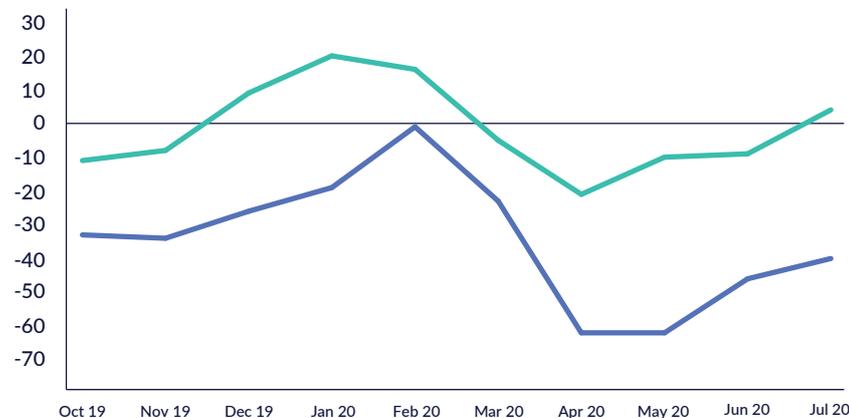


Hiring confidence returns to positive territory but wider outlook remains gloomy

Confidence

In the first half of July, employers' confidence in making hiring and investment decisions rose to net: +4, up from net: -9 in early June. This is the first time since February that levels of hiring confidence have been in positive territory, indicating that more employers now feel that their ability to make hiring and investment decisions is improving, rather than deteriorating.

Business confidence in the UK economy remained low overall but also improved between June and July, rising from net: -46 to net: -40.



● Economic conditions (net)
● Hiring and investment decisions (net)

The net percentage is calculated by subtracting the % of respondents answering 'worse' from the % of respondents answering 'better'.

Do you think economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting...



In view of the economic conditions, do you/does your organisation expect confidence in hiring and investment decisions to get...



All involved in hiring (n=200).

Key points from July survey

1



Confidence in hiring returns to positive territory

Business confidence in making hiring and investment decisions rose from net: -9 in June to net: +4 in early July. This is the first time that hiring confidence has been in positive territory since February.

2



Short-term demand for permanent staff improves

Employers' intentions to hire permanent staff in the short term (over the next three months) continued to improve, rising from net: +6 in June to net: +14 in early July.

3



Medium-term demand for permanent staff remains positive

Employers' intentions to hire permanent staff in the medium term (over the next 4-12 months) remained positive at net: +15, the same level as in early June.

4



Fewer businesses with little/no spare capacity

Two in three (66%) employers reported having little or no surplus capacity in their workforce. This was down from 75% in early June.

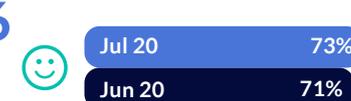
5



More employers making redundancies

The percentage of employers who had made redundancies in the year to July was 17%, up from 9% in the year to June.

6



Satisfaction with recruitment agencies remains high

In July, seven in ten (73%) employers who use recruitment agencies reported being satisfied with their overall service over the past two years, slightly higher than in early June (71%).

Savanta ComRes interviewed 200 UK employers involved in hiring between 1-13 July 2020. Data were weighted to be representative of UK adults in employment by region, broad industry sector and public/private split. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.