



London's Labour Market



- The employment market in London is very competitive. In 2008 it was estimated that there were 0.93 jobs in London per person. It is almost certain that this figure has now decreased significantly.
- Although some employment agencies have seen signs of improvement, there are 56% fewer entry-level jobs in investment banks this year (2009).
- In May 2009 the employment rate in London was 8.2%. London is not exempt from the recession and expert opinions vary as to when the economy will pick up.
- The mean graduate salary in the UK is £20, 500.
- The national minimum wages is £5.73 per hour for workers aged 22 years and older.
- Areas of London with the highest density of job vacancies are Camden, the City of London and Westminster.
- 2009 London Salary Survey http://www.reedglobal.com/___assets/asset491.pdf



Bank Accounts and Paying National Insurance

- Setting up a bank account can be difficult for people immigrating to London. Allied Irish Bank in Ireland and the UK are effectively two different organisations. Some banks require proof of employment and a rental contract. In our experience smaller banks, such as nationwide and NatWest have less strict requirements.

- HSBC are now offering a passport account for people moving to the UK. You will need a valid passport, an address in the UK and you will have to complete a credit scoring application.

- http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/personal/current-accounts/passport#7_3_TGF

- Everyone working in the UK pays National Insurance (NI) on top of normal taxes. This money pays for the National Health Service (NHS) and the State Pension.

- It is imperative that you get a National Insurance Number as soon as possible when arriving in the UK. With a number it is far easier to use the free hospital services. Numbers are issued through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and getting one can be a hassle. Phone **0845 6000 643** from 8am-6pm Monday-Friday to arrange an appointment. Take your passport, a letter confirming you are employed or registered with an agency and two or three other pieces of ID. Within eight weeks you'll get a number in the post.



General Job Search Advice

- London has a huge pool of candidates. Some people find work the day they get off the plane, but others aren't so lucky. Stay patient and have a plan B ready.
- If you intend to move from Ireland we recommend, where possible, starting your job search before relocating.
- Generally recruitment agencies will spend more time with high level candidates as they will be able to take high commission on these roles.
- From our own experiences we recommend entry level candidates and lower skilled candidates use specialist recruitment services.
- Travel is expensive in London. A monthly Zone 1 and 2 Oyster card currently costs £99.10. It is essential that you factor in transport costs when considering employment packages.





Trades and Construction

- To work on a site in the UK you will need a site safety pass or **CSCS card**. You will not need this for residential work. These cost £35.
- If you are a qualified trade's person you will need to get a specialist CSCS card, i.e. electricians need an ESC card.
- You can organised a safety pass by contacting www.cscs.uk.com (0844 248 5262).
- We are advised by experienced trades people that word of mouth and contact building is still the main way people find work in this industry.
- As of July 2008 the London Olympics website claimed that in the coming months there would be vacancies for:
 - - Concretors
 - Formwork - shuttering carpenters
 - General operatives/ground workers
 - Highways construction
 - Plant operators
 - Steel fixing
 - Utilities - sewers, water, power
 - Catering, cleaning, security, transport, waste
- <http://www.london2012.com/> - The official site of the 2012 Olympics. However, most of these vacancies will be advertised through the Job Centre Plus. The national number of the JCP is 0845 155 2012.
- www.tfl.gov.uk – Traditionally transport for London has been a big employer of trades people and construction workers.
- www.jobsite.co.uk – A good generalist recruitment site, with a high level of jobs in trades and construction.
- www.gumtree.com – This is largest website for classified ads in London. The construction sector of this website is good for free-lance work and short term.



Health and Social Care

- If you are working with young people or vulnerable adults you will need to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check (CRB). This can take up to 5 weeks and you will not be allowed to start work without it.
- Recruitment agencies who recruit teachers, social workers, youth workers and community workers will be able to help you apply for a CRB.
- Some positions in this sector, especially permanent roles, will require a full application form. The more thorough you are in completing the application the better your chances.
- Several newspapers in London have reported a shortage of qualified social workers.
- www.Gumtree.com – the largest classified website in the UK. Good for temp education and social work posts.
- www.Chambeau.com –Chamberlain Beaumont is a specialist provider of Welfare to Work, Vocational Learning & HR professionals and Interim Alliance is a dedicated Interim Management resourcing specialist.
75 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AA
020 7404 7314/41
- <http://www.morganhunt.com/> –larger agency based in several locations, posts in social care, education, teaching and training etc.
020 7419 8900
- <http://www.tes.co.uk/> -The times educational supplements. This site has the largest amount of teaching positions in the UK.
- www.Guardian.co.uk – higher level and permanent posts in a range of different fields.



Financial and Professional Services

- Between April-June 2008 the International Finance Services London reported over 31,000 new vacancies in the city. As of August 2009 this figure has shrunk to 9,702, with 22,920 new candidates.
- As mentioned above, there has been a reduction in the amount of jobs currently available in the finance sector. From our research there seems to be a reasonably amount of temporary and contract work, but most companies have put a freeze on permanent employment.
- <http://www.badenochandclark.com/> - Specialises in Accounting and Finance, Banking and Financial services, HR, Project management and IT.
- Millennium Bridge House,
2 Lambeth Hill,
London,
EC4V 4BG
Tel: 020 7429 5000
Fax: 020 7429 5001
londoncity@badenochandclark.com
- <http://www.joslinrow.com> - "the UK's leading recruitment agency, providing a wide range of UK finance, accountancy and banking jobs for the country's top employers
Bell Court House
11 Blomfield Street
London
EC2M 7AY
Tel: 44 (0)20 7786 6900



Opportunities in the London Irish Centre

Volunteering

- Volunteering can be a great way to improve your skills whilst looking for employment.
- - Learn new skills
 - Meet new people and get involved in Volunteer Social outings
 - Gain new experiences
 - Help people in your community
 - Become part of a team
 - Gain training
 - Feel good for doing good
- For more information about volunteering with LIC please visit the volunteering section of our website.

IT Training

- Starting in September we will run two weekly computer classes. These sessions are run in partnership with Westminster Kingsway College.



Employability Workshops (CV writing, Job Search, Interview Skills)

- In the coming months we plan to delivering regular employability workshops. An experienced tutor will help you improve you CV, learn how to effectively search for jobs and help you develop your interview skills.
- For more information please contact the Welfare Coordinator
- Email: coordinator@irishcentre.org
- Telephone: 0207 916 2222