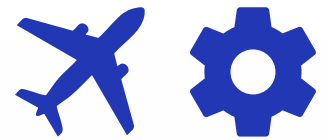
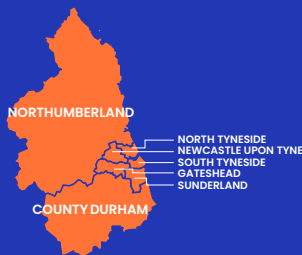


Wings in the North



The Impact of Aviation in Newcastle and the North East

AVIATION'S IMPACT IN NUMBERS



8,664 jobs

The North East Combined Authority area has 8,664 jobs directly generated by aviation.



3,200 jobs

Of these, Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency has the largest share with 3,200 jobs.



17,000 jobs

The wider North East region boasts 17,000 jobs directly generated by aviation and the North East supply chain



£1 billion

Newcastle Airport contributes £1 billion in GVA to the North East region.



6 million

It is expected that a record six million passengers will travel through Newcastle Airport in 2026

INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION IN NEWCASTLE AND THE NORTH EAST

Aviation is a fast-growing sector in the UK. It supports key industries like advanced manufacturing, tech, life sciences, and tourism – many of which the Government's Industrial Strategy identifies as growth-driving sectors.

Newcastle Airport is a vital gateway to the region and a driving force for economic growth. It is the largest airport in the North East, supporting 3,200 jobs on site and more than 17,000 in the North East supply chain.

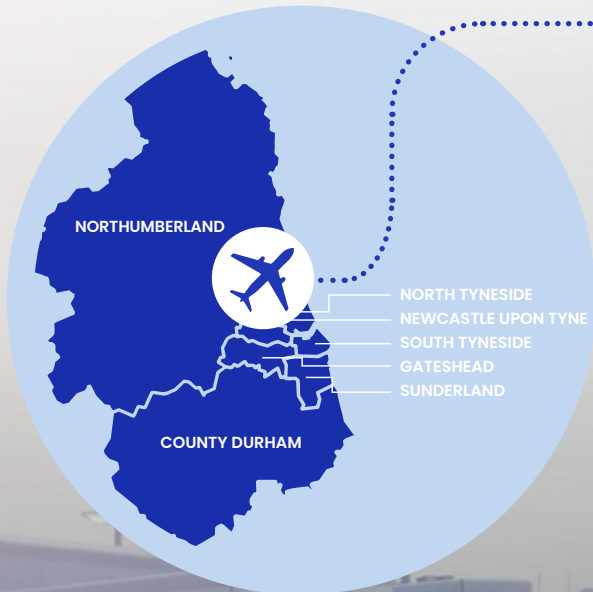
The Airport sits alongside the North East's strengths in low-carbon tech and advanced automotive manufacturing. The UK's biggest car factory, Nissan Sunderland, is 20 miles away.

The North East Combined Authority (NECA) sees the Airport as an engine for economic growth. Newcastle Airport's Masterplan 2040 aligns with NECA's priorities, supporting high-potential sectors like advanced manufacturing, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, defence, security, and space.

// The North East is an *exporting powerhouse* and the region will build on that global reputation to maximise international opportunity. //

NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY, INTERIM LOCAL GROWTH PLAN

NEWCASTLE AIRPORT



SUSTAINABLE AVIATION IN NEWCASTLE

The aviation industry has a clear and credible plan for decarbonising the sector. This includes more efficient planes, flying more efficient routes, ramping up the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and using new zero-emission technologies such as hydrogen. Research from Sustainable Aviation shows a homegrown SAF industry could boost the UK economy by £1.8 billion by the end of the decade and create 10,300 green jobs. The industry could grow to employ more than 60,000 people and support over £10 billion in GVA in the next 25 years.

Wastefront, an innovative company in Sunderland, turns old tyres into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The fuel cuts carbon emissions by more than 80% compared to fossil fuels. In February 2025, Wastefront broke ground on its £100 million tyre-to-fuel plant. It is backed by International Airlines Group, the parent company of British Airways. This project is a major boost for the UK's SAF ambitions—and a big win for the North East economy.

TOURISM AND TRADE

Newcastle Airport

Newcastle Airport is key to boosting tourism and trade in the North East. The North East Combined Authority aims to double the visitor economy's GVA over the next decade by attracting more international visitors and encouraging longer stays.

The Airport is central to this goal and works with the Combined Authority's investment team to align on tourism priorities. It also partners with groups like the North East Tourism Alliance to grow passenger numbers, including through overseas marketing campaigns. Complementing leisure travel, the Airport provides the international connectivity local businesses need and it is one of the biggest jobs generators in the region.

Industry and trade in the North East

The North East is a powerhouse in life sciences, defence, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing. These strengths are backed by the presence of global companies in the North East and a growing cargo hub at Newcastle Airport.

Strengths include:

- **Defence:** Industry leaders including Leonardo, Pearson Engineering, Airbus, Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Filtronic, and A&P form a major defence cluster.
- **Advanced Manufacturing:** Nissan anchors a world-class manufacturing hub in Sunderland and is building a training and skills centre at MADE North East.
- **Cargo Growth:** Newcastle Airport's expanding cargo operations support sectors like agriculture and manufacturing, with the airline Emirates playing a central role.

HOW AVIATION SUPPORTS THE NORTH EAST'S ECONOMIC AMBITIONS

Aviation is powering economic growth in the North East. Innovative companies like Wastefront use historic assets, like the Port of Sunderland, to decarbonise aviation. At the same time, Newcastle Airport supports major employers like Nissan and connects millions of passengers to and from the region.

Continuing work to align the Airport Masterplan 2040 and the Combined Authority Local Growth Plan will ensure strategic collaboration. This will help to improve the accessibility of the Airport for passengers and workers. It will also allow the development of new routes, growth of airlines and boost business across key sectors like transport, logistics, tourism, to the benefit of the North East economy.

