

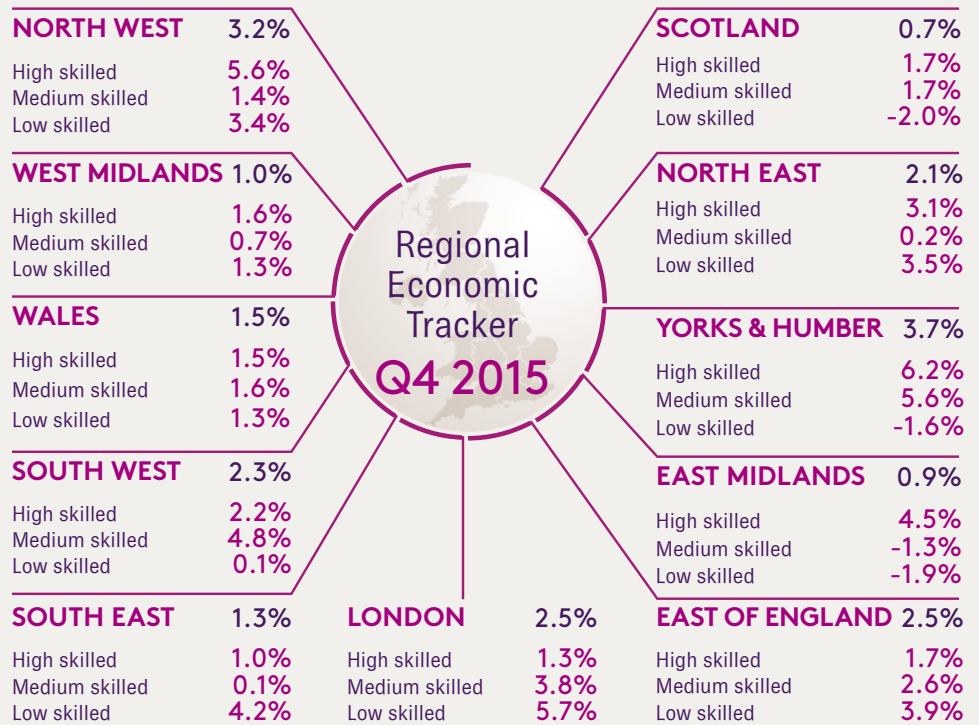
Regional Economic Tracker

The NatWest Regional Economic Tracker monitors employment levels in 12 regions across the UK showing where the fastest job growth has occurred on a quarterly basis.

Yorkshire & the Humber top for high skilled job creation

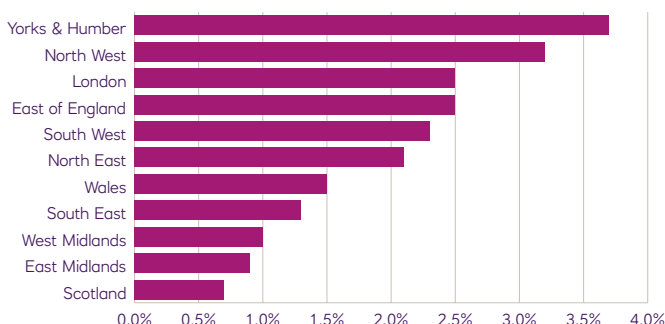
Yorkshire & the Humber held onto its first place in the NatWest Regional Economic Tracker, seeing a higher rate of job growth than any other UK region in 2015. Employment rose by 3.7% last year, almost twice the UK rate of 2%. This excellent performance means there are now almost 5% more jobs than in 2008 and has pushed Yorkshire & the Humber up the long term rankings, bettered only by London and East of England.

Behind this success is a 6.2% surge in high skilled jobs over the last year, more than offsetting a small fall in low skilled employment. As the labour market changes and technology becomes ever more important it is reassuring to see the region continuing to generate high quality jobs and benefit from the higher wages they tend to attract.



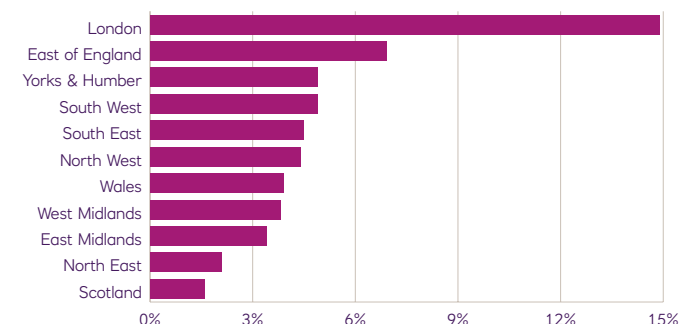
Annual employment growth, year to Q4 2015

Source: Office for National Statistics



Employment growth, 2008 to Q4 2015

Source: Office for National Statistics



Regional Economic Tracker

High skilled job creation powering best performing regions

There are now 1.6 million more people working than there were in 2008, but they are not doing the same jobs as they were eight years ago. The strongest growth has been seen in highly skilled categories occupied by managers and professionals, expanding by 12.5% since 2008 and a very healthy 2.5% in the last 12 months. Recent employment growth amongst medium skilled occupations has pushed job numbers there back above their 2008 level. Yet there are still fractionally fewer people employed in low skilled jobs than there eight years ago.

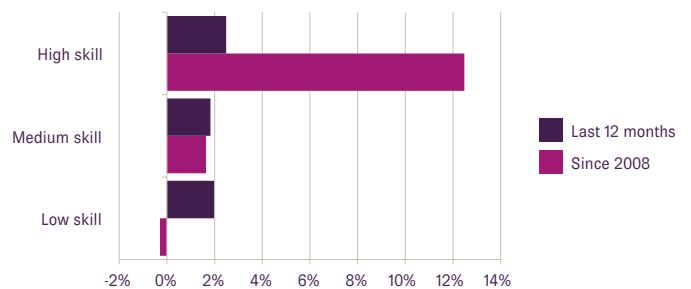
The effect of technological change on the labour market is clear to see in these results. Greater use of technology is improving the efficiency of many retail operations, the replacement of check-out staff with automated tills is one of the most visible ways this is happening and has contributed to the number of people employed as cashiers falling by over 70,000 since 2008.

Different parts of the UK have had varied success in creating these high skilled jobs. Yorkshire & the Humber and the North West have both seen high skilled employment grow by over 5% in the last 12 months, powered by cities such as Manchester and

York, both of which have more high skilled employment than the UK average. The strongest concentration of high skilled jobs are to be found in the university cities of Cambridge and Oxford. London and the South East have both strong concentrations of high skilled jobs, but last year both regions saw employment growth biased towards low skilled occupations with growth of over 4%.

Employment growth by skill level

Source: Office for National Statistics



High skilled employment in major towns and cities, by region

Source: Office for National Statistics

