APS and Your Physics Career: Some Statistics and Opportunities

Tutorial: Physics Careers in Industry & Government

Kate Kirby, Executive Officer
March 14, 2010
Where do Physicists Work?

- 40,000 – 45,000 Ph.D. Physicists working in the US.
- 13,000 in academia, (~2,000 postdocs)
- 8,000 in government labs, (plus 600 – 800 postdocs).
- 16,000 – 18,000 physicists in the private sector.
Where do Physicists Work?

- 1,500 in hospitals/medical institutions.
- 2,000 – 3,000 in non profits (Carnegie, APS, etc).
- Physicists in other departments not counted (math, nuclear engineering, etc.).
• ~1,500 Ph.D. physicists produced in US each year.
  • 45% US Citizens
  • 55% Foreign
• 40% - 70% new Ph.D.s take postdocs, depending on economy.
# Early Career

(5-9 years since Ph.D.)

Salaries in thousands of $’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
<th>Typical Salary Range</th>
<th>Median Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>62.5 to 84.0</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>106.9</td>
<td>103.0</td>
<td>86.4 to 124.0</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Labs</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>92.0 to 108.0</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Mid to Late Career (20-24 years since Ph.D.)

## Salaries in thousands of $’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
<th>Typical Salary Range</th>
<th>Median Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academia</td>
<td>128.0</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>100 to 151.0</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>124.5</td>
<td>111.3</td>
<td>98.4 to 140.0</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Labs</td>
<td>135.5</td>
<td>135.0</td>
<td>117.0 to 152.0</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At this APS March Meeting

Physics Careers/Professional Development/Job Opportunities

• Career Workshop with Peter Fiske
  4:00-6:30, Sun. March 14,
  Convention Center, Room B-110-111

• March Meeting Job Fair
  Mon-Tues, March 15-16,
  Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C/D
Additional Sessions on Careers & Job Opportunities

- CSWP/FIAP Networking Breakfast for Women in Physics (Both men & women welcome)
  7:30-9:30am Tues, March 16, Portland Hilton Hotel, Galeria I

- Session H8: Opportunities for Research & Employment in Transportation Science
  8:00-10:25am Wed, March 17, Portland Hilton Hotel, Ballroom 255
At this APS March Meeting

Additional Sessions on Careers & Job Opportunities

• Session P8: Physicists as Entrepreneurs (FIAP)
  8:00-10:24am, Wed, March 17,
  Portland Hilton Hotel, Ballroom 255

• Graduate Students Lunch with the Experts
  1:00-2:30pm, Wed, March 17,
  Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B
At this APS March Meeting

Additional Sessions on Careers & Job Opportunities

• Future Physicists Day – For Undergraduates
  Monday – Tuesday, March 15 - 16
APS Careers Website
(www.aps.org/careers/)

• Career Center (registration)
• Professional Development Guide
• Insight Physics
• Speaker Travel Grants
Entire March Meeting is a Career Development Opportunity

- Presenting your own work allows for people to get to know you/your skills.
- Seeing and hearing what a broad sector of the physics community is doing/what the needs are.
- Networking is critical to job opportunities.