

Local 839 member salary survey, September 2001

Unit rates (scripts and storyboards) - see page 8

Once a year, we anonymously poll our members to ask them what they are being paid. The results are a barometer of the "going rates", as opposed to the union minimums (which are also listed below). For comparison purposes, all salaries are computed on a forty-hour week.

	%age respon- ding ¹	journey minimum	2001 WAGE SURVEY			2000 SURVEY	
			minimum ²	median average ³	maximum	median average ³	difference
Writers							
Staff Story Editors ⁴	-	\$1,475.77	\$1,800.00	\$3,150.00	\$6,037.50	\$3,150.00	0
Staff Writers	-	\$1,283.28	\$1,800.00	\$3,200.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,280.00	-\$ 80.00
Producers⁴							
	27%	\$1,475.77	\$700.00	\$4,093.75	\$6,037.50	\$3,850.00	+\$243.75
Directors/Timers:							
Directors - Theatrical feature ^{4,5}	-	\$1,475.77	\$3,125.00	\$5,600.00	\$12,018.75	n/a	n/a
Directors — TV/Interactive	-	\$1,475.77	\$1,125.00	\$2,254.55	\$6,000.00	n/a	n/a
Sheet Timers	17%	\$1,203.24	\$1,062.50	\$1,900.00	\$2,267.00	\$1,500.00	+\$400.00
Production Board (Storyboard):							
Staff Production Board	37%	\$1,475.77	\$1,014.38	\$1,830.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,800.00	+\$ 30.00
Production Board Cleanup	29%	\$1,091.40	\$1,094.74	\$1,460.00	\$1,622.00	\$1,200.00	+\$260.00
Story Sketch	40%	\$1,148.40	\$1,200.00	\$2,357.89	\$3,050.00	\$2,570.00	-\$212.11
Design:							
Art Directors	27%	\$1,391.09	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,415.00	\$2,625.00	-\$125.00
Visual Development	60%	\$1,283.28	\$1,400.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,400.00	\$2,350.00	+\$150.00
Model Designers	33%	\$1,283.28	\$725.00	\$1,625.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,525.00	+\$100.00
Asst. Model Design/Cleanup	19%	\$1,091.40	\$872.73	\$1,100.00	\$1,400.00	n/a	n/a
Color Key/Color Stylists	45%	\$1,091.40	\$1,091.40	\$1,450.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,377.50	+\$ 72.50
Layout:							
Character Layout	-	\$1,283.28	\$872.73	\$2,300.00	\$3,150.00	\$1,465.00	+\$835.00
Background Layout	-	\$1,283.28	\$906.25	\$1,905.50	\$6,400.00	\$1,890.00	+\$ 15.50
CGI:							
CGI Animator/Modellers	31%	\$1,283.28	\$1,100.00	\$1,882.11	\$3,900.00	\$1,938.00	-\$ 55.89
Technical Directors I	33%	\$1,283.28	\$1,450.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,014.00	-\$ 14.00
Technical Directors II-III-IV-V	41%	\$1,227.80	\$865.35	\$1,400.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,850.00	-\$450.00
TSL rates (all levels)	16%	\$800-\$1,120	\$1,060.00	\$1,790.25	\$3,200.00	\$1,600.00	+\$190.25
3D Compositors	41%	\$1,157.32	\$1,640.00	\$2,025.00	\$2,496.00	\$2,067.00	-\$ 42.00
2D Compositors	22%	\$872.96	\$1,100.00	\$1,300.00	\$2,078.00	\$1,527.00	-\$227.00
Opaquers/Digital Painters	34%	\$872.96	\$872.96	\$898.72	\$1,466.00	\$900.00	-\$ 1.28
Background:							
Background Painters	26%	\$1,283.28	\$937.50	\$1,968.42	\$3,600.00	\$2,000.00	-\$ 31.58
Animation:							
Supervising Animators	-	\$1,391.09	\$1,527.27	\$2,653.63	\$8,784.60	\$3,608.50	-\$955.87
Character Animators	-	\$1,283.28	\$938.00	\$2,200.00	\$6,067.00	\$2,120.00	+\$ 80.00
Effects Animators	-	\$1,283.28	\$1,091.91	\$1,768.42	\$4,363.34	\$2,025.00	-\$256.58
Assistant Animation:							
Key Assistant Animators	18%	\$1,227.80	\$1,000.00	\$1,756.94	\$4,300.00	\$1,641.00	+\$ 65.94
Character Assistants	-	\$1,091.40	\$700.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,860.00	\$1,550.00	-\$ 50.00
Effects Assistants	-	\$1,091.40	\$800.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00	-\$100.00
Breakdown	27%	\$953.04	\$910.00	\$1,029.60	\$1,100.00	\$1,075.00	-\$ 45.40
Inbetweeners	33%	\$915.40	\$900.00	\$915.40	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	+\$ 15.40
Rough Inbetweeners	-	\$915.40	\$963.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,260.00	n/a	n/a
Animation Checking:							
Digital Scene Planners ⁴	29%	\$1,135.64	\$1,135.00	\$1,684.21	\$1,709.09	\$1,591.58	-\$ 92.63
Digital Animation Checkers	-	\$1,091.40	\$1,150.00	\$1,318.75	\$2,500.00	n/a	
Animation Checkers	20%	\$1,091.40	\$1,090.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,300.00	0
Ink-And-Paint:							
Color Modelists	44%	\$943.04	\$938.12	\$1,300.00	\$1,460.00	\$1,298.00	-\$ 2.00
Final Checkers	21%	\$938.12	\$938.12	\$1,403.50	\$1,900.00	\$1,300.00	+\$103.00
TOTAL RETURNS:		29.9% (2000: 28.6%)					

¹ Of those members listed in our records as most recently employed in the category, the percentage who responded to the 2000 survey.

² Some of the minimums listed may be for persons working at union shops at less than journey level.

³ The "median averages" listed for the 2000 and 2001 surveys represent the middle rates when the results were listed in order from lowest to highest. These numbers should be viewed in the context of the minimums and maximums reported, and the percentage of response.

⁴ Not all persons working in this category are under Local 839 jurisdiction; results should be judged accordingly.

⁵ This year for the first time we have broken out theatrical feature directors from other media.

Categories not listed had no replies, or all replies were working at scale.

For unit rates (scripts and storyboards), see page 8.

Local 839 member unit-rate survey, September 2001

Staff (salaried) positions — see pages 6-7

	<u>responses</u>	<u>minimum</u>	<u>median average*</u>	<u>maximum</u>	<u>median change since 2000*</u>
Features, etc.:					
First draft	1	\$30,000.00			n/a
Second draft	1	\$7,500.00			-\$750.00
Polish	2	\$1,750.00		\$5,000.00	n/a
Direct-to-video scripts	1	\$55,000.00			+35,000.00
11-min. theatrical short	1	\$7,500.00			n/a
10-min. theme pk. treatment	1	\$1,000.00			n/a
Television Storyboards:					
7 to 11 mins.	8	\$2,200.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	n/a
18 mins.	1	\$7,500.00			n/a
30 minutes, per page	2	\$450.00		\$700.00	+\$575.00
Per page, rough	1	\$300.00			n/a
Per page, cleanup	1	\$200.00			n/a
Per act	2	\$4,500.00		\$7,500.00	+\$600.00
Per 30 minutes	3	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$22,000.00	n/a
Television Writing:					
Story editing, per 1/2 hour	3	\$4,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00	-\$2,500.00
Bibles	3	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	-\$2,500.00
30-min. pilot	1	\$10,000.00			-\$2,500.00
7 to 11 minutes	2	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	0
30-min. episode [network]	7	\$4,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	0
30-min. episode [synd.]	4	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	0

* The “median average” represents the middle figure when the survey results are ranked from lowest to highest. These numbers should be viewed in the context of the minimums and maximums reported, and the number of responses. Categories not listed had no replies.

About the wage survey

This year’s results show the effects of industry-wide employment downturns. The numbers shown reflect the salaries reported as of the date the member filled out the survey; however, many members wrote in that they had already been informed of sizable pay cuts effective in the near future.

Although this year’s overall percentage of returned questionnaires is very slightly higher than last year’s, the survey results should be read in light of the low returns in many categories. We also noticed an increase in survey respondents who did not list their employer.

In comparing your salary to the figures on pages 6 and 7, it’s important to note that the survey figures are based on a forty-hour week. Those persons

working on a so-called “on-call” basis (that is, with a guaranteed workweek of more than forty hours) should adjust their numbers accordingly.

For example, let’s say you receive a salary of **\$2,000** for a **fifty-six-hour** week:

Subtract 40 from your workweek $56-40 = 16$
 Multiply by 1.5 $16*1.5 = 24$
 Add to 40 $40+24 = 64$
 Divide salary by this number
 to get the **hourly wage**..... $\$2,000/64 = \31.25
 Multiple by 40 for the
forty-hour weekly rate..... $\$31.25*40 = \$1,250$

We have posted these results on the Local 839 website at <http://www.mpsc839.org>, along with a breakdown of categories by employer.