

# 2006

# LocumTenens.com

compensation and employment survey

## GENERAL SURGERY

### The Survey

LocumTenens.com conducted its *Annual Physician Compensation and Employment Survey* in the early summer of 2006. Survey respondents represent physicians who practice on a locum tenens basis as well as those with permanent salaries. This report includes compensation and employment statistics for the field of general surgery including:

- ♦ National annual compensation ranges
- ♦ Sources for finding jobs
- ♦ Time frame for making next job change
- ♦ Influencing factors for seeking a job change
- ♦ Discussion topics for interviews
- ♦ Insights and remarks about the practice of medicine today

Demographics for survey respondents include:

- ♦ Board status
- ♦ Gender
- ♦ Years in practice



"Quality of life is a combination of compensation, flexibility of schedule, amount of time spent at the hospital, the work environment and the area in which one lives. All of these things must be factored in. One aspect alone would not be decisive."

### Frustrations with the current system

This survey showed that one of the biggest frustrations with medicine, across all specialties, is that the clinical practice of medicine is controlled by the business aspects. Respondents believe that in the current system, health care decisions are often placed in the wrong hands. Administrators, drug companies, the government, lawyers and even patients influence too much of the care that is provided, giving the physician less control than ever before.

### About LocumTenens.com

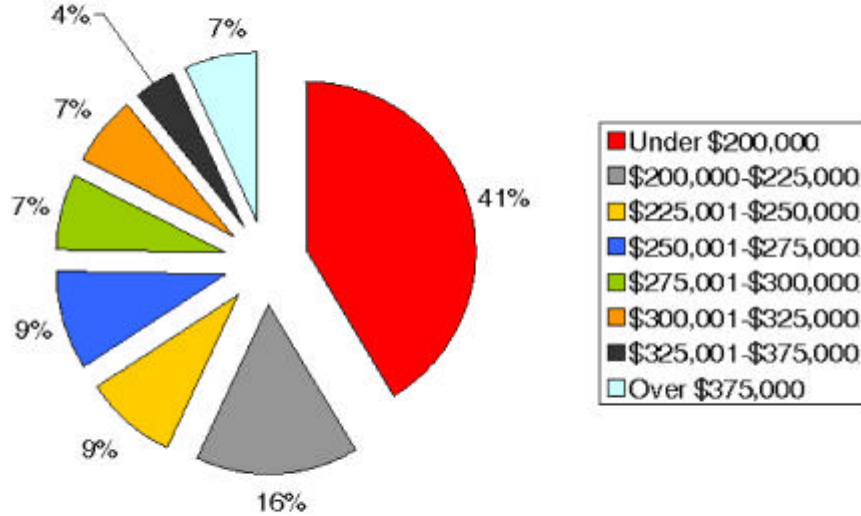


Founded in 1995, LocumTenens.com is a full-service physician recruiting firm specializing in supplemental placement of anesthesiologists, radiologists, psychiatrists, surgeons and CRNAs (certified registered nurse anesthetists) with U.S. hospitals, medical groups and community health centers. LocumTenens.com is part of the Jackson Healthcare Solutions family of companies.

In addition to full-service recruiting assistance, LocumTenens.com operates a free job board at [www.LocumTenens.com](http://www.LocumTenens.com) which currently has more than 1500 general surgery opportunities posted.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL COMPENSATION

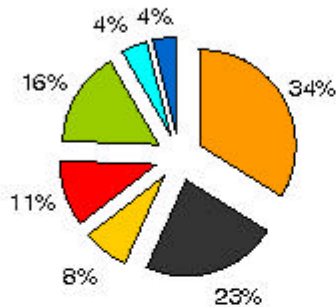
### General Surgery



2006 AVERAGE SALARY: \$250,200

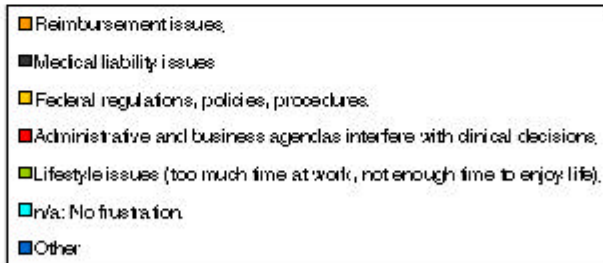
In addition to a salary, 19% of respondents receive a bonus or other incentive valued at more than \$20,000 each year.

## What frustrates you most about the practice of medicine today?

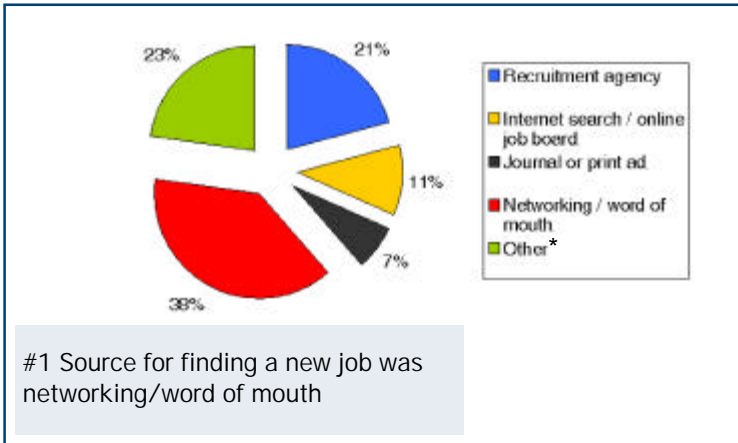


The top three frustrations are:

- #1: Reimbursement issues
- #2: Medical liability issues
- #3: Lifestyle issues -- too much time at work, not enough time to enjoy life

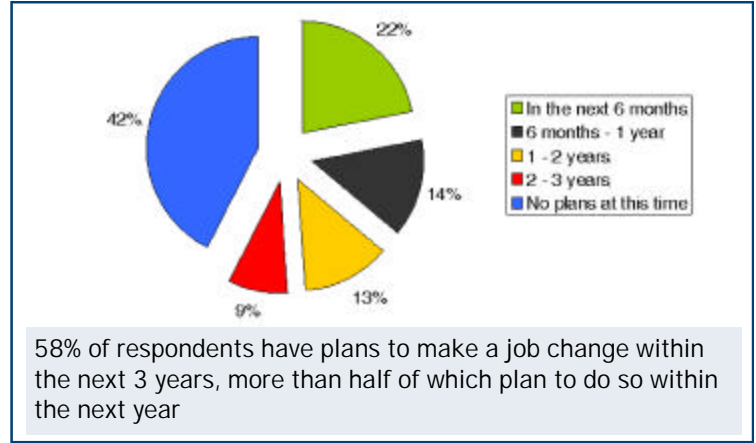


## Source for finding current job

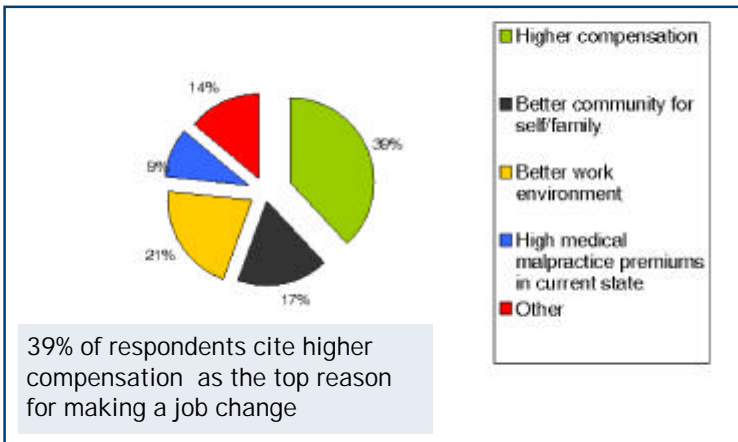


\*Other sources for finding a job include: military commitment, professional society or association, locum tenens to permanent

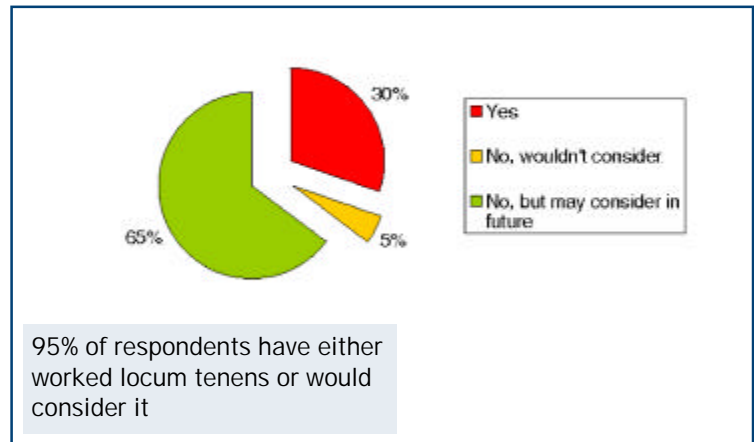
## Time frame for making next job change



## Top reason for making a job change



## Worked as a locum tenens provider?



## Demographics of survey respondents

### AT A GLANCE:

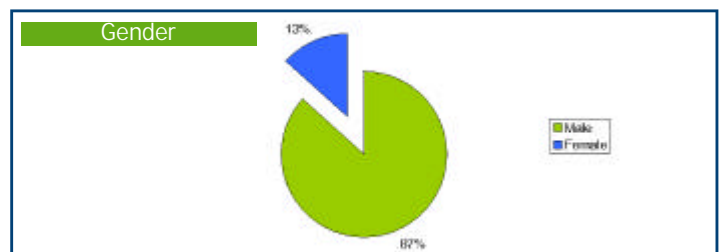
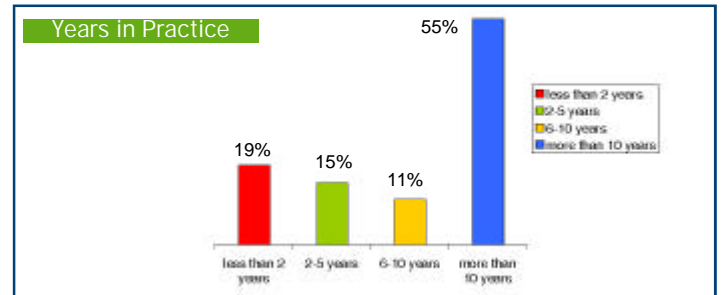
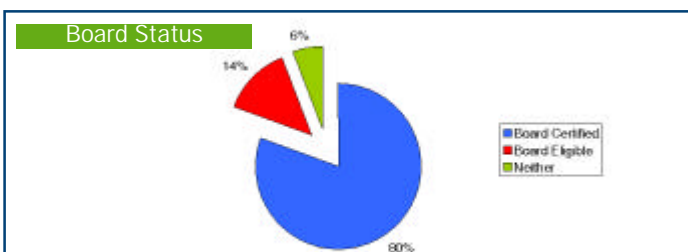
Survey respondents were:

80% Board Certified, 14% Board Eligible

87% Male, 13% female

55% have been practicing for more than 10 years

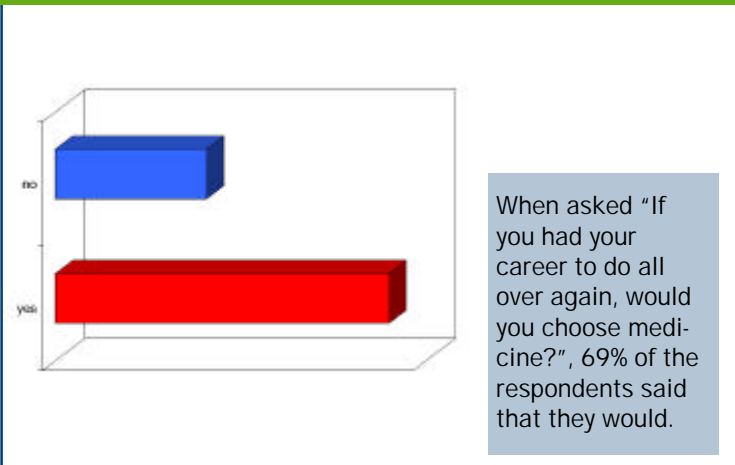
Permanent and Locum Tenens



**During the interview process, general surgeons are most interested in learning about the following:**

- ♦ Work with Anesthesiologists or CRNAs?
- ♦ Hours, including night and weekend call, volume of cases after 3 pm, day after call off?
- ♦ Day-to-day work environment
- ♦ Financial stability of group and relationship with hospital
- ♦ Staff turnover rate, why did others leave the practice?
- ♦ Payor mix
- ♦ Community features, leisure and lifestyle -- quality of schools, affordability of housing
- ♦ Hospital dynamics
- ♦ Case mix, volume of cases
- ♦ Equipment at facility
- ♦ Number of PCPs in the area and an estimate of how many general surgical consults/procedures are generated per PCP
- ♦ Flexibility

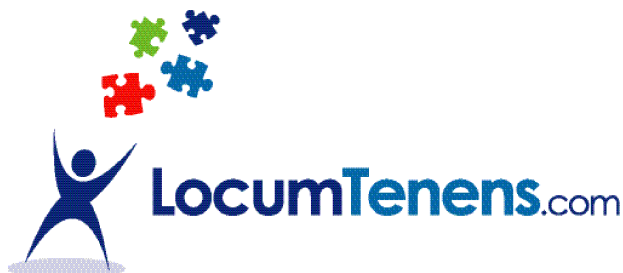
**Choose medicine again?**



**Compared to other specialties:**

When asked if they would choose medicine again, here's how the other specialists' opinions compared:

	yes	no
Radiology:	70%	30%
Orthopedic Surgery	57%	43%
Psychiatry	77%	23%
Anesthesiology	67%	33%
Pediatrics	70%	30%
Obstetrics/Gyn	56%	44%
Internal Medicine	70%	30%



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If you could change one thing about the practice of medicine, what would it be?

" Return of the focus back to the patient-physician relationship and diminish the influence of commercial third-party payors ."

"T he way we get paid."

"More doctors, less work hours."

"T o always have a choice about how hard or not hard one is willing to work. Most hospital-based practices have little time flexibility."

"Less business, more medicine."

"I would return the decision to care for the patient back to the physician and not the insurance company."

"T here would be no third party involved with reimbursement."

More than 14 percent of Americans lacked health insurance in 2005

--National Center for Health Statistics