

# Sources: Dell to close Austin plant, cut up to 900 jobs

## Move would be company's largest area layoffs since 2001.

By AMERICAN STATESMAN STAFF  
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**Dell Inc. will close its Topfer Manufacturing Center in North Austin by Jan. 1, cutting 800 to 900 jobs, according to local officials and others who have been briefed on the plans.**

**The plant on Howard Lane makes desktop computers, mostly for commercial customers.** A related facility that makes servers will remain open, the people said.

The job cuts would be the biggest Dell has made locally since 2001, when it cut 5,700 jobs during the tech downturn.

**Dell spokesman David Frink said the company had "no comment at this time" on the reports.**

But people familiar with the situation said Dell told affected employees this morning. The people asked not to be named because Dell had asked them to keep the information confidential.

**Dell is hosting Wall Street analysts in Round Rock later this week and was expected to provide details of its cost-cutting efforts.**

Dell has been working to boost its profits, sales and stock price, which have been struggling amid intensified competition from Hewlett-Packard and other rivals. It told Wall Street last year that it would cut 10 percent of its global workforce by this coming May, but is well short of that goal now.

Several months ago, Dell closed a call center in Waco, cutting about 260 jobs. It also has had some scattered layoffs in its Austin area operations, where it has about 17,500 employees, Frink said.

**Worldwide, Dell has 85,000 workers.**

Courtesy of JB Goodwin