

Hickory–Morganton–Lenoir, NC National Compensation Survey January 2002



U.S. Department of Labor
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Bureau of Labor Statistics
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August 2002

Bulletin 3115–02

Preface

Data shown in this bulletin were collected as part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) National Compensation Survey (NCS). The survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the many private firms and government jurisdictions that provided pay data included in this bulletin. The Bureau thanks these respondents for their cooperation.

Field economists of the Bureau of Labor Statistics collected and reviewed the survey data. The Office of Compensation and Working Conditions, in cooperation with the Office of Field Operations and the Office of Technology and Survey Processing in the BLS National Office, designed the survey, processed the data, and prepared the survey for publication.

For additional information regarding this survey, please contact any BLS regional office at the address and telephone number listed on the back cover of this bulletin. You may also write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at: Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning,

2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001, or call (202) 691-6199, or send e-mail to ocltinfo@bls.gov.

The data contained in this bulletin are also available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>, the BLS Internet site. Data are in three formats: An ASCII file containing the published table formats; an ASCII file containing positional columns of data for manipulation as a data base or spreadsheet; and a Portable Document Format (PDF) file containing the entire bulletin.

Results of earlier surveys of this area are also available from BLS regional offices, the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, or at the BLS Internet site.

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Introduction

The tables in this bulletin summarize the NCS results for the Hickory–Morganton–Lenoir, NC, metropolitan area. Data were collected between June 2001 and July 2002; the average reference month is January 2002. Tabulations provide information on earnings of workers in a variety of occupations and at different work levels. Also contained in this bulletin are information on the program, a technical note describing survey procedures, and several appendixes with detailed information on occupational classifications and the occupational leveling methodology.

NCS products

The Bureau's National Compensation Survey provides data on occupational wages and employee benefits for localities, broad geographic regions, and the Nation as a whole. The Employment Cost Index, a quarterly measure of the change in employer costs for wages and benefits, is derived from the NCS. Another product, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, measures employers' average hourly costs for total compensation, that is, wages and benefits. Still another NCS product measures the incidence of benefit plans and their provisions. This bulletin is limited to data on occupational wages and salaries.

About the tables

The tables that follow present data on straight-time occupational earnings, which include wages and salaries, incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. These earnings exclude premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. About 480 detailed occupations are used to describe all occupations in the civilian nonfarm economy (excluding the Federal Government and private households). Data are not shown for any occupations if they would raise concerns about the confidentiality of the survey respondents or if the data are insufficient to support reliable estimates.

Table 1–1 presents an overview of all tables in this bulletin. Mean hourly earnings, weekly hours, and relative standard errors are given for all industries, private industry, and State and local government for selected worker and establishment characteristics. The worker characteristics include major occupational group, full-time or part-time status, union or nonunion status, and time or incentive pay. Establishment characteristics include goods and service producing and size of establishment.

Table 2–1 presents estimates of mean hourly earnings, and the relative standard errors associated with them, for detailed occupations within all industries, private industry, and State and local government. Table 2–2 presents the same type of information for full-time workers only. Table 2–3 provides similar data for workers designated as part-time.

Table 3–1 provides mean weekly earnings data, with relative standard errors, and weekly hours for full-time employees in specific occupations across all industries, private industry, and State and local government. Table 3–2 provides annual earnings, relative standard errors, and annual hours for full-time employees in specific occupations.

Table 4–1 provides mean hourly earnings data by work level for occupational groups and for detailed occupations. Separate data are also shown for private industry and government workers. Table 4–2 provides work level data for full-time workers. Table 4–3 provides similar data for workers designated as part-time.

Table 5–1 presents mean hourly earnings data for selected worker characteristics by major occupational groups. The worker characteristics include full-time or part-time designation, union or nonunion status, and time or incentive pay. Table 5–2 presents mean hourly earnings data for major industry divisions by occupational groups; these estimates are limited to the private sector. Table 5–3 presents mean hourly earnings data for establishment employment sizes by major occupational groups within the private sector.

Tables 6–1 through 6–5 present hourly wage percentiles that describe the distribution of hourly earnings for each published occupation. Data are provided for the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles for detailed occupations within all industries, private industry, State and local government, full-time workers, and part-time workers. These iterations correspond to those presented in tables 2–1, 2–2, and 2–3. For each published occupation, these percentiles relate to the average hourly earnings of jobs surveyed in establishments. The percentiles do not relate to the hourly earnings of individual workers in these establishment jobs.

Appendix table 1 provides the number of workers represented by the survey by major occupational group. The employment estimates relate to all employers in the area, rather than just to those surveyed.

Table 1-1. Summary: Mean hourly earnings¹ and weekly hours by selected characteristics, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Worker and establishment characteristics	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³	Hourly earnings		Mean weekly hours ³
	Mean	Relative error ² (percent)		Mean	Relative error ² (percent)		Mean	Relative error ² (percent)	
Total	\$13.43	2.2	38.7	\$12.89	2.4	38.7	\$16.23	5.4	38.6
Worker characteristics:⁴									
White-collar occupations ⁵	18.52	4.0	38.3	17.59	5.3	37.9	20.15	6.4	39.0
Professional specialty and technical	21.84	4.2	38.4	21.55	5.8	38.3	22.01	5.7	38.4
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	6.6	42.2	30.01	7.4	42.7	33.35	14.2	40.9
Sales	15.59	16.7	31.5	15.59	16.7	31.5	-	-	-
Administrative support	11.57	2.6	39.4	11.61	3.1	39.3	-	-	-
Blue-collar occupations ⁵	12.12	1.7	39.4	12.18	1.8	39.4	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	2.8	40.1	16.08	3.0	40.1	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.54	2.0	39.4	11.54	2.0	39.4	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving	14.11	5.3	40.7	14.42	5.1	40.8	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.50	2.6	38.4	9.61	2.8	38.2	-	-	-
Service occupations ⁵	9.45	3.8	36.1	8.19	4.1	35.4	11.26	3.8	37.1
Full time	13.56	2.2	39.9	13.04	2.4	39.9	16.25	5.5	40.1
Part time	8.76	7.1	19.0	7.97	5.4	20.1	-	-	-
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nonunion	13.42	2.2	38.7	12.88	2.4	38.7	16.23	5.4	38.6
Time	13.01	2.2	38.5	12.28	2.3	38.5	16.23	5.4	38.6
Incentive	16.19	5.9	40.3	16.19	5.9	40.3	-	-	-
Establishment characteristics:									
Goods producing	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	12.97	2.3	39.7	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Service producing	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	12.69	6.0	36.6	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
50-99 workers ⁷	11.87	8.3	37.1	11.87	8.3	37.1	-	-	-
100-499 workers	13.05	3.0	39.4	12.96	3.0	39.3	-	-	-
500 workers or more	14.87	3.3	38.5	13.63	3.3	38.8	16.70	5.6	38.1

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, and 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 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.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁶ Classification of establishments into goods-producing and service-producing industries applies to private industry only.

⁷ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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

Table 2-1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$13.43	2.2	\$12.89	2.4	\$16.23	5.4
All excluding sales	13.36	2.1	12.79	2.2	16.23	5.4
White collar	18.52	4.0	17.59	5.3	20.15	6.4
White collar excluding sales	18.91	4.3	18.04	5.8	20.15	6.4
Professional specialty and technical	21.84	4.2	21.55	5.8	22.01	5.7
Professional specialty	22.39	4.9	22.31	7.3	22.43	6.2
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	24.31	14.8	20.51	2.2	—	—
Registered nurses	20.35	1.5	20.51	2.2	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	19.36	6.5	19.88	9.3	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	6.6	30.01	7.4	33.35	14.2
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.87	6.8	28.88	7.4	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.97	6.9	25.99	7.4	—	—
Management related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	15.59	16.7	15.59	16.7	—	—
Cashiers	7.47	5.0	7.47	5.0	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.57	2.6	11.61	3.1	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.41	5.0	11.17	5.5	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	29.83	3.3	10.63	3.3	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	11.74	5.5	11.74	5.5	—	—
General office clerks	11.47	6.8	9.88	6.6	—	—
Blue collar	12.12	1.7	12.18	1.8	—	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	2.8	16.08	3.0	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	13.65	3.3	13.65	3.3	—	—
Machinery maintenance	12.14	6.0	12.14	6.0	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	19.31	16.7	19.31	16.7	—	—
Supervisors, production	15.79	4.2	15.79	4.2	—	—
Upholsterers	17.46	3.6	17.46	3.6	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.54	2.0	11.54	2.0	—	—
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	9.93	7.0	9.93	7.0	—	—
Numerical control machine operators	14.64	5.4	14.64	5.4	—	—
Sawing machine operators	12.07	3.3	12.07	3.3	—	—
Shaping and jointing machine operators	10.87	6.7	10.87	6.7	—	—
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	12.21	6.4	12.21	6.4	—	—
Textile cutting machine operators	10.98	8.1	10.98	8.1	—	—
Textile sewing machine operators	12.12	5.3	12.12	5.3	—	—
Extruding and forming machine operators	14.43	3.4	14.43	3.4	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	11.36	4.2	11.36	4.2	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators	10.87	3.2	10.87	3.2	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators	12.49	4.3	12.49	4.3	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	11.93	4.0	11.93	4.0	—	—
Welders and cutters	13.22	9.1	13.22	9.1	—	—
Assemblers	10.64	3.6	10.64	3.6	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	13.73	9.0	13.73	9.0	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	11.78	6.5	11.78	6.5	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	10.79	2.4	10.79	2.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.11	5.3	14.42	5.1	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2-1. **Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Transportation and material moving —Continued						
Truck drivers	\$15.13	5.2	\$15.70	4.2	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	10.75	5.0	10.75	5.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.50	2.6	9.61	2.8	—	—
Production helpers	9.07	4.3	9.07	4.3	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	9.50	4.1	9.50	4.1	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.90	1.6	9.90	1.6	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.66	4.7	9.66	4.7	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	10.18	3.6	10.18	3.6	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.93	6.5	9.13	8.5	—	—
Service	9.45	3.8	8.19	4.1	\$11.26	3.8
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	8.35	6.3	8.13	6.9	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	9.18	3.9	9.05	4.3	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.20	4.2	—	—	—	—
Health service	9.92	2.0	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.94	2.1	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.33	8.0	8.24	11.5	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	9.62	6.3	10.85	8.7	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 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.

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 2-2. Mean hourly earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$13.56	2.2	\$13.04	2.4	\$16.25	5.5
All excluding sales	13.44	2.2	12.88	2.2	16.25	5.5
White collar	18.93	4.1	18.23	5.3	20.07	6.5
White collar excluding sales	18.90	4.3	18.07	5.8	20.07	6.5
Professional specialty and technical	21.81	4.3	21.60	5.9	21.93	5.8
Professional specialty	22.37	5.0	22.43	7.7	22.35	6.3
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	24.18	16.2	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	20.20	1.5	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	19.36	6.5	19.88	9.3	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	6.6	30.01	7.4	33.35	14.2
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.87	6.8	28.88	7.4	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.97	6.9	25.99	7.4	—	—
Management related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	19.24	17.6	19.24	17.6	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.60	2.6	11.65	3.2	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.41	5.0	11.17	5.5	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	10.63	3.3	10.63	3.3	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	11.74	5.5	11.74	5.5	—	—
General office clerks	11.47	6.8	9.88	6.6	—	—
Blue collar	12.18	1.8	12.24	1.8	—	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	2.8	16.08	3.0	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	13.65	3.3	13.65	3.3	—	—
Machinery maintenance	12.14	6.0	12.14	6.0	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	19.31	16.7	19.31	16.7	—	—
Supervisors, production	15.79	4.2	15.79	4.2	—	—
Upholsterers	17.46	3.6	17.46	3.6	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.55	2.0	11.55	2.0	—	—
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	9.93	7.0	9.93	7.0	—	—
Numerical control machine operators	14.64	5.4	14.64	5.4	—	—
Sawing machine operators	12.12	3.6	12.12	3.6	—	—
Shaping and jointing machine operators	10.87	6.7	10.87	6.7	—	—
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	12.21	6.4	12.21	6.4	—	—
Textile cutting machine operators	10.98	8.1	10.98	8.1	—	—
Textile sewing machine operators	12.12	5.3	12.12	5.3	—	—
Extruding and forming machine operators	14.43	3.4	14.43	3.4	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	11.36	4.2	11.36	4.2	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ..	10.87	3.2	10.87	3.2	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators	12.49	4.3	12.49	4.3	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	12.02	4.0	12.02	4.0	—	—
Welders and cutters	13.22	9.1	13.22	9.1	—	—
Assemblers	10.64	3.6	10.64	3.6	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	13.73	9.0	13.73	9.0	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	11.78	6.5	11.78	6.5	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	10.79	2.4	10.79	2.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.13	5.3	14.44	5.1	—	—
Truck drivers	15.13	5.2	15.70	4.2	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2-2. Mean hourly earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morgantown-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar –Continued						
Transportation and material moving –Continued						
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	\$10.75	5.0	\$10.75	5.0	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.61	2.7	9.75	3.0	–	–
Production helpers	9.07	4.3	9.07	4.3	–	–
Stock handlers and baggers	10.54	3.8	10.54	3.8	–	–
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.90	1.6	9.90	1.6	–	–
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.67	4.8	9.67	4.8	–	–
Hand packers and packagers	10.18	3.6	10.18	3.6	–	–
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.93	6.5	9.13	8.5	–	–
Service	9.59	4.2	8.26	4.7	\$11.38	3.9
Protective service	–	–	–	–	–	–
Food service	8.46	7.4	8.24	7.7	–	–
Other food service	9.48	3.9	9.32	4.2	–	–
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.35	4.9	9.08	5.0	–	–
Health service	9.86	1.8	–	–	–	–
Cleaning and building service	8.33	8.0	8.24	11.5	–	–
Janitors and cleaners	9.62	6.3	10.85	8.7	–	–
Personal service	–	–	–	–	–	–

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

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 2-3. Mean hourly earnings,¹ part-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$8.76	7.1	\$7.97	5.4	-	-
All excluding sales	9.47	9.3	8.37	7.5	-	-
White collar	10.33	13.4	8.66	10.5	-	-
White collar excluding sales	19.69	18.2	15.68	23.2	-	-
Professional specialty and technical	23.05	11.3	-	-	-	-
Professional specialty	23.05	11.3	-	-	-	-
Health related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	7.27	5.3	7.27	5.3	-	-
Cashiers	6.92	1.4	6.92	1.4	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue collar	7.34	4.4	7.34	4.4	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.19	3.6	7.19	3.6	-	-
Stock handlers and baggers	7.10	3.6	7.10	3.6	-	-
Service	7.78	6.4	7.53	8.0	-	-
Protective service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal service	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

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 3-1. Mean weekly earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
All	\$541	2.3	39.9	\$520	2.5	39.9	\$652	5.5	40.1
All excluding sales	535	2.2	39.8	513	2.4	39.8	652	5.5	40.1
White collar	765	4.3	40.4	743	5.7	40.7	802	6.5	39.9
White collar excluding sales	760	4.5	40.2	731	6.1	40.5	802	6.5	39.9
Professional specialty and technical	870	4.4	39.9	866	6.4	40.1	872	5.8	39.8
Professional specialty	892	5.1	39.9	901	8.5	40.2	888	6.3	39.8
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mathematical and computer scientists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health related	942	16.2	39.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registered nurses	785	1.4	38.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, except college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social scientists and urban planners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Technical	773	6.6	39.9	793	9.5	39.9	-	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial	1,300	7.0	42.2	1,280	8.0	42.7	1,365	14.7	40.9
Executives, administrators, and managers	1,266	7.4	42.4	1,241	8.2	43.0	-	-	-
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	1,133	7.2	43.6	1,141	7.6	43.9	-	-	-
Management related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	819	19.3	42.6	819	19.3	42.6	-	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	462	2.7	39.8	464	3.4	39.8	-	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	456	5.0	40.0	447	5.5	40.0	-	-	-
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	397	2.7	37.4	397	2.7	37.4	-	-	-
Stock and inventory clerks	470	5.5	40.0	470	5.5	40.0	-	-	-
General office clerks	459	6.8	40.0	395	6.6	40.0	-	-	-
Blue collar	485	1.8	39.8	487	1.8	39.8	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	634	2.8	40.1	644	3.0	40.1	-	-	-
Industrial machinery repairers	546	3.3	40.0	546	3.3	40.0	-	-	-
Machinery maintenance	486	6.0	40.0	486	6.0	40.0	-	-	-
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	772	16.7	40.0	772	16.7	40.0	-	-	-
Supervisors, production	636	4.4	40.3	636	4.4	40.3	-	-	-
Upholsterers	698	3.6	40.0	698	3.6	40.0	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	456	2.0	39.5	456	2.0	39.5	-	-	-
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	397	7.0	40.0	397	7.0	40.0	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3-1. Mean weekly earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
Blue collar —Continued									
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors —Continued									
Numerical control machine operators	\$579	5.6	39.5	\$579	5.6	39.5	—	—	—
Sawing machine operators	485	3.6	40.0	485	3.6	40.0	—	—	—
Shaping and jointing machine operators	435	6.7	40.0	435	6.7	40.0	—	—	—
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	488	6.4	40.0	488	6.4	40.0	—	—	—
Textile cutting machine operators	439	8.1	40.0	439	8.1	40.0	—	—	—
Textile sewing machine operators	485	5.3	40.0	485	5.3	40.0	—	—	—
Extruding and forming machine operators	522	5.9	36.2	522	5.9	36.2	—	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	452	3.8	39.7	452	3.8	39.7	—	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators	432	3.3	39.8	432	3.3	39.8	—	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators	500	4.3	40.0	500	4.3	40.0	—	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	450	4.1	37.5	450	4.1	37.5	—	—	—
Welders and cutters	529	9.1	40.0	529	9.1	40.0	—	—	—
Assemblers	425	3.6	40.0	425	3.6	40.0	—	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	549	9.0	40.0	549	9.0	40.0	—	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	470	6.5	39.9	470	6.5	39.9	—	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ...	431	2.4	39.9	431	2.4	39.9	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving	579	6.0	41.0	593	5.8	41.1	—	—	—
Truck drivers	639	5.5	42.2	667	4.5	42.5	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	403	6.3	37.5	403	6.3	37.5	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	384	2.7	39.9	389	3.0	39.9	—	—	—
Production helpers	363	4.3	40.0	363	4.3	40.0	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers ...	422	3.8	40.0	422	3.8	40.0	—	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	396	1.6	40.0	396	1.6	40.0	—	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	392	5.5	40.5	392	5.5	40.5	—	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	392	4.1	38.5	392	4.1	38.5	—	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	357	6.5	40.0	365	8.5	40.0	—	—	—
Service	378	5.1	39.4	319	6.4	38.7	\$460	4.2	40.4
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	320	11.0	37.9	310	11.7	37.7	—	—	—
Other food service	367	4.8	38.8	360	5.1	38.6	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	357	6.1	38.1	343	6.2	37.7	—	—	—
Health service	388	2.4	39.4	—	—	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3-1. Mean weekly earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵	Weekly earnings		Mean weekly hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
Service —Continued									
Cleaning and building service	\$333	8.0	40.0	\$330	11.5	40.0	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	385	6.3	40.0	434	8.7	40.0	—	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time weekly 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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to

cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B 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.

⁵ Mean weekly hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a week, exclusive of overtime.

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 3-2. Mean annual earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
All	\$27,843	2.3	2,053	\$27,012	2.5	2,071	\$31,941	5.5	1,965
All excluding sales	27,550	2.2	2,050	26,638	2.4	2,068	31,941	5.5	1,965
White collar	38,195	4.3	2,018	38,528	5.7	2,113	37,704	6.5	1,878
White collar excluding sales	37,821	4.5	2,002	37,912	6.1	2,098	37,704	6.5	1,878
Professional specialty and technical	41,513	4.4	1,903	44,497	6.4	2,060	40,096	5.8	1,829
Professional specialty	41,779	5.1	1,868	46,049	8.5	2,053	40,259	6.3	1,802
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mathematical and computer scientists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health related	48,999	16.2	2,026	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registered nurses	40,837	1.4	2,021	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, except college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social scientists and urban planners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Technical	40,216	6.6	2,077	41,250	9.5	2,075	-	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial	67,606	7.0	2,197	66,560	8.0	2,218	70,993	14.7	2,129
Executives, administrators, and managers	65,840	7.4	2,204	64,556	8.2	2,235	-	-	-
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	58,937	7.2	2,270	59,321	7.6	2,283	-	-	-
Management related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	42,607	19.3	2,214	42,607	19.3	2,214	-	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	23,505	2.7	2,027	24,104	3.4	2,069	-	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	23,725	5.0	2,080	23,225	5.5	2,080	-	-	-
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	20,667	2.7	1,945	20,667	2.7	1,945	-	-	-
Stock and inventory clerks	24,425	5.5	2,080	24,425	5.5	2,080	-	-	-
General office clerks	23,864	6.8	2,080	20,549	6.6	2,080	-	-	-
Blue collar	25,187	1.8	2,068	25,297	1.8	2,067	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	32,966	2.8	2,082	33,484	3.0	2,083	-	-	-
Industrial machinery repairers	28,321	3.3	2,074	28,321	3.3	2,074	-	-	-
Machinery maintenance	25,251	6.0	2,080	25,251	6.0	2,080	-	-	-
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	40,163	16.7	2,080	40,163	16.7	2,080	-	-	-
Supervisors, production	33,090	4.4	2,096	33,090	4.4	2,096	-	-	-
Upholsterers	36,311	3.6	2,080	36,311	3.6	2,080	-	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	23,703	2.0	2,052	23,703	2.0	2,052	-	-	-
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	20,659	7.0	2,080	20,659	7.0	2,080	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3-2. Mean annual earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
Blue collar —Continued									
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors —Continued									
Numerical control machine operators	\$30,113	5.6	2,057	\$30,113	5.6	2,057	—	—	—
Sawing machine operators	25,217	3.6	2,080	25,217	3.6	2,080	—	—	—
Shaping and jointing machine operators	22,608	6.7	2,080	22,608	6.7	2,080	—	—	—
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	25,387	6.4	2,080	25,387	6.4	2,080	—	—	—
Textile cutting machine operators	22,829	8.1	2,080	22,829	8.1	2,080	—	—	—
Textile sewing machine operators	25,218	5.3	2,080	25,218	5.3	2,080	—	—	—
Extruding and forming machine operators	27,170	5.9	1,882	27,170	5.9	1,882	—	—	—
Mixing and blending machine operators	23,355	3.8	2,055	23,355	3.8	2,055	—	—	—
Painting and paint spraying machine operators	22,478	3.3	2,068	22,478	3.3	2,068	—	—	—
Slicing and cutting machine operators	25,978	4.3	2,080	25,978	4.3	2,080	—	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	23,422	4.1	1,949	23,422	4.1	1,949	—	—	—
Welders and cutters	27,495	9.1	2,080	27,495	9.1	2,080	—	—	—
Assemblers	22,107	3.6	2,077	22,107	3.6	2,077	—	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	28,557	9.0	2,080	28,557	9.0	2,080	—	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	24,445	6.5	2,076	24,445	6.5	2,076	—	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ...	22,388	2.4	2,075	22,388	2.4	2,075	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving									
Truck drivers	30,053	6.0	2,127	30,775	5.8	2,131	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	33,153	5.5	2,192	34,594	4.5	2,204	—	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	20,939	6.3	1,948	20,939	6.3	1,948	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers									
Production helpers	19,949	2.7	2,075	20,222	3.0	2,075	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers ...	18,870	4.3	2,080	18,870	4.3	2,080	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers ...	21,923	3.8	2,080	21,923	3.8	2,080	—	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	20,590	1.6	2,080	20,590	1.6	2,080	—	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	20,377	5.5	2,107	20,377	5.5	2,107	—	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	20,371	4.1	2,002	20,371	4.1	2,002	—	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	18,580	6.5	2,080	18,982	8.5	2,080	—	—	—
Service									
Protective service	19,639	5.1	2,049	16,607	6.4	2,011	\$23,940	4.2	2,103
Food service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	16,662	11.0	1,970	16,139	11.7	1,959	—	—	—
Other food service	19,100	4.8	2,016	18,713	5.1	2,007	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	18,558	6.1	1,984	17,814	6.2	1,962	—	—	—
Health service	20,202	2.4	2,049	—	—	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3-2. Mean annual earnings,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total			Private industry			State and local government		
	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵	Annual earnings		Mean annual hours ⁵
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)		Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	
Service—Continued									
Cleaning and building service	\$17,330	8.0	2,080	\$17,134	11.5	2,080	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	20,001	6.3	2,080	22,569	8.7	2,080	—	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time annual 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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to

cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B 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.

⁵ Mean annual hours are the hours an employee is scheduled to work in a year, exclusive of overtime.

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 4-1. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² all workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All	\$13.43	2.2	\$12.89	2.4	\$16.23	5.4
All excluding sales	13.36	2.1	12.79	2.2	16.23	5.4
White collar	18.52	4.0	17.59	5.3	20.15	6.4
2	9.42	2.4	9.31	4.3	—	—
3	10.88	2.8	10.88	2.8	—	—
4	12.59	2.7	12.66	3.9	—	—
5	14.39	6.9	14.69	10.4	—	—
6	18.89	4.3	18.91	5.6	—	—
7	20.46	1.5	—	—	20.42	1.7
8	24.23	6.7	26.03	12.6	22.61	2.1
9	26.36	9.5	28.12	10.9	—	—
12	45.10	6.9	46.94	6.5	—	—
White collar excluding sales	18.91	4.3	18.04	5.8	20.15	6.4
2	9.82	1.8	10.02	3.0	—	—
3	10.66	2.3	10.66	2.3	—	—
4	12.13	1.4	11.96	1.9	—	—
5	13.61	4.0	13.18	6.4	—	—
6	18.66	4.7	18.60	6.2	—	—
7	20.42	1.5	—	—	20.42	1.7
8	24.15	6.9	25.94	13.1	22.61	2.1
9	23.91	4.3	24.85	4.8	—	—
12	45.10	6.9	46.94	6.5	—	—
Professional specialty and technical	21.84	4.2	21.55	5.8	22.01	5.7
Professional specialty	22.39	4.9	22.31	7.3	22.43	6.2
6	21.63	2.2	—	—	—	—
7	20.33	1.4	—	—	20.45	1.7
8	22.48	2.2	—	—	22.91	2.2
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	24.31	14.8	20.51	2.2	—	—
Registered nurses	20.35	1.5	20.51	2.2	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	19.36	6.5	19.88	9.3	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	6.6	30.01	7.4	33.35	14.2
8	28.57	21.7	28.57	21.7	—	—
9	25.77	4.6	25.77	4.9	—	—
12	45.83	7.2	—	—	—	—
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.87	6.8	28.88	7.4	—	—
8	22.05	10.4	22.05	10.4	—	—
9	25.30	4.9	25.27	5.3	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.97	6.9	25.99	7.4	—	—
9	25.25	5.7	25.21	6.4	—	—
Management related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	15.59	16.7	15.59	16.7	—	—
Cashiers	7.47	5.0	7.47	5.0	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.57	2.6	11.61	3.1	—	—
2	9.82	1.8	10.02	3.0	—	—
3	10.60	2.4	10.60	2.4	—	—
4	12.15	1.4	12.01	2.0	—	—
5	13.36	2.6	13.68	6.1	—	—
6	16.05	13.1	16.05	13.1	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.41	5.0	11.17	5.5	—	—
4	11.70	3.5	11.70	3.5	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	10.63	3.3	10.63	3.3	—	—
3	10.69	3.8	10.69	3.8	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-1. Selected occupations¹ and levels,² all workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
White collar –Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical –Continued						
Stock and inventory clerks	\$11.74	5.5	\$11.74	5.5	–	–
General office clerks	11.47	6.8	9.88	6.6	–	–
Blue collar	12.12	1.7	12.18	1.8	–	–
1	8.76	2.2	8.82	2.5	–	–
2	9.99	1.8	10.00	1.8	–	–
3	11.56	2.0	11.56	2.0	–	–
4	14.21	2.1	14.29	2.1	–	–
5	15.36	3.8	15.40	3.9	–	–
6	16.44	5.2	16.55	5.8	–	–
7	17.84	3.5	17.84	3.5	–	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	2.8	16.08	3.0	–	–
3	12.20	3.6	–	–	–	–
4	13.38	4.0	13.74	4.1	–	–
5	15.52	5.6	15.63	6.0	–	–
6	16.96	5.8	17.19	6.6	–	–
7	17.94	3.8	17.94	3.8	–	–
Industrial machinery repairers	13.65	3.3	13.65	3.3	–	–
Machinery maintenance	12.14	6.0	12.14	6.0	–	–
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	19.31	16.7	19.31	16.7	–	–
Supervisors, production	15.79	4.2	15.79	4.2	–	–
5	13.46	2.7	13.46	2.7	–	–
7	18.41	2.7	18.41	2.7	–	–
Upholsterers	17.46	3.6	17.46	3.6	–	–
4	16.30	6.8	16.30	6.8	–	–
5	17.42	6.1	17.42	6.1	–	–
6	19.31	5.1	19.31	5.1	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.54	2.0	11.54	2.0	–	–
1	9.11	3.1	9.11	3.1	–	–
2	9.91	2.2	9.91	2.2	–	–
3	11.57	2.4	11.57	2.4	–	–
4	14.14	2.5	14.14	2.5	–	–
5	14.16	3.7	14.16	3.7	–	–
6	13.77	4.3	13.77	4.3	–	–
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	9.93	7.0	9.93	7.0	–	–
Numerical control machine operators	14.64	5.4	14.64	5.4	–	–
Sawing machine operators	12.07	3.3	12.07	3.3	–	–
3	11.67	4.7	11.67	4.7	–	–
Shaping and jointing machine operators	10.87	6.7	10.87	6.7	–	–
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	12.21	6.4	12.21	6.4	–	–
2	10.92	3.3	10.92	3.3	–	–
Textile cutting machine operators	10.98	8.1	10.98	8.1	–	–
Textile sewing machine operators	12.12	5.3	12.12	5.3	–	–
2	9.19	7.0	9.19	7.0	–	–
3	12.68	6.4	12.68	6.4	–	–
4	14.67	3.3	14.67	3.3	–	–
Extruding and forming machine operators	14.43	3.4	14.43	3.4	–	–
Mixing and blending machine operators	11.36	4.2	11.36	4.2	–	–
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...	10.87	3.2	10.87	3.2	–	–
2	9.99	1.4	9.99	1.4	–	–
3	10.87	2.6	10.87	2.6	–	–
Slicing and cutting machine operators	12.49	4.3	12.49	4.3	–	–
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	11.93	4.0	11.93	4.0	–	–
2	9.47	5.8	9.47	5.8	–	–
3	11.43	2.4	11.43	2.4	–	–
4	14.18	3.9	14.18	3.9	–	–
5	13.76	3.7	13.76	3.7	–	–
Welders and cutters	13.22	9.1	13.22	9.1	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-1. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² all workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Assemblers	\$10.64	3.6	\$10.64	3.6	—	—
1	9.06	3.6	9.06	3.6	—	—
2	10.14	2.1	10.14	2.1	—	—
3	11.84	3.2	11.84	3.2	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	13.73	9.0	13.73	9.0	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	11.78	6.5	11.78	6.5	—	—
1	9.11	2.8	9.11	2.8	—	—
2	9.82	4.5	9.82	4.5	—	—
4	14.79	5.7	14.79	5.7	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	10.79	2.4	10.79	2.4	—	—
2	10.15	5.4	10.15	5.4	—	—
3	11.02	1.7	11.02	1.7	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.11	5.3	14.42	5.1	—	—
2	10.25	2.9	10.62	3.5	—	—
3	11.24	6.2	11.24	6.2	—	—
4	15.92	3.3	15.92	3.3	—	—
Truck drivers	15.13	5.2	15.70	4.2	—	—
3	12.65	6.6	12.65	6.6	—	—
4	16.20	3.5	16.20	3.5	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	10.75	5.0	10.75	5.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.50	2.6	9.61	2.8	—	—
1	8.63	2.5	8.71	2.9	—	—
2	10.25	2.0	10.25	2.0	—	—
3	11.57	3.2	11.57	3.2	—	—
Production helpers	9.07	4.3	9.07	4.3	—	—
1	8.45	3.5	8.45	3.5	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	9.50	4.1	9.50	4.1	—	—
1	7.69	6.8	7.69	6.8	—	—
2	9.98	4.0	9.98	4.0	—	—
3	11.65	4.5	11.65	4.5	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.90	1.6	9.90	1.6	—	—
2	10.44	2.0	10.44	2.0	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.66	4.7	9.66	4.7	—	—
1	9.18	6.1	9.18	6.1	—	—
2	9.97	5.3	9.97	5.3	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	10.18	3.6	10.18	3.6	—	—
1	9.69	3.4	9.69	3.4	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.93	6.5	9.13	8.5	—	—
1	8.20	4.2	—	—	—	—
2	11.18	6.2	11.18	6.2	—	—
Service	9.45	3.8	8.19	4.1	\$11.26	3.8
1	7.58	4.6	7.22	4.3	—	—
2	7.39	11.6	7.17	14.2	—	—
3	9.16	6.3	9.14	7.3	—	—
4	10.02	3.0	—	—	—	—
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	8.35	6.3	8.13	6.9	—	—
1	7.16	3.9	—	—	—	—
3	9.16	5.5	9.13	6.8	—	—
Other food service	9.18	3.9	9.05	4.3	—	—
3	9.16	5.5	9.13	6.8	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.20	4.2	—	—	—	—
Health service	9.92	2.0	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.94	2.1	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.33	8.0	8.24	11.5	—	—
1	7.77	7.3	—	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	9.62	6.3	10.85	8.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-1. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² all workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Cleaning and building service—Continued						
Janitors and cleaners—Continued						
1	\$8.80	4.3	—	—	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

² Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on 10 factors, including knowledge, complexity, work environment, etc. Points are assigned based on the occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendixes C and D for more information.

³ All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 4-2. Selected occupations¹ and levels,² full-time workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All	\$13.56	2.2	\$13.04	2.4	\$16.25	5.5
All excluding sales	13.44	2.2	12.88	2.2	16.25	5.5
White collar	18.93	4.1	18.23	5.3	20.07	6.5
2	9.88	1.7	10.16	2.7	—	—
3	10.85	2.7	10.85	2.7	—	—
4	12.59	2.7	12.66	3.9	—	—
5	14.39	6.9	14.69	10.4	—	—
6	18.66	4.6	18.68	5.9	—	—
7	20.46	1.5	—	—	20.42	1.7
8	24.12	6.9	26.03	12.6	22.30	1.1
9	26.36	9.5	28.12	10.9	—	—
12	45.10	6.9	46.94	6.5	—	—
White collar excluding sales	18.90	4.3	18.07	5.8	20.07	6.5
2	9.88	1.7	10.16	2.7	—	—
3	10.66	2.3	10.66	2.3	—	—
4	12.13	1.4	11.96	1.9	—	—
5	13.61	4.0	13.18	6.4	—	—
6	18.39	5.0	18.32	6.7	—	—
7	20.42	1.5	—	—	20.42	1.7
8	24.04	7.1	25.94	13.1	22.30	1.1
9	23.91	4.3	24.85	4.8	—	—
12	45.10	6.9	46.94	6.5	—	—
Professional specialty and technical	21.81	4.3	21.60	5.9	21.93	5.8
Professional specialty	22.37	5.0	22.43	7.7	22.35	6.3
7	20.33	1.4	—	—	20.45	1.7
8	22.17	1.6	—	—	—	—
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	24.18	16.2	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	20.20	1.5	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	19.36	6.5	19.88	9.3	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	6.6	30.01	7.4	33.35	14.2
8	28.57	21.7	28.57	21.7	—	—
9	25.77	4.6	25.77	4.9	—	—
12	45.83	7.2	—	—	—	—
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.87	6.8	28.88	7.4	—	—
8	22.05	10.4	22.05	10.4	—	—
9	25.30	4.9	25.27	5.3	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.97	6.9	25.99	7.4	—	—
9	25.25	5.7	25.21	6.4	—	—
Management related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	19.24	17.6	19.24	17.6	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.60	2.6	11.65	3.2	—	—
2	9.88	1.7	10.16	2.7	—	—
3	10.60	2.4	10.60	2.4	—	—
4	12.15	1.4	12.01	2.0	—	—
5	13.36	2.6	13.68	6.1	—	—
6	16.05	13.1	16.05	13.1	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.41	5.0	11.17	5.5	—	—
4	11.70	3.5	11.70	3.5	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	10.63	3.3	10.63	3.3	—	—
3	10.69	3.8	10.69	3.8	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	11.74	5.5	11.74	5.5	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-2. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² full-time workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
White collar –Continued						
Administrative support, including clerical –Continued						
General office clerks	\$11.47	6.8	\$9.88	6.6	–	–
Blue collar						
1	12.18	1.8	12.24	1.8	–	–
2	8.88	2.4	8.96	2.7	–	–
3	9.99	1.8	9.99	1.8	–	–
4	11.57	2.0	11.57	2.0	–	–
5	14.21	2.1	14.29	2.1	–	–
6	15.36	3.8	15.40	3.9	–	–
7	16.44	5.2	16.55	5.8	–	–
8	17.84	3.5	17.84	3.5	–	–
Precision production, craft, and repair						
3	15.83	2.8	16.08	3.0	–	–
4	12.20	3.6	–	–	–	–
5	13.38	4.0	13.74	4.1	–	–
6	15.52	5.6	15.63	6.0	–	–
7	16.96	5.8	17.19	6.6	–	–
8	17.94	3.8	17.94	3.8	–	–
Industrial machinery repairers	13.65	3.3	13.65	3.3	–	–
Machinery maintenance	12.14	6.0	12.14	6.0	–	–
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	19.31	16.7	19.31	16.7	–	–
Supervisors, production	15.79	4.2	15.79	4.2	–	–
5	13.46	2.7	13.46	2.7	–	–
7	18.41	2.7	18.41	2.7	–	–
Upholsterers	17.46	3.6	17.46	3.6	–	–
4	16.30	6.8	16.30	6.8	–	–
5	17.42	6.1	17.42	6.1	–	–
6	19.31	5.1	19.31	5.1	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
1	11.55	2.0	11.55	2.0	–	–
2	9.20	3.1	9.20	3.1	–	–
3	9.90	2.2	9.90	2.2	–	–
4	11.57	2.4	11.57	2.4	–	–
5	14.14	2.5	14.14	2.5	–	–
6	14.16	3.7	14.16	3.7	–	–
7	13.77	4.3	13.77	4.3	–	–
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing						
machine operators	9.93	7.0	9.93	7.0	–	–
Numerical control machine operators	14.64	5.4	14.64	5.4	–	–
Sawing machine operators	12.12	3.6	12.12	3.6	–	–
3	11.67	4.7	11.67	4.7	–	–
Shaping and jointing machine operators	10.87	6.7	10.87	6.7	–	–
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators						
2	12.21	6.4	12.21	6.4	–	–
3	10.92	3.3	10.92	3.3	–	–
Textile cutting machine operators	10.98	8.1	10.98	8.1	–	–
Textile sewing machine operators						
2	12.12	5.3	12.12	5.3	–	–
3	9.19	7.0	9.19	7.0	–	–
4	12.68	6.4	12.68	6.4	–	–
5	14.67	3.3	14.67	3.3	–	–
Extruding and forming machine operators	14.43	3.4	14.43	3.4	–	–
Mixing and blending machine operators	11.36	4.2	11.36	4.2	–	–
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...						
2	10.87	3.2	10.87	3.2	–	–
3	9.99	1.4	9.99	1.4	–	–
4	10.87	2.6	10.87	2.6	–	–
Slicing and cutting machine operators	12.49	4.3	12.49	4.3	–	–
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.						
2	12.02	4.0	12.02	4.0	–	–
3	9.47	5.8	9.47	5.8	–	–
4	11.43	2.4	11.43	2.4	–	–
5	14.18	3.9	14.18	3.9	–	–
6	13.76	3.7	13.76	3.7	–	–
Welders and cutters	13.22	9.1	13.22	9.1	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-2. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² full-time workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Assemblers	\$10.64	3.6	\$10.64	3.6	—	—
1	9.06	3.6	9.06	3.6	—	—
2	10.14	2.1	10.14	2.1	—	—
3	11.84	3.2	11.84	3.2	—	—
Hand cutting and trimming	13.73	9.0	13.73	9.0	—	—
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	11.78	6.5	11.78	6.5	—	—
1	9.11	2.8	9.11	2.8	—	—
2	9.82	4.5	9.82	4.5	—	—
4	14.79	5.7	14.79	5.7	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	10.79	2.4	10.79	2.4	—	—
2	10.15	5.4	10.15	5.4	—	—
3	11.02	1.7	11.02	1.7	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.13	5.3	14.44	5.1	—	—
2	10.25	2.9	10.62	3.5	—	—
3	11.24	6.2	11.24	6.2	—	—
4	15.92	3.3	15.92	3.3	—	—
Truck drivers	15.13	5.2	15.70	4.2	—	—
3	12.65	6.6	12.65	6.6	—	—
4	16.20	3.5	16.20	3.5	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	10.75	5.0	10.75	5.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.61	2.7	9.75	3.0	—	—
1	8.75	2.8	8.86	3.3	—	—
2	10.25	2.0	10.25	2.0	—	—
3	11.67	3.2	11.67	3.2	—	—
Production helpers	9.07	4.3	9.07	4.3	—	—
1	8.45	3.5	8.45	3.5	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	10.54	3.8	10.54	3.8	—	—
2	9.98	4.0	9.98	4.0	—	—
3	11.92	4.5	11.92	4.5	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.90	1.6	9.90	1.6	—	—
2	10.44	2.0	10.44	2.0	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.67	4.8	9.67	4.8	—	—
1	9.19	6.2	9.19	6.2	—	—
2	9.97	5.3	9.97	5.3	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	10.18	3.6	10.18	3.6	—	—
1	9.69	3.4	9.69	3.4	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.93	6.5	9.13	8.5	—	—
1	8.20	4.2	—	—	—	—
2	11.18	6.2	11.18	6.2	—	—
Service	9.59	4.2	8.26	4.7	\$11.38	3.9
1	7.58	5.1	7.29	4.8	—	—
2	7.44	12.9	7.19	16.3	—	—
3	9.29	6.5	9.29	7.6	—	—
4	9.96	3.1	—	—	—	—
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	8.46	7.4	8.24	7.7	—	—
3	9.20	5.7	—	—	—	—
Other food service	9.48	3.9	9.32	4.2	—	—
3	9.20	5.7	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.35	4.9	9.08	5.0	—	—
Health service	9.86	1.8	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.33	8.0	8.24	11.5	—	—
1	7.77	7.3	—	—	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	9.62	6.3	10.85	8.7	—	—
1	8.80	4.3	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4-2. **Selected occupations¹ and levels,² full-time workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

² Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on 10 factors, including knowledge, complexity, work environment, etc. Points are assigned based on the occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendixes C and D for more information.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 4-3. Selected occupations¹ and levels,² part-time workers:³ Mean hourly earnings,⁴ private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation and level	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁵ (percent)
All	\$8.76	7.1	\$7.97	5.4	-	-
All excluding sales	9.47	9.3	8.37	7.5	-	-
White collar	10.33	13.4	8.66	10.5	-	-
2	6.90	2.4	6.90	2.4	-	-
White collar excluding sales	19.69	18.2	15.68	23.2	-	-
Professional specialty and technical	23.05	11.3	-	-	-	-
Professional specialty	23.05	11.3	-	-	-	-
Health related	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	7.27	5.3	7.27	5.3	-	-
Cashiers	6.92	1.4	6.92	1.4	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue collar	7.34	4.4	7.34	4.4	-	-
1	7.07	3.4	7.07	3.4	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.19	3.6	7.19	3.6	-	-
1	7.15	3.9	7.15	3.9	-	-
Stock handlers and baggers	7.10	3.6	7.10	3.6	-	-
1	7.06	4.0	7.06	4.0	-	-
Service	7.78	6.4	7.53	8.0	-	-
Protective service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal service	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

² Each occupation for which data are collected in an establishment is evaluated based on 10 factors, including knowledge, complexity, work environment, etc. Points are assigned based on the occupation's rank within each factor. The points are summed to determine the overall level of the occupation. See appendixes C and D for more information.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 5-1. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$13.56	\$8.76	–	\$13.42	\$13.01	\$16.19
All excluding sales	13.44	9.47	–	13.35	13.06	15.53
White collar	18.93	10.33	–	18.52	18.12	24.76
White-collar excluding sales	18.90	19.69	–	18.91	18.70	–
Professional specialty and technical	21.81	23.05	–	21.84	21.84	–
Professional specialty	22.37	23.05	–	22.39	22.39	–
Technical	19.36	–	–	19.36	19.36	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.78	–	–	30.78	30.01	–
Sales	19.24	7.27	–	15.59	10.19	22.03
Administrative support, including clerical	11.60	–	–	11.57	11.57	–
Blue collar	12.18	7.34	–	12.10	11.47	15.08
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	–	–	15.82	14.87	19.04
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.55	–	–	11.52	11.16	13.31
Transportation and material moving	14.13	–	–	14.09	12.49	16.97
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.61	7.19	–	9.48	9.31	11.78
Service	9.59	7.78	–	9.45	9.45	–
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.2	7.1	–	2.2	2.2	5.9
All excluding sales	2.2	9.3	–	2.1	2.3	5.2
White collar	4.1	13.4	–	4.0	4.2	17.8
White-collar excluding sales	4.3	18.2	–	4.3	4.2	–
Professional specialty and technical	4.3	11.3	–	4.2	4.2	–
Professional specialty	5.0	11.3	–	4.9	4.9	–
Technical	6.5	–	–	6.5	6.5	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.6	–	–	6.6	6.4	–
Sales	17.6	5.3	–	16.7	10.4	21.6
Administrative support, including clerical	2.6	–	–	2.6	2.6	–
Blue collar	1.8	4.4	–	1.7	1.7	3.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.8	–	–	2.8	2.9	5.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	2.0	–	–	2.0	1.9	5.0
Transportation and material moving	5.3	–	–	5.4	6.3	2.9
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	2.7	3.6	–	2.6	2.6	6.5
Service	4.2	6.4	–	3.8	3.8	–

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 for more information.

³ 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.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

Table 5-2. Major industry division: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers									
	All private industries	Goods-producing industries ³				Service-producing industries ⁴				
		Total	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Total	Transportation and public utilities	Wholesale and retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
	Mean									
All occupations	\$12.89	\$12.97	–	–	\$12.97	\$12.69	–	\$12.54	–	\$11.61
All excluding sales	12.79	12.84	–	–	12.84	12.66	–	12.37	–	11.61
White collar	17.59	18.55	–	–	18.55	16.65	–	14.82	–	17.85
White-collar excluding sales	18.04	17.80	–	–	17.80	18.36	–	20.43	–	17.85
Professional specialty and technical	21.55	24.03	–	–	24.03	20.56	–	–	–	20.39
Professional specialty	22.31	26.09	–	–	26.09	20.82	–	–	–	20.61
Technical	19.88	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.01	28.27	–	–	28.27	34.72	–	–	–	–
Sales	15.59	–	–	–	–	12.96	–	12.96	–	–
Administrative support, including clerical	11.61	11.65	–	–	11.65	11.56	–	11.49	–	10.06
Blue collar	12.18	12.15	–	–	12.15	12.32	–	13.10	–	8.54
Precision production, craft, and repair	16.08	15.56	–	–	15.59	20.19	–	21.57	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.54	11.66	–	–	11.66	8.78	–	–	–	–
Transportation and material moving	14.42	11.89	–	–	11.78	16.53	–	15.53	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.61	10.06	–	–	10.06	8.80	–	9.10	–	–
Service	8.19	–	–	–	–	8.08	–	8.55	–	7.79
	Relative error ⁵ (percent)									
All occupations	2.4	2.3	–	–	2.3	6.0	–	11.2	–	7.9
All excluding sales	2.2	2.1	–	–	2.1	6.1	–	12.4	–	7.9
White collar	5.3	7.9	–	–	7.9	6.8	–	14.3	–	8.4
White-collar excluding sales	5.8	8.3	–	–	8.3	7.7	–	27.1	–	8.4
Professional specialty and technical	5.8	15.2	–	–	15.2	4.0	–	–	–	4.3
Professional specialty	7.3	19.7	–	–	19.7	2.2	–	–	–	2.2
Technical	9.3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.4	8.9	–	–	8.9	12.9	–	–	–	–
Sales	16.7	–	–	–	–	10.9	–	10.9	–	–
Administrative support, including clerical	3.1	3.5	–	–	3.5	6.0	–	4.5	–	3.7
Blue collar	1.8	1.5	–	–	1.6	7.9	–	9.3	–	9.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.0	2.6	–	–	2.7	12.3	–	17.2	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	2.0	1.9	–	–	1.9	8.8	–	–	–	–
Transportation and material moving	5.1	4.4	–	–	4.8	3.5	–	5.0	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	2.8	1.6	–	–	1.6	5.7	–	5.2	–	–
Service	4.1	–	–	–	–	4.1	–	9.1	–	3.7

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

³ Goods-producing industries include mining, construction, and manufacturing.

⁴ Service-producing industries include transportation and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services.

⁵ 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.

Table 5-3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
Mean					
All occupations	\$12.89	\$11.87	\$13.14	\$12.96	\$13.63
All excluding sales	12.79	11.70	13.04	12.81	13.63
White collar	17.59	15.72	18.10	18.26	17.78
White-collar excluding sales	18.04	17.50	18.13	18.33	17.78
Professional specialty and technical	21.55	—	21.55	21.57	21.54
Professional specialty	22.31	—	22.31	25.60	20.80
Technical	19.88	—	19.88	16.77	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	30.01	33.16	29.41	29.30	—
Sales	15.59	13.50	17.87	17.87	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.61	12.58	11.36	11.53	11.01
Blue collar	12.18	11.45	12.34	12.24	12.61
Precision production, craft, and repair	16.08	17.12	15.86	15.85	15.89
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	11.54	9.40	11.86	11.66	12.40
Transportation and material moving	14.42	15.33	13.77	13.95	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.61	8.82	9.91	9.71	10.33
Service	8.19	6.45	8.74	8.58	9.74
Relative error ⁴ (percent)					
All occupations	2.4	8.3	2.4	3.0	3.3
All excluding sales	2.2	8.0	2.2	2.9	3.3
White collar	5.3	14.1	5.8	7.6	8.3
White-collar excluding sales	5.8	15.8	6.2	8.4	8.3
Professional specialty and technical	5.8	—	5.8	13.5	3.4
Professional specialty	7.3	—	7.3	18.3	2.1
Technical	9.3	—	9.3	10.0	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.4	23.0	7.5	8.3	—
Sales	16.7	16.9	27.7	27.7	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.1	7.9	3.2	4.4	2.6
Blue collar	1.8	6.9	1.7	2.0	2.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.0	10.0	2.9	3.4	5.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	2.0	4.9	2.0	2.5	2.8
Transportation and material moving	5.1	9.6	4.2	4.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	2.8	7.5	1.9	2.4	2.7
Service	4.1	7.7	4.9	5.0	10.6

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 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.

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

Table 6-1. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, all industries, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All	\$7.98	\$9.58	\$11.67	\$15.41	\$20.66
All excluding sales	8.00	9.58	11.67	15.29	20.66
White collar	9.58	11.16	17.58	21.90	28.27
White collar excluding sales	9.80	11.78	19.15	21.99	29.16
Professional specialty and technical	17.84	19.81	20.66	22.48	23.11
Professional specialty	19.24	19.82	20.66	22.17	23.08
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	19.53	19.82	19.82	22.48	34.23
Registered nurses	19.53	19.82	19.82	19.88	23.08
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	12.90	16.28	19.79	23.11	25.23
Executive, administrative, and managerial	17.41	20.00	28.15	40.84	45.50
Executives, administrators, and managers	17.41	20.00	28.15	43.19	45.50
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	16.30	19.94	25.49	29.50	43.82
Management related	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	6.77	7.44	12.77	19.19	22.30
Cashiers	6.54	6.77	6.89	7.63	9.62
Administrative support, including clerical	9.58	9.83	11.22	12.60	13.40
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	9.00	10.27	12.36	12.71	13.00
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	9.40	9.80	10.14	12.10	12.73
Stock and inventory clerks	10.19	10.25	11.27	12.78	14.91
General office clerks	8.30	10.00	12.47	13.19	13.37
Blue collar	8.07	9.55	11.28	14.04	16.97
Precision production, craft, and repair	11.32	12.88	14.33	18.00	21.95
Industrial machinery repairers	11.84	12.88	13.34	14.12	15.83
Machinery maintenance	9.86	9.86	12.70	13.83	13.96
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	11.62	13.02	17.00	29.16	29.16
Supervisors, production	12.50	13.48	14.78	18.74	19.62
Upholsterers	12.08	14.07	17.52	19.90	23.02
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.26	9.63	11.04	12.96	15.70
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	7.75	8.48	9.87	11.79	11.90
Numerical control machine operators	12.82	13.34	14.28	16.10	16.10
Sawing machine operators	10.45	10.78	12.09	13.30	13.74
Shaping and jointing machine operators	8.25	10.26	10.51	12.83	12.90
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	8.56	10.53	11.85	14.90	16.87
Textile cutting machine operators	8.25	9.00	9.79	14.31	14.74
Textile sewing machine operators	7.93	9.91	11.28	15.33	16.50
Extruding and forming machine operators	13.05	13.05	15.19	15.29	15.29
Mixing and blending machine operators	9.39	9.95	11.55	11.92	12.17
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...	9.48	9.90	10.41	11.31	12.86
Slicing and cutting machine operators	10.33	11.25	12.28	13.75	15.46
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	7.92	9.53	11.83	13.84	15.83
Welders and cutters	8.19	11.20	13.23	15.48	16.50
Assemblers	8.67	9.31	10.09	11.21	13.00
Hand cutting and trimming	10.73	10.92	11.67	15.73	19.93
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	8.26	9.23	10.58	12.91	17.45
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	8.00	9.64	10.88	11.30	13.09
Transportation and material moving	9.57	11.00	14.87	17.09	17.35
Truck drivers	10.00	13.00	16.00	17.35	18.11
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	8.06	9.05	11.00	11.58	13.75
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.57	7.98	9.27	10.48	11.84

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6-1. **Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, all industries, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued**

Occupation ³	10	25	Median 50	75	90
Blue collar —Continued					
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers					
—Continued					
Production helpers	\$7.86	\$7.97	\$8.37	\$10.25	\$10.76
Stock handlers and baggers	6.33	7.57	9.85	11.17	12.55
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.05	9.13	9.76	10.31	11.33
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	6.96	8.51	9.49	10.95	12.10
Hand packers and packagers	8.85	9.33	9.85	10.93	11.15
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	7.57	7.57	7.98	9.63	11.84
Service	6.77	7.00	8.83	11.80	13.81
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	6.21	6.77	8.43	10.30	11.80
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	6.73	7.98	8.56	10.30	11.83
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.73	7.98	9.26	10.30	11.50
Health service	9.40	9.40	10.21	10.21	10.21
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.40	9.40	10.21	10.21	10.21
Cleaning and building service	6.80	6.80	7.63	8.58	11.41
Janitors and cleaners	7.40	8.58	8.58	11.41	12.38
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Percentiles are calculated from average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. The percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile hourly wage for an occupation, one-tenth of the occupation's employment are found in sampled establishment jobs whose average wages are the same or less, and nine-tenths are in jobs averaging the same or more. The calculations of the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

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 for more information.

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 6-2. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	Private industry				
	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All	\$7.75	\$9.48	\$11.30	\$14.50	\$19.31
All excluding sales	7.86	9.50	11.30	14.36	19.26
White collar	9.40	10.51	13.25	21.64	29.50
White collar excluding sales	9.83	10.68	13.27	22.58	30.00
Professional specialty and technical	14.68	19.22	19.82	23.08	25.96
Professional specialty	17.85	19.82	19.82	22.62	31.27
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	19.82	19.82	19.82	21.21	23.08
Registered nurses	19.82	19.82	19.82	21.21	23.08
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	11.81	15.97	19.22	25.23	25.23
Executive, administrative, and managerial	16.30	20.00	27.95	34.07	45.50
Executives, administrators, and managers	14.05	19.94	27.95	32.23	45.50
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	16.30	19.94	25.49	29.50	43.82
Management related	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	6.77	7.44	12.77	19.19	22.30
Cashiers	6.54	6.77	6.89	7.63	9.62
Administrative support, including clerical	9.40	10.00	10.85	12.36	13.73
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	9.00	9.00	10.75	12.66	13.00
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	9.40	9.80	10.14	12.10	12.73
Stock and inventory clerks	10.19	10.25	11.27	12.78	14.91
General office clerks	8.30	8.58	10.00	10.89	12.18
Blue collar	8.08	9.63	11.30	14.04	17.05
Precision production, craft, and repair	11.75	12.89	14.47	18.43	22.48
Industrial machinery repairers	11.84	12.88	13.34	14.12	15.83
Machinery maintenance	9.86	9.86	12.70	13.83	13.96
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	11.62	13.02	17.00	29.16	29.16
Supervisors, production	12.50	13.48	14.78	18.74	19.62
Upholsterers	12.08	14.07	17.52	19.90	23.02
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.26	9.63	11.04	12.96	15.70
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	7.75	8.48	9.87	11.79	11.90
Numerical control machine operators	12.82	13.34	14.28	16.10	16.10
Sawing machine operators	10.45	10.78	12.09	13.30	13.74
Shaping and jointing machine operators	8.25	10.26	10.51	12.83	12.90
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	8.56	10.53	11.85	14.90	16.87
Textile cutting machine operators	8.25	9.00	9.79	14.31	14.74
Textile sewing machine operators	7.93	9.91	11.28	15.33	16.50
Extruding and forming machine operators	13.05	13.05	15.19	15.29	15.29
Mixing and blending machine operators	9.39	9.95	11.55	11.92	12.17
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...	9.48	9.90	10.41	11.31	12.86
Slicing and cutting machine operators	10.33	11.25	12.28	13.75	15.46
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	7.92	9.53	11.83	13.84	15.83
Welders and cutters	8.19	11.20	13.23	15.48	16.50
Assemblers	8.67	9.31	10.09	11.21	13.00
Hand cutting and trimming	10.73	10.92	11.67	15.73	19.93
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	8.26	9.23	10.58	12.91	17.45
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	8.00	9.64	10.88	11.30	13.09
Transportation and material moving	10.00	11.34	15.71	17.35	17.35
Truck drivers	11.25	14.50	16.28	17.35	18.11
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	8.06	9.05	11.00	11.58	13.75
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.57	7.97	9.35	10.57	11.93
Production helpers	7.86	7.97	8.37	10.25	10.76

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6-2. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	Private industry				
	10	25	Median 50	75	90
Blue collar —Continued					
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers					
—Continued					
Stock handlers and baggers	\$6.33	\$7.57	\$9.85	\$11.17	\$12.55
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.05	9.13	9.76	10.31	11.33
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	6.96	8.51	9.49	10.95	12.10
Hand packers and packagers	8.85	9.33	9.85	10.93	11.15
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	7.57	7.57	7.57	10.55	13.15
Service	6.61	6.80	7.70	9.40	11.50
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	6.21	6.77	8.43	10.30	11.80
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	6.73	7.79	8.56	10.30	11.80
Health service	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	6.80	6.80	6.80	7.63	12.38
Janitors and cleaners	6.84	7.63	11.41	12.38	14.05
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Percentiles are calculated from average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. The percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile hourly wage for an occupation, one-tenth of the occupation's employment are found in sampled establishment jobs whose average wages are the same or less, and nine-tenths are in jobs averaging the same or more. The calculations of the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

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 for more information.

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 6-3. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	State and local government				
	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All	\$8.58	\$10.21	\$13.81	\$20.66	\$22.17
All excluding sales	8.58	10.21	13.81	20.66	22.17
White collar	9.58	13.19	20.66	21.99	23.08
White collar excluding sales	9.58	13.19	20.66	21.99	23.08
Professional specialty and technical	19.24	19.88	20.66	22.17	22.74
Professional specialty	19.24	20.66	20.66	22.17	22.74
Health related	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, college and university	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, except college and university	-	-	-	-	-
Librarians, archivists, and curators	-	-	-	-	-
Social scientists and urban planners	-	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers	-	-	-	-	-
Technical	-	-	-	-	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial	17.41	20.00	34.82	43.19	49.22
Executives, administrators, and managers	-	-	-	-	-
Management related	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative support, including clerical	-	-	-	-	-
Blue collar	-	-	-	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation and material moving	-	-	-	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	-	-	-	-	-
Service	8.58	9.26	10.21	13.81	13.81
Protective service	-	-	-	-	-
Food service	-	-	-	-	-
Other food service	-	-	-	-	-
Health service	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and building service	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Percentiles are calculated from average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. The percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile hourly wage for an occupation, one-tenth of the occupation's employment are found in sampled establishment jobs whose average wages are the same or less, and nine-tenths are in jobs averaging the same or more. The calculations of the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

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 for more information.

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 6-4. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, all industries, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All	\$8.13	\$9.66	\$11.78	\$15.60	\$20.66
All excluding sales	8.08	9.64	11.74	15.33	20.66
White collar	9.80	11.78	18.76	21.99	29.16
White collar excluding sales	9.80	11.78	19.15	21.99	29.16
Professional specialty and technical	17.84	19.81	20.66	22.17	23.11
Professional specialty	19.24	19.82	20.66	22.17	23.08
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	—	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	19.53	19.82	19.82	21.21	23.08
Registered nurses	19.53	19.82	19.82	19.88	23.08
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	12.90	16.28	19.79	23.11	25.23
Executive, administrative, and managerial	17.41	20.00	28.15	40.84	45.50
Executives, administrators, and managers	17.41	20.00	28.15	43.19	45.50
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	16.30	19.94	25.49	29.50	43.82
Management related	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	9.62	11.59	17.58	19.19	28.22
Administrative support, including clerical	9.58	9.83	11.22	12.60	13.40
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	9.00	10.27	12.36	12.71	13.00
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	9.40	9.80	10.14	12.10	12.73
Stock and inventory clerks	10.19	10.25	11.27	12.78	14.91
General office clerks	8.30	10.00	12.47	13.19	13.37
Blue collar	8.13	9.60	11.31	14.07	17.00
Precision production, craft, and repair	11.32	12.88	14.33	18.00	21.95
Industrial machinery repairers	11.84	12.88	13.34	14.12	15.83
Machinery maintenance	9.86	9.86	12.70	13.83	13.96
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	11.62	13.02	17.00	29.16	29.16
Supervisors, production	12.50	13.48	14.78	18.74	19.62
Upholsterers	12.08	14.07	17.52	19.90	23.02
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.26	9.64	11.04	12.98	15.70
Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators	7.75	8.48	9.87	11.79	11.90
Numerical control machine operators	12.82	13.34	14.28	16.10	16.10
Sawing machine operators	10.45	10.78	12.09	13.30	13.74
Shaping and jointing machine operators	8.25	10.26	10.51	12.83	12.90
Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators	8.56	10.53	11.85	14.90	16.87
Textile cutting machine operators	8.25	9.00	9.79	14.31	14.74
Textile sewing machine operators	7.93	9.91	11.28	15.33	16.50
Extruding and forming machine operators	13.05	13.05	15.19	15.29	15.29
Mixing and blending machine operators	9.39	9.95	11.55	11.92	12.17
Painting and paint spraying machine operators ...	9.48	9.90	10.41	11.31	12.86
Slicing and cutting machine operators	10.33	11.25	12.28	13.75	15.46
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	7.92	10.00	11.83	13.84	15.83
Welders and cutters	8.19	11.20	13.23	15.48	16.50
Assemblers	8.67	9.31	10.09	11.21	13.00
Hand cutting and trimming	10.73	10.92	11.67	15.73	19.93
Miscellaneous hand working, n.e.c.	8.26	9.23	10.58	12.91	17.45
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	8.00	9.64	10.88	11.30	13.09
Transportation and material moving	9.57	11.00	15.18	17.09	17.35
Truck drivers	10.00	13.00	16.00	17.35	18.11
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	8.06	9.05	11.00	11.58	13.75
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers Production helpers	7.57 7.86	8.07 7.97	9.33 8.37	10.55 10.25	11.84 10.76

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6-4. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ full-time workers:² Selected occupations, all industries, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002 — Continued

Occupation ³	10	25	Median 50	75	90
Blue collar —Continued					
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers —Continued					
Stock handlers and baggers	\$8.13	\$9.85	\$10.08	\$11.70	\$12.72
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.05	9.13	9.76	10.31	11.33
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	6.96	8.51	9.49	10.95	12.10
Hand packers and packagers	8.85	9.33	9.85	10.93	11.15
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	7.57	7.57	7.98	9.63	11.84
Service	6.77	7.25	9.26	11.83	13.81
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	6.73	7.00	8.46	10.30	11.80
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	7.25	8.43	9.26	10.30	11.83
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.73	7.98	10.30	10.30	11.50
Health service	9.40	9.40	10.21	10.21	10.21
Cleaning and building service	6.80	6.80	7.63	8.58	11.41
Janitors and cleaners	7.40	8.58	8.58	11.41	12.38
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Percentiles are calculated from average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. The percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile hourly wage for an occupation, one-tenth of the occupation's employment are found in sampled establishment jobs whose average wages are the same or less, and nine-tenths are in jobs averaging the same or more. The calculations of the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

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

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 6-5. Hourly wage percentiles for establishment jobs,¹ part-time workers:² Selected occupations, all industries, National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002

Occupation ³	10	25	Median 50	75	90
All	\$6.32	\$6.66	\$7.00	\$8.41	\$11.30
All excluding sales	6.31	6.50	7.50	8.60	18.58
White collar	6.54	6.77	6.89	7.63	22.48
White collar excluding sales	7.50	13.95	21.90	22.62	34.23
Professional specialty and technical	13.95	18.58	22.48	22.62	34.23
Professional specialty	13.95	18.58	22.48	22.62	34.23
Health related	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—
Sales	6.54	6.77	6.89	7.40	7.63
Cashiers	6.54	6.77	6.89	6.89	7.63
Administrative support, including clerical	—	—	—	—	—
Blue collar	6.32	6.33	6.68	8.25	8.60
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	—	—	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving	—	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.32	6.33	6.63	8.03	8.60
Stock handlers and baggers	6.32	6.33	6.50	8.03	8.60
Service	6.21	6.66	7.78	8.41	9.15
Protective service	—	—	—	—	—
Food service	—	—	—	—	—
Other food service	—	—	—	—	—
Health service	—	—	—	—	—
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Percentiles are calculated from average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. The percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile hourly wage for an occupation, one-tenth of the occupation's employment are found in sampled establishment jobs whose average wages are the same or less, and nine-tenths are in jobs averaging the same or more. The calculations of the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles follow the same logic. Hourly wages are the straight-time 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.

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

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.

Appendix A: Technical Note

This section provides basic information on the procedures and concepts used to produce the data contained in this bulletin. It is divided into three parts: Planning for the survey; data collection; and processing and analyzing the data. Although this section answers some questions commonly asked by data users, it is not a comprehensive description of all the steps required to produce the data.

Planning for the survey

The overall design of the survey includes questions of scope, frame, and sample selection.

Survey scope

This survey covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in goods-producing industries (mining, construction and manufacturing); service-producing industries (transportation, communications, electric, gas, and sanitary services; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services industries); and State and local governments. Agriculture, private households, and the Federal Government were excluded from the scope of the survey. For purposes of this survey, an establishment is an economic unit that produces goods or services, a central administrative office, or an auxiliary unit providing support services to a company. For private industries in this survey, the establishment is usually at a single physical location. For State and local governments, an establishment is defined as all locations of a government entity.

The Hickory–Morganton–Lenoir, NC, Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties.

Sampling frame

The list of establishments from which the survey sample was selected (sampling frame) was developed from State unemployment insurance reports. Due to the volatility of industries within the private sector, sampling frames were developed using the most recent month of reference available at the time the sample was selected. The sampling frame was reviewed prior to the survey and, when necessary, missing establishments were added, out-of-business and out-of-scope establishments were removed, and addresses, employment levels, industry classification, and other information were updated.

Sample design

The sample for this survey area was selected using a two-stage stratified design with probability proportional to employment sampling at each stage. The first stage of sample selection was a probability sample of establishments. The sample of establishments was drawn by first stratifying the sampling frame by industry and ownership. The number of sample establishments allocated to each stratum is approximately proportional to the stratum employment. Each sampled establishment is selected within a stratum with a probability proportional to its employment. Use of this technique means that the larger an establishment's employment, the greater its chance of selection. Weights were applied to each establishment when the data were tabulated so that it represents similar units (by industry and employment size) in the economy that were not selected for collection. The second stage of sample selection, detailed below, was a probability sample of occupations within a sampled establishment.

Data collection

The collection of data from survey respondents required detailed procedures. Field economists collected the data, working out of the Regional Office and visiting each establishment surveyed. Other contact methods, such as mail and telephone, were used to follow-up and update data.

Occupational selection and classification

Identification of the occupations for which wage data were to be collected was a multistep process:

1. Probability-proportional-to-size selection of establishment jobs
2. Classification of jobs into occupations based on the Census of Population system
3. Characterization of jobs as full-time v. part-time, union v. nonunion, and time v. incentive
4. Determination of the level of work of each job

For each occupation, wage data were collected for those workers who met all the criteria identified in the last three steps. Special procedures were developed for jobs for which a correct classification or level could not be determined.

In step one, the jobs to be sampled were selected at each establishment by the BLS field economist during a personal visit. A complete list of employees was used for sampling, with each selected worker representing a job within the establishment.

As with the selection of establishments, the selection of a job was based on probability proportional to its size in the establishment. The greater the number of people working in a job in the establishment, the greater its chance of selection.

The number of jobs for which data were collected in each establishment was based on the establishment's employment size, as shown in the following schedule:

<i>Number of employees</i>	<i>Number of selected jobs</i>
50–99	8
100–249	10
250–999	12
1,000–2,499	16
2,500+	20

The second step of the process entailed classifying the selected jobs into occupations based on their duties. The National Compensation Survey occupational classification system is based on the 1990 Census of Population. A selected job may fall into any one of about 480 occupational classifications, from accountant to wood lathe operator. For cases in which a job's duties overlapped two or more census classification codes, the duties used to set the wage level were used to classify the job. Classification by primary duties was the fallback.

Each occupational classification is an element of a broader classification known as a major occupational group (MOG). Occupations can fall into any of the following MOGs:

- Professional specialty and technical
- Executive, administrative, and managerial
- Sales
- Administrative support, including clerical
- Precision production, craft, and repair
- Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors
- Transportation and material moving
- Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers
- Service occupations

Appendix B contains a complete list of all individual occupations, classified by the MOG to which they belong.

In step three, certain other job characteristics of the chosen worker were identified. First, the worker was identified as holding either a full-time or part-time job, based on the establishment's definition of those terms. Then, the worker was classified as having a time versus incentive job, depending on whether any part of pay was directly based on the actual production of the worker, rather than solely

on hours worked. Finally, the worker was identified as being in a union job or a nonunion job. See the "Definition of terms" section on the following page for more detail.

Occupational leveling

In the last step before wage data were collected, the work level of each selected job was determined using an "occupational leveling" process. Occupational leveling ranks and compares all occupations randomly selected in an establishment using the same criteria.

For this survey, the level of each occupation in an establishment was determined by an analysis of each of 10 leveling factors. Nine of these factors are drawn from the U.S. Government Office of Personnel Management's Factor Evaluation System, which is the underlying structure for evaluation of General Schedule Federal employees. The tenth factor, supervisory duties, attempts to account for the effect of supervisory duties. It is considered experimental. The 10 factors are:

- Knowledge
- Supervision received
- Guidelines
- Complexity
- Scope and effect
- Personal contacts
- Purpose of contacts
- Physical demands
- Work environment
- Supervisory duties

Each factor contains a number of levels, and each level has an associated written description and point value. The number and range of points differ among the factors. For each factor, an occupation was assigned a level based on the written description that best matched the job. Within each occupation, the points for nine factors (supervisory duties was excluded) were recorded and totaled. The total determines the overall level of the occupation. A description of the levels for each factor is shown in appendix C.

Tabulations of levels of work for occupations in the survey follow the Federal Government's white-collar General Schedule. Point ranges for each of the 15 levels are shown in appendix D. It also includes an example of a job with its associated leveling factors, and a guide to help data users evaluate jobs in their firms

Wage data collected in prior surveys using the occupational leveling method were evaluated by BLS researchers using regression techniques. For each of the major occupational groups, wages were compared to the 10 occupational leveling factors (and levels within those factors). The analysis showed that several of the occupational leveling factors, most notably knowledge and supervision received, had strong explanatory power for wages. That is, as the levels within a given factor increased, the wages also increased.

Collection period

Survey data were collected over a 13-month period for 60 metropolitan areas in the NCS program. For 20 small metropolitan areas, data were collected over a 4-month period. For each establishment in the survey, the data reflect the establishment's most recent information at the time of collection. The payroll reference month shown in the tables reflects the average date of this information for all sample units.

Earnings

Earnings were defined as regular payments from the employer to the employee as compensation for straight-time hourly work, or for any salaried work performed. The following components were included as part of earnings:

- Incentive pay, including commissions, production bonuses, and piece rates
- Cost-of-living allowances
- Hazard pay
- Payments of income deferred due to participation in a salary reduction plan
- Deadhead pay, defined as pay given to transportation workers returning in a vehicle without freight or passengers

The following forms of payments were *not* considered part of straight-time earnings:

- Shift differentials, defined as extra payment for working a schedule that varies from the norm, such as night or weekend work
- Premium pay for overtime, holidays, and weekends
- Bonuses not directly tied to production (such as Christmas and profit-sharing bonuses)
- Uniform and tool allowances
- Free room and board
- Payments made by third parties (for example, bonuses given by manufacturers to department store salespeople, referral incentives in real estate)
- On-call pay

To calculate earnings for various periods (hourly, weekly, and annual), data on work schedules also were collected. For hourly workers, scheduled hours worked per day and per week, exclusive of overtime, were recorded. Annual weeks worked were determined. Because salaried workers, exempt from overtime provisions, often work beyond the assigned work schedule, their typical number of hours actually worked was collected.

Definition of terms

Full-time worker. Any employee that the employer considers to be full time.

Incentive worker. Any employee whose earnings are tied, at least in part, to commissions, piece rates, production bonuses, or other incentives based on production or sales.

Level. A ranking of an occupation based on the requirements of the position. (See the description in the technical note on occupational leveling through point factor analysis for more details on the leveling process.)

Nonunion worker. An employee in an occupation not meeting the conditions for union coverage. (See below.)

Part-time worker. Any employee that the employer considers to be part time.

Time-based worker. Any employee whose earnings are tied to an hourly rate or salary, and not to a specific level of production.

Union worker. Any employee is in a union occupation when all of the following conditions are met:

- A labor organization is recognized as the bargaining agent for all workers in the occupation
- Wage and salary rates are determined through collective bargaining or negotiations
- Settlement terms, which must include earnings provisions and may include benefit provisions, are embodied in a signed, mutually binding collective bargaining agreement

Processing and analyzing the data

Data were processed and analyzed at the Bureau's National Office following collection.

Weighting and nonresponse

Sample weights were calculated for each establishment and occupation in the survey. These weights reflected the relative size of the occupation within the establishment and of the establishment within the sample universe. Weights were used to aggregate data for the individual establishments or occupations into the various data series. Some of the establishments surveyed could not supply or refused to supply information. If data were not provided by a sample member, the weights of responding sample members in the same or similar "cells" were adjusted to account for the missing data. This technique assumes that the mean value of data for the nonrespondents equals the mean value of data for the respondents at some detailed "cell" level. Responding and nonresponding establishments were classified into these cells according to industry and employment size. Responding and nonresponding occupations within responding establishments were classified into cells that were additionally defined by major occupation group and job level.

Establishments that were determined to be out of business or outside the scope of the survey had their weights changed to zero. If only partial data were given by a sample establishment or occupation, or data were missing, the response was treated as a refusal.

Survey response

	<i>Establish- ments</i>
Total in sampling frame	596
Total in sample	218
Responding	148
Out of business or not in survey scope	22
Unable or refused to provide data	48

In this survey, the nonresponse rates for all industries, private industry, and State and local government were within regular survey standards.

Estimation

The wage series in the tables are computed by combining the wages for each sampled occupation. Before being combined, individual wage rates are weighted by: the number of workers; the sample weight, adjusted for nonresponding establishments and other factors; and the occupation's scheduled hours of work.

Not all calculated series met the criteria for publication. Before any series was published, it was reviewed to make sure that the number of observations underlying it was sufficient. This review prevented the publication of a series that could have revealed information about a specific establishment.

Estimates of the number of workers represent the total in all establishments within the scope of the study, and not the number actually surveyed. Because occupational structures among establishments differ, estimates of the number of workers obtained from the sample of establishments serve to indicate only the relative importance of the occupational groups studied.

Percentiles

The percentiles presented in tables 6-1 through 6-5 are computed using average hourly wages for sampled establishment jobs within each occupation. During this phase of the ongoing NCS development, establishments in the survey may report either individual-worker earnings or average wage rates for each sampled job. If individual-worker earnings are provided, an average hourly wage rate is computed for the job and used in the calculation of percentile estimates. The average hourly wages for each sampled job are appropriately weighted and then arrayed from lowest to highest.

The published 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles describe the distribution of an occupation's employ-

ment by the average wage rates for its jobs. For example, at the 10th percentile, 10 percent of a published occupation's employment is in sampled establishment jobs that had average hourly wages at the 10th percentile or less for that occupation.

Note that the percentiles in earlier NCS bulletins for this area (in the 3090 and 3095 bulletin series) were calculated from individual-worker earnings rather than from average wages for sampled establishment jobs. Research has shown that using average-wage data for jobs instead of individual-worker data has the effect of moving percentile estimates toward the median (50th percentile). This effect is greatest for occupations with a high degree of wage dispersion. However, medians calculated using the two methods are nearly identical.

Data reliability

The data in this bulletin are estimates from a scientifically selected probability sample. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey, sampling and nonsampling.

Sampling errors occur because observations come only from a sample and not from an entire population. The sample used for this survey is one of a number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the sample design. Estimates derived from the different samples would differ from each other.

A measure of the variation among these differing estimates is called the standard error or sampling error. It indicates the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error divided by the estimate. RSE data are provided alongside the earnings data in the bulletin tables.

The standard error can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. As an example, suppose a table shows that mean hourly earnings for all workers were \$12.79, with a relative standard error of 3.6 percent for this estimate. At the 90-percent level, the confidence interval for the estimate is \$13.55 to \$12.03 (1.645 times 3.6 percent times \$12.79 = \$0.76, plus or minus \$12.79). If all possible samples were selected to estimate the population value, the interval from each sample would include the true population value approximately 90 percent of the time.

Nonsampling errors also affect survey results. They can stem from many sources, such as inability to obtain information for some establishments, difficulties with survey definitions, inability of the respondents to provide correct information, or mistakes in recording or coding the data obtained. Although they were not specifically measured, the nonsampling errors were expected to be minimal due to the extensive training of the field economists who gathered the survey data by personal visit, computer edits of the data, and detailed data review.

Appendix table 1. **Number of workers¹ represented by the survey, by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC, January 2002**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers		
	Total	Private industry	State and local government
All occupations	94,300	78,000	16,200
All excluding sales	90,900	74,700	16,200
White collar	24,700	15,200	9,600
White-collar excluding sales	21,400	11,800	9,600
Professional specialty and technical	9,300	3,000	6,400
Professional specialty	7,900	2,100	5,800
Technical	1,400	900	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3,200	2,400	700
Sales	3,400	3,400	—
Administrative support, including clerical	8,900	6,400	—
Blue collar	58,400	56,300	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	10,600	9,600	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	31,700	31,700	—
Transportation and material moving	4,400	4,100	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11,800	10,900	—
Service	11,100	6,600	4,500

¹ The number of workers represented by the survey are rounded to the nearest 100. Estimates of the number of workers provide a description of size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. Estimates are not intended, however, for comparison to other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels. Both full-time and part-time workers were included in the survey.

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

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