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Austin high-tech wages 3rd highest in U.S., report shows

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Austin ranks third among U.S. cities when it comes to highest high-tech salaries, a new study shows.

The average high-tech worker in Austin earned \$100,500 in 2006--113 percent more than that the metro area's average private sector wage, according to the **American Electronics Association** report titled *Cybercities 2008: An Overview of the High-technology Industry in the Nation's Top 60 Cities*.

The report tracks trends in tech employment, wages, payroll, employment concentration and wage differential across the country's largest cities.

As a whole the tech industry employed 68,800 people in Austin in 2006, making it the 23rd largest tech market in the nation ranked by total employment. The area's largest tech sector was the manufacturing of electronic components, such as semiconductors. That arena employed 16,000 workers in 2006, followed by computer systems design (11,900) and computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing (10,700). The combined high-tech payroll in Austin in 2006 was \$6.9 billion.

In terms of high-tech employment concentration, or tech jobs as a percentage overall jobs, Austin ranked 8th in the nation.

Cybercities 2008 shows that the New York area ranked No. 1 in terms of overall tech jobs, followed by Washington D.C., San Jose/Silicon Valley, Boston and Dallas-Fort Worth in that order. Seattle saw the largest tech job growth, adding 7,800 jobs in 2006.

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Courtesy of JB Goodwin