



This is Hexham Core Data Booklet 2014





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Overview of Hexham Wards

The statistics presented on the [Northumberland Knowledge](#) website, NCC’s statistical site, use the Hexham county council wards to break down the town into smaller units.

This Data Booklet contains the detailed information from the Hexham Vision 2020 and Town Plan 2014-15, Section 4, This is Hexham – Core Data. The information is presented for the 3 wards of Hexham, plus Hexham, Northumberland and England.

The three Hexham wards are:

Hexham East,

covering Dipton Mill Rd, Loughbrow and Hackwood Parks, Maidens Walk, White Cross, Woodlands, Eastwood Grange, Alemouth, Perth Head, and Priestpopple.

Hexham Central,

covering Wydon Park, Priestlands, Hexhtol, Hencotes, Beaumont, lower Cockshaw, lower Eilansgate, Haugh Lane, Tyne Green, Hallstile Bank, and Gilesgate. (N.b. Acomb is included in the Hexham Central county council ward and thus also in the available data.)

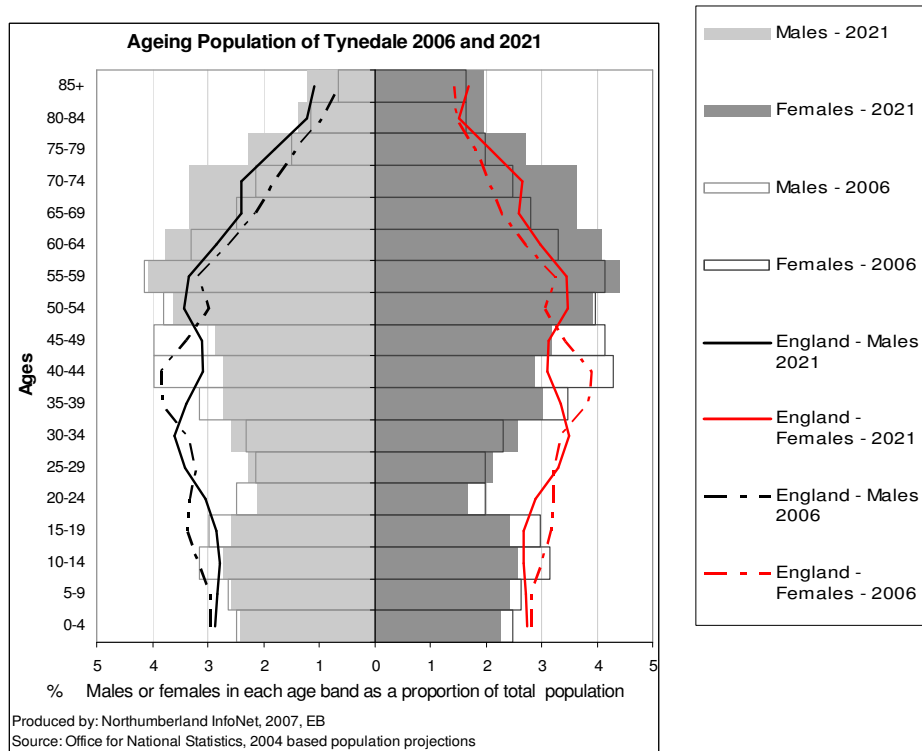
Hexham West,

covering Beaumont Park and Highford, Causey Hill, Whetstone Bridge, outer Allendale Rd, Beech Hill, Shaftoe Leazes, Millfield, upper Cockshaw, upper Eilansgate, and Leazes.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Age Profiling and Ageing Population

Tynedale Population Age Profile 2006 and 2021

(Figure 13, The Ageing Population of Northumberland 2006 and 2021, Northumberland Knowledge website)



The above chart, with males on the left and females on the right, shows the expected changes in Tynedale’s age profile between 2006 and 2021. It underscores the feature of an ageing population.

To see clearly the overall message, compare the grey shaded areas (Tynedale 2021) for both males and females with the broken (England 2006) and the solid (England 2021) vertical lines. The Tynedale 2021 projected profile shows that ages 0-49 are under-represented when compared to the national (England) proportions, most significantly at the ages 20 to 39. In stark contrast, ages 50 and above are over-represented, significantly so at ages 55 to 74, in 2021.

The profile of the shaded areas emphasises this quite visually strongly, appearing substantially top-heavy, reflecting that the higher populations proportions are among the older people, aged 50 and above.

Looking further at relevant population data, the Office for National Statistics, as reported on the Northumberland Knowledge website, projects that the overall the population of Northumberland will rise by 14,000 or 4.5%, to 2035. In individual age groups below age 65, there are however overall reductions, significantly within the working age population 45 - 64. It is the projected disproportionate increase in age groups above age 65 that leads to the projected overall increase.

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The 65+ age group overall in Northumberland will increase by 40,900 or 63.5%, and the age group 90+ is expected to increase threefold. In this period nationally the group 75+ is projected to increase by 78%; in Northumberland the figure is 98%.

There are conclusions to be drawn, for Northumberland, Tynedale and Hexham itself, relating to the services and support that older people may need and deservedly expect. There will be implications across support services, retail, housing and even entertainment that must be considered sooner, in the next 5 years, starting with this Hexham Town Plan 2020, rather than later.

Hexham’s Population Profile

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
0 – 15 years	647	15.5	764	16.3	777	18.4	1,983	16.8	17.0	18.9
0 – 4	177	4.2	235	5.0	196	4.6	537	4.5	5.1	6.3
5 – 15	470	11.2	529	11.3	581	13.8	1,446	12.2	12.0	12.6
16 – 64 years	2,446	58.4	2,911	62.1	2,552	60.5	7,148	60.4	62.9	64.8
16-24	439	10.5	467	10.0	427	10.1	1,220	10.3	9.8	11.9
25-64	2,007	48.0	2,444	52.1	2,125	50.3	5,982	50.1	53.2	52.9
65+ years	1,092	26.1	1,016	21.7	892	21.1	2,698	22.8	20.0	16.3
65 – 74	450	10.8	529	11.3	469	11.1	1,280	10.8	10.9	8.6
75+ years	642	15.3	487	10.4	423	10.0	1,418	12.0	9.2	7.7

* Central figures include Acomb

In Hexham, the working population (25-64 year olds) as a proportion of the total population (50.1%) is slightly lower than in Northumberland and England. While the school population (5-15 year olds) in Hexham is consistent with Northumberland and England, the pre-school population (0-4) is significantly lower (at 4.5%), especially compared to England (6.3%). Given this lower base-line proportion of pre-5s, and a lower proportion of working/parenting age people, Hexham schools will not be planning for the same increases in numbers of young children as in other areas of England.

It is in comparisons in the data for the older generations (65+ years) that the biggest differences appear. Hexham has an older population than Northumberland and England overall, significantly so when compared to England. 12.0% of Hexham’s population are 75+ years old (in Hexham East this figure is 15.3%), while in Northumberland overall 75+ year olds are 9.2% and in England 7.7% of the total population. There are important conclusions to be drawn for housing, retail, health services and targeted support services.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Economic Activity Levels – among people aged 16-74

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	N ^e	%	%	%
Economically Active	1,985	68.5	2,419	70.3	2,060	68.2	5,817	69.0	67.9	69.9
Employees Part Time	439	15.2	586	17.0	470	15.6	1,346	16.0	14.7	13.7
Employees Full-Time	1,091	37.7	1,298	37.7	1,063	35.2	3,108	36.9	37.0	38.6
Self Employed	268	9.3	339	9.9	373	12.3	875	10.4	9.5	9.8
Unemployed	123	4.2	121	3.5	72	2.4	289	3.4	4.4	4.4
Full Time Student	64	2.2	75	2.2	82	2.7	199	2.4	2.2	3.4
Economically Inactive	911	31.5	1,021	29.7	961	31.8	2,611	31.0	32.1	30.1

* Central figures include Acomb

Overall levels of economic activity among people in Hexham are close to Northumberland and England figures. Part-time employment in Hexham is higher than the national figure, particularly among people in Hexham Central. The self-employed form a much higher proportion of this wide age-group in Hexham West (12.3%) than in England (9.8%), thus accounting for the slightly higher figure for Hexham overall (10.4%).

Figures for long-term unemployment in Hexham West in particular (2.4%) are well below the national trend (4.4%), and also but to a lesser extent in Hexham Central (3.5%), although in Hexham East they match the national situation.

The figures for full-time students in Hexham (2.4%) are lower than nationally (3.4%), although the overall figure for Northumberland is slightly lower still (2.2%). This is to be explained not by a reticence among Hexham’s younger generation to study beyond the age of 18 but rather by reasons of location, as Hexham’s (and Northumberland’s) young people move away to study and there is no compensatory flow of students into the town to attend FE or HE institutions.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Employment Sectors – people aged 16-74 in employment

* Central figures include Acomb

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	13	0.7	21	0.9	33	1.7	53	1.0	2.5	0.8
Mining & Quarrying	5	0.3	14	0.6	8	0.4	23	0.4	0.5	0.2
Manufacturing	134	7.3	185	8.1	131	6.6	405	7.4	9.2	8.8
Elec, Gas, Steam & Air Conditioning Supply	5	0.3	7	0.3	13	0.7	19	0.3	0.6	0.6
Water sply; Sewage, wste mgmt	10	0.5	15	0.7	5	0.3	25	0.5	0.7	0.7
Construction	92	5.0	188	8.2	118	6.0	339	6.2	7.9	7.7
Whsale & Retail Trade; Repair Motor Vehicles	311	16.8	397	17.3	252	12.7	861	15.7	14.6	15.9
Transport & Storage	74	4.0	89	3.9	54	2.7	203	3.7	4.2	5.0
Accommodation & Food Svc Activities	126	6.8	149	6.5	94	4.7	329	6.0	6.0	5.6
Information & Communication	42	2.3	53	2.3	76	3.8	155	2.8	2.5	4.1
Financial & Insurance Activities	32	1.7	48	2.1	66	3.3	129	2.3	2.4	4.4
Real Estate	23	1.2	34	1.5	24	1.2	69	1.3	1.5	1.5
Professional, Scientific & Technical	124	6.7	135	5.9	207	10.5	428	7.8	5.2	6.7
Administrative & Support Service	58	3.1	67	2.9	43	2.2	158	2.9	3.8	4.9
Pub Admin & Def; Compulsory Soc Sec	79	4.3	120	5.2	119	6.0	287	5.2	9.1	5.9
Education	267	14.4	212	9.3	297	15.0	712	12.9	8.9	9.9
Human Health & Social Work	336	18.2	409	17.9	315	15.9	949	17.3	15.4	12.4
Other	117	6.3	148	6.5	124	6.3	356	6.5	4.9	5.0

One surprise perhaps in the above table relating to the sectors in which Hexham residents are employed is the low figure relating to Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (1.0% of Hexham’s workers), which is much lower than the Northumberland proportion (2.5%) and closer to the proportion for England as a whole (0.8%). The conclusion must be that few residents travel outside of Hexham to work in the surrounding farms and forests.

A smaller proportion of Hexham residents (7.4%) is engaged in manufacturing than is the case nationally (8.8%) or in wider Northumberland (9.2%). In this sector, the contrast between the Hexham wards is instructive, as in Hexham Central 8.1% of the at-work population is engaged in manufacturing, compared to 6.6% in Hexham West.

The table confirms that it is slightly more difficult than in other places to find a builder or a plumber when you need one, unless you happen to live in Hexham Central and get on well with your neighbours!

Hexham has a smaller proportion of residents employed in the two sectors Information/Communication and Finance/Insurance (respectively 2.8% and 2.3%) than is the picture nationally in England (4.1% and 4.4%). With no significant media or marketing organisations in the town, beyond what are expected of a relatively self-sufficient community, and no large financial organisations, apart from bank branches, these sectors are understandably under-represented.

In the Professional, Scientific and Technical sector, Hexham West (10.5%) overshadows not only the other two Hexham wards but also the stats for Northumberland (5.2%) and England as a whole (6.7%). The proportion of people in Hexham engaged in the Education sector (12.9%), in particular in Hexham East (14.4%) and Hexham West (15.0%), likewise significantly exceeds the figures for Northumberland (8.9%) and England as a whole (9.9%).

The location of in the town of the General Hospital serving also an extensive, out-of-town hinterland may explain why the figures for Hexham people engaged in Health and Social Work (17.3%) are higher than for Northumberland (15.4%) and England as a whole (12.4%).

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Employment – Roles - aged 16-74 in employment

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	205	11.1	223	9.7	289	14.6	640	11.6	10.5	10.9
Professional Occupations	363	19.6	374	16.3	591	29.9	1,215	22.1	15.5	17.5
Associate Professional and Technical	229	12.4	234	10.2	268	13.5	660	12.0	11.5	12.8
Administrative and Secretarial	139	7.5	209	9.1	189	9.6	468	8.5	11.5	11.5
Skilled Trades Occupations	180	9.7	290	12.7	164	8.3	546	9.9	13.0	11.4
Caring, Leisure and other Services	223	12.1	294	12.8	159	8.0	613	11.1	10.6	9.3
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	151	8.2	204	8.9	138	7.0	450	8.2	8.6	8.4
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	112	6.1	189	8.2	68	3.4	335	6.1	7.8	7.2
Elementary Occupations	246	13.3	274	12.0	113	5.7	573	10.4	11.0	11.1

* Central figures include Acomb

Two occupations are well represented in Hexham, well above the national proportions. These are Professional Occupations (above the national (17.5%) figure in Hexham East (19.5%) and significantly above in Hexham West (29.9%)) and Caring, Leisure and other Services occupations (due to figures that are higher than national (9.3%) proportions in Hexham East (12.1%) and Hexham Central (12.8%)).

The number of Managers, Directors and Senior Official occupations also in Hexham West, relative to the working population as a whole in that ward, is higher than the national figure for England by a full third.

There is a smaller than national average proportion of Hexham’s working population engaged in Administrative and Secretarial occupations in any of Hexham’s three wards.

This type of data has a number of different uses nationally, based on particular assumptions. One use is within the retail trade, to judge the local and ‘travel to shop’ profile, in turn to help to define retailers’ stock policies.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Levels of Qualifications - aged 16+

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
No Qual’s	856	24.2	918	23.4	391	11.4	1,930	19.6	23.9	22.5
Level 1 Qual’s	398	11.2	541	13.8	275	8.0	1,071	10.9	13.7	13.3
Level 2 Qual’s	511	14.4	619	15.8	490	14.2	1,460	14.8	16.5	15.2
Apprenticeship	135	3.8	147	3.7	93	2.7	336	3.4	4.5	3.6
Level 3 Qual’s	361	10.2	472	12.0	388	11.3	1,096	11.1	12.1	12.4
Level 4 Qual’s and above	1,147	32.4	1,111	28.3	1,716	49.8	3,643	37.0	25.6	27.4
Other Qual’s	130	3.7	119	3.0	91	2.6	310	3.1	3.8	5.7

* Central figures include Acomb

The category of qualification that jumps out is Level 4 Qualifications and above (generally HND or degree level, and further training that often focuses on the management of people) not only in Hexham West (49.8%, or as good as half the 16+ population) but also in Hexham East (32.4%) and Hexham West (28.3%). The equivalent all-England and Northumberland figures are 27.4% and 25.6% respectively.

Certain levels of qualification are under-represented in Hexham West, but given the huge proportion in the single category (see above) this is statistically inevitable.

All qualification levels are solidly represented in Hexham by national standards, again underscoring the diversity that the town of Hexham enjoys.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Travel to Work - Aged 16-74 in Employment

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N'land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
Car/Van/Taxi/Motorcycle	1,046	56.6	1,397	61.0	1,383	69.9	3,347	60.9	72.8	63.4
Public Transport	105	5.7	118	5.2	99	5.0	287	5.2	7.0	16.9
On Foot	556	30.1	577	25.2	289	14.6	1,387	25.2	11.5	10.7
Bicycle	18	1.0	35	1.5	15	0.8	59	1.1	1.5	3.0
Work From Home	109	5.9	139	6.1	174	8.8	366	6.7	6.3	5.4
Other	14	0.8	25	1.1	19	1.0	54	1.0	1.0	0.6

* Central figures include Acomb

It is interesting to look first of all at the ‘on foot’ figures, as they are directly related to the proportion of the population that lives locally and works locally.

It is in Hexham East that the proportion of residents who walk to work stands out (30.1%), with the probability that the figure for Hexham Central (25.2%) would be similarly high if Central data did not include Acomb (where a bus is probably taken to go to work in Hexham). Add to this the 14.6% of walkers to work in Hexham West, and the overall Hexham figure of 25.2% is well above the Northumberland and England figures (11.5% and 10.7% respectively).

This reflects in some ways the extent to which Hexham remains a relatively self-sufficient, somewhat isolated market town, that provides a full range of employment in services to support the lives of local people and to run the commercial activities that cause other people to travel into the town.

The broadly rural nature of Northumberland (longer travel to work distances) is reflected in the high proportion of people who travel to work by car (72.8%) compared to England at 63.4%. At 60.9% Hexham is relatively low, for the reasons proposed above.

The low Hexham overall figure however conceals a relatively high figure for the proportion of car travellers to work, 69.9%, in Hexham West, higher than in Hexham East (56.6%) and Hexham Central (61.0%). These 3,500 or so residents travel away from the town to work, with a large proportion no doubt commuting into the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, where they can also shop and pursue evening leisure/entertainment activities.

These are the residents who are and feel most mobile and who have easy opportunities to shop elsewhere. They are the portion of Hexham residents that the town’s independent retail sector is least likely to do regular business with, unless targeted steps are taken towards this.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Accommodation type - all household spaces

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N’land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
Whole house or bungalow	1,566	81.0	1,726	73.8	1,573	90.1	4,292	79.1	88.6	77.5
Detached	444	23.0	294	12.6	821	47.0	1,382	25.5	25.2	22.3
Semi-detached	802	41.5	678	29.0	372	21.3	1,652	30.5	35.3	30.37
Terraced	320	16.6	754	32.2	380	21.8	1,258	23.2	28.1	24.5
Flat, maisonette or apartment	367	19.0	593	25.4	160	9.2	1,100	20.3	11.1	22.1
Caravan/other mobile or temporary structure	0	0.0	20	0.9	12	0.7	31	0.6	0.3	0.4

* Central figures include Acomb

Detached houses predominate in Hexham West, semi-detached in Hexham East, and terraced houses, flats and maisonettes in Hexham Central, although of course all types are represented in each area.

Accommodation types in Hexham follow generally the patterns for Northumberland and England overall. The sole outlier in this is the low figure for flats, maisonettes and apartments in Northumberland, which is well below the corresponding figure for England and in Hexham.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Accommodation tenure - all households

	East		Central *		West		Hexham		N'land	England
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	%	%
Owned outright	652	35.6	677	30.4	854	51.1	1,954	37.9	33.3	30.6
Owned outright with a mortgage or loan	468	25.6	589	26.5	598	35.8	1,487	28.9	32.6	32.8
Shared ownership (part owned & part rented)	20	1.1	20	0.9	9	0.5	48	0.9	0.4	0.8
Social rented	381	20.8	573	25.8	30	1.8	877	17.0	18.7	17.7
Private rented including living rent free	309	16.9	365	16.4	180	10.8	784	15.2	15.1	18.2

* Central figures include Acomb

The higher proportion of homes owned outright in Northumberland than in England as a whole stems probably from the difference in house prices, as houses in the North-East are on average among the least expensive in the country.

Home-ownership is strong in Hexham, with homes owned outright proportionately higher in Hexham East and especially Hexham West than in Northumberland and England as a whole.

Residents in the process of buying their homes by mortgage or loan constitute again a higher proportion in Hexham West (35.8%) than in the other two wards, and at the same time higher than in Northumberland and England overall.

There is very little social rented accommodation in Hexham West (at 1.8%), unlike in the other two wards, where proportions are much higher than the Northumberland and England averages.

Private rented tenures also figure more strongly in Hexham East and Central than in Hexham West.

This data on households by tenure shows again the diversity that characterises the town of Hexham. There is diversity within Hexham East and Hexham Central as well as in Hexham overall. The fact that there is one ward whose data reveals a more uniform population in respect of household tenure only underscores that diversity.

This is Hexham – Hexham’s Core Data Business Start-ups and Closures

BUSINESS ACTIVITY LEVELS IN HEXHAM AND TYNEDALE

The following statistics are taken from the latest Northumberland Economic Assessment published in May 2012 and available on the Northumberland Knowledge website.

Active Enterprises

Figure 56: Active Enterprises

(2010)	Active Enterprises per 10,000 Working Age Population	Number of Active Enterprises
Berwick-upon-Tweed District	687	1,085
Tynedale District	680	2,510
Alnwick District	587	1,180
Castle Morpeth District	561	1,760
Blyth Valley District	325	1,710
Wansbeck	293	1,165
England	591	2,001,885
Northumberland	479	9,410
North East Region	365	61,955

© Crown copyright. Source: ONS Business Demography 2010.

Using the latest figures available on the Northumberland Knowledge website, in 2010 the number of active enterprises in Tynedale was relatively high by national, Northumberland and NE standards generally. In common with the general picture in Northumberland, the highest proportion of these consisted of small businesses employing 1-4 people. Given that the two districts that exhibited the highest numbers of active businesses relative to the working age population were Berwick and Tynedale, this is probably a consequence of their remoteness from centres of population and commerce, for example the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. Thus one of the strengths of Tynedale and indeed Hexham is their necessary levels of self-sufficiency, with most types of enterprise and service represented and equally most types of employment, with the exception of heavy industry.

Business Start -ups

The latest Northumberland business-start-up data (2011) shows Hexham Central (with covers perhaps two-thirds of the Hexham Town Centre) in a positive light, near the top of the table and topped only by the two Ponteland wards that share that town’s centre. This is therefore a re-assuring set of statistics for the vitality of the Hexham town centre. Hexham Central covers the western sections of the town centre, everything west of and including the western side of Fore Street, including Back Street, Hencotes, Market Street, three sides of the Market Place, Battle Hill, Beaumont Street, Haugh Lane and its industrial estate.

The picture is also positive for the wider western section of Tynedale of which Hexham lies at the centre, as start-ups are a positive feature of the commercial life of Corbridge to the east, South Tynedale to the south-west and Bellingham to Hexham’s north.

Figure 61: Wards with Ten Highest and Lowest (Bank Search) Business Start-ups per 10,000 WA Population (2011)

Highest Business Start-ups		Lowest Business Start-ups	
Start-ups per 10,000 Working Age Population	Ward	Start-ups per 10,000 Working Age Population	Ward
256	Ponteland North	50	Newsham
250	Ponteland East	52	Berwick West
237	Hexham Central with Acomb	57	Plessey
233	Bellingham	57	Seaton with Newbiggin West
211	South Tynedale	62	Choppington
209	Morpeth North	63	Cramlington East
196	Corbridge	64	Isabella
184	Ponteland West	67	Hirst
180	Shilbottle	69	Cowpen
176	Bywell	71	Cramlington Eastfield

Source: Bank Search Northumberland. New Business Start-ups by County Ward (2011). Rates calculated using ONS mid-2010 population estimates for people aged 16 to 64.

Business Closures

Figure 63: Death Rates and Number of Deaths of Businesses 2010

	Shut-downs	Total Number of Businesses	Shut-down rate
Blyth Valley	220	1,710	12.9%
Wansbeck	145	1,165	12.4%
Castle Morpeth	190	1,760	10.8%
Alnwick	120	1,180	10.2%
Berwick-upon-Tweed	110	1,085	10.1%
Tynedale	245	2,510	9.8%
North East Region	8,125	61,955	13.1%
England	261,880	2,001,885	13.1%
Northumberland	1,030	9,410	10.9%

© Crown copyright. Source: ONS Business Demography 2010.

Northumberland (10.9%) had a lower shut-down rate of businesses in 2010 than the North East (13.1%) and England (13.1%) averages. Blyth Valley (12.9%) is the former Northumberland District with the highest business death rate followed by Wansbeck

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(12.4%), both having a higher shut-down rate than the whole of Northumberland but still lower than the North East and England.

Tynedale, in which Hexham is the largest centre of both population and commercial activity, had the highest number of business closures in 2010 but the lowest rate of business closures of the six former Northumberland districts.

These are further positive signals of Hexham’s commercial vitality. Even in the more recent years of austerity, we have seen in the centre of Hexham, for example, retail business closures quite quickly being followed by the opening of new businesses in their place, in most cases within 12 months.

