Geoscientist Salaries, by years of experience

The average salaries for geoscientists in 2005 varied by years of experience. For geoscientists employed for 0-2 years, the average salary was $74,000, a 9.7% increase over 2004’s average. Geoscientists employed for 20-24 years earned an average of $139,000, which was more than a 23% increase over 2004 salaries. After 25 years of employment, average salaries dip slightly, to $138,100.

As expected, the greater the education, then generally the higher the compensation. However, given the premium on experience and small population of mid-career geoscientists in the US, even Bachelors’ degree recipients can out-earn PhD and Masters degreed scientists. Geoscientists with their highest degree as the Bachelors earned an average of $135,000 with 10-14 years of experience, compared to only $103,000 for doctoral geoscientists with the same experience.

-Cindy Martinez and Chris Keane