

Durham – An Altogether Better Place to Work and Live

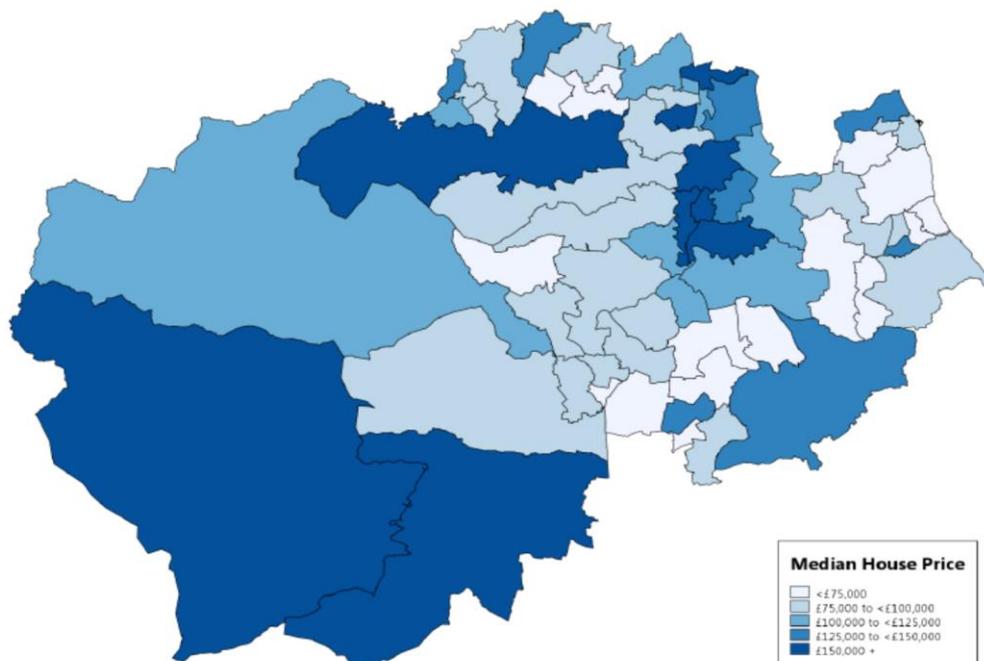


Durham is a sweeping emerald canvas with breathtaking dales, a dramatic coastline, a vale steeped in history and a vibrant city at its heart.

Housing

Median prices in County Durham have been consistently slightly lower than median prices for the North East, which are well below those for England as a whole, making Durham an affordable place to live.

During 2015, median prices across County Durham were £100,000. The distribution of median house prices by ward during 2015 is illustrated below and indicates relatively higher prices in Durham City and parts of the West Durham, Central Durham and North West Durham and relatively lower prices in Mid Durham and East Durham.



Source: Land Registry House Price Data 1 Jan 2015 to 31 Dec 2015

A high proportion of properties in Durham are of a good quality with a wide range of property sizes available.

According to the 2011 Census, there are 223,803 occupied households in County Durham:

- 147,835 or 66.10% are owner occupied
- 45,004 or 20.11% are social rented
- 28,142 or 12.58% are privately rented
- 2,822 or 1.21% other Tenure

Education

Excellent schools are an important aspect of family life.



Statistics show that Durham's pupils outperformed their counterparts across the country at Key Stages Two and Five in 2015, while the percentage of children making the expected progress between Key Stage one and two also topped the

national average.

At Key Stage 2, which covers seven to eleven year olds, 82 percent of pupils achieved level four or above in reading, writing and mathematics, topping the national average of 80 percent.

County Durham students' average points score was also above the national average as was average points per entry.

In 2016, 93.4% of pupils were allocated their first choice primary school and 96.1% of secondary age pupils were awarded their first choice school.

Further Education

There are four further education colleges and over 15 additional training providers based in Durham offering a wide range of courses.

At Key Stage 5 – young people of sixth form age - 98.8% of students achieved two or more grades A* to E, above the national average of 98.3%.

Durham University

- Ranked 61st in the *QS World University Rankings (2015/16)*
- A top UK University - 6th in *The Complete University Guide 2017*, and 5th in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016*.

- 25 Departments or schools offering over 200 undergraduate and 130 taught postgraduate courses, and many research programmes.
- Ranked in the world top 40 for the employability of students by blue-chip companies world-wide *QS World University Rankings (2015/16)*
- 21% of students are of non-UK origin
- A total student population of 17,505 (2014/15)

Culture and Sport



Durham has a number of must see attractions including Durham Cathedral and Castle, Beamish Museum, The Bowes Museum, Raby Castle, Crook Hall and Gardens, Durham Dales and High Force, Auckland Castle, Durham Heritage Coast, Killhope, The North of England

Lead Mining Museum and Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon. For further information on Durham's cultural offer, visit www.thisisdurham.com.



High Force in Teesdale, County Durham

Durham County Cricket Club has grown from humble beginnings in 1882 to see top-flight cricket now played at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.



Eating Out



Taste Durham showcases and celebrates Durham's food and drink and encourages people who live here, and those who are just visiting, to sample the best we have on offer. The Taste Durham quality mark is

displayed proudly by more than 60 food and drink businesses across Durham. Graded to a national standard, the Taste Durham accreditation is awarded in recognition of consistently good service, comfort, cleanliness, quality of meal and in addition, championing of local produce. Visit www.thisisdurham.com/food-and-drink/taste-durham for a list of Taste Durham establishments.

Crime

- Durham is the top performing force in the Country - the only one to receive an overall grade of 'outstanding' through Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) assessment.
- Durham Constabulary has an overall end-of-year solved rate of 36% which ranked 2nd highest nationally.
- County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country.

Employment

Unemployment in County Durham in April 2016 was 2.2% (7,235 people) this is a fall of 3.2% (240 people) since March 2016 and a fall of 2.5% (185 people) since the same time last year.

Transport

The County's air, rail and road infrastructure ensure excellent access across the County, providing links to the rest of the UK, Europe and the USA. The closest airports are Newcastle International and Durham Tees Valley. Numerous daily flights to Heathrow, Dubai, Paris and Amsterdam connect with transatlantic and worldwide destinations.

County Durham has a comprehensive local bus network providing convenient links throughout the County and to key regional centres.

The County also benefits from fast and frequent direct rail services to a wide range of destinations including London, the West Midlands, Manchester, Leeds and Scotland as well as local services to key regional centres and is conveniently located for easy access to Newcastle and Manchester Airports. **High speed trains** run at least every half an hour between London and Edinburgh stopping at Durham. Travel time to Durham by rail is less than 3 hours from London and only 2 hours from Edinburgh. The A1M and A19 provide the main north-south routes to the rest of the UK and commute times are among the lowest in the UK.