

UC Davis Physics Professor Salaries

May 2020

All California public employee salaries have been made public and records are available since 2011. The most recent data is from 2018¹². We have collected this data and present it here.

1 Pay Gradient

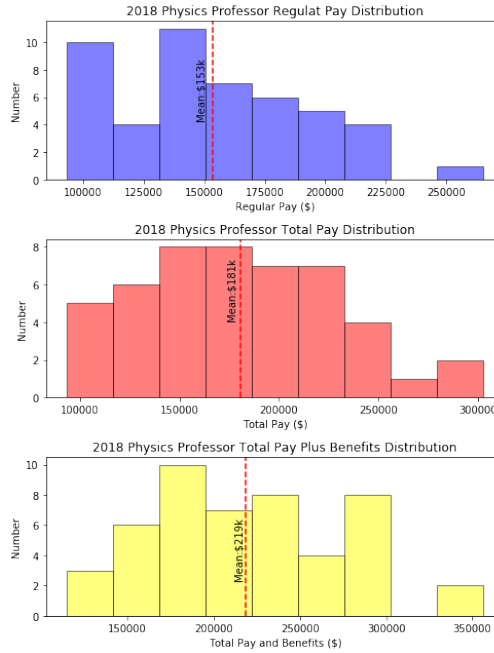


Figure 1: Pay distribution of UC Davis Physics Professors

Here regular pay is the base pay of the professor. Total pay is that pay plus any overtime or bonuses. Benefits add the value of additional perks such as healthcare. From now on we will use regular pay as our metric of comparison. We have not included emeritus professors in this document.

Davis Physics professors earn between \$93,225 and \$265,213. The highest paid UC Davis physics professor is the 4,060th highest paid UC employee and the 436th highest paid employee at UC Davis.

For some perspective, the UC President, Janet Napolitano makes \$570,000 regular pay and is the 491st highest paid person in the UC and would be the 34th highest paid

¹<https://publicpay.ca.gov/>

²<https://transparentcalifornia.com/>

employee at UC Davis. Gary May, the Chancellor of UC Davis earns \$500,250 he is the 753rd highest paid UC employee and 54th highest paid employee at UC Davis.

The top four highest paid public employees in California are all UC coaches earning from \$2.7-\$3.3 million. The top paid employee at UC Davis is the CEO of the Medical Center who earns \$1,025,994.

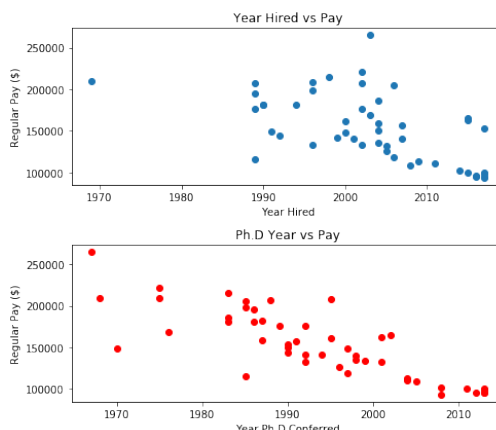


Figure 2: Pay vs year hired and year Ph.D conferred

There is a much stronger correlation between the year a person earns their Ph.D and their salary as opposed to the year they were hired. This is likely because different professors are hired at different levels with differing amounts of experience. Note that the highest paid professor is also the first to earn their Ph.D and is not specifically an outlier to a linear trend.

2 Theory vs Experiment

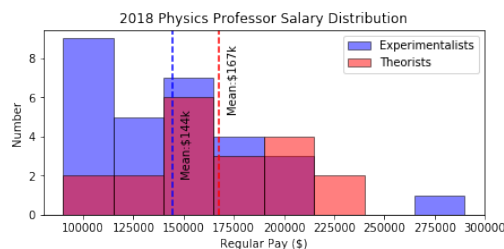


Figure 3: Distribution of pay for theorists and experimentalists

Theorists seem to tend to have higher pay, but this trend disappears if you factor in the year each professor earned their Ph.D.

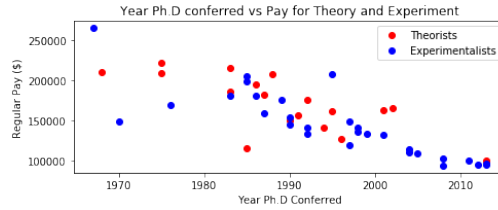


Figure 4: Distribution of pay for theorists and experimentalists by year in which their Ph.Ds were conferred

3 Sub-Departments

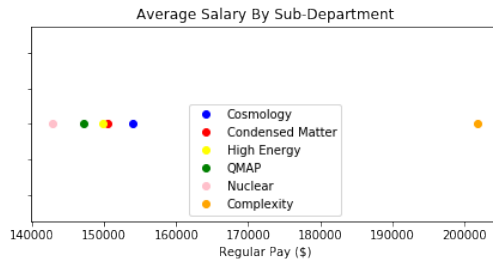


Figure 5: Mean pay for each sub-department

We do not show the entire distribution for each sub-department as it is too difficult to visually parse on the same graph. Here we see that most of the averages are fairly well clumped around \$145,000, with complexity being an outlier. If you consider year Ph.D conferred, the complexity professors are not really outliers. However, there are a number of nuclear professors who make less than the average, and older condensed matter professors make below the expected amount for their Ph.D year. This however can be accounted for by the fact that both these professors had had their salaries decrease in recent years. One of them became emeritus this year and the other sadly passed away.

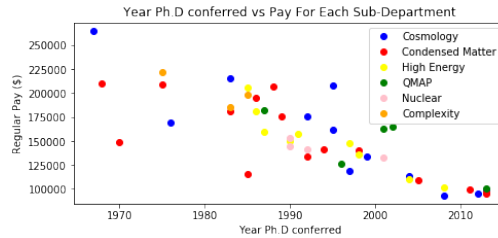


Figure 6: Pay vs year Ph.D conferred for each sub-department

4 Gender

There are significantly fewer female than male physics professors. In the general distribution we attempt to account for this by also displaying the normalized distribution that would exist if there were the same number of women as men. From this distribution it

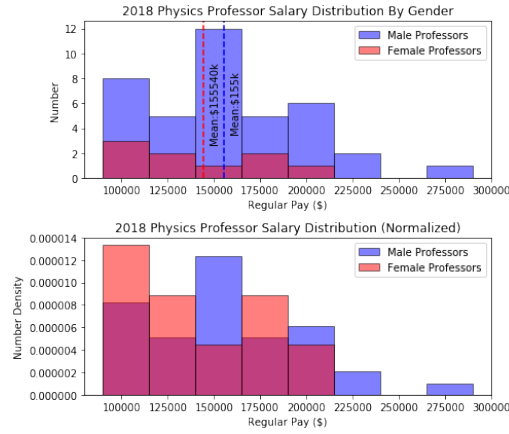


Figure 7: Pay Distribution by Gender

would seem that women make less than men. However, the female professors on average also received their Ph.Ds more recently than their male coworkers. If you account for this the trend vanishes in the noise.

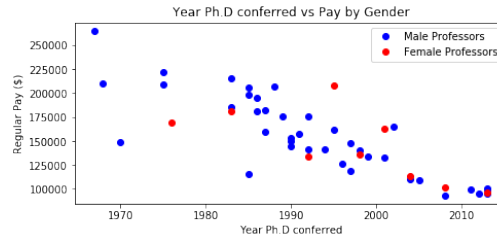


Figure 8: Pay vs year Ph.D conferred by gender