

# What Do Gymnastics Coaches Make?

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With prompting from Laprise Harris, I distributed a salary survey via the internet to gymnastics coaches on my email list. The purpose of the survey was to get an idea of the levels of pay that gymnastics coaches were making. The brief survey also asked the age, experience, area of coaching, and whether the coach was a head coach or assistant. For those coaches who reported their pay as an hourly wage, I converted the pay to an annual salary by multiplying the hourly wage by 40 hours per week and then by 50 weeks per year.

## Results

Seventy-six coaches responded to the survey. The respondents were evenly divided by gender: thirty-six males and thirty-six females. Four surveys did not indicate gender. Twenty-six surveys (34.2%) were college coaches, while 45 surveys (59.2%) were completed by club coaches. Five surveys did not indicate the type of coaching. Nineteen surveys (25%) were completed by assistant coaches and 53 surveys (69.7%) were completed by head coaches. The demographic and descriptive data results for all coaches are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Demographics - Descriptive Data**

Variable	Average	StdDev	Min	Max	Range	Median
<b>Annual Salary (\$)</b>	\$34,979	\$15,931	\$3,200	\$81,800	\$81,800	\$34,000
<b>Age (yr)</b>	36.8	8.7	21	52	31	36.5
<b>Experience (yr)</b>	15.9	7.8	4	30	26	15

Note that the lowest annual salary for a gymnastics coach was received by a female high school coach and the maximum salary was received by a female college coach. Income was significantly correlated with age ( $r = .58, p < .01$ ) and experience ( $r = .66, p < .01$ ). A statistically significant difference in income due to gender ( $t = -1.68, p = .87$ ) was not observed. Average male income was \$35,034 (SD = \$18,735.7) versus average female income of \$34,394 (SD = \$13,062.1). There was a statistically significant difference between college and club coaches however ( $t = 3.94, p < .001$ ). College coaches' average salary was \$44,325 (SD = \$17,777). Club coaches' average salary was \$29,733 (SD = \$13,198). The salaries of head coaches and assistant coaches were not statistically different ( $t = -0.707, p = .48$ ). The average salary of assistant coaches was \$32,974 (SD = \$16,714), while the average salary of head coaches was \$36,055 (SD = \$16,152).

When analyses are confined to club coaches only, the results indicate significant correlations between salary and age ( $r = .49, p < .01$ ) and experience ( $r = .70, p < .01$ ). The difference in salary based on gender among club coaches did not reach statistical significance due to the high variability in salary. The average male club coach salary was \$32,632 (SD = \$15,006) while the average female salary was \$26,640 (SD = \$10,958). Comparison of head (ave = \$31,133) and assistant (ave = \$27,250) coaches revealed no statistically significant differences in salaries ( $p > .05$ ).

When analyses are confined to college coaches only, the results indicate significant correlations between salary and age ( $r = .62, p < .01$ ) and experience ( $r = .63, p < .01$ ). No statistical

difference was observed between genders. However, unlike club coaches, the female coaches earned more on average than the male coaches (male = \$42,033, SD = \$17,375) vs (female = \$46,700, SD = \$18,602). No statistical difference was observed between average annual salaries of head (ave = \$44,941) and assistant coaches (ave = \$42,786).

The variability in salaries indicates a wide range of salaries for gymnastics coaches. The information gathered from this survey also indicates that gymnastics coaches, on average, are making more than the last salary survey conducted ten years ago (1). The average age and experience of the surveyed coaches also appears to show that the population of gymnastics coaches is older and more mature. Finally, it is clear that college coaches make a higher average salary than club coaches.

## Resources

1. Sands, W. A., R. S. Crain, and K. M. Lee. Gymnastics coaching survey - 1989. *Technique* 10: 22-27, 1990.