

## Competitive \*Median Salaries Across Industry Sectors for Geoscience-related Occupations in 2011

The most recent salary data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that geoscience-related occupations have competitive salaries across a variety of industry sectors. Petroleum Engineers and Natural Science Managers have the largest range in median salaries across industries (\$84,770 - over \$187,200 and \$73,290 - \$180,160, respectively). Petroleum Engineering occupations are found in nine broad-level industry sectors\*\* and Natural Science Manager occupations are found in 15 broad-level industry sectors. Atmospheric, Earth, Marine and Space Science Postsecondary Teachers and Geography Postsecondary Teachers have the smallest range in median salaries (\$78,820-\$84,590 and \$60,820-\$69,420, respectively), while Environmental Science Postsecondary Teachers have the largest range in median salaries (\$32,700-\$66,930) within the Education industry sector. Of the non-management geoscience-related occupations, Environmental Science occupations (e.g. Environmental Engineers, Environmental Scientists, and Environmental and Environmental Engineering Technicians), Soil and Plant Scientists, and Geoscientist occupations are found in more than ten broad-level industry sectors.

\*The 2011 median salaries for geoscience-related occupations by industry are on average 6% (+/- 5%) lower than the corresponding mean salary. We use median salaries instead of mean salaries because salary data are often asymmetrically distributed, and thus the median values give better estimates of centrality or a "typical" salary of an occupation. Note, this Currents includes more geoscience-related occupations (e.g. technicians and postsecondary teachers), and salary information than Currents #51.

\*\*Broad-level industry sectors refer to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2-digit industry codes used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For more information see <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>

### 2011 Salary Ranges for Geoscience-related Occupations Across Industries

Occupation	Salary Range	Industry with Lowest Pay	Industry with Highest Pay	Number of Broad-level Industries
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$83,030 to \$146,210	Junior Colleges	Oil & Gas	18
Natural Sciences Managers	\$73,290 to \$180,160	State Government	Finance & Insurance	15
Environmental Engineers	\$54,250 to \$110,610	Health Care	Oil & Gas	13
Mining and Geological Engineers	\$72,200 to \$133,970	Nonmetallic Mineral Mining	Manufacturing	7
Petroleum Engineers	\$84,770 to exceeds \$187,200 <sup>1</sup>	State Government	Construction	9
Environmental Engineering Technicians	\$33,620 to \$76,110	Construction	Oil & Gas	11
Soil and Plant Scientists	\$45,850 to \$86,960	Other Services	Mngmt of Companies	11
Atmospheric and Space Scientists	\$72,260 to \$120,600	Mngmt of Companies	Manufacturing	8
Environmental Scientists	\$47,420 to \$94,960	Colleges & Universities	Federal Government	14
Geoscientists	\$61,000 to \$129,450	State Government	Oil & Gas	12
Hydrologists	\$61,950 to \$85,920	State Government	Mngmt of Companies	6
Geographers	\$54,600 to \$88,150	Colleges & Universities	Scientific R&D Svcs.	3
Geological and Petroleum Technicians	\$31,770 to \$78,120	Coal Mining	Manufacturing	10
Environmental Science Technicians	\$32,700 to \$66,930	Health Care	Utilities	12
Engineering Teachers, Postsec.	\$72,320 to \$93,070	Junior Colleges	Colleges & Universities	1
Atmosph., Earth, Marine, and Space Sci. Teachers, Postsec.	\$78,820 to \$84,590	Junior Colleges	Colleges & Universities	1
Environmental Sci. Teachers, Postsec.	\$54,070 to \$79,570	Junior Colleges	Colleges & Universities	1
Geography Teachers, Postsec.	\$60,820 to \$69,420	Junior Colleges	Colleges & Universities	1

<sup>1</sup>The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports this wage as "greater than \$90.00 per hour or \$187,200 per year"

Data derived from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics May 2011 data tables.

To view this data interactively and explore salary percentiles for specific combinations of industries and occupations, visit:  
[http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/2011\\_Geoscience\\_Salaries/2011GeoscienceSalaries](http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/2011_Geoscience_Salaries/2011GeoscienceSalaries)

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