Paralegal Salary Information and Job Outlook

Wages of paralegals and legal assistants vary greatly. Salaries depend in education, training, experience, type and size of employer and the geographic location of the job. In general, paralegals who work for large law firms or in large metropolitan areas earn more than those who work for smaller firms or in less populated regions. In 2015, the nationally estimated median pay for full-time wage-and-salary paralegals and legal assistants was $48,410. The top 10 percent earned more than $79,000, and the bottom 10 percent earned less than $30,670.

Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest number of paralegals were:

- Legal Services - $50,280
- Finance and Insurance - $60,350
- Federal government, excluding postal service - $66,840
- State Government, excluding education and hospitals - $47,820
- Local Government, excluding education and hospitals - $51,820

In addition to earning a salary, many paralegal received bonuses. Paralegals may also receive vacation, paid sick leave, a savings plan for retirement, life insurance, personal paid time off, medical and insurance and reimbursement for continuing legal education.

Employment of paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow 8 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations. This occupation attracts many applicants, and competition for jobs will be strong. Experienced, formally trained paralegals with strong computer and database management skills should have the best job prospects.


Birmingham-Hoover MSA Compensation Information

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<th>Mean</th>
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