

# Weekly vacancy analysis:

## Vacancy trends in week-ending 19 April 2020

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**24 April 2020**

This is the second in a series of weekly briefings exploring changes in vacancies since the Covid-19 crisis began. The work is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and uses vacancy data collected by Adzuna ([www.adzuna.co.uk](http://www.adzuna.co.uk)) – one of the largest online job search engines in the UK.<sup>1</sup> This briefing covers vacancies up to Sunday 19 April 2020 and includes new analysis of the ‘flow’ of new vacancies as well as changes in levels.

In this and future briefings, we use 16 March as the starting point for comparisons with pre-crisis trends. We have chosen this date because official figures on Universal Credit claims published this week<sup>2</sup> show that new claims to UC started to increase from this point – with claims more than four times higher in week-ending 22 March than 15 March.

### Changes in vacancy levels and new vacancies

Our analysis finds that job vacancies across the UK have halved (falling by 51%) since the crisis began. As at 15 March 2020, Adzuna was listing 820 thousand UK vacancies, which by 19 April had fallen to 399 thousand. Over the last week vacancies have fallen by 76 thousand, or 16% – the largest fall in four weeks. This is shown in Figure 1 below.

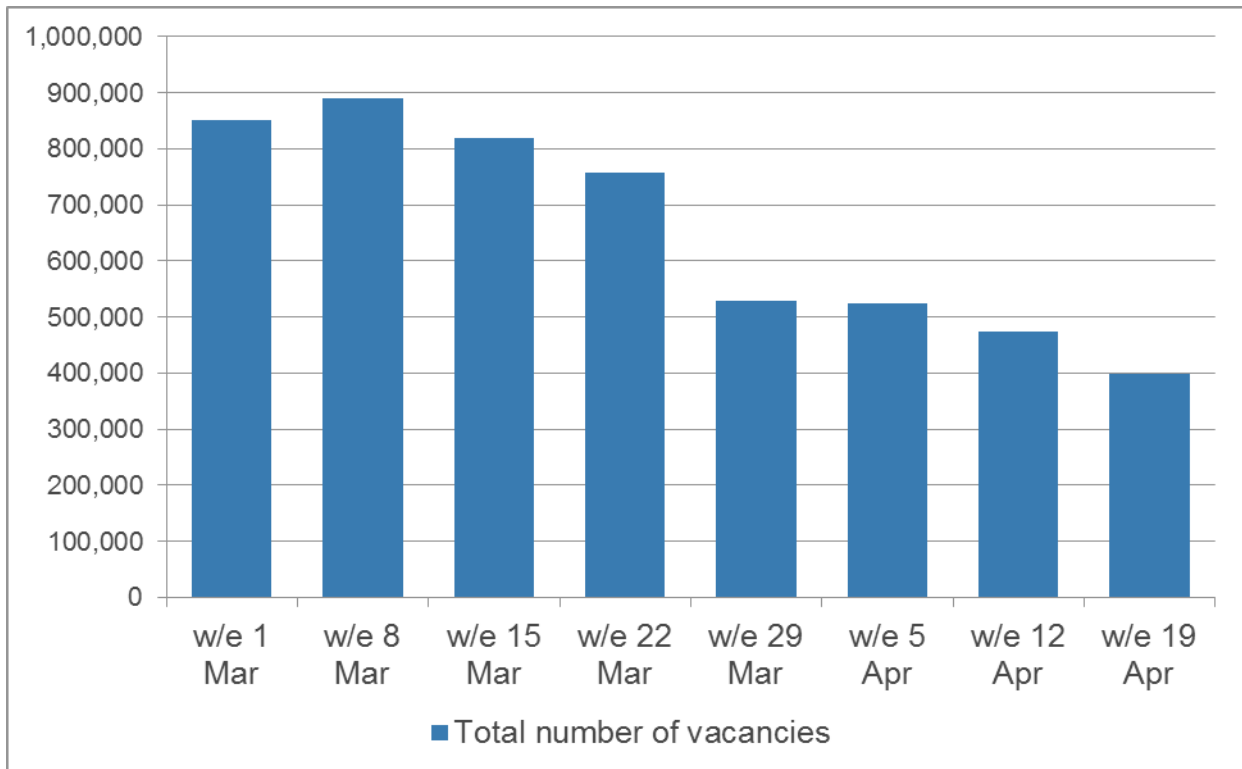
We have also this week presented analysis on the ‘flow’ of new vacancies, to give an indication of how employer hiring intentions are changing. These figures present a worrying picture, with new vacancy listings having fallen by three quarters (76%) since the start of the crisis. Just 53 thousand vacancies were notified last week, compared with 226 thousand in week ending 15 March. Figure 2 below sets this out, alongside the data on the level of vacancies. The equivalent data for 2019 is shown as dashed lines.

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<sup>1</sup> Adzuna is one of the largest job search engines in the UK. It runs the government’s ‘Find a Job’ service. It aggregates job ads from thousands of sources and cleans, de-duplicates and standardises the information to provide a robust picture of employer demand, covering at least 90 per cent of all vacancy activity.

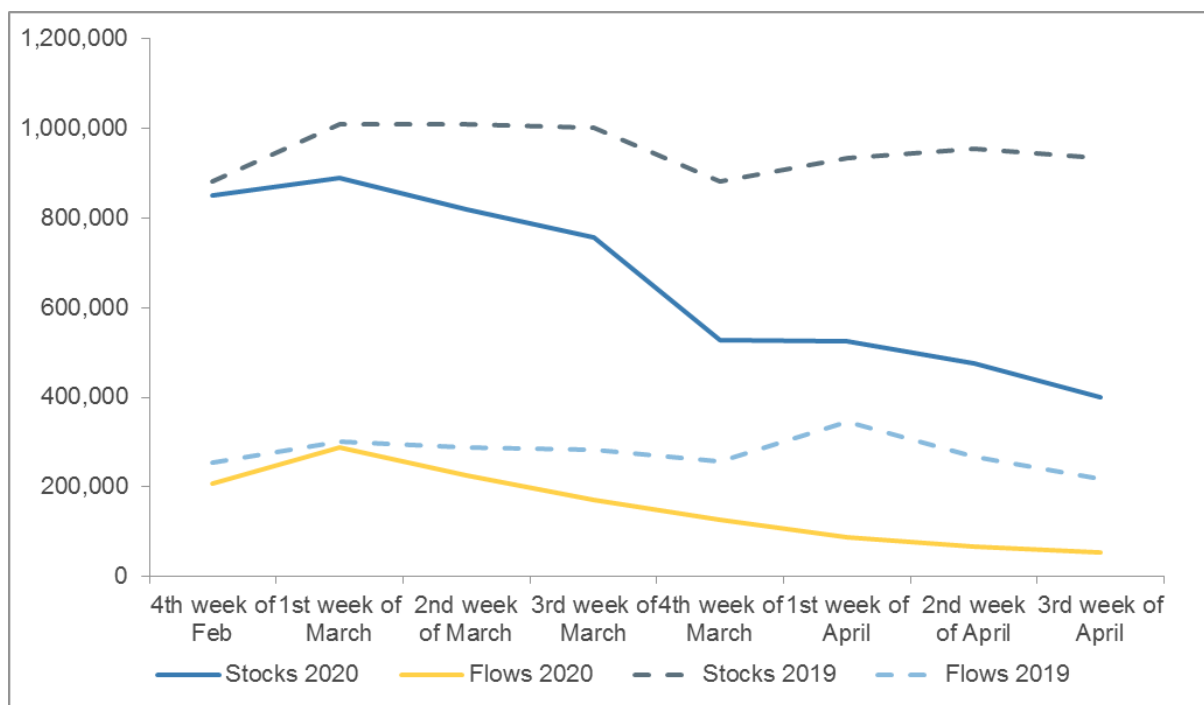
<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-29-april-2013-to-12-march-2020>

**Figure 1: Total number of live vacancies, from week ending 1 March to 19 April**



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

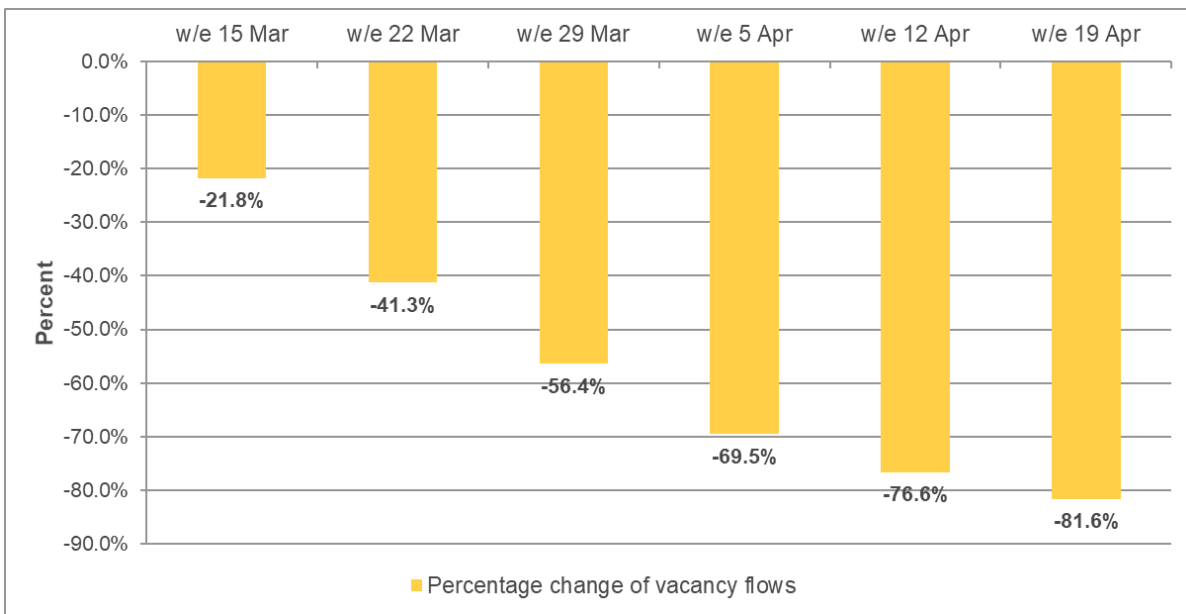
**Figure 2: Vacancy levels (stocks) and new vacancies (flows) from week ending 1 March to 19 April**



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

This significant fall in new vacancies means that the level of vacancies likely has further to fall in the coming weeks. The change in the flow of new vacancies is shown in Figure 3 below. Interestingly, this appears to show that the vacancy notifications – and by implication, hiring intentions – fell significantly in the weeks leading up to the full lockdown.

**Figure 3: Percentage change in vacancy flows compared with week ending 15 March**

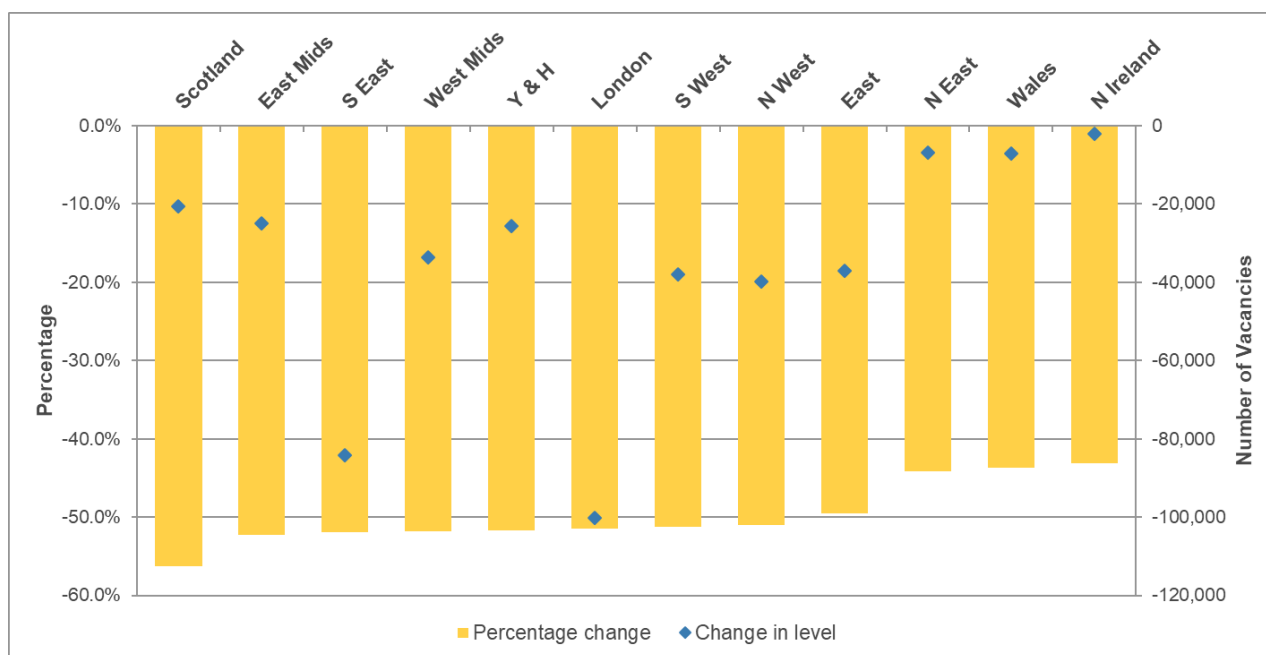


Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

## Local and regional changes in vacancy levels

Figure 4 below shows how vacancy levels have changed by English region and devolved nation since the crisis began (week ending 15 March). As with our first weekly briefing, vacancies in Scotland have fallen the most – down by 56%. All English regions except for the North East have seen vacancies fall by 49-52% - with the North East, Wales and Northern Ireland seeing declines of 43-44%.

**Figure 4: Percentage difference in vacancies (left-hand axis) and in the level of vacancies (right-hand axis) by region and devolved nation between w/e 15<sup>th</sup> March and w/e 19<sup>th</sup> April**



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

As with the previous week’s briefing, the changes within regions are far greater than those between them. The attached Annex sets out by local area: current vacancy levels, the change in vacancies since the crisis began, and the changes on the figures for the previous week and the same point the previous year. Again, caution should be used in assessing week-to-week changes.

Looking at trends since the crisis began, five areas have seen vacancies fall by more than 60%:

- Blackpool and Trafford in the North West, down by 73% and 62% respectively
- East Lothian and Midlothian, and Edinburgh in Scotland – down by 70% and 63%
- The city of York, in Yorkshire and Humberside – down by 60%

At the other end, five areas have seen vacancies fall by less than one third, namely:

- Monmouthshire and Newport in Wales, down by 9%
- Redcar and Cleveland, and Hartlepool in the North East – down 24% and 28% respectively
- The Isle of Wight in the South East, down 32%
- Rutland in the East Midlands, down 33%

## Conclusions and next steps

As with the [first briefing note](#) published on Monday, this data presents a concerning picture on new hiring and current employer intentions. The short-run impacts on vacancies of the economic shutdown are far greater than anything that we have seen in at least a generation.

Vacancies fell again last week, and appear to be being driven by a collapse in new job openings, which are down by three quarters on a month ago.

Vacancies will undoubtedly rise again as the lockdown starts to ease, although there are differing views as to how quickly the labour market will recover. As we set out in our [Getting Back to Work report](#), the labour market tends to recover more slowly than the economy overall after a downturn, and it has taken at least seven years to fully recover after each of the last three recessions. So we have set out in that report five priorities for action.

We will aim to publish further vacancy analyses at the end of each week, and anticipate that future briefings will include:

- Analysis of the unemployment to vacancy ratio in local areas
- Further analysis of vacancies by job type and occupation (high level analysis by 'job type' was presented in the [first briefing note](#))
- More detailed analysis of what is driving changes in vacancies within local areas
- Analysis of how the salary levels of vacancies are changing over time

We would welcome input and feedback on this briefing note, and on the content and analysis for future briefings.

## Annex: Vacancy levels by local area

**Table A.1: Local area vacancies and changes since crisis began, in last week, and year-on-year**

Local Authority	Region/ nation	w/e 19 April 2020	Change since w/e 15 March	Change in last week	Year on year change
Blackpool	North West	190	-72.8%	-10.8%	-86.0%
East Lothian and Midlothian	Scotland	1,008	-69.9%	-38.3%	-69.6%
Edinburgh	Scotland	2,738	-63.1%	-12.7%	-66.5%
Trafford	North West	477	-61.6%	-21.0%	-66.4%
York	Yorkshire and Humber	1,173	-60.4%	-30.0%	-44.1%
Bracknell Forest	South East	657	-59.6%	-22.9%	-66.2%
North Eastern Scotland	Scotland	1,888	-59.5%	-13.5%	-61.3%
South Ayrshire	Scotland	134	-59.4%	-8.2%	-71.4%
Wokingham	South East	348	-59.2%	-19.3%	-73.3%
Warrington	North West	978	-58.3%	-23.4%	-72.1%
South West London	London	5,673	-58.3%	-23.0%	-75.4%
Solihull	West Midlands	598	-58.0%	-17.1%	-71.1%
West Lothian	Scotland	520	-57.9%	-9.2%	-62.2%
Luton	East of England	644	-57.4%	-17.8%	-76.7%
Isles Of Scilly	South West	6	-57.1%	-14.3%	-87.0%
Falkirk	Scotland	177	-57.0%	-18.1%	-58.1%
Oxfordshire	South East	5,834	-57.0%	-24.2%	-62.9%
Leicestershire	East Midlands	2,340	-56.9%	-17.7%	-60.7%
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands	670	-56.8%	-21.7%	-66.1%
Slough	South East	1,133	-56.8%	-20.7%	-65.3%
South East London	London	12,667	-56.7%	-14.2%	-72.8%
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	4,359	-56.6%	-19.8%	-59.3%
Birmingham	West Midlands	7,769	-56.3%	-15.5%	-66.3%
Kent	South East	9,940	-56.0%	-19.5%	-54.9%
Glasgow	Scotland	3,292	-55.8%	-16.0%	-62.5%
Milton Keynes	South East	2,944	-55.7%	-19.7%	-55.3%
North Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and Humber	494	-55.6%	-17.5%	-27.4%
West Berkshire	South East	648	-55.3%	-17.9%	-67.7%
Lancashire	North West	4,276	-55.3%	-26.2%	-61.4%

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Bristol, City of	South West	7,259	-55.1%	-24.3%	-59.5%
Reading	South East	5,810	-55.0%	-19.4%	-52.2%
Devon	South West	4,556	-55.0%	-4.1%	-47.9%
Knowsley	North West	119	-54.8%	-29.2%	-57.3%
Leeds	Yorkshire and Humber	6,562	-54.7%	-17.5%	-69.3%
Gateshead	North East	301	-54.6%	-14.0%	-70.7%
Buckinghamshire	South East	4,322	-54.4%	-15.4%	-54.0%
Central Bedfordshire	East of England	1,802	-54.2%	-14.4%	-54.3%
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	1,282	-53.9%	-13.3%	-62.0%
Bedford	East of England	977	-53.9%	-12.7%	-61.7%
North West London	London	3,513	-53.8%	-14.0%	-56.7%
Bath and North East Somerset	South West	1,042	-53.8%	-21.1%	-59.5%
Gloucestershire	South West	6,180	-53.5%	-14.7%	-45.3%
Cheshire West and Chester	North West	3,509	-53.5%	-17.3%	-48.6%
West Sussex	South East	4,777	-53.4%	-13.5%	-62.1%
Cumbria	North West	2,236	-53.4%	-14.6%	-37.2%
Plymouth	South West	913	-53.3%	-16.8%	-59.2%
Warwickshire	West Midlands	3,366	-53.1%	-14.5%	-53.7%
Hampshire	South East	9,068	-53.1%	-16.4%	-55.6%
Sheffield	Yorkshire and Humber	4,309	-53.0%	-12.7%	-34.8%
Hertfordshire	East of England	9,190	-52.9%	-16.0%	-59.9%
Worcestershire	West Midlands	2,728	-52.8%	-15.3%	-58.2%
Cheshire East	North West	2,089	-52.8%	-19.3%	-52.1%
Surrey	South East	10,919	-52.8%	-15.8%	-61.7%
Staffordshire	West Midlands	3,253	-52.6%	-15.5%	-55.8%
Calderdale	Yorkshire and Humber	527	-52.6%	-14.7%	-63.4%
Nottingham	East Midlands	3,185	-52.5%	-19.6%	-58.7%
Derby	East Midlands	1,620	-52.3%	-20.5%	-57.2%
Wakefield	Yorkshire and Humber	1,271	-52.3%	-18.3%	-58.4%
Barnsley	Yorkshire and Humber	363	-52.1%	-12.3%	-66.7%
Essex	East of England	8,202	-52.0%	-15.2%	-57.9%
North London	London	3,050	-51.8%	-19.4%	-61.3%
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humber	2,774	-51.7%	-14.4%	-52.3%

Real time vacancy analysis: 24 April 2020

Clackmannanshire and Fife	Scotland	773	-51.7%	-12.9%	-66.3%
Cardiff	Wales	3,136	-51.6%	-16.3%	-56.8%
Stockport	North West	1,295	-51.2%	-16.7%	-59.4%
East London	London	4,686	-51.2%	-20.9%	-62.3%
Leicester	East Midlands	2,439	-51.1%	-18.3%	-68.2%
Thurrock	East of England	540	-51.0%	-21.5%	-64.9%
Angus and Dundee	Scotland	609	-51.0%	-15.5%	-54.5%
Cornwall	South West	1,886	-50.7%	-12.3%	-51.1%
North Lanarkshire	Scotland	381	-50.7%	-14.0%	-74.6%
Coventry	West Midlands	1,826	-50.6%	-13.9%	-61.6%
Manchester	North West	13,186	-50.6%	-17.2%	-55.8%
Central Valleys	Wales	261	-50.6%	-13.3%	-75.3%
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	South West	1,770	-50.5%	-17.5%	-67.3%
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	2,663	-50.4%	-15.0%	-46.2%
Blackburn with Darwen	North West	459	-50.2%	-30.6%	-74.3%
Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot	Wales	322	-50.1%	-12.0%	-61.7%
Dudley	West Midlands	4,946	-49.9%	-22.9%	-18.7%
Central London (EC & WC postcodes)	London	58,926	-49.8%	-10.1%	-56.9%
Medway	South East	746	-49.8%	-13.3%	-72.8%
Borders	Scotland	176	-49.4%	-6.9%	-43.8%
East of Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	1,004	-49.4%	-14.8%	-68.8%
Derbyshire	East Midlands	2,955	-49.4%	-15.8%	-50.2%
Halton	North West	471	-48.2%	-16.9%	-57.4%
Perth and Kinross, and Stirling	Scotland	546	-48.1%	-8.1%	-64.1%
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	3,132	-47.9%	-13.4%	-50.4%
St. Helens	North West	309	-47.8%	-24.1%	-65.1%
Portsmouth	South East	1,220	-47.8%	-19.5%	-57.4%
Gwent Valleys	Wales	713	-47.7%	-12.9%	-56.0%
Rotherham	Yorkshire and Humber	555	-47.1%	-45.0%	-80.7%
Wigan	North West	661	-47.1%	-14.6%	-60.4%
Sandwell	West Midlands	613	-46.9%	-16.6%	-60.5%
Southampton	South East	2,529	-46.9%	-13.6%	-55.8%
Lincolnshire	East Midlands	3,087	-46.8%	-10.7%	-52.4%



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South Lanarkshire	Scotland	621	-46.8%	-10.8%	-17.4%
Bradford	Yorkshire and Humber	1,130	-46.7%	-12.3%	-69.9%
Brighton and Hove	South East	2,680	-46.7%	-18.2%	-60.4%
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands	1,210	-46.5%	-13.9%	-55.1%
Salford	North West	500	-46.1%	-17.4%	-71.3%
Kirklees	Yorkshire and Humber	1,018	-46.1%	-14.0%	-58.9%
Wiltshire	South West	3,489	-45.9%	-10.7%	-47.7%
Liverpool	North West	4,419	-45.9%	-15.4%	-47.9%
Peterborough	East of England	1,432	-45.8%	-12.7%	-59.2%
Sefton	North West	408	-45.7%	-12.8%	-51.3%
Somerset	South West	4,120	-45.7%	-11.9%	-39.5%
Swindon	South West	964	-45.5%	-19.3%	-79.3%
Highlands and Islands	Scotland	1,544	-45.3%	-9.2%	-53.4%
Northumberland	North East	909	-45.2%	-16.5%	-47.4%
Cambridgeshire	East of England	6,676	-45.2%	-13.1%	-56.6%
Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland	295	-45.2%	-5.8%	-10.3%
Southend-on-Sea	East of England	508	-44.8%	-11.8%	-75.9%
West London	London	5,945	-44.8%	-19.1%	-14.9%
Dorset	South West	3,061	-44.8%	-12.4%	-29.3%
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humber	1,361	-44.4%	-11.8%	-26.5%
South Tyneside	North East	187	-44.2%	-15.0%	-61.8%
North Somerset	South West	555	-44.2%	-14.4%	-44.2%
Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire, and Renfrewshire	Scotland	613	-44.1%	-6.7%	-54.7%
Walsall	West Midlands	526	-43.9%	-15.8%	-59.8%
Wirral	North West	659	-43.7%	-11.5%	-56.0%
Suffolk	East of England	3,893	-43.7%	-11.6%	-50.0%
North East Wales	Wales	920	-43.3%	-12.1%	-52.3%
Doncaster	Yorkshire and Humber	1,081	-43.0%	-12.8%	-55.3%
Torbay	South West	344	-43.0%	-10.4%	-49.8%
Sunderland	North East	549	-42.9%	-17.6%	-59.7%
Norfolk	East of England	3,903	-42.9%	-14.2%	-50.9%
East Dunbartonshire, West					
Dunbartonshire	Scotland	290	-42.5%	-5.5%	-38.6%
County Durham	North East	1,654	-42.3%	-15.0%	-46.8%

Real time vacancy analysis: 24 April 2020

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Stockton-On-Tees	North East	312	-42.2%	-7.4%	-57.5%
Herefordshire, County of	West Midlands	1,033	-41.7%	-9.6%	-44.0%
Wolverhampton	West Midlands	1,011	-41.5%	-12.0%	-52.3%
South West Wales	Wales	533	-41.4%	-10.0%	-57.3%
Shropshire	West Midlands	1,802	-41.4%	-7.2%	-45.0%
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yorkshire and Humber	900	-40.2%	-10.4%	-50.2%
South Gloucestershire	South West	6	-40.0%	-14.3%	-84.6%
West and South of Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	302	-39.2%	-12.0%	-73.8%
Belfast	Northern Ireland	1,424	-39.1%	-10.8%	-68.0%
East Sussex	South East	12,456	-39.1%	-28.0%	112.7%
Swansea	Wales	952	-38.9%	-8.5%	-37.7%
North West Wales	Wales	881	-38.7%	-11.7%	-41.2%
Rochdale	North West	484	-38.6%	-9.7%	-52.1%
Bury	North West	314	-37.5%	-14.4%	-68.6%
Powys	Wales	407	-37.4%	-11.1%	-64.0%
North of Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	119	-37.0%	-7.8%	-72.2%
Oldham	North West	598	-36.4%	-12.1%	-54.3%
Bolton	North West	322	-36.0%	-16.4%	-81.7%
Middlesbrough	North East	553	-35.5%	-15.8%	-50.3%
East and North Ayrshire	Scotland	469	-35.3%	-4.1%	-42.9%
Darlington	North East	499	-34.6%	-13.7%	-47.1%
North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and Humber	459	-34.5%	-1.5%	-57.5%
North Tyneside	North East	167	-34.5%	-20.5%	-59.1%
Tameside	North West	205	-33.7%	-9.3%	-64.2%
Rutland	East Midlands	222	-33.1%	-8.3%	-42.5%
Isle of Wight	South East	622	-31.9%	-30.7%	0.5%
Hartlepool	North East	167	-28.0%	-1.2%	-36.7%
Redcar and Cleveland	North East	113	-23.6%	-5.0%	-30.2%
Monmouthshire and Newport	Wales	1,141	-9.4%	25.4%	-47.6%

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