

# Occupational Compensation Survey: Pay Only Deep Sea Freighters July 1996

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U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Summary  
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This summary presents results of a July 1996 survey of occupational wages for workers on deep sea freighters. The study was conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 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 unlicensed employees on American flag vessels of 5,000 power tons or more (part of industries 441 and 442, as defined in the 1987 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*). Passenger vessels, tankers, and ships operating on the Great Lakes or other inland waters were excluded. The survey data represent the 28 companies and 2,332 unlicensed employees estimated to be within scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides information on monthly earnings for unlicensed personnel in the deck, engine, and steward departments. Excluded from the earnings are premium, overtime, and penalty payments such as those received for work

performed on weekends, holidays, and outside the regular schedule, or for performance of duties beyond the basic requirements.

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. See the Scope and Method of Survey for further information. The job descriptions used in the survey are available upon request.

For additional information regarding this survey or similar surveys, you may write 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. Occupational earnings of unlicensed workers on deep sea freighters, July 1996**

Occupation	Number of workers	Monthly pay (in dollars) <sup>1</sup>			Percent of workers receiving total monthly pay (in dollars of)-																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	1000 and under 1100	1100 - 1200	1200 - 1300	1300 - 1400	1400 - 1500	1500 - 1600	1600 - 1700	1700 - 1800	1800 - 1900	1900 - 2000	2000 - 2100	2100 - 2200	2200 - 2400	2400 - 2600	2600 - 2800	2800 - 3000	3000 - 3200	3200 - 3400	3400 - 3600	3600 - 3800	3800 - 4000		
<b>Deck Department</b>																											
Able seamen .....	687	\$1,901	\$1,927	\$1,598 – \$2,028	-	-	-	6	9	13	14	4	1	26	3	5	1	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Able seamen, maintenance/deck utility .....	124	2,132	2,151	2,151 – 2,151	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	-	-	79	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Boatswains (Bosuns) .....	155	2,761	2,861	2,374 – 2,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	2	21	6	1	39	6	-	10	5	-	-	
Ordinary seamen .....	67	1,402	1,506	1,098 – 1,506	33	-	3	1	10	33	-	13	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Engine Department</b>																											
Chief electricians .....	92	3,072	3,061	3,061 – 3,166	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	3	67	17	-	1	2		
Electricians/Second electricians .....	68	2,780	2,565	2,463 – 3,158	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	18	34	3	-	22	10	10	-	-		
Oilers/Diesel oilers .....	86	2,005	2,224	1,820 – 2,224	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	7	-	3	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Unlicensed junior engineers/ Qualified members of the engine department (QMED)/Deck engine mechanics .....	233	2,444	2,458	2,160 – 2,760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	5	6	9	16	29	6	16	6	-	-	-	-		
Utility workers .....	33	2,205	2,224	2,224 – 2,224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	85	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Wipers .....	45	1,698	1,790	1,278 – 1,964	-	-	29	-	7	4	-	16	-	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Steward Department</b>																											
Cooks .....	204	2,148	2,249	1,866 – 2,307	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	2	18	2	-	4	38	8	7	4	-	-	-	-	-		
Stewards .....	151	2,701	2,861	2,374 – 2,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	2	21	3	1	40	16	5	-	-	-		
Steward assistants .....	241	1,446	1,494	1,240 – 1,494	7	5	29	( <sup>2</sup> )	39	5	4	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Multiple Departments</b>																											
General vessel assistants .....	128	1,587	1,790	1,449 – 1,790	17	-	2	2	23	2	-	45	6	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

<sup>1</sup> Premium, overtime, and penalty pay are excluded from the rates reported. See Scope and Method of Survey for definition and methods used to compute means, medians, and middle ranges.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

# Scope and Method of Survey

## Sampling procedures

The survey was conducted using a list of establishments which fell within the designated scope of the survey. The list of establishments was developed using data from the Ship Operators Report compiled by Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation and a report of ships under contract to the Military Sealift Command of the Department of the Navy. These reports were 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 of definitions; and, for some, address, employment, or other information was corrected.

All establishments within scope of the survey were selected to be studied. If data were not available for an establishment, the weights of other similar establishments were increased to account for the missing unit. Data for the survey were obtained primarily by telephone inquiries of Bureau field economists. Collection of the survey was from September 1996 through November 1996.

## Occupations and pay

Occupational employment and monthly earnings data are shown for unlicensed personnel on deep sea freighters at sea in July 1996. Earnings data exclude premium, overtime, and penalty pay. Average monthly pay is rounded to the nearest dollar.

The *mean* is computed for each job by totaling the earnings 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 publication criteria.