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## **New Zealand: New positions drive IT job market skyward**

**By Contributor, Monday, 10th October, 2011**

The insatiable growth in demand for skilled IT staff is showing no sign of abating, and the diversification of the industry is making things even harder, according to figures from employment site [Seek](#).

For the year to August, ICT listings have grown 27%, Seek says. ICT claimed the most new job ad listings out of any sector over the past 12 months, with 4200 roles hosted in August alone. Janet Faulding, Seek New Zealand general manager, says the figures show the digital revolution is showing no signs of slowing down.

"In fact, we have noticed strong employment growth in the IT sector as a whole," Faulding says, "and an increasing range of new and diverse positions advertised.

The category has one of the largest sub-classification lists on the seek website, at 22."

### **Where the jobs are**

Regionally, and unsurprisingly, the majority of IT roles for the year were Auckland-based, at 59 %, followed by Wellington at 29% and Canterbury at just 7%. The remaining roles are peppered throughout New Zealand regions at 5%.

Ben Pearson, general manager of Beyond Services Limited in Wellington, explains that while the capital may be second to Auckland in numbers, he believes that Wellington is home to the larger IT projects and technology initiatives.

"Beyond Services is experiencing extremely strong demand for IT skills in Wellington," Pearson says, "to the point where we cannot fill all our vacancies quick enough.

"This is being driven by the Government's focus on value and efficiency, with the local IT sector scooping up numerous interesting projects requiring both staff and contractors.

"This pressure is particularly acute in software development across all role types from developers, application BAs and systems development project management."

### **Regional growth**

While the number of IT roles based in Canterbury is comparatively low, it is the region that has experienced the strongest level of growth, at 57% over the past year. Wellington has seen a steady 10% growth and Auckland continues to perform strongly with a 22% increase.

### **Job application activity**

Application data on Seek reveals that across the country the most competitive roles are Helpdesk & IT support (consistently listed in the top five most competitive roles in New Zealand). Regionally, though, the 'candidate rich'/candidate short' results are varied, with different regions experiencing shortages in different areas; in Auckland, Developers/Programmers receive the most applications per advertised role, yet in Canterbury this classification receives the least applications per ad.

Nathan Taukiri, GM of the company voted three times in the Seek annual recruitment awards as New Zealand's favourite IT recruiter, Potentia, believes candidates are currently enjoying a market with more choice across most job families.

"The wider IT job market is looking healthy," Tauriki says, "with hiring activity across all levels of seniority driven by both growth and attrition.

"Demand for people is strong in software development – developers with Java or .NET skills, business analysts, and testers. As companies grow they're favouring intermediate level hires and this is where the supply of candidates is shortest.

"The market is becoming increasingly tight for good people and as a result, we're seeing heightened interest in offshore candidates, with more employers reaping the rewards from braving the immigration process."