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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

Large minimum wage increase to boost low-paid workers' incomes

The Government has now announced the increase of the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage rates which will come into force in April 2022.

The below table shows how they hourly rates will rise across the different age groups.



	Rate from April 2022	Current rate (April 2021 to March 2022)	Increase
National Living Wage	£9.50	£8.91	6.6%
21-22 Year Old Rate	£9.18	£8.36	9.8%
18-20 Year Old Rate	£6.83	£6.56	4.1%
16-17 Year Old Rate	£4.81	£4.62	4.1%
Apprentice Rate	£4.81	£4.30	11.9%
Accommodation Offset	£8.70	£8.36	4.1%

(Source: Low Pay Commission)

The apprentice rate will see the biggest rise of 51p, followed by the minimum wage rates for 21-22 year-olds which will rise by 9.8%. People aged 23 and over will also see their hourly pay rising to £9.50.

As a result, the apprentice rate will be equivalent to the minimum wage for 16-17-year-olds, while the difference between the national living wage and the minimum wage for 21-22 year-olds will narrow.

The 5 projects in Durham, Tyne & Wear and Teesside announced in the Budget

Five North East projects are among the successful bids that have secured funding by the Government's Levelling Up Fund, as part of the first round of the funding. The region has received £100 million that will be allocated across the below areas:

- **Bishop Auckland** - for the reopening of the Whorlton Bridge near Barnard Castle
- **Yarm and Eaglescliffe** – for the regeneration of towns' centres
- **Newcastle** – for the restoration of Grainger Market
- **Sunderland** – for the development of the Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy
- **West Denton** – for the creation of a sports centre



Other announcements as part of the Autumn Budget statement include:

- £310 million fund to improve Tees Valley's local transport networks and rail links, including Middlesbrough's and Darlington's stations (as part of the [City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement \(CRSTS\)](#))
- a £107 million loan to Tees Valley Combined Authority to develop a facility for the manufacturing of wind turbine blades, creating around 800 jobs directly

Overall, the above investments could be seen as promising for the region's economic boost, as they are expected to create local job opportunities.

For more information, you can read the Government's supplementary document which sets out the specific projects in the North East that have been announced as part of the Spending Review and Budget: [Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 regions and nations factsheets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Everything you need to know about the new £560 million Multiply programme](#)

The Government has also announced a £560 million numeracy programme that aims to help all adults across the UK to improve their basic numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses.

Adults aged over 19 who don't have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths, will be able to access free courses, choosing between person, online, part-time or intensive learning.

Considering the significant number of people who lack basic skills, such as Maths and English across the UK, Multiply will hopefully encourage the development of more initiatives across the country, to tackle the current shortages that prevent people from entering employment.

The new scheme will be launched in April 2022 and will be funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



The Budget

Not a commentary on the budget and its potential for changes to the labour market, but just a pointer to a useful summary of the programmes, initiatives and funding under “Support for Jobs” that the Government has put into supporting jobs, particularly since the start of the pandemic.

You can read the full budget publication on [page 81](#).

Thousands more adults set to benefit from new technical skills

56 new free technical courses will be offered from October 2021 to thousands of adults across England to help them upskill in STEM subjects most in demand, such as digital, engineering, advanced manufacturing and construction.

The courses will be flexible, combining classroom based with online learning and will vary in length. These will be offered at 10 [Institutes of Technology](#) (IoTs) across the country to people aged 19 and over.

The courses will cover a range of levels including:

- higher apprenticeships
- [higher technical qualifications \(HTQs\)](#)
- [T Levels](#)
- degrees
- flexible courses for adults looking to reskill or upskill

For more information about the Institutes of Technology: [Institutes of Technology - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Labour market overview, UK - Office for National Statistics

The October UK labour market figures from ONS indicate that the labour market is continuing to recover in 2021. The number of people in work increased again and unemployment continued to fall.



The number of payroll employees has returned to pre- pandemic levels and is at an all-time high (data goes to 2014) at 29.2 million employees on PAYE.

Payrolled employees

The number of payrolled employees

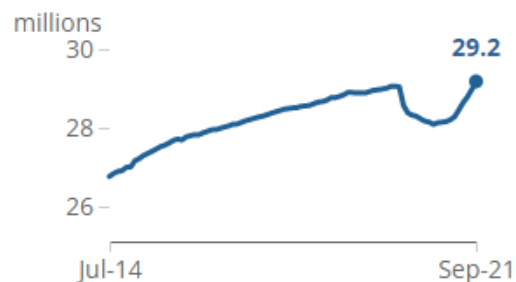
Monthly change: ▲207,000

Since Feb 2020: ▲122,000

The number of payroll employees is now above pre-pandemic levels

Source: HMRC PAYE RTI

[Read more](#)



(Source: ONS)

UK vacancies are also at an all-time high. The number of job vacancies in the UK between July to September 2021 was 1,102,000 - an increase of 318,000 from its pre-pandemic January to March 2020 level.

In terms of sectors which have seen the greatest demand then almost all sectors have seen a quarterly increase, with the highest being in transport and logistics, construction, wholesale and retail and manufacturing.

HGV Drivers

A study by ONS into the circumstances of the well publicised problems with a lack of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) (or also more officially known as large goods vehicles (LGV)) drivers.

- There has been a decreasing number of drivers working in the UK for the last four years; down by 53,000 from 2016/17
- There has been a fall in the number of UK nationals employed as HGV drivers since the year ending June 2017
- The number of EU nationals employed as HGV drivers increased between 2017 and 2020, but then decreased during the coronavirus pandemic



- There were 52,000 vacancies for posts in transport and storage in the three months ending September 2021, which is the highest since records began in 2001
- The number of driving tests (practical large goods vehicle tests) fell dramatically during the year to March 2021 – 16,021 were passed compared to an average of nearly 42,000

More than 1,500 new jobs announced in North East during October

A number of North East-based companies, operating in a range of sectors have announced their plans to bring 1,500 new roles in total to the region.

Below is the list of the companies with links to their websites. Some of these firms are already recruiting.

- [Echo-U](#) (customer service and outsourcing) - to create 400 new roles in various locations
- [EC Outsourcing](#) – to create 350 jobs
- [Bloom Procurement](#) – to create 100 new jobs
- [Verisure](#) (alarm firm) - is recruiting for 100 new jobs in North Tyneside
- [Tritility](#) (energy consultancy) – 100
- [Business Energy Claims](#) (law firm) - 50
- [Vertu](#) (car retailer) - 50
- [Essity](#) (toilet roll manufacturer) - 50
- [Atom bank](#) - 40
- [SE-TEK](#) (crushing equipment manufacturer) – 20
- [3DEO](#) (tech firm) - 20

The Fastest growing companies in the North East

This is a link to Ward Hadaway's 50 fastest growing companies in the North East. The list is based on the increase in turnover. These are not all new businesses with names such as Visualsoft and PD Ports, both included.

Useful to look at to see if this is generating new job opportunities.



Tech firm Cleardata to create 70 jobs after winning £10m health contract

Blyth-based tech company Cleardata, which provides document scanning and management services, will create 70 new roles, after winning a contract to digitise more than 1m patient records for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The firm will be recruiting for full and part-time posts, including Kickstart roles.

Offshore engineering firm Osbit bought as part of new wind sector group

Northumberland-based offshore engineering firm Osbit is expected to bring new jobs to its Riding Mill and Blyth sites, as it enters a new offshore wind sector group which is currently being formed.

The North East-based company is amongst the companies that have been recently bought by the Sheffield-based Venterra, as part of a £250 million investment in offshore wind.

Toilet roll maker Essity creates 50 new jobs as sales soar in pandemic

Northumberland's Essity is looking to recruit 50 new staff, including engineers, apprentices, graduates and operators, as part of its new recruitment drive.

It has also been said that the toilet roll producer is considering developing an on-site apprentice and training academy, while engaging with schools, including SEN schools as part of its aim to support diversity and inclusion.



More Students Than Ever Choosing Green Energy College Courses

Newcastle College Energy Academy has seen the enrolment of more than 175 students on its renewable energy courses since 2018, according to its recent announcement.

Considering the growing number of green energy projects in the North East, it is certainly encouraging to see high levels of participation in relevant training.

Newcastle College's energy and subsea courses provide advanced training in a range of areas including welding and fabrication, offshore renewables and subsea and renewable energy engineering.

Newcastle contractors awarded £100,000 regeneration project, creating local jobs

Seven Newcastle-based community groups will be granted £100,000 funding for regeneration projects, creating jobs for local people. The charities that will carry out the projects include:

- Pendower Good Neighbour Project
- The Mercy Hub
- Northbourne Youth Initiative
- West End Women and Girls Centre
- Building Futures East
- West End Foodbank
- The People's Kitchen

Newcastle College Open Event

Newcastle College is hosting a free open event on Wednesday 1 December, 4.30pm - 7pm.

An opportunity to learn about:

- [Courses for 16-18 year olds](#)
- [Courses for adults](#)



- [Degrees courses \(full-time and part-time\)](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Entry-level courses](#)
- [Access to Higher Education](#)

To register for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/2ax3nj28>

Gateshead announces new jobs with “multi-million pound” specialist housing project

A £14 million housing project that will create specially designed homes for old people with support needs is expected to create 40 new jobs in Gateshead.

The community wellbeing service, Watergate House Community Wellbeing, is currently under construction.

50 new jobs at South Tyneside's Business Energy Claims as company sees surge in demand

The South Tyneside-based energy consulting firm is looking to fill 50 new roles in the areas of sales, business development and claims, to meet the increasing demand for its services.

Jobs and sustainability welcomed in Sunderland following £20m housing innovation commitment

Sunderland is among the areas that will benefit from the Government’s Levelling Up Fund, after securing £20 million for the development of a housing innovation training facility that will help people develop advanced skills to build sustainable, eco-friendly homes.

The £9m Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy (HICSA) will provide young people with training in modern methods of construction (MMC) low carbon,



renewable energy, and smart technology, to construct 'next generation' green homes that will help the city move towards net zero.

Sunderland's Thorncliffe Home Care is recruiting

Sunderland's care company Thorncliffe Home Care is hiring new staff for 12 full and part-time roles and is calling for people with customer service experience or who enjoy working with people.

For more information about the roles and to apply, visit the company's website:

[Thorncliffe Home Care Ltd | Home Page](#)

The Range confirms the opening date for its new Washington store, creating 40 jobs

The home, leisure and gardens retail company is opening its new store in Washington on Friday, 5th of November, which will take on 40 new members of staff.

Jobs to be created at SE-TEK as firm taps into government

Kickstarter scheme

Sunderland-based manufacturer and equipment supplier SE-TEK is recruiting for 20 Kickstart roles.

Durham-based Atom bank recruiting after £1bn landmark

More than 40 new roles have been created by the Durham-based fintech (financial technology) company Atom. The firm is looking to recruit new staff for full and part-time posts, including customer support roles.

Learning Curve Group Career Fair in Spennymoor

Learning Curve Group is hosting a free career event at its head office in Spennymoor on Thursday, 4th of November, from 4pm to 7pm.

To register for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/24s5jsfh>



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TEES VALLEY

Net Zero Teesside

Supporting the investment in the Teesworks site and as part of work to achieve the UK's Net Zero target, the Government is providing funding for Net Zero Teesside. This in turn is part of the [East Coast Cluster](#) which is building carbon capture and storage to decarbonise UK industry.

The (we think) gist of it is the creation of a gas fuelled power station which uses carbon capture to take the co2 emissions and secrete them deep in the North Sea (don't quote us). What is hopefully going to happen is the creation of jobs in this part of the region.

Teesworks Skills Academy

Teesworks is not the only thing happening in Tees Valley, but it is certainly creating a lot of jobs and skills prospects. The [Teesworks Skills Academy](#) is the obvious requirement to create the relevant training for the jobs that will appear on the Teesworks site. It is due to open in March 2022.

Bus production in Scarborough

A little out of the region, but news of a bus production company, Mellor from Rochdale which is opening a production site in Scarborough. This is a move of existing employees but is hoped that this will create an additional 30-50 jobs for the area.



Contact Centre Jobs

[Echo-U](#) with offices in Newcastle and Bournemouth has opened an office in Middlesbrough creating 150 new jobs.

College Open Events

[Hartlepool College](#) - open evening on the 4th November

[Darlington College](#) - open evening on the 25th November

[Middlesbrough College](#) - open event on the 6th November

[Stockton Riverside College](#) - open event 18th November

[Redcar and Cleveland College](#) - open event 4th November

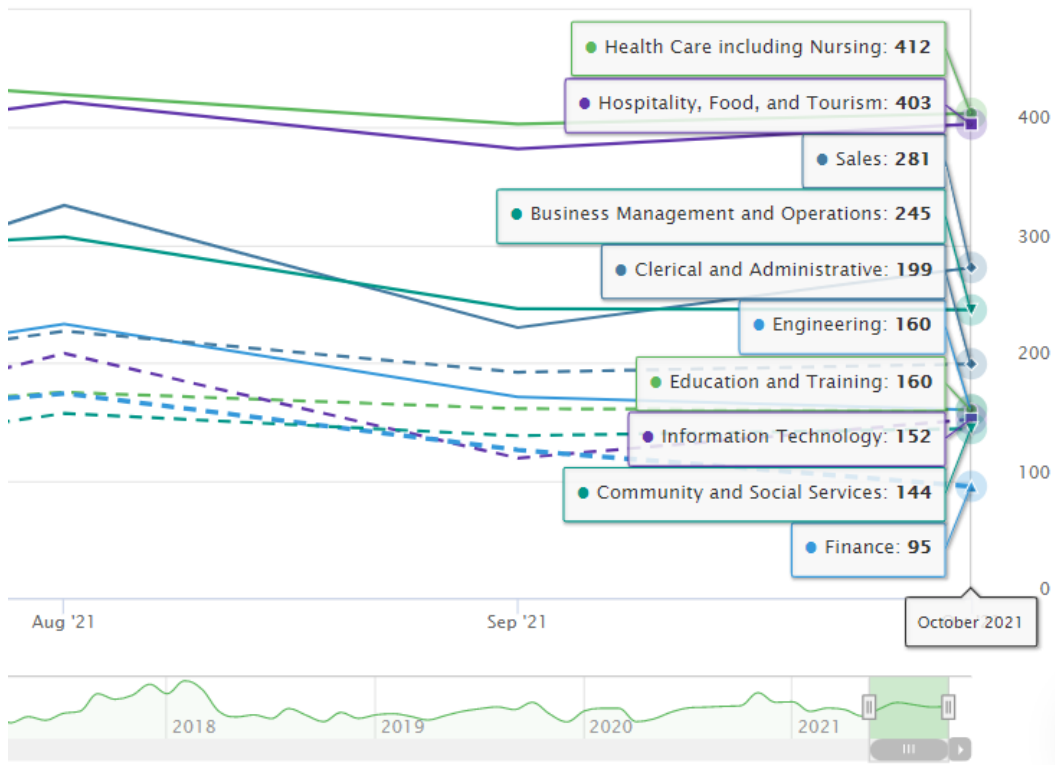
CUMBRIA

Cumbria Job Postings

Using data from Labour Insight Jobs (Active Informatics), the number of job postings in the last month in Cumbria was 3,361. The trend, as for all vacancy postings in the UK, has been on the up since the turn of the year.

The occupational areas which have seen the highest number of postings in Cumbria in the last month are shown in the image below.





Many of the job postings are picked up through staffing agencies and these usually do not provide details of the employer. This however is a listing of the employers advertising in Cumbria which the software has picked up:

- National Health Service
- Cumbria County Council
- DWP Kickstart Scheme
- BAE Systems
- Whitbread
- Join Social Care
- Maid2clean Limited
- Mitie Limited
- Yodel
- Inn Collection Ltd

Source: Labour Insight (Burning Glass Technologies)





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