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HIGHLIGHTS OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY APRIL 2007

Workers in the Lincoln metropolitan area earned an average of \$16.00 per hour in April 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 Jay A. Mousa reported wage data for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$23.64 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$13.59 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$7.96. The NCS data available for the Lincoln area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Registered nurses, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$22.70 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, medical secretaries averaged \$14.74 per hour. Restaurant cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$9.96, and fast food and combined food preparation and serving workers earned \$6.83 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$17.04 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.27. Union workers earned \$19.10 and non-union workers, \$15.54. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$14.06 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.05, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$19.32.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm.

The NCS data provided in the detailed bulletin covered 284 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 147,600 workers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Lancaster and Seward Counties in Nebraska.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey April 2007 (Bulletin 3140-21). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Midwest Information Office by calling (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. CT. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Lincoln, NE, April 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	\$16.00	2.9	\$17.04	2.4	\$10.27	6.9
Management occupations	28.98	7.1	28.98	7.2	—	—
Education administrators	26.77	8.7	26.77	8.8	—	—
Education administrators, postsecondary	26.93	10.3	—	—	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	22.97	11.8	22.97	11.8	—	—
Financial analysts and advisors	17.89	7.1	17.89	7.1	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	26.65	6.8	26.65	6.8	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	22.58	12.4	22.58	12.4	—	—
Engineers	30.98	13.2	30.98	13.2	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	17.85	5.3	17.85	5.3	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	23.67	21.5	23.67	21.5	—	—
Community and social services occupations	16.51	8.9	16.79	8.6	—	—
Legal occupations	17.58	7.4	17.82	7.7	—	—
Paralegals and legal assistants	16.58	5.2	16.58	5.2	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	30.45	13.6	30.57	15.2	29.35	8.3
Postsecondary teachers	37.04	32.7	38.05	34.7	25.53	2.8
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	33.68	.7	33.56	.5	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	34.40	.8	34.40	.8	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	34.19	1.8	34.19	1.8	—	—
Secondary school teachers	32.45	3.3	28.20	3.8	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	32.44	3.7	—	—	—	—
Teacher assistants	12.63	1.7	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	23.64	5.8	24.17	6.5	21.70	8.3
Registered nurses	22.70	6.0	22.49	4.4	23.33	15.9
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	19.73	10.1	20.50	11.2	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	25.68	3.9	—	—	—	—
Radiologic technologists and technicians	25.86	5.9	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.01	6.0	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	11.90	10.3	12.11	12.0	11.30	4.3
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.78	7.9	10.50	9.9	11.30	5.0
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.89	9.6	—	—	12.02	7.7
Protective service occupations	12.72	20.8	13.90	22.2	8.88	8.9
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.96	7.1	10.03	10.1	6.44	2.9
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	12.51	7.3	12.51	7.3	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	12.51	7.3	12.51	7.3	—	—
Cooks	10.47	5.0	11.30	6.2	8.93	2.4
Cooks, restaurant	9.96	2.1	—	—	—	—
Food service, tipped	4.90	26.7	5.81	39.9	4.30	11.5
Waiters and waitresses	3.86	17.4	—	—	4.15	13.9
Fast food and counter workers	6.83	4.9	—	—	6.65	3.8
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	6.83	3.6	—	—	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.90	9.1	11.20	9.9	9.36	11.6
Building cleaning workers	10.03	8.0	10.16	8.5	9.39	13.5
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.89	10.1	11.22	9.5	—	—
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	8.16	5.5	7.94	3.1	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Lincoln, NE, April 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)
Personal care and service occupations	\$10.66	13.2	\$11.20	17.3	\$8.50	2.8
Sales and related occupations	13.43	9.4	15.34	4.9	7.75	4.3
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.82	8.4	15.82	8.4	—	—
Retail sales workers	9.83	16.6	11.46	12.1	7.68	4.2
Cashiers, all workers	8.82	12.6	—	—	7.44	6.9
Cashiers	8.85	12.6	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	9.34	15.2	—	—	7.81	3.7
Insurance sales agents	18.52	10.4	18.52	10.4	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	13.59	2.2	14.09	2.9	10.84	2.2
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	20.51	11.6	21.58	12.3	—	—
Financial clerks	13.05	4.0	13.41	6.6	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	13.77	3.9	14.35	6.5	—	—
Customer service representatives	13.32	5.1	13.33	5.2	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	11.74	9.0	12.08	8.5	9.08	15.7
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	11.51	7.4	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	15.79	4.2	15.95	4.5	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	16.38	8.1	16.38	8.1	—	—
Medical secretaries	14.74	5.6	—	—	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	13.55	6.1	13.55	6.1	—	—
Data entry and information processing workers	11.63	3.7	—	—	—	—
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	15.03	12.0	15.03	12.0	—	—
Office clerks, general	12.59	5.2	12.84	5.3	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	16.33	4.2	16.36	4.5	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	16.91	6.7	16.92	6.7	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	18.08	5.0	18.08	5.0	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	17.24	6.1	17.24	6.1	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	15.31	8.4	15.31	8.4	—	—
Production occupations	14.70	5.2	14.87	5.8	9.57	6.7
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	12.94	2.4	13.30	1.2	—	—
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	12.95	2.5	—	—	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	13.47	5.6	13.47	5.6	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	12.77	11.5	13.24	12.1	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	11.94	7.4	12.77	5.6	7.67	8.0
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	11.10	7.8	11.37	7.6	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	11.61	8.9	11.61	8.9	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	9.99	11.0	—	—	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.89	6.6	10.83	4.6	7.60	10.0
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	9.57	9.5	10.47	6.5	—	—

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

² 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.

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

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.