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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF BIRMINGHAM-HOOVER, AL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY, FEBRUARY 2009**

Workers in the Birmingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$18.85 per hour in February 2009, 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$23.97 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$14.61 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, healthcare support occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$11.82. The NCS data available for the Birmingham area include earnings for 17 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$18.06 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupations, general office clerks averaged \$16.43 per hour. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, an occupation within the healthcare support occupations, averaged \$10.47. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$19.88 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.74. Union workers earned \$25.38 and non-union workers, \$18.51. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.33 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$17.99, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.37.

The occupational wage data available from 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 153 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 465,900 workers in the Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Bibb, Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker Counties in Alabama.

## **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Birmingham-Hoover, AL National Compensation Survey February 2009 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 data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Southeast Information Office by calling (404) 893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Birmingham-Hoover, AL, February 2009**

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>All workers</b> .....	\$18.85	4.8	\$19.88	5.1	\$10.74	11.5
<b>Management occupations</b> .....	44.55	14.9	45.42	14.6	–	–
<b>Business and financial operations occupations</b> .....	27.38	6.6	27.38	6.6	–	–
Accountants and auditors .....	27.46	10.4	27.46	10.4	–	–
<b>Computer and mathematical science occupations</b> .....	34.65	3.8	34.65	3.8	–	–
<b>Architecture and engineering occupations</b> .....	34.48	4.0	34.48	4.0	–	–
Engineers .....	36.83	4.3	36.83	4.3	–	–
<b>Education, training, and library occupations</b> .....	28.97	3.1	30.36	4.4	10.95	15.1
Postsecondary teachers .....	34.06	6.5	34.06	6.5	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers .....	30.44	5.9	30.68	5.8	–	–
Preschool and kindergarten teachers .....	24.15	17.1	–	–	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers .....	31.41	6.5	31.41	6.5	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education .....	31.30	6.5	31.30	6.5	–	–
Secondary school teachers .....	31.21	5.4	31.21	5.4	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education .....	29.84	7.6	29.84	7.6	–	–
Teacher assistants .....	13.54	8.6	–	–	–	–
<b>Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations</b> .....	19.79	7.8	20.77	4.5	–	–
<b>Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations</b> .....	23.97	5.6	24.35	6.4	–	–
Registered nurses .....	29.69	4.7	–	–	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses .....	18.06	1.8	–	–	–	–
<b>Healthcare support occupations</b> .....	11.82	8.4	12.56	7.2	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides .....	10.47	3.2	–	–	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants .....	10.47	3.2	–	–	–	–
<b>Protective service occupations</b> .....	17.29	12.9	17.31	13.3	–	–
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b> .....	6.93	5.7	–	–	6.29	4.1
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b> .....	8.16	4.4	8.27	5.2	–	–
Building cleaning workers .....	8.15	4.4	8.27	5.2	–	–
<b>Sales and related occupations</b> .....	15.57	9.1	16.75	8.0	–	–
Retail sales workers .....	12.82	3.0	14.23	4.2	–	–
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b> .....	14.61	4.7	14.92	4.7	11.28	13.0
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers .....	19.00	12.0	19.00	12.0	–	–
Financial clerks .....	16.26	6.6	16.67	5.8	–	–
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks .....	20.98	6.7	20.98	6.7	–	–
Customer service representatives .....	14.66	9.4	14.66	9.4	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks .....	10.86	8.6	11.10	8.0	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants .....	18.00	5.9	18.00	5.9	–	–
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants .....	20.34	8.0	20.34	8.0	–	–
Office clerks, general .....	16.43	3.2	17.48	3.0	–	–
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b> .....	16.96	9.1	16.96	9.1	–	–
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b> .....	20.46	12.9	20.53	13.1	–	–
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers .....	16.17	7.9	16.17	7.9	–	–
<b>Production occupations</b> .....	15.11	3.6	15.11	3.6	–	–
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b> .....	13.34	7.3	13.63	7.8	11.83	4.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Birmingham-Hoover, AL, February 2009** — Continued

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b>						
—Continued						
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers .....	\$12.48	17.1	\$12.72	16.8	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand .....	12.54	9.9	13.06	13.6	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand .....	12.57	10.0	13.10	13.9	—	—

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

<sup>4</sup> 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