



**Over 70% of IT workers considering working abroad instead**  
*UK IT landscape faces potential 'brain drain', as technology workers consider alternative markets*

**London, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009** - Despite recent speculation that economic recovery is on the way, the UK's IT industry could be set to lose a huge chunk of its intellectual capital as new research from IT staffing expert Computer People showed that 71% of technology workers are considering working outside of the UK.

Ongoing concerns over skill shortages are likely to be further exacerbated by the finding, as it is evidence that UK employers are competing for the best talent on a global basis but not necessarily winning.

The annual Computer People IT Salary Review report, which looks at the trends in recruiting remuneration and retention in the IT sector, found that disruptions to the employment landscape as a result of the economic downturn, and the resulting drop in perceived job security, has led many IT workers to proactively change their careers, including moving to another market entirely.

The climate of uncertainty surrounding the recession has meant that many employees are looking around for new opportunities, with 92% of IT workers surveyed admitting that they are either actively seeking work or at least keeping an eye on the job market. A number of permanent (39%) and contract (35%) workers also admit to considering a change in career, potentially compounding the brain drain and skill shortages currently faced in the UK IT labour force.

Nick Dettmar, Managing Director of Computer People says, "The UK has faced an ongoing concern over skills shortages within the IT industry so losing further intellectual capital to other markets is a situation our economy cannot afford, especially as we look ahead to the prospect of economic recovery in the relatively short-term. However, for those as closely involved with shaping and managing employment across the UK economy as we are, these research findings reflect real opportunity as well as highlighting potential concerns;

"Employers who are willing to demonstrate a commitment to their employees and a progressive approach to the challenges of today's working environment have the potential to retain and attract the best candidates as they prepare for the upturn and at Computer People we intend to continue being an integral part of that process."



The report also showed that while interesting work and good pay remain important to IT workers, many have adjusted their salary expectations and are attracted by employers who can offer some form of job security and clear career progression. Indeed, the percentage of respondents who rated job security as either extremely or very important has risen over 20% from 54% in 2008 to 77% in 2009.

For a full briefing on the research results and their implications for the UK's IT industry, please contact [computerpeople@octopuscomms.net](mailto:computerpeople@octopuscomms.net).

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#### **About Computer People**

Computer People is the IT delivery arm of Adecco Group, world leader in human resource solutions. Computer People has been the UK's leading IT recruitment specialist since 1972. We're one of the Sunday Times' '100 Best Companies to Work For' and part of Adecco Group the global leader in general staffing, managed services, consulting and specialty staffing.

For more information please visit [www.computerpeople.com](http://www.computerpeople.com)

#### **About the research**

Undertaken by Loudhouse Research, a London based independent research agency consultancy, the IT Salary Review report is based on the findings from two surveys undertaken in the UK in Q3 2009; one focussing on the employer perspective of the recruitment market and the other focussing on the contract and permanent employee perspectives.

The employer component of the research consists of 100 UK organisations sampled through the use of telephone surveys to discuss recruitment practices. All businesses interviewed in the survey had a minimum of 250 employees, with average company size over 1,000 employees. The employee component of the research is comprised of 3,935 self-completion surveys conducted on-line with IT professionals, with the aid of the partnership with giant Group. Of these 1,867 or 47% are permanent members of staff and 2,068 contractors (53%).