

## Stevenage

- **Population** of 79,000 made Stevenage the smallest district in Hertfordshire in 2004. This represented 7.6% of the county total. With 21.5% of the population under 16 years of age, the district has the youngest population in the county. Over the period 2004-11, the population increases by just 0.4%, well below the county average. In common with many other districts, the largest increases in population are expected in the older age bands, in particular 45-64 and 85 & older.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN STEVENAGE, 2004						
Age band	Male	Female	Total	Age band share of total	Growth 2004-2011	
					Levels	%
0-4	2694	2400	5094	6.4	-1	0.0
5-15	6264	5629	11892	15.0	-1329	-11.2
16-19	2318	2140	4458	5.6	-351	-7.9
20-24	2394	2319	4713	6.0	677	14.4
25-34	5206	5581	10788	13.6	-4	0.0
35-44	6606	6781	13387	16.9	-1874	-14.0
45-59	7113	7088	14200	18.0	1888	13.3
60-64	1600	1719	3319	4.2	764	23.0
65-74	2706	3312	6019	7.6	-161	-2.7
75-84	1775	2300	4075	5.2	308	7.6
85+	300	800	1100	1.4	414	37.7
Total	38975	40669	79044	100.0	331	0.4

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- Stevenage accounted for 8.6% of **GVA** in Hertfordshire in 2005. The district increased its share over the past decade – growth was strong across the sectors, with Financial & Business Services standing out. However, weak demographics and an unfavourable industrial structure will dampen growth going forwards and average growth of 2.5% pa is the weakest of the ten districts. The district is over-represented in manufacturing, while the fast-growing Transport & Communications sector has a smaller share than the county average. Therefore, the contracting manufacturing sector acts as a drag on growth, offsetting the robust growth delivered by Transport & Communications.

GVA IN STEVENAGE, 2005					
Sector	GVA (£m <sup>1</sup> )	% of Total GVA		Growth (%pa)	
		Stevenage	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	0	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.4
Mining & quarrying	19	1.0	1.4	14.4	3.0
Manufacturing	342	18.4	13.1	2.6	-0.7
Construction	180	9.7	7.3	5.6	3.5
Distribution, hotels & catering	260	14.0	19.1	3.9	2.1
Transport & communications	111	6.0	9.1	5.7	7.1
Financial & business services	529	28.4	26.1	8.1	3.9
Other (mainly public) services	326	17.5	17.0	2.6	2.1
Total	1861	100.0	100.0	4.5	2.5

Note: <sup>1</sup> Chained volume measure, reference year 2002

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- There is a similar story with regards to **employment**, with Stevenage moving from the top half of the district rankings to the bottom. Employment growth is forecast to slow from 1.2% pa over the past decade, to just 0.2% pa over the period 2005-11. Having been the main driver of job creation over the past decade, Financial & Business Services slows significantly (0.8% pa). The district's large manufacturing sector is expected to shed jobs at a rate of 2.1% pa, causing a significant drag on whole economy employment growth.

EMPLOYMENT IN STEVENAGE, 2005					
Sector	Employment (000s)	% of Total Employment		Growth (%pa)	
		Stevenage	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	2.5
Mining & quarrying	0.1	0.2	0.4	9.6	-2.0
Manufacturing	7.3	14.6	9.5	0.9	-2.1
Construction	3.0	6.0	7.6	-0.8	2.0
Distribution, hotels & catering	10.9	21.7	26.0	1.6	-0.4
Transport & communications	2.6	5.2	6.1	2.8	0.9
Financial & business services	13.7	27.4	24.9	5.2	0.8
Other (mainly public) services	12.3	24.5	24.6	0.5	0.7
Total	50.1	100.0	100.0	1.9	0.2

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- Claimant count **unemployment** totalled 1,119 in Stevenage in 2006q2, a rate of 2.4%. Joblessness has increased by around 25% over the course of the past year, making Stevenage the district with the highest claimant count rate in Hertfordshire. Unemployment peaks at 3% in 2007 and then eases off, despite the weak employment growth.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN STEVENAGE												
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7
Female	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Persons	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
Rate	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.9

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