



The Global CI Broadcast

Focusing on the industry's most valuable assets

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Global CI Health IT at the White House

Last week Global CI's preeminent Chief Health IT Architect, Marty Prah, once again went to the Whitehouse for Q&A. The focus of this meeting was for an Update and Level Setting on the "Improving the Social Security Administration Access of Defense-Held Medical Information to Improve Social Security Services to America's Wounded Warriors"

This meeting held in the Whitehouse Conference Center, was in response to questions posed by Dr. Steve Ondra (former Senior Policy Advisor for Health Affairs in the VA, but now is an advisor to Aneesh Chopra, the Federal CTO - Whitehouse Office of Science and Technology Policy) on the SSA-DoD-VA Joint Plan of Action. This meeting was in a Q&A format on work that has been done between SSA (Electronic Records Express web site) and DoD (BHIE) in the interim and between SSA-DoD-VA (VLER) using the NwHIN Exchange.

In addition to Marty and Dr. Ondra the other attendees included; Dr. Farzad Mostashari (ONC - National Coordinator for Health IT), Dr. Doug Fridsma (ONC), Michael Lincecum (DoD - Acting Director for Office of the Under Secretary of Defense - Personnel and Readiness Information Management), Peter Levin (CTO - VA), Lonnie Bergeron (VA), Greg Pace (Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner of SSA) and on the phone - Kitt Winter (SSA).

MARKET INDICATORS: Vacancies and salaries rise in IT sector

ITstockanalyst.com

The IT contract market has shown signs of picking up as the public sector returns to strength, heralding a return to a candidate-led market.

IT vacancies and salaries are rising as hiring managers seek to regain critical IT capabilities, according to the latest IT Monitor from IT recruiter Computer People, part of the Adecco group.

The research indicates the IT jobs market has picked up considerably since the start of the year, with salaries rising month-on-month. As budgets for the new financial year have now been signed off, demand is expected to continue to increase - renewing hostilities in this sector's war for talent and contributing towards a candidate-led market for the first time since early 2009.

Despite swingeing public sector cuts, IT vacancies have risen considerably over the past month, with a 6% and 4% rise for permanent and contractor positions respectively.

Sid Barnes, executive director at Computer People, says: "While many projects had previously been put on hold due to lack of funding, the need to maintain services remained and public sector departments are now starting to realise that they had cut too deep initially.

"Now, with budget freezes thawing and funding re-emerging, hiring managers are recruiting to deliver priority projects and restore critical capabilities."

Despite the public sector's return to growth, recovery is from an exceptionally low base. It is still yet to be seen if this upward trend will continue or if we are looking at an interim spike. There is, however, a growth trend emerging across other sectors. Full-time IT recruitment in the telecoms and retail markets has returned to growth, with 8% and 3% growth rates respectively. In other sectors, the market appears to be stabilising. The banking sector is typically the first sector to recover after an economic downturn and month-on-month vacancies are now stabilising.

This trend is also apparent in the media, new media and creative sector. After prioritising technological advances as soon as the economic recovery allowed, the sector has this month seen a 7% reduction in permanent recruitment. Despite low month-on-month changes, demand in raw numbers remains high across both sectors.

Across many organisations, there has been an increase in projects pertaining to new business initiatives, which were previously put on hold as companies internalised and cut costs during the recession. During these times organisations tended to focus on maintaining client relationships, and streamlining internal processes rather than new business initiatives.

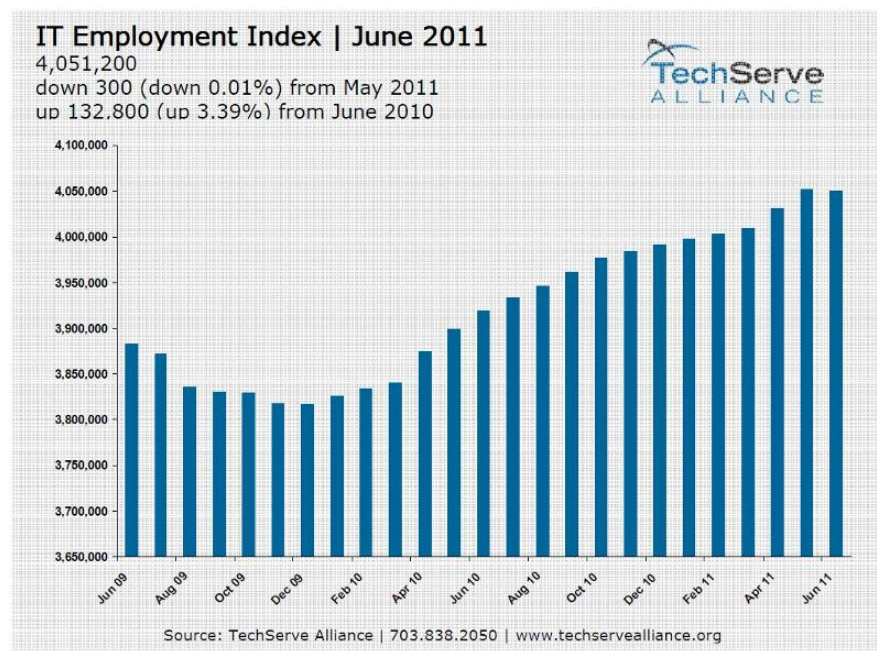
Organisations also appear to be placing a significant focus on process change to improve efficiency, creating a salary premium and improved opportunities for candidates skilled in project management, SAP and Oracle. Businesses are also seeking to better integrate IT with business strategy and are demanding real-time management information - leading to an 11% rise in business intelligence salaries compared to last year.

Barnes concludes: "For well qualified IT professionals, the market looks set to return to one that is led by the candidate, with the best being able to cherry-pick the opportunities available to them. Contrary to 2010, permanent hiring may become the challenge this year. Counter offers for the best candidates are already rising, and if hiring managers cannot fill a permanent role due to scarcity of resource, contract positions are likely to rise."

IT Employment Grows in the Second Quarter; Pauses in June

TechServe Alliance

Alexandria, VA, July 21, 2011 While the number of IT jobs increased in the second quarter of this year, IT employment growth paused in the month of June. According to a monthly index of IT jobs developed and published by TechServe Alliance, a collaboration of IT services firms, clients, consultants and suppliers, the number of IT jobs was essentially unchanged at 4,051,200 (down 300 from the previous month). IT employment is up by nearly 133,000 jobs since June 2010.



"While growth in IT employment paused in June, all signs point to the sector continuing to outperform the overall job market," stated Mark Roberts, CEO of TechServe Alliance. "While there is always going to be some month-to-month variance given the dynamic nature of the economy and labor market, our outlook remains positive for the remainder of the year," added Roberts.

IT jobs are found in virtually every sector and industry in varying degrees. The following table presents information about the total number of jobs in certain sectors that provide a significant amount of employment for IT professionals as well as to the number of all jobs.

Comparisons of TechServe Alliance's IT Employment Index to employment in some key sectors with significant numbers of IT jobs as well as to all private-sector jobs					
June 2011	TechServe Alliance IT Employment Index	Computer systems and design services	Data processing, hosting and related services	Telecommunications	Total non-farm jobs
number of jobs	4,051,200	1,506,900	240,300	869,900	131,017,000
change from previous month	- 0.01%	+ 0.38%	- 0.12%	- 0.05%	+ 0.01%
change from same month, one year earlier	+ 3.39%	+ 4.92%	- 0.58%	- 3.16%	+ 0.80%
<small>note: all figures are subject to revision Sources: Department of Labor/U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and TechServe Alliance</small>					

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Technical note: TechServe Alliance's IT Employment Index is the first specific measurement of IT employment. This unique measurement of total IT employment is created monthly by studying the ongoing staffing patterns of a dozen IT and computer related occupations in 22 industries and industry sectors employing significant numbers of IT workers including the manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, financial, information services, business and professional services, and education and health industries. The monthly IT Employment Index is based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, which is subject to monthly revisions, and therefore, the Index is revised accordingly. The IT Employment Index is also subject to annual revisions and was benchmarked in February 2011 with the publication of the BLS January 2011 employment report, which included revisions to several years of employment data. The next revision will be published in February 2012.

ABOUT TechServe Alliance

TechServe Alliance is a collaboration of IT services firms, clients, consultants and suppliers dedicated to advancing excellence and ethics within the IT services industry. Hundreds of IT staffing, IT solutions and IT consulting firms and tens of thousands of affiliated professionals, count on TechServe Alliance to keep their leadership informed, engaged and connected. TechServe Alliance serves as the voice of the industry before the policymakers and the national and trade press. By providing access to the knowledge and best practices of an entire industry and tapping the "collective scale" of hundreds of companies, TechServe Alliance supports its members in the efficient delivery of best-in-class IT services for clients and exceptional professional opportunities for every IT consultant.

[Contact Us](#)

[Jeanette Miller](#)

[Joshua Ziman](#)