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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF LINCOLN, NE NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY APRIL 2008**

Workers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area earned an average of \$16.78 per hour in April 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 Jay A. Mousa noted that wage data were reported for workers in a wide range of occupational groups, including average hourly earnings of \$14.91 for production occupations and \$13.44 for sales and related occupations. Another group, food preparation and serving related occupations had a mean hourly wage rate of \$8.12. The NCS data available for the Lincoln area include earnings for 20 major occupational groups with additional detail for selected occupations within those groups. (See table 1.)

Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers, part of the production occupational group, were paid \$13.02 per hour. Within the sales and related occupations group, cashiers averaged \$9.05 per hour. Restaurant cooks, an occupation within the food preparation and serving related occupations, earned \$9.89 per hour.

Broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics is available from NCS for the local area. Full-time workers averaged \$17.91 per hour while their part-time counterparts earned \$10.55. Union workers earned \$19.44 and non-union workers, \$16.38. Workers in establishments with 1-99 workers averaged \$15.30 per hour, those in establishments with 100-499 workers earned \$16.52, and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$19.81.

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 provided here covered 236 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 154,800

workers in the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is comprised of Lancaster and Seward Counties in Nebraska.

**Survey Availability**

Complete survey results are contained in Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey April 2008. The bulletin 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 additional information, please contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics Midwest Information Office in Chicago at (312) 353-1880 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT.

Table 1. **Civilian workers: Mean hourly earnings<sup>1</sup> for full-time and part-time workers<sup>2</sup>, Lincoln, NE, April 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> .....	\$16.78	2.7	\$17.91	2.7	\$10.55	6.1
<b>Management occupations</b> .....	30.60	6.4	30.59	6.4	—	—
Education administrators .....	27.21	8.5	27.11	8.6	—	—
Education administrators, postsecondary .....	27.00	9.8	—	—	—	—
<b>Business and financial operations occupations</b> .....	24.82	11.3	24.82	11.3	—	—
<b>Computer and mathematical science occupations</b> .....	23.78	7.5	23.78	7.5	—	—
<b>Architecture and engineering occupations</b> .....	23.90	5.8	23.90	5.8	—	—
Engineers .....	27.89	11.1	27.89	11.1	—	—
Engineering technicians, except drafters .....	17.93	3.5	17.93	3.5	—	—
<b>Life, physical, and social science occupations</b> .....	24.31	19.3	24.31	19.3	—	—
<b>Community and social services occupations</b> .....	16.10	5.0	16.10	5.0	—	—
<b>Legal occupations</b> .....	18.23	9.7	18.44	9.6	—	—
Paralegals and legal assistants .....	16.65	1.2	16.65	1.2	—	—
<b>Education, training, and library occupations</b> .....	31.84	12.0	31.81	13.6	32.09	11.3
Postsecondary teachers .....	38.64	27.2	39.62	28.7	26.17	2.2
Primary, secondary, and special education school teachers .....	35.83	2.0	35.21	.1	—	—
Elementary and middle school teachers .....	35.49	.8	35.49	.8	—	—
Elementary school teachers, except special education .....	35.46	1.2	35.46	1.2	—	—
Secondary school teachers .....	36.78	3.2	—	—	—	—
Teacher assistants .....	10.96	5.0	—	—	—	—
<b>Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations</b> .....	24.03	4.9	24.52	5.7	22.27	6.3
Registered nurses .....	22.54	5.8	22.42	5.9	22.93	14.4
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians .....	27.32	2.9	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses .....	18.60	2.7	—	—	—	—
<b>Healthcare support occupations</b> .....	12.90	10.8	13.20	11.3	—	—
Nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides .....	10.91	6.5	—	—	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants .....	10.91	8.2	—	—	—	—
<b>Protective service occupations</b> .....	13.96	20.1	15.23	20.6	9.30	9.3
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b> .....	8.12	5.6	10.03	8.8	6.69	2.4
First-line supervisors/managers, food preparation and serving workers .....	12.55	6.0	12.55	6.0	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers .....	12.55	6.0	12.55	6.0	—	—
Cooks .....	—	—	11.24	6.3	—	—
Cooks, restaurant .....	9.89	.4	—	—	—	—
Food service, tipped .....	4.83	26.5	—	—	4.22	15.7
Waiters and waitresses .....	3.92	18.5	—	—	4.21	15.9
Fast food and counter workers .....	7.43	1.9	—	—	—	—
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b> .....	11.33	8.0	11.77	10.0	9.82	6.0
Building cleaning workers .....	10.64	7.5	10.88	9.4	9.84	6.4
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	11.55	8.4	12.14	10.6	9.96	7.3
Maids and housekeeping cleaners .....	8.37	7.0	—	—	—	—
<b>Personal care and service occupations</b> .....	11.21	12.9	11.87	17.1	8.84	4.9
<b>Sales and related occupations</b> .....	13.44	6.1	15.50	6.2	8.21	2.2
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers .....	16.46	10.6	16.46	10.6	—	—
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers .....	16.46	10.6	16.46	10.6	—	—
Retail sales workers .....	10.35	9.8	12.11	7.5	8.13	3.1
Cashiers, all workers .....	9.05	2.3	—	—	8.04	2.5

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>, Lincoln, NE, April 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>Sales and related occupations –Continued</b>						
Cashiers .....	\$9.05	2.3	–	–	\$8.04	2.5
Retail salespersons .....	10.62	15.0	\$12.89	13.4	8.19	4.5
<b>Office and administrative support occupations .....</b>	14.00	2.2	14.51	2.5	10.86	2.3
Financial clerks .....	13.19	4.2	13.53	5.4	–	–
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks .....	13.97	4.2	14.39	5.6	–	–
Customer service representatives .....	12.68	4.4	12.97	5.0	–	–
Receptionists and information clerks .....	13.02	10.2	13.15	9.7	–	–
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks .....	11.66	5.9	12.19	7.3	–	–
Secretaries and administrative assistants .....	16.33	3.8	16.50	4.0	–	–
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants ....	17.01	6.0	17.01	6.0	–	–
Medical secretaries .....	15.32	5.4	16.40	6.3	–	–
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive .....	13.81	4.3	13.81	4.3	–	–
Data entry and information processing workers .....	14.14	5.0	14.59	3.7	–	–
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks .....	16.74	4.5	16.74	4.5	–	–
Office clerks, general .....	13.42	4.2	13.56	4.2	–	–
<b>Construction and extraction occupations .....</b>	15.71	2.0	15.73	1.9	–	–
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....</b>	18.23	7.3	18.23	7.3	–	–
Industrial machinery installation, repair, and maintenance workers .....	18.51	5.8	18.51	5.8	–	–
Maintenance and repair workers, general .....	17.69	6.9	17.69	6.9	–	–
<b>Production occupations .....</b>	14.91	3.8	15.00	4.3	–	–
Electrical, electronics, and electromechanical assemblers .....	13.02	2.4	–	–	–	–
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers .....	13.02	2.4	–	–	–	–
<b>Transportation and material moving occupations .....</b>	13.69	7.7	14.91	10.3	8.84	8.8
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers .....	15.56	17.6	16.28	19.1	–	–
Laborers and material movers, hand .....	10.71	4.1	11.69	5.4	9.10	9.1
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand .....	10.07	7.3	–	–	–	–

<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.