

Software sector has self-belief

25.8.2009

The data processing sector seems to be coming through the economic recession in better shape than many others. A survey by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy shows that every fourth company in the sector is recruiting during the year. The sector has confidence in the future.

According to a survey by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy aimed at small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), only one in one hundred companies in the software sector sees the need for redundancies in the near future. Opinions about recruiting new personnel are much different from the rest of the SME sector.

"It would seem that the recession is not damaging the data processing field as much as many others," says **Esa Tikkanen**, a Senior Advisor at the Ministry.

On the whole, companies in the software sector see their future in a more positive light than the corporate field in general. Companies in the sector are investing and spending money on product development to a greater extent than other companies. At the same time they are much more inclined than other companies to believe in their sector and that they will survive.

Competitiveness from information technology

The questionnaire shows almost 30 per cent of the companies believe that their business trend prospects will improve in the next twelve months, while 60 per cent of the respondents believed that prospects would be brighter during the next three years.

The opinions are justified because in economically difficult times companies should invest in improving their own operations. Productivity, competitiveness, profitability and even savings will be sought from information technology. This will bring additional work to the software sector.

The software sector has grown rapidly and established its position in the Finnish business field during this decade. One explanation for the growth is that the software business has become more deeply integrated into other sectors.

Clear changes can now be seen in the development of companies in the sector. The significance of big offices has increased from the perspective of both employer and turnover. At the same time, however, the number of small firms employing fewer than 10 people has increased.



The attraction of the software field is strong especially among young people.

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