



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

**2002** TECHNICAL  
COMMUNICATOR

***SALARY SURVEY***



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

## 2002 TECHNICAL COMMUNICATOR SALARY SURVEY

**T**he Society for Technical Communication recently surveyed a random sample of its members regarding their current salaries and benefits. Questionnaires were mailed to more than 3,500 technical communicators residing in the United States or Canada whose primary specialties are technical writing or editing. More than 1,000 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of 29 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.

# 2002 UNITED STATES SALARY SURVEY

(figures in U.S. dollars)

<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Total	710	\$59,700
<b>Employment Level*</b>		
Entry	42	44,230
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	254	51,260
Mid-Level, Supervisory	45	56,160
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	278	67,100
Senior-Level, Supervisory	76	71,060
<b>Education Level</b>		
Bachelor's Degree	424	58,880
Master's Degree	191	61,220
Doctorate	22	62,390
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	498	59,430
Male	212	60,350
<b>Age</b>		
20-29	76	47,980
30-39	226	57,790
40-49	223	61,410
50 years and over	183	64,860
<b>Years of Experience (in technical communication field)</b>		
Less than 2 years	43	53,570
2-5 years	226	51,720
6-10 years	167	59,630
11 years or more	255	67,540

\*Respondents classified themselves as entry-level, mid-level, or senior-level. In a separate question, they indicated whether they supervised other technical communicators, i.e., whether other technical communicators reported directly to them. These statistics combine the information gathered in the two questions.

(BY SELECTED GROUPINGS)

**10%**      **25%**      **50%**      **75%**      **90%**  
\$40,000    \$48,000    \$58,000    \$70,000    \$82,500

—	35,000	41,000	53,000	—
38,000	43,750	49,900	58,000	66,960
—	49,490	53,750	61,800	—
50,000	57,530	66,000	75,000	86,600
46,900	58,000	72,000	83,000	94,800

40,000	47,250	57,870	68,500	80,000
40,000	50,000	60,000	71,000	84,180
—	48,900	62,000	71,000	—

40,000	48,000	57,600	68,950	82,540
40,000	47,800	60,000	70,000	81,610

34,700	39,640	48,280	55,500	60,000
40,000	45,000	55,000	68,000	80,360
43,000	50,000	60,000	71,000	82,510
44,300	53,030	64,100	75,190	86,000

—	37,750	51,000	66,250	—
36,500	43,000	50,000	58,250	68,000
41,000	47,130	58,000	70,000	80,760
48,150	56,930	65,850	76,300	87,000

# 2002 CANADIAN SALARY SURVEY

(figures in Canadian dollars)

<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Total	254	\$56,870
<b>Employment Level*</b>		
Entry	17	42,400
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	102	49,350
Mid-Level, Supervisory	17	59,650
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	71	62,330
Senior-Level, Supervisory	44	69,680
<b>Education Level</b>		
Bachelor's Degree	165	56,610
Master's Degree	57	59,630
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	166	55,670
Male	87	59,030
<b>Age</b>		
20-29	38	51,120
30-39	108	56,850
40-49	70	59,630
50 years and over	37	57,540
<b>Years of Experience (in technical communication field)</b>		
Less than 2 years	27	50,770
2-5 years	102	49,940
6-10 years	72	63,160
11 years or more	53	64,770

\*Respondents classified themselves as entry-level, mid-level, or senior-level. In a separate question, they indicated whether they supervised other technical communicators, i.e., whether other technical communicators reported directly to them. These statistics combine the information gathered in the two questions.

(BY SELECTED GROUPINGS)

**10%**      **25%**      **50%**      **75%**      **90%**  
\$41,080    \$47,100    \$55,000    \$65,000    \$75,000

—	—	41,250	—	—
40,000	44,000	48,000	54,380	60,000
—	—	63,500	—	—
49,050	55,800	63,000	68,000	75,000
—	60,000	68,000	80,000	—

40,500	45,000	55,000	66,000	76,000
48,000	49,120	58,060	68,000	75,000

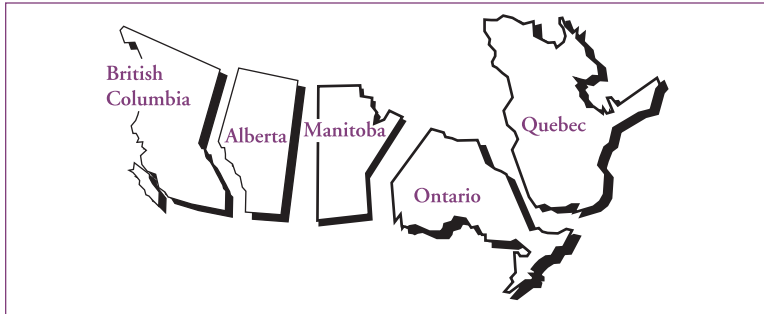
41,000	46,250	53,000	65,000	73,200
43,000	48,240	58,500	66,300	75,900

—	43,580	47,750	58,000	—
41,160	46,500	54,000	67,000	75,000
43,000	49,500	60,000	67,000	75,000
—	48,000	55,000	66,400	—

—	44,400	48,150	58,600	—
39,200	43,190	49,000	56,000	61,350
46,300	55,000	64,000	68,000	80,000
47,650	52,770	65,000	75,000	81,850

# MEDIAN CANADIAN SALARY BY PROVINCE

(figures in Canadian dollars)

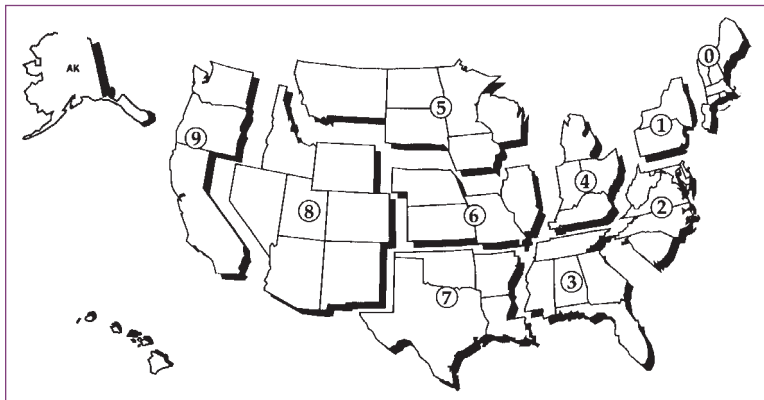


Province	Salary	Province	Salary
Alberta	\$46,520	Ontario	\$57,110
British Columbia	54,460	Quebec	54,560
Manitoba	42,030		

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

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

(figures in U.S. dollars)



Zip Code	Salary	Zip Code	Salary
0****	\$61,520	5****	\$50,000
1****	58,000	6****	50,720
2****	57,810	7****	63,000
3****	49,380	8****	60,500
4****	50,000	9****	67,000

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

(figures in U.S. dollars)

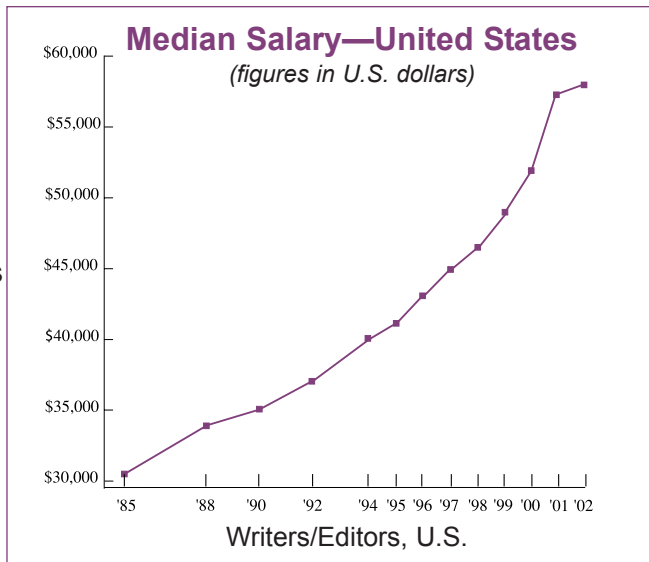
Zip	State	Salary	Zip	State	Salary	Zip	State	Salary
01	MA	\$67,280	432	OH	43,000	802	CO	61,000
017	MA	67,280	44	OH	46,200	803	CO	61,000
018	MA	69,220	441	OH	47,000	83	ID	50,000
02	MA	66,000	45	OH	49,250	84	UT	50,550
021	MA	72,200	48	MI	55,240	90	CA	64,500
024	MA	74,000	480	MI	54,470	902	CA	66,970
06	CT	58,000	53	WI	47,500	91	CA	68,000
07	NJ	68,000	530	WI	47,500	92	CA	64,000
070	NJ	68,000	55	MN	53,000	921	CA	59,700
08	NJ	58,000	551	MN	54,000	926	CA	68,000
15	PA	45,000	553	MN	47,110	93	CA	72,500
19	DE/PA	58,700	554	MN	53,650	930	CA	73,750
194	PA	65,500	60	IL	53,500	94	CA	74,500
20	DC/MD/VA	62,500	600	IL	52,000	940	CA	84,200
201	VA	57,750	605	IL	51,630	941	CA	77,000
21	MD	62,000	61	IL	45,000	944	CA	72,930
22	VA	56,200	618	IL	45,000	945	CA	70,000
23	VA	52,000	63	MO	54,250	95	CA	80,000
27	NC	50,000	75	TX	64,800	950	CA	84,710
277	NC	56,500	750	TX	63,000	951	CA	82,500
29	SC	52,140	752	TX	64,800	97	OR	54,950
30	GA	50,000	77	TX	63,150	970	OR	74,500
300	GA	64,250	770	TX	64,000	972	OR	49,500
32	FL	50,000	78	TX	68,000	98	WA	61,500
33	FL	52,500	787	TX	69,000	980	WA	62,500
37	TN	45,000	80	CO	63,250	981	WA	58,500
43	OH	42,500	800	CO	67,300			

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

# MEDIAN SALARY

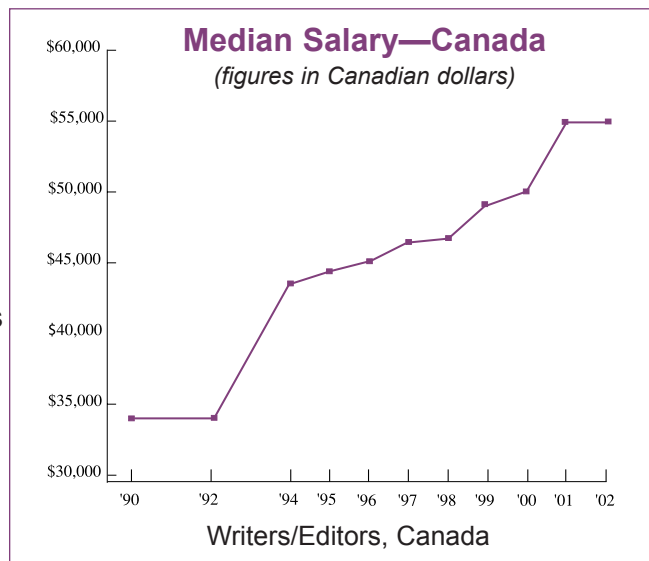
## United States

This is the thirteenth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for U.S. members. This graph shows the change in the actual median salaries from 1985 to 2002.



## Canada

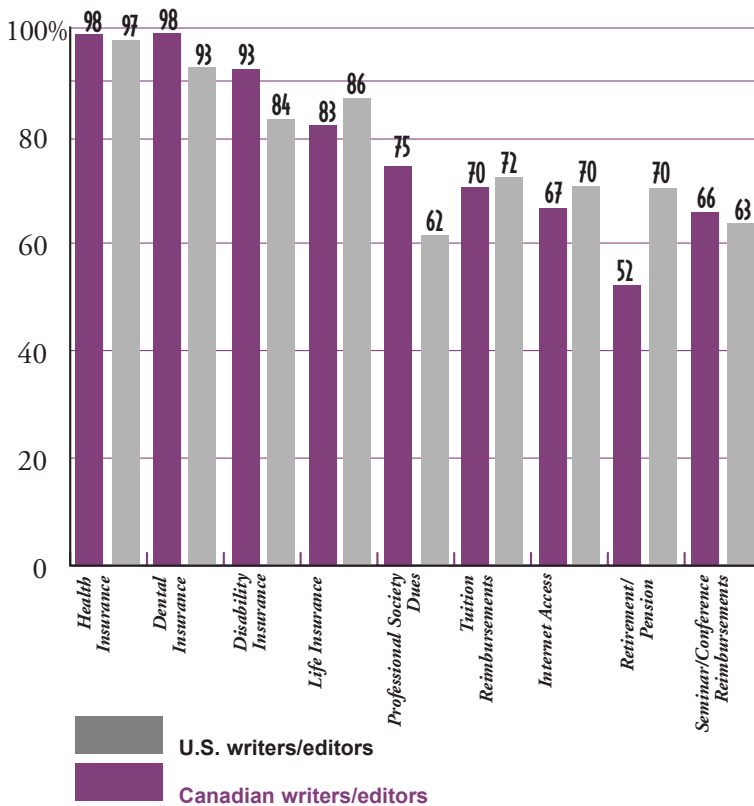
This is the eleventh in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for Canadian members. This graph shows the change in the actual median salaries from 1990 to 2002.



# 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—the largest organization of its type in the world. Its more than 20,000 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.

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 22203-1822

(703) 522-4114

(703) 522-2075 (fax)

***stc@stc.org***

***www.stc.org***