

March 2021 REPORT



JOB POSTINGS

KC | 4,242 US | 521,817

+336 since February '21 +20,241 since February '21

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

Occupation Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Software Developer	1,214	+180
Computer User Support Specialist	1,072	+20
Network and Computer Systems Administrator	507	-10
Computer Systems Engineer/Architect	385	+77
Information Security Analyst	242	+6
Information Technology Project Manager	205	+29
Computer Systems Analyst	160	+26
Software Quality Assurance Analyst and Tester	151	-8
Web Developer	99	-4
Database Administrator	77	+9

TOP 10 CERTIFICATIONS

Certification Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Secret Clearance	72	0
CISSP	55	-8
PMP	52	+9
CCNA	50	+5
CCNP	36	-1
CISM	31	+1
MCSA	22	Returning
CISA	21	-2
CSM	21	-8
CCIE	21	Returning

TOP 10 HARD SKILLS

Skill Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Computer Programming/Coding	775	-22
Agile	699	+47
Structured Query Language	675	+22
Java	582	-29
Oracle	574	+127
Python	484	+6
Microsoft Azure	476	+31
JavaScript	463	+17
Amazon Web Services	449	+43
Linux	426	-18

TOP 10 EMPLOYERS

Employer Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Oracle	356	+123
Cerner*	204	+76
Garmin*	126	-43
Humana	122	Returning
CTG	68	-24
Honeywell	61	+18
H&R Block	55	-9
KForce	52	-4
Accenture	49	New
Jobot	48	New

* Numbers for this company include job postings that may have previously been listed under an alternate name, or with an extension (like Corp. or Intl.) in the name. No duplicate listings are counted.

Report produced by the KC Tech Council | kctechcouncil.com

Data source: JobsEQ, a tool produced by Chmura | <http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq/>
This data was collected early April, 2020.

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DATA INSIGHT

As we move from February to March, we begin to see more growth in overall job postings. The Kansas City metro area increased by 8.6% with 4,242 total postings. The United States job postings experienced a smaller increase percentage-wise, growing by 4.0% for a total of 521,817 postings.

The Top 10 Occupations for March experienced an overall increase of postings except for three occupations, Network & Computer System Admin (-10), Software Quality Assurance Analyst and Tester (-8) and Web Developer (-4). The Software QA & Tester and Web Developer categories are still seeing an overall rise in openings over the last year, while the Network & Computer System Admin category has been relatively volatile month-over-month. Software Developer continues strong growth as it pulls ahead of Computer User Support Specialist to lead the Top 10 with a total of 1,214 postings. Software Developer again had the most significant increase for March with +180 postings over February.

March had two Certifications appear after an absence of a few months, and two others drop off the Top 10 while demand for the remaining 8 remained relatively stable. CISSP and CSM tied for the largest decrease in postings (-8) and Secret Clearance stayed steady at 72 postings while continuing to lead the Top 10. PMP had the most significant increase with +9 postings over February for a total of 52 postings, while MCSA and CCIE added +22 and +21 postings respectively in March.

The Top 10 Hard Skills for March again experienced very positive growth across all skill sets this month, adding +224 postings. Oracle more than made up for stagnating in February by adding +127 postings in March, more than doubling the nearest competitor Agile at +47. Computer Programming/Coding remains in the lead for the tenth month in a row despite suffering a decline in monthly postings (-22), with 775 total postings. Agile has overtaken Structured Query Language as the second-highest skill with 699 postings for this month (+47). Python had the least amount of growth with +6 postings for a total of 484, still a respectable number but perhaps indicative of newer alternatives starting to supplant it.

The Top 10 Employers of Tech Talent saw a substantial increase in postings with +231, with Oracle continuing to lead the field with 356 total postings, a whopping increase of +123, which also led the field. After not being represented in the Top 10 for a few months, Humana made a comeback with +122 postings, second overall. The Top 10 Employers of Tech Talent welcomes Jobot to the ranks for March with 48 total postings as a new employer to the KC Tech Checkpoint Report.

EMERGING IT TRENDS

As the economic recovery accelerates and we move into the Spring, many graduating students will begin joining the expanding IT workforce.

What can graduates do to differentiate themselves in this competitive marketplace and ensure they land that dream job?

Here are five tips we've found can make a difference when landing that first job:

1. Research the marketplace and understand the types of jobs and specializations employers are currently in search of. There is an enormous variety of jobs that utilize information technology in some form or fashion, ranging from healthcare to government to every type of industry, including agriculture and

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EMERGING IT TRENDS CONTINUED

manufacturing. This has led to an unprecedented amount of specialization as the complexity of integration between technology and business has increased. Information technology students should use the resources at their disposal to research what specializations are prevalent in the geographic areas they are interested in living and what types of IT jobs are most popular. Do not be afraid to specialize! In many cases, this can lead to higher salaries and better opportunities for promotion.

2. Ensure your resume and professional social media are up-to-date and reflect any training or certifications that you may have related to IT. Resumes used to be one of the only channels job seekers had to present themselves to a company. Now, there are various social media channels and job-hunting sites graduates can use to market themselves. LinkedIn, for example, is a must. Graduates should tailor all their various channels to market to the specific type of jobs they are interested in and list all certifications or references relevant to the job or industry.

3. Get experience, even if it's personal projects or charitable work. Many local charities or businesses need help with IT functions and generally cannot afford many full-time IT workers. Graduates could consider volunteering to take calls at a help desk or provide technical support such as servicing computers. Internships or summer job placements are another great option to gain experience.

4. Learn some fundamental skills and be prepared to apply them if hiring employers ask for code snippets or real-life answers to questions posed during interviews. Learning general-use languages such as JavaScript or HTML is a good use of time because they are still in wide use, form the basis of much of the internet and are the foundation of many other computer languages. Another possibility is to install Linux on a computer and become familiar with an operating system other than Windows, as well as the concept of scripting for OS operations. Graduates can join user groups and become familiar with the popular information technology sites on the internet, such as Stackoverflow.com or Angular.io. Immerse yourself in the language and the world of the internet. Write a program and build a website, even if it is for a hobby, church, or to try a specific IT concept. Use skills and knowledge, not a template, to create and publish it. The graduate should save those creations as samples of their work to use in applications and interviews.

5. Be willing to start at an entry-level position. Information technology is one field where talent is relatively easier to spot, and opportunities often present themselves. Most people are surprised to learn information technology jobs are available for those without advanced degrees, assuming graduates have marketable skills. Education, including advanced degrees, always adds value to resumes. Still, even High School graduates can find relatively well-paying jobs available to them, assuming they have the aptitude for the work. Low-level positions allow graduates to gain experience while taking additional courses, completing certifications, or even earning degrees.

Information technology is THE hot field for the 21st century. As can be seen in this report, there is a constant need for talented people in a wide variety of technical fields. These tips for getting a job in information technology are a good starting point for graduates interested in the fast-growing information technology industry.

Author: Pat Dalley | Director of Operations
pdalley@eccoselect.com