



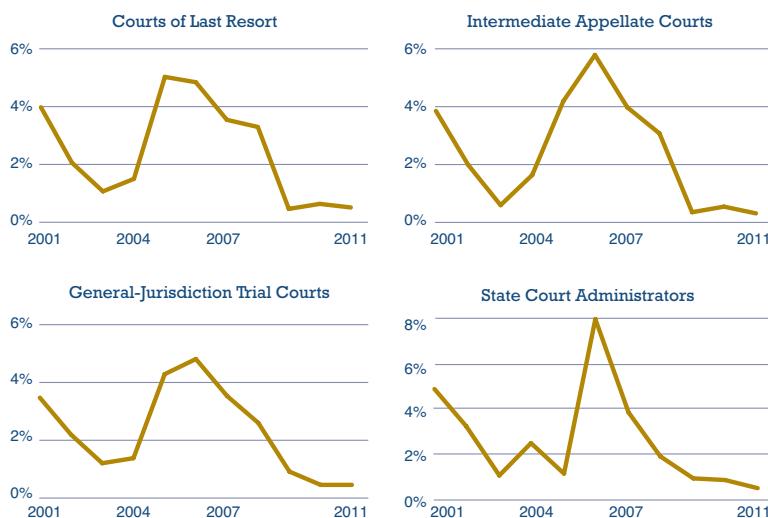
# Judicial Salaries

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 July 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 compensation.

*It could be 5 to 10 years before annual increases in judicial salaries return to their long-term averages.*

### 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 July 1, 2011, the annual percent increases in salaries for the Courts of Last Resort and the Intermediate Appellate Courts are lower than in 2010, up .49% and .18%, respectively. For General Jurisdiction Judges, the annual percent increase in salaries stayed the same in the first half of 2011 as compared to 2010. For the State Court Administrators, the percent increase in salaries during the first half of 2011 dipped to a mere .45%. The average annual increase for all positions for the first six months of 2011 was just .43%. Given the nation's extreme debt crisis and sluggish economic recovery, the near zero average increase in salaries is not surprising. Unfortunately, inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index appears to be on the rise. The annual 2011 inflation rate (with actual data

through September of 2011) is forecast to be 3.9%, more than double the 2010 rate of 1.6%. With judicial salary increases being less than the rate of inflation, purchasing power, on average, will be even lower for those employed by state judiciaries.

### Judicial Salaries at a Glance

The average annual percent changes for the five judicial positions below increased .43% for the first half of 2011. 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 was impacted in the vast economic recession. The 2011 average increase of .43% continues the downward trend. The impact of the sluggish economic recovery on tax revenue and on state budgets is anticipated to level off, or possibly worsen, before substantial improvement is seen. The following table summarizes current salaries for the major judicial positions.

	Mean	Median	Range	Average Annual % Change				
				Pre-Recession				
				2003-07	2008-09	2010	2011	
Chief, Highest Court	\$157,528	\$153,295	\$115,390 to \$228,856	3.19%	1.58%	0.72%	0.48%	
Associate Justice, Court of Last Resort	\$152,360	\$146,917	\$112,530 to \$218,237	3.21%	1.88%	0.62%	0.49%	
Judge, Intermediate Appellate Courts	\$146,769	\$140,732	\$105,050 to \$204,599	3.20%	1.60%	0.46%	0.18%	
Judge, General-Jurisdiction Trial Courts	\$136,875	\$132,500	\$104,170 to \$180,802	3.30%	1.91%	0.52%	0.45%	
State Court Administrators	\$135,889	\$130,410	\$76,500 to \$211,272	3.30%	1.38%	0.84%	0.45%	
				<b>Average</b>	3.24%	1.67%	0.63%	0.43%

## 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 July 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	Adjusted for Cost of Living				
					Salary	Rank	Adjustment Factor	Adjusted Salary	Adjusted Rank
Alabama	\$180,005	9	\$178,878	5	\$134,943	25	92.96	\$145,162	12
Alaska	\$192,372	3	\$181,752	3	\$177,888	3	132.88	\$133,875	23
Arizona	\$155,000	20	\$150,000	14	\$145,000	15	103.64	\$139,902	18
Arkansas	\$145,204	30	\$140,732	20	\$136,257	23	90.55	\$150,474	8
California	\$218,237	1	\$204,599	1	\$178,789	2	131.97	\$135,475	22
Colorado	\$139,660	34	\$134,128	28	\$128,598	33	102.04	\$126,032	33
Connecticut	\$162,520	17	\$152,637	11	\$146,780	14	132.57	\$110,722	45
Delaware	\$185,050	6			\$168,850	5	104.84	\$161,056	6
District of Columbia	\$184,500	7			\$174,000	4	142.27	\$122,301	36
Florida	\$157,976	19	\$150,077	13	\$142,178	16	98.04	\$145,022	13
Georgia	\$167,210	12	\$166,186	8	\$149,873	11	92.68	\$161,715	5
Hawaii	\$151,118	23	\$139,924	21	\$136,127	24	168.04	\$81,010	51
Idaho	\$119,506	48	\$118,506	37	\$112,043	47	93.50	\$119,828	37
Illinois	\$209,344	2	\$197,032	2	\$180,802	1	95.43	\$189,456	1
Indiana	\$153,295	21	\$149,015	16	\$127,280	34	92.25	\$137,979	19
Iowa	\$163,200	16	\$147,900	17	\$137,700	20	94.67	\$145,449	11
Kansas	\$135,905	40	\$131,518	32	\$120,037	43	91.80	\$130,764	27
Kentucky	\$135,504	41	\$130,044	34	\$124,620	37	90.51	\$137,681	20
Louisiana	\$149,572	25	\$142,477	19	\$136,544	22	95.49	\$142,999	15
Maine	\$119,476	49			\$111,969	48	114.14	\$98,095	50
Maryland	\$162,352	18	\$149,552	15	\$140,352	17	124.54	\$112,692	43
Massachusetts	\$145,984	27	\$135,087	27	\$129,694	30	121.93	\$106,370	47
Michigan	\$164,610	14	\$151,441	12	\$139,919	18	94.16	\$148,590	9
Minnesota	\$145,981	28	\$137,552	23	\$129,124	31	102.89	\$125,495	34
Mississippi	\$112,530	51	\$105,050	39	\$104,170	51	92.34	\$112,813	42
Missouri	\$137,034	38	\$128,207	35	\$120,484	42	92.14	\$130,755	28
Montana	\$121,434	47			\$113,928	46	99.88	\$114,068	40
Nebraska	\$142,760	32	\$135,622	26	\$132,053	28	92.05	\$143,463	14
Nevada	\$170,000	10			\$160,000	8	99.51	\$160,788	7
New Hampshire	\$146,917	26			\$137,804	19	118.22	\$116,562	39
New Jersey	\$185,482	5	\$175,534	6	\$165,000	6	130.17	\$126,759	31
New Mexico	\$123,691	46	\$117,506	38	\$111,631	49	98.47	\$113,360	41
New York	\$151,200	22	\$144,000	18	\$136,700	21	128.66	\$106,252	48
North Carolina	\$137,249	36	\$131,531	31	\$124,382	38	97.06	\$128,145	30
North Dakota	\$130,228	43			\$119,330	44	96.84	\$123,221	35
Ohio	\$141,600	33	\$132,000	30	\$121,350	41	93.96	\$129,145	29
Oklahoma	\$137,655	35	\$130,410	33	\$124,373	39	90.41	\$137,568	21
Oregon	\$125,688	45	\$122,820	36	\$114,468	45	107.27	\$106,708	46
Pennsylvania	\$189,620	4	\$178,914	4	\$164,602	7	101.33	\$162,442	3
Rhode Island	\$165,726	13			\$149,207	12	125.06	\$119,308	38
South Carolina	\$137,171	37	\$133,741	29	\$130,312	29	98.53	\$132,263	25
South Dakota	\$118,173	50			\$110,377	50	99.10	\$111,381	44
Tennessee	\$167,976	11	\$162,396	9	\$156,792	10	90.21	\$173,807	2
Texas	\$150,000	24	\$137,500	24	\$132,500	26	90.64	\$146,188	10
Utah	\$145,350	29	\$138,750	22	\$132,150	27	93.46	\$141,395	17
Vermont	\$129,245	44			\$122,867	40	121.77	\$100,904	49
Virginia	\$183,839	8	\$168,322	7	\$158,134	9	97.42	\$162,319	4
Washington	\$164,221	15	\$156,328	10	\$148,832	13	104.14	\$142,921	16
West Virginia	\$136,000	39			\$126,000	35	94.75	\$132,984	24
Wisconsin	\$144,495	31	\$136,316	25	\$128,600	32	97.95	\$131,294	26
Wyoming	\$131,500	42			\$125,200	36	98.81	\$126,710	32
Mean	\$152,360		\$146,769		\$136,875				
Median	\$146,917		\$140,732		\$132,500				
Range	\$112,530 to \$218,237		\$105,050 to \$204,599		\$104,170 to \$180,802				

### 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 July 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	\$180,802	Illinois	\$189,456
Illinois	\$209,344	Illinois	\$197,032	California	\$178,789	Tennessee	\$173,807
Alaska	\$192,372	Alaska	\$181,752	Alaska	\$177,888	Pennsylvania	\$162,442
Pennsylvania	\$189,620	Pennsylvania	\$178,914	District of Columbia	\$174,000	Virginia	\$162,319
New Jersey	\$185,482	Alabama	\$178,878	Delaware	\$168,850	Georgia	\$161,715
Delaware	\$185,050	New Jersey	\$175,534	New Jersey	\$165,000	Delaware	\$161,056
District of Columbia	\$184,500	Virginia	\$168,322	Pennsylvania	\$164,602	Nevada	\$160,788
Virginia	\$183,839	Georgia	\$166,186	Nevada	\$160,000	Arkansas	\$150,474
Alabama	\$180,005	Tennessee	\$162,396	Virginia	\$158,134	Michigan	\$148,590
Nevada	\$170,000	Washington	\$156,328	Tennessee	\$156,792	Texas	\$146,188
Tennessee	\$167,976	Connecticut	\$152,637	Georgia	\$149,873	Iowa	\$145,449
Georgia	\$167,210	Michigan	\$151,441	Rhode Island	\$149,207	Alabama	\$145,162
Rhode Island	\$165,726	Florida	\$150,077	Washington	\$148,832	Florida	\$145,022
Michigan	\$164,610	Arizona	\$150,000	Connecticut	\$146,780	Nebraska	\$143,463
Washington	\$164,221	Maryland	\$149,552	Arizona	\$145,000	Louisiana	\$142,999
Iowa	\$163,200	Indiana	\$149,015	Florida	\$142,178	Washington	\$142,921
Connecticut	\$162,520	Iowa	\$147,900	Maryland	\$140,352	Utah	\$141,395
Maryland	\$162,352	New York	\$144,000	Michigan	\$139,919	Arizona	\$139,902
Florida	\$157,976	Louisiana	\$142,477	New Hampshire	\$137,804	Indiana	\$137,979
Arizona	\$155,000	Arkansas	\$140,732	Iowa	\$137,700	Kentucky	\$137,681
Indiana	\$153,295	Hawaii	\$139,924	New York	\$136,700	Oklahoma	\$137,568
New York	\$151,200	Utah	\$138,750	Louisiana	\$136,544	California	\$135,475
Hawaii	\$151,118	Minnesota	\$137,552	Arkansas	\$136,257	Alaska	\$133,875
Texas	\$150,000	Texas	\$137,500	Hawaii	\$136,127	West Virginia	\$132,984
Louisiana	\$149,572	Wisconsin	\$136,316	Alabama	\$134,943	South Carolina	\$132,263
New Hampshire	\$146,917	Nebraska	\$135,622	Texas	\$132,500	Wisconsin	\$131,294
Massachusetts	\$145,984	Massachusetts	\$135,087	Utah	\$132,150	Kansas	\$130,764
Minnesota	\$145,981	Colorado	\$134,128	Nebraska	\$132,053	Missouri	\$130,755
Utah	\$145,350	South Carolina	\$133,741	South Carolina	\$130,312	Ohio	\$129,145
Arkansas	\$145,204	Ohio	\$132,000	Massachusetts	\$129,694	North Carolina	\$128,145
Wisconsin	\$144,495	North Carolina	\$131,531	Minnesota	\$129,124	New Jersey	\$126,759
Nebraska	\$142,760	Kansas	\$131,518	Wisconsin	\$128,600	Wyoming	\$126,710
Ohio	\$141,600	Oklahoma	\$130,410	Colorado	\$128,598	Colorado	\$126,032
Colorado	\$139,660	Kentucky	\$130,044	Indiana	\$127,280	Minnesota	\$125,495
Oklahoma	\$137,655	Missouri	\$128,207	West Virginia	\$126,000	North Dakota	\$123,221
North Carolina	\$137,249	Oregon	\$122,820	Wyoming	\$125,200	District of Columbia	\$122,301
South Carolina	\$137,171	Idaho	\$118,506	Kentucky	\$124,620	Idaho	\$119,828
Missouri	\$137,034	New Mexico	\$117,506	North Carolina	\$124,382	Rhode Island	\$119,308
West Virginia	\$136,000	Mississippi	\$105,050	Oklahoma	\$124,373	New Hampshire	\$116,562
Kansas	\$135,905			Vermont	\$122,867	Montana	\$114,068
Kentucky	\$135,504			Ohio	\$121,350	New Mexico	\$113,360
Wyoming	\$131,500			Missouri	\$120,484	Mississippi	\$112,813
North Dakota	\$130,228			Kansas	\$120,037	Maryland	\$112,692
Vermont	\$129,245			North Dakota	\$119,330	South Dakota	\$111,381
Oregon	\$125,688			Oregon	\$114,468	Connecticut	\$110,722
New Mexico	\$123,691			Montana	\$113,928	Oregon	\$106,708
Montana	\$121,434			Idaho	\$112,043	Massachusetts	\$106,370
Idaho	\$119,506			Maine	\$111,969	New York	\$106,252
Maine	\$119,476			New Mexico	\$111,631	Vermont	\$100,904
South Dakota	\$118,173			South Dakota	\$110,377	Maine	\$98,095
Mississippi	\$112,530			Mississippi	\$104,170	Hawaii	\$81,010
<b>Mean</b>	\$152,360		\$146,769		\$136,875		\$132,189
<b>Median</b>	\$146,917		\$140,732		\$132,500		\$131,294
<b>Range</b>	\$112,530 to \$218,237	\$105,050 to \$204,599		\$104,170 to \$180,802		\$81,010 to \$189,456	


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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# JUDICIAL SALARY TRACKER

Introducing an interactive interface that presents judicial salary data in easily understood visual displays.

*What salaries are required to keep pace with inflation?*

*How do your state's salaries compare when adjusted for cost of living?*

