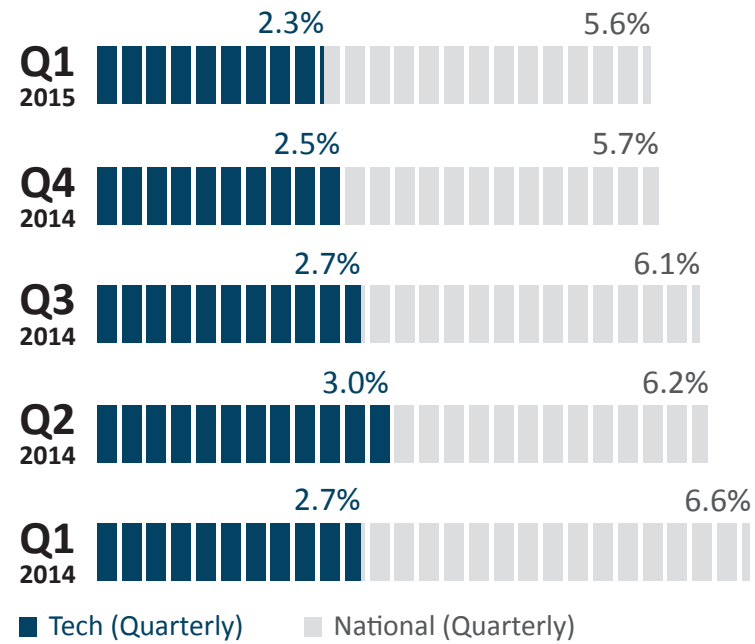


Tech Employment Snapshot: Q1 2015

Unemployment Rates



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

In the first quarter of 2015, the tech unemployment rate averaged 2.3 percent, the lowest rate recorded since the second quarter of 2008, when the unemployment rate was 2.1 percent. Moreover, the unemployment rate declined over the course of the quarter, from 2.5 percent in January to 2.0 percent in March.

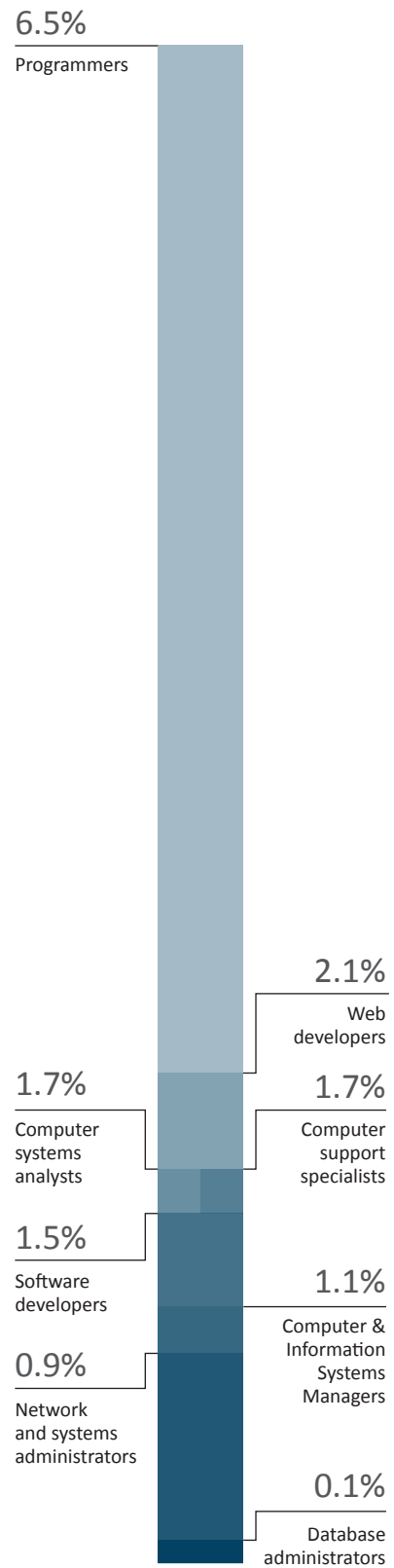
“It’s a great time to be in tech. The unemployment rate for the technology industry dipped to the lowest rate since the second quarter of 2008, and tech pros are feeling very confident as the number of voluntary departures rises to historical highs, setting up a perfect storm for the tech-hiring environment.”

— Shravan Goli, President of Dice

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2015 declined for all of the following: Web developers, computer-systems analysts, computer support specialists, network and systems administrators, software developers, computer & information systems managers, database administrators and network architects. This follows on steady declines in the unemployment rate for all of these professions throughout 2014.

The one exception to these general declines, programmers, saw their collective unemployment rate climb from 2.5 percent to 6.5 percent between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015.

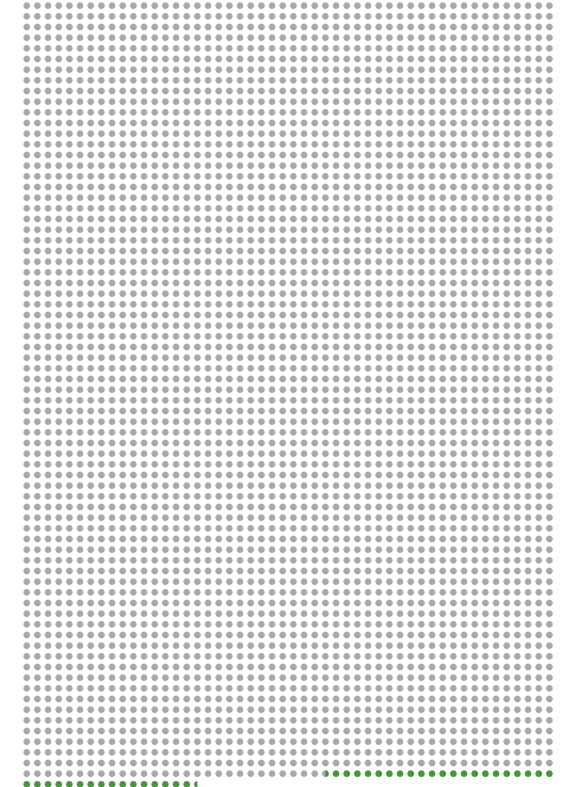
Data processing, hosting and related services saw 6,800 jobs added in the first quarter of 2015. Computer and electronic-product manufacturing also enjoyed a slight rise with 2,300 jobs added during the quarter. Tech consultants added 19,000 jobs, signaling that sector is as robust as ever.



Source: Unemployment rates, Q1 2015, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Household Survey

Jobs Created/Lost in Q1 2015

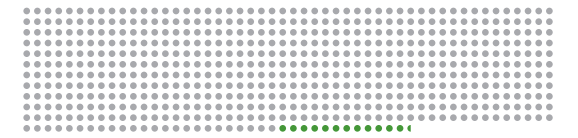
Computer systems design
Professional and Business Services: 1,833,400 employed*



Computer and electronic products
Manufacturing: 1,057,100 employed*



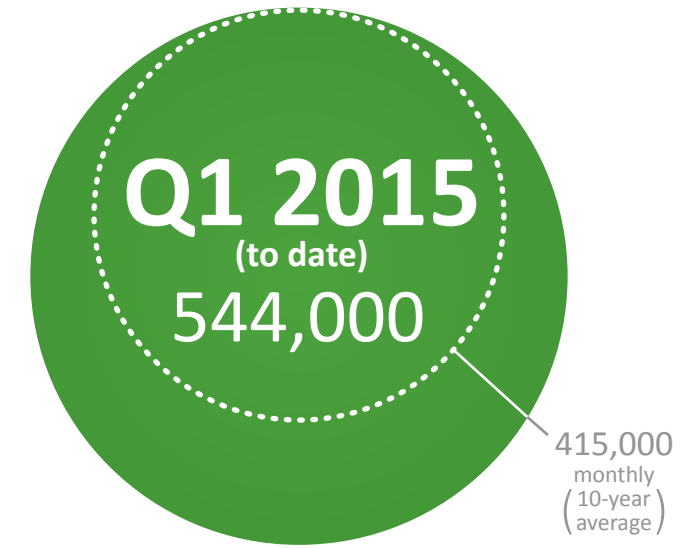
Data processing and hosting
Information: 293,300 employed*



* preliminary • = 500 people • = gained • = lost
Source: Change in number of employed positions from Q4 2014 to Q1 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, January and February 2015.

Preliminary data from the BLS estimates that total average layoffs and discharges for the first two months of the year (the latest data available) were 397,500 employees per month. That’s a significant decrease from the fourth quarter of 2014, which saw average layoffs and discharges of 450,300 employees per month, but a little higher than the first quarter of 2014, which averaged 386,000 layoffs and discharges per month.

The BLS data also shows that an average of 544,000 employees per month in the professional and business services industry voluntarily quit their positions in the first two months of the first quarter (the latest data available). This is slightly more than the 471,300 employees per month who left their positions in the fourth quarter of 2014 and the 470,300 who left during the first quarter of last year. The recent level of voluntary departures suggests that more professionals are feeling confident enough about the health of their industry and the economy to strike out for what they perceive to be better opportunities.

For tech professionals, the dip in the unemployment rate may lead to higher salaries, as employers compete more aggressively to attract pros with the right combination of experience and up-to-date skillsets in what is a tighter market. This year’s [Dice Salary Survey](#) found that the average technology professional earned \$89,450 in 2014, up two percent from 2013; sixty-one percent of those surveyed earned higher salaries than in the previous year, thanks in large part to merit-based raises.