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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

» INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2021 Economic State of the Profession report from the American Veterinary Medical Association. With the accelerating—and at times tremendous—pace of change in both the veterinary profession and society at large, the need has never been greater for a resource to help veterinary decision-makers chart a course for the coming year and beyond.

The AVMA 2021 Economic State of the Profession report helps answer that call. It provides a detailed summary of the economic state of the veterinary profession and examines the major trends through the lens of three critical areas:

VETERINARY EDUCATION



VETERINARY EMPLOYMENT



VETERINARY SERVICES



To generate the reams of data contained in this report, the AVMA fielded three major annual surveys:

- The **Senior Survey** gathers information on a variety of topics from fourth-year students at U.S. veterinary medical programs. It informed the **Market for Education** section of this report.
- The **Census of Veterinarians** collects information from AVMA members on employment and compensation. These data are represented in the **Market for Veterinarians** section.
- The **Practice Ownership Survey** polls veterinarians who own their practices on trends in the veterinary workforce. It was used to compile the **Market for Veterinary Services** section.

Where appropriate, we compared results from these three primary sources with other data, including AVMA membership data, U.S. veterinary population figures, and U.S. population information. These comparisons are indicated throughout the text, graphs, and tables.

Throughout, our purpose has been to provide an indispensable resource for three main segments of the veterinary profession:

- Veterinary students entering the workforce
- Practicing veterinarians looking for an enhanced understanding of how economic issues are shaping the profession
- Educational and business leaders in the veterinary sector

We hope the information in this report helps you make vital decisions for your career and your practice with confidence in 2021 and beyond.

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