

I would like to investigate the decline of the Information/Technology industry in Vermont, and determine if the industry can be stimulated by pairing it with another existing industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of workers in the Information industry has declined by about 2,000 from 2006 to 2014. [1] This is contrary to all other major industry categories besides Manufacturing, and is occurring despite an (estimated) increasing population size. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, during that same time period, the gross product of the “Data processing, internet publishing, and other information services” industry has roughly halved, falling from \$103M to \$46M (in current USD).[2] The general idea of my project is to promote synergy between IT firms and prominent industries within the state. These other industries will serve as both customers, and as a source of domain expertise for new firms. Considering the ubiquitous nature of IT, I believe this is a sound concept. I have created a list of the largest industries within Vermont (only counting BEA categories with no sub-categories) that could be potential co-industries:

Industries (With no sub-categories)	Portion of GDP (In Millions of USD)
Real estate	4091
State and local (Gov.)	3385
Retail trade	2258
Durable goods manufacturing	1815
Wholesale trade	1451
Hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities	1348
Ambulatory health care services	1278
Construction	1236
Insurance carriers and related activities	1022
Miscellaneous professional, scientific, and technical services	985

There are surely several ways to approach this project. I think it would be apt to better understand the workforce, namely the source of labor if we are to expand the industry. Are the tech workers still in state, or have they left? Is there an immediate source of skilled labor from colleges and universities within and around the state? If we are to create new firms and expand existing ones, where will the innovators and leaders come from? What areas of the state should we focus development on? Are there certain environments which these skilled workers would be drawn to? We may also need to identify some initial problems the above industries are facing that can be addressed with additional IT infrastructure. Referencing case studies from other regions would likely be a good starting point.

Potential data sources include:

- US Census Data (<https://www.census.gov/data.html>)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/data/>)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/index.htm>)
- Vermont Department of Labor (<http://labor.vermont.gov/>)
- University of Vermont – Center for Rural Studies (<http://www.uvm.edu/crs/>)

[1] http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/SMU5000000050000000001?data_tool=XGtable

[2] <http://www.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>