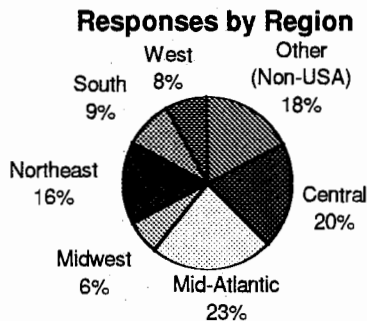# 1998 MTA Salary Survey Results

by Joel Yungton

Introduction

The 1998 MTA Salary Survey results are in. We received 160 responses which represent 19% of MTA-NA membership. Of the 160 respondents, 82% live and work in the United States while 18% live and/or work abroad. The largest number of non-US responses came from the UK (5%) followed by Brazil and Canada (2.5% each) and Germany (1%). Other countries responding included Australia, Belgium, Finland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Switzerland, and The Netherlands. Thank you to all who participated and made this survey a success!

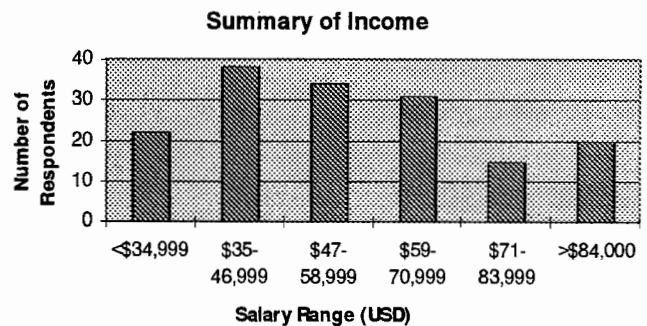## Who responded?

Responses by Region

- There is a tie for the largest demographic group responding. 22% of respondents fall within one of two groups: 26-35 years old with 4-6 years of MUMPS experience (11%) or 36-45 years old with 7-9 years of MUMPS experience (11%). This is followed closely by 26-35 year olds with 7-9 years of MUMPS experience (10%).
- 86% male, 14% female.
- 73% of respondents work in a medical field, 17% other, 4% finance, 3% education, 1% telecomm, <1% retail and < 1% shipping.
- 57% Developers, 27% Support, 12.5% Management, 2.5% Other, <1% End-Users, <1% Quality Control/Quality Analyst
- 47% have a 4 year college degree, 23%-Masters degree, 14%-2 year college degree, 13%-high school diploma, 3%-Ph.D. degree

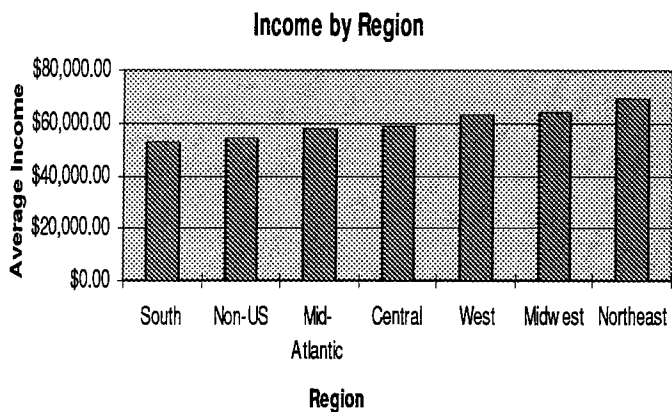## Income

Summary of Income

Before you jump to any conclusions regarding the numbers listed below, note that the two biggest factors which determine salary are 1) location and 2) years of related experience. Cost of living in the US varies widely and a higher salary in one region as compared to another region does not necessarily imply a higher standard of living. For more information on salary comparisons, check out:
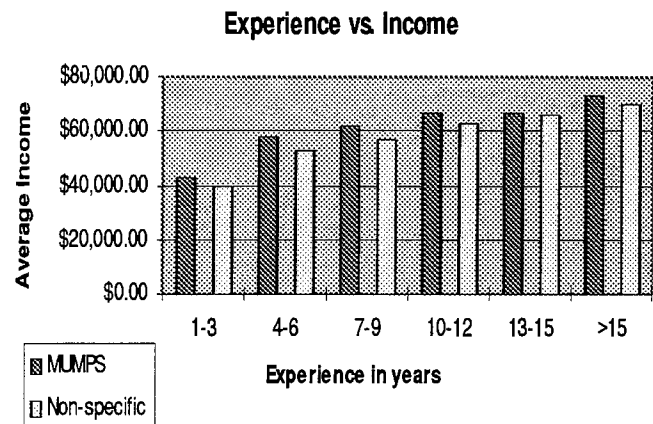http://www.homefair.com/homefair/cmr/salcalc.html.

For more information on the comparative cost of living and other quality-of-life factors, see "Places Rated Almanac" by Savageau and Loftus.

- The average income for all respondents was $60,642.
- Average income for U.S. respondents was $61,946.
- Average income for non-U.S. respondents was $54,499.

Income by Region

— Compared to the overall average, average income in the:
- Northeast was 12.7% higher
- Midwest was 5.4% higher
- West was 3.7% higher
- Central was 2.6% lower
- Mid-Atlantic was 5.1% lower
- Non-US was 11.3% lower
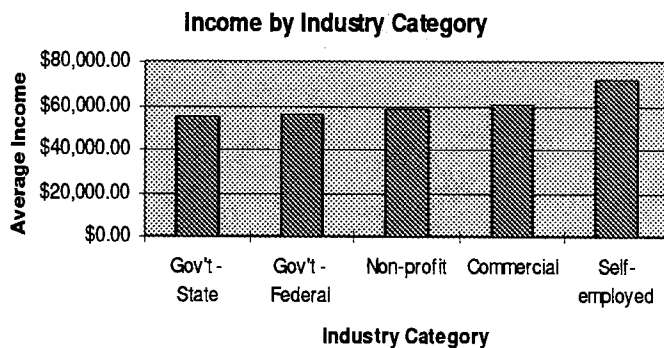- South was 14.3% lower

Experience vs. Income

- Average Salaries rose steadily with years of MUMPS experience. Average salary vs. years of MUMPS experience:

1-3:	$42,883
4-6:	$57,826
7-9:	$61,486
10-12:	$66,642
13-15:	$66,691
>15:	$73,726

- In all categories, number of years of MUMPS experience was rewarded over number of years of (non-specific) industry experience. This statistic highlights a bias in our survey, namely that we polled employees of companies who use MUMPS and value people with MUMPS experience. Percent salary advantage of having n years of MUMPS experience over n years of non-specific industry experience:
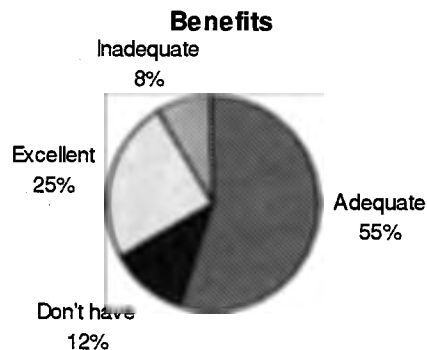
1-3:	7.5% higher
4-6:	8.25% higher
7-9:	7.3% higher
10-12:	6% higher
13-15:	1.5% higher
>15:	5.2% higher

Income by Industry Category

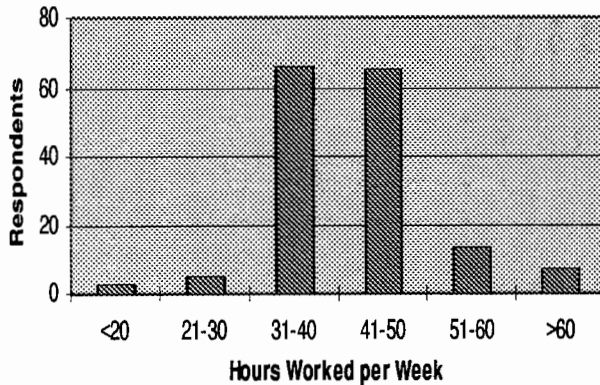• Average income of those working for themselves topped the income-by-industry category.

Benefits

Most have come to expect and rely on a fairly extensive set of benefits, yet others forego benefits altogether in exchange for a higher salary. Here is how the respondents rated their benefits package:

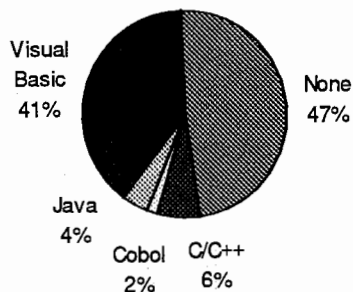## Benefits

Hours

Summary of Hours Worked

While survey results can't estimate the amount of stress that people endure in their jobs, they can report on the number of hours worked. As expected, most people work approximately 40 hours per week.

- <20:   2%
- 21-30   3%
- 31-40   41%
- 41-50   41%
- 51-60   8%
- >60   5%

Other Languages

Other Languages Used

68% of respondents said they also use languages other than MUMPS. The most common are listed on the pie chart. In addition to those in the chart, the most common "Other" languages were Delphi, various scripting languages (JavaScript, Perl, HTML, Unix Script), and SQL.

Conclusion

There are many interesting statistics that have arisen from the data in this survey, and there are at least three observations worth mentioning in conclusion. First, the two greatest factors that affect salaries are location and years of experience. The results of this survey show that salaries within the MUMPS community are no exception. Second, more than half of respondents are making between $35,000 and $71,000. By way of comparison, a recent US survey in "Visual Basic Programmer's Journal" concluded that "..more than half [of respondents] are making between $40,000 and $70,000 per year." While a direct side-by-side comparison of these two surveys may not provide an accurate assessment of the MUMPS industry, the raw numbers do provide some perspective. For more details on the VB survey see http://careerlink.windx.com. And finally, the number of respondents who use multiple languages is significant. This suggests that rather than being delegated to dinosaur language status and fading away, MUMPS continues to thrive as a database while letting the GUI du jour handle the front end.   *M*

Endnotes

The Salary Calculator
- http://www.homefair.com/homefair/cmr/salcalc.html (4/10/98)

Savageau, D., Loftus, G. *Places Rated Almanac.* MacMillan, 1997

VBPJ Staff. Where Do You Stand? *Visual Basic Programmer's Journal* March 1998, Vol 8:3

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