LocumTenens.com conducted its Annual Compensation and Employment Survey in January of 2017. Survey respondents represent surgeons who practice on a locum tenens basis as well as those with permanent salaries. Salary data reflects 2016 reported earnings.

In this year’s Your Voice Matters section, we asked physicians and advanced practitioners to weigh in on changes in healthcare law.

This report includes compensation and employment statistics for the field of surgery.

Respondent Demographics:

**by region**

- Northeast: 18%
- Southeast: 25%
- West: 26%
- Southwest: 15%

**years in practice**

- 5 or less years: 16%
- 6–12 years: 16%
- 13–20 years: 19%
- 21–30 years: 27%
- more than 30 years: 22%

**career choices**

- different career (non-healthcare): 16%
- different career in healthcare (0%)
- different specialty: 8%
- change nothing/the same career path: 10%
- other: 10%

We asked surgeons, “considering your career, if you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?”

**employment status**

- employee: 58%
- independent practice; owner or partner: 20%
- locum tenens or independent contractor exclusively: 18%
- retired: 3%
- currently unemployed: 1%

**next job change**

- in the next 6 months: 23%
- 6 months–1 year: 6%
- 1–2 years: 7%
- 2–3 years: 14%
- no plans at this time: 50%

2016 average annual surgery salary:

- General Surgeon: $373,364
- Orthopedic Surgeon: $489,000

at a glance

- 80% male
- 20% female
- 44% hospital employed
- 27% group practice
- 82% board certified
- 15% board eligible
- 20% worked on a locum tenens basis in 2016
- 25% average annual paid vacation
Every year, we survey physicians and advanced practitioners for their opinions on a specific healthcare topic. This year, we focused on changes in current healthcare legislation and how potential changes may or may not impact them.

The first attempt by the new administration to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act with the American Healthcare Act failed to gain enough votes, but the battle is far from finished. In such an unpredictable time for American healthcare, it comes as no surprise that most survey respondents stated they were either not prepared or were unsure regarding legislative changes. Uncertainty about the future is also shown through only 24 percent of physicians and advanced practitioners stating they believe a pay structure based on quality would lead to better patient care.

See the data breakdown below to see how physicians and advanced practitioners feel about healthcare law and MACRA.

**Methodology:**

Invitations for the survey were emailed to a database of more than 130,000 individuals, which included physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and CRNAs who have been placed by LocumTenens.com and those who have not. Respondents to all surveys were self-selected and spanned all 50 states and medical/surgical specialties. The response rate was 2 percent, with a +/- 2 percent error rate at a 95 percent confidence level.

**About LocumTenens.com:**

LocumTenens.com is a full-service staffing firm serving physicians, CRNAs, NPs and PAs searching for locum tenens and permanent job opportunities, as well as healthcare facilities looking to solve employment shortages. The operator of the largest internet job board for the locum tenens industry, LocumTenens.com provides job-seeking providers direct access to thousands of jobs, in all specialties, posted directly by facilities and agencies nationwide.