

In most occupations, those working more than 44 hours per week earned substantially more than those working 35 to 44 hours. Find out in which occupations it may pay to put in long hours.



Work more, earn more? How hours of work affect occupational earnings

by Daniel Hecker

Usually, the more hours people work, the more money they earn. But that is not always the case. In choosing an occupation, it is wise to consider the link between earnings and the hours of work required to make those earnings. Some people value a high income over time for leisure or other activities and may be willing to accept a long workweek. Others want a high income but want to achieve that goal with a job that has high hourly earnings rather than long hours. Still other workers may be satisfied working shorter hours and earning more modest incomes.

This article, based on 1997 data from the Current Population Survey, examines the occupations most and least likely to require standard and long hours. Within occupations, it shows how much workers with long workweeks earned compared to their counterparts with standard ones. It also ranks occupations based on workers' weekly earnings, providing a glimpse of which reward more hours with a bigger paycheck.

Hours and earnings within occupations

Within every occupation, some workers put in longer hours than others. Some people have a standard workweek, defined in this article as 35 to 44 hours; other workers have an extended

week, defined here as 45 to 99 hours. (Where data exist, some occupations are further broken down into categories of 45 to 54 hours and 55 to 99 hours per week.)

The data are first examined without regard to earnings, revealing the proportion of men and women in different occupations who had extended workweeks. About 30 percent of men usually worked more than 44 hours per week, and 10 percent worked more than 54 hours per week. At least two-thirds of physicians, clergy, and workers in firefighting occupations had extended weeks. In contrast, about 7 percent of men working as janitors and cleaners had extended workweeks. (See table 1.)

Fewer women than men had extended workweeks—15 percent usually worked more than 44 hours per week, and 3 percent worked more than 45 hours. Occupations in which at least half the women worked extended weeks were physicians, lawyers, and marketing, advertising, and public relations managers. Occupations in which 7 percent or fewer women worked extended weeks include nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants; bookkeepers, accounting, and auditing clerks; and secretaries. (See table 2.)

Earnings data show that in some occupations, workers with extended workweeks reported a large earnings premium—that is, they earned more money for working longer hours. In half the cases, workers with extended workweeks earned at least 32 percent more each week than did those with standard workweeks. However, within some occupations, there was little or no difference in earnings between those who had an extended workweek and those who worked standard weeks.

Among men, for example, some retail sales workers who had

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Table 1**Usual weekly hours of men employed full time, by detailed occupation, 1997**

Occupation	Average hours	Percent distribution by weekly hours-worked group		
		35-44	45-54	55-99
Physicians ¹	52	32	25	44
Clergy	52	31	28	40
Extractive occupations	51	58	12	31
Firefighting occupations	51	33	26	41
Farm workers	51	50	23	28
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	50	35	33	32
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	49	40	34	26
Lawyers	49	37	37	25
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	48	38	37	24
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	48	47	33	21
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	48	54	24	23
Administrators, education and related fields	47	52	26	22
Financial managers	47	42	39	19
Truckdrivers	47	58	23	19
Real estate sales occupations	47	52	28	21
Teachers, college and university	47	57	24	19
Securities and financial services sales occupations	46	47	38	15
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	46	55	26	19
Managers, service organizations n.e.c. ²	46	55	29	16
Insurance sales occupations	46	52	36	13
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	46	55	31	14
Tool and die makers	46	54	32	14
Other financial officers	45	52	35	13
Teachers, secondary school	45	61	26	13
Industrial engineers	45	60	29	10
Supervisors, production occupations	45	65	26	9
Sales occupations, other business services	44	64	26	10
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	44	65	25	10
Accountants and auditors	44	66	26	9
Teachers, elementary school	44	69	23	8
Electrical and electronic engineers	44	70	23	7
Supervisors, construction occupations	44	75	16	9
Sales workers, furniture, radio, TV, and appliances	43	66	28	6
Computer systems analysts and scientists	43	67	26	7
Machinists	43	72	23	5
Civil engineers	43	70	21	9
Designers	43	70	23	7
Industrial machinery repairers	43	76	18	6
Officials and administrators, public administration	43	74	18	8
Production inspectors, checkers, and examiners	43	74	19	7
Automotive mechanics	43	74	21	5
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	43	74	22	5
Welders and cutters	43	80	16	4

(continued) Usual weekly hours of men employed full time, by detailed occupation, 1997

Occupation	Average hours	Percent distribution by weekly hours-worked group		
		35-44	45-54	55-99
Computer programmers	43	70	25	5
Police and detectives, public service	43	81	13	6
Sales workers, other commodities	42	78	16	5
Metalworking and plastics working machine operators	42	80	16	4
Electrical and electronic equipment repairers	42	82	13	6
Cooks	42	82	11	7
Machine operators, assorted materials	42	83	12	4
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	42	84	13	3
Construction trades	42	84	10	5
Engineering technologists and technicians	42	83	14	3
Electricians	42	85	11	4
Construction laborers	42	87	10	3
Mail carriers and postal clerks	42	81	18	2
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	42	84	10	5
Assemblers	42	86	11	3
Guards and police, except public service	42	86	9	5
Carpenters	42	86	9	4
Traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks	42	85	13	3
Laborers, except construction	42	89	8	3
Janitors and cleaners	41	93	5	2

¹Hours for physicians exclude those working more than 74 hours a week because almost all have very low earnings and are presumed to be interns rather than licensed physicians.

²n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

an extended workweek earned 76 percent more than their counterparts who put in a standard week. In contrast, male elementary school teachers who worked extended weeks earned slightly less than those who worked standard ones. (See table 3.)

Among women, sales representatives for financial and business services working an extended week earned 62 percent more than their standard workweek counterparts. But secondary school teachers with an extended workweek earned 3 percent more than those with a standard workweek. (See table 4.)

Some occupational groups had a greater proportion of workers with extended weeks earning more per hour or per week or both than those with standard weeks. Weekly earnings of men with an extended workweek exceeded by at least a third the earnings of men with a standard workweek in 13 of 16 occupations in the executive, administrative, and managerial; management related; and sales occupations groups. Hourly earnings also were higher in those groups for men in 13 of 16 occupations.

Among women, sales occupations showed the greatest dif-

ferential in weekly earnings between those working extended weeks and those working standard weeks; in 3 of 4 occupations, women earned at least 50 percent more. Women sales workers with extended weeks also earned more per hour. In professional specialty occupations, prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers with extended weeks earned 56 percent more per week and 12 percent more per hour.

In some occupations, the earnings of men and women reflected little or no weekly premium for additional hours worked. For example, men and women elementary and secondary teachers earned little more per week and much less per hour for working extended weeks. There were also relatively small differences in weekly earnings and lower hourly earnings for both women and men in computer, engineering, and most administrative support occupations.

Within the extended workweek categories of 45 to 54 hours and 55 to 99 hours, those working 55 to 99 hours earned more per week than did those working 45 to 54 hours in most occupa-

Table 2**Usual weekly hours of women employed full time, by detailed occupation, 1997**

Occupation	Average hours	Percent distribution by weekly hours-worked group		
		35-44	45-54	55-99
Physicians ¹	49	49	26	26
Lawyers	46	46	36	18
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	45	50	37	12
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	45	60	28	12
Teachers, college and university	45	61	22	16
Private household occupations	44	80	12	8
Teachers, secondary school	44	66	25	8
Administrators, education, and related fields	44	65	25	10
Teachers, elementary school	44	68	24	8
Financial managers	44	67	26	7
Managers, service organizations n.e.c. ²	43	72	21	7
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	43	70	22	7
Managers, medicine and health	43	73	20	7
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	43	74	20	6
Engineers	43	70	25	6
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	43	76	13	10
Sales representatives, finance and business services	42	76	18	6
Computer systems analysts and scientists	42	78	20	3
Other financial officers	42	81	13	6
Teachers, special education	42	81	15	4
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	42	84	13	3
Accountants and auditors	41	83	15	2
Teachers, prekindergarten and kindergarten	41	87	10	3
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	41	93	4	3
Registered nurses	41	90	8	1
Bookkeepers, accounting, and auditing clerks	41	93	6	1
Sales workers, retail and personal services	40	92	6	2
Secretaries	40	95	4	1

¹Hours for physicians exclude those working more than 74 hours a week because almost all have very low earnings and are presumed to be interns rather than licensed physicians.

²n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

tions where data were available. However, only male managers in marketing, advertising, and public relations earned more per hour. (See tables 5 and 6.)

Analysis of hours and earnings

There are several explanations for higher median earnings per week or per hour for those who have an extended workweek. Workers paid by the hour earn more per week the longer they work; and if they are paid more per hour for every hour they work beyond 40, they earn more per hour, as well. For salaried

workers, including most managerial and sales occupations, analyzing the difference between weekly earnings of standard- and extended-week workers is more complex.

Hourly earners include most production workers in mining, manufacturing, and construction; most retail sales workers; cooks; truckdrivers; guards; and nursing aides. Clerical workers, police, and technicians, even if they receive an annual salary, may also be paid for working more than a standard week. In most of these occupations, workers with an extended workweek have higher weekly and hourly earnings. However, in some

*Some hourly
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per hour for
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hours per week.*



occupations, such as electricians and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, median hourly rates are lower. Lower rates might be consistent with additional pay per hour for overtime hours if certain workers—for example, younger workers or those in low-wage establishments—with extended weeks have lower base hourly rates than do those with standard weeks.

Commission sales workers or piecework production workers who work longer hours may produce more and may therefore earn more per week. Because they are not paid overtime, however, they are not likely to receive additional pay per hour for

working more than 40 hours per week.

For example, workers selling insurance, real estate, automobiles, and other large items usually receive at least part of their pay as commissions based on the value of the products they sell. Those with extended workweeks who receive a commission earn substantially more per week than do their counterparts with a standard workweek. Almost all earn more per hour, as well. But to do so, they must make more sales per hour, get larger commissions or bonuses for being top sellers, or have other characteristics associated with high earnings.

Other workers with extended weeks also may have higher earnings because they may be more likely to have greater responsibilities, higher skill levels, more education, high-wage employers, or other characteristics associated with higher pay than do workers with standard weeks. This includes workers in managerial and professional occupations such as medical and health managers, prekindergarten and kindergarten teachers, and college faculty.

Most managerial and professional workers receive a weekly or annual salary in return for at least 35 to 40 hours of work per week. In some cases, it is understood that an extended workweek is part of the job. For these workers, overtime pay is less common, but they may receive other compensation—such as bonuses, extra benefits, or stock options—not included in these data.

In some of these occupations, workers with extended weeks do not make much more per week and therefore earn much less per hour. This may be because of more modest earnings differentials between job titles within an occupation or because of large earnings differentials with little connection between hours worked and earnings. For example, many teacher salaries increase with years of tenure, are higher in public than in private schools, and vary widely by geographic area. But experienced teachers or those in high-paying school systems might not work longer hours.

Although managerial and professional workers are not likely to receive extra pay for overtime, they may work an extended week for other reasons. It may take more than 44 hours per week to perform their job adequately, or their employer might require them to work more hours. If they are seeking a promotion or a bonus, extra hours may eventually yield a higher income.

Occupational rankings

Which occupations pay the most per week, and how do these occupations compare with others? Tables 7 and 8 rank occupations by earnings for men and women and show how rankings for those in the standard- and extended-week groups compare with those of all full-time workers.

(Continued on page 19)

Table 3

Usual weekly and hourly earnings of men employed full-time,
by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium, 45-99 over 35-44 (percent)
	35-99		35-44		45-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
Median all employed	\$ 581	\$13.32	\$ 505	\$12.72	\$ 775	\$15.14	53
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	889	19.69	747	19.01	1,039	20.21	39
Officials and administrators, public administration	872	21.01	833	21.09	1,073	20.72	29
Financial managers	991	21.05	752	19.16	1,159	22.45	54
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	1,062	22.26	832	20.80	1,230	22.96	48
Administrators, education and related fields	951	21.15	839	21.18	1,146	21.12	37
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	555	10.80	407	10.35	606	10.99	49
Managers, service organizations n.e.c. ¹	728	16.01	587	14.24	917	17.84	56
Management related occupations	784	18.55	703	17.67	962	19.80	37
Accountants and auditors	792	18.58	707	17.75	942	19.63	33
Other financial officers	932	20.69	751	19.26	1,159	23.41	54
Professional speciality occupations	886	20.39	824	20.80	982	19.67	19
Engineers	993	23.35	961	24.51	1,053	21.20	10
Civil engineers	962	23.23	950	24.25	1,006	19.70	6
Electrical and electronic engineers	999	23.66	955	24.44	1,108	21.47	16
Industrial engineers	901	20.45	873	22.20	934	19.01	7
Computer systems analysts and scientists	954	22.53	919	23.15	1,048	21.44	14
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	922	21.49	867	21.44	1,052	21.53	21
Physicians ²	1,470	28.09	1,134	28.36	1,631	27.96	44
Teachers, college and university	935	20.70	818	20.78	1,145	20.58	40
Teachers, elementary school	721	16.77	721	18.44	720	13.56	—
Teachers, secondary school	772	17.79	758	19.20	794	15.25	5
Clergy	591	11.71	432	11.09	624	12.02	44
Lawyers	1,262	26.09	1,057	27.05	1,400	25.76	32
Designers	791	19.11	744	19.10	911	19.13	22
Technicians and related support occupations	666	16.15	635	16.06	828	16.44	30
Engineering technologists and technicians	641	15.44	618	15.44	767	15.45	24
Computer programmers	872	20.66	842	21.11	922	19.92	10
Sales occupations	602	13.10	485	12.26	752	14.55	55
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	616	13.10	502	12.59	732	13.76	46
Insurance sales occupations	754	17.67	630	16.39	1,076	19.88	71
Real estate sales occupations	720	16.15	633	15.99	857	19.05	35
Sales occupations, other business services	684	15.04	528	13.14	832	16.99	58
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	735	16.68	664	16.79	838	16.54	26
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	590	12.12	451	11.31	668	12.50	48
Sales workers, furniture, radio, TV, and appliance	500	11.74	455	11.65	602	11.78	32
Sales workers, other retail commodities	390	9.42	329	8.53	578	11.57	76
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	513	12.48	487	12.29	674	13.46	38
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	688	15.66	651	16.09	752	15.24	16
Mail carriers and postal clerks	689	16.97	679	17.05	775	16.20	14

(continued) Usual weekly and hourly earnings of men employed full time,
by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium, 45-99 over 35-44 (percent)
	35-99		35-44		45-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
(continued)							
Administrative support occupations, including clerical							
Traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks	\$410	\$10.12	\$396	\$10.04	\$514	\$10.62	30
Service occupations	377	9.19	352	9.02	528	10.23	50
Firefighting occupations	725	14.46	634	15.94	767	13.82	21
Police and detectives, public service	713	16.79	654	16.49	920	18.58	41
Guards and police, except public service	353	8.76	334	8.57	486	9.37	46
Cooks	303	7.37	287	7.21	413	7.92	44
Janitors and cleaners	334	8.46	325	8.45	430	8.56	32
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	306	6.97	290	7.22	341	6.20	18
Farm workers	278	5.87	247	6.15	313	5.60	27
Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	573	13.49	534	13.48	693	13.57	30
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	769	16.70	683	17.20	831	16.18	22
Automotive mechanics	496	11.76	469	11.81	588	11.68	25
Industrial machinery repairers	567	13.50	534	13.50	678	13.49	27
Electrical and electronic equipment repairers	632	15.40	612	15.35	787	16.04	29
Supervisors, construction occupations	672	15.40	624	15.62	772	15.01	24
Carpenters	490	12.01	477	12.06	593	11.70	24
Electricians	639	15.66	623	15.85	770	14.89	24
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	618	15.08	606	15.30	704	14.14	16
Mining and petroleum occupations	663	14.01	573	14.25	825	13.43	44
Supervisors, production occupations	667	15.45	610	15.29	800	15.95	31
Tool and die makers	786	17.37	648	16.16	913	18.82	41
Machinists	578	13.39	527	13.29	655	13.48	24
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	448	10.81	416	10.46	740	12.21	78
Metalworking and plastics working machine operators	486	11.79	446	11.12	621	12.96	39
Machine operators, assorted materials	453	10.96	422	10.64	592	12.08	40
Welders and cutters	495	12.07	475	11.99	612	12.27	29
Assemblers	413	10.30	392	10.10	640	12.62	63
Production inspectors, checkers, and examiners	563	12.83	506	12.56	654	13.21	29
Transportation and material moving occupations	505	11.30	442	11.19	623	11.46	41
Truckdrivers	508	11.05	420	10.52	618	11.36	47
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	413	8.43	372	9.59	445	8.29	20
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	419	10.34	405	10.24	568	11.01	40
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	350	8.66	333	8.54	457	9.26	37
Construction laborers	388	9.56	373	9.47	498	10.09	34
Laborers, except construction	362	8.88	352	8.94	425	8.61	21

¹n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

²Earnings for physicians exclude those working more than 74 hours a week because almost all have very low earnings and are presumed to be interns rather than licensed physicians.

Table 4

Usual weekly and hourly earnings of women employed full time, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium, 45-99 over 35-44 (percent)
	35-99		35-44		45-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
Median all employed	\$435	\$10.75	\$ 408	\$10.38	\$ 658	\$13.16	61
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	622	14.62	571	14.19	789	15.48	38
Financial managers	655	15.30	593	14.43	895	17.25	51
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	732	16.23	637	15.95	827	16.85	30
Administrators, education and related fields	660	15.41	580	14.68	843	17.08	45
Managers, medicine and health	624	15.12	562	14.21	904	17.22	61
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	407	9.07	349	8.91	475	9.29	36
Managers, service organizations n.e.c. ¹	598	14.29	535	14.04	784	15.31	47
Management related occupations	579	13.89	544	13.59	729	14.99	34
Accountants and auditors	590	14.13	561	13.98	726	15.34	29
Other financial officers	577	13.76	535	13.45	728	15.01	36
Professional speciality occupations	664	16.07	634	16.19	772	15.45	22
Engineers, all specialties	837	20.20	801	20.50	976	19.44	22
Computer systems analysts and scientists	852	20.59	834	20.87	940	19.82	13
Physicians ²	1,106	24.53	1,071	27.92	1,135	21.76	6
Registered nurses	707	17.85	692	17.79	898	18.54	30
Teachers, college and university	808	18.57	727	18.53	969	18.65	33
Teachers, prekindergarten and kindergarten	405	9.86	383	9.62	598	10.76	56
Teachers, elementary school	657	15.31	630	16.07	725	14.09	15
Teachers, secondary school	695	16.33	685	17.52	707	13.95	3
Teachers, special education	680	16.54	669	17.05	720	14.22	8
Lawyers	957	21.33	807	20.23	1,184	23.34	47
Technicians and related support occupations	499	12.38	486	12.28	699	14.44	44
Sales occupations	357	8.84	317	8.27	602	12.18	90
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	438	10.27	386	9.83	566	11.62	47
Sales representatives, finance and business services	513	12.31	457	11.75	741	15.26	62
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	580	13.34	516	12.88	787	16.02	53
Sales workers, retail and personal services	271	6.89	266	6.78	425	8.22	60
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	404	10.23	398	10.19	528	10.98	33
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	525	12.81	505	12.78	654	12.88	30
Secretaries	411	10.43	409	10.47	446	9.39	9
Bookkeepers, accounting, and auditing clerks	421	10.49	416	10.50	480	10.28	15

(continued) Usual weekly and hourly earnings of women employed full time, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium, 45-99 over 35-44 (percent)
	35-99		35-44		45-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
Service occupations, including private household	\$286	\$7.14	\$282	\$7.16	\$342	\$ 6.63	21
Private household occupations	223	5.53	218	5.58	283	5.10	30
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	298	7.37	295	7.48	356	6.60	21
Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	384	9.61	369	9.35	627	13.09	70
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	313	7.85	307	7.74	416	8.48	36
Transportation and material moving occupations	371	9.10	342	8.98	572	10.03	67
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	299	7.52	294	7.45	406	8.48	38

¹n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

²Earnings for physicians exclude those working more than 74 hours a week because almost all have very low earnings and are presumed to be interns rather than licensed physicians.

Note: There were no reliable data for farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.

For many salaried workers, putting in longer hours does not result in earning more per hour.

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Rankings differed most for men in executive, administrative, and managerial; management related; professional specialty; and sales occupations. Regardless of hours worked, top earners for both men and women included physicians and lawyers. The lowest earners in all hours-worked groups include, for men, farm workers, laborers, janitors and cleaners, guards, and cooks, and for women, nursing aides and private household workers.

For men in most executive, administrative, and managerial; management related; and sales occupations, rankings were lower for the standard-week group but higher for the extended-week group. For example, male insurance sales workers ranked 20th in data for all workers, 27th in the standard-week group, and 9th in the extended-week group. But men with a standard workweek ranked higher than all workers and those with extended hours in most other occupations, including professional specialty occupations.

Among women, rankings for those with a standard workweek differed little from those for all workers. Women in most executive, administrative, and managerial occupations ranked higher if they worked an extended week. Elementary, secondary, and special education teachers ranked lower.

Despite the overall lower weekly earnings associated with a standard workweek, standard-week workers in some occupations had high median earnings—defined here as a median exceeding that for all workers with an extended workweek—of

Table 5

Usual weekly and hourly earnings of men employed full time, with an extended workweek, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium 55-99 over 45-54 (percent)
	45-99		45-54		55-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
Median all employed	\$ 775	\$15.14	\$ 747	\$15.56	\$ 847	\$13.93	13
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	1,039	20.21	993	20.83	1,149	19.27	16
Financial managers	1,159	22.45	1,074	22.83	1,350	22.22	26
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	1,230	22.96	1,114	22.94	1,442	22.97	29
Administrators, education and related fields	1,146	21.12	1,086	22.95	1,221	19.82	12
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	606	10.99	553	11.41	652	10.71	18
Management related occupations	962	19.80	938	20.00	1,097	19.25	17
Professional specialty occupations	982	19.67	971	20.73	1,018	17.23	5
Engineers	1,053	21.20	1,034	21.79	1,106	18.99	7
Physicians	1,631	27.96	1,525	30.17	1,744	27.55	14
Teachers, college and university	1,145	20.58	1,057	21.70	1,194	19.75	13
Teachers, secondary school	794	15.25	795	16.73	793	13.43	—
Clergy	624	12.02	641	13.74	611	10.02	-5
Lawyers	1,400	25.76	1,327	26.36	1,562	24.91	18
Technicians and related support occupations	828	16.44	819	16.82	869	14.79	6
Sales occupations	752	14.55	725	15.09	820	13.49	13
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	732	13.76	674	14.16	816	13.28	21
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	838	16.54	844	17.54	823	13.82	-2
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	668	12.50	645	13.26	694	11.86	8
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	674	13.46	660	14.04	768	12.46	16
Service occupations	528	10.23	483	10.20	646	10.30	34
Cooks	413	7.92	397	8.10	458	7.45	15
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	341	6.20	314	6.55	366	5.85	17
Farm workers	313	5.60	280	5.67	347	5.46	24
Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	693	13.57	651	13.60	817	13.50	25
Supervisors, production occupations	800	15.95	784	16.71	824	14.54	5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	740	12.21	582	12.23	709	12.10	22
Machine operators, assorted materials	592	12.08	582	12.27	649	11.04	12
Transportation and material moving occupations	623	11.46	592	12.21	670	10.65	13
Truckdrivers	618	11.36	589	12.10	664	10.48	13
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	457	9.26	451	9.50	512	8.22	14

Table 6

Usual weekly and hourly earnings of women employed full time with an extended workweek, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group						Weekly premium, 55-99 over 45-54 (percent)
	45-99		45-54		55-99		
	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings	Hourly earnings	
Median all employed	\$658	\$13.16	\$642	\$13.52	\$723	\$11.95	13
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	789	15.48	764	16.23	862	14.55	13
Management related occupations	729	14.99	708	15.17	779	13.37	10
Professional specialty occupations	772	15.45	767	16.27	796	13.20	4
Teachers, elementary school	725	14.09	700	14.53	782	13.22	12
Sales occupations	602	12.18	589	12.34	691	11.60	17
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	566	11.62	551	11.66	667	11.37	21
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	528	10.98	515	11.11	616	10.02	20
Service occupations, including private household	342	6.63	327	7.03	380	6.04	16

more than \$775 for men and \$658 for women. The following tabulations show these occupations for both men and women:

Weekly and hourly earnings vary by occupation, hours-worked group, and sex.



<i>Men, by occupation</i>	<i>Median weekly earnings</i>
Physicians*	\$1,134
Lawyers*	1,057
Electrical and electronic engineers*	955
Civil engineers*	950
Computer systems analysts and scientists*	919
Industrial engineers*	873
Operations and systems researchers and analysts*	867
Computer programmers	842
Administrators, education and related fields	839
Officials and administrators, public administration	833
Managers, marketing, advertising and public relations	832
Teachers, college and university	818
<i>Women, by occupation</i>	
Physicians*	\$1,071
Computer systems analysts and engineers*	834
Lawyers*	807
Engineers*	801
Teachers, college and university*	727
Registered nurses	692
Teachers, secondary school	685
Teachers, special education	669

Occupations marked with an asterisk (*) denote those in which standard-week workers also had medians greater than the

Table 7

Earnings rankings of men based on usual weekly earnings, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group			Occupation	Hours-worked group		
	35-99	35-44	45-99		35-99	35-44	45-99
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations				(continued)			
Officials and administrators, public administration	13	10	10	Administrative support occupations, including clerical			
Financial managers	5	14	4	Mail carriers and postal clerks	27	20	29
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	3	11	3	Traffic, shipping, and receiving clerks	54	52	54
Administrators, education and related fields	8	9	6	Service occupations			
Managers, food serving and lodging establishments	43	50	47	Firefighting occupations	23	25	32
Managers, service organizations n.e.c.	22	34	18	Police and detectives, public service	26	22	17
Management related occupations				Guards and police, except public service	58	57	56
Accountants and auditors	15	18	14	Cooks	60	60	60
Other financial officers	10	15	5	Janitors and cleaners	59	59	58
Professional speciality occupations				Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations			
Civil engineers	6	4	13	Farm workers	61	61	61
Electrical and electronic engineers	4	3	8	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations			
Industrial engineers	12	6	15	Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	19	19	24
Computer systems analysts and scientists	7	5	12	Automotive mechanics	46	43	51
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	11	7	11	Industrial machinery repairers	41	36	38
Physicians	1	1	1	Electrical and electronic equipment repairers	35	31	28
Teachers, college and university	9	12	7	Supervisors, construction occupations	30	28	30
Teachers, elementary school	24	17	36	Carpenters	48	41	49
Teachers, secondary school	18	13	27	Electricians	34	29	31
Clergy	38	47	43	Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	36	33	37
Lawyers	2	2	2	Mining and petroleum occupations	32	35	25
Designers	16	16	20	Supervisors, production occupations	31	32	26
Technicians and related support occupations				Tool and die makers	17	24	19
Engineering technologists and technicians	33	30	33	Machinists	40	38	40
Computer programmers	14	8	16	Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors			
Sales occupations				Metalworking and plastics working machine operators	49	46	44
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	37	40	35	Machine operators, assorted materials	50	48	50
Insurance sales occupations	20	27	9	Welders and cutters	47	42	46
Real estate sales occupations	25	26	21	Assemblers	52	53	42
Sales occupations, other business services	29	37	23	Production inspectors, checkers, and examiners	42	39	41
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	21	21	22	Transportation and material moving occupations			
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	39	45	39	Truckdrivers	44	49	45
Sales workers, furniture, radio, TV, and appliances	45	44	48	Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	53	55	57
Sales workers, other retail commodities	55	58	52	Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators	51	51	53
Administrative support occupations, including clerical				Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers			
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	28	23	34	Construction laborers	56	54	55
				Laborers, except construction n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified	57	56	59

Table 8

Earnings rankings of women based on usual weekly earnings, by occupation and hours-worked group, 1997

Occupation	Hours-worked group		
	35-99	35-44	45-99
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations			
Financial managers	12	11	8
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	6	9	10
Administrators, education and related fields	10	12	9
Managers, medicine and health	13	13	6
Managers, food service and lodging establishments	23	24	23
Managers, service organizations n.e.c.	14	15	12
Management related occupations			
Accountants and auditors	15	14	15
Other financial officers	17	16	14
Professional speciality occupations			
Engineers, all specialties	5	4	3
Computer systems analysts and scientists	3	2	5
Physicians	1	1	2
Registered nurses	7	6	7
Teachers, college and university	5	5	4
Teachers, prekindergarten and kindergarten	24	23	20
Teachers, elementary school	11	10	16
Teachers, secondary school	8	7	18
Teachers, special education	9	8	17
Lawyers	2	3	1
Sales occupations			
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	20	22	21
Sales representatives, finance and business services	19	19	13
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale trade	16	17	11
Sales workers, retail and personal services	26	26	25
Administrative support occupations, including clerical			
Supervisors, administrative support occupations	18	18	19
Secretaries	22	21	24
Bookkeepers, accounting, and auditing clerks	21	20	22
Service occupations, including private household			
Private household occupations	27	27	27
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	25	25	26

n.e.c. = not elsewhere classified

median for all those working 55 hours or more—\$847 for men and \$723 for women.

However, these occupations also have other characteristics associated with higher pay. Most notably, all usually require a college degree. Physicians and lawyers need a professional degree, and most college teaching jobs require a doctoral or professional degree. With the exception of registered nurse, which requires an associate degree, the other occupations usually require at least a bachelor's degree.

Data and methodology

The Current Population Survey is the monthly household survey that provides basic measurements of the labor force and employment. In this article, data reflect usual weekly earnings and usual weekly hours in a worker's primary job. The data cover wage and salary workers (those who work for someone else and receive a paycheck), excluding self-employed workers (those who earn a profit from their own businesses). Self-employed workers, who made up about 8 percent of employed workers in 1997, are more likely than wage and salary workers to have an extended workweek.

Classification by hours worked categories permits comparisons within occupations for workers with different numbers of work hours. It also allows comparisons between occupations for workers with roughly the same number of work hours per week. Because the primary focus is comparisons by hours worked per week, data are presented only for occupations in which there were enough respondents with extended weeks to provide statistically reliable earnings data for this category. Data are presented separately by sex because women usually earn less than men, even in the same occupation, and have shorter workweeks.

Unlike surveys of employers, these data show hours actually worked—not just hours paid for—but do not show the schedule of hours. Although schedules vary, a typical 35- to 44-hour week consists of 5 work days of between 7 and nearly 9 hours. An extended workweek might be at least 9 hours a day or extra hours on an additional work day. For most jobs, work is performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, some jobs include evening, night, or weekend work; shifts that change periodically from days to evenings or nights; an irregular schedule arranged by the employer; or split shifts, involving two distinct periods each day. 