

## Rankings of full-time occupations, by earnings, 2000

John E. Buckley

In 2000, pay averaged \$16.66 an hour for full-time workers in private industry and State and local governments, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics National Compensation Survey. Airplane pilots and navigators averaged \$95.80; physicians averaged \$61.19. These two salaried occupations topped the list of 427 occupations arrayed by earnings. The average number of annual hours worked by physicians (2,175) far surpassed those of airplane pilots and navigators (1,197). As a result, the average annual salary estimate for physicians was \$133,088, compared with \$114,673 for airplane pilots and navigators. Because the standard error is high for each of these occupations (especially for physicians), caution must be exercised in making direct salary comparisons.

These results of the 2000 National Compensation Survey are the fourth annual findings of establishment-based surveys in a sample of 154 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The sample represents the Nation's 326 metropolitan statistical areas (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget in 1994) and the remaining portions of the 50 States. Agricultural, private household, and Federal Government workers are not included in the National Compensation Survey.<sup>1</sup>

### High- and low-paying occupations

*Top 10 percent.* Of the 43 occupations with hourly earnings in the top 10 percent, 38 were in the professional major occupational group; 4 were in the execu-

tive group, and 1 was in sales (sales engineers). Of the 38 professional occupations, 22 were teaching positions, paying average hourly earnings ranging from \$54.47 for economics teachers to \$35.19 for psychology teachers. Workers in 11 of these 22 teaching positions averaged \$39.07 or more an hour.

*Top 20 percent.* The 86 occupations in the top 20 percent of the earnings array were dominated by positions in the professional and executive major occupational groups. (See table 1.) However, workers from other major groups begin to appear in these high-earnings deciles. For example, the service major occupational group is represented by public transportation attendants (with a rank of 51) and police and detective supervisors (78)

In the precision production major group, three occupations were ranked in the top 20 percent – elevator installers and repairers (73); supervisory plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters (80); and supervisory electricians and power transmission installers (82). In the transportation major group, longshoreworkers ranked 58, with average hourly earnings of \$28.91.

*Bottom 10 percent.* Average hourly earnings ranged from \$9.80 to \$3.99 for full-time workers in occupations at the bottom 10 percent of the wage ladder. More than one-third of these 43 lowest paying positions were in the service major occupational group; most of the remaining two-thirds were nearly evenly divided among three major groups—handlers, administrative support, and machine operators. The low rate (\$3.99 an hour) for waiters and waitresses in the service group may be misleading; the National Compensation Survey does not include tips as part of wages because employers do not pay the tips. Thus, the rate for waiters and waitresses reflects the absence of information on tips. Assistants to waiters and waitresses were ranked 426, with average hourly earnings of \$6.16. (Rates for some other low-

ranked occupations, such as baggage porters and bellhops, bartenders, parking lot attendants, and taxicab drivers and chauffeurs, were similarly affected by the absence of information on tips.)

### Earnings dispersion

As seen in table 2, average hourly earnings varied considerably within and among major occupational groups. The following tabulation highlights the percentage spreads within each of the nine major occupational groups.<sup>2</sup>

Major occupational group	Percent by which highest paid occupation exceeds the lowest paid occupation within each of the nine major occupational group
Professional and technical .....	757
Executive .....	247
Sales .....	326
Administration support .....	163
Precision production .....	176
Machine operators .....	117
Transportation .....	237
Handlers .....	167
Service .....	655

The huge spread for professional jobs reflects the disparate jobs classified in the professional major occupational group, ranging from airplane pilots and navigators and physicians at the top end of the scale to health record technologists and technicians and substitute teachers at the low end. When airplane pilots and navigators are excluded from the professional group, the average hourly spread drops to 447 percent. (Likewise, excluding waiters and waitresses from the service group produces a 389-percent spread instead of 655 percent.)

### Reliability of the data

The data in this article are estimates from a scientifically selected probability

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**Table 1. Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000**

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
1	Airplane pilots and navigators .....	\$95.80	9.4	23.0	1,197	Professional
2	Physicians .....	61.19	23.3	41.8	2,175	Professional
3	Economics teachers .....	54.47	11.4	43.0	1,558	Professional
4	Physics teachers .....	52.95	8.5	30.9	1,120	Professional
5	Medical science teachers .....	51.20	7.6	39.8	1,818	Professional
6	Law teachers .....	51.15	9.6	39.7	1,771	Professional
7	Natural science teachers, n.e.c. ....	44.37	4.6	38.6	1,647	Professional
8	Engineering teachers .....	42.29	8.5	43.8	1,917	Professional
9	Physical education teachers .....	39.87	11.7	39.3	1,506	Professional
10	Sociology teachers .....	39.74	8.8	39.0	1,596	Professional
11	Education teachers .....	39.33	5.4	37.9	1,520	Professional
12	Theology teachers .....	39.14	5.6	39.1	1,398	Professional
13	History teachers .....	39.07	8.6	34.7	1,301	Professional
14	Lawyers .....	38.76	6.3	39.7	2,062	Professional
15	Mathematical scientists, n.e.c. ....	38.56	21.3	40.0	1,879	Professional
16	Optometrists .....	38.53	4.9	39.8	2,072	Professional
17	Business, commerce and marketing teachers .....	38.34	8.3	38.8	1,517	Professional
18	Judges .....	37.94	7.6	39.2	2,041	Professional
19	English teachers .....	37.85	9.3	37.7	1,531	Professional
20	Mathematical science teachers .....	37.82	6.4	38.6	1,511	Professional
21	Social science teachers, n.e.c. ....	37.63	5.2	39.2	1,578	Professional
22	Chemistry teachers .....	37.52	9.9	38.7	1,451	Professional
23	Biological science teachers .....	37.46	8.0	41.2	1,808	Professional
24	Earth, environmental, and marine science teachers .....	37.39	13.0	39.0	1,602	Professional
25	Managers, marketing, advertising and public relations .....	37.24	3.0	41.0	2,132	Executive
26	Petroleum engineers .....	36.75	6.9	40.3	2,083	Professional
27	Physicists and astronomers .....	36.66	8.0	40.0	2,081	Professional
28	Chemical engineers .....	36.39	3.0	40.1	2,087	Professional
29	Political science teachers .....	36.17	9.7	38.8	1,544	Professional
30	Agriculture and forestry teachers .....	35.55	26.4	37.6	1,668	Professional
31	Health specialties teachers .....	35.22	8.5	39.9	1,757	Professional
32	Psychology teachers .....	35.19	9.8	39.0	1,637	Professional
33	Electrical and electronic engineers .....	33.94	4.9	40.9	2,123	Professional
34	Financial managers .....	33.87	8.5	40.4	2,101	Executive
35	Sales engineers .....	33.59	5.5	41.0	2,134	Sales
36	Engineers, n.e.c. ....	33.51	5.5	40.3	2,098	Professional
37	Aerospace engineers .....	33.34	3.8	40.1	2,086	Professional
38	Nuclear engineers .....	33.24	6.2	40.1	2,084	Professional
39	Actuaries .....	33.00	7.9	38.5	2,002	Professional
40	Administrators, education and related fields .....	32.71	3.8	39.8	1,939	Executive
41	Managers and administrators, n.e.c. ....	32.64	3.7	41.7	2,167	Executive
42	Physicians' assistants .....	32.38	6.8	39.8	2,069	Professional
43	Chemists, except biochemists .....	31.23	4.5	40.0	2,078	Professional
44	Art, drama and music teachers .....	31.16	7.2	38.4	1,510	Professional
45	Pharmacists .....	31.10	2.9	40.3	2,091	Professional
46	Surveyors and mapping scientists .....	31.05	5.8	39.9	2,077	Professional
47	Social work teachers .....	30.83	8.9	40.0	1,561	Professional
48	Computer science teachers .....	30.73	17.0	38.4	1,646	Professional
49	Teachers, special education .....	30.16	3.6	35.7	1,417	Professional
50	Managers, medicine and health .....	30.13	3.9	39.8	2,068	Executive
51	Public transportation attendants .....	30.13	6.3	21.4	1,110	Service
52	Securities and financial services sales occupations .....	30.11	11.5	39.6	2,059	Sales
53	Personnel and labor relations managers .....	29.95	10.7	41.1	2,125	Executive
54	Geologists and geodesists .....	29.85	8.8	40.9	2,126	Professional
55	Computer systems analysts and scientists .....	29.36	2.8	40.1	2,084	Professional
56	Secondary school teachers .....	29.16	1.4	37.2	1,423	Professional
57	Economists .....	29.07	5.3	39.3	2,044	Professional
58	Longshore equipment operators .....	28.91	5.2	39.9	2,074	Transportation

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
59	Elementary school teachers .....	\$28.86	1.1	36.6	1,395	Professional
60	Metallurgical and materials engineers .....	28.78	6.4	40.3	2,095	Professional
61	Physical scientists, n.e.c. ....	28.56	4.6	39.9	2,074	Professional
62	Musicians and composers .....	28.48	40.1	29.4	1,381	Professional
63	Professional occupations, n.e.c. ....	28.18	3.5	39.8	2,041	Professional
64	Operations and systems researchers and analysts .....	28.14	5.3	40.0	2,081	Professional
65	Athletes .....	28.13	17.2	40.2	2,037	Professional
66	Administrators and officials, public administration .....	27.80	2.3	39.5	2,045	Executive
67	Trade and industrial teachers .....	27.64	6.5	38.6	1,656	Professional
68	Actors and directors .....	27.49	15.6	39.8	2,069	Professional
69	Civil engineers .....	27.35	3.0	40.3	2,096	Professional
70	Managers, service organizations, n.e.c. ....	27.19	7.9	39.8	2,064	Executive
71	Dental hygienists .....	27.09	2.9	36.0	1,874	Professional
72	Psychologists .....	27.03	4.7	38.9	1,901	Professional
73	Elevator installers and repairers .....	26.88	8.1	40.0	2,080	Precision production
74	Speech therapists .....	26.71	3.7	38.3	1,664	Professional
75	Industrial engineers .....	26.49	2.7	40.6	2,110	Professional
76	Teachers, n.e.c. ....	26.45	5.5	36.4	1,478	Professional
77	Mechanical engineers .....	26.20	3.5	42.0	2,186	Professional
78	Supervisors, police and detectives ...	26.20	3.4	40.1	2,085	Service occupations
79	Helpers, surveyors .....	25.56	8.6	38.7	2,013	Professional
80	Supervisors, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters .....	25.35	6.6	40.0	2,079	Precision production
81	Management analysts .....	25.33	4.4	39.9	2,077	Executive
82	Supervisors, electricians and power transmission installers .....	25.09	3.4	40.2	2,090	Precision production
83	Medical scientists .....	25.03	6.2	39.8	2,064	Professional
84	Vocational and educational counselors .....	24.93	4.8	37.8	1,658	Professional
85	Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c. ....	24.85	6.9	40.0	2,079	Executive
86	Editors and reporters .....	24.81	6.6	39.4	2,045	Professional
87	Atmospheric and space scientists ...	24.59	14.5	41.1	2,138	Professional
88	Management related occupations, n.e.c. ....	24.37	6.2	40.0	2,076	Executive
89	Foreign language teachers .....	24.22	18.9	42.5	1,658	Professional
90	Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale .....	24.22	4.7	40.6	2,112	Sales
91	Funeral directors .....	24.03	15.5	44.0	2,290	Executive
92	Urban planners .....	23.93	4.6	39.3	2,041	Professional
93	Other financial officers .....	23.92	4.0	39.4	2,048	Executive
94	Supervisors, carpenters and related workers .....	23.85	7.2	40.1	2,074	Precision production
95	Librarians .....	23.76	3.8	38.2	1,773	Professional
96	Chief executives and general administrators, public administration .....	23.72	33.5	43.0	2,236	Executive
97	Supervisors, extractive occupations	23.65	16.5	41.2	2,141	Precision production
98	Public relations specialists .....	23.60	7.1	39.1	2,000	Professional
99	Tile setters, hard and soft .....	23.55	10.1	40.0	2,080	Precision production
100	Underwriters .....	23.45	7.9	38.7	1,982	Executive
101	Locomotive operating occupations ...	23.44	9.8	40.3	2,094	Transportation
102	Biological and life scientists .....	23.36	9.9	39.7	2,060	Professional
103	Architects .....	23.22	5.6	39.7	2,066	Professional
104	Computer programmers .....	23.19	3.0	39.6	2,053	Professional
105	Supervisors, computer equipment operators .....	23.18	4.5	39.8	2,067	Administrative
					support	
106	Power plant operators .....	23.09	2.7	39.8	2,069	Precision production
107	Electrical power installers and repairers .....	23.06	2.5	40.0	2,080	Precision production
108	Physical therapists .....	22.85	4.2	39.7	2,038	Professional

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
109	Real estate sales occupations .....	\$22.84	13.5	37.8	1,967	Sales
110	Occupational therapists .....	22.79	4.8	38.7	1,941	Professional
111	Supervisors, firefighters and fire prevention occupations .....	22.34	4.7	49.2	2,558	Service
112	Forestry and conservation scientists .....	22.29	7.3	40.2	2,091	Professional
113	Painters, sculptors, craft artists, and artist print-makers .....	22.07	19.8	40.1	2,083	Professional
114	Buyers, wholesale and retail trade, except farm products .....	21.91	7.0	40.5	2,107	Executive
115	Insurance sales occupations .....	21.80	5.6	39.7	2,066	Sales occupations
116	Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists .....	21.75	3.1	39.6	2,058	Executive
117	Sheetmetal duct installers .....	21.74	8.5	39.7	2,062	Precision production
118	Advertising and related sales occupations .....	21.73	7.4	39.5	2,054	Sales occupations
119	Registered nurses .....	21.69	1.3	39.0	2,013	Professional
120	Mining occupations, n.e.c. ....	21.61	3.1	39.5	2,055	Precision production
121	Agricultural and food scientists .....	21.53	9.6	39.8	2,042	Professional
122	Accountants and auditors .....	21.51	1.8	39.6	2,042	Executive
123	Archivists and curators .....	21.51	10.6	39.3	2,046	Professional
124	Stevedores .....	21.43	4.8	39.3	2,046	Handlers
125	Inspectors and compliance officers, except construction .....	21.34	3.6	39.3	2,041	Executive
126	Telephone line installers and repairers .....	21.33	2.8	40.0	2,076	Precision production
127	Social scientists, n.e.c. ....	21.28	22.9	38.7	2,011	Professional
128	Camera, watch, and musical instrument repairers .....	21.28	12.7	39.0	2,030	Precision production
129	Construction inspectors .....	21.19	4.0	40.2	2,087	Executive
130	Tool and die makers .....	21.19	2.3	40.1	2,088	Precision production
131	Police and detectives, public service .....	21.01	1.5	40.0	2,074	Service
132	Managers, properties and real estate .....	21.00	7.9	40.3	2,095	Executive
133	Brickmasons and stonemasons .....	20.91	8.9	39.1	1,979	Precision production
134	Miscellaneous plant and system operators, n.e.c. ....	20.91	7.1	40.0	2,065	Precision production
135	Industrial engineering technicians .....	20.89	5.5	40.4	2,102	Professional
136	Railroad brake, signal and switch operators .....	20.81	12.4	40.0	2,080	Transportation
137	Designers .....	20.80	6.2	39.6	2,056	Professional
138	Aircraft engine mechanics .....	20.75	5.1	40.0	2,080	Precision production
139	Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters .....	20.74	4.8	39.7	2,065	Precision production
140	Mechanical engineering technicians .....	20.69	3.8	40.3	2,095	Professional
141	Aircraft mechanics except engine .....	20.69	4.2	40.0	2,080	Precision production
142	Sales occupations, other business services .....	20.67	7.5	40.2	2,088	Sales
143	Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c. ....	20.43	4.3	40.0	2,072	Precision production
144	Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats .....	20.32	5.0	45.1	2,346	Sales
145	Drywall installers .....	20.32	13.7	39.1	2,032	Precision production
146	Supervisors, brickmasons, stonemasons, and tilesetters .....	20.26	12.9	40.0	2,080	Precision production
147	Stationary engineers .....	20.16	3.6	39.9	2,074	Precision production
148	Engineering technicians, n.e.c. ....	20.12	2.9	39.8	2,069	Professional
149	Supervisors, production occupations .....	19.97	3.1	40.6	2,108	Precision production
150	Electricians .....	19.81	4.3	39.8	2,071	Precision production
151	Technical writers .....	19.78	9.9	40.0	2,064	Professional
152	Patternmakers and modelmakers, metal .....	19.77	6.5	40.0	2,080	Precision production

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
153	Mechanical controls and valve repairers .....	\$19.72	4.4	40.0	2,080	Precision production
154	Radiological technicians .....	19.66	4.6	39.6	2,058	Professional
155	Electronic repairers, communications and industrial equipment .....	19.59	2.9	39.9	2,072	Precision production
156	Precision inspectors, testers, and related workers, n.e.c. ....	19.53	7.7	40.0	2,080	Precision production
157	Technical and related occupations, n.e.c. ....	19.42	3.3	39.7	2,055	Professional
158	Carpet installers .....	19.41	10.2	39.6	2,061	Precision production
159	Drafters .....	19.18	3.2	40.0	2,080	Professional
160	Adjusters and calibrators .....	19.12	20.3	40.0	2,080	Precision production
161	Fire inspection and fire prevention occupations .....	19.05	7.5	41.7	2,170	Service occupations
162	Telephone installers and repairers .....	18.98	3.0	40.0	2,080	Precision production
163	Operating engineers .....	18.94	6.3	40.0	1,957	Transportation
164	Millwrights .....	18.81	5.7	40.0	2,080	Precision production
165	Respiratory therapists .....	18.69	2.0	39.2	2,040	Professional
166	Street and door to door sales workers .....	18.69	13.3	38.6	2,006	Sales
167	Supervisors, painters, paperhangers and plasterers .....	18.69	3.1	40.2	2,092	Precision production
168	Supervisors, financial records processing .....	18.57	3.4	39.5	2,052	Administrative support
169	Electrical and electronic technicians .....	18.53	4.8	39.9	2,076	Professional
170	Hoist and winch operators .....	18.50	17.2	42.0	2,185	Transportation
171	Science technicians, n.e.c. ....	18.49	8.0	39.2	2,039	Professional
172	Heavy equipment mechanics .....	18.48	4.1	40.0	2,069	Precision production
173	Automobile body and related repairers .....	18.44	9.9	40.2	2,090	Precision production
174	Supervisors, distribution, scheduling, and adjusting clerks .....	18.39	3.6	40.3	2,097	Administrative support
175	Purchasing agents and buyers, farm products .....	18.38	15.6	39.6	2,060	Executive
176	Chief communications operators .....	18.30	7.1	40.0	2,080	Administrative support
177	Ship captains and mates except fishing boats .....	18.22	8.4	51.6	2,359	Transportation
178	Dietitians .....	18.21	3.3	39.6	2,061	Professional
179	Broadcast equipment operators .....	18.08	11.3	39.8	2,068	Professional
180	Supervisors, material moving equipment .....	18.08	3.6	40.6	2,112	Transportation
181	Photographers .....	18.06	8.3	40.1	2,083	Professional
182	Chemical technicians .....	18.02	3.7	40.0	2,073	Professional
183	Prekindergarten and kindergarten .....	17.94	7.4	38.0	1,659	Professional
184	Religious workers, n.e.c. ....	17.87	16.4	40.0	1,979	Professional
185	Supervisors, agriculture-related workers .....	17.81	6.9	38.7	2,012	Handlers
186	Industrial machinery repairers .....	17.80	1.8	39.9	2,074	Precision production
187	Supervisors, motor vehicle operators .....	17.62	5.5	42.8	2,225	Transportation
188	Locksmiths and safe repairers .....	17.57	5.4	40.0	2,080	Precision production
189	Legal assistants .....	17.56	3.3	39.1	2,035	Professional
190	Precision grinders, filers, and tool sharpeners .....	17.55	6.8	40.0	2,080	Precision production
191	Therapists, n.e.c. ....	17.54	4.7	39.2	2,030	Professional
192	Tool programmers, numerical control .....	17.54	4.7	40.2	2,092	Professional
193	Supervisors, guards .....	17.54	7.0	38.7	1,927	Service occupations
194	Managers, food servicing and lodging establishments .....	17.52	5.0	43.2	2,162	Executive
195	Precision assemblers, metal .....	17.48	2.1	40.0	2,078	Precision production
196	Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters apprentices .....	17.43	13.8	39.8	2,071	Precision production
197	Carpenters .....	17.28	3.3	39.8	2,055	Precision production
198	Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators .....	17.20	3.8	39.1	2,033	Administrative support
199	Clergy .....	17.17	13.2	47.1	2,450	Professional

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Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
200	Drillers, oil well .....	\$17.16	25.2	40.0	2,036	Precision production
201	Firefighting occupations .....	17.15	3.0	48.3	2,512	Service occupations
202	Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement officers .....	17.06	2.7	39.8	2,071	Service occupations
203	Cost and rate clerks .....	17.04	13.1	40.0	2,080	Administrative support
204	Supervisors, general office .....	16.94	3.1	39.7	2,063	Administrative support
205	Data processing equipment repairers .....	16.85	9.4	39.8	2,067	Precision production
206	Separating, filtering, and clarifying machine operators .....	16.77	3.6	39.8	2,069	Machine operators
207	Sheet metal workers .....	16.73	4.9	40.0	2,077	Precision production
208	Crane and tower operators .....	16.73	5.4	39.8	2,067	Transportation
209	Supervisors, mechanics and repairers .....	16.72	13.4	40.4	2,101	Precision production
210	Inspectors, testers, and graders .....	16.68	3.5	40.4	2,103	Precision production
211	Supervisors, sales occupations .....	16.59	3.7	41.4	2,154	Sales
212	Structural metal workers .....	16.58	4.6	38.9	1,981	Precision production
213	Machinists .....	16.58	3.8	40.0	2,079	Precision production
214	Supervisors, handlers, equipment cleaners, and laborers, n.e.c. ....	16.56	7.0	39.2	2,030	Handlers
215	Hand molders and shapers except jewelers .....	16.52	5.6	40.0	2,080	Precision production
216	Surveying and mapping technicians ..	16.44	7.2	39.8	2,071	Professional
217	Mining machine operators .....	16.30	13.3	40.0	2,080	Precision production
218	Production coordinators .....	16.28	2.8	40.0	2,076	Administrative support
219	Automobile mechanics .....	16.26	3.9	40.3	2,096	Precision production
220	Concrete and terrazzo finishers .....	16.25	12.3	37.9	1,896	Precision production
221	Biological technicians .....	16.22	5.1	39.7	2,064	Professional
222	Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians .....	16.11	3.7	38.4	1,996	Professional
223	Photoengravers and lithographers ....	16.05	9.3	39.2	2,037	Machine operators
224	Miscellaneous precision workers, n.e.c. ....	15.94	8.3	40.0	2,078	Precision production
225	Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c. ....	15.93	2.2	39.9	2,072	Precision production
226	Water and sewer treatment plant operators .....	15.77	3.7	40.0	2,079	Precision production
227	Layout workers .....	15.61	6.3	40.0	2,080	Precision production
228	Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics .....	15.57	3.0	40.0	2,075	Precision production
229	Correctional institution officers .....	15.48	4.4	39.9	2,031	Service
230	Sales workers, furniture and home furnishings .....	15.44	12.3	40.7	2,117	Sales
231	Precision food production occupations .....	15.32	20.0	37.4	1,575	Precision production
232	Tool and die maker apprentices .....	15.17	8.0	39.8	2,071	Precision production
233	Grader, dozer, and scrapper operators .....	15.15	5.6	40.0	2,071	Transportation
234	Production samplers and weighers ...	15.14	3.7	39.6	2,059	Machine operators
235	Social workers .....	15.13	7.4	39.3	2,027	Professional
236	Proofreaders .....	15.06	15.1	39.7	2,062	Administrative support
237	Dental laboratory and medical appliance technicians .....	14.97	2.7	38.9	2,024	Precision production
238	Office machine repairers .....	14.93	11.4	40.0	2,079	Precision production
239	Computer operators .....	14.89	2.7	39.6	2,053	Administrative support
240	Meter readers .....	14.89	3.5	40.0	2,081	Administrative support
241	Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c. ....	14.86	4.3	39.9	2,074	Transportation
242	Construction trades, n.e.c. ....	14.85	5.5	39.7	2,032	Precision production
243	Artists, performers, and related workers, n.e.c. ....	14.84	13.7	37.8	1,854	Professional
244	Lathe and turning machine set-up operators .....	14.81	3.5	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
245	Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c. ....	14.69	4.4	39.7	2,057	Professional
246	Eligibility clerks, social welfare .....	14.68	4.6	39.2	2,014	Administrative support

**Table 1. Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000**

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
247	Stenographers .....	\$14.66	6.0	39.3	2,042	Administrative support
248	Carpenter apprentices .....	14.66	7.7	40.0	1,979	Precision production
249	Excavating and loading machine operators .....	14.66	4.3	40.0	2,047	Transportation
250	Driver-sales workers .....	14.64	5.0	40.7	2,109	Transportation
251	Recreation workers .....	14.63	4.3	39.3	2,041	Professional
252	Welders and cutters .....	14.55	2.7	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
253	Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics .....	14.50	6.0	40.1	2,083	Precision production
254	Glaziers .....	14.50	6.9	40.0	2,080	Precision production
255	Secretaries .....	14.46	3.7	38.9	1,999	Administrative support
256	Heat treating equipment operators .....	14.46	3.1	40.0	2,078	Machine operators
257	Roofers .....	14.45	10.1	38.2	1,962	Precision production
258	Machinery maintenance occupations .....	14.44	3.2	39.9	2,066	Precision production
259	Furnace, kiln, and oven operators, except food .....	14.37	5.4	40.0	2,081	Machine operators
260	Numerical control machine operators .....	14.36	2.8	40.0	2,078	Machine operators
261	Garbage collectors .....	14.33	7.7	40.0	2,079	Handlers
262	Printing press operators .....	14.28	3.6	39.6	2,054	Machine operators
263	Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers .....	14.18	7.8	40.0	2,076	Administrative support
264	Payroll and timekeeping clerks .....	14.15	2.8	39.7	2,061	Administrative support
265	Rolling machine operators .....	14.06	8.8	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
266	Personnel clerks except payroll and timekeeping .....	14.02	2.7	39.5	2,047	Administrative support
267	Licensed practical nurses .....	13.99	1.3	39.3	2,040	Professional
268	Painters, construction and maintenance .....	13.99	4.3	39.6	2,007	Precision production
269	Painting and paint spraying machine operators .....	13.90	13.1	40.0	2,074	Machine operators
270	Mixing and blending machine operators .....	13.85	4.4	39.8	2,058	Machine operators
271	Bus drivers .....	13.84	3.4	37.0	1,713	Transportation
272	Transportation ticket and reservation agents .....	13.82	3.9	39.7	2,063	Administrative support
273	Material recording, scheduling, and distribution clerks, n.e.c. ....	13.78	8.6	39.9	2,074	Administrative support
274	Precision stones and metals workers .....	13.74	14.8	40.0	2,080	Precision production
275	Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c. ....	13.67	2.3	39.9	2,076	Machine operators
276	Upholsterers .....	13.66	13.2	39.4	2,047	Precision production
277	Dispatchers .....	13.65	4.1	40.1	2,084	Administrative support
278	Milling and planing machine operators .....	13.56	6.9	39.8	2,068	Machine operators
279	Typesetters and compositors .....	13.56	6.3	38.2	1,981	Machine operators
280	Sales workers, parts .....	13.52	5.5	40.7	2,117	Sales
281	Cabinet makers and bench carpenters .....	13.41	12.2	39.9	2,076	Precision production
282	Classified ad clerks .....	13.38	6.2	39.2	2,040	Administrative support
283	Sales workers, apparel .....	13.34	25.2	38.3	1,972	Sales
284	Sales workers, hardware and building supplies .....	13.31	6.6	41.2	2,140	Sales
285	Expeditors .....	13.29	4.1	39.8	2,068	Administrative support
286	Sales support occupations, n.e.c. ....	13.28	5.0	40.2	2,078	Sales
287	Investigators and adjusters except insurance .....	13.28	2.3	39.7	2,067	Administrative support
288	Insulation workers .....	13.27	8.9	39.8	2,061	Precision production
289	Tailors .....	13.23	5.2	39.7	2,066	Precision production
290	Order clerks .....	13.22	1.9	39.7	2,061	Administrative support
291	Lathe and turning machine operators .....	13.21	5.8	39.9	2,077	Machine operators
292	Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators .....	13.21	3.6	39.9	2,072	Transportation

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
293	Electrician apprentices .....	13.20	5.3	40.0	2,080	Precision production
294	Small engine repairs .....	13.19	4.5	40.0	1,769	Precision production
295	Forging machine operators .....	13.14	4.9	39.9	2,074	Machine operators
296	Household appliance and power tool repairers .....	13.12	6.0	39.6	2,058	Precision production
297	Sailors and deckhands .....	13.09	11.9	45.3	2,270	Transportation
298	Farm equipment mechanics .....	13.08	5.2	40.7	2,116	Precision production
299	Protective service occupations, n.e.c. ....	13.03	6.3	39.3	1,737	Service occupations
300	Truck drivers .....	12.96	2.1	41.8	2,152	Transportation
301	Metal plating machine operators .....	12.91	3.7	39.6	2,059	Machine operators
302	Production testers .....	12.85	3.3	40.0	2,075	Machine operators
303	Dental assistants .....	12.82	9.9	38.0	1,974	Service
304	Statistical clerks .....	12.81	5.5	39.2	2,036	Administrative support
305	Slicing and cutting machine operators .....	12.81	4.5	39.9	2,073	Machine operators
306	Grinding, abrading, buffing, and polishing machine operators .....	12.78	3.0	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
307	Folding machine operators .....	12.76	3.8	39.6	2,058	Machine operators
308	Typists .....	12.74	1.8	38.5	1,975	Administrative support
309	Telephone operators .....	12.60	3.0	39.2	2,036	Administrative support
310	Sales workers, other commodities ....	12.52	7.2	39.7	2,066	Sales occupations
311	Administrative support occupations, n.e.c. ....	12.52	1.9	39.4	2,035	Administrative support
312	Photographic process machine operators .....	12.47	5.9	39.9	2,070	Machine operators
313	Peripheral equipment operators .....	12.44	6.9	39.6	2,058	Administrative support
314	Sheet metal worker apprentices .....	12.40	16.5	34.9	1,793	Precision production
315	Construction laborers .....	12.36	4.8	39.9	1,999	Handlers
316	Substitute teachers .....	12.31	14.3	32.6	1,271	Professional
317	Records clerks, n.e.c. ....	12.29	2.2	39.3	2,025	Administrative support
318	Winding and twisting machine operators .....	12.27	7.8	39.9	2,075	Machine operators
319	Stock and inventory clerks .....	12.18	2.4	39.8	2,065	Administrative support
320	Bookbinders .....	12.17	2.7	39.9	2,073	Precision production
321	Correspondence clerks .....	12.16	3.9	39.8	2,059	Administrative support
322	Crushing and grinding machine operators .....	12.13	7.2	40.0	1,997	Machine operators
323	Information clerks, n.e.c. ....	12.11	3.3	39.3	2,038	Administrative support
324	Punching and stamping press operators .....	12.11	5.2	40.0	2,071	Machine operators
325	Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c. ....	12.10	3.7	39.9	2,073	Machine operators
326	Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks .....	12.09	3.2	39.8	2,072	Administrative support
327	Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks .....	11.96	5.1	39.6	2,057	Administrative support
328	Guides .....	11.96	9.3	39.5	2,016	Service occupations
329	Bill and account collectors .....	11.93	4.3	39.2	2,037	Administrative support
330	Supervisors, food preparation and service occupations .....	11.92	3.7	42.2	2,139	Service occupations
331	Supervisors, cleaning and building service workers .....	11.92	10.7	39.8	2,068	Service occupations
332	Hand molding, casting, and forming occupations .....	11.91	2.9	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
333	General office clerks .....	11.88	1.3	39.3	2,025	Administrative support
334	Furniture and wood finishers .....	11.82	4.9	40.0	2,080	Precision production
335	Production inspectors, checkers and examiners .....	11.81	3.9	39.9	2,076	Machine operators
336	Extruding and forming machine operators .....	11.78	4.0	39.6	2,058	Machine operators
337	Assemblers .....	11.76	3.9	39.9	2,073	Machine operators
338	Paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators .....	11.68	12.3	40.0	2,005	Precision production
339	Packaging and filling machine operators .....	11.68	2.9	39.9	2,076	Machine operators

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
340	Automobile mechanic apprentices .....	\$11.65	8.6	40.3	2,097	Precision production
341	Animal caretakers except farm .....	11.56	9.7	38.5	1,807	Handlers
342	Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c. ....	11.53	3.3	39.7	2,060	Handlers
343	Dressmakers .....	11.45	5.5	38.4	1,998	Precision production
344	Library clerks .....	11.35	3.3	38.0	1,788	Administrative support
345	Optical goods workers .....	11.27	10.2	39.9	2,073	Precision production
346	Drilling and boring machine operators .....	11.22	11.2	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
347	Health record technologists and technicians .....	11.18	9.9	39.3	2,043	Professional
348	Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers .....	11.15	4.0	40.0	2,077	Precision production
349	Molding and casting machine operators .....	11.15	4.6	39.9	2,068	Machine operators
350	Cementing and gluing machine operators .....	11.15	10.2	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
351	Data entry keyers .....	11.08	2.2	39.5	2,014	Administrative support
352	Compressing and compacting machine operators .....	11.06	3.5	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
353	Sawing machine operators .....	11.03	6.5	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
354	Knitting, looping, taping, and weaving machine operators .....	11.02	1.7	40.0	2,078	Machine operators
355	Helpers, mechanics and repairers .....	10.96	4.8	39.7	2,066	Handlers
356	Health aides, except nursing .....	10.88	3.7	39.4	2,039	Service
357	Interviewers .....	10.87	2.8	38.8	2,003	Administrative support
358	Miscellaneous hand working occupations, n.e.c. ....	10.87	4.1	39.7	2,061	Machine operators
359	Washing, cleaning, and pickling machine operators .....	10.77	8.9	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
360	Legislators .....	10.74	33.4	32.5	1,126	Executive
361	Duplicating machine operators .....	10.73	5.5	39.5	2,050	Administrative support
362	Pest control occupations .....	10.72	11.4	40.0	2,080	Service occupations
363	Shaping and jointing machine operators .....	10.71	5.2	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
364	Hand inspectors, n.e.c. ....	10.71	5.9	39.8	2,071	Machine operators
365	Billing clerks .....	10.69	3.9	39.8	2,072	Administrative support
366	Helpers, construction trades .....	10.66	3.2	39.9	2,031	Handlers
367	Billing, posting, and calculating machine operators .....	10.55	7.0	35.3	1,836	Administrative support
368	Butchers and meat cutters .....	10.49	4.3	40.0	2,080	Precision production
369	Receptionists .....	10.43	2.4	39.1	2,026	Administrative support
370	Hairdressers and cosmetologists .....	10.41	4.9	38.0	1,975	Service
371	Graders and sorters except agricultural .....	10.31	3.8	39.8	2,070	Machine operators
372	Hand painting, coating, and decorating occupations .....	10.30	6.1	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
373	Stock handlers and baggers .....	10.28	2.6	39.8	2,059	Handlers
374	Food batchmakers .....	10.26	9.8	40.0	2,077	Precision production
375	Janitors and cleaners .....	10.25	1.4	39.4	2,037	Service
376	Mail preparing and paper handling machine operators .....	10.23	5.8	39.5	2,053	Administrative support
377	Shoe machine operators .....	10.17	10.4	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
378	Laborers except construction, n.e.c. ....	10.17	2.0	39.6	2,056	Handlers
379	Roasting and baking machine operators, food .....	10.14	5.6	40.0	2,080	Machine operators
380	Production helpers .....	10.10	3.9	39.8	2,069	Handlers
381	Bakers .....	9.98	10.4	35.8	1,858	Precision production
382	Solders and braziers .....	9.89	7.8	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
383	Communications equipment operators, n.e.c. ....	9.84	11.9	39.7	2,012	Administrative support
384	Bank tellers .....	9.84	2.3	39.2	2,039	Administrative support
385	Mail clerks except postal service .....	9.80	6.2	38.9	2,024	Administrative support
386	Sales workers, shoes .....	9.75	12.4	39.6	2,057	Sales occupations

**Table 1.** Continued—Hourly earnings of full-time workers and weekly and annual work hours, National Compensation Survey, 2000

Rank	Occupation	Hourly earnings <sup>1</sup>		Mean hours <sup>2</sup>		Major occupational group <sup>3</sup>
		Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Weekly	Annual	
387	Brickmason and stonemason apprentices .....	\$9.73	7.8	40.0	2,080	Precision production
388	Teachers' aides .....	9.72	1.9	35.6	1,364	Administrative support
389	Hand packers and packagers .....	9.58	5.2	39.8	2,062	Handlers
390	Groundskeepers and gardeners except farm .....	9.57	6.5	39.8	1,920	Handlers
391	Garage and service station related occupations .....	9.50	6.1	39.1	2,032	Handlers
392	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs .....	9.41	4.6	39.7	2,062	Transportation
393	Guards and police except public service .....	9.38	2.2	39.4	2,040	Service
394	Wood lathe, routing, and planing machine operators .....	9.37	11.7	39.7	2,065	Machine operators
395	Textile cutting machine operators .....	9.37	7.5	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
396	Inspectors, agricultural products .....	9.26	10.0	39.8	1,984	Handlers
397	File clerks .....	9.25	3.7	39.4	2,048	Administrative support
398	Messengers .....	9.25	8.0	39.2	2,036	Administrative support
399	Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants .....	9.11	1.2	38.7	2,011	Service
400	Motor transportation occupations, n.e.c. ....	9.10	6.4	38.8	1,995	Transportation
401	Child care workers, n.e.c. ....	9.08	2.9	39.4	1,969	Service
402	Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners .....	9.03	3.8	40.0	2,070	Handlers
403	Office machine operators, n.e.c. ....	8.93	4.1	39.6	2,060	Administrative support
404	Service occupations, n.e.c. ....	8.92	12.7	39.1	2,016	Service
405	Welfare service aides .....	8.87	3.5	39.3	2,028	Service
406	Cooks .....	8.82	2.3	38.5	1,953	Service
407	Hotel clerks .....	8.81	3.3	40.2	2,086	Administrative support
408	Parking lot attendants .....	8.58	5.7	40.0	2,078	Transportation
409	Helpers, extractive occupations .....	8.50	11.2	37.7	1,960	Handlers
410	Machine feeders and offbearers .....	8.45	8.8	39.9	2,073	Handlers
411	Hand cutting and trimming occupations .....	8.35	8.4	40.0	2,079	Machine operators
412	Pressing machine operators .....	8.31	4.4	39.9	2,076	Machine operators
413	Cashiers .....	8.26	1.3	39.2	2,031	Sales
414	Textile sewing machine operators .....	8.04	4.5	39.9	2,074	Machine operators
415	Nursery workers .....	8.03	3.4	40.0	1,951	Handlers
416	Kitchen workers, food preparation .....	8.02	2.8	38.8	1,942	Service
417	Sales counter clerks .....	7.88	3.7	39.2	2,038	Sales
418	Maids and housemen .....	7.87	2.5	37.9	1,969	Service
419	Early childhood teachers' assistants .....	7.84	5.4	37.8	1,783	Service
420	Food preparation occupations, n.e.c. ....	7.72	1.3	38.2	1,931	Service
421	Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators .....	7.72	4.9	39.1	2,021	Machine operators
422	Bartenders .....	7.08	6.2	38.4	1,998	Service
423	Food counter, fountain, and related occupations .....	7.03	4.3	36.9	1,899	Service
424	Attendants, amusement and recreation facilities .....	6.68	5.8	39.7	2,054	Service
425	Baggage porters and bellhops .....	6.30	7.6	39.0	2,026	Service
426	Waiters/waitresses' assistants .....	6.16	3.6	38.3	1,985	Service
427	Waiters and waitresses .....	3.99	4.0	37.2	1,933	Service

<sup>1</sup> Earnings are 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.

<sup>2</sup> Employees are classified as working either a full-time or part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment.

<sup>3</sup> The National Compensation Survey classifies occupations into nine major groups. The full titles used are: (1) professional specialty and technical; (2) executive, administrative, and managerial; (3) sales; (4) administrative support, including clerical; (5) precision production, craft, and repair; (6) machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors; (7) transportation and material moving; (8) handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers; and (9) service occupations, except private households.

<sup>4</sup> The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: The survey covers all 50 States. Collection was conducted between June 1999 and April 2001. The average reference period was July 2000.

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 the National Compensation 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 is the standard error divided by the estimate. The relative standard errors are presented for all of the occupations in table 1.

The standard error can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. As an example, the mean hourly earnings for physicians were \$61.19 and a relative standard error of 23.3 percent for this estimate. At the 90-percent level, the confidence interval for this estimate is \$37.74 to \$84.64 (\$61.19 plus and minus 1.645 times 23.3 percent [that is, .233] = \$23.45); (\$61.19 + \$23.45 = \$84.64; \$61.19 - \$23.45 = \$37.74). 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.

Because standard errors may somewhat affect the actual rankings, readers are advised to view with caution the rankings shown in this article.

*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 are not specifically mea-

sured, the nonsampling errors are expected to be minimal due to the extensive training of the field economists who gather the survey data by personal visit, computer edits of the data, and detailed data review.

### **The major occupational groups**

Following is a brief description of the nine major occupational groups, the types of occupations included in each group, and a general description of the duties and skills required to fill the positions.

*Professional specialty and technical occupations.* This major occupational group includes occupations concerned with the study, application, and/or administration of physical, mathematical, scientific, engineering, architectural, social, medical, legal statute, biological, behavioral, library, and/or religious laws, principles, practices, or theories. Some occupations are concerned with interpreting, informing, expressing, or promoting ideas, products, and so forth by written, artistic, sound, or physical mediums. Certain occupations that provide support in all the above fields are included in the professional group. Most professional occupations require educational preparation.

*Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations.* Managers plan, organize, direct, and control the major functions of an industrial, commercial, or governmental establishment or department through subordinates who are at the managerial or supervisory level. Managers make decisions and establish objectives for the department or establishment; they are generally not directly concerned with the fabrication of products or with the provision of services. They possess a knowledge of the day-to-day operation of the organization, but do not necessarily have the detailed knowledge required of a first line supervisor. Most managers are classified in

this major occupational group.

In the case of small establishments or departments, employees who plan, organize, direct, or control major functions may also perform functions normally assigned to supervisors, such as supervising lower level employees. These employees are considered as managers.

This group also includes management-related workers who implement the establishment functions in support of management at the operational level. Examples of these specialized functions are analyzing financial records and policies, reviewing organizational structures and methods, purchasing goods for internal organizational use, enforcing standards and regulations, and so forth.

*Sales.* Included in the sales major occupational group are occupations concerned with the selling of goods and services or property, purchasing goods and services for resale, or conducting wholesale and retail business. Sales representatives or agents and sales workers require knowledge of the goods or services sold, along with the ability to demonstrate product(s), receive payments, and perform other sales-related activities. Supervisors who coordinate the activities of workers who buy and sell goods and services are included. Sales clerks and cashiers who are primarily concerned with receiving and disbursing funds, and require no special product knowledge, are also included in this major occupational group.

*Administrative support occupations, including clerical.* This major occupational group includes all of the broad groups of occupations performing activities relating to preparing, transcribing, systematizing, and preserving written communications and records; collecting accounts; gathering and distributing information; operating office machines and electronic data processing equipment; storing, distributing, and accounting for stores of materials; operating telephone switchboards, distributing mail, and de-

**Table 2.** Highest and lowest paying occupations within each major occupational group of the National Compensation Survey, 2000

Major occupational group	Highest-paying occupation			Lowest-paying occupation		
	Occupation	Mean hourly earnings	Rank	Occupation	Mean hourly earnings	Rank
Professional and technical	Airplane pilots and navigators	\$95.80	1	Health record technologists	\$11.18	347
Executive	Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	37.24	25	Legislators	10.74	360
Sales occupations	Sales engineers	33.59	35	Sales counter clerks	7.88	417
Administrative support	Supervisors, computer equipment operators	23.18	105	Hotel clerks	8.81	407
Precision production	Elevator installers and repairers	26.88	73	Brickmason and stonemason apprentices	9.73	387
Machine operators	Separating, filtering, and clarifying machine operators	16.77	206	Laundering and dry cleaning machine operators	7.72	421
Transportation	Longshore equipment operators	28.91	58	Parking lot attendants	8.58	408
Handlers	Stevedores	21.43	124	Nursery workers	8.03	415
Service occupations	Public transportation attendants	30.13	51	Waiters and waitresses	3.99	427

livering messages; and performing other administrative and clerical support.

*Precision production, craft, and repair.* This group includes occupations involved in the fabricating, processing, inspecting, or repairing of material, products, or structural units. Incumbents must have a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of processes involved in their work, usually acquired through apprenticeship or intensive training. Workers must exercise considerable independent judgment and must usually display a high degree of manual dexterity.

Helpers are excluded from this major occupational group, unless specifically included. However, apprentices who are learning a craft or trade through on-the-job training and a formal apprenticeship training program are included, unless specifically excluded.

*Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.* Workers in this major occupational group set up and operate machinery, perform repetitive manual or machine operations, or tend and control machines as part of a fairly well-defined work routine where some independent

judgment or skill may be required.

*Transportation and material moving occupations.* This major occupational group covers workers concerned with activities that are in immediate support of the operation and performance of transportation vehicles used to transport people or material. It includes workers involved in the operation of material moving equipment that is stationary or has limited range. It also includes the supervisors of these workers.

*Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.* Workers in this major occupational group perform unskilled, simple duties, primarily manual, that may be learned within a short period of time and that require little or no independent judgment. These occupations ordinarily require little or no previous experience. Duties may require moderate to strenuous physical exertion.

*Service occupations, except private households.* This major occupational group includes occupations concerned with preparing and serving food and drinks in commercial, institutional, or

other establishments, providing lodging and related services, providing grooming, cosmetic, and other personal and health care services for children and adults, providing protection for people and property, attending to the comfort or requests of patrons of amusement and recreation facilities, and performing cleaning and maintenance services to interiors of buildings. Workers in these occupations provide personal and protective services to individuals and commercial entities. An alphabetical index of the occupations in table 1 is on the Internet at: <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> More information on the scope of the National Compensation Surveys is available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/> or in *National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States, 2000*, Bulletin 2548 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001). The Internet site also provides comprehensive results of the 2000 survey.

<sup>2</sup> The spreads are calculated by dividing the rate for the highest paying occupation by the lowest paying occupation within a major occupational group, multiplying by 100, and subtracting 100. For example,  $\$95.80/\$11.18 = 8.57$ ;  $8.57 \times 100 - 100 = 757$ .