

Occupations

Industrial Relations Section,
Princeton University,
Princeton, New Jersey

Income of men in 48 professional occupations: 1949 and 1959; Income of women in 30 professional occupations: 1949 and 1959
May 21, 1964
Memorandum

A few months ago the Bureau of the Census published a special report on the occupational characteristics of persons in the civilian labor force during the Census Week of 1960. Estimates of the income received in 1959 by individuals in different occupations were included in this report. Similar estimates for 1949 were published in a special report of the 1950 Census.

It occurred to us that many members of the Economics Department might be interested in seeing which of the professional occupations experienced the largest (and smallest) percentage gains in median income and numbers of practitioners between 1949 and 1959. Accordingly, the two attached tables have been prepared.

For technical reasons, some professional groups had to be omitted -- notably, those with less than 3,000 males or females in either year and those that were defined quite differently in the two years. A few other groups had to be combined.

The income figures purport to show the median total income before taxes received by all persons, classified by occupation and sex, who were members of the experienced, civilian labor force during the Census Weeks of 1950 and 1960, and are based on a sample of Census returns (3 1/3% in 1950 and 5% in 1960). The data are subject to error from a distressingly large number of sources: sampling variability and non-response; processing and numeration mistakes by the Census; and faulty memory, misunderstanding of questions, and wilful misrepresentation by respondents. The customary word of caution is, therefore, very much in order.

[by] T. A. Finegan //

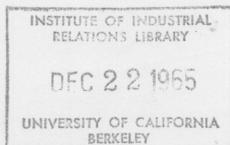


Table 1

Income of Men in 48 Professional Occupations:
1949 and 1959

Rank (Based on Percent Rise in Income)	Occupational Group	Median Income		Percent Rise in Income, 1949-59	Percent Change in Numbers, 1950-60
		1949	1959		
1	Athletes	\$2,336	\$5,394	131	-64
2	Veterinarians	4,220	9,178	117	15
3	Optometrists	4,343	8,772	102	11
4*	Airplane pilots and navigators	5,263	10,514	100	92
4*	Librarians	2,294	4,592	100	91
6	Photographers	2,941	5,692	94	3
7	Dentists	6,448	12,392	92	11
8	Aeronautical engineers	4,828	9,127	89	195
9*	Funeral directors & embalmers	3,179	5,967	88	-6
9*	Natural scientists (n.e.c.)	4,245	7,965 ^a	88	60
11	Electrical engineers	4,657	8,710	87	73
12*	Chiropractors	3,471	6,463	86	16
12*	Metallurgical engineers	4,657	8,639	86	51
12*	Therapists and healers (n.e.c.)	3,011	5,591	86	35
15	Mechanical engineers	4,594	8,494	85	40
16	Physicians and surgeons	8,302	15,013	81	18
17*	Chemical engineers	5,005	8,948	79	26
17*	Lawyers and judges	6,284	11,261	79	17
19	Artists and art teachers	3,552	6,333	78	35
20*	Chemists	4,091	7,245	77	13
20*	Pharmacists	4,170	7,385	77	5
20*	Social scientists	4,446	7,868	77	76

(Table continued on following page)

*Indicates tie ranking. ^aA weighted average of medians for component subgroups.

Table 1 (continued)

Rank (Based on Percent Rise in Income)	Occupational Group	Median Income		Percent Rise in Income, 1949-59	Percent Change in Numbers, 1950-60
		1949	1959		
23	Musicians and music teachers	\$2,700	\$4,757	76	5
24	Actors	3,260	5,640	73	-28
25*	Clergymen	2,410	4,151	72	22
25**	College presidents, professors, and instructors	4,366	7,510	72	44
25**	Industrial engineers	4,519	7,790	72	137
25**	<u>engineers</u> Miscellaneous/(except mining)	4,965	8,522 ^a	72	116
29	Social and welfare workers, except group	3,196	5,481	71	54
30	Accountants and auditors	3,977	6,758	70	21
31	Civil engineers	4,590	7,773	69	26
32*	Authors	4,033	6,745	67	115
32*	Draftsmen	3,470	5,794	67	62
34*	Entertainers	2,217	3,674	66	-19
34*	Nurses, professional	2,645	4,400	66	50
34*	Sports instructors and officials	3,330	5,519	66	53
37	Teachers (elementary and high school)	3,465	5,709 ^a	65	65
38	Foresters and conservationists	2,997	4,873	63	25
39	Surveyors	2,773	4,486	62	73
40*	Architects	5,509	8,868	61	29
40*	Pers. & labor relations workers	4,754	7,669	61	81
42*	Osteopaths	6,458	10,279	59	-21
42*	Technicians: medical and dental	2,908	4,614	59	55
44	Farm & home management advisors	4,059	6,159	52	14
45	Radio operators	4,016	5,975	49	68
46	Dancers & dancing teachers	2,385	3,483	46	0
47	Religious workers	2,316	3,241	40	66
48	Recreation and group workers	3,155	4,395	39	123
	All men in professional occupations	3,949	6,778	72	50

Table 2

Income of Women in 30 Professional Occupations
1949 and 1959

Rank (Based on Percent Rise in Income)	Occupational Group	Median Income		Percent Rise in Income, 1949-59	Percent Change in Numbers, 1950-60
		1949	1959		
1	Entertainers	\$1,382	\$2,666	93	-42
2	Therapists and healers (n.e.c.)	2,066	3,955	91	63
3	Clergymen	1,017	1,927	89	-31
4*	<u>Chemists</u>	2,782	5,045	76	-4
4*	Draftsmen	2,449	<u>4,307</u>	76	<u>42</u>
6*	Photographers	1,500	2,628	75	-32
6*	Social and welfare workers, except group	2,542	<u>4,444</u>	75	16
8	Librarians	2,223	<u>3,864</u>	74	<u>46</u>
9	Religious workers	985	1,700	73	21
10	Teachers (elementary and high school)	2,397	<u>4,095^a</u>	71	43
11	Artists and art teachers	2,214	3,743	69	21
12	Social scientists	2,714	<u>4,541</u>	67	23
13	Farm & home management advisors	2,979	<u>4,907</u>	65	4
14	<u>Accountants and auditors</u>	2,593	<u>4,242</u>	64	<u>42</u>
15	<u>Physicians and surgeons</u>	3,667	<u>5,989</u>	63	33
16	College presidents, professors, and instructors	3,099	<u>5,013</u>	62	34
17*	Nurses, student professional	396	636	61	-25
17*	<u>Pharmacists</u>	2,533	<u>4,086</u>	61	-2

(Table continued on next page.)

*Indicates tie ranking.

^aA weighted average of medians for component subgroups.

Table 2 (continued)

Rank (Based on Percent Rise in Income)	<u>Occupational Group</u>	<u>Median Income</u>		<u>Percent Rise in Income, 1949-59</u>	<u>Percent Change in Numbers, 1950-60</u>
		<u>1949</u>	<u>1959</u>		
19*	Actresses	\$2,167	\$3,464	60	-23
19*	<u>Natural scientists (n.e.c.)</u>	3,065	<u>4,919^a</u>	60	28
21*	Authors	2,103	3,189	52	17
21*	Nurses, professional	2,124	3,239	52	<u>46</u>
21*	Sports instructors and officials	2,784	<u>4,244</u>	52	<u>124</u>
24	Technicians: medical and dental	2,157	3,258	51	<u>99</u>
25	Dieticians and nutritionists	2,016	3,022	50	15
26	Personnel and labor relations workers	3,083	<u>4,574</u>	48	<u>101</u>
27	<u>Lawyers and judges</u>	3,500	<u>5,024</u>	44	19
28	Musicians and music teachers	1,195	1,566	31	39
29	Dancers and dancing teachers	1,347	1,680	25	37
30	Recreation and group workers	2,048	2,320	13	<u>132</u>
	All women in professional occupations	2,265	<u>3,711</u>	64	41