

## Three Rivers

- Three Rivers is one of the smaller districts, with a **population** of 84,000 representing 8.1% of the Hertfordshire total. The district has the smallest proportion of inhabitants of working age in the county, with above average representation in the older age bands. The period 2004-11 is expected to see population growth of 4.9%, behind only St Albans and North Hertfordshire in the district rankings. Three Rivers fares better than many of the other districts with a more modest decline forecast in the 25-44 age band and strong growth at the lower end of the workforce.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN THREE RIVERS, 2004						
Age band	Male	Female	Total	Age band share of total	Growth 2004-2011	
					Levels	%
0-4	2500	2425	4925	5.9	146	3.0
5-15	6087	6108	12194	14.5	-194	-1.6
16-19	2032	2030	4062	4.8	524	12.9
20-24	2000	1881	3881	4.6	709	18.3
25-34	4819	5294	10112	12.0	-13	-0.1
35-44	6600	6912	13512	16.1	-772	-5.7
45-59	8613	8731	17344	20.6	866	5.0
60-64	2013	2094	4106	4.9	1228	29.9
65-74	3319	3700	7019	8.3	547	7.8
75-84	2019	3000	5019	6.0	579	11.5
85+	600	1394	1994	2.4	492	24.7
Total	40600	43569	84169	100.0	4112	4.9

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- The district accounted for 6.5% of **GVA** in Hertfordshire in 2005. Three Rivers has grown in line with the county average over the past decade, with particularly strong performances from Transport & Communications and Financial & Business Services. However, these two key sectors have a smaller share of GVA in Three Rivers than they do in many other districts, meaning that their contribution to total GVA growth is not as strong as it is elsewhere. Therefore, despite sustained strength in these areas going forwards, the district still grows at the same pace as the county as a whole. Future expansion is broad based, with manufacturing making a modest positive contribution to growth, in stark contrast to the severe decline of the past ten years.

GVA IN THREE RIVERS, 2005					
Sector	GVA (£m <sup>1</sup> )	% of Total GVA		Growth (%pa)	
		Three Rivers	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	7	0.5	0.5	0.3	1.9
Mining & quarrying	25	1.8	1.4	14.1	3.3
Manufacturing	128	9.1	13.1	-5.4	0.9
Construction	209	14.8	7.3	4.4	3.3
Distribution, hotels & catering	243	17.3	19.1	3.5	3.2
Transport & communications	91	6.4	9.1	11.3	4.5
Financial & business services	351	24.9	26.1	8.3	5.3
Other (mainly public) services	259	18.4	17.0	4.6	3.3
Total	1409	100.0	100.0	3.4	3.2

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

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- **Employment** levels in Three Rivers are the lowest in the county, which is unsurprising given the relatively small size of the working age population. Nevertheless employment has been growing strongly over the past decade, with growth of 2.2% pa second only to Broxbourne. Employment growth is forecast to slow to 1.3% pa over the period 2005-11, but this will still be the fastest growth rate in the county. Strong demographic trends, in particular rising working age population, underpins this. The sector driving employment growth will be Financial & Business Services, with Construction and Other (Mainly Public) Services also expected to perform well. In addition, job losses in manufacturing are expected to slow, therefore asserting a smaller drag on overall prospects.

EMPLOYMENT IN THREE RIVERS, 2005					
Sector	Employment (000s)	% of Total Employment		Growth (%pa)	
		Three Rivers	Hertfordshire	1995-2005	2005-2011
Agriculture	0.2	0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.4
Mining & quarrying	0.2	0.6	0.4	13.6	-0.8
Manufacturing	2.7	7.3	9.5	-6.4	-0.6
Construction	5.3	14.4	7.6	3.0	1.6
Distribution, hotels & catering	7.7	20.8	26.0	1.1	0.5
Transport & communications	1.6	4.2	6.1	5.6	0.0
Financial & business services	9.1	24.6	24.9	4.9	2.1
Other (mainly public) services	10.1	27.1	24.6	4.2	1.6
Total	37.1	100.0	100.0	2.2	1.3

Source: Experian, National Statistics

- Claimant count **unemployment** totalled 616 in Three Rivers in 2006q2, a rate of 1.2%. The district has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Hertfordshire. A modest increase in the claimant count rate is forecast for the next couple of years, before it eases back. A peak of 1.5% is one of the lowest in the county.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THREE RIVERS												
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Female	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Persons	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
Rate	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2

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