## The Economy

### Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2019
- **Total regional GVA is:** £4,511m
- **3%** of total Scottish output
- **Forecast annual growth (2019-2029):**
  - West Lothian: 1.9%
  - Scotland: 1.7%
  - United Kingdom: 2.0%

### Productivity (GVA per job) in 2019
- **Regional productivity is:** £52,500
- **Scottish productivity is:** £50,400
- **Forecast annual growth (2019-2029):**
  - West Lothian: 1.4%
  - Scotland: 1.4%
  - United Kingdom: 1.5%

## Current Demand for Skills

### Total Employment in 2019
- **85,900 jobs**
- **Down by 2% or 1,500 jobs**
  - Compared to a Scottish increase of 1%

### Employment by Occupation (people)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Structure</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human health &amp; social work</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; support services</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Skills Shortages and Gaps

#### Skills Shortage Vacancies
- West Lothian: 38%
- **6 ppt increase from 2015**
- Compared to Scotland: 24%

#### Skills Gaps
- West Lothian: 6.2%
- **2.2 ppt increase from 2015**
- Compared to Scotland: 5.0%

---

1. GVA is the measure of the value of goods and services produced within the economy.
2. Forecasts by Oxford Economics (unless otherwise stated).
3. Measured by total number of jobs.
4. ‘Higher level occupations’ are defined as Managers, directors & senior officials, Professional occupations, and Associate professional & technical occupations; ‘Mid level occupations’ defined as Administrative & secretarial occupations, Skilled trades occupations, Caring, leisure and other service occupations; and ‘Lower level occupations’ defined as Sales & customer service occupations, Process, plant & machine operatives, Elementary occupations.
5. Source: Employer Skills Survey, 2017
6. Base: All establishments with vacancies (only 2017 shown).
7. Base: All establishments (only 2017 shown). Skills gaps: the proportion of the workforce lacking full proficiency.

*As with all forecasts, certain caveats need to be applied. They are based on what we know now and include past and present trends projected into the future. Their value is in identifying likely directions of travel rather than predicting exact figures. It is recommended therefore that users examine trends over time rather than focusing on changes in individual years. Finally, the more disaggregated they become, especially at smaller geographical units, the less reliable they are likely to be.*

---

**Evidence Base Team**
**West Lothian**

**Current and Future Skills Demand**

Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) are a single, agreed evidence base created to inform future investment in skills. This infographic is for West Lothian, and supplements the region’s RSA Summary report. It uses Oxford Economics forecasts for the 2019-2029 period to show current and future economic contribution, as well as current and future demand for skills.

### Future Supply

#### Population 2016-2041

- **Total population:** up by 13% or 23,000 people
- **Working age population (16-64):** up by 2% or 2,800 people

#### Forecast change:

- **West Lothian:** 13%
- **Scotland:** 5%
- **United Kingdom:** 11%

### Future Demand for Skills

#### From 2019-2029, Total Employment:

- **Increase of 6% or 4,800 jobs**
- **Forecast average annual change:**
  - **West Lothian:** 0.5%
  - **Scotland:** 0.3%
  - **United Kingdom:** 0.5%

### Top 3 employing sectors in 2029 are forecast to be:

- **Admin & support services** (27,400 people)
- **Human health & social work** (17%)
- **Construction** (17%)

### From 2019 to 2029

- **The largest employment decreases are forecast in:**
  - **Mining & quarrying** (-28%)
  - **Manufacturing** (-13%)
  - **Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning** (-10%)

### Future Job Openings

From 2019 to 2029 there will be a requirement for:

- 27,400 people Replacement Demand
- 4,500 people Expansion Demand

**31,900 people to fill Job Openings**

#### Occupational structure 2029:

- **44%** Higher level occupations
- **21%** Mid-level occupations
- **36%** Lower level occupations

---

*Source: National Records of Scotland.*

*Expansion demand is the measure of an increase/decrease in jobs, as a result of economic growth or contraction. Replacement demand is the number of job openings generated through labour market churn (i.e. those who retire, move away, or change jobs). N.B. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and as a result totals may not equal the sum of the constituent parts.*