

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

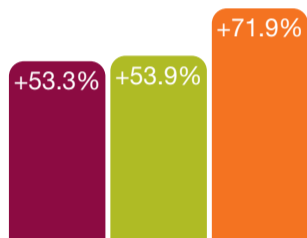
We run a host of government contracts helping people on their journey to a brighter future – whether that's through finding them work or updating their skills. We operate in more than 180 locations across the UK and have helped more than 150,000 people since our inception in 2000. To find out more, visit www.workinglinks.co.uk

Finance jobs on the rise, but care and retail are key to unemployment figure fall.

As UK unemployment continues to fall – the figure now stands at 2.47 million, down 8,000 on the previous month – Finance is officially the sector that has seen the greatest jobs growth in the last three months compared with the same period last year. But employment and skills provider Working Links has found that the fall in the claimant count is in no small part due to an increase in vacancies in the successful care and retail industries. Overall, vacancies have increased by 30.3% compared with the same period last year.

On the up (% increase in vacancies year on year - May-July 2010)

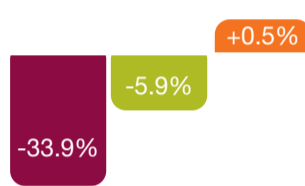
Down we go (% increase / decrease in vacancies year on year - May-July 2010)



Finance

Transport and logistics

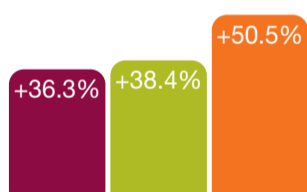
Energy



Public Sector

Agriculture

Education



West Midlands

North West

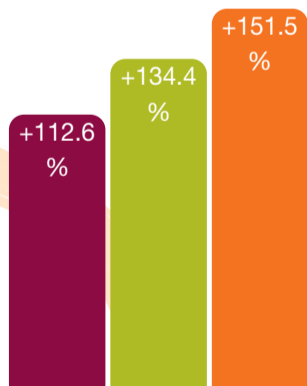
Yorks and Humber



Scotland

London

East



Halton

St Helens

Torfaen



Lewisham

Hackney

East Ayrshire

Trends in Employer Demand and Jobseeker Profile

Commenting on the current trends, Working Links Director Karen Masterson said: "Each region across Britain is different but we are constantly seeing the care sector hiring more frequently than any other. We are also witnessing a huge rise in the number of retail vacancies in the run-up to the busy Christmas period.

"On average, care vacancies in the UK have risen by 39.5% and in the retail sector, vacancies have risen by 31.3%. More often than not, employers are looking at hiring candidates who have soft 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 work 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.

"On the flip side, despite general predictions to the contrary, we're not yet seeing much activity in the manufacturing sectors."