

## INTRODUCTION


#### Abstract

The New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) conducts an annual survey of its members to provide the planning profession with a snapshot of salaries and conditions in the industry. Following the pattern of recent years, we received 668 completed responses to the survey, providing us with a robust data set. We are pleased to present the results of our analysis of this data, and thank all those members who took the time to respond.


## Methodology

To maintain consistency we have followed the same base methodology as previous years, although we have expanded the classifications slightly to provide a finer level of detail. The 668 respondents have been classified into the five NZPI recognised Membership types:

## Student

Graduate
Intermediate
Full (includes Fellow and Life members)

## Associate

And grouped into four regions:


AucklandWellingtonChristchurchRest of New Zealand


We have grouped the respondents' job titles into six broad categories, although sometimes these have been grouped to ensure we have a robust data set for each variable.

Planner/Policy Analyst
Senior Planner/Senior Policy Analyst
Manager
Team Leader
Principal/Associate
CEO/Director

The types of employing organisations have been grouped into three categories:

## Central Government

Council
Private Sector/NGO/Iwi

In line with previous years, we have focused on the medians in each data set to minimise the effect of outliers. We have also included some data tables as well as scatter graphs showing the total salary ranges for each of the job titles, and one showing the salary range for the different reported lengths of employment in the planning profession.

We have also taken data from the last three surveys to provide initial analysis on gender pay gaps and related trends. We will continue to track trends in this area over coming surveys.

## PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



Age

| Age Range | No. | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $21-25$ | 79 | $12 \%$ |
| $26-30$ | 116 | $17 \%$ |
| $31-35$ | 105 | $16 \%$ |
| $36-40$ | 121 | $16 \%$ |
| $41-45$ | 91 | $18 \%$ |
| $46-50$ | 62 | $9 \%$ |
| $51-55$ | 37 | $6 \%$ |
| $56-60$ | 25 | $4 \%$ |
| $61-65$ | 22 | $3 \%$ |
| $66+$ | 8 | $1 \%$ |
| Total | 666 |  |

## Gender

| Gender | No. |
| :--- | :---: |
| Female | 386 |
| $\square$ Male | 278 |
| $\square$ Other | 4 |



Years in the planning profession

| Year Range | No. | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $0-1$ | 26 | $4 \%$ |
| $1-2$ | 38 | $6 \%$ |
| $2-3$ | 36 | $5 \%$ |
| $3-4$ | 41 | $6 \%$ |
| $4-5$ | 47 | $7 \%$ |
| $6-10$ | 106 | $16 \%$ |
| $11-15$ | 146 | $22 \%$ |
| $16-20$ | 101 | $15 \%$ |
| $21-25$ | 49 | $10 \%$ |
| $26-30$ | 38 | $7 \%$ |
| $30+$ | 37 | $6 \%$ |
| Total | 665 |  |

## QUALIFICATIONS \& EMPLOYMENT

## Qualifications held by respondents

$74 \%$ of respondents hold NZPI accredited qualifications. This year also continues the trend of the last few years with an increase in the number of respondents holding a postgraduate qualification. The following table shows the qualifications held by respondents:


## Employment status

$86 \%$ (573) of respondents were in full time work, while $14 \%$ (95) were working part-time, which is up $1 \%$ from last year.


## ORGANISATION, POSITION \& SALARIES

## Organisations employing respondents

| Organisation type | No. |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ Central Government | 32 |
| $\square$ Council | 265 |
| $\square$ NGO/Iwi | 10 |
| $\square$ Private Sector | 365 |



The position/role of respondents

| Job/Role title | No. | Percentage |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | 173 | $30 \%$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | 192 | $34 \%$ |
| Manager/Team Leader | 86 | $15 \%$ |
| Associate/Principal | 79 | $14 \%$ |
| CEO/Director | 40 | $7 \%$ |
| Total | 570 |  |

NB: CEO and Director roles have been aggregated. Note that while $85 \%$ of respondents ticked one of the jobs/roles, approximately 100 respondents did not use any of these job titles in their responses and have not been included in this data set as a result.

## Salaries

New Zealand-wide salaries for the grouped roles were as follows.

| Job | Lower Quartile | Median | Upper Quartile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 67,000$ | $\$ 72,500$ | $\$ 80,000$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 90,000$ | $\$ 98,200$ | $\$ 105,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 120,000$ | $\$ 131,000$ | $\$ 157,000$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 104,500$ | $\$ 110,500$ | $\$ 122,000$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 110,000$ | $\$ 125,000$ | $\$ 146,500$ |
| CEO/Director | $\$ 120,000$ | $\$ 144,000$ | $\$ 185,000$ |

Median salary by years of experience

| Years | Median |
| :--- | :--- |
| $0-5$ | $\$ 70,000$ |
| $6-10$ | $\$ 76,250$ |
| $11-15$ | $\$ 104,000$ |
| $16-20$ | $\$ 118,000$ |
| $21-25$ | $\$ 130,000$ |
| $26-30$ | $\$ 129,000$ |
| $30^{+}$ | $\$ 124,000$ |

## MEDIAN SALARIES BY GENDER FOR THE THREE YEARS 2015-2017

Role type


Age


- Male


## Planner/Policy Analyst



## Manager/ Team Leader



CEO/Director


Senior Planner/Policy Analyst


## Associate/Principle



This initial analysis indicates that the greatest gender salary gap exists for planners aged $35-50$. It also shows a consistent gap for those in Manager/Team leader roles and a gradually increasing gap for those in senior planner/policy analyst roles. We will continue to track this data to see how these measures track for both age and role over the coming years.


## SALARY RANGE FOR EACH ROLE GROUPING

These graphs are all the data points collected in the survey and provide an indication of the spread of salaries for each role grouping. We have also added lower and upper quartile and median markers to assist with reading the data.

Planner/Policy Analyst


Senior Planner/Policy Analyst


## SALARY RANGE FOR EACH ROLE GROUPING

Manager


Team Leader


## SALARY RANGE FOR EACH ROLE GROUPING

Principle/Associate


CEO/Director


## MEDIAN SALARIES BY <br> YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We have also tracked how salary relates to years of experience. As with many professions there is not a simple linear relationship between years of experience and salary, so we have set out the salary ranges for the surveyed year groupings in the graph below. This should provide readers with a more complete picture of salary as related to years of employment than has been previously shown with the simple medians.

## Salary by years as a planner



Emerging planners salary by year


## MEDIAN SALARY DATA

This year we have not looked at the overall median salary by location as we have determined that medians by role are of much more interest to the readers of this survey. Therefore, the following tables and graphs provide the median salary by role for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and the Rest of New Zealand, for respondents who are employed either in Councils or in Private sector/NGO/ Iwi organisations. We have reported those employed by Central Government as a single data set for the whole country.

## Auckland

| Position | Council employed respondents | ■ Privately employed respondents |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 72,000$ | $\$ 71,000$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 100,000$ | $\$ 100,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 173,000$ | $\$ 155,000$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 123,000$ | $\$ 155,000$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 110,000$ | $\$ 153,000$ |
| Director | - | $\$ 150,000$ |



Wellington


## Canterbury/Christchurch

| Position | ■ Council employed respondents | ■ Privately employed respondents |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 79,250$ | $\$ 65,000$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 99,500$ | $\$ 92,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 129,000$ | $\$ 127,000$ |
| Team Leader | - | - |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 109,000$ | $\$ 125,500$ |
| Director | - | $\$ 146,000$ |



## Rest of New Zealand



## All regions: Central Government respondents



## MEDIAN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

(Grouped across whole country)

## Position

Median \$ Contribution

Professional Fees (437 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 400$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 500$ |
| Manager | $\$ 500$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 500$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 500$ |
| Director | $\$ 500$ |

Education (237 non zero responses)

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Director | $\$ 1,000$ |

Attending Conferences (401 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 1,000$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 2,000$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 1,500$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 1,500$ |
| Director | $\$ 2,000$ |

## Position

Median \$ Contribution

Superannuation (175 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 2,236$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 3,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 4,000$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 3,500$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 4,000$ |
| Director | $\$ 5,125$ |

Mobile phone expenses (328 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 500$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 600$ |
| Manager | $\$ 600$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 600$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 600$ |
| Director | $\$ 1,000$ |

Health/Medical Insurance (130 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 500$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 500$ |
| Manager | $\$ 1,650$ |
| Team Leader | $\$ 350$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 500$ |
| Director | $\$ 2,000$ |

Home Internet/Computing (65 non zero responses)

| Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 750$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Manager | $\$ 1,100$ |
| Team Leader | $\$-$ |
| Principal/Associate | $\$ 1,000$ |
| Director | $\$ 1,000$ |

Company Vehicle 49 respondents indicated they had full-time use of a vehicle. Statistics, by job category:

| Position | Proportion of sample of 76 | Average $\$$ value of car in salary |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Planner/Policy Analyst | $4 \%$ | $\$ 15,000$ |
| Senior Planner/Policy Analyst | $6 \%$ | $\$ 14,800$ |
| Manager | $29 \%$ | $\$ 12,300$ |
| Team Leader | - | - |
| Principal/Associate | $16 \%$ | $\$ 18,125$ |
| Director | $31 \%$ | $\$ 7,700$ |

## HUMAN RESOURCES OVERVIEW

## Career movement

$28 \%$ of respondents reported they have changed positions in the last year. The most common reasons given in free-format responses are (mentions):

Salary (19), pay (8), money (6)
Opportunity (12), career (27), change (14), promotion (9)
Stress (10), redundancy (5), culture (5), job satisfaction (4), location (9), balance (2)
Variety (4), development (17), type of work (5), role (10), interest (5), redundancy (2)

## Staff retention


$30 \%$ of respondents reported that they had left or considered leaving the planning profession last year. The most common reasons considered by respondents in their decision to stay are (mentions):

Interest (84), variety (38), challenging (42), opportunity (34), career (16)
Salary (28), pay (23), income (8), remuneration (7), well-paid (12)
Making a difference (18), job satisfaction (15), enjoyment (16)
Job security (12), professional development (8), flexibility (13)

## Responsibilities for recruitment and filling vacancies

In the 2018 survey: 262 respondents have responsibilities for recruitment.
Of those 134 ( $51 \%$ ) report difficulties filling vacancies, while 128 ( $49 \%$ ) report no difficulties.

## Branches

Auckland / Northland

## Waikato

Bay of Plenty
Central North Island

## Wellington

Nelson / Marlborough
Canterbury / Westland Otago
Central Otago
Southland
United Kingdom

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