

Blackpool 

Blackpool Makes it Work

[BUSINESSINBLACKPOOL.COM](https://businessinblackpool.com)



Contents

Contents	03
The Spirit to Succeed	04
Aerospace and Advanced Engineering	06
A World-Class Industry Cluster	08
Aerospace and Advanced Engineering: Key data	10
Advanced Materials Technologies	12
Advanced Materials Expertise	14
Advanced Material Technologies: Key data	16
Regional Energy Cluster	18
Cross-Sector Energy Capabilities	20
Regional Energy Cluster: Key data	22
Food Manufacturing Cluster	24
Leading Food Manufacturing Companies	26
Food Manufacturing Cluster: Key data	28
Business, Professional and Financial Services	30
Grade-A Town-Centre Offices	32
Transport Connectivity	34
Data Sources	36

The Spirit to Succeed

Achievement in business isn't down to luck. **It's hard won.**

Success here comes through grit and determination, from a desire to always find a way forward. It comes with the imagination to innovate and a sense of adventure. And most importantly it comes from the community pulling together, supporting each other, through working as a team.

In Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, you'll find the perfect space for your business, from our Enterprise Zones to our multi-million pound town development programmes. We'll help you recruit the right talent for your business. Discover fantastic places to live as well as work. And our Growth and Prosperity Team will offer you all the help and assistance you need as you land in your new home.

We work hard for our rewards and as the world knows, we do it with a smile on our faces.



Aerospace and Advanced Engineering

Blackpool provides aerospace and advanced engineering businesses with access to the expertise, supply chains and skills of Europe's largest aerospace cluster, combined with significant cost advantages versus key competitor locations.



A World-Class Industry Cluster

The Blackpool area is an integral part of North West England's world-class aerospace cluster.¹

Leading companies located in the area include **BAE Systems** (aircraft manufacturing and testing), **Magellan Aerospace** (centre of excellence for hard metal machining), and **Force Technology** (advanced spring technologies). Major businesses within the wider regional cluster include **Rolls-Royce**, **Thyssenkrupp Aerospace** and **Collins Aerospace**.



13,300

Advanced Manufacturing Workers

6,200

Aerospace and Defense Workers

BAE SYSTEMS

MAGELLAN
AEROSPACE

Force
Technology
ADVANCED SPRING SOLUTIONS

ROLLS
ROYCE

thyssenkrupp

Collins Aerospace

Significant cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's compelling business location offer is completed by a highly competitive cost base. The area's labour costs are significantly lower than the national averages, while industrial rents are amongst the lowest for England's industrial Enterprise Zone locations.

Serving diverse high-technology sectors

Business core competencies include the research, development, manufacture and assembly of high-value, high-precision, robust products that meet the demanding standards of aerospace and related sectors, including automotive, medical, electronics and general industrial.

A skilled advanced engineering workforce

A highly skilled technical workforce is at the heart of Blackpool's offer to engineering businesses. The skilled personnel accessible within 40 minutes' drive time position it among the UK's leading aerospace and advanced engineering locations.²

Excellence in engineering education and research

Blackpool's established skills base is supported by educational excellence at both college and university levels, and world-leading research in disciplines including manufacturing, advanced materials, electronics and engineering dynamics.³

Enterprise Zone property solutions

The Blackpool area is home to two Enterprise Zones (Blackpool Airport and Hillhouse) focused on advanced technology sectors. Investing businesses can benefit from incentives, including business rates discounts, enhanced capital allowances and simplified planning, helping them to save money and minimise project risk.

Aerospace and Advanced Engineering: Key data

Total in Employment⁶

350,600
458,700

Aerospace Workers⁷

6,200
7,000

Aerospace Workforce Concentration⁷

7x GB average
5.5x GB average

Advanced Manufacturing Workers⁸

13,300
14,000

- Blackpool's 40-minute Catchment⁴
- Bristol Travel to Work Area⁵

A skilled advanced engineering workforce

The Blackpool area's skilled technical workforce positions it among the UK's leading aerospace and advanced engineering business locations.

Workforce comparison: Blackpool and Bristol areas

Bristol's Travel to Work Area⁵ is a leading centre of aerospace manufacturing, and home to large-scale Rolls-Royce, Airbus and BAE Systems operations. The area also has a larger workforce overall than Blackpool's labour catchment area.

But the Blackpool area provides businesses with access to a comparable aerospace and advanced engineering workforce. That's because it is integral to the North West aerospace cluster, and has a higher concentration of workers in the sector than the Bristol area.

Engineering education and R&D

Blackpool-based businesses can access universities with high UK rankings, both overall and in engineering disciplines, and an 'outstanding'-rated further education college working in close partnership with engineering companies.

Cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's engineering expertise, supply chain and skills advantages are combined with significant labour and property costs savings versus key UK competitor locations, enabling investing businesses to save money without compromise.

Lancaster University⁹



UK top-10 overall ranking



3x UK top-10 ranked engineering courses

Blackpool and the Fylde College¹⁰



Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating



Engineering skills partnerships

University of Central Lancashire⁹



UK top-20 for General Engineering



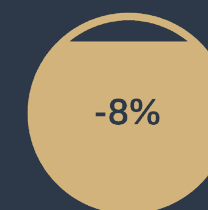
vs. Bristol



vs. Coventry



vs. Derby



vs. GB average

Labour Cost Savings¹¹



Property Cost Savings¹²

Lowest property costs of England's major aerospace cluster locations



Advanced Materials Technologies

Blackpool is home to a niche cluster of highly specialised advanced materials technology companies, operating at the forefront of their fields.

Advanced Materials Expertise

The Blackpool area's wide-ranging materials technologies expertise can be traced back to the legacy of ICI Chemicals and Polymers.

Leading companies located in the area include **Victrex plc** (manufacturer of high-performance polymer solutions), **Invibio** (manufacturer of medical-grade implantable polymers) and **AGC Chemicals** (manufacturer of fluorochemicals and fluoropolymers).

Serving diverse high-technology sectors

Key areas of expertise include the research, development and production of novel products, as well as secure facilities conforming to the high health and safety specifications demanded by chemicals and materials businesses. Market sectors served include medtech, aerospace, automotive, energy and construction.



24,000

Process Plant and Machine
Operative Workers

17,700

Science, Research, Engineering
and Technology Professionals

A skilled materials and process industries workforce

Blackpool's 40-minute catchment area provides access to a large pool of the specialist workers required by advanced materials companies – including technically skilled operatives and highly skilled technical professionals.¹³

Excellence in engineering education and research

Blackpool's established skills base is supported by colleges providing industry-focused training and regional universities delivering world-class education and research in engineering and materials disciplines.¹⁴

Enterprise Zone property solutions

The Blackpool area is home to two Enterprise Zones (Hillhouse and Blackpool Airport) focused on advanced technology sectors. Investing businesses can benefit from incentives including business rates discounts, enhanced capital allowances and simplified planning, helping them to save money and minimise project risk.

Significant cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's compelling business location offer is completed by a highly competitive cost base. The area's labour costs are significantly lower than the national averages, while industrial rents are amongst the lowest for England's industrial Enterprise Zone locations.



Advanced Materials Technologies: Key data

Total in Employment ¹⁷

350,600
454,100

Process Plant and Machine Operatives ¹⁸

24,000
25,300

Science, Research, Engineering and
Technology Professionals ¹⁹

17,700
18,400

Chemicals Manufacturing Workforce
Concentration ²⁰

3.4x GB average

● Blackpool's 40-minute Catchment ¹⁵
● Liverpool Travel to Work Area ¹⁶

A skilled advanced materials sector workforce

The Blackpool area's skilled technical and professional workforce positions it among the UK's leading advanced materials business locations.

Workforce comparison: Blackpool and Liverpool areas

The Liverpool Travel to Work Area ¹⁶ includes Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington, and is a major UK centre of materials manufacturing. The area has a larger workforce overall than Blackpool's labour catchment.

But the Blackpool area provides businesses with access to a comparable technically skilled workforce across both operative and senior professional categories. The Blackpool area also provides access to more workers in each of these categories than the Humber North Bank ²¹ or Teesside. ²²

Engineering education and R&D

Blackpool-based businesses can access universities with high UK rankings, both overall and in engineering disciplines, and an 'outstanding'-rated further education college working in partnership with materials technology businesses.

Cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's advanced materials expertise, supply chain and skills advantages are combined with highly competitive labour and property costs, enabling investing businesses to save money without compromise.

Lancaster University ²³



UK top-10 overall ranking



3x UK top-10 ranked
engineering courses

Blackpool and The Fylde College ²⁴



Outstanding 'Gold' status
for teaching excellence

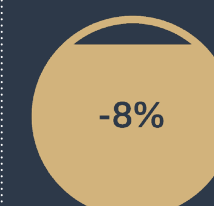


Industry-focussed
education

North West Regional Universities ^{14,23}



Manchester and Liverpool: world-
leading engineering and materials
education and research



Labour Cost
Savings ²⁵

-8% vs GB average



Property Cost
Savings ²⁶

Prime rents in the lowest 20% of England's
Industrial Enterprise Zone Locations

Regional Energy Cluster

Blackpool is located at the heart of a diverse regional energy cluster, incorporating nuclear, gas, offshore renewables and energy brokerage capabilities.



Cross-Sector Energy Capabilities

Nuclear energy

Centrally situated on the UK's nuclear coast, Blackpool is the ideal location for growing nuclear supply chain businesses. The town is home to Westinghouse (nuclear fuel manufacturing) and the National Nuclear Laboratory, which undertakes nuclear research and development including fuel design and manufacture.

Gas

Blackpool is at the forefront of gas exploration in the UK. The sector's development presents potential growth opportunities for supply chain companies in specialist areas including infrastructure installation, horizontal drilling technologies, surveying and monitoring, production of fracturing fluids, waste treatment and transportation, and pipework installation.

Offshore renewables

Situated midway between the O&M centres of Morecambe and Liverpool, Blackpool is the ideal location for companies serving the offshore renewables sector in the Irish Sea. Ørsted and NVH (offshore helicopters) have operations in the area, and potential growth opportunities exist for companies specialising in manufacture and construction (e.g. arrays, cabling and substations), remote inspection and repair, and ancillary services.

A large, skilled technical workforce

Blackpool's 40-minute catchment area provides access to a large pool of the skilled technical and engineering personnel required by businesses operating across all energy sectors.²⁷



24,000

Process Plant and Machine
Operative Workers

13,300

Advanced Manufacturing Workers

17,700

Science, Research, Engineering
and Technology Professionals

Excellence in engineering education and research

Blackpool's established skills base is supported by further education focused on energy sector needs (Blackpool and the Fylde College's Energy HQ), and by regional universities delivering world-class education and research in engineering and manufacturing disciplines.²⁸

Enterprise Zone property solutions

The Blackpool area is home to two Enterprise Zones (Hillhouse and Blackpool Airport) focused on advanced technology and energy sectors. Investing businesses can benefit from incentives including business rates discounts, enhanced capital allowances and simplified planning, helping them to save money and minimise project risk.

Significant cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's compelling business location offer is completed by a highly competitive cost base. The area's labour costs are significantly lower than the national averages, while industrial rents are amongst the lowest for England's industrial Enterprise Zone locations.



Regional Energy Cluster: Key data

Process Plant and Machine Operative Workers³⁰

24,000
18,400

Advanced Manufacturing Workers³¹

13,300
11,400

Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals³²

17,700
10,500

More than the Humber
Estuary North Bank

● Blackpool's 40-minute Catchment²⁹
● Humber Estuary North Bank²⁹

A large, skilled technical workforce

The Blackpool area is integral to major regional industry clusters in the aerospace, advanced engineering, advanced materials and food manufacturing sectors, as well as energy.

As a consequence, the area provides investing energy businesses with direct access to a large pool of technical workers. Across all skills levels, from process industry operatives to technology professionals, the technical labour force accessible from a Blackpool base is outstanding among the UK's major energy sector business locations.

Energy and engineering education and R&D

Blackpool-based businesses can access universities with high UK rankings, both overall and in engineering disciplines. Energy-focused research groups include the John Tyndall Institute for Nuclear Research (Lancaster University)³³ and N-STAR (Nuclear Science and Applied Technology Research, University of Liverpool).³⁴

At the further education level, Blackpool and the Fylde College's Energy HQ delivers courses tailored to the specific need of energy sector businesses.³⁶

Cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's energy sector expertise, supply chain and skills advantages are combined with highly competitive labour and property costs, enabling investing businesses to save money without compromise.

Lancaster University³⁵



UK top-10 overall
ranking



3x UK top-10 ranked
engineering courses



Nuclear research
group

Blackpool and The Fylde College³⁶



Outstanding 'Gold' status
for teaching excellence



Award Winning Energy
HQ – Sector skills

North West Regional Universities^{28,35}



Manchester and Liverpool: world-
leading engineering and nuclear
education and research



Labour Cost
Savings³⁷

vs. GB average



Property Cost
Savings³⁸

Prime rents in the lowest 20% of England's
Industrial Enterprise Zone Locations



Food Manufacturing Cluster

Blackpool is home to a diverse and prospering food manufacturing cluster, characterised by high levels of investment, innovation and value-added products.



Leading Food Manufacturing Companies

Leading businesses within Blackpool's food manufacturing cluster include **Laila's Fine Foods** (supermarket ready meals), **Nutrition Group** (dietary supplements and functional foods), and **Burton's Biscuit Company**.

Added-value food sector capabilities

Companies with significant product development expertise include Nutrition Group and Burton's Biscuit Company – home to the Cookie Centre of Excellence. The cluster's food development and production strengths are complemented by related capabilities including the manufacture of food processing equipment, for example by Loynds Machinery.

A high-quality food manufacturing workforce

Blackpool provides food manufacturing businesses with access to a workforce that is ideally suited to the sector's needs. Workforce availability is strong across all skills levels, ranging from 'elementary occupations' to technically skilled process industry and manufacturing workers.

Excellence in education and skills

Blackpool's established food sector workforce is supported by colleges providing food, engineering and process sector skills, and by regional universities

delivering specialist education and research in food technology disciplines.

Enterprise Zone property solutions

The Blackpool area is home to two Enterprise Zones (Hillhouse and Blackpool Airport). Investing businesses can benefit from incentives including business rates discounts, enhanced capital allowances and simplified planning, helping them to save money and minimise project risk.



3,500

Experienced Food Manufacturing Workers³⁹

Significant cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's compelling business location offer is completed by a highly competitive cost base. The area's labour costs are significantly lower than the national averages, while industrial rents are amongst the lowest for England's industrial Enterprise Zone locations.



Food Manufacturing: Key data

Workers in Elementary Occupations ⁴²

7,700

In Blackpool

Food Manufacturing Workers ³⁹

3,500

In Blackpool's Travel to
Work Area

Process Plant and Machine Operative Workers ⁴¹

24,000

In Blackpool's 40-minute
catchment area

An available workforce across all skills levels

- Blackpool has a higher percentage of workers in the key 'elementary occupations' category (12.5%) than Lancashire (9.6%) or Great Britain (10.6%). ⁴⁰
- Blackpool's Travel to Work Area has 2.5 times the Great Britain-average concentration of food manufacturing workers. ³⁹
- Blackpool's wider 40-minute catchment area provides access to a large-scale, technically skilled process industries workforce. ⁴¹

Food sector skills, education and innovation

Blackpool's labour force is supported by educational excellence at both college and university levels.

Blackpool and The Fylde College has a track record of effective industry collaborations, training apprentices in both general engineering and specific food and drink process operations. Institutions close to Blackpool offering expertise in food technology research include the University of Central Lancashire, Edge Hill University and Myerscough College.

Cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's food sector expertise, supply chain and skills advantages are combined with highly competitive labour and property costs, enabling investing businesses to save money without compromise.

Blackpool and The Fylde College ⁴³



Outstanding 'Gold' status
for teaching excellence



Food and process sector
skills



Labour Cost
Savings ⁴⁶

vs. GB average (in Blackpool)

University of Central Lancashire ⁴⁴



Home to International Institute
of Nutritional Sciences and
Applied Food Safety Studies

Myerscough College ⁴⁵



Home to the Food Farming
Innovation and Technology Centre



Property Cost
Savings ⁴⁷

Prime rents in the lowest 20% of England's
Industrial Enterprise Zone Locations



Business, Professional and Financial Services

An established commercial centre, Blackpool combines a transformed town-centre office product with a large-scale administrative workforce.

Grade-A Town-Centre Offices

Blackpool's proposition to businesses with prime office requirements is now being transformed through the development of Talbot Gateway – an entirely new central business district and civic quarter representing more than 1 million sq. ft. of new development.

The first phase of Talbot Gateway includes No.1 Bickerstaffe Square, 125,000 sq.ft. of Grade-A office accommodation. The building is highly efficient, having achieved a BREEAM 'Excellent' score and an EPC A rating – the highest that can be awarded. The development also includes a refurbished, 650-space multi-storey car park.

Significant cost savings for businesses

Blackpool's compelling business location offer is completed by a highly competitive cost base, including labour costs that are significantly lower than the national average.

Labour Cost Savings⁵¹

-17%

vs. GB average (in Blackpool)

Excellence in education and skills

Blackpool's established administrative and professional workforce is supported by local colleges and universities providing courses and qualifications aligned with the needs of office-based businesses.

A large office-based labour force

16,400 13.3%

GB average 10.2%

**Administrative and Secretarial
Workers⁵²**

10,600 8.6%

GB average 7.6%

**Sales and Customer Services
Workers⁵³**

Blackpool's town-centre property offer is complemented by a large, high-quality pool of office-based workers.

The Blackpool area has a higher percentage of all workers in each of the 'Administrative and Secretarial' and 'Sales and Customer Services' categories than the North West (regional) and Great Britain averages.



Transport Connectivity

Blackpool provides businesses with fast connectivity to the UK's major cities, industrial centres and airports from a north-south central location.

By road

Blackpool provides businesses with fast road connectivity to UK markets. Manchester is accessible in less than an hour by car, while all of the UK's major cities and industrial centres are accessible within four-and-a-half hours' HGV drive time (London only). This 'one HGV driver shift' catchment extends from Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland to Bristol and London in southern England.

By air

Blackpool is well connected for international air travel and freight. Blackpool Airport has access from Cat 3 up to Cat 6 capabilities. Manchester Airport, the UK's largest airport outside London, is accessible in less than an hour by car. The airport serves more than 200 passenger and 160 freight destinations. London Heathrow, the UK's passenger and freight hub airport, is accessible in less than four hours by car, and less than four-and-a-half hours by HGV.



City	Car drive time (hrs)	HGV drive time (hrs)	Miles
Within 2 hours			
Manchester	0.55	1.03	56
Liverpool	1.05	1.15	63
Leeds	1.20	1.32	84
Within 3 hours			
Derby	2.10	2.29	118
Birmingham	2.10	2.29	125
Within 4.5 hours			
Glasgow	2.50	3.15	194
Oxford	3.10	3.38	199
Edinburgh	3.20	3.50	196
Bristol	3.30	4.01	207
London	4.00	4.36	247

Airports	Car drive time (hrs)	HGV drive time (hrs)	Miles
Within 2 hours			
Blackpool (BLK)	Direct access (no scheduled service)		
Manchester (MAN)	0.55	1.03	56
Liverpool (LPL)	1.05	1.15	63
Within 3 hours			
East Midlands (EMA) UK #2 Air Cargo Hub	2.10	2.29	127
Within 4.5 hours			
London Heathrow (LHR) UK Passenger Hub and #1 Air Cargo Hub	3.40	4.13	235

Data Sources

Aerospace and Advanced Engineering

- 1. NWAA, 2018
- 2. ONS, 2017/2018
- 3. UK REF 2014
- 4. Blackpool's '40-Minute Catchment' is Blackpool and Preston Travel to Work Areas, based on a max. 40-minute drive time from Blackpool (ONS, Google Maps)
- 5. ONS. Travel to Work Areas are 'self-contained areas in which most people both live and work'
- 6. ONS, 2018
- 7. ONS 2017, SIC303 'Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery'. Workforce concentrations are Location Quotients.
- 8. ONS 2018, SOC52 'Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades'
- 9. Complete University Guide 2018
- 10. Blackpool and the Fylde College
- 11. ONS 2018 (Lancashire data used to reflect Blackpool's labour catchment. Costs within Blackpool are lower)
- 12. Colliers, 2018

Advanced Material Technologies

- 13. ONS, 2017/2018
- 14. UK REF 2014
- 15. Blackpool's '40-Minute Catchment' is Blackpool and Preston Travel to Work Areas, based on a max. 40-minute drive time from Blackpool (ONS, Google Maps)
- 16. ONS. Travel to Work Areas are 'self-contained areas in which most people both live and work'
- 17. ONS 2018

- 18. ONS 2018, SOC 8
- 19. ONS 2018, SOC 21
- 20. ONS 2017, SIC 20 (Chemicals Manufacturing). Workforce concentrations are Location Quotients
- 21. Hull Travel to Work Area
- 22. The total of the 'Middlesbrough and Stockton' and 'Hartlepool' Travel to Work Areas
- 23. Complete University Guide, 2018
- 24. Blackpool and the Fylde College
- 25. ONS 2018 (Lancashire data used to reflect Blackpool's labour catchment. Costs within Blackpool are lower)
- 26. Colliers, 2018 (Prime Industrial Rents)

Regional Energy Cluster

- 27. ONS, 2017/2018
- 28. UK REF 2014
- 29. Blackpool's '40-Minute Catchment' is Blackpool and Preston Travel to Work Areas, based on a max. 40-minute drive time from Blackpool (ONS, Google Maps). Humber North Bank is Hull Travel to Work area (ONS).
- 30. ONS 2018, SOC 8
- 31. ONS 2017, SOC 52 'Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades'
- 32. ONS 2018, SOC 21
- 33. Lancaster University
- 34. University of Liverpool
- 35. Complete University Guide, 2018
- 36. Blackpool and the Fylde College
- 37. ONS 2018 (Lancashire data used to reflect Blackpool's labour catchment. Costs within Blackpool are lower)
- 38. Colliers, 2018 (Prime Industrial Rents)

Food Manufacturing Cluster

- 39. ONS, 2017, SIC10 – Manufacture of Food Products, Blackpool Travel to Work Area Workforce concentrations are Location Quotients.
- 40. ONS 2017, SOC 9, % of all in employment Blackpool LA area
- 41. ONS 2018, SOC 8. Blackpool's '40-Minute Catchment' is Blackpool and Preston Travel to Work Areas, based on a max. 40-minute drive time from Blackpool (Google Maps)
- 42. ONS 2017, SOC 9
- 43. Blackpool and the Fylde College
- 44. University of Central Lancashire – www.uclan.ac.uk
- 45. Myerscough College – www.myerscough.ac.uk
- 46. ONS 2018, SOC 8
- 47. ONS 2017, SOC 52 'Skilled metal, electrical and electronic trades'
- 48. ONS 2018, SOC 21
- 49. ONS 2018 (Blackpool LA area)
- 50. Colliers, 2018 (Prime Industrial Rents)

Business, Professional and Financial Services

- 51. ONS, 2018
- 52. ONS 2018, SOC 4
- 53. ONS 2018, SOC 7

Contact the Blackpool team to find out more about growing your business in the Blackpool area.

BUSINESSINBLACKPOOL.COM

Search 'Blackpool Makes it Work' on

