FACT SHEET

OCT 2026

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 2%** from September. Approximately 14,800 new job postings were recorded in October 2026, an **increase of 44%** compared with October 2025.
- UK job postings **decreased by 9%** compared to the previous month. There was no change in postings compared to October 2025.
- While overall job postings in Northern Ireland **decreased by 2%** from the previous month, postings for the largest occupation group, Sales Related Occupations, **fell by 6%** compared with September 2026.

*Figures correct as of 05/11/2026

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

960 online job postings mentioned "AI" or "Artificial Intelligence" in their advertisement.

Job postings mentioning Artificial Intelligence increased by 9% from the previous month and has increased by 235% since October 2025. The top specialised skills listed are Governance, Automation and Risk Managment.

The top occupations listed in job postings mentioning AI are Programmers and Software Development Professionals, Solicitors and Lawyers, and IT Business Analysts, Architects and Systems Designers.

TOP OCCUPATIONS

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

SALES RELATED OCCUPATIONS N.E.C.

Approx. 750 jobs

5% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:
- Sales Assistants
- Sales Advisors
- Sales Colleagues
- Sales Executives

SKILLS:
- Customer Relationship Management
- Selling Techniques
- Cash Handling
- Product Knowledge

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Approx. 400 jobs

3% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:
- Care Assistants
- Support Workers
- Health Care Assistants
- Senior Center Nursing Assistants

SKILLS:
- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Medication Administration
- Meal Planning And Preparation

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Approx. 400 jobs

3% of job postings

POPULAR JOB TITLES:
- Software Engineers
- Game Testers
- Artificial Intelligence Engineers
- Solutions Architects

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

*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	Gordons Chemists	Belfast
New Car Sales Executive	Trust Ford	Belfast
Sales Assistant	Sally Europe	Belfast
Sales Advisor	EZ Living Furniture	Belfast
Field Sales Representative	Virgin Media O2	Newcastle
Sales Assistant	Sally Europe	Lisburn
Retail Sales Advisor	Warren James Jewellers	Craigavon
Sales Assistant	Wineflair	Belfast

CARE WORKERS AND HOME CARERS

Job title	Employer	Location
Care Assistant	Healthcare Ireland Group	Dungannon
Healthcare Assistant	Marie Curie	Downpatrick
Home Care Worker	SEHSCT	North Down & Ards
Care Assistant	Connected Health	Belfast
Night Duty Care Assistant	Abbyfield & Wesley	Belfast
Care Assistant	Complete Home Care 24 LTD	Newtownards
Nightshift Support Worker	Inspire Wellbeing	Belfast
Care Assistant	Home Instead	Dromore

PROGRAMMERS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

Job title	Employer	Location
Web Developer	ProfileTree	Belfast
Senior Developer	A&O Shearman	Belfast
Senior Staff Software Engineer	EverQuote	Belfast
Senior Java Applications Developer	Citigroup	Belfast
Senior Net Developer	Version1	Belfast
Software Java Engineer	TD Bank	Belfast
Lead Java Developer	Citigroup	Belfast
Support Technician - Lab Systems	Almac Group Ltd	Craigavon

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

Skill Up

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.