



Starting salaries hit an all-time high for new college graduates.

In a study of 145,000 entry-level employment positions in the United States, researches found that the average starting salary for 2017 college graduates is **\$48,270**.

That's three percent higher than last year and 14 percent higher than 2007, just before the Great Recession.

Graduates of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs have the highest average starting salaries.

The five highest-paying fields include:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Software developer | \$65,232 |
| Engineer | \$63,036 |
| Actuary | \$59,212 |
| Scientist/researcher. | \$58,733 |
| Environmental professional | \$56,660 |

The five lowest-paying average starting salaries include:

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Buyer/logistics | \$44,247 |
| Call center specialists | \$41,158 |
| Claims examiner | \$37,508 |
| Customer service | \$35,848 |
| Category assistant. | \$35,592 |

Salaries differ by location.

Of the cities analyzed in the Korn-Ferry, Hay Group study, here are seven major metropolitan areas and average starting salaries:

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|-------------------------|----------|
| San Francisco | \$62,829 |
| New York | \$60,190 |
| Los Angeles | \$55,709 |
| Chicago | \$54,515 |
| Minneapolis | \$53,121 |
| Dallas | \$50,084 |
| Atlanta | \$49,034 |

The key is to start early.

"We're seeing a trend toward companies hiring summer interns between their junior and senior years of college, and then making offers for full-time employment right after the internship ends," said Adam Blumberg, vice president for key accounts at Korn Ferry's Futurestep, which handles recruitment services. "It may be nine months before the graduate is ready to start, but this practice keeps the really talented new professionals out of the interview process and committed to the company for which they interned."

Source: <https://www.kornferry.com/press/great-expectations-salaries-for-2017-college-grads-hit-all-time-high-korn-ferry-analysis-shows/>