

Q1 2009 Freelance Rates for Copy Editors  
Access to survey results can be purchased online at  
[http://elephant.org.il/salarybenefits/quarterly\\_report\\_pricing.html](http://elephant.org.il/salarybenefits/quarterly_report_pricing.html)

This report is based on input from 12 freelance copy editors. 11 copy editors provided time-based rate data and only 5 provided page-based rate data (some provided both). Therefore percentile breakdowns for per-page rates are not included in this report.

Data from an additional 3 copy editors who reported no copy editing work during the past quarter was not included. This statistic is important because it indicates a drop in demand even though it is also possible that some or all of these copy editors were busy with other, more profitable work.

All rates are those actually charged, not asking rates.

## How Rates Were Calculated

The way rates are calculated affects the outcome.

**Average by Editor** and percentile rates are calculated in units of rate per editor with no weight given to the number of hours each editor works.

In other words  $Avg = (RateForA + RateForB) / NumberOfEditors$ .

For example, if editor A works 200 hours/mo and charges 50 NIS/hour, while editor B works 100 hours/mo and charges 100 NIS/hr the average is calculated as follows:

$Avg = (50 + 100) / 2 = 75$  .

**Average by Hours** is a weighted average that places more weight on rates for editors who have more billable hours and therefore more impact on the market. In other words  $Avg = TotalAmountBilled / TotalHours$ .

For example, if editor A works 200 hours/mo and charges 50 NIS/hour, while editor B works 100 hours/mo and charges 100 NIS/hr the average is calculated as follows:

$Avg = (10,000 + 10,000) / 300 = 66.67$  .

## Exchange Rates

All but 1 copy editors reported their primary currency for rates as NIS. That copy editor reported \$USD. Therefore that rate was converted to NIS at the Jan 15 exchange rate of 3.885.

This is the reason that some of the percentile rate are uneven amounts (that percentile happened to be a \$USD rate converted to NIS).

## Median and Percentiles

Median is what is the rate for the person in the middle, with the same number of people earning the same or more as those earning that rate or less.

Percentiles are a ranking of entries with the lowest at 1 and the highest at 100.

25% rate means that 25% earn that rate or less, and 75% earn that rate or more. This is a low-end rate - most copy editors earn more.

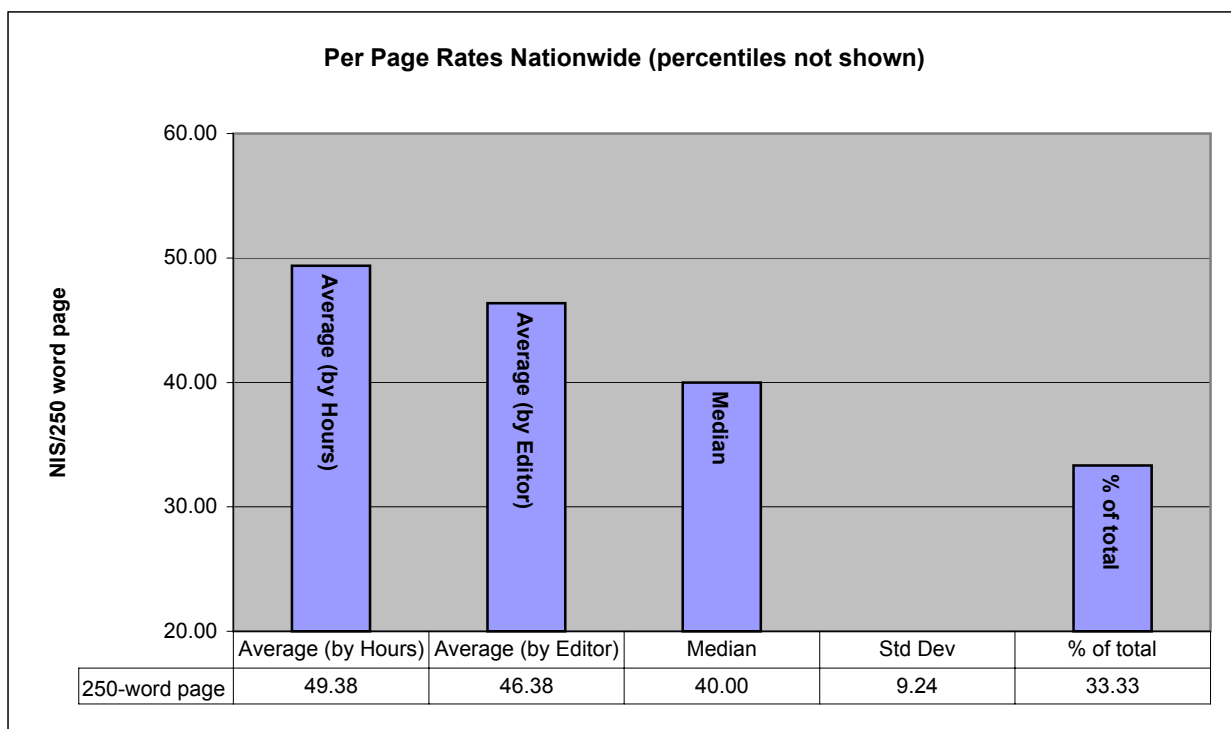
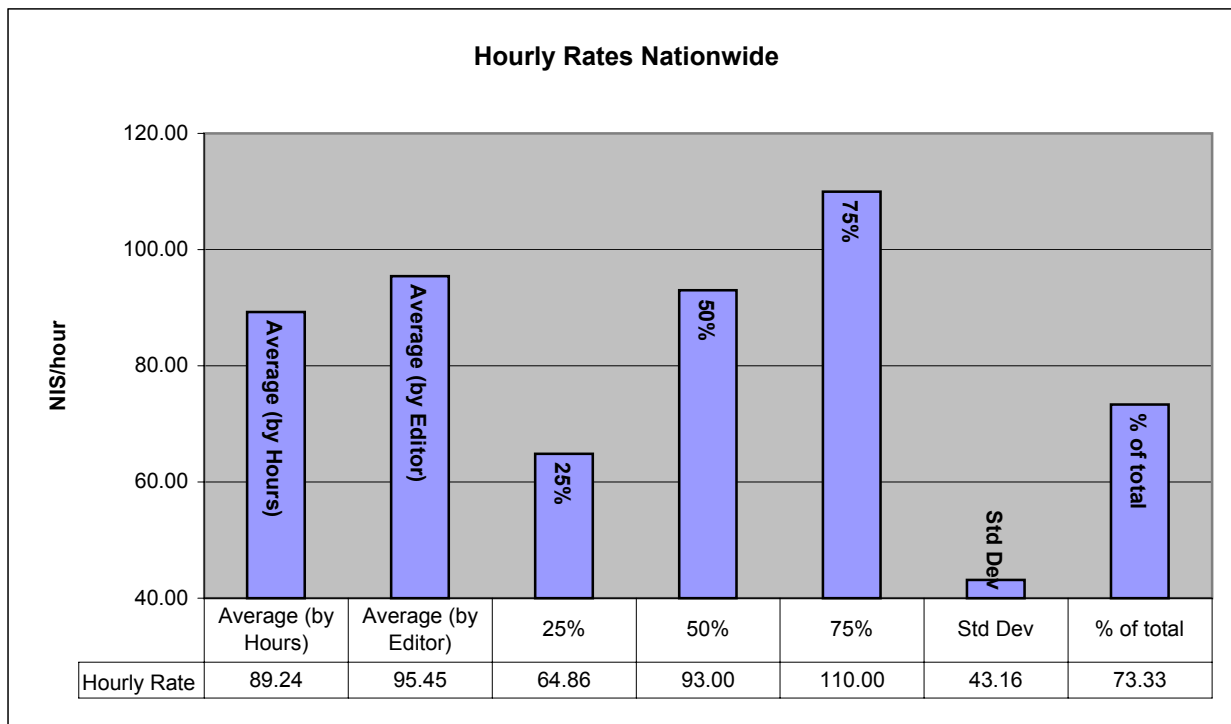
50% rate means that 50% earn that rate or less, and 50% earn that rate or more. This is what the average, run-of-the-mill copy editor should expect to earn.

75% rate means that 75% earn that rate or less, and 25% earn that rate or more. This is what a copy editor who is the starting point for a high-end rate.

90% rate means that 90% earn that rate or less, and 10% earn that rate or more. This is a high-end rate - these figures are not included in this report, but I do have them for personal consulting.

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**General**



**Need a Technical Writer or Copy Editor**

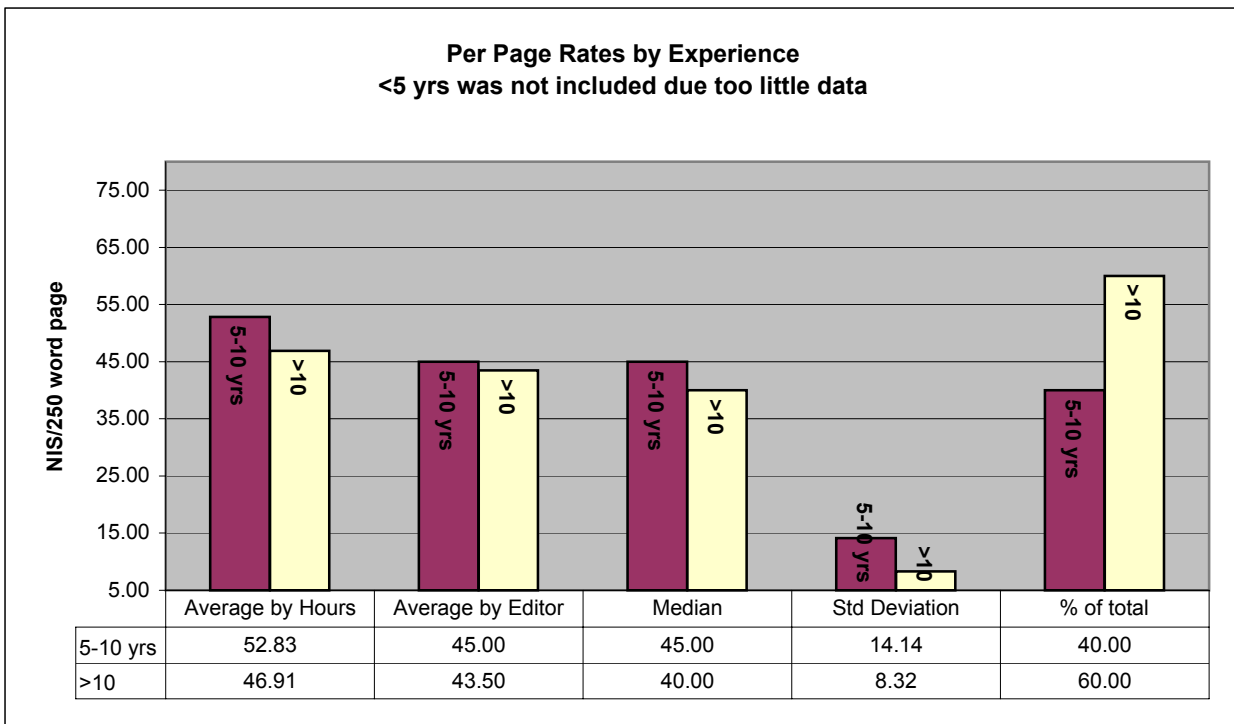
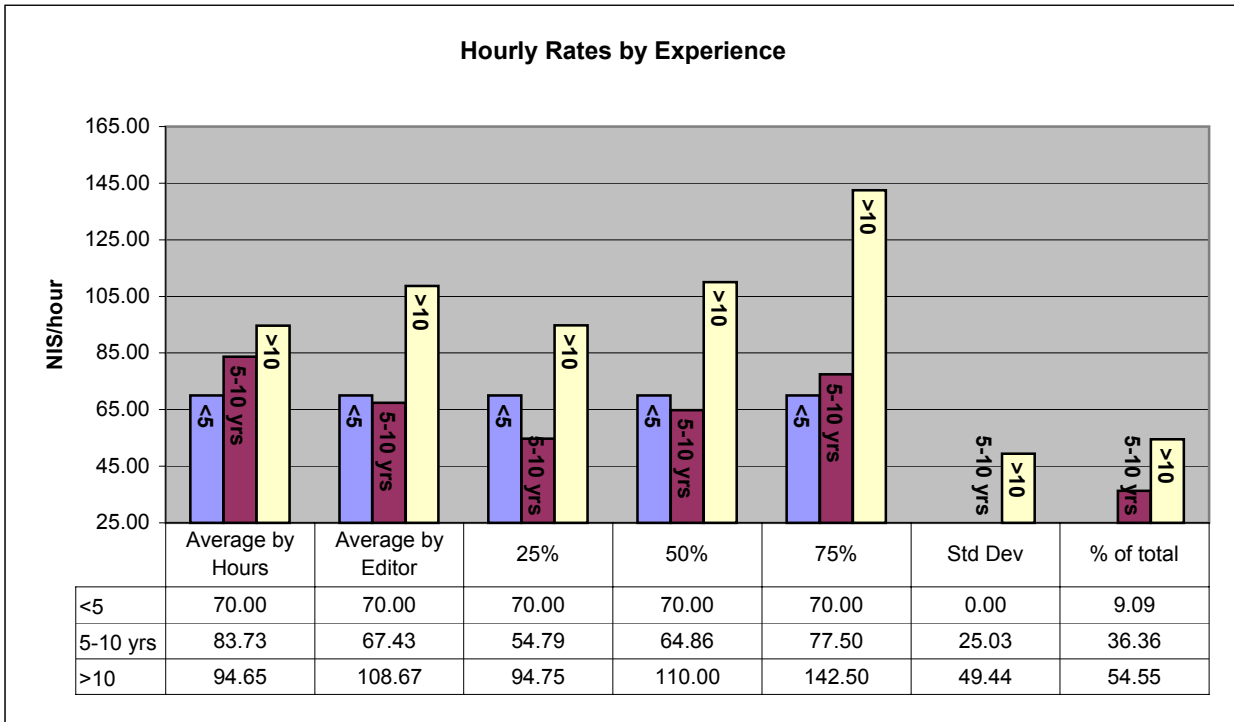
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Elephant is made up of independent  
**Technical Writers, Marcom Writers,  
 Translators and Copy Editors**  
 who help each other.

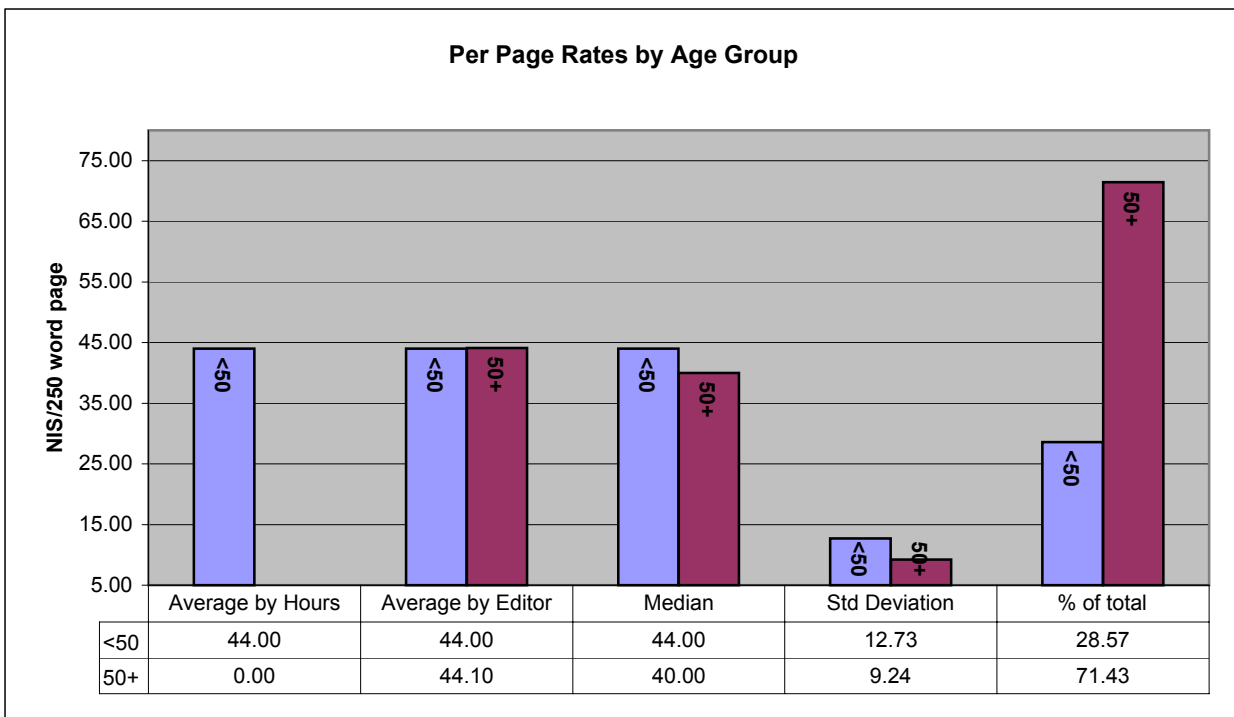
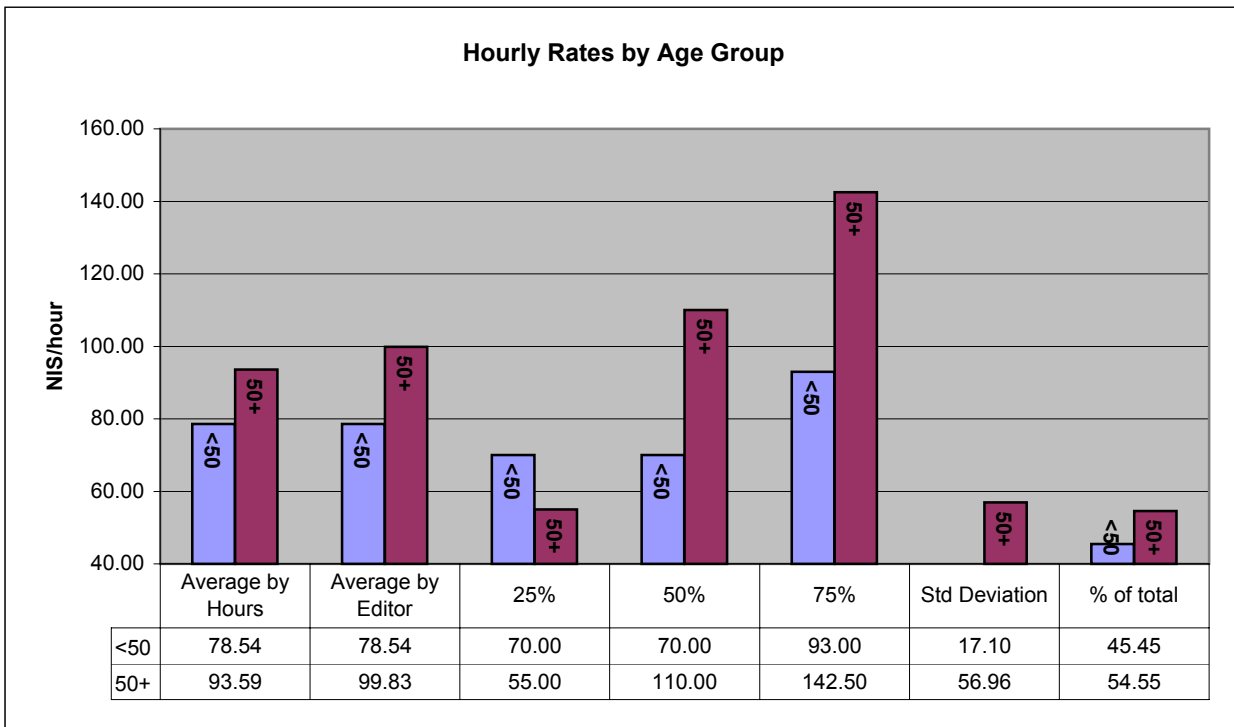
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### Breakdown by Experience



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### Breakdown by Age



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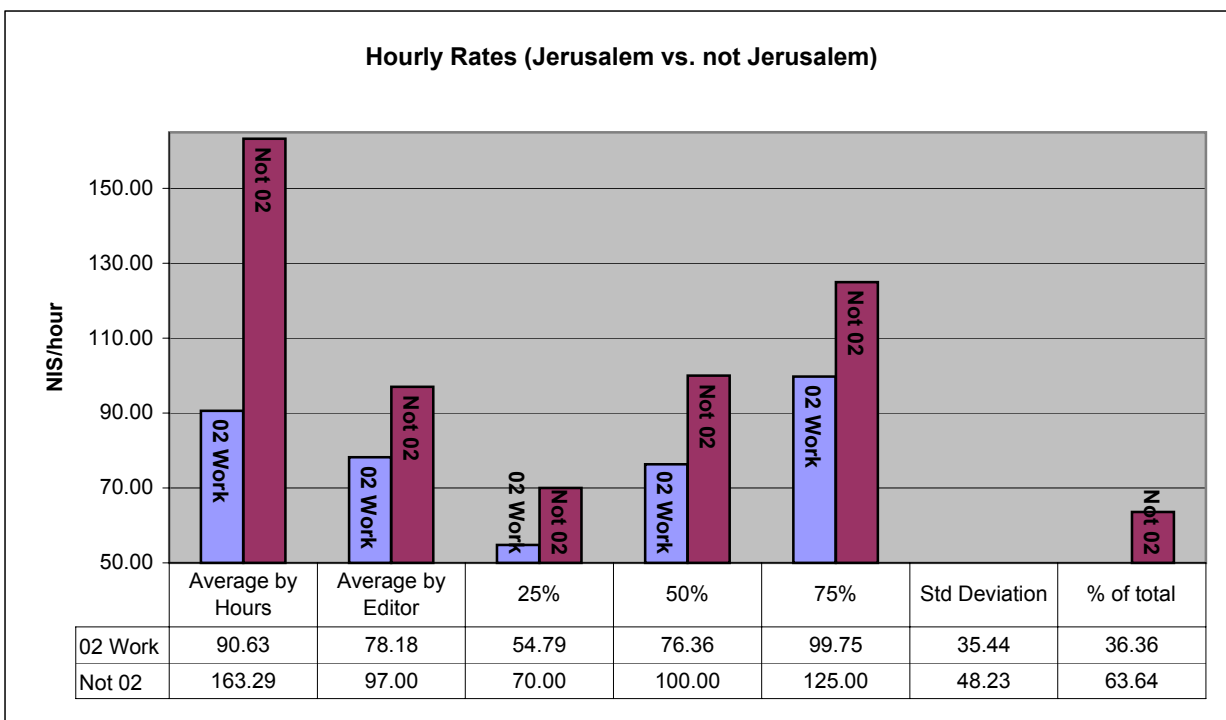
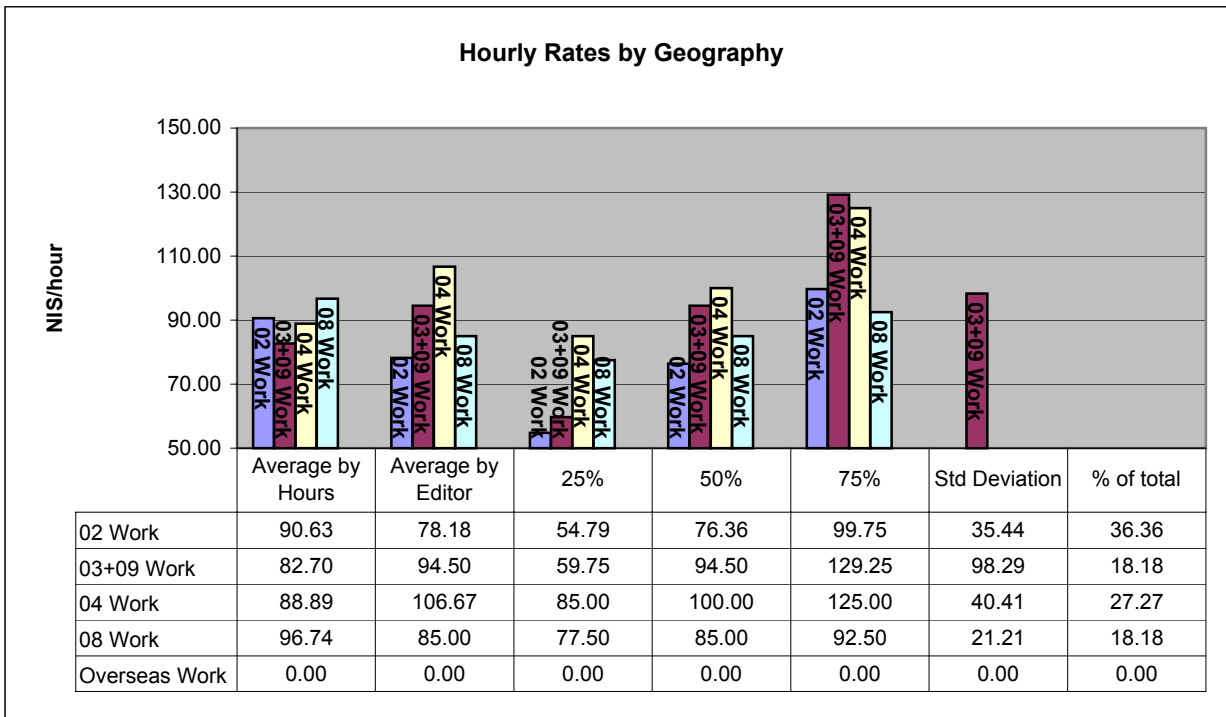
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### Breakdown by Geography

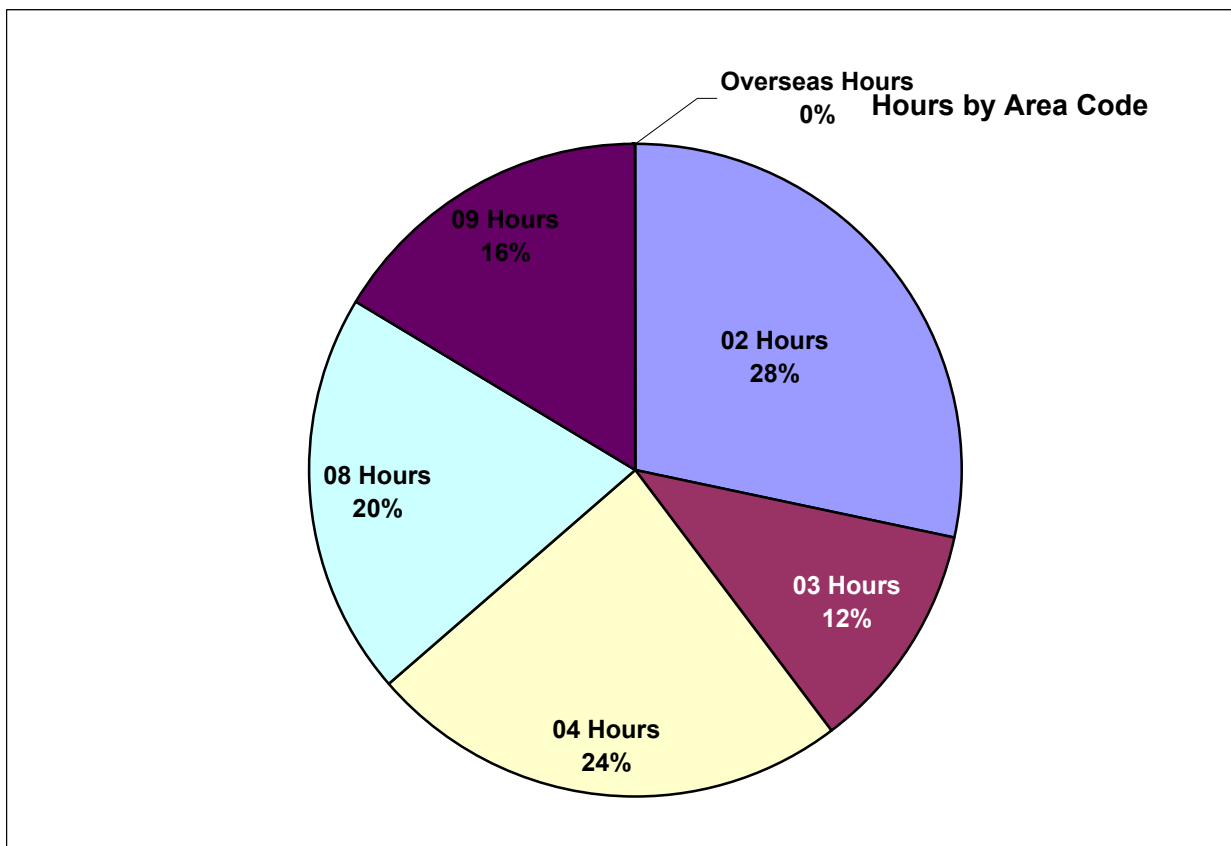
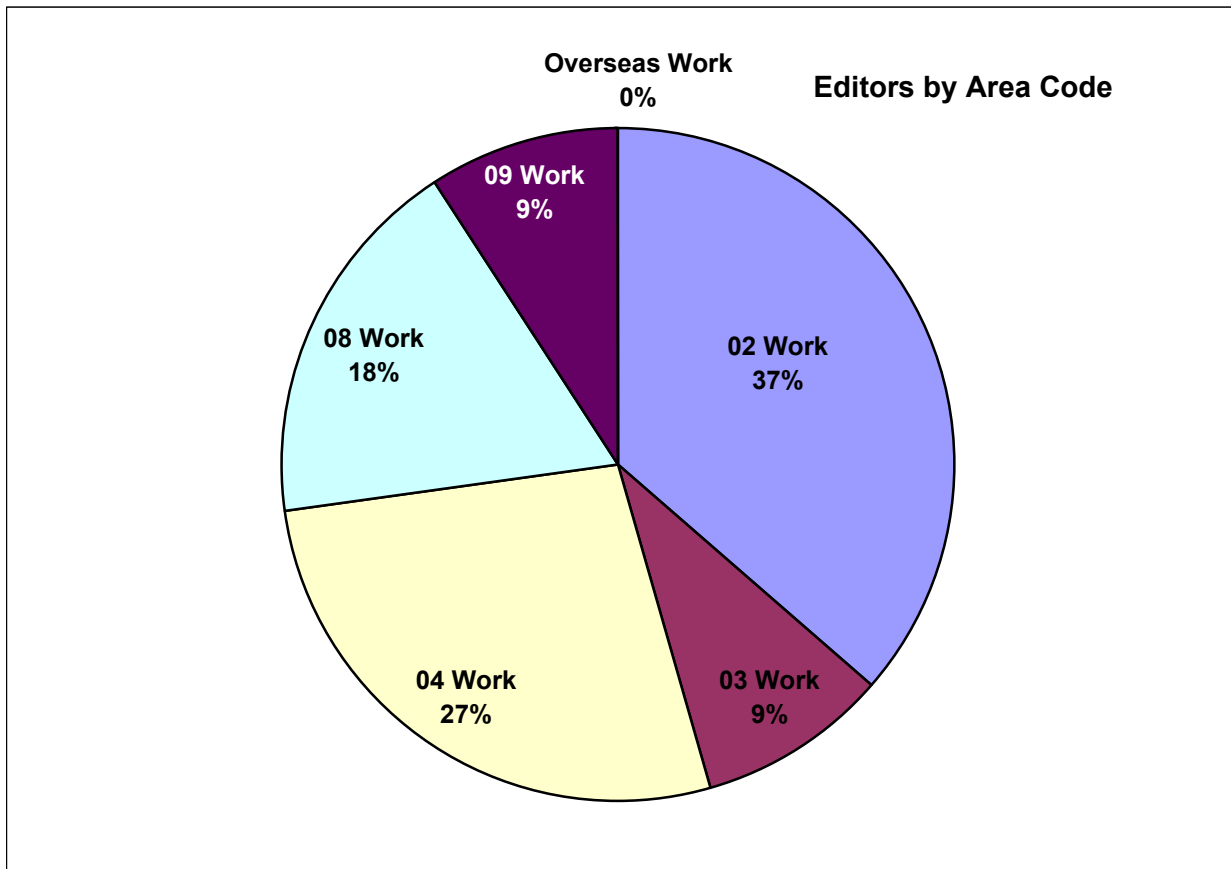
Participation in this survey was much higher in Jerusalem than any other part of Israel. It is not clear whether this is due to the fact that the COandPI group is strongest in the Jerusalem area or if it is representative. Because nearly 40% of the participants listed their primary client area as 02, I gave a separate breakdown where data for all other areas are combined.

Unlike with technical and marcom writers, having overseas clients is quite common for Israeli copy editors and proofreaders. However this quarter none of the participants reported "outside of Israel" as the primary location of their clients.



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### Breakdown by Sex

The number of male participants was too small for accurate rate data, but we can see that male copyeditors are more likely to charge by the page than their female counterparts.

