

SALARIES

# What US chemists made in 2022, according to the ACS salary survey

Chemists saw increased salaries overall and a record-low unemployment rate

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More online

See additional data on who took the survey and where respondents worked at [cenm.ag/salary2022](https://cenm.ag/salary2022).

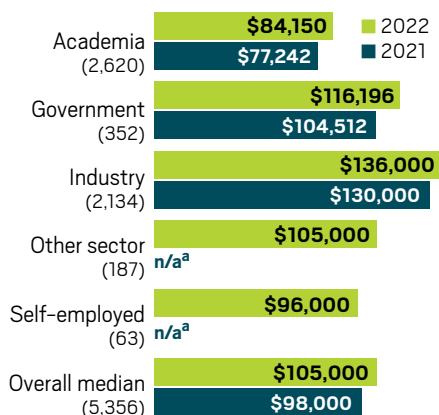
**A**cross all employment sectors, US chemists fared well in the third year of the pandemic, according to the American Chemical Society's latest salary survey. Median salaries were up across the board, the survey shows. The survey was sent to 125,048 people affiliated with ACS and was open May 3–31, 2022. The response rate was 8.24%

Unemployment also hit a record low, a likely response to booming demand for chemistry workers in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. But when salaries were adjusted for inflation, they remained largely flat since 1985, with an extra dip in 2022 likely due to recent high inflation rates.

ACS publishes C&EN, but C&EN remains editorially independent of ACS. C&EN publishes the ACS salary survey because similar data on chemists' salaries are not available from other sources. C&EN does not play a role in designing the survey questions, conducting the survey, or analyzing the results. C&EN requested specific data from the ACS salary survey team.

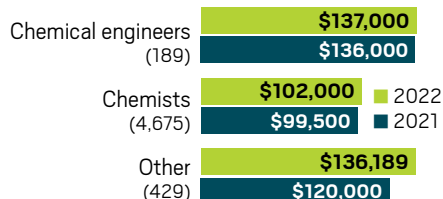
**Note:** Salary data for 2022 are from 5,411 ACS members and reflect the median annual salaries of full-time employees who are not students, in emeritus roles, retired, or over age 70. Numbers in parentheses are the numbers of responses from the 2022 survey. ACS considers data calculated from fewer than 50 responses unreliable. C&EN included small groups to help make all members visible. Unemployment numbers reflect respondents' status as of March 1 in the indicated year. The margin of error for the 2022 overall unemployment rate is  $\pm 1.33$  percentage points, and in 2021 it was  $\pm 1.5$ . The margin of error for 2020 is not available.

## The median salary was up across all sectors in 2022

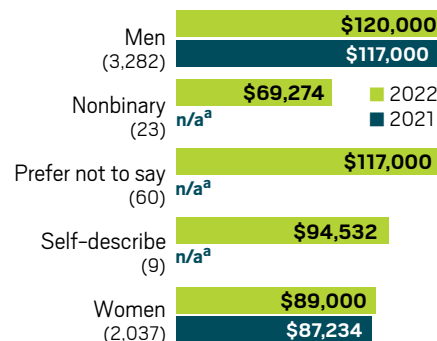


<sup>a</sup> Not available for 2021.

## Chemical engineers continued to make more than chemists, though the gap narrowed slightly in 2022



## Men continued to make significantly more than people of other genders

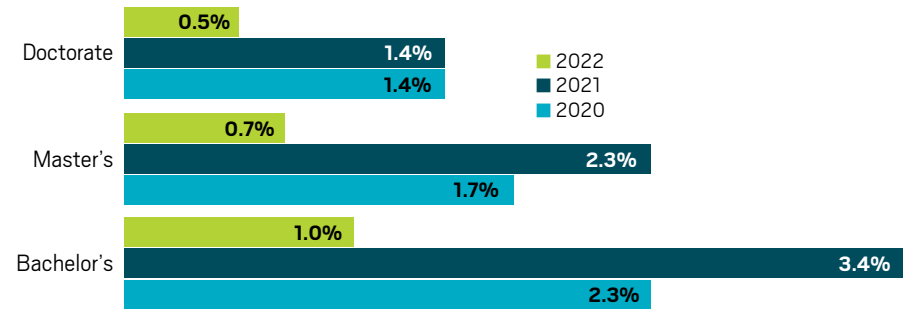


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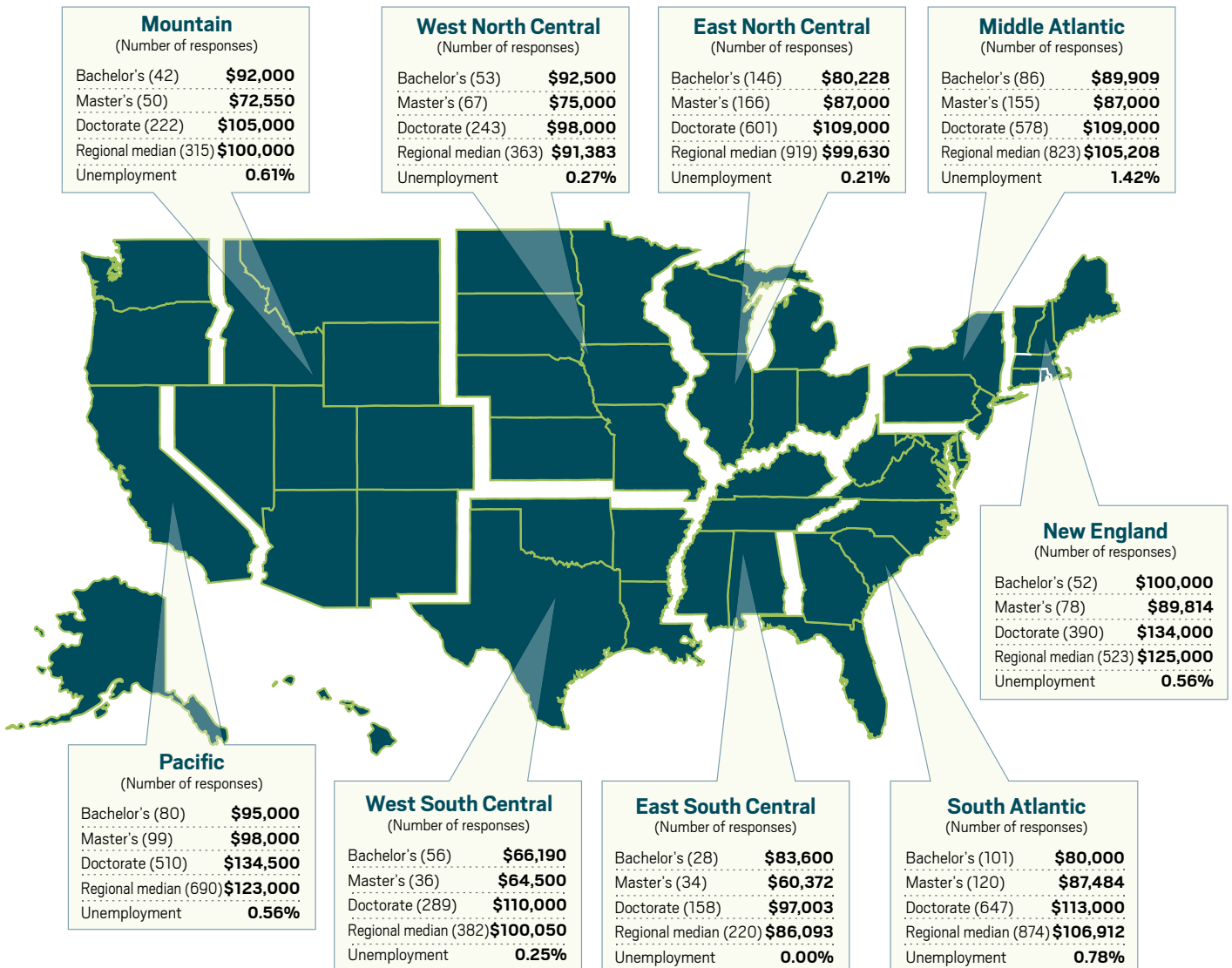
In 2022, unemployment among US respondents fell to the lowest rate ACS has ever recorded

**2022:**  
**0.6%**  
**2021:** **1.8%** **2020:** **1.5%**

Unemployment fell in 2022 regardless of highest degree earned, after rising for bachelor's and master's degree recipients in 2021



The New England and Pacific regions have the highest salaries. In some cases, bachelor's degree recipients made more than those with a master's degree



**Note:** Data are from 5,109 ACS members and reflect the median annual salaries of full-time employees who are not students, in emeritus roles, retired, or over age 70. ACS considers data calculated from fewer than 50 responses unreliable. C&EN included small groups to help make all members visible. Unemployment numbers reflect respondents' status as of March 1.