

Cybersecurity salary guide

Popular and **top-paying**
certifications and roles

INFOSECTM



The cybersecurity salary landscape

The IT and cybersecurity job market is thriving. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) anticipates [377,500 new IT job openings](#) annually, and CyberSeek tracked over [448,000 U.S. cybersecurity job listings](#) in just the past year.

This demand translates to excellent salaries for cybersecurity professionals. BLS reports the average annual mean wage for all U.S. occupations is \$64,470, but that number can jump significantly for cybersecurity roles. Entry-level [Security+ certification holders](#) see an average salary of \$99,446; for those more advanced professionals who earn a [CISSP certification](#), the average salary rises to \$151,860.

Certifications are just a part of your salary potential, but they remain an important factor. A study by ISACA found that [87% of employers](#) consider IT and cybersecurity credentials important in their hiring decisions. Certifications prove your skills to potential employers and can get you top dollar for your expertise.

What to expect in this ebook

There are many cybersecurity certifications out there, and salary data can be confusing. That's why we've leveraged our 20 years of industry experience and multiple sources to give you a detailed analysis of what we consider the most popular and top-paying certifications in the industry.

It's not an exhaustive list, but rather a curated selection based on feedback we received from countless individuals and organizations over the years. Consider this your roadmap to navigating the world of cybersecurity careers.



1,098,481

Total employed U.S.
cybersecurity workforce



Security+
Most requested
entry-level certification



CISSP
Most-requested
advanced-level certification

Key factors influencing salaries

While certifications are a powerful tool, they're just one piece of the salary puzzle. There are a few other factors that influence your salary.

- » **Experience:** In general, the more experience you have, the higher your salary potential.
- » **Specialization:** Becoming an expert in an in-demand cybersecurity niche can lead to higher salaries than remaining a cybersecurity generalist.
- » **Location:** Where you live can have a significant impact on salary, reflecting the cost of living and competition for talent. Cybersecurity professionals in cities like New York or San Francisco typically earn more than their counterparts in smaller cities.
- » **Industry:** Your industry can also affect your salary. Cybersecurity professionals in highly regulated industries like finance or healthcare often command higher salaries.
- » **Employer size:** Your employer's size can also affect your salary. Large enterprises generally have bigger budgets for cybersecurity and can offer more competitive salaries than smaller companies.

How we calculated salary data

To calculate our salary numbers, we've averaged data from PayScale, Salary.com and Glassdoor.com to give you a well-rounded compensation picture. If a specific certification had a salary page with enough data, we used that. Otherwise, we identified the primary role associated with the certification and used that salary data. In most cases, the average salary combines both data types. We've also averaged additional compensation, like bonuses and stock options, into the final numbers.

Use this ebook as a general guide. Reducing factors like experience and location to a single number can lose nuance. We encourage you to examine job boards on your own or dive deeper into the individual articles linked to each certification to gain a better understanding of salary ranges.

Total salary used in this ebook

Average base salary



Average bonuses and additional compensation

= Total salary

Top 10 cybersecurity certifications

To start, we collected the 10 most popular cybersecurity certifications — based on feedback from internal subject matter experts, enrollment data, Infosec students and the organizations we work with — then organized that top list by the highest average salary.

#1 CompTIA CASP+ (CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$165,661

The [CASP+ certification](#) (to be renamed as SecurityX later this year) validates your advanced skills in risk management, security architecture and engineering. It's CompTIA's most advanced cybersecurity certification and is ideal for experienced security professionals looking to remain in practitioner roles.

Related roles: Security architect (primary role), Security engineer, Security operations manager

#2 ISACA CISM (Certified Information Security Manager)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$156,420

The [CISM certification](#) focuses on the business aspects of cybersecurity, equipping you with the skills to develop and manage an organization's information security program. It caters to mid-level to senior security professionals aspiring to management positions.

Related roles: Information security manager (primary role), IT security director, Security risk manager

#3 ISC2 CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$151,860

The [CISSP certification](#) is one of the most recognized cybersecurity certifications. It covers a broad range of security domains, making it ideal for experienced individuals seeking to demonstrate their well-rounded knowledge.

Related roles: Information security manager (primary role), Security architect, Information security analyst

Top 10 cybersecurity certifications



#4 PMI PMP (Project Management Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$136,121

While not strictly a cybersecurity certification, the [PMP](#) is highly sought-after in the cybersecurity field. It equips you with the project management skills to effectively plan, execute and oversee security projects.

Related roles: Cybersecurity project manager (primary role), IT project manager, Information security program manager

#5 EC-Council CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$134,217

The [CEH certification](#) focuses on offensive security techniques, helping you to think like a malicious attacker and identify vulnerabilities in systems. It's ideal for security professionals interested in penetration testing or vulnerability assessment roles.

Related roles: Ethical hacker (primary role), Penetration tester, Vulnerability analyst

#6 ISC2 CCSP (Certified Cloud Security Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$128,811

The [CCSP certification](#) validates your knowledge and skills in securing cloud environments. It's

a valuable credential for security professionals working with cloud-based technologies like AWS, Azure or Google Cloud Platform.

Related roles: Cloud security engineer (primary role), Cloud security architect, Cloud security consultant

#7 CompTIA CySA+ (CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$110,929

The [CySA+ certification](#) validates your skills in cybersecurity analysis, including threat detection, incident response and vulnerability management. It's a solid foundation for those pursuing careers in security operations.

Related roles: Cybersecurity analyst (primary role), Security operations center (SOC) analyst, Threat intelligence analyst

#8 CompTIA Security+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$99,446

The [Security+ certification](#) is the most popular entry-level cybersecurity credential. It validates your core understanding of cybersecurity concepts and best practices and is an excellent starting point for anyone new to the cybersecurity field.

Related roles: Security administrator (primary role), Information security analyst, Cybersecurity specialist

#9 Cisco CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$93,071

While not exclusively security-focused, the [CCNA certification](#) validates your understanding of Cisco networking technologies, which are widely used in today's IT infrastructure. It will validate your skills in installing, configuring and managing routed and switched networks.

Related roles: Cisco network administrator (primary role), Network support specialist, Network technician

#10 CompTIA Network+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$89,746

[Network+](#) is an entry-level credential that validates your knowledge and skills in networking concepts, infrastructure, operations, security and troubleshooting and serves as a foundation for many cybersecurity roles.

Related roles: Network technician (primary role), Network support specialist, Network administrator

Certification salaries by certifying body

IT and cybersecurity certifications can be confusing, especially considering the number of options available and the various certification bodies that issue them. One way to simplify your options is to think of certifications as belonging to two groups: vendor-neutral and vendor-specific certifications:

- » **Vendor-neutral certifications** are not tied to a specific technology or product vendor. They focus on broader cybersecurity concepts and best practices, making them widely applicable across different IT environments.
- » **Vendor-specific certifications** are designed to validate your knowledge and skills in using a particular vendor's technology or product. For instance, the Cisco CCNA focuses on Cisco networking equipment, while AWS certifications equip you with expertise in the leading cloud platform.

Over the next four pages, we'll examine the certifications offered by four prominent bodies in the cybersecurity space — and their average salaries.

CompTIA

CompTIA: CompTIA offers a portfolio of vendor-neutral certifications generally aligned with IT and cybersecurity roles, from the help desk to security administration to advanced practitioners.



AWS: As a dominant force in cloud computing, Amazon offers a robust lineup of cloud-specific certifications that validate your experience in architecting, securing and managing workloads on the AWS platform.

ISC2

ISC2: ISC2 is best known for its highly respected CISSP certification, but it offers other popular vendor-neutral certifications focused on areas such as cloud, secure software development and GRC (governance, risk and compliance).



ISACA: ISACA provides vendor-neutral certifications focused on information systems auditing, risk management, enterprise governance, privacy and security management.

SALARIES FOR CompTIA certifications

CompTIA certifications offer a structured career pathway for IT professionals. By following the CompTIA career pathway, individuals can progress from entry-level positions to more advanced technical roles.

A+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$65,291

The [A+ certification](#) is a foundational step in the CompTIA career pathway. It's ideal for individuals seeking entry-level IT positions who can leverage this certification to advance into more specialized areas.

Related roles: A+ certified technician (primary role), Help desk technician, Field technician

Network+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$89,746

Building on the knowledge from the A+, the [Network+ certification](#) is an important credential for those looking to specialize in network infrastructure and want to prove they can work with wired and wireless networks.

Related roles: Network technician (primary role), Network support specialist, Network administrator

Security+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$99,446V

[Security+](#) is the last of three “core certifications” in the CompTIA cybersecurity pathway (after A+ and Network+). It builds a baseline of cybersecurity skills required to set you up for different specializations as you progress down the pathway.

Related roles: Security administrator (primary role), Information security analyst, Cybersecurity specialist

CySA+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$110,929

The [CySA+ certification](#) prepares IT professionals for cybersecurity roles focusing on operational security, threat analysis and response. It's designed for those with a few years of experience in the field with cybersecurity analytics skills.

Related roles: Cybersecurity analyst (primary role), Security operations center (SOC) analyst, Threat intelligence analyst

PenTest+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$113,535

The [PenTest+ certification](#) is for professionals who want to master penetration testing and vulnerability management. It's suitable for those who have developed a strong foundation in cybersecurity and wish to focus on offensive security measures.

Related roles: Penetration tester (primary role), Vulnerability analyst, Security consultant

CASP+

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$165,661

The [CASP+ certification](#) is for those who wish to remain hands-on with technology. It validates the ability to design and implement enterprise cybersecurity solutions and is aimed at experienced professionals seeking to become security architects or senior security engineers.

Related roles: Security architect (primary role), Security engineer, Security operations manager

CASP+	\$165,661
PenTest+	\$113,535
CySA+	\$110,929
Security+	\$99,446
Network+	\$89,746
A+	\$65,291

SALARIES FOR ISC2 certifications

ISC2 offers a suite of certifications that cater to different roles within the information security domain. While ISC2 does provide an entry-level SSCP certification and more advanced ISSAP, ISSEP and ISSMP certifications, this guide will focus on the four most relevant certifications in the job market.

CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$151,860

The [CISSP certification](#) is a cornerstone of ISC2 certifications, designed for seasoned security practitioners, managers and executives. It's unique in its breadth, covering critical topics in security leadership and operations.

Related roles: Information security manager (primary role), Security architect, Information security analyst

CSSLP (Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$132,733

The [CSSLP certification](#) is for professionals with expertise in incorporating security practices into each phase of the software development life cycle (SDLC). It's unique in its focus on software development.

Related roles: Software security engineer (primary role), Application security specialist, Software engineer

CCSP (Certified Cloud Security Professional)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$128,811

The [CCSP certification](#) is tailored for professionals working in cloud computing. It demonstrates proficiency in cloud security architecture, design, operations and service orchestration. It's unique due to its cloud-centric focus.

Related roles: Cloud security engineer (primary role), Cloud security architect, Cloud security consultant

CGRC (Governance, Risk and Compliance Certification)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$115,559

The [CGRC certification](#) is for professionals who aim to integrate governance, risk management and compliance within their organizations. It stands out among ISC2 certifications with its emphasis on aligning security practices with business objectives and regulatory requirements.

Related roles: Governance, risk and compliance analyst (primary role), Cybersecurity compliance officer, Information assurance manager

CISSP	\$151,860
CSSLP	\$132,733
CCSP	\$128,811
CGRC	\$115,559

SALARIES FOR ISACA certifications

ISACA stands out in the IT governance landscape, focusing on risk management, compliance and auditing. While ISACA offers a range of certifications, including the newer CDPSE for privacy professionals, we'll focus on their four most popular and established certifications in the job market.

CRISC (Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$160,083

The [CRISC certification](#) is unique among ISACA certifications for its focus on identifying and managing IT risk and designing risk-based, efficient and effective information system controls. It's intended for IT professionals who work with enterprise risk and want to be recognized as experts in the field.

Related roles: Risk control manager (primary role), IT security director, Security risk manager

CGEIT (Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$156,844

The [CGEIT certification](#) is designed for IT professionals who aspire to senior management roles by demonstrating their ability to understand and manage enterprise IT governance. It's unique in its strategic focus on IT governance rather than technical skills.

Related roles: IT governance manager (primary role), IT director, Chief information officer

CISM (Certified Information Security Manager)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$156,420

The [CISM certification](#) is distinct for its emphasis on information security management. Unlike other certifications focused on technical aspects, CISM validates a professional's ability to manage and govern a security program.

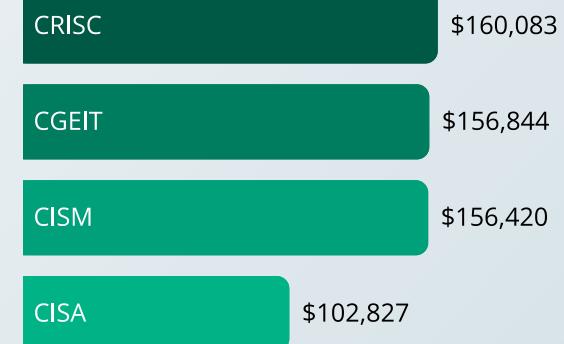
Related roles: Information security manager (primary role), IT security director, Security risk manager

CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor)

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$102,827

The [CISA certification](#) focuses on information systems auditing, control and security. It is the preferred certification for IT auditors and professionals charged with ensuring that IT and business systems are monitored, managed and protected.

Related roles: Information systems auditor (primary role), Audit manager, IT compliance officer



SALARIES FOR Amazon Web Services (AWS) certifications

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is the cloud platform market leader and offers a comprehensive suite of cloud services integral to modern digital infrastructure. AWS provides 12 certifications across various levels, but we will focus on the five most popular ones that align with the needs of cybersecurity professionals and the organizations we work with.

AWS Certified Solutions Architect

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$141,822

This [AWS Certified Solutions Architect](#) certification stands out for its focus on designing distributed systems on the AWS platform. It's ideal for those with experience in or aspire to roles involving decision-making around architectural design on AWS. This certification has an Associate and Professional level.

Related roles: AWS solutions architect (primary role), Cloud architect, Enterprise architect

AWS Certified Machine Learning

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$140,397

The [AWS Certified Machine Learning Specialty](#) certification is tailored for professionals who build, train, tune and deploy machine learning models on AWS. It's unique in its concentration on leveraging AWS for machine learning applications.

Related roles: AWS machine learning engineer (primary role), Data scientist, AI developer

AWS Certified DevOps Engineer

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$136,631

The [AWS Certified DevOps Engineer](#) certification is designed for those experienced in provisioning, operating and managing distributed application systems on the AWS platform. It emphasizes automation, continuous delivery and the integration of AWS services.

Related roles: Cloud DevOps engineer (primary role), Systems engineer, Cloud developer

AWS Certified Security Engineer

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$133,488

The [AWS Certified Security Engineer](#) certification validates expertise in securing the AWS platform. It's distinct for its focus on data protection,

encryption and network security within AWS, making it essential for security-focused roles.

Related roles: AWS information security engineer (primary role), Compliance analyst, Security consultant

AWS SysOps Administrator

AVERAGE TOTAL SALARY: \$105,876

The [AWS SysOps Administrator](#) certification is for those who manage and operate systems on AWS. It covers deployment, management and operations, distinguishing itself from other AWS certifications with its operational focus.

Related roles: AWS cloud administrator (primary role), Operations manager, Cloud operations engineer

AWS Certified Solutions Architect \$141,822

AWS Certified Machine Learning \$140,397

AWS Certified DevOps Engineer \$136,631

AWS Certified Security Engineer \$133,488

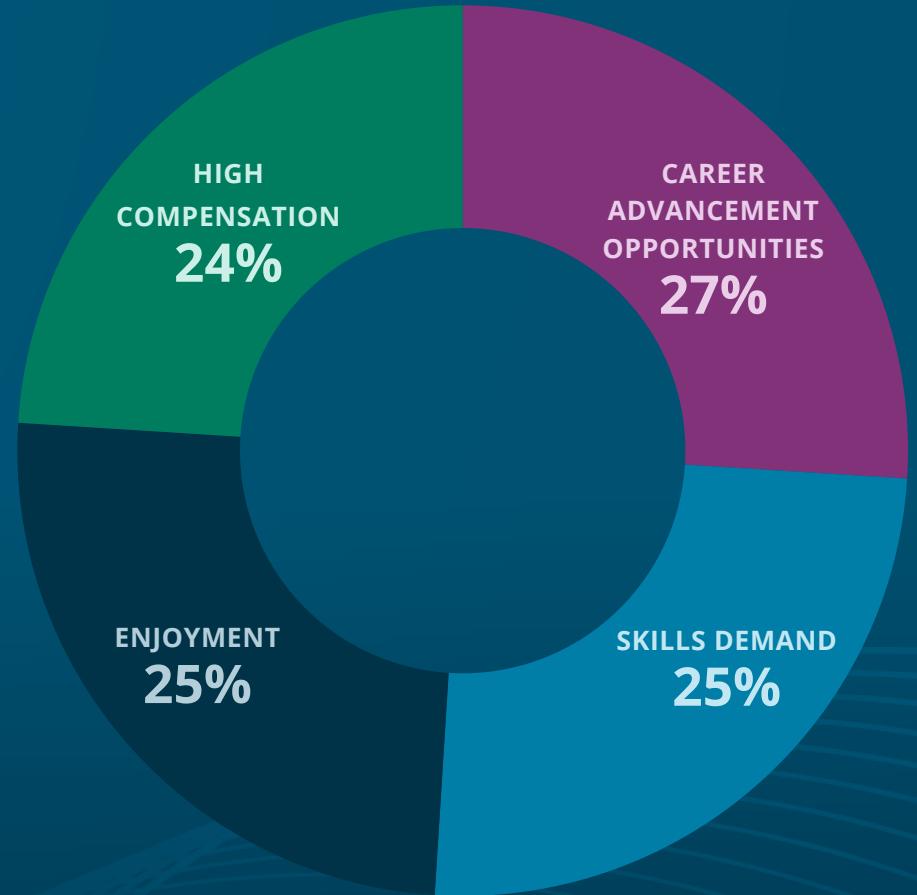
AWS SysOps Administrator \$105,876

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Passion and pay

This ebook has explored the salary potential associated with various cybersecurity certifications. As you've seen, certifications can significantly impact your earning potential, with some certifications leading to considerably higher average salaries than others. While financial security is undoubtedly important, it shouldn't be the sole factor driving your career path in cybersecurity.

A recent ISC2 Cybersecurity Workforce Study found that enjoyment is equally important as high compensation for those entering the cybersecurity field. Here's a breakdown of what motivates cybersecurity professionals:



A fulfilling career path is just as important as a lucrative one. Cybersecurity offers many opportunities, from technical roles like penetration testers to non-technical positions like security sales engineers. Finding a niche that aligns with your interests and passions will fuel your motivation and lead to long-term success.

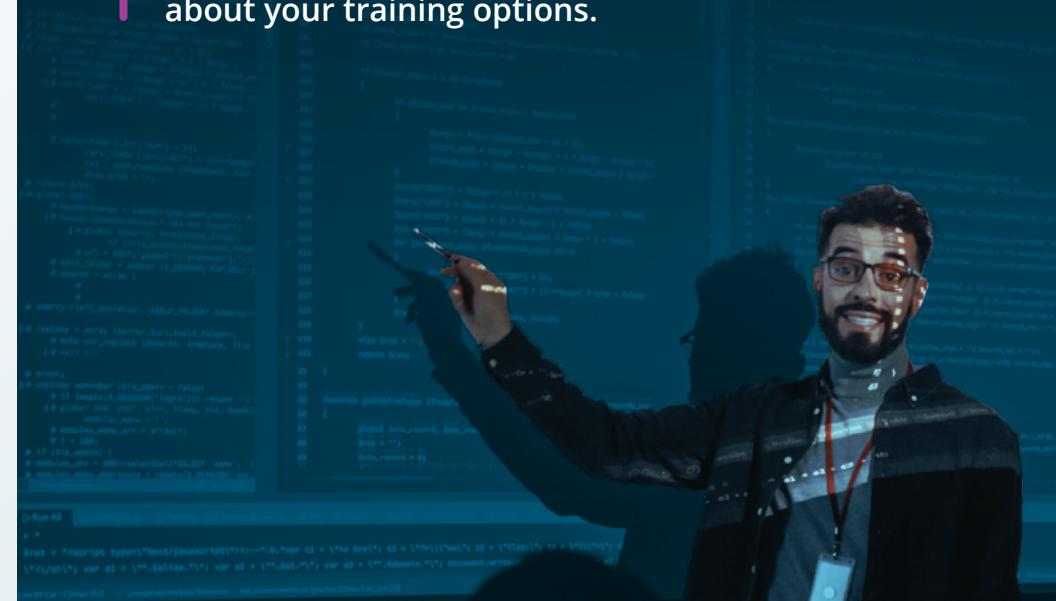
The certifications you choose should reflect your career aspirations. Carefully consider your interests and skillset when selecting which to pursue. Use the information in this guide as a starting point to research and identify the certifications that will propel you toward your dream career in cybersecurity.

Additional resources

- » [Infosec Resource Center](#)
- » [Infosec webcasts and events](#)
- » [Cyber Work Podcast](#)
- » [Infosec YouTube channel](#)

Ready to launch your career?

Browse the [Infosec course library](#) or [speak with a career guide](#) to learn more about your training options.



About Infosec

Infosec's mission is to put people at the center of cybersecurity. Through role-guided security training, our platforms — Infosec IQ, Infosec Skills and Infosec Boot Camps — help individuals and organizations protect their data, mitigate risk and empower employees. From security awareness for your accounting team to secure coding training for your developers, we'll help you deliver the right security education to protect your employees and organization.

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