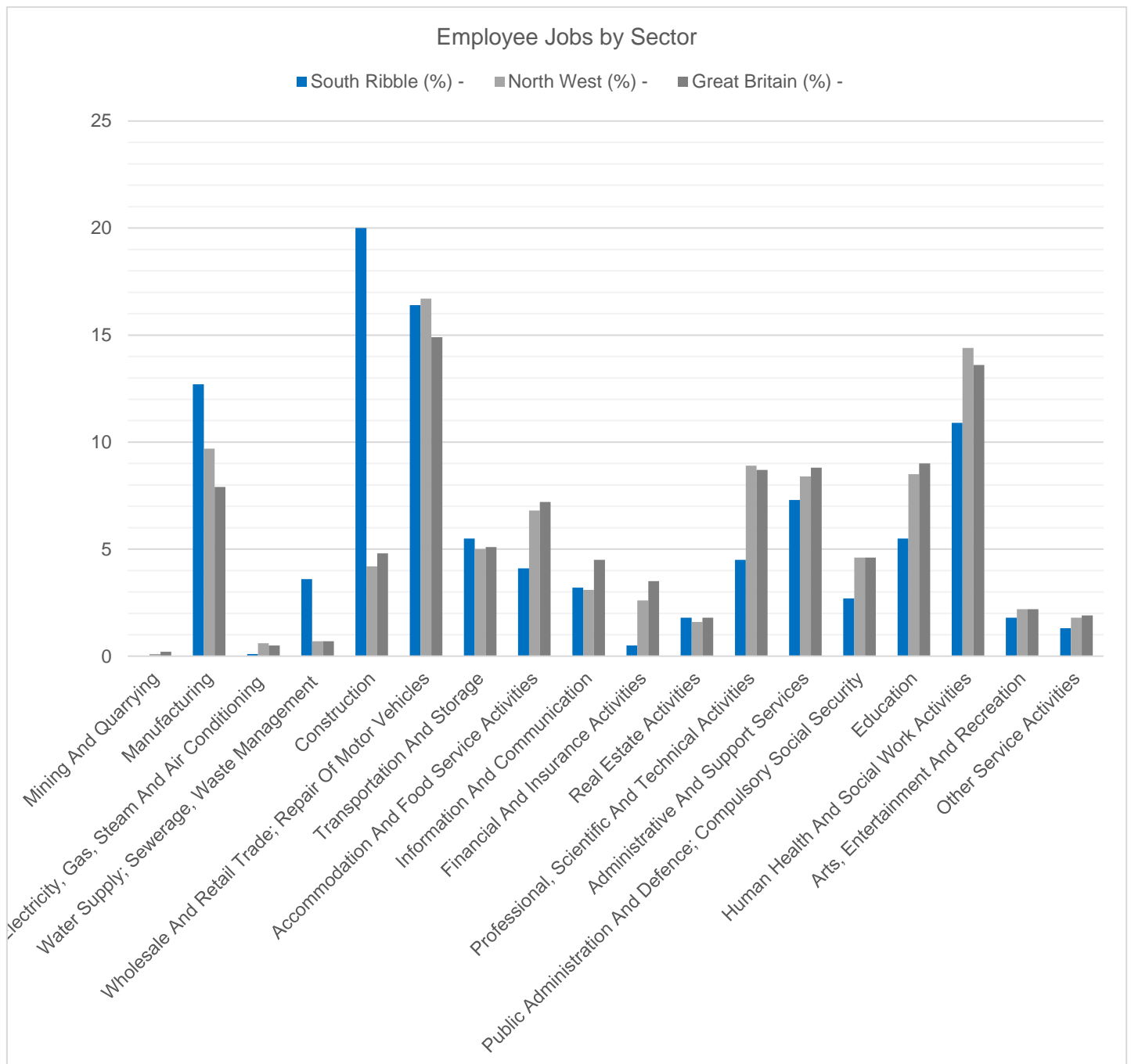
The Office for National Statistics analysis on the Inter Departmental Business Register for 2021 demonstrates that in South Ribble the largest sector by number of enterprises is the construction sector at 610, followed by professional, scientific and technical at 535.



Source: *Interdepartmental Business Register (ONS) 2021*

Construction is also the sector with the largest percentage of employee jobs in South Ribble with 20% of all jobs falling within the industry. Whilst it should be noted that some of these jobs might be based elsewhere, with only the head office site being based in the borough, it is still likely that there are a large proportion of construction jobs within South Ribble compared to a regional and national average of 4.2% and 4.8% respectively. Wholesale and retail trade industries also make up a large proportion of all jobs (16.4%) alongside manufacturing (12.7%.)

Several businesses have been recognized for their commercial success, performance, and innovation with Leyland Trucks, which was also the first plant in Europe to achieve 'zero waste to landfill', and Evans Vanodine International both winning the Queen's Awards for Enterprise in 2020.



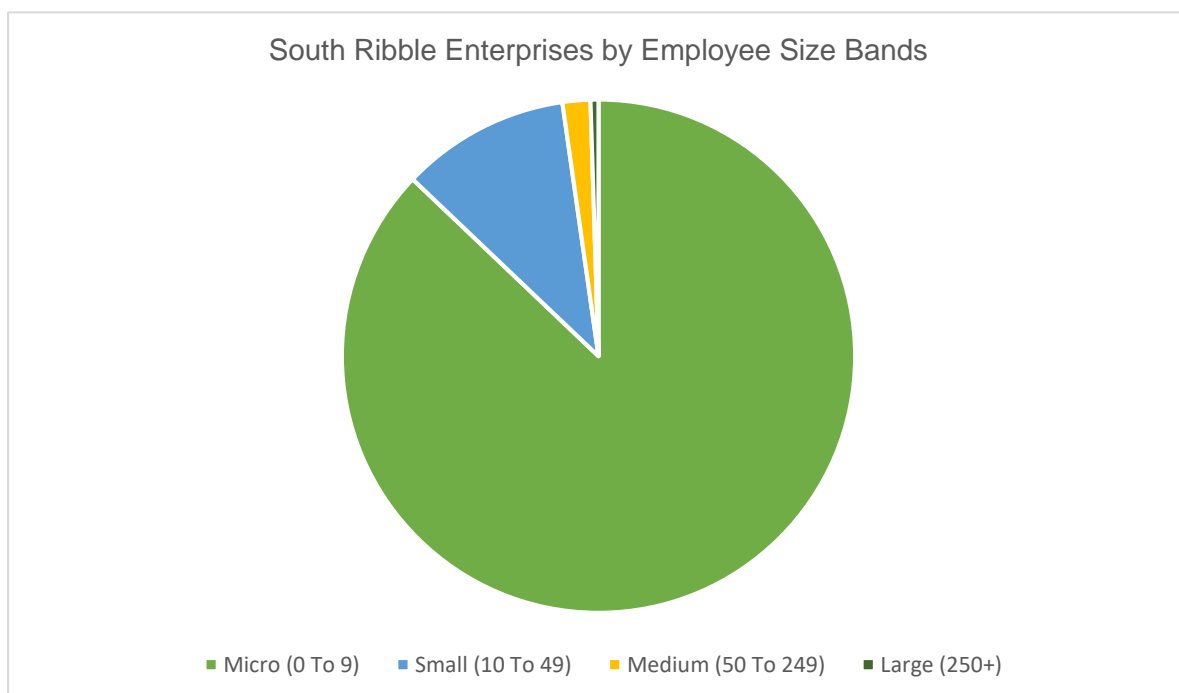
Source: ONS Business register and Employment Survey 2020

### Size of businesses by turnover/ number of employees

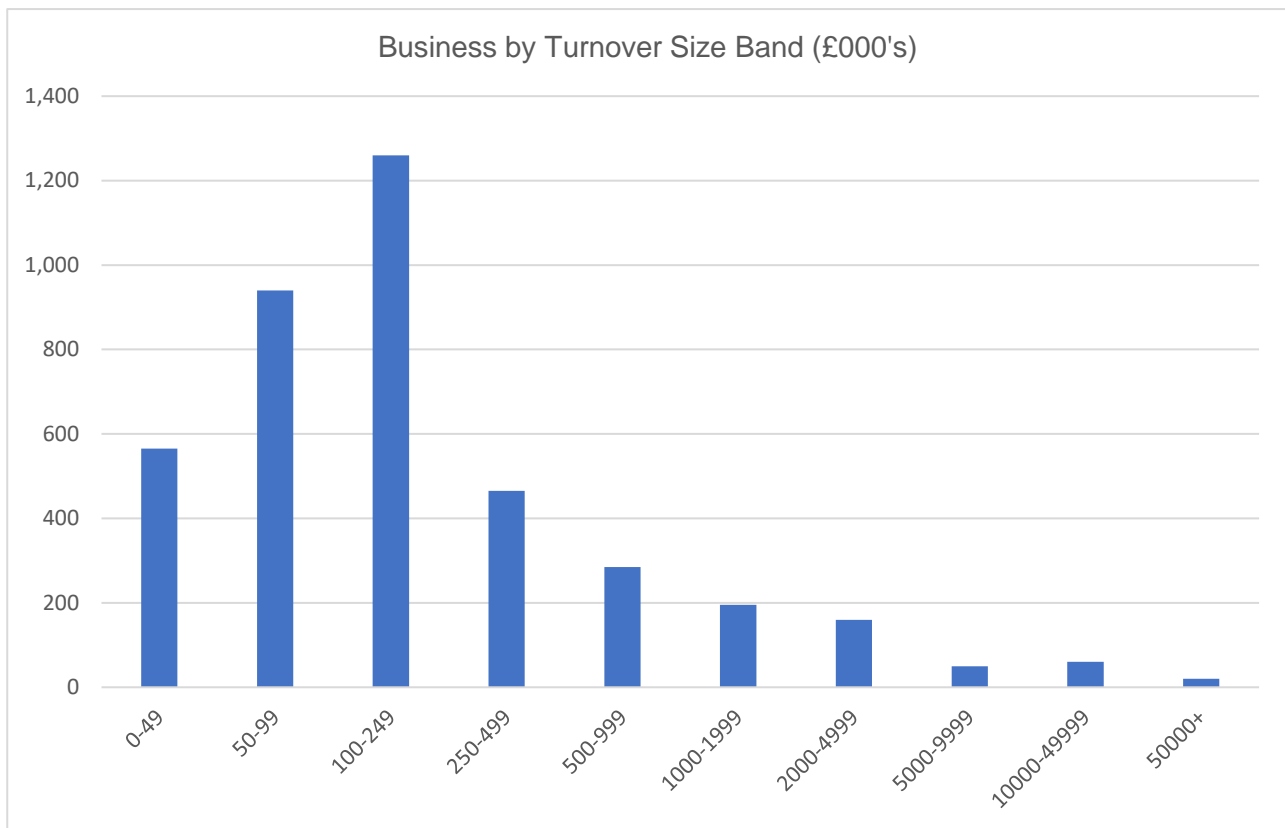
The majority of enterprises (overall businesses) and local units (individual work sites) in South Ribble are micro businesses with 0-9 employees. Furthermore, there are only 20 enterprises and 25 local units with a large employee base of over 250 employees. This roughly mirrors regional trends as shown in the table below, although South Ribble has a slightly higher percentage of small, medium and large businesses, and a slightly lower proportion of micro businesses than the North West as a whole:

	South Ribble (Numbers)	South Ribble (%)	North West (Numbers)	North West (%)
<b>Enterprises</b>				
Micro (0 To 9)	3,480	87	241,185	89
Small (10 To 49)	425	10.6	24,345	9
Medium (50 To 249)	70	1.8	4,375	1.6
Large (250+)	20	0.5	1,040	0.4
Total	4,000	-	270,945	-
<b>Local Units</b>				
Micro (0 To 9)	3,790	81.7	267,380	83.7
Small (10 To 49)	665	14.3	41,760	13.1
Medium (50 To 249)	155	3.3	8,930	2.8
Large (250+)	25	0.5	1,345	0.4
Total	4,640	-	319,420	-

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) 2021



South Ribble also mirrors regional and national trends in relation to size of businesses by turnover. The turnover range with the largest number of enterprises is £100,000-£249,000 at 1,260 enterprises, followed by £50,000-£99,000 at 940. However, South Ribble does have a higher proportion of businesses in the highest turnover size band of over £50 million, with 0.5% of businesses falling within this category in comparison to a national average of 0.34%.



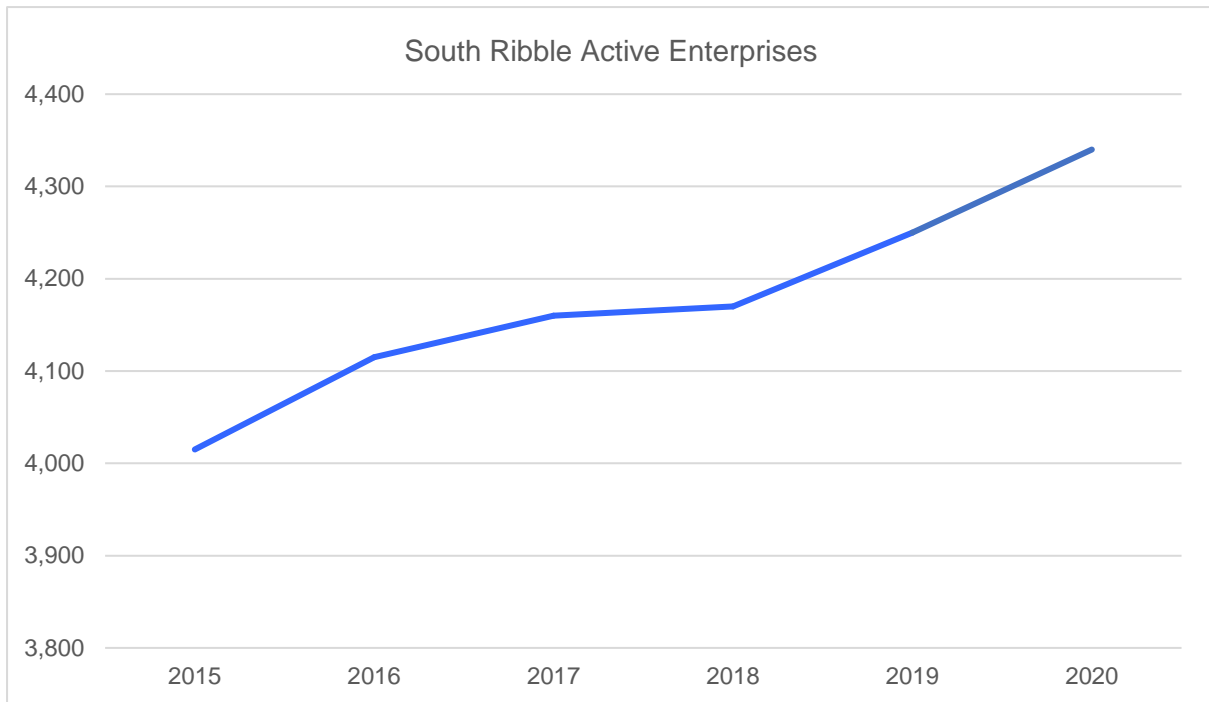
<b>% of total enterprises by turnover (£000's)</b>										
	<b>0-49</b>	<b>50-99</b>	<b>100-249</b>	<b>250-499</b>	<b>500-999</b>	<b>1000-1999</b>	<b>2000-4999</b>	<b>5000-9999</b>	<b>10000-49999</b>	<b>50000+</b>
England	15.25	22.41	32.66	12.80	7.33	4.17	2.91	1.12	1.02	0.34
North West	15.09	23.49	31.91	12.69	7.28	4.17	2.92	1.13	1.01	0.31
South Ribble	14.13	23.50	31.50	11.63	7.13	4.88	4.00	1.25	1.50	0.50

*Source: Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) 2021*

### **Business growth**

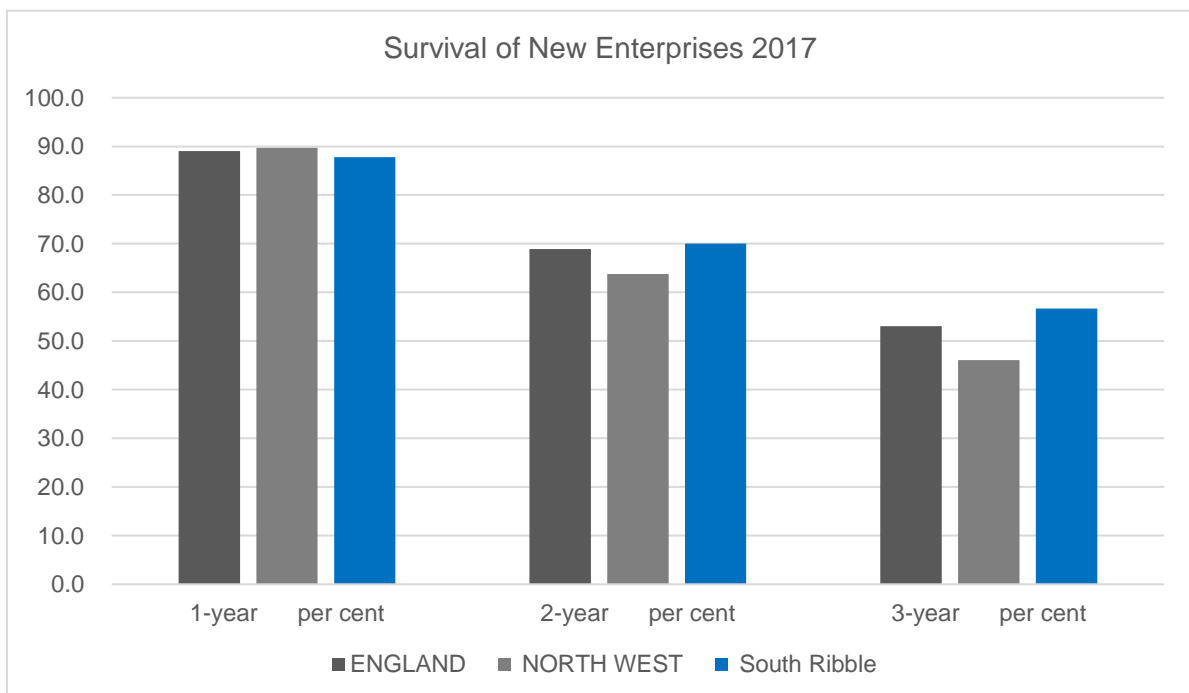
The number of businesses within South Ribble has steadily increased over time. Figures from the Office for National Statistics indicate that the number of active enterprises has increased from 4,015 in 2015 to 4,340 in 2020. This represents an increase of 8.09 %, however this growth is slower than across the North West and England more widely where the percentage increases are both at 13%.





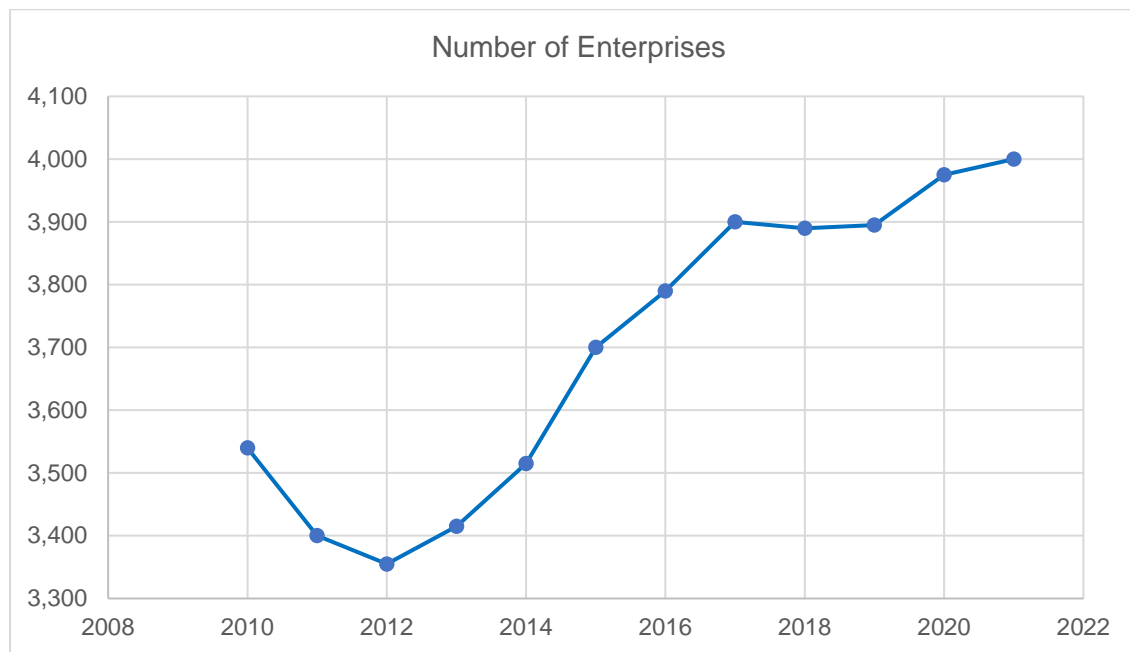
*Business Demography (ONS) 2020*

South Ribble has a large number of new enterprises established each year with an average of 465 per year from 2015-2020. The borough also has a higher than average survival rate of new businesses which suggests that, whilst there may be slower growth in the number of active businesses in South Ribble in comparison to national and regional levels, the enterprises which are established are more likely to survive. In South Ribble, 70% of new businesses are still active after two years and 56.7% after 3 years.



*Business Demography (ONS) 2020*

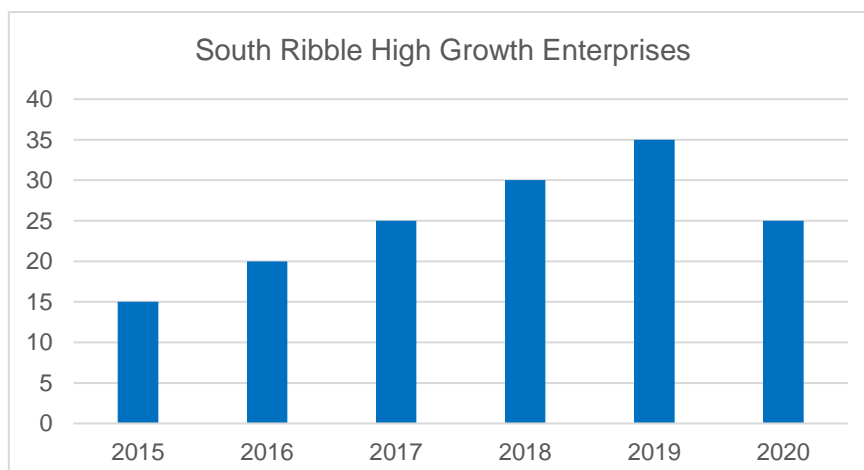
Figures indicate that growth in the number of businesses in South Ribble has increased steadily from 2012 including throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a total number of enterprises of 3,895 in 2019 which has rose to 4,000 by 2021. The total number of local units also increased from 4,515 to 4,640 over the same time period. This represents a 2.7% increase in the number of enterprises from 2019 to 2021 compared to a national increase of 1.6%.



Source: Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) 2021

Furthermore, the number of births of new enterprises increased in South Ribble from 490 in 2019 to 530 in 2020 (an increase of 8.16%) compared to a decrease of 33,560 across England as a whole (an overall decrease of 10.27%.)

The Office for National Statistics identifies high growth enterprises by considering all enterprises which have an average annualised growth greater than 20% per annum over a three-year period by either number of employees or turnover. This excludes micro-businesses and only considers enterprises with over 10 employees to prevent skewing of data. South Ribble demonstrates some variance in its number of high growth enterprises,



Business Demography (ONS) 2020

which stood at a total of 15 in 2015, 35 in 2019 and then a decrease to 25 in 2020. Despite this, South Ribble has a high number of these enterprises in comparison to other Lancashire district authorities, with an average of 25 per year from 2015 to 2021.

**Issue: Growth in the number of active enterprises up to 2020 in South Ribble was slower than growth across the North West and England. South Ribble has seen positive growth in enterprises from 2019 to 2022 but the future trend is uncertain.**

<b>District Authority</b>	<b>Average number of high growth enterprises 2016-2020</b>
Rossendale	12
Wyre	13
Ribble Valley	14
Burnley	17
Fylde	17
Hyndburn	18
Pendle	18
Chorley	22
West Lancashire	24
Lancaster	25
<b>South Ribble</b>	<b>25</b>
Preston	28

### **Growth Sectors**

From 2018-2021, the number of enterprises per industry has remained relatively stable across South Ribble. The largest percentage increases in the number of enterprises are for construction (which is the largest industry in South Ribble) and transport and storage industries. Other areas of growth include business administration and support, accommodation and food, wholesale, property, and arts, entertainment and recreation.

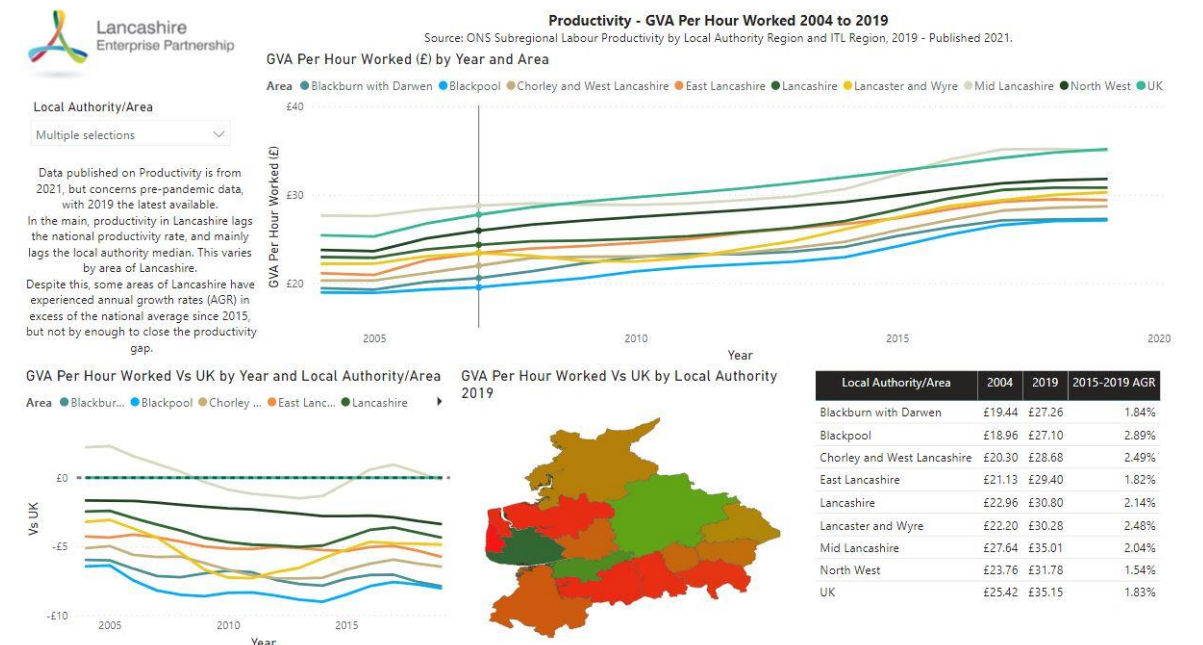
<b>% change in number of enterprises per sector</b>	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	-0.64%
Information & communication	-0.51%
Production	-0.39%
Education	-0.26%
Health	-0.13%
Public administration & defence	-0.13%

Motor trades	0.00%
Retail	0.00%
Finance & insurance	0.00%
Professional, scientific & technical	0.00%
Arts, entertainment, recreation	0.13%
Property	0.26%
Wholesale	0.39%
Accommodation & food	0.64%
Business administration & support	0.64%
Construction	1.03%
Transport & Storage (inc postal)	1.80%

Source: Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) 2021

South Ribble has several key strengths in relation to business growth and economic development including a number of large businesses across the borough, and particular strengths within construction, professional, scientific and technical, and manufacturing industries. South Ribble also has a larger number of high growth enterprises than other district boroughs across Lancashire and has a higher survival rate for new businesses in comparison to regional and national averages.

## Productivity



**Issue: Productivity has improved significantly in South Ribble since 2009. However, it is still lower than regional and national levels**

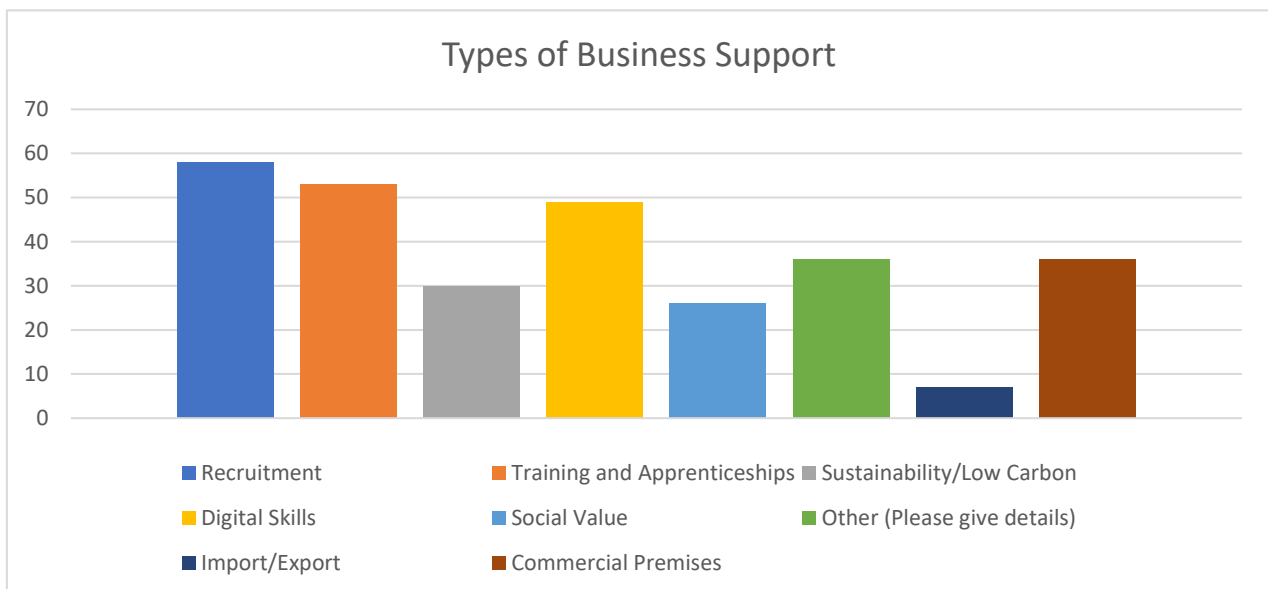
## Roundtable Research – Business Support Needs

A series of roundtable discussions have been held to inform economic strategy development in Chorley and South Ribble. One issue highlighted by businesses during the roundtable discussions was the challenge of rising business costs, in particular, energy costs, which is impacting on business viability.

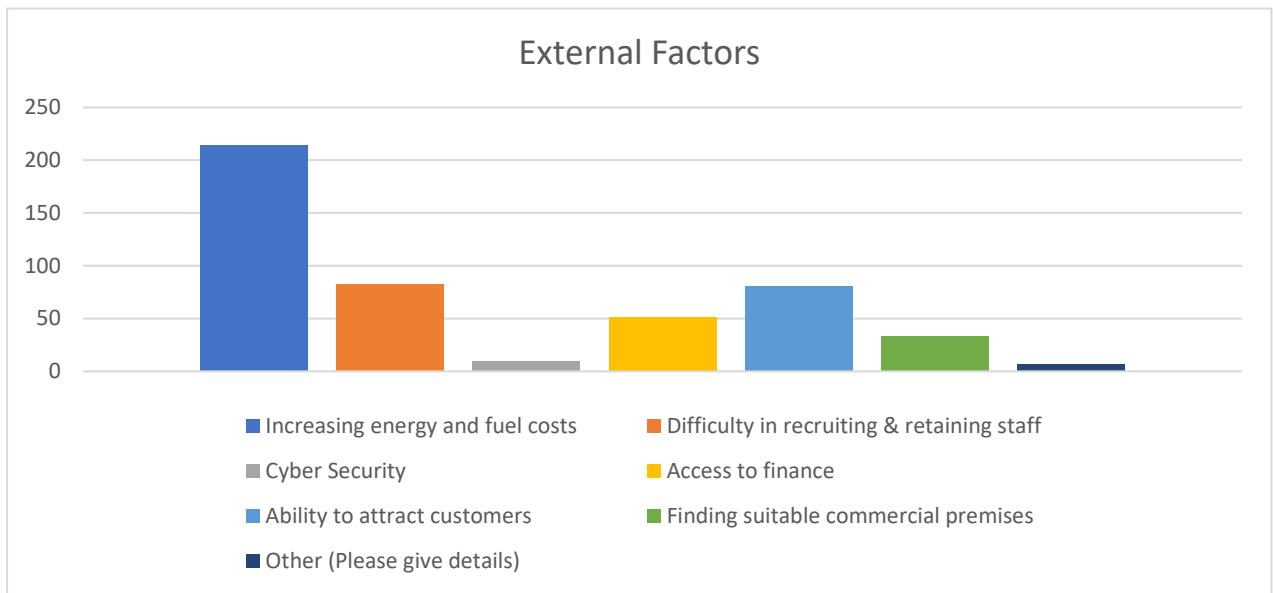
## Business Consultation 2022

As part of our research and to inform our Economic Strategy, we consulted our local businesses via an online survey so that we had a better understanding of their issues and challenges. The survey results have allowed us to shape our business support programme in response to local business needs.

The charts below show the key findings.



The above chart summarises the types of business support requested; this has helped to shape the South Ribble Economic Strategy.

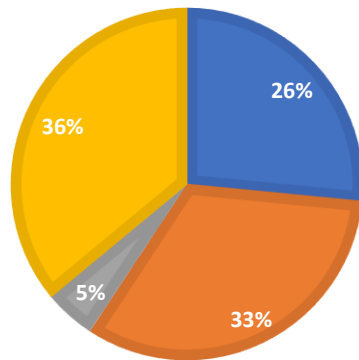


The increasing energy and fuel costs has had a negative impact on South Ribble businesses. We are supporting businesses to adopt low carbon technologies, this in turn will reduce energy usage and reduce energy costs, these support measures will contribute to a higher business survival rate.

**Issue: Businesses are facing rising energy, fuel and other costs, which impact viability**

## TYPES OF RECRUITMENT SUPPORT

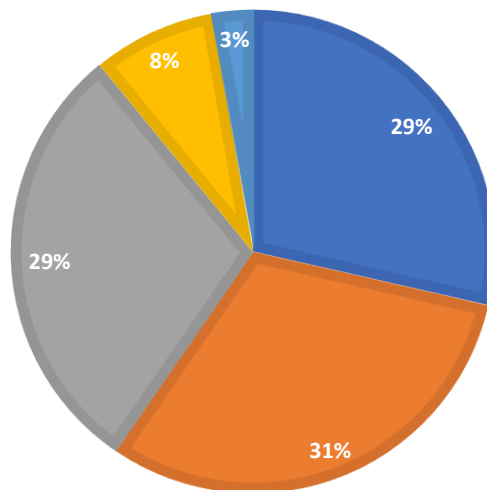
- Lack of applicants
- Skills shortage – lack of suitably qualified/experienced staff or applicants
- Transport connectivity
- N/A Not Applicable



Businesses are still struggling to recruit and retain their workforce. The launch of the 'Skills Factory' will help to support businesses to recruit and access appropriate training and support residents to access job and training opportunities with local employers. We will continue to support employers to recruit by hosting a programme of Recruitment Roadshows, including supporting the NHS Recruitment Bus and delivering pop-up recruitment events in the community.

## ICT SKILLS REQUIRED

- Social Media
- N/A Not Applicable
- Marketing
- ICT skills
- Other (Please give details)



Working with delivery partners including the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will help to support businesses to access the skills training that will enable them to move towards a digital platform so that they can trade online and acquire the digital marketing skills to promote their business.

## **Community Wealth Building and Social Value**

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (the Act) came into force in January 2013, setting out the responsibility to consider the “economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the relevant area” in procurement activity. The Act states that authorities must consider how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the relevant area.

South Ribble Borough Council has a corporate priority “**to create a fair local economy that works for everyone**”. To deliver this, the council is implementing a Social Value Policy, which recognises the overall values of outcomes delivered instead of simply considering the core service being delivered and has adopted a Community Wealth Building approach.

Through the Community Wealth Building approach, South Ribble has a vision of a more resilient local economy that involves and benefits the local people and area. Traditionally local economies rely on external businesses to provide jobs, goods and services for local residents. This results in decisions and profits flowing out to wherever the company is based, or the goods are produced. Community Wealth Building takes the opposite approach, looking inwards to the borough, working to develop, retain and protect local wealth including money, assets (such as land or buildings) and the environment.

A Social Value Toolkit has been created to support businesses to understand how they can develop effective proposals to deliver wider community benefits as part of their activities in the borough. The toolkit will help businesses to successfully bid for contracts and will develop links between businesses and the local community.