

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-BEAVERTON, OR-WA, NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY SEPTEMBER 2007

Workers in the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton metropolitan area earned an average of \$20.49 per hour in September 2007, 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 noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$29.17 for healthcare practitioner and technical occupations and \$28.92 for computer and mathematical science occupations. Another occupational group, food preparation and serving related, had a mean hourly wage rate of \$10.21. The NCS data available for the Portland area include earnings for 20 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 \$48.24 per hour. Within the computer and mathematical science occupational group, computer software engineers averaged \$38.67 per hour and computer systems analysts earned \$33.77. Cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related group, registered an average hourly rate of \$12.86; waiters and waitresses earned \$7.94 per hour. (See table 1.)

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$21.36 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$12.99. Union workers earned \$24.24 and non-union workers, \$19.25. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$17.50 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$21.35, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$25.39.

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 reported here covered 436 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 1,090,200 workers in the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in Oregon, as well as Clark, and Skamania Counties in Washington.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA National Compensation Survey September 2007 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 data, 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, Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA, September 2007**

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	\$20.49	4.4	\$21.36	4.1	\$12.99	8.5
Management occupations	35.54	8.4	35.54	8.4	—	—
General and operations managers	31.94	15.3	31.94	15.3	—	—
Financial managers	42.94	25.6	42.94	25.6	—	—
Education administrators	33.17	12.5	33.17	12.5	—	—
Business and financial operations occupations	29.74	6.1	29.74	6.1	—	—
Buyers and purchasing agents	24.20	9.5	24.20	9.5	—	—
Accountants and auditors	25.27	8.2	25.27	8.2	—	—
Computer and mathematical science occupations	28.92	13.0	29.16	13.1	—	—
Computer software engineers	38.67	7.2	38.67	7.2	—	—
Computer support specialists	16.74	26.6	16.64	28.6	—	—
Computer systems analysts	33.77	2.6	33.77	2.6	—	—
Architecture and engineering occupations	32.26	2.5	32.26	2.5	—	—
Engineers	39.92	1.7	39.92	1.7	—	—
Industrial engineers, including health and safety	39.15	4.2	39.15	4.2	—	—
Industrial engineers	39.31	5.1	39.31	5.1	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters	23.89	4.8	23.89	4.8	—	—
Life, physical, and social science occupations	29.98	6.2	29.98	6.4	—	—
Community and social services occupations	18.53	8.8	18.51	8.9	—	—
Counselors	25.81	13.3	26.60	14.6	—	—
Educational, vocational, and school counselors	25.83	13.4	26.60	14.6	—	—
Social workers	18.66	9.8	18.66	9.8	—	—
Legal occupations	56.47	10.6	56.47	10.6	—	—
Education, training, and library occupations	27.70	8.8	28.21	9.3	19.23	10.2
Postsecondary teachers	37.49	17.0	39.02	18.1	—	—
Miscellaneous postsecondary teachers	35.44	20.6	37.06	22.2	—	—
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers	29.25	9.2	29.70	9.0	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers	31.78	6.2	32.95	3.2	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education	30.46	10.0	32.22	6.1	—	—
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	34.08	1.5	34.08	1.5	—	—
Secondary school teachers	34.31	5.3	34.31	5.3	—	—
Secondary school teachers, except special and vocational education	34.31	5.3	34.31	5.3	—	—
Teacher assistants	12.52	11.4	12.34	12.0	—	—
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	16.71	24.6	16.59	24.8	—	—
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations	29.17	4.6	29.27	4.9	28.17	6.5
Pharmacists	48.24	2.7	48.24	2.7	—	—
Registered nurses	35.34	3.1	35.38	3.1	35.11	3.1
Therapists	28.59	3.9	28.05	6.1	—	—
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	18.67	3.3	18.87	3.7	—	—
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	18.05	2.7	18.11	3.1	—	—
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	29.68	16.7	29.68	16.7	—	—
Radiologic technologists and technicians	29.68	16.7	29.68	16.7	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	23.51	2.3	—	—	—	—
Healthcare support occupations	13.05	9.6	14.23	9.0	10.83	10.1
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides	11.11	7.1	11.94	6.8	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	11.21	8.2	12.36	6.3	—	—
Miscellaneous healthcare support occupations	16.60	4.1	17.55	5.5	—	—
Medical assistants	14.92	2.2	—	—	—	—
Food preparation and serving related occupations	10.21	5.2	11.33	6.2	8.13	.5
Cooks	12.86	5.2	12.86	5.2	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA, September 2007** — 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)
Food preparation and serving related occupations						
—Continued						
Food service, tipped	\$7.99	0.6	—	—	\$7.94	0.8
Waiters and waitresses	7.94	.3	—	—	—	—
Fast food and counter workers	8.25	1.0	—	—	8.11	.7
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	8.19	.7	—	—	8.11	.7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations						
Building cleaning workers	12.06	4.6	\$12.55	5.0	10.57	6.3
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	11.96	4.6	12.50	5.3	10.57	6.3
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	12.27	5.0	12.74	5.6	10.26	6.6
	11.31	8.0	11.73	8.8	—	—
Personal care and service occupations	10.98	9.9	11.36	12.5	9.33	4.8
Sales and related occupations	18.79	16.5	19.83	15.9	9.74	4.5
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers	18.10	10.5	18.10	10.5	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	18.10	10.5	18.10	10.5	—	—
Retail sales workers	13.28	11.8	13.62	12.5	10.65	2.2
Cashiers, all workers	11.04	10.1	11.29	10.5	9.43	13.6
Cashiers	11.04	10.1	11.29	10.5	9.43	13.6
Retail salespersons	14.59	14.2	14.88	14.0	—	—
Office and administrative support occupations	16.51	3.3	16.39	3.4	17.33	11.5
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	22.86	8.3	22.86	8.3	—	—
Financial clerks	15.82	5.7	15.82	5.9	—	—
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	17.05	2.8	17.04	3.0	—	—
Tellers	12.25	2.7	—	—	—	—
Customer service representatives	16.55	10.4	16.79	9.7	—	—
Receptionists and information clerks	14.09	6.3	—	—	—	—
Stock clerks and order fillers	11.85	8.2	—	—	—	—
Secretaries and administrative assistants	20.30	3.6	19.33	7.8	—	—
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	20.80	10.7	20.80	10.7	—	—
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	15.67	3.5	15.67	3.5	—	—
Office clerks, general	15.44	5.0	15.80	5.4	12.46	8.2
Construction and extraction occupations	28.50	3.0	28.50	3.0	—	—
Carpenters	20.36	19.8	20.36	19.8	—	—
Electricians	30.97	7.8	30.97	7.8	—	—
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	30.79	9.2	30.79	9.2	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	30.60	8.3	30.60	8.3	—	—
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	23.26	8.3	23.01	9.8	—	—
Automotive technicians and repairers	18.40	5.1	18.40	5.1	—	—
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	18.40	5.1	18.40	5.1	—	—
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers	22.88	7.2	21.57	5.8	—	—
Maintenance workers, machinery	21.90	3.9	21.90	3.9	—	—
Production occupations	16.25	2.9	16.32	3.1	—	—
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers	15.82	5.4	15.82	5.4	—	—
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	15.82	5.4	15.82	5.4	—	—
Miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators	15.91	10.3	15.91	10.3	—	—
Welding, soldering, and brazing workers	23.34	15.5	23.34	15.5	—	—
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	23.34	15.5	23.34	15.5	—	—
Printers	18.06	14.7	18.06	14.7	—	—
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	14.75	8.5	14.75	8.5	—	—
Miscellaneous production workers	13.93	4.9	14.44	3.9	—	—
Transportation and material moving occupations	14.86	10.7	15.35	11.3	10.82	5.9
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	17.04	7.7	16.94	8.0	—	—
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	20.33	4.6	20.29	4.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings¹ for full-time and part-time workers², Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA, September 2007** — Continued

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	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Transportation and material moving occupations —Continued						
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	\$15.22	24.3	\$15.22	24.3	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor operators	13.46	11.5	13.46	11.5	—	—
Laborers and material movers, hand	11.54	8.0	12.00	9.7	\$10.07	4.9
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	12.46	5.3	13.02	7.3	—	—

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.