

Economic Climate Report - People

Conclusions

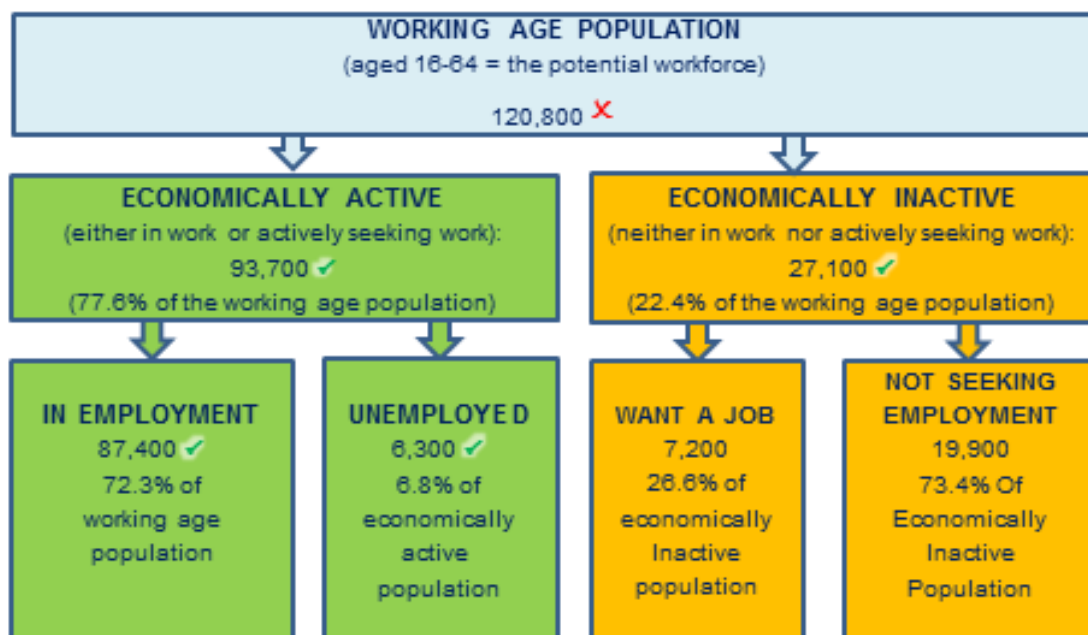
- The total population of the Borough is expected to continue to grow. However, this is driven by an increase in the number of people aged 65+. The working age population is projected to plateau from 2020 onwards.
- If these projected population changes occurred, the reduced supply of labour may have an impact on businesses and economic growth. However, it could also mean a greater number of job opportunities available per resident.
- There are a high and stable number of people in the working age population who are economically active (77%).
- There are 0.71 jobs for every resident, which is less than the UK average (0.8 jobs per resident). It could be argued that there are not enough jobs in the Borough.
- There were 6,300 residents registered as unemployed (March 2015) a reduction of 4.6% since the previous high of March 2013 (11.4%).
- There was an increase of 2,488 (32%) job vacancies in the Tees Valley in May to August 2015 compared to 12 months previously.
- The total number of people claiming JSA has reduced from more than 7,000 residents in 2012 to 3,550 residents. This is about 2.9% of the working age population.
- The majority of claimants in August 2015 were located in Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham, the largest settlements in the Borough.
- Whilst there has been a reduction in JSA claimants, there has been growth in those claiming JSA for a long period. The number of people claiming for between 2 to 5 years has grown by 11.6% and for those claiming for more than 5 years has grown by 3.7%.
- Those claiming JSA for longer than 12-months tend to be aged 25 – 54. This is evidence that measures to assist under 24 year olds into education, employment or training are working, however, there is a possibility that those aged over 25 need additional support to find work.
- Half of the working age population is educated to NVQ level 3 (equivalent of 1-5 A-levels A-C grade) or higher whilst the number of residents with no qualifications continues to reduce.
- Half of Tees Valley students who lived in the area prior to starting higher education attended Teesside University. Following graduation, about 70% of these remained in the North East. Overall, of the graduates who lived in Stockton prior to starting higher education 64% found work in the Tees Valley following graduation; indicating that nearly two-thirds of students returned to the area following completion of their qualification.
- Average earnings in the Borough have increased and are now higher than the North East average. However, these figures may not reflect disparities between low earnings and average earnings across the Borough.
- The case study in this report explains how public health funding has been used to support 119 young residents into apprenticeship opportunities; and the positive health and wellbeing impacts that this has led to.

ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

The table provides an update on the latest figures and data trends relating to the structure of the labour supply and the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in the area. Members should note that unemployment figures tend to be higher than JSA figures as not all unemployed people claim JSA.

Trends | Positive ✓ | Negative ✗ | Neutral ...

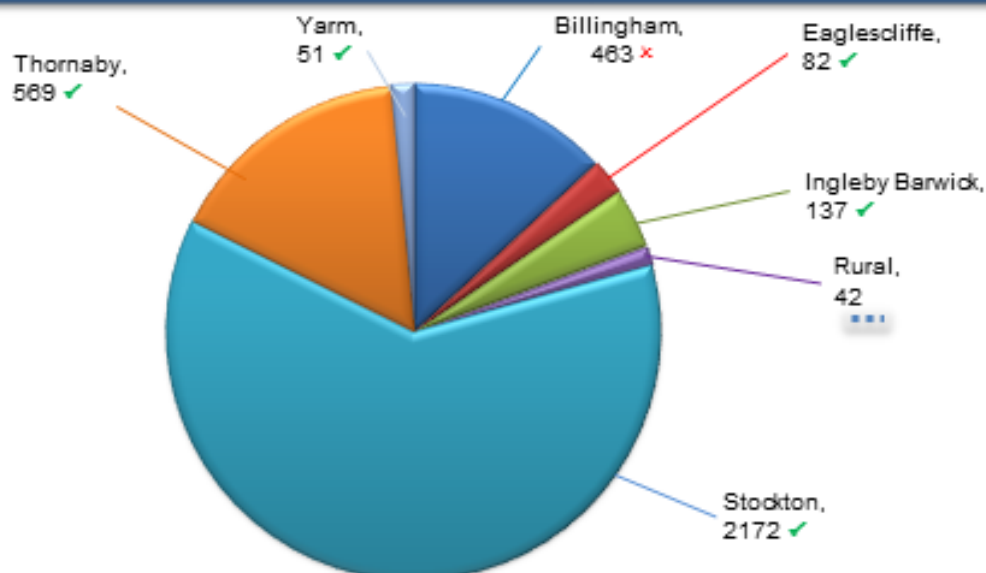
Labour Market Structure (April 2014 to March 2015)



Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

Job Seekers Allowance Claimants (August 2015)

3,519 people (August 2015) claiming JSA
1,030 (23%) reduction since September 2014 ✓



UPDATES

Strategic Updates

- The **Northern Powerhouse** agenda continues to grow in national importance with a number of key Government announcements since the General Election in May. As members will be aware, plans are currently progressing for [devolution](#) of transport,

education, skills and employment, economic growth, business support and investment powers to the Tees Valley.

A paper by IPPR North, [Rhetoric to reality: A business agenda for the Northern Powerhouse](#) identifies four key drivers for growth in the area (infrastructure & connectivity; human capital; innovation and business support; and leadership & policy development) and that these can be delivered through investment, leadership and urgency. This would require Government to commit £50 billion pounds which would be used to lever in inward investment.

- The on-going situation in the **steel industry**, in particular at the SSI blast furnace has dominated business news in recent weeks. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is part of a response team led by Tees Valley Unlimited. Officers will provide a verbal update on the latest news regarding the site at the Cabinet meeting. It is understood that of the 2,082 employees at the plant, 327 (15.7%) reside within Stockton-on-Tees Borough.

Tata Steel has also announced job losses in the UK, with these focused in [Scunthorpe and Scotland](#) with none of these job losses on Teesside. However, Caparo Industries Plc has entered administration putting [134 jobs](#) at risk.

- The **Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)** sets out a target to create 25,000 net new private sector jobs by 2025. From a baseline¹ of 279,100 total jobs in 2011 there has been an increase of 13,400 at 2014. Over the same period private sector jobs had risen by 15,800; from 185,700 to 215,500 in 2014.
- TVU have also announced a further round of the [Tees Valley Business Growth Investment Scheme](#) which offers grant support to companies with fewer than 250 staff. At the time of writing one company from the Borough had been awarded funding through this round of funding, with several others interested in pursuing funding. The previous round of funding supported 4 projects in the Borough. These businesses were given grants worth in excess of £600,000 which has secured investment of about £2.89 million. These four projects created 72 new jobs and safeguarded 7 jobs.
- There have also been several key announcements which affect the North Tees and Billingham cluster. These include the potential for future extraction at the [Pegasus](#) gas field in the North Sea, which will be landed at Teesside. In addition the aspiration to transform the Tees Valley in to a **low carbon economy** were boosted by the announcement of the [blueprint](#) for a carbon capture and storage scheme under the North Sea.

Plans for a 40 megawatt waste wood-fired power station at Port Clarence have [secured funding](#).

- Natural England have undertaken a consultation on a potential expansion of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). The level of protection afforded to the SPA is already a major constraint for business expansion in the North Tees area, as well as an opportunity to show how business and ecology can co-exist. Council officers and TVU have begun to engage with Natural England and businesses across the area to understand the implications of potential expansion of the SPA.
- The **renewables** sector in this area was also boosted in September with Offshore Structures Britain opening a new [manufacturing facility](#) for off-shore wind turbines at premises in Haverton Hill that were previously occupied by Tees Alliance Group. When fully operational the location will be the site of 300 jobs
- In addition, the Government has also [announced](#) a number of geographic areas where the rights to **on-shore oil & gas exploration** has been offered to industry. Two of these areas are located within the Tees Valley. One of the areas largely covers the Seal Sands area and part of Hartlepool, whilst the other area covers Middlesbrough and parts

¹ TVU / BRES, ONS, NOMIS, APS, Census 2011

of North Yorkshire. A licenced block has already been agreed in [Redcar & Cleveland Borough](#).

- Growth at Teesport and the wider **logistics** sector continues to be positive. Announcements include an additional [Japanese](#) route to the port, which will complement the existing 13 routes which access the port. Further [expansion](#) at Teesport has also been announced with investment in new [cranes](#) and the completion of investment in [handling facilities](#) at the port.
- Significant positives have also been identified across the wider **North East** with the announcement of further expansion at the [Nissan](#) plant in Sunderland and the opening of the new [Hitachi](#) train factory at Newton Aycliffe.

Business Announcements / Intentions

The following provides a summary of a number of major business announcements; it is not an exhaustive list of jobs growth or business investment.

- Persimmon homes have opened [a new office in the Borough](#).
- Barker & Stonehouse, who have recently relocated to Teesside Park, have announced [increased profits](#) as well as [an increased web presence](#).
- E-commerce firm Visual Soft has expanded from existing premises in Stockton Town Centre by occupying premises in Teesdale. There are also plans for further [office openings](#) in Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham.
- Growth at Nifco continues to be positive with the announcement of plans to invest in a new factory building which will create [250 jobs](#).
- Another company at Durham Lane industrial estate, ICON plastics, also continues to have strong [growth](#) following the re-shoring of activities from abroad and [further investment in machinery](#).

Strategic Locations

- The Fusion Hive scheme at **North Shore** was officially [opened](#) in October 2015 and is currently the home to 15 businesses. The building is the second office building completed on the site during 2015 following the completion of the [Thirteen](#) offices earlier this year.
- In the **Teesdale / Thornaby Place** area several properties have capitalised on changes to the planning system which allow a relaxation to the consent regime relating to change of use from office to residential which will exist until the end of May 2016. Properties include Teesdale House and Clifton House and could result in the loss of 5,000sqm+ of office floorspace and the creation of 96 small flats.

In contrast, in August three new businesses located / relocated to the business park. These included Johnson Matthey, Clugston Construction and Sanlam Private Wealth agreeing leases for about 19,000sq.ft of floorspace. Rents in the area are close to £12 per sq.ft. In addition PX Group acquired the freehold for their existing 11,000sq.ft premises from the official receiver.

- Several properties in Falcon Court at **Preston Farm Industrial Estate** have also capitalised on these short term rights for offices to convert to residential use. This could introduce 24 small flats in to the estate for the loss of about 1,000 sq.m of office floorspace.
- **Wynyard Park** continues to be an attractive location for business investment in the Borough. In August 2015 20,000 sq ft of new [grade A office](#) floorspace was marketed. This could lead to the first construction of new commercial buildings at the estate since the Clipper warehouse development.
- The **Belasis** Business Park site has been acquired by Hansteen, who also own Durham

Lane Industrial Estate. Belasis Business Centre has entered administration and is being marketed by the administrator who began marketing the centre in September. All tenancies in the centre are secure in the short term, and more will be known once the centre is sold.

- The completion of the improvements to the A174 north of **Teesside Industrial Estate** has provided a new northern access to the site. This directly unlocks a large planning permission for a warehouse / logistics scheme and may assist in bringing forward further developments on the remainder of the site.

Town Centres

- In **Stockton Town Centre** there have been a number of openings of independent businesses including Wasps Nest Micro-Pub, Melissa's Café, Dahba Restaurant and Cartel Clothing opening on the High Street. In addition, renovation of 74-76 Church Road (Beaumont House) has been completed by Reefstream (a communications company) with the building providing office accommodation.

Stockton Enterprise Arcade currently has 8 tenants, 4 of which have been occupants since the building opened (November 2014). The pop-up unit is currently occupied, with the tenant expected to sign a licence to stay in the Arcade for a 6 month period. This would mean the building is 100% occupied. In the past 11 months 13 other individuals have tested their business idea within the building, with two opening a shop in Stockton Town Centre, and most others still trading.

A new footfall counter will be installed in the town centre in the near future. It is anticipated that figures from this will be reported in future Economic Climate Reports.

- Development has commenced in Billingham on a new store for the discount retailer Aldi. This is expected to open in 2016 creating up to 30 jobs.

Training & Skills

- The Government announced a [review of post-16 education](#) with Tees Valley identified within the first wave of reviews. Both Stockton Riverside College and Stockton 6th Form College will fall under the scope of this review which is expected to be completed (nationally) by March 2017.

The review will assess the economic and educational needs of the area, and the implications for post-16 education and training provision, including school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and independent providers. The review will then focus on the current structure of further education and sixth form colleges.

- In September Stockton Sixth Form College announced a consultation regarding plans to [merge](#) with Prior Pursglove College in Guisborough. The merger will retain provision in both areas with one Principal responsible for the strategic direction of both establishments.
- In August Stockton Riverside College (SRC) announced a [merger with NETA Training Trust](#). Following on from this, SRC and NETA announced plans for a new [logistics academy](#) which will provide training for young people to tackle a skills shortage in a key growth sector.

PEOPLE THEME REVIEW

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

- 1 The total population of the Borough has grown from an estimated 183,795 people in 2001 to 194,119 people in 2014. The working age population of the Borough has also

grown during this period with the number of people aged between 16 and state pension age² growing from 113,364 people in 2001 to 120,027 people in 2014.

- Figure 1 below provides a breakdown of the population of the Borough in 2014 by broad age groups. The table compares the amount of people in the Borough to the previous year (2013) and five years previous (2009) to provide an indication of short to medium term trends in broad age groups.

Figure 1 - Population profile for the Borough (2014)

Age Group	2014	2013		2009	
		Pop	Trend	Pop	Trend
0 – 15	37,792	37,539	↑	37,036	↑
16 – 24	22,022	22,279	↓	23,309	↓
25 – 44	49,411	49,542	↓	50,359	↓
45-64	51,701	51,493	↑	50,211	↑
65+	33,193	32,343	↑	29,063	↑
Total	194,119	193,196	↑	189,978	↑

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

- The table shows that there has been a decline of 16 – 24 year olds since 2009, a change which is projected to continue until 2021 when this population bottoms out at 19,800 people. The reduction in the number of people in this age group may aid initiatives to decrease the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training. Furthermore, this age group is the most likely to migrate out of the Borough, usually for higher education or employment opportunities.
- The population of people aged 25 – 44 has also declined. However, ONS projections identify that this group could grow to 52,600 people by 2024, before declining to about 51,650 people in 2030. However, this age group is the most affected by migration, therefore it is possible that the reality could be significantly different to the final ONS projection
- Whilst the 45 – 64 age group has grown in the last 5 years, it is projected that this will only continue until 2017 (52,800 people) before going in to decline reducing to 48,770 people by 2030.
- ONS project that the working age population will increase to about 125,350 people in 2020, largely driven by the rise in the state pension age for male and females to age 66 by 2020. Following the state pension changes, the working age population of the Borough will plateau throughout the 2020s, remaining at 125,350 people in 2030.
- At the same time, the total population of the Borough is projected to increase to 211,005 people in 2039, a change which will be driven by an increased 65+ population. ONS projections suggest that this group will continue to grow over the next 15-years with the 65+ population totalling 47,500 people in 2030. The ageing population and stagnation of the working age population could lead to labour supply issues, depending on the future demand for labour. This could affect the ability of businesses to expand or lead to in-commuting from outside Tees Valley.

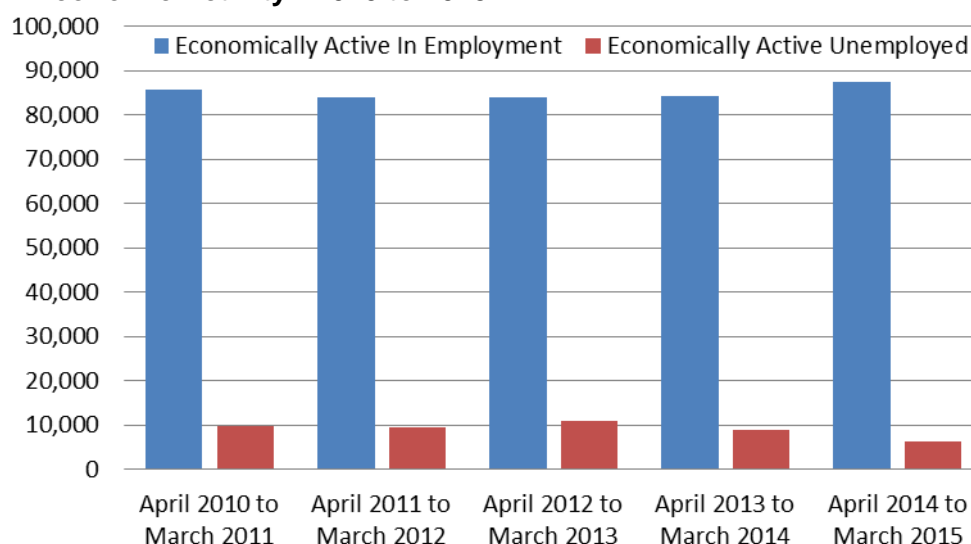
² The UK State Pension age is gradually changing so that the male and female state pension is 65 in 2018. This will then increase further to 66 by 2020. This measure is different from measuring the working age population by the number of people aged 16 – 64, which is used elsewhere in this report.

- 8 ONS project³ that the working age population will increase to about 125,350 people in 2020, largely driven by the rise in the state pension age for male and females to age 66 by 2020. Following the state pension changes, the working age population of the Borough will plateau throughout the 2020s, remaining at 125,350 people in 2030.
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- 10 If these projected changes occurred, the reduced supply of labour may have an impact on businesses and economic growth. However, it could also mean a greater number of job opportunities available per resident. Further research is required regarding this issue, with a particular focus on the economic growth prospects of different economic sectors and the demand for labour.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- 11 At March 2015 Stockton had a high number of people who were economically active (either in work or actively seeking work), which equates to 77.6% of the working age population. This has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years; with only a 1% increase or decrease on this rate over that time.
- 12 Of those economically active there were 87,400 residents in employment (77,800 in employment; 8,900 self-employed), which has increased year on year since April 2011 and is an increase of 2% (+1,600) from April 2010 rates (Figure 2). Stockton's employment rate is higher than the North East at 68.7%, and just below that for Great Britain at 72.7%.

Figure 2 - Economic Activity - 2010 to 2015



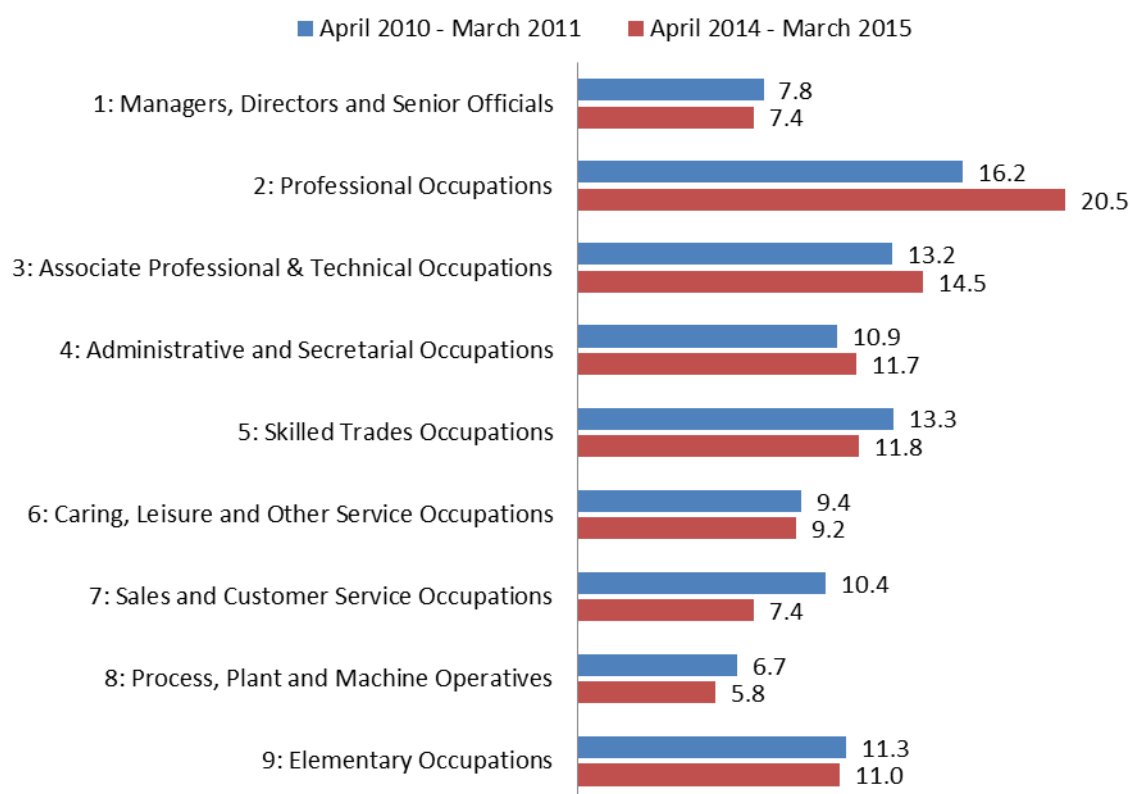
Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

- 13 Of the 87,400 residents in employment 61,180 were working full-time and 26,220 were working part-time. Full-time employment has continued its upward trajectory whilst part-time employment continues to fall. This pattern is indicative of economic growth and of the economy stabilising.

³ ONS 2012 Sub National Population Projection.

- 14 Of note is that over the three-year period from April 2010 full-time and part-time employment of males has remained stable; with approximately 9 in 10 being in full-time employment during that time. However, the distribution of full-time and part-time employment of females reversed during 2010/2011; with a steady rise over a 12 month period before levelling off during 2011/2012 at 6 in 10 female workers being in full-time employment.
- 15 The details of employment by occupation reveals the skills deployed in local workplaces (Figure 3). In April 2014 to March 2015 the share of workplace employment in Stockton was in the three most highly skilled occupations at 42.7% (North East = 38.1%, Great Britain = 44.3%). For example, these included site managers, department heads, software and IT professionals, solicitors, dentists. Demand in two of those occupations over the past 5 years to March 2015 continues to increase with (+4.3% in professional occupations, and +1.3% in associate professional and technical occupations).

Figure 3 – Share of Employment (Workplace based) by Major Occupation Group



Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

- 16 The most up-to-date data from The Office for National Statistics suggests that at 2013, based on the total jobs figure in Stockton-on-Tees of 88,000, there was a job density⁴ of 0.71 jobs for every resident aged 16-64. This was higher than the North East but lower than Great Britain densities at 0.68 and 0.80 respectively. ⁵

⁴ ONS Jobs Density. Total jobs is a workplace based measure and includes employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces

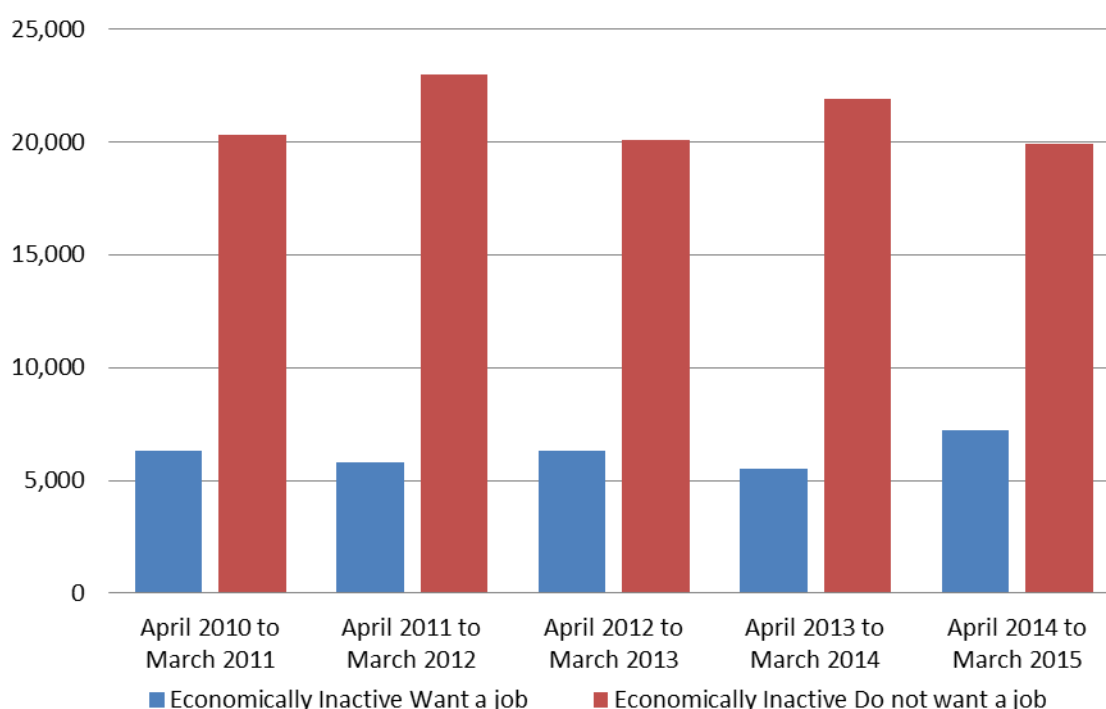
⁵ The total jobs figure used to calculate jobs densities is slightly higher than the figure for those in employment of 87,400 as the data sources use slightly different methods of calculation

17 As at March 2015 the number of residents from the working age population that were registered as unemployed was 6,300. There are now 4,500 fewer residents registered as unemployed, which is a reduction of 4.6% of those economically active since an 11.4% high during the 12 month period to March 2013. This reduction is considerably greater than that seen both regionally and nationally over the same time period (- 2% and -1.7% respectively).

ECONOMIC INACTIVITY

18 Of those residents that were economically inactive at March 2015 there were 7,200 whom wanted a job⁶ and 19,900 residents who were not looking for a job⁷, for example students, those looking after family/home, retired, or temporary/long-term sick.

Figure 4 - Economic Inactivity - 2010 to 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

19 The overall economic inactivity rate has only increased by 0.7% (+600 residents) in the five years to March 2015; and those that want a job has increased by 3% (+900 residents) over the same time period (.).

20 Figure 4).

Job Vacancies

21 Job vacancies have increased from 7,670 vacancies in May to August 2014 to 10,158 vacancies in May to August 2015; an increase of 2,488 vacancies or 32%. Stockton has seen a 32% increase (extra 580 job vacancies); with a high number of nurses and

⁶ People not in employment who want a job but are not classed as unemployed because they have either not sought work in the last four weeks or are not available to start work

⁷ People who are neither in employment nor unemployed and who do not want a job

medical practitioners advertised. Nationally vacancy figures have increased by 39%, whilst North East figures have increased by 24%.⁸

Out of work Benefits

22 There are a number of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) main out of work benefits, which include the groups, Job Seekers, Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits, Lone Parents and Others on Income Related Benefits

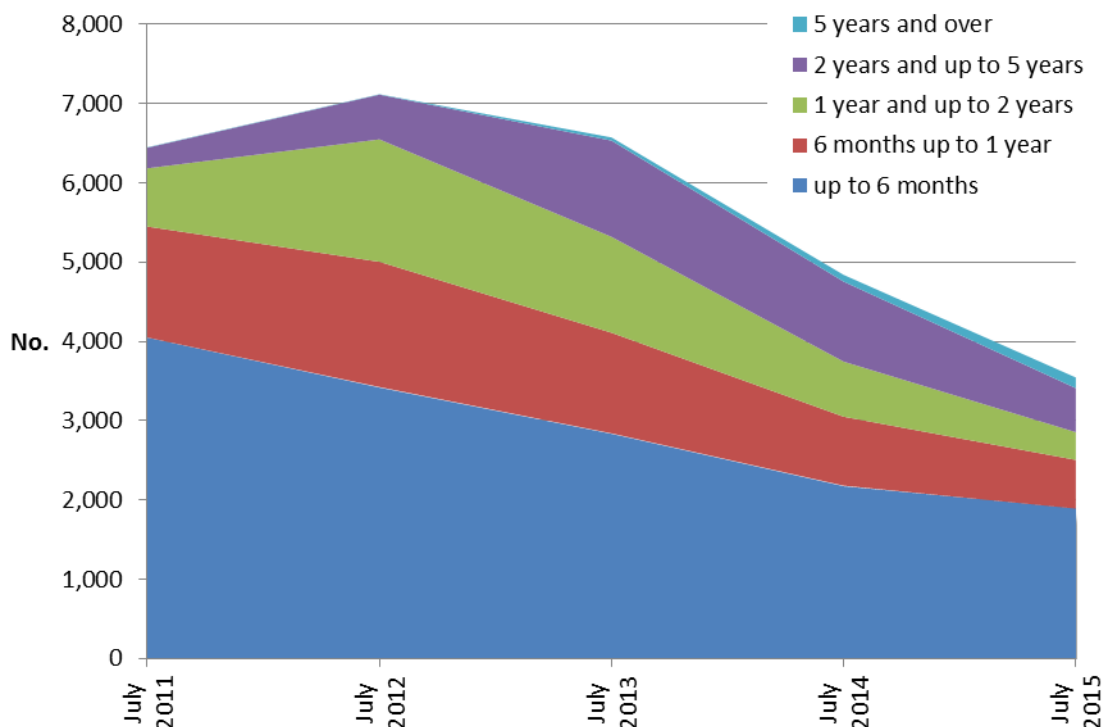
23 Jobseeker’s Allowance (and National Insurance Credits) is the main benefit payable by local Jobcentre Plus offices to people under pensionable age who are available for and actively seeking work – it is that benefit which provides the claimant count figures. Changes to the benefits system with the roll out of Universal Credit will commence in Stockton Borough in December 2015.

Claimant Count

24 The total proportion of those residents that are unemployed and claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) has reduced significantly and at 2.9% (3,550 residents) in July 2015 is half the rate that it was in 2012. This is the lowest rate seen since 2005.

25 Figure 5 and Figure 6 illustrate the various claimant count age groups, the changes in these since 2011, and the length of time that residents have been claiming for. The data can be used to highlight the positive trends in reducing claimant numbers or can provide indications of any issues with long-term claimant rates associated with specific age groups that need to be considered further.

Figure 5 - Jobseeker's Allowance (Claimant Count) by Duration - 2011 to 2015

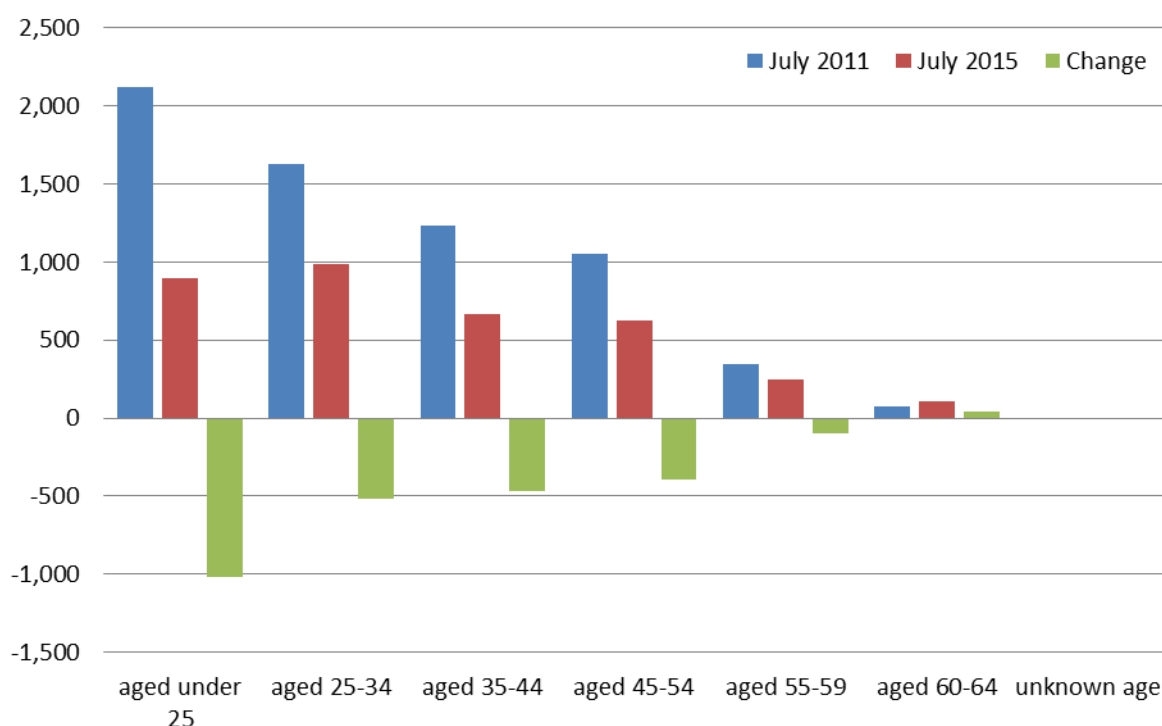


Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

⁸ TVU

- 26 Figure 5 shows that since 2012 the total number of claimants has been steadily decreasing, however, there have been changes in the volumes of claimants by the duration of their claim for the two bands – 2 years and up to 5 years; 5 years and over, which have both increased by 11.6% and 3.7% respectively as a proportion of total claimants since 2011.
- 27 The number of long-term JSA claimants (12+ months) is more prevalent in the 25-54 age groups; accounting for 75% (785). Over recent years there have been a large number of activities in place via numerous organisations to support young people under 25 into education, employment or training. A positive outcome of those interventions is the reduction seen in the number of residents aged under 25 who are claiming Jobseeker’s allowance, which has reduced by 1,225 since July 2011, as Figure 6 illustrates.
- 28 Groups of those aged from 25 to 59 have reduced over the same time period, albeit to a lesser extent. The only age group that has shown an exception to these downward trends is for those aged 60-64, which has increased by 35 claimants. This could be indicative of an increase in the number of residents who have multi-barriers to gaining employment.

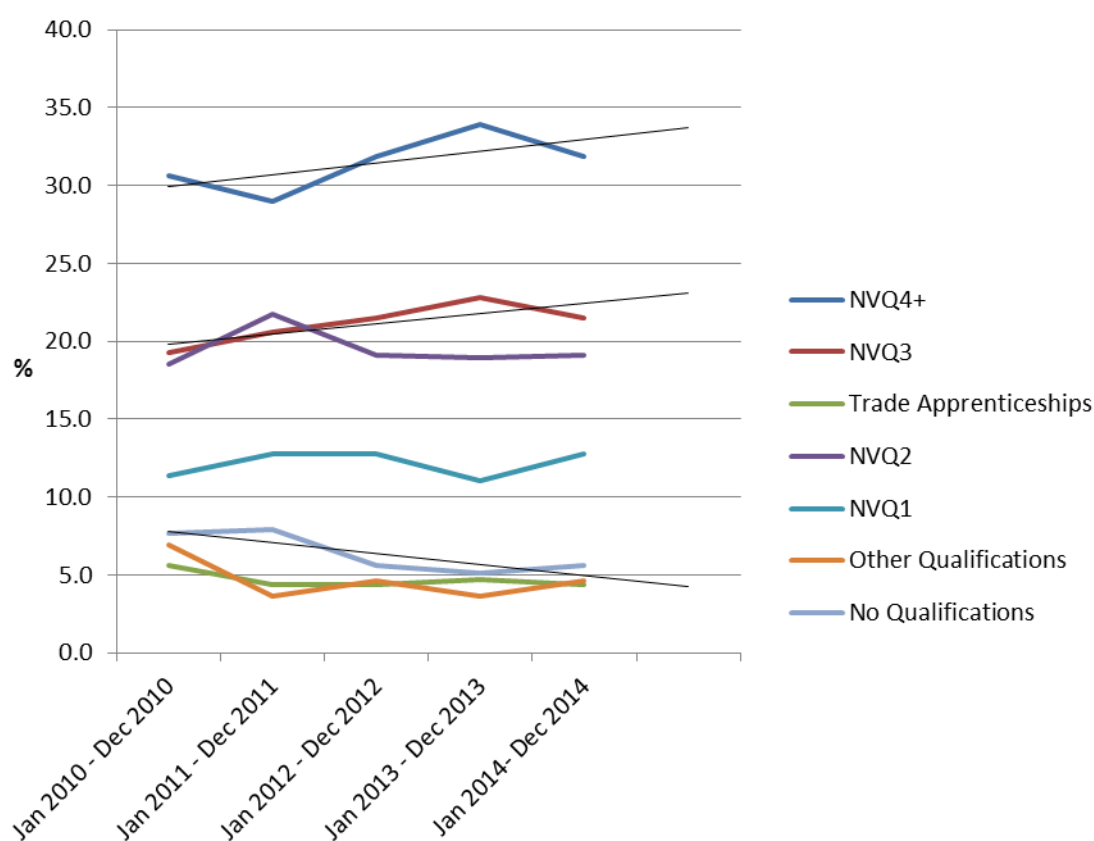
Figure 6 - Jobseeker's Allowance (Claimant Count) Change by Age



QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- 29 The qualification profile of working age residents (aged 16-64) Figure 7 shows that at 2014 over half are qualified to NVQ Level 3⁹ or higher (53.4%). This has reduced slightly since December 2013, but continues to remain above the rates seen in 2010 at 49.9%. The number of residents that have no qualifications has continued to reduce and at 5.6% is now 2.1% lower than in 2010.

⁹ NVQ Level 3 -. At Sixth Form Colleges, Level 3 can be worth 1-5 A levels at A*-C.

Figure 7 - Qualifications of the Working Age Population

Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey

Apprenticeships

30 Figures recently released from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA)¹⁰ show that the number of Tees Valley residents starting an apprenticeship is on the rise compared to last year with 4,440 starts. 1,190 Stockton residents started an apprenticeship¹¹ between August 2014 and January 2015 compared to 1,020 over the same period the year before.

31 The majority of starts can be attributed to those aged over 25 with an increase of 170. The top 4 sectors for starts were Business, Administration and Law; Health, Public Service and Care; Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; and Retail and Commercial Enterprise, which account for 87.2% of starts.

Destination of graduates¹²

32 From a list of the top 10 universities for study in 2013/14 almost half (48%) of all Tees Valley higher education students obtained a qualification from Teesside University with 70% of those remaining in the North East to study.

33 80% of Tees Valley students who had obtained an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in 2012/13 were in some form of employment six months after graduating; with 56% in full-time employment; 14% going into part-time work; and 9% into work and further study. Only 7% are assumed to be unemployed.

¹⁰ TVU / SFA

¹¹ TVU - The data refers to learners that are resident in Stockton (therefore they may live in Stockton but be undertaking an apprenticeship outside the Borough)

¹² TVU

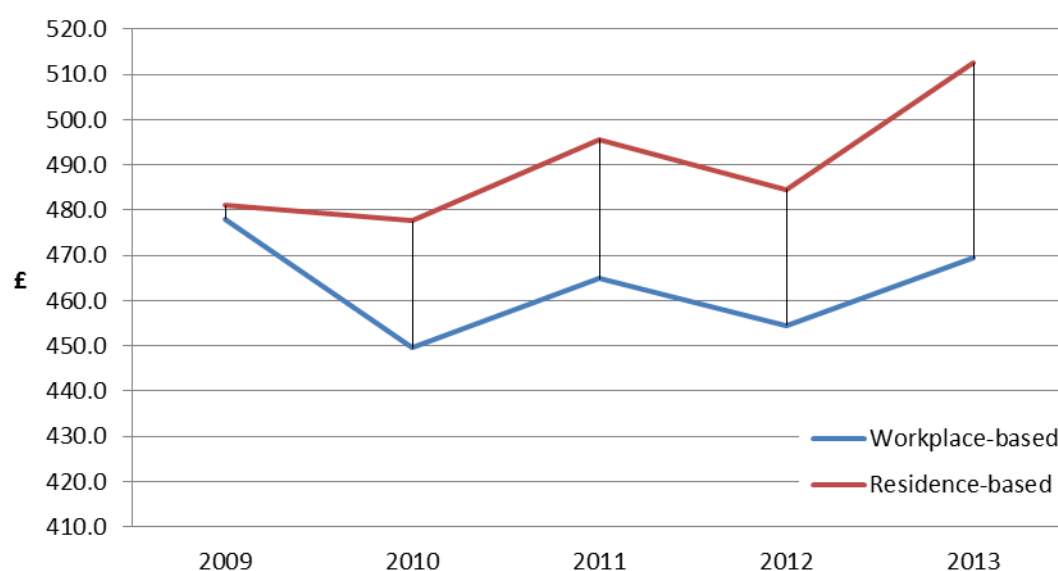
34 79% of 2012/13 graduates who lived in Stockton prior to starting higher education found employment once completing their education. Of these, 64% found employment in Tees Valley; with the largest increase being seen in highly skilled jobs (+40), and suggests that some graduates come back to the local area to work once qualified.

EARNINGS

35 Average weekly earnings of Stockton residents working full time have increased over recent years and at £512.50¹³ in 2014 equates to £31.50 per week more than in 2009. This is higher than the North East and only slightly lower than national averages at £517.50.

36 Of note is that people who work in Stockton earn £43.10 less than those workers who are resident in the Borough. Figure 8 illustrates the widening gap between the wages of those people who live in the Borough and those that work in the Borough. Further research is required with a particular focus on understanding the profile of occupations that Stockton's economy supports. Resident-based earnings have been consistently higher over the past 5 years.

Figure 8 - Median Weekly Earnings - Full-time Workers¹⁴



Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

37 From 1st October 2015, the minimum wage for Apprentices will increase from £2.73 to £3.30; the 16-17 year old rate will increase from £3.79 to £3.87; the 18-20 year old rate will increase from £5.13 to £5.30; and the minimum wage for anyone aged 21 and over will increase from £6.50 to £6.70.

38 In addition, from 1st April 2016 a new national living wage of £7.20 an hour will be introduced for workers aged 25 and older, and will increase to £9 per hour by 2020.

¹³ Gross pay

¹⁴ The survey is based on a 1% sample of employees obtained from employers, and relates to a pay period in April

Case Study

In February 2015, following a couple of successful pilot projects delivered in 2014 the Council's Economic Growth and Development Services secured £150,000 from Public Health to create apprenticeship opportunities for young people resident in the Borough. The funding incentivises businesses to create new opportunities for young people aged 16-24. Depending on the size of the businesses they could receive up to £1,000 to contribute towards the salary and / or training costs for the young person. Many of the businesses supported have been micro businesses (up to 5 employees) and this has been their first venture into both employing a young person and undertaking an apprenticeship. These businesses have found the funding invaluable as it helps with the initial cash flow whilst the young person is training and until they can positively contribute to the income generation of the business.

To date 119 Stockton young people have secured employment in a range of occupations, including electricians, construction trades, vehicle maintenance, administrators, and nail technicians, with a variety of local businesses from the private, public and third sector. All of the young people will be undertaking an apprenticeship framework at Level 2 or above. Over 50% of the opportunities have been secured by 16-18 year olds. A third of the positions have been filled by young people from our most deprived wards, which includes Stockton Town Centre, Roseworth, Parkfield and Oxbridge, and Newtown.



Over a third of those young people aged over 18 were in receipt of a working age benefit prior to securing the apprenticeship opportunity.

The programme is aiming to support a minimum of 150 young people into work by March 2016. However, based on the evaluation of the pilots it is hoped that a figure of 175 could be realised, and it is hoped that this will lead to permanent sustainable employment for the young people following completion of the apprenticeship framework.

A local employer commented: "We are passionate about supporting apprentices and opening up opportunities to young people. This programme has allowed us to employ local young people on an apprenticeship pathway, providing them with the opportunity to gain employment with purpose, status and friendship, all of which have had a profound effect on their sense of wellbeing."

Evidence from the evaluation of the pilot has shown that the benefit to individuals has been overwhelming and the impact on their overall health and wellbeing has been greater than could ever have been envisaged when first developed. Some examples from the survey show that 'Optimism about the future' has risen from 61% to 76%, 'Feeling Useful' increased from 47% to 82%, 'Feeling Good About Myself' increased from 59% to 79% and 'Feeling Confident' 49% to 75%.

One apprentice said: "I was unemployed before X gave me this fantastic opportunity to break into the health and fitness industry. Not only has this apprenticeship given me vital on the job experience it has also given me the confidence I need to secure the permanent job I was craving. I cannot thank X enough for the level of support and time they have invested in me. I have gained extra qualifications such as my health and fitness training qualification and GP referral qualification. I would recommend an apprenticeship to anyone."

Disclaimer

A number of figures reported in the Economic Climate Reports are sourced from organisations like the Office for National Statistics (ONS). In many instances ONS use sample surveys of the population and businesses which are used in a methodology to calculate various national statistics. For example, the Annual Population Survey interviews a small sample size which is extrapolated to create figures for the Borough. This can result in volatility in national statistics at a local authority level.

Figures reported in the document are potentially subject to adjustment by ONS which may affect interpretation of the data.

There are also a number of instances where it may seem appropriate to add data sets together, which may result in discrepancies between figures reported in the document.

Examples include:

- Working age population – this is sometimes calculated as 16 – 64 population or 16 to state pension age
- Figures in the Economic Dashboard relating to 'employed' and 'self-employed' do not add up to the 'in employment figure'.

Therefore the statistics quoted should be treated with caution with the main economic trends being the most important aspect of this report.