

What kind of jobs did the average earners hold?

- Many of the average-paying occupations were skilled manufacturing, skilled trades, and office and administrative support jobs.
- For most of the workers in these occupations, the highest level of educational attainment was high school or some college/associate's degree, and the most significant source of training was moderate-term on-the-job training. For the remaining occupations in this list, the most significant sources of training was short-term on-the-job training or a postsecondary vocational award, according to BLS's *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

Figure 3 Largest occupations earning wages near the U.S. median, May 2006

Occupation	Median Hourly Wage	Employment
U.S. median wage	\$14.61	
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	14.69	1,856,890
Maintenance and repair workers, general	15.34	1,310,580
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	14.14	483,020
Bill and account collectors	13.97	423,090
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	15.10	376,630
Dental assistants	14.53	277,040
Painters, construction and maintenance	15.00	263,390
Loan interviewers and clerks	14.89	248,050
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	14.96	238,210
All other information and record clerks	14.98	230,990

