

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical Contact:

(202) 691-6199 ocltinfo@bls.gov

Media Contact:

(202) 691-5902

Internet address:

<http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ect/home.htm>

USDL: 05-1571

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. (EDT)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2005

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, 2005

Seventy percent of workers in private industry had access to employer-sponsored medical care plans, and 53 percent participated in medical care plans in March 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Sixty percent of workers had access to retirement benefits, with 50 percent participating in at least one type of retirement plan. These findings are from the Summary, "National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in the United States, March 2005," published today. These results can be found on the BLS Web site <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ebs/sp/ebsm0003.pdf>.

These data are from the National Compensation Survey (NCS), which provides comprehensive measures of occupational earnings, compensation cost trends, and details of benefit provisions. In addition to health and retirement plans, the survey also covered paid leave, disability insurance, and other selected benefits. The following are some of the major findings:

- Most employees covered by medical care plans were in plans requiring employee contributions for both single coverage and family coverage. Employee contributions to medical care premiums averaged \$273.03 per month for family coverage; for single coverage, employee contributions averaged \$68.96 per month.
- Employer premiums for medical care plans averaged \$575.77 a month per participant for family coverage, for single coverage employer contributions averaged \$252.22 a month. Employer contributions were higher for those employees who were not required to contribute than for those who were.
- Twenty-one percent of employees participated in defined benefit retirement plans, and 42 percent in defined contribution plans. (Some employees participate in both types.)
- Paid leave was the most commonly provided employee benefit in the private sector: paid holidays and vacations were available to 77 percent of employees. Paid jury duty leave was also common, available to 69 percent of workers. Forty-eight percent of the workers had paid military leave benefits.

The release and Summary Report are available by e-mail request at ocltinfo@bls.gov, by telephone (202) 691-6199, or on the BLS Internet site, <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Regional Information offices, listed on the Internet site, <http://www.bls.gov/bls/regncon.htm>, also are available to answer any of your questions.