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Technical Communicator

Salary Survey

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1997 Technical Communicator Salary Survey

THE SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION recently surveyed a random sample of its members regarding their current salaries and benefits. Questionnaires were mailed to approximately 2,000 members residing in the United States or Canada who were employed as writers/editors. More than 900 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of slightly greater than 45 percent.

Results are given separately for the United States and Canada.

Salary Percentiles

The tables on the following pages show the salary data for technical writers/editors residing in the United States or Canada. The salary data is presented by selected groupings and shown in percentiles. All figures are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated.

The following definitions pertain:

- Base:** The total responses in a given category.
- Mean:** The value computed by averaging the tabulated responses.
- 10%** Ten percent of the responses were below this value; ninety percent were above this value.
- 25%** Twenty-five percent of the responses were below this value; seventy-five percent were above this value.
- 50%** Fifty percent of the responses were below this value; fifty percent were above this value. (This is also called the *median*.)
- 75%** Seventy-five percent of the responses were below this value; twenty-five percent were above this value.
- 90%** Ninety percent of the responses were below this value; ten percent were above this value.

1997 United States Salary Survey

Grouping	Base	Mean	10%	25%
Total	643	\$46,750	\$32,000	\$37,500
Employment Level				
Entry	29	32,910	—	29,790
Mid-Level, Non-supervisory	368	43,190	31,580	36,000
Mid-Level, Management	122	51,920	36,000	43,000
Senior Management, Non-supervisory	63	53,980	40,060	44,390
Senior Management	10	70,390	—	—
Education Level				
Bachelor's Degree	377	45,090	31,000	35,680
Master's Degree	169	49,940	34,950	40,000
Doctorate	14	55,810	—	—
Sex				
Female	413	45,370	31,000	36,600
Male	230	49,210	33,000	39,000
Age				
20-29	106	36,490	27,000	30,700
30-39	209	45,620	32,830	37,230
40-49	207	50,680	35,890	41,000
50 years and over	120	51,030	34,000	42,000
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)				
Less than 2 years	46	39,180	—	31,000
2-5 years	159	39,030	28,940	32,380
6-10 years	218	47,290	34,000	39,500
11 years or more	217	53,660	39,700	44,560

(By selected groupings)

10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
\$32,000	\$37,500	\$45,000	\$53,000	\$62,000
—	29,790	32,000	34,480	—
31,580	36,000	41,700	50,000	55,000
36,000	43,000	51,250	58,600	65,000
40,060	44,390	50,000	60,140	74,850
—	—	51,500	—	—
31,000	35,680	43,000	52,000	60,000
34,950	40,000	48,000	56,000	64,100
—	—	55,000	—	—
31,000	36,600	44,860	52,530	60,000
33,000	39,000	45,550	55,000	66,100
27,000	30,700	35,000	40,000	49,100
32,830	37,230	44,600	52,000	59,020
35,890	41,000	49,000	56,000	66,300
34,000	42,000	49,000	58,000	70,000
—	31,000	37,000	44,500	—
28,940	32,380	37,000	44,700	52,050
34,000	39,500	45,000	52,150	60,000
39,700	44,560	51,300	60,000	70,120

1997 Canadian Salary Survey

(All figures in Canadian dollars)

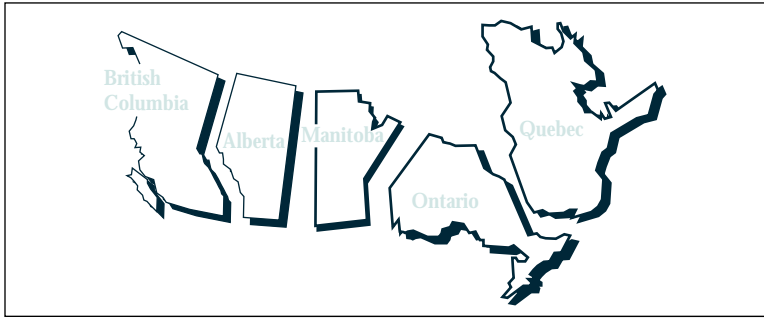
Grouping	Base	Mean	10%	25%
Total	211	\$47,510	\$34,000	\$39,270
Employment Level				
Entry	13	30,420	—	—
Mid-Level, Non-supervisory	114	47,030	35,000	39,000
Mid-Level, Management	53	50,660	35,000	42,890
Senior Management, All	18	50,760	—	—
Education Level				
Bachelor's Degree	129	47,170	34,900	40,130
Master's Degree	43	46,000	—	37,880
Sex				
Female	143	47,200	34,300	39,000
Male	65	47,540	32,000	39,090
Age				
20-29	38	41,980	—	33,000
30-39	83	45,880	34,300	38,880
40-49	68	51,210	39,800	44,500
50 years and over	21	50,600	—	42,250
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)				
Less than 2 years	21	36,370	—	30,000
2-5 years	77	43,960	33,000	35,530
6-10 years	62	51,990	40,000	45,000
11 years or more	45	52,800	—	46,500

(By selected groupings)

10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
\$34,000	\$39,270	\$46,500	\$52,000	\$60,000
—	—	31,000	—	—
35,000	39,000	45,000	49,900	54,000
35,000	42,890	52,000	57,750	63,400
—	—	50,750	—	—
34,900	40,130	47,500	51,660	55,650
—	37,880	46,500	54,000	—
34,300	39,000	46,500	52,000	60,000
32,000	39,090	46,000	52,000	59,000
—	33,000	38,000	44,000	—
34,300	38,880	47,500	52,000	55,070
39,800	44,500	48,700	53,300	62,200
—	42,250	50,000	57,250	—
—	30,000	36,000	42,880	—
33,000	35,530	42,000	46,930	52,300
40,000	45,000	50,000	52,750	59,110
—	46,500	54,000	59,500	—

Median Canadian Salary by Province

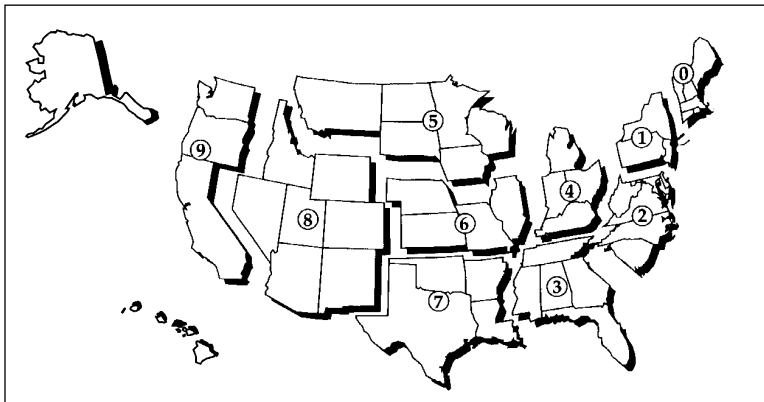
(All figures in Canadian dollars)



Province	Median Salary	Province	Median Salary
Alberta	\$46,000	Ontario	\$48,000
British Columbia	45,000	Quebec	45,000
Manitoba	40,000		

(Only the provinces for which data is available are shown.)

Median U.S. Salary by One-Digit Zip Codes



Zip Code	Salary	Zip Code	Salary
0****	\$50,000	5****	\$40,000
1****	46,260	6****	41,200
2****	42,000	7****	47,650
3****	41,200	8****	42,000
4****	40,500	9****	51,000

Median U.S. Salary by Two-Digit Zip Codes

01 MA	\$53,000	50 IA	\$40,700
02 MA/RI	50,000	53 WI	37,250
03 NH	59,500	55 MN	40,000
06 CT	41,500	60 IL	44,500
07 NJ	48,000	75 TX	48,000
10 NY	58,000	76 TX	46,500
14 NY	49,450	77 TX	52,000
15 PA	41,500	78 TX	35,000
19 DE/PA	44,520	80 CO	43,680
20 DC/MD/VA	50,000	84 UT	41,000
21 MD	44,000	85 AZ	38,750
22 VA	46,750	87 NM	45,000
27 NC	40,000	90 CA	50,000
30 GA	40,000	91 CA	48,900
32 FL	45,000	92 CA	48,000
37 TN	44,860	93 CA	48,500
43 OH	44,110	94 CA	56,250
44 OH	39,500	95 CA	57,650
45 OH	46,000	97 OR	41,000
46 IN	40,000	98 WA	41,500
48 MI	39,000		

(Only the two-digit zip codes for which data is available are shown.)

Median Salary

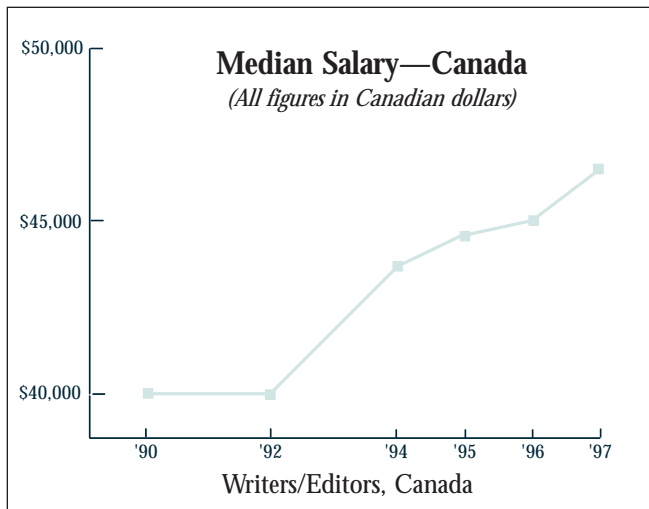
United States

This is the eighth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for U.S. members. The graph below shows the change in the actual median salaries over time.



Canada

This is the sixth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for Canadian members. The graph below shows the change in the actual median salaries over time.

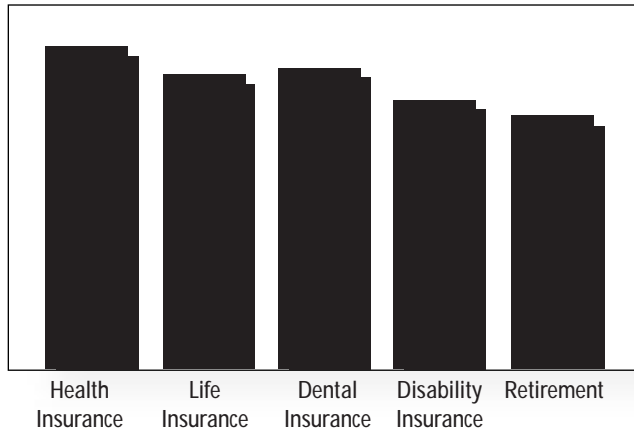


Additional Compensation

This survey addressed some of the most common benefits for technical writers/editors residing in the United States or Canada. The results are shown in the graphs below.

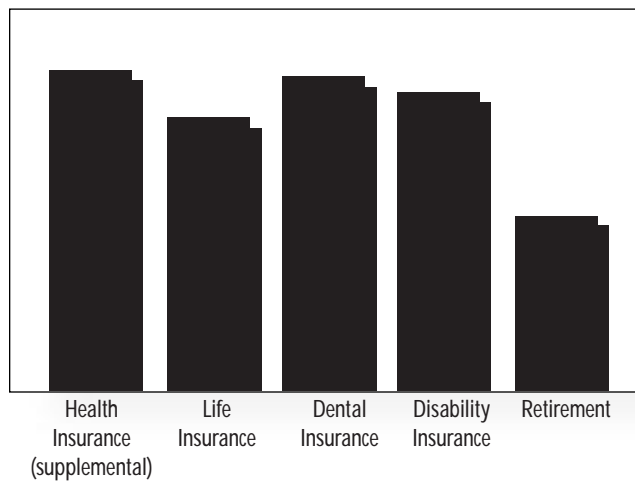
United States Benefits

Writers/Editors, U.S.
(Percent receiving benefits)



Canadian Benefits

Writers/Editors, Canada
(Percent receiving benefits)



About the Society for Technical Communication

STC is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication—it is the largest organization of its type in the world. Its 21,000 members include technical writers, editors, graphic designers, videographers, multimedia artists, and others whose work involves making technical information available to those who need it.

Through the efforts of a small, full-time staff and a large network of volunteers, STC promotes the public welfare by educating its members and industry about issues concerning technical communication.

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