

FACT SHEET



Department for the
Economy
An Roinn
Geilleagair
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

ONLINE JOB POSTING TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

While recognising that the data from this source can vary from month to month and readers should avoid drawing conclusions on the basis of one month's figures, the latest data shows that:

- ▶ Online job postings in Northern Ireland **fell by 25%** from the previous month, with approximately **9,200 new job postings** recorded in April 2026. There was a **16% annual increase** in job postings compared to April 2025.
- ▶ UK jobs postings **fell by 13%** compared to the previous month, while annual figures were **12% lower** than April 2025.
- ▶ Communication was the top listed common skill in job postings, appearing in **42%** of job listings. This was followed by Management at **23%** and Customer Service at **22%**.

*Figures correct as at 06/05/2026



HOSPITALITY

400 online jobs postings were in industries aligned with Hospitality.

Job postings in the Hospitality* industry decreased by **39%** from the previous month and were **5%** lower than postings in April 2025.

The top posted job titles in this industry included Kitchen Porters, Team Members and Night Porters.

*SIC codes 55 and 56, which cover accommodation, food and beverage service activities



TOP OCCUPATIONS

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers>

SALES RELATED OCCUPATIONS N.E.C.

Approx. 450 jobs

5% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Sales Assistants
- ▶ Sales Advisors
- ▶ Sales Executives
- ▶ Retail Sales Assistants

SKILLS:

- ▶ Customer Relationship Management
- ▶ Selling Techniques
- ▶ Product Knowledge
- ▶ Key Performance Indicators

BOOK-KEEPERS, PAYROLL MANAGERS AND WAGE CLERKS

Approx. 350 jobs

4% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Accounts Assistants
- ▶ Finance Assistants
- ▶ Purchase Ledger Clerks
- ▶ Payroll Administrators

SKILLS:

- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Invoicing
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Financial Statements

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Approx. 300 jobs

3% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Game Testers
- ▶ Software Engineers
- ▶ Staff Software Engineers
- ▶ Artificial Intelligence Engineers

SKILLS:

- ▶ Scalability
- ▶ Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery
- ▶ Amazon Web Services
- ▶ Software Engineering

*Figures are subject to revision by Lightcast

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS



Jobs reported to the Northern Ireland Employment Service can be found on [JobApplyNI](#).
If you wish to chat online with a careers adviser for advice and guidance on your careers options see [Nidirect careers](#).

SALES RELATED OCCUPATIONS N.E.C.

Job title	Employer	Location
Sales Executive	Donnelly Group	Dungannon
Sales Assistant	Flannels	Belfast
Sales Advisor	Argento	Omagh
Retail Advisor	Virgin Media	Belfast
Sales Assistant	Matalan	Craigavon
Sales Assistant	Sports Direct	Newry
Sales Assistant	Gordons Chemists	Belfast
Sales Assistant	IKEA	Belfast

BOOK-KEEPERS, PAYROLL MANAGERS AND WAGE CLERKS

Job title	Employer	Location
Book-keeper	Stairlift Solutions NI	Newtownards
Accounts Payable Specialist	Terex Corporation	Craigavon
Payroll Associate	Ernst & Young Global Ltd	Belfast
Payroll and Finance Officer	Sullivan Upper School	Hollywood
Book-keeper	T Devlin Limited	Randalstown
Book-keeper	MDE Machinery Ltd	Armagh
Book-keeper	Mac Electrics Ltd	Armagh
Book-keeper	AX Board Ltd	Newry

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Job title	Employer	Location
IT Service Desk Analyst	DFS Trading Ltd	Dungannon
Java Engineer	Ernst & Young Global Ltd	Belfast
IT Support Technician	Donnelly Group	Dungannon
Java Developer	Deloitte	Belfast
Software Developer	Randox Laboratories	Crumlin
Software Engineer	TP ICAP Group	Belfast
Java Developer	Citi	Belfast
IT Support Technician	Wilson Computers Ltd	Bangor

DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY SKILLS PROGRAMMES

Skills programmes for individuals



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Assured Skills Academies

Assured Skills Academies

If you're unemployed, under-employed, or want to change career, then [ASSURED SKILLS ACADEMIES](#) pre-employment training can help you.

Assured Skills Academies help individuals gain the skills they need to compete for guaranteed job vacancies, with both new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) companies and expanding locally based businesses. In the last 2 years over 280 people have secured employment through academies.



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Apprenticeships

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An [APPRENTICESHIP](#) can give you the training and qualifications you need to help you get ahead in your chosen career. There are currently two framework levels to choose from, Level 2 and 3. It usually takes up to two years to complete one level and up to four years to finish the two levels depending on their complexity and your ability.

Higher Level Apprenticeship

If you've completed A Levels or equivalent, you may be interested in a [HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIP](#), which offers the opportunity to gain quality training and a recognised higher education qualification at level 4 to 7 (Foundation Degree to Masters) while in paid employment. By taking part in a Higher Level Apprenticeship, you can gain the skills that employers need and that are relevant to the local economy, therefore improving your prospects of good earnings and sustained employment.



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Skill Up

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If you're aged 18 and over and eligible to work in Northern Ireland, a range of free accredited courses are available to help you re-train and re-skill, through [SKILL UP – the flexible skills programme](#). The Department for the Economy is supporting free short courses, delivered by the local further and higher education providers.

Skills programmes for businesses



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InnovateUs

InnovateUs

[INNOVATEUS](#) is fully funded by DfE. It helps businesses with fewer than 50 employees gain skills to engage in innovation activities. Delivered by the six local Further Education colleges, up to 60 hours of tailored training is provided during each InnovateUs project, either in the workplace, college, or via online learning. The programme provides an important first step for those small businesses who wish to upskill and innovate. Projects help develop ideas for new products, processes, or services and training is tailored to meet the needs of each individual business.



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Skills Focus

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[SKILLS FOCUS](#) aims to support, promote, and facilitate collaborative working between business and colleges by providing tailored skills provision to small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) with fewer than 250 employees. It meets business needs by increasing the skills levels and employability of the existing workforce to qualifications at level 2 and above, up to and including Level 7 (Master's degree level). The programme is currently 90% funded by DfE with a 10% contribution from participating businesses.