



## The Dice Report\*

November 2006

This week, Dice released the second edition of its Tech Appeal Index, a study that gauges the interest in working in the technology industry. It found that tech professionals are overwhelmingly satisfied in their careers. They are also more concerned with keeping their skills current (82 percent) than they are with having their positions outsourced to a foreign country (37 percent). The semi-annual study also found that tech professionals feel that they are not receiving the necessary support from their current employers to keep their skills up to date. Thirty percent said that their employers do a “poor” or “only fair” job of encouraging and supporting skills development, and only 26 percent said it was excellent.

For more information on the Tech Appeal Index, [click here](#).

The latest Dice Tech Topic Poll found that 40 percent of IT professionals described the hiring process at their current company as “nearly impossible.” They feel that HR doesn't understand IT and has unreasonable expectations for prospective candidates. Only 14 percent described the process as a “well-oiled machine.”

The Washington D.C. metro area gained a strong lead this month over Silicon Valley, maintaining second place in Dice's Top Tech Metro Areas list, with 10,167 job postings. The New York/New Jersey metro area continues to retain the top position with 12,197 jobs.

Popular tech skills showing the greatest growth over the last year include C, C++ (up 46.9 percent from November 2005), .NET (up 37.2 percent), and Linux (up 36 percent).

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 as of 11.1.06\*)

<b>1. New York/New Jersey</b> (New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Northern New Jersey)	12,197
<b>2. Washington D.C.</b> (Baltimore, Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland)	10,167
<b>3. Silicon Valley</b> (San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, CA)	9,010
<b>4. Los Angeles</b> (Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange County, CA)	5,664
<b>5. Chicago</b> (Chicago and Suburbs)	3,874
<b>6. Philadelphia</b> (Philadelphia, Allentown, Southern New Jersey, Delaware)	3,470
<b>7. Boston</b> (Boston and Suburbs)	3,200
<b>8. Dallas</b> (Dallas, Fort Worth and Surrounding Suburbs)	2,691
<b>9. Atlanta</b> (Atlanta and Suburbs)	2,630
<b>10. Seattle</b> (Seattle and Suburbs)	1,934

**Available Tech Jobs:** 95,374  
(Number of jobs posted on Dice.com as of 11.1.06\*)

**Consultant Countdown**  
(Number of contract vs. permanent positions on Dice.com as of 11.1.06\*)

<b>Contract:</b>	37,605
<b>Permanent:</b>	64,450

**Top Tech Skills**  
(Skills most in demand based on jobs posted on Dice.com as of 11.1.06\*)

<b>Operating Systems</b>	1. Windows	15,373
	2. Unix	14,886
<b>Databases</b>	1. Oracle	16,676
	2. SQL	14,334
<b>Programming Languages</b>	1. C, C++	17,528
	2. .Net	13,376

**Tech Topic Poll Results:**

How would you describe the hiring process at your current/most recent company?

It was nearly impossible. HR doesn't understand IT and has unreasonable expectations for candidates.	40%
It was good, but it wasn't as smooth as it could have been.	25%
There were some problems. I was lucky to get through the paperwork and bureaucracy.	21%
It was like a well-oiled machine.	14%

\* Please note that data reflects public information posted by Dice users and customers. For example, 14,886 jobs posted on Dice as of November 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.

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