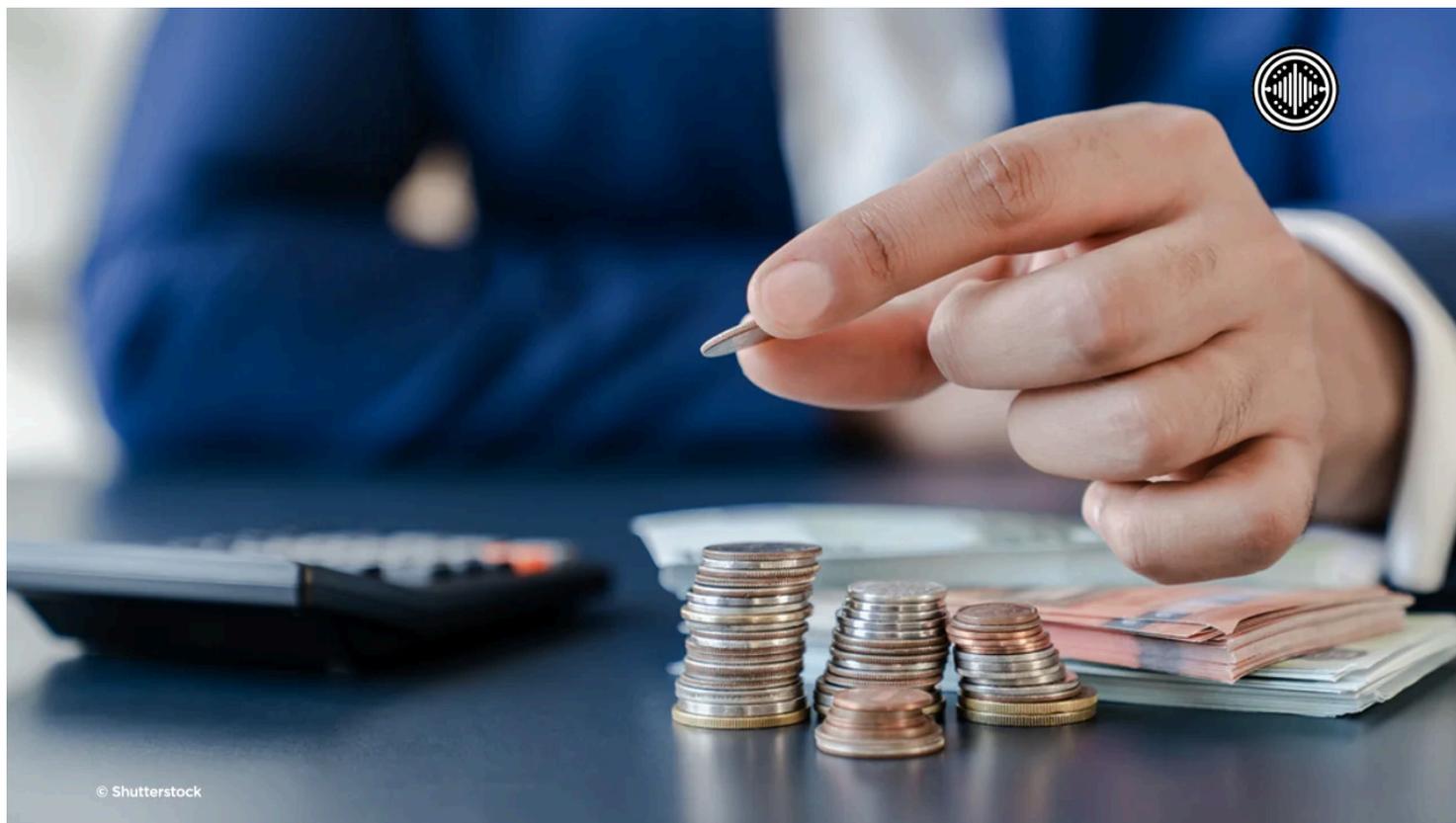


## Yorkshire and Humber Businesses Boosted by £202m in British Business Bank Lending

July 28, 2025

– Categories: Finance



Download IPFS

The British Business Bank has hit a significant milestone, channelling £2.5 billion through its Growth Guarantee Scheme to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the United Kingdom (UK). Notably, 69% of this funding has flowed to businesses outside the affluent hubs of London and the South East, ensuring that regions like Yorkshire and the Humber are not left behind in the drive for economic growth.

In Yorkshire and the Humber, £202 million has been allocated across 1,052 facilities, empowering local firms to invest, expand, and compete in an increasingly challenging market. This injection of capital is a lifeline for businesses grappling with high costs, supply chain disruptions, and the economic fallout of policies from the current Labour government, which have been criticised for stifling enterprise through overregulation and tax hikes.

The funding has supported a diverse range of businesses, from manufacturing to tech startups, fostering job creation and innovation in the region. For instance, a precision engineering firm in Sheffield recently used a £500,000 loan to upgrade its machinery, securing 20 new jobs and boosting export capacity. Stories like these highlight the tangible impact of the scheme on local economies.

The North West has also benefited, receiving a similar £200 million-plus in lending, but Yorkshire's allocation underscores its importance as a hub of industry and entrepreneurship. The British Business Bank's focus on regional fairness is a welcome counterpoint to the London-centric policies often seen under successive governments. However, some business leaders argue that the scheme, while helpful, is a drop in the ocean compared to the broader challenges posed by rising energy costs and bureaucratic red tape.

In a recent interview with *The Yorkshire Post*, Sarah Thompson, CEO of a Huddersfield-based textile company, said, "The funding has been a game-changer for us, allowing investment in sustainable materials. But we need the government to ease the regulatory burden if we're to truly thrive." Her sentiment reflects a wider call for policies that match financial support with practical reforms.

While the Growth Guarantee Scheme is a step forward, it's not without flaws. The application process has been described as cumbersome, and some firms report delays in accessing funds. With the Labour government's economic strategy under scrutiny for its lack of clarity, there's a risk that such schemes could become mired in inefficiency unless streamlined.

Nevertheless, the £202 million for Yorkshire and the Humber is a clear win for the region's businesses. It's a reminder that, despite Westminster's often metropolitan focus, the North's entrepreneurial spirit remains a cornerstone of the U.K.'s economy. For Yorkshire firms, this funding is not just a boost but a chance to prove their resilience and ambition in the face of adversity.