## 

## 2017 Strategy Consulting Compensation Study

# Compensation Data Key Facts 

Charles Aris, Inc. is pleased to present our 2017 Strategy Consulting Compensation Study. Key facts about the data compiled for the study are as follows:

- All compensation data points for this study were collected between January 1 and December 31, 2016. Most consulting firms raise compensation for their consultants on or around January 1 of each year. It's important to note that the most recent set of raises (those that took place on or around January 1, 2017) will not be reflected in this study.
- Most firms pay year-end bonuses in the December-January timeframe as well. The target bonus percentages indicated at the top of each bar in slide four reflect what consultants expected to receive at year-end and are not verified after the fact.
- Compensation data points are self-reported by consultants and are not verified through any other means. While this implies that consultants have the opportunity to be less than honest about their compensation, we feel extremely confident that the data are accurate given the consistency in responses we received across consultants and firms.
- We eliminated a small percentage (less than $5 \%$ ) of outlier data points that would have adversely skewed the data. We also excluded Partner compensation data points from this study. During the course of 2016 we spoke with many Partners with MBA graduation dates in the range of our study, but their higher compensation dramatically skewed the data to a point where they would no longer be useful for our clients.


## Input Data by Consulting Firm



Input Data By Consulting Firm

- During the course of 2016, Charles Aris recruiters spoke with over 3,500 strategy candidates, of which over $95 \%$ were actively employed with industry leading consulting firms, corporations and private equity firms.
- Detailed discussions around compensation happen only on an as needed basis. For the purpose of this study we have distilled only those compensation data points from candidates that were actively employed by leading consulting firms.
- Our 2016 Strategy Consulting Compensation Study is driven by 927 data points from consultants across nine firms.
- 69.3\% of the data points come from "The Big Three" firms: McKinsey \& Company, The Boston Consulting Group and Bain \& Company.
- Of the 927 total data points, 665 come from post-MBA consultants and 262 come from pre-MBA/undergraduate consultants.


## Average Compensation by Graduation Year



[^0]^\% Change1yr equals the percentage change in total annual compensation (base salary plus target annual bonus only), from 2015 to 2016, for that graduation year. $\wedge \wedge \%$ Change2Yr equals the percentage change in total annual compensation (base salary plus target annual bonus only), from 2014 to 2016, for that graduation year. $\wedge \wedge \wedge \%$ Change3Yr equals the percentage change in total annual compensation (base salary plus target annual bonus only), from 2013 to 2016, for that graduation year.

## Average Increase in Annual Compensation

## Post-MBA

How much did the average post-MBA consultant's compensation increase in 2016 compared to previous years?


- On average, every post-MBA strategy consultant experienced an 11.0\% increase in compensation from 2015 to 2016, a significant drop to what was experienced the year prior and closer to the six year low watermark of $9.2 \%$ set in 2013.
- What's Driving It? While many consulting firms continued to enjoy another year of record setting earnings, some firms experienced a slow down, which resulted in smaller annual raises and lower bonuses.


## Pre-MBA

- On average, every Pre-MBA/Undergraduate consultant experienced a $16.4 \%$ increase in compensation from 2015 to 2016, the lowest rate seen over the previous six years.
- What's Driving It? As stated above, some firms experienced a slow down in 2016 which negatively impacted bonuses. In addition, enough is enough already! The last four years saw Pre-MBA consultants enjoy record setting annual raises, and the firms have grown weary of $\sim 25 \%$ annual increases.

How much did the average pre-MBA/Undergraduate consultant's compensation increase in 2016 compared to previous years?


## Trends in Compensation Expectations

During the course of 2016 Charles Aris noticed the continuation of a trend in the marketplace: consultants are expecting more in total compensation from Corporate America than what they are currently earning in consulting.

| Consultant compensation expectations when joining Corporate America* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| 10-20\% <br> LESS <br> than consulting | BREAKEVEN <br> with consulting | 10-20\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting | 5-10\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting | 5-10\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting | 10-20\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting | 5-15\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting | 5-15\% <br> MORE <br> than consulting |

## Multiple factors continue to drive this trend:

- Knowing that they are stepping off the steep compensation trajectory that consulting provides, consultants strive to "get out ahead of the curve" so as not to lose their strong compensation position after only one year in Corporate America.
- With so many companies competing for this talent, consultants believe that they have the luxury of saying "no" to any one opportunity with the expectation that another, higher paying opportunity is right around the corner.


## 2016 Sample Industry Offers

Charles
ARIS
Below you will find a subset of 2016 offers that were accepted by Charles Aris candidates from Tier 1 Strategy Firms.


[^1]
## 2016 Offer Ranges by MBA Year

Below you will find 2016 corporate offer ranges*, at the $25^{\text {th }}, 50^{\text {th }}$ and $75^{\text {th }}$ percentiles, for each MBA graduation year.

| $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ MBA | $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ | 75th |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Associate | Manager | Sr Manager |
| Base Salary | $\$ 140,000$ | $\$ 155,000$ | $\$ 170,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $15 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 20,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 161,000$ | $\$ 186,000$ | $\$ 232,500$ |


| 2011 | MBA | 25th | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Director | Sr Director | VP |
| Base Salary | $\$ 170,000$ | $\$ 185,000$ | $\$ 200,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $25 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 30,000$ | $\$ 45,000$ | $\$ 60,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 242,500$ | $\$ 285,500$ | $\$ 330,000$ |


| 2013 MBA | 25 $^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ | 75th |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Manager | Sr Manager | Director |
| Base Salary | $\$ 150,000$ | $\$ 165,000$ | $\$ 180,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $20 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $30 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 20,000$ | $\$ 40,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 180,000$ | $\$ 226,250$ | $\$ 274,000$ |


| 2010 | MBA | 25th $^{\text {th }}$ | 50th $^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Title | Sr Director | Sr Director | VP |
| Base Salary | $\$ 180,000$ | $\$ 195,000$ | $\$ 210,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $40 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 35,000$ | $\$ 55,000$ | $\$ 75,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 269,000$ | $\$ 318,250$ | $\$ 369,000$ |


| 2012 | MBA | $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Title | Sr Manager | Director | Sr Director |
| Base Salary | $\$ 160,000$ | $\$ 175,000$ | $\$ 185,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $20 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $30 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 20,000$ | $\$ 35,000$ | $\$ 50,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 212,000$ | $\$ 253,750$ | $\$ 290,500$ |


| $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ MBA | $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{7 5}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Sr Director | VP | VP |
| Base Salary | $\$ 190,000$ | $\$ 205,000$ | $\$ 220,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $35 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $55 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 50,000$ | $\$ 75,000$ | $\$ 100,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 306,500$ | $\$ 372,250$ | $\$ 441,000$ |

*Source: Charles Aris, Inc. anecdotal data based on over 3,500 conversations with consultants over the course of 2016.

## 2016 Offer Ranges by Undergraduate Year

Below you will find 2016 corporate offer ranges*, at the $25^{\text {th }}, 50^{\text {th }}$ and $75^{\text {th }}$ percentiles, for each Pre-MBA/Undergraduate graduation year.

| $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ Pre-MBA | $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{7 5}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Analyst | Analyst | Sr Analyst |
| Base Salary | $\$ 85,000$ | $\$ 95,000$ | $\$ 105,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $5 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 0$ |
| Total | $\$ 89,250$ | $\$ 104,500$ | $\$ 120,750$ |


| 2013 Pre-MBA | $\mathbf{2 5 t h}^{\text {th }}$ | 50 $^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{7 5}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Title | Analyst | Sr Analyst | Associate |
| Annual Be Salary | $\$ 95,000$ | $\$ 105,000$ | $\$ 115,000$ |
| Annual Equity | $10 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Total | $\$ 104,500$ | $\$ 120,750$ | $\$ 138,000$ |


| 2012 Pre-MBA | $\mathbf{2 5}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{5 0}^{\text {th }}$ | $\mathbf{7 5}^{\text {th }}$ |
| ---: | :---: | ---: | ---: |
| Title | Sr Analyst | Associate | Sr Associate |
| Base Salary | $\$ 110,000$ | $\$ 120,000$ | $\$ 130,000$ |
| Annual Bonus | $15 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Annual Equity | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 0$ | $\$ 15,000$ |
| Total | $\$ 126,500$ | $\$ 144,000$ | $\$ 171,000$ |

*Source: Charles Aris, Inc. anecdotal data based on over 3,500 conversations with consultants over the course of 2016.

## Strategy Consultant Competencies

The matrix below defines the expected competencies for consultants at each level for the 2017 recruiting year.

| Title at Consulting Firm* | Analyst | Associate | Manager | Principal | Partner |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Years of Experience | $\begin{aligned} & 1-3 \mathrm{yrs} \\ & \text { Pre-MBA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1-2 \mathrm{yrs} \\ \text { Post-MBA } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3-4 \mathrm{yrs} \\ \text { Post-MBA } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5-7 \text { yrs } \\ \text { Post-MBA } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8+\mathrm{yrs} \\ \text { Post-MBA } \end{gathered}$ |
| Graduation Year | 2013-2015 undergraduate degree | $\begin{aligned} & 2015- \\ & 2016 \text { MBA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2013- } \\ & 2014 \text { MBA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2010- } \\ 2012 \text { MBA } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2009 \text { and } \\ & \text { earlier MBA } \end{aligned}$ |


|  |  | akdown of (Consultant | ultant Comp petencies defi | ies by Posi next slide) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 100\% | Case Cracking | Influence/Lead | Influencing/ Leading | Selling/ Influencing/ Leading | Selling/ Influencing/ Leading |
|  | Project Mgmt. | Case Cracking |  |  |  |
| 75\% |  | Project Mgmt. | Case Cracking |  |  |
| 25\% - | Analytics/ Slide Building | Analytics/ Slide Building | Project Mgmt. | Case Cracking |  |
|  |  |  | Analytics/Slides | Project Mgmt. | Project Mgmt. |
|  | Analyst | Associate | Manager | Principal | Partner |

## Consultant Competency Definitions

## Senior Level

 Competencies
## Junior

 Level Competencies
## Selling/ <br> Influencing/ Leading

## Case Cracking

## Project Management

- Generate revenue by selling consulting services.
- Establish vision, frame key issues and set high level strategy.
- Influence key executives and stakeholders to support significant change.
- Understand the problem at a more granular level and establish a hypothesis driven approach through which a solution can be derived.
- Effectively, solve the problem.
- Write the storyline.
- Understand strategic direction as set by the hypothesis driven approach, set milestones, scope analysis, assign resources, manage execution and report findings.
- Serve as quality control lead.
- Conduct quantitative analyses in a defect-free manner. Possess mastery of Microsoft Excel.
- Leverage Microsoft PowerPoint to create impactful, concise, and defect-free slide loops.


## Charles Aris, Inc. Strategy Practice

- Charles Aris, Inc. is a national executive search firm that was founded in 1969. The Strategy \& Corporate Development practice at Charles Aris is led by Chad Oakley, a former Bain \& Company consultant and Wharton MBA.
- Since its inception in 2003 the Strategy \& Corporate Development practice has placed over $\mathbf{4 0 0}$ candidates, at multiple levels, including Chief Strategy Officer, Vice President, Director, Manager and Analyst.
- Our client base falls into three categories: the Corporate Strategy teams of industry leading Fortune 500 companies, the investment and portfolio management teams of leading private equity firms, asset management firms, and professional services firms, including consultancies and the like.
- The candidates that we place typically work for top tier strategy consulting firms and possess undergraduate and graduate degrees from the world's leading academic institutions.
- For more information, please contact any of our team members as shown on this page or visit www.charlesaris.com.



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[^0]:    *Base salary plus target annual bonus only. Does not include retirement contribution, profit sharing, sign-on, car allowance or other such cash equivalents.
    **Standard Deviation and Median numbers are calculated for base salary plus target annual bonus, i.e. the number at the top of each column. $\dagger$ Pre-Partner data points only, i.e. we excluded compensation data points from anyone at Partner level or equivalent as it skewed the data significantly.

[^1]:    *Base=Base Salary. Bonus=Annual Target Bonus. Sign-On=Sign-On Bonus. E=Annual Equity Grant. E1=One-Time Equity Grant.

