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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CHARLESTON-NORTH CHARLESTON, SC NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MAY 2007**

Workers in the Charleston-North Charleston metropolitan area averaged \$17.05 per hour during May 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 Janet S. Rankin reported average hourly earnings of \$26.62 for management, professional, and related workers and \$15.33 for natural resources, construction, and maintenance workers. Production, transportation, and material moving workers averaged \$14.39 an hour; sales and office workers, \$14.26; and service workers, \$8.95. [See table 1. Note: Occupational aggregations are now based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.]

In the Charleston area, management, professional, and related workers represented the largest occupational group in the survey at 28 percent. Sales and office workers accounted for 26 percent; service workers, 20 percent; and production, transportation, and material moving workers, 15 percent. Natural resources, construction, and maintenance workers accounted for the remainder.

The NCS provides straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with one or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. This NCS survey covered 258 establishments representing 259,600 workers in the Charleston-North Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area which is comprised of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties in South Carolina. Agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government were excluded from the survey.

In the Charleston area, average hourly wages were published for a number of detailed occupations. Within the management, professional, and related occupations, elementary and middle school teachers averaged \$27.20 per hour. In the sales and office occupations, executive secretaries and administrative assistants earned \$15.41 per hour and cashiers earned \$8.49. Industrial machinery mechanics part of the natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupational group, earned \$21.69. (See table 2.)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. Establishments in the Charleston area with 1-99 workers averaged \$14.96 per hour and those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$17.66; workers in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$20.18. Full-time workers averaged \$17.98 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$9.38. (See table 1.)

The NCS is a comprehensive survey that measures occupational earnings, occupational levels based on duties and responsibilities, compensation cost trends, and benefit incidences. The Employment Cost Index (ECI) component measures changes in labor costs. Average employer costs for employee compensation are available from the Employer Cost for Employee Compensation (ECEC) series. Details on benefits incidences and provisions are available from the Employee Benefits Survey (EBS). The occupational wage data 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. Details on the NCS are available at [www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm).

### **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Charleston-North Charleston, SC National Compensation Survey May 2007 (Bulletin 3140-10). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-893-4222. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at [www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm).

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

**Table 1. Summary: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> and weekly hours for selected worker and establishment characteristics, Charleston-North Charleston, SC, May 2007**

Worker and establishment characteristics	Civilian workers			Private industry workers			State and local government workers		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours <sup>3</sup>
	Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)		Mean	Relative error <sup>2</sup> (percent)	
<b>All workers</b> .....	\$17.05	5.0	36.3	\$16.27	5.8	35.9	\$20.80	5.8	38.4
<b>Worker characteristics<sup>4,5</sup></b>									
Management, professional, and related .....	26.62	5.6	38.2	27.12	7.7	38.1	25.69	6.7	38.6
Management, business, and financial .....	27.97	5.3	41.6	28.35	5.3	41.8	25.93	18.6	40.6
Professional and related .....	25.96	7.4	36.8	26.21	11.8	35.7	25.64	8.3	38.3
Service .....	8.95	2.8	32.1	8.02	3.1	30.9	13.12	5.3	38.8
Sales and office .....	14.26	4.4	35.2	14.28	4.9	34.9	14.04	4.2	38.3
Sales and related .....	15.43	9.7	33.2	15.42	9.8	33.2	—	—	—
Office and administrative support .....	13.48	2.4	36.6	13.39	2.9	36.3	13.95	4.0	38.2
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance .....	15.33	5.2	40.7	15.22	5.4	40.7	17.26	6.6	39.2
Construction and extraction .....	13.95	7.1	40.2	13.84	7.2	40.2	—	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair .....	17.47	5.2	41.4	17.47	5.3	41.7	—	—	—
Production, transportation, and material moving .....	14.39	8.1	36.7	14.48	8.4	36.9	—	—	—
Production .....	16.67	12.1	38.0	16.69	12.2	38.0	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving .....	12.13	5.1	35.5	12.19	5.4	35.9	—	—	—
Full time .....	17.98	5.2	39.7	17.32	6.3	39.9	20.83	5.6	38.7
Part time .....	9.38	9.6	21.2	8.98	9.3	21.0	—	—	—
Union .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonunion .....	17.01	5.0	36.2	16.22	5.9	35.8	20.80	5.8	38.4
Time .....	16.65	5.0	36.0	15.73	5.9	35.5	20.80	5.8	38.4
Incentive .....	23.14	14.2	41.7	23.14	14.2	41.7	—	—	—
<b>Establishment characteristics</b>									
Goods producing .....	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	—	—	—	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )
Service providing .....	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	15.47	8.0	34.6	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )	( <sup>6</sup> )
1-99 workers .....	14.96	5.9	35.0	14.87	6.1	34.9	18.89	11.3	38.1
100-499 workers .....	17.66	10.8	36.8	17.61	12.3	36.7	18.08	8.8	37.6
500 workers or more .....	20.18	7.5	38.2	18.47	13.0	37.7	21.76	6.6	38.6

<sup>1</sup> 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 in Bulletin 3140-10 for more information.

<sup>2</sup> 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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

<sup>4</sup> Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining. Wages of time workers are based solely on

hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

<sup>5</sup> Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

<sup>6</sup> Classification of establishments into goods-producing and service-providing industries applies to private industry only. Industries are determined by the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

Table 2. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Charleston-North Charleston, SC, May 2007**

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>All workers</b> .....	\$17.05	5.0	\$17.98	5.2	\$9.38	9.6
<b>Management occupations</b> .....	31.42	4.5	31.42	4.5	—	—
General and operations managers .....	45.37	12.9	45.37	12.9	—	—
Financial managers .....	39.41	9.0	39.41	9.0	—	—
<b>Business and financial operations occupations</b> .....	22.54	13.8	22.54	13.8	—	—
Accountants and auditors .....	17.36	9.7	17.36	9.7	—	—
<b>Architecture and engineering occupations</b> .....	31.52	1.8	31.52	1.8	—	—
Engineers .....	36.58	5.5	36.58	5.5	—	—
<b>Life, physical, and social science occupations</b> .....	26.01	12.6	26.01	12.6	—	—
<b>Community and social services occupations</b> .....	15.73	11.3	15.73	11.3	—	—
Counselors .....	18.82	11.0	18.82	11.0	—	—
<b>Education, training, and library occupations</b> .....	24.78	9.8	24.83	9.7	—	—
Postsecondary teachers .....	36.43	6.6	36.39	6.6	—	—
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers .....	38.55	6.4	—	—	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers .....	25.00	9.0	25.00	9.0	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers .....	27.20	6.2	27.20	6.2	—	—
<b>Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations</b> .....	15.76	7.0	16.44	6.6	—	—
<b>Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations</b> .....	30.19	9.5	31.34	10.6	24.97	11.2
Registered nurses .....	31.99	7.7	33.51	10.6	27.66	6.1
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses .....	15.99	2.9	15.72	1.7	—	—
<b>Healthcare support occupations</b> .....	9.72	4.2	10.04	3.9	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides .....	9.24	5.3	9.75	3.1	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants .....	9.24	5.3	9.75	3.1	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations .....	10.27	5.1	10.27	5.1	—	—
<b>Protective service occupations</b> .....	14.12	4.0	14.07	4.0	—	—
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b> .....	6.85	5.1	7.26	7.3	6.26	2.8
Cooks .....	9.68	2.0	9.50	3.6	—	—
Food service, tipped .....	4.08	1.0	4.22	6.1	3.72	17.8
Waiters and waitresses .....	2.59	7.1	2.34	9.3	—	—
Fast food and counter workers .....	6.73	2.2	7.39	5.7	6.34	2.6
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food .....	6.65	2.6	7.34	5.8	6.23	4.7
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b> .....	10.37	4.6	11.18	4.2	—	—
Building cleaning workers .....	9.96	6.0	10.90	5.9	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	10.48	6.1	11.61	7.0	—	—
Maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	7.69	10.2	—	—	—	—
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b> .....	8.51	13.3	—	—	—	—
<b>Sales and related occupations</b> .....	15.43	9.7	17.25	10.3	8.25	5.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers .....	17.92	20.9	17.92	20.9	—	—
Retail sales workers .....	10.92	6.3	12.23	12.0	7.80	2.0
Cashiers, all workers .....	8.49	5.0	9.18	5.4	7.67	.5
Cashiers .....	8.49	5.0	9.18	5.4	7.67	.5
Retail salespersons .....	13.72	16.5	14.27	19.6	—	—
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b> .....	13.48	2.4	13.78	2.3	10.27	14.7
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers .....	17.98	7.2	17.98	7.2	—	—
Financial clerks .....	13.38	6.5	13.44	6.4	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Charleston-North Charleston, SC, May 2007** — Continued

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks .....	\$12.71	9.1	\$12.77	9.2	—	—
Customer service representatives .....	12.70	11.8	14.34	7.5	—	—
File clerks .....	11.56	9.2	—	—	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks .....	11.26	8.2	11.99	6.4	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers .....	9.20	8.4	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants .....	15.76	4.2	15.71	4.5	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants ....	15.41	6.9	15.41	6.9	—	—
Office clerks, general .....	12.34	4.7	12.34	4.7	—	—
<b>Construction and extraction occupations .....</b>	<b>13.95</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>14.11</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Electricians .....	17.49	11.3	17.49	11.3	—	—
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....</b>	<b>17.47</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>17.47</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Automotive technicians and repairers .....	15.97	5.2	15.97	5.2	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers .....	17.81	9.2	17.81	9.2	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics .....	21.69	2.3	21.69	2.3	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general .....	14.92	14.9	14.92	14.9	—	—
<b>Production occupations .....</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>17.06</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Miscellaneous production workers .....	14.99	11.0	15.03	11.0	—	—
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations .....</b>	<b>12.13</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>\$7.93</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers .....	14.86	3.8	14.91	4.0	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand .....	10.73	11.4	11.43	13.2	6.75	7.5
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand .....	10.71	11.5	10.81	11.5	—	—

<sup>1</sup> 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 in Bulletin 3140-10 for more information.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system. See appendix B for more information.

<sup>4</sup> 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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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.