

North Carolina

STATE OF TECHNOLOGY

2021 Industry Report



ncstir.com

A PUBLICATION OF

NC TECH
Association

2021 REPORT UNDERWRITERS

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North Carolina State of Technology Industry Report

Key Findings



#13 EXPECTED TECH SECTOR JOB GROWTH

NC is expected to grow its tech occupations by **8.8%** by 2025. The state's expected growth rate is almost **2.0** percentage points higher than the national average. The tech sector is predicted to grow at the **13th** highest rate.

► NC STRENGTHS

- **#7** state in total Tech Industry employment growth
- **#2** state for Women in the Tech Industry with **35.4%** of workforce
- Predicted to be **#11** and **#12** state with highest tech growth in Tech Industry and Tech Occupations employment
- **#7** state for startups created from university tech transfer with **47** startups created in 2018
- NC ranked **#13** in both total and business performed research + development
- **Top 10** state in venture capital funding per gross state product and moved into **Top 15** for SBIR/STTR funding
- Over the past year, Tech Industry employment grew **1.3%**

► TECH INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

In 2019, the Tech Industry employed over **269,920** people and workers earned about **\$30.4 billion** in income in the state of North Carolina. The Tech Industry accounted directly for **6%** of the total jobs in the state but almost **11%** of the state's total wage earnings and sales. In 2019, there were over **21,000** technology establishments operating in North Carolina, an increase of **970** from estimates in the previous report.

► ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Tech Industry in North Carolina has an employment multiplier of **3.32** meaning that for every three jobs in the Tech Industry approximately seven other jobs are supported throughout the state economy across all industries. **\$30.4 billion** in sales in the Tech Industry supports **\$62 billion** in sales across the NC economy, accounting for over **23%** of state's total earnings. The Tech Industry contributes over **20%** to the overall state employment.

► CHANGE IN STEM PROGRAMS

The state has grown its STEM education at a higher rate than the national average and bumped up five places this year to the **6th** fastest growing STEM educating state.

► TECH START-UPS

Another measure of tech transfer is the number of start-ups from universities, which can also indicate level of entrepreneurship interest. NC ranks as the **#6** state with **47** new companies to spin off from universities.

► TECH INDUSTRY - IT (TECH CORE) EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Employment growth rate in IT from 2014 to 2019 was **16%**. This ranks North Carolina **#13** across all states.

► TOP TIER

NC ranks among Top 15 states in:

- % of Women in Tech Industry
- Average In-State Tuition Cost
- Median Annual Earnings Adjusted for Purchasing Power
- % Change in STEM Education Program Completions
- State Spending Per Student for Higher Education
- Start-Ups from Universities
- Tech Industry Employment Growth
- STEM Education Programs per 1,000 Enrolled Students
- Tech Licenses & Options Executed from Universities
- Venture Capital Invested Per \$1 Million of GSP
- Avg. Annual Wage for IT Sector Employees with Purchasing Power
- Expected Tech Industry Employment Growth
- Tech Occupations Growth
- Business Opening vs Closing Rate
- Avg. Annual Wage for Tech Sector Employees with Purchasing Power
- Total R&D as % of GSP
- Business Performed R&D as a % of Private Industry Output
- Tech Industry - IT (Tech Core) Employment Growth
- Expected Tech Occupations Growth
- Tech Industry Location Quotient
- SBIR + STTR Funding

TECH INDUSTRY JOB GROWTH

The most encouraging metric of NC's Tech Industry is the recent growth and growth potential. In the past five years, Tech Industry jobs have grown by **18.0%** in the state which ranks NC **#7** for the highest growth rate in the nation and well above the national average of **8.9%**.

► TECH OCCUPATIONS

There are **332,030** workers in tech occupations in North Carolina. This is higher than the **269,920** workers employed by the Tech Industry. This means there is a significant portion of tech occupations outside the traditional tech companies in the state. **37%** of tech occupations are located at tech companies, the rest are employed in other industries.



#7

\$120,500

Average earning per worker in the Tech Industry

#5

North Carolina ranks fifth for Median Salary Earnings for Tech Occupations

#6

North Carolina ranks sixth in State Spending on Higher Education per FTE Student

A photograph of a woman with short blonde hair smiling at a networking event. A large white '#2' is overlaid on a green background that covers the right side of the image.

WOMEN IN TECH

NC ranks as the **#2** state in the percentage of women who make up the Tech Industry workforce with **35.4%**. NC held the **#1** spot for the past 6 years, slipping now just behind Maine.

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#4

North Carolina ranks fourth in Average In-State Tuition

ABOUT THE REPORT

In January 2015, the North Carolina Technology Association (NC TECH) released its first State of Technology Industry Report, and annually thereafter. The full report is housed online at NCSTIR.com and this Key Findings summary features some of the highlights from the research.

The valuable information in the report has a variety of uses:

- ▶ Repository of facts, statistics, trends, narratives + insights into NC's tech sector
- ▶ Guide for companies considering headquarters relocation or operations establishment
- ▶ Source of data + trends for policy makers
- ▶ Collection of stories that highlight the vibrancy of the state's tech sector
- ▶ Resource for innovation sector organizations, economic development community, + media

For more information about NC TECH and the State of Technology Industry Report, visit nctech.org.

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

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