

..... LMI Bulletin

April 2021



Issue No: 77 – April 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

Main labour market information points from the Office of National Statistics for February 2021

- 693,000 fewer people were in payrolled employment in February 2021, when compared with February 2020.
- 68,000 more people were in payrolled employment in February 2021, when compared with January 2021; this is the third consecutive monthly increase.
- The UK employment rate, in the three months to January 2021, was estimated at 75.0%, 1.5 percentage points lower than a year earlier and 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous quarter.
- The UK unemployment rate, in the three months to January 2021, was estimated at 5.0%, 1.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.1 percentage points higher than the previous quarter.
- The UK economic inactivity rate was estimated at 21.0%, 0.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.3 percentage points higher than the previous quarter.
- The redundancy rate, in the three months to January 2021, was estimated at 11.0 people per thousand employees.
- There were an estimated 601,000 vacancies in the UK in December 2020 to February 2021; this is 220,000 fewer than a year ago and the rate of increase in vacancies has slowed strongly in recent months.

Lifetime Skills Guarantee - Fully-funded courses for Adults without a Level 3

The new Lifetime Skills Guarantee courses which include 400 new courses will commence this month. This means that all adults without a Level 3 (A-level equivalent) can study a range of courses free of charge. The courses cover a number of sectors from [Childcare](#) to Engineering. For a full list of courses visit [.gov website](#). This offer is for students aged 24 and over to study for their first full work-focused qualification at level 3. This offer will also be available to adults aged 19 to 23 alongside the 19 to 23 level 2 and level 3 legal entitlement offer. This will help them gain skills that are in high demand, and to either change jobs or find work in new sectors.

500 jobs in Bristol

500 jobs are to be created, predominantly in Bristol, by Defence company [MBDA](#). Roles will include software and systems engineering roles, manufacturing, commercial, customer support, project management and procurement and include graduate posts as well as apprenticeships and roles for those with experience. Look out for a number of career sessions throughout the year.



Summary points from an LMI perspective of the 2021 budget

Economy

Since March, 700,000 people have lost their jobs and the economy has seen its biggest fall in 200 years.

Unemployment may peak at 6.5% in 2022, lower than the 11.9% predicted.

The economy shrank by almost 10% last year and will return to pre-Covid level by the middle of next year. The Chancellor said that Covid-19 has done damage however and says the economy will be 3% smaller in five years than it would have been.

Universal credit

The Universal Credit top-up of £20-per-week will continue for a further six months.

Minimum wage

Minimum wage will increase to £8.91 from April.

Furlough

Furlough will continue until September, with no change of terms. After July, businesses will be asked for a 10% contribution, rising to 20% in August and September.

Apprenticeship Levy

From August 2021, employers who pay the Apprenticeships Levy will be able to transfer unspent levy funds in bulk to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with a new pledge function. The government will also be introducing, from August 2021, a new online service to match levy payers with SMEs that share their business priorities.

Apprenticeships

From April 2021, the UK Government will allow English employers in construction, health and social care to front-load apprenticeship training, and will explore whether this offer can also be made available in other sectors.

£3,000 for each new apprentice hired between 1st April to 30th September 2021.



Doubling apprentice payments to £3,000 for all new hires, of any age.

New Skills

93% of apprentices remained in employment or went onto further training in 2018/19 after completing their apprenticeship. More than 40,000 extra young people in England will be able to benefit from the new £126m investment in traineeships too.

New Flexibility

A new innovative flexi-apprenticeship programme will allow people to work for a number of different employers in the same sector, a boost for industries with more flexible working patterns, such as the TV and film industry.

Budget 2021

Flexi-job apprenticeships

£7m for a new “flexi-job” apprenticeship programme in England, that will enable apprentices to work with a number of employers in one sector.

Traineeships

Additional £126m for 40,000 more traineeships in England. The government says that it is: “Expanding traineeships and improving their quality and progression to apprenticeships; expanding sector-based work academies; incentivising new apprenticeship hires; and boosting the National Careers Service’s capacity.”

Help to Grow for SMEs

The government has launched a new Help to Grow programme that will commence by autumn. It will help small and medium sized businesses across the UK learn new skills, reach new customers and boost profits.

Help to Grow: Management will give the leaders of 30,000 SMEs access to world-class training on everything from financial management to marketing.

Help to Grow: Digital will give small businesses free online technology advice and 50% discounts on new productivity enhancing software.

<https://helptogrow.campaign.gov.uk/>

Freeports

The final announcement was about the eight Freeports, which the Chancellor described as “special economic zones to make it easier and cheaper to do business” with tax cuts and simpler planning rules. The locations are: East Midlands Airport, Felixstowe and Harwich, the Humber region, the Liverpool City Region, Plymouth, Solent, the Thames estuary and Teesside.

More info about Freeports: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55819489>



For further information see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-what-you-need-to-know>

Top 50 graduate employers

The latest list of the top 50 graduate and intern employers has been published by graduatejobs.com. Click on the list above for the full list.

The Big Issue supports job seekers

The Big Issue has teamed up with resourcing firm Momena who specialise in the finance, technology and legal sectors to launch a helpline to help unemployed people with their job searching.

Digital Skills Disaster

The BBC reports of a 'Catastrophic Digital Skills shortage Disaster' as the Learning and Work Institute find that the number of young people taking IT subjects has dropped by 40% since 2015 at GCSE level. This comes at a time when the demand for AI, cloud and robotics skills are soaring according to Accenture. Upskilling today's young people in digital technology is vital as well as providing the knowledge about the range of job opportunities which are available.

These are the top 20 IT skill requirements in jobs advertised within the UK over the last 30 days. The top skill was for SQL with 18,822 vacancies.

Name of skill	No of jobs	Name of skill	No of jobs
SQL	18822	SAP	8809
Software Development	14749	LINUX	7776
Python	13556	.NET	6837
JavaScript	13473	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	6831
Microsoft C#	11776	Microsoft Azure	6529
Microsoft Powerpoint	11587	Scrum	6449
Microsoft Word	11571	Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	5812
Software Engineering	10924	Git	5625
Java	10435	Software as a Service (SaaS)	5609

Source: Burning Glass (March 24th)



[Student Finance eligibility](#)

Information on the eligibility requirements for undergraduate, postgraduate and further education financial support from Student Finance England for the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

The March Parents' Pack is available on the Amazing Apprenticeships website. In addition Amazing Apprenticeships and Not Going To Uni are launching a [podcast](#) this summer for parents and carers to support their children with careers advice and guidance.

[Centre for Cities report 2021](#)

The Centre for Cities have published their latest 2021 report. The annual report focuses on the UK's largest 63 cities and in particular this year's publication focuses on the effect of the pandemic.

REGIONAL NEWS

[New warehouse creates 300 jobs in Avonmouth](#)

A new warehouse has been opened by Huboo Technologies in Avonmouth creating 300 jobs.

[The Cyber Security Sector](#)¹

The Cyber Security Sector is one which is growing fast with a nine per cent rise in employment and 3,800 new full-time jobs created between April 19 and December 20. Also, for this period there was a 21 per cent increase in firms operating in the field bringing the total number to 1,483 and the number of people working in it to 46,683.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/962413/UK_Cyber_Security_Sectoral_Analysis__2021_.pdf



21 per cent of cyber companies are located in the South East in 309 registered businesses. Southampton, Reading, Portsmouth and Brighton are among the key cities in the region with employers such as Sophos, Carbon Black, Fortinet and FireEye.

Eight per cent of cyber companies operate in the South West with 110 registered cyber security businesses. Bristol, Bournemouth, Exeter and Plymouth are among the key towns, and companies such as BAE Systems and Immersive Labs.

Below is a graph depicting companies with the most vacancies for Cyber Security Professionals in the six months to January 2021².



[Uber drivers classed as employed workers](#)

Uber drivers have won their right to be classed as employed workers rather than self-employed. This means around 40,000 drivers in England and Wales will now be entitled to holiday pay, rest breaks and the national minimum wage.

[UK leads the way for commercial space technology](#)

A range of science and engineering jobs could be created within the space sector with the announcement that a spaceport could be built in South West England. The

² Labour Insight (Burning Glass)



new plans outline a proposal to develop commercial spaceflights which could include the launching of rockets, high-altitude balloons and spaceplanes. The target to grow the UK's share of the global space market to ten per cent by 2030 makes the UK a leader in the market for commercial spaceflights.

BOURNEMOUTH DORSET AND POOLE

Superhero themed attraction

'Hundreds of jobs' are to be created if permission is granted to transform Parnham House in Beaminster by building a 'batman' style adventure wonderland which would include a restaurant and accommodation for 60 guests.

IT skills in demand² (no link)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts where there were over 60 vacancies for a particular IT skill in Dorset. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 429 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

IT skill	No of skill postings	IT skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	429	JavaScript	79
Microsoft Office	277	Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP)	77
Software Development	132	Java	71
SQL	129	MySQL	67
Microsoft Word	107	Microsoft PowerPoint	63
Software Engineering	85	Python	62
		Microsoft C#	61



CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY

[Seasonal opportunities available on the Isles of Scilly](#)

Cornwall Live report on seasonal opportunities coming up on the Isles of Scilly.

[Warehouse creates 15 jobs in Pool](#)

A new warehouse and trade centre at South Crofty in Pool will be creating 15 new jobs.

[Truro egg producer expands and creates jobs](#)

A St Ewe egg producer is expanding by building a plant outside of Truro and creating jobs.

[IT skills in demand² \(no link\)](#)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts where there were over 15 vacancies for a particular IT skill in Cornwall. Microsoft Excel was by far the skill most in the most demand with 139 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill postings	Skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	139	Microsoft Powerpoint	17
Microsoft Office	108	SQL	17
Microsoft Word	36	Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP)	16
Microsoft C#	26	JavaScript	16
		Software Development	16



DEVON

[A proper job!](#)

A new 60-seater restaurant is to open in Exeter. The Proper Job will be a cafe, restaurant and cocktail bar and will open after lockdown ends.

[Rockfish restaurant could create jobs for Salcombe](#)

35 jobs could be created with plans for a new Rockfish restaurant in Devon's Salcombe.

[Job Centre to relocate to Charles Street](#)

Plymouth's empty Staples Stationery building is to become the new Job Centre.

[IT skills in demand² \(no link\)](#)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts where there were over 50 vacancies for a particular IT skill in Devon. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 387 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill Postings	Skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	387	JavaScript	73
Microsoft Office	315	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	66
Microsoft Word	124	Microsoft Powerpoint	61
SQL	87	AutoCAD	58



HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Ferndown Technology business fifth fastest growing in Europe

Dorset Technology business Spyrosoft based in Ferndown has been named as the fifth fastest-growing tech firm in Europe. The company now employs 600 people in five countries.

Support for young unemployed seeking to set up a business

Speed You Up is an initiative for 16 - 25 year olds living in Hampshire or Surrey, designed to develop entrepreneurial skills and support those not in employment, education or training with their journey to setting up a business.

IT skills in demand² (no link)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts the 20 skills with the most IT vacancies within Hampshire. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 1,274 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill Postings	Job Postings	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	1274	Python	217
Microsoft Office	881	SAP	215
SQL	425	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	194
Software Development	394	Java	181
Microsoft Word	326	Software Engineering	173
Microsoft C#	305	Microsoft Azure	163
JavaScript	293	.NET	161
Microsoft PowerPoint	252	Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	158
Facebook	224	Git	156
LINUX	218	Scrum	156



On the Isle of Wight Microsoft Office followed by Microsoft Excel were the top IT skills required.

Skill	No of skill postings	Skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Office	24	JavaScript	6
Microsoft Excel	21	LINUX	5
Microsoft Word	7	SQL	5
C++	6	Accounting Software	4
Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP)	6	MySQL	4

SOMERSET

[Co-operative store to open in Taunton](#)

Once lockdown has ended a Southern Co-op store will open on Belvedere Park in Taunton.

[IT skills in demand² \(no link\)](#)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts where there were over 50 vacancies for a particular IT skill in Somerset. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 299 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill skills across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill postings	Job Postings	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	299	Microsoft C#	77
Microsoft Office	226	Microsoft Powerpoint	77
SQL	105	JavaScript	72
Microsoft Word	99	SAP	59
Software Development	87	.NET	53



SURREY

[Guildford among the world's top five for games industry 2021](#)

Guildford has been named alongside London as one of the five top places to get a job in the games industry alongside California, Stockholm and Vancouver.

[IT skills in demand² \(no link\)](#)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts where there were over 100 vacancies for a particular IT skill in Surrey. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 1,195 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill postings	Skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	1195	Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	151
Microsoft Office	703	Software Engineering	149
SQL	323	LINUX	146
Microsoft C#	286	Software as a Service (SaaS)	136
JavaScript	263	Java	135
Software Development	252	Microsoft Azure	134
Microsoft Word	244	Git	133
Microsoft PowerPoint	233	VMware	130
SAP	211	Python	126
.NET	187	SQL Server	121

SUSSEX

[New budget hotels planned for Sussex](#)

Premier Inn have announced they are wanting to open hotels in eight locations in Sussex, namely Arundel, Bognor, Brighton city centre, Patcham, East Grinstead, Hove/Shoreham, Lewes and Rye. This could be good news for the hospitality sector as Premier Inns also come with an accompanying restaurant. In addition,



Travelodge have also announced their [expansion plans](#) include looking for sites in Bexhill, Bognor, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Chichester (A27), Eastbourne, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Hove, Lewes, Newhaven/Peacehaven/Seaford and Shoreham.

IT skills in demand² (no link)

Below is a list of some of the IT skills in demand in online vacancies over the last month. This list depicts the 20 skills with the most IT vacancies in Sussex. Microsoft Excel was in the most demand with 731 vacancies specifying a requirement for this skill across all vacancies.

Skill	No of skill postings	Skill	No of skill postings
Microsoft Excel	731	.NET	129
Microsoft Office	510	Scrum	128
SQL	242	SAP	127
Software Development	205	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)	104
JavaScript	199	Python	97
Microsoft C#	199	Git	90
Microsoft Word	187	Java	86
Microsoft Powerpoint	158	SQL Server	86
Software Engineering	139	Microsoft Azure	83
Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	131	Software as a Service (SaaS)	81

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEP) NEWS

Enterprise M3 (no link)

[Gaming facility replicates real life scenario at Alton Campus](#)

With the gaming industry being a key growth sector in the Enterprise M3 region the Enterprise M3 LEP are investing along with Havant and South Downs College in a facility which will enable the new Gaming curriculum to thrive by creating a study space which closely replicates the way that developers work in the industry do on the Alton Campus.



Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP (no link)

New STEM Health Skills Centre to support Local Employment Strategy

A new STEM and Health Skills Centre is to be built in Bodmin on behalf of Truro and Penwith College. The facility will support the growth of engineering, manufacturing and digital skills to support the aerospace, space, creative, energy and mining sectors. Funded by the LEP, the centre will offer 120 apprenticeships per year and will create 15 new jobs.

LEP funds dairy expansion

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP is supporting 1,100 jobs with its Getting Building Fund projects across Cornwall. This includes a £3.2 million investment into the expansion of Saputo Daily UK in Davidstow to increase their production of dairy products.

New reports published

CIOS LEP have just published their local skills report 2021 – 2030. This includes a Labour Market assessment.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Unemployment Tracker - <https://www.centreforcities.org/data/uk-unemployment-tracker/?fbclid=IwAR1mC6JSUAKPgY2b2JYoDUAsq0wAB2fIWY0kShdZzrLLPkDUBCY-bjAHZq4>
- Free courses - <https://freecoursesinengland.co.uk/>
- My Learning, My Future - KS3 and KS4 resources - <https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/my-learning-my-future>
- A list of job vacancies by sector - <https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/latest-jobs/>
- Army careers presentations:
https://vimeo.com/487330866/74d7659647?gator_td=0IK4uZoWVo432YazHCEqUE%2bmfmUmAcUXtL48bQFM3YjDYiRPudOBdb841JAfHXaKcADPAIhD6w2S6F5YDQzaSWAHYiT7i5TMh1z6sV0YI6jvt73VNIjLsjx%2bVFIK4Fw6qFGDOPHn5iRYIDx52y0nvDHNb24JZNTtW0UYtocxtuHU%2bNVFi9llyAFf%2f%2bhyn%2bNL9
- Springpod – good for virtual work experience and other resources including apprenticeships and internships - <https://app.springpod.co.uk/dashboard>. You will need to sign up to access this site.



- Your Future Career is a Mediaplanet website that publishes career news, information and personal insight stories. <https://www.yourfuturecareer.co.uk/#>
- No room for cliches in our world – RAF video in celebration of International Women’s Day – apprenticeship and career opportunities within the RAF - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/raf-no-room-for-cliches-webinar-recording/>

FUTURE EVENTS

- 21st April 9.00 am – 6.00 pm - Skills South West is being held virtually. This free event brings young people from the region into contact with employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies - <https://prospectsevents.co.uk/our-events/skills-england/south-west-2021/>
- 22nd April – Discover a Career in Health and Care (for those living in Surrey) 5.30 pm - <https://learnliveuk.com/partner/discover-a-career-in-health-and-care/>
- 27th, 28th and 29th April HotSW Virtual Careers Fair for 11 – 18 year olds - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hotsw-which-way-virtual-careers-fair-2021-tickets-137629506559?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>
- 14th May – Southampton Careers Fair 10.00 am – 2.00 pm at St Mary’s Stadium, Southampton - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/southampton-careers-fair-tickets-114267519226>
- 20th May - Virtual Careers and Apprenticeship show for 15 – 19 year olds in the Southampton area - <https://cas2021.vfairs.com/>
- June 23rd - Online event - Supporting and Engaging Women in STEM in Higher Education - this event is for those who work in STEM for higher education - <https://www.governmentevents.co.uk/event/supporting-and-engaging-women-in-stem-in-higher-education/>
- 13th August – Portsmouth Careers Fair 10.00 am – 2.00 pm at Portsmouth Guildhall - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-careers-fair-tickets-114516331430>

Produced by Education Development Trust.

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