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@TheIFS

# Job opportunities during the pandemic



Economic  
and Social  
Research Council

# This presentation

## High profile labour shortages

- Focused on handful of occupations
- Focused on vacancy numbers, not competition for jobs

## Closer look at data

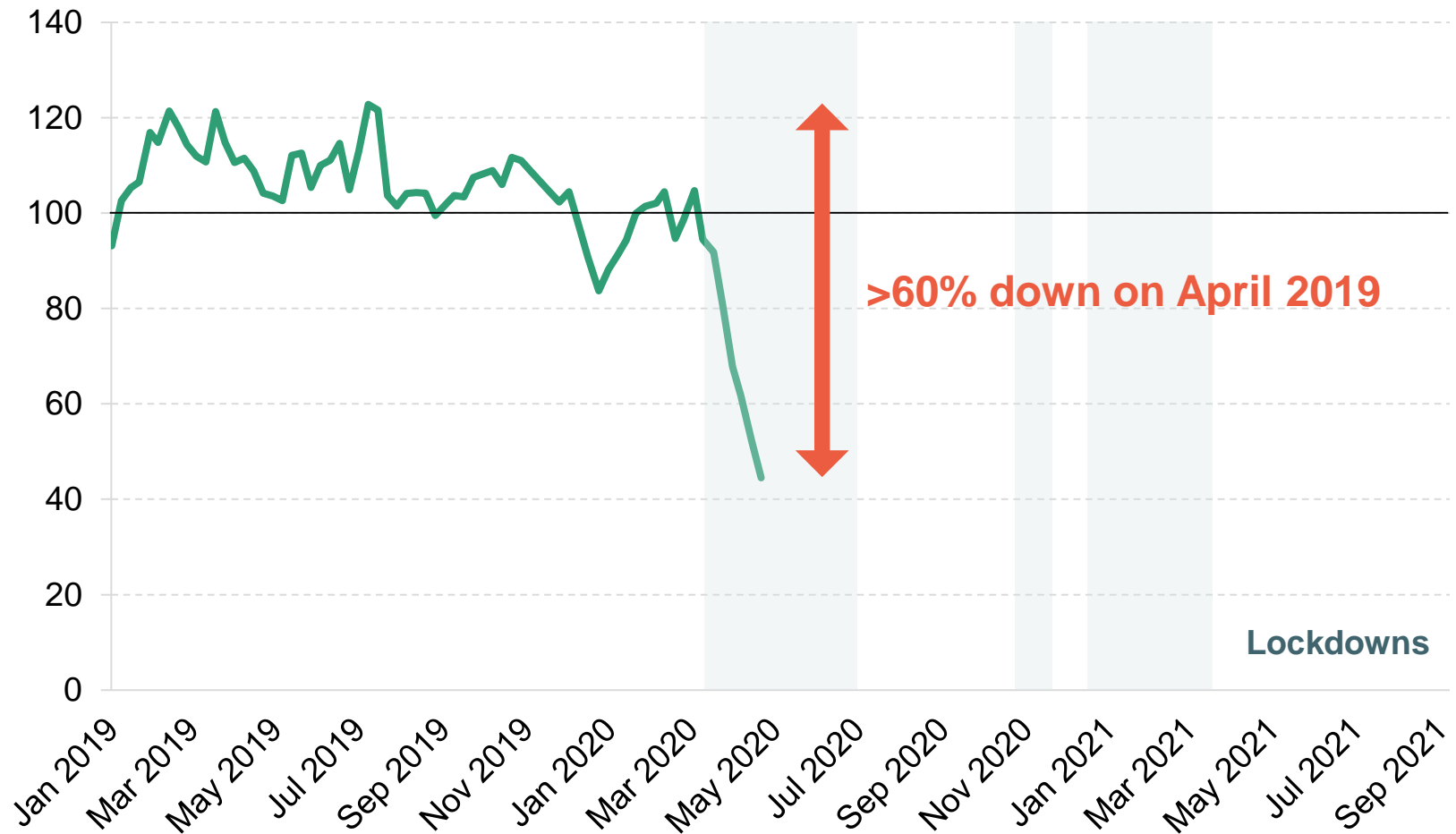
- Shortages not representative of labour market as a whole
- For most people, competition for jobs is higher than pre-pandemic

## Questions

- How have vacancies changed over the course of the pandemic?
- What does this mean for the 'new job opportunities' of different kinds of workers
- What has happened to competition for new jobs?

# Vacancies fell sharply at the start of the pandemic

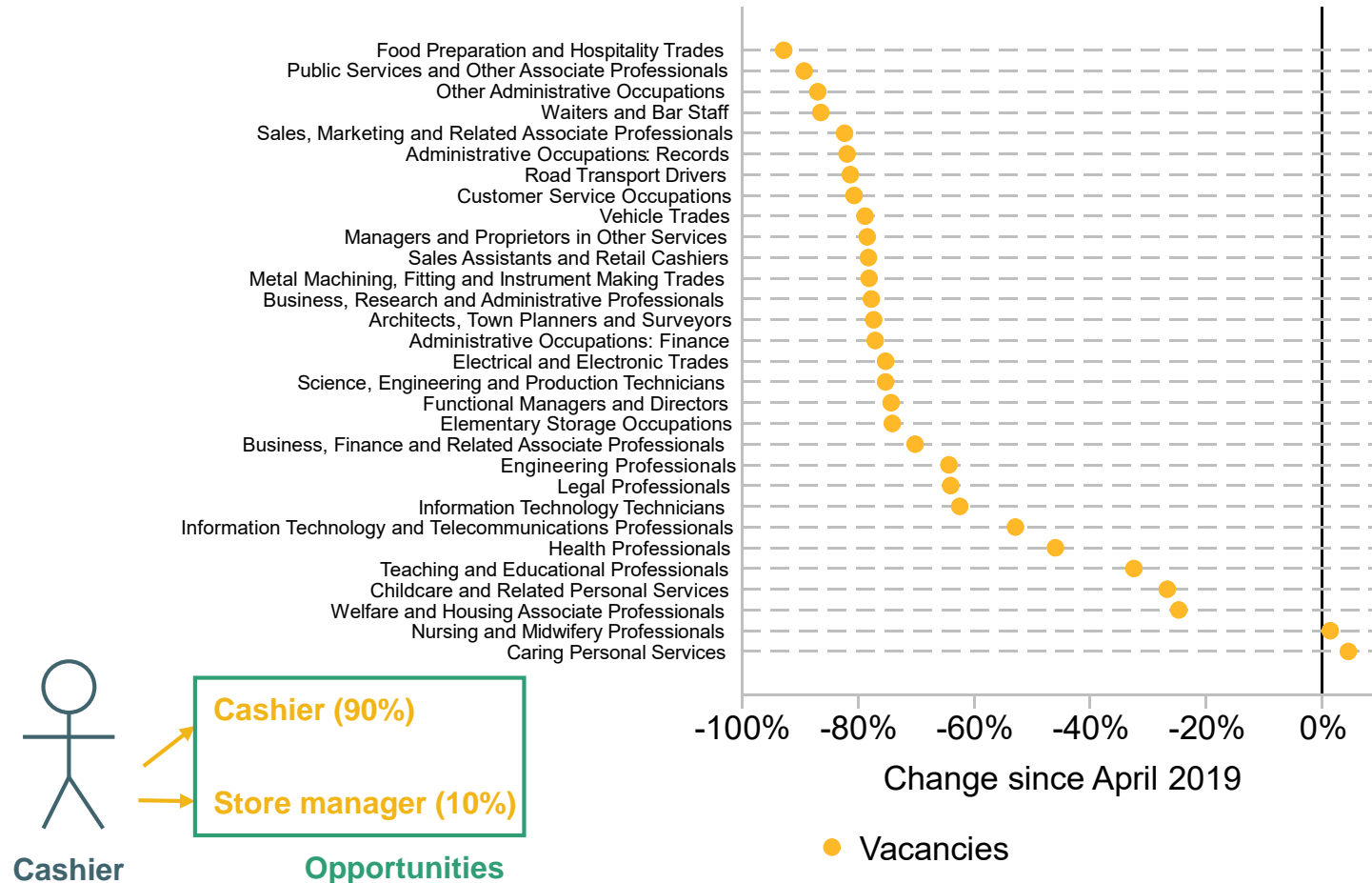
Total vacancies over time, indexed to February 2020



Source: ONS analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

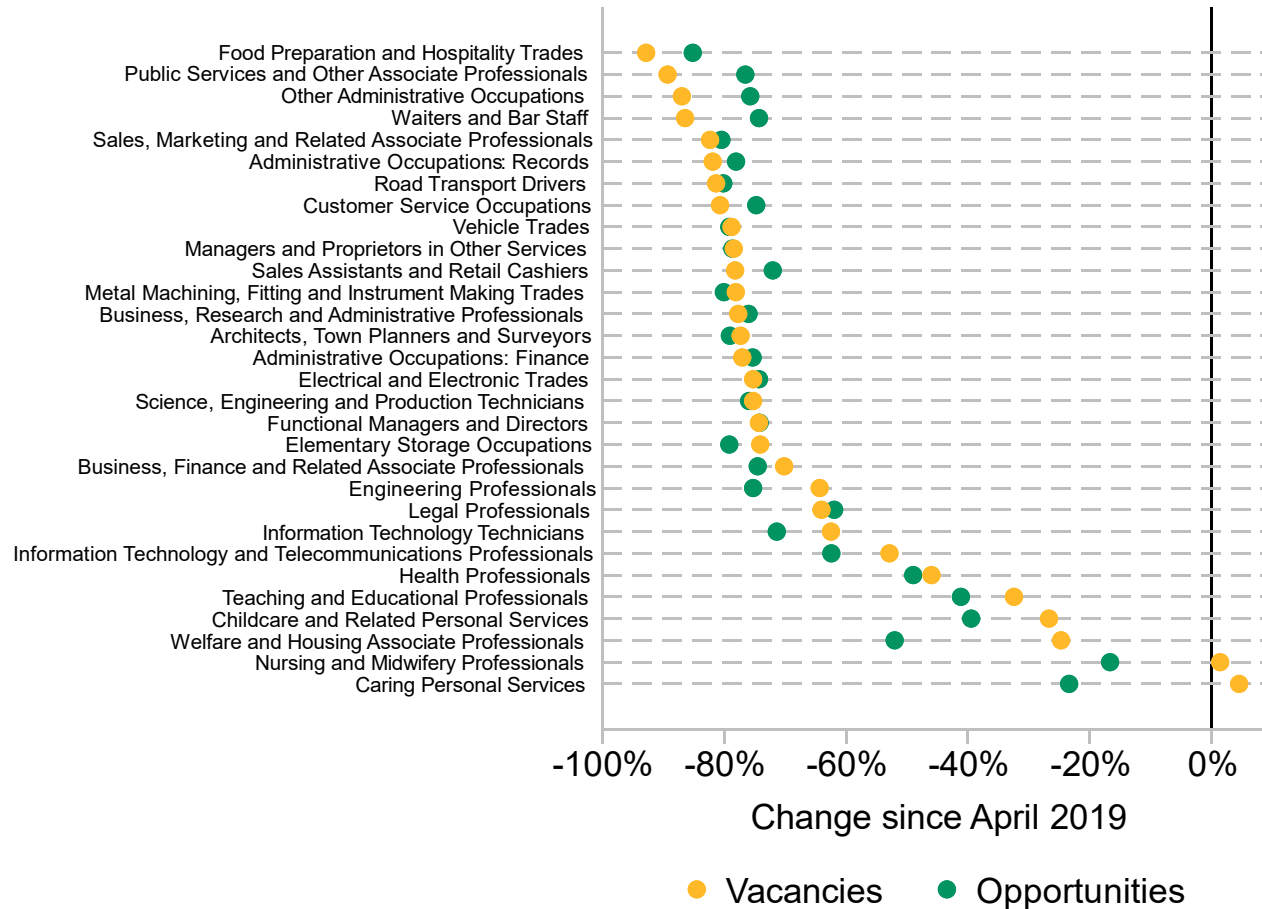
# This fall was seen across the economy

Vacancies and opportunities in April 2020 relative to pre-pandemic, 30 largest occupations



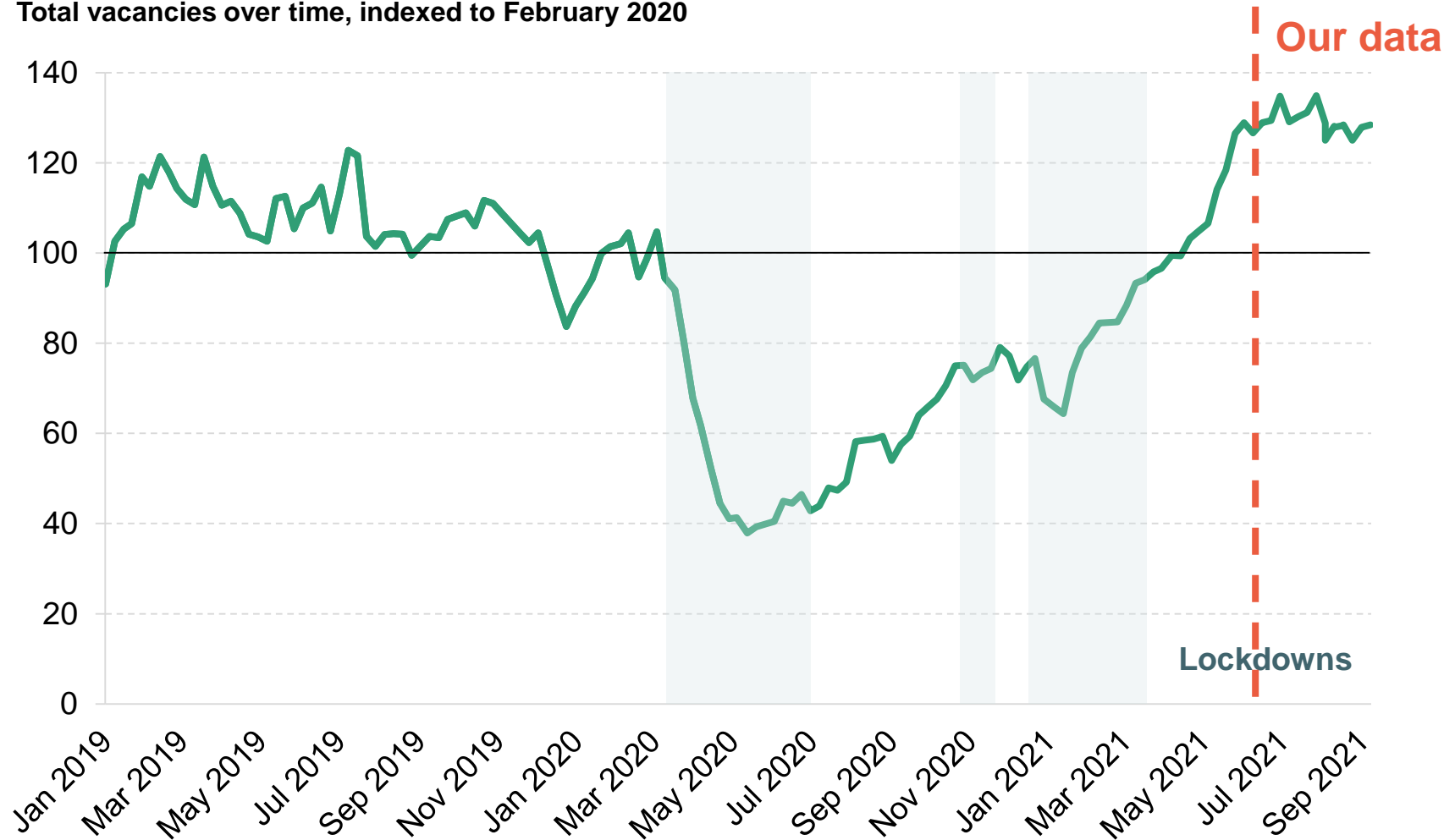
# Impact on opportunities even more widespread

Vacancies and opportunities in April 2020 relative to pre-pandemic, 30 largest occupations



# Aggregate vacancies are now above pre-pandemic level

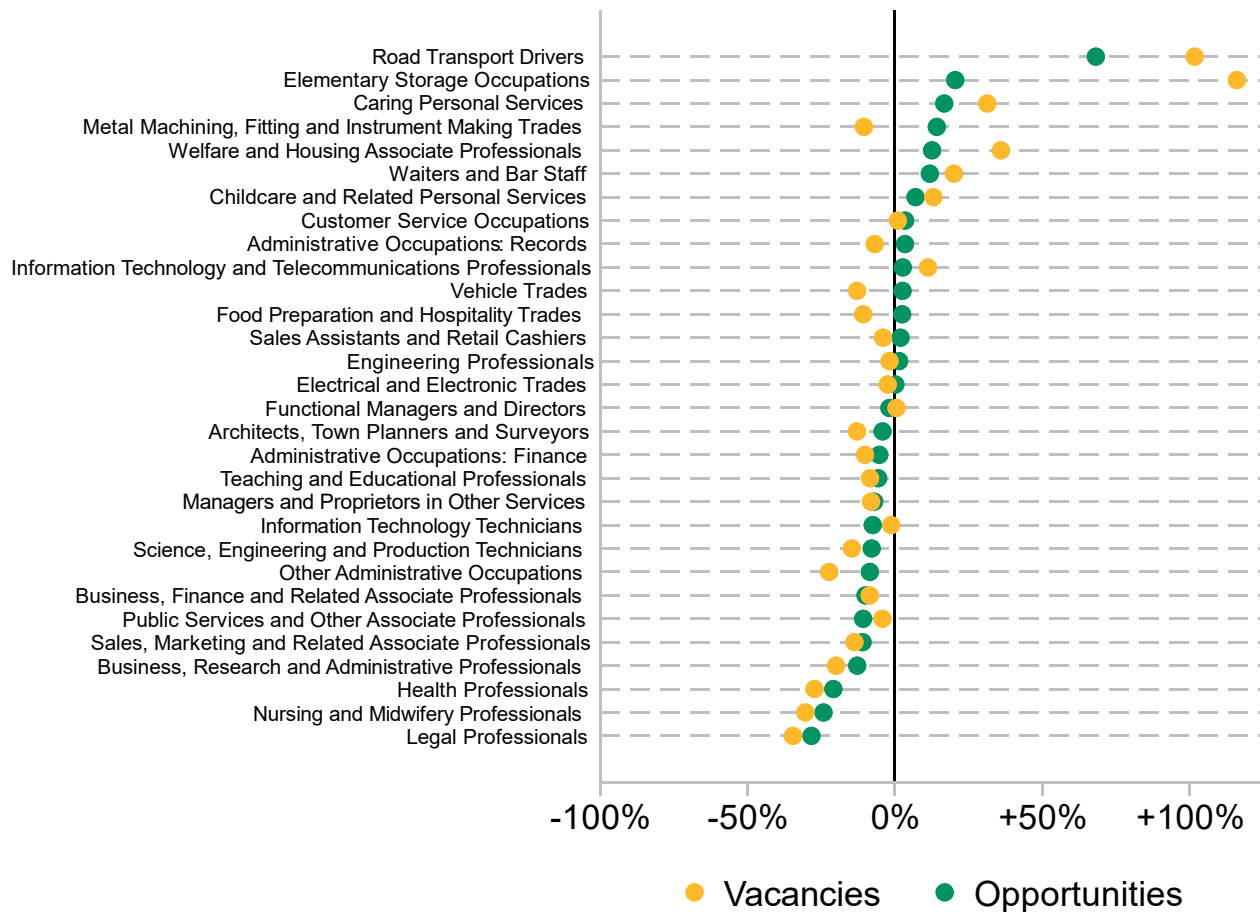
Total vacancies over time, indexed to February 2020



Source: ONS analysis of Adzuna vacancy data

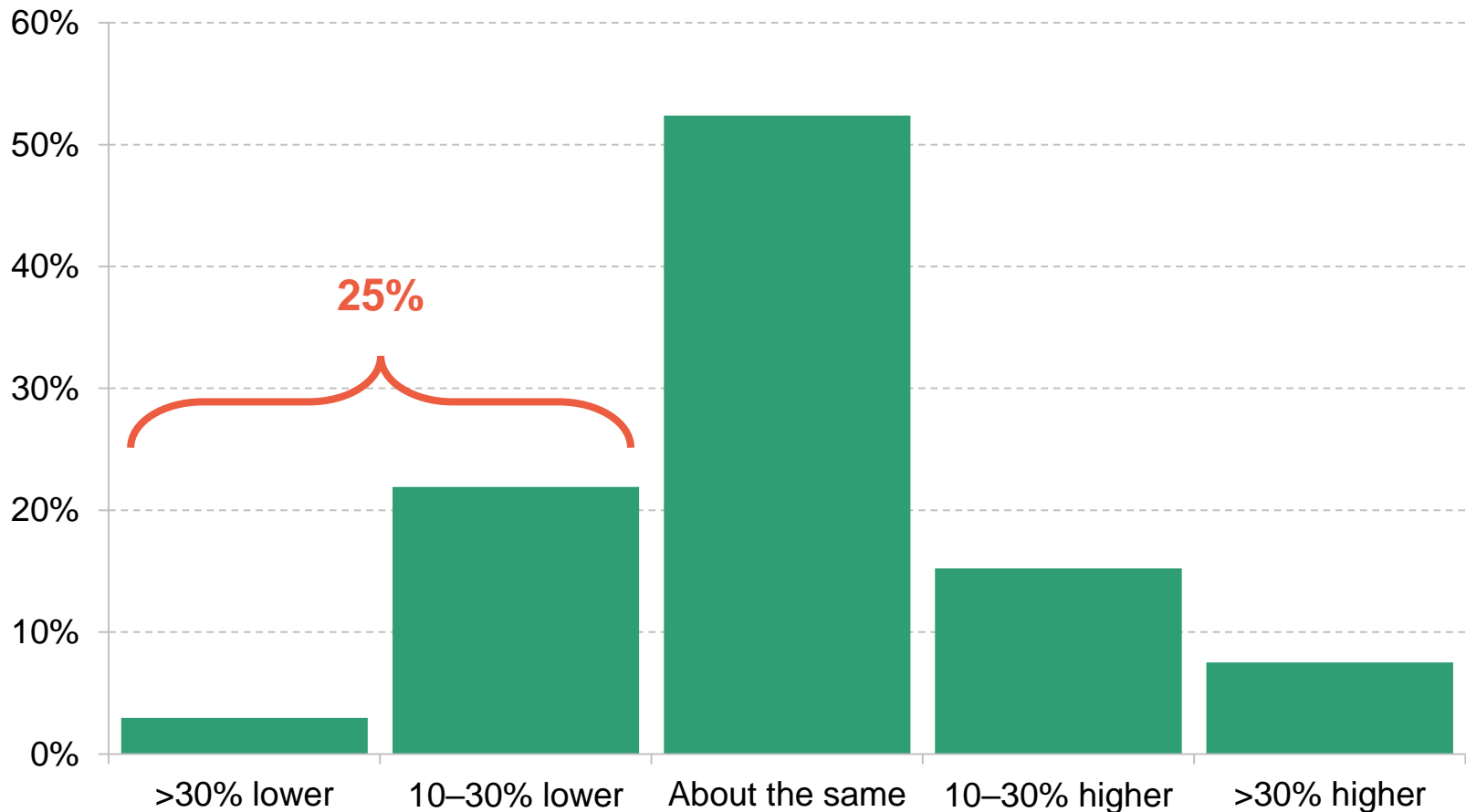
# But large share of people still faced reduced opportunities

Vacancies and opportunities in June 2021, change since June 2019



# Opportunities lower for a quarter of the workforce

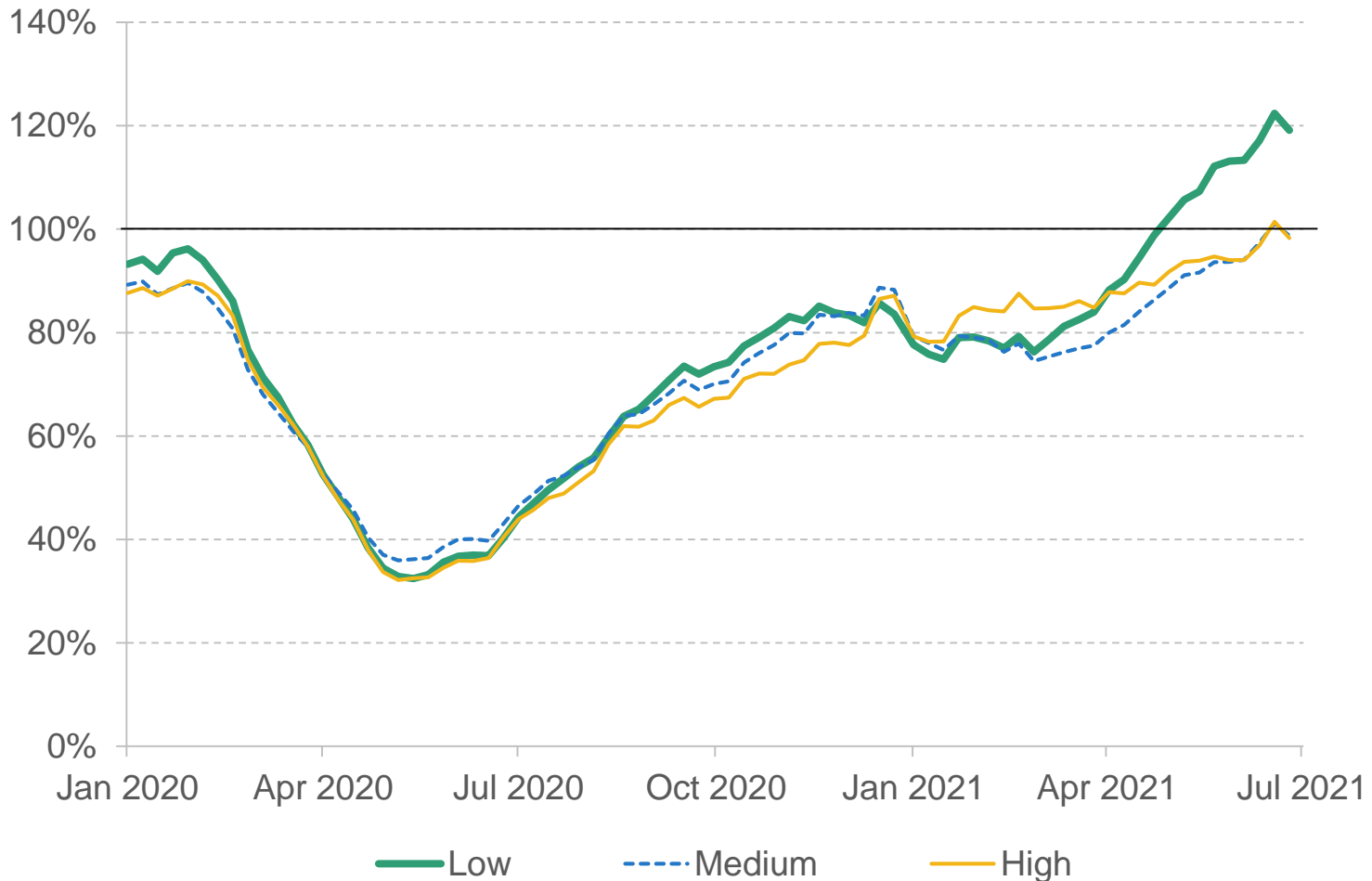
Share of workforce by level of opportunities relative to pre-pandemic, June 2021





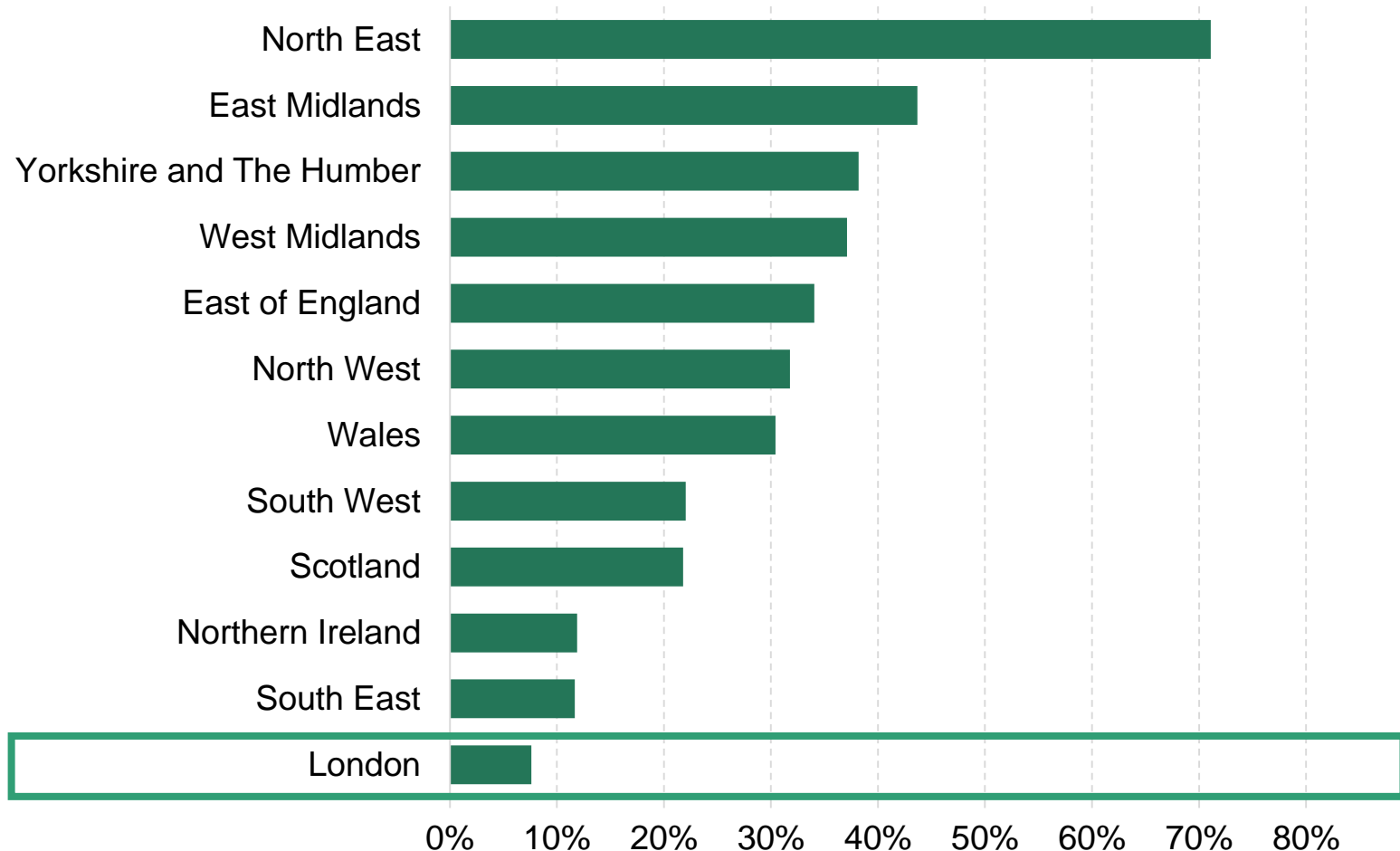
# Recovery in vacancies has been strongest in low-paid jobs

Vacancies by wage premium tertile, relative to same week in 2019 (smoothed)



# Vacancy growth has been slower in London

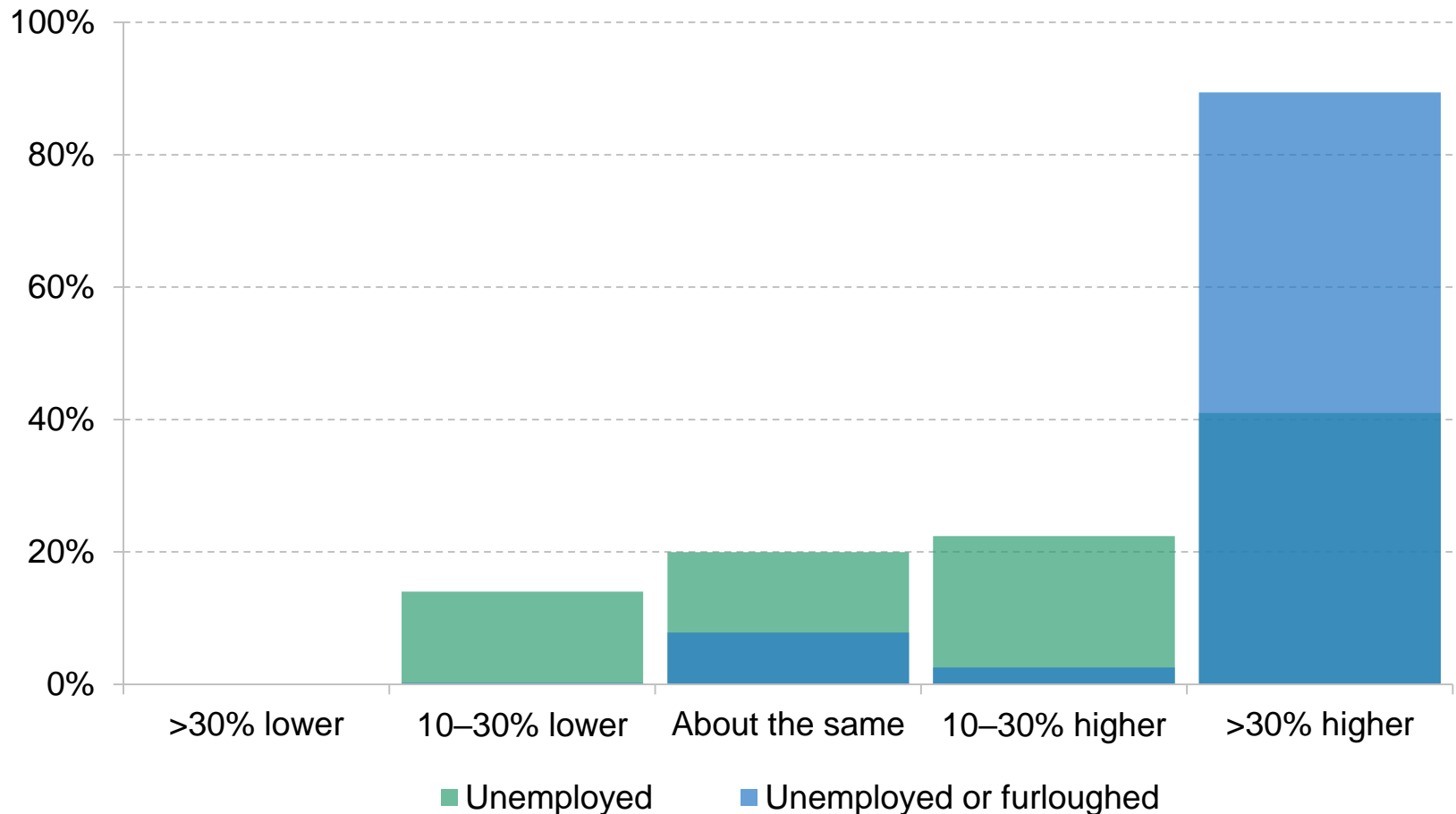
Growth in vacancies between mid-September 2019 and mid-September 2021, by region



Source: Cribb and Salisbury (2021)

# Competition for jobs still high for large share of unemployed

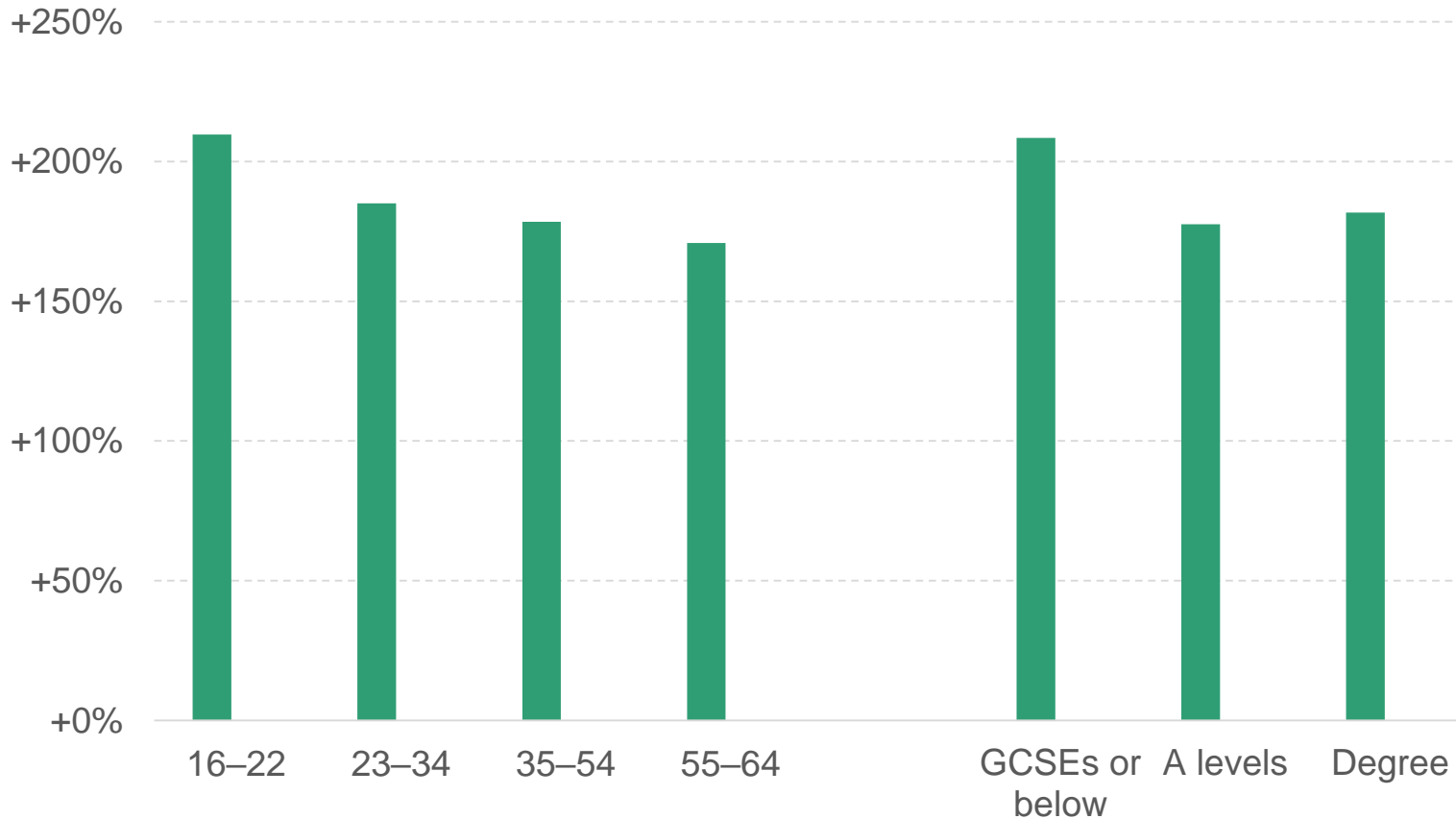
Jobseekers per new job opportunity relative to pre-pandemic, June 2021



# Competition was initially higher for young and low-educated workers...



Jobseekers per new job opportunity by group, increase from same month in 2019



■ April 2020 (left axis)

# ...But by June this was no longer the case

Jobseekers per new job opportunity by group, increase from same month in 2019



- Recovery in aggregate vacancies masks huge variation
  - Surge driven by small set of occupations (driving, storage)
  - High paid occupations slower to recover
  - Vacancy growth slower in London
- Higher unemployment means competition for new jobs still high for most groups
  - Not the groups most badly affected at the start of the pandemic

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