



**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, ROOM 7T50
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
TELEPHONE: (404) 893-4222**

Media Contact: Karen Ransom
(404) 893-4220

Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm

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HIGHLIGHTS OF BIRMINGHAM-HOOVER, AL NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2008

Workers in the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$17.89 per hour in March 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 \$23.33 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$15.22 for sales and related occupations. Another occupational group, office and administrative support occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$14.17. The NCS data available for the Birmingham area include earnings for 18 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 \$28.28 per hour. Within the sales and related occupations, retail salespersons averaged \$10.84 per hour. General office clerks, an occupation within the office and administrative support occupational group, averaged \$15.45, and tellers earned \$10.02 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$18.85 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.35. Union workers earned \$21.81 and non-union workers, \$17.69. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$14.24 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$15.91, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$23.16.

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 174 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 449,100 workers in the Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Bibb, Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby and Walker Counties in Alabama.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Birmingham-Hoover, AL National Compensation Survey March 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 data, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Southeast Information Office by calling (404) 893-4222 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Birmingham-Hoover, AL, March 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	\$17.89	5.5	\$18.85	5.6	\$11.35	14.1
Management occupations	44.89	17.3	44.89	17.3	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	25.08	6.8	25.08	6.8	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	35.80	4.6	35.80	4.6	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	33.68	3.4	33.68	3.4	–	–
Engineers	36.38	3.9	36.38	3.9	–	–
Community and social services occupations	25.19	17.0	–	–	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	29.19	3.5	30.68	6.0	10.61	13.3
Postsecondary teachers	33.89	5.8	33.89	5.8	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	30.45	6.1	30.72	5.9	–	–
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	23.45	21.2	–	–	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	31.43	6.6	31.43	6.6	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	31.25	6.3	31.25	6.3	–	–
Secondary school teachers	31.45	4.6	31.45	4.6	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	30.25	6.1	30.25	6.1	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	17.40	11.8	17.77	11.6	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	23.33	4.2	23.62	5.1	–	–
Registered nurses	28.28	4.2	27.87	4.9	–	–
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	15.48	.4	–	–	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.74	1.8	17.51	2.9	–	–
Healthcare support occupations	11.07	5.3	11.51	5.5	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	10.38	1.8	10.47	2.8	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	10.32	1.9	10.36	3.6	–	–
Protective service occupations	15.24	17.1	15.70	15.8	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	6.63	6.0	–	–	5.87	5.5
Food service, tipped	5.27	10.3	–	–	–	–
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	7.94	5.9	7.94	5.9	–	–
Building cleaning workers	7.94	6.0	7.94	6.0	–	–
Sales and related occupations	15.22	16.0	16.77	11.9	8.22	.0
Retail sales workers	11.25	6.4	12.68	3.8	8.22	.0
Cashiers, all workers	10.51	19.6	–	–	–	–
Cashiers	10.51	19.6	–	–	–	–
Retail salespersons	10.84	.0	–	–	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	14.17	5.3	14.39	5.4	11.96	11.2
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	18.57	11.5	18.57	11.5	–	–
Financial clerks	14.34	9.1	14.83	8.1	–	–
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	20.16	9.7	20.16	9.7	–	–
Tellers	10.02	2.1	10.09	1.4	–	–
Customer service representatives	13.81	6.4	13.81	6.4	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks	10.11	7.7	10.30	7.7	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants	18.01	4.9	18.08	5.0	–	–
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	19.57	9.3	19.57	9.3	–	–
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	14.49	9.8	14.66	10.6	–	–
Office clerks, general	15.45	5.1	16.32	8.4	–	–
Construction and extraction occupations	15.71	10.6	15.71	10.6	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Birmingham-Hoover, AL, March 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)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	\$17.79	10.4	\$17.81	10.8	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	16.27	8.3	16.27	8.3	—	—
Production occupations	15.15	4.9	15.15	4.9	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	23.80	22.8	23.80	22.8	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	12.79	7.7	13.10	8.1	\$11.30	5.2
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	12.16	16.0	12.47	15.7	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	12.13	10.2	12.54	14.1	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	12.11	10.8	12.41	14.9	—	—

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.