

The PACE/SkillPROOF IT INDEX REPORT

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT
OCTOBER 2008



“Over the past four years we have seen an increase in the number of IT job openings nationwide. This favorable demand has encouraged more students to consider opportunities in IT-related fields, and upon graduation they have successfully competed for exciting positions in companies across many industries.”

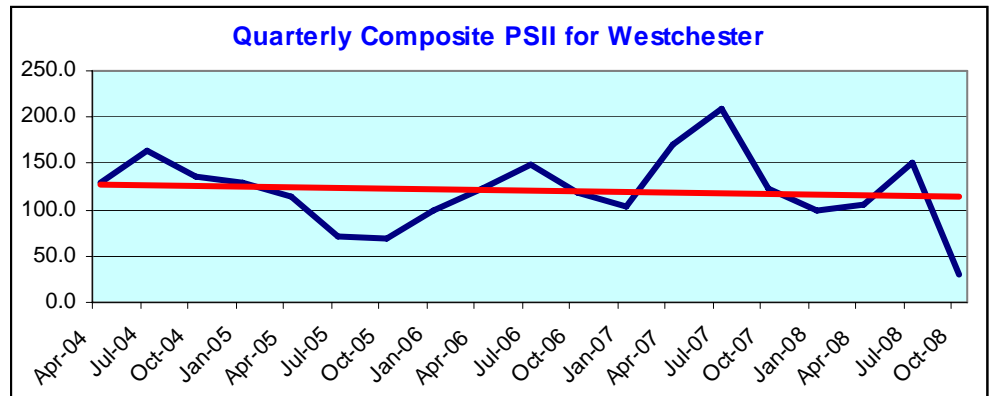
“While the current crisis in the financial markets and its rippling global effect dampen the number of IT openings in the near term, we believe that individuals with relevant business and IT skills will continue to find well-paying jobs and that, in the longer term, the demand for IT skills will remain strong.”

-- Kevin Faughnan
Director
IBM Academic Initiative

With One Exception, Westchester IT Market Hit Badly

Although demand for **Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts** showed a slight upturn near the end of the quarter, the Main Streets of Westchester County are feeling the pain of Wall Street. Mirroring the state of the economy and the increase in unemployment reported for September, the IT job market in Westchester had its worst quarterly decline since the PSII was created in 2005. The Composite Index dropped more than 100 points, from 151 to 31, during the 3rd quarter in contrast to the strong growth of over 40 points reported last quarter.

Although the Westchester IT job market is somewhat removed from that of New York City, the overwhelming power of the current economic turmoil extends far beyond the metropolitan area. Given the uncertainties surrounding the rescue plan passed by Congress earlier this month, and the ongoing negative news from the banking sector, it is not surprising that the IT market is faring poorly, along with the rest of the economy. (See details on next page.)



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

Comment from Constance A. Knapp, PhD

Interim Dean, Ivan G. Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

As the nation and the world adopt a “wait and see” economic attitude, we at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems take the “long view” of IT jobs. This issue of the Pace/SkillPROOF IT Index Report provides a context in which to understand the volatility of the labor market in the New York area in general and in the IT field specifically.

As many IT professionals take stock of their careers at this crossroad, some might decide to sharpen their skills. The Seidenberg School is uniquely positioned to respond to the need for up-to-date education since we offer programs at the graduate level designed to meet the demands of today’s marketplace.

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>.

The PACE/SkillPROOF IT INDEX REPORT

Quarterly Quote

"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently."

Warren Buffett
Chair, Berkshire Hathaway

SINKING FEELING AS FALL IN JOBS SPREADS

James Politi in Washington
Financial Times
October 6, 2008

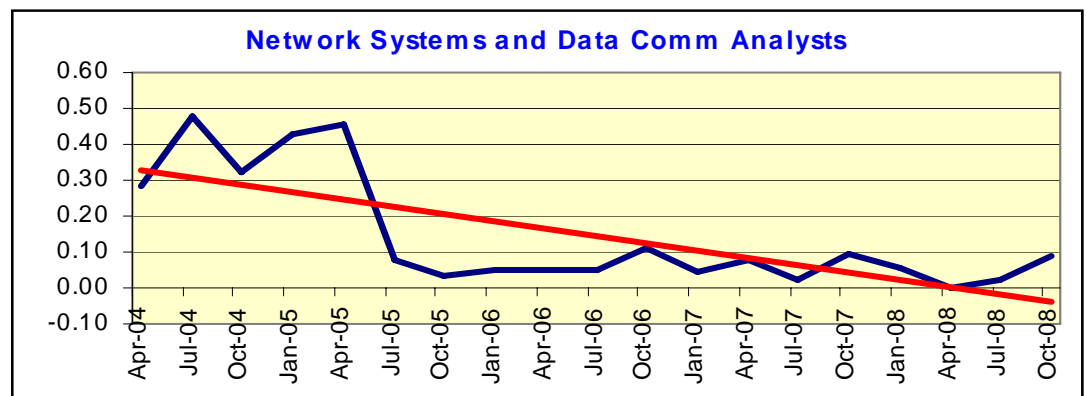
"JPMorgan economists have compared the US labour market with a boat sailing through rough seas over the past few months. The July data showed it 'was taking on more water, but has not yet capsized.' By August, the boat had indeed capsized, and in September there were '159,000 men and women overboard,' according to figures released at the end of last week.

"Last month's decline in non-farm payrolls was the largest since March 2003, and one of the clearest signs yet that turmoil on Wall Street and the US banking industry is spilling over into the broader economy: manufacturers cut 51,000 jobs; retailers shed 40,000; construction companies lost 35,000; and financial services groups slashed 17,000."

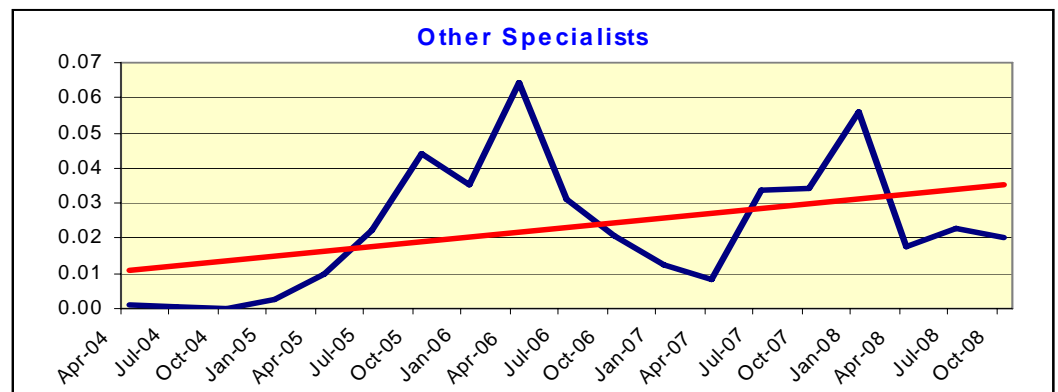
Third Quarter Analysis

Headline news has been less than encouraging in the past few months and Westchester employers appear to be taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Of the 11 job categories tracked by SkillPROOF, only **Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts** exhibited growth with a slight upturn near the end of the quarter.



One category that demonstrated unusual behavior is that of the **Other Computer Specialists**. Since the inception of this index three years ago, this category has always moved in opposition to the market. When the overall market was down, this category was up indicating a preference for generalists over specialists. Data for the 3rd quarter, however, does not support this trend. This may be attributed to the overall uncertainty of employers and their wait-and-see attitude.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Sponsor and Project Oversight: **Constance Knapp**, PhD, Interim Dean, Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems
Modeling and Economic Analysis: **Farrokh Z. Hormozi**, PhD, Department of Public Administration, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences.
Data Provided by: **Henning C. Seip**, SkillPROOF, Inc. www.skillproof.com
Editor: **Louise P. Kleinbaum**
Consulting Editor: **Christopher T. Cory**
Web Designer: **Seung-Seok Choi**

For comments, clarification or additional information, please e-mail ITindexinfo@seidenberg.pace.edu
To learn more about Pace's Seidenberg School, visit www.seidenberg.pace.edu