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TECHNICAL  
COMMUNICATOR



SALARY SURVEY



Supplement to

Intercom

Vol. 46, No. 8

September/October 1999



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# 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 3,400 members residing in the United States or Canada who were employed as technical writers/editors. More than 1,500 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of slightly greater than 44 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. or Canadian dollars as indicated.

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.

# 1999 UNITED STATES SALARY SURVEY

(all figures in U.S. dollars)

Grouping	Base	Mean
Total	952	\$47,560
<b>Employment Level</b> .....		
Entry	76	36,870
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	321	45,070
Mid-Level, Supervisory	86	53,800
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	355	56,360
Senior-Level, Supervisory	129	58,970
<b>Education Level</b> .....		
Bachelor's Degree	565	50,520
Master's Degree	259	52,330
Doctorate	19	59,260
<b>Sex</b> .....		
Female	661	50,530
Male	287	52,150
<b>Age</b> .....		
20-29	136	37,970
30-39	289	47,880
40-49	319	49,630
50 years and over	199	50,240
<b>Years of Experience</b> .....		
<b>(in technical communication field)</b>		
Less than 2 years	45	37,800
2-5 years	291	40,410
6-10 years	252	49,100
11 years or more	347	53,840

(by selected groupings)

10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
\$35,000	\$40,500	\$49,000	\$60,000	\$70,000
28,800	32,000	35,000	40,000	45,400
34,300	38,030	43,500	50,000	58,000
37,300	44,070	51,900	63,250	72,280
41,450	47,000	54,000	63,000	74,670
41,670	47,630	57,500	69,500	80,000
35,000	40,000	48,000	60,000	69,000
35,450	40,920	50,000	61,130	70,100
—	—	55,000	—	—
34,510	40,000	48,500	60,000	68,950
36,940	41,550	49,200	59,130	70,000
30,000	34,500	39,150	45,800	52,000
35,500	40,030	48,000	58,450	68,000
38,000	44,000	50,400	52,000	55,000
37,530	44,580	54,000	62,500	75,300
28,100	31,850	35,500	42,000	52,520
32,140	37,000	42,000	48,810	59,310
38,550	43,000	49,750	60,000	70,000
41,350	48,000	55,100	65,000	80,000

# 1999 CANADIAN SALARY SURVEY

(all figures in Canadian dollars)

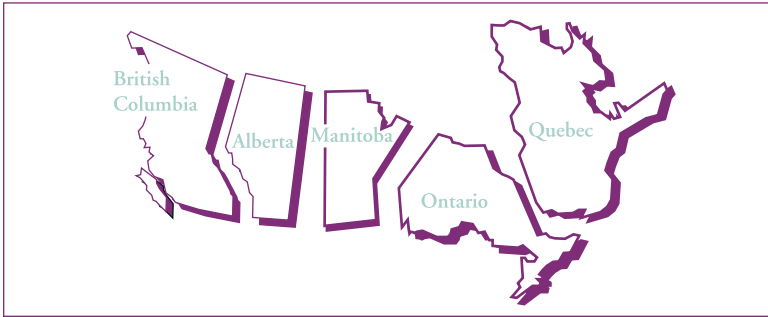
Grouping	Base	Mean
Total	285	\$47,700
<b>Employment Level</b> .....		
Entry	25	35,680
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	112	44,130
Mid-Level, Supervisory	39	49,480
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	59	52,010
Senior-Level, Supervisory	63	56,880
<b>Education Level</b> .....		
Bachelor's Degree	173	46,660
Master's Degree	60	49,710
<b>Sex</b> .....		
Female	183	46,780
Male	98	49,530
<b>Age</b> .....		
20-29	56	40,940
30-39	115	47,070
40-49	80	51,030
50 years and over	32	53,150
<b>Years of Experience</b> .....		
<b>(in technical communication field)</b>		
Less than 2 years	28	40,920
2-5 years	107	42,450
6-10 years	88	50,630
11 years or more	62	55,720

(by selected groupings)

10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
\$36,200	\$42,200	\$49,000	\$55,520	\$62,500
—	35,000	37,820	41,900	—
35,000	40,000	44,500	49,000	54,900
—	44,750	52,000	62,000	—
47,140	50,000	53,000	58,250	62,000
45,250	50,000	56,000	67,130	75,000
35,000	41,030	48,000	54,000	60,030
40,000	44,000	50,050	57,000	62,500
36,000	41,480	48,500	54,000	62,000
37,970	43,650	50,100	57,250	62,800
32,620	35,000	40,000	46,000	57,000
37,750	42,580	49,000	53,250	60,000
43,500	47,000	52,150	60,000	67,500
—	48,000	54,850	60,000	—
—	37,000	40,000	45,000	—
35,000	38,030	43,000	49,400	57,000
42,600	47,700	52,000	56,500	65,500
45,400	49,750	56,350	62,250	70,000

# MEDIAN CANADIAN SALARY BY PROVINCE

(all figures in Canadian dollars)

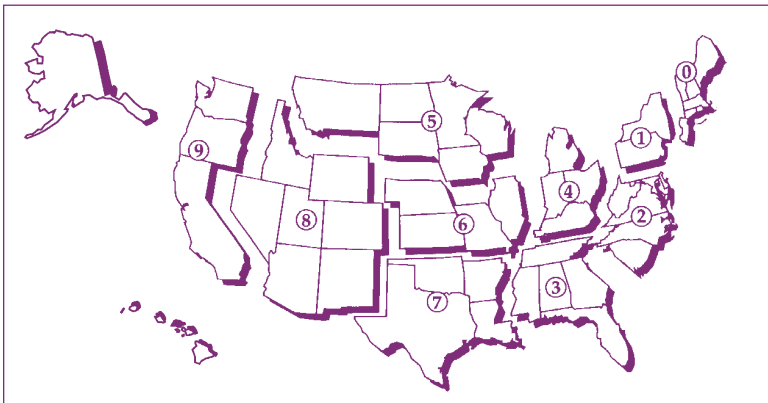


Province	Median Salary	Province	Median Salary
Alberta	\$47,760	Ontario	\$50,000
British Columbia	49,000	Quebec	48,750
Manitoba	45,000		

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

# MEDIAN U.S. SALARY BY ONE-DIGIT ZIP CODES

(all figures in U.S. dollars)



Zip Code	Salary	Zip Code	Salary
0****	\$56,000	5****	\$44,230
1****	49,050	6****	42,500
2****	50,000	7****	52,000
3****	45,000	8****	48,000
4****	42,500	9****	56,850



# MEDIAN U.S. SALARY BY TWO-AND THREE-DIGIT ZIP CODES

(all figures in U.S. dollars)

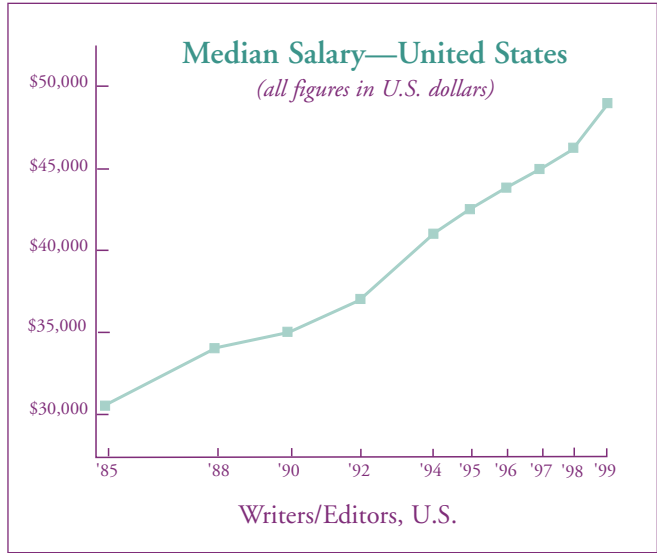
01. .... MA. ... \$63,000	328. .... FL ... \$47,500	787. .... TX ... \$54,550
017. .... MA. ... 63,500	33. .... FL ... 44,000	80. .... CO ... 50,320
018. .... MA. ... 65,000	35. .... AL ... 40,000	801. .... CO ... 40,000
02. .... MA. ... 54,500	37. .... TN ... 44,250	802. .... CO ... 47,000
021. .... MA. ... 60,000	43. .... OH. ... 45,600	803. .... CO ... 57,500
03. .... NH. ... 40,000	430. .... OH. ... 42,500	805. .... CO ... 54,400
05. .... VT ... 44,000	432. .... OH. ... 48,650	84. .... UT ... 43,150
06. .... CT ... 55,000	44. .... OH. ... 42,000	840. .... UT ... 40,000
060. .... CT ... 51,500	441. .... OH. ... 43,500	841. .... UT ... 44,500
07. .... NJ ... 62,000	462. .... IN ... 40,000	85. .... AZ ... 50,000
08. .... NJ ... 48,000	48. .... MI ... 41,000	850. .... AZ ... 53,250
10. .... NY ... 64,000	481. .... MI ... 39,000	87. .... NM. ... 39,000
14. .... NY ... 43,000	50. .... IA ... 38,400	871. .... NM. ... 37,000
146. .... NY ... 44,000	52. .... IA ... 38,000	90. .... CA ... 55,000
15. .... PA ... 42,000	53. .... WI. ... 40,600	91. .... CA ... 55,000
152. .... PA ... 44,000	532. .... WI. ... 44,500	92. .... CA ... 54,500
19. .... DE/PA .. 50,000	54. .... WI. ... 45,000	921. .... CA ... 50,000
190. .... PA ... 48,600	55. .... MN. ... 46,070	926. .... CA ... 57,500
193. .... PA ... 49,450	551. .... MN. ... 45,000	93. .... CA ... 40,300
20. .... DC/MD/VA. 58,650	553. .... MN. ... 45,170	94. .... CA ... 63,000
201. .... VA ... 70,000	554. .... MN. ... 47,000	940. .... CA ... 67,000
208. .... MD. ... 58,700	60. .... IL ... 45,000	941. .... CA ... 60,000
22. .... VA ... 52,700	600. .... IL ... 45,000	943. .... CA ... 65,000
221. .... VA ... 56,000	601. .... IL ... 41,000	944. .... CA ... 58,000
222. .... VA ... 48,000	605. .... IL ... 49,400	945. .... CA ... 60,000
23. .... VA ... 42,000	606. .... IL ... 49,250	946. .... CA ... 63,250
27. .... NC. ... 45,360	61. .... IL ... 40,000	95. .... CA ... 63,000
275. .... NC. ... 45,360	66. .... KS ... 38,500	950. .... CA ... 75,000
277. .... NC. ... 49,500	68. .... NB. ... 42,000	951. .... CA ... 65,000
28. .... NC. ... 46,000	681. .... NB. ... 42,000	956. .... CA ... 44,750
282. .... NC. ... 39,000	75. .... TX. ... 52,000	97. .... OR. ... 44,050
29. .... SC. ... 43,000	750. .... TX. ... 52,000	970. .... OR. ... 46,100
30. .... GA. ... 48,000	752. .... TX. ... 50,000	972. .... OR. ... 47,940
300. .... GA. ... 48,080	77. .... TX. ... 55,000	98. .... WA. ... 44,750
303. .... GA. ... 45,000	770. .... TX. ... 55,500	980. .... WA. ... 45,000
32. .... FL ... 48,050	78. .... TX. ... 53,500	981. .... WA. ... 44,500

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

# MEDIAN SALARY

## United States

This is the tenth 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

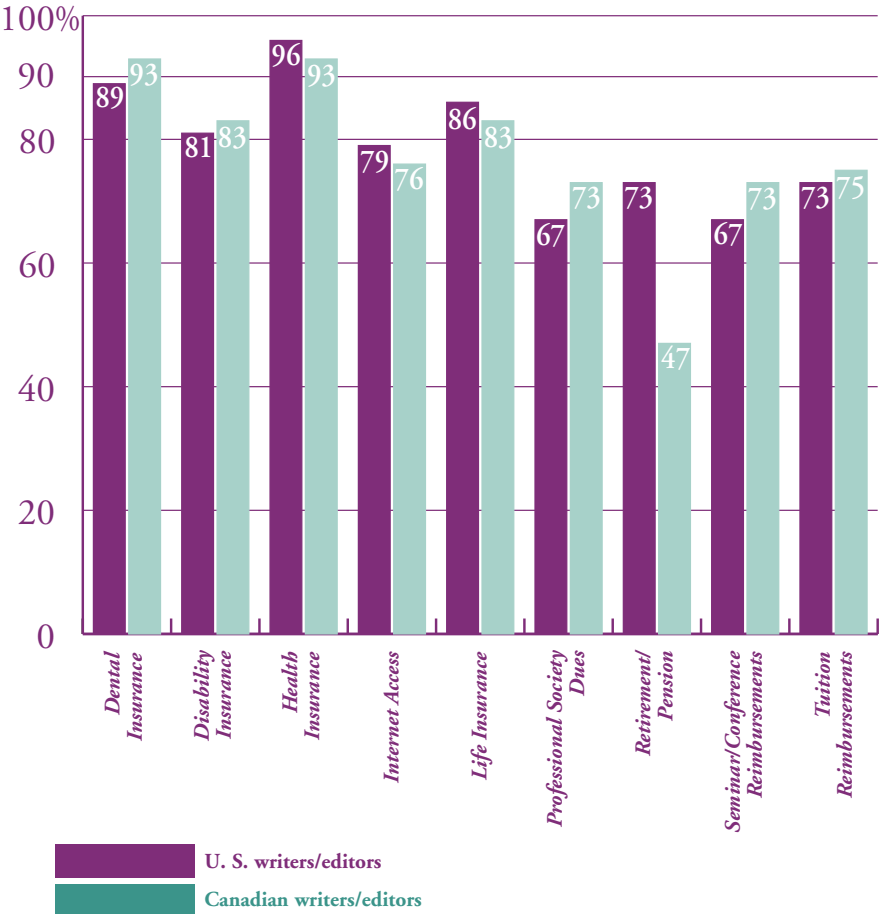
This is the eighth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for Canadian members. The graph below shows the change in the actual median salaries over time.



# ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION

The chart below lists some of the most common employee benefits and compares benefits offered by U.S. and Canadian employers of technical writers/editors. For each benefit listed, the bars indicate the percentage of respondents who received that benefit.

## Benefits: United States and Canada



Note: For Canadians, “Health Insurance” refers to supplemental health insurance.

# 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 more than 24,000 members include technical writers and editors, graphic designers and technical illustrators, information architects and developers, photographers and audiovisual specialists, Web and intranet page designers, 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.



## **Society for Technical Communication**

901 N. Stuart Street, Suite 904

Arlington, VA 22203-1854

(703) 522-4114

(703) 522-2075 (fax)

*[stc@stc-va.org](mailto:stc@stc-va.org)*

*[www.stc-va.org](http://www.stc-va.org)*