

# WHAT ARE THE JOB PROSPECTS FOR JOURNALISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN THE NEXT DECADE?

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- South Africa:
- Retrenchments
- Retirements
- (Controversial) Sackings
- Changes in the newsrooms=  
changes in  
required skills  
sets.

## Introduction/ Background

- Global:
- Economic contraction=
- Decline in advertising

Introduction/  
Background

|            |      |      |       |      |       |      |        |      |      |      |
|------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| Second job | 1(4) | 0(0) | 4(16) | 0(0) | 4(12) | 0(0) | 0.5(2) | 0(0) | 9(9) | 0(0) |
|------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|

## Do you have a second job?

Journalists hardly had second jobs.

Reasons:  
No time.

- Given that there were few journalists who second jobs little attention was paid to exploring reasons.

- But those who did wanted to supplement their income

How often do you work a second job?  
Why do you work a second job?

- On average, interviewed journalists had changed jobs two to three times, but within the field of journalism.

How many times  
have you  
changed Jobs?

- Most journalists were working full time and salaried: Port Elizabeth (88%); Durban (72%), Cape Town (98%); and, Johannesburg (72%). Journalists who worked for community media tended to be younger, on internships, and underpaid.

Fulltime/Part-time?

- Experience, seniority, employer, and, to a lesser degree, region/city determined pay scale.

## Pay Scale Determinants



- It is useful to say that an intern at community radio station earns a net income of R5 000 or less;
- Junior reporter earns a net of R15 000 or less;
- A middle level journalists between R20000 and 25000 net;

Income monthly  
(size of your  
income)

- senior reporter/  
journalists 25000  
and 35000; and,  
an editor R40000  
and more. All of  
these on  
average and  
some contracts  
are negotiated  
individually.

Income monthly  
(size of your  
income)

- Only SABC seems to have a standard pay scale It is less helpful to compare journalists' pay by region here, as some cities- owing to sampling- had more permanently employed journalists and older than others, which had younger interns. This can create a misperception of pay scales by region.

Income monthly  
(size of your  
income)

NO

Is your monthly  
income enough  
or not?

- In this exploration of job satisfaction, the numerical number 4 represented 'a lot', 3 'somewhat', 2 'a little' and 1 'not at all'. Journalists satisfied 'a lot' with their jobs were: 64% (Port Elizabeth), 16% (Durban), 82% (Cape Town), and 26% (Johannesburg). 'Somewhat' satisfied were: 32% (Port Elizabeth), 68% (Durban), 16% (Cape Town), and 60% Johannesburg.

## ABOUT JOB SATISFACTION OR DISSATISFACTION

- Top this degree, journalists were satisfied with jobs. That said, journalists were specifically satisfied with their jobs *per se*. Stories that transformed peoples' lives made them particularly happy. Feedback from communities and audiences also satisfied them. So was the ability to be part of history and holding those who hold public office fully accountable to the citizens.

What gives you the greatest satisfaction in your job?

- Journalists were by far dissatisfied with newsroom and institutional conditions that affected them personally. Dissatisfaction ranged from complaints about nepotism, uneven pay grades to racism. Black and white journalists complained about different things. Black journalists complained about slow pace of transformation. White journalists complained about what amounted to reverse racism when they have to make space for black journalists. Money was common complaint across as mentioned above.

What causes you the greatest dissatisfaction in your job?

- Job insecurity was also a source of unhappiness. In Cape Town, (94%) of journalists reported to have observed staff reduction in the respective institutions they worked for; 90% pointed out that staff recruitment had stopped; and, for 88% travel funds to cover stories in other cities had been reduced. The numbers in Port Elizabeth were not as high as that of Cape Town. Staff reduction in Port Elizabeth was 52%; recruitment stoppage 60%; and, non-provision of travel funds 44%. . This high number is skewed by journalists from a particular media institution that was going through a takeover and it was print company that was already in financial trouble in market unfriendly to print media anyway.

What causes you the greatest dissatisfaction in your job?



- The majority of journalists wanted to stay in the profession longer.

## About commitment

Do you want to stay in the profession?

- The majority of the interviewed journalists had a high regard for SA journalisms.
- The New Age Editor :  
(standards are dropping)
- City Press Editor  
(challenges, but good).

What is your opinion about the profession of a journalist today?

- Fragmented.
- Dominated by few groups,
- Blogs
- Social media
- Content creators
- De-institutionalised

What will the profession be like after 10 years?

- More democratic space

What needs to change in the social-political conditions of the country in order for journalism to fully comply with its functions and tasks?

Yes

Is a journalist an important/influential person in your city?

- Only 1 person said yes
- Mostly no.

Are you a member of a political party?

- Mostly no

Are you a member  
of a voluntary  
organization?