

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services



Professional and Technical Services Industry, Utah

Year	Annual Average Employment	Number of Establishments	Annual Payroll	Average
2012	72,337	11,743	\$4,516,972,718	\$1,129,264,703
2011	68,060	11,131	\$4,192,251,406	\$1,048,083,152
2010	65,226	10,757	\$3,888,025,339	\$972,025,833
2009	65,337	10,665	\$3,863,217,241	\$965,823,813
2008	68,159	10,565	\$3,986,039,437	\$996,530,042
2007	64,872	10,133	\$3,644,849,972	\$911,231,746
2006	60,916	9,942	\$3,218,191,167	\$804,566,008
2005	55,061	9,099	\$2,790,479,359	\$697,636,381
2004	51,209	8,280	\$2,531,078,224	\$632,784,929

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

If there was any doubt that the professional, scientific and technical services industry has been booming in Utah, then a look at recent newspapers, magazines and Internet headlines will chase away any uncertainty. Accelerating technological change has increased the intensity of business competition and economic development, forcing continual adjustments in a changing environment. Since the summer of 2004, this industry has continued to have a pronounced impact on Utah's economic growth, adding jobs even through the Great Recession.

A wide variety of services represent professional, scientific and technical services, such as legal, accounting and bookkeeping; architectural and engineering; specialized design; computer systems design; management and technical consulting; scientific research and development; advertising; and other professional and technical services. Many occupations within these types of services typically require a high level of training or education and commonly some sort of formal certification. Jobs like computer hardware engineers, computer support specialists, mechanical and industrial engineers, paralegals and legal assistants are among the most desired in this industry. The long-term outlook for occupational projections for Utah find accountants and auditors, lawyers, management analysts and market research analysts as five-star jobs in Utah, defined as occupations with high wages and high employment opportunities.

The industry's two largest employers can be found along the Wasatch Front. Marketstar Corporation in Weber County represents management and technical consulting services, and Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc. in Salt Lake County represents scientific research

and development services. Both companies employ over 500 workers. The next 16 largest companies in this industry employ 250 to 500 workers and are all situated in Utah, Salt Lake, Davis or Cache counties. Thirty of the largest employers represent computer systems design and related services, emphasizing the importance of Utah's "Silicone Slopes." Utah's "Silicon Slopes" is a name that refers to Utah's thriving technology industry. The fact that thirty of the largest employers in professional, scientific and technical services are within computer systems design and related services emphasizes Utah's overall presence in a larger technology landscape such as Adobe, 3M and Novell. Although the state of Utah has smaller metro areas than other states with high technology employment, jobs in this industry have rapidly increased to bring Utah to mind in many national outlets.

Computer systems design and scientific and technical jobs have risen, and with the help of the Utah Science and Technology Research Initiative (USTAR), Utah has been important in creating and sustaining jobs. New companies are coming into the state such as SolarWinds, and startup companies are being created at Startup Weekend events.

In the end, national companies are recognizing the benefits of Utah, with its combination of well-educated and skilled workers, lower wages nationally, a relatively lower cost of living, lower taxes and a high percentage of multi-lingual speakers. All of this allows Utah's professional, scientific and technical services industry to successfully compete for employers, providing a wealth of opportunities to those seeking employment within this industry. ●

For more information on companies in Utah: jobs.utah.gov/jsp/firmfind/welcome.do