

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR COMMUNICATION GRADUATES

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York released *The Labor Market for Recent College Graduates* in January 2018. This report details unemployment rates, underemployment rates, median wages, and shares of graduate degrees by major. Data for this report were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

This report breaks down the areas of Communication study into four distinct categories: Communications, Journalism, Mass Media, and Advertising and Public Relations. The data indicate unemployment rates are lowest for Advertising and Public Relations majors, while underemployment is lowest for Journalism majors. Early career earners fare best in Advertising and Public Relations, and mid-career wages are equal for Journalism and Advertising and Public Relations graduates. Journalism and Communications report the highest share of graduate degrees.

MAJOR	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE	MEDIAN WAGE EARLY CAREER	MEDIAN WAGE MID-CAREER	SHARE WITH GRADUATE DEGREE
Communications	3.9%	54.8%	\$38,000	\$67,000	23.4%
Journalism	4.6%	41.6%	\$37,000	\$70,000	23.9%
Mass Media	7.4%	56.1%	\$35,000	\$60,000	19.3%
Advertising/Public Relations	3.4%	45.7%	\$40,000	\$70,000	18%

When comparing Communication to other humanities and social science disciplines, Communication fares well. Communication graduates earn higher early career and mid-career wages than graduates with Sociology, History, Philosophy, Anthropology, or English degrees. Communication also has the lowest rates of unemployment, while Philosophy majors are least likely to be underemployed. Philosophy reports the highest percentage of graduate degrees, at 56.1 percent.

MAJOR	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE	MEDIAN WAGE EARLY CAREER	MEDIAN WAGE MID-CAREER	SHARE WITH GRADUATE DEGREE
Communications	3.9%	54.8%	\$38,000	\$67,000	23.4%
Sociology	4.8%	52.1%	\$35,000	\$55,000	36.2%
History	5.5%	51.2%	\$36,000	\$65,000	49.2%
Political Science	5%	50.6%	\$40,000	\$75,000	51.5%
Philosophy	6.2%	49.5%	\$35,000	\$60,000	56.1%
Anthropology	5.7%	60.6%	\$30,000	\$60,000	48%
English Language	6.4%	49.8%	\$35,000	\$60,000	45.7%

Notes: The figures in this report represent a 2015–16 average. Unemployment and underemployment rates are for recent college graduates (aged 22 to 27 with a bachelor’s degree or higher), and median wages are for full-time workers with a bachelor’s degree only. Early career graduates are those aged 22 to 27, and mid-career graduates are those aged 35 to 45. Graduate degree share is based on the adult working-age population (aged 25 to 65) with a bachelor’s degree or higher. All figures exclude those currently enrolled in school.

Source: <https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/college-labor-market/index.html>.