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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF KNOXVILLE, TN NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MAY 2008**

Workers in the Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) earned an average of \$17.33 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 \$31.74 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$12.64 for office and administrative support occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related occupations, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$6.37. The NCS data available for the Knoxville area include earnings for 18 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Pharmacists, part of the healthcare practitioner and technical occupational group, earned \$51.56 per hour. Within the office and administrative support occupations, stock clerks and order fillers averaged \$11.86 per hour, while general office clerks earned \$11.74. Restaurant cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related occupational group, averaged \$10.16 per hour, and combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food, earned \$8.18. (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 \$10.57. Union workers earned \$18.51 and non-union workers, \$17.25. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$17.45 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.70, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$17.94.

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](http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm).

The NCS data reported here covered 286 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 312,900 workers in the Knoxville, TN Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is comprised of Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Union Counties in Tennessee.

## **Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in the Knoxville, TN 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](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 earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Knoxville, TN, May 2008**

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>All workers</b> .....	\$17.33	5.5	\$18.11	5.7	\$10.57	6.3
<b>Management occupations</b> .....	45.57	18.9	45.52	19.1	–	–
Education administrators .....	40.09	1.8	40.09	1.8	–	–
<b>Business and financial operations occupations</b> .....	24.07	5.0	24.07	5.0	–	–
<b>Computer and mathematical science occupations</b> .....	30.05	13.2	30.05	13.2	–	–
<b>Architecture and engineering occupations</b> .....	45.47	25.6	45.47	25.6	–	–
Engineers .....	52.04	31.0	52.04	31.0	–	–
<b>Education, training, and library occupations</b> .....	24.82	7.9	24.96	8.3	18.63	31.1
Postsecondary teachers .....	30.93	6.8	31.43	6.6	–	–
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers .....	29.22	3.3	29.19	3.2	–	–
Elementary and middle school teachers .....	28.98	2.9	28.92	2.8	–	–
Elementary school teachers, except special education .....	28.64	2.0	28.58	1.8	–	–
Teacher assistants .....	11.48	2.0	11.48	2.0	–	–
<b>Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations</b> .....	20.48	15.5	20.48	15.5	–	–
<b>Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations</b> .....	31.74	11.6	32.03	9.2	29.54	36.4
Pharmacists .....	51.56	2.7	51.56	2.7	–	–
Registered nurses .....	33.46	32.3	32.74	30.0	–	–
Therapists .....	24.69	17.4	–	–	–	–
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians .....	23.89	5.9	–	–	–	–
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses .....	15.42	3.9	15.35	3.5	–	–
<b>Healthcare support occupations</b> .....	12.83	12.8	13.11	13.8	–	–
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides .....	9.69	1.2	9.61	1.7	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants .....	9.69	1.2	9.61	1.7	–	–
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations .....	14.32	8.1	15.24	6.0	–	–
<b>Protective service occupations</b> .....	16.53	12.1	16.76	13.9	–	–
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b> .....	6.37	5.1	7.13	5.0	4.48	7.9
Cooks .....	10.08	.9	10.08	.9	–	–
Cooks, restaurant .....	10.16	1.8	10.16	1.8	–	–
Food service, tipped .....	2.52	4.1	2.41	1.8	2.68	8.1
Waiters and waitresses .....	2.32	.1	2.26	.1	2.42	.1
Fast food and counter workers .....	8.18	7.1	9.15	10.9	–	–
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food .....	8.18	7.1	9.15	10.9	–	–
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b> .....	9.28	3.3	9.55	2.7	–	–
Building cleaning workers .....	8.95	3.8	9.20	3.7	–	–
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	9.24	5.7	9.76	4.1	–	–
Maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	8.52	2.7	8.58	3.7	–	–
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b> .....	10.19	4.3	10.21	4.7	–	–
<b>Sales and related occupations</b> .....	17.56	10.1	19.08	10.3	10.00	9.7
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers .....	20.01	24.7	20.01	24.7	–	–
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers .....	15.13	15.1	15.13	15.1	–	–
Retail sales workers .....	9.71	3.7	10.08	4.0	8.80	5.9
Cashiers, all workers .....	9.21	3.8	9.60	2.4	7.86	.7
Cashiers .....	9.21	3.8	9.60	2.4	7.86	.7
Retail salespersons .....	10.72	10.7	10.73	10.6	–	–
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing .....	27.32	17.5	27.95	18.7	–	–
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products .....	27.14	32.1	28.70	35.7	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Knoxville, TN, May 2008 —**  
Continued

Occupation <sup>3</sup>	Total		Full-time workers		Part-time workers	
	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)	Mean	Relative error <sup>4</sup> (percent)
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b> .....	\$12.64	2.4	\$12.85	2.7	\$10.40	2.3
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers .....	19.22	4.0	19.22	4.0	—	—
Financial clerks .....	12.29	5.7	12.36	5.5	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks .....	13.40	7.9	13.40	7.9	—	—
Customer service representatives .....	11.82	9.5	12.62	8.6	—	—
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks .....	9.90	2.4	—	—	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks .....	11.37	2.8	11.45	3.2	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers .....	11.86	1.6	11.87	2.1	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants .....	16.56	6.9	16.78	6.8	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants .....	20.47	15.5	21.96	13.2	—	—
Medical secretaries .....	11.83	1.3	11.83	1.3	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive .....	15.97	7.5	15.97	7.5	—	—
Office clerks, general .....	11.74	5.6	11.69	5.6	—	—
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b> .....	14.31	15.4	14.31	15.4	—	—
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b> .....	15.88	6.3	16.30	7.0	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers .....	16.93	5.6	16.93	5.6	—	—
Maintenance and repair workers, general .....	15.79	5.9	15.79	5.9	—	—
<b>Production occupations</b> .....	13.37	2.9	13.42	3.3	11.77	16.3
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators .....	14.72	4.4	14.72	4.4	—	—
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers .....	8.32	3.5	—	—	—	—
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations</b> .....	14.55	8.0	14.89	7.9	—	—
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers .....	16.65	8.9	16.85	8.4	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer .....	18.16	7.6	18.16	7.6	—	—
Truck drivers, light or delivery services .....	12.36	8.3	12.43	8.3	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand .....	11.64	8.4	11.29	7.2	—	—
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand .....	12.39	6.3	11.64	9.5	—	—

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Workers are classified by occupation using the 2000 Standard

Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

<sup>4</sup> 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.