

BRIEFING NOTE: Director - Business Development Education and Skills

Report Title: Curriculum Development Opportunities in **Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing**.

Report of: Audrey Kingham

(Director - Business Development Education and Skills)

Report by: Neil Dorward

(Senior Manager - Education Development & Collaborative Projects)

Purpose of report

To review the potential for 2021 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' curriculum offer and existing campus facilities in support of the offer, to realise curriculum opportunities going forward in support of regional growth priorities and to enhance the likelihood of success of those interested in a career in A/F/F sectors which is the 3rd greatest source of regional GVA contributing £450m.

Background

Northumberland is home to a unique and significant Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing infrastructure however currently there is little opportunity to train toward this career pathway. This report looks to establish curriculum opportunities going forward in support of regional growth priorities and enhance the likelihood of success of those interested in a career in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing related industry which is one of Northumberland's greatest source of GVA.

Emsi labour market analytics study completed August 2020 indicates that 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' is not a significant industry in terms of employment number in Northumberland (Fig 1.1) accounting for in the region of 2,000 employed positions (against 133,000 total regional employment of 190,000 working age population), Office for National Statistics census data suggests that this figure is greater however ONS data is less current and the sector has seen a period of negative growth (2008~2015) with no future growth forecast (Fig 1.3 & Fig 1.4). Contrary to the low employment numbers and growth opportunity the sector is indicated by Emsi to be a significant factor in regional GVA generating in the region of £450m (Fig 1.2).

Figure 1.1: Industry share of jobs (Northumberland), Emsi 2020.

Largest Industries

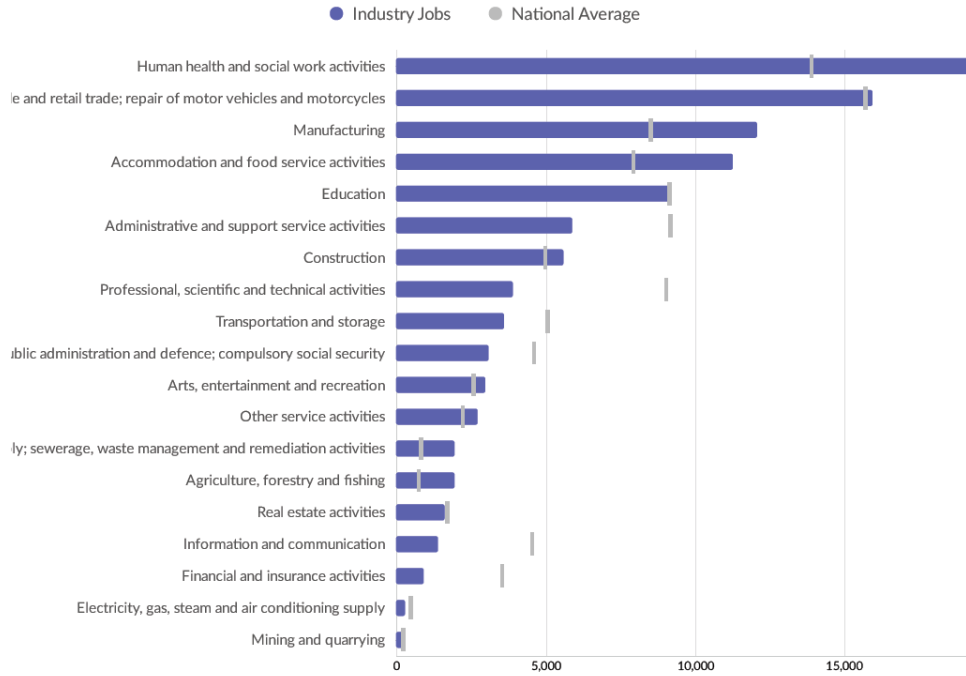


Figure 1.2: Industry share of GVA (Northumberland), Emsi 2020.

Top Industry GVA

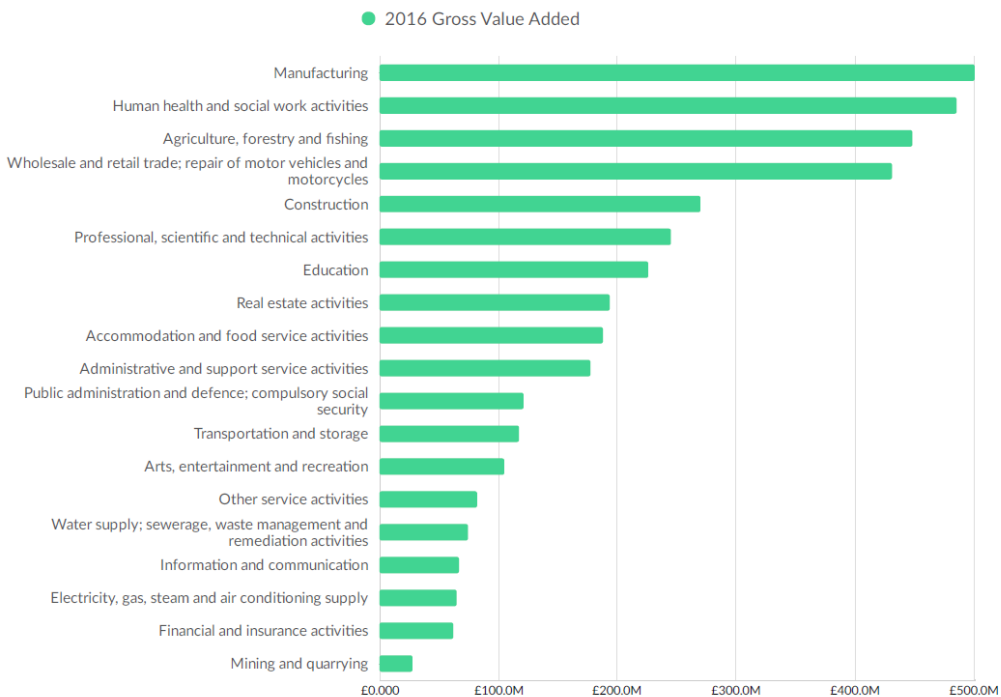
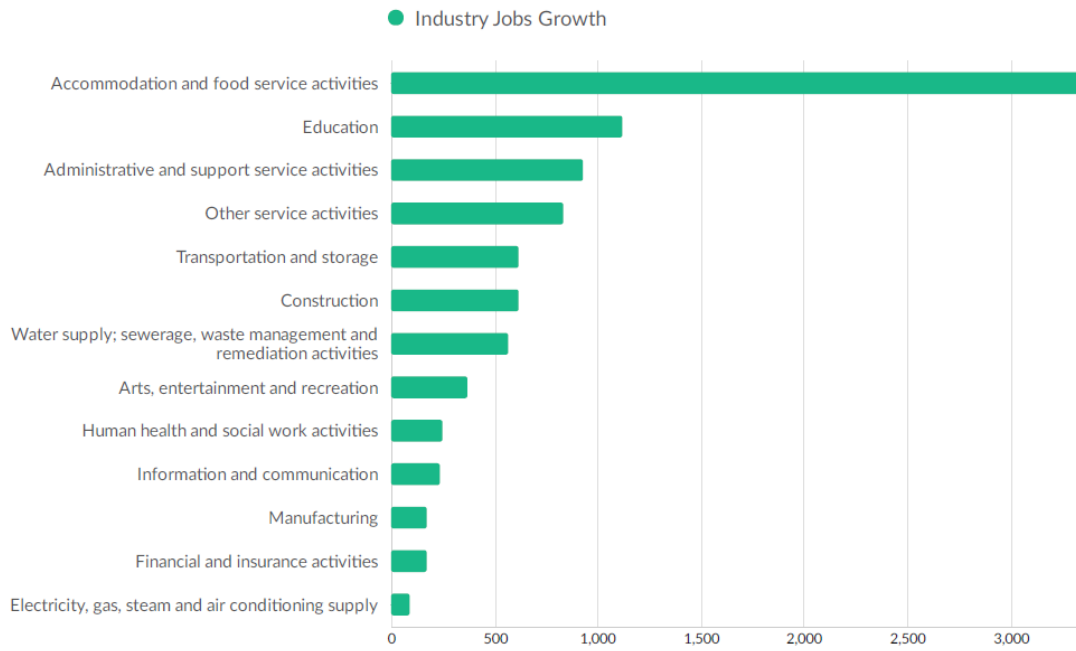


Figure 1.3: Industry share of top growing industries (Northumberland), Emsi 2020.

Top Growing Industries



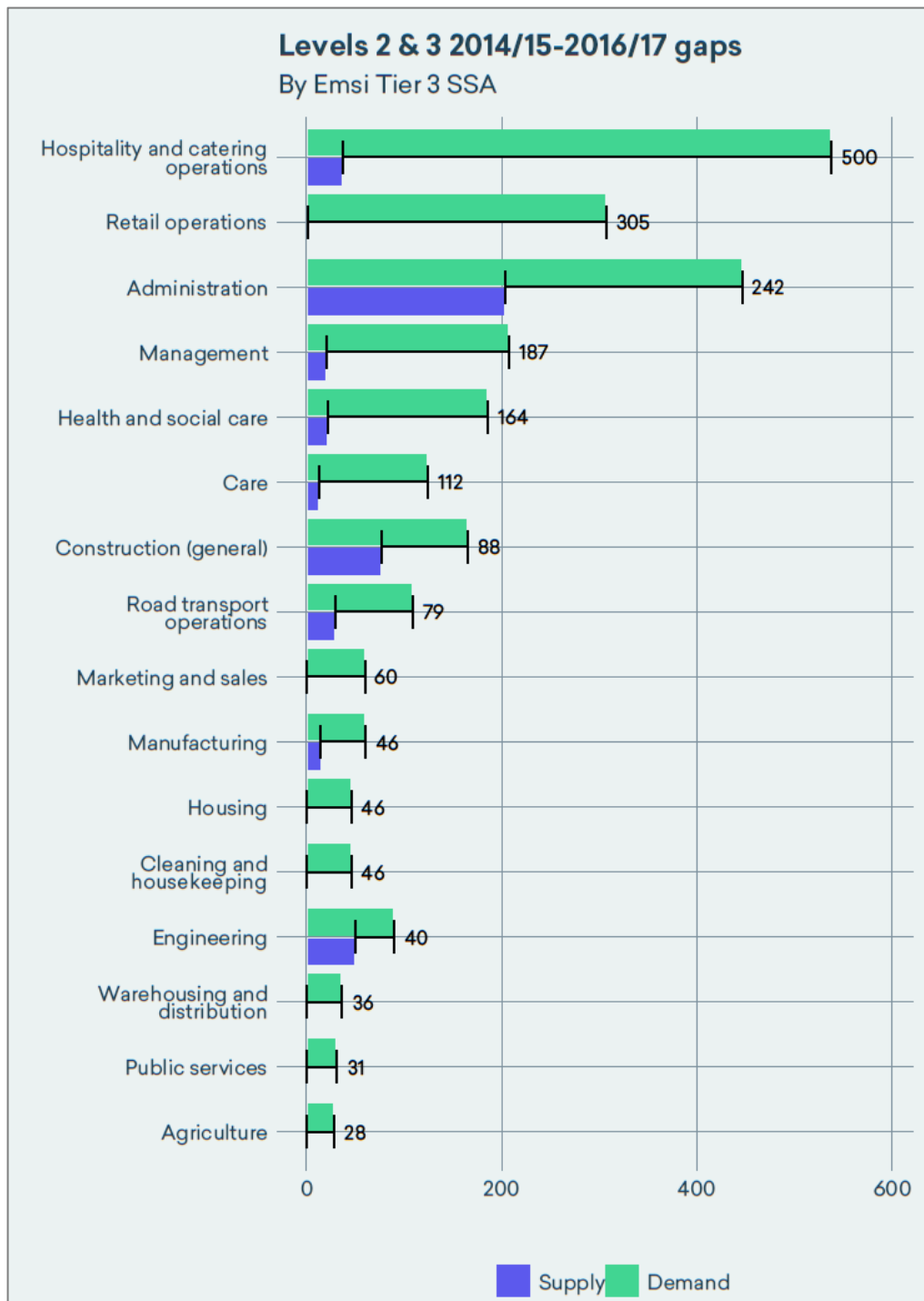
Emsi Economic overview published 2018 indicates that within Northumberland County 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' was in a period of decline losing 200 positions (circa 10% of regional employees) 2008~2015, between 2015-2024 employment in the sector is projected to remain static at the reduced figure (Fig 1.4).

Figure 1.4: Change in jobs by industry (Northumberland), 2008-2024, Emsi 2018.



Emsi Economic overview published 2018 indicates that within Northumberland County 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' has required only minimal recruiting to the sector but notwithstanding has remained in a period of inability to satisfy employee demand 2014-2017 for roles pitched at L2 and L3 qualification. Of 28 advertised roles at this level, all 28 were unfilled over the period (Fig 1.5).

Figure 1.5: Employment gaps at L2 and L3 by sector (Northumberland), 2008-2024, Emsi 2018.





Next steps

- Review of report with Director - Business Development Education and Skills
 - Consider the value in taking forward curriculum development in this sector.
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Key Issues

- Low employment delivers significant GVA meaning little opportunity for the majority of young people and adults to join the sector.
 - Training facilities are complex, expansive and costly.
 - Staffing is challenging for training and assessment.
 - No current facility or staff exist in NCC portfolio.
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Author details

Neil Dorward, Senior Manager Education Development & Collaborative Projects.

neil.dorward@northumberland.gov.uk

07811 020 806



Northumberland
County Council