

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF KENNEWICK-RICHLAND-PASCO, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY AUGUST 2007

Workers in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco metropolitan area earned an average of \$20.58 per hour in August 2007, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden reported wage data for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$40.26 for architecture and engineering occupations and \$14.56 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$8.92. The NCS data available for the Kennewick area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Engineers, part of the architecture and engineering occupational group, earned \$40.96 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, secretaries and administrative assistants averaged \$15.02 per hour and general office clerks, \$14.69. Cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$11.01, and fast food and counter workers earned \$8.40 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$22.36 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.69. Union workers earned \$22.52 and non-union workers, \$19.56. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$16.19 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.40, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$32.36.

The occupational wage data available from NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. NCS results also include the work level and respective earnings for occupations determined by a point factor leveling process. The four occupational leveling factors are: knowledge, job controls and complexity, contacts, and physical environment. Details on the NCS are available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>.

The NCS data provided in the detailed bulletin covered 153 establishments with one or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. Agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government were excluded from the survey. This sample of establishments represented 83,200 workers in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Benton and Franklin Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA National Compensation Survey August 2007 (Bulletin 3140-23). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Western Information Office by calling (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA, August 2007**

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Full-time workers | | Part-time workers | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| All workers | \$20.58 | 3.7 | \$22.36 | 4.7 | \$11.69 | 9.7 |
| Management occupations | 41.32 | 9.2 | 41.32 | 9.2 | – | – |
| Engineering managers | 55.81 | 2.8 | 55.81 | 2.8 | – | – |
| Business and financial operations occupations | 23.55 | 7.2 | 23.66 | 7.9 | – | – |
| Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists | 25.38 | 15.2 | 25.34 | 15.8 | – | – |
| Accountants and auditors | 21.59 | 10.0 | 21.59 | 10.0 | – | – |
| Computer and mathematical science occupations | 26.72 | 8.0 | 26.72 | 8.0 | – | – |
| Architecture and engineering occupations | 40.26 | 4.4 | 40.26 | 4.4 | – | – |
| Engineers | 40.96 | 4.6 | 40.96 | 4.6 | – | – |
| Industrial engineers, including health and safety | 33.02 | 4.1 | 33.02 | 4.1 | – | – |
| Nuclear engineers | 46.50 | 6.9 | 46.50 | 6.9 | – | – |
| Life, physical, and social science occupations | 30.72 | 11.4 | 32.64 | 7.3 | – | – |
| Community and social services occupations | 21.63 | 29.2 | – | – | – | – |
| Counselors | 21.63 | 29.2 | – | – | – | – |
| Education, training, and library occupations | 22.86 | 17.8 | 28.36 | 14.9 | 11.92 | 12.1 |
| Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers | 30.44 | 12.9 | 30.44 | 12.9 | – | – |
| Elementary and middle school teachers | 35.43 | .3 | 35.43 | .3 | – | – |
| Elementary school teachers, except special education | 35.52 | .4 | 35.52 | .4 | – | – |
| Secondary school teachers | 34.84 | 4.1 | 34.84 | 4.1 | – | – |
| Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education | 34.84 | 4.1 | 34.84 | 4.1 | – | – |
| Teacher assistants | 10.48 | 9.7 | – | – | 10.42 | 9.8 |
| Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations | 13.64 | 20.6 | – | – | – | – |
| Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations | 30.71 | 10.0 | 27.24 | 7.6 | 37.00 | 5.6 |
| Registered nurses | 33.42 | 8.7 | – | – | – | – |
| Healthcare support occupations | 12.84 | 7.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Protective service occupations | 22.98 | 14.9 | 26.69 | 13.0 | – | – |
| Food preparation and serving related occupations | 8.92 | 6.1 | 9.37 | 17.4 | 8.36 | 1.8 |
| Cooks | 11.01 | 7.8 | 11.84 | 10.7 | – | – |
| Food service, tipped | 8.13 | 2.9 | – | – | 7.93 | .3 |
| Waiters and waitresses | 8.21 | 3.6 | – | – | 7.91 | .5 |
| Fast food and counter workers | 8.40 | 3.3 | – | – | 8.42 | 3.8 |
| Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food | 8.37 | 3.8 | – | – | 8.38 | 4.3 |
| Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations | 13.92 | 9.8 | 14.67 | 10.4 | 8.45 | 3.3 |
| Building cleaning workers | 13.44 | 13.2 | 14.37 | 14.1 | 8.45 | 3.3 |
| Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners | 13.65 | 13.8 | 14.37 | 14.1 | – | – |
| Personal care and service occupations | 9.17 | 8.9 | – | – | – | – |
| Sales and related occupations | 12.70 | 6.7 | 14.02 | 7.8 | 9.27 | 1.7 |
| Retail sales workers | 10.36 | 1.4 | 10.96 | 1.6 | 9.27 | 1.7 |
| Cashiers, all workers | 10.54 | 4.7 | 11.27 | 5.8 | 9.70 | 2.9 |
| Cashiers | 10.54 | 4.7 | 11.27 | 5.8 | 9.70 | 2.9 |
| Retail salespersons | 10.01 | 5.0 | 10.46 | 4.1 | – | – |
| Office and administrative support occupations | 14.56 | 3.2 | 14.92 | 3.5 | 11.11 | 5.0 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA, August 2007** — Continued

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Full-time workers | | Part-time workers | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| Financial clerks | \$14.88 | 6.8 | \$15.00 | 7.0 | — | — |
| Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks | 14.53 | 8.1 | 14.61 | 8.4 | — | — |
| Receptionists and information clerks | 12.73 | 5.5 | 12.86 | 5.5 | — | — |
| Stock clerks and order fillers | 12.35 | 13.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Secretaries and administrative assistants | 15.02 | 7.9 | 15.19 | 8.4 | — | — |
| Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive | 14.39 | 13.2 | 14.44 | 13.6 | — | — |
| Office clerks, general | 14.69 | 6.4 | 15.30 | 5.9 | — | — |
| Construction and extraction occupations | 24.68 | 7.6 | 25.00 | 7.6 | — | — |
| Electricians | 27.72 | 7.1 | 27.72 | 7.1 | — | — |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations | 21.92 | 11.4 | 21.93 | 11.4 | — | — |
| Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers | 18.63 | 6.7 | 18.63 | 6.7 | — | — |
| Production occupations | 16.09 | 15.0 | 16.48 | 17.1 | — | — |
| Miscellaneous production workers | 10.39 | 7.8 | 10.82 | 9.5 | — | — |
| Transportation and material moving occupations | 14.84 | 8.0 | 15.51 | 9.0 | \$12.39 | 8.1 |
| Driver/sales workers and truck drivers | 16.68 | 10.8 | 16.87 | 11.6 | — | — |
| Laborers and material movers, hand | 12.05 | 6.7 | 12.51 | 7.6 | 10.80 | 3.4 |
| Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand | 13.29 | 7.3 | 13.15 | 8.5 | — | — |
| Packers and packagers, hand | 9.98 | 2.7 | — | — | — | — |

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours. See appendix A for more information.

² Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

³ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.