



## 2017 DEALERSHIP WORKFORCE STUDY

Automotive Retail:

# NATIONAL & REGIONAL TRENDS IN COMPENSATION, BENEFITS & RETENTION



HOURS OF  
OPERATION



BENEFITS



COMPENSATION



RETENTION  
& TURNOVER



WORK  
SCHEDULES



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## II. 2017 Executive Summary

*Automotive Retail: National & Regional Trends in Compensation, Benefits & Retention* is the annual talent management profile of new-car and -truck dealerships. In 2016, America’s new-car dealerships created new jobs and provided median weekly earnings that exceeded the U.S. non-farm private-sector median weekly earnings by 24 percent.

This year’s report highlights key industry trends related to compensation, benefits, retention, demographics and workforce management. We focus particularly on nine key positions—general manager/operator, sales manager, F&I manager, service manager, parts manager, sales consultant, service advisor/writer, service technician (B tech), and parts consultant. We make both same-store and all-participant comparisons in our analysis of car dealership (only) compensation. The same-stores analysis uses data submitted by those stores that participated in this Study in both 2015 and 2016. The same-stores group represents 41 percent of all 2016 participants.

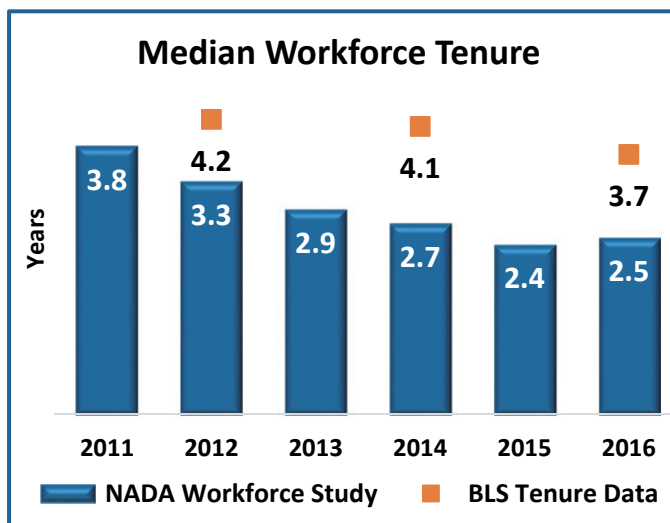
To expand on this year’s trends analysis, we identified employees for whom we had compensation data in both of the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2016. Twenty-six percent of 2016 W-2 records came from employees who were also included in the 2015 W-2 records. With this “same-employees” information, we are able to calculate earnings growth for incumbents working in key dealership positions.

### Key Workforce Trends in Car Dealerships

To understand trends in compensation and earnings growth, we need to start by looking at trends in employee retention and median tenure. Employee median tenure increased slightly from 2015 to 2016, while retention stayed the same. The median tenure of the active dealership workforce fell from 3.8 years in December 2011 to 2.4 years in 2015, and was 2.5 years in 2016.

- Three-year employee retention remained unchanged at 45 percent compared to 65 percent retention in the U.S. non-farm private sector.
- As the median employee tenure in dealerships remained virtually the same, the median tenure of U.S. non-farm private-sector employees decreased to 3.7 years.

This alarming combination represents a major drain on talent and cumulative work experience in dealerships. The result: reduced productivity, reduced median and average earnings, and reduced dealership profitability.



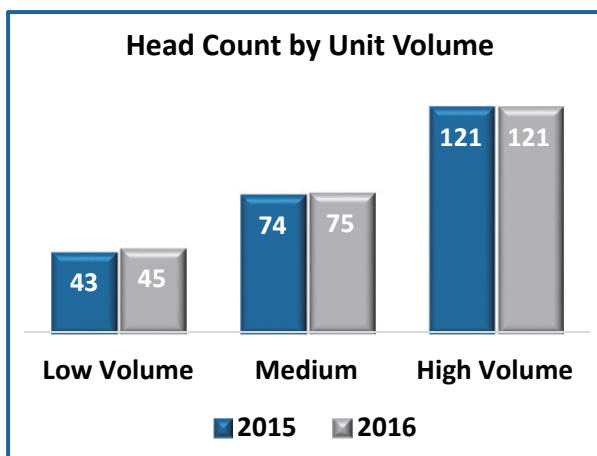
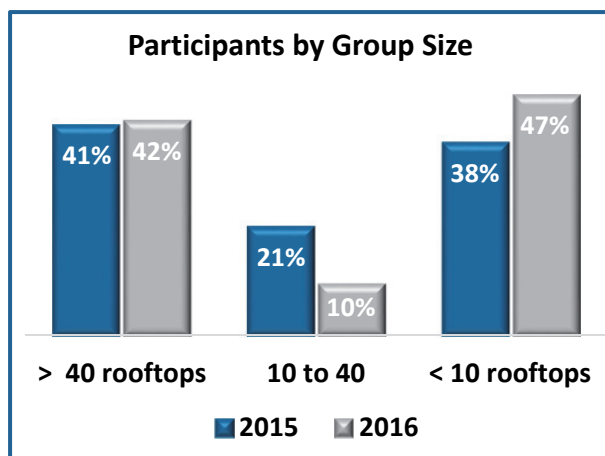


### III. General Findings and Conclusions

#### Car and Light-Truck Dealerships

##### Size of Participating Dealerships

Although our Study continues to have a large-dealer-group bias, successful efforts to attract single-point dealerships and smaller dealer groups have increased our small group rooftop count from 38 percent of



all participating rooftops in 2015 to 47 percent of all participants in 2016.

*NADA Data 2016* reported that total new-car dealership employment increased 3.0 percent to an average head count of 69 employees. This Study indicates employment growth is driven by low- to medium- volume stores. As the number of smaller stores – as defined by lower unit volume – participating in our Study increased, small store average head count increased from 43 employees in 2015 to 45 employees in 2016. Employee head count in dealerships that participated in both the 2015 and 2016 DWS (same stores) decreased 1.2 percent to an average of 84 active employees.

To keep the data relevant for all dealers, we are reporting workforce statistics broken down by group size and annual new-car unit sales.

#### Compensation Trends

The analysis and compensation trends in this section discuss both all-participant data and same-stores data (identifying each data set), since 41 percent of 2017 Study participants also participated in 2016.

For the second year in a row, earnings growth in new-car dealerships did not keep pace with earnings growth in the U.S. non-farm private sector. Average weekly earnings growth was flat, yet the median



## REGION 2 MID-ATLANTIC

New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania



Compensation statistics of interest:

- The Mid-Atlantic region’s all-dealerships, all-positions average compensation, ranked ninth of the nine regions. With 12.3 percent difference (\$8,161) between the lowest regional compensation average and the highest, this region’s average was five percent below the national average compensation.
- The Mid-Atlantic region’s all-dealerships, all-positions average income growth rate decreased by 5 percent, and only one of the key dealership positions earned income above its national average (Figure 1).
- Five out of nine key positions in non-luxury dealerships had income growth ranging from 1 to 6 percent; general manager compensation fell by 32 percent (Figure 2).
- Five out of nine key positions in luxury dealerships had income growth ranging from 1 to 6 percent; four of the key positions saw income decline by 1 to 10 percent (Figure 3).

**REGION 2: MID-ATLANTIC – CARS – ALL DEALERSHIPS (FIGURE 1)**

| Position                 | Overall Region Average | Year Over Year Change | Average as % of National | Low Volume      | Medium Volume   | High Volume     | National All-Dealer Average |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>All Positions</b>     | <b>\$66,368</b>        | <b>↓ -5%</b>          | <b>95%</b>               | <b>\$59,847</b> | <b>\$66,029</b> | <b>\$70,103</b> | <b>\$69,788</b>             |
| General Manager/Operator | \$209,906              | ↓ -22%                | 66%                      | \$149,211       | \$219,955       | \$285,527       | \$318,172                   |
| Sales Manager            | \$115,497              | ↓ -9%                 | 89%                      | \$96,507        | \$112,757       | \$129,032       | \$130,342                   |
| F&I Manager              | \$118,281              | ↓ -5%                 | 86%                      | \$91,727        | \$109,836       | \$134,735       | \$138,209                   |
| Service Manager          | \$103,395              | ↓ -2%                 | 90%                      | \$82,520        | \$103,449       | \$127,233       | \$115,082                   |
| Parts Manager            | \$83,116               | 0%                    | 85%                      | \$65,482        | \$81,607        | \$107,555       | \$97,637                    |
| Sales Consultant         | \$67,467               | ↑ 1%                  | 98%                      | \$61,063        | \$68,138        | \$69,757        | \$68,902                    |
| Service Advisor/Writer   | \$63,342               | ↑ 5%                  | 96%                      | \$56,669        | \$63,954        | \$66,146        | \$65,744                    |
| Service Technician       | \$59,543               | ↑ 3%                  | 100%                     | \$53,390        | \$59,502        | \$63,391        | \$59,409                    |
| Parts Consultant         | \$48,621               | ↑ 3%                  | 95%                      | \$41,115        | \$46,652        | \$55,005        | \$51,434                    |





## REGION 2 MID-ATLANTIC

New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania



Retention and turnover statistics of interest:

- The Mid-Atlantic all-positions, all-dealerships turnover rate was second lowest of the nine regions, eight points lower than the national all-dealerships rate of 43 percent, and 11 points lower than the non-farm private-sector rate of 46 percent (Figure 1).
- Moreover, three-year retention at 49 percent was four points higher than the national dealership average and second highest of all the regions in this important metric. Mid-Atlantic had the second-highest median tenure at 2.9 years (Figure 1).
- In non-luxury dealerships, turnover worsened or was flat in all but two key positions, with parts manager and service manager posting declines in turnover rates. In luxury dealerships turnover decreased in three of nine key positions (Figures 2 and 3).
- Non-luxury dealership turnover increased five points to 37 percent, still 8 points better than the national non-luxury rate of 45 percent; three-year retention and median tenure were significantly higher than the national non-luxury averages. (Figure 2).
- Luxury dealership turnover increased six points to 30 percent, 5 points lower than the national luxury rate of 35 percent; three-year retention and median tenure were higher than the national luxury averages (Figure 3).

**REGION 2: MID-ATLANTIC – CARS – ALL DEALERSHIPS (FIGURE 1)**

| Position                 | Annualized Turnover | Year Over Year Change | One Year Retention | Three Year Retention | Median Tenure |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>All Positions</b>     | <b>35%</b>          | <b>↑ 4%</b>           | <b>75%</b>         | <b>49%</b>           | <b>2.9</b>    |
| General Manager/Operator | 25%                 | ↑ 16%                 | 91%                | 82%                  | 11.6          |
| Sales Manager            | 26%                 | ↑ 8%                  | 80%                | 60%                  | 4.2           |
| F&I Manager              | 45%                 | ↑ 16%                 | 76%                | 48%                  | 2.9           |
| Service Manager          | 23%                 | ↓ -4%                 | 84%                | 64%                  | 6.8           |
| Parts Manager            | 9%                  | ↓ -1%                 | 95%                | 85%                  | 12.9          |
| Sales Consultant         | 56%                 | ↑ 11%                 | 68%                | 42%                  | 2.1           |
| Service Advisor/Writer   | 34%                 | ↓ -1%                 | 75%                | 46%                  | 2.6           |
| Service Technician       | 24%                 | ↑ 2%                  | 86%                | 60%                  | 4.7           |
| Parts Consultant         | 18%                 | 0%                    | 85%                | 64%                  | 5.2           |

(↓) Represent year-over-year decreases or *favorable* changes; (↑) represent unfavorable changes





## 2017 DEALERSHIP WORKFORCE STUDY

### REGION 2: MID-ATLANTIC – CARS – NON-LUXURY DEALERSHIPS (FIGURE 2)

| Position                 | Annualized Turnover | Year Over Year Change | One Year Retention | Three Year Retention | Median Tenure |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>All Positions</b>     | <b>37%</b>          | <b>↑ 5%</b>           | <b>74%</b>         | <b>48%</b>           | <b>2.8</b>    |
| General Manager/Operator | 27%                 | ↑ 18%                 | 90%                | 83%                  | 12.1          |
| Sales Manager            | 28%                 | ↑ 10%                 | 79%                | 58%                  | 4.1           |
| F&I Manager              | 44%                 | ↑ 14%                 | 75%                | 48%                  | 2.8           |
| Service Manager          | 25%                 | ↓ -7%                 | 81%                | 63%                  | 6.8           |
| Parts Manager            | 7%                  | ↓ -2%                 | 95%                | 86%                  | 13.6          |
| Sales Consultant         | 58%                 | ↑ 10%                 | 66%                | 40%                  | 1.9           |
| Service Advisor/Writer   | 36%                 | 0%                    | 74%                | 46%                  | 2.5           |
| Service Technician       | 27%                 | ↑ 3%                  | 86%                | 61%                  | 4.8           |
| Parts Consultant         | 19%                 | 0%                    | 84%                | 66%                  | 5.3           |

(↓) Represent year-over-year decreases or *favorable* changes; (↑) represent unfavorable changes

### REGION 2: MID-ATLANTIC – CARS – LUXURY DEALERSHIPS (FIGURE 3)

| Position                 | Annualized Turnover | Year Over Year Change | One Year Retention | Three Year Retention | Median Tenure |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>All Positions</b>     | <b>30%</b>          | <b>↑ 6%</b>           | <b>79%</b>         | <b>52%</b>           | <b>3.3</b>    |
| General Manager/Operator | 18%                 | ↑ 7%                  | 92%                | 79%                  | 8.5           |
| Sales Manager            | 17%                 | ↓ -1%                 | 84%                | 67%                  | 4.6           |
| F&I Manager              | 53%                 | ↑ 26%                 | 78%                | 48%                  | 2.9           |
| Service Manager          | 14%                 | ↑ 7%                  | 91%                | 70%                  | 6.8           |
| Parts Manager            | 16%                 | ↑ 3%                  | 95%                | 84%                  | 11.7          |
| Sales Consultant         | 46%                 | ↑ 17%                 | 75%                | 47%                  | 2.7           |
| Service Advisor/Writer   | 27%                 | ↓ -3%                 | 80%                | 48%                  | 2.7           |
| Service Technician       | 17%                 | ↑ 4%                  | 85%                | 59%                  | 3.9           |
| Parts Consultant         | 13%                 | ↓ -1%                 | 88%                | 59%                  | 5.0           |

(↓) Represent year-over-year decreases or *favorable* changes; (↑) represent unfavorable changes



## 2017 DEALERSHIP WORKFORCE STUDY

### VI. Hours of Operation & Work Schedules: Cars

The following charts break down key dealership operations and work schedule metrics by category and by region for 2016 using mean data.

#### Sales Hours and Work Schedules

| AVERAGE HOURS OF OPERATION – SALES |                    |                          |                  |                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
|                                    | % Open on Saturday | Saturday Hours (if open) | % Open on Sunday | Sunday Hours (if open) |
| Region 1: New England              | 100%               | 8.7                      | 58%              | 5.0                    |
| Region 2: Mid-Atlantic             | 98%                | 8.3                      | 5%               | 6.0                    |
| Region 3: East North Central       | 98%                | 7.9                      | 14%              | 5.5                    |
| Region 4: West North Central       | 100%               | 8.6                      | 4%               | 7.0                    |
| Region 5: South Atlantic           | 100%               | 10.0                     | 58%              | 6.1                    |
| Region 6: East South Central       | 98%                | 9.9                      | 26%              | 4.6                    |
| Region 7: West South Central       | 100%               | 10.4                     | 1%               | *                      |
| Region 8: Mountain                 | 99%                | 11.1                     | 27%              | 7.9                    |
| Region 9: Pacific                  | 100%               | 11.0                     | 94%              | 8.9                    |

\* Data minimums not met to produce valid statistic.

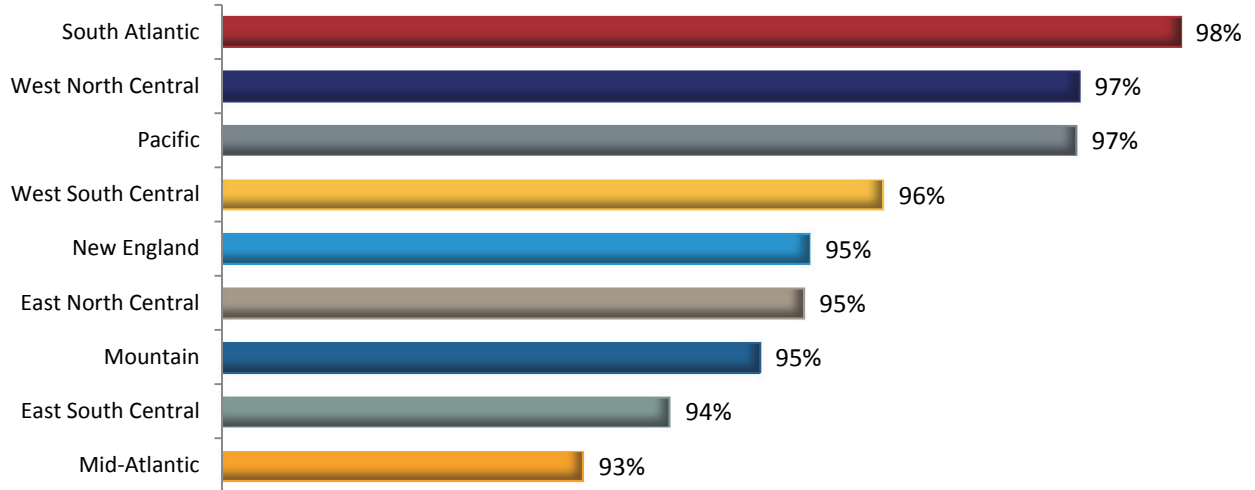
| WORK SCHEDULE AVERAGES – SALES CONSULTANT |           |            |                    |
|---|-----------|------------|--------------------|
|   | Days/Week | Hours/Week | Weekend Days/Month |
| Region 1: New England                     | 5.2       | 46.2       | 4.9                |
| Region 2: Mid-Atlantic                    | 5.1       | 44.6       | 3.8                |
| Region 3: East North Central              | 5.1       | 45.7       | 3.9                |
| Region 4: West North Central              | 5.1       | 45.5       | 3.9                |
| Region 5: South Atlantic                  | 5.2       | 45.6       | 4.9                |
| Region 6: East South Central              | 4.9       | 44.3       | 4.3                |
| Region 7: West South Central              | 5.0       | 44.2       | 3.9                |
| Region 8: Mountain                        | 5.0       | 43.6       | 4.7                |
| Region 9: Pacific                         | 4.8       | 40.3       | 6.6                |



## VII. Dealership Employee Benefits: Cars

### Health Insurance Offered to Employee Plus Family

Percent of dealerships



### Average Health Insurance Waiting Period

(months)

