

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Two Pershing Square Building
2300 Main Street, Suite 1190
Kansas City, Missouri 64108



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
(816) 285-7000

Media Contact: Linda Nickisch (816) 285-7002
WWW Access: <http://www.bls.gov/ro7>

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HIGHLIGHTS OF DENVER-AURORA-BOULDER, CO NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JULY 2008

Workers in the Denver-Aurora-Boulder metropolitan area earned an average of \$23.11 per hour in July 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 (BLS). Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$38.03 for computer and mathematical science occupations, \$34.33 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations, and \$18.32 for construction and extraction occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative and support occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$16.78. The NCS data available for the Denver area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Computer systems analysts, part of the computer and mathematical science occupational group, earned \$43.06 per hour. Within the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, registered nurses averaged \$35.06 per hour. Carpenters, an occupation within the construction and extraction group, registered an average hourly rate of \$18.65, and roofers earned \$12.47 per hour. Tellers, part of the office and administrative and support group, earned \$12.47 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from the NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$24.44 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$12.13. Union workers earned \$25.90 and non-union workers, \$22.82. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$20.60 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$23.10, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$28.41.

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 process. The four occupational leveling factors are: knowledge, job controls and

complexity, contacts, and physical environment. Details on the NCS are available at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>.

The NCS data reported here covered 546 establishments with one or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. Agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government were excluded from the survey. This sample of establishments represented 1,332,500 workers in the Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO, Combined Statistical Area (CSA) which is comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park Counties in Colorado.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO National Compensation Survey July 2008 which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Kansas City Information Office by calling 816-285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO CSA, July 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	\$23.11	3.1	\$24.44	3.3	\$12.13	4.2
Management occupations	46.41	9.8	46.53	9.9	—	—
General and operations managers	45.91	6.4	45.91	6.4	—	—
Marketing and sales managers	51.00	14.1	52.08	13.7	—	—
Marketing managers	50.20	20.4	51.59	19.9	—	—
Computer and information systems managers	58.77	3.4	58.77	3.4	—	—
Financial managers	41.87	7.4	41.87	7.4	—	—
Construction managers	31.47	5.5	31.47	5.5	—	—
Education administrators	30.63	3.9	30.63	3.9	—	—
Engineering managers	60.03	9.2	60.03	9.2	—	—
Medical and health services managers	38.60	5.1	38.60	5.1	—	—
Property, real estate, and community association managers	34.35	23.3	34.35	23.3	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	27.34	4.3	27.45	4.3	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	24.52	5.4	24.52	5.4	—	—
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	29.17	9.3	29.17	9.3	—	—
Training and development specialists	30.90	7.2	30.90	7.2	—	—
Accountants and auditors	32.74	9.4	32.76	9.4	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	38.03	4.8	38.07	4.8	—	—
Computer programmers	36.91	7.7	36.91	7.7	—	—
Computer software engineers	44.12	9.0	44.12	9.0	—	—
Computer software engineers, systems software	46.57	7.5	46.57	7.5	—	—
Computer support specialists	28.85	10.2	28.85	10.2	—	—
Computer systems analysts	43.06	3.4	43.06	3.4	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	35.71	4.0	35.85	3.7	—	—
Engineers	40.40	5.4	40.40	5.4	—	—
Civil engineers	40.67	9.4	40.67	9.4	—	—
Electrical and electronics engineers	41.92	6.9	41.92	6.9	—	—
Electronics engineers, except computer	36.37	4.6	36.37	4.6	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	27.35	1.1	27.35	1.1	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	31.01	4.3	30.95	4.3	—	—
Physical scientists	37.39	4.7	37.39	4.7	—	—
Environmental scientists and geoscientists	38.40	3.1	38.40	3.1	—	—
Community and social services occupations	21.23	11.2	21.38	11.3	—	—
Counselors	26.15	20.7	26.15	20.7	—	—
Social workers	21.05	6.7	21.05	6.7	—	—
Miscellaneous community and social service specialists	16.79	14.9	17.07	15.4	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	31.80	6.1	33.79	6.3	14.90	6.7
Postsecondary teachers	48.58	5.8	48.68	5.8	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	31.13	5.3	33.84	3.9	15.15	14.6
Elementary and middle school teachers	31.42	6.2	35.92	1.3	15.13	14.4
Elementary school teachers, except special education	30.96	6.8	35.88	.8	15.13	14.4
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	36.21	7.7	36.21	7.7	—	—
Secondary school teachers	38.03	2.5	38.04	2.5	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	38.24	2.0	38.25	2.0	—	—
Teacher assistants	12.96	1.4	12.96	1.4	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	24.49	6.1	24.87	6.5	—	—
Designers	21.73	10.9	21.73	10.9	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	34.33	9.5	34.89	11.0	31.52	4.8
Registered nurses	35.06	4.7	35.51	6.4	33.61	6.0
Therapists	28.48	8.2	28.92	8.5	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	37.59	5.0	37.59	5.0	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO CSA, July 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)
Healthcare support occupations	\$15.65	2.9	\$15.79	3.1	\$12.87	4.4
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	12.97	3.1	12.99	3.6	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	12.97	3.1	12.99	3.6	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	17.75	3.7	17.88	3.8	—	—
Dental assistants	18.48	10.9	—	—	—	—
Protective service occupations	24.60	16.6	27.07	12.0	16.16	28.2
Police officers	28.61	5.5	28.61	5.5	—	—
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	28.61	5.5	28.61	5.5	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.60	11.1	9.12	15.9	7.77	5.8
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	13.87	5.2	13.87	5.2	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	13.82	5.6	13.82	5.6	—	—
Cooks	11.40	9.0	11.61	11.0	—	—
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	12.57	2.8	12.63	2.9	—	—
Cooks, restaurant	11.43	6.8	11.66	5.5	—	—
Food preparation workers	8.98	6.4	—	—	—	—
Food service, tipped	4.20	5.6	4.29	4.6	3.99	11.5
Waiters and waitresses	3.90	3.3	3.95	.8	3.78	9.7
Fast food and counter workers	8.41	3.2	9.07	9.9	8.07	3.1
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8.44	3.8	9.04	10.9	8.13	2.8
Food servers, nonrestaurant	11.85	7.7	—	—	11.86	12.6
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.98	8.9	11.11	9.8	8.56	4.2
Building cleaning workers	10.48	7.7	10.59	8.6	8.62	4.2
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.48	5.3	11.81	5.6	8.62	4.2
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	9.30	2.0	9.30	2.0	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	12.24	5.1	20.04	8.7	9.84	6.5
Ushers, lobby attendants, and ticket takers	8.60	5.0	—	—	8.60	5.0
Miscellaneous entertainment attendants and related workers	7.85	5.8	—	—	7.85	5.8
Amusement and recreation attendants	7.85	5.8	—	—	7.85	5.8
Recreation and fitness workers	14.41	6.1	—	—	13.45	1.8
Recreation workers	14.49	6.0	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	19.64	14.9	22.17	16.7	9.01	7.1
Retail sales workers	11.91	4.1	12.90	7.6	9.01	1.7
Cashiers, all workers	10.78	5.7	11.31	9.1	9.66	.8
Cashiers	10.78	5.7	11.31	9.1	9.66	.8
Retail salespersons	12.60	3.8	13.77	8.7	8.55	4.7
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing	33.91	2.7	33.91	2.7	—	—
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	27.89	4.6	27.89	4.6	—	—
Miscellaneous sales and related workers	10.78	26.9	—	—	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	16.78	2.6	17.11	2.7	13.44	7.7
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	22.35	5.5	22.35	5.5	—	—
Financial clerks	15.69	4.0	15.77	4.0	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	15.57	5.0	15.71	4.9	—	—
Tellers	12.47	2.0	12.47	2.0	—	—
Customer service representatives	16.17	5.8	16.60	6.3	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	13.01	7.5	13.14	7.9	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	12.29	9.6	13.04	5.6	8.70	1.5
Secretaries and administrative assistants	19.56	4.5	19.67	4.7	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	21.56	5.3	22.10	5.7	—	—
Medical secretaries	17.68	6.7	17.76	6.7	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	16.42	4.3	16.31	4.3	—	—
Office clerks, general	16.66	4.0	17.04	5.2	15.25	5.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO CSA, July 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)
Construction and extraction occupations	\$18.32	2.8	\$18.30	2.8	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	27.75	2.9	27.75	2.9	—	—
Carpenters	18.65	3.2	19.24	1.8	—	—
Construction laborers	13.67	4.1	13.67	4.1	—	—
Construction equipment operators	20.40	4.2	20.40	4.2	—	—
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	21.59	7.2	—	—	—	—
Roofers	12.47	.0	12.47	.0	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	24.21	4.8	24.52	4.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	36.34	6.4	36.34	6.4	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	20.30	9.7	21.85	9.2	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	19.16	11.9	20.82	11.6	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	22.07	12.0	22.07	12.0	—	—
Production occupations	14.38	6.6	14.56	6.8	\$10.89	3.1
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	14.23	9.5	14.23	9.5	—	—
Butchers and other meat, poultry, and fish processing workers	12.04	9.0	12.04	9.0	—	—
Printers	16.53	13.8	17.24	13.0	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	11.18	10.3	11.23	10.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	17.25	2.0	18.04	1.5	10.56	4.8
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	15.16	2.7	15.43	2.3	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	18.23	8.1	18.23	8.1	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	13.95	7.7	13.97	7.7	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	12.78	1.8	12.78	1.8	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	15.13	5.4	16.74	5.2	9.85	2.9
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	14.72	36.8	—	—	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	16.61	6.1	—	—	—	—
Packers and packagers, hand	9.85	11.7	—	—	—	—

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.