

How Much Money Can You Make?

According to the 2003 Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Membership Employment and Salary Survey, the median salary for food scientists for that year was \$73,150 (BS-\$65,000; MS-\$73,500; Ph.D.-\$85,000; MBA- \$95,000). Starting salaries for those with a BS degree averaged \$40,000; with an MS, \$49,250; Ph.D., \$68,000; MBA, \$81,500. Slightly more than half of all food scientists have advanced degrees (MS, Ph.D. or MBA).

Salaries can vary significantly by degree and type of employer. The following chart shows the median salary for all employers in a particular field.

Type of employer	BS	MS	Ph.D.	MBA
Food/beverage manufacturer/processor	\$62,201	\$74,284	\$90,500	\$85,000
Food ingredient manufacturer/supplier	\$70,416	\$73,500	\$91,000	\$96,000
Processing equipment manufacturer/supplier	\$60,850	*	*	*
Contract processing/packaging	\$68,000	*	*	*
Consulting	\$63,000	\$75,500	\$115,000	*
Educational institution	\$43,700	\$44,250	\$75,500	*
Private research	\$64,000	*	\$92,500	*
Food service	\$70,000	\$78,000	*	*
Government	\$61,000	\$67,900	\$90,662	*
Independent testing lab	\$63,500	*	*	*
Scientific/trade organization	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$95,000	

* Survey respondents did not include representatives from these groups.

Salary surveys, including salaries by geographic regions, sex, and years of experience are a benefit of membership in the IFT and are published in *Food Technology* magazine. The next survey will be released in early 2006. Visit <http://www.discoveryschool.com/foodscience> for updated summary information.