

Make informed decisions about your career path by learning about key labour market sectors in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly

THE DIGITAL

SECTOR IN CORNWALL & THE ISLES OF SCILLY





Introduction to the digital sector

The digital and tech sector makes up one of the fastest growing sectors across the UK. Cornwall is home to the fastest growing tech sector in the South-West, with forecasted annual growth of 17.9% by 2026. This growth, along with growing numbers of digital jobs across many sectors, rapid changes in technology, and employers struggling to find people with the right skills, has all led to a digital sector recruitment crisis.

The digital and tech sector includes a wide range of businesses and jobs ranging from computer programming and consultancy, telecommunications through to the development of computer games and the technical aspects of media production.

Almost all jobs now require digital skills, but jobs in the digital and tech sector are far more likely to need advanced and specialist skills such as programming, web development and data analysis.

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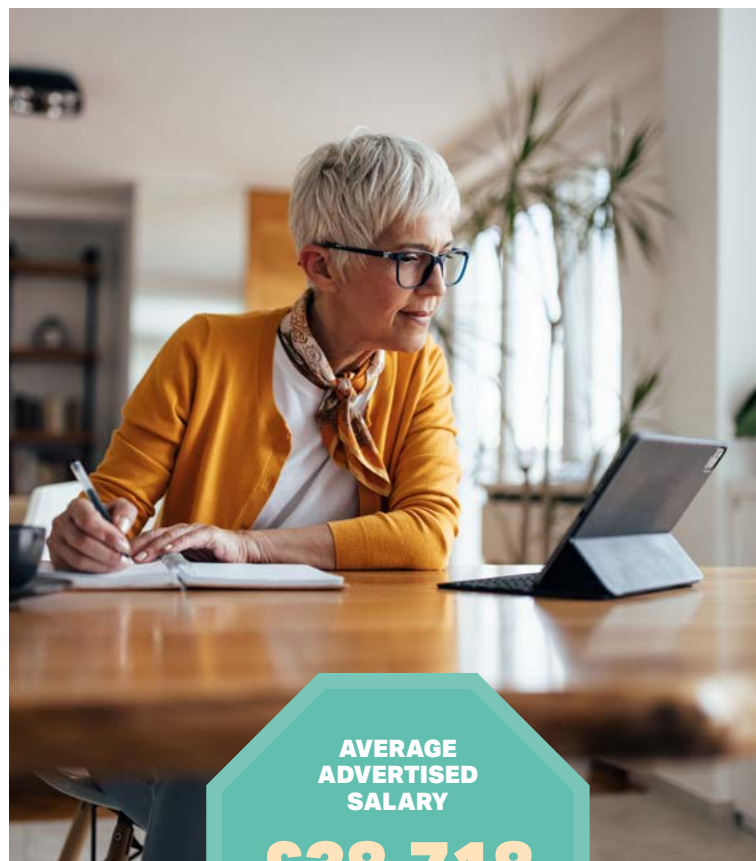
Current outlook

There are around 4830 people employed in the digital and tech sector in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly and there are 1460 digital organisations.

Within the digital sector, almost half of employees work within computer programming and consultancy. The other leading sub sectors are telecommunications, media, and electronics and computer manufacturing.

When considering the baseline or key skills required to work in the digital sector, it's important to remember that employers still prioritise communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. These skills can all be developed throughout education or by working in non-digital roles.

While the National Careers Service can provide advice on formal routes to getting into this sector, it is also worth noting that not everyone who works in this field has a formal qualification. Especially in the area of coding and programming, as many employees develop their skills through online and unaccredited courses. However, there are also a wide range of college and university courses focusing on digital and tech skills across the region. Many employers are also offering apprenticeships to upskill existing or new staff in digital skills, such as the software development apprenticeship.



**AVERAGE
ADVERTISED
SALARY**

£38,718

**IN CORNWALL
IN THE DIGITAL
SECTOR**

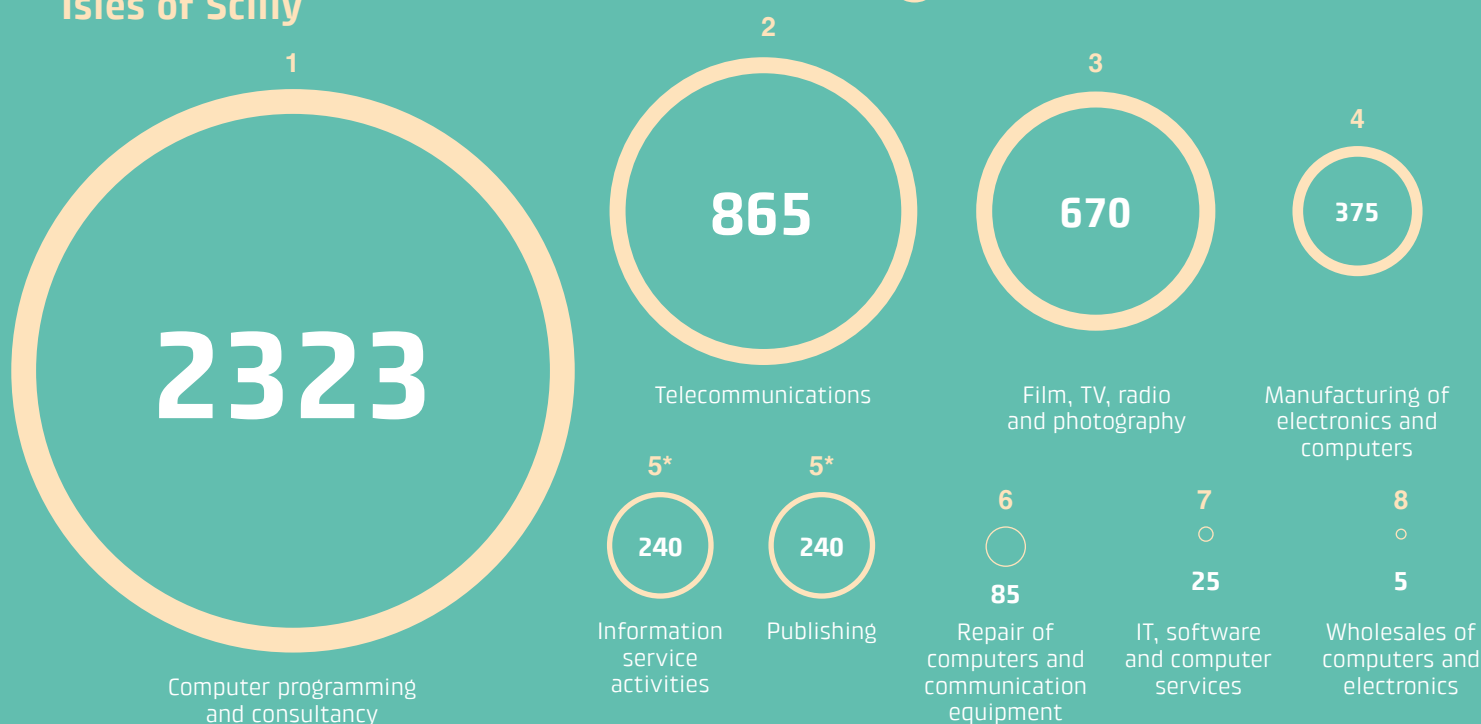
Salaries in the digital sector¹

Occupation Title	Mean Salary (UK-wide)
Network engineer	£50,800
Project manager/Agile Specialist	£45,500
Programmer Builds & tests computer programmes	£43,900
Software tester	£42,100
Software developer / engineer Designs & builds computer programmes	£39,244
Data analyst	£37,500
Web developer	£34,600
Information security	£24,900
Computer support specialist	£24,600

¹ All data taken from Digital Skills Partnership (2022).
 CloS Digital Skills Assessment. <https://www.careershubcios.co.uk/local-news/dsp-publishes-cios-digital-skills-assessment-2022/>

Distribution of data and tech jobs by sub-sector in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

Key:  Number of Job Postings in 12 months² * = equal



Employers

Small selection of digital and tech sector employers in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly as follows:

- Hertzian
- Allen & Heath Limited
- n-Coders
- Avanti Corporation Limited
- Bluefruit Software
- Affinity Digital (Tech) Ltd
- Headforwards
- AntiMatter Games Limited
- Thought Quarter
- Hiyield
- King's Service Centre
- Rowe IT
- TouchByte
- Crowdfunder Ltd
- Wildanet

Digital skills are increasingly sought by businesses and organisations in non-digital sectors

In demand skills for key occupations in the digital and tech

Occupation	Specialised skills	Baseline skills
Computer Support Specialist	Setting up computer systems, upgrading hardware and software installations, virus removal.	Communication skills, Troubleshooting, Problem solving.
Information Security	Cabling, Fibre optics, Network engineering.	Communication skills, English, Mentoring.
Web Developer	Web development, testing & optimisation, web languages, Javascript, HTML, CSS, PHP, JS, Wordpress, Adobe, Google Analytics.	Problem solving, Communication, Creativity.
Data Analyst	Data analysis, Business intelligence, SQL, Data mining & modelling, Interpret trends in data sets, Power BI/ Tableau, SQL.	Communication skills, Problem solving, Microsoft Excel, Report writing.
Software Developer/Engineer	Microsoft C#, SQL, Javascript Linux, Git, Python, & C.	Communication skills, Problem solving, Mentoring.
Software Tester	Software and API testing, programming/coding, scripting skills.	Communication skills, Problem solving, Planning.
Programmer	Epic Unreal Engine, Microsoft C#, Process improvement.	Mentoring, Problem solving, Communication skills.
IT Project Manager	Agile and Waterfall methodologies, Scrum/Scrum Master, Project management, Stakeholder management.	Planning, Organisational skills, Communication skills, Financial management.
Network Engineer	Network engineering, Cisco, Customer service.	Troubleshooting, Problem solving, Communication skills.



Useful things to know

Employers anticipate that there will be ongoing skills shortages in many of these technical areas. Skills like the ability to use programming languages like SQL, JavaScript and Microsoft C# are likely to continue to be in high demand.

Due to rapid technological advancements, it can be difficult to accurately predict what sort of digital roles will be needed over the next five years. However, it is likely to include a demand for workers who can work with Big Data, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. These roles are a great starting point for people looking to upskill or retrain in future-proofed roles.

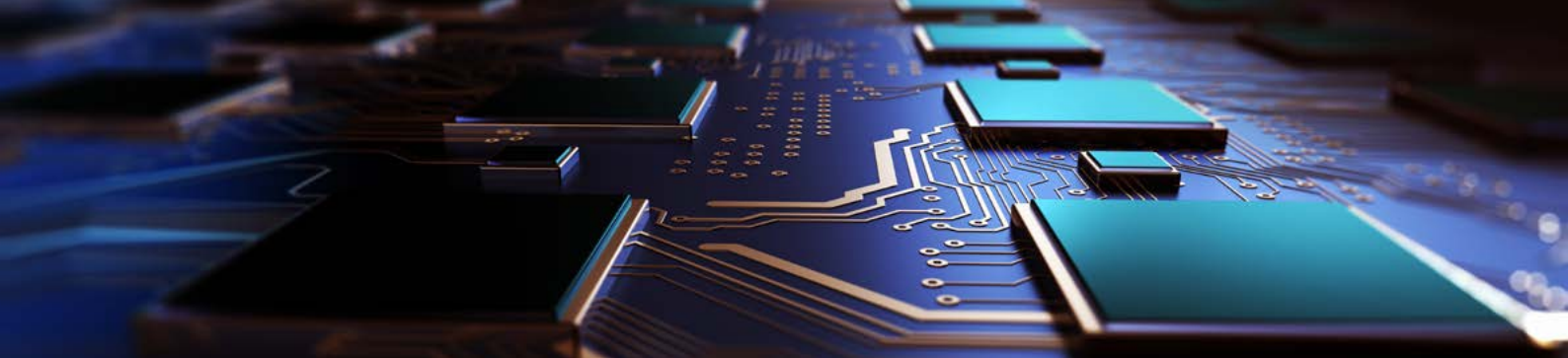
Future outlook

Cornwall has a growing and fast-paced digital sector. The region is known for creative educational establishments such as Falmouth University, and world-leading digital agencies. Cornwall offers a diverse digital ecosystem and a creative cluster that's helping to break new ground. While the digital sector itself will continue to grow, demand for digital roles across four other sectors will increase demand considerably in the region. Some key sectors to look out for are screen and creative, spacetechnology, agritech and marinetech. Recent research has identified that these related sectors will all rely on similar skillsets including software development and data analysis.

The focus on climate change and net zero will continue to encourage companies to use technological solutions to tackle the climate crisis. These tech solutions will all be designed by digital literate and digitally skilled workers. This will bring new opportunities for new roles that incorporate sustainability, AI and new technologies into existing and new jobs.

Automation

Automation will impact the digital sector in a similar way to other sectors, with particularly automatable roles being replaced by AI or software. The roles in this sector that are at high risk of automation are roles related to sales, customer service roles and IT support workers. What can never be automated is innovation and creative problem solving, which is why those skills are increasingly in demand.



Routes into the digital sector:

1. It is possible to move directly into a job in the digital and tech sector and to receive training on the job. The **Find a job service** (<https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk>) can help you with your search for jobs and send alerts when new jobs become available.
2. Apply for an apprenticeship or traineeship with an employer. The **Find an apprenticeship service** (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>) can help you to find these opportunities.
3. Check out Software Cornwall for local jobs, career and skills opportunities <https://softwarecornwall.org>
4. Undertake a relevant College course, or new T-Level qualifications are available for 16–18-year-olds.
5. If you are looking to change sectors, want to update your skills or are recently unemployed, a Skills Bootcamp or the Gateway in Tech programme could be your next step to a better job. Search the latest digital bootcamps here: <https://skillslaunchpad.org.uk/skills/train4tomorrow-skills-bootcamps-devon-cornwall> Find out more about Gateway to Tech here: **Gateway into Tech - Software Cornwall | Software Cornwall**
6. Graduates can enter the workforce after attaining a relevant degree.
7. Work experience can be a great way to find out what it's like working in the sector and to help gain valuable skills for your CV.
8. Self-employment - some of the best digital and tech businesses have started through a digital passion or hobby. Free Start-up Business Support in Cornwall - Outset (<https://www.outset.org/cornwall>)

For further support:

Software Cornwall (<https://softwarecornwall.org>)

Digital Careers (<http://www.digitalcareers.org.uk>)

Youth Employment UK (<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub-sector/digital>)

National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/the-skills-toolkit>)

Contact the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly People Hub, they can help if you are:

- unemployed and wondering what options are open to you
- out of work and looking to retrain or develop new skills
- recently redundant and want to get back into work or training

Call - 0333 0150699 (Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm)

Visit – www.peoplehub.info

Email – hello@peoplehub.info

The National Careers Service provides free careers advice and guidance to individuals from the age of 14. Visit 'Get the Jump' for 14–19-year-olds and the National Careers Service website for adults.

Get the Jump: explore your education and training choices |

National Careers Service (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>)

Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources |

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