Please note the new partnership on this research as it becomes the RTDNA/Newhouse School at Syracuse University Survey. I am privileged to have joined the outstanding faculty at Syracuse. That’s the name you’ll see on the research from here on … and that’s what you’ll see on the painfully long survey questionnaire later this fall.

Bob Papper

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

**by Bob Papper**

The latest RTDNA/Newhouse School at Syracuse University Survey found few significant changes in the percentages of who’s under contract in either local radio or TV news.

**TV newsroom employees under contract and non-competes - 2020**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Percent under contract | Percent with non-competes | Percent under contract with non-competes |
| News Director | 43.4% | 48.6% | 92.6% |
| Assistant News Director | 51 | 54.5 | 93.5 |
| Managing Editor | 43.4 | 43.2 | 94.1 |
| Executive Producer | 70.6 | 71.4 | 91.2 |
| News Anchor | 97.4 | 92.1 | 93.4 |
| Weathercaster | 97.3 | 92.4 | 93 |
| Sports Anchor | 94 | 92.2 | 94.6 |
| News Reporter | 82.7 | 78.3 | 92.1 |
| MMJ | 91.7 | 90.4 | 94.4 |
| Sports Reporter | 82.4 | 83.9 | 100 |
| Assignment Editor | 34.4 | 44.2 | 100 |
| News Producer | 71.6 | 71.9 | 91.2 |
| News Writer | 21.7 | 22.2 | 100 |
| News Assistant | 5.3 | 6.7 | \* |
| Photographer | 9.3 | 12.6 | 88.9 |
| Video Editor | 7.2 | 10.5 | 100 |
| Graphics Specialist | 6.7 | 15.4 | 100 |
| Digital Content Manager | 56 | 59.1 | 92.3 |
| Social Media Prod/Ed | 38.7 | 41.7 | 100 |
| Web/Mobile Writer/Prod | 45.7 | 49.1 | 89.7 |

\*Insufficient data

Not a lot of movement in this list … some up a bit and some down. Still, all news managers and all digital positions went up a bit in both percent under contract and percent with non-competes.

**Radio newsroom employees under contract and non-competes - 2020**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Percent under contract | Percent with non-competes | Percent under contract with non-competes |
| News Director | 19% | 17.9% | 48.4% |
| News Reporter | 14.7 | 13.8 | 66.7 |
| News Producer | 15.8 | 6.3 | 50 |
| News Anchor | 23.5 | 15.9 | 70 |
| Sports Anchor | 11.1 | 13 | 66.7 |
| Sports Reporter | 18.2 | 15 | 66.7 |
| Web Prod/Ed | 21.1 | 9.1 | 60 |

Not a lot of movement in radio contracts, either … with two exceptions. News reporter and producer both jumped substantially in percent under contract with non-competes.

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

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**About the Survey**

The RTDNA/Newhouse School at Syracuse University Survey was conducted in the fourth quarter of 2019 among all 1,702 operating, non-satellite television stations and a random sample of 3,427 radio stations. Valid responses came from 1,313 television stations (77.1%) and 673 radio news directors and general managers representing 1,996 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.