

## Samsung plans job fair to hire technicians for expanded plant

*Company expects to add about 500 workers, a positive sign for area's manufacturing sector.*

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**Samsung Electronics is holding a job fair Saturday to hire technicians for its expanded Northeast Austin semiconductor plant.**

**The event is tied to the \$3.6 billion expansion of Samsung's giant Fab 2 complex.**

**The company said it expects the expansion to add about 500 jobs to its local employment by next year. That will bring the total to about 1,500.**

The event is a rare bright spot for the Central Texas manufacturing sector, which has lost thousands of jobs since the recession began, with many of them tied to chip plants that have closed or cut their work forces

Although the region's overall job market has been gaining strength this year, manufacturing jobs have continued to fall.

In June, there were 47,100 manufacturing jobs in the Austin area, down almost 3 percent from a year earlier. Overall employment rose 1.3 percent during that period.

Saturday's job fair is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 12100 Samsung Blvd. The event is intended to find technicians with experience in the semiconductor industry.

The chip company also is taking online applications for manufacturing process engineers and chip design engineers in Austin, at [www.samsung.com/careers](http://www.samsung.com/careers) .

The process engineers work in the factory on advanced manufacturing equipment. The design engineers will work in a new design center for creating low-power advanced circuit designs for so-called systems on a chip, which can run smart phones and other portable devices.

Those are the sorts of chips that Samsung expects to be making in its expanded plant. The project marks a big departure for Samsung, which has used its Austin operation to make memory chips for computers and consumer electronics products.

Samsung is expected to begin hiring some new workers within weeks to work on equipment installation and then bringing the new project into production by next year.