



SALARIES

What US chemists made in 2021

The ACS salary survey shows increases in industry pay and drops in other sectors

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Overall, American Chemical Society members have fared well economically through the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the society's 2021 salary survey. Median annual salaries were down only slightly, according to the survey of 5,488 members, which was conducted from May 7 to June 23, 2021.

Members who work in industry were the one group that saw salaries rise. That increase could be explained, at least in part, by the booming biotech and pharmaceutical sectors. Salaries dropped for members who work in academia and government.

The unemployment rate for ACS members increased slightly, rising to 1.8% from 1.5% in 2020.

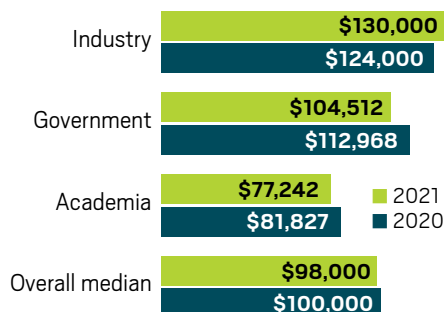
That is still lower than unemployment had been for the previous 20 years; 2020 was the first time it had fallen below 2% since ACS began collecting data.

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.

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See additional data on who took the survey and where respondents worked at cenm.ag/salary2021.

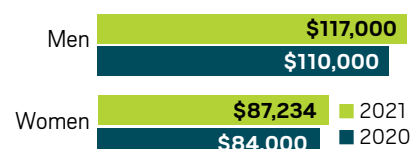
Industry was the only sector with salary increases



Chemical engineers made more than chemists



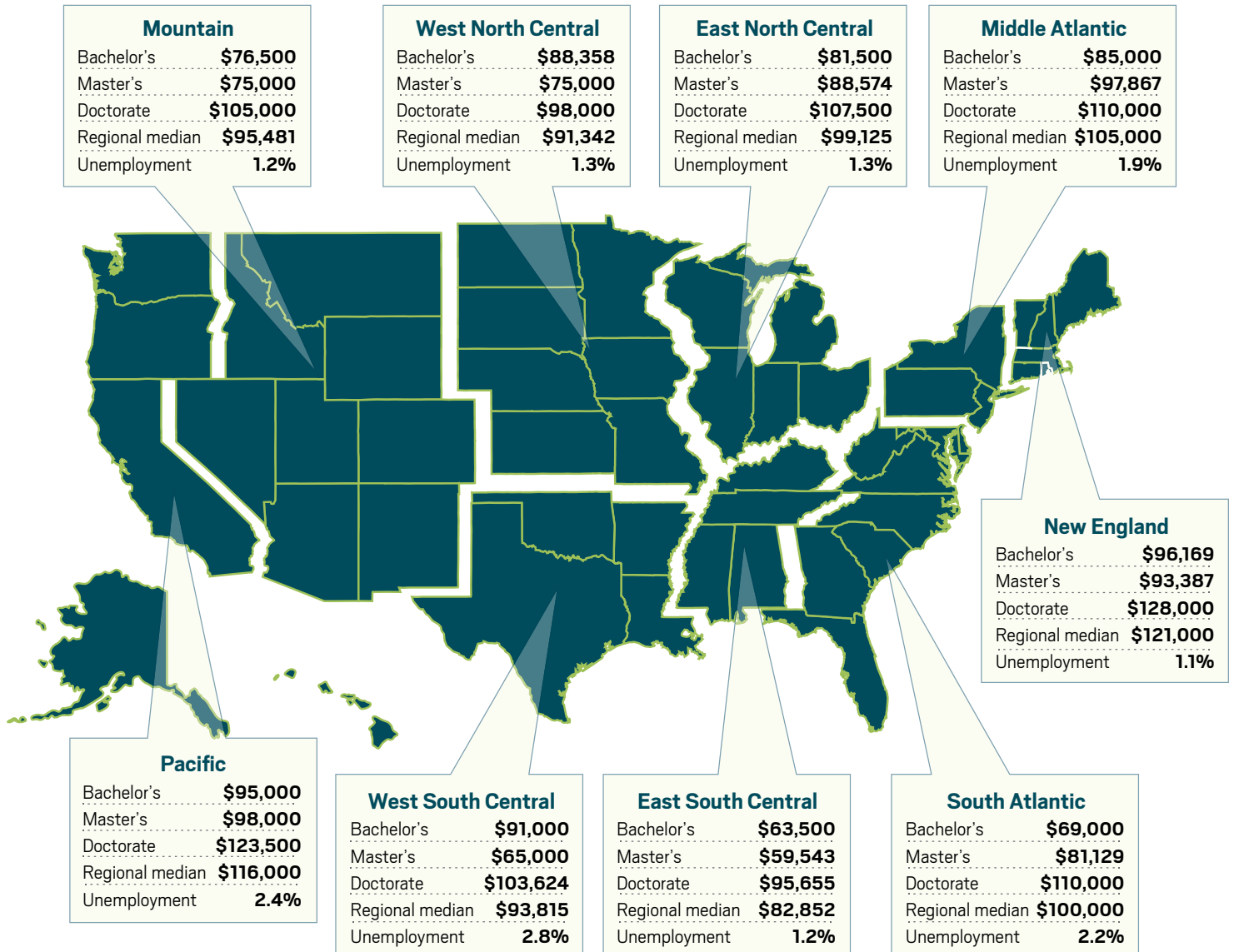
Men made significantly more than women



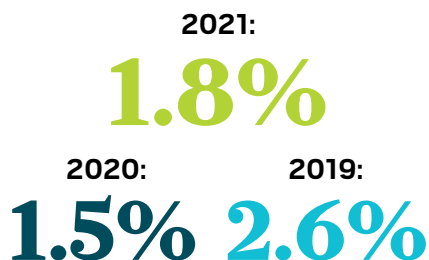
Note for all data: Data are from 5,488 American Chemical Society members' survey responses collected from May 7 to June 23, 2021, except when other years' data are shown. Salaries reflect the median annual salaries for full-time US employees except for students, members over 70, and international members.

Note: Salaries for additional genders are not reported because of the small number of people who responded in those categories.

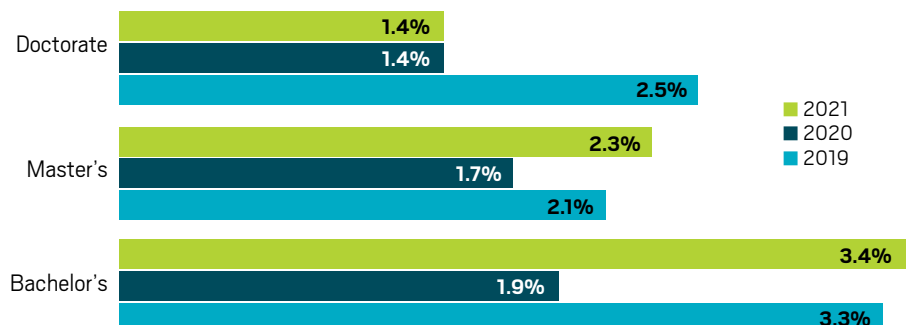
Salaries continued to vary widely by region. In some cases, bachelor's degree recipients made more than those with a master's degree



Overall, unemployment for ACS members dropped going into the pandemic and stayed low



But unemployment returned to 2019 levels for those with master's and bachelor's degrees



Note: Numbers reflect unemployment status as of March 1 in the indicated year. The margin of error for the 2021 overall unemployment rate is ±1.5 percentage points.