

Faculty salaries at public universities worldwide
Survey published 2012

Designed to make comparisons possible by focusing on purchasing power,
not pure salaries by Scott Jaschik, ‘Faculty Pay, Around the World,’
Inside HigherEd online, 22 March 2012

Monthly Average Salaries of Public Higher Education Faculty in United States Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Dollars			
Country	Entry Level USD	Average USD	Highest USD
Armenia	405	538	665
Russia	433	617	910
China	259	720	1,107
Ethiopia	864	1,207	1,580
Kazakhstan	1,037	1,553	2,304
Latvia	1,087	1,785	2,654
Mexico	1,336	1,941	2,730
Czech Republic	1,655	2,495	3,967
Turkey	2,173	2,597	3,898
Colombia	1,965	2,702	4,058
Brazil	1,858	3,179	4,550
Japan	2,897	3,473	4,604
France	1,973	3,484	4,775
Argentina	3,151	3,755	4,385
Malaysia	2,824	4,628	7,864
Nigeria	2,758	4,629	6,229
Israel	3,525	4,747	6,377
Norway	4,491	4,940	5,847
Germany	4,885	5,141	6,383
Netherlands	3,472	5,313	7,123
Australia	3,930	5,713	7,499
United Kingdom	4,077	5,943	8,369
Saudi Arabia	3,457	6,002	8,524
United States	4,950	6,054	7,358
India (see comment below)	3,954	6,070	7,433
South Africa (see comment below)	3,927	6,531	9,330
Italy (see comment below)	3,525	6,955	9,118
Canada	5,733	7,196	9,485

“The figures (see table at end of article¹) are the result of an unusual research project between the Center for International Higher Education, at Boston College, and the Laboratory for Institutional Analysis at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, in Moscow. The comparisons are designed to bypass a typical hindrance to international comparisons of faculty salaries (or any salaries for that matter): the sharply different costs of living in various countries.”

“The analysis examines many other issues as well, including fringe benefits, the nature of employment contracts and the existence of tenure (present in only some of the countries studied).”

“In an interview, Altbach,² who is director of the Boston College center, noted that there are numerous factors that differ from country to country for which the study could not control. Saudi Arabians pay no taxes, while Western Europeans pay relatively high taxes, he noted.”

Comments:

Joe Berry: “Useful and interesting as this study is, it leaves out the majority of academics worldwide who work without benefit of permanent status, whatever their titles. In the US, the pay of **contingents** probably averages half or less of the tenure track minority. Pay may not vary as much in some nations, but we have no way to tell from this. However, contingents are the majority in US, Canada, Mexico and much of the EU, as well as elsewhere, and therefore probably the world as a whole. Now there's a study worth doing. Are the granting agencies and education think tanks listening?”

Matteo: “As an Italian who has worked at some **Italian** academic institutions (before leaving the country) I can tell you that this number is misleading if not completely wrong). I would say that it [the error] probably comes from the low cost of living in some parts of Italy together with some misinterpretations of local taxation. These attempts of creating a single indicator are methodologically disputable, reality is much more complex than this, and although Italy is a beautiful country many academics who were born there have been moving abroad for a long time - and the trend is not decreasing. (I am sure the authors of this study have done things well, but this is what happens if you just extrapolate a summary table).”

Tstengos: “Unless one knows how these averages are computed, they can be quite misleading. In the US there are nearly 2,000 institutions with a huge variation in salaries, yet they offer very different degrees and educational products. It is very hard to believe that top faculty members in what we take as research US schools earn in PPP terms lower wages than the **South Africans** or their counterparts in **India**.... ”

guest: “There is something wrong with these numbers. For Turkey, the rents for apartments around the university campus are around 1500 TL/month, and the entry level salary is 2200

¹ Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/03/22/new-study-analyzes-how-faculty-pay-compares-worldwide> retrieved 2014-12-19 See also “Remuneration of Researchers in the Public and Private Sectors,” *European Commission*, April 2007 http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/final_report.pdf

² Philip G. Altbach, PhD, is Research Professor and Director of the Center for International Higher Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States 02467. See also YouTube presentation at University of Ljubljana, “Phillip G. Altbach: The Decline of the Guru: Comparative Perspectives on the Academic Profession,” 22 February 2013.

TL/month (after tax). Considering these numbers, how would the monthly average US PPP salary in Turkey would be half of the salary in the USA?”

radek: “I wonder how the results for the Czech Republic were computed. When I was applying for an assistant professor position (with a PhD) last year, at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague, a position with full research and teaching load, I was offered 860\$ before tax, which makes it roughly 600\$ after tax. That's effectively half of the entry salary noted by this research. Where does this discrepancy come from?”

AsxSD: “Interesting, but in US and a few other countries academics are paid for 9 months of the year to teach two semesters, but in many they are paid 12 months of the year to teach two semesters.”