

Change in SHAPE subjects' provision in the UK (2011/12 – 2022/23)

[Presentation created by the **Market and Student Insight Team**]

Analysis and considerations

This summary report has been created using the British Academy's SHAPE Observatory interactive tool to analyse the provision of SHAPE subjects in UK higher education institutions.

Key considerations:

1. Time Frame: The data covers the academic years from 2011/12 to 2022/23

2. Data Representation: The tool uses HESA data to show provision for first-year first degree UK-domiciled students aged 20 and under. The tool uses Full-Person Equivalent (FPE) rather than headcount to represent student engagement in courses. Data includes joint honours courses, with the equivalent FPE divided between relevant subjects.

3. The analysis covers two dimensions:

- **Higher education providers:** The maps show how the demand of SHAPE subjects has changed over time, highlighting providers recording low/no change in student FPE, providers recording an increase in student FPE, and providers recording a decrease.
- **Regional spread of provision:** The maps show how the regional distribution of SHAPE subject provision has changed over time, highlighting areas with multiple providers, single providers, and no provision within a 60km commutable distance.

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Economics

Large increase in the total demand of first-year degree UK-domiciled students aged 20 or under for 'Economics' (+45% student FPE) - against large, but less significant, increase in number of providers

Change in demand of first-year degree UK-domiciled students aged 20 or under	2011/12	2022/23	Change in FPE (#)	Change in FPE (%)
Subject : Economics	6,500	9,500	+3k	+45%

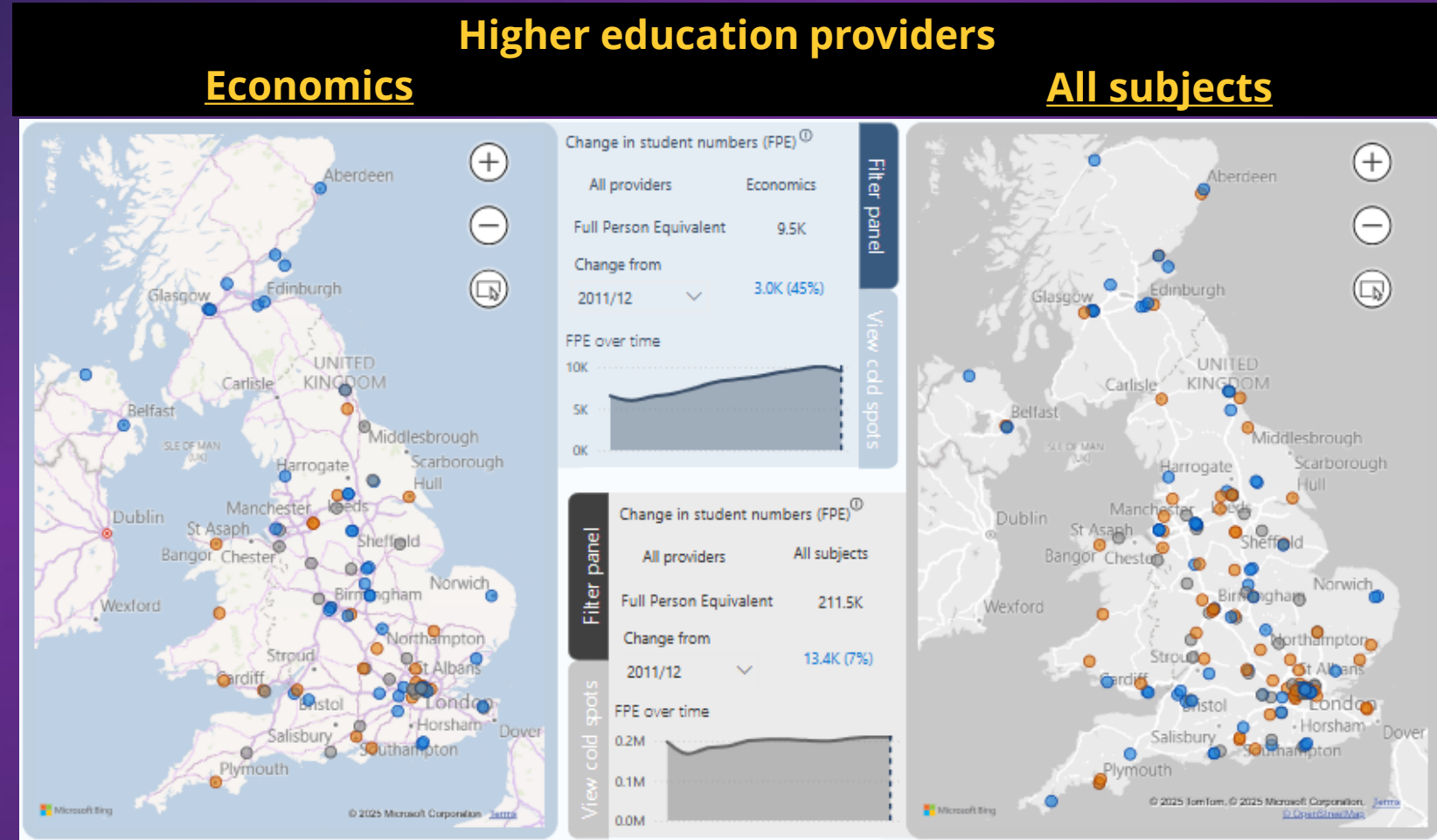
- **Total demand:** There has been a large increase in the total demand for 'Economics' with an increase of 45% student FPE from 6,500 in 2011/12 to 9,500 in 2022/23.
- **Providers:** Against a larger increase in demand, there has been a smaller, but still marked, increase in providers offering 'Economics', with twenty more in the market in 2022/23 when compared to 2011/12.

Change in number of providers offering courses in subject	2011/12	2022/23	Change in providers (#)	Change in providers (%)
Subject : Economics	77	97	+20	+26%

Increase in demand for 'Economics' has been recorded across most providers, especially those in the M6 corridor, London/SE and Scotland's Central Belt

These maps show change in demand of first-year degree UK-domiciled students aged 20 and under by provider for the subject group 'Economics' vs. all.

- With a market that grew significantly, and ahead of wider SHAPE provision, lots of providers saw gains, although there were some losses as well – often outside of the Russell Group
- The largest falls have been at Hull (-74% since 2011/12), Bradford (-58% since 2011/12) Portsmouth (-49% since 2011/12) and Hertfordshire (-82% since 2011/12)
- The institutions that saw the largest growth were Glasgow (+219%), Lancaster (+181%), Queen Mary (+156%), Warwick (+137%), and Liverpool (+123%) (all percentages increases since 2011/12).
- UoM has seen a 15% reduction since 2011/12
- Warwick was the largest institution in this subject in 2022/23, with 360 registrations



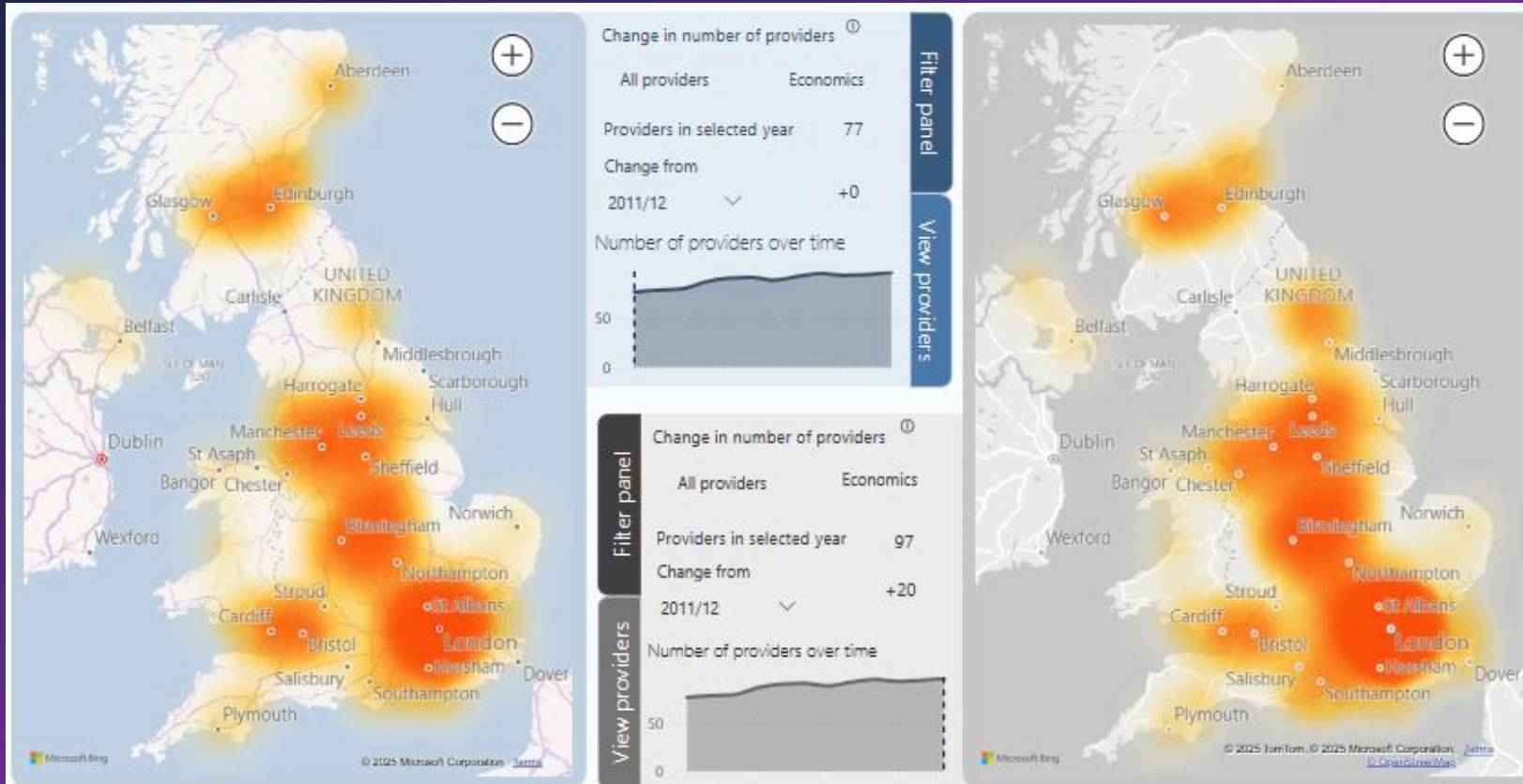
Key: Low/no change in student FPE (grey), Increase in student FPE (blue), Decrease in student FPE (orange)

The regional spread of provision for 'Economics' has seen a reduction in cold spots since 2011/12

Regional spread of provision: Economics

2011/12

2022/23



Key: multiple providers (orange), single providers (yellow), and no provision (white) within a 60km commutable distance

These maps show how the regional distribution of 'Economics' subject provision has changed over time for first-year degree UK-domiciled students aged 20 and under.

- There has been a large increase in the number of providers offering the subject, with little provision being closed
- **Hot spots:** The UK's major conurbations are all major hotspots for provision.
- Since 2011/12, hotspots have advanced slightly outside of these conurbations, with provision in the southern North-East (Teesside), Hampshire and the South Coast (Winchester/Bournemouth), and the West Midlands (Wolverhampton)
- **Cold spots:** As well as consistent cold spots in Cumbria, Mid-Wales, and the Scottish Borders, developing cold spots exist in Aberdeen, where Robert Gordon no longer offer the subject, and the southwestern edge of the West Midlands, where Worcester have ended provision.

THANK YOU

MARKET AND STUDENT INSIGHT TEAM

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