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## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

### Labour market in the regions of the UK

The latest labour market data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that the North East still falls behind the rest of the country with the exception of London in



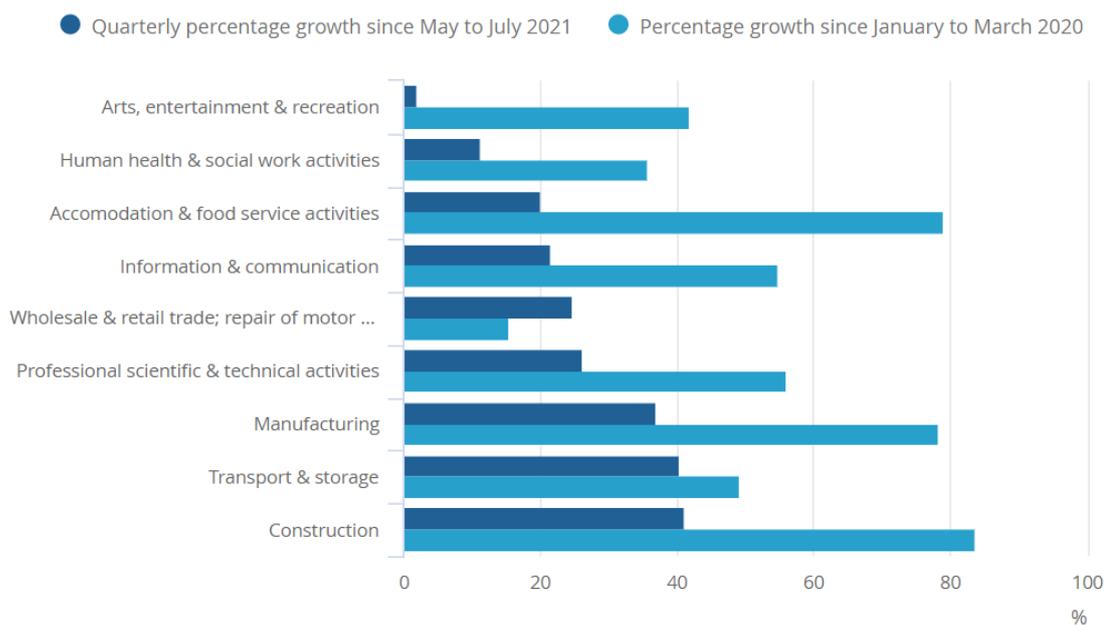
terms of employment rates.

Despite the fall in the North East's unemployment rate, which is 0.7 lower than the previous quarter, the region still has the second highest unemployment rate in the country, after London.

At the same time, the North East has seen its employment rate falling by 0.9 from the previous quarter, despite the continuous rise of job vacancies which has reached more than 1,170,000, exceeding the previous record.

Nationally, health had the most job openings between August and October (183,000) followed by hospitality (151,000).

As the chart below shows, construction, logistics and manufacturing saw the biggest rise in their vacancies compared to the previous quarter, with construction and logistics increasing by over 40% and manufacturing by over 36%.



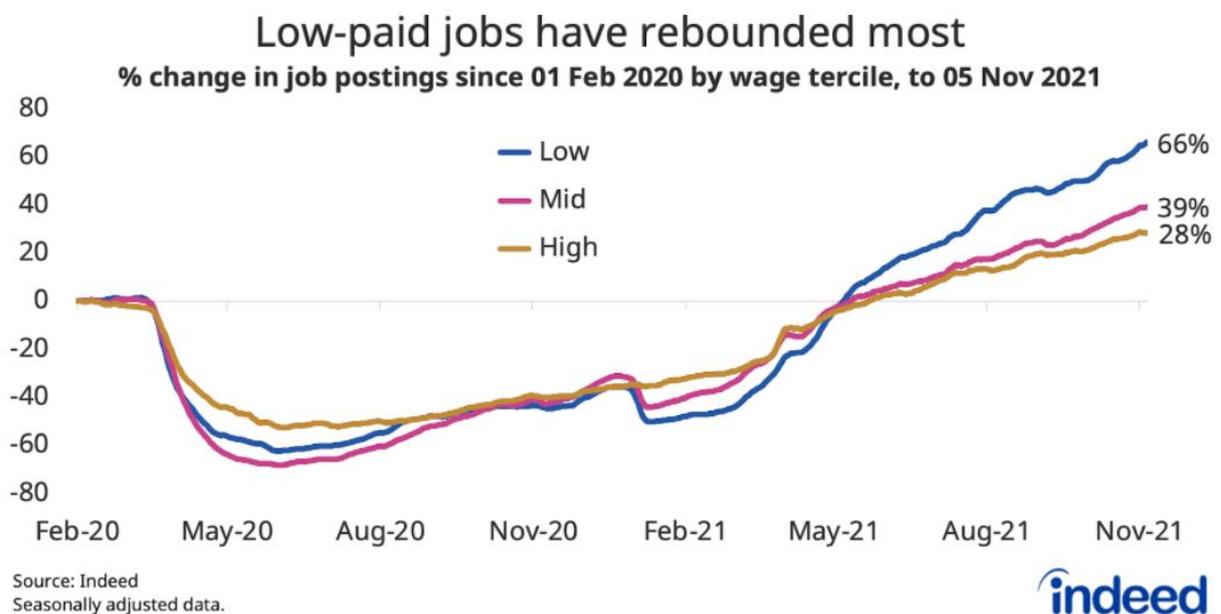
Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey



## Indeed UK job postings through 5 November

Indeed Hiring Lab's recent report provides an overview of the changes in the number of its UK job postings since the start of the pandemic.

As the latest insights show, in November, the number of Indeed vacancies was over 38% higher than their pre-pandemic levels, following a continuous rise over the last few months. As shown below, low-paid jobs saw the highest demand, recording over 60% more job postings compared to the start of the pandemic.



In terms of the sectors, loading and stocking, as well as retail have seen large increases in their online job postings, which have more than doubled their February 2020 numbers. However, this should not come as a surprise, considering the shortage of HGV drivers, as well as the increasing demand for staff in sales just a month before Christmas.



**% change in UK job postings, seasonally adjusted, to 05 Nov 2021**

Select sectors	% change since 1 Feb, 2020	ppt. change since 22 Oct, 2021
<i>Biggest improvements</i>		
Construction	64%	+17
Chemical Engineering	50%	+13
Loading & Stocking	144%	+12
Retail	104%	+11
Electrical Engineering	23%	+10
Food Preparation & Service	80%	+9
<i>Biggest deteriorations</i>		
Therapy	43%	-4
Physicians & Surgeons	94%	-4
Legal	-19%	-5
Scientific Research & Development	35%	-5
Insurance	20%	-5
Sports	56%	-7

Source: Indeed



The North East had its largest number of online vacancies, 72% higher than its pre-pandemic levels. An even closer look reveals that Sunderland had the biggest rise in Indeed vacancies since the start of the pandemic (94%) compared to the rest of the country.

**The employment of people with disabilities 2021**

As part of the government's target to see one million more people with disabilities in employment between 2017 and 2027, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published the latest statistics on the employment of working-age people with disabilities in the UK.

The figures, covering the first 12 to 15 months of the Covid-19 pandemic show a rise in the number and the rate of people with disabilities who are in employment. This has narrowed the disability employment gap (the gap between the rate of disabled and non-disabled people in employment) which had widened during the pandemic.

Below are some of the main findings:

- the number of people with disabilities who are employed in the UK has increased by 300,000 since last year and by 1.5million since 2013, reaching 4.4 million



- employees with disabilities move out of work at nearly twice the rate (8.8%) of non-disabled workers (4.9%)

The statistics also reveal that the disability employment gap is wider for the below groups:

- men
- older people (50 to 64)
- people with no qualifications
- people of White ethnicity
- people living in the North East, North West, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

Additionally, people with disabilities are more commonly:

- working in low-paid occupations
- self-employed
- working part-time
- working in the public sector

According to the survey, people with disabilities are also more likely to work in health, retail and education.

## Skills for every person report

The House of Lords Youth Unemployment Committee has published its Skills for every young person report to urge the Government to provide more support for young people to help them get into work.

A brief summary of the report highlights the main factors that lead to the unemployment of 475,000 young people aged 16-24 in the UK, as well as the inequalities that those from disadvantaged and minority ethnic groups face.

The report identifies a number of key drivers for the high unemployment rates among young people:



- Skills mismatch – schools and further education fail to equip young people with the skills required to enter employment, especially for sectors such as green energy and digital.
- Lack of appropriate careers guidance and work experience
- Underfunded and undervalued further education
- Lack of apprenticeship opportunities
- Additional barriers and lack of support – (e.g. related to language barriers, gender, ethnicity, special education needs, lower socio-economic backgrounds)

The full report is available here: [Skills for every young person \(parliament.uk\)](#)

### North East business activity

Nat West's November North East Business Activity Index – which measures the monthly changes in the region's manufacturing and service sectors, shows a much lower growth for the region between September and October (only 0.2 higher) as well as a weaker expansion in its business activity compared to the other parts of the country.

Despite the rise in its employment levels, it was also at a lower rate than the rest of the country, contrary to the region's inflation rates which reached their highest level since 2001, mainly due to the soaring energy and fuel costs.

Nonetheless, private sector firms appear to remain optimistic about the new year, when they anticipate to see domestic and global economies bouncing back.

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## Green Jobs

### UK needs 40,000 new engineers to turn the country's heating systems green



Energy firm Centrica estimates that there is a need for 40,000 new engineers to retrofit the country's homes and buildings by installing heat pumps and hydrogen boilers.

As part of its own aim to install up to 20,000 heat pumps every year by 2025, the company will be creating 3,500 engineering apprenticeships over the next decade at its four UK training academies. The firm has also set a target for half of its new recruits to be female.

## 12 North East companies helping the drive towards net zero

Below is a list of the North East companies operating in offshore wind and electric vehicle manufacturing, which have helped the region to be established as a major player in the UK's green energy sector.

In addition to some well-established companies, the list includes recent and ongoing developments which have been receiving a lot of attention both regionally and nationally, as they are expected to create thousands of job opportunities.

In other words, below are some names worth keeping an eye on...

- [Turntide Transport](#) – electrifying transport, including rail, aviation and shipping (Gateshead)
- [Power Roll](#) - green energy manufacturer, specialising in the production of solar films (County Durham)
- [Osbit](#) - offshore engineering (Northumberland)
- [Nissan](#) - electric car manufacturer (Sunderland)
- [Envision AESC](#) - EV battery manufacturer (Sunderland)
- [JDR Cables](#) - subsea power cable producer (Newcastle and Hartlepool, and a new plant is to be built in Northumberland, which is expected to create 170 new jobs)
- [Britishvolt](#) – EV battery manufacturer (Cambois – near Blyth) - is considered to be the first UK battery 'gigafactory' which is expected to employ 3,000 people directly and support a further 5,000 in the supply chain



- **GE Renewables** - offshore turbine manufacturer - a new plant is currently under construction in Teesside, which is expected to create 450 new jobs
- **Smulders** - manufacturer of offshore wind farm jackets (Wallsend) - will create hundreds of jobs as part of a new £70m investment
- **Port of Tyne** - will be the operations and maintenance base for Dogger Bank wind farm, which is expected to be the world's largest offshore wind farm - more than 200 new jobs will be created
- **Port of Blyth** - offering opportunities for low carbon focused investment and innovation through its recently launched Bates Clean Energy Terminal. It is already home to a number of companies operating in the offshore and renewables sectors, including Royal IHC and Osbit
- **Hitachi Rail** - battery and hybrid train manufacturer (Newton Aycliffe)

## **North of Tyne Combined Authority's Green New Deal Fund**

An £18m fund available for small and medium sized businesses in the North of Tyne area – Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside.

Loans, equity and grants are available to fund small and medium sized innovative projects that deliver significant carbon savings and help create new jobs and develop skills in the region's green and low carbon industries.

## **Rail operator generates 112 jobs in the North East**

Another development in clean transport is from the 100% electric train company Lumo, which has opened its head office in Newcastle, after creating 112 jobs.

The company has already recruited 15 customer driver apprentices and will be providing £2m training to its Newcastle-based staff.



Lumo has an objective to create more than 13 million additional journeys and contribute up to £250m to the UK's economy in the next decade.

### Northern Powergrid careers

Northern Powergrid has been in the news a lot in the last week and had already started a recruitment programme pre-Arwen.

### Blue and green hydrogen

BP is establishing H2Teesside – the blue hydrogen - and HyGreen Teesside – the green hydrogen - on the Tees. The projects will be developed over the next few years as they increase the output of hydrogen energy aimed at industrial sites which will need to move away from non-renewable energy.

Tees Valley aims to become a major producer and transport hub for hydrogen energy and carbon capture, creating many new jobs.

### Plans approved for huge new solar farm at Nissan as Sunderland plant aims to go carbon neutral

Permission has been given for the installation of Nissan Sunderland's major solar farm, which will generate enough energy to power every electric Nissan Leaf car. Work will start immediately and is expected to be completed by spring 2022, supporting Nissan's ambition to become carbon neutral across all its products by 2050.

### RenewablesUK Career Mapping

The latest in what we expect will be a long list of resources for careers in green energy. This is a bit tricky to use at first until you get the hang of dragging the image and increasing the size. However, the range of roles is impressive and the skills/qualifications



somewhat daunting if you are looking to work in this complex mix of construction and engineering in dangerous surroundings.

### Offshore wind in the region

A summary of the offshore wind activity that is happening across the North East including many of the names in the article above about the 12 companies helping the drive to net zero.

## NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR AND COUNTY DURHAM

### Unemployment in Northumberland below English average

The latest employment and unemployment figures published by ONS reveal Northumberland as the county with the lowest unemployment levels across the North East as well as England.

More specifically, the number of working aged people who have been looking for work in the county has dropped from 8,610 to 8,145 between August and October, representing just over 4% of its working age population.

According to Northumberland County Council, the county's performance has played a key role in attracting major investments, such as the Britishvolt battery gigafactory in Cambois, near Blyth. There are also anticipated further boosts to Northumberland's economic growth over the next years thanks to its green focused developments.

### Visit Northumberland tourism campaign hailed a huge success

[Visit Northumberland](#), which is the county's official tourism website, is reaping the rewards of its recent campaign, which seems to have secured a high number of future visitors.



According to a recent survey, 68% of over 6 million people who have heard or seen the campaign are now planning to visit Northumberland in the future. In terms of the more tangible outcomes, local businesses have already received 16% more money brought in by those who visited Northumberland after watching the campaign.

If the above forecasted number of future visitors is fulfilled, the county is expected to see its visitor spending exceeding £4.5 million.

### Active Northumberland recruiting fitness and swimming instructors

What is more, the roles don't require full qualifications, as training will be provided, and they will also be available on a part-time basis.

### Park Hotel's refurbishment is bringing new jobs to Tynemouth

The Inn Collection has embarked on a renovation project to attract more visitors to its recently acquired Tynemouth site, creating 70 full-time jobs. The hotel is expected to reopen in autumn 2022.

### North East offshore specialist Smulders to create 250 jobs amid major wind farm project

The North Tyneside-based offshore wind firm is to create 250 new jobs in Wallsend, as it enters a group that will supply turbine pieces for a major offshore wind farm off the Scottish coast. The consortium also includes Siemens Energy and Lemants.

You can find out more about the Moray West project here: [Moray West Offshore Wind Farm Project - Renewable wind energy](#)



## [Northcoders launch a new IT training hub in Newcastle](#)

Considering the increasing discussion about the North East's digital skills shortage, it is very encouraging to see relevant training opportunities coming to the region, which aim to address the issue. Northcoders' new IT training hub which is opening in Newcastle will train people (both jobseekers and companies' employees) in coding and software development, either virtually or face-to-face, to help them enter the region's growing tech sector.

The company also offers [Bootcamp courses](#) in coding as well as scholarship schemes across the North of England.

## [New stores are opening in Eldon Square, creating 33 jobs](#)

A few weeks before Christmas, we will see the expansion of Eldon Square, as it is opening eight new permanent and seasonal stores, including some big national brands, such as H&M, as well as local independent retailers such as The Geordie Witch. Along with these new stores, the shopping mall is also bringing 33 new jobs to Newcastle.

## [New Morrisons store to open at Newcastle Great park creating 140 jobs](#)

Morrisons supermarket is opening a store on the Newcastle Great Park with construction work expected to start later this year. The new store will create 140 new jobs and there are hopes that it will help the suburb attract further investments.

## [North East charity creates 28 new jobs in mental health initiative](#)

Mental Health Concern is recruiting for 28 new roles, including mental health community development workers and peer support workers, as part of a new programme which aims to improve the access to mental health support in Newcastle communities.



## Virgin Money switches to flexible working

Virgin Money enters a new phase of flexible working, where its staff will be able to work from home for most of their working weeks. As a result, it closes six of its eight offices, while planning to keep the remaining ones mainly for meeting purposes. The company has confirmed that there will be no change in its jobs numbers.

The changes in the bank's work policies won't be limited to remote working, as its new employee package will also include equal parental leave and additional holidays among other benefits. These changes come in response to a recent survey published by the company, which revealed that the majority of its employees had fears about losing their jobs after being on parental leave.

## £5m Newcastle furniture store to create 20 local jobs upon completion

Barker and Stonehouse are building a new store with an environmental footprint at Gateshead's Metrocentre, which will create 20 new jobs.

Considering that the new site will include electric vehicle charging points and will also have a solar panelled roof, it is safe to assume that there will be a need for a green workforce – especially installers - to carry out the work.

## Work starts on Port of Tyne control base for world's biggest wind farm bringing 200 jobs to South Shields

The very much anticipated construction of the operation and maintenance base for Dogger Bank, which is expected to become the world's largest wind farm, has officially started at the Port of Tyne, where hundreds of new jobs will be created.

When completed in 2026, the farm will be operated by Equinor from the new base, and its construction is currently being carried out mainly by SSE Renewables.



## **New Greggs, Toolstation, Angling Direct and Franks Flooring to open in Washington after plans approved**

Washington is expecting a new business hub which will include the likes of Greggs, Toolstation, Angling Direct and Franks Flooring, and will create more than 30 jobs including 19 full-time and 14 part-time roles.

## **Impressive new £10million care development set to open in Sunderland**

50 new full-time jobs will be created by the specialist care facility Bede House, which has just opened at Ryhope Street South, in Sunderland.

## **Greggs chooses Integra 61 for first County Durham drive-thru**

Four years after inaugurating its first drive-thru site in Salford, Greggs is now opening the second of its kind near Durham. The site will be based in the industrial development Integra 61, which is the largest logistics and manufacturing scheme in the region.

According to retail experts, drive-thru sites have seen over 40% growth since 2015 and at a faster speed during the pandemic. It will be interesting to see how many North East companies will start following the trend.

## **County Durham manufacturing group expands with £400k investment and 30 new jobs**

Durham's Apex Group which includes wiring, lighting and heating companies, is creating 30 new jobs after investing heavily in new equipment, while continuing to expand both nationally and overseas.

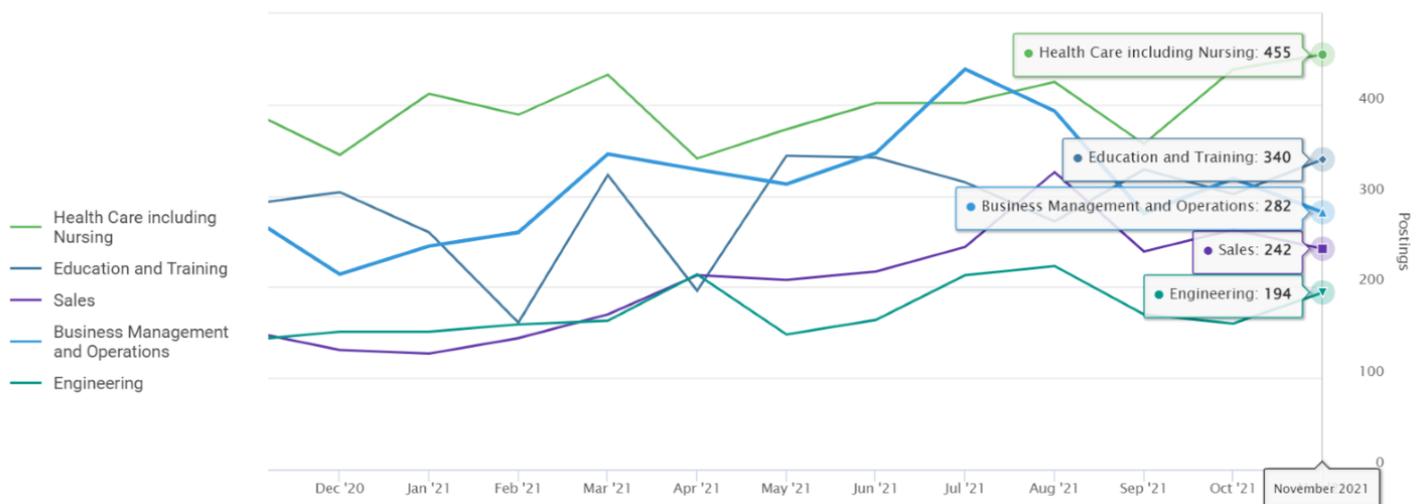


## Milestone as latest phase of £90m site opens at Station Place

Newton Aycliffe's industrial scheme Station Place, which is under construction, has reached the development of its latest phase. The scheme, which will include ten business units, will create 130 new jobs and is expected to be complete in spring 2022.

## Job postings in County Durham

The job postings chart below shows the top five occupations most in demand (most frequently advertised online) in County Durham.



(Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass Technologies)

## TEES VALLEY

### Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies

The biopharma company in Billingham has announced a £40m investment which will create 350 new jobs. This is due to be operational by the end of 2023.



## Teesside Freeport

There is a lot of hope about the potential jobs that will be created at Teesside Freeport which became operational in November.

“The Teesside Freeport will create more than 18,000 new highly skilled jobs and generate billions of pounds for the local economy over five years, with work well under way on the first scheme at Teesworks. GE Renewable Energy is set to build a new mammoth offshore wind turbine blade manufacturing facility on the site which will supply Dogger Bank, the world’s biggest wind farm. The scheme is expected to deliver up to 750 manufacturing jobs and a further 1,500 in the supply chain.”

(The Tees Valley Combined Authority)

## Industry employees

One of the data sets that we use to provide a longer-term picture of employment is the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). BRES is the primary source for employee estimates at a detailed regional and industrial level and is the official source of employees by industrial sector.

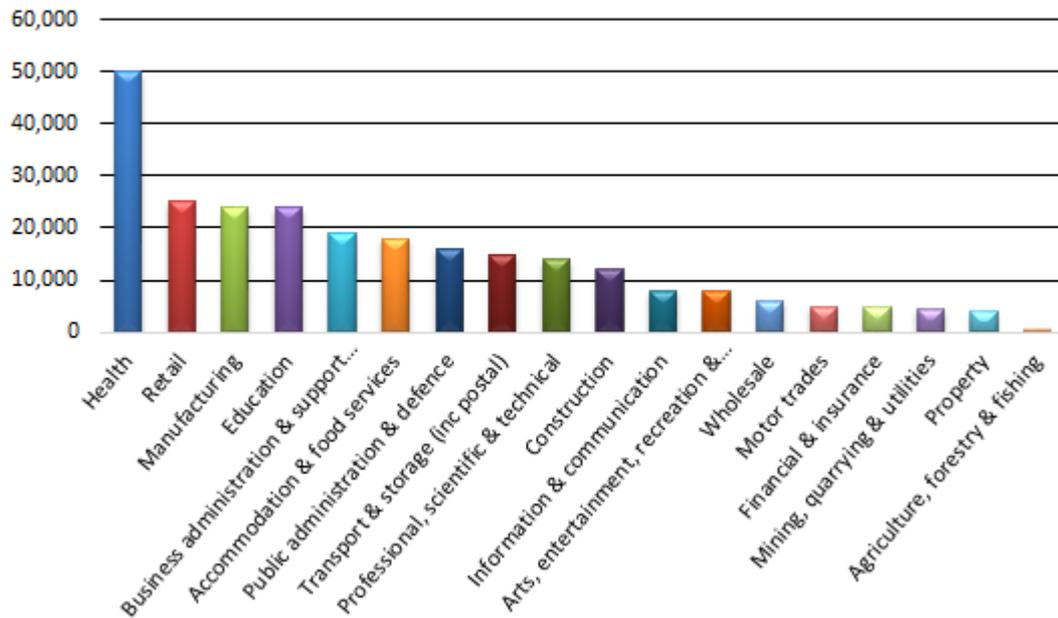
For the 2020 survey period, approximately 85,000 businesses were sampled for Great Britain, of which 72.6% responded. As with many surveys, this was affected by COVID with a lower response rate than previous years.

The chart below shows the estimate of employees in Tees Valley by the major industrial groupings.

The health sector, which in this description of sector groupings includes health and social care, has around 50,000 employees. That’s almost 1 in 5 of employees in Tees Valley. Retail, manufacturing and education all have around 25,000 employees. Together they constitute around 50% of Tees Valley employees.



Tees Valley CA Area Number of Employees by Industry  
(Figures are for 2020, data source is ONS BRES 2021)



## CUMBRIA

### Skills Fair

A skills fair is being hosted by Carlisle College on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### Employment in hospitality

A story which advisers might find helpful in supporting older people into work is this of a 65-year-old woman from Windermere who has found work at The Wild Boar Inn near Crook.

### Hospitality Industry

A news item about the demand for workers in the hospitality sector in Cumbria when local MP Tim Farron met with the Government's Immigration Minister.



In terms of the number of job postings in hospitality and tourism occupations in Cumbria, the chart below shows the change over the last 2 years with numbers of job postings at higher than pre-pandemic levels.



(Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass Technologies)

The detailed job postings chart shows the top five most in demand occupations in hospitality in Cumbria:



(Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass Technologies)





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