

## June 2010

There has been some improvement in the labour market in recently although some sources expect unemployment to rise over the coming months. This improvement has been on a regional basis with London and the south east seeing increasing vacancies being advertised. Recovery is not yet apparent in Scotland, Wales, or the West Midlands, as these areas have a high proportion of public sector workers.

What does this mean to the young person looking to find their first job? Firstly do not do anything to rule yourself out of getting a job. For example many employers will not tolerate anyone who misuses drugs or alcohol. A statement from Network Rail is typical of employer's stance on this matter. "There is absolutely no tolerance of drug abuse within Network Rail. Regular random tests are carried out for drug use. If you do not think you can stick to these rules do not apply to Network Rail"

Do your research. When you get into an interview for a job, employers like to see that you know something about them and what they do. Most medium and large sized employers have information about themselves on the internet; this would be a good place to start.

A job interview is not a fashion parade, dress smartly but conservatively as it shows that you are taking the interview seriously.

## JCB

Staffordshire based JCB makers of heavy machinery are to create 200 new jobs. JCB is one of the firms that laid off workers at the start of the recession and is now reemploying some of its former workers.



## Engineers Wanted.

Inventor Sir James Dyson is to add 350 new engineers to his research and development department, taking his engineering staff to 700. The new engineers will come from university graduates and skilled engineers from industry. The company will be looking for people with expertise in design engineering, mechanical engineering, and acoustic engineering. Dyson moved the manufacturing side of the business to the Far East a few years ago while the research and development side stayed in the UK.

This is an example of where the less skilled jobs have been lost to lower wage economies while higher level jobs in engineering are still needed in the UK.

## 1937 Advert

*Married couple wanted as cook general servant, and gardener handyman. Good references essential.*

## Supermarket Expansion.

Following a ten per cent rise in profits last year supermarket giant Tesco have announced that they are to create 9000 new jobs this year in the UK. These jobs will be in stores, call centres, warehouses, and distribution centres. Tesco now employs 460,000 people in 14 countries.



## Lord Digby Jones.

Many of the younger readers of LMI News may not be aware of who Lord Digby Jones is. He has been Director of the Confederation of British Industry and non political Minister of State for UK Trade and Investment, as well as many other roles he has undertaken in his working life. He is a trusted advisor to the Government.

The point of bringing Lord Jones to your attention is that he has suggested to the Government that unemployment benefit should be more like the American Welfare Scheme. Putting this simply means that people should work for their benefit payments doing tasks like collecting rubbish from streets .Now while we expect that 99.9 per cent of people at present in education will want to work, there could be a few who are looking for the state to provide for them. For the state read everyone who is working. The new Government is starting to look at ways to encourage people off the benefits system and into work. As you will know there are not enough jobs to go round at present, but if there is work available people must be prepared to accept it or not claim benefit payments.

## Unemployment Figures.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that unemployment in the UK stood at 8 per cent or 2.51 million at the end of March. The areas with the highest unemployment rates in the country were; Birmingham Ladywood 11.3%, Birmingham Hodge Hill 10.6%, Hull 9.2%, and Birmingham Erdington 9.2%. The ONS figures also show that unemployment among 16 to 24 year olds was 941,000 or one in five of the age group. Or looking at this the other way four out of five were employed.

John Philpot of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development said "There's nothing to suggest we're going to get a return to full employment anytime soon."

## .....to all those looking to start work this year and next year.

The above unemployment information has not been put in to discourage you, but to give you a realistic idea of the present situation. There will be jobs available both this year and next year, but probably not enough for all those who want them. People starting work at 16, 17, or 18 should be willing to start work under the Government schemes. Certainly try for a "normal" job, but mentally prepare yourself to start on a scheme if necessary. This route can lead to full time employment and gives you experience of work which makes finding a job easier.

## 1965 Advert

*Student apprenticeships. The scheme is open to boys 16 to 17 years of age who have at least 4 GCE O level passes including maths and a science subject. Apprentices will be based in the company drawing office and will study for ONC and HNC in Mechanical Engineering. Albright and Wilson, Oldbury.*

## **Employer Comments**

*These are comments made by local employers regarding young people and the labour market.*

### **Hotel**

We seem to find it difficult to get receptionists, they do not like to work the shift hours. We want people who can get on with the public and are honest; the minimum age we would take anyone is 18.

### **Supermarket**

We like to see some enthusiasm for the job. We look at school attendance, honesty and timekeeping. We advertise our vacancies on a board in the store.

### **Engineers**

We look for common sense and a willingness to learn when we employ trainee technicians. We ask for grades A B or C in maths, science and two others at GCSE level.

### **Large National Hairdressers.**

We only take 16 and 17 year olds and we train them ourselves.



### **Supermarket**

For our management training scheme we only take graduates as there are so many about these days, we no longer take people with A levels. The other route is for the people we take on at 16 or 17, if they show the right attitude and ability they can still make it to the top. I am the personnel manager and I started at 16.

### **Computer Store.**

We look for people who can talk to the customers and get on with them. We can teach them all they need to know about computers and the other products. People have two interviews and we check on their background for honesty.

### **Hotel**

We are interested in people's personality and their attitude towards work and the other members of staff. We employ people from abroad on one year contracts as many of them have a good attitude towards hotel work.

### **Garage**

When recruiting trainee motor mechanics I look for a willingness to learn and a certain physical strength as there some heavy parts to lift. Some knowledge of computers is helpful as mechanics now use them and cars are full of computers.



### **Travel agents**

I would advise anyone wanting to work in a travel agency to start work at 16 under an apprenticeship. The most important thing we look for is the right personality.

### **Engineers**

We have found that the apprentices we have taken on have been very good and have worked out well. Many of our managers started out as apprentices.

### **Case Study- Ann**

While still at school Ann went on work experience in an office and enjoyed it. On leaving school Ann had not found an office job and went to her local Connexions office which put her in touch with a training provider in the centre of Birmingham specialising in office work. The training provider found Ann a place in a solicitor's office working as a receptionist. After three months the firm were so impressed with Ann that they gave her a full time job and allowed her to continue with her NVQ in Business with the training provider. Ann enjoys her work and intends to become a legal secretary or legal executive.

### **Land Rover.**

Land Rover in Solihull are to take on an extra 275 agency workers following improved sales in recent months. Agency workers are a convenient way for a company like Land Rover to increase staff for what may turn out to be only a short time.

### **Birmingham City University**

Birmingham City University is to lose 50 jobs due to cut backs in the number of students it can take and a change in the demand for courses. The faculty of Technology Engineering and the Environment will be affected. This department runs courses in architecture, town planning, motor sport technology, and digital media production.

### **1965 Advert.**

*Office junior, smart girl required for sales office. Must be smart in appearance. 5 day week 9 to 5.15. Slumberland, Redfern Road, Tyseley.*

### **College Cuts**

Birmingham colleges will cut dozens of courses and more than 200 teaching jobs by September due to having £10 million taken from their budgets.

### **New Recruitment Agency.**

The Quinage Group is to open a recruitment agency in Solihull for property specialists. They will provide sales negotiators and sales managers for the improving housing market

### **More Than One Way.....**

Would be journalists might like to know of a way of training for this job that they may be unaware of. The NCGT (National Council for the Training of Journalists) runs 17 week training courses. The courses are held in the Press Association office in London, or at the Newcastle Chronicle offices in Newcastle upon Tyne. Everyone who has completed this course over the last fourteen years has gained a job as a reporter. The course costs £3995 and more details can be found at; [www.becomeareporter.co.uk](http://www.becomeareporter.co.uk)

### **University Closures.**

The Director General of the CBI (Confederation of British Industries) has suggested that poorly performing universities be shut down. This would save money at a time the Government is looking to cut costs. Many people think that the country is producing too many graduates and that degrees from some universities devalue degrees from the better ones.

### **1965 Advert.**

*Office junior, suit school leaver, in professional city office. £4 a week.*