

CREATIVE CLASS SM

By the Numbers: Tech Talent

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Each Thursday, we'll take a look a specific demographic, occupation or research trend "by the numbers." We'll tell you who's city is at the top and point you in the direction to find out more. This week, we'll take a look at technology talent. Where are computer programmers and scientists? What are their average salaries?

First the basics, nationally there are approximately 389,000 computer programmers and nearly 26,000 computer scientists. Interesting, five metros – New York, Chicago, Washington, DC, Dallas-Forth and Los Angeles – account for more than 27% of the nation's computer programming talent (See Figure 1). Likewise, two metros – Washington, DC and New, York – have 20% of the nation's computer scientists – almost 5,300 (See Figure 2). By 2014, the nation's computer programming and science talent pools are expected to grow to almost 493,000 – a 19% increase over 2005.

Figure 1: 5- Largest Computer Programming Talent Pool

	Area	Total Employment	Share (%) of National Programmers
1	New York, NY	39,880	10.3%
2	Chicago, IL	18,430	4.7%
3	Washington, DC	18,020	4.6%
4	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	14,020	3.6%
5	Los Angeles, CA	12,830	3.3%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.

Figure 2: 5- Largest Computer Science Talent Pool

	Area	Total Employment	Share (%) of National Programmers
1	Washington, DC	3,400	13.1%
2	New York, NY	1,870	7.2%
3	Boston, MA	1,470	5.7%
4	San Jose, CA	1,420	5.5%
5	San Francisco, CA	1,250	4.8%

Onto the money....nationwide, computer programmers on average make \$67,470; however, nearly half (49%), of computer programmers across the country make more than the national average. Middletown, New York claims the highest computer programming salary (\$98,050), which is about 64% higher than the lowest programming salary in Pascagoula, MS (See Figures 3 & 4).

Figure 3: - Highest Paying Metros for Computer Programmers

	Metro Area	Average Salary
1	Middletown, NY	\$98,050
2	San Jose, CA	\$90,880
3	Lawrence, MA	\$90,860
4	Monroe, LA	\$85,990
5	Framingham, MA	\$84,190

Source: RFCG Analysis, 2007. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005.

Figure 4: 5- Lowest Paying Metros for Computer Programmers

	Metro Area	Average Salary
1	Pascagoula, MS	\$35,020
2	Pocatello, ID	\$37,620
3	St. George, UT	\$40,020
4	Grand Forks, ND	\$40,130
5	Wheeling, WV	\$40,290

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.

For computer scientists, the national average salary is a little over \$94,000. More than 63% of computer scientists across the country make more than the average salary. San Jose, CA claims the highest average computer science salary (\$131,360), which is 60% higher than the lowest average computer science salary \$52,930 (Lexington, KY) (See Figures 5 & 6).

Figure 5: 5- Highest Paying Metros for Computer Scientists

	Metro Area	Average Salary
1	San Jose, CA	\$131,360
2	San Francisco, CA	\$118,330
3	Seattle, WA	\$118,210
4	Los Angeles, CA	\$113,100
5	Barnstable Town, MA	\$112,920

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.

Figure 6: 5- Lowest Paying Metros for Computer Scientists

	Metro Area	Average Salary
1	Lexington, KY	\$52,930
2	Salt Lake City, UT	\$55,090
3	Trenton, NJ	\$64,040
4	Tampa, FL	\$69,880
5	Charleston, SC	\$70,620

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.