

4 August 2009

**UK IT recruitment market still showing positive signs for longer-term growth**  
– *The IT Job Board launches its white paper on*  
*'The State of the UK's IT Recruitment Market' –*

Despite the economic downturn, the UK as a market for IT recruitment, is still showing several positive signs for longer-term growth. This is the overall conclusion from a white paper<sup>1</sup> issued by The IT Job Board, [www.theitjobboard.co.uk](http://www.theitjobboard.co.uk), entitled 'The State of the UK's IT Recruitment Market'.

The research highlights that whilst Q2 of 2009 will show negative growth in job vacancies, the industry – as a whole – still foresees a significant shortage of IT professionals in the longer term.

**Demand for IT professionals in the UK**

In April 2009, the UK saw a 50 percent decline in the number of vacancies advertised online. And research by The IT Job Board highlights a further decline in jobs in May of 57 percent year-on-year.

However, there are a few signs of recovery in at least one of the market sectors. New research from the pre-employment firm, Powercheck, indicates that job offers to IT contractors in the financial services sector doubled between April and May of this year.

**Demand by location**

The greatest demand for work remains in London (36.2 percent), followed by the South East (21.5 percent) and the South West (11 percent).

**Demand by skill**

As a result of the recession, The IT Job Board has seen a decline in jobs by 57 percent on the site year on year in May (as reported above).

But, the software market is showing more promise than the hardware sector, representing 60 percent of all positions advertised, up four percent year-on-year.

This year, the site has witnessed an increase in project management and testing positions, with a 2 percent growth per category. Developer and business analyst positions have seen a decline, as have networking jobs, and IT support roles have remained constant.

### **Future skill predictions**

The IT Job Board corroborates the predictions made by ComputerWeek on the '9 skills that will be in demand in 2009', which includes: Help Desk Support, Programming and Project Management. However, the company also predicts that developers with experience in Open Source will see an increase in demand, and that infrastructure analysts and business analysts are likely to witness the same.

### **Contract vs Permanent**

Despite the belief that contract IT roles increase in demand during a recession, The IT Job Board statistics paint a different picture. In April 2008, permanent roles accounted for 79 percent on the site, and in April 2009, this figure rose to 79.6 percent, with contract jobs now representing 20.4 percent.

### **Candidate market confidence**

The IT Job Board conducted primary candidate research in May 2009, to determine candidate's confidence during the current downturn. As a result of the conditions, 72 percent are spending more time gathering knowledge about IT industry trends, and 53 percent are beginning to rely on online networking to secure a job in IT.

### **Companies appetite for recruiting**

In June 2009, The IT Job Board conducted research with organisations to gauge details as to whether they planned to recruit in Qs 3 and 4 of 2009. In response, 34.3 percent stated they will, 27.5 percent said they might, and 51 percent advised that recruitment would remain on a par with 2008.

Commenting on the future challenges, Teresa Sperti, head of international marketing at The IT Job Board, said: "As a result of increasing demand and candidate supply shortages, we predict that the long-term IT recruitment market will be particularly buoyant.

"It is therefore important for clients to continue to improve their employer brand, in order to attract the right industry talent. In addition, organisations need to actively consider how they will mitigate the risk of a longer term skills gap, to ensure they remain competitive within their marketplace."

1. The report was created in June/July 2009), through an analysis of current and historical IT vacancies on [www.theitjobboard.co.uk](http://www.theitjobboard.co.uk), as well as primary research through candidate surveys and secondary research (available online).

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## Notes to editors

To download a PDF version of the full report, please go to:

[http://assets.theitjobboard.co.uk/State\\_of\\_The\\_UK\\_Recruitment\\_Market\\_-\\_The\\_IT\\_Job\\_Board.pdf](http://assets.theitjobboard.co.uk/State_of_The_UK_Recruitment_Market_-_The_IT_Job_Board.pdf)

## About The IT Job Board:

The IT Job Board group of companies was set up in April 2002 in recognition that recruitment in the IT sector was increasingly dominated by the internet.

Online technology enables sophisticated targeting – for example by skill, region or experience – of www.theitjobboard.co.uk's database of 800,000 IT professionals. The IT Job Board always tries to get closer to candidates either via planned content campaigns, or through the use of social networks.

The site also offers employers services such as branded job postings, a featured employer zone, targeted email campaigns and guidance on advertising copy. The managed campaign service filters responses to provide companies with a shortlist of applicants most suitable for the advertised position.

www.theitjobboard.co.uk's clients include Bloomberg, Nationwide, Oxfam and Student Loans Company Limited.

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