

Insights

A bulletin of news, commentary, and publications on the labour market

Vacancies in the UK labour market

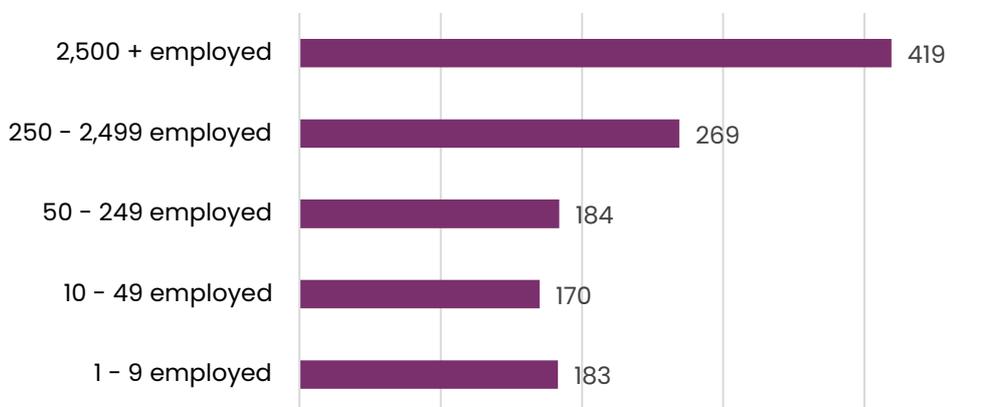
The official count of the number of vacancies in the UK labour market comes from the [ONS Vacancy Survey](#). This is a statutory, monthly survey of 6,000 businesses and asks a single question: *how many job vacancies did a business have in total (on a specified date) for which they were actively seeking recruits from outside their organisation*. The data is then presented as rolling three-month averages and is available by industry and by employer size. Due to the sample size, data is only available at a national level.

There were 1.3 million vacancies in May to July this year. A record number. Since then, the number of vacancies has fallen each quarter and the latest figure covering August to October 2022 was 1.225 million (unemployment in the UK is currently 1.224 million). This is 50% higher than the same quarter in 2019 (810,000 vacancies).

Findings from the most recent figures:

- there are more vacancies in larger businesses (by employee size) than smaller. 688,000 vacancies from businesses with 250+ employees and 537,000 for SMEs (1-249 employees)

Vacancies in the UK by size of business
ONS Vacancy Survey Aug-Oct 2022 (thousands)

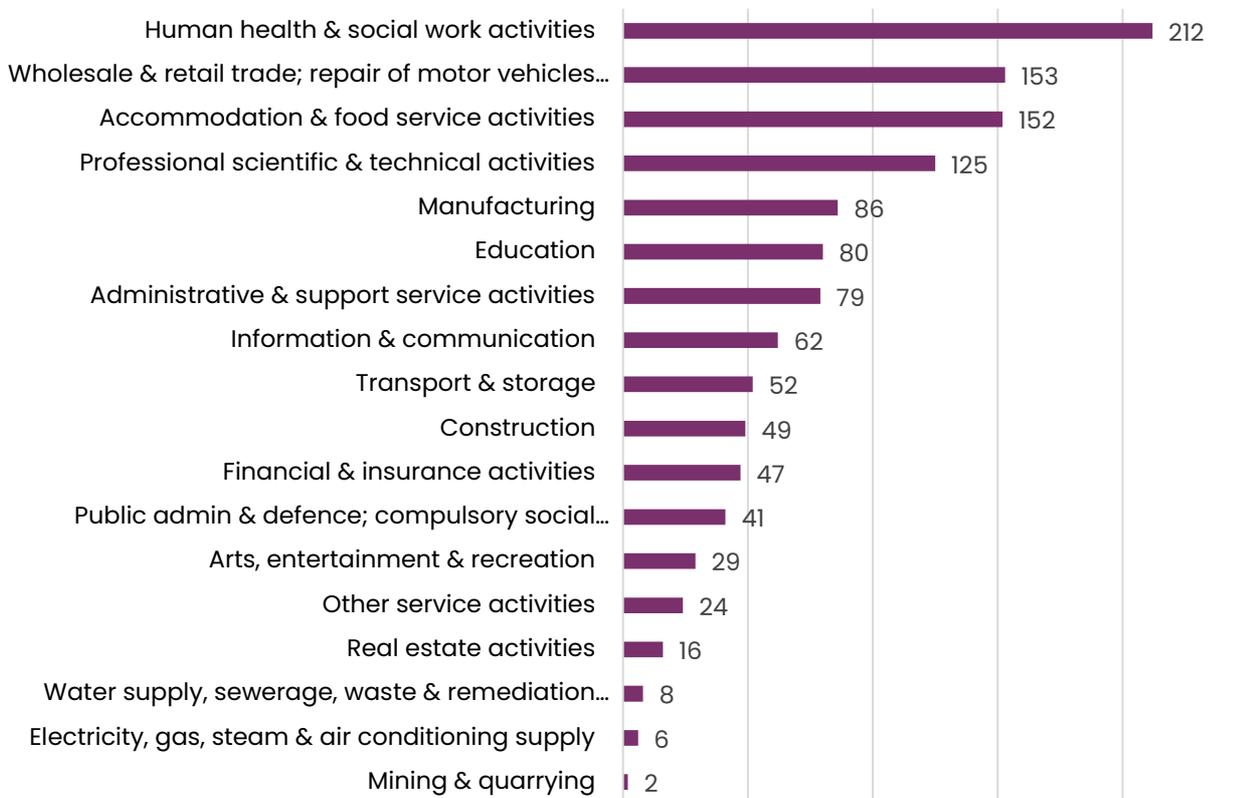


- the sectors that have the most vacancies are in Health and Care Work, Retail and Wholesale and the Hospitality (Accom and Food) sector
- the sectors that have seen the greatest changes in demand in the last 12 months are:
 - Motor trades increased by 16%
 - Public sector (national/local gov) increased by 32%
 - Professional and technical services increased by 14%
 - Health and care increased by 11%
 - The largest fall in demand has been in arts and culture, down by 12%



For information, the Professional, Scientific and Technical sector covers a wide range of businesses including legal services, accounting, management consultancy, advertising marketing and public relations, architects, engineering design, scientific research, quantity surveying and veterinary services.

Vacancies in the UK by sector ONS Vacancy Survey Aug-Oct 2022 (thousands)



Working arrangements

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey [ONS Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain](#) provides insights on daily life and events, including the cost of living, working arrangements and well-being. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has been collecting data on changes to where people work and more recently looking at the possible impact on work arrangements of the cost of living. For the latest period (26 October to 6 November 2022):

- 4 in 10 people reported that they can't work from home
- 1 in 10 people worked from home all of the time
- Almost 3 in 10 were working from home some of the time (hybrid working)
- The percentage of working people that had worked at home at all during the last seven days peaked at almost 50% in April 2020 and was at its lowest in March 2022. Currently around 40% of people worked at home at some point in the reporting period.



Regarding the impact of the cost of living on work arrangements:

- 1 in 5 people reported working more hours than usual
- 1 in 10 are going to work more often to reduce home energy costs
- 1 in 5 are looking for a job that pays more money, including a promotion
- 55% are doing none of these

This data is combined for all ages but when looking at the age breakdown, it is noticeable that those in the 16–29 age group were more impacted, with almost a third saying they were looking for more pay.

Labour market and careers information

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were given a renewed focus under the Levelling Up White Paper earlier this year and this included their role in providing intelligence on their local economies and labour markets. As mentioned in the October edition of Insights, the Local Skills Improvement Plans are expected by Summer 2023 and the LEPs will be contributing to these, providing input on the labour market and the supply of and demand for skills (as will careers service providers, providing supply side information on skills).

Shown below are links to information on the labour market and careers, where these exist, from the LEPs in the North East & Cumbria, Yorkshire and The Humber, the South East and London.

North East LEP

The Evidence Hub [Homepage - North East Evidence Hub \(northeastlep.co.uk\)](#)

Tees Valley Combined Authority

[Research & Intelligence - Tees Valley Combined Authority \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

Tees Valley Careers.Com [Home - Students \(teesvalleycareers.com\)](#)

Cumbria LEP

Young People: Careers in Cumbria [Work experience, jobs & employment in Cumbria for young people | Cumbria LEP \(CLEP\) \(thecumbrialep.co.uk\)](#)

York and North Yorkshire LEP

[Supporting Data | Strategies | York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership \(ynylep.com\)](#)

Leeds City Region LEP

Careers information - Future Goals <https://futuregoals.co.uk>

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP

Skills Dashboard [Local Skills Report & Skills Dashboard » HEY LEP - Hull and East Yorkshire](#)

South Yorkshire Combined Authority

Careers and labour market information [Start Platform: new skills and employability website - South Yorkshire MCA \(southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

Solent LEP

Careers and Skills Hub [Careers and Skills Hub \(solentlep.org.uk\)](#)

London MCA

London Datastore [London Datastore - Greater London Authority](#)

London Careers [London Careers and preparing for the workplace | LGOV](#)

Higher education participation

In 1999, Prime Minister Tony Blair said that he wanted to see 50% of young people going into higher education. In 2017/18 that target was reached with a 50.2% participation rate. The participation figure was not derived from a specific year's cohort but a measure of the estimate of the likelihood of people under the age of 30 entering higher education - called the HEIPR (Higher Education Initial Participation Rate). The R has been dropped and this is now called the HEIP measure. The last time it was published was in 2021 [Participation measures in higher education, Academic Year 2019/20 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

and stood at 53.4% for all and 60.8% for females. The method by which this is calculated is set to change and in future will follow cohorts rather than relying on population estimates.

In terms of each academic years' participation, UCAS reports on the end of cycle for applications and admissions to higher education and their figures include the proportion of 18 year olds that are accepted onto higher education provision [UCAS Undergraduate sector-level end of cycle data resources 2021 | Undergraduate | UCAS](#). At the end of the 2021 HE cycle, 39% of 18-year-olds in England were accepted into HE. These figures are also available regionally and for the same cycle ranged from 31.8% participation in the North East to 51.5% in London.

In the News

Generation Aviation is the Government's new campaign to boost recruitment in the **aviation industry**.

[Government launches new campaign to boost aviation recruitment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/campaigns/generation-aviation)

Climate tech has been established as a thing. This is where tech businesses focus on solutions to climate change e.g., transport, agri, manufacturing etc. This report from the Tech Nation [Climate Tech Report 2022 - Tech Nation](#) shows the growth in this part of the tech industry. NB - it was reported back in 2016 (The Independent) that the world's data centres consumed as much energy as the whole of the UK. Makes you think about sending that next email.

Skills Bootcamps were established in 2020 with the aim to help people move into sectors where there are skills shortages, such as digital, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and green and other new technologies. This is the Ofsted inspection on Wave 2 between July 2021 to March 2022. [Skills Bootcamps thematic survey - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). You can find the list of skills bootcamps here:

[Find a Skills Bootcamp - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Amazing Apprenticeships has published its Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Vacancy Listing for 2022/23.

[Higher-Degree-Listing-NOV-2022.pdf \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](#)

