

STC San Diego Chapter 2007 Salary Survey

The San Diego STC Chapter did a salary survey in 2004. In May 2007, we decided it was time to obtain new, updated numbers. The results of both surveys are listed below for comparison purposes.

Note: The 2004 survey had 134 participants and the 2007 survey had 67 participants.

Salary Averages

	2004	2007
Average annual salary (combined salaried and independent contractor)	\$65,782	\$84,822 (60)
Average annual salary (salaried)	(not asked)	\$79,644 (52)
Average annual salary (independent contractor)	(not asked)	\$90,000 (8)
Range, salaries (salaried and independent contractors)	\$30,000-\$130,000	\$49,700-134,000 (60)
Average hourly rate for hourly workers	\$39.00	\$33.75
Range, hourly rate	\$25.00-\$67.00	\$27.00-\$40.00 (4)
Declined to answer this question		3

Salary as Function of Experience

Experience	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Up to 2 years	5%	\$40,667	0	0
3 to 5 years	17%	\$51,275	1%	\$60,000
6 to 10 years	28%	\$63,840	25%	\$70,793
11-15 years	16%	\$67,124	22%	\$86,452
16-20 years	17%	\$72,565	24%	\$73,892
More than 20 yrs.	17%	\$86,708	28%	\$93,014

Salary as Function of Position

Level of Work	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Entry level	5%	\$40,667	0	0
Mid-level, non-supervisory	25%	\$51,073	13%	\$60,800
Mid-level, supervisory	6%	\$81,036	7%	\$85,500
Senior-level, non supervisory	46%	\$65,933	62%	\$81,321
Senior-level, supervisory	18%	\$84,616	18%	\$93,092

Salary as Function of Job Function

Primary Job Function	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Manager	13%	\$88,718	18%	\$97,819
Writer	63%	\$62,063	53%	\$74,938
Editor	11%	\$54,574	13%	\$73,936
Help Author	6%	\$66,325	5%	\$72,333
Desktop Publisher	3%	\$59,700	0	0
Illustrator	1%	\$55,000	0	0
Instructional Designer	2%	\$67,000	1%	\$73,000
Other			8%	\$101,200

Under "Other" category answers included: Archivist, Web developer/programmer, Project Manager, Web Collaboration team manager, Information Architect, Human Factors Engineer, and Multimedia Specialist.

Salary as Function of Seniority

Years with Current Employer	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Less than one year	28%	\$57,032	22%	\$84,830
1 to 3 years	34%	\$63,656	40%	\$73,979
4 to 7 years	23%	\$65,343	22%	\$80,531
8 to 14 years	7%	\$84,326	11%	\$92,188
15 years or more	8%	\$90,714	5%	\$97,000

Salary as Function of Industry

Sector or Industry	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Telecommunications	14%	\$79,753	20%	\$91,760
Biotech/Medical	10%	\$63,100	15%	\$78,966
Computer/electronic hardware	14%	\$64,182	7%	\$95,000
Computer software	30%	\$67,099	37%	\$64,000
Consumer products	5%	\$56,150	1%	\$64,000
Academia	1%	\$50,000	0	0
Government/Defense/Aerospace	12%	\$65,954	5%	\$81,171
Not-for-profit	0%	\$54,299	0	0
Other	14%	N/A	15%	\$76,532

Under “Other” category the answers included: Computer/Web security, Pharmaceutical, electronic entertainment, engineering, credit information, financial services, banking, enterprise systems, and Information Technology services.

What Events Have Affected Your Working Conditions?

Event	Percent of Respondents 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007
Permanent staff layoff	43% (37)	73% (46)
Contract staff layoff	19% (16)	41% (26)
Canceled project(s)	33% (28)	52% (33)
Increased workload due to staff cuts	50% (43)	67% (42)
Training and/or travel budget cuts	31% (27)	37% (23)
No (or less than normal) salary increase	50% (43)	48% (30)
Offshoring (defined as work sent to an outside, domestic company)	(not asked)	44% (28)
Outsourcing (defined as work sent to an outside or inside international location)	(not asked)	32% (20)
Travel budget cuts	(not asked)	41% (26)
Other	(not asked)	16% (10)

Under “Other” category the answers included: no training budget at all, hardware and software budget cuts, hiring freeze, no bonus, increase in engineering with no match for technical publications, company closed due to merger, salary reduction due to poor business performance, and moved from Senior Tech Writer to Tech Writer due to working contract and returning to staff writer.

Demographics of Respondents – Gender

Gender	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Female	68% (87)	\$63,135	68% (41)	\$77,081
Male	32% (41)	\$71,679	32% (19)	\$89,535

Demographics of Respondents - Age

Age	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Under 30	7% (9)	\$46,329 (7 employee responses)	0	0
30-39	22% (28)	\$55,067 (22 employee responses) \$42,000 (2 self-employed responses)	7% (4)	\$86,875
40-49	34% (44)	\$75,530 (26 employee responses) \$58,571 (6 self-employed responses)	48% (29)	\$78,006
50-59	32% (41)	\$69,274 (30 employee responses) \$45,667 (7 self-employed responses)	40% (24)	\$83,742
Over 60	5% (6)	\$64,678 (5 employee responses)	5% (3)	\$80,668

Level of Education

Level of Education	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
Didn't complete high school	0%		0	0
High school, GED, or Associate degree	15% (19)	\$66,279 (19 employee responses)	11% (7)	\$84,044
Bachelors degree	50% (64)	\$63,364 (45 employee responses) \$18,600 (5 self-employed responses)	52% (31)	\$79,117
Masters degree	33% (42)	\$70,853 (24 employee responses) \$67,500 (10 self-employed responses)	30% (18)	\$84,326
Doctorate	2% (3)	\$58,333 (3 employee responses)	7% (4)	\$75,675

Educational Field

Educational Field	Percent of Respondents 2004	Annual Salary 2004	Percent of Respondents 2007	Annual Salary 2007
English, Writing, languages, liberal arts	44% (55)	\$64,884 (41 employee responses) \$31,000 (6 self-employed responses)	31% (18)	\$81,563
Journalism	7% (9)	\$72,468 (7 employee responses) \$12,000 (1 self-employed response)	7% (4)	\$84,199
Technical Communication	8% (10)	\$60,358 (9 employee responses)	8% (5)	\$76,160
Engineering or Computer Science	18% (23)	\$66,652 (17 employee responses) \$75,000 (2 self-employed responses)	3% (2)	\$82,756
Social Science (Psychology, History, Sociology, Economics, Political science)	9% (11)	\$60,303 (6 employee responses) \$74,000 (2 self-employed responses)	12% (7)	\$90,142
Education or Instructional Design	8% (10)	\$78,400 (9 employee responses) \$70,500 (4 self-employed responses)	5% (3)	\$69,666
Business	6% (8)	\$64,900 (5 employee responses)	14% (8)	\$84,446
Other			20% (12)	\$76,225

Under "Other" category the answers included: Math, Cognitive Science, Biochemistry, Biology, Science, Bioscience, Speech Communication, Dietetics, Nutrition, Geology, and Multimedia Arts.