

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



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HIGHLIGHTS OF MOBILE, ALABAMA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY AUGUST 2008

Workers in the Mobile metropolitan area earned an average of \$16.49 per hour in August 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 Janet S. Rankin noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$21.37 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$14.41 for sales and related occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$13.35. The NCS data available for the Mobile area include earnings for 15 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Registered nurses, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$24.36 per hour. Within the sales and related occupational group, retail salespersons averaged \$11.50 per hour, while cashiers earned \$8.45. Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks, an occupation within the office and administrative support group, registered an average hourly rate of \$11.92, and receptionists and information clerks earned \$9.29 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$17.56 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$8.86. Union workers earned \$16.86 and non-union workers, \$16.48. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.12 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.54, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.87.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm.

The NCS data provided in the detailed bulletin covered 200 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 169,100 workers in the Mobile Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Mobile County in Alabama.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Mobile, AL National Compensation Survey August 2008 which is available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at 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 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Mobile, AL, August 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	\$16.49	4.0	\$17.56	4.0	\$8.86	5.8
Management occupations	32.57	23.4	32.63	23.5	–	–
Education administrators	35.29	19.0	–	–	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	33.49	29.2	33.49	29.2	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	33.89	8.5	33.92	8.5	–	–
Postsecondary teachers	59.48	31.8	59.82	31.9	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	29.07	2.6	29.05	2.6	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	21.37	5.7	22.06	4.7	14.47	18.0
Registered nurses	24.36	1.9	24.37	1.9	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	15.80	2.2	15.98	2.3	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	10.35	4.3	10.37	4.4	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	9.73	6.1	9.74	6.3	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.33	3.1	–	–	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	11.31	3.9	11.31	3.9	–	–
Protective service occupations	14.92	6.2	15.00	6.0	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.79	8.9	10.21	9.1	7.01	14.2
Cooks	10.26	15.0	–	–	–	–
Food service, tipped	3.33	11.0	–	–	3.12	2.3
Waiters and waitresses	3.10	1.3	–	–	–	–
Fast food and counter workers	7.99	2.5	–	–	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.77	8.2	10.90	11.0	–	–
Building cleaning workers	9.99	4.4	9.51	4.7	–	–
Personal care and service occupations	7.40	3.8	–	–	6.85	1.0
Sales and related occupations	14.41	12.1	16.59	12.1	7.95	10.2
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	20.13	18.6	20.13	18.6	–	–
Retail sales workers	9.97	5.4	10.92	9.9	8.13	12.1
Cashiers, all workers	8.45	5.8	9.16	6.2	7.59	8.6
Cashiers	8.45	5.8	9.16	6.2	7.59	8.6
Retail salespersons	11.50	3.6	12.20	7.6	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	13.35	3.8	13.57	4.0	10.53	10.4
Financial clerks	14.75	7.4	14.87	7.2	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks	9.29	2.4	9.58	4.4	–	–
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	11.92	7.5	11.92	7.5	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants	12.43	3.7	12.43	3.7	–	–
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	12.59	5.8	12.59	5.8	–	–
Office clerks, general	14.45	10.7	15.24	10.9	–	–
Construction and extraction occupations	17.81	1.9	17.89	1.9	–	–
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	17.07	11.2	17.07	11.2	–	–
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	17.07	11.2	17.07	11.2	–	–
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	17.01	8.2	17.01	8.2	–	–
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	16.22	14.0	16.22	14.0	–	–
Production occupations	17.91	5.2	18.23	4.7	–	–
Transportation and material moving occupations	12.16	7.1	12.52	8.2	9.14	18.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Mobile, AL, August 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)
Transportation and material moving occupations						
—Continued						
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	\$14.90	9.2	\$15.12	8.8	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.38	4.1	9.97	2.5	\$6.86	7.4
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	9.73	3.9	9.97	2.5	—	—

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