

The PACE/SkillPROOF IT JOB INDEX REPORT

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT
APRIL 2007



**Job Success
With
Information Technology**

Jennifer Brola



Title: Intranet Developer & Production
Programmer

Employer: Blue Sky Studios
DPS in Computing, Class of 2009

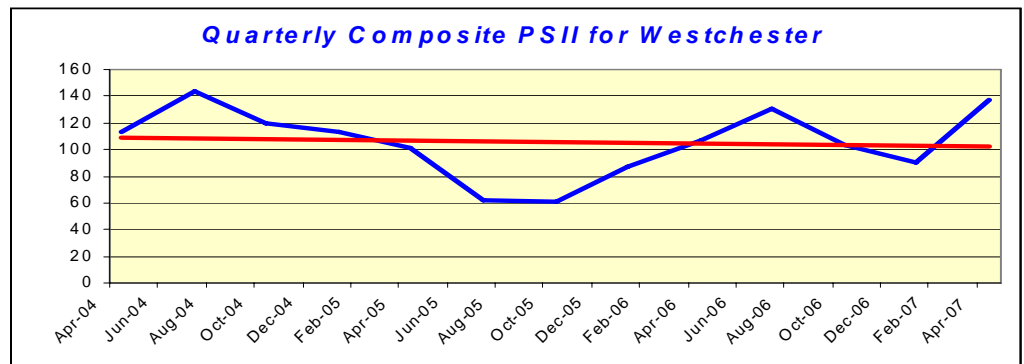
" I believe that the future of information technology, and of computing in general, will be one where disciplines blend together. There are many wonderful areas of convergence to consider when looking for a technical career. Women, in particular, should not feel discouraged. If you are determined and flexible, professional opportunities will reveal themselves. "

Westchester IT Job Market Rebounds Substantially

The Pace/SkillPROOF Index (PSII) of the IT Job Market in Westchester County, New York, registered 137 for the 1st quarter of 2007, 50 percent higher than the 90 registered in the 4th quarter of 2006 (2004-2006 cumulative opening = 100).* The figure is 28 percent higher than the 107 registered for the 1st quarter a year ago.

Since the overall trend in the IT job market in Westchester County has been slightly down, the rebound in the 1st quarter is significant. After more than two consecutive quarters of decline, the job market shows improvement as indicated by the rising tip of the graph below. It is worth mentioning that the overall employment picture in all areas was disappointing in the first two months of the year as opposed to the IT job market which showed a positive trend.

Most of the 11 tracked categories had increased postings, led by the demand for Computer Scientists. The Yearly and Monthly Diffusion Indexes, the ratio of the number of categories with higher postings over the previous period, registered better than 73 percent. Of the 11 categories tracked by SkillPROOF, eight had greater demand over both the previous quarter and the first quarter of 2006.



For the complete data and analysis, go to [Historic Behavior of IT Job Categories](#).

* The base of calculation was improved for this quarter due to availability of more data, which enabled us to add the information on the IT job market during 2006 to the base. This change has altered the numbers, but will not affect the relative position of the Index, quarterly or annually.

PSII in the News

Since the advent of The Pace/SkillPROOF IT Job Index Report late last fall, it has been cited several times in the press:

["Tech job outlook promising"](#)
The Journal News, January 27, 2007

["Where's the techie? IT spending rising, but grads lacking"](#)
Westchester County Business Journal, January 1, 2007

EARLY BAROMETER: WHAT THE INDEX TRACKS

The Pace/SkillPROOF IT Index is a comprehensive index that tracks job openings in New York County (Manhattan) and in a separate report, Westchester County, NY. Both versions use data obtained by SkillPROOF, Inc. Using this data, the Pace Index is then calculated in three formats: the weighted average of the job postings as a snapshot of the IT Job market, and year-to-year and month-to-month changes in major categories of the current IT job market as diffusion indexes. For more information about the methodology visit the PSII Web site at <http://www.pace.edu/psii>.

Quote of the Month

"I think computer viruses should count as life. I think it says something about human nature that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive. We've created life in our own image."

-- **Stephen Hawking**

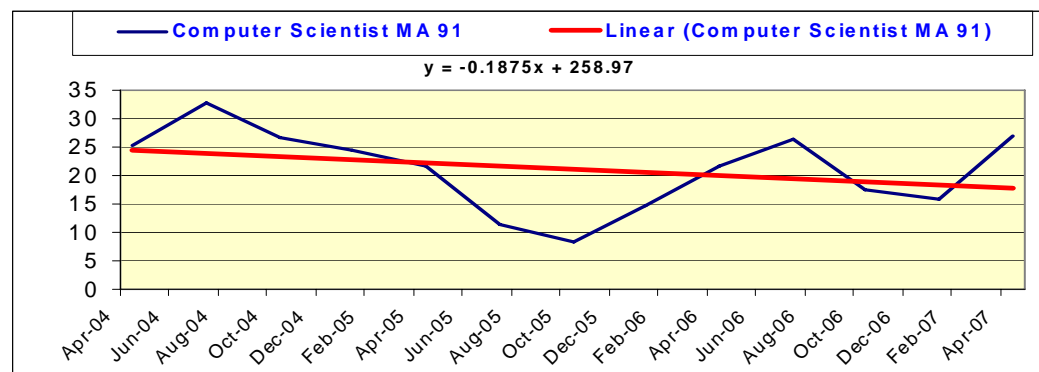
*Theoretical Physicist and Professor of Mathematics
Cambridge University*

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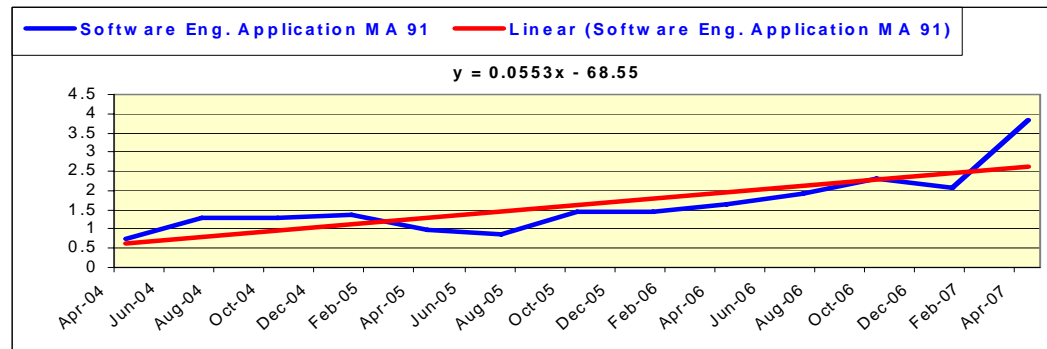


First Quarter Analysis

According to the overall trend estimate of the 11 tracked categories, the year-to-date growth of more than 28 percent in the IT job market in Westchester County indicates growing demand for IT professionals. Although the overall trend is slow, the 1st quarter demonstrated a substantial rebound. Of the 11 categories traced by SkillPROOF, Inc. in the 1st quarter of this year, only three showed either stability or decline in demand over the 4th quarter of 2006, and similar numbers indicated weak demand the year before. Demand for Computer Scientists overshadowed all other categories, although demand for Network Administrators and Software Engineers also increased. We expect a reversal of the downward trend later in the year led by the growth of the IT Job Market in the last two quarters.



Software Engineers/Application category, graphed below, had a healthy rebound over the previous period.



Hot Tech Skill: IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL)

Demand for skills in ITIL is growing with an estimated 170 open positions for this specialty in the New York Metro area and approximately 1,600 nationwide. ITIL has established itself as a de-facto standard for quality service of IT operations at large employers. It makes a strong contribution to the increased recognition of IT services/value with end users. For IT departments, ITIL provides an opportunity to document performance and provide standardized benchmarks to company leadership.

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