

Occupational Compensation Survey: Pay and Benefits Columbus, MS June 1996



U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
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This summary presents results of a June 1996 survey of occupational pay in the Columbus, MS Area, which consists of Lowndes County. This is 1 of over 120 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 33 establishments employing 8,354 workers was selected to represent 60 establishments employing 10,405 workers in the area. Data collected from the sample of establishments were appropriately weighted to represent all establishments within the survey. Labor-management coverage for white-collar workers was 1 percent and 44 percent for blue-collar workers.

Table 1 presents the weekly hours and pay of selected professional, administrative, technical, and clerical workers. Table 2 presents the hourly pay of maintenance, toolroom, material movement, and custodial workers.

Classification of workers by occupation is based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variation among establishments in duties within the same job. Data are not shown if employment in the occupation is insufficient to merit presentation or if there is a possibility that data for an individual establishment may be disclosed.

Tables 3, 4, and 5 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and insurance, health, and retirement plans for blue-collar and white-collar workers. See table 6 and the Scope and Method of Survey for further information on the composition of the occupational groups studied and the scope of the survey. The job descriptions used in for the survey are available upon request.

For additional information regarding this survey or similar surveys conducted in this regional area, please contact the BLS Atlanta Regional Office at (404) 347-4416. You may also write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics at: Compensation Levels and Trends, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Room 4175, Washington, D.C. 20212-0001 or call the Occupational Compensation Survey Program information line at (202) 606-6220.

Information in this publication will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 606-STAT, TDD phone: (202) 606-5897; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-326-2577.

Table 1. Weekly hours and pay of professional, administrative, technical, and clerical occupations, Columbus, MS, June 1996

Occupation and level	Number of workers	Average weekly hours ¹ (standard)	Weekly pay (in dollars) ²				Percent of workers receiving straight-time weekly pay (in dollars) of—																			
			Mean	Median	Middle range		200 and under 250	250 - 300	300 - 350	350 - 400	400 - 450	450 - 500	500 - 550	550 - 600	600 - 650	650 - 700	700 - 750	750 - 800	800 - 850	850 - 900	900 - 950	950 - 1000	1000 - 1050	1050 - 1100	1100 - 1150	
ADMINISTRATIVE OCCUPATIONS																										
Computer Programmers	22	40.0	\$763	\$748	\$673	—	\$894	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	14	14	18	18	5	18	—	5	5	—	—
Level 3	15	40.0	810	754	733	—	895	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	27	20	—	27	—	7	7	—	—
Computer Systems Analysts	10	40.0	943	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	10	—	—	—	20	20	20	10	—
Level 2	7	40.0	1,033	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	29	29	14	—
TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONS																										
Computer Operators	11	40.0	497	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	9	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 3	9	40.0	511	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	11	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLERICAL OCCUPATIONS																										
Clerks, Accounting	85	40.0	363	352	310	—	415	5	11	29	28	14	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 2	43	40.0	334	340	310	—	360	—	16	40	40	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 3	29	40.0	419	420	369	—	462	—	—	21	24	21	17	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clerks, General	21	40.0	326	321	280	—	385	10	33	10	38	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 2	15	40.0	299	285	270	—	371	13	47	13	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Secretaries	24	40.0	446	462	391	—	498	4	—	—	21	21	38	13	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 2	9	40.0	423	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	56	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Level 3	10	40.0	491	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switchboard-Operator-Receptionists	18	40.0	290	310	224	—	311	33	11	39	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Standard hours reflect the workweek for which employees receive their regular straight-time salaries (exclusive of pay for overtime at regular and/or premium rates), and the earnings correspond to these weekly hours.

² Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases, but not bonuses, under cost-of-living clauses, and incentive payments, however, are included. See Scope and

Method of Survey for definitions and methods used to compute means, medians, and middle ranges.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual intervals may not equal 100 percent. Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupation or occupational levels may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Hourly pay of maintenance, toolroom, material movement, and custodial occupations, Columbus, MS, June 1996

Occupation and level	Number of workers	Hourly pay (in dollars) ¹			Percent of workers receiving straight-time hourly pay (in dollars) of—																							
		Mean	Median	Middle range	4.25 and under 4.50	4.50 - 5.00	5.00 - 6.00	6.00 - 7.00	7.00 - 8.00	8.00 - 9.00	9.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 11.00	11.00 - 12.00	12.00 - 13.00	13.00 - 14.00	14.00 - 15.00	15.00 - 16.00	16.00 - 17.00	17.00 - 18.00	18.00 - 19.00	19.00 - 20.00	20.00 - 21.00	21.00 - 22.00	22.00 - 23.00	23.00 - 24.00	24.00 - 25.00	25.00 and over	
MAINTENANCE AND TOOLROOM OCCUPATIONS																												
General Maintenance Workers	13	\$8.64	-	- - -	-	-	-	31	-	8	23	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 1	7	7.64	-	- - -	-	-	-	57	-	14	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance Electricians	23	15.64	\$17.38	\$13.80 - \$17.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	39	4	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance Electronics Technicians	42	15.90	15.02	14.95 - 17.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	38	-	19	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 2	38	15.82	15.02	14.47 - 17.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	42	-	21	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance Mechanics, Motor Vehicle	11	13.88	-	- - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	9	9	-	-	27	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skilled Multi-Craft Maintenance Workers	227	17.55	15.02	12.40 - 22.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	11	4	13	2	-	3	3	5	4	4	7	7	211	
MATERIAL MOVEMENT AND CUSTODIAL OCCUPATIONS																												
Guards	18	6.65	6.59	6.59 - 6.75	-	-	11	67	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 1	18	6.65	6.59	6.59 - 6.75	-	-	11	67	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Janitors	209	5.70	5.10	4.85 - 5.60	(³)	30	52	4	2	5	3	(³)	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material Movement and Storage Workers	254	9.37	10.02	6.35 - 12.54	(³)	2	8	26	6	6	3	11	6	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 1	45	7.50	6.72	5.96 - 10.80	2	9	38	4	13	4	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 2	208	9.75	10.04	6.41 - 12.60	-	-	2	30	4	6	3	8	7	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forklift Operators	62	8.33	6.35	6.21 - 12.54	-	-	5	61	-	-	-	-	3	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shipping/Receiving Clerks	87	10.33	12.62	7.68 - 12.62	-	-	1	22	3	6	3	11	2	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers	7	8.68	-	- - -	-	-	-	-	57	-	29	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

¹ Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases, but not bonuses, under cost-of-living clauses, and incentive payments, however, are included. See Scope and Method of Survey for definitions and methods used to compute means, medians, and middle ranges.

² Workers were distributed as follows: 8 percent at \$25.00 and under \$26.00 and 3 percent at \$26.00 and under \$27.00.

³ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual intervals may not equal 100 percent. Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. Overall occupation or occupational levels may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 3. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers, Columbus, MS, June 1996

Number of holidays	White-collar workers	Blue-collar workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	(¹)	2
In establishments providing paid holidays	99	98
Number of holidays:		
4 holidays	1	2
5 holidays	14	8
6 holidays	15	5
7 holidays	2	10
8 holidays	13	24
9 holidays	7	-
10 holidays	34	34
11 holidays	7	7
13 holidays	7	7
Total paid holiday time ²		
2 days or more	99	98
3 days or more	99	98
4 days or more	99	98
5 days or more	99	96
6 days or more	84	88
7 days or more	70	83
8 days or more	68	73
9 days or more	55	49
10 days or more	48	49
11 days or more	14	15
12 days or more	7	7
13 days or more	7	7
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.5	8.8

¹ Less than 0.5 percent.

² Full and half days are combined. For example, the proportion of workers receiving 10 or more days includes those receiving *at least* 10 full days, or 9 full days plus 2 half days, or 8 full days and 4 half days, and so on.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Dashes indicate that no data were reported.

**Table 4. Annual paid vacation provisions for full-time workers,
Columbus, MS, June 1996**

Item	White-collar workers	Blue-collar workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	-	2
In establishments providing paid vacations	100	98
Length-of-time payment	98	84
Percentage payment	2	12
Flat sum	-	2
By vacation pay provisions for: ¹		
Six months of service:		
Under 1 week	2	2
1 week	44	21
1 year of service:		
Under 1 week	-	2
1 week	34	50
2 weeks	66	46
2 years of service:		
Under 1 week	-	2
1 week	14	32
2 weeks	86	64
3 years of service:		
1 week	7	13
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	-	2
2 weeks	93	83
4 years of service:		
1 week	7	13
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	-	2
2 weeks	93	83

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Annual paid vacation provisions for full-time workers,
Columbus, MS, June 1996 — Continued**

Item	White-collar workers	Blue-collar workers
By vacation pay provisions for: ¹		
5 years of service:		
1 week	2	10
2 weeks	66	49
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	3	1
3 weeks	29	38
8 years of service:		
1 week	(2)	-
2 weeks	64	49
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	3	1
3 weeks	33	48
10 years of service:		
1 week	(2)	-
2 weeks	22	22
3 weeks	73	66
4 weeks	5	10
12 years of service:		
1 week	(2)	-
2 weeks	22	22
3 weeks	66	58
4 weeks	12	18
15 years of service:		
1 week	(2)	-
2 weeks	16	11
3 weeks	57	61
4 weeks	27	25

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Annual paid vacation provisions for full-time workers,
Columbus, MS, June 1996 — Continued**

Item	White-collar workers	Blue-collar workers
By vacation pay provisions for: ¹		
20 years of service:		
1 week	(²)	-
2 weeks	16	11
3 weeks	34	28
4 weeks	33	40
5 weeks	17	19
25 years of service:		
1 week	(²)	-
2 weeks	16	11
3 weeks	34	28
4 weeks	12	24
5 weeks	38	35
30 years of service:		
1 week	(²)	-
2 weeks	16	11
3 weeks	34	28
4 weeks	12	24
5 weeks	38	35
Maximum vacation available:		
1 week	(²)	-
2 weeks	16	11
3 weeks	34	28
4 weeks	12	24
5 weeks	38	35

¹ Payments other than "length of time" are converted to an equivalent time basis; for example, 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service are chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression; for example, changes in proportions at 20 years include changes between 15 and 20 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay for 20 years include those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

² Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Dashes indicate that no data were reported.

Table 5. Insurance, health, and retirement plans offered to full-time workers, Columbus, MS, June 1996

Type of plan	White-collar workers	Blue-collar workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below ¹	99	96
Life insurance	99	96
Wholly employer financed	88	92
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	99	96
Wholly employer financed	86	90
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both	81	65
Sickness and accident insurance	43	59
Wholly employer financed	43	58
Sick leave (full pay, no waiting period)	70	20
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	3	(²)
Long-term disability insurance	44	13
Wholly employer financed	44	13
Hospitalization, surgical, and medical insurance	99	96
Wholly employer financed	69	49
Health maintenance organizations	1	(²)
Wholly employer financed	1	(²)
Dental care	52	52
Wholly employer financed	37	33
Vision care	6	7
Wholly employer financed	5	7
Alcohol and drug abuse treatment	98	90
Wholly employer financed	67	40
Retirement benefits ³	80	76
Wholly employer financed	52	45
Defined benefit	41	31
Wholly employer financed	41	31
Defined contribution	79	58
Wholly employer financed	12	14

¹ Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which the employer pays at least part of the cost. Excluded are plans required by the Federal Government such as Social Security and Railroad Retirement.

² Less than 0.5 percent.

³ Establishments providing more than one type of retirement plan may cause the sum of the separate plans to be greater than the total for all retirement plans.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals. Dashes indicate that no data were reported.

Table 6. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied, Columbus, MS¹, June 1996

Industry division ²	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
	Within scope of survey ³	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied ⁴
			Total ⁴		Full-time white-collar workers ⁵	Full-time blue-collar workers ⁶	
			Number	Percent			
All divisions	60	33	10,405	100	2,890	6,731	8,354
Manufacturing	21	14	7,015	67	1,830	5,025	6,250
Service producing ⁷	39	19	3,390	33	1,060	1,706	2,104

¹ The Columbus, MS area consists of Lowndes County. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. Estimates are not intended, however, for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) establishments employing fewer than 50 workers are excluded from the scope of the survey.

² The *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used in classifying establishments by industry. All government operations were excluded from the scope of the survey.

³ Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of service producing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

⁴ Includes part-time, seasonal, temporary, and other workers excluded from separate white-

and blue-collar categories.

⁵ Full-time, year-round permanent workers in professional, technical, and related occupations; executive, administrative, and managerial occupations; sales occupations; and administrative support occupations, including clerical.

⁶ Full-time, year-round permanent workers in precision, craft, and repair occupations; machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors; handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers; and service occupations, except households.

⁷ Includes transportation, communications, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services.

Scope and Method of Survey

Sampling procedures

The survey was conducted on a sample basis, using a listing of establishments (July 1994) which fell within the designated scope of the survey. The sampling frame was developed using data from unemployment insurance reports and checked for accuracy and completeness. Establishments known to be missing were added; out-of-business and out-of-scope establishments were removed; some units were combined or split to meet the establishment/collection unit definitions; and, for some, address, employment, type of industry, or other information was corrected.

A sample of establishments was selected after a detailed stratification by industry and number of employees of all establishments within the scope of the survey. From this stratified universe, a probability sample was selected, with each establishment having a predetermined chance of selection. To obtain optimum accuracy at minimum cost, a greater proportion of large than small establishments was selected. When data were combined, each establishment was weighted according to its probability of selection so that unbiased estimates were generated. If data were not available for an establishment originally selected, the weights of other similar establishments were increased to account for the missing unit.

Data for the survey were obtained primarily by personal visits of Bureau field economists. Collection of the survey was from June 1996 through August 1996 and reflects an average payroll reference of June 1996. Data obtained for a payroll period prior to the end of July 1996 were updated to include general wage changes, if granted, scheduled to be effective through that date.

Occupations and pay

Occupational employment and pay data are shown for full-time workers, i.e., those hired to work a regular weekly schedule. Pay data exclude premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases, but not bonuses, under cost-of-living allowance clauses, and incentive payments, however, are included. Weekly hours in table 1 refer to the standard workweek (rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour) for which employees receive regular straight-time pay. Average weekly pay are rounded to the nearest dollar. Tables 1 and 2 provide distributions of workers by pay.

The *mean* is computed for each job by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The *median* designates position—one-half of

the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The *middle range* is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Medians and middle ranges are not provided when they do not meet reliability criteria.

Occupational employment estimates represent the total in all establishments within the scope of the study and not the number actually studied, and are intended as a general guide to the size and composition of the labor force rather than as precise measures of employment. Each group of establishments of a certain size, however, is given its proper weight in the combined data.

Employee benefits

The incidence of employee benefits is studied for full-time, year-round permanent white-collar and blue-collar workers. Provisions which apply to a majority of the white- and blue-collar categories are considered to apply to all white- and blue-collar workers in the establishment. Similarly, if fewer than half of the workers are covered, the benefits are considered nonexistent in the establishment. Holidays, vacations, insurance and health plans are considered applicable to employees currently eligible for the benefits. Retirement plans are considered applicable to employees currently eligible for participation and those who will eventually become eligible.

Paid holidays (table 3). Holidays are included if workers who are not required to work are paid for the time off and those required to work receive premium pay or compensatory time off. They are included only if they are granted annually on a formal basis (provided for in written form or established by custom). Holidays are included even though in a particular year they fall on a nonworkday and employees are not granted another day off. Data are tabulated to show the percent of workers who are granted specific numbers of whole and half holidays.

Paid vacations (table 4). Establishments report their method of calculating vacation (time basis, percent of annual pay, flat-sum payment, etc.) and the amount of vacation pay granted. Only basic formal plans are reported. Vacation bonuses, vacation-saving plans, and "extended" or "sabbatical" benefits beyond basic plans are excluded. For tabulating vacation pay granted, all provisions are expressed on a time basis. Vacation pay calculated on other than a time basis is converted to its equivalent time period. Two percent of annual pay, for example,

is tabulated as 1 week's vacation pay. Periods of service are chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression ; for example, changes in proportions at 20 years include changes between 15 and 20 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 week's pay after 20 years includes those eligible for at least 3 week's pay after fewer years of service. Provisions after each specified length of service are related to all white- or blue-collar workers in an establishment regardless of length of service. Counts of white- or blue-collar workers by length of service were not obtained. The tabulations present, therefore, statistical measures of these provisions rather than proportions of workers actually receiving specific benefits.

Insurance, health, and retirement plans (table 5). Plans are included for which the employer pays either all or part of the cost. The benefits may be underwritten by an insurance company, paid directly by an employer or union, or provided by a health maintenance organization (HMO). Workers provided the option of an insurance plan or an HMO are reported under both types of plans. A plan is included even though a majority of the employees in an establishment do not

choose to participate in it because they are required to bear part of its cost (provided the choice to participate is available to the majority). Federally required plans such as Social Security and railroad retirement are excluded. Benefit plans legally required by State governments, however, are included.

Labor-Management coverage

This survey collected the percent of workers covered by labor-management agreements in this area. An establishment is considered to have an agreement covering all white-collar or blue-collar workers if a majority of such workers is covered by a labor-management agreement determining wages and salaries. Therefore, all other white- or blue-collar workers are employed in establishments that either do not have labor-management agreements in effect, or have agreements that apply to fewer than half of their white- or blue-collar workers. Because establishments with fewer than 50 workers are excluded from the survey, estimates are not necessarily representative of the extent to which all workers in the area may be covered by the provisions of labor-management agreements.