

2011 Median and Starting Salaries for Geoscience-related Occupations

Across the U.S., the majority of geoscience-related occupations have competitive median salaries and starting salaries when compared to the median salaries of all occupations within the same state.* In 2011, median salaries for the majority of geoscience-related occupations were 30 percent higher than the median salary for all occupations within each state.

Starting salaries for geoscience-related occupations is available for 35 states, yet the currency of the data ranges from 2009 to 2012, with 20 states reporting data for 2011. Within these 20 states, the 2011 starting salaries for most geoscience-related occupations were over 10% higher than the median salary for all occupations within each state. Geoscience-related technician occupations generally have lower starting salaries and lower median salaries than the median salary for all occupations in most states.

*Cost of living adjustments, which are available for comparing two metropolitan areas, are not available for state-wide to state-wide comparisons. Thus, we compare salaries for geoscience-related occupations to salaries for all occupations within the same state to create a baseline for assessing the competitiveness of salaries for geoscience-related occupations.

To view this data interactively, explore starting salaries and salary percentiles by state, visit:
http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/2011_Geoscience_Salaries/2011GeoscienceSalaries

States reporting
2011 starting salaries
for geoscience-related
occupations



2011 Median Salaries for Geoscience-related Occupations

³Percent of
Median Salary for All
Occupations in State

| | Median Salary Range | Lowest Salary | Highest Salary |
|---|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Architect. & Eng. Mgrs. | \$90,080 to \$143,050 | MT 206% | CA 271% |
| Natural Sci. Mgrs. | \$55,090 to \$153,120 | IN 76% | NJ 287% |
| Environmental Eng. | \$61,890 to \$104,340 | FL 101% | DC 71% |
| Mining and Geological Eng. | \$56,660 to \$117,040 | OH 74% | OK 295% |
| Petroleum Eng. | \$59,880 to ¹ exceeds \$187,200 | MO 92% | MA ² over 338% |
| Environmental Eng. Tech. | \$30,040 to \$68,280 | IA -4% | NV 109% |
| Soil and Plant Sci. | \$46,090 to \$81,200 | KY 52% | MD 101% |
| Atmospheric & Space Sci. | \$58,500 to \$113,240 | NH 66% | NJ 186% |
| Environmental Sci. | \$43,270 to \$112,230 | MS 59% | DC 83% |
| Geoscientists | \$31,520 to \$144,970 | SC 5% | OK 389% |
| Hydrologists | \$55,890 to \$94,110 | SC 86% | CO 154% |
| Geographers | \$54,960 to \$92,000 | TX 71% | VA 153% |
| Geological & Petroleum Tech. | \$33,440 to \$66,040 | WV 19% | AK 54% |
| Environmental Sci. Tech. | \$26,290 to \$61,950 | DC -57% | NV 90% |
| Engineering Teachers, Postsec. | \$66,610 to \$111,620 | MN 83% | PA 221% |
| Atmosph. Earth, Marine, & Space Sci. Teachers, Postsec. | \$44,720 to \$105,530 | OK 51% | RI 186% |
| Environmental Sci. Teachers, Postsec. | \$35,240 to \$119,610 | IA 13% | WA 198% |
| Geography Teachers, Postsec. | \$43,690 to \$91,310 | OK 47% | CA 137% |

2011 Starting Salaries for Geoscience-related Occupations

³Percent of
Median Salary for All
Occupations in State

| | Starting Salary Range | Lowest Salary | Highest Salary |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | \$53,452 to \$100,901 | KY 76% | RI 174% |
| | \$56,256 to \$98,675 | KY 85% | RI 168% |
| | \$40,040 to \$68,890 | FL 30% | RI 87% |
| | \$41,470 to \$77,480 | TN 37% | ND 142% |
| | \$53,452 to \$135,120 | WV 91% | MA 216% |
| | \$23,678 to \$54,642 | KY -22% | RI 48% |
| | \$32,210 to \$59,500 | TN 6% | MD 47% |
| | \$39,430 to \$79,050 | WI 18% | MD 95% |
| | \$26,326 to \$56,451 | OK -11% | RI 53% |
| | \$35,782 to \$69,057 | WV 28% | OK 133% |
| | \$47,091 to \$80,290 | ID 56% | WV 187% |
| | \$44,110 to \$61,390 | PA 27% | MA 44% |
| | \$21,870 to \$36,780 | UT -32% | MA -14% |
| | \$24,088 to \$44,075 | KY -21% | RI 20% |
| | \$31,397 to \$75,742 | WV 12% | NH 114% |
| | \$35,163 to \$79,990 | KY 16% | RI 117% |
| | \$24,363 to \$69,900 | WV -13% | MD 73% |
| | \$26,680 to \$63,648 | TN -12% | NH 80% |

¹The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports this wage as "greater than \$90.00 per hour or \$187,200 per year". BLS reports 30 Petroleum Engineers in Massachusetts.

²Value based on salary of \$187,200. ³Percent different from the median salary for All Occupations (Standard Occupational Code: 00-0000) within the state.

State median salary data derived from BLS's Occupational Employment Statistics May 2011 data tables.

Starting salaries derived from state-level labor market information websites.

- Leila M. Gonzales
Quadriga Analytics, LLC