Dice Inc.

The Dice Report*
May 2006

In this month's Dice Report, Dice reveals the top five highest paying metro areas for technology professionals. Silicon Valley had the highest average salary with $85,600. The remaining top four metro areas include: Boston ($78,700), New York ($76,700), Baltimore/Washington D.C. ($76,100) and Atlanta ($75,000).

Additionally, the tech job market continues to thrive with job postings rising 31.1 percent over the past year to 89,286 postings. This month, Boston had the largest gain in job postings, growing 13.2 percent to 3,268 postings, and pushing Philadelphia down to the seventh position with 3,164 postings.

Requests for technology professionals with C, C++ experience continue to be the most in demand, with postings growing 5.5 percent this month to 16,055. Additionally, requests for workers with .NET experience outpaced requests for those with J2EE/Java experience with 11,676 and 11,531 postings respectively.

This month's Dice Tech Topic Poll reveals that a majority of individuals polled (39 percent) feel that the most important thing the government should do to prevent IT outsourcing is offer subsidies and tax incentives for companies that keep jobs in the U.S. Others feel that the government should implement more stringent trade rules and tariffs for sending work overseas (23 percent), while 22 percent feel that the government should create more funding and scholarship programs for IT workers and students. Only 18 percent feel that the government should reduce the number of available H1-B visas.

Please be on the lookout for a similar monthly report from ClearanceJobs.com, a Dice company, which will track the job and salary trends in the security-cleared industry.

For past issues of The Dice Report, visit Marketplace Trends at http://about.dice.com

Top Tech Metro Areas (Based on jobs posted on Dice.com*)

1.	**New York/New Jersey** (New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Northern New Jersey)	10,902
2.	**Washington D.C.** (Baltimore, Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland)	8,871
3.	**Silicon Valley** (San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, CA)	8,254
4.	**Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange County, CA)	5,810
5.	**Chicago** (Chicago and Suburbs)	3,915
8.	**Boston** (Boston and Suburbs)	3,268
6.	**Philadelphia** (Philadelphia, Allentown, Southern New Jersey, Delaware)	3,164
7.	**Dallas** (Dallas, Fort Worth and Surrounding Suburbs)	3,056
9.	**Atlanta** (Atlanta and Suburbs)	2,502
10.	**Seattle** (Seattle and Suburbs)	1,836

Available Tech Jobs: (Number of jobs posted on Dice.com as of 5.1.06)   89,286

Consultant Countdown (Number of contract vs. permanent positions on Dice.com as of 5.1.06*)

Contract: 34,448
Permanent: 59,768

Top Tech Skills (Skills most in demand based on jobs posted on Dice.com*)

Operating Systems	1.	Windows	14,038
	2.	Unix	13,680
Databases	1.	Oracle	15,295
	2.	SQL	12,540
Programming Languages	1.	C, C++	16,055
	2.	.Net	11,676

Average Tech Salaries by Metro Area**

Metro Area	Avg. Salary
1. Silicon Valley	$85,600
2. Boston	$78,700
3. New York	$76,700
4. Baltimore/Washington DC	$76,100
5. Atlanta	$75,000

Tech Topic Poll Results:
What's the #1 thing the government should do to prevent IT outsourcing?

Subsidies and tax incentives for companies that keep jobs in the U.S.	38%
Implement more stringent trade rules and tariffs for sending work overseas	23%
Create more funding and scholarship programs for IT workers and students	22%
Reduce the number of available H1-B visas	18%

ClearanceJobs Most Wanted (Most requested positions on ClearanceJobs.com, the premier job board for candidates with active U.S. government security clearances and a Dice company)

1. Intelligence Analyst
2. Systems Engineer
3. Computer Systems Integration
4. Contracts Manager/Negotiator
5. Embedded Software Engineer

* Please note that data reflects public information posted by Dice.com users and customers. For example, 13,680 jobs posted on Dice.com as of May 1, 2006 describe Unix as a skill needed for the position advertised. A single job posting may reflect more than one skill, location and type of position (permanent vs. contract); therefore total figures for these attributes may be greater than total jobs posted.

** Salary data collected from nearly 20,600 Dice.com visitors between June 27, 2005 and December 9, 2005.

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