

LMI Bulletin

North East and Cumbria



Issue No: 493

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NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

[Amazon to create 4,000 new jobs in the UK this year](#)

The news roles will be permanent and will include posts in software development, product management and engineering, as well as in operations teams.

[Travelodge recruitment drive offering new jobs across Cumbria and the North East](#)

There will be 22 new roles available including:



- Assistant Hotel Manager
- Hotel Supervisor
- Kitchen and Bar Café Team Member
- Reception Team Member
- Hotel Team Member
- Night Reception Team Member
- Part-time Night Reception Team Member
- Housekeeping Team Member
- Maintenance Engineers

The roles would be suitable for parents, as the company offers flexibility and benefits to support those raising a family, such as hours that match the school run.

For more information about the roles and to apply, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/53h6ak3c>

[The best UK companies for women to work for in 2022](#)

The results are based on what women across the country have reported about their workplace experience in terms of equality, representation, and fair treatment.

The list was compiled by the workplace culture organisation Great Place to Work, which evaluated hundreds of employee surveys from super large, large, medium-sized and small businesses.

Admiral, Home Group, Hilton and DHL are amongst the top 10 super-large businesses for women in the UK according to the survey.

You can see the full list for each category here: business-live.co.uk/enterprise/best-uk-companies-women-work-24542801?int_source=nba

[Apprenticeships and traineeships, Academic Year 2021/22](#)

The apprenticeship data for the first nine months of the 2021/22 academic year have been published and below are some of the key figures:

Between August 2021 and April 2022:



- Nearly half of the starts (over 42%) were in Advanced (Level 3) apprenticeships, followed by higher apprenticeships (Level 4 and above) which accounted for over a third of starts.
- Of the 288,800 apprenticeship starts recorded across the country, 16,400 were of people living in the North East (representing the lowest number of starts in England).
- Most apprenticeship starts in England were from 19+ year-olds (over 76%), followed by those aged 25+ (over 45%).
- Health, Public Services and Care is currently the most popular sector subject area, accounting for 27.5% of starts (79,500). This is closely followed by Business, Administration and Law -related subjects, which accounted for 26.8% of starts (77,400).

[Skills for a net-zero economy: Insights from employers and young people](#)

Learning & Work Institute's recent research report explores the green skills landscape across the UK, in terms of employers' demand and young people's perceptions and understanding of green skills and careers.

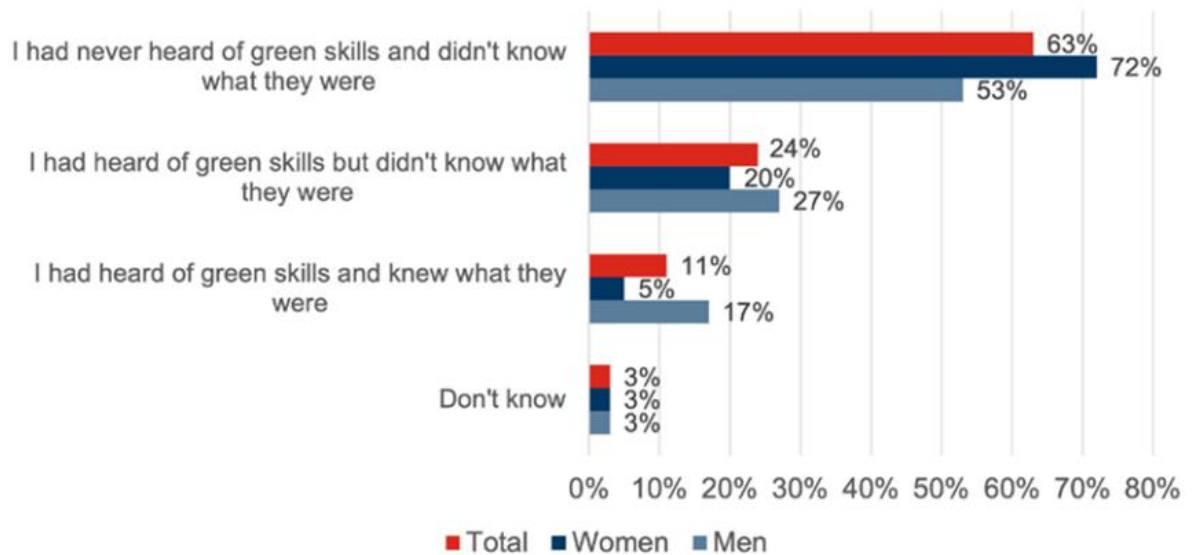
In addition to revealing the specific areas of work where there's currently a high demand for green skills, the research sheds light on what seems to be the biggest barrier that prevents young people from pursuing relevant opportunities.

More specifically, despite the growing employer demand for green skills, a significant number of young people are not aware or familiar with what green skills and green jobs are, or what jobs, careers and training opportunities are currently available - based on the responses of over 1,000 people aged 16-24 in the UK.

The chart below translates young people's levels of awareness and understanding around green jobs into percentages, revealing that 63% of them had never heard of green skills and didn't know what they were.



Figure 16: Awareness of green skills



What's more interesting is that four out of five young people surveyed (80%) said it was 'very' or 'quite' important that they work for an organisation that is committed to tackling climate change. In other words, the findings suggest that the lack of understanding and awareness doesn't stem from a lack of interest.

This certainly adds a positive note to the outcomes, but at the same time, it shows that besides developing appropriate education and training provision, there is another step that needs to be taken to set the ground for attracting people to green careers. This lies in good career guidance which can establish a good awareness around green jobs and the available pathways.

You can read the full report here: [Skills for a net-zero economy: Insights from employers and young people - Learning and Work Institute](#)

[Top 50 jobs that UK workers would like to do](#)

HR software provider Ciphir surveyed 1,000 UK employees to find out what their ideal job would be, if they had complete freedom to do what they'd like to.

Their answers generated a list with the 50 most popular jobs - below are the top 5:

- Teacher
- Business owner/self-employed
- My current job
- Nurse
- Work with animals



It is certainly encouraging to see that a significant number of people sees their current job as ideal, although it is those aged 45 and above who are more likely to prefer their current job, as opposed to younger people who are at the start of their career - which shouldn't be surprising. The results also differ by gender, as well as age.

Full list: Lloyds bank and Halifax announce a further 66 branches set to close

With digitisation currently being one of the main trends which are transforming the world of employment - as well as our daily lives - we're seeing more and more examples of what the actual changes tend to look like and what they mean for the labour market.

A recent one comes from the Lloyds Banking Group, which has announced the closure of 66 Lloyds and Halifax branches across the UK, which will start taking place from October. This will be in addition to their 28 branches which will be closing between August and November. This is a direct result of the bank's increasing shift to online banking which is reducing the need for a large number of high street banks.

Northumberland is one of the locations that will see their offices shut down in November 2022 (Rothbury site).

You can see the full list of the closures here: [business-live.co.uk/retail-consumer/full-list-lloyds-bank-halifax-24591246](https://www.business-live.co.uk/retail-consumer/full-list-lloyds-bank-halifax-24591246)

UK tech talent shortage threatens to stifle growth in the industry

We've been seeing a lot of research reports and news highlighting the mismatch between the demand for jobs in tech and the lack of people with the required specialised skills. This is another call for action, this time coming from the UK's tech industry body TechNation, which sees the acute digital skills shortages as a barrier that prevents the industry's growth.

Despite the millions of vacancies in tech last year, there are nearly 12 million employees who lack basic digital skills, according to the industry coalition FutureDotNow.

Considering the increasing number of education and training initiatives across the country (such as digital skills bootcamps and apprenticeships) which aim to tackle this issue, there might be a question of whether there is enough awareness and understanding around the available pathways and jobs in tech.

On the same note, [The Open University's recent survey](#) revealed that over 70% of IT employers in England have a digital skills gap in their organisation and are struggling to



hire new staff with adequate skills. According to the findings, the specific skills they're lacking the most are:

- Cyber Security (42%)
- Software Development (36%)
- Network Engineering (24%)

In terms of the education and training pathways that employers see as most suitable to meet their current demands, **84%** of employers think that both HTQs (Higher Technical Qualifications) and apprenticeships are a good way to meet the digital skills gap in their business, and **72%** think digital bootcamps could also solve their skills shortage needs.

[New inclusive network Women in Tech North East launches](#)

It is encouraging to see initiatives that not only aim to tackle the skills shortages but also the gender challenges within the digital sector, experienced by those who identify as women across the North East.

Women in Tech North East is an inclusive network which has launched to help women in the region start and progress in digital and tech careers by providing a platform to share their knowledge and experiences. It is also worth noting that it is the first regional network for all women interested in tech.

[Survey highlights vital importance of North East manufacturing as sector recovers from Covid](#)

The latest annual survey from manufacturers' organisation Make UK and accountancy and business advisory firm BDO LLP brings good news for the North East's manufacturing sector, revealing that it has performed better than any other region in the UK over the last 12 months.

As a result, the industry has seen a significant rise in its workforce, which now makes up 9% of the region's total workforce, supporting 108,000 jobs. The rise in the manufacturing of pharmaceutical and chemical products during the pandemic is considered to be the driving force behind this development

[Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Service is launched in the North East](#)

EN:Able Futures became the first organisation in the North East to roll out Flexi-Job Apprenticeships in the construction sector and will be recruiting apprentices for employers based from the Tees Valley to the Scottish Border.



[Flexi-Job Apprenticeships](#) is a new government scheme that has recently been launched to allow people to complete short placements across sectors such as construction and the creative industries during their apprenticeship.

Before its introduction, employers operating in sectors which rely on project-based work, and therefore tend to offer short-term roles, were struggling to recruit apprentices, as the minimum duration of an apprenticeship is 12 months. However, flexi-job apprenticeships allow people to gain experience and skills in previously constrained sectors by enabling them to work with different employers and across multiple projects over the course of their apprenticeship.

80,000 net zero jobs needed in North East and Yorkshire, study says

A Domestic Retrofit Skills Needs Assessment has been commissioned by the North East LEP to examine the skills that will be needed to decarbonise homes and buildings in the North of England and identify the opportunities that will be created as part of the retrofit work.

According to its latest findings, up to 80,000 skilled workers will be needed in the North East and Yorkshire to enable the UK to reach its net zero target by 2030.

Below are the key areas and activities within domestic retrofit which help to understand the emerging and future skills needs:

- Electricity and heat (focusing on renewable technologies such as wind, hydrogen, solar, heat pumps and electric vehicle charge points)
- Insulation, ventilation, lighting energy saving
- Repair work, painting and decorating
- Advisory services

In response to these needs the North East LEP has created a 10-year action plan to improve skills in the energy sector, including £2.4m to deliver Green Skills Bootcamps across the region, while also exploring new types of training provision.

For more details of the Domestic Retrofit Skills Needs Assessment, visit: [Domestic Retrofit Skills Needs Assessment \(northeastlep.co.uk\)](https://northeastlep.co.uk)

Training scheme aims to boost green industry skills in North East

It is certainly good to see that the growing need for green jobs gives rise to more initiatives that develop relevant training for local people. This one comes from New College Durham which will be running skills bootcamps for green skills across the



region, after receiving £2.25m funding by the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the North East LEP. The courses will be focusing on areas such as electric vehicle maintenance and housing retrofitting.

Tyneside recruitment firm Jackson Hogg introducing four-day week

The shift from a five-day week to four days is a topic that has been appearing more and more in the news recently, occasionally giving rise to debates around the benefits that it offers to employees and businesses, in terms of well-being and productivity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the awareness around well-being at the workplace, as well as the demand for flexible ways of working to enable a better work-life balance. A manifestation of this is a new trend, known as the 'Great Resignation' which refers to the record numbers of people who quit their jobs after the pandemic mostly in the pursuit of better or more benefits or supportive work environments.

As part of this trend, we're seeing a growing number of companies which are offering a four-days week, without changing the salaries. One of the latest examples in the region is the Newcastle-based recruitment firm Jackson Hogg which aims to increase its staff productivity as well as to attract new employees. Another regional company which had previously adopted the same model is the Durham-based Atom Bank.

NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR AND COUNTY DURHAM

Government funding confirmed for Britishvolt Northumberland plant

Good news for Northumberland's anticipated electric battery Gigafactory Britishvolt, as the government confirmed its funding of around £100m which will enable the plant to create thousands of jobs. The factory is expected to be operating in 2023.

Northumberland electric vehicle charging firm launches creating new jobs

UK EV Power Connections will design and install charging stations and plans to recruit 12 engineers, including apprentices over the next year.



Unemployment continues to fall in Northumberland County

More positive news for the county which saw its unemployment levels at their lowest since 2018, and below both the regional and national average in June, according to the latest ONS figures.

New Leisure Centre in Morpeth

New developments such as the new £21million leisure centre and community hub which is being built in Morpeth are another indicator of Northumberland's economic growth. The new centre is part of a £65 million countywide investment programme by Northumberland County Council which aims to improve its sport and leisure facilities and Berwick, Hexham, Blyth and Ponteland are other areas which are expected to see similar developments as part of this project.

The Doxford Group to create new North East hotel after securing £5.7m finance deal

The hospitality company is expanding its sites with the creation of a new hotel at its Charlton Hall Estate venue, near Alnwick, which is due to open early next year. The development will start later this year.

The company is also working on other short - term projects which are expected to create 40 jobs –including the development of its Doxford Barns venue.

Northumberland County Council seeks business views to help economic recovery

The local authority has launched this year's Employer Skills Survey to understand local businesses' current and future recruitment needs in order to implement appropriate training programmes to support employers.

Employers can take the survey here:

<https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/economy-regeneration/northumberland-employer-skills-survey-2022/>

The survey will be open until the end of September.



[The North of Tyne Combined Authority expands skills bootcamps training across the region](#)

A new wave of skills bootcamps which was launched in July will be available until March 2023 in a range of areas including logistics, technical and engineering, construction, green skills and culture and events to support over 2,000 people in the North of Tyne.

[New Aldi store arrives at Newcastle retail park](#)

The new store will be based at Newcastle's Kingston Park and is currently being developed by the construction firm [Tolent](#). It is planned to be finished by the end of this year, when we are also expecting to see job opportunities created at the new site.

[The 10 jobs on offer at Newcastle International Airport - from HGV drivers to chefs](#)

You can see the full list of the jobs by clicking on the above link.

[New venture and new jobs on way for Jarrow engineers HQ Fabrication](#)

The company plans to set up a new department for the automotive industry, after winning major contracts, which will create a number of engineering and admin roles.

[Popeyes announces opening date for first North East restaurant in Gateshead Metrocentre](#)

The American fried chicken restaurants chain Popeyes is opening a Gateshead site at Metrocentre which will be the brand's first venue in the North of England. Its official opening day will be on Saturday, 20th August.

[Brewdog to move into Milburngate site in Durham city centre](#)

[Milburngate](#) is a 450,000 sq ft scheme which is currently being developed at Durham's riverside which will include a range of office, retail, leisure and residential facilities and Brewdog bar will be among the well-known brands that will expand to the new development. The first phase of Milburngate is expected to be completed this autumn.



Durham manufacturer secures £500k to fund new jobs

Consett-based Furniture Clinic which specialises in the manufacture of cleaning and restoration products is creating 12 new jobs after securing funding from Finance Durham Fund.

Durham door manufacturer CCN expands creating 30 jobs

Another example of company growth and job creation led by Finance Durham Fund comes from the formerly South Shields-based Conduit Construction Network Ltd (CCN). After securing a £600k funding package, the company has moved to a larger facility at Belmont Industrial Estate (Durham) where it is creating 30 new jobs.

TEES VALLEY

Tees Components celebrates all-time record book with £1.7m investment and job creation

The newly created roles at the Cleveland-based firm range from machine shop engineers to admin roles and include apprenticeships, traineeships, as well as senior roles. The recruitment campaign will be launched in the coming weeks.

Darlington tech training firm creates 50 jobs following £1m expansion

Baltic Apprenticeships which specialises in IT and digital training has committed to create a minimum of 48 new jobs as part of its growth plans and after moving to its new head office in Darlington.

You can see the current vacancies on the company's website:

<https://vacancies.balticapprenticeships.com/>

Department for International Trade needs staff in Darlington

In order to encourage applicants from a range of backgrounds to apply for the roles on offer, some of the current staff share their own experiences of how they entered the Civil Service coming from different career paths thanks to their transferable skills.



You can search and apply for current opportunities here:

<https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi>

Mayor Welcomes BBC's Backing of Local TV Production Company

[BBC's commitment to invest £25m on North East TV and film production projects](#) over the next few years, which was announced last year, has been seen as a very promising development for the region's creative sector. An example of a local business which is already benefiting from the scheme comes from the Hartlepool-based TV production company Sea & Sky Pictures, which will receive £15,000 to produce a series of comedy projects. As a result, we are anticipating seeing a range of job opportunities coming, that would allow local people to work in the sector.

'Monumental Day' as Construction Starts on SeAH WIND'S £400million Offshore Facility

SeAH WIND'S offshore wind facility on Teesside that will manufacture bases for offshore wind turbines is set to become the biggest of its kind in the world, which explains the scale of its importance for the area. The site will be based at Redcar's Teesworks and its construction work has started. When fully operational, it is expected to create 750 jobs, with a further 1,500 indirect jobs in the supply chain during construction.

CUMBRIA

Plans for new University of Cumbria campus gets green light for Carlisle

The new Carlisle Citadels campus is anticipated to attract more students to the area which would in turn boost the city's economy. Its construction work will begin in the first half of 2023, with plans to be completed in spring 2026.

Lidl to replace Homebase in Kendal

What was previously a Homebase store on Beezon Road will soon become a Lidl supermarket and the work is due to start this autumn.





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