High-Growth Firms

Scottish Enterprise

Regional comparisons defined by employment growth (2013-16)

N. Ireland in 2016

340 high-growth firms

34,795 employees

£4.5bn turnover

2% of HGFs

2% of total HGF employment

2% of total HGF turnover

Scotland in 2016

910 high-growth firms

106,362 employees

£12bn turnover

7% of HGFs

5% of total HGF employment

4% of total HGF turnover

England in 2016

11,910 high-growth firms

1.75m employees

£247bn turnover

87% of HGFs

90% of total HGF employment

91% of total HGF turnover

Wales in 2016

505 high-growth firms

52,501 employees

£7.1bn turnover

4% of HGFs

3% of total HGF employment

1% of total HGF turnover

N. Ireland: +58% (% change in number of HGFs), +55% (% change in employment in HGFs), +73% (% change in total turnover from HGFs)

Scotland: +14%, +44%, +1%

Wales: +15%, +6%, +113%

England: +8%, +5%, -18%

This indicates that HGFs in Scotland are becoming smaller in size.
This measure suggests the rate at which firms in Scotland are achieving high-growth through increasing employment exceeds that seen in other nations.
This leaves Scotland's HGFs as the only nation which shows no indication that HGFs are becoming more productive, with average firm data suggesting Scottish HGFs defined by employment are likely to have higher employment despite being similar in turnover to those in Wales and Northern Ireland.

% change in number of HGFs

% change in employment in HGFs

% change in total turnover from HGFs

Source; Office for National Statistics. HGFs are defined as all enterprises with average annualised employment growth greater than 20% per annum