

Foreword

The latest employment figures paint a favourable picture for the region. The number of employed people increased by 17,000 between September and November 2018 alongside an increasingly tight employment market.

Current economic projections indicate that growth in the North East of England will continue for the foreseeable future. While GVA (gross value added) growth may rise 0.3% by 2021, all areas of the region will remain below the national average of 1.7%. Newcastle is predicted to experience GVA growth of 1.4% and Teesside should experience growth up to 1.1%.

UK wages continue rising. Regular pay is now 3.3% higher compared to 2017. This represents the fastest pay growth for two years. Factoring in inflation does mean actual growth is around 1%.

Even in a candidate driven market, it's rare to see excessive salary increases. Instead, other benefits such as 'flexible benefit packs' are increasingly common with employers. These include home working, part-time arrangements, advanced childcare, car parking and buying and selling holidays perks.

We hope you enjoy reading the report and find the perspectives offered useful. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team who would be more than happy to clarify any of the information presented.