



2026

INTERIOR DESIGNER SALARY REPORT CANADA

produced in collaboration



interior designers of canada
designers d'intérieur du canada

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INTRODUCTION

DMC Recruitment Group, in collaboration with the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), is proud to present the 2026 Salary Report, an updated look at compensation trends for Interior Design professionals across Canada. Building on the insights from our 2024 and 2025 reports, this year's edition offers further analysis into pay, satisfaction, and shifting workplace priorities within the industry.

Whether you are advancing your career, evaluating your current compensation, or benchmarking salaries for your team, this report is designed to support more informed decision making.

Inside, readers will find data that reflects the current realities of the Canadian interior design profession, including salary trends by role, region, experience, credentials, and firm type. The report also explores how professionals are thinking about career growth, workplace satisfaction, compensation competitiveness, and future opportunities.

By presenting both compensation data and broader workforce insights, this report offers a practical resource for designers, employers, and industry leaders as they plan for the year ahead.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted anonymously via SurveyMonkey with a sample size of 721 interior design professionals who responded across Canada.

No details were collected to link the respondent to their answers. The survey was distributed via social media, the DMC website, as well as email outreach.

A special thanks to the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) for their partnership and efforts in distributing this survey.

WHO WE ARE

DMC Recruitment Group is a North American recruitment firm that specializes solely within the industries of Architecture & Design, Building Materials, Real Estate Development, and Construction.

DMC's team of technically experienced recruitment consultants have successfully filled positions at every level within both small and large architecture & design firms across Canada and the U.S. The A&D team specializes in a variety of disciplines including:

Architecture & Design
Engineering
Technology & BIM
Sustainability
Interior Design
Landscape Architecture
Planning & Urban Design
Development & Land-use Planning
Project Management
Leadership & Operations



Shawna Wagner, MeDes
Partner
Architecture & Design

swagner@dmcrecruitment.com



Shawna Wagner, MeDes, leads the A&D division at DMC. Her team works with clients and candidates to create long-term relationships with key partners in the industry.

"We are proud of the strong reputation, extensive network, and technical knowledge that our team can deliver to enhance the recruitment experience for the Architecture & Design industry."
- Shawna Wagner, MeDes

IDC - Interior Designers of Canada

We have partnered with the Interior Designers of Canada, the national advocacy association, to produce this salary survey for the benefit of their members, Interior Design Professionals, and other related industries to utilize this knowledge to support their current and future employment needs.

Founded in 1972, the Interior Designers of Canada (IDC) is a national association dedicated to advancing the interior design profession across the country. As a leading voice in the industry, IDC provides a wide range of benefits and resources to its members. From professional development opportunities to networking events, advocacy efforts, and access to industry insights and trends, IDC strives to support and empower interior designers and related professionals throughout their careers.

IDC, in collaboration with DMC Recruitment, worked to distribute information, communicate progress, and conduct this salary survey, which will directly benefit their members by providing crucial data and insights for navigating the profession effectively.

For more information, visit <https://www.idcanada.org/>
You can also follow them on Instagram [@interiordesignersofcanada](#)
LinkedIn [@interiordesignersofcanada](#)



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KEY FINDINGS

NCIDQ CERTIFICATION CONTINUES TO ALIGN WITH HIGHER PAY

Respondents with NCIDQ Certification reported an average base salary of **\$101,831**, compared to **\$76,885** among respondents without certification.

This represents an average salary premium of approximately 32% among salary respondents. Certified professionals also reported higher role satisfaction and compensation satisfaction, reinforcing the continued value of the credential across the profession.

COMPENSATION CONFIDENCE REMAINS SPLIT

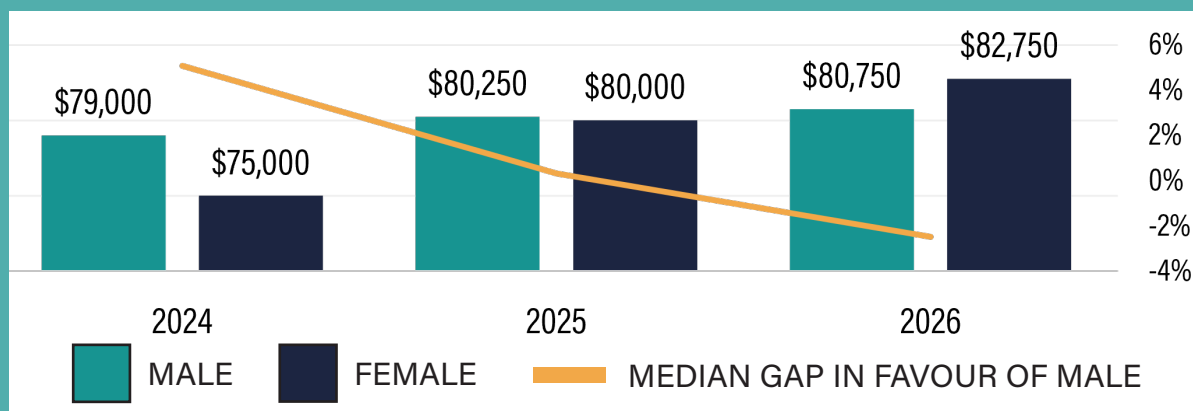
Only 38% of respondents said they feel their compensation package is competitive in the market.

Another 31% said they were “Not Sure”, while 31% said “No”. This suggests many professionals are either uncertain about their market value or already feel underpaid, creating a potential retention risk for employers.

GENDER PAY GAP HAS SHIFTED TOWARD PARITY

Over three years of survey data, the gender pay gap has shifted from a male-led median salary difference to near parity, and then to a slight female-led difference in 2026.

This movement suggests that median salary outcomes are becoming more balanced across respondents.





SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This survey sought to examine how various factors affect the compensation of Interior Designers working in Canada, including; compensation, education, tenure, values, areas of specialization, demographics, and overall satisfaction.

The subsequent sections will showcase the results and insights that can be derived from the feedback obtained from 721 respondents. This sample group encompasses a wide range of positions, experience levels, areas of practice, education, and geographic locations.

NATIONWIDE

- Gender, location and industry segment of respondents
- Top considerations of respondents when looking for a new position
- Overall base salary and commission earnings for each job title

Recognizing the differences between the various roles in the interior design industry, findings have been segmented by the following job titles:

Junior / Intern Interior Designer
Interior Designer
Senior Interior Designer
Project Manager
Studio Lead / Manager

Sr. Associate / Associate
Director / VP
Principal
Owner / Partner

The results were analyzed based on responses in the following subjects:

Base Salary
Profit Share / Bonus Earnings
Education / Professional Designations
Diversity
Preferences & Satisfaction

Specialization
Tenure & Experience
Certifications

SURVEY DATA

RESPONDENT ANALYSIS

Data was analyzed within the following parameters:

Province or Territory of Residence

Base Salary / Compensation

Organization / Company Profile

Current Job Title

Bonus / Profit Share

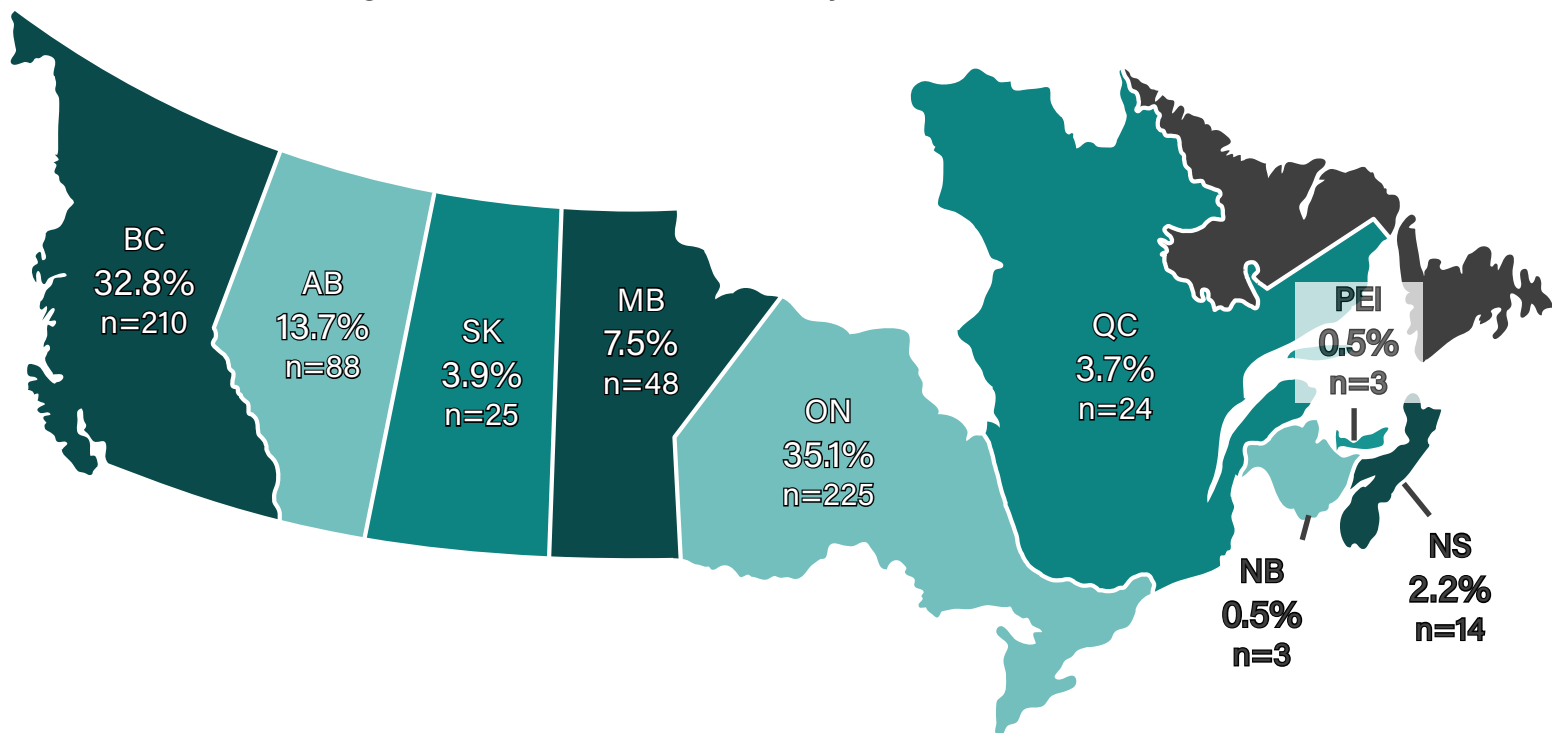
Education

Gender

Sector / Industry

Demographics

Data was analyzed based on parameters including tenure, cultural identification, provincial association registration, and whether or not they are NCIDQ certified.



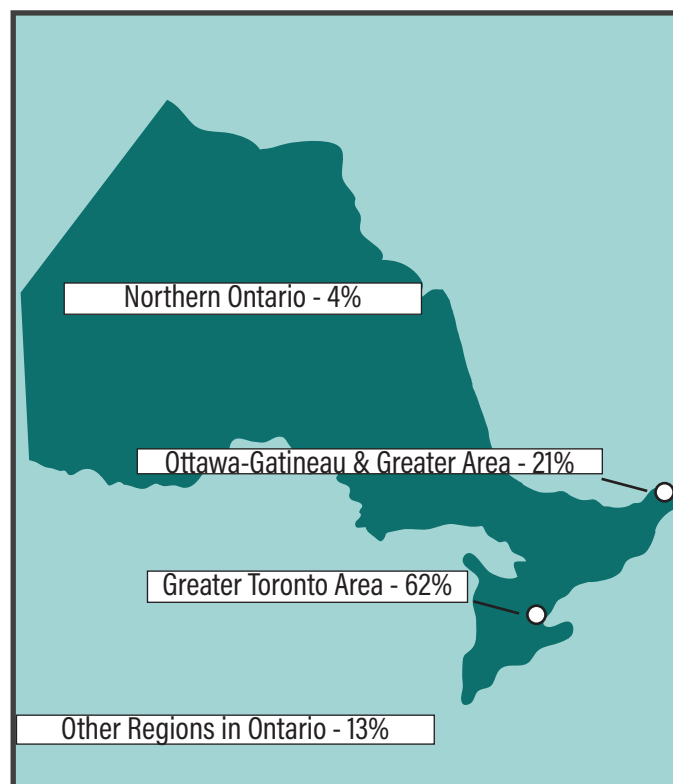
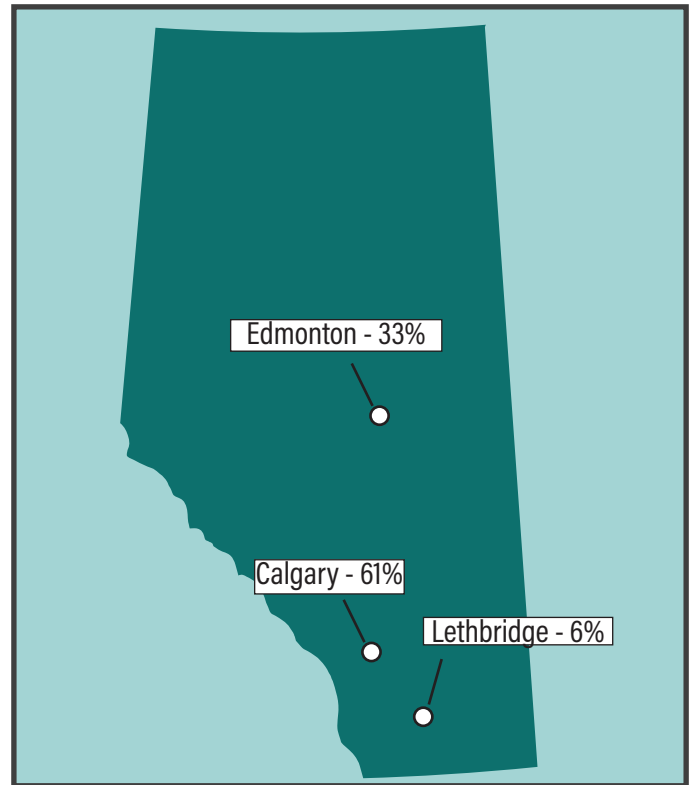
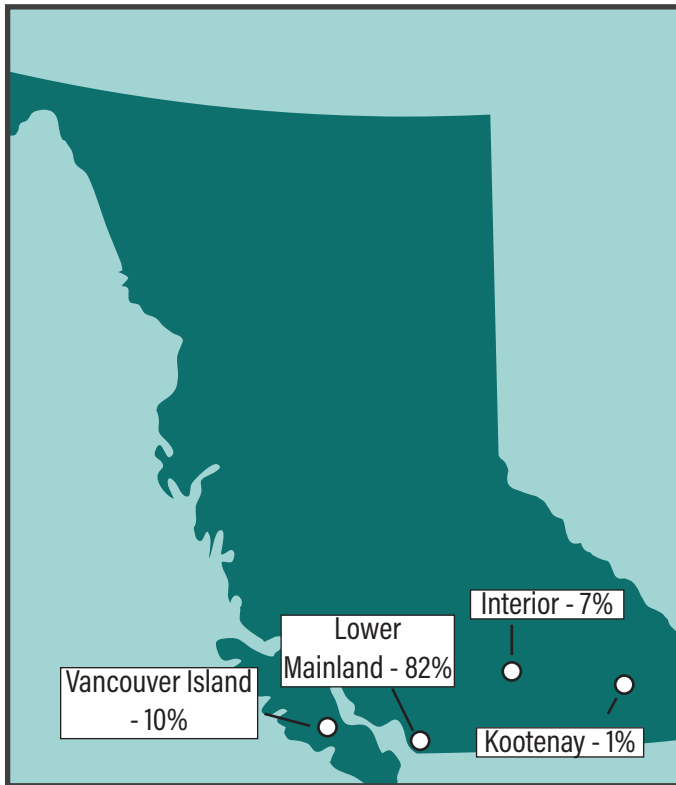
RESPONDENTS INDICATED JOB TITLE AS

Interior Designer	27.6% (n=199)	Studio Lead / Manager	6.4% (n=46)
Sr. Interior Designer	23.2% (n=167)	Principal	5.3% (n=38)
Owner / Partner	13.2% (n=95)	Director / VP	3.7% (n=27)
Intern / Jr. Interior Designer	8.9% (n=64)	Interior Design Technologist	2.6% (n=19)
Sr. Associate / Associate	6.7% (n=48)	Project Manager	2.5% (n=18)

n represents the number of respondents included in the percentage calculation.

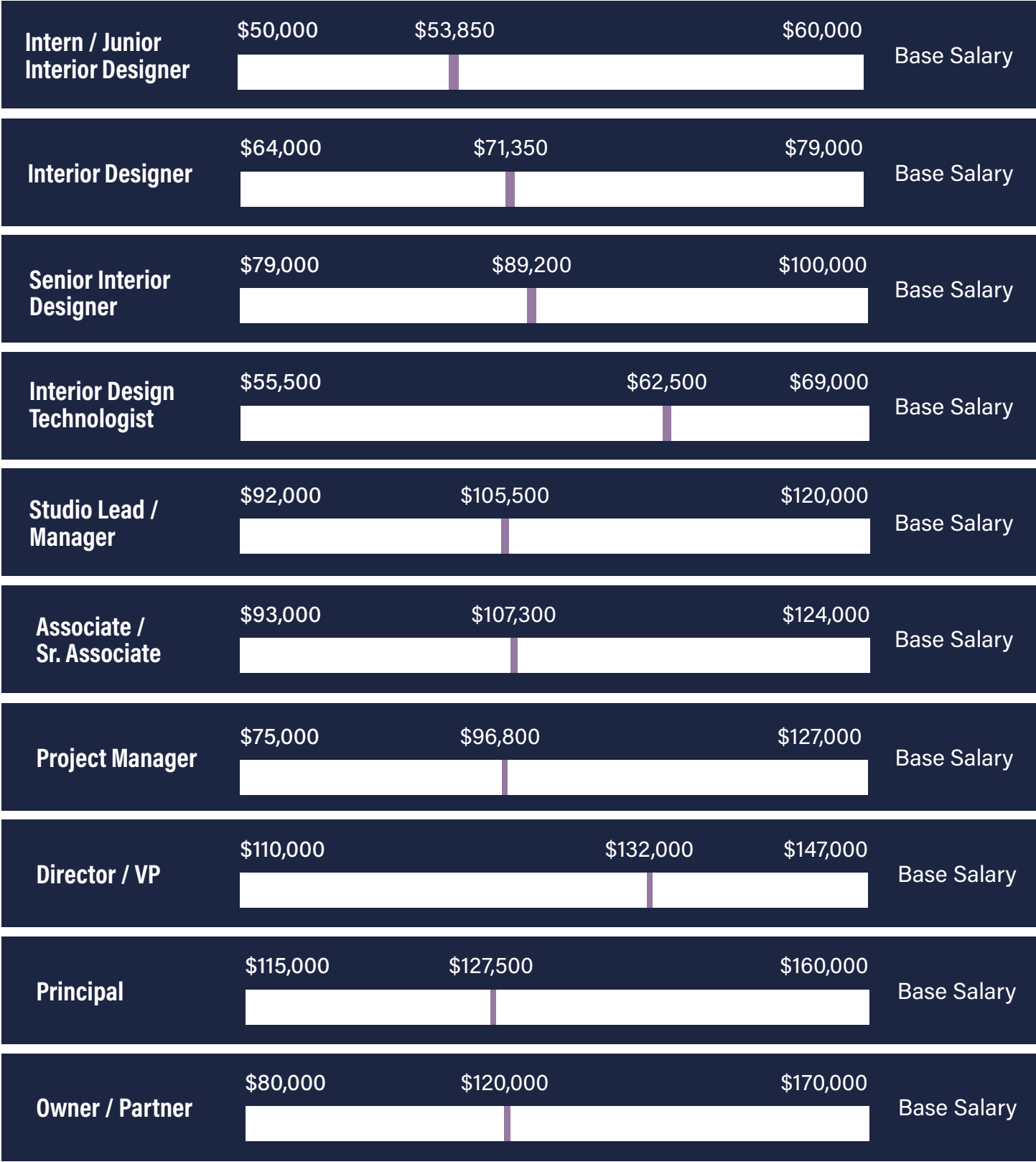
RESPONSES BY REGION

Response distribution in provinces with highest participation



BASE SALARY - NATIONWIDE

Each horizontal bar shows the 25th-75th percentile range, which captures the typical salary banding within that market. The purple vertical line marks the average salary for the specific job title across Canada.



 AVERAGE SALARY

AVERAGE BASE SALARY - REGION AND POSITION

ALBERTA

Jr. / Intern Interior Designer	\$55,850
Interior Designer	\$75,750
Sr. Interior Designer	\$90,000
Owner / Partner	\$154,800

ONTARIO

Jr. / Intern Interior Designer	\$47,800
Interior Designer	\$73,750
Sr. Interior Designer	\$92,100
Owner / Partner	\$109,000

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jr. / Intern Interior Designer	\$58,875
Interior Designer	\$69,600
Sr. Interior Designer	\$89,000
Owner / Partner	\$105,100

PRAIRIES

Jr. / Intern Interior Designer	\$57,350
Interior Designer	\$73,000
Sr. Interior Designer	\$87,250
Owner / Partner	\$123,300

QUEBEC & MARITIMES

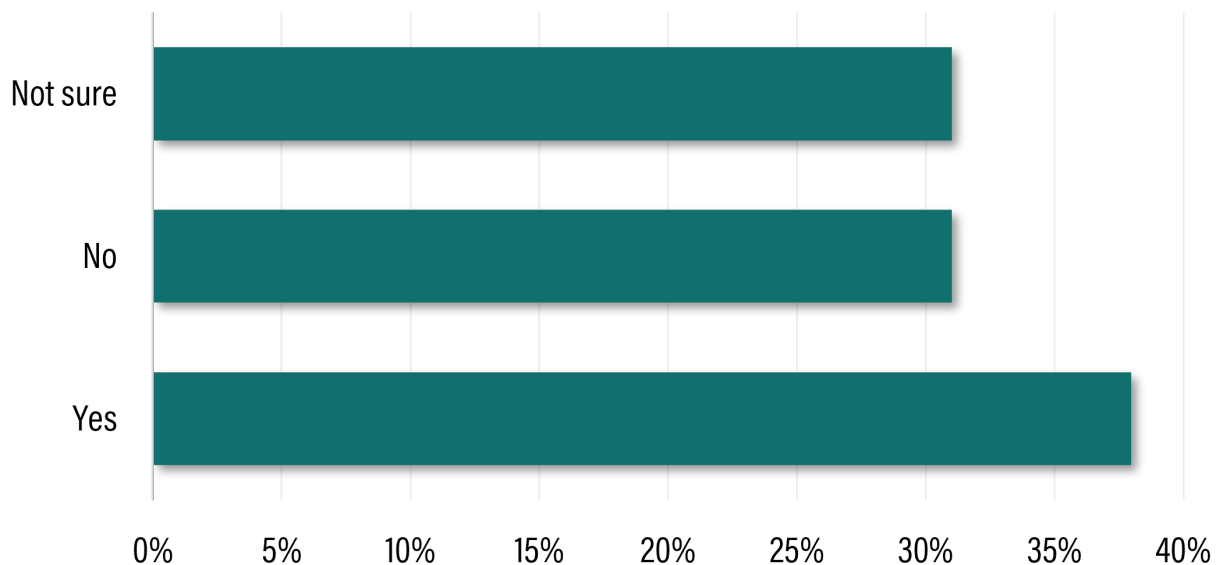
Jr. / Intern Interior Designer	\$58,750
Interior Designer	\$68,500
Sr. Interior Designer	\$80,000
Owner / Partner	\$110,000

ADDITIONAL PAY INSIGHTS

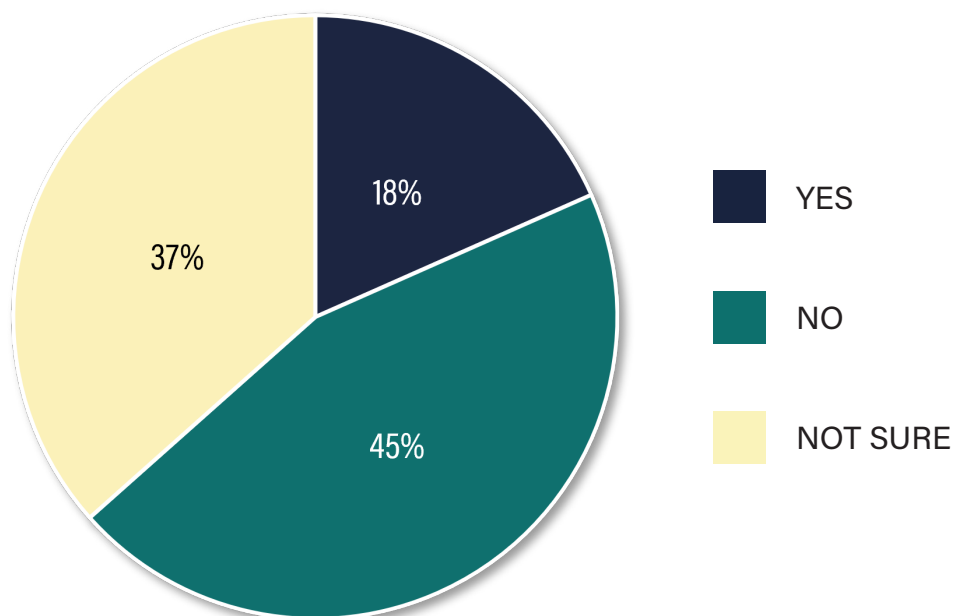
Job Title	Median Base Salary	% that receive a Bonus	% that receive RRSP	% Change in Median Salary (Since 2025 Survey)
Jr / Intern Interior Designer	\$56,000	41%	20%	1.8%
Interior Designer	\$72,000	45%	26%	9%
Sr. Interior Designer	\$88,000	39%	32%	6.8%
Project Manager	\$95,000	28%	22%	14.8%
Studio Lead / Manager	\$100,000	59%	43%	10%
Principal	\$100,000	34%	5%	10%
Associate	\$104,500	50%	54%	12.2%
Director / VP	\$132,500	52%	48%	5.3%
Owner / Partner	\$115,000	34%	6%	13%
Interior Design Technologist	\$61,000	26%	16%	-



DO YOU FEEL YOUR COMPENSATION PACKAGE IS COMPETITIVE?

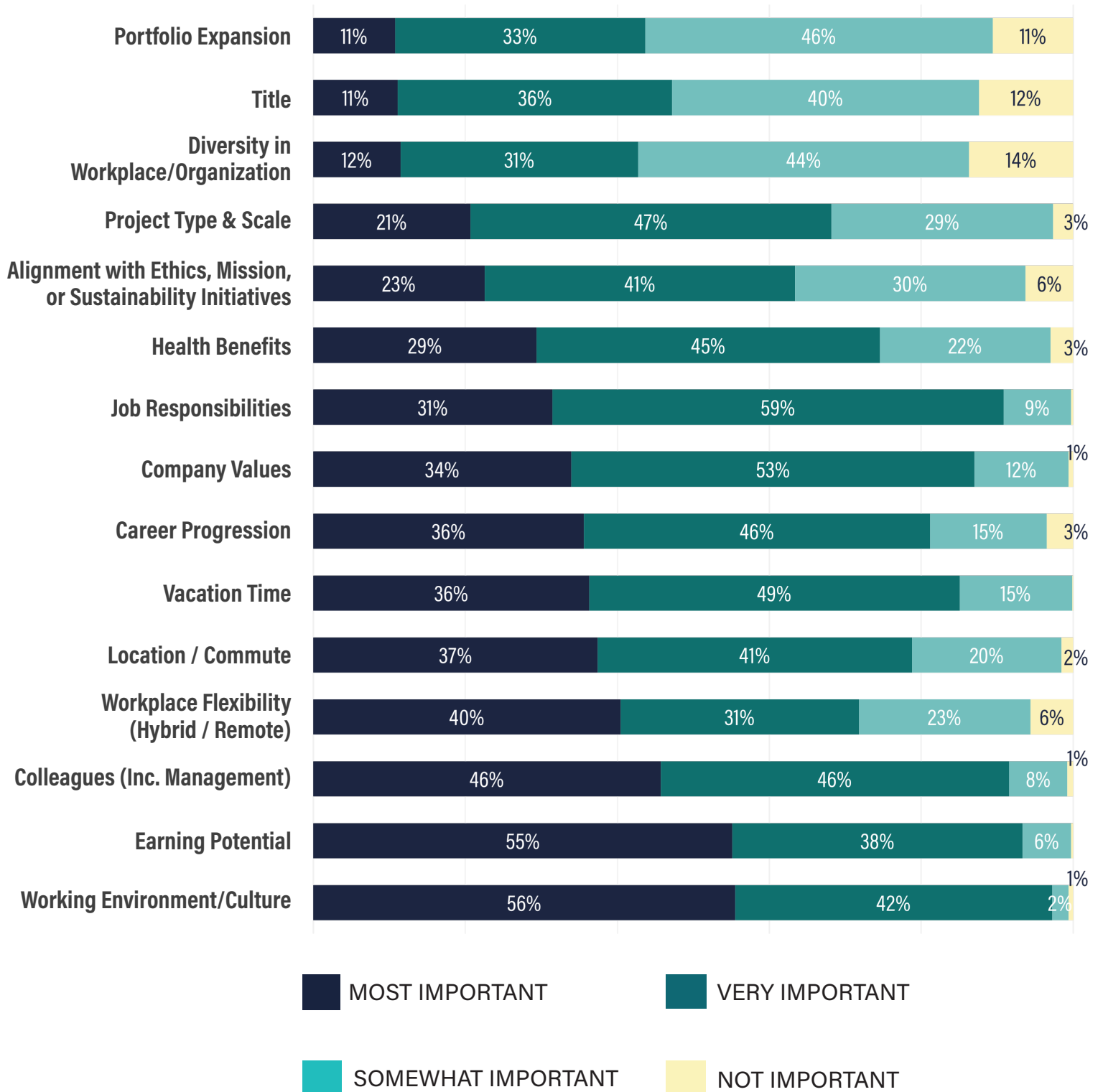


DO YOU PLAN ON CHANGING ROLES IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?

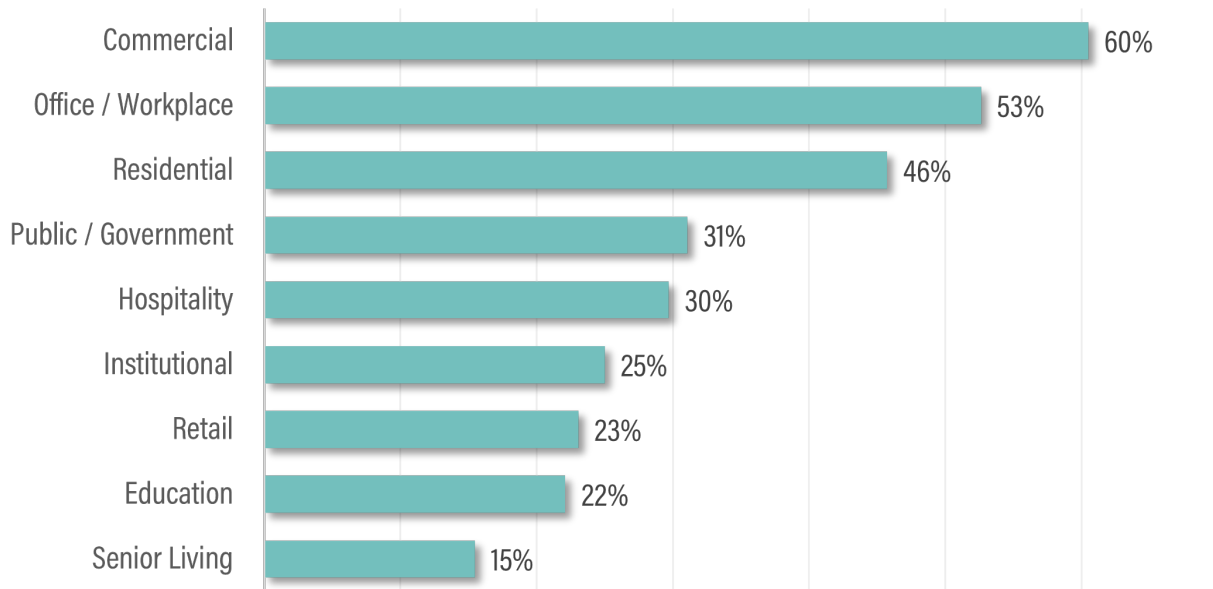


WORKPLACE PREFERENCES

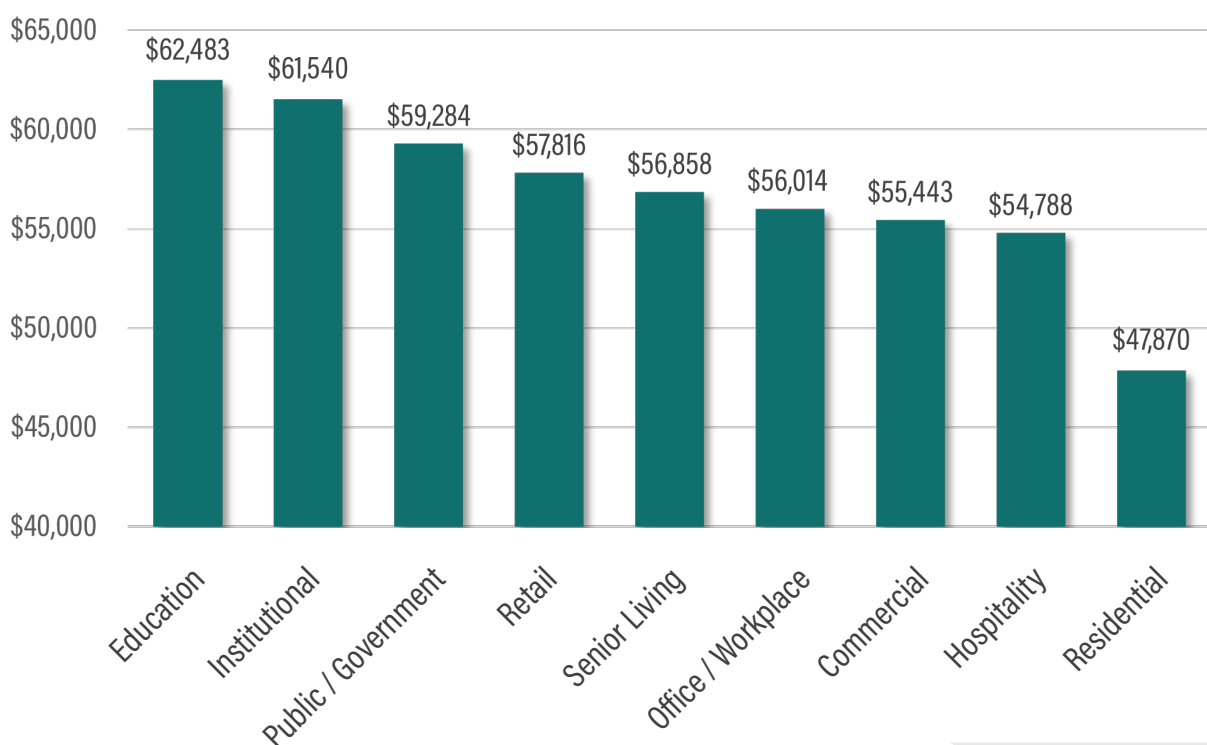
WHAT DO INTERIOR DESIGNERS VALUE MOST



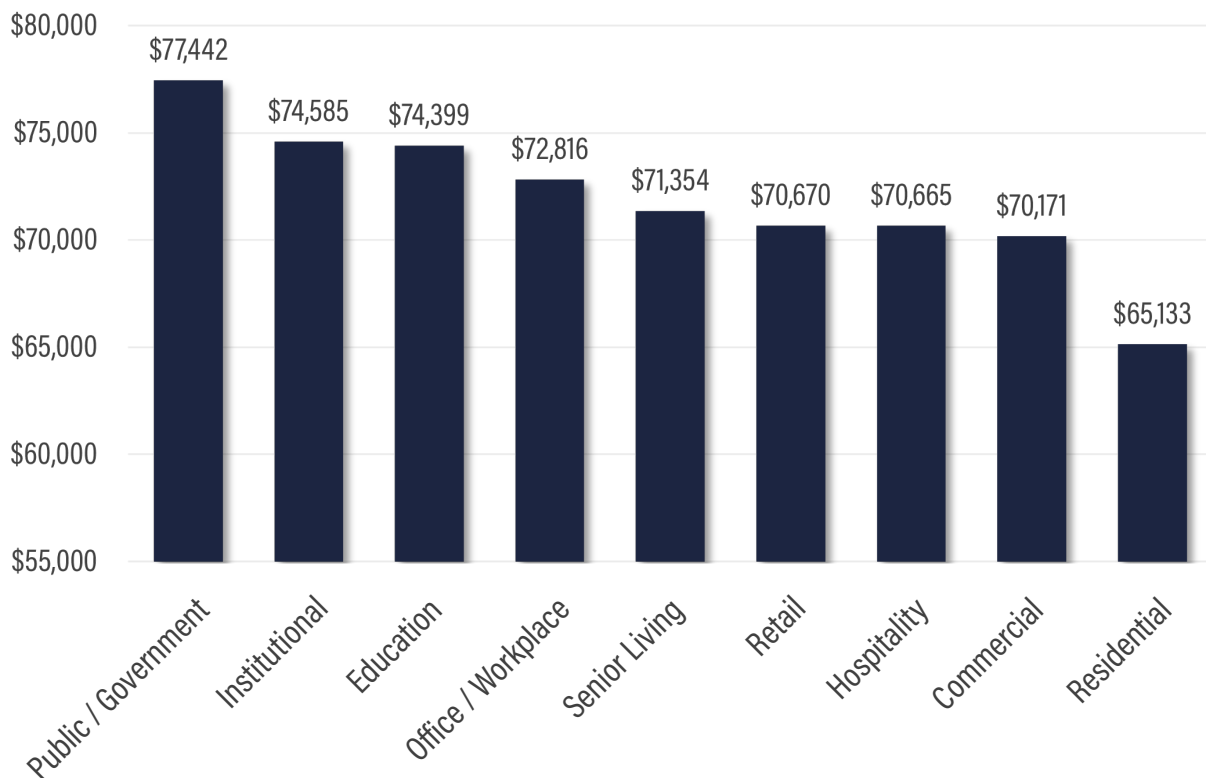
PERCENTAGE OF INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS PER INDUSTRY SECTOR



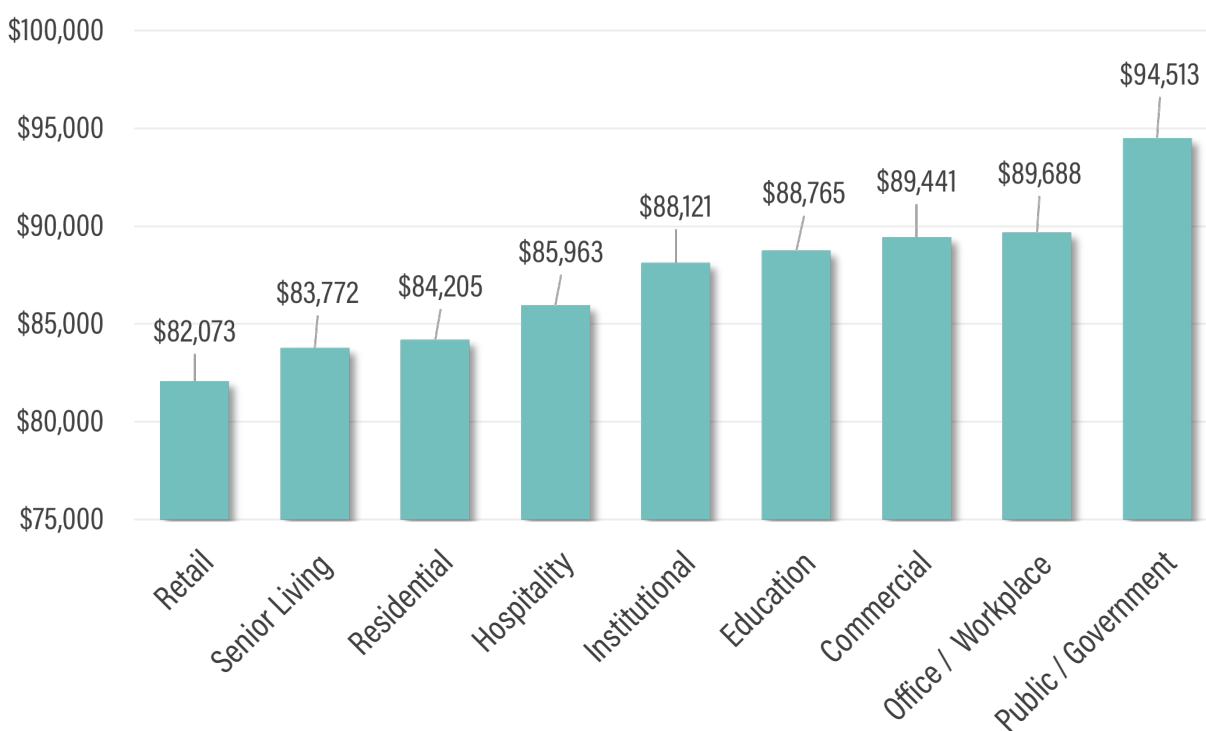
AVERAGE BASE SALARY BY SECTOR JUNIOR / INTERN INTERIOR DESIGNERS



INTERIOR DESIGNERS

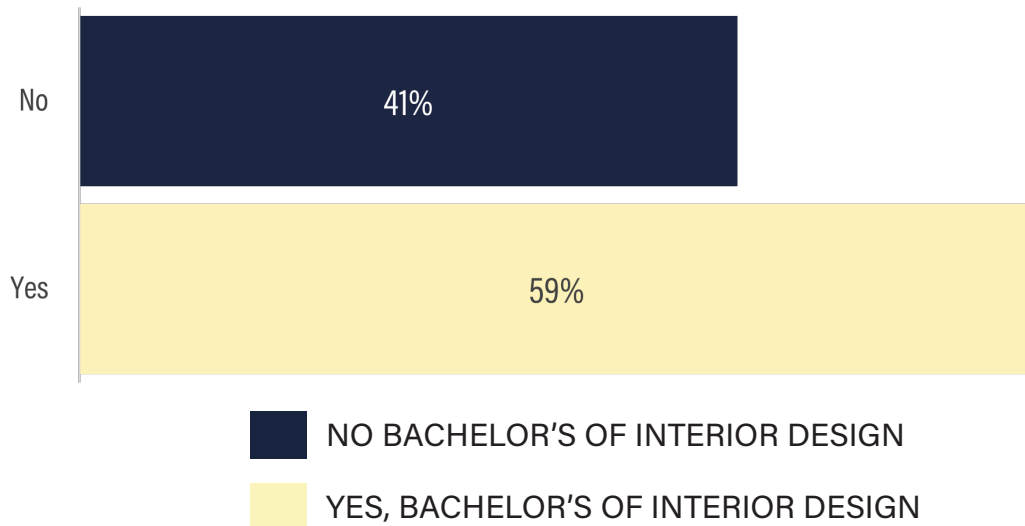


SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS

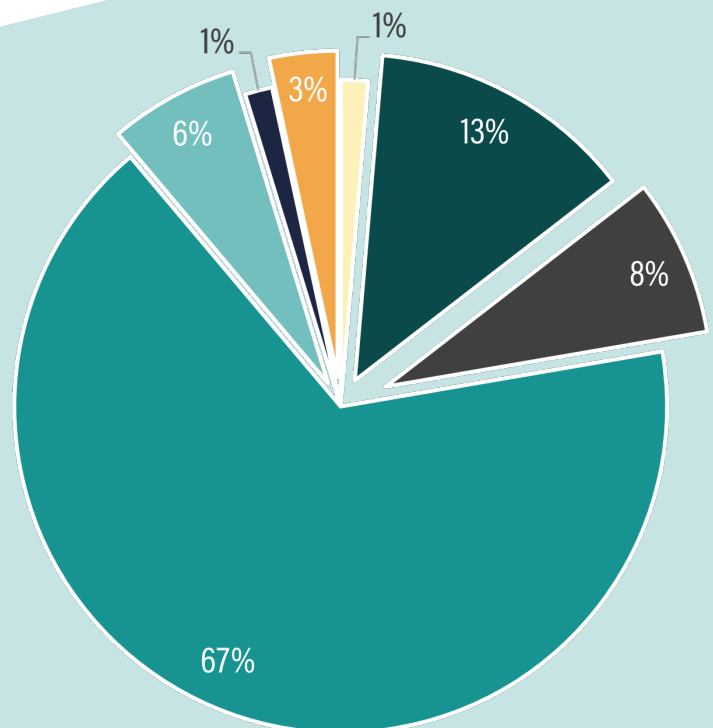


EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

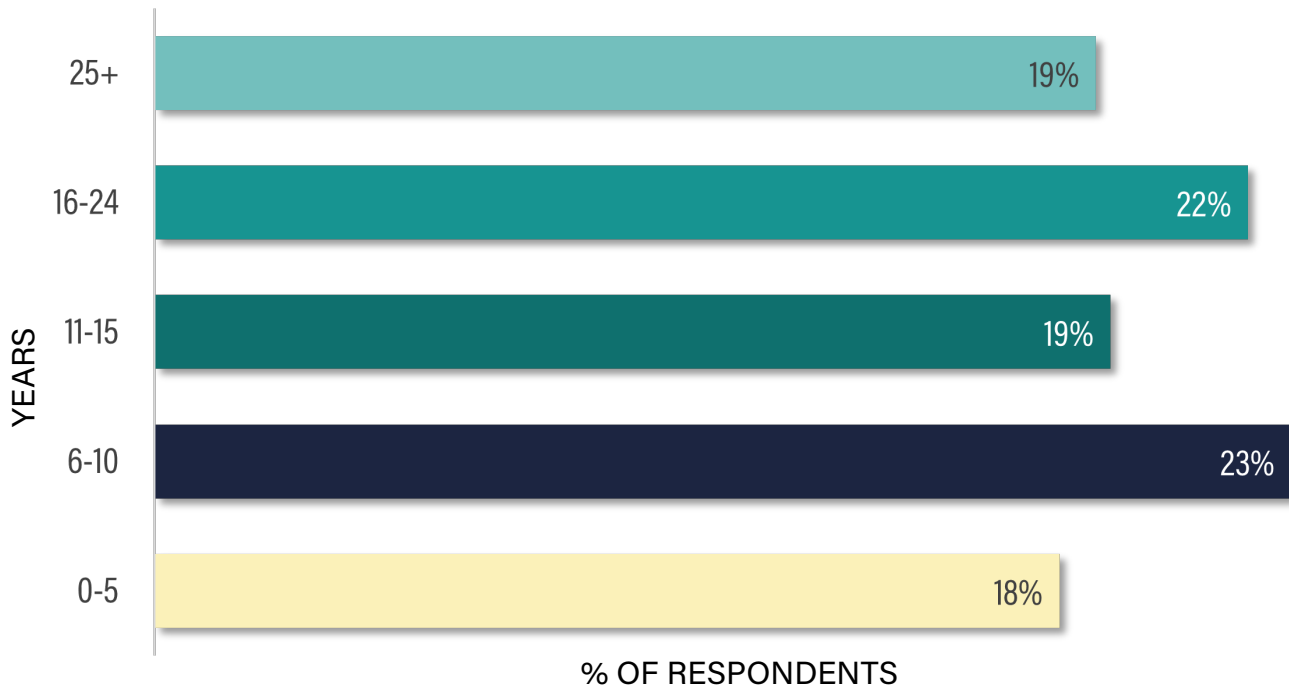
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INTERIOR DESIGN



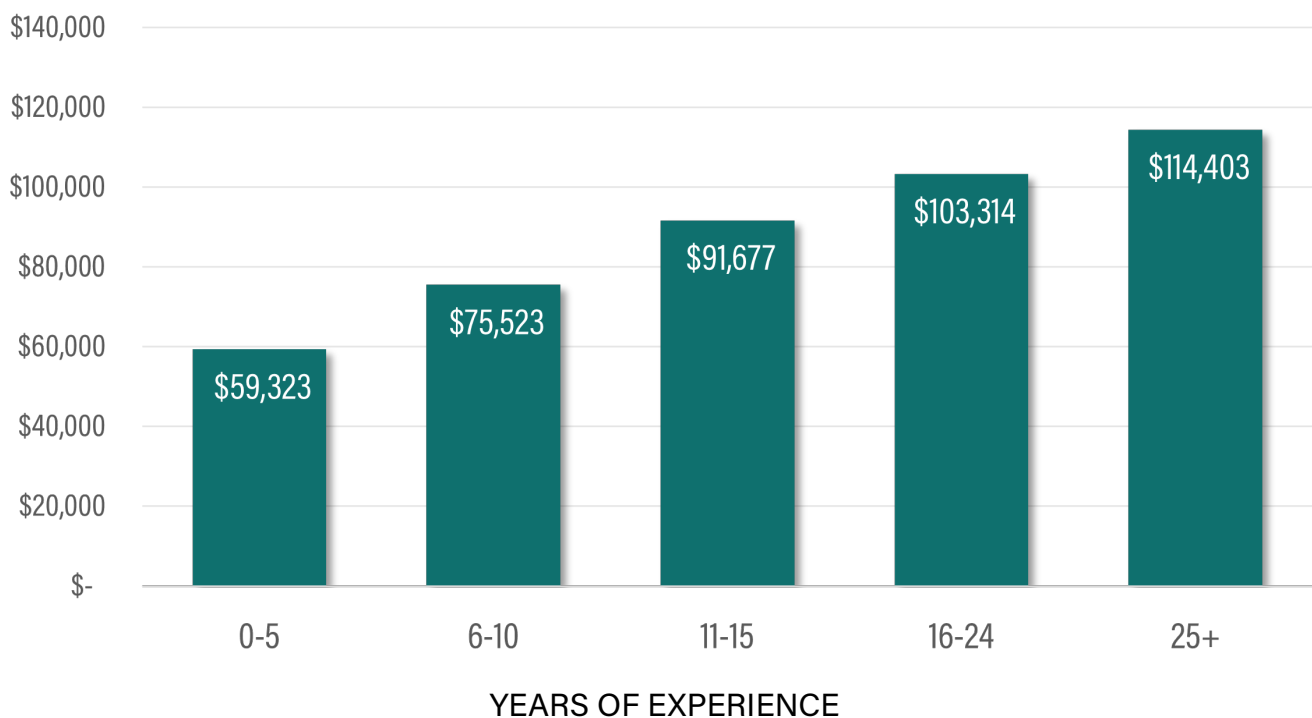
RELATED EDUCATION



OVERALL YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

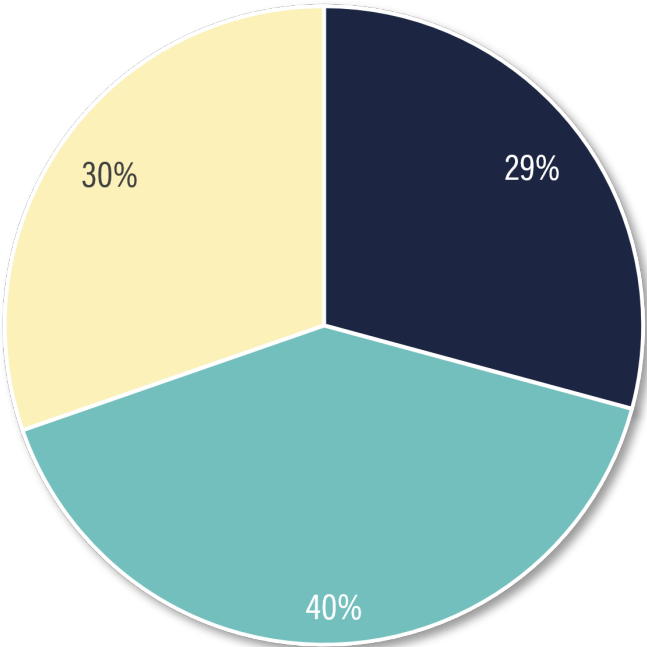


COMPARING BASE SALARY TO EXPERIENCE



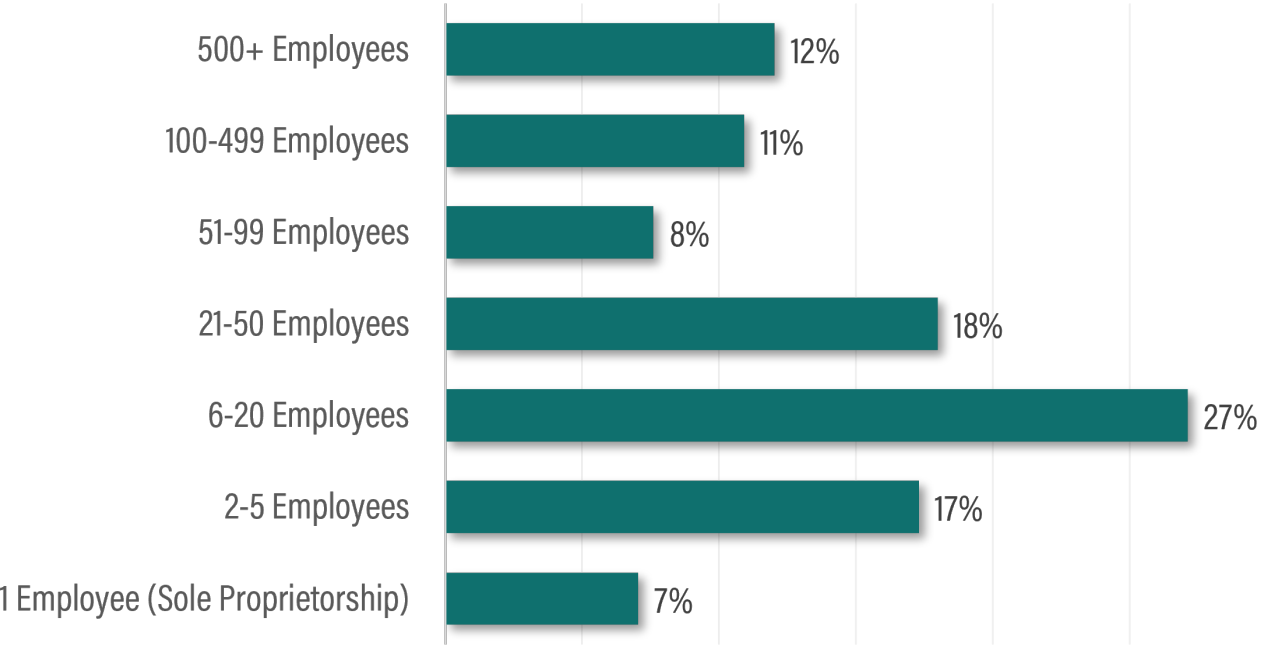
EMPLOYER INFORMATION

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION



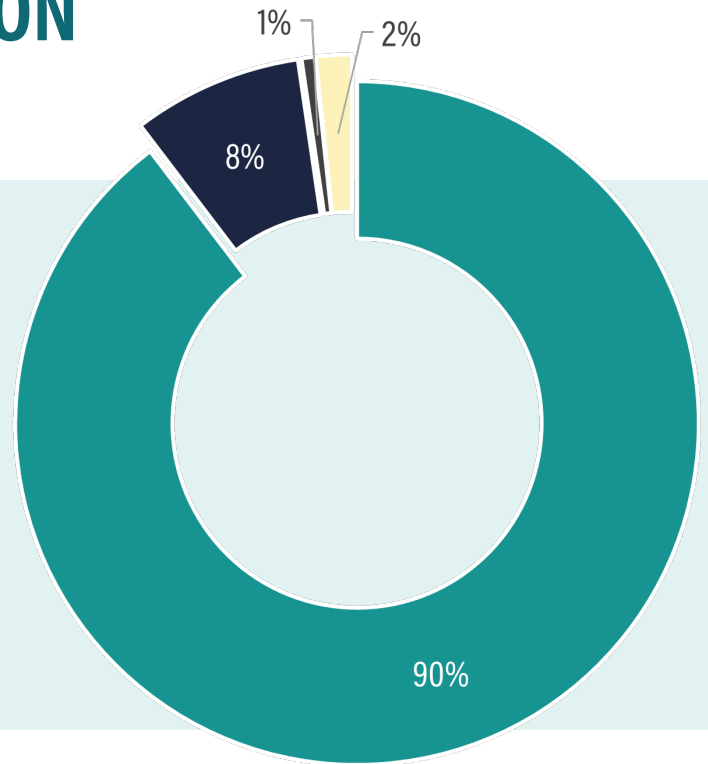
*A multi-disciplinary organization is a company that integrates various fields of design expertise, such as architecture, engineering, interior design, and urban planning, to provide comprehensive and cohesive solutions for diverse projects.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES / ORGANIZATION

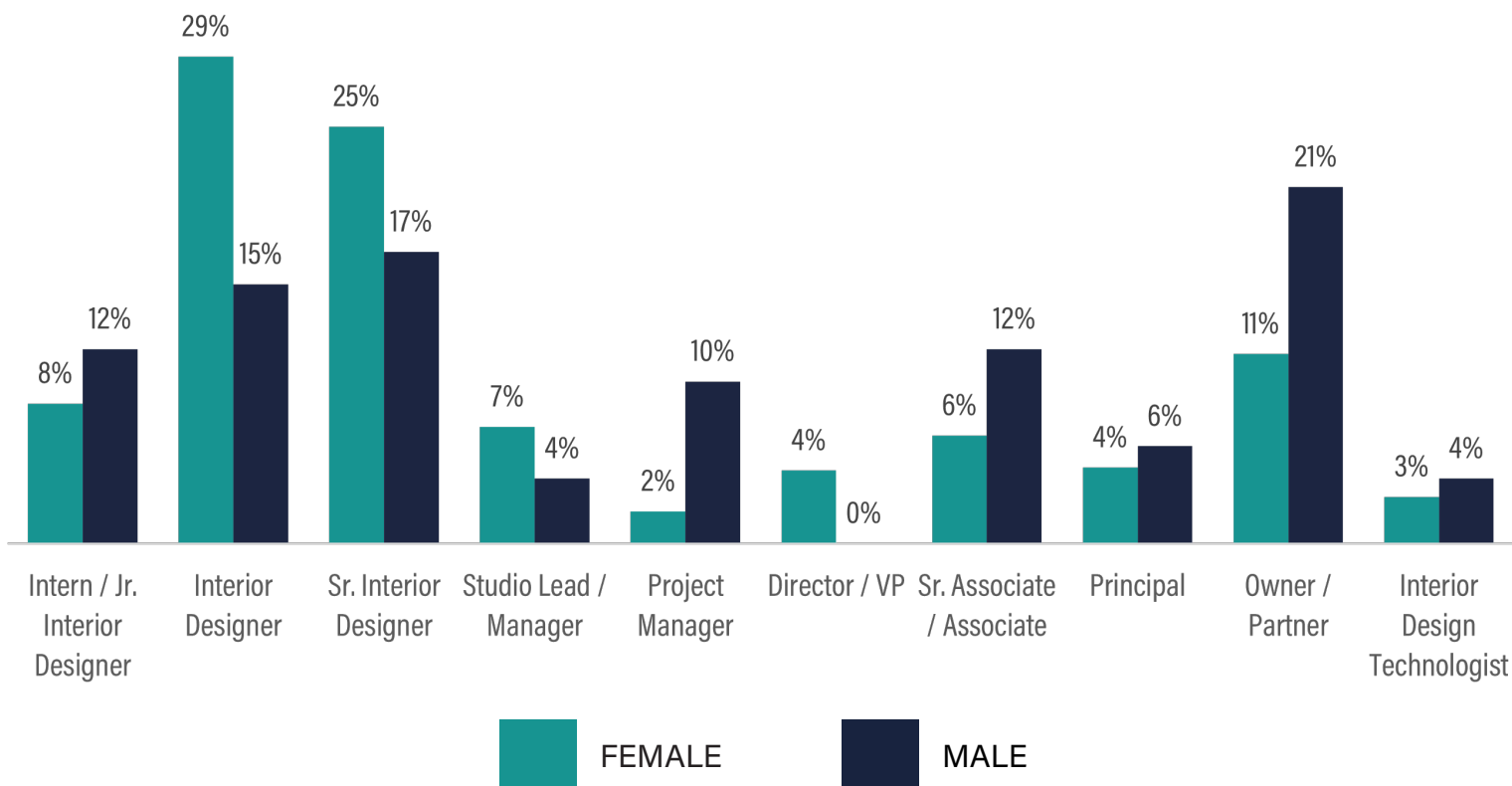


GENDER COMPARISON

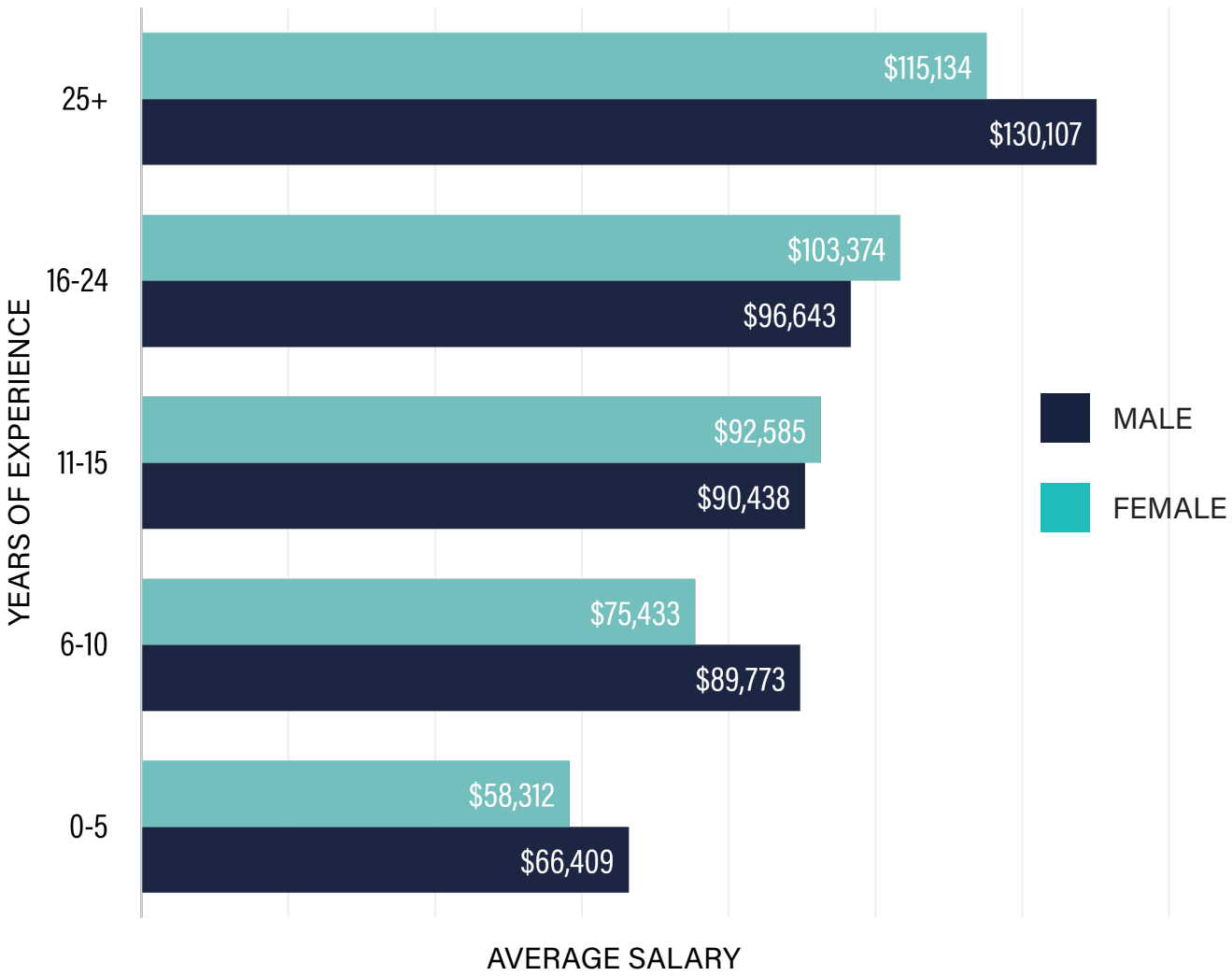
RESPONSE BY GENDER



ROLE REPRESENTATION BY GENDER



GENDER COMPENSATION COMPARISON



SATISFACTION WITH ROLE

RESPONDENTS RATED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THEIR CURRENT ROLE FROM 1 TO 5

RATING	ROLE
3.5/5	MID-JUNIOR (INTERMEDIATE, JUNIOR / INTERN INTERIOR DESIGNERS, & PMs)
3.6/5	SENIOR / MANAGEMENT (SR. INTERIOR DESIGNER, STUDIO LEAD / MANAGER, & ASSOCIATES)
4.2/5	EXECUTIVES / LEADERS (OWNERS, PRINCIPALS, DIRECTORS, VPs, & PARTNERS)
3.4/5	INTERIOR DESIGN TECHNOLOGIST

SATISFACTION WITH COMPENSATION

RESPONDENTS RATED THEIR COMPENSATION SATISFACTION FROM 1 TO 5

3.8/5

EXECUTIVES / LEADERS

(OWNERS, PRINCIPALS, DIRECTORS, VPS, & PARTNERS)

3.5/5

SENIOR / MANAGEMENT

(SR. INTERIOR DESIGNER, STUDIO LEAD / MANAGER, & ASSOCIATES)

3.2/5

MID-JUNIOR

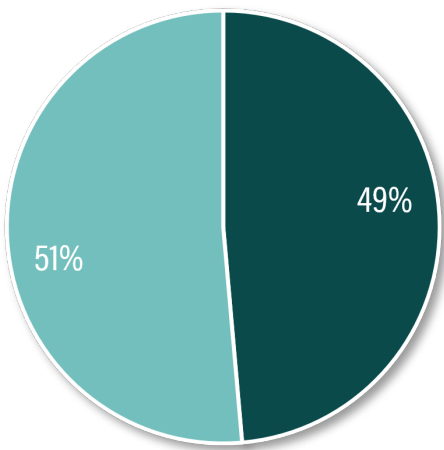
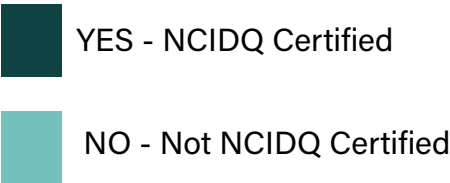
(INTERMEDIATE, JUNIOR / INTERN INTERIOR DESIGNERS, & PMs)

2.9/5

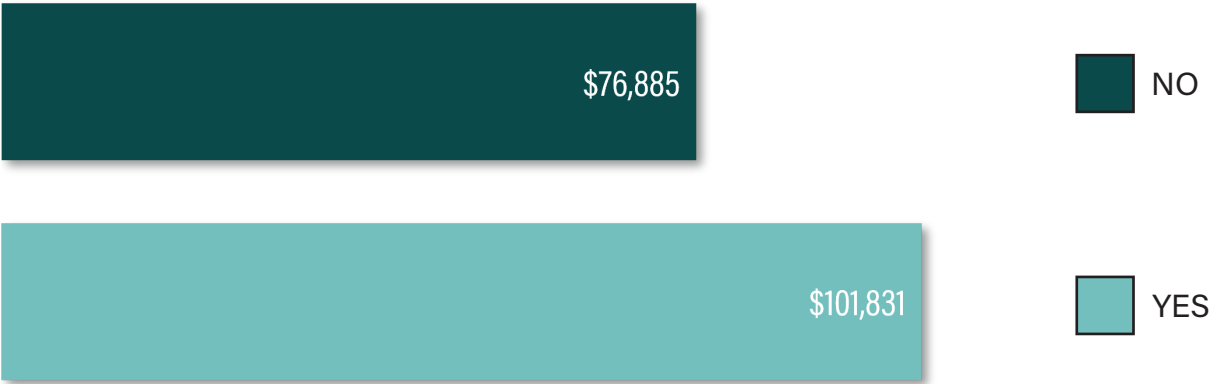
INTERIOR DESIGN TECHNOLOGIST

CERTIFICATION & ASSOCIATIONS

NCIDQ CERTIFICATION



NCIDQ IMPACT ON COMPENSATION



AVERAGE SALARY ACROSS ALL JOB TITLES & YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

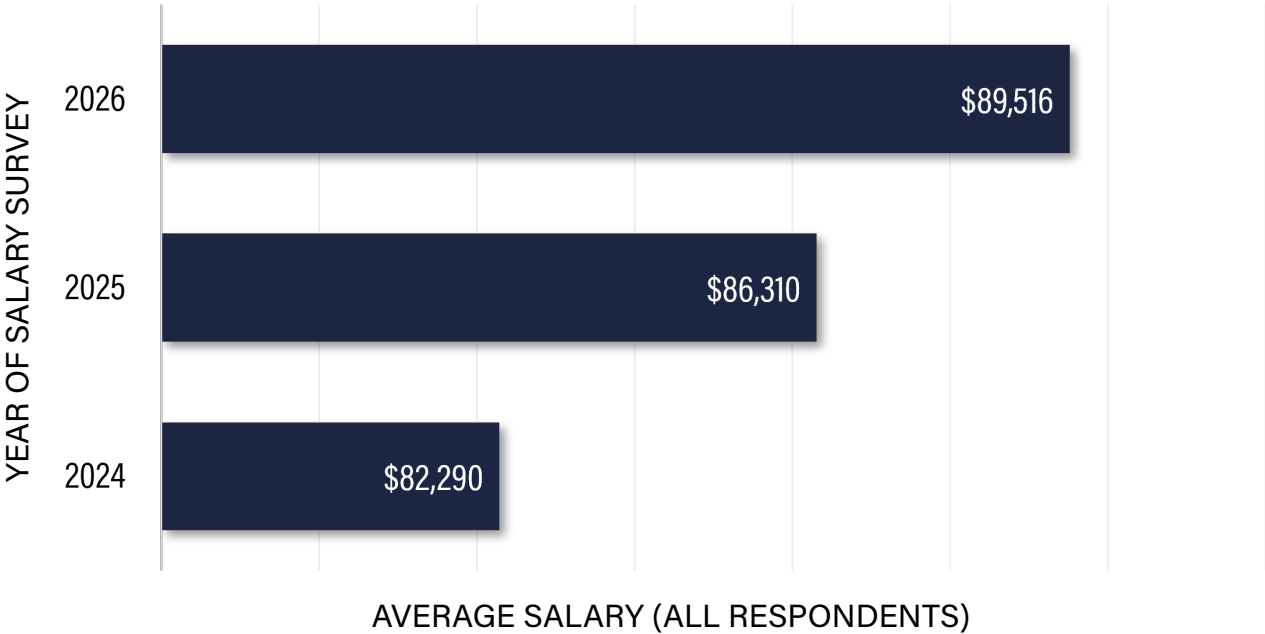
REGISTRATION WITH PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS



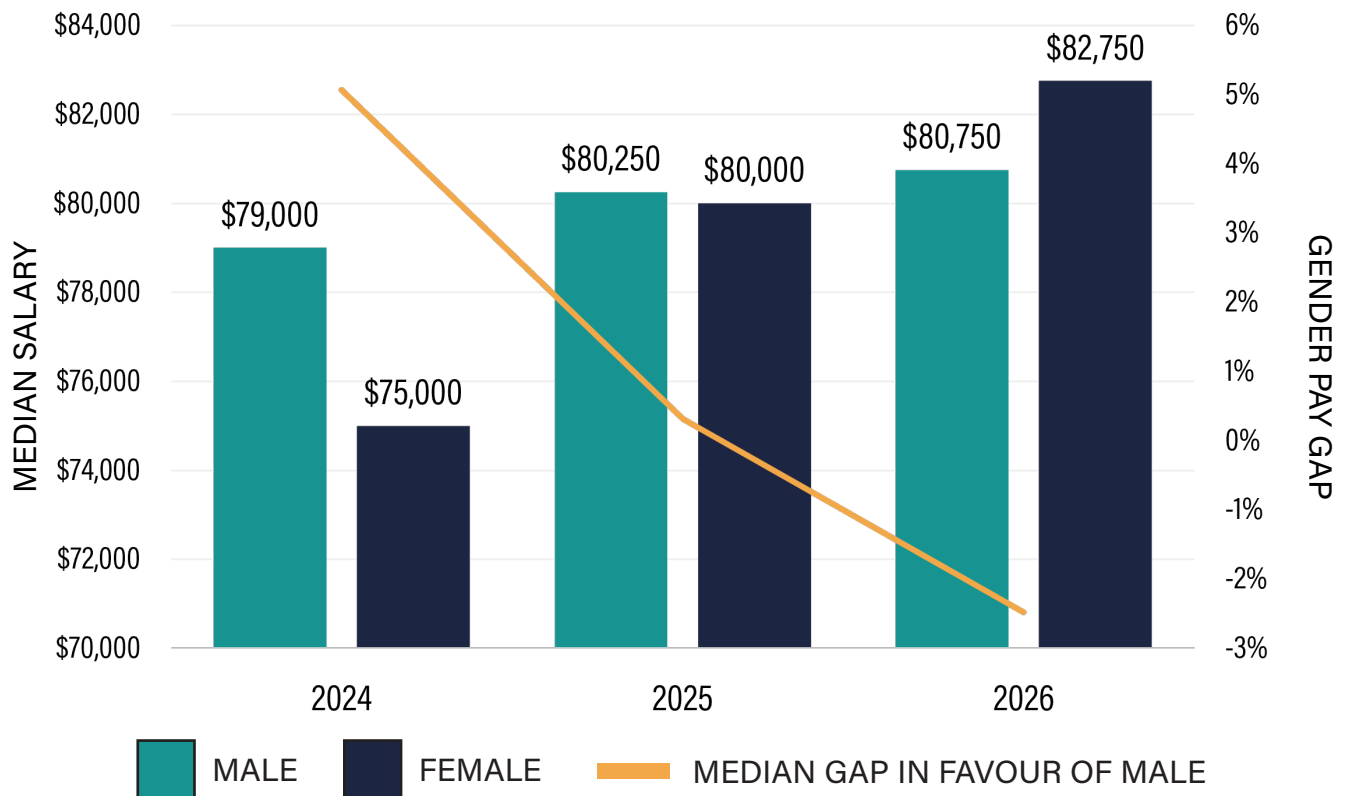
YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON



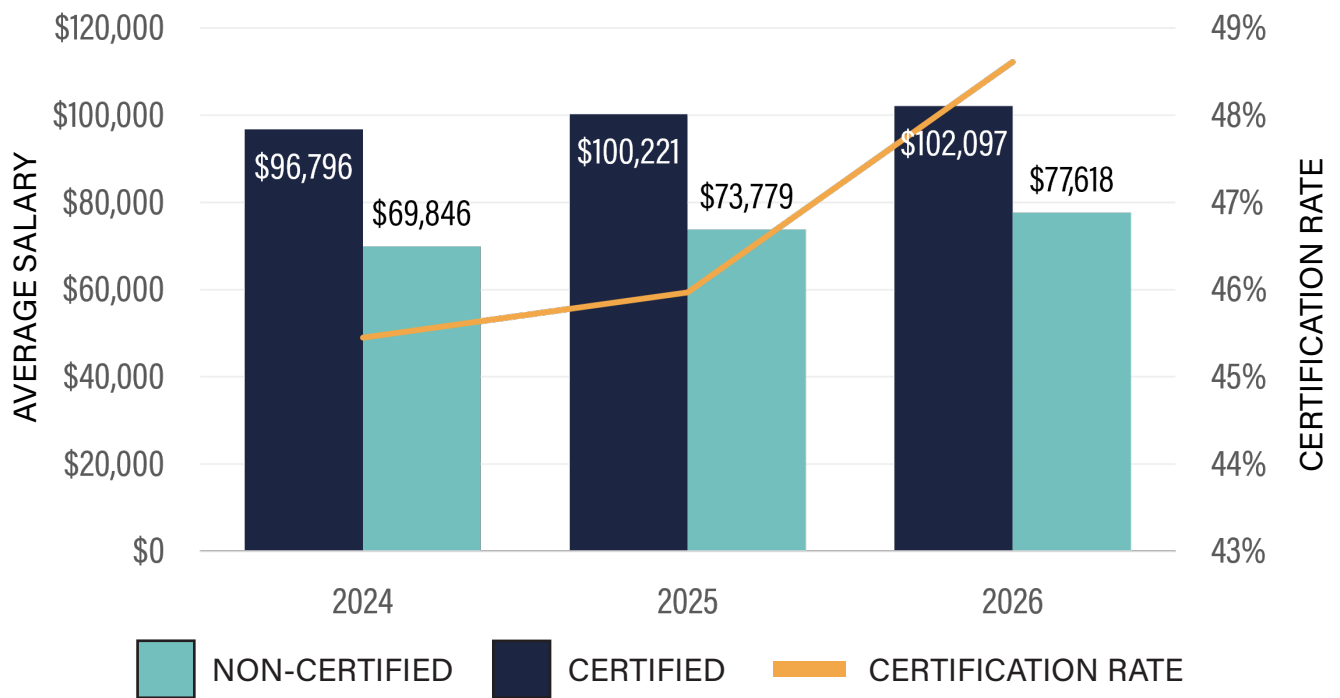
YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPENSATION



GENDER PAY GAP OVER THE YEARS



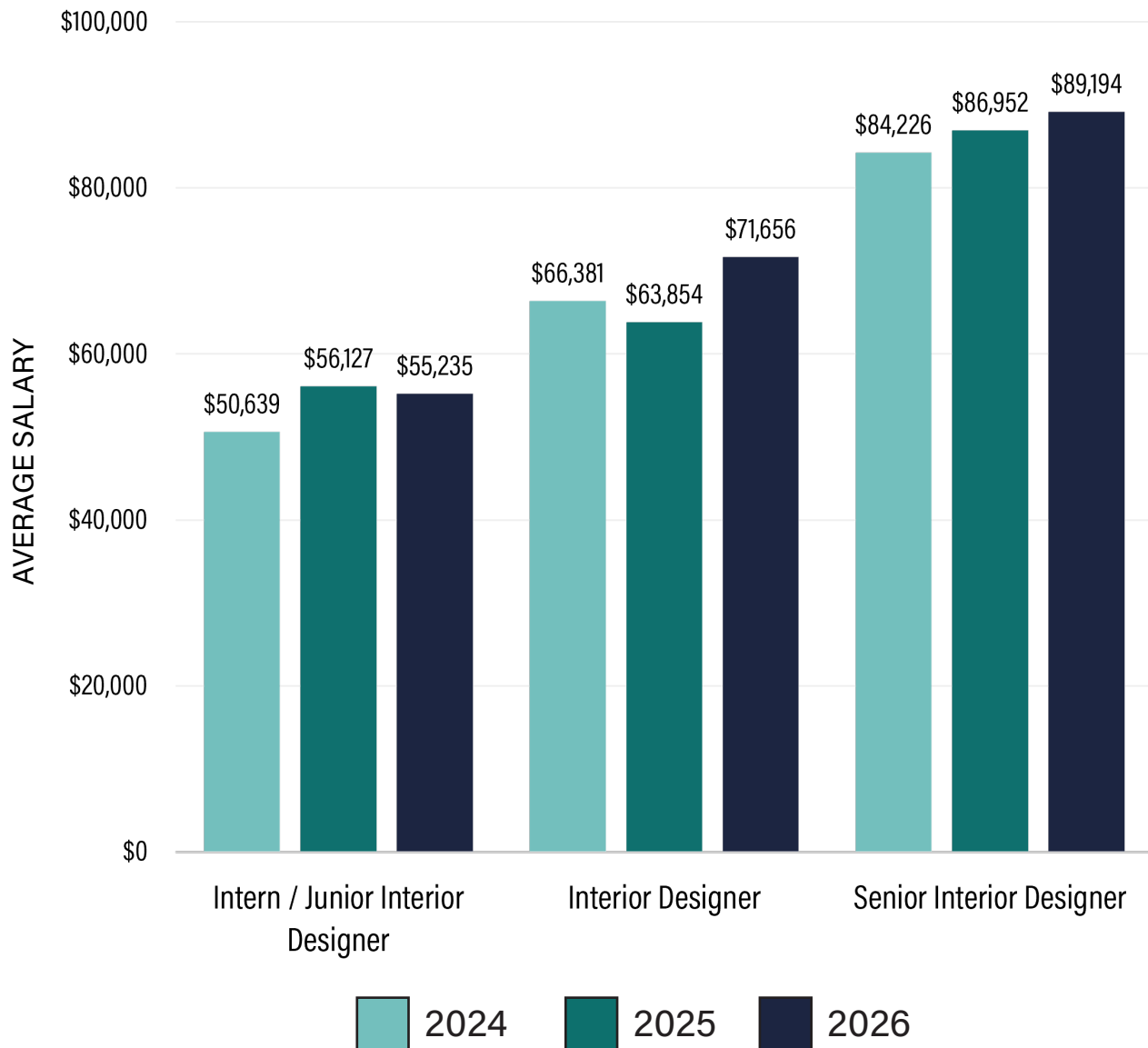
NCIDQ CERTIFICATION & COMPENSATION



TOP REASONS EMPLOYEES CONSIDER A NEW OPPORTUNITY

RANK	2024	2025	2026
#1	WORKING ENVIRONMENT/ CULTURE	WORKING ENVIRONMENT/ CULTURE	WORKING ENVIRONMENT/ CULTURE
#2	EARNING POTENTIAL	EARNING POTENTIAL	EARNING POTENTIAL
#3	COLLEAGUES (INC. MANAGEMENT)	COLLEAGUES (INC. MANAGEMENT)	COLLEAGUES (INC. MANAGEMENT)
#4	CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES	COMPANY VALUES	WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY
#5	VACATION TIME	JOB RESPONSIBILITIES	LOCATION / COMMUTE

NCIDQ CERTIFICATION & COMPENSATION



CONCLUSION

The 2026 Interior Design Salary Report provides a timely view of compensation, career priorities, and workforce sentiment across the Canadian interior design profession.

This year's findings show that **NCIDQ certification continues to align with higher pay**, reinforcing the value of professional credentials in career progression and compensation outcomes.

The data also shows that compensation confidence remains split. While many respondents feel fairly compensated, a significant share are either **unsure or do not believe their compensation is competitive**. For employers, this points to the importance of clear salary benchmarking, transparent compensation conversations, and stronger retention planning.

At the same time, the median gender pay gap has shifted toward parity over the past three years of reporting. While continued tracking is important, this movement reflects encouraging progress in median salary alignment across respondents.

Whether you are planning your next career move or building your team, this report can support more informed, confident, and constructive conversations across the profession.

CONTACT US

We would like to thank all of our respondents who participated in the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated — without you there would be no survey.

If you are looking for more information on the survey, please feel free to reach out directly to our team at solutions@dmcrecruitment.com or visit www.dmcrecruitment.com to connect with one of our Architecture & Design specialists.

DMC provides specialized recruitment services to the Architecture & Design, Building Materials, and Development & Construction industries across North America. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss your recruitment needs or provide career advice at any time.

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R E C R U I T M E N T G R O U P

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