

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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HIGHLIGHTS OF GREAT FALLS, MT NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY NOVEMBER 2008

Workers in the Great Falls metropolitan area earned an average of \$16.31 per hour in November 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 Stanley W. Suchman noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$12.40 for office and administrative support occupations and \$9.81 for building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$7.99. The NCS data available for the Great Falls area include earnings for 18 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

General office clerks, part of the office and administrative support occupational group, earned \$12.35 per hour and receptionists and information clerks, \$11.25. Within the building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupational group, janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners, averaged \$9.35 per hour. Food preparation workers, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$8.14, and waiters and waitresses earned \$7.06 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from the NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$17.26 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$9.59. Union workers earned \$19.15 and non-union workers, \$15.75. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$14.68 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$18.76, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.27.

The occupational wage data available from the 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 191 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 32,800 workers in the Great Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Cascade County in Montana.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Great Falls, MT National Compensation Survey November 2008 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, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Kansas City Information Office by calling (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Great Falls, MT, November 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	\$16.31	3.8	\$17.26	3.6	\$9.59	9.9
Management occupations	30.92	13.7	30.92	13.7	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	30.92	15.8	30.92	15.8	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	30.84	15.3	–	–	–	–
Community and social services occupations	14.29	8.7	13.85	10.7	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	28.36	7.8	29.00	7.4	10.63	5.5
Postsecondary teachers	37.79	15.6	–	–	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	27.49	16.9	27.50	16.9	–	–
Other teachers and instructors	27.98	20.9	–	–	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	15.14	12.9	15.20	13.2	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	26.08	2.6	–	–	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	10.16	2.5	10.26	2.6	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.36	1.1	10.41	1.2	–	–
Protective service occupations	24.48	15.0	24.70	14.9	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.99	2.7	8.54	4.0	7.13	1.9
Cooks	8.12	1.3	8.60	5.6	–	–
Food preparation workers	8.14	6.8	–	–	–	–
Food service, tipped	7.12	1.7	7.25	.6	6.92	2.8
Waiters and waitresses	7.06	3.8	–	–	–	–
Fast food and counter workers	7.92	2.4	–	–	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	9.81	5.6	10.28	6.6	8.36	6.5
Building cleaning workers	9.34	4.5	9.71	5.1	8.30	6.8
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	9.35	6.7	9.64	9.1	8.56	7.4
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	9.31	9.7	–	–	–	–
Personal care and service occupations	8.57	4.9	–	–	7.35	1.2
Sales and related occupations	13.69	10.2	15.03	7.6	7.75	1.1
Retail sales workers	10.58	10.6	11.65	7.3	7.75	1.1
Cashiers, all workers	9.09	1.9	9.73	5.4	7.96	2.3
Cashiers	9.09	1.9	9.73	5.4	7.96	2.3
Retail salespersons	11.47	17.7	12.58	12.4	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	12.40	3.1	12.55	3.0	10.31	14.5
Financial clerks	12.13	7.1	12.50	7.0	9.52	15.0
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	12.11	8.3	12.60	8.3	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks	11.25	6.6	11.30	6.7	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants	11.65	8.4	11.65	8.4	–	–
Office clerks, general	12.35	6.2	13.00	6.3	–	–
Construction and extraction occupations	20.02	9.2	20.02	9.2	–	–
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	20.81	13.0	20.81	13.0	–	–
Production occupations	16.89	12.1	17.93	12.3	–	–
Transportation and material moving occupations	13.59	10.9	14.27	10.9	10.35	9.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Great Falls, MT, November 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	\$17.03	20.5	\$17.03	20.5	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.80	4.4	10.13	5.0	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	9.74	4.9	10.13	6.5	—	—

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