

Labour Market Exploration:  
Information TechnologyINDUSTRY  
HEADLINES

Earnings in the industry are **much higher than national averages** – £611 per week compared with £335 per week

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Employers are in great need of employees with **high-skilled IT & broadband-related skills**, combined with broader business skills

## INTRODUCTION

- The IT industry designs, develops, manufactures, sells, installs and maintains computer-based information systems – this includes telecoms which covers the Internet, broadband & mobile phones
- Approximately 1.4 million people work in hardware & software consultancy, telecoms, database activities, maintenance repair & other computer related jobs in the IT industry
- 550,000 people work in IT jobs in non-IT industries – the IT departments in a wide range of businesses
- **A higher proportion of the workforce is male (75%)** and aged 25-44 (63%) and there is a slightly higher than average proportion of people of Asian origin
- 94% of businesses employ fewer than 11 staff

## TRENDS

- The UK IT industry is growing faster than the UK average – over the period 2004-14 it is predicted that the **net requirement for staff will be 508,000** - many employers report difficulties in recruiting IT professional staff and cannot fill vacancies
- UCAS have reported the number of UK-domiciled applicants to IT/Computing degrees has fallen from a peak of 26,000 in 2001 to 13,000 in 2007
- From 2001 to 2007 the number of A level students in computing fell by approximately 45% to only 5,600 and in ICT by 25% to about 13,000
- **The percentage of female applicants to IT/Computing degree courses fell from 18% to 15% between 2001 and 2007**

## INDUSTRY contd. HEADLINES

e-skills UK's Computer Clubs for Girls (CC4G) is full of fun activities and **gets girls involved with technology in ways that are of interest to them** – for example through music, fashion, celebrity and design - details on how to get involved in this free service contact [www.cc4g.net](http://www.cc4g.net)

- Within telecoms, services are tending towards integration whereby a range of communications products are provided from single suppliers (TV, radio, telephone, broadband, etc.) through one access portal
- Future examples of potential developments in IT include:-
  - *computing embedded in everyday appliances e.g. intelligent refrigerators and ovens*
  - *using the internet to make phone calls instead of the regular network*
  - *digital tagging*– implanting microchips under the skin so that traditional forms of ID & credit cards are no longer needed
  - *Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)* – tags (in the form of transmitters carrying a barcode) inserted into various products so that e.g. mobile phones could be pointed at a poster or advertisement and download dates, and website/contact details

## SKILLS

- A logical mind and a creative approach to problem-solving is essential
- Strong communication & team-working skills are important - from dealing with fellow team members to customers & suppliers
- A flair for using multimedia to make IT attractive is important
- **Future skills shortages are expected to be in systems integration, networking & business analysis**, with specific skill demands including:-
  - *business analysis*
  - *networking*
  - *systems integration*
  - *web support*
  - *IT architecture design & implementation*
  - *management of outsourcing (supply & demand side)*

**WEBLINKS** – including SSC's (Sector Skills Councils)**Main sources:**

- SSC gateway site – [www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk](http://www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk) – includes labour market intelligence, curriculum resources, inspirational case studies, role models that challenge stereotypes
- Jobs4u – [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u) – extensive careers database and a good site for young people
- Learn Direct – [www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles/](http://www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles/) – over 700 job descriptions & job profiles
- National Guidance Research Forum (NGRF) – [www.guidance-research.org](http://www.guidance-research.org) – site developed by the Institute for Employment Research (IER) including labour market trends data & an on-line learning module for LMI
- Prospects – [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – information for graduates which can help young people consider progression pathways from their Diploma programme
- Careersbox – [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) – a free national careers film library showing films of real people doing real jobs

**Specialist sources:**

**Key:** C – careers information    J – job hunting  
L – learning & training    T – tutor resource

- e-skills UK (SSC) – [www.e-skills.com/careers](http://www.e-skills.com/careers) – careers & skills training information for IT, Telecoms & Call Centres – C, L, T
- Computer club for girls (CC4G) – [www.cc4g.net](http://www.cc4g.net) – inspiring girls to consider IT careers through a computer club (free to schools in England) – C, L, T
- British Computer Society – [www.bcs.org](http://www.bcs.org) – includes job profiles – C, L