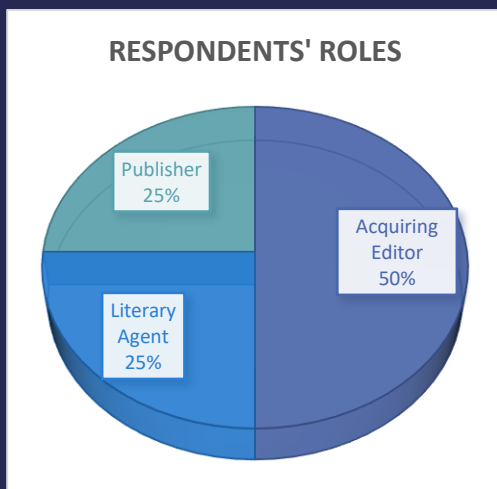


About the survey

This survey was distributed to identified editors, publishers and agents in the comics business. Respondents were also asked to forward the survey to others in their field.

A total of 16 people responded to the survey.

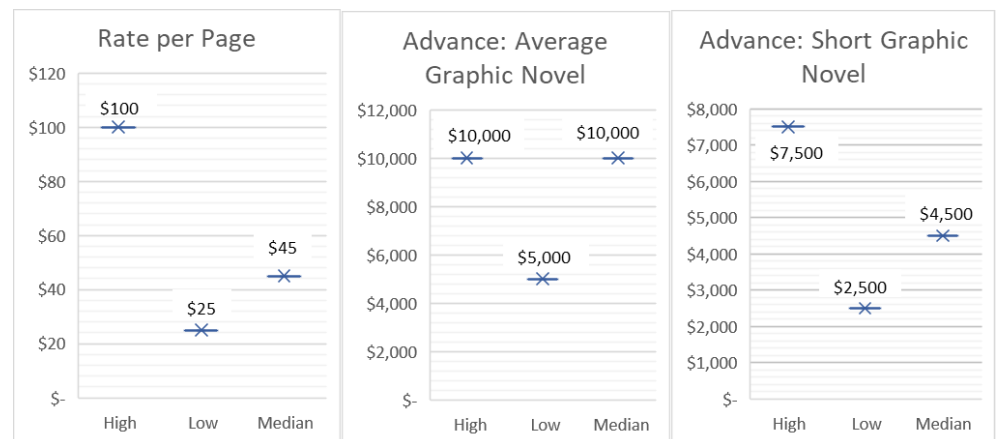
About the respondents



Respondents were asked what role best described them. Half of respondents (8) indicated they were acquiring editors; 4 or 25% each said they were publishers or literary agents.

2020/2021 Comics Committee Survey: Rate Survey for Editors/Publishers/Agents

Their advice: minimum professional pay rates



Respondents were asked: Based on your experience and best judgement, what do you personally feel is the MINIMUM professional rate for writing a science fiction, fantasy or horror comic or graphic novel? Graphic novels were separated by size: average (200 pages) and short (100 pages).

The charts above show the highest, lowest, and median (middle) response for each. The median was used rather than the mathematical average because the latter is more affected by outliers.

For rate per page, while the high response was \$100, the median response of \$45 was closer to the low response.

For average size graphic novels, the high and median were the same (\$10,000), indicating a high level of agreement with that advance. That is, over half (5 of 8 respondents) indicated this amount, resulting in a median or middle response of \$10,000.

For small graphic novels, responses ranged between a high of \$7,500 and a low of \$2,500, with a median response of \$4,500.

Companion survey: Asking the writers

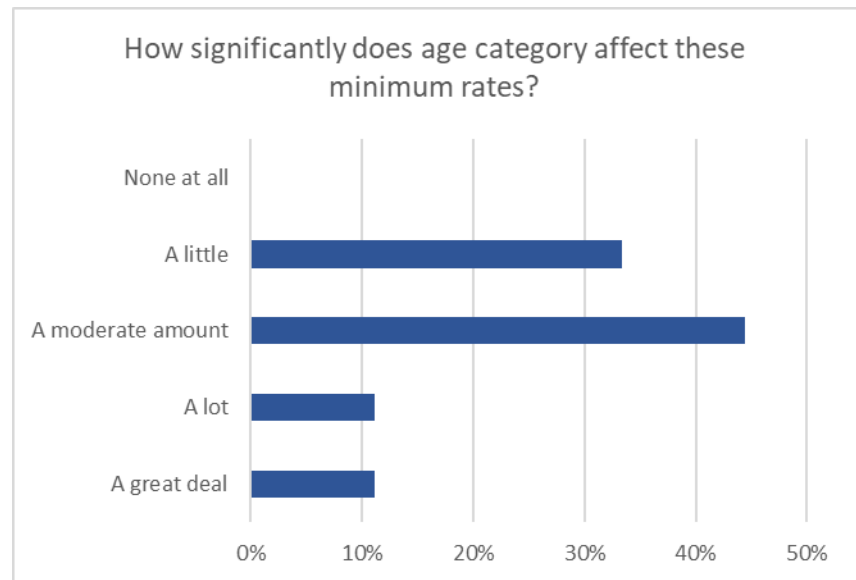
In addition to this survey of editors, publishers and agents, the SFWA Comics Committee also surveyed comics writers about their pay rates. The results of this survey are available in a separate document.

Together, these surveys will inform the Comics Committee as it proceeds in its work to establish guidelines for the admission of comics writers into SFWA.

This analysis, performed by Lettie Prell in January 2021, is sourced from a survey conducted by the Comic Writers Committee in Winter 2020. Committee Members: Alison Wilgus (Chairperson), Shaenon Garrity, Jessica Maison, and Tim Susman. Directors-At-Large: Phoebe Barton, Monica Valentinelli

How age category of a work may affect pay rates

The majority of respondents indicated that age category of a work affects the minimum rate by a moderate amount or higher.



A comment box was provided for respondents to explain how age category may affect pay rates. Market conditions/projected sales was mentioned by the majority (4 out of 7) respondents offering comments. Size of intended audience/popularity was cited by three or 43%. One respondent mentioned the size of the publishing house, explaining that the larger houses aren't publishing adult graphic novels, and the independent presses are unable to pay a high advance/pay rate.

Market conditions, projected sales, size of intended audience and popularity may affect pay rates by age category, say respondents.

Other comments

Space was also provided for comments regarding "other factors or details you think we should keep in mind while drafting our membership requirements."

One respondent wrote: The idea of "sequential art" is becoming a lot looser. What about something on tapas, or instagram? What about something that is more like an illustrated narrative? Where does "writing" fall into that? It's an interesting question, but I think being open to these sort of things will help engender you with younger/emerging folks.

Another respondent mentioned other considerations: Mini-comics, even if they're not commissioned/published in a way that's not self-published? What if they're award-winning? Anthology work? What if it's funded by Kickstarter?

All respondent comments are contained in a separate document.