

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 decreased by 29% from the previous month. Approximately **10,400 new job postings** were recorded in July 2026, a 32% increase compared to July 2025.
- ▶ UK job postings **decreased by 15%** compared to the previous month. Annual figures remained similar to those recorded in July 2025.
- ▶ Communication remains the top listed common skill in job postings appearing in **46% of job listings**. It was followed by Management at 25% and Customer Service at 22%. These three skills have consistently ranked as the most in demand common skills across job postings for 2026.

*Figures correct as at 06/08/2026



GRADUATE

300 online job postings had the following term in their advertisement: Graduate.

Graduate job postings decreased by **11%** compared with the previous month, however annual figures have increased by **26%** from July 2025.

The top software skills listed in job postings for all graduate roles include Microsoft Office, AutoCAD and Microsoft Excel.



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
- ▶ Casual Sales Assistants

SKILLS:

- ▶ Customer Relationship Management
- ▶ Selling Techniques
- ▶ Cash Handling
- ▶ Sales Prospecting

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Approx.
350 jobs

3% of job
postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Game Testers
- ▶ Software Engineers
- ▶ Systems Architects
- ▶ Developers

SKILLS:

- ▶ Scalability
- ▶ Application Programming Interface (API)
- ▶ Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery
- ▶ Software Engineering

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Approx.
300 jobs

3% of job
postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

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

SKILLS:

- ▶ Personal Care
- ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Medication Administration
- ▶ Nursing

*Figures are subject to revision by Lightcast

ONLINE JOB POSTINGS



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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	Bassetts Ltd	Magherafelt
Sales Assistant	Poundland	Downpatrick
Sales Advisor	Hotel Chocolat	Belfast
Sales Assistant	Dunelm	Coleraine
Sales Assistant	Iceland	Belfast
Sales Assistant	Sports Direct	Omagh
Sales Assistant	Superdrug	Belfast
Sales Executive	Desmond Eastwood Motors	Lisburn

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Job title	Employer	Location
Software Solution Architect	AMD	Belfast
Java Developer	Citi	Belfast
IT Support Technician	FinTru	Belfast
Solutions Engineer	Ocho	Belfast
Software Engineer	EPAM Systems	Newry
Systems Architect	A&O Shearman	Lurgan
IT Engineer	Evolv IT Ltd	Bangor
Software Engineer	Instil Software Ltd	Belfast

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Job title	Employer	Location
Care Assistants	Connected Health	Coleraine
Care Assistants	Beaumont Care Homes	Belfast
Support Worker	Simon Community	Craigavon
Care Assistant	Healthcare Ireland Group	Magherafelt
Care Assistant	Unique Home Care NI Ltd	Belfast
Health Care Assistant	Cornfield Care Centre	Limavady
Night Support Worker	The Cedar Foundation	Belfast
Healthcare Assistant	Electus Healthcare	Belfast

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

Apprenticeships

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

Skills Focus

[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.