

Star Clusters in the United Kingdom

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This report presents the strongest regional clusters in the United Kingdom according to the European Cluster Observatory star rating. In total, there are 182 clusters in the United Kingdom that have received at least one star. (Data source for the United Kingdom excluding Northern Ireland: Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, 4-digit NACE Rev. 1.1, 2005, for Northern Ireland: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation of Northern Ireland, 4-digit NACE Rev. 1.1, 2007)

Methodology

The amount and quality of knowledge circulating and spilling over between firms, located in a cluster, is dependent upon the cluster's size, the degree to which it is specialised and the extent to which the locality (the region) is focused upon production in the relevant industries comprising the cluster. The European Cluster Observatory shows the extent to which clusters have achieved this specialised critical mass by employing measures of these three factors as described below, and assigning each cluster 0, 1, 2 or 3 Stars depending on how many of the below criteria are met.

- Size Star: if employment reaches a sufficient share of total European employment, it is more likely that meaningful economic effects of clusters will be present. The size measure shows whether a cluster is in the top 10% of all clusters in Europe within the same cluster category in terms of the number of employees.
- Specialisation Star: if a region is more specialised in a specific cluster category than the overall economy across all regions, this is likely to be an indication that the economic effects of the regional cluster have been strong enough to attract related economic activity from other regions to this location, and that spill-overs and linkages will be stronger. The specialisation measure compares the proportion of employment in a cluster category in a region over the total employment in the same region, to the proportion of total European employment in that cluster category over total European employment. The measure needs to be at least 2 to receive a star.
- Focus Star: if a cluster accounts for a larger share of a region's overall employment, it is more likely that spill-over effects and linkages will actually occur instead of being drowned in the economic interaction of other parts of the regional economy. The focus measure shows the extent to which the regional economy is focused upon the industries comprising the cluster category and relates employment in the cluster to total employment in the region. The top 10% of clusters which account for the largest proportion of their region's total employment receive a star.

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STAR CLUSTERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Tees Valley and Durham

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	17 795
Chemical products	★	5 520
Construction	★	13 970

Northumb and Tyne and Wear

Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★	20 415
Business services	★	27 955
Construction	★	17 071
Financial services	★	21 558

Cumbria

Industry	Stars	Employees
Tourism and hospitality	★★	11 274
Construction	★	5 272
Processed food	★	4 932

Cheshire

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★★	34 506
Chemical products	★★	12 001
Financial services	★	18 017
Transportation and logistics	★	13 540

Greater Manchester

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★★	65 071
Education and knowledge creation	★★	33 886
Distribution	★	24 364
Financial services	★	40 846
Transportation and logistics	★	36 535

Lancashire

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	12 542
Business services	★	24 609
Construction	★	17 026
Education and knowledge creation	★	18 103

Merseyside

Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★	20 004
Business services	★	21 668
Financial services	★	21 004
Transportation and logistics	★	14 567

E Riding and N Lincs

Industry	Stars	Employees
Maritime	★★	5 509
Business services	★	13 339
Chemical products	★	3 650
Construction	★	11 401
Processed food	★	10 718
Transportation and logistics	★	10 250

N Yorks

Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★	11 837

Tourism and hospitality	★★	13 006
Business services	★	11 871
Construction	★	10 576
Financial services	★	10 081
Processed food	★	12 689
S Yorks		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	28 479
Construction	★	16 859
Education and knowledge creation	★	16 742
Financial services	★	16 154
Metal manufacturing	★	20 160
Transportation and logistics	★	15 344
W Yorks		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★★	31 638
Business services	★	46 675
Entertainment	★	9 918
Financial services	★	47 764
Media and publishing	★	21 243
Textiles	★	10 873
Transportation and logistics	★	29 188
Derbs and Notts		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	10 707
Business services	★	41 402
Construction	★	23 780
Leics, Rut and Northants		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	44 702
Education and knowledge creation	★	22 495
Processed food	★	20 935
Transportation and logistics	★	28 885
Lincs		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Processed food	★★	14 272
Business services	★	8 660
Construction	★	6 987
Heref, Worcs and Warws		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Biotech	★	1 054
Business services	★	30 330
Transportation and logistics	★	14 906
Shrops and Staffs		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	24 332
W Midlands		
Industry	Stars	Employees
Automotive	★★★	35 419
Business services	★★	64 883
Education and knowledge creation	★★	35 306
Metal manufacturing	★★	42 758
Financial services	★	42 055
Jewellery and precious metals	★	1 844

	Transportation and logistics	★	32 590
E Anglia			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Education and knowledge creation	★★★★	36 276
	Biotech	★★	1 916
	Entertainment	★★	12 433
	Business services	★	44 710
	Financial services	★	28 184
	Processed food	★	28 641
	Transportation and logistics	★	26 597
Beds and Herts			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Biotech	★★	1 684
	Business services	★★	60 947
	Construction	★	23 246
	Transportation and logistics	★	25 848
Essex			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Business services	★	34 318
	Financial services	★	18 189
	Transportation and logistics	★	22 530
Inner London			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Business services	★★★★	219 044
	Education and knowledge creation	★★★★	89 444
	Financial services	★★★★	233 734
	Media and publishing	★★★★	76 111
	Entertainment	★★	32 931
	Transportation and logistics	★★	69 632
	Biotech	★	1 665
	Distribution	★	28 349
	IT	★	29 854
	Jewellery and precious metals	★	1 572
	Telecom	★	33 374
	Tourism and hospitality	★	53 701
Outer London			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Business services	★★★★	122 757
	Transportation and logistics	★★★★	100 707
	Distribution	★	25 108
	Education and knowledge creation	★	39 245
	Entertainment	★	20 066
	IT	★	17 718
	Media and publishing	★	26 399
	Telecom	★	17 397
Berks, Bucks and Oxon			
	Industry	Stars	Employees
	Business services	★★★★	95 295
	Education and knowledge creation	★★★★	58 363
	IT	★★★★	30 184
	Biotech	★★	2 871
	Entertainment	★★	15 021
	Telecom	★★	26 162
	Media and publishing	★	20 282

Surrey, E and W Sussex

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★★★★	81 724
Education and knowledge creation	★★	31 123
Entertainment	★★	15 744
Financial services	★	45 795
IT	★	17 272
Instruments	★	3 971
Transportation and logistics	★	41 121

Hants and Isle of Wight

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★★★★	62 199
Aerospace	★★	5 084
Biotech	★★	1 328
Education and knowledge creation	★★	27 411
Instruments	★★	3 702
Financial services	★	22 964
Transportation and logistics	★	26 663

Kent

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	34 361
Education and knowledge creation	★	19 195
Transportation and logistics	★	20 079

Gloucs, Wilts and N Som

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	9 097
Biotech	★★	1 445
Education and knowledge creation	★★	32 497
Business services	★	60 111
Financial services	★	44 179
Instruments	★	4 190

Dorset and Somerset

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	5 872
Business services	★	22 359
Financial services	★	15 811

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★	6 327
Tourism and hospitality	★★	8 967
Construction	★	6 258
Processed food	★	6 820

Devon

Industry	Stars	Employees
Tourism and hospitality	★★	15 771
Business services	★	16 513
Education and knowledge creation	★	12 854
Transportation and logistics	★	16 281

W Wales and The Valleys

Industry	Stars	Employees
Business services	★	19 442

E Wales

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	7 248

Business services	★	25 235
Construction	★	14 265
Financial services	★	16 226

E Scotland

Industry	Stars	Employees
Education and knowledge creation	★★★★	34 416
Financial services	★★★★	59 747
Instruments	★★	4 478
Tourism and hospitality	★★	26 870
Business services	★	35 881
Entertainment	★	10 009

SW Scotland

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★	4 363
Business services	★	48 878
Construction	★	28 396
Entertainment	★	10 993
Financial services	★	37 268
Transportation and logistics	★	32 155

NE Scotland

Industry	Stars	Employees
Oil and gas	★★★★	11 792
Maritime	★★	5 056
Business services	★	10 740
Construction	★	8 189
Tourism and hospitality	★	7 622

Highlands and Islands

Industry	Stars	Employees
Maritime	★★	4 476
Tourism and hospitality	★★	11 474
Business services	★	5 567
Construction	★	5 911
Entertainment	★	2 256
Transportation and logistics	★	5 623

Northern Ireland

Industry	Stars	Employees
Aerospace	★★	4 562
Stone quarries	★★	1 194
Business services	★	27 644
Construction	★	22 629
Financial services	★	21 100
Power generation and transmission	★	2 540

About the European Cluster Observatory

The European Cluster Observatory, launched in June 2007, is the most comprehensive database on clusters, cluster organisations, and cluster reports in Europe. It is managed by the Center for Strategy and Competitiveness (CSC) at the Stockholm School of Economics and funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry.

The European Cluster Observatory website provides a wide variety of data on clusters in Europe, and is focused on the following issues:

- Cluster Mapping providing information more than 40 cluster categories in over 250 NUTS-2 regions
- Regional competitiveness data, describing cluster framework conditions in regions
- Information, maps and lists of cluster organisations, science parks and other types of organisations
- Providing a Library as an open European depository for various cluster-related documents
- Providing reports on cluster policies and special sectors

Please visit the European Cluster Observatory at www.clusterobservatory.eu.

