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# Sun Sentinel

## Tech workers fielding more job options, survey finds

By Marcia Heroux Pounds, Sun Sentinel

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South Florida's technology workers are finding more job options as demand for their skills grows, advertisement a new survey by the ProTech staffing firm in [Boca Raton](#) indicates.

A separate ProTech survey of executives shows high demand for specialty technology workers in the region.

"We are seeing especially high demand for software engineers and web developers," said Deborah Vazquez, ProTech's chief executive.

The annual talent survey, released Monday, shows that 87 percent of technology workers say they would leave their current jobs for a better opportunity, compared with 85 percent last year.

More tech workers — 45 percent compared with 36 percent a year ago — said they would be willing to move out of Florida for a new opportunity. Fifty-five percent said they would not consider moving, compared with 64 percent in 2012.

Despite growth during recent years in South Florida's technology employment, 61 percent point to the region's "limited job market" as the reason for seeking a job outside the state.

"We've seen a real jump in people willing to relocate people to bring in the right talent," Vazquez said. "We're back to the war for talent in the tech space."

ProTech surveyed more than 21,000 IT professionals in South Florida in the talent survey. In the second survey, it questioned 800 executives, from IT directors to chief information officers.

Alex Funkhouser, president of Sherlock Tech Staffing in South Florida, said one problem is South Florida has "low salaries relative to the larger markets."

But higher pay can reap rewards when a developer's technology takes off, he said. "A \$20,000 difference in salary for a senior software developer can make a \$20 million difference in a company's success," he said.

The average salary in IT management is \$165,000, while a product manager can command \$127,000 and a data architect \$122,000, according to the survey.

Pay increases were reported to be 6 percent in 2013 compared with 5 percent in 2012, surveyed workers said. Tech workers say the perks they look for are telecommuting and equity, according to the survey.

Sixty-five percent of technology employers say they plan to hire in 2014, up from 64 percent a year ago. Thirty-four percent of employers said their workforce increased in 2013 while 44 percent said their staffing stayed the same.

Of the information technology leaders interviewed for the survey, 65 percent said they're concerned about losing talented staff members during 2014.

ProTech surveyed more than 800 IT director-to-chief information officer level executives in South Florida for the survey, its 12th annual.

More than 21,000 IT professionals in South Florida were surveyed in the talent survey.

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