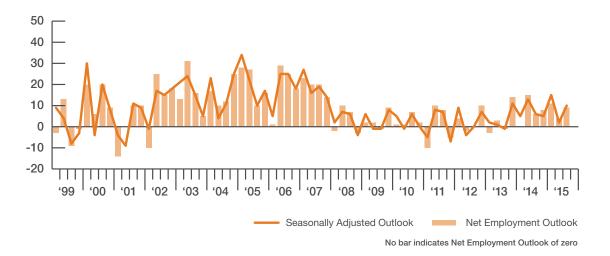


Employer hiring intentions rise in the North East

Since last quarter, after registering the lowest level of optimism since 2013, employer sentiments about job creation have changed dramatically. With an Employment Outlook +10% for the third quarter of 2015, the North East has now become the most optimistic region in the country.



North East employment snapshot*

Average weekly pay

The North East is the lowest paid region in the UK. The average weekly wage is **£476**, some £100 below the national average.

Hiring Outlook

For the third quarter of 2015, the Net Employment Outlook in the North East is +10%; well above the national average of +6%.

Employment

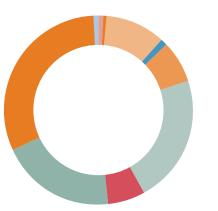
The rate of employment in the North East is significantly below the national average and stands at **69.3%**. This represents a 0.7% fall since the last quarter but a 0.2% rise when compared to the same period last year.

Unemployment

At **7.5%** the unemployment rate continues to be significantly higher than the national average (5.5%) and any other UK region. However, unemployment has fallen off slightly since the last quarter - by a noteworthy 2.4% when compared to the same period last year.



WHERE DO PEOPLE WORK?



Agriculture, forestry and fishing Mining and quarrying Manufacturing Electricity, gas and water Construction Wholesale, retail, restaurants, hotels and leisure Transport, storage and comms Finance and business services Public and social Activities of households as employers

WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?



Managers, directors and senior officials Professional occupations Associate professional and technical Administrative and secretarial Skilled trades occupations Caring, leisure and other service occupations Sales and customer service occupations Process plant and machine operatives Elementary occupations

Market overview

Employers in the North East are showing signs that they're more confident to recruit, however skills shortages are very apparent throughout the region and these may hamper their intentions.

There is strong demand in sectors such as IT, Construction and Engineering; however professionals in these skills are highly sought after and can prove difficult to find. As a result, employers in the region are increasingly looking to recruit permanently and at the same time, are reassessing their remuneration package to ensure they attract and retain the best talent for the long-term.