

LMI Bulletin

February 2021



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National updates

Retail

Overall the volume of retail sales in the UK fell by 1.9% last year, the largest fall since records began. However there were significant differences across the sub-sectors. Clothing stores saw the largest annual fall in 2020 at 25.1%, followed by fuel retailers where sales dropped 22.2%. However, food stores recorded their highest yearly growth since 2001, and non-store retailers (which include online stores) reported a record annual growth of 32%.

The amount spent in online stores in 2020 increased 46.1% compared with 2019, the largest annual increase since 2008. The news that other well known high street shops are moving into the hands of online retailers - Debenhams to Boohoo and just recently TopShop to Asos. This suggests that we may see fewer high street retail jobs in 2021.

[Skills for Jobs](#)

The government's white paper 'Skills for Jobs', was released in January 2021. The key policies are:

- Putting employers at the heart of post-16 skills
- Providing the advanced technical and higher technical skills the nation needs
- A flexible Lifetime Skills Guarantee
- Responsive providers supported by effective accountability, governance, and intervention
- Supporting outstanding teaching

In terms of careers guidance, the paper aims to build upon the foundations laid in the 2017 careers strategy by:

- Strengthening incentives and accountability for schools and colleges
- Completing the national rollout of careers infrastructure
- Providing personalised careers information and advice
- Developing a cohesive careers system

Further details on this can be found in [Chapter 3: A flexible lifetime skills guarantee](#)

[What do graduates do 20/21](#)

The latest report on 'What graduates do' 15 months after graduating has been published and the key findings at the time of publication are:

- The majority of graduates were in employment 15 months after graduating.
- Only 5.5% were unemployed and looking for work
- 71.8% of employed graduates were in a professional-level job
- 66% went to work in their home region of the UK
- 12% of graduates were in further study
- The average salary for graduates who went straight into full-time employment in the UK was £24,217



London updates

[Apprenticeship starts data shows signs of improvement](#)

FE week has reported a 28% drop in apprenticeship starts for this quarter compared to the same quarter last year, pre-Covid. This is however an improvement compared to May to July of last year where there was a 42% fall from the same time period in the previous year. The [data](#) shows that London had 9,700 apprenticeship starts for quarter 1 2020/2021. This can be broken down further by apprenticeship level:

- Intermediate Apprenticeship 1,600
- Advanced Apprenticeship 3,700
- Higher Apprenticeship 4,400

Across England, Under 19s accounted for 26.1% of starts (23,800).

[Labour Market Update for London – January 2021](#)

Labour market update from London Datastore which explores the impact that the pandemic is having on the labour market. The data shows that unemployment in London is increasing faster than across the UK. Also the number of unemployment related claims in London has also increased by 164% (307,000) since March – higher than the increase across the UK (106%).

[Apprenticeship Employers London](#)

As it is National Apprenticeship Week this month, below are a list of some of the employers who were recruiting apprentices in London in January 2021:

- SOCIETE GENERALE
- BUSY BEES LIMITED
- NHS
- SCHRODERS
- CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION
- BALFOUR BEATTY
- NATIONAL GRID
- ITV



Useful websites and resources

[Electrical Careers Website](#)

Careers website from The Electrotechnical Skills Partnership (TESP) which contains lots of useful information including routes into the industry.

[National Apprenticeship Week resources](#)

Amazing Apprenticeships have published various resources on their website ahead of National Apprenticeship Week (8th - 14th February). The '[Subject Snapshot Bundle](#)' and the '[Subject Poster Bundle](#)' are useful resources linking school subjects to the world of work.

[My Learning My Future](#)

Set of resources from the Careers and Enterprise Company which is: *"...a suite of Benchmark 4 resources to support subject teaching staff, from over 20 subjects at KS3 & 4, to engage students in curriculum learning by highlighting the relevance of their subjects to future careers and opportunities"*.

[OpenLearn – Free Educational Resources](#)

Free resources which have been collated by academics from the four faculties of The Open University especially for sixth form and college students to support with learning.

Future events

[Rate My Apprenticeship Virtual Event](#)

On the 3rd & 4th February 2021, Rate My Apprenticeship are bringing together apprenticeship employers and Y10, 11, 12 and 13 students for a virtual event.

[National Apprenticeship Week 2021](#)

National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from 8 to 14 February 2021. Amazing Apprenticeships have produced an events listing which can be downloaded [here](#).

[The Big Assembly](#)

Tuesday 9th February at 11am. Broadcast for National Apprenticeship week. This will be interactive – students and teachers can post questions through chat facility.

[National Careers Week](#)

1st to 6th March 2021

[The Healthcare Careers Expo](#)

London, 13th March 2021