



**MIDLANDS  
ENGINE**

**TEXTILES**

**MIDLANDS CLUSTER SNAPSHOT 2023**

# Textiles









Textiles clusters across the Midlands Engine are made up almost entirely (98%) of domestically owned SMEs, with a handful of larger strategic companies, a higher proportion of which are foreign owned enterprises. There is a strong HE and FE graduate pipeline across manufacturing and the creative arts of some ~30,000 per year, and the region performs well in retaining this talent, with 97.2% of graduates still working in the region after 3 years.

There are significant innovation hubs through the Advanced Textile Research Centre at Nottingham Trent University and similar bodies. University of the Arts London published a report in 2021

identifying a significant textiles cluster around the East Midlands, notably Leicester to Nottingham, which is supported by Beahurst and Data City counts of High Growth Companies and employee concentration in Leicester and Erewash, but notably also in North Lincolnshire.

## Cluster in context

-  Almost 30,000 jobs; 23% of UK total and largest region outside of London and SE.
-  112 high growth companies (20% of UK) and 8 £100m+ turnover companies (73% of UK).
-  10% of Midlands university graduates studied relevant subjects to textiles, including from 5 of top 25 UK universities for Engineering & Technology, and Art and Design.
-  26% of Innovate UK funding to textiles businesses since 2005 has been awarded to those with a Midlands address.
-  Almost 1,800 businesses; 18% of UK total and 121% growth since 2013.
-  8% of UK textiles Foreign Direct Investment Capex and 31% of UK textiles Domestic Direct Investment Capex 2017-2021.

## Business Ecosystem



### Total Cluster Business Count:

1,790

18% of UK; largest region outside of London / SE.  
121% growth since 2013.<sup>1</sup>

### £100m+ Turnover Companies:

8

73% of all in the UK have a Midlands location.<sup>2</sup>

### High Growth Companies:

112

20% of all in the UK have a Midlands location.<sup>3</sup>

### Incorporations 2017-22:

756

16% of UK textiles incorporations between 2017 and 2022 have a Midlands location.<sup>4</sup>

### Foreign-owned enterprises:

2%

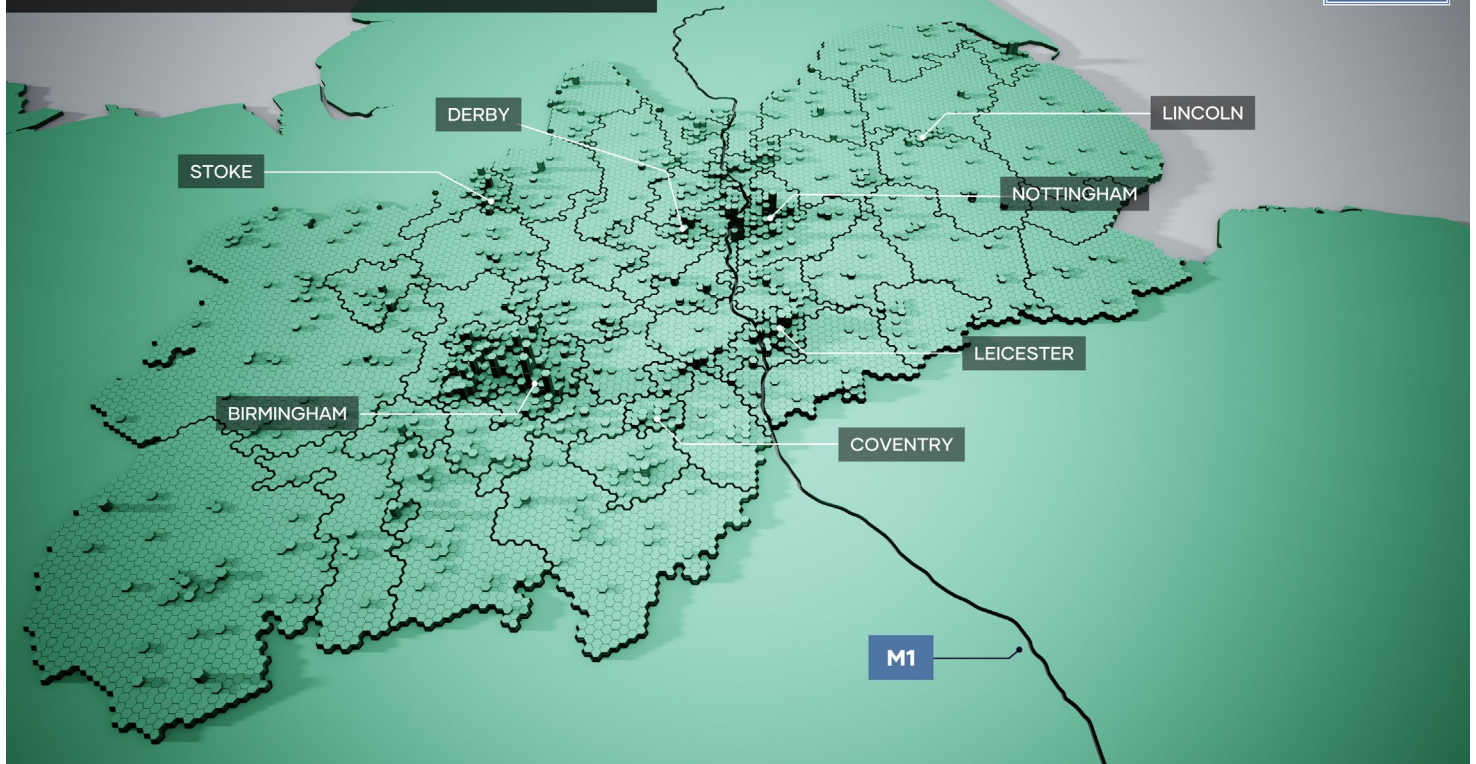
31 are known to be foreign-owned; Higher proportion of foreign-owned than national average (1.5%).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,2,4,5</sup> Data City 2023; <sup>3</sup>Data City 2023: 20%+ company growth percentage per year.



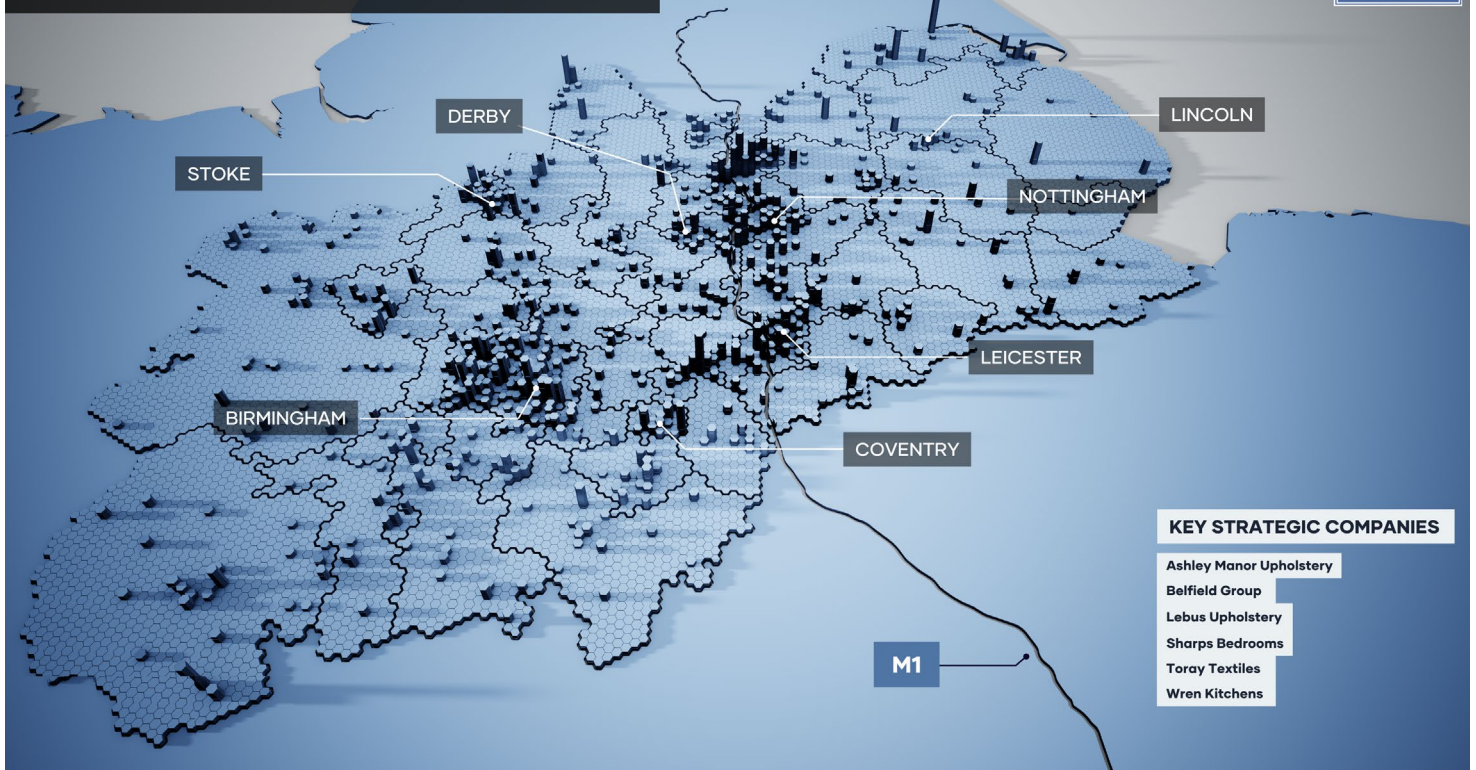
## TEXTILES - Business Counts

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## TEXTILES - Turnover

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### KEY STRATEGIC COMPANIES

Ashley Manor Upholstery  
Belfield Group  
Lebus Upholstery  
Sharps Bedrooms  
Toray Textiles  
Wren Kitchens



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## Innovation Ecosystem



Accelerator Engagement:<sup>1</sup>

2

Relevant Cluster Organisations:

Apparel & Textile Manufacturers Association; East Midlands Textiles Association; UK Fashion and Textile Network

Relevant high performing HEI research:

Universities of Birmingham, Coventry, Keele, Leicester, Lincoln, Loughborough, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent, Staffordshire

9 Midlands universities with high research ranking in relevant subjects.<sup>2</sup>

Significant Innovation Hubs:

Manufacturing Technology Centre; Advanced Textile Research Centre; Textile, Engineering and Materials Research Group (TEAM) - De Montfort University.

High Growth Company Grants:<sup>3</sup>

2

Innovate UK funding:

**£2.2m** since 2005

26% of Innovate UK funding awards were to businesses with a Midlands location.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Beauhurst 2022: High growth companies utilised accelerators <sup>2</sup>REF 2021 GPA >3.0 in Engineering; Art and Design, <sup>3</sup>Beauhurst 2022, <sup>4</sup>Data City 2023.





# Textiles



## Talent Ecosystem



### Estimated Employees:

**28,599**

23% of national; largest region in UK.<sup>1</sup>

### Earnings:

Average salary **£25,243**

National average £24,982 (1% higher in Midlands).<sup>2</sup>

### Further Education Leavers:

**14,180**

More FE leavers (including higher level) in relevant subjects than in any other region.<sup>3</sup>

### Relevant HEI High-Ranking Department:

**Universities of Loughborough; Nottingham Trent; Nottingham; Birmingham; Warwick**

5 universities high ranked: international presence and expertise.<sup>4</sup>

### University Graduates:

**14,195**

10% of ME graduates studied relevant subjects to textiles & fashion.<sup>5</sup>

### Graduate Retention: change over 3 years:

**97.3%**

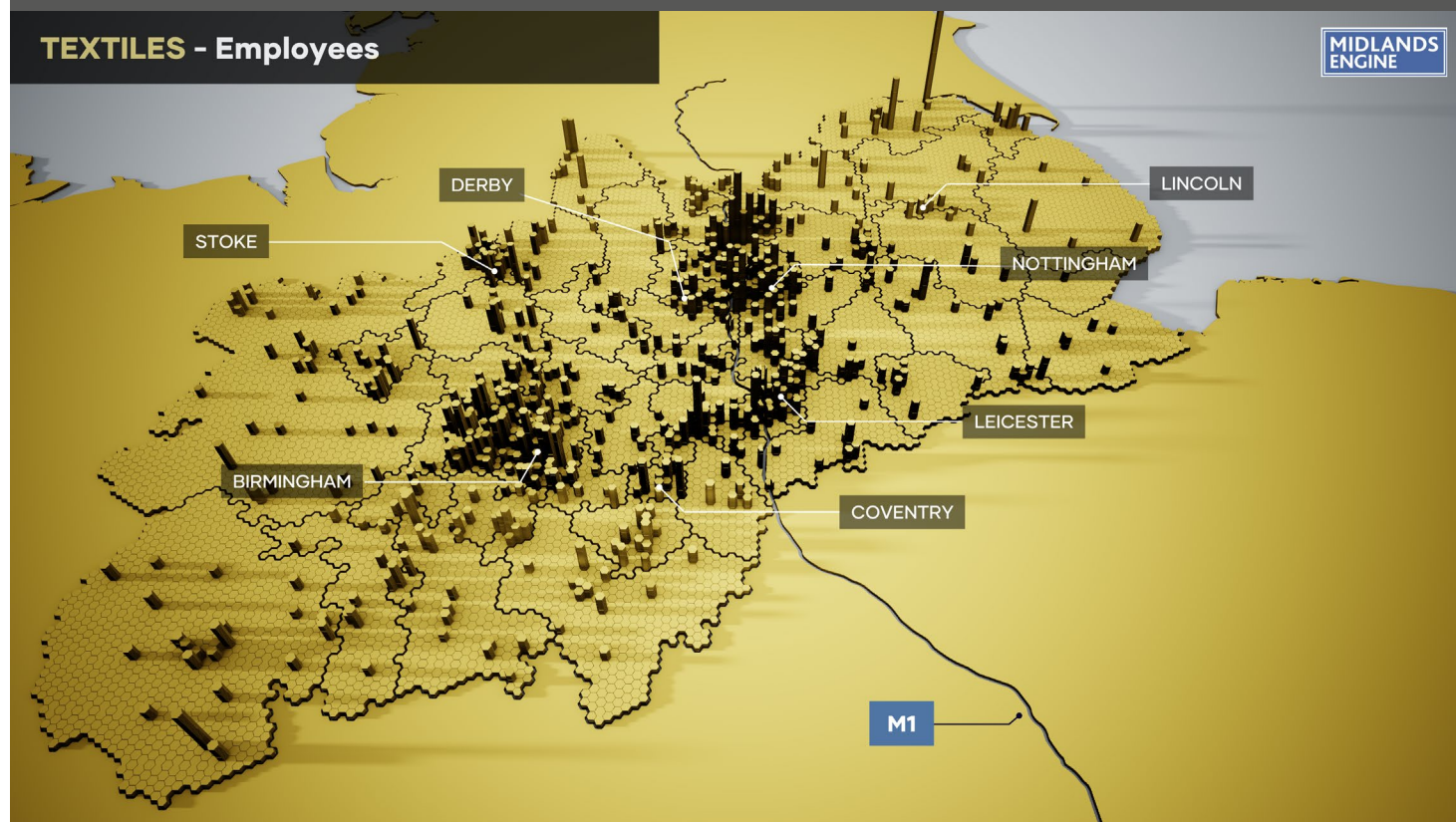
West Midlands has the strongest manufacturing retention outside of London and the East regions.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Data City, 2023, <sup>2</sup>ONS ASHE, 2021, <sup>3</sup>DfE Unit for Future Skills: Further Education leavers 18/19 in relevant fields, <sup>4</sup>QS 'Art & Design', 'Engineering and Technology' world subject ranking 2022 - institutions appearing in UK top 25, <sup>5</sup>Graduates from relevant subjects 2021 (HESA) <sup>6</sup>2,015/2,070 graduates trained in region remain in 'Manufacturing' 3 years of graduating in 2019. First degree only. (DfE Graduate Outcomes by Industry).

## TEXTILES - Employees

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# Textiles

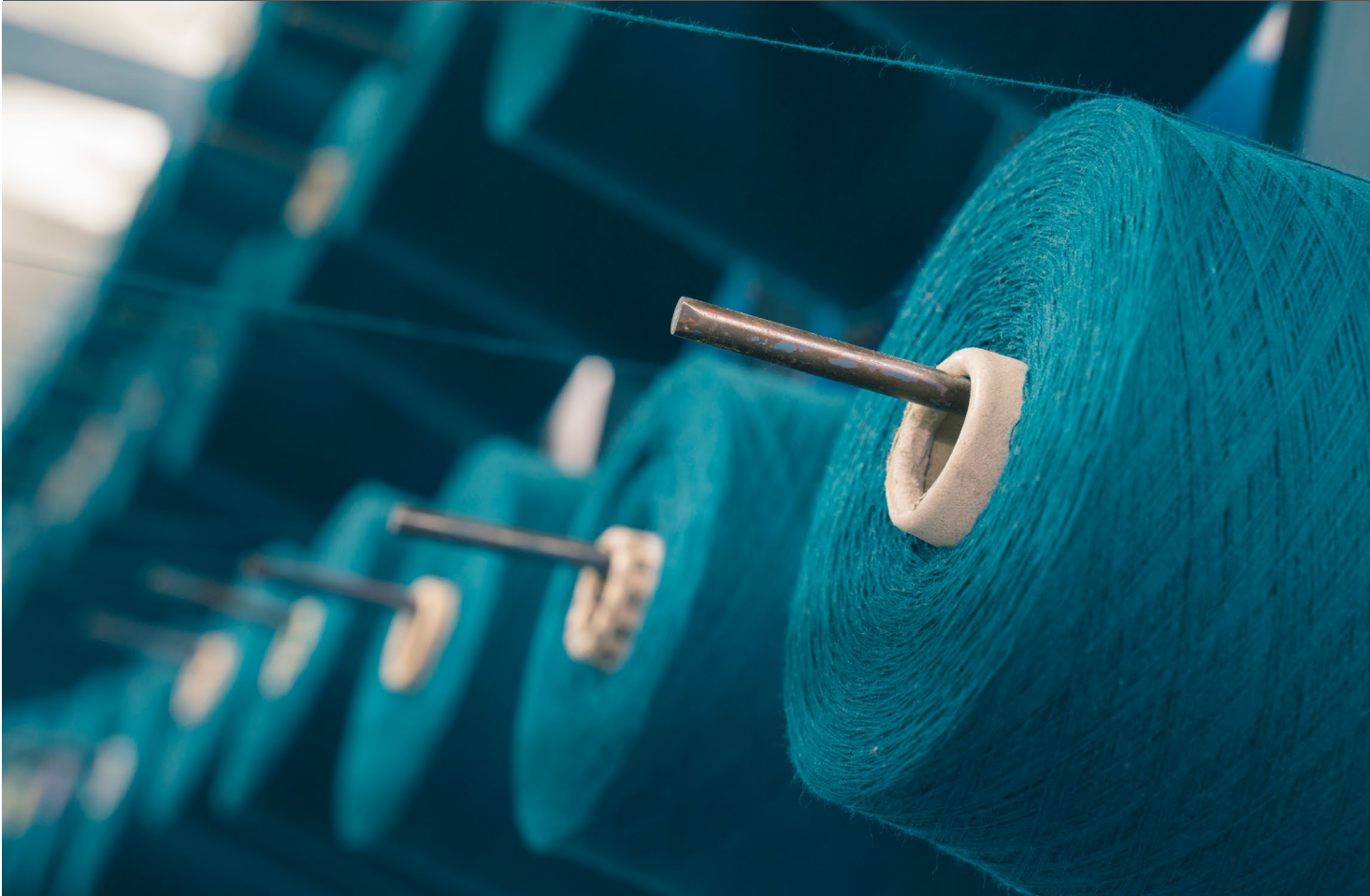


## Investment Ecosystem



<b>Investment/Venture Capital Firms:</b> <b>Funds HQ'd in Midlands Engine area</b> 313 Funds have offices in region. <sup>1</sup>	<b>200</b>	<b>FDI Jobs 2017-2021:</b> 12% of UK total. <sup>6</sup>	<b>355 jobs</b>
<b>FDI into High Growth Companies:</b> 0 of 4 investments in High Growth Companies. <sup>2</sup>	<b>0%</b>	<b>DDI Jobs 2017-2021:</b> 36% of UK total. <sup>7</sup>	<b>6,695 jobs</b>
<b>FDI Capex 2017-21:</b> 8% of UK total. <sup>3</sup>	<b>\$67.1m</b>	<b>FDI Projects 2017-2021:</b> 12% of UK total. <sup>8</sup>	<b>5 projects</b>
<b>DDI Capex 2017-21:</b> 31% of UK total. <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$665.3m</b>	<b>DDI projects 2017-2021:</b> 21% of UK total. <sup>9</sup>	<b>36 projects</b>
<b>Fundraising Volumes:</b> <b>N/A</b> 4 investments in High Growth Companies recorded, value uncertain. <sup>5</sup>			

<sup>1</sup>Beauhurst 2022, <sup>2</sup>Beauhurst 2022, <sup>3</sup>Wavteq 2022, <sup>4</sup>Wavteq 2022, <sup>5</sup>Beauhurst 2022, <sup>6</sup>Wavteq 2022, <sup>7</sup>Wavteq 2022, <sup>8</sup>Wavteq 2022, <sup>9</sup>Wavteq 2022.







## COMMENTARY

- The Midlands cluster has experienced an increase of DDI market share in the UK from 23.1% in 2017 to 37.3% in 2021. Inward DDI into the textiles cluster in Midlands saw a large spike post-pandemic, and DDI Job creation in Midlands peaked in 2021 with over 5,325 jobs being created.
- Wavteq forecast a UK FDI Capex of \$180m in this sector in 2025.
- Although there are several well ranked universities in the region for engineering and manufacturing, Loughborough and Nottingham Trent Universities are notable for significant world rankings in Art & Design.



*This data has been compiled from multiple sources, using classifications based on clusters as proposed by Midlands Engine Partners. Where necessary wider sector data has been used as a 'best proxy'. Unless otherwise stated, all data is contemporary as of May 2023, and is an aggregation of all known counts/data within the Midlands Engine's 65 Local Authorities. Unless otherwise stated, business, employee and turnover figures have been calculated via DataCity based on trading addresses within the Midlands Engine.*