

Your job has gone - and it's not coming back

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:28 pm

[FT.com / Companies / Financials - Hays sees no end to 'brutal job market'](#):

If you are 35 years old, have only ever worked in the City and have lost your job, then the chief executive of Britain's biggest listed recruitment company has a grim message for you on the prospect of a recovery in financial sector employment: "Those jobs have gone and they're not coming back any time soon."

Alistair Cox said he had seen no indication green shoots have taken hold yet in the notoriously competitive City recruitment market. "It's still a brutal job market in most countries in the world. There's no clear sign we're past the worst," he told the Financial Times.

And this is the City - the only part of the economy now feeling good about itself.

And yet people are talking public service cuts - designed to destroy yet more jobs.

What sense does that make - unless you're as economically illiterate as the Taxpayer's Alliance?