



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Audiology Survey Report: Hourly Wage Trends, 2010–2021

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the *2021 Audiology Survey* to gather information from audiologists about earnings, service provision, practice issues, the workforce, and other professional topics. Results from this survey are presented in a series of reports, including this report on hourly wage trends.

Results from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 *ASHA Audiology Surveys* are included in this report for comparative purposes. Questions and response options differ among surveys; therefore, data on all topics are not available for all survey years.

The hourly wages presented in this report are full-time gross wages (wages prior to deductions). They do not include commissions or bonuses. (That information is presented separately in the report.) The statistic that is presented is the median (i.e., middle or 50th percentile). Median wages, commissions, and bonuses are presented because they are more stable than means (i.e., averages) and are less sensitive to extreme values. To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.

Survey Report Highlights

- In 2021, 22% of audiologists were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job—about the same as in recent past years (24%–27% from 2012 to 2018).
- In 2021, more than half (57%) of audiologists who were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job worked part time—about the same as in recent past years (52%–63% from 2010 to 2018).
- In 2021, audiologists who were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job worked a median of 28 hours per week—the same or about the same as in recent past years (25–30 hours per week from 2010 to 2018).
- In 2021, audiologists reported an overall median hourly wage of \$45.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 13% increase).
- Some audiologists received commissions in addition to their hourly wages. In 2021, they reported receiving a median of \$14,000 in commissions during the past 12 months—up from \$12,270 in 2018 (a 14% increase).
- In 2021, the median commission rate on product sales was 10%—the same or about the same as in recent past years (10%–14% from 2012 to 2018).
- Some audiologists received bonuses in addition to their hourly wages. In 2021, they reported receiving a median of \$1,399 in bonuses during the past 12 months—up from \$1,000 in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 (a 40% increase).

Annual Salary, Hourly Wage, or Commission

In 2021, 22% of audiologists were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job (see Table 1). This figure is largely consistent with those of previous years. The remainder were paid primarily an annual salary (76%) or on commission (3%).

Table 1. Percentage of audiologists who are paid primarily an annual salary, per hour, or on commission in their main job, by year.

| Form of payment | % | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2012 (n = 1,946) | 2014 (n = 1,742) | 2016 (n = 1,508) | 2018 (n = 1,615) | 2021 (n = 1,461) |
| Primarily annual salary | 73 | 72 | 73 | 72 | 76 |
| Primarily per hour | 27 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 22 |
| Primarily on commission | — | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

Note. These data are from the 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Dash indicates that the item was not included in the survey. Because of rounding, percentages may not add to exactly 100%.

Employment Status

In 2021, more than half (57%) of audiologists who were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job worked part time (see Table 2). This figure is largely consistent with those of previous years.

Table 2. Percentage of audiologists who are paid per hour and work full or part time, by year.

| Employment status | % | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 496) | 2012 (n = 524) | 2014 (n = 424) | 2016 (n = 356) | 2018 (n = 408) | 2021 (n = 316) |
| Full time | 37 | 48 | 46 | 45 | 42 | 43 |
| Part time | 63 | 52 | 54 | 55 | 58 | 57 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys.

Number of Hours Worked per Week

In 2021, audiologists who were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job worked a median of 28 hours per week—the same or about the same as in recent past years (25 hours per week in 2010, 30 hours per week in 2012, 28 hours per week in 2014, 29 hours per week in 2016, and 26 hours per week in 2018). (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

Hourly Wages

In 2021, audiologists reported an overall median hourly wage of \$45.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 13% increase; see Table 3). The median wage is the wage at which half of the audiologists earned more than that amount, and half earned less.

Table 3. *Hourly wages of audiologists, by percentile and year.*

| Percentile | \$ | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 482) | 2012 (n = 505) | 2014 (n = 385) | 2016 (n = 348) | 2018 (n = 375) | 2021 (n = 281) |
| 25th | 28.50 | 30.00 | 31.05 | 32.96 | 33.66 | 37.00 |
| 50th (median) | 33.04 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 39.43 | 40.00 | 45.00 |
| 75th | 40.00 | 40.00 | 44.41 | 46.00 | 47.09 | 54.28 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys.

As shown in the remainder of the report, numerous variables—including work setting and role, highest academic degree, years of experience in the profession, geographic region, and population density— affect earnings.

Hourly Wages by Work Setting

The median hourly wage of audiologists typically varied by work setting. In 2021, audiologists in hospitals reported a median hourly wage of \$49.00—up from \$40.00–\$41.00 between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 4). Audiologists in nonresidential health care facilities reported a median hourly wage of \$42.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 5% increase).

Table 4. *Median hourly wages of audiologists, by work setting and year.*

| Work setting | \$ | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 475) | 2012 (n = 503) | 2014 (n = 351) | 2016 (n = 309) | 2018 (n = 347) | 2021 (n = 252) |
| Hospital (e.g., general, pediatric, military, Veterans Affairs) | 36.00 | 37.37 | 40.00 | 41.00 | 40.00 | 49.00 |
| Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices) | 31.00 | 34.00 | 35.00 | 36.00 | 40.00 | 42.00 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Sufficient data are not available to allow for the reporting of median hourly wages for audiologists in other work settings.

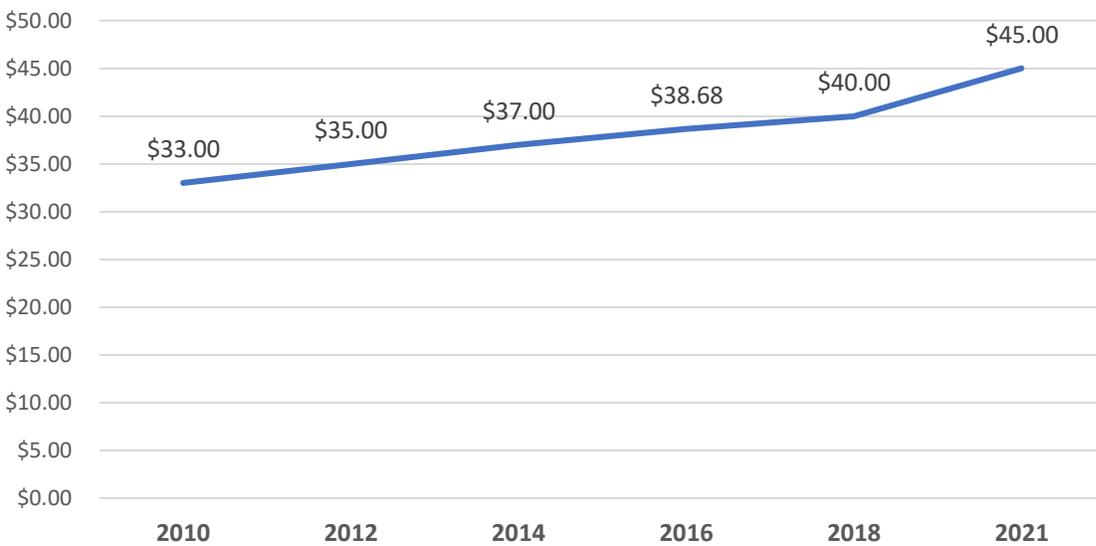
Hourly Wages by Work Role

Clinical Service Providers

In 2021, most (92%) audiologists who were paid primarily an hourly wage in their main job were clinical service providers—the same or about the same as in recent past years (95% in 2010, 94% in 2012, 96% in 2014, 93% in 2016, and 94% in 2018). (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

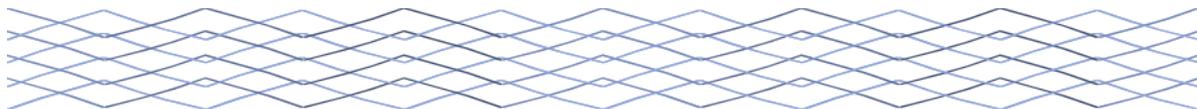
In 2021, clinical service providers reported a median hourly wage of \$45.00—up steadily from \$33.00 in 2010 (a 36% increase over 11 years; see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Median hourly wages of audiologists who are clinical service providers, by year.



Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. $n = 444$ (2010); $n = 459$ (2012); $n = 368$ (2014); $n = 318$ (2016); $n = 351$ (2018); $n = 258$ (2021).

Sufficient data are not available to allow for the reporting of median hourly wages for audiologists in other work roles.



Hourly Wages by Highest Degree

In 2021, audiologists with a master’s degree reported a median hourly wage of \$41.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 3% increase; see Table 5). Those with a doctor of audiology (AuD) degree reported a median hourly wage of \$45.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 13% increase).

Table 5. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by highest degree and year.

| Highest degree | \$ | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 482) | 2012 (n = 504) | 2014 (n = 367) | 2016 (n = 335) | 2018 (n = 359) | 2021 (n = 266) |
| Master’s | 33.00 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 37.65 | 40.00 | 41.00 |
| AuD | 33.08 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 39.66 | 40.00 | 45.00 |
| PhD | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| Other doctorate | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.)

Hourly Wages by Years of Experience

From 2010 to 2021, the median hourly wage of audiologists tended to increase with their years of experience in the profession (see Table 6).

Table 6. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by their years of experience in the profession and year.

| Years of Experience | \$ | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 457) | 2012 (n = 488) | 2014 (n = 313) | 2016 (n = 286) | 2018 (n = 293) | 2021 (n = 190) |
| 1–3 | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r | n/r |
| 4–6 | 28.66 | 30.00 | n/r | n/r | 35.00 | n/r |
| 7–9 | 31.76 | 32.98 | 34.99 | 36.00 | n/r | n/r |
| 10–12 | 33.67 | 35.00 | 36.28 | 34.96 | n/r | n/r |
| 13–15 | 32.00 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 35.00 | 39.69 | n/r |
| 16–18 | 32.37 | 33.00 | 36.58 | 38.07 | 40.00 | n/r |
| 19–21 | n/r | 32.68 | n/r | n/r | 39.00 | 43.85 |
| 22–24 | 33.50 | 38.03 | n/r | n/r | 40.19 | n/r |
| 25–27 | 37.54 | 38.86 | 40.00 | 44.00 | n/r | 45.00 |
| 28 or more | 37.07 | 37.16 | 40.00 | 41.62 | 42.85 | 48.12 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.)

Hourly Wages by Geographic Region

The median hourly wage of audiologists typically varied by the geographic region in which they worked. From 2010 to 2021, audiologists who worked in the Northeast or West reported a higher median hourly wage than those who worked in the Midwest or South (see Table 7; see Appendix for a key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states/District of Columbia).

Table 7. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by geographic region and year.

| Geographic region | \$ | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 479) | 2012 (n = 504) | 2014 (n = 385) | 2016 (n = 348) | 2018 (n = 375) | 2021 (n = 282) |
| Northeast | 37.00 | 39.56 | 40.00 | 43.00 | 45.00 | 50.00 |
| Midwest | 30.00 | 32.66 | 35.86 | 34.47 | 39.78 | 39.84 |
| South | 33.05 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 39.92 | 36.22 | 45.00 |
| West | 35.00 | 38.00 | 40.00 | 44.00 | 40.85 | 50.00 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys.

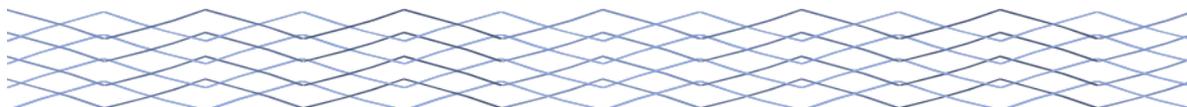
Hourly Wages by Population Density

The median hourly wage of audiologists typically varied by the type of area in which they worked. From 2010 to 2021, audiologists who worked in city/urban areas typically reported a higher median hourly wage than those who worked in rural or suburban areas (see Table 8).

Table 8. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by type of area and year.

| Type of area | \$ | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 474) | 2012 (n = 501) | 2014 (n = 382) | 2016 (n = 342) | 2018 (n = 374) | 2021 (n = 276) |
| Rural | 32.00 | 33.00 | 40.00 | 32.62 | 37.20 | 44.50 |
| Suburban | 33.01 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 37.23 | 40.00 | 44.56 |
| City/urban ^a | 34.00 | 36.98 | 37.00 | 41.00 | 40.00 | 45.00 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Definitions of *rural*, *suburban*, and *city/urban* were not provided in the surveys. ^aIn the 2010 and 2012 surveys, this item was *metropolitan/urban area*.



Commissions

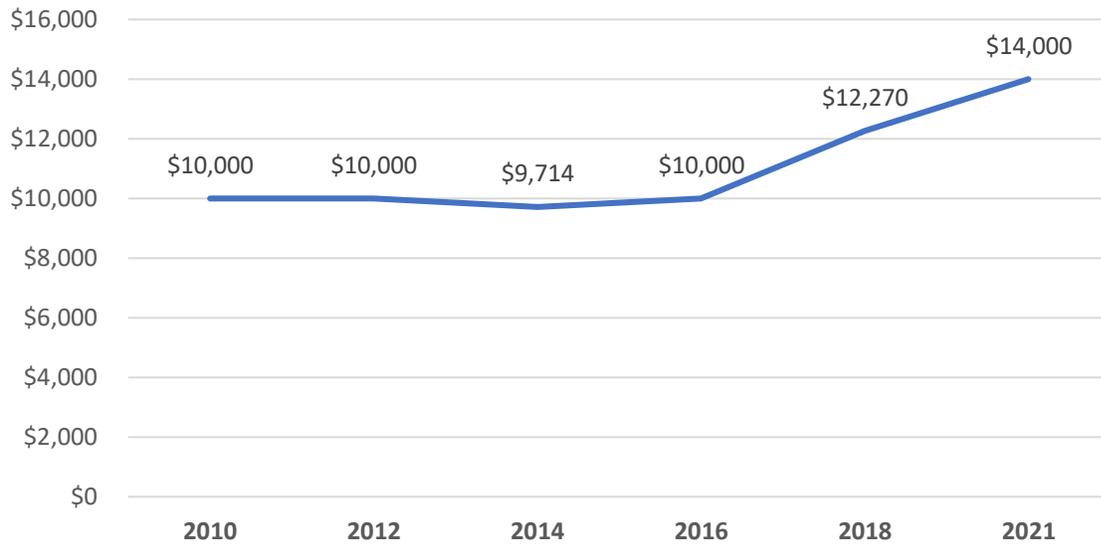
Commission Rate on Product Sales

In 2021, the median commission rate on product sales was 10%, compared with 14% in 2012 and 10% in 2014, 2016, and 2018. (These data are not shown in any figure or table.)

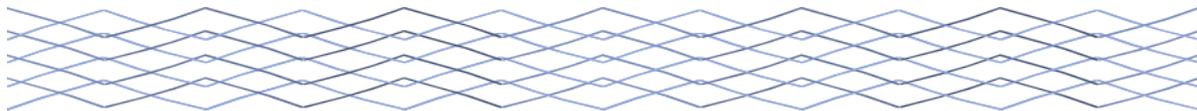
Commission Amount

Some audiologists received commissions in addition to their hourly wages. Most worked in nonresidential health care facilities. In 2021, audiologists reported receiving a median of \$14,000 in commissions during the past 12 months—up from \$12,270 in 2018 (a 14% increase; see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Median commissions of audiologists who are paid primarily an hourly wage, by year.



Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. $n = 131$ (2010); $n = 136$ (2012); $n = 91$ (2014); $n = 82$ (2016); $n = 92$ (2018); $n = 49$ (2021).



Bonuses

Some audiologists received bonuses in addition to their hourly wages. In 2021, they reported receiving a median of \$1,399 in bonuses during the past 12 months—up from \$1,000 in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018 (a 40% increase; see Table 9).

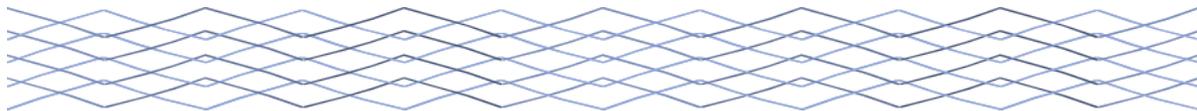
Bonuses by Work Setting

Median bonuses varied by work setting. In 2021, audiologists in nonresidential health care facilities reported receiving a median of \$1,100 in bonuses during the past 12 months—up from \$1,000 in 2014, 2016, and 2018 (a 10% increase; see Table 9).

Table 9. Median bonuses of audiologists who are paid primarily an hourly wage, by work setting and year.

| Work Setting | \$ | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 2010 (n = 153) | 2012 (n = 163) | 2014 (n = 127) | 2016 (n = 101) | 2018 (n = 144) | 2021 (n = 82) |
| Overall | 600 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,399 |
| Hospital (e.g., general, pediatric, military, Veterans Affairs) | n/r | 500 | 500 | 800 | 2,000 | n/r |
| Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices) | 800 | 1,204 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,100 |

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2021 ASHA Audiology Surveys. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.) Sufficient data are not available to allow for the reporting of median bonuses for audiologists in other work settings.



Survey Methodology and Response Rates

A stratified random sample was used to select 5,000 ASHA-certified audiologists who were employed in the United States for the 2021 survey. The sample was stratified by type of facility and by private practice.

The survey was mailed in October 2021. Second and third mailings followed, at approximately 4-week intervals, to individuals who had not responded to earlier mailings.

Of the original 5,000 audiologists in the sample, 43 had incorrect mailing addresses, 27 were retired, and 90 were not currently employed in the profession, which left 4,840 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,487—a 30.7% response rate.

Because facilities with fewer audiologists were oversampled and those with many audiologists were undersampled, ASHA used weighting when presenting survey data.

Past *ASHA Audiology Survey* response rates were 52.0% (2010), 51.4% (2012), 45.7% (2014), 39.5% (2016), and 39.7% (2018).

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Audiology Survey report: Hourly wage trends, 2010–2021*. www.asha.org

Additional Information

Audiology Survey reports are available at <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/audiology-survey/>. Schools Survey reports, which present salary and wage data for educational audiologists, are available at <https://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/schools-survey/>.

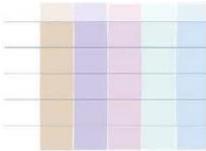
Questions?

For additional information regarding this report, please contact ASHA's Audiology Professional Practices unit at audiology@asha.org. To learn more about how the Association is working on behalf of ASHA-certified audiologists, visit www.asha.org/aud.

Acknowledgment

Without the generous cooperation of the members who participate in our surveys, ASHA could not fulfill its mission to provide vital information about the professions and discipline to the Association membership and the public. Thank you!

Appendix



Key of geographic regions/divisions and corresponding states/District of Columbia.

| Geographic region/division | Corresponding states/District of Columbia |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Northeast | |
| New England | CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT |
| Mid-Atlantic | NJ, NY, PA |
| Midwest | |
| East North Central | IL, IN, MI, OH, WI |
| West North Central | IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD |
| South | |
| South Atlantic | DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV |
| East South Central | AL, KY, MS, TN |
| West South Central | AR, LA, OK, TX |
| West | |
| Mountain | AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY |
| Pacific | AK, CA, HI, OR, WA |