If you’re a software engineer, where should you live to maximize your income? Moving and storage company SpareFoot analyzed what it says was an exclusive batch of data obtained from ZipRecruiter covering the 30 days ending 1 May 2018. SpareFoot offers online tools for booking self-storage facilities, so it keeps its eye on people who are relocating, hence its interest in software engineering careers.

The company narrowed the list to the 25 U.S. metropolitan areas with the most opportunities for software engineers, as determined by dividing the number of job openings listed on ZipRecruiter by the number of active job seekers in each area. SpareFoot then took the median software engineering salary for each area, as determined by PayScale, and adjusted that according to cost-of-living data from AreaVibes. Finally, it combined the real adjusted salary data with the opportunity data, giving double weight to the opportunity data. Got that?

After churning these numbers, SpareFoot came out with San Antonio on top, with Dallas, Houston, and Austin joining it in the top 10. It’s a bit suspicious that so many Texas cities did so well, given that SpareFoot is located in Austin, so its formula construction may reflect a bit of hometown bias.

What about cities outside of the United States? SpareFoot is working on collecting additional data and expects to have an updated list toward the end of 2018.

In addition to SpareFoot’s calculated rankings, I took apart the data the company provided to date, listing cities by adjusted average salaries and by software engineer demand. Detroit came out on top in terms of salary and Baltimore in terms of opportunity. The top 25 appear in the chart. —TEKLA S. PERRY

A version of this article appears in our View From the Valley blog.