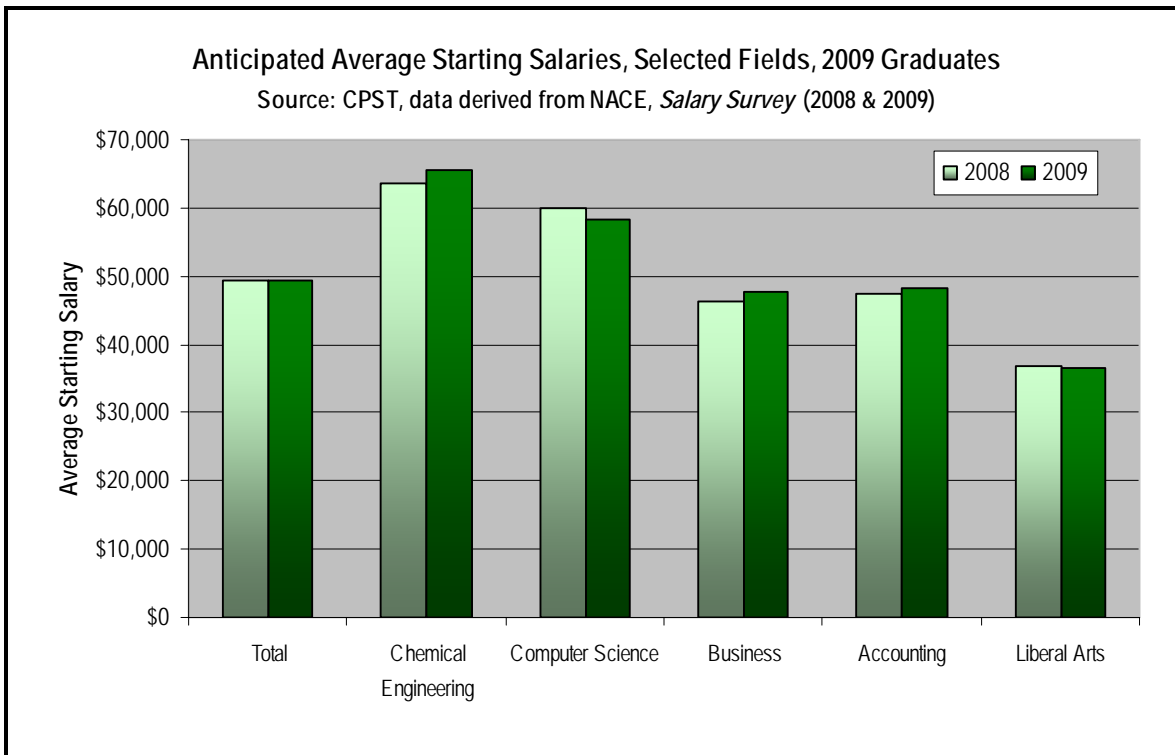


2009 Starting Salaries - No Increase over 2008

Starting salaries for recent bachelor graduates are often an indicator of how well the economy is doing and how fast industries are growing. According to *Salary Survey (2009)* by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), beginning salaries for recent graduates will see only a slight rise from the \$49,300 average for 2008 graduates (Winter 2008 *Salary Survey*) to \$49,353 for 2009 graduates.

Traditionally, students who major in business consistently see higher starting salaries and receive signing bonuses in comparison to their peers in other fields. However, during the last year, the increase in starting salaries has been approximately 2.6%, up to \$47,641. Some business sub-disciplines have fared better in the weak economy. Business administration and management majors, for example, saw nearly 4.7% increases bringing them to an average of \$45,887 from \$44,195 in Winter 2008. Accounting graduates are also likely to see an increase in wages, albeit a much smaller 1.9%, growing from \$47,429 to \$48,334.

While business made relatively flat advances, computer science students saw one of the largest decreases in terms of salaries compared to previous years dropping by 1.4% to \$56,128. While some of the decline can be attributed to the struggling domestic economy, the impact of international outsourcing has been cited as a contributing factor. However, there continues to be a demand for computer scientists, as indicated by the much higher than average salaries, but employers have to scale back on both wages and bonuses.



Engineers, on the other hand, are experiencing salary growth in most sub-disciplines, with engineers among the highest paid graduates. Overall, they have seen an increase of 2.2% in average salaries in 2009 versus 2008. Chemical and civil engineers both posted gains of 2.7% going up to \$65,466 and \$50,785, respectively. Electrical engineers posted more modest gains at 1.6% to \$57,404. Only mechanical engineers saw significant gains, with an average starting salary of \$58,648, a 3.9% increase over 2008.

Liberal arts students have experienced a slight average decrease in starting salaries, falling less than 1% to \$36,445. Other disciplines have also shown similar trends that are anticipated to continue throughout the year.

On the Web: <http://www.naceweb.org/>

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