

Explosion of U.S. tech jobs concentrated in just five metro areas, study finds

The explosion of top-tier tech jobs has clustered in a handful of coastal hubs, expanding the wealth and innovation differential that's draining talent from the rest of the nation, new research shows.

Just five metro areas — Boston, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle — snapped up 90% of the 256, 063 tech jobs created from 2005 to 2017, according to a study released Monday from The Brookings Institution. The remaining 10% was **divvied** up among 377 urban areas.

divvy 分摊

The research looked at employment in 13 "innovation industries," which they defined as fields where at least 45% of the workforce has STEM degrees and where research and development investment per worker is \$20, 000 or higher. The industries range from aerospace to chemical engineering to software and data processing.

"These places enjoy the benefits of what economists call cumulative causation," the report says, "through which their earlier knowledge and firm advantages now attract even more talented workers, start-ups, and investment, creating a **gravitational** pull toward the nation's critical innovation sectors while simultaneously draining key talent and business activity from other places."

gravitational 引力的

The trend creates its own set of problems for the tech hubs, the authors note, including **skyrocketing** housing costs, **worsening** traffic, and wage expectations that can freeze out smaller companies.

skyrocketing 突涨; 飞升

worsening 恶化; 变坏

But the economic prosperity is significant: in the 20 cities with the most employment in innovation industries, the average output per worker is \$109, 443, according to the report. That's one-third more than the other 363 metropolitan areas nationwide.