

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 10%** from July. Approximately 11,700 new job postings were recorded in August 2026, an **increase of 39%** compared with August 2025.
- ▶ UK job postings **decreased by 8%** compared to the previous month. There was a **2% reduction** in postings compared to August 2025.
- ▶ Book-keepers, Payroll Managers and Wages Clerks entered the top three occupations for the first time since April, with a **24% increase** since July 2026 and a **107% increase** since August 2025.

*Figures correct as of 04/09/2026



FLEXIBLE WORKING

1,300 online job postings had the term "Flexible Working" in their advertisement.

Flexible Working job postings increased by 10% compared with the previous month and annual figures have increased by 36% from August 2025, although 2025 was the lowest figure observed in the last 5 years.

The top specialised skills listed in job postings for Flexible Working are Finance, Project Management and Accounting.



TOP OCCUPATIONS

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

SALES RELATED OCCUPATIONS N.E.C.

Approx.
550 jobs

5% of job
postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

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

SKILLS:

- ▶ Customer Relationship Management
- ▶ Cash Handling
- ▶ Selling Techniques
- ▶ Merchandising

BOOK-KEEPERS, PAYROLL MANAGERS AND WAGES CLERKS

Approx.
350 jobs

3% of job
postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Account Assistants
- ▶ Finance Assistants
- ▶ Account Administrators
- ▶ Accounts Payable Assistants

SKILLS:

- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Invoicing
- ▶ Credit Control
- ▶ Accounts Payable

CLEANERS AND DOMESTICS

Approx.
300 jobs

3% of job
postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:

- ▶ Cleaners
- ▶ Cleaning Operatives
- ▶ Domestic Assistants
- ▶ Housekeeping Team Members

SKILLS:

- ▶ Mopping
- ▶ Housekeeping
- ▶ Safety Procedures
- ▶ Maid Services

*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 Executive	Donnelly Group	Dungannon
Sales Assistant	Sports Direct	Armagh
Casual Sales Assistant	Gordons Chemists	Whitehead
Sales Assistant	SPAR	Donaghcloney
Sales Assistant	Harry Corry Ltd	Belfast
Sales Assistant	Corn Dolly Foods	Newry
Sales Assistant	WH Smith	Belfast
Sales Executive	CFC Interiors	Cookstown

BOOK-KEEPERS, PAYROLL MANAGERS AND WAGES CLERKS

Job title	Employer	Location
Finance Assistant	HSL Compliance	Belfast
Accounts Assistant	Shelbourne Motors	Craigavon
Billing and Credit Control Specialist	PlotBox	Ballymena
Accounts Assistant	The Inn Bar Group	Omagh
Accounts Assistant	Dalata Hotel Group	Belfast
Payroll Clerk	Modern Tyres	Enniskillen
Purchase Ledger Clerk	McMullen Facades	Craigavon
Accounts Administrator	Chain Care Lifting Services Ltd	Banbridge

CLEANERS AND DOMESTICS

Job title	Employer	Location
Cleaner	Squeaky Clean	Limavady
Industrial Cleaner	Dunbia	Dungannon
Cleaner	Quantum Cleaning Solutions	Cookstown
Housekeeping Team Member	Andras Hotels	Portrush
Cleaner	ServiceMaster Northern Ireland	Omagh
Domestic Assistant	Healthcare Ireland Group	Belfast
Domestic Assistant	Abbeyfield & Wesley	Belfast
Cleaner	Nobel Cafe	Ballymena

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.