

# LMI Bulletin

North East and Cumbria



Issue No: 492

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## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

### National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates have increased from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the table below shows the current rates.



## Current rates

These rates are for the National Living Wage (for those aged 23 and over) and the National Minimum Wage (for those of at least school leaving age). The rates change on 1 April every year.

	23 and over	21 to 22	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
<b>April 2022</b>	£9.50	£9.18	£6.83	£4.81	£4.81

Below are the previous rates which were effective from April 2021 to March 2022. A comparison between those two shows that those aged 21-22 were the ones who saw the biggest increase in their wage, followed by those aged 23 and older.

	23 and over	21 to 22	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
<b>April 2021 to March 2022</b>	£8.91	£8.36	£6.56	£4.62	£4.30

More specifically:

- The National Living Wage rates (**for those aged 23 and over**) has increased **by 59p**
- The National Minimum Wage rates for **21-22 year olds** has increased **by 82p**
- The National Minimum Wage rates for those **aged 18-20** has increased **by 27p**
- The National Minimum Wage rates for those who are **under the age of 18** has increased **by 19p**
- And lastly, the **apprentice** rate has increased **by 51p**

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice rate if they're either:

- aged under 19
- aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship



Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age **if they both:**

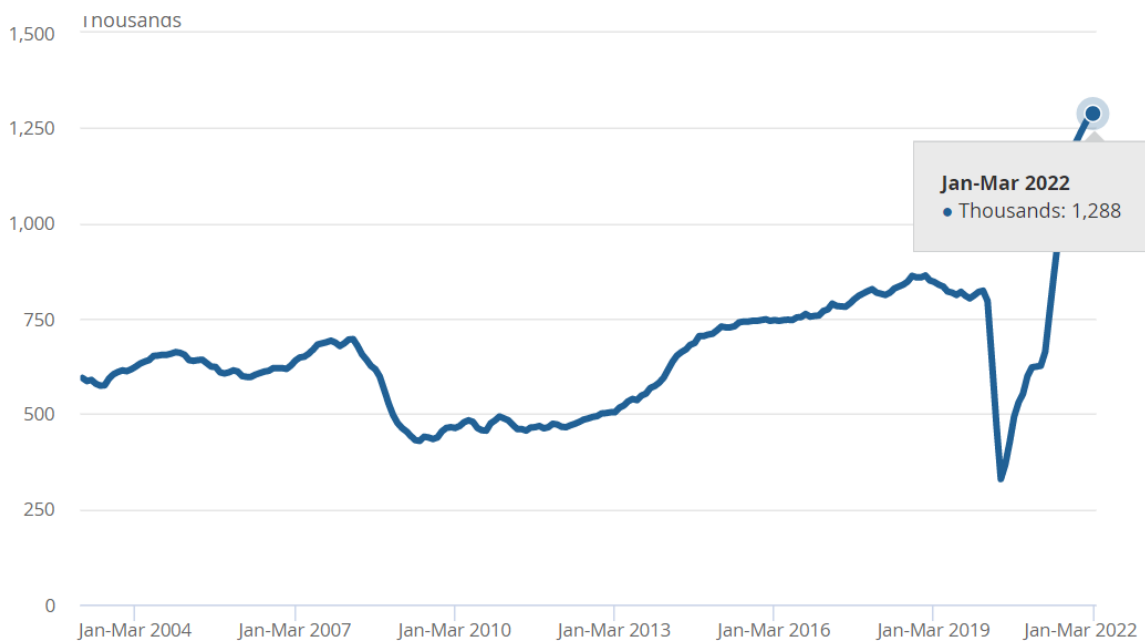
- are aged 19 or over
- have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

## Vacancies and jobs in the UK

The number of job vacancies between January and March 2022 rose to a new record of over 1,280,000 – yet at a slower rate across most sectors. Health and social care saw the biggest increase, recording over 13,000 more vacancies compared to the previous three months.

### Number of vacancies in the UK, seasonally adjusted, January to March

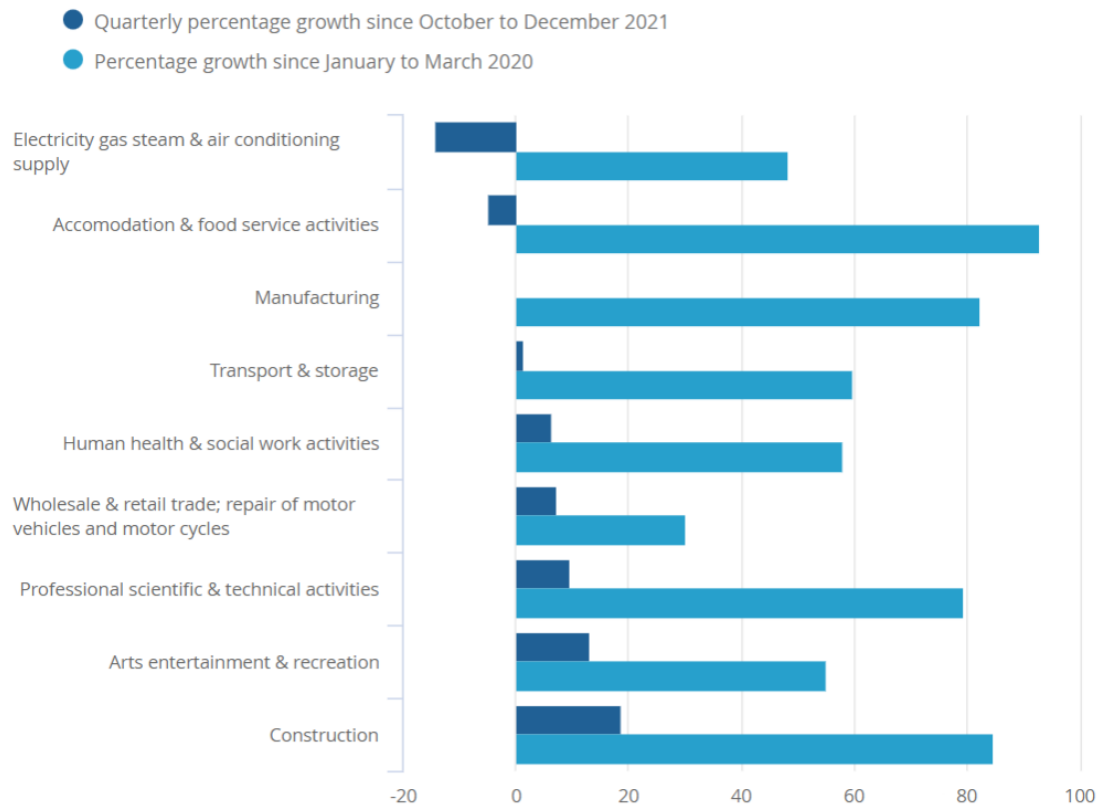
2003 to January to March 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

Looking further back in time, construction has seen the biggest growth since October to December 2021, while hospitality has outstripped all the other sectors since the start of the pandemic, with an over 92% increase in the number of vacancies, followed by construction (over 84%) and manufacturing (over 82%).





Source: Office for National Statistics – Vacancy Survey

In any case, the North East remains the region that is struggling the most with unemployment, as it is still recording the lowest employment rates at 70.2% and the highest unemployment rates (5.4%).

### Record Recruitment Difficulties Adding To Firms' Woes - Quarterly Recruitment Outlook

Despite the above record high vacancy numbers, the latest figures by the British Chambers of Commerce remind us that the current picture of the labour market remains contradictory, as it is harder than ever for employers to recruit new staff.

More specifically:

- 4 out of 5 (78%) firms that attempted to recruit are facing difficulties in finding staff
- Hospitality, construction, logistics and manufacturing firms are most likely to report difficulties (80% or higher), but all sectors have significant issues



In response to this recruitment crisis, some of the actions that the British Chambers of Commerce recommends include granting temporary visas to people outside the UK to fill essential everyday roles, as well as providing more access to training opportunities to tackle the skills shortages. In any case, there are wider issues which are harder to solve, such as the increased prices of energy and other costs, as well as the pressures for wage increases, with the latter being a burden particularly for smaller firms.

### **Multiply: free numeracy training to improve maths skills for adults**

The government is investing £270m in free courses to help adults across England to improve their math skills. The scale of the numeracy skills gap is evidenced by recent Government statistics which reveals that 17 million adults – 49% of the working-age population of England – have the numeracy skills of primary school children.

Local councils and mayoral combined authorities across England will receive funding to deliver the [Multiply](#) programme this autumn. The courses will offer adults aged 19 and over, who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or equivalent, access to free flexible courses, along with the ability to choose between classroom-based or online and a part time or intensive basis.

For more information, visit [Multiply - Skills for Life \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Asda makes 1,500 jobs available for Ukrainian refugees arriving in UK**

Ukrainian refugees will be able to apply for a job on the ASDA website by ticking a box that confirms their nationality and can secure an interview if they hold the qualifications required for the roles.

The supermarket currently has 1,500 roles across stores, warehouses and sourcing and procurement departments.

To view the current opportunities, visit: [ASDA | Careers](#)

### **The rise of the UK warehouse and the “golden logistics triangle”**

A recent ONS report reveals that the UK transport and storage\* sector has grown by 88% over the last decade while being established as the fastest growing industry in the country, both in recent years as well as in the long run.

The shift to online shopping has been the major drive behind this, as it has increased the demand for postal and courier activities, with the coronavirus pandemic further accelerating this trend.

Nonetheless, the outstanding growth in business premises hasn't led to an equivalent increase in the number of employees, as this has increased by only 20% in the last 10 years. This could be explained by the increased number of small businesses which now



dominate the industry, the recent staff shortages, as well as the automation of some occupations.

At the same time, areas close to ports and airports are no longer the primary hubs for transport and storage businesses, as these now tend to be more concentrated in the middle of the country. However, things are different in terms of the employment figures, as places close to airports are still more likely to employ transport and storage workers.

\*Transport and storage consists of passenger transport, haulage, warehousing, and postal and courier activities.

## **Free Courses for Jobs**

Free Courses for Jobs have expanded to help even more adults take a free level 3 qualification (equivalent to A levels) to help them access new job opportunities or increase their wages.

Courses are now available to those aged 19+, living in England, if any of the below apply:

- They do not already have a level 3 qualification such as A levels or an Advanced Technical Diploma (and do not have a qualification at a higher level)
- Are unemployed
- Earn below the National Living Wage annually (£18,525)

For information on the range of qualifications available visit [Free Courses for Jobs](#).

## **More business funding available from North East Fund**

After helping 350 businesses to secure more than £200m of funding within four years, creating more than 1,500 jobs since its launch, the North East Fund has now announced its plans to invest a further £40m in at least 150 more companies over the next two years.

The North East Fund is a suite of five venture capital and loan funds which was established in April 2018, to invest £120m in around 600 North East businesses by March 2023.

## **Aldi launches recruitment drive for 755 jobs across the North East**

The supermarket is looking to fill vacancies at stores across Tyneside, Wearside, Northumberland and Durham for a range of roles including deputy managers, store assistants, store management apprentices, caretakers and more.

To search and apply for the roles, visit: [Aldi Recruitment UK](#)



## Tesco staff to see pay rise to £10.10 an hour

Tesco's staff will see their wages rising by 55p to £10.10 from 24th July, while its delivery drivers and click and collect assistants will get £11 per hour through a 90p increase. This move will make Tesco one of the highest paying supermarkets in the UK, in line with Aldi and Lidl.

## Parkdean Resorts to invest £140m across UK parks ahead of record holiday season

Holiday park operators Parkdean Resorts are creating 7,000 seasonal jobs across the country, as well as a number of full-time jobs across sales, food and beverage and housekeeping. The investment will also increase the number of the company's parks, caravans and lodges across the UK.

## Home Group creates 300 new jobs amid moves into new areas

Home Group, which is one of the region's major employers is recruiting for 300 new roles in healthcare, housing support, maintenance, IT and customer service as it expands its healthcare provision, to help people who need mental health support across the North East.

# NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR AND COUNTY DURHAM

## New Home Bargains store now open in Ashington

The new store is creating 50 new jobs. To search and apply for the current opportunities, visit: [Careers - TJ Morris \(homebargains.co.uk\)](https://www.homebargains.co.uk/careers)

## British Engines launches drive to create 100 jobs to mark centenary year

The Newcastle engineering firm is looking to expand its workforce by recruiting for 100 new roles. The company has offices and factories in Newcastle, Longbenton, Killingworth, South Shields, Cramlington, Gateshead and Bishop Auckland, as well as additional offices in 12 other countries.



## New city music venue NX Newcastle to create 100 new jobs in £1.75m project

Newcastle's former O2 Academy will be transformed into a new music venue which is part of the Electric Group that will create hundreds of new jobs and is expected to open in October.

## H&M to open new store in Metrocentre Gateshead next month

The new store will be the latest addition to H&M's regional shops across Durham, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Stockton and Newcastle. More details about the exact opening date of the store will be revealed soon.

## Gateshead's iPac to create new jobs after sealing £2.2m investment deal

The food and pharmaceutical packaging firm is creating 42 new jobs following a major investment which is also expected to almost double the size of the company's workforce within the next five years.

## Saietta Group, a green engineering firm expands to Sunderland

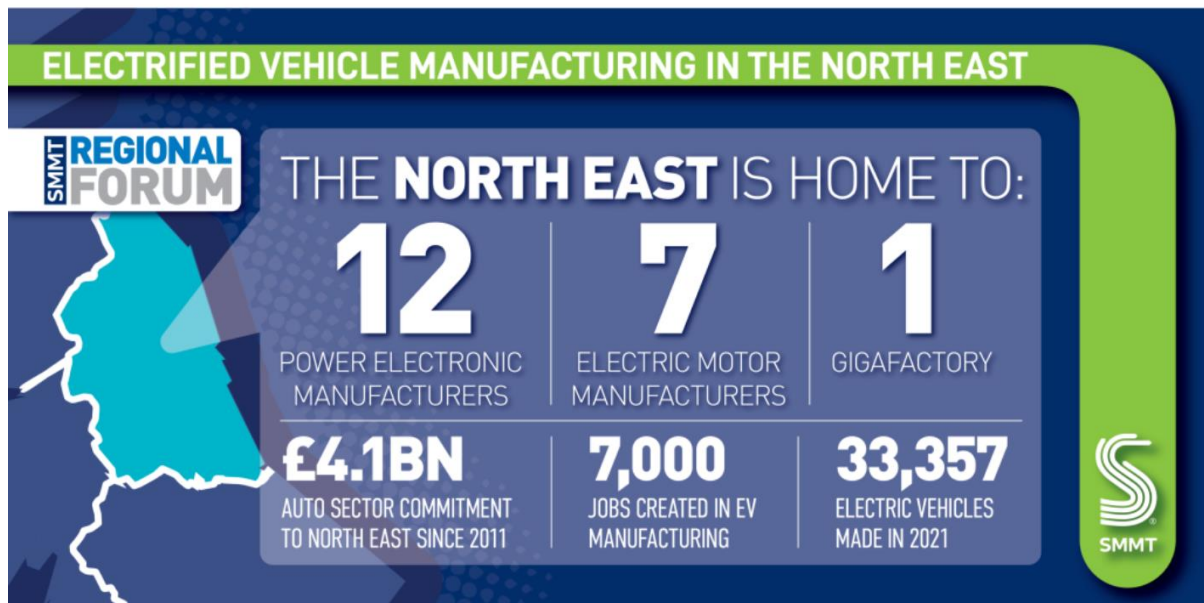
Sunderland will see its advanced manufacturing hub growing, with Saietta Group being its latest acquisition, as it's expanding into the region with a new facility in Houghton-le-Spring.

The company specialises in the design and development of electric powertrains and is planning to produce some of the most advanced electric motor technologies, creating 39 highly-skilled jobs.

The North East's automotive manufacturing sector is going from strength to strength, and the shift to green energy has been the driving force behind this. A recent analysis by the [Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders \(SMMT\)](#) reveals that the automotive industry has committed £4.1bn to the North East since 2011 (in what is called the UK's first 'electric decade'), which represents around a quarter of the total investments nationwide by the sector. The region has seen more investment into electric vehicle and battery production than any other region in the UK which has created at least 7,000 jobs. The key facts below summarise the success story of the last decade.







**Sunderland's Stadium of Light to host massive conference on future of North East motor industry**

An event for those looking to network with key contacts within the UK automotive industry. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) Regional Forum North East will bring together some of the UK's biggest electric vehicle, battery and component manufacturers as well as hundreds of local businesses.

- **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> of May, at 8.30 - 15.00**

SMMT organise a series of regional events throughout the year for UK automotive companies in the North, Midlands and South.

For more information and to register for the event, visit:  
[www.smmt.co.uk/events/regional-events/](http://www.smmt.co.uk/events/regional-events/)

**Aldi is hiring over 350 people in County Durham**

Aldi is looking to recruit 359 new staff members this year for a range of roles in Durham, Chester-le-Street and Newton Aycliffe. The roles include full-time positions such as caretaker, stock Assistant and store assistant.

With Aldi being one of the highest paying supermarkets in the UK, its store assistants can earn at least £10 an hour.



## TEES VALLEY

### £17m Stockton-on-Tees development to create 180 jobs upon completion

The development will lead to a 46,000 sq ft food store built, along with new food and drink facilities. In addition to the labour demand for the construction work, around 180 jobs are expected to be created by the time of its completion.

### £4m boost for Middlesbrough College green energy training facility

TTE is a provider of technical training to the oil & gas, process, manufacturing and engineering sectors, owned by Middlesbrough College and is now moving its workshop training areas, teaching classrooms and staff facilities to the college's Middlehaven campus, from where it will be providing green energy training. The move is the result of a £4m government funding which forms part of the college's £10m green energy investment.

The provision will be focusing on helping students to develop future and emerging skills in green energy and the facility will also include PV panels, air source heat pumps and rainwater harvesting.

Middlesbrough College Group is the largest engineering training provider for school leavers in the country and the new facility will train 300 full-time students, 300 apprentices, 500 adults and an international cohort.

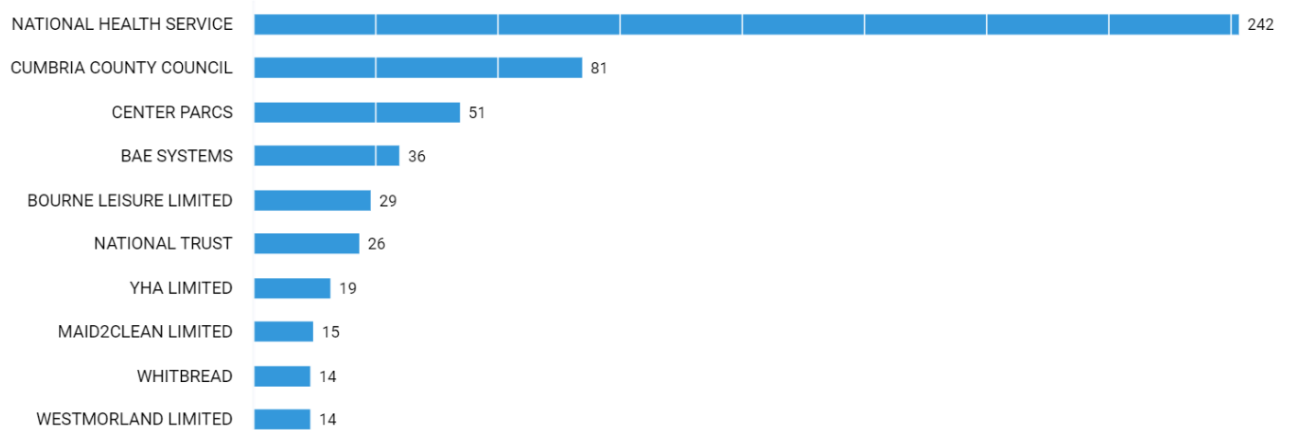
The work is being carried out by the construction and property consultancy Summers-Inman and the new centre is expected to open in two years. The site will be based close to [Teesworks](#), which is a diverse industrial cluster (the UK's largest industrial zone) and a green energy hub.

## CUMBRIA

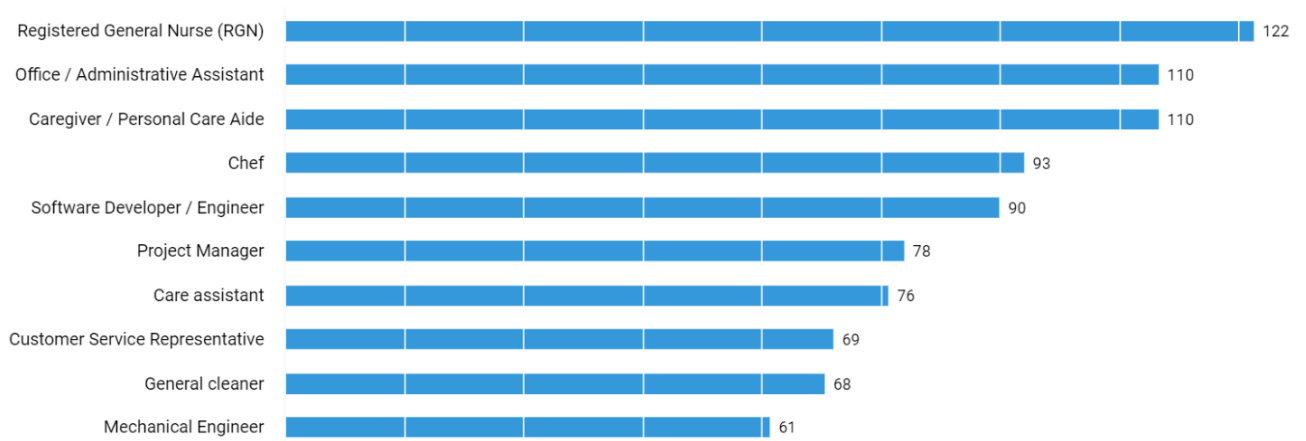
There were more than 3,500 jobs advertised online in Cumbria over the last 30 days. The graphs below show the latest online vacancy trends in terms of the jobs in demand, as well as who's been recruiting.



Some of the employers and recruiters who advertised the most vacancies online were:



Some of the most frequently advertised jobs were:



(Source: Labour Insight, Burning Glass Technologies)



**European Union**

European  
Social Fund

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For more information, please contact [imi@educationdevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:imi@educationdevelopmenttrust.com)

