
**OCCUPATIONS OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE
2000**

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KEY POINTS

This is the second annual report analysing the sought and usual occupations of *claimant* unemployed people in Tyne & Wear. It reports 2000 with change since 1997. It thereby gives a broad picture of the skills available. It also highlights signs of shortages and over-supply. The data relate to claimants, rather than the 50,000 or so people the Labour Force Survey estimates are actually available and looking for work in Tyne & Wear.

The report shows the effect of the tightening of the labour market since 1997 on the availability of skills.

In Tyne & Wear, on average, in 2000:

- There were 33,800 claimant unemployed (p1).
- Those previously in unskilled labouring occupations ('Other Elementary Occupations') still formed by far the largest component of the claimant unemployed (27%) (p5).

Aspirations were still lower than nationally, as the proportions seeking the following occupations show (Table 9. p11):

- 30% sought Other Occupations (i.e. labourers, porters etc.) (UK 25%).
- Only 10% sought Managerial & Professional Occupations (UK 14%).

Tyne & Wear, however, had a higher proportion seeking work in Craft & Related occupations, 18% (UK 15%).

Between 1997 and 2000, in Tyne & Wear:

- Claimant unemployment fell substantially, by 24%, but more slowly than the 31% in the UK (p1).
- **Fastest falls have been around the top and at the bottom** of the skill range, where availability fell by over 30%. (Table 12, p14).
- The pool of potential **teachers** has dried up by over a third - the fastest fall for any occupational group (down 37%, to 339). This is slightly sharper than the 33% falls amongst both Managers and Other Professionals.
- "Shortages" were very acute for the **health** service. There were only 16 people seeking jobs as Health Professionals and 75 as Associate Health Professionals (nurses etc.) (p13). Falls over the three years were negligible in the numbers seeking work in these occupations – probably because they are snapped up quickly.
- **Skilled construction trades** were also in short supply (down 30%).
- The unskilled "Other Elementary Occupations" (**labourers, porters** etc.) had the largest *absolute* fall (-3,600 -26%). It is possible the New Deal has disproportionately removed this group (p6).
- There may be low demand for **Science/Engineering Professionals** (-15%) and for **Other Skilled Trades** (-9%) (p14).
- The situation appears to be in broad balance for **scientists and skilled engineering trades**, with negligible change since 1997. There were nearly 500 people seeking Science/Engineering Associate Professional posts (down just 1%) and about 1,200 seeking the Skilled Engineering Trades (down 2%).
- Conversely, **machine operators** are in over-supply, with *rising* numbers. Between 1997-2000 in Tyne & Wear, the numbers of claimants seeking employment rose for Industrial Plant/Machine Operators (+25%) (p13).

Compared with the UK:

- **Labour market tightening was much less in Tyne & Wear** (Table 11, p12) than in the UK (Table 13, p) for Plant & Machine Operatives (UK -28%, TW -11%) and especially Craft & Related (UK -35%, TW -14%).

At district-level the key differences were:

- A high proportion of claimants in Newcastle (16%) and Sunderland (14%) had 'no previous occupation' (UK 13%) (pp3,5). Presumably these are mainly young people who had not worked before. The high figures in the two cities probably reflect the greater concentration of former students from further and higher education.
- Managers & Professionals formed the highest share of the claimant unemployed resident in Newcastle (10.5%) and North Tyneside (10.1%).

1 INTRODUCTION

This is the second report on Occupations of Unemployed People. It reports their 'sought' and 'usual' occupations thereby giving estimates of the stock of available unused occupational skills in the economy. It should be helpful in identifying skill shortages and over-provision. This analysis should therefore be especially useful to economic development and training specialists. The report concentrates on Tyne & Wear and its constituent districts. Comparisons are made, geographically and by occupation, with the North East and the UK.

Although the principal aims of public policy might be to raise employment and reduce unemployment, another aim is to raise skill levels. This report analyses a relatively new source of data on the occupations of claimant unemployed people (particularly previous occupation), which is a good proxy for their skills. The data series runs only from 1996 (July onwards) and is quarterly.

This report presents the situation in 2000 and analyses change over the three years 1997-2000, using annual averages. Annual averages are used since they remove seasonal fluctuations and are, by definition, more stable than quarterly data. After October 2000, comparability is lost because the data are no longer coded on the Standard Occupation Classification 1990 (SOC90).

Economic context:

Between 1997 and 2000 the UK economy grew quite strongly although economic growth slowed to almost zero in late 1998 and early 1999.

Employment grew between 1997 and 2000 by 4% or over 1 million (Source: Labour Force Survey, annual averages). In Tyne & Wear economic growth has probably been slower (local GDP estimates are not available until about 3 years after the event). In Tyne & Wear employment fell by 0.5% according to the Labour Force Survey.

Claimant unemployment in Tyne & Wear fell by 24%, on average, between 1997 and 2000 (Table 1). This is the benchmark against which unemployment change by occupational class can be compared.

Tyne & Wear claimant unemployment fell less quickly than in the UK (-24% compared with -31%) between 1997 and 2000 (annual average).

In 1997, the Tyne & Wear claimant unemployment rate was 1.5x the UK rate. By 1999 and 2000 Tyne & Wear's rate was 1.7x the UK rate (all workforce-base figures).

Table 1: Change in Claimant Unemployment; 1997-2000

	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
	1997	1999	2000	No.	%
Gateshead	6,757	5,407	4,695	-2,062	-30.5%
Newcastle	12,229	9,461	8,658	-3,571	-29.2%
North Tyneside	7,002	6,223	5,513	-1,489	-21.3%
South Tyneside	7,022	6,451	6,111	-911	-13.0%
Sunderland	11,275	9,702	8,835	-2,440	-21.6%
Tyne & Wear	44,284	37,244	33,812	-10,472	-23.6%
North East	95,589	81,186	74,170	-21,419	-22.4%
UK	1,608,876	1,253,761	1,111,164	-497,712	-30.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

The period 1997-2000 was characterised by rapid growth in the UK service sector but output growth in manufacturing slowed to about zero. This period was also affected by new government initiatives, most notably the introduction of the New Deal from 1998.

2 SOURCE AND THE STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

This report uses the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) which distinguishes occupational groups, as far as possible, by the type and level of skills required to carry out the main work activities. This is the earlier version of the SOC2000 which is now being introduced.

The SOC has over 350 unit groups, which can be combined into broader levels. TWRI's standard output (supplied to Districts each quarter) is the 10 SOCMAJORS. This report uses the 23 SOCGROUPS to investigate the patterns at a more detailed level.

Data for this report were obtained from the Claimant Stocks by Occupation dataset held on NOMIS. Information is available on a quarterly basis from July 1996 onwards on the sought and usual occupation of the claimant unemployed.

There are four minor caveats to the data:

- a) It is not seasonally adjusted (but this has been minimised by TWRI averaging four quarterly figures for each year).
- b) Changes in the coverage of the unemployment count since 1997 (probably mainly the New Deal) will also affect comparisons over time.
- c) Some of the data on usual occupation are dummy data inserted by the Employment Service, where actual data were missing. (Every claimant is required to specify the occupation which they are seeking. This is coded to the appropriate unit SOC code. Claimants do not have to supply a usual occupation and if the usual field is left blank then the sought occupation is inserted, as dummy data. The SOC unit code 000 is allocated to claimants who have not worked before.)
- d) Claimants with missing or invalid postcodes were excluded from the original dataset. (Thus the number of unemployed claimants by occupation may be slightly lower than the count in other datasets because of this treatment of missing and invalid postcodes. For other standard analyses of unemployment, the Employment Service allocates claims with missing or invalid postcodes to the local office from which they originate.)

AN OCCUPATION IS DEFINED AS A 'COHERENT SETS OF WORK ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY INDIVIDUALS'.

3. USUAL OCCUPATION OF UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS, 2000

Tyne & Wear's occupational structure of unemployed claimants reflects its lower skills profile than the UK (Table 2 and TW in Fig 1 p10). The proportion previously in 'Other Occupations' (unskilled labourers) (27%) was 4 percentage points higher than in the UK. At the other end of the spectrum, Managers & Professionals accounted for only 9% of the claimant unemployed in Tyne & Wear, compared to 12% in the UK. Craft & Related accounted for a 17% share in Tyne & Wear compared to 13% nationally, probably reflecting greater job losses from manufacturing. 'No Previous/Unknown Occupation', (the 'No Previous' part of which is, presumably, mainly young people) accounted for a lower proportion in the county than in the UK. This probably reflects the larger structural element in Tyne & Wear's claimant unemployment than in the UK.

Table 2: Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by Combined SOC Groups; 2000

SOC Codes	Usual Occupation	Tyne & Wear		North East		UK	
		Number	% Share	Number	% Share	Number	% Share
1-9	Managers & Professionals	2,970	8.8	6,467	8.7	132,889	12.0
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	3,683	10.9	7,443	10.0	145,469	13.1
12-14	Craft & Related	5,693	16.8	11,899	16.0	143,243	12.9
15-18	Services & Sales	4,672	13.8	10,119	13.6	157,833	14.2
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	3,383	10.0	8,116	10.9	111,989	10.1
21,22	Other Occupations	9,098	26.9	20,729	27.9	260,558	23.4
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	4,315	12.8	9,397	12.7	159,184	14.3
	Total	33,812	100.0	74,170	100.0	1,111,164	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

In Tyne & Wear, in 2000, people whose usual occupation was 'Other Elementary' (labourers, porters etc) formed by far the largest group of the unemployed (27%) (Table 3). Claimants with No Previous Occupation/Unknown Occupations accounted for 13% of the total, followed by Clerical Occupations (10%) and Other Skilled Trades (9%).

The North East's structure was very similar to that of Tyne & Wear. The biggest exceptions were Clerical Occupations, which are slightly more likely in Tyne & Wear (10%) than in the North East (9%) and Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, which are the other way around (NE 6%, TW 5%). These differences reflect the industrial structure of Tyne & Wear which is more service-sector dominated than in the North East.

Table 3: Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed; 2000

SOC Group	Usual Occupation	Tyne & Wear		North East		UK	
		Number	% Share	Number	% Share	Number	% Share
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	525	1.6	1,317	1.8	30,739	2.8
2	Managers/Proprietors:Agri/Serv	327	1.0	754	1.0	13,733	1.2
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	285	0.8	718	1.0	12,350	1.1
4	Health Professionals	13	0.0	20	0.0	658	0.1
5	Teaching Professionals	299	0.9	589	0.8	11,264	1.0
6	Other Professional Occupations	154	0.5	336	0.5	7,751	0.7
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	387	1.1	884	1.2	15,090	1.4
8	Health Associate Professionals	61	0.2	150	0.2	3,069	0.3
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	919	2.7	1,700	2.3	38,236	3.4
10	Clerical Occupations	3,449	10.2	6,867	9.3	132,124	11.9
11	Secretarial Occupations	233	0.7	576	0.8	13,346	1.2
12	Skilled Construction Trades	1,394	4.1	2,970	4.0	42,519	3.8
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	1,119	3.3	2,298	3.1	27,360	2.5
14	Other Skilled Trades	3,179	9.4	6,631	8.9	73,364	6.6
15	Protective Service Occupations	367	1.1	868	1.2	12,343	1.1
16	Personal Service Occupations	1,967	5.8	4,178	5.6	65,755	5.9
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	237	0.7	510	0.7	10,229	0.9
18	Other Sales Occupations	2,101	6.2	4,564	6.2	69,506	6.3
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	1,542	4.6	4,131	5.6	53,388	4.8
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	1,841	5.4	3,985	5.4	58,602	5.3
21	Other Occupations:Agri/Forestry/Fishing	142	0.4	587	0.8	9,419	0.8
22	Other Elementary Occupations	8,956	26.5	20,143	27.2	251,139	22.6
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	4,315	12.8	9,397	12.7	159,184	14.3
	Total	33,812	100.0	74,170	100.0	1,111,164	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

'Other Occupations' (labourers, porters) accounted for the greatest proportion of unemployment in all Tyne & Wear districts in 2000 (Table 4), ranging from 26% in Gateshead to 29% in South Tyneside. Craft & Related occupations formed a high proportion of unemployment in both South Tyneside (24%) and North Tyneside (19%). Services & Sales were highest in Gateshead and Newcastle (about 14.5%). Clerical & Secretarial occupations accounted for 13% of the unemployed in Gateshead. Unemployment amongst Plant & Machine Operatives was a high component in Gateshead and Sunderland (at about 11%). Managers & Professionals formed a higher proportion of unemployment in Newcastle (10.5%) than in any other district.

Table 4: Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by District; 2000

SOC Codes	Usual Occupation	Gateshead		Newcastle		North Tyneside		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
		No.	% Share	No.	% Share	No.	% Share	No.	% Share	No.	% Share
1-9	Managers & Professionals	451	9.6	911	10.5	558	10.1	484	7.9	565	6.4
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	597	12.7	849	9.8	633	11.5	598	9.8	1,007	11.4
12-14	Craft & Related	719	15.3	1,192	13.8	1,068	19.4	1,461	23.9	1,253	14.2
15-18	Services & Sales	683	14.5	1,260	14.6	775	14.0	797	13.0	1,158	13.1
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	516	11.0	658	7.6	548	9.9	652	10.7	1,009	11.4
21,22	Other Occupations	1,210	25.8	2,239	25.9	1,460	26.5	1,799	29.4	2,390	27.0
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	519	11.0	1,551	17.9	473	8.6	319	5.2	1,454	16.5
	Total	4,695	100.0	8,658	100.0	5,513	100.0	6,111	100.0	8,835	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

Between 1997 and 2000, unemployment fell most sharply for the (unskilled) Other Occupations (down 35%)(Table 5). Thousands of people were on the New Deal options, and thus taken off this count of unemployed people. About half these people took the education/training option.

The next sharpest falls in unemployment since 1997 were for Services & Sales (down 23%) and Managers & Professionals (down 20%). These falls probably reflect the growing demand (led by the service sector) for these skills effectively shrinking the pool for these skills.

Unemployment amongst Plant & Machine Operatives fell by only 12% (UK -30%, Table 7), reflecting the difficulties in the manufacturing sector in Tyne & Wear. Unemployment for Craft & Related occupations, however, fell by a fairly respectable 18%, perhaps reflecting growth outside the manufacturing sector such as in construction.

Table 5: Change in Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by Combined Groups, Tyne & Wear; 1997-2000

SOC Codes	Usual Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1-9	Managers & Professionals	3,724	3,275	2,970	-754	-20.3%
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	4,350	4,076	3,683	-668	-15.3%
12-14	Craft & Related	6,908	6,246	5,693	-1,216	-17.6%
15-18	Services & Sales	6,062	4,991	4,672	-1,389	-22.9%
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	3,832	3,863	3,383	-449	-11.7%
21,22	Other Occupations	14,085	10,443	9,098	-4,987	-35.4%
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	5,324	4,351	4,315	-1,009	-18.9%
	Total	44,284	37,244	33,812	-10,472	-23.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

In 1997-2000 unemployment rose for only three of the 23 SOCgroups in Tyne & Wear (Table 6). Unemployment rose by 11%, up 150, for Industrial Plant/Machine Operators. The other rises were very small numbers.

The largest absolute fall (nearly 5,000) was for Other Elementary Occupations (-36%). It is possible New Deal has made a disproportionate reduction in these people amongst the claimant unemployed. (People on the New Deal leave the claimant unemployment count once they are on an option. Whilst they are on the preliminary 'Gateway' they still count as claimant unemployed.) For the three years 1999-2001 there have been about 2,000+ people in Tyne & Wear on NDYP options. (See TWRI quarterly reports New Deal in Tyne & Wear for more details.) The No Previous category had a large numerical fall (-1,009, -19%) (presumably mainly young people who have entered NDYP).

Proportionately large falls (over 30%) since 1997 have been in Protective Services (down 38% to 367), Teaching (down 37%, to 299), Managers in services (down 35% to 327) and in Skilled Construction Trades (down 33% to 1,394).

Table 6: Change in Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed, Tyne & Wear; 1997-2000

SOC Group	Usual Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	731	599	525	-206	-28.2%
2	Managers/Proprietors:Agric/Services	500	366	327	-173	-34.7%
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	320	311	285	-35	-10.9%
4	Health Professionals	12	12	13	1	10.6%
5	Teaching Professionals	472	393	299	-173	-36.6%
6	Other Professional Occupations	214	170	154	-60	-27.9%
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	354	388	387	34	9.5%
8	Health Associate Professionals	72	75	61	-11	-14.7%
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	1,051	962	919	-132	-12.6%
10	Clerical Occupations	4,067	3,818	3,449	-618	-15.2%
11	Secretarial Occupations	283	258	233	-50	-17.7%
12	Skilled Construction Trades	2,074	1,527	1,394	-679	-32.8%
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	1,184	1,259	1,119	-64	-5.4%
14	Other Skilled Trades	3,651	3,461	3,179	-472	-12.9%
15	Protective Service Occupations	590	417	367	-223	-37.8%
16	Personal Service Occupations	2,539	2,142	1,967	-571	-22.5%
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	310	240	237	-73	-23.5%
18	Other Sales Occupations	2,623	2,193	2,101	-523	-19.9%
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	1,392	1,775	1,542	150	10.8%
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	2,440	2,087	1,841	-599	-24.5%
21	Other Occupations:Agric/Forestry/Fishing	177	151	142	-35	-19.9%
22	Other Elementary Occupations	13,908	10,293	8,956	-4,952	-35.6%
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	5,324	4,351	4,315	-1,009	-18.9%
	Total	44,284	37,244	33,812	-10,472	-23.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

In the UK, between 1997 and 2000 claimant unemployment fell by 31% overall, including all SOCgroups (Table 7). In the UK, unemployment fell fastest amongst the Craft & Related group (down 41%), perhaps reflecting increased construction activity.

Table 7: Change in Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by Combined Groups, UK; 1997-2000

SOC Codes	Usual Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1-9	Managers & Professionals	194,485	151,614	132,889	-61,596	-31.7%
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	194,252	161,151	145,469	-48,783	-25.1%
12-14	Craft & Related	241,904	170,735	143,243	-98,661	-40.8%
15-18	Services & Sales	228,197	176,457	157,833	-70,365	-30.8%
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	159,585	130,876	111,989	-47,596	-29.8%
21,22	Other Occupations	413,415	294,571	260,558	-152,857	-37.0%
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	177,039	168,357	159,184	-17,855	-10.1%
	Total	1,608,876	1,253,761	1,111,164	-497,712	-30.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

Table 8: Change in Usual Occupation of Claimant Unemployed, UK; 1997-2000

SOC Group	Usual Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	44,925	34,513	30,739	-14,186	-31.6%
2	Managers/Proprietors:Agric/Services	23,874	16,654	13,733	-10,142	-42.5%
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	15,754	13,570	12,350	-3,404	-21.6%
4	Health Professionals	869	739	658	-211	-24.3%
5	Teaching Professionals	21,657	15,139	11,264	-10,394	-48.0%
6	Other Professional Occupations	12,700	9,201	7,751	-4,950	-39.0%
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	15,359	14,715	15,090	-270	-1.8%
8	Health Associate Professionals	4,489	3,429	3,069	-1,420	-31.6%
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	54,858	43,655	38,236	-16,622	-30.3%
10	Clerical Occupations	174,897	146,039	132,124	-42,774	-24.5%
11	Secretarial Occupations	19,355	15,112	13,346	-6,009	-31.0%
12	Skilled Construction Trades	79,950	52,053	42,519	-37,431	-46.8%
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	42,433	32,413	27,360	-15,073	-35.5%
14	Other Skilled Trades	119,521	86,270	73,364	-46,156	-38.6%
15	Protective Service Occupations	17,551	13,588	12,343	-5,208	-29.7%
16	Personal Service Occupations	95,418	74,483	65,755	-29,663	-31.1%
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	16,267	11,571	10,229	-6,038	-37.1%
18	Other Sales Occupations	98,962	76,816	69,506	-29,457	-29.8%
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	70,327	61,622	53,388	-16,939	-24.1%
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	89,259	69,254	58,602	-30,657	-34.3%
21	Other Occupations:Agric/Forestry/Fishing	15,820	11,285	9,419	-6,401	-40.5%
22	Other Elementary Occupations	397,595	283,286	251,139	-146,457	-36.8%
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	177,039	168,357	159,184	-17,855	-10.1%
	Total	1,608,876	1,253,761	1,111,164	-497,712	-30.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

From 1997-2000 the fastest fall in the UK was for Teachers (-48%) (Table 8). Virtually as dramatic was the fall in unemployment amongst the Skilled Construction Trades (-47%). Other very rapid falls, over 40%, were amongst Managers (-43%, down 10,000), and (surprisingly) Other Occupations in Agriculture etc. (-41%).

As with Tyne & Wear, the largest absolute fall was for Other Elementary Occupations (nearly – 150,000; -37%). Unemployment in Skilled Engineering Trades fell only 5% in Tyne & Wear but far more rapidly nationally (-36%).

The three slowest falls nationally were for Science & Engineering Associate Professionals (-2%), the No Previous category (-10%) and, less markedly, for Science & Engineering Professionals (-22%).

**Figure 1: Usual Occupation of the Unemployed (%)
Tyne & Wear**

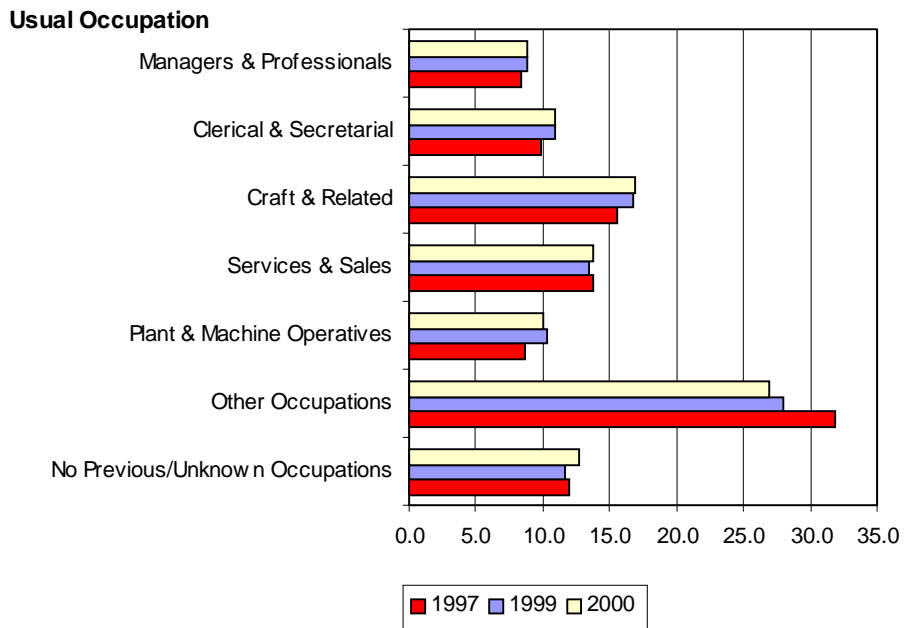
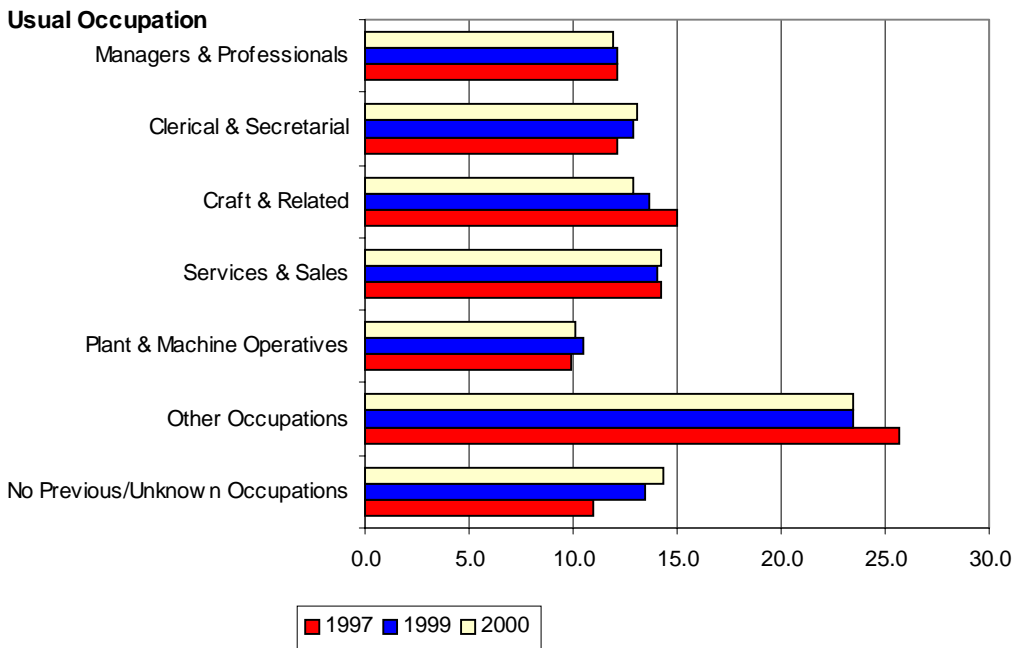


Figure 2: Usual Occupation of the Unemployed (%) UK



4 SOUGHT OCCUPATION OF UNEMPLOYED CLAIMANTS, 2000

Aspirations of the claimant unemployed were lower in Tyne & Wear than nationally, for combined groups (Table 9). As in 1999, only 10% were seeking Managerial & Professional work in Tyne & Wear compared to 14% nationally. In Tyne & Wear, 29% of claimants were seeking employment in Other Elementary Occupations (the lowest skill level, labourers, porters etc.) (Table 10). This was much higher than the UK (24%), but practically the same as the North East (30%).

Table 9: Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployment by Combined Groups; 2000

SOC Codes	Sought Occupation	Tyne & Wear		North East		UK	
		Number	% Share	Number	% Share	Number	% Share
1-9	Managers & Professionals	3,504	10.4	7,588	10.2	157,974	14.2
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	4,455	13.2	9,065	12.2	177,418	16.0
12-14	Craft & Related	6,225	18.4	12,995	17.5	162,423	14.6
15-18	Services & Sales	5,494	16.2	12,155	16.4	192,991	17.4
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	3,870	11.4	9,026	12.2	127,756	11.5
21,22	Other Occupations	10,072	29.8	22,725	30.6	277,140	24.9
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	193	0.6	616	0.8	15,461	1.4
	Total	33,812	100.0	74,170	100.0	1,111,164	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

In Tyne & Wear, 18% of the unemployed were seeking Craft & Related occupations, compared to 15% nationally (Table 9). For the UK, this is a three percentage point rise from 1999 which probably reflects job losses from manufacturing.

In a well-functioning economy, 'old' (low-skill) occupations decline and 'new' (higher-skill) occupations will grow. Due to this dynamic effect, there should be some gaps between the distribution of 'usual occupations' of unemployed claimants and the distribution of their 'sought occupations'. One would expect the distribution of sought occupations to be, in general, slightly higher (up the hierarchy of occupations) than for usual occupation. Even if unemployed claimants re-train perhaps most of them can be expected to re-train for occupations of a similar (rather than higher) skill level.

Comparing usual with sought occupations, there is some evidence of training, or something else, having raised aspirations (Table 9 and Table 12). The proportions seeking each occupational level are generally higher (Table 9) because the 'No previous' group (12.8% in Table 2) are largely distributed across the range of occupations. If there had been wholesale re-training after the loss of the previous job, the occupations sought could be expected to differ substantially from the previous occupation. Moreover, in general, if re-training is raising the aspirations of unemployed people, the occupations they seek can be expected to be higher than their previous occupation.

Table 10: Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployment by SOC Group; 2000

SOC Group	Sought Occupation	Tyne & Wear		North East		UK	
		Number	% Share	Number	% Share	Number	% Share
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	596	1.8	1,447	2.0	33,567	3.0
2	Managers/Proprietors:Agric/Services	340	1.0	808	1.1	15,070	1.4
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	352	1.0	842	1.1	14,747	1.3
4	Health Professionals	16	0.0	25	0.0	756	0.1
5	Teaching Professionals	339	1.0	663	0.9	12,624	1.1
6	Other Professional Occupations	194	0.6	417	0.6	9,581	0.9
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	468	1.4	1,066	1.4	18,836	1.7
8	Health Associate Professionals	75	0.2	182	0.2	3,975	0.4
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	1,126	3.3	2,138	2.9	48,819	4.4
10	Clerical Occupations	4,196	12.4	8,431	11.4	162,760	14.6
11	Secretarial Occupations	259	0.8	634	0.9	14,659	1.3
12	Skilled Construction Trades	1,539	4.6	3,259	4.4	47,614	4.3
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	1,208	3.6	2,489	3.4	30,938	2.8
14	Other Skilled Trades	3,478	10.3	7,248	9.8	83,871	7.5
15	Protective Service Occupations	387	1.1	923	1.2	14,372	1.3
16	Personal Service Occupations	2,229	6.6	4,847	6.5	78,014	7.0
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	253	0.7	551	0.7	11,234	1.0
18	Other Sales Occupations	2,626	7.8	5,835	7.9	89,372	8.0
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	1,695	5.0	4,350	5.9	57,087	5.1
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	2,175	6.4	4,677	6.3	70,669	6.4
21	Other Occupations:Agric/Forestry/Fishing	183	0.5	689	0.9	10,578	1.0
22	Other Elementary Occupations	9,889	29.2	22,037	29.7	266,562	24.0
23	No Previous/Unknown Occupations	193	0.6	616	0.8	15,461	1.4
	Total	33,812	100.0	74,170	100.0	1,111,164	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

Between 1997 and 2000 the number of people seeking work in lower-skilled occupations ('Other Occupations' and 'Unknown Occupations') fell much more steeply than the average, falling 34-47% (Table 11). Conversely, the number of people seeking occupations as Plant & Machine Operatives failed to fall up to 1999 and then by only a modest 11% to 2000. This probably reflects a lack of opportunities as Plant & Machine Operatives.

Table 11: Change in Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by Combined Groups, Tyne & Wear; 1997-2000

SOC Codes	Sought Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1-9	Managers & Professionals	4,506	3,888	3,504	-1,001	-22.2%
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	5,490	4,891	4,455	-1,036	-18.9%
12-14	Craft & Related	7,246	6,688	6,225	-1,021	-14.1%
15-18	Services & Sales	7,079	5,897	5,494	-1,586	-22.4%
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	4,360	4,312	3,870	-490	-11.2%
21,22	Other Occupations	15,240	11,356	10,072	-5,168	-33.9%
23	Unknown Occupations	363	213	193	-171	-47.0%
	Total	44,284	37,244	33,812	-10,472	-23.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

There seems to be over-supply of machine operators. Between 1997-2000 in Tyne & Wear, the numbers of claimants seeking employment fell for every category except Industrial Plant/Machine Operators (+25%)(Table 12). Nearly half the rise for this group reflects job losses from manufacturing, with the numbers previously in this occupational group up 11% (up 150, Table 6). The much bigger rise in the number of people seeking jobs as Plant/Machine Operators (up 335) mainly arises from other sources, perhaps from the New Deal, other training programmes or simply rising aspirations.

Since 1997, the numbers of people seeking work in (unskilled) Other Elementary Occupations has fallen hugely, by 34% (or over 5,100) (Table 12). This perhaps reflects the impact of the New Deal in targeting the placing of these people into options, mainly training and education.

Absolute falls (“tightening of the labour market”) exceeded 500 in five other occupations: The largest fall was in Clerical Occupations (down 1,000 to 4,200), followed by Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators (down 800 to 2,200), Other Sales Occupations (down 800 to 2,600), Skilled Construction Trades (down 600 to 1,500) and Personal Service Occupations (down 600 to 2,200).

Since 1997, the pool of potential teachers has dried up by over a third. The fastest fall for any occupational group has been in the numbers seeking jobs as Teaching Professionals (down 37%, to 339). This is slightly sharper than the falls amongst Managers (down 33%) and Other Professionals (down 33%).

“Shortages” are very acute for the health service. There were only 16 people seeking jobs as Health Professionals and 75 as Associate Health Professionals (nurses etc.). Falls over the three years were negligible in the numbers seeking work in these occupations – probably because they are snapped up quickly.

The situation appears to be in broad balance for scientists and skilled engineering trades, with negligible change since 1997. There were 468 people seeking Science/Engineering Associate Professional posts (down just 1%) and 1,208 seeking the Skilled Engineering Trades (down 2%).

Table 12: Change in Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by SOC Groups, Tyne & Wear; 1997-2000

SOC Group	Sought Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	786	670	596	-190	-24.2%
2	Managers/Proprietors:Agric/Services	505	383	340	-164	-32.6%
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	413	387	352	-61	-14.7%
4	Health Professionals	18	16	16	-2	-12.3%
5	Teaching Professionals	534	437	339	-195	-36.5%
6	Other Professional Occupations	287	221	194	-93	-32.5%
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	472	479	468	-4	-0.8%
8	Health Associate Professionals	82	91	75	-8	-9.1%
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	1,410	1,204	1,126	-285	-20.2%
10	Clerical Occupations	5,172	4,605	4,196	-976	-18.9%
11	Secretarial Occupations	318	287	259	-60	-18.7%
12	Skilled Construction Trades	2,187	1,662	1,539	-648	-29.6%
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	1,229	1,335	1,208	-21	-1.7%
14	Other Skilled Trades	3,830	3,691	3,478	-352	-9.2%
15	Protective Service Occupations	489	412	387	-102	-20.9%
16	Personal Service Occupations	2,853	2,414	2,229	-625	-21.9%
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	324	255	253	-72	-22.1%
18	Other Sales Occupations	3,413	2,816	2,626	-787	-23.1%
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	1,361	1,868	1,695	335	24.6%
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	3,000	2,444	2,175	-824	-27.5%
21	Other Occupations:Agric/Forestry/Fishing	205	191	183	-22	-10.7%
22	Other Elementary Occupations	15,035	11,165	9,889	-5,146	-34.2%
23	Unknown Occupations	363	213	193	-171	-47.0%
	Total	44,284	37,244	33,812	-10,472	-23.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

Labour market tightening was much less in Tyne & Wear (Table 11) than in the UK (Table 13) for Plant & Machine Operatives (UK -28%, TW -11%) and especially Craft & Related (UK -35%, TW -14%). The tightening for 'Other Occupations' differed little from the UK (UK -36%, TW -34%). The overall differential between Tyne & Wear (-24%) and the UK (-31%) was 7 percentage points. For the other two combined groups, the differential between Tyne & Wear and the UK was virtually the same as this overall average.

Table 13: Change in Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by Combined Groups, UK; 1997-2000

SOC Codes	Sought Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1-9	Managers & Professionals	225,103	179,210	157,974	-67,129	-29.8%
10,11	Clerical & Secretarial	239,871	197,329	177,418	-62,453	-26.0%
12-14	Craft & Related	250,845	188,999	162,423	-88,422	-35.2%
15-18	Services & Sales	266,943	214,593	192,991	-73,952	-27.7%
19,20	Plant & Machine Operatives	177,676	147,782	127,756	-49,920	-28.1%
21,22	Other Occupations	430,854	310,626	277,140	-153,715	-35.7%
23	Unknown Occupations	17,588	15,229	15,461	-2,126	-12.1%
	Total	1,608,879	1,253,767	1,111,164	-497,715	-30.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

Tightening of the labour market from 1997-2000 was much greater in the UK (Table 14) than in Tyne & Wear (Table 12 earlier) for Skilled Engineering Trades (UK -30%, TW -2%), Other Skilled Trades (UK -33%, TW -9%) and Other Occupations: Agriculture etc. (UK -38%, TW -11%). For Industrial Plant/Machinery Operators Tyne & Wear's over-supply looks very exceptional (UK -18%, TW +25%). Other differences between Tyne & Wear and the UK were not large in percentage terms (no more than 12-13 points at most). Exceptionally, Tyne & Wear's fall seeking unknown occupations (-47%) was much faster than the UK (-12%), but from small base of under 400 and may reflect improved recording.

In the UK, over 147,000 fewer claimants were seeking work in Other Elementary Occupations in 2000 compared to 1997. This very large 36% fall is more likely to reflect increased training and raising of aspirations rather than significantly higher demand for these unskilled occupations.

Table 14: Change in Sought Occupation of Claimant Unemployed by SOC Groups, UK; 1997-2000

SOC Group	Sought Occupation	Average	Average	Average	Change 1997-2000	
		1997	1999	2000	No.	%
1	Corporate Managers/Administrators	47,667	37,648	33,567	-14,100	-29.6%
2	Managers/Proprietors: Agric/Services	23,719	17,978	15,070	-8,649	-36.5%
3	Science/Engineering Professionals	18,987	16,351	14,747	-4,240	-22.3%
4	Health Professionals	1,041	878	756	-285	-27.4%
5	Teaching Professionals	23,670	16,832	12,624	-11,046	-46.7%
6	Other Professional Occupations	15,645	11,291	9,581	-6,064	-38.8%
7	Science/Engineering Associate Profs	19,179	18,317	18,836	-344	-1.8%
8	Health Associate Professionals	5,028	4,293	3,975	-1,053	-20.9%
9	Other Associate Prof Occupations	70,168	55,624	48,819	-21,349	-30.4%
10	Clerical Occupations	218,519	180,318	162,760	-55,759	-25.5%
11	Secretarial Occupations	21,352	17,011	14,659	-6,694	-31.3%
12	Skilled Construction Trades	82,583	57,018	47,614	-34,969	-42.3%
13	Skilled Engineering Trades	44,075	35,921	30,938	-13,137	-29.8%
14	Other Skilled Trades	124,187	96,061	83,871	-40,316	-32.5%
15	Protective Service Occupations	18,068	15,647	14,372	-3,696	-20.5%
16	Personal Service Occupations	107,256	87,340	78,014	-29,242	-27.3%
17	Buyers, Brokers/Sales Representatives	17,231	12,643	11,234	-5,997	-34.8%
18	Other Sales Occupations	124,390	98,963	89,372	-35,018	-28.2%
19	Industrial Plant/Machine Operators, etc	69,158	65,089	57,087	-12,071	-17.5%
20	Drivers/Mobile Machine Operators	108,518	82,693	70,669	-37,849	-34.9%
21	Other Occupations: Agric/Forestry/Fishing	16,966	12,565	10,578	-6,388	-37.7%
22	Other Elementary Occupations	413,888	298,061	266,562	-147,326	-35.6%
23	Unknown Occupations	17,588	15,229	15,461	-2,126	-12.1%
	Total	1,608,879	1,253,767	1,111,164	-497,715	-30.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics, NOMIS

**Figure 3: Sought Occupation of the Unemployed (%)
Tyne & Wear**

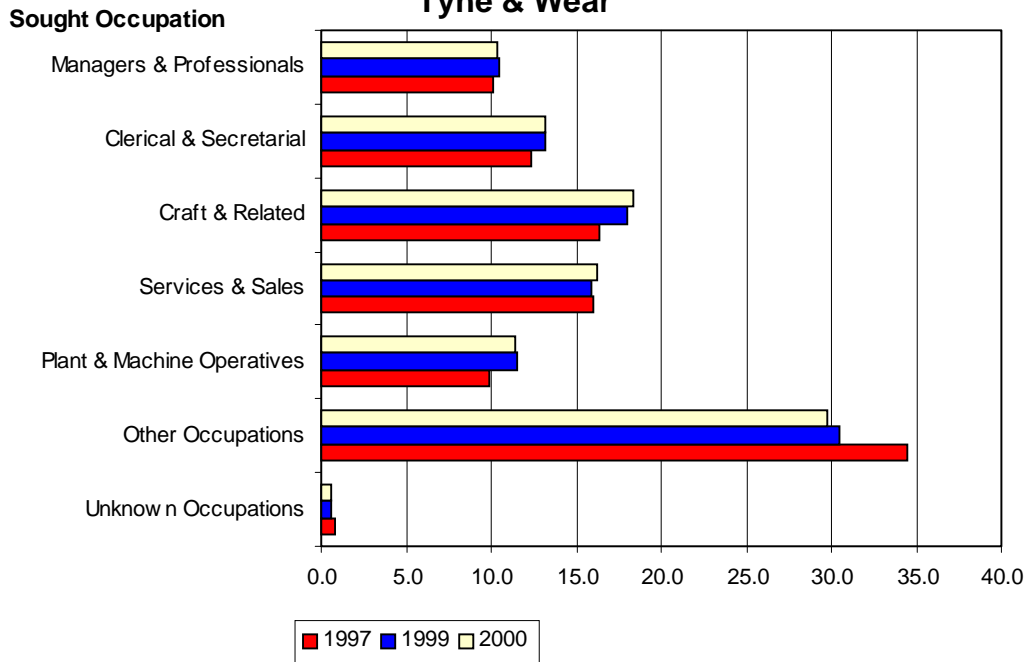


Figure 4: Sought Occupation of the Unemployed (%) UK

