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KEY INSIGHTS ON **HOW TO ADAPT AND THRIVE** IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD



MichaelPage



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An introduction **from Nick Kirk** UK Managing Director, PageGroup



Continuous change has defined the way many companies have been operating throughout the global health emergency. At times of uncertainty, strong leadership, effective communication, and above all, empathy are key to enabling your people to drive business continuity and facilitate a strong recovery.

In light of the rapid switch to remote working, operating in a locked-down country, and navigating the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, organisational transformation has come to the fore as businesses adapt to the realities of the market and a redefined business world.

Understanding the shape of the industry you operate within and how the candidate market is responding to these changes is crucial to effectively plan your team structure and reinforcing the vision of your company. Closing any identified skills gaps and bringing in new skill sets will be fundamental to your success.

In this manufacturing market update, we share our unique insights and data on the shape of the sector. We explore how competitive the market is, what professionals are looking for, and how businesses can secure top talent.

It is undeniable that an increase in homeworking will be one long-term legacy of the pandemic, but our research shows that many workers are relishing a return to the office and value the in-person interaction it brings. It will be interesting to see how employers tackle the challenges of managing a blended workforce, and the role that offices will play from now on – not least because these are pertinent topics for us, at PageGroup, too. We are also having to adapt in order to thrive – and are committed to helping our customers do the same with their business.

Our consultants are available via email, landlines, mobiles and video to assist you with all of your recruitment needs. You can also get in touch and request a call back by clicking <u>here</u>.

On behalf of PageGroup in the UK, I hope you find this report to be a useful tool in the next steps of your business evolution.



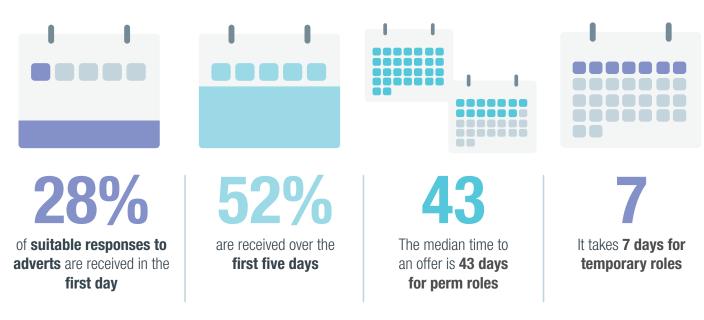
As Covid-19 quickly reshaped the state of the UK market, many manufacturing professionals were identified as critical 'key workers' to ensure continued supply of goods and materials. Demand continues to be unpredictable across most sectors which has required agility and creativity. Planning and forecasting is particularly challenging, and continues to be at the forefront of many business leaders' minds.

COMPETITION IN THE SECTOR

COMPETITIVENESSCandidate DrivenMore blue = Clients work harderMore grey = Candidates work harderImage: Clients work harderImage: Clients



RECRUITING MANUFACTURING TALENT



Market overview — the post-Covid landscape

TOP 10 MOST ADVERTISED ROLES

- **1. MAINTENANCE ENGINEER**
- 2. ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- 3. QUALITY MANAGER
- 4. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- 5. OPERATIONS MANAGER

- 6. HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER
- 7. ELECTRICAL DESIGN ENGINEER
- 8. MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
- 9. MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
- **10. OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

MOST IN-DEMAND MANUFACTURING SKILLS



Problem solving

Manufacturing businesses are facing daily, sometimes hourly, challenges. Those individuals who are solutions led, innovative, and use data to overcome the unpredictable, are in high demand across the sector.



Health, safety, environmental and quality

As social distancing measures continue to play a key role in protecting our wellbeing, there has been a rising need for professionals experienced in designing robust health and safety processes.



Leadership and emotional intelligence

Whether it is managing a team of people or taking the lead on a project, the ability to effectively influence others is a skill in high demand across all manufacturing sectors.



UK workforce market sentiments analysis



The unique circumstances surrounding Covid-19 have reshaped the way that professionals view their options in the job market. When assessing both their longer-term career directive and immediate opportunities for a new role, candidate behaviours are likely to change significantly moving forward.

KEY CANDIDATE INSIGHTS

When considering their career:



of professionals are reassessing their career options and priorities

have had to reconsider

their career path entirely





said a company's response to Covid-19 will be an important factor



identified flexible and dynamic working as a more important work benefit



60%

said working for a tech company or in a tech-focused role is now more appealing



said wellness programme/health insurance/life insurance will be more important to them

The biggest challenges facing the sector – and how to tackle them

CHALLENGE:

The number of active candidates in the market has grown due to the circumstances surrounding Covid-19 and this can make it much more time consuming and difficult to identify the right people for your roles.



More than ever, conversations with candidates revolve around how companies have treated their employees, particularly in response to the global crisis. Top talent looking to move to a new role is cautious of leaving companies that have treated their employees well and weary of joining a company that has not. Considering this, your employer branding is more key than ever when looking for top talent, and it is important to ensure your messaging is consistent internally and externally.

Ruth Hancock, Operating Director, Michael Page

CHALLENGE:

Since COVID, we are seeing more and more businesses having to reassess the structure of their entire supply chains. The lens they are often looking through is a robust S&OP process to mitigate risks across all tiers of the supply chain and to ensure customer satisfaction and net working capital levels are optimised. Customer trends and spending habits are changing at a rapid pace and businesses are looking at the agility of their supply chains to ensure that these needs can be met in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



We are seeing subcontract manufacturers increasing their volumes as businesses look to mitigate short-term supply chain risk through more onshoring activity. The subcontract manufacturers

need to remain competitive in terms of cost where their new customers have been outsourcing to low cost regions, particularly far East Asia. A focus on lean manufacturing methodologies and practices has been at the forefront of their competitive initiatives to ensure they are driving out cost whilst retaining great quality of product and service.

Colin Roope, Director – Senior Appointments, Michael Page Engineering and Manufacturing

CHALLENGE:

Maintaining and, in some cases, increasing output, particularly in fast-moving environments such as food or packaging manufacturing, whilst social distancing and managing increased levels of absenteeism, is a daily challenge faced by many manufacturers.



There has been an increase in shift agility to allow for social distancing across manufacturing.

For example, businesses who weren't previously operating a night shift have opted to do so now. There's also an appetite to upskill staff to ensure they can do more than one job to cover colleagues who are sick or self-isolating. Many of the initiatives that manufacturers have adopted would previously have taken months to realise, but Covid-19 has prompted abrupt change and agility whilst simultaneously maintaining production lines and supply chains.

Will Eisenberg, Senior Manager, Michael Page Engineering and Manufacturing VIRTUAL EVENT Adapting is thriving in a post-pandemic world

Based on a recent PageGroup survey



of employees said they do not plan to stay with their current employer beyond 12 months

Virtual Event

Keynote speakers:



Professor Jonathan Trevor from Saïd Business School

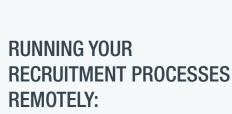
Matthew Taylor, UK Government advisor

Adapting is thriving in

a post-pandemic world

Watch on demand now

Stm)



A complete guide

- Attracting the right talent
- Assessing CVs and covering letters ≻
- Utilising video technology for interviewing
- Making a strong offer to secure top talent
- Adapting your onboarding to a remote process

For practical tips and advice, as well as examples of best practices when hiring, access your free copy.

RUNNING YOUR RECRUITMENT PROCESSES **REMOTELY:**

A complete guide

MichaelPage

Download guide



Why work with Michael Page Manufacturing?

Taking into consideration both the recruitment landscape in manufacturing and the sentiments of professionals in the market, there are more changes ahead for businesses in the UK.

The shifts that were made in response to Covid-19 may be just the beginning. It has been said that these changes are likely to form the foundation for more change in the coming years, which businesses must stay on top of to future proof operations and win the best talent in the market.

At PageGroup, we are committed to providing our customers with the highest level of support possible. This means forming strong partnerships built on person-to-person relationships, backed by unparalleled insight into the recruitment landscape, and our promise to connect our clients' opportunities with the very best talent in the market.

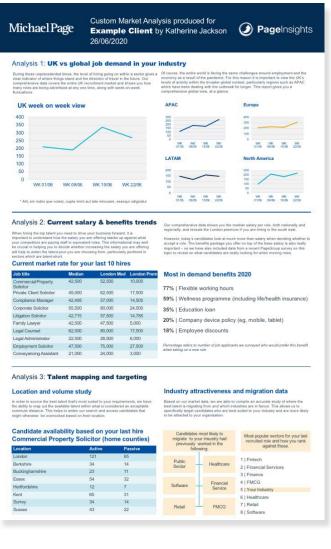


While this report covers general insights and data on the manufacturing market across the UK, we recognise that many of our customers will require more in-depth insights into their regions, sector, and even specific roles.

If you would like more information about job demand, salary and benefits trends, talent mapping, an assessment of your employer branding, plus much more, you can request a comprehensive, bespoke market analysis report.

For more information, please reach out to your local Michael Page specialist.





Market data and insights source: Page Insights recruitment market data July 2020; PageGroup's UK July Job Confidence Index Survey completed by 3972 professionals; PageGroup's UK August (3rd-17th) Job Confidence Index Survey Conducted 1025 Professionals. Page Executive Michael Page Page Personnel Page Outsourcing

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