

## Computing

Information technology jobs can be found right across industry, commerce and government. Information Technology is now central to the UK's economy across all organisations. This leaflet provides information on careers locally and nationally, training, qualifications and gives you a rough idea of wages.

“ *Small firms dominate the IT and Telecoms sector* ”

### *Jobs in Computing:*

**Systems designer/developer** - design and test a computer systems based on the specification provided by a business analyst.

**Programmers** - write, modify and test the programs that enable a computer to carry out particular tasks

**Software Engineer** - write programs that control the internal operation of a computer system to create a high speed, efficient and versatile system

**PC Support** - help users with problems and to make the best use of their IT systems

**Technical Support** - offer first line telephone, email or web-based support to users who are having technical problems with their computer hardware or software

**Database Administrator** - plans, develops and maintains an organisation's computerised information. Responsible for the accuracy, consistency, security and accessibility of each database

**Network Manager** - designs, installs, supports and manages computers that are connected by a network of computers.

**Operations** - maintain the day-to-day running of a computer system and are familiar with the business operations of the employer

**Internet Designer** - design Internet web pages for clients, using text, graphics and special features such as interactive buttons and animations and could be responsible for the planning and overseeing of the continuous management of a website and its content

**Four out of five** specialist IT companies employ less than 5 five people.

IT professionals tend to be highly qualified - 59% of IT have a degree or equivalent qualification, compared to 30% in the UK workforce as a whole. 20% have A Level or equivalent and only 1% have no academic qualifications.

## Work in Norfolk:

### 6% of East Anglia's workforce is employed in IT.

There is an overall target for Norfolk to have an extra 55,000 jobs by 2021. As other industries expand, such as banking and finance, creative and media, biotech research, this will create a similar growth in IT jobs.

There will continue to be a steady growth in computing services in the Norfolk as a whole. Between 2000 and 2005, actual computing jobs increased from 5120 to 5540. This figure is projected to increase to 6230 by 2010, to 7200 by 2015 and 8620 by 2020.

The biggest growth is likely to occur in Norwich and South Norfolk, but with all districts sharing continued steady - but not spectacular - increases in employment.

The East of England has the third largest IT workforce in the UK and its share of UK IT employment is expected to remain stable over the next 10 years.

Skills in systems architecture will be in demand in the East of England in the future.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.e-skills.com/careers](http://www.e-skills.com/careers) - good place to start  
[www.bcs.org](http://www.bcs.org) - British Computer Society  
[www.skillset.org/careers](http://www.skillset.org/careers) - for information on multimedia careers

## What would I earn?

IT professionals earn 38% more than the average gross weekly earning of UK employees.

The typical starting salary for a college leaver is around £10,000 per annum, although this varies widely. Many employers give apprentices 6 monthly increases and further increases upon completion of their apprenticeships.

The figures below give you an idea of what people in some IT jobs might earn. They are only a guide and don't take account of profit-sharing or other bonus schemes.

Job Title	Average annual salary (£)
Web Developer	£20,000 – 30,000
Digital Designer/ Animator	£20,000 - £35,000
Junior Developer	£25,000 - £32,000
Software Developer	£25,000 - £32,000
Strategic Solutions Architect	£40,000 - £60,000
PC Support	£18,000 – £22,000
Computer Technical Support	£19,000 - £25,000
Network Manager	£30,000 - £42,000
Technical Support	£19,000 - £25,000
IT Operator	£15,000 - £20,000

## The Future

The IT workforce is predicted to grow steadily over the next decade.

There will be a growth in the electronic communications network, mobile computing and the speed of work processes. Therefore there will be an increased demand for business analysts, web support, IT architects, solution analysts, systems integration, networking and security specialists.

Employers will increasingly look for employees with technical, business and personal skills and a good understanding of how they can be used within the sector they are working in. IT professionals are not geeks who exist in a virtual world of their own: they need to understand their company's business and how IT contributes to that business. Relevant experience and skills are a major consideration when IT firms recruit staff.