

Earnings of men and women: a look at specific occupations

*Occupations in which women workers dominate
tend to rank lower in terms of earnings;
men dominate higher paid occupations*

NANCY F. RYTINA

As a result of growing concern over the persistence of earnings differences between men and women, policy-makers, researchers, and others have become increasingly interested in obtaining earnings data by sex at the finest level of occupational detail possible. Wide-ranging information of this nature can generally be collected only through a household survey such as the Current Population Survey (CPS). Until 1978, reliable estimates of earnings from the CPS could generally be presented only for aggregated groupings of occupations because of the limited number of sample observations in many occupations. However, changes in the collection of the CPS earnings data since 1979 have made it possible to construct annual average estimates to examine the earnings for a much larger number of detailed occupations.¹

This report presents 1981 annual average data on the number of men and women working full time in each occupation and on their usual weekly earnings. Earnings data are shown only where wage and salary employment is at least 50,000, because estimates of earnings derived from a smaller base are considered too unreliable to publish. For the most part, this allows earnings comparisons at the Census Bureau's "three-digit" level of classification of occupations.² However,

for occupational groupings which did not contain any three-digit occupation with a sufficiently large employment base, the data are shown for the two-digit occupations, the next higher level of aggregation. The use of two- as well as three-digit occupations increases the number of occupations among which earnings can be compared and also makes possible some comparisons between men and women that would otherwise have had to be ignored because there were either too few men or too few women employed in the occupation. For example, there are almost no male registered nurses (a three-digit occupational category), but the earnings of the sexes can be compared in the two-digit category—nurses, dieticians, and therapists—because the number of male workers exceeded 50,000 in the larger grouping.

The data in table 1 show the employment and median earnings for 250 two- and three-digit occupations. These accounted for about 95 percent of the total full-time wage and salary work force in 1981. There are more occupations where men's earnings are shown than is the case for women (192 for men versus 129 for women). This occurs because the number of women working full time is lower than that of men and they are more concentrated in fewer occupations.

The 91 occupations for which both men's and women's earnings are shown are predominantly white collar, the field which employed the majority of full-time working men and women in 1981. Forty of these occupations are professional or managerial, and 24 are sales or clerical. In contrast, just 2 of the 91 occupations are

Nancy F. Rytina is a demographer in the Division of Labor Force Studies, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Francis W. Horvath of the same division was responsible for the development of the tables, and Muriel K. Nelson, also of that division, assisted in the preparation of the data.

Table 1. Median weekly earnings of wage and salary workers employed full time in occupations with total employment of 50,000 or more, by sex,¹ 1981 annual averages

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation	Total, both sexes		Men		Women		Ratio female / male earnings times 100	Percent female workers
	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings		
Total ²	72,491	\$289	43,888	\$347	28,603	\$224	64.7	39.5
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	12,870	377	7,358	439	5,512	316	71.8	42.8
Accountants	960	379	579	433	381	308	71.2	39.7
Architects	60	428	57	432	3	—	—	5.0
Computer specialists	583	454	429	488	154	355	72.8	26.4
Computer programmers	345	422	247	447	98	329	73.6	28.4
Computer systems analysts	199	519	149	546	50	420	76.9	25.1
Engineers	1,459	540	1,392	547	68	371	67.8	4.7
Aeronautical and astronautical engineers	83	614	81	619	1	—	—	1.2
Chemical engineers	64	575	59	583	5	—	—	7.8
Civil engineers	186	505	182	507	4	—	—	2.1
Electrical and electronic engineers	368	549	355	555	13	—	—	3.5
Industrial engineers	222	530	194	549	28	—	—	12.6
Mechanical engineers	239	540	233	547	6	—	—	2.5
Engineers, n.e.c.	226	527	219	530	7	—	—	3.1
Foresters and conservationists	60	331	53	341	7	—	—	11.7
Lawyers and judges	299	550	237	579	62	410	70.7	20.7
Lawyers	279	546	219	574	60	407	71.0	21.5
Librarians, archivists, and curators	146	323	25	—	121	319	—	82.9
Librarians	136	320	20	—	115	318	—	84.6
Life and physical scientists	277	474	219	512	58	363	70.9	20.9
Biological scientists	53	423	33	—	19	—	—	35.8
Chemists	132	467	104	492	28	—	—	21.2
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	212	485	160	515	52	422	82.0	24.5
Personnel and labor relations workers	419	402	215	514	204	330	64.3	48.7
Physicians, dentists, and related practitioners	314	468	242	495	73	401	80.9	23.2
Pharmacists	98	463	74	471	25	—	—	25.5
Physicians, medical and osteopathic	189	501	148	561	41	—	—	21.7
Nurses, dieticians, and therapists	1,168	327	106	344	1,062	326	94.7	90.9
Registered nurses	924	332	39	—	885	331	—	95.8
Therapists	199	305	65	335	134	293	87.5	67.3
Health technologists and technicians	511	287	161	324	350	273	84.2	68.5
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	232	295	55	324	177	286	88.1	76.3
Radiologic technologists and technicians	82	290	31	—	52	268	—	63.4
Health technologists, n.e.c.	155	268	72	317	83	240	75.7	53.5
Religious workers	268	284	244	286	25	—	—	9.3
Clergy	231	284	220	285	10	—	—	4.3
Social scientists	238	461	158	522	81	391	74.9	34.0
Economists	133	536	98	580	36	—	—	27.1
Psychologists	77	394	38	—	40	—	—	51.9
Social and recreation workers	454	295	185	339	269	273	80.4	59.3
Social workers	357	309	141	358	216	286	79.9	60.5
Recreation workers	97	226	44	—	52	186	—	53.6
Teachers, college and university,	438	444	310	485	128	389	80.3	29.2
Teachers, except college and university	2,624	333	864	384	1,760	311	80.9	67.1
Adult education teachers	54	394	38	—	15	—	—	27.8
Elementary schoolteachers	1,244	322	221	379	1,022	311	82.2	82.2
Prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers	143	262	4	—	138	264	—	96.5
Secondary schoolteachers	1,115	351	571	387	545	321	82.9	48.9
Teachers, except college and university, n.e.c.	69	312	29	—	40	—	—	58.0
Engineering and science technicians	1,056	348	868	371	188	279	75.3	17.8
Chemical technicians	106	352	76	384	29	—	—	27.4
Drafters	319	343	259	364	60	277	76.2	18.8
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	259	387	235	397	25	—	—	9.7
Surveyors	80	310	80	311	0	—	—	0
Engineering and science technicians, n.e.c.	224	344	174	383	50	277	72.2	22.3
Technicians, except health, engineering, science	172	375	128	437	43	—	—	25.0
Airplane pilots	53	530	53	530	0	—	—	0
Radio operators	56	233	23	—	33	—	—	58.9
Vocational and educational counselors	156	388	77	451	79	336	74.5	50.6
Writers, artists, and entertainers	791	350	525	387	266	302	78.2	33.6
Athletes and kindred workers	59	254	44	—	15	—	—	25.4
Designers	176	421	134	448	42	—	—	23.9
Editors and reporters	158	351	86	382	72	324	85.0	45.6
Painters and sculptors	100	297	55	329	45	—	—	45.0
Photographers	52	309	47	—	6	—	—	11.5
Public relations men and publicity writers	100	402	56	465	44	—	—	44.0
Writers, artists, and entertainers, n.e.c.	66	363	42	—	23	—	—	34.8
Research workers, not specified	157	362	96	437	61	307	70.3	38.9
Managers and administrators, except farm	7,864	407	5,630	466	2,235	283	60.8	28.4
Bank officers and financial managers	658	411	417	514	240	310	60.2	36.5
Buyers, wholesale and retail trade	139	316	73	400	66	250	62.3	47.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Continued—Median weekly earnings of wage and salary workers employed full time in occupations with total employment of 50,000 or more, by sex,¹ 1981 annual averages

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation	Total, both sexes		Men		Women		Ratio female / male earnings times 100	Percent female workers
	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings		
Credit and collection managers	60	351	36	—	24	—	—	40.0
Health administrators	200	431	102	545	98	357	65.5	49.0
Inspectors, except construction, public administration	104	380	93	388	10	—	—	9.6
Managers and superintendents, building	96	278	46	—	50	226	—	52.1
Office managers, n.e.c.	444	313	140	423	304	277	65.5	68.5
Officials and administrators; public administration, n.e.c.	443	441	324	484	120	337	69.6	27.1
Officials of lodges, societies, and unions	106	429	79	501	27	—	—	25.5
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	260	390	182	453	78	285	62.9	30.0
Restaurant, cafeteria, and bar managers	393	275	227	312	166	223	71.6	42.2
Sales managers and department heads, retail trade	330	300	204	380	126	216	57.0	38.2
Sales managers, except retail trade	353	540	307	566	46	—	—	13.0
School administrators, college	129	491	88	552	41	—	—	31.8
School administrators, elementary and secondary	262	475	176	520	85	363	69.9	32.4
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	3,713	431	2,984	481	729	281	58.5	19.6
Salesworkers	3,601	306	2,412	366	1,189	190	52.0	33.0
Advertising agents and salesworkers	100	334	50	418	50	258	61.7	50.0
Insurance agents, brokers, and underwriters	399	341	285	402	115	270	67.1	28.8
Real estate agents and brokers	218	326	100	390	118	277	70.9	54.1
Stock and bond sales agents	123	535	101	589	21	—	—	17.1
Sales representatives, manufacturing industries	369	434	310	473	59	306	64.7	16.0
Sales representatives, wholesale trade	768	396	686	407	82	303	74.3	10.7
Salesclerks, retail trade	1,032	178	410	229	622	154	67.4	60.3
Salesworkers except clerks, retail trade	379	288	334	305	44	—	—	11.6
Salesworkers, services and construction	169	332	112	397	56	235	59.1	33.1
Clerical and kindred workers	14,066	233	3,032	328	11,034	220	67.0	78.4
Bank tellers	464	189	28	—	436	188	—	94.0
Billing clerks	123	216	19	—	105	209	—	85.4
Bookkeepers	1,290	227	121	320	1,169	222	69.4	90.6
Cashiers	712	168	106	180	606	166	92.0	85.1
Clerical supervisors, n.e.c.	227	331	71	460	156	291	63.4	68.7
Collectors, billing and accounting	76	233	26	—	50	215	—	65.8
Counter clerks, except food	252	201	59	240	192	195	81.3	76.2
Dispatchers and starters, vehicle	106	327	65	385	41	—	—	38.7
Estimators and investigators, n.e.c.	477	319	219	394	258	256	65.0	54.1
Expeditors and production controllers	248	328	148	366	100	275	75.2	40.3
File clerks	230	192	37	—	192	189	—	83.5
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	183	270	75	356	107	230	64.7	58.5
Library attendants and assistants	61	203	9	—	52	197	—	85.2
Mail carriers, post office	222	406	196	408	26	—	—	11.7
Mail handlers, except post office	138	222	70	245	67	202	82.3	48.5
Messengers and office helpers	60	198	47	—	13	—	—	21.7
Office machine operators	844	238	227	324	616	223	68.8	73.0
Computer and peripheral equipment operators	506	260	185	342	320	232	67.8	63.2
Keypunch operators	212	223	11	—	201	222	—	94.8
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	203	247	40	—	163	237	—	80.3
Postal clerks	256	400	172	407	84	382	93.9	32.8
Receptionists	458	200	9	—	449	199	—	98.0
Secretaries	3,199	230	21	—	3,178	229	—	99.3
Secretaries, legal	159	260	1	—	158	260	—	99.4
Secretaries, medical	71	218	0	—	71	218	—	100.0
Secretaries, n.e.c.	2,969	229	20	—	2,949	228	—	99.3
Shipping and receiving clerks	480	247	376	263	104	205	78.2	21.7
Statistical clerks	333	242	71	326	261	227	69.7	78.4
Stenographers	55	275	7	—	48	—	—	87.3
Stock clerks and storekeepers	461	264	305	304	156	217	71.6	33.8
Teacher aides, except school monitors	168	167	6	—	163	166	—	97.0
Telephone operators	261	240	20	—	241	239	—	92.3
Ticket, station, and express agents	132	407	78	419	54	370	88.3	40.9
Typists	801	213	29	—	772	211	—	96.4
Miscellaneous clerical workers	997	233	184	325	813	222	68.3	81.5
Not specified clerical workers	336	227	70	292	267	217	74.6	79.5
Craft and kindred workers	10,558	352	9,963	360	595	239	66.5	5.6
Bakers	76	234	56	264	20	—	—	26.3
Brickmasons and stonemasons	87	401	87	401	0	—	—	.0
Bulldozer operators	90	327	90	329	1	—	—	1.1
Carpenters	699	325	689	326	10	—	—	1.4
Compositors and typesetters	142	274	98	311	44	—	—	31.0
Crane, derrick, and hoist operators	136	402	136	402	0	—	—	.0
Decorators and window dressers	66	210	22	—	43	—	—	65.2
Electricians	591	419	581	420	10	—	—	1.7
Electric power line and cable installers and repairers	122	409	121	410	1	—	—	.8
Excavating, grading, road machine operators; except bulldozer	269	337	268	337	2	—	—	.7
Blue-collar work supervisors, n.e.c.	1,772	394	1,587	409	186	262	64.2	10.5
Inspectors, n.e.c.	131	370	119	383	12	—	—	9.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Continued—Median weekly earnings of wage and salary workers employed full time in occupations with total employment of 50,000 or more, by sex,¹ 1981 annual averages

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation	Total, both sexes		Men		Women		Ratio female / male earnings times 100	Percent female workers
	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings		
Job and die setters, metal	95	358	92	360	4	—	—	4.2
Machinists	532	356	512	360	19	—	—	3.6
Mechanics and repairers	2,888	326	2,827	328	60	275	83.9	2.1
Air conditioning, heating and refrigeration mechanics	166	335	166	335	1	—	—	.6
Aircraft mechanics	121	427	116	429	5	—	—	4.1
Automobile body repairers	137	295	136	294	1	—	—	.7
Automobile mechanics	813	285	808	286	6	—	—	.7
Data processing machine repairers	95	395	88	401	7	—	—	7.4
Heavy equipment mechanics, including diesel	958	346	942	348	16	—	—	1.7
Household appliance, accessory installers and mechanics	96	309	90	315	5	—	—	5.2
Office machine repairers	71	327	66	331	4	—	—	5.6
Radio and television repairers	83	336	80	344	4	—	—	4.8
Railroad and car shop mechanics	57	405	56	405	1	—	—	1.8
Miscellaneous mechanics and repairers	193	323	187	325	6	—	—	3.1
Millwrights	105	443	105	443	0	—	—	.0
Molders, metal	52	253	42	—	10	—	—	19.2
Painters, construction and maintenance	258	271	248	275	10	—	—	3.9
Plumbers and pipe fitters	377	404	376	404	0	—	—	.0
Printing press operators	156	320	139	329	17	—	—	10.9
Roofers and slaters	78	267	77	266	1	—	—	1.3
Sheetmetal workers and tinsmiths	140	381	135	385	5	—	—	3.6
Stationary engineers	180	375	178	375	3	—	—	1.7
Structural metal craftworkers	77	455	77	455	0	—	—	.0
Telephone installers and repairers	316	412	284	417	32	—	—	10.1
Telephone line installers and repairers	75	387	71	384	4	—	—	5.3
Tool and die makers	164	433	159	436	5	—	—	3.0
Operatives, except transport	9,440	242	5,775	298	3,664	\$187	62.9	38.8
Assemblers	1,088	236	515	297	573	205	69.0	52.7
Bottling and canning operatives	51	279	31	—	20	—	—	39.2
Checkers, examiners, and inspectors; manufacturing	782	265	358	348	423	219	63.1	54.1
Clothing ironers and pressers	87	164	20	—	67	153	—	77.0
Cutting operatives, n.e.c.	259	226	180	252	79	185	73.3	30.5
Drillers, earth	51	393	50	393	0	—	—	.0
Filers, polishers, sanders, and buffers	111	223	73	246	38	—	—	34.2
Furnace tenders, smelters, and pourers	62	374	60	376	2	—	—	3.2
Garage workers and gas station attendants	217	179	204	181	12	—	—	5.5
Laundry and dry cleaning operatives, n.e.c.	126	166	38	—	88	151	—	69.8
Meat cutters and butchers, except manufacturing	150	316	141	325	10	—	—	6.7
Meat cutters and butchers, manufacturing	88	251	62	287	26	—	—	29.5
Mine operatives, n.e.c.	265	413	260	413	5	—	—	1.9
Mixing operatives	79	283	77	287	3	—	—	3.8
Packers and wrappers, except meat and produce	493	204	190	226	303	193	85.4	61.5
Painters, manufactured articles	146	269	124	282	22	—	—	15.1
Photographic process workers	69	230	33	—	36	—	—	52.2
Precision machine operatives	339	301	296	317	42	—	—	12.4
Drill press operatives	56	267	44	—	12	—	—	21.4
Grinding machine operatives	129	312	115	325	14	—	—	10.9
Lathe and milling machine operatives	100	322	95	327	5	—	—	5.0
Precision machine operatives, n.e.c.	54	258	43	—	11	—	—	20.4
Punch and stamping press operatives	105	292	72	316	33	—	—	31.4
Sawyers	118	204	107	208	10	—	—	8.5
Sewers and stitchers	734	157	24	—	710	156	—	96.7
Shoemaking machine operatives	71	154	20	—	52	147	—	73.2
Furnace tenders and stokers, except metal	82	342	81	342	1	—	—	1.2
Textile operatives	261	200	101	229	161	186	81.3	61.7
Spinners, twistors, and winders	83	207	26	—	57	189	—	68.7
Textile operatives, n.e.c.	123	194	54	219	69	180	82.1	56.1
Welders and flame cutters	678	334	643	338	35	—	—	5.2
Winding operatives, n.e.c.	56	237	31	—	25	—	—	44.6
Machine operatives, miscellaneous specified	1,261	273	908	309	353	206	66.8	28.0
Machine operatives, not specified	328	251	241	281	87	202	71.9	26.5
Miscellaneous operatives	724	232	480	262	244	185	70.5	33.7
Not specified operatives	150	271	101	311	48	—	—	32.0
Transport equipment operatives	2,792	303	2,656	307	136	237	77.2	4.9
Bus drivers	173	298	124	—	48	—	—	27.7
Delivery and route workers	446	274	421	280	25	—	—	5.6
Forklift and tow motor operatives	373	284	352	284	21	—	—	5.6
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	112	240	104	246	8	—	—	7.1
Truckdrivers	1,560	314	1,528	315	32	—	—	2.1
Nonfarm laborers	3,227	238	2,893	244	335	193	79.3	10.4
Carpenters' helpers	50	223	50	223	0	—	—	.0
Construction laborers, except carpenters' helpers	654	250	642	252	11	—	—	1.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Continued—Median weekly earnings of wage and salary workers employed full time in occupations with total employment of 50,000 or more, by sex,¹ 1981 annual averages

[Numbers in thousands]

Occupation	Total, both sexes		Men		Women		Ratio female / male earnings times 100	Percent female workers
	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings	Total employed	Weekly earnings		
Freight and material handlers	641	259	579	266	62	207	78.0	9.7
Garbage collectors	62	189	60	189	2	—	—	3.2
Gardeners and groundskeepers, except farm	349	200	332	202	16	—	—	4.6
Timber cutting and logging workers	55	246	55	246	0	—	—	.0
Stock handlers	522	212	372	228	149	185	81.2	28.5
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	124	220	103	220	21	—	—	16.9
Warehouse laborers, n.e.c.	267	267	253	270	15	—	—	5.6
Miscellaneous laborers	168	297	155	308	12	—	—	7.1
Not specified laborers	241	245	215	246	26	—	—	10.8
Farmworkers	729	176	641	180	88	146	81.1	12.1
Farm laborers, wage workers	701	174	614	178	86	146	82.3	12.3
Service workers, except private household	6,990	196	3,475	238	3,515	170	71.3	50.3
Cleaning service workers	1,651	200	1,106	222	544	168	75.6	32.9
Lodging quarters cleaners, except private	99	142	5	—	94	141	—	94.9
Building interior cleaners, n.e.c.	559	184	253	213	306	168	79.2	54.7
Janitors and sextons	993	219	848	225	145	188	83.6	14.6
Food service workers	1,987	162	770	186	1,216	148	79.7	61.2
Bartenders	170	195	94	212	76	179	84.4	44.7
Waiters' assistants	70	143	57	144	13	—	—	18.6
Cooks, except private household	764	171	375	202	389	148	73.4	50.9
Dishwashers	105	135	73	136	32	—	—	30.5
Food counter and fountain workers	107	141	15	—	91	140	—	85.0
Waiters	532	150	79	200	453	144	72.0	85.1
Food service workers, n.e.c., except private household	239	165	76	178	163	160	90.0	68.2
Health service workers	1,415	188	178	216	1,237	185	85.4	87.4
Dental assistants	97	183	3	—	95	182	—	97.9
Health aides, except nursing	220	209	38	—	182	201	—	82.7
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	832	172	130	203	701	167	82.2	84.3
Practical nurses	263	227	6	—	256	227	—	97.3
Personal service workers	624	191	207	224	417	179	80.0	66.8
Attendants, recreation and amusement	88	182	49	—	39	—	—	44.3
Child-care workers, except private household	83	151	11	—	72	145	—	86.7
Hairdressers and cosmetologists	191	179	29	—	163	172	—	85.3
Housekeepers, except private household	96	219	32	—	64	205	—	66.7
Protective service workers	1,313	315	1,214	322	100	226	70.3	7.6
Firefighters	218	362	216	364	3	—	—	1.4
Guards	500	232	436	236	64	214	90.7	12.8
Police and detectives	508	363	481	368	27	—	—	5.3
Sheriffs and bailiffs	70	324	66	325	4	—	—	5.7
Private household workers	315	107	17	—	298	104	—	94.6
Child-care workers, private household	148	80	4	—	144	79	—	97.3
Maids and servants, private household	110	126	9	—	101	124	—	91.8

¹Excludes any earnings from self-employment.

²Data for "total" refer to all full-time workers, including those in occupations not shown.

NOTE: Not elsewhere classified is abbreviated n.e.c. Dashes indicate earnings not shown where base is less than 50,000.

in the crafts category, largely because men made up the overwhelming majority (95 percent) of all full-time craftworkers.

Ranking occupations

To illustrate the occupational earnings differences between men and women, the occupations in table 1 were ranked from high to low on the basis of male earnings, female earnings, the ratio of women's to men's earnings, and the percentage of female workers in each occupation. (See tables 2 to 5.) For each criterion the top 20 occupations are ranked. The rankings by male and female earnings are approximate because the earnings in very closely ranked occupations are often not statistically different.³ In addition, the occupations appearing in the female earnings ranking contain more two-digit occupations than the male earnings ranking because wom-

en are concentrated in fewer occupations, and in many occupations their number is less than 50,000. Of course, the ranking by the sex-earnings ratio includes just those occupations in which both men's and women's earnings are reported in table 1. Lastly, the occupations ranked by the percent of females employed are based on all occupations in table 1.

Male earnings ranks. Not surprisingly, the most highly paid occupations for men are from the professional and managerial groups. (See table 2.) Nineteen of the 20 are in one of these groupings. The only exception is "stock and bonds, sales agents," which is classified in the sales category.

Within the professional group, engineering specialties clearly stand out in the ranking, accounting for 7 of the top 20 occupations. The median usual weekly earnings

Table 2. Occupations with highest median weekly earnings for men employed full time in wage and salary work,¹ 1981 annual averages

Occupational title ²	Male earnings
Aerospace and aeronautical engineers	\$619
Stock and bond sales agents	589
Chemical engineers	583
Economists	580
Lawyers	574
Sales managers, except retail trade	566
Physicians, medical and osteopathic	561
Electrical and electronics engineers	555
School administrators, college and university	552
Industrial engineers	549
Mechanical engineers	547
Computer systems analysts	546
Health administrators	545
Engineers, not elsewhere classified	530
Airplane pilots	530
School administrators, elementary and secondary	520
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	515
Bank officers and financial managers	514
Personnel and labor relations workers	514
Civil engineers	507

¹Excludes any earnings from self-employment.

²Occupations listed are those in which male employment was 50,000 or more in 1981.

of men in those specialties ranged from \$619 for aerospace and aeronautical engineers to \$507 for civil engineers. The high ranking of engineers occurs partly because the data are restricted to wage and salary workers and exclude some of the most highly paid workers in occupations where self-employment is quite common, for example, lawyers and physicians. Nonetheless, although restricted only to the wage and salary portion, the median usual weekly earnings of lawyers (\$574) and physicians (\$561) were in the upper half of the ranking.

The top 20 also included a number of technical and administrative occupations. Among the former are economists, airplane pilots, and two very high growth occupations, computer systems analysts, and operations and systems researchers and analysts. Among the latter occupations are school administrators at the college, secondary, and elementary levels; health administrators; and bank officers and financial managers.

Female earnings ranks. Much like the situation for men, the most highly paid occupations for women are in the professional and managerial categories. (See table 3.) The median usual weekly earnings in the top 20 occupations for women ranged from a high of \$422 for operations and systems researchers and analysts to \$318 for librarians. Many of the occupations appearing in the female ranking are the same or similar to those which appear in the male ranking. Among these (in addition to operations and systems researchers and analysts) are lawyers, engineers, physicians, dentists and related practitioners, social scientists, health administrators, elementary and secondary school administrators, computer systems analysts, and personnel and labor relations

Table 3. Occupations with highest median weekly earnings for women employed full time in wage and salary work,¹ 1981 annual averages

Occupational title ²	Female earnings
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	\$422
Computer systems analysts	420
Lawyers	407
Physicians, dentists, and related practitioners	401
Social scientists	391
Teachers, college and university	389
Postal clerks	382
Engineers	371
Ticket, station, and express agents	370
School administrators, elementary and secondary	363
Life and physical scientists	357
Health administrators	357
Public administration officials and administrators, not elsewhere classified	337
Vocational and educational counselors	336
Registered nurses	331
Personnel and labor relations workers	330
Computer programmers	329
Editors and reporters	324
Secondary schoolteachers	321
Librarians	318

¹Excludes any earnings from self-employment.

²Occupations listed are those in which female employment was 50,000 or more in 1981.

workers. This suggests that the most highly paid occupations for women are about the same as those for men.

However, the earnings of women in these occupations do not approach the earnings of men. The \$422 median usual weekly earnings of female operations and systems researchers and analysts, for example, would place just above the pay of electricians for men, an occupation which is well below the top 20 on the male ranking. The pay for women librarians is just above that of men working as precision machine operatives, a classification which is in the bottom third of the male earnings ranking.

Table 4. Occupations of full-time wage and salary workers with highest ratios of women's to men's median weekly earnings,¹ 1981 annual averages

Occupational title ²	Ratio female/male earnings times 100
Postal clerks	93.9
Cashiers	92.0
Guards and watchmen	90.7
Food service workers, not elsewhere classified, excluding private household	90.0
Ticket, station, and express agents	88.3
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	88.1
Therapists	87.5
Packers and wrappers, except meat and produce	85.4
Editors and reporters	85.0
Bartenders	84.4
Mechanics and repairers	83.9
Janitors and sextons	83.6
Secondary schoolteachers	82.9
Mail handlers, except post office	82.3
Farm laborers, wage workers	82.3
Elementary schoolteachers	82.2
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	82.2
Textile operatives, not elsewhere classified	82.1
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	82.0
Counter clerks, except food	81.3

¹Excludes any earnings from self-employment.

²Occupations listed are those in which both male and female employment was 50,000 or more in 1981.

Table 5. Occupations with highest percentage of female workers in full-time wage and salary work,¹ 1981 annual averages

Occupational title ²	Percent female
Secretaries, medical	100.0
Secretaries, legal	99.4
Secretaries, not elsewhere classified	99.3
Receptionists	98.0
Dental assistants	97.9
Practical nurses	97.3
Child-care workers, private household	97.3
Teachers aides, except school monitors	97.0
Sewers and stitchers	96.7
Prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers	96.5
Typists	96.4
Registered nurses	95.8
Lodging quarters cleaners, except private household	94.9
Keypunch operators	94.8
Bank tellers	94.0
Telephone operators	92.3
Maids and servants, private household	91.8
Bookkeepers	90.6
Stenographers	87.3
Child-care workers, except private household	86.7

¹Excludes self-employed workers.

²Occupations listed are those in which female employment was 50,000 or more in 1981.

Occupations which do not appear in the top male earnings rankings but appear in the top female rankings highlight other aspects of variation between men's and women's occupational earnings. Public sector employment is typical of several of the occupations which rank high in terms of female earnings. These include postal clerks, public administration officials and administrators

(not elsewhere classified), vocational and educational counselors, and secondary schoolteachers. Elementary and secondary school administrators is the only public sector occupation which also appears in the top 20 occupations in terms of men's earnings. Postal clerks ranked well below the top 20 for men. And as indicated in table 4, some of the highly paid public sector occupations for women are characterized by relatively high ratios of women's to men's earnings. Among postal clerks, women's earnings averaged almost 94 percent of men's. And a sex-earnings ratio of more than 80 percent is reported for secondary schoolteachers. This suggests that while the public sector may not offer the most highly paid employment, it may well afford women more equal opportunities than are found elsewhere.

Another characteristic of occupations ranking high in terms of female earnings is that they typically do not rank among those with the largest percentages of female workers. (See table 5.) The occupation of registered nurse, for example, is the only one which had both a high percentage of female workers (96 percent) and also ranked among the most highly paid occupations for women. (Compare table 3 with table 5.) Most of the occupations in which 90 percent of the workers or more are women are in the clerical category. By contrast, the very highly paid occupations, professional and managerial, are male-dominated. Women's earnings, much like men's, are highest in these occupations. □

—FOOTNOTES—

¹ See Earl F. Mellor, *Technical Description of the Quarterly Data on Weekly Earnings from the Current Population Survey*, Bulletin 2113, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 1982.

² The Census Bureau classifies occupations on the basis of one-, two-, and three-digit groupings. The one-digit classification is the least detailed and consists of the major occupation groups, for example, professional, technical, and kindred workers; managers and administrators, except farm; and salesworkers. The three-digit classification is the most detailed. It includes specific occupations such as account-

ants, architects, aerospace and astronautical engineers, and civil engineers, all of whom come under the one-digit professional grouping. The two-digit classification is more detailed than the one-digit scheme and contains a number of broad occupations such as engineers and secretaries, under which are found such three-digit occupations as aerospace and astronautical engineers, or civil engineers, and legal secretaries, medical secretaries, and so forth.

³ The magnitude of the standard errors on occupational earnings ranged from roughly \$10 to \$30 at the .10 significance level.