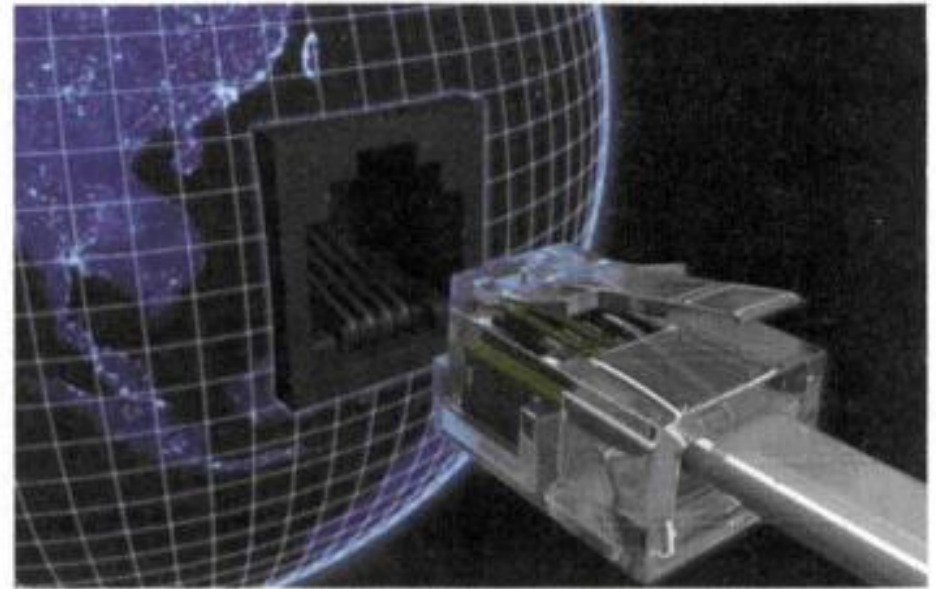


## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# Bucking the jobs trend

THE RECESSION might have created perceptions of doom in the jobs market. While it's true that South Africa's unemployment figures are scary, it's not all doom and gloom for job seekers in the information technology (IT) sector. Sandra Burmeister, CEO of Landelahni Recruitment Group, says recent skills surveys indicate SA has a dire shortage in IT skills, such as business intelligence and knowledge management, web development, software-orientated architecture and mobile computing.

She extends the challenge to school leavers with good marks in mathematics to consider careers in IT amid the sector's skills shortage. "Employers are looking for skilled people, even if they don't have formal job experience," she says. "Courses for basic functional skills are usually shorter and cheaper than university programmes



and they'll make you marketable as a candidate. Just be sure you undertake the course with an accredited institution."

Another development has been the changing role of chief information officers (CIOs). Says Burmeister: "CIOs are increasingly expected to focus on their role of deploying technology as a business enabler rather than just a back-office administration system. Because of the critical and growing role of IT in business, we're currently seeing some CIOs moving up to take the top CE spot, formerly the territory mainly of those who had risen up through the accounting ranks."

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