

News

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Highlights of Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC National Compensation Survey July 2008

Workers in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.-N.C. metropolitan area earned an average of \$16.94 per hour in July 2008, according to new survey results from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$23.29 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$14.16 for sales and related occupations. Another occupational group, protective service, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$13.89. The NCS data available for the Virginia Beach area include earnings for 18 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Within the healthcare practitioner and technical occupations group, registered nurses averaged \$24.84 per hour, while licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses earned \$17.06. Cashiers, part of the sales and related occupation group, earned \$8.48 per hour. Police and sheriff's patrol officers, an occupation within the protective services group, registered an hourly rate of \$20.42, and security guards earned \$9.41 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$18.69 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.17. Union workers earned \$17.05 and non-union workers, \$16.93. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$14.52 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$15.15, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$23.35.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs/

The NCS data provided here covered 281 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 669,900 workers in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.-N.C., Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which consists of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg Cities, and Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Surry, and York Counties in Virginia and Currituck County in North Carolina.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.-N.C. National Compensation Survey July 2008 which is available 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, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office by calling (215) 597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC, July 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	\$16.94	3.1	\$18.69	2.7	\$10.17	3.8
Management occupations	40.40	11.8	40.69	11.7	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	26.88	6.4	26.68	7.1	–	–
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	25.30	7.2	25.30	7.2	–	–
Accountants and auditors	24.74	4.4	23.07	6.3	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	24.13	9.0	24.13	9.0	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	28.24	2.7	28.24	2.7	–	–
Engineers	31.38	1.8	31.38	1.8	–	–
Community and social services occupations	18.65	11.9	18.66	12.4	–	–
Social workers	23.21	6.6	23.21	6.6	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	26.92	7.2	28.57	6.7	15.12	12.0
Postsecondary teachers	33.34	11.6	36.54	7.9	15.53	32.2
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	26.92	18.2	–	–	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	30.52	7.1	31.41	4.8	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	32.42	3.9	32.42	3.9	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	31.83	2.6	31.83	2.6	–	–
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	33.68	6.0	33.68	6.0	–	–
Secondary school teachers	33.18	2.9	33.18	2.9	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	32.56	1.8	32.56	1.8	–	–
Other teachers and instructors	15.66	13.2	–	–	14.35	18.8
Teacher assistants	12.14	4.5	12.14	4.5	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	23.29	11.2	22.98	12.9	26.55	7.9
Registered nurses	24.84	4.6	24.18	5.3	27.52	3.0
Therapists	26.45	7.5	26.45	7.5	–	–
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	13.28	13.7	13.28	13.7	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.06	1.5	–	–	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	11.90	5.8	12.71	9.5	10.30	7.8
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.56	4.7	11.07	3.6	9.74	3.6
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.71	4.3	11.07	3.6	9.97	3.3
Protective service occupations	13.89	11.3	15.33	11.0	8.68	3.5
Police officers	20.42	4.4	20.42	4.4	–	–
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	20.42	4.4	20.42	4.4	–	–
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	9.41	3.7	9.91	4.7	–	–
Security guards	9.41	3.7	9.91	4.7	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.80	7.7	10.38	2.8	8.08	10.4
Cooks	8.35	11.5	–	–	7.72	4.3
Food service, tipped	8.15	17.2	–	–	8.82	21.9
Waiters and waitresses	3.66	33.2	–	–	–	–
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	10.05	9.9	–	–	–	–
Fast food and counter workers	7.43	3.6	–	–	7.21	4.4
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.41	3.6	–	–	7.19	4.6
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.85	7.1	10.43	3.1	11.74	19.0
Building cleaning workers	10.68	8.0	10.10	3.6	11.74	19.0
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.89	10.3	10.15	3.2	11.74	19.0
Personal care and service occupations	9.12	12.6	–	–	8.95	13.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC, July 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)
Personal care and service occupations —Continued						
Child care workers	\$7.30	2.8	—	—	\$7.18	2.0
Recreation and fitness workers	10.52	6.9	—	—	9.74	2.5
Recreation workers	11.20	9.4	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations						
14.16	13.1	\$16.48	10.0	8.12	6.2	
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.50	12.2	15.50	12.2	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	15.47	12.3	15.47	12.3	—	—
Retail sales workers	10.68	14.8	12.39	9.8	8.00	5.8
Cashiers, all workers	8.48	7.4	—	—	7.20	.7
Cashiers	8.48	7.4	—	—	7.20	.7
Retail salespersons	12.72	22.6	14.43	22.4	9.05	9.5
Office and administrative support occupations						
13.74	1.8	13.80	2.1	13.49	2.1	
Financial clerks	15.21	3.4	14.27	6.8	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	—	—	14.16	7.6	—	—
Customer service representatives	13.00	5.3	13.00	5.5	—	—
Order clerks	10.13	6.6	—	—	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	11.77	6.2	—	—	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	10.00	7.9	10.44	10.6	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	13.75	5.5	13.87	5.9	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	16.21	6.1	16.42	5.8	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	11.53	3.2	—	—	—	—
Office clerks, general	13.10	3.8	13.70	4.4	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations						
15.95	8.8	16.05	8.7	—	—	
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	27.07	7.6	—	—	—	—
Construction laborers	11.99	4.3	11.99	4.3	—	—
Construction equipment operators	15.02	4.8	15.02	4.8	—	—
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	15.02	4.8	15.02	4.8	—	—
Helpers, construction trades	10.01	7.0	10.02	7.4	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations						
16.38	3.9	16.93	4.0	—	—	
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	19.08	16.1	19.26	16.3	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	13.35	11.6	—	—	—	—
Production occupations						
17.19	21.1	17.24	21.2	—	—	
Miscellaneous production workers	9.18	18.4	9.18	18.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations						
11.98	8.6	13.04	7.7	8.29	3.9	
Bus drivers	14.34	3.7	14.42	3.6	—	—
Bus drivers, school	14.34	3.7	14.42	3.6	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	13.57	10.6	13.57	10.6	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	15.48	16.2	15.48	16.2	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.66	7.1	10.72	6.8	8.30	6.9
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	9.74	10.8	11.42	10.2	8.30	7.2

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.