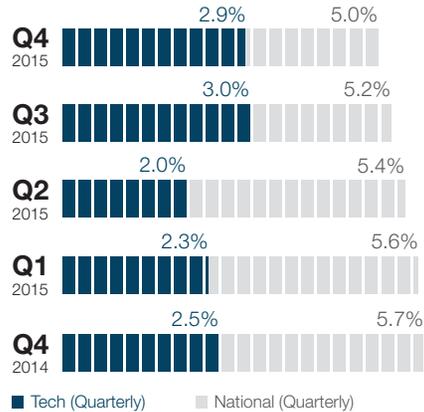


Tech Employment Snapshot: Q4 2015

Unemployment Rates



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; overall unemployment rate is seasonally adjusted – Technology (computer and math) is not seasonally adjusted.

The technology industry's unemployment rate edged downward in the fourth quarter of 2015, hitting 2.9 percent—a tenth of a percentage point down from the third quarter of the year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Although that's higher than earlier in 2015, when the unemployment rate in tech dipped as low as 2.0 percent, it's still better than the overall U.S. labor market, where the unemployment rate hit 5.0 percent in the fourth quarter.

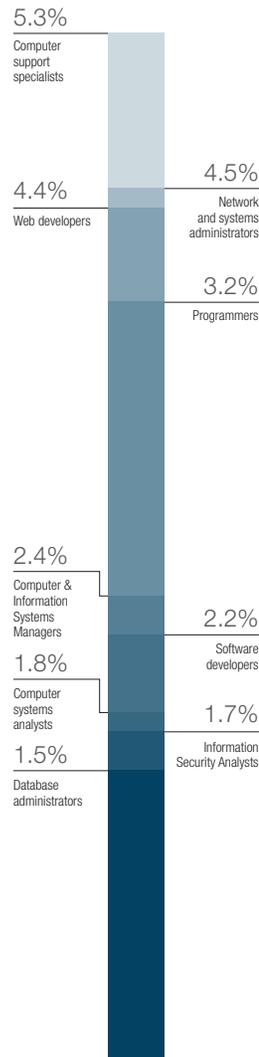
In the fourth quarter, a number of technology segments monitored by the BLS saw a notable decrease in unemployment. For example, the unemployment rate for Web developers fell from 5.10 percent in the third quarter to 4.40 percent in the fourth; for computer systems analysts, the dive was even steeper, from 3.80 percent to 1.80 percent during the same timeframe. Network systems administrators, software developers, and computer & information systems managers likewise saw decreases.

For a few other professions, unemployment rose. Computer support specialists saw their joblessness rate rise from 4.20 percent in the third quarter to 5.30 percent in the fourth; programmers' rate bumped from 2.60 percent to 3.20 percent.

After two quarters of steady job losses, computer and electronic-product manufacturing experienced a slight increase of 300 jobs. Despite that rise, the segment continues to struggle.

“The latest data shows the tech industry remains robust. Unemployment has been low and 2015 was a standout year for job creation. Tech pros are taking notice, with a strong rate of voluntary quits signaling candidates are confident in leaving their positions for better prospects.”

— Bob Melk, President of Dice

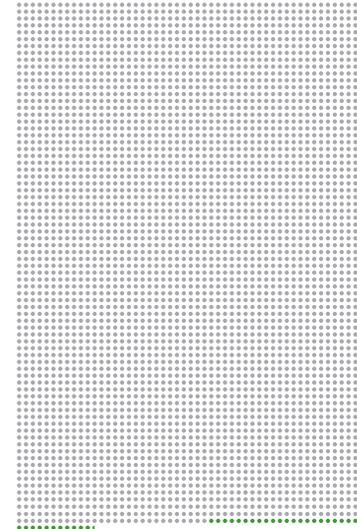


Source: Unemployment rates, Q4 2015, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Household Survey

Jobs Created/Lost in Q4 2015

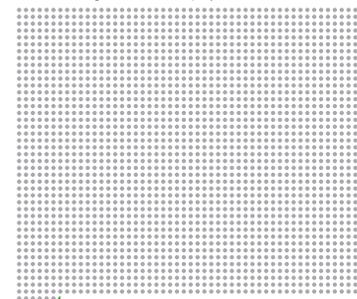
Computer systems design

Professional and Business Services: 1,905,600 employed*



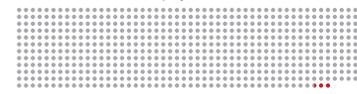
Computer and electronic products

Manufacturing: 1,053,100 employed*



Data processing and hosting

Information: 297,800 employed*



* preliminary • = 500 people • = gained • = lost
Source: Change in number of employed positions from Q3 2015 to Q4 2015 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Establishment Survey

Monthly Average of Quits

(Professional and Business Services)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, Professional and Business Services, average preliminary Voluntary Quits, October and November 2015.

Preliminary BLS data suggests the total average layoffs and discharges for October and November, the latest months for which numbers are available, were 427,000 and 416,000, respectively. That's an increase from the third quarter, when average layoffs and discharges totaled 363,000 per month, and roughly in line with the second quarter, when average layoffs and discharges totaled 421,700 per month. In the fourth quarter of 2014, by comparison, layoffs and discharges averaged 450,300 per month.

The BLS estimates voluntary quits among tech pros at 519,000 and 500,000 in October and November, respectively, the latest months for which numbers are available. That is parallel with the third and second quarters of the year, when voluntary quits averaged 505,000 and 510,700 per month, respectively. Those numbers suggest that technology professionals continue to feel positively enough about the overall health of the economy to leave their current positions in search of better opportunities. Other pros also choose to pursue freelancing and contracting opportunities.

In sum, the technology segment closed out the year with low unemployment for many segments, and signs that technology professionals remain upbeat about their prospects. From an employer perspective, that means continuing pressure to offer competitive salaries and perks to attract the necessary talent.