

Jobs crisis in IT Is this the new reality?









Content

Unemployment in IT: cause for concern or empty threats? .3

How did we get to this point? .4

Hiring out: the specifics of the Polish market .5

Job market as seen by IT professionals: survey findings .6

A guide to IT specializations .18

About the study .41



Unemployment in IT: cause for concern or empty threats?

Unemployment is a big word with an unambiguously negative connotation to it. While today's millennials may not have experienced it themselves, they witnessed the impact it had on their parents, uncles, or even grandparents who worked in Poland during the 1990s. In some areas, unemployment rates reached 30%, and nationwide, 15-20% was the norm.

This situation was changed in part by demographics, in part by the migrations in the first decade of the 21st century, and in part by the digitalization of many sectors of the economy. As a result, jobs and their requirements underwent a significant transformation. IT flourished under these conditions, and today, it's often tempting to say that every company is or is becoming technology-driven. It's no coincidence that one of Polish fashion giants' biggest team is the IT department; a prominent grocery store chain has a technology solutions affiliated company; and the Ministry of Digitalization has its own software house.

While the tech sector may have appeared invincible in the past, it's important to recognize that it's not impervious to external factors. Inflation, the failure of key investment banks, and the global pandemic have all had significant effects, which made us research the current situation. The data seems to confirm that jobs are becoming scarcer, pay ranges are stabilizing, and the future impact of AI on employment remains a fascinating and uncertain aspect.

We do not aim to scare you, but it's worth keeping in mind that the industry has faced several crises and ultimately managed to overcome them. There was the dot-com bubble at the turn of the millennium, the economic crisis of 2008–2010, and more recently, the pandemic, the war, and the struggle with inflation. Taking these challenges into account, we believe it's not that bad.

Instead, we would like to emphasize that the current events are a good starting point for everyone to consider what they want to do in life. Whether it is pursuing a career in IT or any other field, we hope this publication will serve as a guide for making such decisions and then taking action towards your goal. Even if you believe the current situation is only temporary, it is important to remain vigilant.



How did we get to this point?

Whenever articles about the state of the IT labor market are published in the media, they express two main viewpoints: some believe that we are experiencing temporary difficulties, while others focus on the negative aspects of the situation and garner most of the attention.

The truth is that, for years, we relished the belief that plenty of IT jobs would always be available, especially for mid and senior-level professionals. This belief lulled our vigilance and made us forget that nothing is guaranteed forever. Advertisements for weekend courses also contributed to this misconception by promoting the idea that work in IT is easy and that jobs are abundant for everyone.

Today, the recipe for rapid success is failing due to a combination of negative factors such as high interest rates, pandemic-related unemployment, and an economic downturn. It caught many of us off-guard, and along the length and breadth of the Internet, everyone asks themselves the question posed at the top of this page.

The truth is complex, but the symptoms of our current situation have been quite repetitive. We don't have to look far back in time because we have seen this pattern since 2020. When the fight against the COVID-19 virus gripped the world, everything came to a halt, including IT projects. This lasted for about 3 months, so it seemed like nothing had changed. The wave of mass hiring in 2021–2022 led to a sense of security in the IT industry. However, by the end of 2022, there were indications of potential changes influenced by global trends, particularly from the USA. Eventually, this unfavorable trend reached our country, leading to increased competition for job positions in the market since mid-2023.

Coronavirus pandemic - a temporary halt in hiring

<u>Hiring spree – record</u> demand for IT employees

---2020------2021-----2021------2023------

<u>Hiring freeze – the first</u> signs that something is changing <u>IT crisis – a slowdown</u> in the Polish IT market

Hiring out: the specifics of the Polish IT job market

Continuing the theme from the previous page, in our reflections, we cannot omit references to the Polish IT job market, which is still heavily based on outsourcing and body leasing. For years, this made sense, as it was associated with lower pay rates in our region compared to the West, while at the same time providing high-quality services.

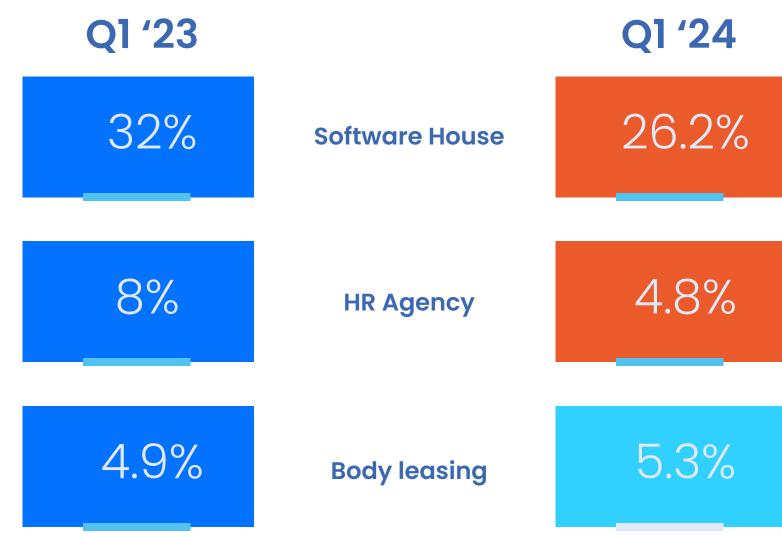
The dominance of a single type of employer in the market has had a significant impact on the availability of job advertisements. In fact, it is one of the main reasons for the current crisis in Poland, with almost 14% fewer IT job offers compared to a year ago.

Recently, in the face of rising inflation, potential clients have been working even harder to cut costs. As a result, some of the projects carried out by Polish companies were put on hold or canceled because our services have become too expensive (on nofluffjobs.com, the percentage of job ads published by software houses and HR agencies dropped by almost 6 pp and more than 3 pp respectively). Clients started to look for more affordable options.

If it weren't for the war, Ukraine would likely be the top alternative. As it turns out, they took their projects much further east. Asian countries are now attracting clients who would previously hire Polish specialists to carry out their projects.

Unfortunately, this is not a trend that can be easily reversed. According to SoDA, the association of Polish software houses, 22% of its members are planning to make redundancies this year. It is worth monitoring the situation closely, as it significantly impacts our current position.

Share of job offers from selected types of companies on nofluffjobs.com



Change in number of IT job ads compared Q1'23 vs. Q1'24

-13.8%













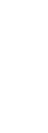


















Job market as seen by IT professionals

Survey findings





*By "unemployed" we mean those who are not bound by any type of contract professionally. By analogy an "employed" person is currently bound by a contract – whether it is a contract of employment, a B2B contract, or another type of contract whereby they provide services.

What did we learn about the IT job market?

Job seekers send an average of over 14 applications per week

71.4% of IT professionals believe that finding a job is more difficult today than it was a year ago

67.2% also apply for job ads requiring a higher level of seniority

Nearly 60% of the unemployed* in IT have been out of work for less than 3 months





How many people are currently employed, and how many are out of jobs?

Is it possible to determine the level of unemployment in IT? We will leave it to the statistical offices to calculate it based on data collected by queries in companies, while we will assess it based on what IT professionals told us.

The current employment situation is not as dire as recent media reports may suggest. According to our survey, **70.4%** of respondents are currently employed in the IT sector; **17.9%** have either been made **redundant** by their employer or left **on their initiative**.

One in nine people surveyed **is looking to enter the IT industry** as a first job in general or a first job after a career change.



Employment status

70.4% of IT professionals have a job in IT

13.6% had a job but were made redundant

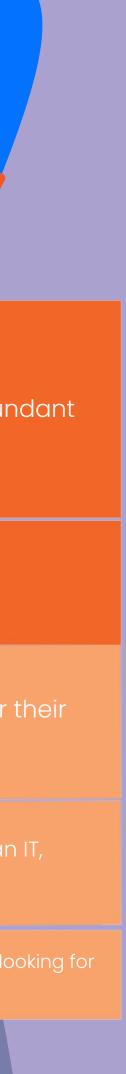
4.3% voluntarily left their jobs

4.9% don't have a job and are looking for their first job in IT

4.3% are employed in a sector/area other than IT, but are looking for their first job in IT

2.5% are out of work, in the process of reskilling and looking for their first job in IT

All IT specialists n=2,583





More employment contracts: will the trend hold?

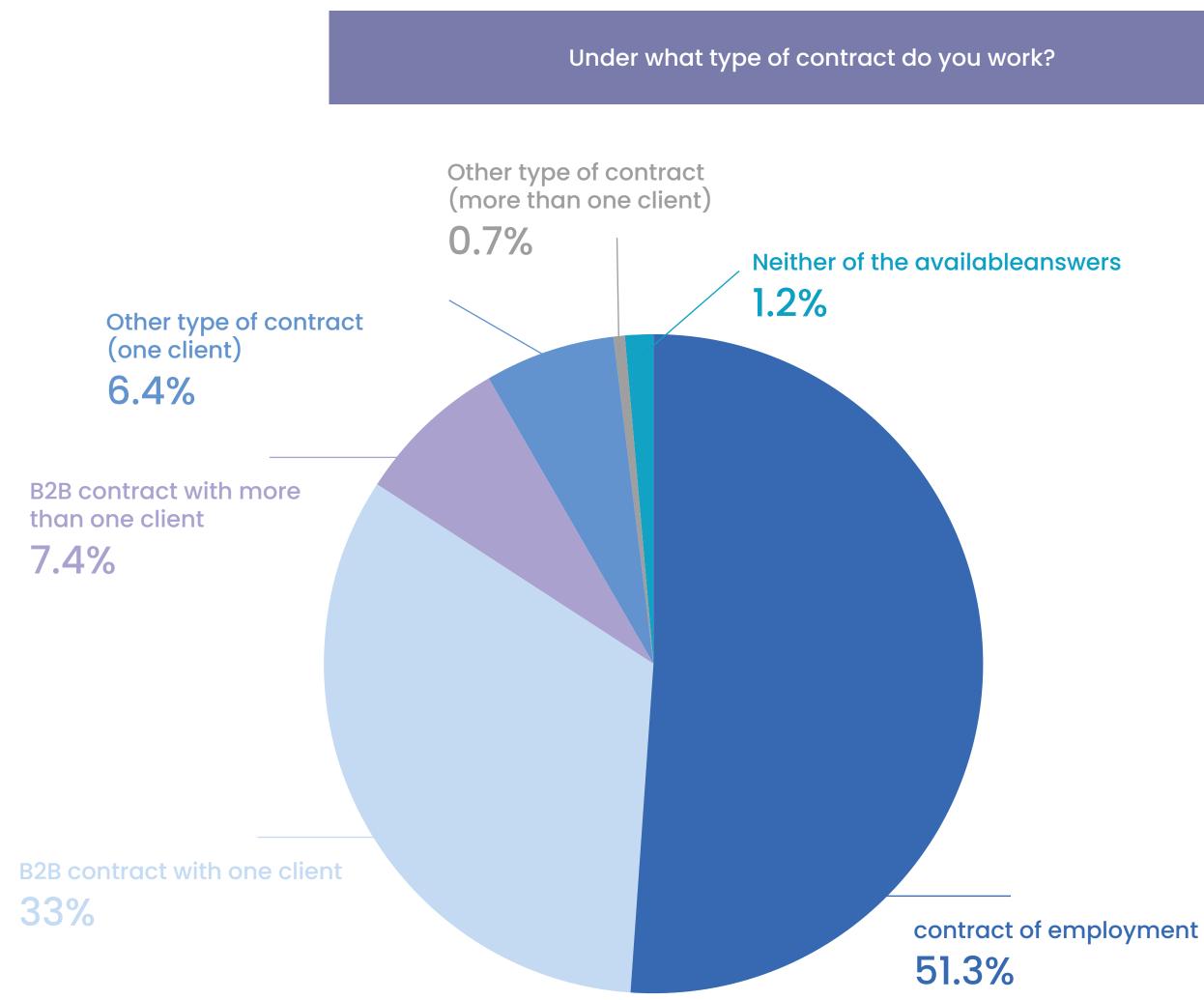
An employment contract is often considered to provide more stability. Until now, it has been treated as more of a curiosity in the IT industry: after all, few people worried about losing their jobs because there were plenty of them. We got used to the fact that if we are talking about working in IT, we are talking about B2B contracts.

Yet, our survey indicates that the majority of IT professionals are now working under contracts of employment, making up **51.3%** of the sector's workforce. By comparison, those working on a B2B basis for a single client constitute exactly **one-third** of the market, and those working for multiple entities account for **7.4%**.

The higher the seniority, the fewer the employment contracts. Approximately **40%** of senior and expert position specialists work on an employment basis.

The current trend of favoring employment contracts among existing employees is highly logical once we understand how "easy" it is for employers to let go of individuals who are not tied by **a lengthy notice** period.

Extensive redundancies in IT teams can save companies several hundred thousand PLN, which is reflected in the percentage of the rest of the contract types.





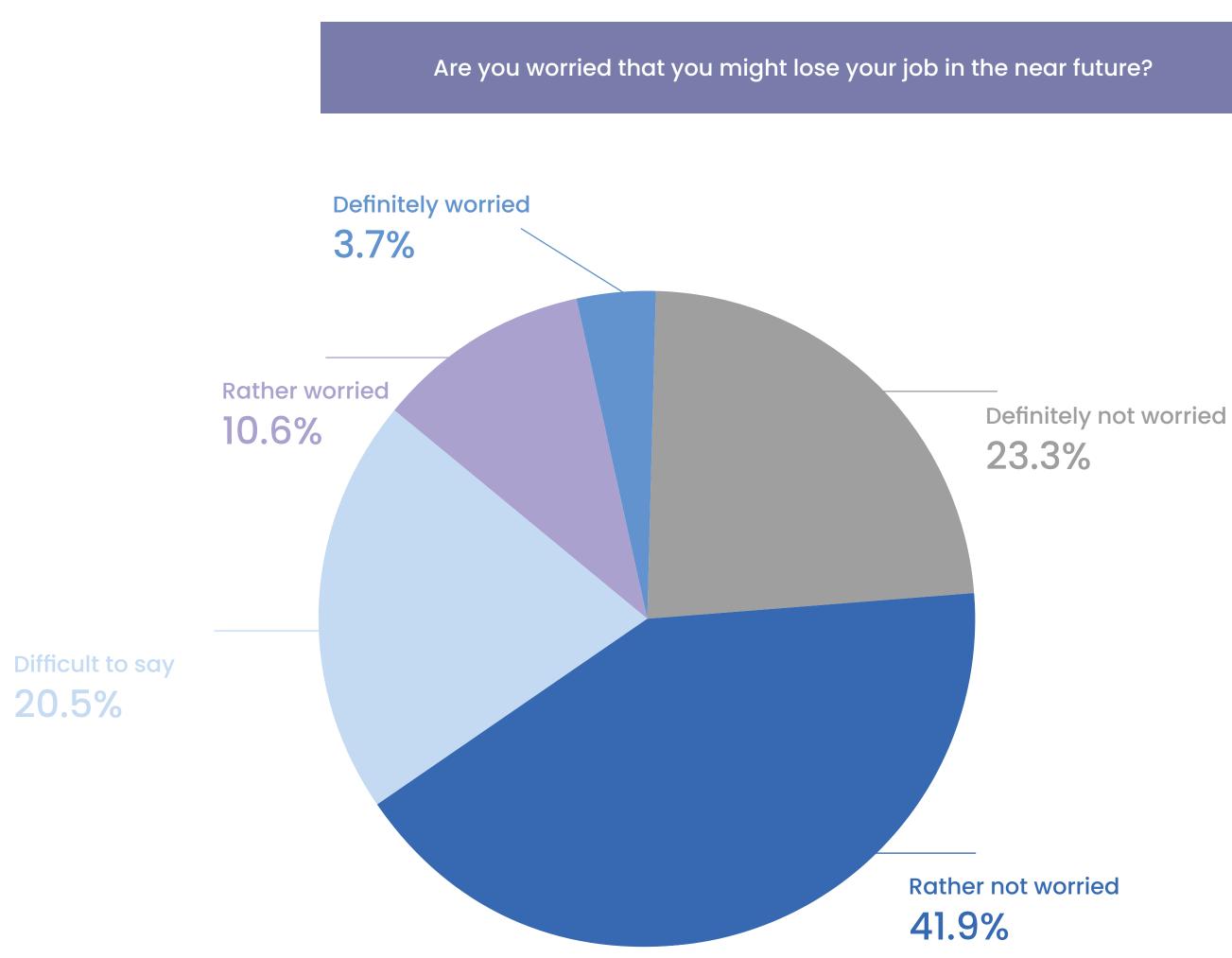


Should we be worried?

Referring further to stability, the data on job tenure in the IT sector is quite reassuring. It shows that **45% of IT professionals** have worked in their current jobs for more than 2 years, while one in four have a tenure of 1–2 years. These numbers indicate a relatively high level of stability in an extremely dynamic industry.

There is also a great deal of optimism among those currently employed about their professional future in their current workplace. More than 65% of IT professionals are not worried about losing their jobs in the near future. Only just over 14% hold the opposite view.

For those who do express concerns, the most common reasons cited are company budget cuts and a lack of new projects from their employer or contractor. **Only one in seven** fears job displacement due to Al.



Respondents currently employed in IT n=1,784



No panic on the Titanic vet

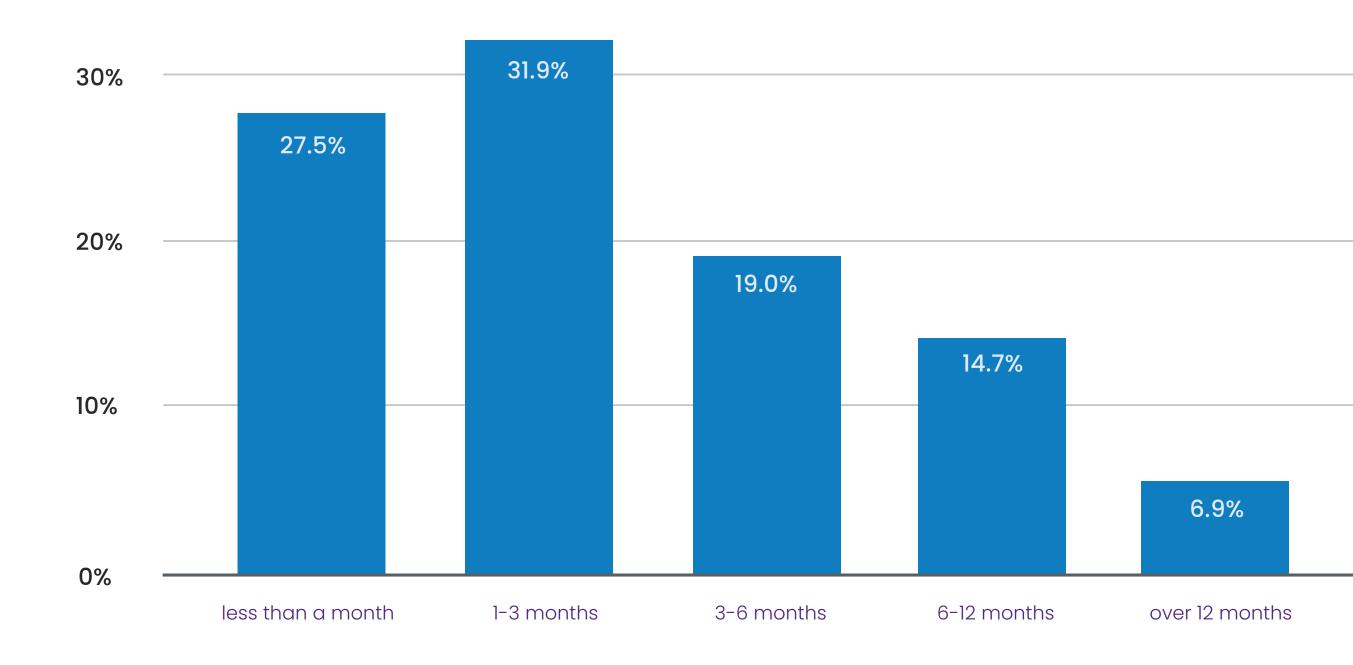
In the previous pages, you have learned about the perspectives of currently employed IT professionals. Now, let's take a look at the situation among the unemployed.

So far, things are "not so bad," with **59.4%** having been unemployed for less than three months. The percentage of those who take longer to find a new job decreases significantly over time, with less than 7% waiting more than a year for their chance.

At the same time, both the unemployed and the currently employed IT professionals share the same view of the job market. Over **71%** of them believe that **finding a job is more challenging now than it was a year ago.**

How long have you been unemployed/had no job orders in IT?









Check how much you can earn! Complete your criteria and create your personalized report!

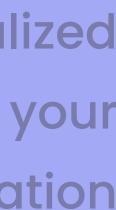
	Generate a new report
ategory	Location (offers in the database 325222)
Select option 👻	Select option
unior Mid Senior	Contract type B2B (net) UoP (gross)
	Generate

<u>Go to My Salary</u>

Create a personalized salary report for your specialization

Always be up-to-date on your negotiating position with MySalary





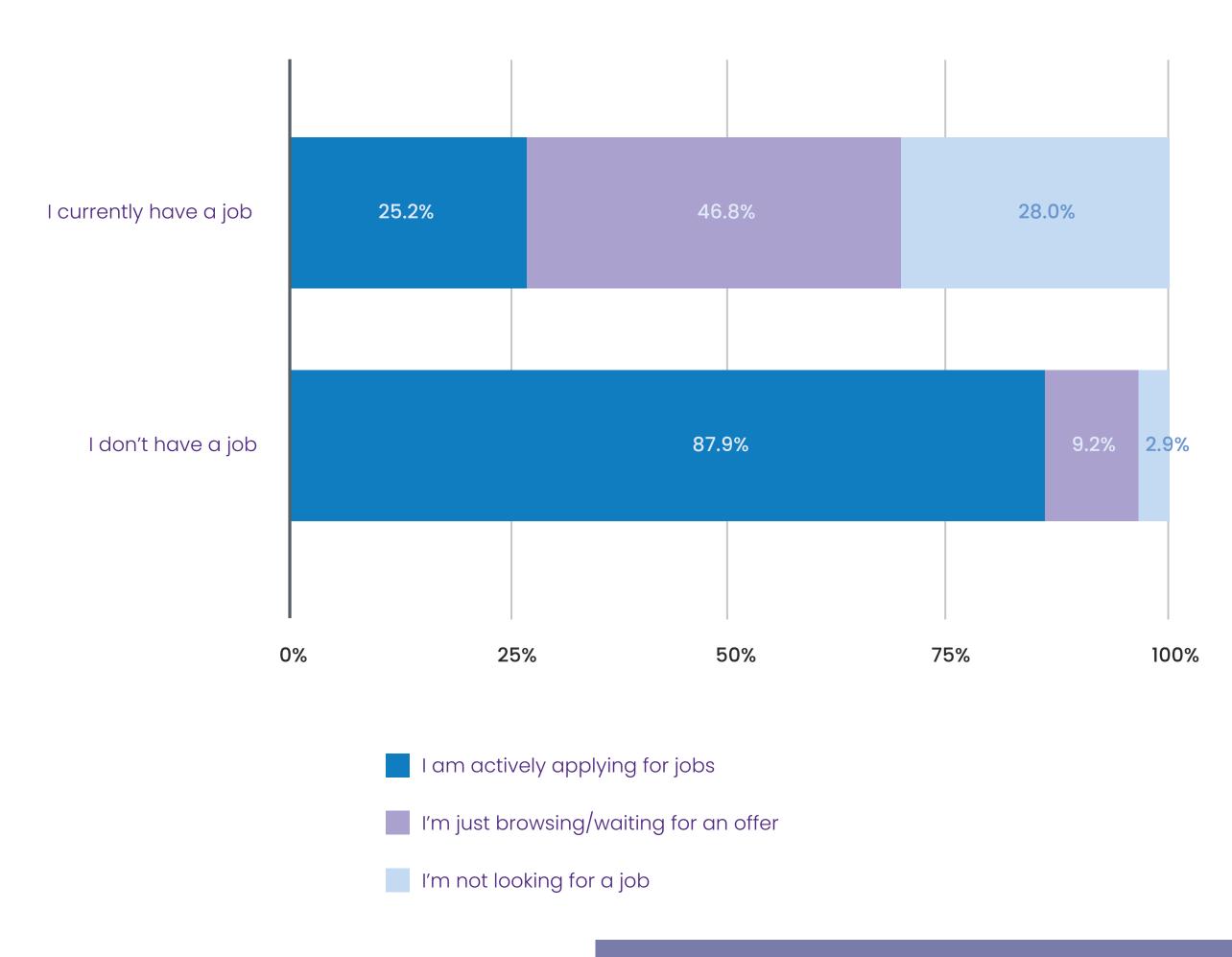
Better searching than sorry

The market has seen a **growing interest in job ads** for IT professionals over the past few months.

Approximately **88%** of the unemployed are **actively seeking** a new job by applying to job advertisements. Only 9.2% prefer to wait until someone headhunts them or are just browsing job ads, hoping to find that one special opportunity.

Despite not worrying about their jobs, currently employed respondents also show some activity. Whether browsing casually or for real, **one in** four admits that they are looking for a new job, and just under **47%** acknowledge that they regularly check job ads.

Are you looking for a new job? If so, what exactly are you doing?



I currently have a job n=1,769 | I don't have a job n=749







Regardless of experience, candidate activity has increased

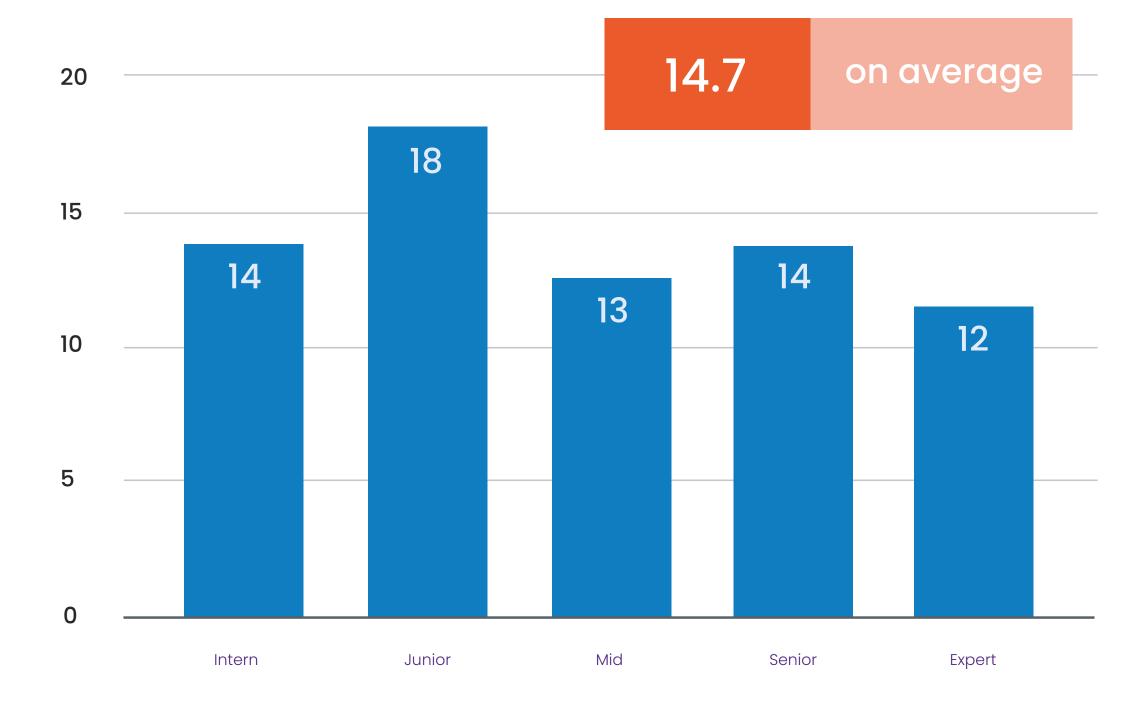
Passive candidates? This is a thing of the past. Looking at the survey data, today's IT candidates are very active!

Among job seekers, the average number of applications sent for job ads exceeds 14 per week. The currently employed send twice as few applications as the unemployed (9 vs. 19 on average).

Interestingly, the average number of applications **does not differ much** when broken down by seniority, apart from a slight deviation in juniors. It is a misconception to assume that the more experienced people are waiting for offers to come their way. This is no longer the case; the data shows that when push comes to shove, all IT specialists are rolling up their sleeves.

Especially since **being passive in the current situation is not advisable.** The average number of offers received per month by less active job seekers is only 5. It is perfectly logical when you look at what recruiters' inboxes look like nowadays.

Approximately how many job applications do you send out per week?



All active IT job seekers n=1,072



We already know how many apps you send. And how many do recruiters receive?

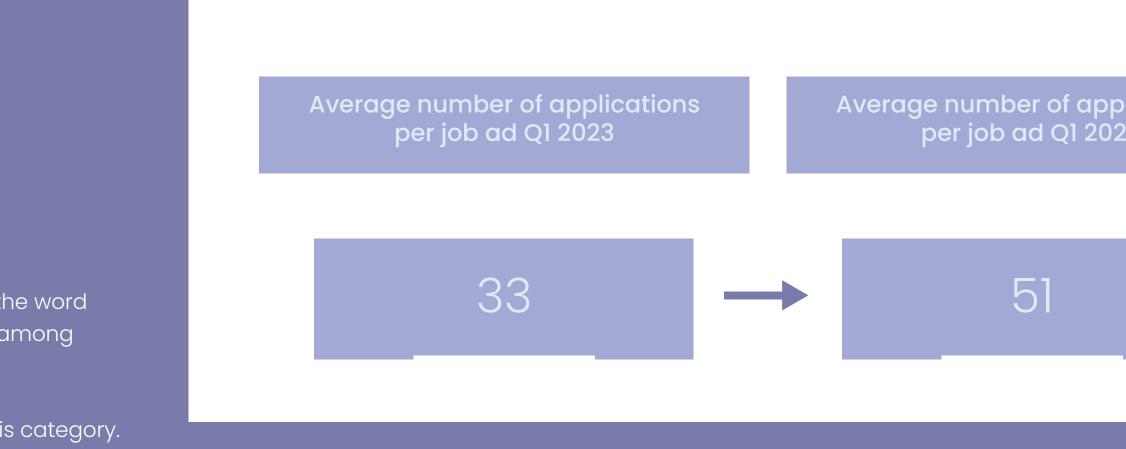
The situation on the frontline is far from the market "norm" to which we were accustomed. We used the word FRONTtline deliberately here because the **most fierce competition** for a single job can be observed among Frontend specialists.

The average number of applications sent per job ad **increased by 180%** over the year (67→187) in this category. Such a significant change means that Frontend, despite being one of the main specializations in IT, is now in a critical situation.

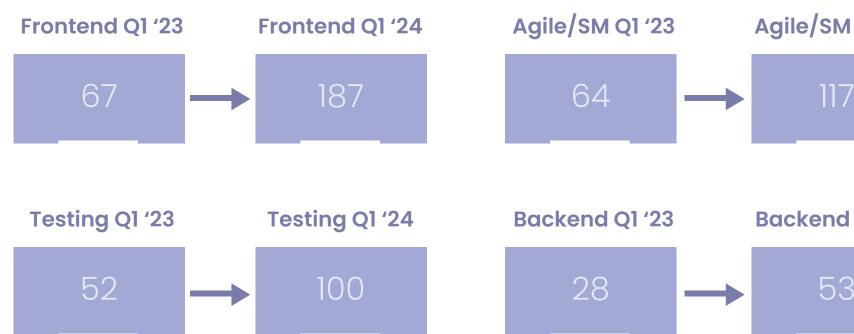
Hiring managers receive around 100 applications per ad on average in **Testing, UX/UI/Design**, and **Project Ma**nagement, and Agile/Scrum Master is still ahead of them (117) in this regard.

Looking at other specializations, things are not rosy either. The average numbers of applications are lower or much lower than in the aforementioned categories, but still, they have increased by at least 60% year-on-year in half of the categories.

For detailed information on the situation in each of the 20 categories, see the second part of the report: A guide to IT specializations on page 18.



Biggest changes (average number of applications)



Source: nofluffjobs.com



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1 Q1 '24	
7	
Q1 '24	
3	

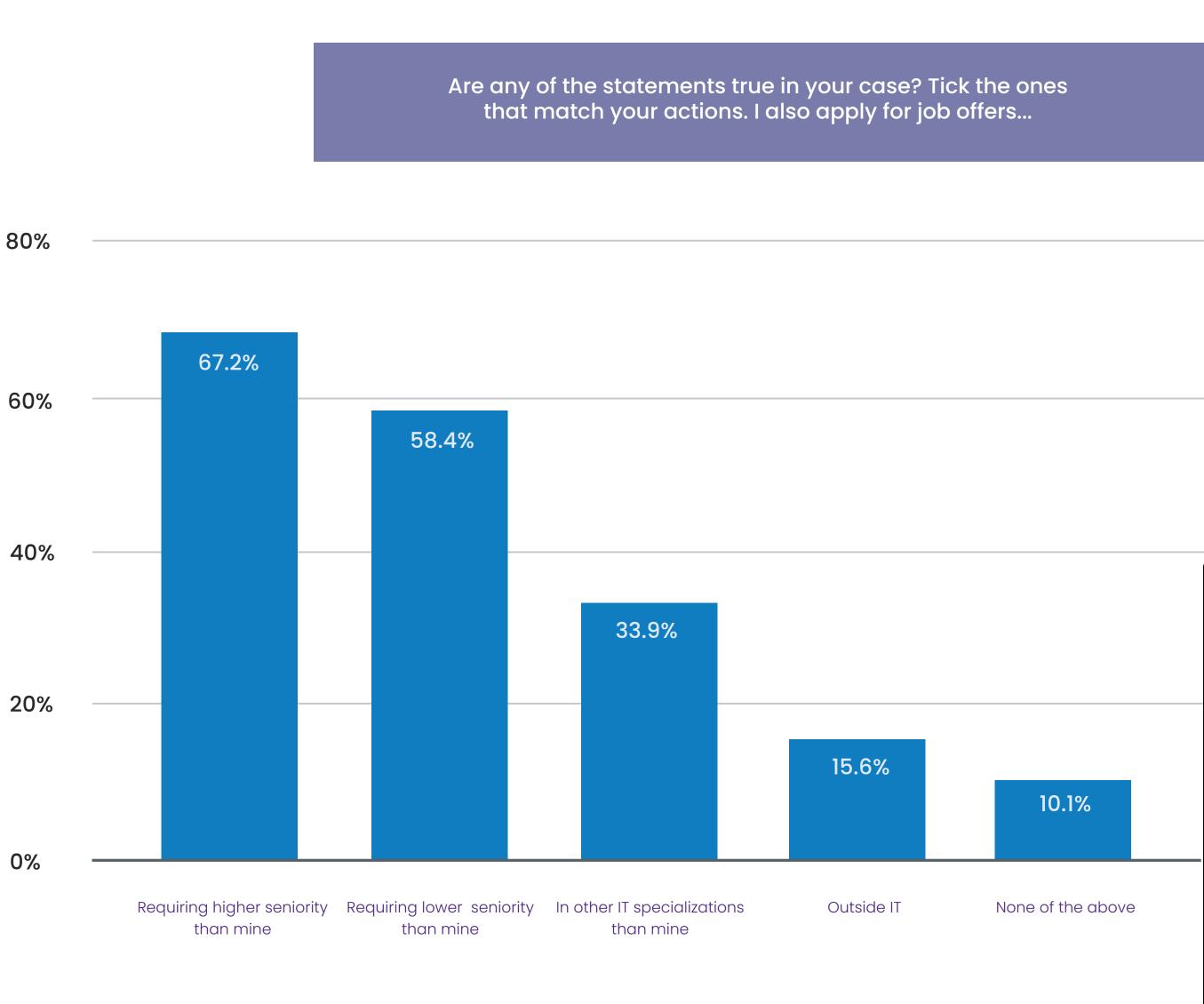
It's not stupid if it works

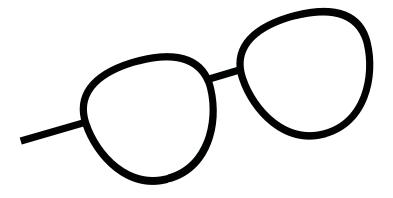
The survey results show that when looking for a job, the IT community is striking the iron while it's hot and trying to seize all the opportunities.

More than **two-thirds of job seekers** also apply for ads **requiring a higher** level of experience than theirs. Slightly fewer, 58.4% also submit their resumes for vacancies at a **lower seniority** level.

On top of this, **one in three** respondents also applies for jobs in **related** fields where their skills could be useful. Interestingly, 9% of IT professionals are also looking for a new job outside the IT industry.

Apart from the methods above, there are several ways to enhance one's competitiveness in the market. As many as **69%** of IT professionals state that they upgrade qualifications in their main specializations, while nearly 60% learn new languages and technologies. One in three intentionally learns more about the job market (for that we can recommend ourselves!) and builds a professional network on social media.





No Fluff Jobs The job portal where you always know if the salary matches expectations

Do you apply for job offers without a stated salary range?

The unemployed in IT

YES 90.2%

People who have a job in IT but are looking for a new one

YES 70.1% NO 29.9%

≥€ antal	Senior Payroll Specialist NEW Finance German Antal Sp. z.o.o.	Check Salary Match	Remote +1
\bigcirc	Senior Frontend Developer NEW Frontend React JavaScript WebGL AVENGA	26 040 – 29 400 PLN	🕈 Remote
ccc	Kierownik ds. audytu wewnętrznego NEW Office Administration Polish English CCC S.A. Polish English	Check Salary Match	Polkowice
∢€ antal	Specjalista/-tka ds. HR NEW HR English Antal Sp. z.o.o.	Check Salary Match	🕈 Warszawa
≩€ antal	Payroll Specialist NEW Finance Degree Polish English Antal Sp. z.o.o. English English English	Check Salary Match	🕈 Remote
€ antal	Księgowy z niemieckim NEW Finance MS Excel SAP Antal Sp. z.o.o. German	Check Salary Match	Remote +1
няес	Business Analysis Finance Programme Finance NEW Business Analysis Finance PowerPoint Excel HSBC Technology Poland Excel Excel	Check Salary Match	🛛 Kraków
≩€ antal	Specjalista ds. zamówień z włoskim lub niemieckim NEW Customer Service MS Office SAP English Antal Sp. z.o.o.	Check Salary Match	🛛 Kraków
€ antal	Procurement Analyst with German OP NEW Customer Service Polish English Antal Sp. z.o.o. English English	Check Salary Match	🕈 Warszawa
Global Logic	Python Software Engineer in Test NEW Testing Python AWS AWS Lambda Globallogic	Check Salary Match	

Visit No Fluff Jobs

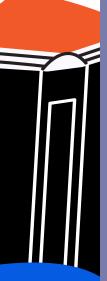












A guide to IT specializations

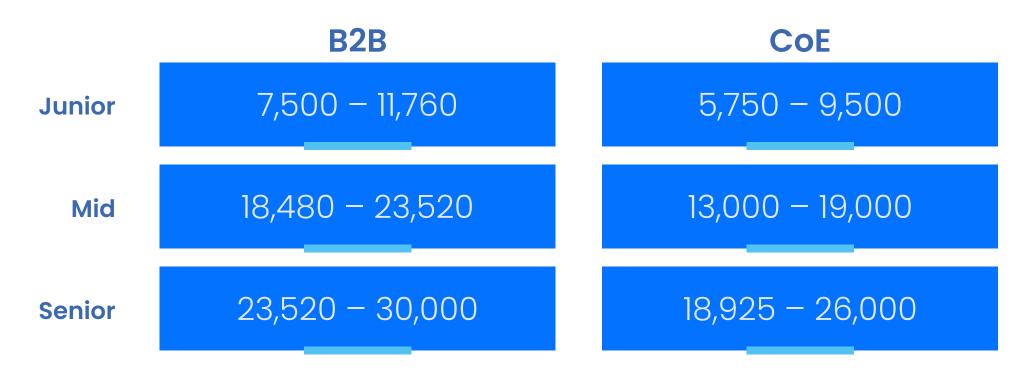
How much competition do YOU have in the job market?



How to understand the guide?

The guide contains No Fluff Jobs' original evaluation of each IT category based on the collected data. We aimed to determine which specializations offer the most favorable conditions for job seekers in the sector. The numerical evaluation is complemented with specific data and recommendations for other job categories that may interest those seeking employment outside their primary specialization.







This information indicates the share of job ads in a particular category in all IT job ads published on No Fluff Jobs in QI 2024.

In the salary section, you will find the amounts offered in job ads for the indicated level of experience, broken down by contract type. The first value is the median of the lower salary ranges, and the second is the median of the upper ranges. For B2B contracts, PLN net (+VAT) is given, and for employment contracts, PLN gross. The reported salaries come from the Insights360 tool, which aggregates salaries from job ads published on the largest job boards in Poland. Amounts are for QI 2024.

Other categories with the highest match of key requirements

Python 79%

In this section, you can find information about other job categories where the same mandatory requirements appear as in the analyzed category. The percentage indicates how many job ads specified a particular requirement as mandatory.





What do the different dimensions mean?

What do the different dimensions mean?

Offered salaries – indicates how the salaries in a given category compare to the overall IT market. Rating 1 – salaries are not very competitive; rating 10 – salaries are very competitive.

Availability of job ads – shows an assessment of how the number of offers in this category relates to the overall IT market. Rating 1 – very few offers; rating 10 – offers are plenty.

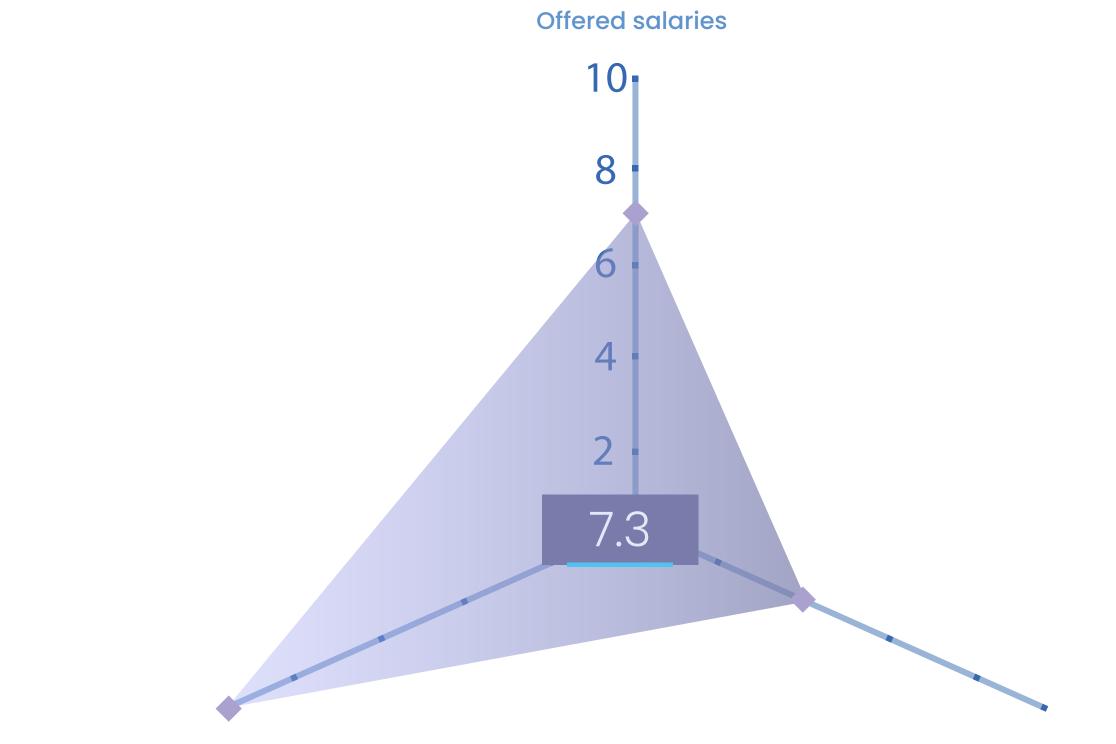
Low competition – indicates how the average number of applications for job ads in this category compares to the overall IT market. Rating 1 – very high competition, Rating 10 – very low competition.

Average rating

The higher the average, the better the job seekers' situation in a given category.

Theoretically, the more extensive the graph, the better the opportunities: higher salaries, a greater choice of offers, and less competition.

The smaller the graph, the worse the opportunities: **lower** salaries, **fewer** job offers, and **more** competition.



Availability of job ads

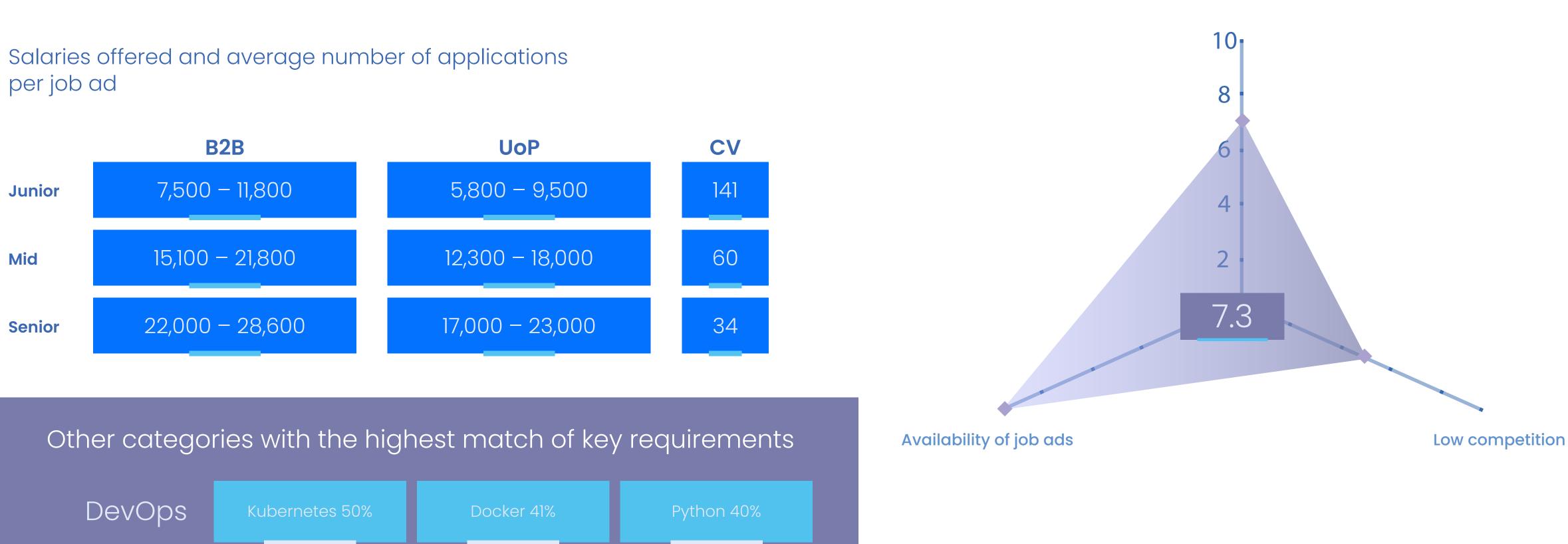
Low competition

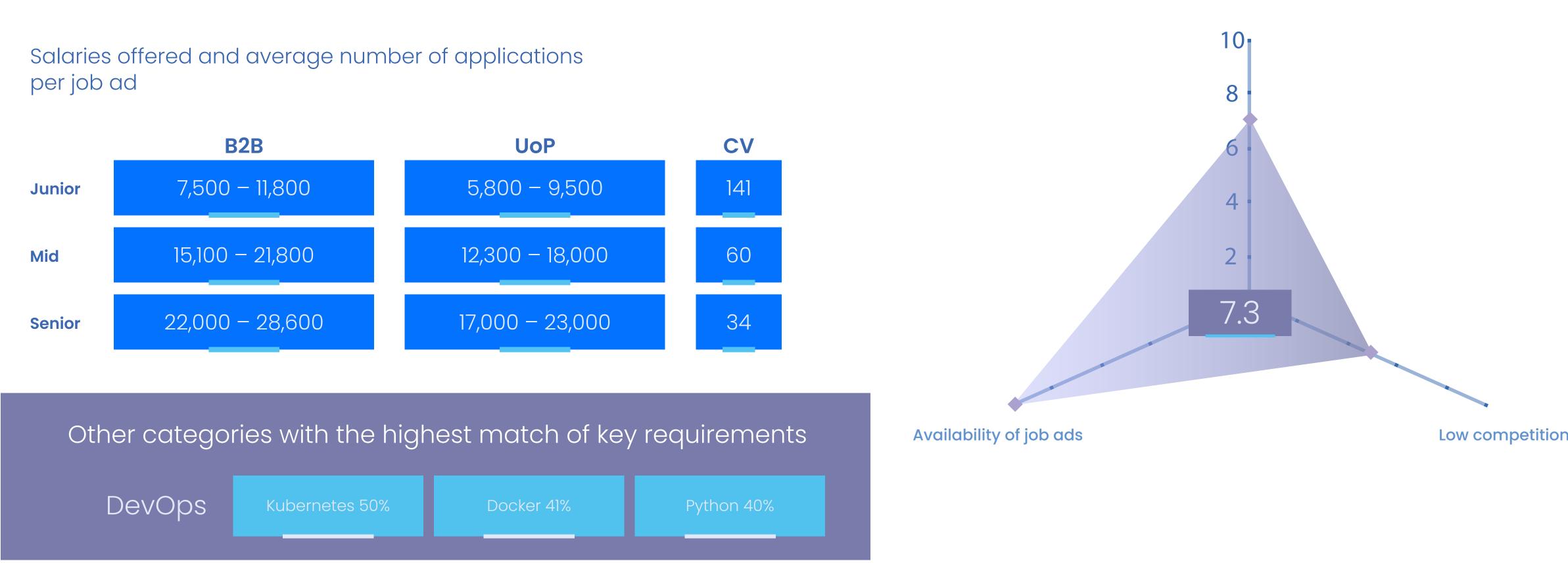


.Backend

Share of category in the total IT job market

19.5%





The quoted salaries come from Insights360, a tool that aggregates salaries from job advertisements from the largest job portals in Poland. Amounts are for Q1 2024. The first value is the median of the lower ranges, and the second is the median of the upper ranges of salaries. For B2B contracts, PLN net (+VAT) amounts are given, and for employment contracts, PLN gross. The CV column shows the average number of applications for a single job ad published on nofluffjobs.com in QI 2024. Category share based on advertisements published on nofluffjobs.com in QI 2024.

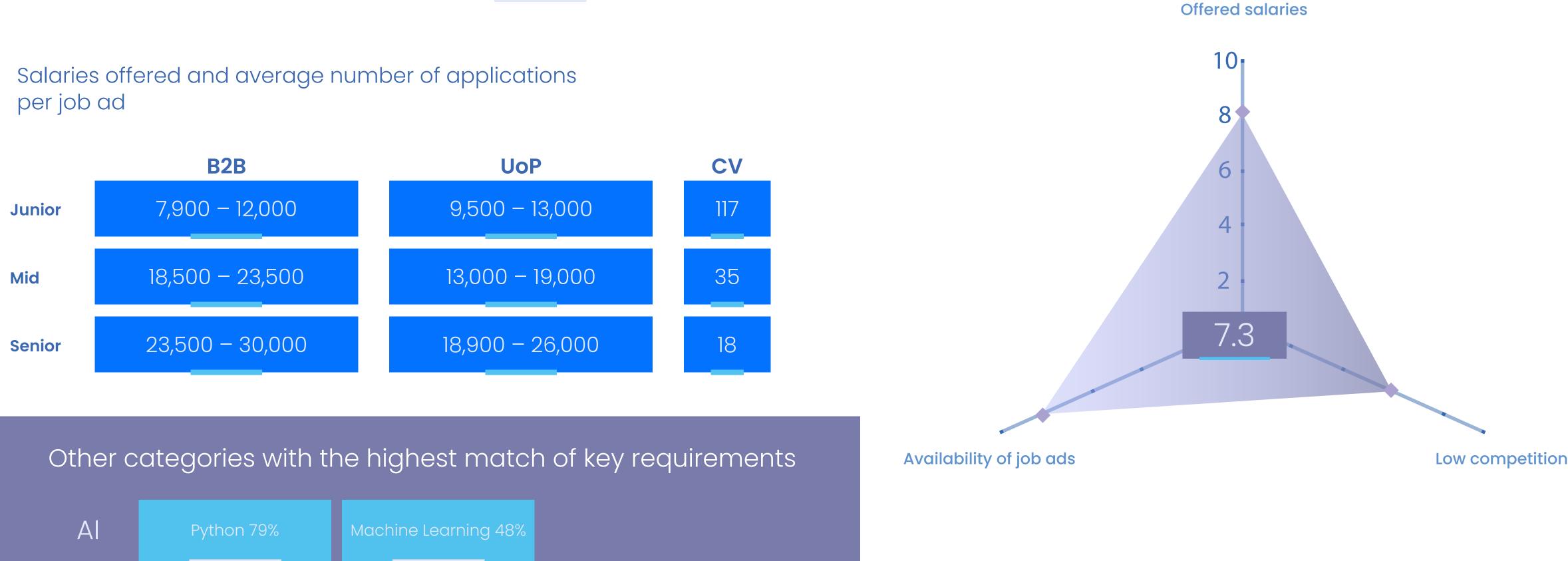
Offered salaries



.Data & Bl

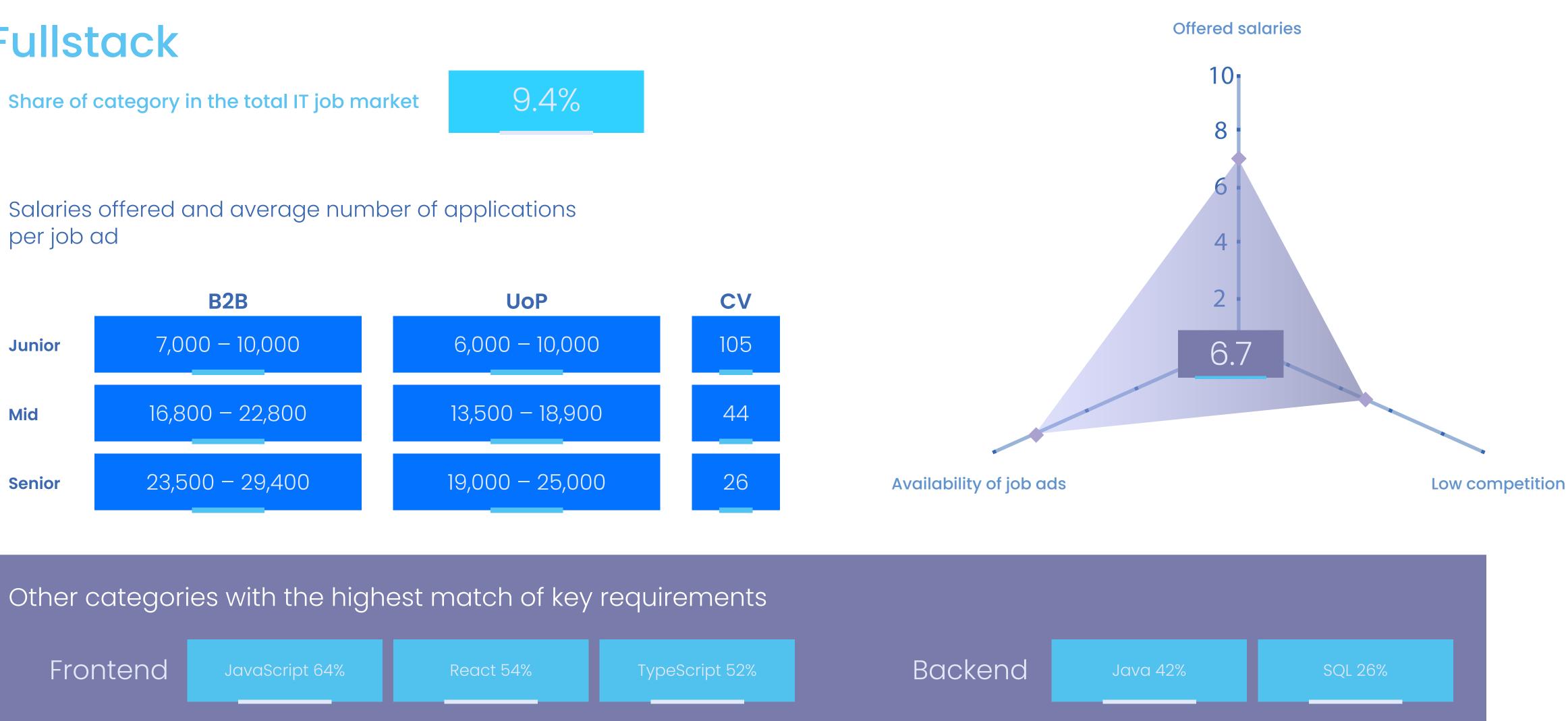
Share of category in the total IT job market

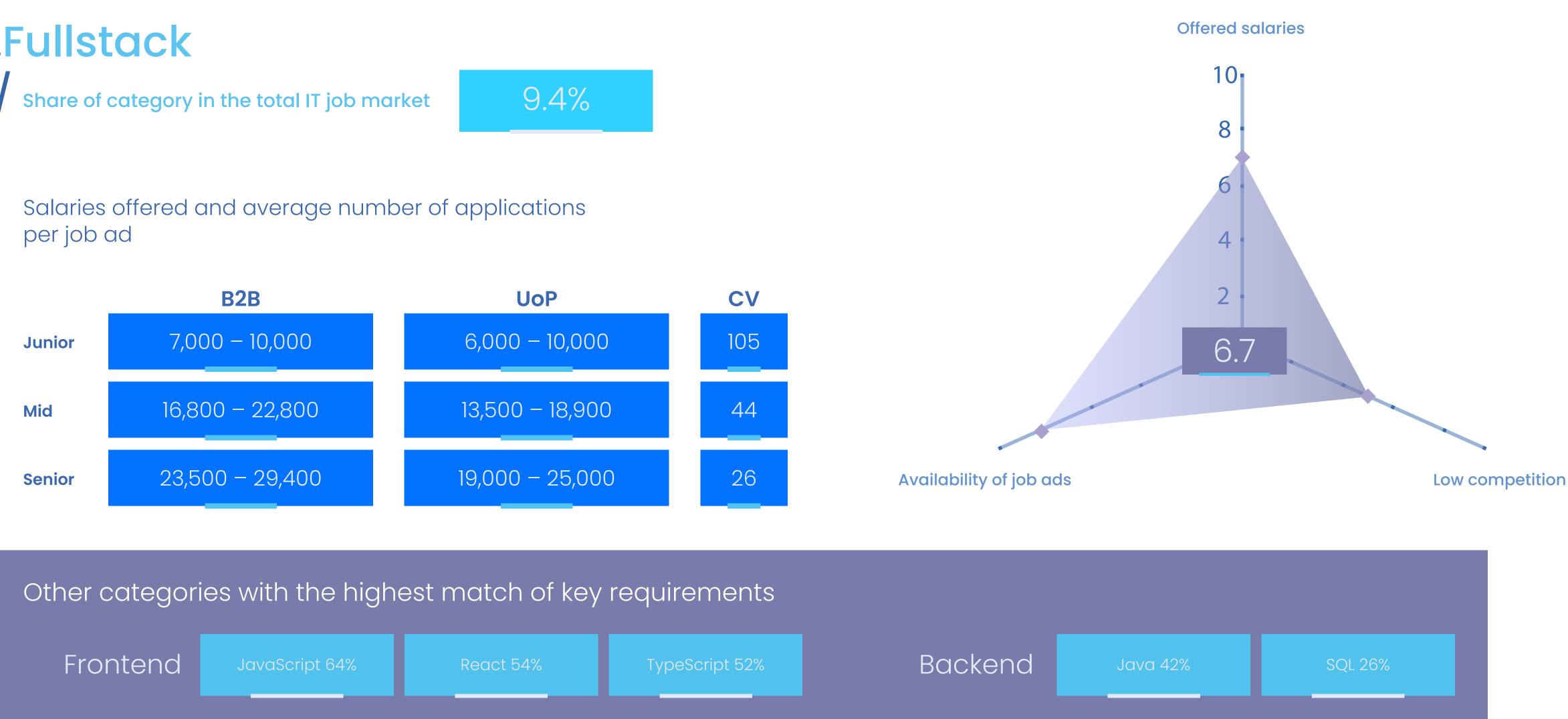
10%





.Fullstack



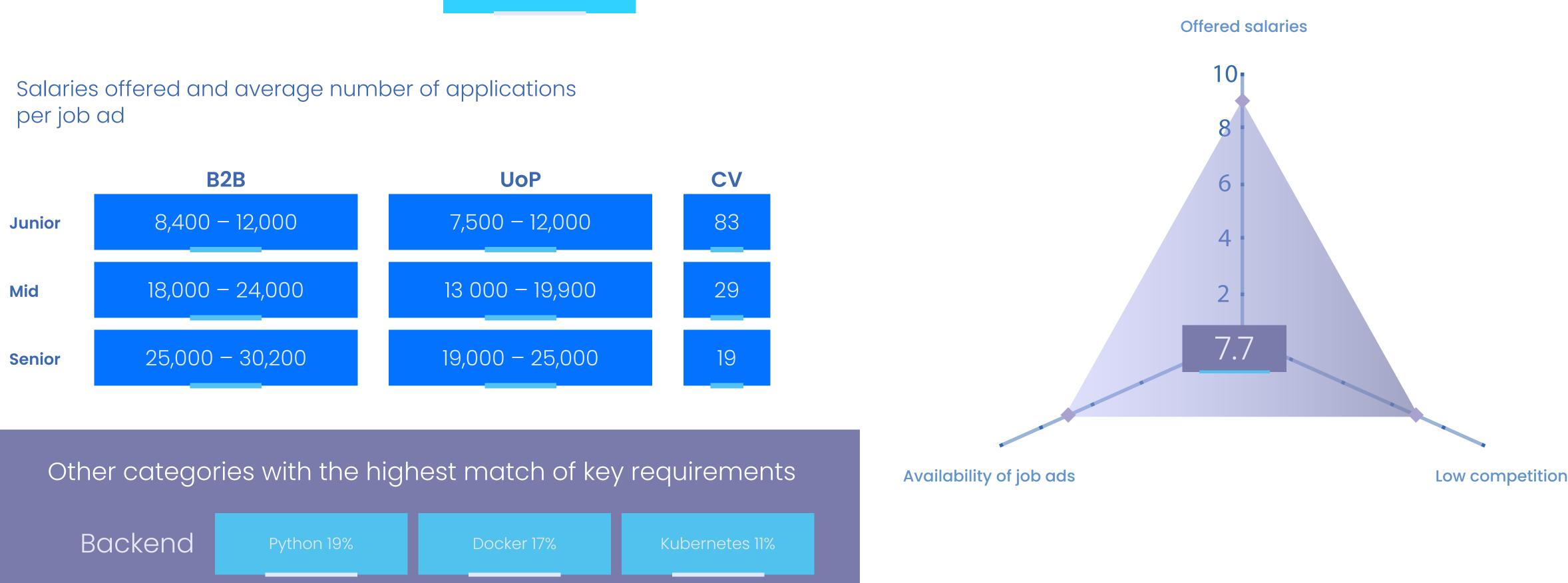


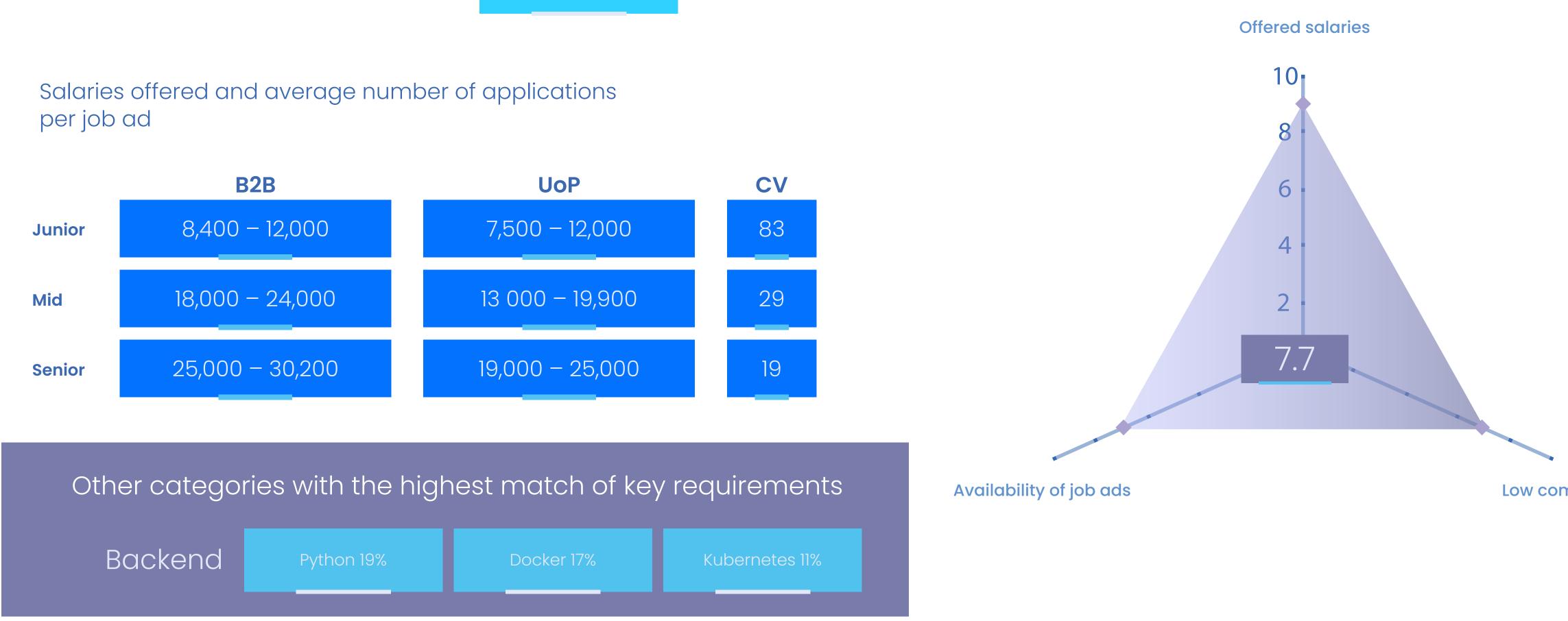


.DevOps

Share of category in the total IT job market

7.4%

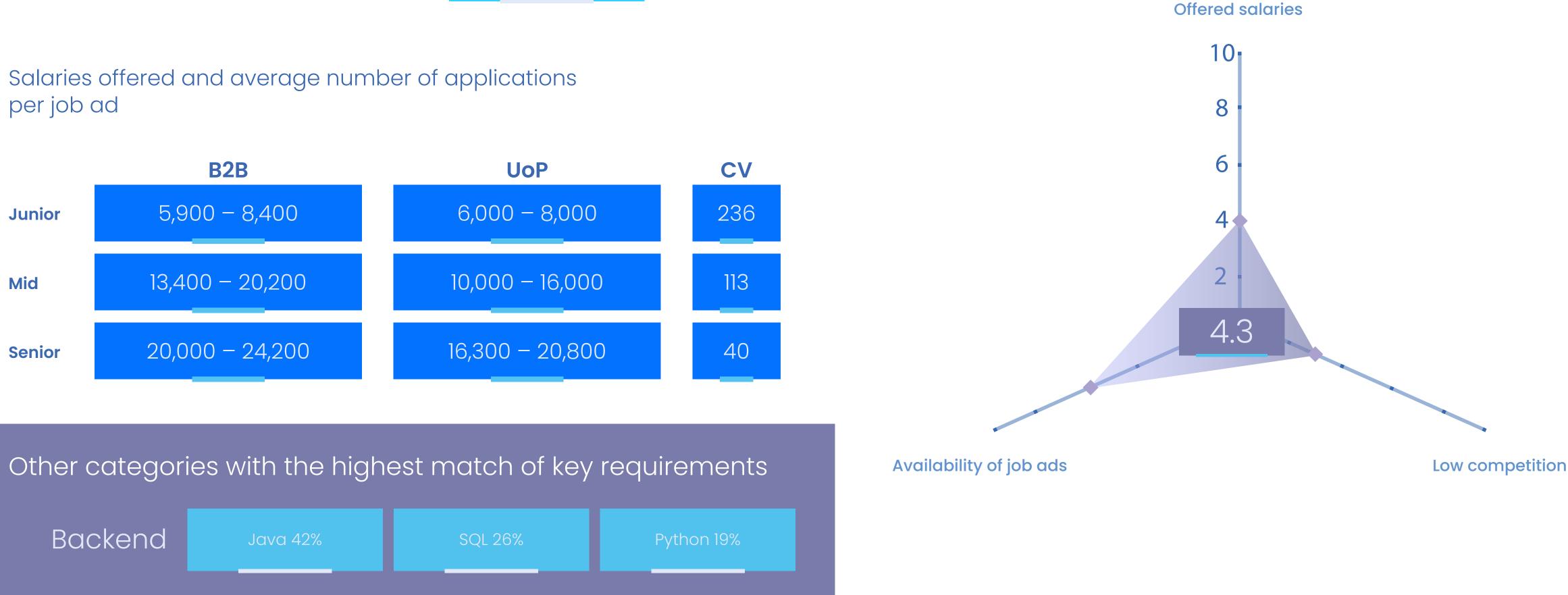


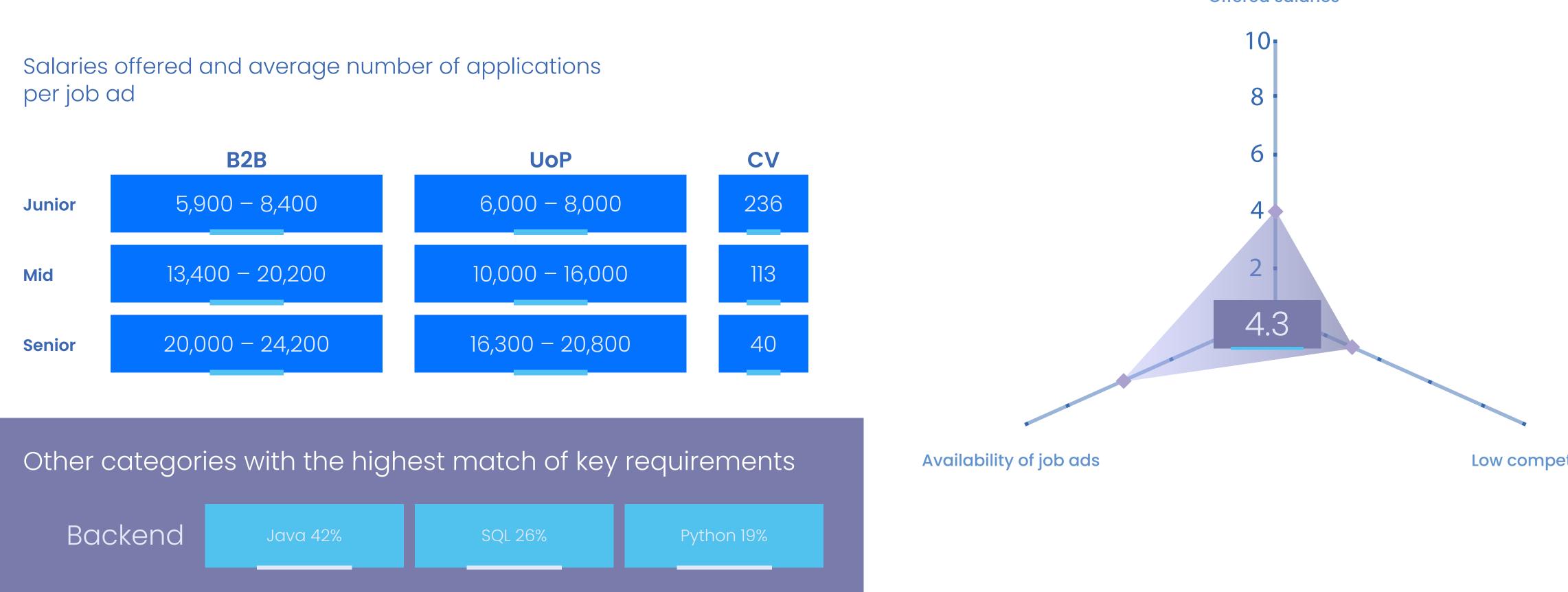


.Testing/QA

Share of category in the total IT job market

6.5%





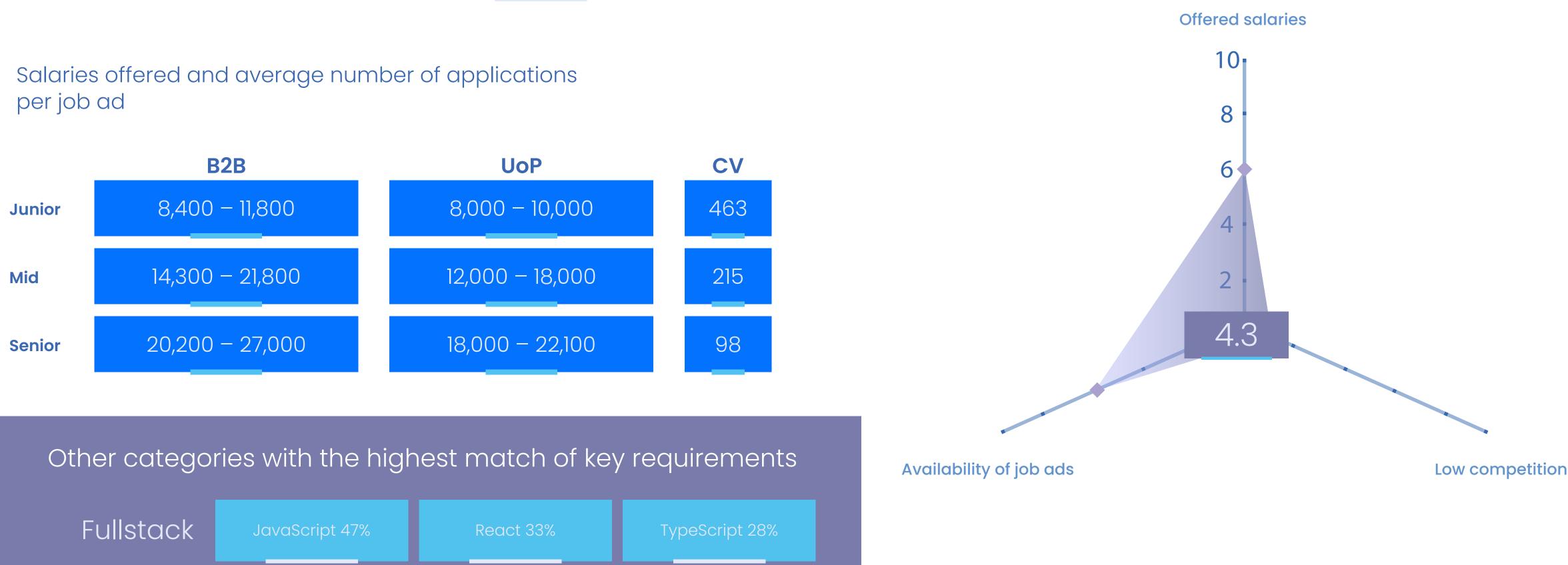


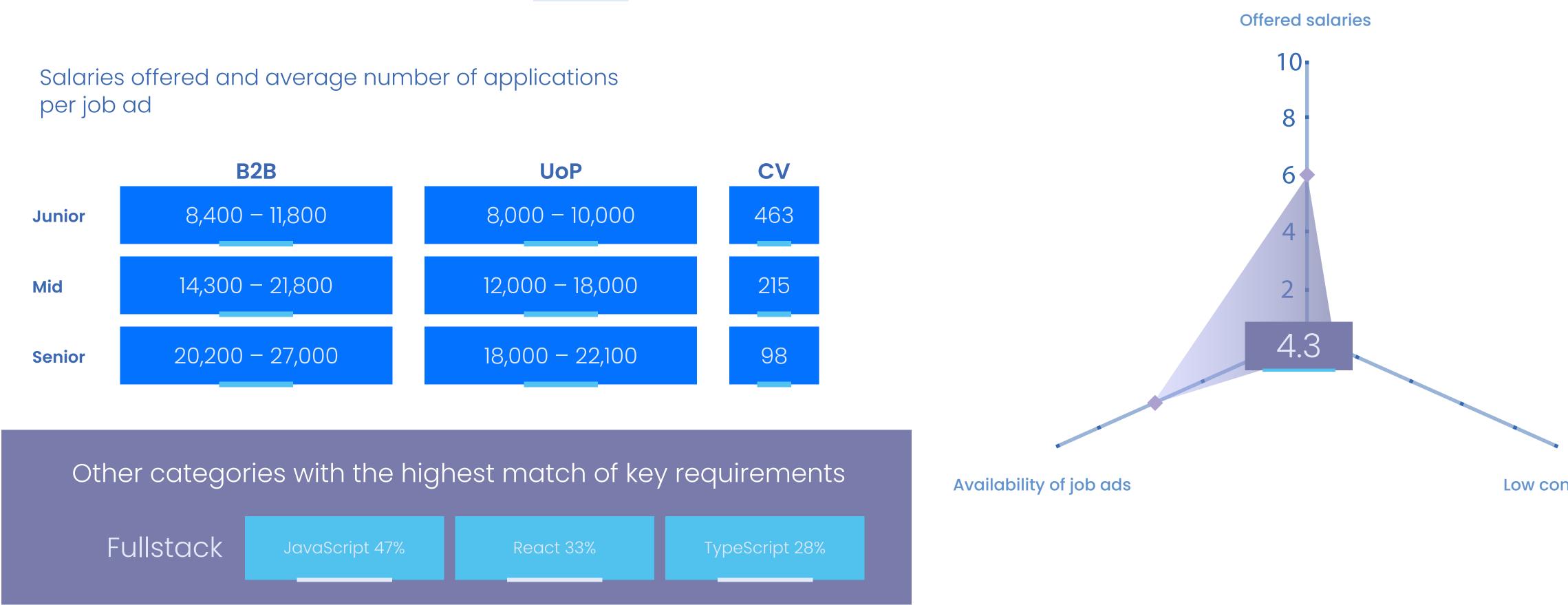


.Frontend

Share of category in the total IT job market

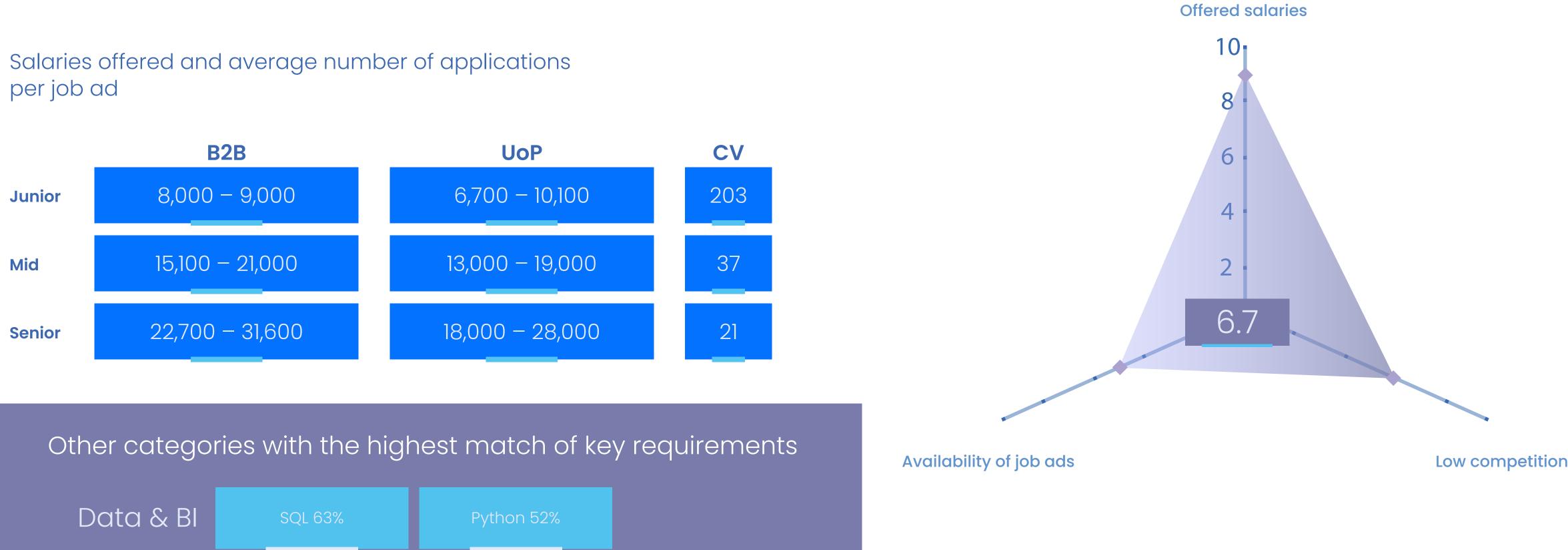
5.5%

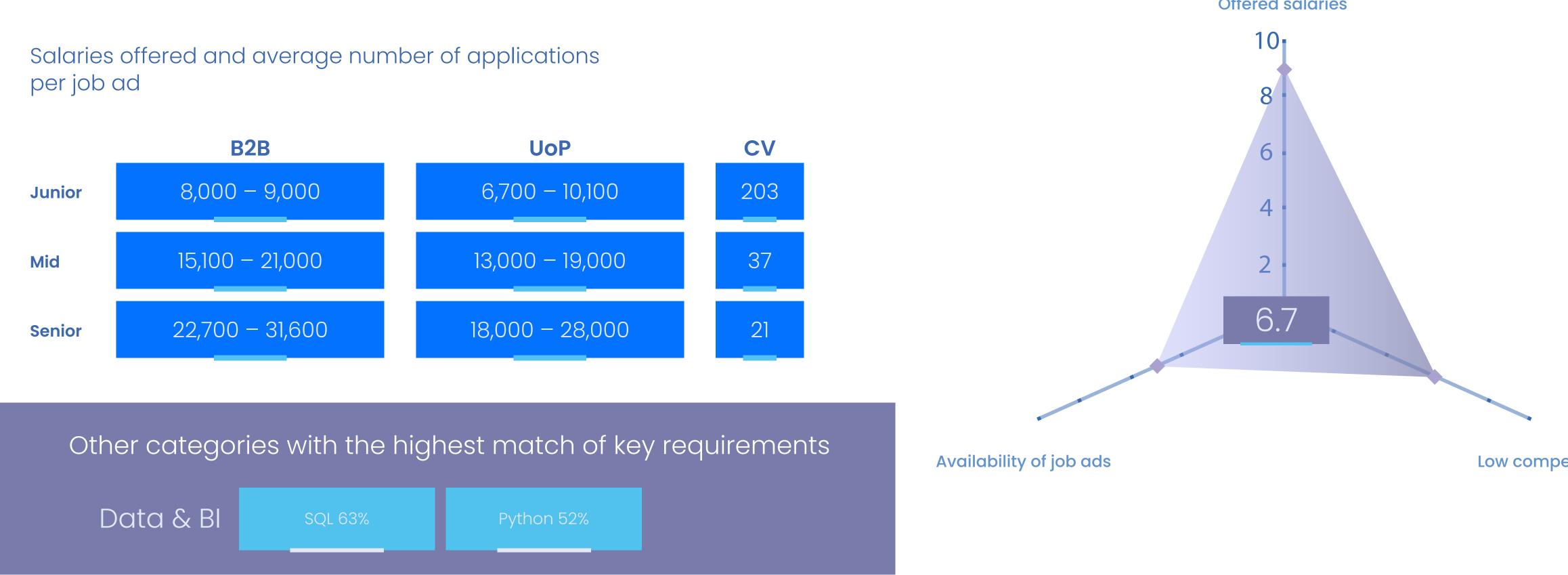




.A Share of category in the total IT job market

5.1%









.Game Dev Share of category in the total IT job market 3.9%



.ERP Share of category in the total IT job market

3.8%

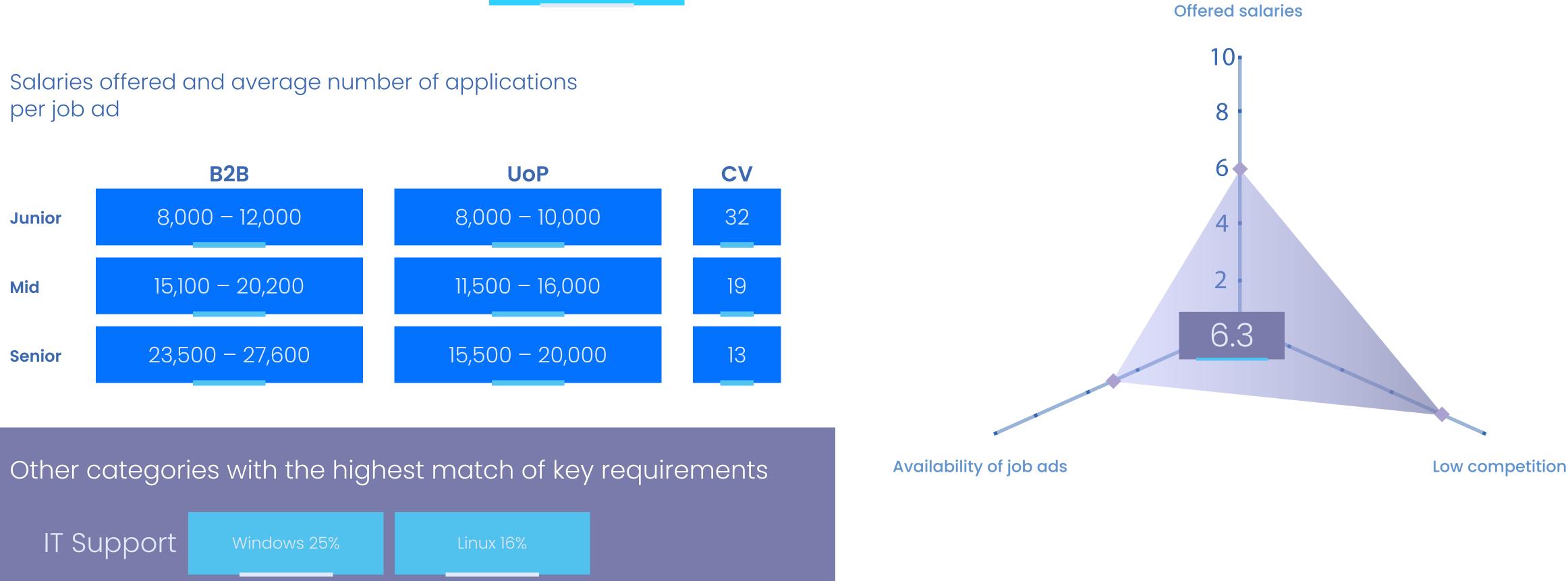




.IT System Administration

Share of category in the total IT job market

3.7%

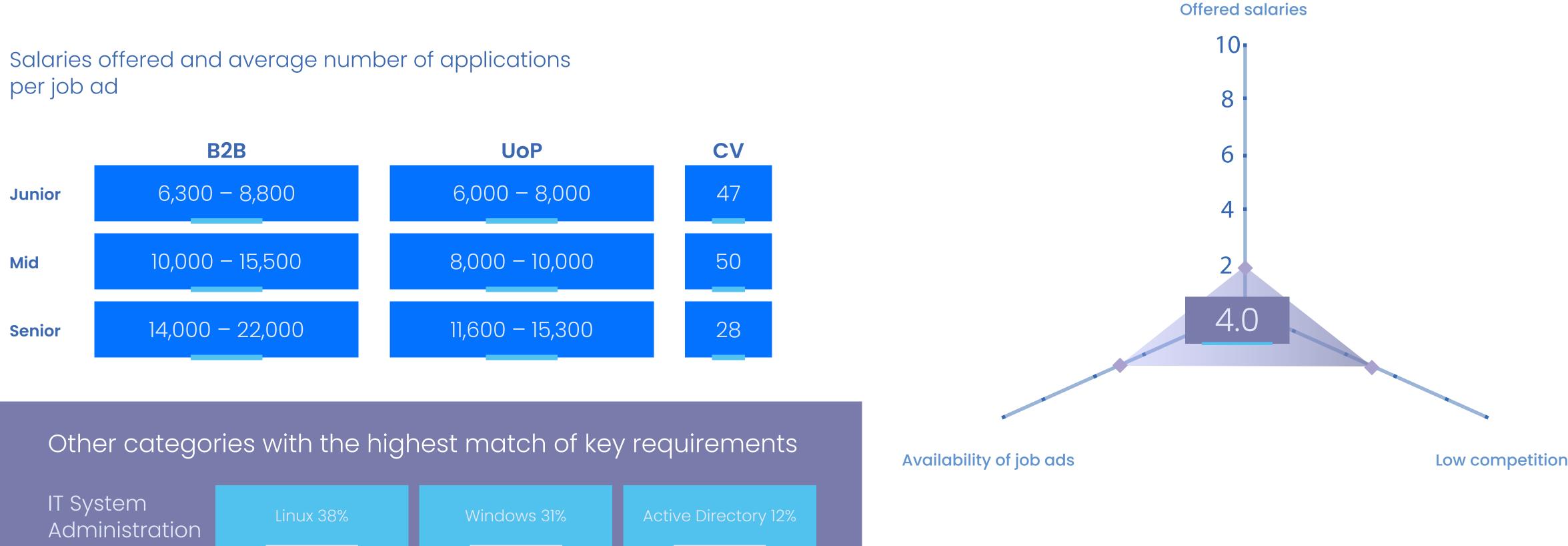


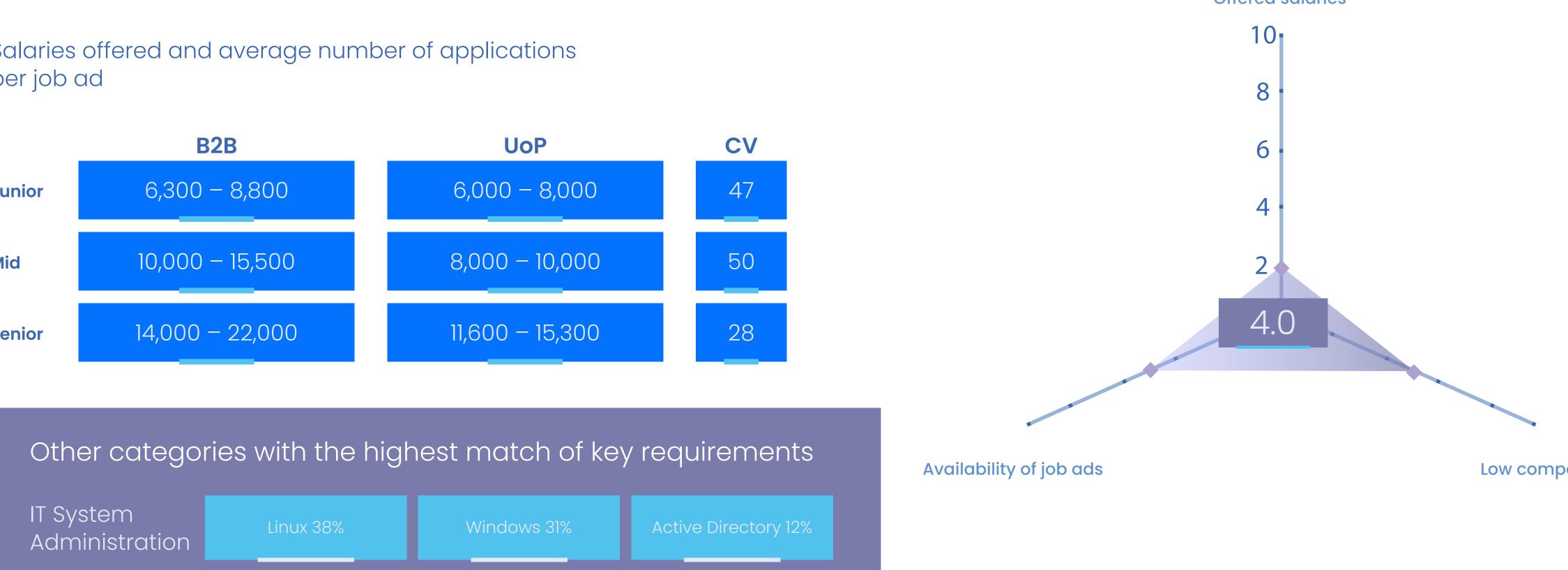


.IT Support

Share of category in the total IT job market

3.7%









.Business Analysis

Share of category in the total IT job market

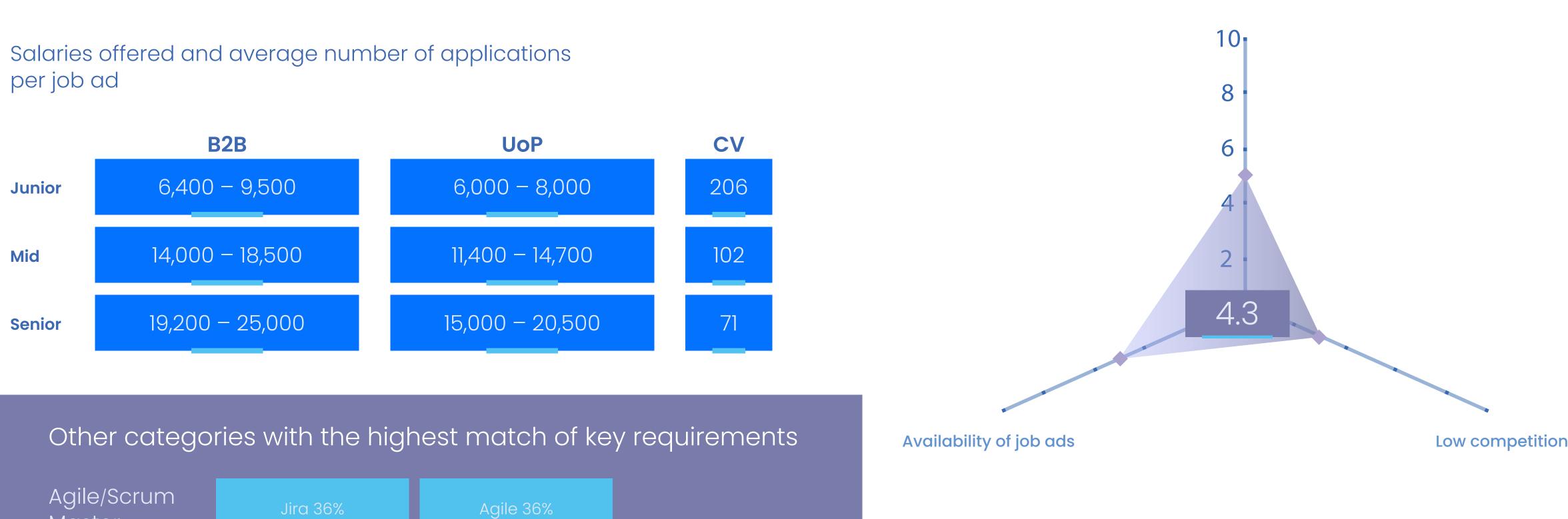
3.6%

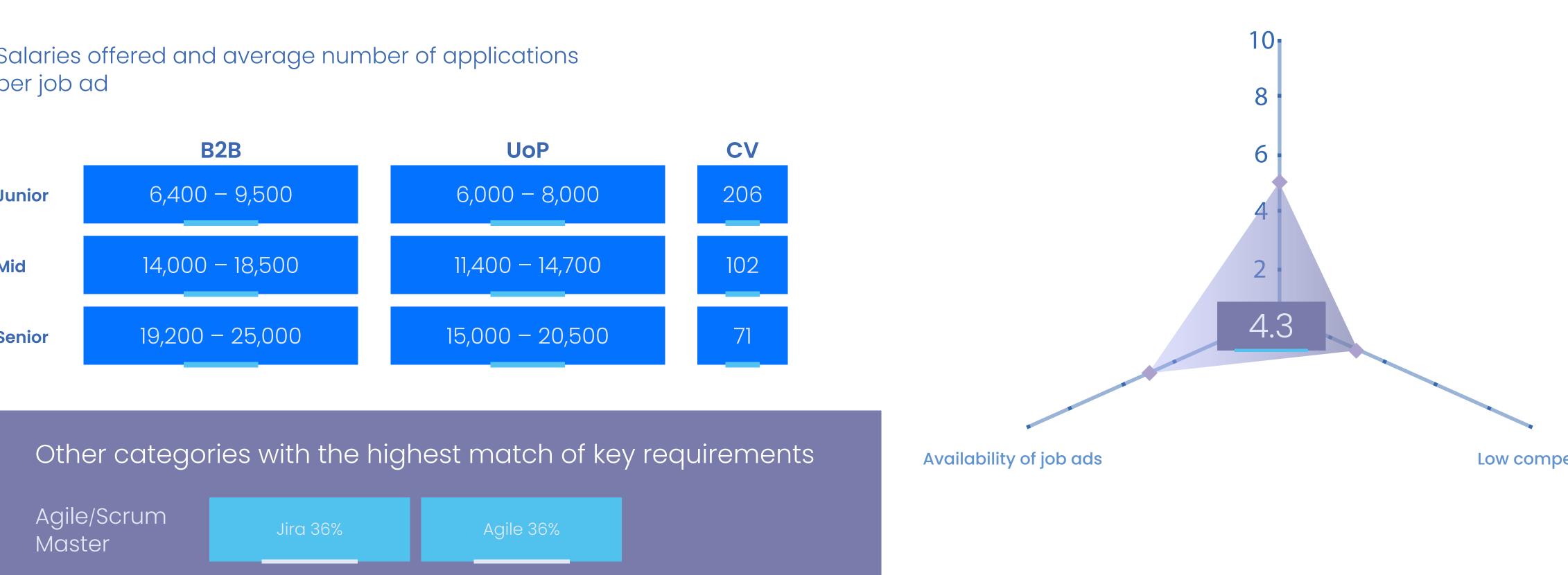


.Project Management

Share of category in the total IT job market

3.6%





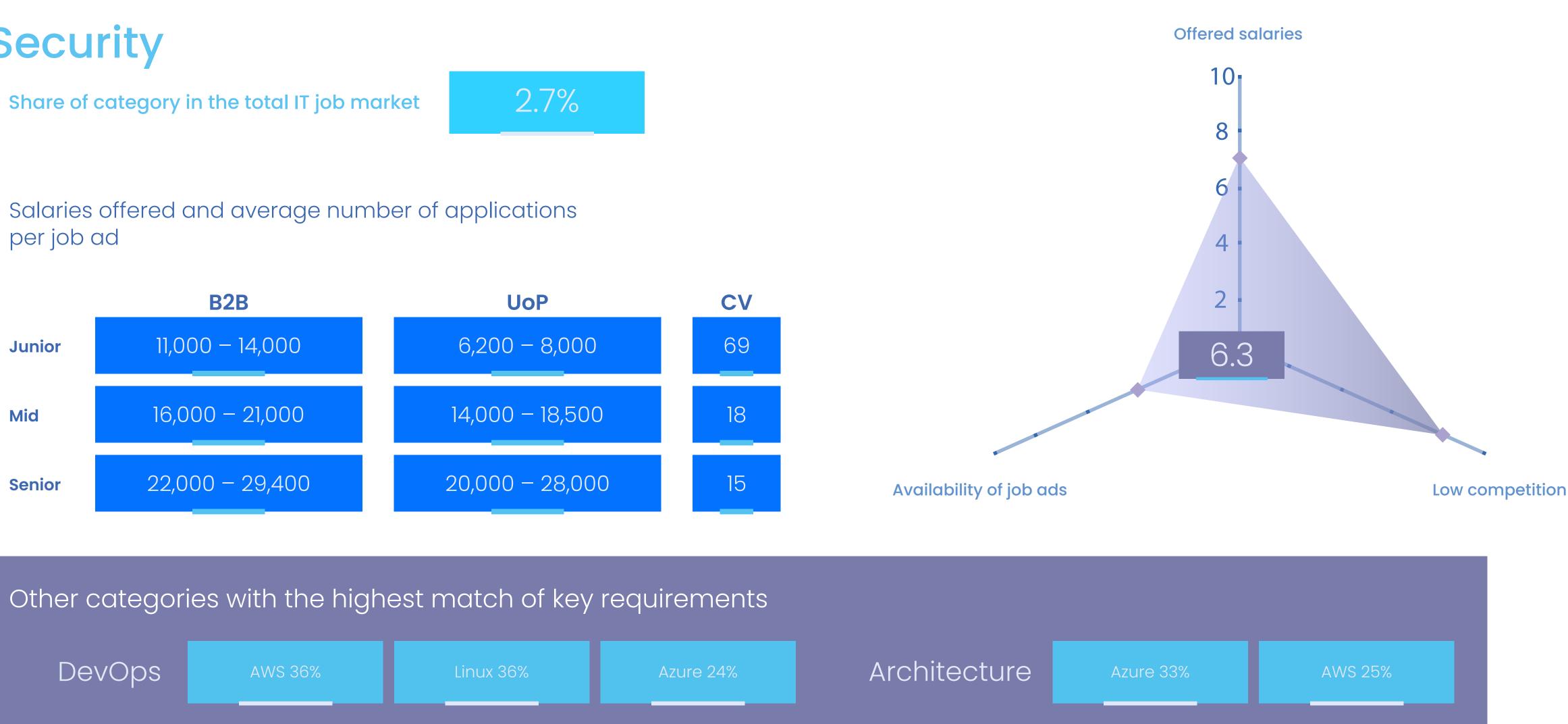
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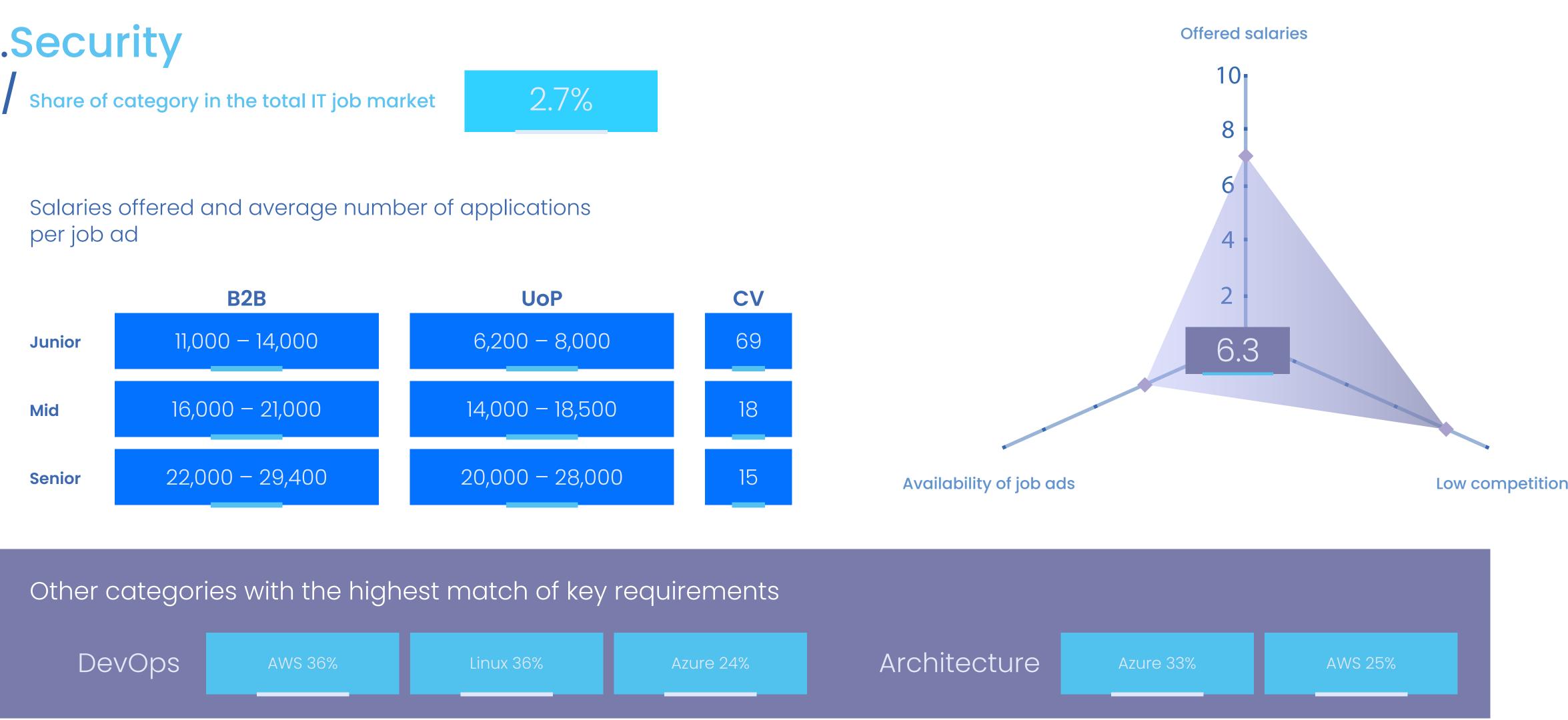
Offered salaries





.Security Share of category in the total IT job market



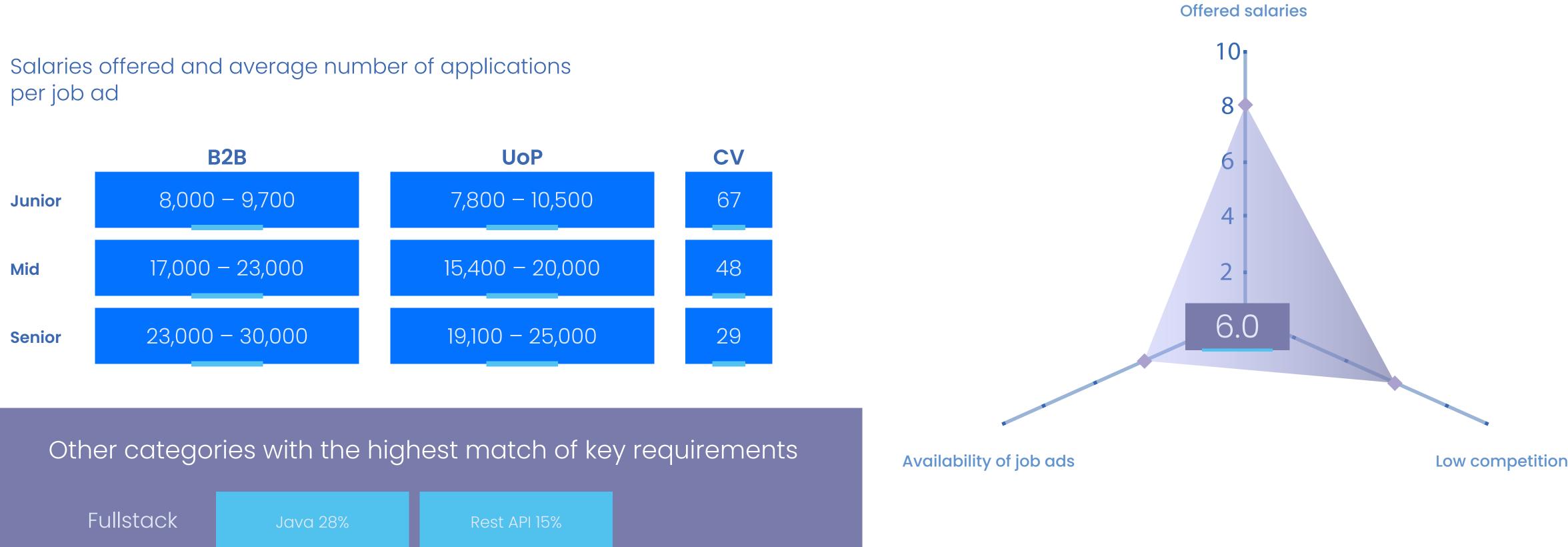


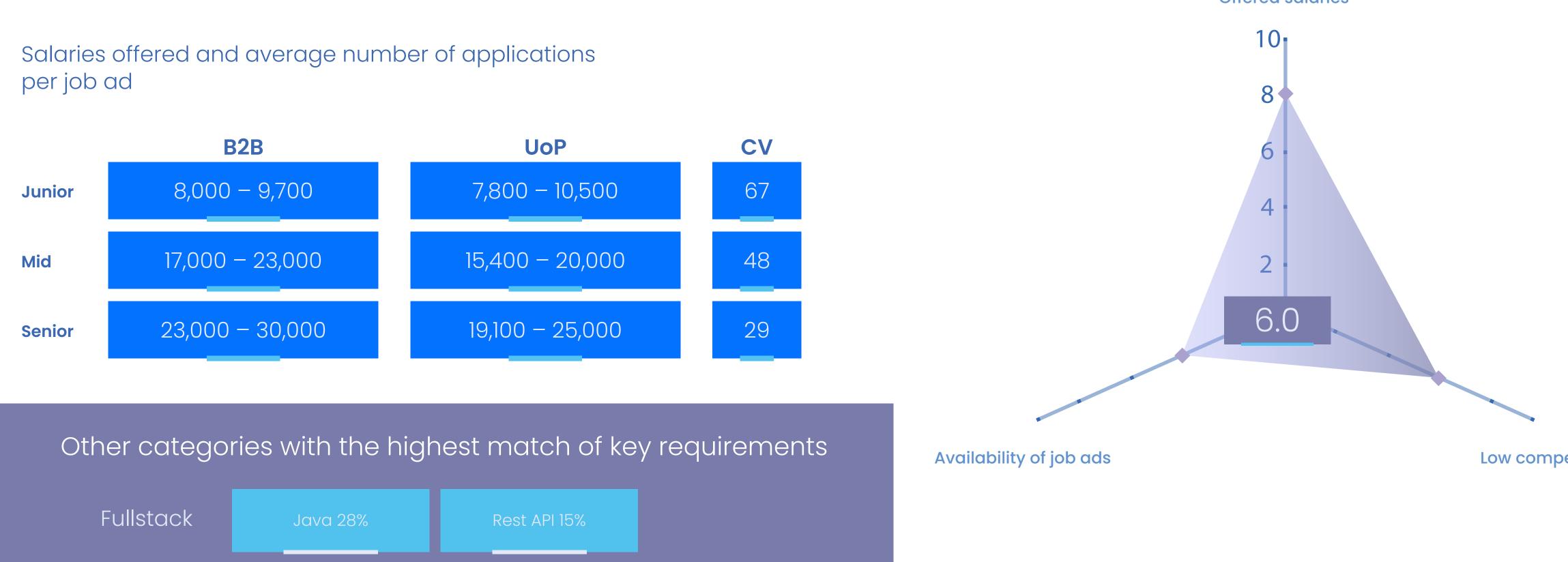


Share of category in the total IT job market

.Mobile

2.7%





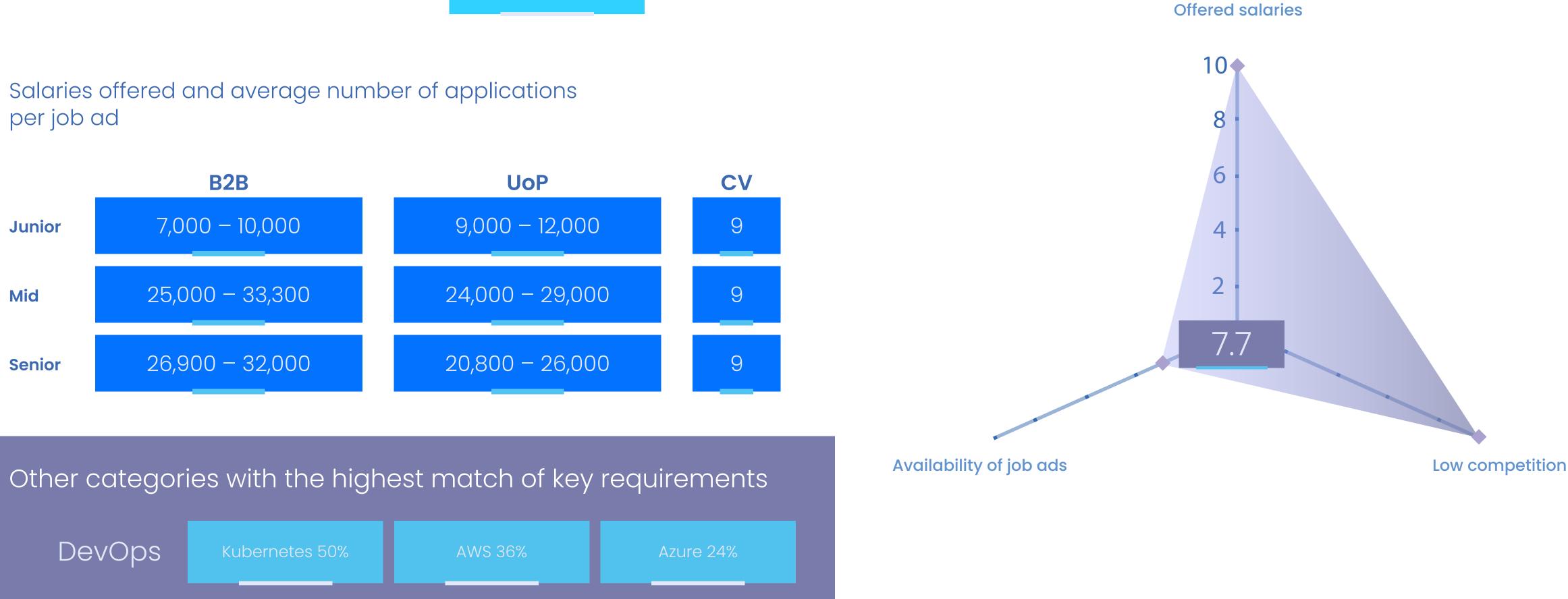




.Architecture

Share of category in the total IT job market

2.1%





.Product Management

Share of category in the total IT job market

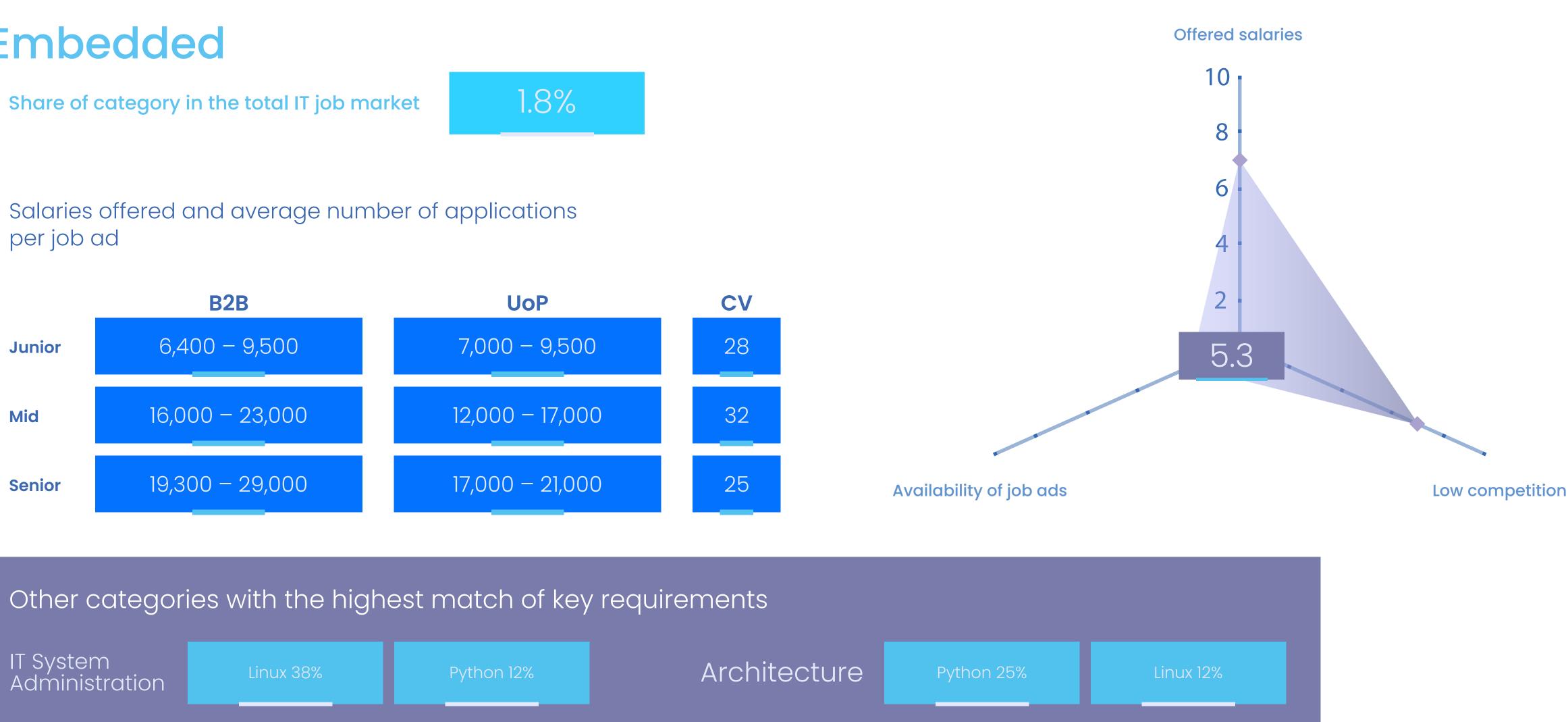
2%

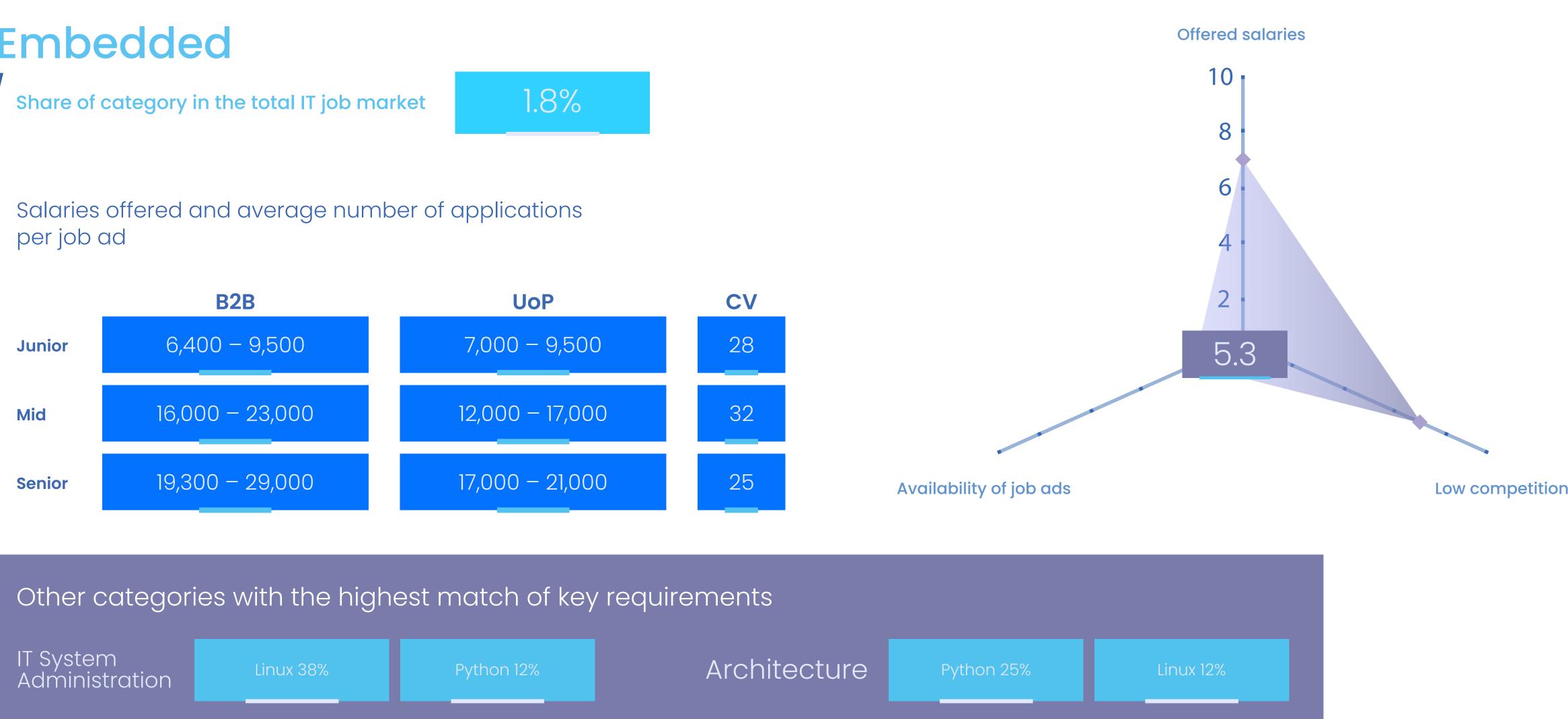




.Embedded









.UX/UI/Design

Share of category in the total IT job market

1.5%

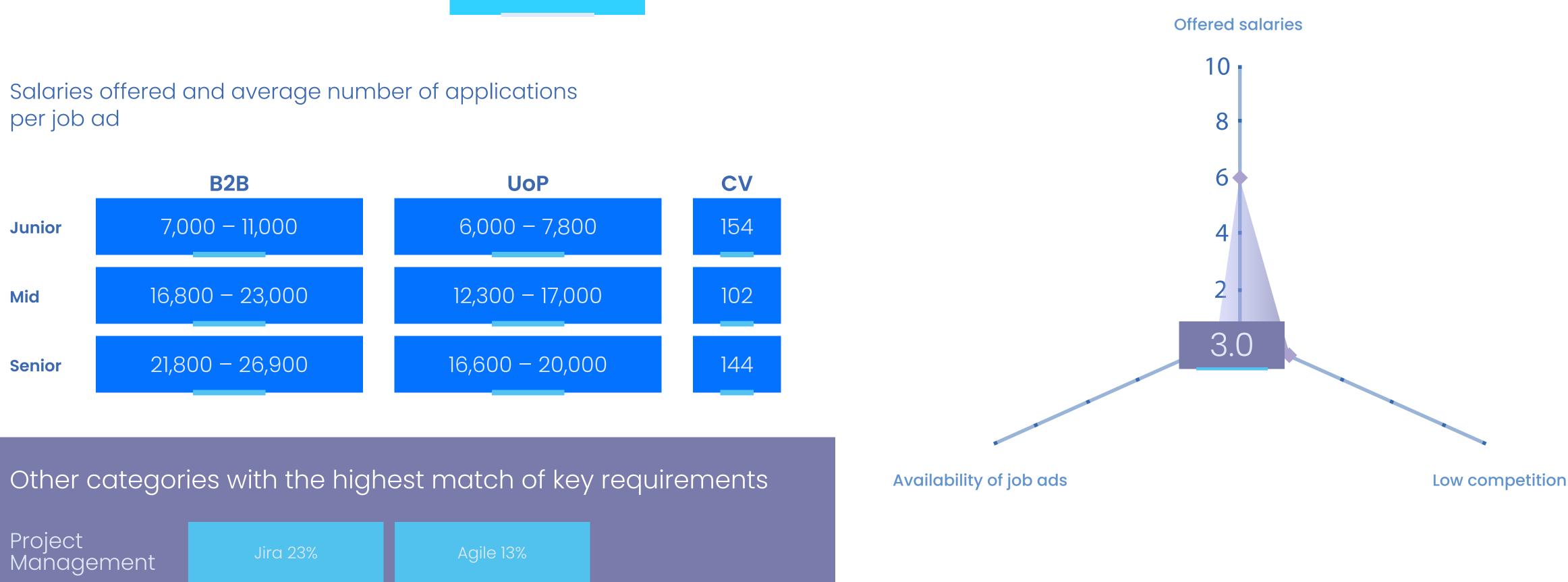


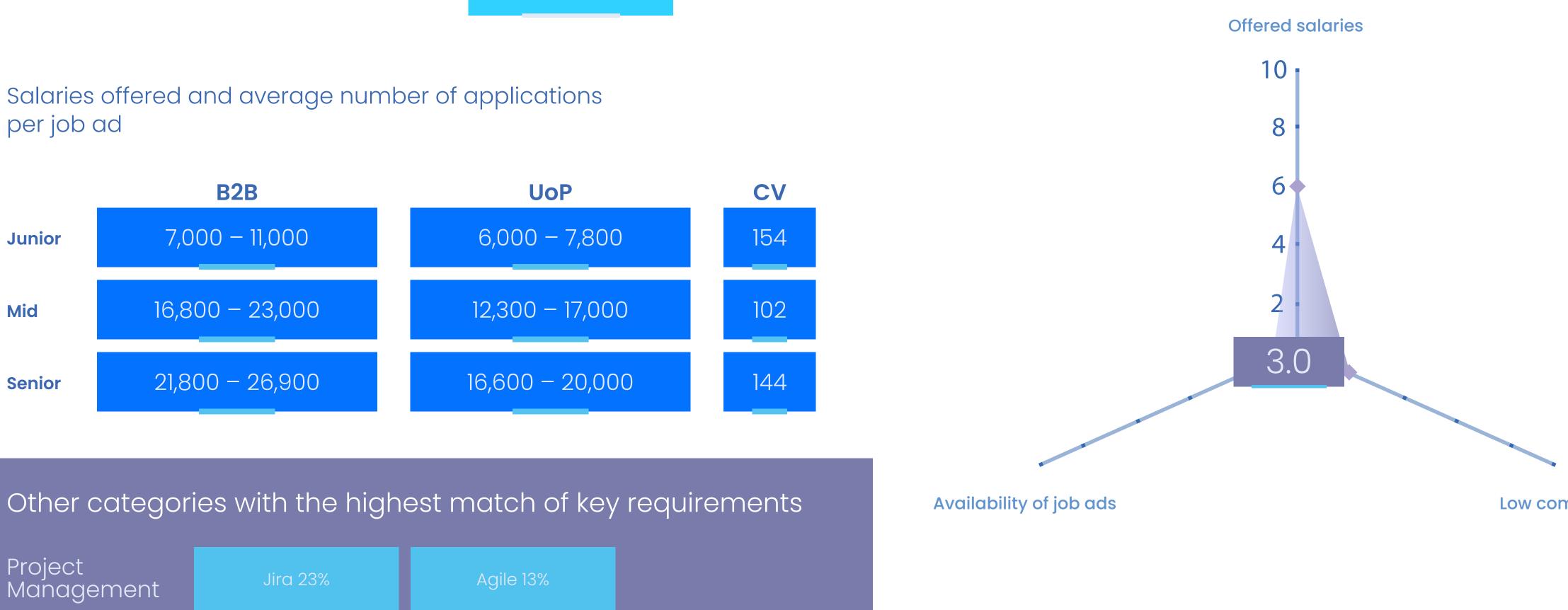


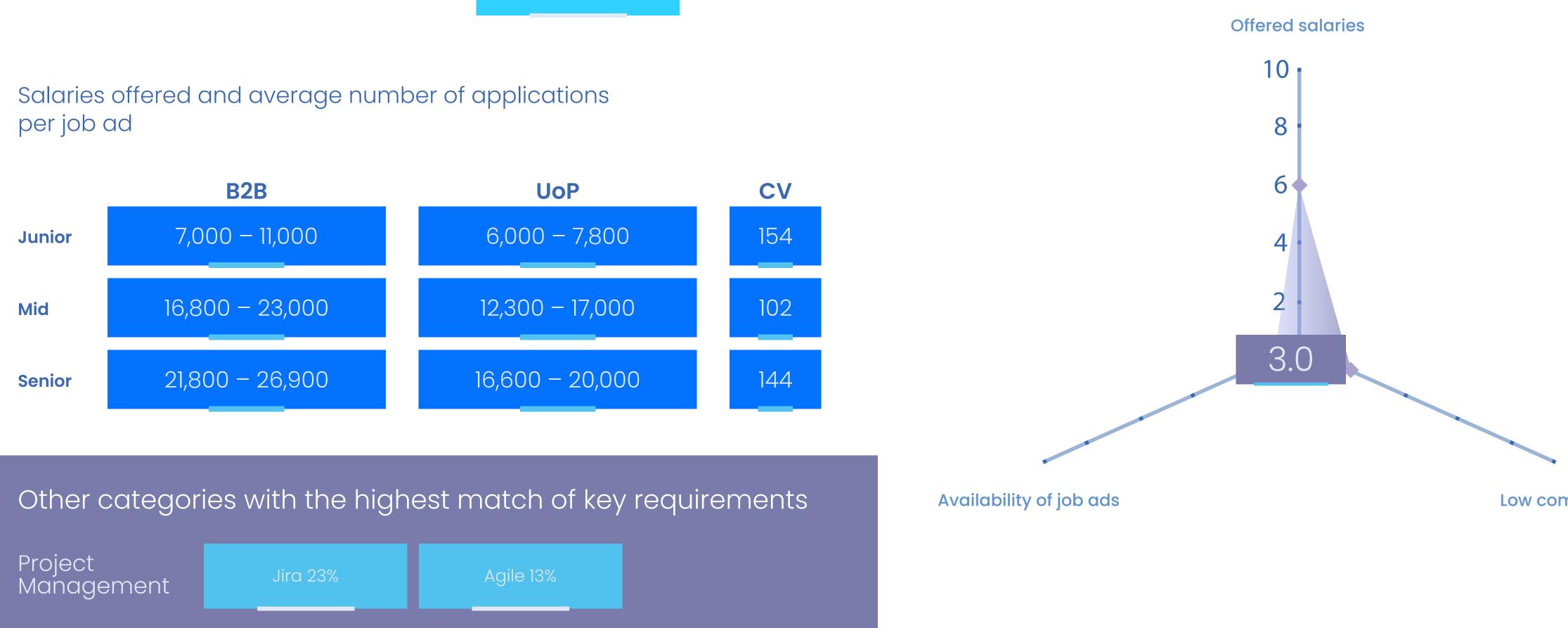
.Agile/Scrum Master

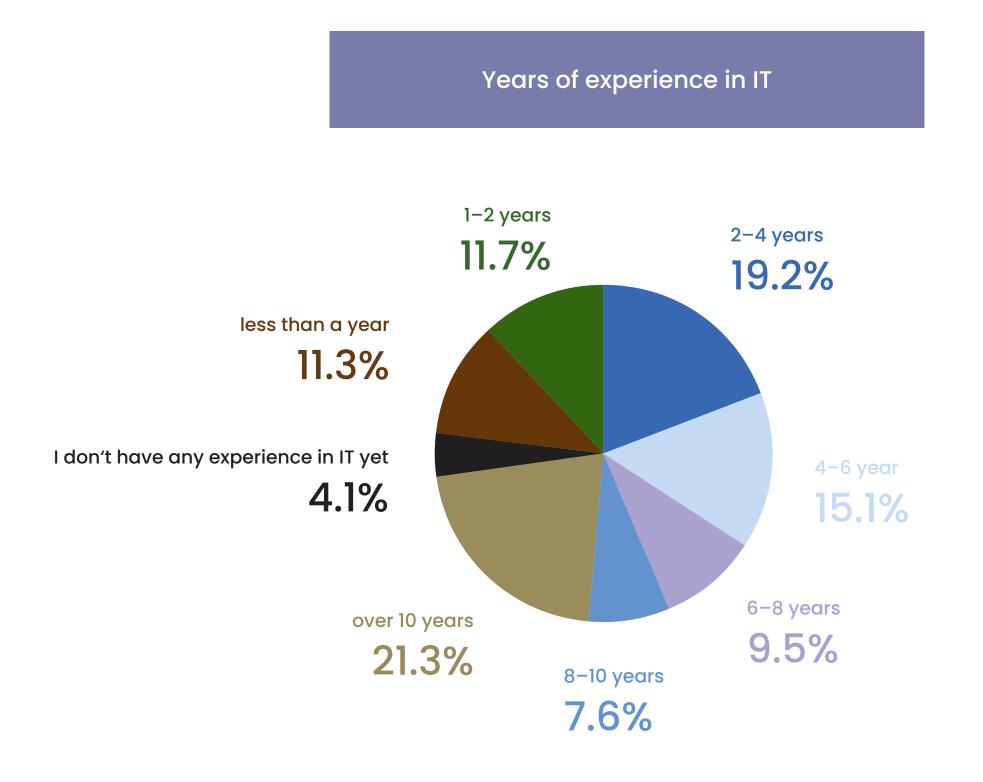
Share of category in the total IT job market

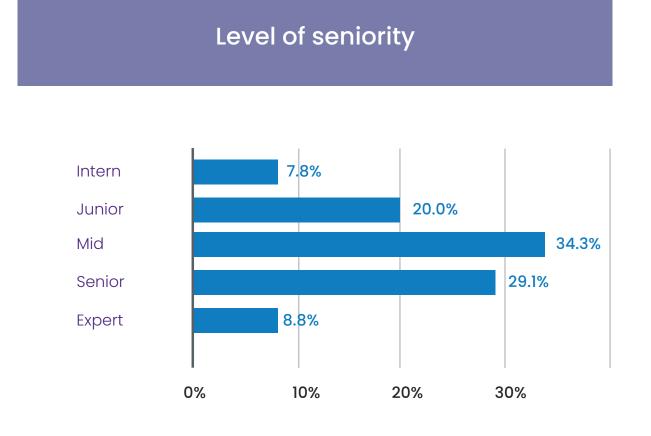
0.5%











About the study

Study duration: Mar-Apr 2024

Method: CAWI

Sample: 2,583 IT specialists

The report is based on a survey we distributed via e-mails and social media. We refer to data from other sources, too.

The survey was conducted among both working and job-seeking IT professionals from Poland. Responses to most questions were randomized. Not all questions were obligatory, and the respondents could stop the survey at any time.

As for specializations, Backend (27.3%), Frontend (18.2%), Fullstack (15.6%), and Testing/QA (11.9%) specialists constituted the biggest groups among the respondents.

The maximum error was estimated at different levels depending on the group of people surveyed in a given question (e.g., people who have a job in IT, or those who don't; people actively looking for a job, or those less actively looking for a job). Thus, it ranges from 2% (questions with more than 1,650 responses) to 5% (questions with more than 400 responses).





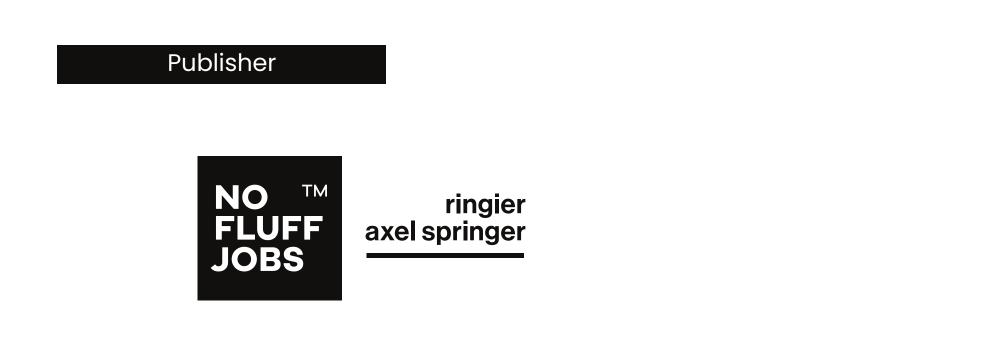
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As of July 2024



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