



Top 10 cities for IT pros looking to make a move

Business is booming in 2015, and across the country IT organizations are loosening the purse strings and shelling out big bucks for critical IT talent. Here's a look at the 10 hottest cities for IT pay based on data from Computerworld's IT Salary Survey 2015, area home prices and median salary.

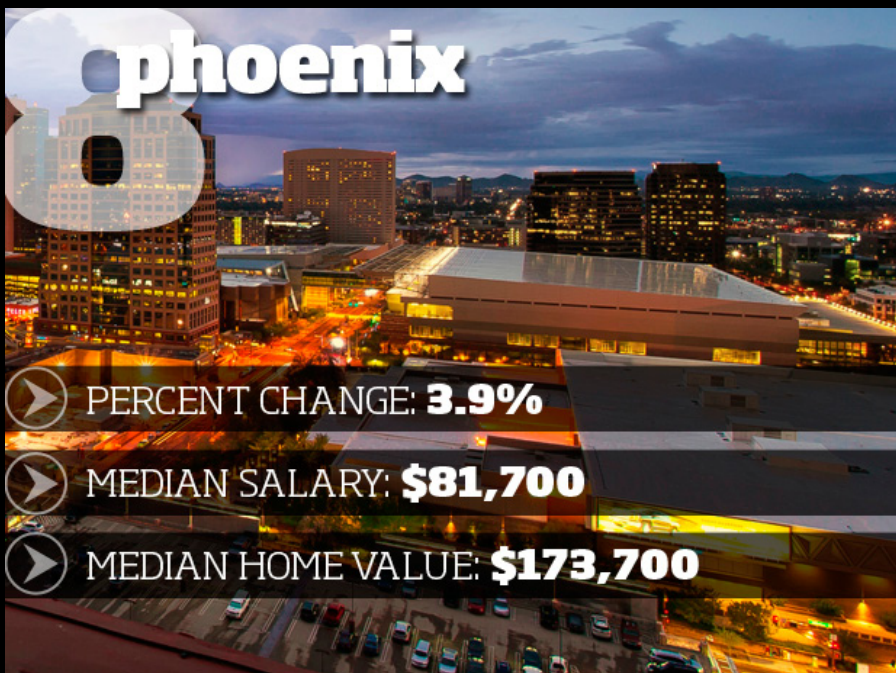
BY SHARON FLORENTINE



St. Louis has reinvented itself as a hub for healthcare, biotechnology and advanced engineering. It also offers opportunities in more traditional industries like manufacturing. Median home values are low, and the city is family-friendly and affordable.



NYC, the city that never sleeps is the perfect home base for an always-on, plugged-in IT professional -- and there are hundreds of thousands of them in the metro area. Though median home prices are above the half-million dollar mark, New York's other boroughs as well as nearby Long Island, Staten Island and New Jersey make great bedroom communities for IT pros who work in "The City."



IT is hot, hot, hot in the Valley of the Sun. The nation's 13-largest metro area is more than just a winter destination for snowbirds and a vacation spot for golfers -- the IT industry is growing because of a highly educated talent pool. **Arizona** consistently ranks among the top five U.S. states for employment growth.



Chicago's thriving as an up-and-coming tech center, with many IT, research-and-development and green energy technology firms calling the Windy City home. And with home values relatively low, Chicago and its suburbs are a great option for IT pros to live and work.



Seattle's legacy as an IT hub is almost as great as that of San Francisco. With Microsoft headquartered in Redmond and more than 850 other IT heavyweights in the area, it's no wonder Seattle's something of a destination for IT pros.



Atlanta's home to a number of IT giants; more than 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies have a presence there. As of 2006, Atlanta has been one of the 10 largest high-tech center in the U.S. and home prices remain affordable.



4 minneapolis/st. paul

- PERCENT CHANGE: **4.5%**
- MEDIAN SALARY: **\$85,100**
- MEDIAN HOME VALUE: **\$210,300**

The Twin Cities

are built around the intersection of the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix rivers, and the region is an IT hub. Strong finance and biotech sectors, a cosmopolitan city and an affordable place to raise a family all make this a place worth considering.



3 san francisco

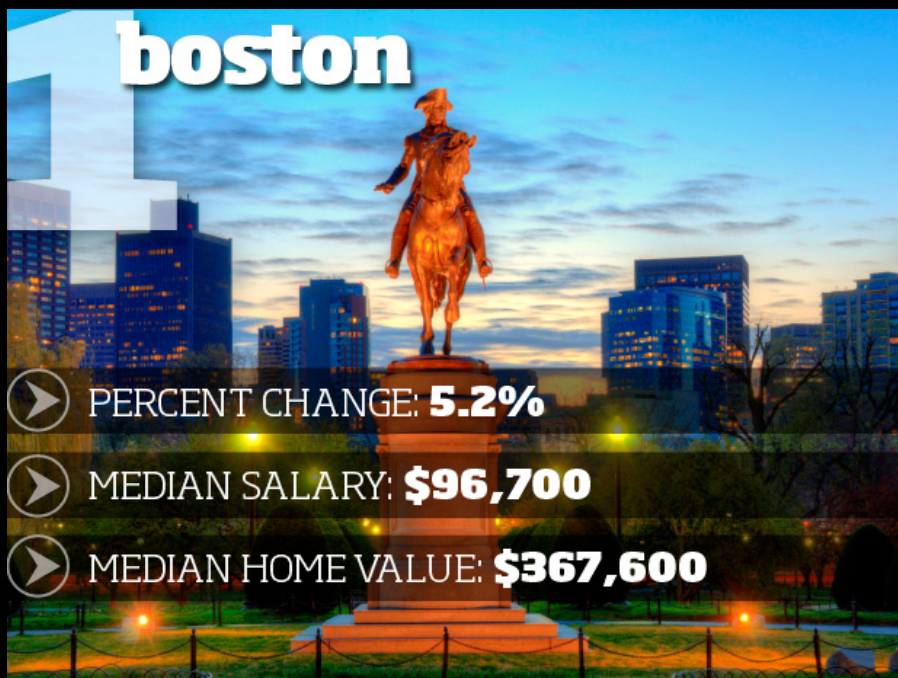
- PERCENT CHANGE: **4.6%**
- MEDIAN SALARY: **\$117,000**
- MEDIAN HOME VALUE: **\$728,000**

San Francisco's

been an IT mecca for decades, and Silicon Valley is still a great incubator for tech startups and elite talent. Even though IT salaries jumped by 4.6 percent, a median home value of \$728,000 makes it pricey for all but the wealthiest of tech workers.



Though **Detroit's** been in the news lately for all the wrong reasons, it's made a strong showing in this year's survey, with a 5 percent increase in average pay. And with an extremely low median home value, it's an affordable metro area in which to live and work.



Last year's number 2 metro areas jumps to the top of the list with the highest percent change in annual pay. The city is doubling down on its commitment to innovation; examples like the Cambridge Innovation Center and more academic research and development spending than anywhere else in the U.S. prove that point.