

News

United
States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Boston, MA 02203

Internet address: www.bls.gov/rol/

USDL-09-014

For information: (617) 565-2327

For release: Thursday, January 29, 2009

Media contact: Denis McSweeney (617) 565-2331

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROVIDENCE-NEW BEDFORD-FALL RIVER NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2008

Workers in the Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metropolitan area earned an average of \$21.06 per hour in January 2008, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$15.47 for office and administrative support occupations and \$14.95 for healthcare support occupations. Another occupational group, sales and related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$14.26. The NCS data available for the Providence area include earnings for 19 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Executive secretaries and administrative assistants, part of the office and administrative support occupational group, earned \$20.54 per hour, and tellers earned \$12.63. Within the healthcare support occupational group, nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants averaged \$14.10 per hour. Cashiers, an occupation within the sales and related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$9.10.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from the NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$22.46 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$14.24. Union workers earned \$25.88 and non-union workers, \$20.15. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$16.61 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$20.35, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$31.37.

The occupational wage data available from the 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 contacts, and physical environment. Details on the NCS are available at www.bls.gov/ncs/.

The NCS data here covered 238 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 674,400 workers in the Providence-New Bedford-Fall River Metropolitan Statistical Area which is comprised of Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, and Washington Counties in Rhode Island and Bristol County in Massachusetts.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Providence-New Bedford-Fall River RI-MA National Compensation Survey January 2008 which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau data, contact the New England Information Office by calling (617) 565-2327 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA, January 2008**

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	\$21.06	5.3	\$22.46	4.4	\$14.24	19.6
Management occupations	40.22	12.0	40.18	12.0	—	—
Marketing and sales managers	65.17	20.8	65.17	20.8	—	—
Computer and information systems managers	49.00	23.2	49.00	23.2	—	—
Financial managers	39.46	16.1	39.46	16.1	—	—
Education administrators	34.67	13.8	34.67	13.8	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	29.85	9.2	30.04	9.4	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	40.95	12.0	36.55	10.5	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	31.13	10.5	31.13	10.5	—	—
Community and social services occupations	23.70	10.5	24.40	8.7	—	—
Social workers	22.51	10.6	22.51	10.6	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	39.70	9.9	43.26	10.8	14.89	15.1
Postsecondary teachers	70.74	9.6	70.74	9.6	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	41.88	11.5	42.41	11.9	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	45.91	4.2	46.27	4.4	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	47.92	3.8	48.61	4.3	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	43.42	9.6	43.42	9.6	—	—
Secondary school teachers	48.33	2.2	50.60	5.4	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	52.78	5.7	52.78	5.7	—	—
Teacher assistants	16.37	3.6	16.82	5.0	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	24.68	5.9	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	31.77	4.7	32.65	6.7	29.14	4.1
Registered nurses	31.08	3.6	30.53	4.6	32.59	8.8
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	24.41	1.0	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	14.95	3.7	15.04	4.0	14.67	5.1
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	13.78	2.0	13.98	3.2	13.03	3.2
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	14.10	2.4	14.37	4.0	13.21	4.9
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	16.42	3.4	16.40	3.0	—	—
Protective service occupations	22.76	4.4	24.70	5.7	13.08	13.5
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.48	2.5	11.24	7.8	6.57	10.3
Cooks	15.11	6.1	15.11	6.1	—	—
Food service, tipped	5.35	16.4	—	—	4.16	6.8
Bartenders	6.92	26.4	—	—	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	8.28	.9	—	—	8.30	2.1
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	8.06	1.1	—	—	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	13.35	4.1	14.36	4.7	8.65	9.2
Building cleaning workers	13.27	3.7	14.20	3.3	—	—
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	14.04	5.4	16.32	5.7	—	—
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	12.48	5.2	12.58	5.1	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	12.15	3.9	12.32	4.3	10.47	7.9
Recreation and fitness workers	11.37	15.2	—	—	9.87	6.2
Recreation workers	11.11	18.0	—	—	9.25	2.2
Sales and related occupations	14.26	14.6	17.08	13.6	8.65	2.0
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	19.13	21.0	19.13	21.0	—	—
Retail sales workers	10.34	9.0	12.05	13.6	8.44	1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA, January 2008** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Sales and related occupations —Continued						
Cashiers, all workers	\$9.10	2.6	\$10.46	3.3	\$8.34	0.5
Cashiers	9.10	2.6	10.46	3.3	8.34	.5
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	9.06	5.9	—	—	—	—
Counter and rental clerks	9.06	5.9	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	11.63	22.7	13.18	23.1	8.58	2.3
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	31.23	15.2	31.23	15.2	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	15.47	2.6	15.78	2.9	12.82	7.7
Financial clerks	14.95	6.0	15.04	6.2	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	16.49	11.4	—	—	—	—
Tellers	12.63	5.4	12.71	5.9	—	—
Customer service representatives	16.72	9.6	17.11	8.5	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.90	16.7	—	—	—	—
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	11.98	5.2	12.43	4.4	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	11.44	9.0	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	17.17	5.6	17.19	5.9	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	20.54	1.6	—	—	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	15.97	4.8	15.92	5.3	—	—
Office clerks, general	15.05	8.7	14.49	9.4	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	20.94	6.1	21.08	5.5	—	—
Electricians	20.05	3.5	20.05	3.5	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	22.31	9.4	22.31	9.4	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	16.89	4.2	16.89	4.2	—	—
Line installers and repairers	29.49	12.2	29.49	12.2	—	—
Production occupations	15.95	5.5	16.24	5.7	11.40	7.8
Miscellaneous production workers	15.15	6.6	15.78	6.7	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	16.11	6.8	16.82	7.8	13.35	11.4
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	19.58	7.3	19.58	7.3	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	20.47	4.5	20.47	4.5	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.49	8.9	11.75	8.8	10.73	16.5
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	12.55	8.8	12.75	9.3	—	—
Packers and packagers, hand	8.91	3.5	—	—	—	—

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.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

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