

# Nuclear Medicine Technologist Salaries

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**A**s part of its 1988–1989 annual renewal of certification, the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) conducted a survey to determine the salary range of technologists. Although the “Human Resource Survey of Nuclear Medicine Technologists–1984” provided important data in areas such as staffing patterns, education, certification, and salaries (*1*), detailed analyses on technologists salaries are still needed. In view of the current manpower shortages in nuclear medicine technology, this survey was designed to pinpoint specific trends in technologist salaries.

## Survey Methods

A NMTCB certification renewal form requesting information on salary range, title/position, area of responsibility, type of workplace, and years of experience was sent to 10,346 technologists. However, title/position were not defined on the survey form. Information derived from this survey is limited in scope due to space limitations on the certification renewal form. The mailing list was comprised of staff technologists, chief technologists, directors/administrators, and educators who are certified by the NMTCB. A total of 5,048 questionnaires were returned, a 48.8% response rate. In addition, the total number of respondents included technologists who identified themselves as working in a commercial position. Re-

sponses were then tabulated and entered into the computer according to state and zip code.

## Tabular Analysis

Data gathered from the survey results are presented in Tables 1–7. Responses to a given survey question(s) may vary because the respondent did not complete the entire survey. Data in this survey, however, have been updated by the NMTCB staff throughout the renewal year (1988–1989). Data in these tables are complete and accurate as of January 1989.

Table 1 summarizes the number of respondents according to title/position. Staff technologists (58.10%) represent the largest number of respondents. The number of respondents according to primary responsibility, years of experience, and facility type are listed in Tables 2–4. In the responsibility category (Table 2), respondents were asked to identify both primary and secondary responsibilities, and these data reflect the total number of responses for both. Tables 5–6 assess national salary ranges. Respondents, however, were not asked to indicate full- or part-time employment. Data in these tables indicate that the largest percentage of technologists (25.02%) earn between \$24,000–\$28,000, a 14.8% increase over the national average gross reported in the Human Resource Survey. A smaller group (24.33%) earn over \$32,000; 21.47% earn between \$28,000–\$32,000, and 20.05% earn between \$20,000–\$24,000. Moreover, of the technologists surveyed earning between \$24,000–\$28,000, 27.37% are women and 21.75% are men. However, data in Table 6 indicate that of technologists earning over \$32,000, 36.80% are men and 16.88% are women.

Regional salaries according to title/position are depicted in Table 7. Given that most technologists earn between \$24,000–\$28,000 (Table 5), the regional comparisons yield varying results. Of technologists earning between \$24–\$28K, the largest majorities (29.45% and 29.36%) are located in Regions 8 and 6, respectively. The smallest percentage (6.72%) is located in Region 9. Regional figures for technologists earning over \$32K are quite disparate. Interestingly, the majority of technologists in that salary range (49.04%) are located in Region 9; the minority are in Region 5 (13.33%). A similar disparity is seen in the \$20–\$24K regional salary range: percentages for Regions 1–7 are somewhat comparable, but Regions 9, 8, and 0 have the lowest percentages at 6.53%, 12.88%, and 13.93%, respectively. The percentages for technologists in the \$28–\$32K salary range are, however, comparable for all regions. A detailed regional comparison is difficult since data are not analyzed in the same way. However, comparison of the average base salary for all technologists in all regions (\$22,656) from tabular material in the Human Resource Survey to the average base salary (\$26,000) in this survey provides a general overview for these differences.

In assessing salary ranges for specific job titles, the following data are revealed (note that figures in parentheses repre-

sent actual totals and not percentages):

- Regionally, staff technologists (847) earn between \$24,000–\$28,000. A smaller number (815) earn between \$20,000–\$24,000. There are 515 staff technologists earning over \$32,000, particularly in Region 9 where 125 technologists earn over \$32,000.
- Regionally, chief technologists (456) earn over \$32,000; the majority (105) are located in Region 9. A smaller number (365) earn between \$28,000–\$32,000. There are 259 chief technologists earning between \$24,000–\$28,000.
- Director/Administrator technologists (283) earn over \$32,000. Again, the majority of these technologists (50) are in Region 9.

In summary, these data indicate that regionally staff technologists salaries are comparable. However, technologists in western states seem to earn more money. There appears to be an overall increase in the average technologist salary in all regions when compared to the Human Resource Survey data. However, regional salary increases due to high vacancy rates of technologist positions and manpower shortages are difficult to define from these data. These data further indicate that the majority of individuals employed as technologists are women (2,737) and that the 20% difference between the number of men and women technologists earning over \$32,000 requires additional study

## Reference

1. The Human Resource Task Force—Technologist Section. The Society of Nuclear Medicine human resource survey for nuclear medicine technologists. *J Nucl Med Technol* 1985;13:187–199.

**TABLE 1. Number of Respondents by Title/Position**

Title	No.	%
Staff technologists	2,859	58.10
Chief technologists	1,250	25.40
Directors/Administrators	416	8.45
Educators	298	6.06
Commercial Representatives	98	1.99
Total	4,921	100.00

**TABLE 2. Number of Respondents by Area of Responsibility**

Responsibility	No.	%
Imaging	2,823	30.37
Management	1,435	15.44
Nuclear cardiology	1,309	14.08
Nuclear pharmacy	792	8.52
Other imaging modalities (x-ray, CT, MRI, etc.)	664	7.14
Quality control	575	6.19
Education	548	5.90
Ultrasound	400	4.30
Radioimmunoassay	272	2.93
Computers	211	2.27
Medical technology	172	1.85
Research	93	1.00
Total	9,294	100.00

**TABLE 3. Number of Respondents by Years of Experience**

Years	No.	%
3 years or less	818	16.27
4–6 years	863	17.17
7–9 years	797	15.85
10–12 years	848	16.87
13–15 years	737	14.66
16–18 years	757	15.06
19–21 years	90	1.79
+21 years	117	2.33
Total	5,027	100.00

**TABLE 4. Number of Respondents by Workplace**

Workplace	No.	%
Hospital, 1-99 beds	264	5.31
Hospital, 100-299 beds	1,485	29.86
Hospital, 300-499 beds	1,224	24.61
Hospital, 500+ beds	1,201	24.15
Private outpatient facility	409	8.22
Nuclear pharmacy	163	3.28
Mobile service	75	1.51
Other (colleges, research labs, etc.)	153	3.08
Total	4,974	100.00

**TABLE 5. National Salary Ranges\***

<b>Salary range</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under \$16,000	197	4.00
\$16-20,000	253	5.13
\$20-24,000	988	20.05
\$24-28,000	1,233	25.02
\$28-32,000	1,058	21.47
over \$32,000	1,199	24.33
Total	4,921	100.00

\*Data do not indicate full- or part-time employment.

**TABLE 6. National Salary Ranges by Gender**

<b>Men</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under \$16,000	23	1.20
\$16-20,000	38	1.99
\$20-24,000	254	13.27
\$24-28,000	416	21.75
\$28-32,000	478	24.99
over \$32,000	704	36.80
Total	1,913	100.00
<b>Women</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under \$16,000	164	5.99
\$16-20,000	165	6.03
\$20-24,000	650	23.75
\$24-28,000	749	27.37
\$28-32,000	547	19.98
over \$32,000	462	16.88
Total	2,737	100.00

TABLE 7. Regional Salaries by Title/Position\*

**Title Legend:** 1. Director/Administrator  
 2. Educator  
 3. Chief Technologist  
 4. Staff Technologist  
 5. Commercial Representative

**Region 0: PR, VI, MA, RI, NH, ME, VT, CT, and NJ**

Salary range	Title/Position					Total	%
	1	2	3	4	5		
Under \$16K	1	2	5	32	1	41	7.93
\$16-20K	2	1	2	31	0	36	6.96
\$20-24K	1	0	11	59	1	72	13.93
\$24-28K	1	8	23	96	0	128	24.76
\$28-32K	4	7	35	52	1	99	19.15
Over \$32K	27	16	62	33	3	141	27.27
Total						629	100.00

**Region 1: NY, PA, and DE**

Under \$16K	0	0	1	28	0	29	4.61
\$16-20K	0	0	2	36	1	39	6.20
\$20-24K	0	6	15	120	1	142	22.58
\$24-28K	4	12	35	130	0	181	28.78
\$28-32K	5	14	49	55	4	127	20.19
Over \$32K	27	7	48	18	11	111	17.64
Total						517	100.00

**Region 2: DC, MD, VA, WV, NC and SC**

Under \$16K	0	0	1	13	0	14	3.08
\$16-20K	0	0	4	30	0	34	7.49
\$20-24K	1	2	18	81	0	101	22.25
\$24-28K	6	5	36	75	1	123	27.09
\$28-32K	10	4	36	49	0	99	21.81
Over \$32K	29	3	36	7	8	83	18.28
Total						454	100.00

**Region 3: GA, FL, AL, TN, and MS**

Under \$16K	1	1	0	6	4	12	2.13
\$16-20K	0	1	0	22	0	23	4.09
\$20-24K	2	1	19	109	3	134	23.80
\$24-28K	4	7	28	95	0	134	23.80
\$28-32K	10	9	51	47	1	118	20.96
Over \$32K	38	14	71	9	10	142	25.22
Total						563	100.00

\* Title/Position was not defined on the survey form.

TABLE 7. Regional Salaries by Title/Position (cont.)\*

Title Legend: 1. Director/Administrator  
 2. Educator  
 3. Chief Technologist  
 4. Staff Technologist  
 5. Commercial Representative

## Region 4: KY, OH, IN, and MI

Salary range	Title/Position					Total	%
	1	2	3	4	5		
Under \$16K	0	1	1	38	0	40	5.68
\$16-20K	0	0	3	26	0	29	4.12
\$20-24K	0	6	20	166	1	193	27.41
\$24-28K	2	9	39	140	3	193	27.41
\$28-32K	12	12	50	73	0	147	20.89
Over \$32K	33	12	33	18	6	102	14.49
Total						704	100.00

## Region 5: IA, WI, MN, SD, ND, and MT

Under \$16K	2	0	0	7	0	9	3.00
\$16-20K	0	1	1	19	0	21	7.00
\$20-24K	1	2	5	66	0	73	24.34
\$24-28K	3	6	14	56	0	79	26.33
\$28-32K	5	7	25	40	1	78	26.00
Over \$32K	15	1	16	7	1	40	13.33
Total						300	100.00

## Region 6: IL, MO, KS, and NE

Under \$16K	0	0	1	17	0	18	3.70
\$16-20K	1	1	0	18	0	20	4.11
\$20-24K	1	3	10	93	0	107	21.97
\$24-28K	6	14	30	93	0	143	29.36
\$28-32K	9	6	37	54	3	109	22.38
Over \$32K	28	15	27	12	8	90	18.48
Total						487	100.00

## Region 7: LA, AR, OK, and TX

Under \$16K	0	0	0	10	2	12	3.31
\$16-20K	0	0	1	15	1	17	4.70
\$20-24K	0	1	14	74	3	92	25.41
\$24-28K	2	1	22	52	0	77	21.27
\$28-32K	9	8	33	28	0	78	21.55
Over \$32K	29	7	41	5	4	86	23.76
Total						362	100.00

\* Title/Position was not defined on the survey form.

TABLE 7. Regional Salaries by Title/Position (cont.)\*

Title Legend: 1. Director/Administrator  
 2. Educator  
 3. Chief Technologist  
 4. Staff Technologist  
 5. Commercial Representative

## Region 8: CO, NM, WY, ID, UT, AZ, and NV

Salary range	Title/Position					Total	%
	1	2	3	4	5		
Under \$16K	0	1	0	4	0	5	3.07
\$16–20K	0	1	2	13	1	17	10.43
\$20–24K	0	2	5	13	1	21	12.88
\$24–28K	1	4	15	28	0	48	29.45
\$28–32K	2	6	15	20	0	43	26.38
Over \$32K	7	0	17	4	1	29	17.79
Total						163	100.00

## Region 9: CA, HI, OR, WA, and AK

Under \$16K	1	2	0	8	1	12	1.91
\$16–20K	1	1	1	16	0	19	3.03
\$20–24K	0	0	7	34	0	41	6.53
\$24–28K	2	3	17	82	1	105	16.72
\$28–32K	7	3	34	97	2	143	22.77
Over \$32K	50	25	105	125	3	308	49.04
Total						628	100.00

\*Title/Position was not defined on the survey form.