**Who’s Under Contract … TV and Radio**

**by Bob Papper**

The latest RTDNA/Hofstra University Survey found that TV contract rates remained mostly the same compared to a year ago while radio generally fell slightly.

**TV newsroom employees under contract and non-competes - 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Percent under contract | Percent with non-competes | Percent under contract with non-competes |
| News Director | 46.6% | 48.5% | 91.3% |
| Assistant News Director | 52.8 | 46.8 | 82 |
| Managing Editor | 38.5 | 39 | 86.7 |
| Executive Producer | 64.8 | 65.7 | 88.9 |
| News Anchor | 95.4 | 84.8 | 88.8 |
| Weathercaster | 95.2 | 84.2 | 88.4 |
| Sports Anchor | 91 | 81.3 | 89.2 |
| News Reporter | 89.7 | 79.4 | 88.4 |
| MMJ | 90.9 | 85.2 | 92.2 |
| Sports Reporter | 83.1 | 74.3 | 89.3 |
| Assignment Editor | 24.5 | 30.7 | 95.7 |
| News Producer | 71.7 | 70.1 | 89.1 |
| News Writer | 11.5 | 16 | 100 |
| News Assistant | 3.6 | 7.7 | 100 |
| Photographer | 8.3 | 13.6 | 88.9 |
| Video Editor | 9.1 | 12.9 | 100 |
| Graphics Specialist | 3 | 11.1 | 100 |
| Digital Content Manager | 41.2 | 44.3 | 90.2 |
| Social Media Prod/Ed | 26.7 | 26.7 | 83.3 |
| Web/Mobile Writer/Prod | 35.4 | 31.6 | 94.1 |

Following last year’s jump in TV contracts, this year’s numbers are almost all within one or two points of last year. Not a single position moved in a meaningful way – either up or down.

**Radio newsroom employees under contract and non-competes - 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Percent under contract | Percent with non-competes | Percent under contract with non-competes |
| News Director | 20.8% | 11.1% | 25% |
| News Reporter | 20.8 | 19.1 | 57.1 |
| News Producer | 17.4 | 10.5 | 50 |
| News Anchor | 20.8 | 15.8 | 66.7 |
| Sports Anchor | 23.8 | 15 | 60 |
| Web Prod/Ed | 19 | 5.3 | 33.3 |

After three years of steady drops, the percentages under contract in radio are almost all up from a year ago.

Note that non-compete agreements are illegal in a number of states.

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**About the Survey**

The RTDNA/Hofstra University Survey was conducted in the fourth quarter of 2017 among all 1,683 operating, non-satellite television stations and a random sample of 3,542 radio stations. Valid responses came from 1,333 television stations (79.2%) and 415 radio news directors and general managers representing 1,110 radio stations. Some data sets (e.g. the number of TV stations originating local news, getting it from others and women TV news directors) are based on a complete census and are not projected from a smaller sample.