

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OKLAHOMA CITY, OK NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY FEBRUARY 2009

Workers in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area earned an average of \$16.71 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 Stanley W. Suchman reported wage data for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$24.39 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$15.12 for sales and related occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$13.24. The NCS data available for the Oklahoma City area include earnings for 20 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 \$17.06 per hour. Retail salespersons, an occupation within the sales and related occupations, registered an average hourly rate of \$11.46. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks averaged \$11.17 per hour and tellers, \$10.91. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$17.48 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$9.07. Union workers earned \$21.78 and non-union workers, \$16.30. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.64 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.41, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$19.70.

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 221 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 531,100 workers in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area which is comprised of Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, and Oklahoma Counties in Oklahoma.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Oklahoma City, OK 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, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Southwest Information Office by calling (972) 850-4800 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.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, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2009**

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	\$16.71	3.6	\$17.48	3.4	\$9.07	8.9
Management occupations	32.97	13.6	32.97	13.6	–	–
Education administrators	25.42	21.4	25.42	21.4	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	24.28	10.2	24.28	10.2	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	29.11	8.5	30.05	7.3	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	26.33	13.7	26.33	13.7	–	–
Engineers	29.17	10.3	29.17	10.3	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	34.88	19.8	34.88	19.8	–	–
Community and social services occupations	15.75	8.0	15.75	8.0	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	28.09	1.8	28.50	1.7	15.12	18.8
Postsecondary teachers	38.62	9.3	38.70	9.4	–	–
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	39.80	16.4	39.89	16.9	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	27.71	2.5	27.86	2.3	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	28.02	3.8	28.02	3.8	–	–
Secondary school teachers	28.09	.5	28.09	.5	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	28.09	.5	28.09	.5	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	24.62	16.0	–	–	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	24.39	5.9	24.00	5.2	–	–
Registered nurses	27.55	9.2	27.60	9.3	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.06	2.6	17.03	2.7	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	10.88	2.9	11.04	2.6	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.40	4.1	10.54	4.1	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.30	3.8	10.43	3.9	–	–
Protective service occupations	18.79	29.2	19.11	29.3	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.56	5.1	9.08	11.1	5.73	1.5
Cooks	8.43	1.8	8.43	2.1	–	–
Food service, tipped	3.84	13.8	–	–	3.11	13.9
Waiters and waitresses	2.87	13.7	–	–	2.38	2.3
Fast food and counter workers	7.79	1.6	9.23	3.8	6.80	.2
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.81	1.7	9.23	3.8	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	9.37	5.8	9.61	4.7	–	–
Building cleaning workers	9.47	6.3	9.81	5.0	–	–
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	9.83	8.1	10.37	5.6	–	–
Personal care and service occupations	11.00	9.1	11.28	10.0	9.50	9.9
Sales and related occupations	15.12	8.2	16.43	9.0	9.42	7.1
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	26.71	13.9	26.71	13.9	–	–
Retail sales workers	11.10	2.6	11.64	2.6	9.33	8.7
Cashiers, all workers	–	–	10.34	3.6	–	–
Cashiers	–	–	10.34	3.6	–	–
Retail salespersons	11.46	3.2	12.14	2.7	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	13.24	4.0	13.45	4.0	10.26	10.7
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	21.56	16.7	21.56	16.7	–	–
Financial clerks	13.67	5.1	14.37	3.3	10.97	17.5
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	12.61	6.1	13.09	5.8	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Oklahoma City, OK, February 2009** — 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)
Office and administrative support occupations						
—Continued						
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	\$14.30	6.2	\$14.57	4.1	—	—
Tellers	10.91	4.7	—	—	—	—
Customer service representatives	12.02	9.3	12.02	9.3	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	11.33	7.2	11.55	8.0	—	—
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	11.17	3.2	11.17	3.2	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	13.48	8.1	13.60	8.2	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	12.94	9.1	13.12	9.1	—	—
Data entry and information processing workers	10.50	7.9	10.50	7.9	—	—
Data entry keyers	10.50	7.9	10.50	7.9	—	—
Office clerks, general	12.79	8.7	13.08	9.7	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	18.38	14.9	18.38	14.9	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	15.98	14.8	15.98	14.8	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	14.93	7.1	14.93	7.1	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	19.64	18.0	19.64	18.0	—	—
Production occupations	13.68	8.2	13.69	8.2	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	10.41	12.3	10.41	12.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	11.60	6.6	11.99	7.1	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	11.67	3.4	—	—	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	9.39	2.8	—	—	—	—

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. For more information see full publication.

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. For more information about RSEs, see full publication.

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.