

CROSSING CAREER LADDERS

Can you really change
careers without starting at
the bottom again?

KAREN
RUSSELL



THINKING OF A CAREER CHANGE?

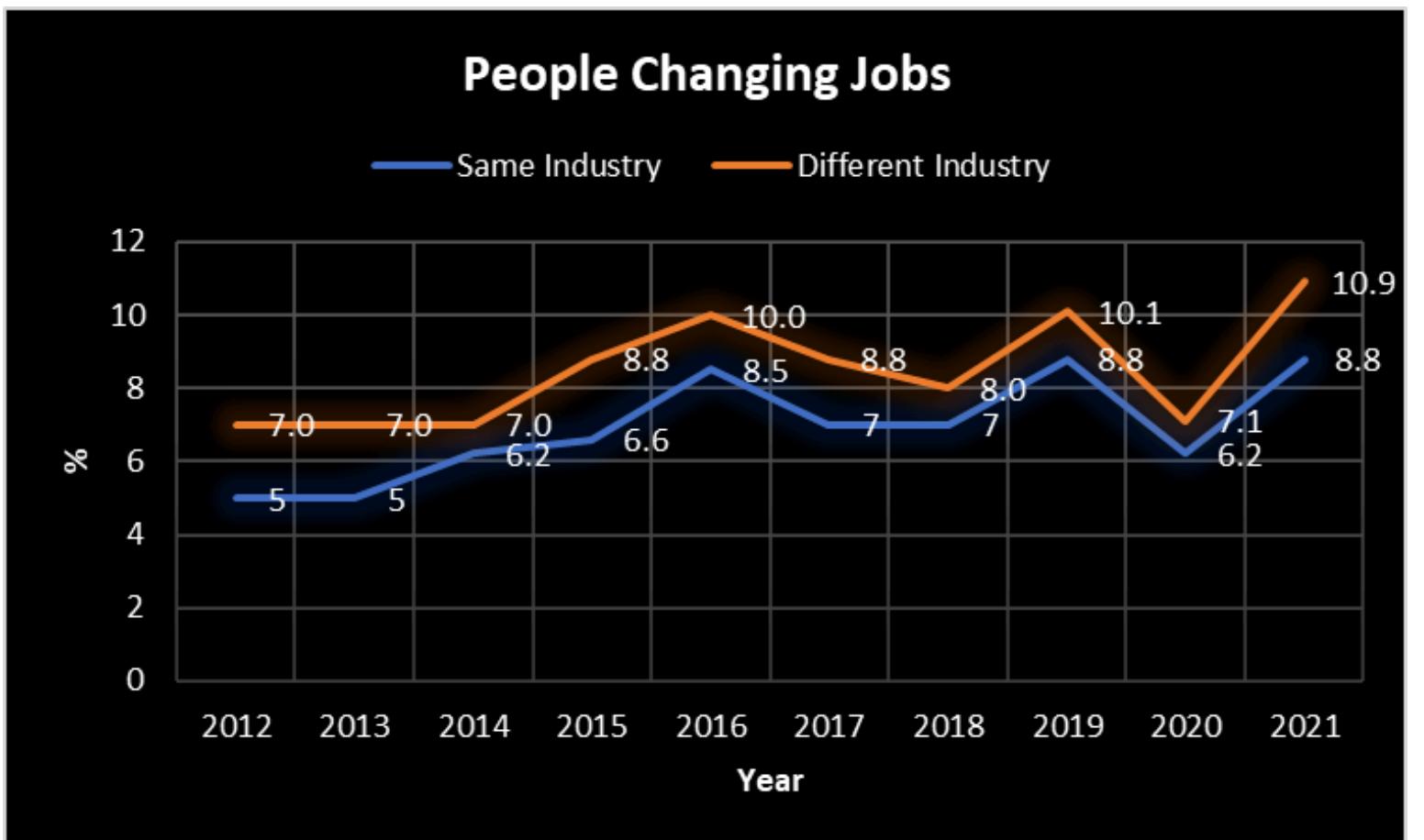
In 2021...

The top 3 industries of origin for career changers:

- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other Service Activities
- Construction

The top 3 industries of destination for career changers:

- Other Service Activities
- Financial and Insurance
- Public Administration and Defence



Data from [ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#)



FUTUREPROOF JOBS?

Top 10 Occupations Projected to Grow

- 1 AI and Machine Learning Specialists
- 2 Sustainability Specialists
- 3 Business Intelligence Analysts
- 4 Information Security Analysts
- 5 FinTech Engineers

- 6 Data Analysts and Scientists
- 7 Robotics Engineers
- 8 Big Data Specialists
- 9 Agricultural Equipment Operators
- 10 Digital Transformation Specialists



RISK OR REWARD?



- Job Satisfaction
- Better Recognition
- Futureproofing
- Fresh Challenge

- Pay Decrease
- Imposter Syndrome
- Junior Role
- Big Learning Curve

In my own experience, the preconceived negatives weren't really an issue. The positives were far greater than I imagined.

MY JOURNEY

Teaching to Technical Writing

After seven years of teaching, I needed a new challenge!

I started to consider my skills and interests - from every aspect of life. Then, I typed every one of those skills and interests into Google, and hit search.

Once I had filtered through the mass of results, I discovered a technical writing job advertisement. When I researched the job requirements, I realised that the role was a perfect fit for me.

I rewrote my CV by categorising my experiences within sections that reflected the skills required as a technical writer - not as a list of prior jobs.

Thankfully, my CV and personalised cover letter afforded me a job offer. In that role, I gained almost ten years of experience as a technical writer. Now, I'm taking on freelance/contract projects as director of my company, Russell Technical Writing Ltd.



TRANSFERABLE SKILLS



According to businesses surveyed by the World Economic Forum, cognitive core skills are growing in importance most quickly.

The top five core skills on the rise are listed on the right.



Hard skills can be taught on the job, but soft skills take time to develop - you may already have the skills that businesses are looking for!

Creative Thinking

Analytical Thinking

Technological Literacy

Curiosity and Lifelong Learning

Resilience, Flexibility and Agility

KEEP LEARNING

There are valuable opportunities all around us.



FIND THEM

Search the internet for online courses in your field of interest - some are free.

Try volunteering to gain experience or skills.

Look on LinkedIn for others currently working in the industry. Or join a relevant society/professional body.

Sign up for networking events.

USE THEM

Consistently spend time each week actively learning or developing skills.

Try using your skills to create material for a portfolio / evidence in interviews.

Sign up for networking events.

TELL THEM

Update your CV and create a covering letter template.

List or explain your skills and highlight any training that you have completed or are currently working on.



GOOD LUCK

It is never too late to be who you might have been.
– George Elliott

