

Employment in Tameside: Results of the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) 2006

The results of the 2006 Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) were released in December 2007. Revised results for 2005 were released at the same time¹. The 2006 results are provisional and will be subject to revision in December this year.

The ABI is a business survey which collects both employment and financial information. It should be emphasised that the data presented are *estimates*, subject to both sampling errors² (arising from the fact that the ABI is a survey, not a census) and non-sampling errors.

The local data available relates to *jobs* in Tameside ie employees only; self-employed and or working proprietors are not included. Data from the latest Annual Population Survey indicates there are approximately 11,000 self-employed in Tameside. Further information on the type of worker included in the series can be found in the Technical and Supplementary Information attached to the end of this report.

A further report relating to employment according to size of employing unit will follow.

NOTE

The ONS has issued a warning regarding use of the 2006 data relating to "ABI 2006 discontinuity". Basically, there are major changes in the data collection and methodology which affect comparisons of the 2006 ABI employment estimates with earlier years. These are

1. Change in reference date from December to September;
2. Use of Business Register Survey data within the ABI/1 results;
3. Change to the Minimum Domain Methodology.

The ONS states that it is not possible to measure the impact of the changes made precisely, however the scale of the overall discontinuity between the 2005 and 2006 ABI nationally is estimated to be in the range of 150,000 to 350,000 (0.6 to 1.3 per cent of the total number of employees) in a downward direction.³

More detailed information on the nature of these discontinuities is available from

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/news/files/ABI2006discontinuities.doc>

For this reason no direct comparison with employee numbers from earlier years is given in this report. However, where appropriate, certain ratios between common variables is provided for information purposes.

¹ ABI 2005 data were initially issued in January 2007. However there were several discrepancies with the data relating to Tameside, including a miscoding of some 3,000 individuals assigned to the construction sector. The ONS has since revised the data and a revised report on the 2005 ABI has been prepared by Tameside MBC Economic Development Unit.

² For further information on **Standard Errors for Annual Business Inquiry** refer to https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/showArticle.asp?title=Information&article=news/071212_abi-stderrors.htm

³ One would expect the change of reference date from December to September to have an impact on those sectors which may experience some seasonal aspect to employment eg retail. It should perhaps also be noted that in Tameside's case the change in reference date would mean the exclusion of employees recruited by IKEA (Nov 2006).

Headline data from Annual Business Inquiry 2006

- It is estimated that in Greater Manchester (GM) there were 1,160,000 employee jobs in August 2006.....

...and in Tameside:

- there were 71,700 employee jobs, accounting for some 6.2% of all jobs in GM (Dec 2005, 6.3%) - a fairly constant proportion for the last few years.
- the distribution of employment between major industrial categories can be represented at various levels of disaggregation. Figure 1 below attempts to show a wide overview with a level of detail consistent with meeting the data confidentiality requirements of the ONS.

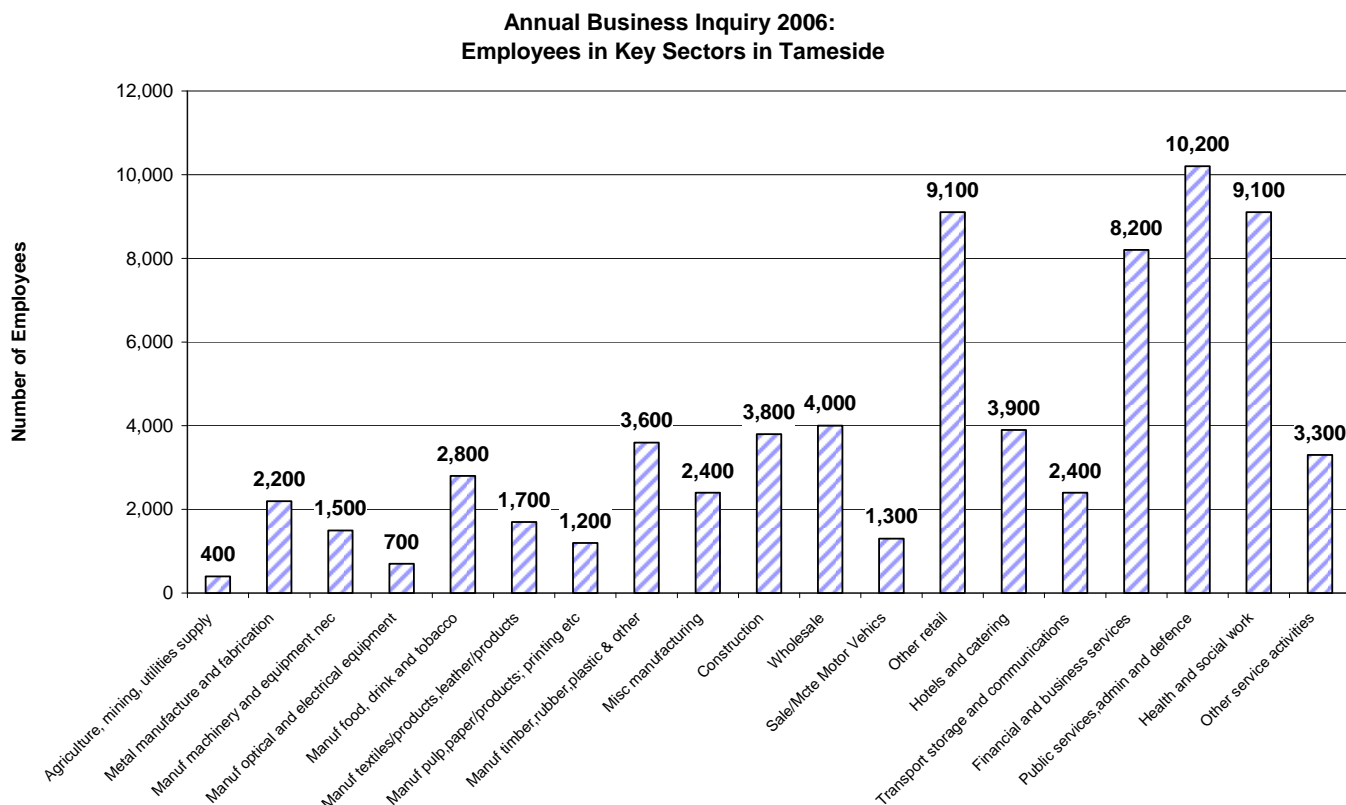


Figure 1

- males occupied 50.4% of all jobs (2005 50.7%); females 49.6% (2005 49.3%). GM ratio is 51.1 / 48.9
- full-time jobs (>30 hours per week) accounted for 68.6% of the total (2005, 68.1%); part-time jobs 31.4% (2005, 31.9%).
- the **Manufacturing** sector continues to be a major provider of jobs and performs a major role in the Tameside economy and as such merits further detailed analysis:
 - The borough continues to have the highest proportion of jobs in manufacturing compared with other GM districts (see Figure 2). Over 12.0% of all manufacturing jobs in Greater Manchester are located in Tameside
 - The sector provides 16,100 or 22.5% of all jobs in Tameside (GM = 11.4%). See figure 2 below.
 - It provides 30% of all full time jobs in Tameside.

- Almost 92% of jobs in manufacturing are full time compared with 68.6% of jobs in the wider economy. A reduction in the numbers employed in manufacturing often means a reduction in the amount of full time employment in the local economy.
- Almost 75% of jobs in manufacturing are occupied by males.
- The sector accounts for over 37% of Tameside's full time jobs occupied by males; the corresponding figure for females is 17%.
- Although figure 2 shows the long-term decline in proportion of jobs in manufacturing to have halted in 2006, it is perhaps too early to regard this as a real shift rather than the effect of the ABI data discontinuities outlined earlier in this report.
- Despite the concerns regarding the comparability of 2006 data, even when comparing relative proportions with earlier years, there is no doubt that, as in all other districts in GM, the manufacturing sector in Tameside is suffering a long-term decline in relative importance in relation to the number of jobs it provides.

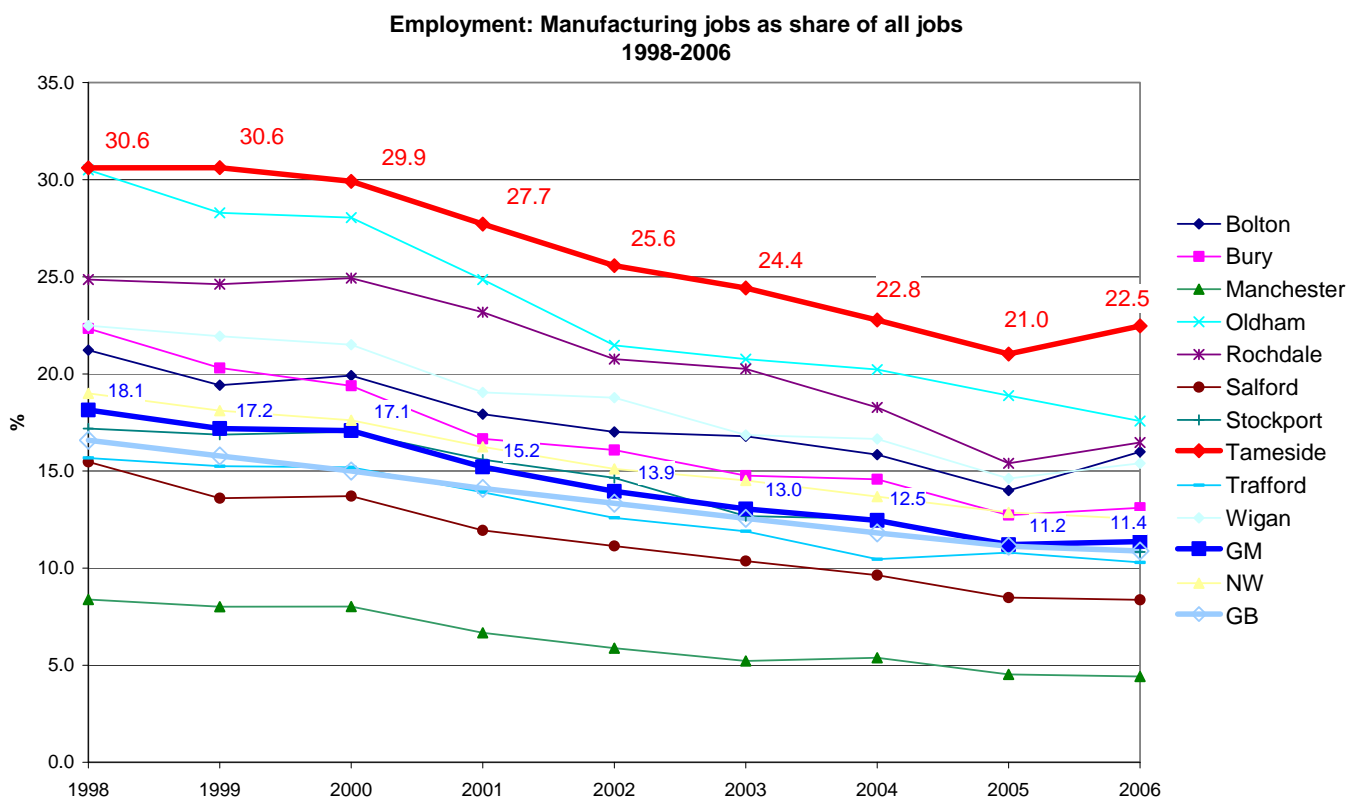


Figure 2

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Some Technical and Supplementary Information

- The data are based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003, similar to the 1992 SIC, but comparisons between years may give rise to discontinuities. The main change relates to the designation of the Head Office of companies.
- Data available can be broken down into male/female; part-time/ full-time or combinations subject to rules on disclosure.
- Geography: 2003 CAS ward level upwards for 2003 data, 1991 wards for earlier data (has probably minimal impact on Tameside ward-level data). The 2005 data sees the introduction of Super Output Area geographies. These new geographies are available from 2003. Data at this level needs to be evaluated for accuracy and usefulness prior to release.
- Various industry levels available (obviously the greater the detail the more restrictive the access):
 - 2003 SIC codes, four, three and two-digit
 - 10 Broad Industrial Group (BIG) categories
 - 23 Employment Service categories
 - 17 "sections"
- Access to available data is restricted to named individuals (DF, JL in Tameside) signing the Chancellor of the Exchequer's notice. These individuals cannot pass on certain "confidential data" to a third party. Thus data may need to be aggregated to conform to these requirements.
- ABI data is also available on the structure of businesses by employee numbers. Analysis of this data is underway and will be circulated in a separate report.
- Classes of employed not included in the data:

Non-executive directors;

Working proprietors, partners and executive directors not in receipt of a direct salary, fee or commission;

The self-employed;

Subcontracted labour;

Manual homeworkers on piecework rates;

Seconded/agency staff paid by their permanent employer;

Former employees still on the payroll as pensioners;

Employees working abroad long-term;

Unpaid workers and voluntary workers;

Those under 16 years of age;

Government supported trainees without a contract of employment.

Further information available from:

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