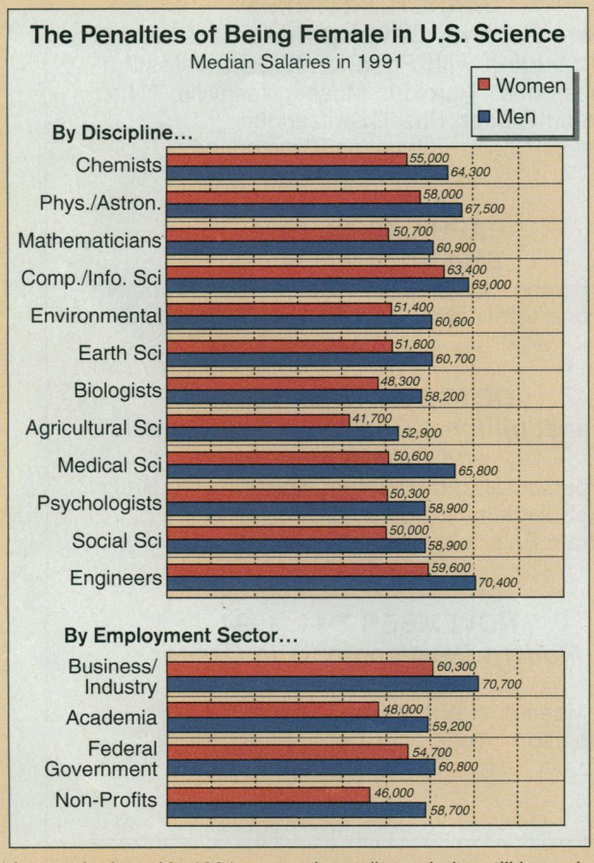
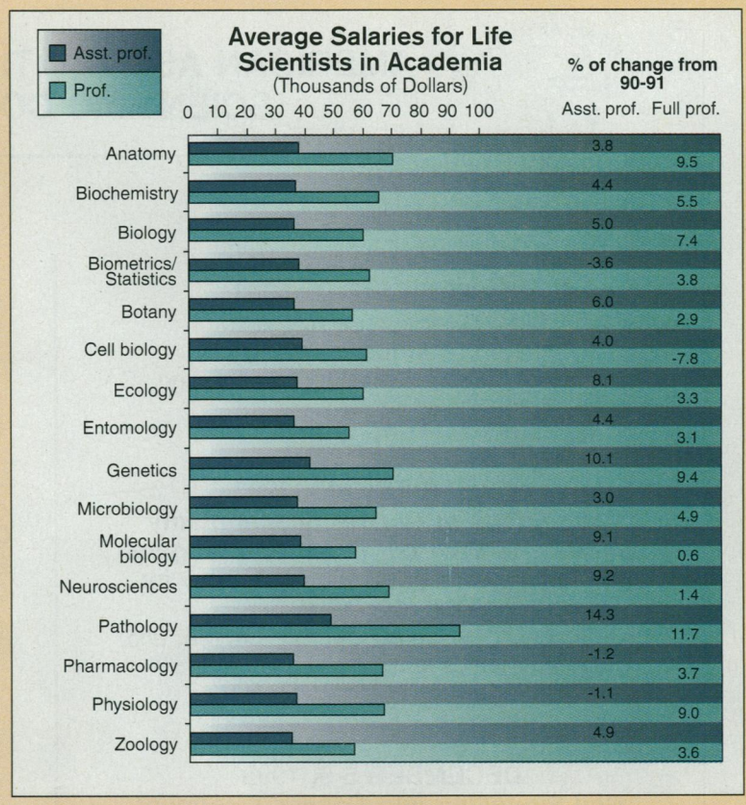
How Much Money Is Your Ph.D. Worth?

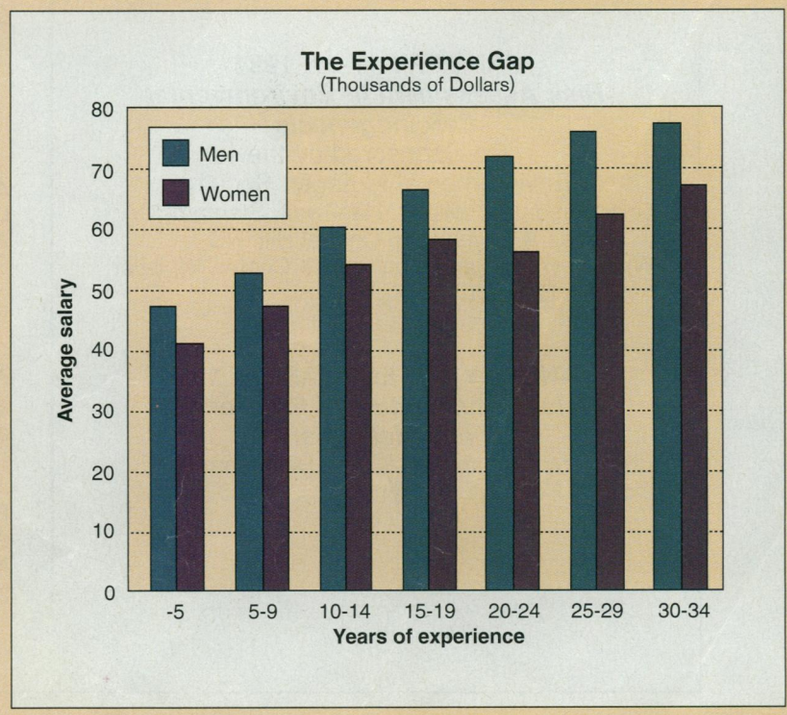
Here's your chance to see how much money your colleagues make each year. These charts and graphs show that dollars get divided up differently depending on gender, geography, type of workplace, and, of course, profession. A word of caution: Graphs are drawn from many sources and cannot be compared to one another. Moreover, due to changed survey techniques, this year's numbers cannot be compared to numbers from previous years.

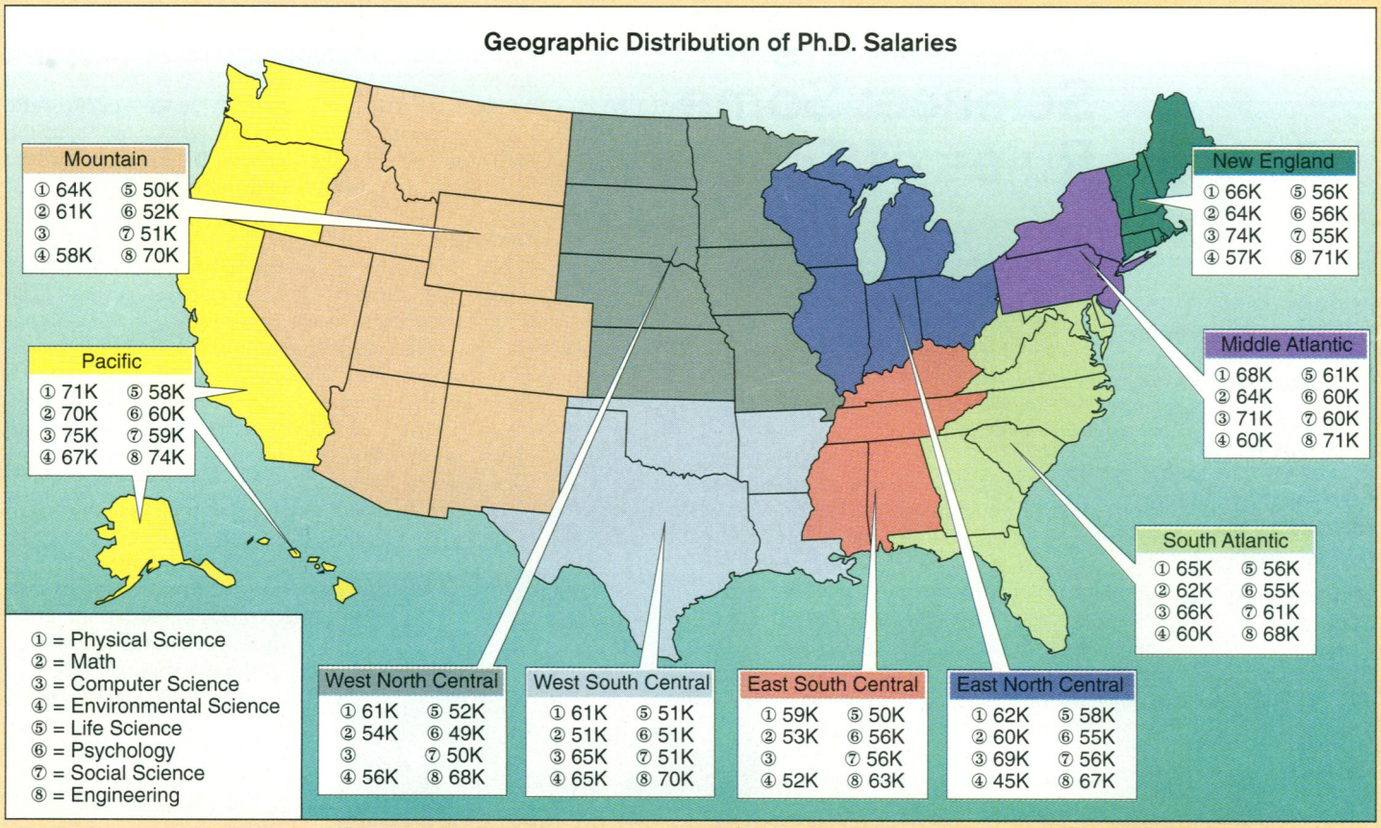


Across the board in 1991, women's median salaries still lagged behind those of men by at least $5,000. The most dramatic difference lies in medical science, while women in computer science seem to be catching up. These numbers are not adjusted for age, which may contribute to a lower median for women, since the bulk of women Ph.D.s are young, less experienced—and, therefore, less well-paid. (Source: Commission of Professionals in Science and Technology, Summary of Salary Surveys)



In 1992-93, the average salary for pathology, genetics, and anatomy professors increased by at least 9% over their 1990-91 salaries, while average salaries for full professors of cell biology actually went down by 7.8%. (Source: Oklahoma State University's Faculty Salary survey, 1992-1993)





Engineers and computer scientists have the highest salaries no matter what state they live in. All Ph.D.s—with the exception of social and life scientists—make more money in the Pacific region than anywhere else in the country. Social scientists earn the most if they work in the South Atlantic, and life scientists earn the most when they work in the Middle Atlantic. Also worth noting: Environmental scientists in the West South Central region take home bigger pay checks than anywhere except the West Coast. (Source: NSF Survey of Doctorate Recipients, 1993)

Left: No matter how much experience they get, women's salaries continue to lag behind those drawn by men. To make matters worse, while men's salaries keep going up throughout their careers, women Ph.D.s begin to see their salaries level off after 20 years on the job. (Source: Commission of Professionals in Science and Technology, Summary of Salary Surveys, 1993)

Right: The median salaries for Ph.D.s in physics and chemistry are shown by employment sector. Both chemists and physicists earn the most in industry and the least in academia. Overall, however, chemists make more than physicists. (Source: American Institute of Physics and American Chemical Society)