



AN INTRODUCTION TO

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# LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION (LMI)

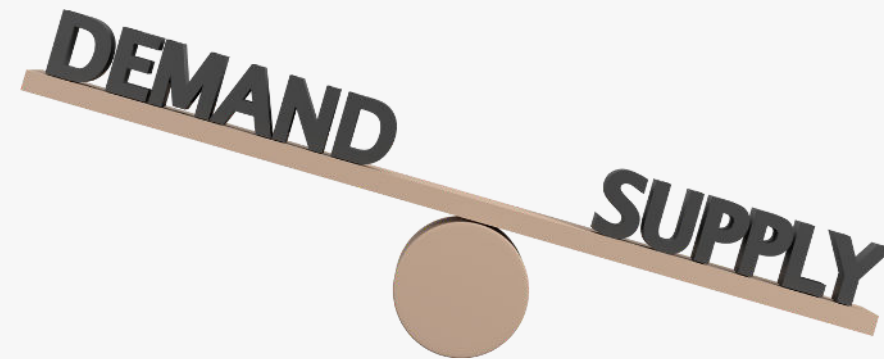
2026



**SUNRISE**  
CAREER GUIDANCE

# WHAT IS THE LABOUR MARKET?

It's where people offer their skills, qualifications, and experience to employers in exchange for paid work (labour).

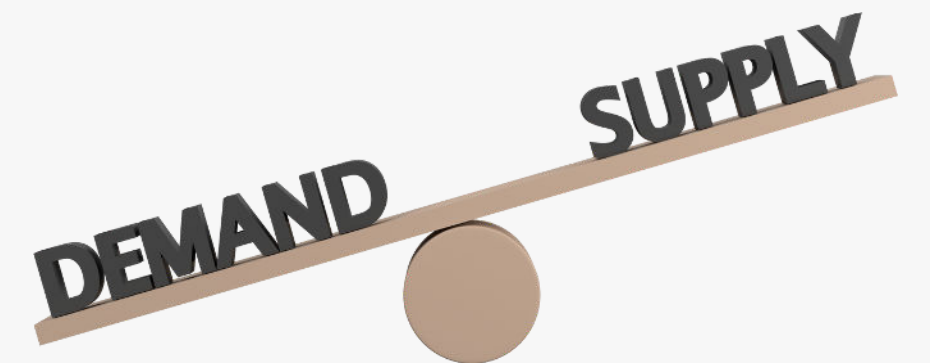


## Demand can change

The skills and qualifications employers are looking for and the number of workers they are looking for can change.

## Supply can change

Sometimes more people are looking for work. Sometimes less. Increased supply of workers mean employers can pay less.



# WHAT IS LMI?

Labour market information (LMI) is data that reflects what is going on in the labour market.

It can help us make informed decisions by providing information about what is going on in the world of work.



# WHAT ABOUT LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE?

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## Quantitative Data

Facts and figures about jobs and employment e.g. how many people are looking for work; how many jobs; salary; hours; trends

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## Qualitative Data

Insights into what the world of work and specific jobs or industries or types of work are like.

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## Labour market intelligence

Where labour market information is applied to your situation and needs.



# LMI CAN HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD OF WORK:

- The kind and number of jobs available (by area/sector)
- The skills and jobs that are (or will be) in demand
- Entry routes, pathways, and progression routes
- The skills and qualifications you might need
- Salaries, earning potential, and prospect of promotion
- Working patterns, hours, employer cultures, equality of opportunity, and more

# WHAT MIGHT YOU WANT TO KNOW?



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## Getting in

- Pathways to get in
- What skills are required
- What qualifications are required
- Where are jobs advertised

---

## Once you are there

- Salary
- Working hours
- Workplace culture
- Diversity
- Working conditions
- Progression opportunities

---

## Where is the work

- What kind of jobs are available?
- Are they local/regional/national/global?
- How many vacancies are there?

# WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU WANT TO KNOW?

Skills in demand

Number of people employed

Number of live vacancies

Which sectors are recruiting

Salary statistics

Which sectors are growing

In demand jobs

Which companies employ the most people

Emerging jobs

Number of employers

Types of contracts available

Future forecasts



# THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN USING LMI:



- When was the LMI created?
- Who by and why?
- Is it comprehensive / complete?
- Does it meet your information needs?
- Is it biased or does it contain myths/stereotypes?



# LMI ABOUT JOB ROLES



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ABOUT JOB ROLES?

[Prospects](#)

[National Careers Service](#)

[icould](#)

[My World of Work](#)

[Careers Wales](#)

[Northern Ireland  
Careers Service](#)

[Glassdoor](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Adzuna](#)

[MYPATH](#)

[Xello](#)

Job Adverts

[Morrisby](#)

[Unifrog](#)

[eCLIPS](#)

*You could also use sector-specific websites, informational meetings, and [How many people do my job?](#) (Census 2021)*

# WHERE ARE THE UK JOBS RIGHT NOW?

**GOV.UK**

Home > Entering and staying in the UK > Rights of foreign nationals in the UK > Foreign nationals working in the UK

Guidance

## Skilled Worker visa: immigration salary list

Check which jobs are on the immigration salary list in each area of the UK. For the Skilled Worker visa and the Health and Care visa.

From: [Home Office](#)  
 Published 4 April 2024  
 Last updated 11 November 2025 — [See all updates](#)

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**Documents**

[Skilled Worker visa: immigration salary list](#)  
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[Skilled Worker visa: Immigration Salary List](#)

Office for National Statistics

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Home | Business, industry and trade | Economy | Employment and labour market | People, population and community | Taking part in a survey?

Search for a keyword(s) or time series ID

Home > Employment and labour market > People not in work > Unemployment

Dataset

### VACS02: Vacancies by industry

Contact: Labour Market team | Release date: 13 August 2024 | Next release: 10 September 2024

About this Dataset  
 Vacancies by industry.

View all data related to unemployment

Edition in this dataset

Current edition of this dataset

xlsx (101.3 KB)

Contact details for this dataset  
 Labour Market team  
 labour.market@ons.gov.uk  
 +44 1633 455400

Publications that use this dataset

## ONS Vacancies by Industry



Adult Social Care	→
Agriculture	→
Childcare and Early Years Education	→
Digital and Tech	→
Construction	→
Food and Drink Manufacturing	→
Green jobs	→
Hospitality	→
Manufacturing	→
Public sector	→
Retail	→
Transport and logistics	→
Warehousing and distribution	→

<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/sectors-recruiting/>

# WHERE ARE THE UK JOBS RIGHT NOW?

 Explore education statistics

Beta This is a new service – your [feedback \(opens in new tab\)](#) will help us to improve it.

[Home](#) > [Find statistics and data](#) > Occupations in demand

## Calendar year 2025 Occupations in demand

This is the latest release

<b>Published</b>	11 December 2025
<b>Next update</b>	December 2026
<b>Last updated</b>	7 January 2026 <a href="#">▶ See all updates (1)</a>
<b>Release type</b>	<a href="#">Official statistics in development</a> 
<b>Receive updates</b>	<a href="#">Sign up for email alerts</a>
<b>Produced by</b>	<a href="#">Skills England</a>

### Introduction:

This release uses five labour market indicators to measure the employment demand for occupations across the UK labour market. Occupations are defined using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) and categorised into one of three demand levels: ‘critical’ (substantially higher demand than usual), ‘elevated’ (above average), and ‘not in high demand’. Each labour market indicator uses the latest data available at the time of analysis.

This assessment of demand is quantitative and will differ to other assessments which use different methods. It assesses the current level of demand for an occupation and not where there is a shortage of workers for an

### Quick links

- [Download all data \(zip\)](#)
- [Release contents](#)
- [Explore data](#)
- [Help and support](#)

### Related information

- [Data guidance](#)
- [Pre-release access list](#)
- [Contact us](#)

### Releases in this series

- [▶ View releases \(1\)](#)

### Methodologies

- [Occupations in demand 2025 methodology](#)
- [Occupations in demand 2024 methodology \(opens in new tab\)](#)

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/occupations-in-demand/2025>





Source: Getty Images

# LinkedIn Jobs on the Rise 2026: The 25 fastest-growing jobs in the UK



LinkedIn News UK

Where the business conversation begins.

Published Jan 7, 2026

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## Salary Stats

Show stats and market trends for

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- [Manchester Software Developer](#)
- [Edinburgh Nurse](#)
- [Cardiff Teaching Assistant](#)
- [Belfast Web Developer](#)

[view all >](#)



**£42,306**

average national salary  
[view breakdown >](#)



**4.6%**

YOY change for national salary  
[view breakdown >](#)



**696,461**

current live vacancies in UK  
[view all jobs >](#)



**-15.7%**


YOY change for UK vacancies  
[view breakdown >](#)



Reports

Published: 7 January 2025

# The Future of Jobs Report 2025

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Technological change, geoeconomic fragmentation, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts and the green transition – individually and in combination are among the major drivers expected to shape and transform the global labour market by 2030. The *Future of Jobs Report 2025* brings together the perspective of over 1,000 leading global employers—collectively representing more than 14 million workers across 22 industry clusters and 55 economies from around the world—to examine how these macro trends impact jobs and skills, and the workforce transformation strategies employers plan to embark on in response, across the 2025 to 2030 timeframe.



# LMI ABOUT INDUSTRIES & SECTORS



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ABOUT INDUSTRIES/SECTORS?

- |                          |  |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Job Help Campaign</u></a>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>UCAS Industry Guides</u></a>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Prospects</u></a>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>ONS Vacancies by Industry</u></a>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Day of Wrk</u></a>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Lloyds Bank UK Sector Tracker</u></a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>ONS Employment by Industry</u></a>          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Resourceful Careers</u></a>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Scotland's Growing Industries (SDS)</u></a> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Business.gov.uk Invest in UK</u></a>  |

*You could also use the CDI Career Matters magazine and industry magazines and sector-specific sites and bodies*



Department for  
Business & Trade

# Policy paper Sector Plans

Updated 8 September 2025

## Contents

[Advanced Manufacturing](#)

[Clean Energy Industries](#)

[Creative Industries](#)

[Defence](#)

[Digital and Technologies](#)

[Financial Services](#)

[Life Sciences](#)

[Professional and Business  
Services](#)

 [Print this page](#)

In the Industrial Strategy, we identified the 8 sectors that have the greatest growth potential over the next decade and a critical role to play in supporting economic security and resilience, net zero and regional growth.

Each has a bespoke Sector Plan, developed with industry, setting out a vision of the sector's transformation by 2035.

We have published all 8 of the Industrial Strategy Sector Plans.

## Advanced Manufacturing



# NATIONAL LMI



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND NATIONAL LMI?

- |                          |   |                          |  |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Office for National Statistics</u></a>               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>ONS Labour Market Overview</u></a>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>CIPD Labour Market Outlook</u></a>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>NI Direct</u></a>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>L&amp;W Institute<br/>Labour Market Analysis</u></a> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Scotland's Growing Industries (SDS)</u></a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Adzuna</u></a>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Future Jobs Wales</u></a>                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>National Careers Service</u></a>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Skills Development Scotland</u></a>         |
|                          | <a href="#"><u>Trusted News Sites</u></a>                           |                          | <a href="#"><u>Insider Media</u></a>                       |

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE UK LABOUR MARKET?

Office for National Statistics English (EN) | Cymraeg (CY)  
[Release calendar](#) [Methodology](#) [Media](#) [About](#) [Blog](#)

Home Business, industry and trade Economy Employment and labour market People, population and community Taking part in a survey?

Search for a keyword(s) or time series ID

**census 2021** [Data and analysis from Census 2021](#)

Main figures - [From our time series explorer](#)

### Employment

**Employment rate**  
Aged 16 to 64 seasonally adjusted (Aug - Oct 2025)  
**74.9%**  
= 0.0pp on previous year  
[Analysis](#) [Data](#)

**Unemployment rate**  
Aged 16+ seasonally adjusted (Aug - Oct 2025)  
**5.1%**  
↑ 0.8pp on previous year  
[Analysis](#) [Data](#)

### Inflation

CPIH 12-month rate  
Nov 2025  
**3.5%**  
↓ -0.3pp on previous month  
[Analysis](#) [Data](#)

### GDP

Quarter on Quarter  
Jul - Sep 2025  
**0.1%**  
↓ -0.1pp on previous quarter  
[Analysis](#) [Data](#)

### UK population

Mid-year estimate (2025)  
**69,487,000**  
[Analysis](#) [Data](#)

### Try our new preview site

We are improving the ONS website, with brand new navigation, page designs and content.  
[Explore the ONS preview site](#)

ONS accessed 11/1/2026

## 4. Summary

**Table 1: April to June 2025 headline measures and changes**  
 UK headline economic status levels and rates, total weekly hours, and redundancy levels and rates, seasonally adjusted, April to June 2025

	Level/Rate	Sampling variability of level/rate	Change on quarter	Sampling variability of change on quarter	Change on year	Sampling variability of change on year
<b>Employment (000s, aged 16+)</b>	34,214	± 216	238	± 188	725	± 319
<b>Employment rate (aged 16 to 64)</b>	75.3	± 0.5	0.3	± 0.4	0.7	± 0.7
<b>Unemployment (000s, aged 16+)</b>	1,672	± 94	59	± 104	206	± 139
<b>Unemployment rate (aged 16+)</b>	4.7	± 0.3	0.1	± 0.3	0.5	± 0.4
<b>Economically inactive (000s, aged 16 to 64)</b>	9,073	± 189	-156	± 168	-404	± 284
<b>Economic inactivity rate (aged 16 to 64)</b>	21.0	± 0.4	-0.4	± 0.4	-1.1	± 0.7
<b>Total weekly hours (millions)</b>	1,092.6	N/A	10.5	N/A	20.9	N/A
<b>Redundancies (000s, aged 16 years and over)</b>	107	± 21	-3	± 33	-4	± 35
<b>Redundancy rate (per thousand, aged 16+)</b>	3.6	N/A	-0.1	N/A	-0.2	N/A

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS) from the Office for National Statistics

ONS accessed 11/1/2026

# Employment in the UK: December 2025

Estimates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity for the UK.

This is the latest release. [View previous releases](#)

**Contact:**

[Labour Market team](#)

**Release date:**

16 December 2025

**Next release:**

20 January 2026

## Table of contents

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2. Main points
3. Measuring the labour market
4. Summary
5. Employment
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7. Economic inactivity
8. Redundancies
9. Data on employment in the UK
10. Glossary
11. Data sources and quality
12. Related links
13. Cite this statistical bulletin

Print this statistical bulletin 

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What was your main reason for visiting this page today?

Read more about the topic

Understand what has changed since the last release

Find a headline number

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/employmentintheuk/latest>



# WHERE ARE THE UK JOBS RIGHT NOW?

**GOV.UK**

Home > [Entering and staying in the UK](#) > [Rights of foreign nationals in the UK](#) > [Foreign nationals working in the UK](#)

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 Published 4 April 2024  
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Home | Business, industry and trade | Economy | Employment and labour market | People, population and community | Taking part in a survey?

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Dataset

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View all data related to unemployment

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 +44 1633 455400

Edition in this dataset

Current edition of this dataset  
 xlsx (101.3 KB)

## ONS Vacancies by Industry



Adult Social Care	→
Agriculture	→
Childcare and Early Years Education	→
Digital and Tech	→
Construction	→
Food and Drink Manufacturing	→
Green jobs	→
Hospitality	→
Manufacturing	→
Public sector	→
Retail	→
Transport and logistics	→
Warehousing and distribution	→

<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/sectors-recruiting/>

# WHERE ARE THE UK JOBS RIGHT NOW?

 Explore education statistics

Beta This is a new service – your [feedback \(opens in new tab\)](#) will help us to improve it.

[Home](#) > [Find statistics and data](#) > Occupations in demand

## Calendar year 2025 Occupations in demand

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- [Occupations in demand 2024 methodology \(opens in new tab\)](#)

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/occupations-in-demand/2025>



What?  Where?  [Search](#) [Advanced](#)

## Salary Stats

Show stats and market trends for

What?  Where?  [Search](#)

### Popular searches:

- [London Accountant](#)
- [Manchester Software Developer](#)
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- [Cardiff Teaching Assistant](#)
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**£42,306**

average national salary  
[view breakdown >](#)



**4.6%**

YOY change for national salary  
[view breakdown >](#)



**696,461**

current live vacancies in UK  
[view all jobs >](#)



**-15.7%**

YOY change for UK vacancies  
[view breakdown >](#)



Department for  
Business & Trade

Accredited official statistics

# Business population estimates for the UK and regions 2023: statistical release

Published 5 October 2023

## Contents

[Headline statistics](#)

[What you need to know about  
these statistics](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Trends in the business  
population](#)

[Composition of the 2023  
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[Legal form](#)

[Registration for VAT and PAYE](#)

[UK countries and the regions](#)

[Industries](#)

[Uncertainty in the business  
population estimates](#)

[Technical information](#)

[Definitions and terminology](#)

[Further information](#)

## Headline statistics

**The number of private sector businesses in the UK at the  
start of 2023 was**

# 5.6 million

5.51 million businesses were small (0 to 49 employees)

36,900 businesses were medium-sized (50 to 249 employees)

8,000 businesses were large (250 or more employees)

# LOCAL & REGIONAL LMI



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LOCAL & REGIONAL LMI?

[Resourceful Careers](#)

[CEC Career Hubs](#)

[Local Skills Dashboards](#)

[Archway Careers](#)

[nomis web](#)

[Choosing Your Path  
Kent & Medway](#)

[Adzuna](#)

[Trusted News Sites](#)

[ONS Local Indicators](#)

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Job Adverts

[Kent & Medway LMI](#)  
[Kent Prospectus](#)

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# EUROPEAN & GLOBAL LMI



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND EUROPEAN & GLOBAL LMI?

[cedefop](#)

[World Economic Forum](#)

[Lightcast](#)

[OECD](#)

[International Labour  
Organization](#)

Trusted News Sites

[LinkedIn](#)

[PWC Global Workforce Hopes  
and Fears Survey 2025](#)

[Eurostat](#)

[EURES Job Portal](#)

[O\\*Net Online](#)


[cedefop sources by country](#)



Reports

Published: 7 January 2025

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Download PDF 

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# EDUCATION LMI



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ABOUT EDUCATION?

- |                          |  |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>National Career Service</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Find a Course</u></a> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Where Can I Study</u></a> (London)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Prospects</u></a>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>UCAS</u></a>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Careerpilot</u></a>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | University League Tables  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Morrisby</u></a>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>England School &amp; College</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Performance</u></a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Unifrog</u></a>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <a href="#"><u>Discover Uni</u></a>   |

# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ABOUT EDUCATION?

- [Luminate](#)
- [Explore Education Statistics](#)
- [What do graduates do?](#)
- [Graduate Outcomes Survey](#)
- [Global Employability University Ranking 2026](#)
- [QS World University Rankings 2026](#)
- [High Fliers Research](#)
- [WONKHE](#)
- [Ofqual Analytics](#)
- [FE News](#)



# Charlie Ball's 2026 predictions: what to look out for in the UK graduate labour market

Charlie Ball January 2026

Charlie Ball, Jisc's head of labour market intelligence, sets out his expectations for the year ahead, including the continued impact of AI and - more optimistically - overdue recognition for arts students

Having [marked my own homework from 2025](#) and declared myself to be quite splendid (*mostly* right, but wrong about public sector recruitment), now it's time for some predictions about 2026. Things are very uncertain in the national and global economy, so I'm sure some of this will come unstuck, but here's what I see happening based on current trends, long experience and a bit of a sniff of the prevailing winds.

## The graduate labour market isn't likely to get a lot better in 2026

2025 was not a great year for the graduate labour market, although it doesn't seem to have been the disaster some of the reports we've seen this year might have suggested. It was certainly the most difficult since COVID, but much of that was due to the labour market outperforming the economy since the pandemic. It looks like it started to track the economy more closely at the end of 2024 and continued that trend in 2025, falling in the early part of the year and seeming to stabilise in the autumn. I'd like to say it 'bottomed out', but I think if we get difficult economic news in early 2026 it'll start falling again, so let's stick with 'stabilised'.

<https://luminate.prospects.ac.uk/charlie-ball-s-2026-predictions-what-to-look-out-for-in-the-uk-graduate-labour-market>

# LMI ON SKILLS



# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ON SKILLS?

[Prospects](#)

[National Careers Service](#)

[icould](#)

[My World of Work](#)

[Careers Wales](#)

[Northern Ireland  
Careers Service](#)

[Glassdoor](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Adzuna](#)

[MYPATH](#)

[Xello](#)

Job Adverts

[Morrisby](#)

[Unifrog](#)

[eCLIPS](#)

*You could also use sector-specific websites, informational meetings, and [How many people do my job?](#) (Census 2021)*

# WHERE CAN YOU FIND LMI ON SKILLS?

[Skills England  
Local Skills Dashboard](#)

[UK Standard Skills Classification](#)

[Local Skills Dashboards](#)

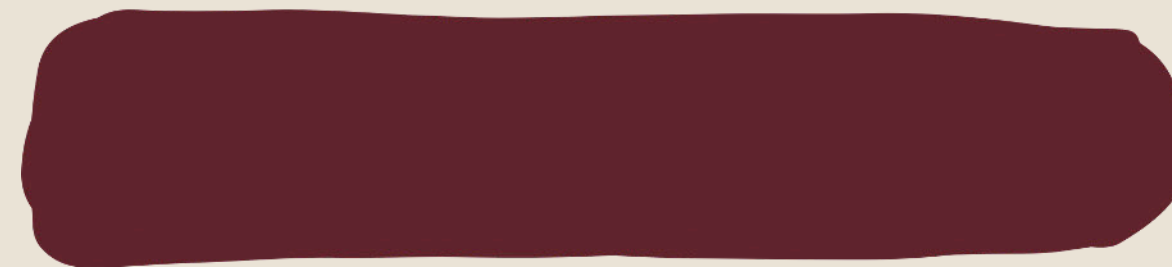
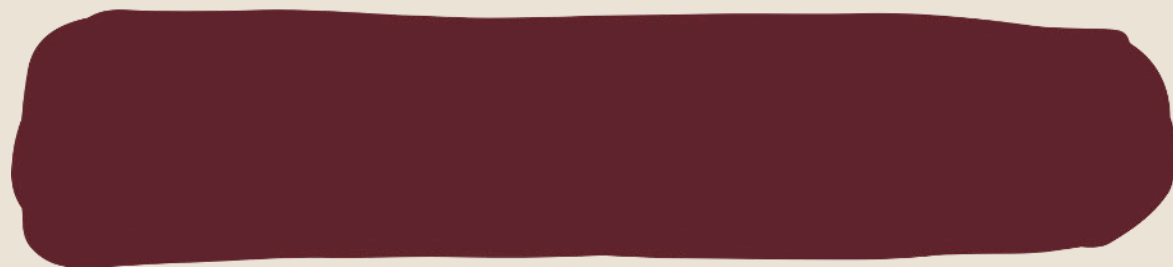
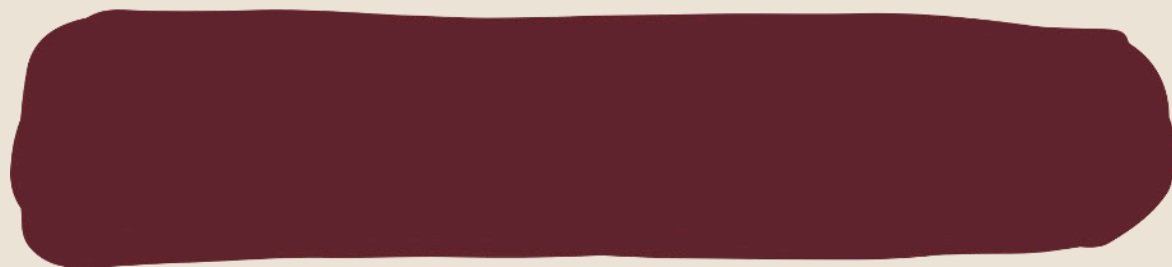
[Skills Shortages Bulletin](#)

[LinkedIn Skills on the Rise  
2025](#)

[cedefop Skills Intelligence](#)

[Skills England: Assessment of  
Priority Skills to 2030](#)

[NFER The Skills Imperative 2035](#)



# UK Skills Explorer

Search and discover the skills and knowledge related to UK jobs and qualifications.

**PUBLIC BETA** This site is currently in public beta

## Explore

### Skills

Specific abilities and competencies

### Occupations

Job roles and career paths

### Knowledge Areas

Fields of study and expertise

### Core Skills

Essential foundational abilities

### Qualifications

Certifications and credentials

## Search the UK Standard Skills Classification Prototype Dataset



### Filter by:

Select All

Skills

Knowledge

Occupations

Core Skills

Qualifications



## Launching the UK Skills Explorer

**Individuals:** identify transferable skills and career progression needs

**Careers advisors:** support clients to understand options and plan career paths

**Employers:** assess workforce capabilities and plan skills-based recruitment

**Labour market analysis:** investigate local skills needs and forecast future demand



How you can use the UK Skills Explorer

UK Standard Skills Classification: <https://skillsclassification.org>