

Labour Market Headlines

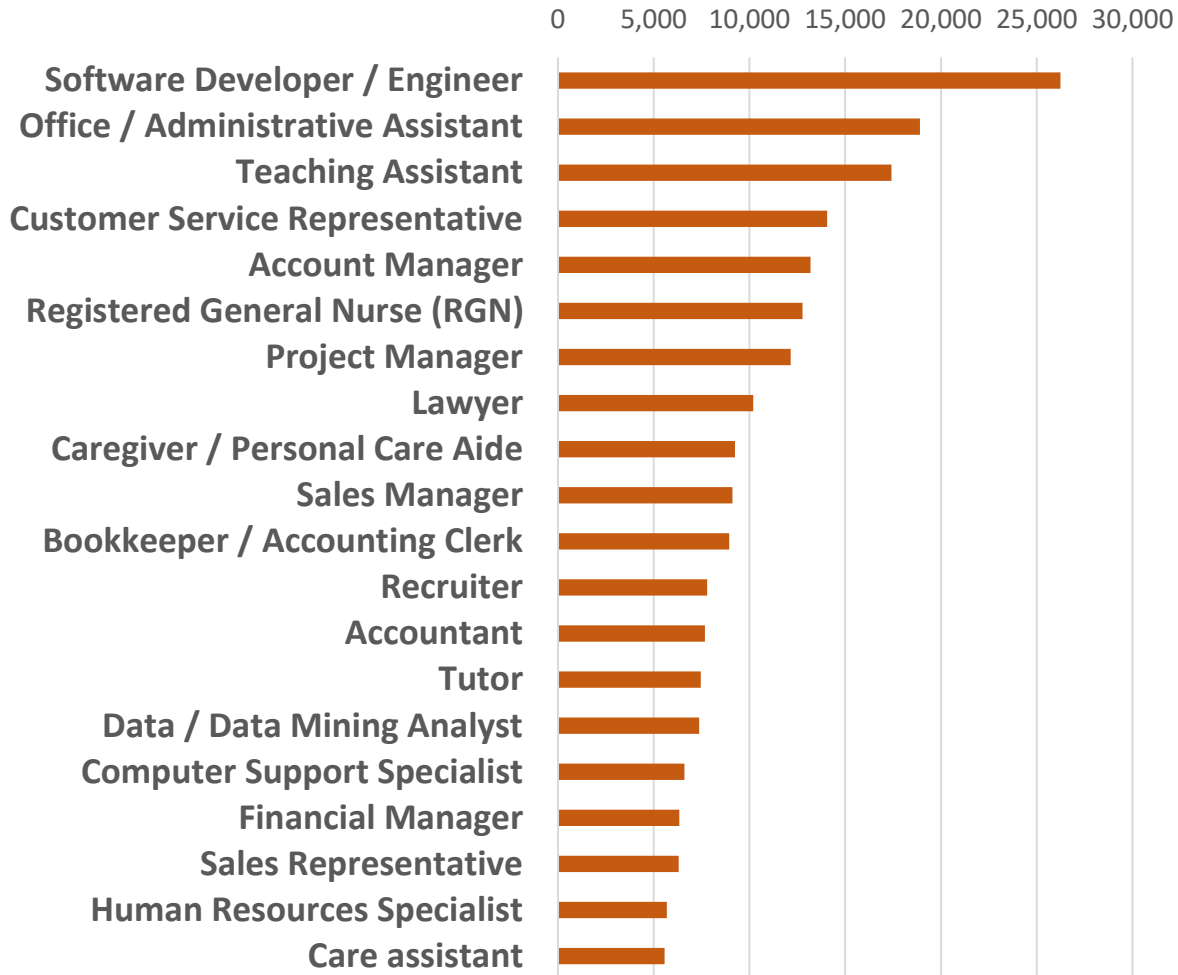
- Greater Manchester's **workforce is deep and broad**, and shares similarities with many other city regions.
- The Public Sector **employs around 1 in 3 workers in GM**, across health, education, emergency services, and local government.
- Over the course of the pandemic, **the size of GM's workforce has contracted** – GM-level data shows around 15,000 fewer people in work in the year to June 2022 (vs. June 2019).
- Different areas of the economy have seen different trends – **hospitality has lost around 50,000 workers** in the same time period, while the financial services and public sector workforce has grown.
- Unemployment remains low – the reduction in the size of the workforce has been **driven by increases in economic inactivity**.

GM Workforce Overview

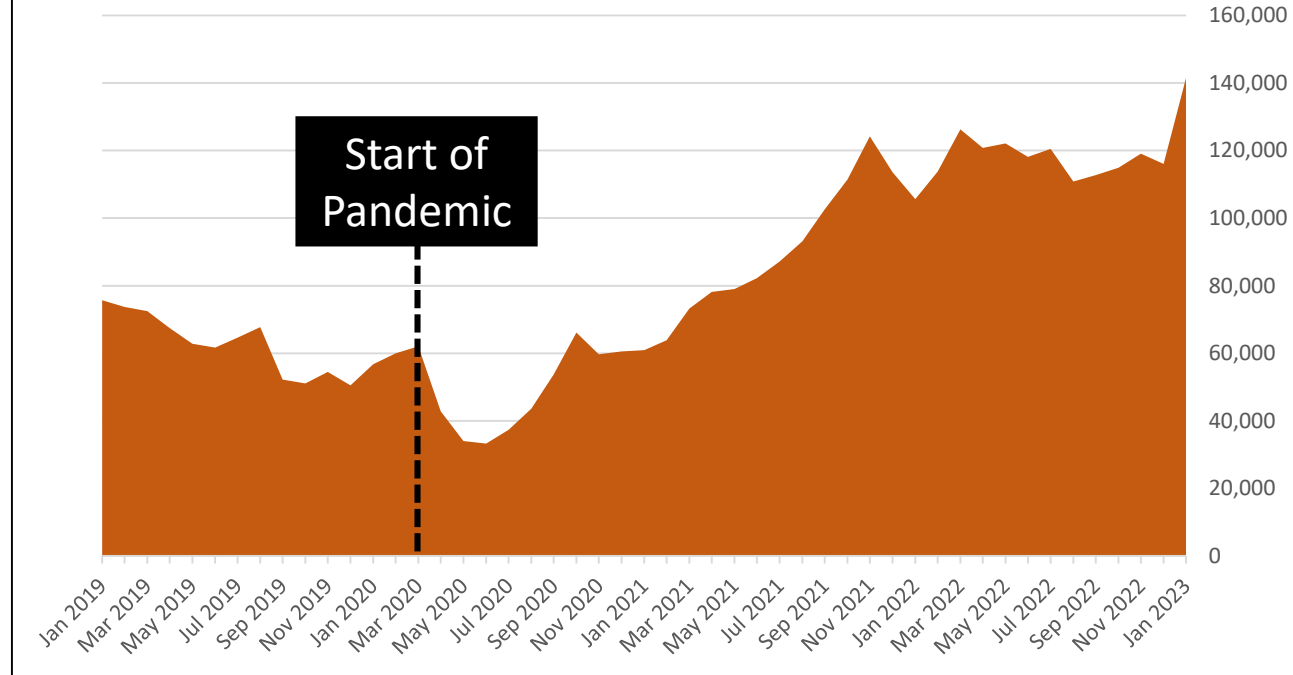
Broad Sector (SIC 2007)	Workforce	Proportion
A Agriculture & fishing	3,900	0.3%
B,D,E Energy & water	12,600	1.0%
C Manufacturing	94,900	7.3%
F Construction	82,000	6.3%
G,I Distribution, hotels & restaurants	204,500	15.8%
H,J Transport & Communication	132,000	10.2%
K-N Banking finance & insurance etc.	265,600	20.6%
O-Q Public admin education & health	436,300	33.8%
R-U Other services	59,800	4.6%
Total	1,291,600	100%

GM Vacancy Market (last 12 months)

Unique Postings (Jan 2022 - Jan 2023)



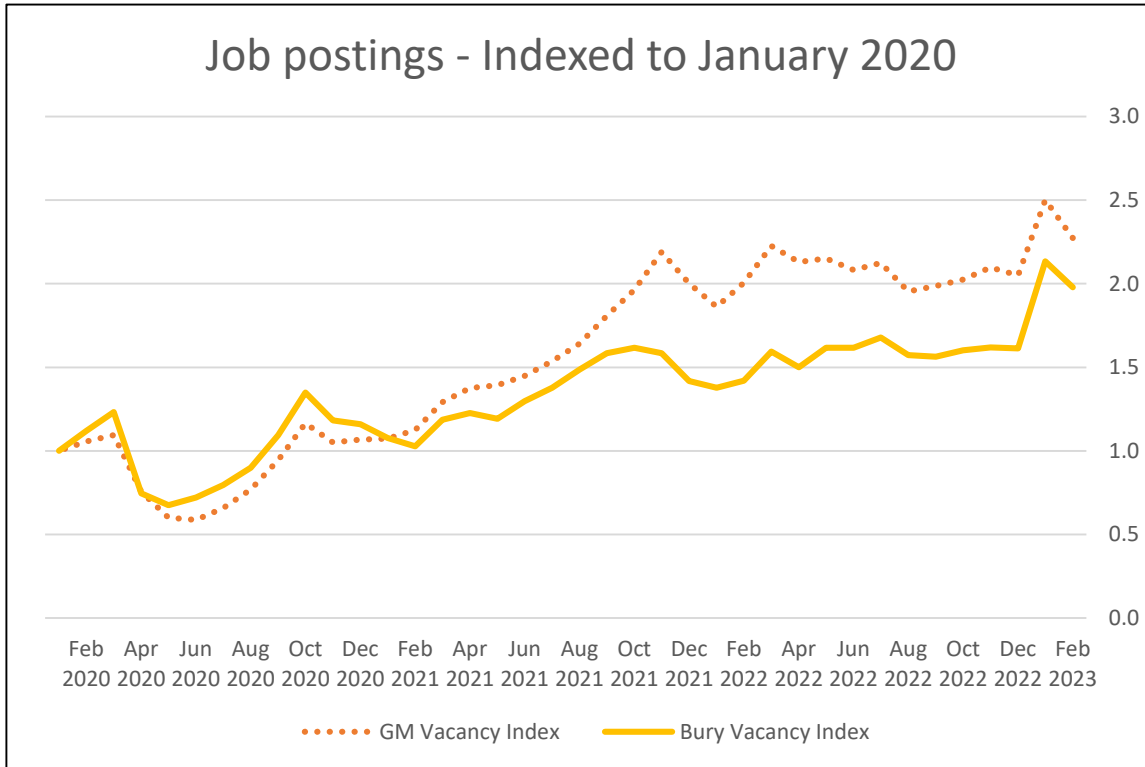
Job postings in GM - Jan 2020 - Jan 2023



- Vacancy Data shows a strong recovery of demand after the pandemic eased, after an initial dip.
- Despite flattening in mid-2022, the number of roles advertised is still double pre-pandemic levels.
- Key in-demand occupations are varied, ranging from digital, care, and sales roles.

Bury (2013 – 2023)

Growth Sector	2013 Employees	2023 Employees	% Growth
Food and Drink Manufacturing	310	1,340	332%
Automotive Services	1,010	2,500	147%
Metal Manufacturing	67	141	110%
Appliances & Personal Goods	206	425	106%
Business Services	950	1,733	82%



February saw around **3,000 job openings in Bury**, around double the February 2020 postings. Bury’s job market has recovered well from the pandemic, with key occupations seeing high levels of vacancies. **Demand has been largely driven by the public sector** – roles in Education and Healthcare have led the vacancy market since the recovery. Teaching assistants, nurses, and carers are the top 3 in-demand roles. **Sales occupations feature more prominently in Bury than other regions** – both customer service and account management roles feature in the top ten

Bury Growth Sectors (2013 – 2023)

- Rapid growth in Food and Drink Manufacturing (over 1,000 workers, up 332%) over the past 10 years. Has included growth in the **local focus of more advanced food manufacturing** (ready meal preparation rather than raw materials). Employers like Cranswick and Dunsters’ Farm have expanded sites in the past decade. Additionally, Bury sees a good amount of workers employed in Grain Mills.
- Growth in Appliances & Personal Goods (around 220 workers) **driven almost entirely by expansion of AO.com site** in Bury – roles include HQ-type roles in finance/sales/marketing, in addition to roles supply goods in warehousing and shipping.
- **Automotive Services employers in Bury have significantly grown**, adding 1,500 staff over the past decade. This includes some manufacturing of car components, but primarily the growth has been seen in vehicle repair and maintenance and sales.

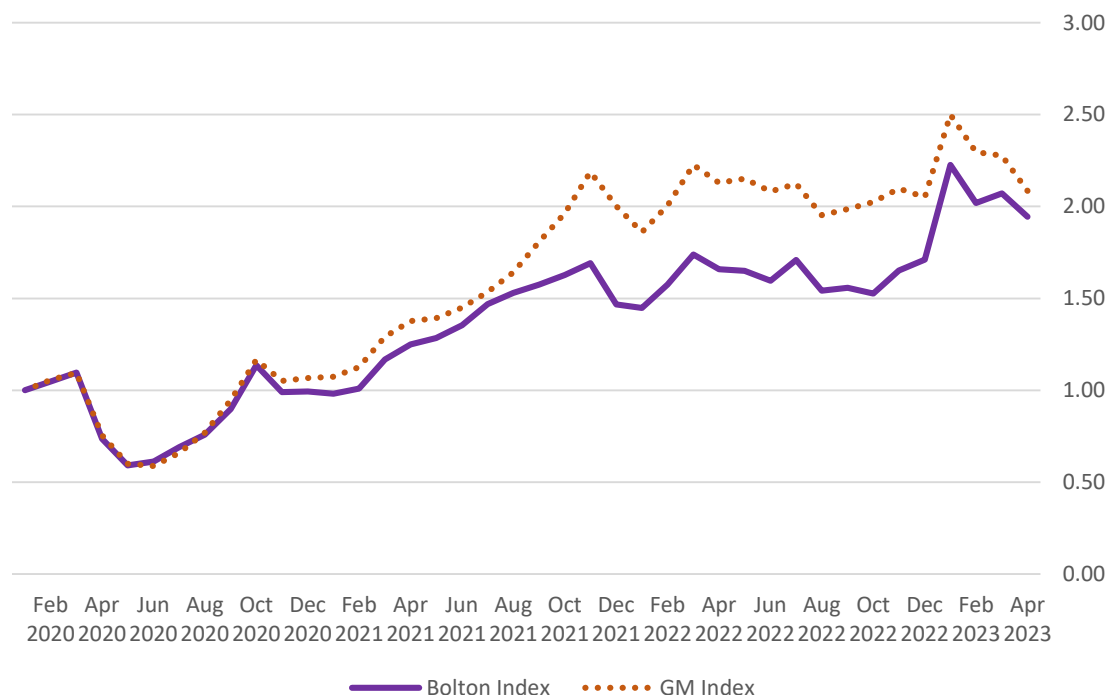
Bury Declining Sectors (2013 – 2023)

- A stark decline in utilities workers from 1,404 to 182 (-87%) is **likely explained by a large operator like Electricity North West or United Utilities moving a site out of the region**. The drop is large enough to warrant further investigation, however.
- Drops in both local transport (-56%) and civil engineering (-40%) reflect some other areas, and are likely **due to consolidation taking place in these sectors**, where transport operators and civil engineering firms have moved staff into more central locations.
- Declining employment in Sport and Leisure (-50%) is **partly explained by the winding down of Bury FC** after financial difficulties forced the club into administration in 2020.

Bolton (2013 – 2023)

Growth Sector	2013 Employees	2023 Employees	% Growth
Utilities	160	1,250	681%
Metal Manufacturing	286	591	109%
Defence Manufacturing	997	1,937	94%
Logistics and eCommerce	4,609	8,482	84%
Business Services	1,524	2,358	55%

Job Postings - Indexed to January 2020



March 2023 saw around **7,000 roles advertised in Bolton – around double vs. pre-pandemic**. As with many areas of GM, Bolton sees high demand for **foundation economy workers, with a focus on healthcare and education**. The Top 10 also includes **Business Services type roles**, with Bookkeepers (1,289 roles advertised since Jan 2020), Accountants (1,133), and Sales Representatives (1,095). **Large professional services firms like Keoghs & AXA, and Manufacturing firms like MBDA and Warburtons** recruit a lot of workers from the surrounding area.

Bolton Growth Sectors (2013 – 2023)

- **Large increase in Logistics employment over the past 10 years – nearly doubling from 4,609 to 8,482.** Driven by consumer habits – increasing online shopping, reverse logistics, and retail businesses pushing into eCommerce during pandemic.
- Likely driven by a single firm (MBDA), there has been a **big expansion in high-skilled manufacturing jobs in Defence Manufacturing**. Average wages for employers in a sector like this are well above the median - £36,278 per annum.
- **A strong growth in Business Services has seen large insurance, finance, and professional services firms move to Bolton and expand** in the past 10 years. Around 800 workers were added to the sector since 2013, generally in well-paid roles

Bolton Declining Sectors (2013 – 2023)

- **Decline in tourism and visitor economy jobs (down by 34%)** over the past 10 years likely driven by changes in consumer habits (less attendance of live events). Bolton's decline is above the national decline in this sector (down 8.5%)
- Workers employed in **public sector roles have declined since 2013**. Bolton saw a **particularly stark drop in 2020 as many workers left the public sector** (particularly administrative and health and social care roles) during the pandemic, and didn't return.
- General **decline in "downstream" manufacturing – chemicals, furniture, plastics, metals, etc.** as manufacturers adopted increased automation or shifted to higher value products, reducing the production jobs available by around 600-700.