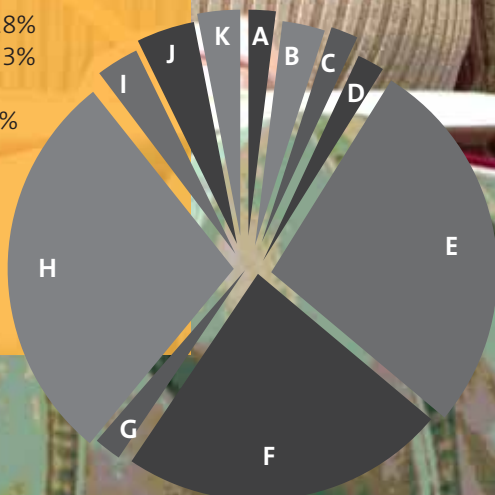


Information Technology

IT is everywhere. We all use it at home and at work. Over one million people work in IT and Telecoms in the UK. They work for companies doing important specialist IT jobs, but also work in jobs in other industries such as finance and banking, health, transport, and the creative sector.

WHO DOES WHAT?

- A Call Centre Agents 2%
- B Customer Care 3%
- C Graphic Designers 2%
- D Installation and Maintenance Engineers 2%
- E IT Professionals 27%
- F Managers 23%
- G Office Assistants 2%
- H Other Occupations 28%
- I Support Technicians 3%
- J Technicians 4%
- K Telecom Engineers 3%



Source: Labour Force Survey 2007
© Crown Copyright.
Figures are for England.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- > Employment opportunities in IT include: selling computers; computer support; computer development; software and hardware design.
- > The use of computers and IT is widespread both in the workplace and in people's homes. 20 million people (70% of the UK Workforce) use IT in their work.
- > About 890,000 people are employed by IT and Telecoms businesses in the UK.
- > The sector contains the highest proportion of small businesses in the UK.
- > The IT sector requires highly-skilled professionals. Employers are particularly interested in people with good team-working and problem solving skills, who can communicate well.

WHAT WE THINK WILL HAPPEN

- > The relatively high wages ensure that the sector is a popular career choice for young people. Entry can be competitive.
- > New qualifications, called Diplomas, are being introduced. These will help people prepare for university, college or work. There will be a Diploma in Information and Communication Technology. Look out to see whether it's on offer in your area.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED LOCALLY

> B&NES	1,894
> Bristol	7,746
> North Somerset	1,700
> South Gloucestershire	6,438

Source: Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis. ONS Crown Copyright. (From Nomis 2009)

SOME JOB SUGGESTIONS

- > Computer Games Designer
- > Helpdesk Administrator
- > IT Trainer
- > Network/Database Administrator
- > Software Engineer/Analyst Programmer
- > Support Technician
- > Systems Analyst/Designer/Architect
- > Web Manager

IS THIS YOU?

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

HOW MUCH COULD I EARN? Average annual salary (£s)*

> Computer Engineer, Installation and Maintenance	£27,421
> Database Assistant/Clerk	£16,427
> ICT Manager	£51,277
> IT Operatives Technician	£31,380
> IT User Support Technician	£26,949
> Software Professional	£37,630

WHAT 16 YEAR OLDS DID IN 2008

In 2008 83.7% of 16 year olds in the West of England continued in full-time education, while a further 10.2% entered full-time employment or work-based training.

A total of 1,182 Year 11 school leavers from local schools entered full-time employment or work-based training. Opportunities for 16 year olds in ICT are limited. You generally need to be trained and skilled. 46% of workers in IT enter after taking a course at NVQ Level 4 at university or college. Continuous training to upgrade skills is essential.

Source: Connexions West of England 2009.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you're serious about a career in IT – FIND OUT MORE!

- > Use Careerscape, JED, Kudos and the IT section of your Connexions resource area for more information including:
 - > Qualifications
 - > Local training, further and higher education opportunities
 - > Skills and personal characteristics
 - > Rates of pay and working conditions
 - > Local, national and international employers.

WEBSITES

- > Apprenticeships: www.apprenticeships.org.uk or call the helpline on 08000 150 600
- > British Computer Society: www.bcs.org.uk
- > The Diploma: www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas
- > The Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecommunications: www.e-skills.com/careers

*Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay rates for full-time workers. Figures are for the United Kingdom. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2008, O.N.S., © Crown Copyright.



Notes

A large rectangular area with a light beige background and horizontal dotted lines, intended for taking notes. The area is overlaid on a photograph of a young man and a woman smiling together.

Connexions centres in the West of England:

Bath and North East Somerset: 28 Southgate, Bath BA1 1TP. T: 01225 461 501

Bristol: 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST. T: 0117 987 3700. Minicom: 0117 907 4514

North Somerset: 45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG. T: 01934 644 443

South Gloucestershire: 21-23 High Street, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire BS15 4AA. T: 0117 961 2760
or 28 Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ. T: 0117 969 8101

Head Office: 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST. T: 0117 987 2031 F: 0117 987 2661

enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk

www.connexionswest.org.uk