

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SEATTLE-TACOMA-OLYMPIA, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2007

Workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia metropolitan area earned an average of \$24.54 per hour in December 2007, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$43.92 for management occupations and \$33.82 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$10.34. The NCS data available for the Seattle area include earnings for 21 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Seattle computer and information systems managers, part of the management occupational group earned \$63.23 per hour. Within the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, pharmacists earned \$50.78 per hour and registered nurses earned \$34.49 per hour. Cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$11.29 and waiters and waitresses earned \$8.02 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$25.98 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$14.09. Union workers earned \$24.49 and non-union workers, \$24.56. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$19.77 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$24.87, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$31.44.

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

The NCS data reported here covered 614 establishments with one or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. Agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government were excluded from the survey. This sample of establishments represented 1,849,600 workers in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which consists of Island, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA National Compensation Survey December 2007 which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Western Information Office by calling (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2007**

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All workers	\$24.54	3.0	\$25.98	3.2	\$14.09	3.5
Management occupations	43.92	3.4	43.91	3.4	—	—
General and operations managers	32.27	13.3	32.27	13.3	—	—
Marketing and sales managers	48.61	7.8	48.61	7.8	—	—
Marketing managers	48.29	3.1	48.29	3.1	—	—
Sales managers	48.94	16.7	48.94	16.7	—	—
Computer and information systems managers	63.23	2.3	63.23	2.3	—	—
Financial managers	40.25	8.8	40.16	8.9	—	—
Construction managers	47.61	14.2	47.61	14.2	—	—
Education administrators	34.37	12.3	34.37	12.3	—	—
Education administrators, elementary and secondary school	51.61	6.6	51.61	6.6	—	—
Engineering managers	52.71	9.5	52.71	9.5	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	32.59	4.5	32.66	4.6	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	39.05	5.5	39.05	5.5	—	—
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	41.18	7.7	41.18	7.7	—	—
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	38.29	5.9	38.29	5.9	—	—
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	36.90	15.6	38.25	15.6	—	—
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	29.03	9.9	29.03	9.9	—	—
Management analysts	34.08	10.0	34.45	10.1	—	—
Accountants and auditors	29.47	10.9	29.38	11.3	—	—
Financial analysts and advisors	42.20	24.8	42.20	24.8	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	35.17	1.8	35.23	1.8	—	—
Computer software engineers	38.54	6.0	38.54	6.0	—	—
Computer software engineers, systems software	45.61	7.4	45.61	7.4	—	—
Computer support specialists	26.45	9.9	26.45	9.9	—	—
Computer systems analysts	36.36	5.5	36.36	5.5	—	—
Network systems and data communications analysts	40.24	3.6	40.24	3.6	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	40.11	17.1	40.59	17.0	—	—
Architects, except naval	30.75	3.0	31.02	4.9	—	—
Engineers	47.01	13.4	47.01	13.4	—	—
Electrical and electronics engineers	33.54	17.5	33.54	17.5	—	—
Electronics engineers, except computer	32.74	17.9	32.74	17.9	—	—
Drafters	24.01	13.6	24.01	13.6	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	29.85	2.1	29.79	2.7	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	26.21	10.1	26.90	8.0	—	—
Life scientists	—	—	20.29	10.4	—	—
Community and social services occupations	24.62	3.8	25.05	4.1	—	—
Counselors	26.19	11.2	25.96	11.9	—	—
Social workers	24.77	8.1	24.67	9.3	—	—
Miscellaneous community and social service specialists	18.80	10.1	—	—	—	—
Legal occupations	29.49	16.6	31.14	18.7	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	30.89	6.5	31.00	6.6	30.31	16.5
Postsecondary teachers	29.99	14.0	27.19	7.2	—	—
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	26.56	4.5	25.13	7.2	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	33.12	11.4	33.33	10.6	28.39	36.5
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	17.42	20.5	17.96	20.3	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	36.78	5.1	36.97	4.9	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	35.80	4.7	35.89	4.4	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	40.17	5.3	40.58	5.2	—	—
Secondary school teachers	36.76	10.1	36.77	10.0	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	36.54	10.4	36.54	10.3	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2007** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Education, training, and library occupations —Continued						
Other teachers and instructors	\$47.76	16.3	—	—	—	—
Librarians	36.46	5.1	—	—	—	—
Teacher assistants	14.03	4.7	\$14.54	8.3	\$13.55	7.4
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations						
Designers	25.77	3.9	25.96	4.5	—	—
.....	21.52	5.4	21.52	5.4	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations						
Pharmacists	33.82	4.1	33.90	4.5	33.30	4.6
Physicians and surgeons	50.78	.9	50.78	.9	—	—
Registered nurses	87.19	10.9	—	—	—	—
Therapists	34.49	2.2	34.25	2.3	35.90	1.3
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	38.37	8.9	38.65	10.1	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	24.82	4.2	24.82	4.2	—	—
Radiologic technologists and technicians	35.85	4.0	35.80	5.5	—	—
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	35.22	4.0	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	18.80	8.9	18.93	11.7	—	—
Medical records and health information technicians	22.27	2.9	22.50	3.4	—	—
.....	17.34	3.6	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations						
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	16.13	5.4	16.10	4.7	16.30	10.2
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	13.75	3.9	14.17	3.8	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	13.76	4.3	14.18	4.1	—	—
.....	17.89	5.5	17.67	5.3	—	—
Protective service occupations						
Fire fighters	21.60	12.2	22.05	13.0	—	—
Bailiffs, correctional officers, and jailers	29.75	1.6	29.75	1.6	—	—
Correctional officers and jailers	22.50	6.4	22.50	6.4	—	—
Police officers	22.50	6.4	22.50	6.4	—	—
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	32.22	4.9	32.22	4.9	—	—
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	32.22	4.9	32.22	4.9	—	—
Security guards	13.20	9.6	13.31	10.3	—	—
.....	13.20	9.6	13.31	10.3	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations						
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	10.34	1.9	11.69	7.2	8.68	1.4
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	16.66	4.6	16.67	4.7	—	—
Cooks	16.34	6.8	16.35	6.9	—	—
Cooks, restaurant	11.29	4.3	11.83	2.2	—	—
Food preparation workers	10.99	8.8	11.70	1.9	—	—
Food service, tipped	9.14	5.4	—	—	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	8.32	1.0	8.71	2.2	8.06	.2
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	8.02	.5	—	—	8.03	.6
Fast food and counter workers	8.45	7.2	—	—	—	—
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	10.15	2.1	10.88	9.9	9.13	6.3
Dishwashers	10.07	.6	10.65	11.1	9.09	7.5
.....	8.89	3.2	—	—	8.91	1.0
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations						
Building cleaning workers	13.41	4.1	14.14	3.5	10.03	9.8
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	12.88	6.1	13.79	5.7	9.68	12.1
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	14.73	4.1	14.78	4.1	—	—
Grounds maintenance workers	9.74	7.3	10.04	8.0	—	—
.....	13.57	5.0	13.74	6.4	—	—
Personal care and service occupations						
Child care workers	13.45	5.4	14.41	6.7	10.47	3.8
Personal and home care aides	10.80	6.8	11.06	5.1	10.24	8.9
Recreation and fitness workers	10.63	4.8	—	—	—	—
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	16.68	18.0	—	—	10.87	13.5
.....	18.24	19.8	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2007** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Sales and related occupations	\$20.96	8.5	\$24.43	8.8	\$10.91	7.2
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	32.04	8.6	32.04	8.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	31.68	12.8	31.68	12.8	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	32.48	13.0	32.48	13.0	—	—
Retail sales workers	13.16	13.9	14.94	17.8	10.55	7.3
Cashiers, all workers	12.51	1.5	13.37	3.9	11.64	1.6
Cashiers	12.51	1.5	13.37	3.9	11.64	1.6
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	15.93	18.3	17.84	19.4	—	—
Counter and rental clerks	12.05	7.1	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	13.28	29.0	15.44	32.2	9.32	8.9
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	35.14	16.2	36.10	14.2	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	32.91	27.1	33.86	24.9	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	17.35	2.2	17.97	1.9	12.23	3.5
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	24.78	3.1	24.78	3.1	—	—
Financial clerks	17.15	2.2	17.20	1.7	16.37	15.5
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	18.71	2.9	18.72	2.9	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	18.19	3.3	18.16	3.5	—	—
Tellers	12.95	2.8	—	—	—	—
Customer service representatives	15.45	4.0	15.78	3.7	—	—
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	18.45	2.3	18.45	2.3	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.56	5.5	14.44	5.5	10.95	5.4
Dispatchers	21.14	14.8	21.14	14.8	—	—
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	15.86	9.7	15.86	9.7	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	12.00	4.1	14.14	5.7	9.96	7.1
Secretaries and administrative assistants	19.75	4.7	19.89	5.0	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	19.75	4.4	19.99	4.5	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	17.64	3.7	17.57	3.8	—	—
Office clerks, general	14.86	5.3	16.15	5.2	10.76	6.3
Construction and extraction occupations	22.38	5.4	22.59	5.5	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	31.17	7.9	31.17	7.9	—	—
Carpenters	23.06	5.0	23.06	5.0	—	—
Construction laborers	17.30	18.3	17.99	18.5	—	—
Construction equipment operators	30.15	5.1	30.15	5.1	—	—
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	30.56	4.8	30.56	4.8	—	—
Electricians	24.51	1.2	24.73	1.2	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	23.39	5.4	23.50	5.3	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	24.36	18.4	24.36	18.4	—	—
Automotive technicians and repairers	19.36	16.8	19.36	16.8	—	—
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	19.36	16.8	19.36	16.8	—	—
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists	25.80	7.4	25.80	7.4	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	22.93	5.9	22.93	5.9	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	27.15	11.3	27.15	11.3	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	20.62	6.5	20.62	6.5	—	—
Line installers and repairers	23.58	11.4	24.08	10.6	—	—
Production occupations	19.54	3.7	20.06	4.4	11.56	16.5
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	26.87	9.4	26.87	9.4	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	13.97	4.2	14.02	3.9	—	—
Bakers	14.13	12.1	—	—	—	—
Machinists	24.63	2.4	24.63	2.4	—	—
Miscellaneous metalworkers and plastic workers	17.44	16.2	17.44	16.2	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	22.27	8.1	22.27	8.1	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	12.61	8.9	12.42	10.8	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, WA CSA, December 2007** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Transportation and material moving occupations	\$18.50	8.6	\$19.82	8.6	\$12.16	5.6
Bus drivers	17.83	12.0	—	—	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	20.31	5.0	20.55	4.9	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	20.95	4.9	21.28	5.1	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	18.10	14.2	18.10	14.2	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	18.86	11.7	18.86	11.7	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	13.15	6.4	14.38	6.5	9.81	3.6
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	11.37	5.4	11.55	6.1	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	13.77	6.6	15.23	6.2	10.03	4.3

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

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

³ Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

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

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

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