

A Note from Tom Silver

With gas prices hovering around \$4 a gallon, tech professionals – as well as many other employees in every field – are feeling the pinch in their wallets. Telecommuting may be an idea whose time has come – and you’ll be surprised at what tech professionals say they are willing to give up to work from home.

We recently polled more than 1,500 tech professionals and asked them if they would accept slightly less pay to telecommute. The answer: 37% said they’d cut their salary by up to 10%. The average tech professional makes \$74,570 a year, according to the annual Dice Salary Survey. That’s roughly up to \$7,500 a year they are willing to give up. Whether the math works in their favour or not isn’t really the point. We think what’s worth noting is how many tech pros are willing to work remotely, forgoing face-time with the boss and informal workplace discussions amongst peers.

7% of respondents said they already telecommute, however, many of the telecommuting jobs currently listed on Dice are for technology consulting firms where telecommuting is a necessary part of serving clients. Since gas prices have been climbing, we haven’t heard of any company opening up the telecommuting doors to tech professionals specifically, although companies and state and local governments are offering a variety of initiatives to help reduce gas consumption, from four-day work weeks to increased use of videoconferencing to replace travel.

Corporations may want to consider enabling more tech employees to telecommute, not merely because gas prices are spiralling, but because this may be a way to attract and keep talented individuals. With tech professionals still in high demand, the offer of telecommuting could separate a company from the rest of the pack.

Enjoy this month’s issue of The Dice Report.

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Dice by the Numbers

As of June 2, 2008

Available Tech Jobs: 86,648

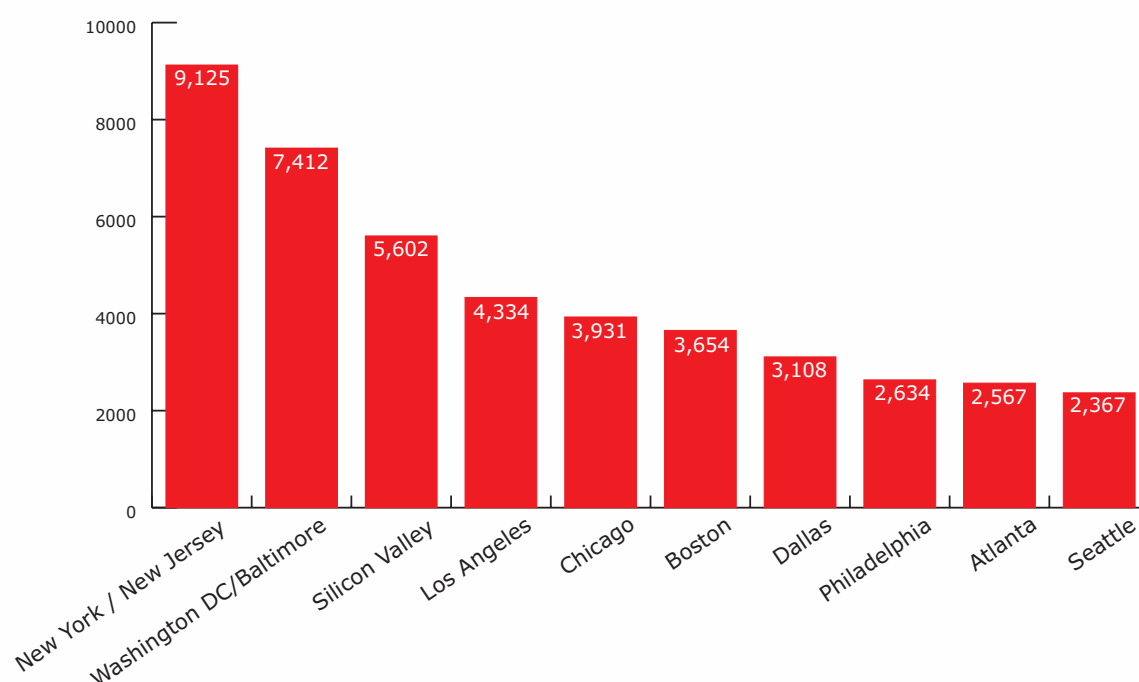
Full-time Positions: 60,206

Contract Positions: 35,236

Part-time Positions: 1,756

Top Tech Metro Areas

Based on number of jobs posted by zip code on Dice as of June 2, 2008



Top Tech Skills

Based on number of jobs posted by tech skill on Dice as of June 2, 2008

Operating Systems

1. Windows – 15,898
2. Unix – 13,127

Databases

1. Oracle – 17,746
2. SQL – 14,122

Programming Languages

1. C, C++, C# – 16,889
2. J2EE/Java – 16,122

Dice.com Tech Topic Poll

With gas prices soaring, would you accept slightly less pay to telecommute full-time?

37% Yes, I’d cut my salary by 10% or less.

36% No way, same work = same pay.

7% I already telecommute.

19% I would take any job, I’m unemployed.