

CIRCULAR JOBS BULLETIN

2021

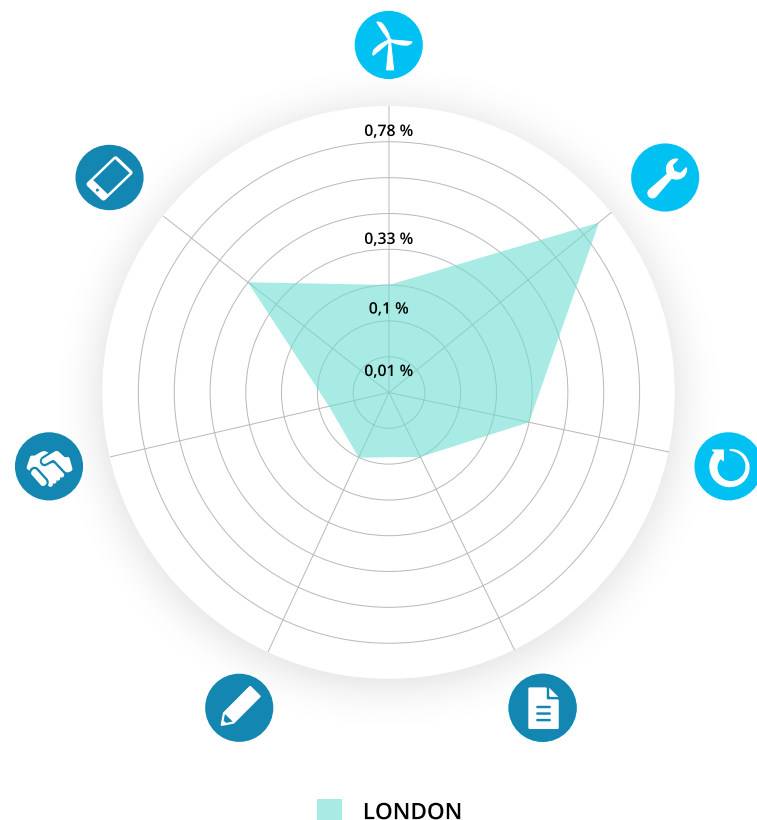


London

461,288 circular jobs

5,339,730 total jobs

8.6%



WHAT IS THE CIRCULAR JOBS MONITOR?

The workforce is a key lever for transformation towards the circular economy. But to tap into this potential, we need data and evidence. Which jobs are already contributing to the circular economy? Where are these jobs located? How are these jobs distributed across sectors and how are they related to circular strategies?

The [Circular Jobs Monitor](#) provides answers to these questions by gathering and displaying data on the number, range and location of jobs that are part of the circular economy in cities and other territories across the globe. This year we're excited to announce our latest update, a further expansion of our data—building on existing territories across Northern Europe and North America. The new update allows users to explore data on circular jobs for over 100 cities across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, thanks to our partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Who is it for?

The [Circular Jobs Monitor](#) provides policymakers, economists, labour organisations and social partners with insights into the relationship between the circular economy and the labour market. These insights can facilitate the design of evidence-based strategies for promoting the circular economy and required education pathways, and help form a benchmark for current circular activity against which to monitor future progress.

Policymakers can use this tool:

- As a starting point to define which sectors should be included in circular strategy development
- To monitor the progress of circular economy policies and their impact on the labour market, when data is updated regularly

Economists, labour organisations and social partners can use this tool to:

- Access data
- Understand the geographic distribution of circular jobs
- Attain a baseline for defining sectors for scenario modelling
- Align their efforts with the skills needs of different regions, industries and sectors

Tackling unemployment and other labour market issues is a high priority on political agendas across the world. Quantifying the circular economy in terms of its impact on jobs can strengthen the argument for businesses and governments to focus on circular economy activities.

How to interpret and use data on the Circular Jobs Monitor

The Circular Jobs Monitor displays the results of data analysed using the [Circular Jobs Methodology](#). This methodology was first developed with Rotterdam University and has since been updated by Circle Economy and UNEP. It classifies jobs as core circular, enabling circular or indirectly circular, by classifying economic sectors according to their activities and the [Key Elements Framework](#), and studying their interactions using Input Output Analysis.

For each territory that is covered by the monitor, an overall number of circular jobs are generated, also expressed as a percentage of the total. This total is also broken down by sector, circular economy strategies and across core, enabling and indirectly circular jobs. The monitor also allows you to explore how circular jobs are distributed across regions and provinces and can be fine-tuned down to the municipal level.

JOBS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular job is any occupation that directly involves or indirectly supports one of the [strategies of the circular economy](#). We differentiate between three types of circular jobs: core, enabling and indirectly circular jobs.

- **Core circular jobs** are all jobs that ensure the closure of raw material cycles, including jobs in repair, renewable energy, waste and resource management. They form the core of the circular economy.
- **Enabling circular jobs** are jobs that remove barriers for and enable the acceleration and upscaling of core circular activities, including jobs that arise in leasing, education, design and digital technology. They form the supporting shell of the circular economy.
- **Indirect circular jobs** are jobs that indirectly uphold the circular economy. These jobs occur in other sectors that do not play a direct role in furthering the transition to the circular economy but can still adopt circular strategies. They include jobs that provide services to core circular strategies, including jobs in information services, logistics and the public sector.

CORE CIRCULAR JOBS



PRIORITISE REGENERATIVE RESOURCES

Ensure renewable, reusable, non-toxic resources are utilised as materials and energy in an efficient way.

Agronomic advisors support healthy soil nourishment with organic fertiliser from composted manure and crop remnants. They combine strong interpersonal skills with ecological knowledge.



STRETCH THE LIFETIME

While resources are in-use, maintain, repair and upgrade them to maximise their lifetime and give them a second life through take back strategies when applicable.

Repair technicians repair appliances, machines or vehicles. They possess strong technical and manual skills which can be acquired through a formal and informal education and training.



USE WASTE AS A RESOURCE

Utilise waste streams as a source of secondary resources and recover waste for reuse and recycling.

Process operators sort waste for sellable products, for example to produce livestock feed made from waste flows. Although classed as practical-skill work, knowledge of the quality of incoming raw materials is crucial.

ENABLING CIRCULAR JOBS



DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Adopt a systemic perspective during the design process, to employ the right materials for appropriate lifetime and extended future use.

Circular equipment engineers design products to enable parts and resource recovery after the product's use phase. They excel in complex problem solving on a technical level designs for the future.



RETHINK THE BUSINESS MODEL

Consider opportunities to create greater value and align incentives through business models that build on the interaction between products and services.

Demand planners oversee supply and demand to make refurbishment a profitable business model. This role requires logical thinking and reasoning.



INCORPORATE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Track and optimise resource use and strengthen connections between supply-chain actors through digital, online platforms and technologies.

Building information managers maintain data on construction components so as to keep track of these physical assets. They understand how to integrate and interpret virtual information management systems.



TEAM UP TO CREATE JOINT VALUE

Work together throughout the supply chain, internally within the organisation and with the public sector to increase transparency and create shared value.

Procurement professionals stimulate the demand for secondary materials and discern and connect new suppliers in order to do so. This profile points to the need for entrepreneurial, interpersonal skills.



STRENGTHEN AND ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE

Develop research, structure knowledge, encourage innovation networks and disseminate findings with integrity.

Teachers transfer knowledge and skills to the current and future workforce so as to equip workers with skills for circular economy strategies.

INDIRECT CIRCULAR JOBS

Examples of indirectly circular jobs are:

- The **courier**, who uses and maintains a fleet of secondhand bikes to bring packages to and from consumers as part of a reverse logistics scheme;
- The **bank**, which uses repair services to maintain the electrical equipment used in its day to day operations;
- The **farmer**, who utilises renewable energy in the production of their agricultural products.

MEXICO CITY
MEXICO



8.6% (791,195)
circular jobs

of jobs in Mexico City currently contribute to the circular economy.

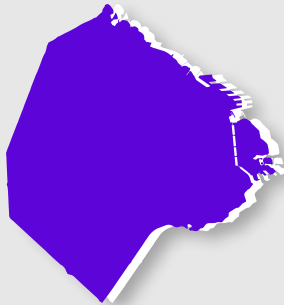
BASELINE

Mexico City has a strong culture of repairing and as such stretching the lifespan of both consumer and commercial goods. The city hosts 161,156 jobs related to motor vehicle and motorcycle repair alone, representing 6.9% of local jobs in the trade of goods and the reparation of vehicles.

SHIFT

The transition to a circular economy will shift jobs from retail to activities that help to sustain and preserve materials such as remanufacturing of machinery, preventative maintenance of vehicles and provision of products as a service (PaaS).

BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA



3.7% (121,303)
circular jobs

of jobs in Buenos Aires currently contribute to the circular economy.

One-third (41,822) of circular jobs in Buenos Aires are concentrated in the repair of consumer goods. This includes jobs involved in the repair of furniture, footwear and computers.

Circular jobs in the manufacturing sector could be increased by developing more business models related to prolonging the lifetime of products and services, such as in logistics, to support these activities.

ACCRA
GHANA



19.3% (296,206)
circular jobs

of jobs in Accra currently contribute to the circular economy.

Accra has a high share of circular jobs, which are mostly indirect circular jobs. There are 36,324 indirect jobs in the manufacturing sector, generated by the sector's use of renewable energy and second-hand products.

Further embracing circular economy strategies in the local construction sector could shift more jobs towards the recovery or tracking of demolition waste for reuse in other building projects or sectors.

ATHENS
GREECE



21.3% (1,009,803)
circular jobs

of jobs in Athens currently contribute to the circular economy.

Half of the circular jobs in Athens (500,264) are generated by core circular activities. 21.8% of jobs in Athen's energy sector are already considered circular due to their involvement in the production of renewable energy.

To boost direct circular jobs in renewable energy production even further, alongside indirect jobs in other sectors, Athens could upskill people and encourage its major sectors to use renewable energy to run their activities.

MUMBAI
INDIA



13.2% (640,686)
circular jobs

of jobs in Mumbai currently contribute to the circular economy.

Mumbai has a relatively high share of circular jobs. The city hosts a significant amount of repair activities, amounting to 205,909 circular jobs, next to 389,484 indirect circular jobs in sectors such as retail and manufacturing.

Mumbai could further boost its circular jobs by incorporating digital technologies in other sectors such as manufacturing, enabling the shift to smarter and more digitally-enabled sectors.

HELP US GROW AND IMPROVE THE MONITOR

The monitor currently provides data for several territories across Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Africa. We continually expand the Circular Jobs Monitor to include more territories across the globe on an ongoing basis, to increase data reliability and allow for deeper analyses. In the future, this will include accounting for employment in informal sectors, and observing trends in labour markets over time as a result of circular economy activities. To do so, we require both local collaborations and access to employment data.

Would you like to help us grow and improve the Circular Jobs Monitor? We welcome input, data and feedback on the usability and content of the Circular Jobs Monitor to ensure it grows to be an even more insightful tool for policymakers, economists, labour organisations and social partners working to advance the circular economy in their locality, industry or sector.

Different cities and regions are already helping the monitor grow by providing deeper insights into circular jobs in their local landscape. Sign up to our newsletter to receive news on upcoming data releases, including for Northern Ireland and Switzerland.

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