

# Industrial Sector

## I.T. & Telecommunications



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### Industry profile

#### I.T & Telecommunications industry:

- 1 in 8 employed people in the UK work in the IT and telecoms industry.
- The IT and telecoms industry in the UK delivers an annual gross value added (GVA) of £81 billion, 9% of the total UK economy.
- The ICT sector contributes around 10% of the UK's gross domestic product.
- The UK economy will require an average of 110,500 new IT professionals every year for the next 4 years.

### Trade union profile

- Unite has members within the IT and Telecommunications sector
- Other unions with some membership are PCS and BECTU

#### Major organised employers:

##### IT

Computer Service Corporation   Fujitsu   IBM   Sterria   Hewlett Packard   EDS

##### Telecommunications

BBC   ITV   Ericson   Nokia

#### Collective bargaining:

National bargaining at the BBC, ITV and Ericson, the rest of the companies have single site/contract agreements

**International bodies:** Union Network International (Uni), International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), European Metalworkers Federation (EMF)

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## Skills

The sector has a polarised skills base with 35% of the workforce having high level skills and 30% with no skills at all. This clearly causes issues in relation to the provision of training within the sector.

There are also issues around training supplied by employers to ensure workers have the opportunity to maintain their professional development and to ensure that the lowest skill levels are offered skills training to upgrade their skills.

e-skills UK is the Sector Skills Council for business and I.T.

## Key sector issues

### I.T.

The main issues for the sector are off-shoring and out-sourcing, many key organisations have off-shored their IT departments overseas or have out-sourced them to private companies.

Out-sourcing is now becoming a serious issue within the public sector due to government cuts to local authority budgets and as such many more workers are being affected by the attack on public services.

The I.T. sector has a significant level of pay inequality which needs to be addressed.

The sector suffers from a transient workforce, with many companies employing temps or agency labour which drives down pay levels and compromises existing terms and conditions.

Prime Minister, David Cameron recently announced plans to make Britain the most attractive place in the world to start and invest in innovative technology companies – Unite waits to see how this announcement will transmit into high quality, permanent jobs for I.T. professionals.

## Pay settlements in the IT & Communications sector

Company	% Uplift	Date
Hewlett Packard	2%	January 2011
Ericson	3% + 1.9% anomalies	January 2011
EDS	2%	January 2011
ITV	3%	January 2011

