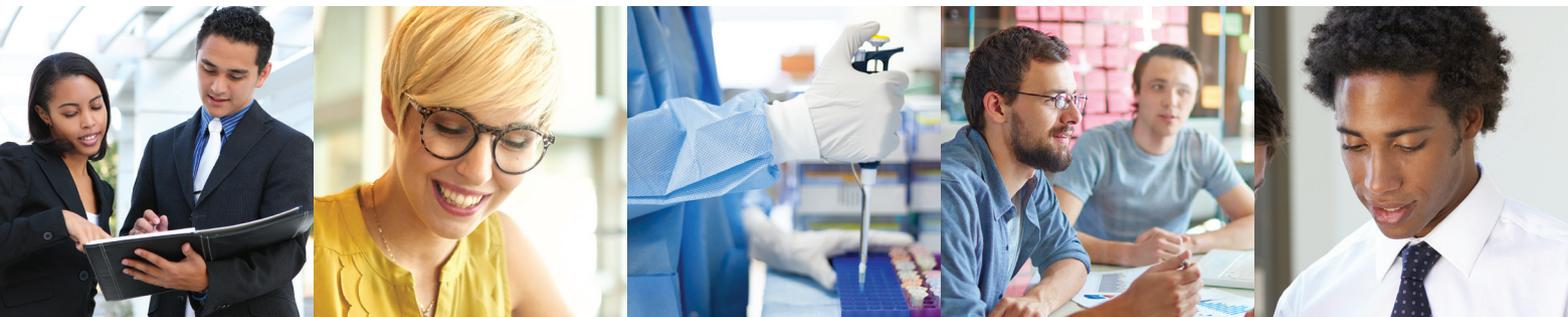




FALL 2017

# SALARY SURVEY

PRELIMINARY STARTING SALARIES FOR CLASS OF 2017 NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES  
DATA REPORTED BY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS

[www.naceweb.org](http://www.naceweb.org)

## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The Fall 2017 *Salary Survey* report provides actual starting salaries (not projections) for the college Class of 2017. The figures reported are for base salaries only and do not include bonuses, commissions, fringe benefits, or overtime rates. This report provides the detailed salaries by academic major at the associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels, along with breakouts by both geographic region and Carnegie Classification at the bachelor's degree level.

The data were collected from July 12, 2017, through September 15, 2017, and were provided by 81 colleges and universities nationwide that participate in NACE's national *First-Destination Survey*. The data are preliminary salaries for Class of 2017 graduates in the date range from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. The final salary numbers for the Class of 2017 will be released in the Spring 2018 *Salary Survey* report in conjunction with the *Class of 2017 First-Destination Survey* results.

*Salary Survey* (ISSN 1520-8648) is available to individuals holding membership in the National Association of Colleges and Employers; it is also available on a subscription basis. The *Salary Survey* report is published three times a year—Winter, Spring, and Fall—by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 62 Highland Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017-9085. For more information, see [www.nacweb.org/store/subscription/salary-survey/](http://www.nacweb.org/store/subscription/salary-survey/) or contact NACE at 610.868.1421.

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# HOW TO READ SALARY SURVEY

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### **STARTING SALARY BY ACADEMIC MAJOR**

(Associate/Bachelor's/Master's/Doctoral)

In this section, you will find the average starting salary according to the major field of study. Only majors with five or more reported salaries are shown. Refer to this section when you want to know the starting salary for a graduate holding a particular degree in a specific discipline, such as a bachelor's degree in accounting or a master's degree in business administration.

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### **STARTING SALARY BY REGION AND MAJOR**

(Bachelor's)

In this section, you will find the average starting salary according to the major field of study. Only majors with three or more reported salaries are shown. Refer to this section when you want to know the starting salary for a graduate holding a master's degree in a specific discipline, such as mechanical or electrical engineering.

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### **STARTING SALARY BY CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION AND MAJOR**

(Bachelor's)

In this section, you will find the average starting salary according to the major field of study, within seven geographic regions. (New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Great Lakes, Plains, Southwest, and Far West/Rocky Mountain.) The regional data are based upon the locations of the participating institutions that supplied information for the reported majors within each region. Only majors with five or more reported salaries are shown. Refer to this section when you want to know the starting salary for a graduate holding a bachelor's degree in a specific discipline in a regional location, such as mechanical engineering majors who attended schools in New England.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Early data for the Class of 2017 show increases in starting salaries for several disciplines and dips for others, according to NACE's Fall 2017 *Salary Survey*. Note, however, that the data at this early juncture are preliminary and limited.

Currently, the overall average starting salary for the Class of 2017 stands at \$51,022, a drop of 2.9 percent from the initial average salary (\$52,569) for the Class of 2016 reported at this time last year.

But, even though the overall average salary has dipped, the salaries for some majors have gone up. For example, the average salary for those earning degrees in computer science now stands at \$74,183, up 3.7 percent over last year's opening salary of \$71,534. These graduates are the highest paid at the bachelor's degree level. (See Figure 1.) For specific computer science majors, who have the top salary among this group, the reported average of \$78,038 is up 2.7 percent over last year's average of \$75,980. One key factor contributing to this high salary is that one school reported almost 10 percent of the salaries that occur in the 75th percentile for this group.

While engineering graduates place second on the top-paid list, their overall average salary of \$64,530 is down 2.4 percent from last year's average of \$66,121. This year's average, however, may be more realistic, as last year's average salary was up 7 percent due to one respondent reporting a large number of extremely high salaries. Within the specific engineering disciplines, petroleum engineering graduates claim the top-paid spot with an average

starting salary of \$78,810. They are also the top-paid individual major at the bachelor's degree level.

The overall average starting salary for mathematics/statistics graduates is also lower than last year. This year's reported salary of \$53,259 is down 15 percent from last year's average of \$62,985. The individual salaries for both mathematics majors and statistics majors are driving the decrease. The average salary for mathematics fell 16.3 percent, from \$64,028 to \$53,604, while the average salary for statistics dropped almost 25 percent, from \$61,653 to \$47,410. The large dips in these salaries are correlated to the relatively low number of salaries reported and the particular respondents' data for each year. It is also important to note that the final salary for the mathematics and statistics category landed at \$59,727 for the Class of 2016 in the Spring 2017 *Salary Survey* report. This shows that the overall average had already decreased 5.2 percent by the end of the reporting year.

Business majors from the Class of 2017 open the reporting year with an average starting salary of \$52,124. This is down 3.2 percent from last year's starting salary of \$53,836. The highest-paid individual major among this group is actuarial science, which has an average starting salary of \$60,352. Also well-paid are business economics majors with an average salary of \$59,662, and management information systems (MIS) graduates, who earned an average starting salary of \$59,576. Despite the fact that finance and accounting majors were most in-demand by employers responding to the *Job Outlook 2017* survey, these two particular

FIGURE 1 TOP-PAID MAJORS FOR CLASS OF 2017 BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATES

BROAD CATEGORY	NUMBER OF 2017 REPORTED SALARIES	2017 AVERAGE SALARY
Computer & Information Sciences	950	\$74,183
Engineering	4,218	\$64,530
Engineering Technologies	271	\$57,619
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	593	\$54,426
Mathematics & Statistics	221	\$53,259
Business	8,241	\$52,124
Health Professions & Related Programs	1,563	\$50,564
Physical Sciences	130	\$47,026



majors have average starting salaries hovering closer to the overall average for the group at \$53,688 and \$51,632, respectively.

Health sciences majors have somewhat smaller average salaries in this report, with their overall average slipping almost 3 percent, from \$52,074 to \$50,564. However, despite this decrease for the group, the number of reported salaries for registered nursing nearly doubled, and their average salary fell less than one-half percent from \$55,081 to \$54,810. At this early stage of reporting, all but one of the other individual majors in the health sciences category had fewer than 100 reported salaries, so the small number of reported salaries may be another contributing factor to the overall decrease.

Graduates earning degrees in the physical sciences, e.g. chemistry, physics, and geology, have average starting salaries that are 2.5 percent higher this year. Their current overall average starting salary is \$47,026, up from \$45,872 last year. Of the individual majors, chemistry majors' average salary remains fairly level, dipping slightly from \$45,507 to \$45,022. But, the movement in salaries for geology and physics majors are offsetting one another, with geology majors' average salary increasing 13.3 percent from \$40,774 to \$47,055, and physics majors' average salary declining 10 percent from \$58,318 to \$53,024.

The average starting salaries for both English and

history majors are also higher now than they were last year. Their current starting salaries stand at \$40,466 for English majors (up 7.4 percent) and \$38,529 for history majors (up 4.3 percent). This marks the second consecutive year for an increase in salaries for English majors, as they began with an average starting salary of \$34,702 for the Class of 2015. On the other hand, the average salary for history majors dipped slightly from fall 2015 to fall 2016, but when comparing fall 2015 to the present, the net increase is 1.5 percent.

Class of 2017 psychology graduates have slightly lower salaries, and their overall average salary is down 2.6 percent from \$35,587 last year to \$34,664 this year. However, their final average salary for the Class of 2016 ended at \$36,548, which is almost 3 percent higher than where it started during the 2016 recruiting year.

The final salary data for the Class of 2017 will be published in NACE's Spring 2018 *Salary Survey*, and will be based on results of the NACE 2018 *First-Destination Survey*.

A first look at salaries for the Class of 2018 will be provided in the Winter 2018 *Salary Survey*, using data gathered through NACE's *Job Outlook 2018 Survey*. Hiring projections will also be published from the *Job Outlook 2018 Survey* in mid-November.

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Below is a list of the 81 institutions that supplied salary data for the NACE Fall 2017 Salary Survey.

American University	Ringling College of Art & Design
Babson College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Bay State College	Rutgers University - Newark - Rutgers Business School
Boston University	Saginaw Valley State University
Bridgewater College	Saint John Fisher College
California State University - Fullerton - Mihaylo College of Business and Economics	Saint Norbert College
Calvin College	Salisbury University
Carthage College	Seattle Pacific University
Chapman University	Shenandoah University
Christian Brothers University	Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
Clayton State University	Stony Brook University
College of Coastal Georgia	SUNY at Binghamton
College of William and Mary	SUNY Plattsburgh
Colorado School of Mines	Texas Christian University
Colorado State University-Pueblo	The University of Alabama
Doane University	The University of Tennessee
Emerson College	University of Arizona
Florida State University	University of Arkansas
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering	University of Central Missouri
Grove City College	University of Dayton
Hastings College	University of Houston - Downtown
Indiana University - South Bend	University of Idaho
John Brown University	University of Kansas - School of Business
Lakeland University	University of Louisville College of Business
Le Moyne-Owen College	University of Miami
Meredith College	University of Missouri - Columbia - College of Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
Michigan Technological University	University of Missouri - St. Louis
Millsaps College	University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Milwaukee School of Engineering	University of Nevada - Reno
Mississippi State University	University of New Mexico
Missouri University of Science & Technology	University of Rochester
New York University	University of San Diego
North Carolina A&T State University	University of Scranton
Northeast Community College	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Northeastern State University	University of Southern California
Northeastern University	University of Utah
Northern Michigan University	University of Wisconsin-Stout
Ohio Northern University	Washington University in St. Louis
Ohio State University - College of Engineering	West Texas A&M University
Purdue University	West Virginia University - College of Business & Economics
Randolph-Macon College	



