

Facts & Figures

Veterinary income per hour, 1997

- Mean veterinary income per hour was \$23.89 for private practitioners and \$30.51 for public or corporate veterinarians.
- Mean yearly income was \$80,841 for private practice owners and \$50,333 for private practice associates.

From a mail survey conducted by the AVMA, data¹ were obtained on veterinarians' 1997 individual gross incomes from professional veterinary medical activity and the number of income-producing hours worked in a week. Income per hour is reported here to elucidate the relationship between earned income and

hours worked for veterinarians in each type of private practice or public/corporate positions.

Private Practice

For veterinarians in private practice, mean hours worked per week was 49.4, ranging from 47.2 hours for small animal exclusive practitioners to 59.3 hours for equine practitioners (Fig 1). Estimated on the basis of the assumption that veterinarians work 50 wk/y, mean veterinary income per hour for private practitioners was \$23.89. Income per hour ranged from \$21.43 for other practice types to \$27.97 for large animal exclusive practitioners (Table 1).

Overall, mean yearly income was \$80,841 for practice owners and \$50,333 for associates. Comparison of mean hours worked per week revealed that private practice owners and associates work almost the same number of hours (Table 1). Mean income per hour for practice owners ranged from \$24.66 for large animal predominant practitioners to \$33.98 for equine practitioners (Fig 2). Mean income per hour for associate veterinarians in practice ranged from \$16.15 for mixed animal associates to \$20.63 for large animal exclusive associates.

Mean annual incomes of private practice owners and associates were analyzed according to hours worked per week (Table 2). For owners in large animal and mixed animal practices, income peaked when practitioners worked 60 to 69 h/wk. In small animal practices, peak income was generated when owners worked 50 to

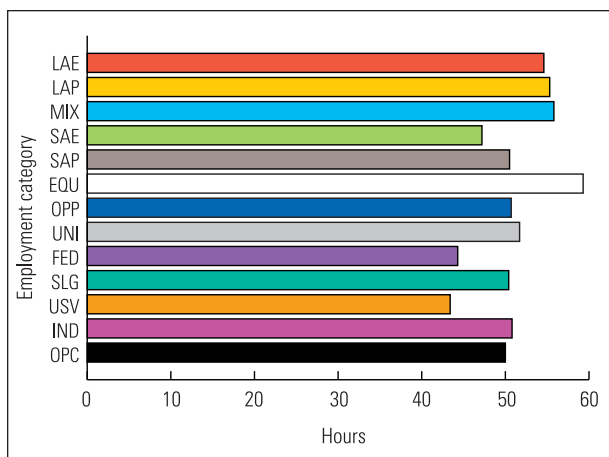


Figure 1—Mean number of hours worked per week by US veterinarians. LAE = Large animal exclusive. LAP = Large animal predominant. MIX = Mixed animal. SAE = Small animal exclusive. SAP = Small animal predominant. EQU = Equine. OPP = Other private practice. UNI = College/university. FED = Federal government. SLG = State/local government. USV = Uniformed services. IND = Industry. OPC = Other public/corporate.

Table 1—Mean annual income (\$) for US veterinarians, 1997

Employment status and income	Private practice veterinarians							All private practices
	Large animal exclusive	Large animal predominant	Mixed animal	Small animal exclusive	Small animal predominant	Equine	Other	
All private practice veterinarians								
Mean income	76,360	61,087	59,076	67,562	61,856	76,089	58,512	65,208
Mean income per hour	27.97	22.38	21.64	24.75	22.66	27.87	21.43	23.89
Practice owners								
Mean income	85,817	67,321	68,459	89,619	68,501	92,777	62,948	80,841
Mean hours worked per week	54.4	55.4	56.4	49.5	51.2	58.6	50.1	51.6
Practice associates								
Mean income	56,321	46,932	44,092	51,716	50,325	52,443	51,611	50,333
Mean hours worked per week	54.9	55.1	55.2	45.4	49.2	60.8	51.8	47.7
	Public/corporate veterinarians							
Income	College or university	Federal government	State or local government	Uniformed services	Industry	Other	All public/corporate	
Mean income	75,984	68,153	65,294	60,097	109,941	72,650	76,275	
Mean income per hour	29.39	30.77	25.91	27.69	43.28	29.06	30.51	

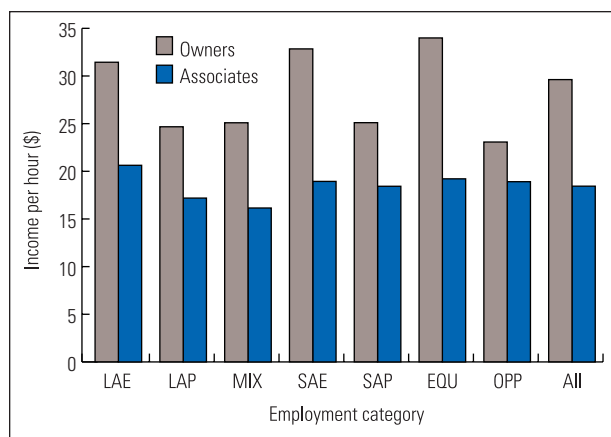


Figure 2—Mean income per hour for private practice owners and associates. See Figure 1 for key.

59 h/wk. In equine practices, the greater number of hours worked per week, the higher the mean net income. Those individuals working ≥ 80 h/wk had the highest mean income for this practice type.

For associates in mixed animal and small animal exclusive practices, incomes were fairly stable, ranging from \$43,240 to \$45,500 and \$51,029 to \$52,938, respectively. For associates working in large animal exclusive and equine practices, the greater the number of hours worked, the higher the mean income (Table 3).

Public or Corporate Veterinarians

For veterinarians working in the public/corporate sector, mean number of hours worked per week was 50.0, ranging from 43.4 hours in the uniformed services to 51.7 hours for veterinarians working at a college or university (Fig 1). Assuming a working year of 50 weeks, mean income per hour for veterinarians in this sector was \$30.51. Income per hour ranged from \$25.91 for state or local government veterinarians to \$43.28 for industry veterinarians (Table 1).

Results indicated that the more hours industry veterinarians worked per week, the higher their mean net income; individuals working 70 h/wk or more had the highest mean income in this sector (Table 4). For all other areas of public/corporate employment, income increased in association with hours worked to a certain level, after which mean income decreased, although the number of hours worked increased. Mean income for federal government, uniformed services, and other veterinarians peaked between 50 and 59 hours worked per week. College/university and state/local veterinarians' mean income peaked between 60 and 69 hours worked per week.

Reference

1. Centers for Information Management. *Economic report on veterinarians and veterinary practices*. Schaumburg, Ill: AVMA, 1999.

From the AVMA Division of Membership and Field Services—Statistical Research Group; J. Karl Wise, PhD, Director; Claire-Louise Adams, MSc, Research Analyst.

Table 2—Mean annual income (\$) by hours worked per week for private practice owners

Hours	Large animal exclusive	Large animal predominant	Mixed animal	Small animal exclusive	Small animal predominant	Equine
30 to 39	58,108	*	*	82,819	58,994	44,236
40 to 49	99,969	56,172	52,468	82,309	67,585	83,125
50 to 59	80,908	68,890	71,766	98,870	77,345	80,899
60 to 69	94,257	71,353	78,043	83,791	58,311	100,003
70 to 79	80,523	*	65,510	*	*	109,620
≥ 80	*	*	*	*	67,934	118,091

* No. of usable responses (≤ 5) too small for reliable estimation.

Table 3—Mean annual income (\$) by hours worked per week for private practice associates

Hours	Large animal exclusive	Large animal predominant	Mixed animal	Small animal exclusive	Small animal predominant	Equine	Other
30 to 39	*	*	*	51,118	40,000	*	*
40 to 49	49,833	49,375	45,455	51,267	48,583	*	*
50 to 59	51,625	44,300	43,240	52,938	55,227	41,974	43,500
60 to 69	62,800	50,833	44,038	51,029	48,833	58,432	*
70 to 79	*	*	45,500	*	*	56,750	*
≥ 80	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* No. of usable responses (≤ 5) too small for reliable estimation.

Table 4—Mean annual income (\$) by hours worked per week for public or corporate veterinarians

Hours	College or university	Federal government government	State/local	Uniformed services	Industry	Other
30 to 39	47,875	*	*	63,654	56,125	41,227
40 to 49	72,980	64,900	63,891	59,354	93,428	68,560
50 to 59	79,698	85,475	64,717	66,820	115,221	88,214
60 to 69	79,927	*	70,180	55,500	129,469	77,929
≥ 70	52,333	*	69,688	*	146,529	*

* No. of usable responses (≤ 5) too small for reliable estimation.