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TECHNICAL COMMUNICATOR

SALARY
SURVEY

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society for technical communication



2000

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 3,500 members residing in the United States or Canada who were employed as technical writers/editors. More than 1,350 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of 38 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.

2000 UNITED STATES SALARY SURVEY

(all figures in U.S. dollars)

| Grouping | Base | Mean |
|----------|------|----------|
| Total | 842 | \$51,850 |

Employment Level

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Entry | 52 | 37,050 |
| Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory | 281 | 45,100 |
| Mid-Level, Supervisory | 73 | 52,580 |
| Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory | 319 | 56,440 |
| Senior-Level, Supervisory | 98 | 64,610 |

Education Level

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|
| Bachelor's Degree | 466 | 50,130 |
| Master's Degree | 254 | 54,840 |
| Doctorate | 28 | 58,520 |

Sex

| | | |
|--------|-----|--------|
| Female | 571 | 50,520 |
| Male | 263 | 54,420 |

Age

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|
| 20-29 | 130 | 41,480 |
| 30-39 | 264 | 51,750 |
| 40-49 | 261 | 53,890 |
| 50 years and over | 178 | 56,500 |

Years of Experience

(in technical communication field)

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------|
| Less than 2 years | 59 | 45,050 |
| 2-5 years | 254 | 44,230 |
| 6-10 years | 216 | 53,490 |
| 11 years or more | 313 | 58,170 |

| 10% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 90% |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$38,000 | \$43,550 | \$52,000 | \$63,375 | \$75,000 |
| 29,910 | 33,000 | 39,000 | 44,000 | 48,000 |
| 36,000 | 40,000 | 46,000 | 54,000 | 63,240 |
| 36,950 | 43,020 | 51,800 | 61,150 | 75,070 |
| 42,270 | 50,000 | 56,650 | 67,630 | 77,550 |
| 45,760 | 56,000 | 64,750 | 76,370 | 85,020 |
| 36,140 | 41,650 | 51,000 | 62,000 | 74,820 |
| 38,850 | 45,000 | 54,930 | 66,500 | 85,020 |
| — | 47,180 | 57,250 | 63,500 | — |
| 37,000 | 42,000 | 51,000 | 62,630 | 73,000 |
| 39,000 | 46,650 | 55,000 | 65,000 | 78,000 |
| 32,000 | 36,280 | 42,000 | 47,600 | 54,000 |
| 39,000 | 44,000 | 52,330 | 63,240 | 74,600 |
| 40,000 | 48,000 | 55,000 | 65,000 | 75,000 |
| 40,000 | 48,000 | 55,250 | 69,100 | 80,000 |
| 29,950 | 36,150 | 42,000 | 54,000 | 67,300 |
| 33,620 | 38,650 | 44,750 | 52,000 | 62,600 |
| 40,300 | 46,400 | 54,050 | 63,000 | 75,000 |
| 45,000 | 51,000 | 59,000 | 70,000 | 80,350 |

2000 CANADIAN SALARY SURVEY

(all figures in Canadian dollars)

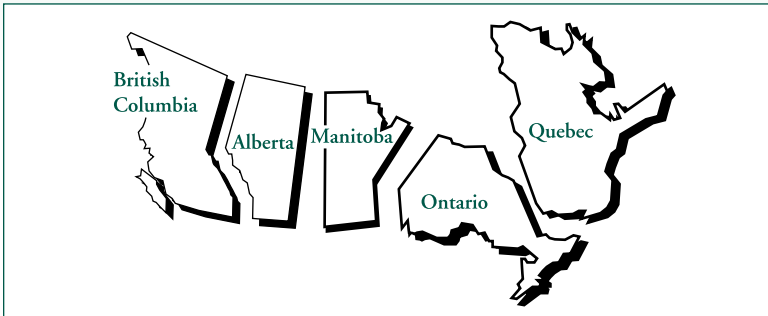
| Grouping | Base | Mean |
|---|------|----------|
| Total | 303 | \$49,910 |
| Employment Level | | |
| Entry | 18 | 32,670 |
| Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory | 125 | 44,340 |
| Mid-Level, Supervisory | 30 | 50,290 |
| Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory | 76 | 55,510 |
| Senior-Level, Supervisory | 48 | 63,010 |
| Education Level | | |
| Bachelor's Degree | 194 | 49,460 |
| Master's Degree | 63 | 53,590 |
| Sex | | |
| Female | 199 | 48,420 |
| Male | 102 | 52,540 |
| Age | | |
| 20-29 | 63 | 43,430 |
| 30-39 | 127 | 50,740 |
| 40-49 | 84 | 54,060 |
| 50 years and over | 28 | 48,680 |
| Years of Experience (in technical communication field) | | |
| Less than 2 years | 21 | 39,730 |
| 2-5 years | 148 | 45,820 |
| 6-10 years | 73 | 55,680 |
| 11 years or more | 61 | 56,820 |

(by selected groupings)

| 10% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 90% |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$38,000 | \$42,000 | \$50,000 | \$58,000 | \$65,000 |
| — | 33,400 | 37,500 | 40,000 | — |
| 37,000 | 40,130 | 45,000 | 50,620 | 58,000 |
| — | 47,500 | 52,100 | 55,500 | — |
| 45,000 | 50,000 | 56,000 | 62,000 | 66,400 |
| 48,640 | 55,000 | 60,000 | 72,000 | 80,000 |
| 37,000 | 42,000 | 50,000 | 57,000 | 65,000 |
| 40,000 | 44,000 | 51,000 | 59,930 | 66,700 |
| 37,000 | 42,000 | 49,000 | 56,000 | 64,020 |
| 40,000 | 45,000 | 52,000 | 62,000 | 72,800 |
| 36,300 | 39,000 | 43,000 | 50,000 | 59,330 |
| 38,000 | 44,000 | 51,000 | 58,000 | 65,000 |
| 40,000 | 47,000 | 54,000 | 62,000 | 69,200 |
| — | 43,000 | 51,000 | 60,000 | — |
| — | 40,000 | 42,000 | 45,500 | — |
| 36,000 | 40,000 | 45,000 | 52,000 | 60,000 |
| 45,000 | 49,250 | 55,000 | 56,750 | 72,000 |
| 45,000 | 50,000 | 56,000 | 64,000 | 71,800 |

MEDIAN CANADIAN SALARY BY PROVINCE

(all figures in Canadian dollars)

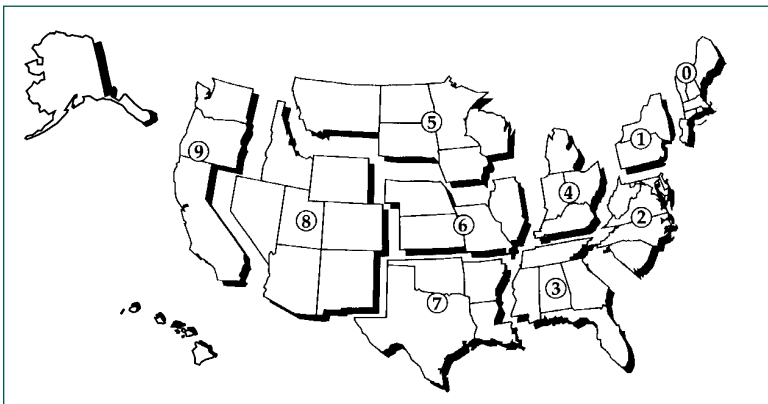


| Province | Median Salary | Province | Median Salary |
|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Alberta | \$49,500 | Ontario | \$51,000 |
| British Columbia | 51,000 | Quebec | 50,000 |
| Manitoba | 44,000 | | |

(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**** | \$58,900 | 5**** | \$44,150 |
| 1**** | 51,000 | 6**** | 50,000 |
| 2**** | 52,170 | 7**** | 56,510 |
| 3**** | 48,000 | 8**** | 49,500 |
| 4**** | 45,000 | 9**** | 60,000 |

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

(all figures in U.S. dollars)

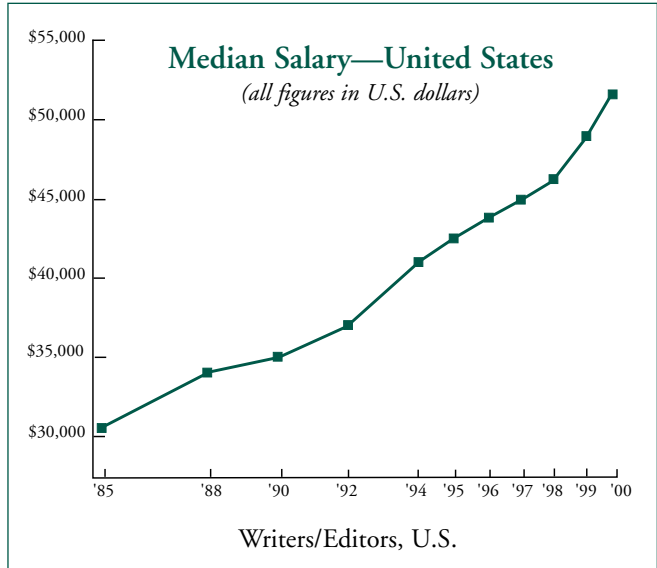
| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 . . . MA . . . \$62,500 | 432 . . . OH . . . \$44,000 | 801 . . . CO . . . \$50,000 |
| 017 . . . MA . . . 59,450 | 44 . . . OH . . . 48,705 | 802 . . . CO . . . 47,000 |
| 018 . . . MA . . . 66,000 | 45 . . . OH . . . 45,000 | 803 . . . CO . . . 41,500 |
| 02 . . . MA . . . 64,000 | 46 . . . IN . . . 48,500 | 805 . . . CO . . . 56,000 |
| 021 . . . MA . . . 63,944 | 462 . . . IN . . . 48,500 | 84 . . . UT . . . 50,000 |
| 024 . . . MA . . . 65,000 | 48 . . . MI . . . 47,000 | 840 . . . UT . . . 51,150 |
| 06 . . . CT . . . 58,000 | 481 . . . MI . . . 49,000 | 841 . . . UT . . . 45,000 |
| 07 . . . NJ . . . 60,000 | 50 . . . IA . . . 52,400 | 85 . . . AZ . . . 43,500 |
| 08 . . . NJ . . . 62,000 | 53 . . . WI . . . 41,450 | 850 . . . AZ . . . 42,500 |
| 10 . . . NY . . . 76,000 | 530 . . . WI . . . 38,500 | 852 . . . AZ . . . 52,200 |
| 12 . . . NY . . . 47,500 | 532 . . . WI . . . 44,800 | 90 . . . CA . . . 62,500 |
| 146 . . . NY . . . 35,200 | 54 . . . WI . . . 39,500 | 902 . . . CA . . . 73,000 |
| 15 . . . PA . . . 53,000 | 55 . . . MN . . . 50,000 | 91 . . . CA . . . 55,000 |
| 19 . . . DE/PA . . . 55,000 | 551 . . . MN . . . 53,500 | 92 . . . CA . . . 54,450 |
| 193 . . . PA . . . 56,750 | 553 . . . MN . . . 40,000 | 921 . . . CA . . . 49,950 |
| 20 DC/MD/VA . 63,000 | 554 . . . MN . . . 51,500 | 926 . . . CA . . . 60,000 |
| 201 . . . VA . . . 63,000 | 60 . . . IL . . . 52,900 | 94 . . . CA . . . 70,000 |
| 22 . . . VA . . . 51,250 | 600 . . . IL . . . 53,640 | 940 . . . CA . . . 75,000 |
| 23 . . . VA . . . 40,600 | 601 . . . IL . . . 54,400 | 944 . . . CA . . . 64,000 |
| 27 . . . NC . . . 55,000 | 605 . . . IL . . . 70,000 | 945 . . . CA . . . 67,200 |
| 275 . . . NC . . . 55,500 | 606 . . . IL . . . 50,000 | 946 . . . CA . . . 74,000 |
| 277 . . . NC . . . 49,000 | 61 . . . IL . . . 49,400 | 95 . . . CA . . . 68,000 |
| 28 . . . NC . . . 42,000 | 63 . . . MO . . . 48,600 | 950 . . . CA . . . 75,000 |
| 30 . . . GA . . . 49,500 | 68 . . . NB . . . 38,700 | 951 . . . CA . . . 72,000 |
| 300 . . . GA . . . 47,700 | 681 . . . NB . . . 38,700 | 956 . . . CA . . . 45,000 |
| 303 . . . GA . . . 51,030 | 75 . . . TX . . . 57,325 | 97 . . . OR . . . 49,000 |
| 32 . . . FL . . . 45,000 | 750 . . . TX . . . 58,000 | 970 . . . OR . . . 43,500 |
| 327 . . . FL . . . 45,000 | 752 . . . TX . . . 55,000 | 972 . . . OR . . . 52,000 |
| 33 . . . FL . . . 45,000 | 77 . . . TX . . . 56,525 | 98 . . . WA . . . 51,500 |
| 337 . . . FL . . . 43,240 | 770 . . . TX . . . 56,525 | 980 . . . WA . . . 54,930 |
| 37 . . . TN . . . 48,850 | 78 . . . TX . . . 57,750 | 981 . . . WA . . . 50,000 |
| 43 . . . OH . . . 39,150 | 787 . . . TX . . . 59,000 | 99 . . . WA . . . 44,550 |
| 430 . . . OH . . . 38,500 | 80 . . . CO . . . 50,191 | |

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

MEDIAN SALARY

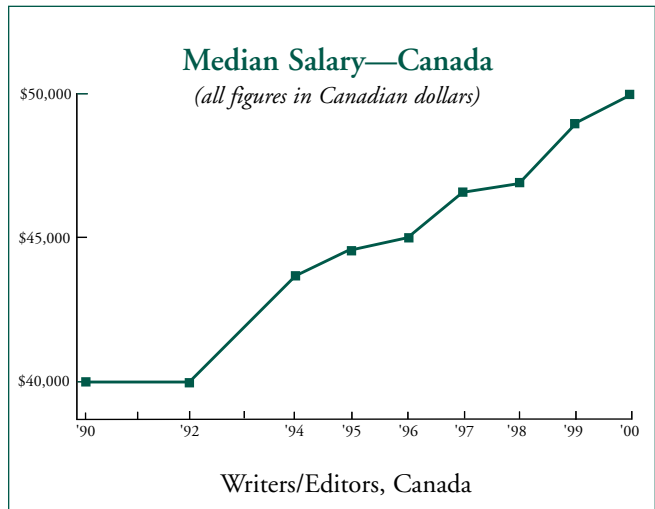
United States

This is the eleventh 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 from 1985 to 2000.



Canada

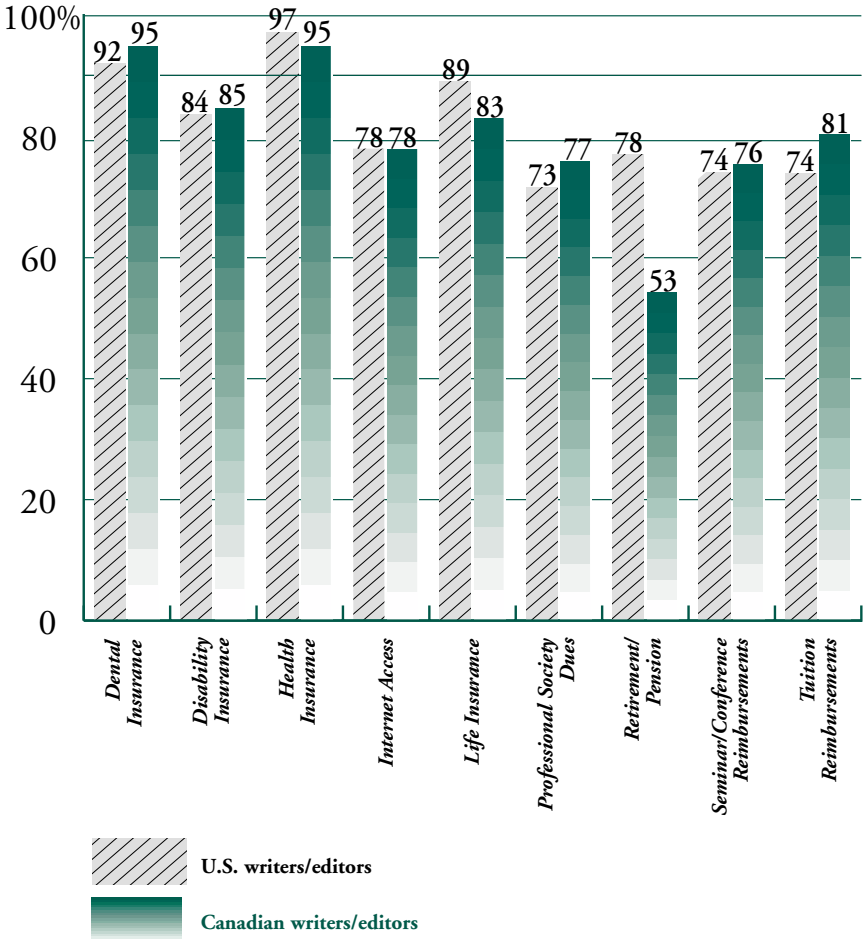
This is the ninth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for Canadian members. The graph below shows the change in the actual median salaries from 1990 to 2000.



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 25,000 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.



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