

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2005**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2005**

Workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area averaged \$22.39 per hour during January 2005, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden reported that white collar workers averaged \$26.22 per hour and accounted for 58 percent of the workers in the area. Blue collar employees averaged \$18.82 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while 15 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$14.21 per hour. (See Table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 419 firms representing 725,300 workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area, which is comprised of Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in Washington. Eighty percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Seattle metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 78 detailed occupations. (See Table 1.) Among white collar workers, librarians averaged \$36.35; registered nurses, \$31.83; and secretaries \$17.78. Blue collar occupations included electricians, earning \$27.86 per hour; truck drivers at \$18.17; and stock handlers and baggers at \$10.41. In the service occupations, police and detectives, public service averaged \$27.56 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$12.18; and waiters and waitresses, \$7.39.

National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005 (continued)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See Tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Seattle area averaged \$23.36 per hour and part-time workers \$14.29. Union workers in blue collar jobs averaged \$20.93 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$15.62. Union workers in service jobs earned \$19.11 per hour compared to non-union workers who averaged \$11.11. White collar private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$18.29 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$31.17. Likewise, blue collar private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$16.43 per hour and those in establishments employing 500 or more employees earned \$25.20.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use the data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

### **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, National Compensation Survey January 2005 (Bulletin 3130-04). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the San Francisco Information Office by calling 415-975-4350. 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#WA>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in San Francisco by dialing 415-975-4567 and requesting document 9580.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the San Francisco Information Office at 415-975-4350 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday - Friday.

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Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
All.....	\$22.39	2.4	\$21.76	2.9	\$25.37	1.1
All excluding sales.....	23.05	2.6	22.49	3.2	25.38	1.1
White collar.....	26.22	2.9	25.89	3.6	27.57	0.9
White collar excluding sales.....	28.19	3.1	28.36	4.0	27.59	0.9
Professional specialty and technical.....	30.85	3.6	30.73	4.9	31.16	1.0
Professional specialty.....	32.47	4.1	32.90	6.1	31.60	1.1
Engineers, architects, and surveyors.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists.....	33.08	3.4	33.45	3.5	28.75	1.8
Computer systems analysts and scientists..	33.25	3.3	33.64	3.4	28.75	1.8
Natural scientists.....	24.86	21.2	—	—	—	—
Health related.....	34.32	9.7	35.37	11.4	29.68	3.7
Physicians.....	92.74	19.9	101.03	14.2	—	—
Registered nurses.....	31.83	2.2	32.09	2.7	30.61	1.1
Teachers, college and university.....	33.09	2.7	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university.....	32.23	1.2	22.89	17.1	33.22	1.5
Elementary school teachers.....	32.45	0.2	—	—	33.42	0.3
Secondary school teachers.....	32.45	5.7	—	—	33.87	3.9
Teachers, special education.....	33.14	4.8	—	—	33.14	4.8
Teachers, n.e.c.....	33.00	0.3	—	—	33.00	0.2
Librarians, archivists, and curators.....	36.35	2.8	—	—	—	—
Librarians.....	36.35	2.8	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners.....	23.35	16.2	21.26	17.5	34.50	6.2
Economists.....	35.28	14.6	35.28	14.6	—	—
Psychologists.....	19.91	14.5	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	20.73	8.5	—	—	22.91	0.7
Social workers.....	19.87	7.8	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges.....	37.86	5.3	—	—	38.37	10.8
Lawyers.....	36.90	4.1	—	—	34.94	4.5
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.....	29.74	25.7	29.92	27.7	—	—
Technical.....	25.59	4.0	25.78	4.2	22.20	3.8
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians.....	21.49	3.3	21.76	4.0	—	—
Radiological technicians.....	29.57	8.9	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses.....	19.92	3.0	20.14	3.4	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	19.07	15.5	19.07	15.5	—	—
Electrical and electronic technicians.....	24.84	12.4	24.84	12.4	—	—
Drafters.....	22.91	5.5	22.91	5.5	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.....	28.01	4.2	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	35.57	4.0	35.66	4.4	34.89	7.7
Executives, administrators, and managers....	37.86	4.8	37.35	5.3	41.95	8.1
Financial managers.....	27.98	9.1	27.98	9.1	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields.....	39.09	8.7	—	—	39.48	10.0
Managers, medicine and health.....	38.74	9.3	38.74	9.3	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.....	37.69	6.5	37.43	6.6	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
White collar (Continued)						
Executive, administrative, and managerial (Continued)						
Management related.....	\$33.46	7.2	\$34.10	7.9	\$28.10	4.0
Accountants and auditors.....	27.10	11.4	27.17	13.0	—	—
Other financial officers.....	35.24	4.4	—	—	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists.....	25.99	2.0	25.99	2.0	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.....	42.95	22.8	44.93	23.4	—	—
Sales.....	15.98	8.3	15.96	8.3	—	—
Supervisors, sales.....	27.37	8.4	27.40	8.5	—	—
Sales, other business services.....	15.33	16.2	15.33	16.2	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale.....	16.92	14.5	16.92	14.5	—	—
Sales workers, apparel.....	9.74	2.4	9.74	2.4	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities.....	10.13	12.2	10.13	12.2	—	—
Cashiers.....	11.38	7.3	11.38	7.3	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical.....	16.85	2.9	17.10	3.7	16.02	1.6
Supervisors, general office.....	17.74	8.8	—	—	—	—
Secretaries.....	17.78	4.0	18.40	5.1	15.70	3.4
Transportation ticket and reservation agents.....	16.19	2.6	—	—	—	—
Receptionists.....	12.73	7.2	12.69	7.5	—	—
Order clerks.....	15.30	9.6	15.30	9.6	—	—
Personnel clerks, except payroll and timekeeping.....	17.60	4.3	—	—	—	—
Library clerks.....	12.14	7.3	—	—	12.02	7.8
Records clerks, n.e.c.....	13.47	4.6	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks.....	17.09	4.6	16.94	5.4	17.68	6.7
Billing clerks.....	15.50	6.8	14.55	8.8	—	—
General office clerks.....	16.41	3.7	16.05	5.7	17.19	1.6
Teachers' aides.....	13.45	2.3	—	—	13.45	2.3
Administrative support, n.e.c.....	16.35	3.1	17.56	4.0	14.54	4.0
Blue collar.....	18.82	2.8	18.58	3.0	21.19	1.9
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	24.18	2.3	24.10	2.6	25.17	1.4
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers.....	31.20	9.3	30.89	10.8	—	—
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics.....	23.00	4.5	23.08	4.8	—	—
Aircraft engine mechanics.....	23.82	12.0	23.82	12.0	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.....	20.71	8.6	20.83	10.2	—	—
Carpenters.....	26.33	10.8	26.59	11.0	—	—
Electricians.....	27.86	4.6	27.52	5.5	—	—
Construction trades, n.e.c.....	20.56	8.7	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
Blue collar (Continued)						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	\$19.12	3.1	\$19.12	3.1	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.....	16.46	7.7	16.46	7.7	—	—
Assemblers.....	20.42	6.2	20.42	6.2	—	—
Transportation and material moving.....	19.15	6.3	18.75	9.2	\$20.11	1.6
Truck drivers.....	18.17	3.6	18.21	3.9	—	—
Bus drivers.....	17.36	6.5	—	—	18.83	4.0
Operating engineers.....	26.73	7.6	—	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators.....	17.14	7.0	17.14	7.0	—	—
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.....	18.92	6.9	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.48	4.8	12.21	5.0	18.07	1.7
Construction laborers.....	19.73	0.5	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers.....	10.41	4.9	10.41	4.9	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.....	14.00	2.2	14.00	2.2	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.....	10.30	10.3	10.24	10.4	—	—
Service.....	14.21	4.9	11.44	4.2	21.95	3.6
Protective service.....	24.68	4.9	13.48	6.6	26.25	5.3
Supervisors, police and detectives.....	36.05	2.8	—	—	36.05	2.8
Firefighting.....	27.86	4.7	—	—	27.86	4.7
Police and detectives, public service.....	27.56	1.3	—	—	27.56	1.3
Correctional institution officers.....	20.42	12.9	—	—	20.42	12.9
Guards and police, except public service....	13.91	6.0	13.92	6.3	—	—
Food service.....	10.06	3.7	9.89	3.3	12.34	2.8
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.....	7.37	3.4	7.37	3.4	—	—
Waiters and waitresses.....	7.39	5.1	7.39	5.1	—	—
Other food service.....	11.08	1.3	10.95	1.3	12.34	2.8
Cooks.....	13.20	2.5	13.12	2.8	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation.....	9.37	3.4	9.34	3.4	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.....	9.25	7.2	8.84	5.1	—	—
Health service.....	12.64	3.3	12.33	4.0	14.77	0.4
Health aides, except nursing.....	14.23	13.7	14.12	15.6	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants.....	12.18	3.3	11.80	4.3	14.70	1.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,<sup>1</sup> all workers:<sup>2</sup> Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
Service (Continued)						
Cleaning and building service.....	\$12.50	7.1	\$11.99	8.2	\$14.97	3.9
Janitors and cleaners.....	13.14	3.7	12.58	5.1	14.98	3.8
Personal service.....	12.60	5.3	12.45	6.0	13.71	4.8
Child care workers, n.e.c.....	10.57	15.5	—	—	—	—
Service, n.e.c.....	11.75	10.3	11.75	10.3	—	—

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 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

3 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in the full bulletin.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Part-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Union <sup>4</sup>	Nonunion <sup>4</sup>	Time <sup>5</sup>	Incentive <sup>5</sup>
	Mean					
All occupations.....	\$23.36	\$14.29	\$23.38	\$21.73	\$22.64	\$17.39
All excluding sales.....	23.91	15.10	23.63	22.62	23.19	14.42
White collar.....	26.98	18.55	27.10	25.82	26.66	18.95
White-collar excluding sales.....	28.61	22.74	27.98	28.29	28.21	22.11
Professional specialty and technical.....	30.96	29.36	32.10	29.92	30.85	—
Professional specialty.....	32.56	31.33	32.93	32.09	32.48	—
Technical.....	25.93	18.40	28.71	23.87	25.59	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	35.58	35.06	23.08	36.03	35.61	—
Sales.....	17.32	10.15	15.94	15.99	14.56	18.76
Administrative support, including clerical.....	17.31	13.47	18.53	15.79	16.85	—
Blue collar.....	19.74	10.35	20.93	15.62	18.88	16.71
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	24.30	—	25.53	22.16	24.41	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	19.77	—	—	13.64	19.12	—
Transportation and material moving.....	19.61	15.52	19.87	15.97	19.12	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	13.46	8.97	13.88	10.93	12.43	—
Service.....	15.15	10.15	19.11	11.11	14.43	—
	Relative error <sup>6</sup> (percent)					
All occupations.....	2.5	4.6	2.1	3.5	2.5	10.0
All excluding sales.....	2.6	6.3	1.9	4.1	2.7	17.2
White collar.....	3.0	7.1	1.7	4.0	2.9	7.7
White-collar excluding sales.....	3.4	3.0	1.5	4.5	3.1	14.9
Professional specialty and technical.....	4.0	3.2	1.2	6.1	3.6	—
Professional specialty.....	4.5	3.8	1.5	7.2	4.1	—
Technical.....	4.2	8.0	2.6	6.3	4.0	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	4.1	12.6	7.4	4.2	4.0	—
Sales.....	8.7	7.9	3.7	9.5	10.6	8.3
Administrative support, including clerical.....	3.1	2.6	3.1	3.6	2.9	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Relative error <sup>6</sup> (percent)					
	Full-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Part-time workers <sup>3</sup>	Union <sup>4</sup>	Nonunion <sup>4</sup>	Time <sup>5</sup>	Incentive <sup>5</sup>
Blue collar.....	3.3	6.6	3.4	6.0	2.9	1.1
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	2.3	–	3.2	4.0	2.5	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	4.1	–	–	5.5	3.1	–
Transportation and material moving.....	7.7	11.2	7.8	7.7	6.4	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	5.9	2.1	5.3	5.3	4.9	–
Service.....	3.6	10.3	3.4	5.2	5.0	–

<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.

<sup>2</sup> A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

<sup>5</sup> Time workers' wages are based solely on an 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>6</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 in the full bulletin.

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

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> private industry, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers <sup>3</sup>	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations.....	\$21.76	\$16.27	\$23.49	\$19.38	\$28.42
All excluding sales.....	22.49	17.16	23.95	19.55	28.51
White collar.....	25.89	18.29	27.72	23.98	31.17
White-collar excluding sales.....	28.36	22.75	29.23	26.09	31.35
Professional specialty and technical.....	30.73	24.87	31.39	29.58	32.73
Professional specialty.....	32.90	29.57	33.11	31.42	34.70
Technical.....	25.78	21.85	26.78	20.33	29.05
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	35.66	30.69	36.49	30.52	39.03
Sales.....	15.96	12.86	18.39	18.37	18.81
Administrative support, including clerical.....	17.10	15.04	17.57	15.96	18.91
Blue collar.....	18.58	16.43	19.47	15.98	25.20
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	24.10	22.23	25.39	21.85	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	19.12	12.11	20.56	16.25	–
Transportation and material moving.....	18.75	16.77	18.98	17.22	23.78
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	12.21	11.01	12.89	12.74	14.32
Service.....	11.44	10.32	11.93	10.86	14.39
	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)				
All occupations.....	2.9	6.8	3.1	5.1	2.2
All excluding sales.....	3.2	7.6	3.2	5.5	2.2
White collar.....	3.6	7.0	4.1	7.6	2.9
White-collar excluding sales.....	4.0	6.5	4.3	9.7	2.9
Professional specialty and technical.....	4.9	6.2	5.1	12.0	1.9
Professional specialty.....	6.1	6.4	6.5	13.2	2.6
Technical.....	4.2	5.1	4.0	6.1	3.3
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	4.4	5.7	5.2	12.4	6.2
Sales.....	8.3	7.8	8.7	9.2	12.2
Administrative support, including clerical.....	3.7	6.8	2.9	4.4	2.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> by occupational group,<sup>2</sup> private industry, National Compensation Survey, Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, January 2005

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers <sup>3</sup>	100 workers or more		
Total			100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more	
Blue collar.....	3.0	9.6	3.7	5.0	2.7
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	2.6	5.9	3.0	6.0	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	3.1	16.8	5.6	2.7	–
Transportation and material moving.....	9.2	12.1	9.9	8.3	7.6
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	5.0	4.8	7.4	8.3	10.3
Service.....	4.2	4.7	5.2	6.4	3.5

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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

3 Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in the full bulletin.

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