Where are healthiest employment prospects?

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Top 200 Employers

The Top 200 Companies list is an excellent way of identifying our most successful and significant businesses. But how far does it represent the nature of our local economy and the kinds of opportunities available to local people? The Top 200 list gives us great insights into our most significant business organisations, but as a portrait of our local economy, it has some limitations.

The list does not give us the whole picture in terms of those businesses that have a direct impact on the local economy and the lives of the local people. This is because the Top 200 list is compiled of companies with locally registered offices within Nottinghamshire. Often these firms across Nottinghamshire employ, trade and sell elsewhere in the UK and even internationally. Reported financial and employment data may not give a full depiction of what is happening locally.

Additionally, it is worth noting the significance of the public sector.

Many public sector organisations, such as NHS organisations, universities, local authorities and other public agencies are excluded from the Top 200 list. Public Sector institutions are often significant contributors to local economic development. Official figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculate that these public sector organisations account for 16.5% of all people in paid work. Nottinghamshire is no different. Along with the indicator of our Top 200 firms, we also look at which firms generate growth in our local economy through significant employment in Nottinghamshire.

We have tried to focus on verifiable local employment. Several large national or international employers are not included in the top employers list because of work that occurs outside of Nottinghamshire. It should be stressed that in the absence of a single consistent source of local employment data, the top employers are identified using the best available information as well as expert local knowledge. There are likely to be errors and omissions — for these; we can only apologise.

Similarly, we have been unable to distinguish between full-time and part-time roles. We have deliberately excluded locally based employment agencies. Looking at the Top 20 employers, we find some similarities between those firms that rank highly in the Top 200, but with noteworthy differences. For instance, Boots UK Limited features highly in both lists. With a variety of private sector organisations from credit services firm Experian to food manufacturing and sales firm Pork Farms. A surprise entry to the line-up is the private sector organisation Em, registered outside of the County but has significant local employment.

The list echoes findings from the ONS, with substantial appearances from public service employers. Significant increases in employment come from the NHS, which tops the list. Nottingham University Hospitals with 15,136 – an increase of more than 1,000 from last year – and several other NHS trusts also feature high on the list. Police and ambulance personnel also rank highly on the line-up. City and county councils remain prominent employers in Nottinghamshire but they have experienced a slight fall from previous years. Also, on the list are further education institutions, with both Universities in Nottingham making the Top 20 employers.

The University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University employ 7,705 and 4,000 respectively. Additionally, higher education institutions, Nottingham College and Vision West Notts College are also within the top 20 with 1,519 and 990, respectively.

The Top 20 employers list shows us where jobs are being created in Nottinghamshire. The inclusion of manufacturing firm Rolls-Royce highlights the strong manufacturing history of our area. However, the dominance of service sector organisations such as the NHS, and education highlights the long-run shift that has occurred in Nottingham from manufacturing to service-oriented employment.