KADA

Derbyshire Dales District Council Updated Evidence Base

A Kada Research Report

A Report for Derbyshire Dales District Council

March 2025

Contents

Executive summary

In 2023 Kada were commissioned by Derbyshire Dales District Council to collate statistical evidence to support the development of the District Council's new Corporate Plan for the period 2024-2028. The evidence base sought to inform the councils priorities by identifying the socio-economic challenges and opportunities across the district.

Since this submission the political landscape has shifted following the formation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority in March 2024. Kada have been re-commissioned to update this evidence base to support a refresh of the Councils Economic Development Plan (2019-2033) which feeds into the Corporate Plan. As a result this evidence base has been updated (where possible) to support a refresh and to help influence and inform the CCA's strategic thinking.

Introduction and context

The evidence base and summary report (initially published in 2023) have been updated following the formation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) in March 2024. This is in order to inform the refresh of the Derbyshire Dales District Council Economic Development Plan 2019-2033 and to help support the strategic thinking of the newly formed CCA.

The previous evidence base was structured around three themes- "Community and Facilities; Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment; and Jobs and Homes". The 2024-2028 Corporate Plan was published under a different sub-set of five themes:

- A thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales
- Housing that meets the needs of Dales residents
- Prosperous and sustainable communities and businesses
- Resources and services to enable communities to flourish
- A financially sound, fair and responsive District Council

As such, the evidence base and report have been restructured to align accordingly with the exception of theme five which does not fit with the data analysed.

Business Survey

- Respondents were primarily Micro (81%) and Small businesses (14%) citing turnovers of £500,000 or less (75%) who had been trading for over 15 years (52%).

- The most common factors restricting business operations were business rates, the quality of the current premises and the availability of parking for customers.
- Responses to how long current premises would be adequate for business needs was mixed. 20% felt their premises were already inadequate and 15% citing that the premises would only be adequate for another two years. Conversely 37% of respondents felt their current premises would be suitable for five or more years.
- 35% of respondents had current plans to expand, of the 42% who cited 'no' this was primarily due to not deeming it a requirement at this time.
- Most commonly cited requirements to expand were new premises/the expansion of existing premises. In the event of expanding or moving premises the cost of the new premises/land was the most important factor for consideration (52%) followed by funding and staff availability (50% each).
- The primary focus of respondents for their business in the next two years was increasing sales followed by reducing costs and then building production capacity, suggesting businesses have spare capacity and are not fulfilling their potential, rather than struggling to meet demand. This is indicative of a demand-side rather than supply-side challenge.

Key economic development data headlines

- Claimant Count – Derbyshire Dales sees the 2nd lowest number of claimants across all comparator areas; however, this figure is increasing. The greatest increase has been within the 25-49 age bracket, particularly amongst women.

  Potential policy implication: Whilst the low claimant count is positive, the increases seen especially for women suggests that more employment support should be made available and tailored to the 25-49 age bracket. This could include support with childcare, caring for elderly relatives and retraining.
- Employment – There has been a slight decline in employment of 2.4%.

  Potential policy implication: Upskilling and reskilling of the workforce and supporting more people into apprenticeships and training programmes could mitigate any further decreases.
- Economic inactivity- 20% of residents are economically inactive (against a figure of 21% nationally) and a 9.5% increase since 2019 (1.9% nationally) so soon could pass the England average.

  Potential policy implication: Provision of an accessible business advice service to SME's to help unlock financial support could stimulate job creation and opportunities for those currently economically inactive.
- Wages – Derbyshire Dales has lower weekly wages than the regional and England average. The gender wage gap currently stands at £265.

  Potential policy implication: Further diversifying the business case and investing in high skilled and high pay jobs could increase weekly wages. Providing greater support for women returning to work after having children and educating young girls about a wide range of careers could reduce the pay gap.
- Productivity – Derbyshire Dales has the lowest GVA per job filled of all comparator areas (£16,844 lower than England). This impacts wages, profits and overall household income.

  Potential policy implication: Helping businesses to adopt new technology, upskill their workforce and increase innovation will support both business growth and productivity rates.

- Business Counts – Derbyshire Dales' business base is predominantly made up of micro businesses (0-9 employees). Overall business numbers have seen a decrease between 2019 and 2024 in contrast with both the national and regional picture.

  Potential policy implication: Support for diversification and resilience could help to maintain the business base in the area and its economic output. Business support interventions should be tailored to smaller businesses. Specialist support for agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses should be offered given their propensity in the area.

- Enterprise births, deaths and survival – Derbyshire Dales has seen an increase in business births despite falls regionally and nationally. It has seen fewer business deaths than the regional average but more than the England average. It has seen no net growth in High Growth Enterprise since 2018, however, the area has recovered from the losses seen between 2020 and 2022.

  Potential policy implication: Derbyshire Dales firms should be able to access business support that will enable them to scale up activity, increasing their employee numbers and/or turnover. This could enable these businesses to access wider markets.

- Floorspace – Retail floorspace has seen the largest increase of all floorspace categories. This is the second highest increase of all comparator areas. Industrial floor space has also increased more than the England average.

  Potential policy implication: Land regeneration and related increase the provision of Grade A office space could attract greater investment and high-growth businesses into the area, stimulating the economy and driving up wages.

- Broadband- Derbyshire Dales underperforms against the UK average on all broadband metrics and by a significant margin on full fibre and gigabit availability and the percentage of premises below the broadband universal service obligation this is in spite of improved coverage since the initial evidence base.

  Potential policy implications: High quality digital infrastructure plays a critical role supporting local communities.

Alignment with Economic Development Plan

Taking into consideration the economic shocks since the 2019 Economic Development Plan was put in place, the data evidences that Derbyshire Dales overarching plan 2019- 2033 remains valid. The assessment of the Updated Evidence Base would lead to the conclusion that the following priorities are progressed:

- Regenerating of brownfield and other key housing/employment sites.

- A dedicated fund for rural economic growth (with focus esp. on growing small scale manufacturing and engineering firms (esp. advanced and green activities) knowledge-based and creative, digital and knowledge based.

- High quality, free, 1:1 business advice service to SMEs including practical assistance to help growth companies access external grants and loans.

- De-carbonising businesses.

1 Introduction and project context

In 2023 Kada were commissioned by Derbyshire Dales District Council to collate statistical evidence to support the development of the District Council's new Corporate Plan for the period 2024-2028. The evidence base sought to inform the councils priorities by identifying the socio-economic challenges and opportunities across the district.

Since this submission the political landscape has shifted following the formation of the East Midlands Combined County Authority in March 2024. Kada have been re-commissioned to update this evidence base to support a refresh of the Councils Economic Development Plan (2019-2033) which feeds into the Corporate Plan. As a result this evidence base has been updated (where possible) to support a refresh and to help influence and inform the CCA's strategic thinking.

1.1 Context

Over the past decade the UK has experienced a number of interrelated market shocks including the UK's Exit from the European Union, a global Pandemic and the war in Ukraine, coupled with a cost-of-living crisis, and turbulent political landscape. These events have had economic, societal, and environmental repercussions as we attempt to navigate geopolitical headwinds.

In March 2020, as the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 as a global Pandemic[1], inflation was 1.5%. In April 2023 that figure stood at 7.8%, down from 9.6% in October 2022, its highest point in over 30 years. In Jan 2025, this figure stands at 3.9%[2].

In 2019, prior to the Covid outbreak the UK economy experienced 1.6% growth, only to shrink by 11% in the height of the Pandemic[3]. This was the biggest contraction in growth since 1949 and over double that experienced at the height of the financial crisis in 2009[4]. Growth spiked in 2021 to its highest in 30 years (7.6%) but has since dropped by 3.5%. The IMF highlights the difficulties faced by the UK in light of these market fluctuations and the need for tailored, targeted policies[5]. 2024 saw a growth of 0.9%[6].

In addition to the economic uncertainty, significant environmental challenges are clear. Over three quarters of local authorities have declared climate emergencies alongside Universities and UK

[1] Government Digital Service, 2 years of COVID-19 on Gov.uk, 2022
[2] Office for National Statistics, CPIH ANNUAL RATE 00: ALL ITEMS 2015=100, 2025
[3] Office for National Statistics, Gross Domestic Product: Year on Year growth: CVM SA %, 2023
[4] Statista, Annual growth of gross domestic product in the United Kingdom from 1949 to 2022, 2023
[5] International Monetary Fund, Recovery during a pandemic, 2021
[6] Office for National Statistics, Gross Domestic Product: Year on Year growth: CVM SA %, 2025

parliament[7]. The impact of these market shocks and environmental concerns vary considerably between local authorities and councils.

1.2 Purpose of the update and political alignment

In November 2022, a devolution deal[8] was agreed by the four upper tier councils of Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council.

At the time of the submission of the Evidence base and associated Report in 2023 devolution was not yet enacted and Derbyshire Dales District Council were in the process of developing their Corporate Plan 2024-2028.

Following the publication of the report and evidence base informing this plan, the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) was formed in March 2024. The deal guarantees a funding stream of £1.14billion over a 30-year period, alongside additional investments for transport, housing and economic development. While EMCCA is still in its infancy it aims to work with local authorities to:

- *"Grow the region's economy for all, by targeting investment to speed up economic growth, improving transport links to towns, cities and major employers in the East Midlands and working with partners so people can develop key skills needed across the region."*
- *"Create affordable, good quality housing, and to retrofit existing homes to make them more environmentally sustainable."*
- *"Support new forms of clean energy generation, support work to bring green spaces and nature back into communities and improve health life expectancy, especially in the region's most disadvantaged communities and places."*

The aim of this update is to track and highlight changes from the analysis conducted in 2023, to qualify the approach taken by Derbyshire Dales District Council within their current Corporate Plan and highlight any significant areas of difference. This will also support the embedding of the East Midlands Combined Council Authority, their partnership with the council and to help to influence and inform their strategic thinking.

1.3 Report structure

This evidence base is structured around the five themes of the Corporate Plan 2024-2028 (see below) providing a multi-dimensioned assessment of the Derbyshire Dales economic, social and environmental landscape. The data analysis will inform any changes that should be reflected in the refresh of the Council's Economic Development Plan (2019-2033).

The current iteration is categorized into five themes:

1. A thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales.

[7] London School of Economics and Political Science, We've declared a climate emergency – now what?, 2021
[8] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, East Midlands devolution deal, 2022

2. Housing that meets the needs of Dales residents.
3. Prosperous and sustainable Dales communities and businesses.
4. Resources and services to enable businesses to flourish.
5. A financially sound, fair and responsive District Council.

The analysis compares Derbyshire Dales' performance with comparator Derbyshire local authorities, regional and national benchmarks. In addition, three LG Inform nearest neighbours' with a 'largely rural' classification and similar social and economic characteristics were used. Three reasonably dispersed areas were selected: Hambleton, Malvern Hills and Mid Suffolk and feature where available although Hambleton was subsumed into the new unitary authority of North Yorkshire Council in April 2023 and as such may not feature on all datasets.

This report also covers a high-level analysis of Derbyshire Dales District Councils Business Survey. The survey launched in 2025 aims to provide the council with a greater understanding of the district's business base, its growth plans, barriers to change and challenges faced.

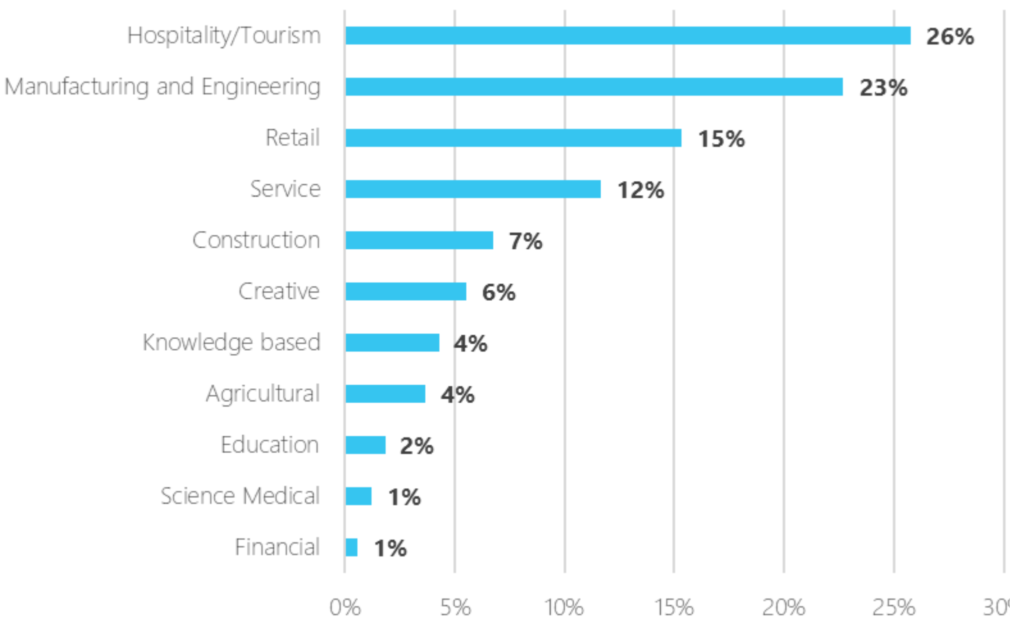
2 Business survey

This chapter provides a covers high-level analysis of Derbyshire Dales District Councils Business Survey. The survey, launched in 2025, aimed to provide the council with a greater understanding of the districts business base, its growth plans, barriers to change and challenges faced. The survey had received 161 responses at the time of analysis, aggregated under a short timeframe.

2.1 Business Characteristics

Business survey respondents most commonly cited Hospitality and Tourism as their operating sector (26%, 42). This was followed by Manufacturing and Engineering (23%,37) and Retail (15%, 25).

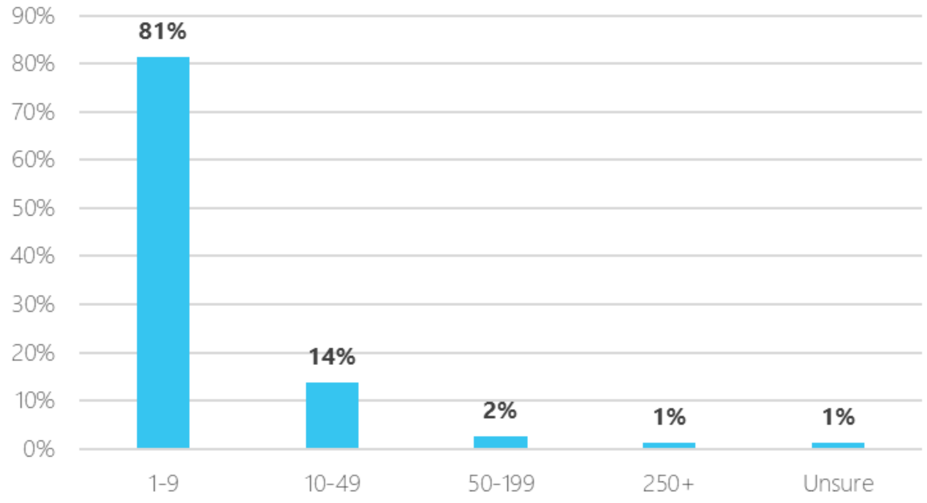
Operating Sector



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=161

Most businesses providing feedback (81%,131) employ between one and nine full-time equivalent employees followed by 14% (22) who employ between 10 and 49. Only two businesses who responded to the survey employed more than 250 full-time employees.

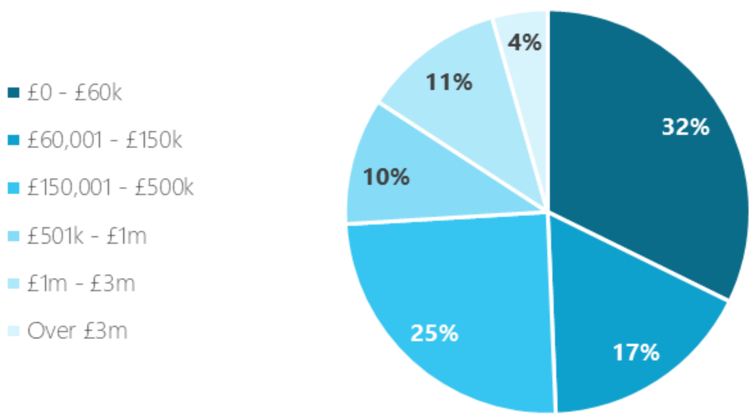
How many full-time equivalent staff does the business employ?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=161

In line with employee numbers the majority of survey respondents cited relatively low turnover figures with almost 75% of respondents (117) citing business turnovers between £0-500k. Only seven firms referenced turnovers over £3,000,000.

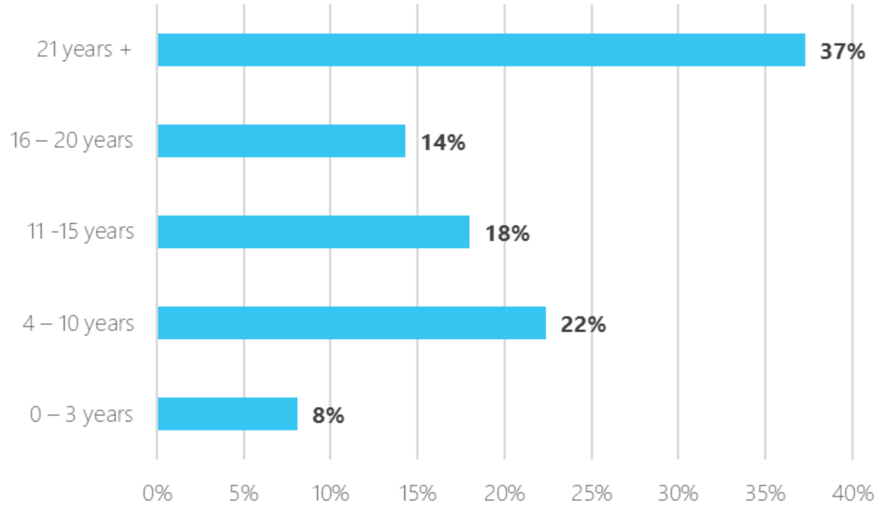
Approximate business turnover



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=158

For most respondents their businesses were long-term traders who had been active for over 15 years (51%, 83). Only 13 respondents (8%) had been operating for three years or less.

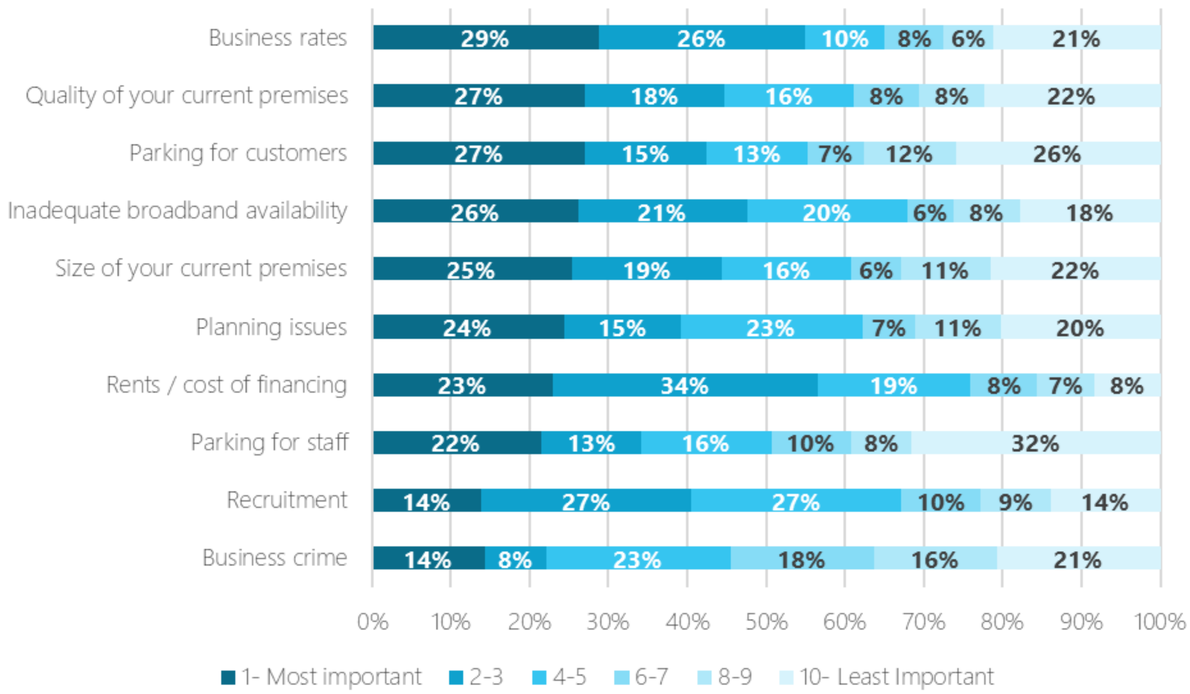
How long has your business been trading?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=161

2.2 Growth plans and Barriers to growth

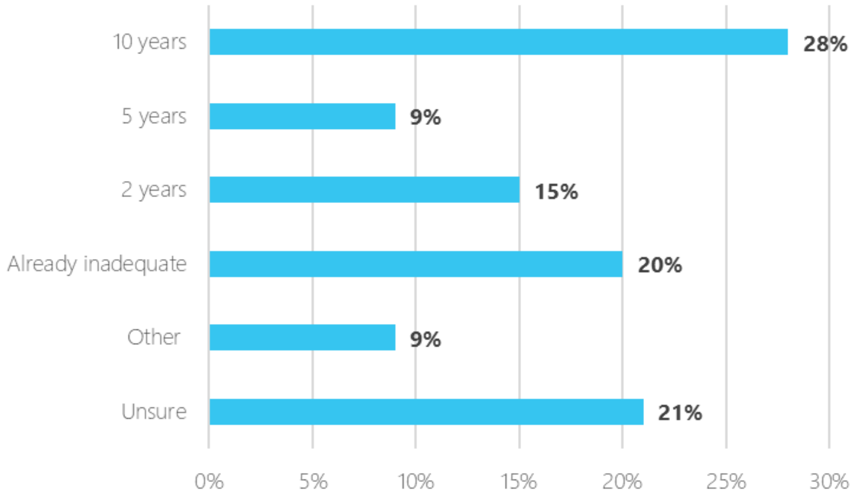
Do any of the following factors currently restrict the operation of your business in its current location?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=74-85

Businesses were asked to rank the factors that were most prominent in restricting the operation of their business in its current location. The most important factors cited (a score of one out of ten) were business rates (29%, 23), the quality of the current premises (27%, 23) and parking available for customers (27%, 23).

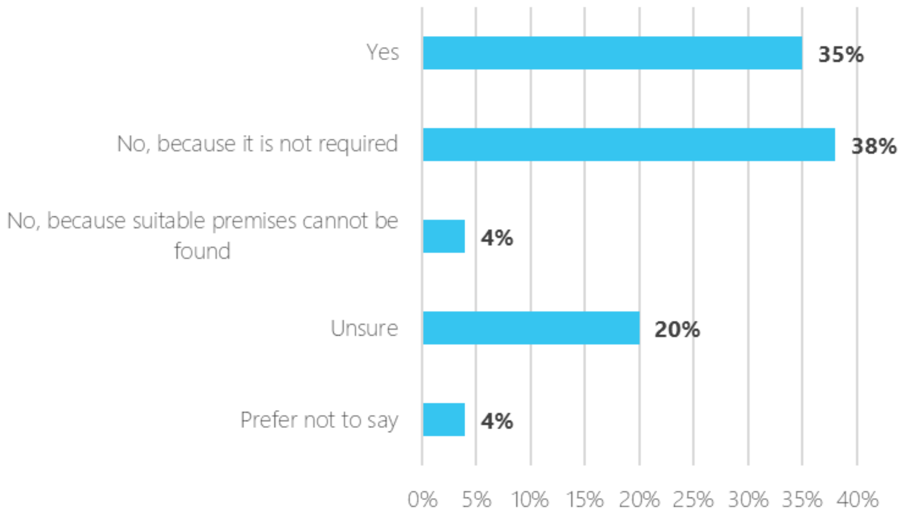
How long do you think that your current premises will be adequate for your business needs?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=141

Businesses were also asked for how long they felt their current premises would be adequate for their business needs. Responses were mixed, 20% (27) felt their premises were already inadequate with an additional 15% (21) citing that the premises would only be adequate for another two years. Conversely 37% (52) of respondents felt their current premises would be suitable for five or more years.

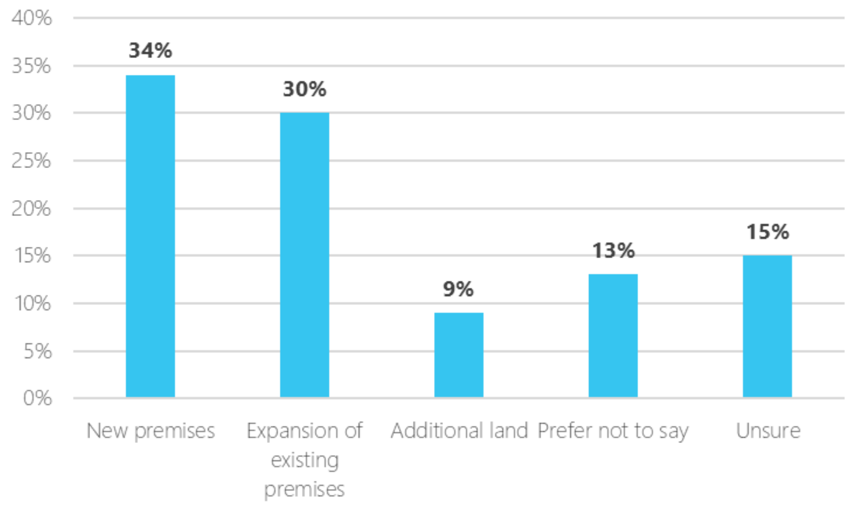
Do you currently have plans to expand your business?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=143

In regard to business expansion 35% (50) of respondents had current plans to expand. Of the 42% (60) who did not the majority felt it was not required at this time. New premises/expansion of existing premises was the most commonly cited requirements to do so.

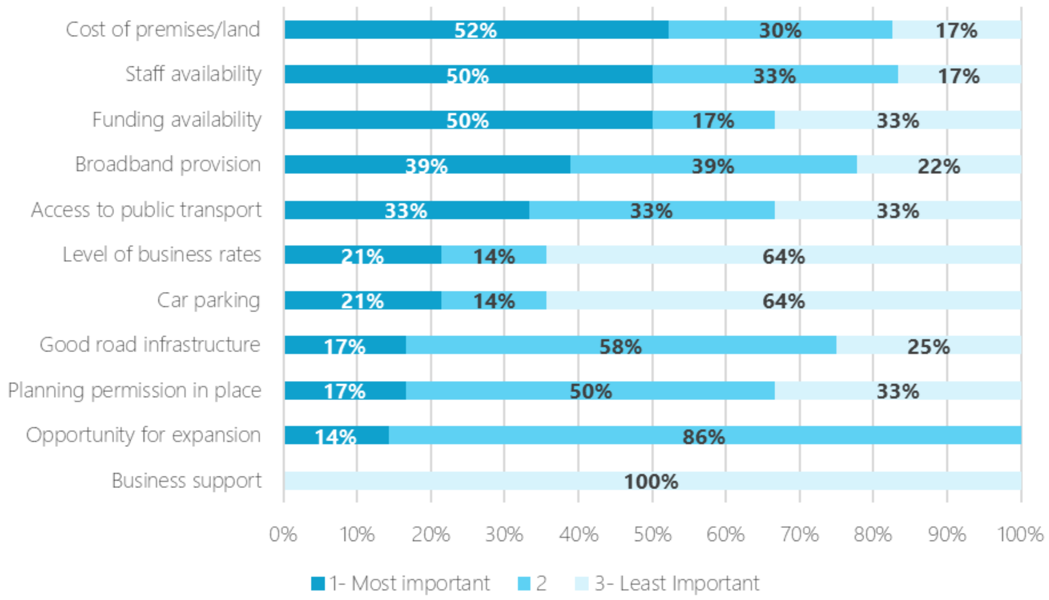
Does your business require any of the following to expand?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=47

In the event of expansion or moving premises firms were asked what factors were most important the selecting new land.

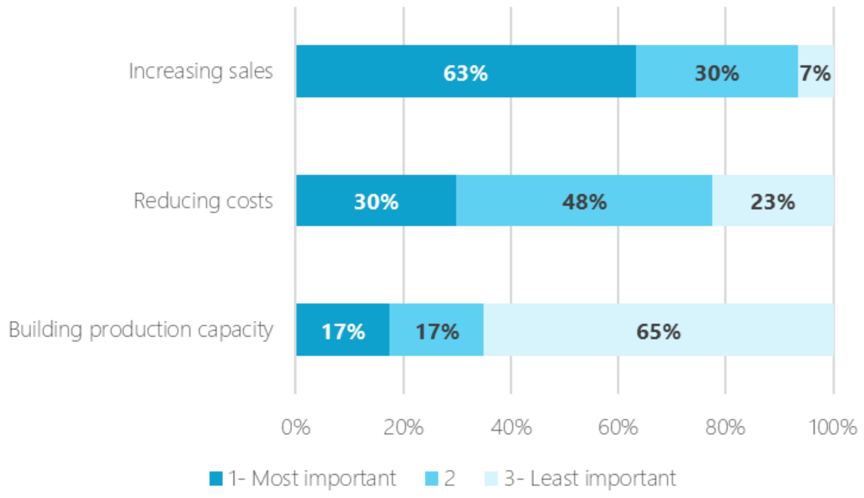
Which three of the following factors are most important to your business when selecting new premises/additional land?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=74-85

For most the cost of the new premises/land was the most important factor for consideration followed by funding and staff availability. Business support was unanimously considered the least important factor.

Which of the following areas does your business need to focus on most over the next two years?



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Business Survey, 2025 n=106-111

Business focus over the next two years was primarily considered by respondents (63%, 67) to centre on increasing sales, followed by reducing costs and then building production capacity. This suggests businesses have spare capacity and are not fulfilling their potential, rather than struggling to meet demand. This is indicative of a demand-side rather than supply-side challenge.

2.3 Summary

- Respondents were primarily Micro (81%) and Small businesses (14%) citing turnovers of £500,000 or less (75%) who had been trading for over 15 years (51%).
- The most common factors restricting business operations were business rates, the quality of the current premises and the availability of parking for customers.
- Responses to how long current premises would be adequate for business needs was mixed. 20% felt their premises were already inadequate and 15% citing that the premises would only be adequate for another two years. Conversely 37% of respondents felt their current premises would be suitable for five or more years.
- 35% of respondents had current plans to expand, of the 42% who cited 'no' this was primarily due to not deeming it a requirement at this time.
- Most commonly cited requirements to expand were new premises/the expansion of existing premises. In the event of expanding or moving premises the cost of the new premises/land was the most important factor for consideration (52%) followed by funding and staff availability (50% each).
- The primary focus of respondents for their business in the next two years was increasing sales followed by reducing costs and then building production capacity, suggesting businesses have spare capacity and are not fulfilling their potential, rather than struggling to meet demand. This is indicative of a demand-side rather than supply-side challenge.

3 A thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales

The first theme of the 2024-2028 Corporate Plan is "a thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales". The fundamental aim is to "protect and enhance the Derbyshire Dales environment", ensuring that the area is sustainable for future generations. This chapter re-assesses the districts performance against three core metrics: CO_2 emissions, air quality and waste management.

3.1 CO_2 Emissions

Carbon dioxide emissions statistics, provided by the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy show Derbyshire Dales is below the average for Derbyshire in per capita CO_2 emissions. The authority's total emissions are the lowest, and joint 2nd in per km2 emissions when compared to similar areas within and outside the region.

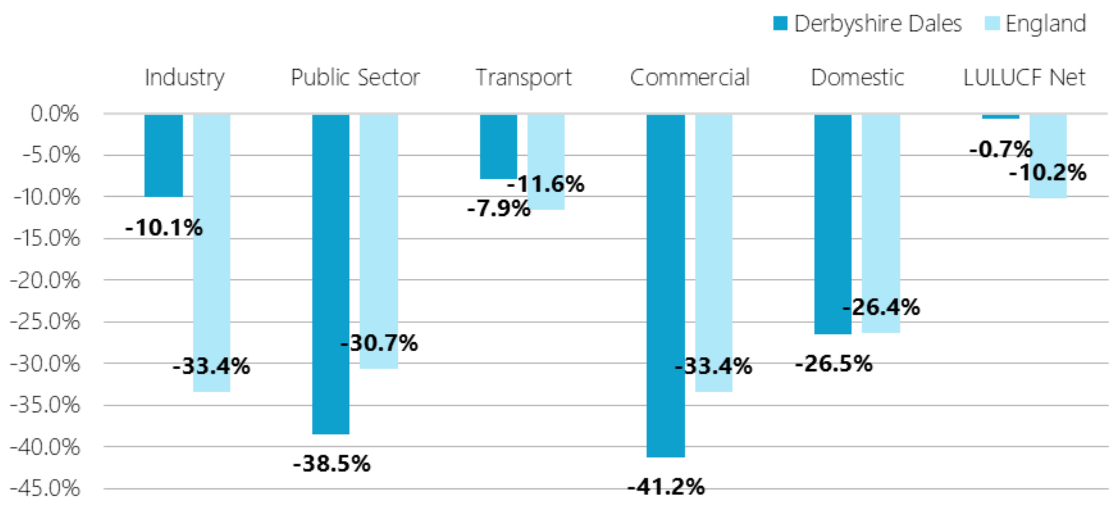
CO_2 Emissions 2022

Area	Per Capita, t	Area	Per km^2	Area	Grand Total, kt
High Peak	32.7	Chesterfield	6.4	England	243,641.30
Bolsover	11.4	Bolsover	5.8	East Midlands	27,539.60
Derbyshire	8.7	High Peak	5.5	Derbyshire	6,991.70
Derbyshire Dales	**7.0**	Erewash	4.6	High Peak	2,976.70
East Midlands	5.6	Derbyshire	2.7	Bolsover	925.9
Malvern Hills	5.3	Amber Valley	2.3	Amber Valley	602
South Derbyshire	5.2	England	1.8	South Derbyshire	582.3
Mid Suffolk	5.0	East Midlands	1.7	Mid Suffolk	528.2
Amber Valley	4.7	South Derbyshire	1.7	Erewash	501.8
NE Derbyshire	4.6	NE Derbyshire	1.7	**Derbyshire Dales**	**500.8**
Erewash	4.4	Malvern Hills	0.7	NE Derbyshire	477.6
England	4.3	**Derbyshire Dales**	**0.6**	Malvern Hills	429
Chesterfield	4.1	Mid Suffolk	0.6	Chesterfield	424.6

Source: BEIS, Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2023

When the highest carbon emitting activities are considered as a whole, England has successfully reduced its emissions across most sectors. Derbyshire Dales has reduced its emissions across all sectors. Reduction in Industry emissions has been less significant than across England (-10.13% and -33.42% respectively), however Public Sector emissions have seen a greater reduction than across England (-38.46% and -30.65% respectively).

Change in Emissions 2015-2022

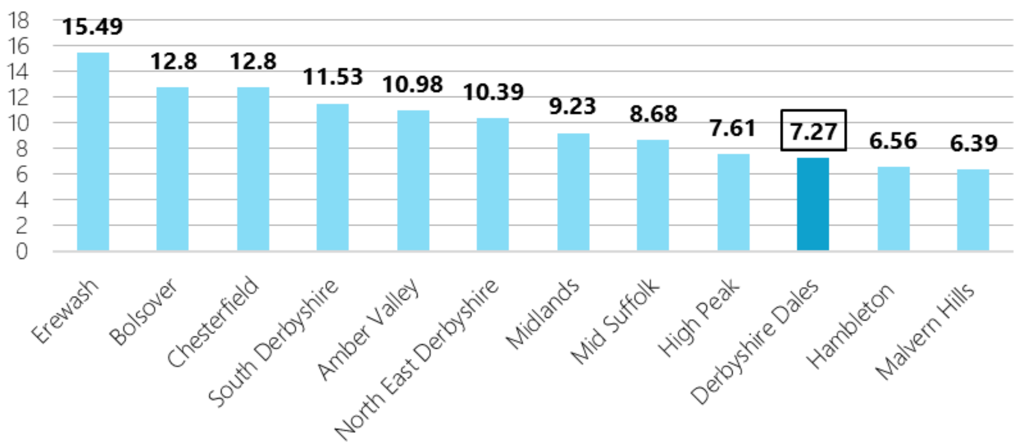


Source: BEIS, Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2023

3.2 Air quality

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) air quality assessments use 2018 data to forecast local authorities' air quality by average concentration of Nitrogen Oxides present in the air. Forecasts for 2022 as shown in the below graph estimate an average NOx concentration of 7.27 ug.m-3, the lowest in Derbyshire and third lowest when incorporating all comparator areas. This figure is also 1.96 ug.m-3 lower than the Midlands average.

NOx 2022



Source: DEFRA, Background Mapping data for local authorities, 2023

The Nitrogen Oxide concentrations are anticipated to decline across all comparator local authorities by an average of 7.0%. Derbyshire Dales is estimated to have dropped by 6.2% from 2020 to 2022, the lowest reduction of all selected areas however from a lower base. But, problems within each locality may not be fully represented in district-wide data and could be investigated in greater detail to target areas of improvement.

3.3 Recycling and waste

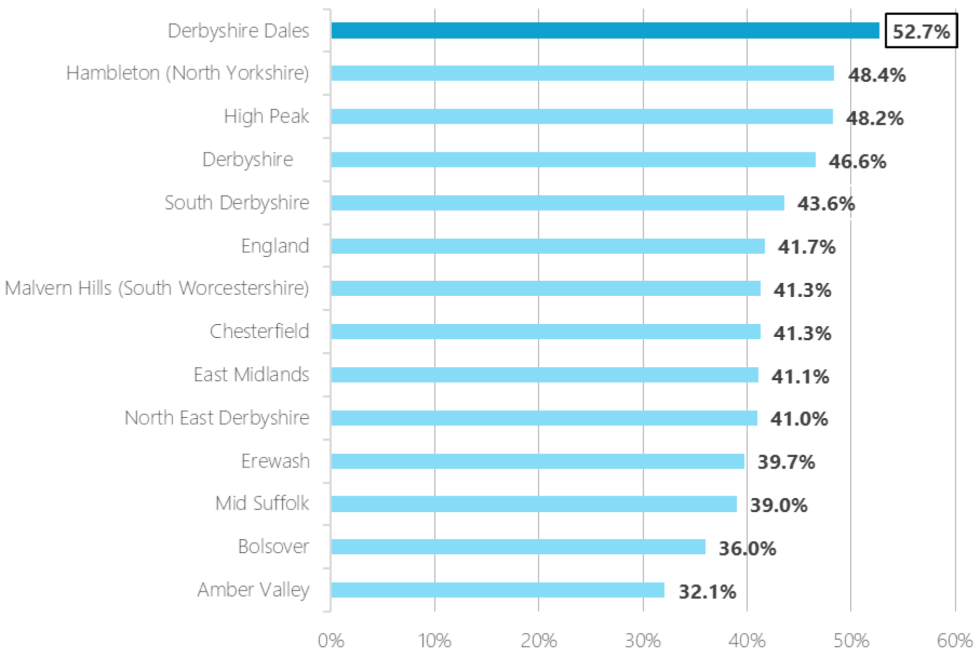
Statistics from DEFRA positively reflect the local authority's usage and management of waste. The percentage of collected waste that is recycled, reused or composted is high for the same time period. 52.7% of Derbyshire Dales household waste was reused, composted or recycled in 2022/23, the highest of all Derbyshire local authorities and of comparative areas. While high this figure has fallen by approximately 9.2% (from 61.9%) since 2019/20.

Collected waste by area 2022/23

Area	Collected household waste per person (kg)	Area	% of household waste sent for reuse/recycling/composting
Derbyshire	437.1	**Derbyshire Dales**	**52.7%**
East Midlands	406.6	Hambleton	48.4%
Bolsover	400.1	High Peak	48.2%
England	386.3	Derbyshire	46.6%
Hambleton	378.3	South Derbyshire	43.6%
Erewash	375.3	England	41.7%
High Peak	369.9	Chesterfield	41.3%
Chesterfield	369.7	Malvern Hills	41.3%
South Derbyshire	368.0	East Midlands	41.1%
Amber Valley	365.2	NE Derbyshire	41.0%
NE Derbyshire	353.2	Erewash	39.7%
Mid Suffolk	347.5	Mid Suffolk	39.0%
Derbyshire Dales	**346.7**	Bolsover	36.0%
Malvern Hills	312.5	Amber Valley	32.1%

Source: DEFRA, Local authority collected waste: annual results tables, 2023

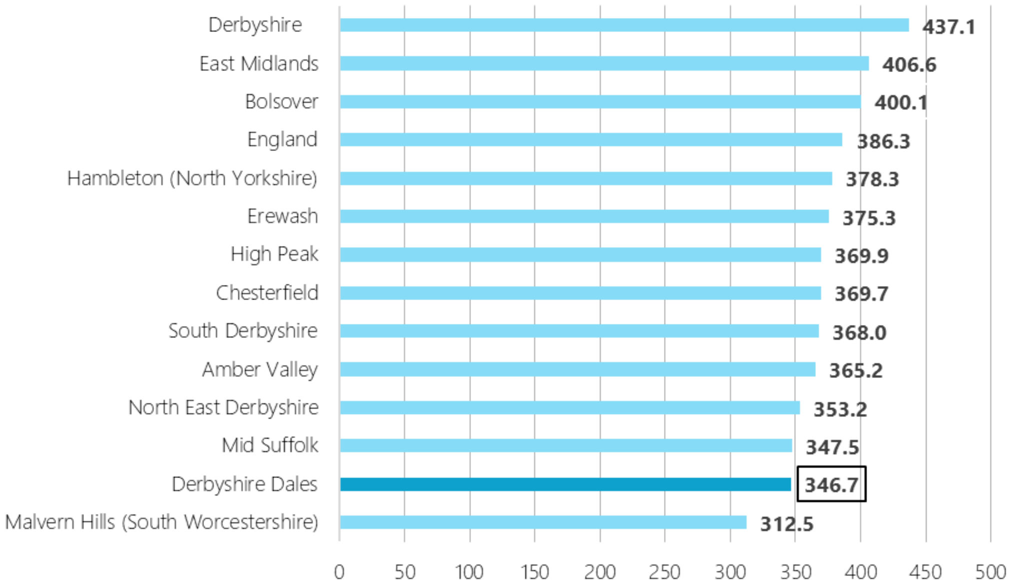
Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting (2022/23)



Source: DEFRA, Local authority collected waste: annual results tables, 2023

The latest figures for 2022/23 show Derbyshire Dales had the lowest collected household waste per person (kg) in Derbyshire and the second lowest of all comparators behind Malvern Hills. This figure was 39.6kg lower than the England average and has fallen by 8.67% since 2019/20.

Collected household waste per person (kg) (2022/23)



Source: DEFRA, Local authority collected waste: annual results tables, 2023

3.4 Summary

- Derbyshire Dales is below the Derbyshire average in per capita CO2 emissions. The authority's total emissions are the lowest, and joint 2nd in per km^2 emissions when compared to similar areas within and outside the region. Derbyshire Dales has reduced its emissions across all sectors, and by more than national average in the public and commercial sectors.
- Estimates for NOx concentrations for 2022 in Derbyshire Dales .27 $ug.m^{-3}$, the lowest in Derbyshire and third lowest when incorporating all comparator areas. This figure is also 1.96 $ug.m^{-3}$ lower than the Midlands average.
- Nitrogen Oxide concentrations are anticipated to decline across all comparator's local authorities by an average of 7.0%. Derbyshire Dales is estimated to have dropped by 0.48 $ug.m^{-3}$ (6.2%) from 2020 to 2022, the lowest reduction of all selected areas albeit from a lower base.
- Derbyshire Dales has the highest percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting (52.7%) amongst all comparator areas, 11 percentage points higher than the national figure.
- The district has some of the lowest collected household waste per person (346.7kg).

4 Housing that meets the needs of Dales residents

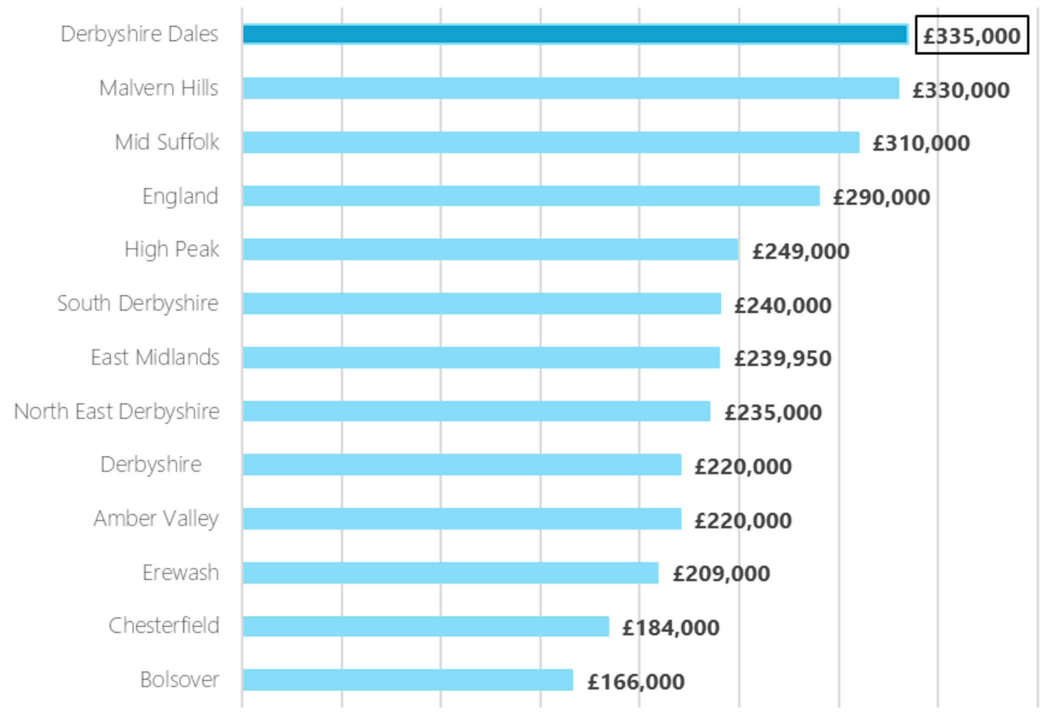
In respect to housing within the district, the Corporate Plan 2024-2028 aims to deliver a 'whole District' Housing Strategy that ensures people have the "right and ability to live and prosper within their own community". As such, housing stock in the area must be fit for purpose, with consideration given to the challenges of climate change.

This chapter updates on district performance against other local authorities and regional and national averages on house prices, homelessness, retrofit and fuel poverty.

4.1 House prices and affordability

Median house prices in the Derbyshire Dales (2023) were higher than any of the comparator local authorities at £335,000, £45,000 higher than the national average and £95,050 higher than the East Midlands average.

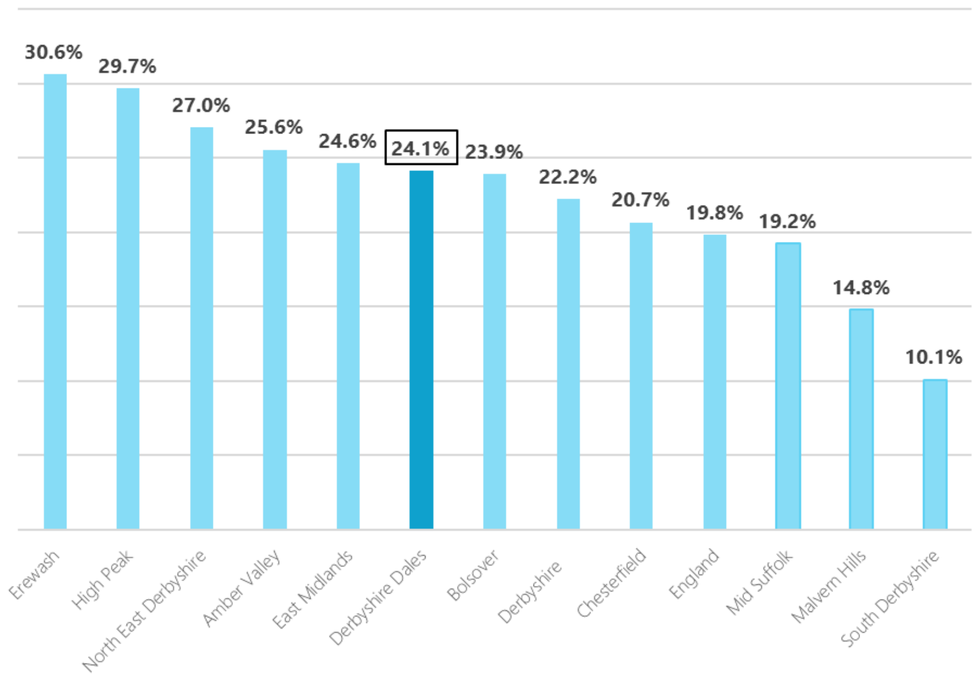
Median house prices 2023 (£)



Source: House price to workplace-based earning ratio, 2024

House prices are also rising, between 2019 and 2023 median house prices in Derbyshire Dales rose by 24.1% (£65,050). While this is lower than the East Midlands average, this rise is higher than the nation-wide increase of 19.8%.

Change in Median house prices 2019-2023



Source: House price to workplace-based earning ratio, 2024

House price affordability is represented through a calculation of a ratio of median house prices to median gross annual (workplace-based) earnings. Median house prices were 10.98 times that of annual earning in Derbyshire Dales for 2023, increasing from 9.73 in 2019. This is the steepest increase in ratio of house prices to annual earnings (1.25) of all Derbyshire local authorities and higher than county (0.60), regional (0.73) and national (0.38) averages.

Ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings 2023

Area	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change
Amber Valley	5.95	6.06	6.77	7.18	6.6	0.65
Bolsover	5.59	5.06	6.42	6.47	5.52	-0.07
Chesterfield	5.66	5.96	6.69	6.44	6.39	0.73
Derbyshire Dales	**9.73**	**10.28**	**10.63**	**10.11**	**10.98**	**1.25**
Erewash	6.18	6.14	6.29	6.37	6.15	-0.03
Hambleton	10.73	10.27	11.77	10.42		-0.3
High Peak	7.5	7.33	8.5	8.22	8.51	1.01
Malvern Hills	11.16	12.02	11.84	10.73	9.91	-1.25
Mid Suffolk	8.98	8.74	10.32	10.84	9.81	0.83
North East Derbyshire	7.17	7.5	8.26	7.73	8.03	0.86
South Derbyshire	7.29	7.39	7.84	7.66	7.06	-0.23
Derbyshire	6.57	6.61	7.54	7.38	7.17	0.6
East Midlands	6.86	6.89	8.04	7.74	7.59	0.73
England	7.88	7.86	9.06	8.47	8.26	0.38

Source: ONS, House price to workplace-based earnings ratio, 2024

4.2 Homelessness

Statutory homelessness, as reported by the UK government, is a measurement of the people within the authority who are homeless through no fault of their own, eligible for assistance and have a priority need. When compared to similar regions, Derbyshire Dales has the 4th lowest number of households assessed as homeless (1 in 1000). The number of households threatened with homelessness is also below the national average (4.2 in 1000 compared to 6.1 in 1000).

Households threatened with or assessed as homeless 2023/24 (per 000s)

Area	Threatened with homelessness	Area	Assessed as homeless
Malvern Hills	2.22	NE Derbyshire	2.17
South Derbyshire	2.26	Mid Suffolk	2.3
High Peak	3.49	South Derbyshire	2.48
NE Derbyshire	3.52	**Derbyshire Dales**	**2.57**
Derbyshire Dales	**4.22**	Bolsover	3.2
Chesterfield	4.66	Malvern Hills	3.58
Bolsover	4.9	High Peak	4.92
East Midlands	4.98	East Midlands	6.21
England	6.05	Chesterfield	7.22
Mid Suffolk	6.87	England	7.38

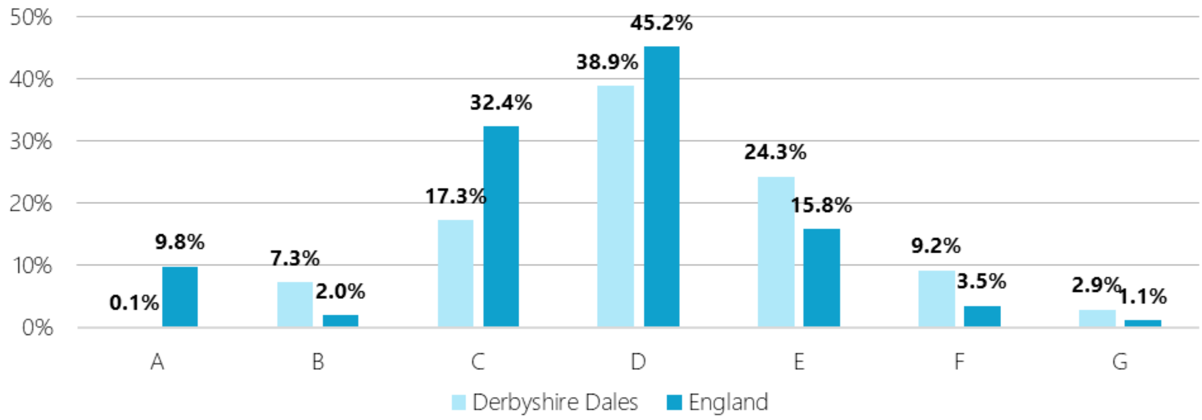
Source: UK Government, Homelessness statistics, 2024

The change in households threatened with homelessness (per 1000) in Derbyshire Dales has declined by 37% from 6.65 to 4.22 between 2019/20 to 2023/24. This is a greater reduction that both regional and national trends (15% and 4% respectively) and the resulting figure is lower than both as of most recent data - 4.22 per 1000 compared to 4.98 regionally and 6.05 nationally. However households assessed as homeless has increased significantly from 0.99 per 1000 in 2019/20 to 2.57 as of 2023/24 figures, an approximate increase of 161%. While a considerably larger rise than has been experienced regionally (14%), and nationally (24%), this is resulting from a low start point. The Dales households assessed as homeless per 1000 of 2.57 is still lower than the regional (6.21) and national figure (7.38).

4.3 Retrofit

In order to improve the environmental sustainability of the housing stock within Derbyshire Dales, less efficient properties may need to be retrofitted with improvements. The Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) system is used by UK Government to assess properties in the UK, ranging from A to G with A signifying the best performance, the average English rating is D. By 2030 the government requires all properties to achieve a C rating. As shown in the chart below taken from Derbyshire Dales Stock Condition Report in 2019, the Authority had an above average proportion of properties at the less desirable end of E F and G ratings.

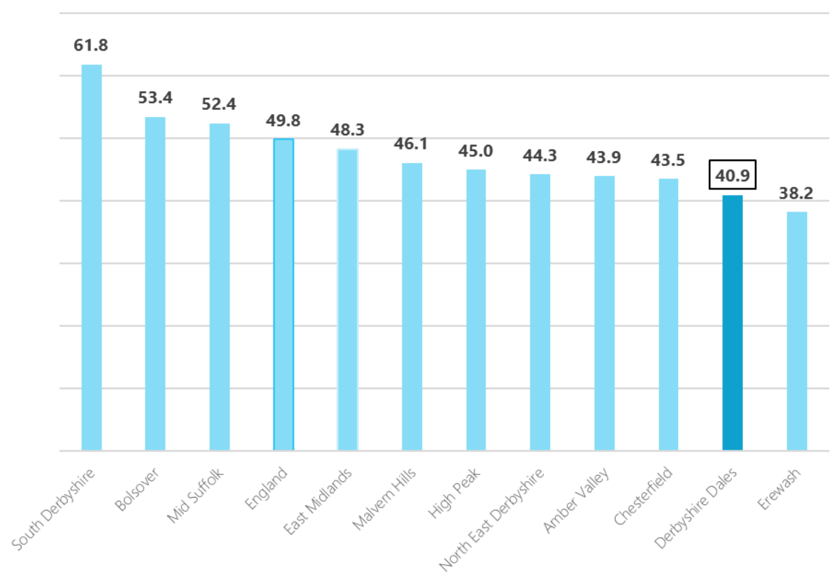
EPC of homes in Derbyshire Dales compared to English averages



Source: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Stock Condition Report, 2019

More recent data provided by the ONS in October 2024 covers the percentage of dwellings at an EPC band of 'C' or above (not categorised by individual band). While Derbyshire Dales has improved from the stock condition report in 2019 and has significantly reduced the gap, it still lags behind the national average and is the second lowest of all comparator areas.

Percentage of dwellings with EPC Band 'C' or above



Source: ONS, Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, 2024

As visualised below the district is performing well against national and regional figures for EPC ratings of flats and maisonettes but is below average for all other property types most significantly in respect to terraced dwellings.

Percentage of dwellings with EPC Band 'C' or above by property type (2024)

Area	All dwellings	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats and maisonettes
South Derbyshire	61.8	62.7	57.5	58.0	82.0
Bolsover	53.4	56.5	59.0	34.2	72.9
Mid Suffolk	52.4	44.8	51.1	59.7	77.2
England	49.8	43.4	39.0	41.6	69.0
East Midlands	48.3	46.1	42.7	42.3	71.4
Malvern Hills	46.1	35.6	41.0	55.0	68.4
High Peak	45.0	46.1	43.3	36.2	67.0
North East Derbyshire	44.3	46.1	40.0	35.7	74.7
Amber Valley	43.9	46.4	40.8	36.9	66.4
Chesterfield	43.5	41.7	33.7	34.7	75.4
Derbyshire Dales	**40.9**	**36.9**	**35.5**	**34.7**	**71.7**
Erewash	38.2	32.3	31.9	41.0	63.3

Source: ONS, Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, 2024

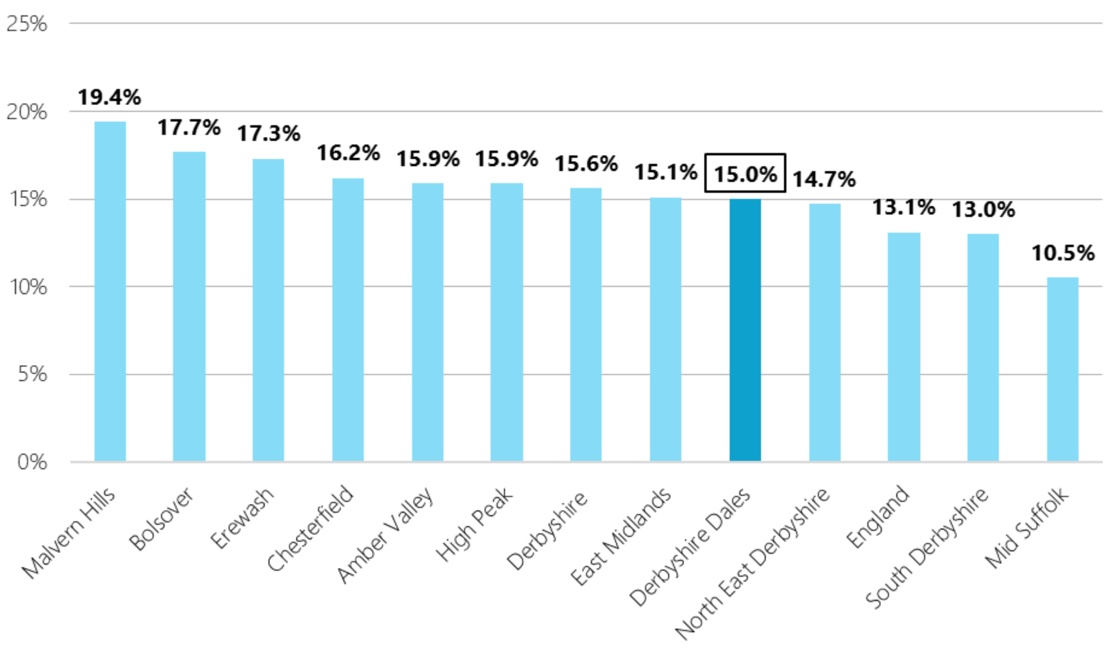
4.4 Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low-Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator. Under this indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- They are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below and
- When they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line

In 2022, 15.0% of households in Derbyshire Dales (approximately 4,830) were considered fuel poor, 1.9 percentage points higher than the national average. This figure has also increased by 12.7% since 2019 despite a national reduction in fuel poor households of 2.4%.

Proportion of households that are fuel poor (2022)



Source: Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2024

4.5 Housing stock

The Decent Homes Standard is used to identify properties which are fit for habitation. These dwellings must: be free from any hazard that poses a risk to health and safety, be in a reasonable state of repair, have reasonably modern facilities, provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. Derbyshire Dales has a high proportion of older properties (built pre-1918), as expected from properties of this age almost half are seen as Non-Decent (49.7%, 16,003). 14% of homes in the Derbyshire Dales (approximately 4,508) are a HHSRS Category 1 risk regarding cold and/or damp and mould. Whilst damp/mould is largely in line with sub-regional figures, Derbyshire Dales has the highest proportion of cold homes (13.1%, 4,218), 5.3 percentage points higher the second highest. 9.5% (3,059) have a HHSRS Category 1 risk for falls on stairs for those aged 65+. This presents a health and well-being concern which can increase the demand for local healthcare and mental health support. Over 11,000 (above 35%) of homes have an EPC rating of E or below, more than any of the sub-regional comparators[9]. Older homes are also more likely to fail the standards of disrepair set out by the Decent Homes Standard, 15.4% of the pre 1918 homes are fail in this category in Derbyshire Dales.

[9] Derbyshire County Council (2023) Housing and Health Impact Assessment

4.6 Summary

- Median house prices in the Derbyshire Dales (2023) were higher than any of the comparator local authorities at £335,000- £45,000 higher than the national average.
- House prices are also rising (24.1% or £65,050 between 2019-23 for the Dales), whilst lower than the East Midlands average this rise is higher than the nation-wide increase of 19.8%.
- Median house prices were 10.98 times that of annual earning in Derbyshire Dales for 2023, increasing from 9.73 in 2019. This is the steepest increase in ratio of house prices to annual earnings (1.25) of all Derbyshire local authorities and higher than county (0.60), regional (0.73) and national (0.38) averages.
- The change in households threatened with homelessness (per 1000) in Derbyshire Dales has declined by 37% (from 6.65 to 4.22) since 2019/20, greater than both regional and national reductions (15% and 4% respectively) .
- However, households assessed as homeless has seen a considerably larger rise than both regionally and nationally. This is from a low start point and Dales households assessed as homeless per 1000 of 2.57 is still lower than the regional (6.21) and national figure (7.38).
- Approximately 13,169 (40.9%) of dwellings in the district are EPC rating C or above, below the national figure of 49.8% despite a marked increase from 2019 (24.7%).
- Approximately 4,830 (15%) of households in Derbyshire Dales were considered fuel poor, 1.9 percentage points higher than the national average. This figure has also increased by 12.7% since 2019 despite a national reduction in fuel poor households of 2.4%.
- Whilst, damp/mould is largely in line with sub-regional figures, Derbyshire Dales has the highest proportion of cold homes (13.1%, 4,218), 5.3 percentage points higher the second highest. 9.5% have a HHSRS Category 1 risk for falls on stairs for those aged 65+. This presents a health and well-being concern which can increase the demand for local healthcare and mental health support.

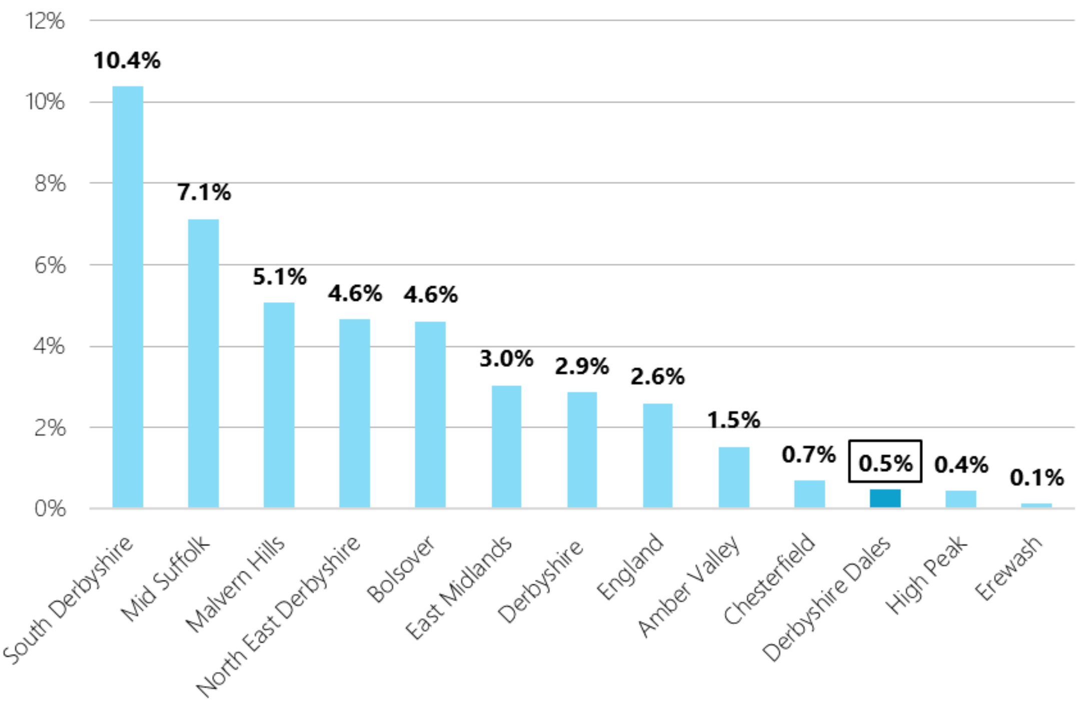
5 Prosperous and sustainable Dales communities and businesses

To build prosperous and sustainable communities, Derbyshire Dales will support the provision of well-paid jobs for residents, support micro and SME businesses and use their planning system to facilitate thriving communities. This chapter presents a data update on the demography of Derbyshire Dales, business and employment data and socio-economic data.

5.1 Population

Derbyshire Dales had an estimated population of 71,530 in 2023 (based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures). The area has experienced a slight population increase from 2019 to 2023 of 340 residents or 0.48% against national and regional increases of 2.60% and 3.04% respectively.

Population change 2019-2023 (%)



Source: ONS, Population Estimates, 2023

The most significant aspect of the authority's demography is the imbalance in resident age bands. Derbyshire Dales has a sizeable ageing population with 29.1% within the non-working age bracket, 10.4 percentage points higher than the national averages and exceeding both regional and county level figures. The average median age of Dales residents (51 years) is the fourth highest of all local authorities in England and Wales as of 2021, the only local authorities higher were East Lindsey (52), Rother (53) and North Norfolk (54)[10].

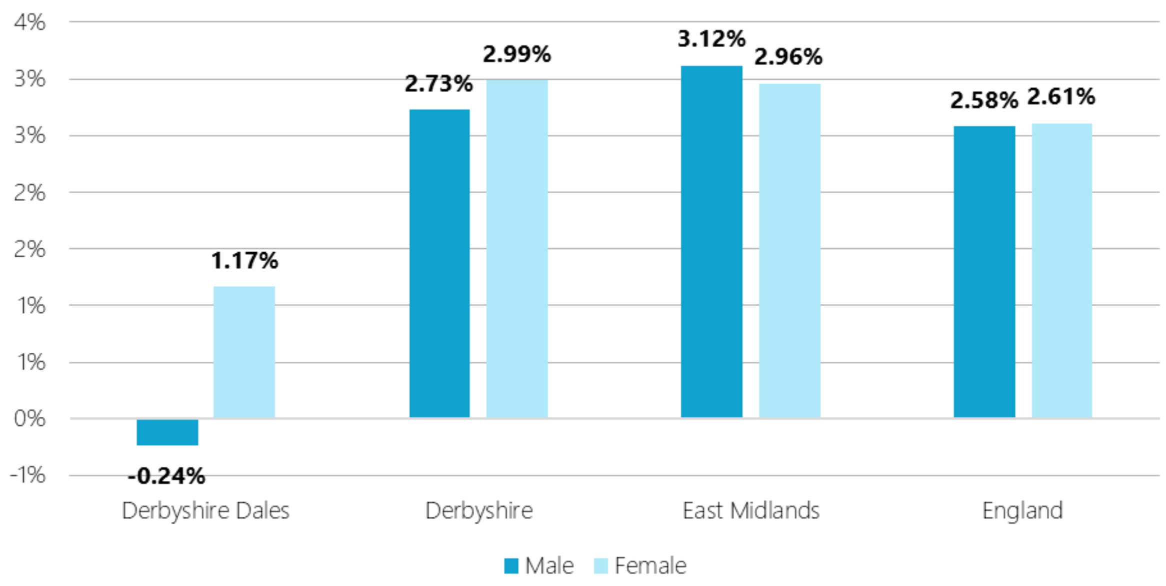
Population Estimates by age as a % of total (2023)

Area	Aged 0 to 15	Aged 16 to 24	Aged 25 to 49	Aged 50 to 64	Aged 65+
Derbyshire Dales	**14.4%**	**7.3%**	**23.7%**	**25.5%**	**29.1%**
Derbyshire	16.8%	8.4%	30.0%	22.3%	22.5%
East Midlands	18.1%	11.0%	31.2%	20.0%	19.8%
England	18.5%	10.7%	32.9%	19.3%	18.7%

Source: ONS, Population Estimates, 2023

Derbyshire Dales has seen a decrease in the proportion of males, differing from country, regional and England. Derbyshire Dales has seen the 3rd lowers increase in females of all comparator areas.

Change in population by gender



Source: ONS, Population Estimates, 2023

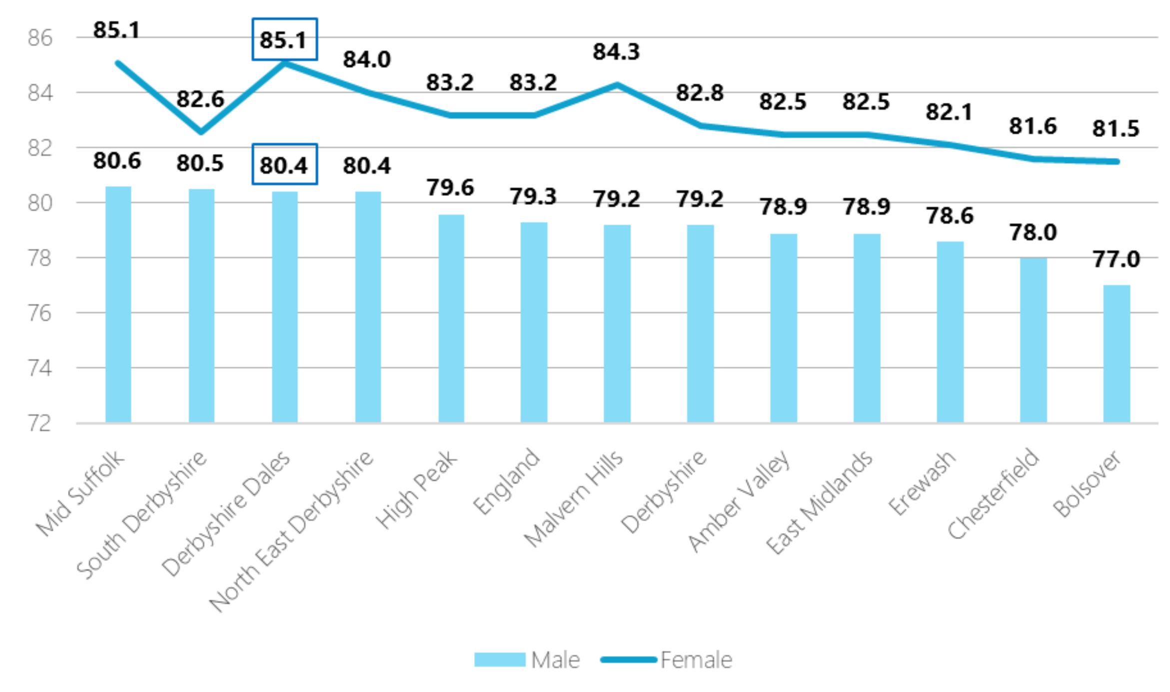
[10] ONS, Population and household estimates, 2022

As per Edge Analytics[11] 64.6% of residents within the Peak District National Park live within the boundaries of Derbyshire Dales. As per ONS 2021 Census figures[12] this would be around 30% (23,1919) of Derbyshire Dales 71,681 population.

5.2 Life expectancy

As shown by the graph below both male and female life expectancy figures for Derbyshire Dales are high, outperforming regional and national figures. Male life expectancy for 2021-2023 was the 3rd highest amongst comparator areas at 80.4 years with female life expectancy joint 1st at 85.1 years.

Male and female life expectancy 2021- 2023 (years)



Source: Fingertips, 2023

[11] Edge Analytics, Peak District National Park Demographic Forecasts, 2018
[12] ONS, National Park Residents England and Wales Census 2021, 2021

5.3 Thriving Places Index

The Thriving Places Index[13] identifies local conditions and measures for wellbeing delivered fairly and sustainably. The framework utilises a three-category approach:

- Local Conditions- combines five domains known to impact wellbeing: Place and Environment, Mental and Physical Health, Education and Learning, Work and Local Economy, and People and Community. These are the key drivers of wellbeing in a Local Authority area.
- Equality- combines the indicators related to equality across the domains of Health, Income, Gender, Social and Ethnicity. Higher scores mean good outcomes towards a more equal place, relative to how England or Wales is doing on average. Including everyone when working to improve local conditions for wellbeing is essential for a fair society and to realise the greatest wellbeing benefits.
- Sustainability- is a combined score composed of the domains of energy use, waste, and green infrastructure. These domains indicate whether local conditions are delivered without negatively impacting the environment. Higher scores indicate better sustainability, relative to how England or Wales is doing on average.

Thriving Index Scores 2024

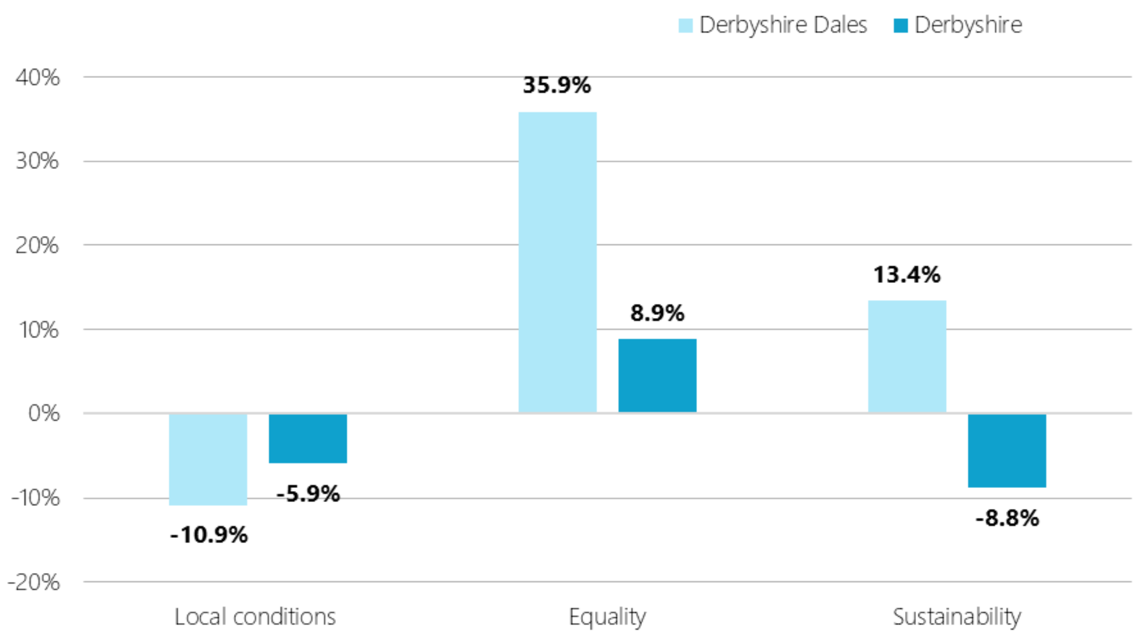
Area	Local Conditions	Equality	Sustainability
Amber Valley	5.33	5.44	4.51
Bolsover	3.76	6.51	5.16
Chesterfield	4.29	5.83	4.13
Derbyshire Dales	**5.64**	**6.44**	**4.99**
Erewash	5.04	5.04	3.94
Hambleton	5.39	9.24	4.08
High Peak	5.14	5.49	3.69
Malvern Hills	5.60	5.95	5.43
Mid Suffolk	5.34	6.74	5.01
NE Derbyshire	5.02	5.53	4.26
South Derbyshire	5.37	5.19	4.58
Derbyshire	4.96	5.26	4.26

Source: Centre for Thriving Places, Thriving Places Index, 2024

[13] Centre for Thriving Places, Thriving Places Index, 2024

Across the board Derbyshire Dales generally scores well recording medium or high results in comparison to England and Wales performance figures. In relation to Local conditions Derbyshire Dales had the highest score of the comparator areas at 5.64 against Derbyshire's average of 4.96. The local conditions score as noted in the next chart has dropped from 6.33 in 2020 however still remains high. The equality score was also positive at 6.44 compared to a county level 5.26 and has increased by 1.7 points since 2020.

Change in Thriving Places Index Scores 2020-2024 (Index points)

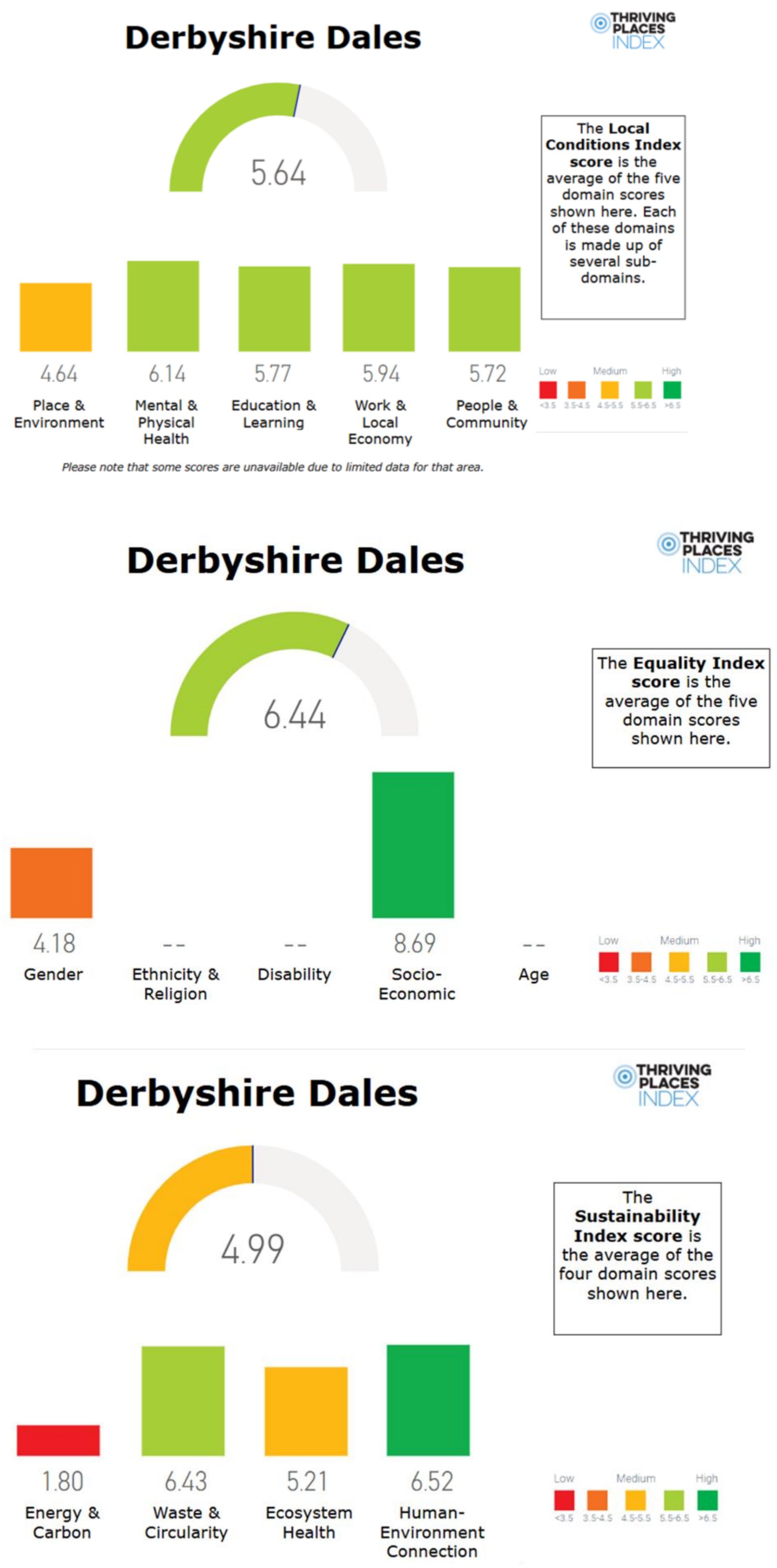


Source: Centre for Thriving Places, Thriving Places Index, 2024

Sustainability was Derbyshire Dales worst performing category of the three measures. Though remaining in the medium range at 4.99, this category has seen a 0.59-point increase since 2020. However, it still ranks above the Derbyshire average of 4.26.

The more detailed breakdown of the local authority by each measure is visualised below.

Thriving Places Index Scores 2024



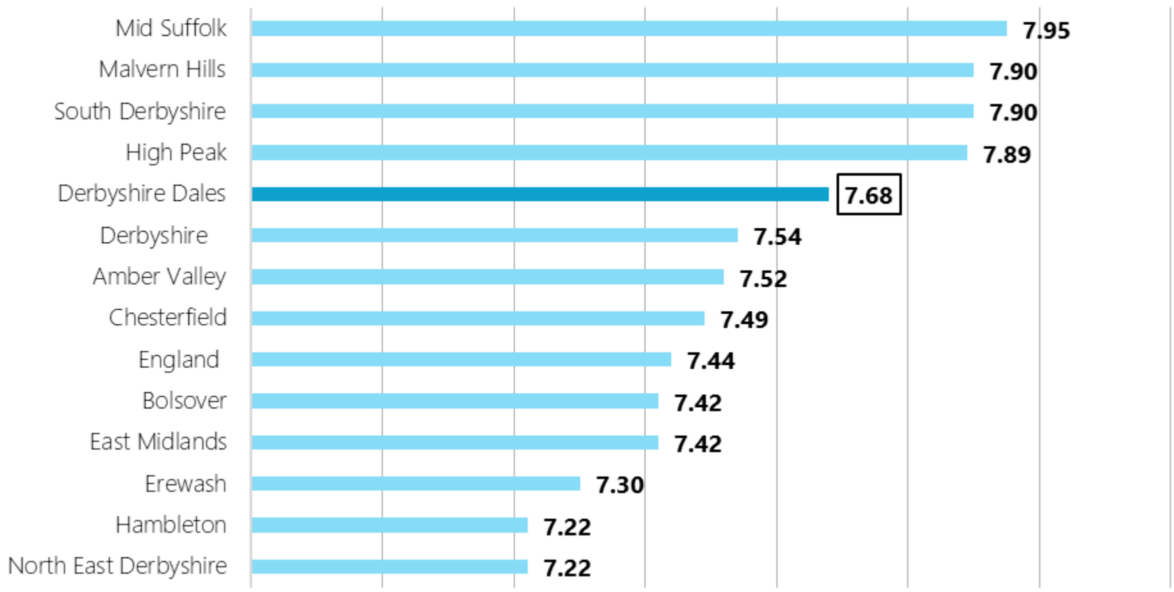
Source: Centre for Thriving Places, Thriving Places Index, 2024

Energy use was the main contributor to the lower sustainability score, calculated using per capita CO_2 emissions and average domestic energy consumption. The local authority also scored very low for transport (3.17- a sub category of place and environment within local conditions) the second worst index area behind energy use (calculated using active transport use, car traffic, journey times to key services and traffic accidents rate).

5.4 Life satisfaction

Life satisfaction relates to the feeling of things done in life being worthwhile, happiness and anxiety. Derbyshire Dales ranks 5th out of all comparator areas for life satisfaction and is higher than both regional and national average. Happiness ranks 9th of all comparator areas, but still above national and regional averages.

Life satisfaction (April 2022 – March 2023)



Source: ONS, Annual personal well-being estimates, 2023

5.5 Physical activity

The Office for Health Improvements and Disparities undertook a survey of physical activity and inactivity amongst adults. Physical inactivity defined as

"The number of respondents aged 19 and over, with valid responses to questions on physical activity, doing less than 30 moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) minutes physical activity per week in bouts of 10 minutes or more in the previous 28 days expressed as a percentage of the total number of respondents aged 19 and over."

The results are shown in the below table. Derbyshire Dales figures are positive with the lowest percentage of physically inactive adults in the region and the second lowest amongst all comparator areas (14.7% or approximately 8,605 people).

This figure has risen by 1.76% over the period from 2018/19-2022/23, an increase 0.55 percentage points more than the national change, however from a much lower starting base with the biggest rise expectedly during the start of the Pandemic.

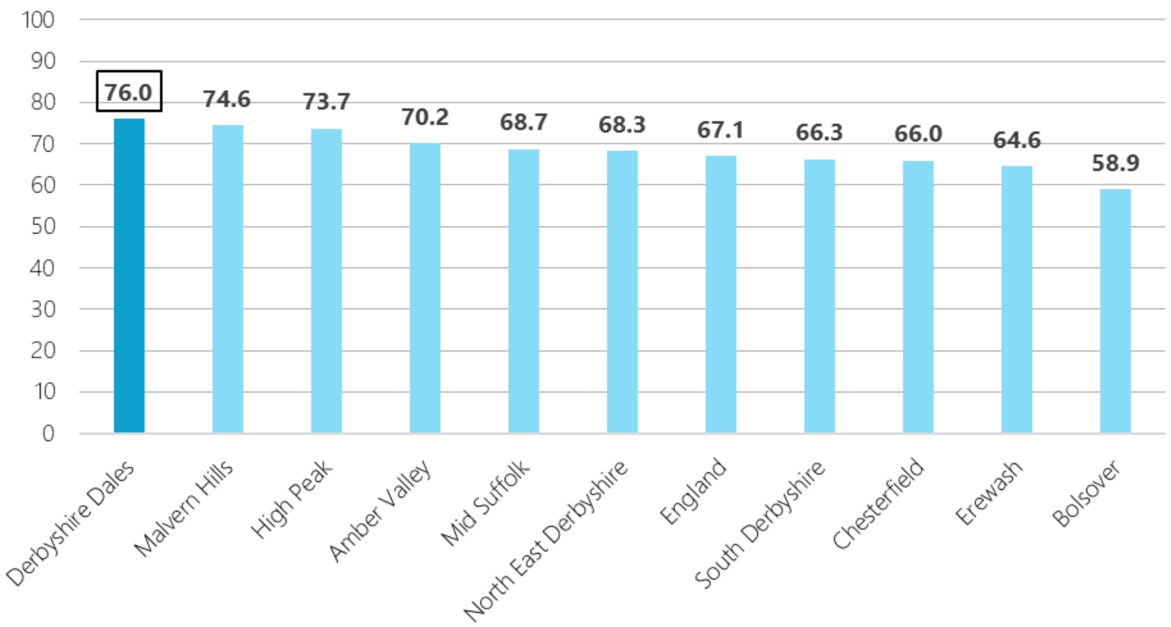
% of physically inactive adults (19+)

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Change (%)
Derbyshire Dales	**13.0**	**15.1**	**15.9**	**16.9**	**14.7**	**1.76**
England	21.4	22.9	23.4	22.3	22.6	1.21

Source: Office for Health Improvements and Disparities, Fingertips Public Health Data, 2023

Derbyshire Dales has the highest proportion of physically active adults across all comparator areas (76.0%), 8.9% percentage points higher than the England average.

% of physically active adults (2022/23)



Source: Office for Health Improvements and Disparities, Fingertips, 2023

General physical inactivity figures for the area are low and the increase has been marginal and from a low base providing no immediate need for action in this area.

5.6 Qualifications

Derbyshire has seen a 16.7% reduction in people with no qualifications (-500), greater than that seen in England and in contrast to the wider East Midlands where the number of people without qualifications is increasing. Derbyshire Dales has seen a large increase in the number of people with RQF4+ (49.3%, +10,100), the largest increase of any comparator areas.

Change in the number of people with qualifications (2022-2023)

Area	No qualifications	RQF1	RQF2	RQF3	RQF4+	Other qualifications
Amber Valley	-51.7%	8.2%	25.5%	-1.1%	9.6%	
Bolsover	87.5%		2.3%	-35.4%	34.2%	
Chesterfield	17.2%		5.4%	-18.5%	8.3%	
Derbyshire Dales			**-18.8%**	**-54.0%**	**49.3%**	
Erewash	2.5%		-35.4%	26.7%	41.3%	
Hambleton	-7.1%		40.7%	-31.8%	-6.0%	
High Peak			30.7%	-26.2%	20.8%	
Malvern Hills	-31.0%		39.1%	-13.8%	7.9%	
Mid Suffolk	20.0%		16.1%	-26.0%	4.9%	
North East Derbyshire			137.0%	-35.5%	3.8%	
South Derbyshire			0.0%	-24.9%	15.1%	-21.4%
Derbyshire	-15.3%	-18.4%	12.4%	-17.1%	22.2%	-51.9%
East Midlands	13.2%	-7.4%	2.4%	-5.9%	8.7%	-12.3%
England	-3.4%	-3.3%	1.0%	-0.3%	6.3%	-1.1%

Source: ONS, Qualifications RQF, 2024

Qualifications data provided by the Office for National Statistics detail the number of people with national vocational qualifications, those in apprenticeships and those with other recognised qualifications. The number of people without qualifications is declining at a faster rate than the national average, which is also greater than the majority of the comparator areas.

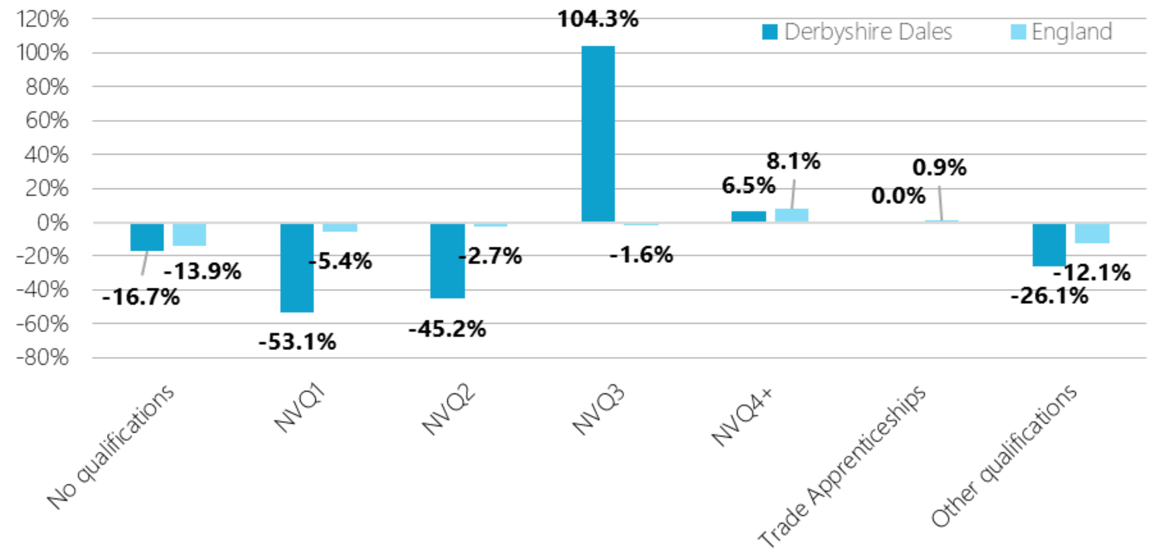
Change in the number of people with qualifications 2019-2021

Area	No Quals	NVQ1	NVQ2	NVQ3	NVQ4+	Trade Apprenticeships	Other Quals
Amber Valley	83.3%	15.5%	10.7%	-30.7%	-8.8%	109.5%	52.8%
Bolsover	8.7%	-5.9%	6.5%	-49.1%	124.7%	-36.8%	-13.5%
Chesterfield	19.5%	4.2%	-8.7%	-26.2%	30.2%	-43.2%	-20.8%
Derbyshire Dales	**-16.7%**	**-53.1%**	**-45.2%**	**104.3%**	**6.5%**	**0.0%**	**-26.1%**
Erewash	118.8%	28.1%	-32.6%	-5.6%	15.2%	-20.8%	-13.3%
Hambleton	40.0%	-31.4%	19.8%	9.1%	-5.6%	0.0%	72.2%
High Peak	32.6%	300.0%	33.3%	-32.9%	-20.8%		-30.0%
Malvern Hills	-67.6%	-42.4%	78.0%	-36.7%	9.2%	33.3%	-9.1%
Mid Suffolk	16.7%	0.0%	-13.4%	45.3%	2.6%	100.0%	0.0%
NE Derbyshire	-41.9%	-57.9%	17.5%	-26.2%	28.9%	40.5%	60.0%
South Derbyshire	141.7%	75.4%	5.9%	-30.7%	-13.9%	-16.7%	27.3%
Derbyshire	23.2%	17.2%	-4.4%	-23.2%	10.2%	2.2%	-3.3%
East Midlands	1.6%	5.6%	4.2%	-10.9%	4.9%	8.8%	-14.7%
England	-13.9%	-5.4%	-2.7%	-1.6%	8.1%	0.9%	-12.1%

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2022

Those achieving level 1 and 2 qualifications is declining, which is positive as it is offset by a greater proportion of people attaining higher qualifications. A greater number of people are attaining level 3 and 4 and higher qualifications which will enable a greater number of people in the area to access more skilled positions.

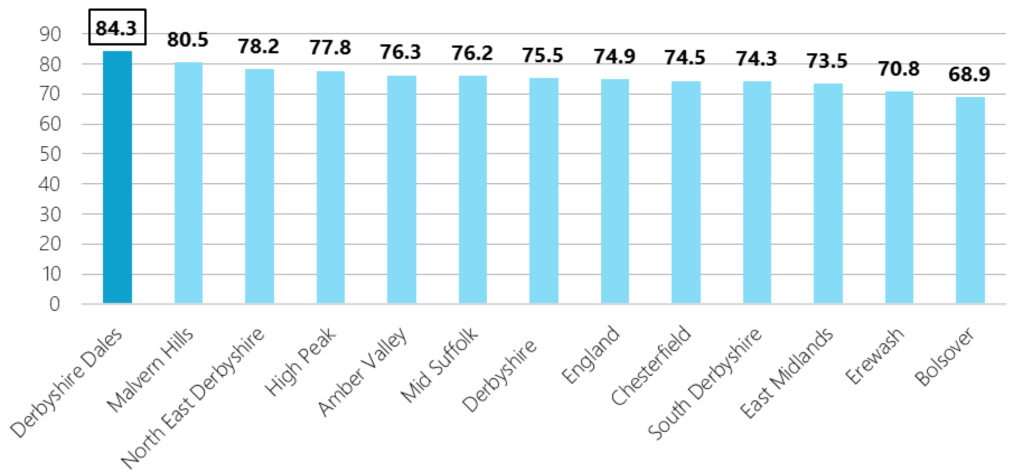
Change in qualifications (2019-2021)



Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, 2022

The percentage of young people achieving maths and English GCSE qualifications by age 19 is the greatest amongst all comparator areas within and outside the region, it is also higher than the national average. When compared to the previous table, this suggests that greater focus could be put on other areas of qualification

% of young people achieving GCSEs (and equivalent qualifications) in English and Maths by aged 19

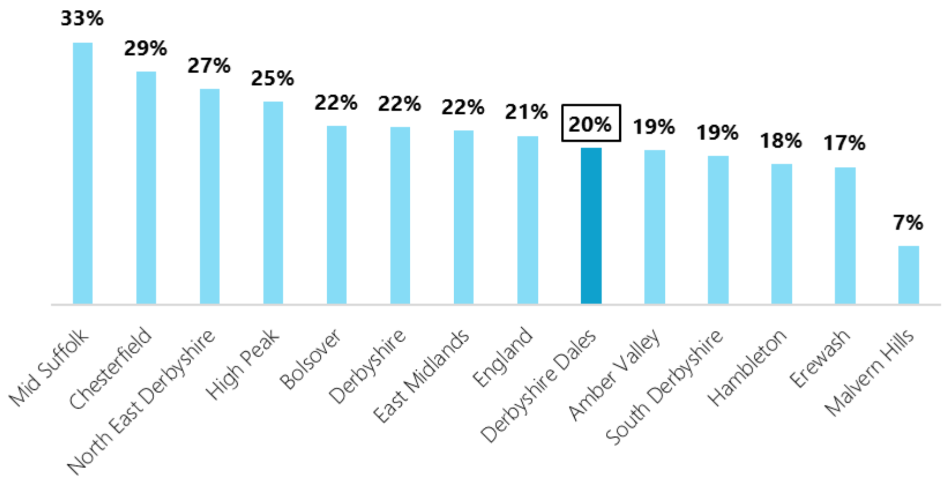


Source: ONS, Subnational Indicators 2021/22, 2024

5.7 Economic inactivity

Nearly one in five (8,100, 19.5%) of the population aged between 16-64 are economically inactive, a figure that has increased by 9.5% between 2019 and 2023.

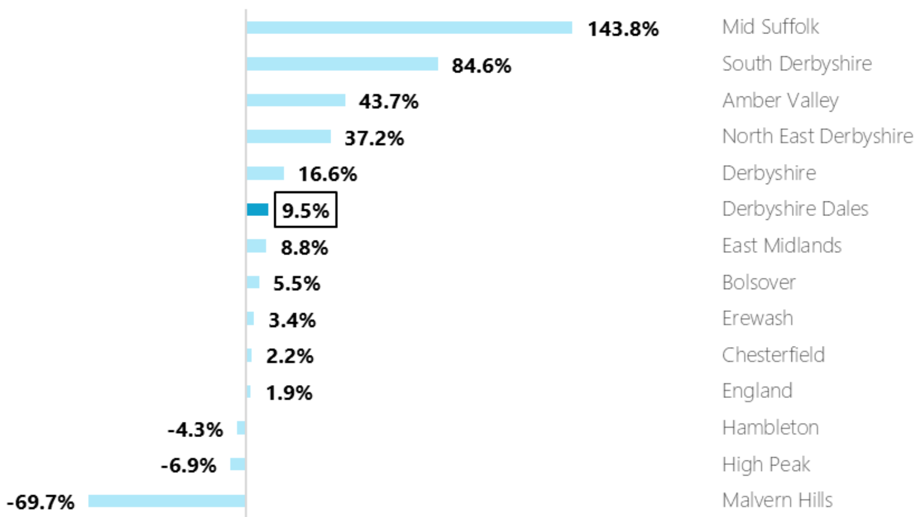
Percentage of the population economically inactive (2023)



Source: ONS, Economic inactivity, 2023

This increase in larger than both the regional and national average. The area has seen an increase in the number of economically inactive people who are long-term sick. This figure currently stands at 2,900 (an increase of 700 since 2021). Whilst in 2022 4,400 residents were economically inactive due to having retired, this figure has now fallen to 2,800 indicating that some may have returned to work or left the area.

Change in economic inactivity (2019-2023)

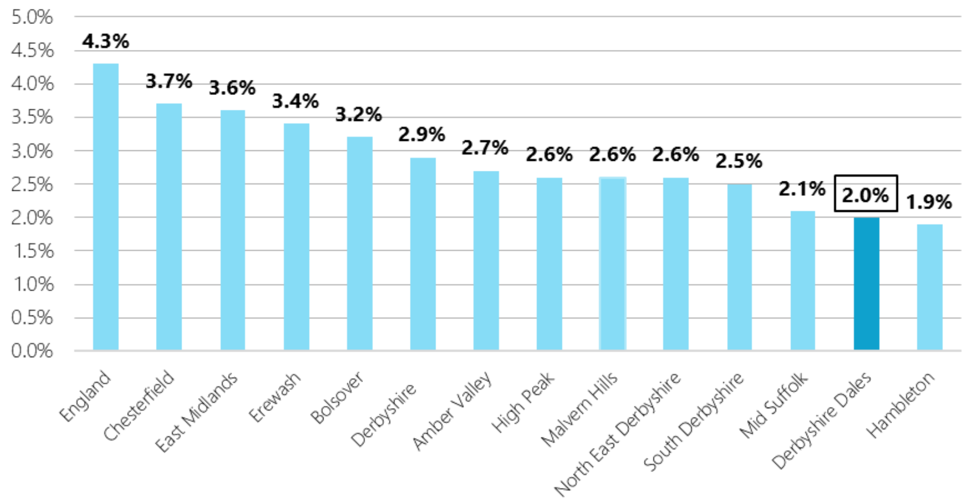


Source: ONS, Economic inactivity, 2023

5.8 Claimant count

835 residents over age 16 are claiming some form of benefit. Claimant Count as a proportion of residents aged 16-64 was recorded at 2.0% for Derbyshire Dales in January 2025 up from 1.1% at the same point in 2019. Despite the increase this is the second lowest proportion of claimants of all Derbyshire local authorities (with Hambleton seeing a proportion of 1.9%) and is significantly lower than the national figure of 4.3% (up from 2.4% in January 2019).

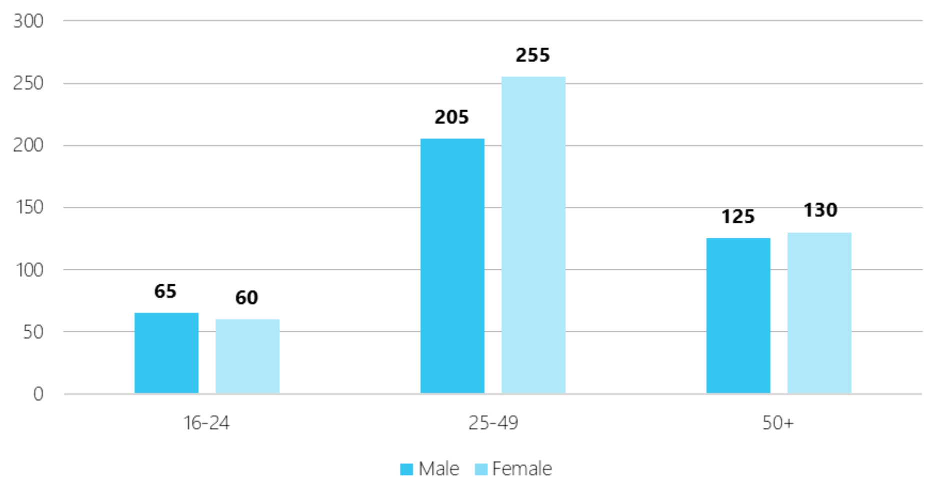
Claimant count as a proportion of residents aged 16-64 (Jan 2025)



Source: ONS, Claimant Count, 2025

The breakdown of Derbyshire Dales claimants by gender and age category is displayed below. 55% of claimants (455) were in the 25-49 age bracket in 2025 and there were a marginally higher number of female claimants than male (53%).

Derbyshire Dales Claimants by Age Bracket and Gender Jan 2025



Source: ONS, Claimant Count, 2025

5.9 Employment

The table shows employment numbers and location quotients (LQs) indicating the concentration of each industry against the national figure. The largest industries in 2023 were manufacturing, accommodation and food services and wholesale and retail trade, with 5,000, 5,000 and 4,500 employees respectively. Mining and Quarrying had the largest location quotient (11.0) eleven times the national average, followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing (an LQ of 5.8).

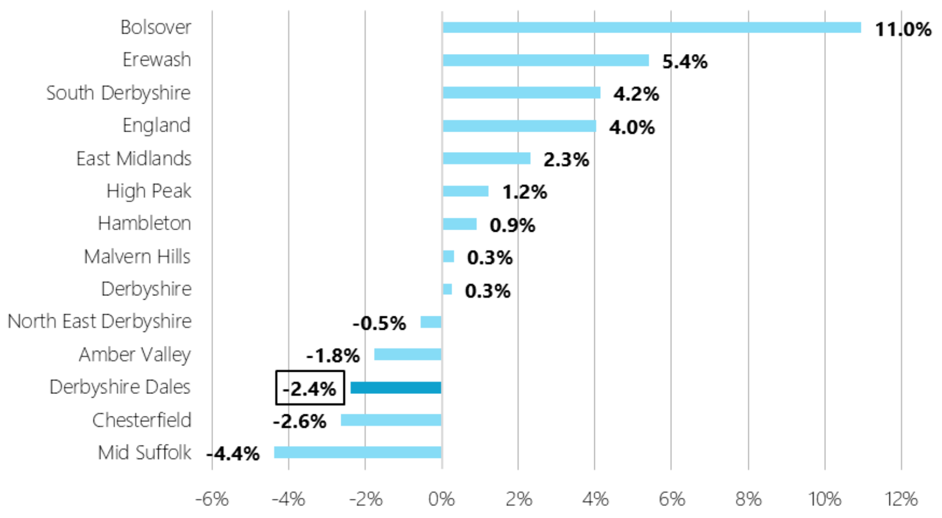
Derbyshire Dales Employment 2023

Sector	LQ	Employment Count
Mining and quarrying	11.0	400
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.8	2,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.2	2,000
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2.0	3,000
Manufacturing	1.9	5,000
Accommodation and food service activities	1.8	5,000
Real estate activities	1.2	900
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	0.9	4,500
Construction	0.9	1,500
Other service activities	0.9	600
Education	0.7	2,000
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.6	2,250
Human health and social work activities	0.6	3,000
Transportation and storage	0.5	1,000
Water supply; sewerage, waste management/remediation activities	0.4	125
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.3	40
Information and communication	0.3	500
Administrative and support service activities	0.3	1,000
Financial and insurance activities	0.1	125

Source: ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey, 2023

Overall employment figures have fallen in Derbyshire Dales by 2.4% (approximately 1,025 people) from 2019 to 2023, despite regional and national increases of 2.3% and 4.0% respectively.

Employment change 2019-2023



Source: ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey, 2023

5.10 Wages

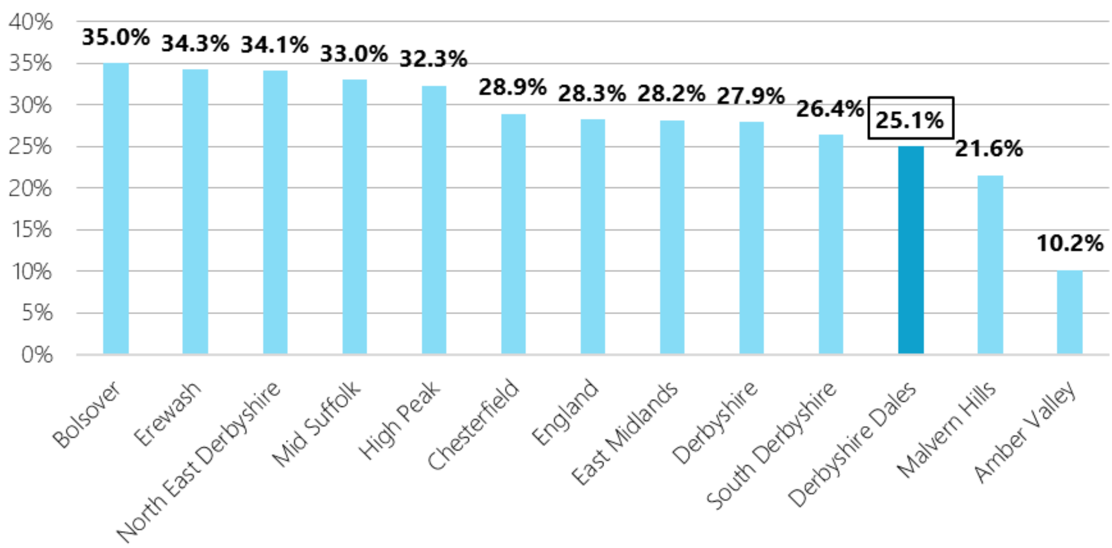
Weekly wages for the Derbyshire Dales were £539.20 in 2024 based on ONS workplace analysis, the third lowest of all local authorities in Derbyshire and £80.30 lower than the England average despite an increase of £108.10 (25.1%) since 2019 (the national figure rose by 28.3% in this time). In contrast, using residence-based analysis, wages were £39.90 lower than the national figure in 2024 at £578.80, having risen 33.0% over the same period.

Median weekly wages (workplace analysis)

Area	2024	Change since 2019 (%)
England	£619.59	28.3%
Mid Suffolk	£586.40	33.0%
Chesterfield	£578.20	28.9%
Erewash	£574.50	34.3%
East Midlands	£565.10	28.2%
South Derbyshire	£561.00	26.4%
Derbyshire	£553.50	27.9%
Amber Valley	£542.60	10.2%
High Peak	£541.90	32.3%
Derbyshire Dales	**£539.20**	**25.1%**
NE Derbyshire	£537.30	34.1%
Bolsover	£525.00	35.0%
Malvern Hills	£469.20	21.6%

Source: ONS, Annual survey of hours and earnings, 2024

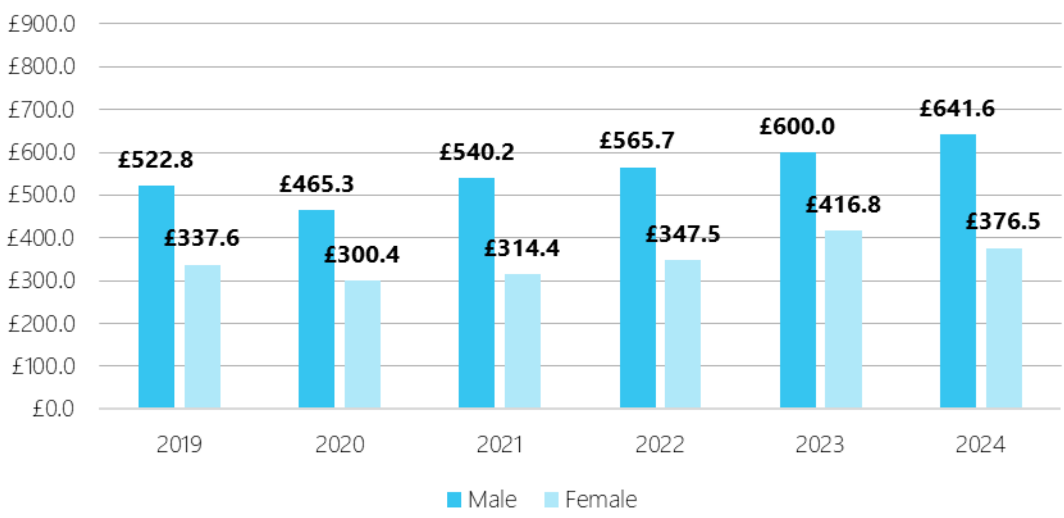
Change in median weekly wages (2019-2024)



Source: ONS, Annual survey and earnings, 2024

There is also a significant disparity between male and female weekly wages. As of 2024 men were paid £265.10 more a week than women. The gender pay gap is also increasing year on year, between 2019 and 2024 male weekly wages rose by 22.7% almost double that of women's (11.5%). At a resident-based analysis in 2024 men were paid £254.00 more than women with wages increasing by 47.1% from 2019 while women's rose by 39.6%.

Derbyshire Dales median weekly wages (£)

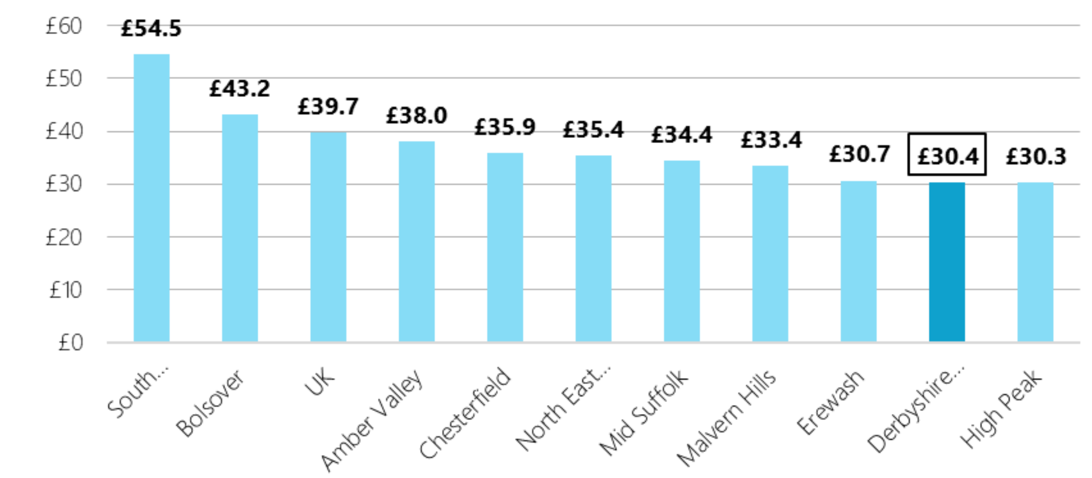


Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2024

5.11 Productivity

Labour productivity measures the gross value added (GVA) per hour worked or per job filled. Derbyshire Dales performs poorly on both indices of productivity, falling both below the national average and the second weakest of all the comparator areas for GVA per hours worked and the weakest for job filled. However, Derbyshire Dales has seen a 26.1% increase in GVA per hours worked (equivalent to an increase of £6.30 per hour), higher than the 15.7% seen in the UK.

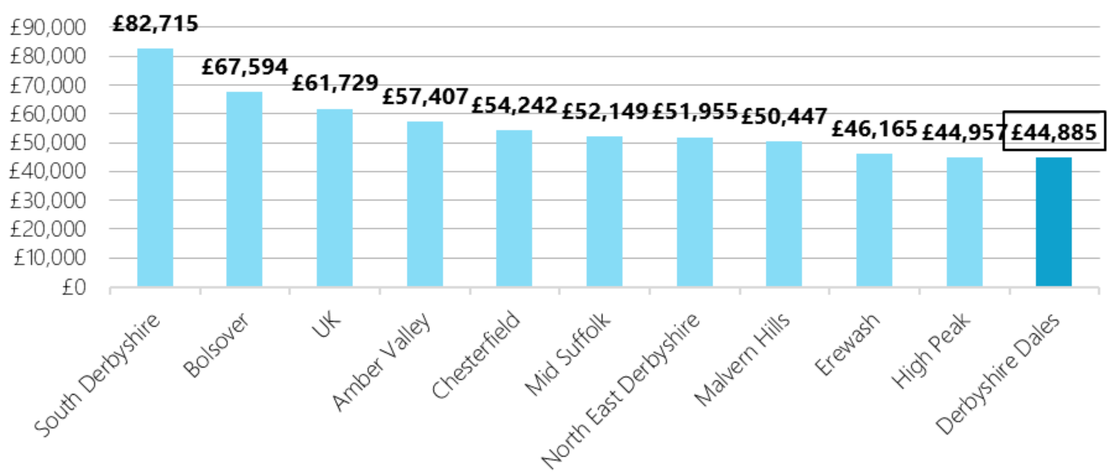
GVA per hour worked, 2022 (£)



Source: ONS, Subregional Labour productivity indices, 2024

This trend is also reflected in GVA per job filled, which has seen an increase of 23.0% to £44,885, almost double the increase (11.6%) experienced nationally in the UK.

GVA per filled job (£) 2022

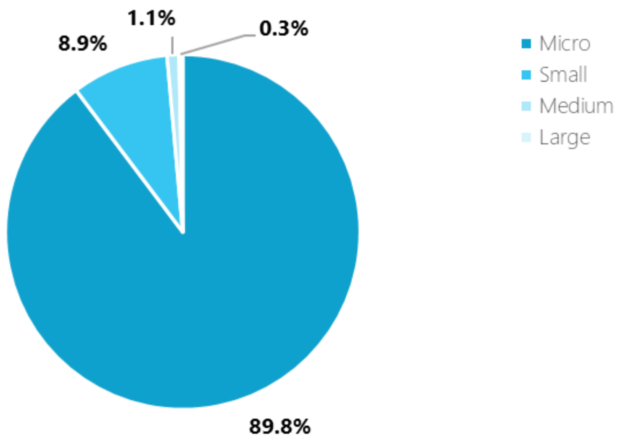


Source: ONS, Subregional Labour productivity indices, 2024

5.12 Business counts

The Derbyshire Dales business base is primarily comprised of smaller firms with 4,105 (89.8%) of enterprises classified as Micro (0-9 employees) and 405 (8.9%) as Small (10-49 employees). These figures are marginally higher than that of the national average- as of 2024 89.2% of English businesses were micro enterprises and 8.7% were small.

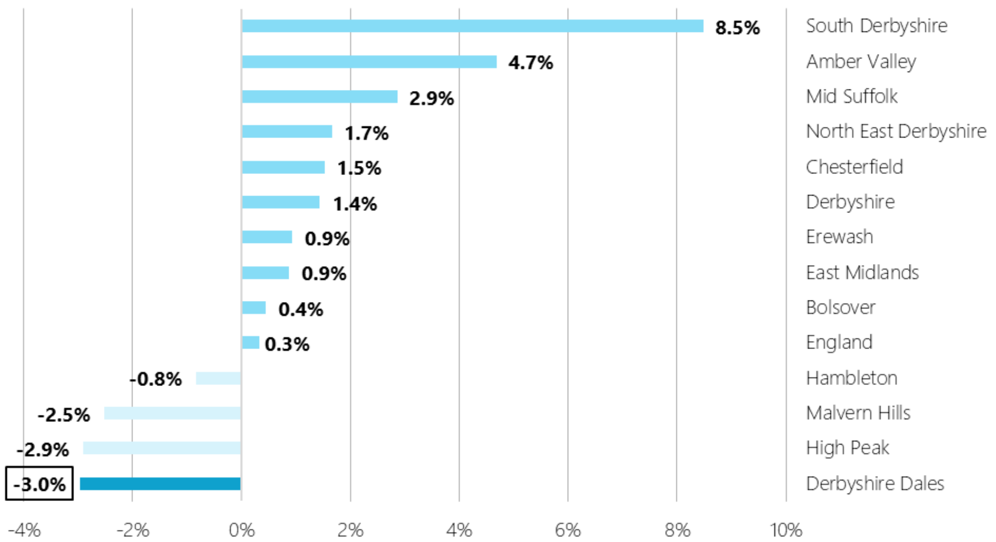
Derbyshire Dales business base by size band, 2024



Source: ONS, Business Counts, 2024

From 2019 to 2024 Derbyshire Dales has experienced a net loss of businesses with a 3.0% decline in enterprises (140 firms), one of four local authorities in Derbyshire to not increase its business base. At a county level Derbyshire saw a 1.4% increase in enterprises over the same period, the East Midlands by 0.9% and a national rise of 0.3%.

Business counts change 2019-2024



Source: ONS, Business Counts, 2024

Of enterprises active in Derbyshire Dales in 2024 the largest operating sector was agriculture, forestry and fishing with 865 firms, following a loss of 7.5% (-70) since 2019.

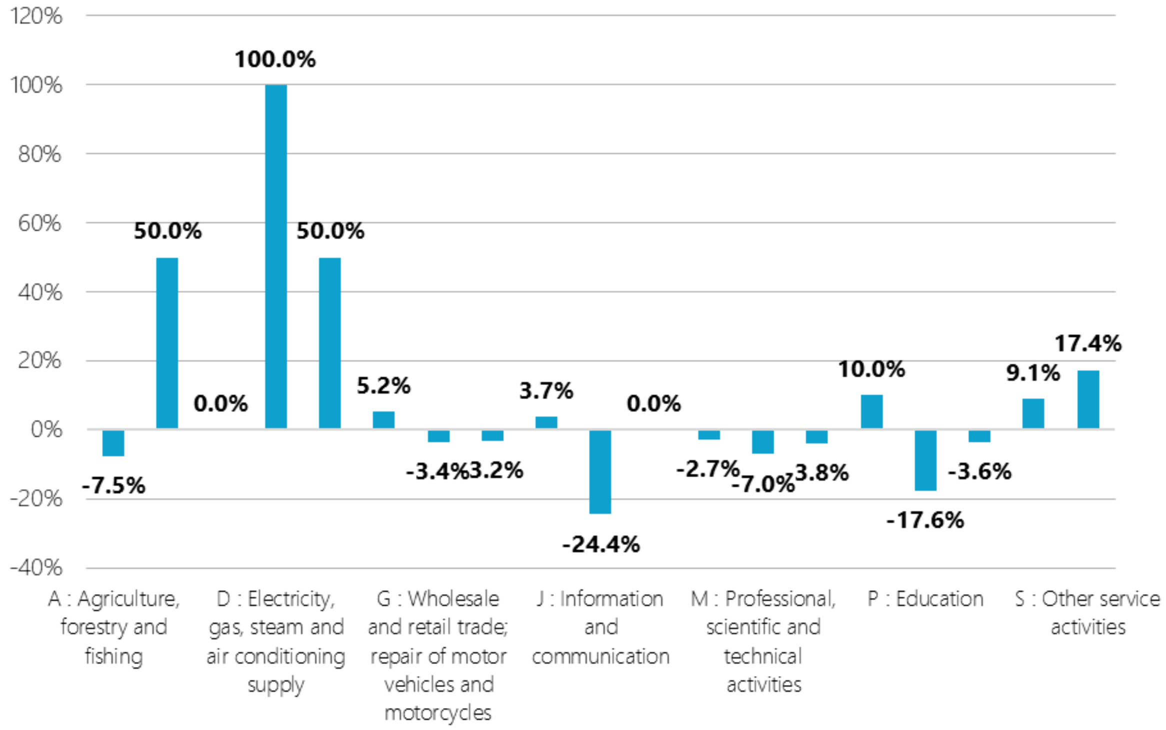
Derbyshire Dales business counts by sector

Industry	2024	Change 2019-2024 (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	865	-7.5%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	595	-7.0%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	570	-3.4%
Construction	505	5.2%
Accommodation and food service activities	420	3.7%
Manufacturing	265	0.0%
Administrative and support service activities	250	-3.8%
Real estate activities	180	-2.7%
Information and communication	170	-24.4%
Transportation and storage	150	-3.2%
Human health and social work activities	135	-3.6%
Other service activities	135	17.4%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	120	9.1%
Education	70	17.6%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	55	10.0%
Financial and insurance activities	50	0.0%
Mining and quarrying	15	50.0%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	15	50.0%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	10	100.0%

Source: ONS, UK Business Counts, 2024

The largest loss of firms was within the information and communications sector with a fall of 24.4% (-55) between 2019 and 2024.

Derbyshire Dales Total Business Change



Source: ONS, UK Business Counts, 2024

5.13 Enterprise births/deaths and survival rates

The number of enterprise births describes businesses which did not exist in the preceding two years, whereas deaths are defined by businesses which do not exist in the following two years as per the ONS. High growth enterprises are defined here as all businesses with an annualised growth rate of greater than 20% over a three-year period. Growth is measured by numbers of employment within the business but excludes organisations with fewer than 10 employees so that micro businesses do not skew the data.

Business Counts (2023)

Area	Business Births	Business Deaths	High Growth Enterprises
Amber Valley	495	465	25
Bolsover	235	215	10
Chesterfield	350	355	15
Derbyshire Dales	**310**	**305**	**20**
Erewash	400	630	15
Hambleton	335	305	15
High Peak	360	400	10
Malvern Hills	325	320	15
Mid Suffolk	410	370	15
NE Derbyshire	305	320	10
South Derbyshire	410	580	20
Derbyshire	2,865	3,270	125
East Midlands	20,495	21,265	805
England	281,860	275,585	12,225

Source: ONS, Business Demography UK, 2023

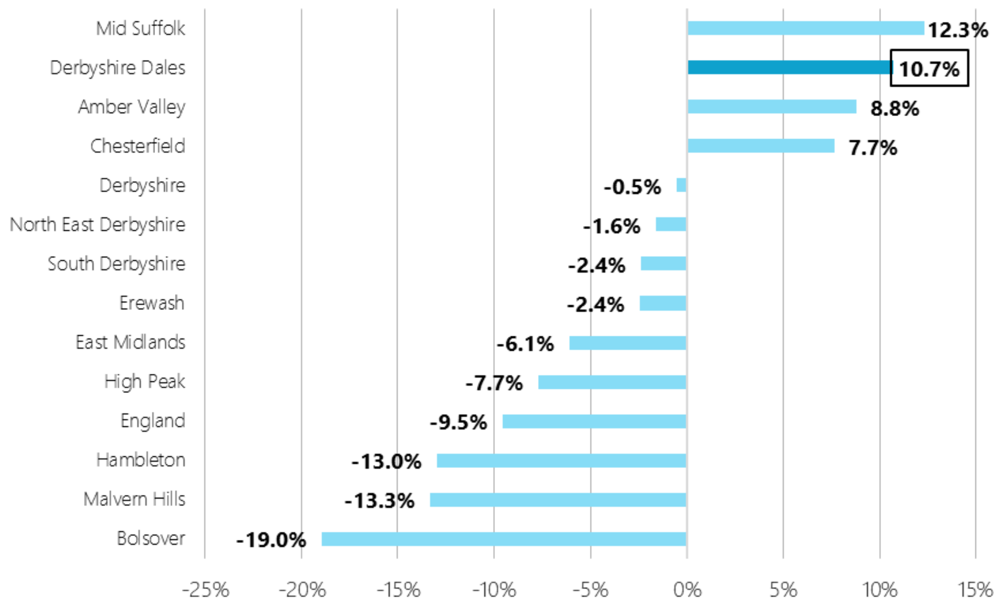
Within Derbyshire Dales the rate of business births has increased at a faster rate than the deaths of existing businesses and in 2023 there were more enterprise births (310) than deaths (305). As with all comparator areas excluding Hambleton, Derbyshire Dales has seen an increase in business death, however it has also seen the second largest increase in business births. Derbyshire Dales has not seen a change in the number of high growth enterprises (20) between 2018 and 2023. This differs from the national picture, which has seen an increase of 0.3% and the regional picture, which has seen a decrease of 11.5%

Change in Business Counts (2016-2023)

Area	Births	Deaths	High Growth Enterprises
Amber Valley	8.8%	22.4%	25.0%
Bolsover	-19.0%	4.9%	0.0%
Chesterfield	7.7%	18.3%	0.0%
Derbyshire Dales	**10.7%**	**5.2%**	**0.0%**
Erewash	-2.4%	75.0%	0.0%
Hambleton	-13.0%	-11.6%	-25.0%
High Peak	-7.7%	37.9%	-50.0%
Malvern Hills	-13.3%	3.2%	0.0%
Mid Suffolk	12.3%	8.8%	-40.0%
NE Derbyshire	-1.6%	18.5%	-33.3%
South Derbyshire	-2.4%	61.1%	33.3%
Derbyshire	-0.5%	33.2%	-3.8%
East Midlands	-6.1%	8.1%	-11.5%
England	-9.5%	3.7%	0.3%

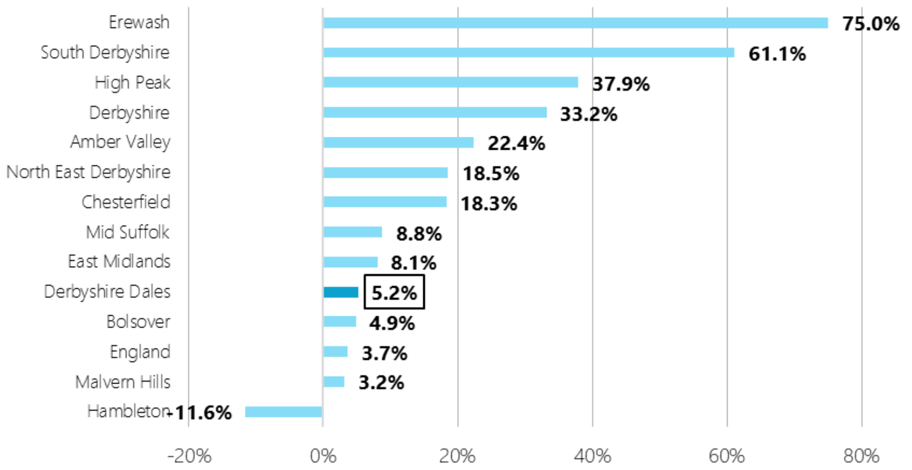
Source: ONS, Business Demography UK, 2023

Change in New Enterprise births (2018-2023)



Source: ONS Business Demography UK, 2023

Change in Enterprise Deaths (2018-2023)



Source: ONS Business Demography UK, 2023

Derbyshire Dales has a greater business survival rate than the national average across the 1st and 2nd year and has the strongest business survival rate after 5 years within the region. During Year 1, the survival rate was 96.7% and in Year 2 this figure stood at 80.0%. The 4-year survival rate (51.5%) has seen the largest decrease across the five-year time series, with a 5.63% decrease.

Survival rates 2018-2022

Area	1-Year	2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
Amber Valley	93.3	74.2	63.1	51.6	49.5
Bolsover	93.8	73.5	56.8	44.4	46.6
Chesterfield	93.0	77.1	37.6	48.1	43.1
Derbyshire Dales	**96.7**	**80.0**	**62.1**	**51.5**	**50.0**
Erewash	93.9	65.2	56.5	50.6	40.2
Hambleton	94.3	78.5	64.6	55.7	46.8
High Peak	95.0	77.8	67.7	54.1	48.7
Malvern Hills	94.4	70.4	63.1	54.7	50.7
Mid Suffolk	91.8	71.3	65.3	59.0	50.7
North East Derbyshire	88.7	67.8	44.6	46.3	46.8
South Derbyshire	96.2	73.9	57.1	48.3	40.5
Derbyshire	94.1	72.7	54.3	49.7	45.5
East Midlands	92.5	69.1	48.6	45.3	40.0
England	92.4	70.3	52.8	44.9	39.4

Source: ONS, Business Demography UK, 2023

Derbyshire Dales survival rates

Year	Change since 2018 (%)
1-Year	0.29
2-Year	1.43
3-Year	-4.00
4-Year	-5.36
5-Year	

Source: ONS, Business Demography UK, 2023

5.14 Floorspace

Floorspace statistics provided by the Governments Valuation Office Agency show low volumes of floorspace (613,000m^2) within the local authority compared to similar areas within and outside the region. Office floorspace is relatively high however this may be reflective of the location of the County Council office buildings with Derbyshire Dales.

Floorspace 2020/2021 (thousand m2)

Area	Total	Retail	Office	Industrial	Other
Amber Valley	1,714	194	93	1,321	105
Bolsover	1,259	99	67	1,040	53
Chesterfield	1,392	26	142	875	115
Derbyshire Dales	**613**	**120**	**72**	**355**	**66**
Erewash	1,268	172	60	956	80
Hambleton	1,198	143	86	836	132
High Peak	959	138	46	681	94
Malvern Hills	548	98	53	322	75
Mid Suffolk	1,159	76	66	890	127
North East Derbyshire	778	75	45	589	69
South Derbyshire	1,235	88	52	1,014	82
Derbyshire	9,218	1,146	577	6,831	664
East Midlands	57,826	7,920	4,782	40.733	4,392
England	549,560	99,304	83,009	314,496	52,751

Source: Valuation Office Agency, Non-domestic rating: stock of properties including business floorspace, 2022

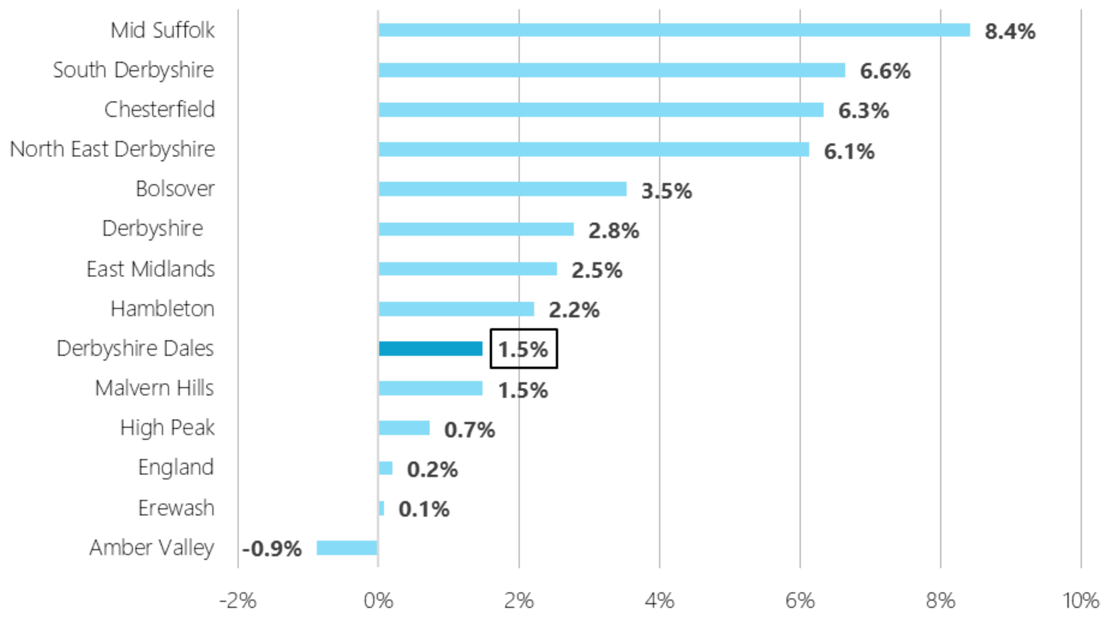
Total floorspace has increased by 9,000m2 (1.5%) between 2017/18 and 2020/21. Of most significance is the increase in retail space in Derbyshire Dales (3.4%), differing from regional and national averages that have remained largely static or seen decrease.

Change in total Floorspace (thousand m2) 2017/18-2020/21

Area	Total	Retail	Office	Industrial	Other
Derbyshire Dales	**1.5%**	**3.4%**	**-1.4%**	**1.4%**	**1.5%**
Derbyshire	2.8%	0.8%	0.2%	3.3%	2.8%
East Midlands	2.5%	0.0%	-3.1%	3.8%	2.3%
England	0.2%	-0.4%	-3.3%	1.1%	2.1%

Source: Valuation Office Agency, Non-domestic rating: stock of properties including business floorspace, 2022

Change in total floorspace (m2)



Source: Valuation Office Agency, Non-domestic rating: stock of properties including business floorspace, 2022

5.15 Summary

- Derbyshire Dales has experienced a small population increase of 0.48% (340 residents). This is lower than both regional and national averages.
- Derbyshire ranks 5th out of 14 for life satisfaction. Its local conditions score highly whilst its sustainability ranks lower, with a decrease of 8.8% since 2020. Derbyshire Dales scores above Derbyshire County across all Thriving Places metrics.
- Approximately 8,605 Derbyshire Dales residents are physically inactive. This is far lower than the proportion in England.
- Derbyshire Dales has seen a large decrease in the number of residents with no qualifications and an increase in the number of residents with RQF4+ qualifications. The area has seen the largest increase in those achieving RQF4+ qualifications (an additional 10,100) in comparison to all comparator areas.
- Derbyshire Dales has seen a change in employment of -2.4%, whilst the region and England have both seen increases. Manufacturing is the largest sector, with an employment count of 5,000. Despite wage increases, wages in the Derbyshire Dales remain lower than the England average and the gender per gap persists.
- Economic inactivity has been increasing in the Derbyshire Dales at a higher rate than in the region and nationally. There are currently 8,100 economically inactive working-age residents.
- 4,510 (98.7%) businesses in Derbyshire Dales are micro or small. Derbyshire Dales has seen the second highest increase in business births and has seen a smaller increase in business deaths than regionally. Derbyshire Dales has the 3rd highest 5-year survival rate of all comparator areas.
- Derbyshire Dales sees low productivity rates both in terms of hours worked (£30.4) and per job filled (£44,885). However, productivity has increased by a greater percentage than the England average.
- Derbyshire Dales has seen an increase in industrial, retail and other floorspace and a decrease in office space. The change in retail space is significantly higher than regional and national averages.

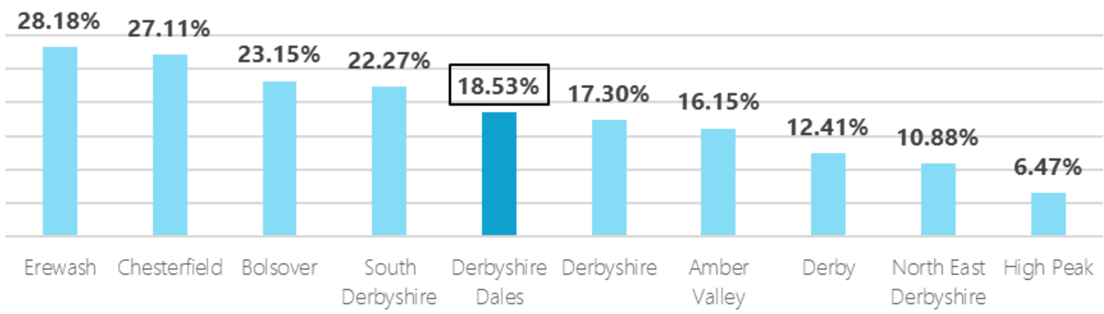
6 Resources and services to enable communities to flourish

The overall aim of the Corporate Plan's fourth theme 'resources and services to enable communities to flourish' is to provide resources and services that create resilience in communities and enable the individuals within them to live fulfilling lives. This section reviews district performance in respect to crime statistics, accessibility of key services and access to green space, including parks, playing fields and garden space.

6.1 Crime

National crime data provided by the Office for National Statistics indicates a gradual increase in the number of police recorded crimes for headline offences (excluding fraud), within Derbyshire Dales and all comparator areas from 2019-2024. While not experiencing a rise as significant as some of the neighbouring local authorities, Derbyshire Dales has seen an increase of 18.53% over the prior three years, a rate higher than the regional average (17.30%).

Change in number of police recorded crimes for headline offences (by CSP area) 2021-2024



Source: Office for National Statistics, Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area, 2024

Despite this, the Dales still has consistently recorded the lowest number of total crimes since 2021 when compared to other neighbouring local authorities. This low base is likely a contributing factor to its slightly elevated change in recorded crime numbers.

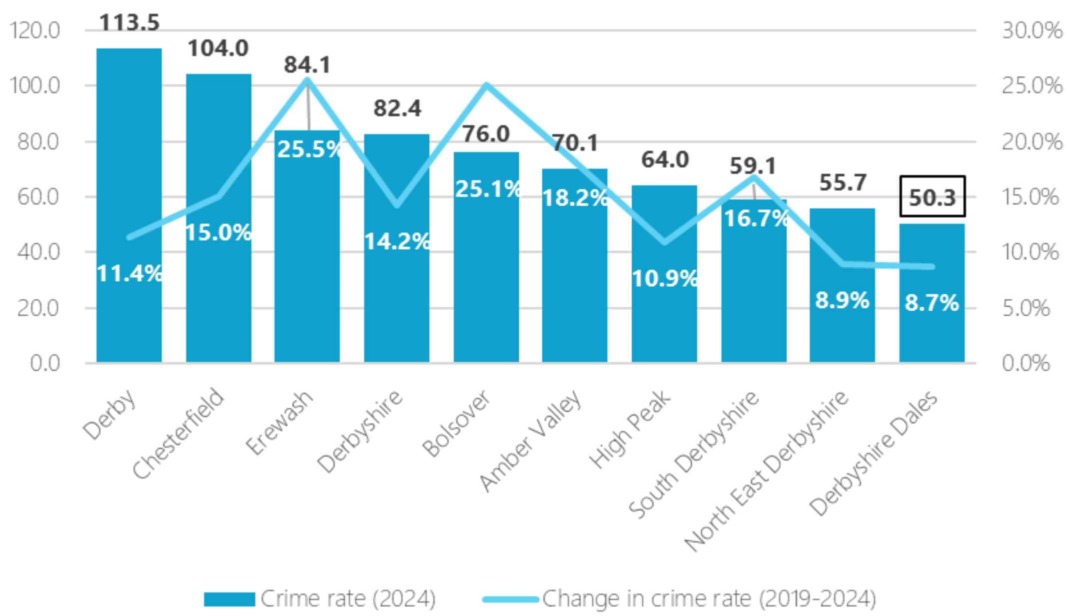
Total recorded crimes

Area	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amber Valley	7,667	8,226	8,968	8,905
Bolsover	5,033	6,239	6,241	6,198
Chesterfield	8,522	10,004	9,659	10,832
Derby	26,593	30,935	29,952	29,894
Derbyshire Dales	**3,043**	**3,309**	**3,273**	**3,607**
Erewash	7,417	8,512	9,081	9,507
High Peak	5,474	6,340	5,959	5,828
NE Derbyshire	5,213	5,673	5,682	5,780
South Derbyshire	5,370	5,933	6,307	6,566
Derbyshire	74,978	85,820	85,806	87,951

Source: Office for National Statistics, Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area, 2024

When assessed against per 1000 population, Derbyshire Dales has the lowest crime rate in actual terms (50.3) as well as experiencing the lowest increase (8.7%) compared to all comparator areas including the regional average (14.2%).

Crime rate per 1000 people and change in crime rate per 1000 people



Source: Office for National Statistics, Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area, 2024

6.2 Journey times to key services

The Department for Transport documents average journey times to key services by mode of transport. As expected, given its rurality, Derbyshire Dales has longer journey times to key services (78 minutes to hospitals) higher than the national average by both walking/public transport and car, although for many services including schools and town centres the difference is low or marginal.

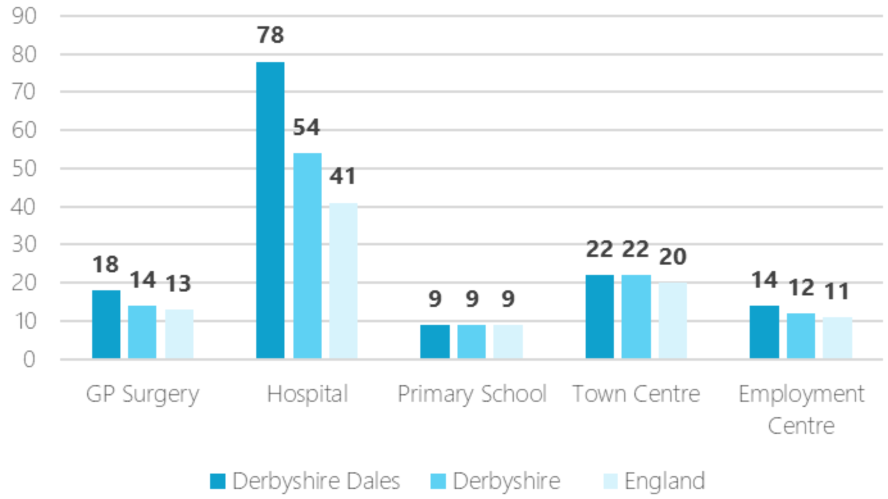
Journey times to key service by foot/public transport (mins) 2019

Area	GP	Hospital	Primary School	Town Centre	Employment Centre*
Amber Valley	12	64	8	16	11
Bolsover	13	49	9	22	14
Chesterfield	14	35	8	21	11
Derbyshire Dales	**18**	**78**	**9**	**22**	**14**
Erewash	13	50	8	20	11
Hambleton	28	52	14	30	23
High Peak	13	57	8	21	10
Malvern Hills	25	64	14	32	18
Mid Suffolk	24	83	13	39	19
NE Derbyshire	14	52	9	25	13
South Derbyshire	14	53	10	28	13
Derbyshire	**14**	**54**	**9**	**22**	**12**
England	**13**	**41**	**9**	**20**	**11**

Source: Department for Transport, Journey time statistics, 2021, *Employment Centres of 500-4999 jobs

Of the travel times, journeys to hospitals are of note. On average it takes 37 minutes longer to reach a hospital by foot or public transport for those in Derbyshire Dales than the England average to a total of 78 minutes.

Travel time (mins) by Public Transportation/on foot to nearest:



Source: Department for Transport, Journey time statistics, 2021 (data 2019)

By car it takes over half an hour against an England average of 20 minutes to reach the nearest hospital. For hospitals while journey time by car has fallen fractionally (one minute) from 2016-2019 the time taken via public transport/foot has increased by a further three.

Journey times to key services by car (mins) 2019

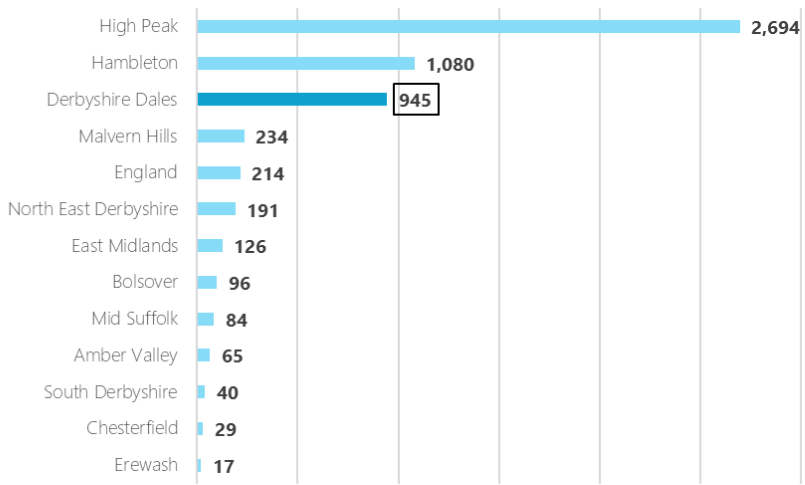
Area	GP	Hospital	Primary School	Town Centre	Employment Centre*
Amber Valley	8	30	8	10	7
Bolsover	8	21	9	12	9
Chesterfield	9	14	8	12	7
Derbyshire Dales	**10**	**33**	**9**	**14**	**8**
Erewash	8	27	8	11	8
Hambleton	11	22	11	12	10
High Peak	8	31	8	13	7
Malvern Hills	11	31	11	14	9
Mid Suffolk	11	34	11	17	9
NE Derbyshire	9	21	9	14	8
South Derbyshire	9	23	9	15	8
Derbyshire	**9**	**25**	**9**	**13**	**8**
England	**8**	**20**	**7**	**11**	**8**

Source: Department for Transport, Journey time statistics, 2021, *Employment Centres of 500-4999 jobs

6.3 Access to Green Space

Data from Friends of The Earth combines national datasets to identify the spread of publicly available green spaces. This includes public parks and gardens, playing fields, religious grounds and cemeteries, and Countryside Right of Way open access land.

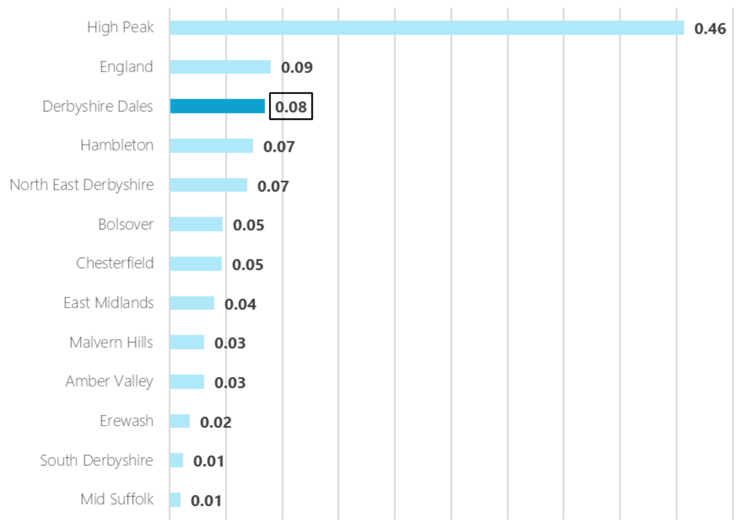
Green space (m2) per capita



Source: Friends of the Earth, 2020

Derbyshire Dales performs well when compared to similar areas within and outside the region, ranking third in both green space per capita and green space per area. However the district ranks below High Peak in both cases.

Green space per area (m2)



Source: Friends of the Earth, 2020

Data from the Office for National Statistics (last updated 2020) provides local authority level statistics for the average distance to, size of and number of parks, public gardens and playing fields. Against comparator areas Derbyshire Dales generally performs poorly.

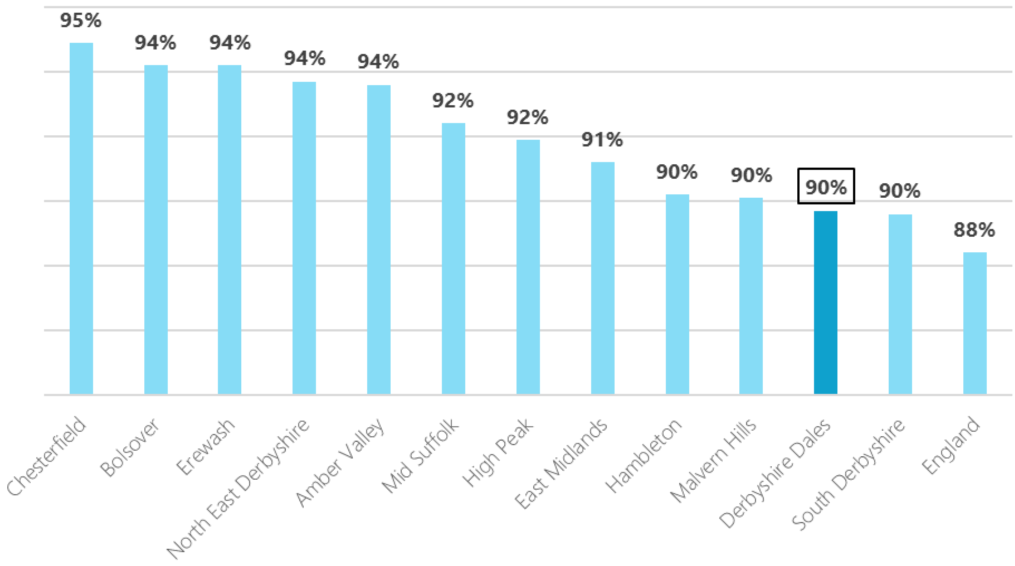
Average distance to, size of and number of nearest Parks, Public Gardens, or Playing Fields

Area	Ave. distance to nearest Park, Public Garden, or Playing Field (m)	Ave. size of nearest Park, Public Garden, or Playing Field (m2)	Ave. number of Parks, Public Gardens, or Playing Fields within 1,000 m radius	Ave. combined size of Parks, Public Gardens, or Playing Fields within 1,000 m radius (m2)
Amber Valley	313.5	74,722	5.4	508,095
Bolsover	319.7	47,370	3.8	205,548
Chesterfield	296.7	74,678	4.7	285,712
Derbyshire Dales	**523.9**	**26,029**	**2.6**	**70,868**
Erewash	334.7	94,833	3.5	444,381
Hambleton	582.7	18,913	2.2	42,477
High Peak	339.2	43,714	4.3	149,690
Malvern Hills	461.0	70,688	5.1	272,654
Mid Suffolk	689.3	41,816	1.6	94,106
North East Derbyshire	315.7	133,836	4.0	415,950
South Derbyshire	614.7	36,747	2.9	161,168
East Midlands	441.8	76,317	3.7	278,604
England	385.5	94,586	4.4	379,882

Source: Office for National Statistics, Access to Green Space, 2020

For average distance to the nearest park, public garden or playing field Derbyshire Dales (523.9m) ranks 8th out of the 11 comparator local authorities and below both the regional and national average. For average size and average combined size within 1000m radius, Dales ranks 10th of 11 local authorities with only Hambleton (that was subsumed into the new unitary authority of North Yorkshire Council in April 2023) ranking lower. Derbyshire Dales ranks similarly low when comparing the average number of parks, public gardens or playing fields within a 1000m radius with only 2.6, the third lowest of all local authority comparators and significantly lower than the regional (3.7) and national (4.4) averages.

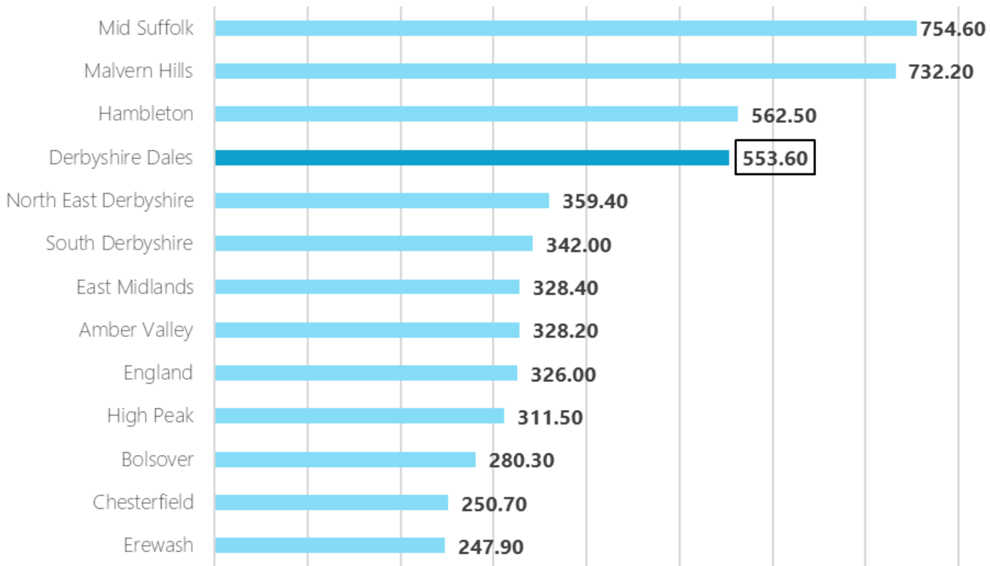
Percentage of addresses with private outdoor space



Source: Office for National Statistics, Access to gardens and public green space in Great Britain, 2020

The ONS also provides data on the percentage of addresses with a private outdoor space and its corresponding size. Whilst ranking as the second lowest of comparator areas, 90% of addresses had a private space, two percentage points higher than the national average. In addition to this, for average size of the private outdoor space Derbyshire Dales had the fourth highest average space size at 553.6m^2, larger than both regional (328.4m^2) and national (326m^2) averages.

Average size of private outdoor space (m2)



Source: Office for National Statistics, Access to gardens and public green space in Great Britain, 2020

6.4 Broadband

Previously the evidence base reviewed Ofcom's Connected Nations data which tracks the UKs digital infrastructure and the coverage and performance of broadband using four key measures:

- Superfast Broadband (SFBB) availability- The percentage of premises that have Superfast Broadband (30Mbit/s or greater) coverage from fixed broadband.
- Full Fibre availability- The percentage of premises that have coverage from full fibre service from fixed broadband.
- Gigabit availability- The percentage of premises that have coverage from a Gigabit capable service from fixed broadband (1,000 Mbit/s or greater).
- The Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO)- provides everybody with the right to request a broadband connection with a download speed of at least 10 Mbit/s and an upload speed of 1 Mbit/s (as well as a number of other specific technical characteristics).

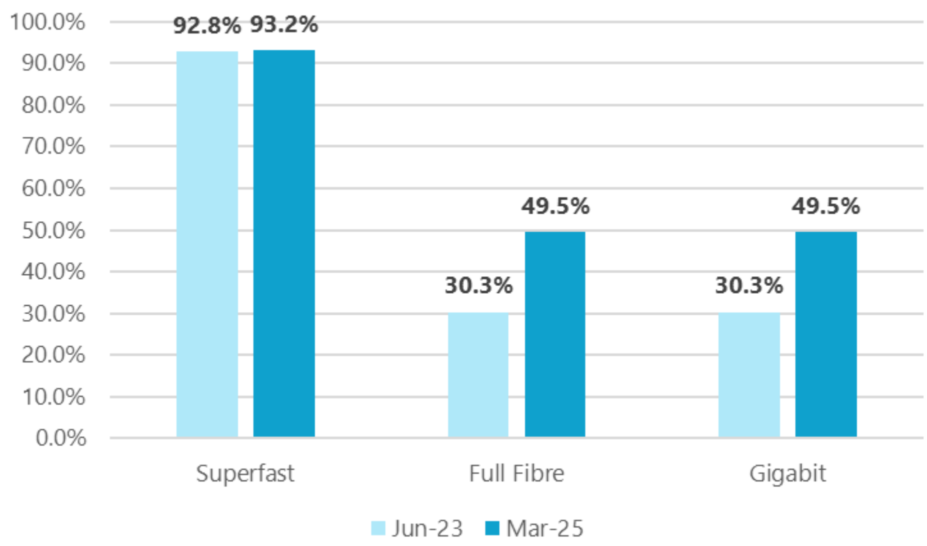
Ofcom's national data set is recorded exclusively for residential premises (with the exception of USO figures). While this data is useful, at the point of publishing it is often approximately 12 months out of date, as such data from Think Broadband has been used to portray the most recent snapshot of performance. This data is accurate as of March 2025, includes residential and business premises and is displayed in the table below:

Residential/Business Broadband Coverage March 2025

Area	SFBB availability (% premises)	Full Fibre availability (% premises)	Gigabit availability (% premises)	Below the USO (% premises)
Amber Valley	98.9%	85.5%	86.8%	0.4%
Bolsover	98.9%	82.6%	86.5%	0.4%
Chesterfield	99.4%	89.4%	90.7%	0.0%
Derbyshire Dales	**93.2%**	**49.5%**	**49.5%**	**3.1%**
Erewash	99.3%	91.2%	95.0%	0.2%
High Peak	97.1%	67.9%	67.9%	1.3%
Malvern Hills	98.1%	73.0%	73.0%	1.0%
Mid Suffolk	97.3%	56.4%	56.4%	0.9%
North East Derbyshire	97.6%	85.8%	85.9%	1.0%
South Derbyshire	98.2%	80.3%	82.1%	0.7%
UK	98.3%	75.5%	86.7%	0.7%

Source: Think Broadband, Broadband Coverage, March 2025, Derbyshire Dales underperforms against the UK average on all broadband metrics and by a significant margin on full fibre and gigabit availability and the percentage of premises below the broadband universal service obligation. Coverage has improved since the initial publication of the evidence base (as shown in the graph below), however current coverage is starkly below national levels.

Residential/Business Broadband Coverage June 2023-March 2025



Source: Think Broadband, Broadband Coverage, March 2025,

6.5 Summary

- Recorded crimes are up by 18.5% (an increase of 564) since 2021 compared to a Derbyshire wide increase of 17.3% However the Dales has the lowest total recorded crimes consistently over the past three years, the lowest number of crimes per 1000 people and the smallest increase in crime rate per 1000 people of all comparator areas.
- Derbyshire Dales has longer journey times to most key services on average than the national figure, most significantly being to the nearest hospital. By foot/public transport this journey takes 78 minutes (37 minutes longer than the national average) and 33 minutes by car (13 minutes longer than the national average).
- The district has some of the highest figures for green space per capita and per areas against comparator areas, but when considering distance to the nearest parks, public gardens and playing fields specifically it ranks consistently in the bottom three.
- 90% of addresses have private outdoor space, whilst lower than most comparators this is higher than the national average (88%) and Derbyshire Dales has the fourth highest average size of private outdoor space (553.6m2).
- Derbyshire Dales underperforms against the UK average on all broadband metrics and by a significant margin on full fibre and gigabit availability and the percentage of premises below the broadband universal service obligation this is in spite of improved coverage since the initial evidence base.

7 Conclusions

This chapter summarises some of the headline findings of the data and the potential policy implications as a result.

7.1 Headlines and policy implications

- Claimant Count – Derbyshire Dales sees the 2nd lowest number of claimants across all comparator areas; however, this figure is increasing. The greatest increase has been within the 25-49 age bracket, particularly amongst women.

  Potential policy implication: Whilst the low claimant count is positive, the increases seen especially for women suggests that more employment support should be made available and tailored to the 25-49 age bracket. This could include support with childcare, caring for elderly relatives and retraining.

- Employment – There has been a slight decline in employment of 2.4%.

  Potential policy implication: Upskilling and reskilling of the workforce and supporting more people into apprenticeships and training programmes could mitigate any further decreases.

- Economic inactivity- 20% of residents are economically inactive (against a figure of 21% nationally) and a 9.5% increase since 2019 (1.9% nationally) so soon could pass the England average.

  Potential policy implication: Provision of an accessible business advice service to SME's to help unlock financial support could stimulate job creation and opportunities for those currently economically inactive.

- Wages – Derbyshire Dales has lower weekly wages than the regional and England average. The gender wage gap currently stands at £265.

  Potential policy implication: Further diversifying the business case and investing in high skilled and high pay jobs could increase weekly wages. Providing greater support for women returning to work after having children and educating young girls about a wide range of careers could reduce the pay gap.

- Productivity – Derbyshire Dales has the lowest GVA per job filled of all comparator areas (£16,844 lower than England). This impacts wages, profits and overall household income.

  Potential policy implication: Helping businesses to adopt new technology, upskill their workforce and increase innovation will support both business growth and productivity rates.

- Business Counts – Derbyshire Dales' business base is predominantly made up of micro businesses (0-9 employees). Overall business numbers have seen a decrease between 2019 and 2024 in contrast with both the national and regional picture.

  Potential policy implication: Support for diversification and resilience could help to maintain the business base in the area and its economic output. Business support interventions should be tailored to smaller businesses. Specialist support for agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses should be offered given their propensity in the area.

- Enterprise births, deaths and survival – Derbyshire Dales has seen an increase in business births despite falls regionally and nationally. It has seen fewer business deaths than the regional average but more than the England average. It has seen no net growth in High Growth Enterprise since 2018, however, the area has recovered from the losses seen between 2020 and 2022.

Potential policy implication: Derbyshire Dales firms should be able to access business support that will enable them to scale up activity, increasing their employee numbers and/or turnover. This could enable these businesses to access wider markets.

- Floorspace – Retail floorspace has seen the largest increase of all floorspace categories. This is the second highest increase of all comparator areas. Industrial floor space has also increased more than the England average.

  Potential policy implication: Land regeneration and related increase the provision of Grade A office space could attract greater investment and high-growth businesses into the area, stimulating the economy and driving up wages.

- Broadband- Derbyshire Dales underperforms against the UK average on all broadband metrics and by a significant margin on full fibre and gigabit availability and the percentage of premises below the broadband universal service obligation this is in spite of improved coverage since the initial evidence base.

  Potential policy implications: High quality digital infrastructure plays a critical role supporting local communities.

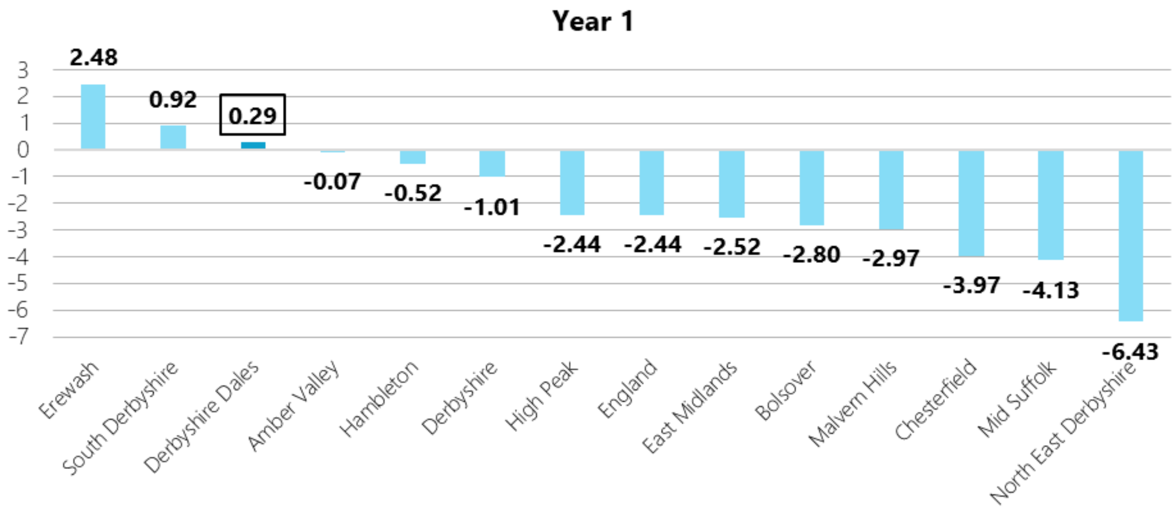
7.2 Alignment with Economic Development Plan

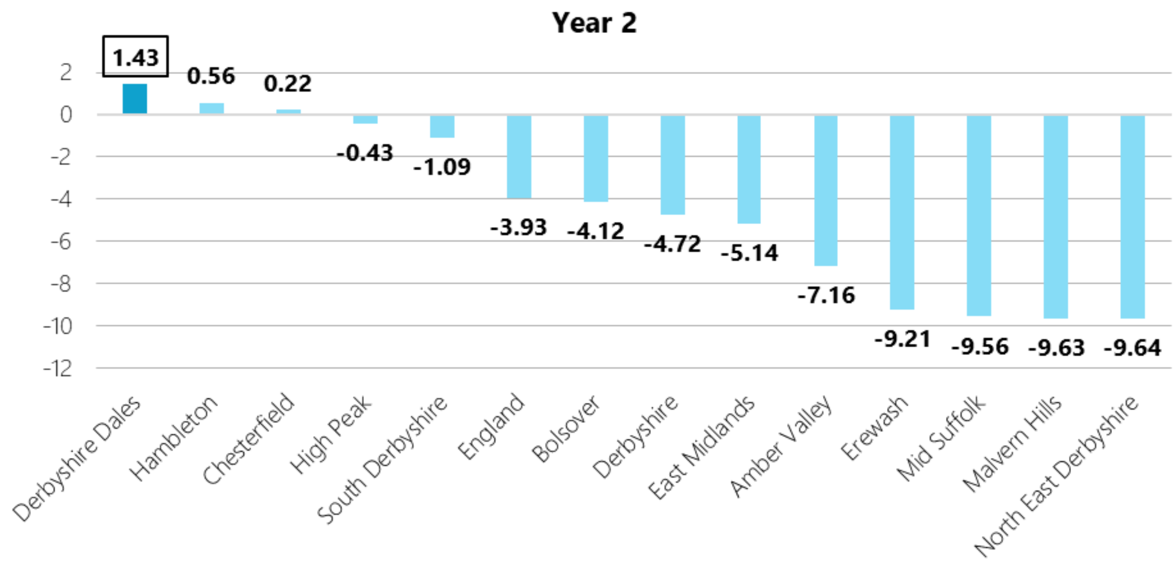
Taking into consideration the economic shocks since the 2019 Economic Development Plan was put in place, the data evidences that Derbyshire Dales overarching plan 2019- 2033 remains valid. The assessment of the Updated Evidence Base would lead to the conclusion that the following priorities are progressed:

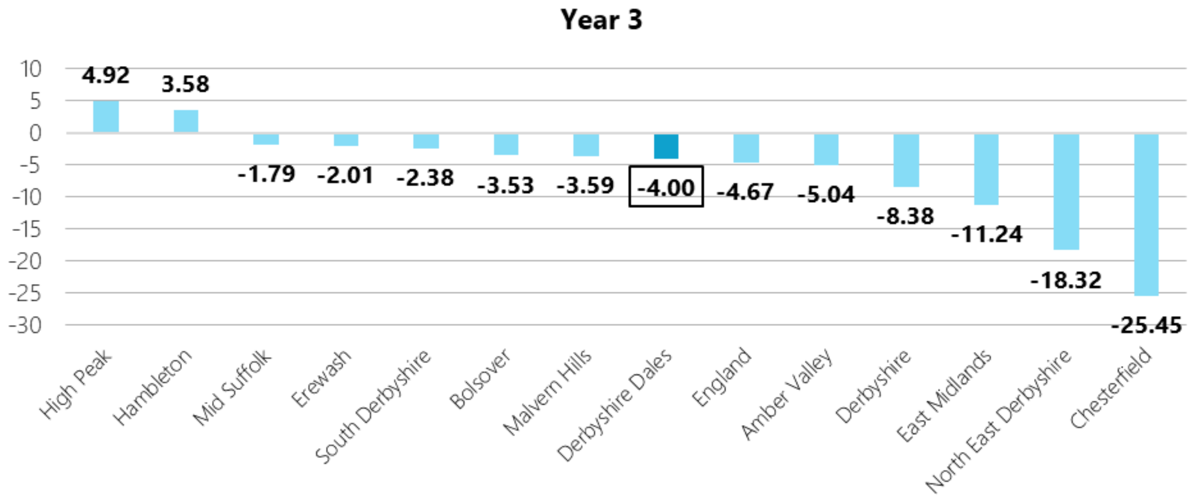
- Regenerating of brownfield and other key housing/employment sites.
- A dedicated fund for rural economic growth (with focus esp. on growing small scale manufacturing and engineering firms (esp. advanced and green activities) knowledge-based and creative, digital and knowledge based.
- High quality, free, 1:1 business advice service to SMEs including practical assistance to help growth companies access external grants and loans.
- De-carbonising businesses.

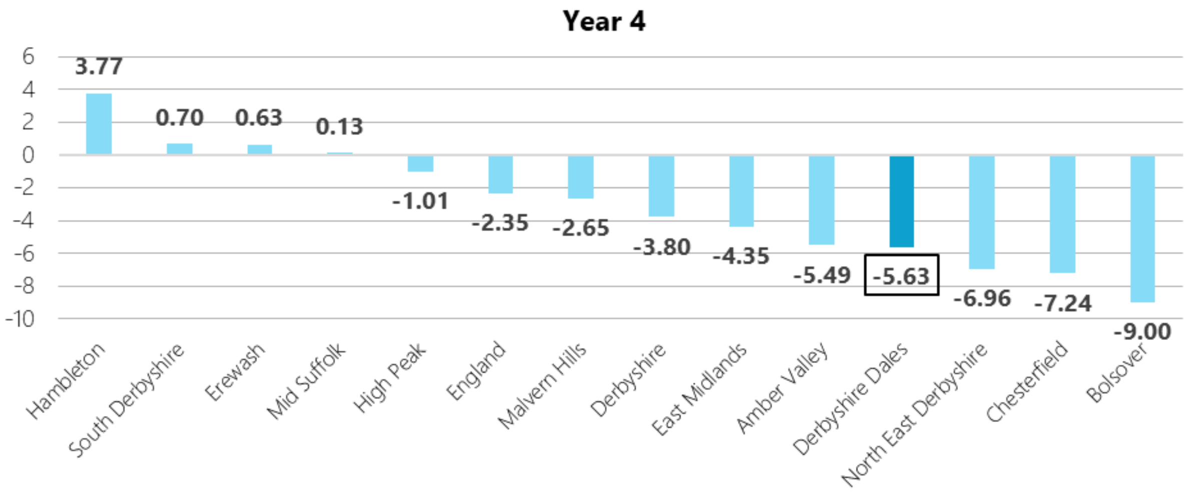
Technical Annex

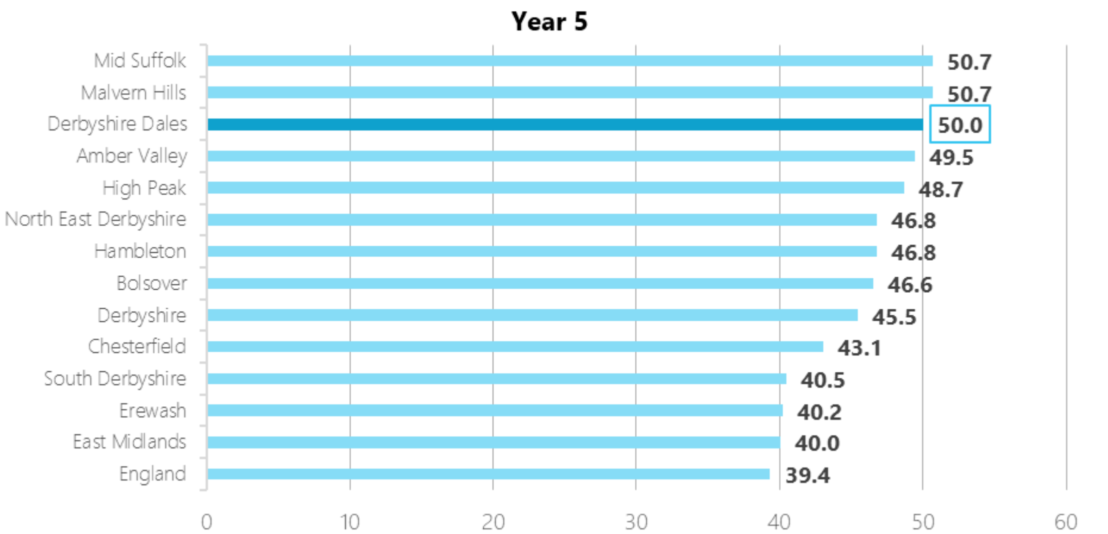
Change in business survival rates (2018-2022)











Source: ONS, Business Demography UK, 2023

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