

Join the Elite Organization for Culinarians Today



Become a member of America's largest chefs association, the American Culinary Federation (ACF), and have access to current culinary trends and techniques, and the opportunity to network with the finest names in the profession.

The foodservice industry is expanding like never before. There is no better time to enhance your career than by becoming an ACF member and taking advantage of valuable membership benefits. More than 22,000 foodservice-industry professionals turn to the ACF for information, education and inspiration.

Members have access to countless professional-development, career-building and networking opportunities while simultaneously earning points for ACF certification. ACF operates the only comprehensive individual-certification program for chefs in the United States. Individual certification provides concrete markers of skill development and culinary expertise, and will help maintain your competitive edge in today's evolving industry.

In addition, ACF membership provides discounted fees for individual certification; products and services from ACF partners; and ACF's regional conferences and national convention.

Other membership benefits include:

- Affiliation with the only organization that defines and exalts the image of the professional chef in the United States.
- Access to ACF's online career center, which allows job seekers to post résumés and view open positions across the nation.
- Complimentary subscriptions to award-winning publications, including ACF's official monthly magazine *The National Culinary Review*, which contains chef-

tested recipes, industry news, culinary techniques and more.

- The opportunity to hone your culinary skills at a local, regional or national level through competitions and apprenticeship programs.
- Scholarship opportunities for both culinary students and professional chefs seeking to further their education.
- Automatic membership in the World Association of Chefs Societies.

ACF Chapters

ACF membership provides access to networking with local professionals through an ACF chapter. Participating in chapter activities such as meetings, competitions and community outreach activities develops culinary networks with professional chefs, cooks and foodservice representatives in your area. ACF chapters are the best source of local, up-to-date information and knowledge about the business, the industry and customer needs. Chefs who travel frequently or have committed schedules may consider joining ACF's national chapter. Becoming a member of the national chapter affords members the advantage of a full array of ACF benefits, regardless of geographic location.

Property Membership

Property membership with ACF offers an affordable option to enroll your company's employees to enhance and propel their careers. A property membership affords your employees networking and professional-

growth advancements at a discounted rate, including cost savings of more than \$100 per certification level compared with the nonmember price. Property membership costs are dependent on the number of employees enrolled by the property. Enrollment is an annual process that is managed through one invoice for your company, and national membership commitments are based on the number of cooking professionals enrolled.

- 6-10 employees: membership is \$130 per year per employee
- 11-30 employees: membership is \$115 per year per employee
- 31 or more employees: membership is \$95 per year per employee

If you have questions regarding ACF membership or completing an ACF membership application, call the membership department at ACF's national headquarters at (800) 624-9458 or email membership@acfchefs.net. Membership applications are available online at www.acfchefs.org.

The American Culinary Federation, Inc., established in 1929, is the premier professional organization for culinarians in America. With more than 22,000 members spanning 230 chapters nationwide, ACF is the culinary leader in offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and accreditation.

For more information, visit the ACF Web site at www.acfchefs.org or call the ACF Membership Department at (800) 624-9458, ext. 107.

Salary Survey

How much are chefs really making, and what can you do to increase your future income?



By Leah Spellman Craig, Public Relations Specialist, American Culinary Federation

Have you ever wondered how your salary fares compared with that of other chefs in the industry, and those in different areas of the country? Recently, the American Culinary Federation (ACF) commissioned a salary survey of ACF members to gauge average salaries and discover what factors influence higher pay.

According to the survey released in June 2008, the average ACF member makes an annual salary of \$54,100 a year. The survey also found that within ACF's membership the following factors tend to increase a professional chef's income:

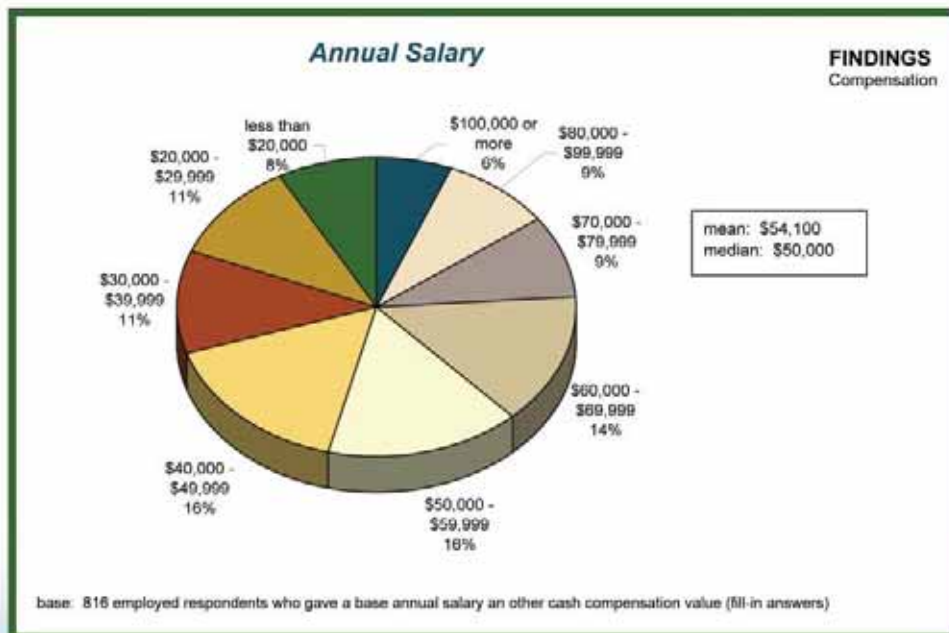
- On average, chefs who hold a certified executive chef (CEC) or certified executive pastry chef (CEPC) certification or higher earn \$10,900 more a year.

- Corporate organizations typically pay higher salaries than other places of employment.
- Those employed in the Northeast and Western regions are paid slightly more than in the Midwest and South.

Membership is also a key component for higher salaries in the culinary industry. According to ACF's salary survey and the U.S. Department of Labor, ACF members earn \$14,100 more per year than the average chef or head cook in the industry. Full-time employment rates are higher for ACF members when compared with the entire employment population in the United State. Eighty-nine percent of ACF members are employed full time, while the national employment rate is at 62 percent.

To find out how these factors could affect your annual salary, visit ACF's Web site at www.acfchefs.org and use the salary calculator under the resource section. Select a career and the calculator will predict the potential average salary.

Note: The survey sample of 14,174 was selected systematically by ACF and Readex Research from ACF's active domestic membership with e-mail addresses on file. Nearly 3,500 members responded to the online survey, and 1,000 were arbitrarily selected to create a random sample. ■



ACF member fast facts

89% are employed or self-employed full time

90% have completed at least some college

Educational institutions employ the most ACF members, at **29%**

Average total revenues at places of employment are **\$3.54** million

The average member has been in the culinary profession for **19** years

Culinary training is nearly universal among members, at **98%**

The typical average work week is **50.2** hours