

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, CA 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Richard J. Holden (415) 625-2270

David Kong (415) 625-2284

Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/ro9news.htm>

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HIGHLIGHTS OF KENNEWICK-RICHLAND-PASCO, WA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY AUGUST 2008

Workers in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco metropolitan area earned an average of \$21.60 per hour in August 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 Richard J. Holden reported wage data for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$41.26 for architecture and engineering occupations and \$14.65 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$9.48. The NCS data available for the Kennewick area include earnings for 17 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Engineers, part of the architecture and engineering occupational group, earned \$42.40 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupational group, financial clerks averaged \$14.86 per hour and receptionists and information clerks \$12.24. Cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$11.95, and fast food and counter workers earned \$8.51 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$23.66 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$11.74. Union workers earned \$23.74 and non-union workers, \$20.58. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$16.10 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$18.81, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$33.28.

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 provided in the detailed bulletin covered 142 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 86,900 workers in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Benton and Franklin Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Kennewick-Richland-Pasco, WA National Compensation Survey August 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, as well as other Bureau data, contact the Western Information Office by calling (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA, August 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	\$21.60	2.3	\$23.66	2.4	\$11.74	8.9
Management occupations	43.55	7.7	43.55	7.7	–	–
Engineering managers	59.62	3.9	59.62	3.9	–	–
Business and financial operations occupations	26.22	4.5	26.42	5.2	–	–
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists	32.01	9.7	32.28	9.9	–	–
Accountants and auditors	21.70	9.5	21.70	9.5	–	–
Architecture and engineering occupations	41.26	4.9	41.26	4.9	–	–
Engineers	42.40	4.5	42.40	4.5	–	–
Nuclear engineers	45.86	4.2	45.86	4.2	–	–
Life, physical, and social science occupations	28.23	15.1	30.39	11.4	–	–
Community and social services occupations	23.37	25.7	–	–	–	–
Counselors	23.37	25.7	–	–	–	–
Education, training, and library occupations	23.85	17.7	29.76	14.4	12.01	12.1
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	32.30	13.3	32.30	13.3	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers	37.17	1.8	37.17	1.8	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education	37.29	1.7	37.29	1.7	–	–
Secondary school teachers	37.52	3.1	37.52	3.1	–	–
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	37.52	3.1	37.52	3.1	–	–
Teacher assistants	10.60	9.8	–	–	10.55	9.9
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	14.92	20.9	18.68	16.0	–	–
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	31.00	9.1	27.50	8.3	–	–
Registered nurses	33.34	7.0	–	–	–	–
Protective service occupations	19.92	19.3	25.02	12.1	–	–
Food preparation and serving related occupations	9.48	.9	10.42	.6	8.50	1.7
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers	12.91	.9	–	–	–	–
Cooks	11.95	4.6	–	–	–	–
Food service, tipped	8.34	2.5	8.81	8.6	8.08	.3
Waiters and waitresses	8.33	3.1	–	–	8.08	.4
Fast food and counter workers	8.51	1.8	–	–	8.60	3.1
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8.53	2.3	–	–	8.66	3.8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	15.60	4.5	16.55	5.3	8.92	4.4
Building cleaning workers	16.24	5.7	17.66	6.0	8.80	4.5
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	16.46	6.2	17.66	6.0	–	–
Sales and related occupations	13.72	9.5	15.50	10.2	9.34	2.4
Retail sales workers	10.87	1.6	11.75	2.9	9.35	2.4
Cashiers, all workers	10.64	3.2	–	–	9.81	2.4
Cashiers	10.64	3.2	–	–	9.81	2.4
Retail salespersons	11.30	2.7	11.95	.7	–	–
Office and administrative support occupations	14.65	3.0	14.98	3.4	11.49	4.4
Financial clerks	14.86	6.4	14.99	6.7	–	–
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	14.71	8.1	14.78	8.4	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks	12.24	5.3	–	–	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants	15.48	9.3	15.65	10.0	–	–
Office clerks, general	13.28	12.6	–	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA, August 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)
Construction and extraction occupations	\$25.33	4.1	\$25.68	3.6	—	—
Electricians	30.09	8.5	30.09	8.5	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	23.21	8.2	23.22	8.3	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	20.11	6.8	20.11	6.8	—	—
Industrial machinery mechanics	20.22	3.2	20.22	3.2	—	—
Production occupations	17.70	11.5	18.11	13.4	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	10.89	8.0	11.22	10.1	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	15.43	6.3	15.98	7.9	\$12.79	8.9
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	17.59	7.3	17.76	7.7	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	14.52	.2	14.52	.2	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	12.33	6.2	12.67	7.8	—	—
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	11.18	2.3	11.18	2.3	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	13.19	8.0	13.36	8.6	—	—

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.