

RECORD-BREAKING FIGURES FOR REED JOB INDEX

JAMES REED: CLARITY NEEDED FOR EU WORKERS IN SELLERS' MARKET

There were more jobs available on reed.co.uk in February than in any month since early March 2008, new data from Britain's best known job site has revealed. On average, almost 275,000 jobs were live on the site at any one time last month, an increase of 7% year-on-year.

The figures took the REED Job Index – which launched in December 2009 – to an all-time high of 304.

Sectors with the biggest annual increases in the number of job ads placed included: Health and Medicine, up by 26.7%; Purchasing, up by 24.1%; Manufacturing, up by 23.7%; Strategy and Consultancy, up by 20.7%; and Charity and Voluntary, up by 19.2%.

There was year-on-year growth across every region, including double digit increases in Northern Ireland, up by 36.6%; Wales up by 17.7%; and the North East up by 11.5%.

James Reed, Chairman of REED, said the figures showed that the UK's charge towards full employment continues – but warned that Britain needs clarity over the rights of EU citizens to ensure the right balance between supply and demand.

He said: **"In the last month we've seen the highest number of jobs live on reed.co.uk since early 2008, up 7% from the same time last year.**

"With high employment and such a large number of opportunities on offer, the UK jobs market has turned into a sellers' market. This means that jobseekers in many sectors can afford to be selective.

"If candidates from the EU are put off from applying for jobs in the UK due to Brexit or the lack of a guarantee of EU citizens' rights to stay in the UK after Brexit, then the scales could tip even further.

"Business leaders understand the country faces complex negotiations but they want Theresa May to provide assurances for the 3.3million EU citizens over here.

"Our data shows that job posts for Health & Medicine have risen by more than a quarter year-on-year, and we know that a significant number of EU citizens work in the health service.

"However, it's too early yet to say whether the status and intentions of EU workers will have a knock-on effect on UK recruitment once article 50 is triggered at the end of the month.

"The signs so far have been positive and although it's a tumultuous time for politics in Britain – with both Brexit and SNP demands for another Scottish independence referendum – the jobs market has continued to weather the storm, starting the year in excellent health.

“We continue to see growth in key sectors, including Manufacturing and Construction, and the signs for this month are that the economy is strong and employers are continuing to recruit at the same pace.”

Apprenticeships and Training jobs fell year-on-year by 34.5% and 31.8% respectively, continuing a trend over the last quarter.

The apprenticeship sector is set for a shake up with the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy in April.

The REED Job Index tracks the number of new job opportunities on offer compared to the previous month and against a baseline of 100 set in December 2009.

The February figure of 304 is a 6.7% rise year on year and an increase of 13.9% month on month.

JOB INDEX DETAILS

Job Index: February 2017

- The Job Index is at **304** for February
- The Job Index is **up 6.7%** YoY
- The Job Index is **up 13.9%** MoM

BY SECTOR

YoY Top:

1. Health & Medicine +26.7%
2. Purchasing +24.1%
3. Manufacturing +23.7%
4. Strategy & Consultancy +20.7%
5. Charity & Voluntary +19.2%

YoY Bottom:

1. Apprenticeships -34.5%
2. Training -31.8%
3. Energy -26.2%
4. Hospitality & Catering -12.1%
5. Leisure & Tourism -7.4%

MoM Top:

1. Charity & Voluntary +30.4%
2. Scientific +28.3%
3. Estate Agency +25.5%
4. Strategy & Consultancy +24.7%
5. Education +22.4%

MoM Bottom:

1. Apprenticeships -20.4%
2. Security & Safety -0.3%
3. Retail +3.5%
4. Transport & Logistics +3.7%
5. Training +5.5%

BY REGION

YoY:

1. Northern Ireland +36.6%
2. Wales +17.7%
3. North East England +11.5%
4. West Midlands (Region) +9.4%
5. North West England 9.0%
6. East Anglia +8.5%
7. London +7.3%
8. East Midlands +7.2%
9. Scotland +7.1%
10. South West England +7.1%
11. Yorkshire and Humberside +7.0%
12. South East (excl. London) +2.5%

MoM:

1. London +16.9%
2. North East England +16.5%
3. North West England +15.5%
4. East Anglia +13.9%
5. South East (excl. London) +13.7%
6. West Midlands (Region) +13.3%
7. East Midlands +12.1%
8. Yorkshire and Humberside +12.0%
9. South West England +11.9%

10. Scotland +11.6%
11. Wales +11.0%
12. Northern Ireland -13.2%

About the REED Job Index

The Reed Job Index tracks the number of new job opportunities on offer compared to the previous month and against a baseline of 100 set in December 2009. Data is analysed across every major industry sector and UK region and trends highlighted in a monthly report. Data for the index is compiled from reed.co.uk, the UK's largest job board, which every day lists over 200,000 job opportunities from 12,000 recruiters across 34 career sectors throughout the UK.

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