

WHY IS MILTON  
KEYNES THE  
UNITED  
KINGDOM'S  
FASTEST-  
GROWING  
'CITY'?

The Cambridge English Dictionary defines 'city' as 'a large town' or 'any town in the UK which has a cathedral'.

In most countries, the size of a town is the deciding factor over whether it has city status. Large towns are automatically considered cities.

However, in the UK, city status is not granted automatically just because a town becomes very large, or because of a cathedral.

City status is granted by personal Command of The Queen, on the advice of Her Ministers. It is for Her Majesty The Queen to decide when a competition for city status should be held. Competitions are usually held on occasions such as important Royal anniversaries.

So, surprisingly, despite its size and rapidly increasing population, Milton Keynes is not a city! In fact, despite making several bids for 'city status' in the 2000, 2002 and 2012 Civic Honours competitions, Milton Keynes is officially still a large town.

Milton Keynes has seen an increase of 43,000 in the number of people living there since 2001 and the most recent recorded population size was 255,700 in 2015.

The council expects this to increase by at least another 50,000 by 2026 – they are planning to build 28,000 new homes for these extra people!

What could be the main cause of this growth in the number of people?

Why do you think people are moving to Milton Keynes in their thousands?

Now watch the film on the link below. Can you work out the answers to the questions?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHu0oYDyg1M>

So after watching the film, why are so many people moving to Milton Keynes?

## Jobs!

The most common reason for anyone moving anywhere in the world is to find work.

If a city has lots of work opportunities, then people will move to it.

When they have a job and are earning a salary they can afford to rent or buy a home and use the local amenities such as shops and cinemas.

There are 11,000 companies and businesses in Milton Keynes that need workers. So people move to the city to take up the vacancies in such companies as John Lewis, which has its main distribution centre in Milton Keynes (employing 470 people) from where it supplies both shops and online orders.

Watch this short film to see how these huge distribution centres work:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vAXs2gHsGg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vAXs2gHsGg)

# Task

**Aim:** Show that you **understand** the main **reasons** why the population of any city can increase and **explain** why Milton Keynes in particular is the fastest-growing city in the United Kingdom. Watch the video again and make some notes before you begin.

## Ideas for presenting your work:

- ▶ Powerpoint presentation
- ▶ Video
- ▶ Written piece
- ▶ Poster

## Key points to include:

