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Restaurant and kitchen job postings fell for a fourth straight week in IHL Group’s hiring index

The category showed a 0.8% weekly decline, extending the four-week drop to 3.1% across 61,430 active ads

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Restaurant and kitchen job postings in IHL Group’s hiring panel fell for a fourth straight week, adding to signs that employers are pulling back on new openings in food service-related roles across the company sample.

IHL Group said on Monday, November 9, that open postings in its restaurant and kitchen category declined 0.8% in the week ended November 8, according to a preliminary reading from its Hiring Demand Index. Over the past four weeks, postings in that category fell 3.1%.

The category covered 61,430 open ads in the latest reading, accounting for 16.2% of the positions in the index that were classified by function, the firm said. The panel tracks employers in the United States, Canada and Europe, including companies in retail and hospitality.

The figures point to weaker demand for hiring in jobs directly tied to food preparation and restaurant operations within the sample IHL follows. At the same time, the company said the measure reflects active job advertisements, not actual hiring, layoffs or net changes in employment. That means the decline should not be read as an equal drop in restaurant employment across the countries in the panel.

IHL also said the occupational category can include kitchen and food service roles inside commercial businesses, not only jobs at stand-alone restaurants. That makes the reading broader than a pure measure of restaurant payroll demand and means changes in the index can reflect shifts in hiring plans at a range of businesses that operate food service functions.

The latest data did not include a directly comparable year-over-year figure for the restaurant and kitchen category. That limits longer-term comparisons and leaves the recent picture centered on the weekly and four-week trend, both of which moved lower.

Even so, the numbers provide a recent snapshot of employer demand at a time when businesses often adjust staffing plans heading into the holiday period. A four-week decline suggests that fewer employers in the panel are adding new listings, or that some existing ads are being removed faster than they are replaced.

Because the reading is provisional, it could be revised in later updates. But as reported on Monday, November 9, the index showed a clear short-term slowdown in advertised openings for restaurant and kitchen roles.

The data comes from IHL Group’s Hiring Demand Index, which tracks job ads rather than filled positions. For that reason, economists and labor analysts usually treat such measures as an early signal of employer intent rather than a direct count of workers being added or cut. A decline in postings can indicate caution in recruiting, a slower pace of expansion or a reduced need to replace departing workers. It does not, by itself, show whether staffing levels have already fallen.

The restaurant and kitchen category remains a sizable part of the function-based postings in IHL’s panel despite the recent drop. With 61,430 openings still active, the data suggests employers continue to recruit across the covered markets, though at a slower pace than four weeks earlier.

For businesses tied to food service, the figures may reflect a more selective hiring approach after a period of heavier recruiting. For investors and industry observers, the latest update offers a fresh indicator that demand for labor in restaurant-related occupations has softened in the near term, at least among the retailers and hospitality operators included in IHL’s sample.