

WSCA Silviculture Worker Survey Summary

September, 2011

prepared by Katia Dilkina for



Background

In the late summer of this year the Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association conducted an on-line survey of silviculture workers employed primarily in British Columbia and Alberta. The purpose of the survey was to gather information around key silviculture labour market indicators such as demographics, worker wages and earning expectations, work season duration, worker satisfaction regarding safety and other workplace conditions and the likelihood of employees returning to the silviculture sector next year. This first summary focuses mainly on wages and work. Workers are still responding to the poll and further expanded analyses are expected later this year.

The WSCA would like to thank all those employees and employers who helped with this survey. Your participation is essential in creating a better understanding of the silviculture sector labour market and in the ongoing efforts to keep the silviculture sector a good and rewarding place to work.

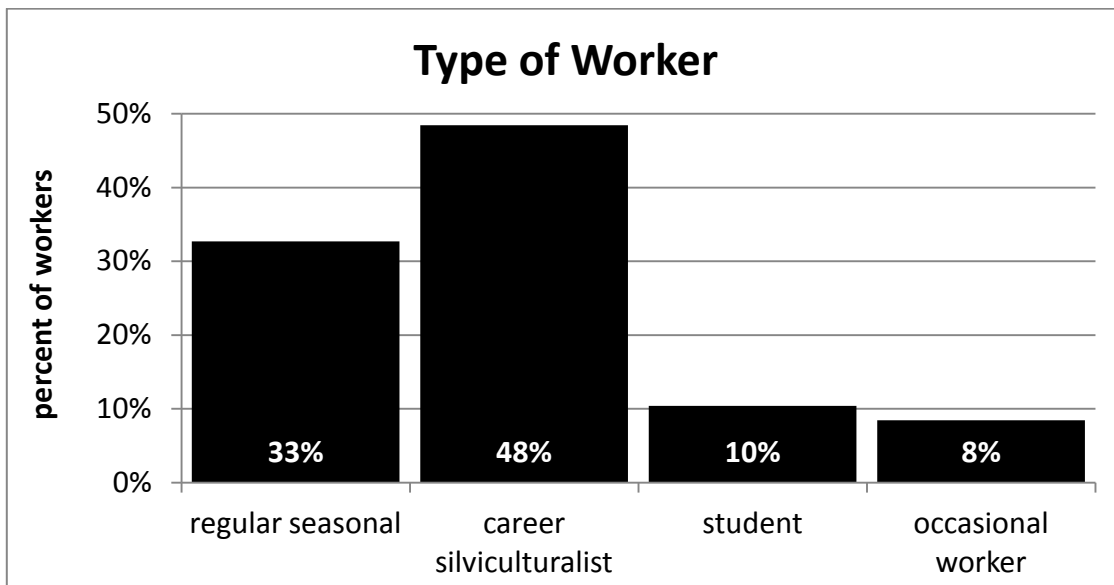


Who Took This Survey?

Population: The WSCA asked employers, including its members and the industry at large, to voluntarily distribute the poll asking workers to take part. The poll was also posted on tree planter websites. The WSCA also sent the survey to all students who had participated in WSCA-developed training courses. Participation in this confidential survey was voluntary. No incentives were offered to respond to the poll. Nor did employers require any employees to take part in the survey.

Participants: 268; demographics: 72% male, 28% female; average age: 31 years (range: 19-55)

Response rate: Not every participant chose to answer every question. Individual question response rate varied between 72% and 100%.



Regular seasonal = Returns each year, working 4 months or less.

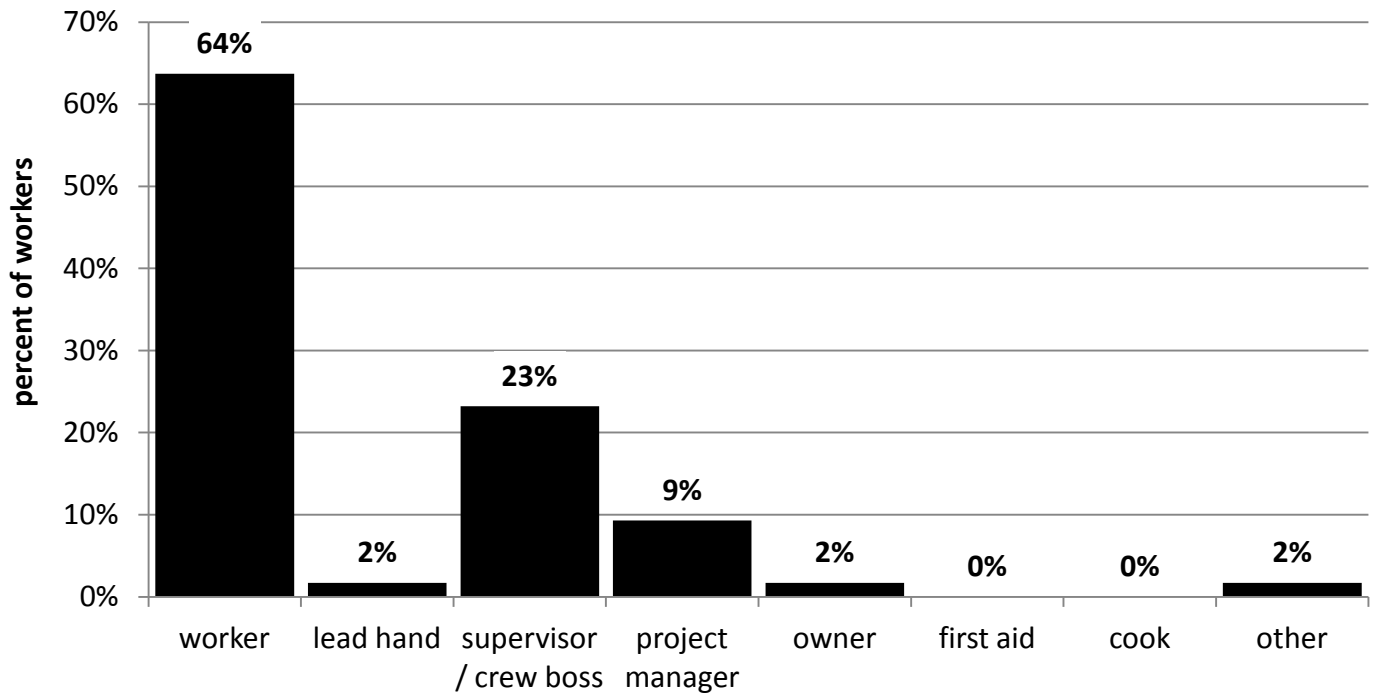
Career silviculturalist = Silviculture is a main source of employment. Returns each year to the silviculture industry and works for more than 4 months per year.

Student = Working to pay for school and will leave the industry upon graduation.

Occasional worker = Takes the occasional job in silviculture when they are available - silviculture is not a preferred occupation.

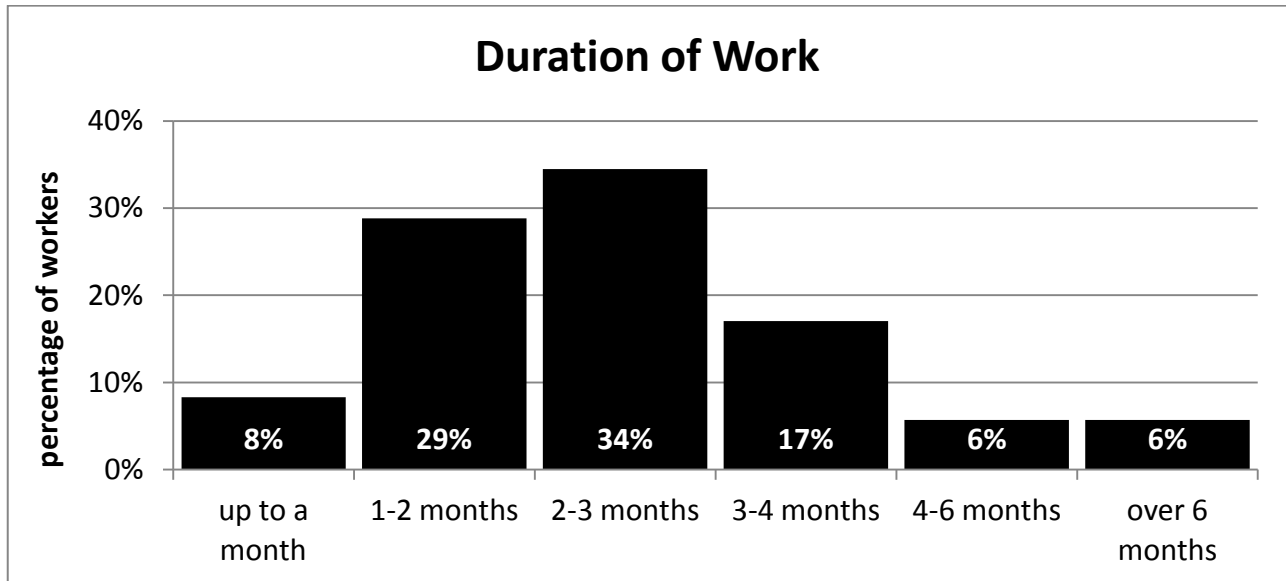


Current / Most Recent Silviculture Positions

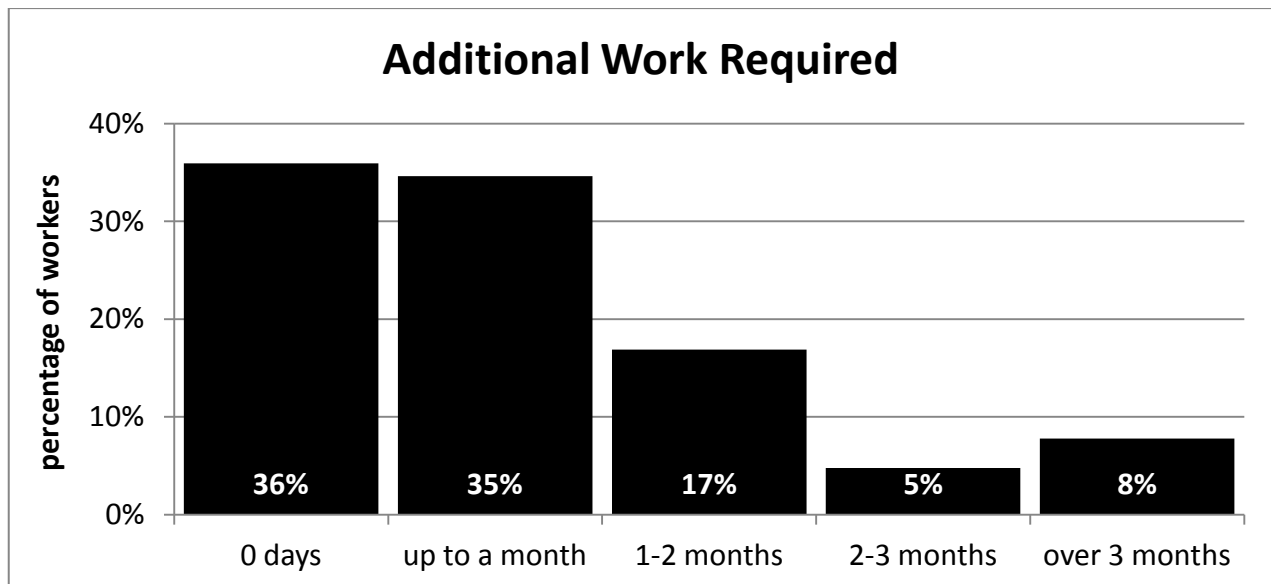


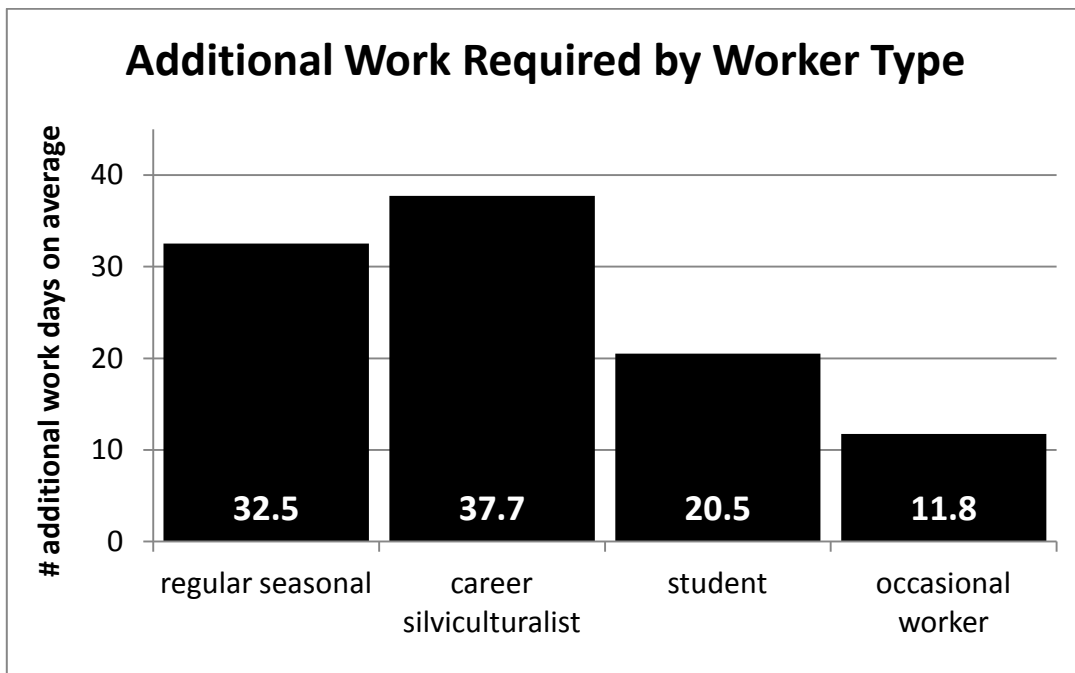
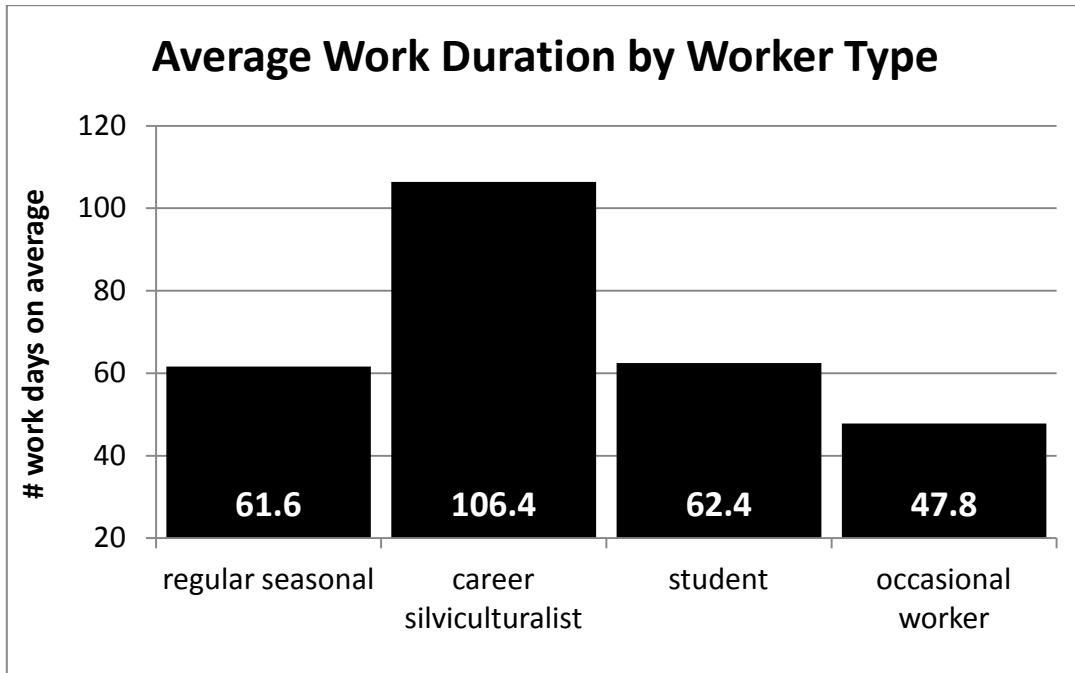
How Much Did They Work This Year?

Duration of work this year: range 1-325 days, median 70 days, average 83.5 days, standard deviation 52.1 days

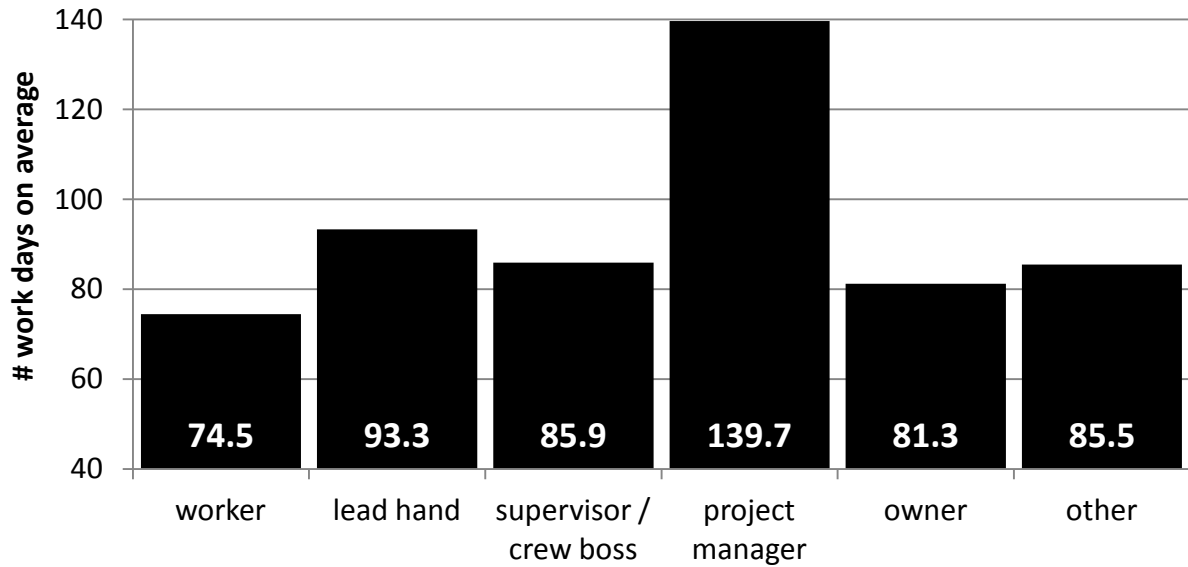


Additional work required this year: range 0-300 days, median 20 days, average 32.3 days, standard deviation 49.3 days

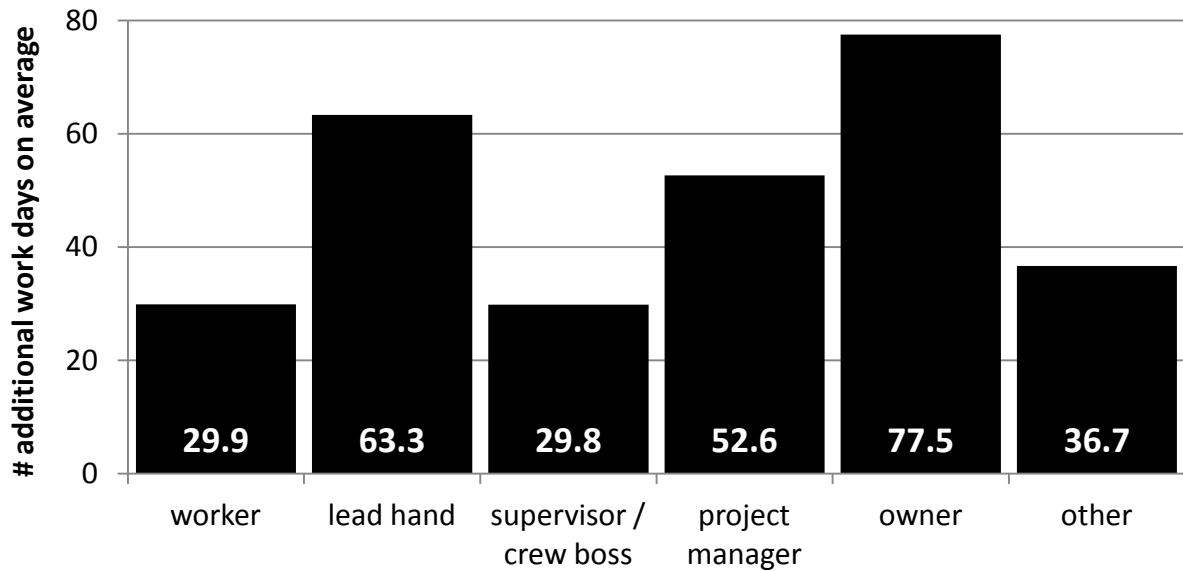




Average Work Duration by Current Position

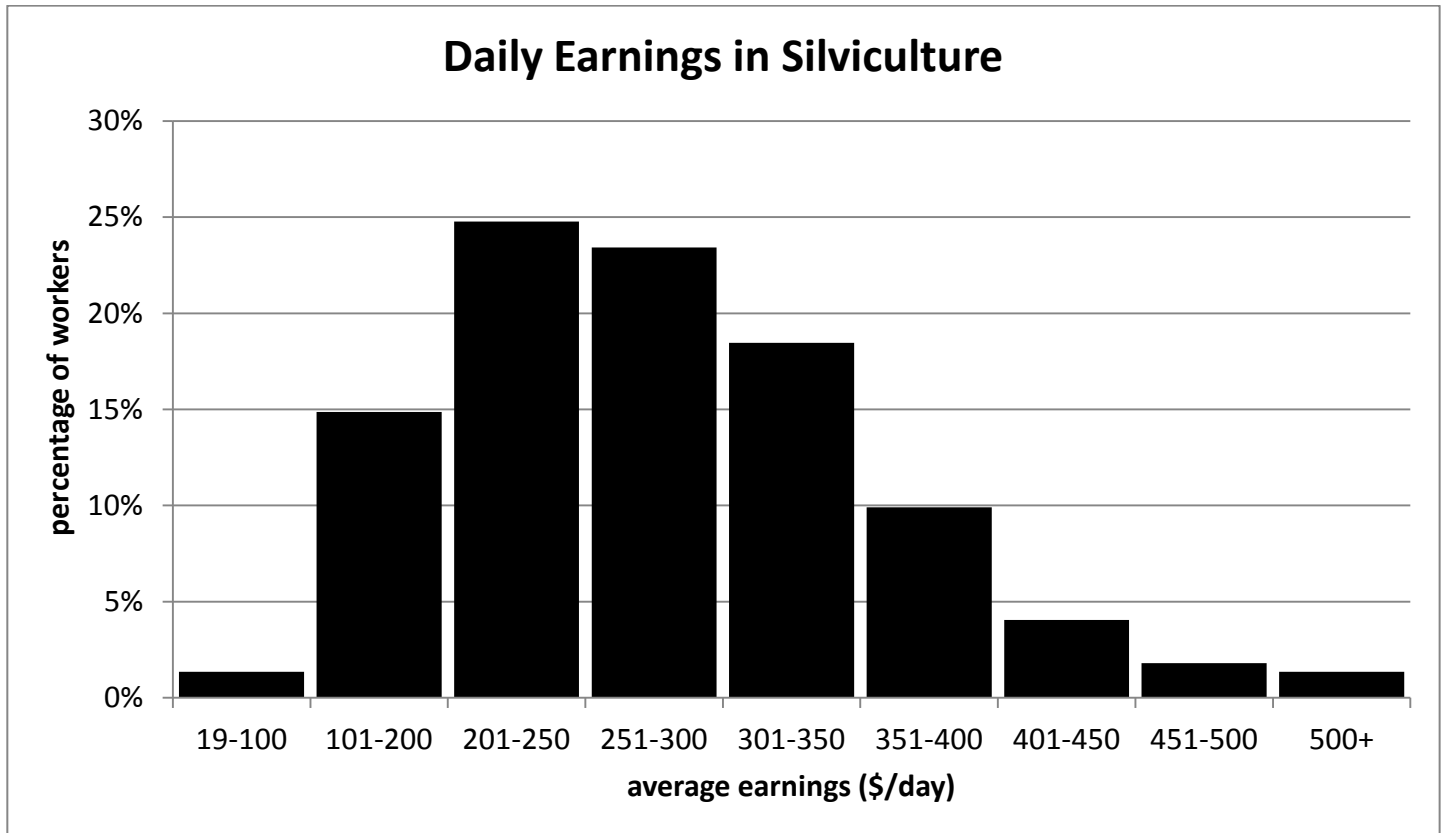


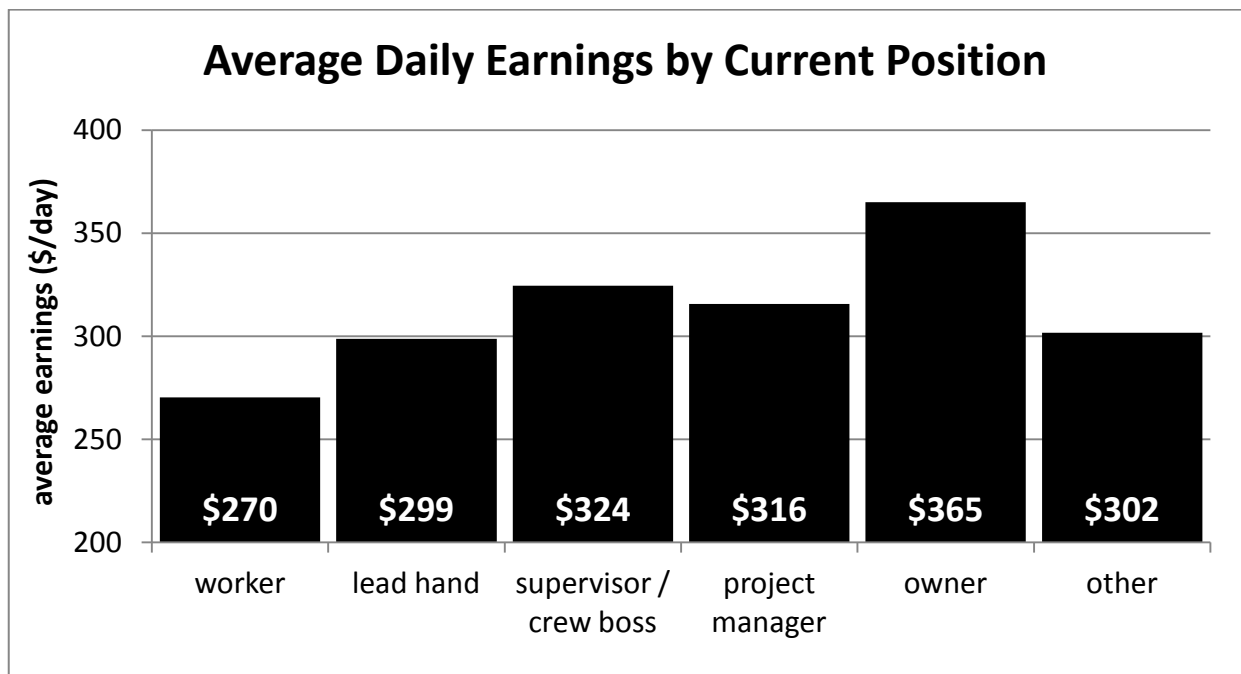
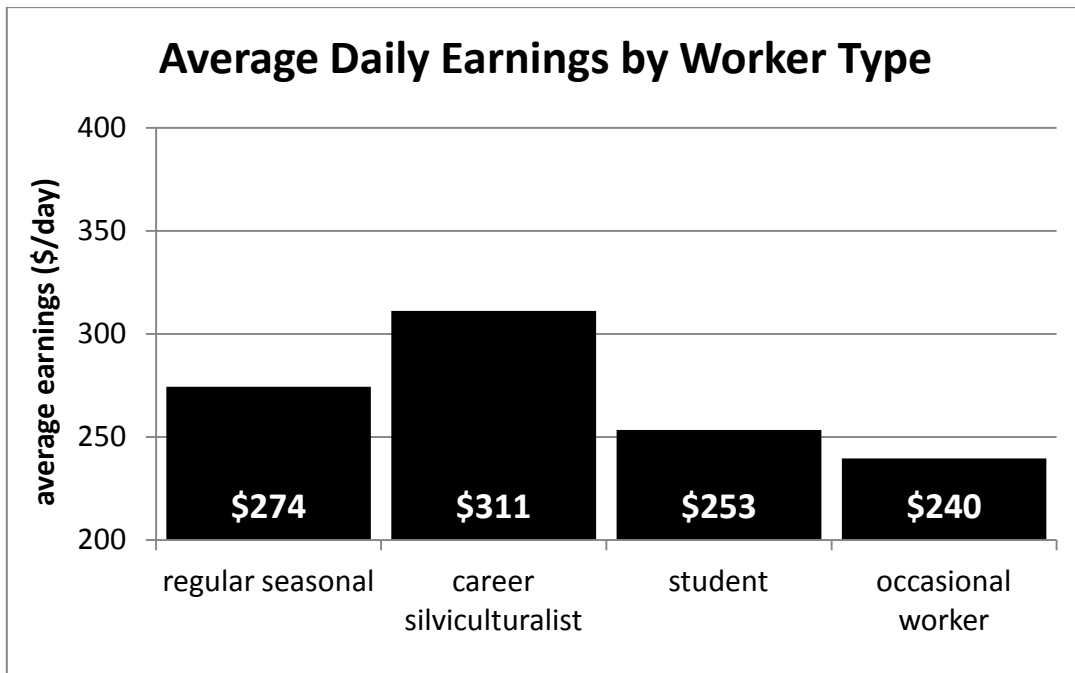
Additional Work Required by Current Position



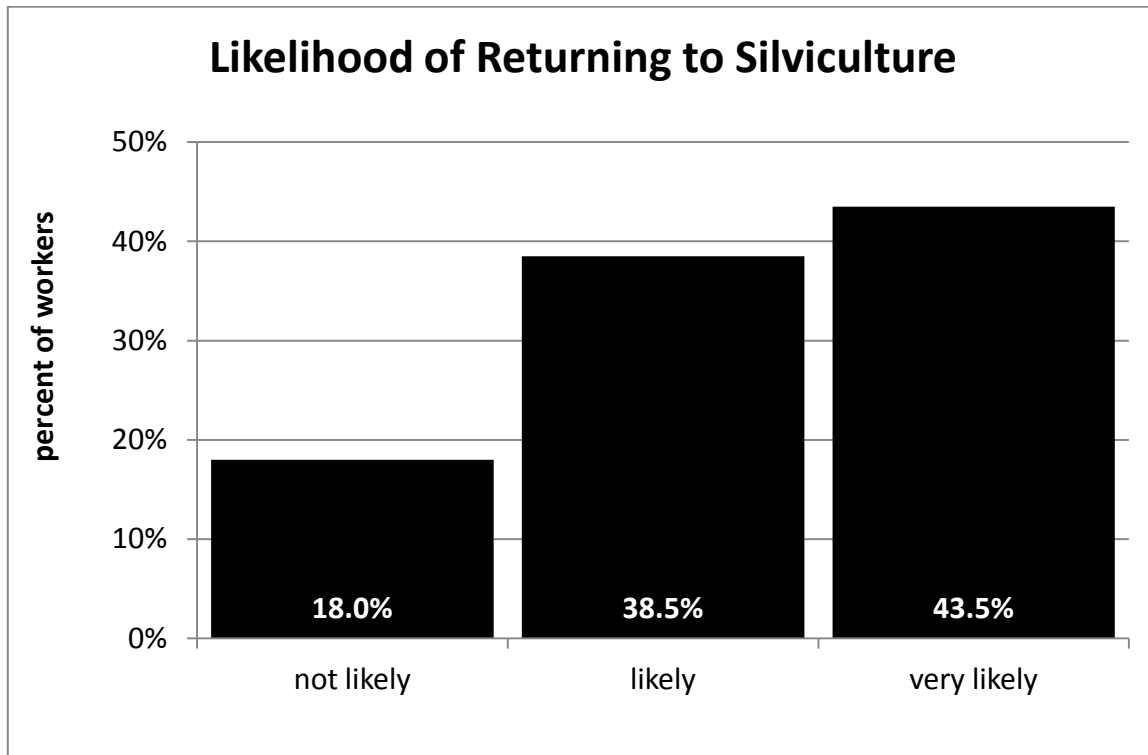
How Much Did They Earn This Year?

Daily Earnings this year: range \$19-\$550, median \$282.5, average \$288.0, standard deviation \$86.9

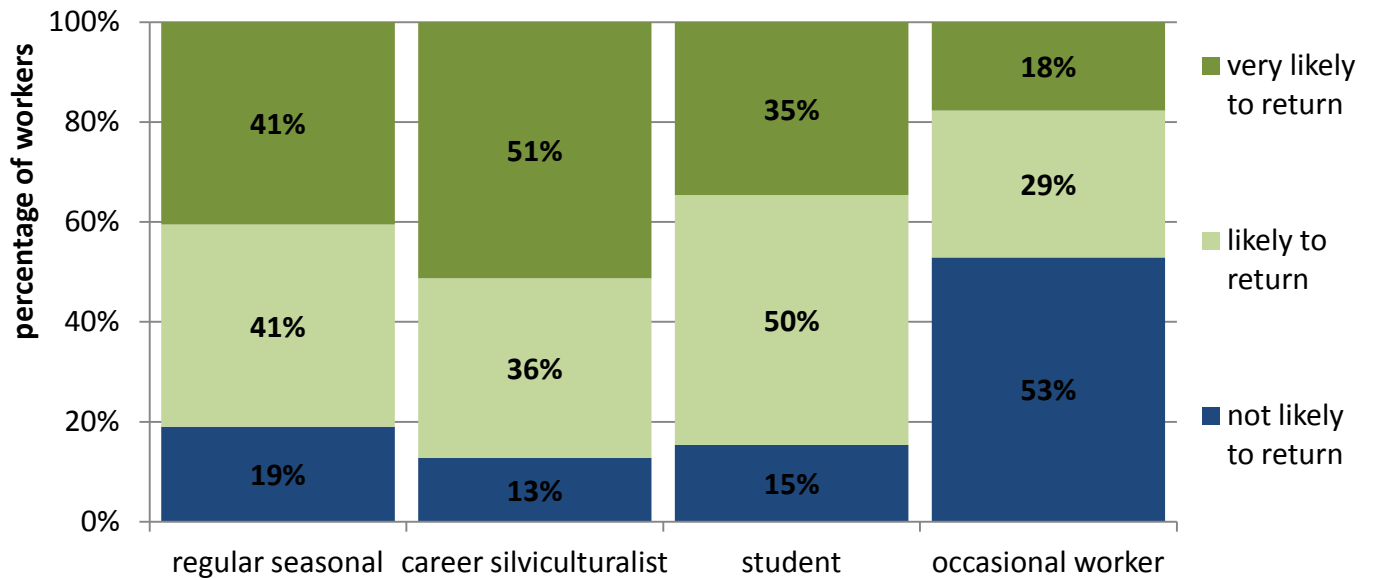




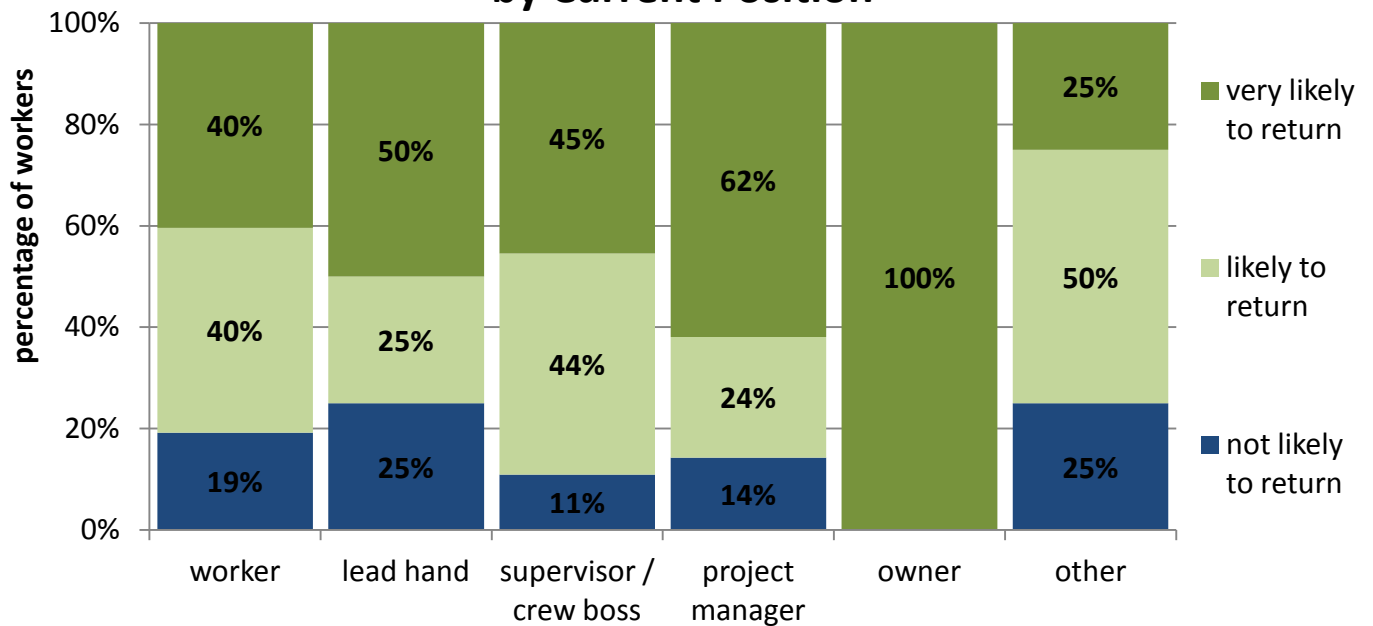
Who Plans to Return to Silviculture Next Year?



Likelihood of Returning to Silviculture in the Future by Worker Type

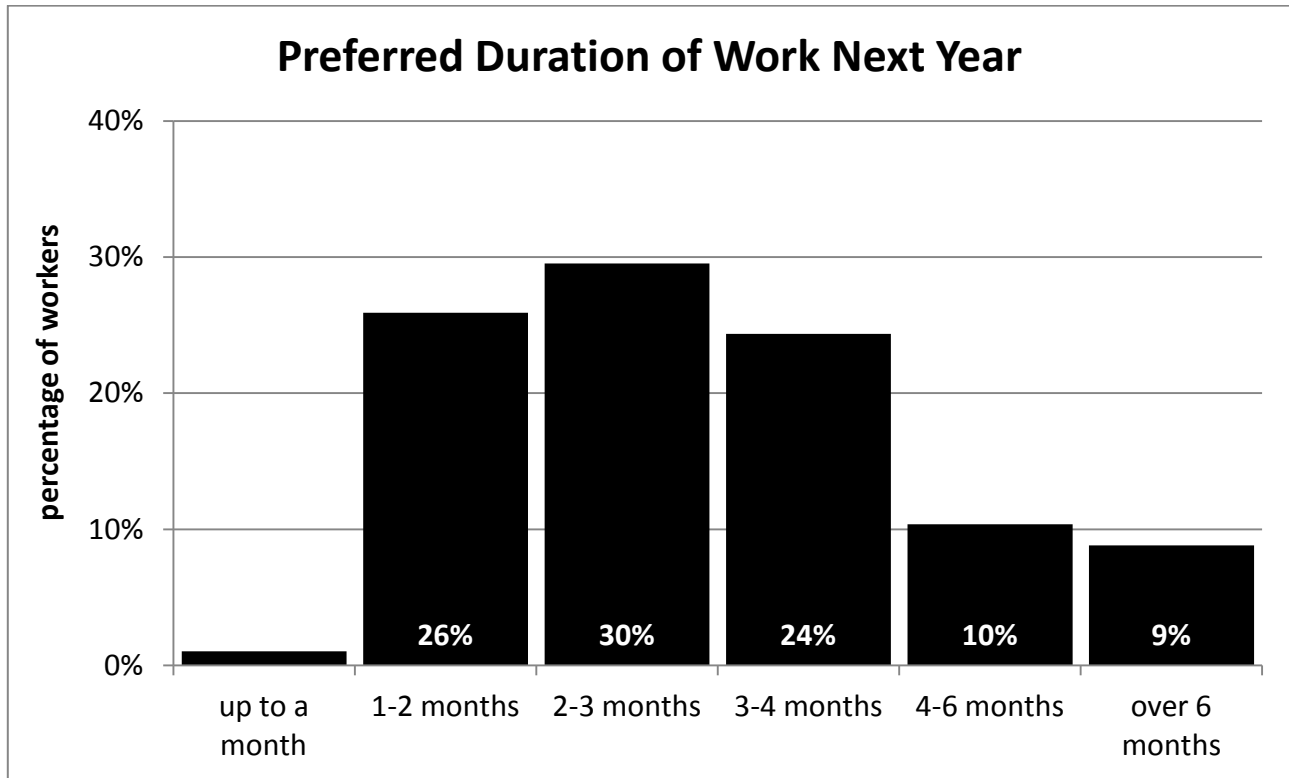


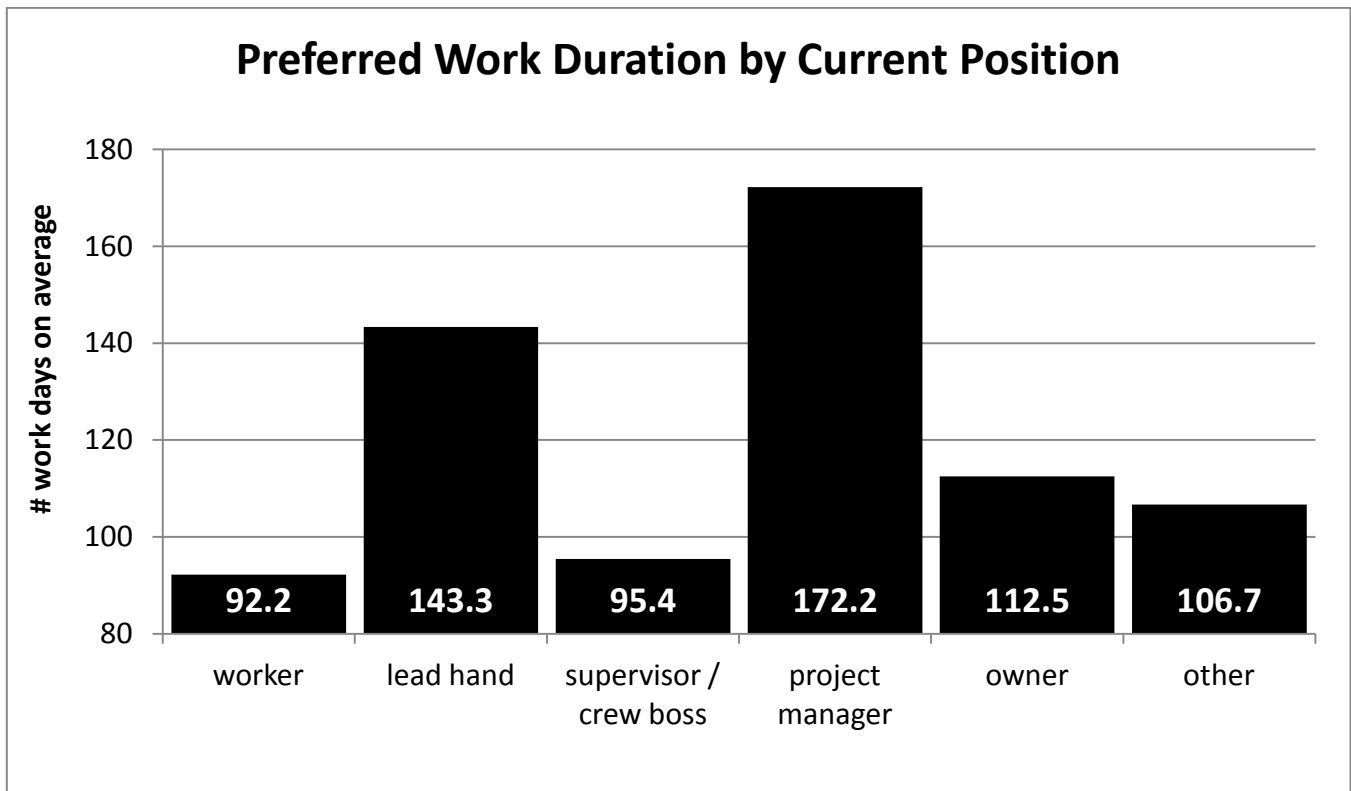
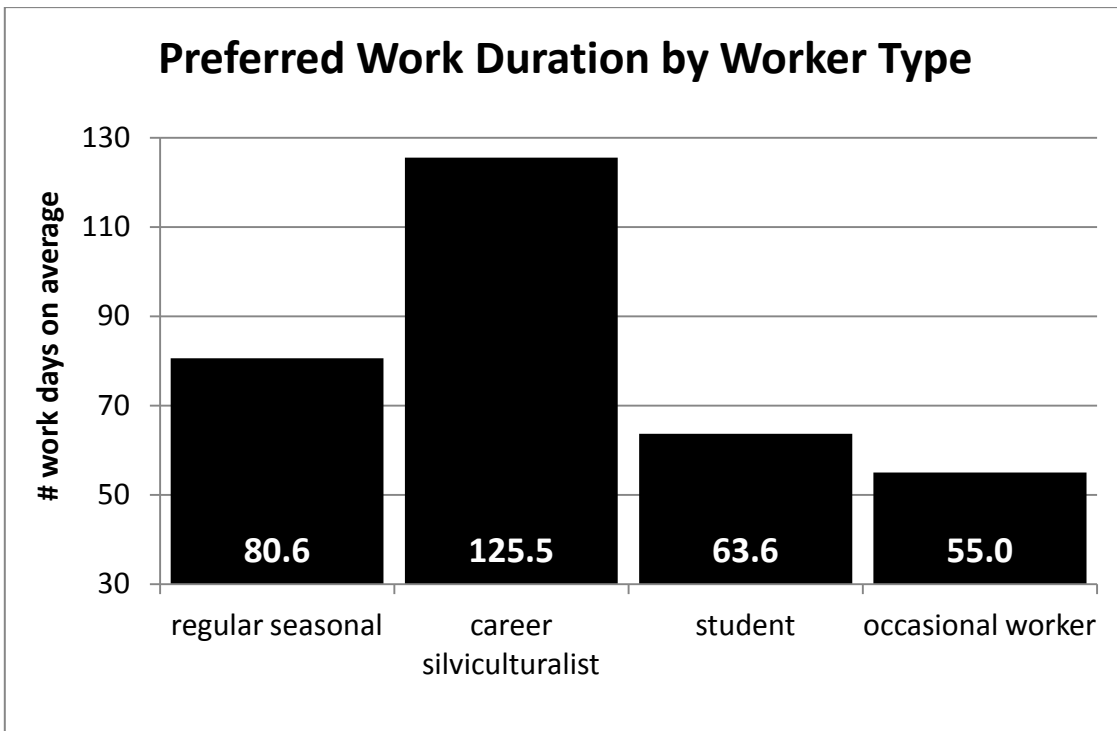
Likelihood of Returning to Silviculture in the Future by Current Position



How Much Do They Want to Work Next Year?

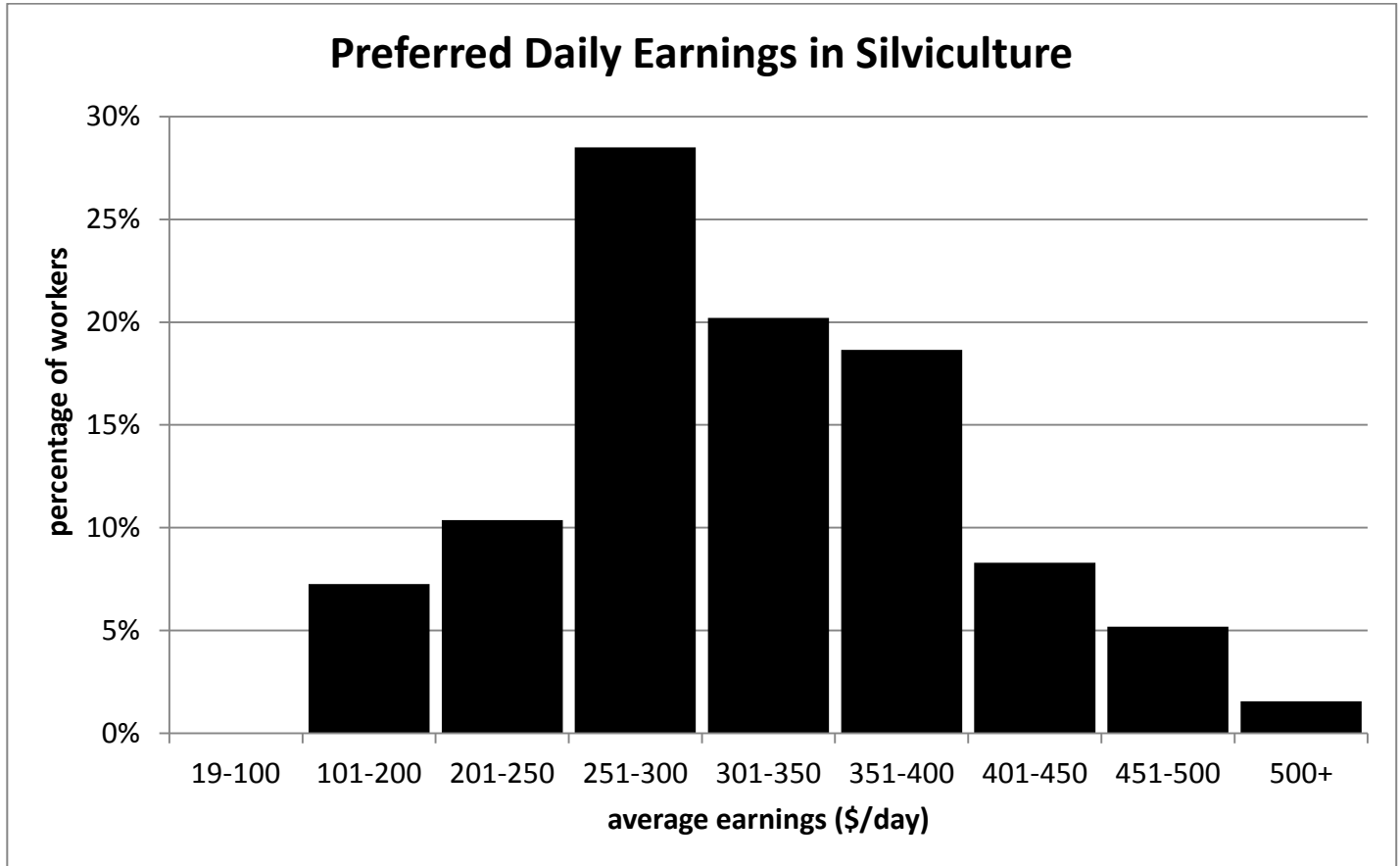
Preferred duration of work next year: range 20-340 days, median 90 days, average 101 days, standard deviation 53.9 days

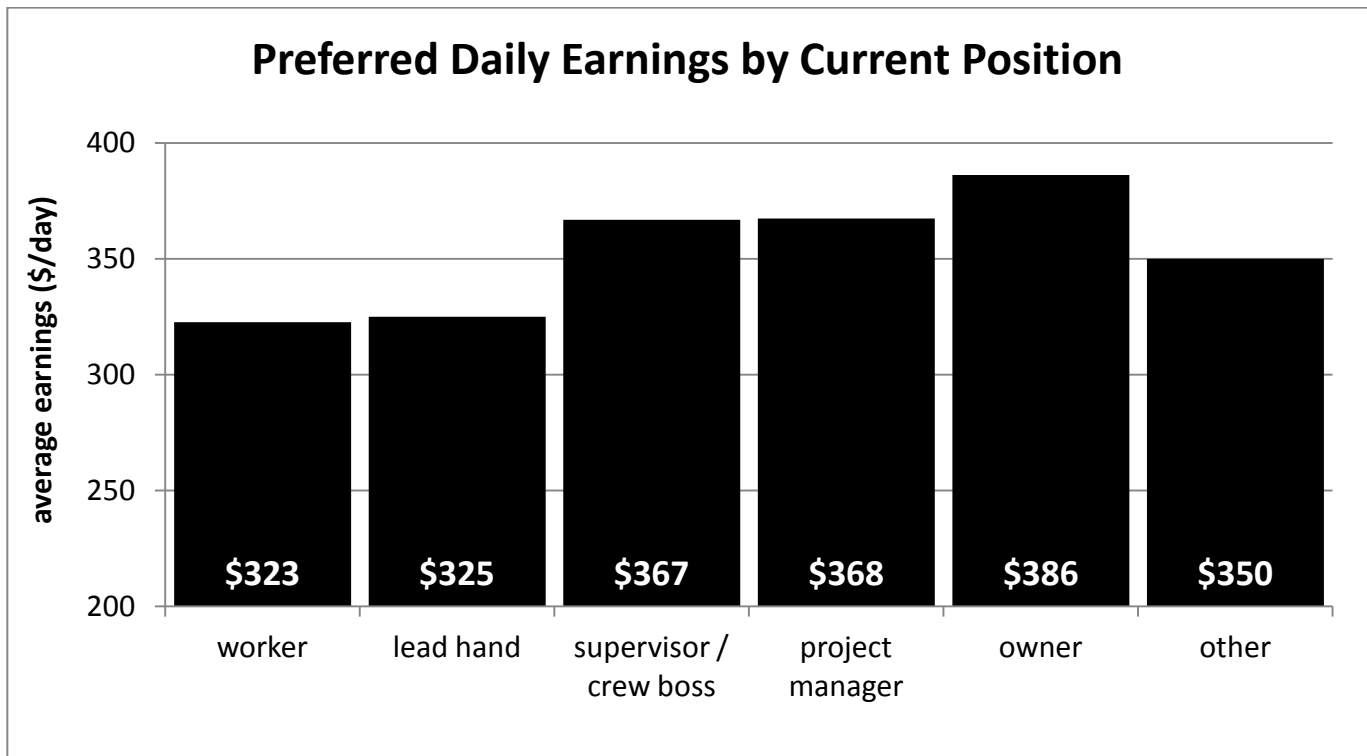
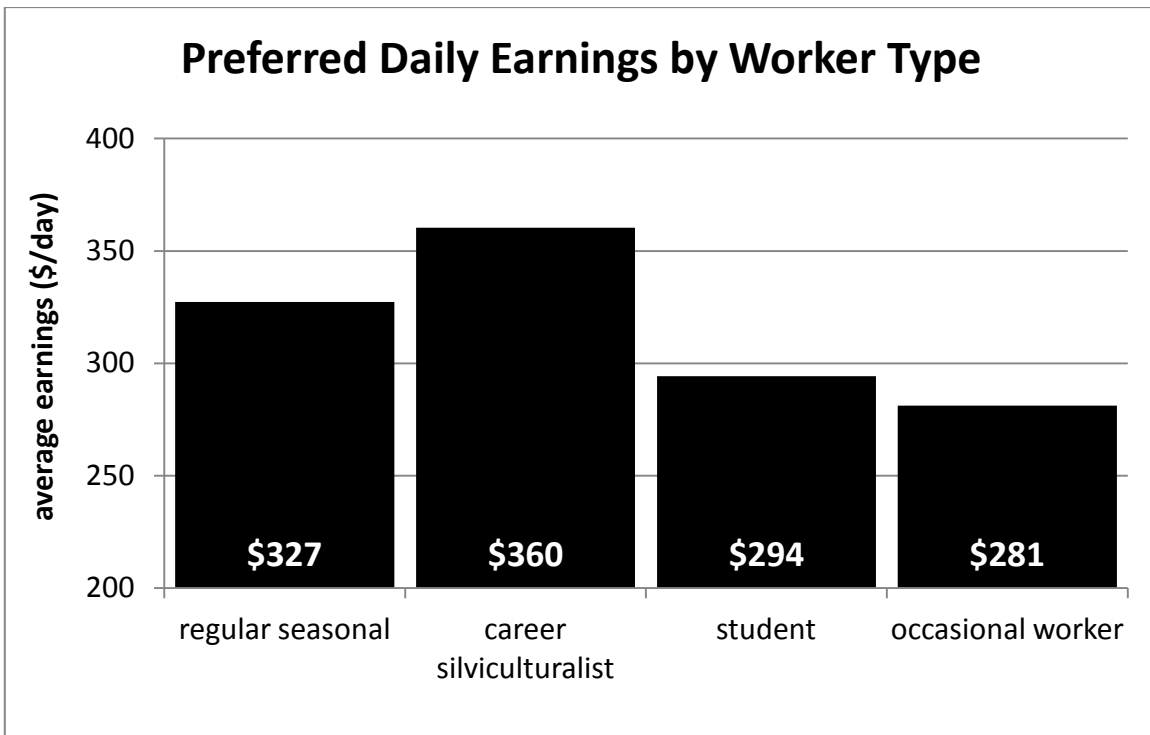




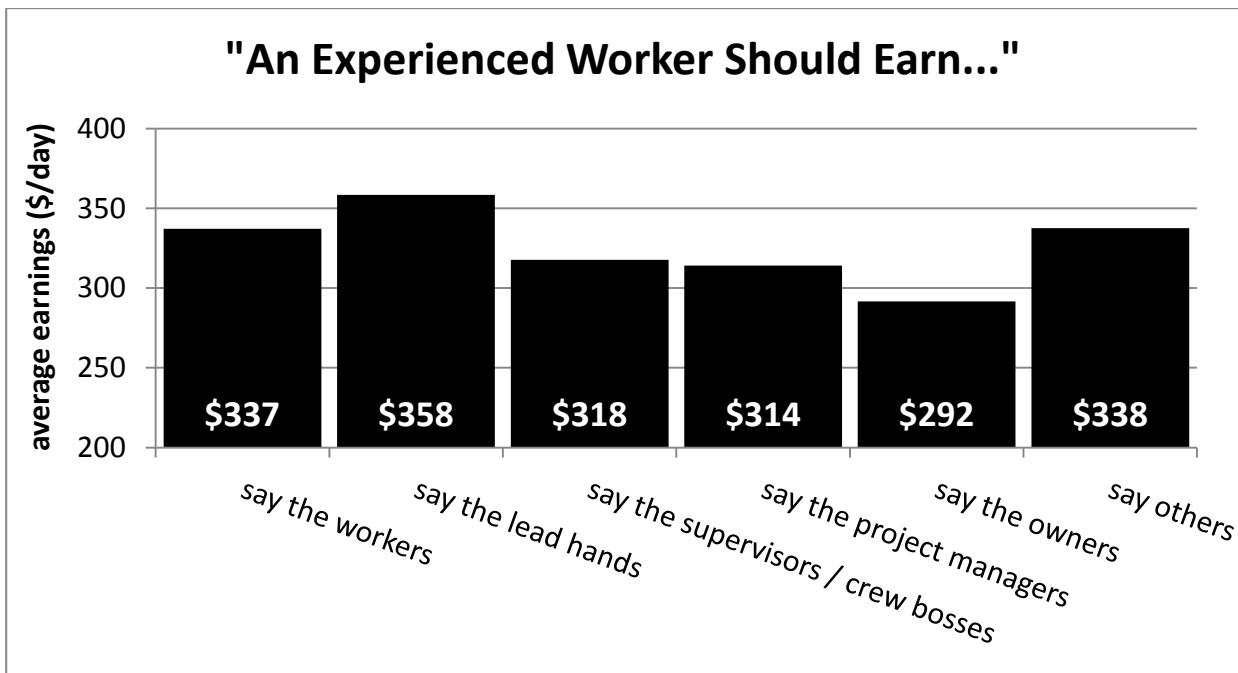
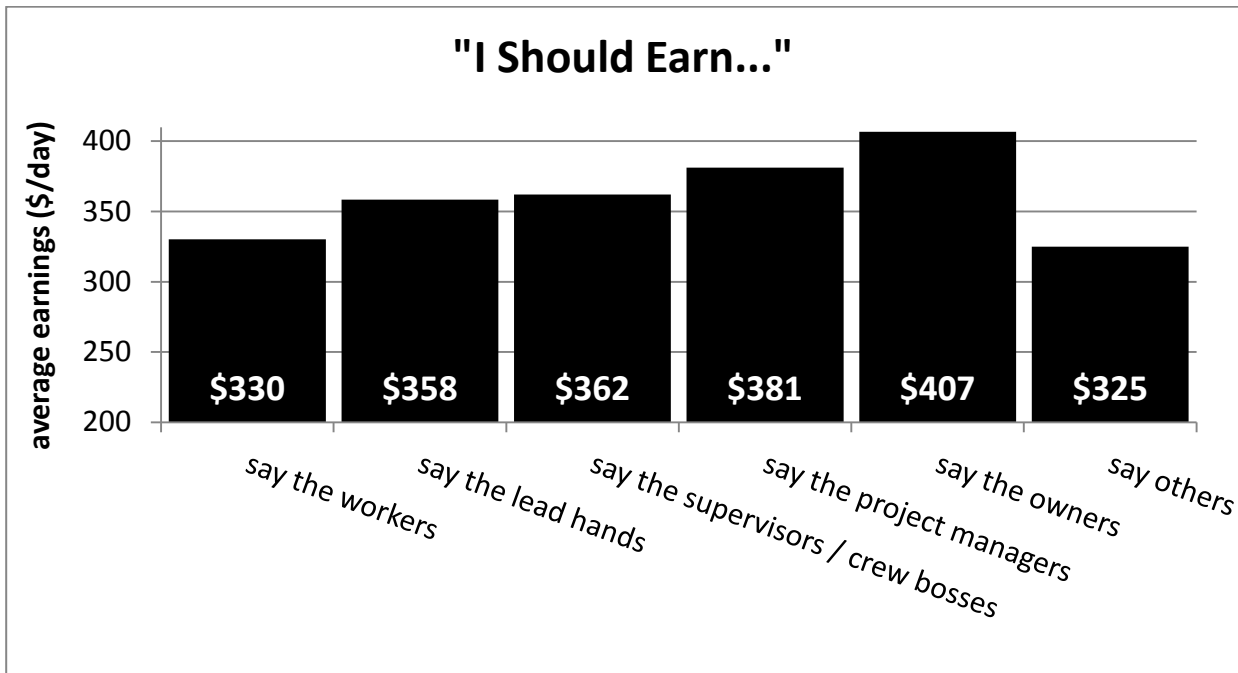
How Much Do They Want to Earn Next Year?

Preferred Daily Earnings next year: range \$171-\$600, median \$350, average \$339, standard deviation \$81.7

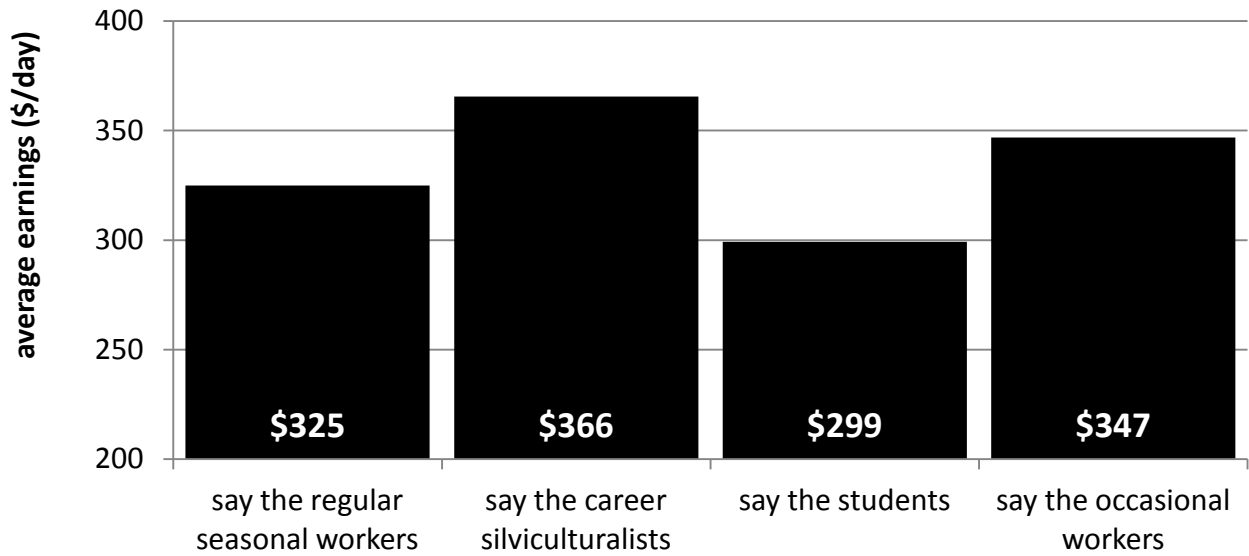




What Constitutes a Fair Wage?



"I Should Earn..."



"An Experienced Worker Should Earn..."

