



AMERICAN  
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HEARING  
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# AUDIOLOGY SURVEY 2008

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## **Survey Report: Hourly Wage Trends 2004–2008**

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## **Introduction**

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2008 Audiology Survey to gather information about salaries, working conditions, and service delivery. Results from this survey are compiled in a series of reports, including this report on hourly wage trends. Results from the 2004 and 2006 ASHA Audiology Surveys are also included in this report for comparative purposes.

The statistic that is presented as the “average” in this report is the median (i.e., middle or 50th percentile). Median wages are presented because they are more stable than means and less sensitive to extreme values. To preserve confidentiality, wages are not reported for groups of less than 25.

The wages presented in this report are gross wages (wages prior to deductions). They include bonuses, commissions, and supplements.

## **Survey Highlights**

- For the years 2004, 2006, and 2008, about one quarter of survey respondents worked for an hourly wage, as opposed to an annual salary.
- For 2004–2008, more than half of the survey respondents who were paid an hourly wage reported that they worked part-time.
- From 2004 to 2008, the overall median hourly wage of audiologists increased from \$29.00 to \$33.00 (a 14% increase).
- For 2006–2008, audiologists from schools reported a higher median hourly wage than those from hospitals and nonresidential health care facilities.
- From 2004 to 2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists who were clinical service providers increased from \$28.00 to \$33.00 (an 18% increase).
- For 2004–2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists who held the doctor of audiology (AuD) was at least \$1.55 higher than that of audiologists with a master’s degree.
- From 2004 to 2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists tended to increase with years of experience.
- For 2004–2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists was highest in the Northeast and lowest in the Midwest.
- For 2004–2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists was higher in metropolitan/urban and suburban communities than in rural communities.
- For 2006–2008, the median hourly wage of audiologists who were men was higher than those who were women due to a number of variables.

**Salary Basis**

In 2004, 2006, and 2008, about one quarter of survey respondents reported that they were paid an hourly wage (28%, 27%, and 25%, respectively). The remainder reported that they were paid an annual salary. (These data are not shown in any table.)

**Employment Status**

In 2004, 2006 and 2008, more than half of survey respondents who were paid an hourly wage reported that they worked part-time (61%, 58% and 56%, respectively). The remainder reported that they worked full-time. (These data are not shown in any table.)

**Overall Hourly Wages**

In 2008, survey respondents reported earning an overall hourly median wage of \$33.00, up from \$30.00 in 2006, and \$29.00 in 2004 (a 14% increase). (These data are not shown in any table.)

**Hourly Wages by Primary Employment Setting**

The median hourly wage of survey respondents varied by their primary employment setting. In 2006 and 2008, respondents from schools reported earning a higher median hourly wage than respondents from hospitals and nonresidential health care facilities (see Table 1).

**Table 1.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Primary Employment Setting, 2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Employment Setting</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
School	<i>n</i> < 25	\$40.00	\$40.18
College/university	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>N</i> < 25
Hospital	\$28.64	\$30.68	\$35.00
Residential health care facility*	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	–
Nonresidential health care facility	\$28.00	\$29.00	\$31.00
Industry	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>N</i> < 25

\*Not a survey question response category in 2008

*n* = 471 (2004); *n* = 566 (2006); *N* = 1,464 (2008)

**Hourly Wages  
by Primary  
Work Role**

In 2004, 2006, and 2008, the vast majority of survey respondents who were paid an hourly wage reported that they were clinical service providers (97%, 94% and 94%, respectively). In 2008, the median hourly wage of clinical service providers was \$33.00, up from \$30.00 in 2006, and \$28.00 in 2004 (an 18% increase; see Table 2).

**Table 2.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Primary Work Role,  
2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Work Role</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Clinical service provider	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$33.00
College/university professor	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>N</i> < 25
Administrator	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	\$44.40

*n* = 449 (2004); *n* = 579 (2006); *N* = 1,439 (2008)

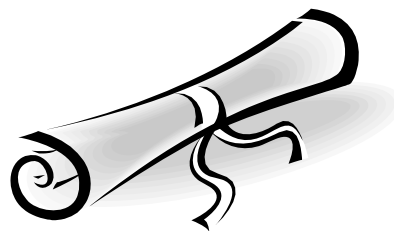
**Hourly Wages  
by Highest  
Academic  
Degree**

As might be expected, the median hourly wage of survey respondents varied by their highest academic degree. For 2004 through 2008, respondents with an AuD earned at least \$1.55 more per hour than those with a master’s degree (see Table 3).

**Table 3.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Highest Academic Degree  
in the Profession, 2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Academic Degree</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Master’s	\$28.45	\$30.00	\$32.11
AuD	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$35.00
PhD	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	\$50.34
Other doctoral degree	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>n</i> < 25	<i>N</i> < 25

*n* = 479 (2004); *n* = 599 (2006); *N* = 1,484 (2008)



**Hourly Wages  
by Years of  
Experience**

As would be expected, the median hourly wage of survey respondents tended to increase with years of experience. In 2006 and 2008, the most seasoned respondents reported earning at least \$10 more per hour than those starting out (see Table 4).

**Table 4.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Years of Experience,  
2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
1–3	<i>n</i> <25	\$23.57	\$28.00
4–6	\$24.31	\$26.00	\$29.00
7–9	\$29.00	\$29.75	\$32.00
10–12	\$26.37	\$28.95	\$31.50
13–15	\$29.05	\$30.00	\$34.00
16–18	\$30.58	\$30.24	\$33.00
19–21	\$30.00	\$31.00	\$33.00
22–24	\$29.70	\$33.00	\$36.79
25–27	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$35.00
> 28 years	\$34.74	\$38.67	\$38.00

*n* = 478 (2004); *n* = 599 (2006); *N* = 1,487 (2008)

**Hourly Wages  
by  
Geographic  
Region**

The median hourly wage of survey respondents varied by geographic region. For 2004 through 2008, respondents from the Northeast reported the highest hourly wage; respondents from the Midwest reported the lowest (see Table 5).

**Table 5.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Geographic Region,  
2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Geographic Region</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Northeast	\$32.00	\$35.00	\$36.00
Midwest	\$27.00	\$29.00	\$30.00
South	\$27.88	\$29.75	\$31.78
West	\$27.90	\$30.00	\$35.00

*n* = 477 (2004); *n* = 602 (2006); *N* = 1,487 (2008)

**Geographic Regions With Corresponding States**

- Northeast CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT, NJ, NY, PA
- Midwest IL, IN, MI, OH, WI, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
- South DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV, AL, KY, MS, TN, AR, LA, OK, TX
- West AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY, AK, CA, HI, OR, WA

**Hourly Wages  
by Type of  
Community**

The median hourly wage of survey respondents varied by the type of community in which they worked. For 2004 through 2008, respondents from metropolitan/urban and suburban communities reported earning at least \$2 more per hour than those from rural communities (see Table 6).

**Table 6.  
Median Hourly Wages of Audiologists by Their Type of Community,  
2004, 2006, and 2008.**

<b>Type of Community</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>
Metropolitan/urban	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$33.97
Suburban	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$35.00
Rural	\$25.82	\$28.00	\$28.27

*Note.* "Type of community" was self-defined by respondents (i.e., the survey did not provide definitions of the terms "metropolitan/urban," "suburban," and "rural").

*n* = 474 (2004); *n* = 593 (2006); *N* = 1,478 (2008)

**Hourly Wages  
of Men and  
Women**

In 2006 and 2008, male survey respondents reported a higher median hourly wage than female respondents. In 2008, men reported an hourly wage of \$38.94, up from \$37.34 in 2006 (a 4% increase). In 2008, women reported an hourly wage of \$33.00, up from \$30.00 in 2006 (a 10% increase). These data are not shown in any table.

As indicated throughout this report, numerous variables affect earnings. These variables must be considered when making conclusions about male/female salary differences (and other types of salary differences). For example, in 2006 and 2008, among survey respondents, men were more likely than women to have more years of experience in the profession (23 years vs. 15 years and 25 years vs. 17 years, respectively).

**Response Rate  
(2008)**

A stratified random sample was used to select 4,000 ASHA-certified audiologists for the 2008 survey from a population of 6,652 audiologists. They were stratified on the basis of type of facility and private practice.

The survey was mailed in August 2008. Second and third mailings followed, at approximately 4-week intervals, to individuals who had not responded to earlier mailings.

Of the original 4,000 audiologists in the sample, 17 had undeliverable mailing addresses, 1 was deceased, 7 were no longer employed in the field, 5 were retired, and 5 were ineligible for other reasons, leaving 3,965 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 2,181, resulting in a 55% response rate.

**Weighting  
(2008)**

Because facilities with fewer audiologists (such as schools) were oversampled and those with many (such as hospitals) were undersampled, weighting was used when presenting data to restore all groups to their actual proportion in the population of ASHA audiologists. The results presented in this report are the estimated values for the population of 6,652 from which the sample was drawn.

**Weighting  
(Previous  
Years)**

Prior to 2008, weighting was used to restore all groups to their actual proportion in the survey sample rather than in the population of ASHA audiologists.

**Suggested  
Citation**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2008). *2008 Audiology Survey report: Hourly wage trends, 2004–2008*. Rockville, MD: Author.

**Additional  
Information**

For additional information regarding this report or audiology professional practices generally, please contact Pam Mason, Director of Audiology Professional Practices, at [pmason@asha.org](mailto:pmason@asha.org) or 800-498-2071, ext. 5790.