

UK firms turn to temporary workers to fill vacancies

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Employers in the UK are increasingly turning to temporary workers rather than permanent staff to fill vacancies as jobs in this sector were up by +7% in the past twelve months when compared to a -5% fall in permanent placements according to the latest monthly trends report from the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo) and *Staffing Industry Analysts*.

Actual professional-level placements are only increasing in the temporary sector, however the slump in permanent professional-level recruitment is far from the low last seen in December 2011 – permanent placements were up +25%, and vacancies by +8% when compared to December.

IT and finance are showing some signs of recovery in the permanent and temporary markets. While permanent placements in accountancy and finance are down -15% year-over-year, month-on-month figures reveal a slight improvement (+2%). In line with the trend in the wider recruitment market, these sectors are continuing to take on temporary staff – temporary IT placements rose +16% while accounting and finance placements were up +18% when compared to a year ago.

Not all permanent sectors are in decline as the engineering sector is bucking the UK-wide trend, seeing an +11% increase in permanent hiring over the last year, while temporary placements fell -5%. Media and marketing also profited from an increase in permanent placements (+9%) and temporary placements (+8%).

The data also shows a notable slowdown in London's professional staffing sector, mainly due to the collapse in banking recruitment. Overall, the UK's professional staffing sector contracted by -5% with London seeing the biggest fall in hiring (-13%). Recruitment activity in the banking and insurance sector was down -32% in London and down -29% across the UK from a year ago.