

Betts

Executive Compensation Guide





Introduction

Executive Hiring Is Getting Smarter—And So Should Compensation

As startups navigate tighter budgets, shifting buyer behavior, and a surge in Al-powered competition, one thing is clear: hiring your first department head isn't just about finding talent—it's about making the right strategic bet.

The role of a first-time executive has changed. Founders are no longer looking for functional leaders who can "figure it out." They want partners—people who can build departments from scratch, drive measurable growth, and align with long-term business goals.

This guide breaks down what's happening in the market right now. Inside, you'll find

- 2025's biggest trends in executive hiring and compensation
- A breakdown of what early-stage companies should look for in their first Heads of Sales, Marketing, and Customer Success
- A "choose your own adventure" section to tailor your executive search based on who your team sells into—technical buyers vs. traditional industries
- Compensation negotiation strategies tailored to first-time executives

There Are 4 Parts to the Executive Compensation Guide

1 2025 Trends

How First-Time Executives
Can Secure the Best Compensation
Package

Who Are You Selling To?
Choose Your Own Adventure

4 Compensation Breakdown

1

Equity Remains King for First-Time Sales Leaders

For early-stage startups hiring their first Heads of Sales, compensation structures continue to prioritize equity over high base salaries. With cash constraints still prevalent in Series A and B companies, leaders willing to bet on the company's long-term success can negotiate meaningful ownership stakes. However, candidates should ensure clear equity terms, including vesting schedules, tax structures, and exit scenarios.

For more information, visit Mary Russel's Stock Option Counsel, P.C. – One of our partners

2



Head of Sales

The First Head of Sales Must Be a Builder, Not Just a Closer

Hiring a first Head of Sales isn't just about bringing in a top performer—it's about finding someone who can build a repeatable sales process. More companies are emphasizing candidates who have successfully scaled from \$0 to \$10M ARR, focusing on their ability to hire and train a team, define ICPs, and optimize sales motion. Expect in-depth interview processes that include GTM strategy presentations and backchannel reference checks.

3

Backchanneling Is More Common Than Ever

Companies are investing more in pre-hire due diligence, especially for first-time executives. With the risks associated with hiring an unproven leader, VCs and founders are leveraging their networks to discreetly verify candidates' past performance. While backchanneling has become a common practice, it shouldn't be the sole deciding factor in a hiring decision. Executives should proactively manage their professional reputation and be prepared for informal reference checks that go beyond their listed references.

4



Strategic CS

The Rise of Customer-Led Growth Increases Demand for Strategic CS Leaders

Customer retention and expansion are driving revenue strategies in 2025, placing a premium on Heads of Customer Success who can own renewals and expansion. Companies are looking for leaders with experience implementing scalable playbooks, leading post-sale revenue teams, and collaborating closely with product and sales. A strong product feedback loop is also a must—leaders are expected to capture and relay insights from customer interactions to help shape the product roadmap. Compensation models increasingly include upside potential tied to Net Revenue Retention (NRR).

5



Head of Marketing

Heads of Marketing Need to Be Demand Drivers, Not Just Brand Builders

Marketing leaders in 2025 must prove they can directly impact pipeline and revenue. Founders and boards are scrutinizing marketing hires, favoring those with strong performance marketing, ABM, and sales alignment experience. Compensation structures increasingly tie incentives to pipeline creation and influenced revenue. Account-based marketing is especially critical for companies facing heavy competition or operating in emerging categories, where differentiation and targeted outreach can make or break growth.

2025 Trends - Continued



Interviewing for First-Time Executive Roles Requires More Strategy Than Ever

Executives vying for their first leadership role must navigate a rigorous interview process. Companies want to see not just past achievements but also a clear vision for scaling the function. Successful candidates should come prepared with data-driven playbooks, examples of cross-functional leadership, and a deep understanding of financial metrics.



The Rise of Crossover Execs

In smaller startups that lack the resources for a full executive team, it's becoming increasingly common for a single leader to oversee both sales and marketing. This VP-level role requires expertise in both disciplines, as well as the ability to align GTM strategies across functions. AI, GEO, SEO, and automation are streamlining sales and marketing efforts, enabling leaner teams

to do more with less. For companies without a Chief Revenue Officer (CRO), the Head of Sales & Marketing is expected to take on broader responsibilities, driving both pipeline generation and revenue growth. All is reducing manual workload by automating lead qualification, content personalization, and sales forecasting, allowing leaders to focus on strategy rather than execution. Predictive analytics help unify sales and marketing efforts by identifying high-intent prospects and optimizing outreach timing. With All improving efficiency across the funnel, a single leader can now manage both functions without compromising growth.



Buyer-Aligned Hiring Is Reshaping Executive Searches

Hiring decisions for GTM leaders are increasingly shaped by who your company sells to, not just what you're selling. It's no longer enough to hire based on strong resumes or past company names. The most effective leaders are those who understand how to engage, sell to, and support the specific buyers your business depends on.

Sales, marketing, and customer success executives need different skill sets depending on whether they're operating in a technical, fast-evolving environment—or navigating long, complex sales cycles in traditional industries.



These differences aren't superficial. They determine how quickly your GTM leaders can ramp, how well they'll align with your buyer's expectations, and how effectively they'll drive growth.

Who Are You Selling To? Choose Your Own Adventure

Betts What to Do Next

- Before hiring your next executive, ask: Who are we selling to—and what kind of leader knows how to win their trust?
- The next section breaks this down into two distinct paths based on your buyer profile: Technical AI Buyers vs. Buyers in Traditional Industries
- Each path outlines what to look for in a Head of Sales and Head of Customer Success based on who they'll be selling to and supporting.

Whether you're hiring for Sales or Customer Success, the profile of your executive should reflect the type of buyer your company is targeting. In 2025, that means aligning your leadership with one of two major go-to-market realities:



Technical AI Companies

Companies building advanced software or infrastructure products, often selling into highly technical teams (CTOs, CIOs, CPOs). These buyers expect depth, detail, and diligence.



Path 2

Innovators

requires education and trust.

Disruptive Industry Innovators

Companies modernizing traditional industries—legal, healthcare, manufacturing, government, and more. These buyers may be non-technical, risk-averse, and slower to adopt new tools, but the opportunity for category creation is significant.

Path 1

Technical AI Companies

You're building advanced AI products for technical buyers— CTOs, CIOs, CPOs, and their teams. These stakeholders expect rigor: technical depth, clear differentiation, and real-world results. Winning here means proving your product can integrate, scale, and deliver value from day one.



Head of Sales: What to Look For

Complex sales experience

The sales cycles are long and technical. Your ideal hire has run multi-threaded enterprise deals, managed lengthy security reviews, and understands how to sell to multiple stakeholders often including engineers, procurement, and compliance teams.

Credibility with technical audiences While they don't need to be technical themselves,

your Head of Sales must be able to lead discovery and earn respect in the room. They should understand enough to explain how the product works and why it matters.

Structured process-building The best candidates will bring rigor. They've built

outbound engines, defined qualification criteria like MEDDPICC, and held teams accountable to pipeline and forecast discipline **Cross-functional operator**

Expect them to work closely with Product,

Engineering, and Marketing to tailor messaging and iterate fast.

Experience with hybrid GTM motions Many AI companies start with a product-led

approach, then layer on sales. A good sales leader knows how to complement PLG without disrupting it.

Head of Sales: What to Look For

You're modernizing traditional industries like legal, healthcare,

government, or logistics. Your buyers are smart, but they're not

early adopters. They may be wary of change, stuck in legacy

workflows, or navigating regulatory constraints. Selling here

Evangelical storytelling

Disruptive Industry

You need someone who can explain why now. They should know how to speak to pain points in simple language and frame your product as the inevitable future.

Vertical GTM experience

The best candidates have sold into these sectors before. They understand how purchasing decisions are made, who the gatekeepers are, and how to adjust messaging for each.

Flexibility and grit

Traditional industries often require more patience and creative problem-solving. Your Head of Sales should be used to navigating RFPs, pilots, and internal blockers.

Hands-on, founder-like energy In early-stage companies, they'll likely close deals themselves while building the motion. They

should thrive in ambiguity and work well across Product and CS.



What to Look For

Head of Customer Success:

Technical onboarding programs The right CS leader knows how to onboard users

with different technical skill levels. They've likely built out implementation guides, run enablement sessions, and worked alongside solution architects. Renewal predictability

In AI or infrastructure tools, usage doesn't always

equal value. Your CS leader should be great at setting up renewal processes that include qualitative health checks, not just usage metrics. Support scalability

Expect them to define what should be self-serve vs.

high-touch and how to scale without sacrificing client experience. **Customer education mindset**

Al is evolving fast. Your CS leader should know

features, capabilities, and use cases as your product evolves.

how to keep customers informed about new



What to Look For

Head of Customer Success:

Change management skills This isn't just about adoption—it's about behavior

change. Your CS hire needs to understand how to guide customers through process shifts, stakeholder buy-in, and cultural resistance. Customization and consultative approach

Expect clients to ask for custom workflows, integrations, or hands-on support. A good CS leader

here acts more like a trusted advisor than a ticket resolver. Stakeholder orchestration

Traditional buyers often have multiple internal stakeholders—operations, compliance, finance—

who influence renewals and expansions. Your CS leader should be great at mapping and managing these relationships. Patience with long-term payoff

Expansion cycles may take time, but once trust is

built, these customers often have high LTV. Your

CS hire should know how to play the long game.



Head of Marketing

Marketing leaders are unique—they don't just support Sales and CS. They shape the entire narrative of your company. Whether you're selling into technical or non-technical markets, your Head of Marketing needs to be a bridge between product, market, and growth.

What to Look For?

From top-of-funnel awareness to sales enablement and customer expansion, your marketing hire should know

☐ Full-funnel ownership

how to support each stage of the buyer journey.

Especially for category-defining companies, your marketer should have a strong POV on how to differentiate in a crowded or misunderstood market.

☐ Tactical and strategic range

Brand and positioning chops

Revenue accountability

The best marketing leaders in 2025 are deeply tied to pipeline generation. They'll come with dashboards, conversion targets, and a clear view of attribution.

LinkedIn ad test and when to lead a full rebrand. They're

just as comfortable in the weeds as they are in the boardroom.

Great early-stage marketers know when to run a quick

built integrated campaigns.

☐ Cross-functional savvy Marketing needs to be joined at the hip with Sales, Product, and CS. Look for someone who's driven

roadmap alignment, coordinated product launches, and

☐ Early wins + scalable vision

Your hire should come in with a 30-60-90 day plan, but also be thinking two years ahead. They'll lay the foundation for a team and engine that can scale with you.

How First-Time Executives Can Secure the Best Compensation Package

Negotiation Strategies for First-Time Executives

Landing an executive role is a major milestone, but securing the right compensation package is just as critical as getting the offer itself. First-time executives often face unique challenges in negotiations—especially at startups, where cash constraints and evolving company needs can make compensation highly variable. Founders may not have a set budget for the role and will expect candidates to advocate for themselves. The key is to balance cash, equity, and incentives in a way that aligns with both the company's growth trajectory and your long-term financial goals.

For first-time execs, it's not just about salary—it's about structuring a package that reflects your leadership impact and potential upside. Companies hiring their first function leaders may be flexible in how they structure offers, but candidates need to be prepared to negotiate terms that set them up for success.

Candidates

How to Maximize Your First Executive Offer?

Hiring Managers

How to Win Over First-Time Execs?

Know Your Market Value

Access real-time comp insights with Comp Engine



Understand Their Market Value

Access real-time comp insights with Comp Engine

Cash vs. Equity: Know the Trade-Offs

Ask about valuation, dilution, and exit plans.



Explain the Cash vs. Equity Mix

Be transparent on how equity works—vesting, dilution, exit.

Tie Comp to Your Impact

Push for bonuses/equity tied to results.



Tie Comp to Company Outcomes

Align incentives with impact: revenue, retention, growth.

Clarify the Role

Align on 6–12 month success metrics.



Set Clear Expectations

Define success. Make sure you both see the same path.

Perks Matter Too

Look beyond salary—think PTO, development budget, remote flexibility.



Go Beyond Salary

Use perks to close the deal: leadership coaching, flexibility, accelerated vesting.

Leverage Optionality

Multiple offers = stronger negotiating position.



Make It Personal

Take them to dinner or do a 3-hour whiteboard session.

Get a Legal & Tax Review

Equity can be tricky—don't go it alone.



Expect Negotiation

Smart execs will push back. Be ready—and open.

Big Picture

You're not just taking a job—you're betting on a company. Bet wisely.



Think Long-Term

This isn't just a hire—it's a future partner in the business.

Compensation Breakdown

Compensation By Role

| C Suite | VPs | Director Level | Other |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer | <u>VP of Sales</u> | <u>Director of Marketing</u> | <u>Fractional</u> |
| Chief Operations Officer | VP of Marketing | Director of HR | <u>Advisors</u> |
| Chief Financial Officer | VP of People Ops | <u>Director of Product</u> | |
| Chief Commercial Officer | VP of Finance | <u>Director of Sales</u> | |
| Chief People Officer | VP of Product Management | <u>Director of Customer</u> | |
| Chief Marketing Officer | VP of Customer Success | Success | |
| Chief Product Officer | | | |
| Chief Revenue Officer | | | |

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$180,000 | \$200,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 | \$350,000 |
| Median | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$325,000 | \$350,000 | \$375,000 |
| 75th% | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 | \$425,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 25% | 25% | 30% | 40% | 40% |
| Median | 50% | 50% | 50% | 50% | 50% |
| 75th% | 50% | 50% | 50% | 75% | 100% |

Chief Operations Officer (COO)

| | | | ı | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$300,000 | \$350,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$275,000 | \$325,000 | \$400,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$300,000 | \$400,000 | \$425,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 40% | 40% | 40% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 50% | 50% | 50% |

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

| Median Not Recommended (Not enough data) \$250,000 \$250,000 \$300,000 \$ | 300,000 |
|---|----------|
| (Not enough data) \$250,000 \$250,000 \$300,000 \$ | |
| | 350,000 |
| | 3425,000 |
| Bonus | |
| Not Recommended (Not enough data) 25% 25% 25% | 30% |
| Median Not Recommended (Not enough data) 30% 30% 35% | 35% |
| Not Recommended (Not enough data) 40% 40% 40% | 40% |
| | |

Chief Commercial Officer (CCO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$285,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| Median | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 | \$325,000 |
| 75th% | \$300,000 | \$350,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Median | 35% | 35% | 40% | 40% | 40% |
| 75th% | 50% | 50% | 50% | 75% | 100% |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

(Not enough data)

75th%

Chief People Officer (CPO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 | \$350,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 10% | 10% | 15% | 15% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended | 20% | 20% | 30% | 30% |

20%

30%

30%

20%

Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$290,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$350,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$300,000 | \$325,000 | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 15% | 20% | 25% | 25% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 30% | 30% | 30% | 30% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 35% | 35% | 40% | 40% |

Chief Product Officer (CPO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$300,000 | \$325,000 | \$350,000 | \$400,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 10% | 10% | 15% | 15% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 15% | 15% | 20% | 20% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 20% | 20% | 30% | 30% |

Chief Revenue Officer (CRO)

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$265,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$325,000 | \$350,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Fractional

| Fractional in Tech | Hourly | Target/Hr | 3 Months Retainers |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Fractional CEO | \$250-500 | \$350 | \$20k-50K |
| Fractional CFO | \$250-400 | \$300 | \$15K - 30K |
| Fractional COO | \$250-400 | \$300 | \$15K - 30K |
| Fractional Head of Marketing | \$200-400 | \$250 | \$10K-20K |
| Fractional Head of Sales | \$200-400 | \$250 | \$10K-20K |
| Fractional Head of People | \$200-400 | \$225 | \$6.5K - 20k |
| | | | |

Advisors

| | Early Stage | Later Stage |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Seed- Series B | Series C - Series E |
| Equity | 0.25% | 0.10% |
| Vesting | 2 Years | 2 Years |
| Retainer | \$1-10K Annually | \$10-50k Annually |
| Number of Meetings | 4 Average Meetings | 4 Average Meetings |
| | | |

VP of Sales

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 |
| Median | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 |
| 75th% | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Median | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 75th% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

VP of Marketing

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$235,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 |
| 75th % | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$325,000 | \$350,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 10% | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 30% | 30% | 30% | |

VP of People Ops

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$180,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 10% | 10% | 15% | 20% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 15% | 15% | 25% | 25% |

VP of Finance

| ę. | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$265,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$350,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 15% | 15% | 20% | 20% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 20% | 20% | 30% | 30% |
| 75 th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 25% | 25% | 35% | 35% |

VP of Product Management

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | \$275,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$325,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 0% | 5% | 10% | 10% |
| Median | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 5% | 10% | 15% | 15% |
| 75th% | Not Recommended (Not enough data) | 20% | 20% | 25% | 25% |
| | | | | | |

VP of Customer Success

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$220,000 | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 |
| Median | \$250,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$265,000 | \$275,000 |
| 75th% | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 | \$280,000 | \$300,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 20% | 20% | 25% | 20% | 20% |
| Median | 30% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 35% |
| 75th% | 50% | 40% | 40% | 45% | 45% |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Director/Head of Marketing

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$175,000 | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$205,000 |
| Median | \$200,000 | \$215,000 | \$215,000 | \$240,000 | \$240,000 |
| 75th% | \$215,000 | \$250,000 | \$260,000 | \$260,000 | \$260,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Median | 20% | 30% | 30% | 30% | 30% |
| 75th% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 40% | 40% |

Director of HR/Head of People

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$170,000 | \$180,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Median | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 |
| 75th% | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 0% | 5% | 0% | 10% | 10% |
| Median | 5% | 10% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| 75th% | 15% | 20% | 30% | 30% | 30% |

Director/Head of Product

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$200,000 | \$215,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 |
| Median | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$300,000 |
| 75th% | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$350,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 10% |
| Median | 10% | 10% | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| 75th% | 15% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 25% |

Director/Head of Sales

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | 175,000 | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | 200,000 |
| Median | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| 75th% | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$275,000 | \$275,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 30% | 30% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Median | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 75th% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Director/Head of CS

| Base | Seed | Series A | Series B | Series C | Series D |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 25th% | \$175,000 | \$185,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200.000 |
| Median | \$185,000 | \$200,00 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 |
| 75th% | \$200,000 | \$225,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| | | | Bonus | | |
| 25th% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 10% |
| Median | 10% | 10% | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| 75th% | 15% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 25% |

A Message From Betts Founder and CEO,

Carolyn Betts



We hope you've found this guide helpful as you plan for the year ahead. With **2025** set to be an exciting year for the tech industry—driven by advancements in AI, enterprise strength, and a resurgence in mid-market hiring—now is the time to refine your compensation strategies and attract the best talent.

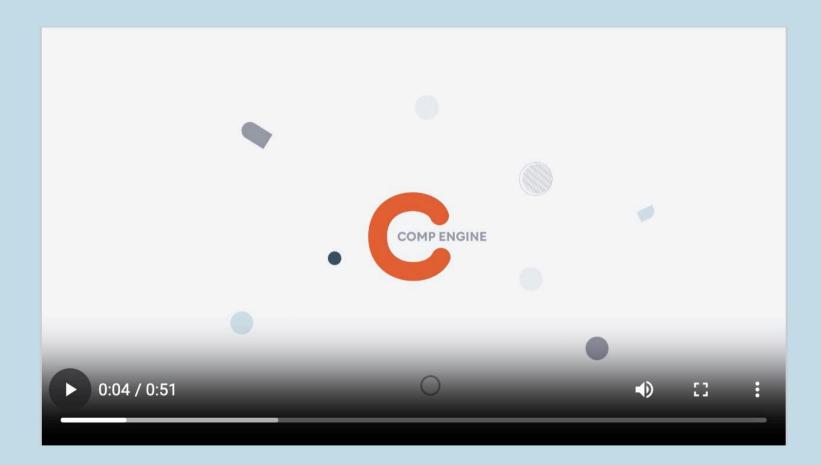
At **Betts**, we understand that talent is your most valuable asset, which is why we've created this guide to help you navigate the world of compensation. Built on data from thousands of successful placements and insights from leaders across the tech sector, this guide is designed to give you the tools to stay competitive and retain top performers.

We're excited to continue partnering with you in **2025** and beyond as you drive growth and success. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!



Comp Engine

Loved our Compensation Guide? Take it a step further with Comp Engine, where you can access real-time compensation insights for Sales, Marketing, and Customer Success based on actual placements.



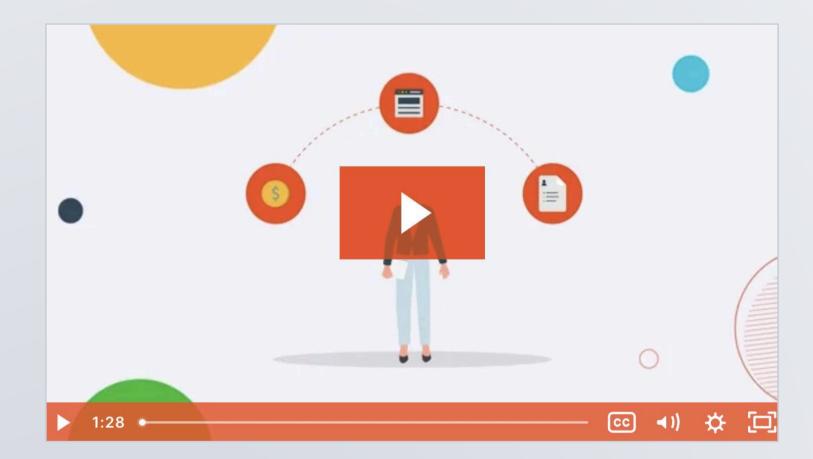
While the Compensation Guide is updated every few months, Comp Engine delivers fresh data every few minutes—keeping you ahead of the curve.

Whether you're a hiring manager optimizing offer packages or a job seeker looking for fair market value, Comp Engine empowers you to make smarter, more competitive decisions to attract and retain top talent.

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