

BILLING PRACTICES

Data regarding billing practices of Oregon attorneys in private practice was obtained in the survey. Data regarding hours billed per month, hours billed per month by method of pay, and hourly billing rate (analyzed by total years admitted to practice and by area of practice), is presented in the following tables.

Hours Billed: The average and median hours billed per month table includes attorneys in private practice working full-time or part-time by choice. Hours billed range from a high of 127 average hours and 140 median hours in Portland to a low of 69 average and 80 median hours in the Oregon Coast region. The Oregon average hours billed of 111 per month was slightly greater than the average of 108 in the 1998 survey. Similar comparisons with 1998 data exist for most of the regional data.

Hours Billed Per Month – *Private Practice*

Hours Billed	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Average	111	127	90	120	98	92	101	69
Median	120	140	100	120	107	100	100	80
25th Percentile	80	109	50	100	60	71	78	27
75th Percentile	150	155	125	150	130	113	138	100
95th Percentile	180	182	161	200	165	170	167	143

Hours Billed by Method of Pay: Hours billed per month are presented in the following table by method of pay for attorneys in private practice working full-time or part-time by choice. For Oregon, the median number of hours for employees was 145 and the Portland region was highest with 145 hours per month. For Oregon, owner median number of hours was 110 and the Portland region was 135. This data compares to the 1998 survey, which reported for Oregon the employee median of 139 hours and the owner median of 110 hours.

Hours Billed Per Month by Method of Pay – *Private Practice*

Method of Pay	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Owner (e.g., Partner, Shareholder, Sole Practitioner)								
Average	106	123	85	119	95	85	101	66
Median	110	135	92	120	100	100	100	80
Employee (e.g., salaried or hourly paid)								
Average	135	135	113	126	120	141	113	72
Median	145	145	123	133	125	142	115	80
Contract (e.g., paid by hour or assignment)								
Average	76	102	58	n/a	49	n/a	n/a	n/a
Median	72	120	35	n/a	38	n/a	n/a	n/a

Billing Rate: The average, median, low, 25th, 75th, and 95th percentiles, and high hourly billing rates table includes attorneys in private practice working full-time, part-time by choice, or part-time due to lack of legal work. For Oregon, the average and median billing rates of \$174 and \$165 per hour compare to \$138 and \$130 in the 1998 survey.

Hourly Billing Rate All Respondents – *Private Practice*

Hourly Billing Rate	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Average	\$174	\$197	\$161	\$150	\$157	\$155	\$149	\$139
Median	\$165	\$190	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$130
Low	\$25	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$25	\$100	\$100	\$75
25th Percentile	\$140	\$150	\$129	\$130	\$129	\$137	\$130	\$125
75th Percentile	\$200	\$230	\$180	\$175	\$180	\$175	\$168	\$160
95th Percentile	\$275	\$300	\$242	\$200	\$240	\$209	\$189	\$180
High	\$500	\$500	\$350	\$250	\$375	\$310	\$210	\$200

Total Years Admitted to Practice: The average and median hourly billing rates by total years admitted to practice table includes attorneys in private practice working full-time, part-time by choice, or part-time due to lack of legal work. For Oregon, the average and median billing rates were generally higher with more years admitted to practice. Regional data exhibits some variations, but generally follows the trend of higher rates as years of experience increase.

Hourly Billing Rate by Total Years Admitted to Practice – *Private Practice*

Years Admitted	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
0–3 Years								
Average	\$137	\$144	\$142	\$119	\$104	n/a	n/a	\$137
Median	\$135	\$145	\$145	\$125	\$108	n/a	n/a	\$125
25th Percentile	\$125	\$129	\$125	\$110	\$91	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$150	\$155	\$150	\$125	\$124	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$175	\$181	\$175	\$147	\$137	n/a	n/a	n/a
4–6 Years								
Average	\$152	\$165	\$156	\$129	\$121	\$121	\$136	n/a
Median	\$150	\$158	\$150	\$140	\$125	\$123	\$135	n/a
25th Percentile	\$125	\$145	\$125	\$125	\$115	n/a	\$128	n/a
75th Percentile	\$175	\$185	\$175	\$150	\$135	n/a	\$145	n/a
95th Percentile	\$219	\$221	\$238	\$171	\$143	n/a	\$168	n/a
7–9 Years								
Average	\$160	\$176	\$143	\$157	\$160	\$159	\$146	\$120
Median	\$150	\$183	\$150	\$150	\$163	\$150	\$150	\$125
25th Percentile	\$140	\$150	\$125	\$145	n/a	\$129	\$125	n/a
75th Percentile	\$185	\$200	\$175	\$180	n/a	\$159	\$160	n/a
95th Percentile	\$217	\$225	\$200	\$197	n/a	\$249	\$178	n/a
10–12 Years								
Average	\$162	\$187	\$148	\$152	\$146	\$148	\$134	\$145
Median	\$150	\$180	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$140	\$145
25th Percentile	\$140	\$150	\$135	\$140	\$135	n/a	\$120	\$125
75th Percentile	\$180	\$225	\$169	\$163	\$155	n/a	\$140	\$166
95th Percentile	\$235	\$275	\$175	\$183	\$190	n/a	\$156	\$180
13–15 Years								
Average	\$161	\$189	\$145	\$141	\$130	\$136	\$139	n/a
Median	\$155	\$180	\$135	\$138	\$150	\$148	\$150	n/a
25th Percentile	\$126	\$161	\$125	\$133	\$100	\$126	\$119	n/a
75th Percentile	\$175	\$219	\$175	\$155	\$165	\$150	\$154	n/a
95th Percentile	\$250	\$293	\$184	\$173	\$184	\$150	\$168	n/a
16–20 Years								
Average	\$185	\$213	\$166	\$151	\$177	\$156	\$148	\$126
Median	\$175	\$218	\$155	\$150	\$175	\$155	\$143	\$125
25th Percentile	\$150	\$175	\$125	\$135	\$151	\$140	\$128	\$108
75th Percentile	\$225	\$253	\$188	\$153	\$188	\$175	\$158	\$150
95th Percentile	\$275	\$298	\$263	\$200	\$228	\$178	\$198	\$166

Hourly Billing Rate by Total Years Admitted to Practice – Private Practice (continued)

Years Admitted	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
21–30 Years								
Average	\$193	\$227	\$173	\$165	\$176	\$161	\$158	\$143
Median	\$180	\$225	\$165	\$168	\$170	\$150	\$150	\$138
25th Percentile	\$150	\$180	\$150	\$149	\$150	\$148	\$140	\$125
75th Percentile	\$225	\$275	\$200	\$181	\$199	\$180	\$175	\$158
95th Percentile	\$300	\$320	\$253	\$225	\$258	\$217	\$199	\$187
Over 30 Years								
Average	\$189	\$223	\$169	\$155	\$181	\$166	\$156	\$160
Median	\$175	\$200	\$175	\$163	\$180	\$164	\$150	\$163
25th Percentile	\$150	\$183	\$150	\$143	\$150	\$150	\$147	\$153
75th Percentile	\$204	\$257	\$188	\$175	\$205	\$175	\$175	\$165
95th Percentile	\$283	\$337	\$213	\$219	\$240	\$199	\$180	\$176

Area of Private Practice:

For attorneys in private practice, the average and median hourly billing rate by area of private practice is presented in the following table on the next two pages. This data includes attorneys in private practice working full-time, part-time by choice, or part-time due to lack of legal work. For Oregon, the average hourly billing rates range from a low of \$141 per hour for civil litigation–insurance defense to a high of \$210 for business/corporate–litigation. The highest median billing rate was \$200 for business/corporate–litigation. In general, the highest hourly billing rates were in Portland.

Hourly Billing Rate by Area of Practice – Type of Employment – *Private*

Type of Employment	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Bankruptcy								
Average	\$184	\$233	\$169	n/a	\$177	\$128	\$158	n/a
Median	\$175	\$235	\$175	n/a	\$180	\$130	\$175	n/a
25th Percentile	\$150	\$194	\$150	n/a	\$163	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$210	\$264	\$190	n/a	\$198	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$275	\$325	\$224	n/a	\$228	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business/Corporate–Litigation								
Average	\$210	\$222	\$195	\$159	\$149	n/a	n/a	n/a
Median	\$200	\$220	\$175	\$165	\$150	n/a	n/a	n/a
25th Percentile	\$160	\$185	\$175	\$145	\$133	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$250	\$265	\$210	\$173	\$170	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$315	\$333	\$242	\$193	\$194	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business/Corporate–Transactional								
Average	\$197	\$217	\$170	\$171	\$174	\$160	\$187	n/a
Median	\$190	\$205	\$150	\$173	\$190	\$153	\$185	n/a
25th Percentile	\$150	\$170	\$135	\$149	\$150	\$150	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$225	\$250	\$200	\$188	\$205	\$174	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$299	\$325	\$266	\$215	\$251	\$188	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation–Defendant (excludes Insurance Defense)								
Average	\$202	\$205	n/a	n/a	\$193	n/a	\$170	n/a
Median	\$190	\$195	n/a	n/a	\$140	n/a	\$165	n/a
25th Percentile	\$150	\$160	n/a	n/a	\$135	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$250	\$250	n/a	n/a	\$190	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$307	\$300	n/a	n/a	\$338	n/a	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation–Insurance Defense								
Average	\$141	\$146	\$131	\$135	\$129	\$128	n/a	n/a
Median	\$138	\$140	\$125	\$130	\$130	\$120	n/a	n/a
25th Percentile	\$120	\$130	\$120	n/a	\$110	\$110	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$150	\$160	\$140	n/a	\$135	\$145	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$195	\$195	\$148	n/a	\$155	\$153	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation–Plaintiff (excludes Personal Injury)								
Average	\$167	\$186	\$154	n/a	\$151	\$154	n/a	n/a
Median	\$168	\$200	\$155	n/a	\$150	\$158	n/a	n/a
25th Percentile	\$130	\$160	\$130	n/a	n/a	\$135	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$200	\$215	\$185	n/a	n/a	\$173	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$238	\$263	\$204	n/a	n/a	\$179	n/a	n/a
Civil Litigation–Plaintiff–Personal Injury								
Average	\$165	\$183	\$168	\$143	\$130	\$152	\$140	n/a
Median	\$153	\$175	\$156	\$150	\$150	\$135	\$138	n/a
25th Percentile	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$100	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$178	\$200	\$175	\$150	\$150	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$239	\$250	\$225	\$171	\$150	n/a	n/a	n/a

Hourly Billing Rate by Area of Practice – Type of Employment – Private *(continued)*

Type of Employment	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Criminal–Private Bar								
Average	\$144	\$179	\$146	\$118	\$128	\$172	\$123	\$128
Median	\$150	\$163	\$150	\$125	\$135	\$150	\$125	\$125
25th Percentile	\$120	\$150	\$130	\$100	\$105	\$150	\$113	\$121
75th Percentile	\$150	\$200	\$175	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$134	\$144
95th Percentile	\$223	\$288	\$197	\$160	\$198	\$278	\$140	\$150
Family Law								
Average	\$163	\$190	\$168	\$159	\$143	\$151	\$140	\$137
Median	\$155	\$180	\$165	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
25th Percentile	\$140	\$165	\$150	\$135	\$123	\$148	n/a	\$120
75th Percentile	\$180	\$200	\$185	\$178	\$175	\$150	n/a	\$150
95th Percentile	\$225	\$287	\$219	\$224	\$200	\$191	n/a	\$165
Real Estate/Land Use/Environmental Law								
Average	\$196	\$222	\$173	\$149	\$185	\$166	n/a	n/a
Median	\$180	\$225	\$175	\$150	\$175	\$168	n/a	n/a
25th Percentile	\$153	\$180	\$128	\$138	\$155	\$144	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$233	\$263	\$200	\$173	\$205	\$188	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$304	\$309	\$271	\$175	\$241	\$194	n/a	n/a
Tax/Estate Planning								
Average	\$181	\$199	\$164	\$149	\$175	\$176	\$158	n/a
Median	\$175	\$185	\$165	\$150	\$165	\$175	\$145	n/a
25th Percentile	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$140	\$140	\$150	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$204	\$233	\$193	\$150	\$205	\$180	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$275	\$297	\$209	\$175	\$239	\$219	n/a	n/a
Workers' Compensation								
Average	\$147	\$153	\$138	\$149	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Median	\$128	\$130	\$128	\$135	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
25th Percentile	\$125	\$120	\$125	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
75th Percentile	\$170	\$175	\$143	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
95th Percentile	\$208	\$235	\$183	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
General (no area over 50%)								
Average	\$158	\$176	\$155	\$154	\$156	\$151	\$154	\$142
Median	\$150	\$175	\$150	\$150	\$155	\$150	\$150	\$125
25th Percentile	\$140	\$145	\$140	\$140	\$150	\$145	\$143	\$125
75th Percentile	\$175	\$200	\$175	\$170	\$174	\$170	\$171	\$165
95th Percentile	\$220	\$250	\$200	\$196	\$207	\$175	\$185	\$187
Other								
Average	\$179	\$206	\$155	\$146	\$165	n/a	\$155	n/a
Median	\$170	\$198	\$150	\$140	\$158	n/a	\$150	n/a
25th Percentile	\$144	\$165	\$125	\$129	\$131	n/a	\$150	n/a
75th Percentile	\$204	\$246	\$175	\$160	\$181	n/a	\$163	n/a
95th Percentile	\$295	\$300	\$271	\$191	\$250	n/a	\$181	n/a

Billing Methods: For attorneys in private practice, data was reported for the change in billing methods for time billed on an hourly rate basis. The following table presents the percentage of responses by each of the four options regarding the change in the portion of hourly billing. Eighty-four percent of the responses were either not applicable (because they billed less than 1/3 on an hourly basis) or reported no change in the portion of hourly rate billing. This question was not included on the 1998 survey. For Oregon, over twice as many respondents (11%) had a decrease in the portion of hourly billing than those respondents who reported an increase (5%).

Change in Billing Methods – Private Practice

Change in Portion of Hourly Billing	Oregon	Portland	Tri-County	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Southern Oregon	Eastern Oregon	Oregon Coast
Not Applicable – Bill Less than 1/3 on Hourly Rate Basis	17%	11%	26%	19%	19%	13%	15%	32%
Decrease in Portion of Hourly Billing	11%	9%	12%	12%	13%	9%	20%	16%
Increase in Portion of Hourly Billing	5%	3%	6%	9%	7%	8%	3%	7%
No Change in Portion of Hourly Billing	67%	77%	56%	60%	61%	70%	62%	45%