




















Economic Climate Report – Annual Round Up

Business		
Data Set	Headline Figure	Annual Change
Total Jobs: Work-placed based jobs for the year 2015 comprising of employees, self-employment, Government-supported trainees and HM Forces	94,000 jobs	 Up by 4,000 (↑4.4%)
Jobs Density: Jobs per head of working age population (16-64 year olds)	0.76 (UK = 0.83)	 Up by 0.3 (↑4.1%)
Business Density: Number of businesses per 10,000 residents	345 (UK = 480)	 Up by 9 (↑2.6%)
Business Start-ups: Measure relating to the number of active enterprises in 2015 that were not active in 2014	935	 Up by 30 (↑2.7%)
Number of Businesses: Number of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises active in March 2016	5,445	 Up by 185 (↑3.5%)
5 year change in enterprises: Change in number of businesses in March 2016 compared to March 2011	Increase of 35.4% (UK – 22.8%)	
PEOPLE		
Data Set	Headline Figure	Annual Change
Population : Resident population for mid-2015	194,803	 Up 634 (↑0.35%)
Male Life Expectancy at Birth: Relates to the 2010-12 time period and annual change relates to 2009-2011	78.3 (UK = 78.9)	 Up 0.3 (↑0.4%)
Female Life Expectancy at Birth: Relates to the 2010-12 time period and annual change relates to 2009-2011	82.3 (UK = 82.7)	 Up 0.4 (↑0.5%)
Proportion of working age population qualified to NVQ Level 4+: An estimate from the Annual Population Survey	36.7% (UK = 38.0%)	 Up 1.2 pp (↑3.4%)
Proportion of 16/18 year olds known to be in Education, Employment and Training: Relates to 2015	92.7% (UK = 87.4%)	 Up 2.7 pp (↑3.0%)

Apprenticeship Starts: Relates to 2015-16	2,770	 Up 280 (↑11.2%)
Total Out Of Work Benefits: Refers to November 2016. Includes Universal Credit claimants not in employment and DWP 'Out of Work Benefits' claimants	14,322 (UK = 87.4%)	 Down 678 (↓4.5%)
Mean Weekly Wage for a full-time worker (Resident): Refers to 2016	£522.70 (UK = £538.70)	 Up £20 (↑4.1%)
Affordability Ratio: Ratio of 'median' annual salary to 'median' house prices relating to 2016	4.99 (UK = 7.16)	 Down 0.49 (↓8.9%)
Fuel Poverty: Estimated proportion of households in fuel poverty relating to 2014	10.7% (UK = 10.6%)	 Down 0.4 pp (↓3.6%)
Rail Patronage – 'Entries and Exits': Relates to 2016-17 for all stations in Stockton-on-Tees	1,233,236	 Up 54,516 (↑4.6%)
Super-Fast Broadband Availability: % of premises with broadband speeds over 30mb per second	92% (UK = 89%)	No Comparison
Total CO₂ emissions: Relates to 2014	2,655ktCO ²	 Down 518 (↓16.3%)
Miles of Cycleway: Relates to 2015	113 miles	 Up 2 miles (↑1.8%)

UPDATES

Strategic Updates

- The recent Teesside heat of the **North East Business Awards 2017** saw several Tees Valley business winners in categories such as, Apprenticeship Award, Export Award, Innovation Award. Three Stockton businesses were successful in winning awards in the categories of:
 - **Company of the Year** – CPD Bodies
 - **Digital and Social Media Award** – HomeFuels Direct
 - **Small Business Award** – MI Supplies
- Procurement process opens for £2.75bn **HS2 fleet development contract** - Companies are now able to bid for the contract to design, build and maintain Britain's next generation of high-speed trains. Announced on 20th April by HS2 Ltd, the successful bidder will develop around 60 trains to transport passengers on the new high speed rail network and onto existing railway infrastructure. The firm that wins the bid will maintain the fleet from a dedicated rolling stock depot planned for Washwood Heath, Birmingham. The centre will also house the HS2 Network Control Centre.
- **Debenhams** has unveiled plans to close 11 warehouses and put up to ten stores under review, in a move impacting at least 220 jobs. Sergio Bucher, who took over as chief executive in October 2016, outlined an overhaul that will see the group shut one of its three distribution centres run by DHL, ten smaller in-house warehouses, and potentially axe up to ten of its 176 stores over the next five years.
- A **workshop has been organised for 22nd June** by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, NEPO Business Club, and B2B North entitled '**Your Route to Success**'. The workshop will provide a clear understanding of the public sector market and how it works, step-by-step guidance on preparing for success, and insights on where to find opportunities, amongst other topics.
- Following the successful trial event – Innovate Tees Valley Festival - **Venturefest Tees Valley** will build on this with an event taking place on 13th September 2017 at Wynyard Hall. It is expected to attract 400 businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators from across Tees Valley to share ideas, explore opportunities, grow new networks and raise investment.

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.

- Wynyard-based **Nortech Staffing Solutions**, part of the Nortech Group, is forecasting growth after securing a job-creating contract. The company will be providing a managed recruitment service for a national client. It will source and supply a full range of personnel, covering technical and engineering, management, and administration roles. The company expects to create jobs as a result of securing the contract.
- **Carroll & Meynell Transformers Ltd.**, based on Durham Lane Industrial Estate, is building a prototype of a new multi-vehicle electric vehicle charger which can charge up to 10 vehicles at a time. The company was supported by Teesside University to secure a £100K grant from Innovate UK. The grant means that the company can now take their concept from the drawing board and test a real-life version of the electric charger.
- Stockton-based transport firm, **Delta Coaches**, has acquired **GL Coaches** in a move which more than doubles its workforce. 15 jobs have been safeguarded. Delta Coaches is now looking to increase its workforce further by recruiting four members of staff, in addition to training and recruiting further team members for seasonal roles.
- Energy data monitoring company **EnAppSys** based at Bowesfield Industrial Estate is looking to forge a path into continental Europe after opening its first office outside of the UK. The business has just opened an office in Zeeland, Netherlands, after increasing headcount and growing turnover to seven-figures. Its cloud-based monitoring platform provides energy market monitoring to power stations, suppliers and traders, as well as providing market consultancy and modelling services to the wider industry.
- **Eurofins Newtec Laboratories Ltd.** based in Billingham offer laboratory and research services. The site is closing due to the work being transferred to other sites in the UK. 23 employees are at risk of

redundancy. Re-deployment has been offered but the likelihood of staff taking up this offer is minimal as the opportunities are based in Hull & Grimsby. The company is currently in the first stage of consultation with the workforce. Jobcentre Plus have been in touch with the company and offered their services along with that of the National Careers Service.

- **Valmont Stainton Limited** based on Teesside Industrial Estate, which manufactures lighting columns has notified the likelihood of 30 redundancies between July and September. The staff were informed in January that consultation would be on going. Ten employees have already left bringing a total reduction of the workforce to 40 overall. This is as a result of some of the work being transferred to Poland to allow the Thornaby site to focus on new ventures. Jobcentre Plus have been in touch with the company and offered their services along with that of the National Careers Service.
- **Core Legal** located on Preston Farm Business Park, which offers residential conveyancing and wills, trusts and probate services, was established in May 2016 and operates under a multi-disciplinary alternative business structure (ABS) licence. Over the last year, the management team have enjoyed solid growth and expanded the workforce from 4 to 12. This number is expected to double again over the next year, with Core Legal hoping to further expand its services to offer family and matrimonial legal advice.
- Gas supplier **Calor** is creating jobs in Tees Valley as part of a £3.2m upgrade of its Stockton bottling plant. The company will be recruiting up to 34 “highly skilled” permanent staff, including six apprentices, to operate new automated cylinder bottling and loading technology at the company’s Port Clarence Road base following the multimillion pound investment. More than a million Calor cylinders a year are filled at the plant, which are then supplied to mainly rural customers with no connection to the natural gas grid. The site also distributes a further 30,000 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas in bulk road tankers to domestic customers and businesses.
- **Active Chartered Financial Planners** based at Teesside Industrial Estate has appointed four new specialists to its team.
- The **Water Babies’** franchise in Tees Valley and North York Moors has been bought by Pamela Hargreaves. Water Babies provides swimming classes for 1000, 0-4 year olds with their parents and carers. Support was provided from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to locate premises, and an office has been taken in Gloucester House, Church Road. The business currently employs four full-time staff plus 10 teachers, and the business has plans for growth.
- Engineering firm, **ENEX Group**, is creating 16 new jobs in the region, following a £250K investment from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund. ENEX designs, manufactures and supplies Mechanical Safety Interlocks and Process Safety Systems to the oil and gas industry. It has recently completed the development of a ‘Patent Pending’ ENEX i-LOCK product range with leading-edge safety features, providing a greater level of safety and reliability to other available mechanical interlocks. As well as helping to grow the company’s headcount, the investment will help the business formally launch this new product to the market and expand in the region.

Strategic Locations

Stockton Town Centre

- **Wellington Square Development Company** is investing £200,000 into making four retail units, which have been vacant long-term, ready for immediate occupation and use by tenants who cannot contemplate a full fit out of a shell unit. A local contractor has been appointed and work has started on site.
- **The Globe** could soon be re-opened as a venue restored back to its original Art Deco character with an upgraded bar and facilities. There will also be an area created for a standing audience of over 2,000 to attend live events. The adjacent vacant property to The Globe will be converted into a cafe/bar/bistro and will be linked to the theatre to provide a venue which can operate as a stand-alone facility or as support for the variety of events which may be held there. It is anticipated that this facility would be open at times when The Globe is not in use. Within The Globe the stalls are to be repaired and re-laid to create space for 746 seats plus new bars to the sides and rear. Subject to planning and HLF approval, the construction works will start with the venue set to open in winter 2018-19.

Belasis Hall Business Park

- Work has been completed on the £500,000 refurbishment of **BIZ HUB Tees Valley**, which was purchased out of administration in 2016. BIZ HUB now offers high-spec and flexible office space and professional reception services. Investment has also been made into the site's IT infrastructure; with visitors now being able to access WiFi services throughout the building. An on-site café and gym have also been established. Occupancy rates are currently at 85%, which has increased from 45% before the investment.

Northshore

- Construction has started on a third phase of 82 new family homes at Northshore. Housing provider, Thirteen Group, has purchased 20 two and three-bed houses at the development, which will be available for shared ownership.

Teesdale Business Park

- A shipping and logistics business, **GAC Services (UK)**, has signed up to more than 2,000 sq.ft of office space on a six-year deal.

Preston Farm Industrial Estate

- A 7,800 sq.ft industrial warehouse has been acquired SCS Structures, which is now set to be refurbished and offered back on to the market to let. It was sold for £360,000, which was more than £10,000 over the asking price.

Training & Skills

- The **Wilton Centre** has secured its largest letting in ten years with a deal for 36,000 sq.ft of office and training space. The international electrical safety training provider, the Faraday Training Group, has moved into the South Annex Building, formerly the home of ICI's North East Regional Computing Centre. The move will create up to six lecturing jobs with the firm planning to open the new facility in September.
- Broadband firm **Openreach** is to recruit around 80 new trainees from Tees Valley and County Durham. The move is part of a UK-wide drive to hire 1,500 trainee engineers over the next eight months to extend the company's fibre broadband network. The recruitment drive follows an agreement reached between BT and Ofcom to legally separate Openreach from the BT Group.