EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There were nearly 200,000 core information technology (IT) job postings in the UK during the first quarter of 2020 according to Burning Glass Technologies Labour Insights.

In relation to the entire UK job market, there were 2.04 million total postings for the same 2020 Q1 period. IT postings are a notable portion of all UK job postings (10%).

The number of IT job postings continue to increase (+23% vs. 2020 Q1). IT job ads, similar to all job ads, are also significantly up from the prior three months (+17% over 2019 Q4). Though these numbers are closer to the highs of two years ago, continued growth is uncertain in these times of COVID-19. Notes: The number of job postings may vary widely over time. Not all postings translate to a hire. (See “About This Snapshot” on page 3.)

According to the Office for National Statistics, the UK unemployment rate was 4.0% for the 3-month period December 2019 to February 2020 (prior to COVID-19 social distancing measures). This is largely unchanged from the 3.9% for the prior 3 months, as well as a year earlier.

There were a record 33.07m people in employment between December 2019 and February 2020 (352,000 more than a year earlier), vs. 1.36m unemployed people looking for work (22,000 fewer than the year earlier and 476,000 fewer than five years earlier).

The size of the IT workforce in the UK continues to grow year over year, projected to increase by more than 11,500 from 1.30m in 2019 to 1.31m in 2020. Furthermore, 3% job growth is estimated for the five-year period 2019-2024 (37,700+ new jobs).

NUMBER OF CORE IT JOB POSTINGS

About 6 in 10 IT workers in the UK are 35 years of age or older (63%).

Core IT Occupations | # Ads 2020 Q1
--- | ---
Programmers & software dev pros | 72,816
IT bus analysts, architects & sys designers | 30,749
IT user support technicians | 23,750
IT & telecommunications pros (other) | 18,133
Web design & dev pros | 17,252
IT operations technicians | 17,112
IT project & programme managers | 10,650
IT & telecommunications directors | 4,081
Telecommunications engineers | 2,556
IT specialist managers | 1,332
IT engineers | 1,012
TOTAL | 199,443
**TOP SKILLS IN IT JOB POSTINGS**

*Top Skill Clusters, 2020 Q1*

- Software Dev Principles: 53,474
- SQL: 42,319
- Technical Support: 34,910
- JavaScript & JQuery: 33,388
- Web Development: 30,893
- Microsoft Dev Tools: 28,997
- Operating Systems: 26,211
- Project Management: 22,884
- System Design & Implementation: 22,709
- Java: 22,342

**UK IT WORKFORCE SIZE & GROWTH**

Source: Economic Modelling Specialists, Intl. (Emsi)

**Base of IT Workers in the UK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Skill Clusters</th>
<th># of Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmers &amp; software dev pros</td>
<td>258,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT specialist managers</td>
<td>223,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT &amp; telecommunications pros (other)</td>
<td>187,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT operations technicians</td>
<td>119,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT bus analysts, architects &amp; sys designers</td>
<td>113,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT user support technicians</td>
<td>101,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT project &amp; programme managers</td>
<td>75,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT &amp; telecommunications directors</td>
<td>70,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web design &amp; dev pros</td>
<td>54,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications engineers</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT engineers</td>
<td>41,685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**: 1,298,464

Forecasted growth 2019 to 2024 (+3%)

**Note:** includes proprietors

**Top industries employing IT workers in the UK include** information & communication, professional scientific & technical, financial & insurance, wholesale & retail, manufacturing, and education.

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**TOP BASELINE SKILLS IN IT JOB POSTINGS, 2020 Q1**

1. Communication 6. Writing
2. Problem Solving 7. Detail-Oriented
3. Planning 8. Research
5. Troubleshooting 10. Microsoft Excel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th># Job Ads Last 12 Months</th>
<th>Ads per 1,000 Employed</th>
<th>Local Demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>161,652</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Much higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>27,547</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>25,033</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Much higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>12,140</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>12,064</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>11,580</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Much higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>5,296</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Small sampling of work area locations | Local demand vs. the UK
The data highlighted in this summary is from Burning Glass Technologies Labour Insights and was pulled April 2020, primarily focusing on 2020 Q1 data. All data is UK only. Additional IT employment data from the ONS and Emsi is also provided.

For the purposes of this summary, core IT occupations include positions related to those listed therein. This report excludes certain occupations, such as graphic designer.

Job posting data is a useful, but an imperfect proxy for job demand. Not every posting translates to a new job; hiring firms may change their plans, post multiple times for the same job, hire internally, try different approaches to find the right candidate and so forth. Also, one ad may be posted for multiple openings. Burning Glass Technologies addresses many of these issues, but not all.

CompTIA recommends using job posting data in conjunction with government data to get a more complete picture of labor dynamics for a given occupation category. Also refer to additional CompTIA research for further context, e.g. IT Industry Outlook 2020, Assessing the IT Skills Gap in the UK, UK Tech Town Index, International Trends in Technology and Workforce, and International Youth Perspectives of Technology and Careers.

CompTIA is responsible for all content contained in this summary. Any questions should be directed to CompTIA Research and Market Intelligence staff at research@comptia.org.

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The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a leading voice and advocate for the $5.2 trillion global information technology ecosystem; and the estimated 75 million industry and tech professionals who design, implement, manage, and safeguard the technology that powers the world’s economy. Through education, training, certifications, advocacy, philanthropy, and market research, CompTIA is the hub for advancing the tech industry and its workforce. Visit www.comptia.org to learn more.

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CompTIA UK Business Technology Community