

# Recruitment Activity Report | July 2021

## REOPENING THE ECONOMY

The Recruitment Activity Report provides Recruiters with a brief insight into the average activity of the top sectors Simplicity has funded during this month and how it compares to the previous month's activity.

### Overall Activity

July has seen a positive increase of 8.64% overall. The reopening of the economy has triggered a favourable change in the labour market. As lockdown restrictions continue to be lifted in the UK and the vaccination rollout proceeds, unemployment rates have dropped, and job openings are at an all-time high since the pandemic began.

The **Construction** sector has continued to rise in activity this month by **13.62%**. According to the latest PMI statistics, UK construction activity has grown at its highest rate since June 1997, as demand for new houses and commercial property soared. According to Glenigan's 2021-2023 Construction Industry Forecast, major infrastructure projects like Tideway, HS2, Hinkley Point C, and Stonehenge Tunnel will guide the construction sector back to pre-Covid levels.

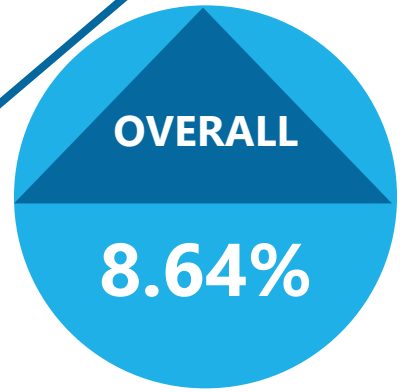
The **Industrial & Driving** sectors have seen another increase this month of **6.32%** for industrial and **11.80%** for driving. In Q1 2021, investment in UK industrial and driving reached a new high of £6 billion, more than doubling the previous year's figure of £2.7 billion. This was also 54% higher than the previous peak point in Q1 of 2018. Overseas investors have accounted for more than half of all spending so far this year, compared to 44% in 2020 and 38% in 2019. Largely as a result of growing interest from international investors as well as UK institutional investors looking to diversify their holdings and shift their portfolio toward logistics.

The **Healthcare** sector has seen a significant rise this month of **25.47%**. The government has granted nurses and other NHS workers in England a 3% salary increase "in acknowledgment of the pandemic's particular impact" on staff. Manx Care has received £1.86 million in funds from the Treasury to help with waiting list backlogs. The money will be used by the health organisation to hire NHS partner Medefer to deliver 10,000 virtual consultations. It will also finance 18-Week Support, which will bring in more doctors, surgeons, and nurses to help clear a backlog of surgeries. It will be interesting to see how the industry responds to the funding boost over the coming months.

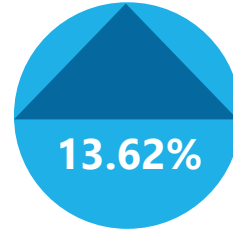
The **Commercial** sector has seen a decrease this month by **-11.29%**. Retail stock levels are at an all-time low and are projected to decline much further, while the number one concern for many businesses right now is labour shortages across the supply chain as employees self-isolate. The Bank of England will assess whether supply constraints created by the pandemic, such as decreasing retail supplies, may result in longer-term inflationary pressures.

**Engineering** has finally seen an increase of **7.95%** this month. Five projects will receive a portion of £127 million from UKRI's Strength in Places Fund as part of efforts to ensure that businesses throughout the UK can capitalise on these strengths. £22.6 million will go to the Advanced Machinery & Productivity Initiative, which will assist advanced machinery firms in the UK. So, it will be interesting to see how this sector performs in the next few months.

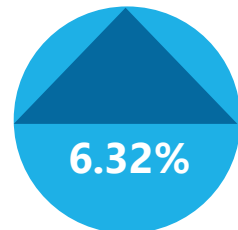
**Financial** and **IT** have seen a good increase this month with **6.06%** for financial and **21.08%** for IT. Over two-thirds of banking and financial services firms want to invest in new technologies and diversify their technology platforms. Fintech is one of our economy's fastest-growing industries, and it plays a critical part in the UK's economic and commercial recovery. According to Innovate Finance, investment in UK fintech reached £4.1 billion in the first six months of 2021, which is more than the £3.1 billion invested in the entire year of 2020.



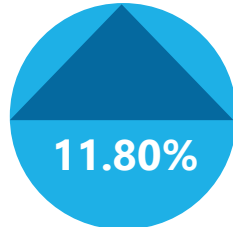
### CONSTRUCTION



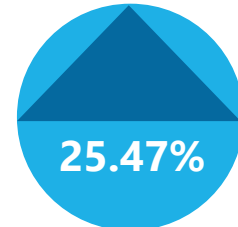
### INDUSTRIAL



### DRIVING



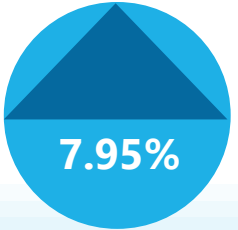
### HEALTHCARE



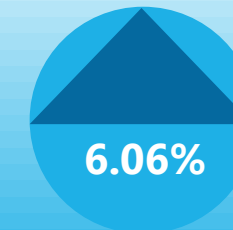
### COMMERCIAL



### ENGINEERING



### FINANCIAL



### IT

