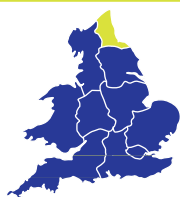


The Sector Skills Council for Property, Housing, Cleaning and Facilities Management



CONTACT DETAILS

Contact name – Sally Walters
 Office Address – Sol House, 29 St Katherine's Street, Northampton, NN1 2QZ.
 Telephone Number – 01604 233 336
 Email Address – swalters@assetskills.org

A network of UK wide **Sector Skills Councils (SSCs)** has been charged to lead the skills and productivity drive in industry or business sectors recognised by employers. They bring together employers, trade unions and professional bodies working with government to develop the skills that UK business needs.

This factsheet is one of a series of 25, covering the whole of the network. The series covers each SSC in each of the English regions. The factsheets give policy makers in the regions an overview of key headline figures, presented in a consistent manner from common data sources. Further detailed labour market information and intelligence on the sector is available directly from the SSC (via their Sector Skills Agreement where in existence). Some sub-sectoral activity covered by the SSC may be under represented, due to the way sectors are defined by SIC code. In the case of Asset Skills this particularly applies to Facilities Management and the Cleaning industry as a substantial proportion of employees who work in occupations associated with these sectors are not directly employed by organisations in these sectors.

More information will be available in the Autumn of 2005 when Asset Skills have completed Phase 1 of their Sector Skills Agreement. Please visit www.assetskills.org for further details.

OVERVIEW

Number of Employees in England ¹	544,239
Regional Number of Employees ²	25,312
Number of Workplaces in Region ³	3,304
Sector's Share of Total Employment in England ²	2.3%
Sector's Share of Total Regional Employment ²	2.4%

ECONOMIC PICTURE

	NE	England	
Stock of VAT Registered Businesses ⁴	**	84,850	No data was available regarding VAT registrations and output per employed job in the sectors for the North East.
VAT Registrations (as a percentage of all stock) ⁴	**	15%	
VAT De-registrations ⁴	**	8%	
Output (GVA) per employed job (£000s, current prices) ⁵	**	** (GB)	

Size of firms (number of employees) ³	Workplaces		Employees		The distribution of firms by size in the North East is broadly similar to that nationally, as is the distribution of employment by firm size.
	NE	Eng	NE	Eng	
1 to 10	90%	92%	35%	35%	
11 to 49	8%	6%	21%	19%	
50 to 199	1%	1%	15%	17%	
200+	1%	0%	30%	30%	

Using the SIC classifications, Asset Skills' footprint covers 544,239 workers. However, this figure increases to approximately 1.4 million workers if we include employees outside of our sectors in whom we have an interest. For example, a large proportion of cleaners are not directly employed by cleaning companies. Instead, they work in organisations which span the entire economy including private businesses and the public sector (for example, in hospitals where cleaning services have not been contracted out). Similar observations can be made for employees working in facilities management occupations. Asset Skills has a greater presence in some regions than in others. However, it is a highly significant sector by the nature of the support services which it provides to other businesses in the region.

SKILL DEMAND

	NE	England	
Vacancies notified to employment service Jobcentre Plus Offices as a share of all vacancies ⁶	38%	39%	Over a third of the vacancies notified to employment service Jobcentre Plus Offices are from this sector both in the North East and nationally.
Future employment growth 2002-2012 (average annual rate, %) ⁷	**	**	

SKILL IMBALANCE

	NE	England	
Proportion of companies reporting vacancies ⁸	14%	11%	While the proportion of firms reporting skills shortage vacancies is consistent across the region and England as a whole, a greater proportion of firms in the region reported vacancies and significantly higher proportions of firms reported a 'hard to fill' vacancies and internal skills gaps.
Proportion of companies reporting 'hard to fill' vacancies ⁸	10%	4%	
Proportion of companies reporting a skills shortage vacancy	3%	2%	
Proportion of companies reporting internal skills gaps ⁸	26%	17%	

Within England all regions have reported vacancies. However, the largest per cent of these vacancies are amongst elementary staff (37 per cent), and Administrative staff (22 per cent).

Where employers report skills gaps, 39 per cent are amongst 'elementary staff' (which includes cleaners) and 15 per cent are amongst those employed in 'skilled trades'. However, it should be noted that the sector spans a wide variety of occupations. At one end of the continuum Asset Skills represents highly qualified professional staff such as chartered surveyors but by contrast Asset Skills acts on behalf of cleaning operatives who often have low/no formal qualifications. The figures presented here are aggregated to include all four of Asset Skills' sectors and should not be used as a representative reflection of skill needs in any of these individual sectors. For information on the skill needs of each individual sub-sector, please contact the SSC directly.

WORKFORCE

		NE	England	
Age of workforce ¹	16 – 24	5%	11%	The proportion of the workforce in the sector in the North East aged 16-24 is significantly lower than nationally, whilst over half of the workforce in the region was aged 25-44.
	25 – 44	54%	46%	
	45+	41%	43%	
Ethnicity ¹	White	98%	92%	In the North East the proportion of non-white workers in the sector is very low and significantly lower than nationally.
	Non-White	2%*	8%	
Gender ¹	Male	51%	48%	In the North East just over half of the workers in the sector are male whilst conversely in England as a whole a slightly higher proportion are female.
	Female	49%	52%	
Qualification Obtained ¹	NVQ 1 and below	**	29%	In the sector in the North East 40% of the workforce are educated at NVQ 3 and above. This is similar in England as a whole.
	NVQ 2	**	28%	
	NVQ 3 and above	40%	42%	
Proportion of firms that have provided funding for staff training within the previous 12 months ⁸		60%	56%	A higher proportion of firms in the North East undertook training for their staff, compared to the national figures, and those firms trained a significantly higher proportion of their staff.
	Of those firms which provided training, the proportion of staff trained ⁸	80%	64%	
Proportion of firms with training barriers ⁸		NE	England	A significantly higher proportion of companies in the North East reported no barriers to training in the sector than nationally. The most common barrier to training amongst companies in the sector in the North East was a lack of time for training. All of the barriers however were less significant for companies in the region than nationally.
	Lack of funding for training	16%	22%	
	Lack of suitable courses in my area	9%	14%	
	Lack of suitable courses generally	7%	12%	
	Unwillingness of staff to undertake training	10%	14%	
	High staff turnover	6%	10%	
	Lack of time for training	25%	38%	
	Lack of cover for training	18%	32%	
	No barriers	45%	35%	

More information will be available in the Autumn of 2005 when Asset Skills have completed Phase 1 of their Sector Skills Agreement.

FOOTNOTES

1. Labour Force Survey 03/04 (Average of 2003 Q3-2004 Q2)
 2. Labour Force Survey 03/04, calculated from available percentage figure and base figure.
 3. Annual Business Inquiry 2003 ONS Crown Copyright.
 4. Interdepartmental Business Register 2003. ONS Crown Copyright.
 5. Annual Business Inquiry 2002 (Coverage GB). ONS Crown Copyright.

6. Jobcentre Plus 2002 – Sector approximated from 27 sector classification
 7. IER Data 2003 – Sector approximated from 27 sector classification
 8. National Employer Skills Survey 2003 (LSC).
 * Data suppressed. Figure calculated is an estimate.
 ** Data not available.