# London’s financial sector resilience accelerates amid tech-driven hiring surge in 2025



London’s financial services sector has demonstrated notable resilience in its job market throughout 2025, defying the broader national slowdown in hiring and vacancies amid economic uncertainties. While many industries have faced staff cuts and reduced recruitment activity due to rising labour costs and cautious employer outlooks ahead of the upcoming November Budget, London’s financial services have bucked this trend with a steady increase in job openings.

According to the latest data from recruitment firm Morgan McKinley, job vacancies in London’s financial services sector rose by 9% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2025 and increased by 2% compared to the previous quarter. This growth follows a previous dip linked to uncertainties over potential US tariffs that had caused firms to pause hiring. Mark Astbury, a director at Morgan McKinley, commented that while the quarterly rise was modest, the year-on-year increase signals a robust jobs market that remains upward trending despite economic and seasonal headwinds.

The expansion in vacancies is largely driven by a shift towards higher-value positions in audit, tax, IT management, and digital roles—areas regarded as critical for firms adapting to new regulatory demands and accelerating technological change. Hiring for operations roles also grew, reflecting the sector’s need to strengthen back-office capabilities in the face of complexities such as tariffs, automation, and compliance requirements.

London’s fintech sector has been particularly buoyant, posting over 6,400 roles so far this year and surpassing last year’s total. This surge is underpinned by a five-year funding cycle and fierce competition to commercialise artificial intelligence platforms. The growing importance of AI is evident in the rising demand for specialist talent in fintech, cybersecurity, and data roles, mirroring global trends where financial services increasingly incorporate advanced technologies.

Industry reports highlight a broader transformation in the job market structure within London’s financial services. While junior and administrative roles are increasingly relocating to cities like Belfast and Glasgow, facilitated by automation and cost-saving strategies, London’s dominance persists in senior and strategic positions, especially in technology, corporate finance, and AI strategy. However, graduate-level recruitment is reported to be slowing as automation reshapes entry-level job requirements.

Despite the encouraging hiring trends in technology-driven roles, traditional accounting positions have seen a slight decline, with some firms reducing vacancies in these areas as they invest more heavily in digital transformation and regulatory compliance functions. Executive-level hiring across accounting and consulting has surged, signalling firms’ focus on strategic leadership amid rapid sector evolution.

Significantly, the London financial sector stands to benefit from major international investments such as the £150 billion US–UK Tech Prosperity Deal, which aims to enhance the digital economy. Experts suggest that London, as the UK’s financial and innovation hub, will be a primary beneficiary of this influx of capital, talent, and expertise, further reinforcing the city’s role at the intersection of finance and technology.

Nevertheless, caution remains ahead of the Autumn Budget, with employers wary of potential tax increases or new costs that could dampen hiring momentum. Earlier in the year, hikes in employer National Insurance contributions and the national living wage contributed to rising labour costs, prompting some firms to be more selective with recruitment.

Overall, the data from the first three quarters of 2025 points to a dynamic and evolving London financial services labour market—one where technology, regulation, and innovation are shaping the demand for high-skilled roles, even as broader economic challenges persist.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/markets/article-15187077/Jobs-financial-services-soar-thanks-tech-boom-defying-hiring-slowdown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.onrec.com/news/statistics/london%E2%80%99s-job-market-stays-resilient-despite-budget-jitters-and-ai-shifts), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/fintech-ai-drive-london-finance-job-vacancy-growth-q3-recruiter-says-2025-10-13/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/markets/article-15187077/Jobs-financial-services-soar-thanks-tech-boom-defying-hiring-slowdown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.morganmckinley.com/uk/article/londons-job-market-stays-resilient-despite-budget-jitters-and-ai-shifts), [[6]](https://www.onrec.com/news/statistics/london%E2%80%99s-job-market-stays-resilient-despite-budget-jitters-and-ai-shifts)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/markets/article-15187077/Jobs-financial-services-soar-thanks-tech-boom-defying-hiring-slowdown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/fintech-ai-drive-london-finance-job-vacancy-growth-q3-recruiter-says-2025-10-13/), [[4]](https://www.theintermediary.co.uk/2025/08/tech-and-digital-demand-fuel-10-rise-in-london-finance-vacancies/)
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* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/fintech-ai-drive-london-finance-job-vacancy-growth-q3-recruiter-says-2025-10-13/), [[4]](https://www.theintermediary.co.uk/2025/08/tech-and-digital-demand-fuel-10-rise-in-london-finance-vacancies/), [[5]](https://workplacejournal.co.uk/2025/08/london-finance-hiring-rises-10-as-tech-and-operations-roles-drive-growth/)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/markets/article-15187077/Jobs-financial-services-soar-thanks-tech-boom-defying-hiring-slowdown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/world-at-work/fintech-ai-drive-london-finance-job-vacancy-growth-q3-recruiter-says-2025-10-13/> - In the third quarter of 2025, London's financial sector job vacancies increased by 9% year-on-year, driven by a surge in fintech firms and rising demand for artificial intelligence expertise. Employers have already posted 6,425 fintech roles this year, surpassing last year's total, reflecting the race to commercialise AI platforms. Despite this growth, concerns remain about potential tax hikes in the upcoming November budget, especially after national insurance increases. The report also highlights a shift in the job market structure: while junior and administrative roles are increasingly moving to cities like Belfast and Glasgow due to automation, London continues to dominate in senior positions, particularly in technology, corporate finance, and AI strategy. However, graduate-level hiring is slowing due to ongoing automation trends.
3. <https://www.morganmckinley.com/uk/article/londons-job-market-stays-resilient-despite-budget-jitters-and-ai-shifts> - The latest employment figures from Morgan McKinley show that job openings across London’s financial services sector rose by 2% in Q3 2025 compared to the previous quarter and 9% in the same period last year, signalling a market that remains resilient despite seasonal and economic headwinds. Mark Astbury, Director at Morgan McKinley, commented: 'Our latest London Employment Monitor shows vacancies rose by 2% in Q3 2025 compared with the previous quarter. While the quarterly rise is modest, the more striking figure is the 9% year-on-year growth, clear evidence that London’s jobs market remains on an upward trajectory despite the ongoing impact of AI.'
4. <https://www.theintermediary.co.uk/2025/08/tech-and-digital-demand-fuel-10-rise-in-london-finance-vacancies/> - London’s finance jobs market is showing signs of renewed momentum, with vacancies rising 10% year-on-year in the first half of 2025, according to new data from Morgan McKinley and Vacancysoft. The London Finance Labour Market Trends report highlights a marked shift towards technology and operations roles, with firms competing for specialist talent in fintech, AI, cybersecurity, and compliance. Across accounting and consulting, IT roles increased 39% year-on-year, while banking operations hiring rose 38% over the same period, reflecting strong demand for digital and service delivery functions. Hiring trends in banking also showed a modest recovery. Finance vacancies in the sector were up 8% year-on-year, with IT recruitment climbing 16% and executive-level hiring up 11%, although traditional accounting roles fell 4%. Executive management hiring in accounting and consulting also surged 66% year-on-year, as firms invested in strategic leadership positions. David Neal, managing director at Morgan McKinley, said: 'The UK financial services sector is evolving fast, with hiring trends shaped by rapid tech adoption, regulatory change and shifting workforce expectations. Roles in fintech, data, AI and cybersecurity are now central to operations, while regulation is driving demand in risk and audit functions.'
5. <https://workplacejournal.co.uk/2025/08/london-finance-hiring-rises-10-as-tech-and-operations-roles-drive-growth/> - Finance vacancies in London rose 10% in the first half of 2025, led by strong demand for technology and operations roles, according to Morgan McKinley and Vacancysoft. The London Finance Labour Market Trends report highlights a marked shift towards technology and operations roles, with firms competing for specialist talent in fintech, AI, cybersecurity, and compliance. Across accounting and consulting, IT roles increased 39% year-on-year, while banking operations hiring rose 38% over the same period, reflecting strong demand for digital and service delivery functions. Hiring trends in banking also showed a modest recovery. Finance vacancies in the sector were up 8% year-on-year, with IT recruitment climbing 16% and executive-level hiring up 11%, although traditional accounting roles fell 4%. Executive management hiring in accounting and consulting also surged 66% year-on-year, as firms invested in strategic leadership positions. David Neal, managing director at Morgan McKinley, said: 'The UK financial services sector is evolving fast, with hiring trends shaped by rapid tech adoption, regulatory change and shifting workforce expectations. Roles in fintech, data, AI and cybersecurity are now central to operations, while regulation is driving demand in risk and audit functions.'
6. <https://www.onrec.com/news/statistics/london%E2%80%99s-job-market-stays-resilient-despite-budget-jitters-and-ai-shifts> - The latest employment figures from Morgan McKinley show that job openings across London’s financial services sector rose by 2% in Q3 2025 compared to the previous quarter and 9% in the same period last year, signalling a market that remains resilient despite seasonal and economic headwinds. Key stats from Morgan McKinley’s 2025 London Employment Monitor: 2% increase in jobs available quarter-on-quarter (Q3 2025 vs Q2 2025) 9% increase in jobs available year-on-year (Q3 2025 vs Q3 2024)
7. <https://www.morganmckinley.com/uk/article/london-finance-hiring-rises-14-volumes-trail-2023-levels> - The latest employment figures from Morgan McKinley suggest that the number of job openings across London’s financial services rose by 3% in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the previous quarter and 14% compared to the corresponding period last year. Mark Astbury, Director, Morgan McKinley commented: 'The latest figures from our London Employment Monitor points to a continued rebound in London’s financial services hiring. Following a 12% seasonal bounce in Q1, we’ve seen a further 3% increase this quarter and a 14% year-on-year uplift. While the start of the year brought renewed confidence, momentum has been tempered by global market volatility, tensions in the Middle East and confusion around new US trade tariffs. Importantly, while the numbers reflect improved market sentiment, hiring volumes remain below 2023 hiring levels, highlighting that recovery is in motion but not yet complete.'