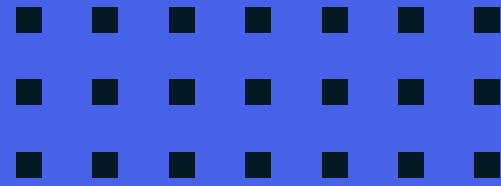


SUMMER SURVEY RESULTS

INSIGHT REPORT



HELLO



Welcome to our second instalment of Sheridan Maine Insights. A few months backs we explored the challenges and opportunities of hiring in a downturn market which you can find [here](#).

In this issue we share the results of a short survey conducted over the summer (2025) directed to senior accounting professionals and business leaders across the UK.

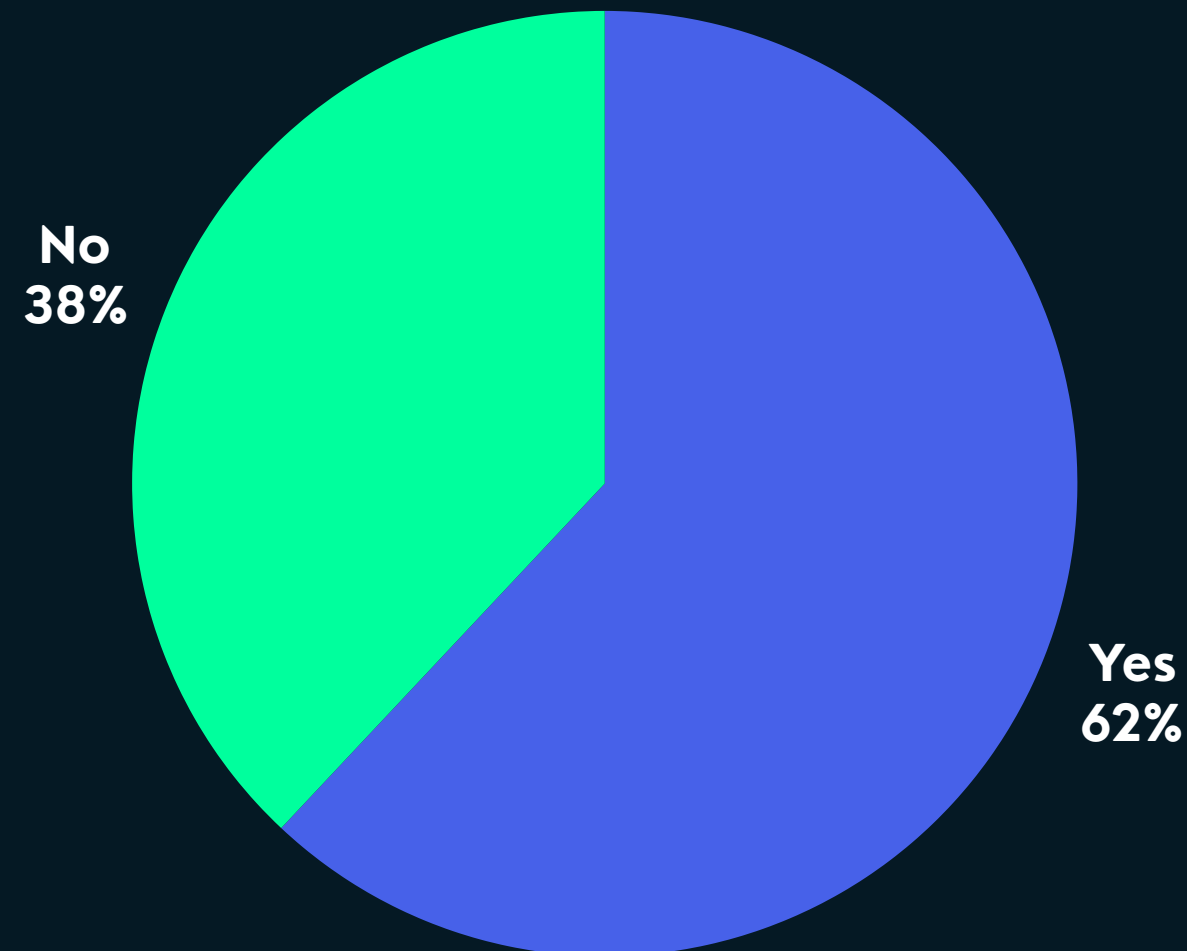
Some of the results were used as a direct comparison to the results we received to similar questions asked towards the end of 2024.



PAY INCREASES

Over 76% of accounting professionals were due to receive up to a 5% pay rise in 2025.
Have you or your colleagues received one?

Received a payrise

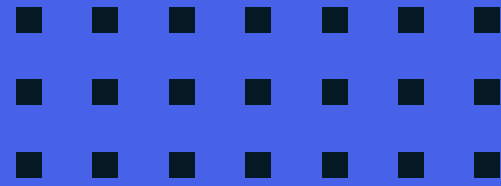


A recent CBI report (August 2025) also suggests wage growth remains high, but is continuing to plateau.

In the quarter to June 2025, nominal regular pay growth stood at 4.8% in the private sector. This represents the fourth consecutive decrease. In the public sector, nominal pay growth was estimated at 5.7%, which is marginally up on last month's figure (5.5%).



FLEXIBLE WORKING



Earlier this year, over 71% of companies continue to offer flexible working from home (WFH) to new employees in 2025 and this continues to remain a trend.

Is that true of your organisation/employer?

FLEXIBLE WORKING OPTIONS

(3 DAYS + 2 DAYS WFH)



NO

27%

YES

73%



REVENUE GROWTH

How optimistic are you about growth in revenue for your sector for the remainder of 2025?



Very optimistic

7%



Optimistic

40%



Less optimistic

22%

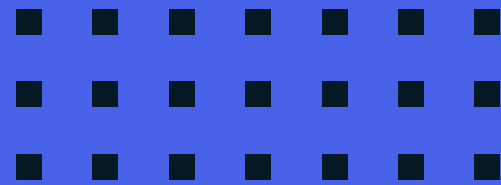


Not optimistic

31%



HEADCOUNT



Over 40% of businesses were planning to add to headcount in the accounting or finance department in 2025.

What are your plans?

Headcount increase in 2025

73%

No plans to add headcount in 2025

14%

Added to
headcount in
Q1/Q2

13%

Adding to
headcount in
Q3/Q4

The recent CBI report (August) suggests the widespread impact of rising business costs across the labour market means it is imperative that the Government are mindful when introducing policies that could add to employers' cost base.

Firms will be looking for the Chancellor to acknowledge the challenge and trade-offs associated with financial pressures in the fiscal event later this year, and to pull on policy levers that can help unlock business investment in their workforce.



MINDSET

Which of the following statements best summarises your current stance as a business minded leader:



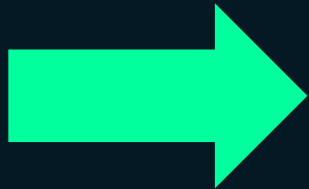
"My business is actively adapting its strategy in response to current economic trends."

46%



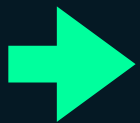
"Political uncertainty in the UK is a significant barrier to strategic business planning."

32%



"Political awareness is now a critical leadership skill in navigating today's business environment."

18%



"Opportunities created by economic or political shifts outweigh the risks for my sector."

3%

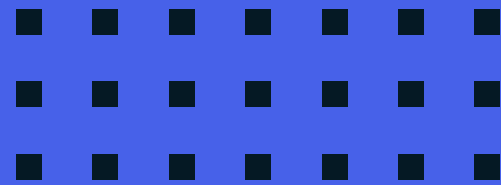


"The current UK economic climate supports business growth and investment."

1%



HOW CAN WE HELP?



We get that hiring the right finance talent fast matters - that's why our flexible, outcome-focused approach is built around you.

Here's a few options of how we could work for you:

Contingency recruitment

A fast shortlist of vetted candidates who've completed our in-house online accountancy tests and have been met with face-to-face - ensuring both a strong technical and personality fit for your business.

Try before you buy recruitment

Temp-to-perm with discounted fees - a sure way to ensure a successful transition of talent into your team, whilst assessing the business needs for additional headcount.

Retained recruitment

Not limited to a dedicated recruitment plan, exclusive candidates and a full 13-week 100% rebate (a 100% placement record to date).

Split payment recruitment

Alternative option to spread your recruitment costs over 3 months.

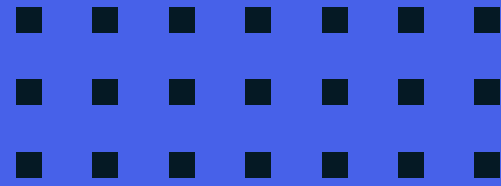
Subscription recruitment

One upfront discounted fee for multiple planned hires in a 12 month period, enabling you to budget accordingly.

We specialise in strategic roles
- from CFOs and Finance Directors to qualified accountants and contract staff - covering permanent, interim, and temp positions. And the best bit? We aim to have your vacancy filled with top candidates in **just 14 days** (industry average is 28+).



LETS GET STARTED



Here's how we can help you hit the ground running:

Free market snapshot

See who's hiring right now and what top talent really wants in your industry.

Request info



Salary benchmark report

Get custom data on current pay trends for your key roles.

Request report



Interview-ready talent

We'll send you 2-3 vetted profiles for your next strategic hire.

Register a vacancy





Ready to take the next step? Let's talk.

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