

Unit 1: The Business Environment

LO1: Understand different types of businesses and their objectives

Learner Activity

Types of business activity

The nature of business in the UK has changed significantly over time. You will be investigating the contribution to the UK economy made by different types of employment.

Activity

You should review the tables below. You should firstly ensure that you are familiar with the terms **primary secondary** and **tertiary sectors** and **GDP**, in order to ensure you can interpret the data within and answer the questions below.

Table 1 shows the number of UK jobs in each sector of the economy: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Table 2 shows the percentage of UK jobs in each sector of the economy: primary, secondary and tertiary.

Table 3 shows the contribution made to GDP by each of the three sectors over a longer period of time.

Use the information they provide to answer the questions below.

Table 1

	Primary Employment (000's)	Secondary Employment (000's)	Tertiary Employment (000's)
June 2015	307	4,111	24,774
June 2014	312	3,951	24,370
June 2013	270	3,868	23,579
June 2012	286	3,919	23,238
June 2011	259	3,934	27,252
June 2010	278	3,980	23,022

Table 2

	Primary Employment % workforce	Secondary Employment % workforce	Tertiary Employment % workforce
June 2015	1.1	14.1	84.8
June 2014	1.1	13.8	86.1
June 2013	1.0	14.0	85.0
June 2012	1.0	14.2	84.8
June 2011	1.0	14.4	84.6
June 2010	1.2	17.1	81.7

Table 3

	Primary Employment % share GDP	Secondary Employment % share GDP	Tertiary Employment % share GDP
1973	5	41	54
1990	4	30	66
2009	3	20	77

Source: Office for National Statistics

You should create a presentation to demonstrate understanding of the terms, the data and the trends that are identified within the data. Create one graph/bar chart for each table, in order to make it easier to see the trends in the above statistics. The questions below should guide you through this.

Questions

- 1. Define and give examples of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.**
- 2. What is GDP?**
- 3. According to the tables above which one of the following statements is true?**
(Use this question to help you describe some of the trends that are identified in the statistics.)
 - a. The percentage of people employed in the UK tertiary sector fell from around 20% to around 15% between 2010 and 2015.
 - b. The secondary sector provides the largest proportion of jobs in the UK.
 - c. Most people in the UK are employed within service industries.
 - d. The primary sector is becoming increasingly important for UK jobs.
- 4. Describe how UK employment in each of the three sectors has changed between 2010 and 2015.**
- 5. Why do you think these changes have occurred and what do you think is likely to happen to employment levels in each of the three sectors over the next ten years? Research and give examples to back up your explanations.**

You should consider things such as:

- technology
- globalisation
- increased standards of living
- the state of the UK economy in recent history – recession.

From your research, use images where possible to support your work. Give an opinion based on the tables and predict what might happen to the figures in the future, based on what has happened in the past.

- 6. How important is the tertiary sector to the UK economy? Give examples to support your answer.**