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Here's How Much Money Paralegals Make In Every State



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Employment of paralegals is expected to grow much faster than the average for most jobs, adding ... [+] GETTY

There is a ton of paperwork and fact-checking that needs to be done in a law office on a daily basis. That's where paralegals and legal assistants come up big. Paralegals assist lawyers by investigating facts, preparing legal documents and researching legal precedent, among many other tasks. Being a paralegal has been a popular job in the United States, especially as part of a road toward becoming a lawyer. Employment numbers have been increasing for paralegals and, according to the Bureau of Labor



Statistics' (BLS) [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), employment of paralegals is projected to increase much faster than average, with approximately 39,000 paralegal jobs being added from 2018 to 2028, an increase of 12%.

Using occupational data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we've analyzed and compiled a round-up of the average paralegal salary by state in the U.S. Read on for a full breakdown of where paralegals make the most money, and where they're making the least.

10 States Where Paralegals Earn the Most Money

The national average annual wage of a paralegal is \$54,500, according to the [BLS](#), which is slightly more than the average annual salary for all occupations, \$51,960. In some states, you can earn a bit more than \$54,500 as a paralegal, but you've got to pick the right state. Below is a list of the top-10 highest-paying states for paralegals.

1. **Connecticut average paralegal salary:** \$62,760
2. **California average paralegal salary:** \$61,240
3. **Washington average paralegal salary:** \$60,940
4. **Massachusetts average paralegal salary:** \$60,320
5. **Alaska average paralegal salary:** \$59,140
6. **New York average paralegal salary:** \$58,750
7. **Colorado average paralegal salary:** \$58,350
8. **New Jersey average paralegal salary:** \$58,260
9. **Nevada average paralegal salary:** \$57,600
10. **Delaware average paralegal salary:** \$57,290

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Connecticut boasts the highest average paralegal salary in the U.S. What's more, Connecticut's wage growth over the last five years has been very impressive. The average paralegal salary rose from \$53,230 in 2013 to \$62,760 in 2018, an increase of 17.9% and the second-largest growth rate in the country, behind Louisiana. In No. 2 California, on the other hand, paralegal wages have stalled, only growing by 2% over the last five years. In Alaska and New Jersey, salaries outright declined since 2013.

10 States Where Paralegals Earn the Least Money

The bottom-10 states where paralegals make the least money are a geographically mainly located in the U.S. South and Midwest. In the worst-paying state for paralegals, Arkansas, the average salary is nearly \$12,500 less than the U.S. average salary for paralegals. Here's a look at the 10 worst states for paralegal's salaries:

1. **Arkansas average paralegal salary:** \$42,050
2. **Kansas average paralegal salary:** \$43,790
3. **Mississippi average paralegal salary:** \$44,300
4. **Montana average paralegal salary:** \$44,330
5. **South Carolina average paralegal salary:** \$45,480
6. **Alabama average paralegal salary:** \$45,530
7. **North Dakota average paralegal salary:** \$45,870
8. **West Virginia average paralegal salary:** \$46,080
9. **Kentucky average paralegal salary:** \$46,130
10. **Idaho average paralegal salary:** \$46,510

Unfortunately for these states, wage growth has been weak as well. In seven of these 10 states, the growth in average paralegal salaries was less than 10% from 2013 to 2018. In Alabama, the average paralegal salary increased by only \$20 since 2013.

How Much Do Paralegals Make in Each State

Below you'll find the average annual wage for paralegals in all 50 states from 2013 to 2018. Five states have experienced absolute declines in their average paralegal salaries New Jersey, Alaska, Oregon, Hawaii and Pennsylvania. On the other hand, seven states have experienced wage growth in excess of 15% over the last five years.

Average Paralegal Salary by State

Mean annual wage for paralegals in the U.S., 2013-2018

Rank	State	2018 Average Salary
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45	Alabama	\$45,530
5	Alaska	\$59,140
35	Arizona	\$48,370
50	Arkansas	\$42,050
2	California	\$61,240
7	Colorado	\$58,350
1	Connecticut	\$62,760
10	Delaware	\$57,290
27	Florida	\$50,120
17	Georgia	\$54,130
20	Hawaii	\$52,280
41	Idaho	\$46,510
11	Illinois	\$57,180
33	Indiana	\$49,090
39	Iowa	\$46,990
49	Kansas	\$43,790
42	Kentucky	\$46,130
25	Louisiana	\$50,540
29	Maine	\$49,490
14	Maryland	\$55,950
4	Massachusetts	\$60,320
23	Michigan	\$50,590

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