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Forbes: Austin No. 2 most innovative

Austin Business Journal

Austin was ranked No. 2 on a [Forbes.com](#) listing of the nation's "most innovative" cities.

To no one's surprise, Silicon Valley technology mecca San Jose, Calif. took the crown on the list ranking 100 of the nation's largest metros. Cities were lined up according to its patents per person, venture capital investment per capita, and finally, its ratio of high-tech, science and "creative" jobs.

[U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#) reported Austin having about 2,900 filings in the year considered, from laser-guided pet nail clippers to an explosive chemical detector for microphones. Austin and Round Rock averaged about 2 and 1.7 patents for every thousand residents in the past 12 months, according to Forbes.

The report said Austin benefits from such resident innovators as Round Rock-based [Dell Inc.](#) and [Freescale Semiconductor Inc.](#) The [University of Texas](#)'s Cockrell School of Engineering and [IBM](#) Corp's Austin research lab were also cited as the city's "secret weapon." IBM's Austin office has produced more patents than any other of the companies development centers.

IBM is Travis County's second largest employer with 6,239 workers.

Raleigh, N.C. took the 3rd spot on the list, followed by San Francisco (No. 4), Seattle (No. 5), San Diego (No. 6), Madison, Wis. (No. 7); Boston, Mass. (No. 8); Provo, Utah (No. 9); and Portland, Ore. (No. 10).

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