

Green jobs and skills: London context

Jeff Dwan-O'Reilly, Economist, GLA

LSIP refresh, 24 November 2025

Green skills remains a cross-cutting priority for London

Local Skills Improvement Plan (2023)

- Construction / Built Environment
- Creative Industries
- Hospitality
- Health and Social care

Cross-cutting themes:

- Digital skills
- **Green skills**
- Transferable skills
- Inclusivity

London Growth Plan (2025)

- Creative Industries and Technologies
- Financial, Professional and Business Services
- Experience Economy (e.g., Hospitality and Retail)
- **Frontier Innovation** (e.g., Life Sciences, AI, **Climate Tech**)
- International Education

UK Industrial Strategy (2025)

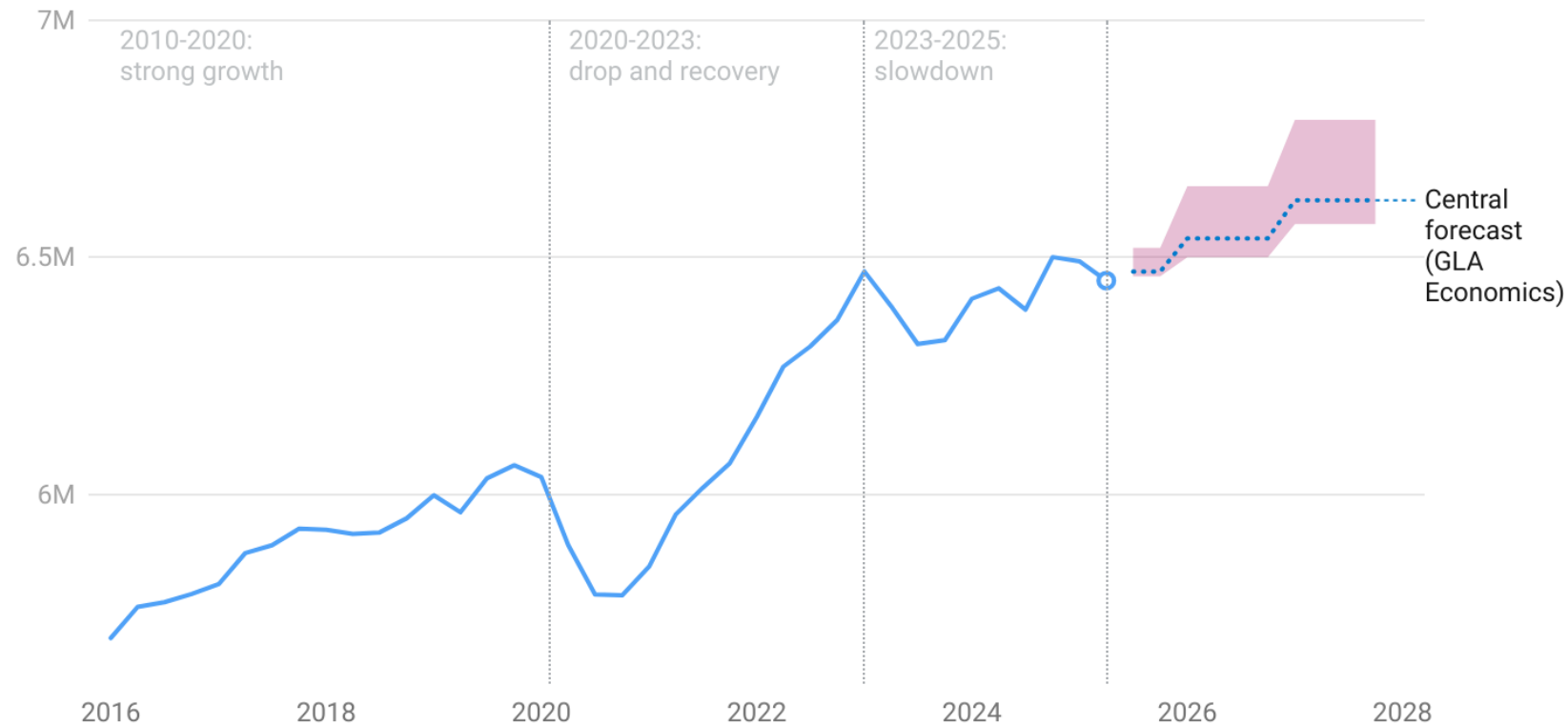
- Advanced Manufacturing
- **Clean Energy Industries**
- Creative Industries
- Defence
- Digital and Technologies
- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Professional and Business Services



Jobs growth in London has stalled after a strong post-pandemic recovery but is forecast to pick up again

Total jobs, actual and forecast

London, total workforce jobs, Q1 2010–Q2 2025 (actual), 2025–2027 (forecast)

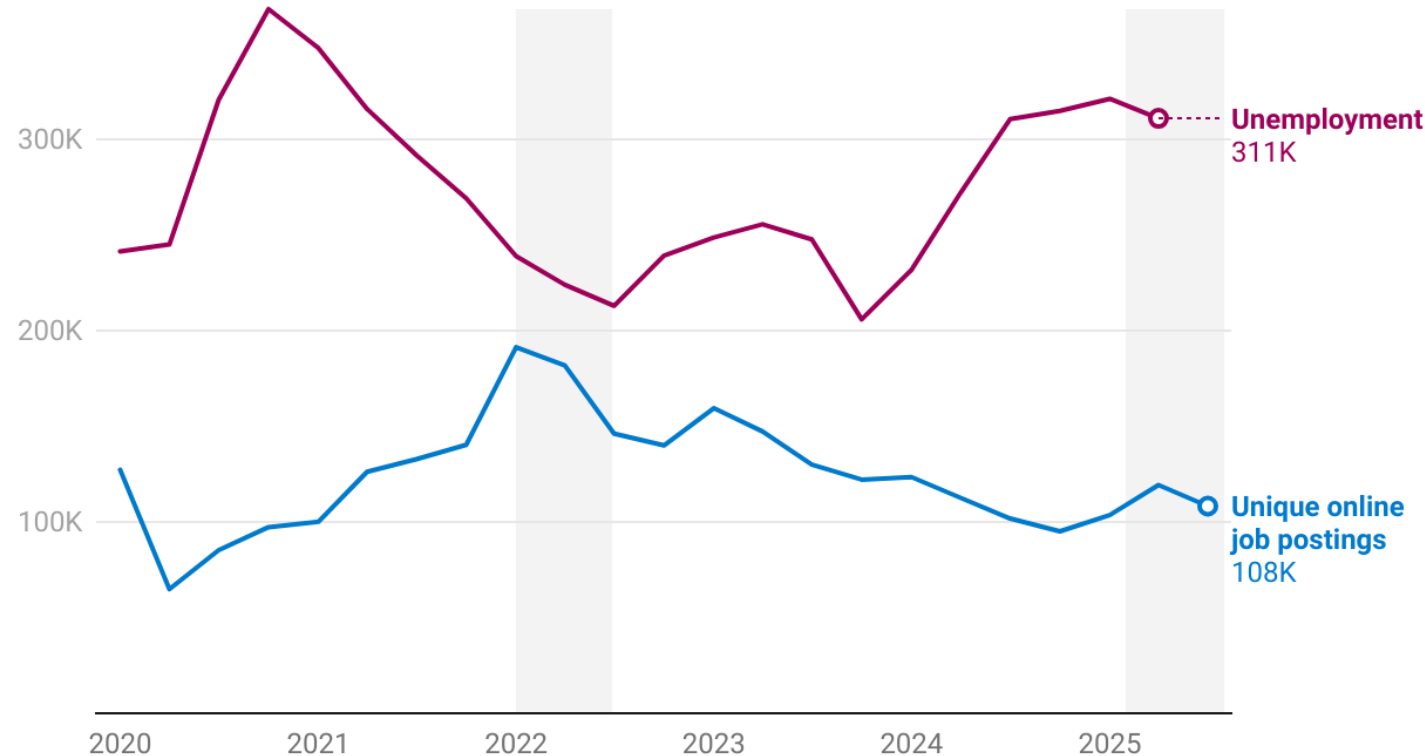


- Around 6.5m jobs today in London
- Up from 6.0m in Q1 2020; forecast to reach 6.6-6.7m in 2027
- Slower growth of late

Yet there are short-term pressures: fewer hires, more jobseekers

Monthly online job postings and unemployment levels

London, Q1 2020–Q3 2025 (three-month averages)

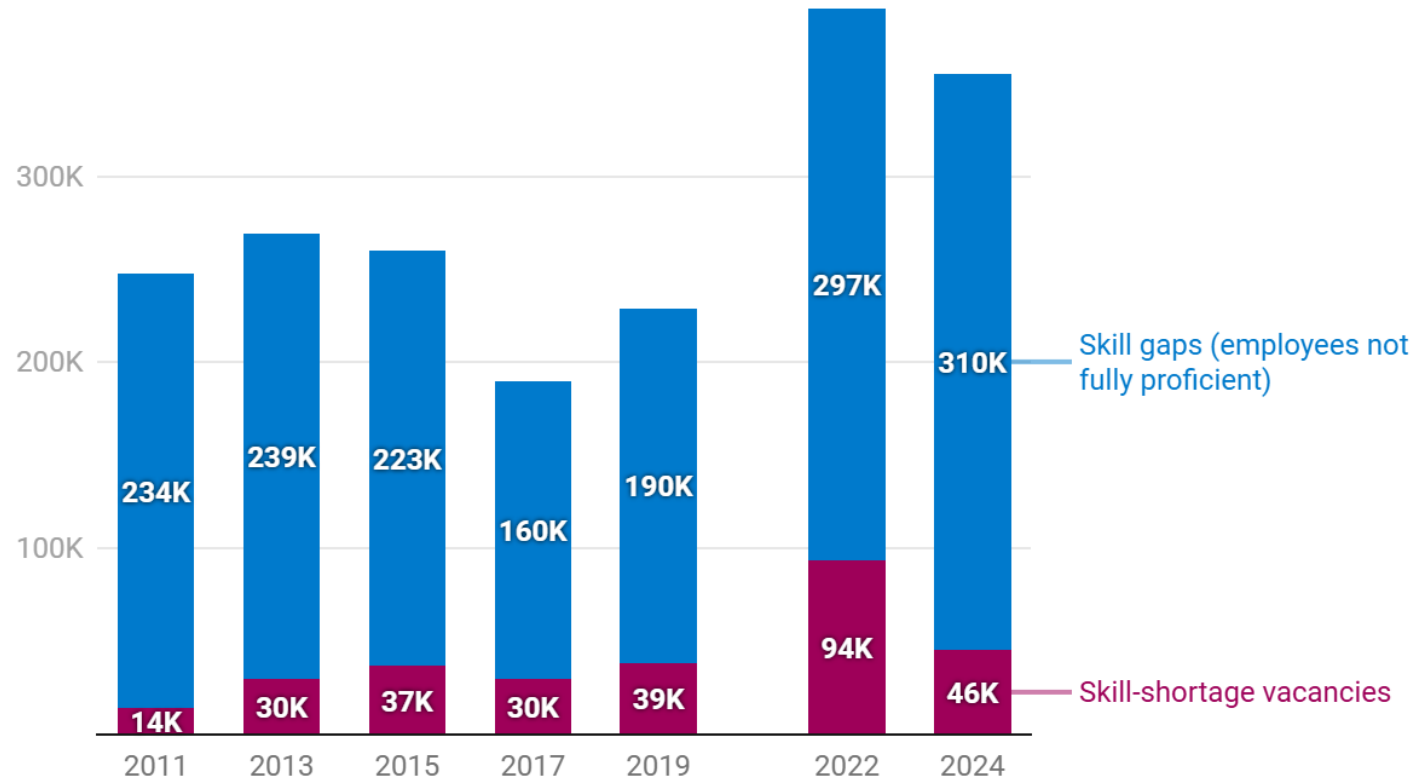


- Unemployment up to **311k** people (~5%)
- Hiring demand weaker
- Pay growth remains strong – but 1-in-6 resident employees earn below the London Living Wage**

A significant number of London employers continue to report skills-related challenges

Total number of 'skills challenges'

London, 2011-2024



Overall skills challenges have eased since 2022

Yet in 2024:

- **46k job vacancies were hard to fill due to skills shortages (24% of vacancies)**
- **310k employees were not fully proficient (6%)**

Looking ahead, wider **structural** and **policy** trends will shape employer demands and skills provision



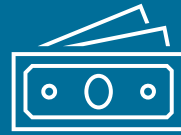
Ongoing population change –

replenishing an aging workforce and increased demand for health and care



Technological change: AI, quantum & digital –

reshaping job content, demand and discovery opportunities



Employer confidence & costs –

fragile business environment and uncertainty hamper strategic investment



Skills system reforms –

changing funding and provision



Immigration rules –

tighter access to workers, especially in lower-paid roles

Analysing job postings to understand London's demand for green jobs and skills

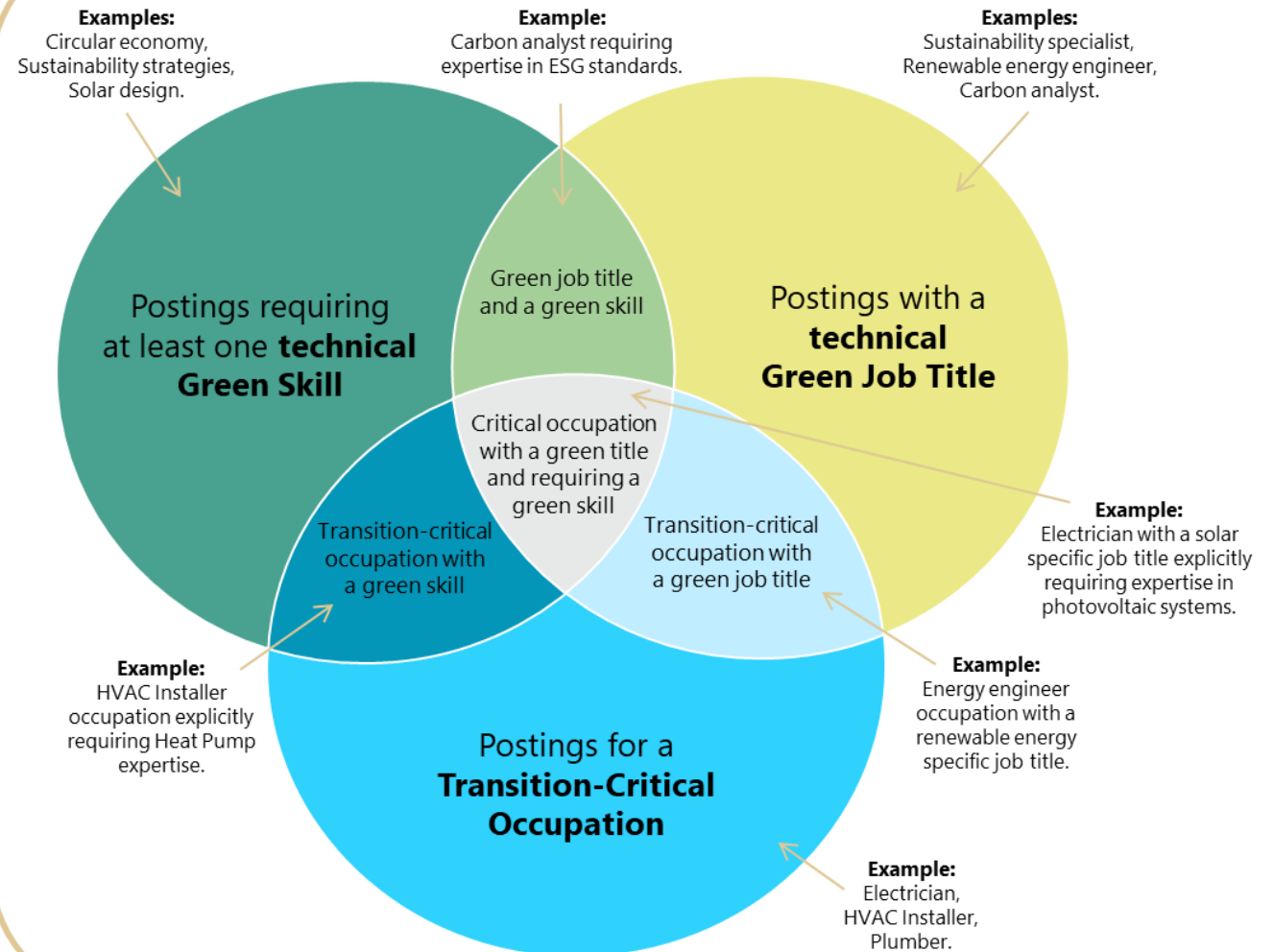
Approach – identify using:

- (1) technical green skills,
- (2) technical green job titles,
- (3) broader transition-critical occupations

Benefits:

- Captures transitioning roles.
- Better captures the importance of skilled trades to decarbonisation.

Green job postings classification methodology (experimental)

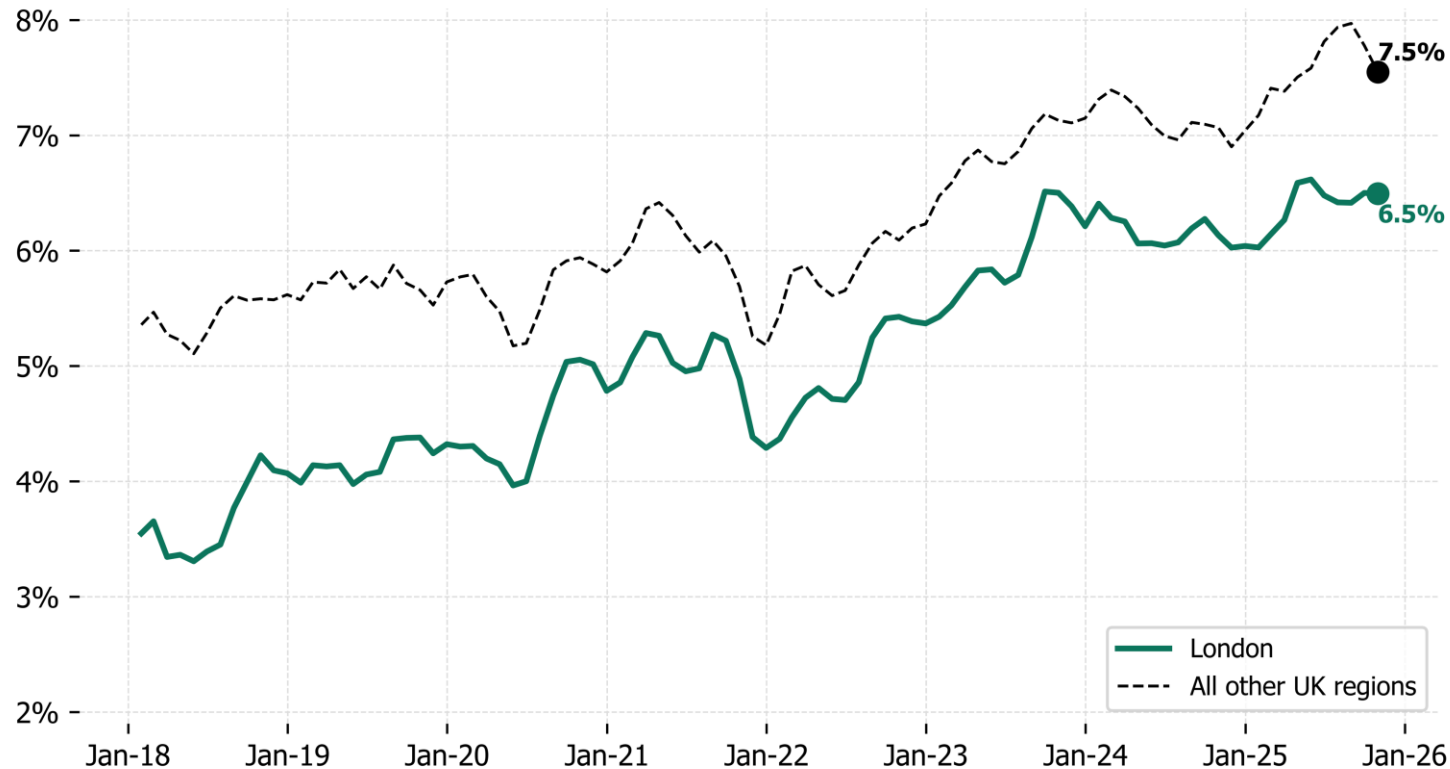


Note: GLA Economics green skill and job title definitions are **experimental** and are constantly being refined to reflect the evolving nature of the sector.

Green-related expertise is steadily growing in importance in the eyes of employers

Share of total job postings classified as green over time

London | Monthly | Jan 2018 - Oct 2025

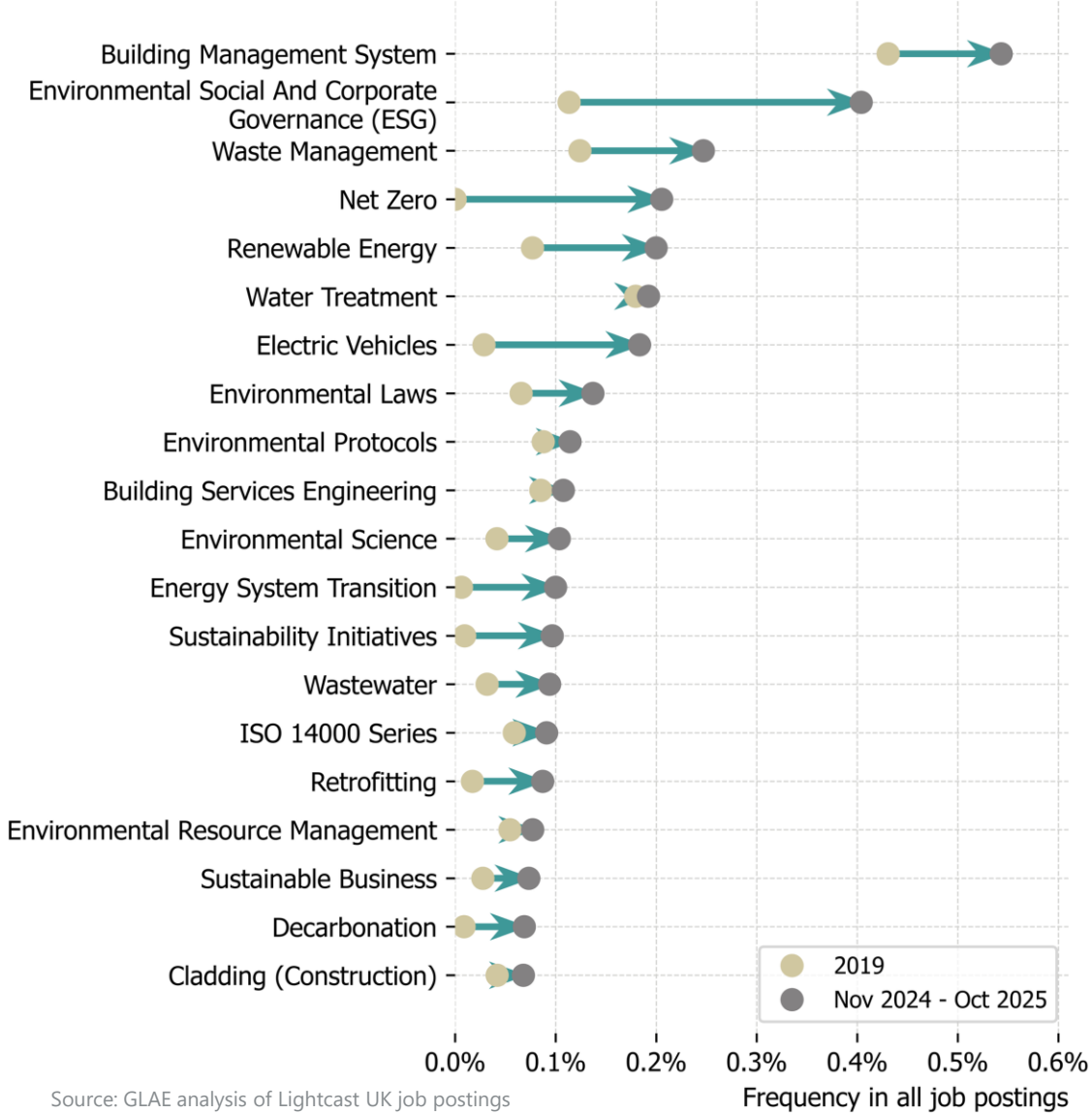


Source: GLAE analysis of Lightcast UK job postings

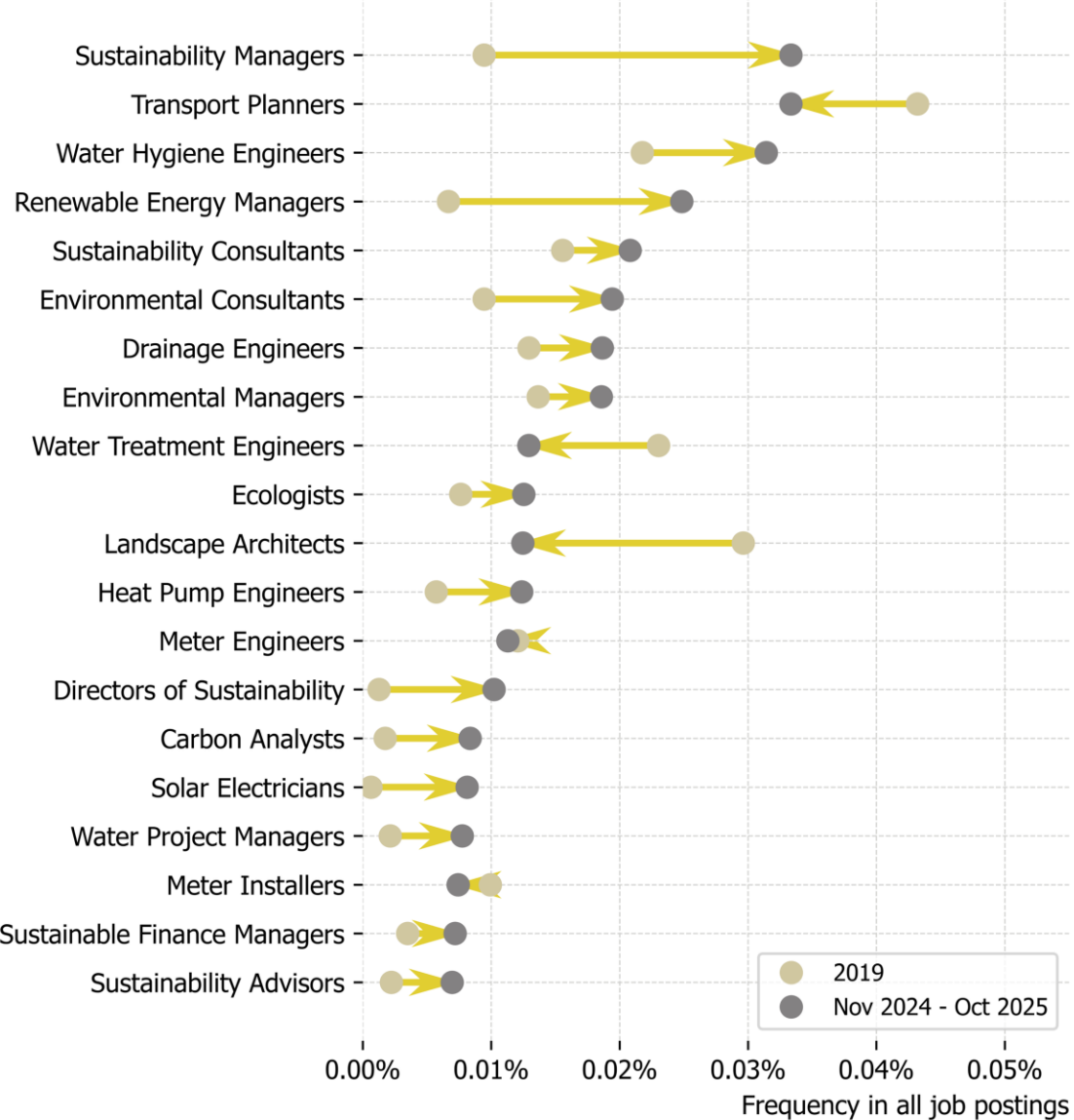
- Green job postings accounted for **6.5% of London's total** in October 2025.
- **2.3 percentage point increase** compared to the 4.2% in 2019.
- **Resilient demand**, even as the capital's wider labour market has cooled.
- Demand growth predominantly driven by **technical green skills**, indicative of a workforce **pivoting towards decarbonisation**.

What specific technical green skills and roles are most in demand?

Top green skills - prevalence change



Top green job titles - prevalence change



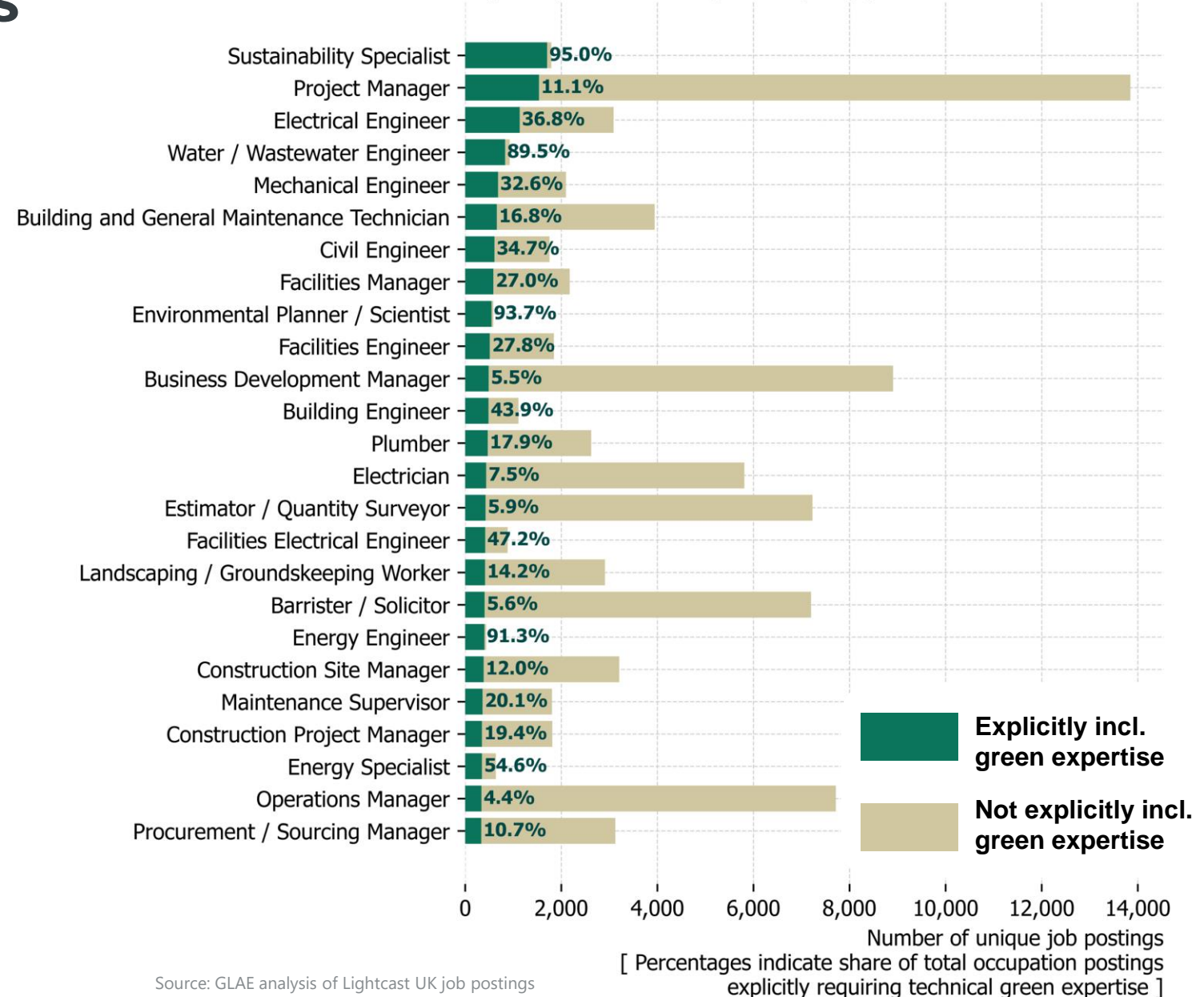
Source: GLAE analysis of Lightcast UK job postings

Demand for green skills is found across a wide spectrum of roles

- A transitioning workforce: **established occupations across the spectrum are steadily becoming greener.**
- Demand for green expertise is most prevalent among **environmental consultancy, engineering, utilities, and construction roles.**
- **More general roles** increasingly require green skills (*law, project manager, finance*).
- **Transition-critical** trades typically contain few explicit references to green, in part due to their nature.

Occupational demand for green expertise

Ranked by number of green job postings | London
Top 25 specialised occupations (LOT) | Nov 2024 - Oct 2025

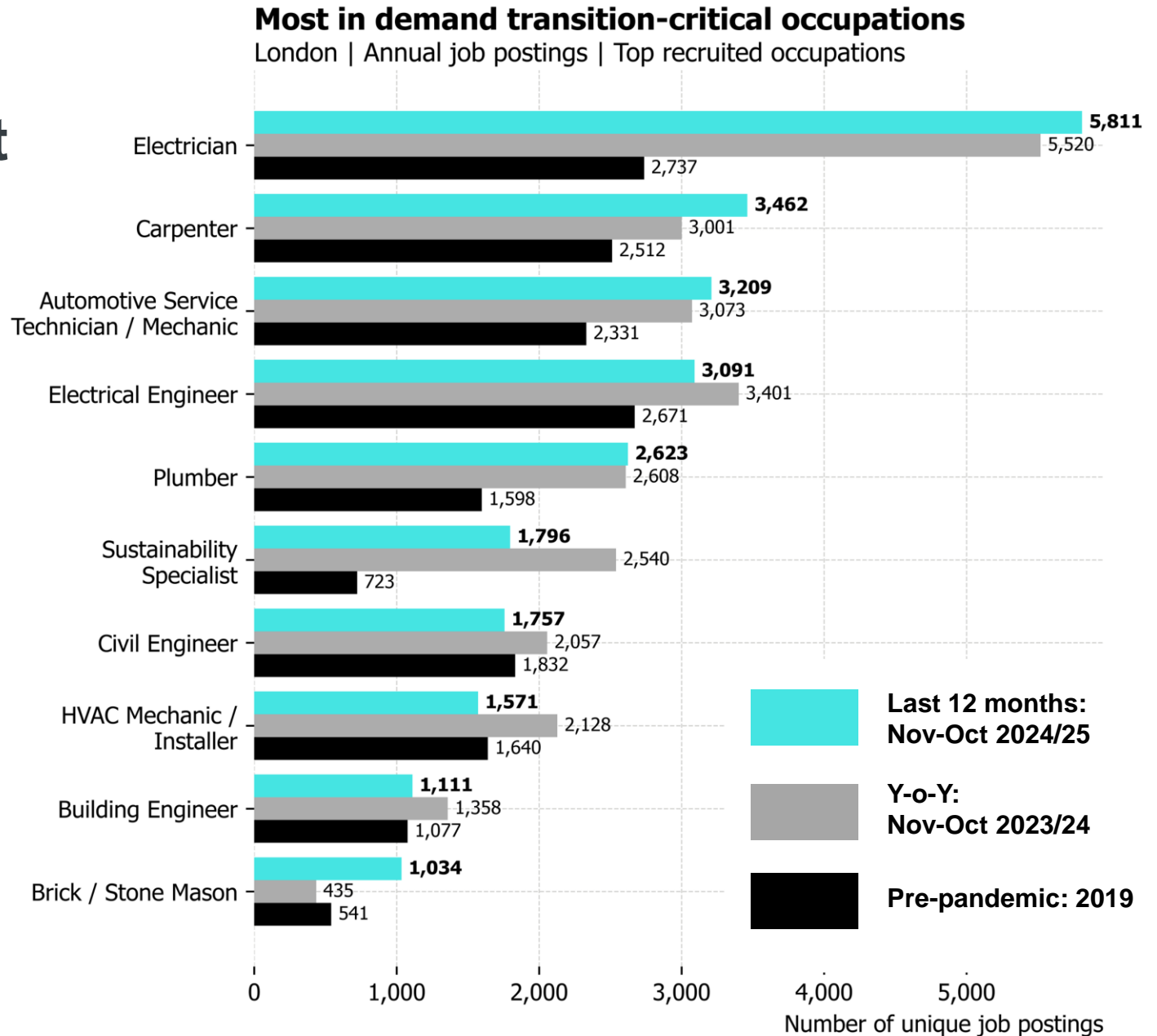


Source: GLAE analysis of Lightcast UK job postings

Transition-critical skilled trades among the highest in demand

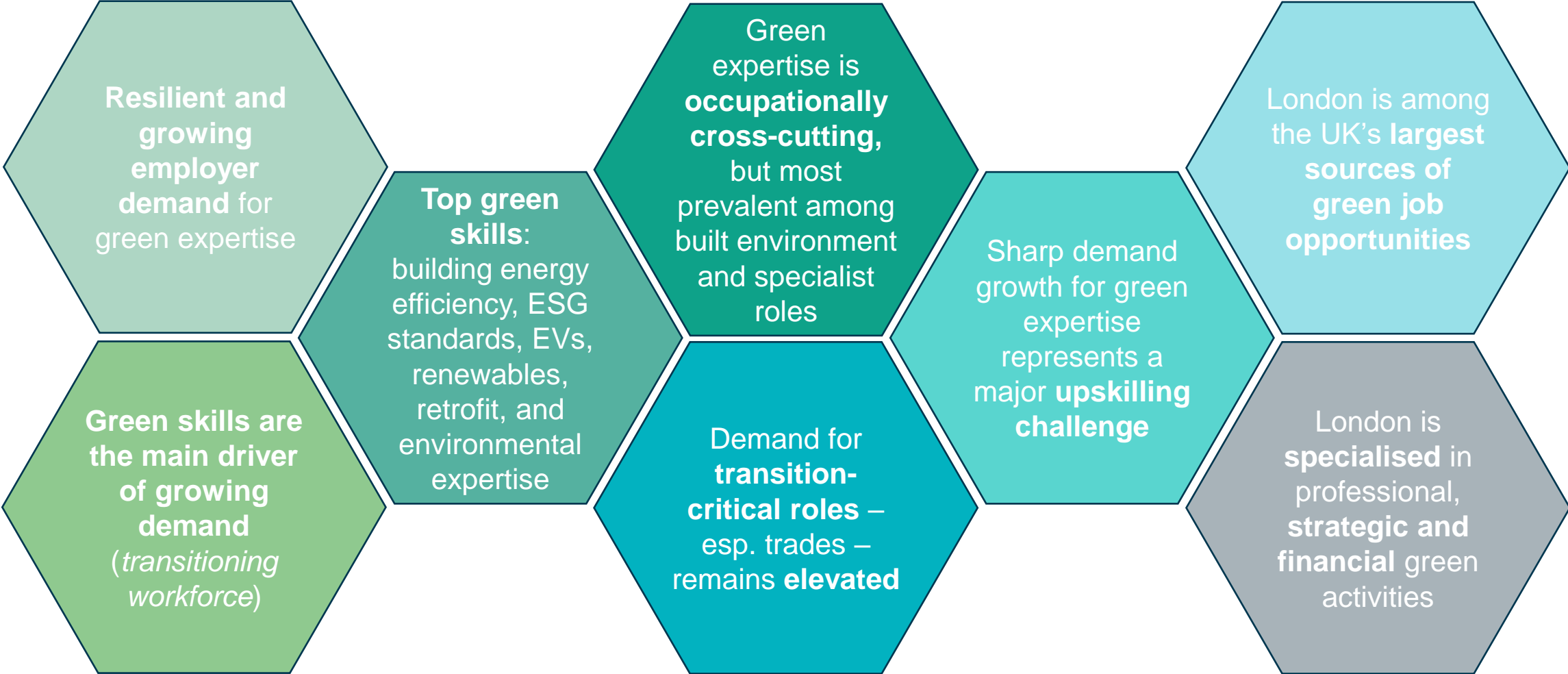
- **Skilled trades** are among the most essential to delivering London’s net zero goals – *electricians, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics*.
- **Demand** has grown strongly, despite wider labour market challenges and slow down.
- **Building and upskilling this workforce a challenge**

Note: Job postings may understate demand for many of these key skilled trade roles (or their green skill credentials), as they can often be recruited either in bulk or through other channels.



Source: GLAE analysis of Lightcast UK job postings

Key takeaways from analysis of online job postings





Full report:

[Green Job Postings in London](#) *(updated biannually – latest July 2025)*



Comments or questions?



jeff.oreilly@london.gov.uk