GC SITUATION REPORT AND QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 1ST DECEMBER 2023

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1. ECONOMY - ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND SURVEY HEADLINES

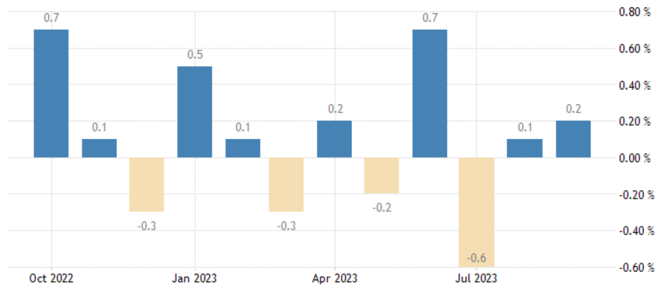
The GC Situation Report for November 2023 contains leading economic data from both national and local sources. This month's survey report findings are based on 277 surveys completed between 1st September and 27th November 2023. Comparison can be made with Q2-2023 based on 547 responses completed between 1st June and 1st September - these results are shown in brackets. The profile is broadly representative of the GM business base, but for an over-representation of SMEs, Manufacturing, DCT firms, and under-representation of Retail and Tourism & Hospitality businesses – broadly reflecting the main clients in the Business Growth Hub and MIDAS.

UK Economic context. The UK economic forecast presents a nuanced picture: growth is anticipated, albeit at a slower pace, with GDP projected to increase by only 0.5% in the medium term compared to earlier estimates. Inflation, despite an expected fall below 5% by year-end, and a further decrease to 2.8% by 2024, isn't anticipated to hit the 2% target until the first half of 2025. Consequently, interest rates are expected to remain elevated to curb inflation. This adjustment in growth estimates—down by 1.6% from previous forecasts for 2023/24 —is attributed to shifts in the working-age population, impacting average hours per worker. Over the next three years, factors like squeezed real wages, heightened interest rates, and the phasing out of government support are poised to bear down on economic activity. However, growth is anticipated to finally rebound, reaching 1.4% in 2025 and averaging 1.9% between 2026 and 2028 as real wage pressures ease and interest rates recede, narrowing the output gap. Despite this, real GDP per person is expected to trail pre-pandemic levels until 2025 before a gradual recovery, rising to 1.7% in 2028.

On the fiscal front, there is some positive news amid concerns. Government borrowing in the financial year's first half saw a substantial £19.8 billion reduction propelled by robust receipt growth. Tax revisions outlined in the Autumn Statement are anticipated to alleviate the burden by 0.7% of GDP, yet this doesn't prevent a projected rise in tax burdens to a post-war high of 37.7% of GDP by 2028-29. Government spending, however, is predicted to decrease as a share of the economy, declining from 44.8% to 42.7% of GDP, mainly due to reduced debt interest payments as RPI inflation falls. Despite this, national debt has risen to nearly 100% of GDP and is projected to hover around 94% by the OBR forecast's conclusion. Although borrowing is set to decrease steadily from 5% to 1.1% of GDP by 2028-2029, reduced departmental expenditures, and declining debt interest costs, the adjustments in the current forecast entail varied impacts on the targets - against debt reduction and borrowing - offsetting a substantial portion of the headroom observed prior to policy measures outlined in the Autumn Statement.

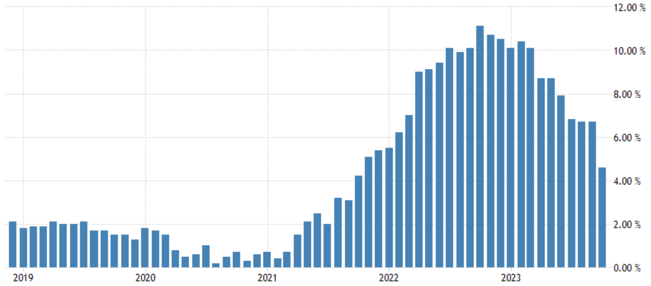
GC Survey headlines. Business confidence remains strong in the face of difficult economic circumstances. However, the main risks of rising costs, decreased sales, minor supply chain and cashflow issues remain. Cost risks have decreased in the latest survey but remain a major problem for just over a third of firms. Over four-fifths of firms have reserves to last over 6 months, a slight fall from the previous month. Cashflow problems have increased slightly and continue to affect just a tenth of businesses as a serious risk, and there has been a slight decrease in firms reporting late payments. The proportion that reported they still need to increase domestic sales has slightly increased and remains a challenge; and the main business support needs are business planning, marketing, innovation and workforce development. Finally, the proportion of firms in Greater Manchester recruiting has decreased slightly from last month and just over a half of firms still report workforce skill gaps, and these are mostly linked to sales and managing skills. The main skills/experience in demand currently include customer sales, general management and leadership skills, and time management - these are alongside a range of various specialist technical skills and knowledge of products/services specific to the business / industry.

UK GDP grew by 0.2% in September 2023



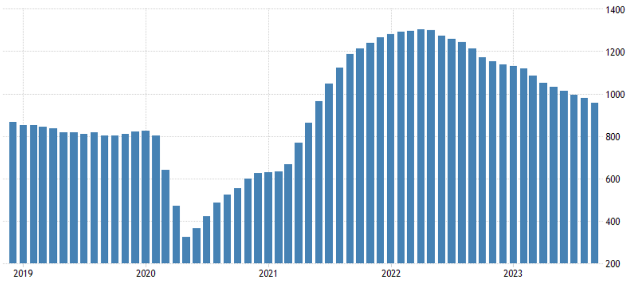
- **UK GDP grew by 0.2% in September 2023, following a downwardly revised 0.1% growth in August and beating forecasts of a flat reading.** The services sector was the main contributor to growth, led by an increase in professional service activities and human health & social work. The construction sector grew by 0.4%, rebounding from a 0.8% fall in August. Output in consumer facing services ell by 0.2% after a fall of 0.7% and production growth had no growth after contracting 0.5%.

UK Inflation dropped to 4.6% in October 2023



- **Annual inflation rate in the UK held steady at 4.6% in October 2023, down from 6.7% in September and August, falling short of market expectations of 4.8%.** This marks the lowest rate since October 2021 due to a recent reduction in energy prices, cost of housing & utilities, with both gas and electricity costs falling by the most since 1989. Food inflation eased and consumer prices slowed (transport, restaurant & hotels etc); and inflation eased to 5.7%, the lowest since March 2022.

UK Vacancy numbers continue to decline in October 2023



- **The number of vacancies nationally,** from July to September 2023 was 957,000, a decrease of 58,000 from the May to July period, the 16th consecutive period to see a quarterly fall and the lowest numbers of vacancies since May to July 2021. Vacancies fell in 16 of 18 industries. Both real estate and tourism and leisure decreased the most, falling by 35% and 19.6% respectively.

1. ECONOMY - SECTOR INSIGHT AND PURCHASING MANAGER INDICES

VisitBritain's Domestic Consumer Sentiment Tracker, conducted from November 1st to 7th 2023, aims to gauge the British public's inclination towards domestic and international travel amid factors like the cost-of-living crisis. The tracker shows travel attitudes, intentions for day trips, short breaks, and holidays, scrutinizing aspects like travel timing, destinations, and preferred accommodations. Notably, the findings highlight a 47% perception among respondents that the worst of the cost-of-living crisis is yet to come, marking a slight increase from October 2023. Despite this, there's a 77% intention for UK overnight trips within the next 12 months, showing a marginal decrease from the previous month, whereas the intention for overseas trips stands at 61%, marking a minor increase. The primary barriers to immediate travel in the next six months include the rising cost of living, UK weather concerns, and personal financial constraints. London, the South West, and Scotland rank as top destinations for overnight stays from November to December 2023, with hotels being the preferred accommodation choice.

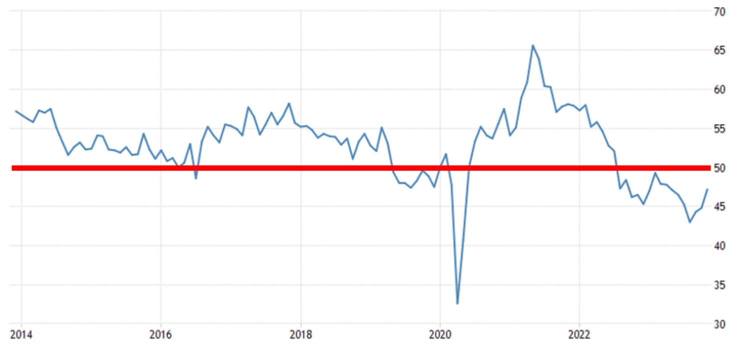
The Greater Manchester Hotel Performance Monitor for September 2023 (source: Marketing Manchester), reveals promising occupancy levels in both Greater Manchester and Manchester city centre, reaching 83%. This marks an improvement from the summer months and surpasses the 2019 baseline. Over a third of the nights in September saw occupancy rates soaring to 90% or higher, initiating what's typically a busy period for visitor accommodations between September and November. The average daily rate remains notably elevated in line with prevailing economic conditions, following the usual seasonal patterns.

Retail spending: Retail sales in the UK fell by 0.3% in October 2023, following an upwardly revised 1.1% decrease in September and falling short of the market consensus of a 0.3% growth. Specialist food stores and alcohol & tobacco stores reported falls. Trade at non-food stores dropped due in part to the rising cost of living, reduced footfall, and the wet weather. Clothing stores, household goods stores and department store declined whilst online trade rose.

Consumer confidence: The GfK Consumer Confidence Index rose to -24 in November 2023 from -30 in October. November's reading also exceeded forecasts for a slight improvement to -28, with all five components that make up the index rising from the previous month as consumers appeared more optimistic about their finances.

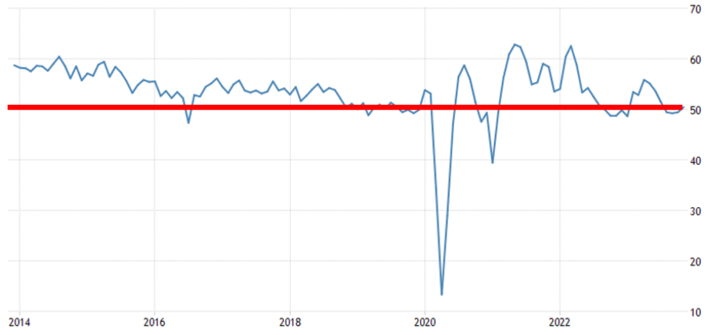
The number of registered company insolvencies in October 2023 was 2,315, 18% higher than in the same month in the previous year (1,954 in October 2022). This was higher than levels seen while the Government support measures were in place in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and higher than pre-pandemic numbers. The company insolvencies consisted of 256 compulsory liquidations, 1,889 creditors' voluntary liquidations (CVLs), 146 administrations, 23 company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) and one receivership appointment. Numbers of compulsory liquidations, CVLs, CVAs and administrations were all higher than in October 2022. The increase in company insolvencies was driven mostly by CVLs, while compulsory liquidation and administration numbers increased from historically low numbers seen during and immediately after the pandemic, returning to close to 2019 levels.

The S&P Global/CIPS Manufacturing PMI



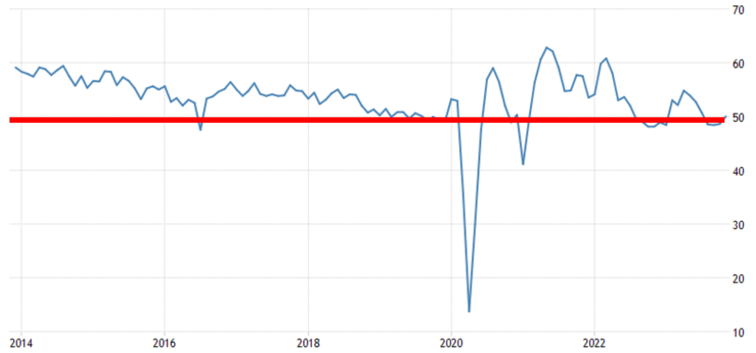
- **The S&P Global/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI** came in at 47.2 in November 2023, indicating a contraction (below 50), surpassing the initial estimate of 46.7 and October's 44.8. Output continued its decline amidst reports of weakened domestic demand, reduced intake of new export business, and destocking activities observed both among manufacturers and their clients. New orders experienced an eighth consecutive month of decline, with new export business dwindling for a 22nd straight month. Employment also sustained a downward trend.

The S&P Global/CIPS Service PMI



- **The S&P Global/CIPS UK Services PMI** was 49.5 in November 2023, slightly up from 49.3 in October 2023, indicating a contraction (below 50), beating market expectations of a faster slowdown of 49.2. The result marked a fourth consecutive contraction in the UK services sector activity. New business sales recorded a fresh contraction in the period, pressured by deteriorating business conditions as the UK economy feels the impact of higher interest rates at a larger extent. Output from service providers booked a slight expansion.

The S&P Global/CIPS Composite PMI



- **The S&P Global/CIPS UK Composite PMI** was 50.1 in November 2023, slightly up from 48.7 in October, exceeding market expectations of 48.7. The reading indicates a stabilisation of UK private sector output after marginal reductions in the previous three months. The service economy improved slightly and the downturn in manufacturing production softened. However, total new order intakes declined for the fifth consecutive month. The rate of input price inflation slightly increased from October's 33-month low.

2. BUSINESSS - LOCAL SURVEY HEADLINES

Last quarter's survey results shown in brackets

GROWTH, BUSINESS CONFIDENCE AND INVESTMENT

- **GC Business Confidence Index (GC-BCI).** This is a ranking of how confident businesses are on their growth prospects for the year ahead, currently stands at 7.4 out of 10, similar to previous quarter, and broadly similar to the average for the last year. The GC-BCI is higher this quarter compared to the last quarter in Education, Construction, Health & Social Care, Green-tech/utilities/waste management, and Retail.
- **Sales and profits.** 23% (vs 28% previously) of firms reported that they experienced an increase in sales in the latest quarter, and 64% expect profits to increase (vs 63%), slightly higher than the same time last quarter. Just 2% (vs 3%) expect profits to decrease. Whilst there has been a slight fall in sales sentiment, the main sectors expressing an increase in future sales were Education and Manufacturing sectors.
- **Investment.** 38% (vs 42%) of firms expect to increase Capex spend in the year ahead. Construction are most likely to state they intend to increase Capex overall 50% (vs 45%), Green-tech 63% (vs 55%), Manufacturing (excluding Engineering), 46% (vs 40%). Sectors most likely to looking to increase invest in workforce development are Construction (60%), Hospitality (56%), and Health and Social care (53%). Hospitality (61%) and Education (50%) were most likely to indicate an increase in spend on digital transformation in the year ahead.

MAIN IMPACTS AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

- **Impacts.** The main impacts of the current economic climate that have affected firms across Q3 are rising costs 36% (vs 44% previously), minor supply chain issues 16% (vs 21%), and cashflow issues 16% (vs 15%).
- **Cash reserves.** 79% (vs 69%) of firms report that they have cash reserves to last over 6 months. 90% of SMEs with 10-249 employees have cash reserves to last over 6 months. Reserves were highest in DCT (24%) and Manufacturing (19%), and BFPS (18%). The biggest increase in reserves was reported by Manufacturing, as well as larger SMEs.
- **Cashflow.** 16% (vs 15%) of firms said they had cashflow problems. Micro-size firms (<5 employees) were more likely to report cashflow issues compared to SMEs (10-249 FTEs). Cashflow risks were more likely to be reported by Tourism and Hospitality firms, Health and Social Care, and in Creative Industries (a sub-sector of Digital and Creative).
- **Local insolvency risk indicators.** Of the 19,531 with 10 or more employees in Greater Manchester (and a risk-rating score) 7,234, 37% (40% UK) have a provisional 1 RedFlag (i.e. indicating initial/early risk). 1,631, 8% (8% UK) have one red-flag = low-risk, 86, 0.4% (0.5% UK) have 2 red flags, = medium-risk, 82, 0.4% (0.4% UK) have 3 red flags, insolvency imminent.

FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT NEEDS

- **The main pressing challenges facing business.** Access to new domestic sales opportunities 61% (vs 58%), (highest impacts in Green-tech, Construction and Healthcare), managing business finances, in-particular cashflow 37% (vs 43%), developing the business model 37% (vs 41%), developing new products / services 34% (vs 30%), and addressing workforce development/skills challenges 26% (vs 26%).
- **The main areas of future support.** Looking further to the year ahead, the main support areas identified are business planning 48% (vs 43%), marketing 40% (vs 33%), innovation (30% vs 29%), workforce development 30% (vs 29%), and financial advice 28% (vs 25%). One-in-ten firms (vs 19%) are looking address their environmental impact.
- **EU transition.** 55% (60% previously) of firms said the impact of transition from the EU had a 'neutral' impact, whereas 13% (vs 16%) said 'negative', 31% (vs 23%) 'unsure', 0% (vs <1%) positive' overall.
- **International trade.** 8% (vs 10%) of firms undertaking overseas trade said they were looking to expand in current markets. 7% of micro-size firms (0-9 employees) are looking to expand in new markets - and mainly those firms within the Retail & Wholesale sectors, and firms within both Manufacturing and Engineering sectors.

RERUITMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS ISSUES

- **Recruitment.** 26% (vs 24% previously) of firms surveyed are currently recruiting new staff, and 16% (vs 17%) said they had difficulties recruiting. The main occupational groups recruiting are for customer facing roles (41% vs 35%), managerial roles (14% vs 13%), and a variety of other roles 'not elsewhere classified' (10% vs 12%).
- **Workforce skill gaps.** 49% (vs 51%) of firms said that their workforce skills are only 'partly' at the level to meet business plan objectives.
- **The main technical skill gaps** (broadly similar to last quarter) relate to specialist technical skills 35% (vs 35%), knowledge of products/services 11% (vs 12%), solving complex problems 8% (vs 10%), and advanced specialist IT skills 8% (vs 9%).
- **The main people and personal skill gaps** are sales 18% (vs 17%), customer handling 10% (vs 7%), and motivating staff 13% (vs 10%).

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

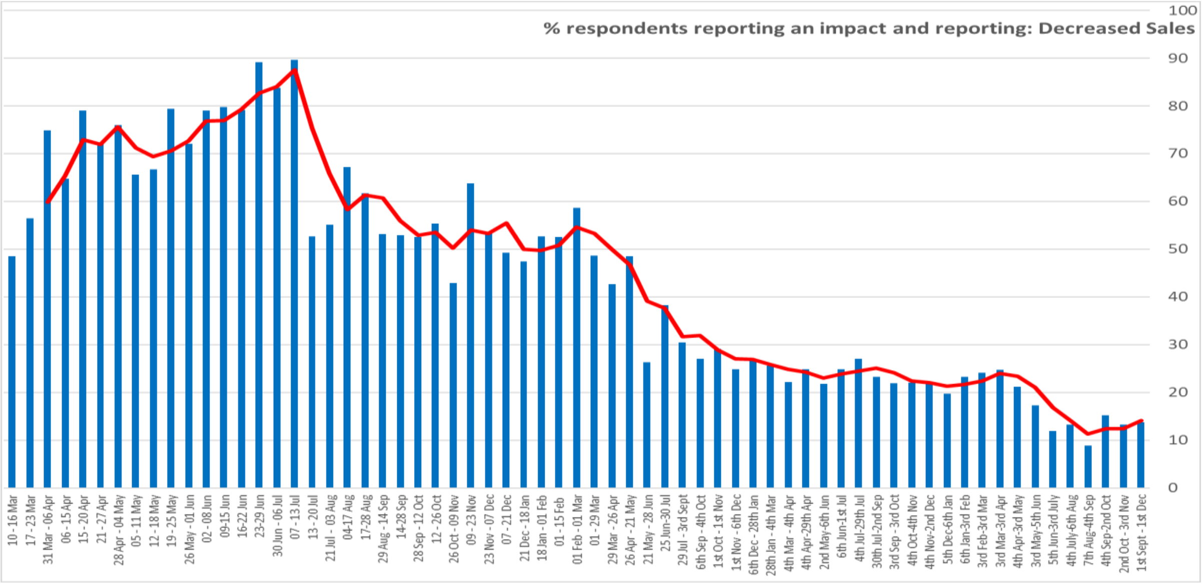
- **Innovation activity.** 30% (29% previously) have invested in new / significantly improved services, 22% (vs 26%) implemented new business practices, 20% (21%) of firms introduced new / significantly improved goods, and 14% (11%) introduced new methods for production/supply of goods/services.
- **Digital innovation.** 6% (vs 6%) of firms have invested in the acquisition of digital products or digital services specifically for innovation during the quarter; and 4% (4%) had made investments in the acquisition of advanced machinery or equipment - specifically for innovation.
- **Main sources of innovation.** The top 3 sources of innovation within firms were 41% (vs 47%) said staff within their own business , 20% (vs 21%) said clients / customers; and 9% (vs 9%) public sector clients.
- **The main barriers to growing innovation.** 16% (vs 17%) cited direct innovation costs are too high, 9% (vs 11%) stated lack of qualified personnel, 20% (vs 19%) said availability of finance. 23% (vs 24%) said that they no current barriers to innovation.

SOCIAL VALUE AND GOOD EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

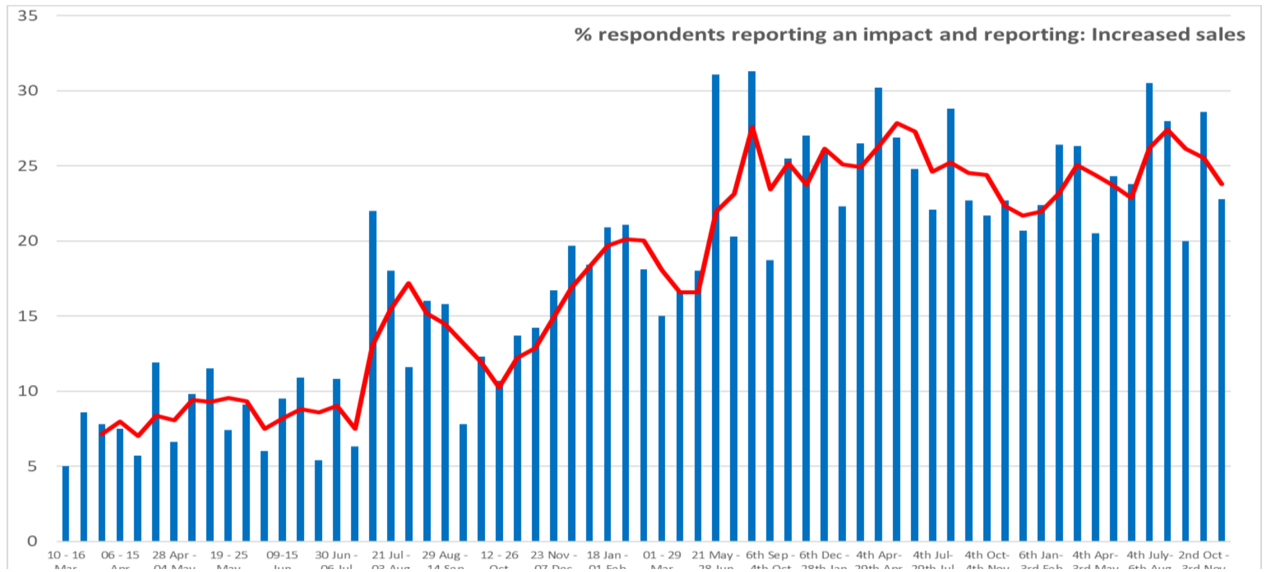
- **Businesses are asked the extent to which they have/consider:-**
- **Guarantee at least 16 hours of work per week for workers.** 69% (70% previously) said this currently applies, and 17% (vs 12%) said they were likely to include this in future.
- **Pay the Real Living Wage.** 67% (68%) said this currently applies, and 20% said they were likely to include in future.
- **Offer flexible working options to employees.** 57% (53%) said this currently applies, and 19% said they were likely to include in future.
- **Involve employees in the overall direction of the business.** 34% (39%) said this currently applies. 18% said they were likely to do in future.
- **Actively look to increase the diversity of the workforce.** 48% (49%) said this currently applies, and 27% said likely to include in future.
- **Actively promote healthy work practices.** 47% (48%) said this currently applies, and 23% said they were likely to include in future.

2. BUSINESS - SURVEY DATA TIME SERIES OF MAIN IMPACTS OF ECONOMY ON BUSINESS

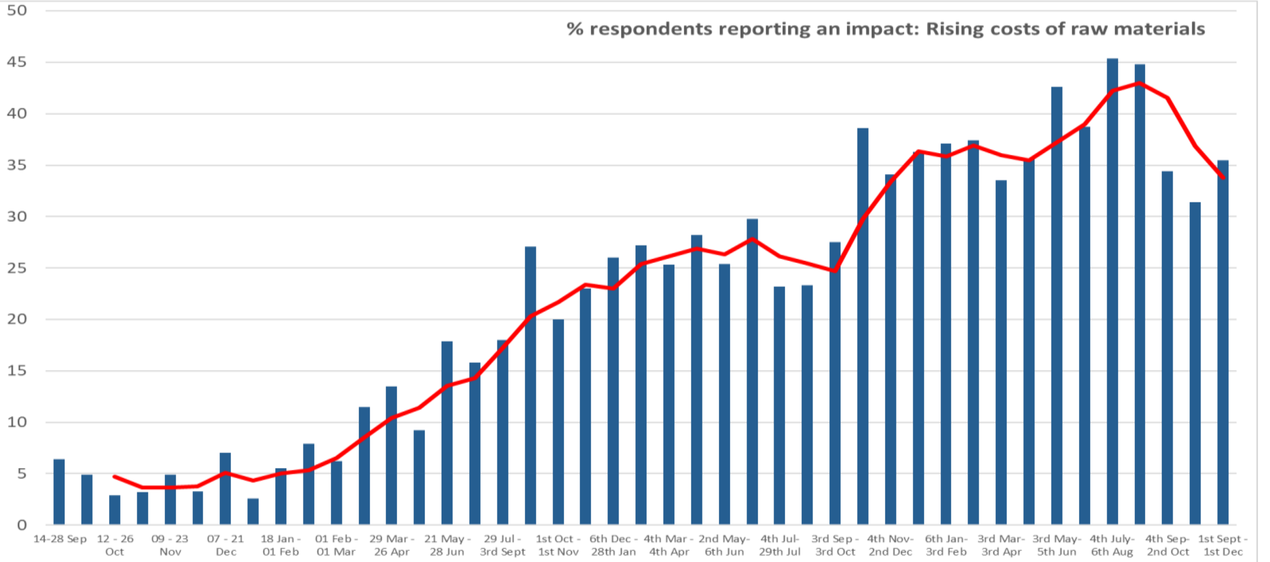
Decreased Sales (Red line = 3 week moving average)



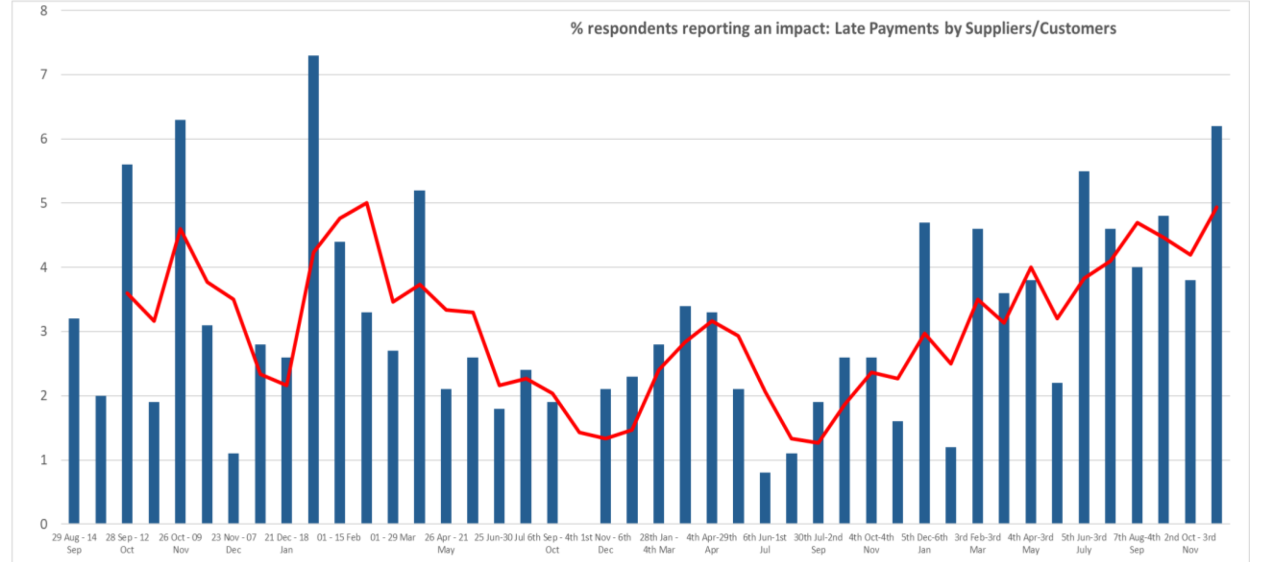
Increased sales



Rising costs

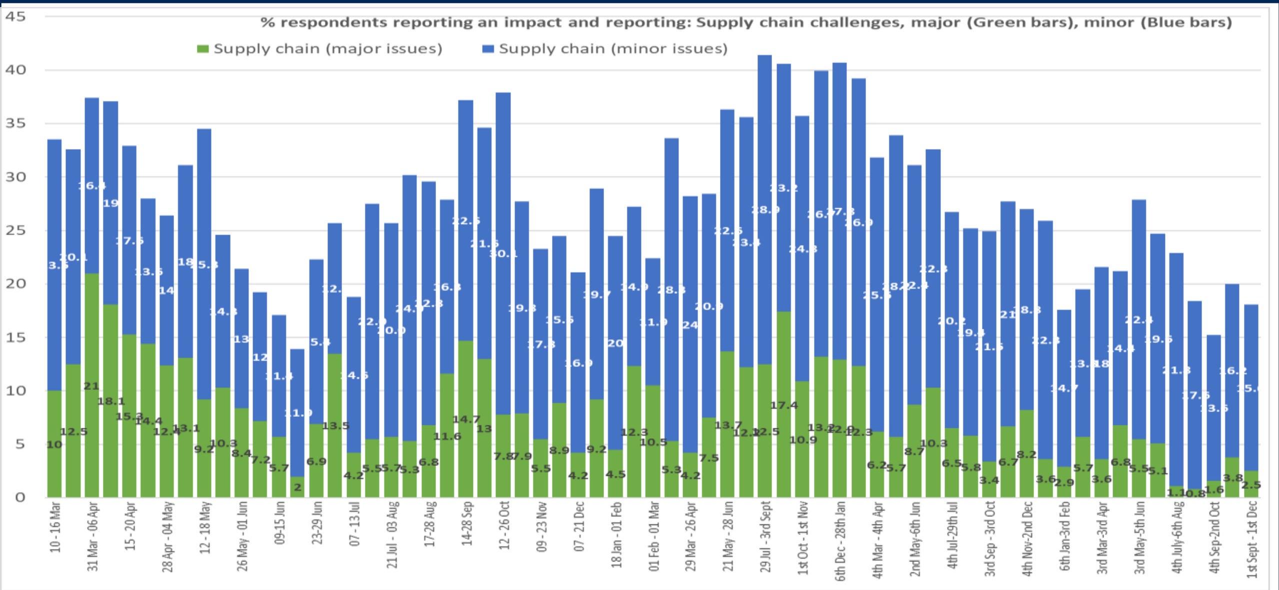


Late payments

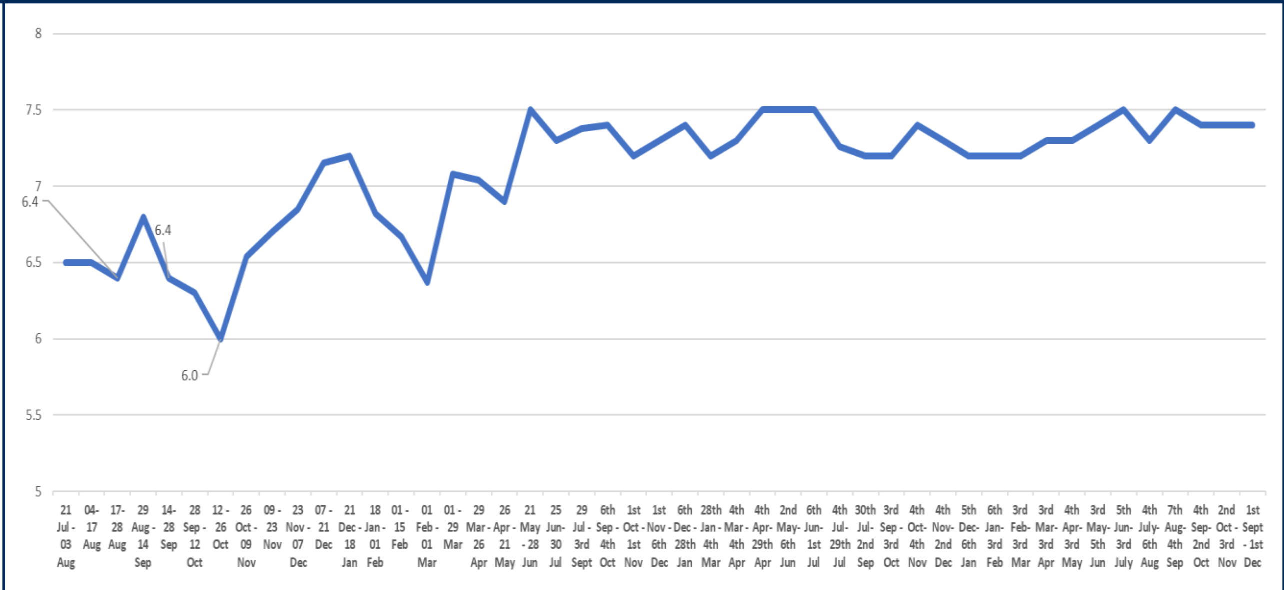


2. BUSINESS - SURVEY DATA TIME SERIES OF MAIN IMPACTS OF ECONOMY ON BUSINESS

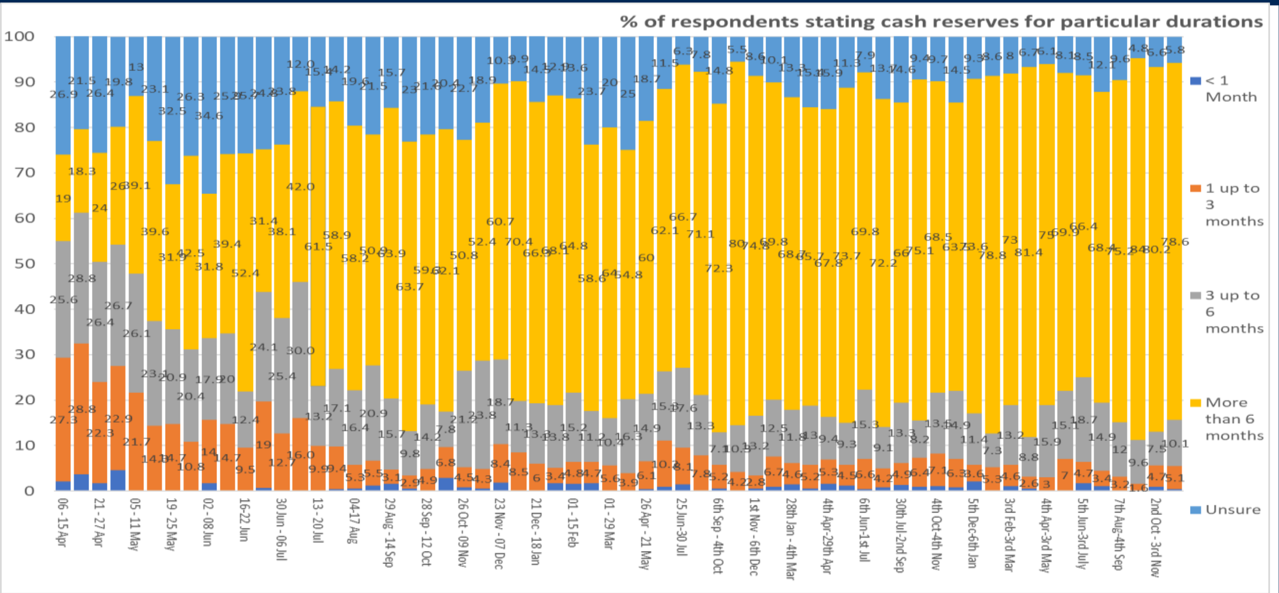
Percentage reporting minor supply chain issues (blue), major issues (green)



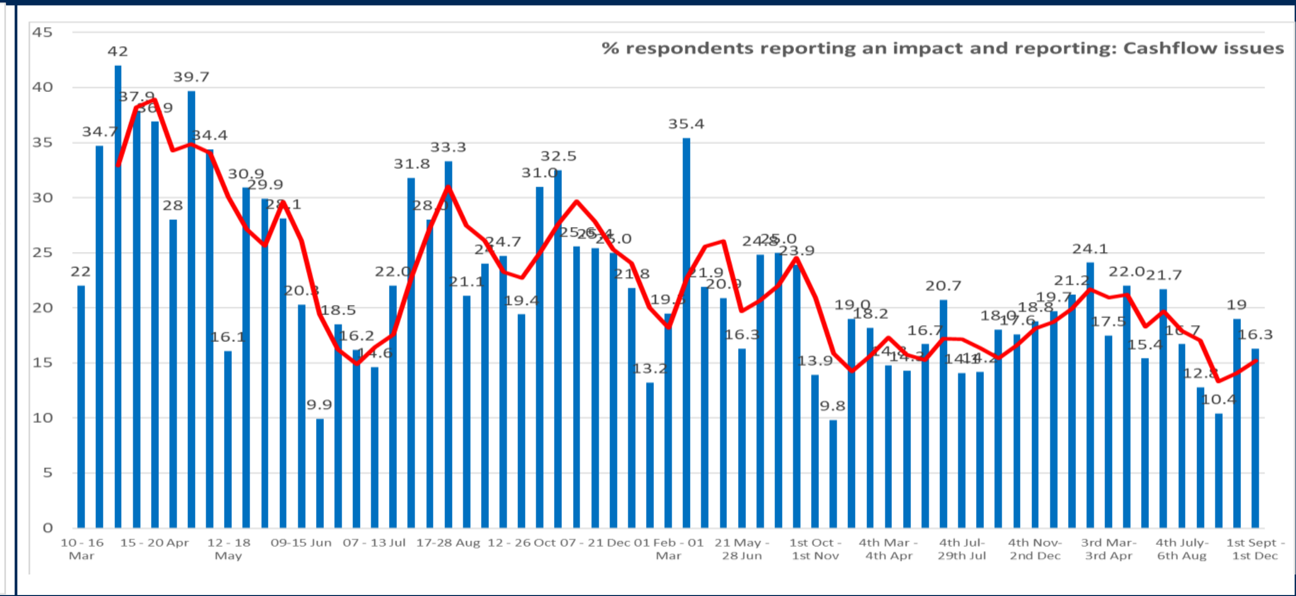
Aggregate confidence index – 1 low confidence, 10 high confidence



Percentage of respondents stating cash reserves can sustain certain periods of time



Percentage reporting cashflow problems



3. PEOPLE - LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE ONS - AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023

Employment rate (all aged 16 to 64)

Adjusted experimental employment rate (all aged 16 to 64): 75.7%

Quarterly change: ▼-0.1pps

Since Dec-Feb 2020: ▼-0.9pps

The adjusted experimental employment rate is down on the quarter but up on the year, and is still below pre-pandemic rates.

Unemployment rate (all aged 16+)

Adjusted experimental unemployment rate (all aged 16+): 4.2%

Quarterly change: ◀▶ 0.0pps

Since Dec-Feb 2020: ▲0.2pps

The adjusted experimental unemployment rate is unchanged on the quarter but up on the year, and above pre-pandemic rates.

Adjusted experimental inactivity rate (al aged 16 to 64)

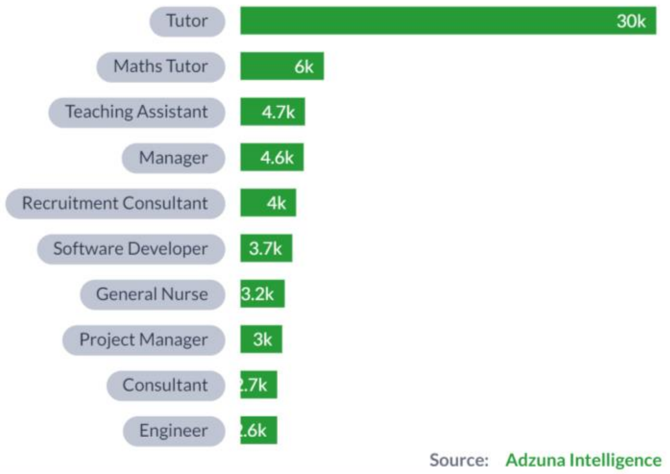
Adjusted experimental economic inactivity rate (all aged 16 to 64): 20.9%

Quarterly change: ◀▶ 0pps

Since Dec-Feb 2020: ▲0.7pps

The adjusted experimental economic inactivity rate is unchanged on the quarter and down on the year, still above pre-pandemic rates.

GM: In-demand occupations by count



- Occupations with the highest number of postings in Greater Manchester, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023 (from Adzuna), are tutors, teaching assistants, general managerial roles.

GM: In demand occupations by Location Quotient vs UK

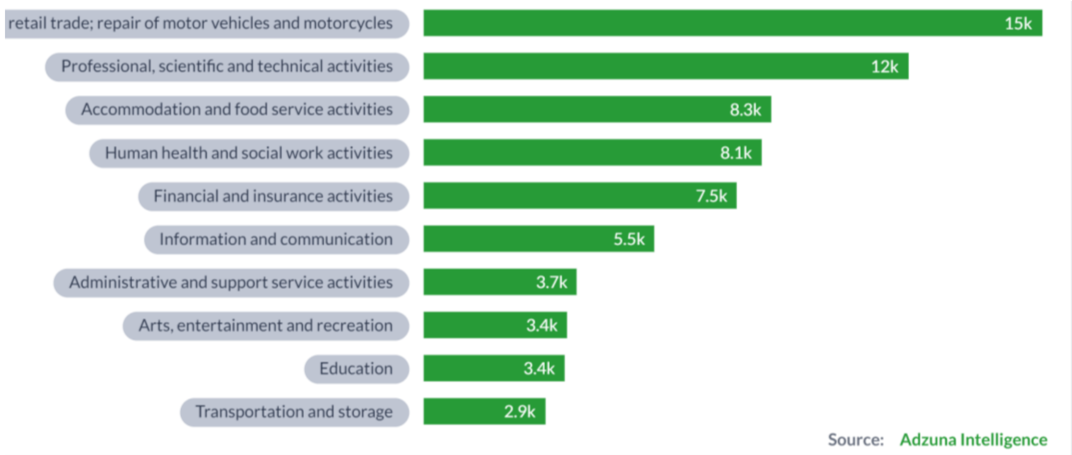
- Occupations in Greater Manchester with the highest interest quotient on the Adzuna website, 29/05/2023-29/11/2023, are warehouse workers, lorry drivers, and customer service workers.

GM: Shift in occupations occupations in last 6 months

- Occupations showing the highest shifts in demand in Greater Manchester, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023. are food production workers, business administration, and legal secretarial workers.

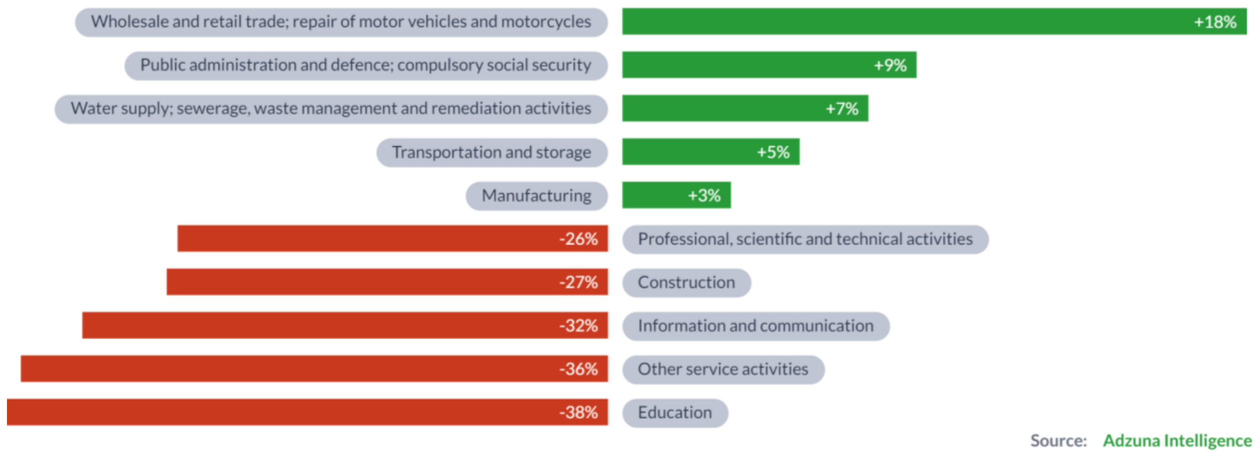
3. PEOPLE - LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE ADZUNA - AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023

GM: In-demand industry sectors by count



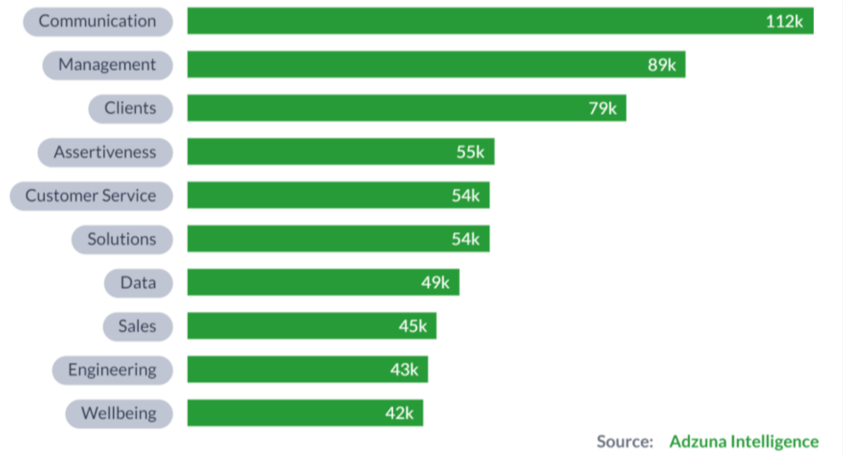
- Industries (SIC 2007) with the highest number of postings in Greater Manchester, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023, are retail, professional services, and accommodation / food services.

GM: Change within In-demand industry sectors



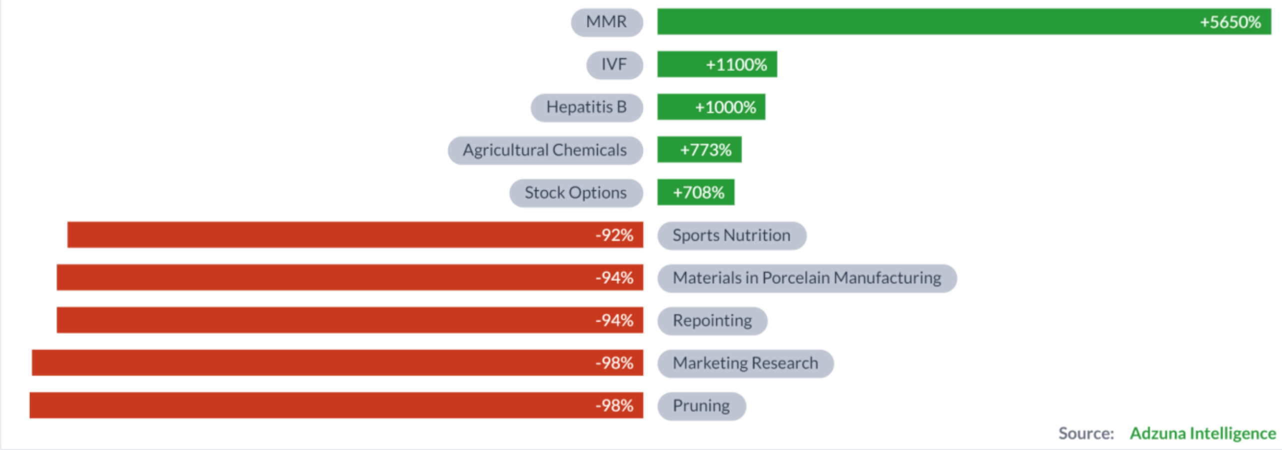
- Industries (SIC 2007) showing the highest increase in postings in Greater Manchester, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023, are wholesale & retail, public administration, and utilities / waste management roles.

GM: In-demand skills by number of postings



- Skills with the highest number of postings in United Kingdom, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023, are communication, management, client management, assertiveness, and customer services.

GM: In-demand skills by number of postings



- Skills showing the highest INCREASE in demand (postings) in United Kingdom, 29/05/2023 - 29/11/2023, are in pharmaceutical preparation, and managing stocks .

SUMMARY HEADLINES FROM THE AUTUMN STATEMENT 2023

BUSINESS AND GROWTH

- Investment Zones. The Government has announced further details on the Investment Zones programme, including an extension from 5 to 10 years and further detail of the GM Investment Zone. This is the subject of a supplementary briefing.
- R&D. The Autumn Statement includes £750m on UK R&D this financial year, including £250m long-term Discovery Fellowships, £145m for new business innovation support, and support to establish a National Academy focussed on mathematical sciences.
- Future Fund: Breakthrough. The British Business Bank's Future Fund: Breakthrough programme will be extended by at least £50m.
- £4.5bn manufacturing sector support. Funding of £4.5bn over five years (starting in 24/25) has been announced to help unlock private investment in strategic manufacturing sectors. This includes ~£2bn for the automotive sector (zero emission vehicles), ~£1bn for the aerospace sector, and ~£0.5bn for life sciences. It also includes £960m for the Green Industries Growth Accelerator, which will support investments in manufacturing capabilities for Carbon Capture, hydrogen, offshore wind, electricity networks, and nuclear.
- Made Smarter. Expanded to all regions, with up to £16m in 2025-26.

BUSINESS TAXATION

- Full expensing to be made permanent. This means companies will be able to write off ("fully expense") the full cost of qualifying main rate plant and machinery investment in the year of investment. This means companies get up to 25p off their tax bill for every £1 that they invest. It extends a temporary policy announced in a previous fiscal event.
- Business rates. The small business multiplier will be frozen for another year, while the 75% Retail Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) relief will be extended again for 2024-25. The standard multiplier will be uprated in line with September's CPI. Changes will take effect from 1 April 2024 in England. English Local Authorities will be fully compensated for the loss of income and receive new burdens funding for administrative and IT costs.
- R&D Tax Reliefs. The current R&D Expenditure Credit (RDEC) for larger firms and the SME schemes will be merged from April 2024 onwards. The rate at which loss-making companies are taxed within the merged scheme will be reduced from 25% to 19, the intensity threshold will be reduced from 40% to 30%, and a one-year grace period will be introduced for companies who dip under the 30% threshold for a single year.
- **LINK TO AUTUMN STAEMENT:**
  [Autumn Statement 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)]

TAX AND BENEFITS

- NICs. The main rate of Class 1 employee National Insurances Contributions (NICs) will be cut from 12% to 10%. This will begin in Jan 2024, not in April as is normally the case. The main rate of Class 4 self-employed NICs will also fall from 9% to 8% (from usual date of April 24). Class 2 self-employed NICs will be abolished. For now, ratepayers will broadly continue to get access to benefits they currently receive with further detail on Class 2 reform due next year.
- National Living Wage (NLW). The NLW (not the Real Living Wage agreed by the Living Wage Foundation) will increase by 9.8% to £11.44 an hour, and the age threshold will fall so that people are eligible at age 21 (not the current threshold of age 23).
- Universal Credit (UC). UC and the other main working age benefits will go up by 6.7% (based on the annual inflation rate as measured in Sept 23).
- The Pensions Triple Lock has been maintained, with an increase next year in line with average earnings increases in the economy of 8.5%,
- Local Housing Allowance rates in Great Britain will be raised to the 30th percentile of local market rents in April 24. However, this will be a one-off increase then frozen in cash terms and so will again begin to fall relative to market rates over the following years.

EMPLOYMENT – BACK TO WORK PLAN

- The Government announced a Back to Work Plan, worth £2.5bn over 5 years in the days running up to the Statement, and includes a range of commitments.
- Additional JCP Support and Restart. £1.3bn will be spent establishing by stablishing an end-to-end process that supports and incentivises unemployed Universal Credit claimants to find work – including by expanding Additional Jobcentre Support and strengthening Restart.
- Sanctions. There will be further strengthening of the sanctions regime by (i) closing the claims of people who have been on open-ended sanction for six months and only get the standard UC allowance, (ii) additional reviews of people who've been on open-ended sanctions for over 8 weeks, and (iii) tracking jobseeker attendance at JCP organised jobs fairs / interviews.
- There will be a new three-phase offer of support – including additional jobcentre support in the first 6 months, an expanded and improved Restart programme from 6-12 months, and new time-limited mandatory work placements from 12 months plus. The Government has indicated the people may have their UC claim closed if they do not comply with these placements.
- The Government will expand Individual Placement and Support for Severe Mental Illness, offering an extra 100,000 places over the next five years, alongside expansion of Talking Therapies. The number of places on Universal Support will also rise to 100,000 a year.
- Reforms to the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). A supplementary document to the main Autumn Statement sets out the Governments response to a recent consultation on WCA, which focused on proposals to amend some of the functional activities and descriptors in the WCA "to reflect greater flexibility and availability of home-working".

PLANNING, HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE

- A new premium planning service will be introduced across England. This will enable Local Authorities to charge higher fees to fully recover the cost of dealing with major planning applications, in return for guaranteed accelerated decision dates. If these deadlines are missed applicants will receive fee refunds.
- There will be a consultation on amending the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure the planning system prioritises the rollout of EV charge points.
- Net Zero Infrastructure. The grid connection process will be reformed to cut waiting times and there will be a new Action Plan to halve the time to build new grid infrastructure (to seven years). This Plan will include proposals for community benefits for those who have infrastructure built near them (with up to £10,000 off electricity bills) and commissioning the Electricity System Operator to work with government to produce a new Strategic Spatial Energy Plan.
- There will be new Permitted Development Rights (PDRs) to end the blanket restriction on heat pumps one metre from a property boundary in England and to convert a property into two flats provided no change to external façade is needed.
- £450m has been allocated to the third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund, which will provide additional funding for new Temporary Accommodation.
- £120m funding for homelessness prevention has been announced, including to support Ukrainian households who can no longer remain in sponsorship.
- £5m has been announced to incentivise greater use of Local Development Orders in England to help key commercial projects secure planning permission faster.

OTHER DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED ALONGSIDE THE AUTUMN STATEMENT

Alongside the main Autumn Statement, a range of other supplementary and technical documents have been published. These include:	
Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding.	➢ This sets out more detail about how the Single Settlement agreed in the GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal will operate. It is the subject of a supplementary briefing ➢ Link: Memorandum of Understanding for the "Trailblazer" Single Settlements for Greater Manchester and West Midlands Combined Authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Level 4 Devolution Framework and New Devolution Deals	➢ The Government has agreed four new devolution deals at Levels 2-3 on the Devolution Framework (i.e. with powers already held by existing MCAs). It has also published a new 'Level 4' for the Devolution Framework setting out a new range of powers on offer to existing MCAs that meet the relevant eligibility criteria. In effect, these are a subset of the Trailblazer Deals agreed with GM and the West Midlands. ➢ Link: Technical paper on Level 4 devolution framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Scrutiny Protocol	➢ This presents 18 key principles that Government thinks should govern how overview and scrutiny committees should work in (Combined) Authorities subject to an enhanced devolution deal. It sets out important features of a single committee model (e.g. political and geographic balance, training, access to research, call in powers) as well as the importance of additional measures such as Mayor's Question Time. It is non statutory but considered key to implementation of Level 4 and single department-style funding settlements. ➢ Link: Scrutiny Protocol for English institutions with devolved powers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
The Harrington Review of Foreign Direct Investment	➢ Lord Harrington's Review examined how the UK could better attract foreign direct investment and Government has accepted all the headline recommendations in principle. This includes a new Ministerial Investment Group as well as increased resource for the Office for Investment. The Review also contains the potential for further funding at the next Spending Review for local investment promotion that could build on the commitments contained within the Trailblazer deeper devolution deal. ➢ Link: The Harrington Review of Foreign Direct Investment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Pro-Innovation Regulation of Technologies Review	➢ The Government has published the Review – announced at Autumn Statement 2022 – and its response alongside as supplementary documents. The Review examined how best the UK could regulate emerging technologies to encourage investment and growth and the government has accepted the majority of the recommendations. These include changes to the structure and resources available to DSIT and a commitment to streamline the regulatory landscape. ➢ Link: Pro-innovation Regulation of Technologies Review: Cross-Cutting - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Consultation on the Growth Duty	➢ This supplementary documentation begins consultation on the guidance underpinning the application of the 'Growth Duty' to the regulators Ofcom, Ofgem, Ofwat. The 'Growth Duty' establishes that a person exercising a specified regulatory function must have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth. This is part of an ongoing package of revisions to regulation designed to generate growth and reduce burdens on business. ➢ Link: Smarter Regulation: Consultation on extending the Growth Duty to the economic regulators Ofgem, Ofwat and Ofcom (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Getting Britain Building Again/Response to National Infrastructure Commission report on improving nationally significant infrastructure planning	➢ The Government has set out a new approach to major infrastructure projects to address the "drivers of delay, high costs and inefficiency". Proposed measures include building the capability and capacity of key local authority partners, and a commitment to securing community benefits in relation to significant infrastructure projects ➢ Link: Government response to the National Infrastructure Commission's report on Delivering net zero, climate resilience and growth: improving nationally significant infrastructure planning - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DATA APPENDIX

RESULTS FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 1ST DECEMBER 2023

(LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA COVERS THE 12 WEEKS AND INCLUDING 1ST DECEMBER 2023)

www.growthco.uk

SURVEY RESPONSE RATES FOR GM OVER TIME VS ONS ENTERPRISE UNIT PROFILE FOR GREATER MANCHESTER (EXCLUDES OUT OF AREA)

Size / Sector (as identified by the business) C = Confidential, response 6 or less *Percentages rounded to nearest figure* *Unknown size more likely with non-clients of BGH*	Greater Manchester ONS figures from IDBR Enterprise Count 2022		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (Q3-2023 combined, published for NOV 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (OCT 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (SEP 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (AUG 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (JULY 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (JUNE 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (MAY 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (APR 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (MAR 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (FEB 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (JAN 2023)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (DEC 2022)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (NOV 2022)		Greater Manchester Survey response rates only (OCT 2022)	
Size-band (employees)	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
'0' employment to 9 (MICRO)	95,190	**89%**	142	**51%**	62	**59%**	51	**41%**	72	58%	91	52%	107	**52%**	123	**48%**	70	**54%**	95	**50%**	94	**55%**	123	**53%**	98	**52%**	135	**57%**	119	**59%**
10 to 49 (SMALL)	9,890	**9%**	54	**20%**	17	**16%**	30	**24%**	20	16%	37	21%	44	**21%**	56	**22%**	32	**25%**	44	**23%**	40	**23%**	48	**21%**	45	**24%**	59	**25%**	63	**23%**
50 to 249 (MEDIUM)	1,615	**2%**	44	**16%**	14	**13%**	24	**19%**	16	13%	26	15%	29	**14%**	43	**17%**	16	**12%**	20	**11%**	14	**8%**	23	**10%**	17	**9%**	24	**11%**	30	**11%**
250+ (LARGE)	<300	**<1%**	21	**8%**	7	**7%**	12	**10%**	7	6%	8	5%	14	**7%**	16	**6%**	C	**<5%**	7	**<5%**	C	C	C	**<5%**	9	**5%**	10	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
UNKNOWN	C	C	16	**5%**	5	**5%**	8	**6%**	10	8%	12	7%	12	**6%**	18	**7%**	10	**8%**	24	**13%**	21	**12%**	33	**14%**	19	**10%**	8	**<5%**	13	**5%**
TOTAL (including size unknown)	**107,060**	**100%**	**277**	**100%**	**105**	**100%**	**125**	**100%**	**125**	**100%**	**174**	**100%**	**206**	**100%**	**256**	**100%**	**130**	**100%**	**190**	**100%**	**171**	**100%**	**232**	**100%**	**188**	**100%**	**236**	**100%**	**254**	**100%**
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHING	690	**1%**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	C	C	**C**	C	**C**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
BUSINESS, FINANCIAL, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	28,910	**27%**	50	**18%**	12	**11%**	28	**22%**	19	**15%**	24	**14%**	39	**19%**	30	**12%**	17	**13%**	29	**15%**	22	**13%**	41	**18%**	45	**24%**	45	**22%**	56	**21%**
CONSTRUCTION	12,860	**12%**	9	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	9	**5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	11	**6%**	5	**<5%**	11	**5%**	C	**<5%**	13	**6%**	C	**<5%**
DIGITAL, CREATIVE, TECHNOLOGY	6,295	**6%**	65	**23%**	24	**23%**	30	**24%**	29	**23%**	37	**21%**	42	**20%**	35	**14%**	16	**12%**	35	**18%**	34	**20%**	39	**17%**	36	**19%**	44	**21%**	36	**14%**
EDUCATION	1,605	**1%**	8	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	7	**<5%**	6	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	9	**5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
ENGINEERING	3,345	**3%**	7	**<5%**	C	**5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	9	**5%**	11	**5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	5	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
UTITIES, ENERGY, WATER, WASTE, GREENTECH	N/A	**0%**	11	**<5%**	C	**5%**	6	**5%**	10	**8%**	16	**9%**	11	**5%**	16	**6%**	C	**<5%**	6	**<5%**	5	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	4,950	**5%**	16	**6%**	C	**<5%**	8	**6%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	12	**6%**	19	**7%**	C	**<5%**	10	**5%**	3	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	13	**6%**	C	**<5%**
HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, & SPORT	13,950	**13%**	17	**6%**	11	**10%**	C	**<5%**	10	**8%**	10	**6%**	10	**5%**	15	**6%**	9	**7%**	12	**6%**	13	**8%**	17	**7%**	9	**5%**	C	**<5%**	13	**5%**
LOGISTICS	6,080	**6%**	11	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	7	**6%**	C	**<5%**	8	**5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
MANUFACTURING	5,670	**5%**	50	**18%**	20	**19%**	22	**17%**	28	**22%**	28	**16%**	29	**14%**	62	**24%**	35	**27%**	28	**15%**	28	**16%**	34	**15%**	32	**17%**	38	**18%**	52	**20%**
LIFE SCIENCES	N/A	**0%**	4	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	7	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**C**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**
RETAIL & WHOLESALE	17,370	**16%**	20	**7%**	10	**9%**	6	**5%**	7	**6%**	12	**7%**	15	**7%**	26	**10%**	11	**8%**	13	**7%**	17	**10%**	27	**12%**	16	**9%**	19	**9%**	34	**13%**
OTHER SERVICES (excluding SIC unknown)	5,340	**5%**	8	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	C	**<5%**	11	**5%**	19	**7%**	21	**16%**	26	**14%**	22	**13%**	33	**14%**	C	**<5%**	35	**15%**	C	**<5%**
TOTAL (excluding from outside GM)	**107,065**	**100%**	**277**	**100%**	**105**	**100%**	**125**	**100%**	**125**	**100%**	**174**	**100%**	**206**	**100%**	**256**	**100%**	**190**	**100%**	**190**	**100%**	**171**	**100%**	**232**	**100%**	**188**	**100%**	**236**	**100%**	**254**	**100%**

LOCAL AUTHORITY SURVEY RESPONSE N=276 (EXCLUDING RESPONSES OUTSIDE AREA): PROFILE BY SIZE, SECTOR, AND LOCATION

Size / Sector (as identified by the business) C = Confidential, response 6 or less	Greater Manchester		Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
Size-band (employees)	count	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
‘0’ employment to 9 (MICRO)	142	**51%**	20%	65%	52%	9%	32%	72%	57%	57%	53%	63%
10 to 49 (SMALL)	54	**20%**	10%	12%	13%	27%	39%	14%	21%	29%	22%	25%
50 to 249 (MEDIUM)	44	**16%**	30%	18%	19%	45%	25%	7%	4%	7%	11%	6%
250+ (LARGE)	21	**8%**	20%	6%	11%	9%	4%	4%	11%	7%	3%	C
UNKNOWN	15	**5%**	20%	C	5%	9%	C	4%	7%	C	11%	6%
TOTAL (excluding surveys from outside Gtr Manchester)	**277**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHING	C	**C**	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	7%	C	C
BUSINESS, FINANCIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	50	**18%**	10%	24%	26%	17%	11%	11%	14%	21%	11	19%
CONSTRUCTION	9	**<5%**	C	C	<5%	C	14%	C	7%	7%	<5%	C
CREATIVE, DIGITAL, AND TECHNOLOGY	65	**23%**	10%	18%	32%	8%	4%	32%	29%	29%	19%	19%
EDUCATION	8	**<5%**	C	6%	<5%	C	C	7%	<5%	C	<5%	C
ENGINEERING	7	**<5%**	C	C	<5%	C	4%	C	C	C	8%	6%
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES & SERVICES (LCEGS)	11	**<5%**	C	C	<5%	C	7%	7%	7%	C	<5%	6%
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	16	**6%**	C	12%	<5%	33%	C	11%	7%	C	6%	13%
HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, & SPORT	17	**6%**	C	6%	9%	8%	7%	<5%	<5%	C	6%	6%
LOGISTICS	11	**<5%**	10%	C	<5%	C	C	C	C	C	17%	C
MANUFACTURING	50	**18%**	60%	12%	7%	8%	43%	11%	25%	36%	11%	25%
LIFE SCIENCES	4	**<5%**	C	C	<5%	C	C	7%	C	C	6%	C
RETAIL & WHOLESALE	20	**7%**	C	12%	10%	8%	4%	7%	<5%	C	<5%	6%
OTHER / UNKNOWN	8	**<5%**	10%	12%	10%	17%	C	<5%	C	C	8%	C
TOTAL (excluding surveys from outside Gtr Manchester)	**277**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**