



# How fertile is the IT job market in the UK?

A report finds IT contractors are filling an ever more strategic role for businesses, but is the industry growth trend up or down?

## 75% of UK businesses make use of IT contractors

A [new report](#) published by resourcing specialist Experis has this week revealed that the UK is one of the top five countries in the world for IT contractor use. According to the study, over 75% of UK businesses make use of IT contractors, which is a considerably higher number than the international average.

Once more, studies about the levels of contractor use show that independent professionals are significant in bridging the widening skills gap across the UK. Contractors are now starting to fulfil a more strategic role for business owners, rather than being simply a short term means to an end.

### How does the UK compare?

The study surveyed hiring managers across ten different countries, examining their resourcing patterns around IT employees. The UK was found to be one of the countries leading the wider global trend. Sitting just behind countries such as India, Brazil, Italy and France, the study confirmed that the UK actually used more IT contractors than global economic powerhouses such as the US (66%), Japan (65%) and Germany (40%).

Interestingly, what the study also analysed was the intention that the countries that used the fewest IT contractors had to increase their freelancer usage. The analyses found that 19% of respondents in the US and 17% in Australia express plans to hire more IT contractors in core business functions in the near future.

### Growth in other markets

However, Germany, known as an economic and business powerhouse in Europe and across the globe, responded with just an 8% expectation of using more IT contractors in the future.

45% of respondents answered that it was concerns surrounding that the length of time it took to train new contractors that prevented them from being hired. Secondary concerns included confidentiality concerns (38%) and difficulty in building relationships (36%).

It is clear that there is a widening trend in employers across the country establishing flexibility within the workforce while simultaneously plugging the gap that is widening between demand and the supply of permanent specialist skills available in the market. Never before have contractors been so essential a part of the business landscape across the country.