## 2021 CANADIAN CPA PROFESSION COMPENSATION STUDY REPORT

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## Key Findings

The findings of this report are based on the responses of 16,188 members holding a Canadian Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation. There are more than 220,000 Canadian CPAs globally, therefore, the study may not truly reflect the profession in totality. Please refer to the Methodology section for more details.

## Overall Compensation

- Findings from the 2021 Member Compensation Study which reviewed self-reported 2020 compensation figures provided by Canadian CPA members, reveal that members had a median annual compensation of $\$ 124 \mathrm{~K}$ and a mean of $\$ 173 \mathrm{~K}$.
- The previously reported compensation levels, for 2018 (from the 2019 study), included a median of $\$ 112 \mathrm{~K}$ and a mean of $\$ 152 \mathrm{~K}$, showing an increase of 11 per cent and 14 per cent in median and mean compensation, respectively.


## Compensation by Province/Country and Industry

- Of the provinces with over 100 members reporting, median compensation was highest in Alberta, at $\$ 136 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by Ontario, at $\$ 130 \mathrm{~K}$, and Saskatchewan, at $\$ 127 \mathrm{~K}$. Alberta also had the highest mean compensation, at $\$ 188 \mathrm{~K}$.
- In census metropolitan areas with over 100 members reporting, the highest median compensation was among CPA members residing in Calgary, Toronto and Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo, with medians of $\$ 140 \mathrm{~K}, \$ 137 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 132 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively.
- Canadian CPAs from 27 countries other than Canada participated in the survey. Globally, the median compensation for members based outside Canada was $\$ 208 \mathrm{~K}$, compared to $\$ 123 \mathrm{~K}$ for those located in Canada. The highest median compensation was among those working in Bermuda and the United States, at $\$ 236 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 230 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively. (Note: Every effort was made not to contact Canadian CPAs living in European countries due to local privacy laws.)
- Among industries with at least 100 members reporting, the highest median compensation was in holding companies, mining, and pharmaceuticals and chemicals, at $\$ 173 \mathrm{~K}, \$ 163 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 154 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively. The industry with the highest median compensation gain (based on the percentage increase between 2018 and 2020 data) was professional services firms (consulting, legal, etc.), with an increase of 24 per cent, from $\$ 99 \mathrm{~K}$ to $\$ 123 \mathrm{~K}$.
- The majority of members surveyed, over three-fifths, expected their compensation to increase in 2021.


## Owner and Non-Owner Compensation

- Non-owners (employees/contractors/consultants of an organization/firm/company earning T4 income) earned a median of $\$ 120 \mathrm{~K}$ in total compensation in 2020, a 9 per cent increase from 2018. Most of that ( $\$ 109 \mathrm{~K}$ ) came from base compensation. A bonus was the most frequent form of non-base compensation, with over half of CPAs indicating they received one in 2020. The median non-base compensation was \$7K, close to the \$5K reported for 2018.
- For focus areas with at least 100 members reporting, strategy and governance was associated with the highest median compensation, at $\$ 178 \mathrm{~K}$.

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ACCOUNTANTS

- CPAs with the title of senior vice-president earned the highest median compensation, at $\$ 300 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by president and/or CEO, at a median of $\$ 246 \mathrm{~K}$. Among companies with over 1,000 employees, presidents and/or CEOs had a much higher median compensation, at \$530K.
- About 14 per cent of CPAs reported owning a business in 2020. Most of these respondents (79 per cent) owned accounting firms and earned a median compensation of $\$ 200 \mathrm{~K}$ and a mean of $\$ 277 \mathrm{~K}$. Those who owned other businesses also had a median compensation of $\$ 200 \mathrm{~K}$ but a higher mean compensation of $\$ 317 \mathrm{~K}$. Partners tended to earn more, on average, than sole practitioners. Partners made a median of $\$ 260 \mathrm{~K}$ in 2020 , compared to sole practitioners, who made a median of \$130K.
- The median compensation for partners within the provinces was highest in British Columbia, at \$280K, followed by Alberta at \$278k and Ontario at \$275K.


## Vacation, Benefits, Work/Life Balance and Leaves

- Fewer than half of the CPAs participating in the study were allocated 20 to 24 vacation days in 2020, with fewer than one in 20 (four per cent) entitled to less than three weeks ( 15 days). There was a gap in usage, with 28 per cent of members taking 14 days of vacation or less despite being entitled to more.
- Medical benefits, life insurance and long-term disability insurance were the most common benefits for CPAs earning T4 income. More than three-quarters of the T4 income earners surveyed received each of those benefits. Members in larger companies (1,000 or more employees) were more likely than employees of smaller firms to receive any form of benefits.
- Working from home and flexible working hours were most commonly offered to promote work/life balance; working from home was the most commonly used by members. Internal professional development was offered by 68 per cent of employers and 83 per cent of those who were offered such an opportunity took advantage of it.
- A little less than half of all members (44 per cent) took any kind of leave. The most common leave taken was maternity/paternity/parental leave, at 29 per cent, followed by medical leave, at 16 per cent.


## Introduction

CPA Canada commissioned Nielsen to conduct this compensation survey, in which 16,188 CPAs participated between December 15, 2021, and February 10, 2022. This report relies on self-reported compensation from Canadian CPAs participating in the survey. Although attempts were made to minimize respondents' data entry errors by removing inconsistent data, no attempts were made to independently verify the data that was provided.

When reviewing mean averages, it is important to consider that a small portion of responses may skew the figure higher than it would be otherwise. In most cases, a better measure of a typical compensation level is the median.

## Structure of the Summary Report

This report is organized into two sections:
Section 1: Compensation. This section includes overall compensation data and compensation data broken down by demographic information.

Section 2: Vacation, benefits, work/life balance and leaves. This section includes statistics on vacation received, benefits provided, work/life balance options offered and used, and leaves taken.

## Methodology

Nielsen conducted quantitative research among CPA Canada's active and retired members. Survey invitations were sent to 194,136 members via email, with 940 bouncebacks, for a total of 193,196 members receiving the email. There were 18,046 members who participated, totalling a response rate of 9 per cent. Of those, 1,377 did not report working at least one month in 2020, leaving a total of 16,669 members who were asked about employment information. In addition, 481 respondents were excluded for either missing key information or giving answers that may have been entered in error. In total, compensation data was reported for 16,188 members.

Most individuals surveyed reside in Canada. Due to privacy legislation (General Data Protection Regulation) impacting members in many European countries, CPA Canada made every effort not contact members who were known to reside in countries affected by this legislation. As a result, compared to previous years, the only Canadian CPAs contacted in these areas were those who had listed their country of residence as one that was not impacted by the legislation.

Note that findings in this report are representative of those who responded and may not represent the Canadian CPA profession as a whole. Comparisons with the results of the previous survey cannot be considered definitive as the composition of those responding is not consistent from survey to survey.

Unless otherwise specified, compensation figures in this report include annualized data for members who worked at least two months, either part time or full time, during 2020.

For the results breakdown based on Canadian cities, this report used Statistics Canada-defined census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations for the purposes of analysis. These represent urban cores and any adjacent municipalities that are closely integrated. Full definitions of these terms can be found at the following page: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/92-195-x/2011001/geo/cma-rmr/defeng.htm.

## Note on Reporting

To protect the privacy of respondents and to avoid reporting misleading results, the mean and median compensation data is presented only when there were at least 10 respondents in a subcategory, and upper and lower quartile information is shown only when there were at least 20 respondents in a subcategory. Despite these approaches, results can still vary considerably if there were findings with fewer than 100 respondents in a given category. Definitions of the four statistical measures used in this report are as follows:

- Median (or 50th percentile) is the value above and below which half the cases fall. If there is an even number of cases, then the average of the two middle cases is used. Compared to the mean, the median is not sensitive to outlying (a few very high or very low) values. In some cases, this may make it a more reliable measure to compare individual compensation.
- Mean (often referred to as average) is the sum of all cases divided by the total number of cases.
- 25th percentile is the value above which 75 per cent of the cases fall.
- 75th percentile is the value below which 75 per cent of the cases fall.


## Feedback on this Report

Questions or comments related to this report can be directed to Paul Long, Manager, Research, CPA Canada (plong@cpacanada.ca).

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## Section 1: Compensation

## Overall Compensation

## All CPA Members (National and International)

Table 1a shows the median, mean, and top and bottom quartiles for compensation, broken down by industry. The figures include CPAs who worked at least two full months in the previous year.
Compensation of those who worked less than full time for 12 months was annualized based on a 35hour workweek.

The median compensation reported by members in 2020 was $\$ 124 \mathrm{~K}$, while the mean was $\$ 173 \mathrm{~K}$. In comparison, the reported median compensation in 2018 was $\$ 112 \mathrm{~K}$, while the mean was $\$ 152 \mathrm{~K}$.

Among industries with at least 100 members reporting, the highest median compensation was found in holding companies, mining, and pharmaceuticals and chemicals, at $\$ 173 \mathrm{~K}, \$ 163 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 154 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively.

Table 1a: Total Compensation by Industry of Employment (\$ in 000s)

| Industry of Employment | Count | Median | Mean | 25th <br> Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Holding, Conglomerate | 119 | \$173 | \$230 | \$118 | \$290 |
| Mining | 184 | \$163 | \$214 | \$125 | \$245 |
| Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals | 137 | \$154 | \$204 | \$110 | \$231 |
| Oil and Gas | 496 | \$153 | \$211 | \$116 | \$220 |
| Financial Services (banks, trusts, insurance, credit unions, etc.) | 1,507 | \$150 | \$224 | \$108 | \$230 |
| Technology/IT | 67 | \$150 | \$176 | \$101 | \$241 |
| Software | 363 | \$140 | \$183 | \$106 | \$210 |
| Transportation, Distribution | 420 | \$136 | \$175 | \$99 | \$202 |
| Aerospace/Aviation | 26 | \$136 | \$160 | \$110 | \$170 |
| Marketing/Advertising | 11 | \$133 | \$137 | - | - |
| Utilities | 253 | \$132 | \$166 | \$105 | \$175 |
| Real Estate/Building Management | 491 | \$131 | \$184 | \$97 | \$197 |
| Construction | 626 | \$130 | \$165 | \$95 | \$185 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries | 342 | \$130 | \$198 | \$101 | \$180 |
| Crown Corporation | 342 | \$118 | \$131 | \$101 | \$143 |
| Arts, Entertainment, Leisure | 140 | \$128 | \$164 | \$103 | \$175 |
| Manufacturing | 1,329 | \$126 | \$165 | \$98 | \$175 |
| Retail, Wholesale | 887 | \$126 | \$168 | \$95 | \$196 |
| Travel/Tourism | 12 | \$125 | \$170 | - | - |
| Professional Services Firm - Other (consulting, legal, etc.) | 1,325 | \$123 | \$176 | \$87 | \$195 |
| Hotels and Restaurants | 108 | \$120 | \$144 | \$95 | \$161 |
| Media, Communications, Publishing | 120 | \$120 | \$250 | \$95 | \$176 |

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| Industry of Employment | Count | Median | Mean | 25th <br> Percentile | 75th <br> Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Professional Services Firm - Public Practice (a firm that primarily delivers accounting, auditing and/or tax services) | 2,878 | \$120 | \$184 | \$83 | \$200 |
| Telecommunications | 193 | \$120 | \$157 | \$100 | \$154 |
| Educational Institution (university, college, primary or secondary school, etc.) | 716 | \$115 | \$144 | \$94 | \$153 |
| Not for Profit (trade association, charity, religious group, etc.) | 644 | \$113 | \$140 | \$90 | \$141 |
| Public Sector (federal, provincial, First Nations, or municipal government, including ministries, departments, etc.) | 1,645 | \$112 | \$121 | \$95 | \$132 |
| Public Sector (hospital, library, health organization, social services organization, etc.) | 321 | \$110 | \$189 | \$92 | \$138 |
| Public Sector - Office of the Auditor General (federal, provincial, or municipal) | 118 | \$110 | \$112 | \$87 | \$127 |
| Automotive Services | 20 | \$100 | \$134 | \$87 | \$183 |
| Private Sector Healthcare | 22 | \$97 | \$109 | \$79 | \$118 |
| Other | 319 | \$133 | \$187 | \$100 | \$188 |
| Total | 16,188 | \$124 | \$173 | \$95 | \$180 |

Note 1: Seven members did not specify their industry of employment.
Note 2: Compensation data is only presented for areas with at least 10 members responding.

## 2021 Canadian CPA Compensation Study Report

## Total Compensation by Industry - 2020 versus 2018

Table 1ai: Total Compensation by Industry - 2020 versus 2018 (\$ in 000s)

| Industry of Employment |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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| Industry of Employment | 2020 |  |  | 2018 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Median | Mean | Count | Median | Mean |
| Other | 319 | \$133 | \$187 | 295 | \$123 | \$167 |
| Total | 16,188 | \$124 | \$173 | 27,236 | \$112 | \$152 |

Note: Seven members did not specify their industry of employment in 2020.

## Compensation by Province/Country

Of the provinces with over 100 members reporting, median compensation was highest in Alberta, at $\$ 136 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by Ontario, at $\$ 130 \mathrm{~K}$, and Saskatchewan, at $\$ 127 \mathrm{~K}$. Alberta also had the highest mean compensation, at $\$ 188 \mathrm{~K}$. Compensation figures for Northwest Territories and Yukon should be interpreted with caution due to small base size.

On average, CPAs who work internationally had a higher median compensation, at $\$ 208 \mathrm{~K}$, than those in Canada, at $\$ 123 \mathrm{~K}$. The highest median compensation was among those working in Bermuda and the United States, at $\$ 236 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 230 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively.

Table 2a: Canadian Members by Province/Territory (\$ in 000s)

| Province/Territory | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Northwest Territories | 22 | $\$ 146$ | $\$ 158$ | $\$ 114$ | $\$ 173$ |
| Alberta | 2,041 | $\$ 136$ | $\$ 188$ | $\$ 103$ | $\$ 200$ |
| Yukon | 18 | $\$ 131$ | $\$ 147$ | - | - |
| Ontario | 5,181 | $\$ 130$ | $\$ 185$ | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 190$ |
| Saskatchewan | 667 | $\$ 127$ | $\$ 181$ | $\$ 97$ | $\$ 172$ |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 161 | $\$ 120$ | $\$ 145$ | $\$ 89$ | $\$ 165$ |
| British Columbia | 2,578 | $\$ 116$ | $\$ 163$ | $\$ 89$ | $\$ 173$ |
| Quebec | 3,523 | $\$ 115$ | $\$ 153$ | $\$ 90$ | $\$ 160$ |
| Manitoba | 708 | $\$ 114$ | $\$ 142$ | $\$ 8$ | $\$ 155$ |
| Nova Scotia | 441 | $\$ 114$ | $\$ 170$ | $\$ 87$ | $\$ 150$ |
| New Brunswick | 302 | $\$ 109$ | $\$ 130$ | $\$ 82$ | $\$ 136$ |
| Prince Edward Island | 82 | $\$ 101$ | $\$ 114$ | $\$ 79$ | $\$ 133$ |
| Total | 15,728 | $\$ 123$ | $\$ 170$ | $\$ 95$ | $\$ 175$ |

Note: Compensation data is presented only for areas with at least 10 members responding. (Count of members in areas with fewer than 10 members is as follows: Nunavut - 4)

Table 2aa: International Members by Country (\$ in 000s)

| Country | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bermuda | 40 | $\$ 236$ | $\$ 353$ | $\$ 139$ | $\$ 376$ |
| United States | 233 | $\$ 230$ | $\$ 320$ | $\$ 165$ | $\$ 345$ |
| Australia | 13 | $\$ 226$ | $\$ 279$ | - | - |
| United Arab Emirates | 11 | $\$ 211$ | $\$ 232$ | - | - |
| Cayman Islands | 21 | $\$ 175$ | $\$ 281$ | $\$ 144$ | $\$ 280$ |
| Hong Kong | 29 | $\$ 160$ | $\$ 302$ | $\$ 97$ | $\$ 320$ |
| Barbados | 16 | $\$ 95$ | $\$ 130$ | - | - |
| Other | 97 | $\$ 133$ | $\$ 178$ | $\$ 84$ | $\$ 248$ |
| Total | 460 | $\$ 208$ | $\$ 280$ | $\$ 125$ | $\$ 300$ |

Note 1: Two members working outside Canada did not specify their country of employment.
Note 2: Every effort was made not to contact members in certain European countries due to local privacy legislation.
Compensation by Census Metropolitan Areas/Census Agglomerations
Of the eight cities with over 400 members responding (indicated in bold in Table 3), the cities with the highest median compensation included Toronto, at $\$ 137 \mathrm{~K}$ and Edmonton, at $\$ 129 \mathrm{~K}$.

Table 3: Total Compensation by Census Metropolitan Areas/Census Agglomerations with 20 Members or more (\$ in 000s)

| City | Count | Median | Mean | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25th } \\ & \text { Percentile } \end{aligned}$ | 75th <br> Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| British Columbia |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vernon | 41 | \$133 | \$147 | \$79 | \$160 |
| Abbotsford - Mission | 72 | \$129 | \$177 | \$92 | \$195 |
| Chilliwack | 30 | \$129 | \$137 | \$95 | \$181 |
| Kamloops | 57 | \$120 | \$155 | \$92 | \$150 |
| Vancouver | 1,599 | \$120 | \$171 | \$90 | \$180 |
| Penticton | 22 | \$114 | \$159 | \$73 | \$158 |
| Cranbrook | 26 | \$111 | \$195 | \$94 | \$150 |
| Campbell River | 22 | \$109 | \$143 | \$86 | \$149 |
| Victoria | 260 | \$109 | \$155 | \$89 | \$153 |
| Nanaimo | 57 | \$109 | \$147 | \$84 | \$139 |
| Powell River | 22 | \$108 | \$128 | \$92 | \$146 |
| Prince George | 56 | \$108 | \$134 | \$84 | \$146 |
| Kelowna | 107 | \$107 | \$150 | \$90 | \$142 |
| Alberta |  |  |  |  |  |
| Medicine Hat | 20 | \$142 | \$272 | \$104 | \$234 |
| Calgary | 1,029 | \$140 | \$187 | \$107 | \$210 |
| Grande Prairie | 30 | \$131 | \$193 | \$92 | \$203 |


| City | Count | Median | Mean | $\begin{gathered} \text { 25th } \\ \text { Percentile } \end{gathered}$ | 75th Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Edmonton | 671 | \$129 | \$190 | \$100 | \$184 |
| Red Deer | 40 | \$125 | \$154 | \$90 | \$201 |
| Lethbridge | 61 | \$118 | \$167 | \$100 | \$174 |
| Saskatchewan |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yorkton | 21 | \$140 | \$156 | \$104 | \$186 |
| Regina | 246 | \$130 | \$154 | \$102 | \$170 |
| Saskatoon | 291 | \$120 | \$184 | \$94 | \$179 |
| Manitoba |  |  |  |  |  |
| Winnipeg | 554 | \$115 | \$143 | \$88 | \$156 |
| Brandon | 39 | \$112 | \$154 | \$86 | \$158 |
| Ontario/Quebec |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ottawa - Gatineau | 729 | \$125 | \$157 | \$105 | \$162 |
| Ontario |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oshawa | 66 | \$162 | \$481* | \$103 | \$236 |
| St. Catharines - Niagara | 74 | \$137 | \$187 | \$102 | \$200 |
| Toronto | 2841 | \$137 | \$198 | \$103 | \$205 |
| Kingston | 58 | \$135 | \$161 | \$103 | \$188 |
| Kitchener - Cambridge Waterloo | 284 | \$132 | \$179 | \$96 | \$192 |
| Guelph | 77 | \$128 | \$149 | \$103 | \$162 |
| Windsor | 72 | \$124 | \$151 | \$100 | \$166 |
| Hamilton | 213 | \$123 | \$151 | \$95 | \$171 |
| Thunder Bay | 47 | \$120 | \$138 | \$88 | \$165 |
| Chatham-Kent | 28 | \$118 | \$137 | \$93 | \$150 |
| Sault Ste. Marie | 27 | \$116 | \$153 | \$90 | \$178 |
| Peterborough | 30 | \$114 | \$147 | \$99 | \$129 |
| London | 208 | \$113 | \$175 | \$90 | \$165 |
| Belleville | 21 | \$112 | \$132 | \$94 | \$161 |
| Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury | 44 | \$107 | \$125 | \$84 | \$155 |
| Barrie | 46 | \$107 | \$135 | \$94 | \$154 |
| North Bay | 28 | \$97 | \$120 | \$79 | \$137 |
| Québec |  |  |  |  |  |
| Montréal | 2,047 | \$122 | \$166 | \$95 | \$173 |
| Québec | 543 | \$112 | \$139 | \$92 | \$145 |
| Saint-Hyacinthe | 52 | \$109 | \$145 | \$90 | \$136 |
| Trois-Rivières | 73 | \$105 | \$129 | \$89 | \$135 |

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| City | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Joliette | 23 | \$104 | \$151 | \$82 | \$193 |
| Drummondville | 32 | \$103 | \$128 | \$79 | \$132 |
| Sherbrooke | 90 | \$100 | \$123 | \$84 | \$134 |
| Victoriaville | 30 | \$97 | \$140 | \$79 | \$114 |
| Saguenay | 67 | \$97 | \$124 | \$77 | \$120 |
| Rimouski | 22 | \$96 | \$109 | \$81 | \$111 |
| Granby | 32 | \$90 | \$145 | \$73 | \$114 |
| Saint-Georges | 38 | \$87 | \$117 | \$68 | \$129 |
| New Brunswick |  |  |  |  |  |
| Saint John | 86 | \$111 | \$137 | \$86 | \$149 |
| Moncton | 84 | \$110 | \$135 | \$87 | \$131 |
| Fredericton | 65 | \$103 | \$121 | \$77 | \$124 |
| Nova Scotia |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cape Breton | 22 | \$132 | \$162 | \$94 | \$165 |
| Halifax | 314 | \$112 | \$146 | \$87 | \$150 |
| Prince Edward Island |  |  |  |  |  |
| Charlottetown | 66 | \$103 | \$112 | \$78 | \$131 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador |  |  |  |  |  |
| St. John's | 139 | \$120 | \$146 | \$90 | \$165 |

Note: Bold font indicates census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with over 400 members.
*Note: Oshawa had the highest mean compensation, but the value was impacted by a small subset of high outliers. The stark difference in mean and median income indicates that the mean is not representative of the average compensation in Oshawa.

Compensation by Years of Post-Designation Work Experience
There was a wide range of post-designation experience, with approximately one-quarter of members reporting five to nine years of experience, the most common grouping.

Table 4: Total Compensation by Years of Work Experience

| Years of Experience | Count | Median | Mean | 25th <br> Percentile | 75th <br> Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Less than 3 years | 1,381 | $\$ 81$ | $\$ 103$ | $\$ 67$ | $\$ 102$ |
| $3-4$ years | 1,143 | $\$ 93$ | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 80$ | $\$ 111$ |
| $5-9$ years | 3,543 | $\$ 109$ | $\$ 126$ | $\$ 89$ | $\$ 138$ |
| $10-14$ years | 2,855 | $\$ 127$ | $\$ 158$ | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 171$ |
| $15-19$ years | 1,979 | $\$ 140$ | $\$ 203$ | $\$ 112$ | $\$ 205$ |
| $20-24$ years | 1,967 | $\$ 147$ | $\$ 213$ | $\$ 112$ | $\$ 225$ |
| 25 years and over | 3,320 | $\$ 170$ | $\$ 250$ | $\$ 120$ | $\$ 262$ |
| Total | 16,188 | $\$ 124$ | $\$ 173$ | $\$ 95$ | $\$ 180$ |

Table 4a: Total Compensation by Years of Work Experience - Provincial Data

|  | British Columbia |  | Alberta |  | Saskatchewan |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Years Since Obtaining Designation | Count | Median | Count | Median | Count | Median |
| Less than 3 years | 312 | \$75 | 146 | \$83 | 75 | \$76 |
| 3-4 years | 200 | \$92 | 147 | \$101 | 45 | \$90 |
| 5-9 years | 563 | \$108 | 514 | \$117 | 136 | \$111 |
| 10-14 years | 438 | \$130 | 379 | \$150 | 117 | \$131 |
| 15-19 years | 305 | \$135 | 277 | \$159 | 98 | \$135 |
| 20-24 years | 284 | \$147 | 224 | \$178 | 69 | \$163 |
| 25 years and over | 476 | \$177 | 354 | \$200 | 127 | \$170 |
| Total | 2,578 | \$116 | 2,041 | \$136 | 667 | \$127 |
|  | Manitoba |  | Ontario |  | Quebec |  |
| Years Since Obtaining Designation | Count | Median | Count | Median | Count | Median |
| Less than 3 years | 74 | \$71 | 335 | \$86 | 307 | \$95 |
| 3-4 years | 56 | \$81 | 407 | \$99 | 195 | \$82 |
| 5-9 years | 135 | \$103 | 1,129 | \$115 | 766 | \$98 |
| 10-14 years | 125 | \$114 | 908 | \$133 | 603 | \$113 |
| 15-19 years | 112 | \$128 | 616 | \$150 | 401 | \$124 |
| 20-24 years | 88 | \$133 | 636 | \$160 | 464 | \$130 |
| 25 years and over | 118 | \$161 | 1,150 | \$180 | 787 | \$150 |
| Total | 708 | \$114 | 5,181 | \$130 | 3,523 | \$115 |
|  | New Brunswick |  | Nova Scotia |  | Prince Edward Island |  |
| Years Since Obtaining Designation | Count | Median | Count | Median | Count | Median |
| Less than 3 years | 30 | \$64 | 49 | \$66 | 8 | N/a |
| 3-4 years | 12 | \$75 | 25 | \$84 | 10 | \$76 |
| 5-9 years | 61 | \$98 | 92 | \$98 | 14 | \$94 |
| 10-14 years | 64 | \$110 | 83 | \$110 | 12 | \$93 |
| 15-19 years | 33 | \$120 | 50 | \$134 | 1 | N/a |
| 20-24 years | 41 | \$125 | 49 | \$140 | 18 | \$127 |
| 25 years and over | 61 | \$147 | 93 | \$160 | 19 | \$125 |
| Total | 302 | \$109 | 441 | \$114 | 82 | \$101 |


|  | Newfoundland and <br> Labrador |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Years Since Obtaining Designation | Count | Median |
| Less than 3 years | 10 | $\$ 65$ |
| $3-4$ years | 10 | $\$ 81$ |
| $5-9$ years | 32 | $\$ 90$ |
| $10-14$ years | 26 | $\$ 125$ |
| $15-19$ years | 17 | $\$ 150$ |
| $20-24$ years | 26 | $\$ 121$ |
| 25 years and over | 40 | $\$ 175$ |
| Total | 161 | $\$ 120$ |

## Non-Owners' Compensation

Table 5a shows base, total non-base and total compensation statistics for CPAs who did not own their own business in 2020. This group makes up most of the profession.

Non-owners earned a median of $\$ 120 \mathrm{~K}$ in total compensation in 2020, a nine per cent increase from 2018. Most of that ( $\$ 109 \mathrm{~K}$ ) came from base compensation. A bonus was the most frequent form of nonbase compensation, with over half of members indicating they received one in 2020. The median nonbase compensation was $\$ 7 \mathrm{~K}$, close to the $\$ 5 \mathrm{~K}$ reported for 2018.

Table 5a: Non-Owner Compensation - 2020 versus 2018 (\$ in 000s)

| Measure | 2020 |  |  | 2018 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Base Compensation | Total Non-Base Compensation | Total Compensation | Base <br> Compensation | Total Non-Base Compensation | Total Compensation |
| Count | 13,480 | 13,480 | 13,480 | 23,558 | 23,558 | 23,558 |
| Median | \$109 | \$7 | \$120 | \$101 | \$5 | \$110 |
| Mean | \$126 | \$28 | \$155 | \$118 | \$23 | \$141 |
| 25th Percentile | \$86 | \$3 | \$93 | \$80 | \$0 | \$85 |
| 75th Percentile | \$140 | \$17 | \$163 | \$132 | \$17 | \$150 |

## 2021 Canadian CPA Compensation Study Report

## Non-Owners' Compensation by Job Title

CPAs with the title of senior vice-president earned the highest median compensation, at $\$ 420 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by president and/or CEO, with a median of $\$ 246 \mathrm{~K}$. Among companies with over 1,000 employees, presidents and/or CEOs had a much higher median compensation, at $\$ 530 \mathrm{~K}$.

Table 5b: Total Compensation by Job Title Among Non-Owners (\$ in 000s)

| Job Title | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ (\mathrm{n}=13,480) \end{gathered}$ |  | Size of Employer by Number of Staff100 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Median | Mean | Median | Mean | Median | Mean | Median | Mean |
| Senior Vice-President | \$300 | \$363 | \$241 | \$301 | \$245 | \$269 | \$380 | \$463 |
| President and/or CEO | \$246 | \$381 | \$196 | \$276 | \$303 | \$393 | \$530 | \$993 |
| Vice-President | \$222 | \$279 | \$166 | \$249 | \$218 | \$235 | \$281 | \$345 |
| Other Executive Management (COO, CIO, EVP, etc.) | \$200 | \$286 | \$170 | \$204 | \$236 | \$295 | \$217 | \$380 |
| Non-Equity Partner | \$190 | \$235 | \$159 | \$160 | - | - | - | - |
| Assistant Vice-President | \$186 | \$205 | \$178 | \$219 | \$150 | \$155 | \$195 | \$212 |
| Chief Financial Officer | \$170 | \$241 | \$150 | \$202 | \$180 | \$250 | \$200 | \$317 |
| Senior Director | \$165 | \$189 | \$132 | \$140 | \$161 | \$173 | \$184 | \$210 |
| Principal | \$155 | \$181 | \$146 | \$178 | \$155 | \$159 | \$180 | \$216 |
| Director | \$150 | \$167 | \$125 | \$142 | \$142 | \$160 | \$163 | \$184 |
| General Manager | \$132 | \$157 | \$120 | \$133 | \$128 | \$175 | \$186 | \$194 |
| Senior Manager | \$130 | \$142 | \$118 | \$125 | \$130 | \$136 | \$135 | \$151 |
| Associate/Assistant Director | \$125 | \$130 | \$98 | \$108 | \$111 | \$110 | \$129 | \$141 |
| Treasurer | \$122 | \$140 | \$102 | \$122 | \$124 | \$136 | - | - |
| Professor/Lecturer/Teacher | \$120 | \$139 | - | - | \$112 | \$120 | \$127 | \$154 |
| Controller and/or Comptroller | \$115 | \$138 | \$106 | \$126 | \$120 | \$144 | \$133 | \$155 |
| Consultant | \$109 | \$139 | \$90 | \$180 | \$113 | \$132 | \$107 | \$120 |
| Manager | \$108 | \$114 | \$95 | \$102 | \$110 | \$115 | \$111 | \$119 |
| Internal Auditor | \$105 | \$110 | - | - | \$100 | \$104 | \$107 | \$113 |
| Tax Specialist | \$103 | \$125 | \$92 | \$151 | \$105 | \$148 | \$105 | \$111 |
| Supervisor | \$101 | \$108 | \$84 | \$85 | \$96 | \$106 | \$107 | \$112 |
| Associate/Assistant Manager | \$97 | \$108 | \$87 | \$89 | \$92 | \$105 | \$100 | \$116 |
| Analyst | \$94 | \$100 | \$85 | \$89 | \$90 | \$95 | \$97 | \$103 |
| Senior Auditor/Accountant | \$83 | \$89 | \$78 | \$84 | \$84 | \$88 | \$86 | \$93 |
| Auditor/Accountant | \$78 | \$81 | \$70 | \$76 | \$76 | \$78 | \$87 | \$88 |
| Junior Auditor/Accountant | \$60 | \$68 | \$59 | \$62 | - | - | \$69 | \$86 |
| Other | \$106 | \$145 | \$101 | \$142 | \$105 | \$125 | \$108 | \$155 |

## 2021 Canadian CPA Compensation Study Report

## Non-Owners' Compensation by Area of Focus

Members focusing on investments had the highest median and mean compensation per area of focus (median compensation of $\$ 255 \mathrm{~K}$ and mean of $\$ 368 \mathrm{~K}$ ). For focus areas with at least 100 members reporting, strategy and governance was associated with the highest median compensation, at $\$ 178 \mathrm{~K}$.

Table 5c: Compensation by Area of Focus Among Non-Owners (\$ in 000s)

| Area of Focus | Count | Median | Mean | $\begin{gathered} \text { 25th } \\ \text { Percentile } \end{gathered}$ | 75th Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Investments | 19 | \$255 | \$368 | \$170 | \$366 |
| Marketing/Sales | 36 | \$213 | \$271 | \$141 | \$371 |
| Strategy and Governance | 825 | \$178 | \$268 | \$133 | \$270 |
| Business Development/Management | 29 | \$178 | \$213 | \$147 | \$247 |
| Consulting | 31 | \$174 | \$212 | \$125 | \$240 |
| Operations | 99 | \$160 | \$234 | \$120 | \$244 |
| Valuation | 23 | \$158 | \$145 | \$111 | \$175 |
| Managing Staff | 566 | \$150 | \$193 | \$115 | \$215 |
| Insolvency | 13 | \$145 | \$152 | \$120 | \$168 |
| Procurement/Acquisition/Mergers | 28 | \$143 | \$198 | \$113 | \$284 |
| Treasury | 11 | \$143 | \$202 | - | - |
| Management/General Management | 23 | \$139 | \$228 | \$115 | \$325 |
| Project Management | 28 | \$136 | \$139 | \$117 | \$156 |
| IT | 63 | \$135 | \$155 | \$100 | \$199 |
| Human Resources | 18 | \$135 | \$157 | - | - |
| Financial Planning/Financial Planning and Analysis/Wealth Management | 33 | \$134 | \$278 | \$114 | \$193 |
| Risk Management/Control/Internal Audit | 409 | \$131 | \$154 | \$105 | \$170 |
| Forensic/Forensic Accounting | 23 | \$130 | \$130 | \$96 | \$154 |
| Finance | 2,963 | \$129 | \$169 | \$101 | \$180 |
| Regulatory | 23 | \$126 | \$142 | \$113 | \$174 |
| Advisory | 11 | \$125 | \$214 | - | - |
| Compliance | 11 | \$123 | \$135 | - | - |
| Education | 43 | \$120 | \$139 | \$99 | \$171 |
| Administration | 16 | \$120 | \$141 | - | - |
| Financial and/or Non-Financial Reporting | 3,406 | \$113 | \$135 | \$90 | \$148 |
| Management Accounting | 1,761 | \$111 | \$131 | \$91 | \$141 |
| Budget | 24 | \$110 | \$109 | \$95 | \$117 |
| Taxation | 1,043 | \$107 | \$135 | \$85 | \$141 |
| Accounting/Bookkeeping | 32 | \$100 | \$108 | \$77 | \$126 |
| Audit and Assurance | 1,441 | \$92 | \$103 | \$72 | \$118 |
| Other | 397 | \$132 | \$171 | \$101 | \$188 |

## 2021 Canadian CPA Compensation Study Report

Note 1: Nine non-owners did not specify their area of focus.
Note 2: Compensation data is presented only for areas with at least 10 members responding.

## Non-Owners' Compensation by Province/Territory and Country

The median compensation for non-owners within the provinces was highest in Northwest Territories, at \$143K, followed by Yukon and Alberta, both at \$129K. Compensation figures for Northwest Territories and Yukon should be viewed with caution due to the small number of responses.

The highest median compensation for non-owners was in Bermuda and Australia, both at $\$ 226 \mathrm{~K}$.
Table 5d: Canadian Non-Owner Compensation by Province/Territory (\$ in 000s)

| Province/Territory | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Northwest Territories | 19 | $\$ 143$ | $\$ 141$ | - | - |
| Yukon | 15 | $\$ 129$ | $\$ 139$ | - | - |
| Alberta | 1,667 | $\$ 129$ | $\$ 170$ | $\$ 101$ | $\$ 177$ |
| Ontario | 4,373 | $\$ 126$ | $\$ 168$ | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 173$ |
| Saskatchewan | 547 | $\$ 120$ | $\$ 140$ | $\$ 95$ | $\$ 155$ |
| Newfoundland and <br> Labrador | 136 | $\$ 116$ | $\$ 132$ | $\$ 87$ | $\$ 152$ |
| Quebec | 2,934 | $\$ 112$ | $\$ 138$ | $\$ 89$ | $\$ 148$ |
| British Columbia | 2,052 | $\$ 109$ | $\$ 135$ | $\$ 86$ | $\$ 150$ |
| Manitoba | 610 | $\$ 109$ | $\$ 128$ | $\$ 84$ | $\$ 142$ |
| Nova Scotia | 376 | $\$ 106$ | $\$ 154$ | $\$ 85$ | $\$ 138$ |
| New Brunswick | 266 | $\$ 106$ | $\$ 122$ | $\$ 80$ | $\$ 132$ |
| Prince Edward Island | 71 | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 108$ | $\$ 80$ | $\$ 125$ |
| Total | 13,070 | $\$ 118$ | $\$ 151$ | $\$ 93$ | $\$ 160$ |

Note: Compensation data is presented only for areas with at least 10 members responding. (Count of members in areas with fewer than 10 members is as follows: Nunavut - 4)

Table 5e: International Non-Owner Compensation by Country (\$ in 000s)

| Country | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bermuda | 33 | $\$ 226$ | $\$ 372$ | $\$ 138$ | $\$ 384$ |
| Australia | 11 | $\$ 226$ | $\$ 220$ | - | - |
| United States | 209 | $\$ 221$ | $\$ 300$ | $\$ 160$ | $\$ 314$ |
| United Arab Emirates | 11 | $\$ 211$ | $\$ 232$ | - | - |
| Cayman Islands | 17 | $\$ 175$ | $\$ 253$ | - | - |
| Hong Kong | 27 | $\$ 160$ | $\$ 252$ | $\$ 98$ | \$315 |
| Barbados | 13 | $\$ 102$ | $\$ 136$ | - | - |
| Other | 89 | $\$ 133$ | $\$ 177$ | $\$ 84$ | $\$ 248$ |
| Total | 410 | $\$ 201$ | $\$ 265$ | $\$ 124$ | $\$ 288$ |

Owners' Compensation (Sole Practitioners, Partners and Owners of Other Businesses)
Close to 14 per cent of CPAs reported owning a business in 2020. Most of these respondents ( 79 per cent) owned accounting firms and earned a median of $\$ 200 \mathrm{~K}$. Those who owned other businesses also had a median compensation of $\$ 200 \mathrm{~K}$ but a higher mean compensation, at $\$ 317 \mathrm{~K}$. Partners made a median of $\$ 260 \mathrm{~K}$ in 2020 , while sole practitioners made a median of $\$ 130 \mathrm{~K}$.

Table 6a: Owner Compensation - 2020 versus 2018 (\$ in 000s)

| Measure | Owner of an Accounting Firm (Sole and Partner) |  | Sole |  | Partner |  | Owner of Another Business |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2020 | 2018 | 2020 | 2018 | 2020 | 2018 | 2020 | 2018 |
| Count | 1,813 | 1,871 | 844 | 856 | 979 | 1,015 | 470 | 527 |
| Median | \$200 | \$175 | \$130 | \$115 | \$260 | \$245 | \$200 | \$175 |
| Mean | \$277 | \$239 | \$174 | \$153 | \$365 | \$311 | \$317 | \$293 |
| 25th Percentile | \$119 | \$100 | \$90 | \$75 | \$180 | \$150 | \$133 | \$115 |
| 75th Percentile | \$325 | \$300 | \$200 | \$180 | \$433 | \$380 | \$332 | \$301 |

Note 1: Ten members classified themselves as both sole practitioner and partner; 536 members classified themselves as independent contractors/consultants only, earning income not covered on a T4; and 13,961 classified themselves as nonowners, or employees/contractors/consultants of an organization/firm/company earning T4 income.
Note 2: Those who reported being part of multiple categories (i.e., employees earning T4 income and/or owners) were not counted in this analysis.

## Sole Practitioners' Compensation

The median compensation for sole practitioners was highest in Newfoundland and Labrador, at $\$ 150 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by British Columbia and Ontario, at $\$ 149 \mathrm{~K}$ and 147 K , respectively.

Table 6b: Sole Practitioners by Province/Country (\$ in 000s)

| Province/Country | Count | Median | Mean | 25th <br> Percentile | 75th <br> Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 15 | $\$ 150$ | $\$ 159$ | - | - |
| British Columbia | 183 | $\$ 149$ | $\$ 182$ | $\$ 95$ | $\$ 210$ |
| Ontario | 294 | $\$ 147$ | $\$ 196$ | $\$ 94$ | $\$ 225$ |
| Alberta | 95 | $\$ 138$ | $\$ 179$ | $\$ 102$ | $\$ 187$ |
| Nova Scotia | 15 | $\$ 125$ | $\$ 153$ | - | - |
| Saskatchewan | 27 | $\$ 121$ | $\$ 168$ | $\$ 100$ | $\$ 189$ |
| Manitoba | 22 | $\$ 119$ | $\$ 127$ | $\$ 84$ | $\$ 169$ |
| Quebec | 182 | $\$ 106$ | $\$ 139$ | $\$ 78$ | $\$ 150$ |
| Total Canada | 843 | $\$ 130$ | $\$ 174$ | $\$ 90$ | $\$ 200$ |
| Total International | 1 | - | - | - | - |

Note: Compensation data is presented only for areas with at least 10 members responding. (Count of members in areas with fewer than 10 members is as follows: Prince Edward Island - 3, New Brunswick --6 and Yukon - 1)

## Partners' Compensation

The median compensation for partners within the provinces was highest in British Columbia, at $\$ 280 \mathrm{~K}$, followed by Alberta and Ontario, at $\$ 278 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 275 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively. Saskatchewan had the highest mean compensation, but the figure of $\$ 499 \mathrm{~K}$ was impacted by a small subset of high outliers and may not necessarily represent the overall provincial compensation accurately.

Table 6c: Partners by Province (\$ in 000s)

| Province | Count | Median | Mean | 25th Percentile | 75th <br> Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| British Columbia | 172 | $\$ 280$ | $\$ 417$ | $\$ 200$ | $\$ 448$ |
| Alberta | 170 | $\$ 278$ | $\$ 344$ | $\$ 199$ | $\$ 461$ |
| Ontario | 265 | $\$ 275$ | $\$ 376$ | $\$ 185$ | $\$ 500$ |
| Saskatchewan | 52 | $\$ 251$ | $\$ 499$ | $\$ 168$ | $\$ 472$ |
| Manitoba | 37 | $\$ 250$ | $\$ 326$ | $\$ 175$ | $\$ 413$ |
| Quebec | 223 | $\$ 240$ | $\$ 301$ | $\$ 136$ | $\$ 350$ |
| Nova Scotia | 23 | $\$ 220$ | $\$ 276$ | $\$ 124$ | $\$ 375$ |
| New Brunswick | 12 | $\$ 183$ | $\$ 243$ | - | - |
| Total Canada | 965 | $\$ 255$ | $\$ 360$ | $\$ 180$ | $\$ 425$ |
| Total International | 14 | $\$ 535$ | $\$ 733$ | $\$ 300$ | $\$ 1,025$ |

Note: Compensation data is only presented for areas with at least 10 members responding. (Count of members in areas with fewer than 10 members is as follows: Prince Edward Island - 3, Newfoundland and Labrador - 3, Yukon - 2, Northwest Territories - 3)

## Other Businesses Owners' Compensation

The median compensation for owners of other businesses was highest in Saskatchewan at \$270K, followed by British Columbia and Ontario at $\$ 225 \mathrm{~K}$ and $\$ 210 \mathrm{~K}$, respectively. Saskatchewan also had the highest mean compensation, but the figure of $\$ 514 \mathrm{~K}$ was impacted by a small subset of high outliers and may not necessarily represent the overall provincial compensation accurately.

Table 6d: Owners of Another Business by Province/Country (\$ in 000s)

| Province/Country | Count | Median |  | Mean | 25th <br> Percentile |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Saskatchewan | 21 | $\$ 270$ | $\$ 514$ | $\$ 165$ | $\$ 498$ |
| British Columbia | 75 | $\$ 225$ | $\$ 302$ | $\$ 126$ | $\$ 310$ |
| Ontario | 140 | $\$ 210$ | $\$ 368$ | $\$ 151$ | $\$ 417$ |
| Alberta | 53 | $\$ 200$ | $\$ 282$ | $\$ 137$ | $\$ 278$ |
| Nova Scotia | 19 | $\$ 180$ | $\$ 390$ | - | - |
| Manitoba | 22 | $\$ 167$ | $\$ 229$ | $\$ 135$ | $\$ 266$ |
| Quebec | 109 | $\$ 150$ | $\$ 253$ | $\$ 102$ | $\$ 250$ |
| Total Canada | 455 | $\$ 200$ | $\$ 315$ | $\$ 133$ | $\$ 325$ |
| Total International | 15 | $\$ 350$ | $\$ 384$ | - | - |

Note: Compensation data is presented only for areas with at least 10 members responding. (Count of members in areas with fewer than 10 members is as follows: New Brunswick - 9, Newfoundland and Labrador - 6, Prince Edward Island - 1)

Prospects for 2021
Among the members responding, 74 per cent expected their compensation to increase in 2021.
Table 7: Prospects for 2021 by Industry

| Industry | Count | Don't know | Decrease <br> by 10 <br> per cent <br> or more | Decrease by less than 10 per cent | Same | Increase by less than 10 per cent | Increase by 10 per cent or more |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Professional Services Firm Public Practice (a firm that primarily delivers accounting, auditing and/or tax services) | 2,878 | 2\% | 6\% | 3\% | 18\% | 39\% | 32\% |
| Public Sector (federal, provincial, First Nations, or municipal government, including ministries, departments, etc.) | 1,645 | 3\% | 2\% | 1\% | 17\% | 72\% | 5\% |
| Financial Services (banks, trusts, insurance, credit unions, etc.) | 1,507 | 2\% | 4\% | 3\% | 12\% | 58\% | 22\% |
| Manufacturing | 1,329 | 3\% | 5\% | 2\% | 14\% | 59\% | 18\% |
| Professional Services Firm Other (consulting, legal, etc.) | 1,325 | 3\% | 8\% | 2\% | 15\% | 44\% | 28\% |
| Retail, Wholesale | 887 | 4\% | 4\% | 2\% | 20\% | 53\% | 17\% |
| Educational Institution (e.g., university, college, primary or secondary school, etc.) | 716 | 2\% | 5\% | 2\% | 24\% | 61\% | 6\% |
| Not for Profit (trade association, charity, religious group, etc.) | 644 | 3\% | 5\% | 2\% | 14\% | 66\% | 10\% |
| Construction | 626 | 4\% | 4\% | 3\% | 18\% | 50\% | 20\% |
| Oil and Gas | 496 | 2\% | 5\% | 3\% | 24\% | 48\% | 16\% |
| Real Estate/Building Management | 491 | 3\% | 4\% | 1\% | 16\% | 54\% | 22\% |
| Transportation, Distribution | 420 | 3\% | 3\% | 2\% | 16\% | 56\% | 20\% |
| Software | 363 | 3\% | 4\% | 1\% | 12\% | 51\% | 29\% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries | 342 | 2\% | 4\% | 2\% | 14\% | 59\% | 19\% |
| Crown Corporation | 342 | 3\% | 2\% | 1\% | 18\% | 71\% | 6\% |
| Public Sector (hospital, library, health organization, or social services organization) | 321 | 2\% | 3\% | 3\% | 28\% | 55\% | 8\% |
| Utilities | 253 | 1\% | 2\% | 2\% | 16\% | 64\% | 14\% |
| Telecommunications | 193 | 2\% | 3\% | 3\% | 16\% | 65\% | 12\% |
| Mining | 184 | 4\% | 6\% | 1\% | 15\% | 54\% | 20\% |
| Arts, Entertainment, Leisure | 140 | 2\% | 6\% | 4\% | 20\% | 48\% | 20\% |
| Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals | 137 | 1\% | 4\% | 3\% | 10\% | 58\% | 23\% |

CPA

| Industry | Count | Don't <br> know | Decrease <br> by 10 <br> per cent <br> or more | Decrease <br> by less <br> than 10 per <br> cent | Same | Increase <br> by less <br> than 10 <br> per cent | Increase by <br> 10 per cent <br> or more |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Media, Communications, <br> Publishing | 120 | $3 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
| Holding, Conglomerate | 119 | $3 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| Public Sector - Office of the <br> Auditor General (federal, <br> provincial, or municipal) | 118 | $0 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| Hotels and Restaurants | 108 | $1 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| Technology/IT | 67 | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $22 \%$ |

Note: Only industries with a base of 50 members or more responding are shown.

## Section 2: Vacation, Benefits, Work/Life Balance and Leaves

## Vacation Entitlement

Most CPAs were allocated 20 to 24 vacation days in 2020, with fewer than one in 20 (four per cent) entitled to less than three weeks ( 15 days). There was a gap in usage, with 28 per cent of members taking 14 days of vacation or less despite being entitled to more days.

Table 8: Vacation Entitlement and Vacation Taken in 2020

| Days of Vacation | Vacation Entitlement |  | Vacation Taken |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 96 | $\%$ | Count | $\%$ |
| $10-14$ working days | 403 | $1 \%$ | 1,189 | $8 \%$ |
| $15-19$ working days | 3,403 | $3 \%$ | 3,196 | $20 \%$ |
| $20-24$ working days | 6,278 | $22 \%$ | 4,450 | $28 \%$ |
| $25-29$ working days | 3,275 | $41 \%$ | 4,126 | $26 \%$ |
| $30-34$ working days | 1,488 | $21 \%$ | 1,694 | $11 \%$ |
| 35 working days or more | 424 | $10 \%$ | 739 | $5 \%$ |
| Total | 15,367 | $3 \%$ | 234 | $10 \%$ |
| N |  | $100 \%$ | 15,628 | $100 \%$ |

Note: 821 members did not specify their vacation entitlement and 560 members did not specify whether vacation was taken. Due to rounding, totals may not add to $100 \%$.

## Benefits by Employer Size Among Non-Owners

Medical benefits, life insurance and long-term disability insurance were the most commonly offered benefits for CPAs: over three-quarters received each of them. Members in larger companies of 100 or more employees were more likely to receive benefits than members who were employees of smaller firms.

Table 9a: Benefits by Number of Employees Among Non-Owners

| Benefit | Size of Employer by Number of Staff |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (n=3,856) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100-999 \\ (n=3,915) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \geq 1,000 \\ (n=5,589) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & (\mathrm{n}=13,107) \end{aligned}$ |
| Medical (Health and Dental) Benefits | 92\% | 95\% | 97\% | 95\% |
| Life Insurance | 78\% | 83\% | 85\% | 83\% |
| Long-Term Disability Insurance | 76\% | 83\% | 86\% | 82\% |
| Out-of-Country Travel Insurance | 57\% | 64\% | 65\% | 62\% |
| Parking | 46\% | 42\% | 30\% | 38\% |
| Group RRSPs | 33\% | 39\% | 37\% | 36\% |
| Defined-Contribution Pension Plan | 15\% | 27\% | 40\% | 29\% |
| Defined-Benefit Pension Plan | 10\% | 24\% | 41\% | 28\% |
| Professional Membership Dues Other than for my Accounting Designation(s) | 23\% | 25\% | 25\% | 24\% |


| Benefit | Size of Employer by Number of Staff |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (n=3,856) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100-999 \\ (n=3,915) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \geq 1,000 \\ (n=5,589) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & (\mathrm{n}=13,107) \end{aligned}$ |
| Health/Fitness Club Memberships | 15\% | 22\% | 25\% | 21\% |
| Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program | 9\% | 12\% | 23\% | 16\% |
| Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups | 6\% | 11\% | 21\% | 14\% |
| Deferred Profit-Sharing Plans | 8\% | 13\% | 16\% | 13\% |
| Car Allowances | 10\% | 13\% | 8\% | 10\% |
| Credit Card Fees | 3\% | 3\% | 4\% | 4\% |
| Other Significant Benefits | 10\% | 10\% | 9\% | 10\% |
| Did Not Receive Any Benefits | 6\% | 1\% | 1\% | 3\% |

Note: 373 non-owners did not specify whether they received benefits.

## Benefits by Industry Among Non-Owners

Among the six largest industry groupings shown in Tables $9 b$ and $9 c$, medical benefits, life insurance and long-term disability insurance were consistently the most commonly offered benefit.

Table 9b: Benefits by Industry and Number of Employees Among Non-Owners

| Benefit | Public Sector - Government |  |  | Professional Services - Public Practice |  |  | Financial Services |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=182) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=973) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=655) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (n=657) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=262) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 100-999 \\ & (n=297) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=804) \end{aligned}$ |
| Medical (Health and Dental) Benefits | 96\% | 92\% | 95\% | 88\% | 96\% | 96\% | 94\% | 96\% | 98\% |
| Life Insurance | 90\% | 82\% | 79\% | 64\% | 70\% | 78\% | 81\% | 82\% | 85\% |
| Long-Term Disability Insurance | 88\% | 82\% | 84\% | 66\% | 76\% | 81\% | 77\% | 81\% | 86\% |
| Out-of-Country Travel Insurance | 63\% | 56\% | 56\% | 36\% | 50\% | 60\% | 58\% | 63\% | 70\% |
| Defined-Benefit Pension Plan | 58\% | 71\% | 83\% | 3\% | 4\% | 8\% | 10\% | 23\% | 48\% |
| Professional Membership Dues Other than for my Accounting Designation(s) | 40\% | 31\% | 16\% | 20\% | 19\% | 26\% | 32\% | 36\% | 38\% |
| Parking | 32\% | 33\% | 19\% | 44\% | 46\% | 37\% | 42\% | 40\% | 22\% |
| Defined-Contribution Pension Plan | 30\% | 26\% | 13\% | 6\% | 23\% | 55\% | 24\% | 40\% | 42\% |
| Group RRSPs | 21\% | 6\% | 2\% | 29\% | 40\% | 57\% | 26\% | 39\% | 43\% |
| Health/Fitness Club Memberships | 13\% | 12\% | 8\% | 17\% | 52\% | 51\% | 26\% | 36\% | 33\% |
| Parental/Maternal/Care giver Leave Top Ups | 9\% | 18\% | 27\% | 4\% | 12\% | 22\% | 5\% | 16\% | 22\% |
| Car Allowances | 7\% | 5\% | 5\% | 6\% | 8\% | 5\% | 11\% | 14\% | 9\% |
| Credit Card Fees | 1\% | 1\% | 0\% | 1\% | 2\% | 3\% | 7\% | 5\% | 15\% |


| Benefit | Public Sector - Government |  |  | Professional Services - Public Practice |  |  | Financial Services |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=182) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ 999 \\ (\mathrm{n}=411) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=973) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=655) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=657) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (n=262) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 100-999 \\ & (n=297) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (n=804) \end{aligned}$ |
| Deferred Profit-Sharing Plans | 1\% | 0\% | 0\% | 4\% | 17\% | 14\% | 16\% | 15\% | 32\% |
| Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 1\% | 2\% | 2\% | 19\% | 15\% | 56\% |
| Other Significant Benefits | 9\% | 7\% | 4\% | 10\% | 10\% | 9\% | 10\% | 11\% | 10\% |
| Did Not Receive Any Benefits | 3\% | 1\% | 2\% | 11\% | 1\% | 1\% | 5\% | 1\% | 0\% |

Table 9c: Benefits by Industry and Number of Employees Among Non-Owners

| Benefit | Manufacturing |  |  | Oil and Gas |  |  | Retail/Wholesale |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=313) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ 999 \\ (\mathrm{n}=468) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=441) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=102) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ 999 \\ (\mathrm{n}=120) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=217) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \\ (\mathrm{n}=229) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ 999 \\ (\mathrm{n}=272) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 1,000 \\ & (\mathrm{n}=251) \end{aligned}$ |
| Medical (Health and Dental) Benefits | 95\% | 95\% | 97\% | 95\% | 96\% | 97\% | 93\% | 94\% | 97\% |
| Life Insurance | 86\% | 87\% | 89\% | 84\% | 88\% | 93\% | 83\% | 83\% | 82\% |
| Long-Term Disability Insurance | 81\% | 85\% | 87\% | 78\% | 88\% | 93\% | 78\% | 80\% | 85\% |
| Out-of-Country Travel Insurance | 69\% | 72\% | 71\% | 63\% | 68\% | 72\% | 59\% | 66\% | 56\% |
| Defined-Benefit Pension Plan | 4\% | 6\% | 17\% | 5\% | 8\% | 35\% | 3\% | 6\% | 18\% |
| Professional Membership Dues Other than for my Accounting Designation(s) | 16\% | 19\% | 20\% | 31\% | 30\% | 28\% | 14\% | 18\% | 26\% |
| Parking | 48\% | 45\% | 42\% | 58\% | 53\% | 36\% | 50\% | 47\% | 47\% |
| Defined-Contribution Pension Plan | 14\% | 35\% | 61\% | 15\% | 23\% | 48\% | 16\% | 25\% | 49\% |
| Group RRSPs | 40\% | 57\% | 58\% | 36\% | 62\% | 44\% | 34\% | 39\% | 54\% |
| Health/Fitness Club Memberships | 8\% | 15\% | 23\% | 23\% | 30\% | 26\% | 9\% | 16\% | 19\% |
| Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups | 2\% | 4\% | 13\% | 3\% | 10\% | 15\% | 2\% | 4\% | 16\% |
| Car Allowances | 13\% | 16\% | 15\% | 4\% | 9\% | 5\% | 18\% | 23\% | 18\% |
| Credit Card Fees | 3\% | 4\% | 5\% | 5\% | 2\% | 4\% | 4\% | 4\% | 2\% |
| Deferred Profit-Sharing Plans | 14\% | 22\% | 22\% | 3\% | 18\% | 20\% | 9\% | 18\% | 29\% |
| Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program | 8\% | 13\% | 27\% | 29\% | 41\% | 48\% | 5\% | 10\% | 37\% |
| Other Significant Benefits | 8\% | 8\% | 7\% | 9\% | 11\% | 8\% | 10\% | 11\% | 10\% |
| Did Not Receive Any Benefits | 3\% | 2\% | 1\% | 3\% | 4\% | 3\% | 5\% | 1\% | 0\% |

## Work/Life Balance Among Non-Owners

Working from home and flexible working hours were most commonly offered to promote work/life balance. Working from home was also most commonly used by members. Internal professional development was offered by 68 per cent of employers, and 83 per cent of those who were offered such an opportunity took advantage of it. This was consistent across industries (Table 10b).

Table 10a: Work/Life Balance Programs Among Non-Owners

| Work/Life Balance Program | Offered |  | Taken |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | \% | Count | \% |
| Work from Home | 12,057 | 89\% | 11,539 | 96\% |
| Flexible Working Hours | 10,160 | 75\% | 8,639 | 85\% |
| Employee Assistance Programs | 9,602 | 71\% | 1,436 | 15\% |
| Leaves for Personal Reasons | 9,075 | 67\% | 3,529 | 39\% |
| Internal Professional Development | 9,212 | 68\% | 7,624 | 83\% |
| Funding of Externally Offered Professional Development | 8,979 | 67\% | 6,632 | 74\% |
| Time Off for Volunteer Work | 3,701 | 28\% | 1,159 | 31\% |
| Compressed Work Weeks | 2,884 | 21\% | 1,330 | 46\% |
| Sabbaticals | 2,442 | 18\% | 169 | 7\% |
| Childcare Benefits (subsidy, available on site, etc.) | 860 | 6\% | 102 | 12\% |
| Other | 891 | 7\% | 519 | 58\% |

## Work/Life Balance Programs Used by Industry Among Non-Owners

Working from home, flexible working hours and internal professional development were the programs most commonly used by members in all six of the largest industry groupings shown below.

Table 10b: Work/Life Balance Programs Used by Industry Among Non-Owners

| Work/Life Balance Program | Public Sector- Governm ent $(n=1,289)$ | Profession al Services <br> - Public <br> Practice $(n=1,404)$ | Financial Services $(n=1,086)$ | Industry <br> Manufacturing ( $\mathrm{n}=840$ ) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oil and Gas } \\ & (n=295) \end{aligned}$ | Retail/ Wholesale $(n=515)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Work from Home | 97\% | 96\% | 97\% | 93\% | 97\% | 94\% |
| Flexible Working Hours | 81\% | 87\% | 81\% | 87\% | 85\% | 87\% |
| Internal Professional Development | 86\% | 87\% | 81\% | 77\% | 79\% | 81\% |
| Funding of Externally Offered Professional Development | 75\% | 67\% | 66\% | 75\% | 70\% | 75\% |
| Time Off for Volunteer Work | 44\% | 30\% | 24\% | 35\% | 28\% | 37\% |
| Compressed Work Weeks | 46\% | 40\% | 31\% | 64\% | 59\% | 49\% |
| Leaves for Personal Reasons | 54\% | 34\% | 35\% | 36\% | 20\% | 38\% |


| Employee Assistance Programs | $18 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Childcare Benefits (subsidy, <br> available on site, etc.) | $10 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Sabbaticals | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Other | $47 \%$ | $65 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $58 \%$ |

Note: Counts shown include members in each industry that indicated they used at least one work/life balance program; base size varied depending on programs used and industry.

## Leaves

Less than half (44 per cent) of members reported taking any kind of leave in their careers. The most common leave taken by CPAs was maternity/paternity/parental leave, at 29 per cent, followed by medical leave, at 16 per cent.

Table 10c: Leaves Taken

| Type of Leave | Count | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Have Taken At Least One Type of Leave | 7,142 | $44 \%$ |
| Maternity/Paternity/Parental Leave | 4,706 | $29 \%$ |
| Medical Leave | 2,597 | $16 \%$ |
| Compassionate Care Leave/Additional Time Beyond <br> Amount of Time Legally Allotted to Care for Sick Family <br> Members | 580 | $4 \%$ |
| Sabbatical Leave | 346 | $2 \%$ |
| Other | 1,011 | $6 \%$ |
| Have Never Taken a Leave Apart from Regular Vacation <br> Allotment | 9,046 | $56 \%$ |

Note: Some members noted taking more than one type of leave.

