

The Pulse – Employment Insight

Brought to you by Working Links

September 2011

What is The Pulse?

It's an insight into job trends in the UK by employment and skills experts Working Links, combining Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures with evidence from the front line in today's welfare to work industry – giving an overall view of today's and tomorrow's employment market.

Who we are

We deliver dozens of government contracts helping people on their journey to a brighter future – whether that's through finding them work or updating their skills. We operate in more than 100 locations across Britain and have helped more than 220,000 people find work since our inception in 2000. To find out more, visit www.workinglinks.co.uk

Slow jobs growth across all sectors but experts say manufacturing and retail are key to driving unemployment down

As the UK unemployment level continues to fluctuate – the figure now stands at 2.51m – up 80,000 on the previous three months – the figures reveal small increases in vacancies in construction, community work and energy sectors. But employment and skills provider Working Links is finding an increasing number of vacancies in the manufacturing industry, with the retail sector picking up ahead of the busy Christmas period. Overall, vacancies across Britain have declined by 10% since the same period last year.

On the up (% increase / decrease in vacancies year on year - May-Jul 2011)



Construction

Community work

Energy

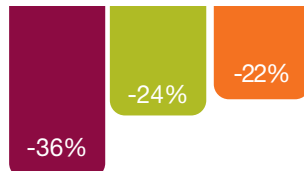


Scotland

East of England

London

Down we go (% decrease in vacancies year on year - May-Jul 2011)



Public sector

Health and Social Work

Transport and Logistics

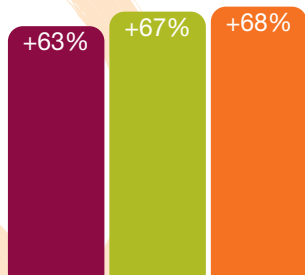


Yorkshire and Humber

North West

North East

**Top 3
Local
Authority
areas**
(100 vacancies
or more)

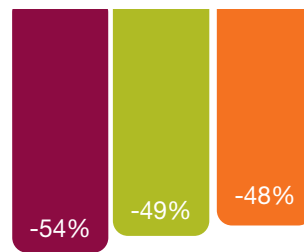


East Hampshire

Hinckley and Bosworth

North Kesteven

**Bottom 3
Local Authority
areas**
(100 vacancies
or more)



Richmondshire

Torfaen

Darlington

Trends in employer demand and jobseeker profile

Commenting on the current trends, Working Links Director Karen Masterson said: “We’re seeing different trends in each region across Britain but it’s clear that many areas are seeing green shoots of recovery for the manufacturing industry.

“We’re also readying ourselves for large numbers of vacancies in the retail sector ahead of the busy Christmas period, although not as much as in previous years. On the flip side, we can back up official figures in saying that the public sector is not hiring.

“More often than not, employers are looking at hiring candidates who have employability skills – those who are reliable, flexible and who have a good work ethic – rather than reams of qualifications. This is backed up by our recent Learning a Living research, which found that 86% of employers look for potential rather than experience when hiring.

“However, certain industries still require specific skills and qualifications which is where we’re delivering tailored solutions for hundreds of businesses across Britain every month. We’re working closely with employers to find out exactly what skills are needed in new starters and work with candidates to ensure they can offer these skills, so they are ready to hit the ground running.”