

## 1975 SURVEY REPORT

## STARTING SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF

 CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATESOffice of Manpower Studies American Chemical Society Washington, D.C.

# American Chemical Society 

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## 1975 SURVEY REPORT

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CHFMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATES

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The 1975 survey is the twenty-fourth in the series conducted by the American Chemical Society. The preliminary results of the survey were published in the October 27,1975 , issue of Chemical and Engineering News.

The primary objective of the survey is to determine the salaries and occupational status of the students majoring in chemistry and chemical engineering who graduated during the 1974-75 academic year, and it covers the three degree levels: bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. In addition, the survey provides information on major employer categories, on graduate study plans, on women and minority participation, and citizenship status.

The survey covers the graduates of chemistry departments approved by the ACS and chemical engineering departments accredited by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Engineer's Council for Professional Development. The above departments provided the names and addresses of the graduates, and the Office of Manpower Studies (OMS) mailed the survey questionnaires during the summer of 1975 to all those with addresses in the continental United States and Hawaii.

No effort was made to examine the characteristics of the graduates from departments that do not participate in the survey or of those graduates who did not mail back completed questionnaires. The results presented here, therefore, do not constitute a random sample of the 1975 graduates in chemistry and chemical engineering.

The extent of the coverage of the present survey will not be known until the U. S. Office of Education publishes the number of degrees granted in chemistry and chemical engineering between July, 1,1974 , and June 30, 1975. Instead, the comparison of degrees granted in 1974 with the responses to the survey of the
same yearl are presented in Table 1 . Assuming that the office of Education figures are an accurate measure of the universe of 1974 graduates, the table presents the number of respondents to
table 1
RESPONSES TO THE 1974 OMS SURVEY AS PERCENTAGE
OF THE 1974 GRADUATES
by Degree Level, Major, and Sex

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Major } \\ \text { and } \end{gathered}$ | DEGREE LEVEL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sex | Bachelor's | Master's | Ph.D. |
| Chemistry | 24.8 | 16.4 | 30.2 |
| Men | 24.4 | 16.7 | 29.4 |
| Women | 26.5 | 15.4 | 38.2 |
| Chemical |  |  |  |
| Engineering | 23.9 | 14.7 | 22.5 |
| Men | 23.8 | 15.0 | 22.8 |
| Women | 28.2 | - | - |

Source: U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare,
Office of Education, preliminary figures.
American Chemical Society, Starting Salary Survey, 1974.
the survey as percentage of that universe. With the exception of women chemical engineering ${ }^{2}$ master's and Ph.D. recipients, the percentage of responses range from 14.7 to 38.2 .

During the summer of 1975, 12,677 questionnaires were mailed (bulk mail) to the graduates of 529 chemistry and 123 chemical engineering departments. It is estimated that approximately ten percent of the letters did not reach their intended recipient because of the high mobility of the surveyed population. By the end of November, 4,138 responses had been received, 4,102 of them usable. Table 2 presents the responses by degree level, sex, and major.
$1_{\text {The most recent year for which there are available figures for degrees }}$ granted in chemistry and chemical engineering by all four-year colleges and universities in the nation.
${ }^{2}$ Two master's and one Ph.D. responses were received, out of twenty-one master's and ten Ph.D. degrees granted.

The following are some comments intended to facilitate the interpretation of the results. The questionnaires were manually edited, and those judged as useless were discarded. Many partially completed questionnaires were processed in order to extract the maximum amount of information. The discrepancies in the number of respondents in various tables reflect the use of these incomplete questionnaires.

TABLE 2
VALID RESPONSES TO THE 1975 OMS SURVEY
by Degree Level, Major, and Sex

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Major } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { Sex } \end{gathered}$ | D E GREE L EVEL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bachelor's | Master's | Ph.D. |
| Chemistry | 2248 | 377 | 472 |
| Men | 1716 | 288 | 417 |
| Women | 532 | 89 | 55 |
| Chemical |  |  |  |
| Engineering | 741 | 168 | 92 |
| Men | 704 | 157 | 92 |
| Women | 37 | 11 | 0 |

Question $H$ (see questionnaire) was edited in order to eliminate multiple check marks and to reflect as accurately as possible the employment status of the respondent. The term "inexperienced" as used in the tables refers to those who have one year or less of prior professional work experience. Only the salaries of those who found full-time employment in chemistry or chemical engineering were analyzed. Postdoctoral salaries were analyzed separately.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

Compared with 1974 (Table 3 ), the percentage of new chemistry graduates who found full-time employment in their field went down for all three degree levels. Master's degree recipients registered the largest decrease, from 47.9 in in 1974 to $40.8 \%$ in 1975. However, the percentage of B.S. and M.S. recipients who obtained assistantships or fellowships to pursue advanced studies increased. Also on the increase was the percentage of Ph.D.!s who accepted postdoctoral fellowships.

TABLE 3
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATES BY DEGREE

Summer of 1974 and Summer of 1975

Major and Employment Status


## CHEMISTRY

Full-time employed:

| In chemistry or chemical engineering | 24.5\% | 22.6\% | 47.98 | 40.8\% | 48.7\% | 46.0\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Outside chemistry or chemical engineering | 7.3 | 6.9 | 4.0 | 8.0 | 1.8 | 2.1 |
| Postdoctoral/grad. asst./other fellowship | 28.1 | 31.2 | 31.9 | 36.6 | 43.1 | 47.5 |
| Military/Peace Corps, etc. | 2.0 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Part-time employed. | 17.8 | na | 3.7 | na | 2.2 | na |
| Unable to obtain full-time employment | 4.9 | 8.5 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 1.6 | 2.1 |
| Not seeking full-time employment | 15.3 | 28.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of responses | 2,610 | 2,249 | 351 | 377 | 552 | 474 |

## CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

| Full-time employed: <br> In chemistry or chemical engineering | 69.4\% | 65.4\% | 70.8\% | 73.8\% | 94.4\% | 91.3\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Outside chemistry or chemical engineering | 3.6 | 5.7 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| Postdoctoral/grad. asst./other fellowship | 15.0 | 17.0 | 16.2 | 13.7 | 4.4 | 5.4 |
| Military/Peace Corps, etc. | 2.3 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Part-time employed | 5.6 | na | 1.9 | na | 1.1 | na |
| Unable to obtain full-time employment | 1.1 | 5.3 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 1.1 |
| Not seeking full-time employment | 3.0 | 5.7 | 2.6 | 6.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of responses | 826 | 742 | 154 | 168 | 90 | 92 |

The same trends characterize the postgraduation status of chemical engineering B.S. and Ph.D. graduates, but a reverse trend was observed for the master's degree recipients.
Chemists had very modest gains in starting salaries at all degree levels. The percentage increases from 1974 are $1,2.6$, and 4.9 for bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D.'s respectively. (See Table 4.) Since the cost of living increased $11.9 \%$ from September 1974 to September 1975, however, these salary gains represent a decrease in real income.

Chemical engineers did better, registering percentage salary increases of $14.3,11.4$, and 13.6 for bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D.'s respectively. (Table 5.)

The overall salaries of women chemists with a B.S. degree slipped behind that of men by $4 \%$ (see Table $s-1$ ), a change from last year when women reported $2 \%$ higher salaries than men. However, industrially employed B.S. women chemists continue to report higher salaries than men (Table S-3), a trend that started in 1972.
Women chemists with the master's degree reported a drop in overall salaries from 1974 of $2.7 \%$, and the salary gap between men and women increased slightly.

Industrially employed women chemists with the Ph.D. reported a 6.7\% gain in their salary, moving slightly ahead of men for the first time since this survey has been conducted.

Prepared by the office of
Manpower Studies
TABLE 4
STARTING YEARLY SALARIES OF INEXPERIENCED FULL-TIME EMPLOYED CHEMISTRY GRADUATES

| Salaries | D EGREEE L E V E L |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bachelor's |  | Master ${ }^{\text {S }}$ |  | Ph.D. |  |
|  | 1974 | 1975 | 1974 | 1975 | 1974 | 1975 |
| Lower 10\% | \$ 7,500 | \$ 7,500 | \$ 8,500 | \$ 9,150 | \$11,000 | \$11,800 |
| Lower 25\% | 8,400 | 8,500 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 14,500 | 15,000 |
| Median | 9,900 | 10,000 | 11,700 | 12,000 | 16,200 | 17,000 |
| Upper 75\% | 11,000 | 11,400 | 12,700 | 13,200 | 17,400 | 18,400 |
| Upper 90\% | 11,700 | 12,000 | 13,500 | 14,000 | 18,400 | 19,500 |
| Number of Responses | 463 | 399 | 90 | 84 | 159 | 148 |
| Arithmetic Mean | 9,690 | 9,911 | 11,536 | 11,715 | 15,593 | 16,287 |
| Standard Deviation | 1,711 | 1,843 | 1,969 | 2,099 | 2,723 | 2,809 |

TABLE 5
STARTING YEARLY SALARIES OF INEXPERIENCED FULL-TIME EMPLOYED CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATES
by Degree: Summer of 1974 and Summer of 1975

|  | D E G R E E L E V E L |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bachelor's | Master's |  |
| 1974 |  | 1974 |

1974 _1975
\$18,000
19,000
20,000
$000^{\prime}$ LZ
$000^{\circ}$ Lz
48
19,877
1,633

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PLANS FOR FURTHER STUDIES OF UNEMPLOYED CHEMISTS
by Degree Level and Sex



TABIE E-3


TABLE E-4
PLANS FOR FURTHER STUDIES OF UNEMPLOYED CHEMICAL ENGINEERS by Degree Level



TABLE E-6



POSTGRADUATION STATUS OF MINORITY CHEMISTS by Degree Level


PLANS FOR FURTHER STUDIES


TABLE E-8
POSTGRADUATION STATUS OF MINORITY CHEMICAL EINGINEERS by Degree Level


TABLE E-9
POSTGRADUATION STATUS OF B.S. CHEMISTRY GRADUATES by Certification Status


$l_{\text {A }}$ "certified bachelor" is one who has been certified by the chemistry department chairman to the American Chemical Society, as having successfully completed the curriculum in chemistry as approved by the ACS Committee on Professional Training, and is, therefore, eligible to become a member of ACS.

## TABLE E-10

FIELD OF FURTHER STUDIES OF B.S. CHEMISTRY GRADUATES by Certification Status


[^0]TABLE E-11


TABLE E-1?
NUMBER OF FIRM JOB OFFERS TO CHEMISTRY GRADUATES WHO ACCEPTED FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT
by Degree Level and Sex


EXFERIEIVCEL



6
0
3
2
-1


 | $N$ |
| :---: |
|  |
|  |
| - |

of Inexperienced Chemists and Chemical Engineers

> by Degree Level and Sex


| H.IGFEST | CEGREE | CHEMICAL ENGINEERS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Men | WCMEN | $\begin{gathered} \text { RCh } \\ T O T A L \end{gathered}$ |
| EAChicrs | MEDIAN |  | 14700 |  |
|  | AR. ${ }^{\text {MEANI }}$ | 143 | $14719{ }^{2}$ | 14325. |
|  | STD. DEVI |  |  | $1{ }^{4} 4050$ |
| MASters | MEDIAN I |  | 1560 |  |
|  | AR. MEANI | 152 | 15950. | 15342 。 |
|  | NUMBER ${ }^{\text {STD }}$ DEV $\frac{1}{1}$ |  |  | $14{ }^{\text {c }}$ |
| Ptio |  |  |  |  |
|  | AR. MEANI | 15 |  |  |
|  | NUMBER I |  |  | 48 |
|  | STD. DEV I |  |  | 1033. |
| CCLUNN | AR.MEAN |  |  | 14975. |
|  | NUMBER | - 5 | 128 | 1436 |

table s-2
Starting yearly salaries of inexperienced chemists and chemical engineers by employer and degree level

-ABLE S-3
STARTING YFARLY SALARIES OF INEXPERIENCED CHEMISTS BY EMPLOYER, DEGREE LEVEL, AND SEX

リン！ご

| FIELC CF iEGFí ＋IEhEst ucGRte | EELORAPFís KEGIUN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | PACIFIC | mluntain | WESTACO | －EST SC． ĆivT角位 | EAS ML Ćivíní | 匕AST SU． CEivTRAL | MICLLE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SCUTH } \\ & \text { ATLANTIC } \end{aligned}$ | NEW <br> EAGLAAD | ROW |
| EACRLCKS AR MEANNUMBER ISTD．DEV． | S61 |  | 960 | 120 |  | 8688. |  | 9000. |  |  |
|  | SE | 5778. | 9562. | 11776 。 | 1045 E． | $\bigcirc 100$. | $10245^{\circ}$ | 8821. | 8677． | 9916. |
|  |  | 2108． | 18䢒。 | 1321. | 1722． | 2261. | 17231． | $\begin{aligned} & 47^{\circ} \\ & 1267 \end{aligned}$ | $1919 .$ | $\begin{aligned} & 710^{\circ} \\ & 18967^{\circ} \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\text { MASTERS } & \text { MEDIAN I } \\ & \text { AR．MEAN I } \\ & \text { NUMBER I }\end{array}$ | 11804 | S152． |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1く1三く。 | ¢438． | 11226 。 | 12060. | 11851． | $11028{ }^{\circ}$ | $12500{ }^{\circ}$ | 10520. | 13000 |  |
|  | 162 S． | $453$ | $\text { at } 3_{3}^{5}$ | $1631$ | $11^{\circ}$ | 111383 | 220． | 10983． | 2371 | $11743^{\circ}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FH．D $\begin{array}{ll}\text { AR．MEANI } \\ & \text { NUMBER I } \\ & \text { STD．DEV．I }\end{array}$ | $15 C C C$ 。 | 12000. | 150CC． | 17500. | 17C0C． | 15000． | 17325. | 16500. | 18500. |  |
|  | 1512 立。 | 12713. | $14343{ }^{\circ}$ | 17033. | 16395． | $15387{ }^{\circ}$ | $16391{ }^{\circ}$ | $16423{ }^{\circ}$ | $17613^{\circ}$ | 16287． |
|  | ＜SE5 | 2424. | 347c． | 1462. | 2753. | 2857. | 3193 | 1839. | 2748. | 2809. |
| CCLUMN Af．Mida <br> TOTAL NUMBER دTC CEV | $\begin{gathered} 11<14 . \\ \text { <S } 3 C \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10216 \\ 2334 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 10452 \\ 45 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 14053 \\ 32 \\ 3157 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 11693 \\ & 118 \\ & 20 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 116077^{\circ} \\ 2875 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11809 . \\ 186 \\ 3301 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11566 \\ 87 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 117756 \\ 56 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 11661 \\ & 627 \end{aligned}$ |

TABLE S－5
STARTING YEARLY SALARIES OF INEXPERIENCED M．S．AND Ph．D．CHEMISTS BY CHEMICAL SPECIALTY

| higrest iegree |  | CHEMICAL SPECIALTY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ANALYTI- | $\begin{aligned} & \text { dicctem- } \\ & \text { ISTRY } \end{aligned}$ | ícurcan－ | MECICIAL， | ORGANIC | PtiYSICAL， | PGLYMERI， | CTHER | TOTAL |
| mastirs | MEDIAN I AR．MEANI NUMBER STD．DEV I | $12 C C C$ 11221 |  |  | $\begin{array}{r} 9600 . \\ 11550 . \\ 2758 . \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{array}$ | 11046 11431 3 | $115444^{\circ}$ 1299 237\％． I | 13000 13100 141. |  | $\begin{aligned} & 11715 . \\ & 2 C 95 . \end{aligned}$ |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MEDIAN I } \\ & \text { AR. MEAN } \\ & \text { NUMBER } \\ & \text { STD. DEVI } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | 1700C00， | 17009 1680 303 3085 | $\begin{array}{r} 176000 \\ 16330 . \\ 359 \\ 2599.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r}16800 \\ 17400 \\ 2 \\ 849 \\ \hline 8 .\end{array}$ | 18000 16476 2651． 261 1 | $\begin{array}{r} 16287 . \\ 2809 . \end{array}$ |
| ccluma | ar fifan NUMRER SIL LEV |  | $\begin{array}{r} 135540 \\ 25 \equiv 1 . \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{array}{r} 13367 \\ 3703^{3} \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1461 \overline{⿳ 亠 二 口 匕 刂} \\ & 3644 . \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 15679 . \\ 2801 . \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} 15250 . \\ 2532 . \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 149970 \\ 3401 . \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 14632 . \\ 3382 . \\ 3384 . \end{array}$ |

TABLE S-6
STARTING YEARLY SALARIES OF INEXPERIENCED B.S. CHEMISTS by Employer and Certification Status


See note on Table E-9.
by Employer


TABLE T-1
AGE DISTRIBUTION
of B.S. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Graduates by Sex


TABLE T-2
AGE DISTRIBUTION
of M.S. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Graduates by Sex


TABLE T-3
AGE DISTRIBUTION
of Ph.D. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Graduates by Sex


TABLE T-4
AGE DISTRIBUTION
of Postdoctoral Chemists by Sex


TABLE T-5

TABLE T-6
CITIZENSHIP CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATES
by Degree Level and Sex



MINORITY AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSIFICATION of Chemistry Graduates by Degree Level


TABLE T-8
MINORITY AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSIFICATION
of Chemical Engineering Graduates by Degree Level


AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
Starting Salary and Employment Status of 1975 Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Graduates
A. Sex:
(1)
)_Male
(2) $\qquad$
B. Year of birth $\qquad$
C. Highest dogree received in 1975:
(1)
_ Bachelor's
(2)_Master's
(3)_Ph.D.
D. Field of degree:
(1) _Chemistry or Biochemistry
(2) __Chemical Engineering
(3) _Other
$\qquad$
E. If you received an advanced degree in chemistry, indicate field:
(01)_Analytical
(02)_Blochemistry
(03)_Inorganic
(04)_Medicinal/pharmaceutical
(05)_Organic
(06) ___Physical/theoretical
(07) _Polymer/macromolecular
(08)_Agricultural/food
(09) _Other $\qquad$
F. Citizenship:
(1) $\qquad$ J.S. Citizen
(2) _U.S. permanent
(3) $\qquad$ Other visa:
(specify)
G. Are you a member of any of the minority groups recognized by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission listed below? $\qquad$ Yes
(5) $\qquad$
If "Yes," please check those which apply to you:
(1) _Black/Negro
(3)_Oriental (those nf Chinese, Japanesa, Korean, or Filipino ancestry)
(2) American Indian
(4) __Spanish-Surnamed (those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Spanish ancestry)
H. Post Graduation Status:
(1) __Accepted (or continued) full-time employment in a field of chemistry or chemical engineering. Annual starting salary: a. \$ $\qquad$
(2) _ Accepted (or continued) full-time employment in a field other than chemistry or chemical engineering. Annual starting salary: b. \$ $\qquad$
(3) $\qquad$ ccepted graduate assistantship or postdoctoral or other fellowship after graduation. Annual stipend or salary: c. \$
(4) Entered military service, Peace Corps, VISTA, PHS, or other similar service.
(5) __ Was unable to obtain full-time employment.
(6) _Was not seeking full-time employment.

| Fon ACS use only |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| (7)_H-6, | $M=1$ |

IF YOU HAVE ACCEPTED FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OR A POSTDOCTORAL POSITION, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
I. Employer classification (check the one category which best describes your employer):
Private industry or business:
(01)_manufacturing
(02) non-manufacturing
(03)_College or university
(04)_High school or other school
(05) Federal government
(06) __ State or local government
(07) —Hospital, independent laboratory
(08) -Other non-profit organization
(09) _Other (specify) $\qquad$
J. Geographic location of employment:

State $\qquad$
K. How many firm offers of employment did you receive in a field of chemistry or chemical engineering?: Specify number
L. Did you have professional work experience prior to graduation?
(1) Yes (2) $\qquad$
If "Yes," was it:
(1) $\qquad$ one year or less
(2) more than a year
M. DO YOU PLAN FURTHER ADVANCED STUDIES IN FALL 1975?:
(1)__Yes (2)__No

If you plan further studies starting in fall 1975, specify field:
(01) _Chemistry
(02) _Other physical science
(03) _Chemical engineering
(04)_Other engineering
(0) _Biochemistry
$(06)$ _Other life science
(07) Medicine
(08) _Dentistry
(09) Pharmaceutics
(10) _Business administration
(11) _Law
(12) _Social science
(13) _Other (specify)

Please return within 10 daus to the American Chemical Society 1155 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE
IN THIS SPACE
E. $\frac{}{6} \quad 7$

I. $\overline{26} \quad \overline{27}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { J. } \\ \text { K. } & \\ \text { K0 } & \overline{39}\end{array}$


Certification $\overline{37}$
$\square$

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i
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PRINTED MATTER

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[^0]:    See note on Table E-9.

