



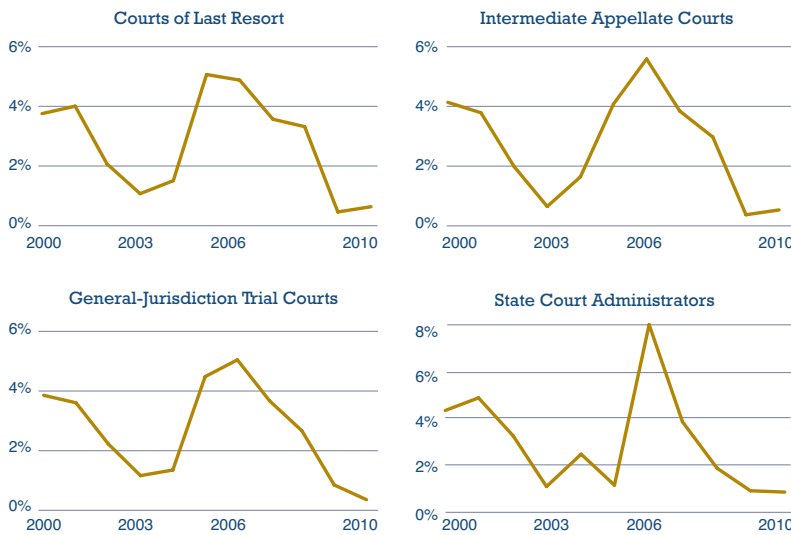
# Judicial Salaries

The *Survey of Judicial Salaries*, published for nearly 30 years by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) with the support of State Court Administrative offices across the United States, serves as the primary record of compensation for state judicial officers and state court administrators.

This issue of the *Survey of Judicial Salaries* reports salary data as of January 1, 2011. This cut-off date is important because states implement salary changes at various points during the year. However, a standard and unchanging cutoff date must be established to publish salary data in a timely and predictable fashion. Various tables and graphics show average annual changes in salaries, salary rankings across the states, and the impact of cost-of-living indices on judicial salaries.

**Regardless of position, state court systems still report increases in judicial salaries that are near 0%**

### Annual Percentage Change in Real Salaries



Annual salary growth rates are shown in the adjacent charts, covering the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The annual percentage change in real-dollar salaries is shown for associate justices of courts of last resort (COLRs), associate judges of intermediate appellate courts (IACs), general-jurisdiction (GJ) trial-court judges, and state court administrators, respectively.

Through January 1, 2011, the annual percent increases in salaries for the courts of last resort and the intermediate appellate courts are slightly higher than in 2009, but still a scant .62% and .46% annual increase, respectively. For general jurisdiction judges, the annual percent increase in salaries continues to decrease, as it has since 2006. For the state court administrators, the percent increase in salaries during 2010 was .84%, virtually the same as in 2009. The average annual increase across all states from January 1, 2010 through January 1, 2011 was just .63%. Given the nation's extreme debt crisis and the sluggish economic

recovery, the near zero average increase in salaries is not surprising. Fortunately, annual inflation for the entire U.S. as measured by the Consumer Price Index is in check at just 1.6% for 2010, limiting the erosion of salary purchasing power.

### Judicial Salaries at a Glance

The average annual percent changes for the four judicial positions, and the state court administrators analyzed by the *Survey*, is .63% for 2010. As indicated in the table below, this increase is far less than the pre-recession (2003-2007) average increase of 3.24%. The 2008/2009 average increase of 1.67% was not unexpected as the nation's economy, and by extension government revenues, were mired in recession. The 2010 average increase of .63% continues the downward trend. Continued decreases in near-and-long term judicial salary trends should be the expected norm until the economy rebounds. The following table summarizes current salaries for the major judicial positions.

	Mean	Median	Range	Average Annual % Change		
				Pre-Recession	Recession	
				2003-07	2008-09	2010
Chief, Highest Court	\$156,773	\$152,500	\$115,160 to \$228,856	3.19%	1.58%	0.72%
Associate Justice, Court of Last Resort	\$151,616	\$146,917	\$112,530 to \$218,237	3.21%	1.88%	0.62%
Judge, Intermediate Appellate Courts	\$146,508	\$140,732	\$105,050 to \$204,599	3.20%	1.60%	0.46%
Judge, General-Jurisdiction Trial Courts	\$136,268	\$132,500	\$104,170 to \$178,835	3.30%	1.91%	0.52%
State Court Administrators	\$135,277	\$130,000	\$76,500 to \$211,272	3.30%	1.38%	0.84%
<b>Average</b>				<b>3.24%</b>	<b>1.67%</b>	<b>0.63%</b>

## Salaries and Rankings for Appellate and General-Jurisdiction Judges - Listed Alphabetically by State Name

The table below lists the salaries and rankings for associate justices of the courts of last resort, associate judges of intermediate appellate courts, and judges of general-jurisdiction trial courts (actual salaries and cost-of-living-adjusted salaries) as of January 1, 2011. Where possible, the salary figures are actual salaries. In jurisdictions where some judges receive supplements, the figures are the most representative available—either the base salary, the midpoint of a range between the lowest and highest supplemented salaries, or the median. Salaries are ranked from highest to lowest, with the highest salary for each position having a rank of “1.” The lowest salary has a rank of “51” except for intermediate appellate courts, which exist in only 39 states. The mean, median, and salary range for each of the positions are also shown.

	Highest Court		Intermediate Appellate Court		General-Jurisdiction Trial Court				
	Salary	Rank	Salary	Rank	Salary	Rank	Adjusted for Cost of Living Adjustment Factor	Adjusted Salary	Adjusted Rank
Alabama	\$180,005	9	\$178,878	4	\$134,943	25	92.79	\$145,426	12
Alaska	\$188,604	4	\$178,188	5	\$174,396	3	132.75	\$131,370	24
Arizona	\$155,000	20	\$150,000	14	\$145,000	14	103.81	\$139,676	17
Arkansas	\$145,204	30	\$140,732	20	\$136,257	23	90.66	\$150,287	8
California	\$218,237	1	\$204,599	1	\$178,789	2	132.69	\$134,742	22
Colorado	\$139,660	34	\$134,128	28	\$128,598	33	100.69	\$127,714	31
Connecticut	\$162,520	16	\$152,637	11	\$146,780	13	130.27	\$112,671	42
Delaware	\$185,050	6			\$168,850	5	102.46	\$164,794	3
District of Columbia	\$184,500	7			\$174,000	4	140.09	\$124,206	35
Florida	\$157,976	19	\$150,077	13	\$142,178	16	98.55	\$144,271	14
Georgia	\$167,210	11	\$166,186	8	\$149,873	11	92.27	\$162,425	5
Hawaii	\$151,118	23	\$139,924	21	\$136,127	24	165.74	\$82,134	51
Idaho	\$119,506	47	\$118,506	37	\$112,043	46	93.12	\$120,315	37
Illinois	\$207,066	2	\$194,888	2	\$178,835	1	96.14	\$186,011	1
Indiana	\$151,328	21	\$147,103	17	\$125,647	34	92.96	\$135,164	21
Iowa	\$163,200	15	\$147,900	16	\$137,700	20	94.06	\$146,400	10
Kansas	\$135,905	39	\$131,518	32	\$120,037	42	91.38	\$131,363	26
Kentucky	\$135,504	40	\$130,044	34	\$124,620	36	89.25	\$139,633	18
Louisiana	\$149,572	25	\$142,477	19	\$136,544	22	96.49	\$141,510	16
Maine	\$119,476	48			\$111,969	47	116.52	\$96,091	50
Maryland	\$162,352	17	\$149,552	15	\$140,352	17	124.94	\$112,336	43
Massachusetts	\$145,984	27	\$135,087	27	\$129,694	30	120.22	\$107,880	47
Michigan	\$164,610	13	\$151,441	12	\$139,919	18	93.76	\$149,235	9
Minnesota	\$145,981	28	\$137,552	23	\$129,124	31	102.30	\$126,223	33
Mississippi	\$112,530	51	\$105,050	39	\$104,170	51	92.30	\$112,862	40
Missouri	\$137,034	38	\$128,207	35	\$120,484	41	91.72	\$131,366	25
Montana	\$113,964	50			\$106,870	50	100.07	\$106,791	48
Nebraska	\$142,760	32	\$135,622	26	\$132,053	28	91.15	\$144,876	13
Nevada	\$170,000	10			\$160,000	8	101.46	\$157,696	7
New Hampshire	\$146,917	26			\$137,804	19	116.75	\$118,031	38
New Jersey	\$185,482	5	\$175,534	6	\$165,000	6	128.59	\$128,315	29
New Mexico	\$123,691	45	\$117,506	38	\$111,631	48	98.95	\$112,815	41
New York	\$151,200	22	\$144,000	18	\$136,700	21	126.33	\$108,211	46
North Carolina	\$137,249	36	\$131,531	31	\$124,382	37	97.10	\$128,101	30
North Dakota	\$130,228	42			\$119,330	43	95.97	\$124,337	34
Ohio	\$141,600	33	\$132,000	30	\$121,350	40	93.90	\$129,231	28
Oklahoma	\$137,655	35	\$130,410	33	\$124,373	38	90.15	\$137,964	20
Oregon	\$125,688	44	\$122,820	36	\$114,468	45	105.37	\$108,633	45
Pennsylvania	\$189,620	3	\$178,914	3	\$164,602	7	100.62	\$163,581	4
Rhode Island	\$160,899	18			\$144,861	15	123.33	\$117,459	39
South Carolina	\$137,171	37	\$133,741	29	\$130,312	29	98.77	\$131,934	23
South Dakota	\$118,173	49			\$110,377	49	98.54	\$112,012	44
Tennessee	\$165,336	12	\$159,840	9	\$154,320	10	89.54	\$172,343	2
Texas	\$150,000	24	\$137,500	24	\$132,500	26	91.08	\$145,481	11
Utah	\$145,350	29	\$138,750	22	\$132,150	27	95.22	\$138,788	19
Vermont	\$129,245	43			\$122,867	39	120.48	\$101,984	49
Virginia	\$183,839	8	\$168,322	7	\$158,134	9	97.73	\$161,807	6
Washington	\$164,221	14	\$156,328	10	\$148,832	12	104.04	\$143,051	15
West Virginia	\$121,000	46			\$116,000	44	94.49	\$122,771	36
Wisconsin	\$144,495	31	\$136,316	25	\$128,600	32	98.00	\$131,229	27
Wyoming	\$131,500	41			\$125,200	35	98.74	\$126,802	32
Mean	\$151,616		\$146,508		\$136,268				
Median	\$146,917		\$140,732		\$132,500				
Range	\$112,530 to \$218,237		\$105,050 to \$204,599		\$104,170 to \$178,835				

### Using the ACCRA Cost-of-Living Index

The Council for Community and Economic Research—C2ER (formerly the ACCRA organization)—is the most widely accepted U.S. source for cost-of-living indices, with nearly 400 reporting jurisdictions across America. The cost-of-living indices used in this report were developed by examining the average costs of goods and services for the latest four running fiscal quarters. The factors reflect an average of the reporting jurisdictions in a particular state (i.e., the cost-of-living-index for Virginia is the average of the cost-of-living indices for each of the nine reporting jurisdictions in Virginia). More detailed information can be found at [www.accra.org](http://www.accra.org) or [www.c2er.org](http://www.c2er.org).

## Salaries and Rankings for Appellate and General-Jurisdiction Judges - Listed in Order of State Rank

The tables below list the salaries for associate justices of the courts of last resort, associate judges of intermediate appellate courts, and judges of general jurisdiction trial courts (actual salaries and cost-of-living-adjusted salaries) as of January 1, 2011. Where possible, the salary figures are actual salaries. In jurisdictions where some judges receive supplements, the figures are the most representative available—either the base salary, the midpoint of a range between the lowest and highest supplemented salaries, or the median. The listings are in rank order from highest to lowest salary. The mean, median, and salary range for each of the positions are also shown.

Highest Court		Intermediate Appellate Court		General-Jurisdiction Trial Court			
				Salary	Adjusted for Cost of Living		
California	\$218,237	California	\$204,599	Illinois	\$178,835	Illinois	\$186,011
Illinois	\$207,066	Illinois	\$194,888	California	\$178,789	Tennessee	\$172,343
Pennsylvania	\$189,620	Pennsylvania	\$178,914	Alaska	\$174,396	Delaware	\$164,794
Alaska	\$188,604	Alabama	\$178,878	District of Columbia	\$174,000	Pennsylvania	\$163,581
New Jersey	\$185,482	Alaska	\$178,188	Delaware	\$168,850	Georgia	\$162,425
Delaware	\$185,050	New Jersey	\$175,534	New Jersey	\$165,000	Virginia	\$161,807
District of Columbia	\$184,500	Virginia	\$168,322	Pennsylvania	\$164,602	Nevada	\$157,696
Virginia	\$183,839	Georgia	\$166,186	Nevada	\$160,000	Arkansas	\$150,287
Alabama	\$180,005	Tennessee	\$159,840	Virginia	\$158,134	Michigan	\$149,235
Nevada	\$170,000	Washington	\$156,328	Tennessee	\$154,320	Iowa	\$146,400
Georgia	\$167,210	Connecticut	\$152,637	Georgia	\$149,873	Texas	\$145,481
Tennessee	\$165,336	Michigan	\$151,441	Washington	\$148,832	Alabama	\$145,426
Michigan	\$164,610	Florida	\$150,077	Connecticut	\$146,780	Nebraska	\$144,876
Washington	\$164,221	Arizona	\$150,000	Arizona	\$145,000	Florida	\$144,271
Iowa	\$163,200	Maryland	\$149,552	Rhode Island	\$144,861	Washington	\$143,051
Connecticut	\$162,520	Iowa	\$147,900	Florida	\$142,178	Louisiana	\$141,510
Maryland	\$162,352	Indiana	\$147,103	Maryland	\$140,352	Arizona	\$139,676
Rhode Island	\$160,899	New York	\$144,000	Michigan	\$139,919	Kentucky	\$139,633
Florida	\$157,976	Louisiana	\$142,477	New Hampshire	\$137,804	Utah	\$138,788
Arizona	\$155,000	Arkansas	\$140,732	Iowa	\$137,700	Oklahoma	\$137,964
Indiana	\$151,328	Hawaii	\$139,924	New York	\$136,700	Indiana	\$135,164
New York	\$151,200	Utah	\$138,750	Louisiana	\$136,544	California	\$134,742
Hawaii	\$151,118	Minnesota	\$137,552	Arkansas	\$136,257	South Carolina	\$131,934
Texas	\$150,000	Texas	\$137,500	Hawaii	\$136,127	Alaska	\$131,370
Louisiana	\$149,572	Wisconsin	\$136,316	Alabama	\$134,943	Missouri	\$131,366
New Hampshire	\$146,917	Nebraska	\$135,622	Texas	\$132,500	Kansas	\$131,363
Massachusetts	\$145,984	Massachusetts	\$135,087	Utah	\$132,150	Wisconsin	\$131,229
Minnesota	\$145,981	Colorado	\$134,128	Nebraska	\$132,053	Ohio	\$129,231
Utah	\$145,350	South Carolina	\$133,741	South Carolina	\$130,312	New Jersey	\$128,315
Arkansas	\$145,204	Ohio	\$132,000	Massachusetts	\$129,694	North Carolina	\$128,101
Wisconsin	\$144,495	North Carolina	\$131,531	Minnesota	\$129,124	Colorado	\$127,714
Nebraska	\$142,760	Kansas	\$131,518	Wisconsin	\$128,600	Wyoming	\$126,802
Ohio	\$141,600	Oklahoma	\$130,410	Colorado	\$128,598	Minnesota	\$126,223
Colorado	\$139,660	Kentucky	\$130,044	Indiana	\$125,647	North Dakota	\$124,337
Oklahoma	\$137,655	Missouri	\$128,207	Wyoming	\$125,200	District of Columbia	\$124,206
North Carolina	\$137,249	Oregon	\$122,820	Kentucky	\$124,620	West Virginia	\$122,771
South Carolina	\$137,171	Idaho	\$118,506	North Carolina	\$124,382	Idaho	\$120,315
Missouri	\$137,034	New Mexico	\$117,506	Oklahoma	\$124,373	New Hampshire	\$118,031
Kansas	\$135,905	Mississippi	\$105,050	Vermont	\$122,867	Rhode Island	\$117,459
Kentucky	\$135,504			Ohio	\$121,350	Mississippi	\$112,862
Wyoming	\$131,500			Missouri	\$120,484	New Mexico	\$112,815
North Dakota	\$130,228			Kansas	\$120,037	Connecticut	\$112,671
Vermont	\$129,245			North Dakota	\$119,330	Maryland	\$112,336
Oregon	\$125,688			West Virginia	\$116,000	South Dakota	\$112,012
New Mexico	\$123,691			Oregon	\$114,468	Oregon	\$108,633
West Virginia	\$121,000			Idaho	\$112,043	New York	\$108,211
Idaho	\$119,506			Maine	\$111,969	Massachusetts	\$107,880
Maine	\$119,476			New Mexico	\$111,631	Montana	\$106,791
South Dakota	\$118,173			South Dakota	\$110,377	Vermont	\$101,984
Montana	\$113,964			Montana	\$106,870	Maine	\$96,091
Mississippi	\$112,530			Mississippi	\$104,170	Hawaii	\$82,134
<b>Mean</b>	\$151,462		\$146,508		\$136,268		\$131,968
<b>Median</b>	\$146,917		\$140,732		\$132,500		\$131,363
<b>Range</b>	\$112,530 to \$218,237	\$105,050 to \$204,599		\$104,170 to \$178,835		\$82,134 to \$186,011	

Information in this Survey is collected from designated representatives in each state. The National Center for State Courts has protocols in place to help ensure the accuracy of the data that is collected, analyzed and ultimately reported.

## National Center for State Courts

The National Center for State Courts is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the modernization of court operations and the improvement of justice at the state and local levels throughout the country. It functions as an extension of the state court systems, working for them at their direction and providing for them an effective voice in matters of national importance.

The National Center acts as a focal point for state judicial reform and provides the means for reinvesting in the all states the profits gained from judicial advances in any state. Funding for this Survey is made possible by assessments from all the states and territories and by individual contributions.

Points of view are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Center for State Courts. If you have questions or comments regarding this *Survey*, contact the National Center for State Courts, Knowledge and Information Services, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185, (800) 616-6164, fax (757) 564-2075.

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