

Nuclear Medicine Technologist Salaries—1984

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The overall results of the Human Resource Survey of Nuclear Medicine Technologists—1984 were published in the September 1985 issue of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*. Material presented in this article will provide an in-depth analysis of the base salary information obtained from that survey. The average base salary for the 3,386 respondents is \$22,107. The following analysis does, however, exclude part-time personnel, individuals that did not code their primary responsibilities as "other," and those individuals that did not respond to the question on years of experience. In addition, the sample size will diverge on other items such as race and sex because of no response to those items.

TABULAR ANALYSIS

Average staff technologist base salaries vary from \$19,500 with less than 5 years of experience to \$22,100 with more than 10 years of experience, an increase of only 15% (see Table 1). Salaries of chief technologists and supervisors are approximately the same. After an average early career salary of \$22,000, salaries then level off at approximately \$25,000 after five years of experience. Salaries for administrators steadily climb from \$22,000 (with less than five years of experience) to \$30,000 (with more than 15 years of experience).

Average salaries by state range from \$18,700 in Delaware to \$27,500 in California (Table 2). Average salaries, however, are remarkably similar across most of the country, with 31 states in the narrow range of \$21,000–\$23,700. Furthermore, salaries by region show a similar pattern to those described in Tables 1 and 2. (For further information, refer to map on Regional Base Salaries and Tables 3 and 4.)

Average salaries for technologists with on-the-job training (\$21,900) are similar to those with training from 1- (\$22,200) and 2-year programs (\$21,500). Full-time nuclear medicine technologists earn an average of \$21,800—\$1,700 more than those who, in addition to their full-time nuclear medicine duties, practice in other modalities (e.g., radiology and ultrasound). Part-time nuclear medicine technologists earn an average of \$10,000.

The average salary for both whites and nonwhites is \$22,500, and there are only two major differences regarding years of experience and primary job responsibility (see Table 5); white administrators average \$2,100 a year more than nonwhite administrators, and white administrators with more than 15 years of experience earn approximately \$1,600 a year more than nonwhites. Nonwhites, however, appear to earn slightly more than whites in staff and supervisory positions.

Table 6 presents a comparison of white male and white female salaries in relation to years of experience and

primary job responsibility. White males average \$2,300 a year more than white females (\$23,800 compared with \$21,500). In 1984, white males also earned more in each of the 16 categories of years of experience and primary job responsibility. Regardless of years of experience, there appear to be more males in administrative positions, whereas there are more females in staff positions. According to data supplied by the Scientific Manpower Commission, women currently earn 64 cents for every dollar earned by men (1). The salaries for nuclear medicine technologists in this article show that women earn 90 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Salary data in Tables 7-10 are derived from the institutional survey. This material reflects the tremendous variation in salaries offered by hospitals throughout the country. Starting salaries, for example, for certified staff technologists vary from \$7,900-\$29,000. Individuals who remain employed as staff technologists can expect to earn only an additional \$5,000-\$6,000 above the starting salary rate. Furthermore, certified staff technologist positions pay approximately \$2,000 more than noncertified positions. Middle-management positions are approximately \$3,000 higher than the certified staff positions. Upper-management, specialists, and educational

coordinators, however, can expect to earn up to \$25,000-\$30,000, with a few salaries as high as \$43,000.

For an additional comparison, data supplied by the Scientific Manpower Commission on entry-level salaries for 1984 graduates are noted below:

Job Classification	Salary
Petroleum Engineering (highest salary level)	\$31,920
Computer Science	\$24,612
Chemistry Baccalaureates	\$21,756
Biological Sciences (near the lowest salary level)	\$17,220

Therefore, nuclear medicine technologist entry-level salaries are low compared to many professions, averaging just slightly higher than biological sciences graduates.

REFERENCE

1. Vetter B, ed. Manpower Comments. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Scientific Manpower Commission, 1985; Volume 22; No. 4.

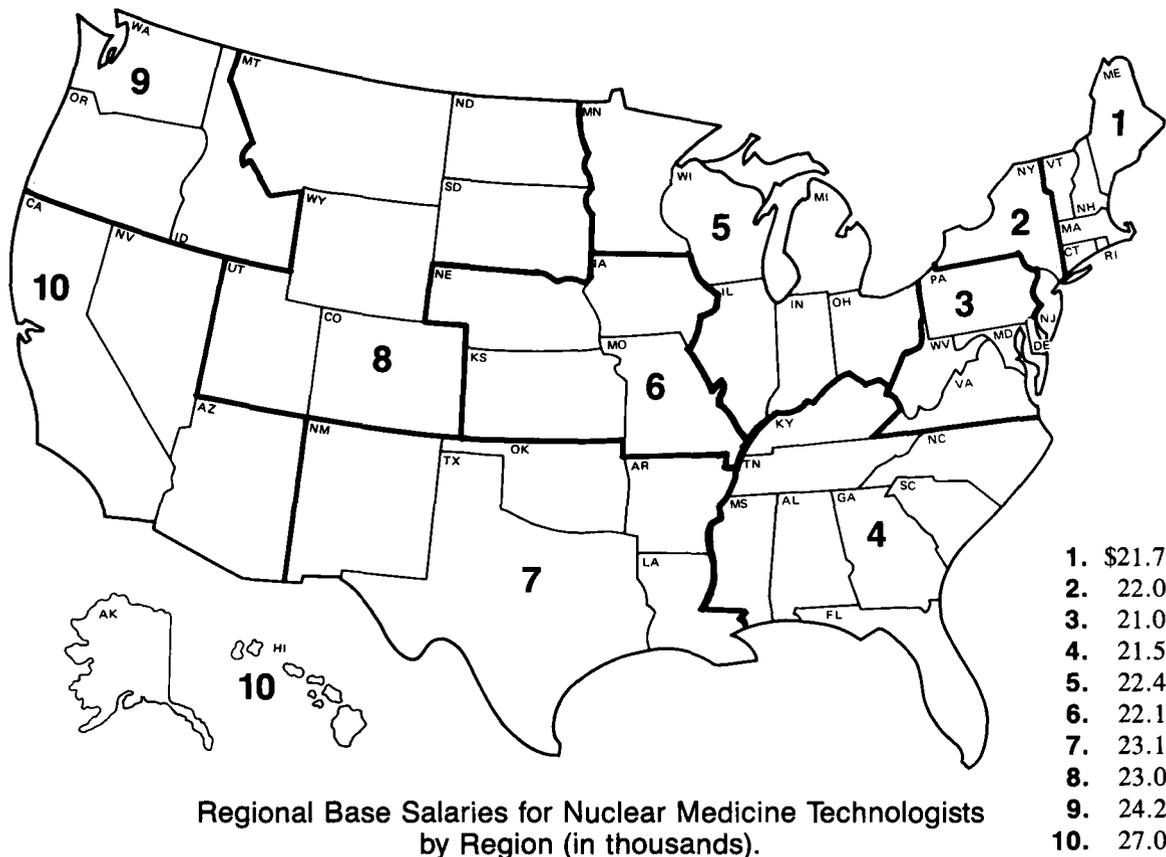


TABLE 1. 1984 Base Salaries for Technologists According to Primary Job Responsibility and Years of Experience (in thousands)

Years of Experience	Average Salaries for All Respondents	Primary Job Responsibility			
		Administrator	Chief	Supervisor	Staff
All Years (1-15+)	22.5 (3,128)*	27.3 (347)	24.7 (607)	24.6 (302)	20.6 (1,878)
0-5	20.0 (1,165)	22.0 (45)	22.0 (109)	23.0 (58)	19.5 (953)
5-10	23.0 (974)	25.8 (115)	25.0 (210)	24.2 (111)	21.4 (538)
10-15	24.5 (600)	28.3 (88)	25.3 (177)	25.6 (75)	22.4 (260)
15+	25.8 (389)	30.4 (99)	25.9 (106)	25.9 (57)	22.1 (127)

*() Figures in parentheses indicate the number of respondents.

TABLE 2. 1984 Base Salaries for Technologists Ranked by State (in thousands)*

Rank	State	Average Salary	No. of Respondents	Rank	State	Average Salary	No. of Respondents
1	California	27.5	252	22	Kentucky	22.1	38
2	Arizona	24.8	21	23	Hawaii	22.0	13
3	Oregon	24.7	26	24	New Mexico	22.0	12
4	Alabama	23.7	53	25	Illinois	21.8	181
5	Colorado	23.6	42	26	South Dakota	21.8	18
6	Texas	23.4	144	27	Mississippi	21.7	22
7	Louisiana	23.3	72	28	New Jersey	21.7	134
8	Utah	23.3	15	29	Maryland	21.5	72
9	Washington	23.3	35	30	Iowa	21.4	57
10	Kansas	23.2	36	31	Pennsylvania	21.2	248
11	Oklahoma	23.2	31	32	Rhode Island	21.1	16
12	Michigan	23.0	131	33	Georgia	21.0	55
13	Florida	22.9	137	34	West Virginia	21.0	40
14	Minnesota	22.8	52	35	Arkansas	20.9	24
15	District of Col.	22.7	27	36	Nebraska	20.9	20
16	Ohio	22.6	156	37	Tennessee	20.8	64
17	Wisconsin	22.6	78	38	Virginia	19.8	76
18	Missouri	22.5	87	39	North Carolina	19.7	69
19	New York	22.5	195	40	Maine	19.2	20
20	Massachusetts	22.4	104	41	South Carolina	19.1	48
21	Indiana	22.3	77	42	Delaware	18.7	11

*The following States had 10 or less responses and are not included for reasons of confidentiality: Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, Vermont, and Wyoming.

TABLE 3. Average 1984 Base Salaries for Technologists According to Region and Primary Job Responsibility (in thousands)

Region	Primary Responsibility			
	Administrator	Chief	Supervisor	Staff
1	26.3 (27)	24.0 (39)	24.4 (17)	19.8 (129)
2	26.3 (36)	24.9 (65)	23.1 (33)	20.2 (203)
3	25.9 (50)	23.7 (84)	22.3 (44)	19.3 (296)
4	26.7 (47)	23.8 (104)	23.2 (48)	19.6 (292)
5	27.4 (69)	24.5 (131)	24.3 (65)	20.7 (410)
6	27.5 (20)	24.4 (36)	26.2 (20)	20.0 (124)
7	26.7 (40)	25.0 (62)	26.8 (31)	20.6 (150)
8	28.9 (14)	23.8 (13)	— (9)	21.0 (54)
9	27.4 (11)	26.1 (16)	— (2)	22.5 (38)
10	31.6 (33)	28.6 (50)	29.3 (32)	25.3 (176)

() Figures in parentheses indicate the numbers of respondents.

— Indicates 10 or less respondents. Data are not presented for reasons of confidentiality.

TABLE 4. Average 1984 Base Salaries for Technologists According to Region and Years of Experience (in thousands)

Region	Years of Experience			
	0-5	5-10	10-15	15+
1	19.2 (80)	22.5 (62)	23.7 (49)	24.6 (21)
2	19.7 (137)	22.7 (109)	24.9 (56)	24.5 (35)
3	18.8 (183)	21.4 (144)	23.0 (89)	24.1 (58)
4	18.8 (189)	22.3 (150)	23.1 (89)	25.7 (63)
5	20.2 (225)	23.0 (211)	23.8 (121)	25.8 (88)
6	19.8 (79)	22.8 (63)	24.9 (29)	24.3 (29)
7	20.2 (104)	24.2 (99)	25.3 (49)	25.7 (31)
8	20.4 (28)	22.4 (32)	25.5 (21)	— (9)
9	22.0 (26)	25.0 (13)	25.2 (19)	— (9)
10	24.8 (79)	26.6 (90)	28.2 (77)	29.8 (45)

() Figures in parentheses indicate the number of respondents.

— Indicates 10 or less respondents. Data are not presented for reasons of confidentiality.

TABLE 5. Average 1984 Base Salaries for Technologists According to Ethnic Origin (in thousands)

Ethnic Origin	Primary Job Responsibility			
	Administrator	Chief	Supervisor	Staff
White	27.5 (312)	24.7 (527)	24.5 (263)	20.5 (1,629)
Nonwhite	25.4 (24)	24.7 (56)	25.3 (25)	21.1 (201)
Years of Experience				
	0-5	5-10	10-15	15+
White	19.9 (1,021)	23.0 (865)	24.5 (515)	26.0 (330)
Nonwhite	20.2 (121)	23.0 (87)	24.8 (64)	24.4 (35)

() Figures in parentheses indicate the number of respondents.

TABLE 6. 1984 Comparison of White Male and Female Average Base Salaries According to Years of Experience and Primary Job Responsibility (in thousands)*

Primary Job Responsibility	Sex	Years of Experience			
		0-5	5-10	10-15	15+
Administrator	Male	22.8 (22)	26.5 (67)	29.4 (50)	31.9 (49)
	Female	21.4 (15)	25.1 (43)	26.6 (27)	29.5 (39)
Chief Techs	Male	22.4 (49)	25.9 (112)	26.9 (74)	26.9 (49)
	Female	21.5 (40)	23.4 (77)	23.8 (85)	24.6 (41)
Supervisors	Male	24.2 (29)	25.1 (43)	26.1 (28)	26.3 (21)
	Female	21.5 (25)	23.4 (56)	25.0 (36)	24.9 (25)
Staff Techs	Male	19.9 (315)	22.4 (171)	22.8 (71)	23.7 (30)
	Female	19.2 (526)	20.6 (296)	21.9 (144)	21.9 (76)

* Nonwhites are not included in this table because of their small numbers in the profession and potential effect on the analysis.
() Figures in parentheses indicate the number of respondents.

TABLE 7. 1984 Institutional Salaries for Certified Staff Nuclear Medicine Technologist Positions by Region (in thousands)

Region	No. of Hospitals	Average Entry Salary	Average Maximum Salary
U.S.	1,157	18.0 (7.9-29.0)	23.7 (12.0-36.0)
1	89	16.7* (12.0-20.0)	21.8 (18.0-30.0)
2	126	18.6 (13.7-26.0)	23.8 (17.0-35.0)
3	107	16.2 (12.0-19.0)	22.5 (18.0-30.0)
4	200	16.9 (7.9-22.0)	22.8 (12.0-35.0)
5	275	18.2 (10.4-23.0)	23.4 (16.0-30.0)
6	61	16.6 (14.0-20.0)	23.1 (16.0-28.0)
7	98	17.5 (10.0-23.0)	23.9 (12.0-34.0)
8	33	18.4 (15.0-23.1)	23.4 (18.0-27.0)
9	28	18.7 (17.0-21.2)	24.8 (21.0-29.0)
10	140	21.4 (7.9-29.0)	27.5 (12.0-36.0)

*The average entry-level salary in Region 1 for the 89 hospitals that responded is \$16,700. Entry-level salaries at these hospitals varied from \$12,000-\$20,000.

TABLE 8. 1984 Institutional Salaries for Noncertified Staff Nuclear Medicine Technologists Positions by Region (in thousands)

Region	No. of Hospitals	Average Entry Salary	Average Maximum Salary
U.S.	492	16.1 (8.0-28.0)	21.2 (12.0-33.0)
1	33	14.1* (12.0-16.0)	17.6 (16.0-19.0)
2	56	16.6 (11.5-26.0)	22.1 (13.0-30.0)
3	61	15.3 (13.0-18.0)	20.8 (16.0-27.3)
4	79	15.5 (12.0-19.0)	19.4 (15.0-23.0)
5	89	17.5 (14.0-21.0)	22.2 (19.0-30.0)
6	33	13.1 (8.0-16.0)	17.4 (12.0-24.0)
7	75	16.1 (11.0-21.0)	22.4 (15.0-30.0)
8	5	—	—
9	14	16.0 (14.0-18.0)	20.0 (18.0-21.0)
10	47	18.4 (12.4-28.0)	25.1 (18.2-33.0)

*The average entry-level salary in Region 1 for the 33 hospitals that responded is \$14,100. These entry-level salaries varied from \$12,000-\$16,000.

— Indicates 10 or less respondents. Data are not presented for reasons of confidentiality.

TABLE 9. 1984 Institutional Salaries for Middle-Management Positions (Chief Technologist/Supervisor) by Region (in thousands)

Region	No. of Hospitals	Average Entry Salary	Average Maximum Salary
U.S.	606	20.8 (12.0-30.0)	27.1 (15.0-40.0)
1	47	18.8* (16.0-26.0)	25.8 (20.0-37.0)
2	65	21.9 (16.0-30.0)	27.9 (20.0-35.0)
3	79	19.7 (14.0-25.5)	24.8 (19.0-35.0)
4	107	19.4 (12.0-25.0)	25.8 (15.0-34.0)
5	135	21.3 (15.0-28.0)	27.8 (20.0-40.0)
6	42	20.2 (14.0-25.0)	26.2 (20.0-33.0)
7	42	19.9 (15.0-25.0)	27.2 (22.0-35.0)
8	14	22.3 (20.0-24.0)	29.2 (28.0-31.0)
9	19	21.7 (19.0-24.0)	27.9 (25.0-30.0)
10	56	24.7 (17.0-33.0)	31.7 (24.4-40.0)

TABLE 10. Average 1984 Institutional Salaries for Upper-Management, Specialists, and Educational Coordinators (in thousands)

Position	No. of Hospitals	Average Entry Salary	Average Maximum Salary
Upper-Management	266	23.6 (12.0-37.0)	31.6 (16.0-42.8)
Specialist	121	18.9 (14.0-25.4)	25.2 (17.0-37.0)
Educational Coordinator	65	21.0 (15.0-25.4)	28.2 (20.0-35.0)