



**this issue**

Metro Atlanta IT employment continues to recover

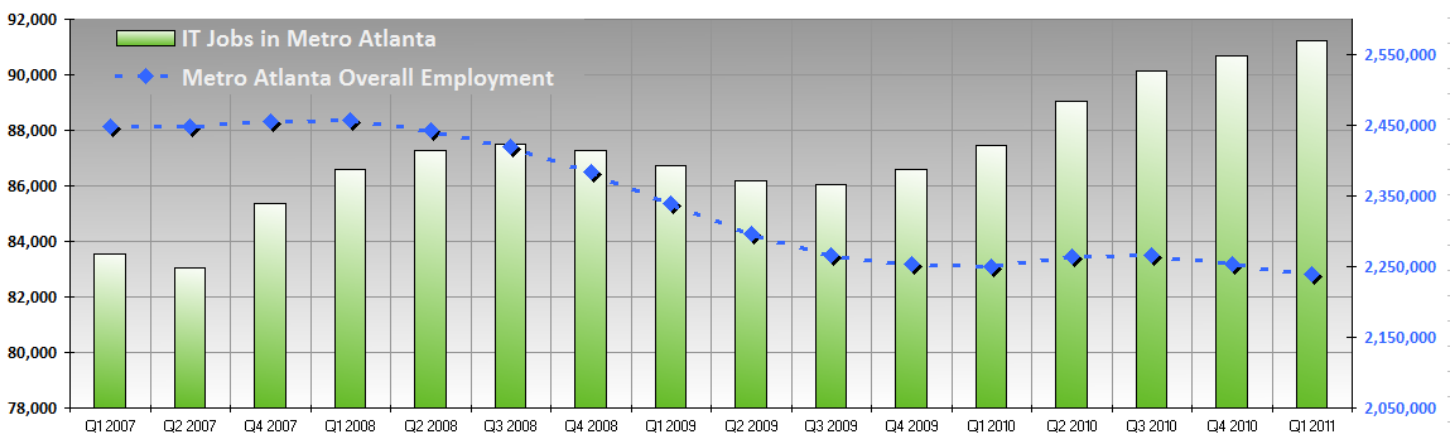
Survey of employers reveal IT plans and hiring

## Metro Atlanta IT employment continues to recover

**The number of IT jobs in metro Atlanta did not follow the same patterns as overall employment during the recession. Nationally, the recession began in January 2008 and ended in June 2009, a period of 18 months. In metro Atlanta, employment started to drop off late in Q1 2008.**

However, growth in IT jobs in metro Atlanta did not start to decline until Q4 2008 and resumed growth in Q4 2009. Several possible explanations exist why IT jobs did not trend the same as overall employment. One likely reason that IT jobs were late to the recession is because IT professionals are considered highly treasured employees that companies tried to keep after they started to dismiss less

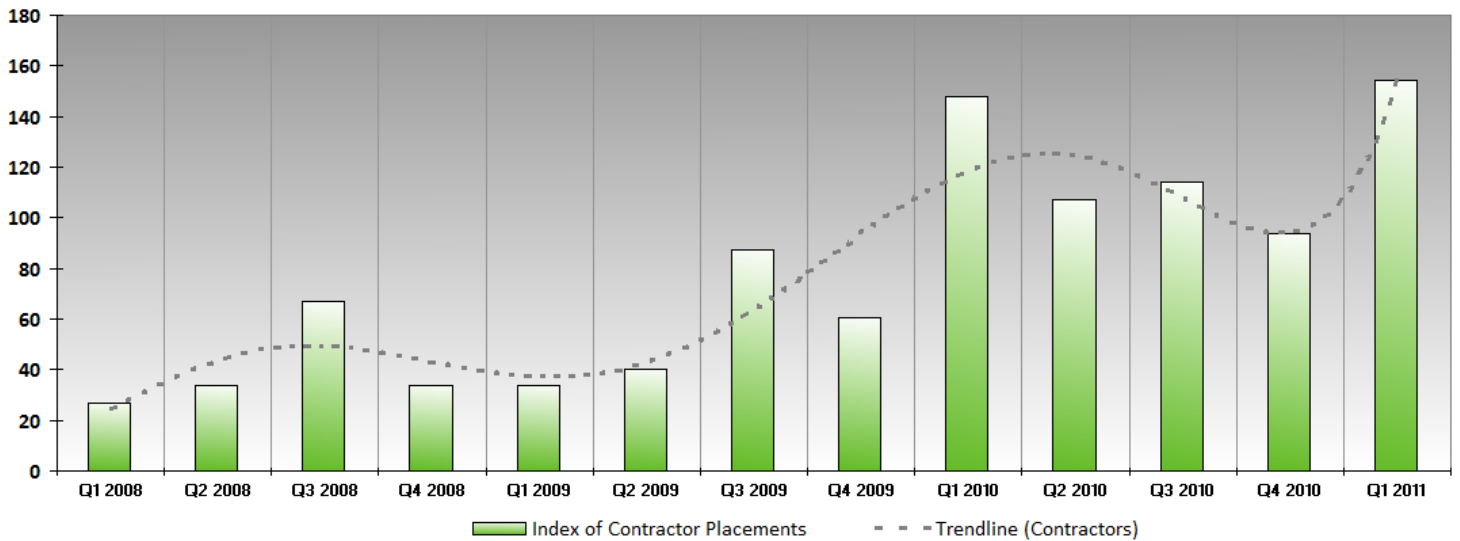
valued staff. One conclusion of Agile's recently published whitepaper [Four Winning Talent Strategies for the New IT](#) is that the application of technology accelerates and improves business performance. Companies realized that IT could help improve their performance and productivity – vital elements to survive a downturn – so they kept IT professionals on as long as possible.



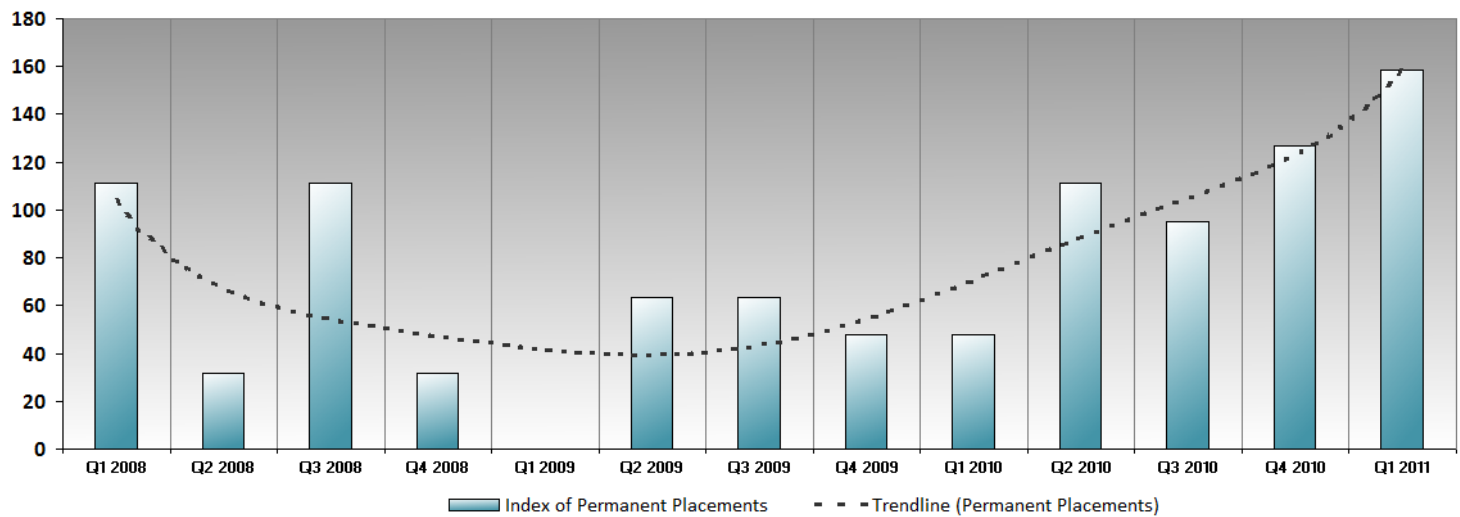
Agile is a unique IT talent and consulting firm that transforms the way IT organizations do business by providing them with a faster route to top talent and technology solutions. The Agile Advantage Model provides technology leaders flexible delivery options in five core areas: CIO Advisory Services, Application Architecture & Delivery, Enterprise Operations, Information Lifecycle Management, and Project Management. By delivering top talent with core expertise, clients benefit from increased productivity and innovative solutions that speed time to market and drive business value.



## Index of Agile's IT Contractors Placed on Assignment



## Index of Agile's Placement of IT Professionals in Full-time Positions



Agile estimates that the number of IT jobs in the metro Atlanta area has recovered steadily since Q4 2009. Since Q3 2009 when the post-recession number of IT jobs was just over 86,000, it has grown to more than 91,000 jobs or about 6 percent. This is a remarkable performance, especially when taking into account that the number of overall jobs in metro Atlanta is about 1 percent lower for the same time period. "With the high number of high-tech and financial services companies in metro Atlanta, it's not at all surprising to see that the growth in IT jobs has

outperformed the local employment economy during this initial stage of the economic recovery," explains Tricia Dempsey, founder and CEO of Agile.

In addition, the types of IT positions that Agile is filling is shifting, likely as a result of how metro Atlanta employers are changing the manner in which they staff IT positions. During the recession, employers were cautious about staffing IT jobs, whether through a temporary / contract arrangement or bringing in a permanent employee (we should note that permanent

placements dramatically declined). But, as the recovery took hold, both types of staffing arrangements began to recover – partially due to pent-up need for workers with advanced IT skills that they were reluctant to bring in during the recession. The demand for temporary/contractor positions, which require less of a long-term commitment, grew faster than the call to fill permanent positions. But as the recovery began to prove itself in late 2010 and early 2011, Atlanta employers are looking to permanently build up their IT workforce.

# Survey of Metro Atlanta employers reveal IT plans and hiring

Agile's first quarterly survey of metro Atlanta found some very interesting trends. For companies that are increasing their IT spend in 2011, there are broad differences where they are planning to apply their resources.

Although more than 40 percent said they are keeping their IT capital expenditures (e.g. hardware and other equipment) the same in 2011 as in 2010, nearly 60 percent are planning to spend more in 2011 – with about 33 percent planning to spend between 10 and 24 percent more and about 8 percent between 25 and 49 percent more.

More than 40 percent of respondents have budgeted 10 to 24 percent more in 2011 on IT projects and another 25

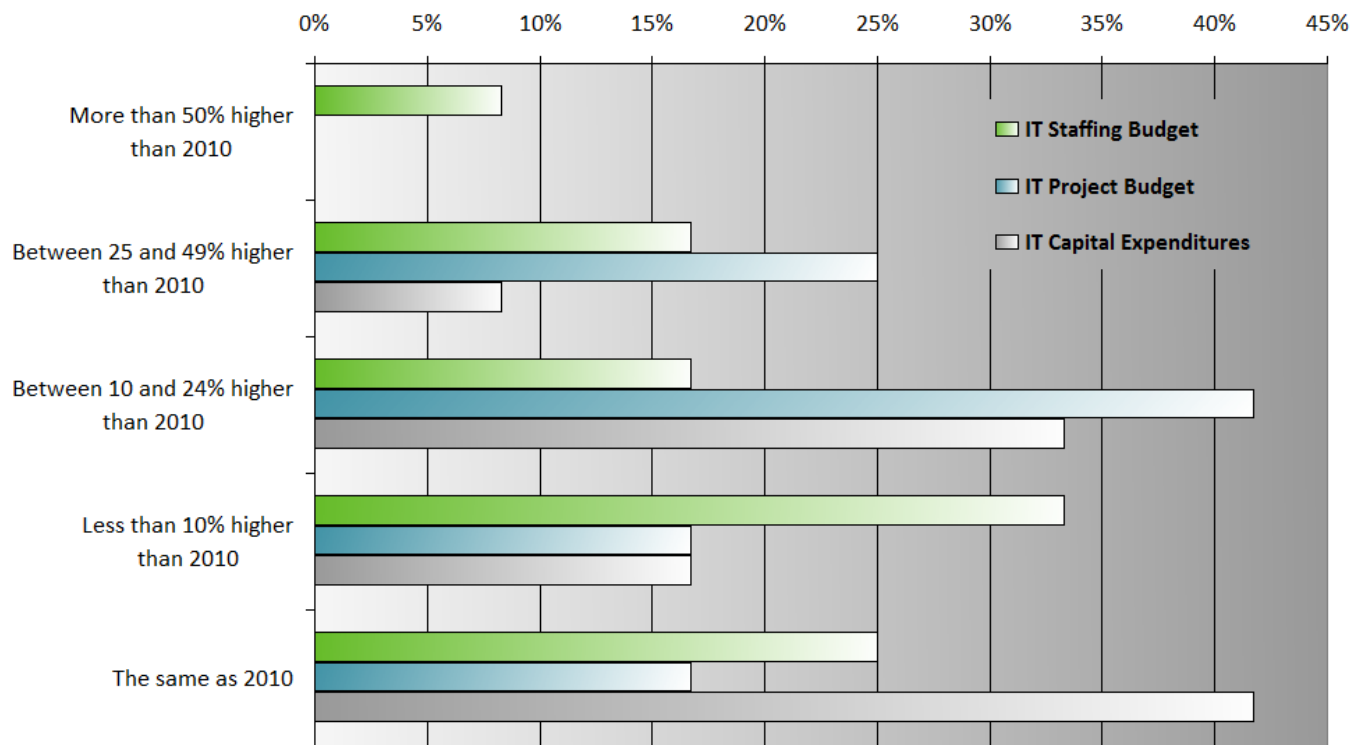
percent expect to spend 25 to 49 percent higher. "These responses, along with what we hear from our clients, clearly tell a story of IT organizations and departments either reviving projects that were put on hold during the recession or starting new projects due to continued confidence in the economy," states Dempsey. "And this translates into growing opportunities for IT professionals today."

Only one quarter of respondents expect their budget for IT staff to be the same in 2011 than the prior year and no one expects it to be lower. But IT staffing costs will be held in check with about a third budgeting costs to be between 10 and 24 percent higher and another third budgeting between

25 and 49 percent higher. Less than 10 percent are planning on more than 50 percent higher IT staffing costs.

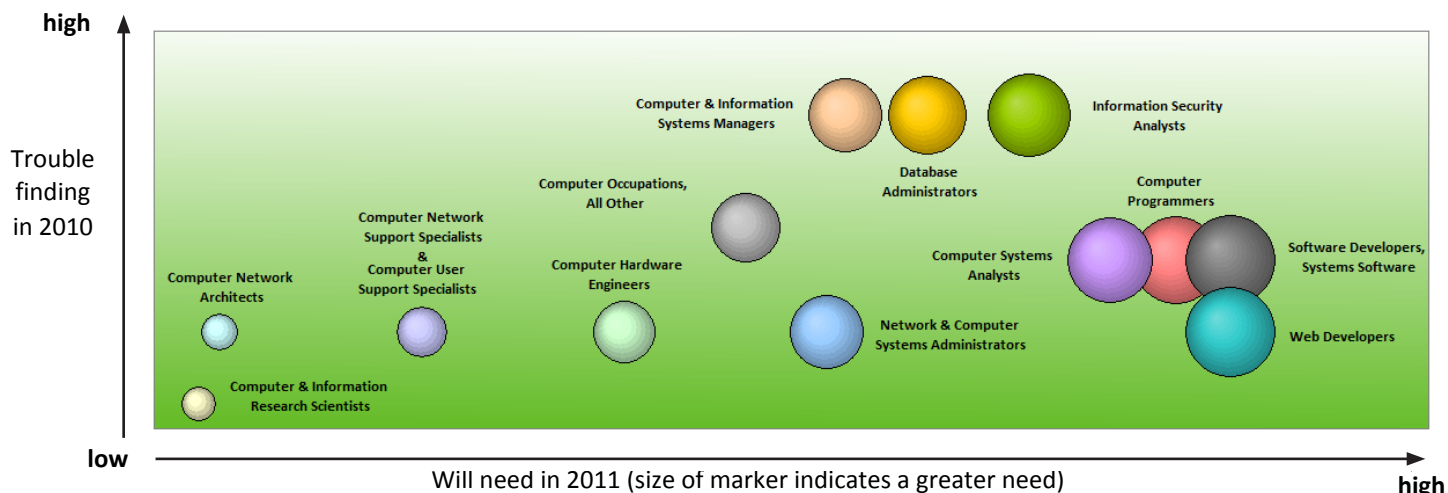
The survey results indicate where some of those opportunities may lie. Many IT enterprises reported they had trouble recruiting information security analysts, database administrators, and computer and information systems analysts last year and anticipate needing more of them in 2011. In addition, the need for web developers, software developers/systems software, computer programmers, and computer systems analysts is high for 2011. A recent headline in The Wall Street Journal – "How's Your HTML5? App Skills in Demand" – confirms the demand for all types of developers / programmers.

## Metro Atlanta IT Organizations Budget Plans for 2011



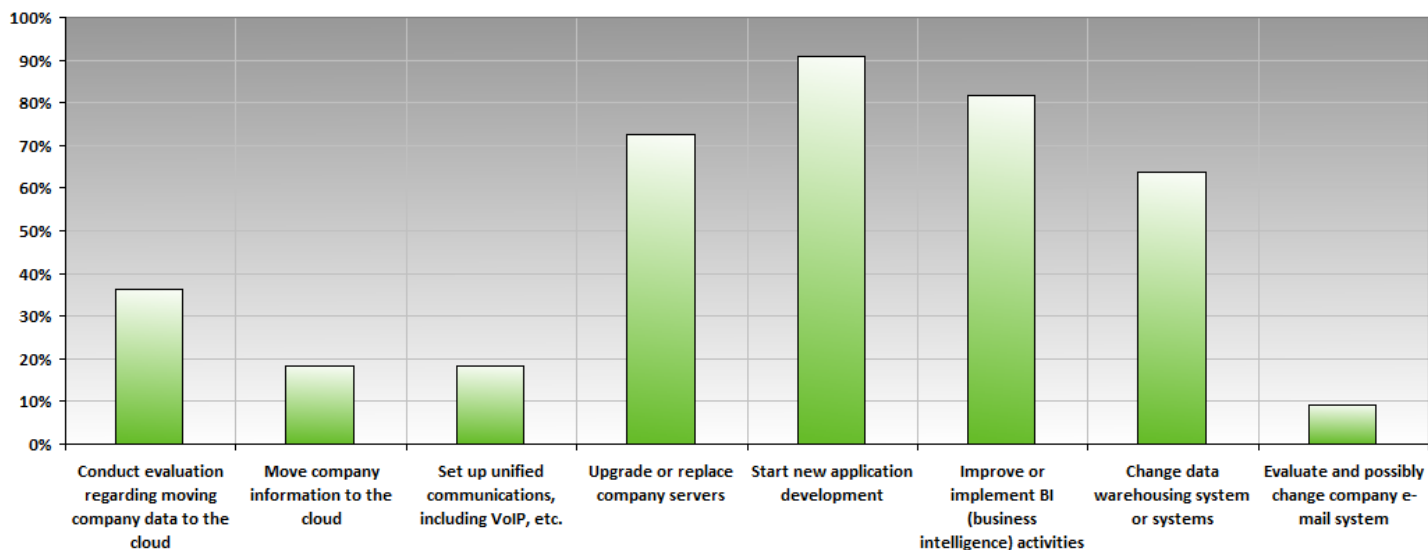
Source: Agile ([www.gotoagile.com](http://www.gotoagile.com)) survey of Metro Atlanta IT organizations, March 18 - 28, 2011

## Recruiting Difficulties in 2010 and Needs in 2011, Metro Atlanta



Source: Agile ([www.gotoagile.com](http://www.gotoagile.com)) survey of Metro Atlanta IT organizations, March 18 - 28, 2011

## Q1 2011 IT Projects in Metro Atlanta



Source: Agile ([www.gotoagile.com](http://www.gotoagile.com)) survey of Metro Atlanta IT organizations, March 18 - 28, 2011

And those that sign the paychecks for IT workers expect to be paying higher wages in 2011 with more than 80 percent expecting IT wages in the metro Atlanta area to increase. The other respondents expect wages to remain “about the same.”

Consistent with another survey question that showed significant IT project budget growth for 2011, 90 percent reported they were starting new ap-

plication development. This is consistent with another survey question that showed significant IT project budget growth for 2011. In addition, more than 80 percent of respondents were working on improving or implementing business intelligence activities, and around 75 percent are getting around to upgrading or replacing servers. Although nearly two-thirds will be changing their data warehousing systems, those migrations may not necessarily involve

“the cloud” since less than 20 percent will be moving company information to the ether, and only slightly more – one-third – are considering it. ➔

### Watch for the Q2 Market Pulse in July, 2011

If there is something you'd like us to include in the next issue, please email [news@gotoagile.com](mailto:news@gotoagile.com)