

Latest jobs data: demand skyrockets in first month of 2020

Submitted by: BlueSky Public Relations Ltd

Monday, 2 March 2020

- Permanent vacancies up 87% month-on-month
- Contract vacancies up 84% month-on-month
- Permanent placements up 11.4% year-on-year
- Contract placements up 5.3% year-on-year
- Salaries for permanent rolls dip 2.6% year-on-year
- Huge uptick in demand for talent

January 2020 saw a massive spike in demand for talent with permanent vacancies up 87% month-on-month while contract vacancies also rose by 84%. That's according to the latest monthly Recruitment Trends Snapshot report from the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo) in conjunction with growth analytics platform cube19.

While this represents a huge uptick it should be seen in the context of a December which saw not only the normal seasonal downturn but also uncertainty around the late General Election which put the brakes on all but crucial hiring. Year-on-year the picture is more stable with permanent vacancies remaining stable and an increase of 4.6% in contract vacancies suggesting that last year employers took a business as usual approach to hiring despite the ever evolving economic climate.

Ongoing skill shortages

Permanent and contract placements were also up year-on-year by 11.4% and 5.3% respectively with recruitment firms reporting a tight candidate market and ongoing skill shortages across all professional sectors

This aligns with reports from the British Chambers of Commerce which state that more than seven in ten companies reported hiring difficulties in the final three months of 2019. However, month on month placements jump to an increase of 35% and almost 5% respectively, reflecting the usual seasonal delay in start dates for new roles.

Salaries soften, revenue rises

Salaries for permanent roles fell 2.6% year-on-year and 5% month-on-month as businesses watch their purse strings amid Brexit uncertainty. Despite this, the recruitment sector remained resilient, as recruiters reported 40% increased revenue from permanent placements year-on-year, indicating a marked increase in sales volumes.

Ann Swain, Chief Executive of APSCo commented on the latest data, stating:

"After a slow December which was heavily impacted by political uncertainty, we've seen a welcome rebound in hiring activity. Skills shortages are rife, which can only mean increased opportunities for recruiters and while the government has introduced a National Skills Fund as a way of growing our own talent to mitigate talent gaps in the future, access to skilled professionals from Europe and beyond must

be maintained

Jo McGuire, Global Sales Director at cube19 comments:

“Thankfully, it looks like the clouds are beginning to clear as we move away from Brexit. After years of political stalling there appears, at last, to be a purpose and direction back in the economy. With that in mind, after the December blip, 2020 could well be a bumper year for the recruitment sector with a return to financial consistency as businesses take the blinkers off with regards to spending and re-engage with hiring.”

Ends

Jake Galland

BlueSky PR

Jake@bluesky-pr.com

T: +44 (0)1582 790 090