Data were compiled from the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel maintained by the National Science Foundation so that timely information would be available on the supply and professional characteristics of scientific personnel in important science fields. Information in the National Register is updated every two years. The data presented here are preliminary results from the 1962 questionnaire returns. The American Institute of Physics is responsible for the Physics and Astronomy Section which comprises about ten percent of the total National Register.

more on SALARIES...

An AIP Staff Report

ACCORDING to preliminary data released by the National Science Foundation, the median annual salary of scientists working in the fields of physics and astronomy was $11 000 last year, $1000 higher than 1960's figure.

Who's Included: The survey covered 115 000 full-time employed scientists in the life and physical sciences, 111 000 of whom reported salary. The median over-all salary for all fields was $10 000 which is also $1000 higher than in 1960. Included in the preliminary tabulations were 11 402 full-time employed physicists and astronomers, a representative sample (Table 1).

Women Scientists: About 5.5 percent of the full-time employed scientists were women; for the physics and astronomy section, the percentage was just under 2 percent. The median salary for women in both the total survey and the physics group was $8000, again a $1000 increase over 1960.

Type of Employer: About 46 percent of full-time employed scientists work in industry or business or are self-employed. This percentage holds for the physics population. The over-all median salary for industrial scientists was $12 000 last year. Psychologists showed the highest median ($14 000). Physicists and astronomers were next with $13 000. Academic institutions employed 27 percent of all scientists, 29 percent of all physicists and astronomers. The federal government employed 13 percent of all scientists and also of the physics group; nonprofit research organizations, including contract research centers, employed 4 percent of all scientists and 9 percent of the physicists (Table 2).

Experience: The median age for all scientists included in the 1962 preliminary survey was 39. The youngest median age groups (36 years) were in the fields of mathematics and physics. The oldest (41 years) were in the biological sciences. One-fourth of the respondents had twenty or more years of profes-

Table 1. US Scientists' Median Annual 1962 Salaries by Field

Field of Employment	*All Degree Levels*	*Highest Earned Degree*		
		Bachelors	*Masters*	*Doctorates*
Total—All Fields	$10 000	$ 9 000	$ 9 000	$11 000
Physics & Astronomy	11 000	9 000	10 000	13 000
Chemistry	11 000	10 000	10 000	12 000
Mathematics	10 000	10 000	10 000	11 000
Biological Sciences	10 000	7 000	7 000	10 000
Agricultural Sciences	8 000	7 000	8 000	10 000
Psychology	9 000	10 000	8 000	10 000
Earth Sciences	10 000	10 000	9 000	10 000
Meteorology	8 000	8 000	9 000	13 000
Sanitary Engineering	10 000	10 000	10 000	11 000
Other Fields	11 000	10 000	11 000	13 000

Source: National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel, 1962, *Scientific Manpower Bulletin #19*. A limited number of copies are available upon request from The American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45 Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Table 2. Preliminary 1962 Median Salaries by Type of Employer and Highest Earned Degree
Physicists and Astronomers

	Bachelors		*Masters*		*Doctorates*		*Other & No Rep.*		*Total*	
Type of Employer	*No.*	*Salary*	*No.*	*Salary*	*No.*	*Salary*	*No.*	*Salary*	*No.*	*Salary*
Industry	1898	$10 000	1442	$12 000	1712	$15 000	145	$12 000	5197	$13 000
Academic[1]	316	6 000	848	7 000	2152	10 000	19	*	3335	9 000
Government	615	9 000	397	11 000	430	12 000	35	9 000	1477	11 000
Nonprofit Institutions	175	10 000	220	11 000	614	14 000	17	*	1026	12 000
Other and no report	124	6 000	132	7 000	107	11 000	4	*	367	
Totals & their median salaries	3128	9 000	3039	10 000	5015	13 000	220	10 000	11 402	11 000

[1] Note: Almost two-thirds of the salaries reported are academic year (9–10 months) salaries.
* Too few for computation.

sional experience. About 10 percent had less than five years. More than half reported between 5 and 19 years of professional work experience. The median annual salary for scientists with 5 to 9 years of experience was $9000 last year; with 10 to 14 years of experience it was $10 000; with 15 to 19 years of experience it was $12 000. Physicists' median salaries were $1000, $2000, and $2000 higher respectively.

Level of Training: The percentage of doctoral degree holders in the total survey was 37.6 percent; for physics and astronomy, it was 44 percent.

These data are based upon the earliest responses received to the 1962 National Register questionnaire and comprise about half of the total 1962 survey. Final analyses will be reported later this year in subsequent *Scientific Manpower Bulletins* and in *American Science Manpower, 1962* for all sciences. A report in greater depth for the Physics and Astronomy Section is planned by the National Register staff of the American Institute of Physics for late 1963. Similar data for the Physics and Astronomy Section of the 1960 National Register have been prepared and a "Report of the Results of the 1960 National Physics Roster" is available upon request from the Department of Education and Manpower of the American Institute of Physics.

Work Activity: Almost 55 percent of the physics group were primarily engaged in research and development activities at a median salary of $11 000. (The median salary for all scientists engaged in research and development was $10 000.) More than 21 percent were in management with a median salary of $16 000; this was $2000 higher than for any other group or for the total group. Almost one-fifth indicated teaching as a first work activity with a median salary of $8000 which was the same as the over-all median for teachers in all fields.

Academic Salaries by Salary Base: In 1962, National Register salary data of college and university science personnel were collected according to salary base. The variance between median salaries in 1962 according to academic or calendar year base for all sciences and for physics and astronomy is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Preliminary 1962 Median Academic Salaries by Salary Base

	Academic Year Base		*Calendar Year Base*	
Rank	*All Fields*	*Physics*	*All Fields*	*Physics*
Dean	$ *	$ *	$13 000	$ *
Professor	11 000	11 000	13 000	14 000
Associate Professor	9 000	9 000	10 000	11 000
Assistant Professor	7 000	7 000	9 000	9 000
Instructor	6 000	6 000	7 000	7 000
Lecturer	7 000	*	10 000	9 000
Research Associate	*	*	8 000	*
Research Assistant	*	*	7 000	*
Median for all ranks	8 000	8 000	10 000	10 000

* Too few for computation.