

Employers plan to add more staff this summer

Employers in Northern Ireland will increase hiring activity this summer with optimism nearly double the UK average. Hiring optimism is up on the previous quarter and a notable nine percentage points stronger than the same time last year.



2019
Q3

MARKET OVERVIEW

Increasing jobs confidence is great news for those looking for a first or a new job this summer. We're seeing growing demand amongst professional and business services and engineering employers in particular. Interestingly, employers are focusing more on taking on permanent employees as opposed to temporary workers - this helps lock in talent in advance of Brexit later this year. A number of businesses have also opened new offices or are looking to do so in Northern Ireland and the Belfast area in particular - as a way to maintain access to the mainland market after Brexit.

Hospitality is another winner at the moment. The number of hotel beds is increasing sharply this year and many cafes and restaurants are buoyant. This is partly led by Tourism NI campaigns to promote the region as well as support from the European Development Fund. There is much to be positive and upbeat about living and work in Northern Ireland.

But skills shortages are also really starting to bite - the transport sector has struggled for some time to find talent. Professional services and IT firms have also struggled to find the staff they need. To address talent shortages, many employers are focusing more on training programmes as well as increasing salaries. Employers in the services sector are also more likely to offer flexible working opportunities as well as targeting groups such as parents looking to return to work.