

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 increased by 8% from the previous month. Approximately **11,200 new job postings** were recorded in May 2026, a **26% increase** compared to May 2025.
- ▶ UK job postings recorded a **7% decrease** compared to the previous month. Annual figures also decreased with a **12% fall** from May 2025.
- ▶ Job Postings for Chartered and Certified Accountants **increased by 13%** from April 2026 to enter the top three occupations for the first time in 2026. The top common skills for these roles involve management, communication and budgeting.

*Figures correct as at 03/06/2026



PERMANENT

4,000 online jobs postings had the following term in their advertisement: Permanent.

Permanent job postings increased by 3% from the previous month, there was an annual increase of 29% from May 2025.

Communication, Management and Customer Service are the top common skills listed in job postings that included the term 'Permanent'.



TOP OCCUPATIONS

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

SALES RELATED OCCUPATIONS N.E.C.

Approx. 450 jobs

4% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Sales Assistants
- ▶ Sales Advisors
- ▶ Sales Executives
- ▶ Customer Advisors

SKILLS:

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

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Approx. 350 jobs

3% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Care Assistants
- ▶ Support Workers
- ▶ Health Care Assistants
- ▶ Senior Center Nursing Assistants

SKILLS:

- ▶ Personal Care
- ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Toileting
- ▶ Medication Administration

CHARTERED AND CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

Approx. 300 jobs

3% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Management Accountants
- ▶ Qualified Accountants
- ▶ Assistant Accountants
- ▶ Accountants

SKILLS:

- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Financial Statements
- ▶ Auditing

*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 Assistant	Next	Newry
Sales Advisor	JP Corry	Bangor
Sales Support Advisor	Firmus Energy Ltd	Newtownabbey
Sales Assistant	Sports Direct	Omagh
Sales Assistant	Poundland	Newry
Sales Advisor	Argento	Ballymena
Sales Advisor	Haldane Fisher	Belfast
Sales Executive	Donnelly Group	Dungannon

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Job title	Employer	Location
Care Assistant	Macklin Care Homes	Belfast
Care Assistant	Ann's Home Care	Banbridge
Care Assistant	Maryland Health Care	Newtownards
Care Assistant	Connected Health	Dunmurry
Support Worker	Autism Initiatives NI	Dunmurry
Support Worker	Health and Social Care Trust	Larne
Home Care Assistant	Clogher Valley Care Ltd	Clogher
Care Assistant	Beaumont Care Homes	Lisburn

CHARTERED AND CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

Job title	Employer	Location
Financial Accountant	McKinty Associates	Craigavon
Tax Accountant	Dale Farm Ltd	Belfast
Assistant Accountant	Energia	Belfast
Financial Accountant	Graham Group	Hillsborough
Cost Accountant	Terex Corporation	Dungannon
Accountants	GMcG Chartered Accountants	Belfast
Company Accountant	Greg Mitchell Motors	Strabane
Trainee Chartered Accountant	ASM Ltd	Magherafelt

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.