

Graduate salaries stall but Brexit creates more jobs

Rosemary Bennett Education Editor

There will be more jobs for those graduating from university this summer than at any time in the past decade despite the uncertainty over Brexit, according to an annual survey of the 100 top employers in Britain.

Between them the companies plan to hire a total of 22,181 graduates this year, a 9.1 per cent increase over last year and the biggest year-on-year rise in graduate recruitment since 2010.

The civil service and other public sector employers are among those leading the jobs bonanza, along with accounting and professional services firms and engineering and industrial companies.

However, graduate starting salaries have stalled, remaining unchanged for the fifth consecutive year at a median of £30,000.

At least a sixth of the places on the top graduate programmes now provide starting salaries of more than £40,000. Among the highest are the law firms Linklaters, with £47,000; White & Case, offering £46,000; and Baker McKenzie, Allen & Overy, Freshfields Bruckhaus

Deringer and Hogan Lovells, all offering £45,000. Also high in the salary rankings are the consultants Newton and the technology company TPP, both with £45,000, and the supermarket chain Aldi with £44,000.

Martin Birchall, author of *The Graduate Market in 2019*, which conducts the annual study, said that Brexit was boosting job numbers in some sectors. "The top accounting and professional services firms are busier than ever, in part because of Brexit and the demand for expert guidance, advice and support to clients in uncertain times," he said.

"Other employers in key sectors like engineering and industry are long-term recruiters who invest in graduates every year because it takes three to five years to train them up before they can take on their first significant technical or management roles. These employers have increased their graduate intake two years running."

The public sector jobs boom was continuing, he said, with big growth in recruitment for the NHS graduate management training scheme and more places at Teach First, Frontline and Police Now, as well as at MI5.