



**In this issue:**

Sterling perks up | Gov't launches new Cyber Security Export Strategy | Contract vacancies take a tumble | Unemployment unexpectedly falls

## Facebook, GDPR & the cyber-security challenge

With GDPR looming on the horizon, Facebook probed by a US watchdog amidst its latest privacy storm and the UK Gov't launching a Cyber Security Export Strategy in response to finding itself in conflict with Russia - data security should be firmly placed at the top of every agenda. Yet many SMEs do not recognise the urgency of cyber security until an incident occurs, research suggests.

*Wishing you all a very Happy Easter from the Team at ETS*

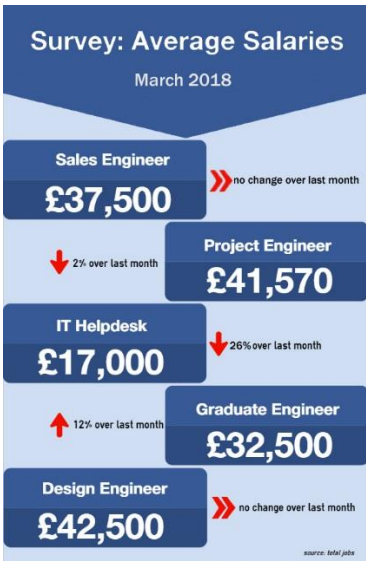


**UK launches Cyber Security Export Strategy**

The UK government is responding to finding itself in conflict with Russia by flaunting its cyber-skills and promoting exports to its allies with a new cyber security export strategy.

The intent is to help local SMEs win contracts abroad, however its reception has raised scepticism due to the lack of details within the strategy.

[Download here](#)



## Sterling is feeling a good bit perkier of late

Sterling's post-EU referendum slide has been a mixed blessing for UK manufacturers. Following a 32-months run of deflation, manufacturers have notched up twenty straight months of rising prices. The exchange-rate effect has now largely washed through. Indeed, last month's 3.4% year on year rise was the weakest in the series - a far cry from the 20% surge at the start of 2017. Factory gate inflation is waning and the price increases of manufactured goods is slowing.

[Find out more](#)

## Gov't urges tech companies to improve & simplify data policies

The UK Government has urged technology companies to simplify their data management policies for consumers, amid the data thunderstorm Facebook has been hit with. [Read more](#)

## Growth in world energy demand doubled in 2017 says IEA

Boosted by strong economic growth, China and India accounted for over 40 per cent of last year's rise in demand, 72 per cent of which was met by oil, gas and coal. Renewables contributed 25 per cent and the remainder was supplied by nuclear power.

[Find out more](#)

## Permanent placements up 10% in Feb, but contract vacancies tumble

Here are some other key statistics -

- # Permanent placements within finance increased by 24% over the 12-month period.
- # Vacancies within engineering fell by 6%
- # Vacancies within IT fell by 7%
- # The overall number of contractors out on assignment dipped by 17%
- # Median salaries across all professional sectors fell by 2% year-on-year, with IT and engineering recording uplifts of 4.1% and 3.8% respectively

[Read the full report](#)

## Largest recruitment drive in Openreach history

The Chancellor of the Exchequer welcomes boost to Britain's digital economy with largest recruitment drive in Openreach history.

[Read more](#)

## News In Brief

We know that the UK needs to develop more home-grown engineering talent, but can project-based learning help fill the skills gap?

[Read more](#)

Unemployment in the UK unexpectedly falls to just 4.3%, down from 4.4%, between November and January, according to new data released by the Office for National Statistics.

[Read more](#)

## Restricting migration after Brexit likely to slow growth

Restricting migration into Britain will very likely lead to lower output and employment growth, an interim report commissioned by the British government, warning that firms were not prepared for a tightening labour market.

The report was ordered by the government last year to help it design a post-Brexit immigration system, with the independent advisory body asked to assess the impact on the labour market of leaving the European Union.

The final report is due to be published in September.

[Read more](#)

## Book Corner

One of the most important & influential books written in the past half-century, Robert M. Pirsig's **Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance** is a powerfully moving & penetrating examination of how we live, a breathtaking meditation on how to live better. Both personal and philosophical, this book is a compelling study of relationships, values, madness and, eventually, enlightenment.

