

Skills shortage driving jobs rise

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JOB advertisements in the technology sector closed the financial year with a rise of 1.46 per cent, seasonally adjusted, in June, according to a survey.

The moderate result was a 55.75 per cent increase over online job ads for the same time last year, the Olivier Internet Job Index finds.

Multimedia, internet and graphics jobs stood out with a spectacular jump of 21.45 per cent in June.

"There's a skills shortage in the multimedia, internet and graphics area because it is a specialist field," Olivier Group director Helen Olivier said.

"It's a good gauge that skills shortages are cutting into the market and people will have to really search for talent."

Technology was ranked fourth out of 21 sectors surveyed last month, based on job numbers.

There were 17,202 technology vacancies online in June, seasonally adjusted, up from 16,954 in May.

This is an additional 248 technology roles.

While the technology sector continued to grow in June, it could not match the 8.69 per cent rise recorded in May - the biggest surge in job vacancies so far this year.

"We're seeing large increases in the number of jobs in the database development and administration side of IT, and that is put down to the essential development of customer relationship management systems," Ms Olivier said.

Database development and administration roles increased 10.6 per cent in June, while hardware engineering systems vacancies were up 10.8 per cent.

Instruction/training/writing roles slipped by 0.63 per cent. The IT graduate market continued to grow, with 267 roles in June, a 4.30 per cent rise over May.

The overall Australian job market hit another peak, rising 4 per cent, seasonally adjusted, to deliver a weekly average of 163,837 jobs on the main jobs boards.

The run up to the end of the financial year often included a dip in hiring activity, but the market was still strong, Ms Olivier said.

"In July, we will see an upsurge again as people will have renewed budgets for more IT development."

Research last week from recruiter Candle ICT recommends that the industry make long-term training and development strategies a priority to address future skills shortages in the market.

Candle ICT national manager Trevor Taylor said organisations should look at partnering with a vendor to fill the skills gaps in the short-term while investing in training of permanent staff and long-term contractors.

Meanwhile, a survey by remuneration specialist Classified Salary Information Services finds technology employees received an average 4.8 per cent salary rise from June 2004 to June 2005.

This was below the 5.7 per cent average increase across all sectors.

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