

News

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Highlights of Pittsburgh-New Castle National Compensation Survey February 2008

Workers in the Pittsburgh-New Castle metropolitan area earned an average of \$18.95 per hour in February 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 \$33.94 for computer and mathematical science occupations and \$19.05 for construction and extraction occupations. Another occupational group, healthcare support, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$11.47. The NCS data available for the Pittsburgh area include earnings for 21 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Within the computer and mathematical science occupational group, computer software engineers, applications earned \$38.95 per hour. Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, part of the construction and extraction occupational group, averaged \$23.40 per hour. Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, within the healthcare support occupational group, earned an average hourly rate of \$11.78. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$20.75 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.06. Union workers earned \$20.96 and non-union workers, \$18.33. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.70 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$18.53, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$24.46.

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 www.bls.gov/ncs.

The NCS data reported here covered 491 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 1,102,200 workers in the Pittsburgh-New Castle Combined Statistical Area which is comprised of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Pittsburgh-New Castle, PA National Compensation Survey February 2008 which is available on the Internet 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 data, 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, Pittsburgh-New Castle, PA CSA, February 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	\$18.95	2.4	\$20.75	2.7	\$10.06	3.5
Management occupations	33.31	5.5	33.19	5.7	—	—
General and operations managers	29.49	5.4	29.49	5.4	—	—
Financial managers	32.39	7.4	32.39	7.4	—	—
Education administrators	31.94	12.6	31.94	12.6	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	26.53	3.3	26.52	3.2	—	—
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	27.14	11.1	27.14	11.1	—	—
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	24.38	7.5	24.97	7.9	—	—
Accountants and auditors	24.81	12.3	24.26	14.8	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	33.94	5.6	33.98	5.6	—	—
Computer software engineers	35.35	8.9	35.46	9.1	—	—
Computer software engineers, applications	38.95	2.7	39.29	2.6	—	—
Computer support specialists	27.95	41.9	27.95	41.9	—	—
Computer systems analysts	28.23	10.1	28.23	10.1	—	—
Network and computer systems administrators	34.01	21.0	—	—	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	29.01	2.5	29.04	2.6	—	—
Engineers	36.09	3.8	36.07	3.7	—	—
Electrical and electronics engineers	39.69	7.2	39.69	7.2	—	—
Electrical engineers	39.69	7.2	39.69	7.2	—	—
Drafters	20.09	9.1	20.20	10.0	—	—
Architectural and civil drafters	19.22	27.2	—	—	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	20.79	11.0	20.79	11.0	—	—
Community and social services occupations	14.80	5.3	14.80	5.3	—	—
Social workers	14.96	4.4	14.96	4.4	—	—
Legal occupations	51.44	12.1	51.44	12.1	—	—
Lawyers	52.32	15.0	52.32	15.0	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	33.07	11.3	34.56	12.8	11.25	7.3
Postsecondary teachers	57.21	14.1	57.81	13.7	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	34.04	6.8	35.61	9.6	10.58	10.3
Preschool and kindergarten teachers	12.28	6.4	—	—	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	38.38	2.0	40.17	2.7	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	38.04	2.6	40.49	3.3	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	39.34	4.5	39.34	4.5	—	—
Secondary school teachers	36.70	7.0	37.08	8.0	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	36.70	7.0	37.08	8.0	—	—
Special education teachers	42.58	8.6	42.58	8.6	—	—
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	43.55	8.2	43.55	8.2	—	—
Teacher assistants	10.44	12.3	10.51	13.2	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	20.38	12.9	23.58	7.4	14.55	30.0
Athletes, coaches, umpires, and related workers	21.81	5.1	—	—	—	—
Coaches and scouts	21.81	5.1	—	—	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	24.24	3.0	24.81	2.0	22.04	7.9
Pharmacists	42.01	4.6	—	—	40.27	7.4
Registered nurses	27.95	4.7	28.69	3.9	25.69	6.6
Therapists	24.92	22.1	26.54	18.3	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	—	—	18.94	11.0	—	—
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	22.34	9.5	22.34	9.5	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	20.43	17.7	20.43	17.7	—	—
Radiologic technologists and technicians	23.46	7.5	23.46	7.5	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Pittsburgh-New Castle, PA CSA, February 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)
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations —Continued						
Health diagnosing and treating practitioner support technicians	\$14.09	7.6	\$14.09	7.6	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	17.33	3.6	17.23	3.8	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	11.47	5.0	11.91	4.2	\$8.99	9.6
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	11.53	1.4	11.51	1.6	11.76	2.8
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	11.78	.9	11.77	1.1	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	11.30	15.8	13.01	14.7	7.91	4.5
Protective service occupations	15.32	17.1	15.94	17.7	10.70	16.4
Security guards and gaming surveillance officers	9.85	5.2	10.04	5.7	—	—
Security guards	9.85	5.2	10.04	5.7	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	8.21	6.4	9.16	10.9	7.09	2.9
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	14.64	2.0	14.64	2.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	14.64	2.0	14.64	2.0	—	—
Cooks	10.02	5.4	10.05	4.5	9.93	16.6
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	11.10	8.1	11.10	8.1	—	—
Cooks, restaurant	9.69	10.4	9.15	1.8	—	—
Food preparation workers	8.13	5.1	—	—	8.61	1.3
Food service, tipped	4.65	3.9	4.49	6.3	4.83	7.6
Bartenders	5.69	11.4	—	—	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.55	12.6	3.52	14.4	3.58	10.2
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	8.41	5.9	—	—	8.35	5.0
Fast food and counter workers	8.20	5.6	10.13	6.8	7.73	4.9
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8.33	4.9	10.13	6.8	7.83	3.9
Food servers, nonrestaurant	6.39	10.7	—	—	—	—
Dishwashers	8.74	7.2	—	—	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	11.99	8.4	12.70	9.8	9.09	5.9
Building cleaning workers	11.42	7.6	12.08	9.1	8.97	6.7
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.71	10.2	12.45	12.1	8.00	2.8
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.55	4.4	10.65	4.8	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	13.57	11.6	18.07	15.3	8.26	6.9
Child care workers	9.93	10.6	—	—	—	—
Personal and home care aides	10.98	7.2	—	—	—	—
Sales and related occupations	13.09	7.2	15.77	8.6	8.04	4.0
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	15.51	22.6	15.51	22.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	12.92	21.5	12.92	21.5	—	—
Retail sales workers	10.11	12.5	12.96	20.6	7.77	1.9
Cashiers, all workers	8.42	2.6	—	—	7.75	3.6
Cashiers	8.42	2.6	—	—	7.75	3.6
Counter and rental clerks and parts salespersons	8.66	6.6	—	—	—	—
Counter and rental clerks	7.37	2.9	—	—	—	—
Retail salespersons	11.58	16.6	15.07	23.0	7.86	1.8
Telemarketers	13.80	28.4	—	—	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	14.46	3.1	15.13	3.3	10.62	4.9
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	19.17	5.5	19.17	5.5	—	—
Financial clerks	14.33	2.8	14.39	2.7	13.63	9.5
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	13.55	4.7	12.97	4.9	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	14.43	3.4	14.43	3.4	—	—
Customer service representatives	18.21	9.9	18.63	10.3	—	—
File clerks	11.47	7.6	12.19	5.1	—	—
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	14.79	8.1	—	—	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Pittsburgh-New Castle, PA CSA, February 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)
Office and administrative support occupations						
—Continued						
Library assistants, clerical	\$10.08	19.9	—	—	—	—
Order clerks	14.18	7.9	\$14.18	7.9	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	11.29	4.7	12.54	3.2	\$9.53	4.7
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	12.24	10.4	12.24	10.4	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	10.99	6.3	12.82	7.3	8.77	7.6
Secretaries and administrative assistants	16.36	5.6	16.43	5.6	15.86	8.4
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	19.46	5.3	19.83	5.6	—	—
Legal secretaries	17.91	20.6	—	—	—	—
Medical secretaries	12.96	9.6	12.58	8.3	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	14.70	3.4	14.68	3.8	—	—
Data entry and information processing workers	13.13	2.7	13.15	2.7	—	—
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	13.57	1.3	13.57	1.3	—	—
Office clerks, general	12.87	4.7	13.66	4.6	10.85	4.7
Construction and extraction occupations	19.05	9.6	19.28	9.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	23.77	17.2	23.77	17.2	—	—
Carpenters	18.91	5.4	18.91	5.4	—	—
Construction laborers	14.68	34.9	—	—	—	—
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	23.40	6.2	23.40	6.2	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	23.40	6.2	23.40	6.2	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	19.21	3.7	19.69	4.1	—	—
Automotive technicians and repairers	16.91	2.6	18.63	7.6	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	18.00	3.3	18.03	3.3	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	18.84	5.3	18.84	5.3	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	16.91	6.9	16.96	6.9	—	—
Miscellaneous installation, maintenance, and repair workers	13.00	13.3	13.23	12.6	—	—
Production occupations	16.33	6.0	17.36	6.1	8.18	5.6
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	18.49	10.5	18.49	10.5	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	12.23	16.3	15.60	14.4	—	—
Machine tool cutting setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	20.46	15.9	20.46	15.9	—	—
Machinists	19.10	10.2	19.10	10.2	—	—
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	15.91	13.1	15.91	13.1	—	—
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	15.91	13.1	15.91	13.1	—	—
Miscellaneous metalworkers and plastic workers	15.83	13.0	15.83	13.0	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	18.99	8.5	18.99	8.5	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	9.12	13.5	—	—	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	16.81	11.8	18.83	13.6	10.08	7.1
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	15.14	4.8	15.74	5.1	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	16.22	4.7	16.26	4.8	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	13.71	8.5	14.27	8.5	—	—
Crane and tower operators	20.12	7.5	20.12	7.5	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	16.10	3.5	—	—	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	12.15	3.4	14.32	2.7	9.01	7.3
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	11.66	6.8	14.33	6.2	9.27	7.1
Packers and packagers, hand	11.78	14.5	—	—	—	—

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.