

ECONOMY

Summary

- There are 56,600 people (61.9% of the population) of working age living in Blaby
- 85.4% of the working age population are economically active
- 1.1% of the working age population claim Job Seekers Allowance
- 81.5% of businesses in Blaby employ less than 10 employees

Key issues for Blaby

- High rates of employment and economic activity
- High rates of ICT use at work
- Low levels of qualifications gained through work
- High proportion of respondents recently / currently participating in training
- Some need for basic numeracy skills
- High proportion of respondents with no skills to develop
- Demand for part-time training courses
- Demand for college-based training / learning
- General satisfaction with local training provision

Life & Work Survey, 2003 (LSC)

The table above shows the key issues affecting the economy in Blaby as identified by the 2003 Life and Work Survey. The following section looks at all aspects of the local economy in Blaby.

Table 31: Working age population

		Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
	Number	%	%	%	%
All people	56,600	61.9	62.2	61.2	61.4
Male	29,800	65.6	65.8	64.3	64.6
Female	26,800	58.3	58.6	58.2	58.3

The table above shows that the working age population is very similar to the county, regional and national proportion.

Job Density

Job Density is a measure of the ratio of total jobs to the working age population. A job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident of working age. In Blaby, the job density is 0.7 (less than one job for every resident). This ratio is similar to the county, regional and national ratio (0.7, 0.8 and 0.8 respectively).

Economic activity

Economic activity measures the number of people aged between 16 and 74 who are in work or looking for work as a proportion of the working age population (16-74 years).

The table below shows that 85.4% of people of working age in the District are economically active - a higher proportion than the county, region or country.

Table 32: Economic activity

	Blaby		Leicester-	East	Great
	Number	%	shire	Midlands	Britain
			%	%	%
All people					
Economically active	48,000	85.4	84.9	79.0	78.2
In employment	47,000	84.5	82.0	75.3	74.3
Employees	39,000	70.3	71.1	66.3	64.8
Self employed	7,000	13.2	10.3	8.6	9.0
Unemployed (ILO)	--	--	3.4	4.7	5.0
Males					
Economically active	26,000	89.6	89.6	83.9	83.4
In employment	26,000	88.7	85.9	79.8	78.9
Employees	20,000	69.2	71.2	67.1	65.5
Self employed	5,000	17.6	13.9	12.2	13.0
Unemployed (ILO)	--	--	4.1	5.0	5.4
Females					
Economically active	22,000	80.9	79.8	73.7	72.8
In employment	22,000	80.1	77.9	70.6	69.5
Employees	19,000	71.4	70.9	65.4	64.2
Self employed	2,000	8.6	6.5	4.8	4.8
Unemployed (ILO)	--	--	2.5	4.3	4.5

Percentages are based on working age population, except unemployed which is based on economically active
Totals may not add due to rounding
-- Sample size too small for reliable estimate
ILO - International Labour Organisation definition of unemployment

Economic inactivity

Economic inactivity measures the number of people neither in employment nor unemployed of working age, e.g. people who are looking after the home, retired or sick.

The Labour Force Survey estimates that there are 8,000 people in Blaby that are economically inactive. This is a lower proportion than the county, region or country as a whole.

Table 33: Economic inactivity

	Blaby		Leicester-	East	Great
	Number	%	shire	Midlands	Britain
			%	%	%
All people					
Economically inactive	8,000	14.6	15.1	21.0	21.8
Wanting a job	3,000	4.9	4.3	5.2	5.7
Not wanting a job	5,000	9.7	10.9	15.8	16.1
Males					
Economically inactive	3,000	10.4	10.4	16.1	16.6
Wanting a job	1,000	4.2	3.0	4.6	4.7
Not wanting a job	2,000	6.2	7.3	11.5	11.9
Females					
Economically inactive	5,000	19.1	20.2	26.3	27.2
Wanting a job	2,000	5.6	5.6	6.0	6.7
Not wanting a job	4,000	13.4	14.6	20.3	20.5

Percentages are based on working age population
Totals may not add due to rounding
-- Sample size too small for reliable estimate
'Wanting a job' - people not in employment who want a job but are not classed as unemployed because they have either not sought work in the last 4 weeks or are not available to start work

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (March 2003 - Feb 2004)

Employment by occupation

The Local Labour Force Survey, conducted annually, collects information on the occupation of people living in Blaby. The table to the right shows the proportion of the population employed by occupation. It shows that the largest occupation groups are Administrative and secretarial (17.6%), Associate professional and technical (15.6%) and Skilled trades (14.9%)

The District has a lower proportion of people employed in Professional, Sales and customer services, Process, plant and machine operatives and Elementary occupations than the rest of the county.

Qualifications

The table to the right shows the qualifications of the working age population in Blaby and how this compares to the rest of the county and the region. It shows that Blaby has a lower percentage of its working age population educated to at least NVQ level 3* than the rest of the county, region or country.

(* NVQ level 3 is equivalent to 2 A-levels, vocational A-level (AVCE), BTEC National or an Advanced GNVQ)

Table 34: Employment by occupation

	Blaby		Leicester-	East	Great
	Number	%	shire	Midlands	Britain
			%	%	%
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	19,000	39.0	39.0	37.0	40.5
1. Managers and senior officials	7,000	14.8	15.5	13.9	14.6
2. Professional occupations	4,000	8.2	11.4	10.7	12.1
3. Associate professionals & technical	8,000	15.6	12.0	12.3	13.8
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	16,000	32.9	26.3	24.6	24.4
4. Administrative & secretarial	9,000	17.6	13.6	12.4	13.0
5. Skilled trades occupations	7,000	14.9	12.7	12.1	11.4
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	7,000	14.1	15.9	15.7	15.5
6. Personal service occupations	3,000	6.4	6.5	7.4	7.5
7. Sales and customer services	4,000	7.5	9.3	8.2	8.0
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	7,000	14.0	18.8	22.7	19.6
8. Process plant & machine operatives	3,000	6.6	8.4	10.0	7.7
9. Elementary occupations	4,000	7.3	10.3	12.6	11.8

Table 35: Qualifications (% of working age population)

	Blaby		Leicester-	East	Great
	Number	%	shire	Midlands	Britain
			%	%	%
NVQ4 and above	11,000	19.8	23.5	22.2	25.2
NVQ3 and above	23,000	40.8	43.7	41.4	43.1
NVQ2 and above	36,000	65.2	63.7	59.7	61.5
NVQ1 and above	43,000	77.5	78.9	75.7	76.0
Other qualifications	6,000	10.2	8.0	7.6	8.8
No qualifications	7,000	12.3	13.1	16.6	15.1

Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey (March 2003 - Feb 2004)

Earnings by residence

The table below shows the average earnings of people who live in Blaby. It shows that gross weekly pay in the District is higher than in the rest of the county.

Table 36: Earnings by residence

	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Gross weekly pay				
Full-time workers	457.9	456.6	439.4	475.8
Male	502.2	501.9	480.5	525.0
Female	--	374.6	363.6	396.0
Hourly pay				
Full-time workers	11.5	11.6	11.0	12.0
Male	12.4	12.4	11.6	12.8
Female	--	10.0	9.6	10.6

Employee jobs

The table to the right shows the number of people working full and part time, and the sector that they are employed in. The percentages are based on the total employee jobs.

Blaby has a lower proportion of its workforce employed in Manufacturing sectors than the rest of the county, and a higher proportion employed in the Distribution, Finance and Public sectors.

Earnings by workplace

The table below shows the average earnings of people who work in Blaby. It shows that gross weekly pay of females working in the District is lower than in the rest of the county.

Table 37: Earnings by workplace

	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Gross weekly pay				
Full-time workers	--	456.6	439.4	475.8
Male	--	501.9	480.5	525.0
Female	356.5	374.6	363.6	396.0
Hourly pay				
Full-time workers	--	11.6	11.0	12.0
Male	--	12.4	11.6	12.8
Female	--	10.0	9.6	10.6

Note: -- Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Table 38: Employee jobs

	Blaby		Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
	Number	%	%	%	%
Total employee jobs	35,404	--	--	--	--
Full-time	23,681	66.9	68.0	66.7	68.1
Part-time	11,723	33.1	32.0	33.3	31.9
Manufacturing	4,261	12.0	20.4	18.3	12.6
Construction	1,904	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.4
Services	29,063	82.1	72.7	75.0	81.4
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	11,352	32.1	26.9	24.8	24.7
Transport & communications	2,572	7.3	8.5	5.7	6.0
Finance, IT, other business activities	6,099	17.2	13.3	14.4	19.8
Public admin, education, health	7,895	22.3	19.7	25.7	25.8
Other services	1,145	3.2	4.3	4.4	5.2
Tourism-related	2,447	6.9	7.3	7.5	8.1

Table 39: Number of business units* by Broad Industrial Group

	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
Total	3,250	24,250	152,050	2,213,800
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	10.8%	11.3%	10.4%	7.8%
4 : Construction (SIC F)	13.8%	10.7%	10.1%	9.0%
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	24.6%	28.0%	30.7%	29.5%
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	6.2%	6.4%	5.3%	4.7%
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	26.2%	26.6%	24.9%	30.5%
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	10.8%	8.7%	9.5%	8.7%
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	7.7%	7.8%	8.5%	9.2%

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2003

Increasingly it will be the knowledge-intensive information economy sectors, together with those driven by increasing consumption (e.g. tourism and recreation) that are likely to represent the strongest future growth areas. The table below shows the current proportion of the workforce in Blaby that are employed in these sectors.

Table 40: Knowledge Economy Employment

	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
Consumer Services (%)	23.5	20.3	19.7	21.0
High Technology Manufacturing (%)	1.5	2.2	1.7	1.9
Knowledge Based Services (%)	16.0	11.6	12.6	17.7

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2003

Note: Percentages are of total employment

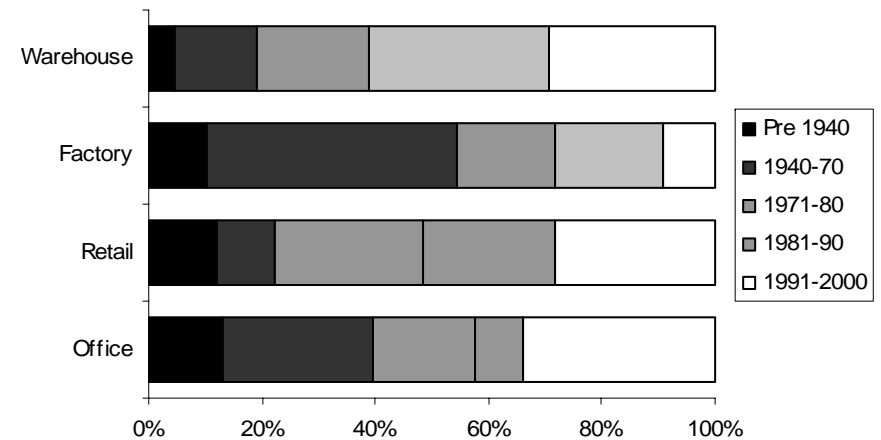
Consumer Services - SIC codes 52 (Retail), 55 (Hotels & restaurants), 92 (Recreational, cultural & sporting)
High Tech Manufacturing - SIC codes 22 (Publishing, printing), 24.4 (Manufacture of pharmaceuticals), 30 (Manufacture of office machinery, computers), 32 (Manufacture of radio, TV, communications)
Knowledge Based Services - SIC codes 65 (Financial), 66 (Insurance, pensions), 67 (Auxiliary financial), 72 (computer-related activities), 73 (Research & development), 74 (Other business activities)

* Business units are roughly equivalent to workplaces. For example, a bank may have several branches and offices in a city - each one of these would be counted as a separate data (business) unit.

Employment land and floorspace in Blaby

The graph to the right shows the age of employment floorspace by type. It shows that a larger proportion of the factory floorspace in the District dates back pre 1970, whilst the majority of the warehouses have been built in the past 15 years.

Graph 13: Floorspace by age



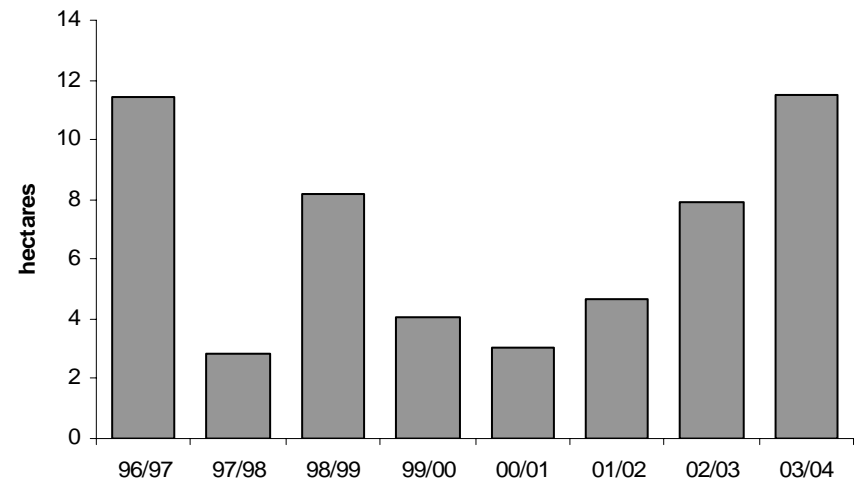
Source: ODPM

Employment land

Since 1996, 53.6 hectares of land have been developed in Blaby for employment uses (at 31 March 2004), an average of 6.7 hectares each year. The graph to the right shows annual completions.

There are currently a number of larger sites with outstanding planning permission for employment uses. These include plots at Carlton Park, (Narborough), Meridian East (Braunstone) and Kirby Park Farm, Ratby Lane (Kirby Muxloe).

Graph 14: New employment land



Source: Leicestershire County Council Land Monitoring Report, 2004

Job Seekers Allowance Claimants

The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours per week. The percentage figures show the number of JSA claimants as a proportion of resident-age working population. The table shows that the proportion of people claiming JSA in Blaby is slightly lower than the rest of the county, the region and Great Britain.

Table 41: Total JSA Claimants

	Blaby		Leicestershire	East Midlands	Great Britain
	Number	%	%	%	%
All people	621	1.1	1.3	2.1	2.4
Male	436	1.5	1.7	3.0	3.4
Female	185	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.3

Source: Claimant Count, May 2005

Age: In Blaby, 25.0% of JSA claimants are aged 18 - 24 years, 48.0% are aged 25 - 49 years and 26.2% are aged over 50 years.

The District has a higher proportion of people claiming JSA aged over 50 years than the regional average of 18%.

Duration: 66.0% of JSA claimants in Blaby have been claiming this benefit for less than six months. 15.1% of claimants have been claiming for more than 12 months - above the regional average of 12.5%.

VAT Registrations / De-registrations

At the end of 2003, there were 2,585 VAT registered businesses in Blaby.

In 2003, there had been a net increase in the number of VAT registered businesses with 275 new businesses registering and 215 de-registering (Source: VAT registrations / de-registrations by industry, 2003).

The VAT threshold is an annual turnover of £55,000. Below this figure, companies do not need to register for VAT.

Hours worked

The table below shows the number of hours worked in Blaby (as a percentage of the working age population). The District has a slightly lower than average proportion of its working age population working part time (compared with both Leicestershire and the East Midlands). It also has a smaller proportion of its working age population working over 48 hours a week (16.1% compared with a county figure of 17.1% and a regional figure of 16.3%).

Table 42: Hours worked

	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands
All people	45,840	295,754	1,917,728
% working part time	23.3	24.1	23.6
% working full time	76.7	75.9	73.7
% working over 48hrs a week	16.1	17.1	16.3

Economic and Labour Market Conditions

The Leicester Shire Economic Baseline Study* was completed in 2004 by ECOTEC Consultants on behalf of the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership. It reviewed the current economic and labour market conditions and forecast changes anticipated over the next decade for Leicester and Leicestershire.

Blaby

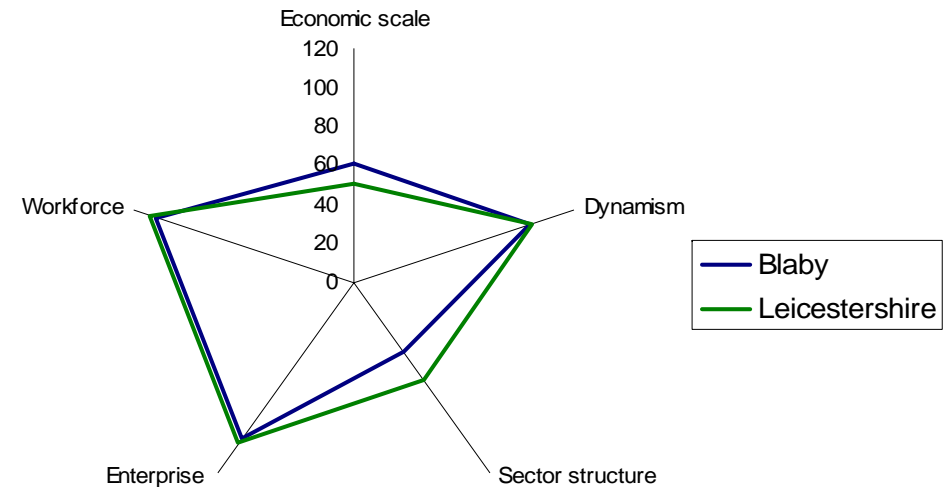
The study concluded that the strongest indicator for Blaby is workforce, where it scores 107.1. The Districts workforce is stronger than the national average (100) but lower than the average for the county (111.2). This is the only indicator where the District scores above the national average.

Compared to the county averages, Blaby has similar scores in terms of dynamism and enterprise.

Blaby is comparatively weak in terms of economic scale and sector structure, where it scores 61.1 and 43.8 respectively.

* Source: Leicester Shire Economic Baseline Study, 2004 Available to download from www.lsint.info

Graph 15: Competitiveness Summary Chart



Competitiveness summary chart, Leicester Shire Economic Baseline Study 2004, produced by ECOTEC Research and Consulting for Leicester Shire Economic Partnership

Table 43: Overall economic profile

	Blaby		Leicestershire	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Economic scale	61.1	262	51.2	--
Dynamism	96.2	332	97.0	--
Sector structure	43.8	383	61.5	--
Enterprise	98.1	226	101.7	--
Workforce	107.1	199	111.2	--

Score = against national benchmark of 100

Rank = against 408 local authority areas in Great Britain

Largest employers in Blaby

The table below lists the companies with the largest number of employees on a single site in Blaby

Table 44: Largest employers

Name of Business	Nature of Business	No of Employees
Alliance & Leicester Plc, Narborough	Banking Services - Head Office	1,850
Leicestershire Constabulary, Narborough	Police Headquarters	1,600
Leicestershire County Council, Glenfield	County Council	1,500
Next Retail Ltd, Enderby	Head Office for Retail and Mail Order of Clothing/Home Furnishings	1,500
Alstec Ltd, Whetstone	Engineering / Project management/manufacture/nuclear and marine defence	850
Royal Mail Leicester, Meridian Business Park	Postal Services	700
Benchmarks Electronics Ltd, Meridian Business Park	Printed Circuit Board Manufacture	600
Marks & Spencer Plc	Retail store	577
Asda Superstore Plc	Supermarket	520
Sainsburys Supermarkets Ltd, Enderby	Supermarket	490
Widdowson Group Ltd, Glenfield	Transport Warehousing Freight Forwarding and Garage Services	350

Source: Data4Business database listing, July 2005

Business size

The table below shows the proportion of people employed in Blaby by the size of business that they are employed in. It shows that the District has a lower proportion of its workforce employed in businesses which employ less than 10 employees (81.5% against a county figure of 84.5%, a regional figure of 82.5% and a national figure of 83.3%).

Table 45: Business size

Number of employees	Blaby	Leicester-shire	East Midlands	Great Britain
1-10	81.5%	84.5%	82.5%	83.3%
11-49	15.4%	12.2%	13.6%	12.9%
50+	3.1%	3.6%	3.9%	3.8%

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2003

Household income

Table 46 shows the average household income in Blaby is £34,166. This is above both the county average of £32,760 and the regional average of £29,259. The District has the second highest average household income of all the districts in the county, with only Harborough District having a higher average.

Table 47 shows that there is a very large variation between the wards within Blaby. The ward with the highest average household income is Muxloe ward (£39,272). The wards with the lowest average household income are Millfield (£26,812) and Blaby South wards (£27,617).

All wards in the district have seen a rise in average household income since 2004. The largest rises have been experienced in Ellis ward (£5,011) and Normanton ward (£4,315).

Table 46: Average household income by district, 2005

	Mean household income (£)
Harborough	37,460
Blaby	34,166
Hinckley & Bosworth	32,391
Melton	32,174
North West Leicestershire	32,100
Charnwood	31,234
Oadby & Wigston	30,275
Leicestershire County	32,760

Table 47: Average household income by ward, 2005

	Mean household income (£)	Change 2004/05 (£)
Muxloe	39,272	4,166
Pastures	39,203	782
Cosby with South Whetstone	37,573	2,998
Forest	37,038	2,363
Ellis	36,475	5,011
Narborough and Littlethorpe	35,858	2,010
Countesthorpe	35,743	3,258
Winstanley	35,635	3,542
Stanton and Flamville	35,413	2,308
Normanton	35,400	4,315
Croft Hill	34,423	4,145
North Whetstone	33,618	2,029
Fairestone	32,545	3,614
Saxondale	31,767	2,417
Enderby and St John's	31,377	4,284
Ravenhurst and Fosse	28,193	2,736
Blaby South	27,617	1,942
Millfield	26,812	1,974

Source: CACI, 2005

House Prices

The table below shows the average selling price (and the number of sales) for each house type (detached, semi-detached, terrace, flat / maisonette) for the first three months of 2005. Detached properties and flats in Blaby have a lower average selling price than the rest of the county, but semi-detached properties have a slightly higher than average selling price than the county and the region.

Table 48: House price

	Detached		Semi-Detached		Terraced		Flat/Maisonette		Overall	
	Average price	Sales	Average price	Sales	Average price	Sales	Average price	Sales	Average price	Sales
Blaby	£229,793	68	£146,807	128	£117,233	40	£110,902	23	£160,948	257
Leicestershire	£257,403	569	£144,129	657	£119,017	432	£113,252	102	£172,796	1,760
East Midlands	£222,576	3,926	£128,974	4,304	£106,700	3,869	£112,808	903	£149,486	13,022

Source: Land Registry, January - March 2005

House affordability ratio

The table below shows the house affordability ratio which considers the relationship between average income and average house price in an area. A higher figure implies that housing is less affordable. For all types of properties in Blaby, the affordability ratio is lower than the Leicestershire ratio and East Midlands ratio except for semi-detached properties (meaning that they are more affordable). The last column in the table shows the average earnings figure that the affordability ratio is based upon.

Table 49: House affordability

	Semi		Terraced	Flat / maisonette	Overall	Average annual earnings (resident based)
	Detached	Detached				
Blaby	11.0	7.0	5.6	5.3	7.7	£20,923
Leicestershire	12.9	7.2	6.0	5.7	8.6	£19,991
East Midlands	11.7	6.8	5.6	5.9	7.9	£18,975
England and Wales	11.6	6.8	5.7	6.8	7.4	£20,796

Source: Land Registry 2005, New Earnings Survey