

Working in Essex, Southend and Thurrock



ICT

What's happening?

- The East of England has a large and diverse ICT sector that employs at least 6% of the East of England workforce.
- The region ranks third amongst the nine English regions according to the size of the workforce, having a workforce of 118,019 (52,872 employees in the IT industry; 65,147 IT professionals working in other industries).
- There are three major growth areas affecting Essex in the next 15 to 20 years – the Thames Gateway South Essex, the Haven Gateway and the M11 Corridor.
- The most significant skills gaps in London are in the development and implementation of IT systems and services. The most common job role in the South East is 'ICT Manager'.
- The use of computers and ICT is widespread both in the workplace and in people's homes. 70% of the UK workforce (20 million people) use IT in their work.
- Employment opportunities, where computers are the main part of the job include: selling computers; computer support; computer development; software and hardware design; web development.
- A survey found that a quarter of people working in ICT had qualifications up to level 2. Most of the rest had higher qualifications.
- The ICT sector requires highly-skilled professionals. Many employees are graduates. Employers are particularly interested in people with good teamworking and problem solving skills, who can communicate well.
- The relatively high wages ensure that the sector is a popular choice for young people. Entry can be competitive.

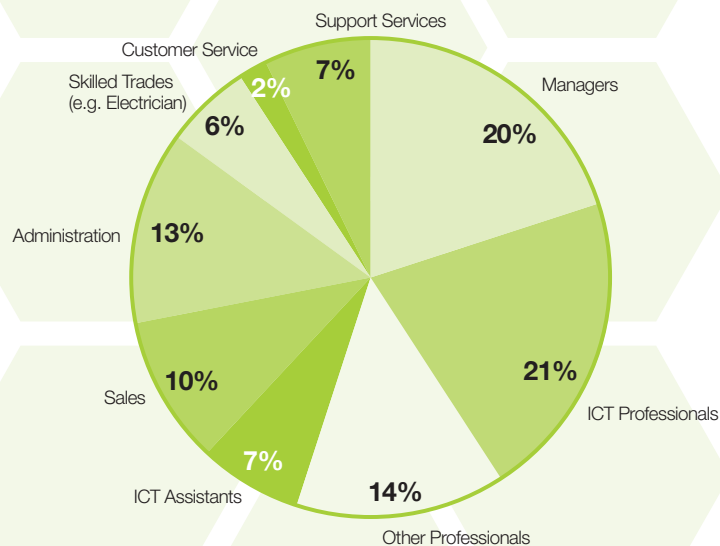
How much could I earn?

Remember – many jobs will demand minimum entry qualifications. Those earning high salaries are usually well qualified and experienced and will continue to learn throughout their working life.

	Annual mean salary
Computer Engineer, Installation and Maintenance	£27,544
Database Assistant/Clerk	£14,912
ICT Manager	£48,231
IT Operatives Technician	£29,954
IT User Support Technician	£25,917
Software Professional	£36,651

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay for full-time workers. Figures are for the UK. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2007, ONS © Crown Copyright.

Who does what?



Source: Labour Force Survey 2006, © Crown Copyright. Figures are for England.

Numbers employed within sector by local businesses

Essex LSC	9,400
Essex	8,400
Southend UA	800
Thurrock UA	300
UK	479,800

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2007, [Nomis 17 May 2007] © Crown Copyright. Figures do not include the self-employed, people under 16 or trainees without a contract of employment. Figures are rounded to nearest hundred.



What we think will happen

- Future skills will focus on systems architecture. Solutions analysts and project managers, who have ICT and business understanding, will also be in demand.
- The advent of network technologies, such as broadband internet, digital interactive television and mobile communications, are creating new markets for ICT.
- In the UK this sector is predicted to grow by 20% between 2004 and 2014, representing 200,000 new jobs. There will be particular demand for higher level jobs, though it is predicted that the East of England will have very little change in terms of the proportion of the IT workforce it occupies between now and 2014.
- The main demand will be for people with skills at levels 3 and 4. These higher skills give people, for example, the ability to install computer systems.
- The Government will continue to invest in ICT for the public sector and its use will become increasingly important.
- There will be a new qualification called a Diploma in Information Technology available from September 2008. This will help people prepare for university, college or work. Look out to see whether it's going to be on offer in your area.

Is this you?

- Very good information technology skills
- Good communication skills
- Team worker
- Enjoy solving problems and putting together solutions
- Enjoy training and updating knowledge

Some job suggestions

- IT Trainer
- Network/Database Administrator
- Systems Analyst/Designer/Architect
- Software Engineer/Analyst Programmer
- Web Manager

Next steps...

If you're serious about this type of work - FIND OUT MORE!

Use your Connexions Resource Area in School/College or visit your local Connexions Centre/One Stop Shop for information about jobs; qualifications; local training; further and higher education; skills and personal characteristics; rates of pay and working conditions.

Really useful websites and resources!

The Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecommunications
– www.e-skills.com

British Computer Society – www.bcs.org.uk

The Institution of Engineering and Technology – www.theiet.org

The Diploma – www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or **call the helpline on 08000 150600**

Jobs4u (careers database) – www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

Working in Booklets – case studies of people in a variety of jobs. (Computers and IT). Try your Connexions area, or download them from www.connexions-direct.com. Go to careers>career resources>

download publications>Working In

For learning opportunities and course information for 14-19 year olds in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, see www.stepon.org

What local students did in 2006

Opportunities for 16 year olds in ICT are limited. You generally need to be trained and skilled. 46% of workers enter after taking a course at NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) level 4 at university or college of higher education. Continuous training to upgrade skills will be essential.

For further information and advice please contact Connexions Direct in confidence (you don't have to give your name or personal details if you don't want to):

Email: via www.connexions-direct.com (click on the email link) • Telephone Connexions Direct on 080 800 13 2 19

Text Connexions Direct on 07766 4 13 2 19 • Local Connexions service www.estconnexions.co.uk

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