

30. IT MARKET IN BELARUS: TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

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The paper discusses the features of IT market in the Republic of Belarus. It touches upon the trends in the world's IT industry that are applicable to IT sphere in Belarus. The paper outlines the peculiarities of IT market in Belarus different from IT industries of other countries.

IT industry influences not only the lives of individuals but also the world's economy. The first IT product dates back to 1948. That machine was programmed to perform mathematical calculations using machine code instructions [1]. Currently, IT products assist businesses, corporations, government, and ordinary users in solving their tasks and optimizing their activity. In their turn, IT market and industry in Belarus have their own trends and perspectives.

Firstly, the Belarusian IT market can be listed as a labor market with high competition among specialists. According to the statistics, based on the third quarter of 2023, on average, 5 to 7 specialists applied for one position. What is more, 97 % of vacancies required at least one year of professional experience from applicants.

The second fact to point out is that IT companies prioritize skills rather than a university degree. Back in the day, professional education used to be an indicator of the applicant's competence, but nowadays there is a plethora of information on the Web, and everyone has an opportunity to obtain the same knowledge without having a degree. IT companies are interested in team-oriented developers with strong hard and soft skills, and a diploma appears to be a secondary factor in terms of employment. Referring to the skills required for IT specialists, hard and soft skills have to be mentioned. Hard skills differ from vacancy to vacancy, but there is such a technology as Git that is applicable to the majority of positions. For backend developers in particular working with databases, good knowledge of APIs and logical thinking appear to be mandatory hard skills. In today's society, soft skills for IT jobs may be underestimated, but in fact, they can easily outweigh hard skills, especially in small IT companies. Teamwork, adaptability and communication skills make it easier for all the members of an IT company to interact with each other.

The third thing to mention is artificial intelligence. Currently, AI is gaining its popularity and is widely used in various spheres of professional activity, not just in programming. Such neural networks as BgRem, Midjourney, Uizard, for instance, are widely used among designers. Furthermore, Adobe and Canva products have their own AIs that simplify work with software.

As far as programming is concerned, ChatGPT, GitHub copilot and Tabnine are frequently used for writing a code and debugging, but at present, these neural networks work well only with popular libraries and are able to write simple codes that are based on well-known patterns. Therefore, it is important to face the fact that AI nowadays remains a great tool, but it does not replace IT specialists.

One more aspect to pay attention to is no-code or zero-code concept. This technology provides small businesses and startups with inexpensive digitalization of their products. These days no-code is not only connected with site-builders, such as WordPress, Tilda and WIX, but also is able to create web applications. Adalo, Glide and Bubble services facilitate the creation of progressive web applications (PWA) which work as web sites but imitate mobile applications. It goes without saying that PWA will not replace native and cross-platform development, but it remains a topical and cost-effective way to implement digitalization in a small business or a startup.

In relation to programming languages, according to TIOBE index, top 5 programming languages at the beginning of 2024 are Python, C, C++, Java, C# [2]. The biggest increase in popularity is observed in C# (+1.15 %). It can be justified by active community, cross-platform support, new updates with simplified syntax, frameworks that allow implementation of AI [3]. Consequently, it may be predicted that there will be more workplaces for backend developers, C# developers in particular.

IT market in Belarus differs from the world's IT market, but nevertheless inherits its trends. High competition among specialists makes it difficult for developers to enter the industry and keep afloat. The Belarusian IT market is not deprived of big companies, but is more oriented to small businesses that gives developers more freedom and flexibility within IT companies.

References:

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