Whether you’re applying for your first job as a rheumatologist or are considering a change in employers, you’ve chosen an excellent time to do so. Skilled physicians are in high demand, and that demand will continue to grow as hospitals and practices seek to replace retirees and meet increasing patient needs. It’s a jobseekers’ market, and you can use this knowledge to your advantage to negotiate the salary and benefits you want in your next position.

What may feel like an intimidating undertaking becomes much easier with the right information. Within this guide, you’ll find insider details on rheumatology physician job confidence, salary satisfaction, career concerns and compensation. Use this data to strengthen your pitch in cover letters, interviews and job offer negotiations.
When submitting a resume, preparing for an interview or considering a job offer, remember this key fact: the healthcare organization needs you. Turnover remains a problem for many hospitals, healthcare systems and practices. According to recent numbers, healthcare employers are experiencing an increase in employee turnover, along with longer times to hire. Translation: they’re eager to hire YOU as quickly as possible, and keep you happy once you’re on board!

**Job Search Confidence**

- **Very Confident**: 49%
- **Somewhat Confident**: 32%
- **Not Confident**: 19%

**Percentage of Rheumatologists Who Anticipate Changing Employers Within the Year**

- **15%**: Yes
- **50%**: Don’t Know
- **35%**: No

**Current Job Search Situation**

- **26%**: Very happy and planning to stay
- **40%**: Happy with job but don’t want to miss a better opportunity
- **26%**: Generally happy but looking for a better opportunity
- **8%**: Unhappy and looking to change as soon as possible
Salary often plays a significant role in job satisfaction and turnover. While most of the rheumatology physicians surveyed are satisfied with the salary they earn (59%), there’s always room for improvement.

### Salary Satisfaction

- **Very Satisfied**: 11%
- **Somewhat satisfied**: 48%
- **Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**: 15%
- **Somewhat dissatisfied**: 15%
- **Very dissatisfied**: 11%

### National Average Rheumatology Physician Salary

- **$193,500**

### Sample of Average Rheumatology Physician Salaries by State

- California: $225,000
- New York: $200,000
- Texas: $200,000
- Florida: $185,000
- Maryland: $165,000
- Illinois: $160,000
- Colorado: $121,000

### Average Rheumatology Physician Salary by Years of Experience

- 1-2 years: $188,000
- 3-5 years: $197,500
- 6-10 years: $189,000
- 11-15 years: $210,000
- 15+ years: $205,000
CONCERNS AND DESIRES.

Despite satisfaction with their current salaries and happiness in their current positions, most rheumatology physicians still worry about the future. The biggest concerns for next year identified by rheumatologists included increased workload/patient load, low or no salary increase, company stability/performance and staff morale. These were also the top four concerns for physicians and surgeons in general.

**Biggest Rheumatology Career Concerns for Next Year**
Respondents could choose up to three

- 47% Increased workload/patient load
- 42% Low or no salary increase
- 22% Company stability/performance
- 19% Staff morale
- 15% Keeping skills/certifications up to date
- 14% Finding an appropriate new position for my skill set
- 7% Introduction of new technologies
- 6% Position relocation
- 4% Less work/fewer shifts available
- 3% Position elimination
- 3% Age discrimination
- 1% Additional education requirements to maintain current job

**Most Desirable Features in a New Rheumatology Job**
Respondents could choose up to three

- Flexible work hours
  - 67%
- More vacation/paid time off
  - 49%
- Company culture
  - 44%
- High-level recognition
  - 25%
- Sign-on or retention bonus
  - 24%
- Promotion/new title
  - 11%
- Flexible work location/option to telecommute
  - 10%
- More interesting or challenging
  - 8%
- Stock options/equity
  - 4%

If you feel the same concerns, they will likely influence what you look for when exploring job opportunities. Among those surveyed, the most desirable features in a new job included flexible work hours, more vacation/paid time off and company culture.

Stay up to date on the latest rheumatology news and career advice and search for rheumatology jobs in your area on the ACR Career Connection!