

Positive sign as job placements rise 14pc

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THE Irish recruitment market showed growth in September as the number of people placed in jobs rose by 14pc over August, a survey by recruitment specialist Sigmar claimed yesterday.

Accountancy and finance recruits headed the placements, jumping 35pc, while engineering recruits were also up a healthy 22pc.

September has been the best month of the year so far in terms of candidate placement performance, Sigmar said.

Associate director Rob MacGiolla Phadraig said the company is "most certainly seeing a renewed vigour and cautious return to confidence in the sector".

He said that while it is generally true that there tends to be a seasonal effect on supply and demand, with employers and job seekers returning from holidays in September, these trends were not observed last year, when the decline was such that all trends became obsolete.

"Returning to previous growth patterns established during the boom years is a positive sign for the recovery of the economy," he added.

Moratorium

Mr MacGiolla Phadraig believes that after more than a year of redundancies and lay-offs, during which time many organisations placed moratoriums on employment, companies are now starting to see essential skills gaps in their business.

"This, in turn, is creating demand for anonymous search assignments, taking the sensitivity of previous lay-offs into account.

He said that while 58pc of candidates placed in September were already working, these placements create a "knock-on effect".

However, he did caution that "many employers initially redeploy resources internally to back-fill these positions, where the added workload on remaining employees is usually not sustainable.

"This cycle is more evident with increased workload due to increased competition and reduced fees in most sectors."

- PAT BOYLE

