

Job Opportunities Remain Strong in South England Despite Overall Slowdown

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Despite a projected slowdown in the overall job market, the South of England is expected to maintain its position as the top region for job opportunities in 2023, according to new research from the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo).

The data, provided by business intelligence specialist VacancySoft, revealed that the South of England is forecast to hold 44.1% of UK jobs by the end of the year, largely driven by a 25.9% growth in vacancies in the South West.

The research identified Technology and Retail as sectors likely to see the biggest drops in jobs in 2023, down 48.7% and 32% respectively year-on-year. However, industries such as Not-For-Profit, and Industrial & Engineering are expected to experience annual increases of 53.3% and 9.6% respectively.

When looking at individual companies, defence contractor BAE Systems stands out as a highly active employer, with a 58% rise in vacancies predicted. Other major employers such as Babcock, Mott MacDonald, and the Ministry of Defence are similarly projected to hire more workers in 2023 compared to last year.

Ann Swain, Global CEO of APSCo, commented:

"In what has been a tough year for recruitment, the South remains the epicentre of job opportunities in the UK. Even with an overall decline forecast, this region is still projected to account for nearly half of the country's vacancies. However, we can't ignore the fact that there are sectors facing skills shortages, including engineering which continues to see an increase in demand across the region. It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the New Year, however for now the South of England looks set to remain a highly promising market for recruiters, particularly for those in the Not-For-Profit and Engineering remits."

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About APSCo

The Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo) is the trade association for the professional recruitment market. APSCo Global comprises APSCo Asia, APSCo Australia, APSCo Deutschland and APSCo United Kingdom as well as APSCo OutSource, the trade body for the RPO and MSP sectors.

Find out more: www.apscouk.org www.apscouk.org