

**2008 LIFE SCIENCE SALARY SURVEY RESULTS ANNOUNCED**  
*Surprising results include overall compensation jump and gender disparities.*

(Philadelphia, PA) – September 4, 2008 – Could science salaries be finally catching up? [The Scientist](#), magazine of the life sciences, published today the results of its 5<sup>th</sup> [Life Science Salary Survey](#), the most current source for salaries in the life sciences. This year's survey yielded responses from more than 4,700 life scientists in the United States and not only reveals the facts and figures behind discrepancies in salaries between gender, location, visa status, specialty, but also exposes the shift in mentality among scientists in today's tight job market.

The 2008 survey found that despite the state of the economy and unfavorable employment statistics, the median total compensation for surveyed life scientists in the US increased by 15% since 2006, jumping from \$74,000 to \$85,000. Scientists working in industry earn a significantly higher salary (\$107,000) than their academic and private-institution counterparts (\$77,900). The results also show that median salary was less influenced by the size of the organization and more influenced by promotion and management level.

While salaries have increased overall, some scientists are reevaluating their career choices and making tough decisions about their salary and their lifestyle. When researchers make major career moves, some are uncertain of what kind of pay to expect. "Most people don't know if they're making an average salary or are underpaid," says Bettina Seidman of SEIDBET Associates, a career counseling company based in NYC. A change in career is "an opportunity to do some research," says Seidman. *The Scientist's* survey is a great place to start.

One factor that more and more researchers will have to consider when discussing salary is the bonus scheme or 'variable pay.' "Ninety per cent of US corporations now offer some sort of bonus arrangement," says Ken Abosch, leader of Licolnshire, ILL Hewitt Associates Compensation Consulting business. Companies have been making bonuses a bigger part of compensation averaging at 11.8 percent of yearly salary in 2007, up from only 3.8 percent in 1991. *The Scientist* talked to money experts to find out [which bonus strategy is right for scientists](#) and reports the findings in this month's issue.

*The Scientist* collected data from across the country and found that salary disparities are found in both location and gender. California, among other states, offers average salaries of over \$150,000 for tenured faculty. The east coast is also quite strong and, surprisingly, offers very competitive salaries for younger scientists – many assistant professors in Massachusetts are earning over \$100,000 in total compensation. [Salary disparities](#) are also found in gender. Female professors, for example, have a starting median salary of \$126,000 at 15-19 years experience, while men with the same experience start at a median of \$164,000, or 23% higher.

To get the full results of the 2008 Life Science Salary Survey, visit *The Scientist's* online magazine at [www.the-scientist.com/salariesurvey/](http://www.the-scientist.com/salariesurvey/) where detailed charts are available that break down the numbers. The site also provides 5 years of comprehensive salary data and resources and also features a careers site for those looking to hire or make a career change.

A full review of the survey along with data and illustrative charts can also be found in the September print issue of *The Scientist*, voted “Magazine of the Year,” by The American Society of Business Publishers. *The Scientist* is available by subscription, on select newsstands and can be found online at [www.the-scientist.com/](http://www.the-scientist.com/).

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