





TECH WORKER SUPPLY + TECH WORKER DEMAND + INNOVATION

NC TECH METRO INDEX

METHODOLOGY

This year's tech metro index follows the same methodology created for the first iteration in 2021. Economic Leadership LLC reviewed the data available at the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) level relevant to the tech sector to create a list of metrics to evaluate. This list of potential metrics was presented to NC TECH's board of advisors who provided feedback to finalize the list. The list of metrics was grouped into three subindexes of tech talent supply, tech talent demand, and innovation. Based on feedback from the tech business leaders on the board, supply of tech workers was given the highest weighting, as they felt it was one of the biggest factors in a tech business' location decision. Demand was the next priority, as colocation has been a big factor in tech agglomeration. Innovation was given the lower weighting, as the metrics available at the metro level were more focused on general research & development (R&D) and entrepreneurship, rather than specifically tech focused data.

INTRODUCTION

NC TECH has been quantifying the state's progress in the tech industry for years. In early 2023, the organization will release the ninth version of the State of the Tech Industry (STIR) report, which analyzes the size and growth of the state's tech workers, firms, and wages. A key component of the STIR report is comparing North Carolina with the other states to gauge performance and assess competitiveness. The STIR report is produced annually by Economic Leadership LLC, a research and consulting firm also based in North Carolina.

In 2021, NC TECH wanted to develop a way to evaluate the metro areas of the state (STIR focuses on the state level) and asked Economic Leadership LLC to help develop an index to compare the state's metros' tech performance against other top metros in the country. A methodology for measuring metro tech performance was developed with the goal to release new findings annually. This report details the results from the second year of the analysis for release in the fall of 2022.

The metro index focuses on emerging challenges for tech hubs, including a heavy focus on 2022's top competitive issue, the availability of workforce. The struggle to find enough qualified workers has been exacerbated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The index also places an equal emphasis on tech skills and traditional, educational training. As skills-based hiring is rising as a trend to find talent, this index includes data on job postings and online profiles based on whether they contain tech skills, regardless of educational attainment. The methodology assesses postsecondary education talent but also quantifies those who may have the necessary skills without institutional training. Self-employed tech workers were also included in this analysis to capture all available tech talent in an area.



THE NC TECH METRO INDEX WEIGHTING

Each subindex consisted of seven unique metrics that were weighted equally (14.3 percent) based on their ranking. Most of the data evaluated is from the year 2021 or 2022. Some of the most recent data from public governmental sources is a few years older. Three metrics did not have new data for this year's report (STEM education, patents, and business dynamism) and the same data from the previous metro index was used. A more detailed description of each metric is provided in the appendix.

TECH SUPPLY: 45%	SOURCE	DATA YEAR
Desident took werkens ver 1 000 edulte	Linktoost	0001
Resident tech workers per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2021
Computer, math, and statistics degrees per 1,000 adults	Census	2020
STEM educational completions per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2020
Number of online profiles in MSA with tech skills per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2018-2022
Bachelor's degree or higher per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2021
H-1B visa approvals per 1,000 adults	USCIS	2018-2021
Diversity of tech occupations relative to total population	Lightcast	2021

TECH DEMAND: 35%

Tech occupation location quotient (LQ)	Lightcast	2021
Unique job postings with tech skills per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2018-2022
Median job posting duration	Lightcast	2018-2022
Cost of living adjusted tech wages	Lightcast	2021
Annual tech job openings per 1,000 adults	Lightcast	2018-2022
Competitive effect of tech job growth	Lightcast	2018-2022
Turnover rate of employees	Lightcast	2021

INNOVATION: 20%

Patents per 1,000 workers	US PATENT Office	2019
Higher education R&D as % of gross area product	NSF	2020
Business funded higher education R&D as a $\%$ of gross area product	NSF	2020
SBIR/STTR funding per \$ of gross area product	SBIR	2020
Business dynamism rate (opening vs closing Rate)	Census	2019
Business applications per 1,000 adults	Census	2021
Business R&D as a % of gross area product	NSF	2019

An index value was created for each subindex and then based on its weighting a final overall index was created. This index included the top 105 populated MSAs in America as well as the top ten populated metros in NC. Some of the NC metros were included in the 105 most populated MSAs. The addition of five North Carolina metros that were smaller than those in the 105 most populous created a total of 110 metros to be ranked. Data was also standardized by the adult population (those over age 25 in each MSA), or the gross area product of the metro's economy.

OVERALL RESULTS

With the tech supply, tech demand, and innovation indexes combined, the final results included Charlotte, Raleigh, and Durham in the top 30 best ranked tech metros once again this year. With Durham-Chapel Hill and Raleigh-Cary both in the top ten at 6th and 8th respectively. Notable were gains in other metros in the state, Winston-Salem and Wilmington improved 6 and 8 spots respectively in the rankings this year.

Interestingly, several of the smaller metros in the state that fall outside of the top 105 metros in terms of population performed well. Considering that Greenville's 2021 adult population ranked the metro 258th out of all MSAs in the nation, it is quite impressive that the metro ranked as the 73rd best metro for tech. Many of the typical tech metro rankings across the country only look at the top 50 or 100 metros so many of these smaller metros in NC had not been typically compared to other metros across the country prior to this research.

NORTH CAROLINA Standings

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL, NC	90	G
ranking change from last year: 0		
RALEIGH-CARY, NC	41	0
ranking change from last year: -1		
CHARLOTTE-CONCORD-GASTONIA, NC-SC	22	20
ranking change from last year: -1		
WILMINGTON, NC	162	54
ranking change from last year: +6		- 34
GREENVILLE, NC	258	(7)
ranking change from last year: NR		- 73
WINSTON SALEM, NC	85	(0)
ranking change from last year: +8		- 02
GREENSBORO-HIGHT POINT, NC	75	ОЛ
ranking change from last year: -7		- 04
ASHEVILLE, NC	111	01
ranking change from last year: +2		- 91
FAYETTEVILLE, NC	116	
ranking change from last year: -6		- 30
	140	105
HICKORY-LENOIR-MORGANTON, NC		

Tech Index Ranking _____

FINAL OVERALL TECH METRO INDEX RANKINGS

Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Durham-Chapel Hill, NC 6 San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Raleigh-Cary, NC 8 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Salt Lake City, UT Provo-Orem, UT Madison, WI Columbus, OH Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX** Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT Pittsburgh, PA Worcester, MA-CT **Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ** Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC 28 Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI St. Louis, MO-IL **Colorado Springs, CO** Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN **Richmond**, VA **Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA** Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN

In last year's analysis, Seattle came out on top as the number one tech metro. This year Seattle dropped back to the 5th spot and Austin moved up two spots to number one in 2022. The rest of the top five metros for tech include the Silicon Valley metros and Boston. The San Diego metro moved up six spots to get into the top ten in this year's analysis. The Charlotte metro ranked just ahead of the Chicago area.

Boise City, ID Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA Rochester, NY Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Dayton-Kettering, OH Kansas City, MO-KS Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI **Tucson**, AZ Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT Cleveland-Elyria, OH Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Wilmington, NC 54 **Charleston-North Charleston, SC** Lexington-Fayette, KY Albuquerque, NM Akron, OH **Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA** Birmingham-Hoover, AL San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC Syracuse, NY Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY **Ogden-Clearfield, UT** Providence-Warwick, RI-MA New Haven-Milford, CT Jacksonville, FL Knoxville, TN Springfield, MA Oklahoma City, OK Portland-South Portland, ME Greenville, NC 73 Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR

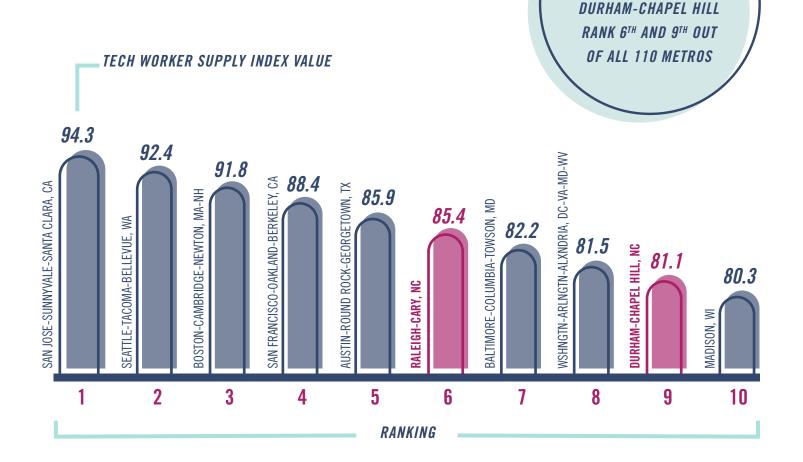
Grand Rapids-Kentwood, MI Wichita, KS Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY **Greenville-Anderson, SC** Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA Winston-Salem, NC 82 Urban Honolulu, HI Greensboro-High Point, NC 84 Chattanooga, TN-GA Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Columbia. SC Memphis, TN-MS-AR **Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL** Toledo, OH Asheville, NC 91 North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL **Baton Rouge, LA** Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Tulsa, OK **Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC** New Orleans-Metairie, LA Fayetteville, NC 98 El Paso, TX Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL Myrtle Beach-Conway-N. Myrtle Beach, SC-NC **Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA** Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC (105) Fresno, CA Jackson, MS Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA Stockton, CA **Bakersfield**, CA

NO.1 TECH WORKER SUPPLY INDEX

The Tech Worker Supply subindex was given the highest weighting (45 percent) out of the three. This was based on feedback provided by NC TECH's board of advisors, who stated that the availability of workforce was the greatest challenge for tech companies, and the biggest draw that a tech hub could provide. This index included the metrics of the number of tech workers who live in the metro, the number of computer and math degrees present, and tech skills present in the population. The ability of the metro to accept high skilled workers from abroad, and the diversity of the tech sector, were also included in evaluating the supply of tech workers.

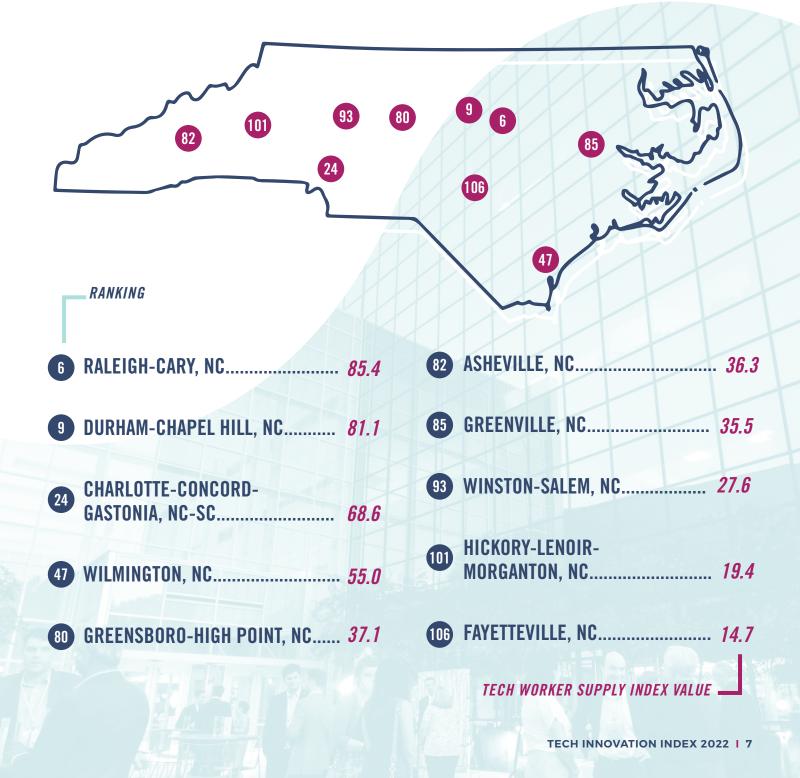
RALEIGH-CARY AND

TOP 10 METROS FOR TECH WORKER SUPPLY



TOP 1 O N C 1 O METROS

Raleigh-Cary, NC ranked sixth of the 110 metros for tech talent supply up two spots from the previous year, and just behind Austin. Durham-Chapel Hill, NC moved into the top ten (9th) this year after ranking just outside of the top ten at 11th in 2021. Raleigh-Cary scored in the top ten for every supply metric except H1-B visa approvals and tech worker diversity. Charlotte ranked in the top 20 for online profiles with tech skills, indicating that when looking at skills, the metro has more tech talent than the educational data suggests. Greenville, NC had the highest value of STEM education completions per capita across all 110 metros. Durham had the 2nd highest rate of H-1B visas just behind the San Jose metro.



NG TECH RKER Þ

RANKING ACROSS ALL METROS

NUMBER OF RESIDENT TECH WORKERS* 6 44.6 Raleigh, Cary Durham, Chapel Hill 19 32.0 Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia 22 29.2 Greensboro, 69 16.5 **High Point** 15.8 74 Winston-Salem 75 15.8 Wilmington *8*7 13.8 Greenville *89* 13.1 Fayetteville 103 10.2 Asheville Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton 104 *9.8* *PER 1,000 ADULTS

COMPUTER. MATH & STATISTICS DEGREES*

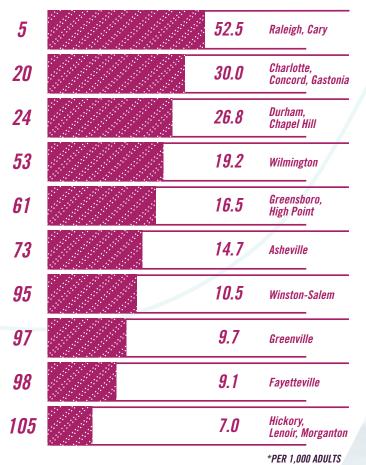
5	34.8	Raleigh, Cary
13	<i>24.</i> 7	Durham, Chapel Hill
27	20.0	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
46	<i>16.2</i>	Wilmington
70	13.4	Greensboro, High Point
77	12.9	Asheville
83	11.6	Winston-Salem
91	10.2	Fayetteville
98	<i>9.8</i>	Greenville
109	6.0	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton

*PER 1,000 ADULTS

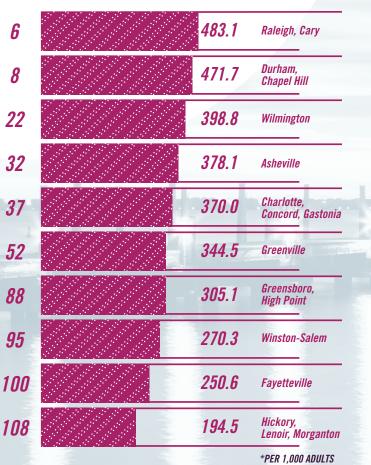
STEM EDUCATIONAL COMPLETIONS*

1	10.07	Greenville
4	7.66	Raleigh, Cary
6	6.33	Durham, Chapel Hill
49	2.44	Greensboro, High Point
<i>60</i>	<i>2.15</i>	Wilmington
73	1.82	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
74	1.81	Fayetteville
89	1.46	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
97	1.16	Winston-Salem
<i>99</i>	1.14	Asheville

NUMBER OF ONLINE PROFILES W/ TECH SKILL(S)*



PEOPLE W/ BACHELOR'S DEGREES OR HIGHER*



H-1B VISA APPROVALS*

2		<i>32.6</i>	Durham, Chapel Hill
21		6.5	Raleigh, Cary
2 8		5.6	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
50		3.1	Wilmington
59		2.6	Greenville
64		2.1	Greensboro, High Point
<i>82</i>		1.1	Winston-Salem
06		0.4	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
08		0.3	Fayetteville
09		0.2	Asheville
	<u></u>		*PER 1,000 ADULTS

TECH WORKER DIVERSITY INDEX

5	152.2	Asheville
7	149.1	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
<i>39</i>	106.8	Winston-Salem
<i>42</i>	105.5	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
48	102.1	Wilmington
73	93.0	Raleigh, Cary
81	91.4	Durham, Chapel Hill
91	85.5	Greensboro, High Point
104	75.6	Fayetteville
110	65.9	Greenville

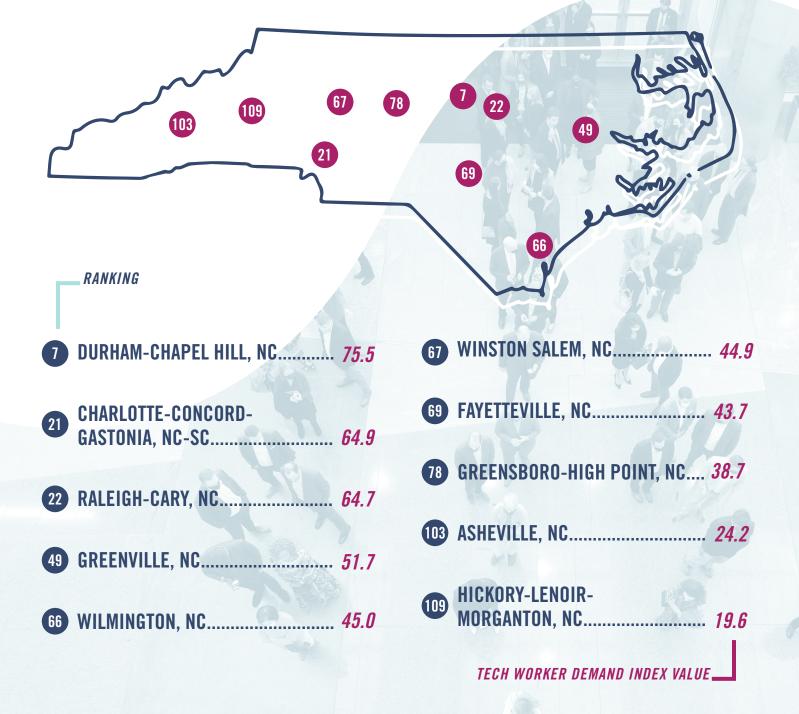
NO.2 TECH WORKER DEMAND INDEX

The Tech Worker Demand subindex was given the second highest weighting (35 percent) of the three. Demand is an important indicator for tech because tech companies and startups look for thriving tech presence when they decide where they want to locate. This index includes the metrics of tech worker concentration, tech wages, and turnover rate. Skills based data was used for measuring demand in job postings.

TOP 10 METROS FOR TECH WORKER DEMAND DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL, NC RANKED 7TH OF THE 110 METROS FOR TECH TALENT DEMAND TECH WORKER DEMAND INDEX VALUE 85.3 84.2 WSHNGTN-ARLNGTN-ALXNDRIA, DC-VA-MD-WV 83.7 **OR-WA** 79.2 SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND-BERKELEY, CA GA SAN DIEGO-CHULA VISTA-CARLSBAD, CA \simeq 78.5 AUSTIN-ROUND ROCK-GEORGETOWN, SAN JOSE-SUNNYVALE-SANTA CLARA. PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO. 76.1 DES MOINES, IA SEATTLE-TACOMA-BELLEVUE, WA 75.5 75.3 **DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL, NC** 73.5 72.7 DES MOINES-WEST SALT LAKE CITY, UT 2 10 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 RANKING

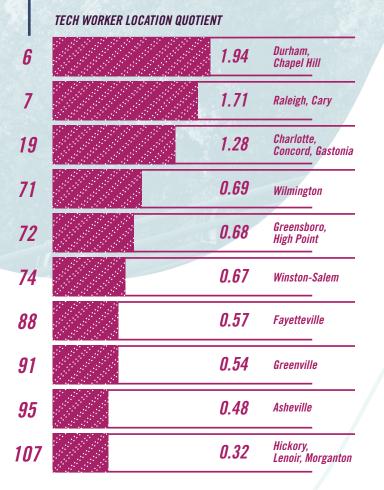
TOP 1 0 N C 1 0 METROS

Durham-Chapel Hill, NC ranked seventh of the 110 metros for tech demand, up two places from last year and just behind Seattle, WA. The Charlotte and Raleigh metros scored in the top 25. Eight of the ten NC metros scored in the top 50 on cost-of-living adjusted tech wages. The metros in NC tended to have more worker churn, or turnover, in the tech workforce compared to other places in the country.

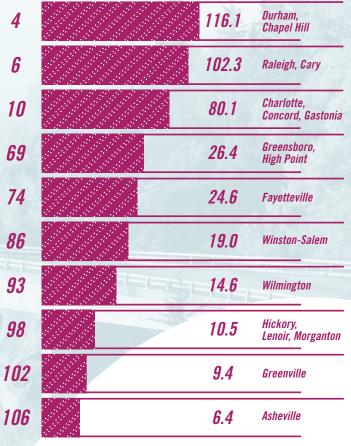


NC TECH WORKER DEMAND INDEX CHARTS

RANKING ACROSS ALL METROS



UNIQUE JOB POSTINGS W/ TECH SKILL(S)*

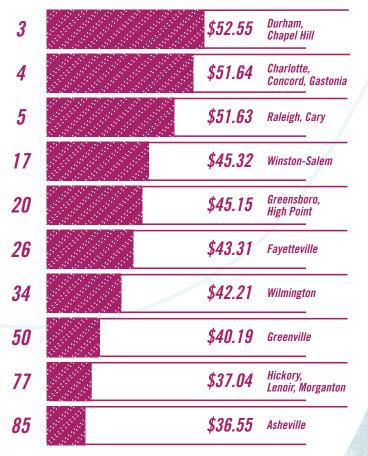


*PER 1,000 ADULTS

MEDIAN JOB POSTING W/ TECH SKILL(S) DURATION, DAYS

 78 23 Fayetteville 78 23 Greensboro, High Point 93 22 Asheville 02 23 Charlotte, 				
 43 25 Winston-Salem 78 23 Hickory, Lenoir, Morgant 78 23 Fayetteville 78 23 Greensboro, High Point 93 22 Asheville 93 22 Charlotte, Concord, Gaston 93 22 Durham, Chapel Hill 	6		<i>28</i>	Greenville
10 23 Hickory, Lenoir, Morgant 78 23 Fayetteville 78 23 Greensboro, High Point 78 23 Greensboro, High Point 93 22 Asheville 93 22 Charlotte, Concord, Gasto 93 22 Durham, Chapel Hill	20		26	Wilmington
20 Lenoir, Morgant 78 23 78 23 78 23 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22	<i>43</i>		25	Winston-Salem
78 23 Greensboro, High Point 93 22 Asheville 93 22 Charlotte, Concord, Gasto 93 22 Durham, Chapel Hill	78	-	23	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
23 High Point 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22 93 22	78		23	Fayetteville
93 93 22 Charlotte, Concord, Gasto 93 22 Durham, Chapel Hill	78		23	Greensboro, High Point
93 22 Concord, Gasto 93 22 Durham, Chapel Hill	93		22	Asheville
93 <i>Line Chapel Hill</i>	93		22	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
106 21 Raleigh, Cary	<i>93</i>		22	
	<i>106</i>		21	Raleigh, Cary

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTED MEDIAN HOURLY TECH WAGES



ANNUAL TECH JOB OPENINGS*

	ANNUAL IEGN JUD UFENINGS		
2		6.75	Durham, Chapel Hill
1		4.59	Raleigh, Cary
9		3.86	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
6		1.90	Wilmington
1		1.76	Winston-Salem
3		1.72	Greenville
5		1.66	Greensboro, High Point
0		1.36	Fayetteville
1		1.35	Asheville
19		0.75	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
	p Mar	-	*PER 1,000 ADULTS

COMPETITIVE EFFECT OF TECH JOB GROWTH*

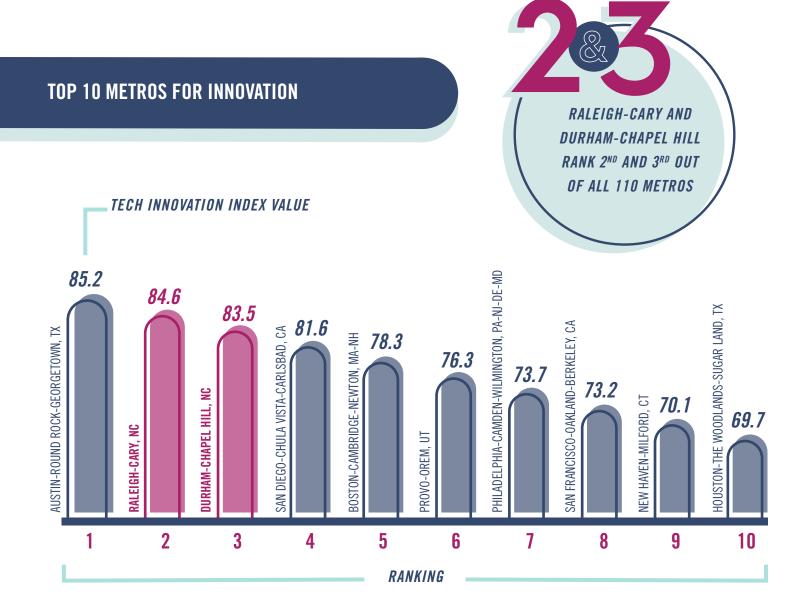
3	7.09	Durham, Chapel Hill
10	1.83	Asheville
12	1.80	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
14	1.57	Greenville
16	1.25	Winston-Salem
35	0.25	Wilmington
<i>40</i>	0.12	Raleigh, Cary
41	0.00	Fayetteville
45	-0.08	Greensboro, High Point
55	-0.64	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
		*PER 1,000 ADULTS

TURNOVER RATES OF TECH WORKERS

30	32.8%	Fayetteville
38	33.6%	Greenville
73	36.8%	Durham, Chapel Hill
88	39.2%	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
90	39.7%	Wilmington
<i>99</i>	42.4%	Asheville
101	43.0%	Raleigh, Cary
106	47.3%	Greensboro, High Point
108	48.5%	Winston-Salem
109	<mark>50.6%</mark>	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia

NO.3 TECH INNOVATION INDEX

The Tech Innovation subindex evaluates the culture of R&D and entrepreneurship in each metro. Our industry partners reminded the researchers that the next great tech advancements will come in non-tech industries such as automobiles, healthcare, etc. Therefore research & development is important to developing new and innovative technology. Some of the biggest unicorns of the past decade have been tech startups. If a metro can support new businesses and help them thrive, then perhaps the next great tech startup will come out of their area.



TOP 1 O N C 1 O METROS

Raleigh-Cary and Durham-Chapel Hill rank 2nd and 3rd respectively out of all 110 metros studied, just behind Austin, TX for the most innovative tech metro. These rankings are the same as the previous year's results. Durham is notably the top metro out of the 110 metros for rates of R&D dollars.

The other metros in North Carolina did not fare as well in innovation as they did in other subindexes. Charlotte did rank 9th overall in business dynamism, meaning more businesses were opening than closing. The innovation subindex is where Charlotte metro scored lower than expected, given its size.



NC TECH INNOVATION INDEX CHARTS

7	RANKING ACROSS ALL METROS BUSINESS FUNDED HIGHER ED R&D AS A % OF GROSS	S AREA PRODUCT
1	.548%	2 Durham, Chapel Hill
13	.062%	6 Raleigh, Cary
22	.047%	6 Greenville
26	.042%	6 Winston-Salem
78	.004%	<i>S</i> Wilmington
84	.001%	/ Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
88	.001%	 Greensboro, High Point
89	.001%	6 Fayetteville
103	.000%	6 Asheville
105	.000%	/ Hickory, 2 Lenoir, Morganton

PATENTS PER 1,000 WORKERS

4	2.00	Raleigh, Cary
6	1.83	Durham, Chapel Hill
17	0.78	Winston-Salem
59	0.61	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
35	0.56	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
70	0.49	Wilmington
75	0.44	Asheville
77	0.43	Greensboro, High Point
03	0.16	Greenville
09	0.09	Fayetteville

HIGHER ED R&D AS A % OF GROSS AREA PRODUCT

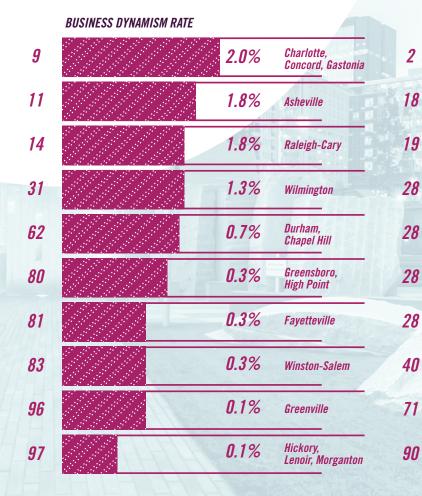
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1	4.32%	Durham, Chapel Hill
12	0.74%	Winston-Salem
<i>23</i>	0.60%	Greenville
27	0.57%	Raleigh, Cary
74	0.15%	Greensboro, High Point
80	0.10%	Wilmington
92	0.03%	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
94	<i>0.02%</i>	Asheville
<i>99</i>	0.01%	Fayetteville
<i>109</i>	0.00%	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton

SBIR/STTR* FUNDING PER \$1M OF GROSS AREA PRODUCT



*Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer



BUSINESS APPLICATIONS PER 1,000 ADULTS

16	30.7	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia
24	<i>27.9</i>	Raleigh, Cary
<i>28</i>	27.5	Fayetteville
31	27.0	Greenville
46	24.1	Greensboro, High Point
<i>52</i>	22.6	Durham, Chapel Hill
<i>53</i>	22.6	Wilmington
79	17.7	Winston-Salem
81	17.5	Asheville
110	11.6	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton

FUNDED TOTAL R&D AS A % OF GROSS AREA PRODUCT

10%	Durham, Chapel Hill
4.1%	Wilmington
3.8 %	Raleigh, Cary
2.6%	Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton
2.6%	Asheville
2.6%	Greenville
2.6 %	Fayetteville
1.8%	Greensboro, High Point
1.1%	Winston-Salem
0.7%	Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia

INSIGHTS

The tech metro index shows which metros have the talent, the demand, and the innovation to maintain, create, and recruit tech business. North Carolina's top metros (Durham, Raleigh, and Charlotte) score well across the board, and rank in the top 30 overall. Some of the smaller metros in the state "punched above their weight" and scored higher than expected based on their population size, particularly Wilmington and Greenville.



There are also opportunities for NC metros to improve their rankings. Outside of the Triangle, the innovation metrics lagged. Fostering more business R&D and entrepreneurship would improve innovation in these other metros. SBIR/STTR funding for startups were very small or zero in five of NC's major metro areas. Several NC metros also had high turnover rates for tech occupations, with Charlotte having the 2nd highest out of all 110 metros in 2021. This could indicate high rates of cannibalism between firms or insufficient hiring and/or training programs for employees. This shows an opportunity for local educational institutions to help ensure that their students are ready to hit the ground running when they start at a local firm. NC metros outside of Durham also scored low in approvals of H1-B visas. This means metros could be missing out on injecting talent to their area.

Compared to last year's results, NC metros scored mostly similarly to the previous year with the big 3 (Durham, Raleigh, and Charlotte) maintaining their spots in the top 30 overall. Most of NC metros maintained or improved on their status from the previous analysis. Greensboro and Fayetteville did drop seven and six spots in the rankings this year, but these were not among the most significant slides in the analysis.

This analysis also highlights where NC metros rank well on several metrics that contribute to their competitiveness. All of the NC metros had positive business dynamism rates, which means more businesses are being created than exiting. Several NC metros scored high in the competitive effect of tech occupation growth. This means job growth is driven by more than just national and tech industry trends. When cost of living is considered, 8 of the top 10 NC metros scored in the top 50 for tech wages.

APPENDIX

SUPPLY	DESCRIPTION
Resident tech workers per 1,000 adults	The number of tech workers who live within the metro area standardized by the adult population of the metro (over the age of 25).
Computer, math, and statistics degrees per 1,000 adults	The number of adults who had their first major in a computer, math, or statistics degree in the metro standardized by the adult population of the metro.
STEM educational completions per 1,000 adults	Number of completions (certification, degree, or award from a postsecondary institution) in STEM fields standardized by the adult population of the metro.
Number of online profiles in MSA with tech skills per 1,000 adults	Number of online professional profiles that contained any tech skill in the metro area standardized by the adult population of the metro.
Bachelor's degree or higher per 1,000 adults	Number of adults with a bachelor's degree standardized by the adult population of the metro.
H-1B visa approvals per 1000 adults	The number of new and renewed high-skilled immigration work visas standardized by the adult population of the metro.
Diversity of tech occupations relative to total population	The percentage of tech workers who are people of color divided by the percentage of people of color in the general adult population. A value of 100 means the tech workforce is as diverse as the general population of the metro. If lower, less diverse. If higher, more diverse.
DEMAND	DESCRIPTION
Tech occupation location quotient (LQ)	Tech workers % of the total metro workforce compared to the national average. If higher than 1, more concentrated in tech than the national average.
Unique job postings with tech skills per 1,000 adults	Online job postings (with duplicates removed) that required at least one tech skill standardized by the adult population of the metro.
Median job posting duration	The median amount of time it takes for an online job posting with at least one tech skill to be filled.
Cost of living adjusted tech wages	The median hourly wage for tech workers in the metro adjusted for the cost of living in the metro.
Annual tech job openings per 1,000 adults	Openings are the number of jobs that need to be filled to meet growth demand, turnover, and retirement of workers in a year.
Competitive effect of tech job growth	The competitive effect is the actual change in tech workers minus the expected change in tech workers for the metro. The expected change accounts for the national growth and the industry mix. If positive, it means the job growth was higher than expected due to the region's competitive effect.
Turnover rate of employees	The total number of separations in tech jobs divided by the total number of tech jobs. A separation is when a worker's SSN is removed from a company's payroll. This demonstrates the amount of movement occurring in tech jobs.
INNOVATION	DESCRIPTION
Patents per 1,000 workers	The number of registered patents created in a metro area standardized by the number of workers in the metro.
Higher education R&D as % of gross area product	The \$ amount of research & development spending occurring at universities in the met- ro standardized by the gross area product of the metro.
Business funded higher education R&D as a % of gross area product	The \$ amount of research & development spending occurring at universities that are funded by the private sector in the metro standardized by the private sector gross area product of the metro.
SBIR/STTR funding per \$ of gross area product	The total funding awarded to SBIR/STTR projects in the metro standardized by the gross area product of the metro.
Business Dynamism Rate (Opening vs Clos- ing Rate)	The percentage of business opening compared to the percentage of the business clos- ing in the area. If positive, it means that there is good business churn in the area that contributes to innovation.
Business applications per 1,000 adults	The number of applications people submitted to start businesses in the metro standardized by the adult population of the metro.
Business R&D as a % of gross area product	The \$ amount of research & development that is funded by the private sector in the metro standardized by the private sector gross area product of the metro. For some values there was not data available, in this case the state level was used.

TECH SKILLS LIST

2D Computer-Aided Drafting And Design 3D Touch 3M (Software) Accubid (Estimating Software) **ACORD Forms** Adaptive Insights (Software) **ADDIE Instructional Design Model** Aderant (Software) **Adobe Business Catalyst Adobe Spark Adobe Substance ADP PavForce** Ad Serving **Advent Geneva Agile Product Development Agile Project Management Alexa Skills Kit Allen-Bradley Equipment Amag Symmetry Amazon Comprehend Amazon Data Pipeline** Amazon ElastiCache Amazon Elastic Container Registry **Amazon Elastic Container Service Amazon Elastic File System** Amazon Forecast Amazon Lumbervard **Amazon Macie Amazon Quantum Ledger** Database (QLDB) Amazon Textract Amazon Translate Amazon WorkSpaces AMX Programming Anaconda (Software) Android Emulators **Android Middleware** Android Testing **Apache Administration Apache Avro** Apache Flume Apache MADlib **Apache Samza Apache Thrift** Apple Device Enrollment Program

Application Delivery Controller Application Remediation **Application Security Testing** AppSense Apptus **Apttus** Archivists' Toolkit ARISg ASC 606 (Revenue Recognition) **ASP.NET MVC 5** ATG Dynamo ATLAS.ti (Qualitative Data **Analysis Software**) Atlassian OpsGenie **Atmospheric Modeling** Attribution Modeling Audio-Visual Technology Augmented Reality (AR) Headsets **Automated Machine Learning Automation Controls** Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) Avaya (Telecommunications) Avid Media Composer (Software) AWS App Mesh **AWS Auto Scaling** AWS Certified Solutions Architect AWS CloudHSM AWS CodeCommit **AWS CodeDeploy** AWS Inferentia AWS Internet Of Things (IoT) **AWS Key Management Service** (KMS) **AWS Kinesis** AWS SageMaker **Azure Active Directory Azure Command-Line Interface** (Azure CLI) **Azure Data Lake Azure Logic Apps Azure Security Azure Service Fabric Bentley LumenRT Big Data Analytics BirchStreet Software**

Blaze Advisor Bluecoat Proxies Breeze.js **Build Management Business Intelligence Architecture Business Rules Engines BuzzSumo** (Software) C_{3.js} **Call Center Technology** Canva (Software) **Capital IQ** (Software) **Cellular Phone Exploitation Cerner EHR Certified Information System** Auditor (CISA) **Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert** (CCIE) Routing And Switching **Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert** (CCIE) Wireless **Cisco Certified Network Associate** (CCNA) Routing And Switching **Cisco Certified Network** Professional (CCNP) Wireless **CISCO** Certified Network **Professional - Security Cisco Meraki Citrix Workspace Clarabridge (Software)** Clarizen **Clinical Informatics Clip Studio Paint Cloud-Native Architecture Cloud-Native Computing Cloud-Native Computing** Foundation (CNCF) Standards **Cloud Hosting Cloud Management Cloud Management Platforms Cloud Security Applications Cloud Security Infrastructure Cloud Services Command And Data Handling Commercial Off-the-Shelf** CommVault **CompTIA Cybersecurity** Analyst (CySA+) **CompTIA IT Fundamentals**

CompTIA Security+ CE

Computational Design **Computational Tools Computer-To-Plate** Computer Upgrades **Conceptual Data Modeling** Construction Management **Software Content Filtering Content Manager OnDemand** (CMOD) **Control-M** (Batch Scheduling Software) ControlLogix Conversational User Interface Cordova Plugins **Corel AfterShot Correlation Analysis Corridor Analysis** Crazy Egg (Website **Optimization Tool**) **Crestron (A/V Systems) Crestron Certified Programmer** Crimeware **Cross-Industry Standard Process** for Data Mining (CRISP-DM) **Custom Scripting Cyber-Physical Systems** CyberArk **Cyber Defense Cyber Governance** Cyber Hygiene **Cyber Incident Response Cyber Operations** Cyber Safety **Cyber Security Management Cyber Security Strategy** CyberX **Cypher Query Language Database Activity Monitoring Database Architecture Database Conversion Database Management Database Modeling Database Query Tools Database Software Database Upgrades Data Encryption Data Exploitation**

TECH SKILLS LIST CONTINUED

Data Highway Plus Data Interfaces Data Lakes Data Literacy **Data Management Platforms DataStax Enterprise Graph** DeBabelizer **Deep Learning Methods Defect Life Cycle Defense In Depth Dell Boomi (Integration Platform) Dell EMC UniSphere Design Portfolio Design Software Desktop Management Desktop Underwriter DevSecOps Dialogflow (Google Service) Dialog Programming Digital Communications Digital Content Management Digital Design Digital Experience Strategy Digital File Management Digital Rights Management DISA Gold Disk Docker Compose DoD Information Technology** Portfolio Repository (DITPR) **Dynamic Object-Orjented Requirements System (DOORS)** E-Kanban EarlGrey (Software) **Economic Modeling** Eggplant Functional Elixir (Programming Language) **Email Service Providers Embarcadero Software Ember Data EMC** Avamar **EnCase Certified Examiner Encoder Pro Endianness Endpoint Devices Energy Policy Analysis Enterprise Storage System Epicor Prophet 21**

(Distribution Software) Equivio (eDiscovery Software) **ES6 Module Loader** Espresso (Android Testing Framework) eTapestry (Fundraising Software) ExactTarget **Excel Services** Expense Forecasting Facebook Advertising **FastAPI** Fastboot Fastpath (Software) Feature Learning Figma (Design Software) FileAid (Software) **File Naming Finance Automation Financial Aid Software Firebase Analytics Firebase Security Firmware Development** Flask (Web Framework) FlexSlider Foglight (Database Software) Forgerock Free-To-Play Games **FullCalendar Premium Full Stack Development** Gatsby.js **GE iFix General Fund Enterprise Business Systems (GFEBS) Geospatial Information Technology (GIT) Geospatial Mapping** getView **GIAC Web Application Defender GigE Vision GIS Certificate Gmail API Go-to-Market Strategy** GoCAD **Google Adwords Certification Google Cloud Dataproc Google Colaboratory Google Display & Video 360**

Google Fonts Google Identity Toolkit Google Keyword Planner Google Pay GoSystems (Tax Software) GPS Data **GPU Optimization Graphics APIs Green Hills Integrity GridView Growth Hacking** Gulp.js **Gulp Sass (Software) HackerOne** Hardware Asset Management Hardware Troubleshooting Haskell (Programming Language) **HCL AppScan Healthcare Analytics Health Management Information Systems Heuristic Evaluation High Availability Design Honeywell Operating System Hootsuite (Social Media Management Software**) Host Based Security System (HBSS) Houdini (3D Animation Software) **HP 3Par Hybrid Cloud Computing Hvland OnBase** HyperLynx HyperWorks (CAE Software) IAM Level III Certification **IBM Guardium IBM Informix IBM** Initiate **IBM Integration Designer IBM Mobile IBM Operational Decision** Manager (ODM) **IBM Servers IBM Sterling B2B Integrator IBM Worklight** IdentityServer4 **Image Segmentation iMessage Extension**

Indegy **Industrial Control Software Industry 4.0 Industry Analysis** Informatica **Informatica Data Validation Option Information Systems Architecture** InMoment **Interactive 3D Interactive Web Content Interactive Web Pages Internetwork Packet Exchange/ Sequenced Packet Exchange** (IPX/SPX) Ionic 4 (Mobile App Framework) **IPSoft Amelia IronPort** iSqFt (Bidding Software) **ITIL Foundation Certification IT Security Documentation Ivalua (Spend Management** Software) IxChariot (Traffic Generator) **Ixia BreakingPoint** IxLoad (Network Testing Tool) IxVeriWave (Network Test Tool) **Jamf Certification Jobvite** Julia (Programming Language) Kendo UI Mobile Kenshoo (Marketing Software) **Kochava** LabWare LIMS (Software) LAN Administration **Laptop Troubleshooting** LibGuides Life 70 (Software) **LINQ To Entities** Loss Functions LS-DYNA (FEA Software) Lumion (3D Rendering Software) **Mac/Apple Support Machine Learning Methods** macOS Sierra **Mainframe Testing Mapping Software**

MarinOne (Software)

TECH SKILLS LIST CONTINUED

Marmoset Toolbag Material-UI **McAfee Enterprise Security** Manager Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) Design Software **MeteorJS** Micrografx **Microprocessor Architecture Microservices Development Microsites Microsoft 365** Microsoft Azure Certification Microsoft Certified: **Azure Fundamentals Microsoft Delve Microsoft Dynamics 365** Microsoft Enterprise Library Microsoft Planner **Microsoft Simplygon Microsoft Sysprep** Microsoft Test Manager MITRE ATT&CK Framework mlpack (C++ Library) **Mobile Native Application Testing** MobX MockK **Mod Rewrite** mod perl Muhimbi **Natural Language Generation** Navisworks (BIM Software) NedGraphics (Textile Design Software) **NetIQ** Netskope **NetSuite Financials Network Infrastructure Network Science** NgRx (Framework) NgRx Effects NgRx Store **Nintex Workflow** Nokogiri (Software) Non-Relational Data Stores **Novell Network**

Nuxt.Js Nvidia Jetson **OCLC** Connexion Odoo 10 Office 365 Admin Center **Office 365 Administration OmniGraffle On-Screen Takeoff** (Estimating Software) **Online Marketing Onsen UI OpenHire (Recruiting Software) OPNET Optitex (Fashion Design Software) Oracle Accounts Payable Oracle Audit Vault Oracle Bronto Oracle Configure-Price-Quote** (CPQ) **Oracle Database Vault Oracle Demantra Oracle Development Oracle Exalytics Oracle Field Service Oracle HRMS Oracle Human Capital** Management (HCM) **Oracle Identity Analytics Oracle Identity Manager Oracle Javascript Extension** Toolkit (JET) **Oracle Procurement Oracle Retail Oracle Service Contracts Oracle SOA Suite Oracle Waveset OrmLite Servicestack OSI Monarch Outlook Add-Ins Paint Tool SAI** Part-of-Speech Tagging **Pega Certified Lead System** Architect **Pega Certified Senior System** Architect **Pega Robotics Software** Pelco (Security System)

Peoplesoft Administration Peoplesoft nVision **Performance Profiling PHP Frameworks** PinkSoft FStorm **PMI Professional in Business Analysis Pointclickcare** Poka-Yoke **Poll Everywhere (Polling Software) Poppulo Power Distribution Units Presagis Creator Product Roadmap Management Project Management Body Of** Knowledge (PMBOK) Methodology **PVT** Analysis **QAD Cloud ERP Qualitative Data Analysis** QualysGuard Quantitative Data Analysis **Quantum Mechanics Radare2** (Reverse Engineering Software) **Redux-Saga Reltio (Master Data** Management Software) **Resilient Distributed Datasets** (RDD) Programming **Ridge/LASSO Regressions Robotic Process Automation Rockwell FactoryTalk RSA SecurID Sales Automation Software Salesforce Chatter** Samsung Gear VR **SAP Basis SAP Business Workflow SAP Information Steward** SAP IoT **SAS Business Intelligence (BI) SAS Enterprise Miner SciDB Scratch Programming SCSS Mixins** Searchable Encryption

Secure Application Development SeeTest Semantic Parsing **Server Automation** Server Configuration Serverless Security Shell Commands Shiny (R Package) Shopify App SIS AdvantX Sizmek (Software) **SkvKick** Small-Unmanned Aerial Systems (S-UAS) **Smart Buildings Smart Meter Systems** SOA (Service-Oriented **Architecture**) Testing Social Media APIs Social Media Strategy Social Media Trends Soft Sensors Software-Defined Data Center Software Development **Engineer in Test** Software Installation Software Strategy Solution Design **Sound Design Spark Core Spark View Engine Spectre Circuit Simulator Sponsored Posts Sports Analytics** Spring Cloud Spring Cloud Config **Spring Cloud Netflix** Spring MVC Spring WebFlux Sprint Backlogs **SpriteKit Sprout Social SQL Backup And Restore StarVR** Storage Architecture **StreamSets**

Stripe Connect Supply Base Management Supply Chain Cyber Security Sybase (Software) **Symantec Altiris** Synopsys VCS **Synthesio** System Level Troubleshooting System Recovery **System Security Analysis Technology Strategy Development Test Datasets TestStand Thea Render** Thermal Desktop (Thermal Modeling Software) **ThreatConnect TIBCO Adapters TKProf TrackWise**

TransCAD Travel Demand Modeling Tricentis Tosca Tridion Content Delivery TriZetto Facets TriZetto QNXT Troux (Enterprise Architecture Software) Udeploy **UICollectionView UIScrollView UITableView UIViewController Unified Endpoint Management UNIGINE Engine** Universal Image Loader **Unreal Blueprint** User Acceptance Testing (UAT) **User Journey Mapping UserZoom GO**

UXPin UX Research Vbrick (Software) Video Ads ViewModel **Virtualization Security Virtual Reality** Vizor.lo **Vocus (Public Relations Software) Voice User Interface** watch0S WatiN Watson Conversation Watson IoT Watson LIMS **WCF Security** Web Access Control Web Audio API **WebCIS WebMethods**

Web Site Analysis Web UI Design WebVR Web Writing Wget Windows Performance Analyzer **Windows Software** Word Embedding WordPress Admin Worksoft Certify WP Query **XLSTAT Xsens XtremIO (Network-Attached** Storage System) ZenHub Zuken (Software)

TECH OCCUPATIONS LIST

CODE	DESCRIPTION
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers
15-1211	Computer Systems Analysts
15-1212	Information Security Analysts
15-1221	Computer and Information Research Scientists
15-1231	Computer Network Support Specialists
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists
15-1241	Computer Network Architects
15-1242	Database Administrators
15-1243	Database Architects
15-1244	Network and Computer Systems Administrators
15-1251	Computer Programmers
15-1252	Software Developers
15-1253	Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers
15-1254	Web Developers
15-1255	Web and Digital Interface Designers
15-1299	Computer Occupations, All Other
17-2061	Computer Hardware Engineers



LEAD UNDERWRITERS









ASSOCIATE UNDERWRITERS











CONTRIBUTING UNDERWRITERS











