

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PORTLAND-SALEM, OR-WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY AUGUST 2005

Workers in the Portland metropolitan area averaged \$19.93 per hour during August 2005, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden reported that white collar workers averaged \$24.38 per hour and accounted for 49 percent of the workers in the area. Blue collar employees averaged \$16.83 per hour and represented 33 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$13.20 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 300 firms representing 470,300 workers in the Portland metropolitan area, which consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties, OR; and Clark County, WA. Seventy-nine percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Portland metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 37 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white collar workers, registered nurses averaged \$32.48 per hour; social workers, \$17.99; and general office clerks, \$14.50. Blue collar occupations included plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters earning \$30.76 per hour and assemblers at \$12.75. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants averaged \$10.87 per hour and janitors and cleaners earned \$11.67.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Portland area averaged \$20.32 per hour and part-time employees averaged \$14.53. Union workers averaged \$21.24 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$19.17. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.93 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$22.44.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use the data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Portland-Salem, OR-WA, National Compensation Survey August 2005 (Bulletin 3130-69). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the San Francisco Information Office by calling 415-975-4350. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are 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 programs, contact the San Francisco Information Office at 415-975-4350 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Pacific Time, Monday - Friday.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

Voice phone 202-691-5200

TDD message referral phone number: 800-877-8339

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Private industry | | State and local government | |
|--|---------|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| All..... | \$19.93 | 4.2 | \$19.01 | 5.0 | \$23.84 | 3.8 |
| All excluding sales..... | 20.20 | 4.3 | 19.28 | 5.3 | 23.86 | 3.9 |
| White collar..... | 24.38 | 5.0 | 24.06 | 6.9 | 25.19 | 3.6 |
| White collar excluding sales..... | 25.44 | 5.4 | 25.55 | 7.7 | 25.22 | 3.6 |
| Professional specialty and technical..... | 30.59 | 7.7 | 31.02 | 11.6 | 29.78 | 2.6 |
| Professional specialty..... | 32.54 | 8.9 | 33.83 | 14.3 | 30.59 | 2.0 |
| Engineers, architects, and surveyors..... | 34.52 | 4.0 | 34.89 | 4.3 | — | — |
| Mathematical and computer scientists..... | 37.20 | 6.8 | 37.48 | 7.4 | — | — |
| Computer systems analysts and scientists.. | 37.83 | 7.7 | 38.25 | 8.5 | — | — |
| Natural scientists..... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Health related..... | 31.51 | 2.9 | 32.13 | 3.2 | 29.10 | 6.8 |
| Registered nurses..... | 32.48 | 2.5 | 32.10 | 2.5 | — | — |
| Teachers, college and university..... | 30.35 | 8.3 | — | — | 37.48 | 3.4 |
| Other post-secondary teachers..... | 25.54 | 6.0 | — | — | 25.14 | 11.2 |
| Teachers, except college and university..... | 28.69 | 5.1 | 17.98 | 7.6 | 31.33 | 0.9 |
| Elementary school teachers..... | 31.37 | 1.4 | — | — | 31.56 | 1.3 |
| Secondary school teachers..... | 31.46 | 3.5 | — | — | 32.27 | 2.4 |
| Teachers, special education..... | 27.22 | 8.7 | — | — | 29.25 | 0.9 |
| Vocational and educational counselors..... | 21.30 | 31.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Librarians, archivists, and curators..... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Social scientists and urban planners..... | 28.65 | 3.3 | — | — | 28.97 | 7.9 |
| Psychologists..... | 26.13 | 6.2 | — | — | — | — |
| Social, recreation, and religious workers..... | 17.73 | 2.2 | 17.13 | 2.0 | 18.95 | 2.6 |
| Social workers..... | 17.99 | 2.0 | 17.13 | 2.0 | — | — |
| Lawyers and judges..... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c..... | 28.54 | 16.4 | — | — | — | — |
| Technical..... | 22.27 | 7.6 | 22.61 | 8.7 | 20.29 | 7.7 |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial..... | 34.13 | 6.9 | 33.71 | 8.8 | 35.28 | 10.8 |
| Executives, administrators, and managers... | 38.27 | 7.2 | 37.91 | 8.3 | 39.41 | 16.3 |
| Administrators and officials, public administration..... | 46.35 | 13.1 | — | — | 46.35 | 13.1 |
| Managers and administrators, n.e.c..... | 38.53 | 10.6 | 41.47 | 9.1 | — | — |
| Management related..... | 24.42 | 7.8 | 22.53 | 9.4 | 28.25 | 9.9 |
| Accountants and auditors..... | 20.42 | 13.3 | 19.92 | 14.6 | — | — |
| Sales..... | 14.95 | 5.8 | 14.92 | 5.9 | — | — |
| Cashiers..... | 12.78 | 11.1 | — | — | — | — |

See footnotes at end of table.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings, ¹ all workers: ² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005 (Continued)

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Private industry | | State and local government | |
|---|---------|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| White collar (Continued) | | | | | | |
| Administrative support, including clerical..... | \$16.14 | 2.9 | \$16.56 | 3.7 | \$15.09 | 2.4 |
| Secretaries..... | 17.08 | 7.1 | 17.94 | 10.0 | 15.38 | 3.5 |
| Order clerks..... | 11.73 | 16.9 | — | — | — | — |
| Library clerks..... | 13.31 | 4.1 | — | — | 13.31 | 4.1 |
| Records clerks, n.e.c..... | 19.31 | 3.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks..... | 16.40 | 6.5 | 16.41 | 7.2 | — | — |
| Stock and inventory clerks..... | 15.55 | 9.5 | — | — | — | — |
| General office clerks..... | 14.50 | 3.6 | 16.81 | 6.9 | 12.83 | 2.1 |
| Teachers' aides..... | 13.73 | 6.4 | — | — | 13.73 | 6.4 |
| Administrative support, n.e.c..... | 17.31 | 6.7 | 15.01 | 3.6 | — | — |
| Blue collar..... | 16.83 | 5.7 | 16.54 | 6.0 | 20.60 | 7.8 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 21.33 | 4.5 | 21.15 | 4.8 | 23.41 | 9.4 |
| Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c..... | 17.17 | 16.8 | 16.98 | 18.5 | — | — |
| Electricians..... | 29.32 | 5.1 | — | — | — | — |
| Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters..... | 30.76 | 3.0 | 30.76 | 3.0 | — | — |
| Construction trades, n.e.c..... | 19.84 | 3.3 | — | — | — | — |
| Inspectors, testers, and graders..... | 19.03 | 24.2 | 19.03 | 24.2 | — | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors..... | 14.08 | 7.5 | 14.06 | 7.5 | — | — |
| Printing press operators..... | 17.21 | 6.6 | — | — | — | — |
| Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c..... | 13.86 | 5.5 | 13.86 | 5.5 | — | — |
| Welders and cutters..... | 20.31 | 5.6 | 20.31 | 5.6 | — | — |
| Assemblers..... | 12.75 | 6.4 | 12.75 | 6.4 | — | — |
| Transportation and material moving..... | 16.57 | 10.2 | 16.02 | 12.2 | 19.38 | 11.9 |
| Truck drivers..... | 14.78 | 11.9 | 14.78 | 12.3 | — | — |
| Bus drivers..... | 15.90 | 14.8 | — | — | 18.10 | 11.1 |
| Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators..... | 13.32 | 10.4 | 13.32 | 10.4 | — | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers..... | 13.19 | 10.2 | 12.71 | 11.0 | 18.30 | 3.2 |
| Stock handlers and baggers..... | 12.11 | 13.8 | 12.11 | 13.8 | — | — |

See footnotes at end of table.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005 (Continued)

| Occupation ³ | Total | | Private industry | | State and local government | |
|--|---------|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | Mean | Relative error ⁴ (percent) |
| Service..... | \$13.20 | 5.4 | \$11.87 | 3.8 | \$19.89 | 2.2 |
| Protective service..... | 15.79 | 20.3 | – | – | 23.25 | 4.4 |
| Food service..... | 11.94 | 9.2 | 11.97 | 9.8 | 11.36 | 1.8 |
| Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders..... | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Other food service..... | 12.16 | 10.5 | – | – | 11.44 | 1.3 |
| Health service..... | 11.78 | 5.6 | 11.76 | 5.6 | – | – |
| Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants..... | 10.87 | 2.5 | 10.83 | 2.4 | – | – |
| Cleaning and building service..... | 12.91 | 4.2 | 12.64 | 5.4 | 14.08 | 2.7 |
| Janitors and cleaners..... | 11.67 | 7.6 | 10.47 | 9.0 | 14.05 | 2.9 |
| Personal service..... | 11.35 | 10.5 | 11.28 | 11.0 | 12.81 | 1.6 |

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 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in the full bulletin.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

| Occupational group | Private industry and State and local government | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Full-time workers ³ | Part-time workers ³ | Union ⁴ | Nonunion ⁴ | Time ⁵ | Incentive ⁵ |
| | Mean | | | | | |
| All occupations..... | \$20.32 | \$14.53 | \$21.24 | \$19.17 | \$19.96 | — |
| All excluding sales..... | 20.61 | 14.54 | 21.61 | 19.35 | 20.19 | — |
| White collar..... | 24.68 | 19.39 | 22.49 | 25.48 | 24.55 | — |
| White-collar excluding sales..... | 25.81 | 19.66 | 23.41 | 26.66 | 25.44 | — |
| Professional specialty and technical..... | 31.02 | 24.43 | 29.49 | 31.26 | 30.59 | — |
| Professional specialty..... | 32.99 | 25.98 | 30.21 | 34.19 | 32.54 | — |
| Technical..... | 22.55 | — | 24.14 | 21.70 | 22.27 | — |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial..... | 34.13 | — | 27.55 | 34.99 | 34.13 | — |
| Sales..... | 14.98 | — | — | 16.05 | 14.10 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical..... | 16.30 | 13.96 | 16.55 | 15.80 | 16.14 | — |
| Blue collar..... | 17.16 | 11.80 | 20.60 | 13.77 | 16.78 | — |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 21.40 | — | 25.45 | 16.93 | 21.32 | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors..... | 14.08 | — | 18.82 | 12.44 | 14.08 | — |
| Transportation and material moving..... | 17.09 | 13.13 | 18.25 | 14.40 | 16.57 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers..... | 14.03 | 9.46 | 15.50 | 10.53 | 13.19 | — |
| Service..... | 13.54 | 10.26 | 17.82 | 11.83 | 13.20 | — |
| | Relative error ⁶ (percent) | | | | | |
| All occupations..... | 4.4 | 4.3 | 2.0 | 6.7 | 4.3 | — |
| All excluding sales..... | 4.6 | 4.4 | 1.6 | 7.0 | 4.4 | — |
| White collar..... | 5.4 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 7.3 | 5.1 | — |
| White-collar excluding sales..... | 5.8 | 4.9 | 2.2 | 7.6 | 5.4 | — |
| Professional specialty and technical..... | 8.4 | 5.2 | 2.3 | 11.0 | 7.7 | — |
| Professional specialty..... | 9.9 | 5.8 | 2.5 | 12.8 | 8.9 | — |
| Technical..... | 7.9 | — | 13.5 | 9.0 | 7.6 | — |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial..... | 6.9 | — | 7.3 | 7.4 | 6.9 | — |
| Sales..... | 5.9 | — | — | 7.4 | 8.4 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical..... | 2.9 | 8.7 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 2.9 | — |

See footnotes at end of table.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005 (Continued)

| Occupational group | Private industry and State and local government | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Relative error ⁶ (percent) | | | | | |
| | Full-time workers ³ | Part-time workers ³ | Union ⁴ | Nonunion ⁴ | Time ⁵ | Incentive ⁵ |
| Blue collar..... | 6.0 | 6.1 | 2.0 | 7.6 | 5.8 | — |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 4.6 | — | 4.7 | 6.3 | 4.6 | — |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors..... | 7.5 | — | 2.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | — |
| Transportation and material moving..... | 9.2 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 14.4 | 10.2 | — |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers..... | 12.8 | 1.3 | 7.4 | 10.1 | 10.2 | — |
| Service..... | 6.6 | 5.4 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 5.4 | — |

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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

³ 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.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ 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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in the full bulletin.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005

| Occupational group | Full-time and part-time workers | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | All private industry workers | 50 - 99 workers ³ | 100 workers or more | | |
| | | | Total | 100 - 499 workers | 500 workers or more |
| | | | | | |
| All occupations..... | \$19.01 | \$15.93 | \$19.98 | \$18.53 | \$22.44 |
| All excluding sales..... | 19.28 | 16.11 | 20.25 | 18.76 | 22.72 |
| White collar..... | 24.06 | 18.18 | 25.39 | 24.25 | 26.70 |
| White-collar excluding sales..... | 25.55 | 19.40 | 26.79 | 26.10 | 27.49 |
| Professional specialty and technical..... | 31.02 | 24.30 | 31.98 | 32.89 | 31.23 |
| Professional specialty..... | 33.83 | 22.53 | 35.57 | 35.84 | 35.30 |
| Technical..... | 22.61 | — | 21.63 | 20.15 | 22.36 |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial..... | 33.71 | — | 33.66 | 30.91 | 37.39 |
| Sales..... | 14.92 | 13.60 | 15.42 | 15.42 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical..... | 16.56 | 15.05 | 17.05 | 16.48 | 17.74 |
| Blue collar..... | 16.54 | 15.91 | 16.81 | 15.75 | 20.13 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 21.15 | 21.39 | 21.02 | 20.53 | 22.01 |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors..... | 14.06 | — | 14.34 | 12.74 | 19.11 |
| Transportation and material moving..... | 16.02 | 13.24 | 17.95 | 17.59 | 21.41 |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers..... | 12.71 | — | 13.32 | 13.12 | 14.54 |
| Service..... | 11.87 | 11.43 | 12.00 | 12.22 | — |
| | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | | | | |
| All occupations..... | 5.0 | 7.4 | 6.0 | 9.7 | 4.1 |
| All excluding sales..... | 5.3 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 10.3 | 4.3 |
| White collar..... | 6.9 | 7.7 | 8.2 | 15.1 | 5.8 |
| White-collar excluding sales..... | 7.7 | 6.9 | 8.7 | 16.6 | 6.0 |
| Professional specialty and technical..... | 11.6 | 5.9 | 13.1 | 26.9 | 6.2 |
| Professional specialty..... | 14.3 | 5.8 | 16.1 | 32.5 | 1.5 |
| Technical..... | 8.7 | — | 8.5 | 7.8 | 12.5 |
| Executive, administrative, and managerial..... | 8.8 | — | 9.6 | 13.8 | 6.9 |
| Sales..... | 5.9 | 17.2 | 7.3 | 9.7 | — |
| Administrative support, including clerical..... | 3.7 | 7.4 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 10.2 |

See footnotes at end table.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Portland-Salem, OR-WA, August 2005 (Continued)

| Occupational group | Full-time and part-time workers | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|
| | Relative error ⁴ (percent) | | | | |
| | All private industry workers | 50 - 99 workers ³ | 100 workers or more | | |
| Total | | | 100 - 499 workers | 500 workers or more | |
| Blue collar..... | 6.0 | 13.5 | 5.6 | 7.9 | 2.2 |
| Precision production, craft, and repair..... | 4.8 | 16.4 | 4.9 | 8.0 | 1.8 |
| Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors..... | 7.5 | — | 7.3 | 9.5 | 3.0 |
| Transportation and material moving..... | 12.2 | 15.5 | 8.5 | 12.2 | 5.5 |
| Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers..... | 11.0 | — | 8.9 | 9.5 | 12.2 |
| Service..... | 3.8 | 7.8 | 5.9 | 8.7 | — |

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 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in the full bulletin for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in the full bulletin.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.