



Labour market information

All the latest job and
recruitment news!



Vacancies & jobs in the UK

The latest ONS labour market figures (published 18th Jan) show the continuing demand for labour with vacancies again increasing in the last quarter of 2021. Over the last year, the largest increases have been in hospitality (accommodation & food services), health and care, as well as administration and business support.





Regional Labour Market

While the demand for people increases, the number of people in employment in the North East has been falling.

There is also an increase in the number of people who are economically inactive – this means the people who are not in work or looking for work in the age group 16-64. This figure increased in the North East to 406,000.

IES identify three groups most affected:

1. The increase in the number of long-term long-term sick
2. The decrease of older people in the labour market through early retirement
3. The increase in in young people who are NEET



North East Manufacturing

A positive report on North East manufacturing from Make UK, the manufacturer employers' body and BDO. The North East had the highest manufacturing output in the UK in the last quarter of 2021. The report describes this as a positive sign for employment in the region. In terms of the national picture, manufacturing vacancies increased by 15% in the last quarter across the UK.





HGV Bootcamps

The shortage of HGV drivers was a first discussed in the summer although Logistics UK has said ([BBC 6/12/2021](#)) that the pressure is easing.

One of the Government's responses was the addition of HGV short courses. People that successfully complete the HGV courses are guaranteed a job interview with an employer, and the first drivers are expected to be on the road from March 2022.



Apprenticeship updates

In the 2020/2021 academic year (August to July):

- More people (98,800) started higher apprenticeships than intermediate level (84,100).
- For the first time, over 50% of starts were by people aged 25+
- Health, public services and care occupations had the largest number apprenticeship starts for the first time (30.3%) with business administration and law in second spot (29.8%)





Apprenticeship updates continued...

Provisional figures for the first quarter of the 2021/22 academic year show:

Between August and October 2021:

- More people (over 130,000) started an apprenticeship compared to the same period in 2020/21 (91,100)
- Most apprenticeship starts were by people aged 25+ (49,800)
- The number of higher apprenticeships continues to grow (38,200)
- Most starts were in Advanced Level 3 apprenticeships (56,300)



North East Business in good shape but concerns grow

The latest North East England Chamber of Commerce quarterly economic survey shows North East companies had a much stronger performance compared to 12 months ago however, employers are still having difficulties attracting, recruiting and retaining staff





1/5 North East Shops are vacant

According to a report by the British Retail Consortium (BRC), the North East was the region with the highest number of vacant shops in the UK at the end of 2021, with one in five shops being empty.

Another recent study showed that Newcastle City Centre has suffered the most during the pandemic.

Retail is a sector which has been greatly impacted by Covid restrictions, mostly due to remote and hybrid working which keeps people away from the city centre and high streets and served as a catalyst for increased online retail which has grown from under 20% of total retail in Feb 2020 to 26% in Dec 2021.



Number of companies in Northumberland hits record high

Northumberland welcomes some positive news regarding its business activity, with the 2021 figures showing an increase in the number of businesses registered in the county, compared to 2020.

Most new companies are operating in the retail sector, which was closely followed by food and drinks services.





National Grid promotes the vital role of apprenticeships

It is very encouraging to see local people taking on green apprenticeship opportunities, such as the ones offered by National Grid.

Among the jobs it has created at its North Sea Link site in Blyth, the energy company has also taken on local apprentices for its net zero projects.



Job vacancies

BT Group creates 150 new North East jobs

The company's North Tyneside office will create more than 150 full-time roles at its mobile operator, EE.

IT job vacancies surpass pre-pandemic levels in the UK

Recent job market research shows that the number of IT vacancies across the UK is higher than before the pandemic. Over 50% of all new IT vacancies in England came from technology, media and telecoms companies in 2021. Sky and Amazon were among some well-known employers who have had the most job openings, with JPMorgan being on the top of the list.

Government says Newcastle has one of the fastest growing tech sectors in the UK

The Government has published its new Levelling Up Power Tech League, which ranks the UK cities' tech sectors and Newcastle was among the top 10 cities with the fastest growing digital sectors.

According to the figures, the city's tech sector has more than 1,300 job opportunities, with an average advertised salary of £46,536.

Newcastle was already ranked as the country's ninth most important tech hub in Tech Nation's report earlier this year.



200 jobs as tech provider Version 1 moves to Newcastle

The North East's digital sector, is attracting a growing number of new investments. One of them comes from the Irish tech company - Version 1, which is opening a new office in the region, bringing hundreds of digital jobs to Newcastle in the next two years.

The company will initially focus on recruiting for mid to senior roles such as:

- Java Developers
- Performance Testers
- Senior Front-end Engineers
- Recruitment Marketing Specialists

The full list of vacancies can be found on the company's website, [Careers at Version 1 | Join our Great Place to Work - Version 1](#)





Cyber security firm Arctic Wolf choose Newcastle

Newcastle has also been chosen by tech company, Arctic Wolf as the base for its UK headquarters and together with the new office, the city will also welcome the creation of 30 new jobs. Arctic Wolf specialises in cyber security and is also planning to create hundreds of more jobs in the next three years.

International tech companies, such as Xplor and Monsterlab already paved the way for these developments when they opened new offices in Newcastle last year. Both companies are planning to create new jobs in the coming years





Accenture to create 1000's more jobs

The numbers in terms of job creation are expected to grow even further, thanks to the global digital company Accenture which will create thousands of jobs across the North of England, as it will be expanding to cities including Newcastle.

It has been said that this development is a result of a growing demand for services in areas such as cloud engineering, cybersecurity, data and intelligent operations.





300m scheme to transform Tyneside waterfront gets underway

Newcastle Gateshead Quays site will be a new arena, conference and exhibition centre which is currently being developed at the riverside and is expected to create 2,000 new jobs from the construction phase through to its completion in 2024. The work is being carried out by BAM Construction.

Amazon

It was officially announced just after Christmas that the latest Amazon Fulfilment Centre in the North East was the building that is being built at the Wynyard site just off the A19.

According to the Northern Echo, once this opens, Amazon will have created 5,000 permanent and 4,000 seasonal positions in the North East in the last two years.

