

Insights

News, commentary, and publications on the labour market

A happy New Year to you and we hope you find this third edition of our new Insights publication helpful (albeit it's a little shorter as December was a quieter month). Insights will be published monthly and you should receive it around the first Monday of each month. If you have any comments or feedback please get in touch at insights@edt.org

Labour Market Update

[Labour market overview, UK – Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Provides the monthly labour market data statistics from ONS covering the period from August to October 2022. A few observations of the figures compared to the same period in 2019:

- there are more employees in the UK than ever before – up by 749,000
- fewer people are self-employed – down by 700,000
- 400,000 more vacancies but a downward trend on vacancy numbers since Summer 2022.

For a more detailed analysis of the labour market, go to **[Labour Market Statistics, December 2022 | Institute for Employment Studies \(IES\) \(employment-studies.co.uk\)](#)**



Apprenticeships & traineeships

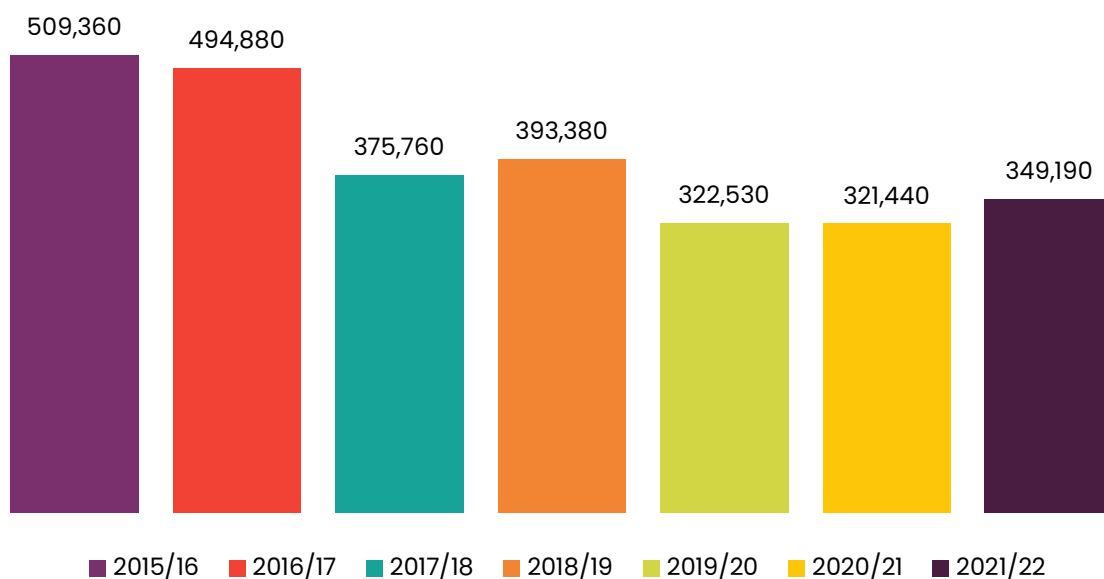
In November, the DfE published the full final year data on apprenticeships and traineeships for 2021/22 [Apprenticeships and traineeships, Academic Year 2021/22 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#).

The headline figures:

- 349,190 apprenticeships were started in 2021/22 – an increase on the previous year.
- females accounted for 50.8% of starts,
- under 19s, 22.2% and over 25s, 47.4%
- ethnic groups for 14.7% of starts, and
- apprentices declaring a learner learning difficulty and/or disability (LLDD) accounted for 14%.

The DfE has produced a visualisation tool using Microsoft Power Bi [Microsoft Power BI](#), which provides breakdowns of learners and subjects by geography. For example, with a few clicks you can find out that the apprenticeship subject most taken up was Team Leader or Supervisor (15,740) and that 13,710 of these were by people aged 25 or over and that 400 of these were in the North East. One of the areas of analysis which would be interesting to see is the success rate of particular subjects (this may exist and if anyone does know please get in touch). In 2020/21, the completion rate for apprenticeship standards was 52%. The St Martin's Group, in partnership with the Learning and Work Institute, have published a study into the reasons for apprentices not completing their apprenticeship [Apprenticeship Outcomes and Destinations – \(stmartinsgroup.org\)](#)

Apprenticeship starts in England (DfE)



Census 2021 and travel to work

Evidence of travel to work is helpful for careers practitioners in exploring expectations of the availability of work and the flows of people moving to and from their local area to travel to work. This data primarily comes from the ONS Census [Location of usual residence and place of work by sex - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#).



The location of work data for the 2021 Census is, as ONS has acknowledged, skewed by the peculiar circumstances of the census day on 21st March 2021 when there was a stay at home order in place. This contributed to an increase in the number of people who described working from home (up from 10.3% of people in 2011 to 31.2% in 2021) [Understanding commuting patterns from Census 2021 | National Statistical \(ons.gov.uk\)](#). However, the data is still valuable in terms of describing the normal travel for an occupation and the inflows and outflows from local authority areas and this will be published in 2023. ONS is looking at how it can provide more timely and regular data on travel patterns including using aggregate mobile phone data - the Google Mobility Index is already used by organisations to provide an indication of activity on high streets and travel patterns - and its potential for more frequent data to help understand the extent of hybrid working and work travel outside of normal working hours.

Careers Guidance in England

The DfE has published a letter (12/12/2022) from Sir John Holman sent in June 2022 to ministers in the DWP and DfE, and a reply from The Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, the current Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education, acknowledging the letter. [Careers guidance system: letters from Sir John Holman and Robert Halfon - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The letter from Sir John, summarises his recommendations for the future of the careers guidance system in England and provides nine principles to define a strategic framework for publicly funded careers guidance.

As mentioned in Insights October 2022, the Education Committee is holding an inquiry on the effectiveness of the careers advice given to students. The most recent oral evidence has been from the Careers Enterprise Company and the National Careers Service

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/53b17e6b-6e0e-440e-b326-ce1babecd6c6> and a session on the 29th November offered seven

young people the chance to describe their experience of careers guidance

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/991a3ac8-8474-4264-a812-0511fa341859>.

(Sir John Holman is an independent strategic adviser on careers guidance for the Department for Education. His report on Good Career Guidance for the Gatsby Foundation in 2014 included the eight Gatsby Benchmarks [6144_Gatsby_career_2014_AW.indd](#)).

Occupations in demand

November's edition of Insights provided a summary of the latest vacancy demand by sector using data from the ONS Vacancy Survey. ONS does not provide vacancy data by occupation and for many careers practitioners, this is an important piece of LMI. For occupational breakdown we therefore use the Lightcast software which provides an analysis of job adverts published online from jobs boards, recruiters, employers etc. The vacancies are occupationally classified using SOC codes and Lightcast's own occupation taxonomy coding system. The chart shows the top ten career areas (Lightcast's own coding system) based on the total job postings in England in 2022. The figures are for unique job postings (the count after removing duplicates).

News

Reported in FE News [Traineeships scrapped amid years of low starts \(feweeek.co.uk\)](https://www.feweeek.co.uk), the government is planning to discontinue Traineeships. "From August 1, 2023, provision previously delivered through the traineeships programme will be "integrated" in to 16-19 study programmes for young people and the non-devolved adult education budget for adults." The reason given by skills minister Robert Halfon, is the historic low number of traineeship starts.

This year's National Apprenticeship Week [National Apprenticeship Week \(appawards.co.uk\)](https://www.appawards.co.uk) is February 6th – 12th and the theme is Skills for Life. To find out more about the government's Skills for Life services for young people, adults and employers [Skills for Life - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Job Postings in England by Lightcast Career Area
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022
(Lightcast)

