



NORTH EAST
Chamber of Commerce

Sunderland 2024: A regional economic perspective

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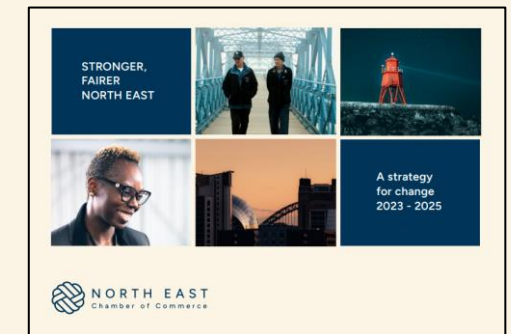
Supporting, connecting and representing more than 2,000 businesses and employers across the North East.

- The North East Chamber of Commerce is the region's largest and most influential business membership organisation.
- We support, connect and represent more than 2,000 businesses employing 40% of the region's workforce; ensuring businesses are at heart of building a thriving economy, continuing to make the North East the best place to live and work.
- We support our members as well as an additional network of strategic stakeholders including councils, combined authorities and LEPs and universities and are the **“go to” voice on regional business matters.**

Fair and inclusive growth for the North East and the UK



- **People and work** Tackle economic inactivity effectively, unlocking the potential of our people and their talent
- **Education and participation** Enhance the skills pipeline to ensure local skills meet local needs – now and in the future
- **Enterprise and growth** Support innovative, resilient and flexible businesses to thrive
- **An international North East** Strengthen the backbone of the regional economy
- **Green innovation** Accelerate businesses' leadership of the Net Zero transition





State of the economy 2023

- Given the economic headwinds since 2020 businesses have demonstrated strong **resilience**.
- Across 2023 concerns around **inflation, energy prices and staff costs** started to soften – but slowly.
- Manufacturing and service sector **concerns diverged** in areas like export strength/opportunity.
- Our business base **adapted and evolved** – with over 70% of businesses consistently reporting positive action to reduce their energy use.

INDICATOR	All Companies	Change On Last Quarter	Change On Last Year	Manufacturing	Services
Crime	17.1%	6.3%	-0.2%	14.7%	18.1%
Congestion	20.0%	9.4%	-2.7%	17.1%	21.2%
Interest rates	41.3%	-11.7%	-26.7%	31.4%	45.1%
Exchange rates	20.7%	5.2%	-27.2%	40.0%	12.3%
Business rates	31.6%	6.1%	-22.3%	35.3%	30.1%
Taxation	43.1%	4.7%	-15.5%	31.4%	47.7%
Competition	45.9%	2.9%	10.1%	41.2%	47.7%
Energy prices	48.5%	-0.1%	-40.4%	33.3%	54.2%
Staff shortages	50.0%	9.8%	-8.1%	37.1%	54.8%
Staff costs	65.6%	10.7%	-8.8%	57.1%	68.8%
Red tape	35.0%	5.1%	-1.4%	34.3%	35.2%
Inflation	60.9%	-8.9%	-29.3%	52.8%	64.1%

Source: QES Q4 2023: Key business concerns



Your City Plan 2023-35: Regional context

1. **Culture and digital-led regeneration** – Fulwell 73, E-Sports Academy building on strong cultural and heritage assets.
2. **Skills** – A Local Skills Improvement Plan which complements those in the existing devolved geographies.
3. **Devolution** – convening, powers, funding and voice on a strong, functional economic footprint.

Underpinned by a thriving business base and strong communities

“An exemplar of inclusive growth in action”

