



For Immediate Release

ICT Economic Sectors Healthy

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According to a study released this week, Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) employers and employees are important parts of California and U.S. economies that are faring well and have strong future prospects - a welcome bright spot in a long, dark economic downturn. Employers across California report strong job growth for ICT workers, but flat or declining employment for the rest of their workforce over the next 2 years.

ICT is an umbrella or superset term and framework, used widely outside the U.S. and by the U.N., to encompass all rapidly emerging, evolving and converging computer, information and communications technologies. This study, conducted by the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Centers of Excellence and the Mid-Pacific ICT Center, is the first in California to explore the importance and prospects of this consolidated industry and employment sector in a manner more consistent with many studies abroad.

Strong ICT Industries:

Mapping existing industry classifications to ICT, ICT companies represent about 4% of all California companies, bring in 6% of California revenue, employ a million workers in California and pay 12% of private sector wages, with wages per employee about twice the State average.

Strong ICT Employment:

Not all ICT industry workers do ICT related work, but ICT related work occurs in most industries today. Mapping existing job classifications to ICT, the ICT workforce is now about 1 in 20 jobs in the U.S. and in California, with strong growth projections of 46,000 annual new and replacement jobs in California, paying about twice the State average.

Strategically Important:

More than 600 California companies were surveyed. Among the report's findings:

- 82% agree or strongly agree ICT is important to their organizational productivity.
- California companies anticipate 3.8% overall employment growth over the next two years. However, companies providing ICT goods and/or services expect 8.5% employment growth, and those that do not expect overall employment to shrink by .4% over the next two years.
- 85% of California companies require at least some employees to fill ICT workforce roles, and 74% agree or strongly agree that these roles will grow in importance for their employees
- California companies anticipate 7% overall ICT workforce employment growth over the next two years, significantly higher than the 3.8% overall employment growth estimates.
- More than 50% of firms report difficulty recruiting employees with appropriate ICT workforce skills.

The report, which can be downloaded free at http://www.mpict.org/ict_study_phase2.html, calls for California policymakers, employers, investors and educators to take note of ICT as an economic bright spot with strategic implications for productivity, employment and economic growth at many levels.

About the Centers of Excellence

The Centers of Excellence (COE), funded in part by the Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges, Economic and Workforce Development Program, in partnership with business and industry, deliver regional workforce research customized for community college decision making and resource development. For more information, visit www.coeccc.net, call (415) 267-6565, or email jcarrese@ccsf.edu or phil@greenlmi.com.

About MPICT

The Mid-Pacific ICT (MPICT) Center is funded in part by the National Science Foundation to coordinate, improve and promote ICT education, with an emphasis on 2-year colleges, in northern California, northern Nevada, southern Oregon, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories. For more information, visit www.mpict.org, call (415) 239-3600 or email info@mpict.org.