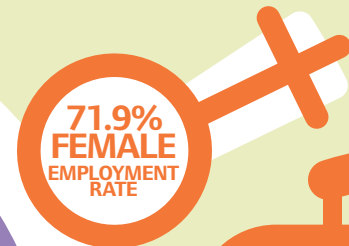




Labour

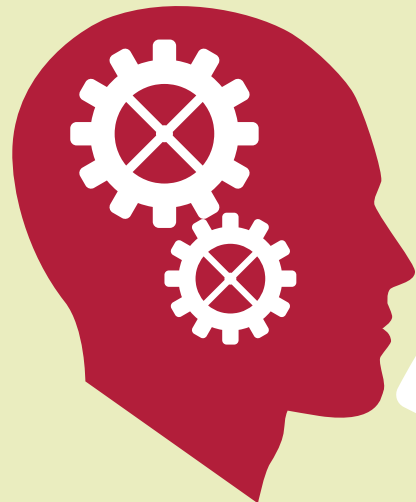
Profile of working age population 137,300 in employment, a rise of 2,300 people in 1 year.



People employed in managerial, professional and skilled occupations
63%, higher than national 55%

Central Bedfordshire has a strong SKILLED workforce.

Skills



Qualification profile: Increasing and above the national rate

People qualified
to NVQ level 4+ 39%, above the national rate of 37%
to NVQ level 3+ 57%, the same as the national rate
to NVQ level 2+ 75%, above the national rate of 73%
to NVQ1 level 1 88%, above the national rate of 85%.

2,070 apprenticeships

growth of 17%, higher than the national 14%.



GCSEs

in 2015 58.3% of young people achieved 5 or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths – higher than the national 53.8%.



Business investing in training

10.5% of employees received job related training in March 2016, above 9.6% national rate.



Out of work benefit claimants falling 5.4% of the working age population, lower than the national rate of 8.7%.



Unemployment aged 16-64 2.5%, half the national rate of 5.2%

BUT...

29% businesses have skills gaps

in work force, especially in advanced IT skills, sales & marketing skills, but an improvement from the previous 37%.

39% hard to fill vacancies

17% due to lack of applicants for professional occupations, 29% due to lack of applicants for skilled trades and 46% due to applicants not having the right skills.

Job related training only

received by 11% of private businesses, compared with 18% of public businesses.