



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Audiology Survey Report: Hourly Wage Trends 2010–2016

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

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Introduction

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducted the 2016 Audiology Survey to gather information about employment and earnings, service provision, and other professional topics. Results from this survey are presented in a series of reports, including this report on hourly wage trends. Findings from the 2010, 2012, and 2014 ASHA Audiology Surveys are included in this report for comparative purposes. Questions differ among surveys, so data on all topics are not available for all survey years.

The wages contained in this report are full-time gross wages (wages prior to deductions). They do not include bonuses or commissions. (That information is presented separately in the report.)

The statistic that is presented is the median (i.e., middle or 50th percentile). Median wages, bonuses, and commissions are presented because they are more stable than means (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 Report Highlights

- From 2010 to 2016, about one quarter of audiologists (24%–27%) were paid an hourly wage in their primary jobs.
- From 2010 to 2016, most audiologists who were paid an hourly wage in their primary jobs (52%–63%) worked part time.
- From 2010 to 2016, audiologists who were paid an hourly wage in their primary jobs worked a median of 25–30 hours per week.
- In 2016, audiologists earned an overall median hourly wage of \$39.43, up from \$37.00 in 2014 (a 7% increase).
- In 2016, audiologists employed in hospitals earned a median hourly wage of \$41.00, up from \$40.00 in 2014 (a 3% increase).
- In 2016, audiologists employed in nonresidential health care facilities earned a median hourly wage of \$36.00, up from \$35.00 in 2014 (a 3% increase).
- Some audiologists received a bonus in addition to their base wages. In 2016, the overall median amount they received was \$1,000—the same as in 2012 and 2014.
- Some audiologists received commissions in addition to their base wages. Most were employed in nonresidential health care facilities. In 2016, the overall median amount they received was \$10,000—the same or about the same as in recent past years.
- In 2016, the commission rate on product sales was 10%—the same as in 2014.

Annual Salary, Hourly Wage, or Commission

In 2016, 24% of audiologists were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs (see Table 1). This figure is largely consistent with those of previous years. The remainder were paid an annual salary (73%) or on commission (3%).

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

Form of payment	%			
	2010 (n = 1,965)	2012 (n = 1,946)	2014 (n = 1,742)	2016 (n = 1,508)
Primarily annual salary	74	73	72	73
Primarily per hour	26	27	24	24
Primarily commission	—	—	3	3

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 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 2016, 55% of audiologists who were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs worked part time, about the same as in recent past years (see Table 2).

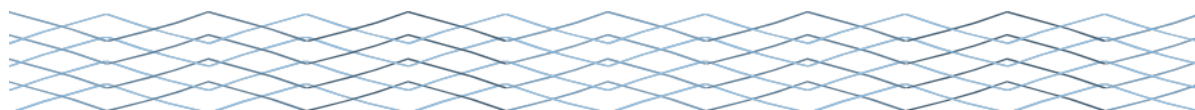
Table 2. Percentage of audiologists who are paid per hour and work full or part time, by year.

Employment status	%			
	2010 (n = 496)	2012 (n = 524)	2014 (n = 424)	2016 (n = 356)
Full time	37	48	46	45
Part time	63	52	54	55

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

Number of Hours Worked per Week

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



Hourly Wages

In 2016, audiologists earned an overall median hourly wage of \$39.43, up from \$37.00 in 2014 (a 7% 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. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by percentile and year.

Percentile	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 482)	2012 (n = 505)	2014 (n = 385)	2016 (n = 348)
25%	28.50	30.00	31.05	32.96
50% (Median)	33.04	35.00	37.00	39.43
75%	40.00	40.00	44.41	46.00

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

As shown in the remainder of the report, numerous variables—including work setting and role, private practice position, highest academic degree, years of experience in the profession, and geographic area—affect earnings.

Hourly Wages, by Work Setting

The median hourly wage of audiologists varied by work setting. In 2016, audiologists employed in hospitals reported a median hourly wage of \$41.00, up from \$40.00 in 2014 (a 3% increase; see Table 4). Audiologists employed in nonresidential health care facilities reported a median hourly wage of \$36.00, up from \$35.00 in 2014 (a 3% increase).

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

Work setting	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 475)	2012 (n = 503)	2014 (n = 351)	2016 (n = 309)
Hospital (general, pediatric, military, Veterans Affairs)	36.00	37.37	40.00	41.00
Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices)	31.00	34.00	35.00	36.00

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

Hourly Wages of Clinicians

In 2016, 93% of audiologists who were paid an hourly wage in their main jobs were clinicians—the same or about the same as in recent past years (95% in 2010, 94% in 2012, and 96% in 2014). In 2016, their median hourly wage was \$38.68, up steadily from \$33.00 in 2010, \$35.00 in 2012, and \$37.00 in 2014 (a 5% increase). (These data are not shown in any table.) Insufficient data are available to allow for the reporting of hourly wages for audiologists in other positions (e.g., educators, researchers, administrators, consultants, and sales/training/technical support positions).

Hourly Wages, by Private Practice Position

In 2016, employees in private practice reported a median hourly wage of \$36.00, up from \$35.00 in 2014 (a 3% increase; see Table 5).

Table 5. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by private practice position and year.

Private practice position	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 91)	2012 (n = 113)	2014 (n = 79)	2016 (n = 84)
Employee (contractor/consultant or full-time employee)	35.00	35.00	35.00	36.00
Owner	50.00	n/r	n/r	n/r

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

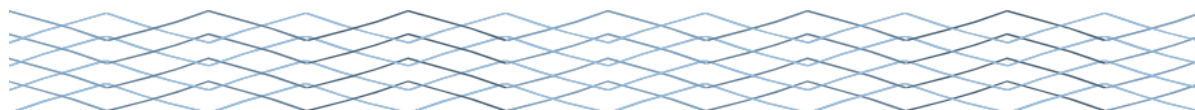
Hourly Wages, by Highest Degree

In 2016, audiologists with a master's degree reported a median hourly wage of \$37.65, up from \$37.00 in 2014 (a 2% increase; see Table 6). Audiologists with a doctor of audiology (AuD) degree reported a median hourly wage of \$39.66, up from \$37.00 in 2014 (a 7% increase).

Table 6. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by highest degree and year.

Highest degree	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 482)	2012 (n = 504)	2014 (n = 367)	2016 (n = 335)
Master's	33.00	35.00	37.00	37.65
AuD	33.08	35.00	37.00	39.66
PhD	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Other doctorate	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r

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



Hourly Wages, by Years of Experience

As would be expected, the median hourly wage of audiologists tended to increase with their years of experience in the profession (see Table 7).

Table 7. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by their years of experience in the profession and year.

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

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

Hourly Wages of Men and Women

From 2010 to 2016, audiologists who are men reported a higher median hourly wage than audiologists who are women, although the difference narrowed to \$1.00 in 2016 (see Table 8).

Table 8. Median hourly wages of men and women who are audiologists, by year.

Category	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 482)	2012 (n = 505)	2014 (n = 382)	2016 (n = 348)
Men	37.94	39.97	42.08	40.00
Women	32.67	35.00	37.00	39.00

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

As indicated throughout this report, many variables affect earnings. These variables must be considered when one looks at the wage difference between men and women. For example, from 2010 to 2016, audiologists who are men were more likely than their colleagues who are women to have a PhD (14%–17% vs. 1%–3%) and to have more years of experience in the profession (27–32 years vs. 17–20 years). Correspondingly, they were also more likely to have a higher hourly wage.

Hourly Wages, by Geographic Region

The median hourly wage of audiologists typically varied by geographic region. In 2016, audiologists who worked in the Northeast, South, and West regions reported an increase in their median hourly wage from 2014 (see Table 9). Increases ranged from 8% in the Northeast to 14% in the South. Audiologists in the Midwest reported a 4% decline.

Table 9. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by geographic region and year.

Geographic region	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 479)	2012 (n = 504)	2014 (n = 385)	2016 (n = 348)
Northeast	37.00	39.56	40.00	43.00
Midwest	30.00	32.66	35.86	34.47
South	33.05	35.00	35.00	39.92
West	35.00	38.00	40.00	44.00

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

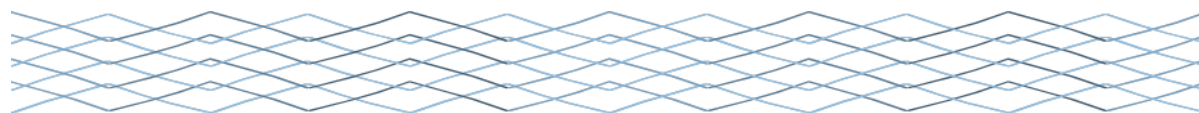
Hourly Wages, by Area

Median hourly wages typically varied by area. In 2016, audiologists who worked in suburban areas reported a median hourly wage of \$37.23, up slightly from \$37.00 in 2014 (a 1% increase; see Table 10). Audiologists who worked in city/urban areas reported a median hourly wage of \$41.00, up from \$37.00 in 2014 (an 11% increase). Audiologists who worked in rural areas reported a decline.

Table 10. Median hourly wages of audiologists, by area and year.

Area	Median hourly wage (\$)			
	2010 (n = 474)	2012 (n = 501)	2014 (n = 382)	2016 (n = 342)
Rural	32.00	33.00	40.00	32.62
Suburban	33.01	35.00	37.00	37.23
City/urban ^a	34.00	36.98	37.00	41.00

Note. These data are from the 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 ASHA Audiology Surveys. Definitions of *rural*, *suburban*, and *city/urban* were not provided in the survey. ^aFrom 2010 to 2012, this item was titled “Metropolitan/urban area.”



Bonuses

Some audiologists received a bonus in addition to their base wages. In 2016, the overall median amount that they received was \$1,000—the same as in 2012 and 2014 (see Table 11).

Bonuses, by Work Setting

Bonus amounts varied by work setting. In 2016, audiologists who were employed in hospitals received a median bonus of \$800, up substantially from \$500 in 2012 and 2014 (a 60% increase; see Table 11). Audiologists who were employed in nonresidential health care facilities received a bonus of \$1,000—the same as in 2014.

Table 11. Median bonuses of audiologists, by work setting and year.

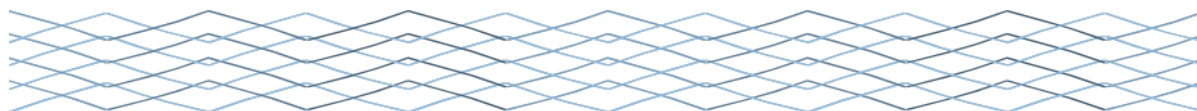
Work Setting	Median bonus (\$)			
	2010 (<i>n</i> = 153)	2012 (<i>n</i> = 163)	2014 (<i>n</i> = 127)	2016 (<i>n</i> = 101)
Overall	600	1,000	1,000	1,000
Hospital (general, pediatric, military, Veterans Affairs)	<i>n/r</i>	500	500	800
Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices)	800	1,204	1,000	1,000

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

Commissions

Some audiologists received commissions in addition to their base wages. Most were employed in nonresidential health care facilities. In 2016, the overall median amount they received was \$10,000—the same or about the same as in recent past years (\$10,000 in 2010, \$10,000 in 2012, and \$9,714 in 2014). (These data are not shown in any table.)

In 2016, audiologists received a 10% commission on product sales, compared with a 14% commission in 2012 and a 10% commission in 2014. (These data are not shown in any table.)



Survey Methodology and Response Rates

A stratified random sample was used to select 4,000 ASHA-certified audiologists for the 2016 survey from a population of 8,054 audiologists. The sample was stratified by type of facility and by private practice.

The survey was mailed in September 2016. 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, 24 had incorrect mailing addresses, two were retired, and three were no longer employed in the profession, which left 3,971 possible respondents. The actual number of respondents was 1,569—a 39.5% 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), and 45.7% (2014).

Suggested Citation

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2017). *Audiology Survey report: Hourly wage trends, 2010–2016*. Available from www.asha.org.

Additional Information

Audiology Survey reports are available at www.asha.org/research/memberdata/AudiologySurvey. Schools Survey reports, which present salary and wage data for educational audiologists, are available at www.asha.org/research/memberdata/schoolssurvey.

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!