

The Pulse – Employment Insight

Brought to you by Working Links

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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 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 since our inception in 2000. To find out more, www.workinglinks.co.uk

Four per cent fewer vacancies than same period last year, but manual trades see large increases in jobs.

The latest statistics put UK unemployment at 2.64m – up 128,000 on the quarter – but the figures reveal encouraging growth in manual trades such as the welding, construction and building industries. Employment experts Working Links, which delivers the government's Work Programme to help get people back to work, is backing up these trends and is also seeing an increasing number of vacancies in these trades in various areas across Great Britain. Overall, however, vacancies across Britain have declined by 4% since the same period last year.

On the up (% increase / decrease in vacancies year on year - Aug-Oct 2011)



Metal forming, welding and related trades

Electrical trades

Engineering professionals

Construction operatives

Building trades

Metal machining, fitting and instrument making trades

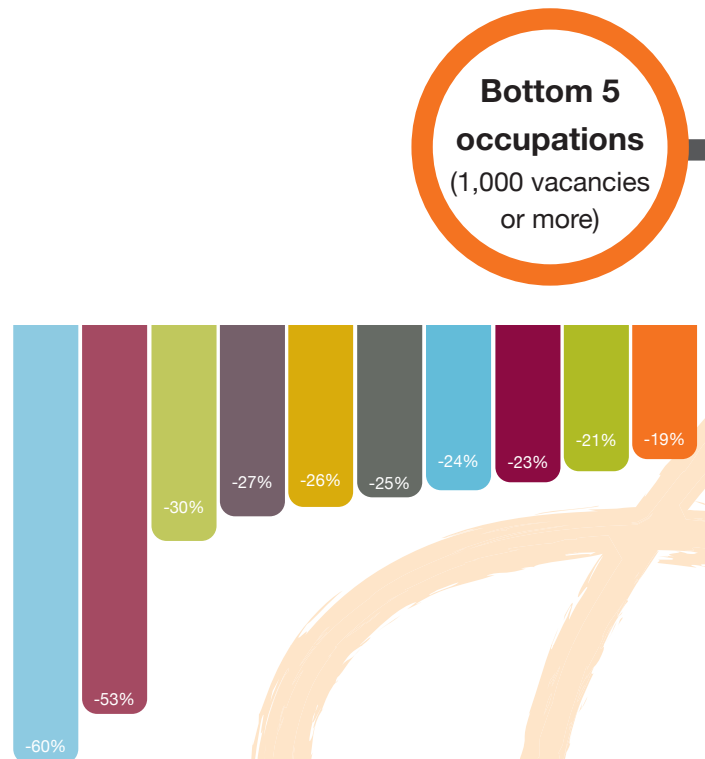
Production managers

Transport drivers and operatives

Healthcare and related personal services

Hairdressers and related occupations

Down we go (% decrease in vacancies year on year - Aug-Oct 2011)



Administrative occupations

Artistic and literary occupations

Health associate professionals

Managers and proprietors of other service industries

Sales related occupations

Sales assistants and retail cashiers

Elementary sales occupations

Secretarial and related occupations

Social welfare associate professionals

Customer service occupations

Top 3 geographical areas

(1,000 vacancies or more)



London

Scotland

Wales

Bottom 3 geographical areas

(1,000 vacancies or more)



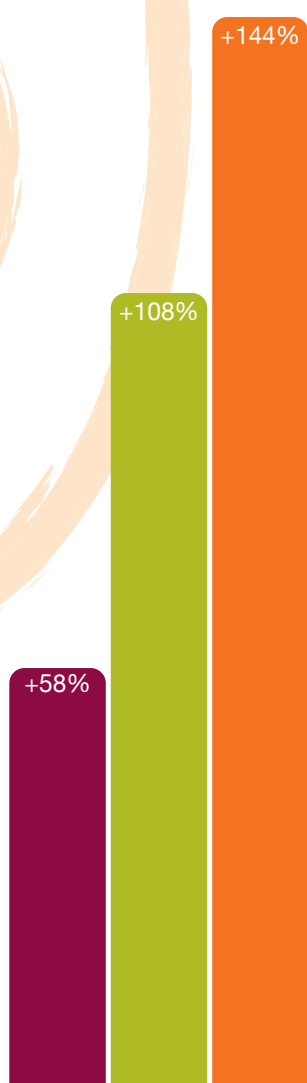
North East

North West

East Midlands

Top 3 Local Authority areas

(100 vacancies or more)



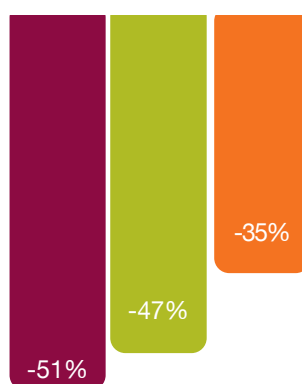
Inverclyde

East Renfrewshire

Lambeth

Bottom 3 Local Authority areas

(100 vacancies or more)



Isle of Wight

Moray

Bedford

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 we can back up the official figures that show there are an increasing amount of vacancies in the manual trades, as well as manufacturing.

“And of course, unfortunately there are not many vacancies at public sector employers either but we are expecting the construction sector to grow in 2012.

“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.

“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.”