Embargoed until 0001 (UK) 07 September 2026

KPMG and REC, UK Report on Jobs

Permanent placements increase for first time in nearly four years

50.5

PERMANENT PLACEMENTS INDEX
AUG '26

52.4

TEMPORARY BILLINGS INDEX
AUG '26

Slight increase in perm placements, while temp billings growth improves

Strongest upturn in permanent starters' pay since January

Staff availability continues to rise markedly amid further drop in vacancies

Commenting on the latest survey results, Jon Holt, Group Chief Executive and UK Senior Partner KPMG, said:

"Confidence is beginning to return to the market. Businesses have learned to adapt to constant global uncertainty, building greater resilience into their strategies. Since the spring, employers have favoured flexible temporary hires to support their investment plans, but permanent placements have also now risen for the first time in almost four years.

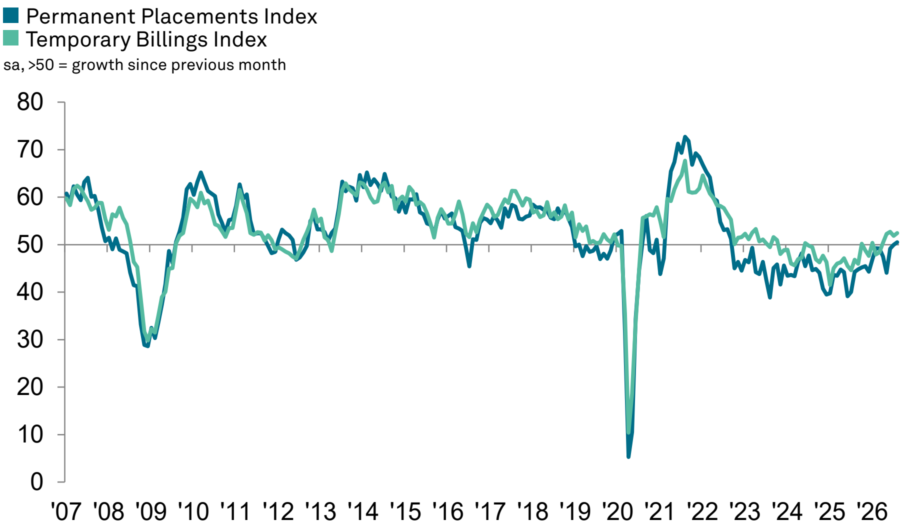
"This is clearly encouraging after such a prolonged downturn in hiring, but the jobs market continues to contract overall. Vacancies are still falling, the number of people looking for work continues to rise, and some employers are keeping the brakes on recruitment because of continued geopolitical uncertainty and elevated borrowing costs.

"With the Budget next month, the Government has the opportunity to turn these green shoots into sustained positive momentum. A clear and credible plan for growth would give businesses greater certainty over the outlook and help unlock stronger demand across the jobs market."

Maxine Bligh, Interim Chief Executive at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC), said:

"The job market is starting to power up again after employers had permanent hiring on the standby button for the past four years. It is encouraging that temporary recruitment is now complementing rather than replacing permanent hiring. Now we need to see this confidence to hire widen out across the country and more sectors of the economy.

"Government, business and trade unions must act to shore up this fragile momentum in the job market. This is not the time to take the job market for granted. Instead, government should follow through on its commitment to lessen burdens on business. This means greater pragmatism on the employment rights agenda, including lessening the gamble the government is taking with its guaranteed hours policy. It also means delivering an Autumn Budget that demonstrates the government is serious about backing business and provides employers with the confidence they need to hire, invest and grow."



The KPMG and REC, UK Report on Jobs is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 UK recruitment and employment consultancies.

S&P Global

Produced in association with REC.

Contents

1 Executive summary
2 Staff appointments
3 Vacancies
4 Vacancies by sector
5 Staff availability
6 Demand for skills
7 Pay pressures
8 Special feature
9 Scotland's labour market
10 Further information

1 Executive summary

The Report on Jobs is unique in providing the most comprehensive guide to the UK labour market, drawing on original survey data provided by recruitment consultancies and employers to provide the first indication each month of labour market trends.

The main findings for August are:

Recruiters signal fresh rise in permanent staff appointments while temp billings expand solidly

Permanent staff appointments across the UK rose for the first time since September 2022 in August. The uptick was often linked to an improvement in market confidence and companies efforts to expand capacity. However, uncertainty regarding the economic outlook and government policy reportedly dampened the rate of expansion, which was marginal overall. Temp billings meanwhile rose at a stronger pace that was the second-quickest in over three years, driven by a preference for short-term staff and greater amounts of contract work.

Solid growth in starting salaries and temp pay

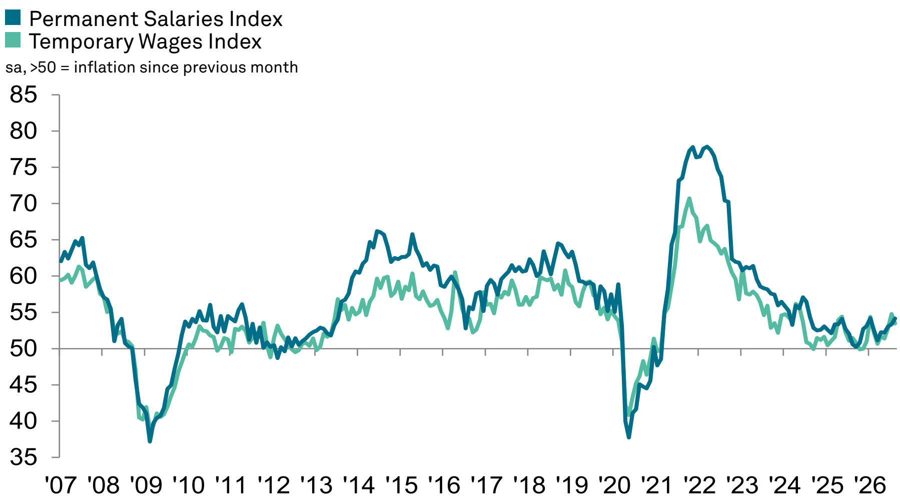
Competition for highly skilled candidates and those with niche skills as well as rising living costs, drove further increases in starting pay for both permanent and temporary workers in August. The rise in salaries was the quickest since January, while the rate of temp wage growth was among the strongest seen over the past two years.

Availability of staff rises at quicker pace...

The number of people seeking new employment rose at the sharpest rate for three months in August. Redundancies remained a prominent theme when recruiters commented on the latest increases in availability, but also fewer job opportunities and concerns over current job security. Permanent labour supply continued to rise more sharply than that seen for temporary candidates, with the latter posting the second-softest rise in over three years.

...as vacancies continue to decline

Overall demand for staff fell for the thirty-fourth month in a row in August. Though solid, the rate of contraction was the second-weakest in nearly two years, having accelerated only slightly from July. Permanent vacancies fell at a solid pace that was unchanged from July, while demand for short-term staff fell following a brief rise in the previous month.



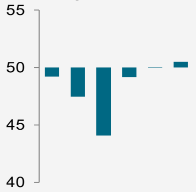
2 Staff Appointments

Recruitment consultancies report on the number of people placed in permanent jobs each month, and their revenues (billings) received from placing people in temporary or contract positions at employers.

An index reading above 50 signals a higher number of placements/billings than the previous month. Readings below 50 signal a decline compared with the previous month.

Permanent Placements Index

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = growth



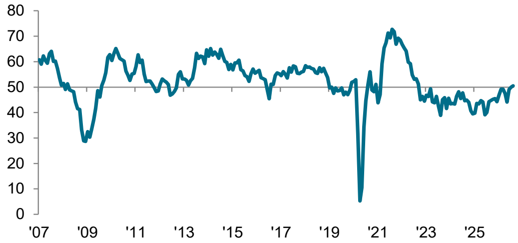
Permanent staff appointments increase slightly in August

After stabilising in July, the number of people placed into permanent jobs across the UK increased during August. Though only marginal, it marked the first rise in permanent placements since September 2022. Panel members linked the upturn to companies expanding capacity, new contract wins and a relative improvement in market confidence. However, there were reports that some clients continued to hold back on hiring, which in turn was attributed to ongoing uncertainty around the economic outlook and future government policy.

Divergent trends continued to be signalled at the regional level. Permanent placements rose in London and the Midlands, but fell in the South and North of England.

Permanent Placements Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



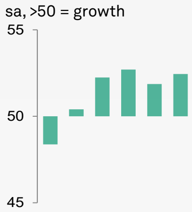
Permanent Placements Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	49.2	52.0	43.4	45.4	51.5
Apr '26	47.5	54.9	39.0	39.9	53.3
May '26	44.1	47.2	42.0	40.0	51.1
Jun '26	49.1	49.8	49.4	47.7	48.9
Jul '26	50.0	56.2	47.6	50.6	47.4
Aug '26	50.5	53.6	48.6	51.6	48.0

Temporary Billings Index

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = growth



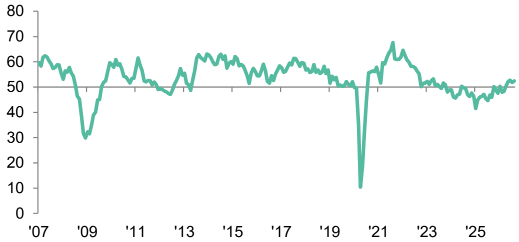
Temp billings growth strengthens

Adjusted for seasonal factors, the Temporary Billings Index posted above the neutral 50.0 mark to signal a fifth successive monthly increase in billings received from the employment of short-term staff in August. Greater amounts of contract work among clients and a preference for temporary staff had boosted billings in the latest survey period, according to panel members. The rate at which temp billings increased was the second-quickest since April 2023 (after June 2026) and solid.

Three of the four monitored English areas recorded increases in temp billings midway through the third quarter, led by the North of England. The Midlands was the only area to register a fall, albeit one that was modest.

Temporary Billings Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



Temporary Billings Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month

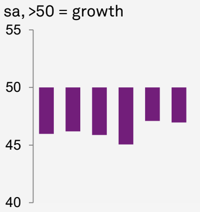
	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	48.4	41.9	49.3	57.8	45.5
Apr '26	50.4	47.1	52.4	54.5	46.6
May '26	52.2	50.5	55.1	53.8	50.8
Jun '26	52.7	53.3	54.3	52.6	52.5
Jul '26	51.9	53.6	51.8	49.2	57.7
Aug '26	52.4	51.0	55.1	48.4	58.9

3 Vacancies

Recruitment consultants are asked to specify whether the demand for staff from employers has changed on the previous month, thereby providing an indicator of the number of job vacancies.

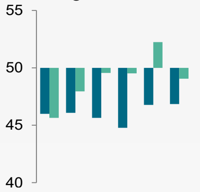
Total Vacancies Index

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = growth



Permanent
Temporary

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = growth



Demand for staff continues to decline in August

At 47.0 in August, the seasonally adjusted Total Vacancies Index was broadly unchanged from July's 47.1, signalling a further fall in overall demand for workers. The reading indicated the second-slowest decline in vacancies since September 2024, though the rate of reduction remained solid overall.

Permanent & temporary vacancies

Permanent staff vacancies continued to fall in August, thereby extending the current period of decline to three years. While solid, the rate of contraction was unchanged from July, which marked the weakest reduction in 22 months. Meanwhile, after having increased for the first time in two years during July, demand for temporary staff weakened in August. That said, the rate of reduction was marginal overall.

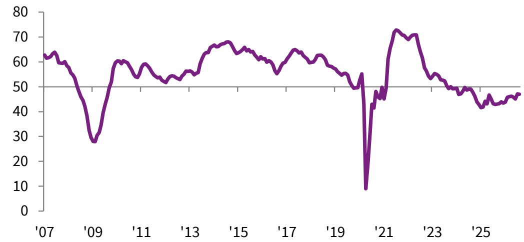
Public & private sector vacancies

Underlying data suggested that demand for both permanent and temporary workers in the public sector declined again in August, with rates of contraction quickening since July.

In contrast, demand for permanent staff stabilised in the private sector, while temporary vacancies rose sharply.

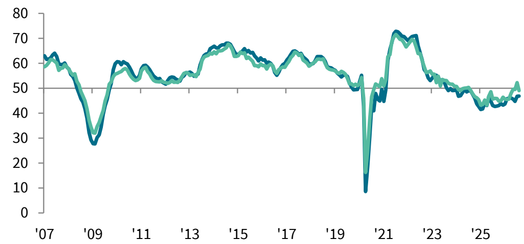
Total Vacancies Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



Permanent Vacancies Index
Temporary Vacancies Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month



Vacancy Index summary

sa, >50 = growth since previous month. *Not seasonally adjusted.

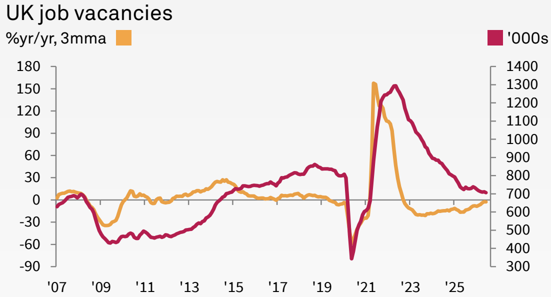
		Permanent			Temporary		
	Total	Total	Private*	Public*	Total	Private*	Public*
Mar '26	46.0	46.0	47.6	38.5	45.6	46.4	42.1
Apr '26	46.2	46.1	47.1	41.1	47.9	48.2	46.8
May '26	45.9	45.6	45.5	46.5	49.6	49.7	49.1
Jun '26	45.1	44.8	45.4	41.7	49.5	50.3	48.1
Jul '26	47.1	46.8	48.8	44.2	52.2	53.0	48.9
Aug '26	47.0	46.8	50.0	39.5	49.1	53.7	44.4

Official data: UK job vacancies

The latest official data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) pointed to a further reduction in overall demand for workers across the UK. At 707,000, the number of vacancies recorded in the three months to July was 2.8% lower compared to a year ago.

This was the smallest number of overall vacancies in over five years and, excluding the pandemic period, marks the lowest number of job opportunities since the three months to November 2014.

UK job vacancies



Source: Office for National Statistics via S&P Global Market Intelligence.

4 Vacancies by sector

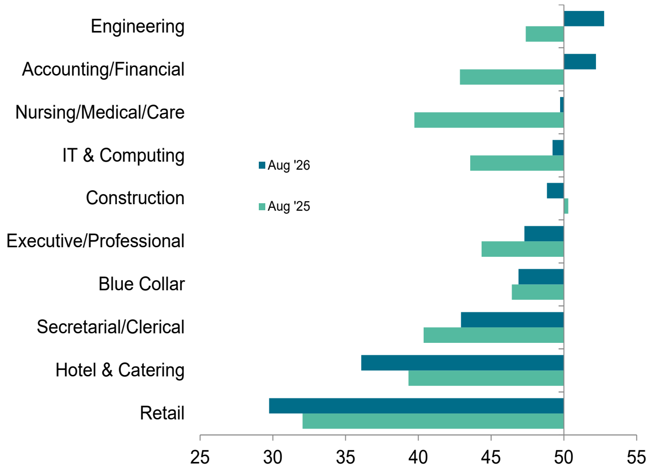
Recruitment consultancies are requested to compare the demand for staff according to sector with the situation one month ago.

Permanent vacancies

Permanent staff vacancies rose across the Engineering and Accounting/Financial sectors during August, but fell in the remaining eight job categories monitored by the survey. The steepest reductions in demand were once again seen in the Retail and Hotel & Catering sectors.

Permanent Vacancies Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month.

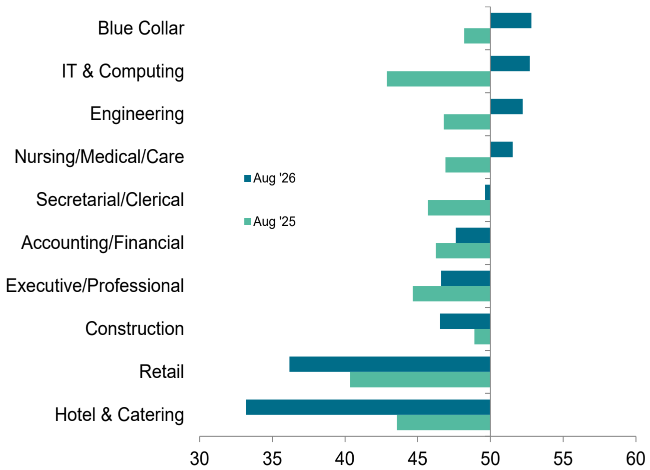


Temporary vacancies

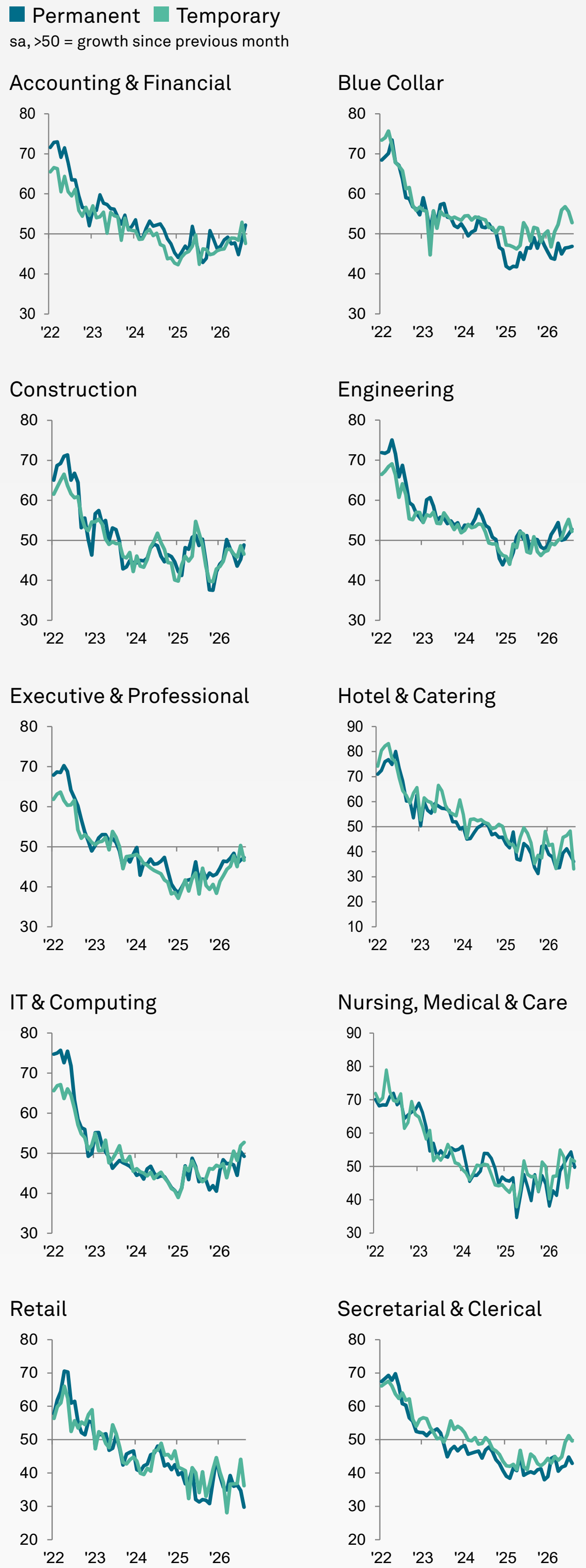
Latest data indicated that temporary staff vacancies rose across four of the ten monitored job sectors in August, led by Blue Collar and IT & Computing. Hotel & Catering registered the sharpest drop in demand for short-term staff, closely followed by Retail.

Temporary Vacancies Index

sa, >50 = growth since previous month.



Vacancy index by sector



5 Staff availability

Recruitment consultants are asked to report whether availability of permanent and temporary staff has changed on the previous month. An overall indicator of staff availability is also calculated.

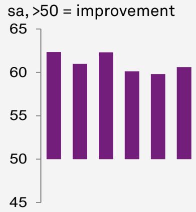
Supply of workers increases at fastest pace in three months

The overall availability of candidates across the UK increased again in August, stretching the current period of growth to exactly three-and-a-half years. At 60.6, the respective seasonally adjusted index was up from 59.8 in July and signalled the strongest rate of expansion since May. Underlying data indicated that the number of permanent candidates continued to rise at a quicker pace than that seen for temporary labour.

Total Staff Availability Index

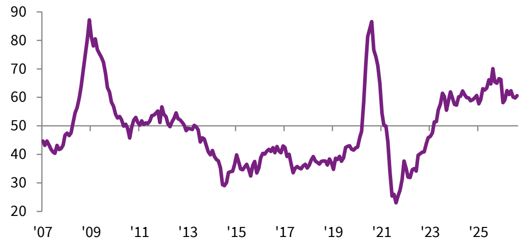
Mar - Aug '26

sa, >50 = improvement



Total Staff Availability Index

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



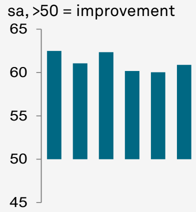
Availability of permanent candidates rises at sharper rate

As has been the case since March 2023, the number of workers seeking permanent job roles increased midway through the third quarter. The rate of growth was the most pronounced since May and sharp. That said, the upturn was softer than that seen on average over the past year. According to anecdotal evidence, redundancies were a key driver of the latest upturn in candidate numbers. Fewer overall work opportunities, uncertainty over current job security and a preference for permanent positions among candidates also pushed up supply. On a regional basis, the North of England recorded the sharpest rise in availability, though marked increases were also seen elsewhere.

Permanent Staff Availability Index

Mar - Aug '26

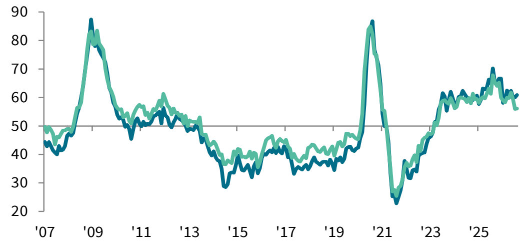
sa, >50 = improvement



Permanent Staff Availability Index

Temporary Staff Availability Index

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month



Permanent Staff Availability Index

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month

	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	62.5	68.2	59.6	60.7	63.3
Apr '26	61.1	62.8	59.3	56.2	66.6
May '26	62.4	64.0	63.9	55.0	67.4
Jun '26	60.2	58.2	62.5	55.3	66.7
Jul '26	60.0	53.9	61.4	56.9	67.2
Aug '26	60.9	56.8	60.3	56.5	68.2

Growth in temp labour supply remains marked in August

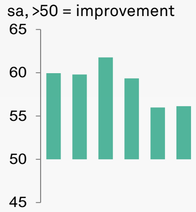
UK recruitment consultancies signalled a sustained rise in the number of candidates available for temporary work during August. The rate of growth was historically strong, but nevertheless the second-slowest in over three years, having quickened only fractionally since July. There were frequent reports that company layoffs and a lack of new contract opportunities had pushed up the supply of temporary labour.

London registered the sharpest increase in short-term staff availability, while the softest upturn was in the Midlands.

Temporary Staff Availability Index

Mar - Aug '26

sa, >50 = improvement



Temporary Staff Availability Index

sa, >50 = improvement since previous month

	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	59.9	68.9	57.3	54.6	58.2
Apr '26	59.8	62.9	61.5	53.5	59.3
May '26	61.8	66.6	59.5	54.3	64.9
Jun '26	59.3	61.3	60.6	53.4	59.5
Jul '26	56.0	55.3	59.5	53.0	56.9
Aug '26	56.1	59.6	56.2	50.4	55.0

6 Demand for skills

Recruitment consultancies are invited to specify any areas in which they have encountered skill shortages during the latest month.

Skills in short supply: Permanent staff

Accounting/Financial
- Accountants
- Accounting Roles
- Accounting Technicians
- Auditors
- Estimators
- Finance
- Financial Planners
- Financial Services
- Part Qualified Finance
- Payroll Specialists
- Practice Accountant
- Qualified Accountancy
- Qualified Finance
- Tax & Audit
- Tax Accountant

Blue Collar
- Assembly Technicians
- Blue Collar
- Drivers
- FLT Operators
- Forklift Drivers
- HGV Drivers
- HGV Mechanic
- HVAC
- LGV Drivers
- LGV/HGV 2 Drivers
- Machine Operators
- Refrigeration
- Welders

Construction
- Architectural Tech
- Building Surveyors
- Civil & Structural Engineers
- Construction
- Construction Design Engineers
- Part 2 Architect Asst.
- Quantity Surveyors

Engineering
- Commissioning Engineers
- Control Systems Engineer
- Design Engineers
- Design Engineers M&E
- Electrical Design Engineer
- Electrical Engineers
- Electronics Design Engineer
- Engineers
- Hardware Engineers
- Manufacturing Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
- Project Engineers
- Robotics Engineers
- Stress Engineers
- Technicians

Executive/Professional
- Employee Relations
- Energy & Renewables
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Management
- Professional Roles
- Project Managers
- Quality Assurance

Hotel/Catering
- Hospitality

IT/Computing
- AI/ML Developers
- AI/ML Engineers
- Analysts
- Automation Testers
- CAD
- Cloud Transformation
- Cyber Security
- Data Engineers
- Data Professionals
- Data Tooling
- Digital
- Full-Stack Developer
- IT
- IT Architecture
- IT Directors
- IT Infrastructure
- IT Software Sales
- Software
- Software Architects
- Software Developers
- Technical Roles
- Technical Sales
- Technology

Nursing/Medical/Care
- Care Assistants
- Commercial Life Sciences
- Medical
- Nurses
- Occupational Therapist
- Paramedics
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapist
- Social Workers

Secretarial/Clerical
- Administration

Other
- Buyers
- Demand Planners
- Drama Teacher
- Field Sales
- Health & Safety
- Insurance Specialists
- New Home Sales
- Product Managers
- Sales
- Sales (International)
- Sales Negotiators
- Sales Progressors
- STEM

Skills in short supply: Temporary staff

Accounting/Financial
- ACCA
- Accountants
- CIMA
- Finance
- Part Qualified Credit Control
- Tax & Audit
- Tax Accountant

Blue Collar
- Blue Collar
- Carpenters
- CNC Machinist
- Coded Welders
- Drivers
- FLT Operators
- Forklift Drivers
- HGV Drivers
- LGV Drivers
- LGV/HGV 2 Drivers
- Machine Operators
- Mechanical Assemblers
- Plater
- Security Guards
- Warehouse Operatives
- Welders

Construction
- Civil & Structural Engineers
- Construction
- Fire Stopper
- Joiners
- Labourers
- Pipefitters

Engineering
- Design Engineers M&E
- Engineers
- Maintenance Engineers
- Pre-Heat Technicians

Executive/Professional
- Conveyancers
- Employee Relations
- HR Business Partners

Hotel/Catering
- Catering

IT/Computing
- Cloud Computing
- CNC
- Cyber Security
- Full-Stack Developer
- IT
- Security Cleared IT
- Software
- Software Developers
- Software Engineers
- Technical Administrators
- Technical Managers
- Technical Roles
- Technology

Nursing/Medical/Care
- Care Assistants
- Nurses
- Social Workers

Secretarial/Clerical
- Administration

Other
- Drama Teacher
- Health & Safety
- Interior Designers
- New Home Sales
- STEM

Skills in excess supply: Permanent staff

Accounting/Financial
- Accountants
- Bookkeepers
- Finance
- Management Accountants

Blue Collar
- Blue Collar
- Refinery Operator
- Site Managers
- Warehouse Operatives

Construction
- Construction Site Managers
- Skilled Construction

Engineering
- Graduate Engineers

Executive/Professional
- Business Analysts
- Business Development
- Communications Manager
- Conveyancers
- CPO
- C-Suite
- Development Managers
- Directors
- Executives
- HR Director
- HR Manager
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Managing Director
- Marketing
- Project Managers
- Recruitment Consultants
- Senior Level Management
- Senior Management

IT/Computing
- BIM Modellers
- C#
- Entry Level IT
- IT Directors
- IT Generalists
- IT Helpdesk
- IT Operations Management
- Software Developers
- Technical Roles
- UI/UX Specialists

Nursing/Medical/Care
- Research Scientist
- Social Workers

Retail
- Retail

Secretarial/Clerical
- Administration
- Clerical
- Customer Service Administrator

Other
- Cover Supervisor
- Creative
- Customer Service
- Document Controller
- Entry Level
- General Managers
- Graduates
- Health & Safety Advisors
- Operations
- Process Improvement
- Analysts
- Project Manager (General)
- Public Sector General
- Testers

Skills in excess supply: Temporary staff

Blue Collar
- Blue Collar
- Carpenters
- Manufacturing
- Refinery Operator
- Warehouse Operatives

Construction
- Construction Project Managers
- Construction Site Managers
- Labourers
- Skilled Construction

Executive/Professional
- Business Analysts
- Human Resources
- Project Managers

IT/Computing
- Analysts
- Business Analysts
- C#
- IT Directors
- Software Engineers
- Technical Support
- Technology

Secretarial/Clerical
- Administration

Other
- Cover Supervisor
- Customer Service
- Graduates
- Logistics
- Operations
- Product Managers
- Project Manager (General)
- Students

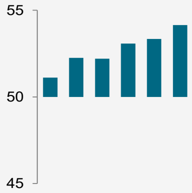
Note : Skills can be reported as being both in short supply and excess supply as we survey various recruitment agencies across the country, so there is geographical variation as well as the possibility of candidates with particular skills being concentrated in certain areas.

7 Pay pressures

The recruitment industry survey tracks both the average salaries awarded to people placed in permanent jobs each month, as well as average hourly rates of pay for temp/contract staff.

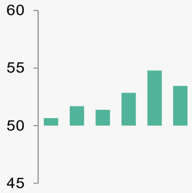
Permanent Salaries Index

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = inflation



Temporary Wages Index

Mar - Aug '26
sa, >50 = inflation



Strongest increase in permanent pay since January

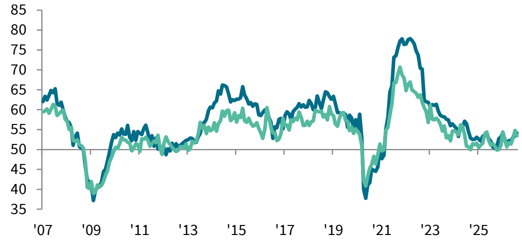
Adjusted for seasonal influences, the Permanent Salaries Index pointed to an increase in starting pay for permanent joiners in August, extending the current run of growth to five-and-a-half years. The rate of salary inflation was the quickest seen in seven months and solid. Recruiters often noted that some employers had raised salary offers in order to attract and secure highly-skilled candidates or those with niche skills. Permanent pay rose across all four monitored English areas, with the strongest rate of inflation seen in the South of England.

Softer, but solid increase in temp pay rates

Average hourly pay rates for temporary workers increased for the ninth successive month in August. The rate of wage inflation slowed from July's 26-month high, but remained solid overall. Reports from panel members indicated that competition for scarce skills, the higher cost of living and wage negotiations with candidates had lifted average pay in the latest survey period.

Strong rates of temp wage growth were seen across all four monitored English regions, led by the Midlands.

Permanent Salaries Index
Temporary Wages Index
sa, >50 = inflation since previous month



Permanent Salaries Index
sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	51.1	50.6	52.0	50.6	51.5
Apr '26	52.3	53.5	52.5	50.8	52.6
May '26	52.2	53.6	50.4	50.4	53.3
Jun '26	53.1	54.5	49.7	51.1	54.4
Jul '26	53.3	57.8	50.7	51.2	52.4
Aug '26	54.1	54.2	54.6	50.4	53.3

Temporary Wages Index
sa, >50 = inflation since previous month

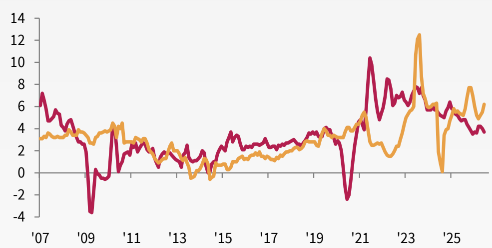
	UK	London	South	Midlands	North
Mar '26	50.7	45.8	53.0	53.6	49.7
Apr '26	51.7	50.2	54.8	54.2	48.5
May '26	51.4	52.4	51.2	53.8	49.8
Jun '26	52.9	55.1	50.7	53.9	53.3
Jul '26	54.8	57.1	53.4	54.0	54.1
Aug '26	53.5	52.9	53.2	55.3	54.5

Official data: UK average weekly earnings

The ONS continued to report growth in whole economy earnings in the three months to June. According to the latest data, pay rose 4.1% on an annual basis, down from 4.4% in the three months to March. This was the slowest pace of expansion seen since the three months to February (3.9%), and among the weakest rates of growth since the end of 2020.

Divergent trends were seen at the sector level, with a weaker increase in private sector earnings (3.7%) more than offsetting a faster rise in public sector pay (6.2%).

UK average weekly earnings private public
%yr/yr, 3mma



Source: Office for National Statistics via S&P Global Market Intelligence.

8 Special feature

This section features analysis from the latest official labour market data published by the ONS.

Latest official employment trends across age groups

The latest official labour market data showed employment remained strongest among those aged 25-49, while unemployment was far more prevalent among 18-24-year-olds.

Employment rate highest among those aged 35–49

In the three months to June, the highest employment rate was recorded among those aged 35–49, at 85.1%, with the rate remaining broadly steady over the past year.

Employment was also notably high among those aged 25–34, at 84.5%. This was among the highest rates recorded for this age group since late 2023.

At 72.2%, the employment rate among those aged 50–64 was among the highest recorded in over six years.

Employment among those aged 65 and over slipped from a joint peak of 13.5% in the three months to May to 13.3% in the three months to June but remained close to a record high.

Unemployment rate among 18–24-year-olds stuck near an 11-and-a-half-year high

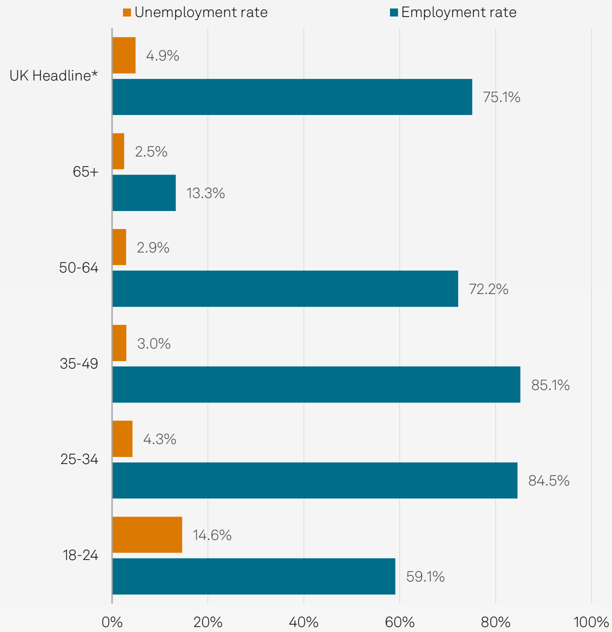
Turning to unemployment, people aged 65 and over, at 2.5%, and those aged 50–64, at 2.9%, had the lowest jobless rates in the three months to June. In both instances, the unemployment rate was lower than the averages recorded over the past year.

Unemployment was also very low among those aged 35–49, at 3%, which is in line with the trend seen over the last 12 months.

At 4.3%, the unemployment rate among people aged 25–34 held steady at its lowest level for nearly a year.

However, the jobless rate among those aged 18–24 stood at 14.6%, having risen steadily over the past 12 months. Although slightly below the 14.8% recorded in the three months to May, the rate remained close to its highest level since late 2014.

Employment and unemployment rates by age group



Data compiled August 2026.
*UK headline employment rate includes 16-64 year olds, UK headline unemployment rate includes those aged 16+.
Source: ONS via S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Unemployment Rate 18-24 Year Olds

Data compiled August 2026.
Source: ONS via S&P Global Market Intelligence.

9 Scotland's labour market

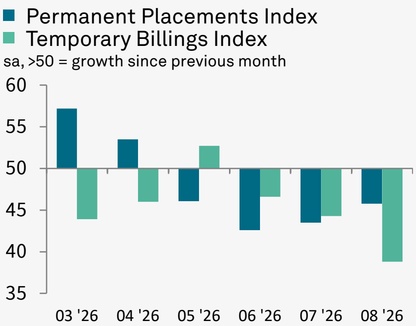
Permanent placements fall at slower rate in August

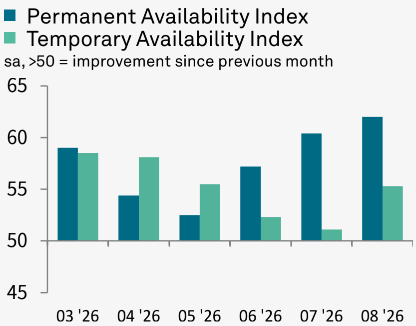
This section contains the latest data and findings from the Scottish companies participating in the UK Jobs survey.

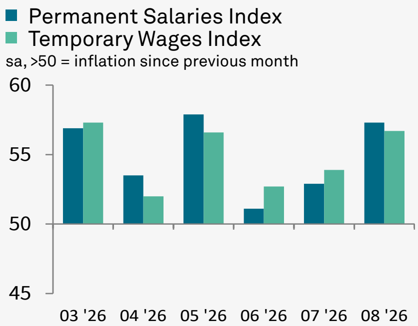
Scottish recruiters signalled a softer fall in permanent staff recruitment in August. Though solid, the latest reduction in permanent placements was the slowest in three months. In contrast, the decline in temp billings gathered pace, falling at the sharpest rate since February 2023. Temp billings have now fallen in each of the past three months.

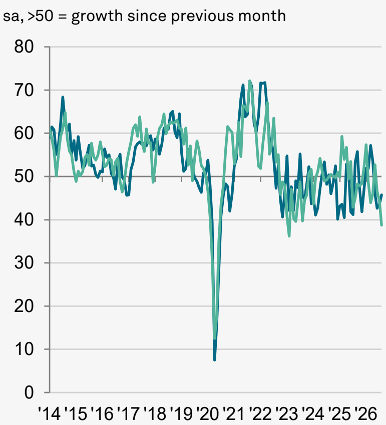
Despite the sustained slowdown in recruitment activity, firms signalled steeper increases in both starting salaries and temp pay in August. Notably, the upturn in temp wages was the quickest seen in five months.

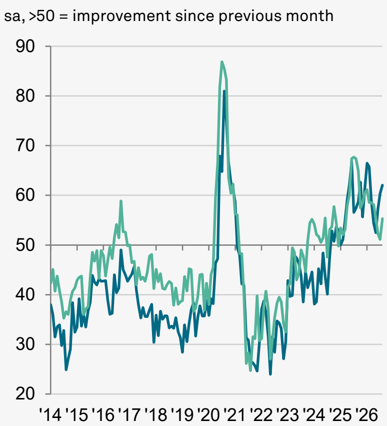
The availability of permanent candidates meanwhile rose at the sharpest pace since February. A faster increase in the supply of temporary labour across Scotland was also signalled in August, with growth the strongest in three months.

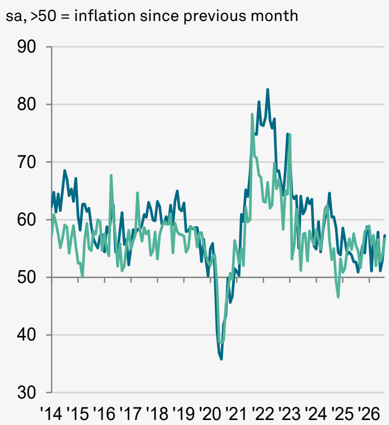












Scotland Jobs Index summary
sa, 50 = no change over previous month

	Permanent Placements	Temporary Billings	Permanent Availability	Temporary Availability	Permanent Salaries	Temporary Wages
03 '26	57.2	43.9	59.0	58.5	56.9	57.3
04 '26	53.5	46.0	54.4	58.1	53.5	52.0
05 '26	46.1	52.7	52.5	55.5	57.9	56.6
06 '26	42.6	46.6	57.2	52.3	51.1	52.7
07 '26	43.5	44.3	60.4	51.1	52.9	53.9
08 '26	45.8	38.8	62.0	55.3	57.3	56.7

Contact

KPMG

Claire Barratt
Deputy Head of Media Relations
+44 (0)7923 439264
claire.barratt@kpmg.co.uk

REC

Hamant Verma
Communications Manager
T: +44 (0)20 7009 2129
hamant.verma@rec.uk.com

S&P Global

Annabel Fiddes
Economics Associate Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44 149 146 1010
annabel.fiddes@spglobal.com

Hannah Brook
EMEA Communications Manager
S&P Global Market Intelligence
T: +44-7483-439-812
hannah.brook@spglobal.com
press.mi@spglobal.com

Methodology

The KPMG and REC, UK Report on Jobs is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 UK recruitment and employment consultancies.

Survey responses are collected in the second half of each month and indicate the direction of change compared to the previous month. A diffusion index is calculated for each survey variable. The index is the sum of the percentage of 'higher' responses and half the percentage of 'unchanged' responses. The indices vary between 0 and 100, with a reading above 50 indicating an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease. The indices are then seasonally adjusted.

Underlying survey data are not revised after publication, but seasonal adjustment factors may be revised from time to time as appropriate which will affect the seasonally adjusted data series.

For further information on the survey methodology, please contact economics@spglobal.com.

Survey Dates

Data were collected 12-24 August 2026.

About S&P Global

S&P Global (NYSE: SPGI) S&P Global provides essential intelligence. We enable governments, businesses and individuals with the right data, expertise and connected technology so that they can make decisions with conviction. From helping our customers assess new investments to guiding them through ESG and energy transition across supply chains, we unlock new opportunities, solve challenges and accelerate progress for the world.

We are widely sought after by many of the world's leading organizations to provide credit ratings, benchmarks, analytics and workflow solutions in the global capital, commodity and automotive markets. With every one of our offerings, we help the world's leading organizations plan for tomorrow, today. www.spglobal.com.

About KPMG in the UK:

KPMG is trusted to make the difference for our clients, people and the communities we work in. With our people's deep sector expertise and cutting-edge technology, we help organisations overcome their biggest challenges and unlock new opportunities to transform and grow.

On 1 October 2024, KPMG UK and KPMG Switzerland merged to form KPMG UK/Swiss Group, scaling our strengths and amplifying the difference we make.

KPMG International Limited is a global organisation of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services in 138 countries and territories. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such.

About REC

The REC is the voice of the recruitment industry, speaking up for great recruiters. We drive standards and empower recruitment businesses to build better futures for their candidates and themselves. We are champions of an industry which is fundamental to the strength of the UK economy. Find out more about the Recruitment & Employment Confederation at www.rec.uk.com.