



Detroit
Regional
Partnership

[DRP Digital Technology Webpage](#)



Detroit's Digital Technology Powers Business Success

DRP INDUSTRY CLUSTER: Digital Technology

October 2026

Digital Technology Industry

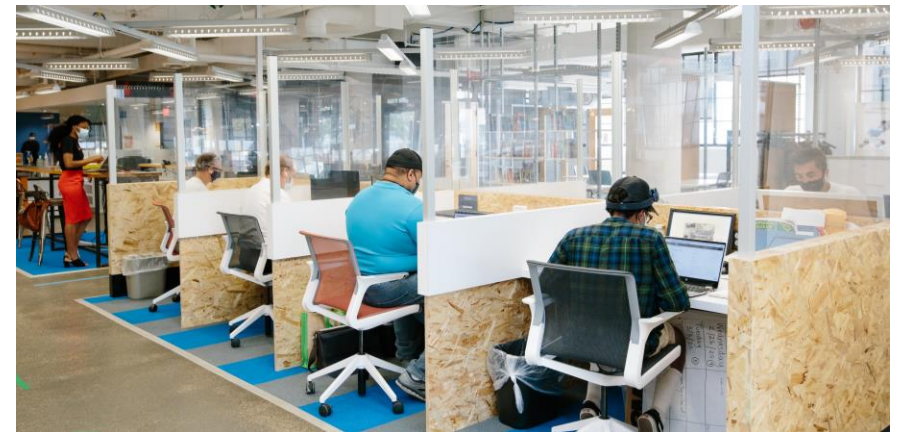
Industry Cluster Highlights and Trends

Move Here, Move the World.

Mobilizing the Future in the Detroit Region.

The Detroit Region is one of the top recognized technology hubs in the nation with a vibrant, collaborative ecosystem and leading talent that supports from established big thinkers to innovative startups.

Detroit consistently ranks as a smart choice for innovative technology companies, due to being a hub for quality and skilled talent along with being affordable to scale.



Digital Technology: Industry Cluster Snapshot



DETROIT REGION INDUSTRY METRICS, 2025:

34,651 Industry Jobs

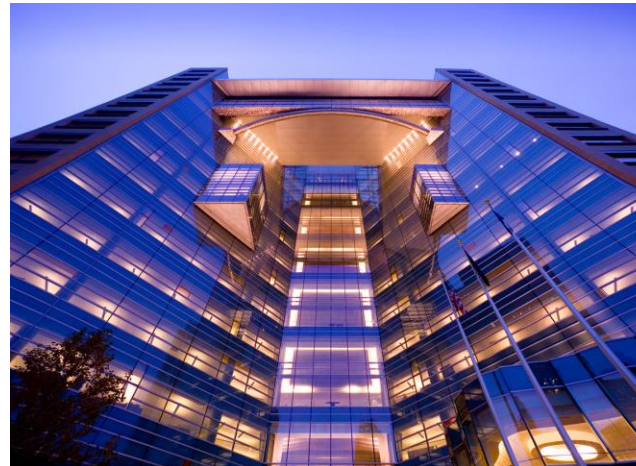
1.5 Job Density / Location Quotient

2,885 Businesses

\$9.4 B Gross Regional Product

\$121,000 Average Wages

Sources: Lightcast. Note: Industry cluster definition DRP Industry Cluster for the 11-County Detroit Region.



Detroit Region is America's Premier Technology Hub

Technology Talent Hub – More than 97,000 Workers

Including nearly 35,000 Software Developers in the Detroit Metro, 2025.

Detroit Ranks #3 Metro for Tech. Talent Quality vs. Costs

#1 for manufacturing tech. talent & top location for tech. graduates, 2025.

Two Regional Metros Rank as Top Spots for the AI Economy

Ann Arbor ranked as a star AI hub and Detroit as an emerging AI center, 2025.

Detroit has a Substantial Startup Exit Track Record

167 startup exits with a total exit value of \$72 billion from 2021-2025.

Six Unicorn Companies, More than \$10 Billion Valuation

Born in Detroit, making Michigan one of the top states for unicorn companies.

\$1.1 Billion Venture Capital Investments in the State

VC investments increased by 40% from 2019 to 2024 with 184 deals.

Sources: Lightcast, CBRE, Brookings Metro, Startup Genome & the Michigan Venture Capital Association.

TOP REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES



Note: Not a Comprehensive List of Company Logos.

Detroit's Innovative Technology Hub Makes National Headlines

Detroit is Emerging as One of America's Most Dynamic Innovation Ecosystems – [Startup Genome, 2026](#)

Ann Arbor and Detroit Rank As Two of the Nation's Top Echelon Locations for the AI Economy – [Brookings Metro, 2025](#)

Detroit's Manufacturing Renaissance: How Technology is Driving Innovation – [Detroit Free Press, 2025](#)

Detroit is a Top Location Attracting Startups and Technology Talent from Silicon Valley – [Hosting Advice, 2024](#)

Fastest Growing Spot for Startups is Detroit Due to Having What is Needed For A Thriving Startup – [PitchBook, 2023](#)

One of the Fastest Growing Tech Hubs for IT Talent – [CIO, 2022](#)

Detroit Should be Top of Mind for Founders – [Tech Crunch, 2021](#)



One of the Top-Ranking Regions Ready for the AI Economy

Two Top Ranking Metros for the AI Economy

Ann Arbor ranked **#15-star AI hub** and Detroit ranked **#35 emerging AI center**, out of 190 U.S. metros in 2025

Detroit is in the AI Talent & Innovation Cohort

One of ten metros that rank in the nation's top echelon AI talent (computer science degrees) density is higher than U.S. rates and contain influential institutions in AI research.

6,000+ Profiles / Resumes with AI Skills

Online worker profiles with AI related skills in the region.

More than 100 Startups Focused on AI

Located in the region creating AI-driven products.

More than 200 AI Publications Regionally

AI research papers published at top AI conferences.

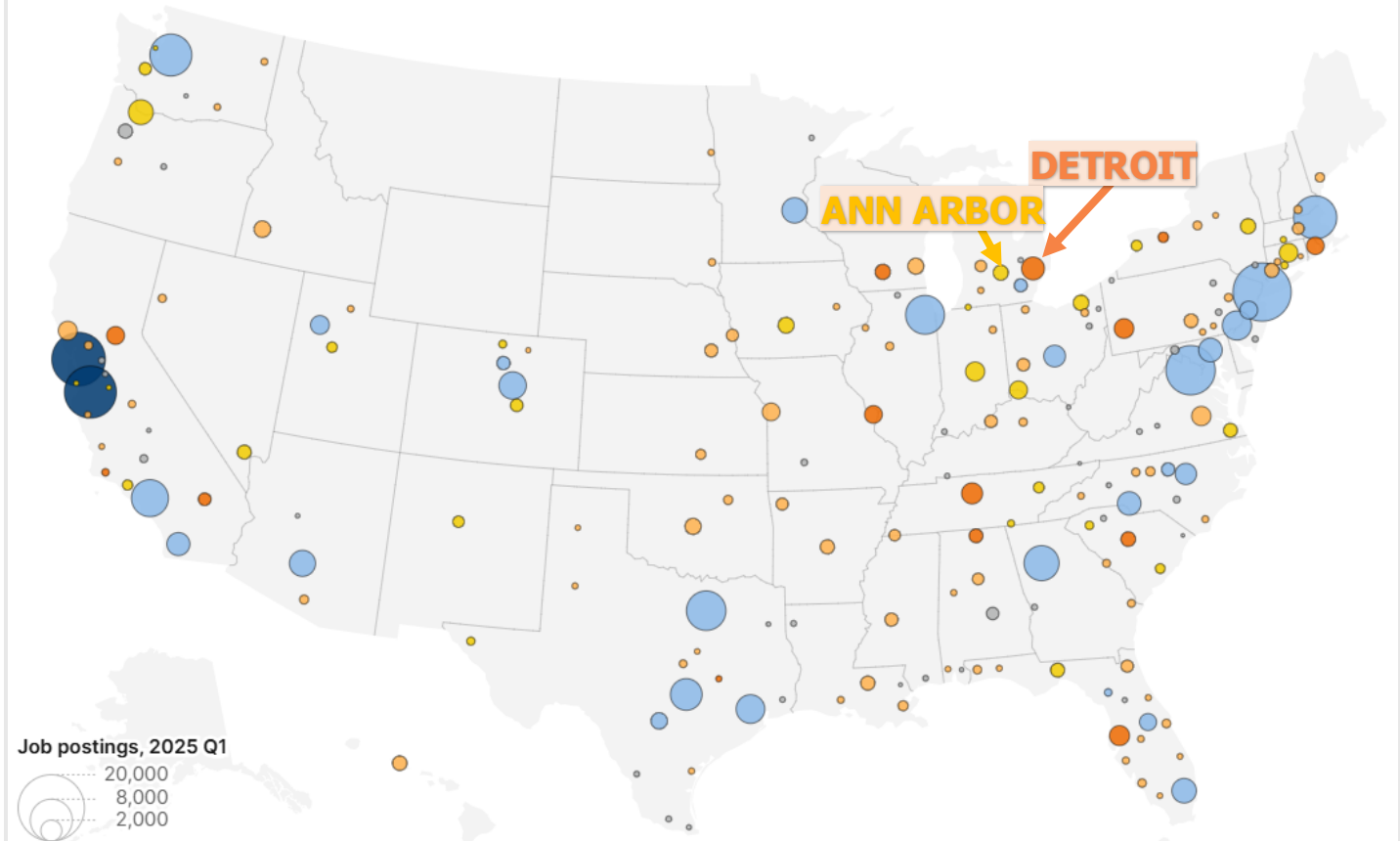
More than 100 Patents Granted Related to AI

Filed from regional residents, majority in Ann Arbor.

U.S. Metros by Job Postings Related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Q1 2025

AI cluster type

■ Superstars ■ Star Hubs ■ Emerging Centers ■ Focused Movers ■ Nascent Adopters ■ Others



Job postings, 2025 Q1



Sources: Mapping the AI Economy by Brookings Metro. Note: Detroit Region includes the Ann Arbor and Detroit Metros (MSAs).

Regional Technology Talent

Technology Talent and Workforce Overview

The Region Offers Affordable and Quality Technology Talent

97,916 TECHNOLOGY WORKERS, 2025



34,060 SOFTWARE DEV. & PROGRAMMERS

Increased by 16% in the Past Five-Years



12,135 COMPUTER SPECIALISTS

Low Turnover Rates & More Affordable Wages



9,680 COMPUTER & IT MANAGERS

Workers Increased by 23% Past Five Years



9,074 COMPUTER ANALYSTS

Talent Density 20% More than U.S. Average



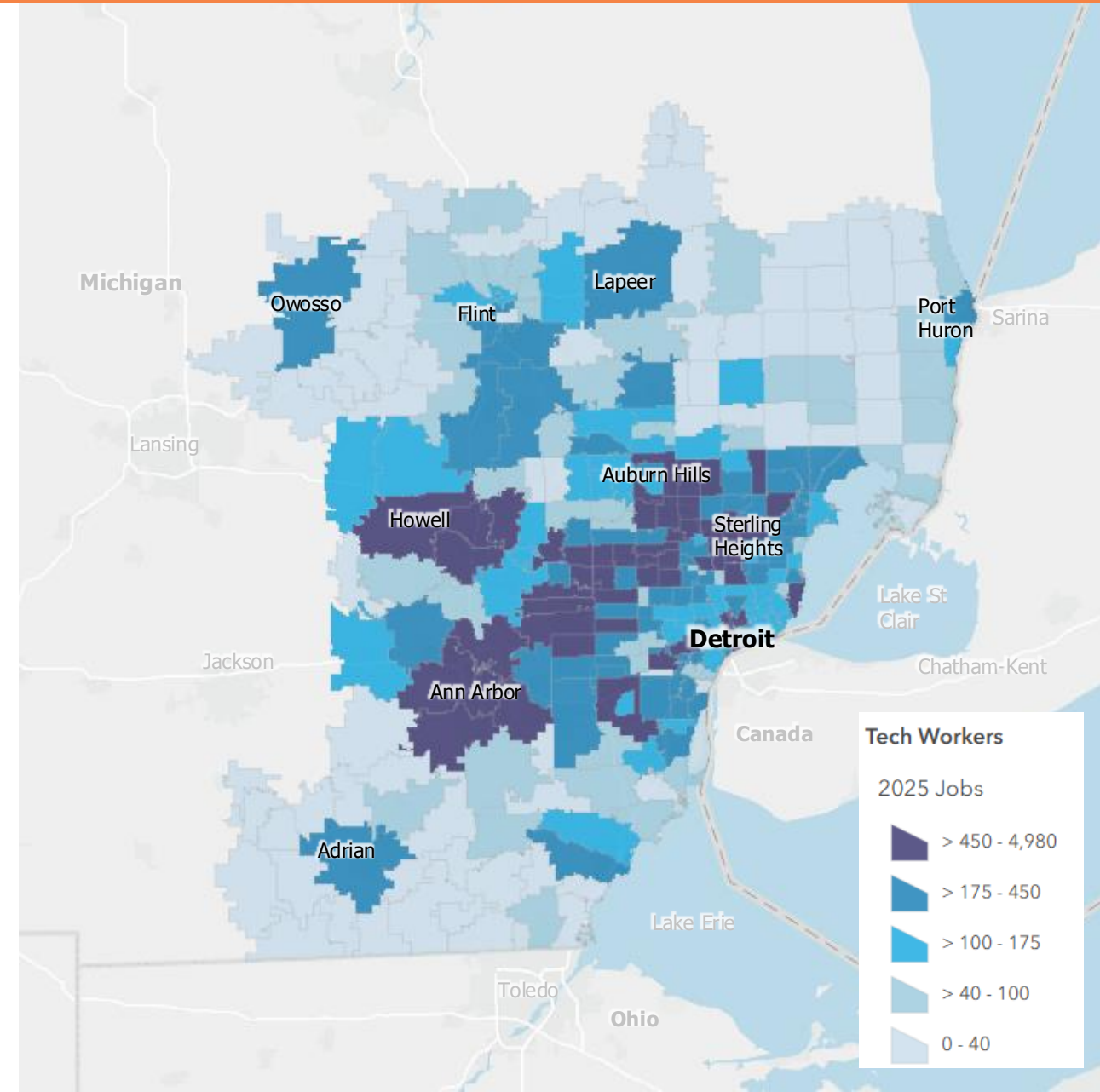
5,015 OTHER COMPUTER OCCUPATIONS

Increased by 15% in the Past Five-Years

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Technology definition defined by 21 five-digit occupations by CBRE.

Note: Location ranking is based MSA, using the 6-County Detroit MSA within the Detroit Region.



Detroit Ranks As A Top Spot For Quality Technology Talent

#3 for Tech. Talent Quality vs. Cost

Detroit Metro ranking out of top U.S. markets.

More than 97,000 Technology Workers

Including nearly 35,000 Software Developers and one of the most affordable tech. talent markets.

#1 for Manufacturing Tech. Talent

Nearly 25,000 workers in manufacturing technology.

Top Location for Recent Tech Grads

Ranked #10 for highest number of recent graduates with technology degrees with nearly 8,000.

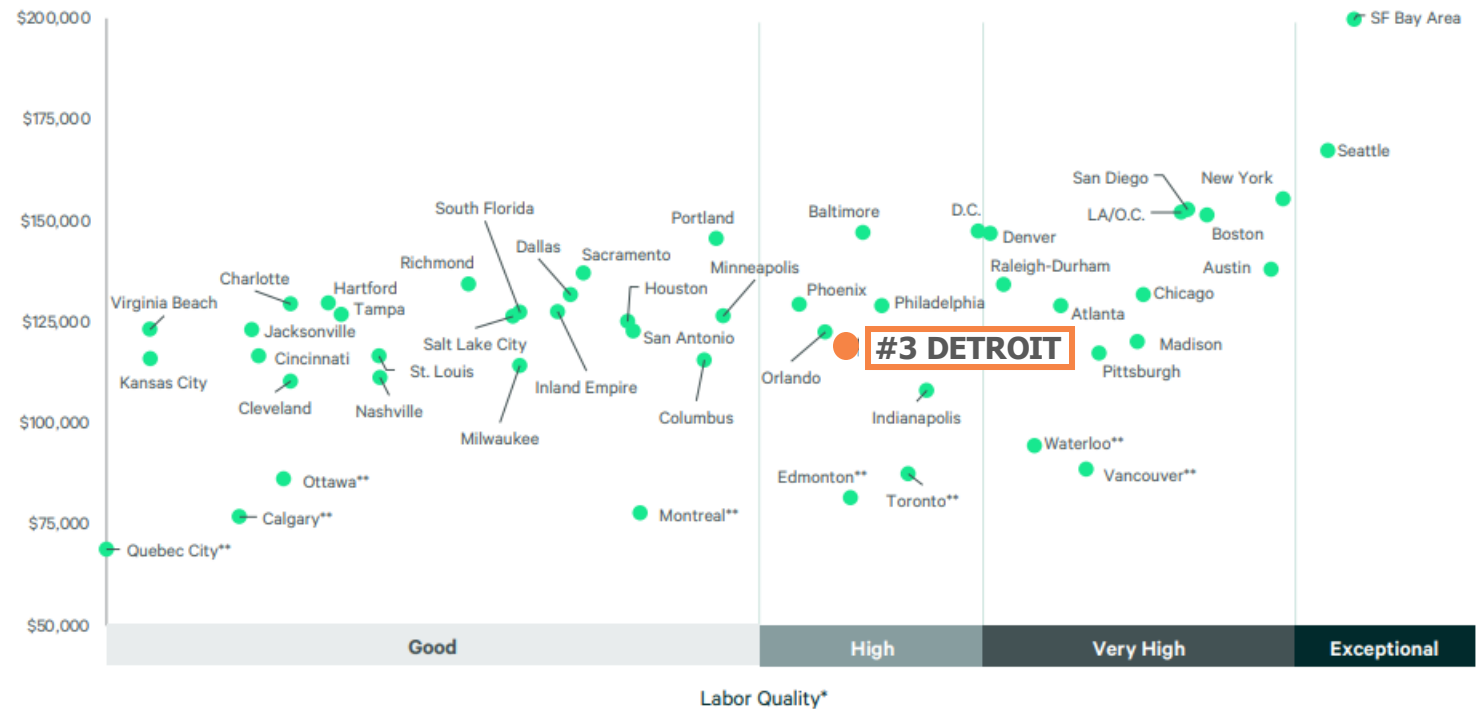
Growth in College-Educated Residents

In the past five-years, there was +20% growth of those in their 20s and +10% for those in their 30s.

Source: CBRE Research. Note: Data is for the 6-County Detroit MSA.

Technology Talent Quality vs. Cost Analysis Top Markets, 2025

Average Annual Salary for Software Engineer (USD)



*Labor quality is software developers with 3+ years of experience that have earned degrees from the top 25 computer information science programs.

Engineering Excellence – Top Ranking Region for Engineers

110,242

ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS, 2025



24,746 MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

#1 Nationally, Nearly Six-Times More Talent



19,174 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

#1 Nationally, Nearly Four-Times More Talent



10,045 ENGINEER MANAGERS

#2 Nationally, Grew by 23% Past Five-Years



9,588 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

#3 Nationally, Nearly Three-Times More Talent



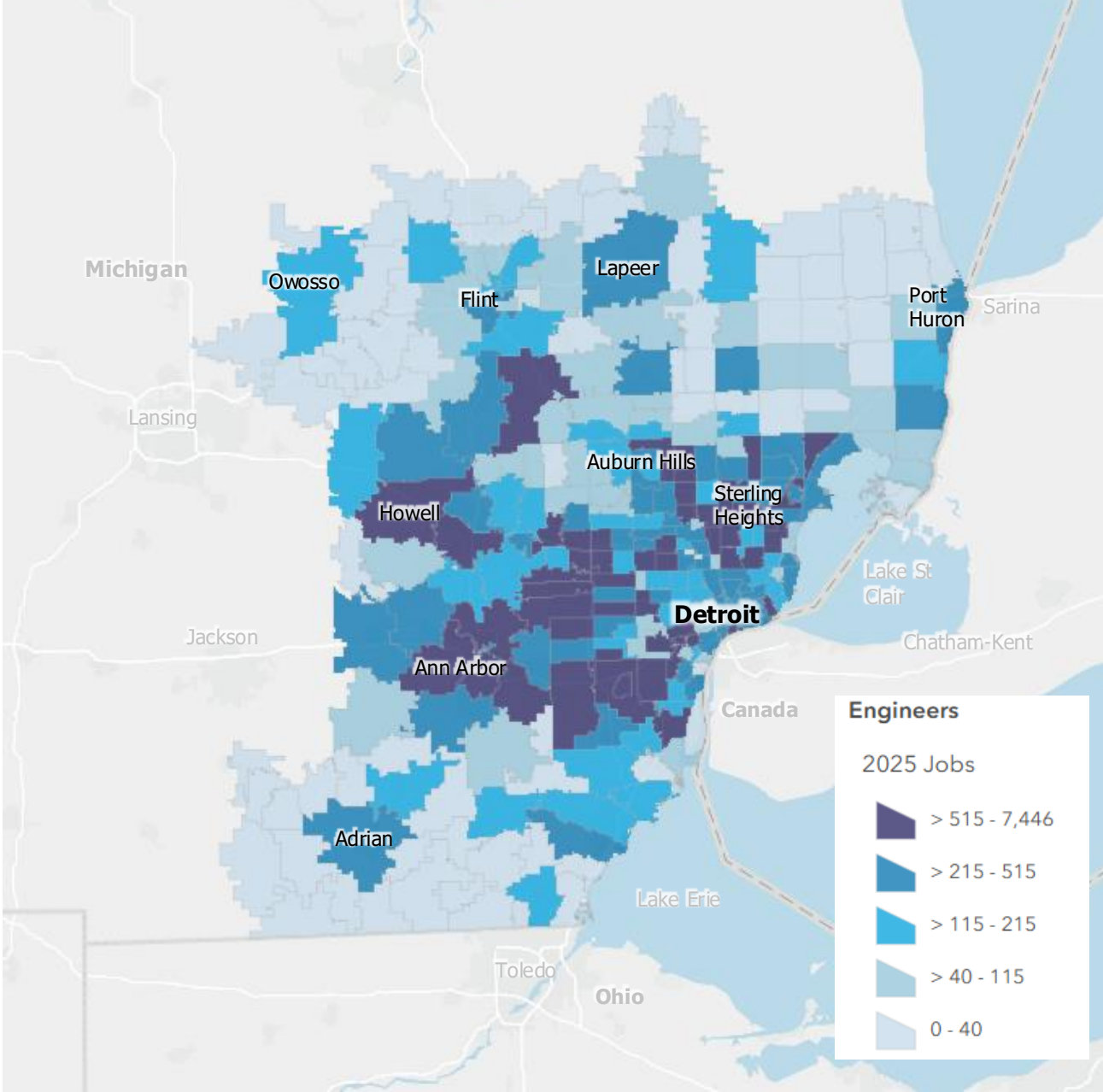
6,230 OTHER ENGINEERS

#4 Nationally, Grew by 20% Past Five-Years

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Includes all 26 occupations related to engineering under the 17-digit NAICS.

Note: Location ranking is based MSA, using the 6-County Detroit MSA within the Detroit Region



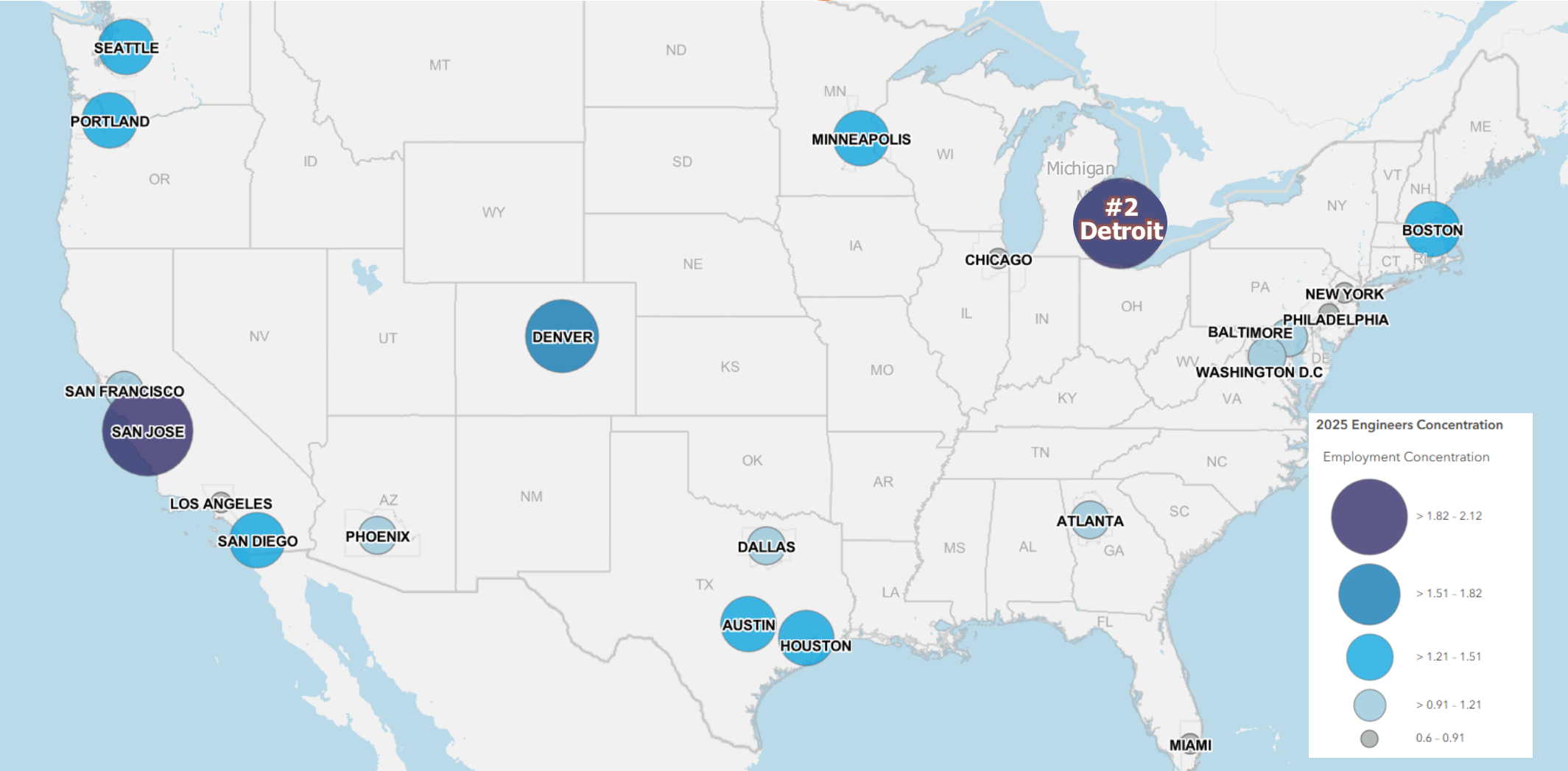
Detroit Leads the Nation in Engineering Density and Volume



THE DETROIT METRO HAS 94,957 ENGINEERS.
Ranking the fifth largest for engineering talent in 2025.



THE DETROIT METRO #2 FOR ENGINEERS PER CAPITA.
With more than two-times more talent than the U.S. average.



Source: Lightcast, Location Quotient (LQ) measures concentration, 1 is the U.S. average
Map Note: Top 21 Metros (MSAs) for 2025 Engineers & Detroit MSA is 6 counties within the 11-county Detroit Region

Technology Programs & Resources

Higher Education Technology Programs & Industry Resources

The Detroit Region's Technology Higher Education Advantage

200 Universities and Colleges Nearby

The Detroit Region can attract talent from some of the nation's top institutions within an average five-hour drive.

60,000 Tech. Program Completions

Within the drive-time radius, which the Detroit Region makes up nearly 15% of total completions in 2025.

+35% Growth in Tech. Completions

Five-year growth in information technology and engineering related completions in the region.

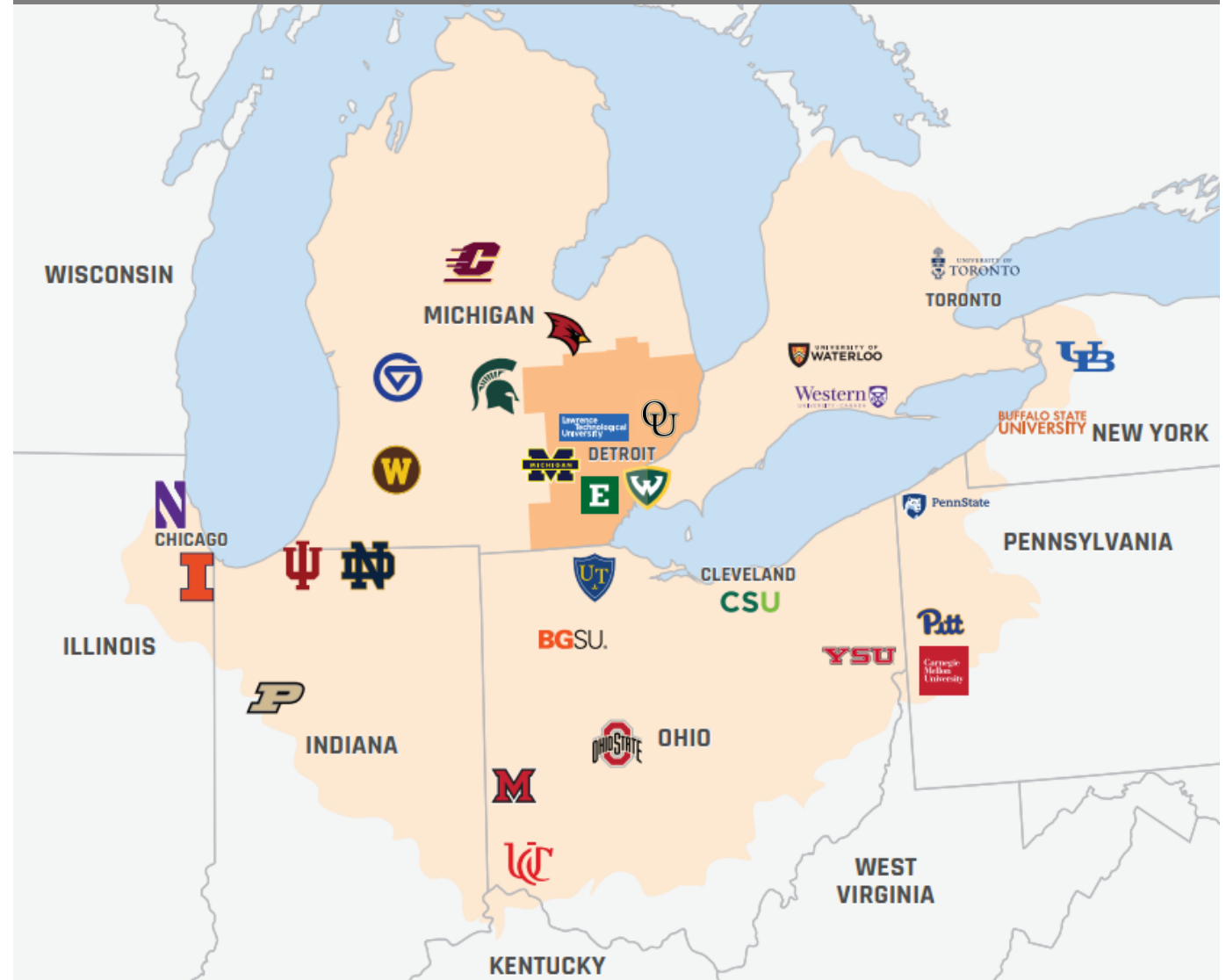
Top Related Technology Programs

By total completions in the Detroit Region, 2025:

- Computer & Information Science = 2,400
- Information Science = 800
- Computer / Information Technology Mgmt. = 600
- Computer Programming = 500
- Computer Science = 400
- Computer Software & Applications = 400
- Drafting / Design Engineering Technologies = 200

Source: Lightcast Note: Completions include certificates and degrees.

Notable Universities & Colleges within a Five-Hour Drive from the Region



Powering a Skilled Workforce for a Technology-Driven Future

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)



Select Programs & Degrees

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Robotics
- Data Science
- Cybersecurity
- Autonomous & Connected Vehicles
- Semiconductor Engineering

Notable Partnerships

- U-M Detroit Center for Innovation
- Mobility Transformation Center
- Ford-U-M Alliance

Michigan State University (Detroit)



Select Programs & Degrees

- Data Science & Analytics
- Cybersecurity
- Information Technology
- Supply Chain Management
- Engineering Management
- Business Analytics

Notable Partnerships

- MSU + Detroit Health Tech Partnership
- Corporate Partnerships in Mobility and Advanced Manufacturing

Wayne State University



Select Programs & Degrees

- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- AI and Intelligent Systems
- Game Design & Development
- Health Informatics

Notable Partnerships

- Mike Ilitch School of Business Tech Innovation Programs
- TechTown Detroit
- Industry-aligned co-op and internships

Oakland University



Select Programs & Degrees

- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Software Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics & Autonomous Systems
- Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Industrial)

Notable Partnerships

- Automation Alley
- OU FutureTech (robotics & smart manufacturing)
- Industry 4.0 testbeds and research collaborations

University of Detroit Mercy



Select Programs & Degrees

- Computer & Information Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Healthcare Technology Management

Notable Partnerships

- Industry advisory boards
- Co-op and internship programs with regional employers

Lawrence Technological University



Select Programs & Degrees

- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Software Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics Engineering
- Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
- Game Design

Notable Partnerships

- Center for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence
- Industry-sponsored capstone projects
- Local mobility and manufacturing partnerships

Macomb Community College



Select Programs & Certificates

- Cybersecurity
- Computer Information Systems
- Network Administration
- IT Support Specialist (Certificate)
- Automation & Robotics Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Mechatronics
- Industrial Technology

Notable Partnerships

- Macomb Advanced Technology Education Center (M-ATEC)
- Employer-driven training programs
- Stackable credentials for workforce entry

Oakland Community College



Select Programs & Certificates

- Cybersecurity
- Information Technology
- Data Analytics
- Automation & Robotics
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Cloud Computing (Certificate)

Notable Partnerships

- Advanced Technology Centers
- Industry-recognized certifications (e.g., AWS, CompTIA, Siemens)
- Workforce training for in-demand skills

Schoolcraft College



Select Programs & Certificates

- Computer Information Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Network Administration
- Information Security (Certificate)
- Software Development (Certificate)
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Robotics and Automation
- Electrical/Electronics Technology

Notable Partnerships

- Industry-aligned training
- Manufacturer and IT employer partnerships
- Apprenticeship and upskilling programs

Washtenaw Community College



Select Programs & Certificates

- Cybersecurity
- IT Networking
- Cloud Computing
- Data Analytics
- Automation & Mechatronics
- Computer Programming
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Semiconductor Technology (Certificate)

Notable Partnerships

- Workforce development programs
- Industry certification pathways
- Collaborations with regional employers

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

Colleges, universities, industry and community organizations are working together to grow Detroit's technology talent pipeline.



Mobility &
Automotive Innovation



Advanced
Manufacturing & Robotics



AI, Data &
Cybersecurity



Clean Energy
& Sustainability



Entrepreneurship
& Startups



Workforce Development
& Talent Retention



Newlab at Michigan Central is Powering Mobility Startups

NEWLAB is a 270,000 sq. ft. innovation hub in Detroit where startups, corporations, and public-sector partners work together to **commercialize next-generation mobility and industrial technologies**. Providing entrepreneurs access to advanced prototyping resources, pilot opportunities, and a network of industry partners to accelerate growth.

More than 1,000 Members at 300 Startups

Companies located and supported through Newlab.

\$14.7 Billion Increase in Member Valuation

\$4 Billion in VC raised and \$3 Billion in exits since 2017.

150+ Commercialization Projects Completed

With 60+ industry and government partners, providing access to the following infrastructure; Robotics & Electronics Lab, CNC & Metal Shop, 3D Printing, & Manufacturing Services.

Robust & Innovative Mobility Assets Here

Including the Advanced Aerial Innovation Region (AAIR) a 3-mile drone innovation corridor and Transportation Innovation Zone (TIZ) for rapid deployment of mobility technology.

Source: Newlab. Note: Not a comprehensive list of companies and partners.

Newlab

COMPANIES



PARTNERS



Detroit Region's Innovation Hubs Drive Business & Industry Growth

ANN ARBOR SPARK – For more than 15 years has helped tech companies navigate VC funding, with multiple programs, resources, and co-working space.

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TECHTOWN - More than 4,500 companies at the Midtown hub and across all the sites in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park, have leveraged +\$172 million in start-up capital from 2007-2020.

.....

CENTREPOLIS - Accelerating the growth of Detroit Region's advanced manufacturing, innovative hardware entrepreneurs and small manufacturers by providing access to funding experts, key business and product development resources.

.....

BAMBOO– Locations in Detroit and Royal Oak. Provides an inclusive community, flexible modern offices, classes and networking events to help entrepreneurs and innovative companies launch, land, or expand into the Detroit Region.

.....

UNDERGROUND PORT HURON - Focuses on business incubation, co-working & office leases and training programs.

.....

FLINT FERRIS WHEEL - Promote the exchange of information, ideas and resources within an accessible and high-energy workspace. Also engaging in grassroots outreach efforts to promote entrepreneurial education in the community. In 2019, Ferris Wheel achieved 92% occupancy.



From Skills to Careers: Technology Training Hubs in Detroit

GRAND CIRCUS – The apprenticeship program is building a strong pipeline of tech talent for Detroit’s fast-growing tech sector. In 2018, they trained more locally hired entry level software developers than any other program in any other state. The coding boot camps are designed to teach technical skills to become software engineers.

AMAZON & GRAND CIRCUS – The full-stack programming boot camp was formed out of a partnership between Grand Circus in Detroit and Amazon, the first cohort was in March 2022 and made up of diverse applicants.

- Utilizing the programming language Java as an introductory lens, the 28-week program will end with all graduates having the opportunity to interview for entry-level developer roles at Amazon’s Detroit Tech Hub.
-

TECH ELEVATOR – Located in Detroit, is a software development program that offers individuals and companies in-demand technology skills through a full-time 14-week coding boot camp that’s a part of a nationally recognized Pathway Program. More than 2,000 professionals have graduated, 90% of whom secured a job in software development roles at 400+ companies.

GOOGLE & FORD MOTOR COMPANY – Google, a founding member of the Michigan Central Mobility Innovation District, elevated technical training with the Google Career Certificate and a coding lab at the new Ford Mobility Train Station.

- Ford Motor Company has given existing employees access to the Google reskilling certificate programs and graduates are considered for technical jobs at Ford plants / research hub.
- Code Next, an immersive computer science education program for local Detroit high school offers live coaches to build digital skills, state-of-the-art technical equipment, content ranging from Javascript to UX design, and more.



Regional Technology Ecosystem

Venture Capital Growth, Industry Assets, and Technology Infrastructure

A Hotspot for Venture Capital and High-Growth Opportunities

\$1.1 Billion Venture Capital Investments

VC investments increased by nearly 40% from 2020 to 2024.

182 VC Deals Secured in Michigan Annually

Majority of the deals are occurred in metro Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Robust Industries Leading Venture Capital Here

Companies securing VC funding is mainly focused on life sciences, advanced manufacturing and technology – **specifically uptick in AI.**

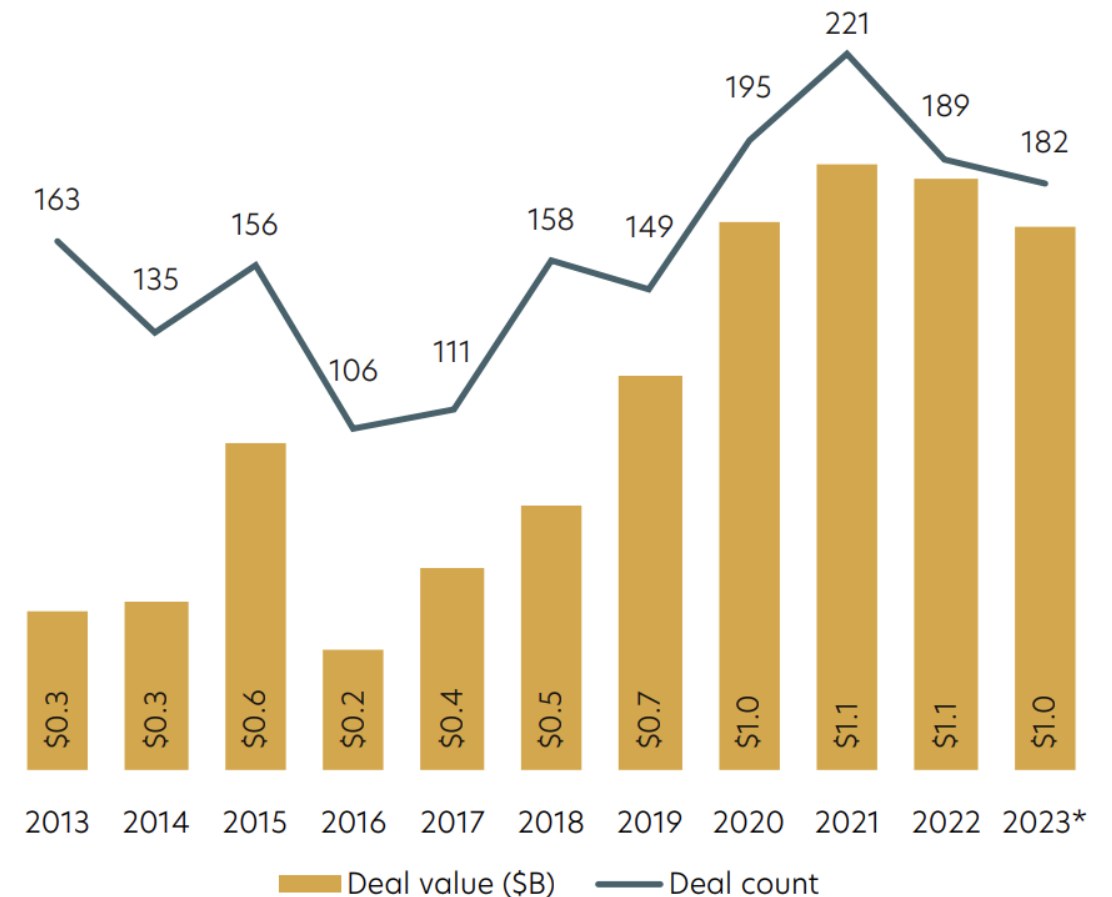
Notable Regional Companies Receiving VC Funding

The largest deals secured in 2023 by the following companies;

- **\$300 Million** - Our Next Energy, battery tech. developer
- **\$109 Million** – May Mobility, autonomous transport software
- **\$75 million** – Censys, cybersecurity provider

Sources: Michigan Venture Capital Association, Pitchbook

Michigan VC Deal Activity



Billion-Dollar Startup Outcomes, Regional Unicorn Companies

Michigan-Born Unicorns Demonstrate the Region's Ability to Build Globally Scaled Technology Companies

These companies span robust industries illustrating the breadth of Michigan's technology ecosystem beyond automotive.

Duo Security



Founded in Ann Arbor, Duo Security became Michigan's first unicorn, reaching a **valuation above \$1 billion before being acquired by Cisco for \$2.35 billion** in 2018. The cybersecurity company continues to have a strong presence in Southeast Michigan and has become a notable example of Michigan's ability to build globally scaled software companies.

LLamasoft



Ann Arbor-based LLamasoft developed supply-chain design and optimization software used by companies around the world. **Coupa acquired LLamasoft in 2020, creating one of Michigan's early billion-dollar technology success stories** and demonstrating the region's strength in enterprise software and supply-chain technology.

OneStream



Founded in Rochester, OneStream developed a cloud-based platform that brings together financial planning, reporting, consolidation and operational data for large enterprises. The company went public before being **acquired by Hg for approximately \$6.4 billion** in 2026, with OneStream continuing to focus on AI-enabled finance technology.

StockX



Founded in Detroit, StockX created a technology-driven marketplace for authenticated sneakers, streetwear, electronics, collectibles and other high-demand products. The company has grown into a global e-commerce platform with Detroit remaining its headquarters, making it **one of the most prominent technology companies to emerge from the city**.

HistoSonics



Ann Arbor-based HistoSonics developed histotripsy, a non-invasive ultrasound technology designed to destroy tumors without needles, incisions or radiation. The University of Michigan spinout had a **\$2.25 billion acquisition** in 2025, highlighting Southeast Michigan's ability to commercialize university research into globally significant medical technology.



"Any real developer or engineer would tell you that tech development is gritty, bare-knuckled, nose-to-the-grindstone and takes hard work and perseverance. And those are the two elements **Detroit was built on, and thrives on, and that's what makes it a strong (and growing) tech hub.**" – Quantum Signal AI, CEO, Mitch Rohde, PhD

"Detroit is helping to redefine the future of business, innovation, and culture. It offers unparalleled access to a vibrant community, infrastructure, diverse talent, and resources to fuel everyone from emerging startups to large-scale operations."
– Detroit Labs, Creative Director, David Klawitter

"The positive environment for investment and startup growth in the Greater Detroit area is driven primarily by the large amount of tech talent along with lower costs for startup resources and there's a strong support network that exist here."
– Tech Elevator Campus Director, Rita Stall

"Many tech companies are choosing Southeast Michigan as their home base in part because of the work force that already exists here - the tech community is established and being a part of one tech company means you're automatically part of a larger community." – Bamboo, CEO & Co-Founder, Amanda Lewan

Infrastructure to Support the Next Generation of Technology

The Detroit Region has a growing technology infrastructure base that supports high-speed connectivity, cloud computing, data centers and emerging AI applications. A combination of extensive fiber networks, internet exchange infrastructure, carrier connectivity and expanding high-density computing **capacity provides the digital backbone for the region's technology, mobility, advanced manufacturing and innovation economy.**

01



FIBER

4,000+ miles of commercial fiber infrastructure

02



INTERNET EXCHANGE

85+ DET-iX (Detroit Internet Exchange) members

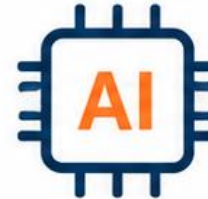
03



DATA CENTERS

Multiple enterprise & colocation facilities

04



AI COMPUTE

GPU-ready / high-density computing capacity

05



CLOUD & CONNECTIVITY

20+ carrier connections at major facilities

06



SMART INFRASTRUCTURE

Municipal fiber, connected buildings & digital access

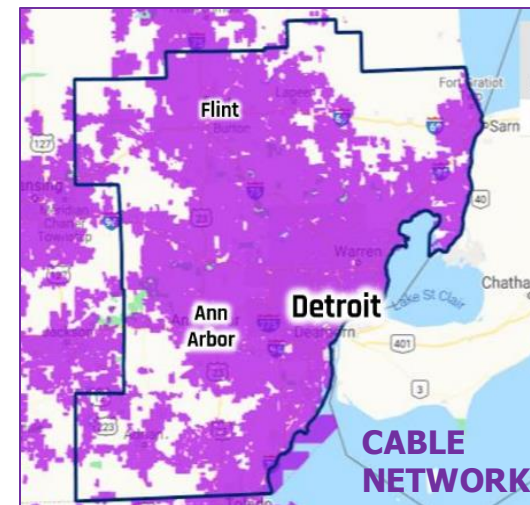
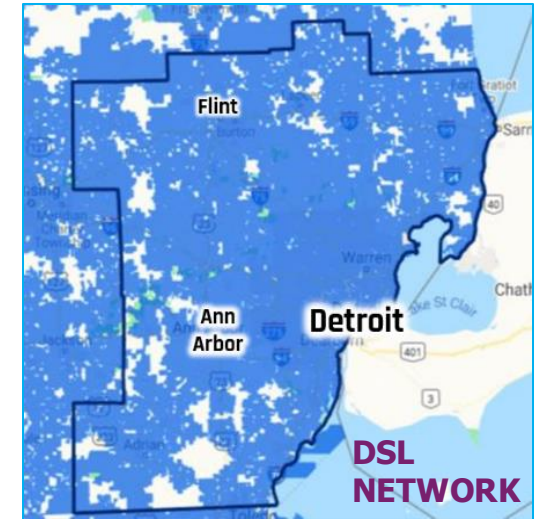
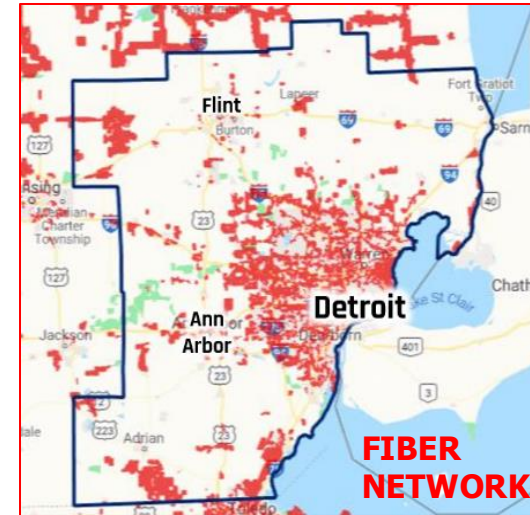
Infrastructure That Power Innovation in the Detroit Region

The Detroit Region and state is equipped with the technology infrastructure to support the increasing demand of connected technology and businesses. Residents have a higher than national average access rate to the internet with robust carrier options and a variety of speeds to suit all capabilities.

- More than 93% of households have access to internet in the Detroit Metro in 2022, which access to internet has increased in the past two years.
- Michigan was awarded \$1.5 billion in federal grants in 2023 to set up high-speed internet access in communities that need it.
- IDC Governmental Insights recognized both Ann Arbor and Detroit in their Smart Cities Awards in 2019 - designed to recognize progress cities have made in various areas, including civic engagement, smart water and sustainable infrastructure.

PROVIDER:	TYPE:	DOWNLOAD SPEEDS:
Xfinity	Cable	1200 Mbps
WOW!	Cable	1244 Mbps
HughesNet	Geo Satellite	50 Mbps
Viasat	Satellite	100 Mbps

Note; Not a comprehensive list of internet carriers. Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, GIS Planning & Broadband Search



Contact the **DRP**

Invest in the Detroit Region and Contact the Detroit Regional Partnership

DRP is an economic development 501(C)(3) nonprofit that offers confidential, no-cost assistance to domestic and international companies seeking to explore and invest in the 11-county Detroit Region.

DRP SERVICES

- Single Point of Contact
- Regional Data & Business Intelligence
- Real Estate & Industrial Site Readiness
- Incentives & Talent Solutions
- Private Service Connections

DRP CONTACT

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