

February Business Health News from Company Pulse

P - People + Processes

Permanent job placements increase 10 per cent as contractor numbers fall

People Management 27 February 2018

The Association of Professional Staffing Companies and Staffing Industry Analysts' Professional recruitment trends report finds a 'clear split' in demand for professionals across sectors, with financial services leading the way.

Read more: <https://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/news/articles/job-placements-increase-contractors-fall>

Wage growth accelerates

EEF 22 February 2018

ONS figures for the three months to December show an annual nominal increase of 2.5% for regular pay in the whole economy and a 2.7% increase for the manufacturing sector. These are the highest increases since December and August 2016 respectively.

Read more: <https://www.eef.org.uk/campaigning/news-blogs-and-publications/blogs/2018/feb/wage-growth-accelerates>

More selfies? UK self-employment continues to rise

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development 1 February 2018

A new CIPD megatrends report, "More Selfies? Self-Employment in the UK", has revealed a significant recent rise in the proportion of UK individuals working for themselves, with 1 in 7 UK workers now self-employed.

Read more: <https://www.cipd.co.uk/news-views/news-articles/uk-self-employment-rise>

U - Utilisations + Outcomes

Services sector sees strong growth at start to year

Confederation of British Industry 26 February 2018

Business volumes in the services sector grew strongly in the three months to February, with both business/professional services and consumer services firms seeing a rise in profits for the first time since November 2015, according to the latest quarterly CBI Services Sector Survey.

Read more: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/services-sector-sees-strong-growth-at-start-to-year/>

Manufacturing output growth remains robust in three months to February

Confederation of British Industry 20 February 2018

Manufacturing order books and export order books remained well above their long run average, according to the latest monthly CBI Industrial Trends Survey.

Read more: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/manufacturing-output-growth-remains-robust-in-three-months-to-february/>

Activity growth softens in January amid subdued inflows of new work

Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply 5 February 2018

January IHS Markit / CIPS UK Services PMI® data pointed to a slowdown in growth of services activity across the UK, which stemmed from relatively weak gains in new work. Job creation nonetheless picked up as companies retained positive expectations surrounding the outlook.

Read more: <https://www.cips.org/en-gb/news/news/activity-growth-softens-in-january-amid-subdued-inflows-of-new-work/>

L - Logistics + Infrastructure

Firms failing to learn from cyber attacks

Computer Weekly 28 February 2018

Organisations are failing to learn from cyber attacks, and lax security practices are leaving organisations worldwide open to damaging cyber attacks, a report reveals.

Read more: <http://www.computerweekly.com/news/252435869/Firms-failing-to-learn-from-cyber-attacks>

Automation: Beyond the factory floor

The Manufacturer 21 February 2018

Automation is not just about robot welders. Helen Saunders discusses the current and future stages of business automation away from the production line.

Read more: <https://www.themanufacturer.com/articles/automation-beyond-factory-floor/>

Gardening leave: why are offices turning into botanical spaces?

Guardian Small Business Network 19 February 2018

Amazon has built treehouses in its offices and Microsoft employees work in the woods.

Companies reveal why they are using plants to boost productivity.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/small-business-network/2018/feb/19/gardening-leave-why-are-offices-turning-into-botanical-spaces>

S - Strategy + Finance

Overall demand for finance remains weak among small businesses

British Business Bank 20 February 2018

BBB's 2018 Small Business Finance Markets report reveals that equity and alternative finance demonstrate strong growth while bank lending volumes remain relatively flat.

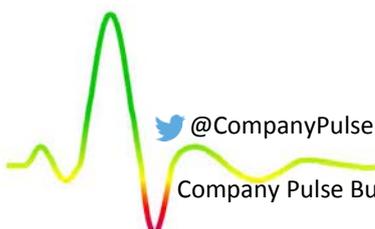
Read more: <https://british-business-bank.co.uk/latest-british-business-bank-research-reveals-equity-alternative-finance-growing-strongly-overall-demand-finance-remains-weak-among-small-businesses/>

Small firms urge tax reform as they lose £5,000 and 15 working days a year to compliance

Federation of Small Businesses 19 February 2018

Taxing Times, a report from the FSB, highlights the many hurdles small businesses face when trying to pay taxes. Almost half say determining the tax rates at which they're required to pay is a challenge. Four in ten find exemptions confusing.

Read more: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/small-firms-urge-tax-reform-as-they-lose-5-000-and-15-working-days-a-year-to-compliance>



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Prospects for the UK economy

National Institute of Economic and Social Research 7 February 2018

The economy has strengthened in the second half of 2017. Activity has been supported by the weaker exchange rate and by a buoyant global economy. These two factors have helped rebalance the UK economy away from domestic growth and towards net trade.

Read more: <https://www.niesr.ac.uk/media/press-release-prospects-uk-economy-13236>

E - Ethos + Relationships

Businesses and public 'strongly support' keeping EU workers' rights after Brexit

People Management 26 February 2018

Brits are strongly in favour of retaining EU employment laws and regulations after the UK leaves the European Union, according to a new survey, conducted on behalf of the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Read more: <https://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/news/articles/businesses-public-support-eu-workers-rights-brexit>

Creating new business models with consumer behaviour data

The Manufacturer 23 February 2018

Supply chain director for snack company graze talks about how a new way of dealing with data has helped the company to create a disruptive and unique business model.

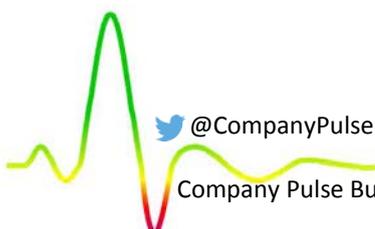
Read more: <https://www.themanufacturer.com/articles/creating-new-business-models-with-consumer-behaviour-data/>

Report calls for employers to understand health and safety risks of modern work

People Management 22 February 2018

A new report by the British Safety Council has examined the health and safety risks of the future workplace, urging employers to assess and improve their and their employees' understanding of the dangers of new technologies and the future skills required for work.

Read more: <https://www.peoplemanagement.co.uk/news/articles/employers-understand-health-safety-risks-modern-work>



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