

## A Note from Tom Silver

To hire or not to hire – in this economy, that is the dilemma facing companies that hire tech professionals. There is no one answer, as we found in a recent survey we conducted of HR professionals, as well as staffing, recruiting and consulting companies (SRCs). Indeed, we found a dramatic split of opinion between those two groups.

- Some 52% of companies who hire tech pros for their own need are not changing hiring plans over the next six months, with the balance indicating they are scaling back hiring plans or they were unsure. However, 62% of SRCs expect hiring to be cut back at their clients over the same timeframe.
- Overall, 50% of respondents said that the time to fill a position has lengthened compared to last year. But the two groups give markedly different reasons. Among SRCs, 72% say the slow down is due to either a lack of urgency or caution related to the economy. Only 42% of companies agree, with 56% of them citing their inability to find qualified tech professionals as the chief reason.
- Layoffs are always a concern in a tepid economy. Only 4% of companies who hire tech professionals for their own need believe layoffs are very likely in the next six months, while 13% of SRCs see layoffs looming.

The survey results indicate a mood of overall caution, however, there appears to be one area of agreement between companies and SRCs – when will hiring return to normal? Of those currently scaling back hiring activities, some 40% of all respondents expect hiring to pick up before the second half of 2009.

Enjoy this month's issue of The Dice Report.

Tom Silver  
Senior Vice President, Marketing and Customer Support

\*\*\*The email survey was conducted in late May with more than 1,000 companies and staffing, recruiting and consulting firms responding.

Dice can provide specific and targeted data, including geographic information, at your request. For past issues of The Dice Report, visit Marketplace Trends at <http://about.dice.com>.

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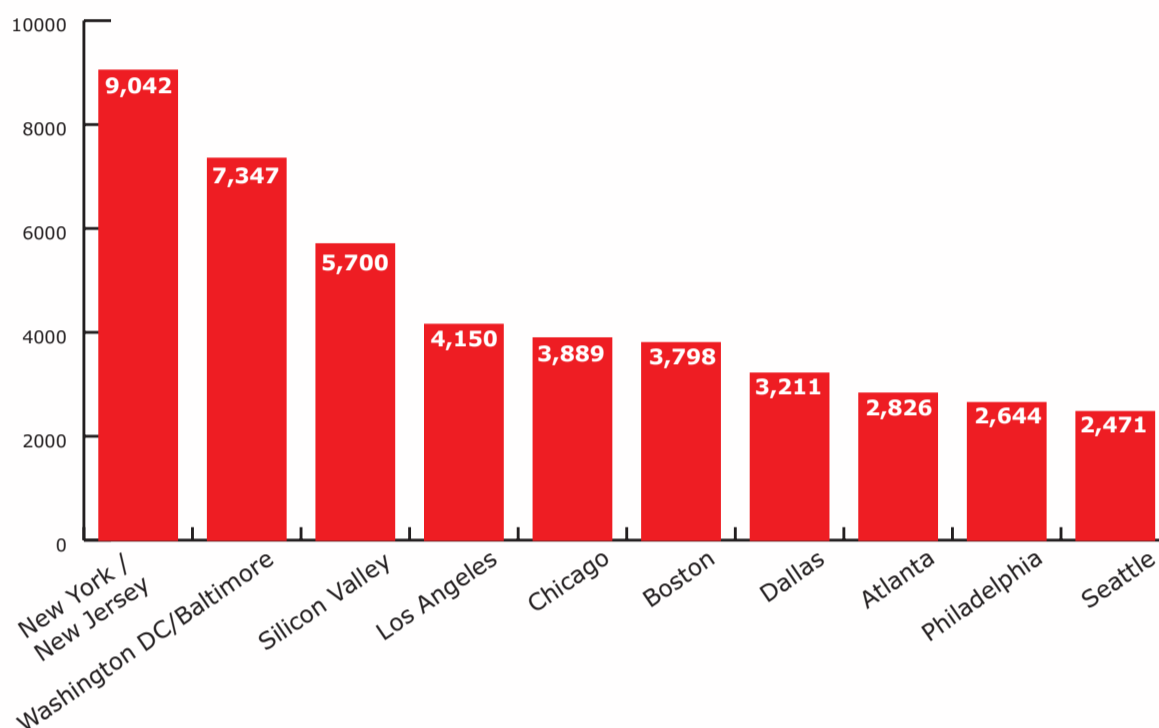
## Dice by the Numbers

As of July 1, 2008\*

Available Tech Jobs: 86,988  
Full-time Positions: 61,550  
Contract Positions: 34,743  
Part-time Positions: 1,698

## Top Tech Metro Areas

Based on number of jobs posted by zip code on Dice as of July 1, 2008\*



## Top Tech Skills

Based on number of jobs posted by tech skill on Dice as of July 1, 2008\*

### Operating Systems

1. Windows – 15,691
2. Unix – 12,656

### Databases

1. Oracle – 17,973
2. SQL – 13,982

### Programming Languages

1. C, C++, C# – 16,983
2. J2EE/Java – 16,097

## Dice.com Tech Topic Poll

**What is the best way to ensure your IT career isn't affected by a recession?**

- 45%** Set time aside to learn new skills. Versatility is insurance for tough times.
- 9%** Kiss up to the boss. If you make his/her life easier, it'll be remembered.
- 22%** Focus on non-IT skills like business know-how, problem solving and communication.
- 25%** Simply work hard, exceed your goals and illustrate your value to the company.

\* A single job posting may reflect more than one skill, location or type of position; therefore, total figures for these attributes may be greater than total jobs posted.