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# Salaries and confidence rise for U.S. tech professionals 

Tech powered companies on edge as compensation satisfaction slips

More technology professionals in the U.S. enjoyed merit raises over the last year, driving average salaries up in 2013. Average U.S. tech salaries increased nearly three percent to $\$ 87,811$ in 2013 , up from $\$ 85,619$ the previous year.

Technology professionals understand they can easily find ways to grow their career in 2014, with twothirds of respondents (65\%) confident in finding a new, better position. That overwhelming confidence matched with declining salary satisfaction (54\%, down from 57\%) will keep tech-powered companies on edge about their retention strategies.

Employers are using selective and strategic increases in compensation to hold onto experienced tech talent. While the overall average salary increase was smaller than the previous year's historic jump of more than five percent, employers offered more frequent merit increases.

## Increasingly Competitive Market for Tech Pros Boosts Merit Pay Increases

For those technology professionals whose salary increased in 2013, 45 percent say the increase was sparked by a merit raise, compared to 40 percent the previous year. Salary increases were more likely for tech professionals early in their career or with one to five years of experience, while bonuses are being used for more experienced tech professionals.

Tech Salary Satisfaction Slipping; Majority Confident They Can Find New Positions



Thirty-four percent of respondents received a bonus as part of their 2013 compensation, with average bonuses totaling \$9,323.
> $\int$ With the tech unemployment rate low, technology professionals know they can take control of their careers.
> - Shravan Goli, President of Dice

Tech professionals are recognizing employers' efforts, with just 34 percent of respondents saying their company offered no motivators last year, down from 47 percent who felt that way in 2009. Likewise, the motivator with the most dramatic rise over that timeframe: increased compensation.
"With the tech unemployment rate low, technology professionals know they can take control of their careers," said Shravan Goli, President of Dice. "Tech hiring managers tell me they are stretching budgets where they can to keep their technology work forces focused and satisfied."
reasons for Salary Increase

Bonuses


Did You Receive a Bonus?

## YES 34\% 2013 BONUS $\$ 9,323$

## NO 66\%



## Motivation

\% of employers
providing motivators to retain talent


What was the primary motivator your employer provided you in 2013?




## Still More Bounce in California

Silicon Valley tops the list of highest paid metropolitan areas when it comes to tech talent, with an average annual salary of $\$ 108,603$ and an average annual bonus of $\$ 12,458$. The seven percent year-over-year increase in salary was partially driven by those tech professionals earning more than $\$ 250,000$ being included in this year's results. Excluding those highly paid professionals, Silicon Valley salaries still increased
at a greater rate than the national average or five percent year-over-year.

Most of the top ten markets enjoyed year-overyear salary increases at or above the national average, including Los Angeles (\$95,815, up 4\%), New York ( $\$ 93,915$, up $5 \%$ ), Denver ( $\$ 93,195$, up 3\%), Philadelphia (\$92,138, up 8\%), and Austin (\$91,994, up 3\%).

The notable exception in the top markets is number two: Baltimore/Washington, D.C. whose average salary of $\$ 97,588$ was essentially unchanged year-over-year. Salaries in and around the nation's capital are boosted by the aerospace and defense industry whose average technology salaries rank secondhighest among industries.

Salary milestones were captured in Atlanta and Charlotte, joining Philadelphia and Austin with average salaries for tech professionals above $\$ 90,000$ for the first time.

## Big Data Dominates Top Paying Skills

Professionals with big data oriented languages, databases and skills garnered the highest pay checks, with nine of the top ten salaries related to big data. Get more details on top-paying skills on pages 8,9 and 10 .
"Companies are betting big that harnessing data can play a major role in their competitive plans and that is leading to high pay for critical skills," said Mr. Goli. "Technology professionals should be volunteering for big data projects, which makes them more valuable to their current employer and more marketable to other employers."

Changing Employers

Of tech pros that anticipate changing employers, here's why.


Higher Compensation AVG. SALARY \$77,550


48\% Better working conditions AVG. SALARY \$83,978


20\% Anticipate losing current position AVG. SALARY \$91,557

## 13\% Other AVG. SALARY \$89,652

## Relocating

Are you more or less willing to relocate to a new city or state for a job than one year ago?

## 28\%

Less willing to relocate now

41\%
Same now as a year ago


More willing to relocate now

Percentages add up to more than $100 \%$ due to rounding.



Systems Architect

2013 \$125,467
YR/YR CHANGE 3.5\%


Tech Management
(Strategist, Architect)
2013 \$118,060
YR/VR CHANGE 5.4\%


Data Architect
2013 \$118,756
YR/YR CHANGE 3.8\%

|  | JOB TITLE | 2013 | YR/YR CHANGE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | MIS Manager | \$ 102,076 | 10.0\% |
| 7 | Database Administrator | \$ 101,166 | 7.1\% |
| 8 | Software Engineer | \$ 97,920 | 0.2\% |
| 9 | Security Analyst/Architect/Engineer | \$ 96,513 | 1.9\% |
| 10 | Developer: Database | \$ 95,879 | 7.6\% |
| 11 | Developer: Systems | \$ 94,656 | 1.3\% |
| 12 | Business Analyst | \$ 90,180 | 1.5\% |
| 13 | Technical Training | \$ 90,005 | 18.0\% |
| 14 | Developer: Applications | \$ 90,004 | 0.0\% |
| 15 | Programmer/Analyst | \$ 83,211 | 5.8\% |


|  | JOB TITLE | 2013 | YR/YR CHANGE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16 | Network Engineer | \$ 81,944 | 4.5\% |
| 17 | Web Developer/Programmer | \$ 78,306 | -0.7\% |
| 18 | Security Analyst | \$ 78,004 | -6.5\% |
| 19 | Quality Assurance (QA) Tester | \$ 75,444 | 1.3\% |
| 20 | Systems Administrator | \$ 74,967 | 2.8\% |
| 21 | Technical Writer | \$ 74,640 | -3.9\% |
| 22 | Technical Support | \$ 53,761 | 3.8\% |
| 23 | Desktop Support Specialist | \$ 49,033 | -0.1\% |
| 24 | Help Desk | \$ 42,512 | -3.8\% |
| 25 | PC Technician | \$ 38,932 | 0.6\% |

aveages salary gy Employment Type


Consultant
2013 \$109,884
YR/YR CHANGE 5.7\%


| average salary for High Paying Skills and Experience |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SKILL | 2013 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { YR/YR } \\ & \text { CHANGE } \end{aligned}$ | SKILL | 2013 | YR/YR CHANGE |
| R | \$ 115,531 | n/a | SDN (Software-Defined Networking) | \$ 101,026 | n/a |
| NoSQL | \$ 114,796 | 1.6\% | Sybase | \$ 100,868 | 6.0\% |
| MapReduce | \$ 114,396 | n/a | ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) | \$ 100,746 | 0.8\% |
| PMBok | \$ 112,382 | 1.3\% | Perl | \$ 100,656 | 3.3\% |
| Cassandra | \$ 112,382 | n/a | Knockout | \$ 100,566 | n/a |
| Omnigraffle | \$ 111,039 | 0.3\% | TOAD (Tool for Application Development) | \$ 100,486 | 2.2\% |
| Pig | \$ 109,561 | n/a | C | \$ 100,134 | 3.2\% |
| SOA (Service Oriented Architecture) | \$ 108,997 | -0.5\% | ABAP (Advanced Business Application Development) | \$ 100,024 | 3.4\% |
| Hadoop | \$ 108,669 | -5.6\% | AIX | \$ 99,995 | -0.5\% |
| Mongo DB | \$ 107,825 | -0.4\% | iRise | \$ 99,934 | n/a |
| SOX (Sarbanes-Oxley) | \$ 107,697 | 4.8\% | Bash | \$ 99,783 | 6.7\% |
| Jetty | \$ 107,406 | 0.4\% | HL7 (Health Level 7) | \$ 99,642 | n/a |
| UML (Unified Modeling Language) | \$ 107,387 | 4.7\% | Tomcat | \$ 99,435 | 1.7\% |
| OpenStack | \$ 106,957 | n/a | Netezza | \$ 99,401 | n/a |
| Big Data | \$ 106,542 | -6.3\% | Oracle DB | \$ 99,158 | 2.6\% |
| CMMI (Capability Maturity Model Integration) | \$ 106,508 | 2.1\% | Wan Opt | \$ 99,111 | 2.5\% |
| 3Par | \$ 106,432 | 7.4\% | JIRA | \$ 98,971 | 0.1\% |
| FCoE (Fibre Channel Over Ethernet) | \$ 106,062 | 2.7\% | Oracle eBusiness Suite | \$ 98,967 | 2.7\% |
| Cloudera | \$ 105,677 | n/a | Microsoft Project | \$ 98,950 | 1.7\% |
| Lean | \$ 105,448 | 1.8\% | DOORS |  |  |
| Hbase | \$ 105,295 | n/a | (Dynamic Object Oriented Requirements Management System) | \$ 98,940 | -0.4\% |
| Solaris | \$ 104,710 | 3.7\% | Business Intelligence | \$ 98,691 | -3.1\% |
| Jenkins | \$ 104,461 | n/a | Fibre Channel | \$ 98,687 | 3.3\% |
| Puppet | \$ 103,925 | n/a | JSP (Java Server Pages) | \$ 98,657 | 0.4\% |
| ETL (Extract Transform and Load) | \$ 103,830 | -0.9\% | Data Warehouse | \$ 98,536 | -2.5\% |
| Kanban | \$ 103,381 | 0.7\% | NetApp | \$ 98,209 | 3.2\% |
| Waterfall | \$ 103,160 | -0.1\% | Rackspace | \$ 98,145 | n/a |
| Postgres | \$ 103,146 | 6.4\% | Cloud Computing | \$ 98,032 | 2.0\% |
| Nginx | \$ 103,062 | 1.8\% | PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) | \$ 98,013 | 5.2\% |
| Scrum | \$ 102,955 | -0.3\% | MPLS (Multi Protocol Label Switching) | \$ 97,989 | 3.6\% |
| Change Management | \$ 102,889 | 1.8\% | Shell | \$ 97,883 | 3.7\% |
| Load Balancers | \$ 102,861 | 2.3\% | Six Sigma | \$ 97,833 | 1.8\% |
| Hive | \$ 102,812 | n/a | Unix | \$ 97,806 | 3.0\% |
| JDBC (Java Database Connectivity) | \$ 102,803 | -1.0\% | Lighttpd | \$ 97,792 | 1.3\% |
| Azure | \$ 102,787 | 1.5\% | HP Eva | \$ 97,767 | n/a |
| ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) | \$ 102,757 | 2.4\% | CPOE (Computerized Physician Order Entry) | \$ 97,757 | 7.7\% |
| Balsamiq | \$ 102,747 | n/a | Disaster Recovery | \$ 97,732 | 2.0\% |
| Objective C | \$ 102,652 | -2.2\% | Telepresence | \$ 97,543 | 2.7\% |
| Amazon AWS | \$ 102,573 | 3.0\% | Hitachi | \$ 97,468 | 5.6\% |
| SDLC (System Development Life Cycle) | \$ 102,361 | 1.8\% | Websphere | \$ 97,453 | -1.9\% |
| Korn Shell | \$ 102,182 | -1.5\% | Zookeeper | \$ 97,405 | n/a |
| SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) | \$ 102,131 | 3.0\% | Teradata | \$ 97,359 | -2.0\% |
| HP-UX | \$ 102,066 | -0.2\% | EDI (Electronic Data Exchange) | \$ 97,248 | -2.7\% |
| EMC | \$ 101,673 | 2.6\% | VSAM (Virtual Storage Access Method) | \$ 97,232 | 5.1\% |
| JBoss | \$ 101,646 | 1.1\% | Labview | \$ 97,118 | n/a |
| Weblogic | \$ 101,643 | -0.7\% | Java/J2EE | \$ 96,955 | 3.1\% |
| Fortran | \$ 101,553 | -2.1\% | SAP | \$ 96,438 | 2.6\% |
| Agile | \$ 101,450 | 1.6\% | Matlab | \$ 96,248 | 5.0\% |
| Angular | \$ 101,208 | n/a | Metro Ethernet | \$ 96,191 | 5.3\% |
| SaaS (Software as a Service) | \$ 101,127 | 0.2\% | Visio | \$ 96,172 | 1.8\% |
| TCL (Tool Command Language) | \$ 101,102 | 2.0\% |  |  |  |

NOTE: Several new tech skills were added to the 2013 survey and therefore $\mathrm{yr} / \mathrm{yr}$ change is not available.


## Dice Salary Survey Methodology

The 2013 Dice Salary Survey was administered online, with 17,236 employed technology professionals responding between October 14, 2013 and November 29, 2013. Respondents were invited to participate in the survey through a notification on the Dice site and registered technology professionals were sent an email invitation. A cookie methodology was used to ensure that there was no duplication of responses between or within the various sample groups and duplicate responses from a single email address were removed. The Dice Salary Survey was adjusted for inflation in 2013: technology professionals earning salaries of $\$ 250,000$ and above were not automatically eliminated from the survey if they met other criteria.

## About Dice

Technology powers companies. Professionals power technology. Dice quickly delivers the opportunities, insights and connections technology professionals and employers need to move forward. Learn how to effectively move forward at www.dice.com

