



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

2003 TECHNICAL
COMMUNICATOR

SALARY SURVEY



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2003 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 more than 3,200 technical communicators residing in the United States or Canada whose primary specialties are technical writing or editing. More than 800 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of 25 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.

2003 UNITED STATES SALARY SURVEY

(figures in U.S. dollars)

Grouping	Base	Mean
Total	643	\$61,730
Employment Level*		
Entry	24	43,260
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	233	54,510
Mid-Level, Supervisory	37	60,510
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	262	66,590
Senior-Level, Supervisory	81	72,340
Education Level		
Bachelor's Degree	376	60,110
Master's Degree	189	65,660
Doctorate	25	68,030
Sex		
Female	458	60,870
Male	185	63,850
Age		
20-29	54	48,900
30-39	193	59,980
40-49	213	63,330
50 years and over	183	65,480
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)		
Less than 2 years	9	46,970
2-5 years	150	53,550
6-10 years	204	60,710
11 years or more	280	67,320

*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%**
\$42,000 \$50,000 \$60,240 \$72,000 \$82,500

—	35,500	42,000	48,000	—
38,300	43,630	52,000	62,950	73,000
—	49,630	58,500	69,330	—
50,000	55,550	64,500	75,560	85,000
51,000	63,000	70,000	81,640	96,650

40,600	49,000	60,000	70,000	80,000
43,930	53,960	65,000	77,000	87,400
—	54,810	63,000	76,980	—

42,000	50,000	60,000	71,000	81,000
42,500	51,000	63,300	75,000	86,500

34,400	41,500	47,000	54,500	65,000
40,000	49,600	57,800	70,000	80,700
43,600	51,000	63,000	73,000	84,700
45,300	53,000	63,000	75,000	87,470

—	—	—	—	—
37,500	43,000	50,010	63,000	73,000
43,200	50,100	59,000	70,000	80,000
48,000	56,120	65,000	76,800	90,000

2003 CANADIAN SALARY SURVEY

(figures in Canadian dollars)

Grouping	Base	Mean
Total	181	\$58,190
Employment Level*		
Entry	6	41,030
Mid-Level, Non-Supervisory	72	51,490
Mid-Level, Supervisory	8	58,200
Senior-Level, Non-Supervisory	59	61,810
Senior-Level, Supervisory	36	68,490
Education Level		
Bachelor's Degree	113	57,690
Master's Degree	47	61,520
Sex		
Female	123	57,590
Male	58	59,460
Age		
20-29	19	51,750
30-39	69	58,270
40-49	52	59,400
50 years and over	41	59,490
Years of Experience (in technical communication field)		
Less than 2 years	2	—
2-5 years	69	50,370
6-10 years	59	60,960
11 years or more	51	66,070

*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%**
\$43,000 \$48,000 \$55,430 \$65,380 \$75,900

—	—	—	—	—
41,000	45,000	49,500	55,430	65,400
—	—	—	—	—
48,900	54,150	60,000	68,180	75,000
—	57,000	67,000	77,000	—

43,060	48,000	55,000	64,880	75,000
—	50,380	62,000	70,000	—

42,150	48,000	55,000	65,630	75,700
44,000	49,000	57,000	65,000	75,200

—	—	50,000	—	—
42,800	48,150	55,000	66,380	77,400
42,600	47,500	59,250	68,000	76,800
—	50,000	55,500	68,750	—

—	—	—	—	—
40,000	45,000	49,000	54,500	63,200
43,180	50,000	58,000	69,000	76,100
49,050	55,000	64,500	74,250	83,950

MEDIAN CANADIAN SALARY BY PROVINCE

(figures in Canadian dollars)

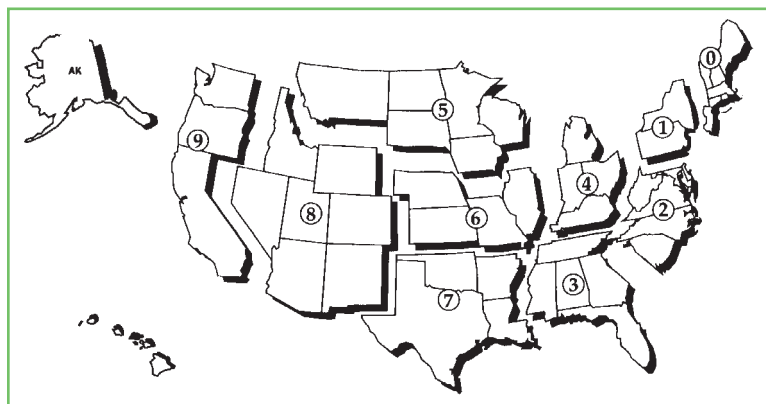


Province*	Salary
Alberta	\$56,500
British Columbia	55,000
Ontario	56,500
Quebec	57,020
Saskatchewan	48,000

** This list only includes results from provinces that provided measurable data.*

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

(figures in U.S. dollars)



ZIP Code	Salary	ZIP Code	Salary
0****	\$66,850	5****	\$52,000
1****	53,000	6****	58,000
2****	62,790	7****	63,000
3****	53,000	8****	56,000
4****	52,000	9****	70,000

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

(figures in U.S. dollars)

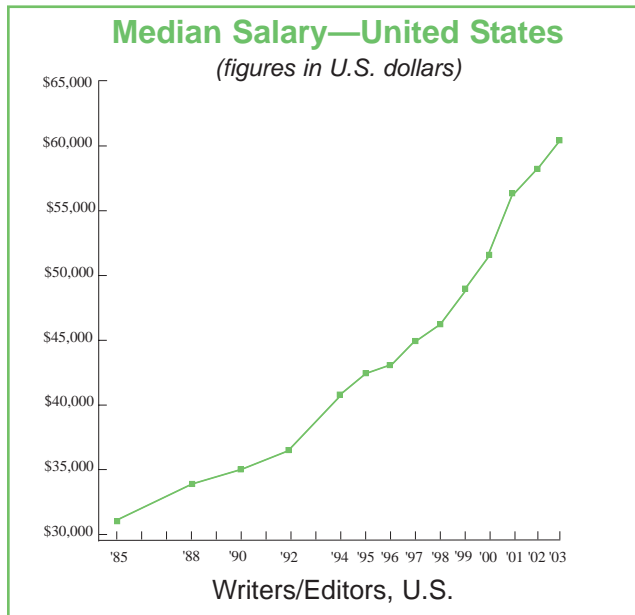
ZIP	State	Salary	ZIP	State	Salary	ZIP	State	Salary
01	MA	\$71,440	44	OH	50,000	803	CO	58,250
017	MA	70,000	441	OH	45,000	804	CO	60,000
018	MA	72,940	45	OH	52,000	85	AZ	52,000
02	MA	64,000	48	MI	57,000	90	CA	64,440
021	MA	63,500	481	MI	52,000	91	CA	69,000
03	NH	65,000	50	IA	43,000	92	CA	68,950
06	CT	68,000	503	IA	51,000	921	CA	66,450
07	NJ	63,600	53	WI	50,770	926	CA	65,000
08	NJ	50,500	55	MN	55,750	93	CA	57,500
14	NY	53,000	551	MN	51,000	94	CA	80,000
19	DE/PA	62,500	553	MN	55,750	940	CA	85,000
20	DC/MD/VA	73,000	554	MN	58,000	941	CA	75,480
201	VA	70,000	60	IL	63,000	945	CA	80,000
21	MD	59,240	600	IL	60,500	95	CA	80,000
22	VA	59,500	605	IL	50,030	950	CA	85,500
27	NC	58,000	606	IL	65,000	951	CA	81,000
277	NC	63,400	61	IL	55,000	97	OR	62,630
30	GA	53,950	618	IL	55,000	970	OR	62,630
300	GA	65,000	75	TX	64,000	98	WA	67,000
303	GA	51,500	750	TX	71,000	980	WA	70,000
32	FL	63,800	752	TX	62,500	981	WA	68,000
33	FL	53,500	77	TX	70,000	99	WA	49,000
35	AL	53,000	770	TX	70,000			
37	TN	43,500	78	TX	63,000			
38	TN	40,000	787	TX	64,500			
381	TN	40,000	80	CO	60,000			
43	OH	50,000	801	CO	66,000			
432	OH	52,000	802	CO	57,300			

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

MEDIAN SALARY

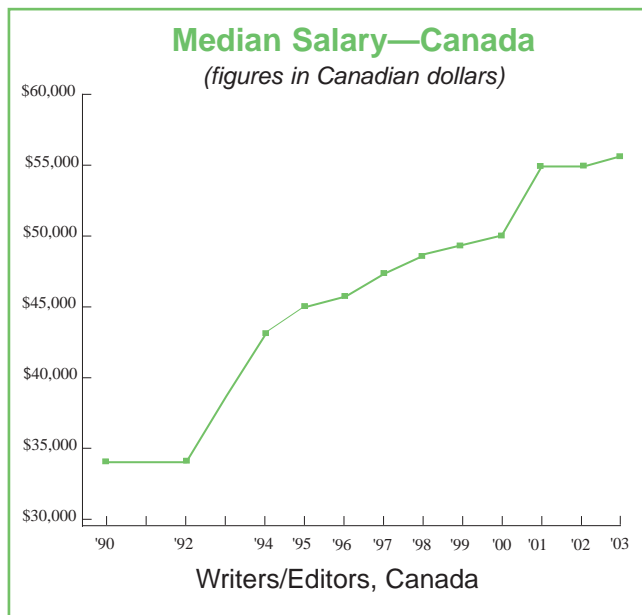
United States

This is the fourteenth 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 2003.



Canada

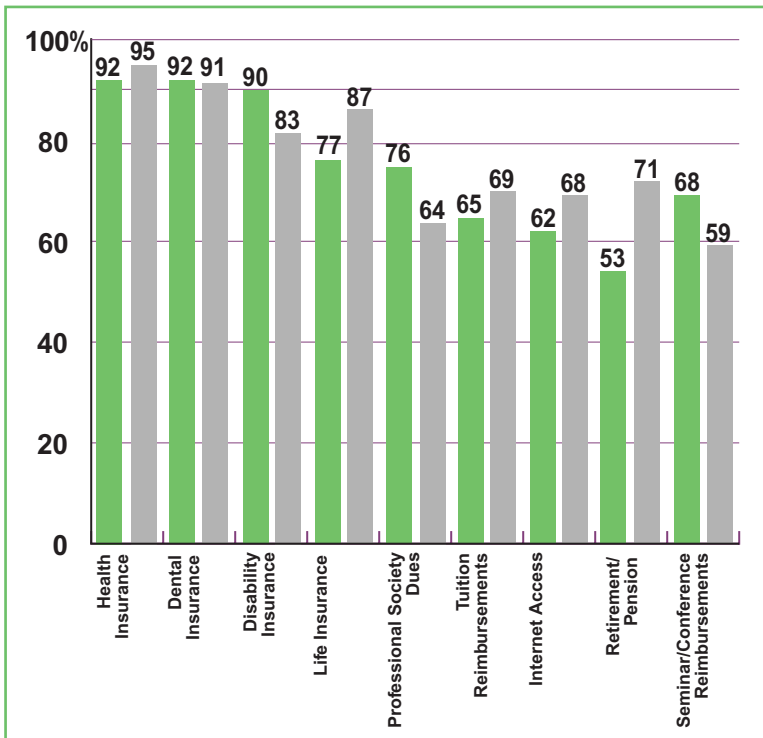
This is the twelfth in a series of surveys conducted by the STC office showing the median salary for Canadian members. This graph shows the change in the actual median salaries from 1990 to 2003.



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



 Canadian writers/editors

 U.S. writers/editors

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 19,000 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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