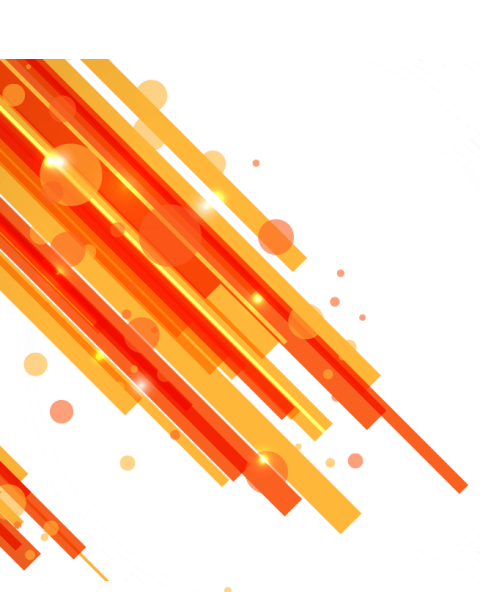# DATA SCIENCE IN THE UK

SALARY SURVEY & POST COVID-19 IMPACT

Introduction

A Data Scientist extracts meaningful insights from data and interprets them that require both methods and tools from stats, programming and machine learning, as well as human judgement. They collect, sort, and organise structured and unstructured data, because it usually comes in raw form. The process requires persistence, knowledge of statistics, and software engineering skills that help them understand biases in the data, and for debugging logging output from code.

In easier terms, the primary job of a Data Scientist is to collect, assess, and analyse data to come up with actionable insights for enhanced decision-making.

Average Salary of Data Scientists in the UK

£50,320

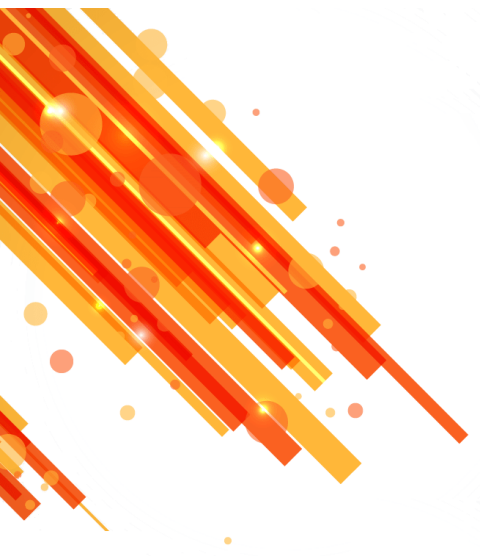| Website	Average Salary	Data Source
www.payscale.com	£40,200	Based on **523** Responses
www.reed.co.uk	£55,000	Based on **339** job postings
www.indeed.co.uk	£53,500	Based on **2,200** reported salaries
www.glassdoor.co.uk	£45,000	Based on **822** reported salaries
uk.talent.com	£57,900	Based on **11,419** reported salaries

Career Paths

Based on their skillset and aptitude, a Data Scientist can choose from a number of fields.

- **Artificial Intelligence Engineer**
  This type of Data Scientist builds artificial intelligence based systems and algorithms to collect and assess data.

- **Machine Learning Engineer**
  This career path involves gaining familiarity with deep learning, natural language processing (NLP) and data mining abilities.

- **Software Developer**
  One of the easier and a general-purpose route to become a Data Scientists that requires familiarity with coding.
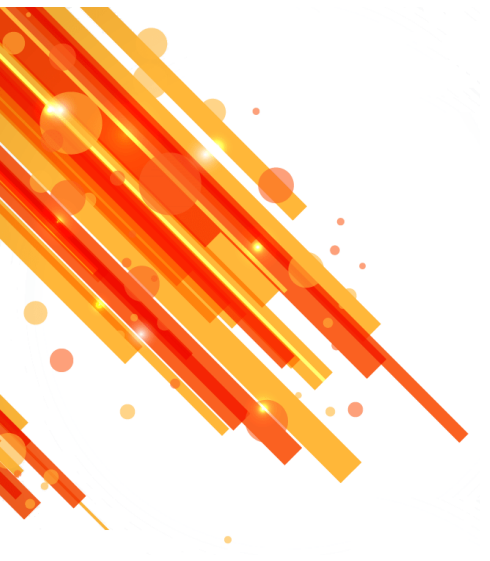
Our analysis of a number of UK-based digital resources revealed that a British Data Scientist can earn an average of £50,320 subject to his or her skillset, proficiency of different programming languages, experience, and region.

Average Salary Based on Region

3,000+

Data Scientist jobs currently listed on LinkedIn UK

City	Average Salary	Current Vacancies
London	£63,000	1,100+
Cambridge	£52,000	200+
Birmingham	£48,000	100+
Manchester	£47,000	200+
Reading	£48,000	200+
Edinburgh	£52,000	100+
Oxford	£52,000	100+
Bristol	£46,000	100+

*Salaries have been rounded off to the nearest 000

We mapped average regional salaries of Data Scientists gathered from multiple online data sources which you can see in the chart below.

Average Regional Salaries

Chart showing average regional salaries:
- London, 63,000
- Cambridge, 52,000
- Birmingham, 48,000
- Manchester, 47,000
- Reading, 48,000
- Edinburgh, 52,000
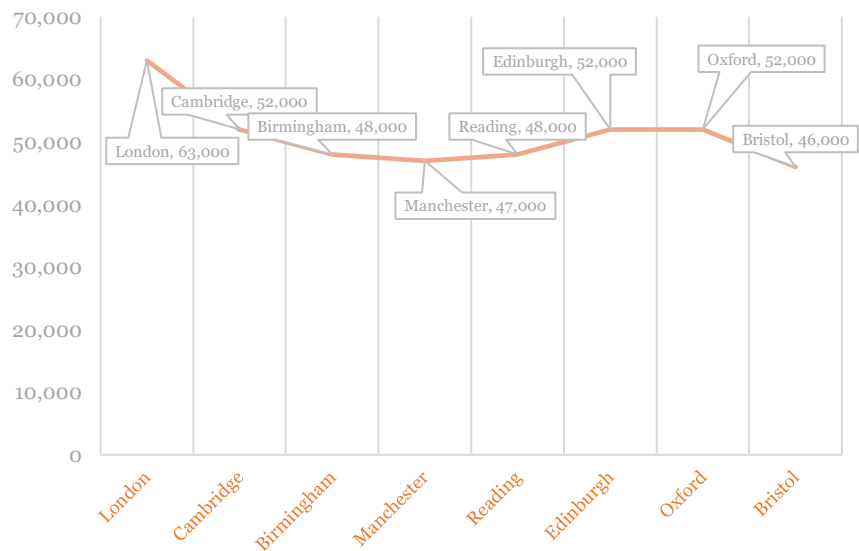- Oxford, 52,000
- Bristol, 46,000

Career Paths

- AI Engineer
- Machine Learning Engineer
- Software Developer
- Business Intelligence Analyst

Popular Skills

- Python
- Machine Learning
- Data/Stats Analysis
- Apache Spark
- Artificial Intelligence
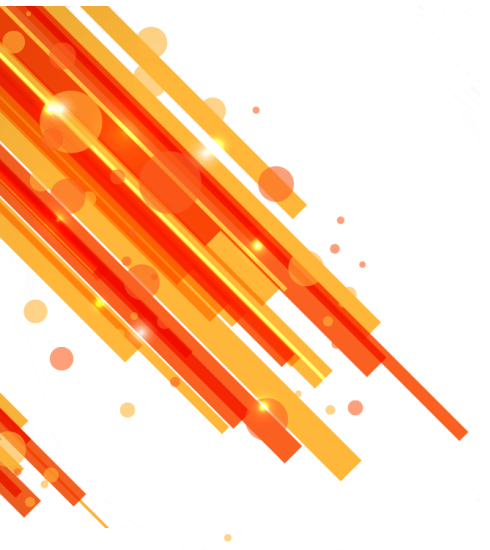- Natural Language Processing

Taking a cursory look at the average salary data gathered from different sources, it is evident that London is the most attractive job market for Data Scientists with Edinburgh, Oxford, and Cambridge being the close second and third.

It should be kept in mind that the considerable difference in statistics related to the average salaries of Data Scientists stems from the variation caused by a variety of factors including the number of responses/reports, experience, region, required skillset, and technical competence.

Another key variation factor in Data Scientists' salaries is their extent of experience. Salary increments with work experience are not unusual regardless of the industry but in the Data Science field, it was observed that a candidate can see a growth of 25% to60% in a short period of 4 to 8 years.

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The world is one big data problem - Andrew McAfee

While an entry level Data Scientist with 6 months to a year of experience makes an average of £34,000, the same scientist is predicted to make over £40,000 in 2 to 4 years. If they continue to gain experience, in the next 1 to 4 years, the average salary usually exceeds the £50,000 mark which is almost 33% greater than average UK income.
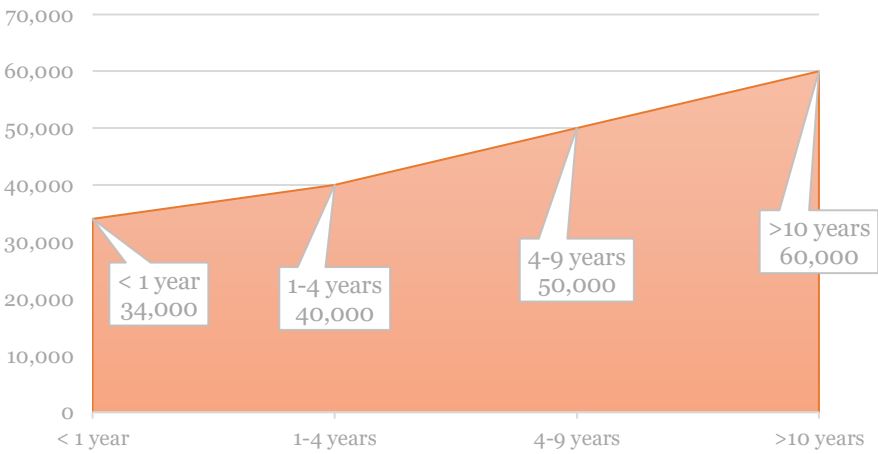
Demand for Data Scientists in the UK

During the last **6 months**, the demand for Data Scientists grew by 5% to 40% in **top 15 job locations** in the UK including Scotland, North West, Yorkshire, and Wales.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, demand for remote and work from home Data Scientists also saw a major increase.
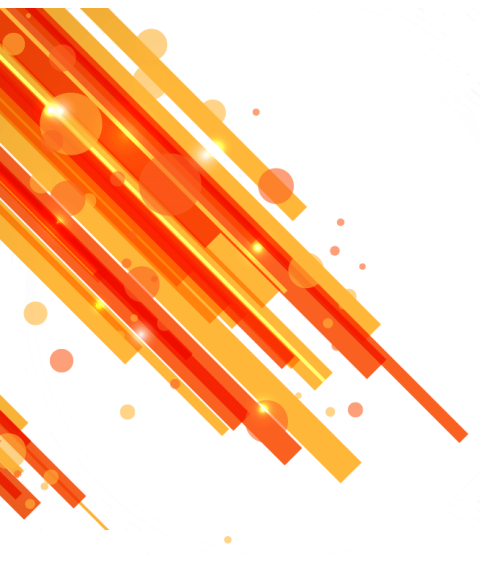
Data Scientists - Average Salary Based On Experience

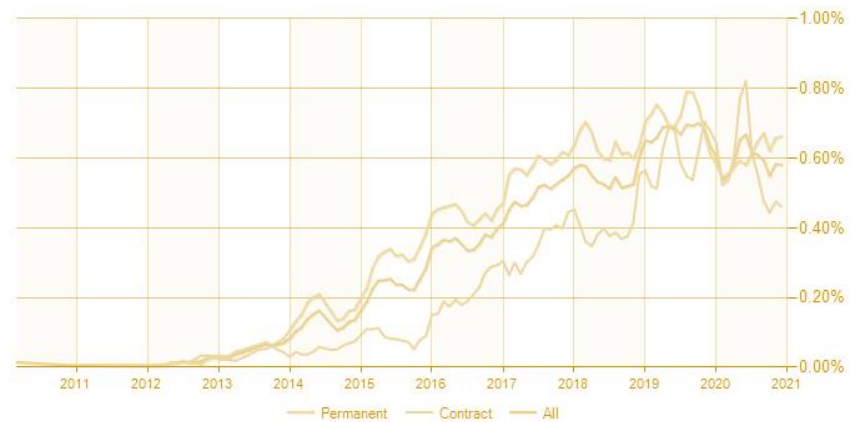|	
< 1 year	34,000
1-4 years	40,000
4-9 years	50,000
>10 years	60,000

Year on Year Comparison of Data Science Job Market

The top IT industry observer in the UK, IT Jobs Watch, reported a ranking promotion of 12 positions with Data Science becoming one of the most desired jobs in the country. In 2019, Data Science ranked 461 which improved to 403 in 2020 with further improvement in sight.

While the number of job postings related to Data Science declined by 40% year on year in 2020, it should be kept in mind that it still made for 0.71% of all permanent jobs advertised in the UK - up from 0.63% in 2019.

This aligns with the fact that the job market shrunk as a whole due to the pandemic with an overwhelming number of businesses reducing their overhead.

Data Scientists

- Probe for insights
- Deliver results to business users
- Apply machine learning, algorithms and other analytics approaches
- Uncover meaning in large amounts of data
- Interpret results of analysis
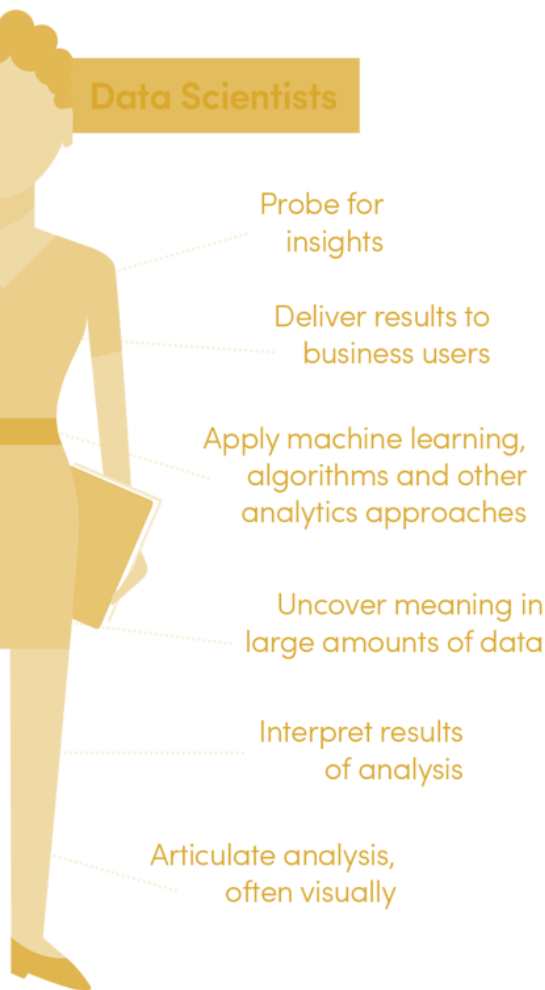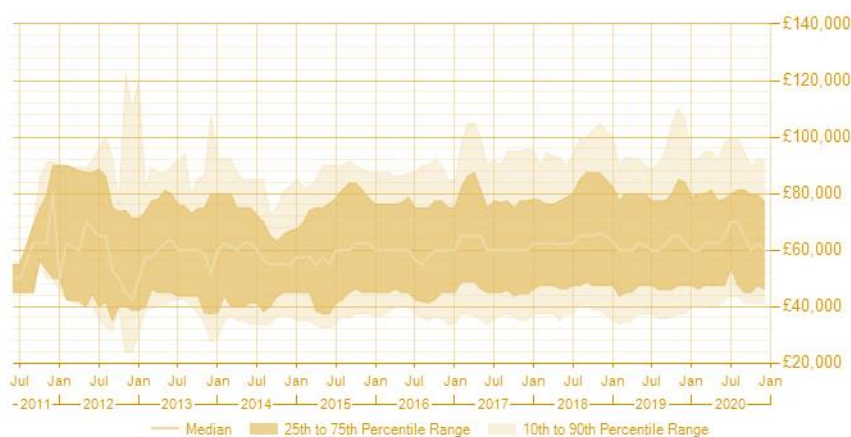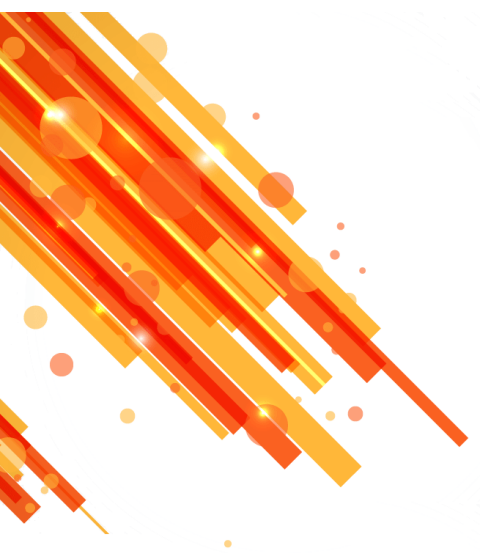- Articulate analysis, often visually

Data Scientists – Job Vacancy Trend

In the last 5 years, the job vacancy trend for permanent Data Scientist positions has seen a 250% growth with the percentage increasing from 0.2% in 2018 to 0.71% in the mid of 2020. It means that despite the shrunken job market, Data Scientist vacancies have continued to grow at a rapid pace.

While the demand for Data Science professionals is growing despite COVID-19, the salary trend is highly indicative of employers and businesses attempting to manage their operational expenses to reduce the financial impact of the pandemic. Average salary of Data Scientists has come to a standstill with a few regions even seeing a trivial decline.

No improvement in average salary this year highlights that while there is a huge and growing market for Data Scientists; employers are currently searching for entry to intermediate level or part time professionals to keep their overhead and salary costs to a bare minimum.

Median — 25th to 75th Percentile Range — 10th to 90th Percentile Range

Conclusion

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the UK economy including Data Science job market, it is important to note that the decline has only translated in terms of salary growth with the number of job vacancies witnessing a reasonable growth year over year.

Data Science remains one of the most lucrative IT fields with an intermediate skill and experience level professional earning close to £50,000.

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As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and our reliance on digital tools increases even further, the significance, demand, and scope of data science is expected to witness exponential growth.