



Seattle's Information & Communication Technology Industry's Economic Impact

Definition of the Information & Communication Technology Industry:

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry includes businesses or workers that are primarily involved in technical fields. ICT occupations include software engineers, programmers, systems analysts & administrators, graphic designers, software developers and more. In addition to those jobs affiliated with ICT companies, ICT jobs are found in all sectors of the economy.

Jobs:

- Seattle's 856 ICT cluster companies provide 18,250 jobs
- There are 73,670 ICT jobs in all sectors in the Puget Sound region
 - Computer programmers and software engineers comprise 30,000 jobs in region (41% of the total cluster)
- By percentage of the total number of ICT jobs in economy, Seattle ranks:
 - Second in the nation for software programmers and engineers
 - Third in the nation for all ICT occupations

Wages:

- Average annual salary of an ICT job in 2002 was \$69,864
- The median wage of all occupations in Seattle is \$41,900

Industry Revenues:

- ICT businesses in the City of Seattle generated more than \$3.5 billion in annual revenues, including \$1 billion in exported telecommunications

City of Seattle Revenues:

- The ICT industry generates nearly \$11 million in City revenue through:
 - \$6.6 million in Sales tax
 - \$4.2 million in Business & Occupation tax

Seattle's Advantages:

- Quality of life factors, such as open space, access to the mountains and Puget Sound, local culture and other amenities important to the ICT workforce
- Proximity to universities for research and talent
- Multiple venture capital companies in area
- Large base of existing software companies
- Technology infrastructure that fosters innovation

Seattle's Challenges:

- Traffic congestion contributes to the cost of business
- High cost of living is a challenge for attracting and retaining workers
- Investment in education not as aggressive as competing areas

What Industry Leaders Desire:

- Transportation improvements to reduce traffic congestion
- Public policies and taxes that support innovation and entrepreneurship
- Opportunities for continued education and re-education of workers
- Assistance with training and development
- Investment in the City's amenities to further enhance quality of life and increase people's desire to work and live in Seattle

The Office of Economic Development commissioned an economic impact study with funding from the Economic Development Administration to generate the information contained in this summary.

For a copy of the full study, please visit www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment

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