



The Top 10 Financial services firms across Leeds city region

Leeds city region boasts a diverse and strong financial services sector and is second only to London in the UK in terms of GVA contribution from the sector. Here's a summary of some of the leading players within the region.

Lloyds Banking group

Lloyds Banking Group plc came into being on 19 January 2009, following the acquisition of HBOS plc by Lloyds TSB Group plc. The group's principal employment is focused on the former headquarters of Halifax Bank and at two sites in Leeds. Employee numbers in the city region estimated at 6,000.

first direct

Launched as the very first telephone bank in 1989, first direct chose Leeds city region as its HQ. Chief Executive Matt Colebrook states, "as it moves through the 21st century, first direct continues to strive to be original in its approach and to enjoy the strength and diversity of the FPS in the Leeds City Region."

Ventura

Ventura, the Leeds-based outsourcing company is one of Yorkshire's largest private employers, with a £200 million turnover and around 6,000 employees throughout the region.

Direct Line

Part of the RBS insurance arm with offices throughout Yorkshire and Humber. Nearly 4,000 people in the region work for the RBS insurance businesses, including Direct Line, Green Flag, Churchill and Privilege which have major operational centres in Leeds.

Santander

The group, which bought Bradford & Bingley's 197-strong branch network in 2008 and Alliance & Leicester, having previously acquired Abbey plc, is a major player in the UK mortgages, savings and deposits markets. It currently employs approximately 2,500 people across Yorkshire and the Humber and has a growing business banking operation.

Yorkshire Bank

Yorkshire Bank was founded in 1859 in Halifax, West Yorkshire. Yorkshire Bank, now part of the National Australia Group, has 188 retail branches and was named as “Best Regional Lender” for the 11th year running in the 2009 Your Mortgage Awards. The business employs 1,900 throughout the region.

Aviva

Aviva is the UK’s largest insurer, with an estimated 11% of the life insurance market and 13% of the general insurance market. York is a major centre for Aviva with approximately 1,900 employees located at their city centre offices.

Capita

The Capita Financial Group (CFG) has around 1,800 staff within the Leeds city region, employed in insurance and legal services at their Bradford offices and further operations in Huddersfield, Wetherby and York.

Yorkshire Building Society

UK's second-biggest building society, headquartered in Bradford, employs around 1,500 employees throughout the Leeds city region. YBS boasts 2mn members and assets of £23bn. Its Yorkshire roots can be traced back to 1864.

Skipton Building Society

Skipton Building Society is the UK's fourth largest building society. Founded in 1853, and headquartered in Skipton, North Yorkshire it has approximately 850,000 members. The Skipton Building Society, with around 1,300 employees in the Leeds city region, is part of the wider Skipton Group comprising companies which operate in the financial services sector or in support of that sector.

Other major players

Other top financial services firms with national or regional Headquarters or major operations across the Leeds city region include Barclays, CPP, GE Money, HSBC, Leeds Building Society, Provident Financial, the UK’s top 4 accountancy firms and most of the UK’s leading law firms.