

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SEATTLE-TACOMA-OLYMPIA, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2006

Workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia metropolitan area earned an average of \$23.63 per hour in December 2006, 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 \$33.86 for computer and mathematical science occupations and \$32.15 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$17.01. The NCS data available for the Seattle area include earnings for 21 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Computer systems analysts, part of the computer and mathematical science occupational group, earned \$34.21 per hour. Within the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, registered nurses averaged \$33.63 per hour and clinical laboratory technologists and technicians, \$22.95. Financial clerks, an occupation within the office and administrative support group, registered an average hourly rate of \$16.42, and general office clerks earned \$14.90 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$24.98 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$13.99. Union workers earned \$23.49 and non-union workers, \$23.67. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$19.42 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$23.80, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$29.78.

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 631 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 1,787,600 workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia Combined Statistical Area (CSA) which is comprised of Island, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA National Compensation Survey December 2006 (Bulletin 3140-12). 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, Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2006**

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	\$23.63	2.3	\$24.98	2.9	\$13.99	4.0
Management occupations	41.55	3.8	41.54	3.8	—	—
General and operations managers	35.97	23.9	35.97	23.9	—	—
Marketing and sales managers	46.17	9.5	46.17	9.5	—	—
Marketing managers	45.78	3.3	45.78	3.3	—	—
Computer and information systems managers	55.99	10.3	55.99	10.3	—	—
Financial managers	37.78	8.0	37.66	8.1	—	—
Construction managers	38.02	2.9	38.02	2.9	—	—
Education administrators	33.67	11.0	33.67	11.0	—	—
Education administrators, elementary and secondary school	48.58	5.5	48.58	5.5	—	—
Medical and health services managers	42.91	8.5	42.91	8.5	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	33.12	4.5	33.19	4.5	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	37.00	8.4	37.00	8.4	—	—
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	48.37	32.7	—	—	—	—
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	26.96	13.0	26.96	13.0	—	—
Management analysts	33.54	9.7	33.86	9.8	—	—
Accountants and auditors	30.34	9.8	30.48	9.9	—	—
Financial analysts and advisors	41.53	20.7	41.53	20.7	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	33.86	2.5	33.87	2.6	—	—
Computer software engineers	38.59	7.3	38.62	7.5	—	—
Computer software engineers, applications	33.05	8.6	33.05	8.6	—	—
Computer software engineers, systems software	43.49	7.9	43.85	8.0	—	—
Computer support specialists	23.77	8.4	23.77	8.4	—	—
Computer systems analysts	34.21	5.2	34.21	5.2	—	—
Network and computer systems administrators	32.80	11.9	—	—	—	—
Network systems and data communications analysts	40.39	3.3	40.39	3.3	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	31.50	4.7	31.31	4.9	—	—
Engineers	35.59	7.1	35.59	7.1	—	—
Industrial engineers, including health and safety	37.09	10.1	37.09	10.1	—	—
Industrial engineers	37.09	10.1	37.09	10.1	—	—
Drafters	26.33	7.9	23.92	8.1	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	28.46	1.7	28.33	2.2	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	24.68	15.1	25.78	13.7	—	—
Life scientists	—	—	20.22	13.5	—	—
Community and social services occupations	23.29	4.8	23.63	5.2	20.58	21.1
Counselors	24.90	13.3	24.67	14.0	—	—
Social workers	22.57	9.5	22.15	11.2	—	—
Miscellaneous community and social service specialists	18.06	10.1	—	—	—	—
Legal occupations	40.10	30.5	42.67	33.9	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	29.47	7.3	29.73	7.9	28.32	16.9
Postsecondary teachers	31.38	21.5	26.93	13.4	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	31.43	11.2	31.69	10.8	25.92	27.6
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	16.53	19.0	16.64	20.0	—	—
Preschool teachers, except special education	13.23	1.1	13.04	1.1	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	34.52	5.1	35.01	5.7	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	33.42	4.5	33.90	5.2	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	38.41	6.0	38.82	5.9	—	—
Secondary school teachers	36.06	7.1	36.09	6.9	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	35.94	7.4	35.98	7.2	—	—
Other teachers and instructors	45.15	18.0	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2006** — 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)
Teacher assistants	\$13.43	4.8	\$13.68	10.5	\$13.26	6.1
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	26.32	5.7	26.65	6.3	—	—
Designers	23.94	19.1	23.94	19.1	—	—
Writers and editors	27.54	9.2	28.02	11.3	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	32.15	5.5	31.91	6.1	33.81	3.0
Physicians and surgeons	90.87	11.5	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	33.63	2.1	—	—	35.32	4.2
Therapists	38.03	9.9	38.54	10.5	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	22.95	1.0	22.89	.6	—	—
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	27.67	4.7	—	—	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	33.82	3.9	32.92	5.9	—	—
Radiologic technologists and technicians	34.19	4.7	33.29	6.3	—	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	17.97	12.4	17.96	12.5	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	21.09	2.6	21.06	2.8	21.18	3.5
Medical records and health information technicians	17.90	7.1	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	14.52	5.8	14.79	6.2	12.27	4.5
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	12.59	2.4	12.81	2.7	11.55	4.6
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	12.57	2.6	12.80	2.9	11.55	4.6
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	16.74	6.6	16.79	6.8	—	—
Protective service occupations	22.86	9.8	23.99	7.9	9.41	2.5
Fire fighters	28.65	1.7	28.65	1.7	—	—
Bailiffs, correctional officers, and jailers	20.58	6.9	20.58	6.9	—	—
Correctional officers and jailers	20.58	6.9	20.58	6.9	—	—
Police officers	30.82	5.4	30.82	5.4	—	—
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	30.82	5.4	30.82	5.4	—	—
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	15.31	9.9	15.84	12.3	—	—
Security guards	15.31	9.9	15.84	12.3	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	9.87	1.7	11.26	8.6	8.44	1.8
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	15.47	5.8	15.47	6.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	14.91	11.3	14.88	11.7	—	—
Cooks	10.99	3.3	11.74	1.2	—	—
Cooks, restaurant	10.88	10.1	11.70	4.0	—	—
Food preparation workers	9.40	4.5	—	—	9.23	1.9
Food service, tipped	8.14	2.1	8.62	2.1	7.76	.3
Bartenders	8.76	1.4	—	—	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	7.67	.9	—	—	7.73	.3
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	8.54	8.9	—	—	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	9.70	2.5	10.95	9.4	8.77	6.4
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	9.73	2.4	—	—	8.86	9.7
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	9.63	10.2	—	—	—	—
Dishwashers	8.93	3.3	—	—	8.64	.2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	13.64	6.3	14.18	4.8	9.46	14.5
Building cleaning workers	12.84	6.7	13.43	5.3	8.60	9.7
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	14.19	4.6	14.24	4.6	11.68	7.4
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	9.36	7.8	10.17	8.4	—	—
Grounds maintenance workers	15.49	4.7	—	—	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	13.18	6.6	14.84	8.4	9.37	4.8
Child care workers	10.43	7.6	10.68	6.4	9.84	9.8
Personal and home care aides	10.72	1.1	—	—	—	—
Recreation and fitness workers	17.38	17.5	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2006** — 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)
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	\$19.83	17.3	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	21.07	5.4	\$22.88	6.0	\$11.44	2.4
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	29.43	7.1	29.43	7.1	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	27.16	6.6	27.16	6.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	32.89	10.2	32.89	10.2	—	—
Retail sales workers	14.18	8.5	15.20	11.6	11.33	2.5
Cashiers, all workers	12.70	2.0	13.27	5.1	11.92	3.4
Cashiers	12.70	2.0	13.27	5.1	11.92	3.4
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	17.53	16.9	18.66	14.8	—	—
Retail salespersons	14.94	19.1	15.73	20.5	10.08	8.4
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	32.82	22.3	32.82	22.3	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	32.86	22.8	32.86	22.8	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	17.01	3.4	17.66	3.1	11.43	4.4
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	22.83	7.3	22.83	7.3	—	—
Financial clerks	16.42	2.8	16.57	2.4	13.92	9.7
Bill and account collectors	19.91	5.3	19.91	5.3	—	—
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	17.72	6.3	17.87	6.4	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	17.65	5.0	17.65	5.0	—	—
Tellers	12.12	.5	—	—	—	—
Customer service representatives	17.98	10.1	18.18	10.0	—	—
Order clerks	14.24	8.8	14.37	8.8	—	—
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	18.53	3.9	18.48	4.1	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.12	6.2	13.63	6.4	11.21	8.9
Dispatchers	21.06	14.6	21.06	14.6	—	—
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	18.13	15.9	18.13	15.9	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	—	—	13.57	4.5	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	19.18	7.6	19.53	7.9	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	21.43	5.4	21.84	4.8	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	16.61	3.6	16.82	3.3	—	—
Office clerks, general	14.90	6.1	16.53	6.1	10.47	6.5
Construction and extraction occupations	21.48	4.9	21.70	4.7	—	—
Carpenters	22.10	8.3	22.10	8.3	—	—
Construction laborers	15.76	16.3	16.39	16.8	—	—
Construction equipment operators	27.38	7.0	27.38	7.0	—	—
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	27.87	6.8	27.87	6.8	—	—
Electricians	24.82	1.3	25.09	.5	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	22.30	6.6	22.52	6.5	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	27.08	15.2	27.08	15.2	—	—
Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	15.40	3.5	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous electrical and electronic equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers	31.37	4.9	31.37	4.9	—	—
Aircraft mechanics and service technicians	28.50	6.3	28.50	6.3	—	—
Automotive technicians and repairers	19.69	8.4	19.69	8.4	—	—
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	19.69	8.4	19.69	8.4	—	—
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists	24.37	8.6	24.37	8.6	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	21.98	5.7	21.98	5.7	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	26.26	11.2	26.26	11.2	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	19.99	6.6	19.99	6.6	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	20.18	15.0	20.18	15.0	—	—
Production occupations	19.61	3.6	20.17	3.8	10.91	14.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2006** — 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)
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	\$26.00	12.6	\$26.00	12.6	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	15.09	12.5	15.20	12.3	—	—
Machinists	21.49	6.5	21.49	6.5	—	—
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	19.81	8.8	19.81	8.8	—	—
Miscellaneous metalworkers and plastic workers	20.26	10.1	20.26	10.1	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	22.06	9.2	22.06	9.2	—	—
Painting workers	15.03	6.1	15.03	6.1	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	12.99	10.9	13.03	13.0	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	17.70	9.8	19.53	9.7	\$11.16	5.3
Aircraft pilots and flight engineers	120.50	12.0	120.50	12.0	—	—
Airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers	120.50	12.0	120.50	12.0	—	—
Bus drivers	16.91	11.2	—	—	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	18.86	4.1	19.16	4.4	14.74	22.0
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	19.28	3.7	19.26	3.8	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	18.85	10.9	18.81	11.5	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	20.48	8.3	20.48	8.3	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	13.25	7.1	15.02	6.2	9.54	1.9
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	11.44	5.3	11.62	5.5	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	14.04	6.4	16.10	5.3	9.71	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.

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.