

ASHA 2009 Schools Conference Questionnaire Results

Introduction. A Web-based survey was fielded on June 16, 2009 to 697 individuals who had pre-registered for the 2009 Schools Conference. The purpose of the survey was to understand how the current economy is impacting ASHA members, to look for ways to better serve the membership, and to share survey results with interested attendees during the conference. A follow-up reminder was mailed to non-respondents on June 23. A total of 197 individuals completed the survey for a 29% response rate (out of 697 pre-registrants, excluding ASHA staff members and BOD members, less 29 undeliverable survey invitations).

1. What is your current employment status? (Check one.)

Response	Percent	Number
Employed full-time in profession/ discipline	82%	160
Employed part-time in profession/ discipline	12%	23
Employed full- or part-time outside of the profession/ discipline	2%	3
Not employed and seeking employment	1%	1
Not employed and <u>not</u> seeking employment	1%	1
On leave of absence	-	-
Retired/volunteer	2%	4
Other (see below)	2%	4

- 1 'no response'
- Doctoral student
- I am employed full-time at the University lab school and part-time as "adjunct" in the University Communication Disorders Clinic
- My job position in a private school went from full time to part time. However, I am in the process of getting a contract from a public school district. I don't know what the salary cuts will be at this time.

2. What is your current primary employment setting? (Check one.)

[Results only include those who reported that they were employed in Question 1.]

Response	Percent	Number
School	86%	160
University	7%	13
Private practice	4%	8
Other (see below)	2%	4

- Clinic
- Doctoral student
- Easter Seals Arkansas
- I have a job offer with the public schools and a private clinic.

3. What is your current primary employment function? (Check one.)
 [Results only include those who reported that they were employed in Question 1.]

Response	Percent	Number
Clinical service provider/speech-language pathologist	77%	145
Special education teacher	-	-
Student	1%	1
Researcher	-	-
Consultant	2%	4
Administrator (non-university setting)	10%	19
University faculty/administrator	8%	15
Other (see below)	2%	4

- Educational audiologist
- I have multiple roles. I own and run a school for individuals with disabilities and I provide speech and language services and supervision in public schools.
- Part-time service provider/SLP, part-time reading support consulting teacher
- Teacher Specialist-Speech Therapy Program

4. Have you made plans to reduce your personal spending in 2009?

Response	Percent	Number
Yes, by a little	59%	116
Yes, by a lot	25%	49
No, not at all	14%	28
Do not know	2%	4

5. Have you made plans to reduce your professional spending in 2009 (purchasing equipment or supplies, participating in continuing education activities/programs, attending meetings, etc.)?

Response	Percent	Number
Yes, by a little	44%	86
Yes, by a lot	23%	45
No, not at all	23%	46
Do not know	9%	17
Not employed	2%	3

6. Has your employer/district made plans to reduce spending in 2009?

Response	Percent	Number
Yes, by a little	21%	42
Yes, by a lot	56%	109
No, not at all	7%	13
Do not know	14%	28
Not employed	2%	4

7. How have current economic conditions impacted the number of speech-language pathology and/or audiology positions in your work setting in 2008 and in 2009? (Check all that apply.)

Response	2008	2009
Reduced number of positions	9%	21%
Increased number of positions	14%	17%
Filled positions with support personnel	10%	11%
Some/all of speech-language pathologists' responsibilities assumed by other professionals (e.g., educational therapists)	7%	10%
No reductions made, but did not fill open positions	14%	17%
No significant changes to number of positions	36%	37%
Do not know	8%	7%
Not employed	2%	2%

8. During the past 12 months, have you experienced any of the following *undesired* changes in your employment situation? (Check all that apply.)

Response	Percent	Number
Job loss/layoff	3%	5
Involuntary reduction in work hours	5%	10
Involuntary increase in work hours	10%	19
Reduction in salary or benefits (without change in hours)	11%	21
Conversion from salaried to hourly or PRN pay	-	-
Increase in the number of sites served	13%	25
Decrease in the number of sites served	1%	2
Reduction in caseload/workload/productivity	2%	3
Increase in caseload/workload/productivity	35%	68
Replacement by support personnel	3%	5
Change in employment facility	4%	7
Employment facility was closed	-	-
None of the above occurred	36%	71

Other Responses:

- As workload and number of sites increase, there is no increase in personnel. One person does it all; that one person is me.
- District allows numbers beyond 80 and asks for waivers- I've had them 3 years in a row
- Husband laid off. Thus, my part time income is the only income until he finds work.
- I have caused some of these to happen but minimally affecting speech and language services
- Increase in work responsibilities which result in many more hours
- Increased workload due to ever-increasing demands of administrators and parents
- It isn't necessarily that SLP positions were filled by support personnel, but in the past, SLPs would have been hired, and now paraeducators are being hired to support SLPs with higher caseloads.
- Lay off of spouse and university offering no paid teaching opportunities for doc students
- Major increase in health insurance
- Negative changes in health insurance plans

- No funding by school/district for updated tests/protocols/materials
- No pay increase, no cost of living increase
- No reduction in salary, however, changes in the district insurance coverage will result in a significant increase in out of pocket expenses for employees.
- Not employed in the professions
- One day of furlough assessed on every employee in system. Reduced day's pay distributed over 12 paychecks.
- Possible addition of an additional site, unknown at this time
- Professional development funds were put on a freeze, but has been lifted
- Reduction in clients booking speech-language therapy sessions
- Salaries frozen
- Workload too high so I went from full time 2008-09 to 3 days a week 2009-10

9. ASHA wants to make sure we are providing you with useful resources during these challenging economic times. Please review the following list and indicate the value that you place on each product/service. (n=197)

Response	Not at all valuable	Not very valuable	Somewhat valuable	Very valuable	Do not know/ no opinion
Products to facilitate your professional responsibilities (<i>Approaches to Assessment: IDEA vs. NCLB, etc.</i>)	2%	6%	34%	45%	14%
Resources to help you in your day-to-day professional activities (IDEA, caseload/workload, literacy, etc.)	-	4%	30%	60%	6%
Resources and advocacy tools that help better explain the profession to parents, administrators, etc.	3%	8%	43%	38%	9%
Tools to help you personalize your outreach (such as stationery or business cards)	19%	39%	22%	6%	15%
Patient diagnostic or assessment tools (discounts of 10% off publisher list price, etc.)	4%	12%	37%	31%	16%
Resources to help you manage your career (information about switching to practice in a different setting, etc.)	13%	25%	30%	14%	18%
Materials you can use to educate professional colleagues, administrators and/or parents (brochures, DVDs, etc.)	2%	10%	43%	40%	6%
Stress management resources	13%	25%	31%	13%	18%
Opportunities to share experiences with colleagues regarding current situations/strategies (Member Forum, Face-book site, Division List-servs, etc.)	4%	12%	37%	34%	14%

10. Please indicate your interest in reading/learning more about each of the following topics through ASHA's communication vehicles (*The ASHA Leader*, Web site, etc.).

Response	Not at all interested	Not very interested	Somewhat interested	Very interested	Do not know/ no opinion
Information about the stimulus package and its effect on members	3%	11%	37%	48%	2%
Member stories about successfully coping with the recession	7%	20%	47%	23%	4%
Reports about the impact of the recession on members	4%	15%	48%	29%	4%

- Best ways/value for spending stimulus money
- Data on the impact of the recession nationally - specifically number of positions lost or unfilled. This is crucial in assessing the status of critical shortage.
- How to keep NCLB from hijacking SPOKEN language as our mission. The crude instruments that measure "adequate yearly progress" in reading are (in terms of reliability and validity) unworthy of my attention, yet teachers look to me for help if a child is not reading "on grade level." They ignore the poor kid's inability to express himself orally and are ONLY concerned when the reading indicator is low. I would like to learn more about how I can advocate FOR the child and AGAINST the pathetic measures states rely on to measure AYP.
- I get this info from several places as well
- The graduate schools are helpful in locating jobs for their graduates, job interviews, and filling out applications. For those of us losing jobs, ASHA might encourage information on re-writing your resume, information on jobs that are available, interviewing techniques. I found the contract companies were like Eagles in knowing about. However, working with contract companies the salaries were not as competitive since part of your salary goes to them.
- Your information on the Stimulus package was interesting, and I presented some of the ideas to my Special Ed. Director, however, she was told by the district administration that stimulus money in our district would be used to pay salaries. End of discussion.

11. Which of the following statements best describes your personal prediction about the economy in 2009? (Check one.)

Response	Percent	Number
The economy will probably <u>get worse</u> before it gets better, but I <u>am not</u> worrying about the potential of losing my job.	47%	89
The economy will probably <u>get worse</u> before it gets better, and I <u>am</u> worrying about the potential of losing my job.	9%	17
The economy will probably <u>start to improve</u> by year end and I <u>am not</u> worrying about losing my job.	40%	75
The economy will probably <u>start to improve</u> by year end, but I <u>am</u> worrying about the potential of losing my job.	3%	5
I have no opinion	2%	4