

# High growth firms, jobs and peripheral regions: the case of Scotland

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## Abstract

Enterprise policy is increasingly favouring support for high growth firms (HGFs). However, this may be less effective in promoting new jobs and economic development in peripheral regions. This issue is addressed by a study of HGFs in Scotland. Scottish HGFs differ in a number of respects from the stylised facts in the literature. They create less employment than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK. Most have a significant physical presence outside of Scotland, thereby reducing their Scottish ‘footprint’ and domestic job creation. Scottish HGFs appear to have a high propensity to be acquired, increasing the susceptibility of the head office to closure. The evidence suggests that the tendency towards ‘policy universalism’ in the sphere of entrepreneurship policy is problematic.

[high growth firms](#), [gazelles](#), [entrepreneurship](#), [regional development](#), [Scotland](#)

[L26](#), [L53](#), [R11](#), [R58](#)

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