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Slowly But Surely, Tech Adds Jobs

“Cyberstates 2011” is an annual report developed by the TechAmerica Foundation, an industry advocate, that pulls together state-by-state and national data on technology employment and wages. This latest state-of-the-industry analysis and a mid-year update highlight the industry’s job gains and above-average salaries.

The best news: in the first half of 2011, the industry added 115,000, almost making up for 2010’s losses of 115,800 jobs.

Additional highlights:

- Of the four tech sectors included in the report, software services was the only one to add jobs in 2010 (22,800 jobs). Of the jobs lost, 72,100 were in communications services, 53,600 in tech manufacturing and 12,900 in engineering and technology services.
- Eight “cyberstates” added tech jobs in 2010. Michigan ranked number one with 2,700 new jobs, followed by the District of Columbia (1,400), West Virginia (400), Utah (400) and South Carolina (300).
- The state with the largest concentration of tech workers was Virginia, employing 98 of every 1,000 private sector workers. Massachusetts and Colorado had the second and third highest concentrations of tech workers.
- Four tech occupations kept unemployment below 5 percent: engineering managers, computer hardware engineers, DBAs and aerospace engineers.
- The average annual salary in the overall technology industry was \$86,800. In comparison, the average private sector wage in 2010 was \$45,000.

U.S. High-Tech Employment

High-Tech Sector	2009	2010	Percent Change	Numeric Change
High-Tech Manufacturing	1,288,200	1,234,700	-4.2%	-53,600
Communications Services	1,309,900	1,237,800	-5.5%	-72,100
Software Services	1,669,300	1,692,100	+1.4%	+22,800
Engineering and Tech Services	1,597,400	1,584,500	-0.8%	-12,900
Total High Tech	5,864,800	5,749,100	-2.0%	-115,800

In several key occupation categories—engineering managers, computer hardware engineers, DBAs and aerospace engineers—2010 technology unemployment was below five percent, well below the general civilian unemployment of 9.6 percent.

Source: <http://www.techamericafoundation.org/cyberstates>