

Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Who is reaping the benefits of Greater Manchester's economic development?

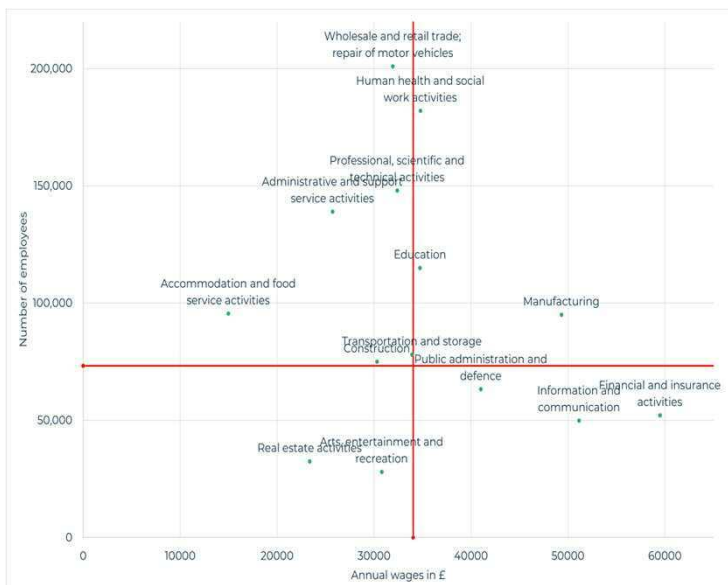
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Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my Data Fellowship, I tried to answer the question: **"Who is reaping the benefits of Greater Manchester's economic development?"**. More precisely, using Greater Manchester as a case study, I tried to come up with metrics of measuring wealth flows (where/in whose hands wealth is accumulating as a result of economic activity in a given place). By the end of my fellowship, I managed to identify areas that might be worth looking into when trying to assess the flow of wealth in a locality.

Data Analysis

I mainly used ONS data (such as the **Wealth and Assets survey** and the **Business Register and Employment survey**), to analyse wealth and income inequalities in Greater Manchester from both a geographical (Manchester vs other boroughs, Greater Manchester vs other localities) and a social (rich vs poor, owners vs workers) perspective.



Comparison of average wages and average number of employees across industries in Greater Manchester in 2021

Findings

- The estimated median to mean wealth ratio in Greater Manchester between 2018 and 2020 was 0.36, making it **the 9th most unequal region in the UK** (out of 40).
- 11 people (0.00039%) own 1.435% of the total wealth** of Greater Manchester.
- Comparing it with the other 9 boroughs, some of the highest-paying industries (such as *Information and communication* and *Financial and Insurance Activities*) employ disproportionately more people in Manchester. Interestingly, the same can be said about the lowest-paying industry, *Accommodation and Food Service Activities*. This doesn't just highlight the great inequalities that exist in Manchester, but also those between Manchester and the other boroughs.

Key Skills Learnt

Through this project, I have learned several **analytical and research skills**. While the main research question was given, I had to reformulate it: I had to decide how terms such as wealth and wealth flow should be defined, and then find out how they could be measured. I have also become better at **manipulating, analysing, and filtering information**. For example, I have taken time series data on employment and wages from different datasets and used them to categorise industries in Greater Manchester into four groups (high employment/high wage, high employment/low wage, etc.).

But the most important thing I learned was how to approach a research project. Coming up with good questions, finding data, analysing it, visualising it, and assessing the meaning and significance of the findings, and then repeating this process over and over again are things that I know I will have to do in the future - for example, when writing my undergraduate dissertation.