



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

2005 TECHNICAL
COMMUNICATOR

SALARY SURVEY



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2005 TECHNICAL COMMUNICATOR SALARY SURVEY

The Society for Technical Communication recently surveyed its members regarding their current salaries and benefits. The questionnaire was Web-based, and STC sent invitations to more than 10,000 technical communicators. More than 2,300 questionnaires were completed, for a response rate of 23 percent.

The 2005 Salary Survey includes information from STC members living in the United States, Canada, and countries from which there was a statistically significant response.

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.

2005 UNITED STATES SALARY SURVEY

(By selected groupings. Figures in U.S. dollars.)

Grouping	Base	Mean	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Total	2,258	\$67,520	\$44,200	\$53,000	\$65,000	\$79,130	\$93,000
Employment Level							
Entry	79	40,730	30,500	36,000	40,400	44,400	50,200
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	546	54,190	39,880	45,000	52,140	61,950	70,000
Mid-Level, Supervisory	281	71,090	48,510	57,500	68,000	84,750	97,000
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	1,019	70,430	51,450	60,000	69,000	80,000	91,500
Senior-Level, Supervisory	306	84,610	60,000	70,000	82,500	95,670	111,100
Other	27	74,520	—	48,750	55,000	97,330	—
Education Level							
High School	107	64,930	43,350	51,730	65,000	75,610	90,900
Associates	129	62,440	45,000	50,000	61,000	71,790	85,000
Bachelor, Arts	816	66,660	43,000	53,460	65,000	78,000	91,000
Bachelor, Science	430	65,460	40,800	50,030	64,090	77,000	90,000
Master's Degree	684	70,660	48,040	56,000	67,310	82,000	96,420
Doctorate	92	71,470	44,000	52,000	67,380	86,500	100,000
Sex							
Female	1,511	66,950	44,000	52,260	65,000	78,460	92,000
Male	747	68,670	45,430	55,000	66,000	80,000	94,150
Age							
20-29	166	48,040	35,260	40,000	44,750	54,250	64,530
30-39	640	62,960	44,000	50,000	60,000	73,000	85,000
40-49	696	70,140	47,980	56,000	68,000	81,600	95,000
50 years and over	756	73,230	50,000	60,000	70,000	84,940	99,400
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)							
Less than 2 years	65	42,910	30,280	35,630	41,500	47,000	57,500
2-5 years	376	52,610	38,000	42,440	50,000	60,000	70,310
6-10 years	648	64,540	46,380	53,000	63,000	73,000	85,280
11 years or more	1,169	75,320	52,280	61,810	73,000	86,000	100,230
Job Title							
Documentation Manager	412	79,740	55,000	62,500	78,350	94,330	108,000
Information Developer	238	69,840	48,880	56,000	67,630	80,890	92,000
Online Help Developer	46	61,930	—	48,000	60,000	69,500	—
Teacher of Technical Communication	36	59,430	—	44,000	52,790	62,000	—
Technical Editor	162	61,350	39,620	46,350	61,500	74,680	81,800
Technical Writer	1,049	62,860	42,135	50,000	62,000	73,280	83,000
Usability Specialist	16	85,090	—	—	74,500	—	—
Web Designer	17	62,400	—	—	62,000	—	—
Other	270	70,350	47,000	55,000	67,250	81,600	97,200

2005 CANADIAN SALARY SURVEY

(By selected groupings. Figures in Canadian dollars.)

Grouping	Base	Mean	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Total	254	\$61,790	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$71,040	\$82,000
Employment Level							
Entry	11	42,010	—	—	42,000	—	—
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	76	51,220	42,800	46,900	50,000	55,000	61,200
Mid-Level, Supervisory	21	64,460	—	49,000	63,000	72,750	—
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	101	64,320	50,010	56,180	63,400	70,000	78,000
Senior-Level, Supervisory	42	77,680	—	67,250	75,750	85,000	—
Other	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education Level							
High School	22	64,180	—	47,550	61,250	74,500	—
Associates	24	58,210	—	50,000	56,620	64,000	—
Bachelor, Arts	135	60,120	45,000	50,000	58,000	70,000	80,000
Bachelor, Science	27	64,160	—	55,370	63,300	72,000	—
Master's Degree	43	64,620	—	51,750	60,200	75,000	—
Doctorate	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sex							
Female	173	60,320	43,430	50,000	58,500	68,000	80,000
Male	81	64,930	46,610	51,250	63,000	75,000	88,700
Age							
20-29	25	50,360	—	42,250	48,000	56,880	—
30-39	101	59,510	46,050	50,000	57,000	65,750	77,350
40-49	79	65,750	46,590	51,230	64,000	75,000	90,210
50 years and over	49	65,920	—	55,630	64,000	74,250	—
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)							
Less than 2 years	12	43,430	—	—	45,000	—	—
2-5 years	62	51,870	41,200	45,000	49,950	55,000	64,000
6-10 years	95	63,760	50,000	53,680	61,500	71,020	80,000
11 years or more	85	69,410	51,000	60,000	67,500	78,750	89,500
Job Title							
Documentation Manager	46	76,320	—	64,000	75,750	90,500	—
Information Developer	40	63,310	—	52,500	62,500	73,000	—
Online Help Developer	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teacher of Technical Communication	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical Editor	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical Writer	127	56,990	43,090	48,000	56,000	64,130	72,150
Usability Specialist	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Web Designer	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	22	60,480	—	50,500	60,750	69,000	—

MEDIAN CANADIAN SALARY BY PROVINCE

Figures in Canadian dollars.

Province*	Salary	Province*	Salary
Alberta	\$55,750	Ontario	\$63,330
British Columbia	\$59,000	Quebec	\$65,500
Manitoba	\$49,570		

* This list only includes results from provinces that provided a statistically significant number of responses.

MEDIAN SALARY BY COUNTRY

Figures in New Shekels (ILS) or Pounds (GBP).

Country*	Salary
Israel	ILS 180,000
United Kingdom	GBP 31,000

* This list only includes results from countries that provided a statistically significant number of responses.

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

Figures in U.S. dollars.



ZIP Code	Salary	ZIP Code	Salary
0****	\$73,750	5****	\$59,000
1****	\$63,000	6****	\$56,000
2****	\$65,000	7****	\$67,000
3****	\$57,900	8****	\$61,540
4****	\$52,450	9****	\$75,000

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

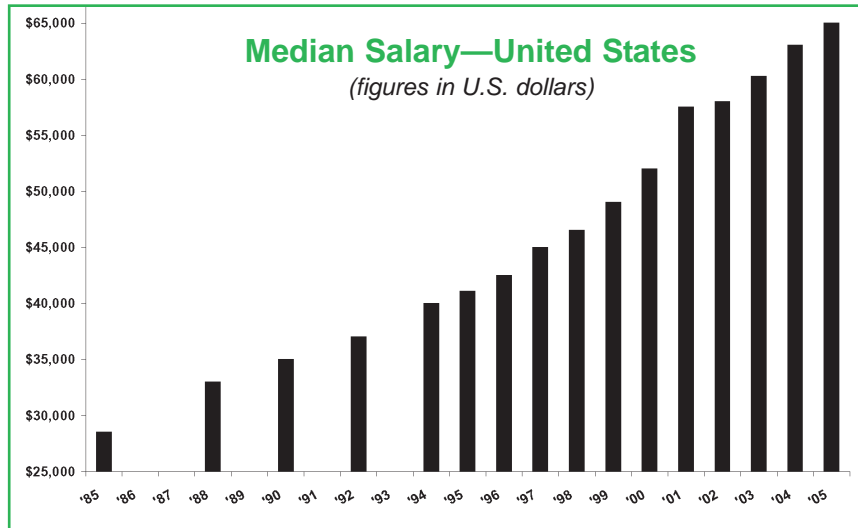
Figures in U.S. dollars.

ZIP	State	Salary	ZIP	State	Salary	ZIP	State	Salary
01...	MA...	\$83,000	44...	OH...	50,000	8011..	CO...	67,000
017..	MA...	82,400	441..	OH...	49,000	805..	CO...	66,000
018..	MA...	84,500	45..	OH...	50,000	83...	ID...	57,010
02...	MA...	72,750	46...	IN...	55,000	84...	UT...	43,880
024..	MA...	77,520	48...	MI...	55,000	85...	AZ...	63,000
03...	NH...	67,000	481..	MI...	55,000	90...	CA...	74,150
07...	NJ...	80,000	49...	MI...	54,000	91...	CA...	69,800
070..	NJ...	81,750	50...	IA...	55,000	92...	CA...	71,000
08...	NJ...	65,000	53...	WI...	52,000	921..	CA...	71,000
10...	NY...	80,000	537..	WI...	52,000	926..	CA...	70,760
15...	PA...	61,000	55...	MN...	63,000	93...	CA...	64,000
19...	PA...	65,000	551..	MN...	65,000	94...	CA...	90,000
193..	PA...	67,500	553..	MN...	61,500	940..	CA...	90,800
20..	DC/MD/VA.	72,010	554..	MN...	65,000	941..	CA...	87,300
208..	MD...	74,500	60...	IL...	66,000	945..	CA...	94,850
21...	MD...	65,000	600..	IL...	74,000	95...	CA...	86,000
22...	VA...	72,330	606..	IL...	55,500	950..	CA...	72,000
27...	NC...	65,000	63..	MO...	55,500	951..	CA...	93,500
276..	NC...	63,050	64...	MO...	48,000	97...	OR...	68,040
277..	NC...	66,000	75...	TX...	65,000	970..	OR...	75,390
29...	SC...	45,500	750..	TX...	63,000	972..	OR...	68,040
30...	GA...	61,250	752..	TX...	66,070	98...	WA...	65,000
300..	GA...	68,000	76...	TX...	55,000	980..	WA...	64,250
303..	GA...	64,000	760..	TX...	65,000	9805..	WA...	64,750
32...	FL...	55,000	77...	TX...	78,000	981..	WA...	66,500
327..	FL...	69,240	770..	TX...	87,150	9810..	WA...	60,720
33...	FL...	58,370	78...	TX...	70,000			
35...	AL...	55,000	787..	TX...	71,000			
37...	TN...	55,000	7875..	TX...	74,500			
43...	OH...	56,000	80...	CO...	65,000			
430..	OH...	63,000	800..	CO...	60,360			
432..	OH...	52,280	801..	CO...	66,970			

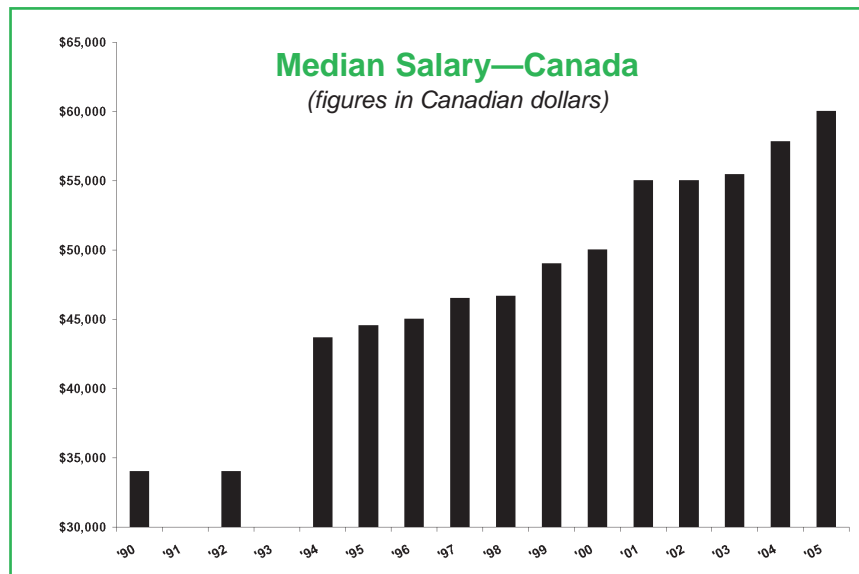
(This list only includes results from ZIP codes that provided a statistically significant number of responses.)

MEDIAN SALARY

United States This chart shows the change in median salaries for U.S. members since 1985, the first year STC conducted its U.S. salary survey. The chart shows only those years for which data is available.



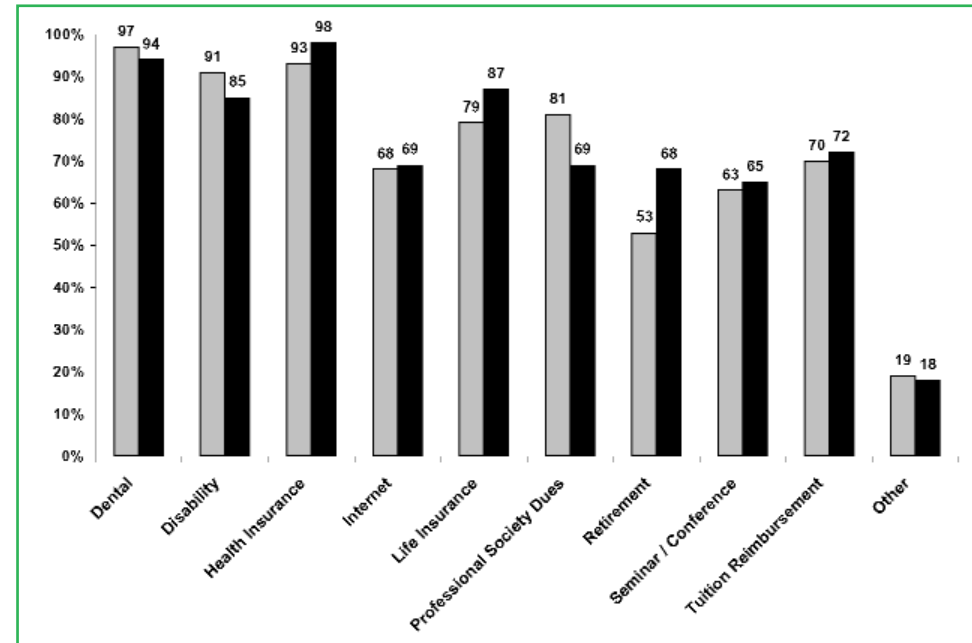
Canada This chart shows the change in median salaries for Canadian members since 1990, the first year STC conducted its Canadian salary survey. The chart shows only those years for which data is available.



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 communicators. For each benefit listed, the bars indicate the percentage of respondents who received that benefit.

Benefits: United States and Canada



Canadian technical communicators
 U.S. technical communicators

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 15,000 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.



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