

UK Jobs Market Review April 2022



Placement growth slips to 13 month low

Permanent



April saw a further slowdown in growth of permanent appointments. Though sharp, the rate at which permanent placements increased was the slowest seen since March 21. Increased activity and robust demand supported the latest rise.

Temporary



As has been the case since August 2020, the number of hours worked by temporary workers increased again in April. Albeit the growth was the softest seen for a year. Higher workload and a greater need to fill vacancies has helped increase hours in April.

Demand for staff rises sharply in April



Total demand for workers has now increased for 15 successive months, with the latest rise supported by higher vacancies for both permanent and temporary staff.

At 1,288,000 the number of open positions rose from 1,238,000 over the final quarter of 2021. This is more than double the number of vacancies over the same period last year and over 50% higher than just prior to the pandemic.

Slightly softer drop in candidate availability

The availability of candidates for permanent roles declined for the fifteenth successive month in April. Though rapid, the rate of decline was the softest seen since the start of 2022. There are still reports that COVID-19 and geopolitical uncertainty had made people more cautious about seeking new roles. The availability of staff for temporary roles also fell notably in April. This was due to a generally low unemployment rate, a lack of foreign workers and a greater preference among some candidates for permanent roles.



Starting salary inflation holds onto record pace

Permanent



Candidate and skills shortages continued to place substantial upward pressure on rates of starting pay as firms competed for staff in April. This was seen across all four English regions.

Temporary



Average rates for temporary workers also increased at the start of the second quarter of 2022. This was due to strong demand for workers and low candidate supply, which had often led to pay negotiations.