

JUNE 2021 REPORT



JOB POSTINGS

KC | 5,601 US | 579,150

-278 since May '21

+6,022 since May '21

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

Occupation Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Software Developer	1,508	-113
Computer User Support Specialist	1,397	+17
Network and Computer Systems Administrator	687	-94
Computer Systems Engineer/Architect	549	+2
Information Security Analyst	324	-36
Software Quality Assurance Analyst and Tester	249	+10
Information Technology Project Manager	231	-29
Computer Systems Analyst	229	+4
Database Administrator	105	-23
Web Developer	96	-31

TOP 10 CERTIFICATIONS

Certification Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Secret Clearance	140	-7
PMP	77	+6
CISSP	73	0
CCNA	50	+4
CISM	33	-8
MTA	29	0
CCNP	28	-1
CompTIA Security + CE	26	-11
CSM	23	-8
C/EH	22	-17

TOP 10 HARD SKILLS

Skill Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Computer Programming/Coding	1,030	-9
Agile	952	-152
Structured Query Language	866	-10
Java	715	-92
Microsoft Azure	614	+4
Amazon Web Services	581	-30
Python	566	-31
JavaScript	531	-81
Linux	470	-19
Scrum	397	-103

TOP 10 EMPLOYERS

Employer Title	# of Current Postings	Change from Last Month
Humana	230	-3
CTG	227	+1
Garmin*	222	+35
Cerner*	155	-20
Deloitte	145	+23
Accenture	99	-24
Netsmart	96	-15
WellSky Corporation	94	+13
Honeywell	86	+26
TEKsystems	65	-6

* 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 July, 2021.

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DATA INSIGHT

June brought little change to the total job postings locally and nationwide over May. The Kansas City metro area decreased by 4.7% with 5,601 total postings, trending slightly downwards as the local hiring market continued to stabilize. The United States job postings grew by a very small 1.1% for a total of 579,150 postings, potentially driven by employers facing a somewhat challenging hiring market with the lingering impact of the pandemic, rising inflation fears and the always-challenging technical skill shortage.

Reflecting the negative growth in June, the Top 10 Occupations mostly decreased across the board. Software Developer (-113) suffered the most significant losses, while Web Developer had the most considerable percentage loss at 24%. Looking on the bright side, four Occupations saw an increase in hiring, which included the Occupation with the most significant total gain, Computer User Support Specialist (+17) and largest percentage, Software Quality Assurance Analyst and Tester (4%).

For Certifications, the month of June saw a total of 501 postings, which kept the category's streak of being over 500 alive. Only two Certifications grew in June, including PMP (+6) and CCNA (+4), while two others remained static: CISSP and MTA. The largest decrease both in numbers and overall percentage was C/EH (-17). Secret Clearance once again led the category with a total of 140 postings, almost double its nearest rival PMP at 77.

The Top 10 Hard Skills for June declined by 523 postings over May, bringing the category to a total of 6,722 postings, reflecting the overall drop for all categories over the last month. Once again, we have a new category leader as Computer Programming/Coding (-9) outlasted Agile (-152) by losing the least ground over May. Azure (+4) was the sole entry to gain postings within the category. Interestingly, the two entries that lean more toward methodology, Agile and Scrum (-103), were also the two with the highest losses this month which could either indicate weakening demand or that those positions have been more quickly filled.

As usual, The Top 10 Employers of Tech Talent reversed trends seen in the other categories, gaining ground over May for a total of 1,419 postings. Employers remained the same from last month, with Humana (230) leading in total postings while TEKsystems (65) had the least. Garmin (+35) showed a growth trend while Accenture (-24) had the largest downturn.

EMERGING IT TRENDS

How will potentially rising inflation affect the information technology job market? For many years, the belief has been that increasingly complex and pervasive technology dampens inflation. For example, Rick Rieder, BlackRock's chief investment officer of global fixed income, has stated that "We're going through an incredibly historic pinpoint in time where you've done this amazing downward pressure on inflation coming through technology. It's a very, very different dynamic than anything we've ever seen before." Rieder used the example of an iPhone to demonstrate the dramatic downward pressure on prices for compute and data storage. He went on to say, "An iPhone in 1991 storage and computing cost dollars would be worth \$1.44

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EMERGING IT TRENDS CONTINUED

million per phone. An iPhone today costs a minuscule portion of that. That gives you some sense for this incredible inflationary impact on so many things that are now done via mobile or done through automation.”

So, will increasing technology not only temper inflationary impacts but also affect the information technology job market in terms of increasing automation? Things to consider here include:

- Fear of machines replacing humans has been around since the 1930's. What is different now is the ability of machines to imitate human cognition, or the ability to think, read, learn, remember, reason, and pay attention. Consider the example of the chatbot, which has increasingly augmented front-line customer service organizations by handling routine customer information taking and other tasks. While there will certainly be jobs available developing, testing, and supporting chatbots, it's equally likely there will eventually be a large number of IT Service Desk personnel displaced by more sophisticated bots.
- It isn't likely that new technology will destroy the need for human IT jobs and suddenly cause a mass surge in unemployment. However, as technology advances, some job categories may become obsolete or changed fundamentally. Technological changes will also likely put pressure on middle-skill routine jobs and incomes. For example, Service Desk technicians or software testing performed manually may see reduced demand. Other types of IT jobs will grow in importance, for example, Machine Learning specialists or Computer Network Design.
- Studies have shown that technological improvements are an important factor behind lower inflationary pressure. However, impacts on inflation from advanced technology with the potential to fundamentally impact jobs that require human cognition (i.e., machine learning) are still too early to be seen. So far, Inflation is mainly being kept down by a slower than expected recovery to stronger GDP growth after the Global Financial Crisis. Still, indicators lately have shown the massive stimulus programs enacted during the pandemic may have inflation starting to tick up again.

It seems highly likely that rising inflation in combination with advancing technology will impact the overall information technology job market. However, that impact is likely to be far lower than the overall job market as expanding technological capabilities will not only increase need for skilled technology workers but also serve to temper any inflationary pressure post-pandemic.

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