



**For Immediate Release  
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## **SECURITY CLEARANCE JOBS SALARY SURVEY SHOWS FURTHER WAGE INCREASES FOR SECURITY-CLEARED CANDIDATES**

*New Jersey Boasts Highest Salary Increases; Candidates Dissatisfied Despite Increases*

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – (March 20, 2007) – ClearanceJobs.com, the leading Internet-based job board for professionals with U.S. government security clearances, today announced the results of its third Security Clearance Jobs Salary Survey. According to the nationwide study, average salaries of security-cleared professionals rose 1 percent to \$68,139. The survey indicates a widening of the already large wage gap between similarly skilled cleared and uncleared candidates to a difference of approximately 25 percent.

Other key findings of the survey include:

- Among the 10 highest paid locations, salaries for security clearance jobs in New Jersey increased 7.7 percent to \$74,756 since the last survey was published in October 2006; statewide salaries in Maryland dropped nearly 5.6 percent to \$74,292
- In metro Washington, D.C., top paying locations are split between Arlington and Fairfax counties, with Fairfax clearance jobs paying higher
- Professionals with clearances issued by the Department of Energy command higher salaries than professionals cleared by the Department of Defense or other federal agencies
- Candidates who have passed polygraph tests earn approximately \$10,300 more a year than candidates without one
- Security-cleared women closed the gender gap by an additional 1 percent since last surveyed
- Despite high wages, the majority of polled candidates with clearances were not satisfied with their present salaries

“Security-cleared candidates continue to be in short supply – particularly at top levels and in fields that are highly specialized. Salary growth to attract and retain these individuals has remained strong over the past quarter,” said Evan Lesser, director and founder of ClearanceJobs.com. “The market is also seeing movement in terms of metro areas with the highest paying security clearance jobs. Since the last survey, statewide salaries in Maryland fell from the second highest position to the sixth. However, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. showed strong gains, both moving up on the Top 10 list.”

With the inclusion of the Pentagon, Arlington County has the highest concentration of security clearance jobs nationwide. However, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions could force thousands of defense industry jobs to leave Washington, D.C. and Arlington for suburban communities over the coming years. The impact this issue will have on salaries in the area is unforeseen, but ClearanceJobs.com will continue to track this data.

Candidates with security clearances issued by the Department of Energy typically earned 12.7 percent more than their counterparts with National Security Agency (NSA) or CIA-issued clearances. This gap stems from the fact that there are fewer DOE-cleared candidates in the labor market, and they tend to have specialized and unique skill sets from valuable scientific and research backgrounds. Nationwide, candidates with lower-level Confidential level clearances saw the greatest overall salary gains since the last edition of the survey with an 8 percent increase to \$56,522.

Passing a Counterintelligence or Lifestyle polygraph significantly differentiates earnings potential among cleared professionals. Of the approximately 20 percent of all security-cleared candidates who have passed either polygraph, most earn about \$10,300 more per year than candidates who have not.

The survey also found that cleared women working in the U.S. defense industry are continuing to close the salary gender gap. Security-cleared women earn approximately 0.89 cents for every dollar that cleared men earn. In comparison, uncleared women make 0.77 cents to every dollar of uncleared men. This reflects a 1 percent change in the salary gender gap in favor of women since last surveyed.

“The data indicates that security clearances have a slight leveling effect on the salary gender gap,” said Lesser. “In an industry where demand is high and cleared candidates are in short supply, we expect to see more comparable wages between the genders over time.”

Finally, despite earning 20 percent higher salaries than their non-cleared counterparts, almost 60 percent of polled candidates with clearances were not satisfied with their present salaries. The dissatisfaction can be primarily attributed to earnings disparagement between similarly skilled cleared and non-cleared counterparts, salaries that are disproportionate to high costs of living, and better salaries among government employees rather than contractors.

Users can visit <http://clearanceJobs.com/salary> for the full survey results, including reports and analysis on salaries by location, clearance level, polygraph level, industry, gender and salary satisfaction. Data for the Security Clearance Jobs Salary Survey Report was collected from more than 2,050 security-cleared professionals registered on ClearanceJobs.com between October 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007

### **About ClearanceJobs.com**

ClearanceJobs.com is the leading Internet-based job board dedicated to matching job seekers that hold an active security clearance to the best hiring companies searching for new employees. Authorized U.S. government contractors and their representatives utilize the secure service to quickly and easily locate candidates with specific security clearance requirements to fill open jobs. ClearanceJobs.com is owned by Dice Holdings, Inc. For more information, please visit <http://www.clearancejobs.com>.

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