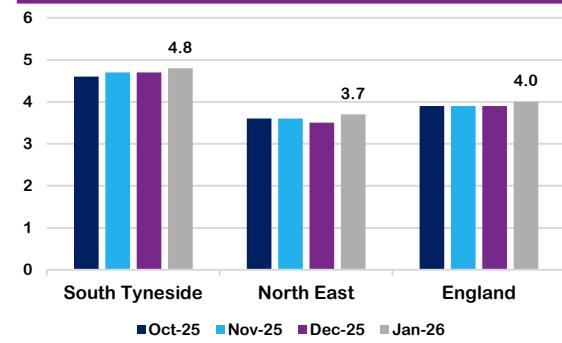


SOUTH TYNESIDE MONTHLY ECONOMIC MONITOR FEBRUARY 2026

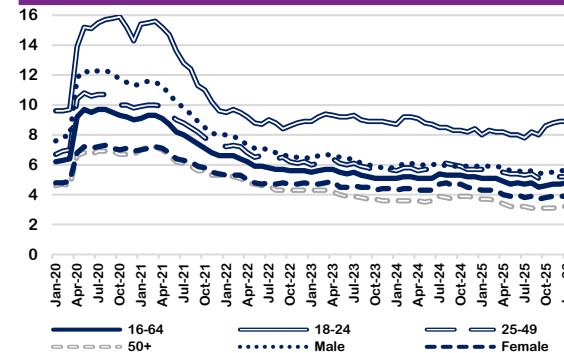
1. In January, South Tyneside's claimant rate rose 0.1% point to 4.8% (4,375 people 16-64)¹, whilst the regional and national rates rose by 0.2 and 0.1% points to 3.7% and 4.0%, respectively. All sex and age demographic claimant rates shown below were unchanged this month; January's increase is attributable to a small increase in the number of claimants aged 25 - 49. 18-24 rates remain stubbornly high, last higher in April 2024 (9.1%).

Unemployment Claimant Rate (% 16-64 population; Oct 2025 - Jan 2026)



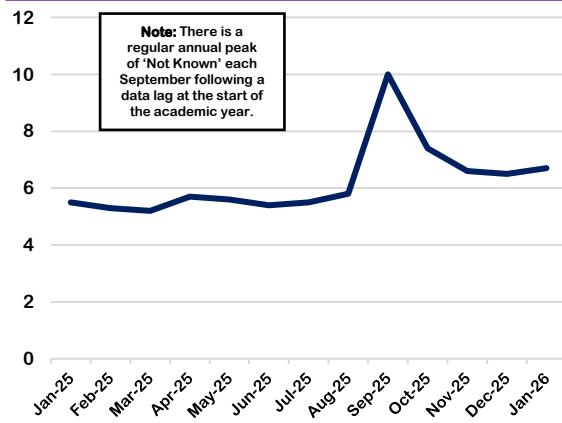
*Claimant counts and rates are calculated by combining the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance and National Insurance credits with the number of people claiming Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This element is still in development by DWP, meaning the total claimant count does not yet correctly reflect the target population of unemployed claimants and is subject to revisions. Under Universal Credit, a broader span of claimants are required to look for work. As Universal Credit is rolled out, the number of people being recorded as being on the Claimant Count is likely to rise.

Unemployment Claimant Rate by Age & Sex (% of population; January 2020 - January 2026)

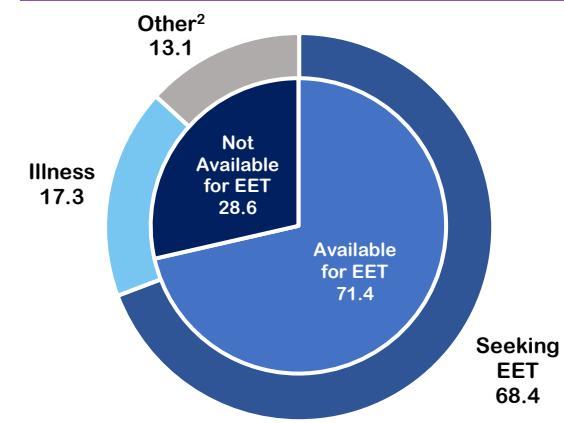


2. In January, total NEET and Not Known levels rose to 6.7%. This was driven by an increase in the number of NEET young people available for EET, and an increase in those whose destination is not known. Unavailability as a proportion of NEET young people fell despite the number of NEET young people unavailable for EET increasing, though only slightly. Smaller cohort breakdowns have been suppressed due to confidentiality.

Not in Education, Employment, Training or Not Known (% 16-17 year olds; Jan 2025 - Jan 2026)

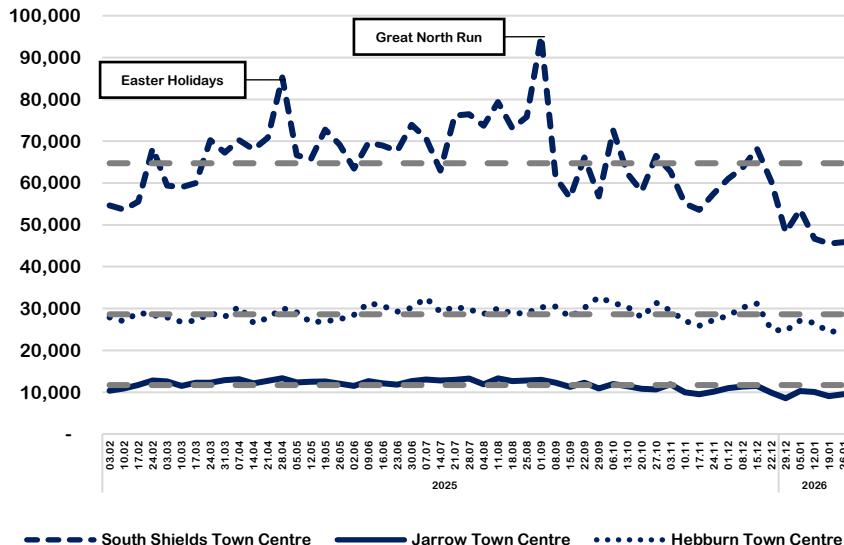


NEET - Availability for Education, Employment or Training (% NEET 16-17 year olds; January 2026)



3. Compared to January 2025, footfall in January 2026 was lower across the board (likely due to the unprecedented poor weather); by 3.4% in Hebburn, 2.7% in Jarrow, and 10.9% in South Shields. **Moving onto business news**, Story Homes has lodged plans for a 205-home development in Whitburn. The development includes a mix of properties, ranging from one-bedroom apartments to five-bedroom family homes. Work to construct the steel frame of the college development in South Shields is almost complete too, marking a major milestone in the £95m project to relocate South Tyneside College and South Shields Marine School into the town centre. **As for funding opportunities**, Dogger Bank Wind Farm has allocated £80,000 to support grassroots initiatives via its 2026 community grants. Funding decisions are guided by a panel of experts from joint venture partners Equinor and SSE Renewables, alongside independent representatives from NOF, the business development organisation behind the North East's offshore wind cluster, Energi Coast. **In manufacturing and engineering**, South Tyneside's Metec UK has fulfilled a contract to produce and supply 1,700 'sacrificial' anodes for the Hornsea 3 offshore wind farm in the North Sea. Elsewhere, Cut Print Solutions, operating out of Jarrow Business Centre, has strengthened its production capabilities with a new wave of investment designed to bring more work in-house and support its rapid expansion. **As for business support**, Kaye Nicholson is the latest resident to be supported through Start Up South Tyneside, a business startup programme delivered by the TEDCO Business Support on behalf of South Tyneside Council which aims to support residents with their aspirations to start up a business. Kaye's business GrowthZone AI has been launched for small business, and growing ones, to help use AI in practical, everyday ways.

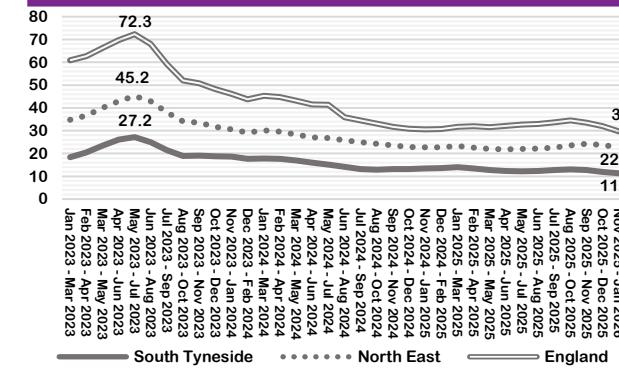
Footfall in South Tyneside's Town Centres



--- South Shields Town Centre — Jarrow Town Centre Hebburn Town Centre
Solid dashed lines depict period averages (calculated using weekly figures from the period between w/c 03.02.25 - w/c 26.01.26 inclusive).

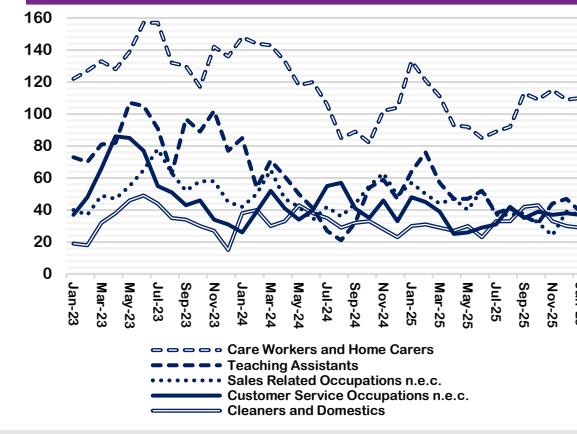
4. In the three-month rolling period ending January 2026, there were an average of 11.3 vacancies per 1,000 people aged 16-64 in South Tyneside. Compared to January 2025, all top five occupations by unique posting experienced a decline in number of unique postings: Care Workers and Home Carers by 17.3%, Teaching Assistants by 39.1%, Sales Related Occupations n.e.c.³ by 35.1%, Customer Service Occupations n.e.c. by 22.9%, and Cleaners and Domestic by 3.3%.

Unique Job Postings per 1000 People 16-64 (3-month rolling period)



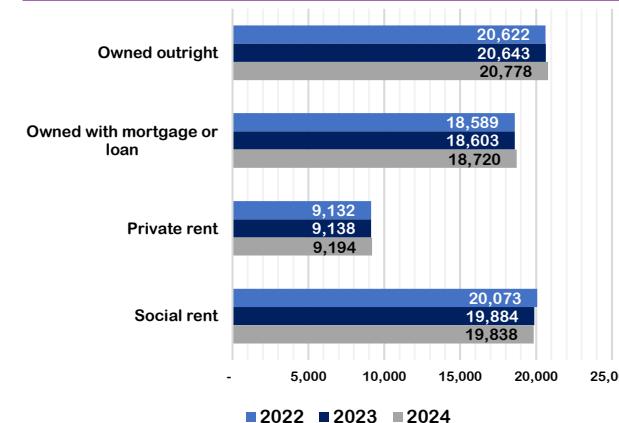
Note: Rates calculated using corresponding mid-year population estimates released by the ONS. Estimates and supporting information available [here](#).

Top Five Occupations by Unique Job Postings in South Tyneside (January 2023 - January 2026)

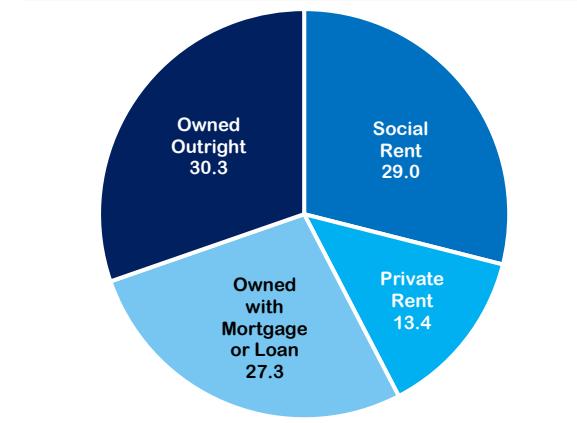


5. South Tyneside's household composition by tenure type was largely unchanged between 2022 and 2024; the proportion of social rent households fell by 0.3% points (235 households), whilst the proportion of households owned with a mortgage or loan and owned outright increased by 0.1 and 0.2% points (131 and 156 households), respectively. The proportion of private rent households was unchanged, despite rising by an additional 62 households between 2022 - 2024.

Number of Households by Type of Tenure in South Tyneside (2022 - 2024)

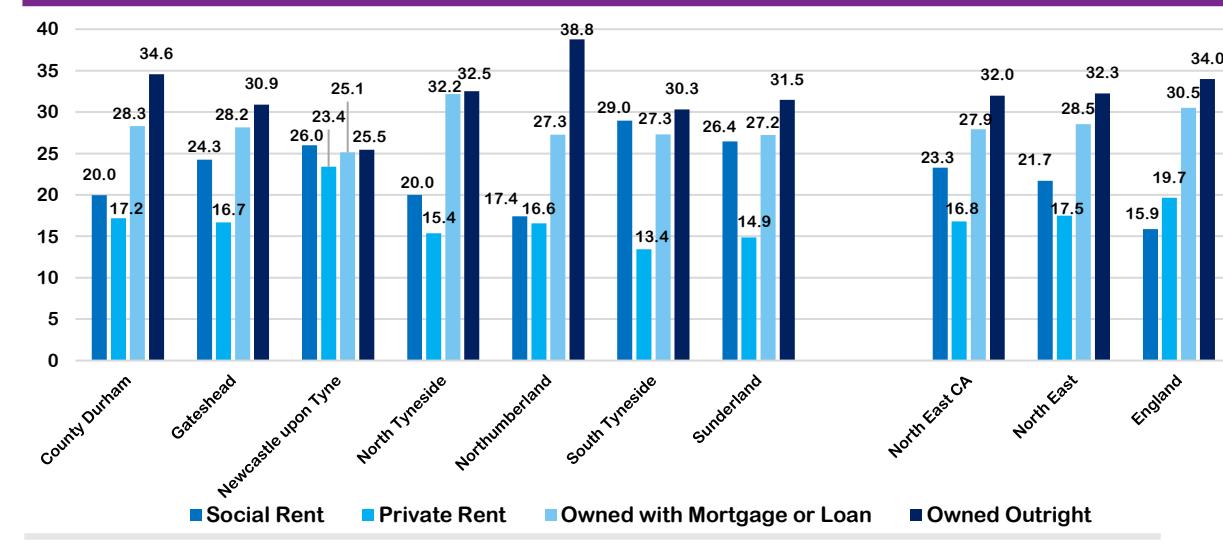


Proportion of Households by Type of Tenure in South Tyneside (%; 2024)



6. South Tyneside is not dissimilar to other NE authorities; most households are owned outright with a smaller share of private rent. However, unlike most other NE authorities and England, South Tyneside has a higher share of social rent households than those owned with a mortgage or loan, reflecting resident income. Central urban authorities like Newcastle have tend to have a more even distribution of tenure types owing to a larger student population and higher property value.

Proportion of Households by Type of Tenure across the North East CA area (%; 2024)



Data Source: NOMIS. Internally available data (town centre footfall, vacancies, NEET). Subnational estimates of households by tenure.
 1. The ONS often marks their monthly estimates as provisional meaning estimates for previous months are often revised, in some cases up to three month's prior. In this instance, claimant figures for December 2025 were estimated at 4.8% or 4,300 people; following revision, this estimate now stands at 4.7%, or 4,335 people. This means that the provisional January 2026 figure represents an increase on the month prior.
 2. *Other* includes young people who have agreed a start date for EET or are NEET due to caring responsibilities, parenting, pregnancy, religious grounds, or are not ready for work or learning and any other reason. Data regarding parenting, pregnancy, and caring responsibilities may not be reliable as this information is reliant on self-reports and is not routinely collected.
 3. Not elsewhere classified.