Tech Council

KC TECH SPECS

v3

A REPORT ON THE TRENDS AND VISION FOR OUR INDUSTRY IN GREATER KANSAS CITY

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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Letter from the KC Tech Council CEO

The KC Tech Council serves as the regional advocate for Kansas City's tech industry and producing KC Tech Specs, now in its third year, is one of the many ways we support this mission. Most businesses are driven by data and this report is designed to present information in a consumable, unbiased format. We also want you, the reader, to know where the data is coming from and how we're interpreting the results.

Years ago, I read Malcolm Gladwell's bestselling book, "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference." He defines a tipping point as "the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point". I've enjoyed every one of his books, but I think about this one more than the others. Because when I ponder solutions to big problems, I think about the tipping point.

The biggest problem facing KC's tech industry is the lack of a skilled workforce. We share this problem with the entire country. The number of open jobs continues to increase, and demand is outpacing supply by significant amounts. There has to be a tipping point, and for us, it starts with how we're supporting computer science education in our schools.

According to code.org, in the 40+ states that have made computer science count as a high school graduation credit, participation in CS courses increased. Diversity increased. The likelihood of students pursuing computer science after high school also increased. It's a small change, but it's making a difference for students in these states. The KC Tech Council, along with your support, played a crucial role in making this change in Missouri.

Today, our sights are focused on aiding Kansas, which is one of the last remaining states to make computer science count. Change, especially with concerning education, doesn't come easy. State lawmakers and leaders need our support, and I hope you'll join our advocacy efforts for this critical issue. Access to quality computer science education has been the tipping point for so many other states, and our kids deserve those same opportunities.

In closing, I want to thank our partners who helped make this report a reality. Specifically, VMLY&R for lending us incredible talent, and RSM for providing financial and creative support to v3.

RYAN WEBER
CEO, KC TECH COUNCIL
RYAN@KCTECHCOUNCIL.COM

Analysis from RSM

Like many other cities across the United States, Kansas City has a growing technology ecosystem that continues to be an important component of the city's overall vitality. Now is the time to invest in innovative tools, but middle-market businesses are showing a reluctance to invest in technologies that could make their existing workforce more efficient and attract new talent.

As Kansas City prepares to enter a new decade, emerging technologies such as 5G, the internet of things, augmented reality and virtual reality will only amplify the ubiquity of technology in business. As an industry, technology has outpaced the growth of other sectors over the past decade. But even the tech industry has been affected by the recent slowdown in the U.S. economy.

Large enterprises will likely continue to spend on cloud solutions, but small and midsize companies could reduce their spending on discretionary IT investments. The timing of discretionary hardware or software purchases often has a degree of flexibility and can be delayed in a weak economic environment. In fact, a recent survey by RSM US LLP and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that middle-market leaders have been slow to increase capital expenditures, including those earmarked for technology.

On the other hand, the technology industry job market is tight, especially in metropolitan areas like Kansas City, and the competition for - and cost of - highly skilled technology talent have risen accordingly. As a result, many growing software companies are laser-focused on how they can leverage technology to move from quote to cash most effectively and efficiently. Notably, a 2019 study by RSM found that investments in technology were made primarily for efficiency, and not labor replacement, as well as to appeal to younger candidates and employees.

Slow economic growth will not change the rate at which technology is disrupting the industry. If a company suspends its technology investments, it could disrupt its own business model. Kansas City businesses are continually looking to enhance customer relationships, operational effectiveness and the culture of their companies. With labor and competitive challenges in Kansas City and across the United States on the rise, there has never been a better time to invest in technology.

RSM US LLP is proud to be a Cornerstone Sponsor of the KC Tech Council and for the opportunity to be a part of this year's Tech Specs report. RSM is the leading U.S. provider of audit, tax and consulting services to the middle market. We understand the importance of communicating industry-specific trends to Kansas City, and are grateful for the opportunity to promote the technology ecosystem in this great city.

Kurt Shenk
Senior Manager; Technology, Media & Telecommunications Senior Analyst
RSM US LLP

Executive Summary

Since 2017, the KC Tech Council has released KC Tech Specs, an annual report capturing data and analysis around Kansas City's tech industry. The report is designed to give the tech community, businesses, educators, lawmakers, civic leaders and students a consolidated, data-driven resource to find information about our region's tech landscape. Data sources are cited on every page and feature a compilation of relevant statistics from KC Tech Council's partners at CompTIA, Gartner, Code.org and other sources like CBRE's annual "Scoring Tech Talent" report.

Tech enterprises rely on data to inform and drive business decisions every day. As the voice of Kansas City's tech industry, we are proud to elevate the data within KC Tech Specs to help us collectively find the opportunities to leverage our strengths, improve our deficiencies and grow together as a tech hub of the future.

CURRENT STATE

The tech industry is responsible for a 9.9% impact on the Kansas City region's economy. Nearly one in 10 working Kansas Citians are employed by tech companies or in technical roles. Net tech employment in KC is in the six digits for the first time.

In terms of Kansas' and Missouri's year in tech, a tale of two states has emerged. Missouri grew its tech employment and number of tech businesses. Trendlines are moving in positive directions. Conversely in Kansas, the state was one of only a handful that lost tech jobs over the past year of measurement, and the amount of tech businesses operating in the state went down as well. But, Kansas did accelerate the amount of jobs being sought to fill emerging tech roles.

CITY & STATE COMPARISON

Looking at the top states that regional tech employers report they recruit new college grads from (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas and Indiana), data shows the average tech occupation salaries in Missouri and Kansas are the highest.

When compared to Midwestern peer cities, as well as "tech cities" like Austin, Portland and Boston, a few key statistics stand out. When measuring net tech employment as a percentage of the overall workforce (i.e., what share of workers tech claims) Kansas City, with 9.2% of workers in tech, is closer to "tech cities" like Portland (10.8%) and Denver (11.4%) than many of our peers, like Indianapolis (7%) and even Nashville (6.1%).

TRENDING IN 2020

Data is essential to understand the story of Kansas City's tech industry. But what are the other narratives that may emerge before KC Tech Specs v4 is released? Transformative technology projects like the hyperloop and 5G wireless technology will play a significant role in shaping the future of tech in the region. Additionally, policy changes around data privacy statutes and computer science education standards have the opportunity to propel the industry forward or hinder its pace.

Questions about KC Tech Specs? Interested in scheduling a presentation for your organization? Drop us a note at info@kctechcouncil.com. Thank you to our partners at RSM and VMLY&R for making the delivery of this piece possible.

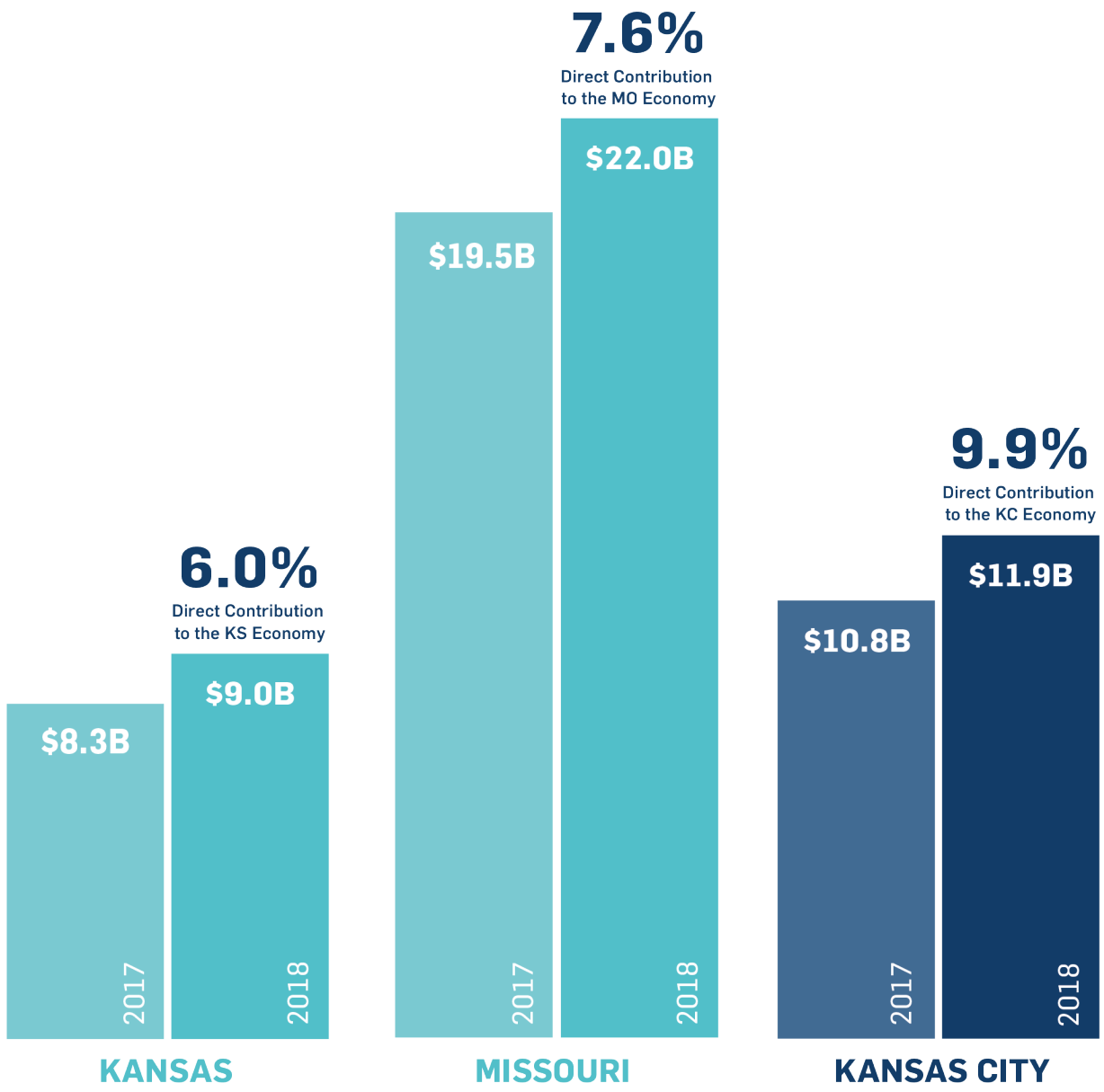
CURRENT STATE

Tech remains big in Kansas City, with more than 3,000 existing businesses and more than one out of every 10 workers employed by the industry. Job growth and economic impact show no sign of slowing down. The momentum Kansas City's tech industry is experiencing outpaces the national average, and we are beating many cities like ours at attracting in-demand, skilled talent. Great news, right? Growth is good. However, with more than 3,000 unfilled tech jobs, we need to continue to support that growth with the currency of the tech industry: talent. It's critical we start now because the health of Kansas City's regional economy depends on the tech industry.

CURRENT STATE

Economic Impact

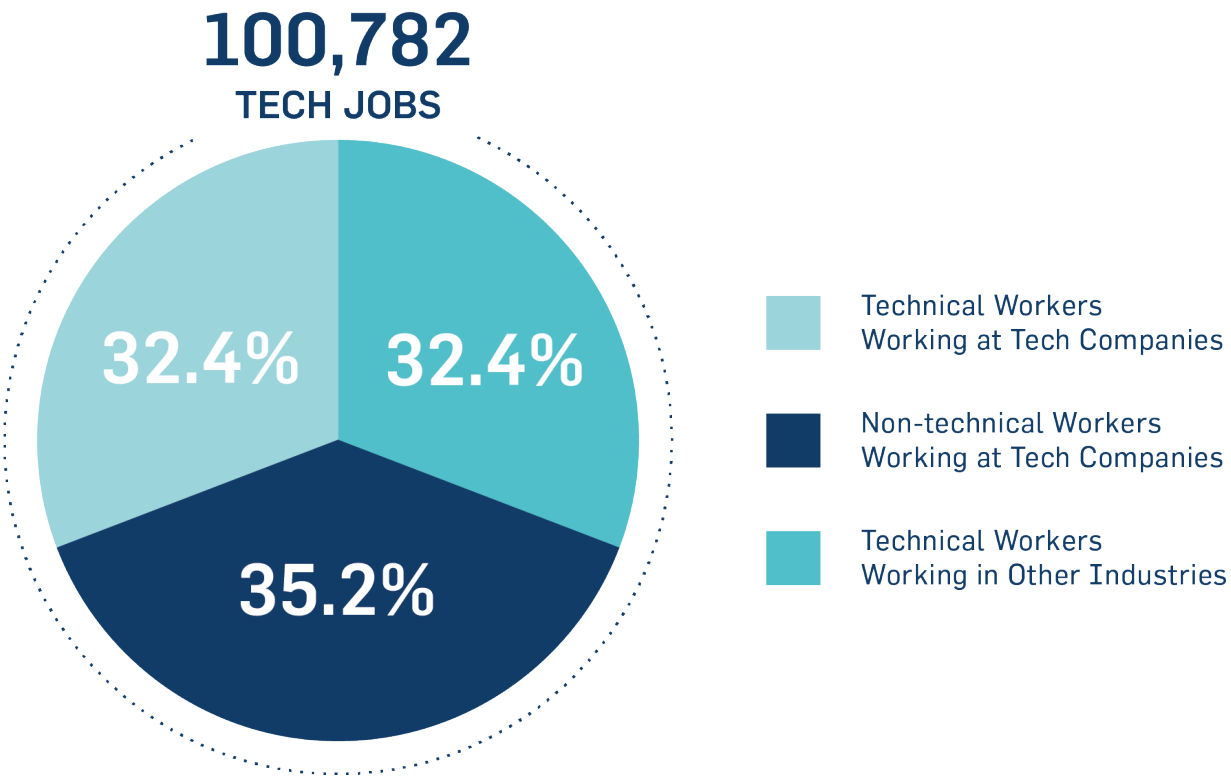
The tech industry directly contributed $31 billion to the state economies of Kansas and Missouri in 2018. This economic impact increased by $700 million in Kansas and $2.5 billion in Missouri from the year prior. The bistate greater Kansas City region claims $11.9 billion of that $31 billion impact. This directly accounts for 9.9% of the local economy and shows that the tech sector has a greater impact on the financial health of the Kansas City region than either state economy.



THE TECH INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIES

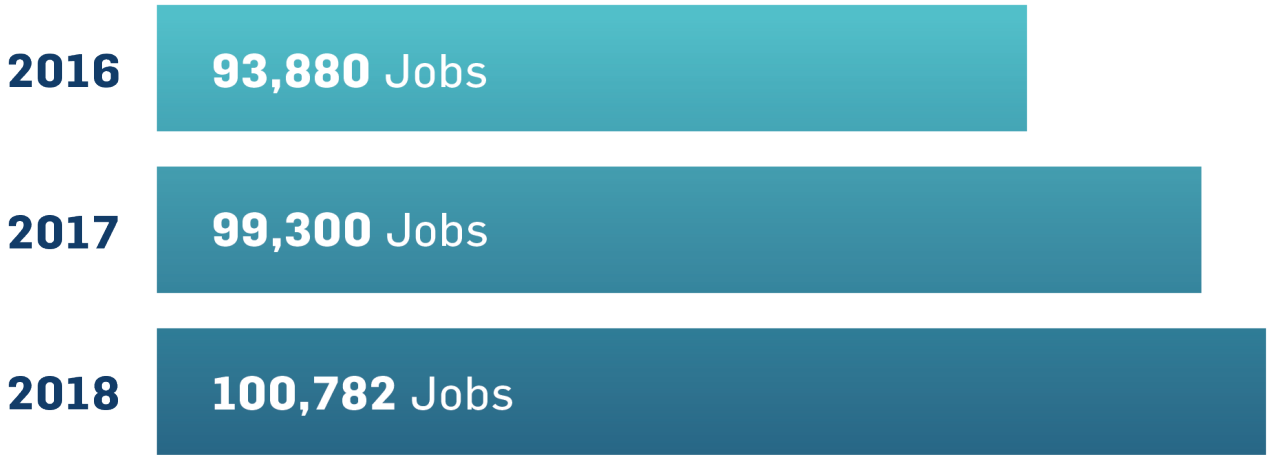
SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

Kansas City Tech Workforce at a Glance



NET TECH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Net tech employment is the sum of all tech-related jobs in the region, as illustrated above.



SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

The 2026 Outlook for Tech Occupations

There are two main factors to consider when plotting the future demands on tech workforce need: growth and replacement. Projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and EMSI (a labor market analytics firm) indicate the base of tech occupation employment (technical workers across all industries) will grow from 7.9 million to 8.6 million in the United States by 2026. This growth is influenced by a number of factors, for example, adding new tech jobs to a company to support emerging technologies.

Another element to consider for future tech workforce need is the replacement of existing technical workers. Retirement, lifestyle changes and those who choose to pursue a different career path all contribute to the annual replacement rate. The average replacement rate in the U.S. for the tech occupation workforce during 2018-2026 is projected to reach approximately 7.5% annually. This equates to nearly 600,000 workers on average each year, totaling several million workers through 2026.

PROJECTED GROWTH FOR TECH OCCUPATIONS

Tech occupation refers to technical workers across all industries

	2018 EST.	2026 PROJ.	NUMERIC CHANGE 2018-26	% CHANGE 2018-26
KANSAS CITY	68,147	75,459	7,312	10.7%
MISSOURI	145,467	158,456	12,989	8.9%
KANSAS	68,676	73,843	5,167	7.5%

PROJECTED REPLACEMENT RATE FOR TECH OCCUPATIONS

Tech occupation refers to technical workers across all industries

	ANNUAL REPLACEMENT # 2018-26	ANNUAL REPLACEMENT % 2018-26
KANSAS CITY	4,988	7.2%
MISSOURI	11,005	7.6%
KANSAS	5,100	7.4%

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

CURRENT STATE

Local vs. National Salary Averages

This year, KC Tech Council's partners at CompTIA have re-examined the tech workforce to better define tech wages. The wage data looks solely at the income of technical workers across all industries, rather than all jobs within the tech industry. When breaking down the market salaries across all IT occupations, the Kansas City region's local salaries lag behind the national average.

"Previously, wages were examined at the industry level – meaning of the wage data encompassed all staff positions, from entry-level employees to the CEO, technical and non-technical positions. In comparison, the current tech occupation wage data only includes technical positions. Beyond location, the other important variables to consider when reviewing wage data are job role, areas of expertise, job experience, industry sector, and company size. A skilled employee in a hot field such as artificial intelligence, working for a Fortune 500 company, will earn on average far more than a tech worker in an established field working for a small business in a rural area."

- From CompTIA's CyberStates 2019 Report

	10th PERCENTILE	25th	MEDIAN SALARY	75th	90th PERCENTILE	% HIGHER THAN MEDIAN AREA WAGE
US	$49,409	$63,054	$81,907	$104,558	$133,443	92%
KC	$49,733	$61,647	$78,276	$97,821	$117,417	82%
MO	$45,663	$57,731	$73,534	$92,506	$110,908	89%
KS	$45,317	$56,362	$71,415	$89,627	$108,696	85%

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

CURRENT STATE

Analysis from Tech Checkpoint

Below are the region's top occupations, certifications and skills listed in open tech job postings, as collected from the August 2018 through June 2019 editions of the KC Tech Council's Tech Checkpoint. Tech Checkpoint is a monthly workforce report produced by the KC Tech Council, powered by ECCO Select. Data in Tech Checkpoint is collected from Gartner's TalentNeuron product, compiled into one report and delivered straight to the inboxes of KCTC subscribers. In addition to current statistics, Tech Checkpoint offers thought leadership from ECCO Select.

"Tech Checkpoint is a valuable tool for tech employers, employees, and leaders in Kansas City. This resource equips corporations with information needed to create talent acquisition strategies aligned to their business goals; it provides the workforce with the data they need to create or refine their respective career paths; and it provides our community leaders with information to influence, advocate, and promote Kansas City as a national leader in the technology industry."

- Darren Prenger, COO of ECCO Select

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS

- Project Manager
- Software Engineer
- .net Developer
- Java Developer
- Senior Software Engineer
- Network Engineer
- System Administrator
- Web Developer
- Application Developer
- Business Analyst

TOP 5 CERTIFICATIONS

- Security Clearance
- CISSP
- Project Management Professional
- Secret Clearance
- Driver's License

TOP 5 SKILLS

- Software Development
- Java
- SQL
- Linux
- SDLC

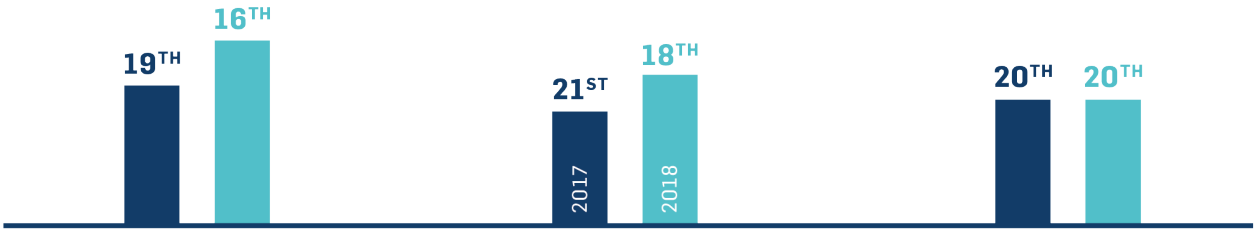
SUBSCRIBE TO

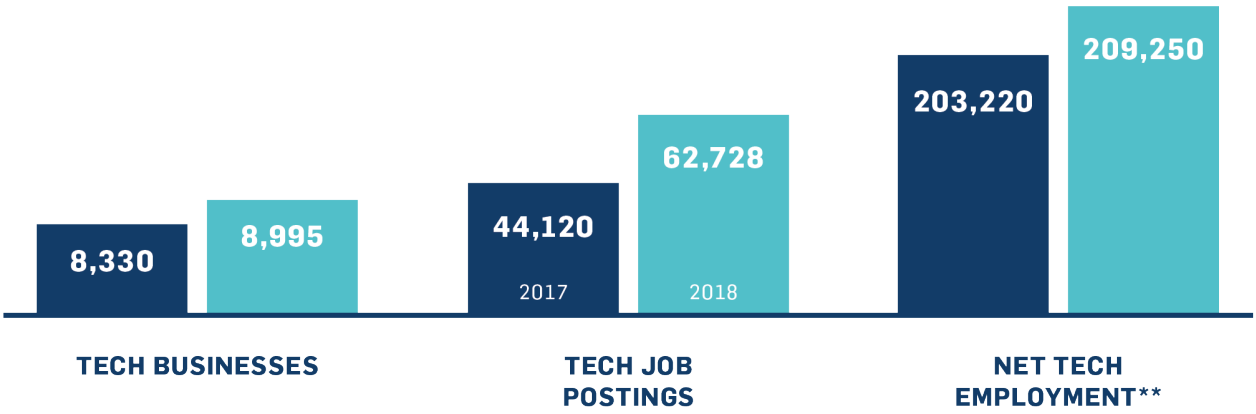
TECH CHECKPOINT

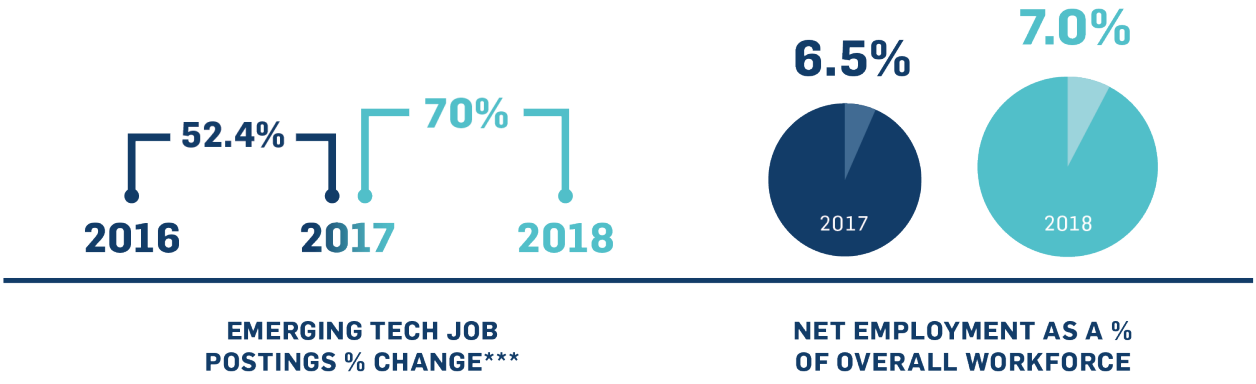
SOURCE: Gartner® TalentNeuron | Based on average of appearances across Tech Checkpoint reports from August 2018 - June 2019

The State of Our States: 2017 vs. 2018

MO







* Innovation Score Rank | Determined by the amount of venture capital funding flowed into the state according to data from PwC/CBInsights MoneyTree™.

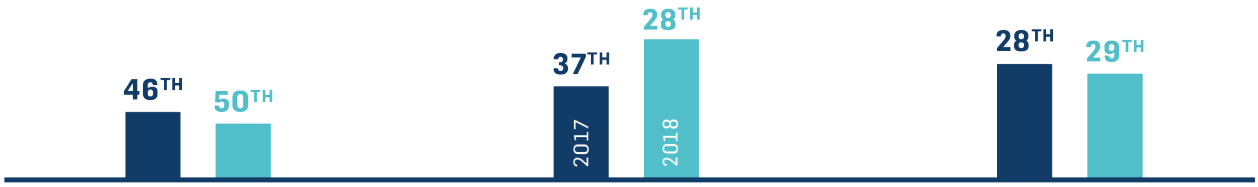
**Net Tech Employment | Calculated by CompTIA when adding tech industry employment, tech occupation employment and those who are self-employed.

***Emerging Tech Jobs | Those working for emerging tech businesses, as calculated by Burning Glass Technologies Labor Insight™.

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2018 & 2019 Reports

The State of Our States: 2017 vs. 2018

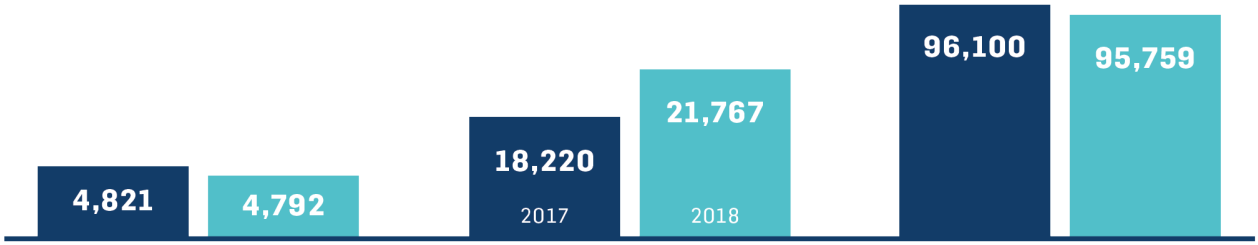
KS



NET TECH EMPLOYMENT JOBS ADDED STATE RANK

INNOVATION SCORE STATE RANK*

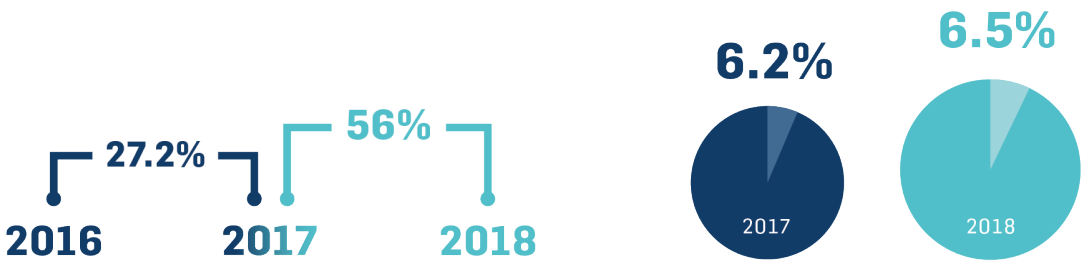
NET TECH EMPLOYMENT STATE RANK**



TECH BUSINESSES

TECH JOB POSTINGS

NET TECH EMPLOYMENT**



EMERGING TECH JOB POSTINGS % CHANGE***

NET EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF OVERALL WORKFORCE

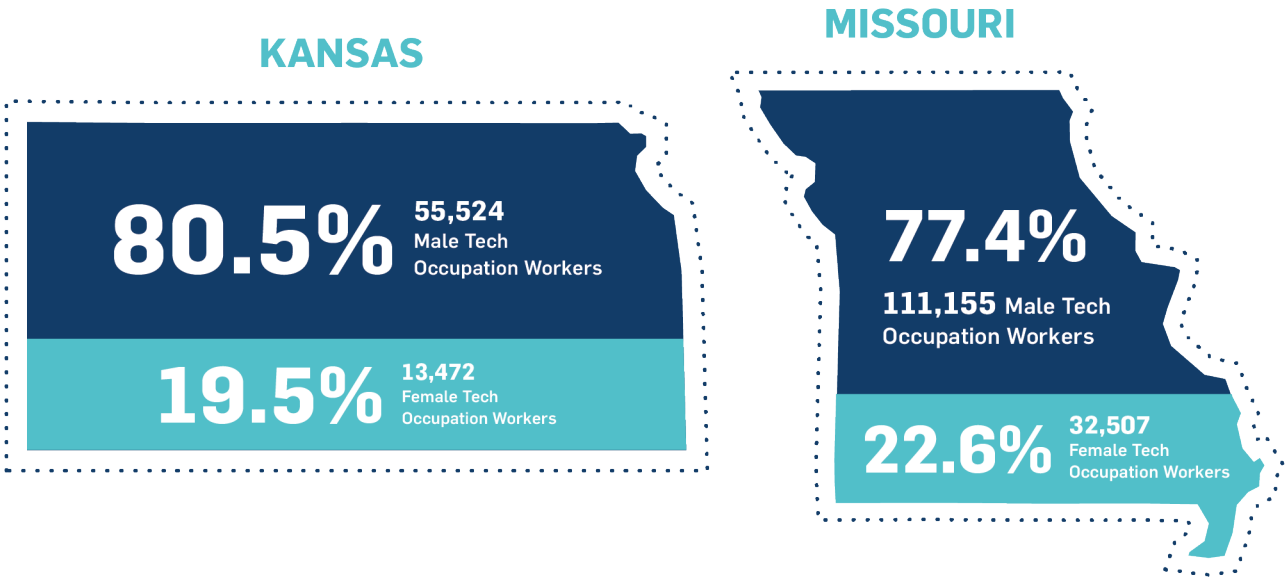
* Innovation Score Rank | Determined by the amount of venture capital funding flowed into the state according to data from PwC/CBInsights MoneyTree™.
**Net Tech Employment | Calculated by CompTIA when adding tech industry employment, tech occupation employment and those who are self-employed.
***Emerging Tech Jobs | Those working for emerging tech businesses, as calculated by Burning Glass Technologies Labor Insight™.

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2018 & 2019 Reports

Gender Breakdown in the Tech Market

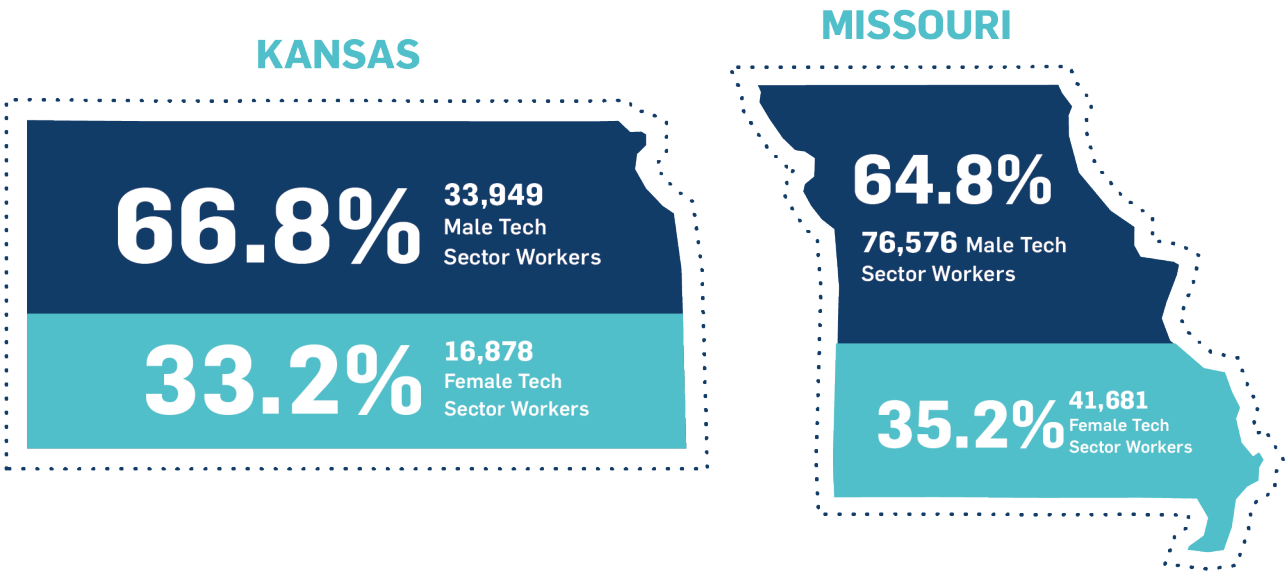
TECH OCCUPATION GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Tech occupation refers to technical workers across all industries



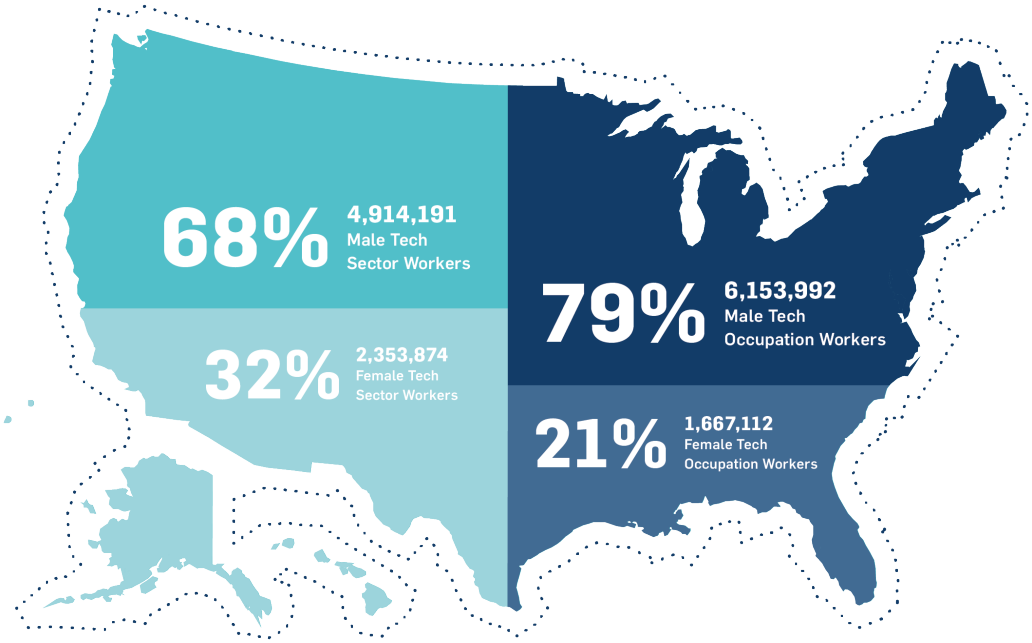
TECH SECTOR GENDER DISTRIBUTION

Tech sector refers to technical and non-technical workers within the tech industry



SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

Gender Breakdown in the Tech Market



Top 10 Cities for Women in Tech

According to one study by SmartAsset, when considering four metrics indicating a city's inclusivity and championing of women in the tech industry, Kansas City has remained one of the top cities for women in tech for the past three years.

		GENDER PAY GAP	INCOME AFTER HOUSING COSTS	TECH JOBS FILLED BY WOMEN	4-YEAR TECH JOB GROWTH
1	Washington, D.C.	95%	$58,486	38.9%	24%
2	Baltimore, MD	93%	$58,383	31.1%	28%
3	Philadelphia, PA	97%	$52,985	30.2%	21%
4	Houston, TX	99%	$60,646	26%	19%
5	Arlington, VA	87%	$60,581	33.3%	12%
6	Albuquerque, NM	95%	$54,269	29.7%	-1%
7	**Kansas City, MO**	89%	$51,022	29%	24%
8	Durham, NC	88%	$60,077	28.7%	8%
9	Long Beach, CA	115%	$60,759	22.3%	21%
10	St. Paul, MN	90%	$48,977	27.7%	18%

SOURCE: SmartAsset 2019 Study

CITY & STATE COMPARISON

We've explored the current state of Kansas City and our two states. But, like any rapidly growing industry relying on a thin talent market, competition is intense. It's critical to measure how we compare to competing regions and see just how the competition stacks up.

Taking a Look Across State Lines

Who's Graduating Across the Region?

What type of computer science degrees are graduates entering the job market with? Of the new grads in the Midwest candidate pipeline, the majority are getting bachelor's degrees, though associate degrees are not far behind. **To provide a critical sample, we asked a few of the regional companies hiring the largest amount of new computer science graduates to indicate the states where they're recruiting most successfully.** Kansas and Missouri made the list, but how do our two states compare with the others? Let's take a look at a "new grad talent pool."

CS DEGREES BY STATE

	ARKANSAS	INDIANA	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	TOTAL
DOCTORATE	8	50	57	13	28	**156**
MASTER'S	94	436	503	211	759	**2,003**
ASSOCIATE	528	2,087	786	575	1,060	**5,036**
BACHELOR'S	423	2,589	1,238	633	1,547	**6,430**
TOTAL	**1,053**	**5,162**	**2,584**	**1,432**	**3,394**	**13,625**

CS GRADUATE PROGRAMS BY STATE

ARKANSAS		INDIANA		IOWA	
Computer & Information Science	373	General IT	1,633	Information Technology	1,109
Management Information Systems	322	Ops Management & Supervision	966	General IT	617
General IT	172	Information Technology	947	Computer Science	356
Computer Systems Network	75	Computer & Information Science	813	Management Information Systems	185
Information Technology	57	Computer Science	538	Computer Programming	163
Information Science/Studies	54	Informatics	265	Computer & Information Science	154

KANSAS		MISSOURI	
General IT	663	General IT	1,022
Computer Systems Network	169	Management Information Systems	832
Management Information Systems	162	Computer & Information Science	477
Information Science/Studies	160	Computer Science	437
Computer & Information Science	144	Computer Systems Network	365
Network & System Admin.	134	Information Technology	261

SOURCE: Gartner® TalentNeuron | August 2019

Who's Graduating Across the Region?

TOTAL CS DEGREES FROM MIDWEST REGION*

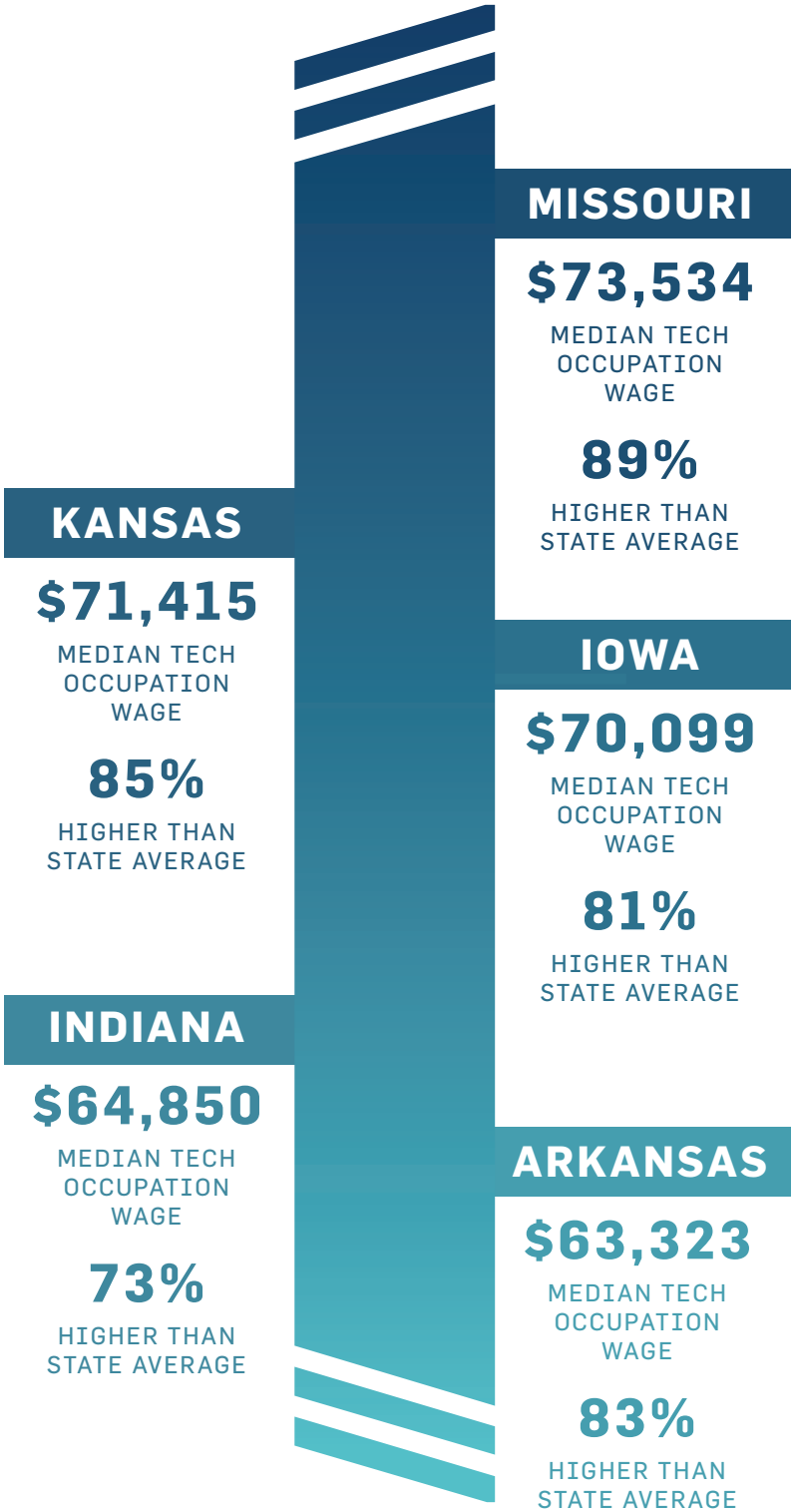
General IT	4,107
Information Technology	2,374
Computer & Information Science	1,961
Management Information Systems	1,501
Computer Science	1,331
Operations Management & Supervision	966
Computer Systems Network	609
Informatics	265
Information Science/Studies	214
Computer Programming	163
Network & System Administration	134
Total	**13,625**

* Total includes doctorate, master's, bachelor's and associate degrees in computer science-related programs.

SOURCE: Gartner® TalentNeuron | August 2019

Taking a Look Across State Lines

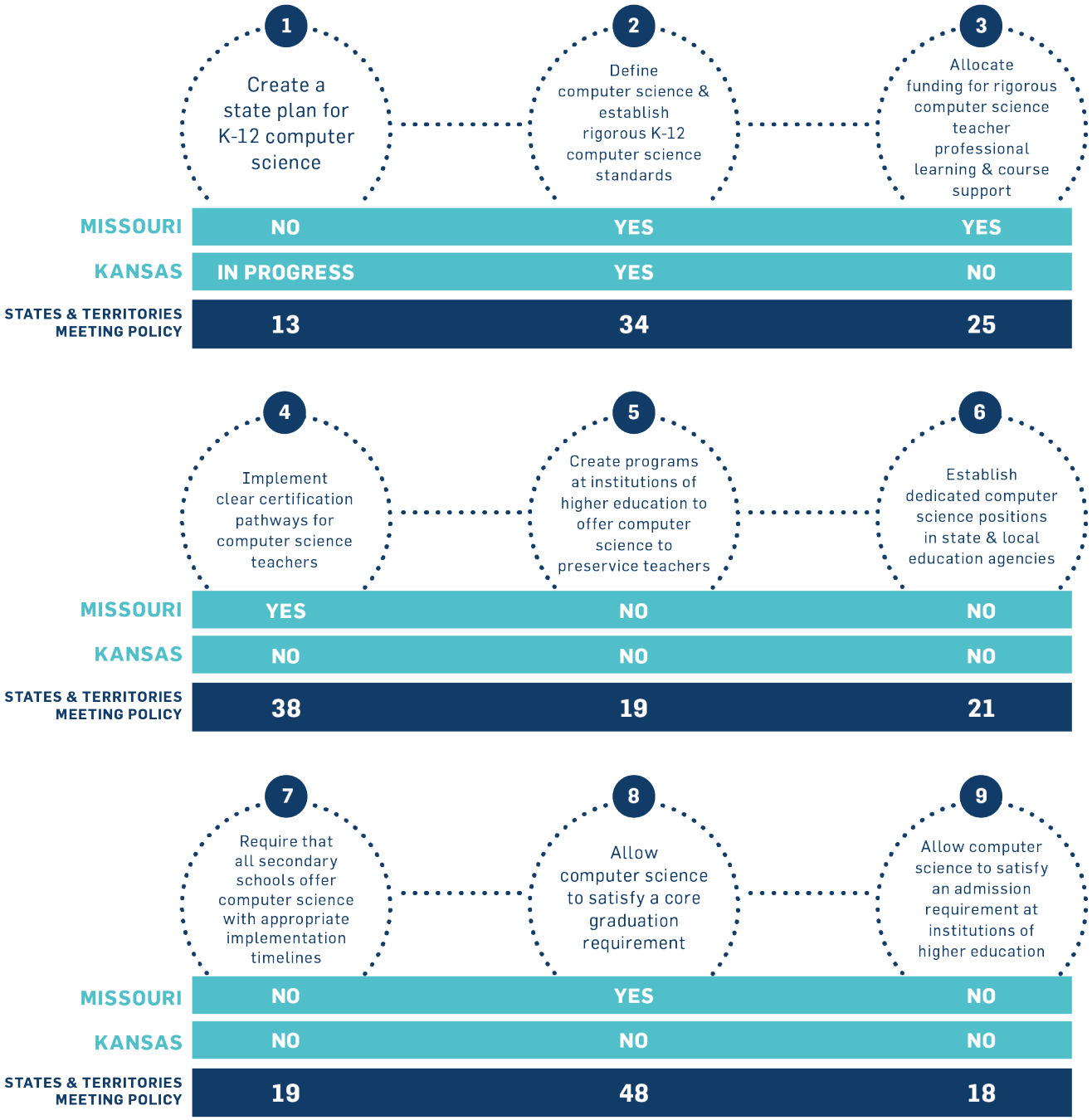
What Does the Pay Look Like?



SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019

Computer Science Education Policy for K-12

Code.org has outlined nine policy ideas to make computer science fundamental to K-12 education. While some progress has been made, both Missouri and Kansas trail other states in adopting many of these standards.



SOURCE: Code.org | September 2019

CITY & STATE COMPARISON

KC vs. Select Tech Markets

It may not surprise you that Minneapolis has nearly twice as many tech employees as Kansas City because it is a metro region nearly 40% larger. However, both cities have nearly identical net tech employment as a percentage of their overall workforce. In other words, tech has permeated the local markets nearly equally. So how does Kansas City compare to "tech cities" like Austin, Boston, Denver and Portland, as well as other Midwestern cities? Let's explore.

	NET TECH EMPLOYMENT RANK	NET TECH EMPLOYMENT JOBS ADDED RANK	ECONOMIC IMPACT RANK	NET EMPLOYMENT AS A % OF OVERALL WORKFORCE	NET TECH EMPLOYMENT
Boston	5th	3rd	6th	13.2%	373,415
Minneapolis	14th	19th	18th	9.7%	196,151
Denver	16th	12th	10th	11.4%	178,574
Austin	18th	13th	4th	14.3%	154,884
Portland	20th	18th	7th	10.8%	136,803
St. Louis	22nd	31st	28th	7.5%	104,895
Kansas City	**24th**	**27th**	**23rd**	**9.2%**	**100,782**
Indianapolis	31st	28th	32nd	7%	74,615
Nashville	34th	23rd	36th	6.1%	62,073
Oklahoma City	38th	41st	44th	6%	39,182
Omaha	40th	38th	31st	7.5%	37,508
Des Moines	42nd	35th	38th	7.2%	28,693

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

CITY & STATE COMPARISON

KC vs. Select Tech Markets

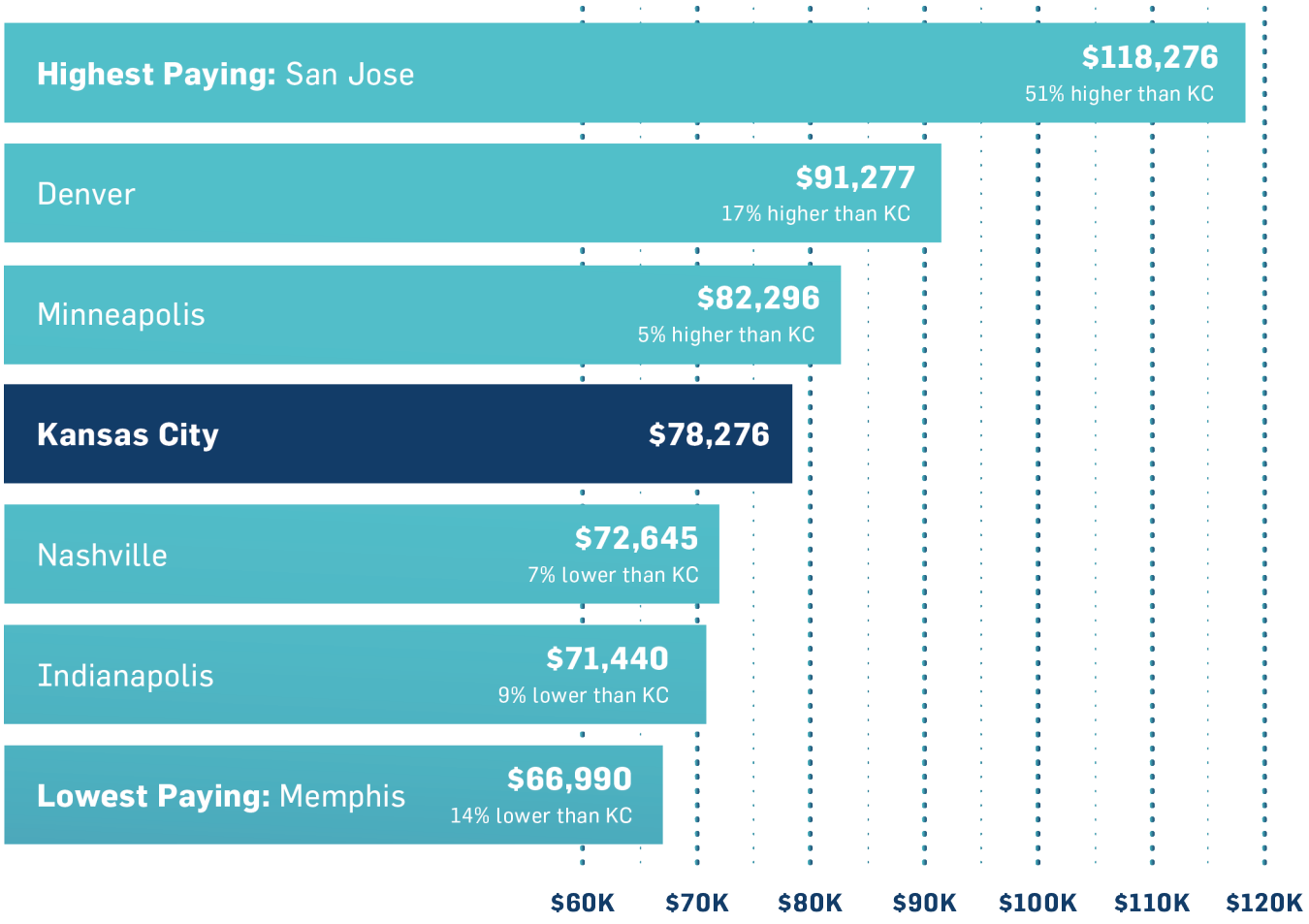
	TECH BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS	TOTAL ANNUAL TECH OCCUPATION JOB OPENINGS	EMERGING TECH JOB POSTINGS % CHANGE
Boston	11,911	117,511	76%
Denver	10,151	73,098	112%
Austin	5,582	52,373	76%
Portland	5,522	43,581	62%
Minneapolis	4,879	71,378	76%
Kansas City	**3,918**	**27,305**	**82%**
St. Louis	3,084	44,869	96%
Nashville	3,049	24,511	118%
Indianapolis	2,666	23,032	121%
Oklahoma City	1,728	13,042	160%
Des Moines	1,715	14,307	47%
Omaha	1,317	16,062	137%

SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

KC vs. Select Tech Markets: Wage Comparison

Pay within a region's tech industry is higher than the region's average across all industries almost everywhere. But how does the tech occupation pay in Kansas City compare to the highest and lowest paying regions? In an environment where a tech worker can live in Kansas City and work for a company located in San Jose, it's important to understand the metrics at play.

When examining the median pay of tech workers employed across all industries, Kansas City's median tech occupation wage is 14% higher than the lowest paying city's median wage and 51% lower than the highest paying city's median wage. **This data does not take into account outside contributing factors to pay, such as the cost of living or benefits, which can play a significant role in attracting or retaining workers.**



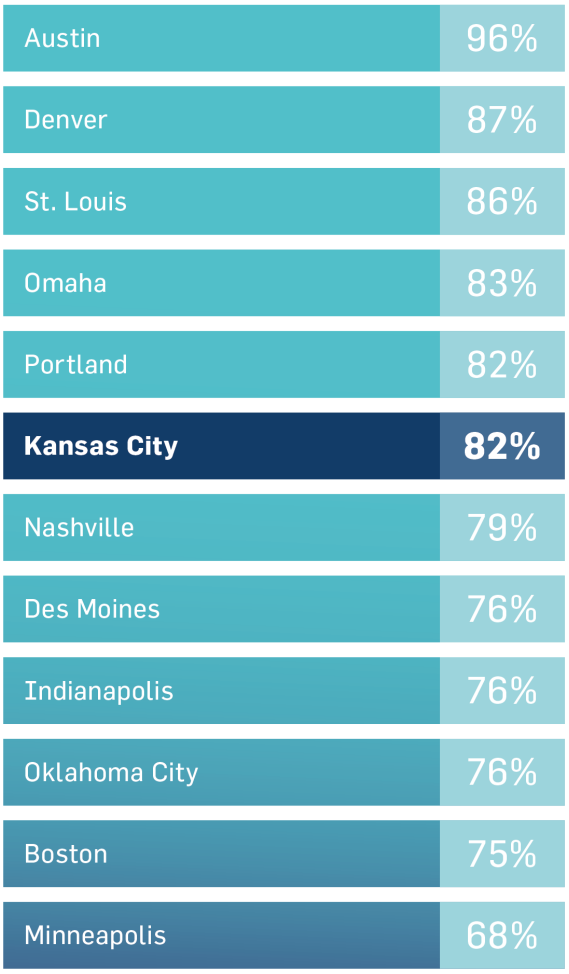
SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

CITY & STATE COMPARISON

KC vs. Select Tech Markets: Wage Comparison

For tech workers across all industries, the median wage in the United States was 92% higher than the median national wage in 2018. This means technologists are paid significantly more across the U.S. compared to other jobs in other industries. CompTIA's 2019 report drilled down further to the city level to find how tech occupations pay compared to other jobs within their respective region. Kansas City's tech occupation pay relative to regional average remains competitive in the Midwest, and even averages higher than larger cities such as Boston and Minneapolis.

% HIGHER THAN MEDIAN WAGE FOR TECH WORKERS WITHIN EACH CITY



SOURCE: CompTIA Cyberstates 2019 Report

Brain Gain in KC

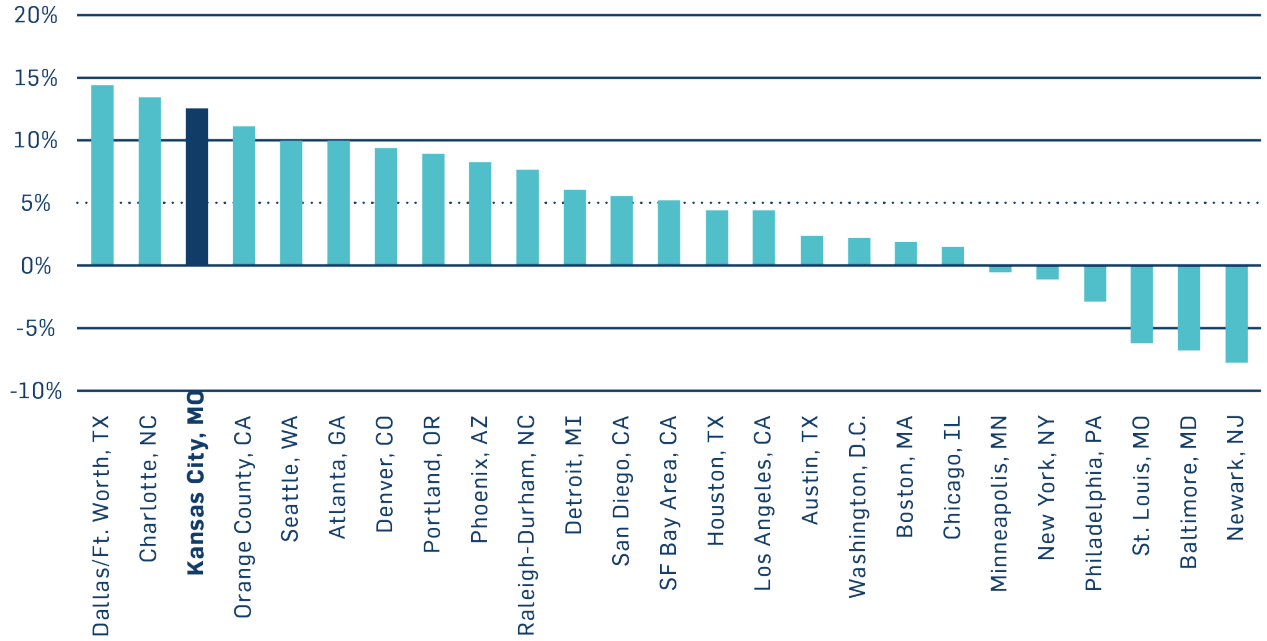
According to the CBRE annual report "Scoring Tech Talent," Kansas City had the seventh-highest net gain for tech talent labor among the largest tech markets in North America over the past five years. A "brain gain" is calculated by taking the number of tech degree graduates in the local area compared with tech talent creation in the market. These rankings can be defined as both a success and an opportunity for the region. KC performs strongly in importing outside tech talent compared to cities where talent is leaving in droves. In turn, it also means the city's supply of regionally grown highly trained tech talent is inadequate for the demand, creating a reliance on importing that talent from elsewhere. **See the full chart on the next page.**

Potential Contributing Factor to Gain

As we look for reasons Kansas City is seeing a "gain" in the region, the rejuvenation of KCMO's downtown could be a contributing factor. The growth of individuals in their 20s moving to KC's greater downtown from 2012 to 2017 was the third-highest among 20-somethings moving to downtowns in the U.S.

20-SOMETHING DOWNTOWN POPULATION CHANGE (2012-2017)

U.S. LARGE TECH TALENT MARKETS (>50,000 LABOR POOLS)



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau (City)

Brain Gain in KC

BRAIN GAIN & DRAIN

+55,025 Toronto, ON
+46,529 SF Bay Area, CA

+14,749 Charlotte, NC

+10,118 Seattle, WA
+9,157 Atlanta, GA

+5,782 Vancouver, BC

+5,504 Kansas City, MO

+4,207 Indianapolis, IN
+4,063 Montreal, QB

+5,256 Nashville, TN

+3,876 Jacksonville, FL

+2,996 Portland, OR

+1,530 Denver, CO
+1,244 Austin, TX
+815 Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

+382 Ottawa, ON
+314 San Antonio, TX
+219 Ft. Lauderdale, FL

+61 Tampa, FL

0

-382 Richmond, VA
-400 Madison, WI
-653 Houston, TX

-1,386 Milwaukee, WI
-1,471 Orlando, FL
-1,590 San Diego, CA
-1,945 Miami, FL

-2,503 Sacramento, CA
-2,519 Orange County, CA
-2,564 Cincinnati, OH

-3,400 Columbus, OH
-4,493 Cleveland, OH
-4,603 Raleigh-Durham, NC

-5,273 Long Island, NY
-5,309 Baltimore, MD
-5,742 Hartford, CT

-5,758 Minneapolis, MN
-5,807 Detroit, MI

-6,602 St. Louis, MO
-6,664 Norfolk, VA
-7,070 Newark, NJ
-7,515 Rochester, NY

-7,598 Philadelphia, PA
-11,833 New York, NY
-12,068 Phoenix, AZ

-12,232 Pittsburgh, PA
-12,290 Salt Lake City, UT
-12,510 Chicago, IL

-25,119 Los Angeles, CA

-38,460 Boston, MA

-48,231 Washington, D.C.

SOURCE: CBRE Scoring Tech Talent 2018 Report

TRENDING IN 2020

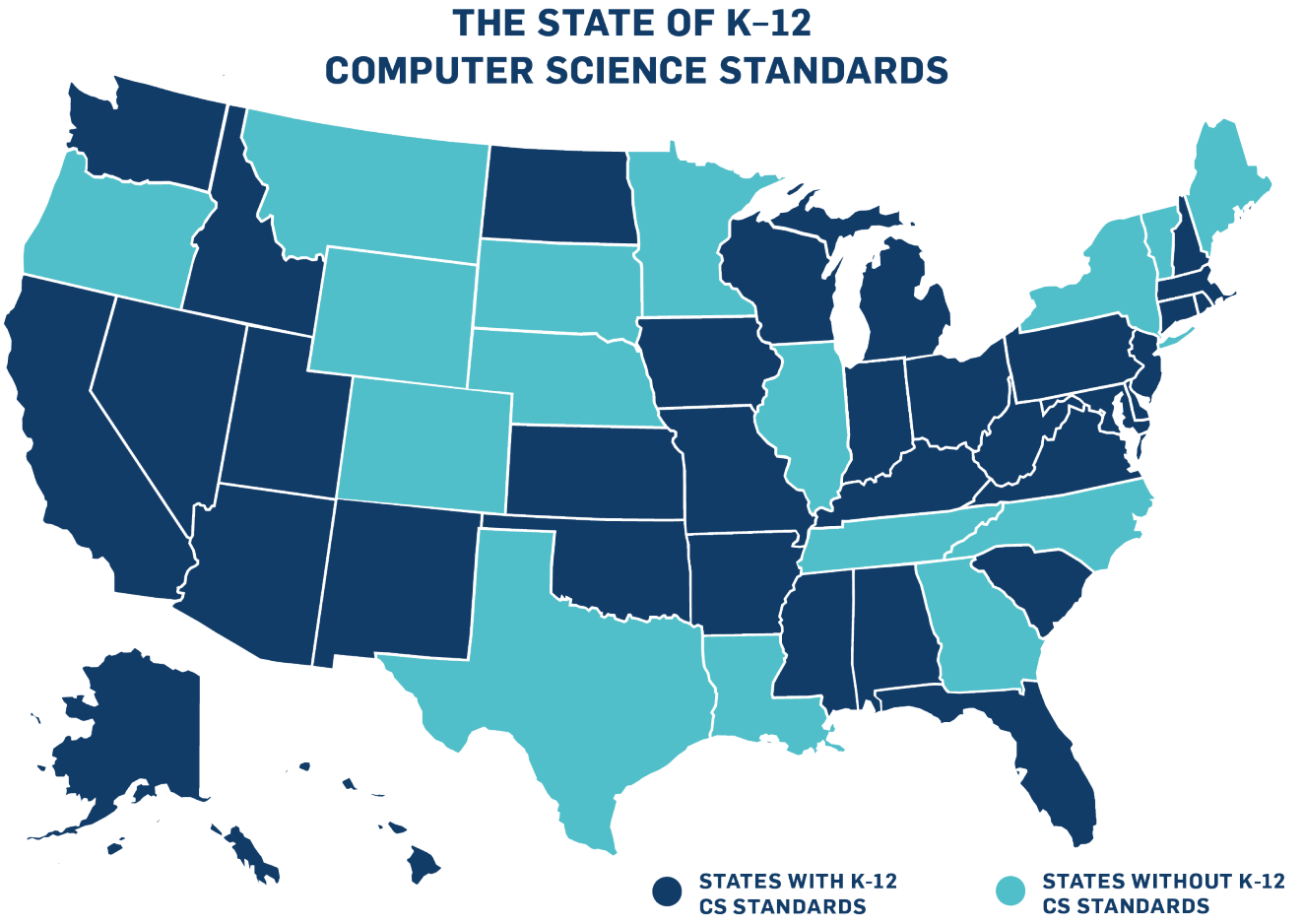
KC Tech Specs is designed to provide insight into the metrics at play as this region prepares to do the work to accelerate Kansas City as a tech hub. As learned from past regional initiatives like Google Fiber's high-speed internet, opportunities will emerge that dramatically increase that acceleration. Here are four emerging topics we're tracking that are already making the news.

TRENDING IN 2020

Computer Science Education

Kansas remains one of the final states to not allow computer science to fulfill a high school graduation requirement. These computer science courses remain an elective throughout the state. There is momentum afoot, however, and in spring 2019, the Kansas State Board of Education passed and adopted standards for computer science education. This is an incredibly positive step. State education leaders have the authority to allow computer science to fulfill a high school graduation requirement without passing legislation. This change would be supported by the KC Tech Council, as well as many other partners across the state. Will we see this change made in 2020?

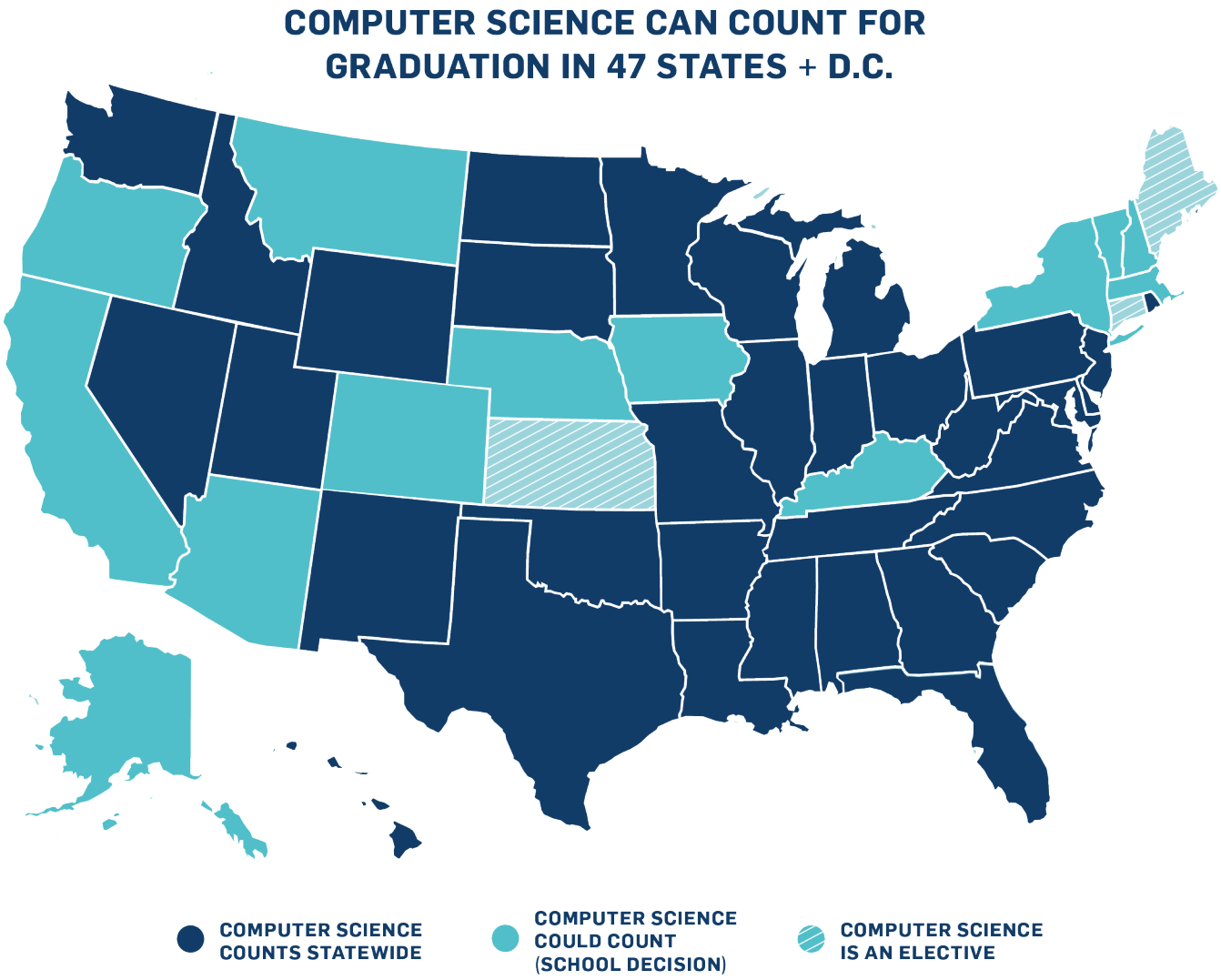
In 2018, the KC Tech Council, along with partners across the state of Missouri, were successful in passing computer science education expansion in Missouri. Starting in fall 2019, high school students across Missouri can now fulfill a graduation requirement with certain computer science courses. This small change has the potential to encourage students to learn these crucial computer science skills in high school. If they do, statistics show they'll be six times more likely to major in computer science if they go to college.



SOURCE: Code.org | September 2019

TRENDING IN 2020

Computer Science Education



STARTLAND
Kansas City's Home for Innovation News

Eyeing jobs potential, KC Tech Council celebrates MO governor's signing of STEM education bill

By: Austin Barnes, Reporter - November 01, 2018

"Legislation like the newly passed bill further promotes efforts to build a broader tech-skilled workforce in Kansas City, Missouri this week became the 41st state to pass such STEM legislation," President & CEO of KC Tech Council Ryan Weber said, *"signaling a clear commitment to building a broader tech skilled workforce."*

SOURCE: Code.org | September 2019

TRENDING IN 2020

Missouri Hyperloop Momentum

Missouri has a long history of leading the way in transportation, with the state claiming the initial construction of the U.S. interstate highway system after the passage of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. More than a half-century later, the region has the opportunity to again be the trailblazer for one of the first new modes of transportation created since that time: the hyperloop.

In fall 2018, Kansas City-based Black & Veatch, alongside Olsson, completed a hyperloop feasibility study, the first of its kind. The study determined a route along the I-70 corridor, making stops in Kansas City, Columbia, and St. Louis, was feasible.

The next steps in this exciting project will be seen with findings from the Missouri lieutenant governor's Blue Ribbon Panel, a group of business and civic leaders studying Missouri's ability to construct a full-scale hyperloop system.

Being first comes with the potential of building a new industry, infrastructure and tremendous economic benefit. The high concentration of engineering talent, matched with the increasing support of industry and lawmakers, has put Missouri in the lead as the region where the first hyperloop route in the U.S. could be built. In 2020, we'll all be watching for this project to move closer to reality. Otherwise, competing states like Colorado, Ohio and Texas will catch up to Missouri's lead.

Forbes

15,309 views | Jan 30, 2018, 03:03pm

Plans Are Moving Forward To Bring A Hyperloop Route To Missouri

Alex Knapp Forbes Staff
Science
I write about the future of science, technology, and culture.

"If the route were built as planned and the technology works as promised, a hyperloop route connecting St. Louis and Kansas City would only take about 31 minutes to complete its journey, according to Virgin Hyperloop One. That's compared to about a four-hour drive in a car."

STARTLAND
Kansas City's Home for Innovation News

Fast track Missouri Hyperloop: Bipartisan support for 670-mph travel builds speed

By: Tommy Felts - March 14, 2019

"It isn't just a pipe dream. The arrival of bipartisan state and federal support for high-speed, cross-region travel means the much-anticipated Missouri Hyperloop project continues to shoot forward," Ryan Weber said.

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fox4kc

Hyperloop CEO says Missouri route from Kansas City to St. Louis tops his list for project

POSTED 10:48 PM, APRIL 24, 2019, BY PAT MCGONIGLE, *UPDATED AT 10:49PM, APRIL 24, 2019*

"Walder said Missouri tops his list for the project because it's the first state to complete a feasibility study demonstrating how, in theory, it could work here."

TRENDING IN 2020

The Data Privacy Law Landscape

In 2020, California's Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) will take effect. When passed in 2018, this groundbreaking legislation was the first of its kind to address a lack of privacy rights for U.S. consumers. For years, Congress has debated this issue but has been unable to release draft legislation to preempt state laws.

Why is preemption important? Simply put, other states could (and likely will) follow California's lead, passing inconsistent state privacy laws, creating a nightmare for compliance by organizations utilizing the internet to do business or engage with customers.

It's also uncertain how, or if, these laws will be enforced with the same scrutiny as the Global Data Privacy Rights (GDPR) from the European Union. But it is certain that these privacy laws are coming, and our region's businesses should prepare for a state-by-state approach to compliance, starting with CCPA.

Above: KC Tech Council CEO Ryan Weber testifies before the U.S. Senate on federal data privacy laws.

Forbes

799 views | Mar 26, 2019, 04:53pm

Congress Investigates Whether Privacy Rules Can Protect Consumers Without Killing Small Business

Roslyn Layton Contributor ⓘ
Enterprise & Cloud
Evidence-based tech policy

"As technology continues to advance and find its way into every industry, business sector, and company, we must remember, not all technology is created equal and not all data should be treated the same. Accountability will make federal data privacy laws effective." - KC Tech Council President Ryan Weber

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STARTLAND
Kansas City's Home for Innovation News

Federal data privacy laws are coming; Here's what you should consider

By: Ryan Weber, President of the KC Tech Council - March 29, 2019

"*In my conversations with tech companies, big and small, there is strong support for the U.S. to pursue overarching data privacy laws at a federal level. There is little to no support for states to continue and pass their patchwork of individual laws. The cost to comply with could be overwhelming for small and startup companies. Enforcement would also be inconsistent. In other words, it'd be a mess. Therefore, it's crucial Congress act to preempt these state laws with a sensible federal law.*" - KC Tech Council President Ryan Weber

TRENDING IN 2020

Anticipating 5G's Impact on Business & Society

Imagine what a business could do with network speeds and capacity increasing tenfold. In May 2019, Sprint officially launched 5G technology in select cities, including Kansas City. 5G is essentially the fifth generation of wireless technology and brings with it a big leap in the reduction of latency, and an increase in speed, capacity, and coverage. Though initially only available on select devices, there are advantages to being one of the first markets selected for rollout, and our region will continue to benefit from the deployment of this new tech in our backyard.

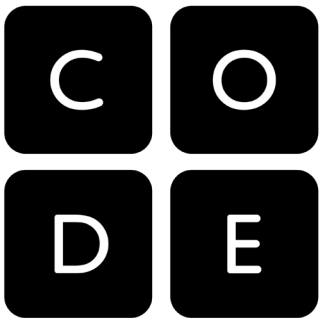
Some of the most exciting use cases for 5G wrap another emerging technology, IoT, or the internet of things, into the solution. In a world of existing IoT, like smart city sensors, and future IoT, like autonomous vehicles, the reduction in latency from 5G connectivity will allow for near real-time device response. Imagine what that could mean to healthcare, a cardiac surgeon could operate from Kansas City with a patient in Des Moines. Imagine how engineering and construction can benefit, as IoT-enabled robots optimize the build process and deliver specialized skills to teams.

The impact of 5G is emblematic of the impact that tech as a whole has had across all other industries. It will drive innovation forward, offer better solutions and uncover a world of new possibilities. What will our region do to benefit from this head start?

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Sprint unfurls 'blazing-fast' 5G network in Kansas City, three other cities

REPORT RESOURCES



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