



Kansas City Occupation Brief

Information Technology Careers

Information Technology (IT) occupations are in high demand in the Kansas City area. IT professionals interact with every level of an organization's structure and are drivers of innovation at most businesses. Technology now connects people and businesses on a global scale, and an unprecedented number of firms of all types and sizes need help with information technology products.

Over 20,000 people are employed in IT occupations in the Kansas City area and the number of jobs continues to increase. From 2012-2022 IT jobs are projected to grow by 18.7 percent, compared to 9.7 percent for all occupations. Current demand is also high, with Real-Time Labor Analysis* showing over 8,000 job postings for IT careers in the Kansas City area over the year ending November 2014.

Top Employers*

IT Occupations

Cerner
Deloitte Development LLC
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
UMB Financial Corporation
McGladrey
DST Systems
Commerce Bank
HNTB
BalancePoint

Top IT Occupations*

By number of job ads

	Average Wage**
Computer Occupations, All Other	\$86,083
Software Developers, Applications	\$85,765
Computer Systems Analysts	\$77,712
Computer User Support Specialists	\$49,606
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$70,298
Database Administrators	\$71,781
Computer Programmers	\$69,367
Web Developers	\$52,782
Software Developers, Systems Software	\$109,837
Information Security Analysts	\$79,899
All Occupations	\$45,407

IT Occupations

Many IT occupations are in high demand. The 10 IT occupations posted most often by employers (listed at left) represent 95 percent of all IT job postings in the Kansas City area.

Some IT occupations require an associates or bachelors degree, but there are also opportunities for entry-level employment for individuals with IT experience. Jobs as *Computer User Support Specialists*, the fourth highest

in job postings for IT positions, can often be obtained without a college degree. In fact, over 3,000 people in this occupation were employed in the Kansas City area according to the 2013 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. Wages for *Computer User Support Specialists* are also higher than the average wage for all occupations in Kansas City.

IT occupations requiring a degree are also in high demand and continue to evolve as new technology emerges. The most advertised occupation, *Computer Occupations, All Other*, accounts for almost 10 percent of all job postings in the Kansas City area. The "All Other" occupation category includes jobs such as *Information Technology Project Managers*, *Software Quality Assurance Engineers and Testers* and *Computer Systems Engineers/Architects*.

Skills and Certificates

Employers are requesting many skills, including programming languages and technical skills, in their job ads. Topping the list of requested programming skills are SQL and Oracle. General skills requested most often include Technical Support and Business Process.

Certifications are a key component to a career in Information Technology. Some certificates can be obtained without having to pursue the normal higher education path. IT training and certificates are available through community colleges, universities, and self guided online learning modules. Various entry level certificates can be obtained with as little as 2-3 months of study and \$200-\$400, including the cost of testing fees and study materials.

The certification requested most often in entry-level job ads is Certified A+ Technician. The Microsoft Technology Associate or MTA certificate is also recommended as a base certificate for people new to technology before they move on to other Microsoft certifications, such as Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert (MCSE), the top certification requested in IT job postings.

Top Skills*	
SQL	SQL Server
Oracle	LINUX
JAVA	.NET Programming
Technical Support	Microsoft C#
JavaScript	Business Process
Top Certifications*	
Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)	
Project Management Certification (E.G. PMP)	
Accredited Case Manager Certification	
Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	
Cisco Certified Network Associate	
Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)	
Certified A+ Technician	
Certified Public Accountant	
Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP)	
Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)	

Top Industries for IT Occupations*

NAICS Code	Industry	Job Ads
541	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	974
522	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	253
524	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	217
561	Administrative and Support Services	147
521	Monetary Authorities-Central Bank	130
622	Hospitals	119
621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	94
518	Data Processing, Hosting & Related Services	88
611	Educational Services	76
921	Executive, Legislative & Other General Government Support	68

IT Industries

Employers in a wide spectrum of industries are advertising and hiring IT occupations. During the year that ended November 2014, over 8,000 on-line job postings in 72 different industries were posted for IT occupations. This array of industries provides IT professionals with career options in a multitude of industries in the Kansas City area.

Product funded by the U.S. Employment and Training Administration, Workforce Grant

** December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2014 data for this analysis has been extracted using the Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool which collects information from over 17,000 web sources, including job boards, newspapers, and employer websites. The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) uses this data to compile and publish reports for the State and Labor Market Regions. While this analysis presents a broad picture of hiring activity and serves as a measure of labor demand, it does not capture openings that are filled through other networks.*

***Data for wages is from the 2013 Occupational Employment Statistics.*