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HIGHLIGHTS OF CHARLESTON-NORTH CHARLESTON-SUMMERVILLE, SC NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MAY 2008

Workers in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$17.17 per hour in May 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 \$32.29 for management occupations and \$13.83 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$7.27. The NCS data available for the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville area include earnings for 19 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Financial managers, part of the management occupational group, earned \$34.87 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupations, bill and account collectors averaged \$15.78 per hour, while general office clerks earned \$12.41. Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related occupational group, averaged \$7.20, and waiters and waitresses earned \$2.61 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$18.11 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.78. Union workers earned \$21.36 and non-union workers, \$17.10. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.09 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$17.35, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$21.27.

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/home.htm.

The NCS data reported here covered 230 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 269,800 workers in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties in South Carolina.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC National Compensation Survey May 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 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, Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC, May 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	\$17.17	4.3	\$18.11	4.6	\$10.78	6.5
Management occupations	32.29	5.2	32.29	5.2	–	–
General and operations managers	44.34	15.1	44.34	15.1	–	–
Financial managers	34.87	7.8	34.87	7.8	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	22.50	12.9	22.50	12.9	–	–
Computer and mathematical science occupations	36.84	12.5	36.84	12.5	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	33.42	1.2	33.42	1.2	–	–
Engineers	37.93	6.0	37.93	6.0	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	27.31	11.6	27.31	11.6	–	–
Community and social services occupations	15.80	11.8	15.80	11.8	–	–
Counselors	19.21	9.9	19.21	9.9	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	25.10	10.3	25.16	10.2	–	–
Postsecondary teachers	38.50	9.0	38.49	9.0	–	–
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	39.75	9.1	–	–	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	26.32	9.3	26.32	9.3	–	–
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	15.80	5.2	16.36	4.7	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	31.03	7.3	32.06	10.7	28.31	5.8
Registered nurses	33.77	6.2	36.44	14.1	29.84	6.9
Healthcare support occupations	9.56	4.5	10.30	4.2	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	8.76	4.4	–	–	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	8.76	4.4	–	–	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	10.40	5.5	10.40	5.5	–	–
Protective service occupations	14.46	4.7	14.46	4.7	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7.27	7.1	7.87	8.6	6.43	2.9
Cooks	9.91	2.1	10.16	4.1	–	–
Food service, tipped	4.20	1.5	4.34	7.1	3.80	18.9
Waiters and waitresses	2.61	6.3	2.35	8.1	–	–
Fast food and counter workers	7.22	4.1	8.30	8.8	6.54	2.2
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	7.20	4.3	8.28	9.1	6.52	2.6
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	10.70	4.6	11.75	5.6	8.10	4.1
Building cleaning workers	10.20	5.6	11.30	7.7	8.00	4.4
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	10.47	6.1	11.90	9.1	8.02	4.4
Sales and related occupations	15.20	7.0	16.58	7.2	8.47	5.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	17.10	13.7	17.10	13.7	–	–
Retail sales workers	12.25	6.7	13.64	5.3	8.03	2.5
Cashiers, all workers	8.79	2.6	9.24	2.8	8.10	.6
Cashiers	8.79	2.6	9.24	2.8	8.10	.6
Retail salespersons	16.34	5.7	16.85	7.0	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	13.83	2.8	14.13	2.6	10.95	13.2
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	18.65	7.4	18.65	7.4	–	–
Financial clerks	14.12	5.7	14.39	5.3	–	–
Bill and account collectors	15.78	4.7	15.78	4.7	–	–
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	13.98	7.7	13.98	7.7	–	–
Customer service representatives	12.66	11.5	14.15	5.9	–	–
File clerks	13.04	9.4	–	–	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks	12.02	7.0	12.60	6.4	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC, May 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						
Stock clerks and order fillers	\$9.26	10.4	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	16.08	5.8	\$15.98	6.2	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	15.89	9.8	15.89	9.8	—	—
Office clerks, general	12.41	3.7	12.41	3.7	—	—
Construction and extraction occupations	14.45	7.5	14.46	7.6	—	—
Electricians	16.92	15.6	16.92	15.6	—	—
Helpers, construction trades	12.66	4.0	—	—	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	17.67	6.2	17.67	6.2	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	18.70	8.1	18.70	8.1	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general	15.51	15.7	15.51	15.7	—	—
Production occupations	16.85	14.1	17.18	14.3	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	15.49	11.4	15.49	11.4	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	12.42	4.3	13.22	4.4	\$9.29	7.6
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	16.80	14.2	17.91	16.3	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.11	9.9	11.87	14.4	9.23	11.3
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	10.95	9.0	10.82	11.0	—	—

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.