



# 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)
- Seattle has one of the highest concentrations of ICT professionals in the country, ranking:
  - 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 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, training and development of workers
- 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](http://www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment)*

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