

St Albans

- St Albans' **population** totalled 132,000 in 2004, 12.7% of the county total. The district is expected to show the fastest population growth in Hertfordshire over the period 2004-11, enabling St Albans to displace Dacorum as the most populous district. Of the age bands, only 35-44 is expected to see a decrease in population, but the fall is modest and far smaller than in any other district. In level terms, there will be significant increases in the older section of the workforce (45-64), with the number of persons aged 85 and over also rising sharply, but from a low base. Though growth in the elderly is very strong, growth in those of working age is expected to be 6.1%, which is much higher than any other district.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN ST ALBANS, 2004						
Age band	Male	Female	Total	Age band share of total	Growth 2004-2011	
					Levels	%
0-4	4494	4294	8788	6.6	586	6.7
5-15	9459	9235	18694	14.1	1077	5.8
16-19	2978	2890	5868	4.4	748	12.7
20-24	3025	3006	6031	4.6	832	13.8
25-34	9306	9188	18494	14.0	1070	5.8
35-44	11325	11325	22650	17.1	-21	-0.1
45-59	13019	12938	25956	19.6	1756	6.8
60-64	3106	3012	6119	4.6	1356	22.2
65-74	4900	5306	10206	7.7	462	4.5
75-84	2994	4206	7200	5.4	76	1.0
85+	619	1600	2219	1.7	666	30.0
Total	65225	67000	132225	100.0	8607	6.5

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- St Albans accounted for 11.6% of **GVA** in Hertfordshire in 2005. Output growth in the district lagged the Hertfordshire average over the past decade, but prospects for the coming six years are good. Strong demographics and a favourable industrial structure underpin output growth of 3.4% pa, second only to Hertsmere. Financial & Business Services has a much larger share of GVA in St Albans than in any other district and growth of 5.7% pa fuels the district's strong overall performance. Though manufacturing contracts sharply – the worst performance in Hertfordshire by some distance – it has a very small share of the St Albans economy.

GVA IN ST ALBANS, 2005					
Sector	GVA (£m ¹)	% of Total GVA		Growth (%pa)	
		St Albans	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	13	0.5	0.5	1.2	2.0
Mining & quarrying	17	0.7	1.4	-1.8	1.1
Manufacturing	148	5.9	13.1	-2.1	-3.4
Construction	141	5.6	7.3	1.4	2.9
Distribution, hotels & catering	429	17.1	19.1	2.2	2.7
Transport & communications	205	8.1	9.1	5.7	5.3
Financial & business services	887	35.3	26.1	5.7	5.7
Other (mainly public) services	524	20.9	17.0	1.7	2.9
Total	2514	100.0	100.0	2.8	3.4

Note: ¹ Chained volume measure, reference year 2002

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- The past decade saw the district report one of the weakest rates of **employment** growth, with only the dominant Financial & Business Services sector reporting reasonable growth. However, exceptional population growth is expected to underpin strong job creation over the next six years at a rate (1.2% pa) well above the county average. Financial & Business Services (2.4% pa) continues to lead, but is supported by Transport & Communications (1.7% pa) and Other (Mainly Public) Services (1.2%), neither of which reported significant jobs growth over the previous decade.

EMPLOYMENT IN ST ALBANS, 2005					
Sector	Employment (000s)	% of Total Employment		Growth (%pa)	
		St Albans	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.6
Mining & quarrying	0.0	0.0	0.4	-20.0	-2.5
Manufacturing	2.4	4.0	9.5	-5.9	-4.7
Construction	3.7	6.3	7.6	0.6	1.1
Distribution, hotels & catering	14.2	24.1	26.0	0.0	0.3
Transport & communications	3.2	5.5	6.1	0.0	1.7
Financial & business services	18.1	30.7	24.9	1.6	2.4
Other (mainly public) services	16.8	28.5	24.6	0.3	1.2
Total	59.0	100.0	100.0	0.2	1.2

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- Claimant count **unemployment** totalled 815 in St Albans in 2006q2, a rate of 0.9%. Despite relatively weak employment growth over the past ten years, St Albans has maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the county. With employment growth set to accelerate, joblessness will remain low throughout the forecast horizon.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ST ALBANS												
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5
Female	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Persons	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7
Rate	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8

Notes: Claimant count levels in thousands. Claimant count rate is a percentage of the working age population
Source: Experian, National Statistics