

# Supply and Demand Resource List for Audiologists

### Introduction

This resource list presents data on the current and future status of the supply of and demand for audiologists in the United States. Data from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and external sources are presented.

#### External Resources

### Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Projections

The audiology profession is projected to grow 10% over the 2021–2031 decade—faster than the average (5%) for all occupations, according to BLS. This growth translates to 1,500 new audiologist jobs over the course of 10 years. Many of the openings are expected to result from the need to replace audiologists who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as those who step down to retire. See the BLS *Occupational Outlook Handbook* for more information.

Employment projections for the audiology profession vary by state. Visit Projections Central, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, for more information.

- Select "Long-Term Projections (2020–2030)" or "Short-Term Projections (2021–2023)."
- Under "Search and Filter," enter one or more states, then "Audiologists," then "Apply." For all state projections, enter "All Areas."

National employment and wage estimates for the audiology profession are available on the BLS site.

- Hourly and annual wage estimates are presented at the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentiles.
- Industry and geographic profiles for the audiology profession are presented.
- Data reflect May 2021 conditions.
- See the National Employment Matrix for audiologist employment data by industry.

State employment and wage estimates for the audiology profession are available on the BLS site.

- Select a state from the map or alphabetical list.
- Scroll down to Occupation Group Code 29-0000, and select "Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations."
- See Occupation Code 29-1181 (Audiologists).
- Data reflect May 2021 conditions.



### U.S. News & World Report Job Rankings

Drawing on data from BLS and other sources, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked "audiologist" as #22 in their "Best Health Care Jobs" category and #79 in their "100 Best Jobs" category for 2022. The rankings consider important aspects of a job, including growth potential and median salary.

### U.S. Department of Education Data

Public school employment data are collected by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and are disseminated through the *Annual Reports to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).* According to the 2021 43rd Annual Report to Congress, 1,322 full-time equivalent (FTE) audiologists (1,310 "fully certified") were employed to provide related services for children and students ages 3–21 served under IDEA, Part B, in Fall 2018 (see Exhibit 45 of the report). Note that ED's definition of *certified* differs from the ASHA definition.

Resources From the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS)

NCPSSERS offers resources to help practitioners, researchers, and policymakers better understand and address critical shortages of special education teachers and related specialized instructional support personnel in schools, including audiologists and teachers of the Deaf.

#### **ASHA** Resources

#### Student Enrollment and Graduation Data

ASHA conducts the annual *Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Education Survey* to collect information on student applications, admissions, enrollment, graduation, and first employment—as well as other data about undergraduate through research doctoral (PhD) education—to inform the pipeline of the discipline. The information is presented in the *CSD Education Survey* data reports.

#### Membership and Affiliation Data

ASHA's annual *Member and Affiliate Profile report* presents data on the number of individuals who hold the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A). Employment and demographic data are presented, as well. At year-end 2021, 13,910 individuals held the CCC-A—up from 13,727 in 2020 (a 1.3% increase). An additional 707 individuals held certification in both audiology and speech-language pathology—down from 758 at year-end 2020 (a 6.7% decline).

### Audiologist-to-Population Ratios

The annual ASHA-Certified Audiologist- and Speech-Language Pathologist-to-Population Ratios report indicates that in 2020, nationwide, there were 4.1 ASHA-certified audiologists for every 100,000 residents—the same or about the same as in recent past years (4.0–4.1 from 2010 to 2019). Regional ratios ranged from 3.3 in the West to 4.9 in the Northeast and Midwest. State-level ratios ranged from 2.0 in California to 7.1 in Colorado.

#### Job Market Data

### Audiologists in the Schools

In recent years, ASHA has included a question on its major surveys to assess the job market for audiologists and to quantify shortages and surpluses. In 2018, overall, 25% of audiologists responding to the *ASHA Schools Survey* reported that there were more job openings than job seekers in their type of employment facility and geographic area; 33% reported that job openings and job seekers were in balance; and 42% reported that there were fewer job openings than job seekers (see Table 1). Responses varied slightly by facility.

**Table 1.** Assessment of the job market for audiologists, by school setting, 2018.

	%				
Assessment	All school types (n = 196)	Elementary school (n = 44)	Combination of schools (n = 83)		
More job openings than job seekers	25	30	29		
Job openings and job seekers in balance	33	32	36		
Fewer job openings than job seekers	42	39	35		

*Note*. These data are from the *2018 ASHA Schools Survey*. Because of rounding, percentages may not total exactly 100%.

### Audiologists in Health Care and Other Settings

In 2021, overall, 29% of audiologists responding to the *ASHA Audiology Survey* reported that there were more job openings than job seekers in their type of employment facility and geographic area; 37% reported that job openings and job seekers were in balance; and 34% reported that there were fewer job openings than job seekers (see Table 2). Responses varied by facility.

**Table 2.** Assessment of the job market for audiologists, by work setting, 2021.

	%					
Assessment	Overall (n = 1,441)	Audiology franchise/ retail chain (n = 50)	College/ university (n = 127)	Hospital (n = 491)	Industry ( <i>n</i> = 67)	Nonresidential health care facility (n = 667)
More job openings than job seekers	29	40	26	21	30	35
Job openings and job seekers in balance	37	32	50	39	37	33
Fewer job openings than job seekers	34	28	24	40	33	32

Note. These data are from the 2021 ASHA Audiology Survey.

### Annual Salary and Hourly Wage Data

### Audiologists in the Schools

ASHA Schools Survey results indicate that in 2022, the median academic year (9- to 10-month) salary of school-based audiologists was \$76,000—up from \$72,000 in 2020 (a 6% increase). The median calendar year (11- to 12-month) salary was \$84,000—up from \$81,213 in 2020 (a 3% increase). Survey results further indicate that about 29% of school-based audiologists received a salary supplement for having their ASHA CCCs—up from 20% in 2020.

### Audiologists in Health Care and Other Settings

ASHA Audiology Survey results indicate that in 2021, the median annual full-time salary of audiologists was \$87,822 (see Table 3). The median part-time salary was \$62,000. The median hourly wage was \$45.00—up from \$40.00 in 2018 (a 13% increase). Salaries and wages varied by facility.

**Table 3.** Median annual salaries and hourly wages of audiologists, by work setting, 2021.

	\$				
Work setting	Full-time salary (n = 913)	Part-time salary (n = 71)	Hourly wage ( <i>n</i> = 281)		
Overall	87,822	62,000	45.00		
Audiology franchise/retail chain	68,000	n/r	n/r		
College/university	87,968	n/r	n/r		
Hospital (e.g., general, pediatric, military, Veterans Affairs)	93,500	n/r	49.00		
Industry	99,000	n/r	n/r		
Nonresidential health care facility (includes audiologists' and physicians' offices)	80,000	n/r	42.00		

*Note.* These data are from the 2021 ASHA Audiology Survey. n/r = not reported. (To preserve confidentiality and provide more certain results, we have not reported data for groups of fewer than 25 survey respondents.)

#### Commissions and Bonuses

Some audiologists in health care and other settings received commissions and/or bonuses in addition to their base earnings. In 2021, audiologists who were paid an annual full- or part-time salary reported receiving a median of \$20,000 in commissions during the past 12 months. Those who were paid an hourly wage reported receiving a median of \$14,000 in commissions during the past 12 months.

In 2021, audiologists who were paid an annual full- or part-time salary reported receiving a median of \$3,200 in bonuses during the past 12 months. Those who were paid an hourly wage reported receiving a median of \$1,400 in bonuses in the past 12 months.

## **Suggested Citation**

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### Questions?

Please direct questions about this resource list to Gail Brook, assistant director, Surveys and Analysis, at gbrook@asha.org or data@asha.org.