

Greater Cambridge Employment Update April 2024*

*Growth still continues
despite the national economy stalling*

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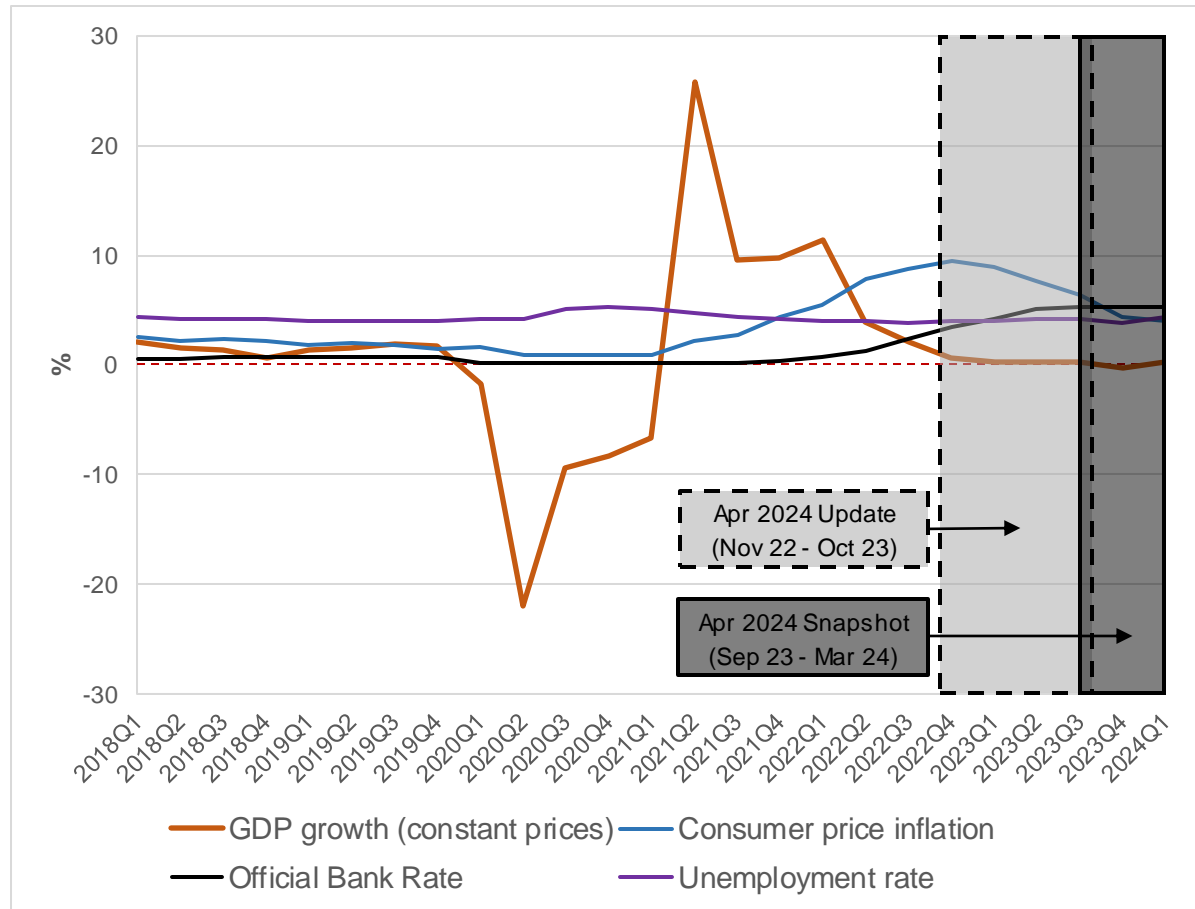
* Commissioned and sponsored by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Cambridge Ahead.



Contents

- April 2024 employment update results
- Comparison of business and science parks in the Cambridge City Region
- April 2024 employment and turnover update results
- April 2024 snapshot results

Figure 1.1 UK macroeconomic indicators and the April 2024 Update period



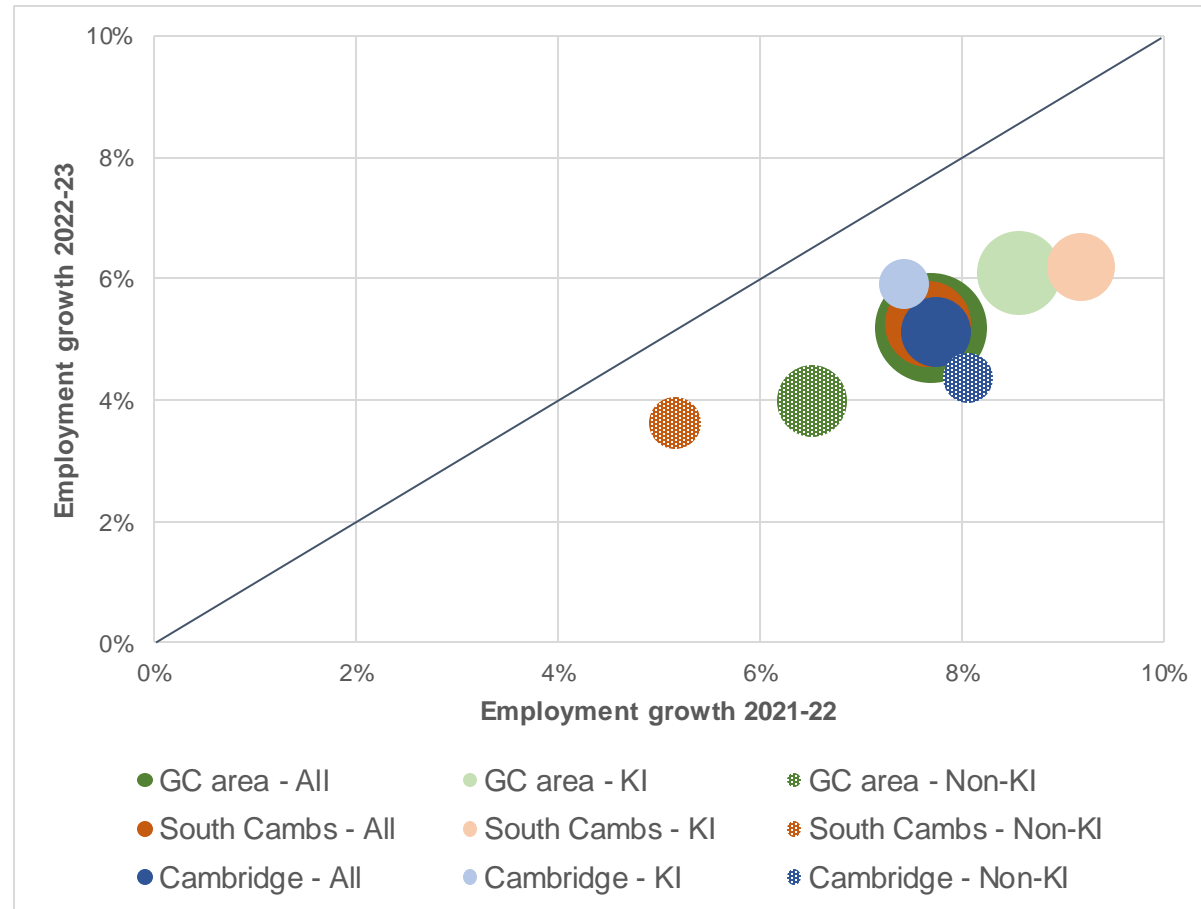
Note: GDP growth is the percentage change of GDP in constant prices on the same quarter a year earlier. Consumer price inflation is the annual change in the Consumer Price Index. Unemployment rate is the share of people aged 16 and over who are unemployed.

Source: ONS.

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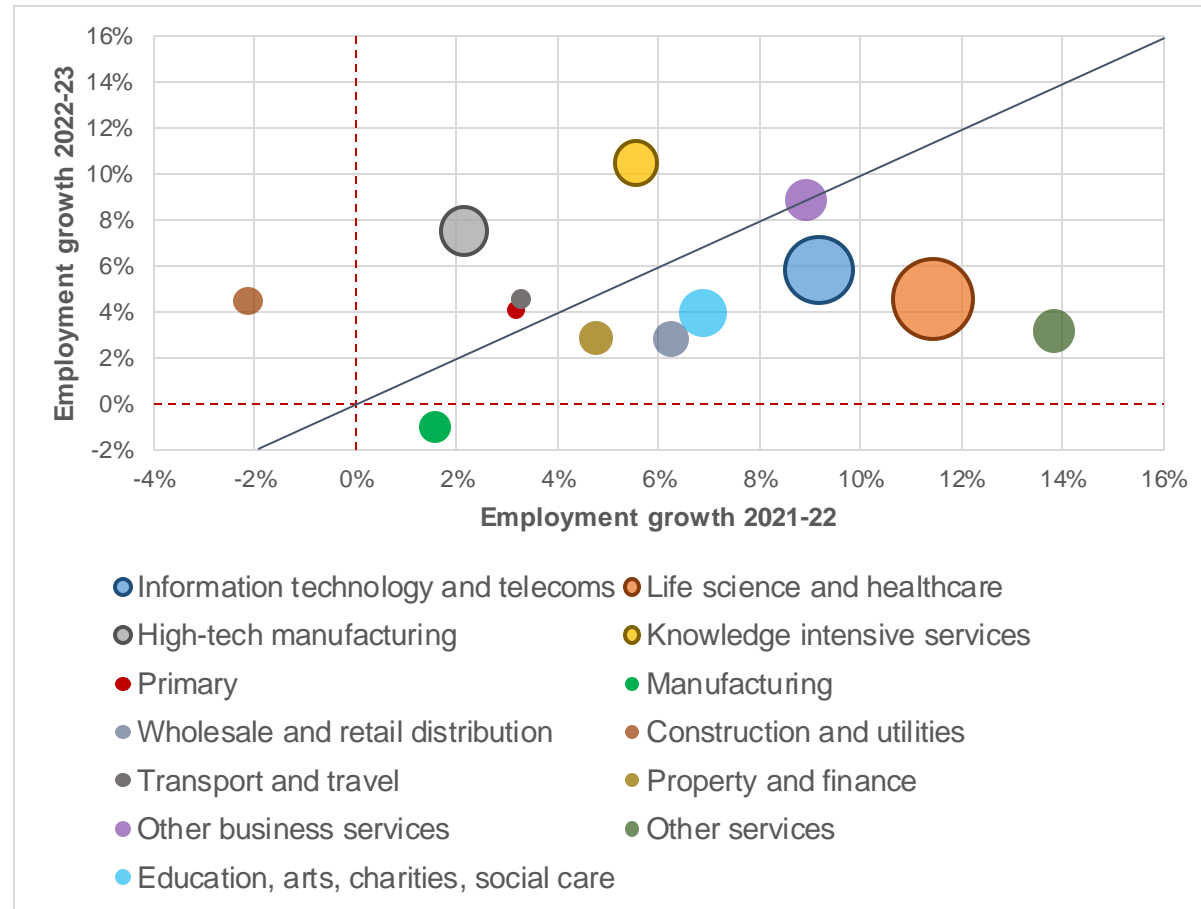
Figure 2.1 Employment growth by area – 2022-23 vs 2021-22



Note: The size of each bubble is proportionate to the number of employees in 2021-22 on a continuous scale.

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

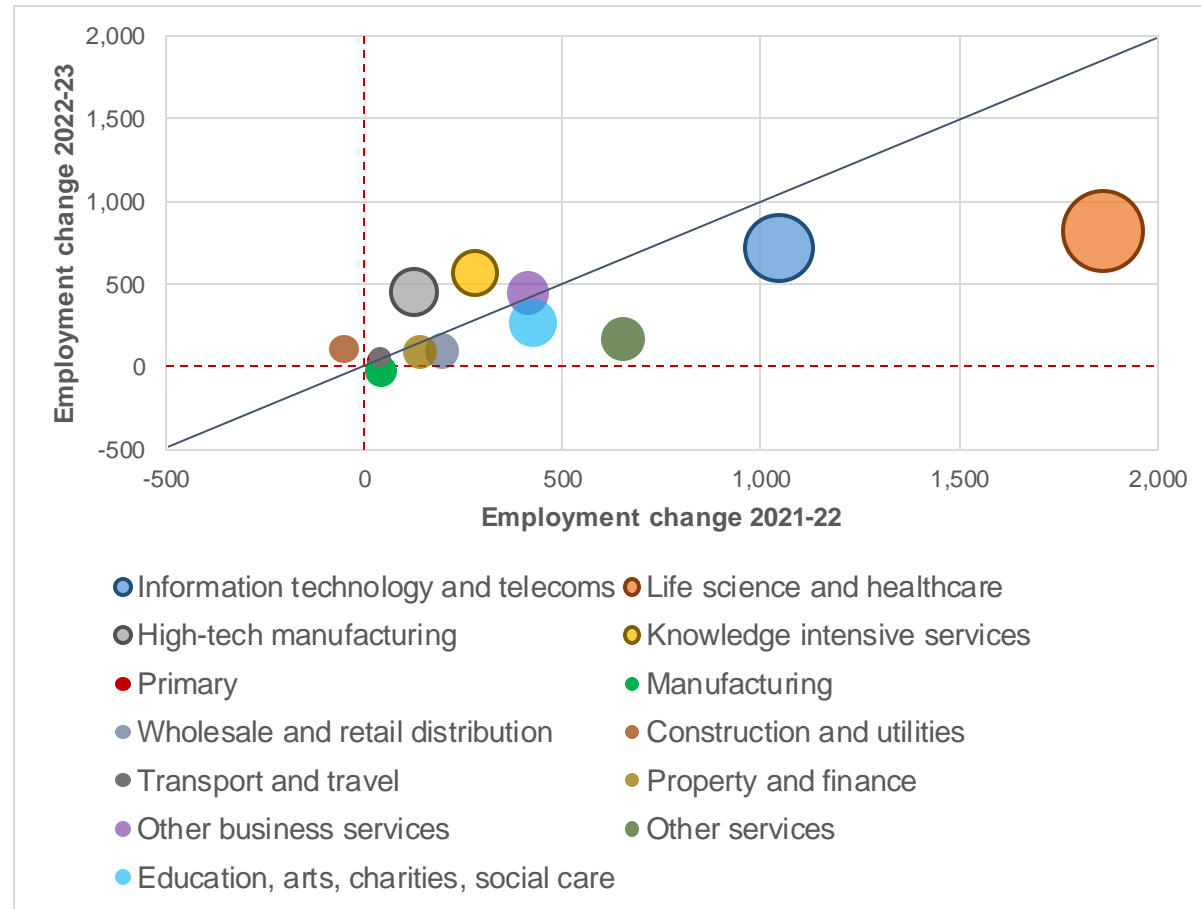
Figure 2.4 Employment growth by sector in the Greater Cambridge area – 2022-23 vs 2021-22



Note: The size of each bubble is proportionate to the number of employees in 2021-22 on a continuous scale. Bubbles with an outline identify KI sectors.

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Figure 2.7 Employment change by sector in the Greater Cambridge area – 2022-23 vs 2021-22



Note: The size of each bubble is proportionate to the number of employees in 2021-22 on a continuous scale. Bubbles with an outline identify KI sectors.

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

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Table 3.2 Size and growth of companies on business and science parks in the Cambridge City Region

Business Park	No of cos	% KI	Average age	2022-23 total employment	Average number of employees	Weighted ave employment growth last 3 yrs % pa	Unweighted ave employment growth last 3 yrs % pa
Babraham Research Campus	65	98%	8.9	2,012	31.0	10.3%	21.7%
Cambridge Biomedical Campus	10	90%	9.7	5,239	523.9	12.0%	12.8%
Chesterford Research Park	22	86%	12.4	1,294	58.8	20.4%	24.5%
Granta Park	20	85%	19.3	5,156	257.8	9.9%	16.5%
Iconix Park / Unity Campus	7	100%	17.9	371	53.0	3.9%	2.2%
Wellcome Genome Campus	7	100%	12.0	1,382	197.4	5.4%	4.0%
Buckingway Business Park	26	65%	23.7	1,045	40.2	3.5%	8.8%
Cambourne Business Park	53	43%	11.0	2,026	38.2	2.0%	1.9%
Cambridge Business Park	87	14%	8.6	1,604	18.4	3.5%	-1.0%
Cambridge Research Park	66	39%	9.6	1,817	27.5	4.7%	4.5%
Cambridge Science Park	198	46%	11.3	8,620	43.5	10.6%	12.2%
Harston Mill	6	100%	19.5	683	113.8	2.0%	5.2%
Melbourn Science Park	6	67%	19.0	595	99.2	8.9%	4.0%
St John's Innovation Centre/Park	246	55%	12.2	2,555	10.4	10.4%	3.5%
Vision Park	240	26%	11.6	1,805	7.5	4.7%	2.5%
<i>6 KI focused business parks</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>2,983</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>
<i>17 other business parks</i>	<i>1,003</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>16,656</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>4.3%</i>
All 37 Business Parks	2,332	37%	12.5	55,843	23.9	6.8%	5.3%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Table 3.2a Size and growth of companies on business and science parks in the Cambridge City Region

Business Park	No of cos	% KI	Average age	2022-23 total employment	Average number of employees	Weighted ave employment growth last 3 yrs % pa	Unweighted ave employment growth last 3 yrs % pa
6 Life science parks	131	94%	11.8	15,454	118.0	11%	19%
9 Key KI parks	928	41%	11.7	20,750	22.4	7%	5%
<i>6 KI focused business parks</i>	270	59%	8.4	2,983	11.0	3%	3%
<i>17 other business parks</i>	1,003	19%	14.4	16,656	16.6	4%	4%
All 37 Business Parks	2,332	37%	12.5	55,843	23.9	6.8%	5.3%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

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Table 4.1 Comparison of employment and turnover growth rates over the past two years in the Greater Cambridge area (April 2024 Update)

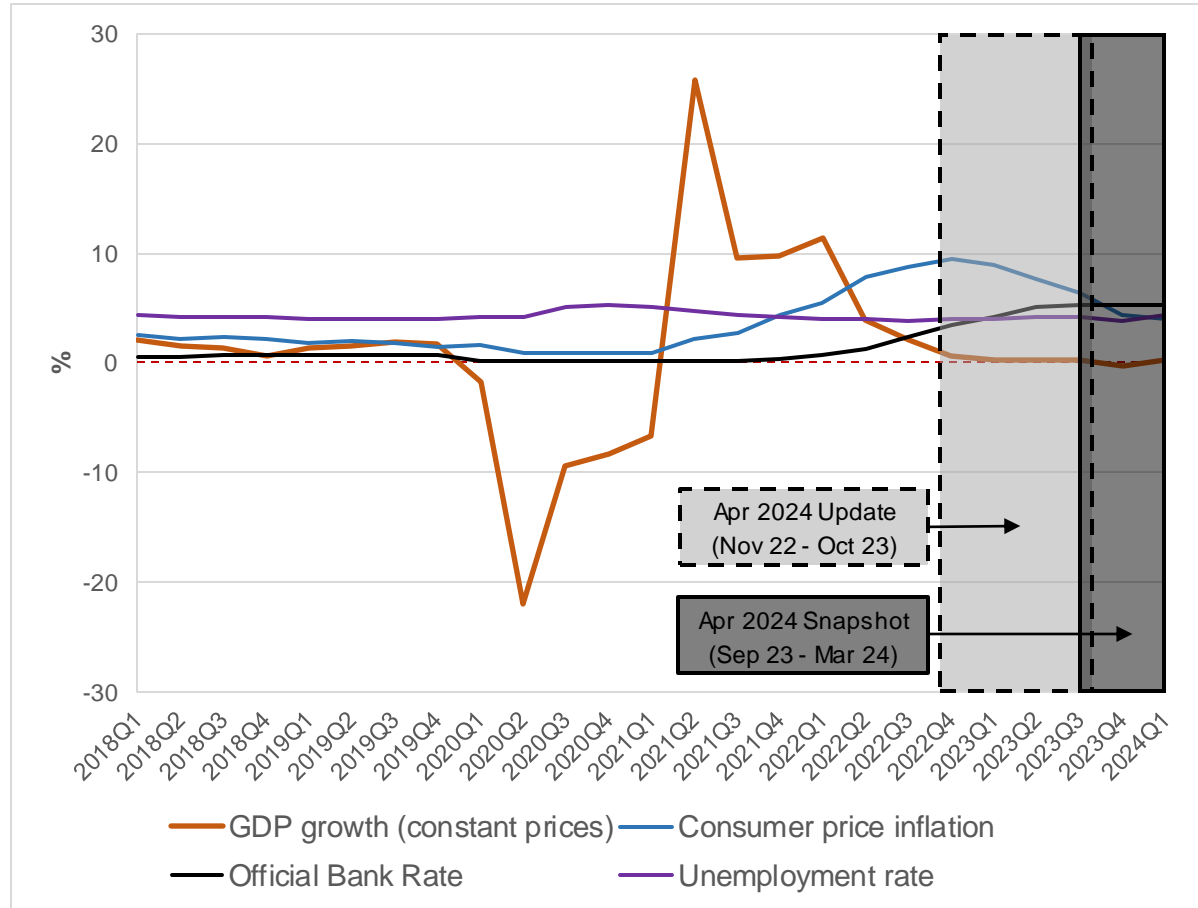
Greater Cambridge area Sample of companies with both employment and turnover for the last three years	Turnover growth %pa		Employment growth %pa	
	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
KI COMPANIES				
Number of companies	46	46	46	46
Totals in 2022 and 2023	£1,264m	£1,443m	5,764	6,247
Median growth	11.0%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Weighted average growth	12.6%	14.1%	7.5%	8.4%
NON-KI COMPANIES				
Number of companies	93	93	93	93
Totals in 2022 and 2023	£895m	£998m	4,917	5,117
Median growth	11.0%	13.0%	0.7%	4.5%
Weighted average growth	11.6%	11.5%	4.5%	4.1%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

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Figure 1.1 UK macroeconomic indicators and the April 2024 Update period



Note: GDP growth is the percentage change of GDP in constant prices on the same quarter a year earlier. Consumer price inflation is the annual change in the Consumer Price Index. Unemployment rate is the share of people aged 16 and over who are unemployed.

Source: ONS.

April 2024 snapshot results

- Total turnover for this group of companies grew by 18% in the first six months of the 2023-24 financial year compared with the same period last year. Whilst a strong growth, this is slower than the 25% growth achieved in the previous year.
- The consequences of the flatlining economy in 2023 have been felt even by these successful Greater Cambridge businesses.
- The companies' latest reports appear to show that factors other than general business conditions are more important for these businesses.

Summary of key findings

- The results of our April 2024 Update portray a resilient corporate economy in Greater Cambridge against a backdrop of macroeconomic and geopolitical instability.
- The picture is one of continued but lower employment growth in the year to mid-October 2023, suggesting that the onset of recession in the second half of 2023 has had an impact on business.
- Nevertheless, the employment performance of the Greater Cambridge corporate economy was far superior to the performance of the national economy over the same period.
- The 37 largest business and science parks have a dominant impact on the performance of the local economy. The growth and R&D spending they generate is exceptional, particularly in life sciences.
- Turnover growth exceeded employment growth, while KI growth exceeded non-KI growth.
- These findings are reinforced by the Snapshot, which also reveals that factors other than general business conditions are more important for these businesses.
- We will further explore the impact of the unfolding recession on Greater Cambridge businesses in the October 2024 Update.

Appendix A1. Employment growth by sector in the Greater Cambridge area

April 2024 Update	Number of companies	Total empl 2022-23	Total empl 2021-22	% of GC total 2021-22	Empl growth 2022-23	Empl growth 2021-22
KNOWLEDGE INTENSIVE SECTORS						
Information technology and telecoms	795	13,153	12,433	68.9%	5.8%	9.2%
Life science and healthcare	271	18,969	18,146	88.9%	4.5%	11.4%
High-tech manufacturing	160	6,519	6,065	75.7%	7.5%	2.1%
Knowledge intensive services	250	5,903	5,343	71.6%	10.5%	5.6%
TOTAL KI SECTORS	1,476	44,544	41,987	77.9%	6.1%	8.6%
OTHER SECTORS						
Primary	132	980	942	77.7%	4.0%	3.2%
Manufacturing	233	2,793	2,822	70.0%	-1.0%	1.6%
Wholesale and retail distribution	420	3,445	3,351	60.4%	2.8%	6.2%
Construction and utilities	480	2,494	2,388	51.6%	4.4%	-2.1%
Transport and travel	111	1,285	1,229	69.0%	4.6%	3.3%
Property and finance	711	3,171	3,084	53.8%	2.8%	4.8%
Other business services	983	5,485	5,039	51.1%	8.9%	8.9%
Other services	662	5,535	5,365	55.4%	3.2%	13.8%
Education, arts, charities, social care	369	6,868	6,608	54.3%	3.9%	6.9%
TOTAL NON-KI SECTORS	4,101	32,056	30,828	56.4%	4.0%	6.5%
TOTAL ALL SECTORS	5,577	76,600	72,815	67.1%	5.2%	7.7%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Appendix A2. Employment growth by sector in Cambridge

April 2024 Update	Number of companies	Total empl 2022-23	Total empl 2021-22	% of Camb total 2021-22	Empl growth 2022-23	Empl growth 2021-22
KNOWLEDGE INTENSIVE SECTORS						
Information technology and telecoms	358	5,471	5,155	56.2%	6.1%	6.6%
Life science and healthcare	102	6,786	6,489	90.3%	4.6%	8.4%
High-tech manufacturing	26	1,071	999	76.2%	7.2%	4.5%
Knowledge intensive services	111	1,777	1,619	68.9%	9.8%	8.1%
TOTAL KI SECTORS	597	15,105	14,262	71.2%	5.9%	7.4%
OTHER SECTORS						
Primary	18	140	135	84.4%	3.7%	2.3%
Manufacturing	72	498	511	71.4%	-2.5%	0.0%
Wholesale and retail distribution	147	832	825	55.8%	0.8%	2.7%
Construction and utilities	137	477	472	58.0%	1.1%	1.5%
Transport and travel	37	254	247	47.3%	2.8%	4.7%
Property and finance	332	1,941	1,881	60.3%	3.2%	3.8%
Other business services	415	3,183	2,881	65.8%	10.5%	9.3%
Other services	289	2,716	2,631	61.1%	3.2%	16.0%
Education, arts, charities, social care	201	5,286	5,103	70.6%	3.6%	8.0%
TOTAL NON-KI SECTORS	1,648	15,327	14,686	64.6%	4.4%	8.1%
TOTAL ALL SECTORS	2,245	30,432	28,948	67.7%	5.1%	7.7%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Appendix A3. Employment growth by sector in South Cambridgeshire

April 2024 Update	Number of companies	Total empl 2022-23	Total empl 2021-22	% of S Cambs total 2021-22	Empl growth 2022-23	Empl growth 2021-22
KNOWLEDGE INTENSIVE SECTORS						
Information technology and telecoms	437	7,682	7,278	82.1%	5.6%	11.1%
Life science and healthcare	169	12,183	11,657	88.1%	4.5%	13.2%
High-tech manufacturing	134	5,448	5,066	75.6%	7.5%	1.7%
Knowledge intensive services	139	4,126	3,724	72.8%	10.8%	4.5%
TOTAL KI SECTORS	879	29,439	27,725	81.8%	6.2%	9.2%
OTHER SECTORS						
Primary	114	840	807	76.6%	4.1%	3.3%
Manufacturing	161	2,295	2,311	69.7%	-0.7%	1.9%
Wholesale and retail distribution	273	2,613	2,526	62.1%	3.4%	7.4%
Construction and utilities	343	2,017	1,916	50.2%	5.3%	-3.0%
Transport and travel	74	1,031	982	78.1%	5.0%	2.9%
Property and finance	379	1,230	1,203	46.0%	2.2%	6.4%
Other business services	568	2,302	2,158	39.3%	6.7%	8.4%
Other services	373	2,819	2,734	50.9%	3.1%	11.8%
Education, arts, charities, social care	168	1,582	1,505	30.5%	5.1%	3.4%
TOTAL NON-KI SECTORS	2,453	16,729	16,142	50.6%	3.6%	5.2%
TOTAL ALL SECTORS	3,332	46,168	43,867	66.6%	5.2%	7.7%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Table 3.1 Sectoral distribution of companies on business and science parks in the Cambridge City Region

Business Park	No of companies on park	% Life Sciences	% ICT & Telecoms	% Other KI	% Non-KI	2022-23 total employment	% of 22-23 empl in KI cos
Babraham Research Campus	65	97%	0%	2%	2%	2,012	100%
Cambridge Biomedical Campus	10	90%	0%	0%	10%	5,239	100%
Chesterford Research Park	22	73%	5%	9%	14%	1,294	87%
Granta Park	20	75%	0%	10%	15%	5,156	100%
Iconix Park / Unity Campus	7	57%	29%	14%	0%	371	100%
Wellcome Genome Campus	7	86%	14%	0%	0%	1,382	100%
Buckingway Business Park	26	8%	35%	23%	35%	1,045	60%
Cambourne Business Park	53	6%	32%	6%	57%	2,026	83%
Cambridge Business Park	87	3%	9%	1%	86%	1,604	87%
Cambridge Research Park	66	6%	20%	14%	61%	1,817	90%
Cambridge Science Park	198	16%	17%	14%	54%	8,620	94%
Harston Mill	6	17%	50%	33%	0%	683	100%
Melbourn Science Park	6	33%	17%	17%	33%	595	97%
St John's Innovation Centre/Park	246	12%	30%	13%	45%	2,555	76%
Vision Park	240	5%	14%	7%	74%	1,805	55%
<i>6 KI focused business parks</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>2,983</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>17 other business parks</i>	<i>1,003</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>16,656</i>	<i>26%</i>
All 37 Business Parks	2,332	10%	13%	13%	63%	55,843	70%

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.

Table 3.3 R&D activity of companies on business and science parks in the Cambridge City Region

Business Park	No of cos	% KI	2022-23 employment	% of 22-23 empl in KI cos	Total R&D last year £m	% of cos doing R&D in last 3yrs	R&D over last 3yrs £m	Ave spend pa R&D actives £,000
6 Major life science parks	131	94%	15,454	99%	1,893,599	60%	4,573,542	17,651
9 Key KI parks	928	41%	20,750	85%	630,687	8%	2,300,927	14,906
<i>6 KI focused business parks</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>2,983</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>21,908</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>63,304</i>	<i>3,525</i>
<i>17 other business parks</i>	<i>1,003</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>16,656</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>25,320</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>73,406</i>	<i>1,449</i>
All 37 Business Parks	2,332	37%	55,843	70%	2,571,513	7%	7,011,179	14,529

Source: Cosh & Caselli, CBR.