

## Record Salaries for Scientists and Engineers Battered by Inflation

Salaries paid to scientists and engineers hit record levels during 1979, but high inflation rates eroded most of the gains in purchasing power, according to the latest biennial edition of *Salaries of Scientists, Engineers, and Technicians—A Summary of Salary Surveys*, published by the Scientific Manpower Commission.

- 1979 starting salaries reached \$21,500 for bachelor's level petroleum engineers and \$25,800 for new Ph.D. chemists. At the bottom, women bachelor degree graduates in the agricultural and biological sciences averaged only \$11,500 to \$11,700 per year. Although women bachelor degree level chemists and engineers were paid slightly higher starting salaries than men in 1979, men earn more both at the start and later in their careers in all other fields, at all degree levels, and at all levels of experience.

- Industry pays the highest salaries and academic institutions the lowest for almost all levels of experience and education and in all fields. However, for some groups, federal government salaries are higher than those paid by private industry. Experienced federal government economists averaged \$33,800 in 1978—the top salary average among government scientists and engineers.

- Doctoral scientists and engineers in industry averaged \$29,900 in 1977, followed closely by those in the federal government at \$29,700—still 17 percent above the overall median of \$25,600. Women doctorates earn considerably less than men in every field and in every activity, averaging 20 percent less overall. Minority doctorates have salaries that are about 7 percent below those of majority men. Teaching pays less than any other activity, and averages about \$10,000 below salaries paid for management of research and development.

- Scientists and engineers working in research and development earn salaries ranging from \$15,588 for nonsupervisory bachelor degree level agricultural and biological scientists to \$36,372 for Ph.D. mining and petroleum engineers. Women

represent only 5 percent of all scientists and engineers employed in research and development, and their salaries lag far behind men's.

- Academic salaries, already well below those in government and industry, fell even further behind in 1979 as average salaries expressed in constant real dollars dropped about 3 percent. Most scientists and engineers in industry and government, however, experienced a small increase in real dollars.

These are a few of the highlights from the new publication by the Scientific Manpower Commission, which provides detailed information on starting and advanced salaries of scientists, engineers, and technicians in industry, government, and educational institutions. This 130-page report, compiled from more than 40 sources, includes 138 tables and 7 charts detailing salary levels by type of employer, field, highest degree, years since first degree, sex, age group, category of employment, work activity, geographic area, academic rank, Civil Service grade and grade distribution, and level of responsibility.

Some salary comparisons in nontechnical fields are included.

*Salaries of Scientists, Engineers and Technicians—A Summary of Salary Surveys*, Ninth Edition, prepared by Eleanor Babco, is available from the Scientific Manpower Commission, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, for \$20 per copy. Earlier editions, available at reduced prices when ordered with the new edition, can be used for trend studies.

## Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellowships Established

"One of the major policy issues in coming decades will be the broad relationship between science, technology, and foreign affairs," Edward E. David, Jr., president of Exxon Research and Engineering Company, Inc., and retiring AAAS Board Chairman, has said in testimony before the House Committee on Science and Technology.

To promote more effective use of scientific and technical knowledge in foreign affairs, AAAS, in cooperation with the State Department, announces the establishment of a Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellows Program.

Two postdoctoral to mid-career sci-

## AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Submission of entries in the 1980 competition for the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize is invited. Established in 1952 with funds donated by Arthur F. Bentley, the \$1000 prize is awarded annually for a meritorious paper that furthers understanding of human psychological-social-cultural behavior. The prize is intended to encourage in social inquiry the development and application of the kind of dependable methodology that has proved so fruitful in the natural sciences.

Entries should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and interpretation of the data in terms of the postulates with which the study began. Purely empirical studies, no matter how important, and purely theoretical formulations, no matter how thoughtful, are not eligible.

The winning entry will be selected by a Committee of Judges selected by a management committee consisting of officers of the AAAS Sections on Anthropology (H), Psychology (J), and Social and Economic Sciences (K), and the Executive Officer of AAAS. The prize will be presented at the 1981 Annual Meeting in Toronto, 3-8 January.

Unpublished manuscripts and manuscripts published after 1 January 1979 are eligible. The deadline for receipt of entries is 1 July 1980. For entry blank and instructions, write to the AAAS Executive Office at the AAAS address.