Decoding Data Job Salaries: A Simple Guide to What's Out There

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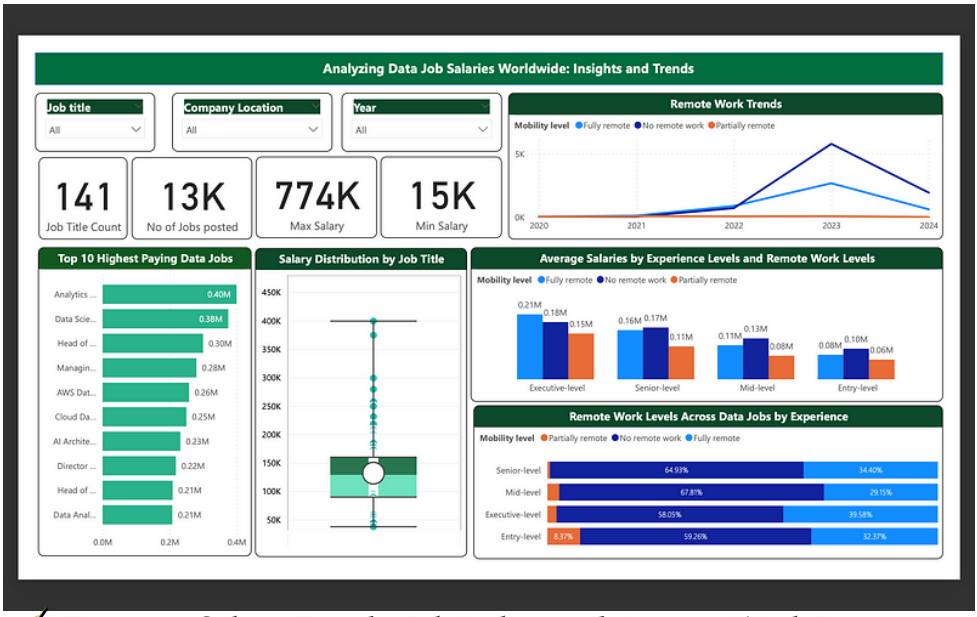
Hey there! I'm Ryan, and this marks my debut on Medium. I am about to graduate in Data Science for business. The job market's up next for me, thrilling, yet a bit scary. This kick-off post is all about breaking down data job salaries into easy bits, sparked by my curiosity and some cool insights from friends. I've turned Power BI into my tool for slicing through salary data to find out where the gold lies.

✍️ Figure 1. Vietnamese water puppets learning Power BI | Credited: DALL·E

About the Dataset:

I've sourced the dataset from ai-jobs.net, a rich compilation of anonymous contributions from professionals and employers worldwide. For those interested, contributions to the dataset are welcome at ai-jobs.net/salaries/form/.

The Big Picture: Salaries from Around the Globe



✍️ Figure 2. Salary Trends, Job Roles, and Remote Work Impact in the Data Field | Credited: Created using Power BI by Ryan → https://medium.com/@bnhminh_38309

Imagine a huge box filled with 13,309 different pieces, each piece a job in the data world. These jobs have 141 titles like Data Engineer, Data Scientist, and more, showing just how varied this field is.

Salaries in this box range wildly, from as low as $15,000 to a whopping $774,000, showcasing a world of difference in what you can earn.

The Heavy Hitters: Jobs That Pay Top Dollar

In this diverse salary landscape, certain roles stand tall. Positions like Analytics Engineering Manager (400K $) and Data Science Tech Lead (375K $) sit at the top, pulling in the biggest bucks. This tells us that if you're aiming for the stars, specializing or leading is the way to go. But it's not all sky-high salaries; there are roles at the lower end too, highlighting the broad spectrum of pay in the data field.

The Remote Work Effect: How Location Impacts Pay

Diving into the data, a curious pattern emerges around remote work and salaries. Jobs that require you to be in the office pay the most, averaging $154,291, suggesting there's value in being present. Surprisingly, fully remote jobs also offer pretty sweet deals, with an average salary of $144,942, only slightly trailing behind in-office roles. It seems like the data world values both traditional office roles and the flexibility of remote work, each for different reasons.

Climbing the Ladder: Experience Pays Off

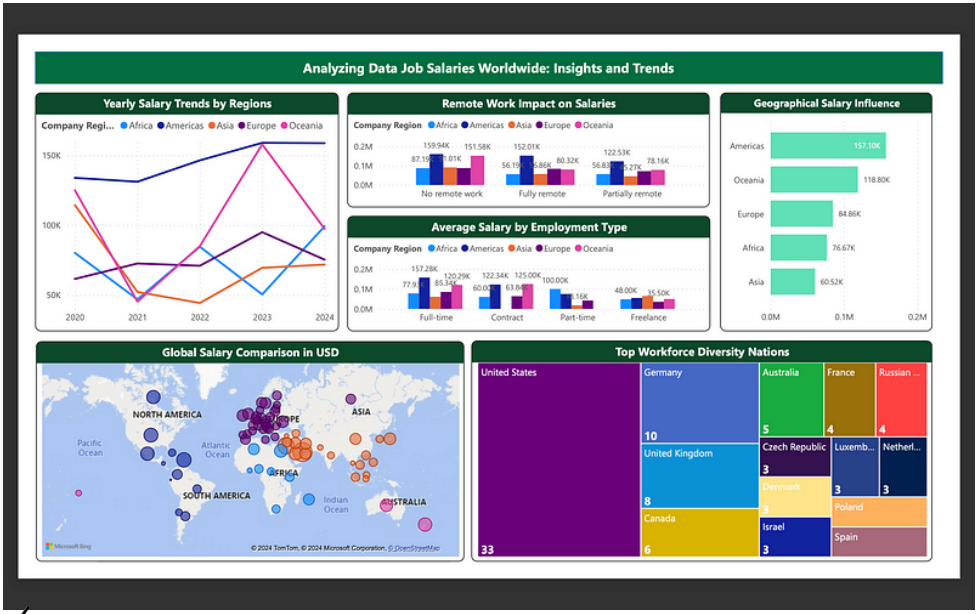
- **Entry-level (EN):** $89,900
- **Mid-level (MI):** $124,137
- **Senior-level (SE):** $163,464
- **Expert (EX):** $192,328

The journey from entry-level to expert in the data world is like climbing a salary ladder. Starting at the bottom, the climb from entry-level to mid-level and then to senior roles comes with noticeable pay bumps at each step. This climb shows that in the data field, gaining experience and moving up can lead to a much fatter paycheck.

Remote Work Trends: A Shift in Dynamics

The evolving dynamics of remote work are evident in the shifting trends from 2020 to 2023, with a sharp increase in no-remote positions and a gradual increase in fully remote positions. Hybrid jobs remain unchanged at a very limited level. This shift might reflect the flexibility of data jobs, where employees can choose to work either fully remote or at the office, while the availability of hybrid roles may be limited due to the nature of the job.

Around the World: Salary Landscapes Across Regions



✍ *Figure 3. Global Salary Landscape: Exploring Data Roles Across Continents | Credited: Created using Power BI by Ryan → https://medium.com/@bnhminh_38309*

In the world of data jobs, how much you earn can really change depending on where you are. In the Americas, which includes places like the USA, Canada, and Brazil, data workers get the most money, about $156,900 on average. Next comes Oceania (like Australia and New Zealand) with $122,604. Europe, Africa, and Asia are a bit behind, with folks earning $85,213, $76,667, and $60,516 on average. This shows us that where you live can make a big difference in your paycheck.

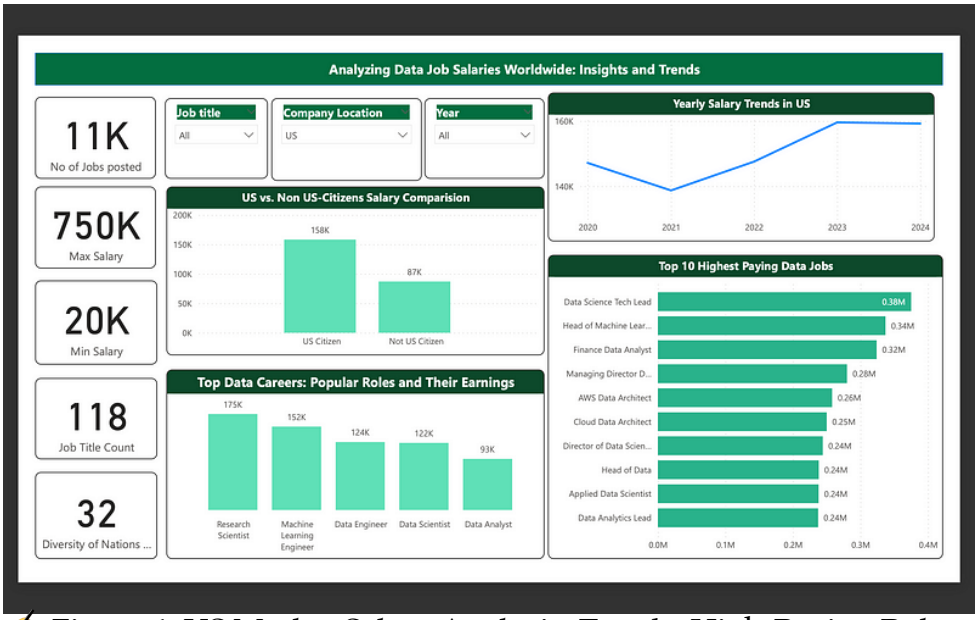
Tech Boosts America, Europe Rises, Asia Gets Better, Africa Set to Jump in 2024

Looking at the Americas, we see that people's pay has been going up each year, hitting a high in 2023 and then dipping a bit in 2024. This tells us that jobs in tech and data are really sought after there. But in other places like Europe and Asia, how much money you make can go up and down. Europe saw a big jump in pay recently, and Asia had a tough time, but is starting to get better. Africa's pay is also going up and down but looks like it will jump up high in 2024, maybe because more tech jobs are coming.

Office Workers and Full-Timers in the Americas Top the Pay Scale

What kind of job you have and whether you work from home or in an office also affects your pay. People with full-time jobs, especially in the Americas, usually earn the most, around $157,082 on average. But if you work in an office instead of from home, you might also get more money. This suggests that companies might pay more for jobs that need you to be at the office. So, where you are, what job you do, and where you work (home or office) all play a part in how much you get paid in the data job world.

Spotlight on the U.S.: A Melting Pot of Opportunities



✍️ Figure 4. US Market Salary Analysis: Trends, High-Paying Roles, and Work Condition Impacts | *Credited: Created using Power BI by Ryan → https://medium.com/@bnhminh_38309*

When we focus on the U.S., the picture we get is one of increasing salaries over time, with a small setback in 2021 — likely a ripple effect from the pandemic. But after that, salaries bounced back, highlighting an ever-growing demand for people skilled in handling data.

The U.S. is really a hotspot for talent from all corners of the globe. Yet, it seems that if you're from the U.S., you might see a bit more in your paycheck. In the U.S., data professionals from the local

pool earn about $158,016 on average. But for those coming from other countries to work in U.S. companies, the average salary drops to around $87,082.

This difference in pay could be due to various factors, including visa status, negotiation skills, or the cost of living adjustments for different regions. Despite this, the U.S. job market is incredibly diverse, with workers from 32 different countries contributing their skills to U.S. companies. This mix of local and international talent makes the U.S. a melting pot of opportunities, offering a broad spectrum of experiences and learning opportunities for data professionals worldwide.

Wrapping Up: The Salary Safari

This trip through the world of data job salaries has been an eye-opener, showing a landscape filled with highs and lows, opportunities, and insights on what can shape your earning potential. From the importance of specializing and climbing the experience ladder to understanding the impact of location and remote work, there's a lot to consider as you navigate your career in data.

So, as I wrap up my first Medium adventure, I'm left excited by what I've learned and eager to see where this path takes me. The data job market is vast and varied, and I'm just getting started on exploring all its corners.

Acknowledgments

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✍️ Figure 5: Joyful Puppets Celebrate a Power BI Success | Credited: DALL-E